

TANF/SFA/
WorkFirst

SFY

2021

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 2021.

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 under the federal Welfare Reform Act may be eligible for SFA. Adults in families receiving TANF/SFA participate in the WorkFirst Program, which helps participants resolve barriers and prepare for and find jobs.

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

Highlights

In SFY 2021, Washington state's TANF/SFA average monthly caseload increased by 13.5%, from 26,172 households in SFY 2020 to 29,701 households in SFY 2021. This is likely due to increased need, as families continued to struggle as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, related economic conditions, and school and child care limitations. Changes implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic may have played a role as well. See the COVID-19 Response section for additional details.

Caseload growth was primarily among households in which both adults and children received benefits. Child-only households comprised 39.0% of the total TANF/SFA caseload in SFY 2021, down from 45.6% in SFY 2020.

TECHNICAL NOTES

DATA SOURCES: Data for this chapter is based on the ESA Automated Client Eligibility System (ACES) database as of August 2021. Quarterly employment and earnings for WorkFirst participants is based on Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage data provided by the Employment Security Department (ESD).

DATA NOTES:

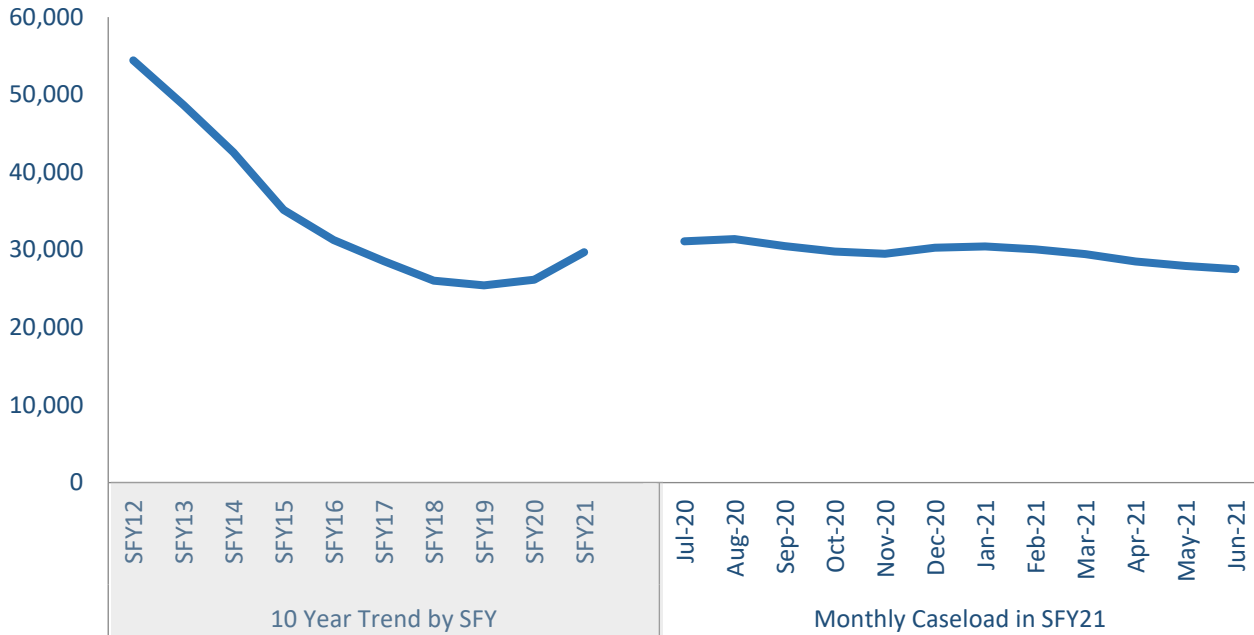
- Unless otherwise noted, both federally-funded TANF and state-funded SFA cases/clients are reported jointly in this section.
- WorkFirst clients are adult clients receiving TANF/SFA benefits. This can include teen parents.
- WorkFirst cases are those in which at least one adult is receiving TANF/SFA assistance.
- Percentages may not add up to expected totals due to rounding.
- All reports of 10-year caseload trends reflect the monthly average for each state fiscal year (SFY).

Selected TANF/SFA Program Overview, SFY 2020 and SFY 2021

	SFY 2020 (July 2019-June 2020)	SFY 2021 (July 2020-June 2021)	Change	
Average Number of Cases Per Month (Range)	26,172 (24,735 - 30,923)	29,701 (27,552 - 31,378)	13.5% (Increase)	↑
Average Number of Persons Per Month (Range)	58,892 (54,406 - 72,969)	69,672 (63,922 - 73,655)	18.3% (Increase)	↑
Average Number of Adults Per Month (Range)	16,146 (14,602 - 21,017)	20,385 (18,505 - 21,528)	26.3% (Increase)	↑
Average Number of Children Per Month (Range)	42,747 (39,768 - 51,984)	49,287 (45,417 - 52,127)	15.3% (Increase)	↑
State Population ¹	7,656,200	7,766,925	1.4% (Increase)	↑
Monthly Average Recipients as a Percent of State's Total Population	0.8%	0.9%	0.1% Point (Increase)	↑
Children as Percent of Recipients	72.6%	70.7%	-1.9% Point (Decrease)	↓
Average Persons Per Case	2.3	2.3	No Change	=
Average Children Per Case	1.6	1.7	0.1 Point (Increase)	↑
Average Children Per Adult	2.6	2.4	-0.2 Point (Decrease)	↓
Average Monthly Payment Per Case (Range) ²	\$448.25 (\$434.86 - \$460.90)	\$470.63 (\$467.80 - \$475.46)	5.0% (Increase)	↑

¹ Source: Office of Financial Management (OFM) population estimates² Payments not adjusted for refunds.

TANF/SFA Caseload, SFY 2012 – 2021³



SFY	Monthly Average Caseload	SFY	Monthly Average Caseload
SFY12	54,425	SFY17	28,555
SFY13	48,675	SFY18	26,030
SFY14	42,564	SFY19	25,422
SFY15	35,158	SFY20	26,172
SFY16	31,284	SFY21	29,701

SFY 2021	Total Caseload	Clients	Grant Expenditures	Average Payment Per Case
July	31,100	73,047	\$14,548,612	\$467.80
August	31,378	73,655	\$14,701,821	\$468.54
September	30,498	71,251	\$14,307,651	\$469.13
October	29,775	69,828	\$13,941,152	\$468.22
November	29,511	69,279	\$13,811,609	\$468.02
December	30,267	71,383	\$14,255,952	\$471.01
January	30,455	72,015	\$14,369,292	\$471.82
February	30,060	70,954	\$14,259,749	\$474.38
March	29,433	69,213	\$13,994,251	\$475.46
April	28,490	66,546	\$13,492,935	\$473.60
May	27,917	64,974	\$13,136,434	\$470.55
June	27,522	63,922	\$12,920,169	\$469.45
Mo. Avg.	29,701	69,672	\$13,978,302	\$470.63

³ 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. Pandemic related economic conditions, increased caregiving responsibilities due to school and child care closures, and policy changes combined to reverse the caseload downward trend. In response to the pandemic, DSHS temporarily suspended mandatory WorkFirst participation and associated sanctions in March 2020 the TANF time limit in April 2020 and these changes remained in effect through all of FY21.

TANF/SFA Caseload by Funding Type, SFY 2021

SFY 2021	Total	TANF Only		Mixed TANF & SFA ⁴		SFA Only	
	Caseload	Caseload	% of Total	Caseload	% of Total	Caseload	% of Total
July	31,100	30,141	96.9%	622	2.0%	337	1.1%
August	31,378	30,459	97.1%	591	1.9%	328	1.0%
September	30,498	29,652	97.2%	539	1.8%	307	1.0%
October	29,775	28,948	97.2%	518	1.7%	309	1.0%
November	29,511	28,681	97.2%	524	1.8%	306	1.0%
December	30,267	29,407	97.2%	554	1.8%	306	1.0%
January	30,455	29,548	97.0%	594	2.0%	313	1.0%
February	30,060	29,162	97.0%	589	2.0%	309	1.0%
March	29,433	28,533	96.9%	583	2.0%	317	1.1%
April	28,490	27,625	97.0%	545	1.9%	320	1.1%
May	27,917	27,059	96.9%	544	1.9%	314	1.1%
June	27,522	26,665	96.9%	552	2.0%	305	1.1%
Mo. Avg.	29,701	28,823	97.0%	563	1.9%	314	1.1%

SFY 2021	SFA Caseload	State	Federal	Average State	Total Average
		Expenditures on SFA Cases	Expenditures on SFA Cases ⁵	Expenditures Per Case	Expenditures Per Case
July	959	\$337,359	\$177,182	\$351.78	\$536.54
August	919	\$320,995	\$169,391	\$349.29	\$533.61
September	846	\$292,495	\$158,580	\$345.74	\$533.19
October	827	\$286,736	\$157,411	\$346.72	\$537.06
November	830	\$291,995	\$150,200	\$351.80	\$532.76
December	860	\$298,755	\$160,698	\$347.39	\$534.25
January	907	\$309,629	\$170,415	\$341.38	\$529.27
February	898	\$304,176	\$180,395	\$338.73	\$539.61
March	900	\$306,219	\$179,090	\$340.24	\$539.23
April	865	\$301,857	\$163,613	\$348.97	\$538.11
May	858	\$299,018	\$163,111	\$348.51	\$538.61
June	857	\$290,477	\$166,863	\$338.95	\$533.65
Mo. Avg.	877	\$303,309	\$166,412	\$345.85	\$535.60

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 2021 Snapshot

The following pages detail the TANF/SFA caseload, June 2021 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	8,488	30.8%	19,946	31.2%	8,466	30.8%	19,904	31.1%
Region 2 CSOs	8,657	31.5%	20,485	32.0%	8,560	31.1%	20,235	31.7%
Region 3 CSOs	10,371	37.7%	23,479	36.7%	10,491	38.1%	23,771	37.2%
CSCCs	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	N/A			
HCS	6	<0.1%	12	<0.1%	N/A			
Other	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	N/A			
Not Reported / Unidentifiable	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	<0.1%	12	<0.1%
State Total	27,522	100.0%	63,922	100.0%	27,522	100.0%	63,922	100.0%

Caseload by DSHS Region and CSO of Issuance and Residence, June 2021 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	179	0.7%	414	0.6%	179	0.7%	417	0.7%
COLFAX	112	0.4%	271	0.4%	110	0.4%	270	0.4%
COLVILLE	226	0.8%	516	0.8%	226	0.8%	516	0.8%
ELLENSBURG	119	0.4%	298	0.5%	118	0.4%	296	0.5%
GOLDENDALE	74	0.3%	196	0.3%	74	0.3%	196	0.3%
KENNEWICK	1,278	4.6%	3,124	4.9%	1,296	4.7%	3,185	5.0%
MOSES LAKE	644	2.3%	1,548	2.4%	648	2.4%	1,553	2.4%
NEWPORT	89	0.3%	176	0.3%	89	0.3%	176	0.3%
OKANOGAN	246	0.9%	524	0.8%	235	0.9%	504	0.8%
REPUBLIC	55	0.2%	131	0.2%	55	0.2%	131	0.2%
SPOKANE MAPLE	1,163	4.2%	2,743	4.3%	1,278	4.6%	2,985	4.7%
SPOKANE TRENT	1,662	6.0%	3,820	6.0%	1,535	5.6%	3,556	5.6%
SUNNYSIDE	360	1.3%	925	1.4%	334	1.2%	846	1.3%
TOPPENISH	462	1.7%	1,064	1.7%	461	1.7%	1,062	1.7%
WALLA WALLA	306	1.1%	747	1.2%	309	1.1%	754	1.2%
WENATCHEE	351	1.3%	784	1.2%	354	1.3%	784	1.2%
WHITE SALMON	38	0.1%	84	0.1%	40	0.1%	89	0.1%
YAKIMA	1,124	4.1%	2,581	4.0%	1,125	4.1%	2,584	4.0%
Region 1 Total	8,488	30.8%	19,946	31.2%	8,466	30.8%	19,904	31.1%

Caseload by DSHS Region and CSO of Issuance and Residence, June 2021 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	444	1.6%	1,037	1.6%	437	1.6%	1,029	1.6%
AUBURN	734	2.7%	1,716	2.7%	727	2.6%	1,698	2.7%
BELLINGHAM	701	2.5%	1,665	2.6%	694	2.5%	1,649	2.6%
BELLTOWN	163	0.6%	384	0.6%	161	0.6%	376	0.6%
CAPITOL HILL	249	0.9%	606	0.9%	246	0.9%	601	0.9%
EVERETT	759	2.8%	1,802	2.8%	752	2.7%	1,783	2.8%
FEDERAL WAY	498	1.8%	1,182	1.8%	491	1.8%	1,166	1.8%
KING EASTSIDE	646	2.3%	1,626	2.5%	627	2.3%	1,570	2.5%
KING NORTH	508	1.8%	1,227	1.9%	498	1.8%	1,189	1.9%
KING SOUTH	802	2.9%	1,962	3.1%	793	2.9%	1,945	3.0%
MT VERNON	441	1.6%	979	1.5%	429	1.6%	953	1.5%
OAK HARBOR	117	0.4%	248	0.4%	128	0.5%	274	0.4%
RAINIER	484	1.8%	1,148	1.8%	478	1.7%	1,131	1.8%
RENTON	525	1.9%	1,254	2.0%	520	1.9%	1,239	1.9%
SKY VALLEY	221	0.8%	486	0.8%	221	0.8%	487	0.8%
SMOKEY POINT	651	2.4%	1,454	2.3%	646	2.3%	1,442	2.3%
WHITE CENTER	714	2.6%	1,709	2.7%	712	2.6%	1,703	2.7%
Region 2 Total	8,657	31.5%	20,485	32.0%	8,560	31.1%	20,235	31.7%

Caseload by DSHS Region and CSO of Issuance and Residence, June 2021 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	468	1.7%	1,016	1.6%	475	1.7%	1,039	1.6%
BREMERTON	784	2.8%	1,701	2.7%	783	2.8%	1,700	2.7%
CHEHALIS	538	2.0%	1,173	1.8%	526	1.9%	1,137	1.8%
COLUMBIA RIVER	1,689	6.1%	3,970	6.2%	1,681	6.1%	3,950	6.2%
FORKS	100	0.4%	209	0.3%	99	0.4%	206	0.3%
KELSO	882	3.2%	2,019	3.2%	884	3.2%	2,018	3.2%
LAKEWOOD	1,154	4.2%	2,709	4.2%	1,150	4.2%	2,700	4.2%
LONG BEACH	59	0.2%	109	0.2%	60	0.2%	112	0.2%
OLYMPIA	1,095	4.0%	2,432	3.8%	1,248	4.5%	2,823	4.4%
PIERCE NORTH	697	2.5%	1,593	2.5%	693	2.5%	1,578	2.5%
PIERCE SOUTH	1,122	4.1%	2,654	4.2%	1,121	4.1%	2,646	4.1%
PORT ANGELES	186	0.7%	370	0.6%	187	0.7%	374	0.6%
PORT TOWNSEND	105	0.4%	230	0.4%	105	0.4%	230	0.4%
PUYALLUP VALLEY	1,067	3.9%	2,388	3.7%	1,058	3.8%	2,360	3.7%
SHELTON	326	1.2%	682	1.1%	323	1.2%	677	1.1%
SOUTH BEND	66	0.2%	145	0.2%	66	0.2%	145	0.2%
STEVENSON	33	0.1%	79	0.1%	32	0.1%	76	0.1%
Region 3 Total	10,371	37.7%	23,479	36.7%	10,491	38.1%	23,771	37.2%

TANF/SFA Caseload by Customer Service Contact Centers (CSCC) and Other Locations, June 2021 Snapshot

Customer Service Contact Centers (CSCC)	# of Cases	Office of Issuance		
		% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
CSCC CENTRAL SOUND	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CSCC NORTHEAST	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CSCC NORTHWEST	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CSCC SOUTH SOUND	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
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	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Other Locations	# of Cases	Office of Issuance		
		% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
DDA LTC SPECIALTY UNIT	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
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)	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other Locations Total	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

TANF/SFA Caseload by Home and Community Services Offices (HCS), June 2021 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	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%
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	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
TRI-CITIES HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
WALLA WALLA HCS	1	<0.1%	2	<0.1%
WENATCHEE HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
YAKIMA HCS	2	<0.1%	6	<0.1%
Region 1 Total	4	<0.1%	9	<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 2021 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	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%
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	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
VANCOUVER HCS	1	<0.1%	2	<0.1%
Region 3 Total	2	<0.1%	3	<0.1%

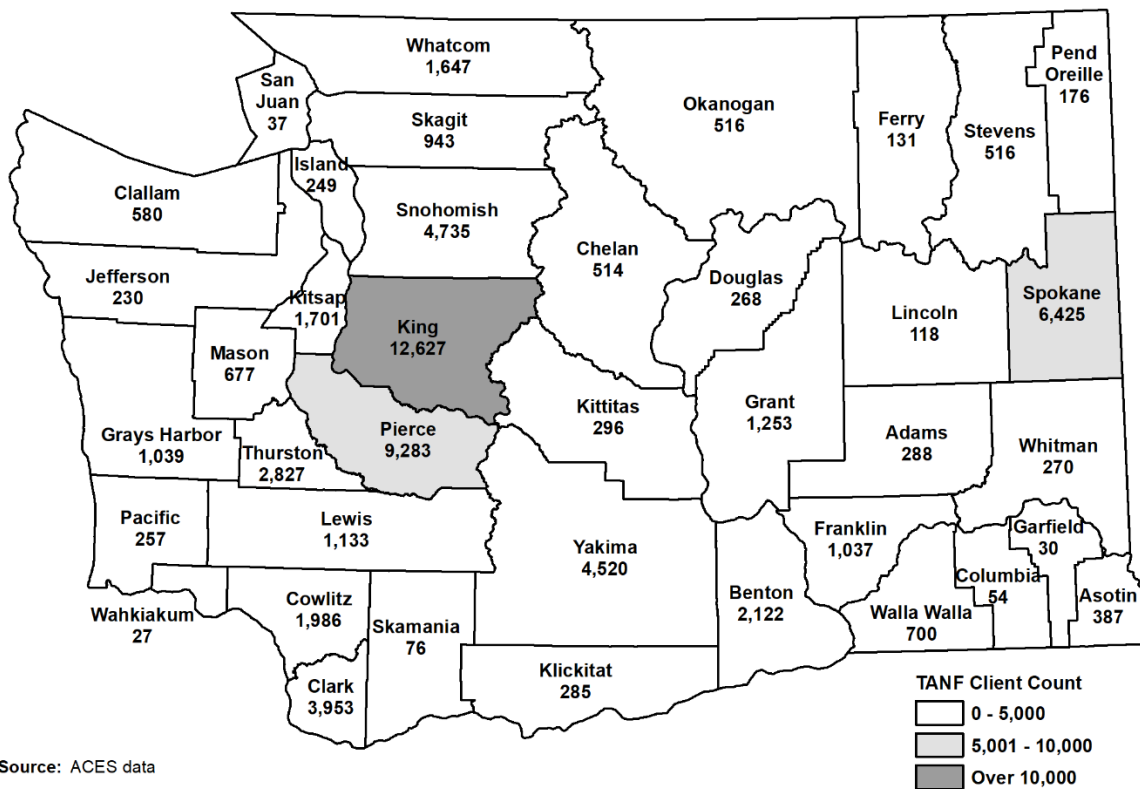
TANF/SFA Caseload by County of Residence, June 2021 Snapshot

County	# of Cases	% of Total	# of Clients	% of Total	County	# of Cases	% of Total	# of Clients	% of Total
Adams	108	0.4%	288	0.5%	Lewis	524	1.9%	1,133	1.8%
Asotin	165	0.6%	387	0.6%	Lincoln	47	0.2%	118	0.2%
Benton	876	3.2%	2,122	3.3%	Mason	323	1.2%	677	1.1%
Chelan	227	0.8%	514	0.8%	Okanogan	242	0.9%	516	0.8%
Clallam	286	1.0%	580	0.9%	Pacific	126	0.5%	257	0.4%
Clark	1,682	6.1%	3,953	6.2%	Pend Oreille	89	0.3%	176	0.3%
Columbia	26	0.1%	54	0.1%	Pierce	4,021	14.6%	9,283	14.5%
Cowlitz	866	3.1%	1,986	3.1%	San Juan	13	<0.1%	37	0.1%
Douglas	126	0.5%	268	0.4%	Skagit	426	1.5%	943	1.5%
Ferry	55	0.2%	131	0.2%	Skamania	32	0.1%	76	0.1%
Franklin	413	1.5%	1,037	1.6%	Snohomish	2,053	7.5%	4,735	7.4%
Garfield	14	0.1%	30	<0.1%	Spokane	2,767	10.1%	6,425	10.1%
Grant	533	1.9%	1,253	2.0%	Stevens	226	0.8%	516	0.8%
Grays Harbor	475	1.7%	1,039	1.6%	Thurston	1,250	4.5%	2,827	4.4%
Island	119	0.4%	249	0.4%	Wahkiakum	16	0.1%	27	<0.1%
Jefferson	105	0.4%	230	0.4%	Walla Walla	283	1.0%	700	1.1%
King	5,258	19.1%	12,627	19.8%	Whatcom	693	2.5%	1,647	2.6%
Kitsap	784	2.8%	1,701	2.7%	Whitman	110	0.4%	270	0.4%
Kittitas	118	0.4%	296	0.5%	Yakima	1,928	7.0%	4,520	7.1%
Klickitat	114	0.4%	285	0.4%	Not Reported/ Unidentifiable	3	<0.1%	9	<0.1%

	# of Cases	# of Clients
State Total	27,522	63,922

TANF/SFA Client Density Maps by Residential County, June 2021 Snapshot

Number of TANF Clients by Residential County in Washington State: June 2021

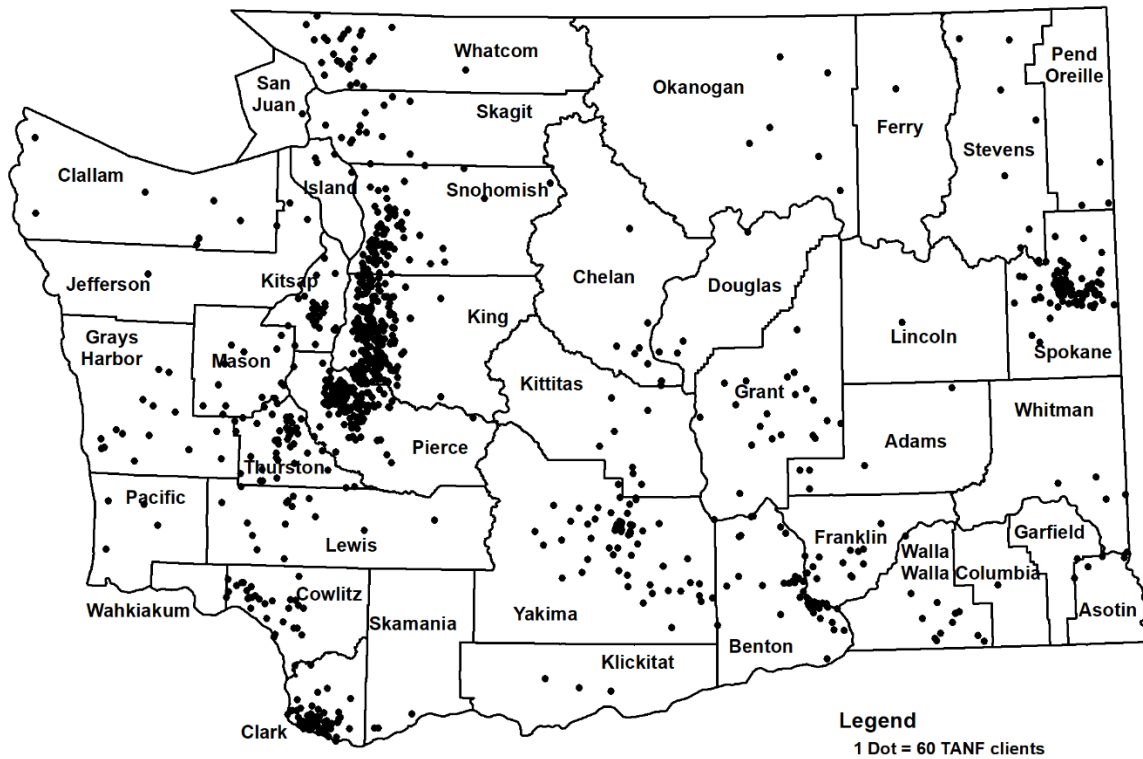


Source: ACES data

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/E-MAPS - Sep. 2021

Client Density Maps, June 2021 Snapshot (continued)

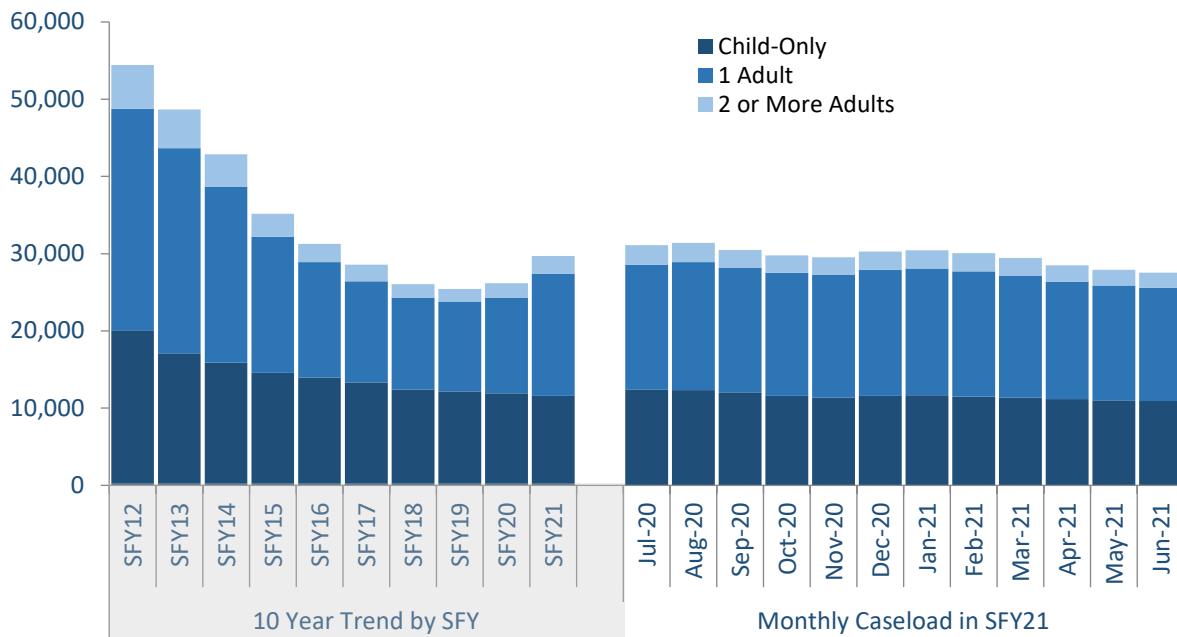
Number of TANF Clients by Density of Residential Zip Code in Washington State: June 2021



Source: ACES data

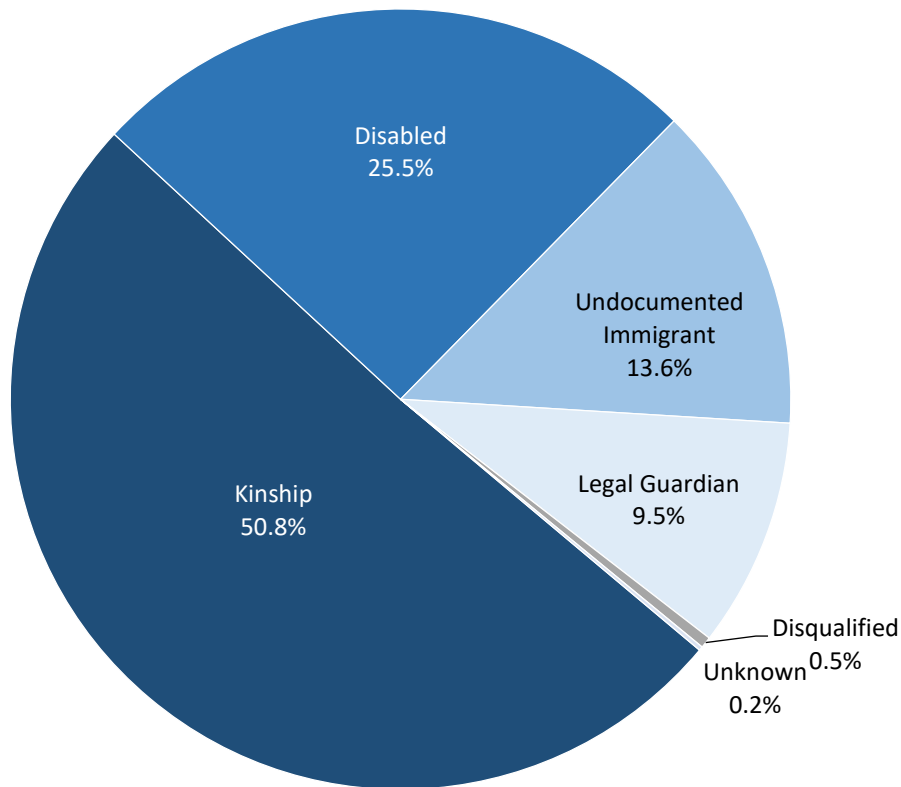
Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/E-MAPS - Sep. 2021

TANF/SFA Caseload by Case Type, SFY 2012 – 2021



SFY 2021	Total Caseload	Caseload By Case Type					
		Child-Only		1 Adult		2 or More Adults	
		Caseload	% of Total	Caseload	% of Total	Caseload	% of Total
July	31,100	12,372	39.8%	16,186	52.0%	2,542	8.2%
August	31,378	12,323	39.3%	16,579	52.8%	2,476	7.9%
September	30,498	12,047	39.5%	16,167	53.0%	2,284	7.5%
October	29,775	11,589	38.9%	15,954	53.6%	2,232	7.5%
November	29,511	11,384	38.6%	15,902	53.9%	2,225	7.5%
December	30,267	11,604	38.3%	16,286	53.8%	2,377	7.9%
January	30,455	11,674	38.3%	16,386	53.8%	2,395	7.9%
February	30,060	11,522	38.3%	16,179	53.8%	2,359	7.8%
March	29,433	11,360	38.6%	15,788	53.6%	2,285	7.8%
April	28,490	11,176	39.2%	15,191	53.3%	2,123	7.5%
May	27,917	11,018	39.5%	14,859	53.2%	2,040	7.3%
June	27,522	10,926	39.7%	14,683	53.4%	1,913	7.0%
Mo. Avg.	29,701	11,583	39.0%	15,847	53.4%	2,271	7.6%

TANF/SFA Child-Only Caseload by Major Caretaker Groups, June 2021 Snapshot⁶



Non-Parental Child-Only TANF

These are households caring for a minor child not their own.

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.

Guardian/*In Loco Parentis* – Sometimes, when a parent is unable to provide care, a relative or other concerned adult will seek 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.

Parental Child-Only TANF

These are households where the child lives in the home with their legal parent(s), but the parent(s) are not eligible for a TANF grant for themselves.

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

TANF/SFA Child-Only Caseload by Major Caretaker Groups, June 2021 Snapshot (continued)

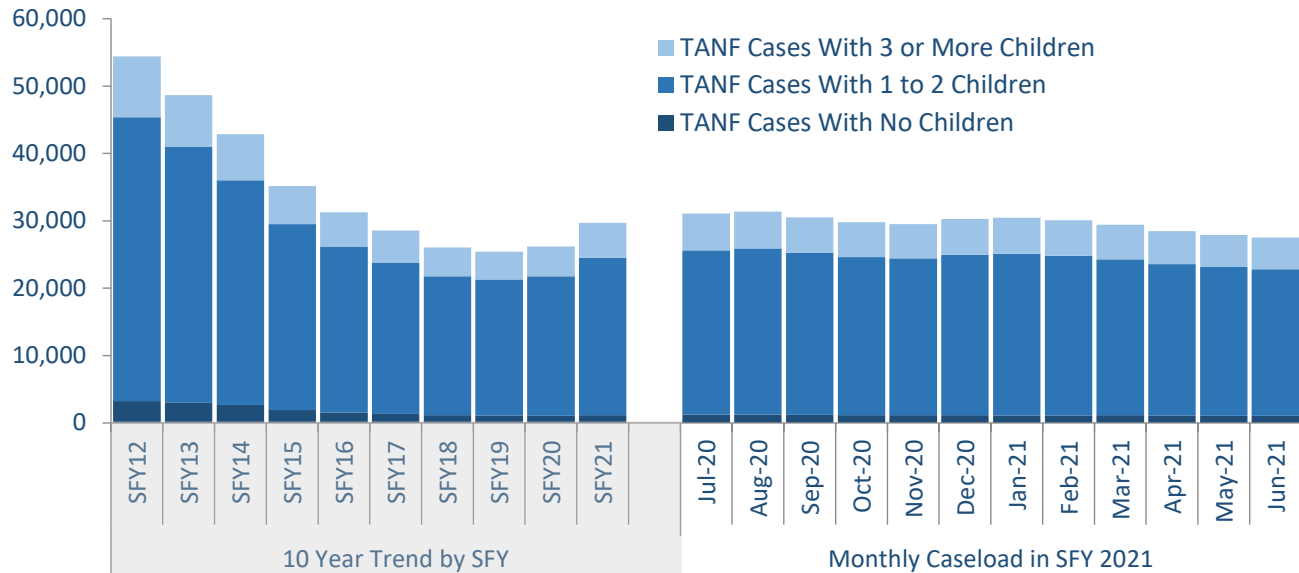
Undocumented Immigrant – Children in households headed by undocumented immigrants may be U.S. citizens and therefore eligible for TANF benefits if the household, including non-recipient adults, meets financial eligibility criteria. Undocumented immigrant parents may apply for TANF on behalf of their 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.

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.

Unknown (or 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.

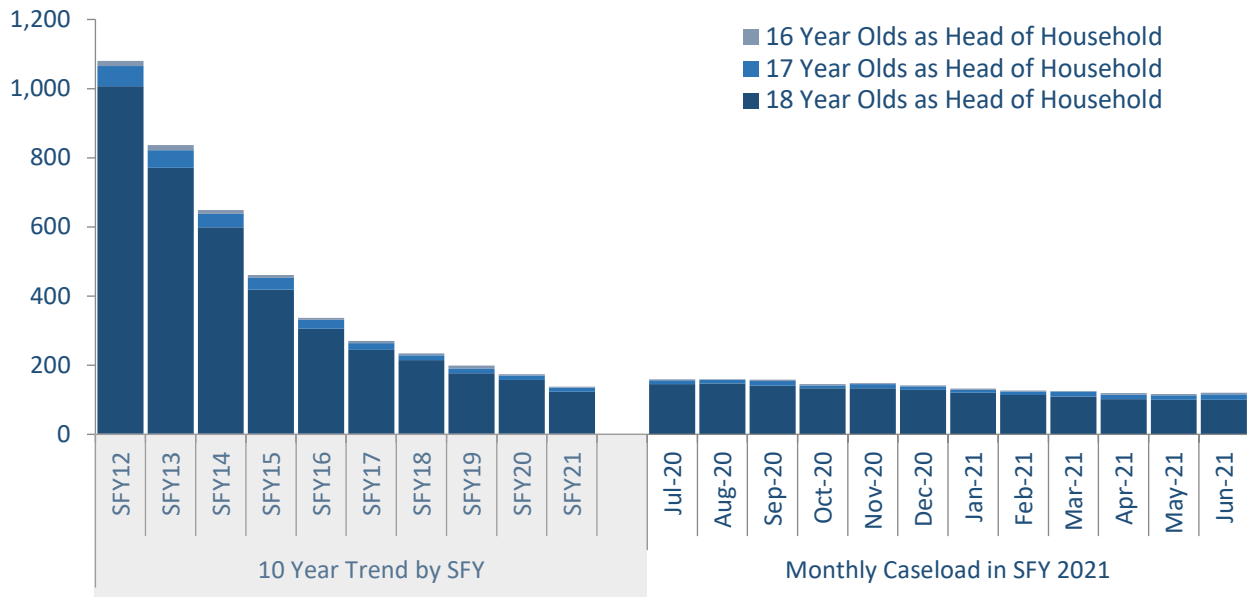
TANF/SFA Caseload by Number of Children⁷, SFY 2012 – 2021



Caseload by Number of Children							
SFY 2021	Total TANF/SFA Caseload	No Children		1 to 2 Children		3 or More Children	
		Caseload	% of Total	Caseload	% of Total	Caseload	% of Total
July	31,100	1,228	3.9%	24,395	78.4%	5,477	17.6%
August	31,378	1,243	4.0%	24,645	78.5%	5,490	17.5%
September	30,498	1,201	3.9%	24,036	78.8%	5,261	17.3%
October	29,775	1,160	3.9%	23,477	78.8%	5,138	17.3%
November	29,511	1,165	3.9%	23,247	78.8%	5,099	17.3%
December	30,267	1,176	3.9%	23,794	78.6%	5,297	17.5%
January	30,455	1,127	3.7%	23,962	78.7%	5,366	17.6%
February	30,060	1,130	3.8%	23,672	78.7%	5,258	17.5%
March	29,433	1,144	3.9%	23,160	78.7%	5,129	17.4%
April	28,490	1,103	3.9%	22,480	78.9%	4,907	17.2%
May	27,917	1,076	3.9%	22,084	79.1%	4,757	17.0%
June	27,522	1,078	3.9%	21,715	78.9%	4,729	17.2%
Mo. Avg.	29,701	1,153	3.9%	23,389	78.7%	5,159	17.4%

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

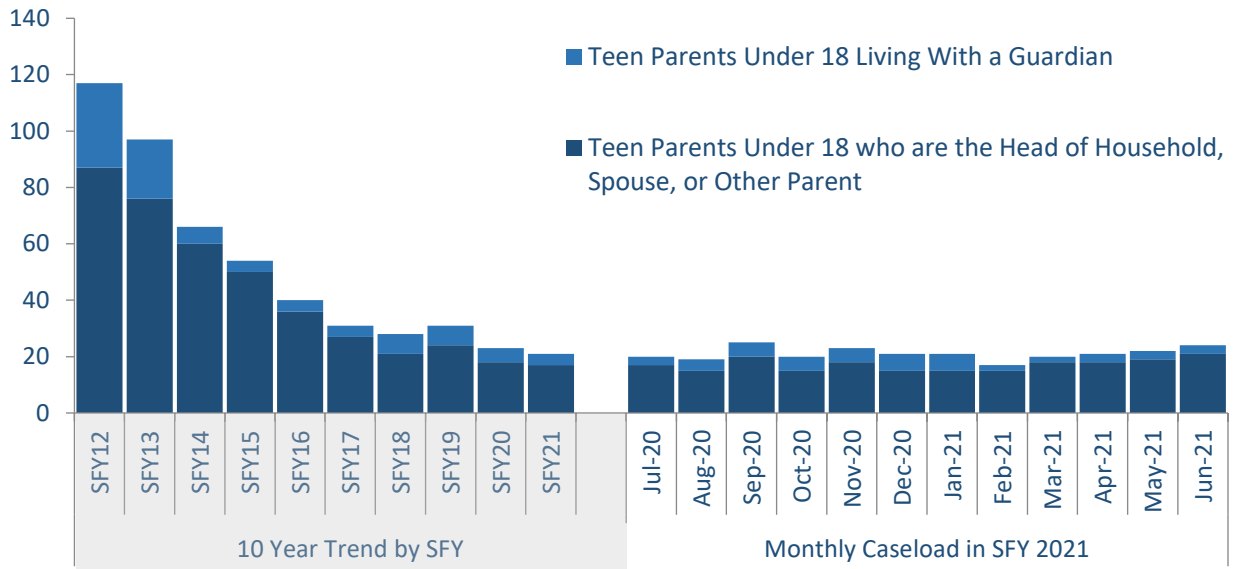
TANF/SFA Teen Head of Household (HOH), SFY 2012 – 2021



Teen Head of Households ⁸							
SFY 2021	Total TANF/SFA 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	159	3	1.9%	11	6.9%	145	91.2%
August	159	2	1.3%	10	6.3%	147	92.5%
September	158	3	1.9%	14	8.9%	141	89.2%
October	145	3	2.1%	9	6.2%	133	91.7%
November	148	3	2.0%	12	8.1%	133	89.9%
December	142	3	2.1%	10	7.0%	129	90.8%
January	132	3	2.3%	9	6.8%	120	90.9%
February	127	3	2.4%	10	7.9%	114	89.8%
March	125	1	0.8%	15	12.0%	109	87.2%
April	119	4	3.4%	13	10.9%	102	85.7%
May	117	4	3.4%	13	11.1%	100	85.5%
June	120	4	3.3%	16	13.3%	100	83.3%
Mo. Avg.	138	3	2.2%	12	8.7%	123	89.1%

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

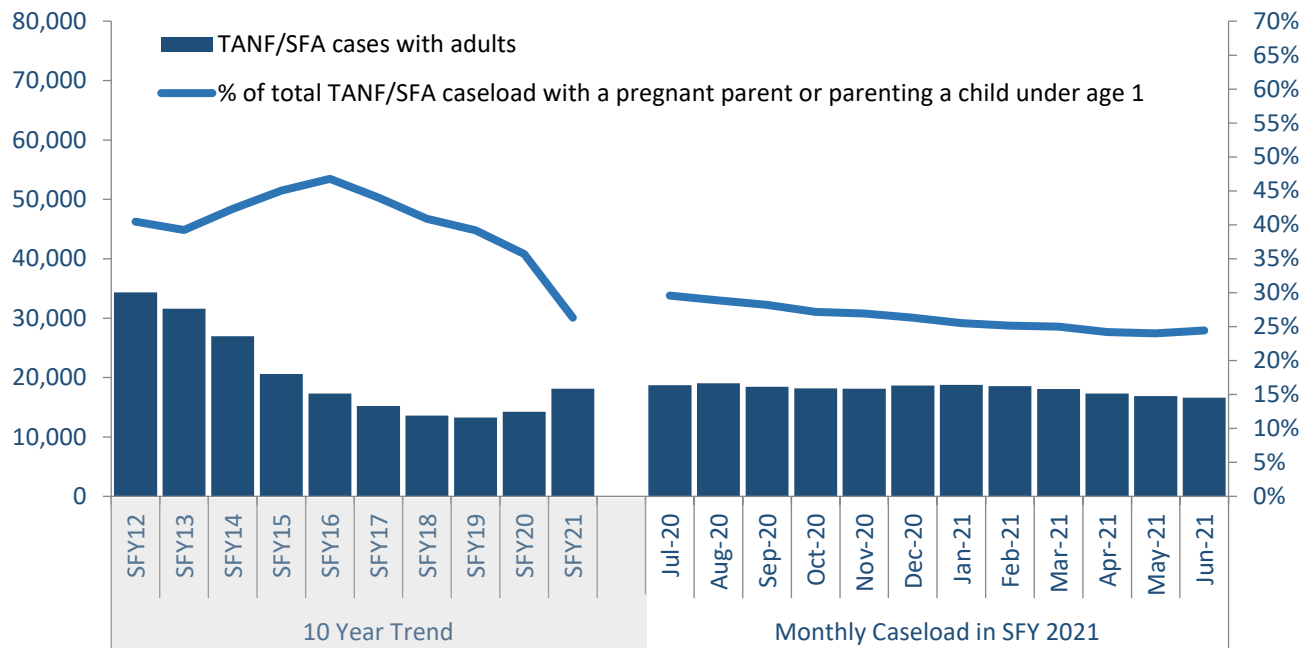
TANF/SFA Teen Parents under Age 18, SFY 2012 – 2021



Teen Parents Under Age 18 ⁹					
SFY 2021	Total Clients	Living with a Legal Guardian		Head of Household, Spouse or Other Parent	
		# of Clients	% of Total	# of Clients	% of Total
July	20	3	15.0%	17	85.0%
August	19	4	21.1%	15	78.9%
September	25	5	20.0%	20	80.0%
October	20	5	25.0%	15	75.0%
November	23	5	21.7%	18	78.3%
December	21	6	28.6%	15	71.4%
January	21	6	28.6%	15	71.4%
February	17	2	11.8%	15	88.2%
March	20	2	10.0%	18	90.0%
April	21	3	14.3%	18	85.7%
May	22	3	13.6%	19	86.4%
June	24	3	12.5%	21	87.5%
Mo. Avg.	21	4	19.0%	17	81.0%

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.

TANF/SFA Adult Caseload with Pregnant Individuals & Children Under Age 1, SFY 2012 – 2021



SFY 2021	Total Adult Caseload ¹⁰	Pregnant ¹¹		0 – 3 Months Old		4 – 12 Months Old	
		Caseload	% of Total	Caseload	% of Total	Caseload	% of Total
July	18,728	1,908	10.2%	1,218	6.5%	2,413	12.9%
August	19,055	1,917	10.1%	1,158	6.1%	2,423	12.7%
September	18,451	1,799	9.8%	1,117	6.1%	2,285	12.4%
October	18,186	1,662	9.1%	1,078	5.9%	2,203	12.1%
November	18,127	1,668	9.2%	1,017	5.6%	2,197	12.1%
December	18,663	1,683	9.0%	1,000	5.4%	2,231	12.0%
January	18,781	1,567	8.3%	987	5.3%	2,238	11.9%
February	18,538	1,566	8.4%	951	5.1%	2,140	11.5%
March	18,073	1,489	8.2%	976	5.4%	2,055	11.4%
April	17,314	1,387	8.0%	906	5.2%	1,901	11.0%
May	16,899	1,393	8.2%	851	5.0%	1,814	10.7%
June	16,596	1,452	8.7%	812	4.9%	1,794	10.8%
Mo. Avg.	18,118	1,624	9.0%	1,006	5.6%	2,141	11.8%

¹⁰ Cases are unduplicated across the sub-groups and are counted using the following rule of hierarchy if the case has individuals belonging to more than one group: pregnant, 0-3 months old, and 4-12 months old.

¹¹ Pregnancy status was identified in ACES.

TANF/SFA WorkFirst Clients Participating in WorkFirst Activities, SFY 2021

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 and related non-compliance sanctions effective March 16, 2020. Adult TANF recipients were encouraged to participate in WorkFirst activities voluntarily to the extent that public health conditions permitted, activities were available virtually or in-person, and increased caregiving responsibilities permitted.

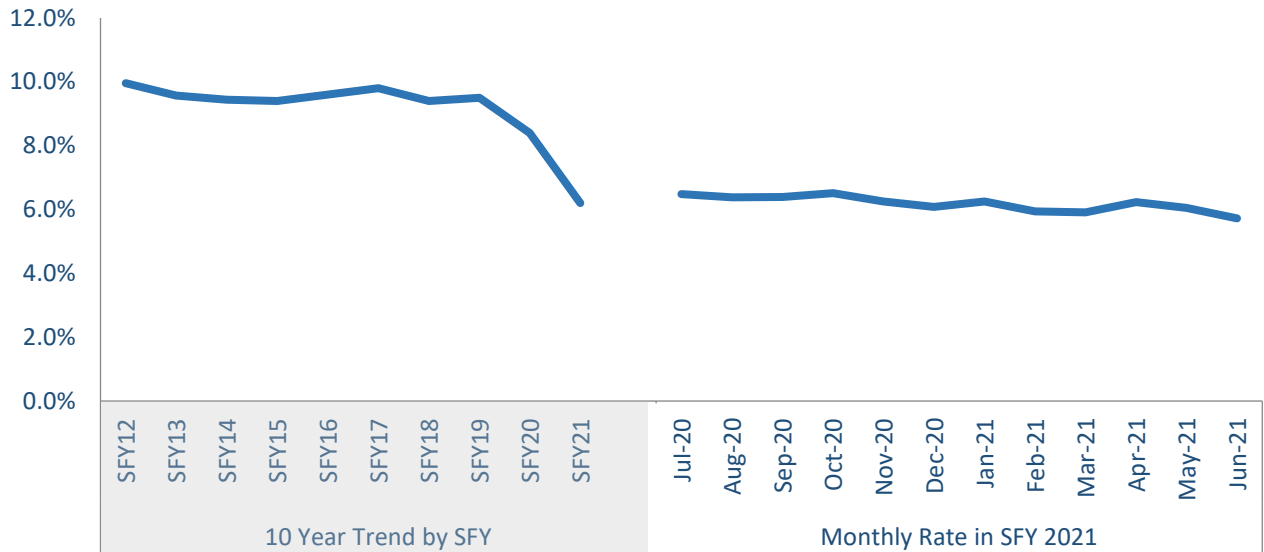
SFY 2021	Total WorkFirst Clients Receiving TANF/SFA	Total WorkFirst Clients Exempted from Participation ¹⁴	WorkFirst Clients Normally Required to Participate (Non-Exempt)	# Non-Exempt WorkFirst Clients Participating in WorkFirst Activities	% of Non-Exempt WorkFirst Clients Participating in WorkFirst Activities
July	21,262	3,413	17,849	4,502	25.2%
August	21,528	3,170	18,358	4,281	23.3%
September	20,729	2,831	17,898	4,147	23.2%
October	20,417	2,545	17,872	4,186	23.4%
November	20,348	2,300	18,048	4,026	22.3%
December	21,034	2,251	18,783	4,244	22.6%
January	21,174	2,166	19,008	4,188	22.0%
February	20,897	1,989	18,908	4,121	21.8%
March	20,358	1,906	18,452	4,073	22.1%
April	19,436	1,741	17,695	3,842	21.7%
May	18,935	1,651	17,284	3,831	22.2%
June	18,505	1,560	16,945	3,795	22.4%
Mo. Avg.	20,385	2,294	18,092	4,103	22.7%

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. Effective March 16, 2020, DSHS temporarily suspended the WorkFirst mandatory participation requirements, including sanction-related penalties.

¹⁴ TANF/SFA adults are required to participate in the WorkFirst program unless they meet one or more of the following exemption criteria: 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, 2020, the Department temporarily suspended the WorkFirst participation requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

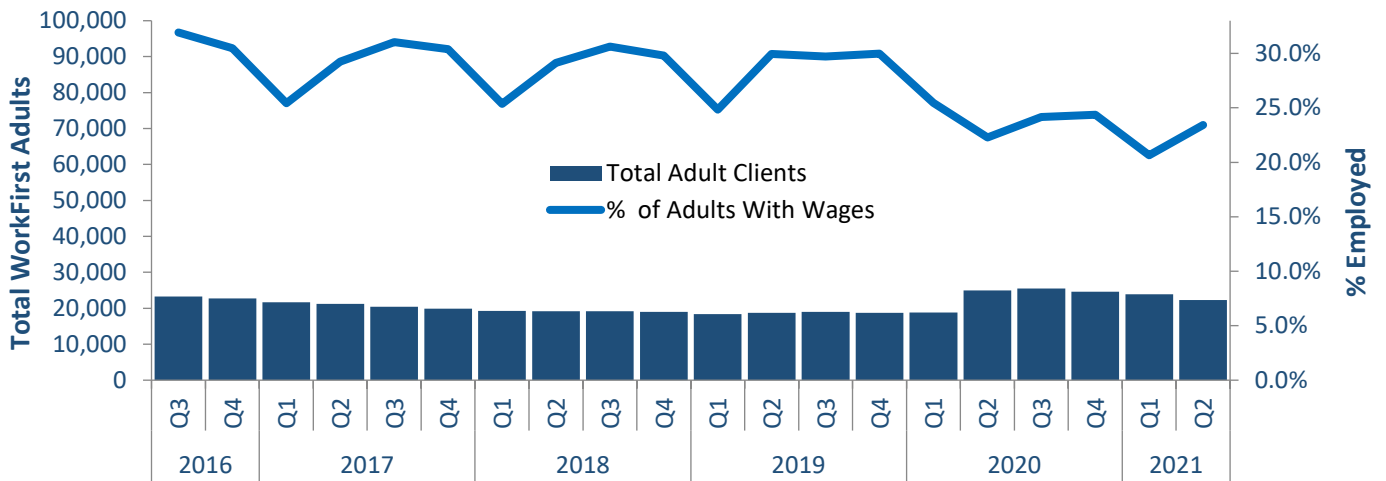
WorkFirst Client¹⁵ Employment Rates, SFY 2012 – 2021



SFY 2021	# of WorkFirst Clients	# Employed (Earned Income >= \$5.00)	% Employed (Earned Income >= \$5.00)	Avg. Monthly Hours Worked (Among those Employed)
July	21,262	1,378	6.5%	55.0
August	21,528	1,374	6.4%	55.0
September	20,729	1,325	6.4%	56.0
October	20,417	1,330	6.5%	55.0
November	20,348	1,272	6.3%	53.0
December	21,034	1,280	6.1%	53.0
January	21,174	1,324	6.3%	56.0
February	20,897	1,242	5.9%	54.0
March	20,358	1,203	5.9%	55.0
April	19,436	1,211	6.2%	59.0
May	18,935	1,145	6.0%	59.0
June	18,505	1,059	5.7%	56.0
Mo. Avg.	20,385	1,262	6.2%	55.5

¹⁵Employment 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 Clients Receiving Quarterly Wages¹⁶, July 2016 – June 2021



Quarter	Total Adults	Adults with Wages ¹⁷		Average Quarterly Wages ¹⁸	Average Quarterly Hourly Wages ¹⁹
		Number	Percent		
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	4,800	25.4%	\$2,800	\$16.33
2020Q2	24,930	5,558	22.3%	\$2,659	\$17.33
2020Q3	25,534	6,166	24.1%	\$3,411	\$16.98
2020Q4	24,601	5,991	24.4%	\$3,535	\$17.17
2021Q1	23,890	4,933	20.6%	\$3,224	\$17.36
2021Q2	22,277	5,219	23.4%	\$3,412	\$17.37

¹⁶ Quarterly wage information is based on the Employment Security Department's (ESD) Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage data.

¹⁷ Adults with wages are those adult clients with wages who earned total wages of more than \$5.00 in a quarter.

¹⁸ Average quarterly wages per person for those adult clients with wages in a quarter.

¹⁹ Jobs without hours or with 1,000 or more hours are excluded. Only includes jobs with an hourly wage rate between \$5 and \$50.

TANF/SFA Caseload by Primary Language, June 2021 Snapshot

Primary Language ²⁰	# of Cases	Percent of Cases	Percentage of Non-English Cases
English Language Cases			
English	24,930	90.6%	N/A
Large Print	313	1.1%	N/A
Sign Language	3	<0.1%	N/A
Braille	3	<0.1%	N/A
Total English Languages	25,249	91.7%	N/A
Non-English Language Cases			
Spanish	1,714	6.2%	75.4%
Arabic	131	0.5%	5.8%
Russian	93	0.3%	4.1%
Somali	41	0.1%	1.8%
Other Language	39	0.1%	1.7%
Tigrigna	38	0.1%	1.7%
Vietnamese	30	0.1%	1.3%
Dari	24	0.1%	1.1%
Ukrainian	23	0.1%	1.0%
Farsi	20	0.1%	0.9%
Amharic	16	0.1%	0.7%
Trukese	14	0.1%	0.6%
French	14	0.1%	0.6%
Swahili	11	<0.1%	0.5%
Other Languages²¹	65	0.2%	2.9%
Total Non-English Languages	2,273	8.3%	100.0%
Total	27,522	100.0%	

²⁰ Primary Language is based on the language indicated by the head of household during eligibility determination. It is used for letters, notices, and other written communications.

²¹ These are non-English languages with fewer than 10 households each.

TANF/SFA Client Demographics²², June 2021 Snapshot

Characteristic	<u>All Clients</u>		<u>All Adults</u>		<u>All Children</u>	
	# of Clients	% of Total Clients	# of Clients	% of Total Adults	# of Clients	% of Total Children
Total Clients	63,922	100.0%	18,505	100.0%	45,417	100.0%

Gender	<u>All Clients</u>		<u>All Adults</u>		<u>All Children</u>	
Female	37,746	59.1%	15,099	81.6%	22,647	49.9%
Male	26,176	40.9%	3,406	18.4%	22,770	50.1%
Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Ethnicity and Race	<u>All Clients</u>		<u>All Adults</u>		<u>All Children</u>	
Hispanic or Latino	16,398	25.7%	3,064	16.6%	13,334	29.4%
Not Hispanic or Latino²³	47,524	74.3%	15,441	83.4%	32,083	70.6%
White	27,870	43.6%	9,946	53.7%	17,924	39.5%
Black/African American	8,467	13.2%	2,554	13.8%	5,913	13.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3,358	5.3%	1,145	6.2%	2,213	4.9%
American Indian/Alaska Native	2,903	4.5%	780	4.2%	2,123	4.7%
Two or More Races	2,180	3.4%	462	2.5%	1,718	3.8%
Race Not Reported	2,746	4.3%	554	3.0%	2,192	4.8%

Marital Status	<u>All Adults</u>	
Separated	1,952	10.5%
Married	3,054	16.5%
Never Married	10,801	58.4%
Divorced	2,432	13.1%
Widowed	165	0.9%
Not Reported/Unidentifiable	101	0.5%

Citizenship Status	<u>All Clients</u>		<u>All Adults</u>		<u>All Children</u>	
U.S. Citizen	60,848	95.2%	16,853	91.1%	43,995	96.9%
Resident Noncitizen	2,903	4.5%	1,583	8.6%	1,320	2.9%
U.S. National²⁴	171	0.3%	69	0.4%	102	0.2%

²² Clients are classified as adults or children based on their relationship to the head of household, rather than age.

²³ Includes clients not reporting whether or not they are of Hispanic or Latino origin.

²⁴ 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).

TANF/SFA Client Demographics²⁵, June 2021 Snapshot (continued)

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

Homeless Status	All Clients		All Adults	
Homeless ²⁶	7,017	11.0%	3,050	16.5%

Education Status	All Clients		All Adults	
Less than a High School Diploma			4,690	25.3%
High School Graduate or GED			8,657	46.8%
Some College or College Degree			5,007	27.1%
Not Reported/Unidentifiable			151	0.8%

Age	All Clients		All Adults	
< 1 Year Old	2,631	4.1%	N/A	
1 – 5 Years Old	13,556	21.2%		
6 – 10 Years Old	12,248	19.2%		
11 – 15 Years Old	11,911	18.6%		
16 – 17 Years Old	4,043	6.3%	20	0.1%
18 – 24 Years Old	4,004	6.3%	2,959	16.0%
25 – 34 Years Old	7,826	12.2%	7,826	42.3%
35 – 44 Years Old	5,686	8.9%	5,686	30.7%
45 – 54 Years Old	1,739	2.7%	1,739	9.4%
55 – 64 Years Old	253	0.4%	253	1.4%
65+ Years Old	22	<0.1%	22	0.1%
Average Age of Children	8.3 Years			
Average Age of Adults	33.4 Years			

Length of Stay ²⁷	
Average	33.2 Months
Median	23.0 Months

²⁵ Clients are classified as adults or children based on their relationship to the head of household, rather than age.

²⁶ Homeless is defined (based on the self-reported living arrangement code in ACES) as: homeless without housing, homeless with housing (staying temporarily with family or friends—commonly referred to as "couch surfing"), emergency shelter, or domestic violence shelter.

²⁷ Months on Assistance Since July 1997 (All Adults). Does not include child recipient months.

TANF/SFA Child Demographics²⁸, June 2021 Snapshot

Characteristic	All Children		Children in Child-Only Cases	
	# of Clients	% of All Children	# of Clients	% of Children in Child-Only Cases
Total Clients	45,417	100.0%	17,314	100.0%

Gender	All Children		Children in Child-Only Cases	
	# of Clients	% of All Children	# of Clients	% of Children in Child-Only Cases
Female	22,647	49.9%	8,782	50.7%
Male	22,770	50.1%	8,532	49.3%
Unknown	0	0.0%	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	13,334	29.4%	6,420	37.1%
Not Hispanic or Latino²⁹	32,083	70.6%	10,894	62.9%
White	17,924	39.5%	6,298	36.4%
Black/African American	5,913	13.0%	1,754	10.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2,213	4.9%	616	3.6%
American Indian/Alaska Native	2,123	4.7%	992	5.7%
Two or More Races	1,718	3.8%	572	3.3%
Race Not Reported	2,192	4.8%	662	3.8%

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	43,995	96.9%	17,013	98.3%
Resident Noncitizen	1,320	2.9%	256	1.5%
U.S. National³⁰	102	0.2%	45	0.3%

Age	All Children		Children in Child-Only Cases	
	# of Clients	% of All Children	# of Clients	% of Children in Child-Only Cases
< 1 Year Old	2,631	5.8%	475	2.7%
1 – 5 Years Old	13,556	29.8%	3,569	20.6%
6 – 10 Years Old	12,248	27.0%	4,715	27.2%
11 – 15 Years Old	11,911	26.2%	5,771	33.3%
16 – 17 Years Old	4,023	8.9%	2,172	12.5%
18 – 24 Years Old	1,048	2.3%	612	3.5%
Average Age of Children	8.0 Years		9.9 Years	

²⁸ Clients are classified as adults or children based on their relationship to the head of household, rather than age.

²⁹ Includes clients not reporting whether or not they are of Hispanic or Latino origin.

³⁰ 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).