

This tool provides an overview of the research on the relationship between different types of economic and concrete supports (ECS) and timeliness of family reunification.

ASSOCIATION BETWEEN ECONOMIC AND CONCRETE SUPPORTS & FAMILY REUNIFICATION

<p>Income via TANF cash assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every \$100 increase in a mother's post-placement income increases her child's speed of reunification by 6% • Percentage of children remaining in foster care after a year whose mothers lost a significant amount of income from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF] cash assistance post placement is <u>more than double</u> that of children whose mothers did not lose income from TANF cash assistance post placement (87% vs. 41%) 	<p>Wells, K., & Guo, S. (2006). Welfare reform and child welfare outcomes: A multiple-cohort study. <i>Children & Youth Services Review</i>, 28(8), 941-960. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2005.10.009</p>
<p>TANF benefits: Families who retain their TANF benefits following a child-family separation reunify much more quickly than families who lose TANF benefits</p>	<p>Marshall, D. B., Beall, K., Mancuso, D., Yette, R., & Felber, B. (2013). <i>Effect of TANF concurrent benefits on the reunification of children following placement in out-of-home care</i> (11.198). Washington State Department of Social & Health Services. https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/rda/reports/research-11-198.pdf</p>
<p>TANF cash assistance: Among child welfare-involved families receiving public cash benefits (TANF, Supplemental Security Income [SSI], General Assistance [GA]), those who lose TANF cash assistance have significantly lower reunification rates (58%) than those who continue to receive TANF cash assistance (71%)</p>	<p>Kang, J., Romich, J. L., Hook, J. L., Lee, J. S., & Marcenko, M. (2016). Dual-system families: Cash assistance sequences of households involved with child welfare. <i>Journal of Public Child Welfare</i>, 10(4), 352-375. https://doi.org/10.1080/15548732.2016.1205542</p>
<p>Economic connections: Reunification rates are higher than average among families who maintain or gain economic connections (defined as having reported earnings, receiving unemployment insurance [UI] benefits, or receiving TANF, SSI or GA cash assistance) following child welfare involvement, while reunification rates are lower than average for those who become more economically disconnected after child welfare involvement</p>	<p>Hook, J. L., Romich, J. L., Lee, J. S., Marcenko, M. O., & Kang, J. Y. (2016). Trajectories of Economic Disconnection among Families in the Child Welfare System. <i>Social problems</i>, 63(2), 161-179. https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spw006</p>
<p>Foster care cost-recovery child support order: A \$100 increase in the monthly foster care cost-recovery child support order amount against a parent is predicted to delay reunification by <u>6.6 months</u></p>	<p>Cancian, M., Cook, S. T., Seki, M., & Wimer, L. (2017). Making parents pay: The unintended consequences of charging parents for foster care. <i>Children & Youth Services Review</i>, 72, 100-110. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2016.10.018</p>
<p>Foster care cost-recovery child support order: Having a foster care cost-recovery child support order against a parent <u>doubles</u> the average amount of time children spend in foster care & decreases the likelihood that children achieve permanency via reunification</p>	<p>Berger, L. M., Cancian, M., Kim, H., Ko, A., & Pac, J. (2024). Child support and child welfare system interactions. Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP). https://www.irk.wisc.edu/resource/child-support-and-child-welfare-system-interactions/</p>