



E-FAN-03-012

November 2003

Employment Factors Influencing Food Stamp Program Participation

Final Report

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Abstract

This study examines how employment characteristics of low-income households influence Food Stamp Program (FSP) participation. The relationship between employment and FSP participation is of special interest because, although more low-income working families are eligible to participate, many do not. Low-income working households are less likely to participate in the FSP if they work traditional daytime hours, hold multiple jobs, and work more hours, but they are more likely to participate if they frequently change jobs. However, the relationship between employment and FSP participation was stronger in the early 1990s than in the late 1990s, suggesting that barriers to participation among working families decreased during the decade.

Acknowledgments

We thank Robert Dalrymple, Robert Gibbs, Lorin Kusmin, Robert Lerman, and Parke Wilde for excellent comments, and Robert Kornfeld and Parke Wilde for sharing data on Food Stamp Program policies.

This report was prepared by The Urban Institute under a research agreement from the Economic Research Service. The views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of ERS, USDA, The Urban Institute, its trustees, or its funders.

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