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Domestic Food Programs

The data reported here were released in February 1987 and are subject to revision. They cover participation and program costs for October-December 1986, compared with the same 3 months of 1985.

An average of 19.2 million people participated in the Food Stamp Program each month between October and December 1986. This was 1 percent below the 19.4 million in the same quarter of 1985. Total program costs rose slightly to \$2.94 billion in 1986 from \$2.93 billion in 1985.

The Federal cost of Food Stamp Program benefits fell to \$2.65 billion in 1986 from \$2.66 billion in 1985. However, the average benefits of recipients increased to \$46.10 from \$45.90. The Federal share of State administrative costs rose to \$251 million from \$237 million, while other costs increased to \$38 million from \$34 million.

Child Nutrition Programs

Participation in the National School Lunch Program increased to 24.3 million per day in the fourth quarter of 1986 from 24.1 million in 1985, an increase of 0.7 percent. Participation in the free lunch category fell 0.2 percent to 10.06 million. Average daily participation in the reduced price category was nearly the same for the two quarters—about 1.63 million. Participation by students who paid full price for lunches increased 1.6 percent to 12.6 million.

Federal cash expenditures for the National School Lunch Program rose to \$861 million in the last 3 months of 1986, up from \$831 million a year earlier. Schools participating in the program receive cash payments that vary from 135.5 cents per meal for free lunches to 13.5 cents for paid meals.

Schools also received 11.25 cents per meal in commodities, a decrease from 11.75 cents in 1985. The value of commodities distributed to schools rose slightly from \$144 million to \$145 million.

States are also eligible to receive commodities which were obtained from price support and surplus removal operations. These "bonus" commodities do not count against the State's mandatory allocation of



entitlement commodities. The value of bonus commodities donated to schools dropped to \$125 million in the fourth quarter of 1986 from \$127 million in 1985.

Average daily participation in the School Breakfast Program rose by about 182,000 in the last 3 months of 1986 for a total of 3.7 million. Approximately 83 percent of all school breakfasts are served free. Increased participation in the program boosted Federal payments to \$138 million compared to \$125 million a year earlier.

The total number of meals served under the Child Care Food Program rose from 170.3 million in the fourth quarter of 1985 to 179.8 million in the same quarter of 1986. Federal cash expenditures increased 9.8 percent to \$117.8 million in 1986.

Half pints of milk served under the Special Milk Program fell to 39.6 million in

the fourth quarter of 1986 from 41.9 million in the same months in 1985. As a result, Federal costs totaled \$3.7 million, down from \$4.1 million in 1985.

Supplemental Food Programs

USDA operates two supplemental feeding programs for women, infants, and children. The largest, the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, Children (WIC), had nearly 3.4 million participants in October through December 1986, up from 3.3 million a year earlier. While participation by women and children increased slightly, most of the rise came from an 8.2-percent increase in the number of infants in the program to 998,000.

Average monthly benefits per person in the WIC Program were \$32.01 in the fourth

quarter of 1986, about 50 cents higher than in 1985. Food costs in 1986 were \$326 million compared to \$313 million a year earlier. Total program costs rose to \$406 million from \$387 million.

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) provides supplemental food packages to low-income pregnant and postpartum women, children up to age six, and elderly persons. The program for women and children currently operates in 12 States and the District of Columbia. In the last 3

months of 1986, average participation by women and children in the CSFP fell by 5,000 to 135,000. At the same time, the total value of commodities distributed in this part of the CSFP rose to \$8.2 million from \$7.8 million largely because of an increase in bonus commodities.

An average of 40,400 persons participated in the elderly component of the CSFP in the

fourth quarter of 1986, more than double the total for October through December 1985. Monthly benefits averaged \$8.93 per person compared to \$8.95 in 1985. Food costs for the elderly increased from \$519,000 to \$1.1 million in 1986.

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Average Participation in USDA Food Programs

Program	Oct.- Dec. 1985	Oct.- Dec. 1986
<i>Millions</i>		
Food Stamp Program	19.3	19.2
National School Lunch Program	24.1	24.3
School Breakfast Program	3.5	3.7
Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	3.3	3.4
Child Care Food Program ¹	1.1	1.1
Summer Food Service Program	NA	NA
<i>Thousands</i>		
Commodity Supplemental Food Programs		
Women and Children	140.0	134.5
Elderly Feeding	19.3	40.5
Food Distribution Program		
Indian Reservations		
Trust Territories	134	138

NA = Not available. ¹Average daily attendance in December.

Source: Monthly data from USDA's Food and Nutrition Service.



Domestic Food Programs

Federal Cost of USDA Food Programs, Fiscal Years 1984-86¹

Year				1986 (Quarters) ^{2 3}				1987 ^{2 3}
	1984	1985	1986 ²	I	II	III	IV	I
Family Food								
Food Stamps	10,700	10,744	10,611	2,662	2,691	2,668	2,590	2,694
Puerto Rico Assistance	825	829	824	206	206	206	206	214
Food Distribution								
Food Distribution on								
Indian Reservations	40	49	47	11	12	12	11	12
Schools ⁴	832	819	867	278	272	162	155	278
Other ⁵	234	215	280	43	50	88	99	50
Temporary Emergency Assistance	1,032	973	846	206	209	220	211	218
Cash in Lieu of Commodities ⁶	135	136	146	37	37	36	36	37
Child Nutrition ⁷								
School Lunch	2,506	2,579	2,716	831	827	693	365	861
School Breakfast	369	385	412	125	123	107	58	138
Special Food	440	491	532	107	111	131	184	118
Special Milk	17	16	16	4	4	4	4	4
WIC ⁸	1,386	1,487	1,586	387	394	395	410	406
Total ⁹	18,515	18,722	18,882	4,897	4,936	4,721	4,328	4,986

¹Administrative costs are excluded unless noted. ²Preliminary. ³Quarterly data may not add to annual total because of rounding. ⁴National School Lunch, Child Care Food, and Summer Food Service programs. ⁵Commodity Supplemental Food Program, Elderly Feeding Pilot Project, Nutrition Program for the Elderly, and donations to charitable institutions. ⁶Child nutrition programs and the Nutrition Program for the Elderly. ⁷Cash expenditures. ⁸Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children. Includes administrative costs. Program data may not add to totals because of rounding.

Source: Compiled from monthly data from the Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

People Living in Poverty, By Area of Residence

Area	1959		1969		1980		1985 ¹	
	Thousands	Percent	Thousands	Percent	Thousands	Percent	Thousands	Percent
U.S. total	38,776	100.0	24,147	100.0	29,272	100.0	33,064	100.0
Metro area ²	17,019	43.9	13,084	54.2	18,021	61.6	23,275	70.4
Central cities	10,437	26.9	7,993	33.1	10,644	36.4	14,177	42.9
Nonmetro area	21,747	56.1	11,063	45.8	11,251	38.4	9,789	29.6

¹In 1985, the classifications of metro and nonmetro were updated. As a result, more than one-quarter of nonmetro residents were reclassified as metro. ²Includes central cities, suburbs, and rural fringe of metropolitan areas.

Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. *Money, Income, and Poverty Status of Families and Persons in the United States*, 1980. Series P-60, No. 132.

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. *Current Population Reports, Consumer Income Characteristics of the Population Below the Poverty Level*, 1976. Series P-60, No. 115.

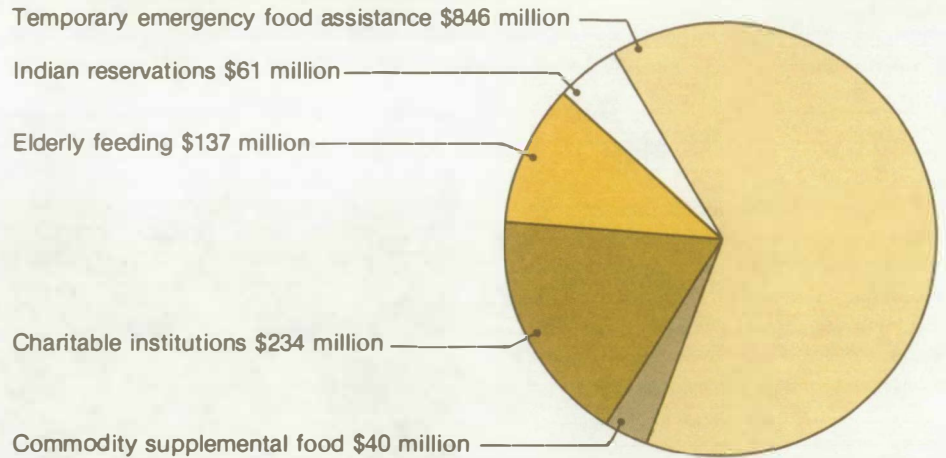
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. *Current Population Reports, Consumer Income, Money Income, and Poverty Status of Families and Persons in the United States*: 1985. Series P-60, No. 154.

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Food Assistance Programs . . . At a Glance

Nearly \$1.31 billion in food was donated under various food distribution programs during fiscal year 1986. About \$846 million was distributed under the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program. This program distributes surplus commodities to low income U.S. households. Its dual goals are to provide nutritional assistance to needy people while reducing Federal surplus inventories and storage costs.

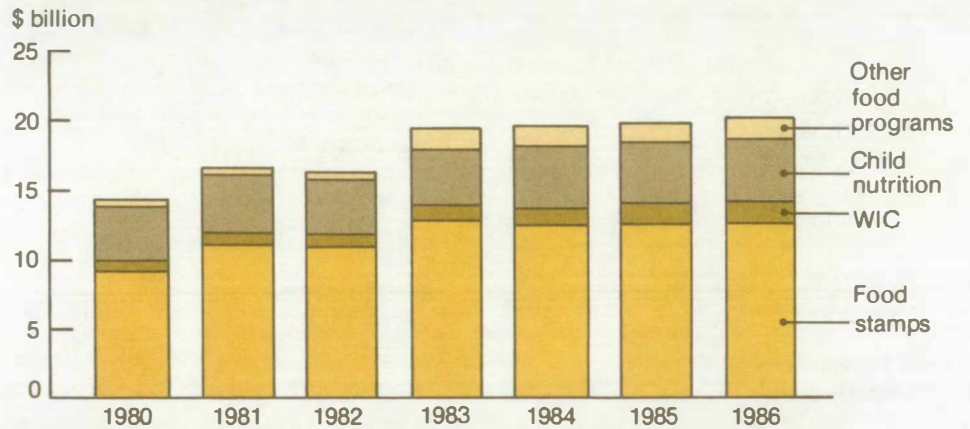
Food Donation Costs, Fiscal Year 1986



1986 preliminary fiscal year data. Excludes child nutrition programs.

Expenditures for USDA food assistance programs have increased about 42 percent since 1980. Spending for the Food Stamp Program rose from \$34 per recipient to \$46. Expenditures for the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children rose 119 percent between 1980 and 1986.

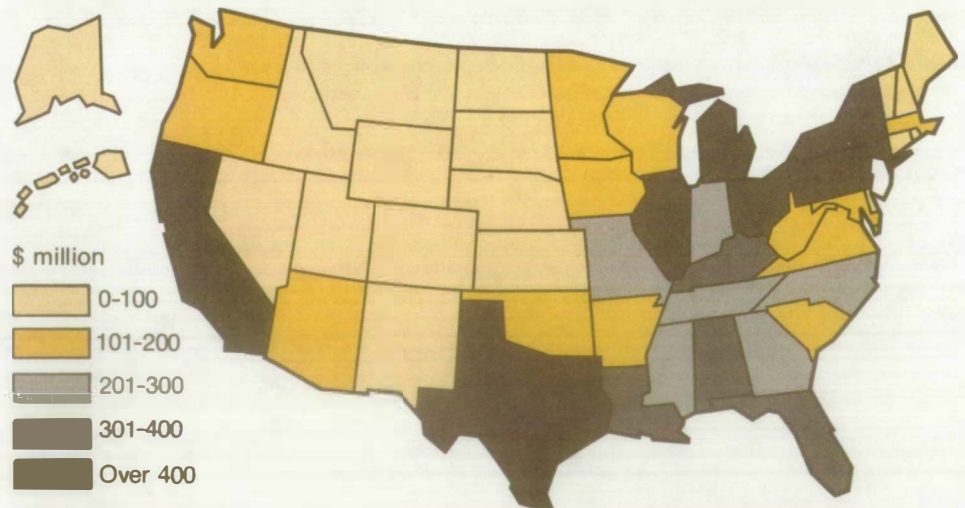
USDA Costs for Food Assistance



1986 estimated. Fiscal years. *Other programs* include administrative costs and surplus commodities. *Food stamps* include cash assistance for Puerto Rico. *WIC* is Special Supplemental Food Programs for Women, Infants, and Children.

Assistance under the Food Stamp Program depends on a State's population and economic condition. Thirty States received more than \$100 million Federal food stamp assistance during fiscal 1985. Eight States in the Southeast and Midwest received \$201 to \$400 million. Assistance to seven States, including California, Texas, and New York, totaled more than \$400 million each.

Expenditures for Food Assistance for the Food Stamp Program by State



1985 fiscal year data.