

## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Introduction and Findings. . . . .	1
Background on Public Assistance Programs. . . . .	3
Automation of Program Administration . . . . .	3
Pilot Projects . . . . .	4
The Food Stamp Program . . . . .	5
Technological Options for Public Assistance Benefit Delivery Systems . . . . .	7
Online v. Offline Systems. . . . .	8
Card Capabilities and Functions . . . . .	10
Stand-Alone v. Piggybacked Systems. . . . .	13
Privacy and Security Implications . . . . .	13
The Privacy Act of 1974 . . . . .	13
National Identity Card . . . . .	14
De Facto National Database . . . . .	15
Computer Security Act of 1987 . . . . .	16
Programmatic Effects . . . . .	18
Effects on Agency Staff and Operations . . . . .	18
Effects on Providers . . . . .	18
Effects on Clients . . . . .	19
Conclusion . . . . .	20
Appendix A: Reviewers and Other Contributors . . . . .	21