

# Illinois TANF Leavers Study Administrative Data File Documentation

May 2001

## Table of Contents

I.	Administrative Data File Documentation Narrative	
A.	Project Overview . . . . .	1
B.	Summary of Reported Data . . . . .	2
C.	Study Population Definition . . . . .	3
II.	Technical and Programming Information	
A.	Administrative Data File Overview	
	IL-main.txt . . . . .	4
	IL-2ndAd.txt . . . . .	5
	IL-SubsX.txt . . . . .	5
B.	Administrative Data File Information . . . . .	6
III.	Data Dictionaries . . . . .	7
IV.	Record Layouts	
	IL-main.txt . . . . .	9
	IL-2ndAd.txt . . . . .	10
	IL-SubsX.txt . . . . .	11
V.	Other Items for Researchers	
A.	Routine used to write IL-main.txt . . . . .	12
B.	Routine used to write IL-2ndAd.txt . . . . .	13
C.	Routine used to write IL-SubsX.txt . . . . .	14
D.	Array Definitions used to write the Data files . . . . .	15

## **Illinois TANF Leavers Study Administrative Data File Documentation**

### **I. Administrative Data File Documentation Narrative**

#### **A. Project Overview**

In 1998, the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) was awarded a grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to conduct research into the status of individuals and families who leave the Illinois temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Illinois' goal was to respond to the questions:

1. Who is leaving TANF?
2. Why are people leaving TANF?
3. What are the employment experiences of TANF leavers?
4. Who returns to TANF cash assistance and why?
5. What services and supports do TANF leavers use and need?
6. What is the overall well-being of clients after exiting TANF?

These questions were addressed through administrative data analysis of TANF cases that closed between July 1997 and December 1998, and through interviews with a stratified random sample of those leavers.

A total of 137,330 unique cases closed during the 18-month study period. In that approximately 28 percent of these cases closed two or more times during the study period, there were 151,010 total cases closing during the 18 months. Ninety-one (91) percent of these closures were single-parent cases. Fifty-eight (58) percent of these single-parent case closures occurred in Cook County, while 42 percent were closed downstate. Because single-parent cases constitute over 90 percent of all cases, many of the report's findings were reported for this important subgroup of all leavers.

The study's final report, Illinois Study of Former TANF Clients, was issued in August 2000. That report is attached.

Study findings are summarized in the report's Executive Summary, pages ii – xxiv.

## **B. Summary of Reported Data**

All administrative data reported here, with the exception of quarterly wage data, were collected by the Illinois Department of Public Aid (IDPA), which administered the AFDC program, or the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), which assumed responsibility for the new TANF program upon its creation in July 1997. TANF client data are entered by local office staff into various computer systems, and are maintained in a statewide, central database called the Client Data Base (CDB).

CDB data for the study were collected from a series of monthly CDB extracts, and summarized by research staff at the Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago. Chapin Hall Staff provided the data to the researchers at the University of Illinois in Springfield (UIS).

Quarterly wage data were collected by matching Social Security Numbers of all TANF adults in the study population against quarterly wage files provided by the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). That match was performed by IDHS staff, who provided matching wage records to the UIS researchers.

The final report's Chapter 1 describes a number of other data sources whose data are not included here because we were not confident of the researchers' or our ability to interpret them.

Unit of Analysis – The unit of analysis is the case. Cases were identified through designation of the "primary leaver", an adult who was usually the grantee. For two-parent cases in which both adults left assistance, the researchers randomly designated one of the two adults as the "primary leaver".

Time Period of the data – CDB data are provided for each of the 24 months prior to the leaver's TANF exit date, for the exit month, and for early cohorts, the 25 months after exit. Because CDB data were only collected through August 1999, not all cohorts have the full 25 months of post-exit CDB data.

Quarterly Wage data were available from the April-June 1997 through the January-March 1999 quarters. These files contain wage data for the quarter before TANF exit, the quarter of exit,

and up to 6 quarters after exit. Because of the January-March 1999 cut-off, only the first 3 cohorts have wage data for all 6 post-exit quarters.

Administrative data were analyzed for all cases that closed from July 1997 to December 1998.

A total of 137,330 unique cases closed during the 18-month study period. (More specifically, 137,330 individuals were identified during the study period as "primary leavers".) In that approximately 28 percent of these cases closed two or more times during the study period, those 137,330 leavers had a total of 151,010 exits during the study period.

The terminology used in the report refers to the 137,330 exits as "first exits", and the additional 13,680 exits as "subsequent exits". All available information for subsequent exits is included in the supplemental file IL-SubsX.txt. Those records can be merged with the same client's first exit (from file IL-main.txt) using the key variable RecKey.

### **C. Study Population Definition**

Population – The study focused on the population consisted of 18 monthly cohorts that exited TANF from July 1997 through December 1998. In order to exclude churners from the study, leavers were selected after two consecutive months of non-assistance.

"Exit" and "exit month" refer to the first month in which TANF was not received. For example, the July 1997 cohort (the first cohort of the study) consists of people who received assistance in June 1997 but not in July or August.

As described in the previous section, the selection methodology involved identification of an adult who assistance. Note that this definition excluded child-only cases from the study, and undoubtedly included some cases in which the children never left assistance.

Pages 5 and 6 of the final report contain a discussion of the issues described above.

## **II. Technical and Programming Information**

### **A. Administrative Data File Overview**

There are 3 files included, all in fixed-position ascii format:

#### **File 1: IL-main.txt**

File and Record Format:	Fixed-position ascii
Data Included:	TANF, food stamp, Medicaid, UI
Observations:	133,330
Record Length:	925
Record ID:	RecKey (unique)
Sort order:	RecKey
Unit of Analysis:	Case
Relation to Other Files:	IL-main.txt contains exactly one observation for each case included in the study. Each record in the other files can be matched to exactly one IL-main record.
File Description:	Main data file. Contains casehead and case-level information for each case in the study. Information in this file relates to the case's first exit.

**File 2: IL-2ndAd.txt**

File and Record Format:	Fixed-position ascii
Data Included:	TANF, food stamp, Medicaid, UI
Observations:	14,817
Record Length:	275
Record ID:	RecKey (unique)
Sort order:	RecKey
Unit of Analysis:	Case
Relation to Other Files:	IL-2ndAd.txt contains exactly one observation for each 2-adult case in the study. Each record in the file can be matched to exactly one IL-main record, although not all IL-main records have a record in the IL-2ndAd file.

File Description: For 2-adult cases, this file contains information about the 2nd adult.

**File 3: IL-SubsX.txt**

File and Record Format:	Fixed-position ascii
Data Included:	TANF, food stamp, Medicaid, UI
Observations:	13,680
Record Length:	850
Record ID:	RecKey (non-unique)
Sort order:	RecKey
Unit of Analysis:	Case
Relation to Other Files:	Each record in the file can be matched to exactly one IL-main record, although not all IL-main records have a record in the IL-SubsX file.

File Description: For cases with more than one TANF exit during the study period, this file contains information about subsequent exits. The IL-SubsX file does not contain demographics as demographic information was only collected at the first exit.

## **B. Administrative Data File Information**

Administrative data are being provided in 3 separate fixed-position ascii files. All can be merged with the main file (IL-main.txt) using the RecKey variable.

Information about second adults is contained in IL-2ndAd.txt. That option was chosen because most cases in the study have only one adult.

The main file (IL-main.txt) contains information relating to the case's first exit during the study period. For cases that had more than one TANF exit during the study period, information for subsequent exits is contained in file IL-SubsX.txt. Most cases had only one exit and will therefore not appear in IL-SubsX.txt.

Some cases (19) had as many as 4 TANF exits during the study period. Each of those cases has 3 observations in IL-SubsX.txt. (Their first exits are included in IL-main.txt).

### **Notes about monthly and quarterly variables:**

All 3 files contain series of repeating variables.

- 1) For repeating monthly variables, the series cover the 24 months before TANF exit, the month of exit, and the 25 months after exit (50 months total).
- 2) For repeating quarterly variables, the series cover the calendar prior to TANF exit, the quarter of exit, plus the 4 quarters after exit (6 quarters total).

### **III. Data Dictionaries**

A separate data dictionary is provided for each administrative data file. Dictionaries are provided in both word processing and Adobe (pdf) formats:

<u>Data Files</u>	<u>Dictionary Files</u>
IL-main.txt	IL-main-admdetail.doc / IL-main-admdetail.pdf
IL-2ndAd.txt	IL-2ndAdult-admdetail.doc / IL-2ndAdult-admdetail.pdf
IL-SubsX.txt	IL-SubsX-admdetail.doc / IL-SubsX-admdetail.pdf



#### **IV. Record Layouts**

Subsequent pages contain record layouts for the 3 administrative data files.

**Record Layout: Administrative Data File IL-main.txt**

Item Number	Beginning Position	Ending Position	Item Length	Data type	Variable Name	Variable count
1	1	10	10	C	RecKey	1
2	12	13	2	N	ExitCntr	1
3	15	20	6	N	earnbq01	1
4	22	27	6	N	earnaq00	1
5	29	34	6	N	earnaq01	1
6	36	41	6	N	earnaq02	1
7	43	48	6	N	earnaq03	1
8	50	55	6	N	earnaq04	1
9	57	62	6	N	earnaq05	1
10	64	69	6	N	earnaq06	1
11	71	142	3	N	TNFRBM24 - TNFRBM01	24
35	143	220	3	N	TNFRAM00 - TNFRAM25	26
61	222	227	6	C	EXITDATE	1
62	229	235	7	C	cohort_t	1
63	237	308	3	N	MEDRBM24 - MEDRBM01	24
87	309	386	3	N	MEDRAM00 - MEDRAM25	26
113	388	459	3	N	MEDTBM24 - MEDTBM01	24
137	460	537	3	N	MEDTAM00 - MEDTAM25	26
163	539	610	3	N	MEDCBM24 - MEDCBM01	24
187	611	688	3	N	MEDCAM00 - MEDCAM25	26
213	690	761	3	N	FOODBM24 - FOODBM01	24
237	762	839	3	N	FOODAM00 - FOODAM25	26
263	841	842	2	N	ADLTBM01	1
264	844	845	2	N	CHLDBM01	1
265	847	848	2	N	TOTCBM01	1
266	850	855	6	C	CASE_AGE	1
267	857	857	1	C	CASE_SEX	1
268	859	859	1	C	CASETYPE	1
269	861	861	1	C	CASERACE	1
270	863	865	3	N	CHLDAGE2	1
271	867	869	3	N	CHLDAGE1	1
272	871	875	5	C	countyCD	1
273	877	879	3	C	county	1
274	881	881	1	N	survFlag	1
275	883	883	1	C	MARISTAT	1
276	885	889	5	N	wageBM01	1
277	891	892	2	C	cclosure	1
278	894	896	3	N	cc_sumry	1
279	897	899	3	N	chunder1	1
280	900	902	3	N	chunder6	1
281	903	905	3	N	chundr13	1
282	907	907	1	C	education	1
283	909	909	1	C	workexp	1

**Record Layout: Administrative Data File IL-2ndAd.txt**

Item Number	Beginning Position	Ending Position	Item Length	Data type	Variable Name	Variable count
1	1	10	10	C	RecKey	1
2	12	13	2	N	ExitCntr	1
3	15	20	6	C	EXITDATE	1
4	22	28	7	C	cohort_t	1
5	30	35	6	N	earSbq01	1
6	37	42	6	N	earSaq00	1
7	44	49	6	N	earSaq01	1
8	51	56	6	N	earSaq02	1
9	58	63	6	N	earSaq03	1
10	65	70	6	N	earSaq04	1
11	72	77	6	N	earSaq05	1
12	79	84	6	N	earSaq06	1
13	86	157	3	N	a2mdBM24 - a2mdBM01	24
37	158	235	3	N	a2mdAM00 - a2mdAM25	26
63	237	242	6	C	a2_AGE	1
64	244	244	1	C	a2_SEX	1
65	246	246	1	C	a2_MARST	1
66	248	248	1	C	a2_wkexp	1
67	250	250	1	C	a2_educ	1

**Record Layout: Administrative Data File IL-SubsX.txt**

Item Number	Beginning Position	Ending Position	Item Length	Data type	Variable Name	Variable count
1	1	10	10	C	RecKey	1
2	12	13	2	N	ExitCntr	1
3	15	20	6	N	earnbq01	1
4	22	27	6	N	earnaq00	1
5	29	34	6	N	earnaq01	1
6	36	41	6	N	earnaq02	1
7	43	48	6	N	earnaq03	1
8	50	55	6	N	earnaq04	1
9	57	62	6	N	earnaq05	1
10	64	69	6	N	earnaq06	1
11	71	142	3	N	TNFRBM24 - TNFRBM01	24
35	143	220	3	N	TNFRAM00 - TNFRAM25	26
61	222	227	6	C	subsExit	1
62	229	235	7	C	subscoht	1
63	237	308	3	N	MEDRBM24 - MEDRBM01	24
87	309	386	3	N	MEDRAM00 - MEDRAM25	26
113	388	459	3	N	MEDTBM24 - MEDTBM01	24
137	460	537	3	N	MEDTAM00 - MEDTAM25	26
163	539	610	3	N	MEDCBM24 - MEDCBM01	24

## V. Other Items for Researchers

This section includes the SAS routines which were used to write the 3 files, IL-main.txt, IL-2ndAd.txt, and IL-SubsX.txt, and the array definitions used by those SAS routines.

### A. Routine used to write IL-main.txt

```
put
  @001 RecKey $10.          /* 10-position case identifier */
/* case wages= 1st adult wages + 2nd adult wages: */
  @012 exitcntr 2.          /* exitcntr=1 for this file */
  @015 earnbq01 6.
  @022 earnaq00 6.
  @029 earnaq01 6.
  @036 earnaq02 6.
  @043 earnaq03 6.
  @050 earnaq04 6.
  @057 earnaq05 6.
  @064 earnaq06 6. @;

/* casehead TANF receipt: */
ptr= 71 ;
do i=1 to 50;
  if benefits {1,i}= . then benefits {1,i}= 0;
  put @ptr benefits {1,i} 3. @ ;
  ptr+3;
end;

put @222 exitdate          /* first month of non-receipt: mmyyyy */
    @229 cohort_t         @ ; /* first month of non-receipt: yyyy-mm */

do t=2 to 5;
/* 2: @237 casehead Medicaid enrollment: */
/* 3: @388 Medicaid enrollment for anyone in the former case: */
/* 4: @539 Medicaid enrollment for any child in the former case: */
/* 5: @690 casehead Food Stamp enrollment: */
ptr= 237 ;
do i=1 to 50;
  if benefits {t,i}= . then benefits {t,i}=0;
  put @ptr benefits {t,i} 3. @ ;
  ptr+3;
end;
ptr + 1 ;
end;

* TANF case composition, month before exit: ;
put @841 adltbm01 2.        /* info not available for other months */
    @844 chldbm01 2.
    @847 totcbm01 2.

/* case demographics: */
  @850 case_age $6.          /* casehead dob MMYYYY */
  @857 case_sex $1.
  @859 casetype $1.          /* 1=single=parent / 2= 2-parent */
  @861 caserace $1.
  @863 chldage2 3.          /* age of oldest child, in years */
  @867 chldage1 3.          /* age of youngest child, in years */
```

Illinois TANF Leavers Study - Administrative Data File Documentation  
May 2001

```
@871 countyCD $5.      /* county FIPS code (note: accuracy of */
                        /* county FPIS codes has not been      */
                        /* carefully checked                    */
@877 county $3.        /* DHS county Code                      */

@881 survFlag $1.      /* survey flag -                      */

@883 MARISTAT $1.      /* casehead marital status          */
@885 wageBM01 5.       /* TANF wage amount before cancellation */
@891 cclosure $2.      /* DHS cancellation Type Action Reason */
                        /* note: some are blank              */
@894 CC_sumry 3.       /* cclosure grouping                 */
@897 chunder1 3.       /* nbr of children under age 1       */
@900 chunder6 3.       /* nbr of children under age 6       */
@903 chundr13 3.      /* nbr of children under age 13      */
@907 education $1.
@909 workexp $1.
@911 'end ' ;
```

**B. Routine used to write IL-2ndAd.txt**

```
put
@001 RecKey $10.      /* 10-position case identifier */
@012 exitcntr 2.      /* exitcntr=1 for this file      */
@015 exitdate        /* first month of non-receipt: mmyyyy */
@022 cohort_t        /* first month of non-receipt: yyyy-mm */
/* Second adult wages: */
@030 earSbq01 6.
@037 earSaq00 6.
@044 earSaq01 6.
@051 earSaq02 6.
@058 earSaq03 6.
@065 earSaq04 6.
@072 earSaq05 6.
@079 earSaq06 6.
@ ;

/* Second adult Medicaid enrollment: */
ptr=86 ;
do i=1 to 50;
    if benefits {6,i}= . then benefits {6,i}= 0;
    put @ptr benefits {6,i} 3. @ ;
    ptr+3;
end;

put

@237 a2_age $6.      /* second adult dob: mmyyyy      */
@244 a2_sex $1.      /* second adult sex              */
@246 a2_marst $1.    /* second adult marital status   */
@248 a2_wkexp $1.    /* second adult work experience  */
@250 a2_educ $1.     /* second adult education level  */
@252 'end ' ;
end;      * ----- end 2nd adult output ;
```

**C. Routine used to write IL-SubsX.txt**

```
put @001 recKey
    @012 exitcntr 2.          /* nth exit for this case */

    @015 earnbq01 6.
    @022 earnaq00 6.
    @029 earnaq01 6.
    @036 earnaq02 6.
    @043 earnaq03 6.
    @050 earnaq04 6.
    @057 earnaq05 6.
    @064 earnaq06 6. @;
    ptr= 71 ;

/* casehead TANF receipt: */
do i=1 to 50;
    put @ptr benefits {1,i} 3. @ ;
    ptr+3;
end;

*** exitdate in 2 different formats for THIS exit:          ;
put @222 SubsExit          /* mmyyyy - equivalent to ExitDate */
    @229 Subscoht @ ;      /* yyyy-mm - equivalent to cohort_t */
ptr= 237 ;

do t=2 to 5;
/* 2: @237 casehead Medicaid enrollment: */
/* 3: @388 Medicaid enrollment for anyone in the former case: */
/* 4: @539 Medicaid enrollment for any child in the former case: */
/* 5: @690 casehead Food Stamp enrollment: */
    do i=1 to 50;
        if benefits {t,i}= . then benefits {t,i}=0;
        put @ptr benefits {t,i} 3. @ ;
        ptr+3;
    end;
    ptr + 1 ;
end;

put @842 'end ' ;
```

**D. Array Definitions used in writing the data files**

array benefits {6,50}

```
/* 1 - TANF receipt month indicators, primary leaver: */
tnfrbm24 tnfrbm23 tnfrbm22 tnfrbm21 tnfrbm20 tnfrbm19
tnfrbm18 tnfrbm17 tnfrbm16 tnfrbm15 tnfrbm14 tnfrbm13
tnfrbm12 tnfrbm11 tnfrbm10 tnfrbm09 tnfrbm08 tnfrbm07
tnfrbm06 tnfrbm05 tnfrbm04 tnfrbm03 tnfrbm02 tnfrbm01
tnfram00
tnfram01 tnfram02 tnfram03 tnfram04 tnfram05 tnfram06
tnfram07 tnfram08 tnfram09 tnfram10 tnfram11 tnfram12
tnfram13 tnfram14 tnfram15 tnfram16 tnfram17 tnfram18
tnfram19 tnfram20 tnfram21 tnfram22 tnfram23 tnfram24
tnfram25

/* 2 - Medicaid enrollment month indicators, primary leaver: */
medrbm24 medrbm23 medrbm22 medrbm21 medrbm20 medrbm19
medrbm18 medrbm17 medrbm16 medrbm15 medrbm14 medrbm13
medrbm12 medrbm11 medrbm10 medrbm09 medrbm08 medrbm07
medrbm06 medrbm05 medrbm04 medrbm03 medrbm02 medrbm01
medram00
medram01 medram02 medram03 medram04 medram05 medram06
medram07 medram08 medram09 medram10 medram11 medram12
medram13 medram14 medram15 medram16 medram17 medram18
medram19 medram20 medram21 medram22 medram23 medram24
medram25

/* 3 - Medicaid enrollment month indicators,
   anyone in the case: */
medtbm24 medtbm23 medtbm22 medtbm21 medtbm20 medtbm19
medtbm18 medtbm17 medtbm16 medtbm15 medtbm14 medtbm13
medtbm12 medtbm11 medtbm10 medtbm09 medtbm08 medtbm07
medtbm06 medtbm05 medtbm04 medtbm03 medtbm02 medtbm01
medtam00
medtam01 medtam02 medtam03 medtam04 medtam05 medtam06
medtam07 medtam08 medtam09 medtam10 medtam11 medtam12
medtam13 medtam14 medtam15 medtam16 medtam17 medtam18
medtam19 medtam20 medtam21 medtam22 medtam23 medtam24
medtam25

/* 4 - Medicaid enrollment month indicators, any child: */
childmed_bm24 childmed_bm23 childmed_bm22 childmed_bm21
childmed_bm20 childmed_bm19
childmed_bm18 childmed_bm17 childmed_bm16 childmed_bm15
childmed_bm14 childmed_bm13
childmed_bm12 childmed_bm11 childmed_bm10 childmed_bm09
childmed_bm08 childmed_bm07
childmed_bm06 childmed_bm05 childmed_bm04 childmed_bm03
childmed_bm02 childmed_bm01
childmed_am00
childmed_am01 childmed_am02 childmed_am03 childmed_am04
```



childmed\_am05 childmed\_am06  
childmed\_am07 childmed\_am08 childmed\_am09 childmed\_am10  
childmed\_am11 childmed\_am12  
childmed\_am13 childmed\_am14 childmed\_am15 childmed\_am16  
childmed\_am17 childmed\_am18  
childmed\_am19 childmed\_am20 childmed\_am21 childmed\_am22  
childmed\_am23 childmed\_am24  
childmed\_am25

/\* 5 - Food Stamp receipt month indicators, primary leaver: \*/  
foodbm24 foodbm23 foodbm22 foodbm21 foodbm20 foodbm19  
foodbm18 foodbm17 foodbm16 foodbm15 foodbm14 foodbm13  
foodbm12 foodbm11 foodbm10 foodbm09 foodbm08 foodbm07  
foodbm06 foodbm05 foodbm04 foodbm03 foodbm02 foodbm01  
foodam00  
foodam01 foodam02 foodam03 foodam04 foodam05 foodam06  
foodam07 foodam08 foodam09 foodam10 foodam11 foodam12  
foodam13 foodam14 foodam15 foodam16 foodam17 foodam18  
foodam19 foodam20 foodam21 foodam22 foodam23 foodam24  
foodam25

/\* 6 - Medicaid enrollment month indicators, second adult: \*/  
a2mdbm24 a2mdbm23 a2mdbm22 a2mdbm21 a2mdbm20 a2mdbm19  
a2mdbm18 a2mdbm17 a2mdbm16 a2mdbm15 a2mdbm14 a2mdbm13  
a2mdbm12 a2mdbm11 a2mdbm10 a2mdbm09 a2mdbm08 a2mdbm07  
a2mdbm06 a2mdbm05 a2mdbm04 a2mdbm03 a2mdbm02 a2mdbm01  
a2mdam00  
a2mdam01 a2mdam02 a2mdam03 a2mdam04 a2mdam05 a2mdam06  
a2mdam07 a2mdam08 a2mdam09 a2mdam10 a2mdam11 a2mdam12  
a2mdam13 a2mdam14 a2mdam15 a2mdam16 a2mdam17 a2mdam18  
a2mdam19 a2mdam20 a2mdam21 a2mdam22 a2mdam23 a2mdam24  
a2mdam25 ;