

# DOWNLOAD PDF FAMILY AND CHILD WELL-BEING AFTER WELFARE REFORM

## Chapter 1 : Recent Welfare Reform Research Findings | Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

*Family Well-Being After Welfare Reform* Below you may access each chapter of the book in PDF format. you may also purchase the printed version of *Family and Child Well-Being After Welfare Reform* for \$ per copy, plus shipping and handling.

All figures are for calendar years. The poverty rate for families differs from the official poverty rate. Marriage and fertility[ edit ] A major impetus for welfare reform was concern about increases in out-of-wedlock births and declining marriage rates, especially among low-income women. The major goals of the legislation included reducing out-of-wedlock births and increasing rates and stability of marriages. Schoeni and Blank found that pre welfare waivers were associated with modest increases in probabilities of marriage. Her explanation behind this, which is consistent with other studies, is that after reform single women were required to work more, increasing their income and reducing their incentive to give up independence for marriage, whereas for married women, post-reform there was potentially a significant increase in the number of hours they would have to work when single, discouraging divorce. Specific provisions in TANF were aimed at reducing unwed childbearing. For example, TANF provided cash bonuses to states with the largest reductions in unwed childbearing that are not accompanied by more abortions. States were also required to eliminate cash benefits to unwed teens under age 18 who did not reside with their parents. TANF allowed states to impose family caps on the receipt of additional cash benefits from unwed childbearing. Between and , unwed childbearing among teenagers declined 20 percent among to year-olds and 10 percent among and year-olds. A working mother, proponents assert, provides a positive role model for her children. Opponents, on the other hand, argued that requiring women to work at low pay puts additional stress on mothers, reduces the quality time spent with children, and diverts income to work-related expenses such as transportation and childcare. The positive effects were largely due to the quality of childcare arrangement and afterschool programs that accompanied the move from welfare to work for these recipients. They find no evidence that children were harmed by such transitions; if anything, their mothers report that their children are better behaved and have better mental health. More abused and neglected children had not entered the child welfare system. However, at the same time, improvement in parental earnings and reductions in child poverty had not consistently improved outcomes for children. Maternal well-being[ edit ] While the material and economic well-being of welfare mothers after the enactment of TANF has been the subject of countless studies, their mental and physical well-being has received little attention. Research on the latter has found that welfare recipients face mental and physical problems at rates that are higher than the general population. At the same time, however, many women were experiencing stress and exhaustion from trying to balance work and family responsibilities. However, Congress was unable to reach an agreement for the next several years, and as a result, several extensions were granted to continue funding the program. It raised work participation rates, increased the share of welfare recipients subject to work requirements, limited the activities that could be counted as work, prescribed hours that could be spent doing certain work activities, and required states to verify activities for each adult beneficiary. This fund was expected to and did run out in FY The three categories of expenditures that could be claimed were basic assistance, non-recurrent short-term benefits, and subsidized employment. However, Congress did not work on legislation to reauthorize the program and instead they extended the TANF block grant through September 30, , as part of the Claims Resolution Act. The second type of situation is non- work TANF related exit in which the recipient no longer qualifies for assistance due to reaching the maximum time allowed to be enrolled in the assistance program. Once their time limit has been reached, individuals are removed from receiving assistance. The third type of situation is continued TANF receipt in which employed recipients earning a wage that does not help cover expenses continue receiving assistance. It has been observed that certain situations of TANF exit are more prominent depending on the geographic area which recipients live in. Focusing the comparison between metropolitan urban areas and non-metropolitan

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rural areas, the number of recipients experiencing non work TANF related exit is highest among rural areas rural areas in the South experience the highest cases of this type of exiting the program. Not being aware of the offered programs impacts their use and creates misconceptions that influence the responsiveness of those who qualify for such programs, resulting in longer time periods requiring TANF services. Programs such as childcare, food stamps, and Medicaid are meant increase work incentive but many TANF recipients transitioning into work do not know they are eligible. It increased poverty, lowered income for single mothers, put people from welfare into homeless shelters, and left states free to eliminate welfare entirely. S Department of Health and Human Services. Archived from the original on Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty. The Social Obligations of Citizenship. A Synthesis of Research. Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation.

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## Chapter 2 : Promoting Child & Family Well-Being - Child Welfare Information Gateway

*Family and Child Well-Being after Welfare Reform, now in paperback, explores how low-income children and their families are faring in the wake of welfare reform. Contributors to the volume include leading social researchers.*

Textbook and etextbook are published under ISBN and Since then Family and Child Well-Being after Welfare Reform textbook was available to sell back to BooksRun online for the top buyback price or rent at the marketplace. Description Since their historic high in , welfare caseloads in the United States have dropped an astounding 59 percent--more than 5 million fewer families receive welfare. Family and Child Well-Being after Welfare Reform, now in paperback, explores how low-income children and their families are faring in the wake of welfare reform. Contributors to the volume include leading social researchers. Can existing surveys and other data be used to measure trends in the area? What key indicators should be tracked? What are the initial trends after welfare reform? What other information or approaches would be helpful? The book covers a broad range of topics: Besharov and Peter Germanis ; ongoing major research Peter H. Rossi ; material well-being, such as earnings, benefits, and consumption Richard Bavier ; family versus household Wendy D. Manning ; fatherhood, cohabitation, and marriage Wade F. Horn ; teenage sex, pregnancy, and nonmarital births Isabel V. Sawhill ; child maltreatment and foster care Richard J. Gelles ; homelessness and housing John C. Weicher ; child health and well-being Lorraine V. Klerman ; nutrition, food security, and obesity Harold S. Beebout ; crime, juvenile delinquency, and dysfunctional behavior Lawrence W. Isaacs ; and the activities of the U. When welfare reform was first debated, many people feared that it would hurt the poor, especially children. The contributors find little evidence to suggest this has occurred. As time limits and other programmatic requirements take hold, more information will be needed to assess the condition of low-income families after welfare reform. This informative volume establishes a baseline for that assessment.

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## Chapter 3 : Temporary Assistance for Needy Families - Wikipedia

*The contributors find little evidence that welfare reform has hurt the poor, especially poor children, as was once feared. Topics vital to low-income families are assessed, including ongoing major research in material well-being and income, marriage and cohabitation, births, child maltreatment and foster care, housing, nutrition, crime and dysfunctional behavior, and the activities of the U.S.*

When the Senate takes up TANF reauthorization, it should take these recent research findings into account and ensure that states have the resources and flexibility to address these issues. Recent studies show that families that left welfare recently or later are less likely to be working than families that left welfare in the s. A recent Urban Institute report shows that the proportion of families that leave welfare and are not employed rose from 50 percent in to 58 percent in Loprest, Similarly, a recent study of welfare leavers in Cuyahoga County, Ohio Cleveland found that employment rates for families leaving welfare were relatively constant between and but have fallen steadily since Colton, Bania, Martin, and Lalich, In New York City, the job placement rate of public assistance recipients has declined markedly between and , even though the city continues to engage a very high percentage of welfare recipients in welfare-to-work activities New York City Human Resources Administration, The share of families that leave welfare and are not working and do not have another stable source of support has increased. Disconnected leavers are significantly more likely to have health problems, less likely to have completed high school, and more likely to have been jobless in the past three years Loprest, Nearly two-thirds of disconnected leavers reported running out of money to buy food. A New Jersey study of TANF leavers who do not have jobs found that about 40 percent of these jobless leavers have not worked recently, do not receive SSI or unemployment benefits, and do not live with an employed spouse or parent. The overall unemployment rate of low-income single mothers increased from 9. Despite these declines, the child poverty rate in the United States remained higher than the rate in Canada, most western European countries, and many other developed counties Jesuit and Smeeding, Poverty remains disproportionately high in the United States even through it has the highest average income in the industrialized world except for Luxembourg Smeeding, Rainwater, and Burtless, In the last few years, poverty in the United States has increased. Trends in child poverty and severe poverty “income below 50 percent of the poverty line” are particularly relevant to welfare reform policy. Between and , the number of children in poverty increased by nearly , More than 12 million children were poor in Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Between and , the number of individuals in severe poverty increased by nearly 1. Severe poverty is now back to the level it was at in At the same time, the number of people who experience food insecurity during the year has increased U. Department of Agriculture, Between and , the number of households that experienced food insecurity increased from Poverty Rates Among Families that Leave TANF are Very High and Remain High Over Time Studies conducted in the s found high poverty rates among welfare leavers “most studies have found that between 50 to 75 percent of welfare leavers remain poor two to three years after leaving welfare Blank, For example, one of the few studies using national data to track leavers for more than two to three years found that 42 percent of welfare leavers remain poor five years after leaving welfare compared to a 55 percent poverty rate in the first year after leaving welfare Cancian, Haveman, Kaplan, Meyer, and Wolfe, Most welfare leavers with incomes above the poverty line still have very low incomes “state-level leaver studies have found that about 90 percent of leavers have income below percent of the poverty level Acs and Loprest, Recent research continues to show high poverty rates and very modest growth in income for families that leave welfare. A Californiastudy found that half of welfare leavers saw no growth in income in the year after they left welfare. The HHS-supported study surveyed welfare leavers in the late s at two points in time: Although their income growth is modest, it should be noted that poverty rates for welfare leavers in California are significantly lower on average than the poverty rates found in other national and state studies. This lower poverty rate is likely due to a deliberate policy choice California made in its TANF program. California is one

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of a handful of states that allow TANF recipients who find jobs to continue receiving TANF assistance as an income supplement until they reach the poverty level. Rigorous evaluations have shown that such a policy results in higher income and lower poverty rates than programs that simply mandate employment Berlin, A HHS-funded study of welfare reform in Wisconsin “ a state often cited as having a particularly innovative welfare reform program “ found that the net income of welfare leavers in the year after they exited welfare is lower than their income prior to leaving Cancian, et al. Families That Lose Assistance Because of Sanctions or Time Limits are More Likely to Experience Hardship than Other Welfare Leavers Recent state-level studies provide new evidence on the extent to which families that lose TANF cash assistance due to sanctions or time limits face serious material hardships, including problems securing housing and affording food. More recent time limit research, however, finds that time limit-leavers have lower employment rates, higher poverty rates, and higher levels of material hardship than other TANF leavers. Families terminated because of the time limit were less likely to have jobs, and more likely to experience hardships such as food insecurity, problems with housing and utilities, and unmet health care needs Crichton, A study of families leaving welfare in Cuyahoga County Cleveland found that families that left due to time limits had much higher poverty rates, lower employment rates, and more housing-related hardships than families that left for other reasons Colton, et al. This high level of poverty persisted even though nearly 90 percent worked at some point after hitting the limit. When these families were employed, they worked an average of 37 hours per week Wemmerus, Kuhns, and Loeffler, Recent studies suggest that many recipients have a limited understanding of time limit rules. Almost 40 percent of TANF recipients overall report that they were not told they had a time limit or did not know when they would reach the limit. About 73 percent of Spanish-speaking TANF recipients and 50 percent of recipients with two or more work barriers did not understand the time limit Zedlewski and Holland, Research conducted in Philadelphia found that most recipients knew there was a time limit, but that only half of recipients knew the length of the limit. Prior research has generally shown that large shares of families that have been sanctioned face significant barriers to employment “ such as health problems, children with health problems, low basic skill levels, and substance abuse problems. For a review of the literature, see Pavetti More recent research provides additional evidence to support these findings. A national survey of mothers interviewed when their child reached age one found that mothers who left welfare after being sanctioned were more than three times as likely to have experienced material hardship “ homelessness or eviction, hunger, or moving in with others “ as mothers of infants who stayed on welfare. These results held even after the researchers controlled for a range of demographic and other variables, including the level of material hardship the mother experienced around the time the child was born. When the researchers looked at the relationship between hunger and sanctioning, they found that sanctioned mothers were more than six times as likely as mothers staying on welfare or leaving welfare without being sanctioned to have experienced hunger. The overall level of hardship among sanctioned mothers with one-year children was quite high “ about 45 percent of sanctioned leavers had experienced at least one material hardship Reichman, Teitler, and Curtis, Similarly, Cook, et al. A major study conducted in three large cities “ Boston, Chicago, and San Antonio “ found that children in current and former welfare families that had been sanctioned generally had higher rates of serious behavioral and emotional problems than children in other TANF families. Taken together, these new studies and previous research provide unassailable evidence that sanction and time limit policies are leading to real hardship for a substantial number of poor children. Recent Research Continues to Show that Families with Health Problems Often have Great Difficulty Moving from Welfare to Work A considerable body of research has examined the prevalence of health problems among TANF participants and leavers, and the correlation between health problems and employment and sanction rates See Butler, ; Goldberg, Recent research in this area continues to find a strong relationship between health and employment Zedlewski, This research builds on earlier research by examining the prevalence of health problems “ and their impacts on employment outcomes “ among TANF recipients in part of Michigan over a multi-year period, rather than simply measuring the proportion of recipients at any point in time that have health

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problems. The researchers found that physical and mental health problems and child health problems each are related to lower employment durations over a nearly five-year period, even after controlling for a range of factors that effect employability including job skills, prior work experience, and access to transportation Corcoran, Danziger, and Tolman, Mothers caring for children with health problems are less likely to be employed and work fewer hours when they are employed. For a review of this research, see Powers, Research conducted on this question in the late s generally did not find an increase, although typically the number of work limitations examined was limited. Some recent research, however, suggests that the share of TANF recipients with health problems may be increasing. An increasing share of TANF recipients reported work-limiting health conditions in two different national surveys between and Bavier, One other national survey, however, does not show an increase in very poor mental or physical health between and , although the level of health problems reported in this survey is higher than in the other two Zedlewski, The same researcher found that returns to welfare among leavers without work-limiting conditions declined after , but remained stable for leavers with work-limiting conditions. Poverty also declined, but at a much slower rate than the declines in welfare caseloads. While fewer families received TANF benefits and more families had earnings, many new workers remained poor because they were paid low wages and, in many cases, did not receive benefits such as cash assistance or food stamps. More recently, poverty has increased, but the TANF caseload has not increased nationally as one would expect in a time of rising need. HHS data show that about half of TANF-eligible families do not receive assistance and that non-receipt among eligible families is increasing. In , only about half of families poor enough to qualify for TANF received monthly cash assistance, down from nearly 8 in 10 eligible families in HHS, The continued decline in caseloads since despite rising poverty suggests that the share of eligible families receiving TANF cash assistance has continued to fall Fremstad, Other national surveys also find that about half of TANF-eligible families are not receiving assistance. A survey of new parents in 20 U. Research using data from the initial years of welfare reform and suggests that at least , to 1 million single-parent families that were eligible for TANF, but not participating, could have received important assistance and supports if they had participated in the program. These families would have had higher incomes because they would have received cash aid and would have benefited from important employment services and work supports provided by state TANF programs. About half of these non-participants were extremely poor and many had poor health or other work barriers Zedlewski, Single-mothers who were potentially eligible for welfare were much less likely to enter the TANF system after enactment of the welfare law than in the first half of the s. The decline in entry rate is not explained by changes in the characteristics of low-income mothers or improvement in the economy, and falling benefit levels measured in real terms had only a modest impact on entry rates Acs, Phillips, and Nelson, Participation in food stamps and health care programs, however, has increased as one would expect in a weakened economy. Recent data from the Center for Law and Social Policy shows that national TANF cash assistance caseloads were essentially flat between June and June , the last month for which data are available. Since the beginning of the recession, national caseloads have fallen 4 percent, though some 28 states have seen caseload increases Rahmanou, Richer, and Greenberg, Among these states, caseloads have risen by an average of 16 percent since March Food stamp caseloads, by contrast, have increased markedly. Between July when food stamp rolls fell to their lowest level and October , the number of households receiving food stamps increased by 38 percent. This reflects the impact both of the economy and outreach efforts designed to enroll children eligible in these programs Kenney, Haley, and Tebay, There has been very little research on diversion policies. Two recent studies, however, provide important new information on the impact of diversion. Interestingly, more educated applicants also are overrepresented in the diverted population. Diverted applicants also are less likely to have jobs than other TANF leavers and more likely to speak Spanish as their primary language. These findings suggest that many of the potential TANF participants who are deterred by diversion programs would be better served by participating in TANF, even though diversion may be targeted appropriately in some cases. Overall, the researchers found that families with greater need were more likely to

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obtain assistance, but that the targeting of diversion often was problematic. For example, black families were more often discouraged from applying than other families, and families who were diverted from welfare did not have higher income levels over time than families who were not diverted. A study of TANF applicants in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin found that the earnings of applicants who ended up participating in TANF were about the same as the earnings of applicants who did not participate, but that the total income of participants was significantly higher but still below the poverty line over a month period. Participants fared better because they received cash assistance and were more likely to receive food stamps Dworsky, Courtney, and Piliavin. Unfortunately, the relative importance of these factors as well as the interactive effects among them is difficult to disentangle. Based on a review of research in this area, one conservative analyst, Doug Besharov of the American Enterprise Institute and the University of Maryland, recently estimated that the economy accounted for 35 to 45 percent of the decline in the welfare caseloads, increased aid to the working poor accounted for 20 to 30 percent, increases in the minimum wage for 0 to 5 percent, welfare reform for 25 to 35 percent, and erosion of the value of cash benefits for 5 to 10 percent Besharov and Germanis. Surprisingly, the role of the expansion of child care subsidies to low-income parents in the s in increasing employment rates and hours worked has just begun to receive significant research attention. A growing body of new research, however, looks more closely at this area and consistently finds strong linkages between child care and employment increases. Providing subsidized child care increases the likelihood that current and former welfare recipients leave welfare and work more than part-time. Similarly, studies of the impact of increases in child care in Massachusetts and Miami-Dade County, Florida found that increased funding per poor child for child care is associated with increases in single-parent employment Lemke, Witt, and Dryden Witte. A study of TANF recipients in Michigan found that receipt of child care subsidies was associated with higher employment rates.

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## Chapter 4 : Sell, Buy or Rent Family and Child Well-Being after Welfare Reform online

*This volume reports on "Family Well-Being After Welfare Reform," a conference held by the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI), in association with the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, on December 8 and 9,*

Most children and adolescents that enter the child welfare system have been exposed to multiple adverse childhood experiences ACEs , including abuse and neglect. As a result, they often present with neurobiological, cognitive, and social-emotional deficits that are likely to undermine their long-term health and well-being in the absence of effective services. A National Movement There is widespread agreement that the child welfare system should work to ensure that children live in a safe and stable environment. For several decades these goals have been codified in federal legislation including the Child Abuse and Prevention and Treatment Act in P. Despite this welcome shift, the field has been slow to integrate this goal into child welfare practice and policy, due in part to a lack of consensus on how to define and measure well-being or whether it should stand alongside safety and permanency as a statutory goal of child welfare. Among its recommendations, ACYF called for the routine use of trauma screenings and functional assessments to measure child well-being along with the implementation of validated interventions to promote well-being. The Well-Being Assessment Program: The program is based on three basic assumptions about well-being. First, assessments should attempt to understand the whole child. Therefore, to assess well-being it is important to measure child development and functioning across multiple domains e. Second, assessing well-being requires evaluating the child in context. The Well-Being Assessment program is designed so that immediately after children are placed in foster care they are assessed for exposure to adversity and trauma as well as their physical and psychosocial development and functioning. The table below illustrates that many adults who are reported to child protective services have ACE histories that place them at risk of many physical health, mental health, and behavioral health problems. High ACE scores have been shown to significantly increase the risk of many health-related problems, including alcohol and drug abuse, depression, obesity, heart disease, and cancer. Using Evidence to Inform Practice The Well-being Assessment program fulfills essential functions that facilitate evidence-based practice. Assessment results are reviewed with the family, case manager, and other team members to identify shared goals and service priorities. In addition, initial assessments help to gauge child and family baseline functioning and inform service recommendations. The Post-Reunification Pilot Project The child welfare field currently lacks knowledge related to how families function after a child returns home from foster care. Child welfare agencies rarely gather data to measure child and family progress after reunification occurs. To address this gap, the Institute for Child and Family Well-Being recently launched The Post-Reunification Pilot Project that aims to gather information that can be used to provide families with post-reunification support. Ultimately, the collection of post-reunification data is expected to generate information that can support real-time decision making and increase the likelihood that children remain in a safe, stable home environment that promotes their well-being. References 1Anda et al. The enduring effects of abuse and related adverse experiences in childhood. *European Archives of Psychiatry and Clinical Neuroscience*, 3 , Attachment, mind, body, and brain. Evidence-based treatments in child abuse and neglect. *Child and Family Service Review*, 26 11 , Improving the mental health of children in child welfare through the implementation of evidence-based parenting interventions. The importance of parents and other caregivers to the resilience of high-risk adolescents. *Family process*, 43 1 , Child welfare, child well-being, and the evidence for policy reform. Promoting social and emotional well-being for children and youth receiving child welfare services. Relationship of childhood abuse and household dysfunction to many of the leading causes of death in adults: *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 14, â€”

## Chapter 5 : Family Well-Being After Welfare Reform

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*Family And Child Well Being After Welfare Reform Home child welfare information gateway, updated: transition to adulthood and independent living provides resources to help adolescents transition to adulthood.*

## Chapter 6 : Well-Being - Child Welfare Information Gateway

*Since their historic high in , welfare caseloads in the United States have dropped 59 percent - more than 5 million fewer families receive welfare.*

## Chapter 7 : Assessing Well-Being in Child Welfare – Institute for Child and Family Well-Being

*Welfare reform may have weakened the social insurance role of public assistance in smoothing consumption patterns in response to negative employment- and family-related shocks experienced by low-income families with children.*

## Chapter 8 : Laws & Policies | Children's Bureau | ACF

*Douglas J. Besharov and Peter Germanis, "Welfare Reform and Caseload Decline," in Family and Child Well-being After Welfare Reform, Rebecca M. Blank, "Evaluating Welfare Reform in the United States," Journal of Economic Literature, vol. XL, December*

## Chapter 9 : Family and Child Well-Being After Welfare Reform: Douglas J. Besharov: [theinnatdunvilla.com](http://theinnatdunvilla.com)

*Children's Well-Being Assessment program now continues the assessment process after a child returns home from foster care to track their well-being over time and provide timely support to their family.*