

# CalFresh: Caseload and Policy Changes in the 2000s

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# Overview

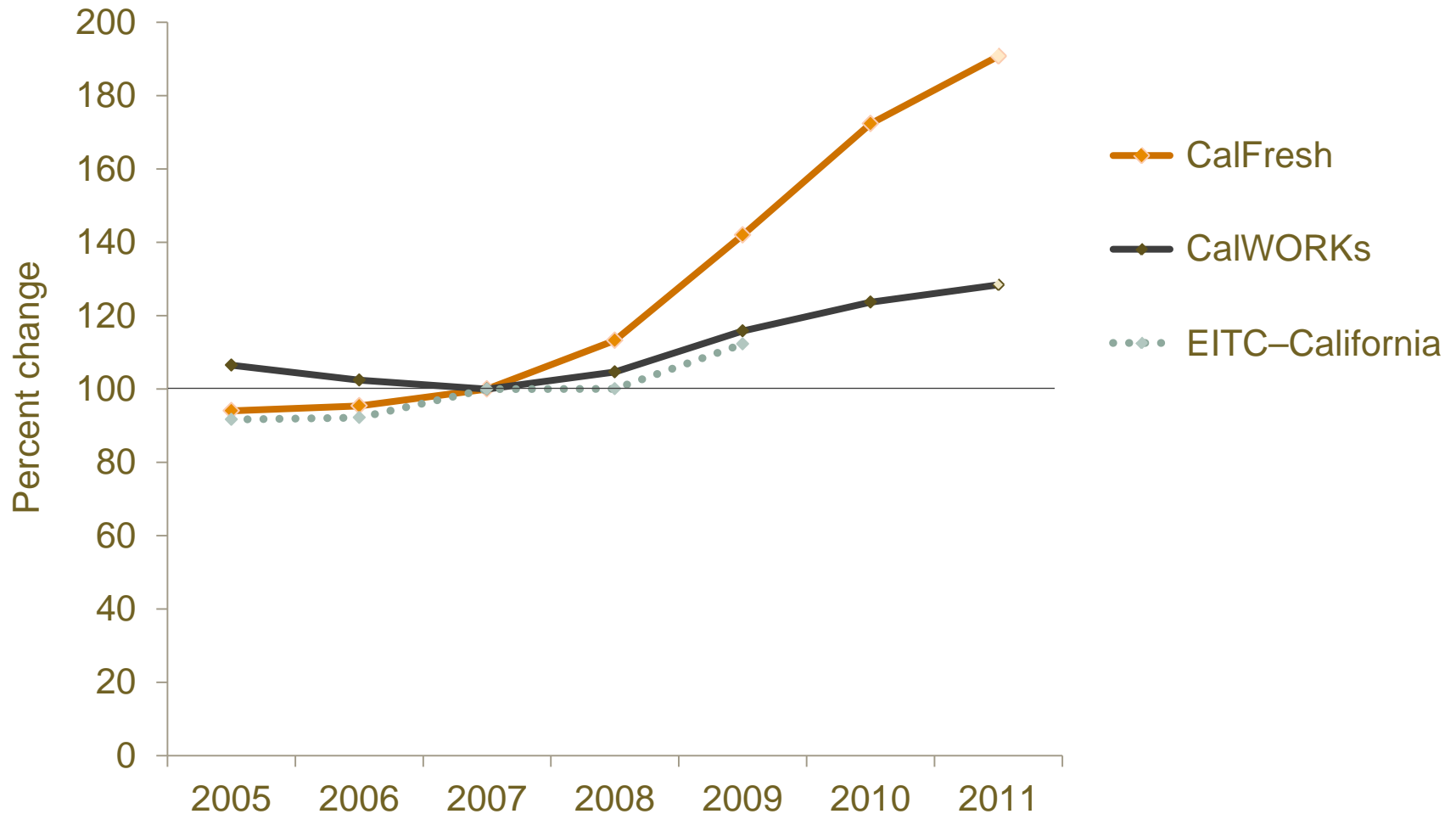
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- CalFresh in comparison to other safety net programs during and after the recession
- Caseload trends in California and in the U.S.
- Effects of Recent Policy Changes



# Growing Importance of CalFresh in the Safety Net

Percent Change in Number of Cases—Baseline Year 2007

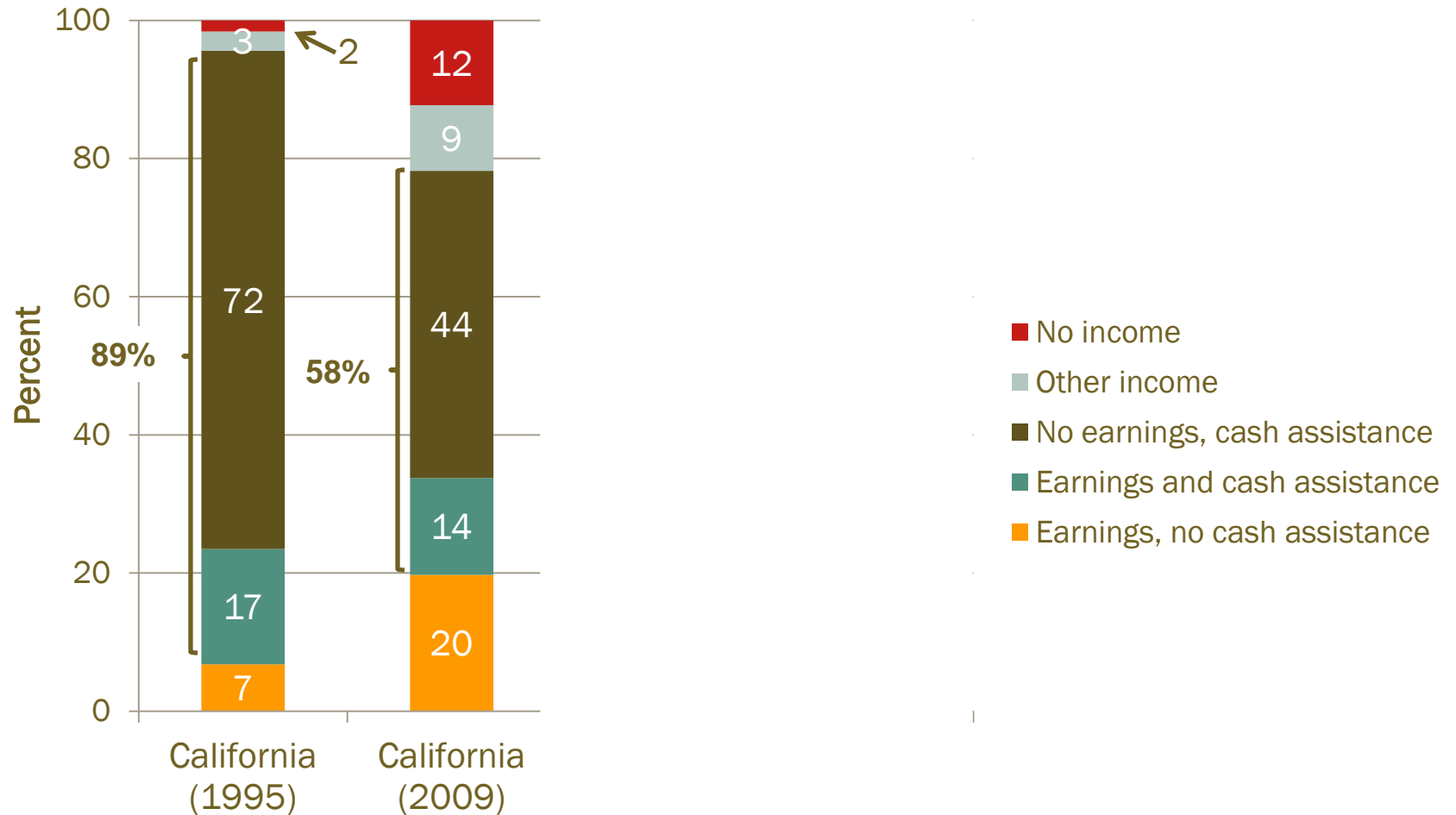


Sources: Administration for Children and Families, Food and Nutrition Service, and Internal Revenue Service



# Welfare (CalWORKs) and CalFresh Used to be Tightly Linked

## Sources of income among SNAP participants in HHs with children

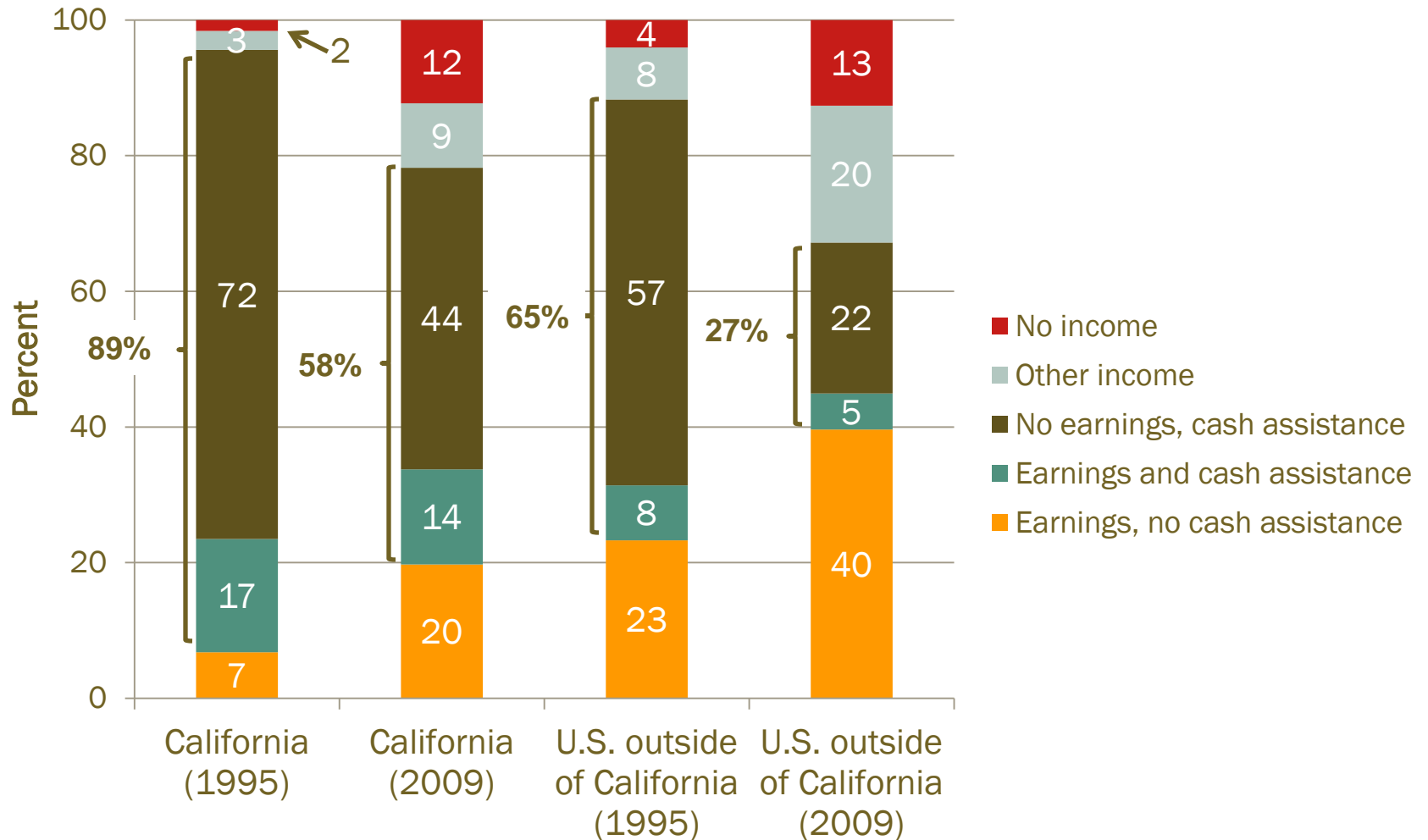


Source: FNS/USDA, SNAP quality control files



# Cash Assistance Is Even Less Important in Other States

Sources of income among SNAP participants in HHs with children

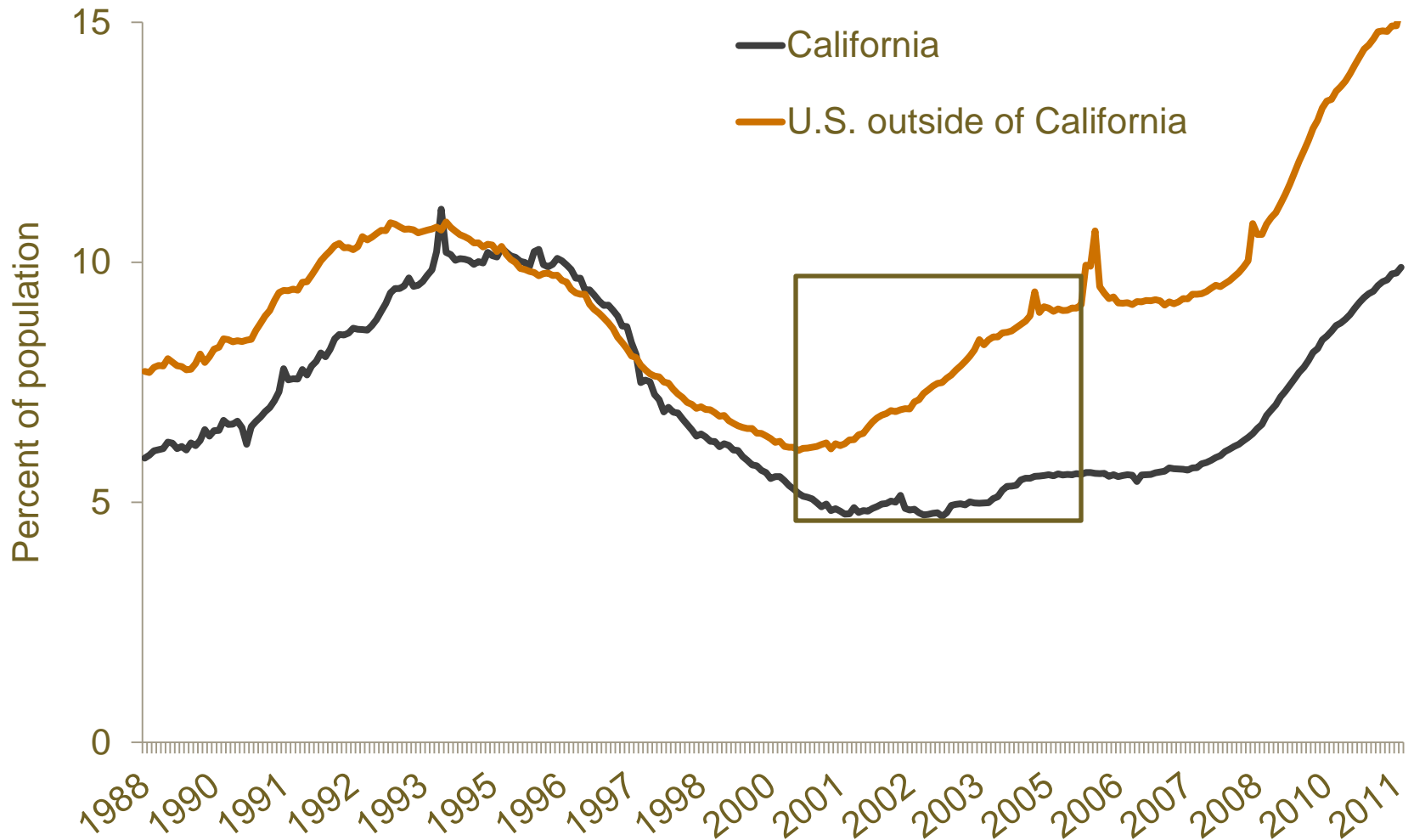


Source: FNS/USDA, SNAP quality control files



# California Caseload Trend Diverged in the Early 2000s

Percent of population receiving CalFresh/SNAP

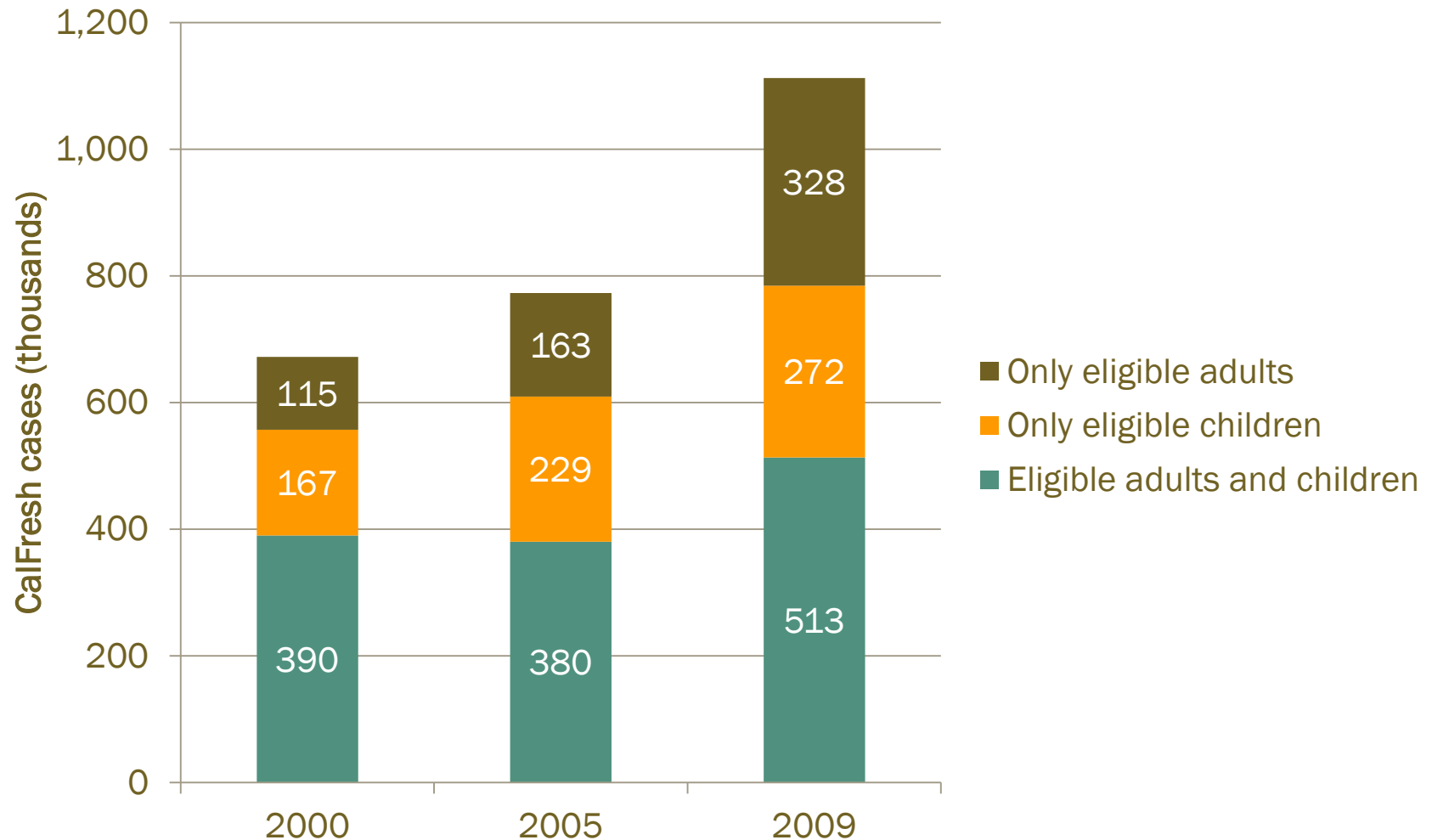


SOURCES: Authors' calculations from Food and Nutrition Service FNS-388 reports and U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.



# CalFresh Growth Slower Among Cases with Aided Adults and Children

In California, cases containing only adults nearly tripled, 2000-2009



Source: FNS/USDA, SNAP quality control files



# Recent Policy Changes in California

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- Our cross-state research indicates that several recently adopted policies increase participation:
  - Expansions of categorical eligibility
  - Elimination of fingerprinting
- Although no discernible difference between states with quarterly and semi-annual (simplified) reporting
- Thus expectation that California's participation will now more closely resemble the nation's
  - Demographic differences still play a role





# Review

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- SNAP responsive to the recession both in California and nationally
- CalFresh caseload is diverse, and recent past growth was uneven
  - Eligible children and adult households grew more slowly
  - Among these “mixed age” households, CalWORKs share is shrinking while those with earnings and with no income are growing
- Expect that several recent policy changes will partly close California’s participation gap
- Read further: PPIC report, *California’s Food Stamp Program* (September 2011)

