

Table 3-4. Comparison of Federal Benefits to Poverty Guidelines for Eligible Couples Receiving SSI, Selected Years 1975-2010

Poverty Guidelines And Benefits	1975	1980	1984	1988	1992	1996	2000	2004	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Poverty Guidelines ¹	3,410	5,010	6,720	7,730	9,190	10,360	11,250	12,490	13,200	13,690	14,000	14,570	14,570
Federal SSI Benefits:													
Dollars Per Year ²	2,734	4,016	5,664	6,384	7,596	8,460	9,228	10,152	10,848	11,220	11,472	12,132	12,132
Percent of Poverty	80.2	80.2	84.3	82.6	82.7	81.7	82.0	81.1	82.2	82.0	81.9	83.3	83.3

Notes: ¹ Poverty guidelines for a family of two in 48 contiguous states as determined by the Department of Health and Human Services.

² Equals the Federal Benefit Rate (FBR) for a couple living in their own household multiplied by 12 months.

Sources: Table prepared by CRS with Poverty Guideline data from the Department of Health and Human Services, available online at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/figures-fed-reg.shtml> and FBR data from the *SSI Annual Statistical Report, 2009*, Table 1 available online at http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/ssi_asr/2009/sect01.html.