WorkFirst Performance Chartbook

Including Program Counts and Performance Measures

January 2022

OFM Forecasting and Research Division

To find updates on the web, go to:

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

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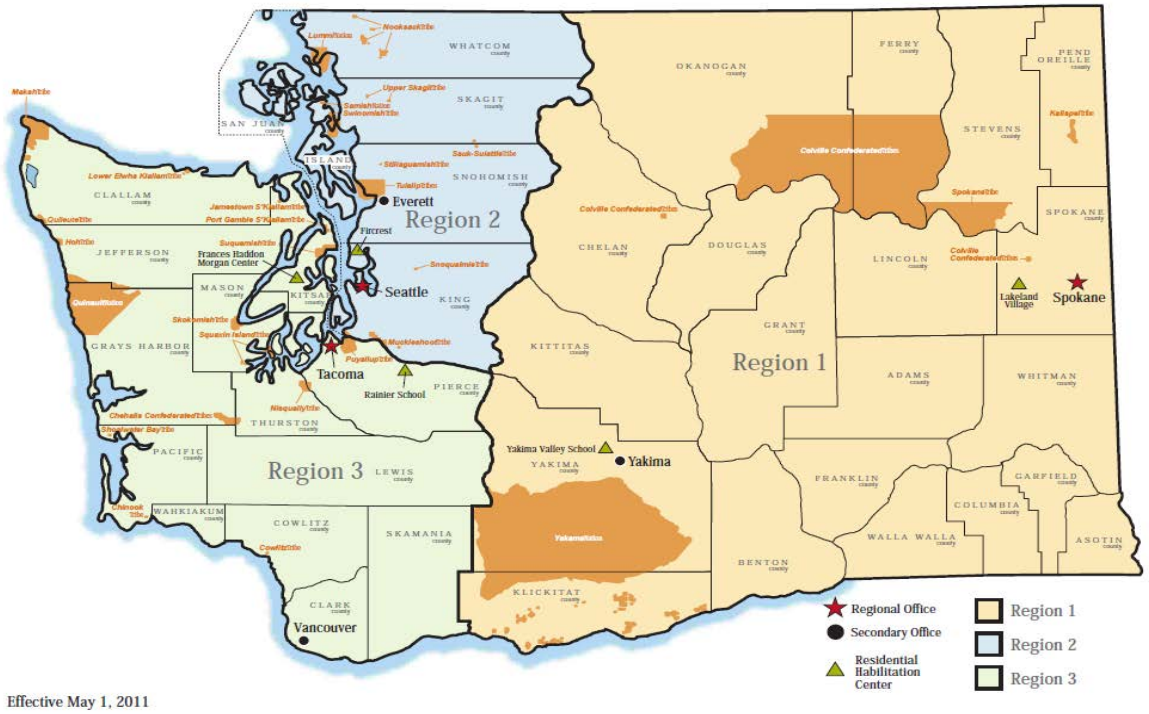
DSHS Regional Map



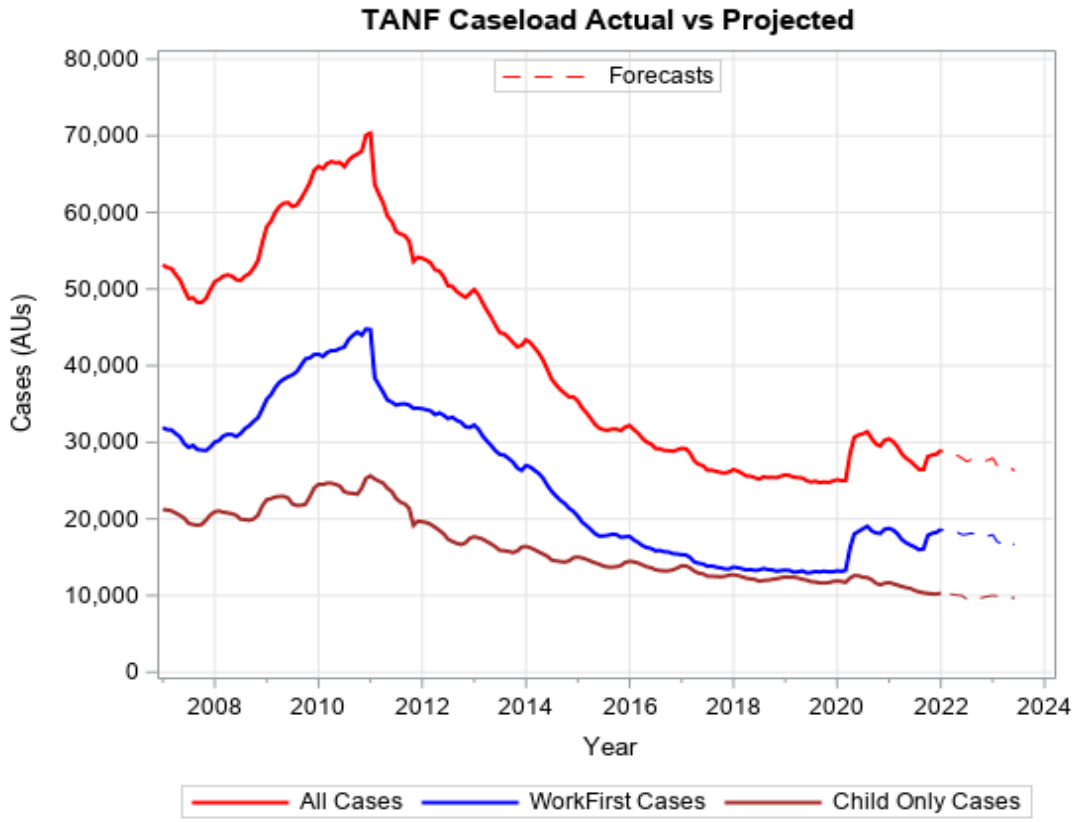
Effective May 1, 2011

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 2022. 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 polices TANF time limits, the 15% payment standard increase that began in July 2021 and the arrival of a group of Afghan refugees expected during the winter of 2021-22.

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 26,455 by September 2021 but then increased to 28,944 in January 2022. The increase was driven by WorkFirst entries related to the end of federal pandemic unemployment benefits in September 2021. In January 2022 the WorkFirst caseload was 5,359 (40.3%) higher than in March 2020 but 128 (0.7%) lower than in January 2021. By January 2022, the Child Only caseload was 1,383 (11.8%) lower than in January 2021 -- at 10,302. Child Only caseloads typically rise during winter months, and rose in January 2022 for the first time since January 2021.

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Count 1: Caseload Forecast

Month	Total Cases	% Change Year Ago	WorkFirst Cases	Child Only Cases	WorkFirst Cases Entries	WorkFirst Cases 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
Jul-18	25,195	-6.5%	13,337	11,858	1,939	1,886
Jan-19	25,755	-2.6%	13,321	12,434	1,703	1,641
Jul-19	24,816	-1.5%	13,007	11,809	1,880	1,841
Jan-20	25,112	-2.5%	13,223	11,889	1,836	1,719
Mar-20	24,998	-1.8%	13,283	11,715	1,848	1,737
Jul-20	31,100	25.3%	18,713	12,387	2,103	1,768
Jan-21	30,455	21.3%	18,770	11,685	1,538	1,422
Jul-21	26,987	-13.2%	16,325	10,662	1,347	1,616
Dec-21	28,453	-6.0%	18,245	10,208	1,832	1,711
Jan-22	28,944	-5.0%	18,642	10,302	1,963	1,566

Projected (February 2022 Forecast)

Dec-21	28,541	-5.7%	18,238	10,303	The Caseload
Jun-22	27,909	1.4%	17,933	9,976	Forecast Council
Dec-22	27,678	-3.0%	17,766	9,912	does not forecast
Jun-23	26,349	-5.6%	16,658	9,691	entries and exits

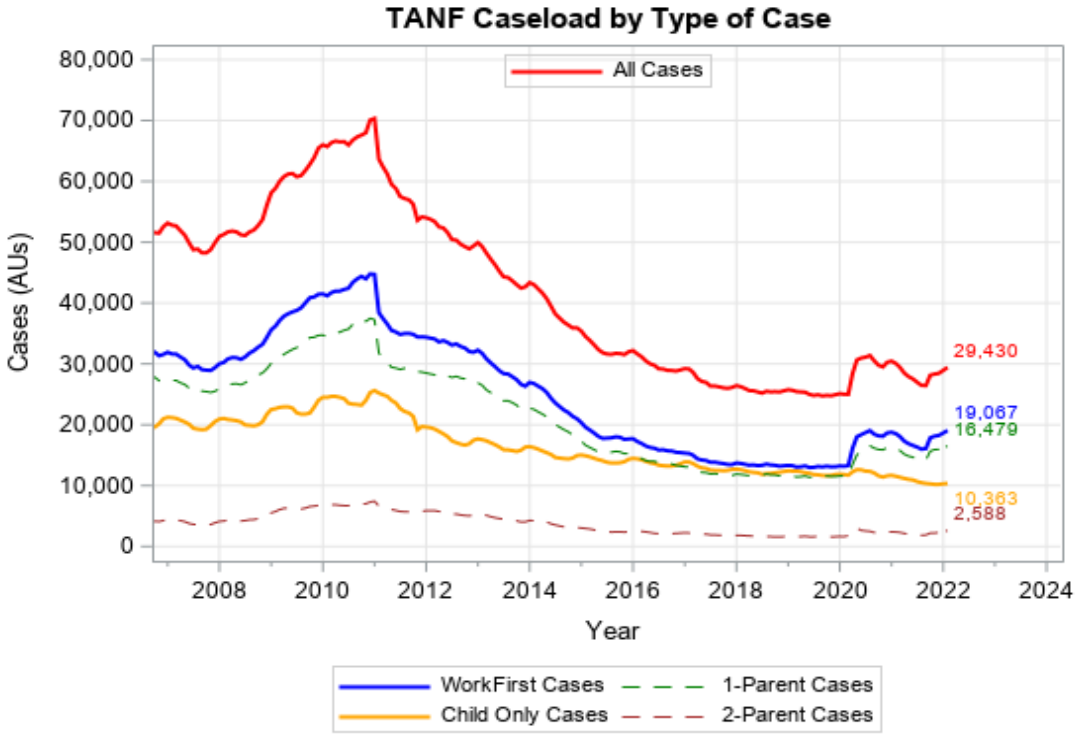
Variance from February 2022 Forecast

Month	Actual Cases	% Change Year Ago	Projected Cases	Variance Cases	%	Total TANF Entries	Total TANF Exits
Nov-21	28,333	-4.0%	28,348	-15	-0.1%	2,399	2,207
Dec-21	28,453	-6.0%	28,541	-88	-0.3%	2,243	2,123
Jan-22	28,944	-5.0%	28,852	92	0.3%	2,408	1,917
Feb-22	-	-	28,724	-	-	-	-
Mar-22	-	-	28,470	-	-	-	-
Apr-22	-	-	28,257	-	-	-	-
May-22	-	-	28,243	-	-	-	-

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 13.6% of the WorkFirst caseload in February 2022 after a period below 12% during the summer of 2021. Factors behind this pattern include changes to the Limited English Proficiency portion of the WorkFirst caseload. See pages 13-14.

Comments

In February 2022 the count of 2-parent cases was 35% lower than in FY 2008, compared with a 37% decline in 1-Parent cases. Overall, the number of WorkFirst cases was 37% below the average for FY 2008. The number of Child Only cases was 49% below the average for FY 2008.

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

WorkFirst cases made up 64.9% of the caseload in FY 2013, 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 are expected to make up 63.3% of the TANF caseload in FY 2022 and 64.1% in FY 2023. WorkFirst cases made up 64.8% of the TANF caseload in February 2022. 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 and 2,283 in FY 2021. 2-Parent cases jumped to 3,003 in May 2020 as a result of COVID-19 impacts, dropping back to 2,588 by February 2022. If 2-parent cases continue to make up 13.6% of the WorkFirst caseload, we should see an average of 2,401 2-parent households in FY 2022 and 2,372 in FY 2023.

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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-12	54,020	34,386	28,501	5,885	19,634	17.1%
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	13,223	11,573	1,650	11,887	12.5%
May-20	30,647	18,036	15,033	3,003	12,611	16.7%
Jul-20	31,102	18,715	16,162	2,553	12,387	13.6%
Jan-21	30,454	18,770	16,360	2,410	11,684	12.8%
Jul-21	26,987	16,326	14,438	1,888	10,661	11.6%
Jan-22	28,938	18,640	16,183	2,457	10,298	13.2%
Feb-22	29,430	19,067	16,479	2,588	10,363	13.6%

Percent of FY 2008 Cases

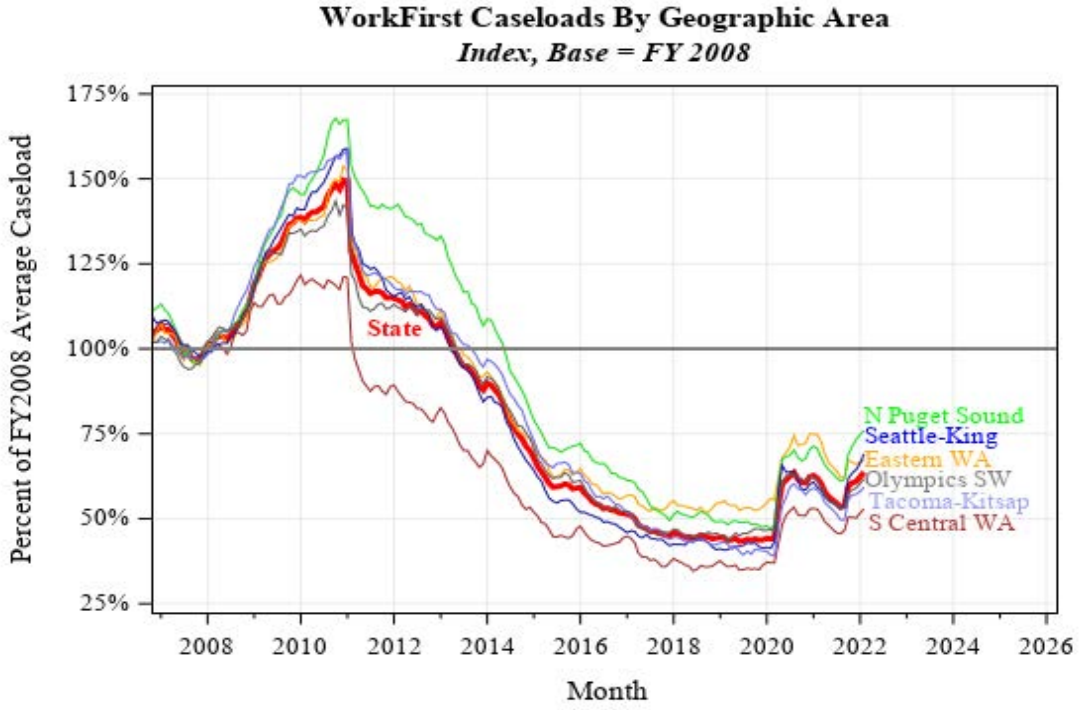
	Total Cases	WorkFirst Cases	1-Parent Cases	2-Parent Cases	Child Only Cases
FY 2008 *Cases*	50,317	30,079	26,095	3,985	20,238
Jan-11	139.8	148.6	142.8	186.9	126.6
Jan-12	107.4	114.3	109.2	147.7	97.0
Jan-13	99.2	107.2	103.0	134.9	87.4
Jan-14	86.2	89.6	87.0	107.1	81.1
Jan-15	70.3	67.7	66.3	76.3	74.3
Jan-16	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	44.0	44.3	41.4	58.7
May-20	60.9	60.0	57.6	75.4	62.3
Jul-20	61.8	62.2	61.9	64.1	61.2
Jan-21	60.5	62.4	62.7	60.5	57.7
Jul-21	53.6	54.3	55.3	47.4	52.7
Jan-22	57.5	62.0	62.0	61.7	50.9
Feb-22	58.5	63.4	63.2	65.0	51.2

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

% Caseload Change:	-42%	-37%	-37%	-35%	-49%

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

Count 1b: WorkFirst Caseload By Region



Experience to Date

In February 2022, the WorkFirst caseload was 36% below the average caseload in FY 2008, the low point for WorkFirst prior to the program changes in 2011. However, WorkFirst caseloads increased by 36% between March 2020 and March 2021. 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, That increase left the WorkFirst caseload 3% larger in February 2022 than it had been in February 2021.The increases occurred mainly in the Seattle-King County and North Puget Sound areas. Caseloads in the Seattle-King County area have fluctuated in the past because refugee arrivals change over time and Seattle-King County is the primary location for incoming refugee/Limited English Proficiency (LEP) populations. 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.

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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-14	26,919	4,128	3,396	3,514	5,454	5,448	4,979
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	13,222	2,424	1,803	1,548	2,645	2,274	2,528
Jul-20	18,714	3,151	2,539	2,221	4,058	3,336	3,409
Jan-21	18,769	3,322	2,570	2,307	3,871	3,315	3,384
Jul-21	16,324	2,837	2,224	2,003	3,436	2,885	2,939
Jan-22	18,637	2,955	2,506	2,413	4,222	3,264	3,277
Feb-22	19,064	2,974	2,564	2,454	4,395	3,329	3,348

Percentage Change in Cases February 2021 to Febuary 2022:

% Caseload Change	3%	-10%	0%	8%	17%	1%	1%

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-14	90.0	93.2	70.0	108.7	85.7	96.9	91.7
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	37.2	47.9	41.6	40.4	46.6
Jul-20	61.4	69.4	51.0	68.1	63.6	56.4	62.6
Jan-21	62.7	75.0	53.0	71.4	60.8	59.0	62.3
Jul-21	54.5	64.0	45.9	62.0	54.0	51.3	54.2
Jan-22	62.3	66.7	51.7	74.7	66.3	58.1	60.4
Feb-22	63.7	67.1	52.9	75.9	69.1	59.2	61.7

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

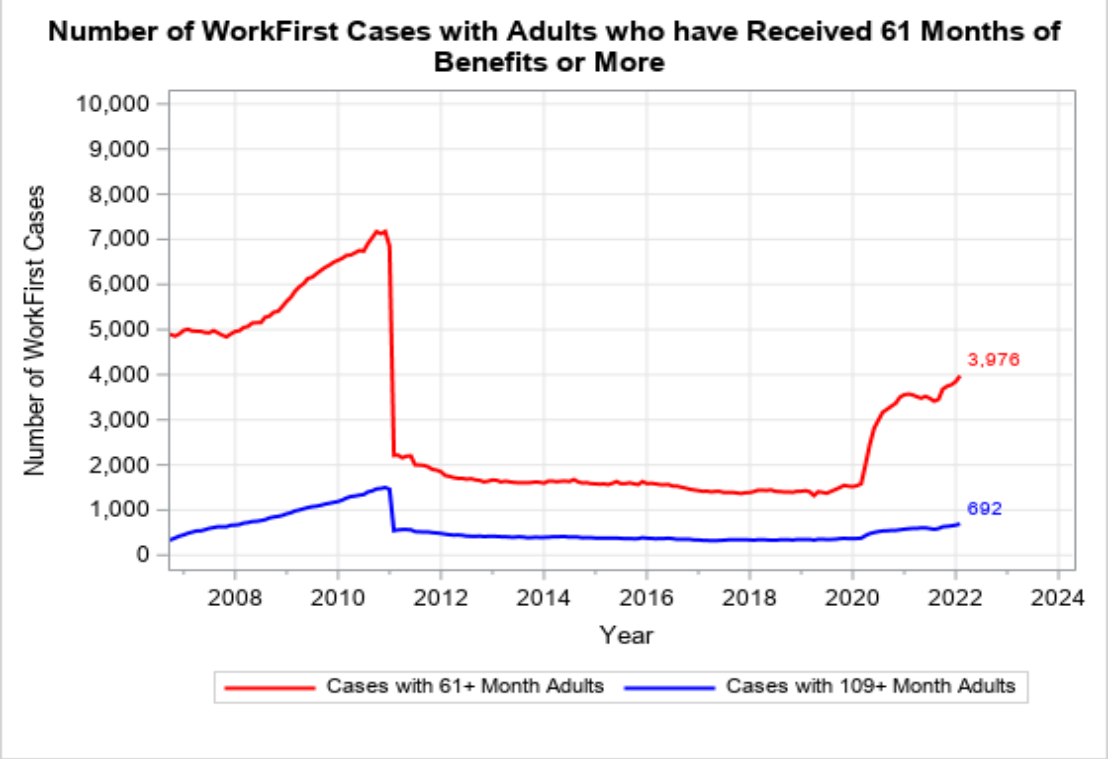
% Caseload Change	-36%	-33%	-47%	-24%	-31%	-41%	-38%

Statewide:	-36%	Region 1:	-40%	Region 2:	-29%	Region 3:	-40%

DSHS Region definitions were consolidated in March 2011 to create three new 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: OFM Forecast, 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 5,722 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 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 February 2022, WorkFirst cases with adults who had received more than 60 months of benefits made up 13.5% of all cases, 20.8% of WorkFirst cases, and 69.5% of the federal limit on extensions to TANF time limits. The number of extension cases in February 2022 was 11% higher than in February 2021 compared with a WorkFirst caseload that was up by 3% over the period. Extensions related to COVID-19 are scheduled to end on June 2022. After that, SB 5214 provides a month of time limit extension for every month beginning in March 2020 that a household was on TANF and the unemployment rate was 7% or higher. For most households reaching 60 months on TANF, this will mean they are eligible for seven additional months on TANF because the unemployment rate hit the 7% threshold for seven months early in the pandemic.

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.

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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
Nov-19	1,547	11.8%	417	381	351	143	24	159
Dec-19	1,529	11.7%	414	380	341	138	24	155
Jan-20	1,519	11.5%	410	370	358	133	23	161
Feb-20	1,541	11.7%	426	359	354	136	25	161
Mar-20	1,581	11.9%	434	367	355	151	61	166
Apr-20	2,010	12.4%	464	366	340	159	444	216
May-20	2,446	13.5%	501	359	331	160	852	214
Jun-20	2,813	15.3%	555	338	296	140	1,208	247
Jul-20	2,990	16.0%	585	313	269	124	1,396	252
Aug-20	3,168	16.6%	604	303	260	89	1,629	237
Sep-20	3,233	17.5%	611	287	245	63	1,744	227
Oct-20	3,301	18.2%	587	276	226	78	1,863	213
Nov-20	3,366	18.6%	557	276	204	77	1,989	203
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

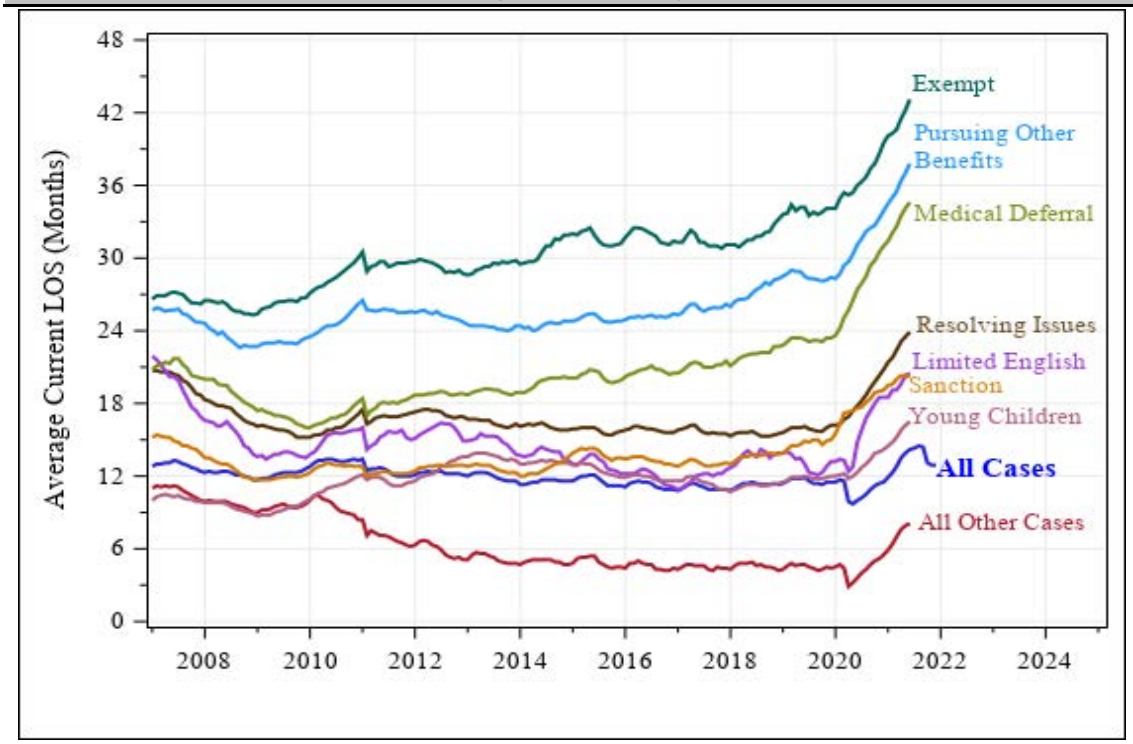
February 2022 compared to February 2021 (without adjustments for late reporting)

% Change	11%		-8%	-2%	-31%	28%	15%	28%

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 (222 cases); 55 year old caretaker relative (16); employed 32 or more hours per week (4); and open CPS case - first dependency order (6). The Homeless category includes 81 cases reported as homeless and 3 cases reported as caring for a homeless child. The remaining households not classified above (124) 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-seven percent of the cases were extended for reasons that will exempt them from or defer application of WorkFirst work participation requirements. In February 2022 there were 413 Child Only time limit extensions for COVID-19/caring for a disabled adult, up from the previous peak of 402 in January 2021. There were no Child Only cases extended for homelessness and 1 Child Only case extended for caring for a homeless child.

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 12.9 months in December 2021, up from 11.5 months in December 2020. LOS dropped from 14.4 months in September 2021 to 12.9 months due to an influx of new cases. Lifetime length of stay across all spells of WorkFirst was 22.3 months in December 2020 and 24.3 months in December 2021. The WorkFirst caseload was 2% smaller in December 2021 than in December 2020.

Comments Regarding WorkFirst Subgroups

The WorkFirst caseload was 10% smaller in June 2021 than in June 2020 (the third month of the pandemic caseload increase). The group of cases that has received Sanctions is 9% larger than it was in June 2020. All other groups are smaller. The All Other cases group (cases not assigned to any other category) shrank by 10%, most likely due to sanctions. It had a LOS of 8.1 months in the current spell but 19.4 months in lifetime LOS. Many pandemic entrants were returning after prior spells of TANF. The Young Children group shrank by 16%. The Limited English group shrank by 43%. 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 (11.4 months) in January 2017 during a rapid influx of new LEP cases. LOS for Limited English cases could drop again with the entry of Afghan refugees. The Resolving Issues group shrank by 19%. That group includes cases with drug or alcohol dependency, mental health, family violence, or homelessness issues. The Medical Deferral, Pursuing Other Benefits, and Exempt groups each shrank by 19% or more from a year earlier. The Exempt and Pursuing Other Benefits definitions correspond to two of the main 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. Reduced case management staff time and pandemic barriers reduced opportunities to engage with families and assess barriers. That left the All Other cases group much larger than before the pandemic. That group should begin to shrink as adults move into other groups.

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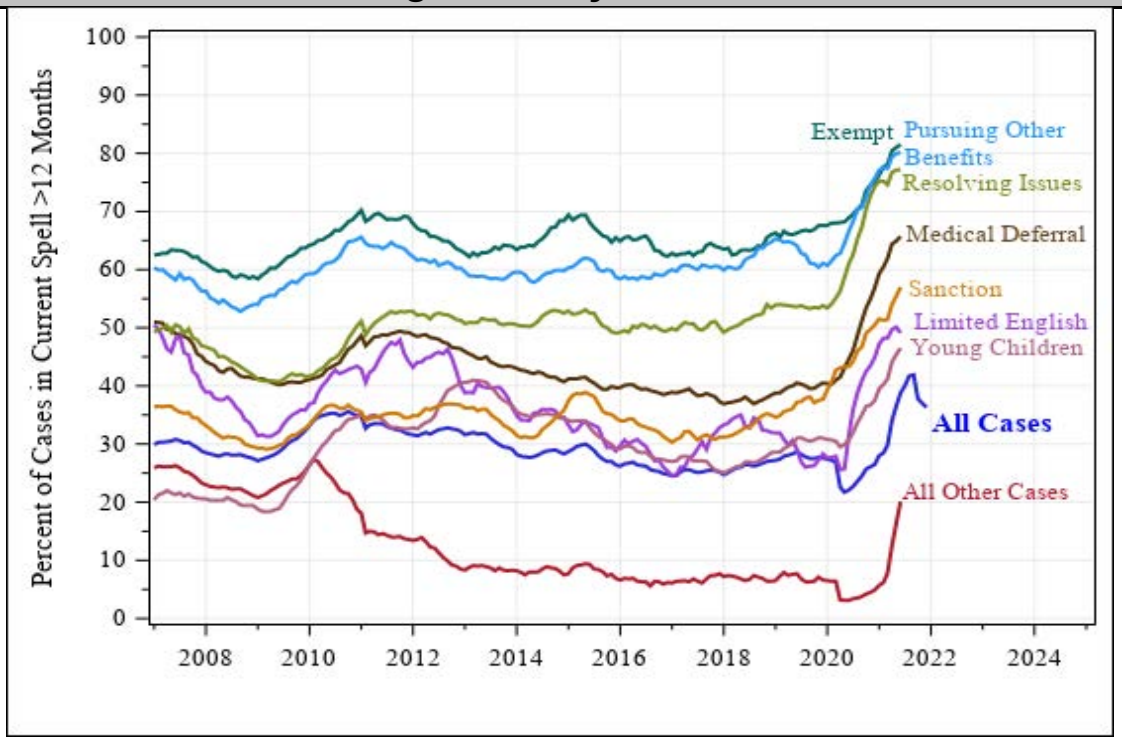
Count 1d: WorkFirst Length of Stay



Length of Stay Values as of December 2021 for All Cases, as of June 2021 for Subgroups

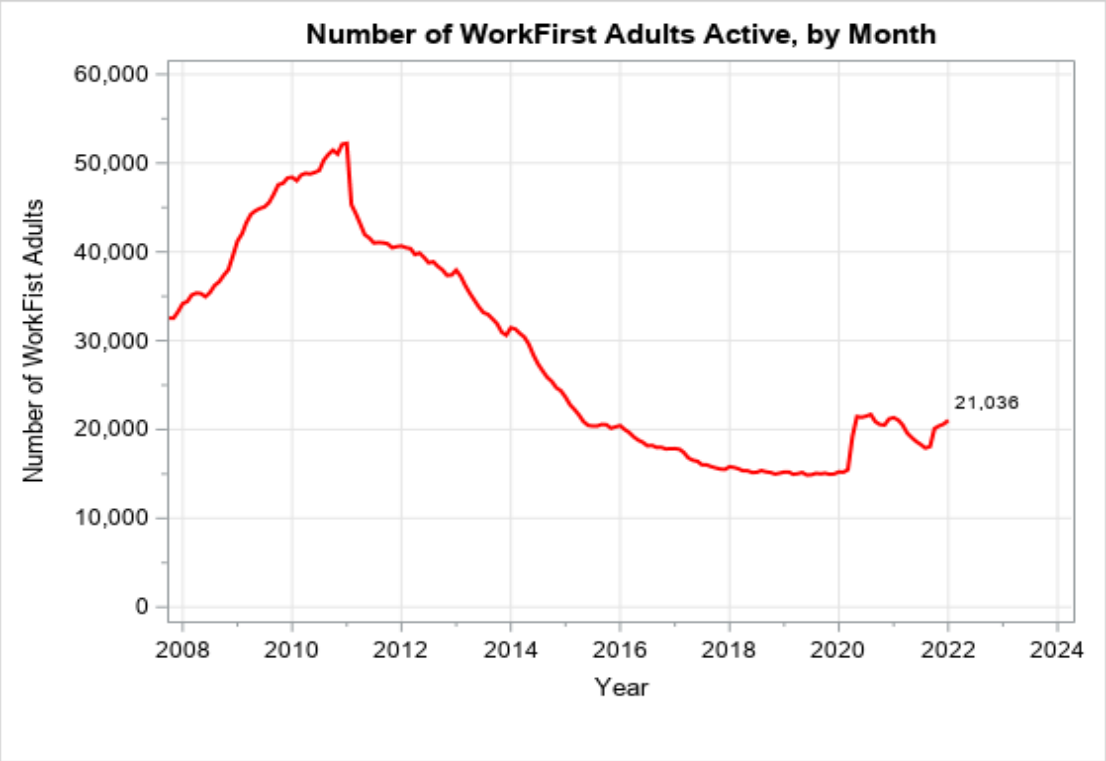
Type of Case	Number	Current Case LOS	Same 12 Mos Ago	Percent of Cases >12 mos	Percent 12 Mos Ago	Lifetime LOS in Mos	Same 12 Mos Ago
All Cases	***18,347***	***12.9***	***11.5***	***36.3***	***26.5***	***24.3***	***22.3***
Exempt	825	43.1	36.0	81.5	68.9	61.7	53.5
Resolving Issues	4,589	23.9	17.8	65.7	44.6	37.4	30.9
Limited English	521	20.5	14.8	49.1	31.5	26.5	20.0
Medical Deferral	1,431	34.6	27.4	77.2	61.0	51.0	41.7
Other Benefits	1,316	37.8	31.1	80.2	66.6	56.9	49.8
Young Children	6,299	16.5	12.3	46.5	30.7	23.6	19.3
Sanction	2,748	20.2	17.6	57.0	43.3	32.6	29.5
All Other Cases	5,781	8.1	3.6	20.1	3.1	19.4	14.4

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 December 2021. LOS for other groups is through June 2021. The conditions that define the groups may not yet have been identified as of June 2021. I can take six months for the barriers to be identified that sort cases into the subgroups. For example, many cases sorted into the Sanction group were open in June 2021 but classified into that group based on sanctions applied after October 2021. 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 was more or less stable between 2002 and 2006, at around 40,000 per month with seasonal variations. Adult counts began to decline in 2006, bottoming out at 32,543 in October 2007. Then counts began to increase during the recession in 2008. 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 and 21,694 in August 2020 due to COVID-19 impacts. The count was 21,036 in January 2022, an increase of 2,958 from September 2021. That increase appears to have resulted from the expiration of federal unemployment insurance benefits. The average number of WorkFirst adults was 20,551 in FY 2021, up from 16,495 in FY 2020 and 15,627 in FY 2018 but below the average of 23,840 in FY 2015. The February 2022 caseload forecast implies caseloads of 20,090 WorkFirst adults in FY 2022 and 19,852 in FY 2023.

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 December 2021 contributed to caseload increases in Seattle-King County in those months.

Counts include adjustments that add in TANF recipients who are paid through subsidized jobs instead of TANF grants. This correction added an average of 340 adults per month in FY 2020 and 165 adults per month in FY 2021. These counts are not lag-adjusted. Return to Contents

Count 1e: WorkFirst Adults

Data Table

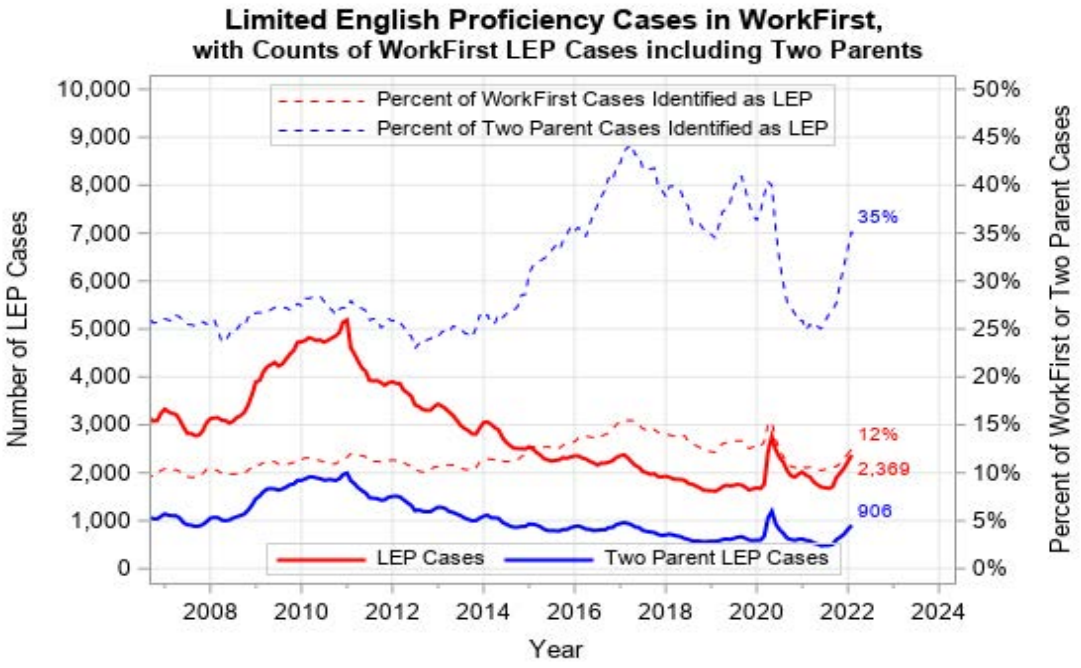
	Region 1		Region 2		Region 3		
Month	Eastern Wash	South Central	North Puget Sound	Seattle King Co.	Tacoma Kitsap	Olympics Southwest	Statewide Total
Mar-19	2,805	1,997	1,764	3,033	2,667	2,692	14,960
Apr-19	2,799	1,996	1,810	3,099	2,576	2,743	15,023
May-19	2,787	2,019	1,825	3,097	2,612	2,819	15,160
Jun-19	2,707	1,938	1,817	3,101	2,525	2,787	14,875
Jul-19	2,735	1,925	1,828	3,129	2,467	2,812	14,896
Aug-19	2,727	1,954	1,841	3,181	2,537	2,826	15,066
Sep-19	2,696	1,942	1,816	3,191	2,486	2,875	15,006
Oct-19	2,669	1,944	1,803	3,182	2,576	2,904	15,079
Nov-19	2,708	1,918	1,779	3,090	2,554	2,904	14,955
Dec-19	2,773	1,984	1,760	3,048	2,552	2,874	14,993
Jan-20	2,862	2,060	1,783	3,077	2,553	2,892	15,227
Feb-20	2,919	2,035	1,741	3,091	2,483	2,919	15,189
Mar-20	2,924	2,063	1,803	3,306	2,456	2,917	15,468
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	3,498	3,921	21,458
Jun-20	3,617	2,830	2,552	4,755	3,639	3,978	21,373
Jul-20	3,665	2,882	2,559	4,677	3,772	3,939	21,497
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	3,658	3,822	21,059
Mar-21	3,736	2,823	2,502	4,182	3,585	3,705	20,537
Apr-21	3,528	2,698	2,412	4,021	3,426	3,524	19,610
May-21	3,379	2,637	2,357	3,964	3,366	3,395	19,099
Jun-21	3,302	2,563	2,297	3,859	3,272	3,357	18,650
Jul-21	3,249	2,500	2,246	3,823	3,177	3,317	18,313
Aug-21	3,152	2,474	2,210	3,760	3,078	3,236	17,910
Sep-21	3,162	2,526	2,236	3,832	3,081	3,240	18,078
Oct-21	3,429	2,736	2,536	4,424	3,459	3,525	20,109
Nov-21	3,393	2,732	2,617	4,555	3,545	3,567	20,409
Dec-21	3,356	2,725	2,698	4,653	3,566	3,613	20,611
Jan-22	3,384	2,821	2,741	4,790	3,597	3,703	21,036

January 2022 compared to January 2021 (without adjustments for late reporting)							Statewide
% Change	-13%	-3%	5%	10%	-3%	-5%	-1%

Region 1:	-9%	Region 2:	8%	Region 3:	-4%	Statewide:	-1%

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. Thirteen 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 February 2022 were: Afghanistan, Ukraine, Mexico, Marshall Islands, Iraq, Micronesia, Ethiopia, Somalia, Russia and Eritrea. These nationalities accounted for 63% of the LEP population. Seventy-seven percent of those receiving services were from Afghanistan, Ukraine, Iraq, Ethiopia, Russia, Mexico, Somalia, Marshall Islands, Eritrea and Iran. An influx of Afghan refugees is under way. Refugees from Ukraine and Russia will likely follow. DSHS counts for February 2022 showed 353 TANF/SFA households with an Afghan recipient who arrived after August 1, 2021.

Trends

The LEP case count within WorkFirst was 22% higher in February 2022 than in February 2021 compared with a 3% increase in WorkFirst cases. The percent of WorkFirst cases involving LEP dropped from a peak of 15.5% in April 2017 to12.7% prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, rose to 15.2% in May 2020, dropped to 10.2% in June 2021 but was 12,4% by February 2022.

Thirty-eight percent of LEP households in February 2022 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 was 3% higher in February 2022 than in February 2021-- but only 4% of the LEP population. ESL Level 1 is the lowest level of proficiency, indicating that the adult functions "minimally, if at all, in English". Only 11% of the LEP population in February 2022 had been tested for English language skills, down from 14% in February 2021.

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.

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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
Apr-19	13,115	1,709	13.0%	14,742	2,227	15.1%	243	10.9%
May-19	13,242	1,741	13.1%	14,888	2,272	15.3%	235	10.3%
Jun-19	12,987	1,726	13.3%	14,580	2,255	15.5%	223	9.9%
Jul-19	13,017	1,738	13.4%	14,604	2,297	15.7%	221	9.6%
Aug-19	13,168	1,757	13.3%	14,780	2,337	15.8%	208	8.9%
Sep-19	13,094	1,745	13.3%	14,717	2,332	15.9%	196	8.4%
Oct-19	13,199	1,699	12.9%	14,801	2,262	15.3%	190	8.4%
Nov-19	13,106	1,641	12.5%	14,673	2,163	14.7%	172	8.0%
Dec-19	13,123	1,666	12.7%	14,717	2,177	14.8%	173	7.9%
Jan-20	13,247	1,686	12.7%	14,879	2,197	14.8%	169	7.7%
Feb-20	13,190	1,671	12.7%	14,786	2,183	14.8%	156	7.1%
Mar-20	13,302	1,765	13.3%	15,043	2,355	15.7%	174	7.4%
Apr-20	16,185	2,443	15.1%	18,807	3,315	17.6%	237	7.1%
May-20	18,060	2,754	15.2%	21,046	3,726	17.7%	262	7.0%
Jun-20	18,387	2,479	13.5%	21,016	3,230	15.4%	220	6.8%
Jul-20	18,728	2,321	12.4%	21,262	2,978	14.0%	189	6.3%
Aug-20	19,056	2,223	11.7%	21,529	2,808	13.0%	166	5.9%
Sep-20	18,451	2,045	11.1%	20,729	2,551	12.3%	163	6.4%
Oct-20	18,187	1,940	10.7%	20,418	2,426	11.9%	146	6.0%
Nov-20	18,127	1,909	10.5%	20,348	2,377	11.7%	127	5.3%
Dec-20	18,663	1,974	10.6%	21,034	2,455	11.7%	132	5.4%
Jan-21	18,781	2,016	10.7%	21,175	2,495	11.8%	135	5.4%
Feb-21	18,539	1,945	10.5%	20,898	2,391	11.4%	123	5.1%
Mar-21	18,074	1,916	10.6%	20,360	2,357	11.6%	125	5.3%
Apr-21	17,315	1,814	10.5%	19,439	2,216	11.4%	129	5.8%
May-21	16,900	1,751	10.4%	18,938	2,134	11.3%	116	5.4%
Jun-21	16,599	1,701	10.2%	18,511	2,056	11.1%	107	5.2%
Jul-21	16,330	1,688	10.3%	18,207	2,058	11.3%	96	4.7%
Aug-21	15,985	1,672	10.5%	17,819	2,056	11.5%	93	4.5%
Sep-21	16,108	1,709	10.6%	17,988	2,116	11.8%	102	4.8%
Oct-21	17,857	1,900	10.6%	20,038	2,372	11.8%	115	4.8%
Nov-21	18,134	1,997	11.0%	20,333	2,513	12.4%	120	4.8%
Dec-21	18,253	2,096	11.5%	20,535	2,680	13.1%	122	4.6%
Jan-22	18,642	2,236	12.0%	21,089	2,912	13.8%	123	4.2%
Feb-22	19,071	2,369	12.4%	21,649	3,126	14.4%	127	4.1%

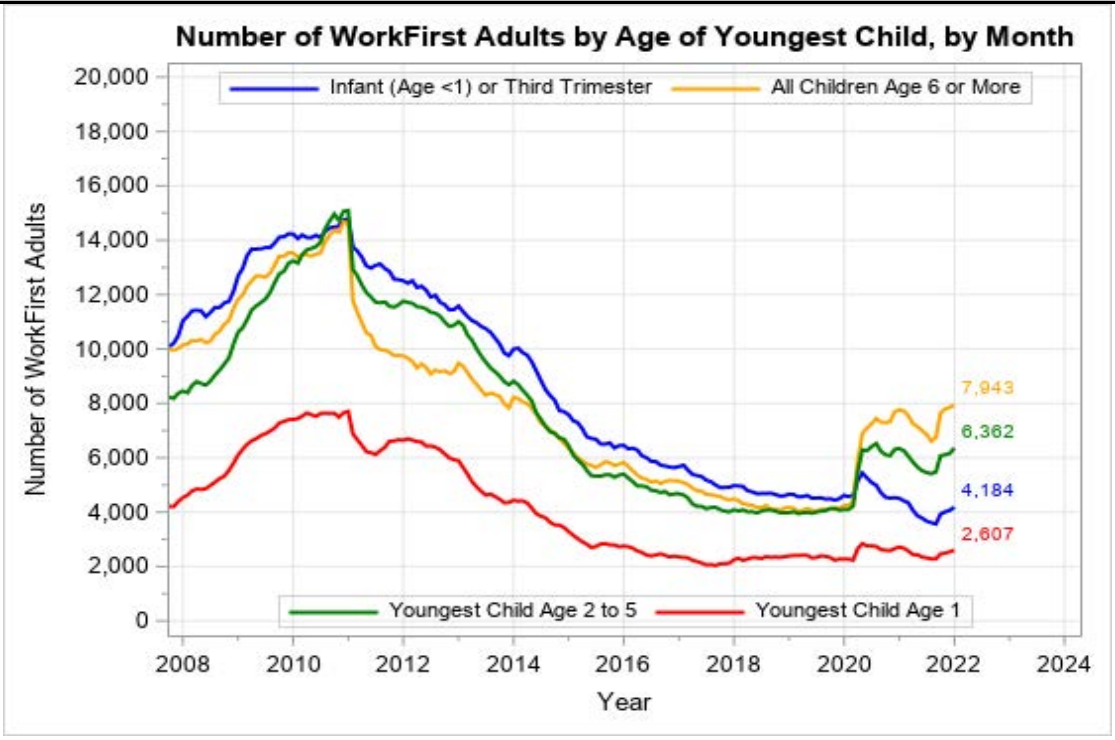
February 2022 compared to February 2021 (without adjustments for late reporting)

% Change	3%	22%	4%	31%	3%	

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. However, that group showed relatively slow growth after the COVID-19 emergency began. Households with youngest child age 6 or older are the largest portion of the caseload and showed a 2% increase over the past year compared with a 1% decrease in cases overall. 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). Counts of households with youngest child age 2 to 5 increased by less than 1%. The count of households with youngest child age one was 4% smaller than in January 2021. The number of WorkFirst households with adults who were pregnant or had an infant was 7% smaller than in January 2021.

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Count 1g: Adults by Age of Youngest Child

Data Table

	Youngest Child			Work Participation Requirements				
		Age 1 Year		20 Hours	35 Hours	30 Hours	35 Hours	
	Infant Age	but < 2 Years	Potential	Youngest Child Age		No Child Younger		
	< 1 Year	(Exemptions	Exemption	Two but < Six Years		Than Age Six		Total
Month	or Pregnant	Began Oct-17)	Parents	1 Adult	2 Adults	1 Adult	2 Adults	Adults
Jul-19	4,520	2,334	4,693	3,098	907	3,260	777	14,896
Aug-19	4,528	2,396	4,733	3,114	922	3,345	763	15,066
Sep-19	4,479	2,372	4,679	3,090	964	3,344	757	15,006
Oct-19	4,491	2,336	4,688	3,160	977	3,384	731	15,079
Nov-19	4,442	2,232	4,600	3,154	974	3,447	709	14,955
Dec-19	4,495	2,278	4,657	3,135	938	3,410	738	14,993
Jan-20	4,619	2,271	4,685	3,130	963	3,467	778	15,227
Feb-20	4,569	2,271	4,622	3,177	923	3,470	781	15,189
Mar-20	4,626	2,236	4,557	3,150	1,074	3,514	869	15,468
Apr-20	5,165	2,659	5,101	3,862	1,634	4,565	1,340	19,224
May-20	5,441	2,843	5,385	4,365	1,924	5,359	1,527	21,458
Jun-20	5,255	2,756	5,317	4,580	1,683	5,771	1,329	21,373
Jul-20	5,089	2,757	5,282	4,764	1,645	5,945	1,297	21,497
Aug-20	4,988	2,740	5,244	4,910	1,614	6,185	1,257	21,694
Sep-20	4,716	2,622	4,989	4,757	1,481	6,149	1,160	20,884
Oct-20	4,550	2,602	4,863	4,713	1,402	6,133	1,160	20,560
Nov-20	4,516	2,586	4,799	4,698	1,377	6,173	1,152	20,502
Dec-20	4,533	2,658	4,832	4,821	1,490	6,441	1,244	21,187
Jan-21	4,509	2,716	4,874	4,832	1,507	6,535	1,237	21,336
Feb-21	4,413	2,672	4,761	4,793	1,463	6,480	1,238	21,059
Mar-21	4,350	2,574	4,606	4,671	1,394	6,318	1,230	20,537
Apr-21	4,068	2,439	4,319	4,545	1,303	6,110	1,145	19,610
May-21	3,869	2,432	4,178	4,416	1,241	6,036	1,106	19,099
Jun-21	3,780	2,348	4,061	4,383	1,139	5,954	1,046	18,650
Jul-21	3,670	2,321	4,018	4,346	1,113	5,826	1,037	18,313
Aug-21	3,612	2,276	3,943	4,309	1,103	5,639	972	17,910
Sep-21	3,565	2,279	3,942	4,332	1,154	5,732	1,017	18,078
Oct-21	3,930	2,466	4,346	4,696	1,376	6,417	1,225	20,109
Nov-21	4,010	2,493	4,450	4,741	1,371	6,519	1,276	20,409
Dec-21	4,066	2,538	4,516	4,704	1,453	6,532	1,322	20,611
Jan-22	4,184	2,607	4,621	4,786	1,576	6,575	1,368	21,036

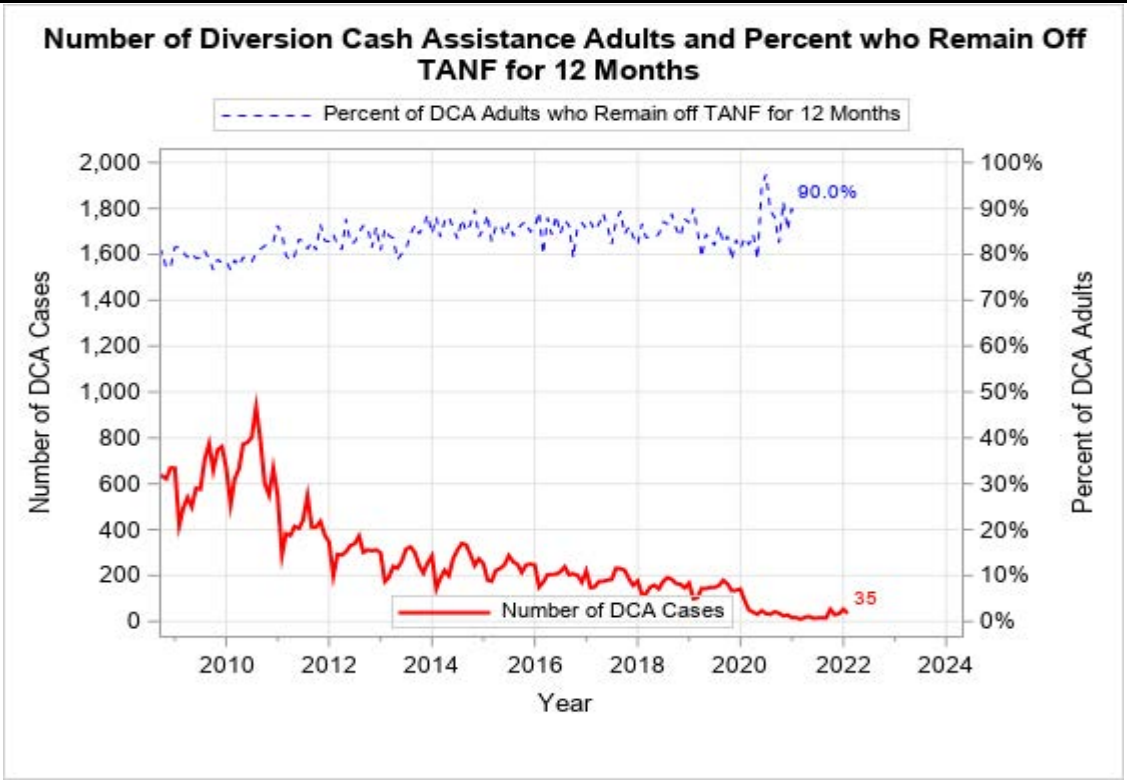
January 2022 compared to January 2021 (without adjustments for late reporting)

% Change	-7%	-4%	-5%	-1%	5%	1%	11%	-1%

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



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. Eighty-three percent of DCA payments in February 2022 were used to pay for housing assistance, 12% for transportation related expense and 5% 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 17 CSOs in February 2022. Lakewood CSO had four users. Columbia River, Puyallup Valley and Yakima CSOs had three users each. Five other CSOs had two users. DCA use reached a record low in March 2021. Use in October 2021 saw a large number of WorkFirst entries and the highest DCA use since February 2020 before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. DCA use was highest during the Great Recession (2009-10).

The percent of DCA households remaining off TANF for 12 months was 90% for households starting DCA in January 2021. Results became more variable after April 2020 as the DCA caseload grew smaller and COVID-19 affected return to TANF (see page 63).

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Count 2: DCA Success Rate

Data Table

Month	DCA Cases	DCA Adults	Adults w/ No TANF	Success Rate	WorkFirst Entries	DCA as % of Entries
		___DCA Adults in Next 12 Months___				
Dec-19	135	178	148	83%	1,726	8%
Jan-20	141	176	143	81%	1,836	8%
Feb-20	90	110	92	84%	1,567	6%
Mar-20	50	67	55	82%	1,848	3%
Apr-20	40	51	43	84%	4,300	1%
May-20	31	38	30	79%	2,675	1%
Jun-20	47	61	58	95%	2,626	2%
Jul-20	34	38	37	97%	2,103	2%
Aug-20	31	38	34	89%	1,975	2%
Sep-20	42	50	44	88%	1,805	2%
Oct-20	36	40	33	83%	1,767	2%
Nov-20	24	35	32	91%	1,838	1%
Dec-20	28	34	29	85%	1,836	2%
Jan-21	16	20	18	90%	1,538	1%
Feb-21	17	22	.	.	1,315	1%
Mar-21	10	12	.	.	1,085	1%
Apr-21	17	18	.	.	949	2%
May-21	22	26	.	.	1,264	2%
Jun-21	14	21	.	.	1,326	1%
Jul-21	15	19	.	.	1,347	1%
Aug-21	16	.	.	.	1,255	1%
Sep-21	15	.	.	.	1,615	1%
Oct-21	53	.	.	.	3,144	2%
Nov-21	29	.	.	.	2,025	1%
Dec-21	33	.	.	.	1,832	2%
Jan-22	53	.	.	.	1,963	3%
Feb-22	35	.	.	.	1,617	2%

February 2022 compared to February 2021

% Change	106%	23%

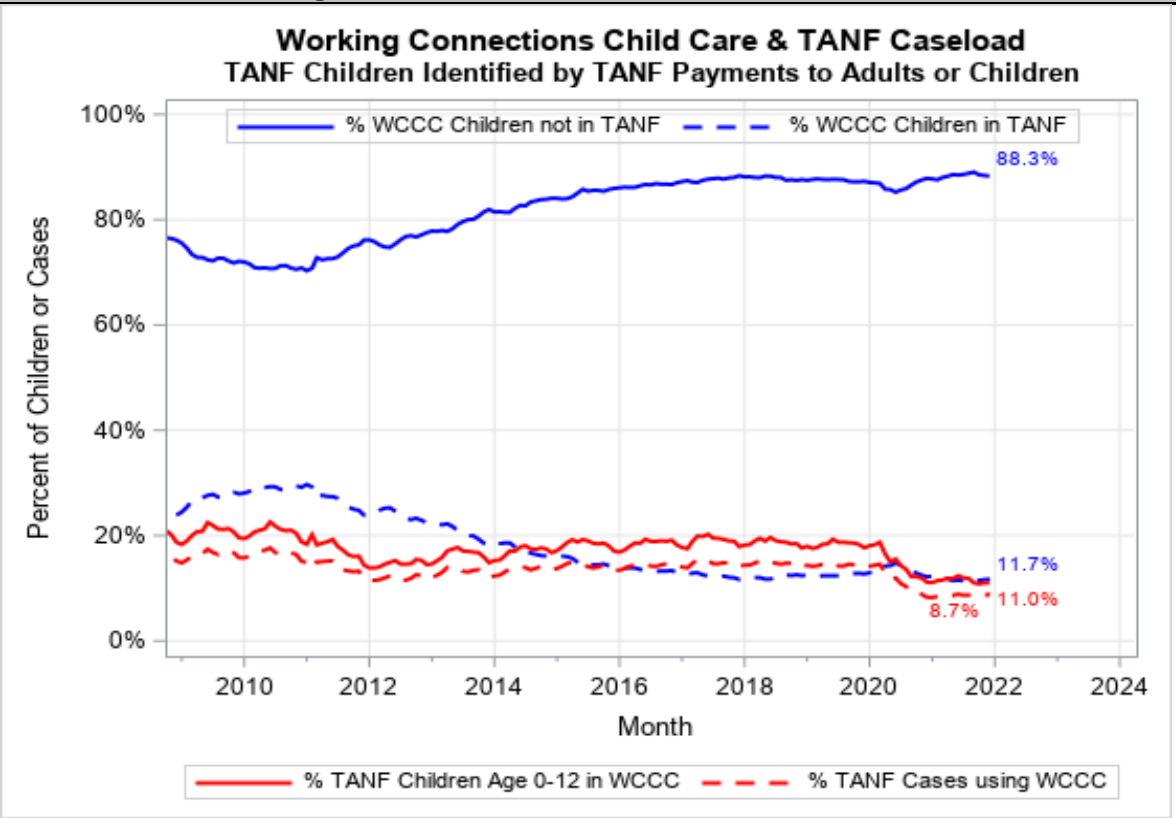
If DCA recipients had entered TANF instead, WorkFirst entries would have been 14% higher in calendar year 2010. DCA use reduced WorkFirst entries by 9% in 2015 through 2017 and by 8% in 2018 and 2019. DCA use in February 2022 was 106% higher than in February 2021. WorkFirst entries increased by 23% over 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. Counts of DCA cases are lag adjusted to reflect delayed reporting. WorkFirst entry counts were prepared by the Caseload Forecast Council.

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 11.0% in December 2021. However, most WCCC households have used TANF in the past: 73% of WCCC households in December 2021 had used TANF: 14% in November or December 2021; 46% most recently between February 2011 and October 2021; and 13% prior to the TANF program changes of February 2011. The majority (72%) of past TANF users of WCCC (prior to November 2021) had incomes reported at above the Federal Poverty Level.

Comments

Caseloads in these charts are not adjusted for late reporting. Caseloads for November and December 2021 could rise by 1.1% and 2.0% respectively 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 should expand again under the Fair Start Act (see page 20). The December to December comparisons in these pages suggest that there was a 3.0% increase in cases and a 3.6% reduction in children served over the past year (with fewer children per household served). December 2021 caseloads will likely reach 19,686 households and 34,434 children once all bills are paid -- case counts 5.1% higher and child counts only 0.6% lower than in December 2020. Data were obtained on March 2, 2022.

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Count 3: Working Connections Child Care

Data Table

Month	WCCC Cases	Non-TANF Related Cases	TANF Related Cases	WCCC Children	TANF WCCC Children	% of TANF Households Using WCCC	% of TANF Children 0-12 Using WCCC
Aug-19	26,270	22,734	3,536	46,727	5,798	14.2%	18.7%
Sep-19	26,082	22,479	3,603	45,040	5,735	14.6%	18.6%
Oct-19	25,950	22,363	3,587	44,613	5,716	14.4%	18.6%
Nov-19	25,575	22,021	3,554	43,754	5,607	14.3%	18.3%
Dec-19	25,118	21,650	3,468	43,016	5,467	13.9%	17.7%
Jan-20	25,338	21,781	3,557	43,508	5,628	14.2%	18.1%
Feb-20	25,319	21,728	3,591	43,320	5,638	14.4%	18.3%
Mar-20	25,476	21,840	3,636	44,302	5,807	14.5%	18.7%
Apr-20	24,099	20,415	3,684	42,224	6,000	12.9%	16.5%
May-20	23,489	19,872	3,617	41,385	5,909	11.8%	15.0%
Jun-20	23,225	19,527	3,698	41,281	6,101	11.9%	15.5%
Jul-20	21,950	18,565	3,385	39,277	5,646	10.9%	14.3%
Aug-20	21,210	17,969	3,241	38,199	5,390	10.3%	13.6%
Sep-20	19,131	16,339	2,792	34,752	4,664	9.2%	12.2%
Oct-20	19,439	16,711	2,728	35,413	4,545	9.2%	12.2%
Nov-20	19,373	16,767	2,606	35,332	4,400	8.8%	11.9%
Dec-20	18,994	16,493	2,501	34,619	4,209	8.3%	11.1%
Jan-21	18,921	16,411	2,510	34,370	4,218	8.2%	11.1%
Feb-21	18,993	16,456	2,537	34,413	4,280	8.4%	11.5%
Mar-21	19,341	16,862	2,479	34,963	4,193	8.4%	11.5%
Apr-21	19,563	17,123	2,440	35,208	4,141	8.6%	11.9%
May-21	19,633	17,222	2,411	34,987	4,003	8.6%	11.8%
Jun-21	19,844	17,406	2,438	35,707	4,115	8.9%	12.4%
Jul-21	19,347	17,004	2,343	34,652	3,961	8.7%	12.0%
Aug-21	19,203	16,899	2,304	34,379	3,851	8.7%	11.9%
Sep-21	18,812	16,558	2,254	32,850	3,603	8.5%	11.0%
Oct-21	19,117	16,713	2,404	32,882	3,776	8.5%	10.8%
Nov-21	19,585	17,088	2,497	33,488	3,887	8.8%	11.0%
Dec-21	19,573	17,101	2,472	33,365	3,913	8.7%	11.0%

December 2021 compared to December 2020 (without adjustments for late reporting)

Change	3%	4%	-1%	-4%	-7%

Definition of Measure

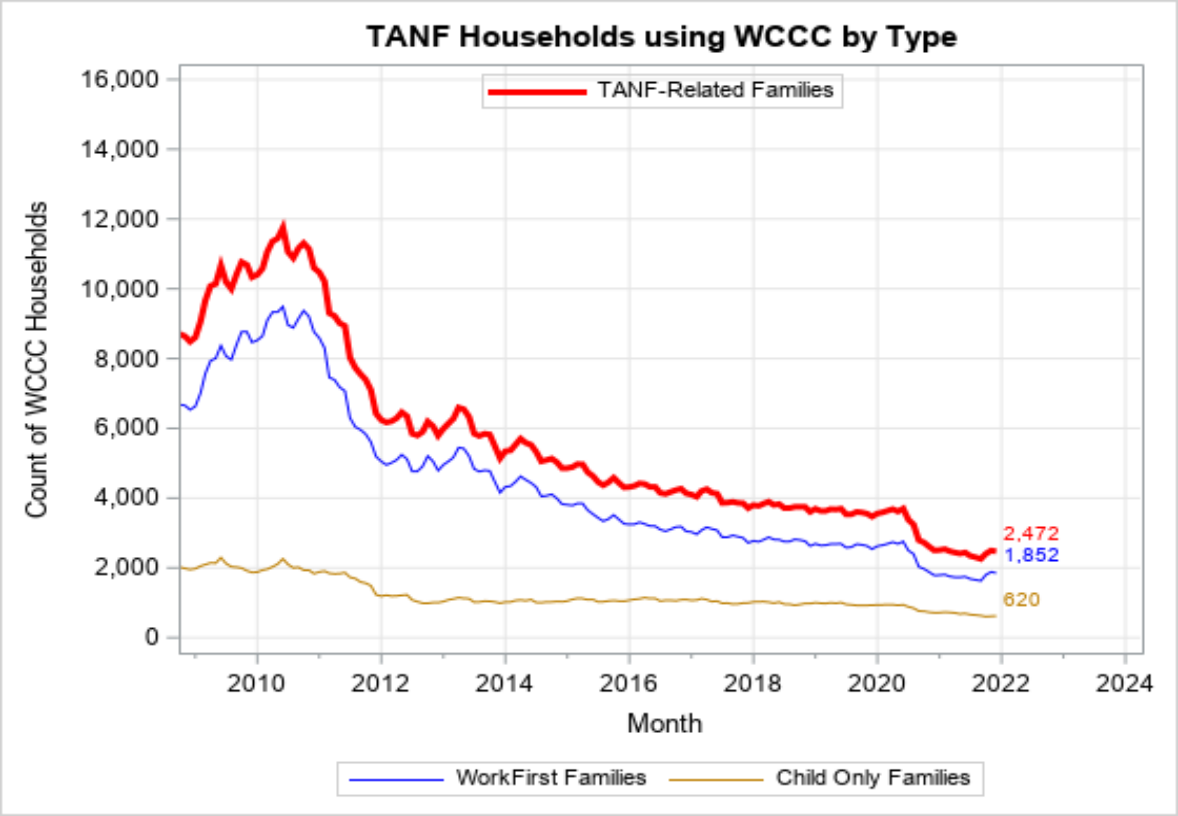
Results are tabulated from files supplied by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. The percent of TANF children served by WCCC is based on the number of children living in households receiving TANF and WCCC (based on DCYF data) divided by the number of TANF children aged 0 to 12 (based on 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 971 (5.0%) of the WCCC households with services in December 2021 were income eligible under Fair Start Act provisions and would not have been eligible under prior law. An additional 69 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, but use among households receiving services has increased since then. There was one WCCC case per 2.4 adults who used WorkFirst services in FY 2018, one per 2.1 adults with services FY 2020 and one per 1.5 adults with services in FY 2021. 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 household, WCCC was used by 11% of kinship caregivers, 9% of legal guardians, 5% of parents disqualified from using TANF, 5% of non-citizen parents, and 3% of disabled parents in FY 2021.

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 10.2% use rate in December 2021 was higher, though, than the 9.6% use rate in December 2020, when WorkFirst services were voluntary. 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.)

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Count 3a: Type of TANF Cases Using WCCC

Data Table

Month	WorkFirst TANF Cases	WorkFirst Cases Using WCCC	Percent Using WCCC	Child Only TANF Cases	Child Only Cases Using WCCC	Percent Using WCCC	Child Only % of TANF WCCC Users
Jul-19	13,007	2,581	19.8%	11,809	954	8.1%	27.0%
Aug-19	13,147	2,595	19.7%	11,774	941	8.0%	26.6%
Sep-19	13,077	2,679	20.5%	11,661	925	7.9%	25.7%
Oct-19	13,187	2,662	20.2%	11,644	926	8.0%	25.8%
Nov-19	13,090	2,629	20.1%	11,678	925	7.9%	26.0%
Dec-19	13,106	2,539	19.4%	11,829	931	7.9%	26.8%
Jan-20	13,223	2,622	19.8%	11,889	937	7.9%	26.3%
Feb-20	13,172	2,651	20.1%	11,831	940	7.9%	26.2%
Mar-20	13,283	2,689	20.2%	11,715	948	8.1%	26.1%
Apr-20	16,167	2,740	16.9%	12,283	944	7.7%	25.6%
May-20	18,036	2,689	14.9%	12,612	928	7.4%	25.7%
Jun-20	18,378	2,757	15.0%	12,584	942	7.5%	25.5%
Jul-20	18,713	2,500	13.4%	12,387	885	7.1%	26.1%
Aug-20	19,036	2,397	12.6%	12,342	845	6.8%	26.1%
Sep-20	18,435	2,030	11.0%	12,063	762	6.3%	27.3%
Oct-20	18,173	1,972	10.9%	11,603	756	6.5%	27.7%
Nov-20	18,109	1,879	10.4%	11,402	728	6.4%	27.9%
Dec-20	18,654	1,786	9.6%	11,613	715	6.2%	28.6%
Jan-21	18,770	1,792	9.5%	11,685	718	6.1%	28.6%
Feb-21	18,526	1,808	9.8%	11,534	729	6.3%	28.7%
Mar-21	18,068	1,756	9.7%	11,365	723	6.4%	29.2%
Apr-21	17,306	1,732	10.0%	11,184	709	6.3%	29.0%
May-21	16,887	1,731	10.3%	11,030	680	6.2%	28.2%
Jun-21	16,594	1,747	10.5%	10,932	692	6.3%	28.4%
Jul-21	16,325	1,683	10.3%	10,662	660	6.2%	28.2%
Aug-21	15,979	1,657	10.4%	10,477	647	6.2%	28.1%
Sep-21	16,099	1,627	10.1%	10,355	629	6.1%	27.9%
Oct-21	17,850	1,801	10.1%	10,289	604	5.9%	25.1%
Nov-21	18,124	1,884	10.4%	10,207	613	6.0%	24.5%
Dec-21	18,244	1,852	10.2%	10,205	620	6.1%	25.1%

December 2021 compared to December 2020 (without adjustments for late reporting)

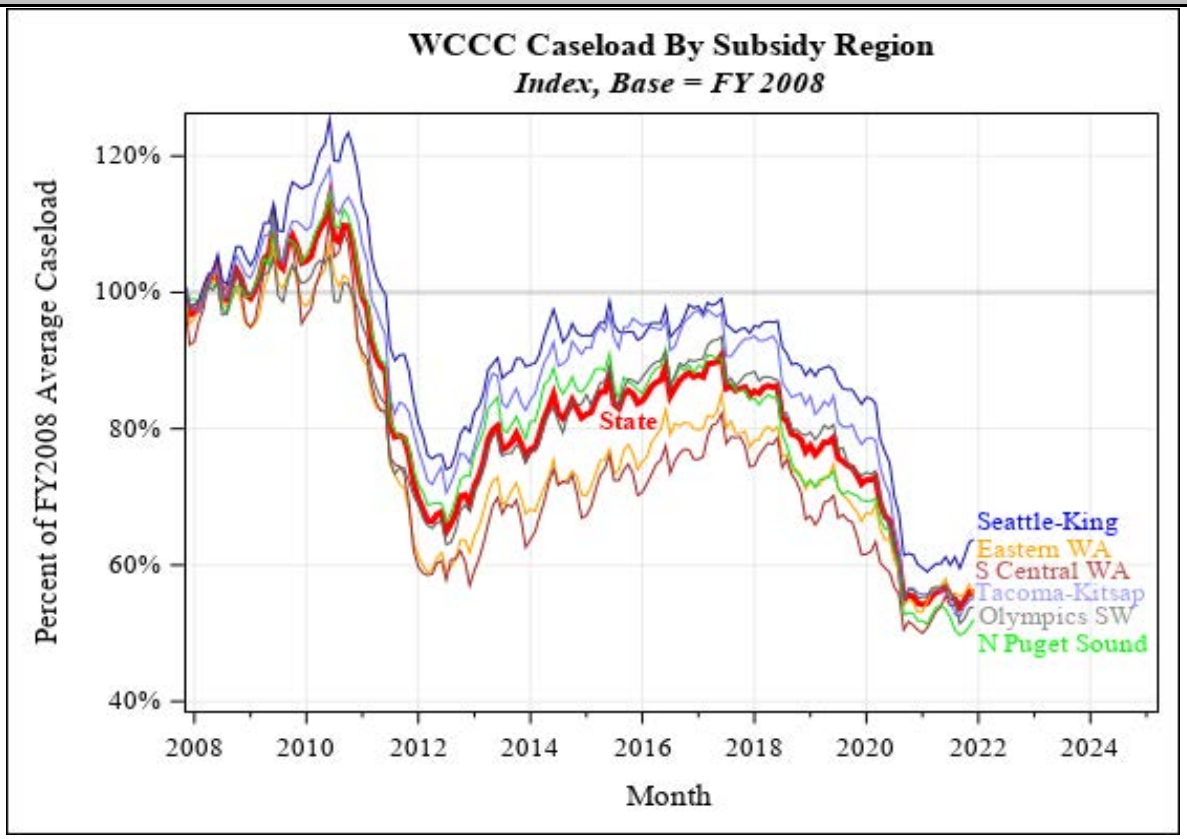
% Change	-2%	4%		-12%	-13%

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.

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. Caseloads are expected to expand by 5.3% in FY 2022 and 25.8% in FY 2023 according to the February 2022 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 2022 caseload forecast expects WCCC caseloads to return to 24,495 by June 2022 and to reach 27,591 by June 2023. See http://cfc.wa.gov/HumanServices_DCYF_WorkingConnections.htm for more information.

Under 12-month eligibility, households with changes in circumstance remain eligible for a full year. The first cohorts found eligible under those rules reached the end of their year-long eligibility in July 2017. Some were no longer eligible to continue and new entries did not fully replace them. The drops seen in July 2017, July 2018, July 2019 and July 2020 also show up in the number of households eligible for WCCC with authorizations to be paid for services. Some have proposed that increased wage levels have reduced the number of households eligible for care and reduced incentives to provide FFN care.

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Count 3b: WCCC Caseload by Subsidy Region

Data Table

	WCCC Cases	Region 1 Eastern Wash	Region 2 South Central	Region 3 North Puget Sound	Region 4 Seattle King Co.	Region 5 Tacoma Kitsap	Region 6 Olympics Southwest
FY 2008	34,941	6,270	5,437	4,614	7,436	5,008	5,770
Jan-16	29,376	4,715	3,842	3,929	6,942	4,765	5,105
Jul-16	29,615	4,959	3,995	4,004	6,945	4,580	5,073
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	3,088	2,871	5,211	3,287	3,618
Jan-21	18,921	3,330	2,718	2,392	4,430	2,790	3,192
Jul-21	19,347	3,468	2,934	2,412	4,464	2,761	3,236
Nov-21	19,585	3,579	3,034	2,349	4,706	2,744	3,091
Dec-21	19,573	3,478	3,003	2,398	4,741	2,761	3,109

December 2021 compared to December 2020 (without adjustments for late reporting)

% Change	3%	4%	9%	0%	6%	-1%	-2%

Percent of FY 2008 Cases

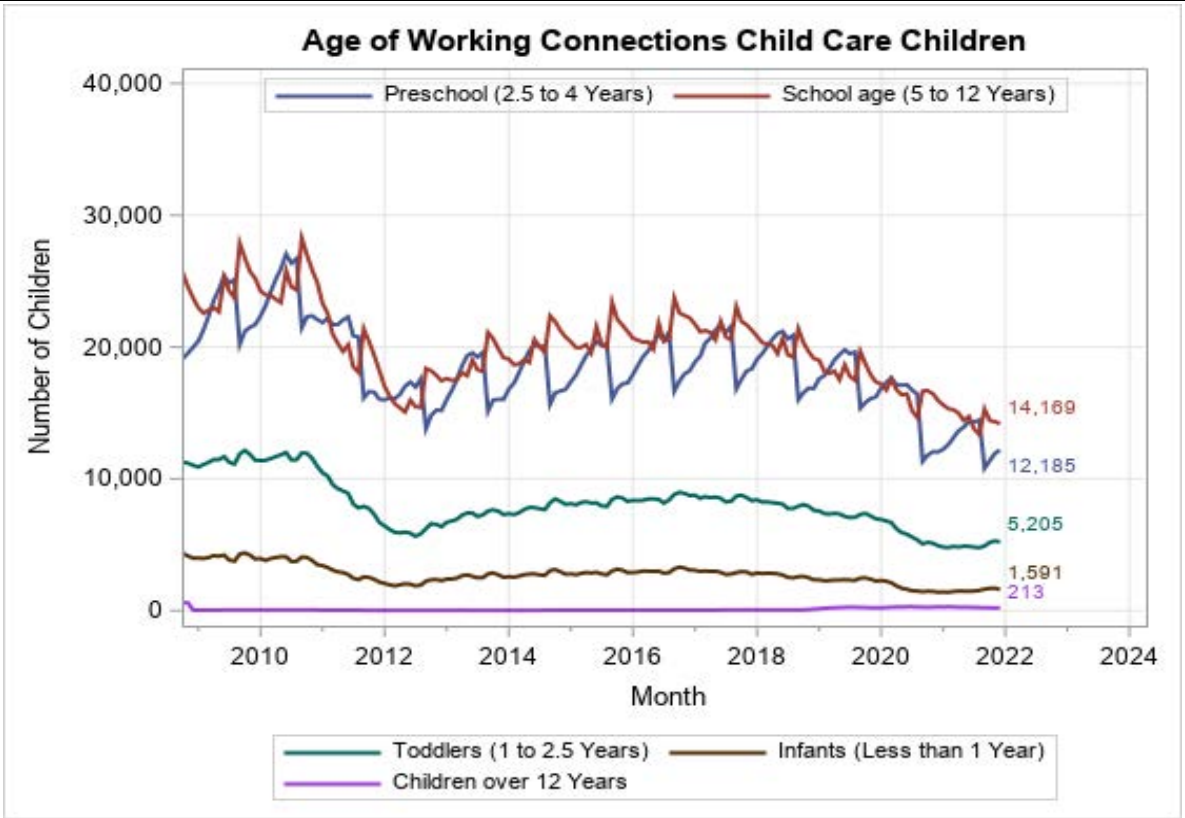
	WCCC Cases	Eastern Wash	South Central	North Puget Sound	Seattle King Co.	Tacoma Kitsap	Olympics Southwest
FY 2008	34,941	6,270	5,437	4,614	7,436	5,008	5,770
Jan-16	84.1	75.2	70.7	85.2	93.4	95.1	88.5
Jul-16	84.8	79.1	73.5	86.8	93.4	91.5	87.9
Jan-17	87.9	79.8	75.5	89.3	98.0	97.4	90.3
Jul-17	85.9	80.1	77.8	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	65.6	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	55.1	56.1
Nov-21	56.1	57.1	55.8	50.9	63.3	54.8	53.6
Dec-21	56.0	55.5	55.2	52.0	63.8	55.1	53.9

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 FYs 2018 and 2019, but increased to 1.81 in FY 2021, during the pandemic. The average dropped to 1.71 in December 2021.

The number of children served in December 2021 with bills paid through March 2, 2022 was 3.6% lower than in December 2020. The number children declined at all ages 3 and above. Declines were largest among children 13 years or older (down 26%), 11- and 12-year olds (down 21%), 6-year olds (down 14%) and 5-year olds (down 10%). Counts of infants increased by 14% and counts of 2-year olds were up by 8%. Counts of infants and 1-year olds in WorkFirst related WCCC households were up by 1% over the past year compared with an increase of 9% in children that age served from non-TANF households. The number of WorkFirst households with infants had been declining through mid-2021 (see pages 15-16) and reached a record low in September 2021. That accounts for some of the disparity between WorkFirst and non-TANF households.

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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
May-19	2,326	7,335	19,426	17,518	238	1	46,844
Jun-19	2,341	7,149	19,789	18,647	249	6	48,181
Jul-19	2,324	7,062	19,489	17,788	261	1	46,925
Aug-19	2,292	7,080	19,627	17,473	252	3	46,727
Sep-19	2,473	7,302	15,356	19,661	247	1	45,040
Oct-19	2,483	7,379	15,794	18,716	238	3	44,613
Nov-19	2,380	7,180	16,092	17,880	221	1	43,754
Dec-19	2,246	6,960	16,219	17,363	226	2	43,016
Jan-20	2,288	6,911	16,888	17,198	221	2	43,508
Feb-20	2,226	6,803	17,317	16,736	234	4	43,320
Mar-20	2,115	6,682	17,658	17,582	263	2	44,302
Apr-20	1,867	6,199	17,123	16,762	269	4	42,224
May-20	1,700	5,921	17,108	16,377	277	2	41,385
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	4,779	14,467	13,366	234	2	34,379
Sep-21	1,633	4,907	10,803	15,286	219	2	32,850
Oct-21	1,689	5,180	11,374	14,424	214	1	32,882
Nov-21	1,707	5,295	11,936	14,341	209	0	33,488
Dec-21	1,591	5,205	12,185	14,169	213	2	33,365

December 2021 compared to December 2020 (without adjustments for late reporting)

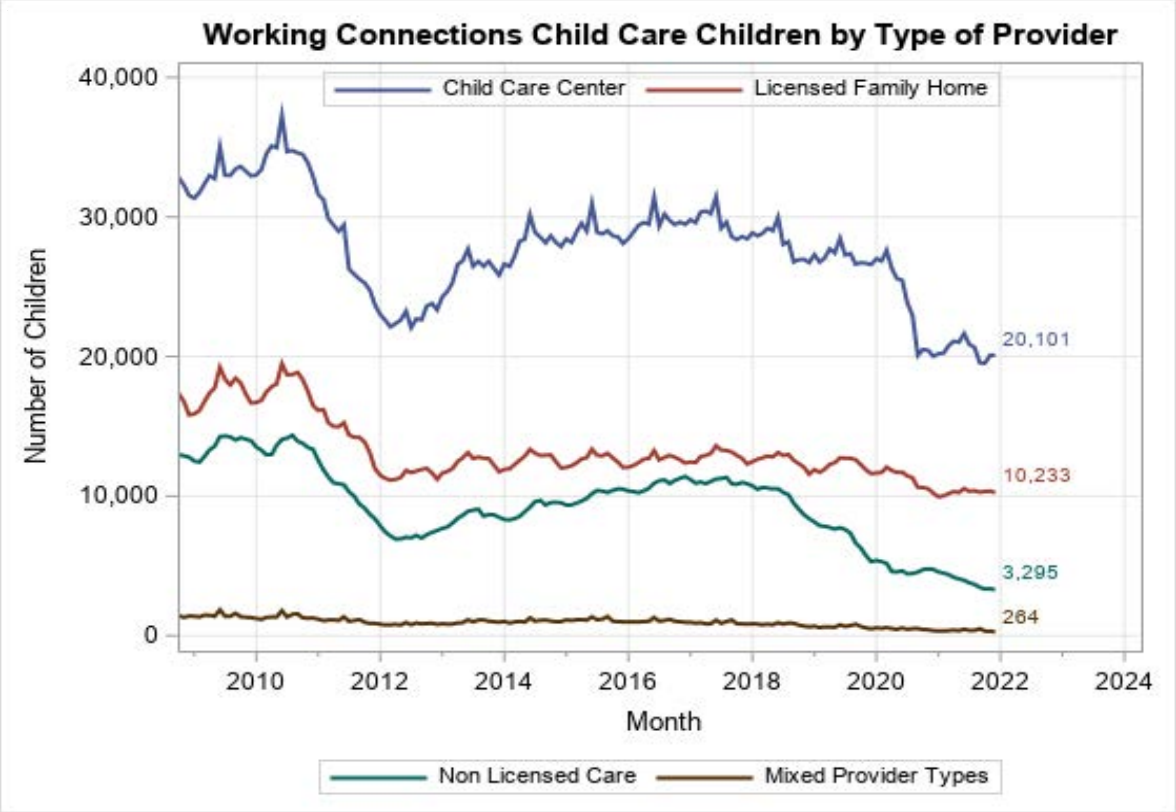
% Change	14%	6%	1%	-11%	-26%	N/A	-4%

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 decreased by 3.6% between December 2020 and December 2021. Licensed family homes and childcare centers experienced the smallest changes, serving slightly more children than the year before. FFN child counts had been dropping by 40% per year in August 2020 and are now dropping at 31% per year. Training, background check and electronic attendance requirements for FFN providers that began in October 2018 were phased in by December 2019. There was little change in the FFN child count between December 2019 and February 2020. Use of FFN care dropped again in April 2020, probably due to COVID-19 impacts. FFN child counts had been declining more slowly than counts of children in the other two sectors between May 2020 and December 2020 but began to drop faster again in January 2021. The drop in the number of children served at child care centers in September 2020 last year appears to be related to before and after school programs that did not restart at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year. The before and after school sector does not appear to have resumed normal WCCC subsidy operations yet at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year. This is consistent with the drop in older children served, described on pages 25-26. See pages 65-67 for Barometer measures related to type of provider for TANF- related households.

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Count 3d: WCCC Children by Type of Provider

Month	Child Care Center	Licensed Family Home	License-Exempt	Mixed Types	Total Children
May-19	27,422	12,390	7,632	600	46,844
Jun-19	28,472	12,743	7,740	774	48,181
Jul-19	27,270	12,715	7,602	662	46,925
Aug-19	27,386	12,711	7,351	721	46,727
Sep-19	26,620	12,606	6,636	822	45,040
Oct-19	26,724	12,260	6,287	658	44,613
Nov-19	26,692	11,879	5,734	551	43,754
Dec-19	26,591	11,610	5,302	487	43,016
Jan-20	27,011	11,660	5,395	558	43,508
Feb-20	26,847	11,694	5,294	515	43,320
Mar-20	27,612	12,077	5,189	576	44,302
Apr-20	26,314	11,828	4,589	507	42,224
May-20	25,585	11,692	4,560	452	41,385
Jun-20	25,473	11,714	4,645	551	41,281
Jul-20	23,861	11,450	4,425	459	39,277
Aug-20	22,933	11,313	4,456	503	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	20,768	10,177	4,377	359	34,963
Apr-21	21,101	10,324	4,182	399	35,208
May-21	21,027	10,253	4,062	355	34,987
Jun-21	21,648	10,543	3,973	457	35,707
Jul-21	20,873	10,344	3,784	378	34,652
Aug-21	20,660	10,392	3,672	371	34,379
Sep-21	19,554	10,279	3,465	500	32,850
Oct-21	19,527	10,330	3,336	329	32,882
Nov-21	20,090	10,364	3,356	322	33,488
Dec-21	20,101	10,233	3,295	264	33,365

December 2021 compared to December 2020 (without adjustments for late reporting)

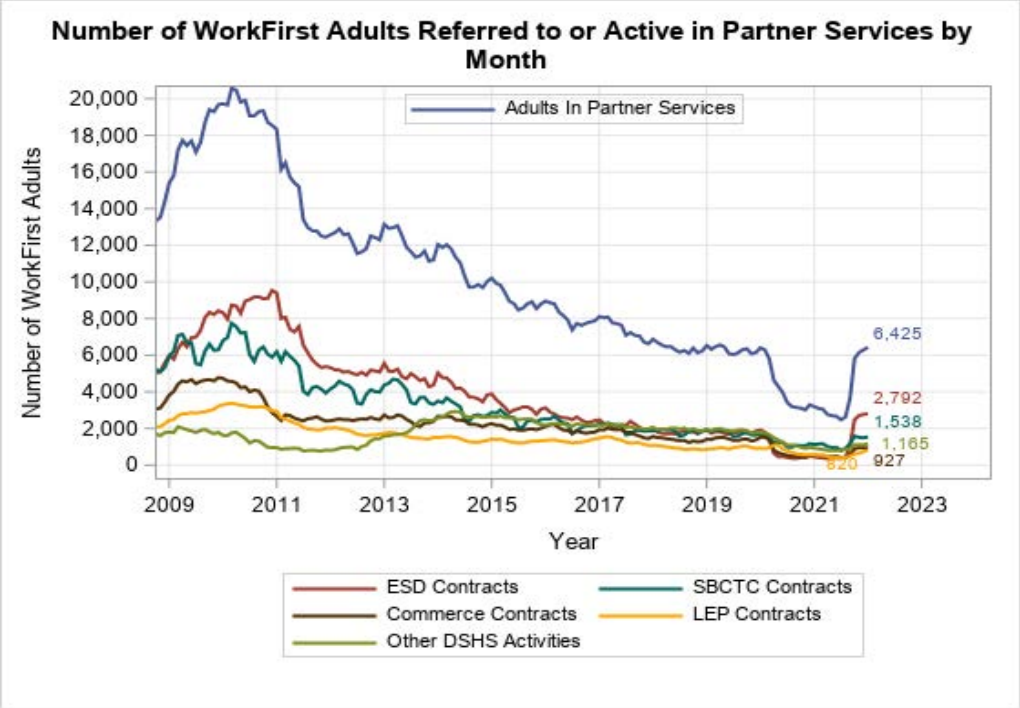
% Change	0%	0%	-31%	-26%	-4%

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 2, 2022. Child counts are based on payments made to providers. Payments to child care centers and licensed family homes for services between April and August 2020 were based on authorized amounts of care instead of attendance records. This COVID-19 emergency policy did not affect FFN child care. Some of the change seen in September 2020 could reflect the end of that policy.

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 when participation requirements were suspended and families faced additional caregiving responsibilities. Many WorkFirst services were not available or were available only virtually. DSHS case managers began to reengage WorkFirst adults in partner services in September 2021. Activity levels returned to 31% in December 2021 and January 2022..

The number of adults with open referrals to ESD job search showed the largest increase, of 511% between January 2021 and January 2022. The number of adults in referral status at Commerce contractors increased by 77%. 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 36%. Exemptions from work participation ended for many adults during the fall of 2021 (see pages 43-44). The number with open referrals to Limited English program contractors increased by 45% compared with a 17% increase in the number of LEP adults.

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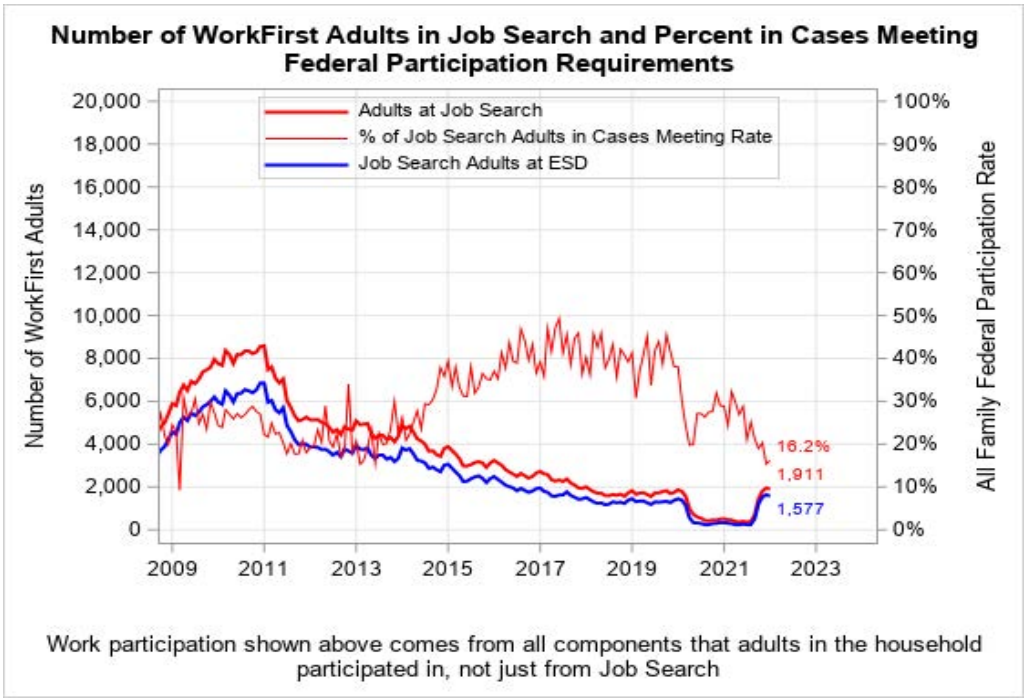
Count 5a: Enrollment by Partner Agency

Month	Employment Security	SBCTC Colleges	Commerce Department	Limited English Contracts	Other DSHS Activities	Total Adults (No Dups)	Percent of Adults
Aug-19	1,798	1,581	1,349	986	1,921	6,122	41%
Sep-19	1,839	1,714	1,407	1,031	1,931	6,302	42%
Oct-19	1,807	1,759	1,425	1,042	1,879	6,348	42%
Nov-19	1,712	1,639	1,320	961	1,741	6,077	41%
Dec-19	1,862	1,637	1,368	909	1,776	6,139	41%
Jan-20	1,915	1,706	1,523	924	1,796	6,401	42%
Feb-20	1,788	1,688	1,526	900	1,755	6,278	41%
Mar-20	1,476	1,518	1,376	953	1,662	5,792	37%
Apr-20	647	1,232	805	1,084	1,493	4,629	24%
May-20	459	1,214	674	1,102	1,372	4,294	20%
Jun-20	466	1,241	588	871	1,251	3,950	18%
Jul-20	416	985	535	790	1,088	3,416	16%
Aug-20	371	972	488	678	1,100	3,195	15%
Sep-20	364	1,090	476	621	1,039	3,144	15%
Oct-20	406	1,061	472	590	976	3,108	15%
Nov-20	412	1,055	446	558	906	3,011	15%
Dec-20	492	1,172	500	560	956	3,292	16%
Jan-21	457	1,128	524	566	931	3,190	15%
Feb-21	407	1,157	507	528	884	3,089	15%
Mar-21	391	1,161	523	524	860	3,045	15%
Apr-21	349	1,008	483	493	800	2,758	14%
May-21	362	958	473	439	795	2,698	14%
Jun-21	383	967	473	396	786	2,662	14%
Jul-21	376	791	410	381	817	2,471	13%
Aug-21	410	913	405	410	856	2,629	15%
Sep-21	1,077	1,173	565	488	889	3,657	20%
Oct-21	2,472	1,580	891	608	1,111	5,814	29%
Nov-21	2,702	1,515	948	649	1,110	6,145	30%
Dec-21	2,772	1,489	937	728	1,109	6,292	31%
Jan-22	2,792	1,538	927	820	1,165	6,425	31%

January 2022 compared to January 2021 (without adjustments for late reporting)							WorkFirst Adults
% Change	511%	36%	77%	45%	25%	101%	-1%

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 referrals to services such as referral to community technical college (RA), job search (RI), or 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 for specialized services such as barrier removal and support services. Some pilot projects for transportation, housing, and home visits previously included in the DSHS count have been removed. 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) is provided by the Employment Security Department. This dropped to 72% in FY 2020 and 63% in FY 2021 when COVID-19 began to have a 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 January 2022 were 273% higher than in January 2021 and 2% higher than in January 2020. ESD job search use increased by 367% while LEP job search use increased by 92%. The percent of WorkFirst adults in job search was 9.1% in January 2022 -- higher than the 2.4% in January 2021. Use rates had been 12.3% in January 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 January 2022 was 1061% higher than in January 2021 and 132% higher than in January 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. DSHS case managers and ESD job search staff may still be adjusting to a statewide referral process adopted in September 2021. Slow growth in child care availability and ESD capacity constraints could also account for some of the 1,068 referrals returned in January 2022,

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Count 5b: Use of Job Search

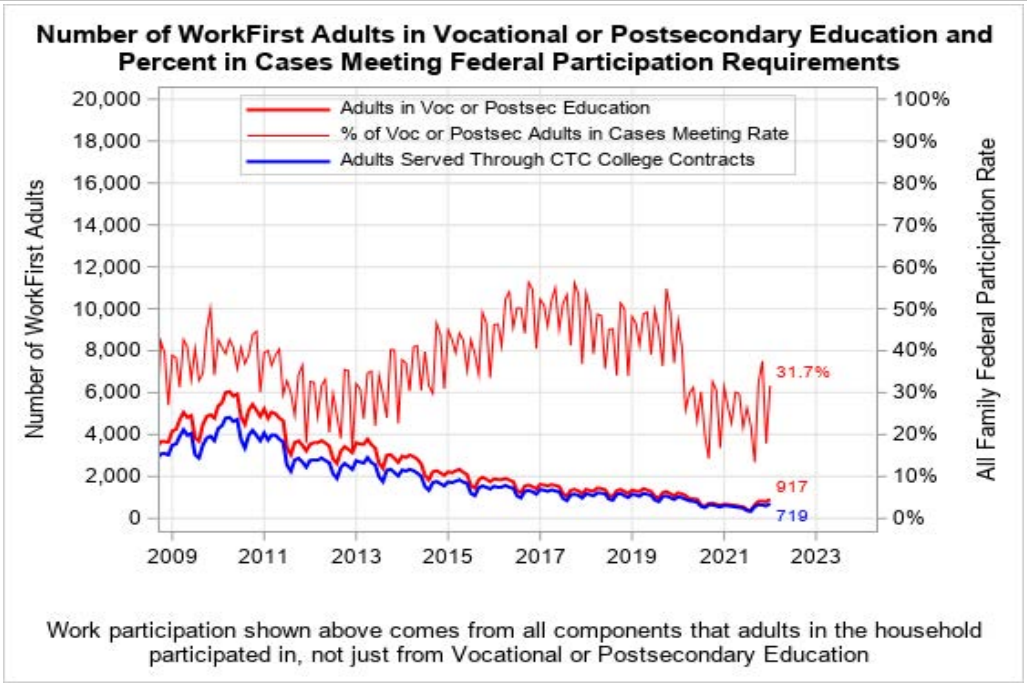
Month	Number of Adults: Job Search Search (JS)	Number of Adults: ESD Job Search	Number of Adults: LEP Job Search	Percent of Adults: In Job Search	Percent of Adults: JS Meeting AF WPR	Number in ESD Refer Back (RB)	Percent in ESD Refer Back (RB)
Sep-19	1,788	1,306	476	11.9%	38.6%	401	2.7%
Oct-19	1,827	1,328	496	12.1%	45.5%	367	2.4%
Nov-19	1,691	1,268	417	11.3%	41.6%	338	2.3%
Dec-19	1,744	1,379	364	11.6%	38.1%	379	2.5%
Jan-20	1,867	1,446	414	12.3%	38.0%	460	3.0%
Feb-20	1,793	1,384	405	11.8%	30.0%	395	2.6%
Mar-20	1,573	1,144	419	10.2%	24.4%	425	2.7%
Apr-20	982	561	415	5.1%	19.8%	251	1.3%
May-20	727	338	383	3.4%	19.9%	78	0.4%
Jun-20	598	321	275	2.8%	27.1%	74	0.3%
Jul-20	547	298	248	2.5%	27.1%	93	0.4%
Aug-20	438	239	198	2.0%	26.3%	51	0.2%
Sep-20	421	243	174	2.0%	27.5%	57	0.3%
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%	21.1%	92	0.5%
Aug-21	378	242	136	2.1%	25.1%	67	0.4%
Sep-21	707	518	186	3.9%	21.2%	229	1.3%
Oct-21	1,452	1,212	237	7.2%	19.0%	917	4.6%
Nov-21	1,809	1,534	273	8.9%	20.3%	1,062	5.2%
Dec-21	1,942	1,637	304	9.4%	15.4%	1,153	5.6%
Jan-22	1,911	1,577	332	9.0%	16.2%	1,068	5.0%

January 2022 compared to January 2021 (without adjustments for late reporting)						WorkFirst Adults
% Change	273%	367%	92%		1061%	-1%

The percent of job search participants meeting federal participation requirements rose from less than 15% in February 2013 and December 2021 to a high of 49% in June 2017. Participation in job search counts toward federal participation rates for 12 weeks in every 12-month period. Rates shown through June 2021 include the full 12-week participation definition. Rates for July 2021 through January 2022 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 20% -- 17% for ESD job search and 31% 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 preliminary work participation rate for job search enrollees was 16% in January 2022.

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 89% of these activities in FY 2021, up from 85% in FY 2020, 84% in FY 2018 and 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 4.4% of WorkFirst adults were enrolled in vocational or postsecondary components in January 2022, up from 3.2% enrolled in January 2021. The number of WorkFirst adults enrolled in vocational and postsecondary components in January 2022 was 34% higher than in January 2021. RA referrals to prepare for community college are increasing faster than college enrollments (see pages 39-40) but it takes time to translate those referrals into actual college enrollment. Educational enrollments are expected to increase as reengagement proceeds.

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

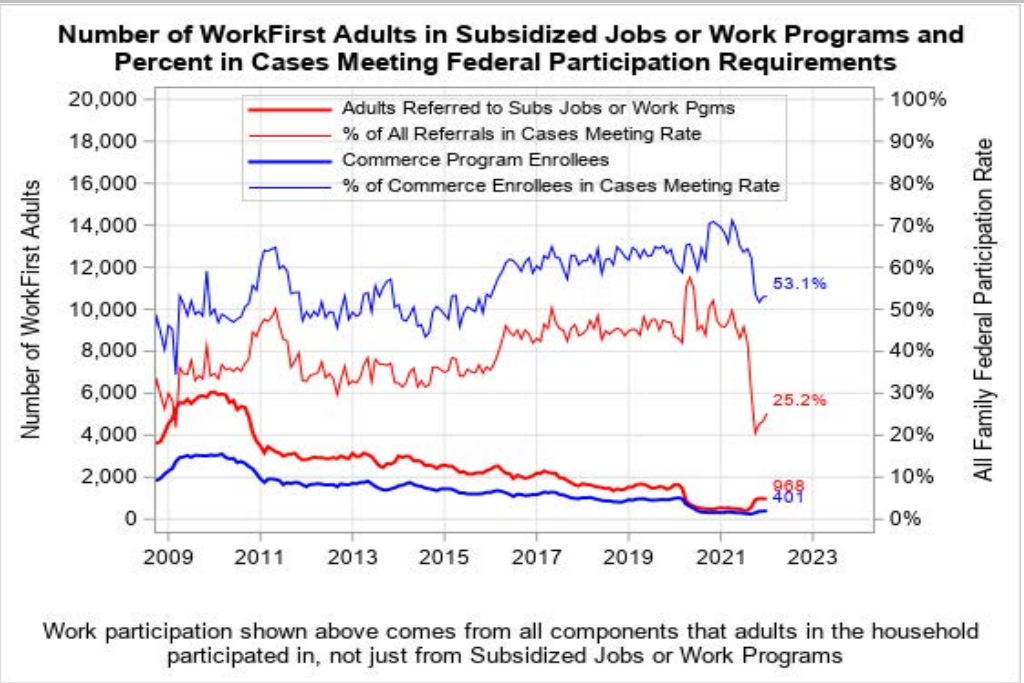
Month	Number of Adults: Full Time College (VE)	Part Time College (JT)	Other Voc PE, HW, DC	Unapproved Voc (VU)	Voc and Postsecondary: SBCTC (No Dups)	All Schools (No Dups)	Percent of WorkFirst Adults All Schools
Aug-19	475	433	68	6	803	963	6.4%
Sep-19	669	503	88	9	1,042	1,225	8.2%
Oct-19	692	517	96	14	1,076	1,285	8.5%
Nov-19	662	442	82	10	989	1,183	7.9%
Dec-19	611	395	69	8	905	1,071	7.1%
Jan-20	737	441	86	8	1,026	1,221	8.0%
Feb-20	690	421	75	10	991	1,172	7.7%
Mar-20	656	383	65	8	915	1,091	7.1%
Apr-20	579	355	35	3	835	943	4.9%
May-20	533	346	56	6	819	933	4.3%
Jun-20	518	351	82	4	776	913	4.3%
Jul-20	311	328	26	3	580	651	3.0%
Aug-20	272	281	19	2	515	570	2.6%
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	634	229	68	19	719	917	4.3%

January 2022 compared to January 2021 (without adjustments for late reporting)							WorkFirst Adults
% Change	59%	-14%	113%	73%	17%	34%	-1%

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 (December 2021-January 2022) was 25% -- compared with 24% in December 2020-January 2021. The average work participation rate for the most recent 12 months was 27% -- 28% for education provided by CTC colleges and 19% 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 increased to 1.9% in December 2021 and January 2022. The count of adults working in Commerce program worksites in January 2022 was 25% higher than in January 2021. Paid Commerce work enrollments were 19% higher in January 2022 than in January 2021. These counts include only those adults who have begun to work at worksites. Referrals to Commerce programs have been increasing (see pages 39-40) but it takes time to get work started in approved worksites. Use of work study positions decreased by 31% from January 2021. The proportion of WorkFirst participants meeting federal work participation hour thresholds in Commerce programs was 61% over the past 12 months among workers enrolled in approved work sites -- 64% for paid work programs (Community Jobs) and 9% 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.

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

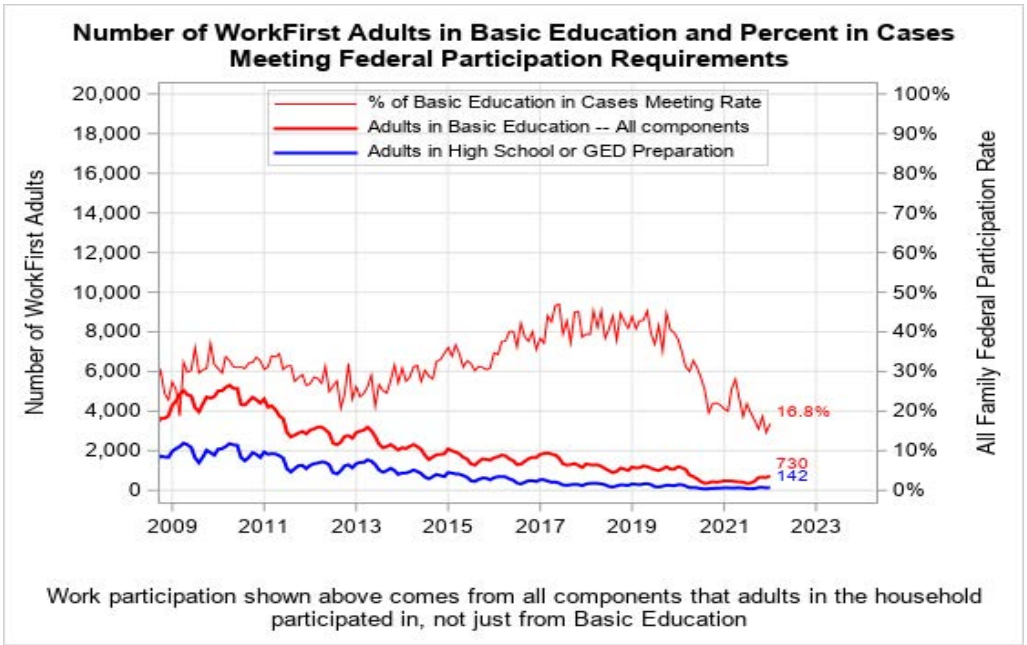
Month	Adults Actively Enrolled in Commerce Programs: Paid Work (CJ & JC)	Adults Actively Enrolled in Commerce Programs: Unpaid (XS WC, WE)	Adults Actively Enrolled in Commerce Programs: Total Adults (No Dups)	Percent of WorkFirst	Adults in Paid Work Study during Education	Adults in Other Work Experience (XS, WE)	Adults in Voluntary Community Service (VS)
Jul-19	741	168	902	6.1%	222	103	10
Aug-19	749	174	910	6.0%	234	90	10
Sep-19	760	176	925	6.2%	250	82	21
Oct-19	767	179	940	6.2%	235	67	13
Nov-19	762	170	922	6.2%	236	66	12
Dec-19	779	180	951	6.3%	200	76	16
Jan-20	815	179	988	6.5%	239	75	21
Feb-20	852	178	1,018	6.7%	230	67	13
Mar-20	822	156	971	6.3%	162	50	18
Apr-20	660	53	710	3.7%	168	38	5
May-20	583	27	610	2.8%	150	27	2
Jun-20	498	17	515	2.4%	78	27	1
Jul-20	381	17	394	1.8%	94	20	2
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	337	35	371	1.8%	44	22	5
Dec-21	354	32	384	1.9%	35	25	8
Jan-22	367	34	401	1.9%	36	30	9

January 2022 compared to January 2021				WorkFirst Adults	(without lag adjustments)		
% Change	19%	127%	25%	-1%	-31%	88%	800%

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 (82%) and CTC colleges (18%). 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 3.5% in January 2022 compared with 2.3% in January 2021. 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 0.7% in January 2022 compared with 0.6% in January 2021. The number of WorkFirst adults enrolled in basic education in January 2022 was 50% higher than in January 2021. The increase was larger at LEP contractors (92%). The high rate of growth at LEP contractors reflects, in part, 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 15% to 47% since 2011, averaging 19% during the most recent 12 months. Federal work participation rates were 21% for adults at basic education during December 2020-January 2021 and 16% in December 2021-January 2022. The federal work participation rate among the HS or GE subset of enrollees was 9% in December 2020-January 2021 and 12% in December 2021-January 2022.

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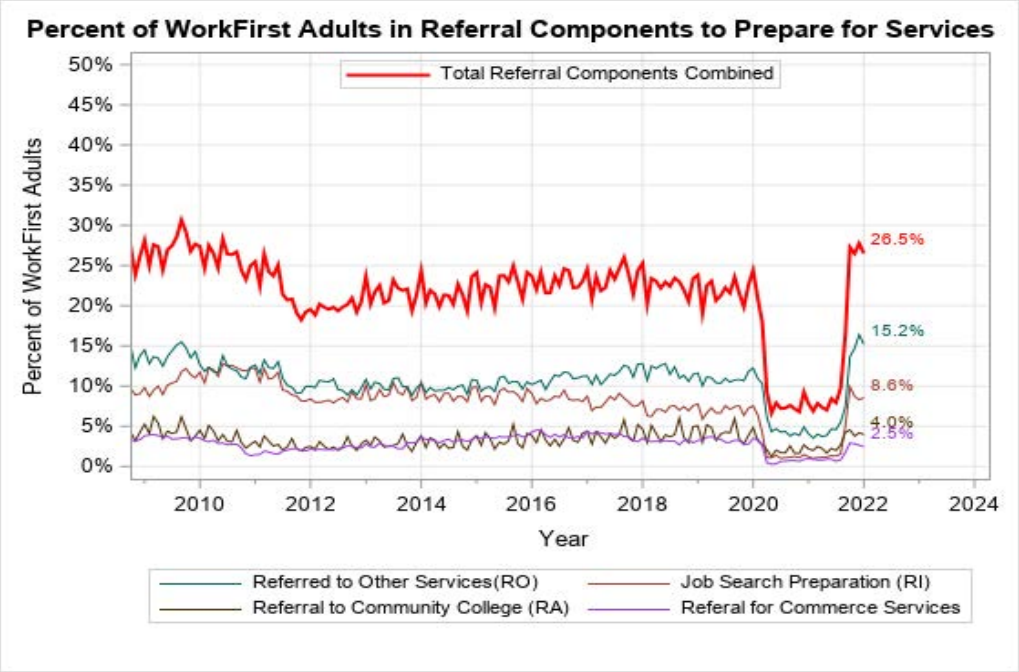
Count 5e: Use of Adult Basic Education, High School Equivalency Preparation, or High School

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
Jul-19	204	455	225	1,045	7.0%	187	1.3%
Aug-19	173	448	220	1,001	6.6%	177	1.2%
Sep-19	222	486	197	1,086	7.2%	212	1.4%
Oct-19	293	486	220	1,195	7.9%	267	1.8%
Nov-19	264	407	223	1,079	7.2%	254	1.7%
Dec-19	220	409	232	1,071	7.1%	234	1.6%
Jan-20	273	435	254	1,198	7.9%	287	1.9%
Feb-20	282	388	260	1,137	7.5%	285	1.9%
Mar-20	237	398	253	1,061	6.9%	225	1.5%
Apr-20	187	311	198	775	4.0%	142	0.7%
May-20	172	276	172	698	3.3%	148	0.7%
Jun-20	155	228	128	581	2.7%	130	0.6%
Jul-20	125	190	88	443	2.1%	92	0.4%
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	152	49	374	2.1%	88	0.5%
Sep-21	113	201	57	464	2.6%	95	0.5%
Oct-21	165	252	93	650	3.2%	147	0.7%
Nov-21	173	276	97	669	3.3%	153	0.7%
Dec-21	150	308	81	651	3.2%	127	0.6%
Jan-22	196	344	81	730	3.4%	142	0.7%
January 2022 compared to January 2021 (without adjustments for late reporting)							WorkFirst Adults
% Change	14%	92%	13%	50%		11%	-1%

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 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 January 2022 was 236% higher than in January 2021 and 50% higher than in January 2020. The percent in referrals status reached a post-pandemic peak of 27.7% in December 2021 (the highest percent since June 2010). Referrals to prepare for ESD job search increased by 600% between January 2021 and January 2022. Referrals to prepare for a CTC program of study increased by 78%. Referrals to Commerce activities (adults sent but not yet started in their activities) increased by 157% from January 2021. The increase in overall referrals included a 269% increase in referrals to other services. Referrals to other services include pregnancy to employment assessments for infant exemption users. The increased use of RO stems partly from evaluations for use of infant exemptions (see pages 41-42). WorkFirst work participation requirements resumed in September 2021.

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.

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Count 5f: Use of Referral Components

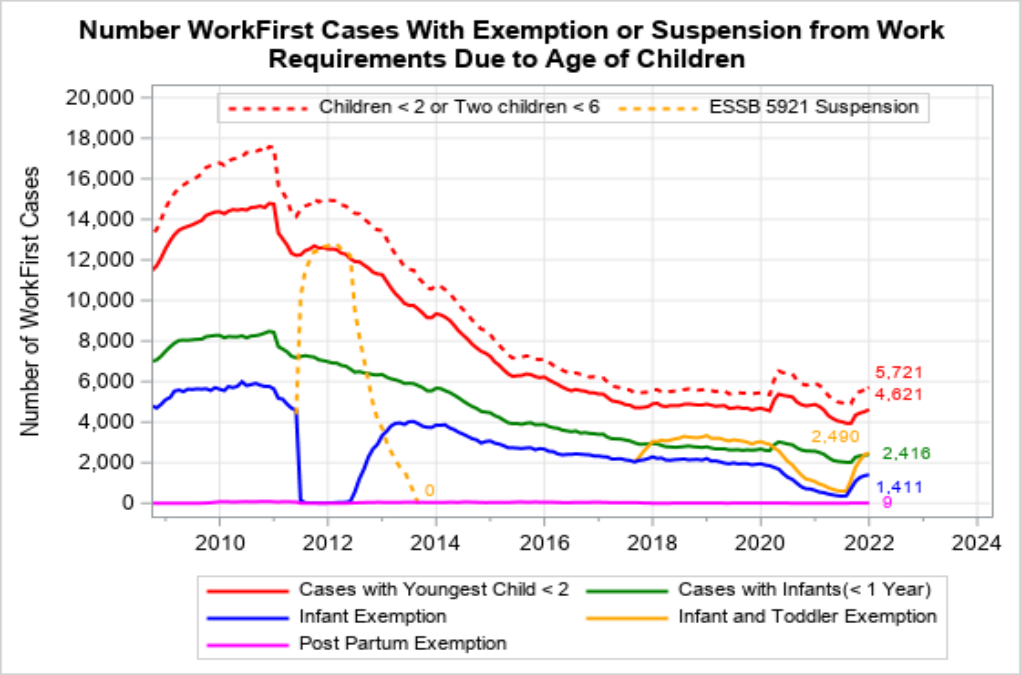
Month	Job Search Prep (RI)	Referral to CTC (RA)	Referral to Commerce Services	Referral to Tribal Svcs (RT)	Referral to Other Services (RO)	Total Referred (No Dups)	Percent of Adults
Jul-19	1,126	637	449	1	1,632	3,313	22.2%
Aug-19	1,068	629	453	1	1,581	3,251	21.6%
Sep-19	1,117	897	489	1	1,616	3,537	23.6%
Oct-19	1,140	513	487	1	1,630	3,249	21.5%
Nov-19	950	419	405	0	1,595	2,969	19.9%
Dec-19	1,088	580	421	0	1,770	3,386	22.6%
Jan-20	1,150	736	531	2	1,865	3,717	24.4%
Feb-20	969	481	516	3	1,659	3,169	20.9%
Mar-20	653	425	406	2	1,597	2,779	18.0%
Apr-20	213	397	87	1	1,172	1,774	9.2%
May-20	233	264	57	1	932	1,423	6.6%
Jun-20	295	431	71	1	1,001	1,690	7.9%
Jul-20	219	368	136	0	918	1,551	7.2%
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	570	186	0	1,039	1,962	9.3%
Jan-21	257	467	203	0	865	1,662	7.8%
Feb-21	213	420	187	0	741	1,450	6.9%
Mar-21	225	511	167	0	824	1,608	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	870	1,572	8.4%
Jul-21	236	366	120	0	841	1,451	7.9%
Aug-21	280	481	150	0	988	1,749	9.8%
Sep-21	911	767	316	0	1,343	2,967	16.4%
Oct-21	1,992	916	587	0	2,750	5,482	27.3%
Nov-21	1,780	770	573	0	3,002	5,406	26.5%
Dec-21	1,712	865	542	0	3,380	5,719	27.7%
Jan-22	1,799	833	521	1	3,195	5,578	26.5%

January 2022 compared to January 2021 (without adjustments for late reporting)							WorkFirst Adults
% Change	600%	78%	157%	N/A	269%	236%	-1%

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 1,356 households using the expanded infant exemption or toddler exemption in January 2022, 1,148 were using it for one-year olds and 208 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. The percent of households with infants who used the infant exemption rose to 58% in January 2022. The percent of households with toddlers using the toddler exemption rose to 52%.

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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 Infant Exemption	Cases Using Toddler Exemption	Total Cases IE or TE (No Dups)	Percent of Cases wi Infants Using IE	Percent of Cases wi Toddlers Using TE
Nov-19	4,600	2,617	1,894	1,119	2,923	72.4%	56.4%
Dec-19	4,657	2,634	1,921	1,182	3,000	72.9%	58.4%
Jan-20	4,685	2,674	1,947	1,197	3,039	72.8%	59.5%
Feb-20	4,622	2,609	1,881	1,163	2,959	72.1%	57.8%
Mar-20	4,557	2,594	1,851	1,128	2,903	71.4%	57.5%
Apr-20	5,101	2,884	1,766	1,032	2,726	61.2%	46.5%
May-20	5,385	3,023	1,685	984	2,584	55.7%	41.7%
Jun-20	5,317	2,978	1,459	924	2,321	49.0%	39.5%
Jul-20	5,282	2,921	1,284	833	2,056	44.0%	35.3%
Aug-20	5,244	2,884	1,175	782	1,891	40.7%	33.1%
Sep-20	4,989	2,730	986	683	1,617	36.1%	30.2%
Oct-20	4,863	2,627	811	610	1,389	30.9%	27.3%
Nov-20	4,799	2,582	715	517	1,197	27.7%	23.3%
Dec-20	4,832	2,574	701	486	1,148	27.2%	21.5%
Jan-21	4,874	2,569	634	459	1,066	24.7%	19.9%
Feb-21	4,761	2,497	547	418	942	21.9%	18.5%
Mar-21	4,606	2,421	525	385	887	21.7%	17.6%
Apr-21	4,319	2,252	455	336	765	20.2%	16.3%
May-21	4,178	2,121	413	291	688	19.5%	14.1%
Jun-21	4,061	2,067	371	265	622	17.9%	13.3%
Jul-21	4,018	2,042	353	259	596	17.3%	13.1%
Aug-21	3,943	2,021	371	260	608	18.4%	13.5%
Sep-21	3,942	2,017	730	448	1,152	36.2%	23.3%
Oct-21	4,346	2,273	1,085	735	1,773	47.7%	35.5%
Nov-21	4,450	2,337	1,278	919	2,130	54.7%	43.5%
Dec-21	4,516	2,365	1,359	1,080	2,383	57.5%	50.2%
Jan-22	4,621	2,416	1,411	1,148	2,490	58.4%	52.1%
January 2022 compared to January 2021 (without adjustments for late reporting)							
% Change	-5%	-6%	123%	150%	134%		

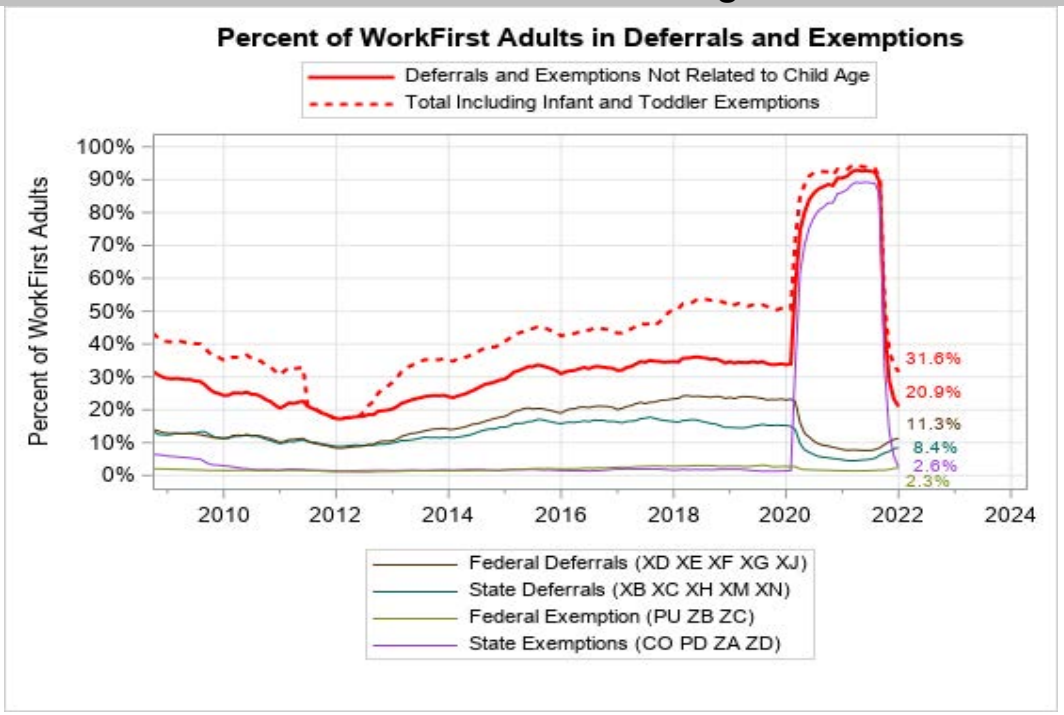
Parents whose youngest child is under two years old are potentially eligible for the infant exemption or toddler exemption under ESSB 5898 to a lifetime limit of 24 months.

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 and Exemption 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 (33.9% in February 2020, rising to 90.5% in January 2021, dropping to 20.9% in January 2022. The changes were due to the introduction of COVID-19 exemptions in March 2020 and their phase out beginning in September 2021. Most of the 386 adults counted with COVID-19 exceptions in January 2022 were probably coded that way in error and saw their exemptions expire by the end of the month. 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. Activities labeled State Deferrals (e.g., Temporary Physical Incapacity/Medical Treatment or Resolution of Homelessness) do not count toward federal participation.

Exemptions are longer-term waivers of participation for activities such as pursuit of SSI benefits or being a caretaker relative over the age of 55. Parents in federal exemptions are removed from participation rate calculations. State exemptions do not exclude adults from federal participation

Trends

The number of adults with deferrals or exemptions not related to the age of their children was 77% lower in January 2022 than in January 2021. Prior to COVID-19, the percent of adults with deferrals and exemptions peaked at 36% in June 2018. That peak was related to increased need for mental health and substance abuse treatment services (see pages 72-73). The 21% of adults with exmptions or deferrals in January 2022 was the lowest percent recorded since January 2013. 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, but has not increased to pre-pandemic levels..

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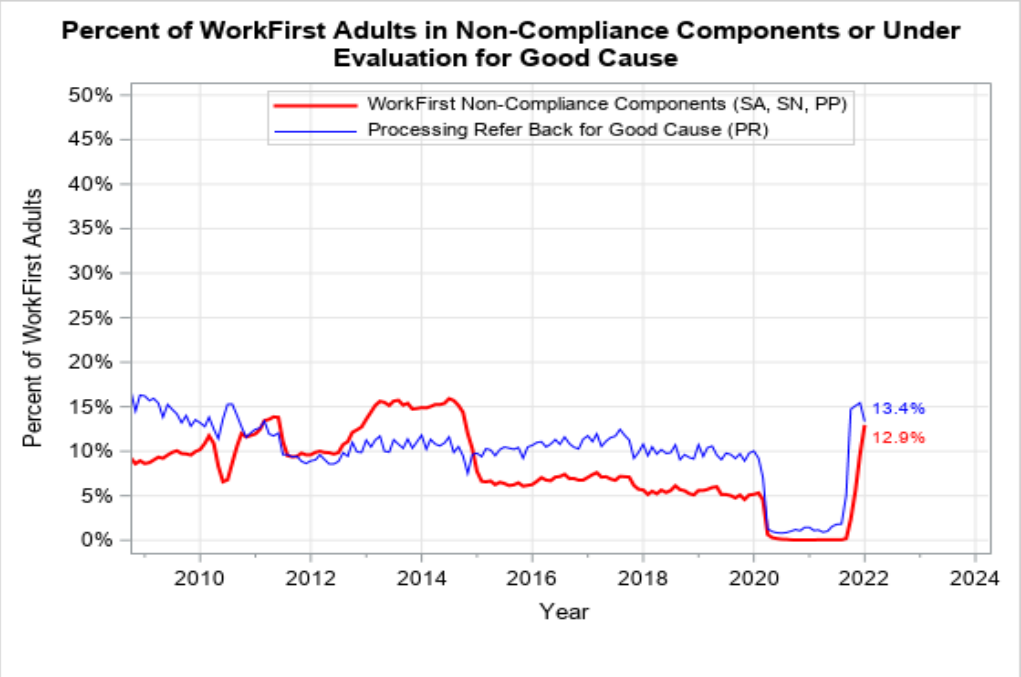
Count 5h: Use of Deferral and Exemption Components Not Related to Child Age

	Adult Counts in the Largest Categories								
Month	Mental Health Services (XG)	Pursuing Other Benefits (XB)	Family Violence Intervention (XF)	Temporary Medical (XM)	Alcohol & Substance Abuse (XE)	Resolution of Home-lessness (XH)	COVID-19 (CO)	Total in Chart (No Dups)	Percent of WorkFirst Adults
Oct-19	2,131	1,155	1,041	994	914	337	0	5,082	33.7%
Nov-19	2,133	1,152	1,011	1,014	897	317	0	5,054	33.8%
Dec-19	2,172	1,158	1,024	1,011	913	301	0	5,098	34.0%
Jan-20	2,169	1,160	1,036	1,021	929	323	0	5,132	33.7%
Feb-20	2,193	1,146	1,044	1,012	932	328	0	5,150	33.9%
Mar-20	2,163	1,141	1,048	973	902	297	4,860	8,807	56.9%
Apr-20	1,877	1,088	988	846	748	200	11,680	14,346	74.6%
May-20	1,613	1,055	916	740	625	124	14,911	17,191	80.1%
Jun-20	1,401	994	883	637	544	81	16,007	17,965	84.1%
Jul-20	1,217	938	810	540	494	65	16,781	18,480	86.0%
Aug-20	1,124	881	773	492	449	50	17,383	18,928	87.2%
Sep-20	1,012	837	727	462	414	49	16,962	18,353	87.9%
Oct-20	963	801	706	422	388	47	16,968	18,214	88.6%
Nov-20	934	770	661	399	370	44	16,936	18,087	88.2%
Dec-20	927	768	689	385	356	49	18,097	19,172	90.5%
Jan-21	887	765	672	352	322	50	18,301	19,315	90.5%
Feb-21	842	726	639	332	320	39	18,249	19,176	91.1%
Mar-21	816	703	634	313	319	29	18,108	18,963	92.3%
Apr-21	772	671	601	305	301	29	17,436	18,226	92.9%
May-21	753	672	577	300	273	35	16,947	17,700	92.7%
Jun-21	723	663	575	314	263	40	16,581	17,294	92.7%
Jul-21	719	649	578	305	232	52	16,260	16,959	92.6%
Aug-21	716	648	600	331	233	69	15,861	16,541	92.4%
Sep-21	778	666	634	376	259	116	15,367	16,103	89.1%
Oct-21	949	688	785	437	350	214	6,584	9,205	45.8%
Nov-21	1,076	711	837	512	400	247	2,664	5,889	28.9%
Dec-21	1,191	752	872	616	447	268	1,077	4,826	23.4%
Jan-22	1,232	780	931	663	474	256	386	4,403	20.9%
January 2022 compared to January 2021 (without adjustments for late reporting)									WorkFirst Adults
% Change	39%	2%	39%	88%	47%	412%	-98%	-77%	-1%

Use of the Pursuing Other Benefits (XB) component increased by 2% between January 2021 and January 2022. Use of the Alcohol and Substance abuse (XE) component increased by 47% and of the Mental Health Treatment (XG) component increased by 39%. Use of the Temporary Medical (XM) component increased by 88%. Use of Family Violence Intervention (XF) component increased by 39% and use of the Resolution of Homelessness (XH) component increased by 412% from a low baseline. Despite increases, most of these counts remain below pre-pandemic levels. Much of the caseload is still being evaluated for barriers. The unduplicated count of those deferred or exempted in January 2022 was 4,403 -- rising to 6,646 if infant exemptions (IE) and toddler exemptions (TE) are included. Some 11.9% of adults used infant or toddler exemptions in January 2022, up from 5.0% in January 2021 but below the 20.0% of January 2020. Some 165 adults (0.8%) received participation deferrals due to lack of child care in January 2022, the highest number since August 2019..

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 to 12 of non-compliance and terminated after 12 months of non-compliance.

Trends

In January 2022, 2,828 WorkFirst adults (13.4%) were being evaluated for good cause for non-participation in required activities and 2,743 (13.0%) 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. Lack of appropriate placements could also be a factor during the reengagement period. Non-compliance is typically lower for households with young children due to infant or toddler exemptions. Rates of non-compliance dropped to zero or near zero for all groups after March 2020 under COVID-19 polices. 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 January 2022 ranged from 7% for households with infants and 8% for households with toddlers to 15% for households with older preschool children and 16% for households with school-age children only. Under SHB 2441, passed in March 2020, 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 January 2022, 204 WorkFirst adults (1.0%) had sanction grant reductions. In the same month, 177 adults cured their non-compliance by resuming participation activities at required levels.

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

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

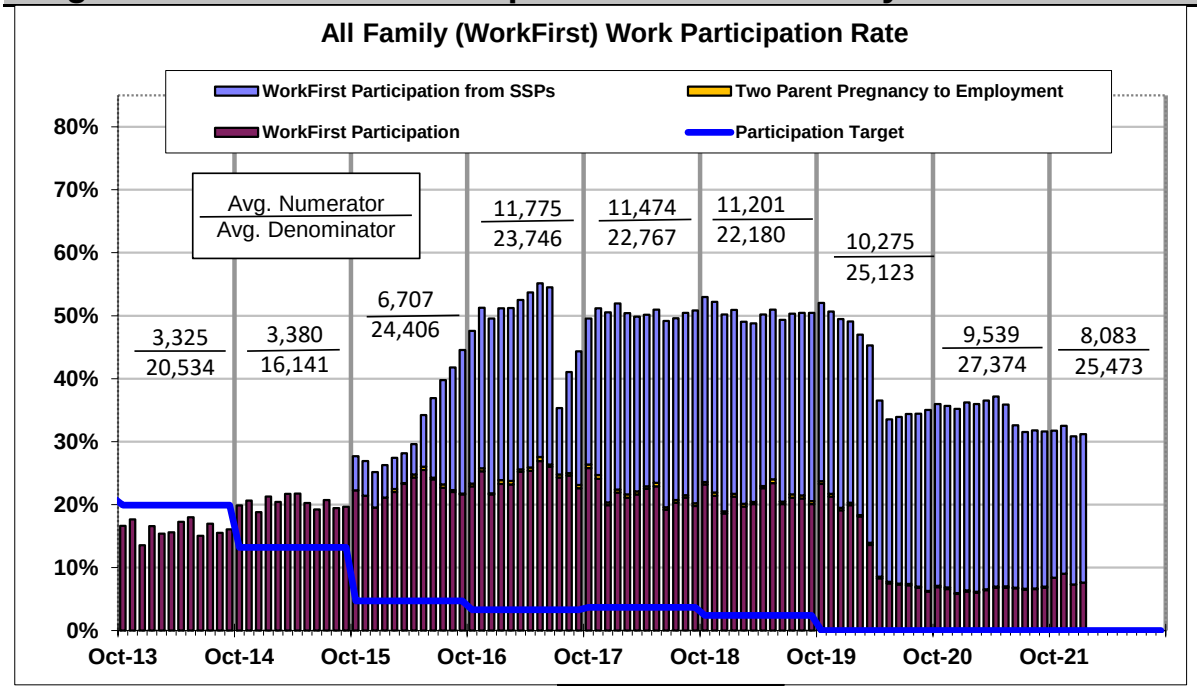
Month	Non Compliance ('SA or SN) Components	Good Cause Eval (PR)	Percent in Non-Compliance	Percent in Eval (PR)
Aug-19	756	1,452	5.0%	9.6%
Sep-19	714	1,379	4.8%	9.2%
Oct-19	765	1,465	5.1%	9.7%
Nov-19	686	1,333	4.6%	8.9%
Dec-19	763	1,467	5.1%	9.8%
Jan-20	785	1,527	5.2%	10.0%
Feb-20	807	1,397	5.3%	9.2%
Mar-20	703	1,091	4.5%	7.1%
Apr-20	123	245	0.6%	1.3%
May-20	63	209	0.3%	1.0%
Jun-20	39	180	0.2%	0.8%
Jul-20	25	171	0.1%	0.8%
Aug-20	23	186	0.1%	0.9%
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	229	0.0%	1.1%
Mar-21	10	237	0.0%	1.2%
Apr-21	9	178	0.0%	0.9%
May-21	9	195	0.0%	1.0%
Jun-21	9	293	0.0%	1.6%
Jul-21	9	327	0.0%	1.8%
Aug-21	9	328	0.1%	1.8%
Sep-21	34	914	0.2%	5.1%
Oct-21	475	2,962	2.4%	14.7%
Nov-21	1,138	3,083	5.6%	15.1%
Dec-21	1,988	3,184	9.6%	15.4%
Jan-22	2,743	2,829	13.0%	13.4%

January 2022 compared to January 2021 (without adjustments for late reporting)			WorkFirst Adults
% Change	45617%	816%	-1%

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 will likely rise once 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 4.2% for FY 2018, 2.4% for FY 2019 and 0.0% for FY 2020 and FY 2021. OFA published final targets of 3.3% for FY 2017, 3.7% for FY 2018, 3.2% for FY 2019 and 0.0% for FY 2020. All 50 states met All Family WPR targets during FY 2020, the most recent year for which OFA has released results. Washington's All Family performance of 41.8% exceeded its federal target for FY 2020. Washington predicts that its All Family target will be 0.0% in FY 2022.

Analysis

The All Family WPR rate for FY 2018 was 21.7%, increased to 50.4% by SSPs. Results 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. Preliminary All Family results for FY 2021 are 6.5% increased to 34.7% by SSPs. Preliminary results for the first four months of FY 2022 are 8.1%, increased to 31.7% by SSPS. WPR has increased due to the reengagement with work participation requirements that began on September 20, 2021. 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. Fifteen states operated SSPs during FY 2020. In 4 states: Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Oregon, SSPs made the difference between passing and failing All Family requirements. Twenty-seven states had All Family targets of 0.0% in FY 2020 and only 6 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 January 2022 are not complete and are not shown. Participation rates use the 12-week job search definition through June 2021 and 6-week definition beginning in July 2021. Results for July 2021 through January 2022 should increase before they become final. Average monthly numerators and denominators for each fiscal year are shown as fractions.

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Targeted Measure 1a: Participation Rate - All Family

Data Table **Components of Federal Work Participation Rates**

All Family (WorkFirst) Work Participation Rates

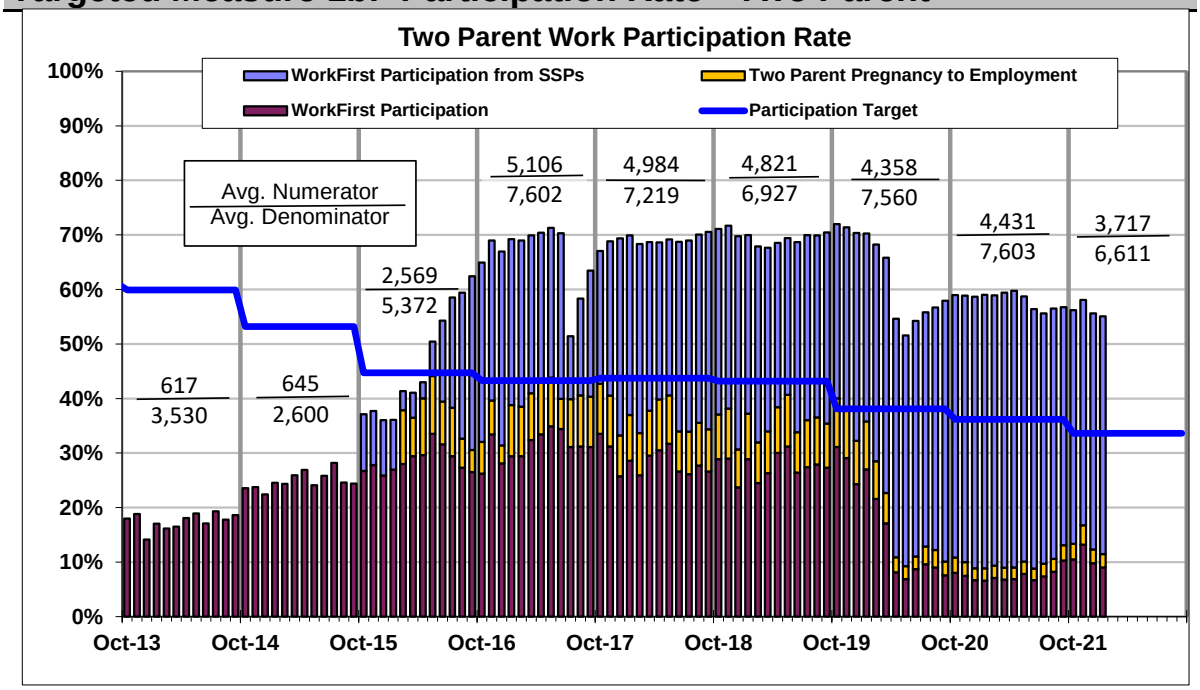
Month	All Family WPR Denominator	All Family Cases	Work Participation Category			Work Participation Rate		
			Hours Met Fed Rate	Supplemental State Pgms	Total	WorkFirst Only	Combined Total	All Family Target
Nov-19	21,967	13,013	2,379	8,748	11,127	21.3%	50.7%	0.0%
Dec-19	21,877	13,018	2,123	8,697	10,820	19.1%	49.5%	0.0%
Jan-20	21,970	13,133	2,238	8,550	10,788	19.9%	49.1%	0.0%
Feb-20	21,836	13,200	2,050	8,214	10,264	18.1%	47.0%	0.0%
Mar-20	22,818	13,276	1,566	8,767	10,333	13.6%	45.3%	0.0%
Apr-20	25,766	16,139	1,178	8,239	9,417	8.3%	36.5%	0.0%
May-20	27,591	18,114	1,208	8,045	9,253	7.5%	33.5%	0.0%
Jun-20	28,205	18,343	1,188	8,374	9,562	7.3%	33.9%	0.0%
Jul-20	28,894	18,552	1,204	8,729	9,933	7.2%	34.4%	0.0%
Aug-20	29,434	18,860	1,153	8,978	10,131	6.8%	34.4%	0.0%
Sep-20	28,975	18,208	1,005	9,143	10,148	6.2%	35.0%	0.0%
Oct-20	28,767	18,006	1,129	9,215	10,344	6.9%	36.0%	0.0%
Nov-20	28,574	17,964	1,089	9,099	10,188	6.6%	35.7%	0.0%
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	24,229	16,171	969	6,673	7,642	6.5%	31.5%	0.0%
Aug-21	23,594	15,808	951	6,544	7,495	6.6%	31.8%	0.0%
Sep-21	23,335	15,854	994	6,384	7,378	6.8%	31.6%	0.0%
Oct-21	25,172	17,584	1,349	6,675	8,024	8.4%	31.9%	0.0%
Nov-21	25,497	17,842	1,471	6,867	8,338	9.0%	32.7%	0.0%
Dec-21	25,323	17,886	1,190	6,652	7,842	7.3%	31.0%	0.0%
Jan-22	25,901	18,439	1,273	6,855	8,128	7.6%	31.4%	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 February 2022, 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 44.2% for FY 2018, 42.4% for FY 2019, 37.9% for FY 2020 and 36.2% for FY 2021. OFA published final targets 43.7% for FY 2018, 43.2% for FY 2019 and 38.1% in FY 2020. Twenty-two states (out of 27) met 2-parent targets during FY 2020, 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 62.4% exceeded its federal target for FY 2020. Washington predicts that its 2-parent target will be 33.6% in FY 2022.

Analysis

2-Parent results for FY 2018 were 36.9%, increased to 69.0% by SSPs. 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. Preliminary results for FY 2021 are 9.8%, increased to 58.1% by SSPs. Preliminary results for the four months of FY 2022 are 13.5%, increased to 56.2% by SSPs. WPR has increased due to the reengagement with work participation requirements that began on September 20, 2021. SSPs increase both the numerator and denominator of the WPR rate. Seven states with 2-parent requirements operated SSPs in FY 2020. In 5 states: Maine, Massachusetts, Oregon, Vermont and Washington, SSPs made the difference between passing and failing 2-parent requirements. Only 7 states had 2-parent participation targets higher than Washington's and none 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 January 2022 are not complete and are not shown. Participation rates use the 12-week job search definition through June 2021 and 6-week definition beginning in July 2021. Results for July 2021 through January 2022 should increase before they become final. Average numerators and denominators are shown as fractions, by fiscal year.

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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: Hours Met Fed Rate	Work Participation Category: Supplemental State Pgms	Work Participation Category: Total	Work Participation Rate: Two Parent Only	Work Participation Rate: Combined Total	Work Participation Rate: Two Parent Target
Oct-19	6,819	1,593	480	4,429	4,909	40.0%	72.0%	38.1%
Nov-19	6,668	1,562	440	4,320	4,760	38.0%	71.4%	38.1%
Dec-19	6,653	1,578	369	4,312	4,681	32.2%	70.4%	38.1%
Jan-20	6,676	1,623	425	4,265	4,690	35.8%	70.3%	38.1%
Feb-20	6,569	1,612	338	4,145	4,483	28.5%	68.2%	38.1%
Mar-20	7,151	1,747	294	4,413	4,707	22.7%	65.8%	38.1%
Apr-20	8,174	2,620	211	4,255	4,466	10.9%	54.6%	38.1%
May-20	8,475	2,998	205	4,166	4,371	9.3%	51.6%	38.1%
Jun-20	8,310	2,633	213	4,295	4,508	11.0%	54.2%	38.1%
Jul-20	8,416	2,543	242	4,455	4,697	12.9%	55.8%	38.1%
Aug-20	8,500	2,476	221	4,598	4,819	12.2%	56.7%	38.1%
Sep-20	8,311	2,260	167	4,646	4,813	10.1%	57.9%	38.1%
Oct-20	8,182	2,227	177	4,648	4,825	10.8%	59.0%	36.2%
Nov-20	8,083	2,225	165	4,593	4,758	10.0%	58.9%	36.2%
Dec-20	8,425	2,361	155	4,786	4,941	8.9%	58.6%	36.2%
Jan-21	8,738	2,399	158	4,999	5,157	8.9%	59.0%	36.2%
Feb-21	8,543	2,350	165	4,868	5,033	9.4%	58.9%	36.2%
Mar-21	8,463	2,276	152	4,877	5,029	9.0%	59.4%	36.2%
Apr-21	8,185	2,109	144	4,746	4,890	9.0%	59.7%	36.2%
May-21	7,633	2,031	157	4,323	4,480	10.1%	58.7%	36.2%
Jun-21	6,618	1,909	128	3,604	3,732	8.8%	56.4%	36.2%
Jul-21	6,291	1,860	137	3,361	3,498	9.7%	55.6%	36.2%
Aug-21	6,080	1,798	146	3,288	3,434	10.6%	56.5%	36.2%
Sep-21	5,989	1,829	185	3,212	3,397	13.1%	56.7%	36.2%
Oct-21	6,512	2,144	224	3,437	3,661	13.3%	56.2%	33.6%
Nov-21	6,608	2,158	283	3,553	3,836	16.7%	58.1%	33.6%
Dec-21	6,521	2,219	215	3,412	3,627	12.3%	55.6%	33.6%
Jan-22	6,803	2,425	215	3,530	3,745	11.5%	55.0%	33.6%

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 February 2022, 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. Total exits were up by 34% between November 2020 and November 2021. Exits for employment, earnings and customer request increased by 13% while exits for other reasons were 73% higher over the same period. That brought the percent who exited for income, earnings or customer request to 54%. The drop in exits for Other Income coincides with end of federal pandemic unemployment insurance benefits in September 2021.

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.

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

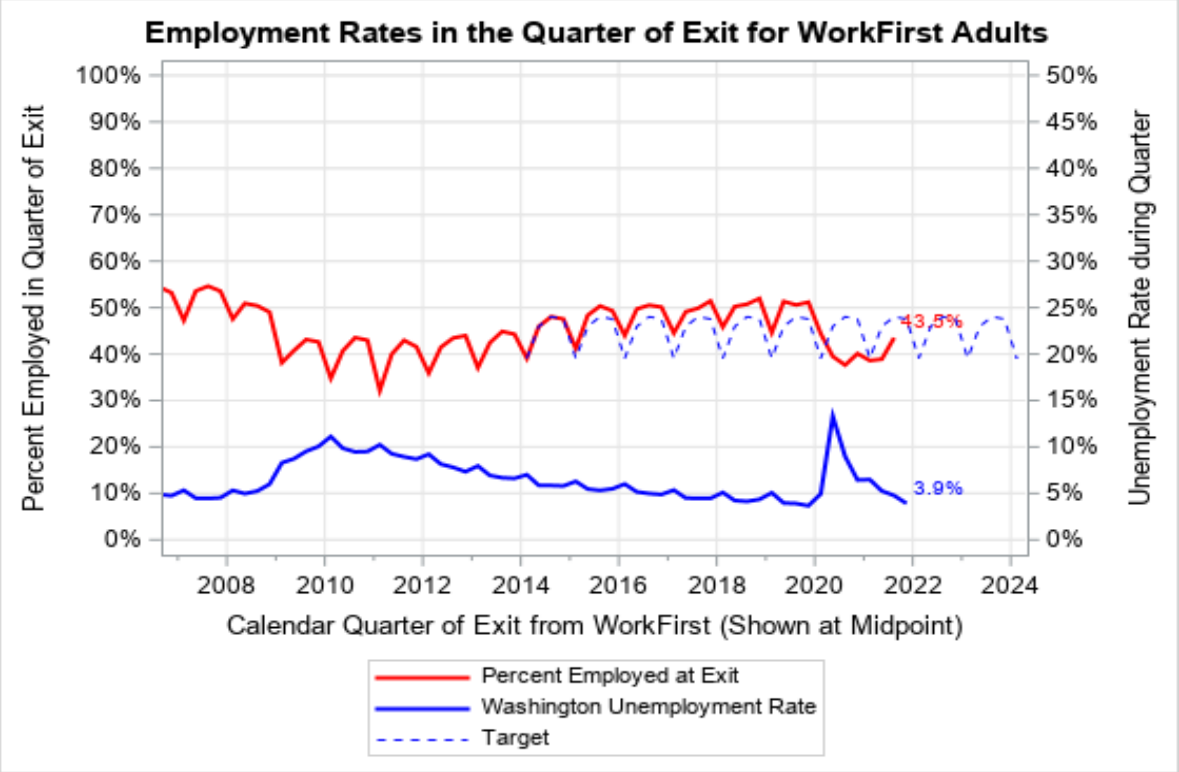
Exits by Reason and Percent of Exits for Income, Earnings or Request

Month	Earned Income	Other Income	Customer Request	Combined Income & Customer Request		Exits for Other Reasons	Total Exits
				Number	Percent		
Jul-19	491	104	248	843	58.2%	606	1,449
Aug-19	582	120	242	944	57.7%	693	1,636
Sep-19	490	96	258	844	59.7%	569	1,413
Oct-19	528	118	294	940	61.6%	586	1,526
Nov-19	519	96	226	841	60.9%	540	1,381
Dec-19	462	110	247	819	59.5%	558	1,377
Jan-20	377	104	218	699	57.4%	519	1,218
Feb-20	424	123	244	791	58.7%	556	1,347
Mar-20	344	108	201	653	62.4%	393	1,046
Apr-20	166	170	97	433	70.1%	185	618
May-20	285	1,315	172	1,772	84.9%	315	2,087
Jun-20	316	625	214	1,155	74.1%	404	1,558
Jul-20	366	587	150	1,103	75.1%	366	1,469
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	210	779	53.8%	670	1,449
November 2021, compared to November 2020							
% Change	81%	-73%	67%	13%		73%	34%

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 2021 prepared by DSHS region show the highest exit with employment rate in Region 1 (Eastern Washington) at 45.0%, followed by Region 3 (Pierce County, the Olympic Peninsula, and Southwest Washington) at 42.9% and Region 2 (Seattle and North Puget Sound) at 42.7%.The rate in Seattle-King County was 44.0%, but was 38.4% in the five CSOs serving Seattle.

The exit with employment rate for Q3 2021 was 43.5%, up from 37.6% in Q3 2021, a difference of 5.9 percentage points. Q3 2021 was the sixth quarter affected by the COVID-19 emergency, the last quarter of federal pandemic unemployment benefits, and the last quarter before WorkFirst reengagement. As seen in the exit for increased income measure (pages 51-52) households continued to leave TANF due to income after COVID-19 impacts began, but not always due to employment income. Washington's unemployment rate in Q3 2021 was 4.8%, 4.2 points lower than the 9.0% in Q3 2020. Region 1 had the lowest unemployment rate in Q3 2021 (4.4%) followed by Region 3 (4.7%) and Region 2 (4.9%). The unemployment rate in Seattle-King county was 4.7%. The exit with employment rate in Q2 2021 was 38.6% in the data reported through November 2021 and increased to 38.9% in the data reported through February 2022. The 0.8% decline in the exit with employment rate seen between Q2 2020 and Q2 2021 in the last reporting cycle became a 0.6% decline in this cycle. Sometimes the revision in results for prior quarters improves the results.

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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	Unemployment Rate United States
Q3 2015	4,479	8,895	50.4%	48.0%	5.3%	5.2%
Q4 2015	4,250	8,619	49.3%	47.5%	5.5%	4.8%
Q1 2016	3,639	8,268	44.0%	39.1%	6.0%	5.2%
Q2 2016	4,305	8,660	49.7%	45.9%	5.2%	4.8%
Q3 2016	4,474	8,854	50.5%	48.0%	5.0%	5.0%
Q4 2016	3,940	7,862	50.1%	47.5%	4.9%	4.5%
Q1 2017	3,306	7,424	44.5%	39.1%	5.4%	4.9%
Q2 2017	3,939	8,021	49.1%	45.9%	4.5%	4.2%
Q3 2017	3,874	7,768	49.9%	48.0%	4.5%	4.4%
Q4 2017	3,629	7,055	51.4%	47.5%	4.5%	3.9%
Q1 2018	2,939	6,412	45.8%	39.1%	5.1%	4.3%
Q2 2018	3,291	6,551	50.2%	45.9%	4.2%	3.8%
Q3 2018	3,289	6,482	50.7%	48.0%	4.1%	3.9%
Q4 2018	3,235	6,225	52.0%	47.5%	4.4%	3.6%
Q1 2019	2,592	5,810	44.6%	39.1%	5.1%	4.1%
Q2 2019	3,236	6,305	51.3%	45.9%	4.0%	3.5%
Q3 2019	3,287	6,499	50.6%	48.0%	3.9%	3.7%
Q4 2019	3,202	6,258	51.2%	47.5%	3.7%	3.3%
Q1 2020	2,638	5,942	44.4%	39.1%	4.9%	4.1%
Q2 2020	2,200	5,572	39.5%	45.9%	13.3%	12.9%
Q3 2020	2,658	7,066	37.6%	48.0%	9.0%	8.9%
Q4 2020	2,424	6,044	40.1%	47.5%	6.4%	6.5%
Q1 2021	2,036	5,275	38.6%	39.1%	6.5%	6.5%
Q2 2021	2,264	5,821	38.9%	45.9%	5.3%	5.8%
Q3 2021	2,444	5,618	43.5%	48.0%	4.8%	5.2%
Q4 2021	.	.	.	47.5%	3.9%	3.9%

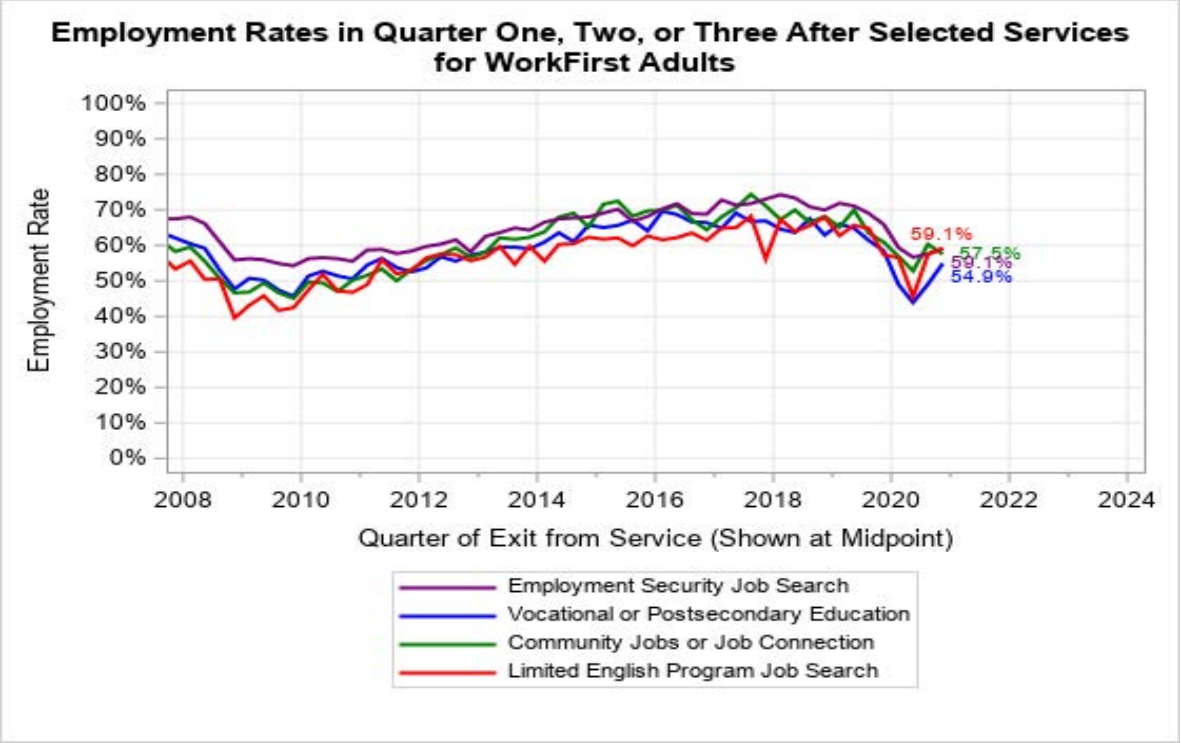
Q3 2021, compared with Q3 2020			Change in Exit with Employment Rate (Percentage Points)		Change in Unemployment Rate (Percentage Points)
% Change	-8%	-20%	5.9%		-4.2%	-3.7%

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 decreased by 20% between Q3 2020 and Q3 2021. Exits with employment decreased by only 8% 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 2022.

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 2020 was the third quarter affected by the $13.65 minimum wage. The number of exits in Q4 2020 was down for all four services, both from Q4 2019 and from the first quarter of the pandemic (Q2 2020). Employment rates were down from Q4 2019 for three of the four services, but were also higher than in Q2 2020 for each service and higher than in Q3 2020 for three of the services.

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.

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Targeted Measures 4 to 7: Employment After Services

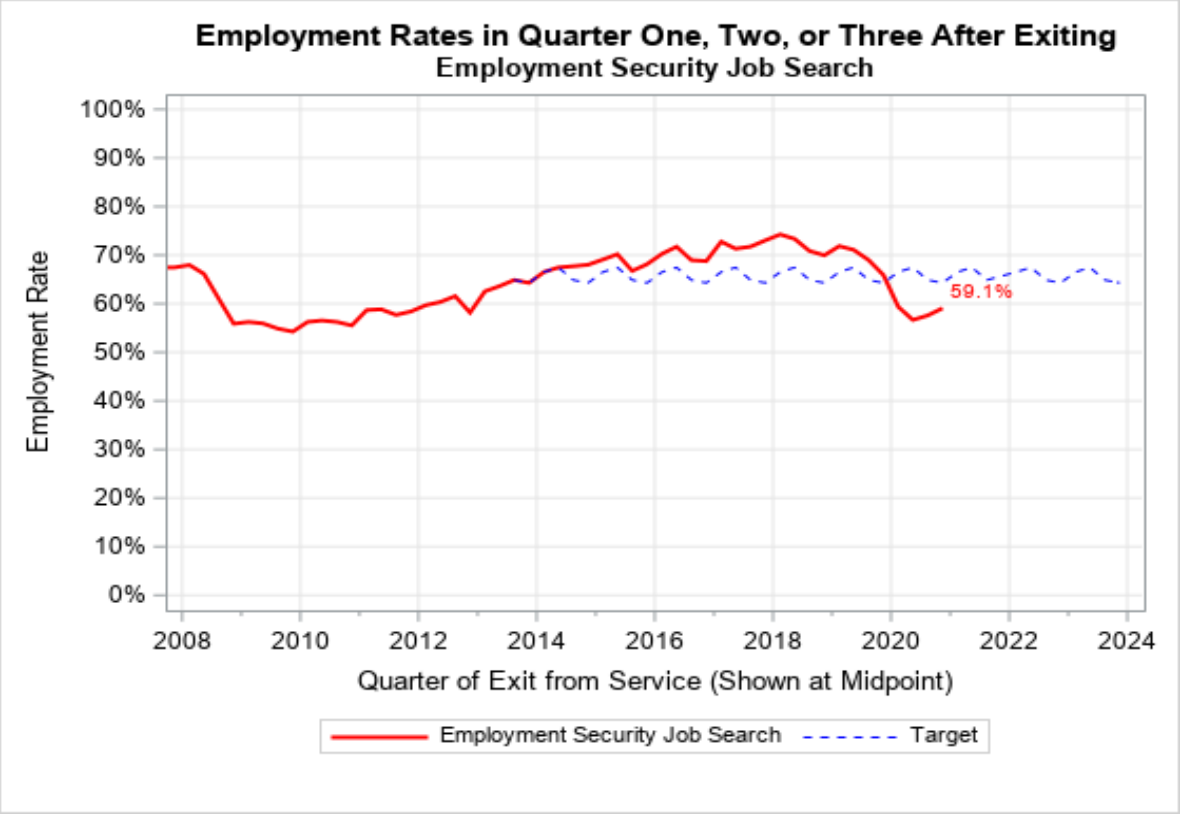
Employment in Quarters 1, 2, or 3 After Exit from Services

	Employment Security Job Search		FT or PT Voc and Postsecondary Ed		Community Jobs or Job Connection		Limited English Pgm Job Search	
Calendar Quarter	Exits	Employment Rate	Exits	Employment Rate	Exits	Employment Rate	Exits	Employment Rate
Q4 2014	2,989	68.0%	1,029	65.7%	718	65.2%	366	62.3%
Q1 2015	3,184	69.1%	992	65.0%	714	71.6%	444	61.7%
Q2 2015	2,790	70.2%	1,314	65.6%	748	72.5%	467	62.1%
Q3 2015	2,791	66.8%	794	67.1%	591	68.2%	431	59.9%
Q4 2015	2,612	68.1%	941	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%	1,127	68.7%	722	71.3%	460	62.2%
Q3 2016	2,364	69.0%	673	66.6%	555	67.2%	460	63.5%
Q4 2016	2,136	68.8%	783	66.4%	553	64.4%	399	61.4%
Q1 2017	2,225	72.8%	756	64.8%	578	68.0%	469	64.8%
Q2 2017	2,019	71.3%	909	69.1%	686	70.6%	511	65.0%
Q3 2017	2,095	71.7%	604	66.7%	624	74.4%	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	70.0%	566	62.9%	437	68.2%	268	67.9%
Q1 2019	1,560	71.9%	514	66.0%	459	65.1%	247	62.8%
Q2 2019	1,570	71.1%	725	64.8%	582	69.9%	288	65.6%
Q3 2019	1,632	69.0%	505	61.4%	481	63.4%	321	64.8%
Q4 2019	1,513	65.9%	578	58.5%	458	60.9%	359	57.4%
Q1 2020	1,867	59.3%	615	48.9%	494	56.9%	294	56.5%
Q2 2020	586	56.7%	533	43.9%	337	52.8%	336	45.5%
Q3 2020	356	57.6%	322	49.1%	277	60.3%	202	57.4%
Q4 2020	325	59.1%	346	54.9%	186	57.5%	115	59.1%
Q4 2020, compared with Q4 2019		Change in Rate		Change in Rate		Change in Rate		Change in Rate
% Change	-79%	-6.8%	-40%	-3.6%	-59%	-3.4%	-68%	1.7%

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 2022.

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.

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 2020 were highest in DSHS Region 2 (60.4%) followed by Region 3 (60.3%) and Region 1 (56.3%). Local Planning Areas with employment outcomes exceeding 70% after ESD job search were: King South (26) in Region 2; and Clallam/Jefferson (1), Grays Harbor/ Pacific (8) and Lewis County (9) in Region 3. Outcomes did not exceed 70% at any LPA in Region1. The number of ESD job search exits is shown in parentheses for each LPA. Small sample sizes can increase the variability of results. Spokane/Lincoln (46 exits), Pierce County (45 exits), King Central (30 exits), Yakima/ Kittitas (30 exits) and King South (26 exits) were the largest users of ESD job search.

Ten LPAs had employment levels below 50% after ESD job search: Asotin/Garfield/Whitman (1), Benton/ Franklin (9), Grant/Adams (4),Tri-Counties (1) and Walla Walla/Columbia (5) in Region 1; King North (7) and Skagit/San Juan/Island (6) in Region 2; Cowlitz/Wahkiakum (15) and Kitsap County (3) in Region 3; and Klickitat/Skamania (7) straddling Regions 1 and 3. UI wage records may not include the employment of adults finding jobs in neighboring states. Chelan/Douglas and Okanogan recorded no exits from ESD job search and had no outcomes to report.

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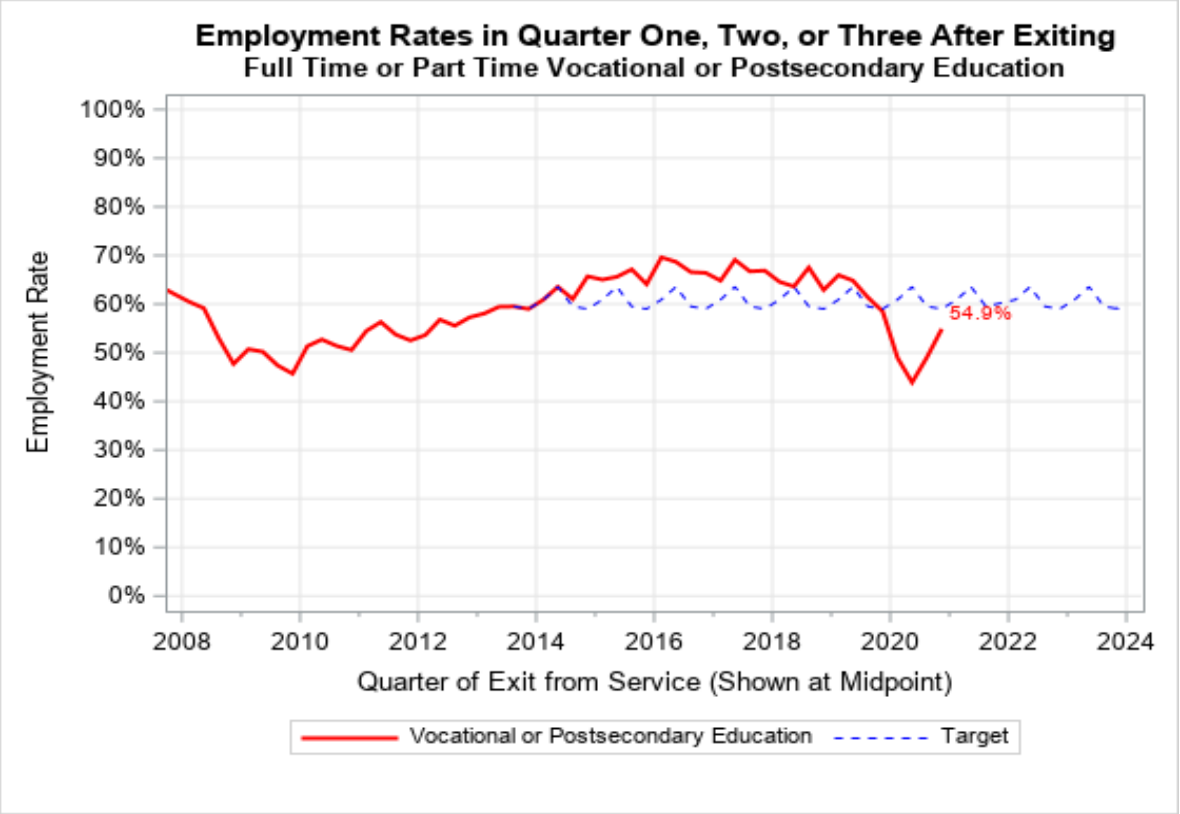
Targeted Measure 5: Employment after Vocational or Postsecondary Education



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.

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 2020 were highest in DSHS Region 2 (57.9%) followed by Region 1 (53.0%) and Region 3 (52.9%). Local Planning Areas with outcomes exceeding 70% after vocational or postsecondary education were: Tri-Counties (1) in Region 1; and Lewis County (8), Mason County (3) and Thurston County (14) in Region 3. Outcomes did not exceed 70% at any LPA in Region 2. 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 (69 exits), Spokane/Lincoln (44 exits), King Central (39 exits) and King South (39 exits) were the largest users of vocational or postsecondary education.

Six LPAs had employment levels below 50% after vocational or postsecondary education: Asotin/Garfield/Whitman (2) in Region 1; King Eastside (13), King North (9) and Skagit/San Juan/Island (11) in Region 2; and Grays Harbor/Pacific (8) and Pierce Count (69) in Region 3. Chelan/Douglas and Okanogan County in Region 1 and Klickitat/Skamania straddling Regions 1 and 3 recorded no exits from vocational or post-secondary education and had no outcomes to report.

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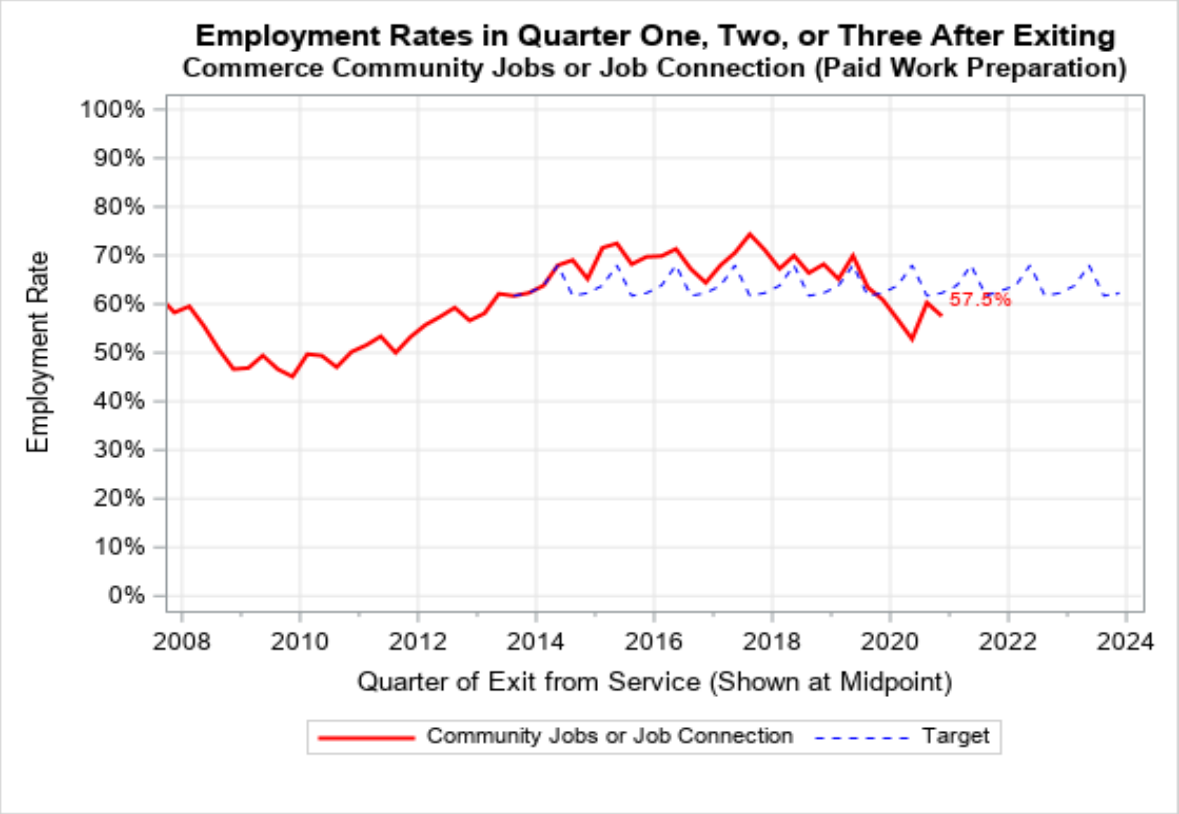
Targeted Measure 6: Employment after Community Jobs or Job Connection (Paid Work Preparation Activities)



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.

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 2020 were highest in DSHS Region 2 (63.3%) followed by Region 1 (55.4%) and Region 3 (50.9%). Local Planning Areas with outcomes exceeding 70% after Community Jobs were: Chelan/Douglas (2) and Grant/Adams (1) in Region 1; King North (6), Skagit/San Juan/Island (8) and Snohomish County (23) in Region 2; and Lewis County (4) 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 (37 exits), Spokane/Lincoln (34 exits), Pierce County (15 exits), King South (14 exits) and Yakima/Kittitas (14 exits) were the largest users of Community Jobs.

Five LPAs had employment levels below 50% after Community Jobs: Benton/Franklin (5) and Grant/ Adams (1) in Region 1; Whatcom County (1) in Region 2; and Cowlitz/Wahkiakum (12) and Grays Harbor/ Pacific (1) in Region 3. Asotin/Garfield/Whitman, Okanogan County, Tri-Counties, Walla Walla/Columbia, Clallam/Jefferson and Klickitat/Skamania recorded no exits from Community Jobs and had no outcomes to report.

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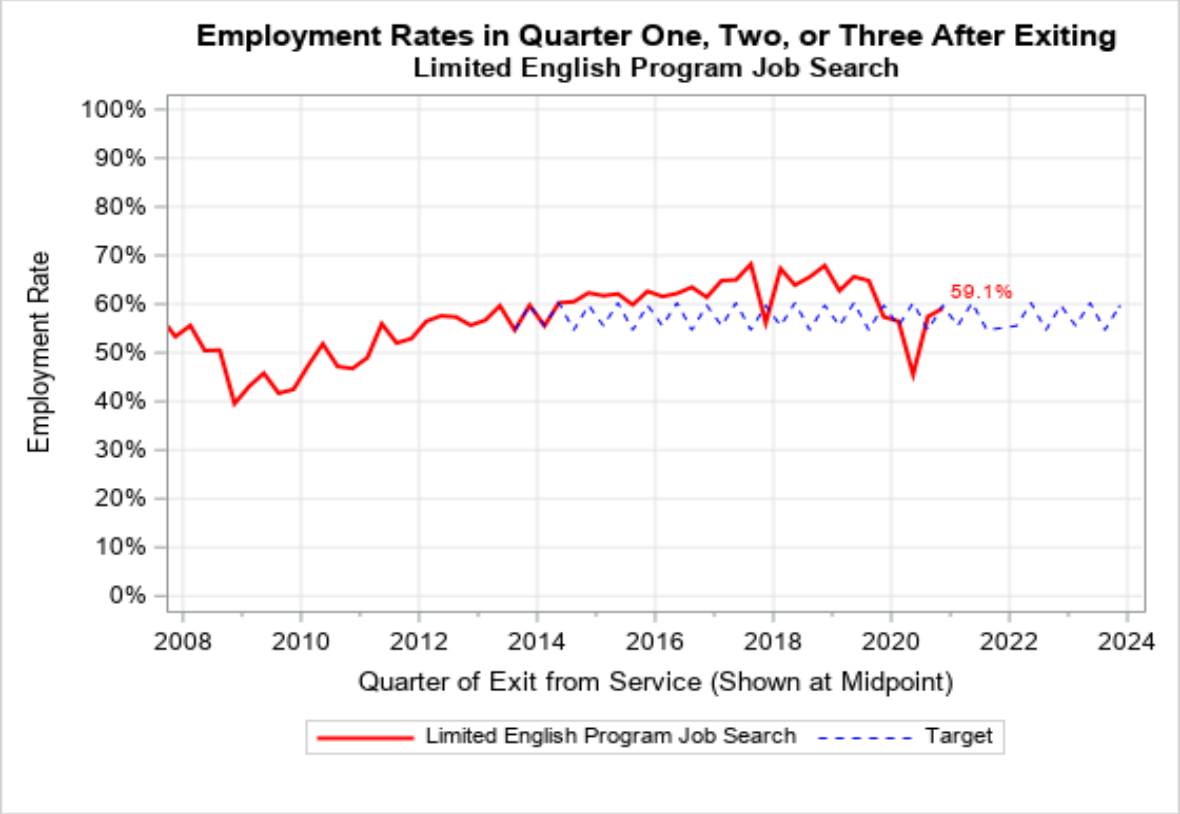
Targeted Measure 7: Employment after Limited English Program Job Search



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.

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 2020 were highest in DSHS Region 1 (71.4%) followed by Region 2 (61.2%) and Region 3 (30.0%). Local Planning areas with outcomes exceeding 70% after LEP job search were Spokane/Lincoln (4) in Region 1 and King North (2) and Whatcom County (1) in Region 2. Outcomes did not exceed 70% at any LPA in Region 3. The number of exits from LEP job search is shown in parentheses for each LPA. Small sample sizes can increase the variability of results. King Central (51 exits), King South (38 exits), Clark County (5 exits) and Snohomish County (5 exits) were the largest users of LEP job search.

Four LPAs had employment levels below 50% after LEP job search: King Eastside (1) and Snohomish County (5) in Region 2 and Clark County (5) and Thurston County (1) in Region 3. UI wage records may not include the employment of adults finding jobs in neighboring states. Fifteen LPAs had no exits from LEP job search during Q4 2020 and had no outcomes to report. There were 98 exits from LEP job search in Region 2 during Q4 2020 but only 7 exits in Region 1 and 10 exits in Region 3.

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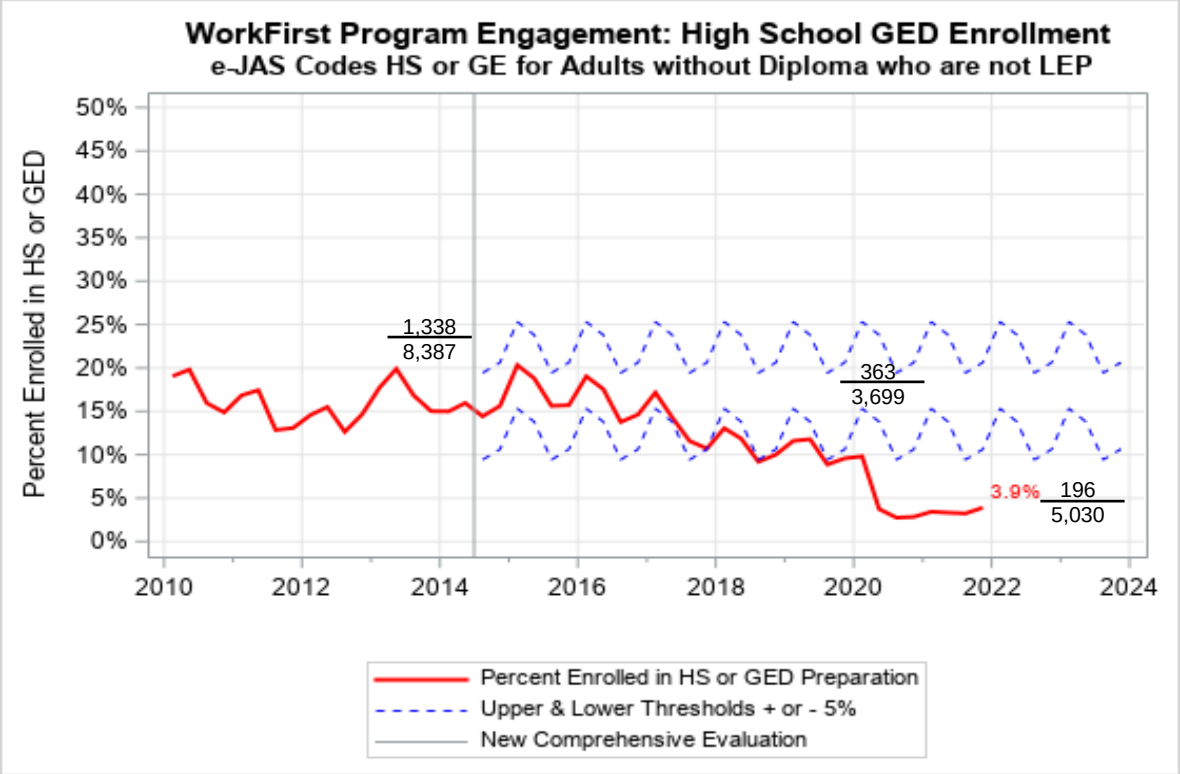
Driver Measure 12: Program Engagement: Enrollment in High School or GED Preparation Activities



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 2022.

An average of 5,125 adults (excluding LEP adults) were identified with an education level below high school diploma or equivalent per quarter during FY 2021. An average of 158 adults were enrolled in high school or equivalency programs per quarter. This produced an engagement rate of 3.2%. 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 2021 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, the highest percentage since FY 2016.

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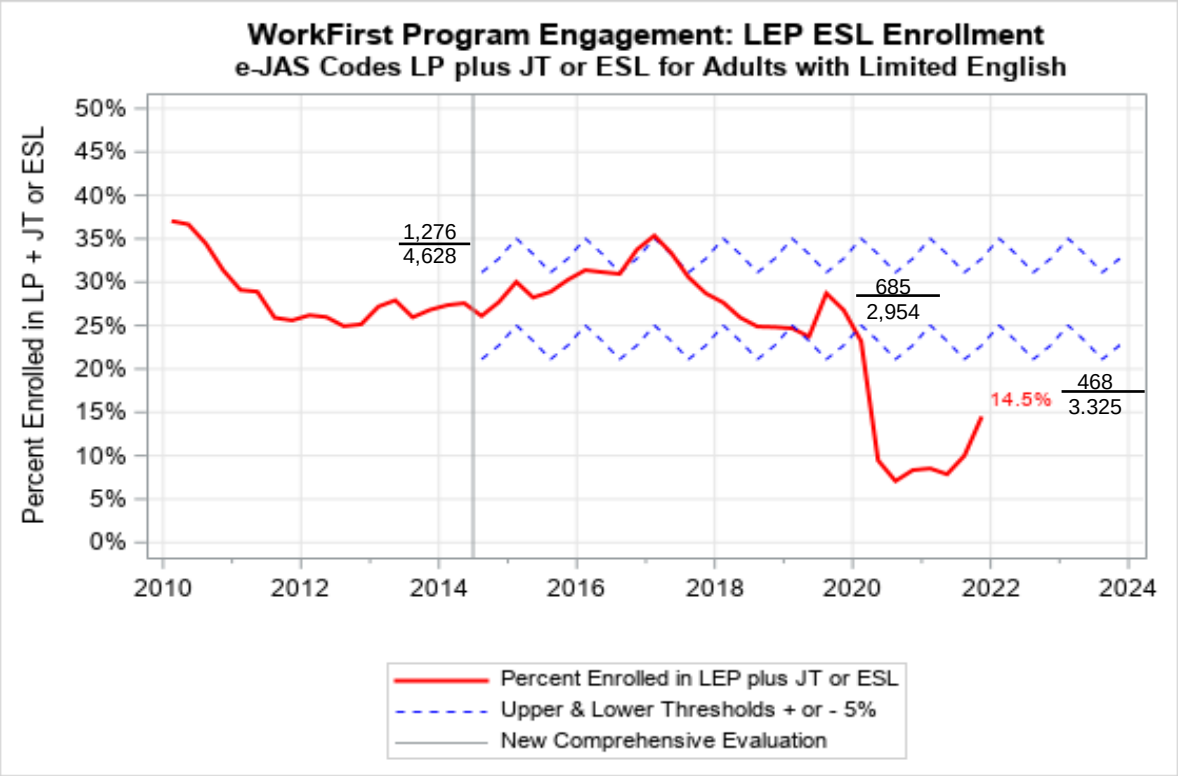
Driver Measure 13: Program Engagement: Enrollment in Basic Education and ESL Programs by LEP Adults

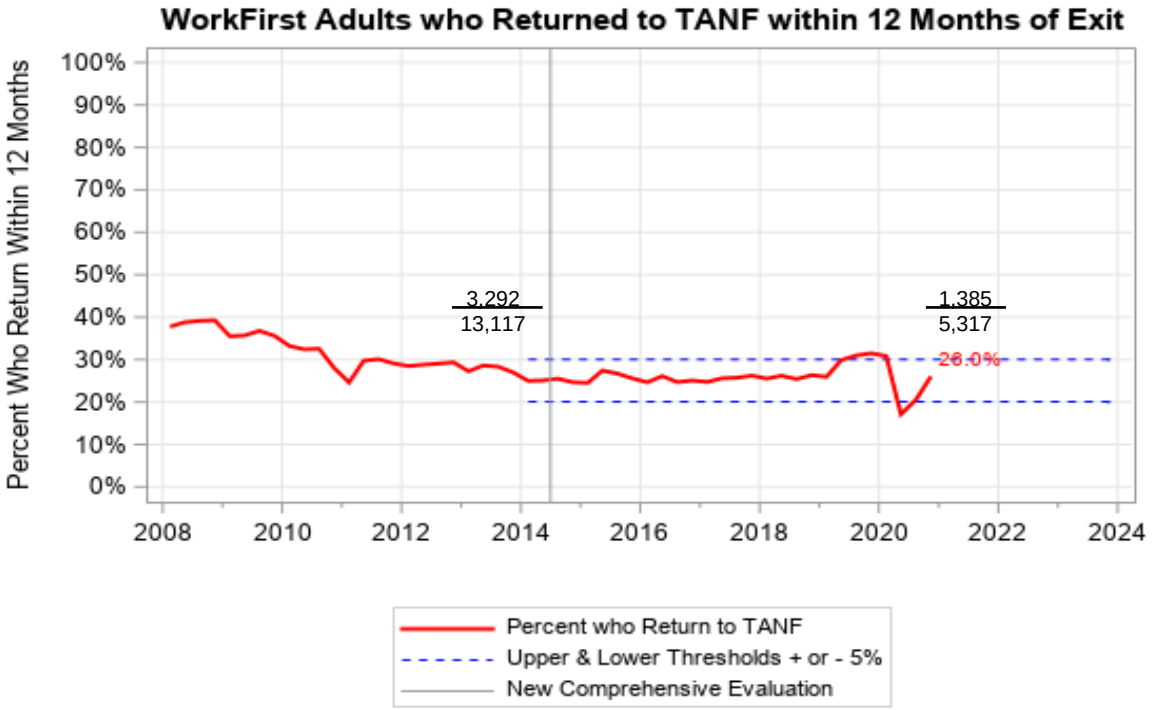


Definition of Measure

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 2022.

An average of 2,985 adults were identified as non-English speakers or immigrants eligible for LEP programs per quarter during FY 2021. 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 236 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 7.9% during 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 and engagement peaked at 33.4% in that year. The LEP population dropped to 15% of WorkFirst in FY 2019, returned briefly to 17% in Q2 2020, but dropped to 12% in FY 2021. Afghan refugees increased the LEP population to 13% of the caseload in Q4 2021. Numerators and denominators for Q2 2014, Q1 2020 and Q4 2021 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 6,067 WorkFirst adults exited TANF during each quarter of FY 2020. Of those, an average of 1,672 had returned to TANF within 12 months or had another family member who did so. The resulting rate of return to TANF was 27.6%. Rates for FYs 2017, 2018, and 2019 were 25.0%, 25.9% and 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 Q4 2020 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=WF%20Wage%20Progression%20Report_2021%20Q1__d1675e5b-417a-449e-a9c1-dc002db9ce9f.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 January 1 2022, is Q1 2020. The wage progression report is entering the period of elevated return-to-TANF shown above.

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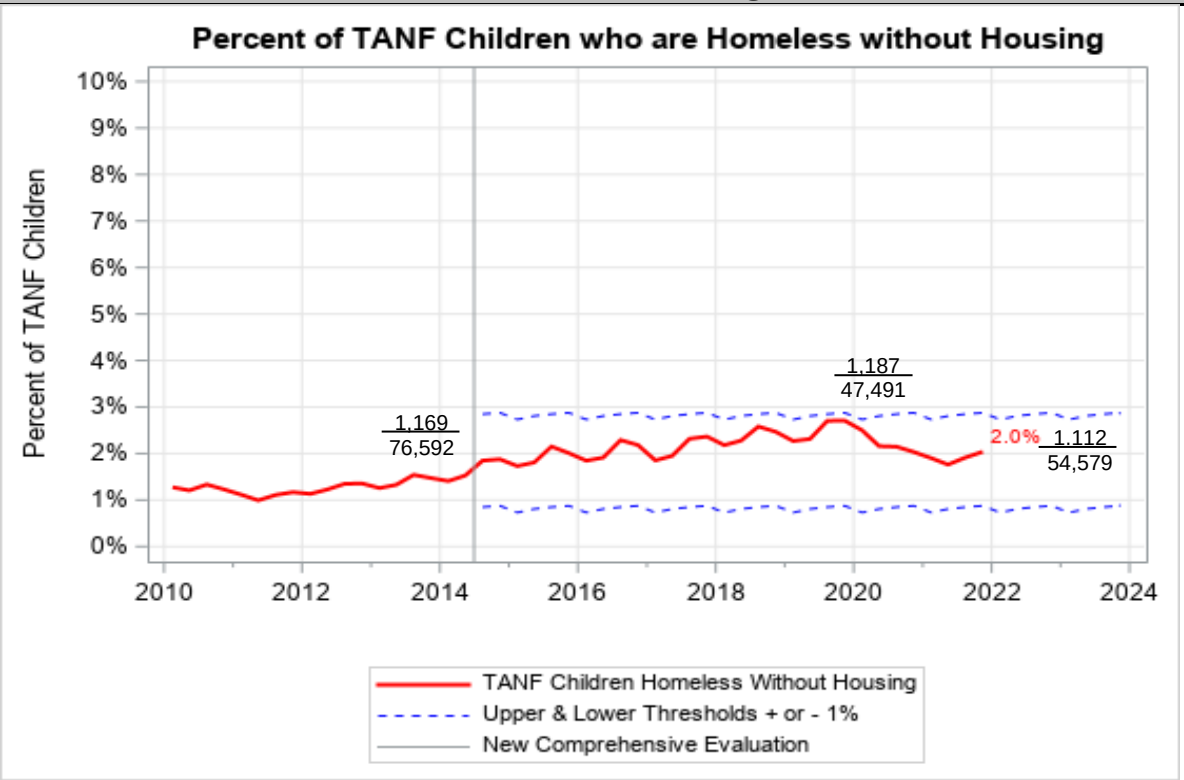
Barometer Measure 15: Percent of TANF Children who are Homeless without Housing



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 2022. Counts include Child Only TANF children.

An average of 55,986 children received TANF during each quarter of FY 2021. Of these, an average of 1,100 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 2.0% in FY 2016, 2.3% in FY 2018, 2.4% in FY 2019, 2.5% in FY 2020 and 2.0% in FY 2021. The thresholds for this measure are calculated from FY 2015. Numerators and denominators for Q2 2014, Q1 2020 and Q4 2021 are shown as fractions.

The number of TANF children who were homeless without housing was 1,112 during Q4 2021, 4.1% fewer than in Q4 2020 compared with a 0.5% decrease in the number of homeless TANF children. The number of TANF children decreased by 4.3% over the same time period. Q2 2021 saw the lowest count 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.

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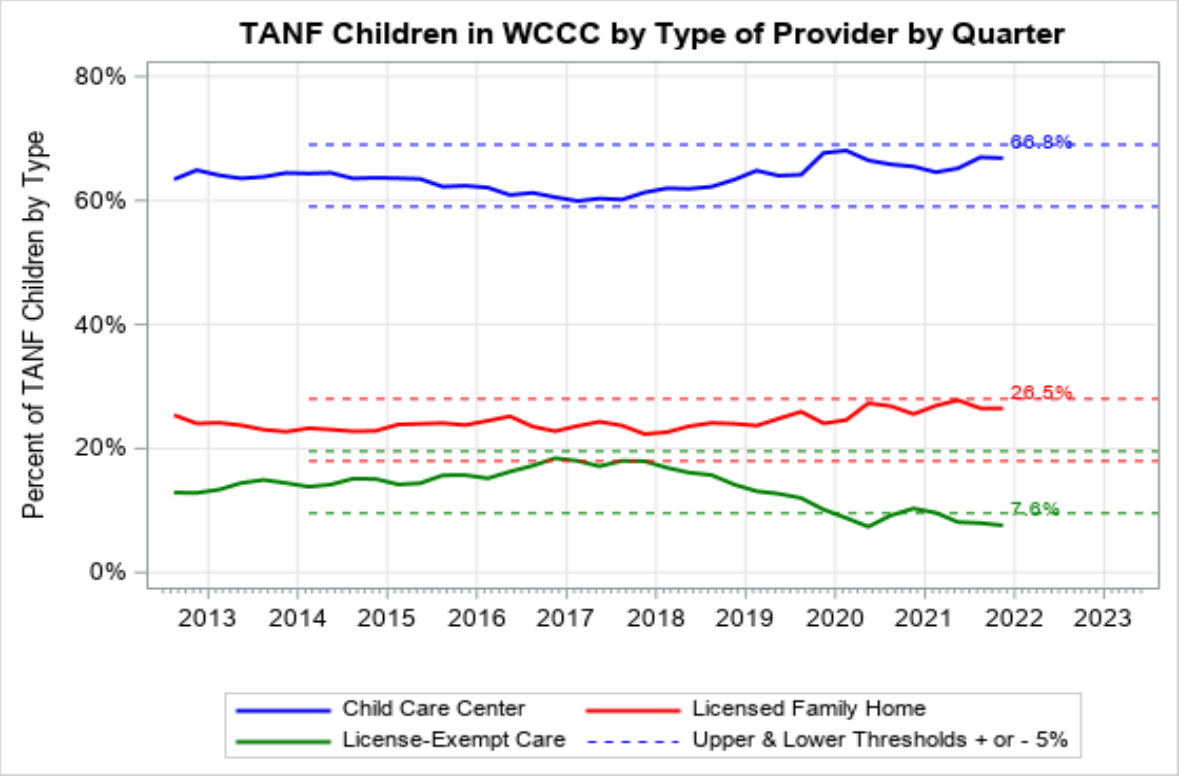
Barometer Measure 16: TANF Children Using WCCC Child Care by Modality



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 13,451 months of WCCC child care were provided for TANF children per quarter in FY 2021, down by 22% from FY 2020 and down 74% from FY 2011. The share of care provided by centers increased from 61% in FY 2017 to 67% in FY 2020 dropping back to 65% in FY 2021. The share of TANF-related child care provided by licensed family homes increased from 24% in FY 2017 to 27% in FY 2021. 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 9% in FY 2021.

For comparison: 93,359 months of care were provided per quarter to non-TANF related children in FY 2021, down by 18% from FY 2020 and down by 28% from FY 2011. 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 back to 58% in FY 2021. The share of non-TANF care provided by licensed family homes rose from 24% to 30% between FY 2017 and FY 2021 and the share at FFN providers dropped from 21% to 13%.

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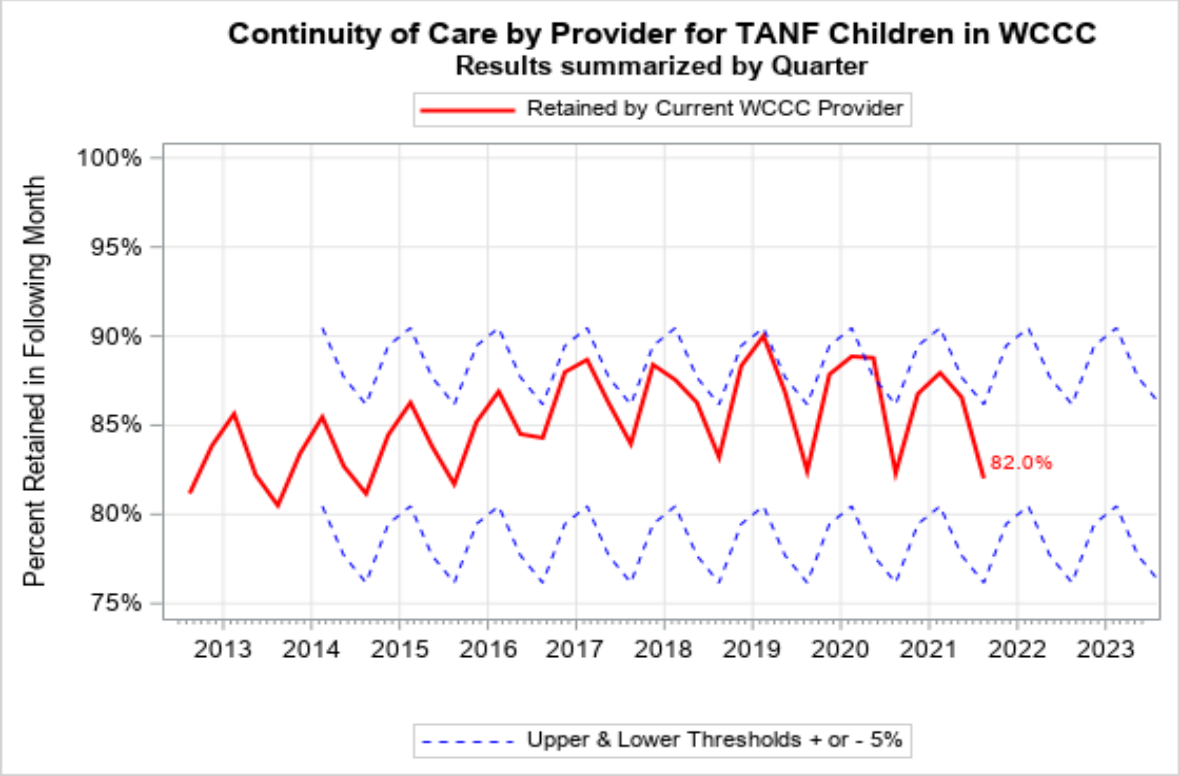
Barometer Measure 17: Stability of Care by Provider for TANF Children using WCCC Child Care



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 86.8% in FY 2017 and 87.0% in FY 2020 but dropped to 85.7% in FY 2021. 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%) and continued to increase to 88.7% in FY 2021, despite the pandemic. The drop in continuity for TANF related households stems from the suspension of WorkFirst work participation requirements.

Continuity at WorkFirst households, exempt from work participation requirements, was 84.9% in FY 2021 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. Continuity was highest at licensed family home providers among non-TANF-related households. Continuity was highest at FFN providers among WorkFirst households and Child Only TANF households. WorkFirst households were the least likely to use FFN providers.

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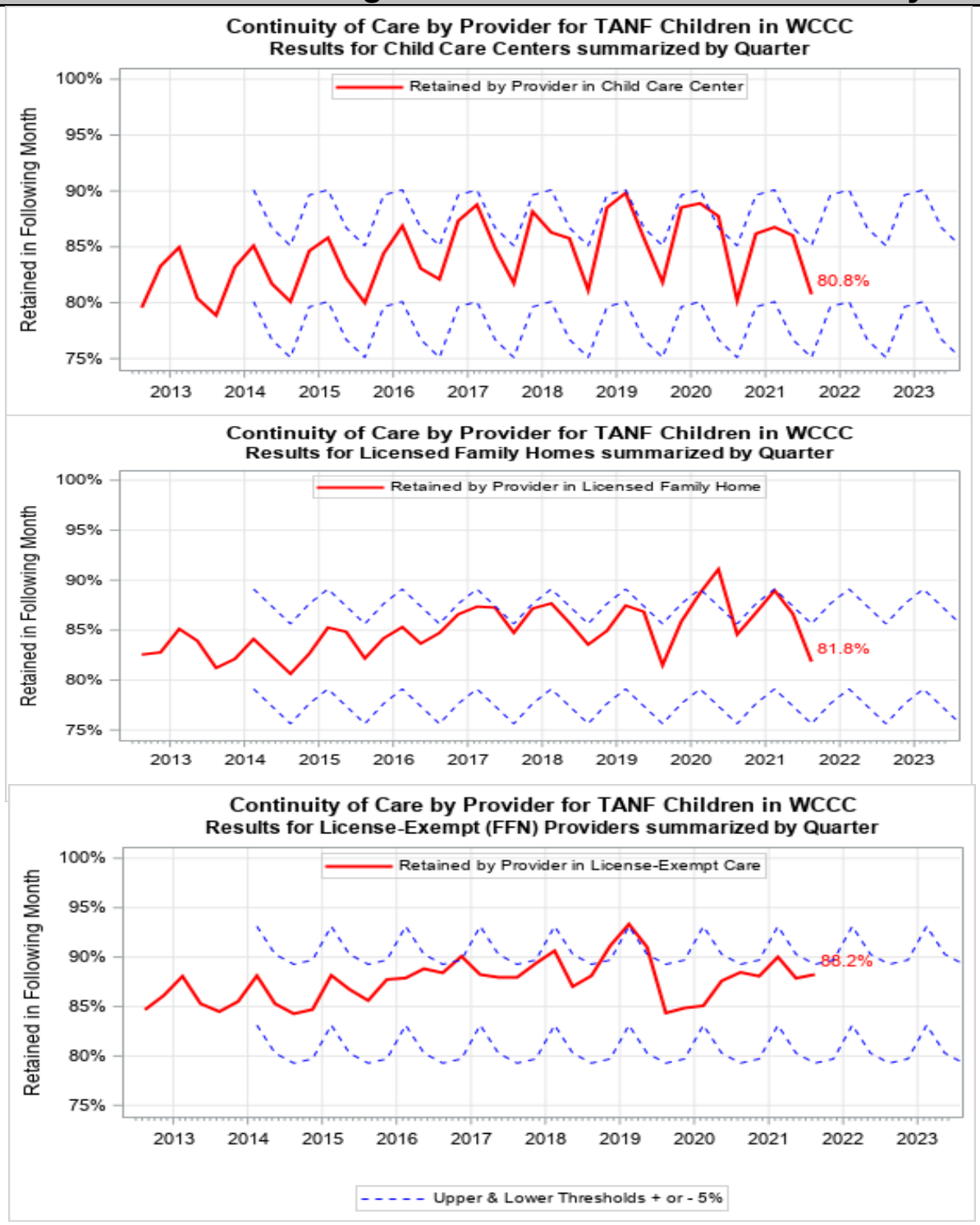
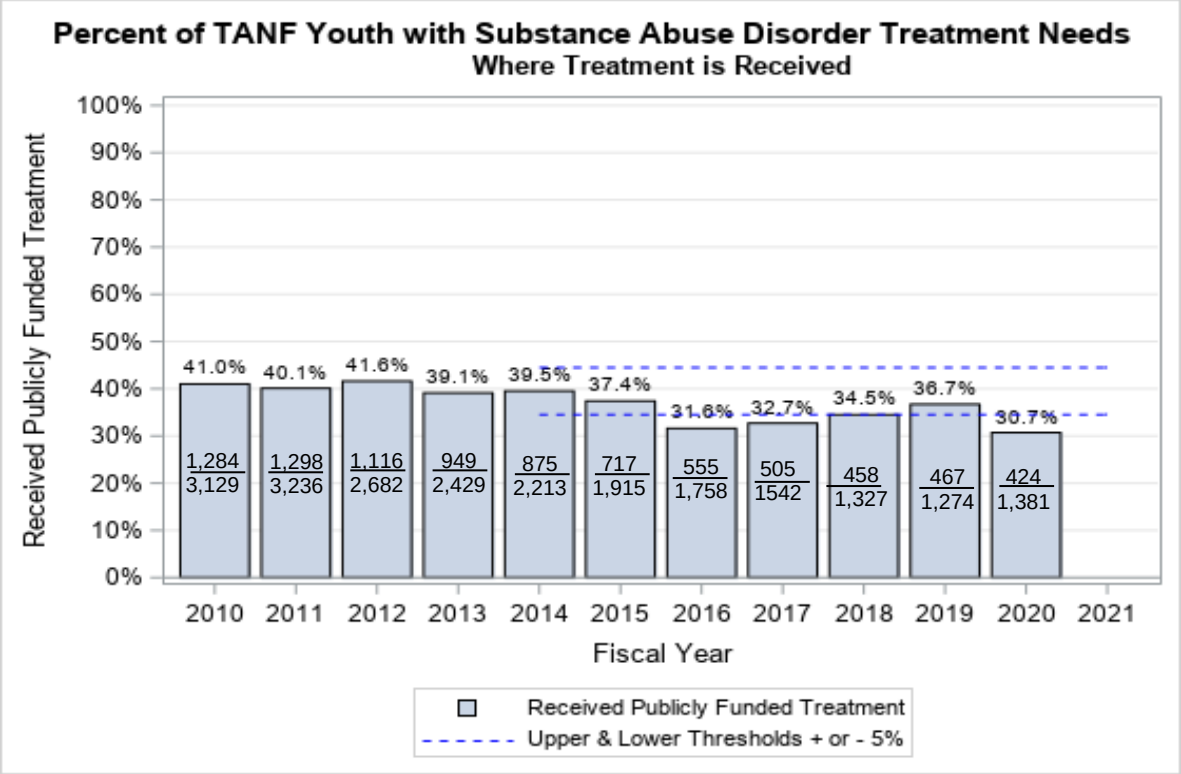
Barometer Measures 18 to 20: Stability of Care by Provider for TANF Children using each WCCC Child Care Modality



Thresholds for Barometer Measures 16 through 20 are based on calendar year 2014. Results are based on SSPS data through March 2, 2022.

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 December 2, 2021. Counts include Child Only TANF children.

A total of 19,777 TANF youth between the ages of 12 and 17 in FY 2020 were identified for this measure. Of these, 1,381 youth were identified in the Integrated Client Database as having an SUD treatment need. A total of 424 youth were identified as receiving publicly funded SUD treatment, yielding a treatment rate of 30.7%. 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 7.0% in FY 2020. The 30.7% treatment rate in FY 2020 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 little 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 increased number of children in FY 2020 is associated with TANF caseload increases.

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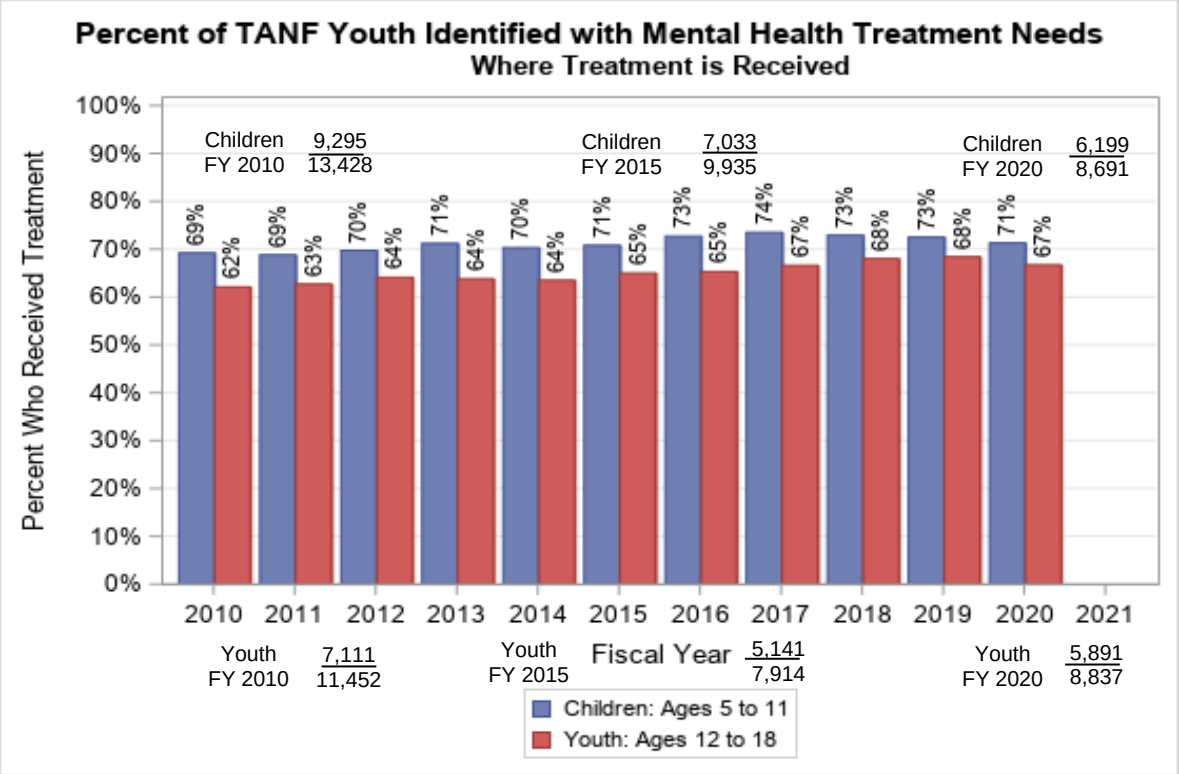
Barometer Measure 22: Mental Health Treatment Received (Youth)



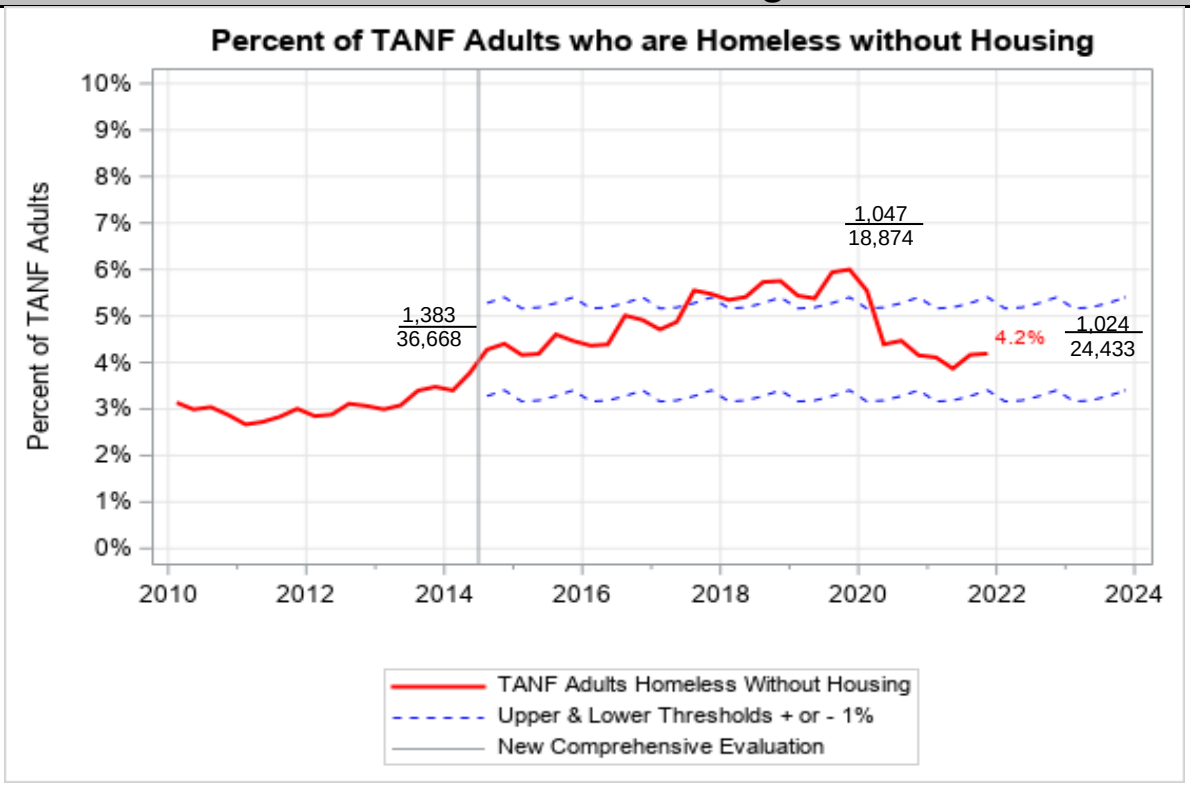
Definition of Measure

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 December 2, 2020. Child Only TANF children are included.

A total of 19,777 TANF youth between the ages of 12 and 17 were identified for this measure in FY 2020. Of these, 8,837 youth were identified with MH treatment needs and 5,891 received treatment. Treatment rates for younger children (ages 5 to 11) were higher, with 6,199 children receiving treatment and 8,691 needing it out of a total of 29,847 young children. Some 27% of younger children, as opposed to 38% of older children were identified as having treatment needs in FY 2015, increasing to 32% of younger children and 47% of older children in FY 2019. Treatment needs dropped back to 29% for younger children and 45% for older children in FY 2020. Treatment needs were lower in prior years. Only 22% of younger children and 31% of older children needed mental health treatment in FY 2010.

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 2020 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 2022.

An average of 24,077 adults received TANF during each quarter of FY 2021. Of these, an average of 1,001 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 average percent of the TANF adult population that was homeless without housing in a quarter was 4.5% in FY 2016, 5.4% in FY 2018, 5.6% in FY 2019, 5.4% in FY 2020 and 4.2% in FY 2021. The thresholds for this measure are calculated from FY 2015. Numerators and denominators for Q2 2014, Q1 2020 and Q4 2021 are shown as fractions.

The number of TANF adults who were homeless without housing was 1,024 during Q4 2021, 0.2% more than in Q4 2020. The number of homeless TANF adults decreased by 6.9% and the number of TANF adults decreased by 0.7% over the same period. Q2 2021 saw the lowest count 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.

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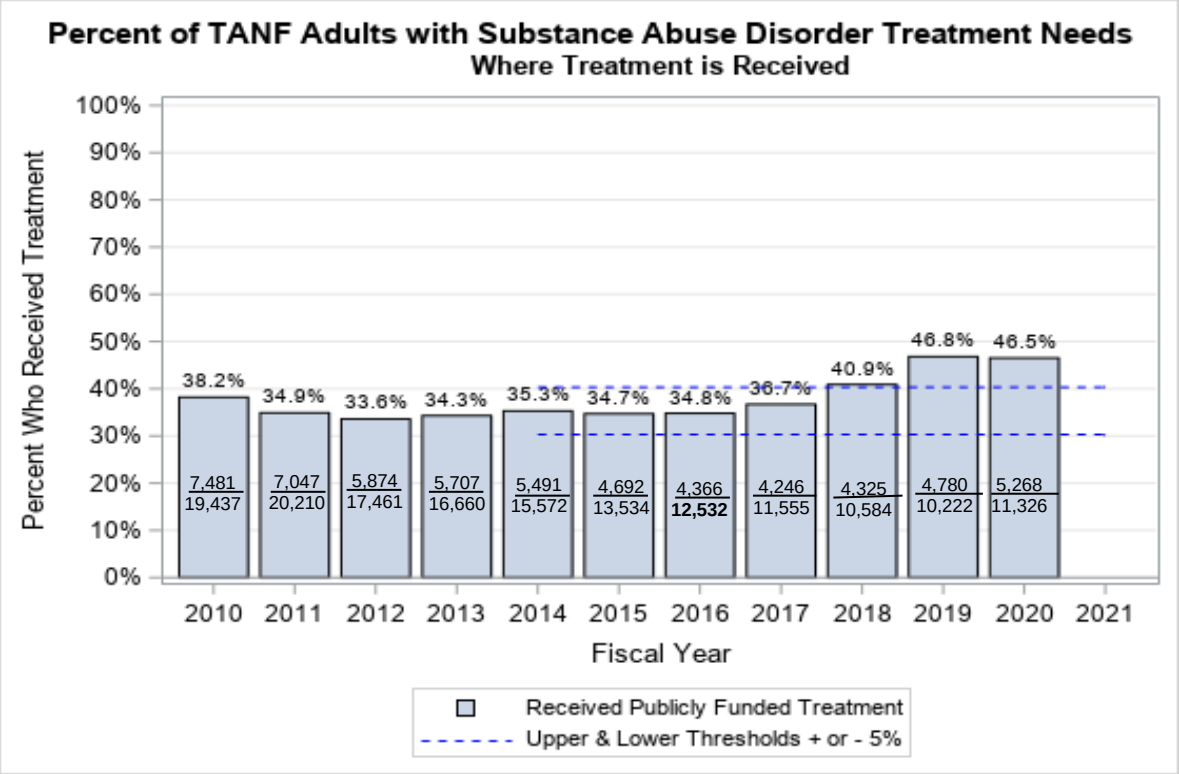
Barometer Measure 24: Substance Abuse Disorder Treatment Received (Adults)



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 November 2, 2021.

A total of 36,324 TANF adults from FY 2020 were identified for this measure. Of these, 11,326 were identified in the Integrated Client Database as having an SUD treatment need. A total of 5,268 adults were identified as receiving publicly funded AOD treatment, yielding a treatment rate of 46.8%. Treatment rates in FY 2019 (46.8%) and FY 2020 are the highest on record in this series. The percent of TANF adults with treatment needs also from 21.7% in FY 2010 to 27.0% in FY 2015 and 32.1% in FY 2019 before dropping to 31.2% in FY 20120. See page 44 for counts of adults active in SUD treatment through WorkFirst referrals. WorkFirst referral records would have predicted a larger drop.

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 FY 2020 is associated with TANF caseload increases. See page 68 for similar information on TANF children ages 12 to 17.

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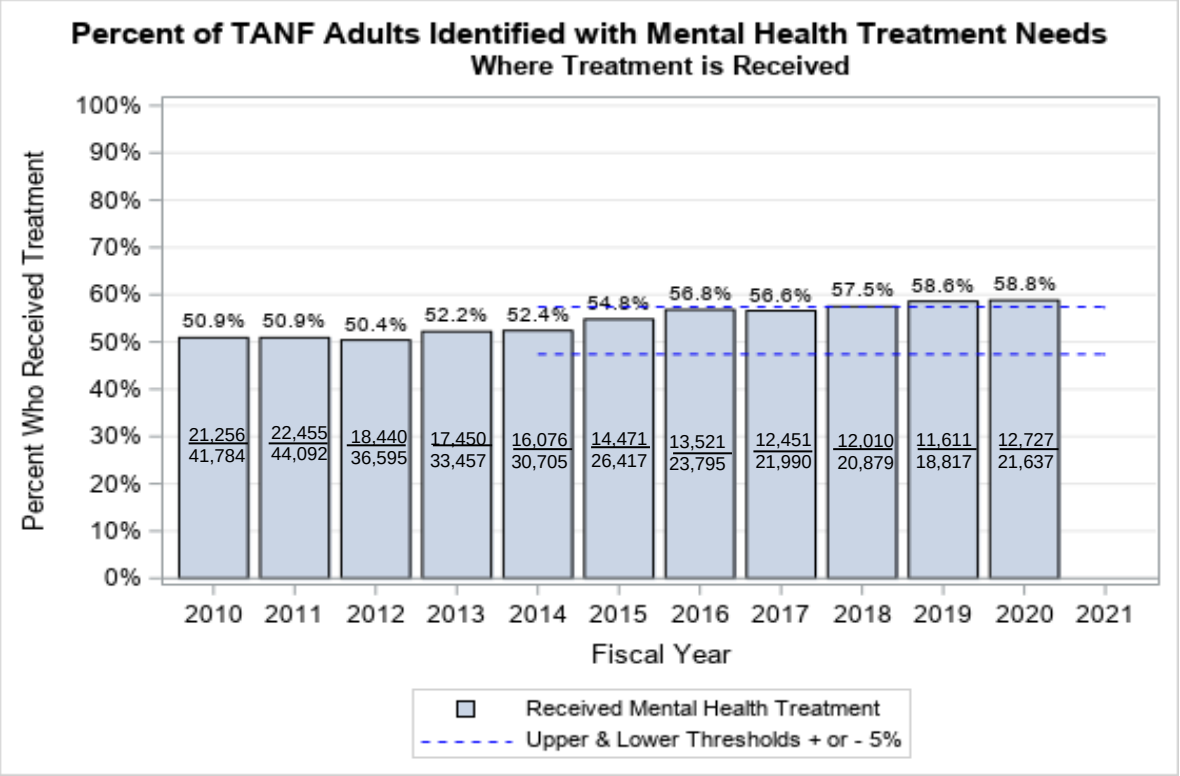
Barometer Measure 25: Mental Health Treatment Received (Adults)



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 December 2, 2020.

A total of 36,324 TANF adults were identified for this measure in FY 2020. Of these, 21,637 adults were identified as having a mental health need. A total of 12,727 of these adults received treatment, yielding a treatment rate of 58.8%. Treatment rates in FY 2019 (58.6%) and FY 2020 are the highest on record in this series. 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 dropping to 59.6% in FY 2020. See page 44 for counts of adults active in mental health treatment through WorkFirst referrals. WorkFirst referral records would have predicted a drop in mental health treatment but that did not occur in treatment records.

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 FY 2020 is associated with TANF caseload increases. See page 69 for similar information on TANF children.

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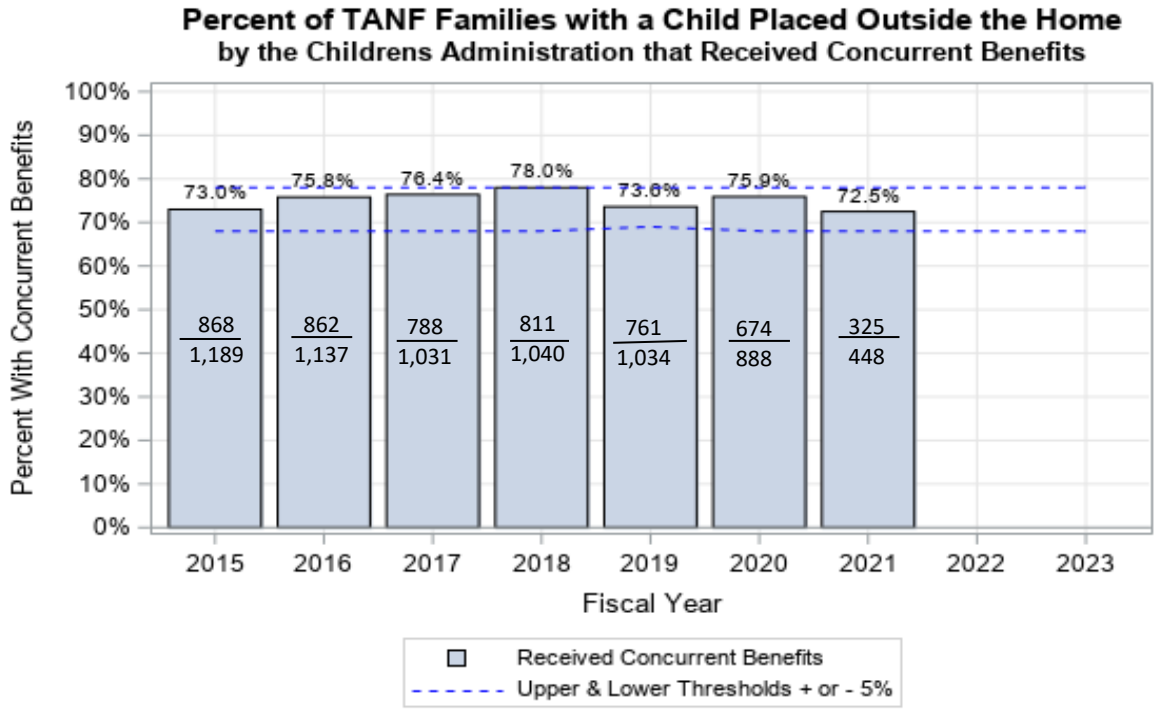
Barometer Measure 26: Percent of TANF Families With a Child Outside the Home Receiving Concurrent Benefits



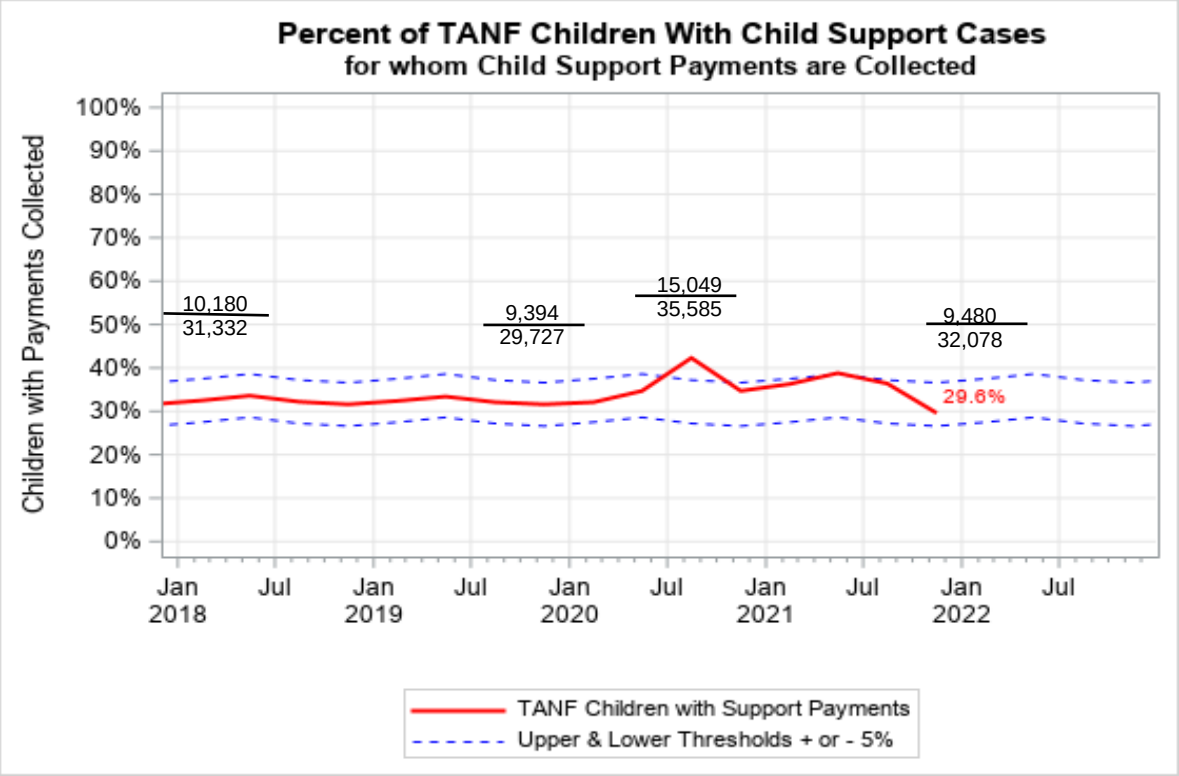
Definition of Measure

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 2021. Data for TANF issuances are through June 2021.

A total of 448 TANF households with children removed by CA in FY 2021 were identified for this measure. Of these, 325 or 72.5% were receiving 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 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 the most recent year increase by one to two percent. DSHS also supplies information on the subset of children removed for more than 90 days. They made up 61% of all placements in FY 2021 and their households were more likely to receive concurrent benefits. In FY 2021, 223 of the 275 households (81.0%) 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 January 12, 2022.

An average of 55,983 children received TANF during each quarter of Fiscal Year 2021. Of these, an average of 33,875 TANF children (60.5%) had open child support cases. Payments were received on behalf of an average of 12,892 children, or 38.1% of those with open child support cases. Results in FY 2020 were 32.9% with support payments out of 60.9% 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 Q4 2021 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.

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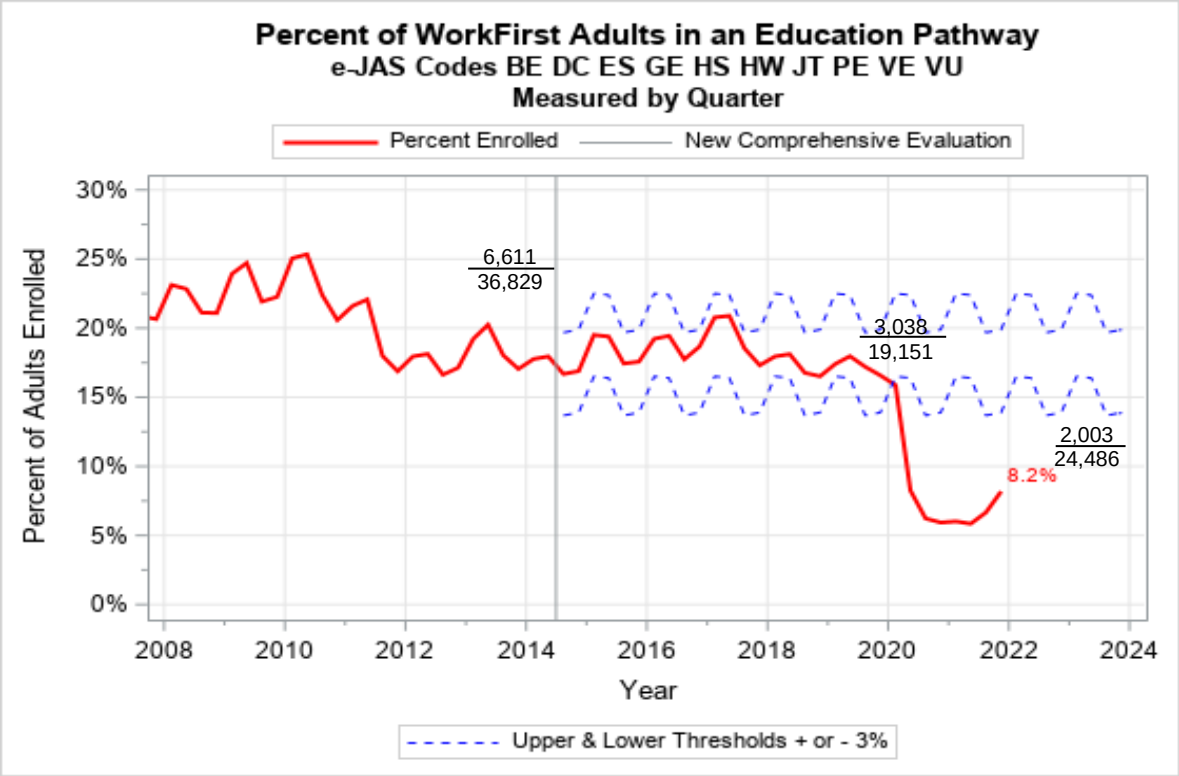
Barometer Measure 28: Adults in Education Pathway
All Education Codes, Unduplicated



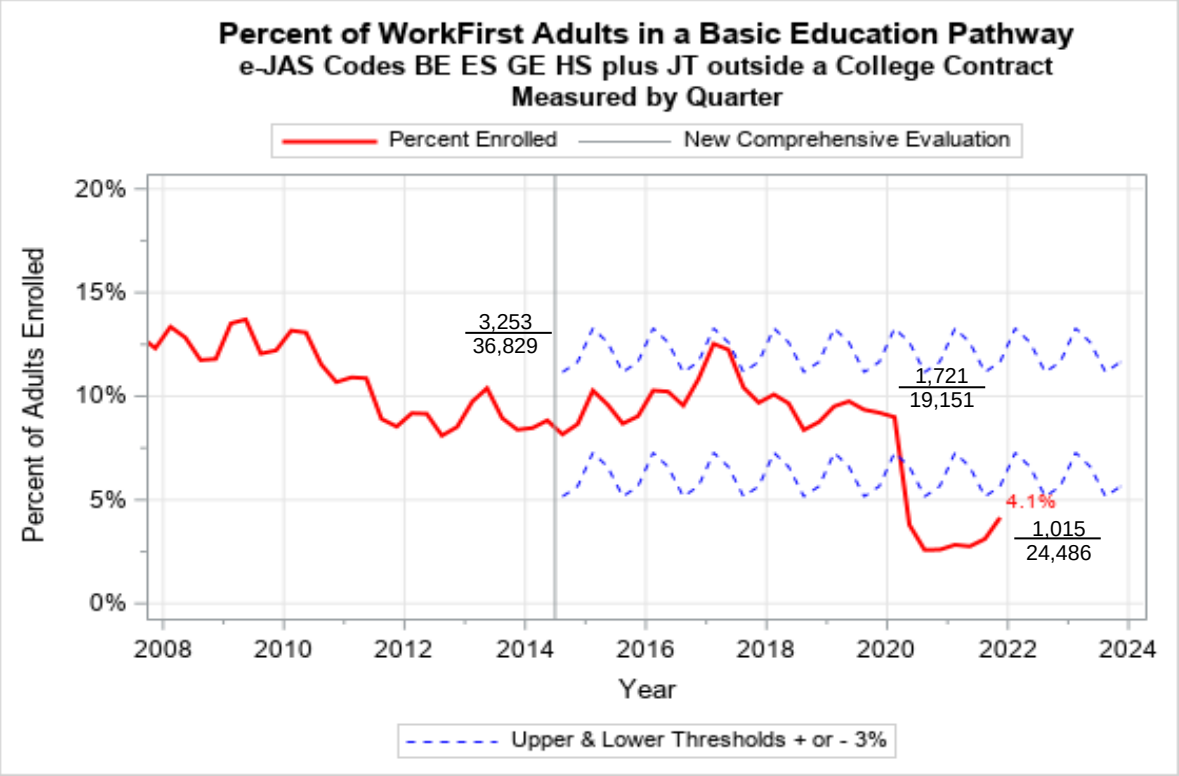
Definition of Measure

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 2022.

An average of 24,202 adults were enrolled in WorkFirst during FY 2021. An average of 1,454 adults were enrolled in one of the education pathway components producing a use rate of 6.0%. Use of education components was 14.0% in FY 2020 (16.5% prior to the pandemic dropping to 8.2% in Q2 2020), 17.2% in FY 2019, 18.0% in FY 2018, and 19.5% in FY 2017. 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 should increase further in Q1 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 2021 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 2022.

An average of 24,202 adults were enrolled in WorkFirst during FY 2021. An average of 651 adults were enrolled in one of the basic education pathway components producing a use rate of 2.7%. Use of basic education components was 7.5% in FY 2020 (9.2% prior to the pandemic dropping to 3.8% in Q2 2020), 9.1% in FY 2019, 10.0% in FY 2018, and 11.2% in FY 2017. 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 should increase further in Q1 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 2021 are shown as fractions.

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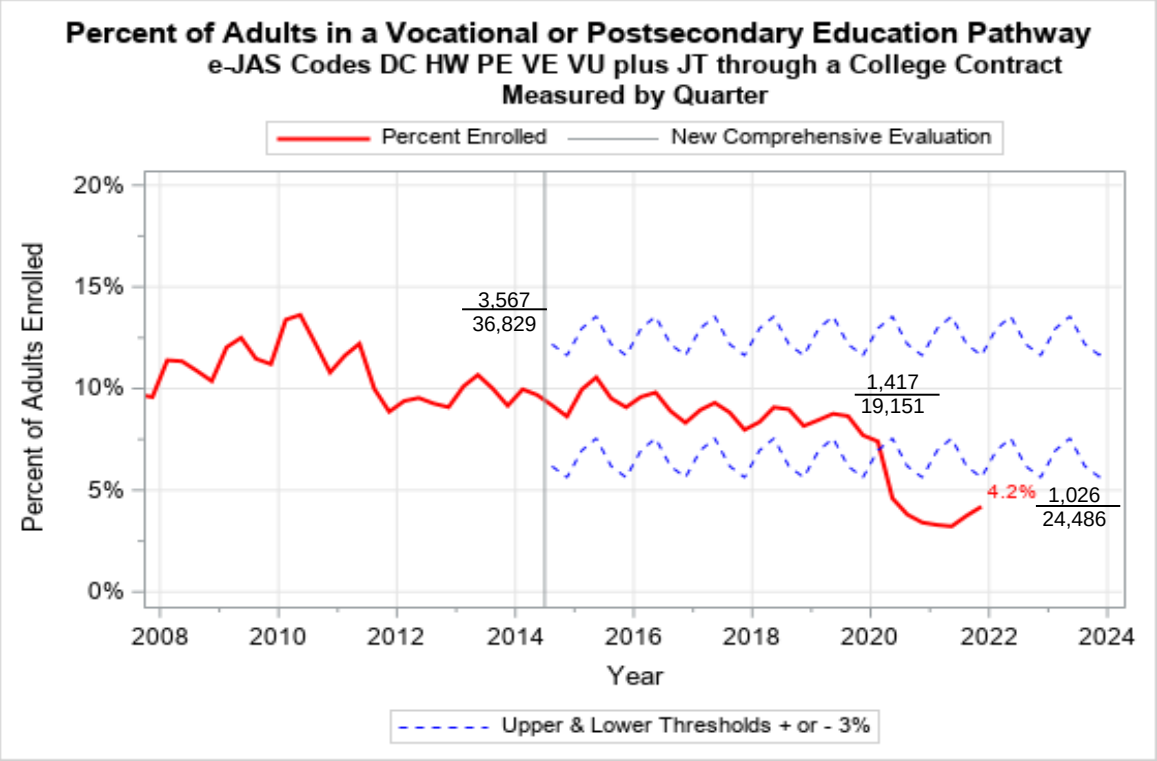
Barometer Measure 30: Vocational Education Pathway



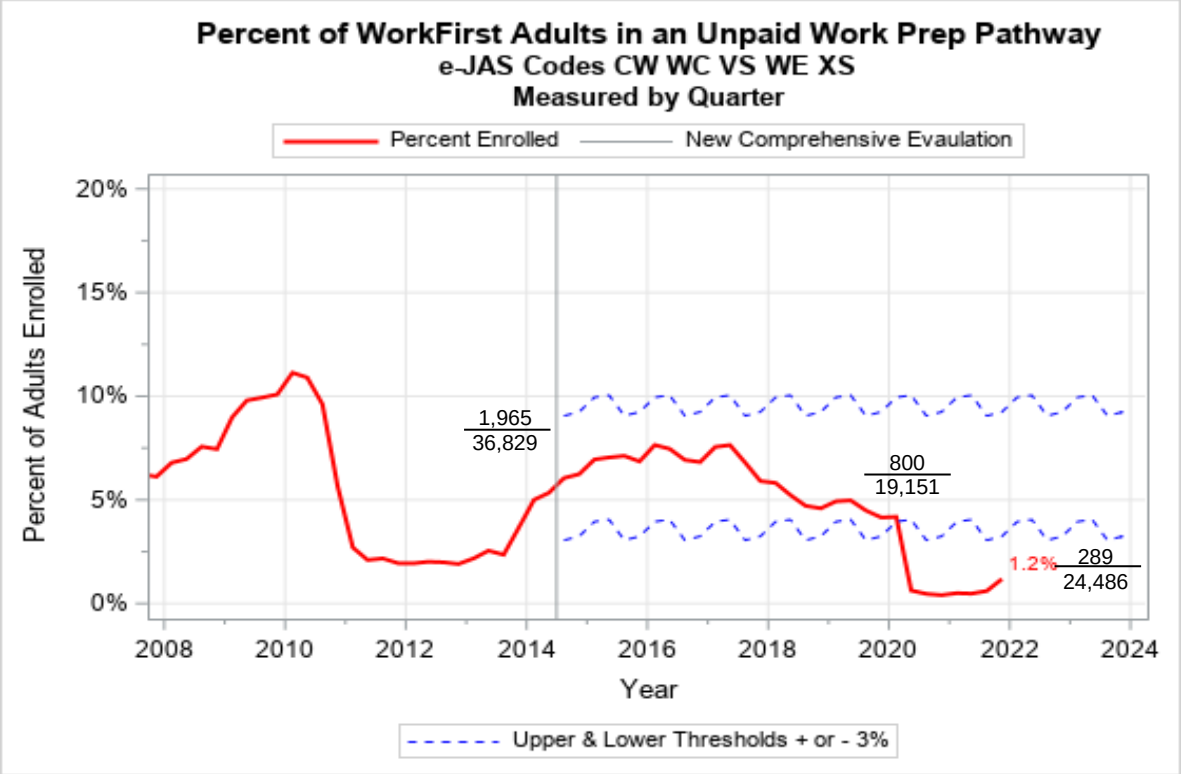
Definition of Measure

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 2022.

An average of 24,202 adults were enrolled in WorkFirst during FY 2021. An average of 833 adults were enrolled in one of the postsecondary education pathway components producing a use rate of 3.4%. Use of these components was 6.9% in FY 2020 (7.9% prior to the pandemic dropping to 4.6% in Q2 2020), 8.6% in FY 2019, 8.6% in FY 2018, and 8.9% in FY 2017. 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 should increase further in Q1 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 2021 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 2022.

An average of 24,202 adults were enrolled in WorkFirst during FY 2021. An average of 112 adults were enrolled in an unpaid work preparation component producing a use rate of 0.5%. Use of unpaid work components was 3.2% in FY 2020 (4.3% prior to the pandemic dropping to 0.6% in Q2 2020), 4.8% in FY 2019, 6.0% in FY 2018, and 7.2% in FY 2017. 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 should increase further in Q1 2022.

For monthly enrollment in these components, see pages 35-36. Numerators and denominators for Q2 2014, Q1 2020 and Q4 2021 are shown as fractions.

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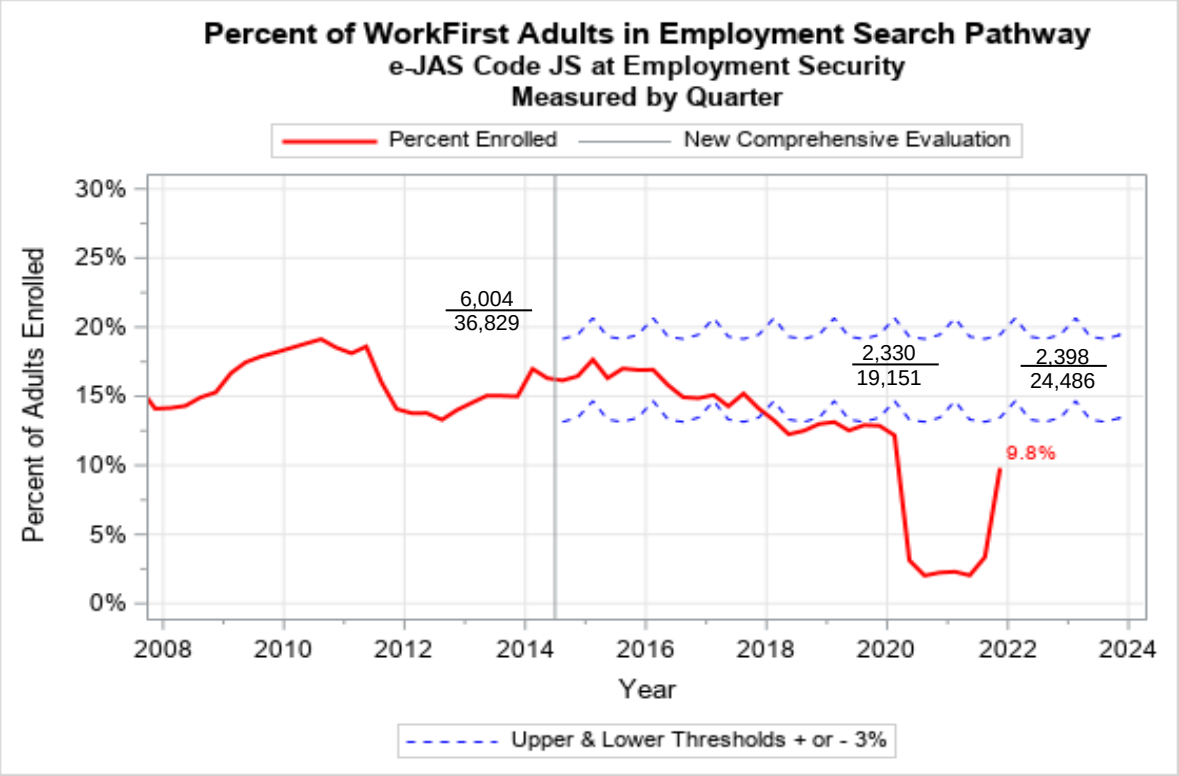
Barometer Measure 32: Employment Search Pathway (ESD Job Search)



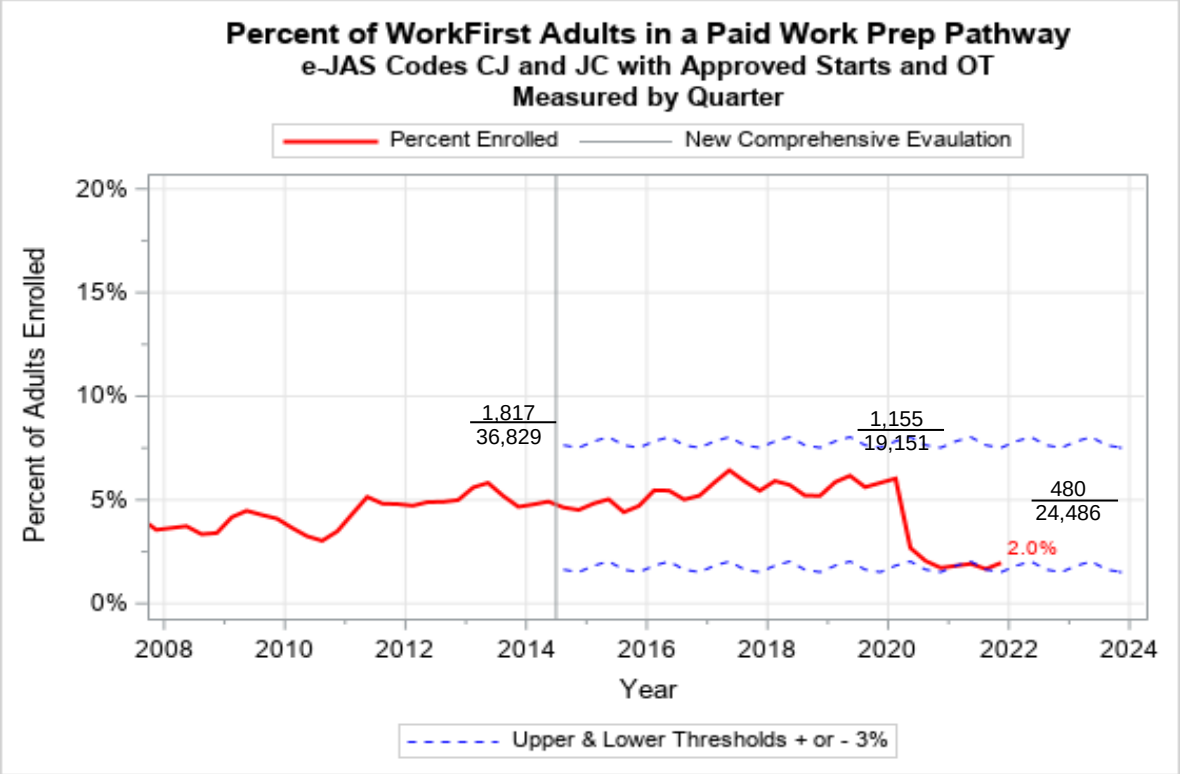
Definition of Measure

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 2022.

An average of 24,202 adults were enrolled in WorkFirst during FY 2021. An average of 520 adults were enrolled in ESD job search/Career Scope during FY 2021 producing a use rate of 2.1%. 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 WorkFirst adults served in ESD job search was 14.9% in calendar year 2013, before the Lean project. Percents rose to 16.5% during calendar year 2014 and 16.6% during FY 2015. Average use dropped to 14.8% in FY 2017, 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). Used 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 were phased out beginning in September 2021.

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 2021 are shown as fractions. Return to Contents

Baro
Community Jobs, Job Connection, and OJT



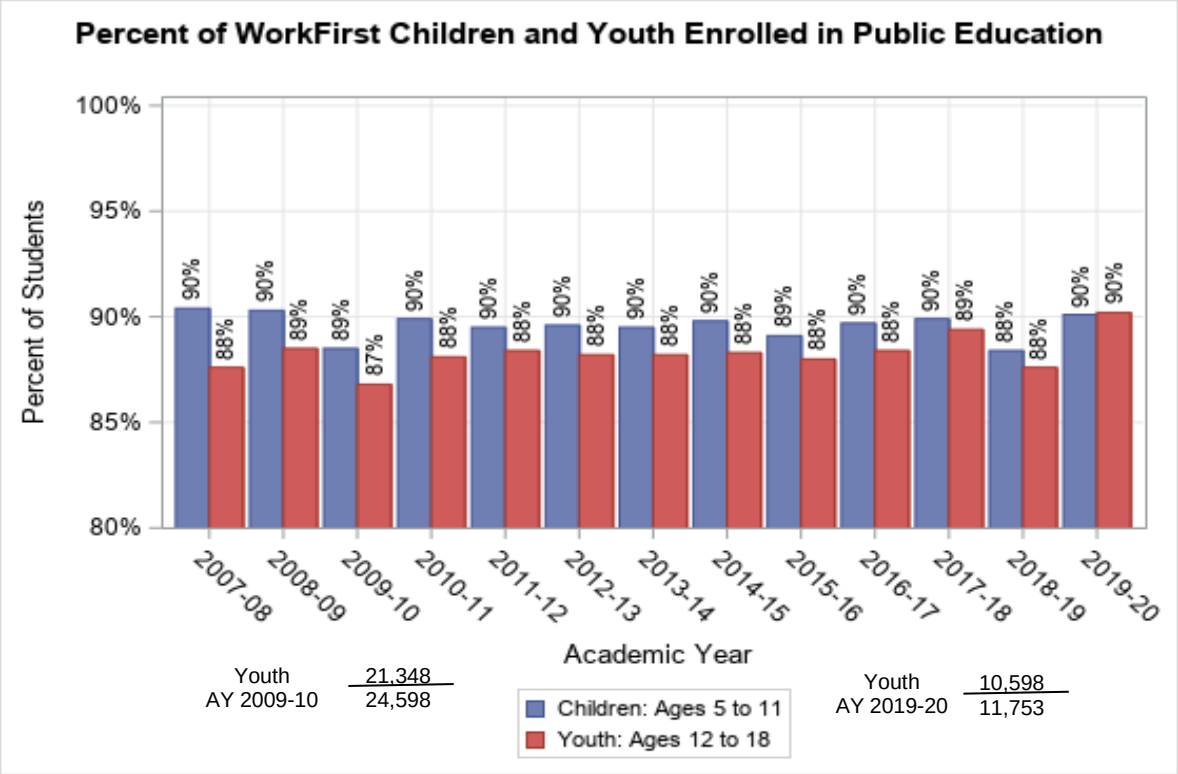
Definition of Measure

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 2022.

An average of 24,202 adults were enrolled in WorkFirst during FY 2021. An average of 455 adults were enrolled one of the paid work preparation pathway components during FY 2021, producing a use rate of 1.9%. Use of paid work preparation activities was 4.9% in FY 2020 (5.8% prior to the pandemic and 2.7% in Q2 2020), 5.6% in FY 2019, 5.7% in FY 2018, 5.6% in FY 2017 and 4.7% in FY 2015. Use dropped under COVID-19 exemptions. Use should increase in Q4 2021. COVID-19 exemptions from participation requirements were phased out between September and November 2021 and referrals to paid work programs have increased. It takes time, though, to get work started at paid worksites.

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 2021 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.

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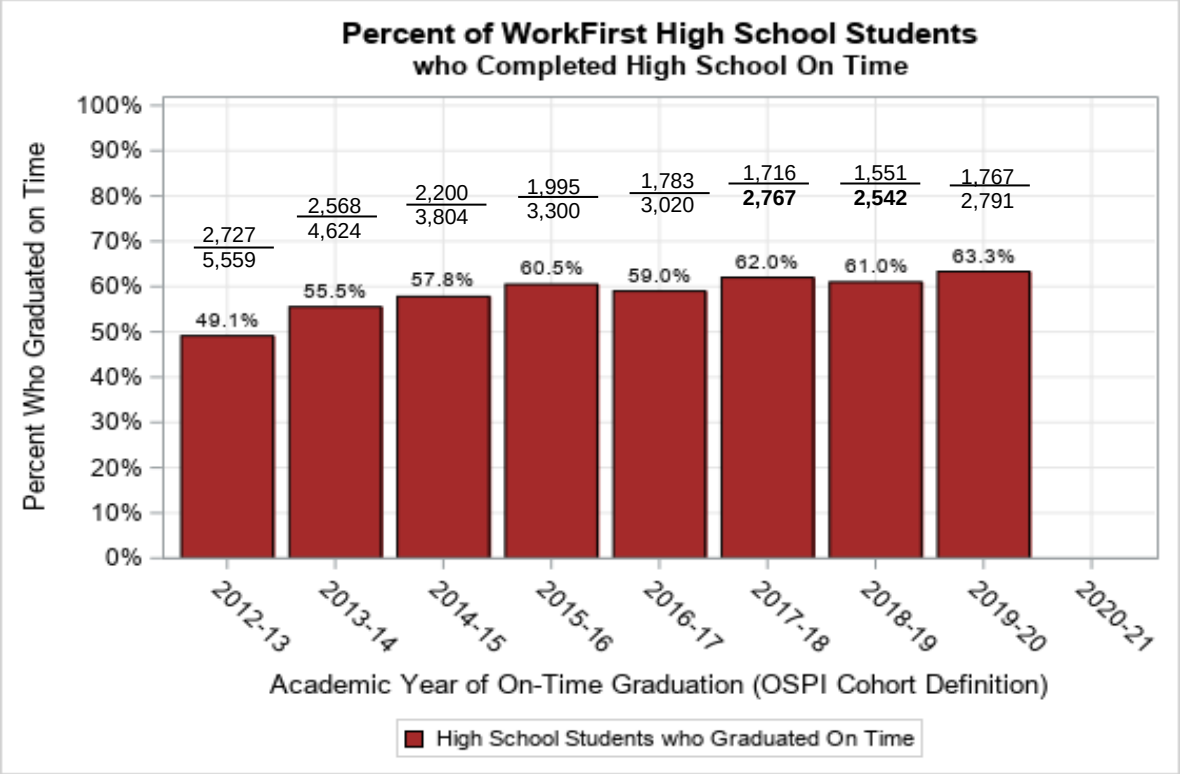
Barometer Measure 35: Percent of WorkFirst High School Students who Graduated from High School On Time



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 2020. 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.

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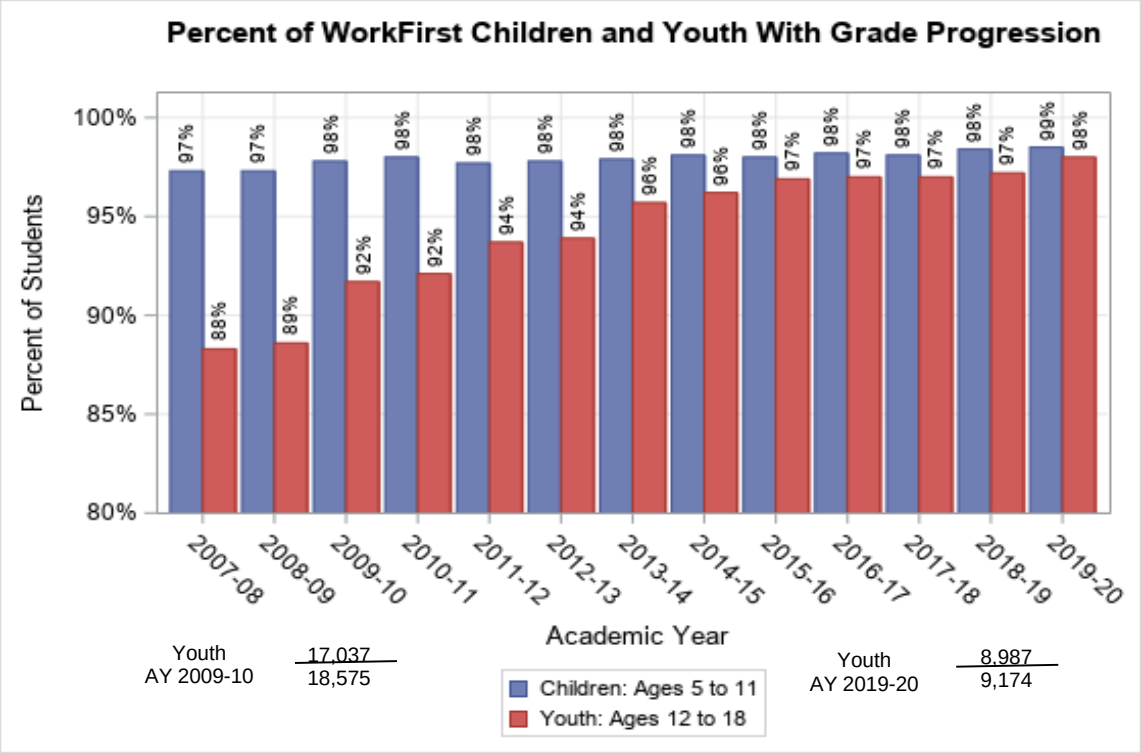
Barometer Measure 36: Percent of WorkFirst Children and Youth who Progressed to the Next Grade as Expected



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.

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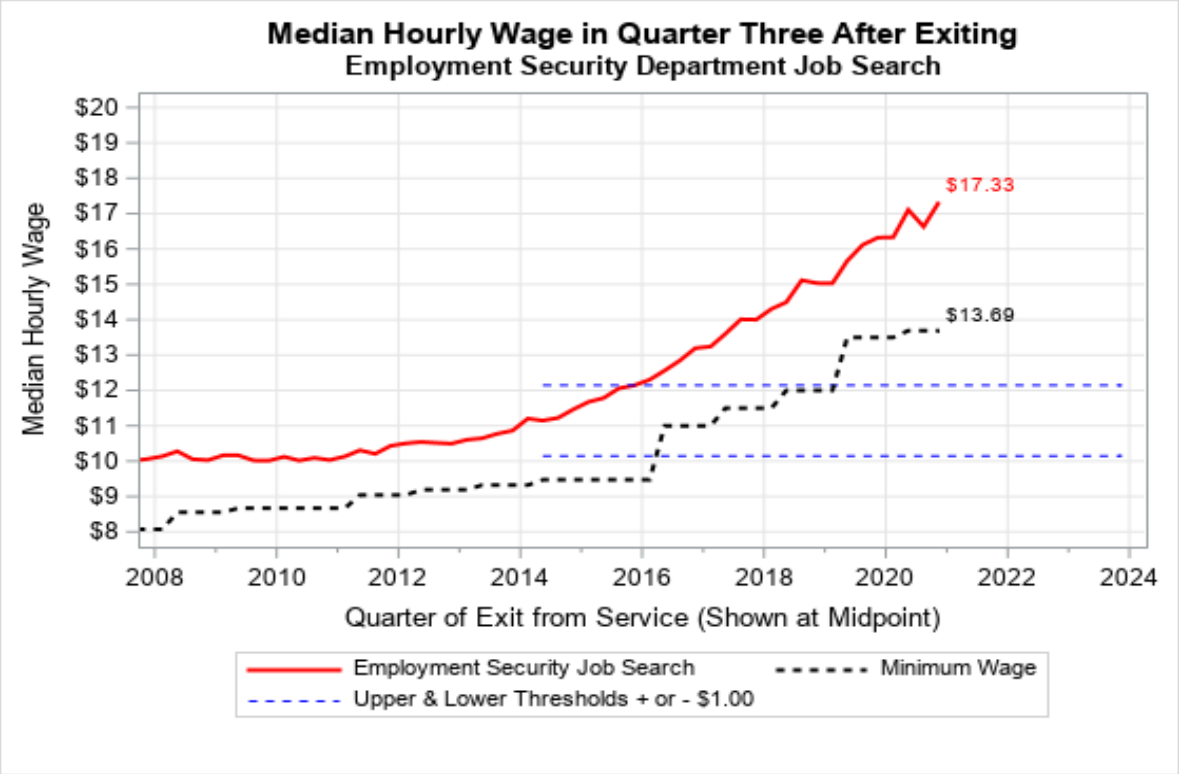
Barometer Measure 37: Hourly Wage Rate after Exiting Employment Security Department Job Search



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 656 adults had earning records during the third quarter following exit from Employment Security job search from each quarter of fiscal year 2020. An average of 632 per quarter (96.3%) 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, $11.00 in FY 2014, $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 and $16.47 in FY 2020.

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 2020, which was the third quarter exposed to the $13.69 minimum wage. Approximately 7% of ESD job finders in Q4 2020 lived in Seattle. Seattle had a minimum wage higher than $13.69 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 2022.

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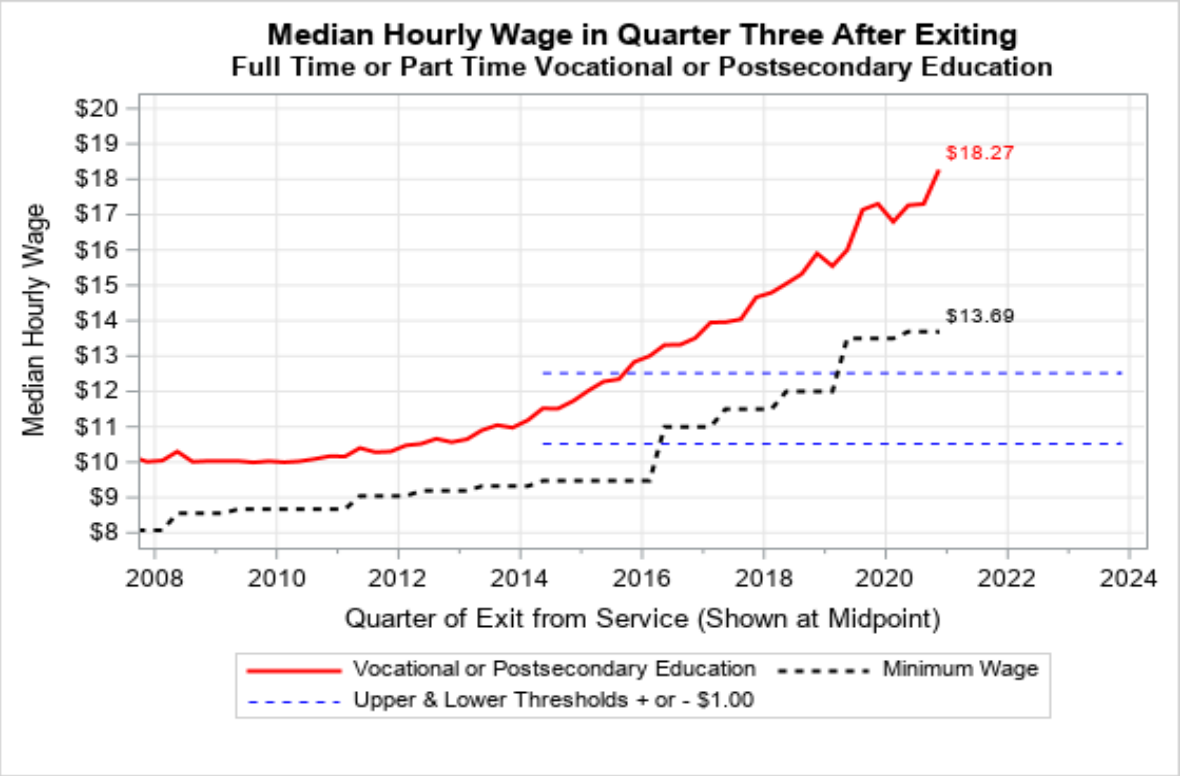
Barometer Measure 38: Hourly Wage Rate after Exiting Vocational and Postsecondary Education



Definition of Measure

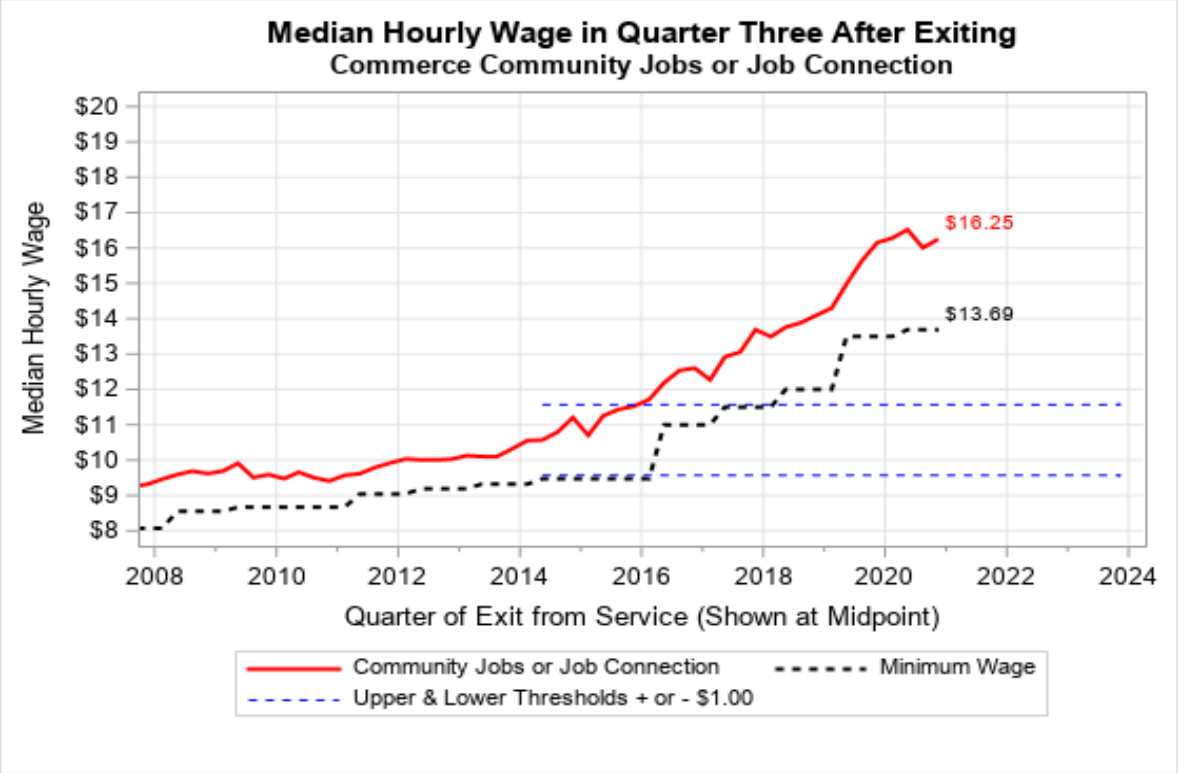
Median hourly wage rate in the third quarter after exit from vocational or postsecondary education. The median wage is the wage rate at the center of the distribution from the lowest wage to the highest wage obtained. Wage rates are based on UI wage records of earnings and work hours. Records have been 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 229 adults had earning records during the third quarter following exit from vocational or postsecondary education from each quarter of fiscal year 2020. An average of 221 per quarter (96.5%) had clean earnings and work hour information necessary to calculate wage rates. The average of the four quarterly medians was $10.29 per hour during 2011, $11.18 in FY 2014, $11.89 in FY 2015, $12.87 in FY 2016, $13.69 in FY 2017, $14.64 in FY 2018, $15.69 in FY 2019 and $17.13 in FY 2020.

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 2020, which was the third quarter exposed to the $13.69 minimum wage. Approximately 11% of vocational or postsecondary education job finders in Q4 2020 lived in Seattle. Seattle had a minimum wage higher than $13.69 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 2022. 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 192 adults had earning records during the third quarter following exit from Community Jobs from each quarter of fiscal year 2020. An average of 187 per quarter (97.4%) 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, $10.39 in FY 2014, $10.99 in FY 2015, $11.71 in FY 2016, $12.58 in FY 2017, $13.50 in FY 2018, $14.32 in FY 2019 and $16.15 in FY 2020.

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 2020, which was the third quarter exposed to the $13.69 minimum wage. Approximately 19% of Community Jobs job finders in Q4 2020 lived in Seattle. Seattle had a minimum wage higher than $13.69 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 2022.

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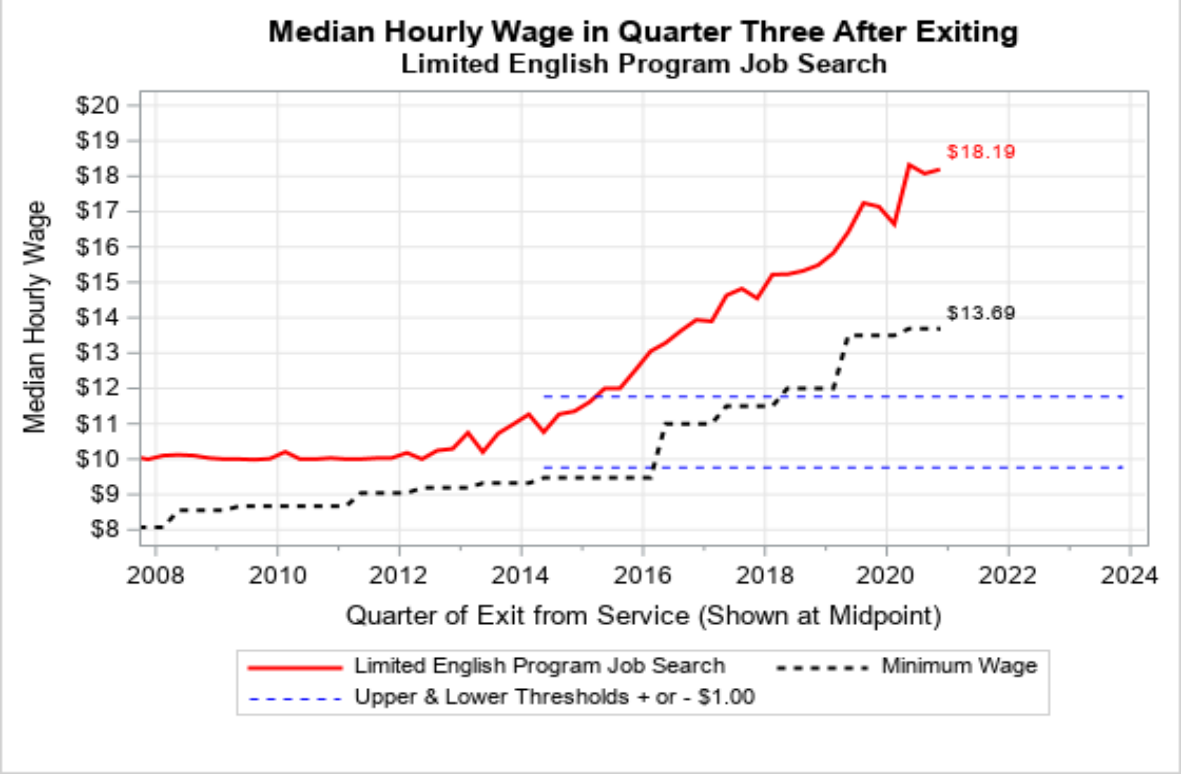
Barometer Measure 40: Hourly Wage Rate after Exiting Limited English Program Job Search



Definition of Measure

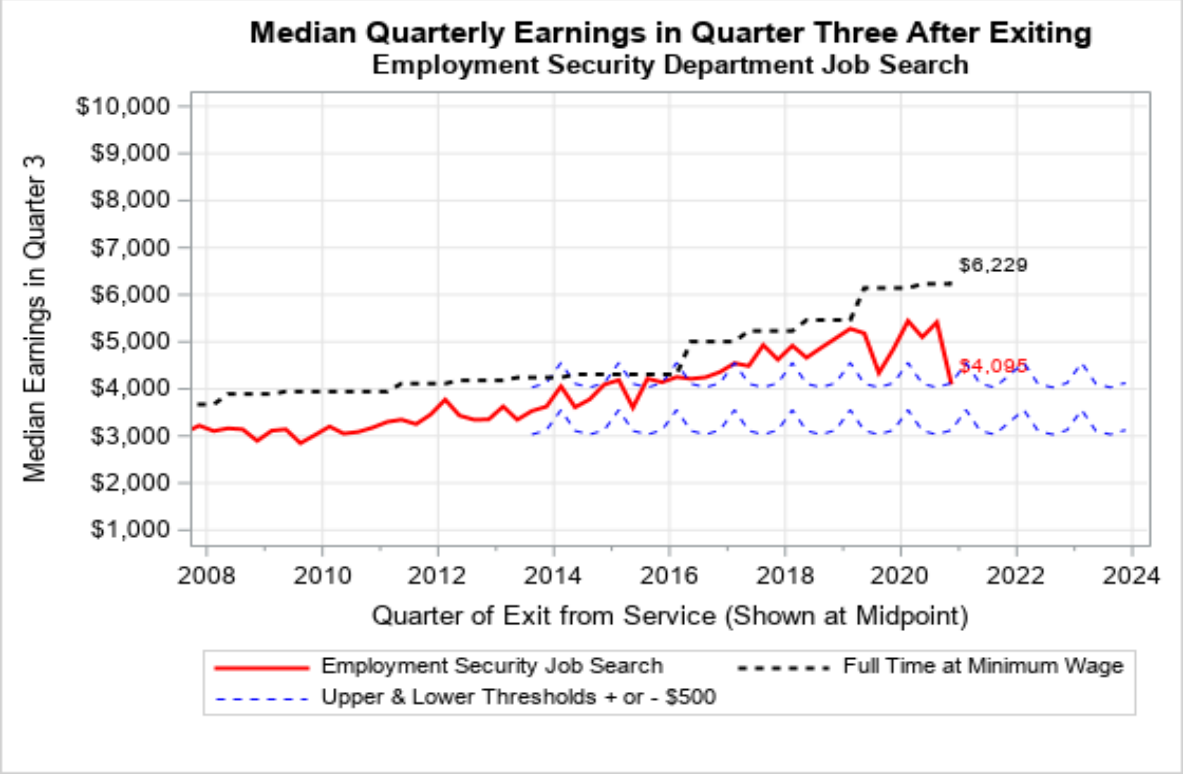
Median hourly wage rate in the third quarter after exit from Limited English Program job search. The median wage is the wage rate at the center of the distribution from the lowest wage to the highest wage obtained. Wage rates are based on UI wage records of earnings and work hours. Records have been 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 144 adults had earning records during the third quarter following exit from Limited English Program job search from each quarter of fiscal year 2020. An average of 136 per quarter (94.3%) 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, $10.94 in FY 2014, $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 and $17.34 in FY 2020.

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 2020, which was the third quarter exposed to the $13.69 minimum wage. Approximately 38% of LEP job finders in Q4 2020 lived in Seattle, more than in the other programs. Seattle had a minimum wage higher than $13.69 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 2022. 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 655 adults were employed during the third quarter following exit from Employment Security job search from each quarter of fiscal year 2020. An average of 648 per quarter (98.8%) 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 $3,338 during 2011, $3,705 in FY 2014, $3,915 in FY 2015, $4,206 in FY 2016, $4,409 in FY 2017, $4,783 in FY 2018, $5,101 in FY 2019 and $4,968 in FY 2020. 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 2020, the sixth quarter of this measure affected by the COVID-19 emergency.

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 2022.

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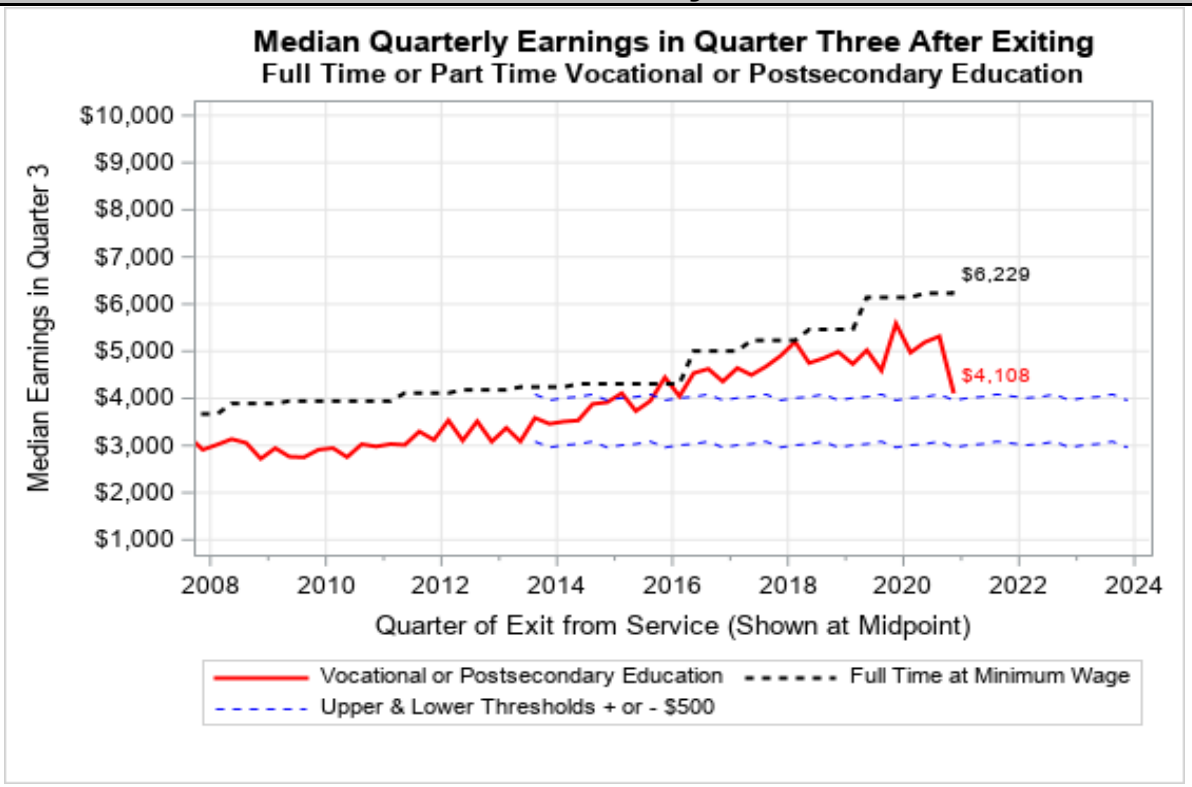
Barometer Measure 42: Quarterly Earnings after Exiting Vocational and Postsecondary Education



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 229 adults were employed during the third quarter following exit from vocational or postsecondary education from each quarter of fiscal year 2020. An average of 226 per quarter (98.6%) 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 $3,116 during 2011, $3,522 in FY 2014, $3,910 in FY 2015, $4,243 in FY 2016, $4,531 in FY 2017, $4,882 in FY 2018, $4,898 in FY 2019 and $5,085 in FY 2020. 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 2020, the sixth quarter of this measure affected by the COVID-19 emergency.

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 2020, 85% 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 2022.

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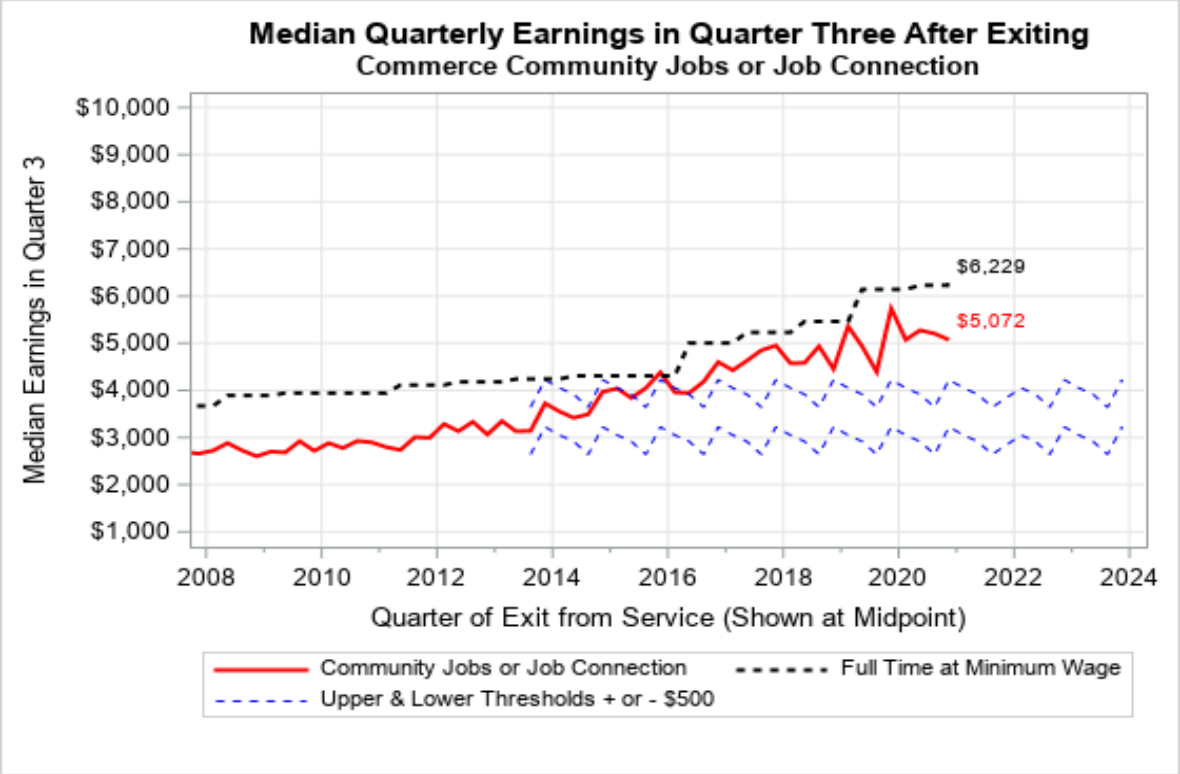
Barometer Measure 43: Quarterly Earnings after Exiting Paid Work Prep (Community Jobs or Job Connection)



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 192 adults were employed during the third quarter following exit from Community Jobs from each quarter of fiscal year 2020. An average of 189 per quarter (98.7%) 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 $2,883 during 2011, $3,459 in FY 2014, $3,836 in FY 2015, $4,084 in FY 2016, $4,461 in FY 2017, $4,740 in FY 2018, $4,921 in FY 2019 and $5,119 in FY 2020. 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 2020, the sixth quarter of this measure affected by the COVID emergency.

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 2022.

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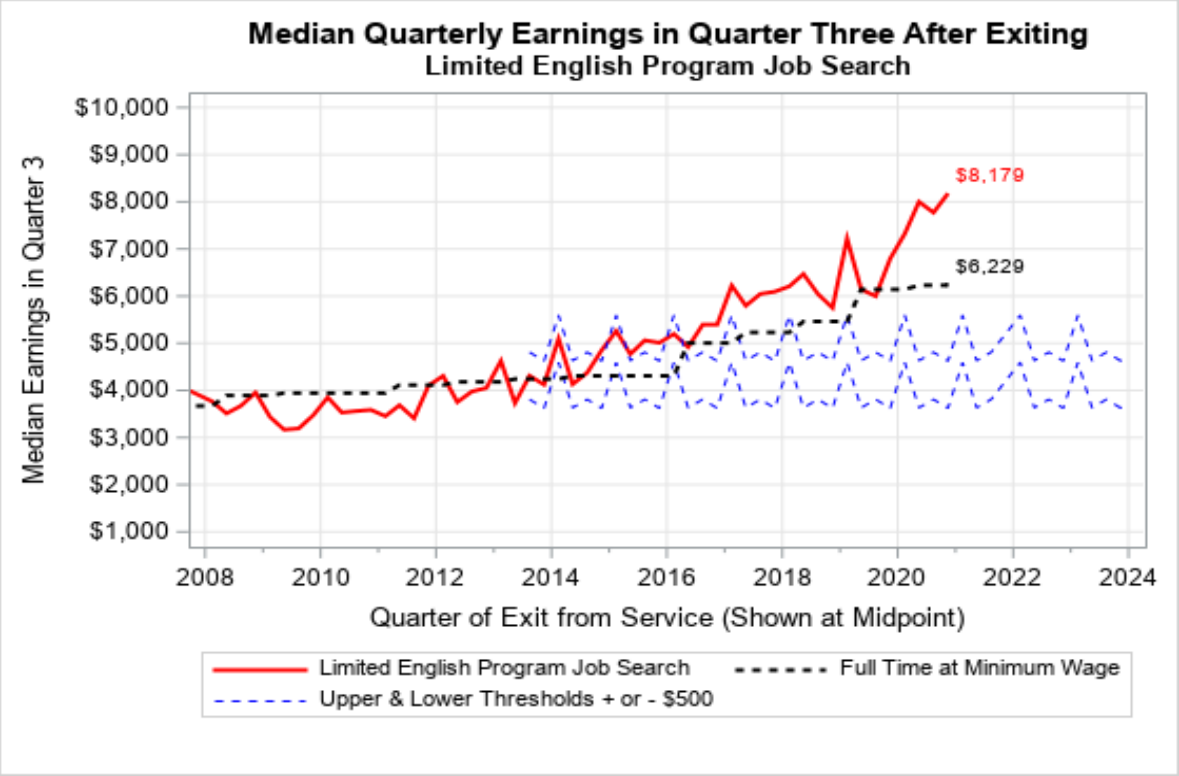
Barometer Measure 44: Quarterly Earnings after Exiting Limited English Program Job Search



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 144 adults were employed during the third quarter following exit from Limited English Program job search from each quarter of fiscal year 2020. An average of 141 per quarter (97.6%) 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, $4,414 in FY 2014, $4,815 in FY 2015, $5,047 in FY 2016, $5,703 in FY 2017, $6,204 in FY 2018, $6,289 in FY 2019 and $7,030 in FY 2020. 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 2020, the sixth quarter of this measure affected by the COVID-19 emergency. The relatively high earnings for LEP job search reflect, in part, the concentration of LEP job search enrollees in Seattle and King County. Increased concentration of LEP job finders within Seattle (from from 27% in FY 2020 to 43% in the last two quarters) 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 2022.

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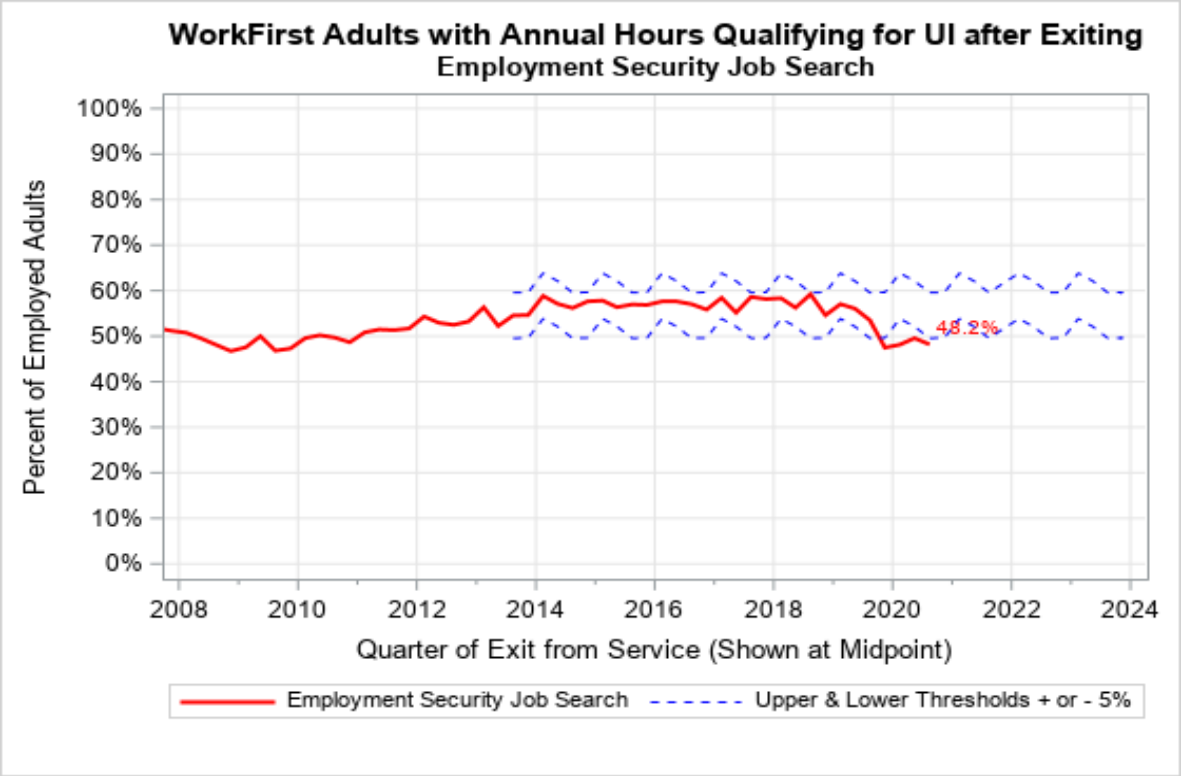
Barometer Measure 45: Hours Worked in the Year After Employment Security Department Job Search



Definition of Measure

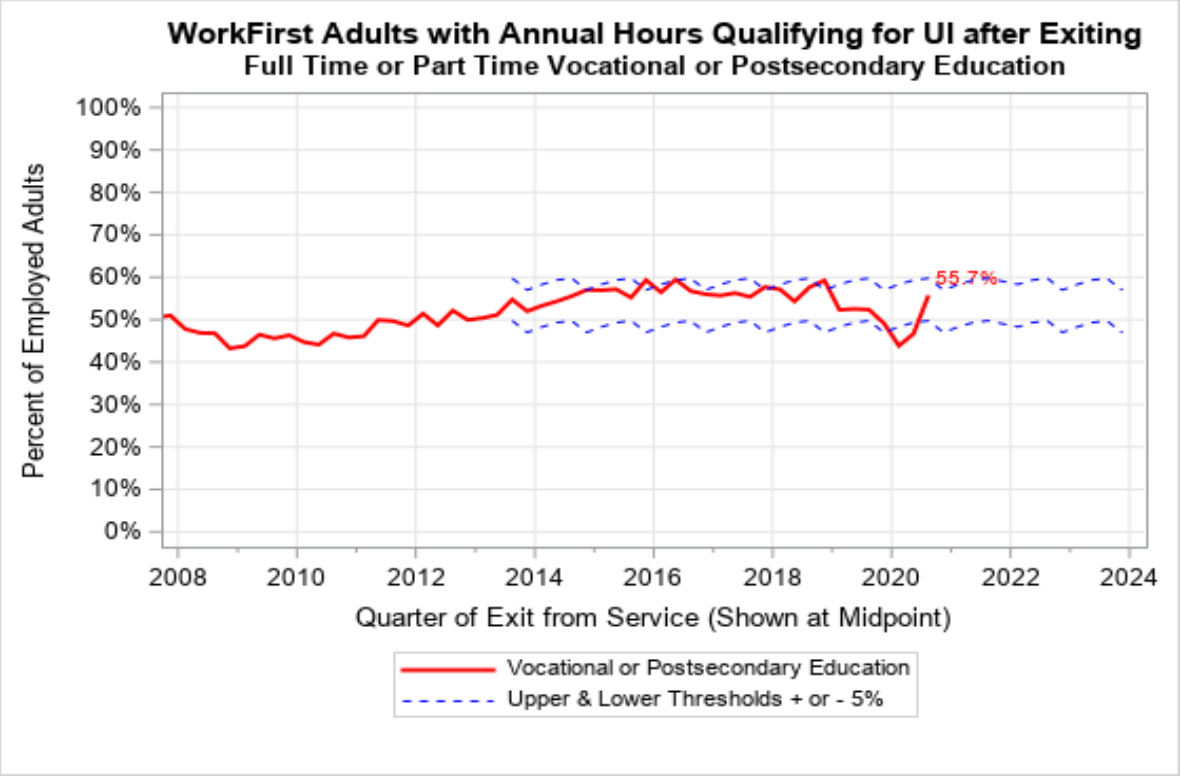
The numerator of this measure is the number of workers with employment records in UI wage records with 680 or more hours reported across the first, second, third and fourth quarters after leaving Employment Security job search. The denominator is the total number of Employment Security job search exiters 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 921 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 2020. An average of 457 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, 57.0% in FY 2015, 57.3% in FY 2016, 56.6% in FY 2017, 57.9% in FY 2018, 56.7% in FY 2019 and 49.7% in FY 2020. Results shown run through Q3 2020. The rate in Q3 2020 was 5 percentage points lower than in Q3 of 2019. All four quarters in outcomes for Q3 2020 include impacts from the COVID-19 emergency.

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 2022. Return to Contents

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



Definition of Measure

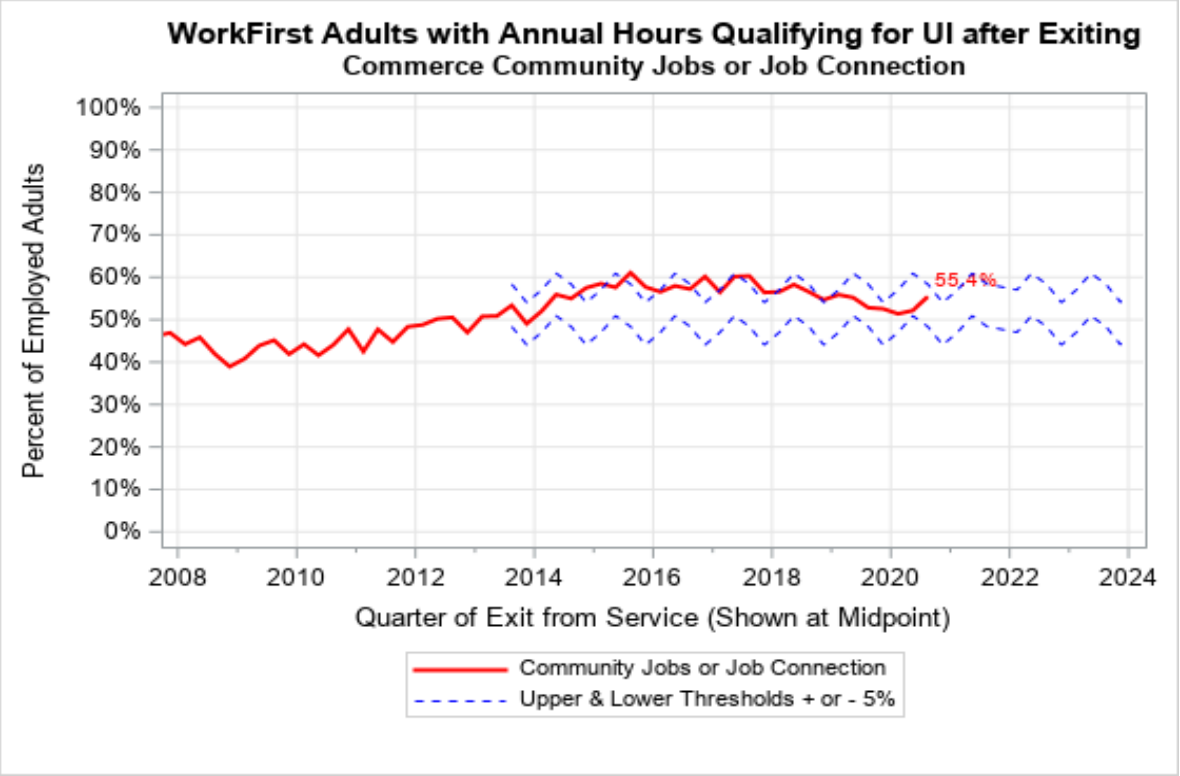
The numerator of this measure is the number of workers with employment records in UI wage records with 680 or more hours reported across the first, second, third and fourth quarters after leaving vocational or postsecondary education. The denominator is the total number of vocational or postsecondary 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 313 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 2020. An average of 151 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, 56.7% in FY 2015, 57.6% in FY 2016, 56.2% in FY 2017, 56.1% in FY 2018, 55.4% in FY 2019 and 48.0% in FY 2020. Results shown above run through Q3 2020. The rate in Q3 2020 was 3 percentage points higher than in Q3 2019. All four quarters in outcomes for Q3 2020 include impacts of the COVID-19 emergency.

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 2022. Return to Contents

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



Definition of Measure

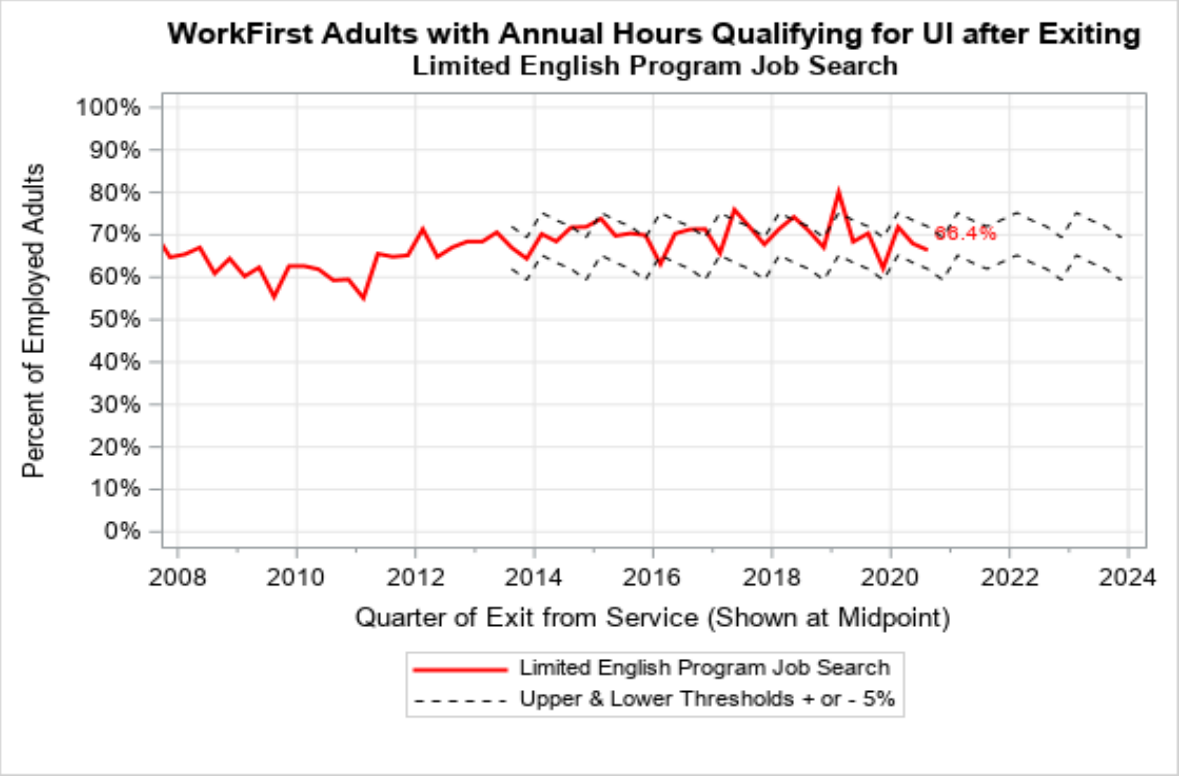
The numerator of this measure is the number of workers with employment records in UI wage records with 680 or more hours reported across the first, second, third and fourth quarters after leaving Community Jobs or Job Connection. The denominator is the total number of Community Jobs or Job Connection 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 272 WorkFirst adults had clean earning records during one or more of the four quarters following Community Jobs after each quarter of fiscal year 2020. An average of 142 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, 57.2% in FY 2015, 58.4% in FY 2016, 58.5% in FY 2017, 57.9% in FY 2018, 55.6% in FY 2019 and 52.3% in FY 2020. Results shown above run through Q3 2020. The rate in Q3 2020 was 3 percentage points higher than in Q3 2019. All four quarters of outcomes in Q3 2020 include impacts from the COVID-19 emergency.

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 2022. Return to Contents

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



Definition of Measure

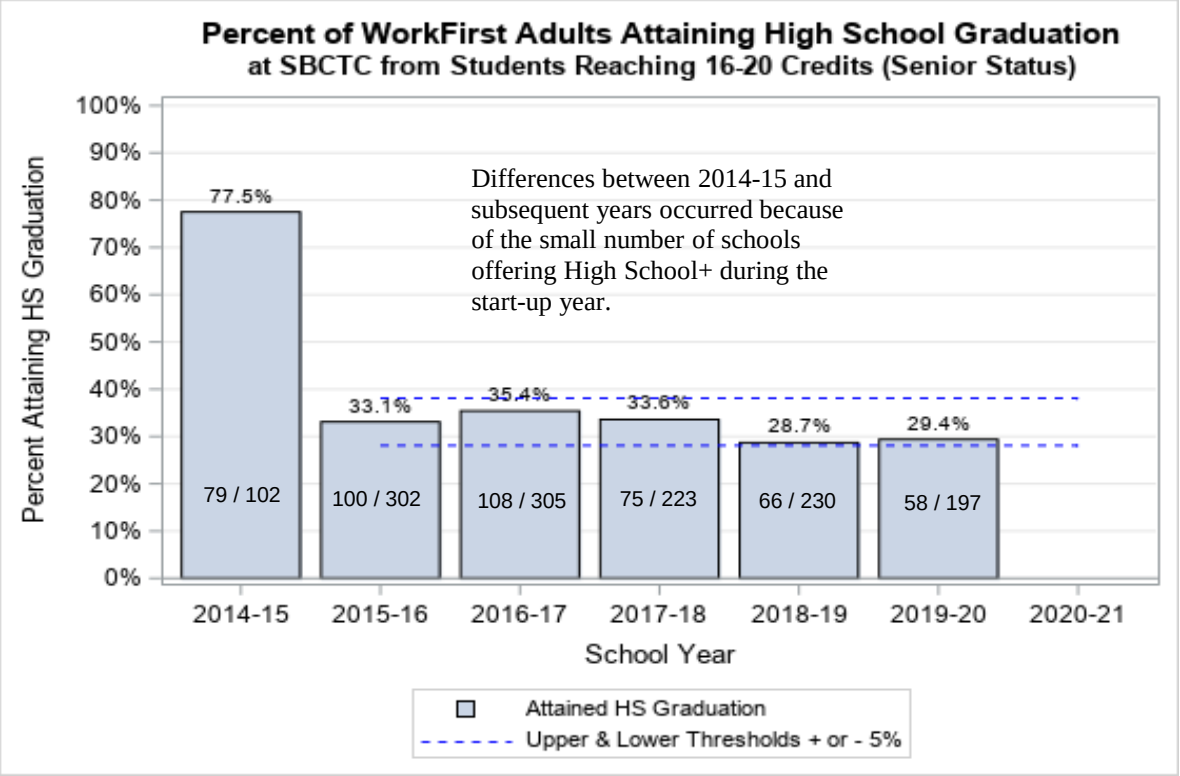
The numerator of this measure is the number of workers with employment records in UI wage records with 680 or more hours reported across the first, second, third and fourth quarters after leaving Limited English Program job search. The denominator is the total number of Limited English Program job search 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 182 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 2020. An average of 124 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, 71.8% in FY 2015, 68.4% in FY 2016, 71.1% in FY 2017, 71.4% in FY 2018, 71.6% in FY 2019 and 68.1% in FY 2020. Results shown above run through Q3 2020. The rate in Q3 2020 was 4 percentage points lower than in Q3 2019. All four quarters of outcomes for Q3 2020 include impacts from the COVID-19 emergency.

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 2022. 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 197 WorkFirst students who had reached senior status in High School Completion or High School+ programs during the 2019-20 school year, 58 of whom earned a high school diploma during the year. 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.

Two of the 34 SBCTC colleges are not offering WorkFirst high school completion programs. Another ten did not have any WorkFirst students who reached senior status during the 2019-20 school year. SBCTC has calculated the performance for each of the 22 colleges offering high school completion programs to WorkFirst students who had attained senior status. Results are available on request.

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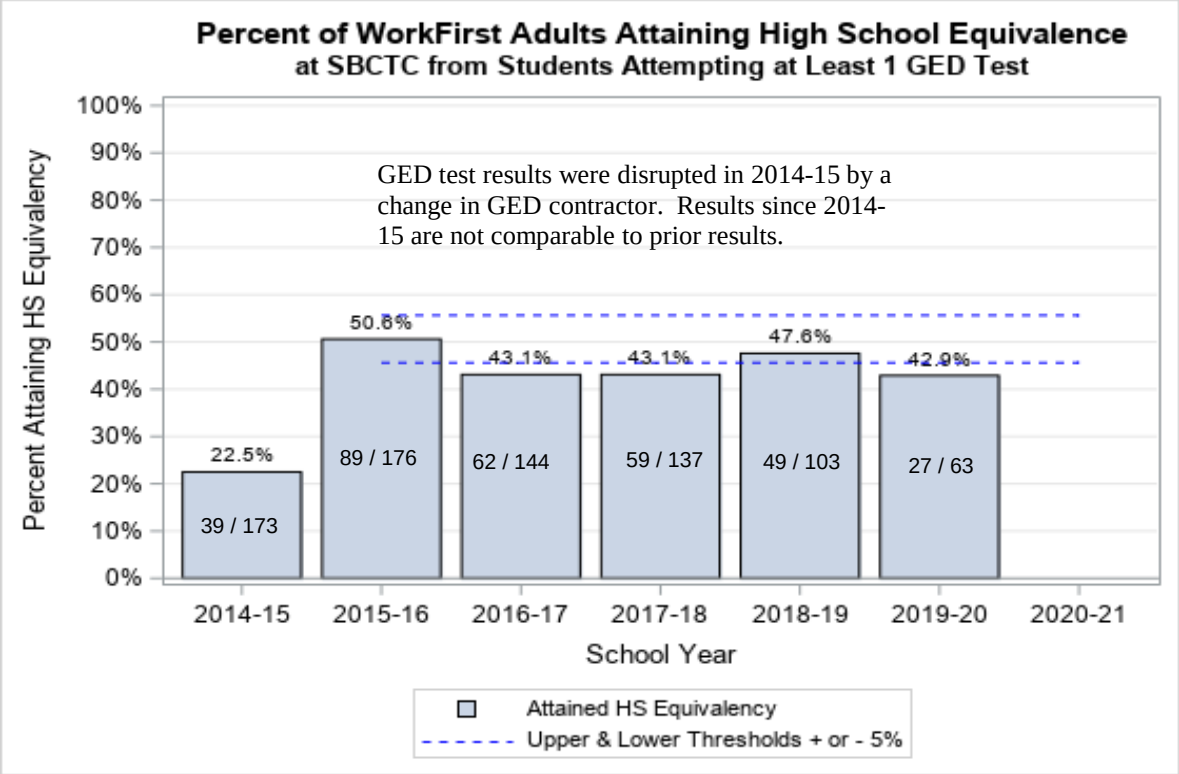
Barometer Measure 50: Adults Attaining High School Equivalency at Community Colleges



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 63 WorkFirst students taking one or more of the tests necessary to receive equivalency during the 2019-20 academic year. Twenty-seven of these students passed all required tests, yielding a completion rate of 42.9%. 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 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.

Two of the 34 SBCTC colleges are not offering WorkFirst high school equivalency programs. Another 17 SBCTC colleges did not have any WorkFirst students taking equivalency tests during the 2019-20 school year. Over half of the test takers in the 2019-20 school year were at two colleges. Results for the 15 colleges with outcomes are available on request.

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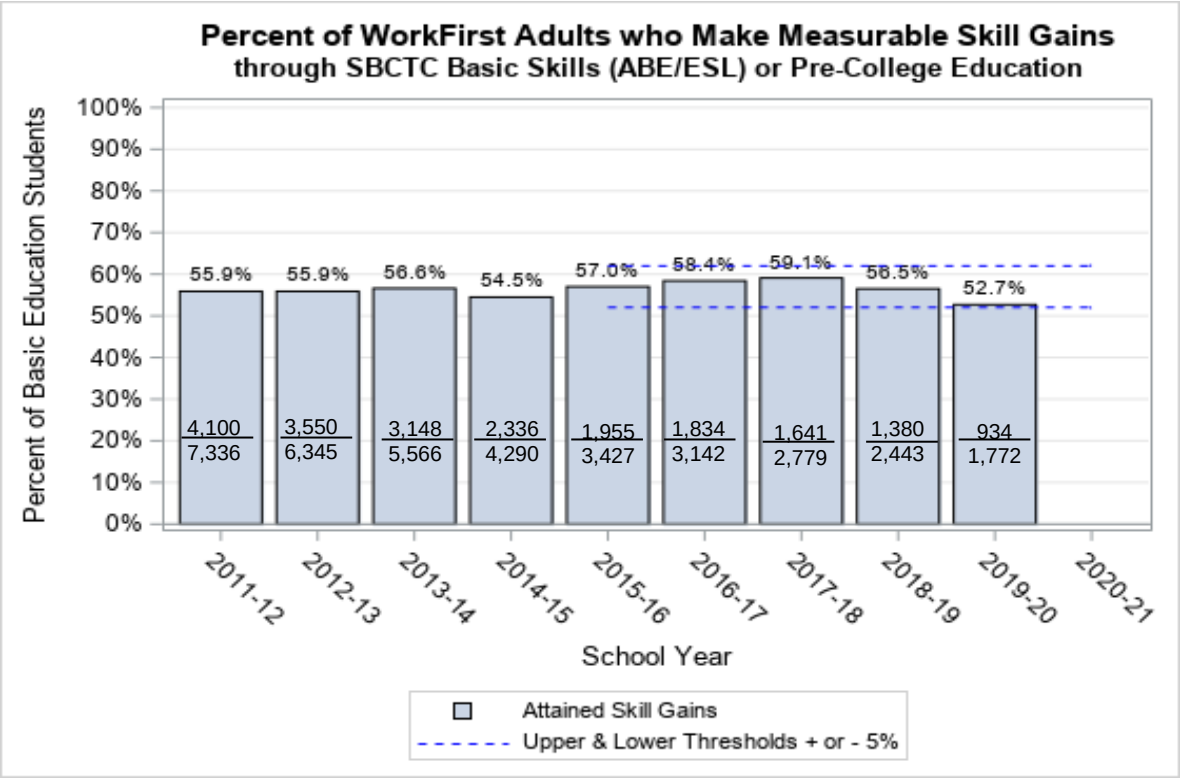
Barometer Measure 51: Adults in ESL or Basic Education at Community Colleges with Measurable Skill Gains



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 1,772 WorkFirst students were enrolled in basic skills or pre-college education programs during the 2018-19 or 2019-20 academic years. 934 of these students attained skill gains or other momentum points during 2019-20, yielding an achievement rate of 52.7%. Percentage results have been similar across the years, but the program is one-quarter the size that it was during the 2011-12 school year. Student enrollments have been dropping since 2011 as WorkFirst caseloads declined. The COVID-19 pandemic also affected enrollments and outcomes by disrupting the spring quarter of the 2019-20 school year.

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 2018-19 or 2019-20 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.

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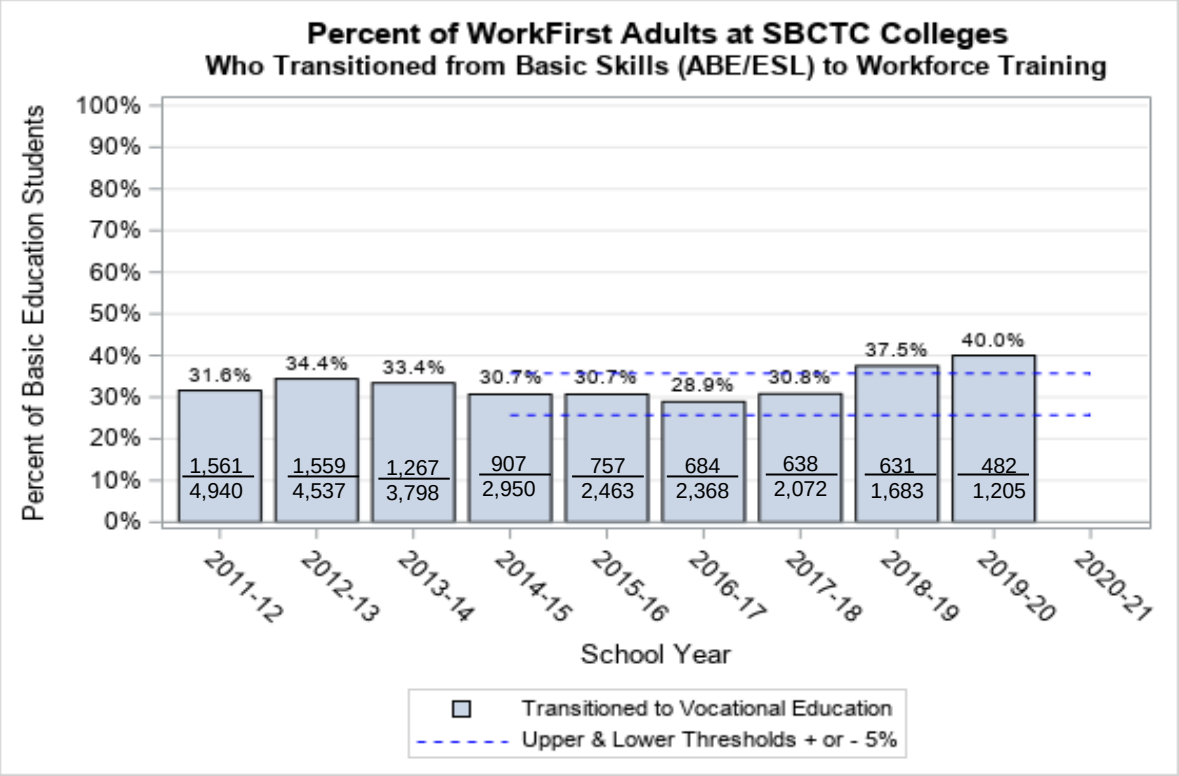
Barometer Measure 52: Adults in ESL or Basic Education who Transition to Training at Community Colleges



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 1,205 WorkFirst students were enrolled in basic skills programs during the 2018-19 or 2019-20 academic years. 482 of these WorkFirst students enrolled in professional-technical courses at SBCTC colleges during the 2019-20 school year, yielding a transition rate of 40.0%. 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 76% 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.

One of the 34 SBCTC colleges is not participating in the WorkFirst program and two had no WorkFirst students enrolled in adult basic education programs during the 2018-19 or 2019-20 school years. SBCTC has calculated performance for each of the 31 colleges serving WorkFirst adult basic education students. These results are available on request.

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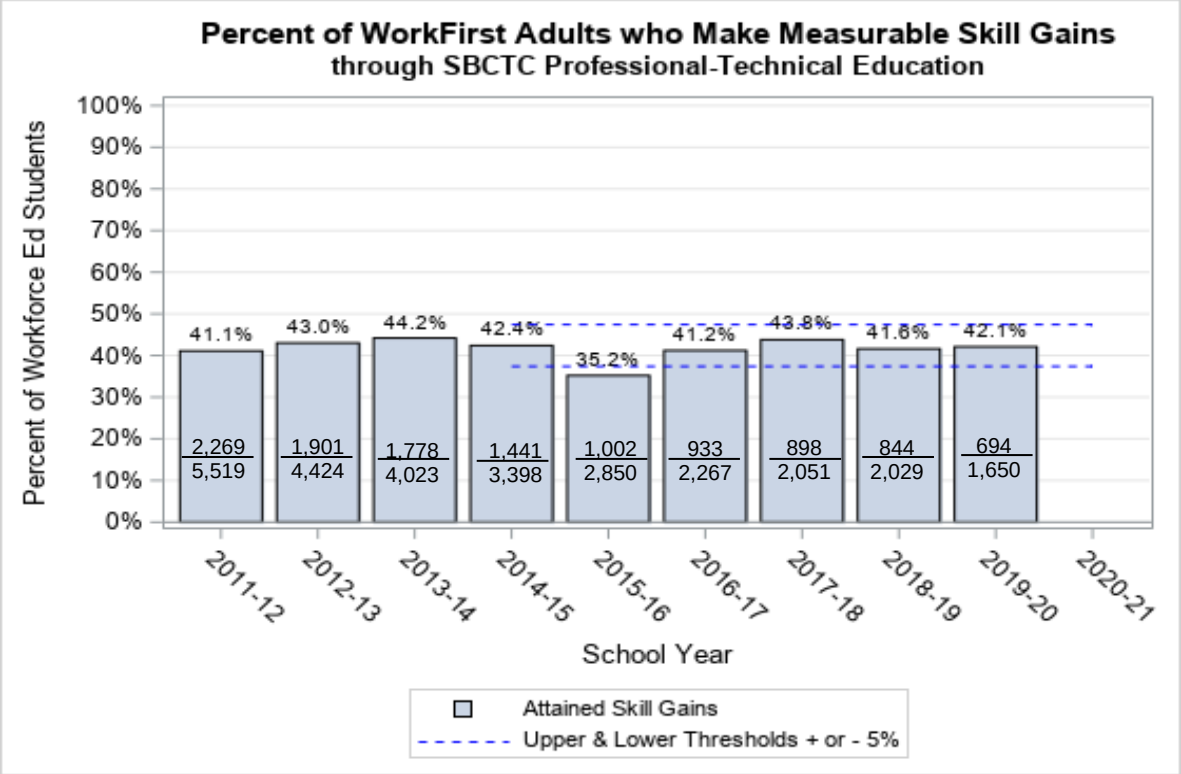
Barometer Measure 53: Adults in Workforce Education at Community Colleges with Measurable Skill Gains



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 1,650 WorkFirst award seeking students (excluding basic skills and ESL students) were enrolled at SBCTC colleges during the 2019-20 academic year. 694 of these students were awarded momentum points for attaining 15, 30, or 45 college credits during the year, yielding a rate of 42.1%. Student enrollments have been dropping 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 70% 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 2019-20 school year. SBCTC has calculated performance for each of the 31 colleges serving WorkFirst award seeking students. These results are available on request.

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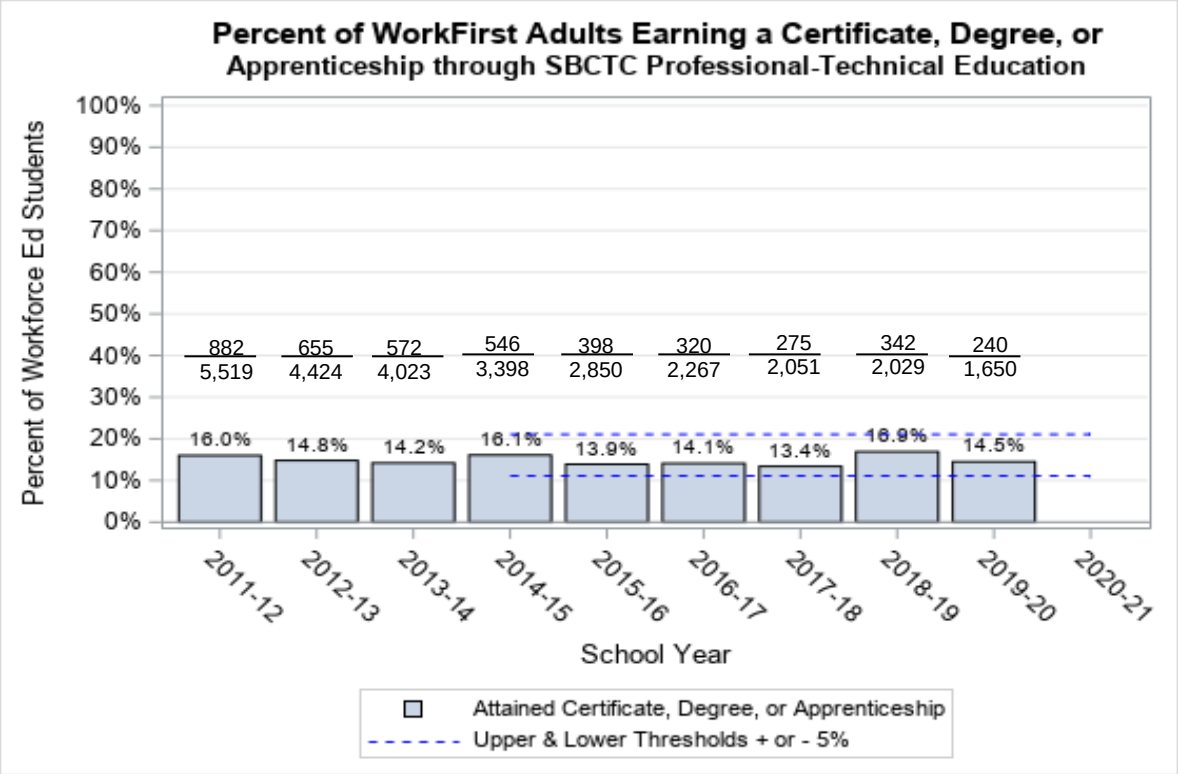
Barometer Measure 54: Adults Earning Certificates, Degrees or Apprenticeships at Community Colleges



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 1,650 WorkFirst award seeking students (excluding basic skills and ESL students) were enrolled at SBCTC colleges during the 2019-20 academic year. 240 of these students were awarded momentum points for attaining a qualifying certificate, degree, or apprenticeship completion during the year, yielding a rate of 14.5%. Student enrollments have been dropping as WorkFirst caseloads decline. The COVID-19 pandemic also interrupted the spring quarter of the 2019-20 academic year.

Completion rates are low, in part, because only 22.6% of adults sent to SBCTC have spent 12 or more months in professional-technical (workforce) education while in WorkFirst since July 2011: 56.9% 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 2019-20 school year. SBCTC has calculated performance for each of the 31 colleges serving WorkFirst award seeking students. Results are available on request.

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