

Chapter 2

Study Design

Examining how local food stamp office policies and practices affect households' decisions to participate in the FSP required a study design that provided information from local food stamp offices and from households with differing connections to the Food Stamp Program. The study was designed to provide a comprehensive examination of the population of households eligible for food stamp benefits, including those receiving FSP benefits as well as eligible nonparticipant households. This design required drawing a nationally representative sample of food stamp offices, obtaining information on policies and practices in those offices, and obtaining information on the FSP participants and nonparticipants served by those offices.

The first section of the chapter presents the conceptual framework that provided the basis for the study design. The model illustrates the populations of primary interest and the points where they are required to make decisions concerning program participation, and therefore the points where local office policies and practices may potentially affect program access. The second section of the chapter presents the research methodology, including sample selection, data collection efforts, and data analysis activities.

Conceptual Model of FSP Participation Decisions

The population of households that are circumstantially eligible for food stamp benefits is comprised of current food stamp recipients and eligible nonparticipants.¹ Circumstantially eligible households are those whose income, household size, assets, and other characteristics would meet program eligibility requirements, and these households are the focus of the study.

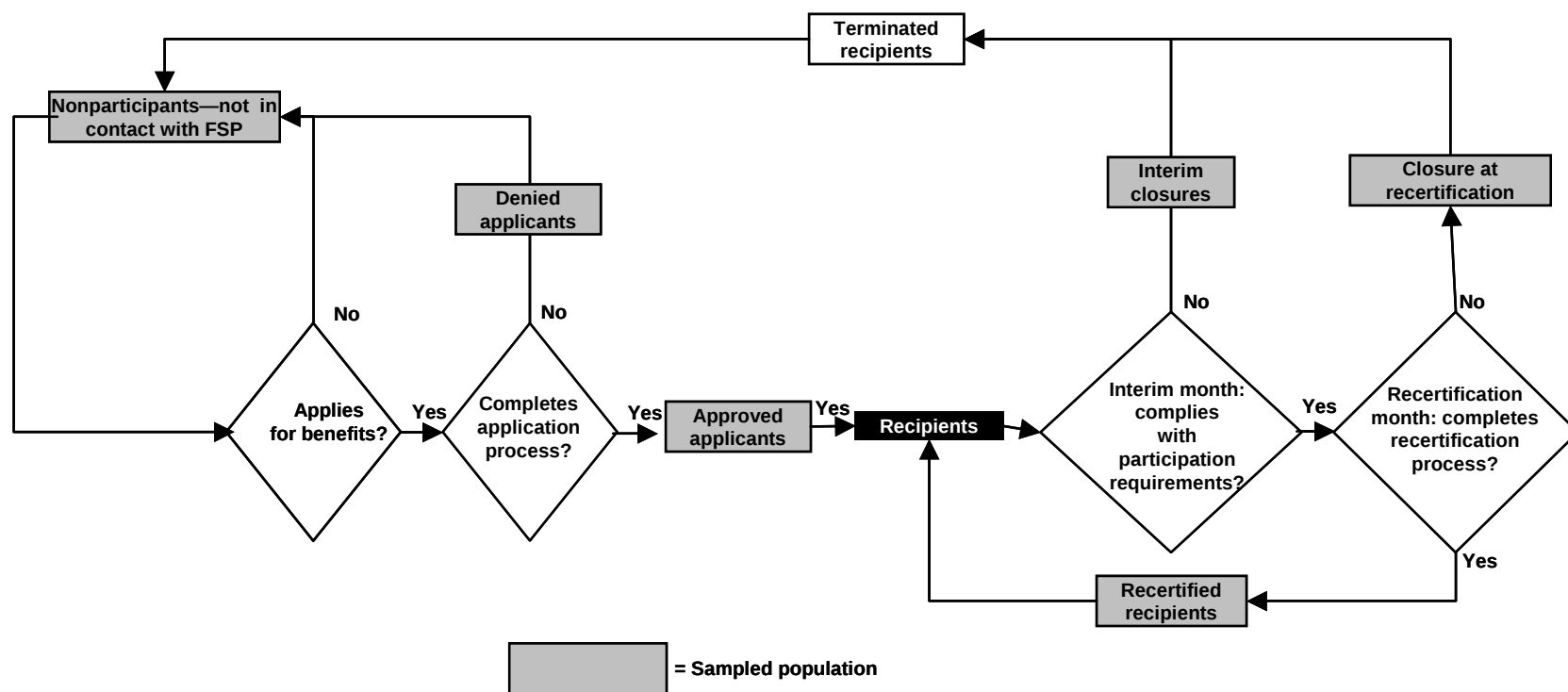
At any given point in time, some nonparticipating households apply for food stamp benefits and other households currently receiving benefits leave the FSP. Figure 2.1 shows the populations that comprise the food stamp eligible population and the participation decisions they make at different stages. The model indicates the points at which they can enter the FSP and the points where they can leave.²

Starting with the population of eligible nonparticipants, households must first determine whether they are likely to be eligible for food stamp benefits. If they do not think they are eligible, they are unlikely to bother applying. Households then decide whether or not to contact the food stamp office. Not all who make an initial telephone or in-person visit to the office to inquire about assistance will decide to continue the process by officially filing a food stamp application. Once an eligible household has

¹ Throughout this report, we define households as “apparently circumstantially eligible” based on survey responses regarding their household size, income, and assets, criteria which have been shown to be quite accurate in predicting FSP eligibility (McConnell, 1997). Without a full FSP certification interview, it is impossible to determine FSP eligibility with certainty.

² For simplicity, the illustration does not depict the dynamic nature of circumstantial eligibility. Households that are not circumstantially eligible may become eligible and enter the nonparticipant population. Likewise circumstantially eligible households, whether they are participants or nonparticipants, may become ineligible.

Figure 2.1—Food stamp-eligible households: Program participation decisions



This figure excludes circumstantially ineligible households. A circumstantially eligible household may become ineligible at any point shown in the diagram. Becoming circumstantially ineligible may cause a household to be denied at application, closed in an interim month, or closed at recertification. These processes are not represented by the figure.

filed a food stamp application, it must complete numerous steps, including participating in an interview and obtaining necessary documents verifying household circumstances, before being approved for food stamp benefits. Not all households complete all the necessary requirements, and some are denied at this point.

Food stamp recipient households also must take certain actions to continue participating in the program. Households need to comply with various participation requirements, such as periodic reporting or job search, in order to remain eligible for food stamp benefits. If they do not comply with the requirements that apply to their household type, they may be terminated from the program. Note that households that are terminated for noncompliance are still considered circumstantially eligible for purposes of this study, as long as their income and resources still fall within the FSP eligibility limits.

Additionally, all households need to complete periodic recertification requirements in which their continuing eligibility for the FSP is determined. Recertification requirements are generally similar to initial certification requirements. Households need to file a recertification application, participate in a recertification interview, and provide additional documents to verify their situation. Households that do not complete all steps in the recertification process are terminated from the FSP. Those households that remain circumstantially eligible for the FSP and complete all necessary requirements are approved to continue receiving food stamp benefits.

This conceptual model assumes that households make sequential decisions about FSP participation by deciding to take or not take certain steps. These decisions are based on households' awareness and understanding of the requirements and their assessment of the expected costs and benefits of taking the required action. Households' interactions with the FSP often involve other programs as well, primarily TANF, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and General Assistance. Because these programs are so extensively linked, households will consider the costs and benefits of all programs combined, rather than for each program separately.

At all points in the decision-making process, food stamp policies and practices may affect households' decisions.³ Some policies may make it easier or harder to complete necessary requirements. They may increase the costs of obtaining benefits or decrease the value of those benefits. For example, in terms of the application process, FSP practices with respect to the number and difficulty of the steps required to complete an application may affect whether households apply for benefits. Additional or more difficult steps raise the cost of applying and therefore reduce the net value of participation. This in turn reduces the likelihood that a given household will apply or complete the application process. In addition, TANF policies, such as providing lump-sum payments in lieu of welfare may affect a households' decision by altering the expected benefits. Current food stamp recipients may be affected by the extent of participation requirements—reporting income on a periodic basis and participating in job search activities. They may also be affected by TANF requirements and sanctions imposed on TANF and food stamp benefits.

³ Households' decisions will also be affected by their own characteristics and experiences, and these are taken into account in the analyses.

Research Methodology

The research objectives required a complex sampling, data collection effort, and analysis strategy. It involved numerous separate samples and data collection activities at the local office level and household level. Sampling and data collection activities were designed to fit together to provide a systematic and comprehensive look at how local program policies and procedures influenced potentially eligible households' participation in the Food Stamp Program. This section discusses the sampling, data collection and data analysis activities. Additional detail is presented in Appendix A.

Sample Selection

The sampling for this nationally representative study involved two steps. In the first step, a nationally representative sample of local food stamp offices was selected. Samples of food stamp caseworkers and their supervisors were selected within the sampled offices and interviewed concerning local office policies and practices that might affect access to the FSP. For each office, samples were drawn of food stamp eligible nonparticipants, food stamp applicants, households recertifying for food stamp benefits, and households leaving the FSP, and information was obtained about their characteristics, their relationship to the FSP, and their participation decisions.

Sample of Offices

The sampling plan for selection of local food stamp offices was designed to be nationally representative and to ensure that most States in the continental U.S. would be represented. Welfare reform strategies have been quite diverse among States, resulting in distinctive administrative practices, which may have important implications for food stamp participation. Therefore, it was important to maximize the representation of States. The sampling plan was also designed to yield a sufficiently large number of offices to support office-level analysis of the effects of administrative practices on caseload entry and exit.

Each State in the continental U.S. and the District of Columbia provided a complete list of local offices, along with caseload information for each office. In places where different offices served distinct segments of the local caseload (e.g. the elderly or TANF clients), these offices were combined to make a single office that served all segments of the local program population. Offices with caseloads less than 150 were excluded from the sampling frame because of the difficulties they would have presented in obtaining an adequate sample of applicants.⁴

To ensure a reasonable distribution of local offices across the country and to decrease sampling variability, the sampling design involved stratifying the 3,359 local food stamp offices in the U.S. by the seven FNS regions, and by State within each region. States with small populations were grouped together to ensure the representation of smaller States in the office sample. In large States, the sample

⁴ Our sampling design called for samples in each office of 10 applicant households and 10 households due for recertification in the sample month. Assuming 7 percent turnover in caseload per month, the minimum office size required was estimated to be 150 (10/.07). Of the 3,789 food stamp offices located in the continental United States and the District of Columbia, 430 had monthly caseloads below 150. These small offices accounted for only 0.44 percent of the total food stamp caseload. The remaining 3,359 offices were included in the sampling frame.

was further stratified based on the degree of urbanicity (defined as offices located within Metropolitan Statistical Areas, or MSAs, versus offices located outside MSAs).

Probability-proportional-to-size (PPS) sampling was used to draw a sample of 120 local food stamp offices. The sampled offices were located in 40 States and the District of Columbia. All selected States, with the exception of New York, agreed to participate in the research study. New York was unable to participate due to a pending lawsuit in New York City, concerning access to the Food Stamp Program, which was scheduled for trial during the data collection period. The final research sample included 109 local food stamp offices, located in 39 States and the District of Columbia.⁵

Table 2.1 shows the characteristics of the final sample of offices by region, metropolitan status, caseload size, and the number of separate sites that comprised the sampled offices. The table provides the unweighted distribution, the weighted distribution, and the distribution of the offices weighted by the national caseload.

Table 2.1—Characteristics of the office sample

Office Characteristic	Number of Offices in Sample (N=109)	Percent of Sample	Weighted Percent of National Food Stamp Offices	Weighted Percent of National Caseload
<i>FNS region</i>				
Northeast	5	5%	2%	8%
Mid-Atlantic	15	14	15	19
Southeast	28	26	25	23
Midwest	19	17	16	16
Southwest	16	15	16	13
Mountain Plains	8	7	7	7
Western	18	17	18	15
<i>Metro/Nonmetro location</i>				
Metropolitan county	80	73	45	77
Nonmetropolitan county	29	27	55	23
<i>Office size</i>				
FSP caseload less than 2,000	33	30	70	26
FSP caseload 2,000 or greater	76	70	30	74
<i>Number of sites</i>				
1	101	93	94	92
2	7	6	5	8
4	1	1	1	1

⁵ Adjustments to the sampling weights were made to account for the nonparticipation of New York State. See discussion in Appendix A.

The distribution of food stamp office size was moderately skewed. Large offices (with a caseload of 2,000 or more) served almost three-quarters of the participants, while comprising only 30 percent of the offices nationwide. Because of the PPS sampling, large offices comprised about three-quarters of the study sample. The sample was thus roughly self-weighting with regard to population served.

Sample of Caseworker Supervisors

Caseworker supervisors provided detailed information on local office policies and practices that might affect access to the Food Stamp Program. The sample of caseworker supervisors was a purposive sample. The objective was to complete one survey in each sampled office. This generally involved interviewing more than one supervisor as workers specialized in the types of cases they handled (for example, TANF versus non-TANF cases) or in the part of the food stamp process in which they were involved (for example, intake versus ongoing). The local office director identified the most knowledgeable supervisor, or the supervisor who had been working at the office the longest, to complete the interview. A total of 201 supervisors were selected for interviews across the 109 local offices.

Sample of Caseworkers

Caseworkers were interviewed concerning their practices for handling different aspects of the food stamp application and participation processes. The objective was to obtain two complete interviews in each sampled office. As with the supervisor survey, the level of worker specialization determined the number of workers interviewed in each office. For example, if the offices consisted of an intake unit and a unit for ongoing cases, two caseworkers from each unit were interviewed. The list of all caseworkers was divided into mutually exclusive, collectively exhaustive groups, defined by worker responsibility. Caseworkers were then randomly selected within each group. A total of 509 caseworkers were sampled.

Samples of Applicant, Recertified Recipient, and Terminated Recipient Households

The samples of new applicants, recertified cases, and terminated cases were drawn from lists provided by the sampled States (or counties) of all households that, in June 2000, experienced one of the following events:

- ***New applicants:*** households that filed a food stamp application in June 2000. These included households who completed the application process and were ***approved*** to receive food stamp benefits. They also included households that were ***denied*** assistance either because they did not meet the eligibility criteria or because they did not complete all procedural requirements.⁶
- ***Recertified recipients:*** households whose certification period ended in June 2000 and were approved for continuing food stamp benefits.
- ***Terminated recipients:*** households whose food stamp benefits ended in June 2000. These included cases that reached the end of their certification period and were ***not recertified***.

⁶ All analyses excluded households that were denied benefits due to circumstantial ineligibility. These households were included in the initial sample frame because excluding them would have presented operational difficulties for the State agencies providing the household lists.

They also included *interim closures*—households whose cases were closed in the midst of a certification period.⁷

Within each of the 109 sampled offices, systematic random samples were drawn from the groups of interest. The final sample comprised an average of 20 to 25 households in each of the local offices.

Sample of TANF-diverted Households

TANF-diverted applicants, defined as households that filed a TANF application and were diverted before completing the TANF application process, were a group of particular interest. The concern among policy makers was that these households may not receive food stamp benefits for which they are entitled. The TANF-diverted applicants included in the study were those that received lump-sum cash benefits, in lieu of on-going TANF benefits, in June 2000.

In June 2000, ten of the sampled States reported providing cash diversion payments in the offices selected for the sample. The 179 households that received such payments comprise the TANF-diverted sample and represent the universe of households that were diverted from applying for TANF benefits by the use of lump-sum cash payments.⁸

Sample of Eligible Nonparticipant Households

Eligible nonparticipants are households who are circumstantially eligible for the Food Stamp Program but are not participating in it. While Food Stamp Program applicants and participants in an office can be enumerated, no list or sampling frame exists for eligible nonparticipants. The sample frame was created from a random-digit-dialing (RDD) telephone survey of the entire population in the catchment areas, or areas served by the 109 sampled offices. Catchment areas were defined by the telephone prefixes (or zip codes, when telephone numbers were unavailable) of food stamp applicant and participant households.⁹ The use of a random-digit-dial sampling approach limits the sample to those with working telephones. Adjustments were made to correct for this limitation during creation of sample weights.

A list-assisted RDD sample of 72,711 telephone numbers was drawn using the GENESYS sampling system, which helped ensure that a high percentage of the sampled numbers belonged to residential households.¹⁰ Once a household was reached, a short screening questionnaire was administered to

⁷ Some terminated recipients in the sample frame left the FSP due to circumstantial ineligibility. To the extent possible, they are excluded from relevant analyses.

⁸ Some of these households also appeared on the lists of new applicants, recertified recipients, and closed cases. They were removed from these lists prior to sample selection.

⁹ The lists of applicant and participant households were provided by the States or local offices sampled for the study. These lists were used to sample households, as discussed in an earlier section.

¹⁰ The GENESYS sampling system, supported by Marketing Systems Group, a division of AUS, Inc., is a hardware and software system that allows one to draw list-assisted RDD samples. In list-assisted RDD sampling, each prefix area is divided into 100 banks, each with 100 consecutive telephone numbers. A data base of residential directory listed telephone numbers is used to eliminate banks that contain no residential directory listed numbers. The GENESYS system also contains a zip code module that can be used to determine which prefix areas overlap with zip codes.

determine whether the household was apparently eligible for food stamps, but not currently receiving benefits. Households were screened out if they were current FSP participants or had applied for benefits in the prior month. Households were deemed to be presumptively eligible for food stamps if their gross household income was no more than 130 percent of the federal poverty level, their financial assets were less than \$3,000 if the household included an elderly member and less than \$2,000 if there were no elderly members of the household, and all vehicles owned were at least five years old, unless they were used for business or to transport disabled persons.¹¹ Apparently eligible households were then interviewed in more detail, as described below.

Data Collection

A variety of methods were used to collect the data required for the study. Local office-level data were collected through telephone interviews and by in-person observations. Household-level data were collected using telephone surveys, in-person interviews, and through food stamp case record abstraction. The rest of this section discusses the various data collection activities. Data collection instruments are presented in Appendix E.

Caseworker Supervisors and Caseworkers

Caseworker supervisors were interviewed by telephone to collect information about official local office policies that may affect accessibility, including:

- Food stamp outreach, application, reporting, and recertification processes operating at the local office level;
- TANF and Medicaid policies and procedures that may impact accessibility to the FSP; and
- Policies affecting specific types of households, including immigrants, TANF-diverted households, working families, and elderly and disabled.

Information concerning supervisors' views on issues affecting FSP access and the extent to which specific policies affected FSP participation was also collected.

In each office, one supervisor survey instrument was completed. As mentioned above, more than one supervisor was generally interviewed, because supervisors were responsible for different types of food stamp cases or different parts of the FSP process and could therefore answer only those questions within their realm of responsibility. Demographic characteristics, attitudes, and opinions on the reasons for the decline in FSP participation and on program changes since welfare reform, and recommendations for changes to increase program access were asked of all supervisors surveyed.

A separate telephone survey, designed to collect detailed information on caseworkers' practices and experiences, was conducted with caseworkers. Topics were similar to those included in the supervisor survey. In each office, two caseworker survey instruments were completed to obtain more than one perspective on the range of local caseworkers' practices and experiences. In most offices,

¹¹ This set of screening questions has been shown to be quite accurate in predicting FSP eligibility. Nonetheless, without collecting information on all factors that determine eligibility, some errors will be made, and households that are actually eligible will be screened out and others that are ineligible will be included (McConnell, 1997).

caseworkers were responsible for different types of food stamp cases and/or different parts of the food stamp application process. Therefore, multiple caseworkers were needed to complete a single survey instrument. An average of five caseworkers were interviewed to complete two full surveys per office. Demographics, attitudes, opinions on the reasons for the decline in FSP participation and on program changes since welfare reform, and recommendations for changes to increase program access were collected from all caseworkers surveyed.¹²

Data collection began in January 2001 and was completed in June 2001. A total of 201 supervisor interviews and 509 caseworker interviews were completed, yielding a response rate of 100 percent.

Local Office Observations

Although most measures of local office practices come from supervisor and caseworker survey responses, some features could be determined directly by independent observers. Field interviewers visited the 109 offices three times to observe unobtrusively various aspects of the office environment, including location and accessibility, reception area activities, and waiting times. These observations, which were scheduled in advance, occurred on different days of the week and at different times during the day. The interviewers' findings were documented in a close-ended data collection instrument.

Applicant, Recertified Recipient, and Terminated Recipient Households

Data were collected from the applicant and recipient populations for the sample month of June 2000 using survey and case file record abstraction instruments that were designed to provide information about their circumstances and the participation decisions they made. Data collection began in February 2001 and was completed in August 2001. Data abstraction focused on the application, recertification, or closure that occurred in June 2000. The survey questionnaire was retrospective in nature, asking respondents about the June 2000 event.

Data abstraction from the food stamp case file records of sampled applicant and recipient households provided the majority of information for the analysis. Data on households' characteristics, including demographic characteristics and household composition were abstracted from their food stamp case files. The files also provided information defining households' level of need for benefits, including income, assets, and expenditures. Finally, case files provided data on administrative events surrounding the food stamp application or recertification application and FSP participation requirements.

Data were abstracted from case files of 2,296 food stamp applicant and recipient households in the 109 local offices (table 2.2). These cases represented 81 percent of the original sample. Most of the remaining cases were ineligible for the study, either because they were outside the sampled office's jurisdiction or because the cases did not fit the sample criteria. During the sampling stage, it was discovered that, due to constraints of MIS systems, several States would be unable to provide household lists that conformed exactly to the required specifications. In these States, we oversampled to insure that, after excluding ineligible households, we would obtain the desired number of completed record abstractions.

¹² Weighting procedures, detailed in Appendix A, discuss treatment of data from multiple supervisor and caseworker respondents in the analysis.

Table 2.2—Data collection: New applicants, recertifying recipients, terminating recipients

Household Type ^a	Sampled		Record Abstraction Complete	Survey Complete	
	Number	Percent of sample		Number	Percent of cases sampled
New applicant—approved	748	26.4%	748	424	56.7%
New applicant—not approved	316	11.2	316	206	65.2
Did not complete application requirements ^b			162	105	64.8
Circumstantially ineligible			154	101	65.6
Recertifying recipient—approved	753	26.6	753	NA	NA
Terminating recipient	479	16.9	479		
Interim closure			215	NA	NA
Closed at recertification					
Did not complete recertification requirements ^c			177	71	40.1
Denied due to circumstantial ineligibility			87	NA	NA
Undetermined	50	1.8			
Ineligible ^d	485	17.1			
Total ^e	2,831	100.0%	2,296	701	

a As determined during record abstraction. In some cases, this differs from the household type reported by States and used for drawing the sample.

b Includes voluntary withdrawals and cases whose denial reason was not reported.

c Reason for closure at recertification was identified during case record abstraction. Includes all cases not denied due to circumstantial ineligibility.

d Includes cases not in the jurisdiction of the sampled office and cases that were neither new applicants, recertifying recipients, nor terminating recipients in June 2000.

e Includes TANF-diverted households that were either new FSP applicants, recertifying FSP recipients, or terminating FSP recipients in June 2000.

NA = Not applicable—group not surveyed.

New applicant households, both those that were approved and those that were denied food stamp benefits, were surveyed to learn about the circumstances that precipitated their application for assistance and their understanding of the application process and requirements. These households were asked questions about their expected benefits and costs (monetary, time, and psychological) of food stamp participation. The survey also collected information on household circumstances not available in food stamp case files, including food security. Households that did not complete the application process were asked to explain their decision.

Households due for recertification in June 2000 that did not complete all recertification requirements were a group of particular interest. They were surveyed to understand why, after having received food stamp benefits, they left the program. These households were asked questions similar to those asked

of applicant households, focusing on the circumstances surrounding their decision to not continue in the FSP.

The surveys were conducted by telephone, with in-person followup for those who did not have telephones or who could not be reached by telephone. Many of these households were difficult to locate. Extensive tracking procedures were implemented, including credit bureau checks and national change of address files. Interviews were completed with 630 new applicant households, which represented 59 percent of initial sample. Interviews were completed with 71 households that did not complete the recertification process, representing 40 percent of the households identified. These households were extremely difficult to locate. More than half the sample did not even file a recertification application and thus no current contact information was available. They could not be located at their last known address or through collateral contacts.

TANF-diverted Households

TANF-diverted households were surveyed using the same instrument and procedures employed for new applicant households. Interviews were completed with 99 of the 179 selected households, a completion rate of 55 percent. Interviews took place between February and August 2001 and asked respondents about the events surrounding the TANF diversion payment they received in June 2000.

Eligible Nonparticipants

The list-assisted sample of 72,711 telephone numbers was released to the telephone interview center beginning in February 2001; interviewing was completed in June 2001. Screeners were completed with 16,825 households and of these, 1,374 (8 percent) were determined to be eligible for food stamp benefits, based on the screening criteria (table 2.3). An additional 28,933 telephone numbers were found to be nonworking or nonhousehold numbers, and thus ineligible for the survey. The resolution rate for the screener—62.9 percent—is calculated as the number of nonworking nonhousehold numbers plus the number of completed household screeners as a percentage of the total released sample.

Households that were determined to be eligible for food stamp benefits were asked to complete the full interview questionnaire. Questions focused on respondents' perceptions, motivations, and experiences with the Food Stamp Program, including their perceived eligibility, reasons they had not applied for food stamp benefits, previous experiences with the FSP, TANF, and Medicaid programs, and their perceptions of the costs and benefits of participation in the FSP. Detailed information on their demographic characteristics, economic situation, and food security status were also collected.

Of the 1,374 households selected for interview, 1,323 completed the survey resulting in a response rate of 96.3 percent. Of the 1,323 completed interviews, 1,220 of the households were classified as apparently circumstantially eligible.

Table 2.3—Data collection: Eligible nonparticipants

Final status	Number	Percent
<i>Screening survey</i>		
Screening complete—food stamp-eligible household	1,374	1.9%
Screening complete—household ineligible for food stamps	15,451	21.2
Ineligible telephone number—nonworking, nonhousehold	28,933	39.8
Unresolved	26,953	37.1
Total screening sample	72,711	100.0%
<i>Full interview survey</i>		
Complete interview	1,323	96.3%
Incomplete interview	51	3.7
Total interview sample	1,374	100.0%

Data Analysis

The research questions addressed by the study required the use of both descriptive and multivariate analyses. First, descriptive analyses present an overall picture of the characteristics, experiences, and perceptions of food-stamp eligible households. Differences between groups, defined by their relationship to the FSP—nonparticipants, applicants, recipients, and terminating recipients—are examined to shed light on why some eligible households are not participating in the program.¹³ Where relevant, results are compared to those obtained in other studies. Second, descriptive analyses of the local office data provide a nationally-representative picture of the policies and practices in effect in local food stamp offices that may affect access to the program.¹⁴ Finally, a series of multivariate logistic models relate food stamp participation by eligible households to local office policies and practices, household characteristics, and local area characteristics.

Sampling weights, needed for both the descriptive and multivariate analyses, were constructed in two stages, reflecting the sample design.¹⁵ First-stage office weights were constructed for the final sample of 109 offices. The base sampling weights—the reciprocal of the probability of selection of the office—were adjusted for the nonparticipation of New York and then ratio-adjusted so the weighted total number of offices was in agreement with the known total from the sampling frame.

Second-stage weights were created for all other samples—supervisors, caseworkers, nonparticipants, applicants, recertified recipients, terminated recipients, and TANF-diverted households. Supervisor and caseload weights were constructed such that weighted responses reflect the percent of the national food stamp caseload served by offices with particular practices and policies. The second-

¹³ Additional analyses of the eligible nonparticipants can be found in Bartlett and Burstein (2004).

¹⁴ These analyses are summarized in this report. More detailed analyses are presented in Gabor et al. (2003).

¹⁵ Weights are needed for the multivariate analyses because of our use of outcome-based sampling, in which we drew the same number of applicants, recertifying recipients, and terminating recipients in sites that had many such events as in sites that had few.

stage household-level weights were constructed such that weighted responses reflect the universe of each household type sampled. Table 2.4 presents the population estimates, based on the weighted sample, for each of the household types analyzed. Appendix A provides a detailed description of how the different weights were calculated.

Table 2.4—Distribution of sampled households by status of food stamp receipt

Household type	Population (weighted N)	Unweighted N
Eligible nonparticipants	5,500,000	1,220
Applicants	508,770	1,064
Approved	363,164	748
Did not complete application requirements	77,008	162
Circumstantially ineligible	68,598	154
Recertifying recipient--approved	726,094	753
Terminating recipient	383,352	479
Interim closure	180,178	215
Circumstantially ineligible ^a	44,148	43
All other reasons ^a	136,030	172
Closure in recertification month	203,174	264
Circumstantially ineligible	70,578	87
All other reasons	132,596	177

a Based on closure codes in record abstraction data. All other reasons includes cases in which reason was not reported.