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CENSUS

Characteristics of Persons Receiving Benefits From Major Assistance Programs

U.S. Department of Commerce

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U.S. Department of Commerce
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Characteristics of Persons Receiving Benefits From Major Assistance Programs

INTRODUCTION

This report uses data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) to examine the attachment of persons to the welfare system over a 32-month period. The source of the data is the full panel file from the 1984 SIPP. The first wave of interviews for this panel was conducted during the months of October, November, and December 1983, and January 1984. One-fourth of the sample was interviewed in each of these months and each sample household was visited at 4-month intervals thereafter. The final interviews for the 1984 panel were conducted in 1986.

The panel file contains records for each person for whom a reasonably complete set of data for a 32-month period was obtained. Efforts were made during the life of the panel to follow persons who moved to ensure that the sample remained representative of the noninstitutional population of the United States.

During a SIPP interview, information is collected on the income, labor force, and program participation characteristics of persons during each month of the reference period (the reference period is the 4 months preceding the interview month). It is therefore possible to classify persons by the number of months over the 32-month period that the person participated in one or more assistance programs.

The program participation data in this report refer to the following major programs: (1) Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), (2) General Assistance, (3) Supplemental Security Income (SSI), (4) Medicaid, (5) Federal food stamps, and (6) Federal and State rent assistance.

The tables in this report show data for persons. Persons are considered recipients of AFDC, General Assistance, or food stamp assistance if they are the primary recipient or if they are the spouse or minor child of the primary recipient. Persons receiving SSI payments are considered to be recipients of welfare assistance as are persons covered by Medicaid or living in public or subsidized housing.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The proportion of persons who participated in at least one of the major assistance programs over the 32-month period was 18.3 (±0.7) percent.
- 7.2 (±0.5) percent received benefits from a major assistance program during each month of the period.
- 8.8 (±0.5) percent of the population benefited from a major cash assistance program (AFDC, General Assistance, or SSI) during the period, and 3.4 (±0.3) percent were beneficiaries during each month of the period.
- 13.4 (±0.6) percent received food stamp benefits in at least 1 month and 3.3 (±0.3) percent received them in each of the 32 months.
- When income is defined to include all money income plus the value of food stamps, 9.3 (±0.5) percent of the population experienced 1 or more months when at least half of their income (or the income of their family) came from cash assistance or food stamps.
- Over the entire 32-month period, 15.0 (±0.6) percent of the population received at least part of their income (money income plus the value of any food stamps received) from cash assistance or food stamps. The proportion that received all of their income from these two sources was 2.1 (±0.3) percent.

SEX, RACE, AND HISPANIC ORIGIN

Females were more likely than males to be recipients of welfare assistance. As shown in table A, approximately one-fifth (20.5 percent) of females of all ages received assistance from a major program at some time during the 32-month period, and 8.8 percent received assistance each month of the period. The comparable figures for males were 15.8 and 5.5 percent.

The proportion of females who participated in a major cash assistance program was 10.7 percent and the proportion who received food stamp assistance was 15.1 percent. Both of these rates were higher than the comparable rates for males of 6.7 percent and 11.5 percent, respectively.

When income is defined to include money income plus the value of food stamps, 10.8 percent of females and 7.7 percent of males experienced one or more months in which half or more of their income was accounted for by cash assistance and/or food stamps. Over the entire 32-month period, the proportion of persons receiving half or more of their income from cash assistance and/or food stamps was 7.5 percent among females and 4.8 percent among males.

Table A. **Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin, by Receipt of Assistance**

Assistance status during the period	Both sexes	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic[1]
All persons (thousands)	221,975	106,567	115,408	189,355	26,401	15,332
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
RECEIPT OF MAJOR ASSISTANCE [2]						
No months	81.7	84.2	79.5	86.1	51.5	65.8
One or more months	18.3	15.8	20.5	13.9	48.5	34.2
1 to 6 months	4.1	4.0	4.1	3.6	7.8	6.5
7 to 24 months	5.2	4.7	5.7	4.2	12.2	9.6
25 months or more	9.0	7.1	10.7	6.1	28.5	18.1
32 months	7.2	5.5	8.8	4.7	24.0	15.2
Mean number of months	3.7	3.0	4.4	2.6	11.2	7.4
Standard error	0.10	0.14	0.16	0.10	0.27	0.52
RECEIPT OF CASH ASSISTANCE [3]						
No months	91.2	93.3	89.3	93.8	73.3	81.8
One or more months	8.8	6.7	10.7	6.2	26.7	18.2
1 to 6 months	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.3	3.7	2.1
7 to 24 months	2.6	1.9	3.3	1.8	7.9	7.0
25 months or more	4.6	3.3	5.7	3.0	15.1	9.1
32 months	3.4	2.5	4.3	2.2	11.3	7.4
Mean number of months	1.9	1.4	2.4	1.3	6.1	3.9
Standard error	0.08	0.10	0.12	0.07	0.23	0.41
RECEIPT OF FOOD STAMPS						
No months	86.6	88.5	84.9	90.1	62.8	74.2
One or more months	13.4	11.5	15.1	9.9	37.2	25.8
1 to 6 months	3.4	3.2	3.6	2.9	7.0	5.7
7 to 24 months	4.9	4.3	5.4	3.6	13.4	9.5
25 months or more	5.1	4.0	6.1	3.4	16.8	10.5
32 months	3.3	2.5	4.1	2.2	10.9	8.0
Mean number of months	2.4	2.0	2.8	1.7	7.5	4.9
Standard error	0.08	0.11	0.13	0.08	0.23	0.43
MONTHS IN WHICH ASSISTANCE ACCOUNTED FOR 50 PERCENT OR MORE OF INCOME[4]						
No months	90.7	92.3	89.2	93.6	70.4	80.4
One or more months	9.3	7.7	10.8	6.4	29.6	19.6
1 to 6 months	2.5	2.2	2.7	1.9	6.4	4.0
7 to 24 months	3.2	2.7	3.8	2.3	10.1	7.0
25 months or more	3.6	2.8	4.4	2.2	13.1	8.5
32 months	2.4	1.8	2.8	1.4	8.2	5.8
Mean number of months	1.7	1.3	2.0	1.1	5.8	3.7
Standard error	0.07	0.09	0.11	0.06	0.22	0.39
PROPORTION OF INCOME ACCOUNTED FOR BY ASSISTANCE[4]						
None	85.0	87.1	83.0	88.8	58.4	71.2
One percent or more	15.0	12.9	17.0	11.2	41.6	28.8
1 to 9 percent	2.3	2.2	2.4	1.9	4.7	3.9
10 to 24 percent	3.6	3.4	3.8	2.9	8.6	5.8
25 to 49 percent	2.9	2.4	3.3	2.4	7.0	4.8
50 to 74 percent	1.9	1.6	2.2	1.2	7.4	3.3
75 to 99 percent	2.3	1.7	2.7	1.6	6.3	5.3
100 percent	2.1	1.5	2.6	1.3	7.5	5.7
Mean percent	7.0	5.6	8.3	4.8	22.0	15.4
Standard error	0.24	0.31	0.36	0.22	0.68	1.33

[1]Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

[2]Major assistance programs include Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), General Assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), food stamps, Medicaid, and housing assistance.

[3] Major cash assistance programs include Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), General Assistance, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

[4]Income and assistance include the value of food stamps but do notinclude the value of any other noncash benefits.

The differences between the sexes in the receipt of welfare assistance reflects differences in the likelihood of being in poverty. A recent Census Bureau report, *Measuring the Effect of Benefits and Taxes on Income and Poverty: 1986,* Series P-60, No. 164-RD-1, contains detailed information on differences between the sexes in poverty status. In 1986, a year that includes the latter part of the 32-month period, the poverty rate for females was 15.2 percent, and the rate for males was 11.8 percent.

The difference in poverty status is partly due to family relationship factors. Women are more likely than men to live in a family in which no spouse is present, and the poverty rate among persons in such families is higher than the rate among persons in married-couple families or among unrelated individuals. Data from the previously cited 1986 report show that 39.1 million persons lived in a family with no spouse present, and 23.2 million of these persons were females. The poverty rate for persons in families with no spouse present was 34.6 percent compared to 7.1 percent for persons in married-couple families and 21.6 percent for unrelated individuals. The poverty rate was especially high, 39.1 percent, among persons living in a family with a female householder, no spouse present.

A second factor that is associated with differences between the sexes in poverty status is age. Most of the persons who are 65 years of age or older are women, and the relationship between age and poverty status is different for females than for males. The earlier report showed that in 1986, 16.4 million of the 28.0 million persons 65 years and over were women. The poverty rate for women 65 and over (15.2 percent) was higher than the rate among women 18 to 64 (13.1 percent). In contrast, males who were 65 years and over had a poverty rate that was no different than the rate among males 18 to 64 years of age (both rates were 8.5 percent).

There was a strong association between race and Hispanic origin and the likelihood of receiving welfare assistance. The proportion of persons who received assistance at some time during the period was 13.9 percent among Whites, 48.5 percent among Blacks, and 34.2 percent among Hispanics. Nearly one-fourth (24.0 percent) of all Blacks received assistance from a major program during each of the 32 months. The comparable figures for Whites and Hispanics were 4.7 percent and 15.2 percent, respectively.

When income is defined to include money income plus the value of food stamps, 6.4 percent of Whites, 29.6 percent of Blacks, and 19.6 percent of Hispanics experienced one or more months in which half or more of their income came from cash assistance and/or food stamps.

Over the entire 32-month period, the proportion of persons who received half or more of their income from cash assistance and/or food stamps was 4.1 percent among Whites, 21.2 percent among Blacks, and 14.3 percent among Hispanics. The differences among Whites, Blacks, and Hispanics in the likelihood of receiving assistance reflect differences in poverty status and in the factors that help determine poverty status. The 1986 report showed that the poverty rates among the three groups were 11.0 percent (White), 31.1 percent (Black), and 27.3 percent (Hispanic). The report also showed that 73.5 percent of all Whites lived in married-couple families, compared with 47.0 percent of all Blacks and 66.8 percent of all persons of Hispanic origin.

AGE AND SCHOOLING

When classified by age, the population group with the strongest dependence on welfare assistance was the very young (see table B). The proportion of children under 6 years of age who received welfare assistance during some part of the 32-month period was 30.1 percent, and the proportion who received benefits 25 months or more was 16.5 percent.

For much of the age distribution, there is a negative relationship between age and the receipt of welfare. The proportion of persons under 18 years who received some assistance was 26.6 percent. The rates for the next three age groups were successively lower: 19.9 percent among persons 18 to 24 years of age, 14.7 percent among persons 25 to 44, and 10.8 percent among persons 45 to 64. The rate for persons 65 years and over, however, was 17.9 percent, higher than the rates for the two preceding age groups.

There were differences among age groups in the likelihood that persons on welfare would be on welfare the entire period. For example, more than half of welfare recipients aged 65 years and over were recipients for the entire period, but only about one-fourth of recipients aged 18 to 24 years received benefits for the full 32-month period.

There were also differences among age groups in the relative rate at which persons participated in cash assistance programs and in the food stamp program. Persons 65 years and over were more likely than persons 25 to 44 years to participate in a cash assistance program, but they were less likely to participate in the food stamp program.

Data on the proportion of income accounted for by cash assistance and/or food stamps emphasize the importance of the welfare system to young persons. The proportion of persons under 18 years of age who experienced one or more months in which assistance and/or food stamps accounted for half or more of the

Table B. **Age, by Receipt of Assistance**

Assistance status during the period	Under 18 years		18 to 24 years	25 to 44 years	45 to 64 years	65 years and over
	Total	Under 6 years				
All persons (thousands)	62,427	21,681	27,332	67,227	42,869	22,122
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
RECEIPT OF MAJOR ASSISTANCE [1]						
No months	73.4	69.9	80.1	85.3	89.2	82.1
One or more months	26.6	30.1	19.9	14.7	10.8	17.9
1 to 6 months	5.2	5.0	5.5	4.1	2.4	2.2
7 to 24 months	7.8	8.5	7.2	4.1	2.9	3.5
25 months or more	13.6	16.5	7.3	6.5	5.5	12.2
32 months	10.9	12.8	5.0	5.2	4.5	11.1
Mean number of months	5.6	6.6	3.5	2.8	2.3	4.4
Standard error	0.23	0.42	0.28	0.17	0.19	0.37
RECEIPT OF CASH ASSISTANCE[2]						
No months	85.7	82.1	91.1	93.6	95.3	91.7
One or more months	14.3	17.9	8.9	6.4	4.7	8.3
1 to 6 months	2.6	2.7	2.2	1.4	0.8	0.5
7 to 24 months	4.8	5.8	3.4	1.7	1.2	1.0
25 months or more	7.0	9.4	3.4	3.3	2.7	6.8
32 months	4.8	6.2	2.4	2.4	2.2	6.1
Mean number of months	3.0	3.9	1.6	1.3	1.0	2.4
Standard error	0.18	0.34	0.20	0.12	0.14	0.29
RECEIPT OF FOOD STAMPS						
No months	78.1	74.6	86.0	88.9	92.8	92.6
One or more months	21.9	25.4	14.0	11.1	7.2	7.4
1 to 6 months	4.6	4.9	4.3	3.7	1.9	0.9
7 to 24 months	8.1	9.4	6.1	3.7	2.5	2.4
25 months or more	9.2	11.1	3.6	3.7	2.8	4.1
32 months	6.1	7.1	1.8	2.5	1.9	3.1
Mean number of months	4.2	5.0	2.1	1.8	1.3	1.7
Standard error	0.20	0.37	0.21	0.13	0.14	0.23
MONTHS IN WHICH ASSISTANCE ACCOUNTED FOR 50 PERCENT OR MORE OF INCOME [3]						
No months	84.3	80.2	88.7	92.7	95.3	95.9
One or more months	15.7	19.8	11.3	7.3	4.7	4.1
1 to 6 months	3.7	4.0	3.2	2.3	1.4	0.5
7 to 24 months	5.4	7.0	4.9	2.3	1.6	1.3
25 months or more	6.6	8.8	3.1	2.7	1.7	2.3
32 months	4.2	5.1	1.9	1.8	1.2	1.9
Mean number of months	3.0	3.9	1.8	1.2	0.8	0.9
Standard error	0.18	0.33	0.20	0.11	0.11	0.18
PROPORTION OF INCOME ACCOUNTED FOR BY ASSISTANCE[3]						
None	76.8	73.2	84.1	87.6	91.3	88.8
One percent or more	23.2	26.8	15.9	12.4	8.7	11.2
1 to 9 percent	2.6	2.5	2.0	2.2	1.6	3.2
10 to 24 percent	5.3	4.9	3.7	3.1	2.6	2.1
25 to 49 percent	4.2	4.5	3.1	2.4	1.6	3.0
50 to 74 percent	3.3	4.8	2.5	1.3	1.0	0.9
75 to 99 percent	4.3	5.5	2.1	1.8	0.9	0.8
100 percent	3.4	4.6	2.6	1.6	0.9	1.2
Mean percent	11.8	15.0	7.8	5.5	3.4	4.1
Standard error	0.58	1.09	0.72	0.39	0.38	0.57

[1] Major assistance programs include Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), General Assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), food stamps, Medicaid, and housing assistance.

[2] Major cash assistance programs include Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), General Assistance, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

[3] Income and assistance include the value of food stamps but do not include the value of any other noncash benefits.

income of their family was 15.7 percent. The comparable figures for other age groups were 11.3 percent (18 to 24), 7.3 percent (25 to 44), 4.7 percent (45 to 64), and 4.1 percent (65 and over)[1]

From a slightly different perspective, 11.0 percent of all persons under 18 years of age lived in families that received half or more of their total income over the 32-month period from cash assistance and/or food stamps. The comparable figures for other age groups were 7.2 percent (18 to 24), 4.7 percent (25 to 44), 2.8 percent (45 to 64), and 2.9 percent (65 and over)[1].

The pattern of welfare recipiency among age groups reflects the pattern of poverty status. In 1986, the poverty rate of persons under 18 years of age was 20.5 percent. The rate was successively lower for the next three age groups (15.6 percent for 18 to 24, 10.2 percent for 25 to 44, and 9.1 percent for 45 to 64), but the rate for persons 65 and over (12.4 percent) was higher than the rate for persons 25 to 44 or 45 to 64.

The relationship between the receipt of welfare assistance and years of school completed for persons 19 years old and over is shown in table C. Persons who did not finish high school were much more likely than high school graduates to receive welfare assistance, and college graduates rarely participated in welfare programs. Among those who did not finish high school, 29.6 percent received some welfare assistance and 14.6 percent received assistance in each of the 32 months. Among those who finished high school but not college, 11.7 percent received some assistance and 3.4 percent received assistance for the entire period. Among college graduates, 3.2 percent received assistance, and 0.6 percent were welfare recipients for the entire period.

Over the 32-month period, 9.6 percent of those who did not finish high school received half or more of their total income in the form of cash assistance and/or food stamps. The comparable figures for high school graduates who did not finish college and for college graduates were 3.0 percent and 0.7 percent, respectively.

RESIDENCE AND REGION

Persons in central cities were much more likely than persons in suburban areas to be recipients of welfare assistance. Persons living outside of metropolitan areas were more likely than suburban residents but less likely than central- city residents to receive assistance (see table D). Nearly one-fourth (23.7 percent) of central city residents received assistance at some point during the 32-month period and 11.2 percent received assistance during each month of the period. Approximately one-fifth (20.5 percent) of persons living outside of metropolitan areas were recipients of assistance during the period, and 7.1 percent of these persons received assistance throughout the entire period. Suburban residents had the lowest rate of participation in welfare assistance programs; 12.3 percent received some assistance and 4.1 percent received assistance over the entire period.

During the 32-month period, 10.5 percent of central city residents received half or more of their income from cash assistance and/or food stamps. The comparable figures for suburban and nonmetropolitan residents were 3.5 percent and 5.2 percent, respectively.

Regional differences in the likelihood of receiving welfare assistance were minor. When all of the major welfare programs were considered, persons in the South had a higher participation rate in welfare programs than persons in other regions (see table E). The proportion of persons who received some assistance was 20.7 percent in the South, 18.0 percent in the West, 16.8 percent in the Northeast, and 16.7 percent in the Midwest (the last three figures are not statistically different). The South also had a higher food stamp participation rate (15.8 percent) than the West (12.1 percent), the Northeast (11.4 percent), and the Midwest (12.9 percent).[2]

The regional relationships changed when only cash welfare programs were considered. The proportion of persons receiving cash assistance at some time during the period was 8.0 percent in the South, 9.8 percent in the West, 8.2 percent in the Northeast, and 9.6 percent in the Midwest.[3]

When welfare attachment was measured in terms of the proportion of persons who received half or more of their income over the 32-month period from cash assistance and/or welfare, persons in the South had a weaker attachment to welfare than persons in the West or Midwest. The proportions who received half or more of their income from welfare sources were 5.5 percent in the South, 6.6 percent in the West, 5.9 percent in the Northeast, and 7.1 percent in the Midwest.[4]

LOW-INCOME STATUS

Because persons experience changes over time in their living arrangements and in the income received by themselves or their families, low-income status is measured by the number of months in which the income of

[1]The differences for the last two age groups (45 to 64 and 65 and over) were not statistically significant.

[2]The differences between the West (12.1 percent) and the Northeast (11.4 percent) and between the West and the Midwest (12.9 percent) were not statistically significant.

[3]The differences between the West (9.8 percent) and the Northeast (8.2 percent), between the West and the Midwest (9.6 percent), and between the Northeast and the South (8.0 percent) were not statistically significant.

[4]The differences between the South (5.5 percent) and the West (6.6 percent) or the Northeast (5.9 percent), between the West (6.6 percent) and the Northeast, between the West and the Midwest (7.1 percent), and between the Northeast and the Midwest were not statistically significant.

Table C. **Years of School Completed, by Receipt of Assistance**

Assistance status during the period	Persons 19 years and over	Years of school completed		
		Less than 12	12 to 15	16 and over
All persons (thousands)	155,651	39,714	89,210	26,727
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
RECEIPT OF MAJOR ASSISTANCE[1]				
No months	85.2	70.4	88.3	96.8
One or more months	14.8	29.6	11.7	3.2
1 to 6 months	3.6	4.8	3.7	1.5
7 to 24 months	4.1	7.4	3.6	0.8
25 months or more	7.1	17.4	4.4	1.0
32 months	5.8	14.6	3.4	0.6
Mean number of months	3.0	6.8	2.0	0.5
Standard error	0.11	0.32	0.12	0.11
RECEIPT OF CASH ASSISTANCE [2]				
No months	93.4	85.1	95.5	99.0
One or more months	6.6	14.9	4.5	1.0
1 to 6 months	1.2	1.9	1.1	0.5
7 to 24 months	1.7	3.1	1.5	0.2
25 months or more	3.7	9.9	1.9	0.4
32 months	2.9	8.1	1.4	0.2
Mean number of months	1.5	3.7	0.9	0.2
Standard error	0.08	0.26	0.08	0.06
RECEIPT OF FOOD STAMPS				
No months	90.2	79.5	92.5	98.3
One or more months	9.8	20.5	7.5	1.7
1 to 6 months	2.9	4.4	2.8	0.8
7 to 24 months	3.5	6.9	2.8	0.4
25 months or more	3.5	9.1	1.9	0.4
32 months	2.3	6.4	1.1	0.3
Mean number of months	1.7	4.0	1.1	0.2
Standard error	0.08	0.25	0.09	0.07
MONTHS IN WHICH ASSISTANCE ACCOUNTED FOR 50 PERCENT OR MORE OF INCOME[3]				
No months	93.3	85.1	95.3	99.1
One or more months	6.7	14.9	4.7	0.9
1 to 6 months	1.9	3.5	1.7	0.4
7 to 24 months	2.3	5.0	1.7	0.2
25 months or more	2.5	6.4	1.4	0.3
32 months	1.6	4.4	0.9	0.2
Mean number of months	1.2	2.8	0.7	0.1
Standard error	0.07	0.22	0.07	0.06
PROPORTION OF INCOME ACCOUNTED FOR BY ASSISTANCE[3]				
None	88.4	75.5	91.2	97.9
One percent or more	11.6	24.5	8.8	2.1
1 to 9 percent	2.1	3.9	1.8	0.7
10 to 24 percent	2.9	5.6	2.4	0.4
25 to 49 percent	2.4	5.4	1.6	0.3
50 to 74 percent	1.3	3.0	0.9	0.2
75 to 99 percent	1.4	3.3	1.0	0.2
100 percent	1.6	3.3	1.1	0.3
Mean percent	5.0	11.2	3.6	0.8
Standard error	0.24	0.69	0.27	0.24

[1]Major assistance programs include Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), General Assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), food stamps, Medicaid, and housing assistance.

[2]Major cash assistance programs include Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), General Assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

[3]Income and assistance include the value of food stamps but do not include the value of any other noncash benefit.

Table D. **Residence, by Receipt of Assistance**

Assistance status during the period	Central city	Suburban ring	Outside of metropolitan area
All persons (thousands)	74,017	89,776	58,181
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
RECEIPT OF MAJOR ASSISTANCE[1]			
No months	76.3	87.7	79.5
One or more months	23.7	12.3	20.5
1 to 6 months	4.6	3.3	4.6
7 to 24 months	6.0	3.7	6.5
25 months or more	13.1	5.3	9.4
32 months	11.2	4.1	7.1
Mean number of months	5.2	2.3	4.1
Standard error	0.21	0.13	0.21
RECEIPT OF CASH ASSISTANCE[2]			
No months	86.7	94.7	91.5
One or more months	13.3	5.3	8.5
1 to 6 months	2.0	1.2	1.8
7 to 24 months	3.8	1.7	2.4
25 months or more	7.4	2.4	4.4
32 months	5.7	1.6	3.2
Mean number of months	3.0	1.0	1.8
Standard error	0.17	0.09	0.15
RECEIPT OF FOOD STAMPS			
No months	82.5	91.7	84.0
One or more months	17.5	8.3	16.0
1 to 6 months	3.9	2.7	3.9
7 to 24 months	5.8	3.3	6.2
25 months or more	7.8	2.3	5.9
32 months	5.4	1.4	3.8
Mean number of months	3.4	1.3	2.9
Standard error	0.17	0.09	0.18
MONTHS IN WHICH ASSISTANCE ACCOUNTED FOR 50 PERCENT OR MORE OF INCOME[3]			
No months	86.1	94.7	90.2
One or more months	13.9	5.3	9.8
1 to 6 months	2.8	1.6	3.3
7 to 24 months	4.7	1.8	3.6
25 months or more	6.4	1.8	2.9
32 months	4.2	1.1	1.8
Mean number of months	2.8	0.9	1.5
Standard error	0.16	0.08	0.13
PROPORTION OF INCOME ACCOUNTED FOR BY ASSISTANCE[3]			
None	80.5	90.4	82.2
One percent or more	19.5	9.6	17.8
1 to 9 percent	2.3	1.7	3.0
10 to 24 percent	3.8	2.7	4.9
25 to 49 percent	2.9	1.7	4.7
50 to 74 percent	2.8	1.0	2.3
75 to 99 percent	3.9	1.4	1.5
100 percent	3.8	1.1	1.4
Mean percent	10.9	4.0	6.7
Standard error	0.53	0.29	0.42

[1] Major assistance programs include Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), General Assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), food stamps, Medicaid and housing assistance.

[2] Major cash assistance programs include Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), General Assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

[3] Income and assistance include the value of food stamps but do not include the value of any other noncash benefits.

Table E. **Region, by Receipt of Assistance**

Assistance status during the period	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
All persons (thousands)	47,456	59,871	73,242	41,406
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
RECEIPT OF MAJOR ASSISTANCE[1]				
No months	83.2	83.3	79.3	82.0
One or more months	16.8	16.7	20.7	18.0
1 to 6 months	3.4	3.7	4.5	4.4
7 to 24 months	4.1	4.7	6.2	5.4
25 months or more	9.2	8.3	9.9	8.1
32 months	7.8	7.1	7.5	6.4
Mean number of months	3.6	3.4	4.2	3.5
Standard error	0.23	0.20	0.19	0.24
RECEIPT OF CASH ASSISTANCE[2]				
No months	91.8	90.4	92.0	90.2
One or more months	8.2	9.6	8.0	9.8
1 to 6 months	1.4	1.8	1.5	1.8
7 to 24 months	2.3	2.6	2.3	3.4
25 months or more	4.5	5.2	4.2	4.5
32 months	3.5	3.8	3.0	3.3
Mean number of months	1.8	2.1	1.7	2.0
Standard error	0.17	0.16	0.13	0.18
RECEIPT OF FOOD STAMPS				
No months	88.6	87.1	84.2	87.9
One or more months	11.4	12.9	15.8	12.1
1 to 6 months	2.9	3.4	3.5	3.8
7 to 24 months	3.6	4.2	6.3	4.7
25 months or more	4.9	5.3	6.0	3.6
32 months	3.5	3.7	3.5	2.5
Mean number of months	2.2	2.3	2.9	2.0
Standard error	0.17	0.16	0.16	0.17
MONTHS IN WHICH ASSISTANCE ACCOUNTED FOR 50 PERCENT OR MORE OF INCOME[3]				
No months	92.2	90.3	89.8	90.8
One or more months	7.8	9.7	10.2	9.2
1 to 6 months	1.7	2.0	3.3	2.6
7 to 24 months	2.3	3.3	3.9	3.2
25 months or more	3.8	4.4	3.0	3.4
32 months	2.4	3.0	1.7	2.5
Mean number of months	1.6	1.9	1.6	1.6
Standard error	0.15	0.15	0.12	0.16
PROPORTION OF INCOME ACCOUNTED FOR BY ASSISTANCE[3]				
None	87.5	85.8	82.4	85.3
One percent or more	12.5	14.2	17.6	14.7
1 to 9 percent	1.5	2.0	2.9	2.4
10 to 24 percent	2.9	2.7	5.1	3.3
25 to 49 percent	2.1	2.4	4.2	2.3
50 to 74 percent	1.2	2.0	2.4	1.8
75 to 99 percent	2.4	2.7	1.6	2.6
100 percent	2.3	2.4	1.5	2.2
Mean percent	6.4	7.5	6.8	7.3
Standard error	0.52	0.49	0.38	0.58

[1]Major assistance programs include Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), General Assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), food stamps, Medicaid, and housing assistance.

[2]Major cash assistance programs include Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), General Assistance, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

[3]Income and assistance include the value of food stamps but do not include the value of any other noncash benefits.

the family or person fell below one-twelfth of the annual poverty threshold for their family size. This method of measuring low-income status should, in fact, be appropriate for examining the relationship between income and the receipt of welfare benefits, because the income criteria for welfare programs refer to monthly rather than annual amounts.

Table F shows that the relationship between the receipt of welfare assistance and the number of months with low-income was, in fact, very close. The proportion of persons who received some welfare assistance during the period ranged from 5.4 percent among those with no months of low-income to 85.9 percent among those with 32 months of low-income. The proportions receiving assistance were 19.1 percent among those with 1 to 6 months of low income and 48.3 percent of those with 7 to 24 months.

The proportion of persons who received welfare assistance during each month of the period was also very closely related to low-income status. The proportions of full-period welfare recipients were 1.7 percent for those with no low-income months, 3.7 percent for those with 1 to 6 months, 11.5 percent for those with 7 to 24, and 56.1 percent for persons with 25 months or more of low income. The proportion of persons with low income in each of the 32 months who received welfare assistance in each of the months was 69.9 percent.

Over the 32-month period, the proportions of persons who received half or more of their income from cash assistance and/or food stamps was 0.8 percent for those with no months with low income, and 2.7 percent for persons with 1 to 6 months, 13.9 percent for those with 7 to 24 months, and 48.7 percent for persons with 25 months or more of low income. Of those who experienced 32 months of low income, 61.4 percent received half or more of their income from cash assistance and/or food stamps.

FAMILY RELATIONSHIP

Tables G and H show the relationship between the receipt of assistance and the number of months persons spent in married-couple families and in families with a female householder, no husband present. Table G shows that 148.9 million persons spent the entire period as members of a husband-wife family and 49.6 million persons did not spend any time in this type of family. Of the remaining population, 9.6 million spent 1 to 15 months in such a family and 13.9 million spent 16 to 31 months.

Persons who did not spend any time as part of a married-couple family were more than three times as likely to have received some welfare assistance as persons who spent the entire period in such a family, and they were seven times as likely to have received welfare during the entire period. The proportions receiving some assistance were 37.0 percent for those who spent no time in a married-couple family, 31.7 percent for those who spent 1 to 6 months, 23.6 percent for those who spent 16 to 31 months, and 10.7 percent for those who spent 32 months in such a family. Approximately one-fifth (21.3 percent) of those who spent no time as part of a married-couple family received welfare benefits during the entire period. Only 3.0 percent of those who spent 32 months in a married-couple family received welfare in each of the 32 months.

The proportions receiving half or more of their full-period income from cash assistance and/or food stamps were 18.4 percent for persons who spent no months in a married-couple family, 13.0 percent for those who spent 1 to 6 months in such a family, 6.0 percent for those who spent 16 to 31 months, and 1.8 percent for those who spent 32 months.

Data on the receipt of assistance by the number of months spent as a member of a family with a female householder, no husband present, with related children under 18 years, are presented in table H. The table shows that 16.4 million persons spent the entire period, 6.0 million spent 16 to 31 months, 7.3 million persons spent 1 to 15 months, and 192.2 million persons spent no months in this type of family.

Persons in this type of family are likely to have low income levels. The report cited earlier showed that in 1986, persons in a family with a female householder, no husband present, with related children under 18 years had a poverty rate five times that of persons in a married-couple family with related children under 18 years (49.3 versus 9.0 percent). As a consequence, there is a direct relationship between time spent as a member of a family with a female householder, no husband present, with related children under 18 years and the likelihood of receiving welfare assistance. Table H shows 67.1 percent of those persons who spent the entire period as part of such a family received some welfare assistance during the period, and 42.1 percent received assistance during each of the 32 months. The comparable figures were 12.3 percent and 4.1 percent for persons who spent no months, 38.8 percent and 6.2 percent for persons who spent 1 to 15 months, and 49.4 percent and 12.9 percent for persons who spent 16 to 31 months in such a family.[5]

Compared with persons who spent no months in such a family, persons who spent the entire period as a member of a family with a female householder, no husband present, were about 12 times as likely to have received cash welfare assistance, and about 7 times as likely to have received food stamp assistance.

[5]For persons receiving benefits all 32 months, the difference in the rate of persons no months (4.1 percent) and 1 to 15 months (6.2 percent) in a female householder family was not statistically significant.

Table F. **Months With Low-Income, by Receipt of Assistance**

Assistance status during the period	No months	1 to 6 months	7 to 24 months	25 months or more	
				Total	32 months
All persons (thousands)	145,201	34,894	24,882	16,998	9,020
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
RECEIPT OF MAJOR ASSISTANCE [1]					
No months	94.6	80.9	51.7	17.6	14.1
One or more months	5.4	19.1	48.3	82.4	85.9
1 to 6 months	2.1	8.6	10.5	2.1	0.9
7 to 24 months	1.3	5.6	21.8	13.8	7.3
25 months or more	2.0	4.8	16.0	66.5	77.6
32 months	1.7	3.7	11.5	56.1	69.9
Mean number of months	0.9	2.5	8.6	23.4	25.9
Standard error	0.07	0.21	0.39	0.51	0.64
RECEIPT OF CASH ASSISTANCE [2]					
No months	98.3	94.8	78.7	41.6	31.3
One or more months	1.7	5.2	21.3	58.4	68.7
1 to 6 months	0.5	2.4	5.0	4.7	3.4
7 to 24 months	0.3	1.4	9.8	13.9	10.9
25 months or more	0.9	1.3	6.6	39.8	54.3
32 months	0.7	0.8	4.5	29.8	43.3
Mean number of months	0.4	0.7	3.6	14.9	19.1
Standard error	0.04	0.11	0.29	0.59	0.80
RECEIPT OF FOOD STAMPS					
No months	98.5	87.8	59.1	22.6	19.3
One or more months	1.5	12.2	40.9	77.4	80.7
1 to 6 months	0.9	8.6	11.3	2.7	1.5
7 to 24 months	0.3	3.0	23.0	20.8	11.4
25 months or more	0.2	0.6	6.5	54.0	67.8
32 months	0.1	0.3	2.8	37.7	51.7
Mean number of months	0.1	0.8	5.6	20.4	23.2
Standard error	0.02	0.09	0.30	0.53	0.71
MONTHS IN WHICH ASSISTANCE ACCOUNTED FOR 50 PERCENT OR MORE OF INCOME[3]					
No months	99.0	96.1	73.2	34.1	27.3
One or more months	1.0	3.9	26.8	65.9	72.7
1 to 6 months	0.3	2.0	11.0	9.7	5.3
7 to 24 months	0.3	1.3	12.3	19.4	12.6
25 months or more	0.5	0.6	3.6	36.9	54.8
32 months or more	0.4	0.5	1.8	24.0	41.9
Mean number of months	0.2	0.4	3.0	14.9	19.4
Standard error	0.03	0.09	0.23	0.56	0.79
PROPORTION OF INCOME ACCOUNTED FOR BY ASSISTANCE[3]					
None	97.3	86.0	55.9	20.2	16.9
One percent or more	2.7	14.0	44.1	79.8	83.1
1 to 9 percent	1.1	4.7	5.7	2.6	1.9
10 to 24 percent	0.5	5.1	14.3	11.7	6.9
25 to 49 percent	0.4	1.5	10.3	16.8	12.9
50 to 74 percent	0.2	0.8	7.0	11.6	9.7
75 to 99 percent	0.2	0.9	3.9	19.8	22.5
100 percent	0.4	1.0	3.0	17.3	29.2
Mean percent	1.0	3.8	16.9	50.6	62.1
Standard error	0.12	0.42	0.91	1.58	2.21

[1] Major assistance programs include Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), General Assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), food stamps, Medicaid, and housing assistance.

[2] Major cash assistance programs include Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), General Assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

[3] Income and assistance include the value of food stamps but do not include the value of any other noncash benefits.

Table G. **Months a Member of a Married-Couple Family, by Receipt of Assistance**

Assistance status during the period	No months	1 to 15 months	16 to 31 months	32 months
All persons (thousands)	49,598	9,580	13,856	148,940
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
RECEIPT OF MAJOR ASSISTANCE[1]				
No months	63.0	68.3	76.4	89.3
One or more months	37.0	31.7	23.6	10.7
1 to 6 months	4.0	8.3	7.4	3.5
7 to 24 months	8.3	13.2	10.9	3.2
25 months or more	24.8	10.2	5.4	4.0
32 months	21.3	6.1	2.6	3.0
Mean number of months	9.2	5.5	3.4	1.8
Standard error	0.32	0.55	0.35	0.09
RECEIPT OF CASH ASSISTANCE[2]				
No months	76.9	82.3	88.4	96.8
One or more months	23.1	17.7	11.6	3.2
1 to 6 months	2.4	3.9	4.4	1.0
7 to 24 months	5.9	8.3	5.6	0.8
25 months or more	14.8	5.6	1.6	1.4
32 months	11.5	2.8	0.8	1.0
Mean number of months	5.7	3.1	1.4	0.6
Standard error	0.27	0.23	0.05	0.05
RECEIPT OF FOOD STAMPS				
No months	72.5	74.9	82.1	92.5
One or more months	27.5	25.1	17.9	7.5
1 to 6 months	3.9	8.3	6.1	2.7
7 to 24 months	8.8	10.8	9.0	2.8
25 months or more	14.8	5.9	2.8	2.0
32 months	10.4	2.4	0.5	1.3
Mean number of months	6.1	3.8	2.2	1.1
Standard error	0.27	0.45	0.28	0.07
MONTHS IN WHICH ASSISTANCE ACCOUNTED FOR 50 PERCENT OR MORE OF INCOME[3]				
No months	76.5	82.0	87.2	96.3
One or more months	23.5	18.0	12.8	3.7
1 to 6 months	3.7	5.1	5.8	1.6
7 to 24 months	7.4	8.1	5.7	1.3
25 months or more	12.4	4.8	1.3	0.9
32 months	8.6	0.8	0.4	0.6
Mean number of months	5.1	2.9	1.3	0.5
Standard error	0.25	0.41	0.20	0.05
PROPORTION OF INCOME ACCOUNTED FOR BY ASSISTANCE[3]				
None	68.8	73.2	80.2	91.5
One percent or more	31.2	26.8	19.8	8.5
1 to 9 percent	2.9	3.6	2.7	2.0
10 to 24 percent	4.7	5.2	5.5	3.0
25 to 49 percent	5.2	4.9	5.6	1.8
50 to 74 percent	4.9	5.1	2.9	0.6
75 to 99 percent	6.5	5.4	1.6	0.7
100 percent	7.0	2.5	1.5	0.5
Mean percent	18.7	13.2	7.8	2.6
Standard error	0.80	1.50	0.91	0.17

[1]Major assistance programs include Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), General Assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), food stamps, Medicaid, and housing assistance.

[2]Major cash assistance programs include Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), General Assistance, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

[3] Income and assistance include the value of food stamps but do not include the value of any other noncash benefit.

Table H. **Months a Member of a Family With a Female Householder,No Husband Present, With Related Children Under 18 Years, by Receipt of Assistance**

Assistance status during the period	No months	1 to 15 months	16 to 31 months	32 months
All persons (thousands)	192,236	7,291	6,011	16,437
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
RECEIPT OF MAJOR ASSISTANCE[1]				
No months	87.7	61.2	50.6	32.9
One or more months	12.3	38.8	49.4	67.1
1 to 6 months	3.7	9.2	9.6	3.9
7 to 24 months	3.5	19.8	19.7	13.4
25 months or more	5.1	9.8	20.1	49.8
32 months	4.1	6.2	12.9	42.1
Mean number of months	2.2	6.1	9.9	17.9
Standard error	0.09	0.62	0.85	0.60
RECEIPT OF CASH ASSISTANCE[2]				
No months	95.9	78.3	67.9	50.8
One or more months	4.1	21.7	32.1	49.2
1 to 6 months	1.0	6.9	6.7	4.4
7 to 24 months	1.0	11.1	14.9	12.6
25 months or more	2.1	3.7	10.5	32.2
32 months	1.6	2.0	4.6	24.6
Mean number of months	0.8	2.7	5.7	12.3
Standard error	0.06	0.42	0.69	0.59
RECEIPT OF FOOD STAMPS				
No months	91.9	69.1	60.1	41.9
One or more months	8.1	30.9	39.9	58.1
1 to 6 months	2.8	9.2	9.0	5.5
7 to 24 months	2.9	16.5	18.6	18.0
25 months or more	2.4	5.1	12.4	34.6
32 months	1.6	1.6	5.7	24.0
Mean number of months	1.2	4.0	7.1	13.8
Standard error	0.06	0.50	0.74	0.57
MONTHS IN WHICH ASSISTANCE ACCOUNTED FOR 50 PERCENT OR MORE OF INCOME[3]				
No months	95.5	77.0	67.2	48.1
One or more months	4.5	23.0	32.8	51.9
1 to 6 months	1.7	9.8	7.1	5.8
7 to 24 months	1.5	10.4	16.1	15.9
25 months or more	1.2	2.8	9.5	30.2
32 months	0.8	1.0	2.4	20.8
Mean number of months	0.6	2.4	5.7	12.2
Standard error	0.05	0.37	0.67	0.57
PROPORTION OF INCOME ACCOUNTED FOR BY ASSISTANCE[3]				
None	90.6	66.5	56.5	37.4
One percent or more	9.4	33.5	43.5	62.6
1 to 9 percent	2.1	3.7	2.8	3.6
10 to 24 percent	3.0	9.0	8.3	7.2
25 to 49 percent	2.0	8.3	8.2	9.2
50 to 74 percent	0.8	6.4	10.3	10.3
75 to 99 percent	0.8	2.7	9.9	16.4
100 percent	0.8	3.3	4.1	15.9
Mean percent	3.2	14.6	23.6	41.8
Standard error	0.17	1.68	2.30	1.71

[1]Major assistance programs include Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), General Assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), food stamps, Medicaid, and housing assistance.

[2]Major cash assistance programs include Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), General Assistance, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

[3] Income and assistance include the value of food stamps but do not include the value of any other noncash benefit.

Over the entire period, 2.4 percent of the persons who spent no time as members of a family with a female householder, no husband present, received half or more of their income from cash assistance and/or food stamps. The proportions receiving half or more of their income from these welfare programs were 12.4 percent among those spending 1 to 15 months, 24.3 percent among those spending 16 to 31 months, and 42.6 percent among those spending 32 months in a family with a female householder, no husband present.

Table I shows data on the receipt of assistance by the number of months spent as a never-married mother of children under 18 years of age. The universe for the table is women 15 to 44 years of age (54.2 million persons). The proportion of women in this age group who received welfare assistance ranged from 17.2 percent among the 51.3 million persons who spent no months in this status to 82.8 percent among the 1.7 million persons who spent the entire period in this status. The proportion receiving assistance was about 64 percent for the 1.1 million women who spent 1 to 31 months in this status.

Over the entire period, two-thirds (66.8 percent) of the women who spent the entire period as never-married mother of children received half or more of their income from cash assistance and/or food stamps. The comparable figure for women who spent no months in this status was 5.6 percent.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Data on the relationship between work experience and the receipt of assistance are shown in tables J and K. Table J shows that of the 62.2 million men 20 to 64 years of age, 34.6 percent of the 6.2 million who had no months in which they worked all weeks at a full-time job received welfare assistance, 23.4 percent of the 6.2 million who had 1 to 15 months of full-time work received assistance, 11.0 percent of the 20.0 million with 16 to 31 months of work received assistance, and 3.4 percent of the 29.8 million who worked full-time during each week of the period received welfare assistance.

Table K shows comparable data for 67.6 million women 20 to 64 years of age. The proportion of this universe who received assistance was 22.9 percent among the 26.1 million with no months of full-time work, 23.0 percent[6] among the 12.0 million with 1 to 15 months of full-time work, 13.5 percent among the 15.6 million with 16 to 31 months of full-time work, and 4.8 percent among the 13.9 million who worked full-time the entire period.

The data show that the relationship between work experience and the receipt of assistance is somewhat stronger for men than for women. Males who had no months in which they worked at a full-time job were about 10 times as likely to have received assistance as males with 32 months of full-time work (34.6 versus 3.4 percent), while females who worked no months at a full-time job were about five times as likely as their fully-employed counterparts to have received assistance (22.9 versus 4.8 percent). Among persons who had no months in which they worked all weeks at a full-time job, 18.7 percent of males and 13.6 percent of females received welfare assistance during the entire period.

[6]The difference in the rates between women with no months of full-time work and women with 1 to 15 months of full-time work was not statistically significant.

Table I. **Never-Married Mothers with Children Under 18 Years, by Receipt of Assistance**

Assistance status during the period	All women, 15 to 44 years old	Months spent as never-married mother			
		No months	1 to 15 months	16 to 31 months	32 months
All persons (thousands)	54,167	51,344	602	482	1,739
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
RECEIPT OF MAJOR ASSISTANCE[1]					
No months	79.7	82.8	36.2	35.1	17.2
One or more months	20.3	17.2	63.8	64.9	82.8
1 to 6 months	4.6	4.5	11.5	6.3	3.2
7 to 24 months	6.2	5.4	34.1	32.1	13.0
25 months or more	9.5	7.3	18.2	26.4	66.6
32 months	7.6	5.8	15.2	20.6	54.2
Mean number of months	4.1	3.2	10.8	14.3	23.2
Standard error	0.22	0.20	2.50	3.14	1.60
RECEIPT OF CASH ASSISTANCE [2]					
No months	89.2	92.0	50.6	45.0	30.6
One or more months	10.8	8.0	49.4	55.0	69.4
1 to 6 months	2.1	1.8	13.7	8.5	3.4
7 to 24 months	3.6	2.5	31.7	29.8	18.9
25 months or more	5.1	3.6	4.0	16.7	47.2
32 months	3.6	2.5	2.5	4.8	36.1
Mean number of months	2.2	1.6	6.2	9.9	18.3
Standard error	0.17	0.15	1.76	2.75	1.76
RECEIPT OF FOOD STAMPS					
No months	84.5	87.1	48.1	53.7	27.9
One or more months	15.5	12.9	51.9	46.3	72.1
1 to 6 months	4.2	4.0	11.6	11.2	5.9
7 to 24 months	5.8	4.7	30.4	23.3	22.6
25 months or more	5.6	4.2	9.9	11.7	43.6
32 months	3.6	2.6	4.4	7.2	30.7
Mean number of months	2.7	2.1	7.3	7.9	17.4
Standard error	0.18	0.16	2.12	2.63	1.71
MONTHS IN WHICH ASSISTANCE ACCOUNTED FOR 50 PERCENT OR MORE OF INCOME[3]					
No months	88.3	91.2	47.2	42.8	27.7
One or more months	11.7	8.8	52.8	57.2	72.3
1 to 6 months	3.2	2.8	18.8	15.9	4.9
7 to 24 months	4.1	3.0	28.4	28.5	22.5
25 months or more	4.5	3.0	5.5	12.8	44.8
32 months	2.8	1.8	1.4	5.0	31.0
Mean number of months	2.1	1.4	6.1	8.9	17.9
Standard error	0.16	0.13	1.84	2.62	1.71
PROPORTION OF INCOME ACCOUNTED FOR BY ASSISTANCE[3]					
None	82.7	85.7	41.1	40.7	20.2
One percent or more	17.3	14.3	58.9	59.3	79.8
1 to 9 percent	2.2	2.1	4.4	-	3.8
10 to 24 percent	3.7	3.7	5.6	4.0	3.9
25 to 49 percent	3.2	2.9	11.7	15.6	5.3
50 to 74 percent	2.4	1.6	17.5	15.0	17.7
75 to 99 percent	3.0	2.2	9.2	13.5	21.5
100 percent	2.9	1.8	10.5	11.2	27.6
Mean percent	8.8	6.4	35.1	40.3	61.3
Standard error	0.55	0.48	8.20	9.49	5.05

[1] Major assistance programs include Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), General Assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), food stamps, Medicaid, and housing assistance.

[2] Major cash assistnce programs include Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), General Assistance, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

[3] Income and assistance include the value of food stamps but do not include the value of any other noncash benefit.

Table J. **Work Experience of Men, by Receipt of Assistance**

Assistance status during the period	All men, 20 to 64 years old	Worked all weeks at full-time job			
		No months	1 to 15 months	16 to 31 months	32 months
All persons (thousands)	62,176	6,150	6,220	19,977	29,829
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
RECEIPT OF MAJOR ASSISTANCE[1]					
No months	89.1	65.4	76.6	89.0	96.6
One or more months	10.9	34.6	23.4	11.0	3.4
1 to 6 months	3.8	4.1	7.5	5.0	2.1
7 to 24 months	3.4	8.2	9.2	4.3	0.6
25 months or more	3.8	22.3	6.7	1.8	0.7
32 months	2.8	18.7	3.1	1.2	0.4
Mean number of months	1.8	8.4	3.6	1.3	0.4
Standard error	0.14	0.88	0.56	0.19	0.08
RECEIPT OF CASH ASSISTANCE[2]					
No months	96.6	81.0	93.4	97.9	99.5
One or more months	3.4	19.0	6.6	2.1	0.5
1 to 6 months	1.1	1.6	2.6	1.5	0.4
7 to 24 months	0.9	4.2	2.8	0.6	-
25 months or more	1.5	13.1	1.1	0.1	0.1
32 months	1.1	10.7	0.1	-	-
Mean number of months	0.6	4.9	0.8	0.1	-
Standard error	0.08	0.73	0.26	0.05	0.03
RECEIPT OF FOOD STAMPS					
No months	92.7	77.4	82.0	91.7	98.8
One or more months	7.3	22.6	18.0	8.3	1.2
1 to 6 months	2.9	4.1	6.7	4.4	0.8
7 to 24 months	2.7	7.3	7.5	3.3	0.2
25 months or more	1.8	11.2	3.8	0.6	0.1
32 months	1.1	8.6	1.3	0.2	0.1
Mean number of months	1.0	4.8	2.4	0.7	0.1
Standard error	0.10	0.70	0.45	0.13	0.04
MONTHS IN WHICH ASSISTANCE ACCOUNTED FOR 50 PERCENT OR MORE OF INCOME[3]					
No months	95.5	78.5	87.3	96.5	99.9
One or more months	4.5	21.5	12.7	3.5	0.1
1 to 6 months	1.8	4.2	5.8	2.5	0.1
7 to 24 months	1.7	7.4	6.0	1.0	-
25 months or more	1.1	9.8	0.9	-	-
32 months	0.7	7.2	-	-	-
Mean number of months	0.6	4.4	1.2	0.2	-
Standard error	0.08	0.67	0.28	0.05	-
PROPORTION OF INCOME ACCOUNTED FOR BY ASSISTANCE[3]					
None	91.5	70.3	80.7	91.2	98.4
One or more percent	8.5	29.7	19.3	8.8	1.6
1 to 9 percent	1.8	2.9	3.0	2.3	1.1
10 to 24 percent	2.5	6.1	6.2	3.3	0.5
25 to 49 percent	1.7	5.6	5.2	2.0	0.1
50 to 74 percent	0.9	4.7	2.6	0.6	-
75 to 99 percent	0.7	4.9	1.2	0.3	-
100 percent	0.8	5.6	1.2	0.3	-
Mean percent	3.1	16.0	6.7	2.3	0.2
Standard error	0.29	2.09	1.24	0.39	0.06

- Represents zero.

[1] Major assistance programs include Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), General Assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), food stamps, Medicaid, and housing assistance.

[2] Major cash assistance programs include Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), General Assistance, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

[3] Income and assistance include the value of food stamps but do not include the value of any other noncash benefit.

Table K. **Work Experience of Women, by Receipt of Assistance**

Assistance status during the period	Women, 20 to 64 years old	Worked all weeks at full-time job			
		No months	1 to 15 months	16 to 31 months	32 months
All persons (thousands	67,644	26,059	12,028	15,645	13,913
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
RECEIPT OF MAJOR ASSISTANCE[1]					
No months	83.0	77.1	77.0	86.5	95.2
One or more months	17.0	22.9	23.0	13.5	4.8
1 to 6 months	3.8	3.3	5.7	5.0	1.7
7 to 24 months	4.8	3.9	9.8	4.9	2.0
25 months or more	8.5	15.7	7.5	3.6	1.1
32 months	6.9	13.6	4.8	2.5	0.8
Mean number of months	3.5	5.7	4.0	2.0	0.7
Standard error	0.19	0.38	0.43	0.28	0.18
RECEIPT OF CASH ASSISTANCE[2]					
No months	91.3	84.9	89.6	95.9	99.4
One or more months	8.7	15.1	10.4	4.1	0.6
1 to 6 months	1.5	1.4	2.9	1.9	0.3
7 to 24 months	2.5	3.1	5.0	1.8	0.2
25 months or more	4.7	10.6	2.6	0.4	0.2
32 months	3.5	8.5	0.9	0.3	0.1
Mean number of months	1.9	3.9	1.6	0.4	0.1
Standard error	0.14	0.32	0.28	0.11	0.06
RECEIPT OF FOOD STAMPS					
No months	87.3	81.6	81.9	91.0	98.4
One or more months	12.7	18.4	18.1	9.0	1.6
1 to 6 months	3.4	3.1	5.4	4.8	0.7
7 to 24 months	4.4	4.6	9.1	3.6	0.9
25 months or more	4.9	10.7	3.6	0.7	0.1
32 months	3.2	7.7	1.3	0.2	-
Mean number of months	2.3	4.1	2.6	0.9	0.2
Standard error	0.15	0.33	0.33	0.16	0.08
MONTHS IN WHICH ASSISTANCE ACCOUNTED FOR 50 PERCENT OR MORE OF INCOME[3]					
No months	90.9	84.7	87.3	95.7	99.9
One or more months	9.1	15.3	12.7	4.3	0.1
1 to 6 months	2.5	2.2	4.9	3.1	-
7 to 24 months	3.0	4.1	6.4	1.1	0.1
25 months or more	3.7	9.0	1.4	-	-
32 months	2.4	6.2	0.1	-	-
Mean number of months	1.7	3.5	1.5	0.2	-
Standard error	0.13	0.30	0.24	0.06	0.02
PROPORTION OF INCOME ACCOUNTED FOR BY ASSISTANCE[3]					
None	85.6	79.3	80.3	89.4	97.8
One percent or more	14.4	20.7	19.7	10.6	2.2
1 to 9 percent	2.1	1.8	2.7	2.6	1.4
10 to 24 percent	3.4	3.7	4.4	4.3	0.7
25 to 49 percent	2.7	3.3	5.5	1.9	-
50 to 74 percent	1.8	2.6	3.0	0.9	-
75 to 99 percent	2.2	4.3	2.8	0.2	0.1
100 percent	2.3	4.9	1.4	0.7	-
Mean percent	7.0	12.3	8.4	2.9	0.2
Standard error	0.44	0.95	1.04	0.51	0.10

- Represents zero.

[1] Major assistance programs include Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), General Assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), food stamps, Medicaid, and housing assistance.

[2] Major cash assistance programs include Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), General Assistance, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

[3] Income and assistance include the value of food stamps but do not include the value of any other noncash benefit.