

CHAPTER VII: PROFILE OF FAMILIES WHO WERE BACK ON WELFARE

This chapter presents a profile of the families who were back on welfare at the time of the surveys. The following topics are examined in this chapter:

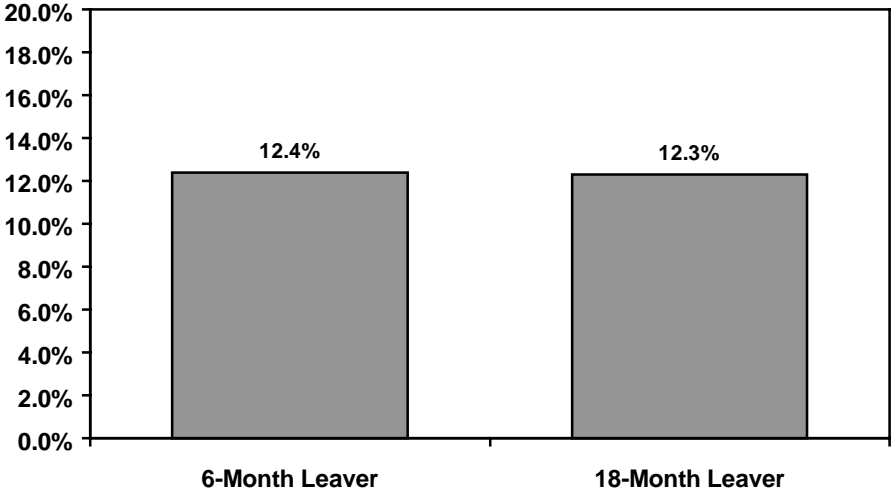
- characteristics of the respondents who were back on Work First;
- reasons for returning to welfare;
- participation in work activities;
- 24-month time limit status;
- receipt of public assistance benefits;
- employment;
- barriers to employment;
- use of and need for services;
- transportation situation;
- use of child care;
- health care and health insurance; and
- receipt of child support.

A. CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS WHO WERE BACK ON WELFARE

Percentage Who Were Back on Welfare

- As shown in Exhibit VII-1, about 12 percent of the respondents in both samples reported that they were currently receiving Work First cash assistance.

Exhibit VII-1 - Percent of Respondents Who Were Back On Welfare When Surveyed



Percent Who Were Back on Welfare by Respondent Characteristics

- The data in Exhibit VII-2 indicate that certain groups of respondents were more likely to be back on welfare than others.
- High school drop-outs were much more likely to have returned to welfare than respondents who had attended college.
- Married respondents were less likely than non-married respondents to have returned to welfare.
- Respondents who did not live with other adults were much more likely to have returned to welfare.
- The number of children in the family did not have an impact upon the percentage of respondents who had returned to welfare.

Exhibit VII-2

**Percentage of Respondents Who Were Back On Welfare,
by Selected Characteristics**

Characteristic	6-Month Leaver	18-Month Leaver
<i>Education</i>		
Did not complete high school or GED	16.8%	15.5%
Completed high school or GED only	8.1%	12.7%
Attended college	9.9%	8.3%
<i>Ethnicity</i>		
White	11.6%	11.4%
Black	12.5%	12.6%
<i>Marital Status</i>		
Married	2.5%	7.0%
Separated, divorced, widowed	10.3%	14.5%
Never married	14.4%	11.9%
<i>Presence of Other Adults</i>		
No other adults	15.9%	14.1%
One or more other adults	7.7%	9.6%
<i>Number of Children</i>		
0-1	13.7%	10.9%
2 or more	11.0%	12.9%
<i>County Type</i>		
Urban	12.2%	14.7%
Rural	12.6%	10.2%

Comparative Profiles of Persons Back on Welfare and Persons Still off Welfare

- Exhibit VII-3 compares the characteristics of respondents who were back on welfare with those of respondents who were still off welfare.
- As indicated, high school drop-outs accounted for a higher percentage of recidivists than of persons who were still off welfare. For example, drop-outs accounted for almost 54 percent of the 6-month leavers who were back on welfare but for only 36 percent of the families who were still off welfare.
- Persons living with no other adults accounted for almost 73 percent of the 6-month leavers who were back on welfare but for only 53 percent of the families who were still off welfare

**Exhibit VII-3
Comparison of Recidivists and Persons Still Off Welfare**

Characteristic	6-Month Leaver		18-Month Leaver	
	Back on Welfare	Still off Welfare	Back on Welfare	Still off Welfare
Education				
Did not complete high school/GED	53.9%	36.1%	39.5%	30.0%
Completed high school/GED only	24.7%	37.7%	39.5%	37.8%
Attended college	21.3%	26.2%	20.9%	32.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Ethnicity				
White	23.4%	25.2%	23.0%	25.1%
Black	67.0%	66.1%	67.8%	65.8%
Other	9.6%	8.8%	9.1%	9.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Marital Status				
Married	2.2%	11.6%	5.8%	10.7%
Separated, divorced, widowed	25.6%	30.2%	36.0%	29.6%
Never married	72.2%	58.2%	58.1%	59.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Number of Children				
0 or 1	42.2%	36.3%	30.2%	34.4%
2 or more	57.8%	63.7%	69.8%	65.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Presence of Other Adults				
No other adults	73.4%	54.8%	67.8%	57.7%
1 or more other adults	26.6%	45.2%	32.2%	42.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
County Type				
Urban	46.8%	47.9%	55.2%	44.9%
Rural	53.2%	52.1%	44.8%	55.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

B. REASONS FOR RETURNING TO WELFARE

- For respondents who were back on welfare, Exhibit VII-4 shows the reasons given for being back on welfare.
- In both samples, the most common reason (given by about 60 percent of the recidivists) was that the respondent lost a job or could not find a job.
- About one-quarter of the recidivists in both samples cited pregnancy or a newborn child.

**Exhibit VII-4
 Respondents Back On Welfare - Reasons Given
 for Being Back On Welfare**

Reasons Why Back on Welfare	6-Month Leaver	18-Month Leaver
You lost your job or couldn't find a job	60.4%	62.1%
You were pregnant or had a new born child	25.3%	24.1%
You were sick or disabled or had a health problem	16.5%	20.7%
You became separated or divorced from your spouse/significant other	15.4%	12.6%
Your child care coverage ended or you needed child care	15.4%	10.3%
You had a job but the pay was too low	9.9%	12.6%
Your medical insurance ended or you needed medical insurance	8.8%	12.6%
You couldn't afford to take a job because of the cost of c	9.9%	11.5%
Child support from you children's absent parent stopped o	7.7%	5.7%
You were off welfare a month b/c you didn't keep an appointment/fill out form	6.6%	4.6%
Your spouse/significant other lost his/her job	4.4%	5.7%
Your child or other family member was sick or disabled	4.4%	4.6%
Received custody of a child	3.3%	4.6%
Went back to school	2.2%	3.4%
Other	4.4%	2.3%

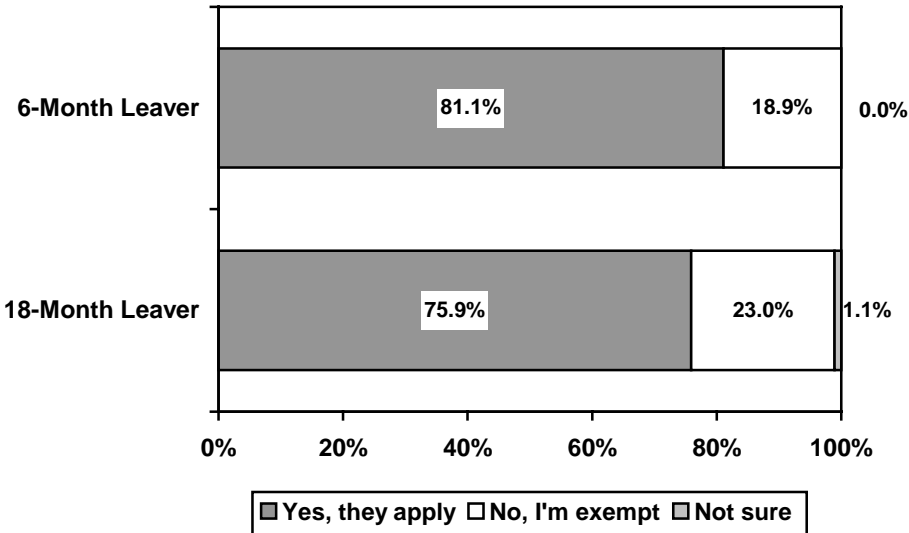
*Percentages add to more than 100 percent because multiple responses allowed.

C. PARTICIPATION IN WORK ACTIVITIES BY PERSONS BACK ON WELFARE

Percent Who Thought They Were Subject to Work Requirements

- Respondents who were back on welfare were asked whether they thought they were subject to Work First work requirements.
- As indicated in Exhibit VII-5, about 81 percent of the recidivists in the 6-month leaver sample believed they were subject to work requirements. The percentage for the recidivists in the 18-month leaver sample was 76 percent.

Exhibit VII-5 - Respondents Back On Welfare - Do You Think You Are Subject to Work Requirements?



Reasons for Being Exempt from Work Requirements

- Exhibit VII-6 shows that, of the respondents who were back on welfare and who thought they were exempt from work requirements, 65 percent of the 6-month leavers and 75 percent of the 18-month leavers said they were exempt because of a health condition or disability.

**Exhibit VII-6
Recidivists Who Believed They Were Exempt From Work Requirements - Reason Why They Thought They Were Exempt**

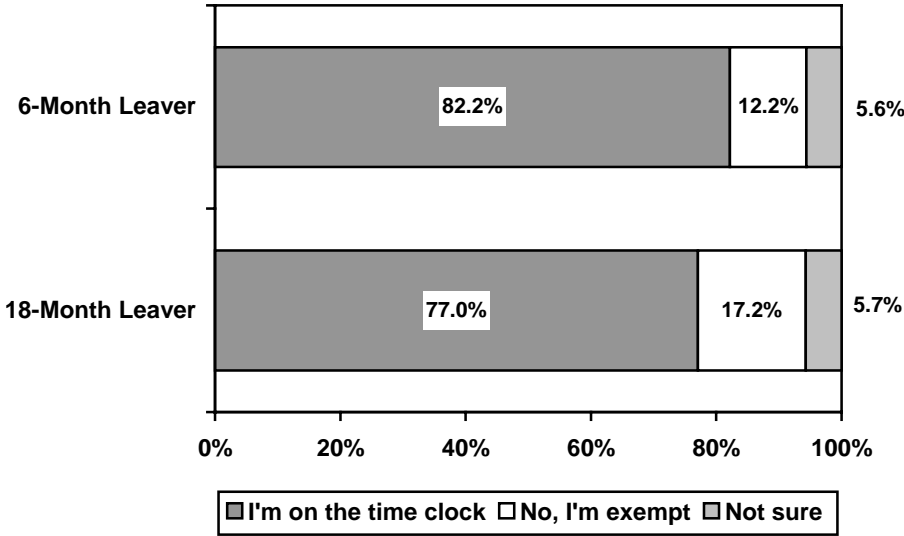
Why Do You Think You Are Exempt?	6-Month Leaver	18-Month Leaver
Child under 1	17.6%	5.0%
Health condition/disability	64.7%	75.0%
Health condition/disability of child	0.0%	10.0%
Health condition/disability of other	5.9%	0.0%
In school	5.9%	5.0%
Received custody of child	5.9%	5.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

D. TIME LIMIT STATUS AND EXPECTATIONS OF PERSONS BACK ON WELFARE

Percent Who Thought They Were Subject to the 24-Month Time Limit

- For respondents back on welfare, Exhibit VII-7 presents data on whether respondents believed that the 24-month time limit applied to them.
- The data show that 82 percent of the recidivists in the 6-month leaver sample and 77 percent of the recidivists in the 18-month leaver sample believed that the time limit applied to them.

Exhibit VII-7 - Respondents Back On Welfare - Are You Subject to the 24-Month Time Limit?



Number of Months Left on Time Clocks

- Respondents who were back on welfare and who believed that they were subject to the 24-month time clock were asked how long they had left on their time clock.
- As indicated in Exhibit VII-8, about 48 percent of the recidivists in the 6-month leaver sample and 40 percent of the recidivists in the 18-month leaver sample believed that they had more than 12 months left on their clocks.
- About 22 percent of the recidivists in the 18-month leaver sample believed that they had less than 6 months.

**Exhibit VII-8
Respondents Who Believed They Were on the 24-Month Time Clock -
Estimated Number of Months Before Reaching the Time Limit**

Response	6-Month Leaver	18-Month Leaver
Less than 6 months	7.6%	22.2%
6 to 12 months	31.6%	25.0%
More than 12 months	48.1%	40.3%
I'm not sure	12.7%	12.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Expectations About Reaching the Time Limit

- Respondents who were back on welfare and who believed that the time limit applied to them were asked whether they expected to stay on welfare until they reached the time limit.
- As indicated in Exhibit VII-9, more than 80 percent of these respondents believed they would probably leave welfare before nearing the time limit.

**Exhibit VII-9
Respondents Who Believed They Were on the 24-Month Time Clock -
Expectations About Reaching the Time Limit**

Expectation	6-Month Leaver	18-Month Leaver
Will probably use all or most of the months	11.4%	15.3%
Will probably leave before time is up	86.1%	80.6%
I'm not sure	2.5%	4.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Expectations About Getting a Job Before Reaching the Time Limit

- As shown in Exhibit VII-10, between 65 and 70 percent of those who believed they were on the 24-month time clock felt they would leave welfare with a steady job by the time they reached the time limit.

**EXHIBIT VII-10
Respondents Who Believed They Were on the 24-Month Time Clock -
What Will You Do When You Reach or Are About to
Reach the Time Limit?**

What Will You Do?	6-Month Leaver	18-Month Leaver
Will probably leave welfare with regular job	70.9%	65.3%

Will probably leave welfare without a steady job	5.1%	9.7%
I'm not sure	24.1%	25.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

E. USE OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND THE EITC BY PERSONS BACK ON WELFARE

Percent of Respondents Using Different Programs

- For respondents back on welfare, Exhibit VII-11 shows the percent who were using specific public assistance programs.
- About 90 percent of respondents were receiving Food Stamps, and 50-60 percent had their children enrolled in the school lunch program.
- Almost 44 percent of the 6-month leavers and 33 percent of the 18-month leavers were participating in the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program.
- Almost 27 percent of the recidivists in the 18-month leaver sample were living in public housing.

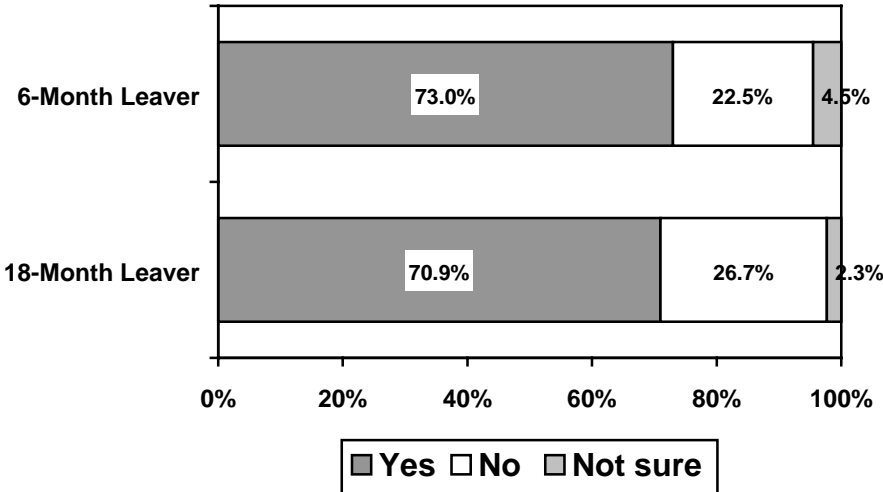
**Exhibit VII-11
Respondents Back On Welfare - Percent Using Different
Public Assistance Programs**

Program	6-Month Leaver	18-Month Leaver
Food Stamps	88.8%	91.9%
School lunch program	50.6%	60.5%
WIC	43.8%	32.6%
Public housing	16.9%	14.0%
Rent subsidy under Section 8	16.9%	26.7%
None	5.6%	1.2%

Beliefs About Public Assistance Available to Families Who Leave Welfare

- Respondents who were back on welfare were asked if they thought that families could still get Food Stamps after leaving welfare.
- As indicated in Exhibit VII-12, about 70 percent said yes to this question, while the remaining recidivists said no or were not sure.

Exhibit VII-12 - Respondents Back On Welfare - Do You Think That Families Can Continue Getting Food Stamps After Leaving Welfare?



Knowledge and Use of the Earned Income Tax Credit

- As indicated in Exhibit VII-13, almost 63 percent of the recidivists in the 6-month leaver sample had heard of the EITC. The same was true for 76 percent of the recidivists in the 18-month leaver sample.
- Almost 42 percent of the recidivists in the 6-month leaver sample had used the tax credit, compared to 51 percent of the recidivists in the 18-month leaver sample.

**Exhibit VII-13
Respondents Back On Welfare - Knowledge and Use of the Earned Income Tax Credit**

Response	6-Month Leaver	18-Month Leaver
Heard of the EITC	62.9%	75.6%
Used the EITC	41.6%	51.2%

F. EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS OF RESPONDENTS BACK ON WELFARE

Current Employment Situation of Respondents Back on Welfare

- Exhibit VII-14 presents data on the employment situation of respondents back on welfare. The data show that 15 percent of the recidivists in the 6-month leaver sample and 24 percent of the recidivists in the 18-month leaver sample were working at the time of the survey.

**Exhibit VII-14
Employment Situation of Respondents Back on Welfare**

Employment Situation	6-Month Leaver	18-Month Leaver
Have a regular paid job outside the home	11.1%	19.5%
Work for pay at odd jobs	0.0%	2.3%
On maternity or medical leave from a paid job	4.4%	2.3%
Total working	15.5%	24.1%
Due to start job soon	4.4%	0.0%
Not Working	80.0%	75.9%

Percent Employed, by Respondent Characteristics

- Exhibit VII-15 shows that rural respondents who were back on welfare were more likely to be employed than urban residents. None of the other demographic characteristics was clearly correlated with employment among recidivists.

**Exhibit VII-15
Respondents Back On Welfare - Percent Employed,
by Selected Characteristics**

Characteristic	6-Month Leaver	18-Month Leaver
<i>Ethnicity</i>		
White	19.0%	10.0%
Black	14.8%	25.4%
<i>Education</i>		
Did not complete high school or GED	18.8%	26.5%
Completed high school or GED only	9.5%	14.7%
Attended college	15.8%	33.3%
<i>Presence of Other Adults</i>		

No other adults	17.4%	20.3%
One or more other adults	9.5%	32.1%
<i>Number of Children</i>		
0-1	8.1%	34.6%
2 or more	21.2%	18.3%
<i>County Type</i>		
Urban	7.0%	18.8%
Rural	23.4%	30.8%

G. UNEMPLOYED RESPONDENTS

Reasons for Not Working

- As shown in Exhibit VII-16, the most common reasons for not working among unemployed recidivists were the following:
 - difficulty finding jobs that pay enough;
 - transportation problems;
 - child care problems;
 - lack of education or training; and
 - health problems of the respondent.

**Exhibit VII-16
Respondents Back On Welfare and Unemployed –
Reasons for Not Working**

Reason	6-Month Leaver	18-Month Leaver
You can't find jobs that pay enough	23.6%	34.8%
Transportation problems	23.6%	28.8%
Arranging child care or paying for child care	18.1%	33.3%
Not enough training/education	18.1%	28.8%
You can't find jobs that have convenient work hours	19.4%	22.7%
Physical health problems you have	13.9%	25.8%
You can't find a job with health benefits	8.3%	16.7%
Can't find a job	16.7%	4.5%
Pregnancy	12.5%	7.6%
Mental health problems you have	6.9%	12.1%

You're currently in school or job training	8.3%	10.6%
Prefer to stay home with my child	6.9%	6.1%
Disability/illness of child	8.3%	4.5%
Disability/illness of family member besides child	1.4%	1.5%
Behavior problems with your child(ren)	1.4%	1.5%
Difficulty filling out job applications	0.0%	1.5%
Other	1.4%	0.0%

*Percentages add to more than 100 percent because each person was allowed to give more than one response.

Work History of Unemployed Respondents

- Exhibit VII-17 shows that 83 percent of the unemployed recidivists in the 6-month leaver sample had worked for pay in the past two years. The same was true for 74 percent of the unemployed recidivists in the 18-month leaver sample.
- Overall, 44 percent of the unemployed recidivists in the 18-month leaver sample had not worked in the past year.

Exhibit VII-17 Respondents Back on Welfare and Unemployed - How Long Since Last Worked?

Amount of Time Since Worked	6-Month Leaver	18-Month Leaver
Worked in the last 3 months	23.6%	21.2%
Worked 4-6 months ago	18.1%	13.6%
Worked 7-12 months ago	29.2%	21.2%
Worked 13-24 months ago	12.5%	18.2%
Not worked in the last two years	16.7%	25.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Reasons for Stopping Working

- Exhibit VII-18 shows that, of the respondents who were not working and had worked in the past two years, about one-third reported having quit their last job. About 29-30 percent had been laid off from their last job.

**Exhibit VII-18
Unemployed Respondents Who Had Worked in the Past Two Years -
Reasons for Stopping**

Why Stopped Working	6-Month Leaver	18-Month Leaver
Quit	31.7%	34.7%
Got laid off	30.0%	28.6%
Got fired	13.3%	8.2%
Business closed/moved	1.7%	0.0%
Illness/disability/injury	5.0%	14.3%
Moved away	8.3%	8.2%
Transportation problem	1.7%	2.0%
Pregnancy	5.0%	4.1%
Other	3.3%	0.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Services Needed by Unemployed Respondents Back on Welfare

- Respondents who were back on welfare and not working, but who had worked in the past two years, were asked what services might have kept them employed. Exhibit VII-19 shows that the most common responses were placement in a job with better pay or advancement opportunities, child care assistance, transportation assistance, more job training or education, and more work experience.

**Exhibit VII-19
Unemployed Respondents Who Had Worked in the Past Two Years -
Services That Might Have Helped Them to Stay Employed**

Service	6-Month Leaver	18-Month Leaver
Placement in a job with better pay or advancement opportunities	55.0%	73.5%
Help with child care	53.3%	55.1%
More job training or education	40.0%	55.1%
Help with transportation	51.7%	38.8%
More work experience	35.0%	46.9%
More contact with your case manager after you got the job	28.3%	36.7%
Classes to help you deal better with supervisors or co-worker	31.7%	28.6%
Other	5.0%	4.1%
None of the above	11.7%	12.2%

H. SERVICES USED AND NEEDED BY RESPONDENTS BACK ON WELFARE

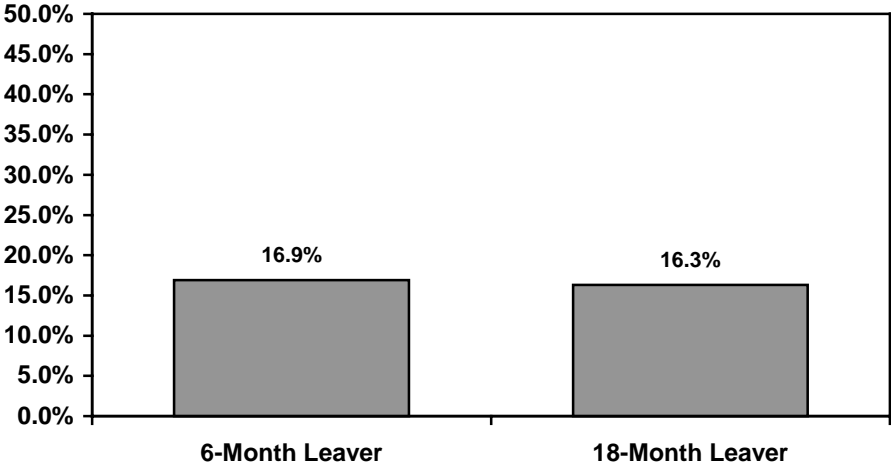
Use and Helpfulness of Services

- Respondents back on welfare were asked if they had ever received services designed to help them find a job or other employment-related services.
- As indicated in Exhibit VII-20, between a third and a half of the respondents had received help at some time with job openings and job referrals.
- Only 11 percent of the respondents had ever participated in unpaid work experience programs.
- As indicated in Exhibit VII-21, about 16 to 17 percent of the recidivists reported that they were currently enrolled in job training or education programs other than through the Work First program.

**Exhibit VII-20
Services Received Through the Work First Program
by Respondents Back on Welfare**

Service	6-Month Leaver		18-Month Leaver	
	Percent Stating They Had Received the Service	Percent of Those Using the Service Who Thought it Very Helpful	Percent Stating They Had Received the Service	Percent of Those Using the Service Who Thought it Very Helpful
Help finding job openings/job referrals	50.6%	37.8%	45.3%	33.3%
Advice on job applications/resumes	39.3%	65.7%	39.5%	61.8%
Help completing GED or high school	15.7%	64.3%	16.3%	78.6%
Work experience through unpaid job	11.2%	80.0%	11.6%	60.0%
Advice on family budgeting	21.3%	89.5%	19.8%	47.1%
Help with transportation problems	40.4%	83.3%	43.0%	75.7%
Help in finding/paying for child care	50.6%	84.4%	52.3%	75.6%
Referral to mental health services	21.3%	68.4%	20.9%	61.1%
Referral to drug/alcohol treatment	6.7%	83.3%	9.3%	50.0%
Domestic violence counseling	9.0%	37.5%	7.0%	66.7%

Exhibit VII-21 - Respondents Back on Welfare - Percent Enrolled in Job Training or Education Other Than Through the Work First Program



Need for Services in the Future

- Exhibit VII-22 presents data on the types of help or services that respondents back on welfare thought would improve their situation or circumstances.
- The services that respondents were most likely to identify as being potentially very helpful were more education, help locating good jobs, and help finding jobs with health benefits.
- Very few respondents reported that getting help with domestic violence or substance abuse would help improve their situation.

**Exhibit VII-22
Respondents Back on Welfare - How Helpful Would the Following Service Be In Improving Your Situation?**

	6-Month Leaver	18-Month Leaver
Service	Percent Stating Service Would Be Very Helpful	Percent Stating Service Would Be Very Helpful
Getting more job training	71.9%	60.5%

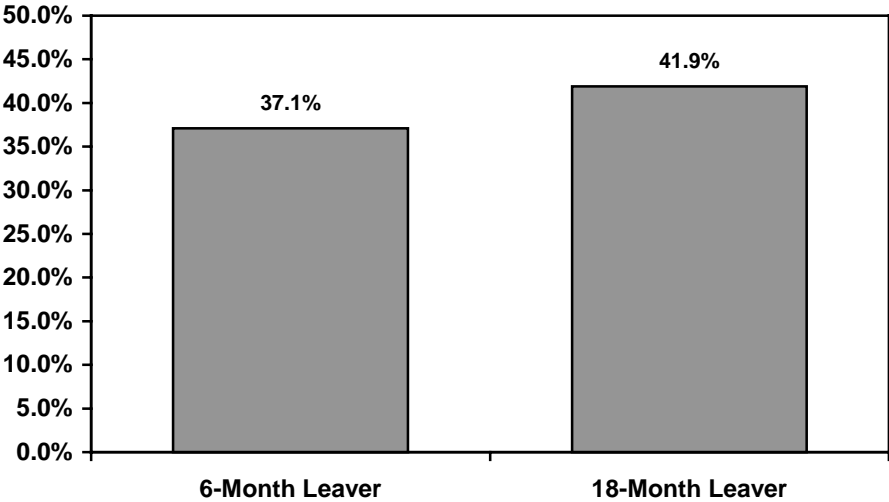
Getting more education	88.8%	79.1%
Finding reliable child care	60.7%	64.0%
Finding affordable child care	71.9%	72.1%
Help locating good jobs	85.4%	77.9%
Help finding jobs with health benefits	86.5%	76.7%
Getting help with drug/alcohol abuse	13.5%	16.3%
Getting help with domestic violence	12.4%	12.8%
Getting better transportation	57.3%	58.1%
Getting help with child support	73.0%	79.1%

I. TRANSPORTATION

Vehicle Ownership

- Exhibit VII-23 shows that only 37 percent of the recidivists in the 6-month leaver sample and 42 percent of the recidivists in the 18-month leaver sample owned a vehicle.
- As shown in Exhibit VII-24, more than half the persons who owned a vehicle said that it was more than 10 years old.

Exhibit VII-23 - Respondents Back on Welfare - Percent Who Owned a Vehicle



**Exhibit VII-24
Respondents Who Owned Vehicles - Age of Vehicle**

Age of Vehicle	6-Month Leaver	18-Month Leaver
Less than 5 years	3.0%	0.0%
5 to 10 years	42.4%	44.4%
More than 10 years	54.5%	55.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Usual Form of Transportation

- Exhibit VII-25 shows that 20-22 percent of the respondents who were back on welfare reported using public transit to get around, and 37-39 percent reported using their own vehicle or the vehicle of a spouse/partner.

**Exhibit VII-25
Respondents Back On Welfare - Usual Form of Transportation**

Usual Form of Transportation	6-Month Leaver	18-Month Leaver
Public transit	20.2%	22.1%
Vehicle owned by respondent or spouse/partner	37.1%	39.5%
Rideshare/car pool in someone else’s vehicle	13.5%	10.5%
Borrowed vehicle	25.8%	24.4%
Walk	3.4%	3.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Transportation Barriers to Employment Among Unemployed Recidivists

- As indicated in Exhibit VII-26, about 26 percent of unemployed individuals back on welfare stated that they would have a problem getting to work on time because of transportation if they were to start a job today.

**Exhibit VII-26
Unemployed Respondents - Would You Have a Problem Getting to Work on Time Because of Transportation?**

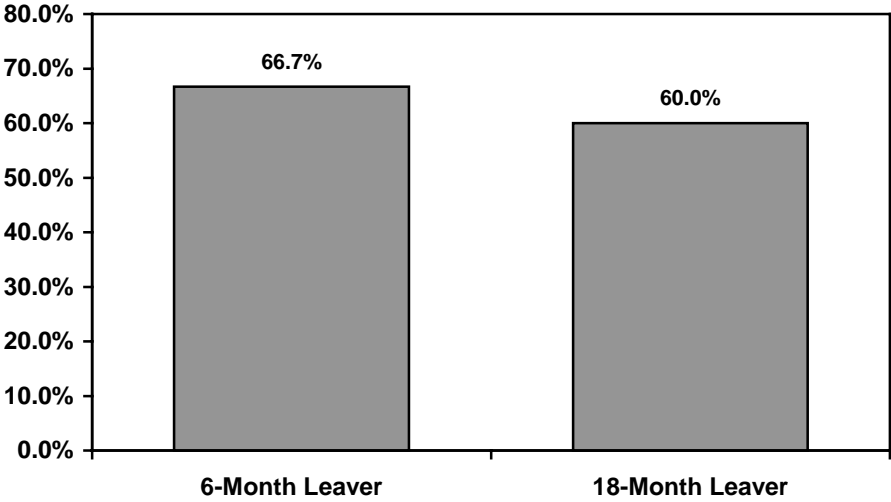
Problem Getting to Work?	6-Month Leaver	18-Month Leaver
Yes	26.4%	25.8%
No	70.8%	71.2%
Not sure	2.8%	3.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

J. CHILD CARE AMONG RESPONDENTS BACK ON WELFARE

Use of Child Care by Employed Respondents on Welfare

- As shown in Exhibit VII-27, about two-thirds of the employed recidivists in the 6-month leaver sample reported that they used a child care provider, babysitter, or family member to look after their children while at work. The percentage for the employed recidivists in the 18-month leaver sample was 60 percent.

Exhibit VII-27 - Percentage of Employed Recidivists Using Paid or Unpaid Child Care



Knowledge of Child Care Benefits

- As indicated in Exhibit VII-28, slightly more than half of all respondents back on welfare thought that people could get help paying for child care after they left welfare. Between 40 and 45 percent did not know or were not sure.

Exhibit VII-28

Respondents Back On Welfare - Do You Think People Can Get Help With Child Care if Not On Welfare?

Response	6-Month Leaver	18-Month Leaver
Yes	55.0%	59.3%
No	36.3%	28.4%
Not sure	8.8%	12.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

K. KNOWLEDGE OF HEALTH PROGRAMS

Knowledge of Health Choice and Continuing Medicaid Coverage

- As shown in Exhibit VII-29, about half of respondents back on welfare had heard of the Health Choice for Children program.
- As indicated in Exhibit VII-30, about 84–85 percent of respondents back on welfare believed that families could receive Medicaid for their children even if no longer on welfare.

Exhibit VII-29 - Have You Heard of the North Carolina Health Choice for Children Program?

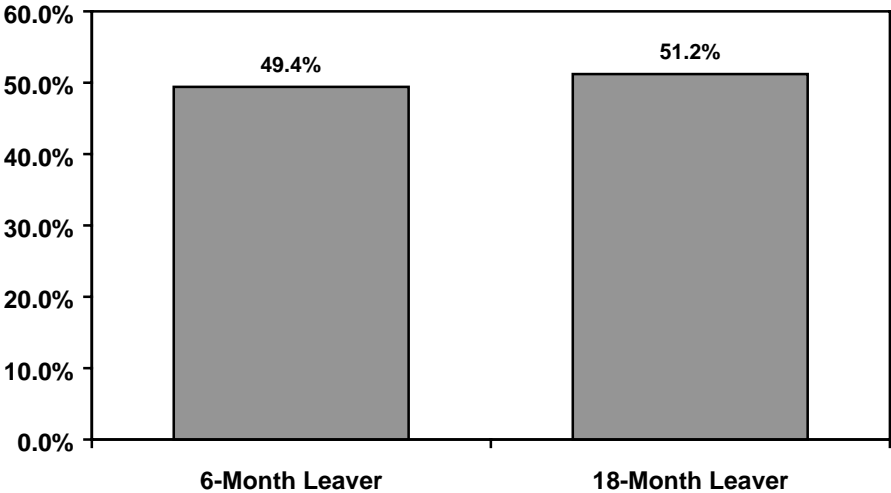
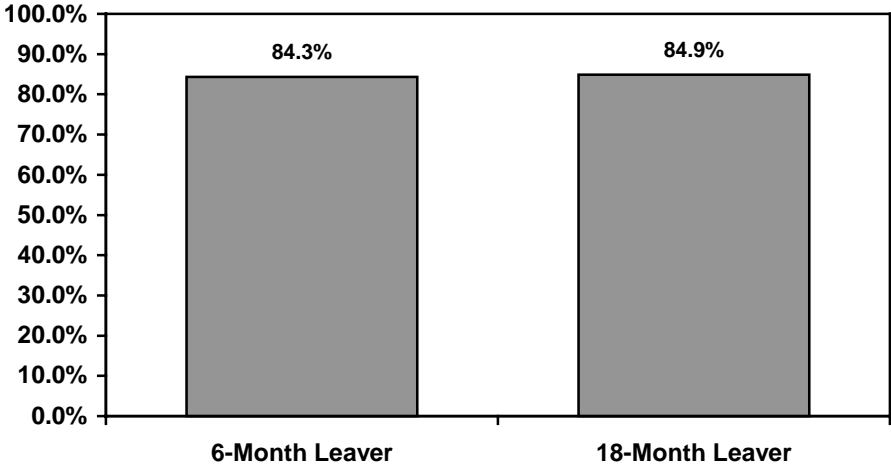


Exhibit VII-30 - Do You Think That Families Can Continue To Get Medicaid Benefits for Their Children If They Leave Welfare?



L. DEPRESSION AMONG RESPONDENTS BACK ON WELFARE

- As indicated in Exhibit VII-31, almost 40 percent of the recidivists in the 6-month leaver sample and 48 percent of the recidivists in the 18-month leaver sample reported feeling depressed or sad for two or more weeks in the past year.
- Almost 40 percent of the recidivists in the 6-month leaver sample and 37 percent of the recidivists in the 18-month leaver sample reported feeling depressed or sad for much of the time in the past year.
- Of the respondents who reported feeling depressed much of the time in the last year, 29 percent of the 6-month leavers and 53 percent of the 18-month leavers reported that they were taking medications or seeing a doctor for this problem.
- About 60-64 percent of all respondents who were back on welfare were aware that the county had free treatment services for individuals with mental health or substance abuse issues.

**Exhibit VII-31
Depression Among Respondents Back on Welfare**

Response	6-Month Leaver	18-Month Leaver
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In the past year, have you had 2 weeks or more when you felt sad or depressed or when you lost interest in things that you usually care about or enjoy?		
Yes	39.8%	47.7%
Have you felt depressed or sad much of the time in the past year?		
Yes	39.8%	37.2%
Of the respondents who felt depressed or sad much of the time - Are you taking medication or seeing a doctor for this problem?		
Yes	28.6%	53.1%
Were you aware that the county has free treatment services for persons with mental health problem, or with alcohol/drug abuse problems?		
Yes	60.2%	64.0%

M. CHILD SUPPORT RECEIVED BY PERSONS BACK ON WELFARE

Support Orders and Payments

- Exhibit VII-32 shows that about half of the of the respondents who were back on welfare had an order for child support from the absent parent. About 12-13 percent of the respondents on welfare reported actually receiving child support.
- About 8 percent of all respondents back on welfare reported receiving child support every month or almost every month.

**Exhibit VII-32
Respondents Back On Welfare – Percent Who Had a
Child Support Order and Received Support**

Status	6-Month Leavers	18-Month Leaver
Had child support order	50.6%	53.5%
Received child support	13.5%	11.6%
Received child support regularly	7.9%	8.1%

Helpfulness of the Child Support Agency

- As shown in Exhibit VII-33, slightly more than 40 percent of respondents who needed or wanted help from the local child support agency stated that the agency was somewhat or very helpful.

Exhibit VII-33
Respondents Who Needed Help From the Local Child Support Agency
- Perceived Helpfulness of the Agency

Response	6-Month Leaver	18-Month Leaver
Very helpful	26.4%	16.7%
Fairly helpful	19.4%	25.6%
Not very helpful	54.2%	57.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%