

Table A-6. AFDC Characteristics, 1969 – 1998

	May 1969	May 1975	March 1979	Fiscal year ¹						
				1983	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998
Average Family Size (persons)	4.0	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8
Number of Child Recipients (percent of AFDC Cases):										
One	26.6	37.9	42.3	43.4	42.5	42.2	42.5	42.6	43.9	42.4
Two	23.0	26.0	28.1	29.8	30.2	30.3	30.2	30.0	29.9	29.6
Three	17.7	16.1	15.6	15.2	15.8	15.8	15.5	15.6	15.0	15.7
Four or More	32.5	20.0	13.9	10.1	9.9	9.9	10.1	9.6	9.2	10.6
Unknown	NA	NA	NA	1.5	1.7	1.4	0.7	1.5	1.3	1.8
Basis for Eligibility (percent of children):										
Parents Present:										
Incapacitated	11.7 ²	7.7	5.3	3.4	3.7	3.6	4.1	3.9	4.3	NA
Unemployed	4.6 ²	3.7	4.1	8.7	6.5	6.4	8.2	8.7	8.3	NA
Parents Absent:										
Death	5.5 ²	3.7	2.2	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.6	NA
Divorce or Separation	43.3 ²	48.3	44.7	38.5	34.6	32.9	30.0	26.5	24.3	NA
No Marriage Tie	27.9 ²	31.0	37.8	44.3	51.9	54.0	53.1	55.7	58.6	NA
Other Reason	3.5 ²	4.0	5.9	1.4	1.6	1.9	2.0	2.6	2.4	NA
Unknown	NA	NA	NA	1.7	NA	NA	0.9	1.0	0.6	NA
Mother's Employment Status (percent of mothers): ³										
Full-Time Job	8.2	10.4	8.7	1.5	2.2	2.5	2.2	3.2	4.7	NA
Part-Time Job	6.3	5.7	5.4	3.4	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.5	5.4	NA
Presence of Income (percent of families):										
With Earnings	NA	14.6	12.8	5.7	8.4	8.2	7.4	8.7	11.1	20.6
No Non-AFDC Income	56.0	71.1	80.6 ⁴	86.8 ⁴	79.6 ⁴	80.1 ⁴	78.9 ⁴	78.0	76.0	73.0
Median Months on AFDC										
Since Most Recent Opening	23.0	31.0	29.0	26.0	26.3	23.0	22.5	21.5	23.6	NA
Proportion of Households (percent of families):										
Living in Public Housing	12.8	14.6	NA	10.0	9.6	9.6	9.2	8.3	8.8	NA
Participating in Food Stamp										
Or Donated Food Program	52.9	75.1	75.1	83.0	84.6	85.6	87.3	88.7	89.3	83.5
Incl. Non-Recipient Members	33.1	34.8	NA	36.9	36.8	37.7	38.9	46.4	49.9	NA

¹ Percentages are based on the average monthly caseload during the year. Hawaii and the territories are not included in 1983. Data after 1986 include the territories and Hawaii.

² Calculated on the basis of total number of families.

³ For years after 1983, data are for adult female recipients.

⁴ States began collecting child support directly in 1975, removing one source of non-AFDC income.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance, *Characteristics and Financial Circumstances of TANF Recipients: Fiscal Year 1998* and earlier years, (Current data available online at <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/opre/characteristics/fy98/sum.htm>).