

CHAPTER VI: PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, CHILD CARE, AND TRANSPORTATION AMONG PERSONS STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS

For persons still off Food Stamps at the time of the survey, this chapter presents findings on the use of public assistance programs, such as Medicaid and subsidized housing. The chapter also examines other sources of support received by the survey respondents. Finally, the chapter examines child care use and transportation among the respondents.

A. Objectives of the Analysis

In examining the continued use of public assistance by the households in which the ABAWD leavers are living, one of the goals is to determine to what extent the leavers have become self-sufficient. Another goal is to examine whether the leavers are using programs and services to which they may be entitled, especially persons who are unemployed. In addition, the information on public assistance is useful for assessing the situation of the households in which the leavers are living, especially given the large percentage of leavers who were living with other adults. Information on the continued receipt of financial help from relatives and friends is also an indicator of self-sufficiency among the leavers.

Although the ABAWDs are childless adults, the data on child care is useful for assessing the potential child care needs of persons in the households in which the ABAWDs were living. The information also provides a profile of the number of children living in these households. Finally, the data on transportation are useful for assessing potential transportation barriers to employment.

B. Use of Benefit Programs and Other Sources of Support

Receipt of Assistance, by Type of County

- Exhibit VI-1 presents data on the receipt of public assistance and other sources of support by respondents who were still off Food Stamps.
- As indicated, almost 37 percent of the 1998-1999 respondents and 43 percent of the 1999-2000 respondents reported that they, or someone in their home, were receiving Medicaid. The percentage was not much different in the exempt and non-exempt counties.
- In both surveys, about 12 percent of respondents reported living in households in which someone was receiving Social Security benefits.
- Almost 8 percent of the 1998-1999 respondents and almost 10 percent of the 1999-2000 respondents reported that someone in their household was receiving SSI benefits.

- About 8 percent of the 1998-1999 respondents were living in subsidized housing, including almost 10 percent of the respondents from exempt counties. In the 1999-2000 sample, only 4 percent were living in subsidized housing.
- About 17 percent of 1998-1999 respondents but only 8 percent of 1999-2000 respondents reported receiving help in paying bills from family or friends who lived with the respondent
- Almost 17 percent of the 1998-1999 respondents and almost 29 percent of 1999-2000 respondents reported living free with a parent or relative. About 31 percent of the 1999-2000 respondents from non-exempt counties reported living free with a parent or relative.
- About 14 percent of the 1998-1999 respondents and 17 percent of the 1999-2000 respondents reported receiving gifts of money from family or friends.

Exhibit VI-1 Percent of Respondents Reporting That They or Someone in Their Home Were Receiving Specific Benefits or Support, by Type of County

Benefits/Support	1998-1999 Leavers			1999-2000 Leavers		
	Exempt (N = 127)	Non- Exempt (N = 105)	Total (N = 232)	Exempt (N = 119)	Non- Exempt (N = 118)	Total (N = 237)
Cash assistance	3.6%	2.5%	3.1%	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%
Medicaid	37.5%	35.5%	36.6%	44.5%	41.5%	43.0%
Child care assistance	1.8%	2.5%	2.1%	3.4%	0.0%	1.7%
Child support	5.4%	5.0%	5.2%	9.2%	8.5%	8.9%
Social Security	12.5%	11.6%	12.1%	9.2%	15.3%	12.2%
SSI	8.0%	7.4%	7.8%	10.9%	8.5%	9.7%
Pension income	3.6%	1.7%	2.7%	2.5%	1.7%	2.1%
WIC	12.5%	12.4%	12.5%	15.1%	9.3%	12.2%
School lunch	15.2%	12.4%	13.9%	26.9%	22.9%	24.9%
Summer feeding program for children	1.8%	0.0%	1.0%	3.4%	1.7%	2.5%
Rent subsidy or public housing	9.8%	6.6%	8.4%	5.0%	3.4%	4.2%
Free housing from a parent or relative	17.9%	15.7%	16.9%	26.1%	31.4%	28.7%
Help in paying bills from family or friend living with you	19.6%	14.0%	17.1%	9.2%	7.6%	8.4%
Help in paying bills from family or friend not living with you	5.4%	4.1%	4.8%	10.9%	12.7%	11.8%
Gifts of money from family or friends	14.3%	14.0%	14.2%	19.3%	15.3%	17.3%
Shots or vaccinations for children from the health department	11.6%	13.2%	12.3%	16.0%	27.1%	21.5%

Receipt of Assistance, by Employment Status

- Exhibit VI-2 presents data on the receipt of public assistance and other sources of support by employment status.
- As indicated, there was no difference in the 1998-1999 sample between working and non-working respondents in the percent participating in Medicaid. In the 1999-2000 sample, however, unemployed respondents were much more likely than employed respondents to be on Medicaid.
- In the 1999-2000 sample, non-working respondents were more likely than working respondents to be receiving child support, Social Security, and SSI.
- In the 1998-1999 sample, working respondents were more likely than non-working respondents to be receiving benefits under the WIC and school lunch programs.
- In the 1998-1999 sample, almost 23 percent of non-working respondents were living free with a parent or other relative, compared to only 12 percent of working respondents.
- Similarly, about 41 percent of unemployed 1999-2000 respondents were living free with a parent or relative, compared to only 16 percent of working respondents.

Exhibit VI-2
Percent of Respondents Reporting That They or Someone in Their Home
Were Receiving Specific Benefits or Support, by Employment Status

Benefits/Support	1998-1999 Leavers		1999-2000 Leavers	
	Working (N = 126)	Not Working (N = 106)	Working (N = 118)	Not Working (N = 119)
Cash assistance	2.3%	4.0%	0.8%	5.9%
Medicaid	35.7%	37.7%	38.1%	47.9%
Child care assistance	2.3%	1.9%	0.8%	2.5%
Child support	5.0%	5.4%	4.2%	13.4%
Social Security	10.7%	13.8%	8.5%	16.0%
SSI	5.9%	10.0%	4.2%	15.1%
Pension income	1.6%	4.0%	1.7%	2.5%
WIC	15.0%	9.4%	12.7%	11.8%
School lunch	17.2%	10.0%	23.7%	26.1%
Summer feeding program for children	1.8%	0.0%	3.4%	1.7%
Rent subsidy or public housing	6.8%	10.2%	5.1%	3.4%
Free housing from a parent or relative	12.0%	22.6%	16.1%	41.2%
Help in paying bills from family or friend living with you	19.5%	14.3%	10.2%	6.7%
Help in paying bills from family or friend not living with you	3.9%	5.9%	12.7%	10.9%
Gifts of money from family or friends	15.0%	13.2%	15.3%	19.3%
Shots or vaccinations for children from the health department	13.1%	11.4%	18.6%	24.4%

C. Child Care

Presence of Pre-School Children

- Exhibit VI-3 indicates that about 24 percent of the 1998-1999 respondents and 21 percent of the 1999-2000 respondents had one or more pre-school children living in their household at the time of the survey.
- There was not a major difference between exempt and non-exempt counties in the percentage of respondents with pre-school children in their household.

Exhibit VI-3
Percentage of Respondents With Pre-School Children in Their Households, by
Type of County

	1998-1999 Leavers		
Number of Pre-School Children	Exempt (N = 130)	Non-Exempt (N = 108)	Total (N = 238)
None	77.4%	74.2%	75.9%
One	20.0%	19.4%	19.7%
Two	1.7%	5.6%	3.5%
Three +	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	1999-2000 Leavers		
Number of Pre-School Children	Exempt (N = 122)	Non-Exempt (N = 120)	Total (N = 242)
None	77.9%	79.2%	78.5%
One	15.6%	15.8%	15.7%
Two	5.7%	4.2%	5.0%
Three +	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Presence of School-Age Children

- Exhibit VI-4 presents data on the number of school-age children living in respondents' households, by county. As indicated, about 19 percent of the 1998-1999 respondents and 24 percent of the 1999-2000 respondents had school-age children living in the household.

Exhibit VI-4
Percentage of Respondents with School-Age Children in Their Household, by
Type of County

	1998-1999 Leavers		
Number of School-Age Children	Exempt (N = 129)	Non-Exempt (N = 108)	Total (N = 237)
None	80.0%	81.5%	80.7%
One	13.0%	9.7%	11.5%
Two	2.6%	6.5%	4.3%
Three +	4.4%	2.4%	3.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	1999-2000 Leavers		
Number of School-Age Children	Exempt (N = 122)	Non-Exempt (N = 120)	Total (N = 242)
None	72.1%	80.0%	76.0%
One	15.6%	5.8%	10.7%
Two	7.4%	9.2%	8.3%
Three +	4.9%	5.0%	5.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Child Care for School-Age Children

- Exhibit VI-5 presents data on the percentage of respondents who reported that before-school or after-school child care was used for the school-age children in their household.
- As indicated, almost 23 percent of the 1998-1999 respondents who had school-age children in the household reported that before-school or after-school child care was provided for these children. For the 1999-2000 respondents, only 17 percent reported that child care was used.
- In the 1998-1999 sample, respondents residing in exempt counties were much more likely to report that child care was being used than respondents residing in non-exempt counties. In the 1999-2000 sample, this pattern was reversed.

Exhibit VI-5
**Percentage of Respondents Reporting That Before-School Or After-School
 Child Care Was Used for School-Age Children in Their Household**

	1998-1999 Leavers		
Before- or After-School Child Care?	Exempt	Non- Exempt	Total
Yes	30.4%	13.0%	22.9%
No	69.6%	87.0%	77.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Weighted N size	26	20	46
	1999-2000 Leavers		
Before- or After-School Child Care?	Exempt	Non- Exempt	Total
Yes	8.8%	29.2%	17.2%
No	91.2%	70.8%	82.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
N size	34	24	58

Child Care for Pre-School Children

- Exhibit VI-6 indicates that about 50 percent of the 1998-1999 respondents with pre-school children in their households reported that child care was being used for these children. In the 1999-2000 sample, the percentage was 54 percent.
- Respondents residing in exempt counties were more likely to report that child care was being used.

Exhibit VI-6
**Percentage of Respondents Reporting That Child Care Was Used for Pre-
 School Children in Their Household**

	1998-1999 Leavers		
Use Child Care?	Exempt	Non- Exempt	Total
Yes	53.8%	46.9%	50.5%
No	46.2%	53.1%	49.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Weighted N size	30	28	57
	1999-2000 Leavers		
Use Child Care?	Exempt	Non- Exempt	Total
Yes	63.0%	44.0%	53.8%
No	37.0%	56.0%	46.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
N size	27	25	52

Types of Child Care and Assistance with Payments

- Data were collected on the types of child care providers being used, whether payments were being made for child care, and whether respondents were receiving help in paying for care. However, the sample sizes for each of these data items were too small for meaningful analysis.

D. Transportation

Types of Transportation Used by Respondents

- Exhibit VI-7 shows the types of transportation used by respondents to get around.
- The data show that only about one-third of the respondents in both samples had their own vehicles. In the 1998-1999 sample, the percentage was much higher in the non-exempt counties (37.1 percent) than in the exempt counties (28.7 percent). In the 1999-2000 sample, the percentage was slightly higher in the exempt counties.
- Almost 45 percent of the 1998-1999 respondents and 47 percent of the 1999-2000 respondents reported that they relied on rides from relatives, friends, or neighbors.

Exhibit VI-7
Type of Transportation Used by Respondents,
by Type of County

1998-1999 Leavers			
How Do You Get Around?	Exempt (N =131)	Non-Exempt (N = 107)	Total (N = 238)
Use own vehicle	28.7%	37.1%	32.5%
Ride with a relative, friend, neighbor	48.7%	40.3%	44.9%
Borrow vehicle	4.3%	6.5%	5.3%
Bus	14.8%	9.7%	12.5%
Taxi	2.6%	2.4%	2.5%
Walk	7.0%	11.3%	8.9%
Ride Bicycle	1.7%	1.6%	1.7%
Other	1.7%	0.0%	1.0%
1999-2000 Leavers			
How Do You Get Around?	Exempt (N = 122)	Non-Exempt (N = 120)	Total (N = 242)
Use own vehicle	33.6%	31.7%	32.6%
Ride with a relative, friend, neighbor	43.4%	50.0%	46.7%
Borrow vehicle	9.8%	6.7%	8.3%
Bus	4.9%	7.5%	6.2%
Taxi	4.1%	0.8%	2.5%
Walk	4.1%	6.7%	5.4%
Ride Bicycle	1.6%	0.8%	1.2%
Other	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%

E. Discussion of the Findings

In general, the respondents were living in households that were making relatively little use of public assistance benefits. Part of the reason for this may be that many of the households were not categorically eligible for program benefits because there were no children present. This would apply, for example, to such programs as Medicaid, WIC, and school lunch. Very few of the households were living in public housing or subsidized housing.

A relatively large percentage of the leavers were relying on support from family and friends, indicating that many were not yet self-sufficient. For example, 17 percent of the 1998-1999 leavers and 29 percent of the 1999-2000 leavers were getting free housing from their parent(s). This situation may also reflect the relative youth of many of the leavers. The percentages were even higher for respondents who were not working at the time of the surveys. About 14 percent of the 1998-1999 leavers and 17 percent of the 1999-2000 leavers relied on regular gifts of money from family or friends.

The findings on children and child care show that a surprisingly large percentage of the respondents were living in households with children present. For example, more than 20

percent of the respondents were in households with pre-school children. Of these respondents, about half reported that child care was being used for the pre-school children.

Finally, the results on transportation indicate that many of the ABAWD leavers may face problems with getting transportation to work. Only one-third reported that they owned a vehicle, and almost half had to rely on rides from other people to get around. The relative youth of the population may be a factor in their capacity to buy, insure, and maintain vehicles.