

WorkFirst Performance Chartbook
Including Program Counts and Performance Measures
February 2023

OFM Forecasting and Research Division

To find this report on the web, go to:

<https://workfirst.wa.gov/performance> and click on "WorkFirst Performance Chartbook"

This February 2023 edition is the final update in this format. See also:

https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/ESA/briefing-manual/2022TANF_WorkFirst.pdf

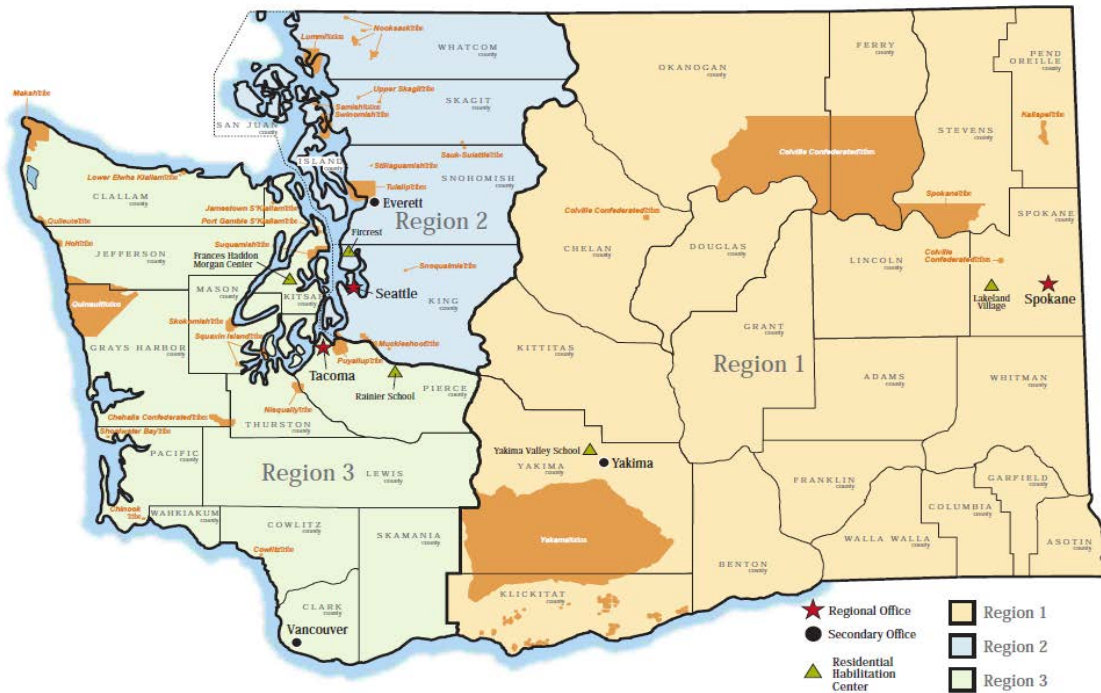
| | | |
|---|--------------|--------|
| Program Counts - Descriptive Data Updated Monthly | Data Through | Page |
| 1 - Caseload Forecast | Feb-23 | 1 |
| 1a Caseload by Type (1-Parent, 2-Parent, and Child Only) | Mar-23 | 3 |
| 1b WorkFirst Caseload by Region | Mar-23 | 5 |
| 1c TANF 61 Month Cases | Mar-23 | 7 |
| 1d WorkFirst Length of Stay (LOS) | Jan-23 | 9 |
| 1e Count of WorkFirst Adults | Feb-23 | 11 |
| 1f Limited English Proficiency Cases and Adults | Mar-23 | 13 |
| 1g Adults by Age of Youngest Child | Feb-23 | 15 |
| 2 - Diversion Cash Assistance Success Rate | Mar-23 | 17 |
| 3 - Working Connections Child Care | Jan-23 | 19 |
| 3a Type of TANF Cases Using Working Connections Child Care | Jan-23 | 21 |
| 3b Working Connections Child Care Caseload by Subsidy Region | Jan-23 | 23 |
| 3c Working Connections Child Care Children by Age | Jan-23 | 25 |
| 3d Working Connections Child Care Children by Type of Provider | Jan-23 | 27 |
| 4 - Comprehensive Evaluation | | |
| Counts 4a through 4f provided counts of characteristics and referral pathway assignments from Comprehensive Evaluations through July 2014. A new Comprehensive Evaluation format was implemented on that date. While improving the data available to case managers, complete evaluation data are no longer available to the DSHS Data Warehouse and are no longer available to prepare these reports. Copies of the last report are available on request. | | |
| 5- Enrollment Counts for WorkFirst Activities | | |
| 5a Enrollment by Partner Agency | Feb-23 | 29 |
| 5b Use of Job Search | Feb-23 | 31 |
| 5c Use of Vocational and Postsecondary Education | Feb-23 | 33 |
| 5d Use of Paid and Unpaid Work Programs including Voluntary Community Service | | 35 |
| 5e Use of Basic Education, GED Preparation, or High School | Feb-23 | 37 |
| 5f Use of Referral Components | Feb-23 | 39 |
| 5g Use of Infant Exemption and Work Suspension Components | Feb-23 | 41 |
| 5h Use of Deferral, Exemption and Barrier Components not Related to Child Age | | 43 |
| 5i Use of Non-Compliance and Processing Good Cause Components | Feb-23 | 45 |
| Performance Measures | | |
| Targeted Measures -- Updated Monthly | | |
| 1 - Work Participation Rate | Feb-23 | 47 |
| 1a All Family Work Participation Rate | Feb-23 | 47 |
| 1b Two Parent Work Participation Rate | Feb-23 | 49 |
| 2 - Exit for Increased Income, Earnings or at Customer Request - Monthly | Dec-22 | 51 |
| 3 - Exit to Employment - Updated Quarterly | Q3 2022 | 53 |
| Employment Rates After WorkFirst Services - Updated Quarterly | Q4 2021 | 55 |
| 4 - ESD Job Search Employment | Q4 2021 | 57 |
| 5 - Vocational and Postsecondary Education Employment | Q4 2021 | 58 |
| 6 - Paid Work Preparation Employment | Q4 2021 | 59 |
| 7 - Limited English Program Job Search Employment | Q4 2021 | 60 |
| Driver Measures -- Updated Quarterly | | |
| Measures 8 to 10, on Alcohol/Substance Abuse, Mental Health Needs, Domestic Violence addressed in the Plan cannot be calculated due to changes in the Comprehensive Evaluation implemented in July 2014. Copies of the last reports are available on request. See Measures #24 and #25 for related information. Measure 11 Housing Stability addressed in the Plan appears to be misleading, and has also been dropped. | | |
| 12 - Engagement; High School/GED | Q4 2022 | 61 |
| 13 - Engagement: English as a Second Language | Q4 2022 | 62 |

Click on an item to move to that page.

| Performance Measures (Continued) | | Page |
|--|---------------------------|--------|
| Barometer Measures -- Updated Quarterly or Annually | | |
| 14 - Return to TANF after Exit | Q1 2022 | 63 |
| 15 - TANF Children Homeless or at Risk | Q4 2022 | 64 |
| 16 - TANF Children using WCCC Child Care by Modality | Q4 2022 | 65 |
| 17 - Stability of Child Care Placement by Provider | Q3 2022 | 66 |
| 18 - Stability in Child Care Centers | Q3 2022 | 67 |
| 19 - Stability in Licensed Family Homes | Q3 2022 | 67 |
| 20 - Stability in License Exempt Care | Q3 2022 | 67 |
| 21 - Substance Abuse Disorder Treatment Received (Youth) | FY 2021 | 68 |
| 22 - Mental Health Treatment Received (Youth) | FY 2021 | 69 |
| 23 - TANF Adults Homeless or at Risk | Q4 2022 | 70 |
| 24 - Substance Abuse Disorder Treatment Received (Adults) | FY 2021 | 71 |
| 25 - Mental Health Treatment Received (Adults) | FY 2021 | 72 |
| 26 - TANF Families Receiving Concurrent Benefits | FY 2022 | 73 |
| 27 - Non-Custodial Child Support | Q1 2023 | 74 |
| 28 - Education Pathway | Q4 2022 | 75 |
| 29 - Basic Education Pathway | Q4 2022 | 76 |
| 30 - Postsecondary Education Pathway | Q4 2022 | 77 |
| 31 - Unpaid Work Preparation Pathway | Q4 2022 | 78 |
| 32 - Employment Search Pathway (ESD Job Search) | Q4 2022 | 79 |
| 33 - Paid Work Preparation Pathway (Commerce) | Q4 2022 | 80 |
| 34 - WorkFirst Children and Youth Currently Enrolled in School | Academic Year 2019-20 | 81 |
| 35 - WorkFirst Children and Youth Complete High School on Time | Academic Year 2019-20 | 82 |
| 36 - WorkFirst Children and Youth Progressing at Grade Level | Academic Year 2019-20 | 83 |
| Median Hourly Wage Rate After Exiting Services | | |
| 37 - ESD Job Search | Q4 2021 | 84 |
| 38 - Vocational and Postsecondary Education | Q4 2021 | 85 |
| 39 - Paid Work Preparation | Q4 2021 | 86 |
| 40 - Limited English Program Job Search | Q4 2021 | 87 |
| Median Quarterly Earnings After Exiting Services | | |
| 41 - ESD Job Search | Q4 2021 | 88 |
| 42 - Vocational and Postsecondary Education | Q4 2021 | 89 |
| 43 - Paid Work Preparation | Q4 2021 | 90 |
| 44 - Limited English Program Job Search | Q4 2021 | 91 |
| WorkFirst Adults with Hours Qualifying for Unemployment Insurance Benefits | | |
| 45 - ESD Job Search | Q3 2021 | 92 |
| 46 - Vocational and Postsecondary Education | Q3 2021 | 93 |
| 47 - Paid Work Preparation | Q3 2021 | 94 |
| 48 - Limited English Program Job Search | Q3 2021 | 95 |
| 49 - Adults Attaining High School Completion at Colleges | Academic Year 2021-22 | 96 |
| 50 - Adults Attaining High School Equivalency | Academic Year 2021-22 | 97 |
| 51 - Adults in ESL or ABE with Measurable Gains | Academic Year 2021-22 | 98 |
| 52 - Adults in ESL or ABE who Transition to Training | Academic Year 2021-22 | 99 |
| 53 - Adults in Workforce Education with Measurable Gains | Academic Year 2021-22 | 100 |
| 54 - Adults Earning Certificates, Degrees, Apprenticeship | Academic Year 2021-22 | 101 |

Click on an item to move to that page.

DSHS Regional Map

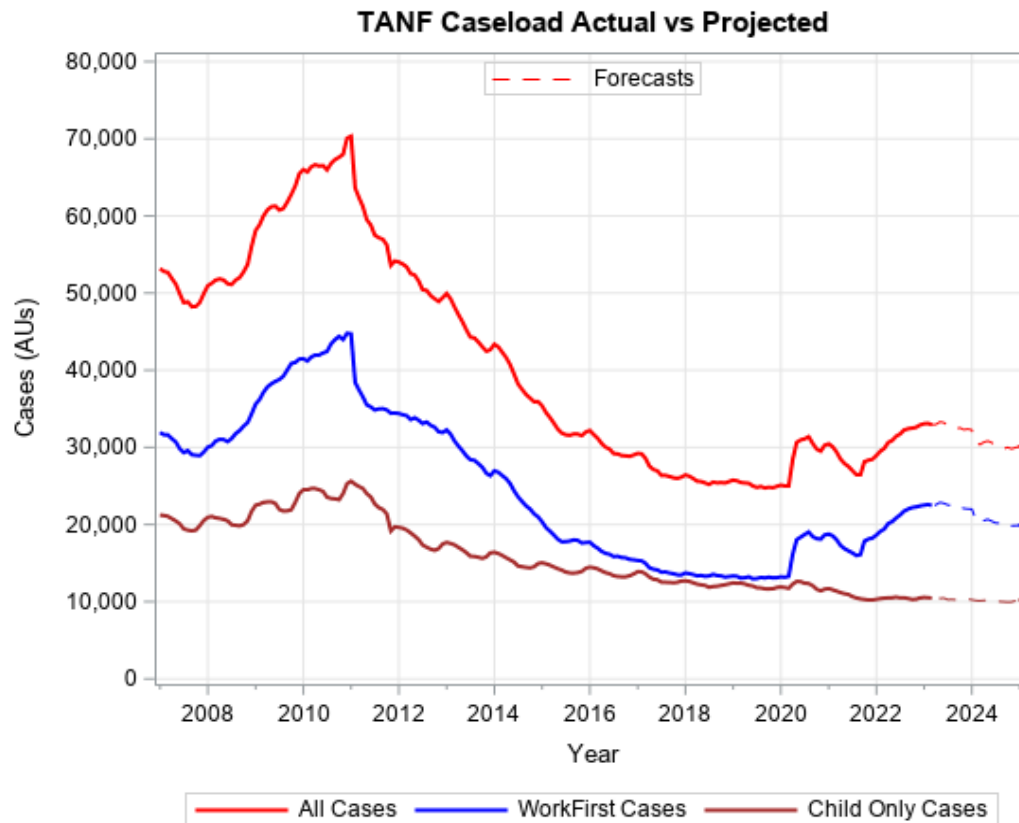


DSHS region boundaries are shown above. There were six DSHS prior to March 2011. This chartbook reports caseloads associated with the old regions to provide greater detail. Current Region 1 is made up of the counties in old Regions 1 and 2 as described below. Current Region 2 is made up of old Regions 3 and 4. Current Region 3 is made up of old Regions 5 and 6. Klickitat County is an exception. It was assigned to current Region 1 instead of 3. The Department of Children, Youth, and Families sets child care rates using the six original DSHS regions, with separate rates for Clark and Spokane counties.

Counties in WCCC Subsidy Regions, and Former DSHS Regions

| | | |
|---|----------------------|--|
| New DSHS Region 1: (Add Klickitat) | Old Region 1: | Adams, Asotin, Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Whitman |
| | Old Region 2: | Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Kittitas, Walla Walla, and Yakima |
| New DSHS Region 2: | Old Region 3: | Island, Skagit, Snohomish, San Juan, and Whatcom |
| | Old Region 4: | King |
| New DSHS Region 3: (Drop Klickitat) | Old Region 5: | Pierce and Kitsap |
| | Old Region 6: | Clark, Clallam, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Klickitat, Lewis Mason, Pacific, Skamania, Thurston, and Wahkiakum |

Count 1: Caseload Forecast



Forecast

The most recent forecast was released in February 2023. The forecast model is based on past TANF caseload trends. Forecasts for WorkFirst and Child Only caseloads are made separately and added together. The forecast includes steps for policies on TANF time limits, the arrival of Ukrainian refugees, and terminations for non-compliance associated with the anniversary of the resumption of WorkFirst work participation requirements during the fall of 2021.

Further information on the TANF caseload forecasts and forecast tracking can be found at: http://www.cfc.wa.gov/HumanServices_PAS_TANF_Total.htm

Experience to Date

Caseloads declined between December 2005 and December 2007. This trend reversed in 2008. Caseloads grew from May 2008 through January 2011. The drop in February 2011 resulted from policy changes including implementation of 60 month time limits and a 15% reduction in payment standards. The November 2011 drop in Child Only cases was also due to changes in program rules. The TANF caseload dropped to 24,816 by July 2019. It was 24,998 in March 2020 but increased by 6,380 households (25.5%) between March and August 2020 due to the COVID-19 emergency, reaching 31,378. The TANF caseload dropped to 26,457 by September 2021 but then increased to 33,104 in February 2023. The increase was driven by the end of federal pandemic unemployment benefits in September 2021, to suspension of mid-certification reviews in January 2022 and to refugee immigrants. In February 2023, the WorkFirst caseload was 9,316 (70.2%) higher than in March 2020 and 3,465 (18.1%) higher than in February 2022. In February 2023, the Child Only caseload was 115 cases (1.1%) higher than in February 2022 -- at 10,511. Child Only caseloads rose in each month from January through June 2022 (during the suspension of mid-certification reviews) but dropped in July, September and October 2022 and again in February 2023.

[Return to Contents](#)

Count 1: Caseload Forecast

| Month | Total Cases | % Change Year Ago | WorkFirst Cases | Child Only Cases | WorkFirst Cases | |
|--------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-------|
| | | | | | Entries | Exits |
| Jan-11 | 70,331 | 6.6% | 44,710 | 25,621 | 4,156 | 4,232 |
| Jan-12 | 54,020 | -23.2% | 34,386 | 19,634 | 3,581 | 3,640 |
| Jan-13 | 49,939 | -7.6% | 32,257 | 17,682 | 3,927 | 3,591 |
| Jan-14 | 43,365 | -13.2% | 26,962 | 16,403 | 3,904 | 3,272 |
| Jan-15 | 35,380 | -18.4% | 20,352 | 15,028 | 2,532 | 3,174 |
| Jan-16 | 32,191 | -9.0% | 17,713 | 14,478 | 2,406 | 2,356 |
| Jan-17 | 29,221 | -9.2% | 15,339 | 13,882 | 2,103 | 2,186 |
| Jan-18 | 26,430 | -9.6% | 13,722 | 12,708 | 2,107 | 1,842 |
| Jan-19 | 25,755 | -2.6% | 13,321 | 12,434 | 1,703 | 1,641 |
| Jan-20 | 25,112 | -2.5% | 13,219 | 11,893 | 1,837 | 1,719 |
| Mar-20 | 24,998 | -1.8% | 13,277 | 11,721 | 1,848 | 1,737 |
| Aug-20 | 31,378 | 25.9% | 19,030 | 12,348 | 1,974 | 1,652 |
| Jan-21 | 30,455 | 21.3% | 18,765 | 11,690 | 1,538 | 1,421 |
| Jul-21 | 26,988 | -16.7% | 16,324 | 10,664 | 1,347 | 1,614 |
| Jan-22 | 28,949 | -4.9% | 18,642 | 10,307 | 1,964 | 1,566 |
| Jul-22 | 31,727 | 17.6% | 21,239 | 10,488 | 2,029 | 1,641 |
| Jan-23 | 33,067 | 14.2% | 22,514 | 10,553 | 2,168 | 2,074 |
| Feb-23 | 33,104 | 12.1% | 22,593 | 10,511 | 1,874 | 1,795 |

Projected (February 2023 Forecast)

| | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|---|--|
| Jun-23 | 33,212 | 5.6% | 22,749 | 10,463 | The Caseload Forecast Council does not forecast entries and exits | |
| Dec-23 | 32,377 | -1.2% | 22,025 | 10,352 | | |
| Jun-24 | 30,615 | -7.8% | 20,434 | 10,181 | | |
| Dec-24 | 29,975 | -7.4% | 19,851 | 10,124 | | |

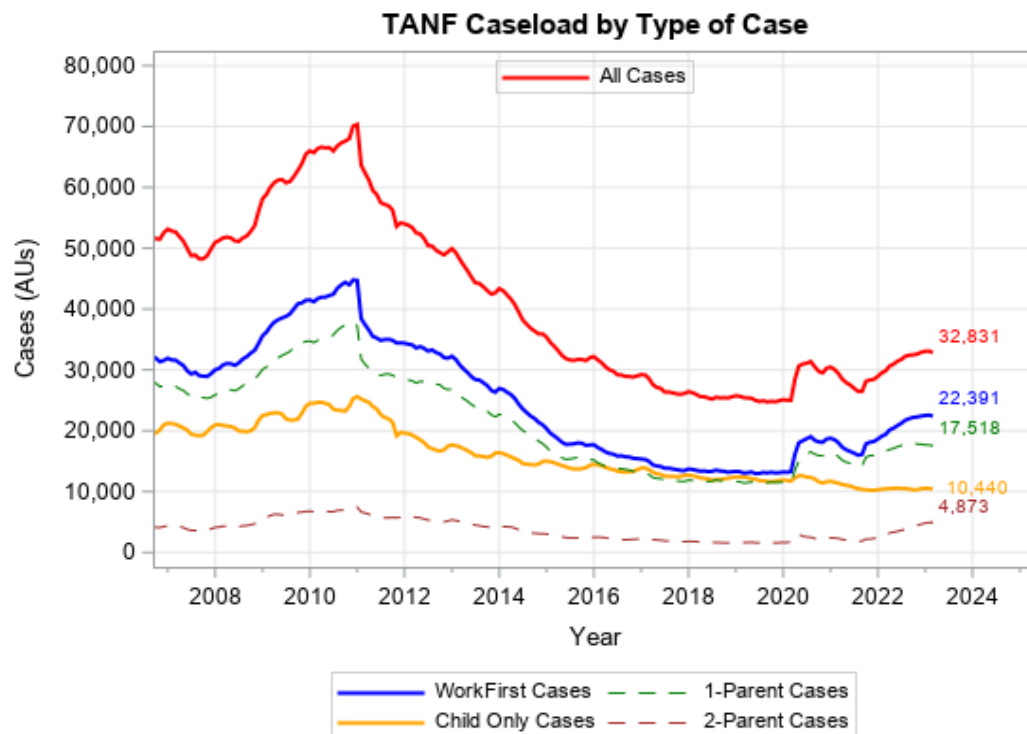
Variance from February 2023 Forecast

| Month | Actual Cases | % Change Year Ago | Projected Cases | Variance Cases | % | Total TANF | |
|--------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|------|------------|-------|
| | | | | | | Entries | Exits |
| Nov-22 | 32,601 | 15.1% | 32,596 | 5 | 0.0% | 2,636 | 2,528 |
| Dec-22 | 32,907 | 15.6% | 32,761 | 146 | 0.4% | 2,704 | 2,398 |
| Jan-23 | 33,067 | 14.2% | 33,057 | 10 | 0.0% | 2,663 | 2,502 |
| Feb-23 | 33,104 | 12.1% | 32,633 | 471 | 1.4% | 2,255 | 2,219 |
| Mar-23 | - | - | 32,966 | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0 |
| Apr-23 | - | - | 33,302 | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0 |

The most recent "Actual Cases" count shown above is lag-adjusted and reflects the monthly caseloads calculated by the Caseload Forecast Council. Lag adjustments predict the number of cases that will eventually be paid during a month. The caseload counts that follow on pages 3 through 8 are prepared by OFM Forecasting and are reported without lag adjustments, so case counts on those pages show one more month than shown above. Counts through page 6 include cases with TANF grant issuances. Counts of adults on pages 7 and 8 are from a third data source that includes information on adults who receive TANF benefits through wages paid in subsidized jobs instead of grants. Approximately 330 households per month in FY 2020 and 160 household per month in FY 2021 received TANF benefits this way. WorkFirst entries and exits reported on this page were calculated by the Caseload Forecast Council.

Source: Caseload Forecast Council, from the ACES data warehouse.

Count 1a: Caseload By Type



Experience to Date

2-Parent cases made up about 12% of the WorkFirst caseload during the summer of 2007 and then increased to 16% of the WorkFirst caseload in March 2009. The percentage ranged between 16% and 17% in calendar 2011 but dropped to 12.2% in July 2018 and 12.3% in July 2019. COVID-19 reversed that decline. 2-Parent cases made up 16.6% of the WorkFirst caseload in May 2020, dropping to 12.3% of the caseload in October and November 2020. The 2-Parent caseload made up 21.8% of the WorkFirst caseload in February and March 2023. Factors behind this pattern include changes to the Limited English Proficiency portion of the WorkFirst caseload. See pages 13-14.

Comments

In March 2023 the count of 2-parent cases was 22% higher than in FY 2008, compared with a 33% decline in 1-Parent case counts. Overall, the number of WorkFirst cases was 26% below the average for FY 2008. The number of Child Only cases was 48% below the average for FY 2008.

Estimating All Family, Child Only, and 2-Parent Caseloads

WorkFirst cases made up 58.5% of the caseload in FY 2015, 53.2% in FY 2017, and 52.1% in FY 2018 and FY 2019. The COVID-19 emergency changed this trend. WorkFirst cases made up 54.4% of the TANF caseload in FY 2020, 61.0% of the caseload in FY 2021 and 63.9% of the caseload in FY 2022. WorkFirst cases made up 68.2% of the TANF caseload in March 2023. WorkFirst cases are expected to make up 68.1% of the TANF caseload in FY 2023 and 67.8% in FY 2024. The average number of 2-parent WorkFirst cases was 2,390 in FY 2016, 1,795 in FY 2018, and 1,624 in FY 2019 but rose to 1,918 in FY 2020, 2,284 in FY 2021 and 2,511 in FY 2022. 2-Parent cases jumped to 3,003 in May 2020 as a result of COVID-19 impacts, dropped back, but increased to 4,873 in March 2023. If 2-parent cases continue to make up 21.8% of the WorkFirst caseload, we should see an average of 4,864 2-parent households in FY 2023 and 4,691 in FY 2024.

[Return to Contents](#)

Count 1a: Caseload By Type

Data Table

| Month | Total Cases | WorkFirst Cases | 1-Parent Cases | 2-Parent Cases | Child Only Cases | 2-Parent % of WorkFirst |
|--------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Jan-11 | 70,331 | 44,710 | 37,262 | 7,448 | 25,621 | 16.7% |
| Jan-13 | 49,939 | 32,257 | 26,881 | 5,376 | 17,682 | 16.7% |
| Jan-14 | 43,365 | 26,962 | 22,695 | 4,267 | 16,403 | 15.8% |
| Jan-15 | 35,380 | 20,352 | 17,313 | 3,039 | 15,028 | 14.9% |
| Jan-16 | 32,192 | 17,715 | 15,209 | 2,506 | 14,477 | 14.1% |
| Jan-17 | 29,221 | 15,341 | 13,088 | 2,253 | 13,880 | 14.7% |
| Jan-18 | 26,431 | 13,723 | 11,895 | 1,828 | 12,708 | 13.3% |
| Jan-19 | 25,753 | 13,320 | 11,666 | 1,654 | 12,433 | 12.4% |
| Jan-20 | 25,110 | 13,219 | 11,569 | 1,650 | 11,891 | 12.5% |
| May-20 | 30,647 | 18,030 | 15,027 | 3,003 | 12,617 | 16.7% |
| Jan-21 | 30,454 | 18,765 | 16,355 | 2,410 | 11,689 | 12.8% |
| Jan-22 | 28,949 | 18,643 | 16,187 | 2,456 | 10,306 | 13.2% |
| Jul-22 | 31,725 | 21,239 | 17,590 | 3,649 | 10,486 | 17.2% |
| Jan-23 | 33,060 | 22,510 | 17,674 | 4,836 | 10,550 | 21.5% |
| Feb-23 | 33,078 | 22,575 | 17,652 | 4,923 | 10,503 | 21.8% |
| Mar-23 | 32,831 | 22,391 | 17,518 | 4,873 | 10,440 | 21.8% |

Percent of FY 2008 Cases

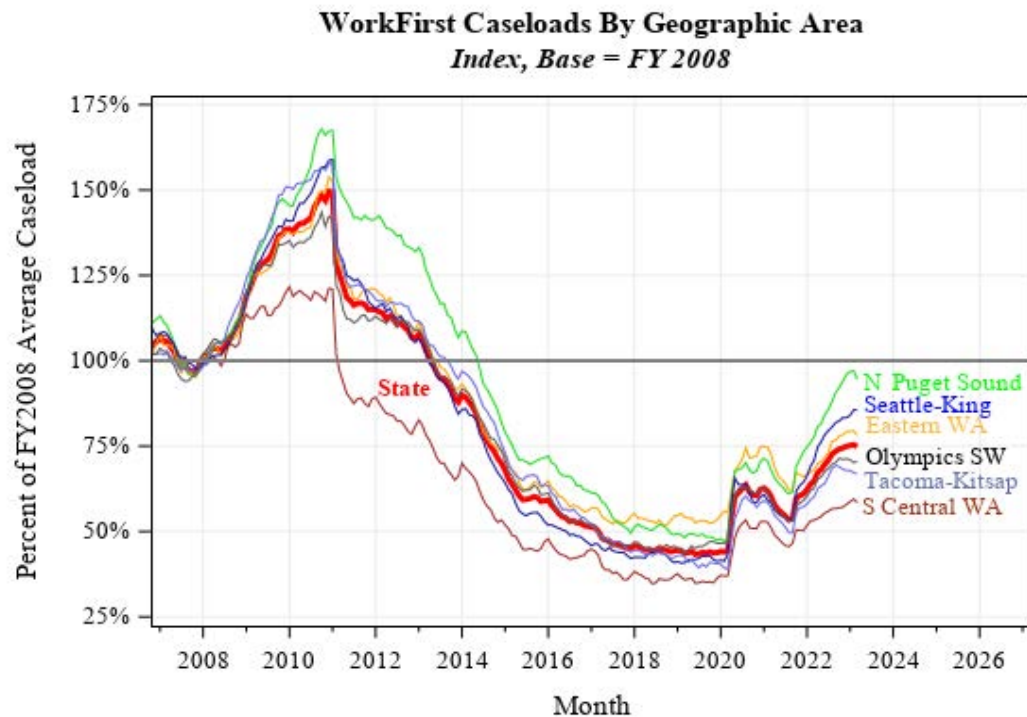
| | Total Cases | WorkFirst Cases | 1-Parent Cases | 2-Parent Cases | Child Only Cases |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| FY 2008 Cases | 50,317 | 30,079 | 26,095 | 3,985 | 20,238 |
| Jan-11 | 139.8 | 148.6 | 142.8 | 186.9 | 126.6 |
| Jan-13 | 99.2 | 107.2 | 103.0 | 134.9 | 87.4 |
| Jan-14 | 86.2 | 89.6 | 87.0 | 107.1 | 81.1 |
| Jan-15 | 70.3 | 67.7 | 66.3 | 76.3 | 74.3 |
| Jan-16 | 64.0 | 58.9 | 58.3 | 62.9 | 71.5 |
| Jan-17 | 58.1 | 51.0 | 50.2 | 56.5 | 68.6 |
| Jan-18 | 52.5 | 45.6 | 45.6 | 45.9 | 62.8 |
| Jan-19 | 51.2 | 44.3 | 44.7 | 41.5 | 61.4 |
| Jan-20 | 49.9 | 43.9 | 44.3 | 41.4 | 58.8 |
| May-20 | 60.9 | 59.9 | 57.6 | 75.4 | 62.3 |
| Jan-21 | 60.5 | 62.4 | 62.7 | 60.5 | 57.8 |
| Jan-22 | 57.5 | 62.0 | 62.0 | 61.6 | 50.9 |
| Jul-22 | 63.1 | 70.6 | 67.4 | 91.6 | 51.8 |
| Jan-23 | 65.7 | 74.8 | 67.7 | 121.4 | 52.1 |
| Feb-23 | 65.7 | 75.1 | 67.6 | 123.6 | 51.9 |
| Mar-23 | 65.2 | 74.4 | 67.1 | 122.3 | 51.6 |

Percentage Change in Cases since FY 2008 (the low point before the 2009-11 recession):

% Caseload Change: -35% -26% -33% 22% -48%

Source: OFM Forecasting Division, based on CASE_SNAPSHOT table from ACES data warehouse.

Count 1b: WorkFirst Caseload By Region



Experience to Date

In March 2023, the WorkFirst caseload was 25% below the average caseload in FY 2008, the low point for WorkFirst prior to the program changes in 2011. However, WorkFirst caseloads increased by 27% between March 2020 and April 2021 and by 15% between March 2022 and March 2023. Caseloads declined for a period as economic conditions associated with the pandemic improved and significant state and federal assistance was available, but began to increase again after the expiration of federal unemployment insurance benefits in September 2021. The increase between March 2022 and March 2023 was largest in the North Puget Sound and Seattle-King County areas. Caseloads in the Seattle-King County area have fluctuated in the past because refugee arrivals change over time. Seattle-King County is the primary location for incoming refugee/Limited English Proficiency (LEP) populations. That population shows signs of peaking during the winter of 2022-23. See pages 13-14 for charts tracking the LEP population.

Comments

The count of WorkFirst cases on page 6 is slightly lower than the counts shown on page 4 because some cases are associated with the statewide customer service contact center and have not yet been assigned to regions.

[Return to Contents](#)

Count 1b: WorkFirst Caseload By Region

Data Table

| | | Region 1 | | Region 2 | | Region 3 | |
|---------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| | WorkFirst Cases | Eastern Wash | South Central | North Puget Sound | Seattle King Co. | Tacoma Kitsap | Olympics Southwest |
| FY 2008 | 29,928 | 4,431 | 4,849 | 3,232 | 6,365 | 5,623 | 5,428 |
| Jan-15 | 20,317 | 3,206 | 2,517 | 2,556 | 4,088 | 4,110 | 3,840 |
| Jan-16 | 17,713 | 2,871 | 2,319 | 2,332 | 3,301 | 3,564 | 3,326 |
| Jan-17 | 15,340 | 2,517 | 2,173 | 1,981 | 2,920 | 2,911 | 2,838 |
| Jan-18 | 13,721 | 2,448 | 1,855 | 1,658 | 2,705 | 2,507 | 2,548 |
| Jan-19 | 13,319 | 2,421 | 1,823 | 1,593 | 2,618 | 2,413 | 2,451 |
| Jan-20 | 13,218 | 2,423 | 1,800 | 1,548 | 2,645 | 2,274 | 2,528 |
| Aug-20 | 19,030 | 3,300 | 2,586 | 2,268 | 4,061 | 3,391 | 3,424 |
| Jan-21 | 18,764 | 3,321 | 2,568 | 2,307 | 3,871 | 3,315 | 3,382 |
| Jan-22 | 18,640 | 2,955 | 2,508 | 2,414 | 4,219 | 3,267 | 3,277 |
| Jan-23 | 22,508 | 3,517 | 2,844 | 3,130 | 5,346 | 3,817 | 3,854 |
| Feb-23 | 22,573 | 3,521 | 2,885 | 3,136 | 5,450 | 3,774 | 3,807 |
| Mar-23 | 22,388 | 3,463 | 2,835 | 3,056 | 5,447 | 3,760 | 3,827 |

Percentage Change in Cases March 2022 to March 2023

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| % Caseload Change | 15% | 15% | 10% | 22% | 21% | 11% | 13% |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

Percent of FY 2008 Cases

| | | Region 1 | | Region 2 | | Region 3 | |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| | WorkFirst Cases | Eastern Wash | South Central | North Puget Sound | Seattle King Co. | Tacoma Kitsap | Olympics Southwest |
| FY 2008 Index | 29,928 | 4,431 | 4,849 | 3,232 | 6,365 | 5,623 | 5,428 |
| Jan-15 | 67.9 | 72.4 | 51.9 | 79.1 | 64.2 | 73.1 | 70.7 |
| Jan-16 | 59.2 | 64.8 | 47.8 | 72.2 | 51.9 | 63.4 | 61.3 |
| Jan-17 | 51.3 | 56.8 | 44.8 | 61.3 | 45.9 | 51.8 | 52.3 |
| Jan-18 | 45.9 | 55.3 | 38.3 | 51.3 | 42.5 | 44.6 | 46.9 |
| Jan-19 | 44.5 | 54.6 | 53.0 | 49.3 | 41.1 | 42.9 | 45.2 |
| Jan-20 | 44.2 | 54.7 | 37.1 | 47.9 | 41.6 | 40.4 | 46.6 |
| Aug-20 | 63.6 | 74.5 | 53.3 | 70.2 | 63.8 | 60.3 | 63.1 |
| Jan-21 | 62.7 | 75.0 | 53.0 | 71.4 | 60.8 | 59.0 | 62.3 |
| Jan-22 | 62.3 | 66.7 | 51.7 | 74.7 | 66.3 | 58.1 | 60.4 |
| Jan-23 | 75.2 | 79.4 | 58.7 | 96.8 | 84.0 | 67.9 | 71.0 |
| Feb-23 | 75.4 | 79.5 | 59.5 | 97.0 | 85.6 | 67.1 | 70.1 |
| Mar-23 | 74.8 | 78.2 | 58.5 | 94.6 | 85.6 | 66.9 | 70.5 |

Percentage Change in Cases since FY 2008 (the low point for WorkFirst before the 2009-11 recession):

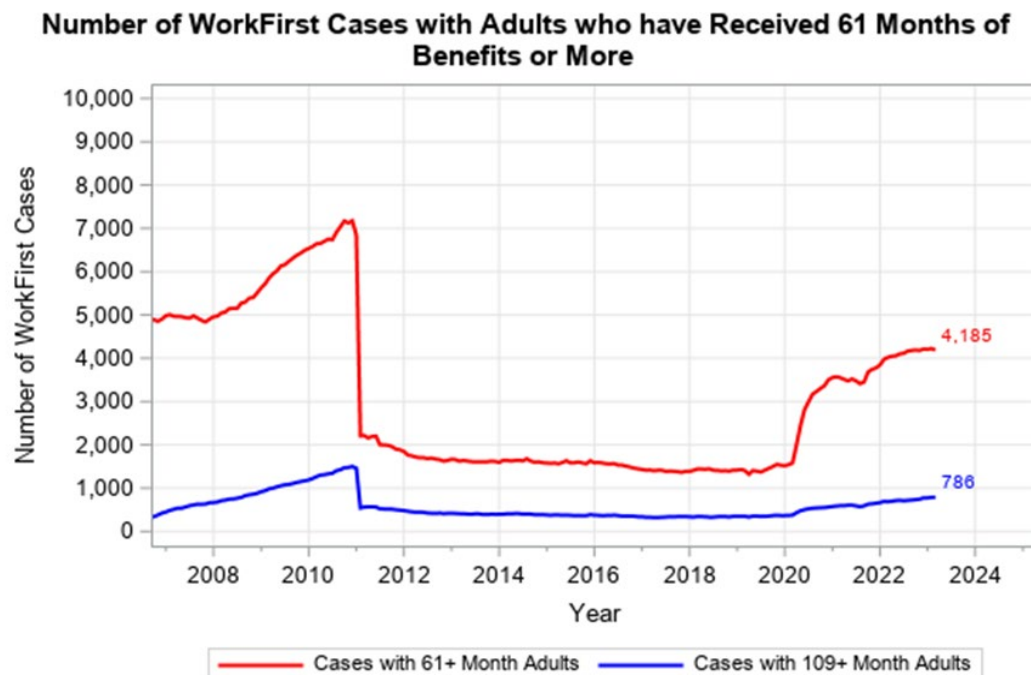
| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|
| % Caseload Change | -25% | -22% | -42% | -5% | -14% | -33% | -30% |
|-------------------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|

Statewide: -25% Region 1: -32% Region 2: -11% Region 3: -31%

DSHS Region definitions were consolidated in March 2011 to create three regions out of the original six. This report continues to track the six geographic areas associated with the former regions, but also summarizes the results to the current regional definitions. See the rates of change shown in boxes above.

Source: Based on CASE_SNAPSHOT table from ACES data warehouse.

Count 1c: TANF 61 Month Cases



Target

Federal law sets a 60 month time limit for receipt of TANF benefits. If the caseload on TANF for more than 60 months exceeds 20%, benefits for the additional households must be paid with state funds. The 20% extension limit is currently set at 6,043 cases. Before 2011, Washington extended benefits beyond the 60 month time limit to all households as long as household members met other program requirements. In February 2011, extensions to the time limit were restricted to eight categories of hardship listed on page 8. A ninth category, for being homeless, was added in July 2019. In April 2020 DSHS added a temporary category providing extensions for households facing hardship due to the COVID pandemic. In July 2021 the homeless hardship category was broadened to include households that are doubled up for financial reasons and families caring for a homeless child.

Experience to Date

In March 2023, WorkFirst cases with adults who had received more than 60 months of benefits made up 12.7% of all cases, 18.7% of WorkFirst cases, and 69.3% of the federal limit on extensions to TANF time limits. The number of extension cases in March 2023 was 4% higher than in April 2022 compared with a WorkFirst caseload that was up by 15% over the period. Extensions related to COVID-19 are scheduled to end on June 2023. After that, SB 5214 provides a month of time limit extension for every month that a household was on TANF beginning in March 2020 and the unemployment rate was 7% or higher. Two-thirds of the households exempted from time limits through COVID-19 extensions are likely eligible for one to seven months of extension under the Unemployment Hardship provisions.

The time limit extension categories apply to Child Only cases with ineligible parents as well. The two major categories of Child Only extension cases have disabled parents (who qualify for extension) and non-citizen parents. Time limits will no longer apply to Child Only cases under 2SHB 1447.

[Return to Contents](#)

Count 1c: TANF 61 Month Cases

Data Table

| Month | Cases with 61+ Month Adult | Percent of All Family Cases | Disabled Adult | Reason for Extension of Time Limit | | | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | Applied for SSI/SSDI | Family Violence | Homeless | Adult Care/ COVID-19 | Other Extension |
| Dec-20 | 3,501 | 18.8% | 549 | 271 | 197 | 71 | 2,165 | 196 |
| Jan-21 | 3,555 | 18.9% | 545 | 257 | 187 | 73 | 2,243 | 203 |
| Feb-21 | 3,570 | 19.3% | 532 | 245 | 169 | 65 | 2,319 | 193 |
| Mar-21 | 3,552 | 19.7% | 508 | 234 | 167 | 58 | 2,358 | 182 |
| Apr-21 | 3,511 | 20.3% | 518 | 222 | 156 | 48 | 2,350 | 179 |
| May-21 | 3,479 | 20.6% | 513 | 221 | 150 | 41 | 2,347 | 174 |
| Jun-21 | 3,520 | 21.2% | 524 | 238 | 145 | 47 | 2,349 | 179 |
| Jul-21 | 3,476 | 21.3% | 513 | 243 | 148 | 57 | 2,285 | 193 |
| Aug-21 | 3,412 | 21.3% | 487 | 236 | 136 | 67 | 2,250 | 192 |
| Sep-21 | 3,453 | 21.4% | 487 | 229 | 139 | 82 | 2,244 | 205 |
| Oct-21 | 3,680 | 20.6% | 484 | 233 | 142 | 101 | 2,393 | 219 |
| Nov-21 | 3,744 | 20.6% | 470 | 232 | 134 | 109 | 2,442 | 224 |
| Dec-21 | 3,775 | 20.7% | 451 | 222 | 124 | 104 | 2,503 | 232 |
| Jan-22 | 3,847 | 20.6% | 476 | 231 | 119 | 94 | 2,556 | 248 |
| Feb-22 | 3,976 | 20.8% | 492 | 239 | 116 | 83 | 2,674 | 248 |
| Mar-22 | 4,018 | 20.7% | 506 | 246 | 118 | 72 | 2,713 | 253 |
| Apr-22 | 4,046 | 20.1% | 502 | 243 | 113 | 70 | 2,736 | 270 |
| May-22 | 4,054 | 19.9% | 496 | 251 | 122 | 73 | 2,723 | 284 |
| Jun-22 | 4,100 | 19.7% | 432 | 268 | 149 | 68 | 2,787 | 309 |
| Jul-22 | 4,113 | 19.4% | 414 | 252 | 150 | 67 | 2,603 | 312 |
| Aug-22 | 4,164 | 19.1% | 438 | 250 | 131 | 61 | 2,718 | 318 |
| Sep-22 | 4,180 | 19.0% | 446 | 246 | 119 | 56 | 2,786 | 319 |
| Oct-22 | 4,190 | 18.9% | 483 | 233 | 114 | 51 | 2,823 | 305 |
| Nov-22 | 4,181 | 18.8% | 489 | 229 | 116 | 39 | 2,847 | 315 |
| Dec-22 | 4,211 | 18.8% | 497 | 229 | 104 | 37 | 2,890 | 318 |
| Jan-23 | 4,206 | 18.7% | 511 | 222 | 94 | 28 | 2,900 | 300 |
| Feb-23 | 4,224 | 18.7% | 517 | 222 | 94 | 34 | 2,894 | 296 |
| Mar-23 | 4,185 | 18.7% | 512 | 227 | 91 | 34 | 2,864 | 305 |

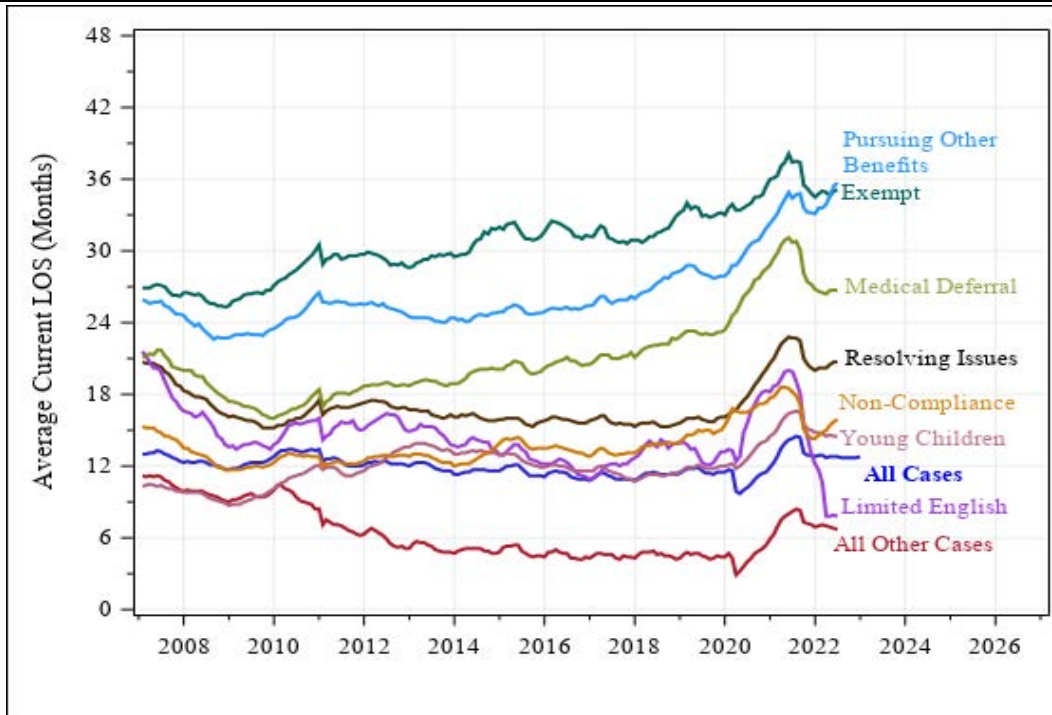
March 2023 compared to March 2022 (without adjustments for late reporting)

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|-----|------|------|----|-----|
| % Change | 4% | 1% | -8% | -23% | -53% | 6% | 21% |
|----------|----|----|-----|------|------|----|-----|

Time limits are based on the number of months of TANF or State Financial Assistance received as an adult since August 1997. The other extension category includes: caring for a disabled child (258 cases); 55 year old caretaker relative (33); employed 32 or more hours per week (9); and open CPS case - first dependency order (5). The Homeless category includes 32 cases reported as homeless and 2 cases reported as caring for a homeless child. The remaining households not classified above (151) are in the process of having their exemption category documented or their months of TANF determined. There are no households in administrative hearings adjudicating a determination. Twenty-six percent of the cases were extended for reasons that will exempt them from or defer application of WorkFirst work participation requirements. In March 2023 there were 421 Child Only time limit extensions for COVID-19/caring for a disabled adult, the highest count since the previous peak of 428 Child Only cases in June 2022. There were no Child Only cases extended for homelessness and no Child Only cases extended for caring for a homeless child. 2SHB 1447, passed by the 2023 Legislature, removed time limits for Child Only TANF cases.

Source: EMAPs reports on TANF Extension Cases by Month Intervals and By Category.

Count 1d: WorkFirst Length of Stay



Experience to Date

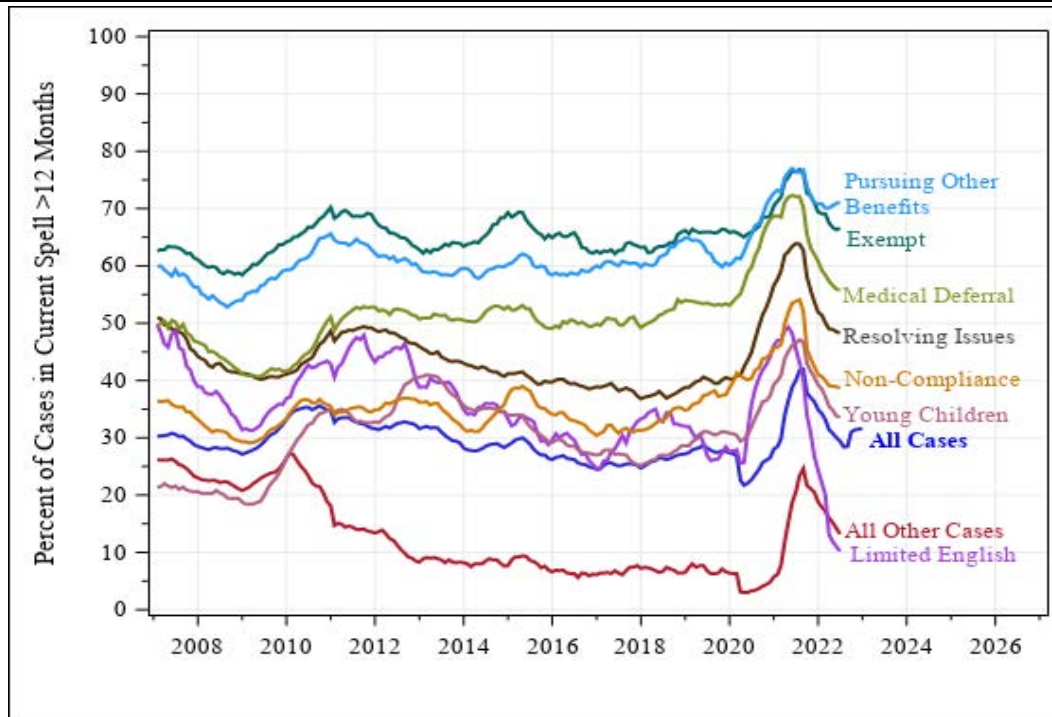
Average length of stay (LOS) since the most recent entry to WorkFirst was 12.8 months in January 2023 and also 12.8 months in January 2022. LOS dropped due to an influx of new cases. Lifetime length of stay across all spells of WorkFirst was 24.1 months in January 2022 and 22.5 months in January 2023. The WorkFirst caseload was 21% larger in January 2023 than in January 2022.

Comments Regarding WorkFirst Subgroups

The WorkFirst caseload was 30% larger in July 2022 than in July 2021. The group of cases in non-compliance with work requirements was 72% larger than in July 2021. The All Other cases group (cases not assigned to any other category) shrank by 19% due to increased non-compliance. It had a LOS of 6.7 months in the current spell but 17.1 months in lifetime LOS. Many pandemic entrants were returning after prior spells of TANF. The Limited English group increased by 301%. The LEP group is defined by the use of the LP and KE component flags associated with LEP services. LEP cases recorded their lowest LOS on record (7.8 months) in July 2022 due to the rapid influx of new LEP cases from Ukraine. The Medical Deferral and Resolving Issues groups increased in size by 25% and 23%. The Resolving Issues group includes cases with drug or alcohol dependency, mental health, family violence, or homelessness issues. The Young Children and Exempt groups grew by 25% and 9% from a year earlier. The Pursuing Other Benefits group shrank by 5%. The Exempt and Pursuing Other Benefits definitions correspond to two of the criteria for extending TANF benefits to adults beyond the 60 month time limit. This explains their high LOS. Indications from pages 43-44 suggest that some barriers were less likely to be coded during the pandemic exemption from work participation requirements. That left the All Other cases group much larger during the pandemic. That group is shrinking now as adults move into the other groups. WorkFirst reengagement began in September 2021, and is driving this trend. The reduced length of stay associated with the barrier groups reflects the identification of younger cases facing those barriers identified as the reengagement process progressed.

[Return to Contents](#)

Count 1d: WorkFirst Length of Stay



Length of Stay Values as of January 2023 for All Cases, as of July 2022 for Subgroups

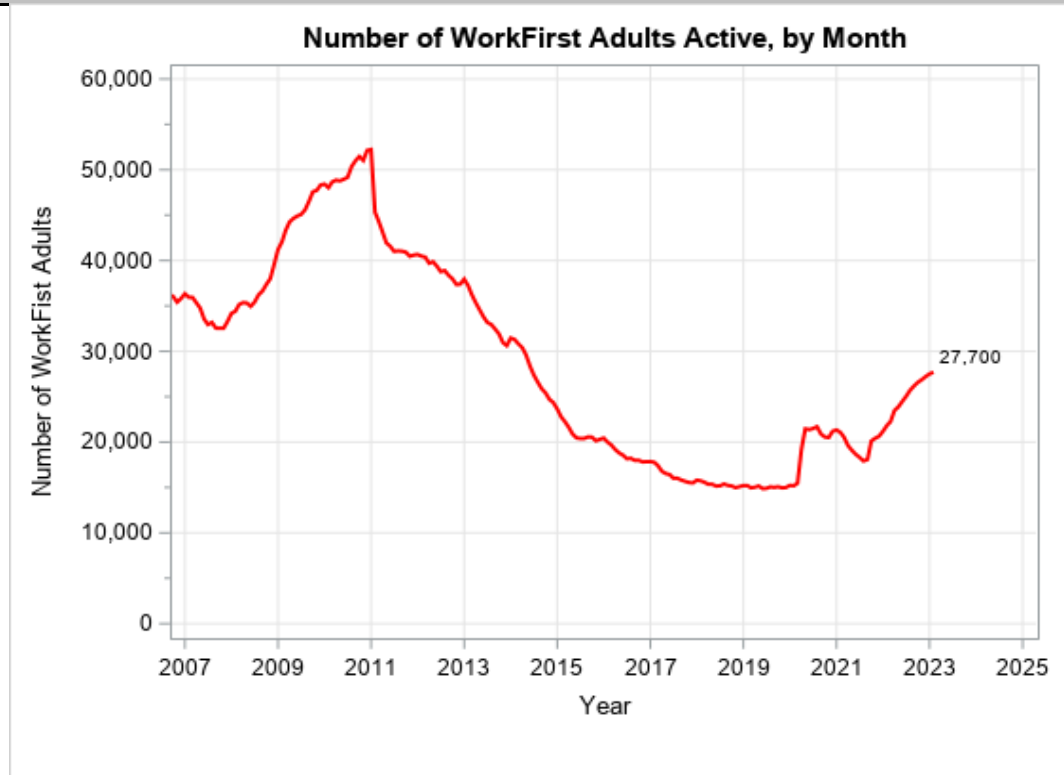
| Type of Case | Number | Current Case LOS | Same 12 Mos Ago | Percent of Cases >12 mos | Percent 12 Mos Ago | Lifetime LOS in Mos | Same 12 Mos Ago |
|------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| All Cases | 22,694 | 12.8 | 12.8 | 31.6 | 34.9 | 22.5 | 24.1 |
| Exempt | 1,102 | 35.1 | 37.4 | 66.6 | 76.4 | 51.8 | 55.1 |
| Resolving Issues | 6,151 | 20.7 | 22.7 | 48.3 | 63.9 | 34.3 | 36.4 |
| Limited English | 2,178 | 7.8 | 19.9 | 10.2 | 45.5 | 9.9 | 27.0 |
| Medical Deferral | 2,170 | 26.7 | 30.7 | 55.8 | 72.1 | 41.5 | 46.7 |
| Other Benefits | 1,437 | 35.7 | 34.4 | 71.1 | 76.5 | 53.2 | 53.1 |
| Young Children | 8,231 | 14.5 | 16.5 | 33.6 | 46.5 | 21.8 | 23.6 |
| Non-Compliance | 6,511 | 15.9 | 18.2 | 38.7 | 53.8 | 28.0 | 30.1 |
| All Other Cases | 3,885 | 6.7 | 8.2 | 13.2 | 20.5 | 17.1 | 19.0 |

Source: OFM Longitudinal Client Table, derived from EMAPS Client table and JAS_Actual table.

Definition

Average LOS is the number of months that WorkFirst cases have been in their current spell. The Percent > 12 Mos is the percent of WorkFirst cases that have been in their current spell longer than 12 months. A case may be in more than one group (except for All Other Cases). LOS for All Cases is shown through January 2023. LOS for other groups is through July 2022. The conditions that define the groups may not yet have been identified before July 2022. It can take six months for the barriers to be identified that sort cases into the subgroups. Other groups defined by barriers could also increase in size as cases are evaluated for reengagement. Lifetime months include months of benefits received as a child, and therefore differ from the count of months used for TANF time limits.

Count 1e: WorkFirst Adults



Indicator

Some WorkFirst cases have more than one adult. This chart shows the total number of TANF adults enrolled in the WorkFirst program. This total is used as the denominator for many of the Participation by Activity counts shown in section 5.

Trends

The count of WorkFirst adults reached a low point of 32,543 in October 2007 and then increased during the great recession of 2008-09. In November and December 2010, the count of WorkFirst adults exceeded 52,000. Program changes, including changes to sanctions, TANF time limits, and lower payment standards reduced the count of WorkFirst adults to 45,317 in February 2011. The count of adults reached 15,189 in February 2020, about the same as in February 2019 but then increased to 19,224 in April 2020 and 21,694 in August 2020 due to COVID-19 impacts. The count was 27,700 in February 2023, an increase of 5,861 from February 2022 and the largest count since June 2014. The increase resulted from the expiration of federal unemployment insurance September 2021, suspension of mid-certification reviews in January 2022 and an increase in refugee recipients. The average number of WorkFirst adults was 21,610 in FY 2022 and 20,552 in FY 2021, up from 16,495 in FY 2020 and 15,627 in FY 2018. The February 2023 caseload forecast implied caseloads of 26,602 adult recipients in FY 2023 and 25,701 in FY 2024.

King County has a concentration of Limited English Proficiency cases. See pages 13-14 for more information on the LEP population. Increases in the LEP population in May 2020 and since the Fall of 2021 contributed to caseload increases in Seattle-King County.

Counts include adjustments that add in TANF recipients who are paid through subsidized jobs instead of TANF grants. This correction added an average of 315 adults per month in FY 2020, 152 adults per month in FY 2021 and 105 per month in FY 2022. These counts are not lag-adjusted.

[Return to Contents](#)

Count 1e: WorkFirst Adults

Data Table

| Month | Region 1 | | Region 2 | | Region 3 | | Statewide Total |
|--------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| | Eastern Wash | South Central | North Puget Sound | Seattle King Co. | Tacoma Kitsap | Olympics Southwest | |
| Apr-20 | 3,319 | 2,403 | 2,304 | 4,580 | 3,064 | 3,551 | 19,224 |
| May-20 | 3,596 | 2,708 | 2,610 | 5,123 | 3,499 | 3,921 | 21,459 |
| Jun-20 | 3,617 | 2,832 | 2,552 | 4,755 | 3,639 | 3,978 | 21,375 |
| Jul-20 | 3,665 | 2,884 | 2,559 | 4,677 | 3,772 | 3,939 | 21,499 |
| Aug-20 | 3,838 | 2,916 | 2,581 | 4,610 | 3,816 | 3,932 | 21,694 |
| Sep-20 | 3,664 | 2,774 | 2,477 | 4,421 | 3,704 | 3,844 | 20,884 |
| Oct-20 | 3,673 | 2,757 | 2,446 | 4,214 | 3,673 | 3,795 | 20,560 |
| Nov-20 | 3,703 | 2,776 | 2,475 | 4,198 | 3,556 | 3,793 | 20,502 |
| Dec-20 | 3,868 | 2,908 | 2,574 | 4,299 | 3,661 | 3,876 | 21,187 |
| Jan-21 | 3,875 | 2,920 | 2,618 | 4,351 | 3,691 | 3,878 | 21,336 |
| Feb-21 | 3,839 | 2,908 | 2,594 | 4,235 | 3,659 | 3,822 | 21,060 |
| Mar-21 | 3,736 | 2,823 | 2,502 | 4,182 | 3,586 | 3,705 | 20,538 |
| Apr-21 | 3,528 | 2,698 | 2,412 | 4,021 | 3,427 | 3,524 | 19,611 |
| May-21 | 3,379 | 2,637 | 2,357 | 3,964 | 3,367 | 3,395 | 19,100 |
| Jun-21 | 3,303 | 2,563 | 2,297 | 3,860 | 3,273 | 3,357 | 18,652 |
| Jul-21 | 3,250 | 2,500 | 2,245 | 3,824 | 3,179 | 3,317 | 18,315 |
| Aug-21 | 3,153 | 2,475 | 2,210 | 3,762 | 3,081 | 3,236 | 17,916 |
| Sep-21 | 3,163 | 2,527 | 2,236 | 3,834 | 3,082 | 3,240 | 18,082 |
| Oct-21 | 3,430 | 2,737 | 2,538 | 4,427 | 3,460 | 3,525 | 20,116 |
| Nov-21 | 3,398 | 2,734 | 2,620 | 4,556 | 3,548 | 3,567 | 20,423 |
| Dec-21 | 3,362 | 2,731 | 2,702 | 4,657 | 3,570 | 3,615 | 20,637 |
| Jan-22 | 3,408 | 2,841 | 2,763 | 4,835 | 3,625 | 3,727 | 21,199 |
| Feb-22 | 3,452 | 2,912 | 2,823 | 5,089 | 3,716 | 3,847 | 21,839 |
| Mar-22 | 3,485 | 2,926 | 2,902 | 5,256 | 3,781 | 3,902 | 22,252 |
| Apr-22 | 3,612 | 2,958 | 3,086 | 5,665 | 3,981 | 4,173 | 23,479 |
| May-22 | 3,645 | 2,996 | 3,138 | 5,815 | 4,042 | 4,228 | 23,869 |
| Jun-22 | 3,722 | 3,050 | 3,264 | 5,973 | 4,112 | 4,353 | 24,474 |
| Jul-22 | 3,803 | 3,070 | 3,338 | 6,093 | 4,283 | 4,446 | 25,034 |
| Aug-22 | 3,962 | 3,111 | 3,461 | 6,213 | 4,437 | 4,516 | 25,701 |
| Sep-22 | 3,994 | 3,123 | 3,611 | 6,390 | 4,505 | 4,553 | 26,177 |
| Oct-22 | 4,073 | 3,141 | 3,701 | 6,501 | 4,505 | 4,655 | 26,576 |
| Nov-22 | 4,132 | 3,164 | 3,815 | 6,619 | 4,471 | 4,672 | 26,871 |
| Dec-22 | 4,205 | 3,216 | 3,925 | 6,669 | 4,469 | 4,726 | 27,210 |
| Jan-23 | 4,229 | 3,265 | 3,991 | 6,779 | 4,498 | 4,745 | 27,507 |
| Feb-23 | 4,218 | 3,331 | 4,024 | 6,950 | 4,457 | 4,720 | 27,700 |

February 2023 compared to February 2022 (without adjustments for late reporting)

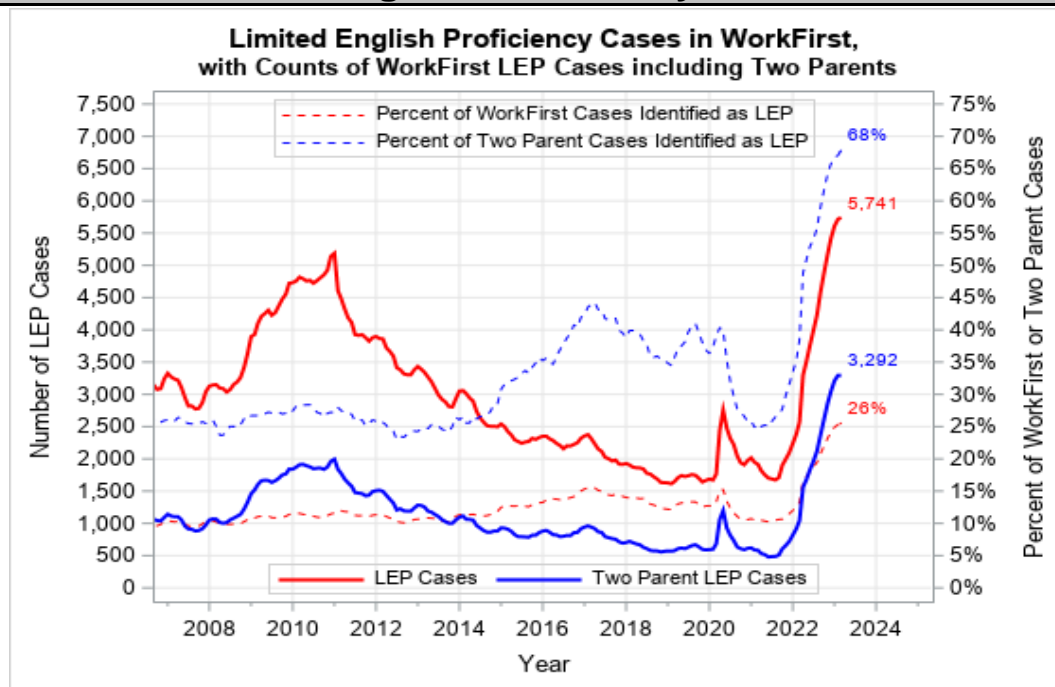
Statewide

% Change 22% 14% 43% 37% 20% 23% 27%

Region 1: 19% Region 2: 39% Region 3: 21% Statewide: 27%

Source: ACES data warehouse, EMAPS Client table, and JAS_Actual table.

Count 1f: Limited English Proficiency Cases and Adults



Indicator

Limited English Proficiency status, as defined here, is based on the primary language used for communications, need for an interpreter, and/or immigration status. Five percent of LEP adults defined in this way are native born. Most LEP adults are immigrants or refugees, who can be served by the Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance LEP program using a mix of funding sources regardless of whether they are eligible for WorkFirst. LEP adults who are eligible for WorkFirst may be served by any of the WorkFirst partners. Counts shown here are for WorkFirst recipients only and do not depend on whether services were received.

The top ten countries of origin for the WorkFirst LEP population in March 2023 were: Ukraine, Russia, Afghanistan, Mexico, Marshall Islands, Colombia, Micronesia, Ethiopia, Venezuela and Iraq. Those nationalities accounted for 77% of the LEP population. Eighty-six percent of those receiving services were from Ukraine, Russia, Afghanistan, Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, Iraq, Cuba, Ethiopia and Romania. An influx of Ukrainian refugees peaked in January 2023. The March 2023 count of recently arrived Ukrainian TANF/SFA households was 2,114, down from 2,240 in January 2023. Counts for August 2022 showed 298 TANF/SFA households with recent immigrants from Afghanistan.

Trends

The LEP case count within WorkFirst was 123% higher in March 2023 than in March 2022 compared with a 15% increase in WorkFirst cases. The percent of WorkFirst cases involving LEP dropped from 15.5% in April 2017 to 12.7% prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, rose to 15.2% in May 2020, dropped to 10.2% in June 2021 but was 25.6% in March 2023 -- the highest percentage on record. LEP adults made up 32% of WorkFirst adults in March 2023.

Fifty-eight percent of LEP households in March 2023 had two parents, compared with 10% of non-LEP households. Figures for English language proficiency and service needs can vary over time due to changes in the immigrant and refugee population. The number of LEP adults assessed at ESL Level 1 increased by 29% between March 2022 and March 2023. ESL Level 1 is the lowest level of proficiency, indicating that the adult functions "minimally, if at all, in English". However, LEP program staff have indicated that the testing information included in this report is incomplete. The percent of refugees with low ESL proficiency is higher than the 2% shown here.

TANF/ORIA provides ESL, job search, and basic education to LEP adults through contractors in the LEP Pathway program. Service counts are provided on pages 29-32 and 37-38. Length of stay is shown on pages 9-10. Employment outcomes of LEP job search are described on pages 55-56, 60, 87, 91, and 95.

[Return to Contents](#)

Count 1f: Limited English Proficiency Cases and Adults

Data Table

| Month | WorkFirst Cases | LEP WorkFirst Cases | Percent LEP | WorkFirst Adults | LEP WorkFirst Adults | Percent LEP | LEP Adults at Level 1 ESL | Percent Level 1 |
|--------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| May-20 | 18,060 | 2,754 | 15.2% | 18,807 | 3,315 | 17.6% | 239 | 7.2% |
| Jun-20 | 18,388 | 2,480 | 13.5% | 21,046 | 3,726 | 17.7% | 265 | 7.1% |
| Jul-20 | 18,729 | 2,322 | 12.4% | 21,018 | 3,232 | 15.4% | 224 | 6.9% |
| Aug-20 | 19,056 | 2,223 | 11.7% | 21,264 | 2,980 | 14.0% | 192 | 6.4% |
| Sep-20 | 18,451 | 2,045 | 11.1% | 21,529 | 2,808 | 13.0% | 167 | 5.9% |
| Oct-20 | 18,187 | 1,940 | 10.7% | 20,729 | 2,551 | 12.3% | 164 | 6.4% |
| Nov-20 | 18,127 | 1,909 | 10.5% | 20,418 | 2,426 | 11.9% | 147 | 6.1% |
| Dec-20 | 18,663 | 1,974 | 10.6% | 20,348 | 2,377 | 11.7% | 129 | 5.4% |
| Jan-21 | 18,781 | 2,016 | 10.7% | 21,034 | 2,455 | 11.7% | 135 | 5.5% |
| Feb-21 | 18,539 | 1,945 | 10.5% | 21,175 | 2,495 | 11.8% | 138 | 5.5% |
| Mar-21 | 18,074 | 1,916 | 10.6% | 20,899 | 2,391 | 11.4% | 126 | 5.3% |
| Apr-21 | 17,315 | 1,814 | 10.5% | 20,361 | 2,357 | 11.6% | 128 | 5.4% |
| May-21 | 16,900 | 1,751 | 10.4% | 19,440 | 2,216 | 11.4% | 132 | 6.0% |
| Jun-21 | 16,601 | 1,702 | 10.3% | 18,939 | 2,134 | 11.3% | 119 | 5.6% |
| Jul-21 | 16,332 | 1,689 | 10.3% | 18,513 | 2,056 | 11.1% | 110 | 5.4% |
| Aug-21 | 15,989 | 1,673 | 10.5% | 18,209 | 2,058 | 11.3% | 100 | 4.9% |
| Sep-21 | 16,111 | 1,710 | 10.6% | 17,824 | 2,056 | 11.5% | 97 | 4.7% |
| Oct-21 | 17,860 | 1,901 | 10.6% | 17,991 | 2,116 | 11.8% | 107 | 5.1% |
| Nov-21 | 18,136 | 1,997 | 11.0% | 20,042 | 2,372 | 11.8% | 121 | 5.1% |
| Dec-21 | 18,259 | 2,096 | 11.5% | 20,337 | 2,513 | 12.4% | 128 | 5.1% |
| Jan-22 | 18,651 | 2,237 | 12.0% | 20,542 | 2,680 | 13.1% | 130 | 4.9% |
| Feb-22 | 19,138 | 2,384 | 12.5% | 21,099 | 2,913 | 13.8% | 132 | 4.5% |
| Mar-22 | 19,405 | 2,570 | 13.2% | 21,731 | 3,149 | 14.5% | 136 | 4.3% |
| Apr-22 | 20,151 | 3,297 | 16.4% | 22,118 | 3,465 | 15.7% | 131 | 3.8% |
| May-22 | 20,385 | 3,512 | 17.2% | 23,343 | 4,705 | 20.2% | 152 | 3.2% |
| Jun-22 | 20,855 | 3,762 | 18.0% | 23,737 | 5,059 | 21.3% | 158 | 3.1% |
| Jul-22 | 21,251 | 3,990 | 18.8% | 24,313 | 5,441 | 22.4% | 158 | 2.9% |
| Aug-22 | 21,754 | 4,228 | 19.4% | 24,888 | 5,786 | 23.3% | 165 | 2.9% |
| Sep-22 | 22,025 | 4,584 | 20.8% | 25,550 | 6,181 | 24.2% | 161 | 2.6% |
| Oct-22 | 22,217 | 4,873 | 21.9% | 26,037 | 6,789 | 26.1% | 167 | 2.5% |
| Nov-22 | 22,288 | 5,156 | 23.1% | 26,443 | 7,316 | 27.7% | 183 | 2.5% |
| Dec-22 | 22,442 | 5,412 | 24.1% | 26,721 | 7,839 | 29.3% | 185 | 2.4% |
| Jan-23 | 22,521 | 5,607 | 24.9% | 27,054 | 8,289 | 30.6% | 189 | 2.3% |
| Feb-23 | 22,581 | 5,715 | 25.3% | 27,311 | 8,647 | 31.7% | 181 | 2.1% |
| Mar-23 | 22,393 | 5,741 | 25.6% | 27,420 | 8,806 | 32.1% | 175 | 2.0% |

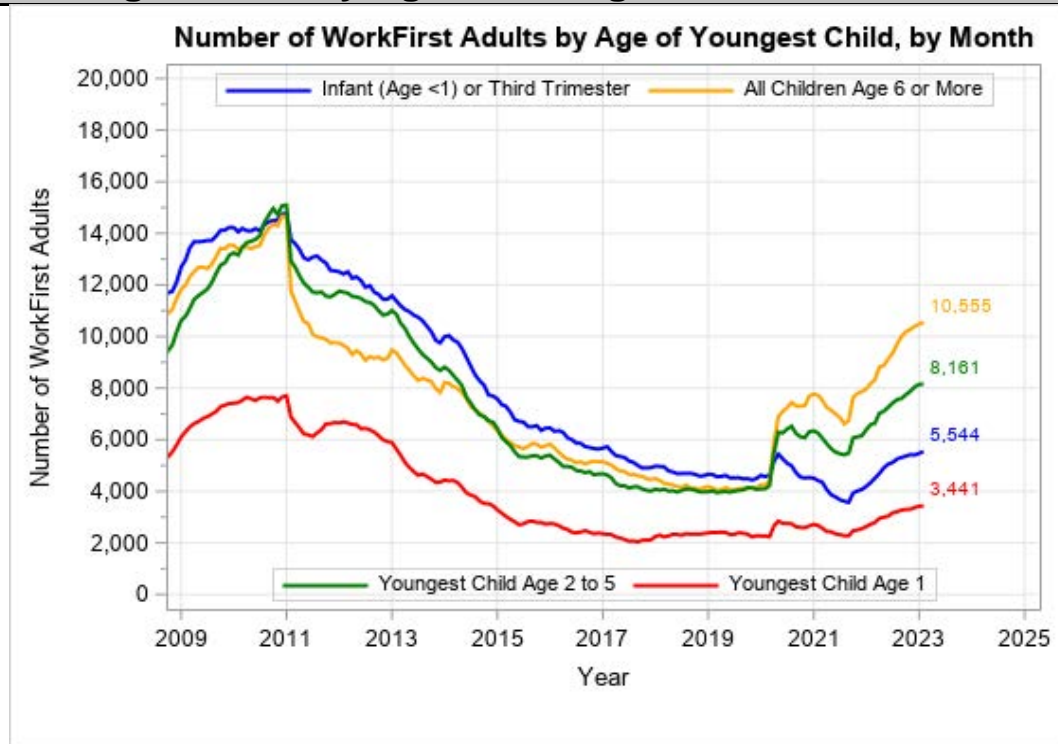
March 2023 compared to March 2022 (without adjustments for late reporting)

| | | | | | |
|----------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|
| % Change | 15% | 123% | 26% | 180% | 29% |
|----------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|

Counts of TANF cases and WorkFirst adults on this page differ slightly from those on pages 1 through 6, 9-12, and 15-16 due to differences in data sources and data definitions.

Source: EMAPS reports on LEP Adult Cases and LEP Adult Clients and ACES Data Warehouse.

Count 1g: Adults by Age of Youngest Child



Indicator

WorkFirst adults have different work requirements depending on the age of their youngest child. This chart shows the total number of adults in four groups defined by the age of their youngest child. Under ESSB 5898, effective in October 2017, one adult in each household with children under the age of 2 is eligible for a voluntary exemption from work requirements for a lifetime limit of 24 months. An earlier suspension policy, under ESSB 5921, provided temporary suspensions for one adult in each household with children under the age of 2 or two children under the age of 6. Those suspensions could be started between July 2011 and June 2012 and were phased out during FY 2013. Single adults with children under the age of 6 have been able to meet work requirements by participating for 20 hours instead of 30 hours per week since March 2011. The four groups in the chart are mutually exclusive.

Trends

Implementation of 60 month time limits in February 2011 reduced the number of adults with children in every age group. It had the largest impact on households with the oldest children and smallest impact on households with the youngest children. The ESSB 5898 policy increased the count of households with youngest child age 1 through April 2019. All family groups are now increasing in size at roughly the same rate. Increases are largest for adults in two-parent households. Older families facing disruption to employment and caregiving responsibilities face fewer barriers to remaining on or returning to TANF than they did prior to March 2020, before the pandemic extensions to time limits (see pages 7-8). Refugees contribute to the increase in two-parent households. Counts of households with youngest child age six or more increased by 29% from February 2022. The count of households with youngest child age 2 to 5 increased by 24%. The count of households with youngest child age one increased by 26% from February 2022. Households with adults who were pregnant or with an infant increased by 28%.

[Return to Contents](#)

Count 1g: Adults by Age of Youngest Child

| Month | Youngest Child | | | Work Participation Requirements | | | | Total Adults |
|--------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|------------------|----------|--------------|
| | Infant Age < 1 Year or Pregnant | Age 1 Year but < 2 Years (Exemptions Began Oct-17) | Potential Exemption Parents | 20 Hours | | 35 Hours | | |
| | | | | Youngest Child Age | | No Child Younger | | |
| | | | | Two but < Six Years | | Than Age Six | | |
| | | | | 1 Adult | 2 Adults | 1 Adult | 2 Adults | |
| Aug-20 | 4,988 | 2,740 | 5,243 | 4,909 | 1,614 | 6,186 | 1,257 | 21,694 |
| Sep-20 | 4,716 | 2,622 | 4,987 | 4,757 | 1,481 | 6,149 | 1,160 | 20,884 |
| Oct-20 | 4,551 | 2,601 | 4,862 | 4,712 | 1,403 | 6,133 | 1,160 | 20,560 |
| Nov-20 | 4,517 | 2,585 | 4,798 | 4,698 | 1,378 | 6,172 | 1,152 | 20,502 |
| Dec-20 | 4,534 | 2,657 | 4,831 | 4,820 | 1,491 | 6,441 | 1,244 | 21,187 |
| Jan-21 | 4,509 | 2,716 | 4,873 | 4,831 | 1,508 | 6,535 | 1,237 | 21,336 |
| Feb-21 | 4,415 | 2,672 | 4,761 | 4,791 | 1,464 | 6,480 | 1,238 | 21,060 |
| Mar-21 | 4,352 | 2,574 | 4,606 | 4,669 | 1,395 | 6,318 | 1,230 | 20,538 |
| Apr-21 | 4,070 | 2,439 | 4,319 | 4,543 | 1,304 | 6,110 | 1,145 | 19,611 |
| May-21 | 3,871 | 2,432 | 4,179 | 4,414 | 1,242 | 6,036 | 1,106 | 19,100 |
| Jun-21 | 3,782 | 2,348 | 4,062 | 4,381 | 1,140 | 5,955 | 1,046 | 18,652 |
| Jul-21 | 3,672 | 2,321 | 4,019 | 4,344 | 1,114 | 5,827 | 1,037 | 18,315 |
| Aug-21 | 3,614 | 2,278 | 3,945 | 4,308 | 1,104 | 5,640 | 972 | 17,916 |
| Sep-21 | 3,571 | 2,277 | 3,945 | 4,331 | 1,155 | 5,731 | 1,017 | 18,082 |
| Oct-21 | 3,936 | 2,469 | 4,352 | 4,694 | 1,377 | 6,415 | 1,225 | 20,116 |
| Nov-21 | 4,014 | 2,499 | 4,456 | 4,740 | 1,373 | 6,519 | 1,278 | 20,423 |
| Dec-21 | 4,072 | 2,552 | 4,525 | 4,702 | 1,453 | 6,534 | 1,324 | 20,637 |
| Jan-22 | 4,195 | 2,635 | 4,634 | 4,800 | 1,592 | 6,601 | 1,376 | 21,199 |
| Feb-22 | 4,342 | 2,727 | 4,786 | 4,883 | 1,706 | 6,740 | 1,441 | 21,839 |
| Mar-22 | 4,507 | 2,788 | 4,887 | 4,869 | 1,770 | 6,778 | 1,540 | 22,252 |
| Apr-22 | 4,690 | 2,952 | 5,026 | 4,914 | 2,105 | 6,967 | 1,852 | 23,479 |
| May-22 | 4,904 | 2,993 | 5,183 | 4,920 | 2,181 | 6,964 | 1,908 | 23,869 |
| Jun-22 | 5,053 | 3,035 | 5,287 | 4,917 | 2,339 | 7,118 | 2,012 | 24,474 |
| Jul-22 | 5,115 | 3,160 | 5,402 | 5,031 | 2,390 | 7,168 | 2,172 | 25,034 |
| Aug-22 | 5,248 | 3,208 | 5,524 | 5,051 | 2,497 | 7,341 | 2,356 | 25,701 |
| Sep-22 | 5,311 | 3,269 | 5,604 | 5,012 | 2,585 | 7,436 | 2,564 | 26,177 |
| Oct-22 | 5,362 | 3,297 | 5,653 | 4,981 | 2,760 | 7,437 | 2,739 | 26,576 |
| Nov-22 | 5,419 | 3,303 | 5,652 | 4,940 | 2,935 | 7,398 | 2,876 | 26,871 |
| Dec-22 | 5,407 | 3,371 | 5,709 | 4,931 | 3,111 | 7,401 | 2,990 | 27,210 |
| Jan-23 | 5,470 | 3,419 | 5,756 | 4,928 | 3,213 | 7,358 | 3,119 | 27,507 |
| Feb-23 | 5,544 | 3,441 | 5,753 | 4,898 | 3,263 | 7,385 | 3,170 | 27,700 |

February 2023 compared to February 2022 (without adjustments for late reporting)

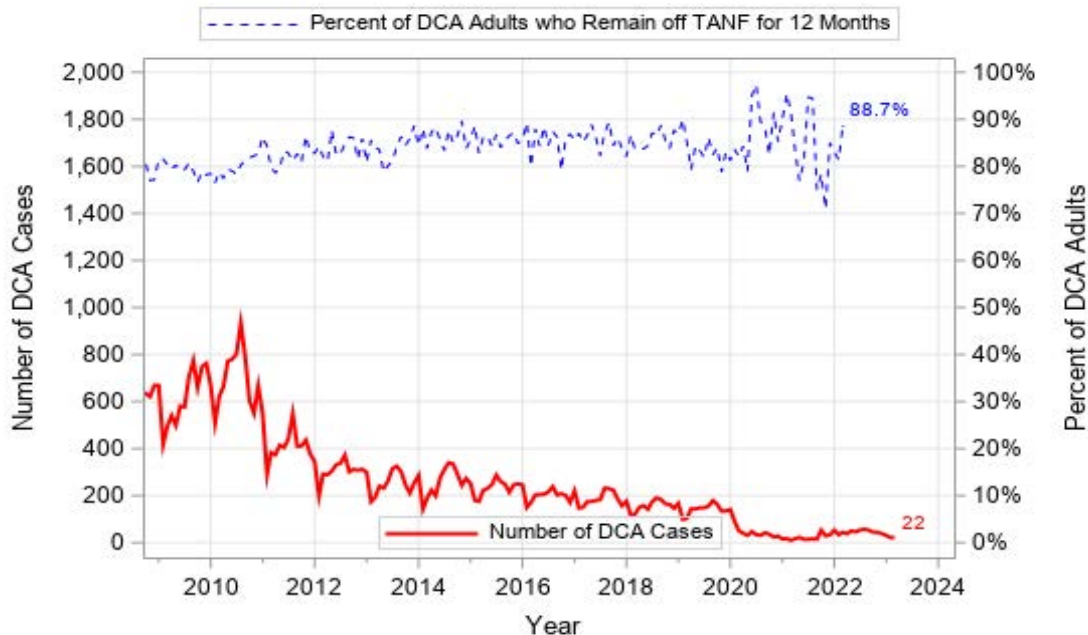
| | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| % Change | 28% | 26% | 20% | 0% | 91% | 10% | 120% | 27% |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|------|-----|

Reduced work requirements were implemented for two parent households in October 2010, after which only one of the two adults was required to participate. Reduced work requirements for single adults with children under six were introduced in March 2011. Reduced work requirements were introduced to reduce child care costs. Budgets for employment and educational programs were reduced for the suspension in FY 2012 and for the expansion of infant exemptions in FY 2018.

The "Potential Exemption Parents" column counts only one adult per household.

Count 2: DCA Success Rate

Number of Diversion Cash Assistance Adults and Percent who Remain Off TANF for 12 Months



DCA Program

Diversion Cash Assistance (DCA) is provided to meet the temporary income needs of eligible adults so they do not have to enter TANF (WorkFirst). Households receive payments of up to \$1,250, a portion of which must be repaid if recipients enter TANF during the following 12 months. Ninety-two percent of DCA payments in March 2023 were used to pay for housing assistance, 5% for transportation related expenses and 3% for employment related expenses.

Target

The historical WorkFirst target for the percent of DCA recipients who did not enter TANF within 12 months was 80%. There is no current target for this measure.

Experience to Date

Use of DCA dropped after October 2010. Until October 2010, DCA households could receive payments of up to \$1,500. The maximum payment was reduced to \$1,250 in October 2010 and to \$1,000 in January 2011. The maximum DCA payment returned to \$1,250 in July 2011. TANF time limits and reductions to TANF payment standards introduced in February 2011 also reduced the number of households eligible to receive DCA. DCA benefits were provided at 16 CSOs in March 2023. Spokane Maple CSO had 3 DCA users. Columbia River CSO and Kennewick CSO had 2 users each. Another 13 CSOs had one user each. DCA use reached a record low in March 2021. Use increased after October 2021, when WorkFirst re-engagement began but has not grown much further since then. DCA use was highest during the Great Recession (2009-10).

The percent of DCA households remaining off TANF for 12 months was 89% for households starting DCA in March 2022. Results became more variable after April 2020 as the DCA caseload grew smaller and COVID-19 affected return to TANF (see page 63).

[Return to Contents](#)

Count 2: DCA Success Rate

Data Table

| Month | DCA Adults in Next 12 Months | | | | WorkFirst Entries | DCA as % of Entries |
|--------|------------------------------|------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | DCA Cases | DCA Adults | Adults w/ No TANF | Success Rate | | |
| Jan-21 | 16 | 20 | 18 | 90% | 1,538 | 1% |
| Feb-21 | 17 | 22 | 21 | 95% | 1,315 | 1% |
| Mar-21 | 10 | 12 | 11 | 92% | 1,085 | 1% |
| Apr-21 | 17 | 18 | 15 | 83% | 949 | 2% |
| May-21 | 22 | 26 | 20 | 77% | 1,264 | 2% |
| Jun-21 | 14 | 21 | 17 | 81% | 1,326 | 1% |
| Jul-21 | 15 | 19 | 18 | 95% | 1,347 | 1% |
| Aug-21 | 16 | 18 | 17 | 94% | 1,255 | 1% |
| Sep-21 | 15 | 16 | 12 | 75% | 1,615 | 1% |
| Oct-21 | 53 | 60 | 47 | 78% | 3,141 | 2% |
| Nov-21 | 29 | 31 | 22 | 71% | 2,026 | 1% |
| Dec-21 | 33 | 40 | 34 | 85% | 1,835 | 2% |
| Jan-22 | 53 | 65 | 54 | 83% | 1,964 | 3% |
| Feb-22 | 34 | 43 | 35 | 81% | 1,637 | 2% |
| Mar-22 | 44 | 53 | 47 | 89% | 1,805 | 2% |
| Apr-22 | 38 | 48 | . | . | 2,357 | 2% |
| May-22 | 50 | 60 | . | . | 1,899 | 3% |
| Jun-22 | 46 | 54 | . | . | 2,105 | 2% |
| Jul-22 | 54 | 70 | . | . | 2,029 | 3% |
| Aug-22 | 57 | 66 | . | . | 2,290 | 2% |
| Sep-22 | 53 | 66 | . | . | 2,203 | 2% |
| Oct-22 | 44 | . | . | . | 2,215 | 2% |
| Nov-22 | 44 | . | . | . | 2,170 | 2% |
| Dec-22 | 38 | . | . | . | 2,125 | 2% |
| Jan-23 | 31 | . | . | . | 2,168 | 1% |
| Feb-23 | 21 | . | . | . | 1,874 | 1% |
| Mar-23 | 22 | . | . | . | 2,028 | 1% |

March 2023 compared to March 2022

% Change -50% 12%

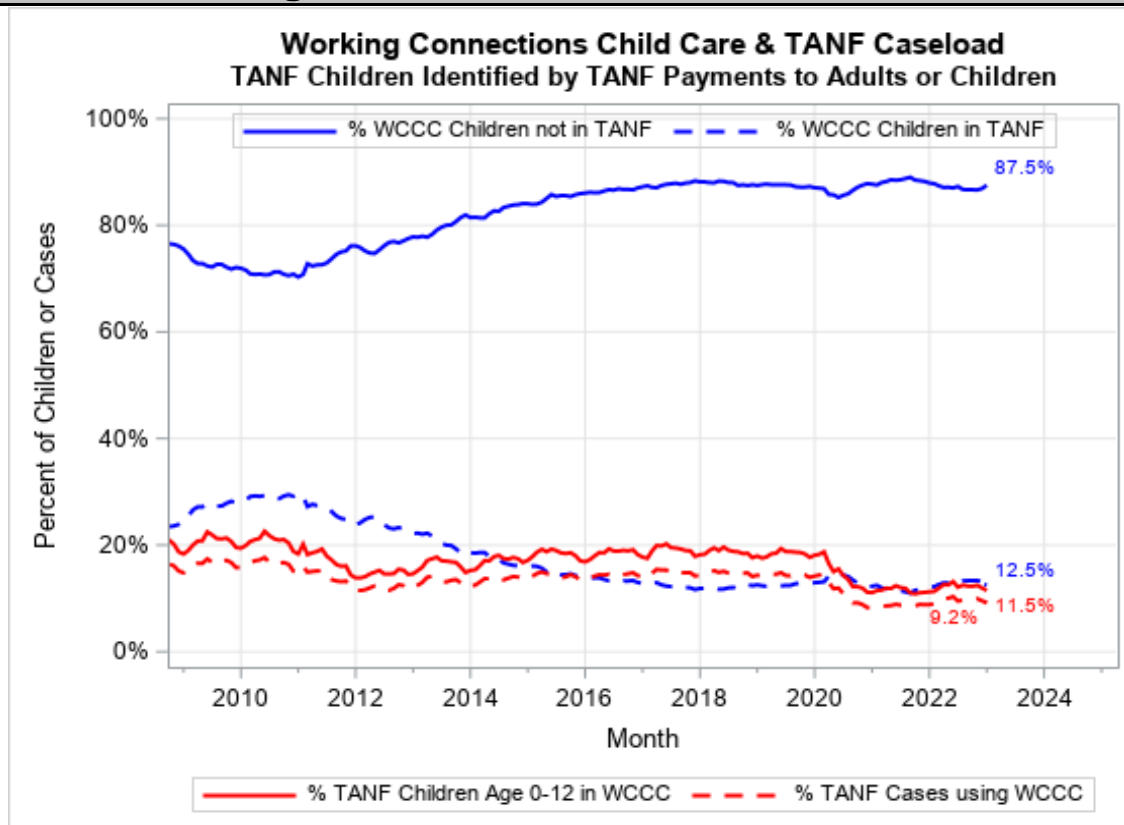
If DCA recipients had entered TANF instead, WorkFirst entries would have been 14% higher in calendar year 2010. DCA use reduced WorkFirst entries by 9% in 2015 through 2017 and by 8% in 2018 and 2019. DCA use in March 2023 was 50% lower than March 2022. WorkFirst entries increased by 12% over the same period. DCA use had been low during the COVID-19 emergency. DCA use reduced WorkFirst entries by only 1.4% between March 2020 and September 2020. Resumptions of WorkFirst work participation requirements late in September 2021 probably made DCA more attractive than it was during the pandemic. DCA use reduced WorkFirst entries by 2.2% in calendar 2022, but by only 1.2% during the first three months of 2023. Counts of DCA cases are lag adjusted to reflect delayed reporting.

Definition of Measure

The chart measures the number of Diversion Cash Assistance clients who do not enter TANF within 12 months of receiving a DCA payment.

Source: DSHS performance reports and ACES data warehouse.

Count 3: Working Connections Child Care



Goal

Working Connections Child Care provides subsidized child care for TANF and other low-income families so parents are able to work and move toward family self-sufficiency and so children have stable access to nurturing environments that help support their healthy development and school readiness.

Experience to Date

In 2010, 29% of WCCC children were members of TANF households. The percent of TANF children age 0-12 served in WCCC was 11.5% in January 2023. However, most WCCC households have used TANF in the past: 72% of WCCC households January 2023 had used TANF: 14% in December 2022 or January 2023; 43% most recently between February 2011 and November 2022; and 12% prior to the TANF program changes of February 2011. The majority (73%) of past TANF users of WCCC (prior to December 2022) had incomes reported at above the Federal Poverty Level.

Comments

Caseloads in these charts are not adjusted for late reporting. Caseloads for December 2022 and January 2023 could rise by 1.6% and 2.7% when all bills are paid. The drop in TANF-related households is related to the drop in TANF caseloads since February 2011 and to WorkFirst program changes. Caseloads increased in July 2016 due to the Early Start Act, but decreased after July 2017. The COVID-19 emergency reduced caseloads beginning in April 2020. Caseloads expanded again under the Fair Start Act (see page 20). The January to January comparisons in these pages suggest that there was a 17.9% increase in cases and a 15.1% increase in children served over the past year (with fewer children per household served). January 2023 caseloads will likely reach 24,125 households and 40,466 children once all bills are paid -- case counts 20.3% higher and child counts 17.3% higher than in January 2022. Data were obtained on March 26, 2023.

[Return to Contents](#)

Count 3: Working Connections Child Care

| Data Table | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------|---------------|---------------|----------|----------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| | WCCC | Non-TANF | TANF | WCCC | TANF | % of TANF | % of TANF |
| Month | Cases | Related Cases | Related Cases | Children | Children | Households Using WCCC | Children 0-12 Using WCCC |
| Sep-20 | 19,131 | 16,338 | 2,793 | 34,752 | 4,665 | 9.2% | 12.2% |
| Oct-20 | 19,439 | 16,708 | 2,731 | 35,413 | 4,550 | 9.2% | 12.2% |
| Nov-20 | 19,373 | 16,765 | 2,608 | 35,332 | 4,403 | 8.8% | 11.9% |
| Dec-20 | 18,994 | 16,489 | 2,505 | 34,619 | 4,216 | 8.3% | 11.1% |
| Jan-21 | 18,921 | 16,408 | 2,513 | 34,370 | 4,221 | 8.3% | 11.1% |
| Feb-21 | 18,993 | 16,454 | 2,539 | 34,413 | 4,282 | 8.4% | 11.5% |
| Mar-21 | 19,341 | 16,860 | 2,481 | 34,963 | 4,193 | 8.4% | 11.5% |
| Apr-21 | 19,563 | 17,115 | 2,448 | 35,208 | 4,150 | 8.6% | 11.9% |
| May-21 | 19,633 | 17,217 | 2,416 | 34,987 | 4,010 | 8.7% | 11.9% |
| Jun-21 | 19,844 | 17,399 | 2,445 | 35,707 | 4,123 | 8.9% | 12.4% |
| Jul-21 | 19,347 | 16,995 | 2,352 | 34,652 | 3,971 | 8.7% | 12.0% |
| Aug-21 | 19,207 | 16,894 | 2,313 | 34,387 | 3,862 | 8.7% | 11.9% |
| Sep-21 | 18,830 | 16,566 | 2,264 | 32,877 | 3,613 | 8.6% | 11.0% |
| Oct-21 | 19,153 | 16,738 | 2,415 | 32,936 | 3,790 | 8.6% | 10.8% |
| Nov-21 | 19,646 | 17,133 | 2,513 | 33,587 | 3,906 | 8.9% | 11.1% |
| Dec-21 | 19,799 | 17,290 | 2,509 | 33,791 | 3,974 | 8.8% | 11.1% |
| Jan-22 | 19,922 | 17,364 | 2,558 | 33,946 | 4,097 | 8.8% | 11.2% |
| Feb-22 | 20,319 | 17,668 | 2,651 | 34,528 | 4,211 | 9.0% | 11.3% |
| Mar-22 | 21,028 | 18,199 | 2,829 | 35,573 | 4,477 | 9.5% | 11.9% |
| Apr-22 | 22,220 | 19,181 | 3,039 | 37,738 | 4,866 | 9.9% | 12.6% |
| May-22 | 22,625 | 19,527 | 3,098 | 38,133 | 4,905 | 10.0% | 12.5% |
| Jun-22 | 23,564 | 20,315 | 3,249 | 40,275 | 5,227 | 10.3% | 13.1% |
| Jul-22 | 22,430 | 19,417 | 3,013 | 38,525 | 4,898 | 9.5% | 12.1% |
| Aug-22 | 22,576 | 19,450 | 3,126 | 38,758 | 5,144 | 9.7% | 12.5% |
| Sep-22 | 22,674 | 19,514 | 3,160 | 38,300 | 5,102 | 9.7% | 12.3% |
| Oct-22 | 22,856 | 19,668 | 3,188 | 38,288 | 5,102 | 9.8% | 12.3% |
| Nov-22 | 23,291 | 20,049 | 3,242 | 38,941 | 5,202 | 9.9% | 12.5% |
| Dec-22 | 23,046 | 19,904 | 3,142 | 38,583 | 5,061 | 9.5% | 12.0% |
| Jan-23 | 23,484 | 20,442 | 3,042 | 39,087 | 4,878 | 9.2% | 11.5% |

January 2023 compared to January 2022 (without adjustments for late reporting)

| | | | | | |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Change | 18% | 18% | 19% | 15% | 19% |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

Definition of Measure

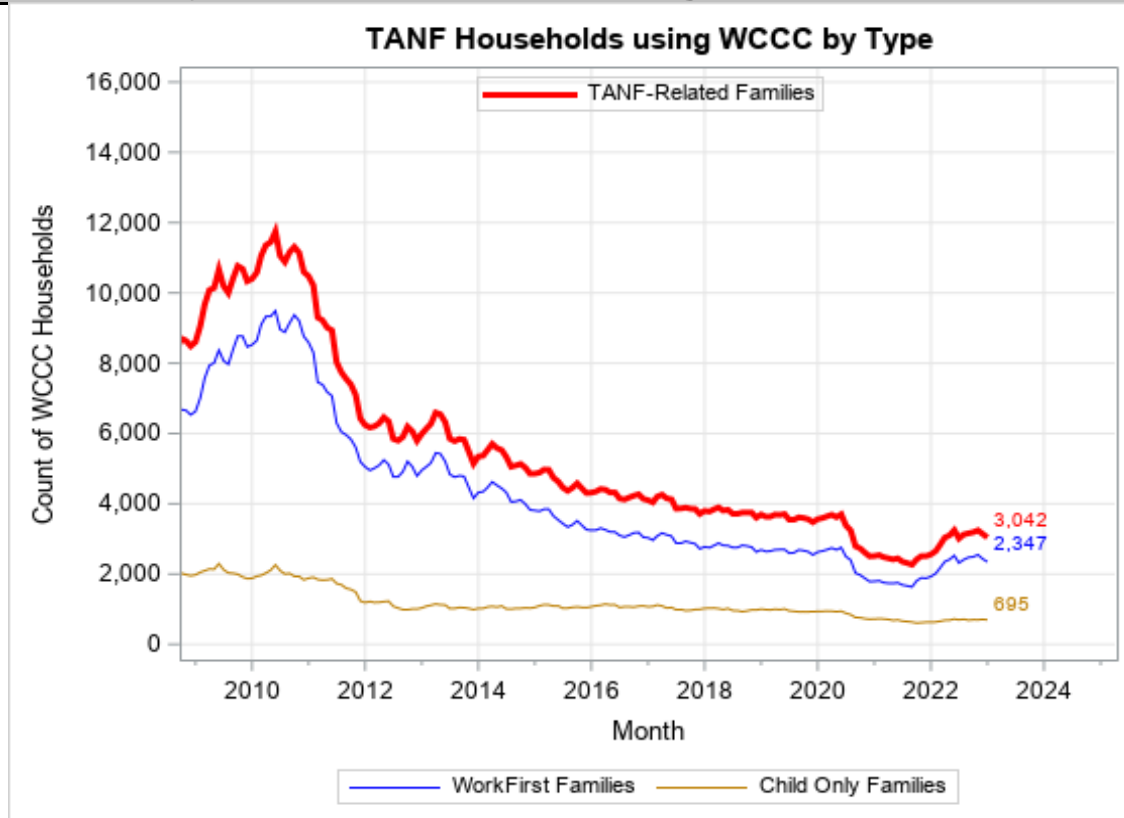
Results are tabulated from files supplied by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. The percent of TANF children served by WCCC is based on the number of children living in households receiving TANF and WCCC (based on DCYF data) divided by the number of TANF children aged 0 to 12 (based on ACES data). This method is based on matching WCCC consumer IDs with TANF records.

Fair Start Act

The Fair Start Act (SB 5237) increased income eligibility limits and reduced most copayments in October 2021. Some 3,685 (15.7%) of the WCCC households with services in January 2023 were income eligible under Fair Start Act provisions and would not have been eligible under prior law. An additional 220 households received care through expanded eligibility for student parents.

Source: WCCC cases and children, DCYF; Number of TANF children aged 0-12, ACES data warehouse.

Count 3a: Type of TANF Cases Using WCCC



Use of WCCC by TANF Households

Parents often need paid child care to maintain employment or to participate in WorkFirst activities, but many households do not use child care subsidies. There was one WCCC case for every 2.6 adults who used WorkFirst services in FY 2016. There was one WCCC case per 2.4 adults who used WorkFirst services in FY 2018 and one WCCC case per 1.6 adults with WorkFirst services in FY 2021 when services were voluntary. Use of services increased after reengagement, changing the ratio to one WCCC case per 2.9 adults with WorkFirst services in FY 2022. TANF-related care includes WCCC child care provided to kinship caregivers, guardians, and parents of children with Child Only TANF grants. Categorized by type of Child Only households, WCCC was used by 10% of kinship caregivers, 9% of legal guardians, 4% of non-citizen parents, 3% of disabled parents and 2% of parents disqualified from using TANF in FY 2022.

Experience to Date

Use of WCCC by WorkFirst (All Family) TANF households reached a high point during the summer of 2010 and then dropped after cutbacks to the WorkFirst program. Exemptions from WorkFirst work requirements were extended to households with children under the age of 2 in October 2017, which reduced TANF-related child care activity. Most remaining WorkFirst households were exempted from work requirements between March 2020 and September 2021 under COVID-19 emergency policies. Despite the restoration of WorkFirst work requirements, WCCC use rates are well below the 20% use rates common prior to the pandemic. The 10.4% use rate in January 2023 was the same as the 10.4% use rate in January 2022 the fourth full month of WorkFirst reengagement. Use of WCCC by Child Only cases remained relatively stable until program changes in November 2011. Kinship caregivers may receive WCCC without using TANF, so the drop in TANF Child Only households using WCCC does not necessarily imply a drop in the use of child care by those households. (They can also be counted among the non-TANF WCCC households.)

[Return to Contents](#)

Count 3a: Type of TANF Cases Using WCCC

| Data Table | WorkFirst | WorkFirst | Percent | | Child Only | Percent | Child Only |
|-------------------|------------|-------------|---------|------------|-------------|---------|------------|
| | WorkFirst | Cases Using | Using | | Cases Using | Using | % of TANF |
| Month | TANF Cases | WCCC | WCCC | TANF Cases | WCCC | WCCC | WCCC Users |
| Aug-20 | 19,030 | 2,397 | 12.6% | 12,348 | 845 | 6.8% | 26.1% |
| Sep-20 | 18,429 | 2,030 | 11.0% | 12,069 | 763 | 6.3% | 27.3% |
| Oct-20 | 18,167 | 1,973 | 10.9% | 11,609 | 758 | 6.5% | 27.8% |
| Nov-20 | 18,103 | 1,879 | 10.4% | 11,408 | 730 | 6.4% | 28.0% |
| Dec-20 | 18,648 | 1,788 | 9.6% | 11,619 | 717 | 6.2% | 28.6% |
| Jan-21 | 18,765 | 1,793 | 9.6% | 11,690 | 720 | 6.2% | 28.7% |
| Feb-21 | 18,521 | 1,809 | 9.8% | 11,539 | 730 | 6.3% | 28.8% |
| Mar-21 | 18,063 | 1,757 | 9.7% | 11,370 | 724 | 6.4% | 29.2% |
| Apr-21 | 17,301 | 1,739 | 10.1% | 11,189 | 710 | 6.3% | 29.0% |
| May-21 | 16,884 | 1,735 | 10.3% | 11,033 | 681 | 6.2% | 28.2% |
| Jun-21 | 16,591 | 1,752 | 10.6% | 10,936 | 694 | 6.3% | 28.4% |
| Jul-21 | 16,324 | 1,690 | 10.4% | 10,664 | 662 | 6.2% | 28.1% |
| Aug-21 | 15,978 | 1,664 | 10.4% | 10,481 | 649 | 6.2% | 28.1% |
| Sep-21 | 16,098 | 1,633 | 10.1% | 10,359 | 633 | 6.1% | 27.9% |
| Oct-21 | 17,845 | 1,808 | 10.1% | 10,297 | 608 | 5.9% | 25.2% |
| Nov-21 | 18,119 | 1,894 | 10.5% | 10,214 | 619 | 6.1% | 24.6% |
| Dec-21 | 18,244 | 1,880 | 10.3% | 10,211 | 629 | 6.2% | 25.1% |
| Jan-22 | 18,642 | 1,930 | 10.4% | 10,307 | 628 | 6.1% | 24.6% |
| Feb-22 | 19,128 | 2,016 | 10.5% | 10,396 | 635 | 6.1% | 24.0% |
| Mar-22 | 19,392 | 2,172 | 11.2% | 10,453 | 657 | 6.3% | 23.2% |
| Apr-22 | 20,130 | 2,355 | 11.7% | 10,503 | 684 | 6.5% | 22.5% |
| May-22 | 20,376 | 2,412 | 11.8% | 10,511 | 686 | 6.5% | 22.1% |
| Jun-22 | 20,851 | 2,526 | 12.1% | 10,588 | 723 | 6.8% | 22.3% |
| Jul-22 | 21,239 | 2,316 | 10.9% | 10,487 | 697 | 6.6% | 23.1% |
| Aug-22 | 21,745 | 2,410 | 11.1% | 10,506 | 716 | 6.8% | 22.9% |
| Sep-22 | 22,006 | 2,473 | 11.2% | 10,407 | 687 | 6.6% | 21.7% |
| Oct-22 | 22,201 | 2,489 | 11.2% | 10,290 | 699 | 6.8% | 21.9% |
| Nov-22 | 22,280 | 2,548 | 11.4% | 10,319 | 696 | 6.7% | 21.5% |
| Dec-22 | 22,418 | 2,431 | 10.8% | 10,485 | 711 | 6.8% | 22.6% |
| Jan-23 | 22,510 | 2,347 | 10.4% | 10,550 | 695 | 6.6% | 22.8% |

January 2023 compared to January 2022 (without adjustments for late reporting)

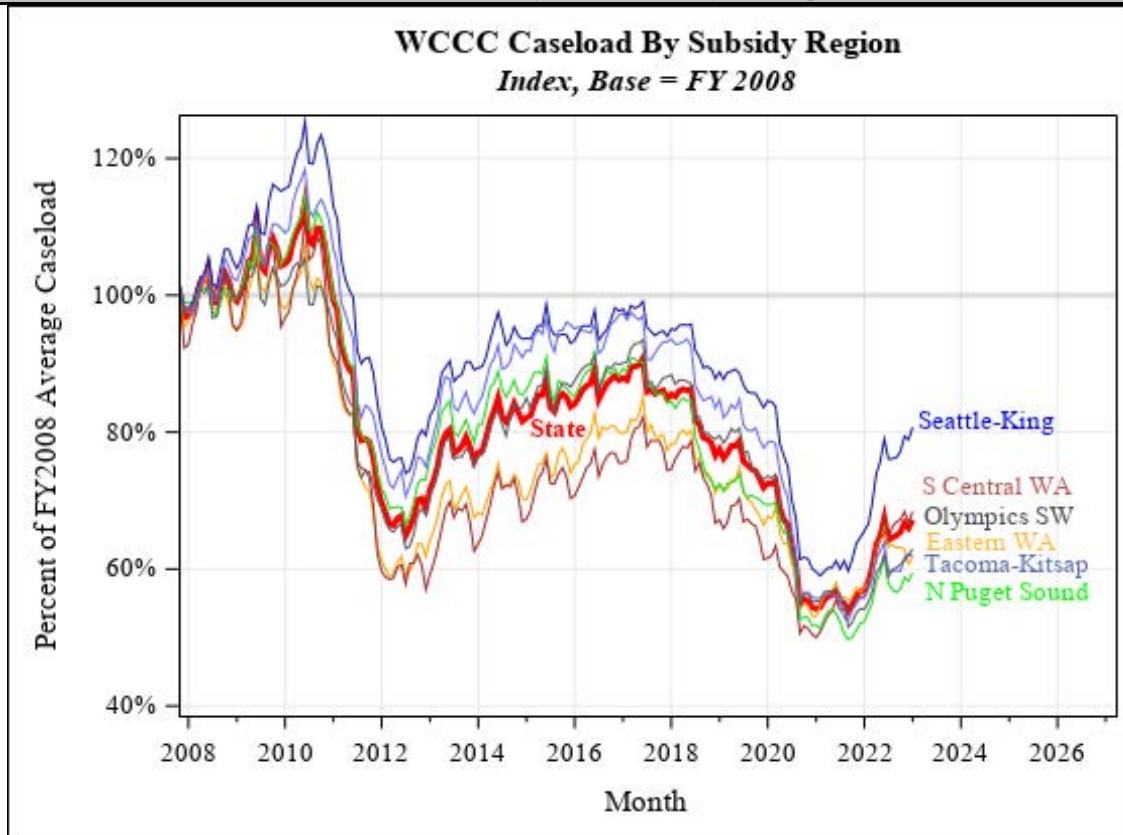
% Change 21% 22% 2% 11%

Definition of Measures

Results are tabulated from files supplied by DCYF matched with TANF case data. WCCC cases are identified as WorkFirst if a parent receiving benefits in a TANF case is listed as the head of the WCCC household during the current or prior month. WCCC cases are identified as Child Only if an adult associated with a Child Only TANF case is identified as the head of the WCCC household during the current or prior month. This method of counting TANF-related cases produces a larger count of WCCC households than would be obtained by looking at the WCCC eligibility records, which appear to undercount WCCC households receiving TANF. Many cases counted as non-TANF related have also received TANF in the past, but not recently enough to be counted in this measure.

Source: WCCC cases from DCYF matched to Client IDs in ACES.

Count 3b: WCCC Caseload by Subsidy Region



Experience to Date

WCCC caseloads began to grow in most areas in mid-2008 but began to decline by late-2010 in all parts of the state. Caseloads began to increase in all six regions in January 2013 but flattened out during the summer of 2015. Declines began during the summer of 2017 and occurred again in July 2018, July 2019 and July 2020. Declines in 2020 began in April 2020 due to the COVID-19 emergency, continued through September 2020, but ended after October 2020. Growth has been underway in all six subsidy regions of the state, though caseloads dropped between June and July 2022. That drop was associated with the end of payment for authorization policy in effect between April and June 2022 and seasonal caseload changes associated with the end of the school year and the beginning of summer care.

Average caseloads grew by 3.1% in FY 2017 but declined by 2.5% in FY 2018; 8.6% in FY 2019; 8.1% in FY 2020 and 21.8% in FY 2021. Caseload growth resumed in FY 2022 with an increase of 4.6%. Caseloads are expected to increase by 16.9% in FY 2023, 10.1% in FY 2024, and 7.0% in FY 2025 according to the February 2023 caseload forecast. Caseload expansion is expected due to the end of the pandemic plus income eligibility changes, copayment changes, and expanded eligibility for students included in the Fair Start Act (SB 5237). Some of the pre-COVID decline resulted from requirements that providers begin using electronic attendance systems in July 2018. Declines were pronounced among FFN providers until May 2020 and were pronounced at child care centers in the summer of 2020 (see pages 27-28). The February 2023 caseload forecast expects WCCC caseloads to reach 25,951 by June 2023, 27,473 by June 2024 and to be 29,895 in June 2025.

See: http://cfc.wa.gov/HumanServices_DCYF_WorkingConnections.htm for more information.

[Return to Contents](#)

Count 3b: WCCC Caseload by Subsidy Region

| Data Table | | Region 1 | Region 2 | Region 3 | Region 4 | Region 5 | Region 6 |
|-------------------|--------|----------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| | WCCC | Eastern | South | North Puget | Seattle | Tacoma | Olympics |
| | Cases | Wash | Central | Sound | King Co. | Kitsap | Southwest |
| FY 2008 | 34,941 | 6,270 | 5,437 | 4,614 | 7,436 | 5,008 | 5,770 |
| Jan-17 | 30,712 | 5,004 | 4,106 | 4,119 | 7,288 | 4,880 | 5,210 |
| Jul-17 | 30,000 | 5,024 | 4,230 | 4,000 | 7,085 | 4,538 | 5,044 |
| Jan-18 | 29,871 | 4,908 | 4,058 | 3,898 | 7,072 | 4,690 | 5,019 |
| Jul-18 | 28,495 | 4,759 | 4,037 | 3,655 | 6,837 | 4,345 | 4,749 |
| Jan-19 | 27,093 | 4,535 | 3,656 | 3,346 | 6,603 | 4,249 | 4,524 |
| Jul-19 | 26,455 | 4,480 | 3,635 | 3,287 | 6,461 | 4,057 | 4,438 |
| Jan-20 | 25,338 | 4,244 | 3,349 | 3,200 | 6,287 | 3,929 | 4,246 |
| Jul-20 | 21,950 | 3,809 | 3,089 | 2,870 | 5,210 | 3,288 | 3,618 |
| Jan-21 | 18,921 | 3,330 | 2,719 | 2,391 | 4,430 | 2,791 | 3,191 |
| Jul-21 | 19,347 | 3,469 | 2,934 | 2,411 | 4,464 | 2,762 | 3,235 |
| Jan-22 | 19,922 | 3,597 | 3,043 | 2,414 | 4,874 | 2,796 | 3,123 |
| Jul-22 | 22,430 | 3,962 | 3,503 | 2,673 | 5,659 | 2,989 | 3,398 |
| Dec-22 | 23,046 | 3,806 | 3,628 | 2,684 | 5,865 | 3,115 | 3,575 |
| Jan-23 | 23,484 | 3,874 | 3,717 | 2,746 | 5,999 | 3,097 | 3,631 |

January 2023 compared to January 2022 (without adjustments for late reporting)

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| % Change | 18% | 8% | 22% | 14% | 23% | 11% | 16% |
|----------|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

Percent of FY 2008 Cases

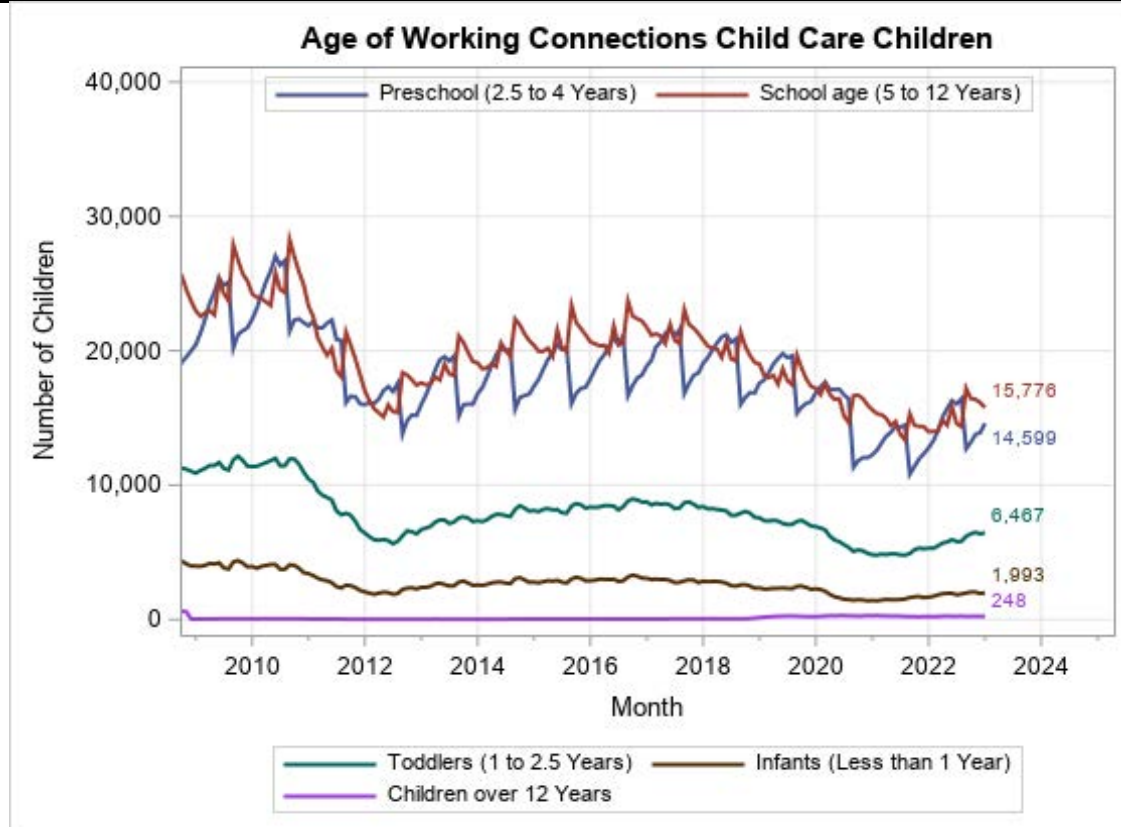
| | WCCC | Eastern | South | North Puget | Seattle | Tacoma | Olympics |
|---------|--------|---------|---------|-------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| | Cases | Wash | Central | Sound | King Co. | Kitsap | Southwest |
| FY 2008 | 34,941 | 6,270 | 5,437 | 4,614 | 7,436 | 5,008 | 5,770 |
| Jan-17 | 87.9 | 79.8 | 75.5 | 89.3 | 98.0 | 97.4 | 90.3 |
| Jul-17 | 85.9 | 80.1 | 77.8 | 86.7 | 95.3 | 90.6 | 87.4 |
| Jan-18 | 85.5 | 78.3 | 74.6 | 84.5 | 95.1 | 93.6 | 87.0 |
| Jul-18 | 81.6 | 75.9 | 74.3 | 79.2 | 92.0 | 86.8 | 82.3 |
| Jan-19 | 77.5 | 72.3 | 67.2 | 72.5 | 88.8 | 84.8 | 78.4 |
| Jul-19 | 75.7 | 71.4 | 66.9 | 71.2 | 86.9 | 81.0 | 76.9 |
| Jan-20 | 72.5 | 67.7 | 61.6 | 69.4 | 84.6 | 78.5 | 73.6 |
| Jul-20 | 62.8 | 60.7 | 56.8 | 62.2 | 70.1 | 65.7 | 62.7 |
| Jan-21 | 54.2 | 53.1 | 50.0 | 51.8 | 59.6 | 55.7 | 55.3 |
| Jul-21 | 55.4 | 55.3 | 54.0 | 52.3 | 60.0 | 55.2 | 56.1 |
| Jan-22 | 57.0 | 57.4 | 56.0 | 52.3 | 65.6 | 55.8 | 54.1 |
| Jul-22 | 64.2 | 63.2 | 64.4 | 57.9 | 76.1 | 59.7 | 58.9 |
| Dec-22 | 66.0 | 60.7 | 66.7 | 58.2 | 78.9 | 62.2 | 62.0 |
| Jan-23 | 67.2 | 61.8 | 68.4 | 59.5 | 80.7 | 61.8 | 62.9 |

Definition of Measure

Counts of WCCC cases by region use the county of service provider to identify WCCC subsidy regions. Household counts differ from page 20 because region cannot be identified for some providers. The percent of FY 2008 figures show the monthly caseload divided by the region's average caseload in State fiscal year 2008. The index is useful for viewing changes between periods by region.

Source: WCCC cases from DCYF monthly extract.

Count 3c: WCCC Children by Age



Ages of WCCC Children

Working Connections Child Care pays different vendor rates for children of different ages. Knowledge of child age is also important to policymakers since some policies affect specific age groups. Vendor rates differ for preschool children and school age children. Children who are 5 years old by August 31 of a year reach school age beginning in September of that year. The drop in preschool children and increase in school age children that occurs in each September is the movement of 5-year olds at the start of the school year.

Experience to Date

Prior to the COVID-19 emergency, the number of children per WCCC household had a seasonal pattern -- 1.78 during the summer of 2019 and 1.72 during the 2019-20 school year through March 2020. The average number of children served per household was 1.73 in FY 2019, increased to 1.81 in FY 2021 during the pandemic, but dropped to 1.72 in FY 2022. The average number of children per household was 1.66 in January 2023.

The number of children served in January 2023 with bills paid through March 26, 2023 was 15.1% higher than in January 2022. Increases were largest for 1-year olds (up 25%) followed infants and 3-year olds (up 19%). The slowest growth was among 12-year olds (up 4%), 4- and 5-year olds (up 10%) and 7-year olds (up 11%). Counts of infants and 1-year olds in WorkFirst related WCCC households were up by 28% over the past year compared with an increase of 23% in children that age served from non-TANF households. The number of WorkFirst households with infants had been declining through September 2021 (see pages 15-16) but has begun to increase again.

[Return to Contents](#)

Count 3c: WCCC Children by Age

Data Table

| Month | Infants Lt 1 Year | Toddlers 1 to 2.5 Yrs | Preschool 2.5 to 4 Yrs | School Age 5-12 Yrs | WCCC Over 12 13-19 Yrs | Unknown Age | Total Children |
|--------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Jun-20 | 1,620 | 5,796 | 17,138 | 16,441 | 285 | 1 | 41,281 |
| Jul-20 | 1,508 | 5,577 | 16,739 | 15,166 | 286 | 1 | 39,277 |
| Aug-20 | 1,488 | 5,368 | 16,423 | 14,644 | 274 | 2 | 38,199 |
| Sep-20 | 1,435 | 5,068 | 11,328 | 16,655 | 266 | 0 | 34,752 |
| Oct-20 | 1,475 | 5,180 | 11,804 | 16,697 | 253 | 4 | 35,413 |
| Nov-20 | 1,456 | 5,113 | 12,046 | 16,448 | 267 | 2 | 35,332 |
| Dec-20 | 1,400 | 4,931 | 12,041 | 15,960 | 286 | 1 | 34,619 |
| Jan-21 | 1,415 | 4,815 | 12,253 | 15,602 | 282 | 3 | 34,370 |
| Feb-21 | 1,397 | 4,794 | 12,621 | 15,313 | 287 | 1 | 34,413 |
| Mar-21 | 1,449 | 4,869 | 13,118 | 15,246 | 280 | 1 | 34,963 |
| Apr-21 | 1,487 | 4,828 | 13,650 | 14,982 | 261 | 0 | 35,208 |
| May-21 | 1,479 | 4,885 | 13,929 | 14,429 | 265 | 0 | 34,987 |
| Jun-21 | 1,468 | 4,877 | 14,363 | 14,732 | 266 | 1 | 35,707 |
| Jul-21 | 1,486 | 4,816 | 14,319 | 13,790 | 240 | 1 | 34,652 |
| Aug-21 | 1,531 | 4,784 | 14,470 | 13,366 | 234 | 2 | 34,387 |
| Sep-21 | 1,634 | 4,913 | 10,811 | 15,298 | 219 | 2 | 32,877 |
| Oct-21 | 1,691 | 5,192 | 11,389 | 14,449 | 214 | 1 | 32,936 |
| Nov-21 | 1,718 | 5,310 | 11,970 | 14,379 | 209 | 1 | 33,587 |
| Dec-21 | 1,625 | 5,264 | 12,332 | 14,352 | 216 | 2 | 33,791 |
| Jan-22 | 1,669 | 5,304 | 12,774 | 13,977 | 220 | 2 | 33,946 |
| Feb-22 | 1,724 | 5,296 | 13,301 | 13,993 | 212 | 2 | 34,528 |
| Mar-22 | 1,832 | 5,478 | 14,007 | 14,028 | 225 | 3 | 35,573 |
| Apr-22 | 1,923 | 5,685 | 15,062 | 14,820 | 244 | 4 | 37,738 |
| May-22 | 1,943 | 5,771 | 15,689 | 14,472 | 258 | 0 | 38,133 |
| Jun-22 | 1,961 | 5,941 | 16,294 | 15,835 | 242 | 2 | 40,275 |
| Jul-22 | 1,839 | 5,799 | 16,043 | 14,589 | 246 | 9 | 38,525 |
| Aug-22 | 1,899 | 5,819 | 16,421 | 14,368 | 250 | 1 | 38,758 |
| Sep-22 | 1,972 | 6,190 | 12,703 | 17,198 | 236 | 1 | 38,300 |
| Oct-22 | 2,047 | 6,382 | 13,181 | 16,447 | 228 | 3 | 38,288 |
| Nov-22 | 2,042 | 6,488 | 13,779 | 16,390 | 239 | 3 | 38,941 |
| Dec-22 | 1,930 | 6,369 | 13,905 | 16,136 | 243 | 0 | 38,583 |
| Jan-23 | 1,993 | 6,467 | 14,599 | 15,776 | 248 | 4 | 39,087 |

January 2023 compared to January 2022 (without adjustments for late reporting)

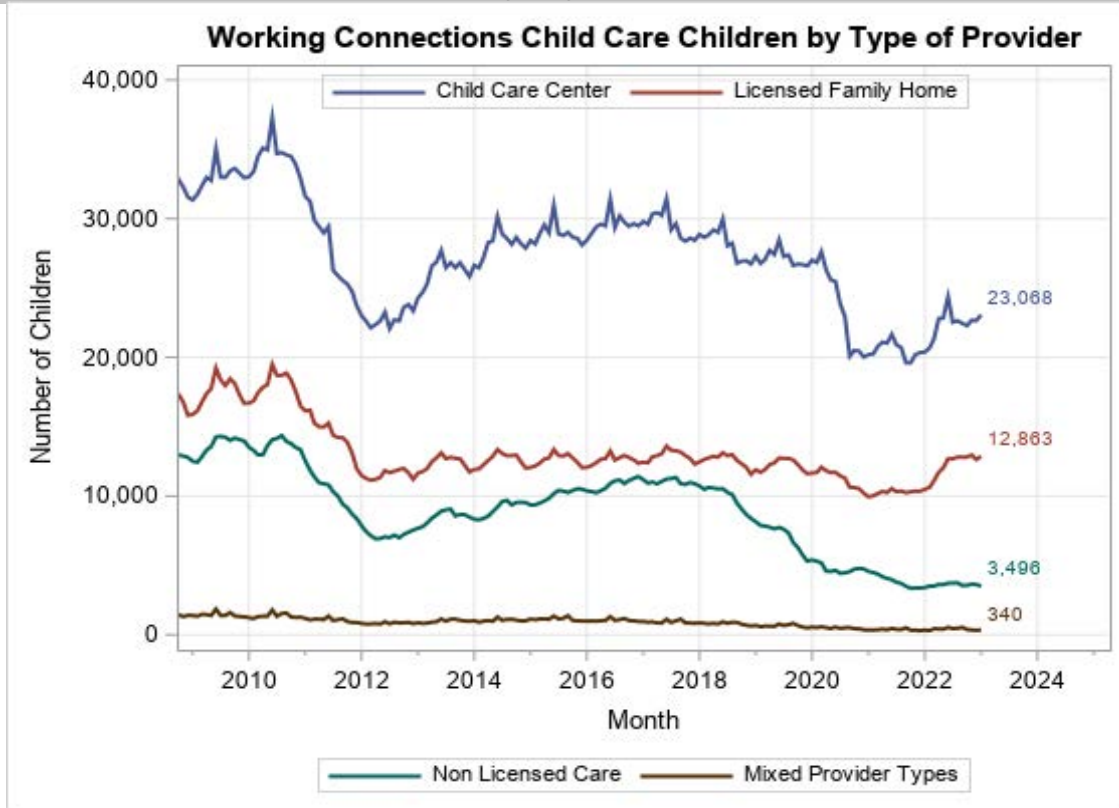
| | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| % Change | 19% | 22% | 14% | 13% | 13% | 100% | 15% |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|

Definition of Measure

The number of WCCC cases by age is measured by comparing children's birthdates with month of service as reported to DCYF. Some birthdates produce ages below zero or above 19 and are reported in the "Unknown Age" category. Children age 13 to 19 can be served under exceptional circumstances. Beginning in October 2018, children who reach the age of 13 are served until the end of their 12 month eligibility period. The labels for "Preschool 2.5 to 4" and "School Age 5 to 12" incorporate the school age definition: children who are 5 years old prior to September become school aged in September.

Source: WCCC cases from DCYF monthly extract.

Count 3d: WCCC Children by Type of Provider



Providers of WCCC Care

Working Connections Child Care uses three types of providers. Child care centers are licensed providers of child care and early learning services. Family homes are licensed providers of child care and early learning services for not more than 12 children. License-exempt providers also operate out of a home, but are exempt from licensing. They are often family, friends, and neighbors of the children receiving care and are also referred to as FFN providers. Some Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program providers also provide WCCC care. These are classified as centers in the WCCC payment system, though that may not be their category in the licensing system.

Experience to Date

Without lag adjustments, the number of WCCC children increased by 15.1% between January 2022 and January 2023. Licensed family homes served 23% more children than the year before. Child care centers served 13% more children than the year before. FFN providers served 3% more children than in January 2022. The slower growth in FFN use stemmed from training, background check and electronic attendance requirements implemented beginning in October 2018 that were fully phased in by December 2019. Counts of children served at licensed family homes declined during the pandemic but have recovered to pre-pandemic levels. Use of FFN care dropped in April 2020, leveled out between May and December 2020, dropped during 2021, and leveled out again in 2022. The drop in the number of children served at child care centers in September 2020 appears to be related to before and after school programs that did not restart at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year. Payments to child care centers and licensed family homes for services were based on authorized amounts of care between April and August 2020 instead of attendance records. This COVID-19 emergency policy did not affect FFN child care. The policy was re-instituted between April and June 2022. Some of the change seen in September 2020 and July 2022 could reflect the end of that policy.

[Return to Contents](#)

Count 3d: WCCC Children by Type of Provider

| Month | Child Care Center | Licensed Family Home | License-Exempt | Mixed Types | Total Children |
|--------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| Jun-20 | 25,473 | 11,714 | 4,645 | 551 | 41,281 |
| Jul-20 | 23,861 | 11,450 | 4,425 | 459 | 39,277 |
| Aug-20 | 22,941 | 11,302 | 4,456 | 500 | 38,199 |
| Sep-20 | 20,087 | 10,625 | 4,554 | 514 | 34,752 |
| Oct-20 | 20,504 | 10,615 | 4,731 | 437 | 35,413 |
| Nov-20 | 20,446 | 10,529 | 4,781 | 424 | 35,332 |
| Dec-20 | 20,018 | 10,207 | 4,749 | 355 | 34,619 |
| Jan-21 | 20,203 | 9,946 | 4,564 | 343 | 34,370 |
| Feb-21 | 20,255 | 10,019 | 4,480 | 341 | 34,413 |
| Mar-21 | 20,770 | 10,175 | 4,377 | 359 | 34,963 |
| Apr-21 | 21,098 | 10,327 | 4,182 | 399 | 35,208 |
| May-21 | 21,027 | 10,253 | 4,062 | 355 | 34,987 |
| Jun-21 | 21,651 | 10,540 | 3,973 | 457 | 35,707 |
| Jul-21 | 20,906 | 10,319 | 3,786 | 386 | 34,652 |
| Aug-21 | 20,701 | 10,362 | 3,697 | 374 | 34,387 |
| Sep-21 | 19,614 | 10,245 | 3,496 | 500 | 32,877 |
| Oct-21 | 19,606 | 10,303 | 3,355 | 329 | 32,936 |
| Nov-21 | 20,195 | 10,356 | 3,364 | 334 | 33,587 |
| Dec-21 | 20,346 | 10,353 | 3,371 | 285 | 33,791 |
| Jan-22 | 20,381 | 10,480 | 3,399 | 337 | 33,946 |
| Feb-22 | 20,678 | 10,620 | 3,502 | 301 | 34,528 |
| Mar-22 | 21,315 | 11,097 | 3,509 | 422 | 35,573 |
| Apr-22 | 22,788 | 11,710 | 3,624 | 419 | 37,738 |
| May-22 | 22,848 | 12,043 | 3,608 | 400 | 38,133 |
| Jun-22 | 24,371 | 12,690 | 3,717 | 528 | 40,275 |
| Jul-22 | 22,535 | 12,689 | 3,726 | 449 | 38,525 |
| Aug-22 | 22,642 | 12,813 | 3,742 | 462 | 38,758 |
| Sep-22 | 22,453 | 12,796 | 3,550 | 530 | 38,300 |
| Oct-22 | 22,289 | 12,812 | 3,563 | 386 | 38,288 |
| Nov-22 | 22,673 | 12,963 | 3,642 | 337 | 38,941 |
| Dec-22 | 22,653 | 12,636 | 3,623 | 329 | 38,583 |
| Jan-23 | 23,068 | 12,863 | 3,496 | 340 | 39,087 |

January 2023 compared to January 2022 (without adjustments for late reporting)

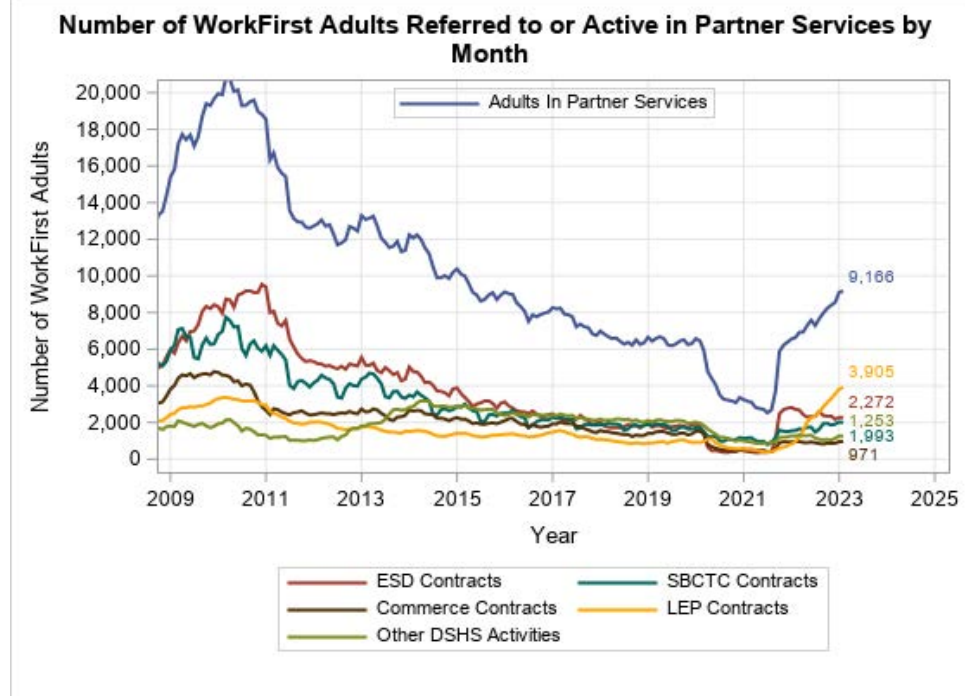
| | | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|----|----|-----|
| % Change | 13% | 23% | 3% | 1% | 15% |
|----------|-----|-----|----|----|-----|

Definition of Measure

Some children may be served by more than one type of provider during the same month. The mixed category includes children recorded as having been served by more than one type of provider. Such children are also included in the counts for each type of provider that served them. Data were collected on March 26, 2023. Child counts are based on payments made to providers.

Source: WCCC cases from DCYF monthly extract.

Count 5a: Enrollment by Partner Agency



Information Shown

WorkFirst adults receive services provided by partner agencies. Profiles of specific services are shown in the tables that follow. Some services are provided by several partners, so profiles by service type do not always provide a clear picture of the number of adults served by each partner. This indicator provides an unduplicated count of adults with open activities (referrals) served by five types of partner. That unduplicated count is lower than the sum of the partner counts.

Trends

The number of adults referred to or receiving partner services reached a peak in March 2010 and then declined as budget cuts and reduced participation requirements began to take effect. Forty-two percent of adults were served by partners during March-April 2010 -- 36% were served between February and June 2011, and only 31% during the suspension of work requirements in FY 2012. The percent served returned to 41% in December 2014, reached a high of 47% in May 2017, dropped to 43% in November 2017 and to 40% during the summer of 2018. That pattern repeated in 2019 with use rates reaching 43% in the spring, dropping back to 40% in the summer. Activity dropped to a low of 13% in July 2021 during the pandemic. Many WorkFirst services were not available during the pandemic or were available only virtually. DSHS case managers began to reengage WorkFirst adults in partner services in September 2021. Activity levels ranged between 29% and 31% between October 2021 and December 2022 but increased to 33% in January and February 2023.

The number of adults with open referrals to ESD job search decreased by 16% between February 2022 and February 2023. February 2022 was the fifth month of WorkFirst reengagement, and ESD use has dropped since that time. LEP enrollments increased by 312% during that period compared with a 197% increase of LEP adults over the same period. The number of adults in referral status at Commerce contractors increased by 2%. Commerce counts shown here are higher than shown on pages 35-36 because they include adults who have not yet started approved work assignments. The number of adults at SBCTC colleges increased by 28% from the prior year. Exemptions from work participation ended for many adults during the fall of 2021 (see pages 43-44).

[Return to Contents](#)

Count 5a: Enrollment by Partner Agency

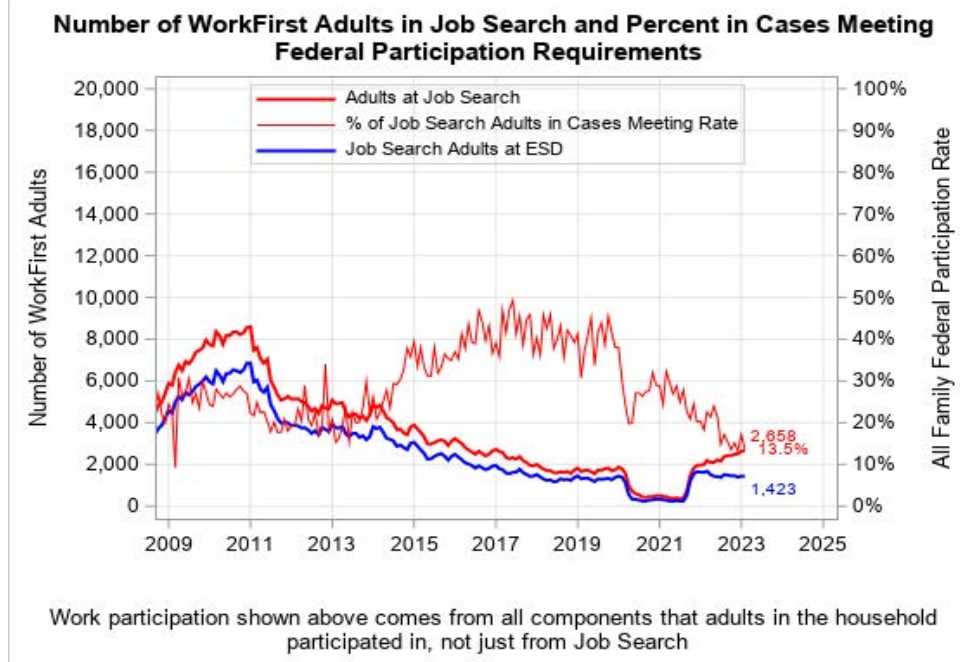
| Month | Employment Security | SBCTC Colleges | Commerce Department | Limited English Contracts | Other DSHS Activities | Total Adults (No Dups) | Percent of Adults |
|--------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Sep-20 | 364 | 1,090 | 476 | 620 | 1,119 | 3,217 | 15% |
| Oct-20 | 406 | 1,061 | 472 | 589 | 1,052 | 3,177 | 15% |
| Nov-20 | 412 | 1,055 | 446 | 557 | 981 | 3,080 | 15% |
| Dec-20 | 492 | 1,173 | 501 | 560 | 1,030 | 3,358 | 16% |
| Jan-21 | 457 | 1,128 | 524 | 565 | 995 | 3,246 | 15% |
| Feb-21 | 407 | 1,157 | 507 | 527 | 954 | 3,151 | 15% |
| Mar-21 | 392 | 1,161 | 524 | 523 | 929 | 3,110 | 15% |
| Apr-21 | 349 | 1,008 | 483 | 492 | 866 | 2,817 | 14% |
| May-21 | 362 | 958 | 473 | 439 | 859 | 2,758 | 14% |
| Jun-21 | 383 | 967 | 473 | 396 | 847 | 2,721 | 15% |
| Jul-21 | 376 | 791 | 410 | 381 | 872 | 2,524 | 14% |
| Aug-21 | 410 | 913 | 405 | 410 | 921 | 2,686 | 15% |
| Sep-21 | 1,077 | 1,174 | 565 | 486 | 953 | 3,713 | 21% |
| Oct-21 | 2,474 | 1,580 | 892 | 605 | 1,188 | 5,877 | 29% |
| Nov-21 | 2,702 | 1,518 | 948 | 647 | 1,195 | 6,216 | 30% |
| Dec-21 | 2,775 | 1,492 | 935 | 729 | 1,205 | 6,380 | 31% |
| Jan-22 | 2,815 | 1,547 | 936 | 822 | 1,272 | 6,556 | 31% |
| Feb-22 | 2,711 | 1,557 | 951 | 948 | 1,253 | 6,639 | 30% |
| Mar-22 | 2,684 | 1,649 | 958 | 1,188 | 1,320 | 6,913 | 31% |
| Apr-22 | 2,424 | 1,619 | 911 | 1,568 | 1,272 | 6,935 | 30% |
| May-22 | 2,291 | 1,742 | 899 | 2,033 | 1,283 | 7,291 | 31% |
| Jun-22 | 2,327 | 1,741 | 932 | 2,255 | 1,302 | 7,584 | 31% |
| Jul-22 | 2,334 | 1,476 | 893 | 2,358 | 1,152 | 7,289 | 29% |
| Aug-22 | 2,587 | 1,634 | 851 | 2,544 | 1,079 | 7,663 | 30% |
| Sep-22 | 2,378 | 1,933 | 818 | 2,858 | 1,052 | 7,965 | 30% |
| Oct-22 | 2,340 | 1,950 | 873 | 3,075 | 1,073 | 8,227 | 31% |
| Nov-22 | 2,348 | 1,859 | 859 | 3,312 | 1,038 | 8,401 | 31% |
| Dec-22 | 2,174 | 1,905 | 868 | 3,547 | 1,135 | 8,555 | 31% |
| Jan-23 | 2,277 | 2,028 | 954 | 3,831 | 1,267 | 9,107 | 33% |
| Feb-23 | 2,272 | 1,993 | 971 | 3,905 | 1,253 | 9,166 | 33% |

February 2023 compared to February 2022 (without adjustments for late reporting)

| | | | | | | | WorkFirst Adults |
|----------|------|-----|----|------|----|-----|---------------------|
| % Change | -16% | 28% | 2% | 312% | 0% | 38% | 27% |

Counts in this table are based on contractor codes associated with referrals and services. They include enrollment in direct services, such as job search, vocational education, or GED preparation and also include services such as referral to community technical college (RA), job search (RI), or the Limited English Pathway (LP). Most Employment Security services are provided without contractor codes. RI, JS and OT services have been counted as Employment Security services when they occur without a contractor code. Other DSHS activities include contracts made directly between DSHS and vendors, including colleges, transit agencies, non-profits and private-for-profit case management firms. Other DSHS services include specialized services such as barrier removal and support services but do not include pilot projects. Adults must have an open TANF case and have Jas_Actv and Comp_Dtl records open during the month to be counted in this table. End dates are defined by the DSHS case manager and may differ from end dates identified by partner agencies.

Count 5b: Use of Job Search



Components Shown

Job search is one of the primary WorkFirst activities contributing to federal participation. Most job search (76% in FY 2016, 78% in FY 2019 and 76% in FY 2022) is provided by the Employment Security Department. This dropped to 63% in FY 2021 because COVID-19 had bigger impacts on ESD job search than on job search from other partners. Most of the remaining job search is provided by LEP contractors. The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 limited the amount of time that job search can count toward federal participation rates. For needy states, including Washington, this limit is 12 weeks in a 12-month period. The percent of all WorkFirst adults enrolled in job search activities is shown on the next page. Department of Commerce contractors began using the JS component in support of their paid work preparation programs in July 2011. Commerce programs are described on pages 35-36. Job search provided in the package of services associated with Commerce programs is not included in these counts.

Trends

Job search enrollments in February 2023 were 33% higher than in February 2022 and 69% higher than in March 2020. ESD job search use decreased by 12% while LEP job search use increased by 230%. The decline in ESD job search occurred because ESD job search was used frequently during the early months of WorkFirst reengagement. 9.6% of WorkFirst adults were enrolled in job search in February 2023 -- higher than the 9.1% in February 2022. The use rate had been 10.2% in March 2020. Use of job search dropped after the expansion of infant exemptions under ESSB 5898 in October 2017 and dropped further during the COVID-19 emergency.

Refer Backs

The count of adults referred back from job search in February 2023 was 3% lower than in February 2022 but 144% higher than in March 2020. The RB component returns ESD job search adults to the DSHS case manager. In normal times, an RB indicates participation in job search activities without finding a job. February 2023 saw 1,039 refer backs from ESD job search, 3.8% of WorkFirst adults during the month.

[Return to Contents](#)

Count 5b: Use of Job Search

| Month | Number of Adults | | | Percent of Adults | | Number in | Percent in |
|--------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | Job Search Search (JS) | ESD Job Search | LEP Job Search | In Job Search | JS Meeting AF WPR | ESD Refer Back (RB) | ESD Refer Back (RB) |
| Oct-20 | 459 | 291 | 164 | 2.2% | 27.6% | 73 | 0.4% |
| Nov-20 | 449 | 302 | 147 | 2.2% | 31.9% | 69 | 0.3% |
| Dec-20 | 499 | 334 | 163 | 2.4% | 28.9% | 95 | 0.4% |
| Jan-21 | 513 | 338 | 173 | 2.4% | 28.9% | 92 | 0.4% |
| Feb-21 | 469 | 308 | 159 | 2.2% | 24.4% | 107 | 0.5% |
| Mar-21 | 459 | 289 | 168 | 2.2% | 32.3% | 107 | 0.5% |
| Apr-21 | 388 | 237 | 147 | 2.0% | 29.7% | 66 | 0.3% |
| May-21 | 367 | 237 | 128 | 1.9% | 26.9% | 68 | 0.4% |
| Jun-21 | 389 | 267 | 121 | 2.1% | 28.8% | 92 | 0.5% |
| Jul-21 | 366 | 243 | 121 | 2.0% | 24.9% | 92 | 0.5% |
| Aug-21 | 379 | 242 | 137 | 2.1% | 27.9% | 67 | 0.4% |
| Sep-21 | 708 | 518 | 187 | 3.9% | 22.7% | 229 | 1.3% |
| Oct-21 | 1,455 | 1,213 | 239 | 7.2% | 20.9% | 920 | 4.6% |
| Nov-21 | 1,814 | 1,538 | 274 | 8.9% | 24.5% | 1,062 | 5.2% |
| Dec-21 | 1,956 | 1,651 | 304 | 9.5% | 20.1% | 1,155 | 5.6% |
| Jan-22 | 1,966 | 1,631 | 333 | 9.3% | 20.4% | 1,074 | 5.1% |
| Feb-22 | 1,996 | 1,621 | 373 | 9.1% | 18.2% | 1,068 | 4.9% |
| Mar-22 | 2,192 | 1,677 | 511 | 9.9% | 22.6% | 1,134 | 5.1% |
| Apr-22 | 2,093 | 1,514 | 576 | 8.9% | 21.3% | 955 | 4.1% |
| May-22 | 2,098 | 1,430 | 664 | 8.8% | 24.0% | 982 | 4.1% |
| Jun-22 | 2,222 | 1,423 | 796 | 9.1% | 21.5% | 953 | 3.9% |
| Jul-22 | 2,159 | 1,374 | 783 | 8.6% | 14.8% | 953 | 3.8% |
| Aug-22 | 2,376 | 1,512 | 863 | 9.2% | 17.2% | 1,046 | 4.1% |
| Sep-22 | 2,429 | 1,488 | 937 | 9.3% | 15.4% | 1,061 | 4.1% |
| Oct-22 | 2,423 | 1,448 | 972 | 9.1% | 13.6% | 1,004 | 3.8% |
| Nov-22 | 2,487 | 1,461 | 1,023 | 9.3% | 15.2% | 1,053 | 3.9% |
| Dec-22 | 2,503 | 1,388 | 1,111 | 9.2% | 13.3% | 1,114 | 4.1% |
| Jan-23 | 2,631 | 1,445 | 1,180 | 9.6% | 17.2% | 1,040 | 3.8% |
| Feb-23 | 2,658 | 1,423 | 1,231 | 9.6% | 13.5% | 1,039 | 3.8% |

February 2023 compared to February 2022 (without adjustments for late reporting)

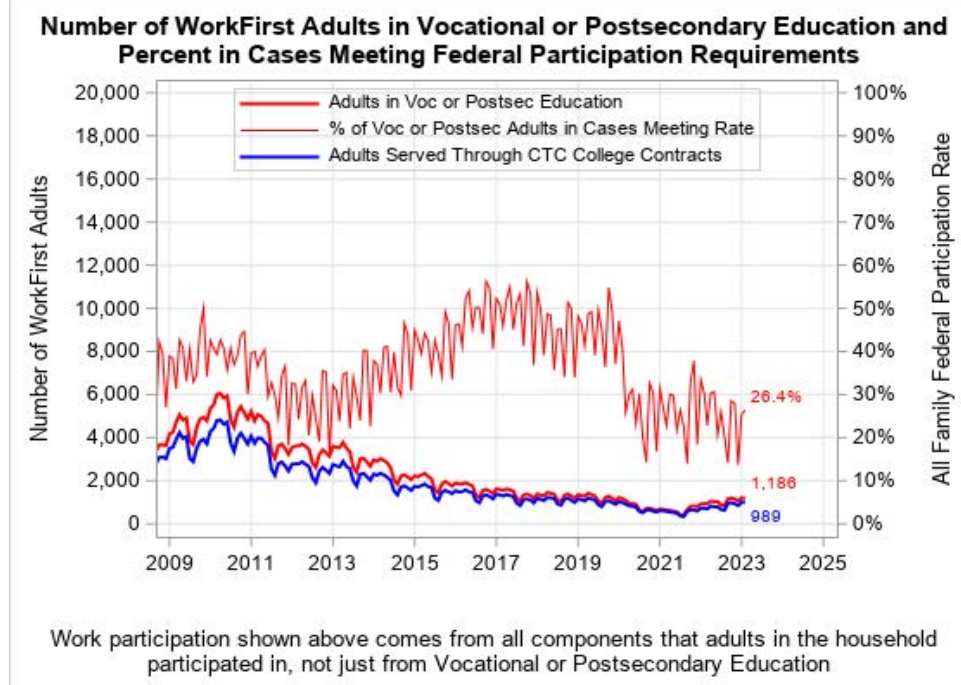
WorkFirst
Adults

| | | | | | |
|----------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|
| % Change | 33% | -12% | 230% | -3% | 27% |
|----------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|

The percent of job search participants meeting federal participation requirements rose from less than 15% in February 2013 to a high of 49% in June 2017 but dropped back to 13% in December 2022. Participation in job search counts toward federal participation rates for 12 weeks in every 12-month period. Rates shown through June 2022 include the full 12-week participation definition. Rates for July 2022 through February 2023 are lower because they count only six weeks in the previous 12-months. This limit will be increased once DHHS certifies that Washington is eligible for the longer limit. Rates have been lower since March 2020 due to the interruption of services resulting from the COVID-19 emergency. The average work participation rate for the past 12 months was 17% -- 16% for ESD job search and 19% for LEP job search. Participation rates for job search enrollees include contributions from paid work and enrollment in other components. LEP programs typically add other activities that boost results. The work participation rate increased to 17.2% in January 2023 from a low point of 13.3% in December 2022. The 13.5% rate shown for February 2023 is preliminary and likely to increase.

Source: ACES data warehouse, EMAPS Client file, JAS_Actv table, JAS_Actual table, and monthly DSHS Work Participation Rate files.

Count 5c: Use of Vocational or Postsecondary Education including Part-Time College Courses



Components Shown

Vocational and postsecondary education is provided by Washington's Community and Technical College system, private career schools, and four-year colleges. CTC colleges provided 78% of these activities in FY 2022, down from 89% in FY 2021, 85% in FY 2020 and 84% in FY 2018 but up from 77% in FY 2015. Full-time vocational education activities can count toward federal participation for up to 12 months in an adult's lifetime. Part-time education does not count toward this limit, but must be paired with non-educational activities. Enrollment counts by program and the percent of all WorkFirst adults enrolled in these activities are shown on page 34. Under federal rules, no more than 30% of a state's work participation rate can result from full-time vocational education activities. The codes included in this chart are VE (vocational education), PE (customized training), HW (high-wage high-demand training), DC (degree completion), and VU (unapproved vocational education). VU is allowed by DSHS but is called "unapproved" because it does not count towards federal work participation rates. JT identifies vocational education activity when provided at a CTC college.

Trends

Enrollment in vocational and postsecondary education dropped from 11% of WorkFirst adults in FY 2010 to just below 9% during the suspension of work requirements allowed in FY 2012. After suspensions ended, enrollment rose to 9% in FYs 2013 through 2017, dropping back to 8% in FYs 2018 and 2019. Some 4.3% of WorkFirst adults were enrolled in vocational or postsecondary components in February 2023. The same percentage was enrolled in February 2022. The number of WorkFirst adults enrolled in vocational and postsecondary components in February 2023 was 27% higher than in February 2022 and is 1% above that in February 2020, the last month before the pandemic. RA referrals to prepare for community college are also rising (see pages 39-40). They were 17% higher in February 2023 than in February 2022.

[Return to Contents](#)

Count 5c: Use of Vocational or Postsecondary Education including Part-Time College Courses

| Month | Number of Adults | | | Unapproved Voc (VU) | Voc and Postsecondary | | Percent of WorkFirst Adults |
|--------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Full Time College (VE) | Part Time College (JT) | Other Voc PE, HW, DC | | SBCTC (No Dups) | All Schools (No Dups) | |
| Sep-20 | 438 | 253 | 48 | 7 | 640 | 718 | 3.4% |
| Oct-20 | 420 | 262 | 56 | 7 | 643 | 729 | 3.5% |
| Nov-20 | 381 | 250 | 44 | 5 | 593 | 675 | 3.3% |
| Dec-20 | 359 | 224 | 40 | 6 | 544 | 623 | 2.9% |
| Jan-21 | 398 | 267 | 32 | 11 | 616 | 685 | 3.2% |
| Feb-21 | 362 | 272 | 27 | 10 | 603 | 666 | 3.2% |
| Mar-21 | 350 | 263 | 28 | 10 | 576 | 641 | 3.1% |
| Apr-21 | 368 | 235 | 27 | 11 | 552 | 621 | 3.2% |
| May-21 | 331 | 227 | 29 | 9 | 518 | 586 | 3.1% |
| Jun-21 | 302 | 247 | 26 | 9 | 500 | 559 | 3.0% |
| Jul-21 | 204 | 200 | 23 | 8 | 369 | 423 | 2.3% |
| Aug-21 | 183 | 185 | 27 | 9 | 338 | 400 | 2.2% |
| Sep-21 | 411 | 224 | 35 | 11 | 563 | 654 | 3.6% |
| Oct-21 | 507 | 243 | 70 | 15 | 653 | 817 | 4.1% |
| Nov-21 | 506 | 239 | 75 | 17 | 640 | 826 | 4.0% |
| Dec-21 | 514 | 206 | 80 | 16 | 593 | 801 | 3.9% |
| Jan-22 | 638 | 233 | 69 | 19 | 724 | 925 | 4.4% |
| Feb-22 | 617 | 235 | 75 | 21 | 727 | 932 | 4.3% |
| Mar-22 | 610 | 234 | 83 | 21 | 694 | 929 | 4.2% |
| Apr-22 | 723 | 264 | 95 | 18 | 828 | 1,059 | 4.5% |
| May-22 | 669 | 259 | 102 | 14 | 789 | 1,024 | 4.3% |
| Jun-22 | 648 | 293 | 103 | 20 | 786 | 1,030 | 4.2% |
| Jul-22 | 509 | 322 | 70 | 13 | 671 | 881 | 3.5% |
| Aug-22 | 459 | 309 | 72 | 15 | 633 | 846 | 3.3% |
| Sep-22 | 697 | 426 | 67 | 18 | 950 | 1,166 | 4.5% |
| Oct-22 | 664 | 463 | 72 | 21 | 982 | 1,191 | 4.5% |
| Nov-22 | 626 | 434 | 74 | 23 | 932 | 1,149 | 4.3% |
| Dec-22 | 575 | 403 | 73 | 25 | 844 | 1,060 | 3.9% |
| Jan-23 | 643 | 514 | 83 | 24 | 1,012 | 1,210 | 4.4% |
| Feb-23 | 604 | 500 | 84 | 16 | 989 | 1,186 | 4.3% |

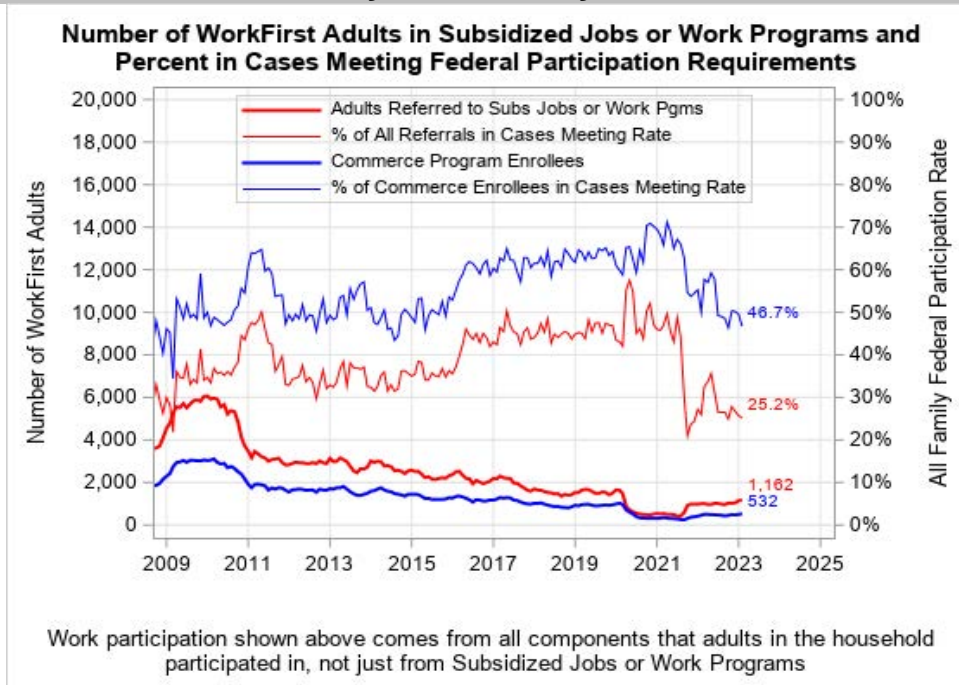
February 2023 compared to February 2022 (without adjustments for late reporting)

| | | | | | | | WorkFirst Adults |
|----------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-----|------------------|
| % Change | -2% | 113% | 12% | -24% | 36% | 27% | 27% |

Participation rates vary, with high rates during months in the middle of academic quarters and lower rates when quarters begin and end. Federal participation in the most recent two months (January-February 2023) was 26% -- compared with 32% in January-February 2022. The average work participation rate for the most recent 12 months was 24% -- a fractionally higher 24% for education provided by CTC colleges and 22% for other colleges and programs. The state's extension of educational benefits to two years tends to reduce federal participation rates, which count education toward federal participation for only 12 months.

Source: ACES data warehouse, EMAPS Client file, JAS_Actv table, JAS_Actual table, and monthly DSHS Work Participation Rate files.

Count 5d: Use of Paid and Unpaid Work Programs and Voluntary Community Service



Components Shown

Community Jobs are subsidized jobs (paid work preparation activities) provided by Department of Commerce contractors. Commerce contractors also provide Community Works -- an unpaid work activity. The unpaid CW program was preceded by several other unpaid components which are consolidated into the unpaid column. The red line shows adults referred for all paid or unpaid work preparation activities whether adults were working in an assignment or not. The red line includes activities provided by LEP, CTC, and other non-Commerce partners. The blue line and the Commerce data in the table on page 36 show adults enrolled in approved work assignments. The service end dates used to construct this measure are recorded by DSHS case managers.

Trends

Active enrollment in Commerce components rose from around 3% of WorkFirst adults in FY 2007 to 6% in FY 2010 and dropped back to 5% in FY 2011. Enrollment was 6.7% in February 2020 but dropped during the pandemic period. It was 1.9% in February 2023. The count of adults working in Commerce program worksites in February 2023 was 16% higher than in February 2022 but remained 45% lower than in March 2020, the first month of the pandemic. Paid Commerce work enrollments were 21% higher in February 2023 than in February 2022. These counts include only those adults who have begun to work at worksites. Referrals to Commerce programs have recovered more slowly than referrals to other partners. Use of college work study positions increased by 25% from February 2022. The proportion of WorkFirst participants meeting federal work participation hour thresholds in Commerce programs was 52% over the past 12 months among workers enrolled in approved work sites -- 56% for paid work programs (Community Jobs) and 8% for the unpaid work programs. The unpaid programs have the flexibility for clients who may be addressing barriers or be transitioning from other activities to work just a few hours per week.

[Return to Contents](#)

Count 5d: Use of Paid and Unpaid Work Programs and Voluntary Community Service

| Month | Adults Actively Enrolled in Commerce Programs | | | | Adults in Paid Work Study during Education | Adults in Other Work Experience | |
|--------|---|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Paid Work (CJ & JC) | Unpaid (XS WC, WE) | Total Adults (No Dups) | Percent of WorkFirst | | (XS, WE) | Voluntary Community Service (VS) |
| Aug-20 | 326 | 17 | 340 | 1.6% | 98 | 26 | 2 |
| Sep-20 | 313 | 14 | 324 | 1.6% | 84 | 14 | 3 |
| Oct-20 | 308 | 10 | 318 | 1.5% | 98 | 14 | 2 |
| Nov-20 | 302 | 12 | 313 | 1.5% | 80 | 18 | 1 |
| Dec-20 | 297 | 15 | 312 | 1.5% | 47 | 13 | 1 |
| Jan-21 | 308 | 15 | 320 | 1.5% | 52 | 16 | 1 |
| Feb-21 | 307 | 15 | 321 | 1.5% | 58 | 9 | 1 |
| Mar-21 | 338 | 17 | 355 | 1.7% | 50 | 15 | 2 |
| Apr-21 | 314 | 15 | 327 | 1.7% | 46 | 15 | 1 |
| May-21 | 292 | 13 | 305 | 1.6% | 50 | 16 | 1 |
| Jun-21 | 292 | 13 | 304 | 1.6% | 45 | 14 | 0 |
| Jul-21 | 276 | 10 | 285 | 1.6% | 45 | 14 | 0 |
| Aug-21 | 248 | 9 | 256 | 1.4% | 46 | 12 | 0 |
| Sep-21 | 241 | 10 | 251 | 1.4% | 47 | 10 | 4 |
| Oct-21 | 286 | 20 | 306 | 1.5% | 38 | 12 | 5 |
| Nov-21 | 338 | 35 | 372 | 1.8% | 44 | 22 | 5 |
| Dec-21 | 356 | 32 | 386 | 1.9% | 37 | 25 | 8 |
| Jan-22 | 384 | 34 | 418 | 2.0% | 37 | 30 | 9 |
| Feb-22 | 414 | 47 | 460 | 2.1% | 51 | 27 | 5 |
| Mar-22 | 462 | 46 | 507 | 2.3% | 39 | 26 | 6 |
| Apr-22 | 448 | 50 | 497 | 2.1% | 51 | 34 | 5 |
| May-22 | 446 | 48 | 493 | 2.1% | 52 | 55 | 6 |
| Jun-22 | 438 | 42 | 478 | 2.0% | 51 | 73 | 9 |
| Jul-22 | 433 | 40 | 473 | 1.9% | 42 | 102 | 10 |
| Aug-22 | 424 | 38 | 461 | 1.8% | 59 | 111 | 6 |
| Sep-22 | 398 | 34 | 430 | 1.6% | 59 | 126 | 6 |
| Oct-22 | 420 | 37 | 455 | 1.7% | 61 | 146 | 4 |
| Nov-22 | 454 | 40 | 491 | 1.8% | 49 | 156 | 3 |
| Dec-22 | 451 | 31 | 480 | 1.8% | 47 | 159 | 1 |
| Jan-23 | 469 | 31 | 498 | 1.8% | 48 | 169 | 6 |
| Feb-23 | 500 | 36 | 532 | 1.9% | 64 | 169 | 7 |

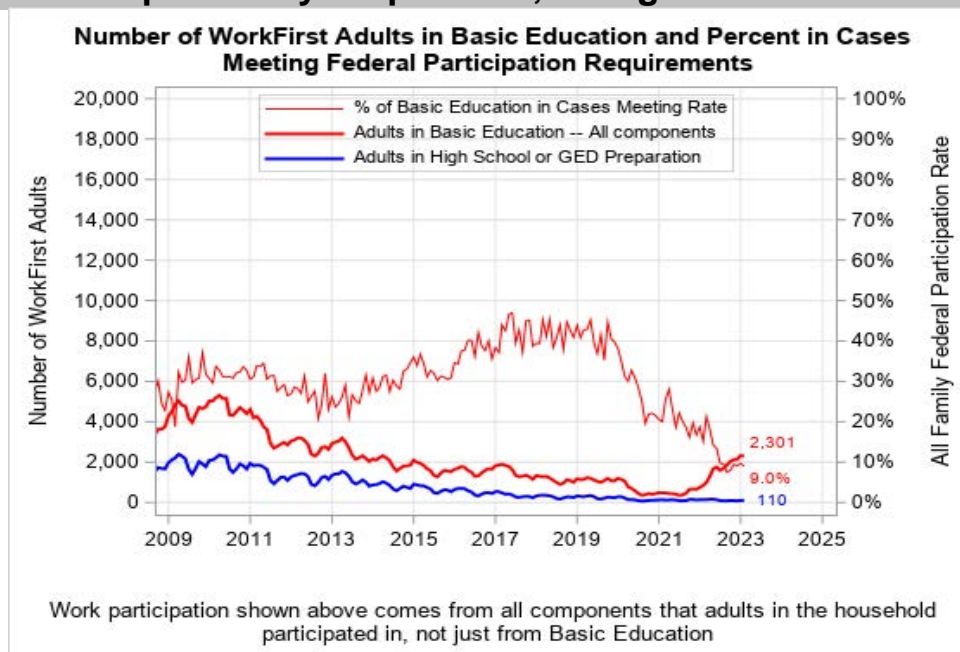
February 2023 compared to February 2022

| | WorkFirst Adults | | | | (without lag adjustments) | | |
|----------|------------------|------|-----|-----|---------------------------|------|-----|
| % Change | 21% | -23% | 16% | 27% | 25% | 526% | 40% |

Community Jobs are designed for to help overcome barriers to employment. The work study column counts the paid work study positions provided to WorkFirst students in educational programs. Most are associated with CTC programs of study and paid using WorkFirst funds. Unpaid work experience not provided by Commerce contractors is provided by LEP contractors (93%) and CTC colleges (7%). Voluntary Community Service (VS) is used by adults assisting with their children's early childhood education and is not a Commerce activity.

Source: ACES data warehouse, EMAPS Client file, JAS_Actv table, JAS_Actual table, and monthly DSHS Work Participation Rate files.

Count 5e: Use of Adult Basic Education, High School Equivalency Preparation, or High School



Components Shown

Basic education is provided by Community and Technical Colleges (CTC), Department of Commerce contractors, and Limited English Program (LEP) contractors. Codes reporting basic education include (HS) high school, (GE) high school equivalency preparation, (BE) basic education, (ES) full-time English as a second language training, and (JT) unless provided under a CTC college contract. JT provided under LEP contracts typically indicates part-time ESL.

Trends

Enrollment in basic education has varied over time, starting at 11% of WorkFirst adults in FY 2010. Enrollment averaged 7% in FYs 2012-2014 but rose to 9% in FY 2017. It dropped to 8% in FY 2018, 7% in FY 2019, 6% in FY 2020 and 2% in FY 2021. It was 8.3% in February 2023 compared with 3.9% in February 2022. Enrollment in the HS or equivalency subset of basic education activities dropped from 4% of WorkFirst adults in FY 2010 to 3% in FYs 2012-2017, to 2% in FYs 2018 and 2019, to 1.3% in FY 2020 and to 0.6% in FY 2021. It was 0.4% in February 2023, down from 0.7% in February 2022. The number of WorkFirst adults enrolled in basic education in February 2023 was 171% higher than in February 2022. The increase was larger at LEP contractors (290%). The high rate of growth at LEP contractors reflects recent increases in the size of the LEP population, but also the reclassification of three college contracts from SBCTC to ORIA in July 2021. The contractors are the same colleges as before, but the dollars funding the services are no longer provided through the SBCTC contract with DSHS.

The percent of basic education enrollees meeting federal participation requirements has ranged from 8% to 47% since 2011, averaging 11% during the most recent 12 months. Federal work participation rates were 17% for adults at basic education during January-February 2022 and 9% in January-February 2023. The federal work participation rate among the HS or GE subset of enrollees was 11% in January-February 2022 and 19% in January-February 2023.

[Return to Contents](#)

Count 5e: Use of Adult Basic Education, High School Equivalency Preparation, or High School

| Month | Adults in Basic Education Provided by: CTC College Contract | LEP Contract | Commerce Contract | Total in (HS, GE, BE JT or ES) | Percent of Adults in Basic Ed | Total in High School or Equiv Prep (GE, HS) | Percent of WorkFirst Adults |
|--------|--|--------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Aug-20 | 101 | 154 | 55 | 355 | 1.6% | 73 | 0.3% |
| Sep-20 | 128 | 144 | 50 | 382 | 1.8% | 83 | 0.4% |
| Oct-20 | 157 | 166 | 52 | 445 | 2.2% | 106 | 0.5% |
| Nov-20 | 153 | 150 | 41 | 412 | 2.0% | 110 | 0.5% |
| Dec-20 | 139 | 167 | 51 | 438 | 2.1% | 117 | 0.6% |
| Jan-21 | 172 | 179 | 72 | 488 | 2.3% | 128 | 0.6% |
| Feb-21 | 181 | 161 | 68 | 475 | 2.3% | 131 | 0.6% |
| Mar-21 | 162 | 178 | 65 | 476 | 2.3% | 124 | 0.6% |
| Apr-21 | 148 | 159 | 68 | 444 | 2.3% | 128 | 0.7% |
| May-21 | 151 | 145 | 62 | 435 | 2.3% | 131 | 0.7% |
| Jun-21 | 149 | 139 | 57 | 413 | 2.2% | 126 | 0.7% |
| Jul-21 | 126 | 133 | 46 | 350 | 1.9% | 91 | 0.5% |
| Aug-21 | 118 | 153 | 49 | 375 | 2.1% | 88 | 0.5% |
| Sep-21 | 113 | 200 | 57 | 463 | 2.6% | 95 | 0.5% |
| Oct-21 | 165 | 252 | 93 | 650 | 3.2% | 147 | 0.7% |
| Nov-21 | 173 | 277 | 97 | 670 | 3.3% | 153 | 0.7% |
| Dec-21 | 151 | 310 | 81 | 653 | 3.2% | 127 | 0.6% |
| Jan-22 | 199 | 349 | 85 | 745 | 3.5% | 143 | 0.7% |
| Feb-22 | 212 | 436 | 82 | 848 | 3.9% | 144 | 0.7% |
| Mar-22 | 201 | 564 | 83 | 991 | 4.5% | 142 | 0.6% |
| Apr-22 | 213 | 817 | 76 | 1,287 | 5.5% | 162 | 0.7% |
| May-22 | 219 | 1,083 | 76 | 1,668 | 7.0% | 159 | 0.7% |
| Jun-22 | 205 | 1,145 | 69 | 1,755 | 7.2% | 142 | 0.6% |
| Jul-22 | 190 | 1,110 | 67 | 1,594 | 6.4% | 93 | 0.4% |
| Aug-22 | 184 | 1,235 | 63 | 1,690 | 6.6% | 85 | 0.3% |
| Sep-22 | 219 | 1,365 | 61 | 1,864 | 7.1% | 88 | 0.3% |
| Oct-22 | 262 | 1,465 | 64 | 2,032 | 7.6% | 96 | 0.4% |
| Nov-22 | 252 | 1,560 | 58 | 2,123 | 7.9% | 94 | 0.3% |
| Dec-22 | 216 | 1,616 | 58 | 2,144 | 7.9% | 84 | 0.3% |
| Jan-23 | 301 | 1,712 | 48 | 2,322 | 8.4% | 96 | 0.3% |
| Feb-23 | 320 | 1,700 | 44 | 2,301 | 8.3% | 110 | 0.4% |

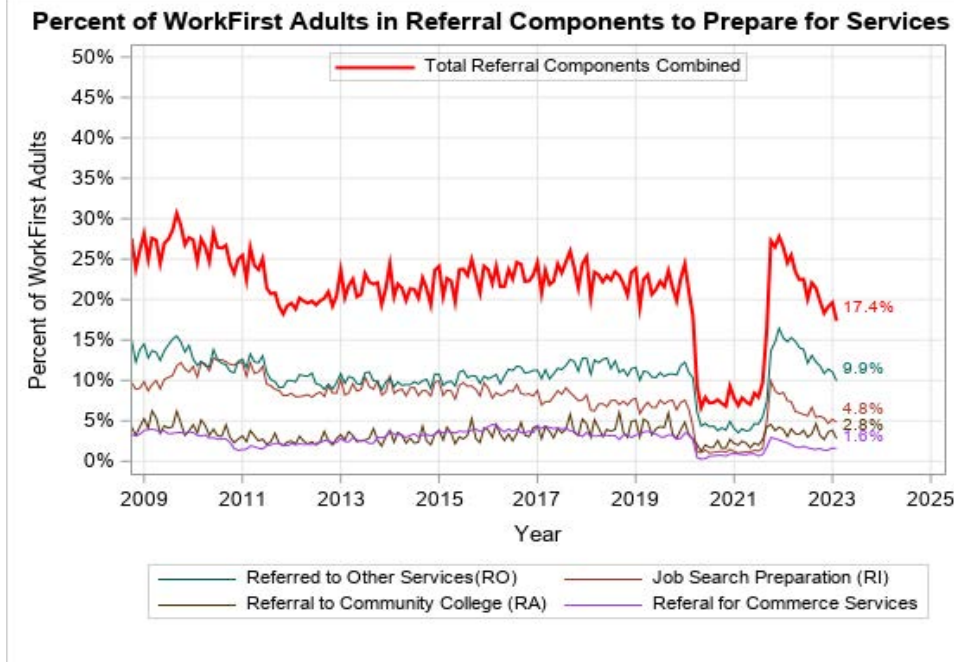
February 2023 compared to February 2022 (without adjustments for late reporting)

| | | | | | | WorkFirst Adults |
|----------|-----|------|------|------|------|------------------|
| % Change | 51% | 290% | -46% | 171% | -24% | 27% |

The HS or equivalency group is a subset of the larger basic education group. The job skills enhancement training (JT) component has been split between vocational or postsecondary education and basic education based on contract type. See Driver Measures 12 and 13 (pages 61-62) for information the number and percent of TANF adults who need basic education services and are receiving them. The percent of all adults receiving basic education services is shown on page 76.

Source: ACES data warehouse, EMAPS Client file, JAS_Actv table, JAS_Actual table, and monthly DSHS Work Participation Rate files.

Count 5f: Use of Referral Components



Components Shown

The components shown in this chart track referrals that prepare for services to be provided or to determine what to do next. ESD and community colleges use RI and RA referrals to prepare job search or college. RO is a referral component used by DSHS case managers to assess or remove barriers. The total referral line in the chart counts adults in any of these categories and is unduplicated. Referral components are counted during the months including and between the start date and end date of the component. The Commerce services line shows adults referred to Commerce contractors from the component start date prior to the contractor actual start date.

Trends

The number of WorkFirst adults in referral status in February 2023 was 10% lower than in February 2022, the fourth month of WorkFirst reengagement. Referrals were 73 higher than in March 2020, the month in which the pandemic began. The percent in referrals status reached a post-pandemic peak of 27.8% in December 2021 (the highest percent since June 2010) but dropped back to 17.4% in February 2022, below the pre-pandemic levels of 22%. Referrals to prepare for ESD job search dropped by 18% between February 2022 and February 2023. Referrals to prepare for a CTC program of study increased by 17%. Referrals to Commerce activities (adults sent but not yet started in their activities) dropped by 12% from February 2022. Referrals to other services dropped by 15%. Referrals to other services include assessments of barriers to employment and pregnancy to employment assessments for infant exemption users. Other Services do not include referral to LEP services. We did not develop an equivalent "referral status" measure for LEP services.

The large drop in referral volumes in 2020 resulted from the COVID-19 emergency. Smaller drops in 2012 and 2018 stemmed from changes to infant and toddler exemptions. Commerce counts include rejected and no-show referrals. Rejected referrals take time and have also been included in ESD, community college, and total counts. [Return to Contents](#)

Count 5f: Use of Referral Components

| Month | Job Search Prep (RI) | Referral to CTC (RA) | Referral to Commerce Services | Referral to Tribal Svcs (RT) | Referral to Other Services (RO) | Total Referred (No Dups) | Percent of Adults |
|--------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Aug-20 | 238 | 369 | 144 | 0 | 945 | 1,576 | 7.3% |
| Sep-20 | 240 | 534 | 151 | 0 | 791 | 1,589 | 7.6% |
| Oct-20 | 256 | 335 | 152 | 0 | 849 | 1,475 | 7.2% |
| Nov-20 | 225 | 336 | 131 | 0 | 791 | 1,394 | 6.8% |
| Dec-20 | 313 | 571 | 187 | 0 | 1,040 | 1,964 | 9.3% |
| Jan-21 | 257 | 467 | 203 | 0 | 866 | 1,663 | 7.8% |
| Feb-21 | 213 | 420 | 187 | 0 | 741 | 1,450 | 6.9% |
| Mar-21 | 226 | 511 | 168 | 0 | 824 | 1,610 | 7.8% |
| Apr-21 | 222 | 438 | 157 | 0 | 732 | 1,439 | 7.3% |
| May-21 | 224 | 319 | 172 | 0 | 739 | 1,341 | 7.0% |
| Jun-21 | 251 | 420 | 168 | 0 | 869 | 1,571 | 8.4% |
| Jul-21 | 236 | 366 | 120 | 0 | 841 | 1,451 | 7.9% |
| Aug-21 | 280 | 481 | 150 | 0 | 985 | 1,746 | 9.7% |
| Sep-21 | 911 | 768 | 316 | 0 | 1,341 | 2,965 | 16.4% |
| Oct-21 | 1,994 | 916 | 589 | 0 | 2,750 | 5,485 | 27.3% |
| Nov-21 | 1,780 | 773 | 573 | 0 | 3,008 | 5,415 | 26.5% |
| Dec-21 | 1,711 | 868 | 541 | 0 | 3,393 | 5,732 | 27.8% |
| Jan-22 | 1,805 | 835 | 516 | 1 | 3,236 | 5,618 | 26.5% |
| Feb-22 | 1,630 | 663 | 494 | 0 | 3,229 | 5,360 | 24.5% |
| Mar-22 | 1,638 | 894 | 455 | 0 | 3,402 | 5,673 | 25.5% |
| Apr-22 | 1,441 | 798 | 413 | 0 | 3,484 | 5,505 | 23.4% |
| May-22 | 1,430 | 794 | 403 | 0 | 3,354 | 5,360 | 22.5% |
| Jun-22 | 1,412 | 938 | 454 | 0 | 3,388 | 5,512 | 22.5% |
| Jul-22 | 1,405 | 743 | 419 | 0 | 3,034 | 5,022 | 20.1% |
| Aug-22 | 1,709 | 871 | 388 | 0 | 3,363 | 5,673 | 22.1% |
| Sep-22 | 1,422 | 1,215 | 382 | 0 | 3,210 | 5,606 | 21.4% |
| Oct-22 | 1,480 | 848 | 415 | 0 | 3,138 | 5,260 | 19.8% |
| Nov-22 | 1,433 | 721 | 363 | 0 | 2,921 | 4,926 | 18.3% |
| Dec-22 | 1,273 | 982 | 378 | 0 | 3,100 | 5,200 | 19.1% |
| Jan-23 | 1,425 | 1,054 | 448 | 0 | 3,041 | 5,399 | 19.6% |
| Feb-23 | 1,337 | 773 | 437 | 0 | 2,753 | 4,809 | 17.4% |

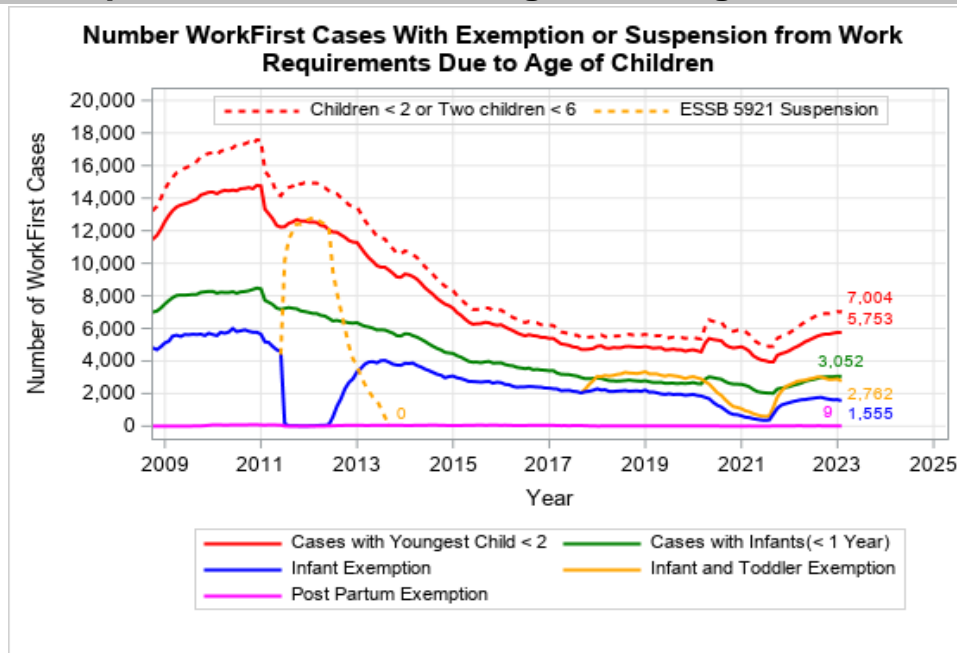
February 2023 compared to February 2022 (without adjustments for late reporting)

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|------|-----|------|-----|------|------|----------------------------|
| % Change | -18% | 17% | -12% | N/A | -15% | -10% | WorkFirst Adults 27% |
|----------|------|-----|------|-----|------|------|----------------------------|

WorkFirst adults are not typically able to meet federal work participation rates during months in which they are in a referral component. Time in this status includes the time needed to make and return rejected referrals. The percentage of adults in referral status and the length of time spent in referral components between active assignments can reduce Washington's ability to meet federal work participation requirements. The RB component, for referral back from ESD job search, has been dropped from this measure at the suggestion of stakeholders. RB counts can be found on page 32 with other measures related to job search.

Source: ACES data warehouse, EMAPS Client file, JAS_Actv table, and JAS_Actual table.

Count 5g: Use of Infant Exemption and Work Suspension Components based on the Age of Youngest Child



Components Shown

Some WorkFirst adults with young children can seek exemptions from work participation requirements. Beginning in July 2007, adults with children under the age of 1 could request a one-time 12-month infant exemption (IE). Since July 2008, adults who have exhausted their infant exemption may seek a 12-week post-partum exemption (PD). In FY 2012, parents with children under 2 or with two children under the age of 6 could seek a suspension of work requirements under ESSB 5921. Those suspensions were available during FY 2012 and were phased out in FY 2013. Infant exemptions were extended again in October 2017, this time to parents with a child under the age of 2 for a lifetime limit of 24 months, by ESSB 5898.

The solid red line shows households potentially eligible for exemptions under ESSB 5898. The green line shows cases with infants. The blue and magenta lines show cases with infants using the infant exemption (IE) and post-partum exemption (PD). The IE code continues to track exemption households whose youngest child is less than 12 months old. The toddler exemption code (TE) has been added for exemption households whose youngest child is 1 year old but less than 2 years old. The solid yellow line shows the total users of IE and TE combined (and unduplicated). Of the 1,502 households using the expanded infant exemption or toddler exemption in February 2023, 1,275 were using it for one-year olds and 227 were using it to spend additional time with infants beyond the 12 months allowed under previous policy. The percent of households with infants using IE dropped from almost 80% in January 2019 to 17% in July 2021. The percent of households with toddlers using TE dropped from 60% in July 2019 to 13% in July 2021. Parents with young children could use COVID-19 exemptions without using infant or toddler exemption eligibility, so this drop made sense while COVID-19 exemptions continued. Use of infant and toddler exemptions increased after September 2021 but has begun to decline again. The percent of households with infants who used the infant or toddler exemption was 51% in February 2023, down from 61% in April 2022. The percent of households with toddlers using the toddler exemption was 47% in February 2023, down from 54% in March 2022.

[Return to Contents](#)

Count 5g: Use of Infant Exemption and Work Suspension Components based on the Age of Youngest Child

| Month | Cases with Youngest Child < 2 Years Old | Cases With Child < 1 Year Old | Cases Using | | Total Cases IE or TE (No Dups) | Percent of Cases | |
|--------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | Infant Exemption | Toddler Exemption | | wi Infants Using IE | wi Toddlers Using TE |
| Dec-20 | 4,831 | 2,574 | 701 | 487 | 1,149 | 27.2% | 21.6% |
| Jan-21 | 4,873 | 2,568 | 633 | 461 | 1,067 | 24.6% | 20.0% |
| Feb-21 | 4,761 | 2,497 | 545 | 418 | 940 | 21.8% | 18.5% |
| Mar-21 | 4,606 | 2,421 | 523 | 385 | 885 | 21.6% | 17.6% |
| Apr-21 | 4,319 | 2,252 | 454 | 334 | 762 | 20.2% | 16.2% |
| May-21 | 4,179 | 2,122 | 413 | 289 | 686 | 19.5% | 14.0% |
| Jun-21 | 4,062 | 2,068 | 372 | 263 | 620 | 18.0% | 13.2% |
| Jul-21 | 4,019 | 2,043 | 356 | 258 | 598 | 17.4% | 13.1% |
| Aug-21 | 3,945 | 2,022 | 374 | 259 | 610 | 18.5% | 13.5% |
| Sep-21 | 3,945 | 2,021 | 736 | 449 | 1,159 | 36.4% | 23.3% |
| Oct-21 | 4,352 | 2,276 | 1,093 | 739 | 1,784 | 48.0% | 35.6% |
| Nov-21 | 4,456 | 2,339 | 1,293 | 928 | 2,151 | 55.3% | 43.8% |
| Dec-21 | 4,525 | 2,368 | 1,372 | 1,091 | 2,405 | 57.9% | 50.6% |
| Jan-22 | 4,634 | 2,424 | 1,445 | 1,168 | 2,536 | 59.6% | 52.9% |
| Feb-22 | 4,786 | 2,514 | 1,513 | 1,216 | 2,637 | 60.2% | 53.5% |
| Mar-22 | 4,887 | 2,571 | 1,562 | 1,259 | 2,750 | 60.8% | 54.4% |
| Apr-22 | 5,026 | 2,636 | 1,618 | 1,262 | 2,792 | 61.4% | 52.8% |
| May-22 | 5,183 | 2,759 | 1,633 | 1,270 | 2,821 | 59.2% | 52.4% |
| Jun-22 | 5,287 | 2,818 | 1,677 | 1,303 | 2,897 | 59.5% | 52.8% |
| Jul-22 | 5,402 | 2,863 | 1,711 | 1,305 | 2,939 | 59.8% | 51.4% |
| Aug-22 | 5,524 | 2,929 | 1,747 | 1,359 | 3,017 | 59.6% | 52.4% |
| Sep-22 | 5,604 | 2,997 | 1,765 | 1,331 | 3,010 | 58.9% | 51.1% |
| Oct-22 | 5,653 | 3,018 | 1,696 | 1,309 | 2,927 | 56.2% | 49.7% |
| Nov-22 | 5,652 | 3,032 | 1,645 | 1,287 | 2,859 | 54.3% | 49.1% |
| Dec-22 | 5,709 | 3,033 | 1,614 | 1,334 | 2,874 | 53.2% | 49.9% |
| Jan-23 | 5,756 | 3,058 | 1,626 | 1,336 | 2,895 | 53.2% | 49.5% |
| Feb-23 | 5,753 | 3,052 | 1,555 | 1,275 | 2,762 | 51.0% | 47.2% |

February 2023 compared to February 2022 (without adjustments for late reporting)

| | | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|----|----|----|
| % Change | 20% | 21% | 3% | 5% | 5% |
|----------|-----|-----|----|----|----|

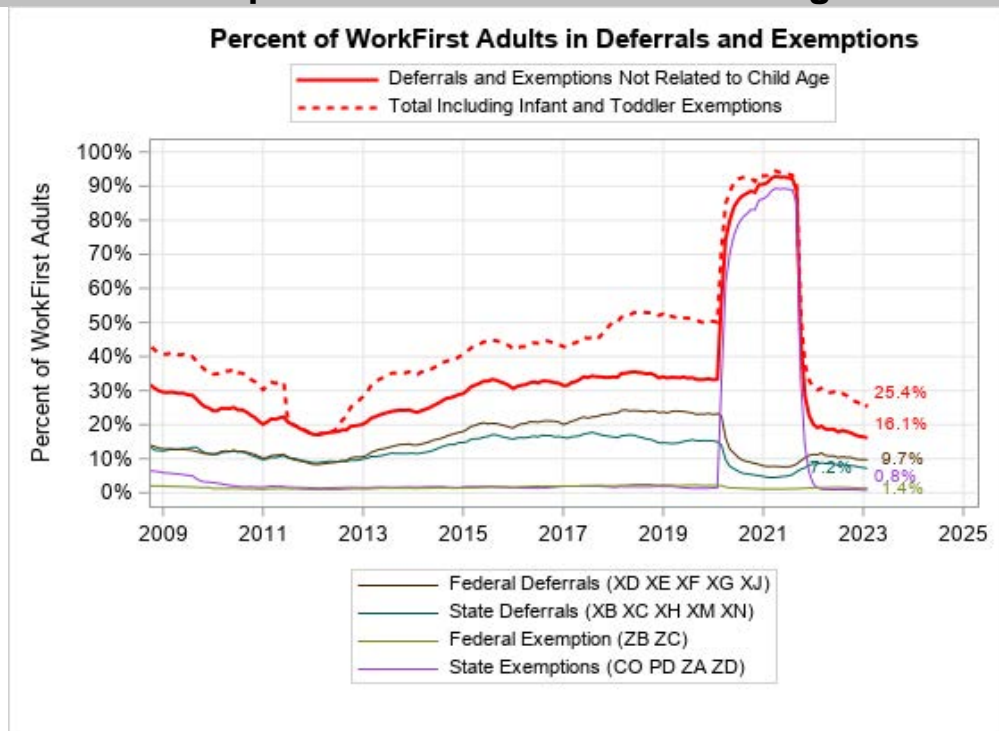
Parents whose youngest child is under two years old are potentially eligible for the infant exemption or toddler exemption under ESSB 5898 to a lifetime limit of 24 months.

One parent households with children less than 12 months old are exempt from federal work participation requirements for up to 12 months. Most single parents using IE (for infants) qualify for this federal exemption. Two-parent households with infants do not qualify for exemption from federal work participation requirements. Beginning in February 2016, two-parent households using infant exemption have been removed from work participation rates unless they are meeting participation requirements. They are funded using state funds only. Households exercising a toddler exemption do not qualify for exemption from federal work participation requirements.

Counts shown here are different from those on pages 15-16, which count adults instead of cases.

Source: ACES data warehouse, JAS_ACTV table, and DSHS 5921 Suspension Reports.

Count 5h: Use of Deferral, Exemption, and Barrier Components Not Related to Child Age



Components Shown

The solid red line in this chart shows the percent of WorkFirst adults exempted or deferred from full-time participation for reasons other than the age of their children -- 33.4% in February 2020, rising to 92.4% in July 2021, dropping to 16.1% in February 2023. The changes were due to the introduction of COVID-19 exemptions in March 2020 and their phase out beginning in September 2021. The dashed red line at the top adds the adults using infant or toddler exemptions to the total.

Activities labeled Federal Deferrals (e.g., Mental Health or Substance Abuse/Alcohol treatment) may be counted toward federal participation and count against federal job search time-limits. Federal exemptions remove parents from work participation rates. Activities labeled State Deferrals (e.g., Temporary Physical Incapacity/Medical Treatment or Resolution of Homelessness) do not exclude parents from federal participation rates.

Some barriers affect participation in some, but not all, activities. Some non-citizen parents are not permitted to work in the United States. They and are not assigned to work-related activities until they can apply for permits to work. The PU component indicating this status is not included counts of total deferrals or exemptions, but is a barrier and is shown separately for reference.

Trends

The number of adults with deferrals or exemptions not related to the age of their children was 7% higher in February 2023 than in February 2022. Prior to COVID-19, the percent of adults with deferrals and exemptions peaked at 35.5% in June 2018. That peak was related to increased need for mental health and substance abuse treatment services (see pages 72-73). The 16.1% of adults with exemptions or deferrals in February 2023 is the lowest percent since December 1999, early in WorkFirst program history. Use of other deferrals and exemptions dropped during the COVID-19 exemption period. Adults were assessed for reengagement from COVID exemptions between September and December 2021. The use of the other deferral and exemption codes has increased as a result. Use of most deferral and exemption codes remains below pre-pandemic levels. The Resolution of Homelessness (XH) is the exception whose use has increased beyond pre-pandemic levels.

[Return to Contents](#)

Count 5h: Use of Deferral, Exemption, and Barrier Components Not Related to Child Age

| Adult Counts in Selected Deferral and Exemption Categories | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Month | Mental Health Services (XG) | Family Violence Intervention (XF) | Temporary Medical (XM) | Alcohol & Substance Abuse (XE) | Resolution of Homelessness (XH) | COVID-19 (CO) | Total in Chart (No Dups) | Percent of WorkFirst Adults | Lawfully Residing Individuals (PU) |
| Nov-20 | 934 | 661 | 400 | 370 | 44 | 16,960 | 18,083 | 88.2% | 66 |
| Dec-20 | 927 | 689 | 386 | 356 | 49 | 18,121 | 19,167 | 90.5% | 71 |
| Jan-21 | 887 | 672 | 352 | 322 | 50 | 18,327 | 19,314 | 90.5% | 67 |
| Feb-21 | 842 | 639 | 332 | 320 | 39 | 18,273 | 19,175 | 91.0% | 66 |
| Mar-21 | 816 | 634 | 313 | 319 | 29 | 18,130 | 18,959 | 92.3% | 63 |
| Apr-21 | 774 | 601 | 305 | 301 | 29 | 17,456 | 18,222 | 92.9% | 58 |
| May-21 | 755 | 577 | 300 | 273 | 35 | 16,960 | 17,687 | 92.6% | 62 |
| Jun-21 | 725 | 575 | 314 | 263 | 40 | 16,591 | 17,278 | 92.6% | 64 |
| Jul-21 | 721 | 578 | 305 | 232 | 52 | 16,266 | 16,934 | 92.5% | 66 |
| Aug-21 | 718 | 600 | 331 | 233 | 69 | 15,864 | 16,513 | 92.2% | 66 |
| Sep-21 | 780 | 634 | 376 | 259 | 116 | 15,367 | 16,063 | 88.8% | 78 |
| Oct-21 | 952 | 785 | 438 | 350 | 215 | 6,591 | 9,149 | 45.5% | 74 |
| Nov-21 | 1,080 | 837 | 514 | 400 | 248 | 2,671 | 5,804 | 28.4% | 106 |
| Dec-21 | 1,195 | 874 | 620 | 448 | 269 | 1,082 | 4,701 | 22.8% | 151 |
| Jan-22 | 1,244 | 937 | 672 | 477 | 257 | 388 | 4,260 | 20.1% | 181 |
| Feb-22 | 1,284 | 942 | 737 | 475 | 269 | 137 | 4,172 | 19.1% | 214 |
| Mar-22 | 1,365 | 995 | 818 | 517 | 264 | 43 | 4,356 | 19.6% | 284 |
| Apr-22 | 1,340 | 971 | 869 | 530 | 260 | 28 | 4,388 | 18.7% | 489 |
| May-22 | 1,360 | 971 | 896 | 542 | 269 | 17 | 4,443 | 18.6% | 752 |
| Jun-22 | 1,373 | 1,001 | 895 | 571 | 268 | 17 | 4,557 | 18.6% | 996 |
| Jul-22 | 1,388 | 937 | 866 | 554 | 269 | 17 | 4,465 | 17.8% | 1,176 |
| Aug-22 | 1,465 | 948 | 926 | 593 | 294 | 5 | 4,704 | 18.3% | 1,436 |
| Sep-22 | 1,492 | 931 | 949 | 593 | 290 | 3 | 4,700 | 18.0% | 1,653 |
| Oct-22 | 1,525 | 946 | 939 | 590 | 309 | 0 | 4,690 | 17.6% | 1,777 |
| Nov-22 | 1,487 | 879 | 935 | 591 | 290 | 0 | 4,565 | 17.0% | 1,920 |
| Dec-22 | 1,485 | 884 | 935 | 553 | 273 | 0 | 4,517 | 16.6% | 2,011 |
| Jan-23 | 1,490 | 910 | 933 | 555 | 253 | 0 | 4,516 | 16.4% | 1,972 |
| Feb-23 | 1,505 | 894 | 903 | 566 | 270 | 0 | 4,473 | 16.1% | 1,885 |

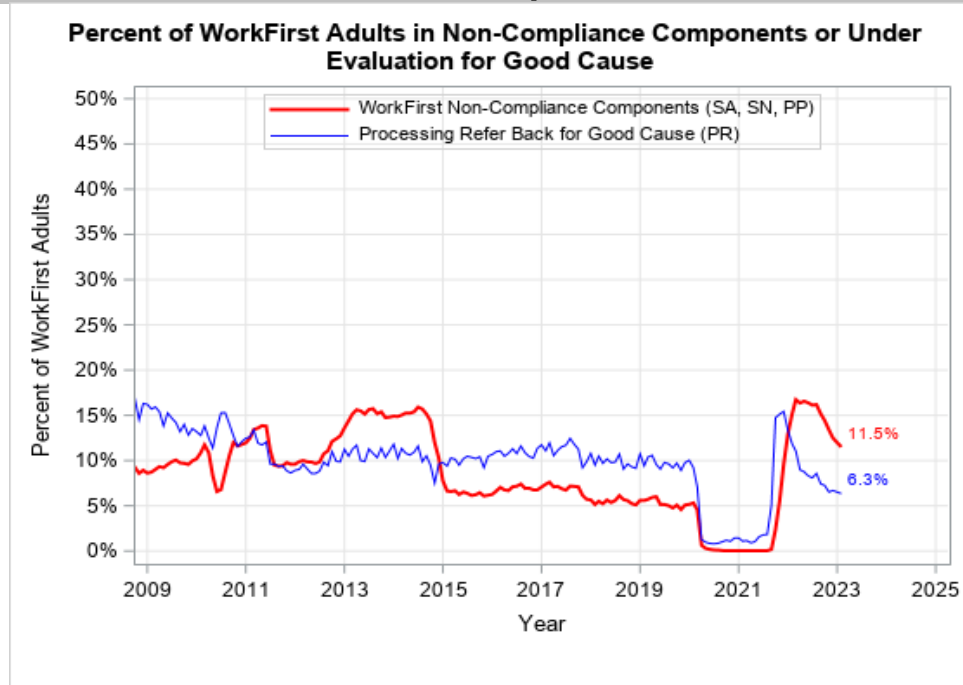
February 2023 compared to February 2022 (without adjustments for late reporting)

| | WorkFirst Adults | | | | | | | |
|----------|------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|----|------|
| % Change | 17% | -5% | 23% | 19% | 0% | -100% | 7% | 781% |

Use of the Alcohol and Substance abuse (XE) component increased by 19% and of the Mental Health Treatment (XG) component increased by 17% between February 2022 and February 2023. Use of the Temporary Medical (XM) component increased by 23%. Use of the Family Violence Intervention (XF) component decreased by 5%. Counts in these components remain below counts before the pandemic (calendar year 2019). Use of the Resolution of Homelessness (XH) component was unchanged from February 2022 but is 15% above levels in calendar year 2019. The unduplicated count of those deferred or exempted in February 2023 was 4,473 -- rising to 7,025 if infant exemptions (IE) and toddler exemptions (TE) are included. Some 10.0% of adults used infant or toddler exemptions in February 2023, down from 12.1% in February 2022 and below the 18.8% of March 2020. Lawfully Residing Individuals (indicated by the PU component) are non-citizens who are permitted to live in the United States and to receive assistance but may not yet be permitted to work. This includes many Afghan and Ukrainian refugees admitted under humanitarian parole. PU indicates a barrier to work for some nationalities but does not defer or provide an exemption from work participation requirements. The number of adults flagged with the PU component increased by 781% between February 2022 and February 2023, rising from 214 to 1,885. That count peaked in December 2022 at 2,011.

Source: ACES data warehouse, EMAPS Client file, JAS_Actv table, and JAS_Actual table.

Count 5i: Use of Non-Compliance and Processing Good Cause Components



Components Shown

This chart shows the percent of adults in non-compliance components. Adults who are required to but do not participate in WorkFirst activities or required treatment without good cause are counted in the SA or SN components. Those whose non-compliance persists receive reduced grants. Adults can restore their full grant (cure their sanction) by resuming participation. Continued non-participation results in grant termination. Under current law, grants are reduced during months two through 12 of non-compliance and terminated after 12 months of non-compliance.

Trends

In February 2023, 1,758 WorkFirst adults (6.3%) were being evaluated for good cause for non-participation in required activities and 3,186 (11.5%) were flagged with an SA or SN indicating non-compliance. Good cause for non-participation can occur for a number of reasons, including availability of infant or toddler exemptions, barriers as described on pages 43-44 and lack of childcare. Non-compliance is lower for households with young children due to infant or toddler exemptions. Non-compliance dropped to zero or near zero for all groups after March 2020 under COVID-19 policies. Rates just prior to the pandemic (February 2020) had been 3% for households with infants and toddlers; 7% for households with youngest child ages 2 to 5; and 6% for households with all children of school-age. Rates of non-compliance in February 2023 were 5% for households with toddlers, 6% for households with infants, 14% for households with older preschool children and 15% for households with school-age children only. Single-parent households in the two groups with older children had higher rates of non-compliance (19%) than 2-parent households (6%). Under SHB 2441, grants remain at their full amount during the first two months of non-compliance and then are reduced by 40% during the next 10 months. In February 2023, 1,695 WorkFirst adults (6.2%) had sanction grant reductions. In the same month, 89 adults had cases terminated for non-compliance and 320 adults cured their non-compliance by resuming activities or receiving exemptions. Terminations for non-compliance reduce the percent of exits for Employment, Earnings or Customer request (page 51).

[Return to Contents](#)

Count 5i: Use of Non-Compliance and Processing Good Cause Components

WorkFirst Adults in e-JAS Components Related to Non-Compliance

| Month | Non Compliance (SA or SN) Components | Good Cause Eval (PR) | Percent in Non- Compliance | Percent in Eval (PR) |
|--------|--|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sep-20 | 10 | 212 | 0.0% | 1.0% |
| Oct-20 | 8 | 245 | 0.0% | 1.2% |
| Nov-20 | 8 | 220 | 0.0% | 1.1% |
| Dec-20 | 6 | 305 | 0.0% | 1.4% |
| Jan-21 | 6 | 309 | 0.0% | 1.4% |
| Feb-21 | 9 | 228 | 0.0% | 1.1% |
| Mar-21 | 8 | 237 | 0.0% | 1.2% |
| Apr-21 | 7 | 178 | 0.0% | 0.9% |
| May-21 | 7 | 195 | 0.0% | 1.0% |
| Jun-21 | 7 | 293 | 0.0% | 1.6% |
| Jul-21 | 8 | 327 | 0.0% | 1.8% |
| Aug-21 | 7 | 328 | 0.0% | 1.8% |
| Sep-21 | 32 | 915 | 0.2% | 5.1% |
| Oct-21 | 475 | 2,963 | 2.4% | 14.7% |
| Nov-21 | 1,133 | 3,089 | 5.5% | 15.1% |
| Dec-21 | 1,977 | 3,185 | 9.6% | 15.4% |
| Jan-22 | 2,738 | 2,834 | 12.9% | 13.4% |
| Feb-22 | 3,301 | 2,592 | 15.1% | 11.9% |
| Mar-22 | 3,723 | 2,458 | 16.7% | 11.0% |
| Apr-22 | 3,841 | 2,108 | 16.4% | 9.0% |
| May-22 | 3,952 | 2,091 | 16.6% | 8.8% |
| Jun-22 | 4,009 | 2,034 | 16.4% | 8.3% |
| Jul-22 | 4,038 | 2,026 | 16.1% | 8.1% |
| Aug-22 | 4,159 | 2,203 | 16.2% | 8.6% |
| Sep-22 | 3,974 | 1,947 | 15.2% | 7.4% |
| Oct-22 | 3,833 | 1,926 | 14.4% | 7.2% |
| Nov-22 | 3,603 | 1,753 | 13.4% | 6.5% |
| Dec-22 | 3,399 | 1,819 | 12.5% | 6.7% |
| Jan-23 | 3,298 | 1,793 | 12.0% | 6.5% |
| Feb-23 | 3,186 | 1,758 | 11.5% | 6.3% |

February 2023 compared to February 2022 (without adjustments for late reporting)

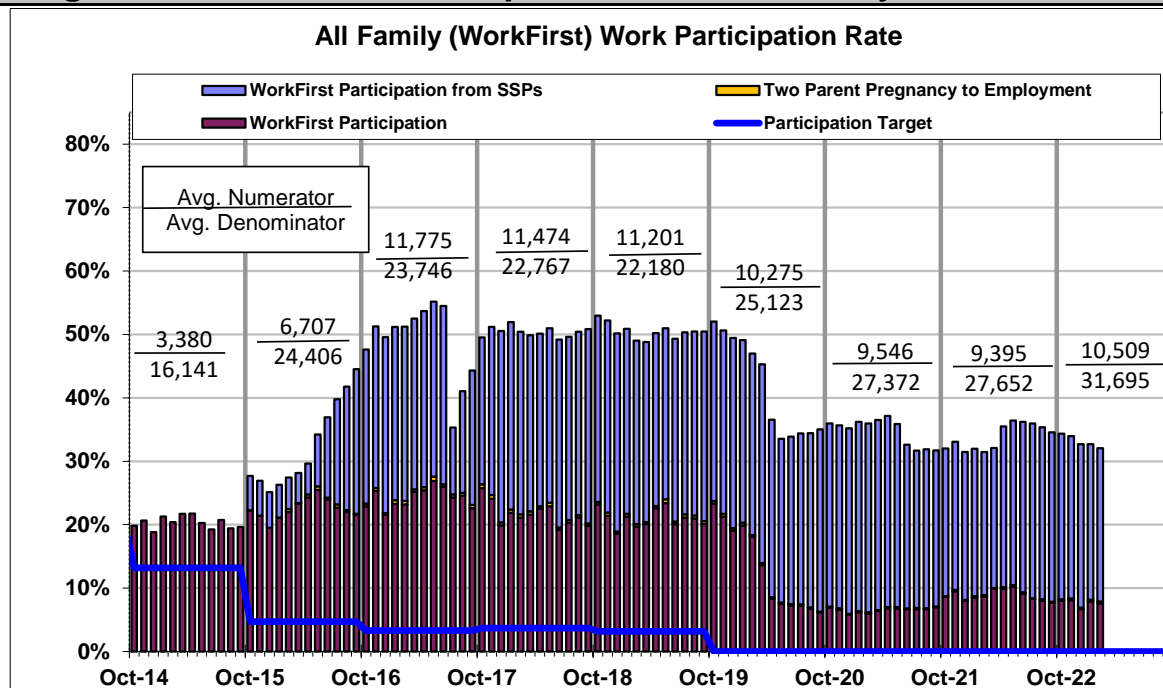
WorkFirst
Adults
27%

% Change -3% -32%

Rates of non-compliance dropped in 2010 and again at the end of 2014 because of revisions to policies on how long adults could remain in non-compliance before grant termination. Under the 2010 policy, adults could remain in non-compliance for 4 months before termination of their grants. Prior to July 2010, adults could remain in non-compliance for up to 6 months before termination. Policies implemented in 2014 limited the amount of time that adults could remain in non-compliance to only 2 months. The shorter time limit before grant termination reduced the percent of the caseload in non-compliance to 5 or 6%. The percent of adults in non-compliance has risen now that adults can remain in the caseload for 12 months before grant termination instead of 2 months. Many adults will likely cure sanctions or exit TANF before the 12 months are up.

Source: ACES data warehouse, EMAPS Client file, JAS_Actv table, and JAS_Actual table.

Targeted Measure 1a: Participation Rate - All Family



Goal

Meet federal work participation requirements (WPR) in qualifying activities.

Targets

DSHS predicted that Federal Office of Family Assistance targets would be 2.4% for FY 2019 and 0.0% for FY 2020 and FY 2021. OFA published final targets of 3.2% for FY 2019 and 0.0% for FY 2020 and FY 2021. Forty-seven of the 50 states met All Family WPR targets during FY 2021, the most recent year for which OFA has released results. Washington's All Family performance of 34.7% exceeded its federal target for of 0.0% for FY 2021. Washington predicts that its All Family target will be 0.0% in FY 2022 and FY 2023.

Analysis

The All Family WPR rate for FY 2019 were 21.5%, increased to 50.5% by SSPs. Results for FY 2020 were 13.2% increased to 41.8% by SSPs. Results for FY 2021 were 6.7% increased to 34.7% by SSPs. Preliminary results for FY 2022 were 8.9% increased to 33.8% by SSPs. Results for the first five months of FY 2023 are 7.7% increased to 33.2% by SSPs. An SSP is a state-funded program to benefit low income families with children. SSPs increase both the numerator and denominator of the WPR rate. Twelve states operated SSPs during FY 2021. In two states: Maine and Massachusetts, SSPs made the difference between passing and failing All Family requirements. Maryland and Oregon did not meet their All Family rates in FY 2021 despite offering SSPs. Thirty states had All Family targets of 0.0% in FY 2021 and only 5 of them offered SSPs. Washington began tracking and reporting work participation in the State Food Assistance program as an SSP in October 2015. Washington began a second SSP, the Family Support Program, in May 2016. FSP enrollments were interrupted in June 2017 due to budget delays. Data beyond February 2023 are not complete and are not shown. Participation rates use the 12-week job search definition through June 2022 and 6-week definition beginning in July 2022. Results for July 2022 through February 2023 should increase before they become final. Average monthly numerators and denominators for each fiscal year are shown as fractions.

[Return to Contents](#)

Targeted Measure 1a: Participation Rate - All Family

Data Table Components of Federal Work Participation Rates

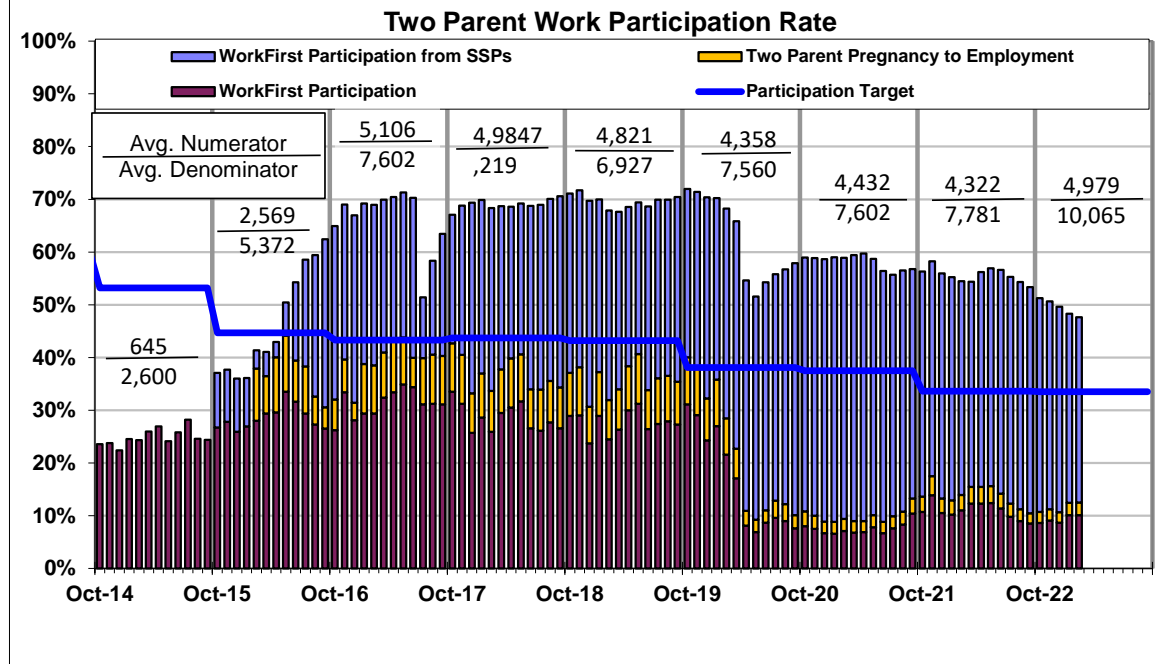
| All Family (WorkFirst) Work Participation Rates | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Month | All Family WPR | All Family | Work Participation Category | | | Work Participation Rate | | |
| | Denominator | Cases | Hours Met Fed Rate | Supplemental State Pgms | Total | WorkFirst Only | Combined Total | All Family Target |
| Dec-20 | 29,569 | 18,494 | 975 | 9,432 | 10,407 | 5.8% | 35.2% | 0.0% |
| Jan-21 | 30,260 | 18,610 | 1,056 | 9,903 | 10,959 | 6.2% | 36.2% | 0.0% |
| Feb-21 | 29,832 | 18,387 | 1,012 | 9,721 | 10,733 | 6.0% | 36.0% | 0.0% |
| Mar-21 | 29,414 | 17,958 | 1,048 | 9,696 | 10,744 | 6.4% | 36.5% | 0.0% |
| Apr-21 | 28,533 | 17,180 | 1,078 | 9,524 | 10,602 | 6.8% | 37.2% | 0.0% |
| May-21 | 27,346 | 16,792 | 1,061 | 8,752 | 9,813 | 6.8% | 35.9% | 0.0% |
| Jun-21 | 25,033 | 16,454 | 1,010 | 7,155 | 8,165 | 6.7% | 32.6% | 0.0% |
| Jul-21 | 24,222 | 16,159 | 1,001 | 6,677 | 7,678 | 6.7% | 31.7% | 0.0% |
| Aug-21 | 23,588 | 15,796 | 974 | 6,546 | 7,520 | 6.7% | 31.9% | 0.0% |
| Sep-21 | 23,323 | 15,839 | 1,013 | 6,385 | 7,398 | 7.0% | 31.7% | 0.0% |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Oct-21 | 25,157 | 17,569 | 1,381 | 6,676 | 8,057 | 8.6% | 32.0% | 0.0% |
| Nov-21 | 25,484 | 17,827 | 1,558 | 6,868 | 8,426 | 9.5% | 33.1% | 0.0% |
| Dec-21 | 25,315 | 17,872 | 1,307 | 6,657 | 7,964 | 8.0% | 31.5% | 0.0% |
| Jan-22 | 25,942 | 18,422 | 1,425 | 6,868 | 8,293 | 8.5% | 32.0% | 0.0% |
| Feb-22 | 25,756 | 18,851 | 1,459 | 6,647 | 8,106 | 8.7% | 31.5% | 0.0% |
| Mar-22 | 25,517 | 19,111 | 1,620 | 6,568 | 8,188 | 9.9% | 32.1% | 0.0% |
| Apr-22 | 27,571 | 19,869 | 1,680 | 8,101 | 9,781 | 9.9% | 35.5% | 0.0% |
| May-22 | 28,414 | 20,144 | 1,761 | 8,595 | 10,356 | 10.2% | 36.4% | 0.0% |
| Jun-22 | 29,437 | 20,560 | 1,613 | 9,049 | 10,662 | 9.1% | 36.2% | 0.0% |
| Jul-22 | 30,838 | 20,965 | 1,500 | 9,590 | 11,090 | 8.3% | 36.0% | 0.0% |
| Aug-22 | 31,356 | 21,474 | 1,512 | 9,582 | 11,094 | 8.0% | 35.4% | 0.0% |
| Sep-22 | 31,035 | 21,669 | 1,458 | 9,262 | 10,720 | 7.7% | 34.5% | 0.0% |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Oct-22 | 31,654 | 21,901 | 1,554 | 9,316 | 10,870 | 8.0% | 34.3% | 0.0% |
| Nov-22 | 31,552 | 21,978 | 1,585 | 9,134 | 10,719 | 8.1% | 34.0% | 0.0% |
| Dec-22 | 31,610 | 22,136 | 1,324 | 9,017 | 10,341 | 6.7% | 32.7% | 0.0% |
| Jan-23 | 31,774 | 22,267 | 1,575 | 8,812 | 10,387 | 7.9% | 32.7% | 0.0% |
| Feb-23 | 31,885 | 22,373 | 1,533 | 8,693 | 10,226 | 7.6% | 32.1% | 0.0% |

Definition of Measure

Numerator: Number of TANF and Supplemental State Program families that include a work-eligible parent who is participating for the required number of hours per week in federally defined work activities; divided by the **Denominator:** the number of TANF and SSP families that include a work-eligible parent, minus the number of families that are disregarded for being in their first three months of sanction (limited to 3 out of the last 12 months) or being single custodial parents caring for a child under age 1 (limited to 12 months in that parent's lifetime). The parent with the best participation is used to measure results for 2-parent households. For single parents with children under age six, the work requirement is 20 hours per week. For other parents the requirement is 30 hours per week. Work participation is measured during federal fiscal years, which run from October through September. Two-parent households with an infant or pregnancy are now state funded unless they meet WPR requirements. This removes them from the numerator and denominator beginning in February 2016. The impact on the All Family rate is very small.

Source: DSHS Work participation reports through March 2023, including TARDIS reports.

Targeted Measure 1b: Participation Rate - Two Parent



Goal

Meet federal work participation requirements (WPR) in qualifying activities.

Target

Washington predicted that Federal Office of Family Assistance targets would be 42.4% for FY 2019, 37.9% for FY 2020 and 36.2% for FY 2021. OFA published final targets of 43.2% for FY 2019, 38.1% for FY 2020 and 37.5% for FY 2021. Eighteen states (out of 27) met 2-parent targets during FY 2021, the most recent year for which OFA has released results. The remaining states had no TANF families subject to 2-parent work requirements. Washington's 2-parent performance of 58.1% exceeded its federal target for FY 2021. Washington predicts that its 2-parent target will be 33.6% in FY 2022 and 33.5% in FY 2023.

Analysis

2-Parent results for FY 2019 were 35.8%, increased to 69.6% by SSPs. Results for FY 2020 were 22.0%, increased to 62.4% by SSPs. Results for FY 2021 were 9.8%, increased to 58.1% by SSPs. Preliminary results for FY 2022 were 13.8%, increased to 55.6% by SSPs. Preliminary results for the first five months of FY 2023 are 11.5% increased to 49.5% by SSPs. SSPs increase both the numerator and denominator of the WPR rate. Seven states with 2-parent requirements operated SSPs in FY 2020. In five states: Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin, SSPs made the difference between passing and failing 2-parent requirements. Only nine states had 2-parent targets higher than Washington's and only one of them met those targets without use of an SSP. Washington began tracking and reporting work participation in the State Food Assistance program as an SSP in October 2015. Washington began a second SSP, the Family Support Program, in May 2016. FSP enrollments were interrupted in June 2017 due to budget delays. Washington also funds 2-parent households that include infants using state funds unless they are meeting work requirements. This increases the WPR rate by removing the households from the denominator of the measure. This impact is shown in yellow segments of the participation bars labeled 2-Parent Pregnancy to Employment. Data beyond February 2023 are not complete and are not shown. Participation rates use the 12-week job search definition through June 2022 and 6-week definition beginning in July 2022. Results for July 2022 through February 2023 should increase before they become final. Average numerators and denominators are shown as fractions, by fiscal year.

[Return to Contents](#)

Targeted Measure 1b: Participation Rate - Two Parent

Data Table Components of Federal Work Participation Rates

Two Parent Work Participation Rates

| Month | Two Parent WPR Denominator | Two Parent Cases | Work Participation Category | | | Work Participation Rate | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | | | Hours Met Fed Rate | Supplemental State Pgms | Total | Two Parent Only | Combined Total | Two Parent Target |
| Nov-20 | 8,083 | 2,225 | 165 | 4,593 | 4,758 | 10.0% | 58.9% | 37.5% |
| Dec-20 | 8,425 | 2,361 | 155 | 4,786 | 4,941 | 8.9% | 58.6% | 37.5% |
| Jan-21 | 8,738 | 2,399 | 158 | 4,999 | 5,157 | 8.9% | 59.0% | 37.5% |
| Feb-21 | 8,543 | 2,350 | 165 | 4,868 | 5,033 | 9.4% | 58.9% | 37.5% |
| Mar-21 | 8,463 | 2,276 | 152 | 4,877 | 5,029 | 9.0% | 59.4% | 37.5% |
| Apr-21 | 8,185 | 2,109 | 144 | 4,746 | 4,890 | 9.0% | 59.7% | 37.5% |
| May-21 | 7,633 | 2,031 | 157 | 4,323 | 4,480 | 10.1% | 58.7% | 37.5% |
| Jun-21 | 6,618 | 1,909 | 128 | 3,604 | 3,732 | 8.8% | 56.4% | 37.5% |
| Jul-21 | 6,290 | 1,859 | 140 | 3,362 | 3,502 | 9.9% | 55.7% | 37.5% |
| Aug-21 | 6,079 | 1,797 | 148 | 3,288 | 3,436 | 10.8% | 56.5% | 37.5% |
| Sep-21 | 5,988 | 1,829 | 187 | 3,211 | 3,398 | 13.3% | 56.7% | 37.5% |
| Oct-21 | 6,511 | 2,144 | 229 | 3,436 | 3,665 | 13.6% | 56.3% | 33.6% |
| Nov-21 | 6,607 | 2,158 | 296 | 3,552 | 3,848 | 17.5% | 58.2% | 33.6% |
| Dec-21 | 6,519 | 2,218 | 232 | 3,415 | 3,647 | 13.3% | 55.9% | 33.6% |
| Jan-22 | 6,828 | 2,424 | 242 | 3,531 | 3,773 | 12.9% | 55.3% | 33.6% |
| Feb-22 | 6,786 | 2,547 | 272 | 3,425 | 3,697 | 13.9% | 54.5% | 33.6% |
| Mar-22 | 6,786 | 2,676 | 307 | 3,383 | 3,690 | 15.5% | 54.4% | 33.6% |
| Apr-22 | 8,000 | 3,159 | 362 | 4,136 | 4,498 | 15.4% | 56.2% | 33.6% |
| May-22 | 8,354 | 3,261 | 378 | 4,378 | 4,756 | 15.6% | 56.9% | 33.6% |
| Jun-22 | 8,716 | 3,406 | 363 | 4,571 | 4,934 | 14.2% | 56.6% | 33.6% |
| Jul-22 | 9,404 | 3,580 | 337 | 4,861 | 5,198 | 12.3% | 55.3% | 33.6% |
| Aug-22 | 9,504 | 3,752 | 327 | 4,834 | 5,161 | 11.2% | 54.3% | 33.6% |
| Sep-22 | 9,354 | 3,958 | 322 | 4,669 | 4,991 | 10.5% | 53.4% | 33.6% |
| Oct-22 | 9,748 | 4,168 | 350 | 4,648 | 4,998 | 10.7% | 51.3% | 33.5% |
| Nov-22 | 9,947 | 4,390 | 390 | 4,647 | 5,037 | 11.2% | 50.6% | 33.5% |
| Dec-22 | 10,016 | 4,587 | 387 | 4,584 | 4,971 | 10.7% | 49.6% | 33.5% |
| Jan-23 | 10,263 | 4,794 | 474 | 4,483 | 4,957 | 12.4% | 48.3% | 33.5% |
| Feb-23 | 10,351 | 4,886 | 486 | 4,446 | 4,932 | 12.5% | 47.6% | 33.5% |

Definition of Measure

Numerator: Number of 2-parent families with two work-eligible parents who are participating an average of 35 hours per week (combined between the two parents) in federally defined work activities; divided by the **Denominator:** the number of TANF and SSP families that include two work-eligible parents, minus the number of families that are disregarded for being in their first 3 months of sanction (limited to 3 out of the last 12 months). The participation standard differs based on whether the family receives federal or state-funded child care. Washington uses state-funded child care for 2-parent families, decreasing the federal work participation requirement from 55 hours to 35 hours per week. Work participation is measured during federal fiscal years, which run from October through September. Two-parent households with an infant or pregnancy are now state-funded unless they meet WPR requirements. This removes them from both the numerator and denominator beginning in February 2016.

Source: DSHS Work participation reports through March 2023, including TARDIS reports.

Targeted Measure 2: Exits Due to Income, Earnings, or at Customer Request, for WorkFirst Cases



Goal and Target

Increase the percent of people who leave TANF due to increased income or at their request from 58% in March 2018 to 60% by June 2021. This was Economic Services Administration strategic plan metric E2.1 in the 2019-21 strategic plan. It is not part of the 2021-23 ESA strategic plan. There is no longer a target for this measure.

Experience to Date

The percent of exits for income, earnings, or customer request among exits lasting three months or more dropped to 27.6% in January 2011 due to the large number of exits produced by changes to TANF time limits. Results recovered, but stabilized at lower levels after February 2011. Results improved when exits due to non-compliance sanctions and TANF time limits began to drop in 2018. Together, these reasons were associated with 18% of exits in 2018, down from 22% of exits in 2015, but up from 14% of exits in 2012 and 5% in 2010. Average results for January through March 2020 were 59.3%. Results increased under COVID-19 policies. Exits for non-compliance sanctions were eliminated. Mid-certification reviews were suspended and eligibility redeterminations were postponed until June 2021. Exits for other reasons increased in June 2021 after MCRs were resumed. The end of federal pandemic unemployment insurance produced a drop in exits for Other Income in September 2021. Only 57% of the exits in December 2021 that lasted at least three months were due to income, earnings or customer request. Mid-certification reviews were suspended between January and June 2022, so outcomes on this measure increased again in January 2022. They began to drop again in June 2022 and dropped to 48.3% in December 2022.

This measure has been a Results Washington measure and was an ESA strategic plan metric, but is not currently tracked for either. This page was revised in 2019. HB 1603 called for the separate tracking of exits due to income, employment, participant request and other reasons. See the breakout on page 52.

[Return to Contents](#)

Targeted Measure 2: Exits Due to Income, Earnings, or at Customer Request, for WorkFirst Cases

Exits by Reason and Percent of Exits for Income, Earnings or Request

| Month | Earned Income | Other Income | Customer Request | Combined Income & Customer Request | | Exits for Other Reasons | Total Exits |
|--------|---------------|--------------|------------------|------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|-------------|
| | | | | Number | Percent | | |
| Aug-20 | 502 | 851 | 174 | 1,527 | 72.0% | 595 | 2,122 |
| Sep-20 | 386 | 576 | 181 | 1,143 | 65.2% | 611 | 1,754 |
| Oct-20 | 395 | 459 | 158 | 1,012 | 62.2% | 614 | 1,626 |
| Nov-20 | 271 | 294 | 126 | 691 | 64.1% | 387 | 1,078 |
| Dec-20 | 365 | 317 | 144 | 826 | 66.7% | 412 | 1,238 |
| Jan-21 | 336 | 378 | 158 | 872 | 62.8% | 517 | 1,389 |
| Feb-21 | 299 | 446 | 163 | 908 | 66.3% | 462 | 1,370 |
| Mar-21 | 351 | 498 | 196 | 1,045 | 69.0% | 470 | 1,515 |
| Apr-21 | 371 | 456 | 142 | 969 | 65.6% | 509 | 1,478 |
| May-21 | 367 | 405 | 127 | 899 | 63.7% | 512 | 1,411 |
| Jun-21 | 326 | 286 | 116 | 728 | 52.5% | 659 | 1,387 |
| Jul-21 | 403 | 213 | 108 | 724 | 55.4% | 584 | 1,308 |
| Aug-21 | 328 | 163 | 159 | 650 | 53.3% | 569 | 1,219 |
| Sep-21 | 396 | 83 | 156 | 635 | 53.3% | 556 | 1,191 |
| Oct-21 | 524 | 82 | 244 | 850 | 57.2% | 637 | 1,487 |
| Nov-21 | 490 | 79 | 208 | 777 | 53.8% | 668 | 1,445 |
| Dec-21 | 486 | 91 | 164 | 741 | 56.5% | 571 | 1,312 |
| Jan-22 | 337 | 97 | 157 | 591 | 62.9% | 348 | 939 |
| Feb-22 | 468 | 88 | 225 | 781 | 60.0% | 521 | 1,302 |
| Mar-22 | 474 | 114 | 235 | 823 | 61.0% | 527 | 1,350 |
| Apr-22 | 526 | 104 | 208 | 838 | 62.4% | 505 | 1,343 |
| May-22 | 533 | 102 | 172 | 807 | 59.4% | 551 | 1,358 |
| Jun-22 | 447 | 72 | 229 | 748 | 55.5% | 599 | 1,347 |
| Jul-22 | 557 | 91 | 189 | 837 | 55.7% | 667 | 1,504 |
| Aug-22 | 536 | 124 | 223 | 883 | 54.8% | 729 | 1,612 |
| Sep-22 | 589 | 109 | 177 | 875 | 51.7% | 816 | 1,691 |
| Oct-22 | 599 | 117 | 183 | 899 | 51.4% | 849 | 1,748 |
| Nov-22 | 557 | 106 | 185 | 848 | 51.1% | 811 | 1,659 |
| Dec-22 | 567 | 110 | 150 | 827 | 48.3% | 886 | 1,713 |

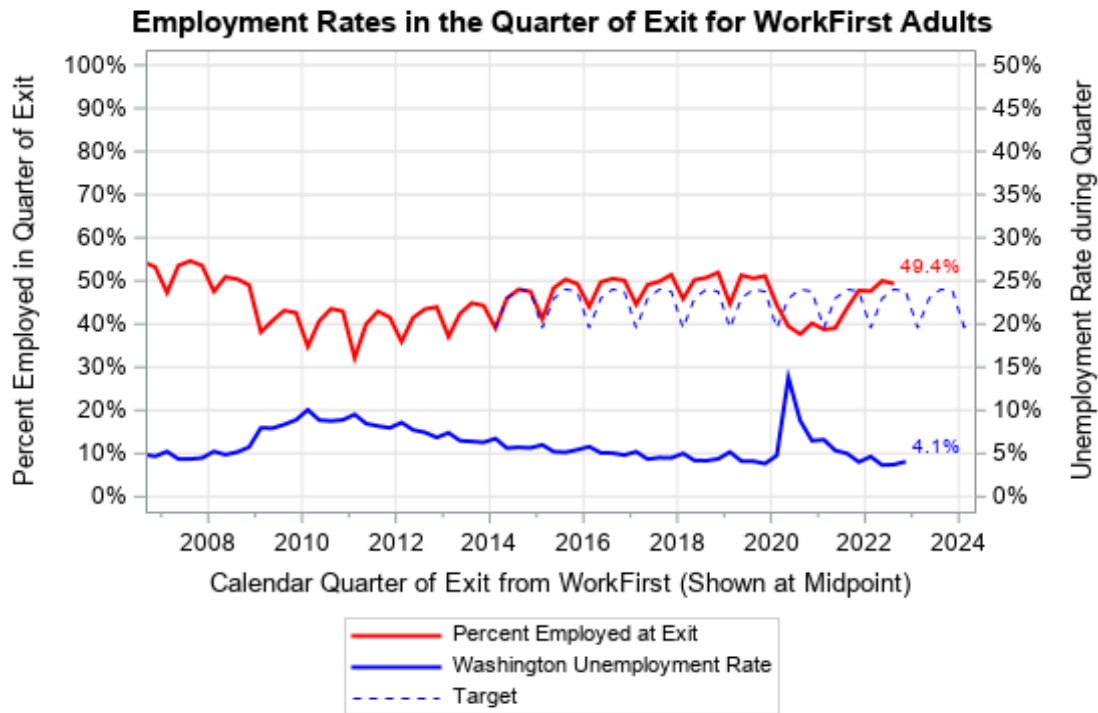
December 2022, compared to December 2021

| | | | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| % Change | 17% | 21% | -9% | 12% | 55% | 31% |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

The numerator includes WorkFirst closures lasting 3 months or more for selected reasons. Closures for earned income are based on exceeded earned income limit (reason code 334). Other income includes: child support more than grant (324), excess net income (331), and change in child support payments (507). Customer request is based on assistance unit requests closure (557). The denominator includes all WorkFirst closures lasting three months or more. Common reasons in the other category include: non-compliance sanction process, no eligible household members, failed to provide verification, 6-month report (mid-certification review) not returned, head of household not eligible, eligibility review not complete, no dependent child, and exceeds adult TANF time limits. This measure is similar to a former WorkFirst GMAP Measure: Self-Sufficiency Exits.

Source: DSHS performance reports and EMAPs reports on TANF Terminations.

Targeted Measure 3: Exit to Employment



Goal

Increase the percentage of adults who leave WorkFirst with employment.

Target

The target is for employment results to meet or exceed results in the same quarter of CY 2014.

Analysis

Results depend on a number of factors. Some of them, like economic conditions, are outside of WorkFirst program control. Results for Q3 2022 prepared by DSHS region show the highest exit with employment rate in Region 1 (Eastern Washington) at 51.8%, followed by Region 2 (Seattle and North Puget Sound) at 49.7% and Region 3 (Pierce County, the Olympic Peninsula and Southwest Washington) at 47.0%. The rate in Seattle-King County was 54.4% and was 54.1% in the five CSOs serving Seattle.

The exit with employment rate for Q3 2022 was 49.4%, up from 43.7% in Q3 2021, a difference of 5.7 percentage points. Q3 2022 was the third quarter after WorkFirst reengagement. As seen in the exit for increased income measure (pages 51-52) households continued to leave TANF throughout the pandemic, but not always due to employment income. Washington's unemployment rate in Q3 2022 was 3.7%, 1.3 points lower than the 5.0% in Q3 2021. Region 2 had the lowest unemployment rate in Q3 2022 (3.1%) followed by Region 1 (4.2%) and Region 3 (4.3%). The unemployment rate in Seattle-King county was 2.8%. The exit with employment rate in Q2 2022 was 49.9% in the data reported through November 2022 and increased to 50.0% in the data reported through February 2023. Sometimes results change by a few tenths of a percent with an additional quarter of follow up, but that does not always happen.

[Return to Contents](#)

Targeted Measure 3: Exit to Employment

Data Table **Percent of WorkFirst Parents Employed at TANF Exit**

| Calendar Quarter | Exits with Employment | Total Exits | Percent of Exits to Employment | Target | Unemployment Rate Washington | United States |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|--------|------------------------------|---------------|
| Q4 2016 | 3,940 | 7,863 | 50.1% | 47.5% | 4.8% | 4.5% |
| Q1 2017 | 3,306 | 7,424 | 44.5% | 39.1% | 5.2% | 4.9% |
| Q2 2017 | 3,939 | 8,022 | 49.1% | 45.9% | 4.3% | 4.2% |
| Q3 2017 | 3,874 | 7,768 | 49.9% | 48.0% | 4.5% | 4.4% |
| Q4 2017 | 3,629 | 7,056 | 51.4% | 47.5% | 4.5% | 3.9% |
| Q1 2018 | 2,940 | 6,412 | 45.9% | 39.1% | 5.0% | 4.3% |
| Q2 2018 | 3,291 | 6,551 | 50.2% | 45.9% | 4.2% | 3.8% |
| Q3 2018 | 3,290 | 6,482 | 50.8% | 48.0% | 4.2% | 3.9% |
| Q4 2018 | 3,235 | 6,227 | 52.0% | 47.5% | 4.4% | 3.6% |
| Q1 2019 | 2,594 | 5,810 | 44.6% | 39.1% | 5.2% | 4.1% |
| Q2 2019 | 3,238 | 6,308 | 51.3% | 45.9% | 4.1% | 3.5% |
| Q3 2019 | 3,290 | 6,503 | 50.6% | 48.0% | 4.1% | 3.7% |
| Q4 2019 | 3,202 | 6,259 | 51.2% | 47.5% | 3.8% | 3.3% |
| Q1 2020 | 2,641 | 5,944 | 44.4% | 39.1% | 4.8% | 4.1% |
| Q2 2020 | 2,201 | 5,572 | 39.5% | 45.9% | 13.8% | 12.9% |
| Q3 2020 | 2,661 | 7,068 | 37.6% | 48.0% | 8.8% | 8.9% |
| Q4 2020 | 2,429 | 6,045 | 40.2% | 47.5% | 6.5% | 6.5% |
| Q1 2021 | 2,044 | 5,276 | 38.7% | 39.1% | 6.6% | 6.5% |
| Q2 2021 | 2,273 | 5,820 | 39.1% | 45.9% | 5.4% | 5.8% |
| Q3 2021 | 2,458 | 5,626 | 43.7% | 48.0% | 5.0% | 5.2% |
| Q4 2021 | 2,635 | 5,515 | 47.8% | 47.5% | 4.0% | 3.9% |
| Q1 2022 | 2,308 | 4,846 | 47.6% | 39.1% | 4.6% | 4.1% |
| Q2 2022 | 2,920 | 5,840 | 50.0% | 45.9% | 3.7% | 3.5% |
| Q3 2022 | 3,216 | 6,516 | 49.4% | 48.0% | 3.7% | 3.6% |
| Q4 2022 | . | . | . | 47.5% | 4.1% | 3.3% |

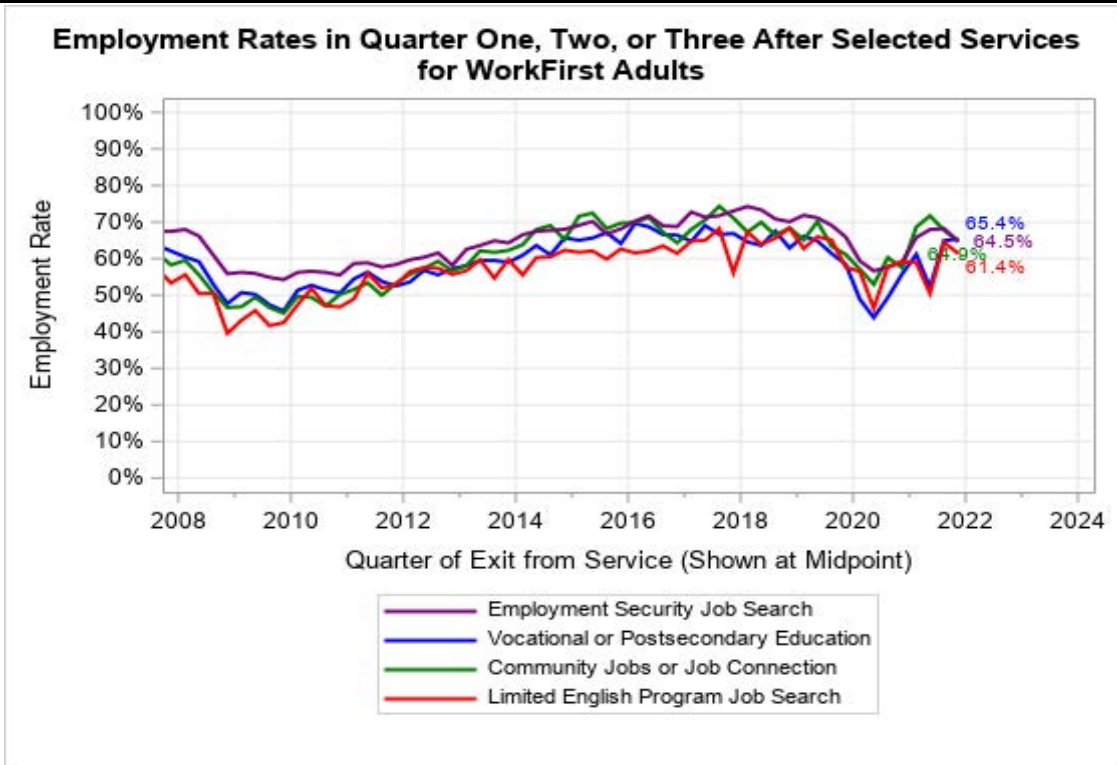
| | Change in Exit with Employment Rate (Percentage Points) | | | Change in Unemployment Rate (Percentage Points) | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----|------|---|-------|
| Q3 2022 compared with Q3 2021 | | | | | |
| % Change | 31% | 16% | 5.7% | -1.3% | -1.5% |

Definition of Measure

The numerator includes all WorkFirst adults exiting TANF in a calendar quarter who had employment reported to the Unemployment Insurance system during that quarter. The denominator is the number of adults exiting TANF during the quarter. Exits in this measure occur during months when adults have no TANF payments following a month in which they did have TANF payments. Results for the most recent quarter are typically subject to upwards revision in the next measurement cycle. Exits counts were 16% higher in Q3 2022 than in Q3 2021. Exits with employment increased by 31% over the same period. Quarterly unemployment rates are created by dividing the sum of monthly unemployment counts during a quarter by the sum of monthly labor force counts in the same quarter. Washington unemployment rates are compared with national unemployment rates for reference.

Source: Afarrays file and UI wage file. Prepared by OFM Forecasting and Research staff. Unemployment rates are from Employment Security Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), not seasonally adjusted. Data were collected in February 2023.

Targeted Measures 4 to 7: Employment After Services



Goal

Increase the percent of WorkFirst parents who find employment after participating in job search (JS) at Employment Security or LEP programs, vocational or postsecondary education (VE, PE, HW, VU, DC) or JT if provided by Community of Technical College (CTC) contract, and the Community Jobs (CJ) or Job Connection (JC) programs run by the Department of Commerce.

Targets

These measures are calculated on a quarterly basis. Targets are for results to meet or exceed results in the same quarter of fiscal year 2014. Charts with targets and analysis are found on pages 57-60.

Analysis

Q4 2021 was the third quarter affected by the \$14.49 minimum wage. The number of exits in Q4 2021 was up from Q3 2020 for three of the four services due to WorkFirst reengagement. Employment rates after Q4 2021 exits were also higher than in Q4 2020. The adults who left services early during reengagement had higher employment rates than their counterparts who left one year earlier when services were voluntary.

Definition of Measures

Employment is measured in quarter 1, 2, or 3 after exit from four programs: ESD job search (see pages 31-32); vocational and postsecondary education - all schools (see pages 33-34); paid work preparation -- Community Jobs or Job Connection (see pages 35-36); and LEP job search (page 32). An exit occurs when an adult has left the program and not returned to it for four consecutive months. Employment is measured using Unemployment Insurance wage records. Employment rates are higher than shown for exit to employment (pages 53-54) partly because this measure combines results from three calendar quarters instead of using just one quarter. Adults may be served by more than one program. Someone served by a college, followed by job search, would be in both measures, leaving at different dates based on the date of exit from each service.

[Return to Contents](#)

Targeted Measures 4 to 7: Employment After Services

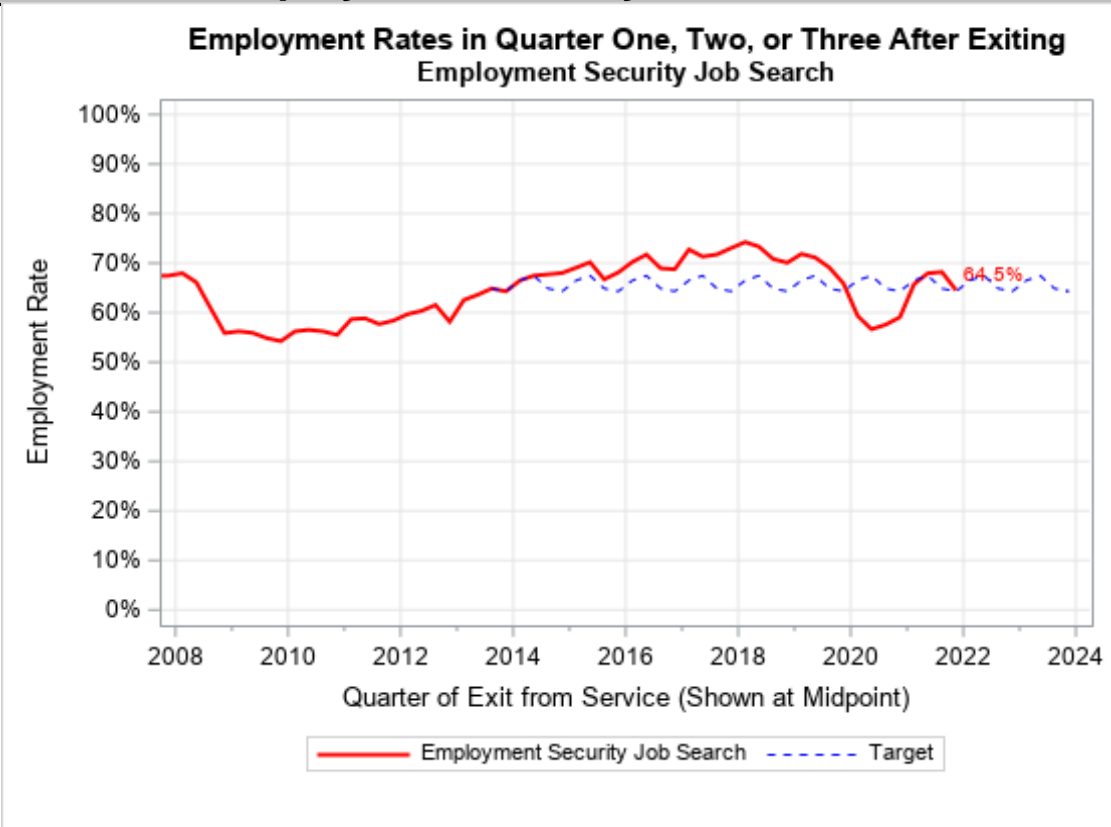
Employment in Quarters 1, 2, or 3 After Exit from Services

| Calendar Quarter | Employment Security Job Search | | FT or PT Voc and Postsecondary Ed | | Community Jobs or Job Connection | | Limited English Pgm Job Search | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| | Exits | Rate | Exits | Rate | Exits | Rate | Exits | Rate |
| Q4 2015 | 2,611 | 68.1% | 942 | 64.1% | 568 | 69.7% | 380 | 62.6% |
| Q1 2016 | 2,721 | 70.3% | 918 | 69.6% | 657 | 69.9% | 450 | 61.6% |
| Q2 2016 | 2,540 | 71.7% | 1,128 | 68.7% | 722 | 71.3% | 461 | 62.0% |
| Q3 2016 | 2,364 | 69.0% | 673 | 66.6% | 555 | 67.2% | 460 | 63.5% |
| Q4 2016 | 2,136 | 68.8% | 783 | 66.4% | 552 | 64.3% | 399 | 61.4% |
| Q1 2017 | 2,224 | 72.8% | 757 | 64.7% | 578 | 68.0% | 469 | 64.8% |
| Q2 2017 | 2,019 | 71.3% | 908 | 69.1% | 686 | 70.6% | 511 | 65.0% |
| Q3 2017 | 2,095 | 71.7% | 605 | 66.6% | 623 | 74.3% | 412 | 68.2% |
| Q4 2017 | 1,895 | 73.0% | 622 | 66.9% | 478 | 71.1% | 381 | 56.2% |
| Q1 2018 | 1,744 | 74.3% | 556 | 64.6% | 571 | 67.3% | 327 | 67.3% |
| Q2 2018 | 1,639 | 73.3% | 731 | 63.6% | 576 | 70.0% | 349 | 63.9% |
| Q3 2018 | 1,619 | 70.8% | 511 | 67.5% | 494 | 66.4% | 308 | 65.6% |
| Q4 2018 | 1,568 | 70.1% | 566 | 62.9% | 437 | 68.4% | 268 | 68.3% |
| Q1 2019 | 1,560 | 71.9% | 514 | 66.1% | 459 | 65.1% | 247 | 62.8% |
| Q2 2019 | 1,570 | 71.1% | 725 | 64.8% | 582 | 70.1% | 288 | 66.0% |
| Q3 2019 | 1,632 | 69.1% | 505 | 61.4% | 481 | 63.4% | 321 | 65.1% |
| Q4 2019 | 1,513 | 65.9% | 578 | 58.5% | 458 | 61.1% | 359 | 57.7% |
| Q1 2020 | 1,867 | 59.3% | 616 | 48.9% | 494 | 57.1% | 294 | 56.5% |
| Q2 2020 | 586 | 56.7% | 533 | 43.9% | 338 | 53.0% | 336 | 46.4% |
| Q3 2020 | 356 | 57.6% | 322 | 49.4% | 277 | 60.3% | 202 | 57.9% |
| Q4 2020 | 325 | 59.1% | 346 | 55.8% | 186 | 57.5% | 115 | 59.1% |
| Q1 2021 | 403 | 65.8% | 296 | 61.1% | 153 | 68.6% | 129 | 58.9% |
| Q2 2021 | 287 | 67.9% | 305 | 52.1% | 198 | 71.7% | 101 | 50.5% |
| Q3 2021 | 302 | 68.2% | 188 | 64.9% | 158 | 67.7% | 76 | 64.5% |
| Q4 2021 | 1,268 | 64.5% | 364 | 65.4% | 171 | 64.9% | 145 | 61.4% |
| Q4 2021, compared with Q4 2020 | | | | | | | | |
| | Change in Rate | | Change in Rate | | Change in Rate | | Change in Rate | |
| % Change | 290% | 5.4% | 5% | 9.6% | -8% | 7.4% | 26% | 2.2% |

Longer follow-up length makes these results roughly nine months older than employment at exit figures. Rates differ by program partly due to the characteristics of adults served. ESD job search is typically provided to adults with more work experience and fewer barriers to employment than adults served by other programs. Vocational and postsecondary education is generally provided to adults who completed high school or its equivalent, though CTC colleges provide vocational education to some adults who are working on high school credentials through the I-Best program. Outcomes through 2012 were lowest for Community Jobs enrollees, who faced the greatest barriers, had lower education levels, and were more often working on adult basic education, high school equivalency, or basic skill development than adults in other programs. A Commerce program called Job Connection that began in July 2011 increased Commerce program performance. Job Connection was a 3-month paid work assignment used to build references and demonstrate work skills for adults with few barriers. The two programs were merged into one Community Jobs program serving both populations in July 2016. Data were collected in February 2023.

Source: ACES data warehouse, Afarrays file and UI wage file. Prepared by OFM Forecasting staff.

Targeted Measure 4: Employment after Employment Security Job Search



Targets

Targets were based on results for FY 2014: Summer (Q3): 64.9%; Fall (Q4): 64.3%; Winter (Q1): 66.5%; and Spring (Q2): 67.5%. COVID-19 affected results in all three quarters of follow-up for exits in Q2 through Q4 2020. WorkFirst reengagement occurred in Q4 2021. Results for services completed in Q4 2021 are the most recent results shown above.

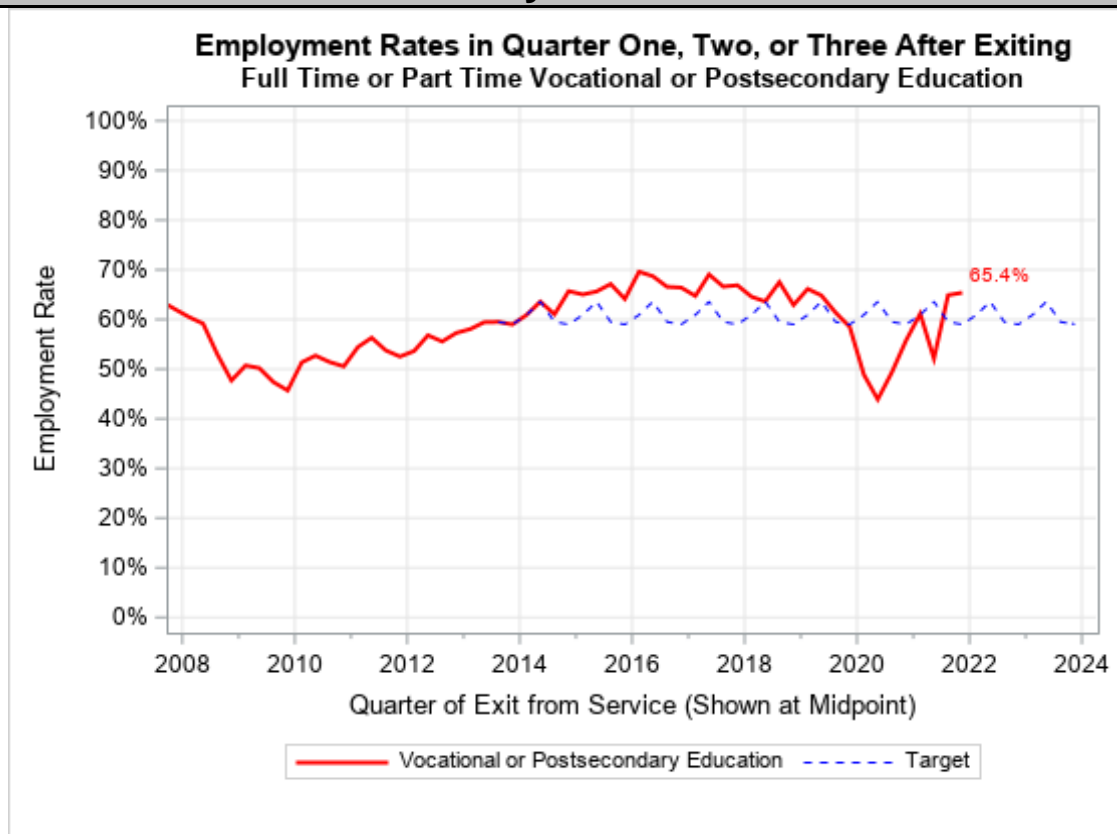
Analysis

Results depend on a number of factors, like economic conditions, the characteristics of the adults assigned to the program and the combination of other services received by those who left the program. Results following ESD job search in Q4 2021 were highest in DSHS Region 3 (65.5%) followed by Region 2 (65.4%) and Region 1 (61.9%). Local Planning Areas with employment outcomes exceeding 70% after ESD job search were: Chelan/Douglas (15) and Okanogan (11) in Region 1; Snohomish County (71) in Region 2; and Cowlitz/Wahkiakum (52), Kitsap County (20), Mason County (4) and Pierce County (265) in Region 3. The number of ESD job search exits is shown in parentheses for each LPA. Small sample sizes can increase the variability of results. Pierce County (265 exits), Yakima/Kittitas (116 exits), Clark County (113 exits), King Central (90 exits), Spokane/Lincoln (79 exits) and King South (76 exits) were the largest users of ESD job search.

Three LPAs had employment levels below 50% after ESD job search: Whatcom County (39) in Region 2; Clark County (113) in Region 3; and Klickitat/Skamania (12) straddling Regions 1 and 3. UI wage records may not include employment found in neighboring states.

[Return to Contents](#)

Targeted Measure 5: Employment after Vocational or Postsecondary Education



Target

Targets were based on results for FY 2014: Summer (Q3): 59.5%; Fall (Q4): 59.0%; Winter (Q1): 60.9%; and Spring (Q2): 63.5%. COVID-19 affected results in all three quarters of follow-up for exits in Q2 through Q4 2020. WorkFirst reengagement occurred in the Q4 2021. Results for services completed in Q4 2021 are the most recent results shown above.

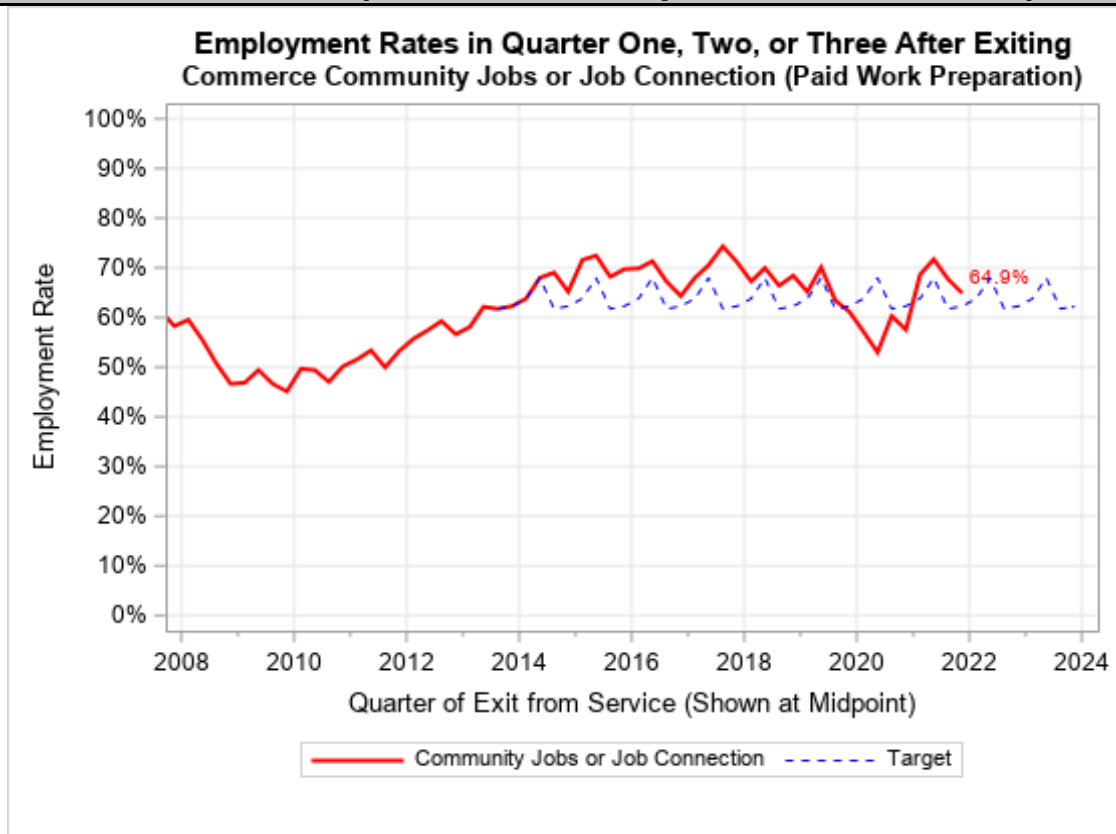
Analysis

Results depend on a number of factors, like economic conditions, the characteristics of the adults served by schools and the combination of other services received by those who left the program. Results following vocational or postsecondary education in Q4 2021 were highest in DSHS Region 2 (65.5%) followed by Region 3 (65.4%) and Region 1 (65.2%). Local Planning Areas with outcomes exceeding 70% after vocational or postsecondary education were: Chelan/Douglas (1), Grant/Adams (4), Tri-Counties (1) and Yakima/Kittitas (19) in Region 1; King Central (38), King North (20) and Skagit/San Juan/Island (6) in Region 2; and Clallam/Jefferson (5) and Kitsap County (22) in Region 3. The number of vocational or postsecondary exits is shown in parentheses for each LPA. Small sample sizes can increase the variability of results. Pierce County (49 exits), King South (39 exits), King Central (38 exits) and Spokane/Lincoln (27 exits) were the largest users of vocational or postsecondary education.

Four LPAs had employment levels below 50% after vocational or postsecondary education: Asotin/Garfield/Whitman (2) in Region 1; King Eastside (23) and Whatcom County (9) in Region 2; and Clark County (17) in Region 3. Two LPAs: Okanogan County in Region 1 and Klickitat/Skamania straddling Regions 1 and 3 had no exits from vocational or postsecondary education and had no outcomes to report. UI wage records may not include employment found in neighboring states.

[Return to Contents](#)

Targeted Measure 6: Employment after Community Jobs or Job Connection (Paid Work Preparation Activities)



Targets

Targets were based on results for FY 2014: Summer (Q3): 61.7%; Fall (Q4): 62.3%; Winter (Q1): 63.9%; and Spring (Q2): 68.0%. COVID-19 affected results in all three quarters of follow-up for exits in Q2 through Q4 2020. WorkFirst reengagement occurred in Q4 2021. Results for services completed in Q4 2021 are the most recent results shown above.

Analysis

Results depend on a number of factors, like economic conditions, the characteristics of the adults assigned to the programs and the combination of other services received by those who left the program. A separate Job Connection program was merged into Community Jobs in July 2016. Results following Community Jobs in Q4 2021 were highest in DSHS Region 1 (67.9%) followed by Region 3 (67.3%) and Region 2 (60.6%). Local Planning Areas with outcomes exceeding 70% after Community Jobs were: Asotin/Garfield/Whitman (1), Benton/Franklin (4), Grant/Adams (1) and Spokane/Lincoln (22) in Region 1; King South (14) and Whatcom County (1) in Region 2; and Cowlitz/Wahkiakum (14), Kitsap County (1), Mason County (1), Pierce County (11) and Thurston County (5) in Region 3. The number of exits from Community Jobs is shown in parentheses for each LPA. Small sample sizes can increase the variability of results. King Central (31 exits), Yakima/Kittitas (24 exits), Spokane/Lincoln (22 exits), King South (14 exits) and Cowlitz/Wahkiakum (14 exits) were the largest users of Community Jobs.

Four LPAs had employment levels below 50% after Community Jobs: Chelan/Douglas (1) and Tri-Counties (1) in Region 1; and Clark County (3) and Lewis County (5) in Region 3. Grant/Adams and Okanogan County in Region 1 and Klickitat/Skamania straddling Regions 1 and 3 recorded no exits from Community Jobs and had no outcomes to report.

[Return to Contents](#)

Targeted Measure 7: Employment after Limited English Program Job Search



Target

Targets were based on results for FY 2014: Summer (Q3): 54.7%; Fall (Q4): 59.7%; Winter (Q1): 55.5%; and Spring (Q2): 60.3%. COVID-19 affected results in all three quarters of follow-up for exits in Q2 through Q4 2020. WorkFirst reengagement occurred in Q4 2021. Results for services completed in Q4 2021 are the most recent results shown above.

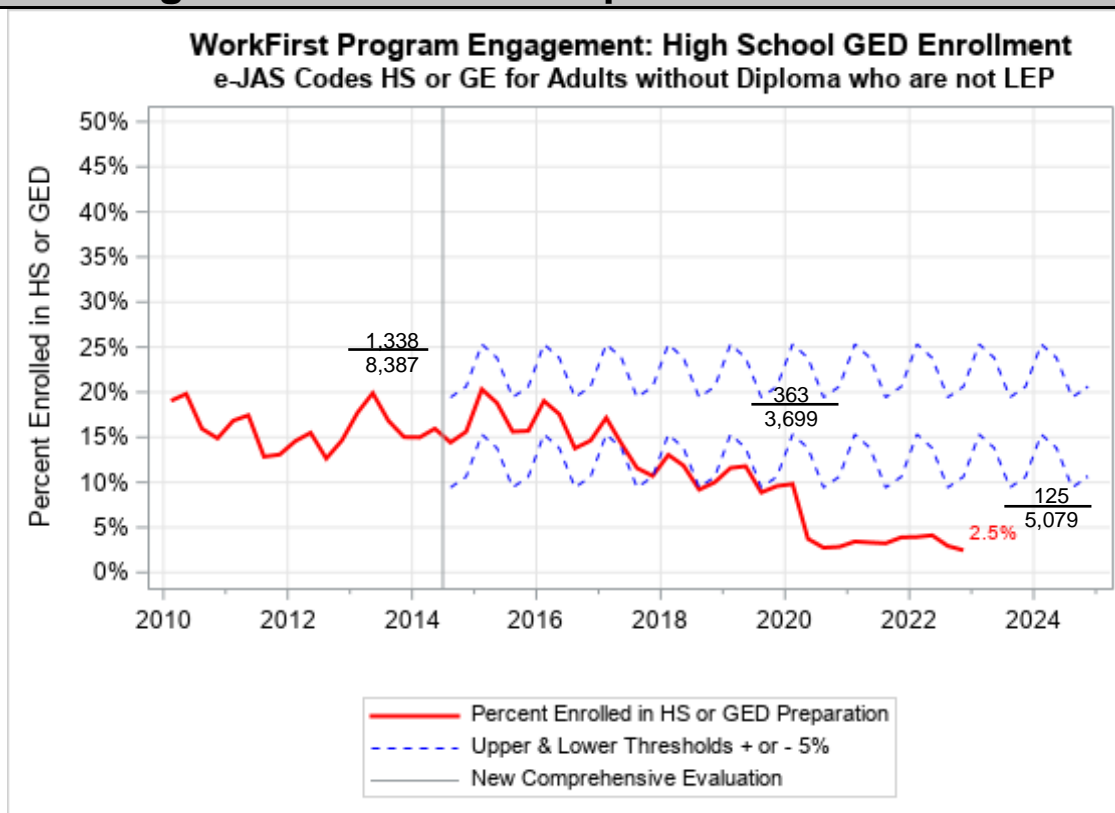
Analysis

Results depend on a number of factors, like economic conditions, the characteristics of the adults assigned to the program and the combination of other services received by those who left the program. Results following Limited English Proficiency job search in Q4 2021 were highest in DSHS Region 1 (62.5%) followed by Region 2 (61.9%) and Region 3 (54.5%). Local Planning areas with outcomes exceeding 70% after LEP job search were Spokane/Lincoln (4) in Region 1; King Eastside (4), King North (5) and Snohomish County (9) in Region 2; and Clark County (2) in Region 3. The number of exits is shown in parentheses for each LPA. Small sample sizes can increase the variability of results. King South (60 exits), King Central (44 exits), Snohomish County (9 exits), Pierce County (7 exits) and King North (5 exits) were the largest users of LEP job search.

Three LPAs had employment levels below 50% after LEP job search: Benton-Franklin (4) in Region 1, Skagit/San Juan/Skamanian (1) in Region 2 and Pierce County (7) in Region 3. UI wage records may not include employment found in neighboring states. Fourteen LPAs had no exits from LEP job search during Q4 2021 and had no outcomes to report. There were 126 exits from LEP job search in Region 2 during Q4 2021 but only 8 exits in Region 1 and 11 exits in Region 3.

[Return to Contents](#)

Driver Measure 12: Program Engagement: Enrollment in High School or GED Preparation Activities



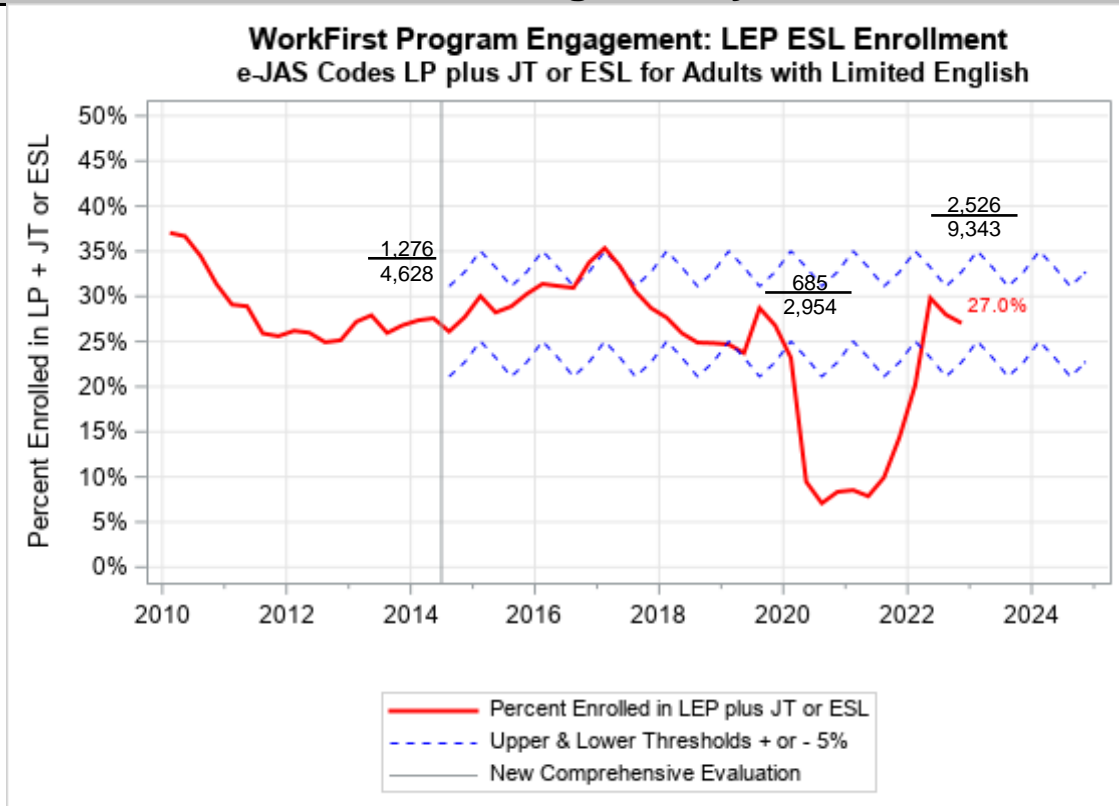
Definition of Measure

Percent of TANF adults without a high school diploma or equivalent who are engaged in high school or high school equivalency preparation activities. The numerator of this measure is the number of TANF adults, excluding those eligible to participate in Limited English Proficiency programs, who were engaged in high school or high school equivalency preparation as indicated by the HS or GE e-JAS component codes. The denominator is the number of TANF adults (with the same LEP exclusion) whose education level was less than high school diploma or GED during the month according to ACES records. The data source is DSHS-ESA-EMAPS data from the ACES and e-JAS data systems. The data shown here are from the ACES data warehouse as of February 2023.

An average of 4,963 adults (excluding LEP adults) were identified with an education level below high school diploma or equivalent per quarter during FY 2022. An average of 189 adults were enrolled in high school or equivalency programs per quarter. This produced an engagement rate of 3.8%, up from 3.0% in FY 2021. The average engagement rate had been 8.0% in FY 2020 (9.4% during the three quarters prior to the pandemic and 3.7% during Q2 2020). Average engagement rates were 10.7% in FY 2019, 11.8% in FY 2018, 15.0% in FY 2017 and 17.0% in FY 2016. See counts on pages 37-38 and Barometer Measure 29, page 76. Numerators and denominators for Q2 2014, Q1 2020 and Q4 2022 are shown as fractions.

Outcomes for basic education at SBCTC colleges are provided on pages 96-98. Non-LEP adults without a high school diploma or equivalent made up 20% of adults in FYs 2017 through 2020, down from 29% in FY 2011. Non-LEP adults without a high school diploma or equivalent made up 21% of adults in FY 2021 but dropped to 20% in FY 2022 and 16% in the first half of FY 2023. [Return to Contents](#)

Driver Measure 13: Program Engagement: Enrollment in Basic Education and ESL Programs by LEP Adults



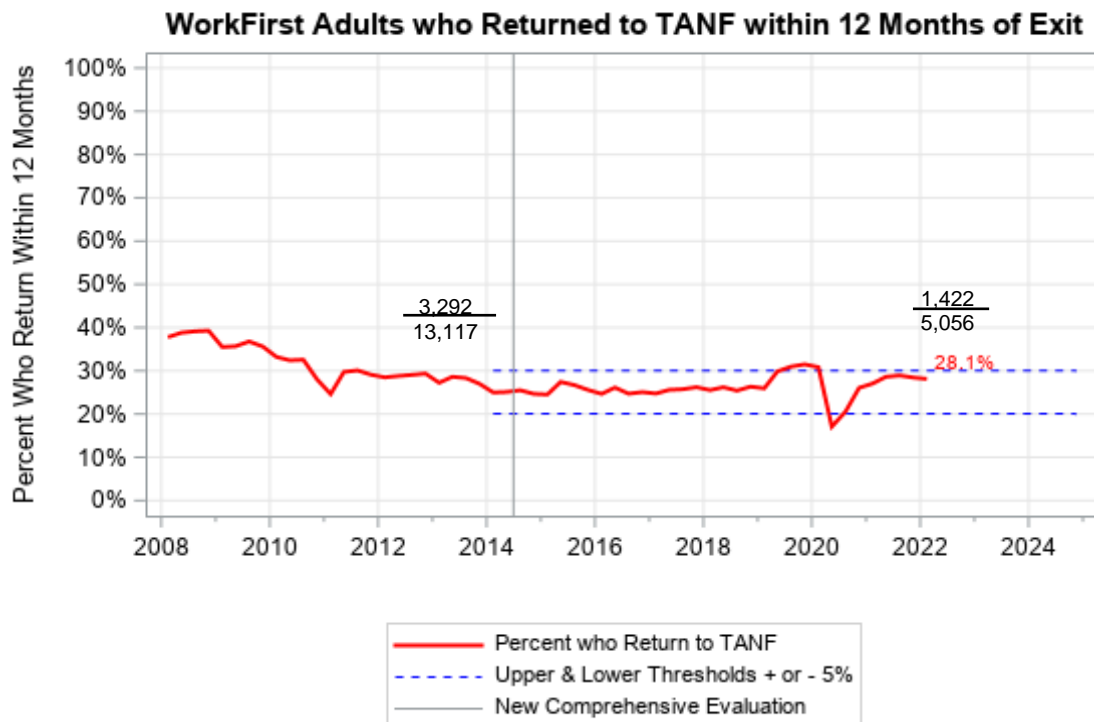
Definition of Measure

Percent of TANF Limited English Proficiency (LEP) adults who are engaged in English as a second language programs. The numerator for this measure is the number of TANF adults referred to Limited English Pathway providers as indicated by being enrolled in the LP (Limited English Pathway) e-JAS component code concurrently with the JT (Job Skills Enhancement Training) component or enrollment in English as a second language (ES) regardless of other component codes. The denominator of this measure is the count of TANF adults identified as non-English speakers or immigrants. The data source is DSHS-ESA-EMAPs data from the ACES and e-JAS data systems. The data shown above are from the ACES data warehouse as of February 2023.

An average of 3,968 adults were identified as non-English speakers or immigrants eligible for LEP programs per quarter during FY 2022. They were identified as using a primary language other than English; by codes for needing an interpreter; or by one of six Immigration and Naturalization Service verification or status variables. An average of 836 adults were enrolled in the combination of LP and JT or the ES component during those quarters. The average engagement rate for LEP programs was 21.1% during FY 2022, up from 7.7% in FY 2021. LEP engagement rates had been 22.1% in FY 2020 (26.2% prior to the pandemic and 9.5% during Q2 2020) and 28.2% in FY 2018. The LEP population has varied in size. LEP adults made up 17% of the WorkFirst population in FY 2017, dropped to 12% of WorkFirst in FY 2021 before increasing to 16% in FY 2022. Afghan and Ukrainian refugees increased the LEP population to 25% of the caseload in Q3 2022 and 29% in Q4 2022. Numerators and denominators for Q2 2014, Q1 2020 and Q4 2022 are shown as fractions. For monthly counts of LEP adults and services see pages 13-14 and 32. Employment counts for this pathway are provided on pages 55-56, 60, 87, 91 and 95.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 14: Return to TANF after Exit



Definition of Measure

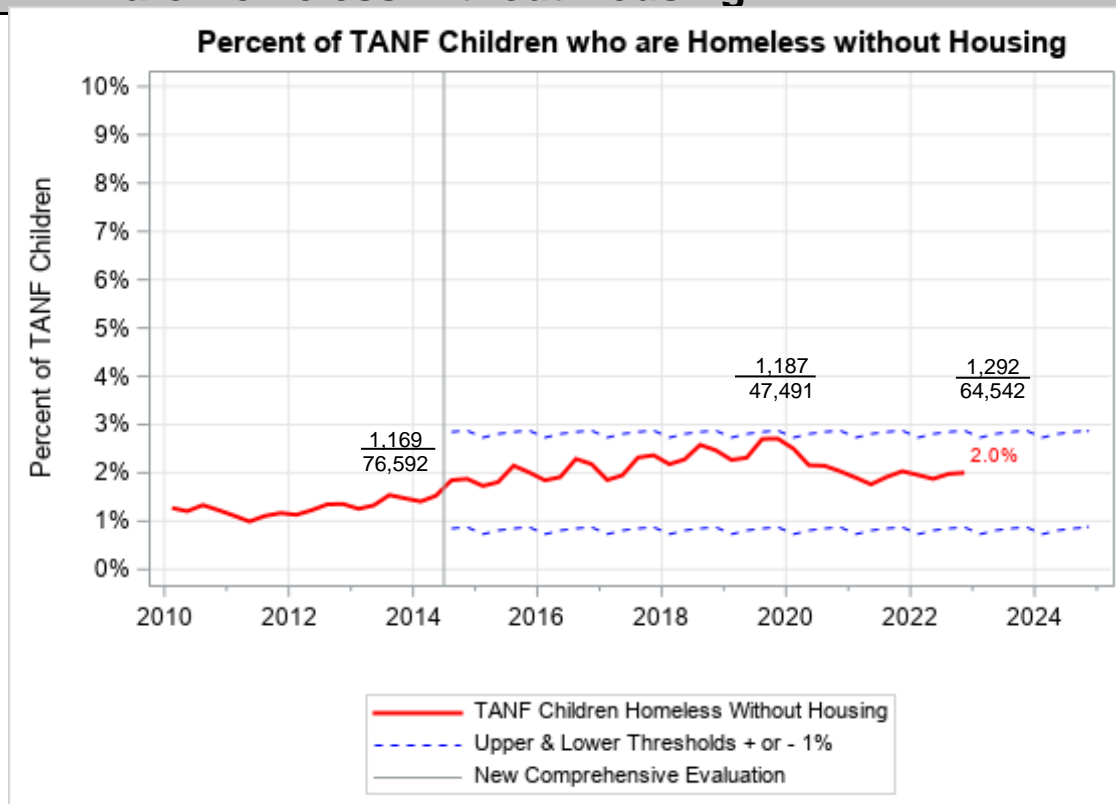
Percent of WorkFirst adults who return to TANF within a year after exit. The numerator for this measure is the number of WorkFirst adults who left TANF during a quarter and returned to TANF cash assistance within the following 12 months. The denominator is the number of WorkFirst adults who exited during the quarter. The data source is a DSHS-EMAPS report on long-term exits recoded to convert monthly data into quarterly results and to identify return to TANF within 12 months.

An average of 5,957 WorkFirst adults exited TANF during each quarter of FY 2021. Of those, an average of 1,503 had returned to TANF within 12 months or had another family member who did so. The resulting rate of return to TANF was 25.2%, down from 27.6% in FY 2020. The rate for FY 2019 was 26.9%. Rates of return increased early in the COVID-19 emergency to 31.5% in the 12 months after Q4 2019 and 30.8% in the 12 months after Q1 2020. Those who left TANF before the pandemic were likely to return to TANF during the pandemic period. However, those who left TANF in the first two quarters after the pandemic began were much less likely to return to TANF in the following year. Only 17.1% of those who left TANF in Q2 2020 (despite pandemic conditions) returned to TANF by June 2021. Return rates have been reverting toward more normal levels since that time. Rates for Q2 2014 and Q1 2022 are shown as fractions in the chart.

This measure differs from the one provided in quarterly WorkFirst wage progression reports to the legislature. This measure counts those who have ever returned to TANF over the course of 12 months. The wage progression report measure counts those who returned to TANF during the quarter 12 months after the quarter of WorkFirst exit. See: https://app.leg.wa.gov/ReportsToTheLegislature/Home/GetPDF?filename=DSHS%20WorkFirst%20Quarterly%20Wage%20Progression%20Report_PY22Q01_3d7634e4-bc6f-4dc2-bd94-744a946a5068.pdf. The percent who have returned to TANF within a specific calendar quarter is lower than the percent who returned to TANF at any time over a twelve month period. The 12 month follow-up period in this measure is longer than the three month view in wage progression reports. The last quarter tracked in the current wage progression report, dated October 1, 2022, is Q1 2022.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 15: Percent of TANF Children who are Homeless without Housing



Definition of Measure

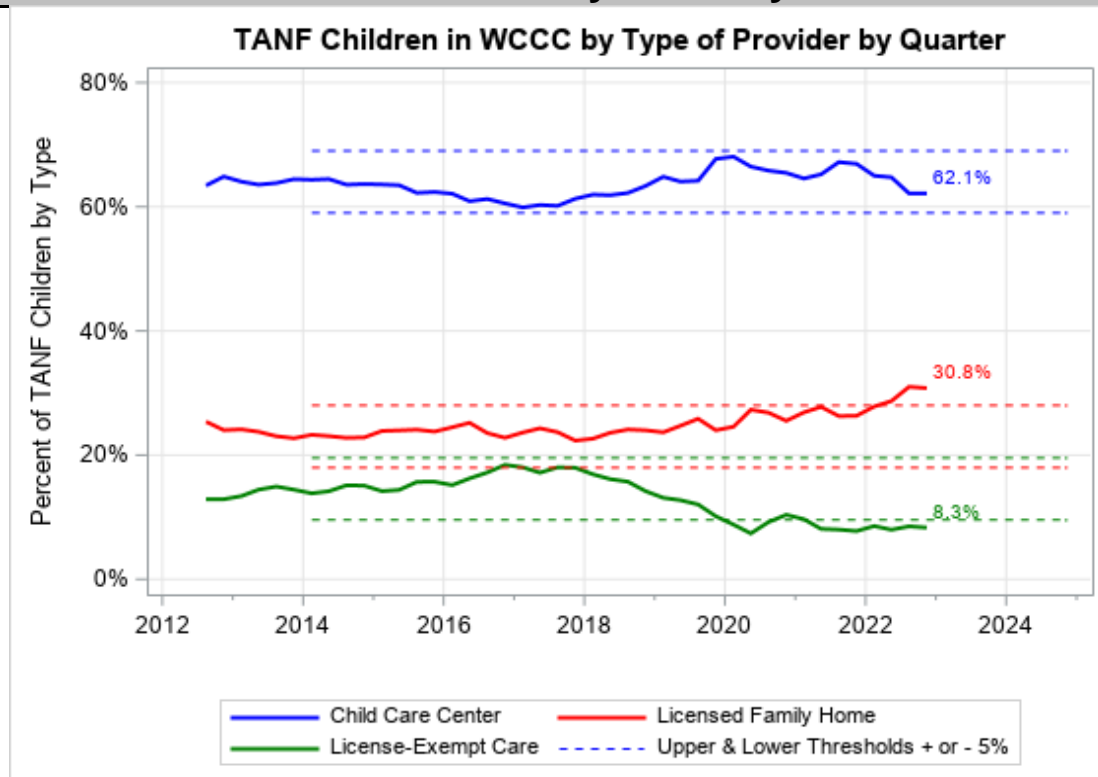
Percent of TANF children who are recorded as homeless without housing. The numerator of this measure is the number of TANF children reported as homeless without housing. The denominator is the number of TANF children during the same period according to ACES records. The data source is DSHS-ESA-EMAPS data using the ACES data system. The data shown above are from the ACES data warehouse as of February 2023. Counts include Child Only TANF children.

An average of 55,238 children received TANF during each quarter of FY 2022. Of these, an average of 1,074 children were identified as homeless without housing. Homeless with housing generally includes people who are staying with family or friends or using shelters. Homeless without housing generally indicates living in vehicles or out of doors, and indicates the greatest risk. Assistance recipients are asked to report housing status at each application for benefits and eligibility review. A housing status code is attached to each benefit eligibility period recorded in ACES. The average percent of the TANF child population that was homeless without housing in a quarter was 1.8% in FY 2015, 2.4% in FY 2019, 2.5% in FY 2020, 2.0% in FY 2021 and 1.9% in FY 2022. The thresholds for this measure are calculated from FY 2015. Numerators and denominators for Q2 2014, Q1 2020 and Q4 2022 are shown as fractions.

The number of TANF children who were homeless without housing was 1,292 during Q4 2022, 18% more than in Q4 2021 compared with a 31% increase in the number of homeless TANF children. The number of TANF children increased by 18% over the same time period. Q2 and Q3 2021 saw the lowest counts of homeless children in this series (with or without housing), even though the number of children receiving TANF was larger in Q2 2021 than in any of the quarters Q3 2017 through Q1 2020. See page 70 for information on TANF adults.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 16: TANF Children Using WCCC Child Care by Modality



Definition of Measure

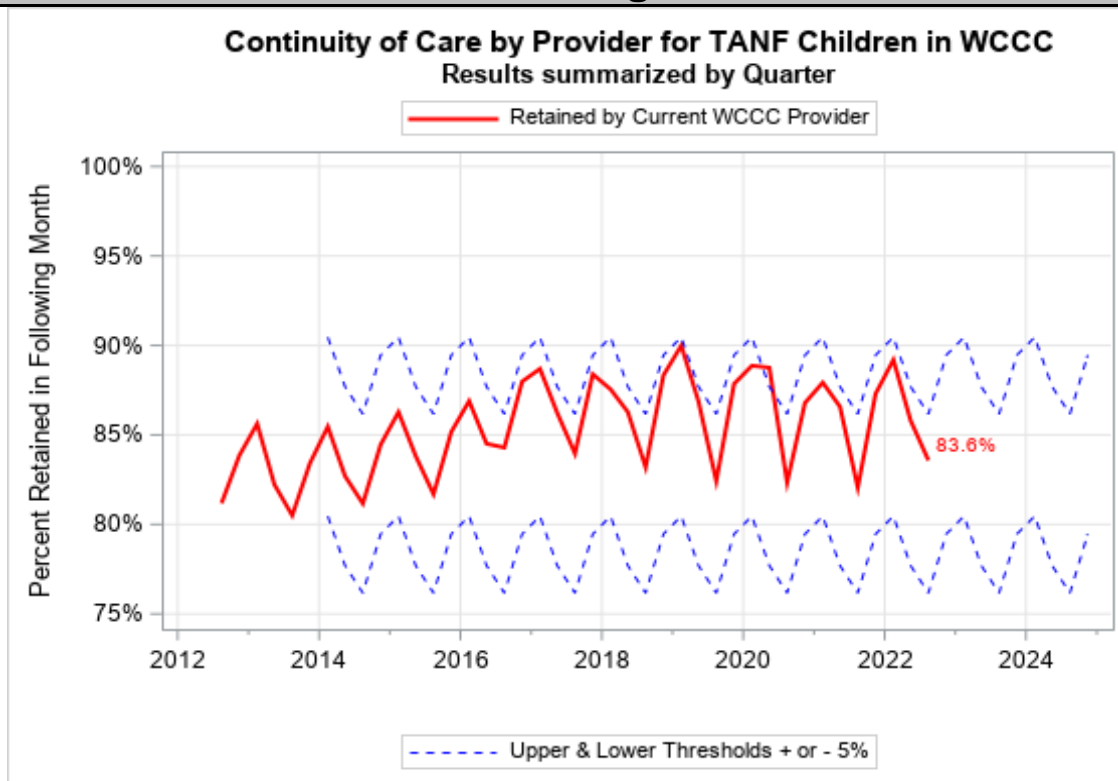
Percent of TANF children using WCCC who are using child care centers, licensed family homes, or license-exempt care. The numerator of these measures is the number of months of care in each sector during the quarter. The denominator is the total months of care for TANF children during the quarter. Type of provider is indicated by Social Service Payment System records. A small number of children were served in more than one type of care during the same month. They are counted in each sector that they used, so percentages sum to more than 100%. The data source is Department of Children, Youth, and Families records. DCYF records are matched to DSHS records to identify children who received TANF during the month of care or the last month prior to care. Data matching is conducted by OFM and the measure is calculated by OFM.

An average of 12,728 months of WCCC child care were provided for TANF children per quarter in FY 2022, down by 5% from FY 2021 and down by 38% from FY 2017. The share of care provided by centers increased from 61% in FY 2017 to 67% in FY 2020 dropping back to 66% in FY 2022. The share of TANF-related child care provided by licensed family homes increased from 24% in FY 2017 to 27% in FY 2022. The share of TANF related care provided at license-exempt family, friends and neighbors increased from 14% in FY 2014 to 18% in FY 2017, then dropped to 8% in FY 2022.

For comparison: 92,869 months of care were provided per quarter to non-TANF related children in FY 2022, down by less than 1% from FY 2021 and down by 33% from FY 2017. The share of non-TANF related care provided at child care centers was 56% in FY 2017, rising to 60% during FY 2020 and dropping to 59% in FY 2022. The share of non-TANF care provided by licensed family homes rose from 24% to 31% between FY 2017 and FY 2022 and the share at FFN providers dropped from 21% to 10%.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 17: Stability of Care by Provider for TANF Children using WCCC Child Care



Definition of Measure

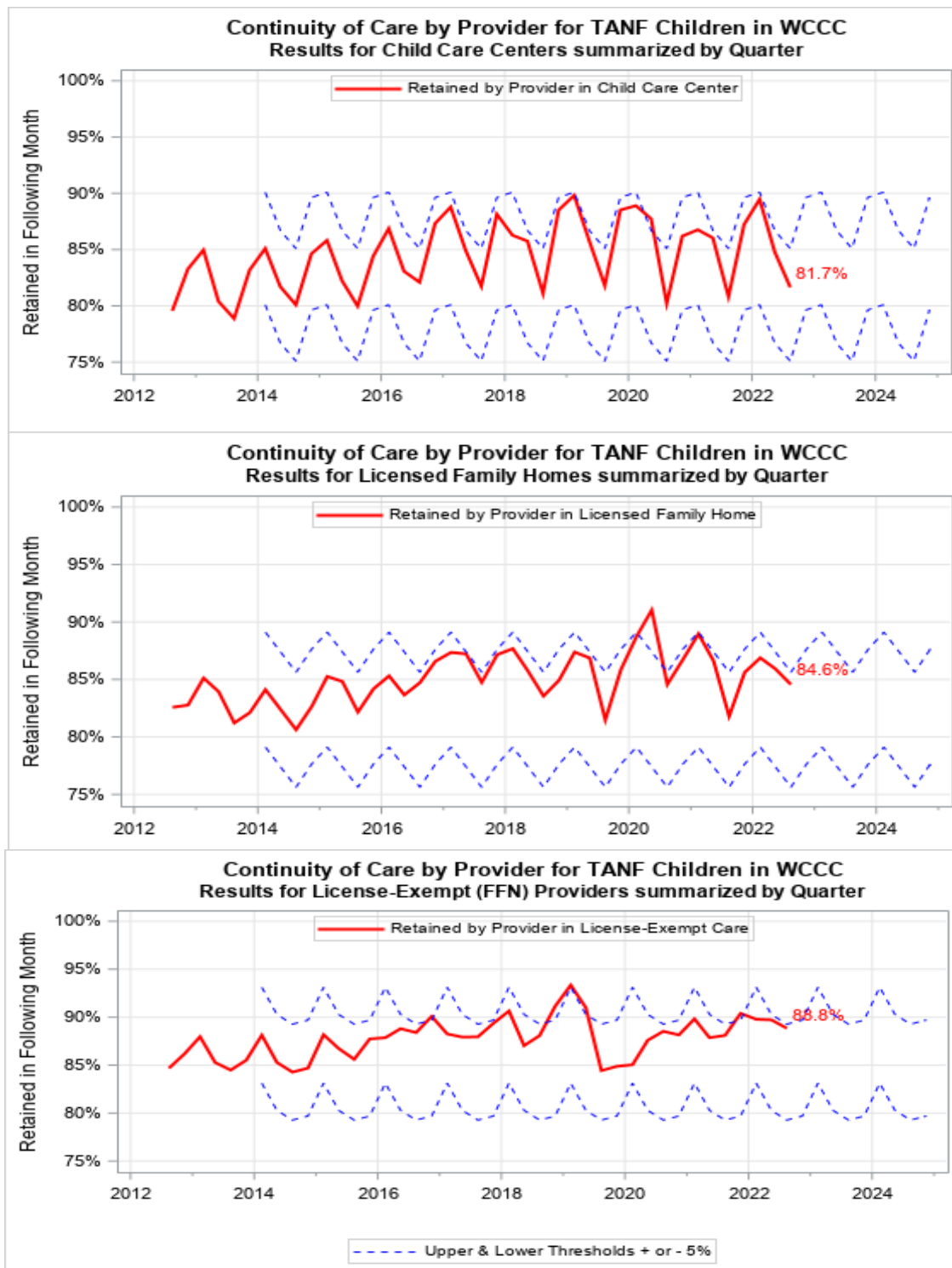
Stability of child care is defined as the number of children using WCCC care during the month who are still using WCCC care in the following month divided by the number of children using WCCC in the first month. It is the opposite of the exit rate from child care. If 15% of child care users leave care each month, the rate of child care continuity is 85%. Continuity by provider measures stability (continuity) with the same provider. The summary measure (above) shows continuity by provider for TANF-related care. The three charts for Barometer Measures 18 to 20 (page 67) show this measure separately for each provider type. The data source is Department of Children, Youth, and Families records. DCYF records are matched to DSHS records to identify children who received TANF during the month of care or month immediately prior to care.

Continuity with the same provider for TANF children was 87.0% in FY 2020 but dropped to 85.7% in FY 2021, recovering to 86.2% in FY 2022. Comparable rates were 82.6% in FY 2014 and 84.5% in FY 2016. The low continuity before FY 2017 came from WorkFirst activity gaps that interrupted care prior to 12-month eligibility. Continuity for non-TANF children grew more slowly between FY 2014 (87.5%) and FY 2020 (88.1%) but continued to increase to 88.7% in FY 2021 and 89.3% in FY 2022. The lower continuity for TANF related households stemmed from the suspension of WorkFirst work participation requirements, which reduced the need for TANF-related childcare.

Continuity at WorkFirst households, exempt from work participation requirements, was 85.0% in FY 2021 and 85.4% in FY 2022, down from 86.5% in FY 2020. Continuity for Child Only TANF children was 87.7% in FY 2021 down from 88.4% in FY 2020 but returned to 88.7% in FY 2022. Continuity in FY 2022 was highest at FFN providers (89.9%), followed by licensed family homes (89.5%) and child care centers (88.1%).

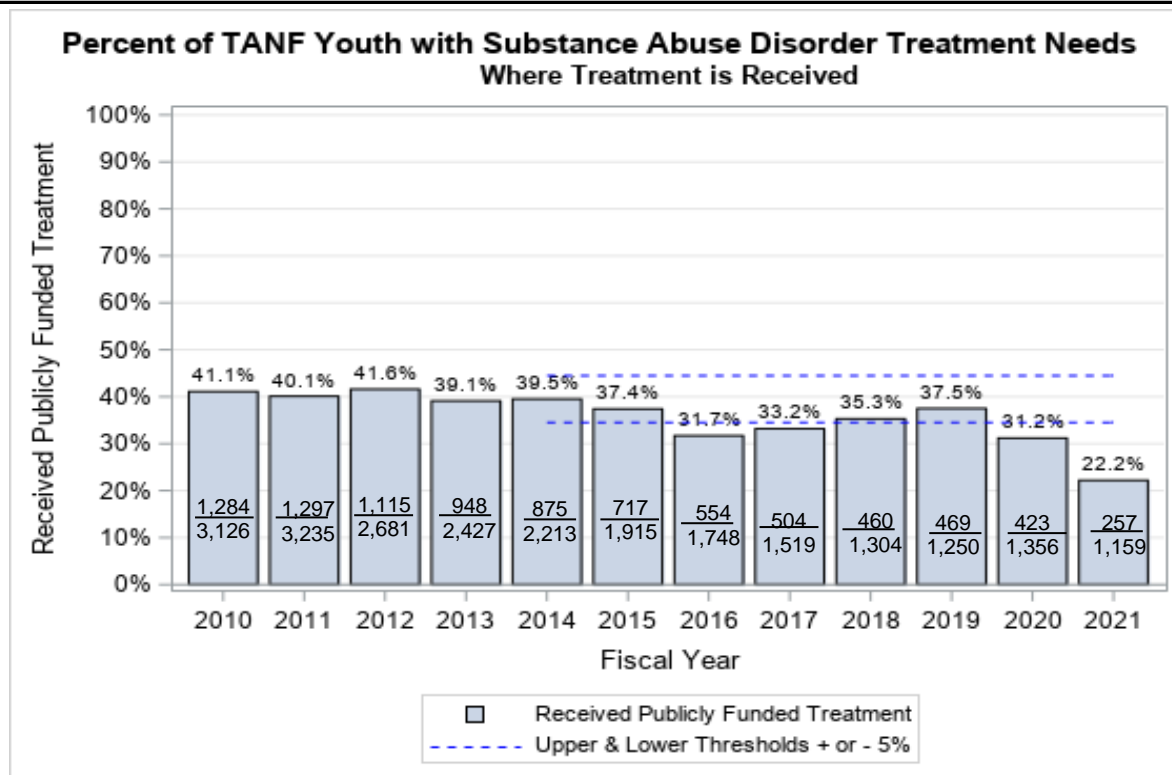
[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measures 18 to 20: Stability of Care by Provider for TANF Children using each WCCC Child Care Modality



Thresholds for Barometer Measures 16 through 20 are based on calendar year 2014. Results are based on SSPS data through February 26, 2023.

Barometer Measure 21: Substance Abuse Disorder Treatment Received (Youth)



Definition of Measure

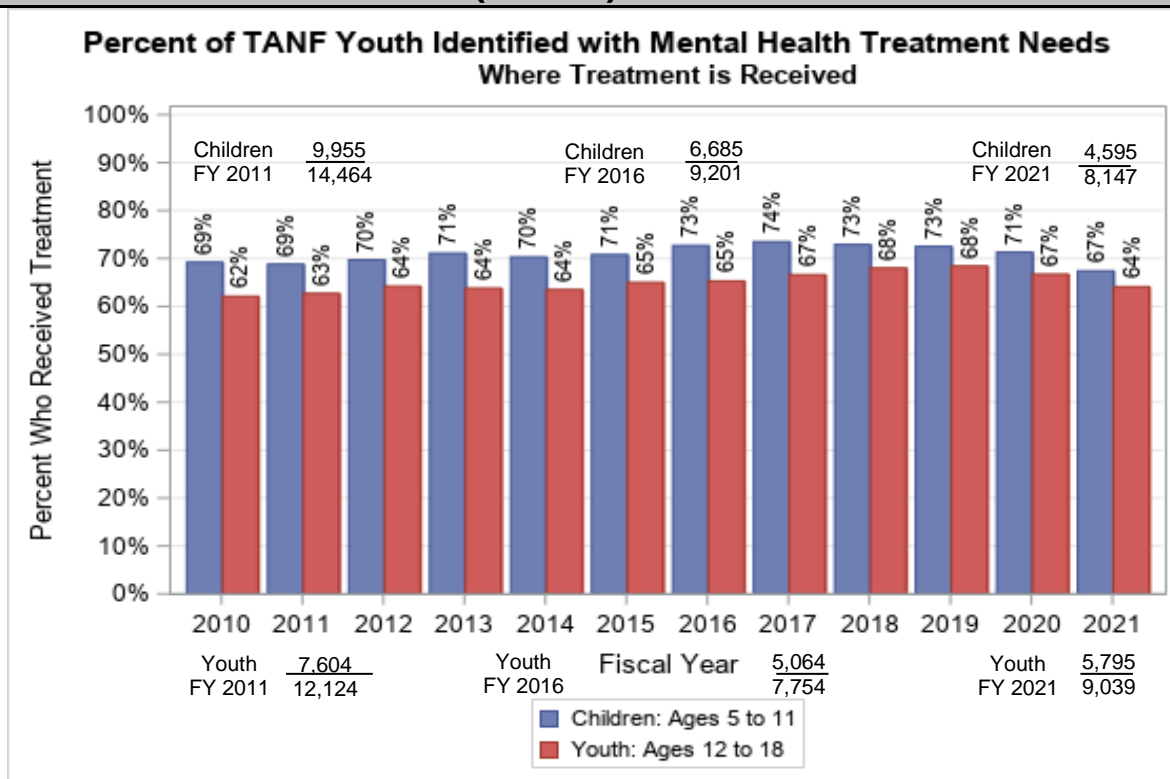
Percent of TANF youth with Substance Abuse Disorder (SUD) treatment needs where treatment is provided. The numerator of this measure is the number of TANF youth, ages 12 to 17, who received publicly funded SUD treatment during a fiscal year. The denominator is the number of TANF youth ages 12 to 17 needing SUD treatment. SUD treatment need is indicated by administrative data that reflect services, medications, or arrests recorded for substance abuse related problems in the current or prior fiscal year. TANF youth were identified in ACES. SUD Treatment and SUD Treatment needs were identified from the DSHS Research and Data Analysis (RDA) Integrated Client Database. These data were supplied on October 14, 2022. Counts include Child Only TANF children.

A total of 20,801 TANF youth between the ages of 12 and 17 in FY 2021 were identified for this measure. Of these, 1,1591 youth were identified in the Integrated Client Database as having an SUD treatment need. A total of 257 youth were identified as receiving publicly funded SUD treatment, yielding a treatment rate of 22.2%. The percent of TANF youth with treatment needs rose from 8.4% in FY 2011 to 9.2% in FY 2015 but dropped to 8.4% in FY 2017, 7.7% in FY2019 and 5.6% in FY 2021. The 22.2% treatment rate in FY 2021 was the lowest on record. It is possible that the COVID-19 school closures interfered with both the identification of need and opportunity to provide treatment. There was no drop in need for SUD treatment or in treatment for TANF adults. See page 71.

Data for each year are recalculated with each update. Changes can occur due to revised definitions and reporting improvements. The fractions in each bar show the numerator and denominator for the year. The total number of TANF children increased by 5.2% between FY 2021 and FY 2022.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 22: Mental Health Treatment Received (Youth)



Definition of Measure

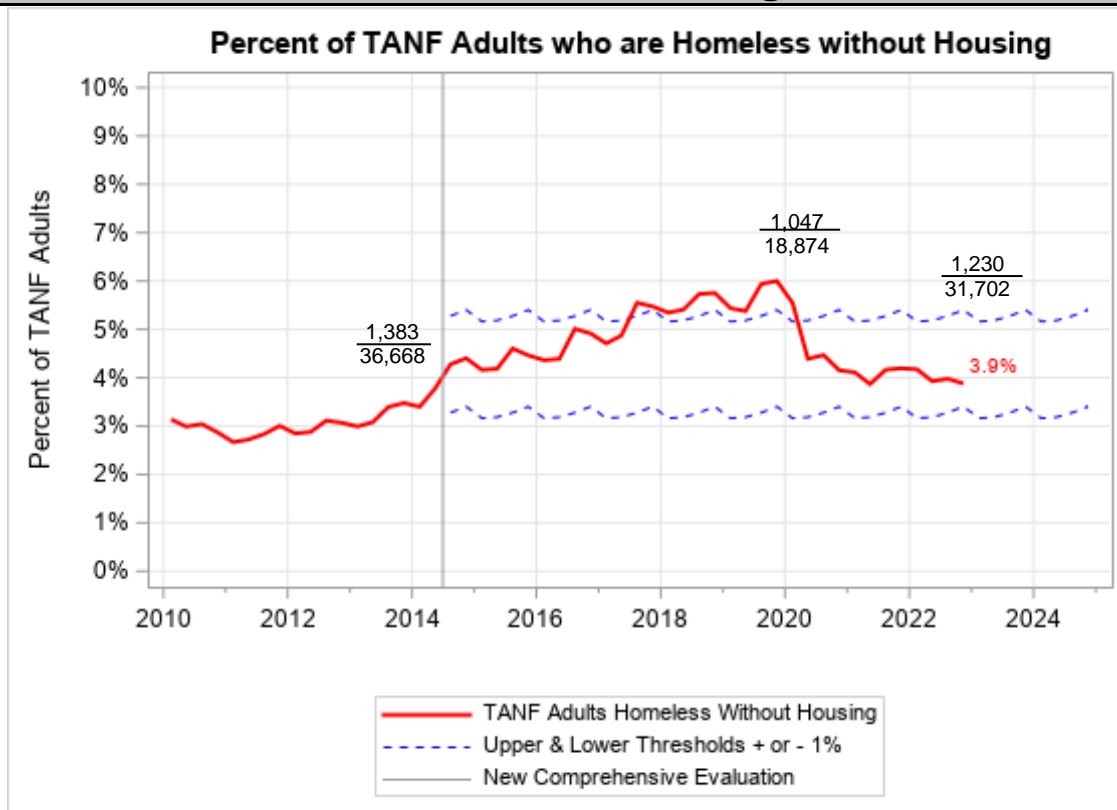
Percent of TANF youth identified as in need of mental health treatment where treatment is received. The numerator of this measure is the number of TANF youth who received publicly funded mental health treatment during a fiscal year. The denominator is the number of TANF youth needing mental health treatment. Receipt of mental health services through Washington State Behavioral Health Organizations or state hospitals, prescribed psychotropic medications, or mental health related medical diagnoses during the current or prior year are considered indications of mental health need. Receipt of treatment is identified through outpatient mental health services and mental health services provided through the client's Medicaid medical benefit, including management of mental health conditions in a primary care setting and Medicaid-paid tribal mental health encounters. Needs and treatment were identified from the DSHS Research and Data Analysis Integrated Client Database. These data were supplied on October 14, 2022. Child Only TANF children are included.

A total of 20,801 TANF youth between the ages of 12 and 17 were identified for this measure in FY 2021. Of these, 9,039 youth were identified with MH treatment needs and 5,795 received treatment. Treatment rates for younger children (ages 5 to 11) were higher, with 4,595 younger children receiving treatment and 8,147 needing it out of a total of 29,388 young children. Some 28% of younger children, as opposed to 40% of older children were identified as having treatment needs in FY 2016, increasing to 32% of younger children and 47% of older children in FY 2019. Treatment needs dropped back to 28% for younger children and 43% for older children in FY 2021. Treatment needs were lower in prior years. Only 23% of younger children and 31% of older children needed mental health treatment in FY 2011.

Data for each year are recalculated in each update. The fractions show the numerators and denominators for selected years. The increased number of children in FY 2021 is associated with TANF caseload increases. See page 72 for similar information on TANF adults.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 23: Percent of TANF Adults who are Homeless without Housing



Definition of Measure

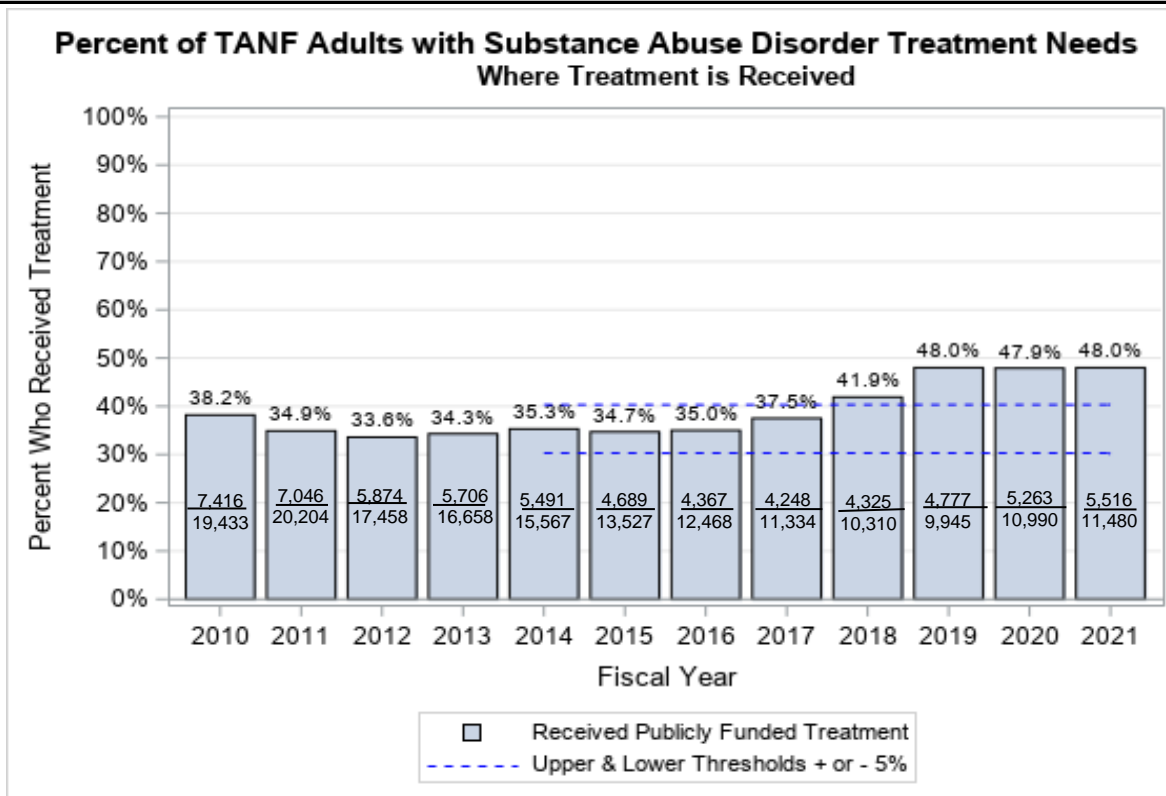
Percent of TANF adults recorded as homeless without housing. The numerator of this measure is the number of TANF adults who reported being homeless without housing. The denominator is the number of TANF adults during the same period according to ACES records. The data source is DSHS-ESA-EMAPS data using the ACES data system. The data shown above are from the ACES data warehouse as of February 2023

An average of 24,782 adults received TANF during each quarter of FY 2022. Of these, an average of 1,018 adults were identified as homeless without housing. Homeless with housing generally includes people who are staying with family or friends or using shelters. Homeless without housing generally indicates living in vehicles or out of doors, and indicates the greatest risk. Assistance recipients are asked to report housing status at each application for benefits and eligibility review. A housing status code is attached to each benefit eligibility period recorded in ACES. The percent of the TANF adult population that was homeless without housing in a quarter was 4.3% in FY 2015, 5.6% in FY 2019, 5.4% in FY 2020, 4.2% in FY 2021 and 4.1% in FY 2022. Thresholds for this measure are calculated from FY 2015. Numerators and denominators for Q2 2014, Q1 2020 and Q4 2022 are shown as fractions.

The number of TANF adults who were homeless without housing was 1,230 during Q4 2022, 20% more than in Q4 2021. The number of homeless TANF adults increased by 37%. The number of TANF adults increased by 30% over the same period. Q2 and Q3 2021 saw the lowest counts of homeless adults in this series (with or without housing) though the number of adults receiving TANF in Q2 2021 was larger than in any of the quarters Q1 2017 through Q1 2020. See page 64 for information on TANF children.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 24: Substance Abuse Disorder Treatment Received (Adults)



Definition of Measure

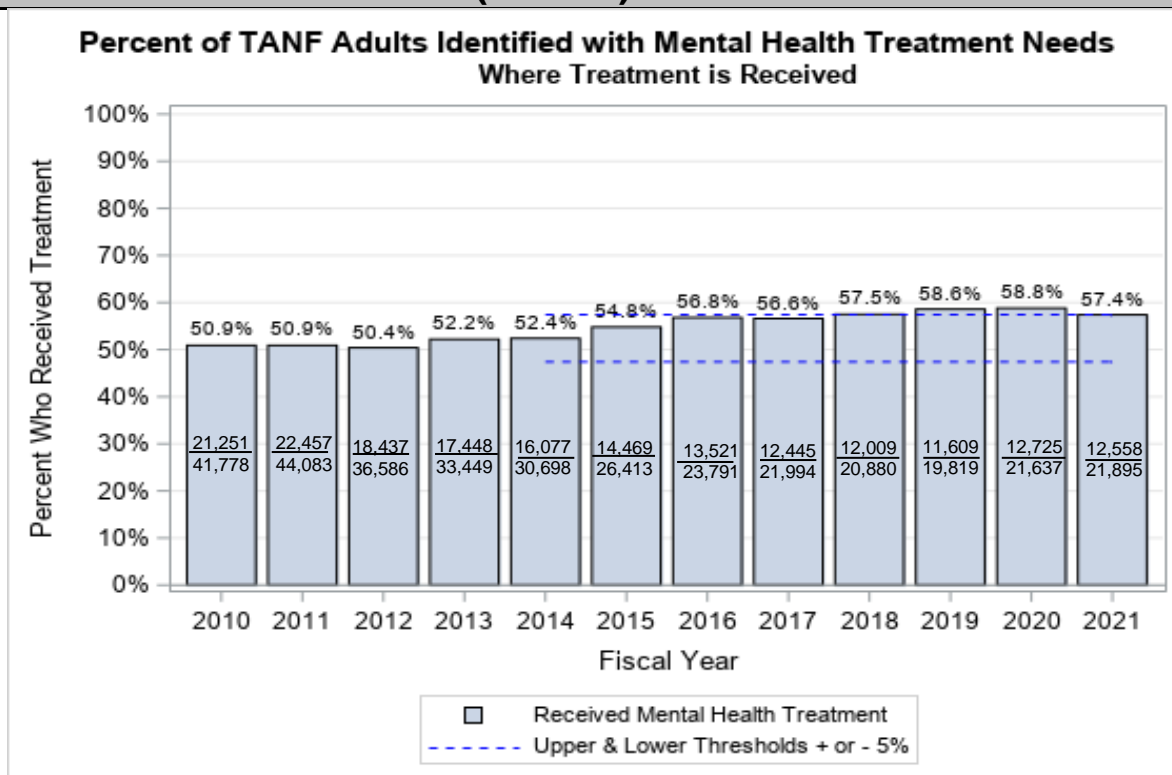
Percent of TANF adults with Substance Abuse Disorder (SUD) treatment needs where treatment is provided. The numerator of this measure is the number of TANF adults who received publicly funded SUD treatment during a fiscal year. The denominator is the number of TANF adults identified as needing SUD treatment. SUD treatment need is indicated by medical and administrative data that reflect services, medications, or arrests recorded for substance abuse related problems during the current or prior fiscal year. TANF adults were identified in ACES. SUD Treatment and SUD treatment needs were identified from the DSHS Research and Data Analysis (RDA) Integrated Client Database. These data were supplied on October 14, 2022.

A total of 35,852 TANF adults from FY 2021 were identified for this measure. Of these, 11,480 were identified in the Integrated Client Database as having an SUD treatment need. A total of 5,516 adults were identified as receiving publicly funded AOD treatment, yielding a treatment rate of 48.0%. Treatment rates in FY 2019 (48.0%), FY 2020 (47.9%) and FY 2021 (48.0%) are the highest on record. The percent of TANF adults with treatment needs rose from 21.7% in FY 2010 to 27.0% in FY 2015 and 31.2% in FY 2019, dropping to 30.3% in FY 2020 but increasing to 32.0% in FY 2021. See page 44 for counts of adults identified with SUD treatment through WorkFirst referrals. While 15.4% of all WorkFirst adults received SUD treatment in FY 2021, only 1.7% were coded per month with the XE component that records substance abuse treatment in FY 2021, down from 6.2% in FY 2018.

Data for each year are recalculated with each update. Changes can occur due to revised definitions and reporting improvements. The fractions in each bar show the numerator and denominator for the year. The increased number of adults in FYs 2020 and 2021 are associated with TANF caseload increases. See page 68 for similar information on TANF youth.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 25: Mental Health Treatment Received (Adults)



Definition of Measure

Percent of TANF adults identified as in need of mental health treatment where treatment is received.

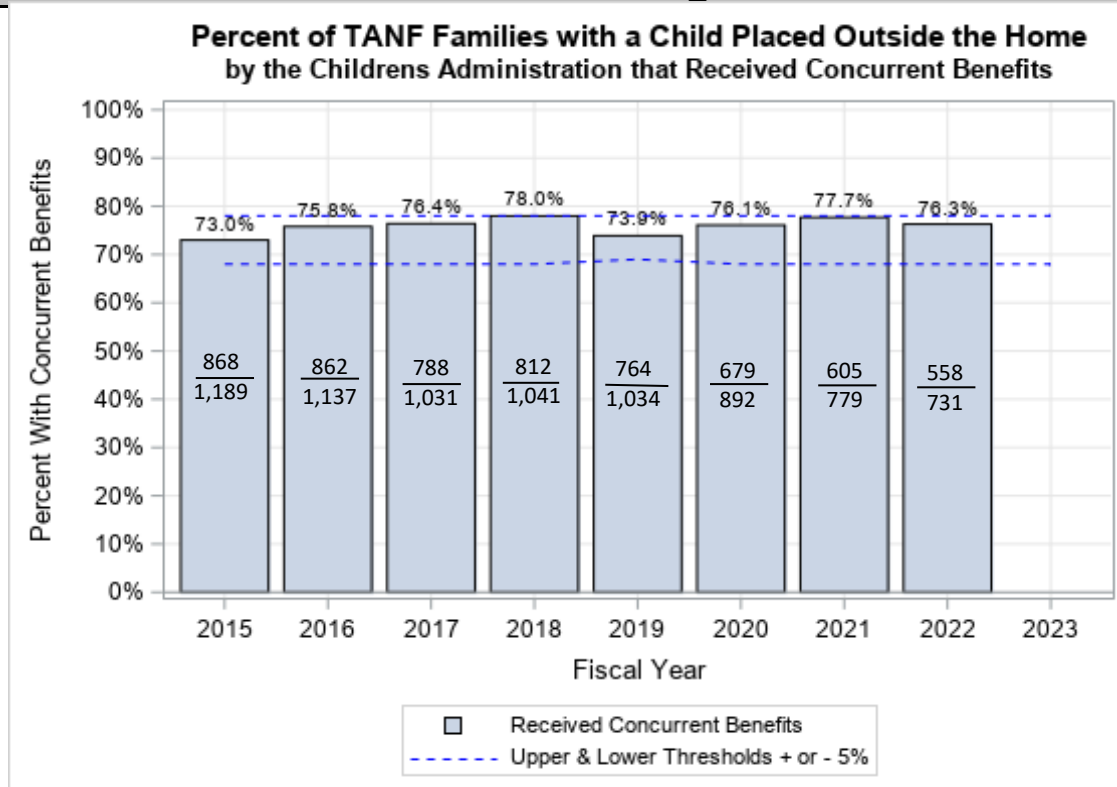
The numerator of this measure is the number of TANF adults who received publicly funded mental health treatment during a fiscal year. The denominator is the number of TANF adults needing mental health treatment. Receipt of mental health services through the Washington State Behavioral Health Organizations or state hospitals, prescribed psychotropic medications, or mental health-related medical diagnoses in the current or prior year are considered indications of mental health need. Receipt of treatment is identified through outpatient mental health services and mental health services provided through the client's Medicaid medical benefit, including management of mental health conditions in a primary care setting and Medicaid-paid tribal mental health encounters. Needs and treatment were identified from the DSHS Research and Data Analysis Integrated Client Database. These data were supplied on October 14, 2022.

A total of 35,852 TANF adults were identified for this measure in FY 2021. Of these, 21,895 adults were identified as having a mental health need. A total of 12,558 of these adults received treatment, yielding a treatment rate of 57.4%. Treatment rates in FY 2019 (58.6%) and FY 2020 (58.8%) were higher. However, the percent of TANF adults with treatment needs also rose from 46.6% in FY 2010 to 52.7% in FY 2015 and 62.2% in FY 2019 before leveling off. Some 61.1% of WorkFirst adults had treatment needs in FY 2021. See page 44 for counts of adults active in mental health treatment through WorkFirst referrals. Some 35.0% of WorkFirst adults received mental health treatment in FY 2021, compared with 4.4% recorded using XG.

Data for each year are recalculated with each update. Changes can occur due to revised definitions and reporting improvements. The fractions in each bar show the numerator and denominator for the year. The increased number of adults in FYs 2020 and 2021 are associated with TANF caseload increases. See page 69 for similar information on TANF children.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 26: Percent of TANF Families With a Child Outside the Home Receiving Concurrent Benefits



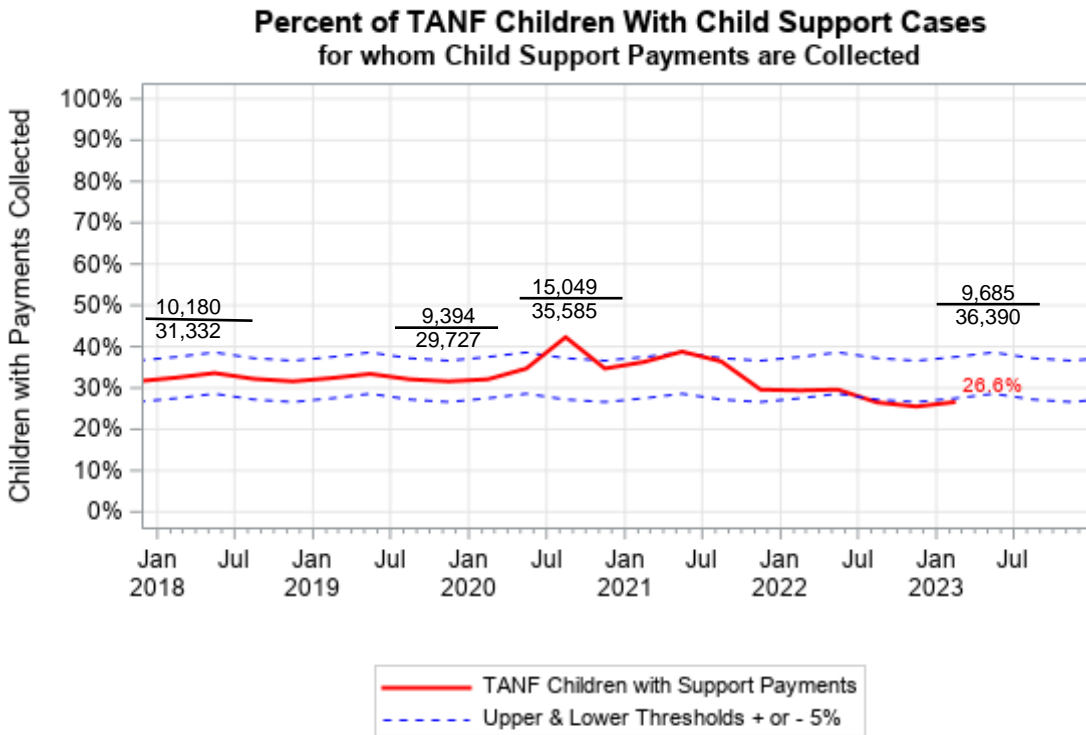
Definition of Measure

Percent of TANF families with a child placed outside the home by the Children's Administration (CA) that received concurrent benefits (when eligible). The numerator of this measure is the number of TANF households receiving a TANF payment through participation in the concurrent benefit program during the fiscal year. The denominator is the number of TANF households with a child placed outside the home by CA during the fiscal year. CA was transferred from DSHS to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families in July 2018. Data were obtained from the DSHS Research and Data Analysis Section. Data for placements are as of October 2022. Data for TANF issuances are through June 2022.

A total of 731 TANF households with children removed by CA in FY 2022 were identified for this measure. Of these, 558 or 76.3% received concurrent benefits. The concurrent benefit program allows for the continuation of a TANF cash grant to a family from whom a child has been removed by CA and placed with a licensed or unlicensed caregiver, either of whom could be a relative. CA must expect the absence to be temporary (180 days or less) and that the child will be reunified with the family from which it was removed. For more information see: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ffa/rda/research-reports/effect-tanf-concurrent-benefits-reunification-children-following-placement-out-home-care>

Results are recalculated every year and revisions can occur. Results for FY 2021 increased by almost five percent in this report. DSHS also supplies information on the subset of children removed for more than 90 days. They made up 72% of all placements in FY 2022 and their households were more likely to receive concurrent benefits. In FY 2022, 403 of the 470 households (85.7%) with children removed for 90 days or more received concurrent benefits. The count of families with TANF children in out-of-home placements has dropped since FY 2019. See the denominators shown on the chart. [Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 27: Percent of TANF Children With Child Support Cases for whom Payments are Collected



Definition of Measure

Percent of TANF children with child support cases for whom payments were collected during the quarter. The numerator of this measure is the number of TANF children with a child support payment collected from a non-custodial parent (NCP) during the quarter. The denominator is the total number of TANF/SFA children with an open child support case during the quarter. Data source is DSHS-ESA EMAPS and the Support Enforcement Management System (SEMS). The data shown were produced on April 5, 2023.

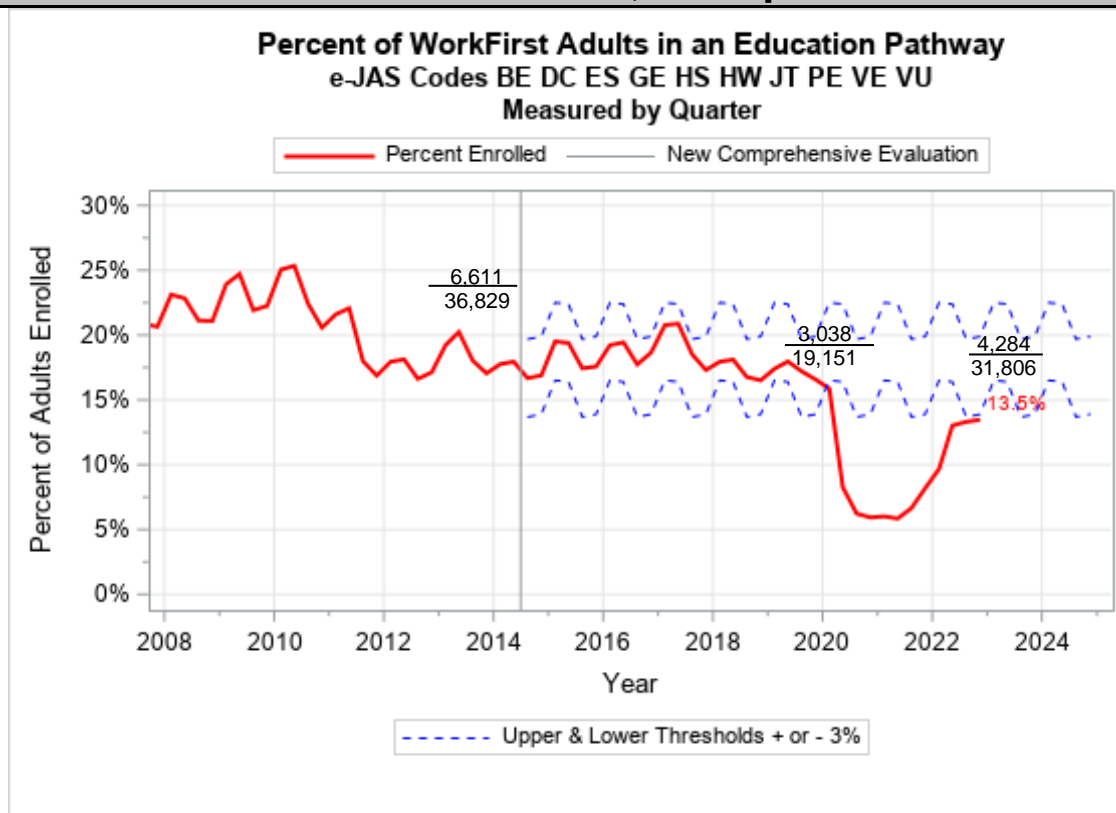
An average of 55,238 children received TANF during each quarter of Fiscal Year 2022. Of these, an average of 32,282 TANF children (58.5%) had open child support cases. Payments were received on behalf of an average of 10,114 children, or 31.3% of those with open child support cases. Results in FY 2021 were 38.1% with support payments out of 60.5% of children with open support cases. Results in FY 2019 were 30.2% with support payments out of 68.4% of children with open support cases. This series starts in Q1 2018. Earlier reports were 3% lower because they did not capture payments from both parents when neither parent had custody of the child. Numerators and denominators for Q1 2018, Q4 2019 (pre-pandemic), Q3 2020 (the pandemic peak) and Q1 2023 are shown as fractions.

The percent of children receiving payments began to increase sharply during the COVID-19 period. The number of children in TANF increased by 25% between Q1 and Q3 2020. The number of TANF children enrolled in child support rose by 21% but the number with support payments rose by 68%. Much of this increase came from Unemployment Insurance and pandemic relief payments received by non-custodial parents. Federal pandemic Unemployment Insurance ended in Q3 2021, leading to the drop in support collected in Q4 2021 through Q4 2022.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 28: Adults in Education Pathway

All Education Codes, Unduplicated



Definition of Measure

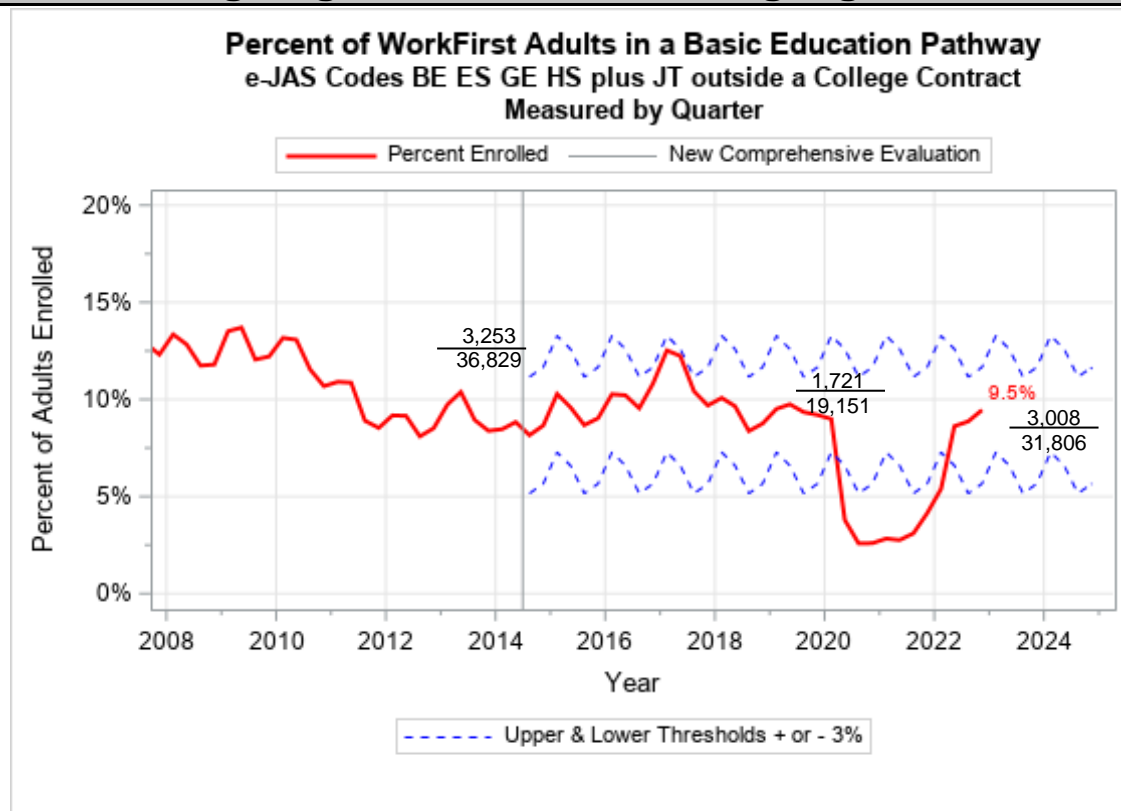
Percent of TANF adults who are engaged in education. The numerator for this measure is the number of TANF adults assigned to one or more of the following e-JAS components during the quarter: BE (basic education), DC (degree completion), ES (English as a second language), GE (GED preparation); HS (attending high school); HW (high wage-high demand training); JT (job skills enhancement training); PE (customized job skills training); VE (vocational education) and VU (vocational education - unapproved). VU is the component used for adults enrolled in full-time vocational education that does not qualify to be counted toward federal work participation requirements. LS (life skills training) is not included in this measure due to stakeholder input. The denominator for this measure is the total number of WorkFirst adults during the quarter. This measure is calculated by OFM using ACES and e-JAS data. Data are from the ACES data warehouse as of February 2023.

An average of 24,864 adults were enrolled in WorkFirst during FY 2022. An average of 2,388 adults were enrolled in one of the education pathway components producing a use rate of 9.6%. Use of education components was 6.0% in FY 2021, 14.0% in FY 2020 (16.5% prior to the pandemic dropping to 8.2% in Q2 2022) 17.2% in FY 2019, and 18.0% in FY 2018. Use dropped when toddler exemptions were implemented in October 2017 and dropped further under COVID-19 exemptions. Use began to increase in Q3 2021. COVID-19 exemptions from participation requirements were phased out between September and November 2021. Enrollment increased to 13.5% of adults in Q4 2022.

For monthly enrollment in many of these components, see pages 33-34 and 37-38. Numerators and denominators for Q2 2014, Q1 2020 and Q4 2022 are shown as fractions. Counts on pages 75-80 include adults without grants who were paid through Community Jobs.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 29: Basic Education Pathway including English as a Second Language



Definition of Measure

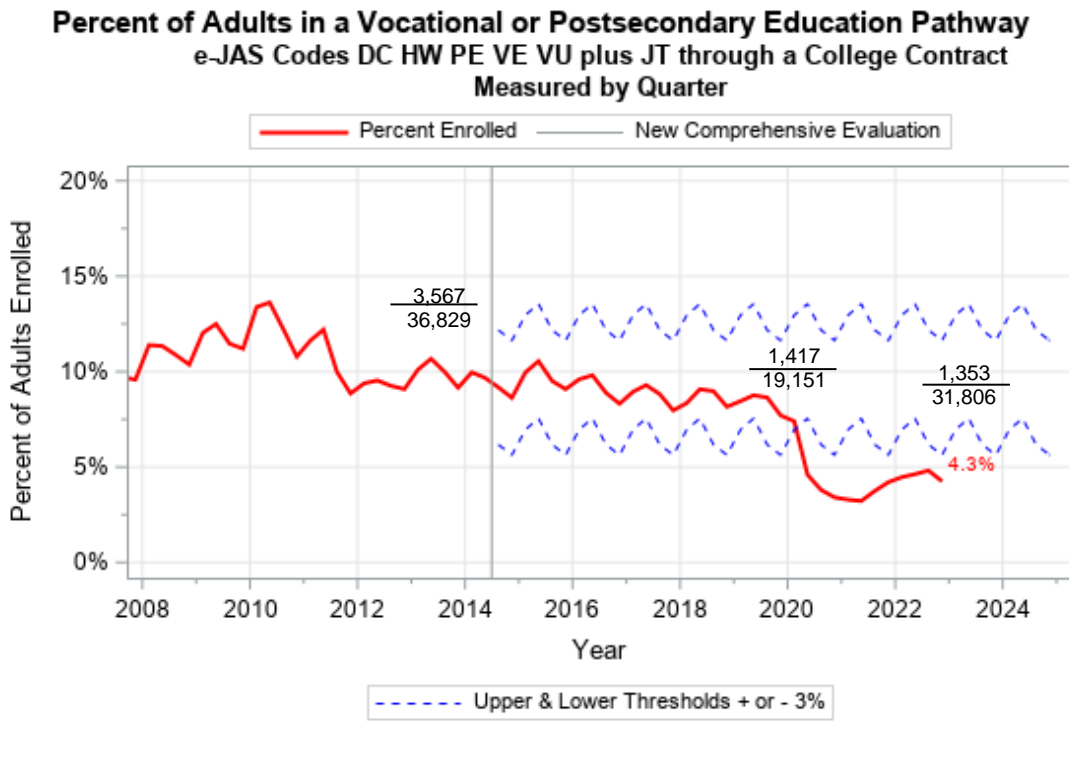
Percent of TANF adults who are engaged in basic education. The numerator for this measure is the number of TANF adults assigned to one or more of the following e-JAS components during the quarter: BE (basic education), ES (English as a second language), GE (high school equivalency preparation), HS (attending high school), and JT if provided outside a CTC college contract. JT outside the CTC college contract setting is short-term training related to employment that is not related to a specific occupation -- often it is part-time English as a second language training. JT within a CTC college contract is usually vocational education and is included as part of Barometer 30. The denominator of this measure is the total number of WorkFirst adults during the quarter. This measure is calculated by OFM using ACES and e-JAS data. Data are from the ACES data warehouse as of February 2023.

An average of 24,864 adults were enrolled in WorkFirst during FY 2022. An average of 1,369 adults were enrolled in one of the basic education pathway components producing a use rate of 5.5%. Use of basic education components was 2.7% in FY 2021, 7.5% in FY 2020 (9.2% prior to the pandemic dropping to 3.8% in Q2 2022), 9.1% in FY 2019, and 10.0% in FY 2018. Use dropped when toddler exemptions were implemented in October 2017 and dropped further under COVID-19 exemptions. Use began to increase in Q3 2021. COVID-19 exemptions from participation requirements were phased out between September and November 2021. Enrollment increased to 9.5% of adults in Q4 2022.

For monthly enrollment in these components, see pages 37-38. Outcomes for basic education at SBCTC colleges are provided on pages 98-99. Numerators and denominators for Q2 2014, Q1 2020 and Q4 2022 are shown as fractions.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 30: Vocational Education Pathway



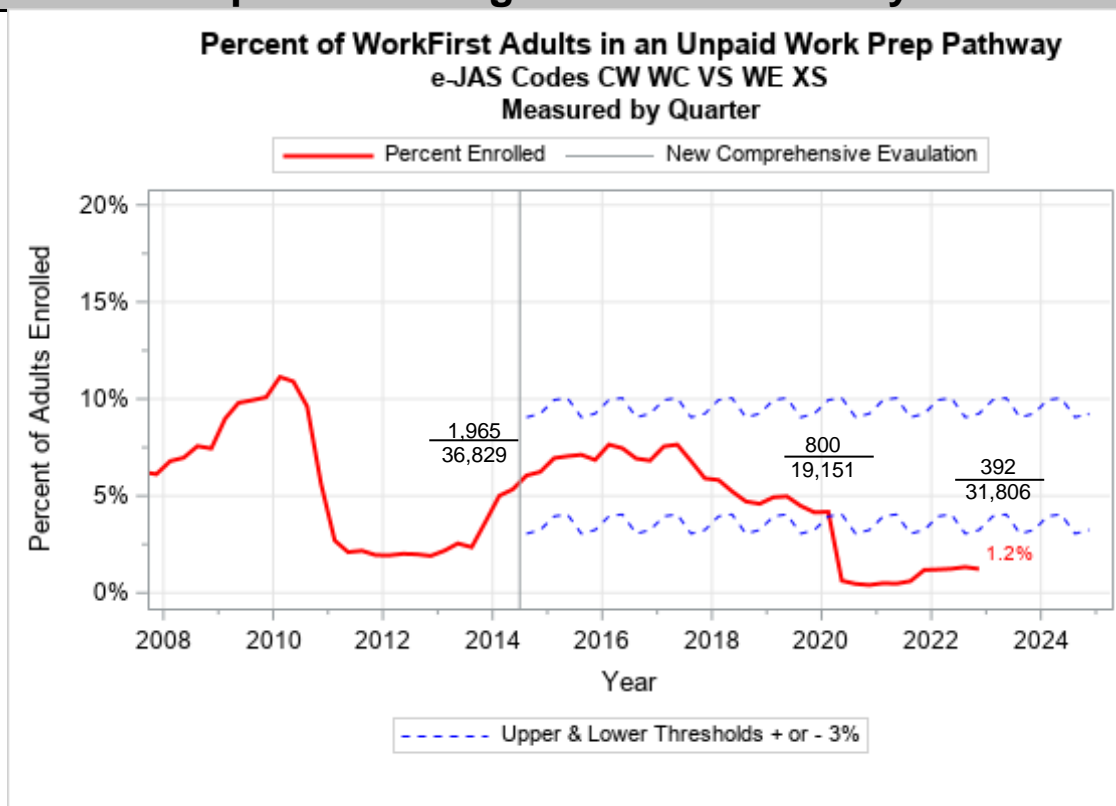
Definition of Measure

Percent of TANF adults who are engaged vocational or postsecondary education. The numerator for this measure is the number of TANF adults assigned to one or more of the following e-JAS components during the quarter: DC (degree completion), HW (high wage high demand training), PE (customized job skills training), VE (vocational education), and VU (vocational education - unapproved). DC is used for adults who are enrolled in a 4-year college or university. JT (job skills training) is used in CTC college contract settings to indicate vocational education. JT in other settings indicates basic education. VE can include enrollment in I-BEST, a CTC program that combines vocational education with basic skill training. VU is the component used when an adult is enrolled in full-time vocational or postsecondary education that does not count toward federal work participation requirements. The denominator for this measure is the number of WorkFirst adults during the quarter. The measure is calculated by OFM using ACES and e-JAS data. Data are from the ACES data warehouse as of February 2023.

An average of 24,864 adults were enrolled in WorkFirst during FY 2022. An average of 1,067 adults were enrolled in one of the postsecondary education pathway components producing a use rate of 4.3%. Use of these components was 3.4% in FY 2021, 6.9% in FY 2020 (7.9% prior to the pandemic dropping to 4.6% in Q2 2022), 8.6% in FY 2019, and 8.6% in FY 2018. Use dropped when toddler exemptions were implemented in October 2017 and dropped further under COVID-19 exemptions. Use began to increase in Q3 2021. COVID-19 exemptions from participation requirements were phased out between September and November 2021. Enrollment was at 4.3% of adults in Q4 2022.

For monthly enrollment in these components, see pages 33-34. Employment related outcomes for vocational and postsecondary education are provided on pages 55-56, 58, 85, 89, and 93. Educational outcomes for vocational and postsecondary education are provided on pages 100-101. Numerators and denominators for Q2 2014, Q1 2020 and Q4 2022 are shown as fractions. [Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 31: Unpaid Work Preparation Work Experience Programs and Voluntary Services



Definition of Measure

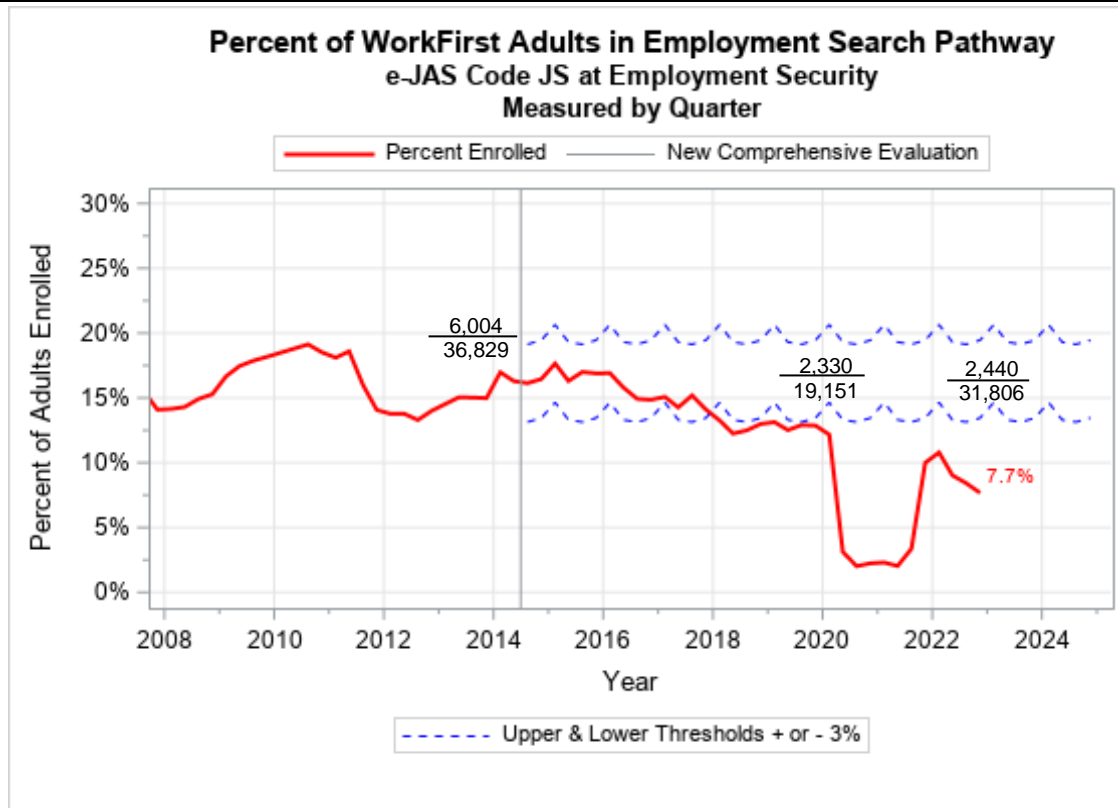
Percent of TANF adults who are engaged in an unpaid work experience or volunteer activity. The numerator for this measure is the number of TANF adults assigned to one or more of the following e-JAS components during the quarter: CW and WC (Community Works); VS (Voluntary Community Service); WE (Work Experience); and XS (Structured Community Service). CW was unpaid community service arranged by Department of Commerce contractors. It was phased out in late 2010 for budget reasons. A revised version coded as WC was re-introduced in the fall of 2013. VS is used by parents who volunteer at their children's preschool or daycare programs. WE is currently used by Limited English Program contractors, Commerce contractors, and community colleges. The denominator for this measure is the number of WorkFirst adults during the quarter. The measure is calculated by OFM using ACES and e-JAS data. Data are from the ACES data warehouse as of February 2023.

An average of 24,864 adults were enrolled in WorkFirst during FY 2022. An average of 268 adults were enrolled in an unpaid work preparation component producing a use rate of 1.1%. Use of unpaid work components was 0.5% in FY 2021, 3.2% in FY 2020 (4.3% prior to the pandemic dropping to 0.6% in Q2 2020), 4.8% in FY 2019, and 6.0% in FY 2018. Use dropped when toddler exemptions were implemented in October 2017 and dropped further under COVID-19 exemptions. Use began to increase in Q3 2021. COVID-19 exemptions from work participation requirements were phased out between September and November 2021. Enrollment was at 1.2% of adults in Q4 2022.

For monthly enrollment in these components, see pages 35-36. Numerators and denominators for Q2 2014, Q1 2020 and Q4 2022 are shown as fractions.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 32: Employment Search Pathway (ESD Job Search)



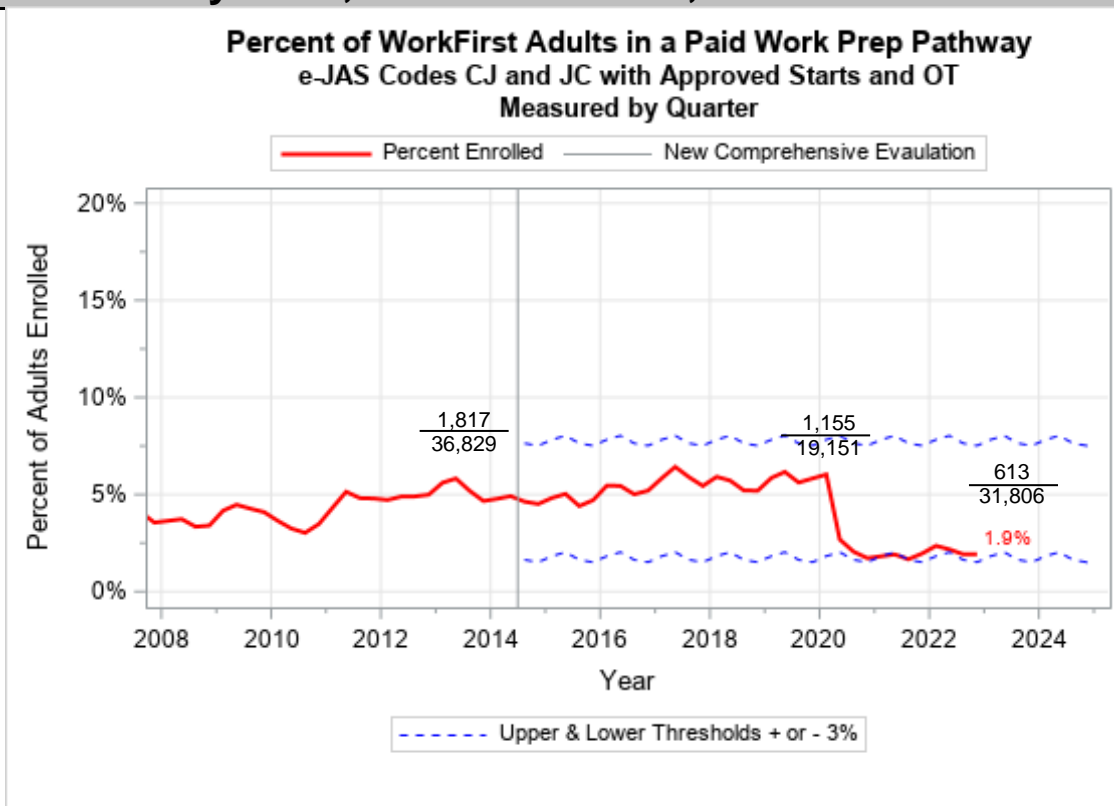
Definition of Measure

Percent of TANF adults in Employment Security (ESD) job search. The numerator for this measure is the number of TANF adults assigned to ESD job search in the quarter. This is counted using the e-JAS component code JS when no contractor code is supplied to identify a non-ESD provider. ESD redesigned its job search services in 2011 and has offered them under the name of Career Scope since July 2012. The denominator for this measure is the number of TANF adults during the quarter. This measure is calculated by OFM using ACES and e-JAS data. Data are from the ACES data warehouse as of February 2023.

An average of 24,864 adults were enrolled in WorkFirst during FY 2022. An average of 2,110 adults were enrolled in ESD job search/Career Scope producing a use rate of 8.5%. Use of the pathway dropped after July 2011 with the voluntary suspension of work requirements under ESSB 5921. A Lean project to improve communication between DSHS and ESD was implemented in January 2014. The percent of adults enrolled in ESD job search rose to 16.5% during calendar year 2014 and 16.6% during FY 2016. Average use dropped to 13.7% in FY 2018 and 12.8% in FY 2019. Use dropped to 9.7% in FY 2020 (12.6% prior to the pandemic and 3.1% in Q2 2020) and dropped to 2.1% in FY 2021. Used dropped when toddler exemptions were implemented in October 2017 and dropped further under COVID-19 exemptions. COVID-19 exemptions were phased out beginning in September 2021. Post-pandemic use peaked at 10.8% of adults in Q1 2022 but dropped back to 7.7% of adults in Q4 2022.

For monthly enrollment in this pathway, see pages 31-32. Employment related outcomes for this pathway are provided on pages 55-57, 84, 88, and 92. Numerators and denominators for Q2 2014, Q1 2020 and Q4 2022 are shown as fractions. [Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 33: Paid Work Preparation Pathway Community Jobs, Job Connection, and OJT



Definition of Measure

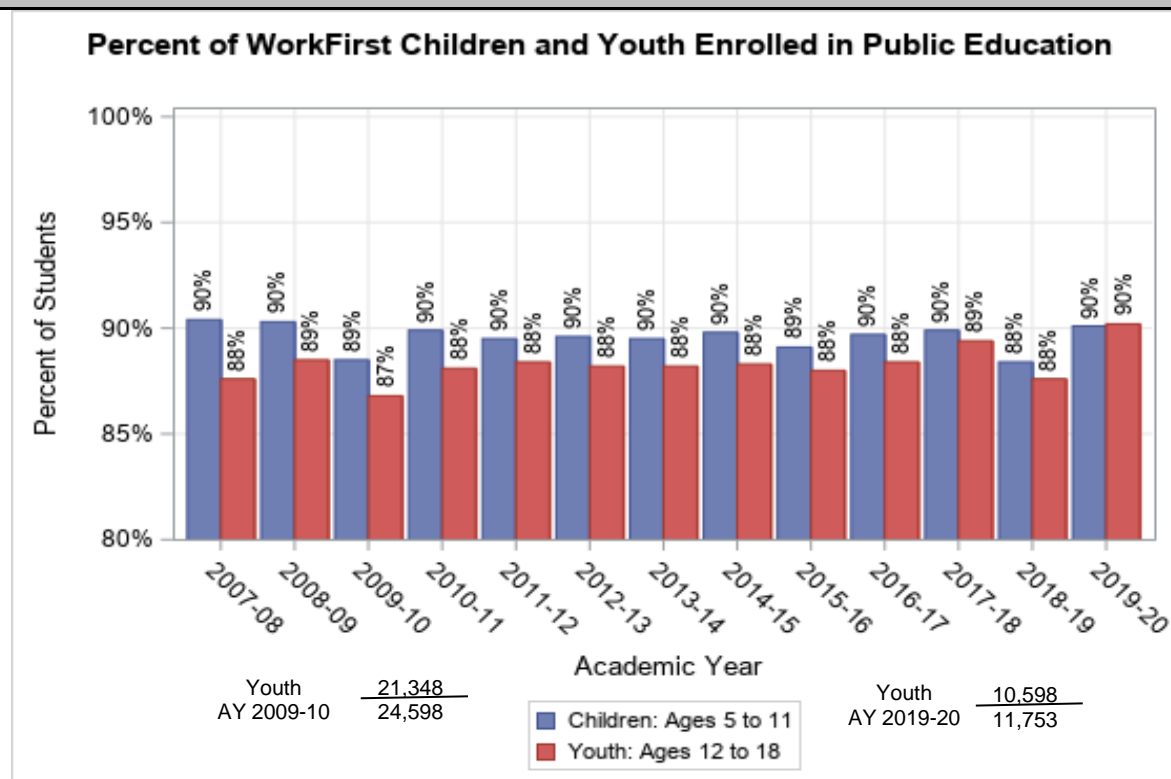
Percent of TANF adults who are engaged in a paid work preparation activity. The numerator of this measure is the number of TANF adults assigned to one or more of the following e-JAS components during the quarter: CJ (Community Jobs); JC (Job Connection); and OT (On the Job Training). Community Jobs and Job Connections are operated by the Department of Commerce. Community Jobs may last for up to 6 months and are developed for WorkFirst adults with barriers to employment. Job Connection placements were shorter and provided a work record for adults without recent work history but without other barriers to employment. The two Commerce programs were combined in July 2016. OT is provided to a handful of WorkFirst adults through the Employment Security Department. The measure does not include work study programs for college students. The denominator for this measure is the number of WorkFirst adults during the quarter. This measure is calculated by OFM using e-JAS data. Data are from the ACES data warehouse as of February 2023.

An average of 24,864 adults were enrolled in WorkFirst during FY 2022. An average of 512 adults were enrolled one of the paid work preparation pathway components, producing a use rate of 2.1%. Use of paid work preparation activities was 1.9% in FY 2021, 4.9% in FY 2020 (5.8% prior to the pandemic and 2.7% in Q2 2020), 5.6% in FY 2019 and 5.7% in FY 2018 up from 4.7% in FY 2015. Use increased to 2.4% of adults in Q1 2022 but dropped back to 1.9% of adults in Q4 2022. COVID-19 exemptions from participation requirements were phased out between September and November 2021 and referrals to paid work programs have increased.

For monthly enrollment in these components, see pages 35-36. Employment related outcomes for this group of components are provided on pages 55-56, 59, 86, 90, and 94. Numerators and denominators for Q2 2014, Q1 2020 and Q4 2022 are shown as fractions.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 34: Percent of WorkFirst Children and Youth Enrolled in K-12 Public Education



Definition of Measure

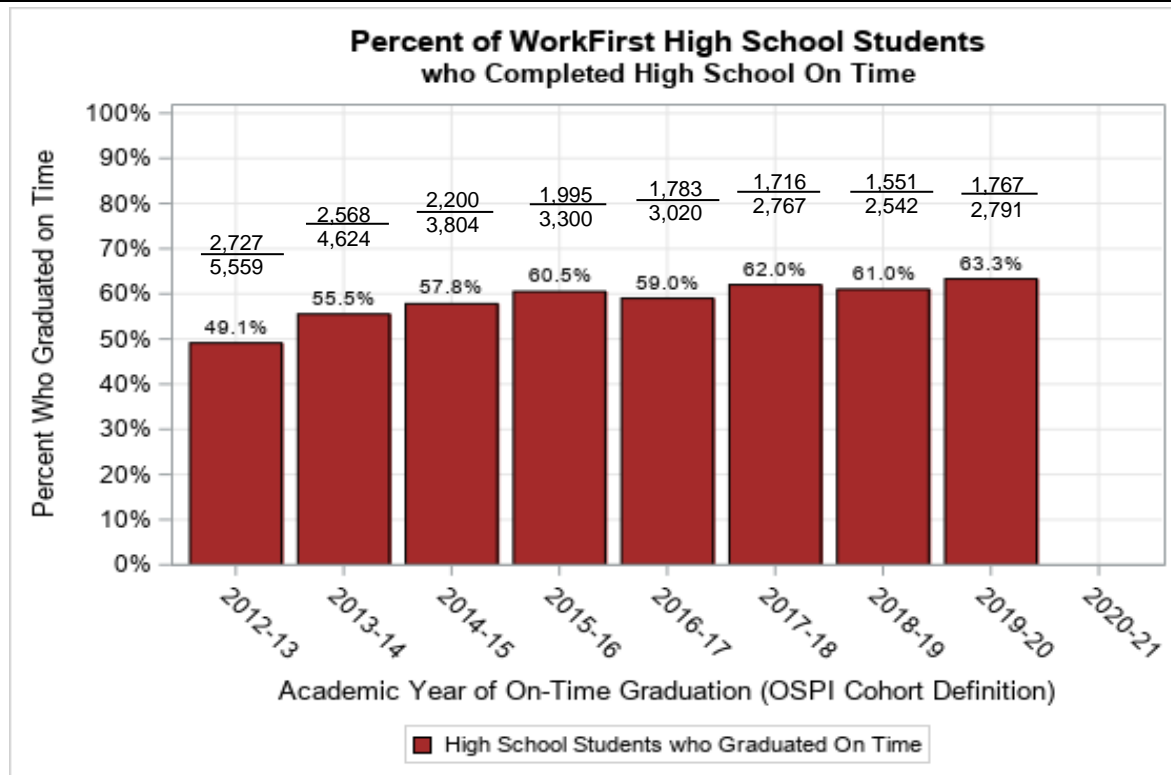
Percent of TANF children who were enrolled in public education during the school year. The numerator of this measure is the number of children in WorkFirst households who were enrolled in public schools in Washington State for one or more months during the academic year (AY). Children from Child Only TANF cases were not included. Academic years run from September through August. Results were calculated by OFM's Education Research Data Center (ERDC) in November 2021.

A total of 66,104 children between the ages of 5 and 18 received TANF (not including Child Only cases) during AY 2009-10; 32,813 during AY 2019-20. After clean-up of identifiers needed for matching, ERDC staff found school enrollment records for 58,090 children in AY 2010-11 and 29,574 in AY 2019-20. Separate enrollment measures were calculated for younger children (ages 5 to 11) and older children (ages 12 to 18). School enrollment of WorkFirst children reached a low point during AY 2009-10, which corresponds to the worst year of the great recession, close to the high point of WorkFirst caseloads. The highest WorkFirst caseloads were reached in December 2021 during AY 2010-11.

School enrollment of younger WorkFirst children has not shown much change since AY 2010-11. Enrollment for youth aged 12-18 reached a peak in AY 2019-20, the first school year in which their enrollment rates matched those for younger children. AY 2019-20 was interrupted by COVID-19 in March 2020. The higher results could have resulted from entry of cases with older children during the caseload growth that occurred during the last months of that school year. The drop in results for AY 2018-19 seen in last year's report are still present after an additional year of follow-up. Numerators and denominators for youth ages 12-18 are shown as fractions for AY 2009-10 and AY 2019-20.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 35: Percent of WorkFirst High School Students who Graduated from High School On Time



Definition of Measure

Percent of TANF youth who graduate on time. The numerator of this measure is the number TANF high school students in WorkFirst households who graduated within four academic years. Youth in Child Only cases were not included. Results for 2012-13 are for youth who were TANF recipients and high school students during the 2009-10 through 2012-13 school years. Results for 2019-20 are for youth who were TANF recipients and high school students during the 2016-17 through 2019-20 school years. Results were calculated by OFM's Education Research and Data Center (ERDC) in January 2022. They are defined differently than in prior versions of this report.

Numerators and denominators are shown as fractions in the chart for each academic year. The number of first time ninth-graders for any academic year had been those who were ninth-graders while in a WorkFirst household in earlier reports, but are now augmented by those who were in WorkFirst at any time during the four years through expected graduation. Graduation is tracked using OSPI academic records. Caseload declines affect these results. The count of youth in high school during the first cohort was largest due to the high WorkFirst caseloads between 2009 and 2011 during the great recession. COVID pandemic caseload increases should produce an increase in WorkFirst high school students next year.

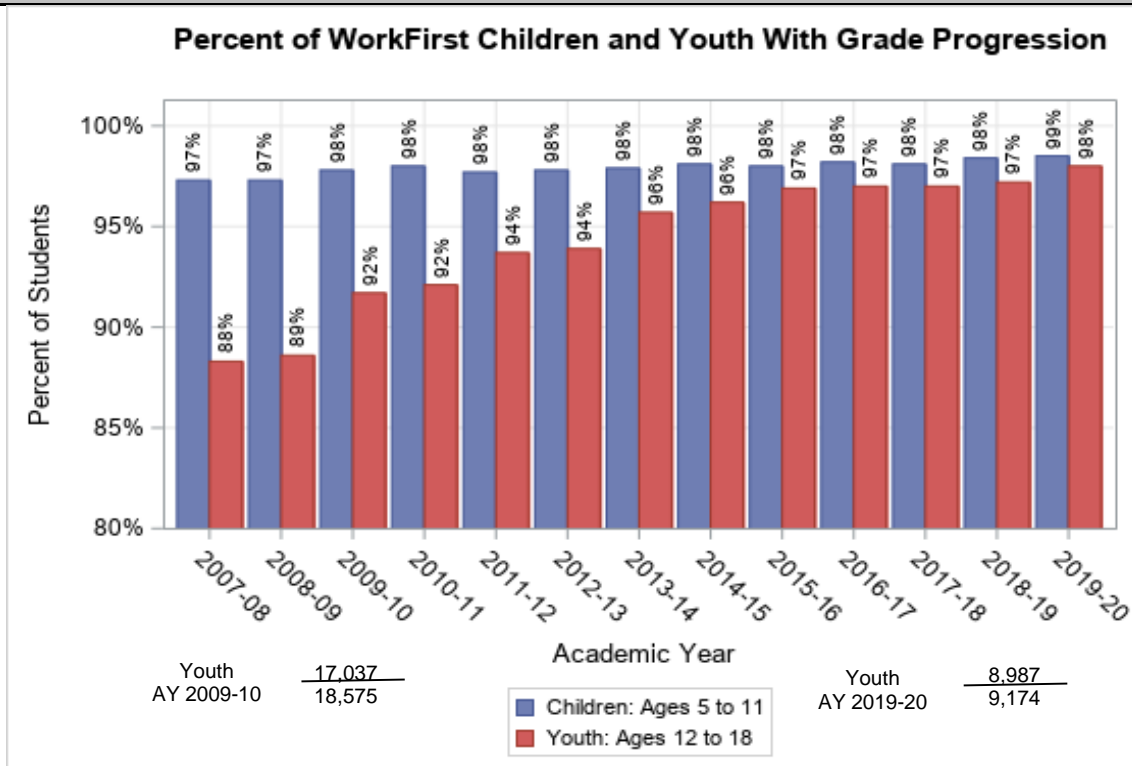
These figures should be comparable to OSPI report card information suggesting an overall on-time graduation rate of 82.9% for the 2019-20 AY for Washington State. The on-time graduation rate was 75.1% for low income students, 59.4% for homeless students, and 50.4 for students in foster care.

See: <https://washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/ReportCard/ViewSchoolOrDistrict/103300>

including the Diversity tab for details.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 36: Percent of WorkFirst Children and Youth who Progressed to the Next Grade as Expected



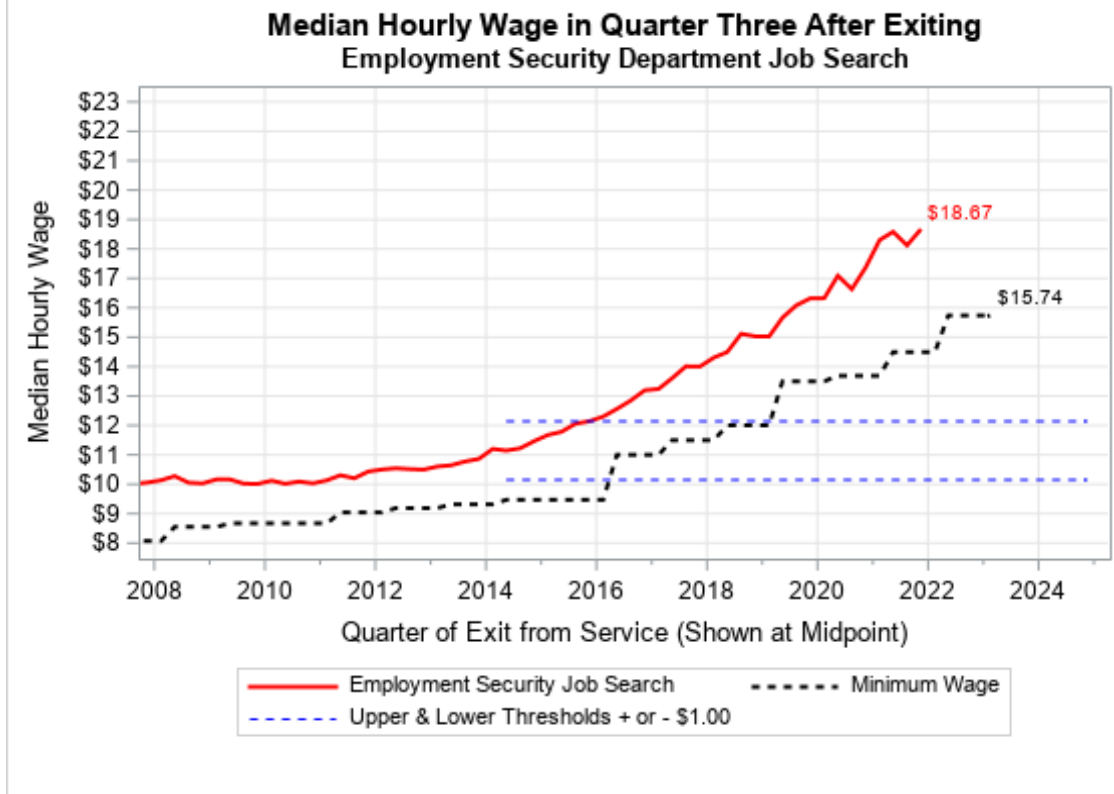
Definition of Measure

Percent of TANF school-age children in a given year who progressed to the next grade level as expected. This measure uses children in WorkFirst households during the academic year (AY) who had valid grade information for the prior AY in public schools in Washington State. Children in Child Only cases were not included. Academic years run from September through August. Results were calculated by OFM's Education Research Data Center (ERDC) in November 2021.

A total of 54,299 TANF children ages 5 to 18, excluding children from Child Only cases, were enrolled in school during AY 2009-10 and usable for analysis; 27,077 during AY 2019-20. Some 96% of the TANF students identified in AY 2009-10 and 98% of the TANF students from AY 2019-20 had progressed by one grade level from the prior academic year. Separate progression measures were calculated for younger children ages 5 to 11 and older children ages 12 to 18. Progression is relatively high among younger children. Progression began to increase during AY 2009-10 for older children, in a pattern that is consistent with the gains seen in school enrollment and on-time-graduation. School records are used to measure grade progression for these children, regardless of whether their families continued to use the WorkFirst program. Numerators and denominators for youth ages 12 to 18 in AYs 2009-10 and 2019-20 are shown as fractions.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 37: Hourly Wage Rate after Exiting Employment Security Department Job Search



Definition of Measure

Median hourly wage rate in the third quarter after exit from Employment Security job search. The median wage is the wage rate at the center of the distribution from the lowest wage to the highest wage obtained. Wage rates are based on UI wage records of earnings and work hours. Records have been cleaned to throw out records without earnings or where work hours were missing for the quarter. Earnings and hours were combined across multiple jobs if more than one job was held during the quarter. Extremely high or low wage rates were also dropped.

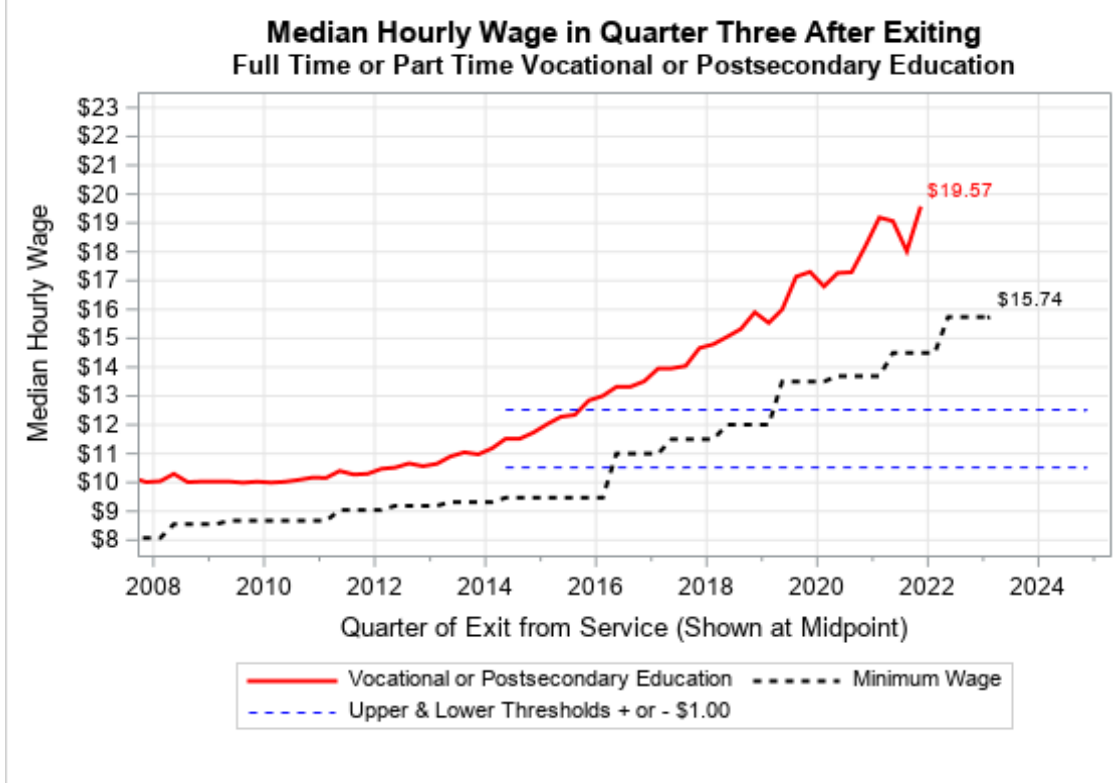
An average of 170 adults had earning records during the third quarter following exit from Employment Security job search from each quarter of fiscal year 2021. An average of 164 per quarter (96.2%) had clean earnings and work hour information necessary to calculate wage rates. The average of the four quarterly medians was \$10.27 per hour during 2011, \$11.54 in FY 2015, \$12.27 in FY 2016, \$13.22 in FY 2017, \$14.20 in FY 2018, \$15.21 in FY 2019, \$16.46 in FY 2020 and \$17.72 in FY 2021.

The thresholds for this measure are based on results from 2015 when the minimum wage was \$9.47 per hour. Results shown above run through Q4 2021, which was the third quarter exposed to the \$14.49 minimum wage. Approximately 10% of ESD job finders in Q4 2021 lived in Seattle. Seattle had a minimum wage higher than \$14.49 per hour for large employers and some smaller employers.

This measure is calculated by OFM, using data from ACES and e-JAS from the ACES data warehouse and Unemployment Insurance wage records from the Department of Employment Security. Data were obtained from the Department of Employment Security in February 2023.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 38: Hourly Wage Rate after Exiting Vocational and Postsecondary Education



Definition of Measure

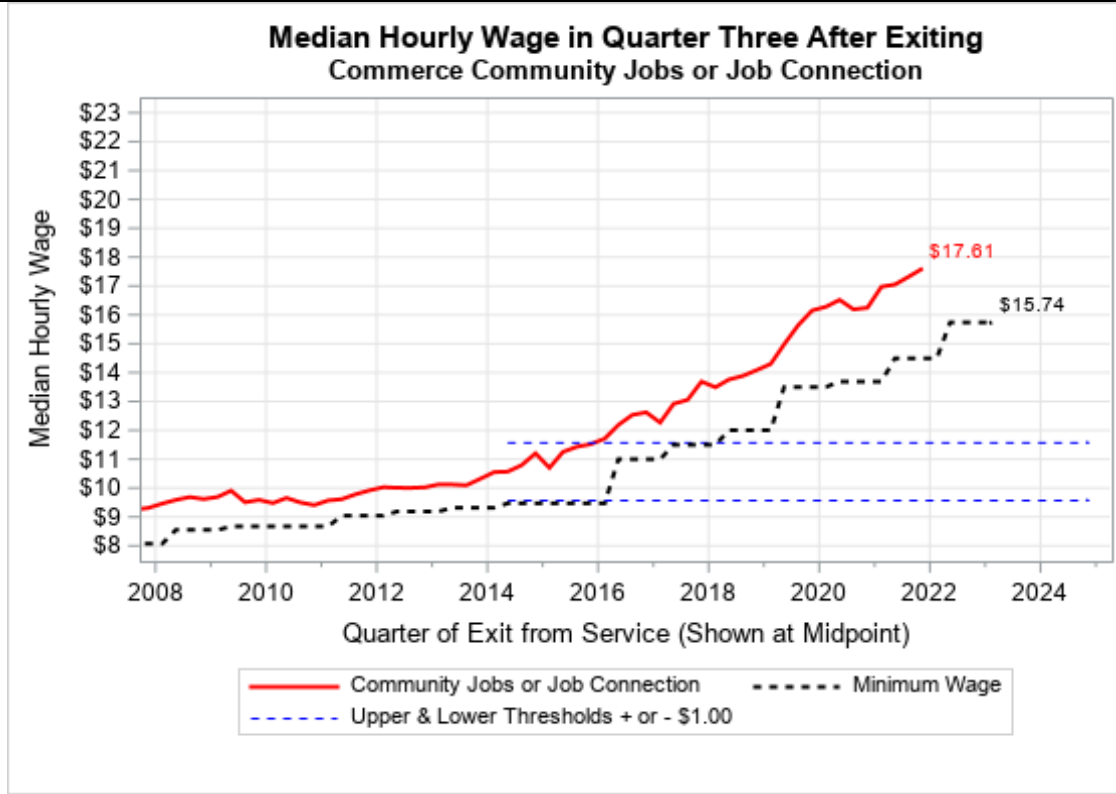
Median hourly wage rate in the third quarter after exit from vocational or postsecondary education. The median wage is the wage rate at the center of the distribution from the lowest wage to the highest wage obtained. Wage rates are based on UI wage records of earnings and work hours. Records have been cleaned to throw out records without earnings or where work hours were missing for the quarter. Earnings and hours were combined across multiple jobs if more than one job was held during the quarter. Extremely high or low wage rates were also dropped.

An average of 142 adults had earning records during the third quarter following exit from vocational or postsecondary education from each quarter of fiscal year 2021. An average of 139 per quarter (97.7%) had clean earnings and work hour information necessary to calculate wage rates. The average of the four quarterly medians was \$10.28 per hour during 2011, \$11.89 in FY 2015, \$12.87 in FY 2016, \$13.96 in FY 2017, \$14.64 in FY 2018, \$15.69 in FY 2019, \$17.13 in FY 2020 and \$18.44 in FY 2021.

The thresholds for this measure are based on results from 2015 when the minimum wage was \$9.47 per hour. Results shown above run through Q4 2021, which was the third quarter exposed to the \$14.49 minimum wage. Approximately 16% of vocational or postsecondary education job finders in Q4 2021 lived in Seattle. Seattle had a minimum wage higher than \$14.49 per hour for large employers and some smaller employers.

This measure is calculated by OFM, using data from ACES and e-JAS from the ACES data warehouse and Unemployment Insurance wage records from the Department of Employment Security. Data were obtained from the Department of Employment Security in February 2023. [Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 39: Hourly Wage Rate after Exiting Paid Work Prep (Community Jobs or Job Connection)



Definition of Measure

Median hourly wage rate in the third quarter after exit from Community Jobs or Job Connection, the paid work preparation programs offered by WorkFirst through the Department of Commerce. The median wage is the wage rate at the center of the distribution from the lowest wage to the highest wage obtained. Wage rates are based on UI wage records of earnings and work hours. Records have been cleaned to throw out records without earnings or where work hours were missing for the quarter. Earnings and hours were combined across multiple jobs if more than one job was held during the quarter. Extremely high or low wage rates were also dropped.

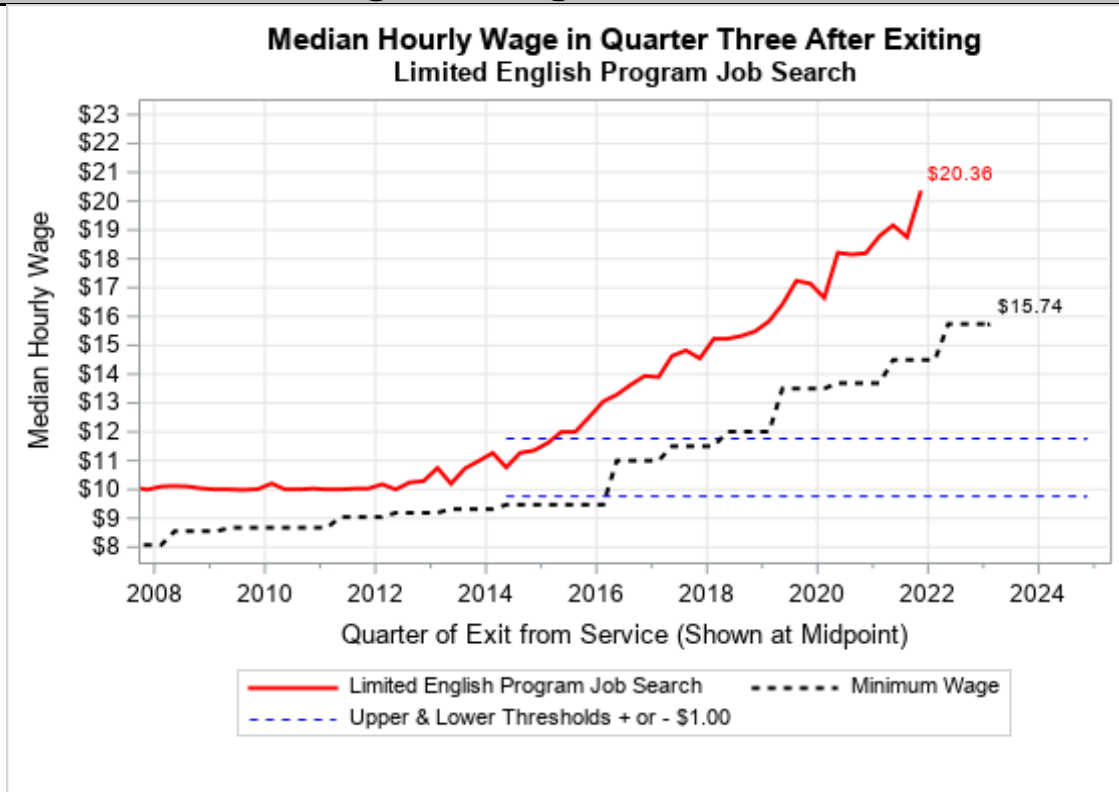
An average of 104 adults had earning records during the third quarter following exit from Community Jobs from each quarter of fiscal year 2021. An average of 101 per quarter (97.1%) had clean earnings and work hour information necessary to calculate wage rates. The average of the four quarterly medians was \$9.72 per hour during 2011, \$10.99 in FY 2015, \$11.71 in FY 2016, \$12.59 in FY 2017, \$13.50 in FY 2018, \$14.32 in FY 2019, \$16.15 in FY 2020 and \$16.68 in FY 2021.

The thresholds for this measure are based on results from 2015 when the minimum wage was \$9.47 per hour. Results shown above run through Q4 2021, which was the third quarter exposed to the \$14.49 minimum wage. Approximately 14% of Community Jobs job finders in Q4 2021 lived in Seattle. Seattle had a minimum wage higher than \$14.49 per hour for large employers and some smaller employers.

This measure is calculated by OFM, using data from ACES and e-JAS from the ACES data warehouse and Unemployment Insurance wage records from the Department of Employment Security. Data were obtained from the Department of Employment Security in February 2023.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 40: Hourly Wage Rate after Exiting Limited English Program Job Search



Definition of Measure

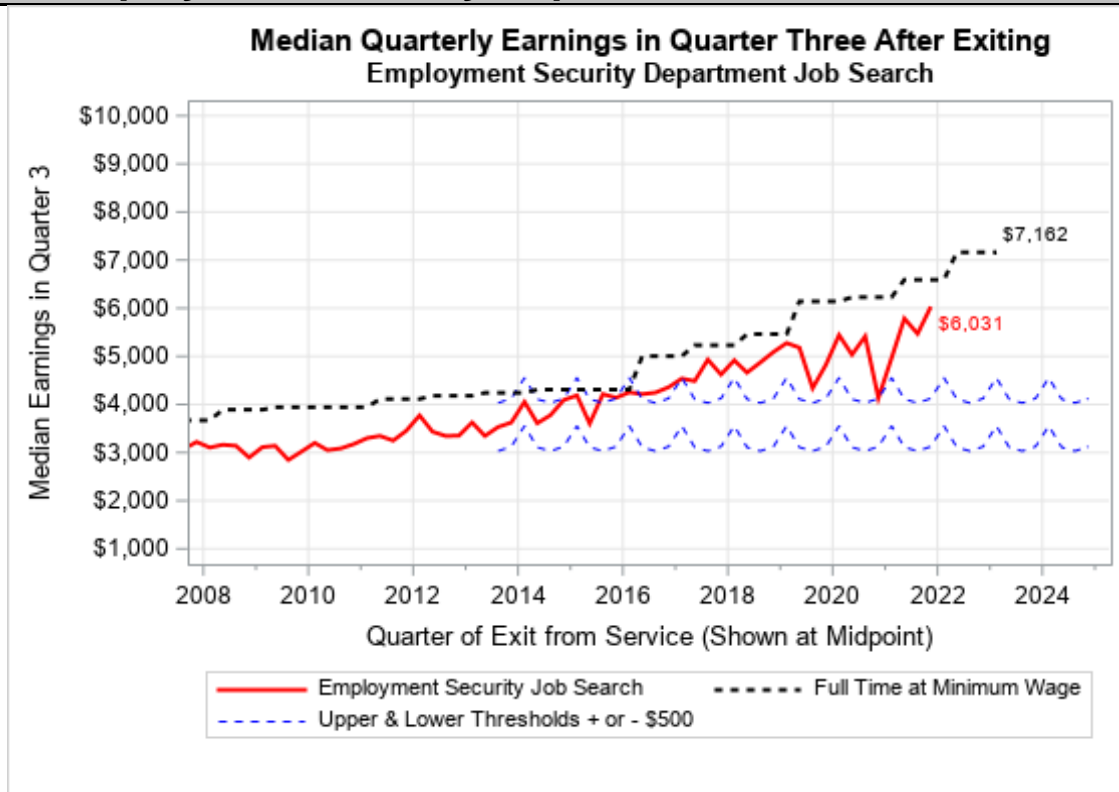
Median hourly wage rate in the third quarter after exit from Limited English Program job search. The median wage is the wage rate at the center of the distribution from the lowest wage to the highest wage obtained. Wage rates are based on UI wage records of earnings and work hours. Records have been cleaned to throw out records without earnings or where work hours were missing for the quarter. Earnings and hours were combined across multiple jobs if more than one job was held during the quarter. Extremely high or low wage rates were also dropped.

An average of 65 adults had earning records during the third quarter following exit from Limited English Program job search from each quarter of fiscal year 2021. An average of 62 per quarter (95.4%) had clean earnings and work hour information necessary to calculate wage rates. The average of the four quarterly medians was \$10.02 per hour during 2011, \$11.56 in FY 2015, \$12.71 in FY 2016, \$14.03 in FY 2017, \$14.96 in FY 2018, \$15.76 in FY 2019, \$17.31 in FY 2020 and \$18.57 in FY 2021.

The thresholds for this measure are based on results from 2015 when the minimum wage was \$9.47 per hour. Results shown above run through Q4 2021, which was the third quarter exposed to the \$14.49 minimum wage. Approximately 27% of LEP job finders in Q4 2021 lived in Seattle, more than in the other programs. Seattle had a minimum wage higher than \$14.49 per hour for large employers and some smaller employers.

This measure is calculated by OFM, using data from ACES and e-JAS from the ACES data warehouse and Unemployment Insurance wage records from the Department of Employment Security. Data were obtained from the Department of Employment Security in February 2023. [Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 41: Quarterly Earnings after Exiting Employment Security Department Job Search



Definition of Measure

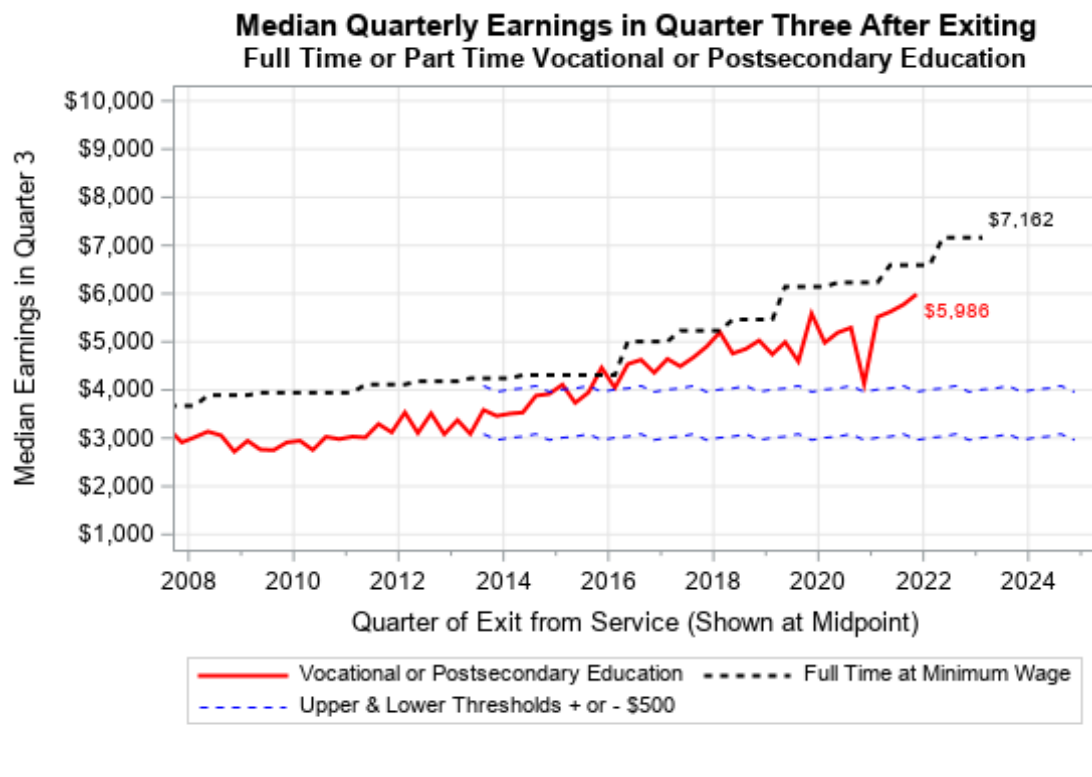
Median quarterly earnings during the third quarter after exit from Employment Security job search. Median earnings are the earnings at the center of the distribution from lowest earnings to highest earnings obtained. Earnings are based on UI wage records and earnings from multiple jobs were combined. However, records with more than 800 combined work hours reported in the quarter were dropped due to the possibility that more than one person might be included in the totals.

An average of 170 adults were employed during the third quarter following exit from Employment Security job search from each quarter of fiscal year 2021. An average of 169 per quarter (99.6%) had clean earnings records used to calculate median earnings. Thresholds for this measure were calculated from the four quarters of fiscal year 2014. The average of the four quarterly medians was \$3,338 during 2011, \$3,915 in FY 2015, \$4,205 in FY 2016, \$4,407 in FY 2017, \$4,783 in FY 2018, \$5,105 in FY 2019, \$4,910 in FY 2020 and \$5,076 in FY 2021. The state minimum wage in effect during the third quarter after exit was multiplied by 455 hours (equivalent to 35 hours per week) to provide a reference line indicating full-time earnings at the state minimum wage. Results shown above run through Q4 2021.

This measure is calculated by OFM, using data from ACES and e-JAS from the ACES data warehouse and Unemployment Insurance wage records from the Department of Employment Security. Data were obtained from the Department of Employment Security in February 2023.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 42: Quarterly Earnings after Exiting Vocational and Postsecondary Education



Definition of Measure

Median quarterly earnings during the third quarter after exit from vocational or postsecondary education. Median earnings are the earnings at the center of the distribution from lowest earnings to highest earnings obtained. Earnings are based on UI wage records and earnings from multiple jobs were combined. However, records with more than 800 combined work hours reported in the quarter were dropped due to the possibility that more than one person might be included in the totals.

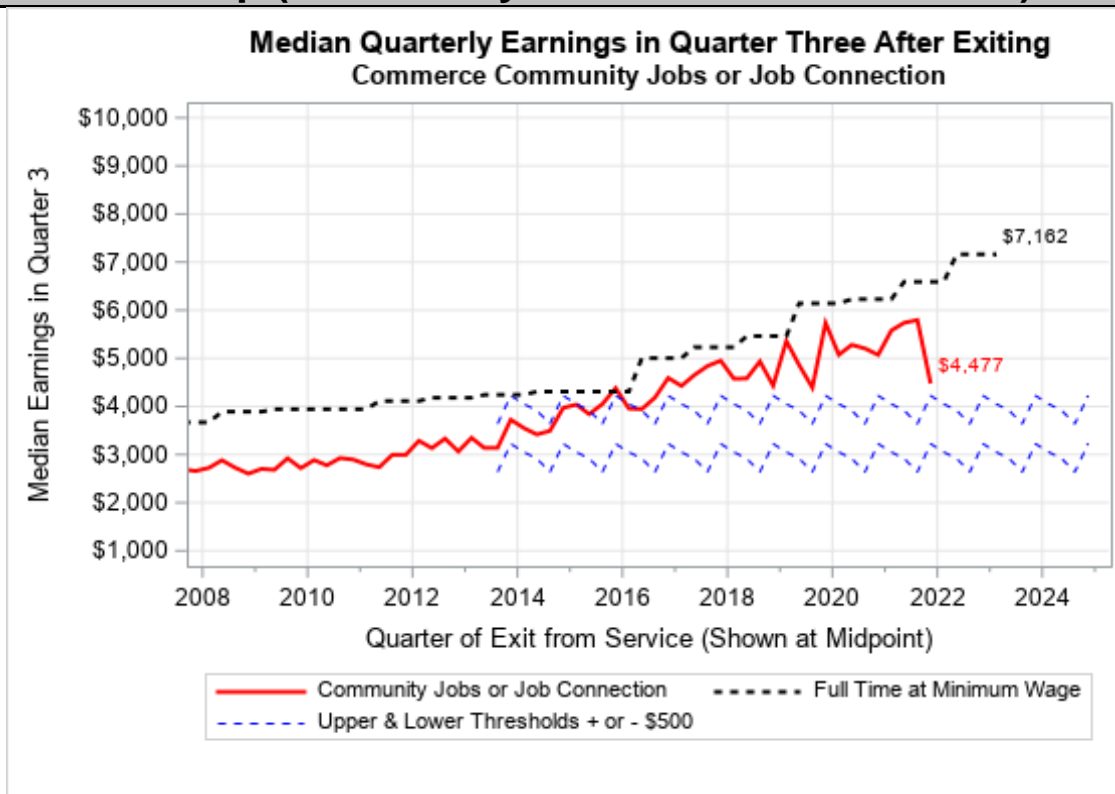
An average of 142 adults were employed during the third quarter following exit from vocational or postsecondary education from each quarter of fiscal year 2021. An average of 141 per quarter (99.8%) had clean earnings records used to calculate median earnings. Thresholds for this measure were calculated from the four quarters of fiscal year 2014. The average of the four quarterly medians was \$3,115 during 2011, \$3,910 in FY 2015, \$4,247 in FY 2016, \$4,529 in FY 2017, \$4,884 in FY 2018, \$4,903 in FY 2019, \$5,087 in FY 2020 and \$5,139 in FY 2021. The state minimum wage in effect during the third quarter after exit was multiplied by 455 hours (equivalent to 35 hours per week) to provide a reference line indicating full-time earnings at the state minimum wage. Results shown above run through Q4 2021.

Vocational or postsecondary education includes education provided by SBCTC colleges but also includes education provided by public and private four year colleges and by private career schools. In FY 2021, 89% of vocational or postsecondary education was provided by SBCTC colleges.

This measure is calculated by OFM, using data from ACES and e-JAS from the ACES data warehouse and Unemployment Insurance wage records from the Department of Employment Security. Data were obtained from the Department of Employment Security in February 2023.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 43: Quarterly Earnings after Exiting Paid Work Prep (Community Jobs or Job Connection)



Definition of Measure

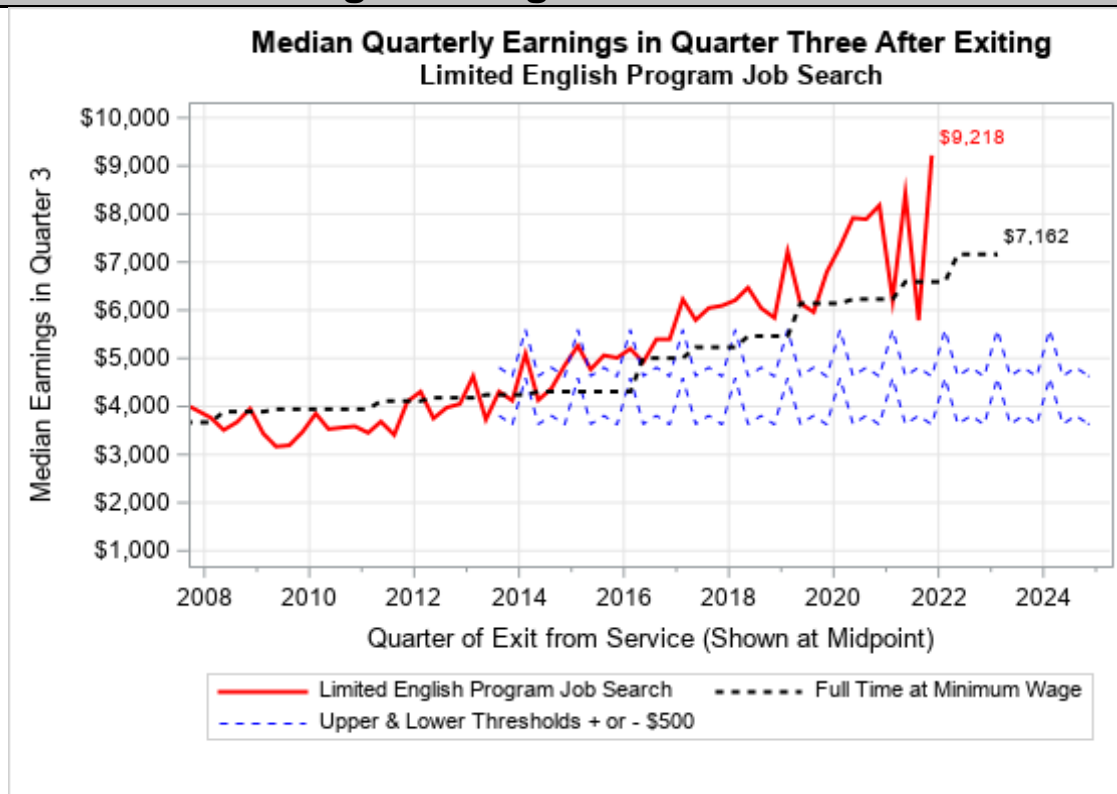
Median quarterly earnings during the third quarter after exit from Community Jobs or Job Connection, the paid work preparation programs offered by WorkFirst through the Department of Commerce. Median earnings are the earnings at the center of the distribution from lowest earnings to highest earnings obtained. Earnings are based on UI wage records and earnings from multiple jobs were combined. However, records with more than 800 combined work hours reported in the quarter were dropped due to the possibility that more than one person might be included in the totals.

An average of 104 adults were employed during the third quarter following exit from Community Jobs from each quarter of fiscal year 2021. An average of 103 per quarter (99.3%) had clean earnings records used to calculate median earnings. Thresholds for this measure were calculated from the four quarters of fiscal year 2014. The average of the four quarterly medians was \$2,881 during 2011, \$3,836 in FY 2015, \$4,084 in FY 2016, \$4,464 in FY 2017, \$4,737 in FY 2018, \$4,897 in FY 2019, \$5,121 in FY 2020 and \$5,399 in FY 2021. The state minimum wage in effect during the third quarter after exit was multiplied by 455 hours (equivalent to 35 hours per week) to provide a reference line indicating full-time earnings at the minimum wage. Results shown above run through Q4 2021.

This measure is calculated by OFM, using data from ACES and e-JAS from the ACES data warehouse and Unemployment Insurance wage records from the Department of Employment Security. Data were obtained from the Department of Employment Security in February 2023.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 44: Quarterly Earnings after Exiting Limited English Program Job Search



Definition of Measure

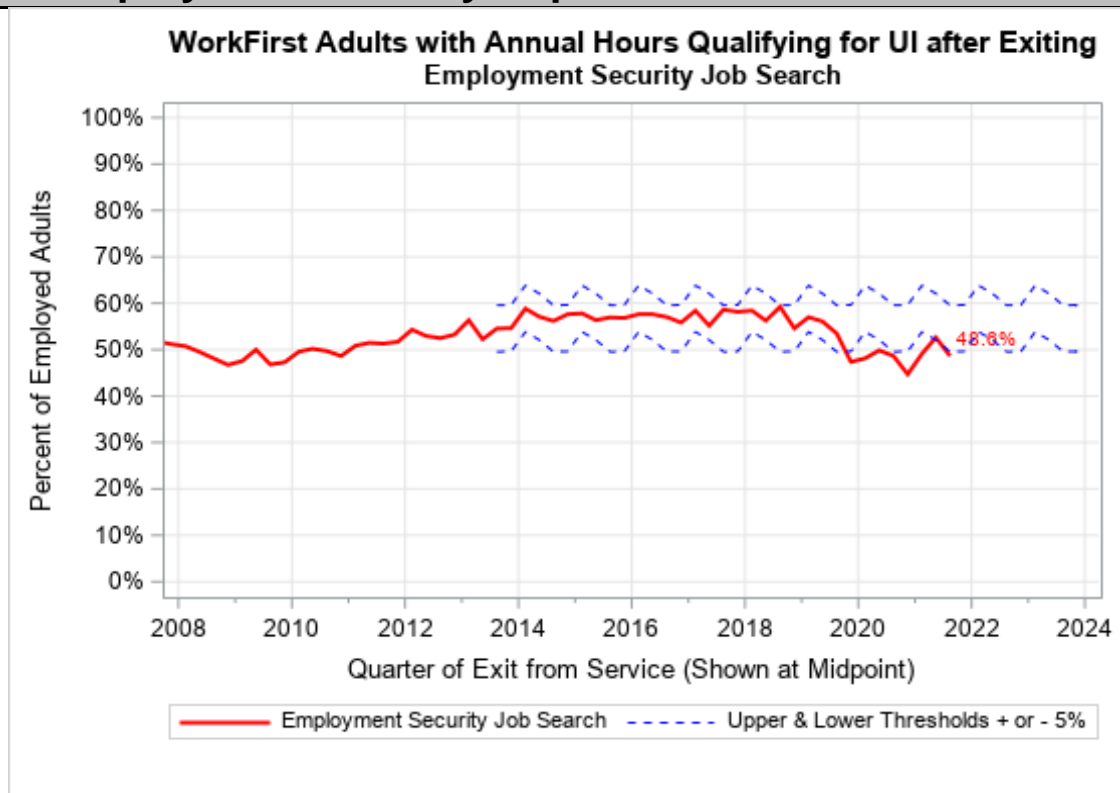
Median quarterly earnings during the third quarter after exit from Limited English Program job search. Median earnings are the earnings at the center of the distribution from lowest earnings to highest earnings obtained. Earnings are based on UI wage records and earnings from multiple jobs were combined. However, records with more than 800 combined work hours reported in the quarter were dropped due to the possibility that more than one person might be included in the totals.

An average of 65 adults were employed during the third quarter following exit from Limited English Program job search from each quarter of fiscal year 2021. An average of 64 per quarter (98.8%) had clean earnings records used to calculate median earnings. Data cleaning protocols increase the likelihood that the high earnings shown here are real and do not result from data integrity problems. Thresholds for this measure were calculated from the four quarters of fiscal year 2014. The average of the four quarterly medians was \$3,662 during 2011, \$4,815 in FY 2015, \$5,047 in FY 2016, \$5,703 in FY 2017, \$6,204 in FY 2018, \$6,312 in FY 2019, \$6,999 in FY 2020 and \$7,677 in FY 2021. The state minimum wage in effect during the quarter after exit was multiplied by 455 hours (equivalent to 35 hours per week) to provide a reference line indicating full-time earnings at the minimum wage. Results shown above run through Q4 2021.

The relatively high earnings for LEP job search reflect, in part, the concentration of LEP job search enrollees in Seattle and King County. Variations in the concentration of LEP job finders within Seattle (from 27% in FY 2020 to 39% in Q1 2021 back to 27% in Q4 2021) contributed to these results.

This measure is calculated by OFM, using data from ACES and e-JAS from the ACES data warehouse and Unemployment Insurance wage records from the Department of Employment Security. Data were obtained from the Department of Employment Security in February 2023. [Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 45: Hours Worked in the Year After Employment Security Department Job Search



Definition of Measure

The numerator of this measure is the number of workers with employment records in UI wage records with 680 or more hours reported across the first, second, third and fourth quarters after leaving Employment Security job search. The denominator is the total number of Employment Security job search exiters employed during any of those quarters. Workers with more than 800 hours reported in any quarter are excluded from this measure. That might indicate that employment by two or more workers could have been reported on one Social Security Number.

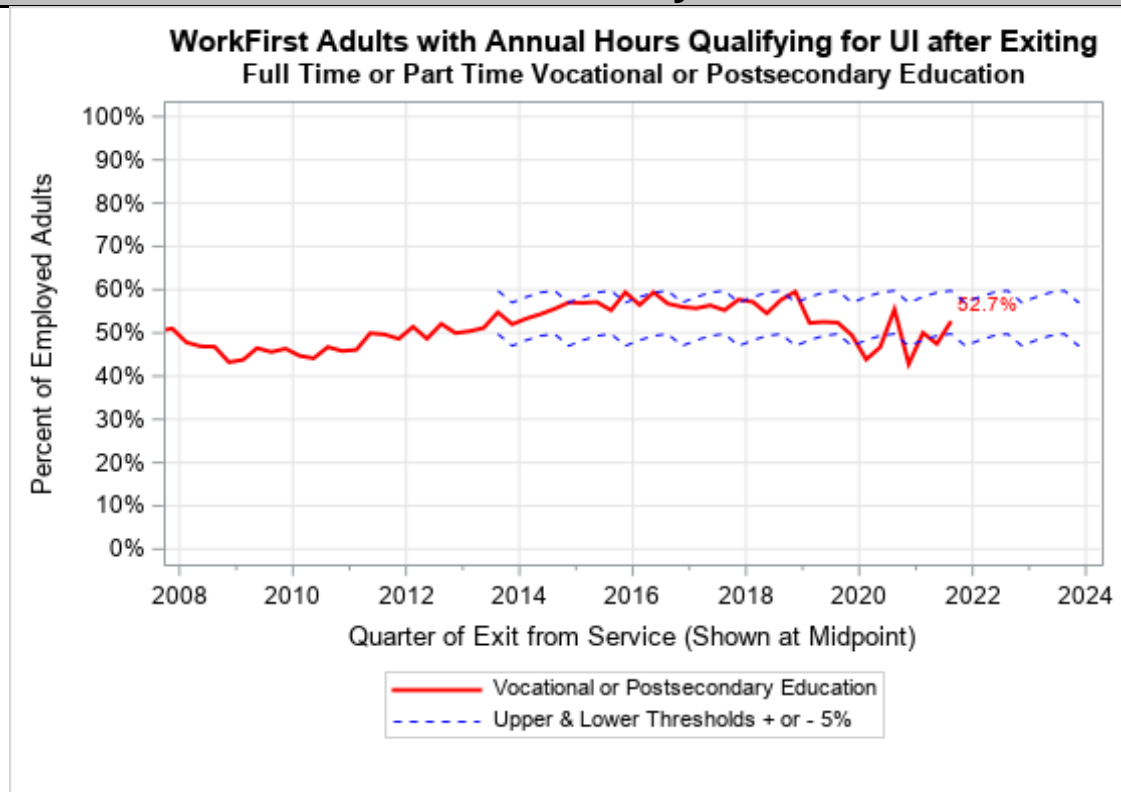
The figure of 680 hours in a year was chosen because workers with 680 hours in the past year are eligible to receive Unemployment Insurance if they meet the other requirements of that program.

An average of 232 WorkFirst adults had clean earning records during one or more of the four quarters following Employment Security job search after each quarter of fiscal year 2021. An average of 113 of those WorkFirst adults worked for 680 hours or more during those quarters. Thresholds for this measure were calculated from the four quarters of fiscal year 2014. The average of the four quarterly 680 hour work rates was 51.3% in calendar 2011, 56.3% in FY 2014, 57.2% in FY 2016, 56.6% in FY 2017, 57.9% in FY 2018, 56.7% in FY 2019, 49.7% in FY 2020 and 48.8% in FY 2021. Results shown run through Q3 2021. The rate in Q3 2021 was the same as in Q3 of 2020.

This measure is calculated by OFM, using data from ACES and e-JAS from the ACES data warehouse and Unemployment Insurance wage records from the Department of Employment Security. Data were obtained from the Department of Employment Security in February 2023.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 46: Hours Worked in the Year After Vocational and Postsecondary Education



Definition of Measure

The numerator of this measure is the number of workers with employment records in UI wage records with 680 or more hours reported across the first, second, third and fourth quarters after leaving vocational or postsecondary education. The denominator is the total number of vocational or postsecondary education exiters employed during any of those quarters. Workers with more than 800 hours reported in any quarter are excluded from this measure. That might indicate that employment by two or more workers could have been reported on one Social Security Number.

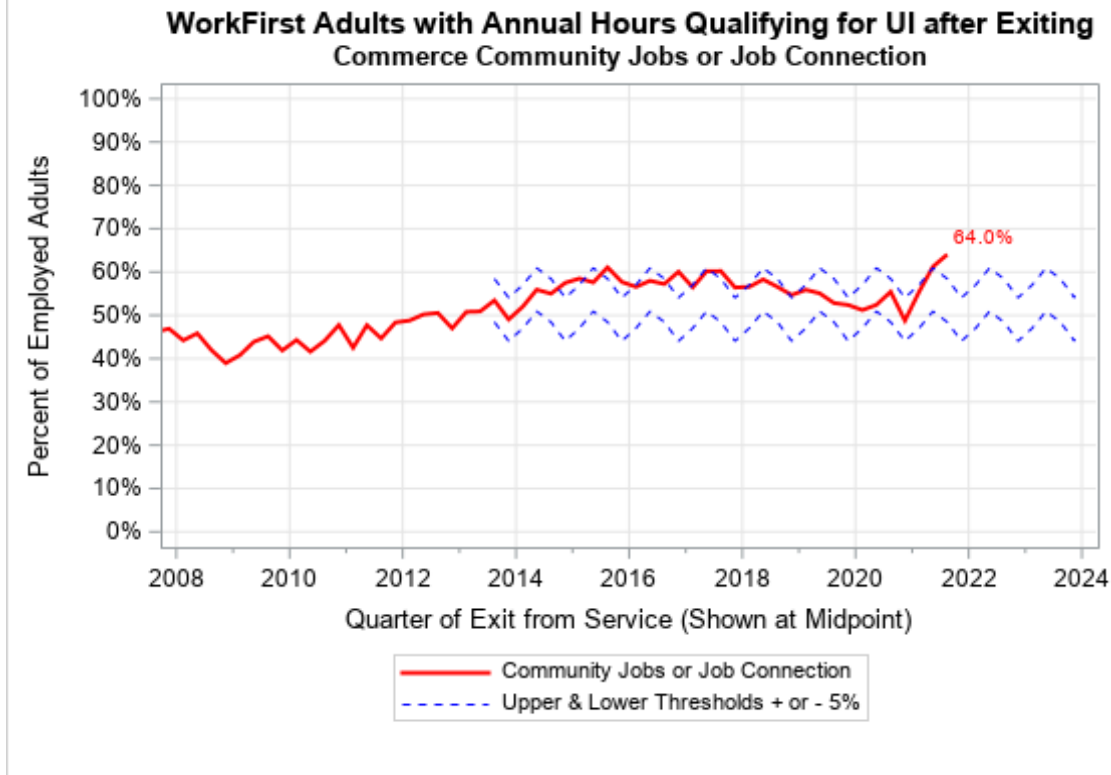
The figure of 680 hours in a year was chosen because workers with 680 hours in the past year are eligible to receive Unemployment Insurance if they meet the other requirements of that program.

An average of 188 WorkFirst adults had clean earning records during one or more of the four quarters following vocational or postsecondary education after each quarter of fiscal year 2021. An average of 92 of those WorkFirst adults worked for 680 hours or more during those quarters. Thresholds for this measure were calculated from the four quarters of fiscal year 2014. The average of the four quarterly 680 hour work rates was 48.6% in calendar 2011, 53.6% in FY 2014, 57.6% in FY 2026, 56.2% in FY 2017, 56.1% in FY 2018, 55.5% in FY 2019, 48.1% in FY 2020 and 48.9% in FY 2021. Results shown above run through Q3 2021. The rate in Q3 2021 was 3 percentage points lower than in Q3 2020.

This measure is calculated by OFM, using data from ACES and e-JAS from the ACES data warehouse and Unemployment Insurance wage records from the Department of Employment Security. Data were obtained from the Department of Employment Security in February 2023.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 47: Hours Worked in the Year After Paid Work Prep (Community Jobs or Job Connection)



Definition of Measure

The numerator of this measure is the number of workers with employment records in UI wage records with 680 or more hours reported across the first, second, third and fourth quarters after leaving Community Jobs or Job Connection. The denominator is the total number of Community Jobs or Job Connection exiters employed during any of those quarters. Workers with more than 800 hours reported in any quarter are excluded from this measure. That might indicate that employment by two or more workers could have been reported on one Social Security Number.

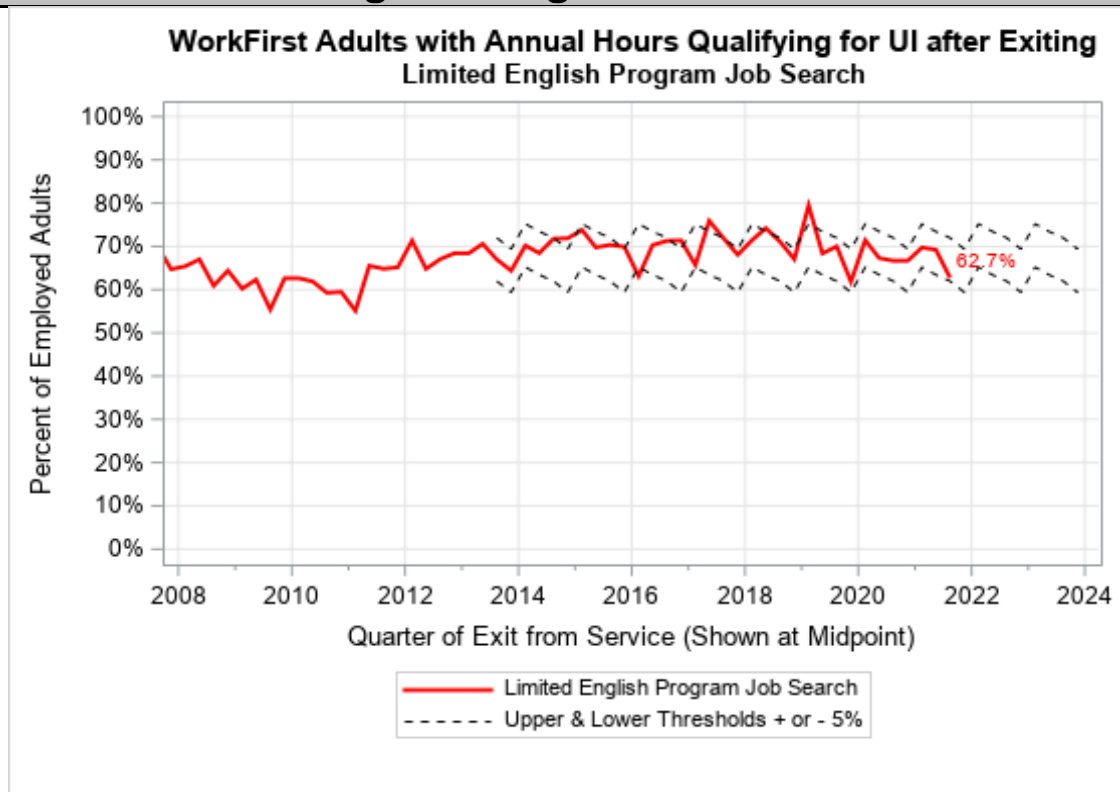
The figure of 680 hours in a year was chosen because workers with 680 hours in the past year are eligible to receive Unemployment Insurance if they meet the other requirements of that program.

An average of 139 WorkFirst adults had clean earning records during one or more of the four quarters following Community Jobs after each quarter of fiscal year 2021. An average of 77 of those WorkFirst adults worked for 680 hours or more during those quarters. Thresholds for this measure were calculated from the four quarters of fiscal year 2014. The average of the four quarterly 680 hour work rates was 45.8% in calendar 2011, 52.6% in FY 2014, 58.4% in FY 2016, 58.5% in FY 2017, 57.9% in FY 2018, 55.6% in FY 2019, 52.2% in FY 2020 and 55.2% in FY 2021. Results shown above run through Q3 2021. The rate in Q3 2022 was 9 percentage points higher than in Q3 2020.

This measure is calculated by OFM, using data from ACES and e-JAS from the ACES data warehouse and Unemployment Insurance wage records from the Department of Employment Security. Data were obtained from the Department of Employment Security in February 2023.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 48: Hours Worked in the Year After Limited English Program Job Search



Definition of Measure

The numerator of this measure is the number of workers with employment records in UI wage records with 680 or more hours reported across the first, second, third and fourth quarters after leaving Limited English Program job search. The denominator is the total number of Limited English Program job search exiters employed during any of those quarters. Workers with more than 800 hours reported in any quarter are excluded from this measure. That might indicate that employment by two or more workers could have been reported on one Social Security Number.

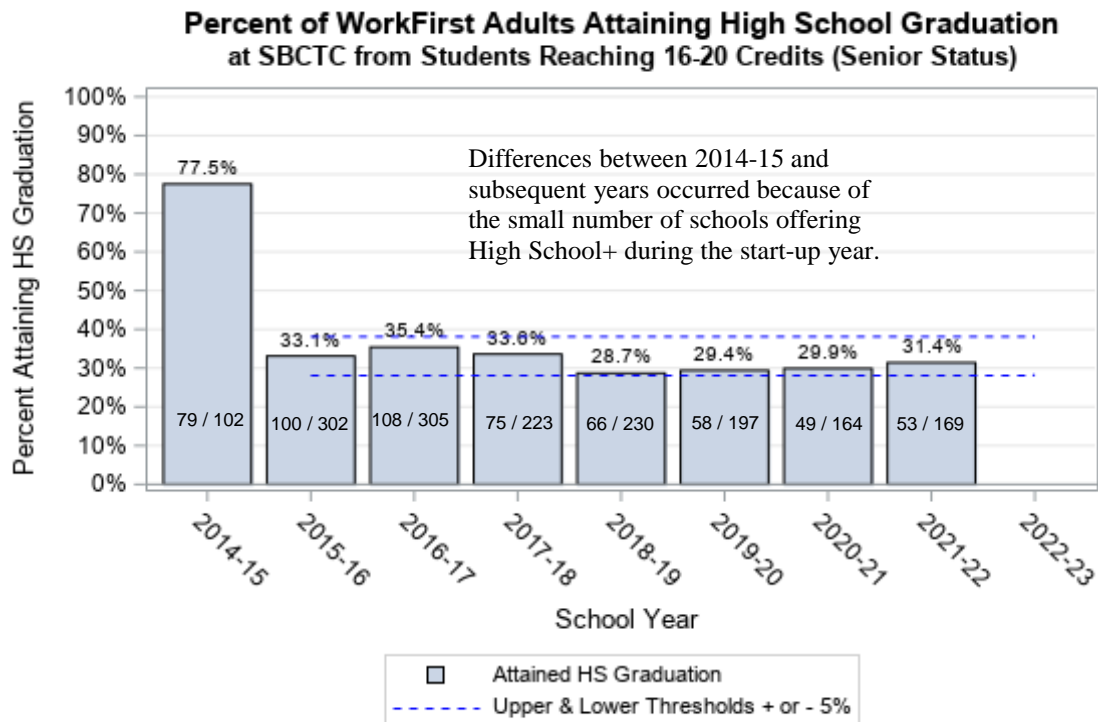
The figure of 680 hours in a year was chosen because workers with 680 hours in the past year are eligible to receive Unemployment Insurance if they meet the other requirements of that program.

An average of 80 WorkFirst adults had clean earning records during one or more of the four quarters following Limited English Program job search after each quarter of fiscal year 2021. An average of 54 of those WorkFirst adults worked for 680 hours or more during those quarters. Thresholds for this measure were calculated from the four quarters of fiscal year 2014. The average of the four quarterly 680 hour work rates was 62.7% in calendar 2011, 67.5% in FY 2014, 68.4% in FY 2016, 71.1% in FY 2017, 71.4% in FY 2018, 71.5% in FY 2019, 67.6% in FY 2020 and 68.1% in FY 2021. Results shown above run through Q3 2021. The rate in Q3 2021 was 4 percentage points lower than in Q3 2020.

This measure is calculated by OFM, using data from ACES and e-JAS from the ACES data warehouse and Unemployment Insurance wage records from the Department of Employment Security. Data were obtained from the Department of Employment Security in February 2023.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 49: Adults Attaining High School Graduation at Community Colleges



Definition of measure

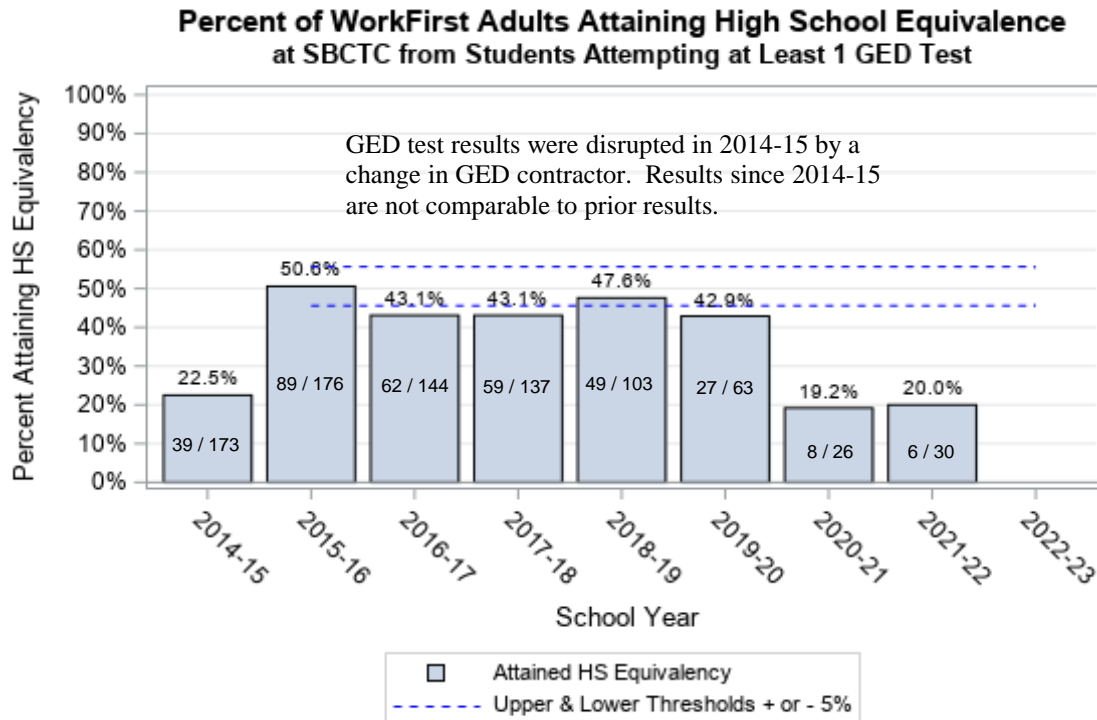
Percent of TANF adults attaining a high school diploma through SBCTC programs. The denominator of this measure is the number of WorkFirst students who were in senior status and working toward high school completion during the school year. The numerator of this measure is the number of WorkFirst students who earned a high school diploma through High School Completion or High School+ programs. Data were prepared by the Policy Research Unit of SBCTC.

The SBCTC accountability system identified 169 WorkFirst students who had reached senior status in High School Completion or High School+ programs during the 2021-22 school year, 53 of whom earned a high school diploma during the year yielding a High School completion rate of 31.4%. The High School+ program began as the High School 21+ program during 2014-15 school year. Results during that year were based on smaller numbers of WorkFirst students: 79 graduates out of 102 students in senior status at 13 colleges. Age limits were expanded during 2018-19 school year. That appears to have lowered graduation rates, as older students tend to be less likely to graduate. Results were also affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which interrupted the spring quarter of the 2019-20 school year. Results have improved slightly in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic years.

Two of the 34 SBCTC colleges are not offering WorkFirst high school completion programs. Another four did not have any WorkFirst students who reached senior status during the 2021-22 school year. SBCTC has calculated the performance for each of the 28 colleges offering high school completion programs to WorkFirst students who had attained senior status. Results are available on request.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 50: Adults Attaining High School Equivalency at Community Colleges



Definition of Measure

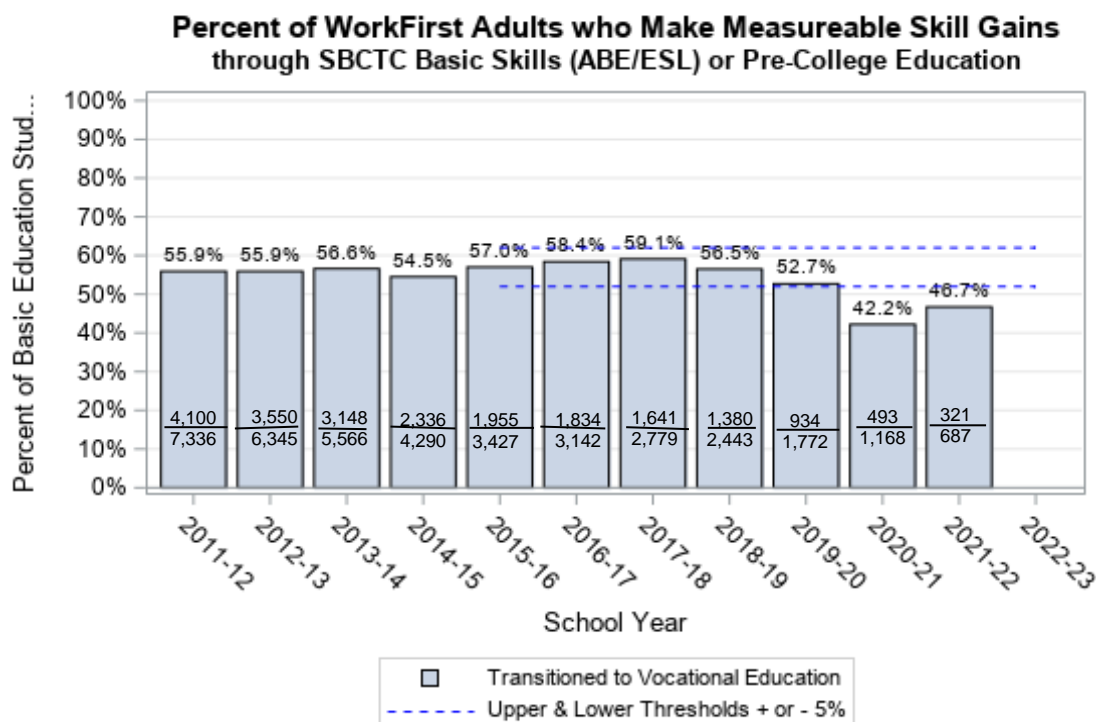
Percent of TANF adults attaining the equivalent of a high school diploma through SBCTC programs. The denominator of this measure is the number of WorkFirst Students in ABE-3, ABE-4, GED-1 and GED-2 level programs who attempted at least one of five GED tests during the school year. The numerator is the number of WorkFirst students in those programs who passed all 5 tests and attained high school equivalency. Data were prepared by the Policy Research Unit of SBCTC.

The SBCTC accountability system identified 30 WorkFirst students taking one or more of the tests necessary to receive equivalency during the 2021-22 academic year. Six of these students passed all required tests, yielding a completion rate of 20.0%. Equivalency tests were provided by a new contract beginning in 2014-15 and test takers who had not completed by that time needed to start over on a new set of tests. SBCTC also adopted a new school completion program (High School+) in May 2014. The low completion rate during the 2014-15 school year stems from this transition. 173 WorkFirst students attempted one or more tests during 2014-15 but only 39 passed all required tests. The declining number of students in this measure stems from the reduced size of the WorkFirst program, but changes in the GED program and in SBCTC data systems also play a part. The COVID-19 pandemic also interrupted the spring quarter of the 2019-20 school year and appears to have limited GED activity since 2020-21.

Two of the 34 SBCTC colleges are not offering WorkFirst high school equivalency programs. Another 22 SBCTC colleges did not have any WorkFirst students taking equivalency tests during the 2021-22 school year. Over half of the test takers in the 2020-21 school year were at three colleges. Results for the ten colleges with outcomes are available on request.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 51: Adults in ESL or Basic Education at Community Colleges with Measurable Skill Gains



Definition of Measure

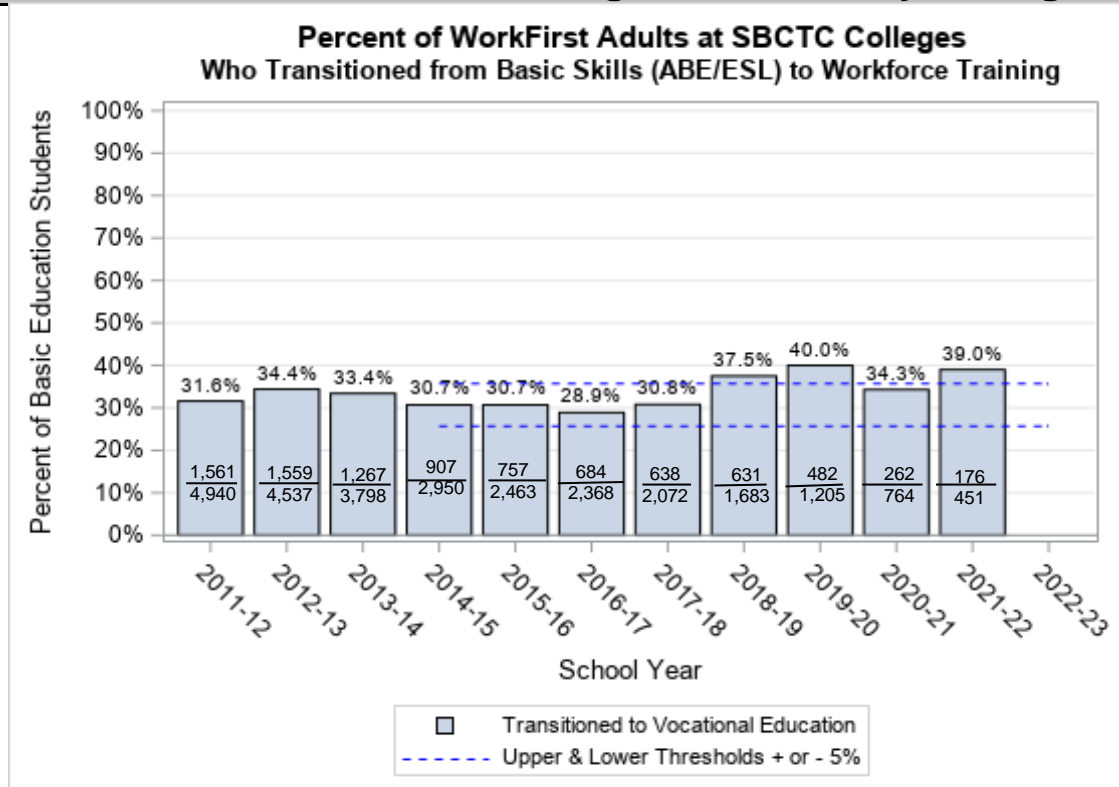
Percent of TANF adults attempting pre-college education or basic skills education in SBCTC programs who had measurable skill gains. The numerator of this measure is the number of students coded as WorkFirst during the year and enrolled in pre-college or adult basic education programs who had skill gains during the year (achievement points > 0). Points are awarded for improvements in scores on CASAS assessment tests, for earning a high school diploma or equivalent, and for achievement points related to academic courses, if any. The denominator of this measure is the number of WorkFirst students who attempted pre-college education or basic skill programs during current or previous academic year. Data were prepared by the Policy Research Unit of SBCTC.

Some 687 WorkFirst students were enrolled in basic skills or pre-college education programs during the 2020-21 or 2021-22 academic years. 321 of these students attained skill gains or other momentum points during 2021-22, yielding an achievement rate of 46.7%. Percentage results had been similar through 2018-19, but that year's program was one-third the size of the program during 2011-12. Student enrollments have been dropping since 2011 as WorkFirst caseloads declined. The COVID-19 pandemic further reduced referrals and appears to have reduced skills gains. Enrollments on this measure in 2021-22 were 91% smaller than they were during 2011-12.

One of the 34 SBCTC colleges is not participating in the WorkFirst program and two had no WorkFirst students enrolled in pre-college or adult basic education programs during the 2020-21 or 2021-22 school years. SBCTC has calculated performance for each of the 31 colleges serving WorkFirst pre-college or basic education students. These results are available on request.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 52: Adults in ESL or Basic Education who Transition to Training at Community Colleges



Definition of Measure

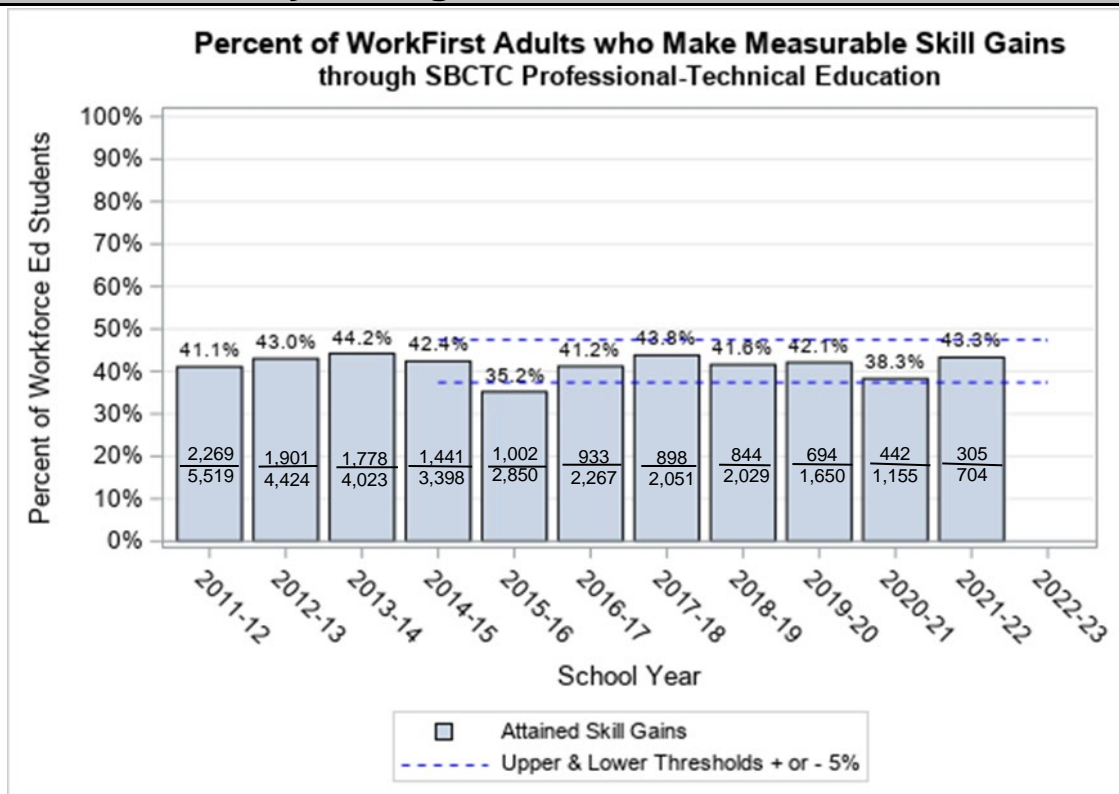
Percent of TANF adults attempting basic skills education in SBCTC programs who later enrolled in professional-technical (workforce) programs. The numerator of this measure is the number of students in the denominator of the measure who enrolled in workforce courses during the academic year. The denominator of this measure is the number of WorkFirst students who attempted basic skills programs during the current or previous academic year. Data were prepared by the Policy Research Unit of SBCTC.

Some 451 WorkFirst students were enrolled in basic skills programs during the 2020-21 or 2021-22 academic years. 176 of these WorkFirst students enrolled in professional-technical courses at SBCTC colleges during the 2021-22 school year, yielding a transition rate of 39.0%. Student enrollments have been dropping since 2011 as WorkFirst caseloads decline. The COVID-19 pandemic also interrupted the spring quarter of the 2019-20 academic year. The number of students in this measure is now 91% lower than during the 2011-12 academic year. Transition to workforce training increased to record levels during the 2018-19 school year and increased again during the 2019-20 school year. Enrollments and transitions dropped during 2020-21, likely as a result of COVID-19 impacts. Enrollments continued to drop during 2021-22, but transition rates rebounded.

One of the 34 SBCTC colleges is not participating in the WorkFirst program and three had no WorkFirst students enrolled in adult basic education programs during the 2020-21 or 2021-22 school years. SBCTC has calculated performance for each of the 30 colleges serving WorkFirst adult basic education students. These results are available on request.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 53: Adults in Workforce Education at Community Colleges with Measurable Skill Gains



Definition of Measure

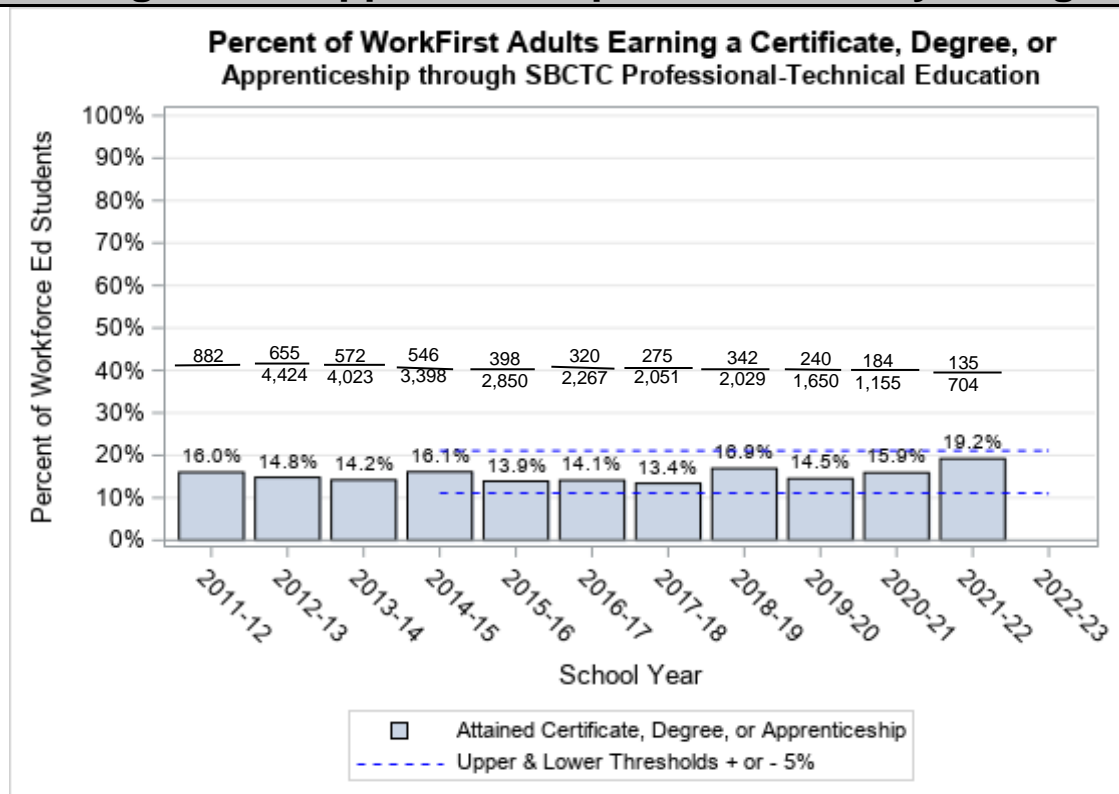
Percent of TANF adults attempting vocational education in SBCTC programs who earned college credit. The numerator of this measure is all award seeking students coded as WorkFirst during the year, except those in basic skills or English as a Second Language (ESL), who achieved the 15, 30, or 45 college level credit momentum point as measured in the SBCTC accountability system. The denominator of this measure is all award seeking WorkFirst students except those in basic skills or ESL programs during the year. Data were prepared by the Policy Research Unit of SBCTC.

A total of 704 WorkFirst award seeking students (excluding basic skills and ESL students) were enrolled at SBCTC colleges during the 2021-22 academic year. 305 of these students were awarded momentum points for attaining 15, 30, or 45 college credits during the year, yielding a rate of 43.3%. Student enrollments have been dropping as WorkFirst caseloads decline. The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted the spring quarter of the 2019-20 academic year and depressed enrollments and results during the last two academic years. The number of WorkFirst students in this measure is 87% lower than during the 2011-12 academic year.

One of the 34 SBCTC colleges is not participating in the WorkFirst program and two had no award seeking WorkFirst students during the 2021-22 school year. SBCTC has calculated performance for each of the 31 colleges serving WorkFirst award seeking students. These results are available on request.

[Return to Contents](#)

Barometer Measure 54: Adults Earning Certificates, Degrees or Apprenticeships at Community Colleges



Definition of Measure

Percent of TANF adults attempting workforce education in SBCTC programs who attain workforce certificates, degrees, or apprenticeship completions. The numerator of this measure is all award seeking students coded as WorkFirst during the year, except those in basic skills or English as a Second Language (ESL), who achieved the momentum point for certificates, degrees, or apprenticeship completion as measured in the SBCTC accountability system. The numerator does not include short 1 to 19 credit certificates. The denominator of this measure is all award seeking WorkFirst students except those in Basic Skills and ESL. Data were prepared by the Policy Research Unit of SBCTC.

A total of 704 WorkFirst award seeking students (excluding basic skills and ESL students) were enrolled at SBCTC colleges during the 2021-22 academic year. 135 of these students were awarded momentum points for attaining a qualifying certificate, degree, or apprenticeship completion during the year, yielding a rate of 19.2%. Student enrollments have been dropping as WorkFirst caseloads decline. The COVID-19 pandemic also reduced referrals and interrupted college services.

Completion rates are low, in part, because only 23.0% of adults sent to SBCTC have spent 12 or more months in professional-technical (workforce) education while in WorkFirst since July 2011: 56.7% spent 6 months or less; 35.7% spent 3 months or less. Length has increased since July 2017 under 2SSB 5347, which makes it easier to seek more than one year of education in WorkFirst. In December 2016, only 9.4% of WorkFirst adults sent to SBCTC had spent 12 or more months in professional-technical education (measured from 2006).

One of the 34 SBCTC colleges is not participating in the WorkFirst program and two had no award seeking WorkFirst students during the 2021-22 school year. SBCTC has calculated performance for each of the 31 colleges serving WorkFirst award seeking students. Results are available on request.

[Return to Contents](#)