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TANF and Child Welfare

Do Employment and Type of Exit Influence Child Maltreatment Among Families Leaving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families?
Beimers, David. Coulton, Claudia J.
2011
Children and Youth Services Review
33 (7) p. 1112-1119
Research has documented that the transition from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) can be a critical period that results in elevated stress for families. The present study utilizes administrative data to examine the experiences of families exiting TANF and factors that influence subsequent child maltreatment, with particular focus on type of exit from TANF and earned income from employment. Families in the study are 18,023 female-headed households from an urban Ohio county who exited TANF between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 2002. Of these families, 894 (4.96%) experienced an indicated or substantiated finding of maltreatment within two years of their initial exit from TANF. Cox proportional hazard models identified several significant predictors of child maltreatment. Findings indicate that families with an involuntary exit from TANF were at increased risk of a substantiated or indicated finding of maltreatment while families with higher earnings from employment were at a reduced risk of maltreatment. These findings suggest that policy makers and program staff may need to reconsider their approach with these families to ensure the well-being of children. Strategies to improve employment opportunities and limit involuntary exits are discussed. (Author abstract)

Popple, Philip R. Leighninger, Leslie.
2011
This chapter reviews recent welfare reform efforts and analyzes the public welfare system in the United States in four key areas: historical, economic, social, and political. It concludes that American values related to welfare have permanently changed to emphasize personal responsibility and work requirements, that poverty is the problem not welfare, and that public assistance is a social condition, not a social problem. A list of selected websites and a practice test is included. 4 tables and 5 figures and 73 references.

Oregon Dept. of Human Services.
Addressing Poverty as a Major Risk Factor in Child Neglect: Promising Policy and Practice.
Duva, Joy. Metzger, Sania.
Casey Family Services.
2010
*Protecting Children*
25 (1) p. 63-74
Recognizing that poverty plays a substantial role in child neglect, some child welfare systems are experimenting with strategies to address risks associated with poverty. The creative approaches described in this article point the way for rethinking the functions, strategies, and funding of child welfare systems in recognizing the critical role that poverty plays in the lives of the families it touches. (Author abstract)

‘In a Bind’: Foster Mothers’ Experiences With Welfare Reform.
Critelli, Filomena. Schwam-Harris, Marsha.
University at Buffalo.
2010
*Journal of Children and Poverty*
16 (2) p. 123-143
The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 has diminished government support to single mothers and further limits the options for full-time parenting, placing priority on work participation and reduction of welfare caseloads. Based upon interviews with 100 low-income foster mothers who are also Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients, this study examines their experiences with these policies while they balance multiple responsibilities as caregivers for abused and neglected children from the child welfare system. The implications of TANF policies for foster mothers and policy alternatives that support diverse family structures are also discussed. (Author abstract)

Understanding Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).
*Tips for Practitioners*
National Healthy Marriage Resource Center.
2010
The purpose of this Tip Sheet is to provide marriage and relationship education practitioners with an overview of TANF’s four goals so that they better understand how TANF can be used as a possible source of funding for healthy marriage and relationship services. It is important to note that TANF regulations vary by state and practitioners are encouraged to research their particular state’s policies. (Author abstract)
http://www.healthymarriageinfo.org/docs/understandingtanf.pdf
Richie, Clare S.
Georgia Budget and Policy Institute.
2010
This brief examines the use of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to replace State funds for child welfare-related services in Georgia. It begins by reporting that Georgia has 3% less available federal TANF funds for FY 2011 than it had in FY 2010, and has suffered a 13.7% decrease in TANF funds from FY 2009 to FY 2011. It states that even with less available funding and rising poverty, Georgia policymakers continue to use TANF funds to replace State funds for child welfare-related services, including Adoption Assistance, child welfare services, and out-of-home care, while cutting TANF funds from State programs that directly satisfy its core purposes. It notes that for FY 2011, lawmakers have again allocated only 40% of the TANF federal block grant for its direct purposes. It calls for policymakers to re-examine TANF spending, placing greater focus on programs that work directly to satisfy TANF’s four purposes, such as promoting family self-sufficiency, so that families will need less income support as they enter the job market, while simultaneously identifying revenue solutions that renew investment of State funds in these important child welfare-related services. Statistics are provided on the FY 2011 TANF allocation in Georgia, Georgia’s federal unobligated balance, and TANF allocation for specific Georgia departments and programs. 6 tables and 20 references.

The Potential Role of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant in the Recession.
CRS Report for Congress ; R40157.
Falk, Gene.
2009
The recession that began in December 2007, and the loss of 5.1 million jobs since, has raised issues about policies to address the threats to the economic security of people and families from an economic downturn. The unemployment rate had already reached 8.5% in March 2009, with the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) forecasting that it will top out at over 9% in early 2010. Families that were economically disadvantaged before the recession are highly likely to face risks to their well-being -- unemployment rates for women maintaining families, minorities, and those with less than a high school education are above the average for all workers. The emphasis of public policy for low-income families with children with able-bodied parents is supporting and requiring work. The system of needs-based cash benefits underwent major changes over several decades, culminating in policy changes in the mid-1990s that included the major welfare reform law of 1996. The current recession will likely be the first real test of how policies put in place in the mid-1990s affect the well-being of families with children during a steep economic downturn and high unemployment. Unemployment insurance (UI) is the major program to replace lost wages for unemployed workers. However, low-wage workers and those with intermittent
employment are less likely to receive UI than higher-wage workers with stronger labor force attachment. In the past, the "safety net" for families with children included cash welfare. The 1996 welfare reform law created the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant with fixed funding and altered rules that apply to the cash welfare caseload and gave states enhanced flexibility in designing benefits and services for needy families with children. The cash welfare caseload declined by two-thirds from 1994 to 2008 and stood at 1.7 million families in September 2008. The share of poor children receiving TANF plummeted from over 60% before welfare reform to 23% by 2007. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA, P.L. 111-5) provides states with incentives and funds to rethink the safety net for disadvantaged families with children. First, it provides states with funding incentives to expand UI for low-income workers. This permits states to expand social insurance to respond to the recession. ARRA also provides additional funding to the states through TANF to finance recession-related expenditures. It establishes a temporary "emergency" contingency fund that will reimburse states for 80% of increased expenditures for basic assistance, non-recurrent short-term benefits, and subsidized employment expenditures. Emergency funds for basic assistance are contingent on increases in the basic assistance caseload. ARRA's new funds to pay for increased basic assistance caseloads -- basic assistance often takes the form of traditional cash welfare for needy families with children -- have raised the question of whether the newly available funds will serve to promote welfare dependency. Historically, cash welfare caseloads often increase when unemployment increases, so it could be argued that the additional funds will pay for caseload rises caused by systemic economic forces (e.g. a world-wide recession). However, concerns about increasing welfare dependency, as well as concerns that traditional cash welfare might not meet the needs of those thrown into poverty by the recession, could lead to debates at the state level about how best to use these new TANF funds. Since TANF provides states with broad flexibility, ARRA's additional TANF funding could be used for new programs, such as short-term benefits, subsidized employment programs, and community service programs, in addition to or instead of increased traditional cash welfare. (Author abstract)

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40157_20090414.pdf

National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University.
2009
This White Paper documents that an intensive case management approach to helping alcohol and other drug-addicted women on welfare that focuses on treatment first promises better outcomes of sobriety and employment than current approaches that focus on employment first.

Poverty, TANF, and Parenting: Understanding the Connection [Presentation Slides].
Berrick, Jill Duerr.
University of California at Berkeley.
Ten Ways to Use Short-Term TANF Benefits and (Mostly) Federal Money to Help Low-Income Families and Children.
National Conference of State Legislatures.
2009
Here are ten ways to provide supports to low-income families to help them through the recession and improve their opportunities as the economy recovers. And have the federal government pay 80% of the costs. (Author abstract)

Factors Influencing Child maltreatment Among Families Leaving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families.
Beimers, David L.
Case Western Reserve University.
2009
Purpose: The transition from Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) can be a critical period for a family and one which can result in risk of child maltreatment for children. Risk of maltreatment can be influenced by individual and family factors, as well as environmental factors, such as employment, use of public assistance benefits, and neighborhood characteristics.
Methodology: The study examines the experiences of families exiting TANF and factors that influence subsequent child maltreatment. Families in the study are female-headed households from Cuyahoga County, Ohio who exited TANF between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 2002 and had a child who was 10 years of age or younger at the time of exit. The study utilizes administrative data from county human services, county family services, birth records, employment data, and census data. Factors examined were individual and family characteristics, birth data for the youngest child at time of exit, past employment and cash assistance usage, reason for exit from cash assistance, employment and public assistance usage after exit from TANF, and neighborhood characteristics. Cox proportional hazard models were used to examine the occurrence and timing of investigations of child maltreatment and substantiated or indicated findings of child maltreatment following the families’ initial exit from cash assistance. Findings: Of the total, 2131 (11.8%) individuals experienced an investigation of child maltreatment and 894 (5.0%) individuals experienced a substantiated or indicated finding of child maltreatment. In the multivariate models, as age of mother, age of the child, or education level of the mother increased, the hazard of child maltreatment decreased. Families were at an increased risk of child maltreatment as the number of individuals on the case file increased. Families that experienced an involuntary exit from TANF were also at increased risk of a child maltreatment investigation or a substantiated or indicated finding of maltreatment. Employment status following exit did not have an effect on maltreatment, but as earnings increased, the risk of alleged maltreatment and substantiated or indicated maltreatment decreased. Partial effects were detected for Food Stamp receipt after exit, community child care burden, and past work experience. Policy
implications are discussed. (Author abstract)
http://etd.ohiolink.edu/send-pdf.cgi/Beimers%20David%20L.pdf?acc_num=case1244058973

Been There, Done That - Sharing Lessons Learned as a State Administrator.
*Tips for Policymakers*
Alfred, Dana Reichert.
National Healthy Marriage Resource Center.
2009
This brief offers recommendations from a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State administrator who included marriage-related initiatives in the State’s TANF budget. Recommendations for implementing marriage initiatives include build collective ownership, be sure people know how to utilize or apply a good idea or services, grow champions, and document success. The following three-step approach for developing a marriage initiative is described: understand it, package it, and grow it.
http://www.healthymarriageinfo.org/docs/beentheredonethatlessonslearned.pdf

Moses, Joy.
2009
This report discusses the difficulties faced by low-income parents following the break-up of a marriage, the establishment of the federal Access and Visitation program in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF) legislation to address visitation issues following a divorce, and recommended reforms to the program. Suggested reforms include increasing available funding, dedicating funding to legal services providers, targeting resources, increasing community-based institution involvement. Information is provided on the millions of children living with a single parent, the benefits of father involvement, barriers low-income single parents face in the court system, the success of alternative dispute resolution methods for family law cases, and the need for overhaul the Access and Visitation program and expand services. 48 references.

Benefits QuickLINK.
AARP.
2009
This tool can help adults who are 50+ find out if they or the children in their care qualify for any of the 15 benefits included in the tool. (Author abstract)
http://www.aarp.org/money/lowincomehelp/quicklink/

Anthony, Elizabeth K. Vu, Catherine M. Austin, Michael J.
In a ‘child-only’ case the adult is not included in the welfare benefit calculation and aid is provided only for the child(ren). The proportion of child-only cases within the caseloads of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) welfare program continues to increase while overall TANF cases decrease. Given relatively limited information about the children and adults in child-only cases, this analysis presents the major findings from a review of studies on characteristics of children and caregivers in child-only cases with implications for child welfare and welfare-to-work services. (Author abstract)


United States. Office of Family Assistance. 2008

In response to a request for technical assistance to help Healthy Family/Healthy Child Project staff increase their collaboration knowledge within their tribal service agencies to better serve Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Child Welfare participants, an event was held on December 3-5, 2008, that focused on wraparound case management practices and the Systems of Care framework from the perspective of the Medicine Moon Initiative through the Native American Training Institute. Attendees included representatives from the Healthy Family/Healthy Child Project, Tribal Services, Indian Education, Tribal Court, Indian Child Welfare, and the Tribal Council. Representatives from the Hoopa Valley Indian Tribe and the South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency were also present. A total of 21 attendees, 3 Technical Assistance providers, and 3 Technical Assistance coordinators participated in the event. This report summarizes the information provided at the event and includes information on: systems of care in North Dakota tribal communities, wraparound case management for tribal communities, and the St. Mary’s Parent Support Group, a group named after the St. Mary’s Housing Site, one of four Tribal assisted housing sites located on the Turtle Mountain Reservation.


The Impact of Foster Care and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) on Women’s Drug Treatment Outcomes.

Lewandowski, Cathleen A. Hill, Twyla J.
State University of New York, Albany. 2008

Children and youth services review.
30 (8) p. 942-954

This study assesses the impact of having a child in foster care and receiving cash benefits through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) on women’s completion of a residential drug...
treatment program. The study’s hypothesis was that drug treatment completion rates for women who had children in foster care and/or who were receiving TANF would differ from women who did not receive these services. The sample included 117 women age 19 to 54, in a Midwestern state. Findings suggest that women with a child or children in foster care were less likely to complete treatment. Women receiving cash benefits were also somewhat less likely to complete treatment than women not receiving these services. Women with children in foster care had similar levels of psychological, employment, and drug and alcohol concerns as other women, as measured by the Addiction Severity Index. Future research should focus on identifying strategies that enhance retention rates of these vulnerable women. Implications for improving treatment retention are discussed in light of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. (Author abstract)

Severity, Timing, and Duration of Welfare Sanctions and the Economic Well-Being of TANF Families with Children.
Wu, Chi-Fang.
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
2008
Children and Youth Services Review
30 (1) p. 26-44
Welfare sanctions have taken on greater significance under TANF because of their increased incidence and severity. Using Wisconsin longitudinal administrative data, this study applied event history analysis to the relationship between welfare sanctions and the economic well-being of TANF families with children. Specifically, it investigated whether this relationship varies by severity, timing, and duration of sanctions. The results indicate that families with children who are currently being sanctioned are at significantly increased risk of leaving welfare without a job. However, the different levels of and duration of current sanctions affect welfare exit and employment outcomes differently. That is, those families receiving a small sanction are significantly less likely to leave welfare regardless of post-welfare employment status, while the risk of leaving welfare without a job or with a lower earnings job increases with the severity and duration of the sanctions. Moreover, previous sanction experience appears to be significantly associated with an increased probability of leaving welfare without a job or with a low-earnings job, suggesting that sanctions have lagged effects on employment outcomes. These findings have important implications for social work practice and policy. (Author abstract)

The Cost and Benefits of Cash and Services to Kinship Caregivers.
2008
Social work in public health
23 (6) p. 55-73
The federal government provides payments to foster parents and licensed relatives who care for abused and neglected children through Title IV-E funds. However, unlicensed relatives must seek assistance through another federal program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families,
which provides lesser amounts of assistance than provided to foster parents and licensed relatives. To redress differences, many states provide supplemental assistance to relative caregivers. This paper profiles one Northeastern state's approach to caregiver rate disparities. The profiled Northeastern state contracted with 17 nonprofit agencies to provide 19 social services. The amount paid for services increased the total public assistance to relative caregivers but also caused licensed relative caregivers to receive more than all other types of caregivers receiving public assistance, thus continuing not eliminating caregiver rate disparities. In addition, services increased during the contract period but decreased again after the contract ended. Further, contract amounts were reduced each year of a 3-year contract. Policy implications for child safety, well-being, and placement permanence are discussed. (Author abstract)


The Rural Welfare-to-Work Strategies Demonstration Evaluation used random assignment experiments to assess the effectiveness of innovative strategies to help the rural poor find and sustain employment and move toward self-sufficiency. This final report presents 30-month impact analysis findings for the Illinois Future Steps program, an employment-focused case management program in rural, southern Illinois. Future Steps provided intensive job search and placement assistance, skill-building and support services, and postemployment assistance. The program targeted Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients, food stamp recipients, and other low-income people and was designed to prepare them for work and help them become and remain employed, particularly in jobs with desirable characteristics such as high wages and benefits. By teaming the welfare agency with a regional community college, Future Steps aimed to connect people with services and employment opportunities in rural, southern Illinois.


**Labor of Love: Foster Mothers, Caregiving, and Welfare Reform.**

Critelli, Filomena M. 2008

*Child Welfare*

87 (4) p. 5-34

Using a telephone survey, this study examined the experiences of 100 foster mothers who receive aid through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Foster mothers reported numerous difficulties with TANF, including frequent sanctions and case closings, limited work and training opportunities, and pervasive material hardships. Foster children exhibited high levels of emotional and behavioral problems. The data suggest that lack of access to child care
and pressure to become self-sufficient may contribute to a decreased pool of foster mothers.

(Author abstract)


Renner, Lynette M. Slack, Kristen Shook. Berger, Lawrence M.

2008

A study involving 1,011 Illinois families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families investigated the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment, the extent to which intimate partner violence (IPV) victims were identified as perpetrators of child maltreatment, and whether indicators of parenting and well-being vary across families experiencing child maltreatment only, IPV only, and both phenomena. Findings indicate families with co-occurring forms of violence have multiple needs and require services from both the child protective services and domestic violence systems. 3 tables and 101 references.

**Urban Partnership Initiative Online Toolkit.**


2008

This online toolkit presents a collection of innovative and promising welfare reform practices from around the country, and features programs representing each of the Administration for Children and Families 10 Regional Offices. It brings together more than 60 cutting-edge developments in service delivery to low-income and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) populations. Programs are highlighted in the areas of: intake, case management, work attachment, work retention, and transitional services. Each profile includes information on the type of program, program activities, program implementation, and program tools that have been used. Contact information is also provided for each program.


**Welfare and Child Welfare Collaboration.**

Tungate, Susan L.

Colorado State University.

2008

Within departments of social services, child welfare and income assistance programs are typically separate administrative units. Coordinating services for dual-system families across these program areas has been encouraged in the wake of welfare reform and its more stringent time frames in combination with child welfare legislation that places time limits on permanency decisions for children placed out of the home. Many of the barriers to self-sufficiency faced by clients involved with Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) are also implicated in difficulties with parenting. Cross-system collaboration between these two programs is challenging, and attributing client outcomes to collaboration is difficult due to the huge number of variables involved and the considerable variety in collaborative structures. What works for whom, how and in what contexts is poorly understood. The purpose of this study was to describe
the extent and nature of collaboration between child welfare and TANF programs within Colorado county departments of human/social services. Data were collected from county departments of human/social services directors for all 64 Colorado counties and a purposive sample of 38 administrators responsible for child welfare and Colorado Works programs within the county departments. Protocols for identifying clients with open cases or needs in both programs were described, as well as the extent of services coordination. Collaboration between these services also occurred via specialized programs or teams that blended resources and targeted specific client groups. TANF funding was an important resource for these programs and teams that were often described as oriented toward early intervention and prevention. Supports and barriers to cross-system collaboration included federal and state level influences, agency leadership and culture, staff workload, training and resources. The perceived overlap in needs of clients accessing both programs was sizable; the estimate of clients with cases open in both programs was higher in the smaller, poorer counties. Addressing the cross-system information needs of staff did not often happen in a deliberate, systematic way. State level leadership is likely important to successful collaborative efforts via explication of effective models and policies that support it. (Author abstract)


2008
The Rural Welfare-to-Work (WtW) Strategies Demonstration Evaluation rigorously assessed the effectiveness of innovative programs for the rural poor. This final report presents 30-month impact and benefit-cost analysis findings for Building Nebraska Families (BNF), an intensive home visitation and life skills education program for hard-to-employ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) clients in rural Nebraska. The findings point to the effectiveness of BNF in increasing employment and earnings and reducing poverty among a subgroup of very hard-to-employ (“more disadvantaged”) TANF clients who faced substantial obstacles and skill deficiencies. (Author abstract)


Different Pathways to a Common Destiny: Grandparent Caregivers in the District of Columbia. (Also published as Tradition and Policy Perspectives in Kinship Care.)
Crewe, Sandra Edmonds.
2007
Journal of health and social policy.
Nationwide, grandparents raising grandchildren is a growing phenomenon. In the District of Columbia, 19% of children under age 18 live in kin care-headed households. This compares to 8% nationally. This article reports on findings from an AARP focus group study of 40 grandparents raising grandchildren in the District of Columbia. It tells the stories of individuals who have traveled different pathways to arrive at their common destiny of being a grandparent caregiver. It primarily uses the voices of African American grandmothers and grandfathers to address the resources and challenges they face as they care for and care about their grandchildren. Through hearing their stories, AARP crafted nine recommendations aimed at improving the quality of life of District of Columbia grandparents raising grandchildren. The article reports on recommendations emerging from the research and reinforces the need for collaboration among various stakeholders to address the fragmented service delivery system. (Author abstract)

The Take-up of Cash Assistance Among Private Kinship Care Families.
Sheran, Michelle. Swann, Christopher A.
Dept. of Economics, UNC-Greensboro.
2007
*Children and Youth Services Review*
29 (8) p. 973-987
Many children in private kinship care arrangements live in families that endure financial hardships. Even though these families are eligible for TANF child-only grants, only one in five receives cash assistance. The purpose of this study is to better understand the take-up of cash assistance for this group. Using national level data, we explore the relationships among child and caregiver characteristics and the receipt of cash assistance. We provide evidence that disadvantaged families are more likely to receive cash assistance than less disadvantaged families. For example, older caregivers and those with less education have higher take-up rates than their counterparts. Similarly, being poor and having received welfare in the past increase the likelihood that assistance is received. Nonetheless, it is important to note that take-up rates are low compared to other social programs. Our results suggest some possible reasons for this. For instance, our findings point to the possibility that many private kinship care families do not take-up cash assistance because they do not know that they are eligible for it through the TANF program. This suggests that outreach may improve participation. It also raises the issue of whether the receipt of cash assistance could be improved if benefits were provided through a program other than TANF. (Author abstract)

Federal Policy Efforts to Improve Outcomes Among Disadvantaged Families by Supporting Marriage and Family Stability (Chapter 24 of Handbook of Families and Poverty.)
Dion, M. Robin. Hawkins, Alan J.
2007
This chapter reviews the connections between poverty, family structure, and child well-being and explains the rationale for the Healthy Marriage Initiative, a new policy strategy that is focused on intervening more directly at the level of family structure. Major federal initiatives underway to
develop and test the new strategies are described, including the Building Strong Families Project, the Supporting Healthy Marriage project, the Community Healthy Marriage Initiative, and the National Healthy Marriage Resource Center. 1 figure and 57 references.

Using TANF to Finance Out-of-School Time Initiatives.
Relave, Nanette. Flynn-Khan, Margaret.
The Finance Project
2007
The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program can be an important source funding for maintaining, improving, and expanding out-of-school time initiatives. This brief is designed to help policymakers and program developers understand the opportunities and challenges of effectively using TANF funding to support out-of-school-time initiatives. It presents general considerations for using TANF to finance out-of-school time initiatives in light of reauthorization, explores three strategies for using TANF funding and considerations for each strategy, and provides examples of innovative state approaches. (Author abstract)
http://www.financeproject.org/publications/TANFtoFinanceOST.pdf

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): Issues for the 110th Congress
CRS Report for Congress ; RL34206.
Falk, Gene.
2007
Enactment of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA, P.L. 109-171) ended more than four years of congressional debate on "reauthorizing" the block grant of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). The DRA extended funding for most TANF grants through FY2010, except TANF supplemental grants which expire after FY2008. Supplemental grants go to 17 states that have high population growth or low historic funding in TANF's predecessor programs per poor person. TANF is best known as the funding source for welfare benefits for low-income families with children. In 2005, about two million families per month received TANF cash welfare, down from the historical high of five million families receiving cash welfare in the mid-1990s. In 2005, about three in ten poor children were in families that received TANF cash welfare. However, TANF funds a wide range of "nonwelfare" benefits and services for needy families with children. In FY2005, spending on activities related to traditional cash welfare accounted for a little more than half of total TANF funding, while other "nonwelfare" activities accounted for the remainder. Still, most issues that Congress has debated in the past, and will potentially consider in the 110th Congress, relate to TANF cash welfare. The DRA revised the rules relating to TANF work participation standards for families receiving welfare, by requiring states to either increase participation in activities or reduce their welfare caseloads to meet these numerical performance standards. Many states had to act quickly to avoid failing these standards, which were effective in FY2007. Further, states must engage 90% of their two-parent welfare caseload in activities -- a fairly high standard that President Bush's FY2008 budget seeks to eliminate. The DRA also required the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to issue regulations defining the
specific activities that may be counted toward the participation standards. The regulations, published June 29, 2006, clarified that the participation standards focus on work or short-term job preparation. This raises old issues of whether a “work-first” orientation is best for those who have barriers to employment, such as very low levels of educational attainment or disabilities. Congress might consider proposals left over from TANF reauthorization proposals, but not included in DRA, to loosen some rules for nonwelfare spending, such as allowing carry-over funds to be used for nonwelfare benefits and services and to consider any TANF child care or transportation benefits “nonwelfare” and not subject to the rules associated with welfare benefits. Congress might also consider improving the information available on how TANF funds are used for nonwelfare benefits. Additionally, legislation that affects foster care, child welfare services for abused and neglected children, and child care funding would have an effect on TANF, since large amounts of TANF “nonwelfare” dollars are used to supplement dedicated federal and state funding for these programs. This report will be updated as legislative events warrant. (Author abstract)


Shin, Sunny Hyucksun. Choi, Sam.
Boston University.
2007
Journal of Policy Practice
6 (1) p. 65-83
Although a large number of job-ready welfare recipients have left welfare since the enactment of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, 5.5 million “harder-to-serve” populations including those with substance abuse problems still remain in state TANF caseloads. Although researchers and policy makers need to better understand the connections between substance abuse and welfare dependency, little is known about states’ response to substance-abusing TANF recipients. This review of state TANF policies on substance abuse found that few states have developed systematic procedures for assessment, evaluation, and treatment of substance abuse among welfare recipients. Implications for policy are discussed. (Author abstract)

State Funding for Children: Spending in 2004 and How It Changed From Earlier Years.
Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government.
2007
Sponsoring Organization: Annie E. Casey Foundation.
This report presents data for 1992, 1998, 2003, and 2004 on state and local government expenditures in major programs designed for children or in which children are the main beneficiaries. The report finds that state and local governments spent $467 billion of their own-source funds on major programs for children in fiscal year 2004. About 9 out of 10 of all dollars spent on children went to K-12 education. The remaining funds supported health programs and a
category of expenditures encompassing a variety of nonhealth, noneducation programs (including TANF/AFDC, foster child and other child welfare services, child care, and child support enforcement). Real (inflation-adjusted) spending per child by state and local governments increased by 34 percent between 1992 and 2004. The fastest growing expenditure during this period in the area of health, which nearly doubled in real per-pupil terms. TANF/AFDC expenditures declined between 1992 and 2004, while other social service programs grew. States varied greatly in their levels of spending. Total per child spending ranged from $9,297 in New Jersey down to $3,699 in Utah. Future reports will examine the relationship at the state level between state spending for children and state fiscal capacity and the racial composition of persons living in the state. The Institute website will also soon make available the data and state profiles produced from of the data. (Author abstract)


Who will Care when Parents Can’t? : An Overview of Trends in Kinship Care. (Chapter 4 of Handbook of Families and Poverty.
Blair, Kevin D. Taylor, David.
2007
This chapter provides an overview of kinship care with a special focus on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program’s Child-Only kinship care trend. It begins by explains the varying definitions and designations for kinship care used across jurisdictions, and the historical role of the federal government that has led to the current Child-Only program. Current trends and issues in kinship care are then examined including the increase in Child-Only kinship care cases and the benefits and problems associated with kinship care. Findings from focus groups with Child-Only caregivers are also shared, as well as recommendations for improving Child-Only kinship care situations. 31 references. (Author abstract modified)

State Funding for Children: Spending in 2003 and How It Changed From Earlier Years.
2007
Sponsoring Organization: Annie E. Casey Foundation.
States and their local governments play a crucial role in financing and delivering public services for children. On average, they finance approximately 90 percent of elementary and secondary education, almost half of Medicaid and other health care for children, and a large proportion of total spending on federal social welfare programs such as foster care, child welfare, and adoption assistance. They also fund state-only initiatives such as tax credits designed to benefit families with children. Many of these programs are targeted toward poor and low-income children. As the federal government responds to a yawning budget deficit, state and local governments may be called upon to do even more. Despite this important role, there is no comprehensive source of information on how much each state spends for children. This study, funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, helps fill that gap by developing and analyzing spending data for most major
programs that benefit children. This initial report describes and examines state and local spending in fiscal year 2003 and how it changed over the previous two decades, focusing on aggregate spending for the nation as a whole and on broad patterns across states. Subsequent reports will include data for 2004 and provide state-specific profiles. This report and its appendices provide detailed information on spending, need, and fiscal capacity in state fiscal years 1992, 1998, and 2003. The study focuses on major programs designed specifically for children or where children are the main beneficiaries, where 50-state data that is comparable across states could be obtained within the resources of the project. This includes (a) elementary and secondary education; (b) all significant federal programs where children are important beneficiaries, if financed at least in part by the states - including Medicaid, the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), and family assistance programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and its predecessor, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC); and (c) state earned income tax credit programs. (Author abstract)  

Hard-to-Employ Parents: A Review of Their Characteristics and the Programs Designed to Serve Their Needs.  
Low-Income Working Families ; Paper 9.  
2007  
This paper begins by describing the general caseload size and characteristics of hard-to-employ parents with welfare experience and those that remain outside this cash assistance program. The distinction between hard-to-employ parents with and without a recent welfare connection is important because families outside TANF often do not receive services that address barriers to employment. Next, the paper describes how states’ TANF programs approach the needs of hard-to-employ parents. While it is impossible to fully understand or describe the nuances of 50 different state programs, national program data and surveys of states’ approaches help generally describe some key variations in program characteristics. The paper then describes other safety-net service programs that support adults with employment challenges and how these programs typically coordinate with TANF in varied ways. It concludes with implications for thinking about how the safety net for hard-to-employ parents could be improved. (Author abstract)  
http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411504_employ_parents.pdf

TANF Funds and Healthy Marriage Activities.  
National Healthy Marriage Resource Center.  
2007  
This fact sheet outlines how TANF funds can be used to fund programs that develop and maintain healthy marriages/families. (Author abstract)  
http://www.healthymarriageinfo.org/docs/tanffundhmact.pdf
Acs, Gregory. Loprest, Pamela.
2007
The purpose of this report is to summarize what we know about these issues for current TANF recipients and former recipients ("leavers") from existing literature and to update our knowledge with new analysis using more recent data. The key questions addressed in the report are: - How do the characteristics of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) caseload compare with the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)/TANF caseload characteristics 5 and 10 years ago? In particular, is the caseload more or less disadvantaged than in the past, especially with respect to their employability? -What are the characteristics and outcomes for families that recently left the TANF rolls compared with families on TANF, and compared with families that left the TANF rolls 5 and 10 years ago? Have TANF leavers become more or less disadvantaged? Are families better off after leaving TANF than when they were on the welfare rolls?
http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411553_tanf_caseload.pdf

2007
Ohio’s new Kinship Permanency Incentive program (KPI), authorized by Amended House Bill 66, and became effective January 2006. This program, supported with $10 million from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) for each year of the biennium, is designed to promote a permanent commitment by kinship caregivers for minor children who are unable to safely remain in their own homes due to an adjudication that they are abused, neglected, dependent, or unruly. KPI program provides time-limited incentive payments to eligible caregivers who accept legal custody or legal guardianship of kin children on or after July 1, 2005. This program provides for eligible families to receive an initial payment of $1,000 per child to defray the initial costs associated with assuming the child’s care. Families continuing to meet eligibility requirements may receive additional $500 payments at six month intervals within a thirty-six month period, up to a maximum of $3500. Participation in this program does not preclude these families from receiving Child Only TANF benefits or funds for the Early Learning Initiative (ELI). Eligible kinship caregivers need to initiate the application process at their local Public Children Service Agency (PCSA). This report is the first annual report for the KPI program. The activities occurring for KPI program during January - December 2006 are described in the following sections. This is a descriptive, not an analytical report. (Author abstract)
http://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/KPIfourthQuarterly.pdf

Using Vouchers to Deliver Social Services: Learning from the Goals, Uses, and Key Elements of Existing Federal Voucher Programs.
Burwick, Andrew. Kirby, Gretchen.
In response to growing interest among policymakers in maximizing client choice and expanding the service delivery network to include faith- and community-based organizations (FBCOs) among an array of providers, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of the Assistant Secretary of Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) has contracted with Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (MPR) to conduct a study of voucher use and provider choice for clients in HHS programs. The study will explore four main issues: 1. The goals and policy contexts that shape voucher strategies in human services programs; 2. The extent to which vouchers (and other indirect funding mechanisms) currently are used in select HHS programs; 3. How voucher systems are implemented and the advantages and challenges they pose; and 4. Lessons learned about using vouchers to expand service options available to clients, including services provided through FBCOs. The study will focus on two programs, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). Research will be conducted through discussions with policy experts and agency administrators at the state and federal levels, and through in-depth visits to several sites where HHS programs currently use indirect funding to deliver services. This paper serves as a primer for understanding vouchers and their role in delivering social services. We begin by summarizing the reasons for considering the use of vouchers and the motivations for promoting their expansion (Section II). We then present an overview on how vouchers currently are used in public programs, with an emphasis on HHS programs (Section III). Next, we look to the experience of existing programs to provide lessons about the design and implementation of voucher programs, and assess what is known about their outcomes (Section IV). We conclude by outlining next steps for research on vouchers, particularly in the CCDF and TANF programs (Section V). (Author abstract)

http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/07/vouchers/overview/

Using Vouchers to Deliver Social Services: Considerations Based on the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program Experiences.
Kirby, Gretchen. Burwick, Andrew.
United States. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning & Evaluation.
Mathematica Policy Research.
2007
In recent years there has been increased interest in providing consumers with more choice about who provides the public services they receive. Vouchers are one strategy for delivering public services in a way that makes the customer the central figure in deciding when and where to receive services, so that the funding relationship between the customer and the provider is similar to transactions in the private market. Vouchers also present a unique opportunity to expand the role of faith- and community-based organizations (FBCOs) in the network of publicly funded services. Organizations receiving direct federal funding may not use the monies for religious activities such as worship or proselytizing. However, an organization that receives funds indirectly does not need to separate religious activities from government-funded services.
The key to indirect funding mechanisms, such as vouchers, is that they allow the customer to make an independent choice from among an array of providers and present an avenue through which customers can use public funds to receive faith-infused services. Interest in maximizing customer choice and expanding the delivery network to include a broader array of providers led the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), to take a closer look at how vouchers currently are used in delivering social services, and how they could be used in the future. This study assesses voucher use in two DHHS programs -- the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (MPR) was engaged to examine and document how vouchers are used in the these two programs and the degree to which this indirect funding mechanism supports the goals of maximizing client choice and expanding the service delivery network to include FBCOs. (Author abstract)

http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/07/vouchers/experiences/

When Adults Are Left Out: CalWORKs Child-only Cases in Seven Counties.

Child-Only CalWORKs Study; Report #1.
2007

Over one-half of California CalWORKs cases are now "child-only" -- the grant is calculated to support only the dependent child(ren) in the family, not adults. Since they themselves are unaided, the parents and other caregiver adults associated with child-only cases - because of sanctions, time limits, and other reasons described in this report -- are no longer subject to time limits or work requirements, and, with some exceptions, neither are they entitled to participate in CalWORKs welfare-to-work activities nor to receive services such as CalWORKs' child care and transportation subsidies or behavioral health care services. This report references the recently completed Bay Area Social Services Consortium (BASSC) literature review of studies about the characteristics of adults and children associated with child-only cases under the CalWORKs and other TANF programs. This is followed by presentation of a table summarizing factors that have been found to be associated with child-only cases. Subsequently we present findings from analyses of county-level, administrative data from seven counties to describe adults and children involved in child-only cases. These findings are compared with results for non-child-only cases. Topics addressed include: (1) The distribution of child-only cases, by type of case, within and across counties; (2) Number of child-only cases and number of adults and children associated with the cases, by county; (3) Estimates of average case size, including number of adults and number of children, by county; (4) Average age of adults and children associated with child-only cases, by county and by type of case; (5) Race/ethnicity of case membership, by county and type of case; (6) Language composition of child-only caseload, by county; (7) Parent/caregiver employment rates, by county and type of case; (8) Receipt of CalWORKs benefits in last year, including months on assistance, total grant received, latest grant amount, and grant per case
member and per child on case, by county; and (9) Welfare dynamics as measured by months of continuous receipt of CalWORKs assistance, by county and by type of case. (Author abstract)

**Child Only Kinship Care Cases: The Unintended Consequences of TANF Policies for Families Who Have Health Problems and Disabilities. (Also published as Tradition and Policy Perspectives in Kinship Care.)**
Gourdine, Ruby M.
2007
*Journal of health and social policy.*
22 (3/4) p. 45-64
The passage of the Personal Responsibility Work Opportunities Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) in 1996 changed the way America sought to help its most vulnerable citizens. The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) legislation required families to work first. Many families with young children found the stringent requirements of TANF too restrictive for their needs. In this study a number of TANF customers were either physically ill or suffered mental health problems thus preventing them from finding suitable employment. Additionally they may have children who have health problems, which preclude the parent from work activity. Faced with time limits these families may rely on relatives or fictive kin to assume the responsibility of receiving TANF grants for the children so that they may avoid sanctions and possible loss of support for their children. These arrangements are called child-only cases. Given that poverty is related to neglect and neglect may result in out of home placement, these children are at risk for child welfare intervention. Child welfare systems look to kin to assume the responsibility of child rearing to reduce the number of children especially African American children who enter care. However, TANF and informal arrangements for kin to take care of children result in substantially less money for families. An evaluation of TANF is needed to determine if this legislation provides an adequate system for caring for needy families and children. (Author abstract)

**Child, Parent, and Family Predictors of Child Welfare Services Involvement Among TANF Applicant Families.**
Dworsky, Amy. Courtney, Mark E. Zinn, Andrew.
2007
*Children and Youth Services Review*
29 (6) p. 802-820
Data from the Milwaukee TANF Applicant Study were used to identify parent, family, and child-specific predictors of child welfare services involvement among 1075 families that applied for TANF assistance in 1999. Child-specific measures related to a randomly selected focal child from each applicant family were collected. Thirty-eight percent of the families were investigated for child maltreatment and 11% of the focal children were placed in out-of-home care between the 1999 TANF applications and the end of 2005. Prior child welfare services involvement and economic hardships were significant predictors of both child maltreatment investigations and out-of-home care placements. However, neither outcome was related to child-specific attributes nor behaviors once parent and family characteristics were taken into account. These findings
suggest that TANF agencies are serving a population that needs help balancing family and work responsibilities. (Author abstract)

**Assessing Federalism: ANF and the Recent Evolution of American Social Policy Federalism.**

*The Urban Institute Discussion Papers ; 07-01*

Winston, Pamela. Castañeda, Rosa Maria.

Urban Institute.

2007

This paper builds on a series of ANF publications that explored various aspects of social policy federalism since 1996. It explores what ANF’s work can tell us about the evolution of federalism within five major social programs during the nine years between 1997 and 2006, focusing on lessons about federal-state relationships. It addresses Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Food Stamps, Medicaid, the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), and child welfare. The paper is the result of a review and synthesis of over 65 publications addressing state and federal financing and/or programmatic arrangements in the major program areas, informed by interviews with experts who participated in ANF research. (Author abstract)

http://www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=411473

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411473_assessing_federalism.pdf

**Caregiving and Welfare Reform: Voices of Low-Income Foster Mothers.**

Critelli, Filomena M.

2007

*Journal of human behavior in the social environment.*

15 (4) p. 55-80

Welfare reform policies instituted in 1996 have significantly altered the context in which care is performed by diminishing resources available to poor mothers and places further limits on full-time caregiving as an option for them. This has created additional challenges for low-income foster mothers, many of whom are women of color. Based upon interviews in English and Spanish with 100 foster mothers on TANF, this study explores care-giving as an important aspect of gender and cultural identity and survival strategy for these foster mothers. The perceptions and experiences of poor women caring for troubled children with limited resources are viewed in the context of welfare reform. Policy considerations regarding caregiving are also discussed. (Author abstract)

**A Tale of Ten Cities: Creating Welfare Reform Programs That Make a Difference.**


2007

The publication highlights the efforts of ten cities that implemented groundbreaking programs to meet the needs of families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). An introductory section discusses the passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) in 1996, and the provision of TANF block grants to States that provided a new flexibility that empowered States and communities to support families in
achieving positive outcomes and enact programs that met their own needs. The success of welfare reform is considered and its reauthorization through the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 is explained. The following section introduces profiles of the original ten cities involved in the Urban Partnerships Initiative, an initiative that convenes National Academies of key stakeholders from urban areas to develop strategies to meet the needs of TANF families and provides follow-up technical assistance to cities to support the development of relationships between systems, identify and remove barriers to collaboration between those systems, and develop strategic plans to address the needs identified during the National Academies. Each profile includes a success story, along with lists of lessons learned, tips, or advice about how to implement programs or receive technical assistance. Each of these ten cities worked on addressing the challenges that were most pressing to them. The cities include: Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Dallas-Fort Worth, Detroit, Minneapolis, Oakland, Omaha, Seattle, and St. Louis. The publication closes with a summary of lessons learned from the success of these cities.

http://www.peerta.acf.hhs.gov/uploadedFiles/ToTC_Final.pdf

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) : Data and Reports
This website provides links to annual reports to the United States Congress on the implementation and outcomes of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grants to States. Reports are provided for 1999 through 2004. The 2004 annual report describes the characteristics and financial circumstances of TANF recipients, and presents information for fiscal year 2002 regarding TANF caseloads and expenditures, work participation and earnings, State High Performance Bonus awards, child support collections, two-parent family formation and maintenance, out-of-wedlock births, and child poverty. In addition, it documents specific provisions of State programs and summarizes current TANF research and evaluation. Key findings of the 2004 annual report indicate: (1) the national TANF caseload continued to decline; (2) combined State and federal spending totaled $25.4 billion, a slight decrease (-$111 million) from FY 2001; (3) all States met the overall work participation rate standard, as did the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico; (4) 59.3 percent of single mothers with children under 18 that had income below 200 percent of poverty were employed; (5) over $20.1 billion was collected for children by the Child Support Enforcement Program, an increase of six percent from FY 2001, and a 40 percent increase since FY 1998; (6) between 1996 and 2002, the national child poverty rate fell by almost 18.5 percent; and (7) the average monthly number of TANF families was 2,060,300. The final chapter contains individual TANF profiles for each State and the District of Columbia. These TANF profiles contain information on program administration, funding, expenditures, caseload, benefit structure, participation rates, and High Performance Bonus earnings performance rates. Numerous tables and charts.

Addressing Racial Disparities in Social Welfare Programs: Using Social Equity Analysis to Examine the Problem.
Gooden, Susan T.
Virginia Commonwealth University.
2007
Journal of Health & Social Policy
22 (2) p. 1-12
The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) allows states considerable discretion in developing and implementing their Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs. Little research so far has compared the implementation of TANF programs across racial groups. Without such analysis, it is difficult to interpret program outcomes. Using client survey data from a large Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation (MDRC) study, the Project on Devolution and Urban Change, this article compares African-American, Hispanic and White Clients' experiences with diversion, case management, sanctioning, exiting welfare, and dispute resolution. Using residual differences analysis, this article identifies significant differences in treatment among racial and ethnic groups. (Author abstract)

The Financial Impact of Child Support on TANF Families: Simulation for Selected States
CRS Report for Congress ; RL34105
Solomon-Fears, Carmen. Falk, Gene.
Congressional Research Service
2007
The Child Support Enforcement (CSE) program was enacted in 1975 as a federal-state-local partnership to help strengthen families by securing financial support from noncustodial parents. Families receiving cash welfare from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant must assign (turn over rights to) child support received from noncustodial parents to the state to reimburse it and the federal government for their welfare costs. States decide whether to pay any of the child support collected for TANF families to the family. The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA, P.L. 109-171) provides incentives for states to allow more of the child support collected on behalf of TANF families to go to the family without a reduction in welfare benefits. Under DRA, beginning in October 2008, the federal government will share in the cost of passing through up to $100 per month for a family with one child, and up to $200 per month for a family of two or more children, of collected child support to TANF families. This report illustrates the potential impact of the DRA policy on families and governments in six states (CA, IL, ME, MD, OK, and WV) chosen because of their diversity in both TANF and pre-DRA child support pass-through policies. It shows the direct effects of "what if" the states fully adopted the DRA policy. (Author abstract, modified)
http://www.policyarchive.org/handle/10207/bitstreams/19384.pdf

The purposes of this funding announcement are threefold: (1) to demonstrate models of effective collaboration between public assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)) and child welfare agencies that will improve outcomes for children and youth who are in, or are at risk of entering, the child welfare system; (2) to evaluate and document the processes and outcomes of these collaborations; and (3) to develop identifiable sites that other States/locales seeking improved collaboration between TANF and child welfare agencies can look to for guidance, insight, and possible replication.


County of Rockland Department of Social Services: Children's Bureau Grant Number: 90CW1137. Target Population: Families receiving TANF. Program Name: Collaboration between TANF and Child Welfare to Improve Child Welfare Program Outcomes.
Child Welfare Information Gateway

Public Domain
County of Rockland Department of Social Services.


Download Document

Public Domain
California Department of Social Services
2006
Through this grant the California Department of Social Services, in collaboration with the Child and Family Policy Institute of California, is expanding, enhancing and evaluating "Linkages", an existing collaborative effort to improve coordination between California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) and Child Welfare Services. The proposed project looks to build on the success of this current program through expert trainings, convenings, peer-support, an extensive toolbox of resources, and knowledgeable leadership. Through this project the State will expand the number of California counties participating in Linkages, increase the number of counties co-locating services, and support counties in developing strategies to serve at least one identified underserved population, including youth emancipating from foster care, TANF child-only cases, and families in which children are being reunified with parents following a stay in foster care. The project also aims to strengthen data collection practices and counties’ use of data for continuous improvement of service delivery and systems integration.

Child welfare services involvement: findings from the Milwaukee TANF applicant study.

Copyright
Chapin working paper.
Courtney, Mark E. Dworsky, Amy.
Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
2006
Over the past 2 decades, there has been a fundamental shift in the goals of welfare policy. For many years, Aid to Families with Dependent Children functioned as a financial safety net, providing cash assistance to poor families that could not support themselves. Since the elimination of that entitlement and the creation of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families block grant, state welfare programs focused much more on helping parents find and maintain employment than on providing cash assistance to their families. Although this emphasis on labor force participation may in fact have positive effects, it can become a problem if the other needs of families are not being addressed. One of the questions raised by the changes that have resulted from welfare reform is how they might affect child welfare services involvement among welfare-recipient families. Although researchers have examined the relationship between involvement with the child welfare system, most of those studies focused on the years just prior to or immediately following TANF implementation. Not only did cash assistance caseloads continue to decline after the data for those studies were collected, but the characteristics of those receiving
cash assistance may have changed. Thus, it is conceivable that a different relationship between welfare receipt and child welfare services involvement would be observed if more recent data were used. This paper draws upon data from the Milwaukee TANF Applicant study to address this possibility. (Author abstract)

http://www.chapinhall.org/sites/default/files/old_reports/294.pdf

2006
*Journal of policy practice*  
5 (2/3) p. 27-42

While the organizational systems designed to provide cash assistance and child welfare services have been separate since the 1970s, changes wrought by welfare reform in the late 1990s suggest new opportunities for organizational collaboration. This paper examines the link between family poverty and child maltreatment, and the policy levers that can be employed to inhibit or promote child and family well-being within the context of welfare reform. It then reviews one state’s experience with inter-organizational collaboration between welfare and child welfare and the special challenges agencies face in attempting to streamline services. (Author abstract) 30 references.

http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/uploadedFiles/working_together.pdf

Project area background information: child welfare-targeted employment and training.  
*Issues, problems, and implications for the TANF population.*  
Ohio. Office of Family Stability. TANF Demonstration Project.  
2004

This article discusses the overlap of families in need of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families services and those in need of child welfare services. Ohio strategies for increased agency collaboration are described, as well as strategies used by other States. Five key components of integrated services systems are explained: single point of entry, comprehensive family assessment, joint case planning, co-location, and a sense of partnership. A list of 5 State and national resources is provided.

What is TANF and what is its impact on child welfare? [Website].  
Copyright

*Child welfare frequently asked questions.*  
Technical Assistance Partnership for Child and Family Mental Health.  
2004

This brief explains the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program and its impact on child welfare. It lists the different programs States are allowed to fund through the federal TANF grants, and cites concerns of child welfare professionals that the enactment of TANF would impact the incidence of child abuse and neglect because of the link between poverty and child maltreatment. The work requirement under TANF is discussed, along with provisions
addressing child welfare. These provisions include: require continuation of State foster care maintenance and adoption assistance programs; require States to give preference to kin when placing a child outside of his/her family's home; permit for-profit child care agencies (serving no more than 25 children) to receive foster care maintenance payments; extend the enhanced funding of the Statewide Automated Data Collection Systems (SACWIS); and permit TANF spending on a wide array of child welfare services. Examples of current State TANF initiatives are listed. 2 references.

Enhancing collaboration between Work First and child welfare.
McMahon, John.
2004
Children’s Services Practice Notes
9 (3) p. 1-8
Counties in North Carolina are realizing the benefits of collaboration between the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program and child welfare services. An integrated approach to family support ensures that families receive a coordinated response to their needs. Clients become more engaged in services as they experience family-centered practices, while workers benefit from improved assessments, time management, support, and flexible service options. This newsletter reviews solutions to common barriers to collaboration and describes successful county initiatives. The articles specifically address challenges such as lack of trust between agencies, different missions, confidentiality policies, lack of understanding about agency functions, and inadequate information-sharing. Recommended strategies include establishing contact between supervisors, involving Work First staff in child welfare meetings, negotiating conflicting requirements, and cross-training.
http://www.practicenotes.org/vol9_no3.htm

Prince, Jonathan. Austin, Michael J.
2004
This case study examines a pilot project in the Contra Costa County Department of Employment and Human Services that addresses the crossover needs of child welfare and welfare-to-work service participants. The study includes a case vignette, a review of relevant literature, the process of crossover service planning, delivery, and funding, and lessons learned in the process. 1 box, 1 figure, and 7 references. (Author abstract modified)
Methamphetamine research and effects within the TANF population: report of conference held August 10-12, 2004, Denver, Colorado, Region VIII.
Nakashian, Mary. LaValla, Santina (Editor)
2004
This report summarizes the proceedings of a conference held by the United States Department of Health and Human Services Region VIII about collaboration between welfare services and substance abuse treatment programs for methamphetamine addicts. Representatives from Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming discussed the prevalence of methamphetamine use, the effects of methamphetamine on brain functioning and mental health, and models for service integration to increase the success rates of people who receive drug treatment and welfare support. Examples of programs include CASAWORKS for Families, which provides case management for outpatient substance abuse treatment, life skills training, employment services, parent education, and mental health assessment for women addicted or recovering from methamphetamine exposure. Other counties promote coordination between employment programs and drug treatment through contracts with service providers, staff co-location, and assessments. The report provides an agenda for the conference and the list of participants.

Collaborative Partnerships Between a Human Services Agency and Local Community Colleges. (Chapter 18 in Changing Welfare Services: Case Studies of Local Welfare Reform Programs.)
Deichert, Kirsten A. Austin, Michael J.
2004
A case study is offered that highlights the development of the human services education curriculum through collaborative partnerships between the human service agency and the community colleges in San Mateo County, California. The curriculum program is designed to train human services personnel to provide services for individuals and families in need of temporary social, health, and economic assistance. It reviews the goals and underlying values of the curriculum, the value of the collaboration, successes, challenges, and lessons learned. 1 table and 4 references.

Providing comprehensive, integrated social services to vulnerable children and families: are there legal barriers at the federal level to moving forward? / part of the Cross-Systems Innovation Project of the National Governors Association, the Hudson Institute, and the Center for Law and Social Policy
Hutson, Rutledge Q.
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP). Hudson Institute National Governors Association
2004
The purpose of the "Increasing State and Local Capacity for Cross-Systems Innovation" project is
to gain a clearer understanding of the flexibility, opportunities, and barriers that exist under current federal law with respect to cross-program integration both within human services programs and across the welfare and workforce systems. Working in consultation with state and local officials, the partner organizations developed three models of cross-system integration focusing on comprehensive services for children and families; integration of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); and benefits simplification. The components of these models were then analyzed to determine whether current federal laws or regulations permitted, prohibited, or hindered the implementation of the models. This paper represents the findings of the analysis of the model for providing comprehensive services to children and families. (Author abstract)

http://www.clasp.org/publications/CW_Integration.pdf

Washington State site visit: sharing lessons learned from TANF and child welfare service integration in El Paso County, CO: final report.
Myles, Bradley W. Hercik, Jeanette M.
Welfare Peer Technical Assistance Network Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services
2003
Ms. Barbara Drake from the El Paso County (Colorado) Department of Human Services met with staff from Washington State as part of the Welfare Peer Technical Assistance service to share information about the integration of child welfare services and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. Officials from Washington State were specifically interested in planning timelines for service integration, the communication of the integration strategy, budget implications, collaboration with state and federal policymakers, and staff management. This report summarizes the presentation made by Ms. Drake about the service integration experience of her agency. Topics include the roles of child welfare and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, programs and policies, outcomes, and lessons learned. Agency structure, staff training, privatization, a teen self-sufficiency program, fatherhood initiative, family preservation, and permanency custody program were discussed. Ms. Drake emphasized the importance of a vision, community involvement, performance standards, strengths-based responsive services, and staff development.


A vision for eliminating poverty and family violence: transforming child welfare and TANF in El Paso County, Colorado.
Hutson, Rutledge Q.
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP).
2003
When El Paso County, Colorado considered how to bring the work of the child welfare and TANF agencies together, it decided to change its whole way of doing business. The Department sought to integrate its child welfare and TANF agencies so that they would provide seamless, family-centered services regardless of how the families came to the attention of the Department.
Following a snapshot of El Paso County, the Department, and the Department's leaders, this paper examines a number of TANF, child welfare, and cross-agency efforts to offer families in both systems' more holistic, effective services. Finally, the paper concludes with a set of lessons that can be drawn from El Paso County's experience. (Author abstract)


Building better human service systems: integrating services for income support and related programs / Prepared for the Annie E. Casey Foundation Casey Strategic Consulting Group by the Rockefeller Institute of Government; Mark Ragan.

Ragan, Mark.
Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government.
2003
Sponsoring Organization: Casey Strategic Consulting Group
The emphasis of welfare reform on employment and self-sufficiency revealed a need to coordinate income support with human services that help individuals succeed in the workforce, such as child care assistance, health insurance, and housing. This study examined service integration efforts in 12 states to identify challenges to collaboration as well as factors that contribute to effectiveness. The site visits focused on attempts to streamline services and improve delivery to clients at the local level. Each jurisdiction developed a different approach to integration depending on governance patterns, client demographics, political climate, economics, program policies, and the personal characteristics of administrators. The models included administrative strategies (agency reorganization and consolidation of funding) and changes in operational systems (co-location of staff, multidisciplinary teams, and joint intake procedures). The most effective programs implemented both types of strategies. Other factors that influenced the depth of service integration included leadership, community involvement, centralized governance, resources, and information-sharing. Data about the outcomes of service integration programs are limited.


Kakuska, Courtney J. Hercik, Jeanette M.
2002
The Welfare Peer Technical Assistance Network, with the CalWORKs/Child Welfare Partnership Project, hosted a Roundtable entitled Establishing Linkages Between TANF and Child Welfare Programs May 31, 2002 in Sacramento, CA. Representatives attended this Roundtable from four States (NC, NJ, WI, CO) as well as the State of California and ten of its counties currently working toward improving service coordination. The second of two events, the Roundtable was designed to enhance the agenda of the CalWORKs/Child Welfare Partnership Project's LINKAGES
conference, held May 30, 2002 and attended by more than 400 people. This report includes some highlights from the larger LINKAGES conference and provides a full recap of the smaller Roundtable session sponsored by Welfare Peer TA. Roundtable speakers offered lessons learned in integrating child welfare and TANF services and served as resources for the California counties. The counties, in turn, shared their perspectives and innovative programming ideas with the speakers. They shared promising practices in the area of collaboration and coordination between TANF and child welfare services, identified challenges and strategies to overcome those challenges, and planned action steps to facilitate improved services to families engaged with both systems. The report includes background information on the link between child poverty and child maltreatment, recommendations from the Roundtable workgroups, and actions steps in the areas of funding, caseload and personnel, philosophy, and policy and practice. Recommendations for the State, court system, and Federal government are also discussed for fostering collaborative efforts.


Andrews, C. Bess, R. Jantz, A. Russell, V.
Assessing the New Federalism (Program) Urban Institute.
Urban Institute.
2002
Sponsoring Organization: Stuart Foundation.
The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 encourages collaboration between welfare and child welfare agencies to respond to the multiple needs of families who utilize services from both systems. A survey conducted by the Urban Institute in 2001 found that states have restructured their organizations to implement the provisions of welfare reform and facilitate coordinated case planning, information sharing, and the co-location of services. In addition, agencies are allocating Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) grants to services that address factors that interfere with a welfare recipient’s ability to obtain employment, such as the need for out-of-home care for children, child abuse prevention, and assistance for victims of domestic violence. Other TANF programs serve teen parents, substance abusing parents, and people with mental health problems. State policymakers can promote further collaboration by developing guidelines for information sharing and by establishing priorities for services. Staff should be trained to assess the child protection needs of welfare recipients. 13 references, 4 notes.
http://www.urban.org/Template.cfm?NavMenuID=24&template=/TaggedContent/ViewPublication.cfm&PublicationID=7916

Shoring up the Child Welfare-TANF Link.
Copyright
Short Takes on Welfare Policy.
Geen, R.
Sponsoring Organization: David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

Child welfare policymakers have been concerned about the impact of welfare reform efforts on families who receive both welfare and child welfare services. Child welfare caseloads were expected to increase as eligibility for financial assistance decreased and as funding streams were combined into the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant. Qualitative studies have found that welfare work requirements make it difficult for parents to comply with requirements for family reunification. In addition, states are depending more on TANF funds for child welfare services as funds from other programs, such as Title IV-E, have decreased. There needs to be greater cooperation between state welfare and child welfare agencies to resolve conflicting requirements. Congress also should continue to permit flexibility in state allocation of TANF funds and modify the eligibility standards for Title IV-E to be consistent with the requirements for TANF. 6 references, 3 notes, 1 figure.

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/ShortTakes_7.pdf


Copyright
Doran, Morgan B. Ward. Roberts, Dorothy E.
Northwestern University School of Law
2001

Sixteen parents were interviewed for this research project about the experiences of families who participate in two public welfare programs: the child welfare system and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program (TANF). Although the parents appreciated the benefits of Medicaid and Food Stamps from TANF, they noted that the amounts were not adequate to provide for their families. The parents also had difficulty retaining employment because of lack of housing, transportation, and child care. Reasons for involvement with the child welfare system included drug use and environmental neglect related to poverty. The parents were satisfied with parenting classes and drug treatment services offered by the child welfare system, but felt that workers were too quick to place children in foster care. The turnover of caseworkers interfered with the effectiveness of services. The parents reported that the conflicting rules of TANF and the child welfare system impeded their ability to achieve the expectations of both programs. For example, loss of TANF benefits after the removal of a child reduced resources necessary to achieve reunification. In addition, parents were under a great deal of stress as they were required to participate in significant activities for employment and parenting, 63 references.

http://cfrcwww.social.uiuc.edu/pubs/Pdf.files/DualInvolvement_DoranRoberts.pdf

Making the TANF/Child Welfare Connection for Family-Centered Practice.

Turner, K. S.
TANF/Child Welfare Collaborative, Raleigh, NC.
The North Carolina State Association of County Directors of Social Services initiated the TANF/Child Welfare Collaborative pilot project to strengthen families, reduce poverty, and improve the safety and economic security of families receiving financial assistance. Planning retreats for child welfare staff were conducted by the Jordan Institute for Families in each of the three test counties. Attendees at the retreats reviewed the strengths and weaknesses of their current social service system and created visions of ideal systems that featured efficient infrastructures, prevention, family involvement, and collaboration. The counties prioritized the actions necessary to achieve goals for family-centered services. These included information sharing, cooperative assessment, community outreach, streamlined funding, training, and automation. The Collaborative also sponsored a Collaboration Institute for staff of county social service agencies, state agencies, and community partners to promote partnerships with families and public and private groups concerned with family well-being. Interagency project planning committees appointed in each county are given the flexibility to implement the program’s goals according to the needs of their agencies and communities. Activities include: presentations at agency staff meetings; distribution of promotional flyers; and publicity in newsletters. Families are involved in planning committee meetings and surveys about services. The counties report several early successes, such as a phone directory of resources for agency staff, new strengths-based assessment tools, and improved communication with county commissioners.

**Addressing Poverty Issues in Child Welfare: Effective Use of TANF as a Prevention Resource.**

Berns, D. A.

El Paso County Dept. of Human Services, Colorado Springs, CO.

The El Paso County, Colorado welfare reform initiative integrated child protection and public assistance services into one system to reduce risk factors for child welfare related to poverty. The program was established when the county child welfare agency recognized that the effectiveness of its treatment services was dependent on the financial status of the family and its ability to obtain transportation, child care, housing, and other necessities. It was based on 12 principles that emphasized family centered services, family rights, seamless transition between services, development of services as needed by families, prevention and early intervention, service integration, cultural competency, continuous evaluation, competent staff, accessibility, customized planning, and family strengths. The system features financial and social support for kinship families through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), domestic violence staff on site at the welfare office, child care provider reimbursements for low-income and child welfare families, community child care grants, assessment and case management services for pregnant and parenting teens, employment support for teens exiting foster care, family preservation services, and cross-systems training. Outcomes for the first 18 months included a 7.2 percent reduction in foster care children, a decrease in the number of adults receiving TANF benefits, an increase in child care placements, and a significant increase in special needs.
adoptions. Improvements have also been made in the number of employers providing health benefits, fund blending, and family supports. 1 reference and 2 tables.

Dougherty, S.
2000
Sponsoring Organization: Children's Bureau (DHHS), Washington, DC.
The participant's workbook for the Child Welfare Holistic Assessment and Planning Training contains worksheets, checklists, and other background information for the training designed to promote collaboration between child welfare and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families staff. Topics include case management; strengths assessment; case planning; empowerment; risk factors for substance abuse, domestic violence, and child maltreatment; screening; and prevention. Includes FI/HS Planning and Training Proposal.

**Child Welfare/TANF Holistic Assessment and Planning Training.**
Dougherty, S.
2000
Sponsoring Organization: Children's Bureau (DHHS), Washington, DC.
This cross-training program for child welfare and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) staff is designed to promote greater integration of services for families with multiple difficulties. The three-day program provides information about available services and holistic assessment and planning processes. Topics include: the importance of cross-program cooperation; indicators of possible abuse or neglect; mandatory reporting procedures; strengths-based case management; risk factors for maltreatment; substance abuse; domestic violence; co-occurrence of substance abuse, domestic violence, and child maltreatment; risks for children with disabilities; strengths assessment; screening; problem solving; case planning; personal responsibility; and community-based resources. Instructional supports, tips for trainers, background information, resources, and suggested activities are provided for each module. Masters for transparencies and handouts are included in the Appendix. Document scanned.

**Cross-Program Training: Supervisory Workshop on Communication, Collaboration, and Change.**
Dougherty, S.
2000
Sponsoring Organization: Children’s Bureau (DHHS), Washington, DC.
This training for supervisors in child welfare and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs is intended to support collaboration between frontline workers responsible for assessing and serving families with multiple problems. The curriculum specifically addresses
cross-program communication, cross-program collaboration, and organizational change. Agency supervisors are expected to complete this workshop before case managers in their agencies attend the Holistic Assessment and Planning training. Participants are encouraged to develop a plan for staff development. The curriculum includes outlines for each session, as well as instructions for activities and general presentation.

**The impact of welfare reform policies on child protective services: a national study.**
*Journal of Social Issues*
Child protective service administrators in every state and the District of Columbia were interviewed for this study about the impact of changes in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) requirements on child protective service (CPS) caseloads, interagency cooperation, and issues such as child support and program evaluation. Overall, approximately half of administrators noted an increase in caseloads from the previous year and 48 percent of the officials indicated that the welfare changes supported their work. Positive effects of welfare reform included improved coordination between TANF and CPS and increased funding. Negative effects were associated with confusion about welfare requirements, higher workloads, and reduced funding. Ninety-two percent of the administrators reported that their state sanctioned welfare recipients for noncompliance with work requirements. Sanctions were less common for non-compliance with child support cooperation (69 percent), paternity identification (58 percent), teen mother residency (54 percent), teen mother school attendance (44 percent), and child school attendance (42 percent). However, between 10 and 35 percent of administrators were not familiar with sanctions for specific requirements. Most respondents believed that sanctions did not result in a referral to child protective services. Administrators from 16 states reported that referrals to CPS were initiated for cases involving child absenteeism, 14 states referred cases of teen absenteeism, and 13 referred clients with positive drug tests. Only one state’s TANF program automatically referred all sanctioned families to CPS. These findings revealed that states differed significantly in policies regarding referrals from TANF to CPS. CPS response was further complicated by a lack of understanding about TANF requirements and sanctions, even those related to family life. The states also reported varying levels of data collection and evaluation, precluding comparative studies of the impact of welfare reform on children. 24 references and 5 tables.

http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0341/is_4_56/ai_70460026

**Child Welfare/TANF Holistic Assessment and Planning Training Demonstration Grant.**
Sponsoring Organization: Children's Bureau (DHHS), Washington, DC.
The Center for Child and Family Studies and the South Carolina Department of Social Services utilized a three-year demonstration grant from the Administration for Children and Families to establish cross-program training for public welfare and child welfare workers. The training was
intended to promote collaboration between child welfare and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families staff and holistic assessment and case planning for families receiving welfare. The program was also designed to enhance linkages between social service staff and community resources to address barriers faced by families seeking financial independence. Over the course of the three-year grant period, the curriculum was tested and replicated and changes were made in Department of Social Services policies and casework practices to improve cross-program cooperation. The final project report reviews the logic model used to design the project, implementation activities, the selection of pilot sites, curriculum design and revision, curriculum development issues, evaluation design, and lessons learned.

**Financing Child Welfare Services Under TANF.**

*Copyright*

Ryan, E. M.

American Public Human Services Association, Washington, DC.

1999

Federal regulations regarding the use of funds from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant and state maintenance-of-effort (MAE) for child welfare services are outlined in this paper. The regulations prohibit the use of money from these sources for specific foster care and juvenile justice activities, but provide new opportunities for supporting family preservation services. TANF grants must meet one of the four purposes of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996: family preservation; reduction in dependence on government benefits; prevention of out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and promotion of two-parent families. Funding for the first two purposes must go to needy families, as defined by the state. There are no income eligibility standards for programs that fit the last two purposes. When designing child welfare expenditures, states should identify which purpose the activity will meet, if a needs test applies, whether time limits and other restrictions will apply to cash benefits, whether the agencies has the ability to collect data for TANF reports, and whether the agency should use federal TANF funds or state MAE funds. Examples of programs that may be funded with TANF or MAE assistance include employment and training for families, after-school programs and community resource centers, and parenting education classes. Assistance to families in which a child is temporarily absent from home would count toward MAE unless the child does not return home.