

Intro:

Child care subsidies are provided to low-income families to pay for part or all of their child care arrangements. Measuring the length of receipt helps policymakers understand how these programs assist families and how they can be improved. Program data reveal that many participating families initially received subsidies for less than a year, but often returned to the subsidy programs after a period of non-participation. In these charts, initial spells of participation are defined as the number of continuous months that families received subsidies before exiting for at least two months.

Image 1:

The graph shows the percentage of total families who consecutively received child care subsidies over a given period of time. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

1 to 5 months: 37 percent

6 to 11 months: 25 percent

12 to 17 months: 15 percent

18 to 23 months: 7 percent

24+ months: 16 percent

(Data from ACF-801 Child Care Subsidy Administrative Records Data Base, 2012)

Image 2:

This image states that 47% of families that began receiving child care subsidies cycled on and off of the subsidy system more than one time over a three-year period.

(Data from ACF-801 Child Care Subsidy Administrative Records Data Base, 2012-2015)

Image 3:

The donut graph shows the percentage of families who received child care subsidies over a two year period. The data reflects the cumulative months the families participated in the program over the two year period. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

1 to 5 months: 28 percent

6 to 11 months: 23 percent

12 to 17 months: 17 percent

18 to 23 months: 12 percent

24+ months: 20 percent

(Data from ACF-801 Child Care Subsidy Administrative Records Data Base, 2012)