

TANF/SFA/
WorkFirst

SFY

2020

The federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and the State Family Assistance (SFA) programs provide cash grants for eligible low-income families. The state's WorkFirst program provides employment, training, and support services for TANF/SFA clients to help them move forward on a pathway to self-sufficiency.

ESA Briefing
Book

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TANF, SFA, and WorkFirst Overview

This chapter summarizes the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), State Family Assistance (SFA), and WorkFirst caseload and client data for SFY 2020.

TANF provides cash grants for families in need. In addition to needy families, persons who are caring for a child not their own biologically or by adoption (e.g. a relative's child, as a legal guardian, or acting in the place of a parent) are also able to apply for TANF benefits on behalf of that child. Persons who are residents of Washington State and are ineligible for TANF solely because of eligibility changes due to the Welfare Reform Act may be eligible for SFA. Some TANF/SFA families participate in the WorkFirst Program, which helps participants prepare for, find, and keep jobs.

Additional information, including the eligibility criteria, funding sources, and services/benefits provided, is available [here](#).

Highlights

Washington State's TANF/SFA average monthly caseload increased by 3.0% in SFY 2020, from 25,422 households in SFY 2019 to 26,172 households in SFY 2020. The caseload growth occurred in the last quarter of the fiscal year as economic conditions deteriorated due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Child-only households comprised 45.6% of the total TANF/SFA caseload in SFY 2020, down from 47.8% in SFY 2019. This change is also likely related to the impacts of the pandemic: caseload growth, beginning in March 2020, disproportionately occurred in the WorkFirst Adult caseload.

TECHNICAL NOTES

DATA SOURCES: Data for this chapter is based on the ESA Automated Client Eligibility System (ACES) database as of August 2020. Quarterly employment and earnings for WorkFirst participants is based on Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage data provided by the Employment Security Department (ESD).

DATA NOTES:

- Unless otherwise noted, both federally-funded TANF and state-funded SFA cases/clients are reported jointly in this section.
- WorkFirst clients are adult clients receiving TANF/SFA benefits. This can include teen parents.
- WorkFirst cases are those in which at least one adult is receiving TANF/SFA assistance.
- Percentages may not add up to expected totals due to rounding.

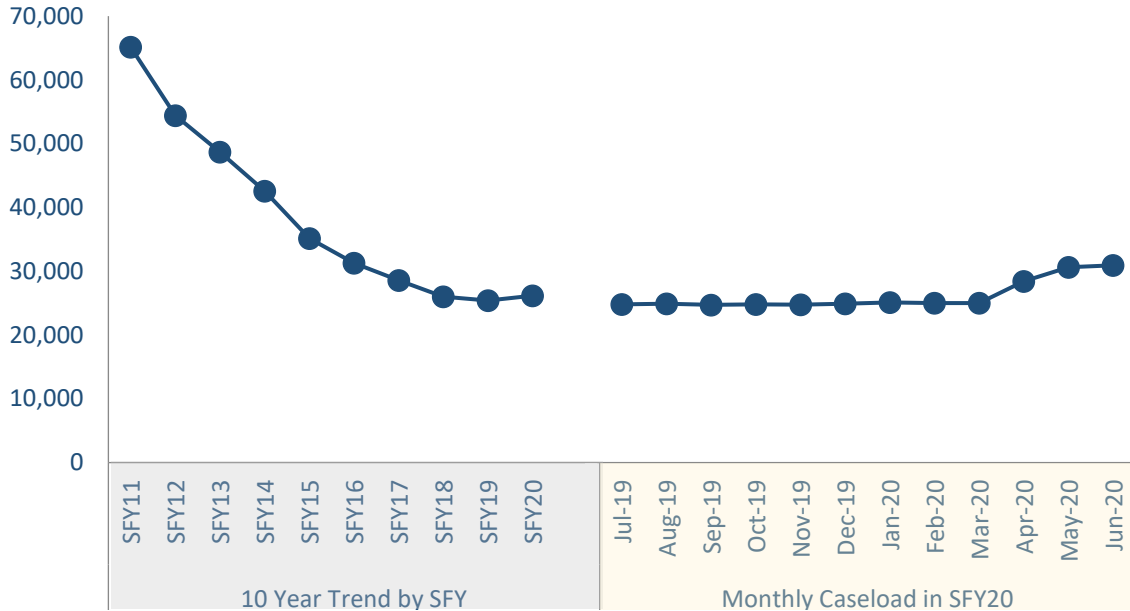
Selected TANF/SFA Program Overview, SFY 2019 and SFY 2020

	SFY 2019 (July 2018-June 2019)	SFY 2020 (July 2019-June 2020)	Change	
Average Number of Cases Per Month (Range)	25,422 (24,984 - 25,753)	26,172 (24,735 - 30,923)	3.0% (Increase)	↑
Average Number of Persons Per Month (Range)	55,874 (54,647 - 56,740)	58,892 (54,406 - 72,969)	5.4% (Increase)	↑
Average Number of Adults Per Month (Range)	14,877 (14,568 - 15,169)	16,146 (14,602 - 21,017)	8.5% (Increase)	↑
Average Number of Children Per Month (Range)	40,998 (40,079 - 41,767)	42,747 (39,768 - 51,984)	4.3% (Increase)	↑
State Population ¹	7,546,400	7,656,200	1.5% (Increase)	↑
Recipients as a Percent of State's Total Population	0.7%	0.8%	0.1% Point (Increase)	↑
Children as Percent of Recipients	73.4%	72.6%	-0.8% Point (Decrease)	↓
Average Persons Per Case	2.2	2.3	0.1 Point (Increase)	↑
Average Children Per Case	1.6	1.6	No Change	=
Average Children Per Adult	2.8	2.6	-0.2 Point (Decrease)	↓
Average Monthly Payment Per Case (Range) ²	\$446.37 (\$445.08 - \$448.61)	\$448.25 (\$434.86 - \$460.90)	0.4% (Increase)	↑

¹ Source: Office of Financial Management (OFM) population estimates

² Payments not adjusted for refunds.

TANF/SFA Caseload, SFY 2011 – 2020³



SFY	Monthly Average Caseload	SFY	Monthly Average Caseload
SFY11	65,127	SFY16	31,284
SFY12	54,425	SFY17	28,555
SFY13	48,675	SFY18	26,030
SFY14	42,564	SFY19	25,422
SFY15	35,158	SFY20	26,172

SFY 2020	Total Caseload	Clients	Grant Expenditures	Average Payment Per Case
July	24,815	54,406	\$11,014,213	\$443.85
August	24,921	54,640	\$11,095,229	\$445.22
September	24,735	54,482	\$11,001,854	\$444.79
October	24,829	54,627	\$11,103,228	\$447.19
November	24,766	54,566	\$11,087,916	\$447.71
December	24,931	55,115	\$11,162,081	\$447.72
January	25,108	55,635	\$11,198,212	\$446.00
February	25,000	55,275	\$11,288,011	\$451.52
March	24,991	55,716	\$11,107,854	\$444.47
April	28,430	66,484	\$12,363,106	\$434.86
May	30,617	72,790	\$14,111,428	\$460.90
June	30,923	72,969	\$14,246,744	\$460.72
Mo. Avg.	26,172	58,892	\$11,731,656	\$448.25

³ Washington State implemented stricter time limit extension criteria and a 15% TANF grant reduction effective February 1, 2011 which significantly reduced the caseload. The TANF grant increased by 9% on July 1, 2015, which slowed the rate of caseload decrease. Policy change in 2018 and 2019 eliminating means testing for non-parental caregivers, raising asset limits, and broadening time limit extension criteria also moderated the downward trend. The last quarter of SFY 2020 brought a sharp increase in caseload related to the pandemic.

TANF/SFA Caseload by Funding Type, SFY 2020

SFY 2020	Total	TANF Only		Mixed TANF & SFA ⁴		SFA Only	
	Caseload	Caseload	% of Total	Caseload	% of Total	Caseload	% of Total
July	24,815	24,066	97.0%	422	1.7%	327	1.3%
August	24,921	24,198	97.1%	396	1.6%	327	1.3%
September	24,735	24,024	97.1%	388	1.6%	323	1.3%
October	24,829	24,090	97.0%	402	1.6%	337	1.4%
November	24,766	24,018	97.0%	418	1.7%	330	1.3%
December	24,931	24,130	96.8%	461	1.8%	340	1.4%
January	25,108	24,295	96.8%	472	1.9%	341	1.4%
February	25,000	24,178	96.7%	480	1.9%	342	1.4%
March	24,991	24,164	96.7%	482	1.9%	345	1.4%
April	28,430	27,453	96.6%	607	2.1%	370	1.3%
May	30,617	29,504	96.4%	723	2.4%	390	1.3%
June	30,923	29,842	96.5%	706	2.3%	375	1.2%
Mo. Avg.	26,172	25,330	96.8%	496	1.9%	346	1.3%

SFY 2020	SFA Caseload	State	Federal	Average State	Total Average
		Expenditures on SFA Cases	Expenditures on SFA Cases ⁵	Expenditures Per Case	Expenditures Per Case
July	749	\$263,808	\$110,577	\$352.21	\$499.85
August	723	\$253,425	\$102,553	\$350.52	\$492.36
September	711	\$251,809	\$100,780	\$354.16	\$495.91
October	739	\$255,629	\$101,626	\$345.91	\$483.43
November	748	\$265,689	\$101,354	\$355.20	\$490.70
December	801	\$275,864	\$115,541	\$344.40	\$488.65
January	813	\$285,066	\$122,547	\$350.63	\$501.37
February	822	\$287,693	\$131,476	\$349.99	\$509.94
March	827	\$287,437	\$122,071	\$347.57	\$495.17
April	977	\$314,937	\$149,613	\$322.35	\$475.49
May	1,113	\$375,494	\$203,398	\$337.37	\$520.12
June	1,081	\$360,748	\$198,184	\$333.72	\$517.05
Mo. Avg.	842	\$289,800	\$129,977	\$344.18	\$498.55

⁴ The mixed TANF/SFA cases have at least one member in the household receiving federal TANF and at least one member receiving SFA benefits.

⁵ These are federal expenditures on mixed TANF/SFA households.

TANF/SFA Caseload by DSHS Region and CSO of Issuance and Residence, June 2020 Snapshot

The following pages detail the TANF/SFA caseload, June 2020 snapshot, by both the CSO of Issuance and CSO of Residence.

- CSO of Issuance: Based on the location from which benefits were issued. While most benefits are issued through ESA's Community Service Offices (CSO), benefits may be issued by Customer Service Contact Centers (CSCC) or Home and Community Services Offices (HCS) within DSHS's Aging and Long-Term Support Administration (AL TSA).
- CSO of Residence: Based on the CSO coverage area in which a client lives.

Overview	Office of Issuance				Office of Residence			
	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
Region 1 CSOs	9,176	29.7%	21,543	29.5%	9,161	29.6%	21,517	29.5%
Region 2 CSOs	10,048	32.5%	24,494	33.6%	9,944	32.2%	24,218	33.2%
Region 3 CSOs	11,692	37.8%	26,919	36.9%	11,811	38.2%	27,219	37.3%
CSCCs	2	<0.1%	3	<0.1%	N/A			
HCS	3	<0.1%	7	<0.1%	N/A			
Other	2	<0.1%	3	<0.1%	N/A			
Not Reported / Unidentifiable	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	<0.1%	15	<0.1%
State Total	30,923	100.0%	72,969	100.0%	30,923	100.0%	72,969	100.0%

Caseload by DSHS Region and CSO of Issuance and Residence, June 2020 Snapshot (continued)

Region 1 CSO	CSO of Issuance				CSO of Residence			
	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
CLARKSTON	182	0.6%	404	0.6%	180	0.6%	400	0.5%
COLFAX	97	0.3%	238	0.3%	96	0.3%	237	0.3%
COLVILLE	214	0.7%	477	0.7%	219	0.7%	490	0.7%
ELLENSBURG	126	0.4%	275	0.4%	124	0.4%	271	0.4%
GOLDENDALE	83	0.3%	189	0.3%	84	0.3%	191	0.3%
KENNEWICK	1,357	4.4%	3,301	4.5%	1,386	4.5%	3,400	4.7%
MOSES LAKE	673	2.2%	1,545	2.1%	680	2.2%	1,560	2.1%
NEWPORT	93	0.3%	187	0.3%	94	0.3%	189	0.3%
OKANOGAN	235	0.8%	476	0.7%	219	0.7%	435	0.6%
REPUBLIC	62	0.2%	150	0.2%	60	0.2%	144	0.2%
SPOKANE MAPLE	1,259	4.1%	2,955	4.0%	1,388	4.5%	3,226	4.4%
SPOKANE TRENT	1,905	6.2%	4,552	6.2%	1,768	5.7%	4,267	5.8%
SUNNYSIDE	406	1.3%	1,063	1.5%	369	1.2%	945	1.3%
TOPPENISH	464	1.5%	1,038	1.4%	462	1.5%	1,035	1.4%
WALLA WALLA	296	1.0%	735	1.0%	297	1.0%	738	1.0%
WENATCHEE	382	1.2%	873	1.2%	393	1.3%	905	1.2%
WHITE SALMON	28	0.1%	72	0.1%	29	0.1%	73	0.1%
YAKIMA	1,314	4.2%	3,013	4.1%	1,313	4.2%	3,011	4.1%
Region 1 Total	9,176	29.7%	21,543	29.5%	9,161	29.6%	21,517	29.5%

Caseload by DSHS Region and CSO of Issuance and Residence, June 2020 Snapshot (continued)

Region 2 CSO	CSO of Issuance				CSO of Residence			
	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
ALDERWOOD	553	1.8%	1,374	1.9%	551	1.8%	1,369	1.9%
AUBURN	864	2.8%	2,139	2.9%	859	2.8%	2,132	2.9%
BELLINGHAM	711	2.3%	1,617	2.2%	706	2.3%	1,606	2.2%
BELLTOWN	181	0.6%	439	0.6%	181	0.6%	437	0.6%
CAPITOL HILL	294	1.0%	688	0.9%	282	0.9%	666	0.9%
EVERETT	855	2.8%	2,081	2.9%	848	2.7%	2,063	2.8%
FEDERAL WAY	606	2.0%	1,528	2.1%	601	1.9%	1,506	2.1%
KING EASTSIDE	672	2.2%	1,655	2.3%	648	2.1%	1,590	2.2%
KING NORTH	604	2.0%	1,509	2.1%	595	1.9%	1,490	2.0%
KING SOUTH	954	3.1%	2,507	3.4%	944	3.1%	2,479	3.4%
MT VERNON	529	1.7%	1,219	1.7%	522	1.7%	1,203	1.6%
OAK HARBOR	120	0.4%	255	0.3%	125	0.4%	268	0.4%
RAINIER	579	1.9%	1,413	1.9%	576	1.9%	1,400	1.9%
RENTON	683	2.2%	1,710	2.3%	674	2.2%	1,681	2.3%
SKY VALLEY	250	0.8%	564	0.8%	246	0.8%	557	0.8%
SMOKEY POINT	710	2.3%	1,632	2.2%	704	2.3%	1,609	2.2%
WHITE CENTER	883	2.9%	2,164	3.0%	882	2.9%	2,162	3.0%
Region 2 Total	10,048	32.5%	24,494	33.6%	9,944	32.2%	24,218	33.2%

Caseload by DSHS Region and CSO of Issuance and Residence, June 2020 Snapshot (continued)

Region 3 CSO	CSO of Issuance				CSO of Residence			
	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
ABERDEEN	587	1.9%	1,278	1.8%	599	1.9%	1,312	1.8%
BREMERTON	857	2.8%	1,875	2.6%	847	2.7%	1,851	2.5%
CHEHALIS	631	2.0%	1,424	2.0%	619	2.0%	1,399	1.9%
COLUMBIA RIVER	1,937	6.3%	4,741	6.5%	1,937	6.3%	4,739	6.5%
FORKS	119	0.4%	256	0.4%	119	0.4%	256	0.4%
KELSO	1,017	3.3%	2,299	3.2%	1,009	3.3%	2,275	3.1%
LAKESWOOD	1,274	4.1%	2,989	4.1%	1,267	4.1%	2,968	4.1%
LONG BEACH	73	0.2%	152	0.2%	73	0.2%	152	0.2%
OLYMPIA	1,221	3.9%	2,733	3.7%	1,376	4.4%	3,131	4.3%
PIERCE NORTH	766	2.5%	1,771	2.4%	759	2.5%	1,760	2.4%
PIERCE SOUTH	1,260	4.1%	3,003	4.1%	1,265	4.1%	3,003	4.1%
PORT ANGELES	199	0.6%	391	0.5%	199	0.6%	391	0.5%
PORT TOWNSEND	102	0.3%	230	0.3%	102	0.3%	232	0.3%
PUYALLUP VALLEY	1,128	3.6%	2,590	3.5%	1,125	3.6%	2,581	3.5%
SHELTON	408	1.3%	919	1.3%	405	1.3%	909	1.2%
SOUTH BEND	70	0.2%	159	0.2%	70	0.2%	160	0.2%
STEVENSON	43	0.1%	109	0.1%	40	0.1%	100	0.1%
Region 3 Total	11,692	37.8%	26,919	36.9%	11,811	38.2%	27,219	37.3%

TANF/SFA Caseload by Customer Service Contact Centers (CSCC) and Other Locations, June 2020 Snapshot

Customer Service Contact Centers (CSCC)	# of Cases	Office of Issuance		
		% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
CSCC CNTRLSOUND	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CSCC NORTHEAST	1	<0.1%	2	<0.1%
CSCC NORTHWEST	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CSCC SOUTH SOUND	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%
CSCC SOUTHEAST	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CSCC SOUTHWEST	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CSCC WASHCAP	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CSCC Total	2	<0.1%	3	<0.1%

Other Locations	# of Cases	Office of Issuance		
		% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
DDA LTC SPECIALTY UNIT	1	<0.1%	2	<0.1%
MEDICAL ELIG DET SVC	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Health Care Authority	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe (PGST)	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%
Other Locations Total	2	<0.1%	3	<0.1%

TANF/SFA Caseload by Home and Community Services Offices (HCS), June 2020 Snapshot

Home and Community Service Offices (HCS) – Region 1	HCS of Issuance			
	# of Cases	% of State Total	Clients	% of State Total
CLARKSTON HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
COLVILLE HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
ELLENSBURG HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
MEDICAL LAKE HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
MOSES LAKE HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
OKANOGAN HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
SPOKANE HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
SUNNYSIDE HCS	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%
TRI-CITIES HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
WALLA WALLA HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
WAPATO HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
WENATCHEE HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
YAKIMA HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Region 1 Total	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%

Home and Community Service Offices (HCS) – Region 2	HCS of Issuance			
	# of Cases	% of State Total	Clients	% of State Total
ALDERWOOD HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
BELLINGHAM HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
EVERETT HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
HOLGATE HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
MOUNT VERNON HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
OAK HARBOR HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
SKYKOMISH HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
SMOKEY POINT HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Region 2 Total	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Caseload by Home and Community Services Offices (HCS), June 2020 Snapshot (continued)

Home and Community Service Offices (HCS) – Region 3	HCS of Issuance			
	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
ABERDEEN HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
BREMERTON HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CHEHALIS HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
KELSO HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
OLYMPIA HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
PORT ANGELES HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
STEILACOOM HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
TACOMA HCS	2	<0.1%	6	<0.1%
VANCOUVER HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Region 3 Total	2	<0.1%	0	<0.1%

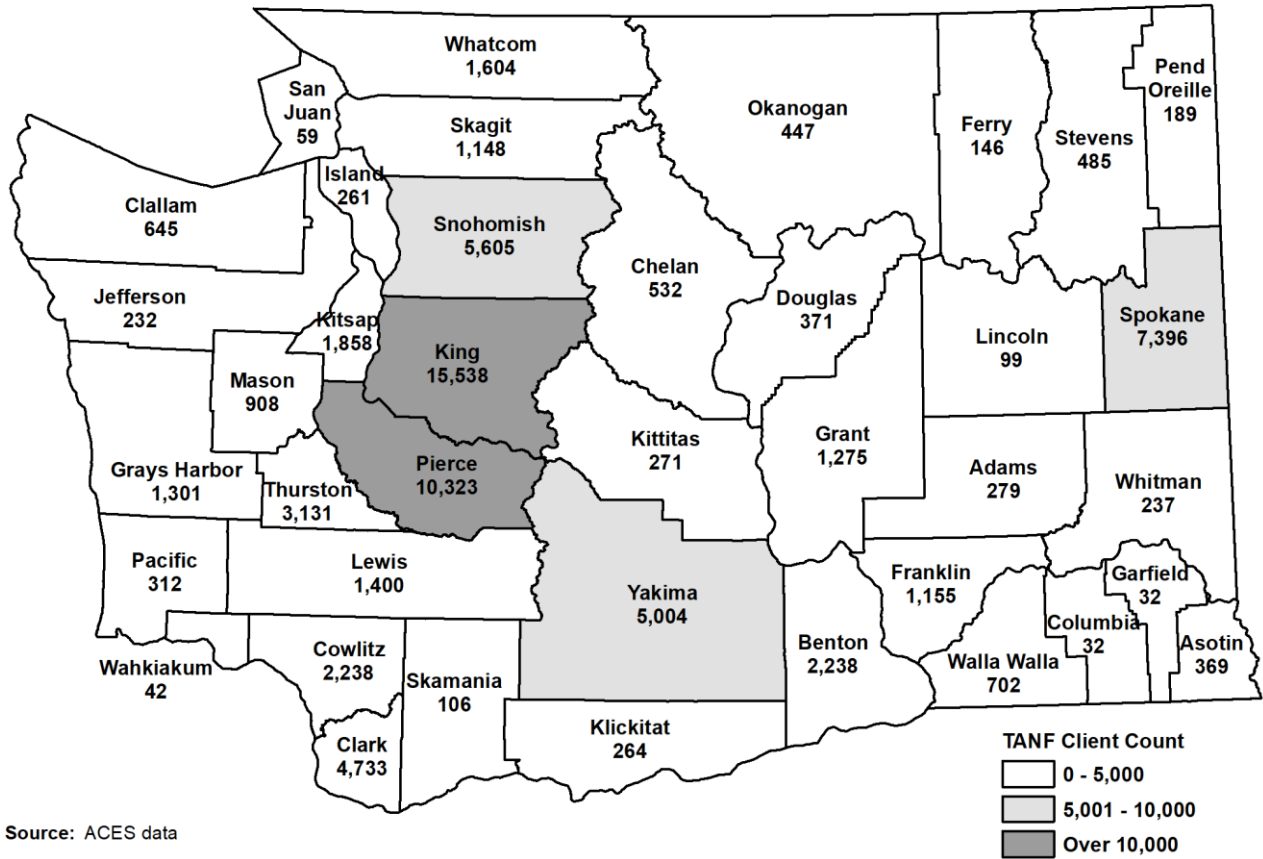
TANF/SFA Caseload by County of Residence, June 2020 Snapshot

County	# of Cases	% of Total	# of Clients	% of Total	County	# of Cases	% of Total	# of Clients	% of Total
Adams	117	0.4%	279	0.4%	Lewis	620	2.0%	1,400	1.9%
Asotin	170	0.5%	369	0.5%	Lincoln	46	0.1%	99	0.1%
Benton	925	3.0%	2,238	3.1%	Mason	404	1.3%	908	1.2%
Chelan	237	0.8%	532	0.7%	Okanogan	225	0.7%	447	0.6%
Clallam	317	1.0%	645	0.9%	Pacific	143	0.5%	312	0.4%
Clark	1,935	6.3%	4,733	6.5%	Pend Oreille	94	0.3%	189	0.3%
Columbia	15	0.0%	32	0.0%	Pierce	4,418	14.3%	10,323	14.1%
Cowlitz	989	3.2%	2,238	3.1%	San Juan	25	0.1%	59	0.1%
Douglas	155	0.5%	371	0.5%	Skagit	499	1.6%	1,148	1.6%
Ferry	61	0.2%	146	0.2%	Skamania	42	0.1%	106	0.1%
Franklin	459	1.5%	1,155	1.6%	Snohomish	2,351	7.6%	5,605	7.7%
Garfield	11	0.0%	32	0.0%	Spokane	3,110	10.1%	7,396	10.1%
Grant	560	1.8%	1,275	1.7%	Stevens	217	0.7%	485	0.7%
Grays Harbor	594	1.9%	1,299	1.8%	Thurston	1,376	4.4%	3,131	4.3%
Island	123	0.4%	261	0.4%	Wahkiakum	21	0.1%	42	0.1%
Jefferson	102	0.3%	232	0.3%	Walla Walla	281	0.9%	702	1.0%
King	6,243	20.2%	15,540	21.3%	Whatcom	705	2.3%	1,604	2.2%
Kitsap	851	2.8%	1,858	2.5%	Whitman	96	0.3%	237	0.3%
Kittitas	124	0.4%	271	0.4%	Yakima	2,148	6.9%	5,004	6.9%
Klickitat	113	0.4%	264	0.4%	Not Reported/ Unidentifiable	1	<0.1%	2	<0.1%

	# of Cases	# of Clients
State Total	30,923	72,969

Client Density Maps by Residential County, June 2020 Snapshot

Number of TANF Clients by Residential County in Washington State: June 2020

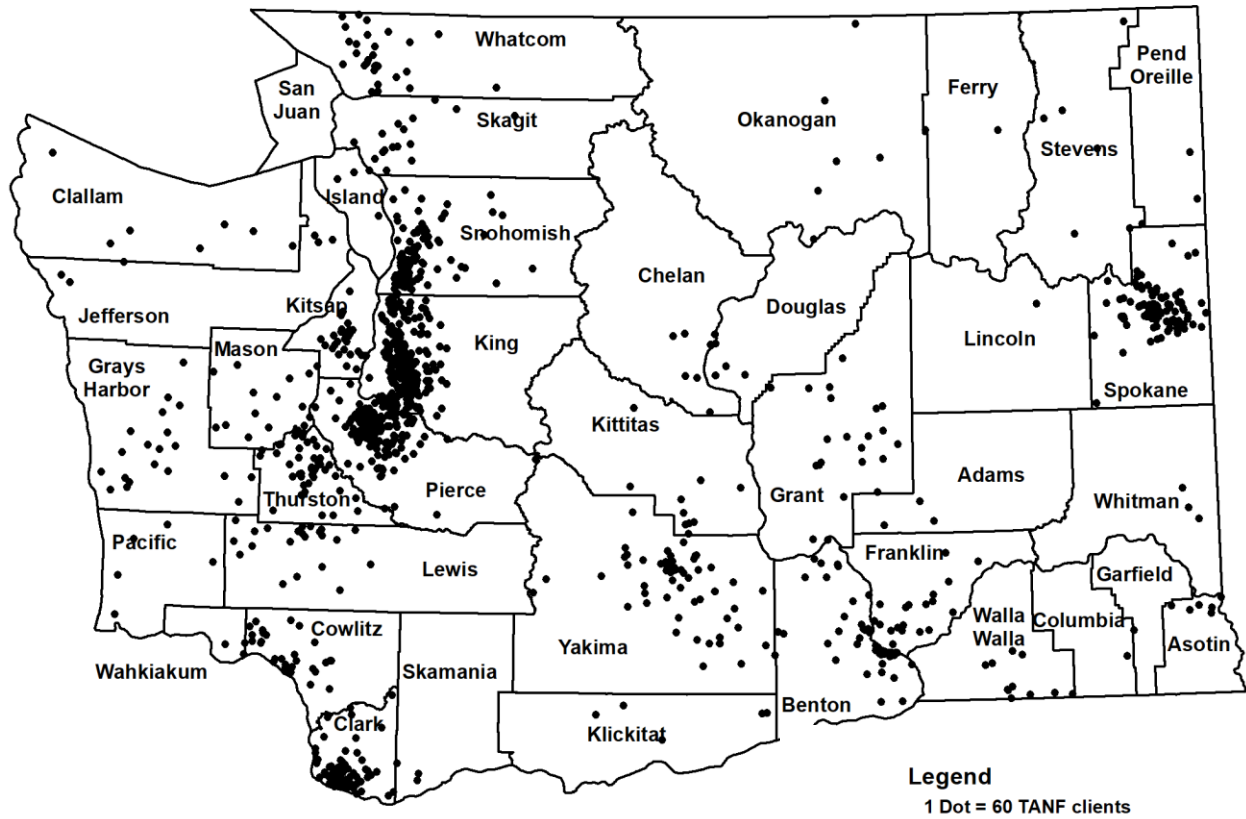


Source: ACES data

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/E-MAPS - Sep. 2020

Client Density Maps, June 2020 Snapshot (continued)

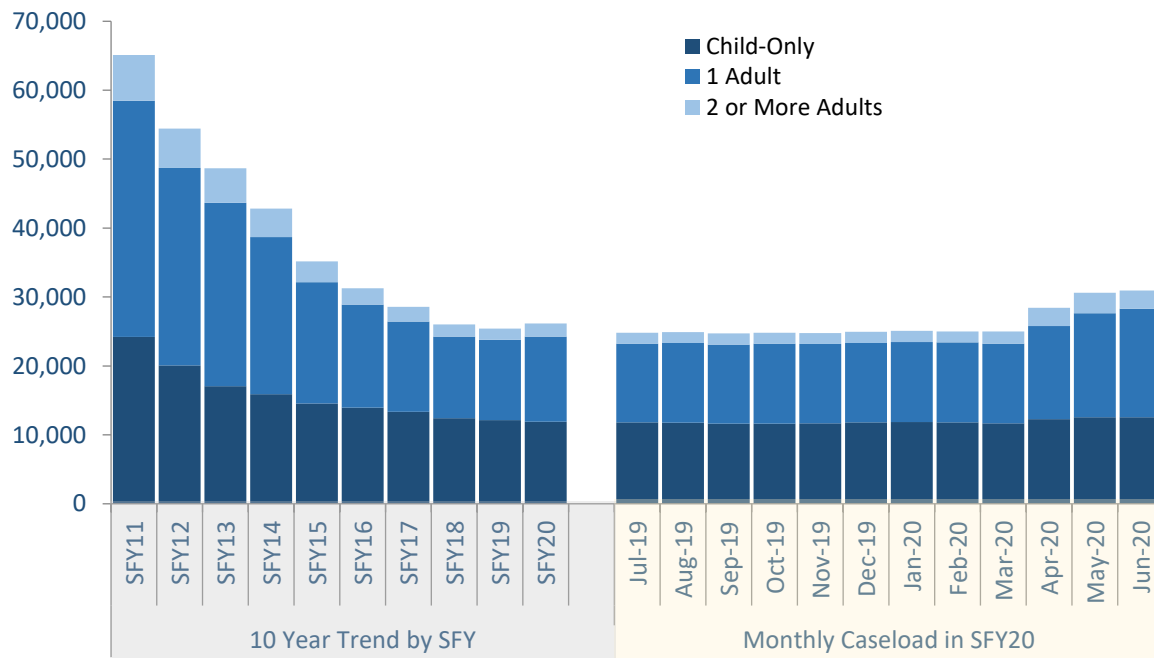
Number of TANF Clients by Density of Residential Zip Code in Washington State: June 2020



Source: ACES data

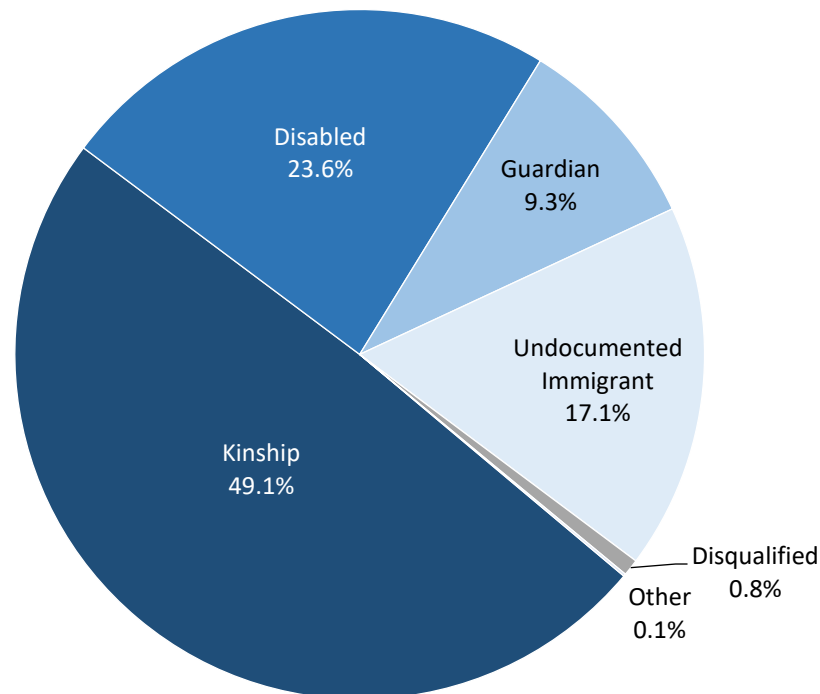
Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/E-MAPS - Sep. 2020

Caseload by Case Type, SFY 2011 – 2020



SFY 2020	Total Caseload	Child-Only		1 Adult		2 or More Adults	
		Caseload	% of Total	Caseload	% of Total	Caseload	% of Total
July	24,815	11,799	47.5%	11,427	46.0%	1,589	6.4%
August	24,921	11,753	47.2%	11,552	46.4%	1,616	6.5%
September	24,735	11,643	47.1%	11,461	46.3%	1,631	6.6%
October	24,829	11,632	46.8%	11,590	46.7%	1,607	6.5%
November	24,766	11,662	47.1%	11,533	46.6%	1,571	6.3%
December	24,931	11,812	47.4%	11,525	46.2%	1,594	6.4%
January	25,108	11,865	47.3%	11,609	46.2%	1,634	6.5%
February	25,000	11,813	47.3%	11,588	46.4%	1,599	6.4%
March	24,991	11,696	46.8%	11,549	46.2%	1,746	7.0%
April	28,430	12,263	43.1%	13,547	47.7%	2,620	9.2%
May	30,617	12,579	41.1%	15,054	49.2%	2,984	9.7%
June	30,923	12,560	40.6%	15,739	50.9%	2,624	8.5%
Mo. Avg.	26,172	11,923	45.6%	12,348	47.2%	1,901	7.3%

Child-Only Caseload by Major Caretaker Groups, June 2020 Snapshot⁶



Kinship – Some parents are unable to care for their children due to their own circumstances, such as the impacts of substance use disorder. Grandparents or other relatives often step in to provide the needed care, even though they have no legal responsibility to do so. For those unwilling or unable to get licensed as foster parents, a TANF child-only grant may be the only way they can afford to care for these children. As long as the child has no financially disqualifying income or assets of his/her own, the relative caregiver can receive TANF on the child's behalf (the relative caregiver can do this even if they do not have legal custody of the child). Caregivers need only show that the child lives with them most of the time and that they are currently the child's primary caregiver.

Undocumented Immigrant – Children in households headed by undocumented immigrants may be U.S. citizens and therefore eligible for TANF benefits if the household, including non-recipient adults, meets financial eligibility criteria. Undocumented immigrant parents may apply for TANF on behalf of their citizen children; the undocumented parents receive no continuing benefits (cash, food, or medical) for themselves.

Disabled – Disabled parents who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) will not qualify for TANF because federal law does not allow them to receive both. Their minor children will still be eligible for TANF, as long as the household meets the program's financial eligibility criteria.

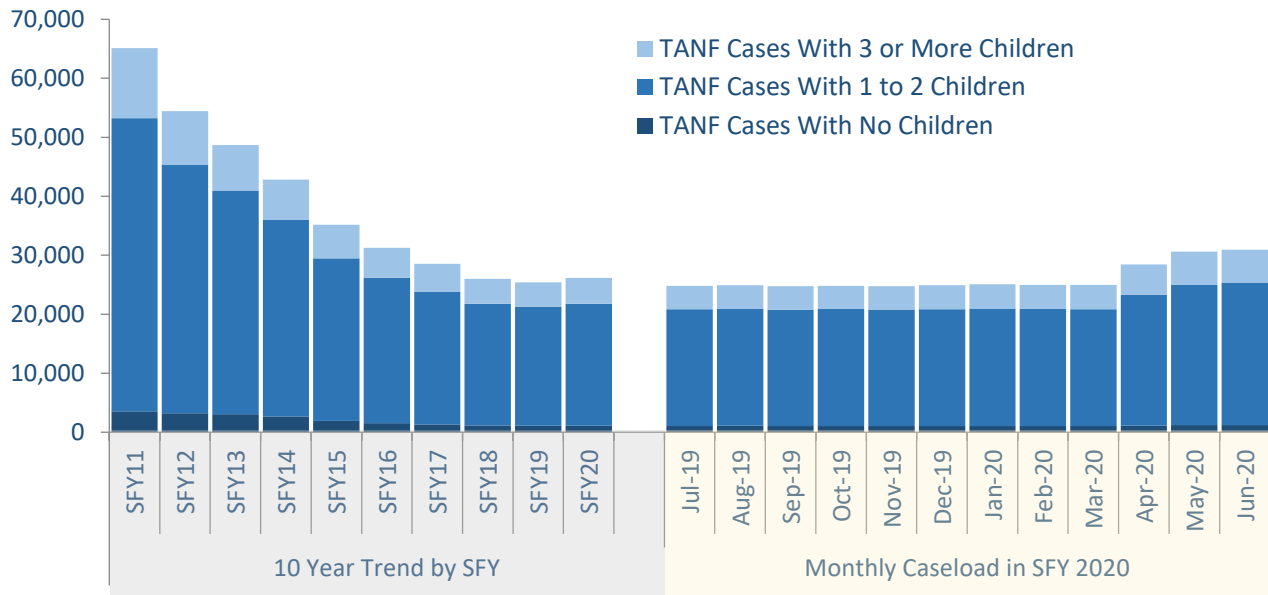
Guardian – Sometimes, when a parent is unable to provide care, a relative or other concerned adult will seek legal guardianship of a child. As with relative caregivers, non-relative guardians may receive TANF on behalf of an otherwise eligible child. In addition, non-relatives who are serving as primary caregiver even without legal status (acting *in loco parentis*) and who pass a criminal history background check may receive TANF on behalf of an otherwise eligible child.

Disqualified – Some parents may be disqualified from receiving TANF because of fleeing a felony conviction, a probation or parole violation, or fraudulent receipt of public assistance. Their minor children will still be eligible for TANF, as long as the household meets financial eligibility criteria. Fleeing felons and probation or parole violators can restore their TANF eligibility by complying with the law. The court determines the period of ineligibility for those convicted of fraud.

Other – Caretaker is defined using the child's relationship to the head of household member. 'Other cases' are those in which the head of the household's status is unknown.

⁶ The chart may not add up to 100% exactly due to rounding.

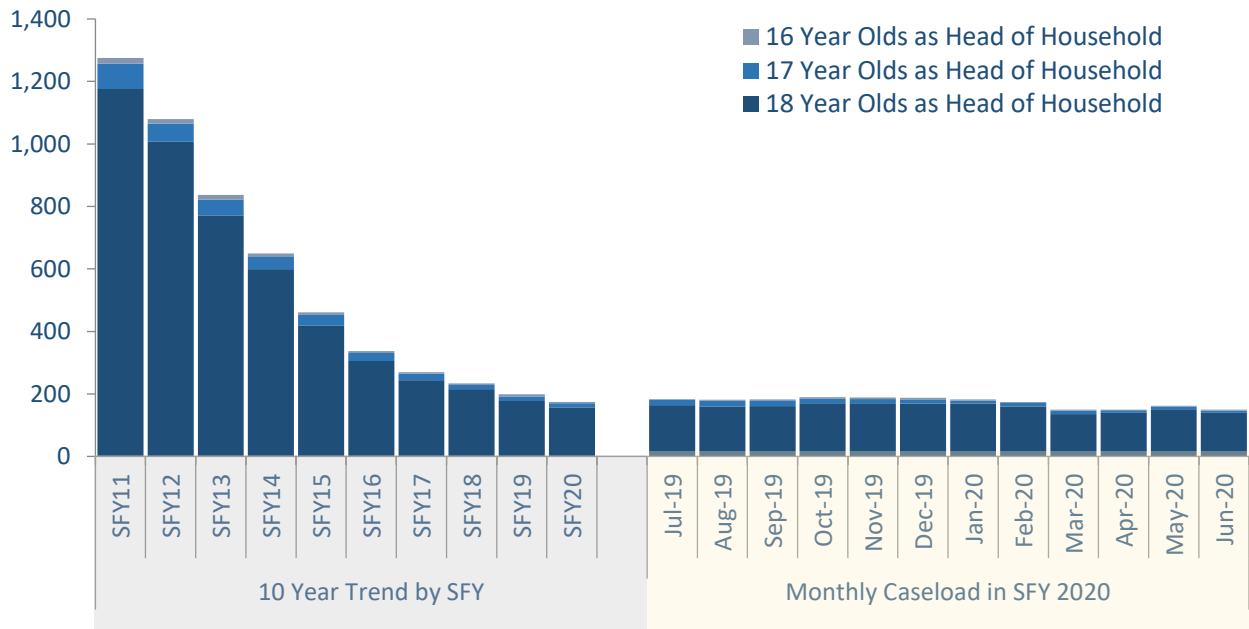
Caseload by Number of Children⁷, SFY 2011 – 2020



Caseload by Number of Children							
SFY 2020	Total TANF Caseload	No Children		1 to 2 Children		3 or More Children	
		Caseload	% of Total	Caseload	% of Total	Caseload	% of Total
July	24,815	1,074	4.3%	19,765	79.6%	3,976	16.0%
August	24,921	1,077	4.3%	19,877	79.8%	3,967	15.9%
September	24,735	1,050	4.2%	19,705	79.7%	3,980	16.1%
October	24,829	1,060	4.3%	19,818	79.8%	3,951	15.9%
November	24,766	1,035	4.2%	19,752	79.8%	3,979	16.1%
December	24,931	1,027	4.1%	19,837	79.6%	4,067	16.3%
January	25,108	1,031	4.1%	19,924	79.4%	4,153	16.5%
February	25,000	1,041	4.2%	19,846	79.4%	4,113	16.5%
March	24,991	1,063	4.3%	19,786	79.2%	4,142	16.6%
April	28,430	1,121	3.9%	22,195	78.1%	5,114	18.0%
May	30,617	1,189	3.9%	23,786	77.7%	5,642	18.4%
June	30,923	1,189	3.8%	24,136	78.1%	5,598	18.1%
Mo. Avg.	26,172	1,080	4.1%	20,702	79.1%	4,390	16.8%

⁷ Some TANF cases have no children. If the only children eligible for TANF are receiving SSI, those children will not receive a TANF payment, but the parents will receive a TANF payment. Also, pregnant individuals with no children are eligible for TANF.

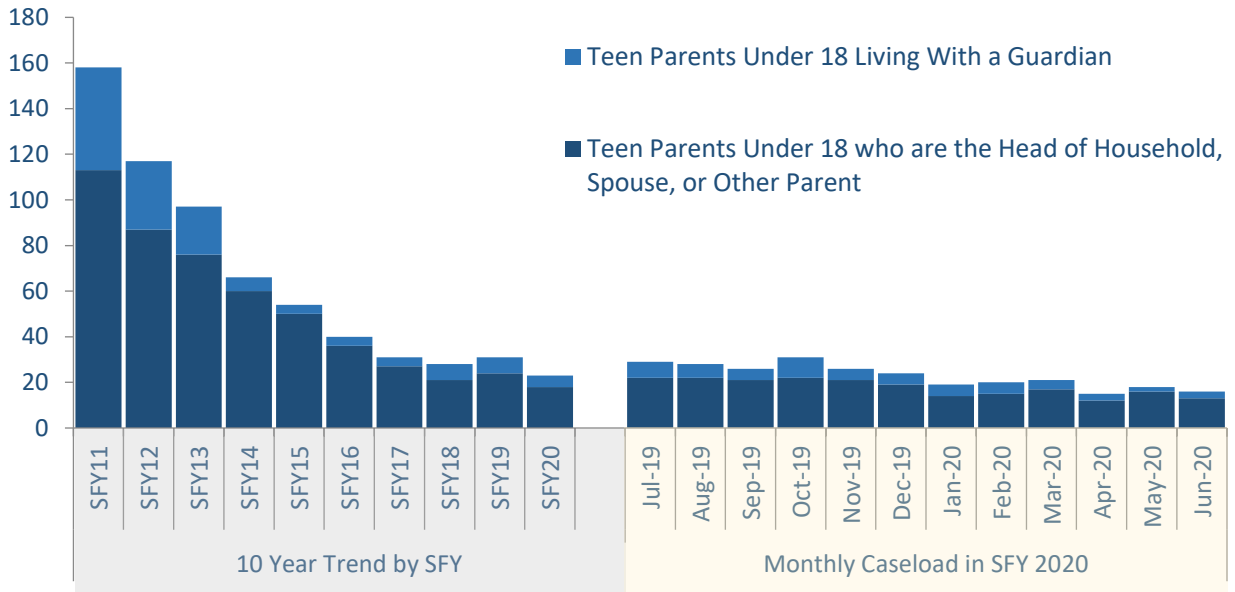
Teen Head of Household (HOH), SFY 2011 – 2020



SFY 2020	Teen Head of Households ⁸						
	Total TANF Cases with a Teen HOH	16 Years Old or Younger		17 Years Old		18 Years Old	
		Caseload	% of Total	Caseload	% of Total	Caseload	% of Total
July	184	3	1.6%	17	9.2%	164	89.1%
August	181	3	1.7%	18	9.9%	160	88.4%
September	182	3	1.6%	18	9.9%	161	88.5%
October	190	4	2.1%	16	8.4%	170	89.5%
November	189	5	2.6%	14	7.4%	170	89.9%
December	188	6	3.2%	13	6.9%	169	89.9%
January	182	4	2.2%	9	4.9%	169	92.9%
February	174	3	1.7%	11	6.3%	160	92.0%
March	150	3	2.0%	12	8.0%	135	90.0%
April	150	2	1.3%	9	6.0%	139	92.7%
May	162	3	1.9%	10	6.2%	149	92.0%
June	150	3	2.0%	8	5.3%	139	92.7%
Mo. Avg.	174	4	2.3%	13	7.5%	157	90.2%

⁸ Numbers reflect households where the head of household member is a teen parent living independently from his/her formal legal guardian.

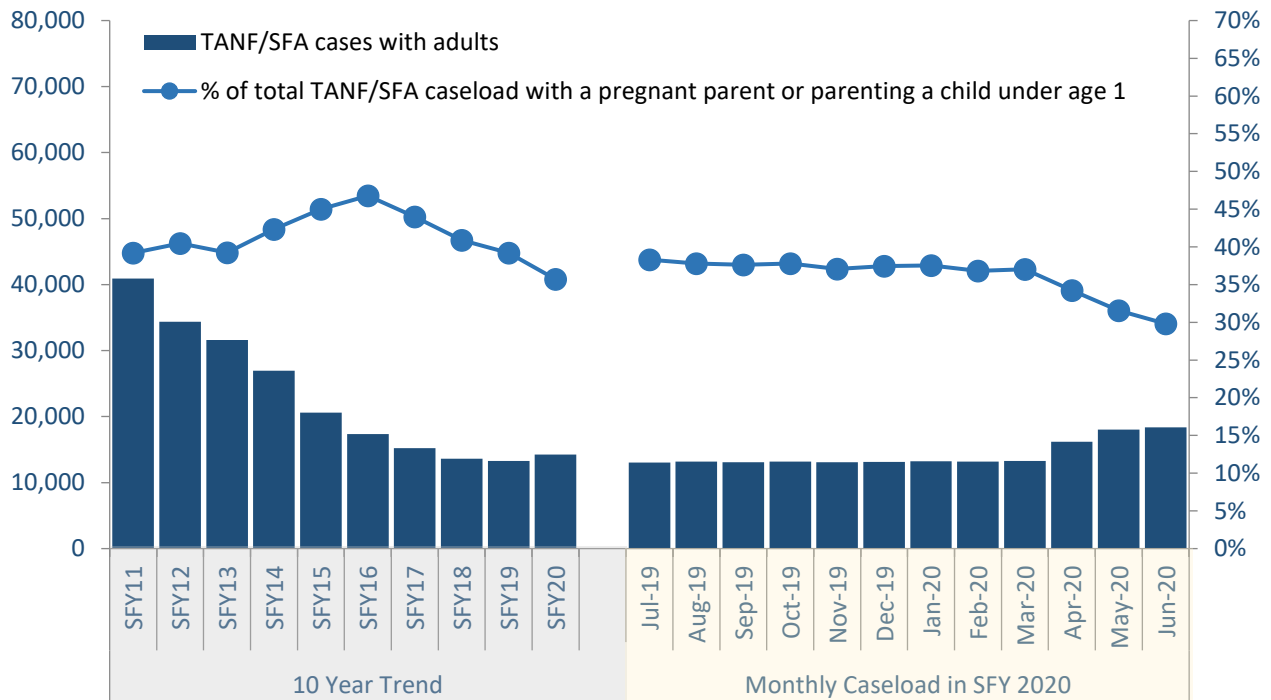
Teen Parents under Age 18, SFY 2011 – 2020



Teen Parents Under Age 18 ⁹					
SFY 2020	Total Clients	Living with a Legal Guardian		Head of Household, Spouse or Other Parent	
		# of Clients	% of Total	# of Clients	% of Total
July	29	7	24.1%	22	75.9%
August	28	6	21.4%	22	78.6%
September	26	5	19.2%	21	80.8%
October	31	9	29.0%	22	71.0%
November	26	5	19.2%	21	80.8%
December	24	5	20.8%	19	79.2%
January	19	5	26.3%	14	73.7%
February	20	5	25.0%	15	75.0%
March	21	4	19.0%	17	81.0%
April	15	3	20.0%	12	80.0%
May	18	2	11.1%	16	88.9%
June	16	3	18.8%	13	81.3%
Mo. Avg.	23	5	21.7%	18	78.3%

⁹ Teen Parents are defined based on the client’s relationship to the head of household. If the client is coded as “CP” (child parent), the child is considered to be living under legal guardianship while caring for their own child.

Caseload with Pregnant Individuals & Individuals with Children Under Age 1, SFY 2011 – 2020



% of Total TANF/SFA Caseload with Adults that have a Pregnant Individual or Child Under Age 1							
SFY 2020	Total Caseload with Adults ¹⁰	Pregnant ¹¹		0 – 3 Months Old		4 – 12 Months Old	
		Caseload	% of Total	Caseload	% of Total	Caseload	% of Total
July	13,016	1,653	12.7%	1,288	9.9%	2,047	15.7%
August	13,168	1,645	12.5%	1,323	10.0%	2,011	15.3%
September	13,092	1,620	12.4%	1,308	10.0%	1,995	15.2%
October	13,197	1,672	12.7%	1,312	9.9%	2,006	15.2%
November	13,104	1,610	12.3%	1,244	9.5%	2,003	15.3%
December	13,119	1,607	12.2%	1,264	9.6%	2,040	15.5%
January	13,243	1,616	12.2%	1,234	9.3%	2,123	16.0%
February	13,187	1,615	12.2%	1,184	9.0%	2,055	15.6%
March	13,295	1,678	12.6%	1,178	8.9%	2,066	15.5%
April	16,167	1,921	11.9%	1,301	8.0%	2,309	14.3%
May	18,038	1,940	10.8%	1,301	7.2%	2,453	13.6%
June	18,363	1,816	9.9%	1,235	6.7%	2,423	13.2%
Mo. Avg.	14,249	1,699	11.9%	1,264	8.9%	2,128	14.9%

¹⁰ Cases are unduplicated across groups. If a case has multiple young children or a pregnant recipient and a young child, the case category reflects the youngest child.

¹¹ Pregnancy status was identified using data entered in ACES.

TANF/SFA WorkFirst Adult Clients Participating in WorkFirst Activities, SFY 2020

The WorkFirst program provides job search assistance, employment, education and skills training, and work supports to TANF recipients. The program also provides referrals to assistance in removing barriers to employment that may include family violence, homelessness, and physical or behavioral health. Families may also be referred to child care subsidies and other sources of parenting support. The goal of WorkFirst is to help these families build a pathway that can lead them out of poverty and toward economic security. Participation in WorkFirst activities is mandatory for most adult TANF recipients.¹² Adult clients who fail to meet participation requirements without a good cause are subject to the WorkFirst noncompliance sanction (NCS)¹³. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DSHS temporarily suspended mandatory participation requirements sanctions effective March 16, 2020.

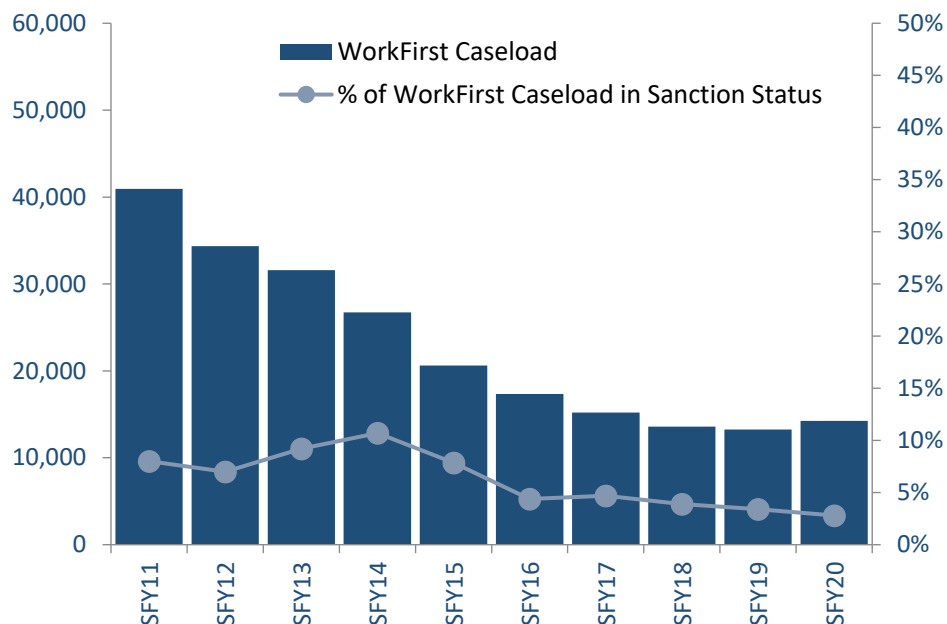
SFY 2020	Total WorkFirst Clients Receiving TANF/SFA	Total WorkFirst Clients Exempted from Participation ¹⁴	WorkFirst Clients Required to Participate (Non-Exempt)	# WorkFirst Clients Participating in WorkFirst Activities	% of Non-Exempt WorkFirst Clients Participating in WorkFirst Activities
July	14,602	4,765	9,837	7,276	74.0%
August	14,779	4,725	10,054	7,411	73.7%
September	14,714	4,677	10,037	7,487	74.6%
October	14,798	4,608	10,190	7,717	75.7%
November	14,670	4,499	10,171	7,616	74.9%
December	14,710	4,594	10,116	7,480	73.9%
January	14,874	4,647	10,227	7,615	74.5%
February	14,782	4,544	10,238	7,596	74.2%
March	15,034	4,480	10,554	7,108	67.3%
April	18,782	4,251	14,531	5,668	39.0%
May	21,017	4,089	16,928	5,064	29.9%
June	20,985	3,725	17,260	4,645	26.9%
Mo. Avg.	16,146	4,467	11,679	6,890	59.0%

¹² WorkFirst participation may be waived or deferred if the individual meets an exemption criterion as described in WAC 388-310-0350.

¹³ The non-compliance sanction (NCS) policy for WorkFirst was modified effective November 1, 2014 (See WAC 388-310-1600). The NCS policy terminates TANF or SFA when adults fail to participate for two months in a row. The NCS policy also terminates TANF or SFA when mandatory, noncompliant WorkFirst adults fail to attend a non-compliance case staffing and DSHS is not able to make contact with them at the subsequent home visit or alternative site visit. Prior to November 1, 2014, the sanction period was four months (not two) and did not require a home/alternative site visit.

¹⁴ Clients meeting one or more of the following exemption or deferral definitions may be exempted from WorkFirst participation: Infant exemption, toddler exemption, postpartum exemption, pursuing SSI, 55 & older caretaker relative, caring for an adult with disabilities who is not a full time student, caring for a child with special needs who is not a full time student, or an adult with severe and chronic disabilities. Effective March 16, the Department adopted a temporary policy, making any client unable to participate due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic exempt from participation.

WorkFirst Cases and Clients in NCS Sanction Status¹⁵, SFY 2011 – 2020

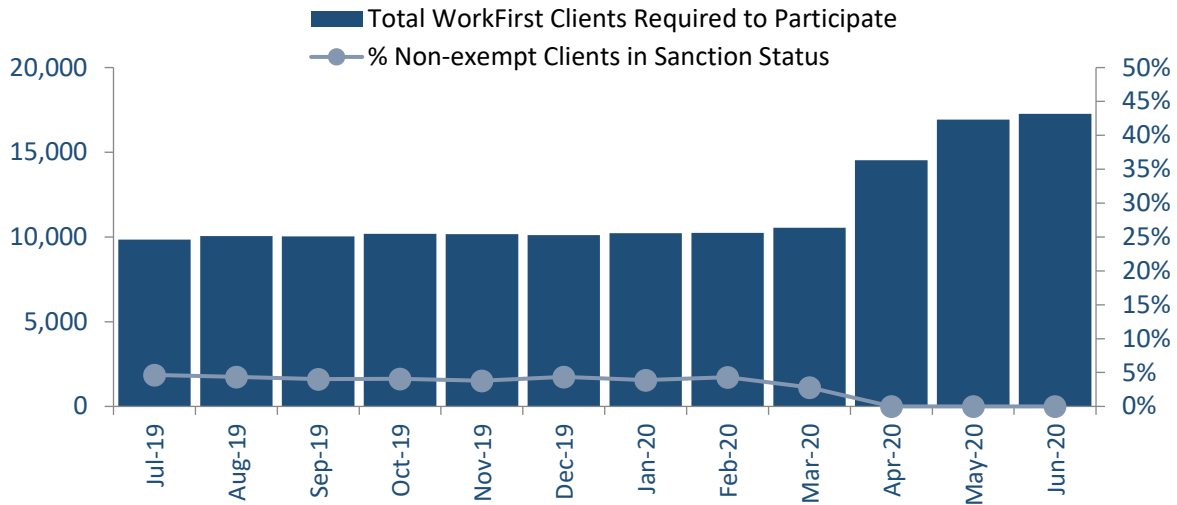


SFY	Cases (Monthly Average)			Clients (Monthly Average)		
	WorkFirst Caseload	Cases with at Least 1 Adult in Sanction	% of Cases with at least 1 Adult in Sanction	All WorkFirst Clients	Clients in Sanction Status	% of All WorkFirst Clients in Sanction Status
SFY11	40,930	3,285	8.0%	47,562	3,480	7.3%
SFY12	34,363	2,393	7.0%	40,037	2,480	6.2%
SFY13	31,598	2,921	9.2%	36,596	3,063	8.4%
SFY14	26,727	2,869	10.7%	30,833	3,038	9.9%
SFY15	20,608	1,619	7.9%	23,588	1,717	7.3%
SFY16	17,336	768	4.4%	19,701	789	4.0%
SFY17	15,223	714	4.7%	17,323	736	4.2%
SFY18	13,602	524	3.9%	15,374	557	3.6%
SFY19	13,266	457	3.4%	14,877	471	3.2%
SFY20 ¹⁶	14,249	397	2.8%	16,146	409	2.5%

¹⁵ The non-compliance sanction (NCS) policy for WorkFirst was modified effective November 1, 2014 (See WAC 388-310-1600). The NCS policy terminates TANF or SFA when adults refuse to participate for two months in a row. The NCS policy also terminates TANF or SFA when mandatory, noncompliant WorkFirst adults fail to attend a non-compliance case staffing and DSHS is not able to make contact with them at the subsequent home visit or alternative site visit. Prior to November 1, 2014, the sanction period was four months (not two) and did not require a home/alternative site visit.

¹⁶ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DSHS temporarily suspended mandatory participation requirements and stopped client sanctions effective March 16, 2020; therefore, monthly averages for SFY 2020 reflect a 9-month average rather than a 12-month average.

WorkFirst Clients in NCS Sanction Status by Month, SFY 2020



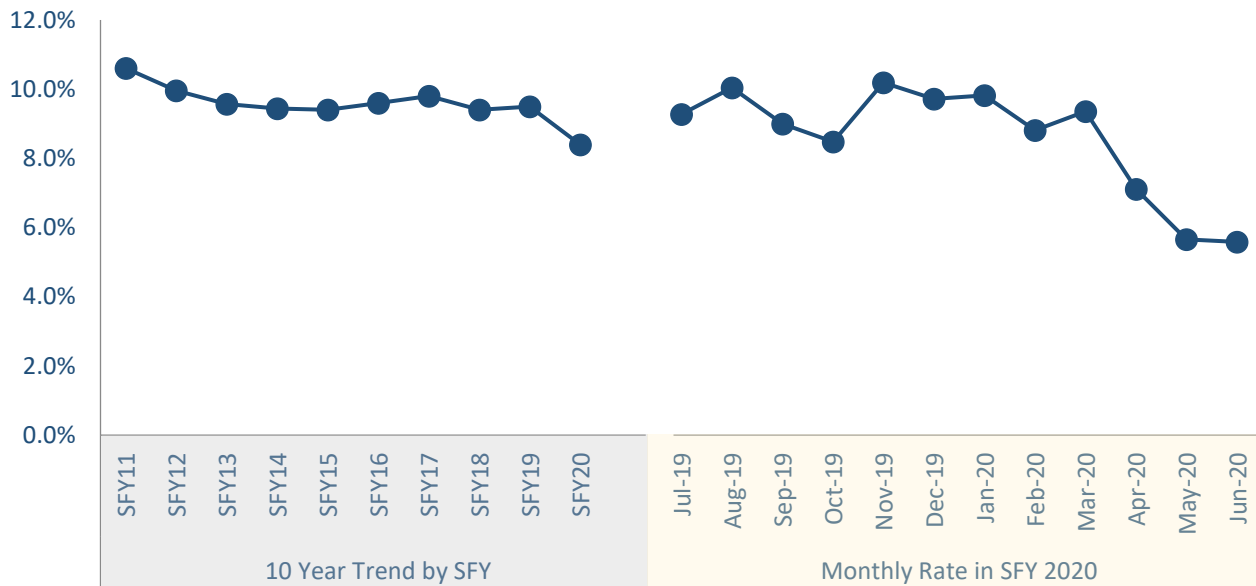
TANF/SFA WorkFirst Adult Clients in WorkFirst Non-Compliance Sanction (NCS)					
SFY 2020 ¹⁷	Total WorkFirst Clients Required to Participate (Non-exempt ¹⁸)	Total Non-exempt Clients in Sanction Status	% Non-exempt Clients in Sanction Status	Clients Receiving an NCS Termination Without Grant Reduction ¹⁹	Clients in Sanction Status with Grant Reduction
July	9,837	457	4.6%	148	309
August	10,054	440	4.4%	181	259
September	10,037	406	4.0%	125	281
October	10,190	416	4.1%	138	278
November	10,171	386	3.8%	144	242
December	10,116	439	4.3%	157	282
January	10,227	397	3.9%	140	257
February	10,238	442	4.3%	164	278
March	10,554	298	2.8%	14	284
April	14,531	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
May	16,928	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
June	17,260	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mo. Avg.	11,679	409	3.5%	135	274

¹⁷ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DSHS suspended the sanction policy effective March 16, 2020.

¹⁸ Clients meeting one or more of the following exemption definitions may be exempted from WorkFirst participation: infant exemption, toddler exemption, postpartum exemption, pursuing SSI, 55 & older caretaker relative, caring for an adult with disabilities who is not a full time student, caring for a child with special needs who is not a full time student, or an adult with severe and chronic disabilities. Effective March 16, the Department adopted a temporary policy making any client unable to participate due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic exempt from participation.

¹⁹ Effective November 1, 2014, clients who did not attend the required NCS case staffing and the home visit may be terminated from TANF without a grant reduction. Some of these clients may be reinstated if they reapply and complete a financial intake by the end of the month of their case closures.

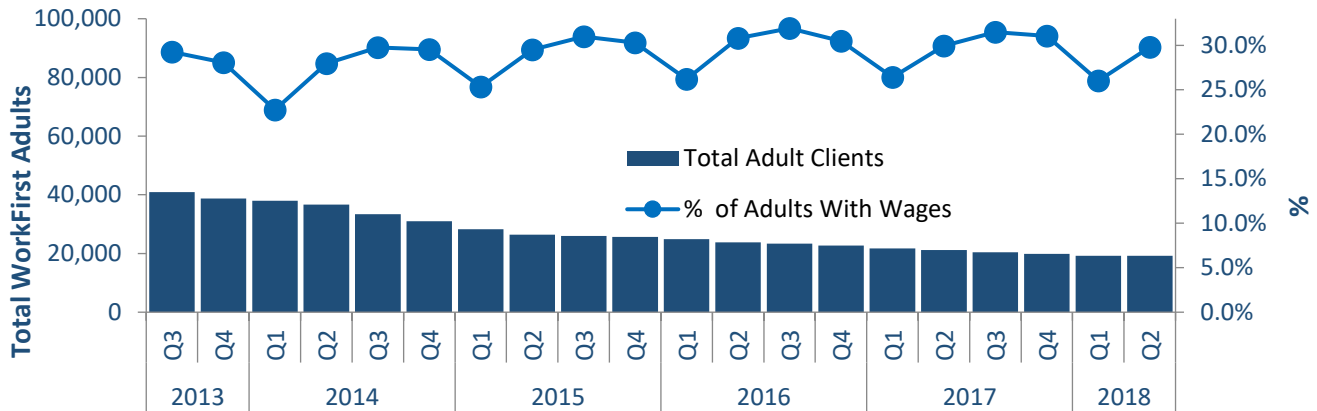
Employment Rates for WorkFirst Clients²⁰, SFY 2011 – 2020



SFY 2020	# of WorkFirst Clients	# Employed (Earned Income >= \$5.00)	% Employed (Earned Income >= \$5.00)	Avg. Monthly Hours Worked (Among those Employed)
July	14,602	1,354	9.3%	54.0
August	14,779	1,484	10.0%	56.0
September	14,714	1,324	9.0%	55.0
October	14,798	1,255	8.5%	51.0
November	14,670	1,495	10.2%	52.0
December	14,710	1,430	9.7%	52.0
January	14,874	1,460	9.8%	52.0
February	14,782	1,302	8.8%	54.0
March	15,034	1,407	9.4%	52.0
April	18,782	1,336	7.1%	50.0
May	21,017	1,190	5.7%	49.0
June	20,985	1,172	5.6%	47.0
Mo. Avg.	16,146	1,351	8.4%	52.0

²⁰Employment status is based on the client’s self-reported earnings from work as recorded in the ACES database. If the client reported \$5 or more earned income in the month, the client is considered employed.

WorkFirst Adults Receiving Quarterly Wages²¹, July 2015 – June 2020



Quarter	Total Adults	Adults with Wages ²²		Average Quarterly Wages ²³	Average Quarterly Hourly Wages ²⁴
		Number	Percent		
2015Q3	26,019	8,074	31.0%	\$2,329	\$12.26
2015Q4	25,606	7,765	30.3%	\$2,445	\$12.19
2016Q1	24,849	6,503	26.2%	\$2,130	\$12.47
2016Q2	23,792	7,338	30.8%	\$2,362	\$12.45
2016Q3	23,312	7,441	31.9%	\$2,479	\$12.66
2016Q4	22,750	6,933	30.5%	\$2,496	\$12.80
2017Q1	21,718	5,522	25.4%	\$2,303	\$13.44
2017Q2	21,184	6,195	29.2%	\$2,440	\$13.56
2017Q3	20,454	6,346	31.0%	\$2,559	\$13.79
2017Q4	19,884	6,045	30.4%	\$2,616	\$14.03
2018Q1	19,249	4,881	25.4%	\$2,420	\$14.31
2018Q2	19,167	5,582	29.1%	\$2,602	\$14.29
2018Q3	19,182	5,874	30.6%	\$2,677	\$14.56
2018Q4	18,995	5,660	29.8%	\$2,790	\$14.88
2019Q1	18,383	4,566	24.8%	\$2,493	\$15.10
2019Q2	18,726	5,606	29.9%	\$2,749	\$15.15
2019Q3	18,977	5,639	29.7%	\$2,832	\$15.33
2019Q4	18,761	5,622	30.0%	\$2,910	\$15.63
2020Q1	18,866	4,801	25.4%	\$2,801	\$16.34
2020Q2	24,930	5,539	22.2%	\$2,657	\$17.32

²¹ Quarterly wage information is based on the Employment Security Department's (ESD) Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage data.

²² Adults with wages are those adult clients with wages who earned total wages of more than \$5.00 in a quarter.

²³ Average quarterly wages per person for those adult clients with wages in a quarter.

²⁴ Jobs without hours or with 1,000 or more hours are excluded. Only includes jobs with an hourly wage rate between \$5 and \$50.

Caseload by Primary Language, June 2020 Snapshot

Primary Language ²⁵	# of Cases	Percent of Cases	Percentage of Non-English Cases
English Language Cases			
English	27,379	88.5%	N/A
Large Print	195	0.6%	N/A
Sign Language	2	<0.1%	N/A
Braille	2	<0.1%	N/A
Total English Languages	27,578	89.2%	N/A
Non-English Language Cases			
Spanish	2,446	7.9%	73.1%
Arabic	186	0.6%	5.6%
Russian	165	0.5%	4.9%
Tigrigna	67	0.2%	2.0%
Somali	63	0.2%	1.9%
Dari	58	0.2%	1.7%
Vietnamese	41	0.1%	1.2%
Ukrainian	35	0.1%	1.0%
Trukese	32	0.1%	1.0%
Amharic	32	0.1%	1.0%
French	26	0.1%	0.8%
Swahili	21	0.1%	0.6%
Farsi	20	0.1%	0.6%
Cambodian (Khmer)	11	<0.1%	0.3%
All Other Languages²⁶	142	0.5%	4.2%
Total Non-English Language Cases	3,345	10.8%	100.0%
Total	30,923	100.0%	

²⁵ Primary Language comes from the language indicated by the head of household during eligibility determination. It is used for letters, notices, and other written communications.

²⁶ Heads of household who are coded as "Other Language" in the ACES database or speak a language used by fewer than 10 heads of household in the caseload.

Client Demographics²⁷, June 2020 Snapshot

Characteristic	All Clients		All Adults		All Children	
	# of Clients	% of Total Clients	# of Clients	% of Total Adults	# of Clients	% of Total Children
Total Clients	72,969	100.0%	20,985	100.0%	51,984	100.0%

Gender	All Clients		All Adults		All Children	
Female	42,675	58.5%	16,814	80.1%	25,861	49.7%
Male	30,292	41.5%	4,171	19.9%	26,121	50.2%
Unknown	2	<0.1%	0	0.0%	2	<0.1%

Ethnicity and Race	All Clients		All Adults		All Children	
Hispanic or Latino	19,072	26.1%	3,475	16.6%	15,597	30.0%
Not Hispanic or Latino²⁸	53,897	73.9%	17,510	83.4%	36,387	70.0%
White	30,928	42.4%	11,030	52.6%	19,898	38.3%
Black/African American	9,950	13.6%	3,102	14.8%	6,848	13.2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3,959	5.4%	1,383	6.6%	2,576	5.0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	2,719	3.7%	694	3.3%	2,025	3.9%
Two or More Races	2,522	3.5%	529	2.5%	1,993	3.8%
Race Not Reported	3,819	5.2%	772	3.7%	3,047	5.9%

Marital Status	All Adults	
Separated	2,062	9.8%
Married	4,320	20.6%
Never Married	11,586	55.2%
Divorced	2,672	12.7%
Widowed	165	0.8%
Not Reported/Unidentifiable	180	0.9%

Citizenship Status	All Clients		All Adults		All Children	
U.S. Citizen	67,919	93.1%	18,381	87.6%	49,538	95.3%
Resident Noncitizen	4,861	6.7%	2,518	12.0%	2,343	4.5%
U.S. National²⁹	189	0.3%	86	0.4%	103	0.2%

²⁷ Clients are classified as adults or children based on their relationship to the head of household, rather than age.

²⁸ Includes clients not reporting whether or not they are of Hispanic or Latino origin.

²⁹ U.S. National: A national of the United States or a person who, though not a citizen of the United States, owes permanent allegiance to the United States (e.g., persons born in American Samoa or Swains Island).

Client Demographics³⁰, June 2020 Snapshot (continued)

Characteristic	All Clients		All Adults	
	# of Clients	% of Total Clients	# of Clients	% of Total Adults

Homeless Status	All Clients		All Adults	
Homeless ³¹	10,799	14.8%	4,796	22.9%

Education Status	All Adults	
Less than a High School Diploma	5,012	23.9%
High School Graduate or GED	9,897	47.2%
Some College or College Degree	5,858	27.9%
Not Reported/Unidentifiable	218	1.0%

Age	All Clients		All Adults	
< 1 Year Old	3,672	5.0%	N/A	
1 – 5 Years Old	16,001	21.9%		
6 – 10 Years Old	13,970	19.1%		
11 – 15 Years Old	13,072	17.9%		
16 – 17 Years Old	4,143	5.7%	13	0.1%
18 – 24 Years Old	4,686	6.4%	3,547	16.9%
25 – 34 Years Old	8,997	12.3%	8,997	42.9%
35 – 44 Years Old	6,265	8.6%	6,265	29.9%
45 – 54 Years Old	1,857	2.5%	1,857	8.8%
55 – 64 Years Old	287	0.4%	287	1.4%
65+ Years Old	19	<0.1%	19	0.1%
Average Age of Children	8.0 Years			
Average Age of Adults	33.1 Years			

Length of Stay ³²	
Average	27.4 Months
Median	17.0 Months

³⁰ Clients are classified as adults or children based on their relationship to the head of household, rather than age.

³¹ Homeless is defined as: homeless without housing, homeless with housing (staying temporarily with family or friends), emergency shelter, or domestic violence shelter.

³² Months on Assistance Since July 1997 (All Adults). Does not include child recipient months.

Child Demographics³³, June 2020 Snapshot

Characteristic	All Children		Children in Child-Only Cases	
	# of Clients	% of All Children	# of Clients	% of Children in Child-Only Cases
Total Clients	51,984	100.0%	20,306	100.0%

Gender	All Children		Children in Child-Only Cases	
	# of Clients	% of All Children	# of Clients	% of Children in Child-Only Cases
Female	25,861	49.7%	10,295	50.7%
Male	26,121	50.2%	10,011	49.3%
Unknown	2	<0.1%	0	0.0%

Ethnicity and Race	All Children		Children in Child-Only Cases	
	# of Clients	% of All Children	# of Clients	% of Children in Child-Only Cases
Hispanic or Latino	15,597	30.0%	8,145	40.1%
Not Hispanic or Latino³⁴	36,387	70.0%	12,161	59.9%
White	19,898	38.3%	7,045	34.7%
Black/African American	6,848	13.2%	1,942	9.6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2,576	5.0%	665	3.3%
American Indian/Alaska Native	2,025	3.9%	1,034	5.1%
Two or More Races	1,993	3.8%	556	2.7%
Race Not Reported	3,047	5.9%	919	4.5%

Citizenship Status	All Children		Children in Child-Only Cases	
	# of Clients	% of All Children	# of Clients	% of Children in Child-Only Cases
U.S. Citizen	49,538	95.3%	19,945	98.2%
Resident Noncitizen	2,343	4.5%	313	1.5%
U.S. National³⁵	103	0.2%	48	0.2%

Age	All Children		Children in Child-Only Cases	
	# of Clients	% of All Children	# of Clients	% of Children in Child-Only Cases
< 1 Year Old	3,672	7.1%	617	3.0%
1 – 5 Years Old	16,001	30.8%	4,448	21.9%
6 – 10 Years Old	13,970	26.9%	5,685	28.0%
11 – 15 Years Old	13,072	25.1%	6,609	32.5%
16 – 17 Years Old	4,130	7.9%	2,268	11.2%
18 – 24 Years Old	1,139	2.2%	679	3.3%
Average Age of Children	8.0 Years		9.6 Years	

³³ Clients are classified as adults or children based on their relationship to the head of household, rather than age.

³⁴ Includes clients not reporting whether or not they are of Hispanic or Latino origin.

³⁵ U.S. National: A national of the United States or a person who, though not a citizen of the United States, owes permanent allegiance to the United States (e.g., persons born in American Samoa or Swains Island).