



# Legislative Outcome Study

Produced by  
Macro International and  
the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services  
*August 2000*

## Executive Summary

The Legislative Outcome Study is the first phase of a five-year research study on the outcomes, implementation, and cost of Ohio Works First (OWF), Ohio's welfare reform program which began in October 1997. The five-year study was mandated by Ohio House Bill 408, which required the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to hire a private contractor to analyze the effects of OWF. ODJFS hired Macro International, a Maryland-based firm, to conduct the study.

Specifically, the study sought to determine whether former OWF participants who left public assistance within the first six months of OWF implementation are now employed, have non-employment sources of income, have health insurance, have used the Prevention, Retention, and Contingency program, and are successfully self-sufficient.

Macro International collected information for the study by surveying a sample of randomly selected individuals who left OWF assistance between October 1997 and March 1998 and remained off OWF for at least twelve months. The surveys were conducted by telephone between October 1999 and April 2000. Responses were collected from 631 individuals (representing 631 households) or 60% of the sample. Detailed information about the sample size, confidence levels, and survey response rate for this study is presented in the appendix.

Key findings from the survey follow.

- 90.5% of respondents held at least one job after leaving OWF.
- 66.7% of respondents were employed at the time they were surveyed.
- 61.2% of respondents left OWF because they got a job or increased their earnings in a job they had while on OWF.
- 89.2% of respondents had not returned to OWF since leaving assistance.
- 84.3% of respondents felt it unlikely that they would return to OWF in future.
- 75.9% of respondents felt that they were better off since leaving OWF.
- 71.7% felt that their children were better off since leaving OWF.
- 56.5% of the adults in the surveyed households had medical insurance.
  - Nearly half of these (45.6%) had employer coverage.
  - About one-third of these (34.4%) had Medicaid coverage.
- 82.8% of the youngest children in the surveyed households had medical insurance.
  - 59.6% of these children were covered by Medicaid.
- 40.4% of respondents with children under the age of 12 had used child care.
- 75.5% of respondents with children under the age of 12 reported no child care problems.

- Most respondents (91.9%) had no contact with Children’s Protective Services after leaving OWF.
- 22.5 % of respondents knew about the Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) program.
  - 26.1% of these applied for PRC assistance and all received it.
  - All PRC users said the program helped them stay off OWF.
  - All but one PRC user said they were satisfied with the program.
- Of those that **were employed** at the time of the survey (adults in 66.7% of all surveyed households):
  - 69.1% had full time jobs.
  - 57.5% had been working in the same job for more than 12 months.
  - 58.7% traveled less than ten miles to work.
  - On average, they worked 38.4 hours per week and earned \$8.65 per hour and \$1,410 per month.
  - 27.3% received child support.
  - 24.9% received food stamps.
- Of those that **were not employed** at the time of the survey (adults in 33.3% of all surveyed households):
  - 65.2% held at least one job after leaving OWF.
  - Only 33.3% were currently looking for work.
    - The three primary reasons for not looking for work are health, child care, and don’t want or need to work.

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### **Background**

In October 1997, House Bill 408 and Ohio's welfare reform program, Ohio Works First (OWF), became effective. OWF replaced the former Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) cash assistance program and made broad changes in how county departments of job and family services (CDJFS) implement and administer cash assistance. The emphasis of the new program is on self-sufficiency. It allows recipients to receive cash assistance for up to 36 consecutive months and allows them to reapply for benefits after they have ceased OWF participation for 24 months.

House Bill 408 requires the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to conduct a five-year research study of the effects of OWF implementation. Specifically, section 5101.80(A)(9) of the Ohio Revised Code requires ODJFS to hire a private contractor to study whether former OWF recipients are employed, receive other compensation, have health insurance, have received assistance or services under the Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) program and whether they are "successfully self-sufficient." ODJFS is also required to have the contractor analyze the costs and benefits of the OWF program and the way it is being implemented.

The research study is divided into three phases which span a five-year period. The first phase of the research study is the subject of this report. The Legislative Outcome Study focuses on the demographic characteristics, use of various services, and employment outcomes of individuals who left OWF during the first six months after it was implemented.

### **Study Results**

The Legislative Outcome Study is based on survey responses from a random sample of all OWF recipients that left OWF assistance between October 1997 and March 1998 and remained off OWF for a period of at least 12 months.

The surveys were conducted by telephone between October 1999 and April 2000. Information was collected from 631 respondents which represent a 60% response rate. Detailed information about the sample size, confidence levels, and survey response rate for this study is presented in the appendix.

The report is divided into three main sections:

Section I provides information about all survey respondents. It includes demographic data and information about respondents' medical coverage, use of child care, and use of social service programs.

Section II focuses on respondents who were employed at the time they were surveyed and the characteristics of their employment

Section III focuses on respondents who were not working when they were surveyed, and includes information about their most recent jobs.

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## Section I Profile of the Survey Respondents

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This section of the report presents information about all 631 survey respondents. It includes demographic information about the respondents at two points in time in an effort to show how their lives have changed since they left the public assistance rolls. It also includes information on respondents' medical coverage and use of child care services, two factors considered potential barriers to employment for those on public assistance. The final parts of the section examine the extent to which respondents use various social services and present their concerns about the future.

### Section IA Demographics at the Point of Departure from OWF

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This part of the report presents information about the survey respondents at the time they left OWF.

#### Gender

The survey respondents were overwhelmingly female in number.

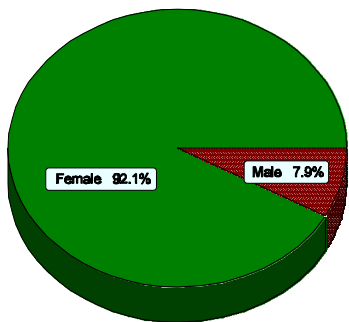


Figure 1 - Respondent Gender

#### Age

Three-quarters of the survey respondents were 35 years old or younger.

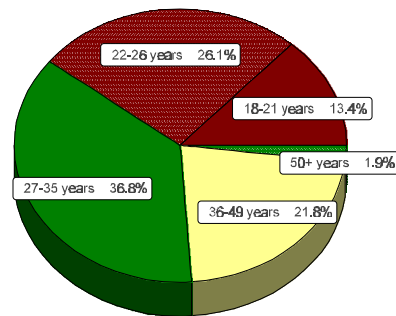


Figure 2 - Respondent Age

#### Racial Composition

Two-thirds of the survey respondents were caucasian.

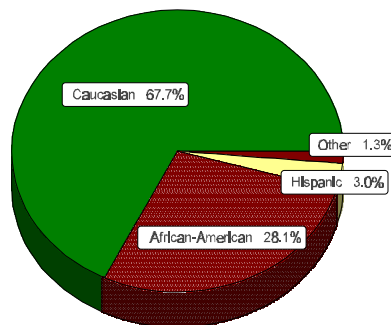


Figure 3 - Respondent Race

## Family Composition

Nearly 90% of the respondents headed single-parent families at the time that they left OWF assistance. Moreover, 55.6% of single parent respondents had at least one child under the age of 6.

Note regarding the “Single Parent, No Children in Home” category in Figure 4: Family type classifications were made based on ODJFS CRIS-E data as of October 1997.

Information regarding the age and number of children in each household was collected from respondents between October 1999 and April 2000, at the time they were surveyed. Thus, changes in household composition that occurred after October 1997 (which were indicated by respondents when they were surveyed) are not reflected in the family type classifications. The result of this is the “Single Parent, No Children in Home” category.

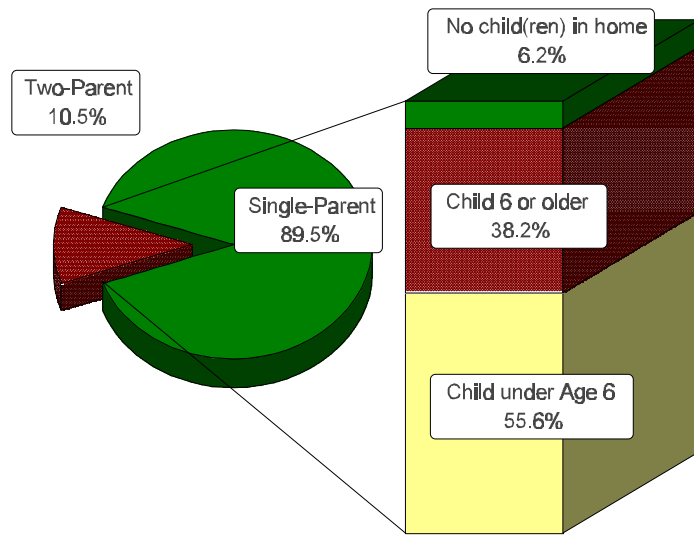


Figure 4 - Family Composition with breakout of single-parent households

## Work-Related Activities During Final Month on OWF

According to ODJFS CRIS-E data files, 41.5% of survey respondents had a job during their last month on OWF. An additional 14.9% participated in work or training activities required as a condition of receipt of benefits during their last month on OWF.

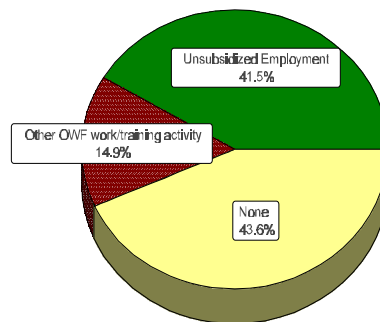


Figure 5 Work-Related Activities During Final Month on OWF



## Reasons for Leaving OWF

Employment was the main reason that survey respondents left OWF. 61.2% reported leaving OWF because they obtained work or increased their earnings from an existing job.

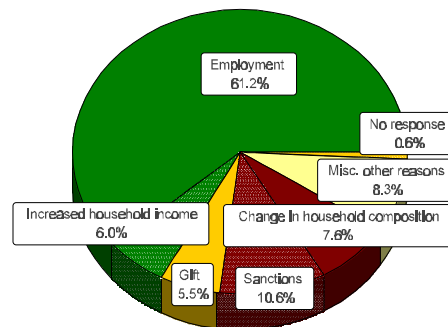


Figure 6 - Reasons for Leaving OWF

## Section IB Changes in Demographics After Departure from OWF

This part of the report presents information about changes that occurred in the lives of survey respondents between the time they left OWF and the time they were interviewed for this study.

### Changes in Marital Status

Figures 7 and 8 indicate the marital status of respondents at the time of the survey. 19.7% of respondents reported getting married after leaving OWF, while 22.0% reported losing a marriage partner through divorce (16.6%), death (0.3%), or separation (5.1%).

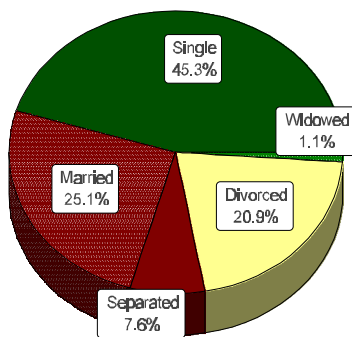


Figure 7 - Marital Status  
Single-Parent

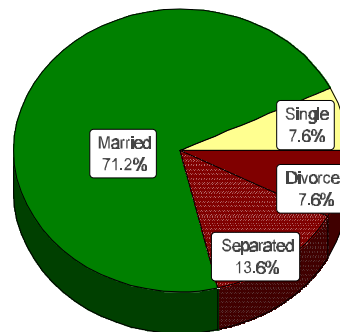


Figure 8 - Marital Status  
Two-Parent

## Changes in the Number of Children In Household

Nearly 62% of survey respondents reported having one or two children in their household at the time of the survey. An additional 20% had three children.

32.8% of respondents reported an increase in the number of children in their household since their departure from OWF. Another 7.3% reported that the number of children in their household decreased after they left OWF. 56.3% of respondents reported no change. (3.6% of those surveyed did not respond to this question.)

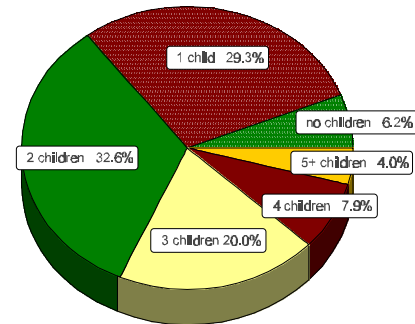


Figure 9 - Number of Children in Household

## Changes in Employment Status

At the time of the survey, 66.7% of all respondents reported that they were currently employed. Another 23.8% reported that they had been employed for some of the time since leaving OWF, but were without work at the time of the survey. In contrast, only 41.5% of all respondents had been employed during the last month in which they received OWF assistance. (See Figure 5.)

Detailed information about the respondents who were employed at the time of the survey can be found in Section II of this report. Section III contains information about the respondents who were not working when they were surveyed.

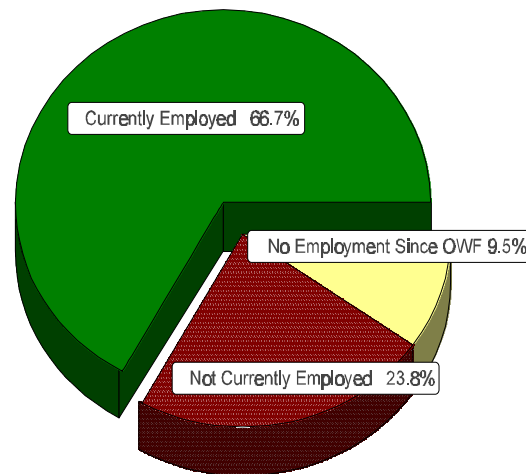


Figure 10  
Post-OWF Employment Level  
at Time of Survey

## Comparative Change in Adults' Living Situation Since Leaving OWF

When surveyed, respondents were asked to assess the change in their living situation since leaving OWF. Slightly more than 75% said they were now better off. Only 8.7% said they were worse off than before they left OWF.

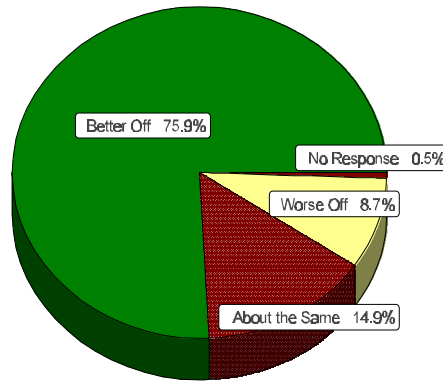


Figure 11  
Change in Living Situation  
Since Leaving OWF  
Adults

## Comparative Change in Children's Living Situation Since Leaving OWF

Survey respondents also were asked to assess the change in their children's living situation since leaving OWF. 71.7% said their children's lives had improved. 8.0% of respondents (representing 50 households) felt that their children were worse off than before they left OWF. Their reasons for this assessment appear in Figure 12.

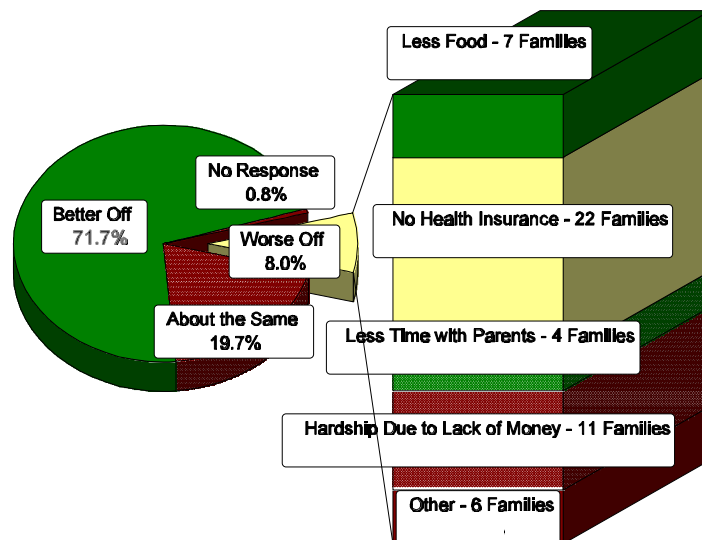


Figure 12  
Change in Living Situation Since Leaving OWF - Children

## Section IC Medical Coverage and Child Care Issues

Concerns about lack of medical coverage and child care often are cited as potential barriers to employment for those transitioning from public assistance to self-sufficiency. This part of the report examines the extent to which these needs are being met for survey respondents.

### Extent and Source of Medical Coverage

Respondents were asked about their own medical coverage and, to discern the extent of medical coverage in the household, they were asked whether the youngest child in their household had coverage.

Just over half of all respondents had medical coverage, but over 80% of the youngest children in the 592 households that had children were covered. See Figures 13 and 14, respectively.

Figures 13 and 14 also indicate the sources of medical coverage for insured respondents and youngest children. The percentages given in the charts are based on the respective populations of insured respondents (56.5% of the surveyed population) and insured youngest children (representing 82.8% of the 592 surveyed households in which there are children).

Employers are the main source of coverage for insured respondents, while Medicaid is by far the main source of medical coverage for insured youngest children.

### Reasons for Not Having Medical Coverage

The 39.0 % of survey respondents without medical coverage for themselves indicated that affordability was the major reason that they do not have coverage.

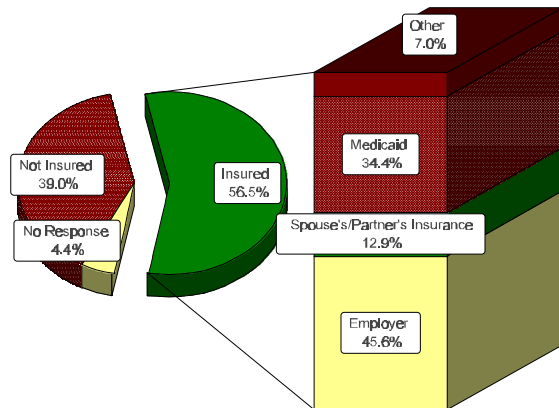


Figure 13 - Medical Coverage - Adults

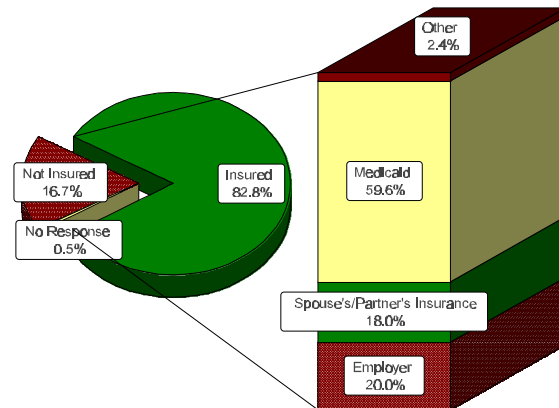


Figure 14 - Medical Coverage - Youngest Child

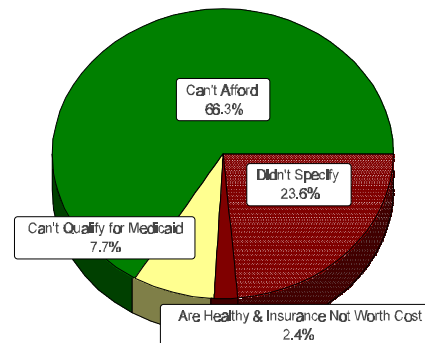


Figure 15  
Reasons Without Medical Coverage

## Child Care Use and Sources of Care

**Note:** Only households with children under age 12 were surveyed about child care use.

Of the 527 survey respondents who have children under age 12, only 213 or 40.4% use any type of child care. These respondents were asked to indicate the source of care for their youngest child. Roughly half use home-based care, while nearly a third use center or school-based care.

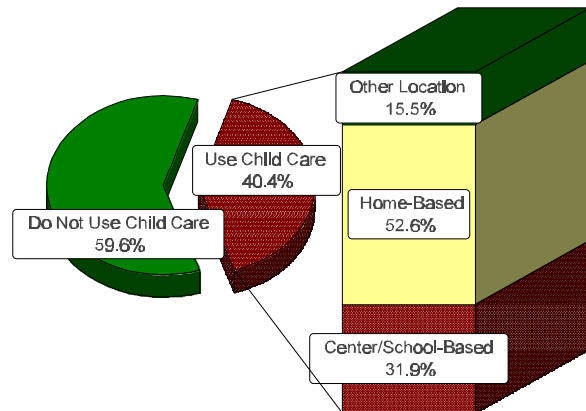


Figure 16 - Child Care Use with breakout of Child Care Source

## Most Difficult Child Care Problems

24.5% of the 527 survey respondents who have children under age 12 said that problems with child care had adversely affected their ability to hold a job, look for a job, or attend school or training. (These respondents may or may not have been using child care at the time of the survey.) They were then asked to report their most difficult child care problem. Their responses appear in Figure 17.

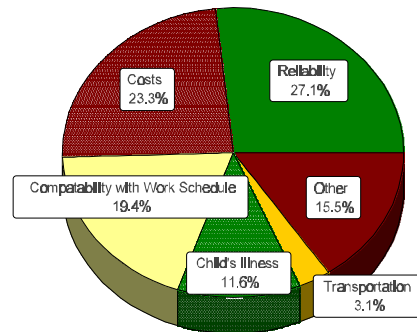


Figure 17 Most Difficult Child Care Problems

## Section ID Use of Social Services

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This part of the report presents the respondents' use of various types of assistance available through Ohio's county departments of job and family services (CDJFS), as well as any contacts they may have had with Children's Protective Services or other social service assistance programs.

### Use of the CDJFS Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) Program

The PRC program was established to help families overcome immediate barriers to achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency. It was designed to provide benefits and services to needy families and low-income employed families who are in need of essential supports to move out of poverty and become self-sufficient. It provides money to solve specific problems that hinder individuals trying to work, such as tools or uniforms for a job, car repairs, and child care.

Fewer than 25% of the survey respondents indicated that they knew about the PRC program and only a quarter of these applied for PRC assistance. However, all who applied for help received it.

Respondents who applied for and received PRC funds used them for a variety of purposes, as shown in Figure 19. The percentages in Figure 19 do not equal 100 because each respondent could report multiple uses for PRC funds.

78.4% of PRC users received help just once. Another 13.5% received help on two occasions. One household received help three or more times and two others received help an unspecified number of times.

All respondents who used PRC stated that the program was either very helpful or somewhat helpful in keeping them off OWF, and 36 of the 37 users indicated that they were satisfied with the program.

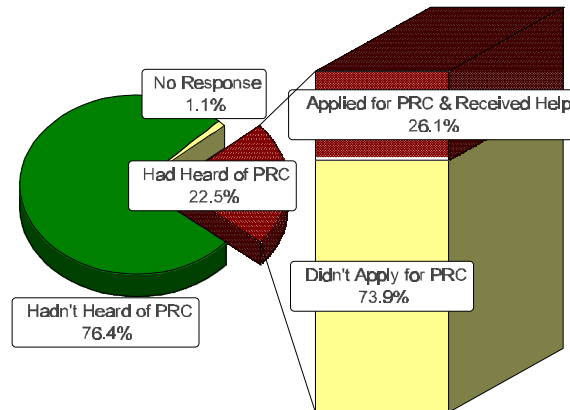


Figure 18 - Use of PRC Program

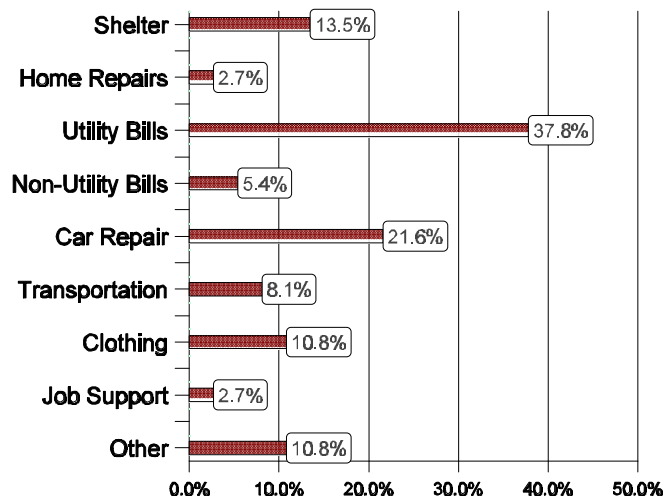


Figure 19 - PRC Expenditures

### Use of CDJFS Job Assistance

9.7% of the respondents employed at the time of the survey reported having received CDJFS assistance in finding a job. 7.6% of the respondents also reported receiving job retention assistance from the CDJFS.

8.0% of the respondents who had worked for a time since leaving OWF, but who were not working at the time of the survey, reported having received CDJFS assistance in finding work. 4.7% of the respondents also reported receiving job retention assistance from the CDJFS.

## Use of CDJFS Child Care Benefits

Of the 213 households which were using child care at the time of the survey, half were aware of the availability of child care help from their CDJFS. Nearly 75% of these applied for help and the vast majority (95% or 76 households) received it.

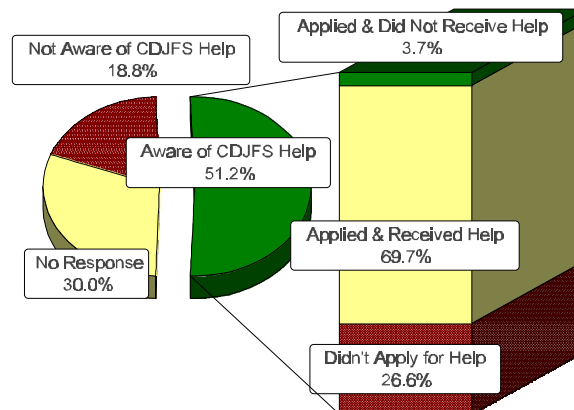


Figure 20 - Use of CDJFS Child Care Benefits

## Contact with Children's Protective Services

91.6% of the survey respondents reported having had no contact with Children's Protective Services (CPS) since leaving OWF. Of those who had contact with CPS, seven had a child or children removed from their home. All but two of these respondents had their children returned to them.

## Use of Various Social Service Assistance Programs

Respondents were asked to indicate any social service assistance that they had received during the six months prior to the survey. The services that they used in significant numbers are presented in Table 1 and are organized according to the employment status of the respondent at the time of the survey.

Column percentages do not equal 100 because each respondent could report using one, several, or no sources of assistance.

Services	Currently Employed	Never Worked Since OWF	Not Currently Working
Food Stamps	5.9%	8.3%	6.0%
Food Pantry	9.7%	21.7%	19.3%
Fuel Assistance	19.0%	30.0%	16.0%
Charitable Organization	4.3%	5.0%	10.7%
Family Counseling	3.3%	8.3%	12.0%

**Section IE OWF Recidivism: Respondent Realities, Concerns, and Predictions**

**Rate of Return to OWF**

When surveyed, 89.2% of the survey respondents reported that they had not returned to OWF since leaving assistance.

10.1% of the survey respondents had returned to OWF at some point after having remained off assistance for twelve months or more. They were not necessarily on OWF at the time of the survey, however.

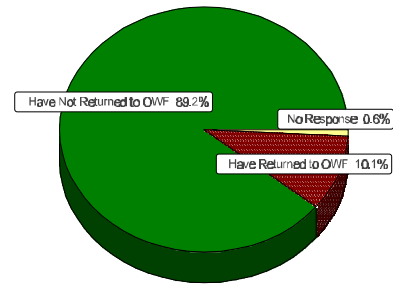


Figure 21  
Rate of Return to OWF

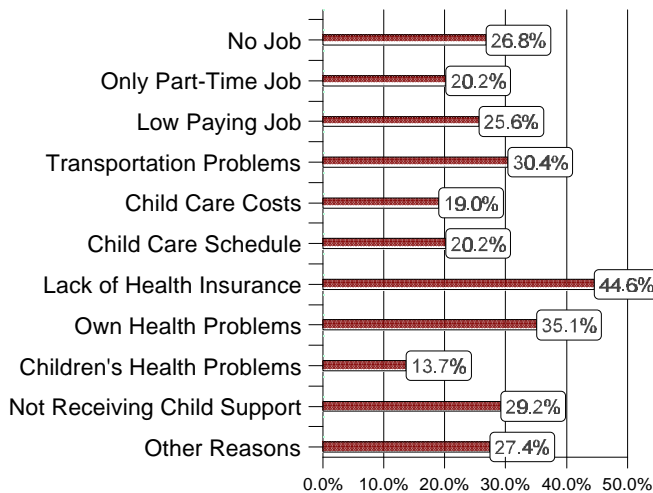


Figure 22 - Concerns About Returning to OWF

**Concerns About Returning to OWF**

Some respondents reported having had concerns about the possibility of returning to OWF in the six months preceding the survey. The reasons for their concern are indicated in Figure 22. The percentages in the chart do not equal 100 because respondents could cite one, several, or no reasons for concern.

**Likelihood of Returning to OWF in the Future**

Only 12.7% of the survey respondents indicated that they thought it was likely they would return to OWF at some point in the future.

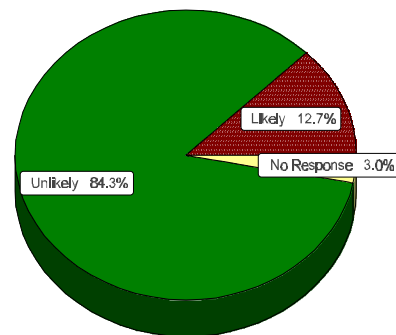


Figure 23  
Likelihood of Returning to OWF



## Section II Information on Currently Employed Respondents

As noted earlier in Section IB, Figure 10, 66.7 % of the survey respondents (or 421 of 631 respondents) were employed at the time the survey was administered. This section of the report focuses on these individuals, considered to be “currently employed.”

### Section IIA Currently Employed Respondents: General Profile

#### Work History Preceding OWF Departure

49.6% of the currently employed respondents had jobs before they left OWF. Another 15.9% participated in work or training activities required as a condition of their receipt of OWF benefits.

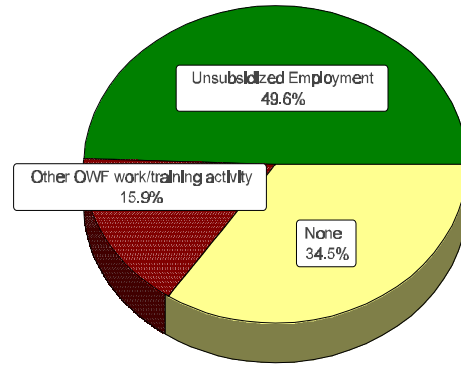


Figure 24  
Work-Related Activities While on OWF  
(Currently Employed)

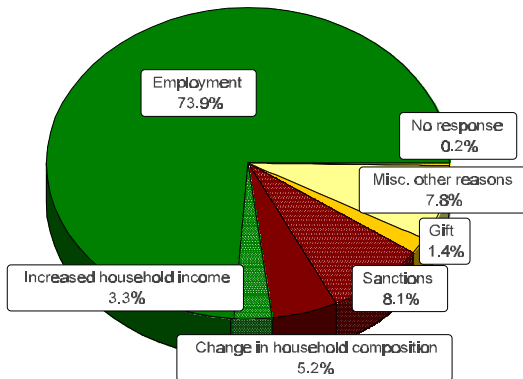


Figure 25 - Reasons for Leaving OWF  
(Currently Employed)

#### Reasons for Leaving OWF

Employment was the main reason that this group left OWF. 73.9% of the currently employed reported leaving OWF because they obtained work or increased their earnings from an existing job.

#### Non-Employment Income/Support

In addition to the income they received from their jobs, currently employed respondents received income or support from a variety of sources in the month preceding the survey. Those who reported OWF income may have returned to assistance to supplement reduced job earnings after having been without OWF benefits for at least twelve months following their initial departure from OWF. Figure 26 shows the major sources of income or support.

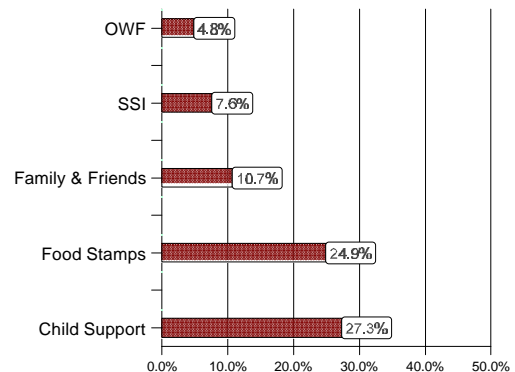


Figure 26  
Sources of Non-Employment  
Income/Support

## Use of the Earned Income Tax Credit

At the time the survey was administered, 78.7% of the currently employed respondents reported using the EITC.

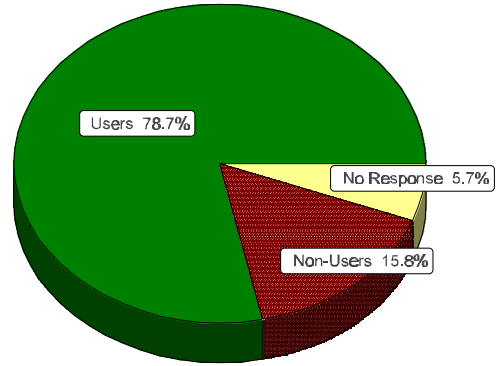


Figure 27 - Use of EITC  
(Currently Employed)

## Section IIB Currently Employed Respondents: Job Characteristics

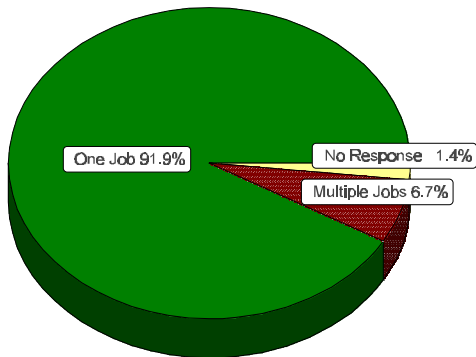


Figure 28 - Single vs. Multiple Jobs  
(Currently Employed)

### Number of Jobs Worked Concurrently

Over 90% of currently employed respondents hold only one job, either full- or part-time. However, 6.7% hold two or more jobs. This percentage represents full-time job holders who work second, part-time jobs (2.9% of the population), as well as individuals who hold multiple part-time jobs (3.8% of the population).

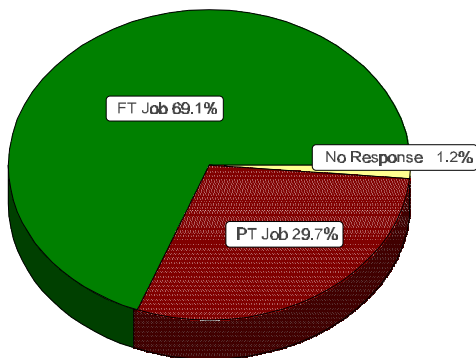


Figure 29 - Full-Time vs. Part-Time  
(Currently Employed)

### Full-Time vs. Part-Time Positions

Slightly more than two-thirds of the currently employed respondents hold full-time jobs, while 29.7% hold only part-time jobs. (For purposes of the study, full-time jobs require at least 35 hours per week of work.) Most (91.9%) of the part-time job holders have not had a full-time job at any time since leaving OWF.

## Hours Worked Per Week

83.1% of the currently employed population works at least 30 hours per week. These hours may result from one or more jobs. On average, all currently employed respondents work 38.4 hours per week. Part-time job holders work an average of 26.3 hours per week, while full-time job holders work an average of 43.5 hours per week.

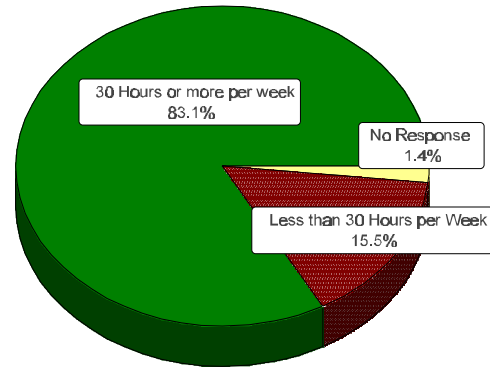


Figure 30  
Hours Worked per Week  
(Currently Employed)

## Average Wage

At the time of the survey, currently employed respondents were earning an average of \$8.65 per hour and \$1,410 per month. These wages represent substantial wage gains made by respondents during their post-OWF employment period, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 - Average Wages			
	Initial Month	Current Month	% Increase
Hourly	\$6.92	\$8.65	25.0%
Monthly	\$1,179	\$1,410	19.6%

In contrast, a family of three on OWF receives \$373 per month. An \$8.65 average hourly wage also compares favorably to the average wage for service sector positions in Ohio, according to the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services' 1998 Occupational Wage Survey Report, the most current such information available. The Wage Survey Report indicates that service sector positions (which describe most of the jobs held by survey respondents, see Figure 31), pay an average of \$7.81 per hour. The average hourly wage for currently employed survey respondents is on par with this average, and exceeds the \$5.15 federal minimum wage by 68%.

## Types of Jobs Held

The majority of jobs held by those currently employed are service sector positions, as indicated in the chart below.

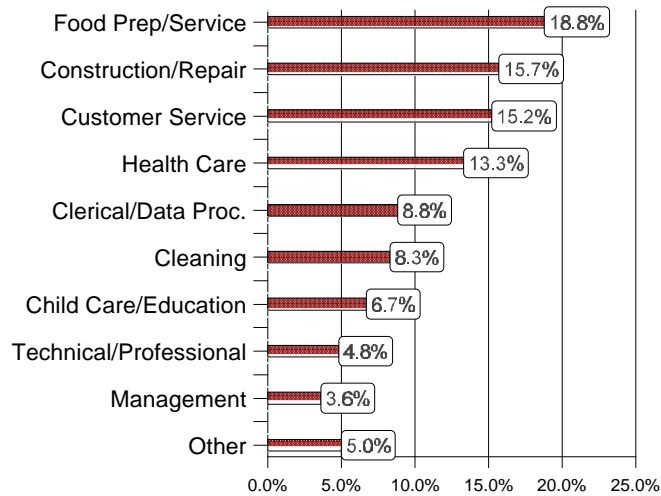


Figure 31 - Job Type  
(Currently Employed)

## Work Schedule

More than half of all currently employed respondents worked a regular daytime schedule, while nearly a quarter worked second- or third-shift jobs.

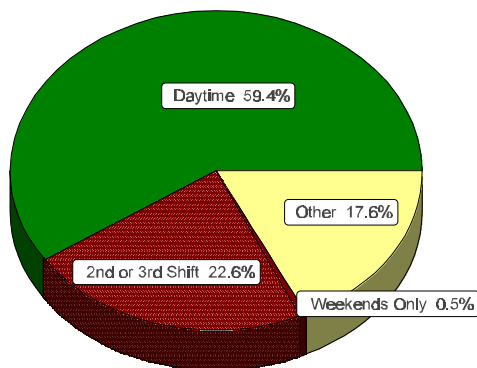


Figure 32 - Work Schedule  
(Currently Employed)

## Distance Traveled to Work

Currently employed respondents were able to find work near their homes, for the most part. 58.7% worked within ten miles of home.

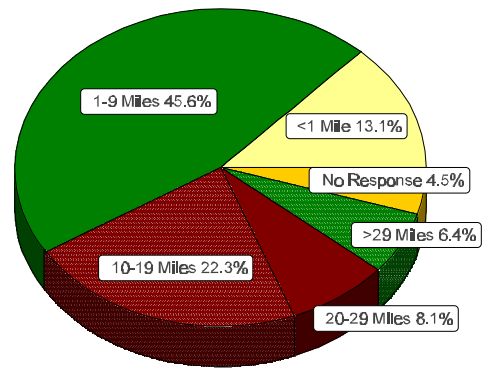


Figure 33 - Distance Traveled to Work  
(Currently Employed)

## Job Retention

The majority reported that they had been employed in their most recent job more than a year.

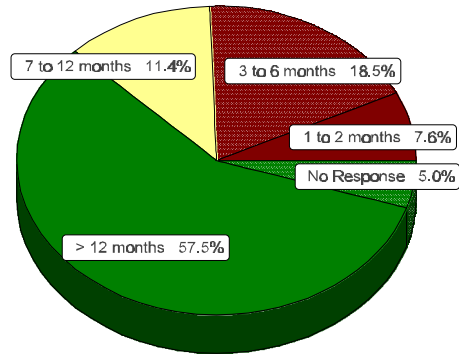


Figure 34 - Job Retention  
(Currently Employed)

## Job Turnover

Few currently employed respondents have changed full-time jobs since leaving OWF. 68.7% have held only one full-time job, while an additional 24.1% have held just two full-time jobs. (Job turnover information is only available for full-time job holders.)

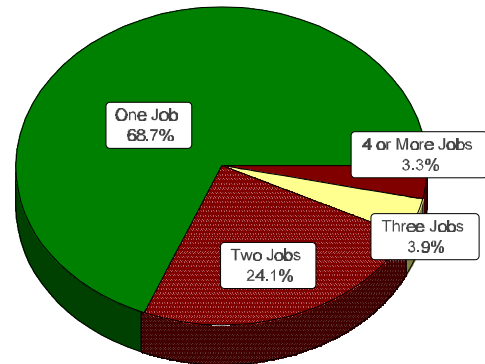


Figure 35 - Job Turnover  
(Currently Employed)

### Section III Profile of Respondents Who Are Not Working

This section of the report focuses on the 33.3% (210 of 631) of the survey respondents who were not employed at the time the survey was administered.

This group of respondents consists of two sub-groups:

- 60 respondents (9.5% of the surveyed population) who have not had a job since leaving OWF. For purposes of discussion, this group will be referred to as those who have “not worked since OWF.”
- 150 respondents (23.8% of the surveyed population) who have held at least one job since leaving OWF but who were not employed at the time of the survey. For purposes of discussion, this group will be considered to be “not currently working.”

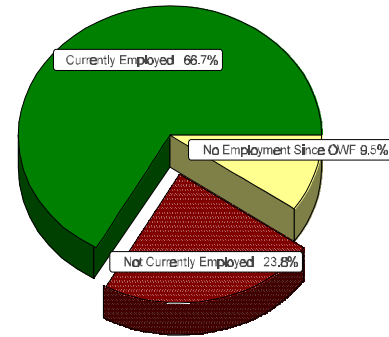


Figure 36  
Post-OWF Employment Level  
at Time of Survey

The decision to describe these two groups as “not worked” and “not working” rather than unemployed was intended to differentiate them from those typically included in the unemployment rate. The traditional unemployment rate represents people who are not working but who are actively seeking work. It excludes the disabled and individuals who are studying or keeping house full time, among others. In contrast, the number of people in our study who are not working includes the disabled and full-time students and homemakers, as well as individuals who are not actively looking for work.

### Section IIIA Respondents Who Are Not Working: General Information

#### Work History Preceding OWF Departure

Just over one-third of all respondents who were not working at the time of the survey had work-related experience in the form of a job or

Activities	Currently Employed	Not Worked Since OWF	Not Currently Working
Unsubsidized Employment	49.6%	13.3%	30.0%
Other OWF Work/Training Activity	15.9%	8.4%	14.8%
None	34.5%	78.3%	55.2%

OWF-required work or training activities in the month before they left OWF. The respective activity levels of those who have not worked since OWF and those not currently working are shown in Table 3. Activity levels for the currently employed respondent group, taken from Figure 24, have been included in the table for the sake of comparison.

## Reasons for Leaving OWF

Respondents who were not working at the time of the survey left OWF for a variety of reasons, as shown in Table 4. Statistics for the currently employed respondent group taken from Figure 25 have been included in the table for the sake of comparison.

Reasons	Currently Employed	Not Worked Since OWF	Not Currently Working
Employment	73.9%	3.3%	48.7%
Increased Household Income	3.3%	20.0%	8.0%
Gift	1.4%	31.7%	6.7%
Sanctions	8.1%	26.7%	11.3%
Change in Household Composition	5.2%	13.3%	12.0%
Misc. Other	7.8%	3.4%	12.0%
No Response	0.2%	1.7%	1.3%

## Length of Unemployment

36.3% of all respondents who were not working at the time of the survey had been without work for six months or less, while 28.6% had been without work for more than six months.

Figure 37 also shows the 28.6% (60 of 210) of respondents who have not worked since leaving OWF.

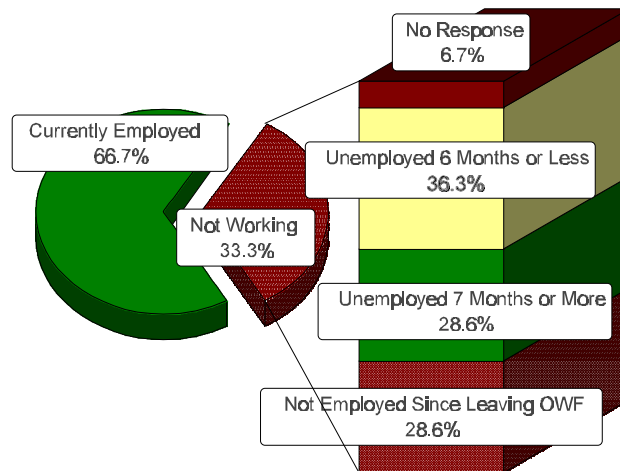


Figure 37 - Length of Unemployment  
(Not Currently Working)

## Reason for Leaving Employment

The 150 respondents who had worked at some point since leaving OWF, but who were not working at the time of the survey, gave various reasons for leaving their post-OWF jobs, as indicated in Figure 38.

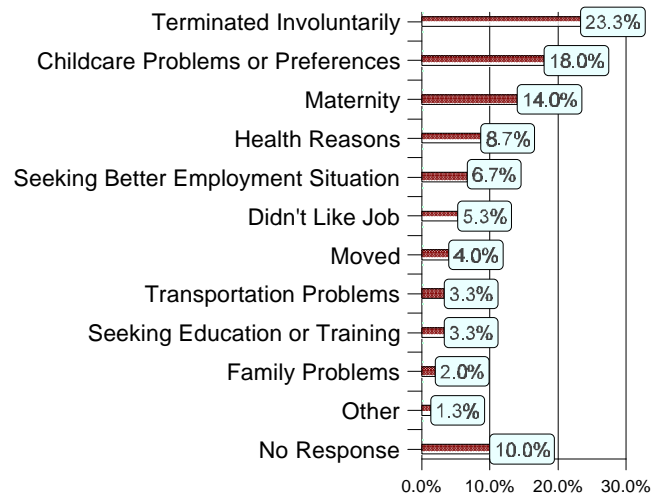


Figure 38 - Reasons for Leaving Employment  
(Not Currently Working)

## Job Search Status

Only one-third of the 210 survey respondents who are currently without work are looking for a job. An overwhelming majority (94.3%) of these job seekers are individuals who have already worked for some time since leaving OWF, as indicated in Figure 39.

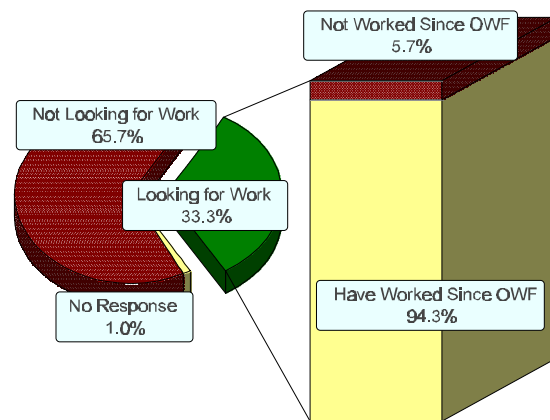


Figure 39 - Job Status  
(Not Currently Working)



Table 5 details the reasons that those who are not looking for work gave for not seeking a job.

Reasons Not Looking for Work	Not Worked Since OWF	Not Currently Working
Health Reasons	47.3%	26.5%
Child Care	12.7%	15.7%
Transportation Problems	5.5%	1.2%
Attending School	7.3%	4.8%
Family Problems	5.5%	6.0%
Don't Want or Need to Work	12.7%	18.1%
Satisfied with Current Situation	0.0%	6.0%

### **Non-Employment Income/Support**

Respondents who were not working at the time of the survey reported income or support from a variety of other sources, as detailed in Table 6. Non-employment sources of income or support for currently employed respondents, taken from Figure 26, are provided for the sake of comparison.

Sources	Currently Employed	Not Worked Since OWF	Not Currently Working
Food Stamps	24.9%	43.3%	31.3%
Child Support	27.3%	26.7%	29.3%
Family & Friends	10.7%	18.3%	25.3%
SSI	7.6%	31.7%	8.7%
OWF	4.8%	11.7%	12.7%
Veterans Benefits	2.1%	13.3%	2.0%
Disability Assistance	1.0%	6.7%	0.7%
Workers' Compensation	1.0%	0.0%	3.3%

### **Use of the Earned Income Tax Credit**

At the time the survey was administered, 59.5% of the respondents who were not currently working reported using the EITC. This percentage compares favorably with use of the EITC by currently employed respondents.

	Currently Employed	Not Currently Working
Users	78.7%	59.5%
Non-Users	15.8%	37.6%
No Response	5.7%	2.9%

## Section IIIB Respondents Who Are Not Working: Job Characteristics

The information in this part of the report is based solely on responses from the not currently working segment of the surveyed population. Respondents were asked to answer questions about the most recent job they had held. In most cases, data from Section II on currently employed respondents is provided for comparative purposes.

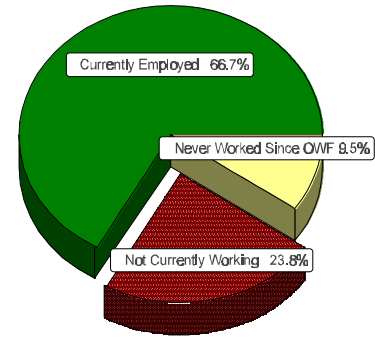


Figure 40  
Post-OWF Employment Level  
At Time of Survey

### Number of Jobs Worked Concurrently

Only 2% of the respondents who are not currently working worked more than one job at a time when they were employed.

	Currently Employed	Not Currently Working
One Job	91.9%	89.3%
Multiple Jobs	6.7%	2.0%
No Response	1.4%	8.7%

	Currently Employed	Not Currently Working
FT Job	69.1%	56.7%
PT Jobs	29.7%	36.7%
No Response	1.2%	6.7%

### Full-Time vs. Part-Time Positions

When they were employed, 56.7% of the respondents who are not currently working held full-time jobs.

### Hours Worked Per Week

When they were employed, 70.0% of the respondents who are not currently working worked at least 30 hours per week.

	Currently Employed	Not Currently Working
Greater Than or Equal to 30 Hrs/Wk	83.1%	70.0%
Less Than 30 Hrs/Wk	15.4%	21.3%
No Response	1.4%	8.7%

## Average Wages

The average hourly wage for the most recent jobs held by respondents who are not currently working was \$6.93. Their most recent monthly employment income averaged \$1,075. These pay rates are considerably lower than the respective rates of \$8.65 and \$1,410 earned by currently employed survey respondents.

Job Type	Currently Employed	Not Currently Working
Food Prep/Service	18.8%	17.3%
Construction/Repair	15.7%	22.7%
Customer Service	15.2%	18.0%
Health Care	13.3%	8.7%
Clerical/Data Processing	8.8%	9.3%
Cleaning	8.3%	8.7%
Child Care/Education	6.7%	7.3%
Technical/Professional	4.8%	0.7%
Management	3.6%	2.0%
Other	5.0%	5.4%

## Types of Jobs Held

Those not currently working labored at the same types of jobs as the currently employed population, in roughly the same proportions. They worked at customer service and construction/repair jobs at slightly greater rates and in health care and technical/professional jobs at slightly lower rates.

## Work Schedule

The work schedules of not currently working respondents (at the time they were employed) were similar to the work schedules of currently employed respondents.

Distance	Currently Employed	Not Currently Working
< 1 mile	13.1%	8.0%
1 - 9 miles	45.6%	45.4%
10 - 19 miles	22.3%	23.2%
20 - 29 miles	8.1%	8.0%
>29 miles	6.4%	5.9%
No Response	4.5%	9.3%

	Currently Employed	Not Currently Working
Daytime	59.4%	53.3%
2nd or 3rd Shift	22.6%	22.0%
Weekends Only	0.5%	0.0%
Other	17.6%	24.7%

## Distance Traveled To Work

Respondents who are not currently working, on average, traveled no farther to their most recent jobs than did currently employed respondents.

### Job Retention

Respondents who are not currently working did not retain jobs as long as their currently employed counterparts.

Length of Employment	Currently Employed	Not Currently Working
1 to 2 mos.	7.6%	26.7%
3 to 6 mos.	18.5%	22.7%
7 to 12 mos.	11.4%	15.3%
> 12 mos.	57.5%	24.0%
No Response	5.0%	11.3%

### Job Turnover

The job turnover rates for those who were full-time job holders among those not currently working are similar to those for currently employed survey respondents.

No. of Jobs Held	Currently Employed	Not Currently Working
Have Held 1 Job	68.7%	68.5%
2 Jobs	24.1%	21.3%
3 Jobs	3.9%	9.0%
4 Jobs	3.3%	1.1%

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## Appendix

### Sampling Size and Confidence Levels

We selected a random sample of participants within two strata: single parents with a child under six years, and all other parents. Within each strata, enough individuals were selected to allow for statistically valid comparisons. During the analysis phase, the second stratum was further split into three groups: (1) single parents with children 6 years or older, (2) single parents without children, and (3) individuals who are part of a two parent family. Because the number of respondents vary by each of these groups, the confidence intervals for the groups differ. The following table provides the maximum confidence interval for each group at .95 percent confidence.<sup>1</sup> If 67 percent of the 631 respondents were currently employed, we can be sure that the actual value for all participants will be within 63.1 and 70.9 percent with a confidence of 95 percent. However, if 67 percent of the respondents within two parent families were employed, the confidence interval would be, at most, between 54.94 percent and 79.06 percent.<sup>2</sup> Evident from this table is our inability to provide tight intervals (e.g., less than a plus or minus 10 percentage points) for the “single parents, other” category and for respondents within two parent families.

	Single Parents, At Least One Child Under Age 6	Single Parents, Children Aged 6 or Older	Single Parents, Other*	Total Single Parents	Respondents Within Two Parent Families	Total
# of Respondents	314	216	35	565	66	631
maximum confidence interval**	±5.53	±6.67	±16.57	±4.12	±12.06	±3.90

\* These are respondents who had children when selected for the sample, but did not have children when surveyed.

Another set of categories used in the analysis includes the following categories: (1) currently employed, (2) never employed after leaving OWF, and (3) currently unemployed. The following table provides confidence information on these categories.

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<sup>1</sup> The maximum confidence interval is based on testing the confidence around 50 percent. As the value of interest deviates from 50 percent, then the confidence interval gets smaller. For instance, if we were attempting to find a confidence interval around 75 percent, the interval would be ±3.4 rather than ±3.9 percentage points. The same interval applies if we are interested in establishing a confidence band around 25 percent.

<sup>2</sup> The confidence band for 67 percent is actually ±3.7. However, the maximum interval provides the broadest interval for a particular sized sample. (See footnote 1)

	Currently Employed	Never Employed After Leaving OWF	Currently Unemployed
# of Respondents	421	60	150
maximum confidence interval**	±4.77	±12.65	±8.00

### **Similarities Between Respondents and the Population**

Surveys attempt to generalize the results from respondents to the general population. In this case, the general population are all individuals who were receiving OWF in October 1997, left OWF between October 1997 and March 1998, and did not return to OWF for at least one year. The sample included only adults who were eligible for work requirements.

Almost every survey faces the problem of non-response. In most leavers studies, non-response is a challenge because notable portions of this population tend not to have stable living situations. If non-respondents are different from respondents, the results may not reflect the general population sampled. Although there is no way to tell for sure whether a bias exists without a concerted effort to track non-respondents and to obtain information on why they did not respond, there are some indicators that we could use to assess whether respondents and non-respondents differ. First, there seem to be no substantial differences between respondents and non-respondents based upon comparisons with the population on a variety of demographic and background characteristics provided by CRIS-E. Second, we performed analyses of respondents by when they responded. Overall, the information seems to indicate that there were no notable differences between those who responded early and readily and those who responded later and somewhat reluctantly. Third, evidence from the literature indicates that non-response can be linked to those individuals who have moved out of the recorded residence without leaving any forwarding information. In some cases, these individuals have worse situations. For instance, they may be homeless or institutionalized. In other cases, they may have simply moved to a better situation. Non-response may also be linked to a variety of other reasons. For instance, reasons for non-response may reflect the refusal of individuals to participate in a survey about their life on welfare. In other words, there is a wide range of possible reasons for non-response. Without a more intensive study of non-response, our analysis suggests that respondents are representative of the population.