

Child & Adult Care Food Program: Participation Trends 2009



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About FRAC

The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) is the leading national organization working for more effective public and private policies to eradicate domestic hunger and undernutrition.

For more information about FRAC, or to sign up for FRAC's Weekly News Digest, visit www.frac.org. For more information about CACFP, go to http://www.frac.org/html/federal_food_programs/programs/cacfp.html.

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Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Many low-income working parents rely on child care and afterschool programs to provide a safe and healthy place for their children while they commute and work. By paying for nutritious meals and snacks for eligible children who are enrolled at participating child care centers, day care homes and Head Start programs, the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) plays an important role in improving the quality of those programs and in making them more affordable for low-income parents.

CACFP is a well-documented success. Young children can receive up to two meals and a snack that meet USDA nutritional standards. Studies have shown that children in CACFP receive meals that are nutritionally superior to those served to children in child care settings without CACFP. Children in participating institutions have higher intakes of key nutrients, fewer servings of fats and sweets, than children in non-participating care. Research cites participation in CACFP as one of the major factors influencing quality care, reporting that 87 percent of the family child care homes considered to be providing quality child care participated in CACFP.

While the Child and Adult Care Food Program has several segments, the majority of CACFP participants are preschool-aged children attending participating family child homes, child care centers or Head Start programs. Depending on the type of program, eligibility is based either on the poverty status of the area or on the income of the enrolled children.

Each year the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) analyzes CACFP participation data for child care centers and family child care homes provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the United States as a whole and for each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Key findings for fiscal year 2008 include:

Child Care Centers

- Nearly 2.3 million children enrolled in child care centers benefited daily from CACFP in fiscal year 2008, a 4.7 percent increase from fiscal year 2007.
- Nationally the number of child care centers participating in CACFP grew to 49,624 in fiscal year 2008, a 2.4 percent increase from the previous year.

Family Child Care Homes

- In fiscal year 2008, 849,000 low-income children attending family child care homes relied on CACFP to provide healthy meals each day, a 0.8 percent increase from fiscal year 2007.
- Nationally 141,535 family child care homes participated in CACFP in fiscal year 2008, a 0.3 percent decrease from the previous year.

The Impact of the CACFP Means Test

As part of the reform of welfare undertaken in 1996, major changes in the way family child care homes are reimbursed in the Child and Adult Care Food Program were mandated. A means test was instituted which effectively cut in half the federal reimbursement for meals and snacks for providers serving moderate-income children.

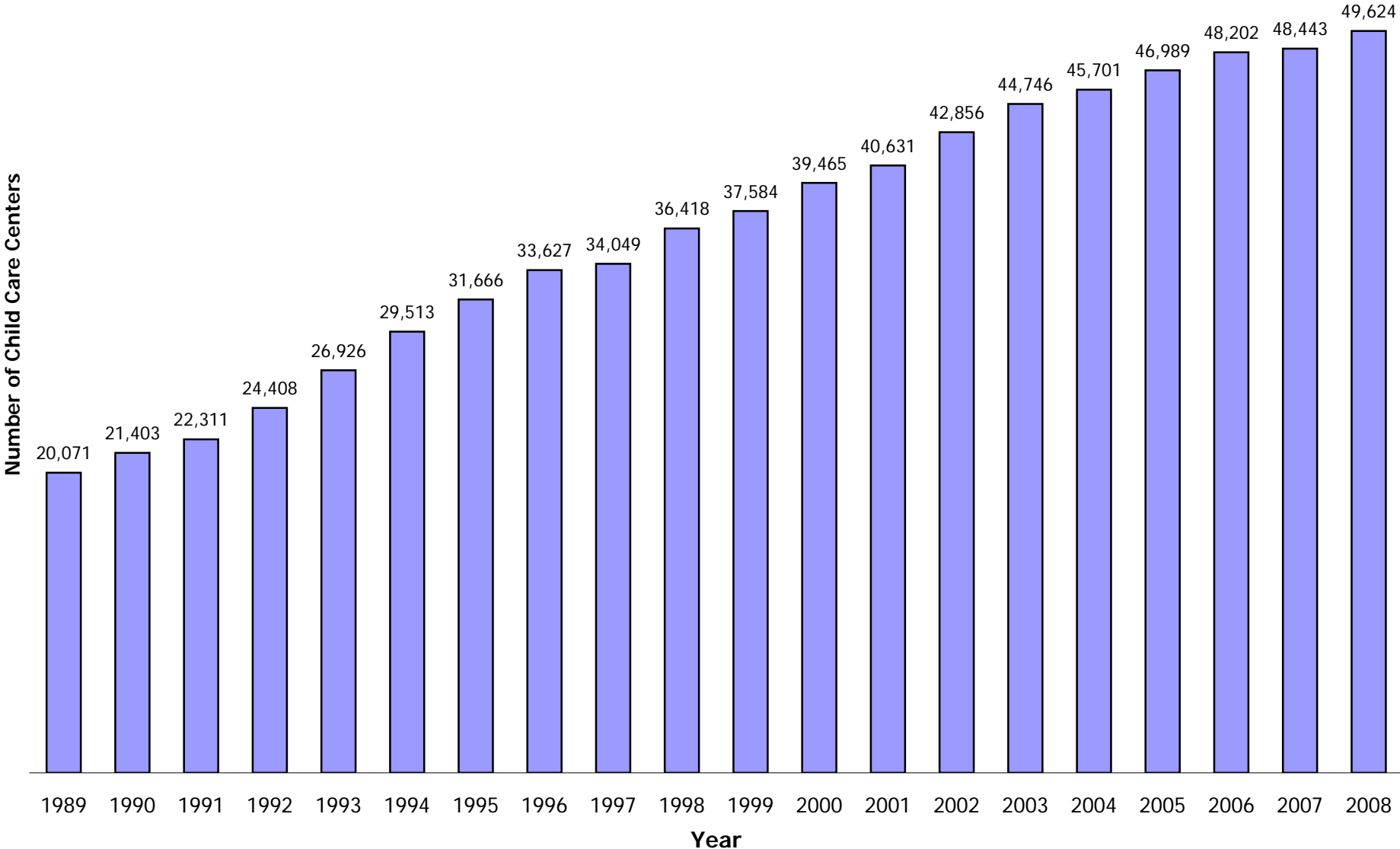
These changes have had negative consequences that continue to affect the program. Between 1996 and 2008 the number of family child care homes participating in CACFP dropped by 27.3 percent, while the number of children served fell by 127,000. This is in contrast to the growth of child care centers (and Head Start programs) using CACFP over that time. During the same 12 year period, the participation of centers in CACFP grew by 47.6 percent and the number of children served by those centers grew by 900,000.

Child and Adult Care Food Program Participation Trends 2009

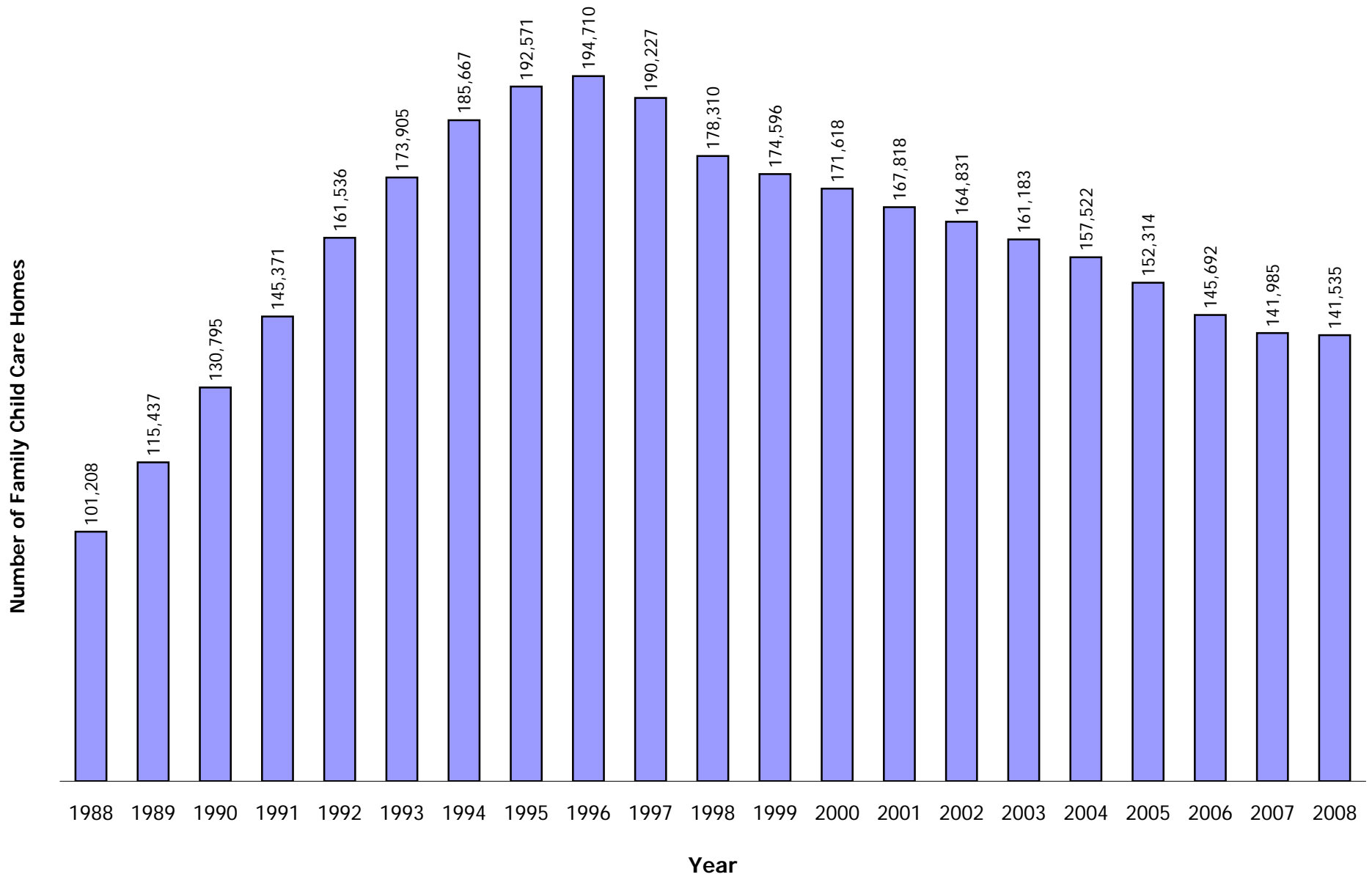
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Child and Adult Care Food Program Number of Child Care Centers

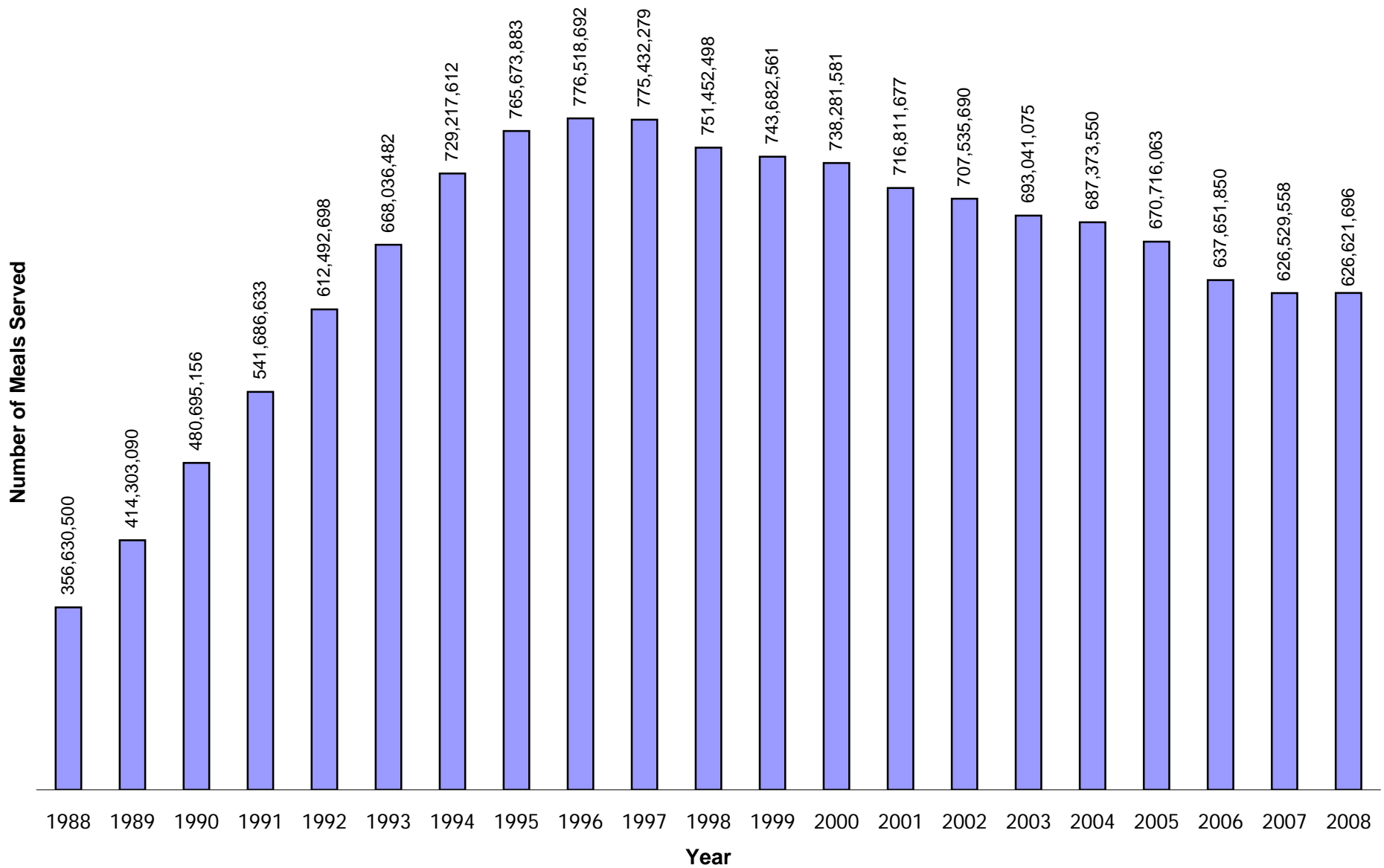


Child and Adult Care Food Program Number of Family Child Care Homes



Child and Adult Care Food Program

Total Number of Meals Served by Family Child Care Homes



Change in the Number of Child Care Centers, FY 1996 to FY 2008

State	Total Centers FY 1996	Total Centers FY 2008	Number Change	Percent Change	Rank (Percent Change)
Alabama	456	746	291	63.8%	15
Alaska	159	188	29	18.4%	35
Arizona	549	679	130	23.6%	33
Arkansas	394	874	479	121.6%	5
California	3,342	4,955	1,613	48.2%	20
Colorado	441	626	185	41.8%	26
Connecticut	268	284	16	5.9%	47
Delaware	93	199	107	115.4%	6
District of Columbia	106	147	41	38.9%	29
Florida	1,219	2,864	1,645	135.0%	2
Georgia	983	2,097	1,114	113.3%	7
Hawaii	231	231	-1	-0.2%	48
Idaho	98	224	126	128.8%	3
Illinois	1,477	1,697	220	14.9%	39
Indiana	700	759	59	8.4%	44
Iowa	515	595	80	15.6%	38
Kansas	427	483	56	13.2%	40
Kentucky	790	840	50	6.3%	46
Louisiana	500	646	145	29.0%	32
Maine	202	200	-2	-1.1%	49
Maryland	399	468	70	17.4%	36
Massachusetts	703	766	63	9.0%	42
Michigan	898	1,051	153	17.0%	37
Minnesota	565	554	-10	-1.8%	50
Mississippi	361	600	239	66.3%	13
Missouri	614	1,038	424	69.0%	12
Montana	163	177	14	8.4%	43
Nebraska	332	476	144	43.3%	24
Nevada	60	226	167	278.7%	1
New Hampshire	132	142	11	8.2%	45
New Jersey	898	1,265	367	40.9%	28
New Mexico	376	463	88	23.4%	34
New York	2,247	3,870	1,622	72.2%	10
North Carolina	1,457	2,121	664	45.6%	22
North Dakota	104	164	59	56.8%	19
Ohio	1,387	1,847	460	33.1%	31
Oklahoma	678	990	312	46.1%	21
Oregon	479	537	58	12.1%	41
Pennsylvania	1,486	2,369	884	59.5%	17
Rhode Island	106	175	69	64.9%	14
South Carolina	308	442	133	43.2%	25
South Dakota	155	245	90	57.8%	18
Tennessee	790	1,350	560	70.9%	11
Texas	1,708	3,847	2,139	125.3%	4
Utah	303	240	-63	-20.7%	51
Vermont	72	127	55	76.7%	8
Virginia	756	1,026	269	35.6%	30
Washington	778	1,131	353	45.4%	23
West Virginia	349	560	211	60.4%	16
Wisconsin	657	929	272	41.4%	27
Wyoming	78	135	57	73.4%	9
US	33,627	49,624	15,997	47.6%	--

