Patterns and Trends in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Participation

Longitudinal analysis of Federal TANF participation in 28 states

TANF cases with only child recipients have longer periods of TANF participation compared to TANF cases with adult recipients.

This document summarizes the key findings from a body of longitudinal research conducted with federal TANF administrative data. This research aimed to understand patterns of caseload dynamics over time, as well as household and state characteristics that are associated with differences in caseload dynamics.

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CHAPIN HALL
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Introduction

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a federal program that provides funding for states to implement and administer cash assistance to families who meet eligibility and work requirements, as well as provides funds for a wide range of other activities like education and training activities (US DHHS, 2023). TANF is funded by a block grant, meaning states receive a sum of money that can be allocated to allowable activities at the state's discretion. States have discretion to determine many aspects of TANF eligibility. This has resulted in significant variation across states in terms of eligibility requirements, time limits, and the amount of cash assistance a family receives (Knowles, Dehry, Shantz, & Minton, 2022).

Prior research has examined differences in TANF caseload dynamics and outcomes by policy variation. One study showed that for each additional TANF policy that restricted access to benefits (e.g., shorter time limits, maximum sanction for failure to meet work requirements), caseloads declined by 13 percent (Ginther & Johnson-Motoyama, 2022). Fusaro (2021) found that states spending a smaller proportion of their TANF funds on traditional cash welfare had higher proportions of people of color in their TANF caseload. Another study examined the relationship between TANF asset limits[1] and duration of program participation, finding higher asset limits are not associated with longer durations on TANF (Hamilton, Wingrove, & Woodford, 2019). This body of research underscores the variability in TANF policies and programs across states and the tangible impact these differences have on TANF participation.

[1] Asset limits set dollar limits on the value of assets a TANF family can have and still be eligible for assistance; TANF asset limits are set by states.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (US DHHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF) publishes cross-sectional, point-in-time statistics to examine changes in program aspects like caseload size, spending, and work participation rates over time (US DHHS, 2022). They do not, however, examine individual cases and participants over time to understand longitudinal patterns of participation, such as comparative durations of benefit receipt and return to benefits after leaving TANF.

This brief aims to add to the literature by describing results from a series of longitudinal analyses using Federal TANF data from 28 states[2]. Caseload dynamics are examined in multiple ways in these analyses; key state and household characteristics are included in analyses to identify any notable differences across subgroups. These findings are preliminary and were conducted to demonstrate how Federal TANF data can be used to conduct longitudinal research that offers important insights into TANF participation over time. Specifically, linked longitudinal TANF data allow us to examine households' full trajectories of TANF benefits over time, how quickly households are returning, and what characteristics may be associated with exiting and returning to TANF. Implications for TANF programs and future research efforts are discussed.

Study Methods

Data used in these analyses came from a table of longitudinal, Federal TANF microdata on individuals and cases receiving cash assistance. These data were largely created through the TANF Employment Project (Hendra, Walter, & Yu, 2024), which involved a partnership between ACF, Chapin Hall, the Coleridge Initiative, and MDRC.

As part of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) that created the TANF program, states and territories that implement the program are required to routinely submit information to the Office of Family Assistance (OFA). This includes quarterly and annual reports, aggregated and disaggregated data, and data from state separate programs (SSPs) that supplement federal TANF funds with state funding[3].

States have the option to submit data on the universe of their TANF caseload, or to employ a sampling strategy and submit data on a sample of their cases. Using data from states that submit the universe of their TANF data every month, a longitudinal file was created at the case-month level that follows federally funded TANF cases from Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2009-2022. Analysts at Chapin Hall conducted initial processing and cleaning of annual data submissions, as well as combined the monthly submissions longitudinally over time which included the assignment of a longitudinal household identifier to allow tracking of households despite changes in case IDs (such as when states change information systems). Consequently, we refer to households rather than cases throughout these analyses. Household-specific indicators were derived by the Chapin Hall team to identify caseload dynamic indicators like the ending or beginning of TANF receipt, or the number of adult recipients in a

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[2] Justification for the states used in these analyses is described in the Analytic Data section.

[3] The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) included a mandate that states spend their own dollars in a "maintenance of effort," or MOE, to offset changes in federal appropriations. States may count their expenditures in any program that provides specified benefits and services to TANF-eligible families; these programs are referred to as "state separate programs," or SSPs. Additionally, some states have used these funds to develop solely-state funded (SSF) cash assistance programs. As such, a family may qualify for an SSF benefit but not a TANF benefit and are therefore receiving cash welfare even though they are not reflected in TANF reporting.

household. Additionally, the Chapin Hall team used the household identifier to aggregate individual-level characteristics, such as race and age, to the household level.

The data described above were used in three sets of analyses designed to answer the following research questions (see Table 1):

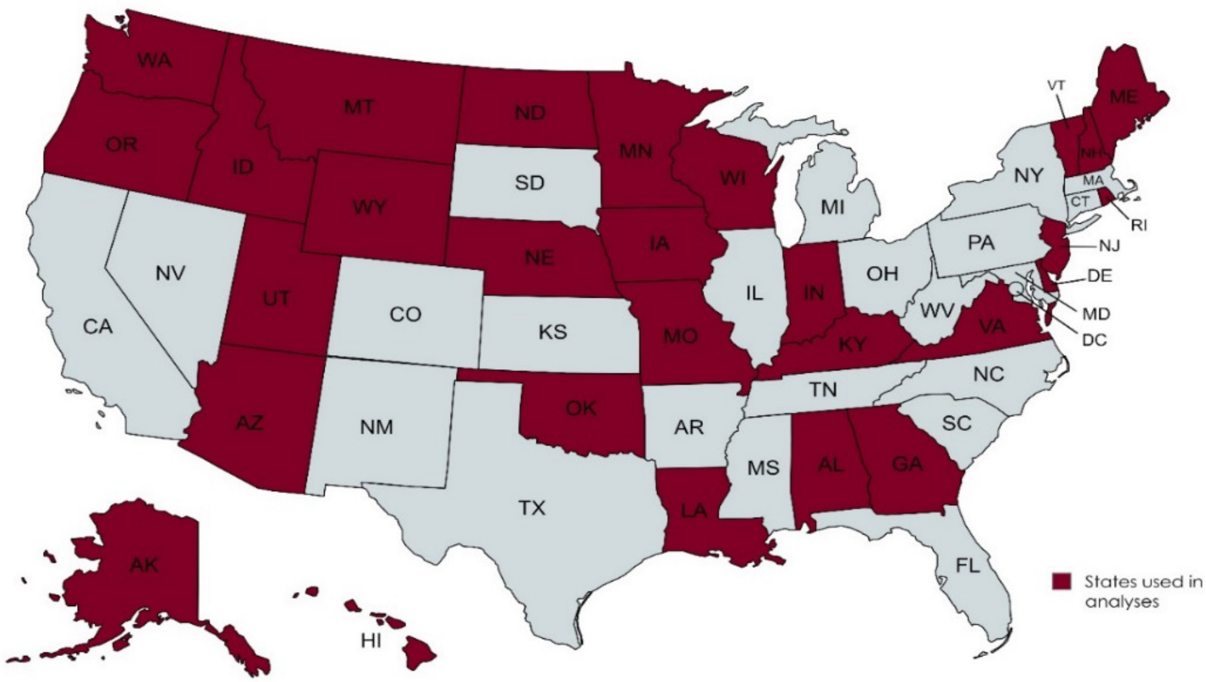
We approached these longitudinal analyses through descriptive statistics, sequence analysis and visualization, and event-history analyses (i.e., Kaplan-Meier curves and Cox proportional hazards models). Based on the research questions and populations of interest in each analysis type, the time frame, variables, and states included in analyses varied. These sample parameters are defined in the table and figure notes throughout this report.

While three distinct sets of analyses were conducted, the findings often informed each other. As such, this brief synthesizes key findings across analyses that inform the substantive findings from this body of research.

Analytic Data

Twenty-eight states who submit the universe of their TANF data are included in the current analyses (see Figure 1). Only TANF data, and not SSP, are used in these analyses. Some states that have submitted the universe of their TANF data are excluded from these analyses due to inconsistent reporting of universe data over time or data quality issues. Excluded are Ohio, Tennessee, and the District of Columbia. Arkansas did not submit universe data until 2017, so all longitudinal analyses including data prior to 2017 exclude Arkansas. The U.S. territories, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands were also excluded to limit this analysis to U.S. states.

Figure 1. States Included in Analytic Sample



As Table 1 shows, the analyses presented in this brief use different analytic time frames. Some of the analyses examined longitudinal caseload dynamics over the majority of the time period (2010-2022), while another took a closer look at TANF receipt patterns in the last two years (2021-2022).[4] Figures and tables are clearly labeled throughout to ensure the analytic time frame is clear.

Measures

The key outcomes and covariates used in these analyses are defined in Table 2. The measures used differ across analyses, so the analyses that use each measure are noted in the table.

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[4] Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2009 is not included in these analyses because one year of prior TANF participation history was needed to accurately identify an entry into the TANF caseload in FFY 2010.

Table 2. Measures and Corresponding Definitions

Measure	Definition	Analyses
TANF non-receipt	A month where the household is not present in the TANF data	1, 3
TANF receipt	A month where the household is actively receiving TANF benefits	1, 3
TANF exit	End of a period of TANF receipt followed by at least two months of non-receipt	2
Return to TANF	A month of TANF receipt after at least two months of non-receipt	2
Entry cohort	One entry cohort for each federal fiscal year from 2010-2020; households are included in a cohort if they started receiving TANF benefits within that FFY and had not received TANF at any time in the previous 12 months[1]	1, 2
Race/ethnicity of head of household	Race of the head of household. Race and ethnicity are mutually exclusive, so an individual who identifies Hispanic ethnicity is counted in the Hispanic category only, and not an additional race category. If there is no head of household in the household, this measure uses the race of the youngest child to identify a household-level race variable. Individuals with more than one race are identified as multi-racial.	2, 3
Race/ethnicity of youngest child	Race of the youngest child in the household. Race and ethnicity are mutually exclusive, so an individual who identifies Hispanic ethnicity is counted in the Hispanic category only and not an additional race category. If there is no race recorded for the youngest child in the household, this measure fills in with the race of the head of household. Individuals with more than one race are identified as multi-racial.	1
Age	Age of the head of household	1, 2
Gender	Gender of head of household	2
Disability	Indicator if any individual in the household is receiving disability benefits	2
Child-only case type	Indicator if a household has no adult TANF recipients in a given month	1, 2, 3
Non-metro counties	The U.S. Department of Agriculture developed the Rural/Urban Continuum Codes (RUCC) to identify rural and urban U.S. counties on a scale of 1-9; an indicator was created to group these levels into metro (0) and non-metro (1) counties.	1, 2
TANF-to-Poverty Ratio (TPR)	TPR is a state-level measure of the number of families served by TANF for every 100 families below the poverty line. It was created by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. CBPP uses TANF caseload and Census data to create a two-year average TPR for each state over time (e.g., 2009-10, 2010-11). Chapin Hall averaged states' TPRs from 2009-2020 to classify universe data-submitting states into three categories: Low = (TPR < 15); Medium = (TPR >=15 & <30); High = (TPR >=30)	1, 2, 3

[1]For ease of interpretation, households are included in only the first cohort in which they appear. For example, if a household enters into TANF in FFY 2011 and again in FFY 2016, they are only included in the 2011 entry cohort and excluded from the 2016 entry cohort in analyses.

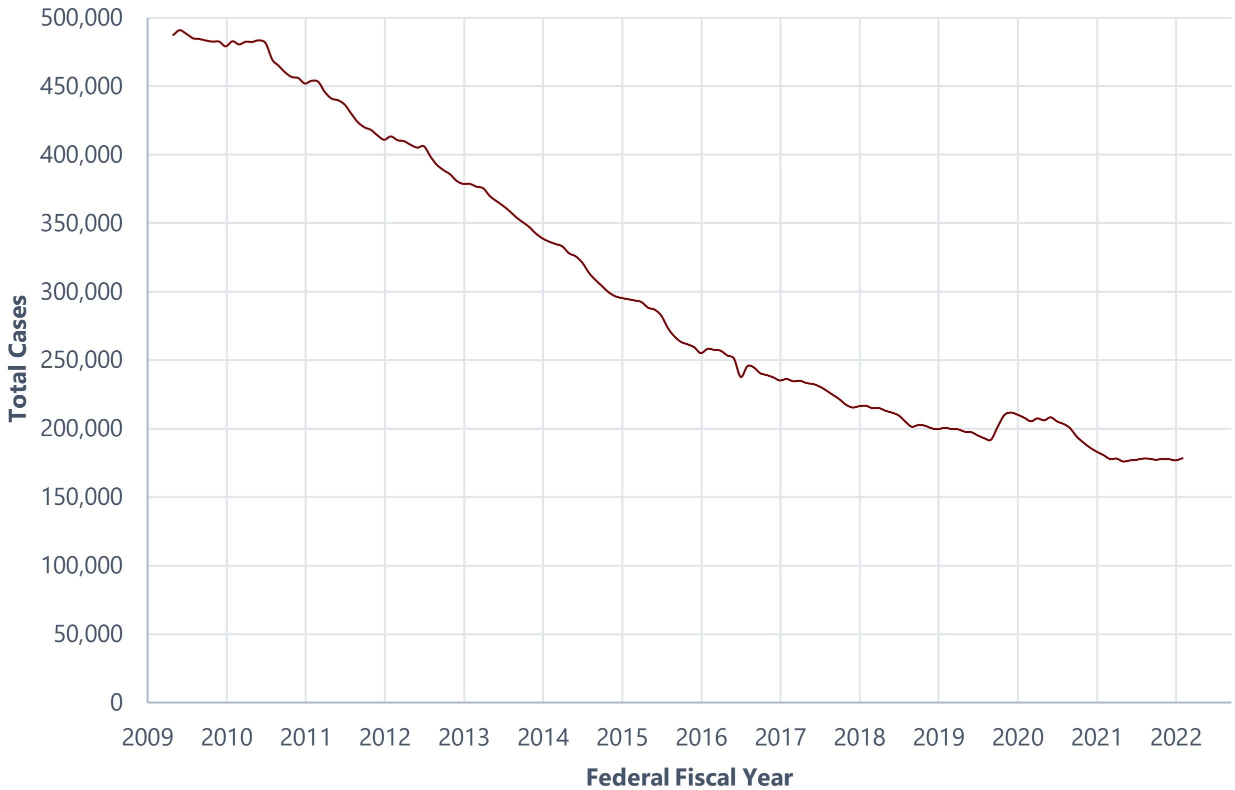
Findings

Key findings across the three analyses include the following.

TANF caseload has been steadily decreasing since 2010.

Since FFY 2010, the federal TANF caseload has decreased by approximately 63 percent (see Figure 2). A small increase of about 10% in caseload size can be seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, but by 2022, caseloads were smaller than they were just prior to the pandemic.

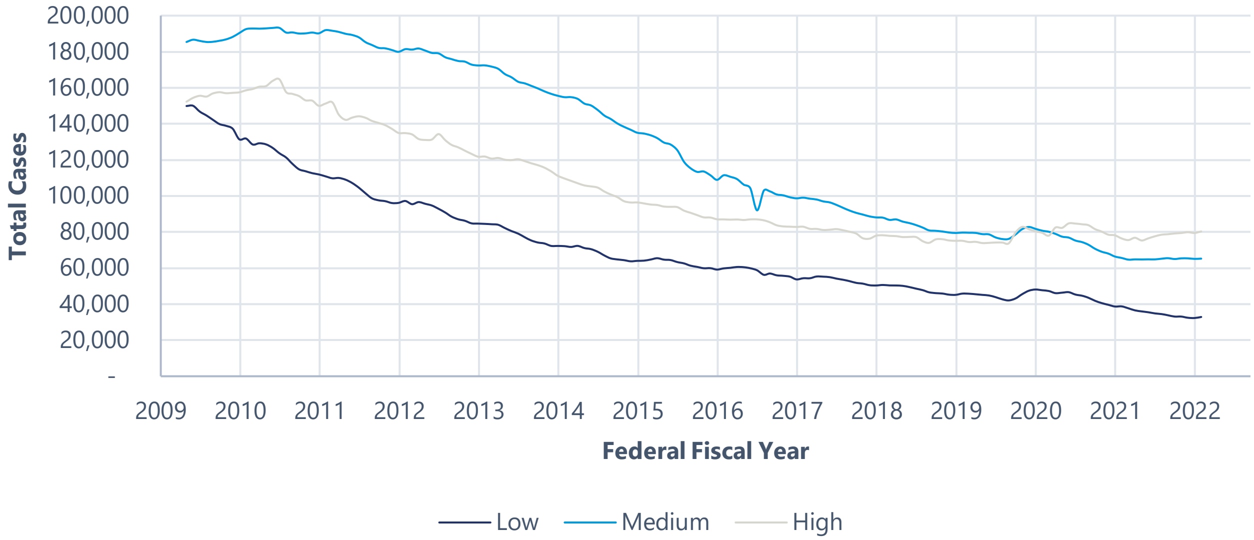
Figure 2. TANF Caseload Has Been Steadily Decreasing



Note: DC, OH, TN, AK, Puerto Rico, Guam, and Virgin Islands are excluded from the universe-submitting states in this analysis.

This decline has occurred across all states and racial groups, though the rate of decline varied by state. When examining caseload size over time by TANF-to-Poverty Ratio (TPR), high TPR states (with a TPR >=30) showed a 47% decline in caseload size compared to a 65% decline in medium TPR states (with a >=15 & <30) and a 79% decline in low TPR states (with a TPR <15; see Figure 3).

Figure 3. High TPR States Demonstrate Less Caseload Decline than Low and Medium TPR States



Note: DC, OH, TN, AK, Puerto Rico, Guam, and Virgin Islands are excluded from the universe-submitting states in this analysis.

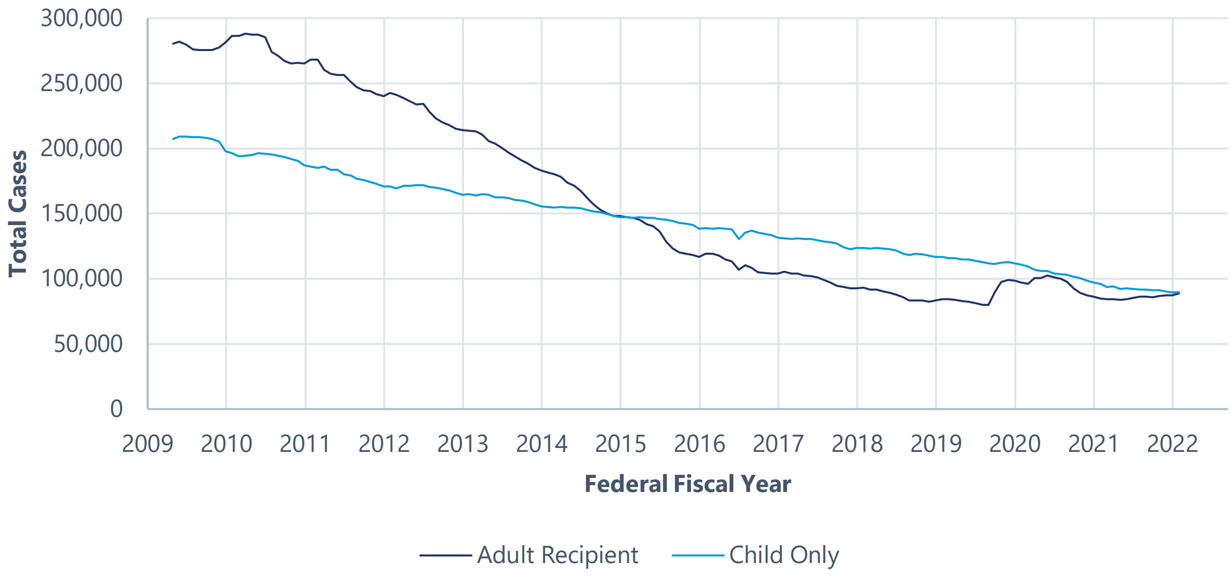
A large majority of the TANF caseload is composed of White, Black, and Hispanic families. All three of these racial and ethnic groups have experienced similar caseload declines since 2010. There has been a 65% decline in caseload size for White families, a 67% decline for Black families, and a 65% decline for Hispanic families. Finally, metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties exhibited similar caseload declines, with a 64% decline in metropolitan counties and a 61% decline in non-metropolitan counties.

The proportion of cases that is child-only has been increasing.

While TANF is a program designed to serve low-income families, there are time-limit restrictions, eligibility requirements (related to employment activities and characteristics such as immigration status), and sanctions that can sometimes render the adult on a case ineligible to receive TANF benefits. When parents are no longer eligible, states may continue to provide cash assistance to children in the family through child-only cases. These are cases with no adult recipients on the case but where the child or children remain eligible for benefits. In addition, state policies may define certain children, such as those in foster care or children of ineligible immigrants, as categorically eligible for TANF (Joyce, 2020).

Results of this analysis showed that the adult recipient caseload has experienced sharper declines over time than the child-only caseload. From 2010-2015, a larger share of the federal TANF caseload was households with adult recipients; child-only cases now make up about the same proportion of the caseload as adult recipient cases (see Figure 4). Notably, from 2015 to the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, child-only cases outnumbered cases with adults.

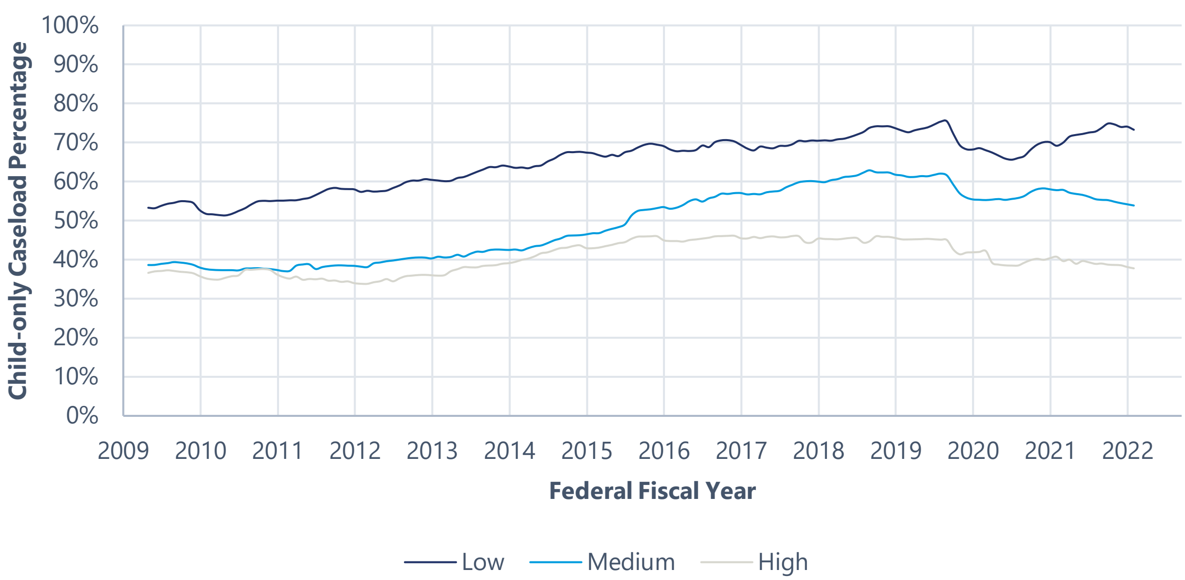
Figure 4. Rapidly Decreasing Number of TANF Cases with Adult Recipients Compared to Child-Only Recipients



Note: DC, OH, TN, AK, Puerto Rico, Guam, and Virgin Islands are excluded from the universe-submitting states in this analysis.

We also examined trends in the child-only caseload by TPR and metropolitan status. Similar to the trends in the entire caseload, the proportion of child-only cases has increased in low-, medium-, and high-TPR states; low-TPR states consistently showed the highest proportion of child-only cases (see Figure 5). Additionally, non-metropolitan counties showed a consistently higher proportion of child-only cases compared to metropolitan counties. In November 2009, 41% of metropolitan county caseloads were child-only, compared to 47% in non-metropolitan counties. This gap grew over time so that in August 2022, 47% of metropolitan county caseloads were child-only cases, compared to 60% in non-metropolitan counties.

Figure 5. Low TPR States Have the Highest Proportion of Child-Only Cases



Note: DC, OH, TN, AK, Puerto Rico, Guam, and Virgin Islands are excluded from the universe-submitting states in this analysis.

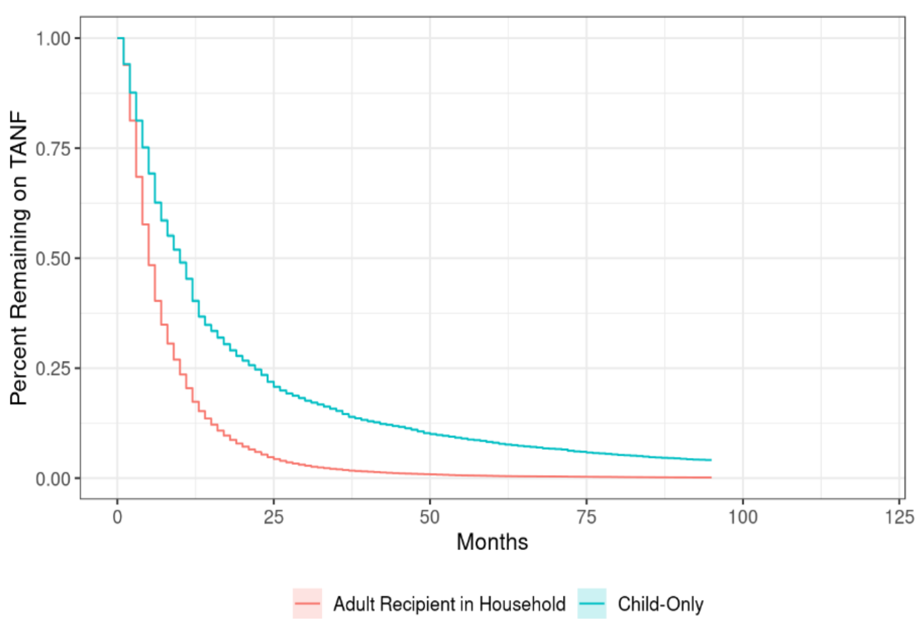
Shorter durations of TANF receipt are seen for adult recipient cases and low TPR states.

The increasing proportion of child-only cases in TANF caseloads likely reflects changes in states' practices and policies around eligibility; and also the fact that child-only cases tend to remain on TANF longer than adult recipient cases.

Relationships between key covariates of interest and longitudinal patterns of TANF exit and return were examined using Kaplan-Meier survival curves (Jager et al., 2008) and Cox proportional hazards models (Harrell, 2015). Kaplan-Meier estimates are a non-parametric, descriptive technique that allows one to visualize the relationship between one covariate and the likelihood of remaining on TANF or returning to TANF at specific time points. Cox models allow for the examination of multiple covariate relationships and the timing of TANF exit and return. Kaplan-Meier estimation is a method for identifying the survival rate, or proportion of individuals who have not experienced the outcome of interest, over time. Kaplan-Meier estimation is useful for longitudinal analyses in which the individuals in the analyses enter the analytic time frame at different times because it is able to account for censoring—meaning the exact timing of exit is not yet known.

We examined Kaplan-Meier survival curves for three entry cohorts: FFY 2010, 2015, and 2020. The trends were consistent across time; we show results for the 2015 entry cohort in this report. Similar to descriptive patterns identified in trajectory visualizations, Kaplan-Meier survival curves showed child-only cases (Figure 6) were much less likely to exit TANF in the first two-years than adult recipient cases. In 2015, just under 25% of child-only cases remained on TANF at two-years post-entry, compared to only about 5-6% of adult recipient cases.

Figure 6. Child-only Cases Remain on TANF Longer than Adult Recipient Cases



Note: DC, OH, TN, AK, Puerto Rico, Guam, and Virgin Islands are excluded from the universe-submitting states in this analysis.

Finally, Cox proportional hazard models were used to consider the relationships between covariates and separately for TANF exit and return. Cox models estimate the relationship of several variables – or risk factors – with the survival rate (proportion of individuals avoiding the outcome or event of interest in the model).

The measure of this relationship is the *hazard rate*, or the probability of experiencing the outcome of interest. In these analyses, the hazard rate is the probability of experiencing a TANF exit or return.

Results of the set of univariate Cox models showed that child-only cases were **44%**[5] **less likely to exit TANF** at any point than adult recipient cases. Additionally, cases in medium and high TPR states were 15% and 7% less likely to exit TANF than those in low TPR states (see Appendix A, Table 1, Univariate). When additional variables were included as covariates in the model (Appendix A, Table 1, 5), the differences for child-only and TPR became even larger: child-only cases were 47% less likely to exit TANF than adult recipient cases; cases in medium and high TPR states were 22% and 17% less likely to exit TANF. This suggests that state differences in their TANF eligibility policies and their designation of child-only cases have a significant impact on TANF participants' duration on TANF.

Conversely, and not surprisingly, child-only cases and cases in low TPR states are slower to return.

Kaplan-Meier curves of the FFY 2015 entry cohort showed that approximately 28% of adult recipient cases returned to TANF within two years, compared to only about 20% of child-only cases (Figure 7). Although child-only cases remain on TANF longer, they are also less likely to return to TANF once they exit. Similarly, participants in low TPR states were slower to return compared to medium and high TPR states. Figure 8 shows that only about 20% of participants in low TPR states returned within two years, compared to approximately 25% in medium TPR states and 31% in high TPR states.

Figure 7. Time until First Return by Child-only Case Type (2015)

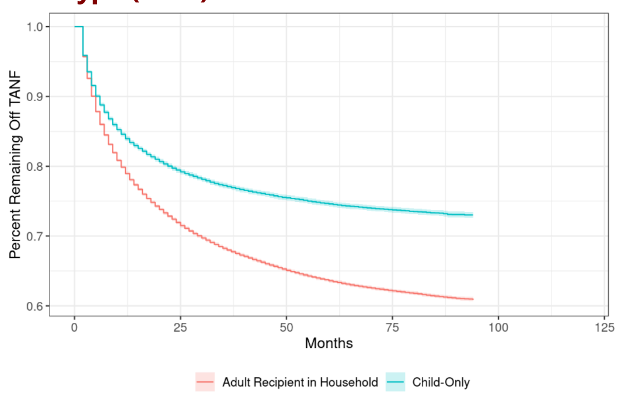
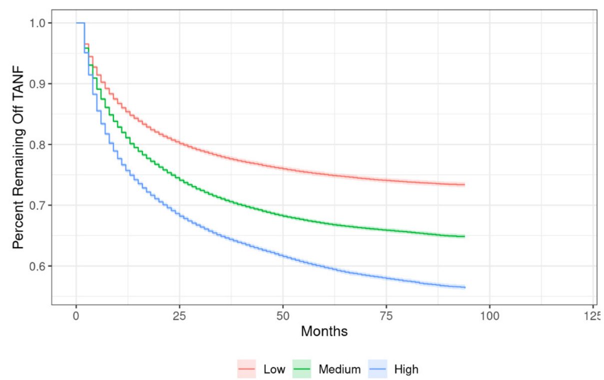


Figure 8. Time until First Return by TPR Group (2015)



Note: DC, OH, TN, AK, Puerto Rico, Guam, and Virgin Islands are excluded from the universe-submitting states in this analysis.

Results of Cox models affirm that, even when accounting for race, disability benefit receipt, gender, and time, **child-only cases were still 33% less likely to return to TANF than adult recipient cases** (see Appendix A, Table 2, 5); participants in medium and high TPR states were 43% and 84% more likely to return to TANF than participants in low TPR states.

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[5] A hazard rate of 0.56 (seen in Table 1, Appendix A) is interpreted here as 44% less likely to exit TANF because any rate lower than 1 indicates a lower chance of the outcome of interest, and any rate higher than 1 indicates a higher chance of the outcome of interest. The difference between 1 and the hazard rate can be interpreted as the percent more or less likely that an outcome will occur (1 – 0.56 = .44 or 44%).

The likelihood of returning to TANF is higher for cases with Black heads of household.

Interestingly, when examining Kaplan-Meier curves showing the relationship between race and ethnicity and exiting TANF, there was not significant variation in likelihood of exit by race and ethnicity (see Figure 9). However, when examining curves showing the relationship between race and ethnicity and *returning* to TANF, approximately 30% of Black families returned to TANF within two years, compared to 22% of Hispanic families and 25% of White families (see Figure 10). These differences are not large, but it does suggest that Black families returned to TANF at slightly higher rates than White and Hispanic families.

Figure 9. Time until First Exit by Race & Ethnicity (2015)

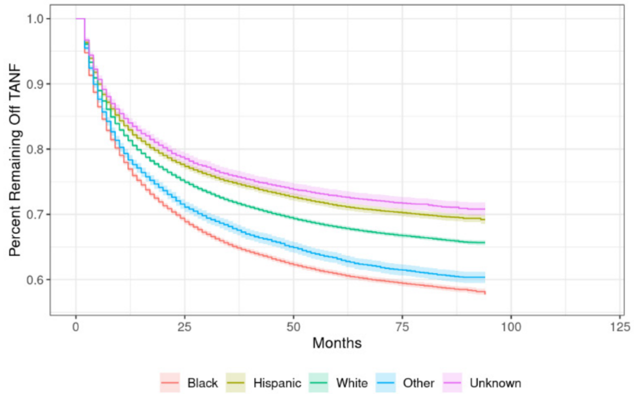
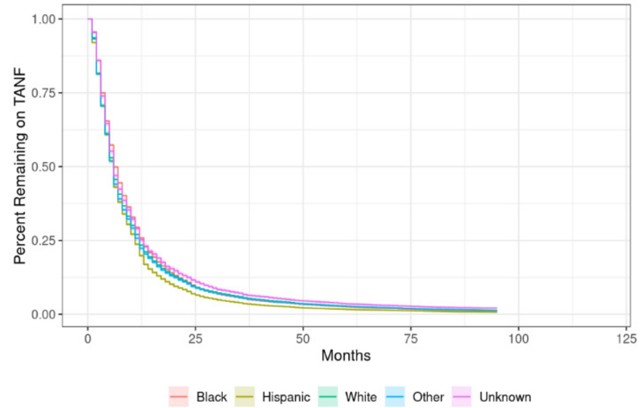


Figure 10. Time until First Return by Race & Ethnicity (2015)



Note: DC, OH, TN, AK, Puerto Rico, Guam, and Virgin Islands are excluded from the universe-submitting states in this analysis.

In addition to the Kaplan-Meier curves shown above, we examined the relationship of race and ethnicity with TANF exit and return in Cox models. Cox model results showed differences in time to exit and return to TANF by race and ethnicity. Hispanic families were 27% more likely and White families were 13% more likely to exit TANF than Black families (see Appendix A, Table 1, 5). When examining relationships with returning to TANF, Hispanic families were 28% less likely to return, and White families were 31% less likely to return to TANF than Black families (see Appendix A, Table 2, 5). This suggests that Black families remained on TANF slightly longer and were also quicker to return after exiting.

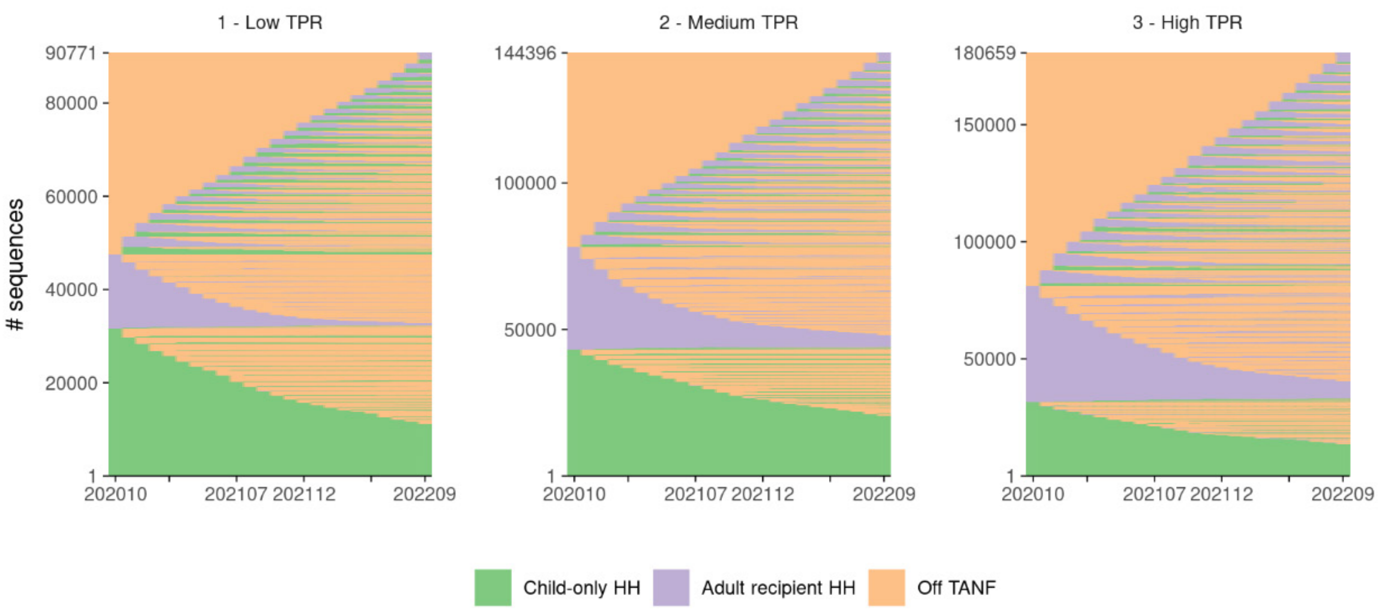
Longitudinal household trajectories showed a larger proportion of child-only cases were on TANF consistently compared to adult recipient cases; and there was relatively little transitioning between adult recipient and child-only case types, or vice versa.

The annual TANF caseload is comprised of households that receive assistance for all 12 months, cases that begin and end during the year, cases that start at some point and remain on at the end of the year, and cases that start at the beginning of the year and end at some point during the year. In addition, each of these cases may be child-only cases or not. Cases may switch from adult recipient cases to child-only cases. These patterns of TANF receipt and transitions between case type vary from state to state.

Trajectories of household-level TANF receipt were used to examine caseload compositional variation by case type during FFY 2021 and 2022. The figures below have a timeline by month from left to right. Each row represents a household, and similar trajectories are stacked so that one can see groups of similar households. The solid green portion at the bottom of the figure (about 2,000 households) represents those child-only cases that were active or open throughout the entire year. In the section of solid purple, it shows that a much smaller portion of adult recipient cases were active or open throughout the entire year. Other sections of the figures show the portion of households that began in each month and lasted for some portion of the year; or for the entire year if the area in color extends to the right side of the figure. Conversely, households that exited within the year are seen in the trajectories that start with purple or green colors but shifted off of TANF at some point in the period of observation.

These analyses show that a significantly larger proportion of child-only cases were on TANF consistently for two years compared to cases that include adult recipients, who were more likely to transition off of TANF at some point in the two-year period. Adult recipient cases had shorter durations than child-only cases in low, medium, and high TPR states (see Figure 11). Interestingly, trajectory analyses did not show many households that transitioned from adult recipient to child-only cases. Rather, for the most part, households were stably child-only or adult recipient case types. This lack of transitioning between case types may be an artifact of the states in this analysis, as state policies dictate whether adult cases transition to child-only cases when time limits are reached or sanctions occur (ASPE, 2000). Examining trajectories for longer periods of time in future analyses (i.e., five-year time period), expanding the states in which we are able to do longitudinal analyses, and also examining adults work-eligibility status and how it relates to transitions between case types are all ways we could improve our understanding of these patterns.

Figure 11. Adult Recipient Cases Have Shorter Durations on TANF than Child-only Cases



Note: DC, OH, TN, Puerto Rico, Guam, and Virgin Islands are excluded from the universe-submitting states in this analysis.

When looking at durations overall in Figure 11, low TPR states had proportionally more households in a particular year exiting by the end of the year than medium and high TPR states. This finding is consistent with results from the survival analysis.

Limitations

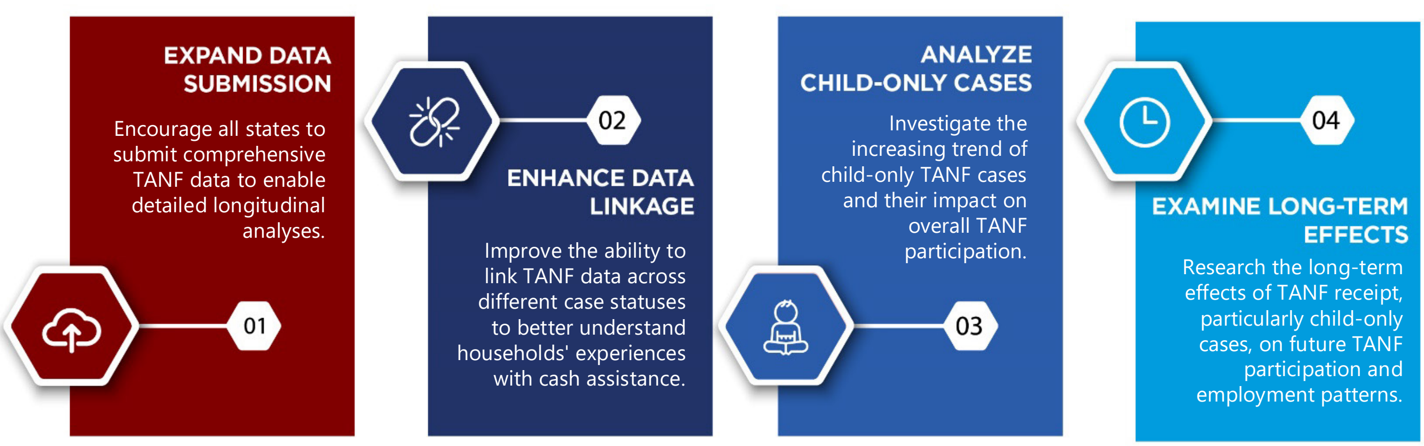
There are three key limitations with these data and analyses that are important to discuss. The findings discussed in this brief should be considered with these points in mind:

1. **Our understanding of a TANF "exit" is limited and may not represent exit from cash aid or achieving self-sufficiency.** In these analyses, we use the lack of a household's presence in the TANF data in a given month as an indicator of TANF non-receipt. However, a household's absence from the TANF data does not necessarily mean that they are not receiving cash assistance; states may move families off the federal TANF caseload and onto state or locally funded cash assistance programs. Consequently, analyses of exits, entries, and returns describe only households' patterns of federal TANF receipt, not of cash aid more broadly. Alternately, a household's exit may represent a full sanction that forces the case to close, rather than successful employment and self-sufficiency; it is not possible to differentiate full sanctions in the data used for these analyses.

2. **Data quality differs across states by multiple dimensions.** There are nuances in data quality within time, state, and individual variables in these data; these analyses include some data corrections or omissions in response to quality concerns. For example, Virginia has a data quality issue in one month in early 2017 that results in an incorrect description of caseload size, entries, and exits. We bridged these one-month gaps for households in analyses where 2016 and 2017 data are used. Another example is that D.C. stopped reliably reporting the ethnicity of TANF participants in November 2016. Because race/ethnicity was a covariate we used frequently, we excluded D.C. from many analyses. Future researchers should carefully investigate the variables they choose to use both across time and within states to identify any data quality anomalies that will limit interpretation of findings.

3. **This sample is not representative of the entire United States**. We only used data from states submitting the universe of their TANF data. Some of the most populous states, like California, Florida, and Texas, are missing from these analyses. As such, the findings from these analyses are likely not generalizable to all U.S. states and interpretation should remain limited to the states in the sample.

Conclusions & Recommendations



This preliminary and exploratory analysis offers key insights into how case type, state policies and practices, and race and ethnicity impact longitudinal caseload dynamics. It highlights the steady decline of TANF caseloads over time and that adult recipients have experienced even sharper declines in TANF receipt over the years. Additionally, it shows that child-only cases have significantly longer durations of TANF receipt than adult recipient cases. Finally, results emphasize the differences in caseload dynamics by TPR groupings; recipients in low TPR states receive TANF for shorter periods of time and are less likely to return to TANF compared to recipients in medium and high TPR states.

Given some of the significant limitations of the data described previously, it is difficult to confidently identify key policy and practice recommendations since we cannot definitively say these families are not receiving any cash assistance (i.e., they may exit federal TANF but receive assistance through state grants). As such, below we discuss a number of recommendations related to improving these data and areas for future research.

1. **Continue encouraging states to submit the universe of their federal TANF data**. Submitting the universe of a state's TANF cases is critical to enabling longitudinal analyses. Additionally, understanding patterns of caseload dynamics over time is a powerful tool for data-informed policy and decision-making. This analysis enhances our understanding of caseload dynamics in only 28 of 50 states. Increasing the number of states that submit universe data would allow more comprehensive and generalizable research.

2. **Work to improve our ability to measure and understand the entire trajectory of a household that received TANF.** Currently, it is difficult to link data between active and closed cases. Similarly, it is difficult to link data submitted from federally-funded TANF cases and state-funded TANF cases. If we could improve our ability to link across these data sources, we could gain a more complete picture of a family's pattern of receiving cash assistance. We could identify when an exit from federal TANF is due to a full sanction, movement to a state-funded case, or an exit from cash welfare due to something other than a sanction (i.e., employment). Understanding how cases move in and out of these case stages over time would provide critical practice and policy insights for TANF administrators.

3. **Gain a deeper understanding of how child-only cases are being leveraged across states and its impact on TANF participation.** These analyses show a strong relationship between child-only case type and duration on TANF. The proportion of child-only cases has been increasing over time, which, in turn, means the proportion of cases with adult recipients is decreasing. Some research has been done to understand what policies are affecting child-only cases (Mauldon et al., 2012), but a deeper policy understanding of how states are using child-only case status to serve families and its impact on families' TANF participation would be an important area of future research with these rich longitudinal data.

4. **Intergenerational patterns of TANF receipt and understanding the relationship between caseload dynamics and employment patterns are important areas of future research.** Given the large proportion of child-only cases in current caseloads, and the longer duration of TANF receipt for these cases, it would be useful to understand if these longer durations of receipt as a child are associated with lower likelihoods of receiving TANF as an adult or not. The continual submission of universe data by state TANF agencies will be critical to enabling this type of research. Additionally, it would be useful to match these data to the National Directory of New Hires (NDNH) to understand how TANF caseload dynamics and employment patterns are related. This would give us a better understanding of TANF exits that are likely due to employment as compared to TANF exits that might reflect moving to another cash assistance funding stream, sanctions, or reaching time limits.

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APPENDIX A. COX PROPORTIONAL HAZARD TABLES

Table 1. Estimated Hazard Rates of Time to First Exit by Case Characteristics

	Univariate		1		2		3		4		5	
Characteristic	**HR**[1]	**95% CI**[1]	**HR**[1]	**95% CI**[1]	**HR**[1]	**95% CI**[1]	**HR**[1]	**95% CI**[1]	**HR**[1]	**95% CI**[1]	**HR**[1]	**95% CI**[1]
cohort												
2010	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2015	**1.10**	1.09, 1.11	**1.10**	1.09, 1.11	**1.16**	1.15, 1.16	**1.15**	1.15, 1.16	**1.16**	1.15, 1.16	**1.17**	1.16, 1.17
2020	**0.98**	0.97, 0.99	**0.98**	0.97, 0.98	**1.00**	1.00, 1.01	**1.00**	0.99, 1.01	**1.00**	1.00, 1.01	**1.01**	1.00, 1.01
child_only	**0.56**	0.56, 0.56			**0.54**	0.54, 0.54	**0.51**	0.50, 0.51	**0.53**	0.52, 0.53	**0.51**	0.51, 0.51
race												
Black	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hispanic	**1.12**	1.11, 1.12	**1.12**	1.11, 1.13	**1.29**	1.28, 1.30	**1.28**	1.27, 1.29	**1.26**	1.25, 1.27	**1.27**	1.26, 1.28
White	**1.11**	1.10, 1.12	**1.11**	1.10, 1.12	**1.14**	1.13, 1.15	**1.13**	1.13, 1.14	**1.13**	1.13, 1.14	**1.13**	1.13, 1.14
Other	**1.09**	1.08, 1.10	**1.09**	1.08, 1.10	**1.09**	1.08, 1.11	**1.07**	1.06, 1.09	**1.07**	1.06, 1.08	**1.06**	1.05, 1.08
Unknown	**0.99**	0.98, 1.00	**0.99**	0.97, 1.00	**1.12**	1.11, 1.14	**1.13**	1.11, 1.14	**1.11**	1.10, 1.13	**1.17**	1.16, 1.19
disab_benefit	**0.65**	0.65, 0.66							**0.87**	0.86, 0.88	**0.88**	0.87, 0.89
hoh_gender												
Female	—	—					—	—	—	—	—	—
Male	**1.07**	1.06, 1.08					**1.09**	1.09, 1.10	**1.10**	1.09, 1.11	**1.10**	1.09, 1.11
No HOH	**0.90**	0.89, 0.91					**1.39**	1.38, 1.41	**1.36**	1.34, 1.37	**1.28**	1.26, 1.29
tpr												
Low	—	—									—	—
Medium	**0.85**	0.85, 0.86									**0.78**	0.78, 0.79
High	**0.93**	0.93, 0.94									**0.83**	0.83, 0.84
nonmetro	**1.03**	1.03, 1.04									**1.07**	1.06, 1.08

[1] HR = Hazard Ratio, CI = Confidence Interval

Table 2. Estimated Hazard Ratios of Time to First Return by Case Characteristics

	Univariate		1		2		3		4		5	
Characteristic	**HR**[1]	**95% CI**[1]	**HR**[1]	**95% CI**[1]	**HR**[1]	**95% CI**[1]	**HR**[1]	**95% CI**[1]	**HR**[1]	**95% CI**[1]	**HR**[1]	**95% CI**[1]
cohort												
2010	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2015	**0.83**	0.82, 0.84	**0.83**	0.82, 0.84	**0.83**	0.83, 0.84	**0.84**	0.83, 0.85	**0.84**	0.83, 0.84	**0.81**	0.80, 0.82
2020	**0.77**	0.76, 0.78	**0.78**	0.77, 0.79	**0.77**	0.76, 0.78	**0.78**	0.77, 0.79	**0.78**	0.77, 0.79	**0.74**	0.73, 0.75
child_only	**0.62**	0.61, 0.62			**0.64**	0.63, 0.65	**0.68**	0.67, 0.69	**0.66**	0.65, 0.67	**0.67**	0.67, 0.68
race												
Black	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hispanic	**0.68**	0.67, 0.69	**0.68**	0.68, 0.69	**0.77**	0.76, 0.78	**0.78**	0.77, 0.79	**0.79**	0.78, 0.80	**0.72**	0.71, 0.73
White	**0.77**	0.76, 0.77	**0.76**	0.76, 0.77	**0.77**	0.76, 0.78	**0.78**	0.78, 0.79	**0.79**	0.78, 0.79	**0.69**	0.69, 0.70
Other	**0.90**	0.88, 0.91	**0.91**	0.90, 0.93	**0.92**	0.90, 0.94	**0.95**	0.94, 0.97	**0.96**	0.94, 0.98	**0.80**	0.79, 0.82
Unknown	**0.66**	0.64, 0.67	**0.66**	0.65, 0.68	**0.72**	0.71, 0.74	**0.74**	0.72, 0.75	**0.74**	0.73, 0.76	**0.62**	0.61, 0.63
disab_benefit	**0.94**	0.93, 0.96							**1.15**	1.13, 1.17	**1.10**	1.09, 1.12
hoh_gender												
Female	—	—					—	—	—	—	—	—
Male	**0.64**	0.63, 0.65					**0.66**	0.65, 0.67	**0.66**	0.65, 0.67	**0.64**	0.63, 0.65
No HOH	**0.49**	0.48, 0.50					**0.69**	0.67, 0.71	**0.70**	0.68, 0.72	**0.78**	0.76, 0.80
tpr												
Low	—	—									—	—
Medium	**1.44**	1.42, 1.45									**1.43**	1.41, 1.44
High	**1.67**	1.65, 1.69									**1.84**	1.82, 1.86
nonmetro	**0.99**	0.98, 1.00									**1.08**	1.07, 1.09

[1] HR = Hazard Ratio, CI = Confidence Interval