

**THE SURVEY OF INCOME AND
PROGRAM PARTICIPATION**

**A LOOK AT WELFARE
DEPENDENCY USING THE
1984 SIPP PANEL FILE**

No. 75

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Introduction

Beginning in the Fall of 1983, The Bureau of the Census launched a new data collection activity known as the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP). This survey presents researchers with a new opportunity to study issues related to welfare dependency and use. SIPP was designed to be a multipurpose survey providing: 1) improved cross-sectional estimates of annual income, 2) new information concerning assets, liabilities, work and marital histories, child care, taxes, etc., and 3) longitudinal data on changes in labor force activity, income sources, household composition, etc. As such, SIPP's structure differs greatly from the survey most often used to examine the dynamics of welfare, the Panel study of Income Dynamics (PSID). In SIPP, data collection focuses on reporting of income, program participation, and household composition on a monthly accounting period over a relatively short period of time, 2 ½ to 3 years. To reduce recall bias, interviews are conducted at 4-month intervals and questions refer to each month of the 4-month period preceding the interview month. The PSID obtains data by conducting one interview annually and uses the calendar year as the reference period but has followed individuals over long periods of time with the initial interviews taking place in 1968.

Upon completion of the first full panel file from SIPP, we are now in a position to explore uses of SIPP's monthly accounting period in studies of welfare dynamics. The purpose of this paper is to present, in a very descriptive fashion, some basic kinds of statistics on welfare dependency so that researchers familiar with this area of work can get a feel for this new data set.

Most of the data compiled for this paper are similar in concept to those previously derived by Duncah (1984) and Bane and Elwood (1985) in their research of welfare issues based on the Panel Study. Obviously, SIPP is not suited to the kinds of analyses these researchers have done using the PSID since the period of time over which persons are interviewed is relatively short for SIPP. The role SIPP plays in the examination of welfare dynamics will, therefore, be much different, and emerge as the data are disseminated and attempts to answer specific questions are undertaken.

Basics of the Panel File

The structure and attributes of the 1984 SIPP panel file are largely reflective of the sample design and rotation interviewing scheme. SIPP interviewing began in the Fall of 1983 with the introduction of a 19,900 household sample. This sample was subdivided into four rotations (subsamples). During the period from October 1983 through January 1984, the initial interviews were conducted with one rotation group being visited each month. Taken together, these interviews for all four rotation groups over a 4-month period constitute a "WAVE." There were a total of 9 WAVES of interviewing in the 1984 SIPP design. The data collected for each WAVE were edited, imputed, weighted, and released independently.

The 1984 SIPP panel file is essentially the product created by merging these independently processed WAVE files. Data from each file were linked and subjected to a limited set of edits

designed to check the consistency between some of the key information collected and processed separately in each WAVE. When appropriate, corrections were made to insure consistency. Also, imputed income amounts from one WAVE were replaced with reported amounts, if available, from another WAVE. There was very little consistency editing of income reciprocity status for specific income types.

The panel file does not contain all data items, i.e., is not the questionnaire image, for each WAVE file. This reflects concerns about the size of a file containing all data from all WAVES and our ability to perform consistency edits on such a data set.

While there were a total of 9 WAVES in the 1984 SIPP panel design covering 36 total months, the scheme employed actually yielded 36 months of data from only two rotation groups (one-half of the sample). Creation of the panel file was limited to the 32-month period available for the entire sample. This 32-month period is different for each of the four rotation groups since only one rotation group was interviewed each month. Periods covered are: 1) June 1983 through January 1986, 2) July 1983 through February 1986, 3) August 1983 to March 1986, and 4) September 1983 through April 1986.

Observations for all persons interviewed at any time during the 32-month reference period are included on the panel file. There are three basic categories of interview status for these persons: 1) present in an initial sample household and interviewed in all 32 months, 2) present in an initial sample household and interviewed in one or more, but less than 32 months, and 3) entered the sample after the initial interview through residence in a household containing an initial sample persons and interviewed for one or more months.

Table 1 through 4 summarize the sizes of the SIPP panel file sample by age, race, and sex categories. Table 1 shows an initial sample size of 53,734 individuals in month 1. The size of the sample in month 32 was 34,908 as indicated in Table 2. This decline of 35 percent reflects the loss of initial sample individuals through normal survey attrition, the entrance of new sample individuals following the initial interview, and a major systematic sample reduction of 17.8 percent occurring in WAVE 5 in response at lower levels of funding for the survey.

The size and characteristics of the fully-interviewed sample universe (all 32 months) are profiled in Tables 3 and 4. Table 3 shows numbers of sample cases while Table 4 shows the fully-interviewed group as a proportion of the group interviewed in month 1. Overall, the fully-interviewed sample consisted of 32,306 persons, 60 percent of the initially interviewed universe. This rate of "coverage" is lower for young adults, the very old, and Blacks. The large sample loss of Blacks appears to extend to Black children as well. Earlier research by McArthur (1987) has also shown some indications of differential sample loss across a broad range of socio-economic characteristics.

Survey "weights," not available at the time this paper was prepared, will in part adjust for the differential undercoverage indicated in Table 4. The panel file will contain a "longitudinal weight"

that applies only to fully-interviewed persons and "calendar-year weights" that apply to persons with a fully-interviewed status for a specified calendar year. Both 1984 and 1985 calendar years are spanned by the panel file for the full sample (all four rotations).

Methodology

Our objective of this paper is to develop and present some basic statistics on welfare dependency and use from the SIPP panel file. To do this, we first needed to choose the reference period and the accounting period. We selected the most obvious and simple approach. Our reference period was the 32-month period spanned by the file and our accounting periods were individual months. Key statistics then become number of months of welfare receipt, number of months of dependency, etc. Duncan (1984) has demonstrated these types of measures using a calendar-year accounting period covering a ten-year span of the PSID. One problem with this type of approach which is discussed later in more detail is that the length of the reference period may not correspond with the overall spell of welfare underway for a sample person.

Two measures representing different degrees of welfare dependency were computed. These were: 1) welfare income greater than 50 percent of total family income and 2) family income derived totally from welfare.

Welfare income was defined to include Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), General Assistance, other cash welfare not specified, and the value of food stamps, and Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program (WIC) vouchers. Family income was defined to include total money income (including all cash welfare) and the values of food stamps and WIC vouchers.¹ The unit of analysis over which income and dependency were measured included only those persons in the household receiving welfare in the specified month, therefore, the calculation of total income included only the income of members of the "census family"² covered by welfare. This represents some compromise between 1) a more sophisticated procedure to identify specific transfer units and 2) use of a total family income measure that included the incomes of all family members regardless of welfare coverage. Unrelated individuals were treated as one-person families under these procedures.

In addition to these measures of welfare dependency, we have also compiled some basic data covering spells of AFDC. A spell was defined as a period bounded on the left by the month in which AFDC was first observed and on the right by the month in which AFDC receipt was last observed. Since an individual may experience several spells of welfare receipt during the reference period, the number of AFDC spells must equal or exceed the number of persons "ever

¹This is an extension of the total money income concept used in official releases of Census Bureau income data.

²A "census family" is defined as two or more persons living together and related by blood, marriage, or adoption.

receiving" AFDC during the period. The data tabulated on welfare dependency described above referenced all months of welfare receipt ignoring the possible existence of two or more spells of receipt separated by periods of nonreceipt. In spell-based analysis, the spells are the unit of analyses rather than the individual experiencing the spell with the individual's characteristics being attributes of a specific spell.

Respondents in household surveys often report AFDC as some other type of welfare. In order to take full advantage of the SIPP data and to reduce biases resulting from this misreporting of welfare income, and adjustment or correction of the reported data is advised.

In SIPP some respondents are likely to report AFDC payments as "General Assistance" or as a category called "other welfare." This misreporting problem can take two basic forms in SIPP. First, a respondent may incorrectly but consistently report the same source in all interviews. Second, the respondent may change the name of the source from one interview to the next. For example, in the first interview AFDC may be identified as "General Assistance" but later be corrected or changed by the respondent or interviewer to be AFDC, or perhaps even other welfare. The reverse situation is also possible, but far less likely.

While a much more sophisticated adjustment process is desirable, we applied a simple two-step test to identify and correct likely misreporting situations. First, we assumed that General Assistance or other welfare payments received by persons who also reported AFDC in some other months had actually received AFDC in those months rather than general assistance or other welfare. Second, if a person reported no AFDC in any month but reported either general assistance or other welfare for five months or more and were less than age 55, we assumed the welfare income to be AFDC. This procedure added about 20 percent to the number of AFDC ever-received universe (672 before adjustment and 805 after adjustment) and 25 percent to the total number of spells (839 before adjustment and 1,048) after adjustment).

The sample universe used to tabulate welfare dependency and AFDC spell data was the 32,306 persons fully interviewed for all 32 months. As we have seen, this fully-interviewed universe is not representative of the sample interviewed in month 1 with some differential undercoverage of young adults, Blacks, and the very old. Caution should be exercised, therefore, when examining the results shown in this paper which are all based on unweighted observations.

Welfare Incidence and Dependency

In this section of the paper we focus on two aspects of welfare incidence and dependency. We first discuss basics such as proportions of the population receiving welfare, months of participation, and extent of dependency. We then contrast the characteristics of welfare recipients based on the number of months receiving benefits.

As for the issue of welfare incidence, we found that 15.4 percent of the population had some contact with the welfare system in one or more months of the 32-month reference period (see

Table 5). For 6.6 percent of the population this contact was restricted to only food stamps or WIC. The remaining 8.8 percent of welfare recipients received means-tested cash assistance defined here to be AFDC, General Assistance, or other cash welfare.

The figures by months suggest a significant degree of turnover even in the relatively short SIPP reference period. While 15.4 percent of the population participated at some time, only 4.9 percent received welfare in all months, about 32 percent of the total welfare recipients. The degree of turnover for the cash assistance group is also substantial with only 37 percent of those recipients receiving benefits in all months.

The degree to which welfare recipients depend on welfare benefits has been the subject of a number of analyses using the PSID. Rein and Rainwater (1978) found that earnings played a very important role in providing income for welfare families with only a rather small group of recipients relying exclusively on welfare. Duncan (1984) has shown that during the 1969-78 period, 8.7 percent of the population was dependent on welfare for more than 50 percent of family income (actually this measure was based on the income received by the family head) in one or more years.

Our research which is summarized in Table 6 indicates that about 7.0 percent of the population was dependent on welfare for more than 50 percent of family income during the SIPP panel reference period. This dependency estimate was computed by summing welfare income and total income for all months in which welfare was received and then computing the proportion of income derived from welfare throughout the welfare experience. Perhaps in simpler terms, 15.4 percent of the population received welfare in one or more months and 7.0 percent of the population was dependent upon welfare for more than half of family income while receiving welfare. This differs conceptually from the 8.7 percent figure reported by Duncan. That estimate was based on one or more years in which the majority of annual income for that years was derived from welfare.

The same table reveals that 2.1 percent of the population was "totally dependent" on welfare (100 percent of their income) during periods of welfare receipt and that those totally dependent on welfare for all months represented only 1.3 percent of the population.

The lower portion of Table 6 and Table 7 provide distributions of the welfare population by manner of dependency. Overall, 45.6 percent of those receiving welfare dependent and 13.9 percent were totally dependent when receiving welfare. If those receiving only food stamps or WIC are excluded, these dependency proportions rise substantially as indicated in Table 7. Nearly 3 out of 4 cash assistance recipients were dependent on welfare and almost 1 in 4 were totally dependent.

While the SIPP panel file cannot be used to isolate the truly persistent of long-term welfare population because of the short reference period, the data in Table 8 clearly show that those with greater dependency on welfare have different characteristics than the overall welfare population

and the "temporary" group defined to be those receiving for 6 months or less. Compared with the temporary recipients, we find that the totally dependent population is made up of large proportions of women, Blacks, persons from the Northeast Region, children, and family householders with no spouse present.

Some of the differences between the characteristics of the temporary and totally dependent groups can be attributed to the underlying "mix" of programs. Earlier we indicated that 43 percent of the ever received welfare population received only food stamps or WIC benefits. From Table 5 we see that about 40 percent of the food stamp group received benefits for 6 months or less (temporary) compared to 20 percent for cash benefit recipients. Contrasted in Table 9 are profiles of the characteristics of the total population and the ever received populations for cash assistance and food stamp or WIC. Relative to cash assistance recipients, the food stamp beneficiaries were more likely to be men, White, living in the South, and married.

In Table 10 we have isolated our comparison of the characteristics of temporary and more dependent recipients on only the cash assistance population. These populations are relatively small, represented by 580 temporary recipients and 355 totally dependent recipients, and therefore special caution should be exercised when examining the distributions. In general, however, it does seem fair to say that the characteristics of these two groups differ in a predictable fashion. The totally dependent population contains greater proportions of women, Blacks, children, and family householders without spouses.

Our ability to identify recipients by length of welfare receipt is not precise since the panel reference period contains persons that are ending and beginning long spells of welfare that began or will end outside the 32-month reference period. These individuals are, therefore, misclassified as shorter-term recipients using this fixed reference period approach to examine the characteristics of short- and long-term welfare users.

Spells of AFDC

Bane and Elwood (1985) and O'Neill (1987) have both demonstrated the use of spell analyses in investigating duration of AFDC receipt and reasons for exiting this major means-tested cash welfare program. Bane and Elwood used the PSID as the source of their data while O'Neil used the National Longitudinal Study sample of young women. These researchers were successful in identifying variables associated with spell length and termination of benefits. SIPP provides yet a third potential source of data that may be suited to spell-based analyses of AFDC and other welfare programs using a monthly rather than an annual accounting period.

At this stage, we have developed only a very brief set of information related to AFDC from the panel file. The first of these data are shown in Table 11. We have identified a total of 1,034 spells of AFDC receipt during the 32-month period. One key aspect of the spell data is the level of censorship present. Censorship occurs because, as mentioned earlier, a spell may have started prior to the first interview or have ended after the final interview. Of the 1,034 spells only 326,

about 32 percent, were uncensored. There were a total of 589 spell beginnings observed. A larger number of spells were right censored, 263, than censored on the left, 222; while 223 spells lasted the entire 32-month period and were, therefore, censored on both ends.

The number of persons experiencing these spells and the number of spells experienced can be found in Table 12. Thus the sample size for persons ever receiving AFDC from the panel file is 805. Of these, 628 had only one spell of AFDC.

Bane and Elwood worked with a sample of 676 women having 723 spells of AFDC receipt over a 12-year period. A total of 554 AFDC spell beginnings were observed during that period in the PSID. By their judgement, this sample size was "respectable, on the whole," however, for some purposes it became quite small. Researchers may encounter similar problems with the SIPP panel file given that the sample size for these purposes is about the same.

SIPP has perhaps one additional problem related to spell analysis and one important piece of information which may help counterbalance this problem. The potential problem is the length of the SIPP reference period relative to the length of AFDC spells. Bane and Elwood have estimated that over half of AFDC spells last longer than two years and that about one-third of women who end a spell return for another spell. The 32-month period covered by the panel file may be insufficient to observe data on the history of welfare receipt in the WAVE 5 topical module. While these data have not been evaluated and are not included on the panel file, they may be linked with the panel and used to explain current welfare behavior.

Conclusion

Our examination of the SIPP longitudinal research file with regard to welfare receipt has been fruitful. We have profiled the data set for some basic measures of incidence and dependency. We have not, however, attempted to answer any specific policy questions. Hopefully, this paper will be the catalyst for new analyses of the welfare system using SIPP. More work is needed to evaluate the reporting of welfare benefits in SIPP in order to "clean up" response errors and other data problems that may affect the number and length of spells. The tendency to report reciprocity of welfare in 4-month increments (the length of the reference period) has been well documented and may require further research and special treatment in future analyses. Better procedures should be developed to identify misreporting of AFDC benefits. In addition, the effect of sample attrition on the estimates of duration and dependency must be investigated.

Evidence suggests that SIPP may lose disproportionate numbers of recently married and divorced persons. Finally, the data presented here must be refined and tabulated using the longitudinal weights to assess their effect on the dependency and welfare composition measures.

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Table 1. DISTRIBUTION OF INTERVIEWED PERSONS IN MONTH 1 FROM THE 1984 PANEL RESEARCH FILE: UNWEIGHTED

| | Total | | | White | | | Black | | | Hispanic Origin ¹ | | |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|------------------------------|-------|--------|
| | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female |
| Total | 53,734 | 25,644 | 28,090 | 45,893 | 22,037 | 23,856 | 6,305 | 2,832 | 3,473 | 3,258 | 1,576 | 1,682 |
| Less than 6 years | 5,194 | 2,582 | 2,612 | 4,238 | 2,107 | 2,131 | 776 | 375 | 401 | 483 | 260 | 223 |
| 6 to 14 years | 7,416 | 3,759 | 3,657 | 6,017 | 3,055 | 2,962 | 1,135 | 561 | 574 | 568 | 288 | 280 |
| 15 to 19 years | 4,495 | 2,280 | 2,215 | 3,704 | 1,888 | 1,816 | 650 | 317 | 333 | 334 | 160 | 174 |
| 20 to 24 years | 4,630 | 2,180 | 2,450 | 3,921 | 1,862 | 2,059 | 578 | 256 | 322 | 327 | 147 | 180 |
| 25 to 29 years | 4,672 | 2,227 | 2,445 | 3,944 | 1,922 | 2,022 | 560 | 219 | 341 | 321 | 153 | 168 |
| 30 to 34 years | 4,201 | 2,068 | 2,133 | 3,587 | 1,786 | 1,801 | 479 | 216 | 263 | 279 | 146 | 133 |
| 35 to 39 years | 3,619 | 1,742 | 1,877 | 3,171 | 1,557 | 1,614 | 353 | 143 | 210 | 202 | 92 | 110 |
| 40 to 44 years | 3,026 | 1,431 | 1,595 | 2,637 | 1,264 | 1,373 | 286 | 122 | 164 | 141 | 62 | 79 |
| 45 to 49 years | 2,745 | 1,341 | 1,404 | 2,387 | 1,197 | 1,190 | 284 | 111 | 173 | 137 | 63 | 74 |
| 50 to 54 years | 2,569 | 1,241 | 1,328 | 2,272 | 1,094 | 1,178 | 222 | 106 | 116 | 108 | 50 | 58 |
| 55 to 59 years | 2,599 | 1,201 | 1,398 | 2,304 | 1,068 | 1,236 | 245 | 114 | 131 | 127 | 55 | 72 |
| 60 to 64 years | 2,529 | 1,156 | 1,373 | 2,257 | 1,045 | 1,212 | 225 | 89 | 136 | 77 | 34 | 43 |
| 65 to 69 years | 2,146 | 914 | 1,232 | 1,940 | 827 | 1,113 | 173 | 71 | 102 | 60 | 33 | 27 |
| 70 to 74 years | 1,660 | 704 | 956 | 1,493 | 634 | 859 | 149 | 59 | 90 | 43 | 16 | 27 |
| 75 to 79 years | 1,128 | 441 | 687 | 1,022 | 398 | 624 | 98 | 35 | 63 | 28 | 10 | 18 |
| 80 to 84 years | 680 | 256 | 424 | 613 | 230 | 383 | 58 | 22 | 36 | 16 | 6 | 10 |
| 85 years and over | 425 | 121 | 304 | 386 | 103 | 283 | 34 | 16 | 18 | 7 | 1 | 6 |

¹Persons of Hispanic Origin may be of any race.

Table 2. DISTRIBUTION OF INTERVIEWED PERSONS IN MONTH 32 FROM THE 1984 PANEL RESEARCH FILE: UNWEIGHTED

| | Total | | White | | Black | | Hispanic Origin ¹ | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------------------------|-------|--------|-------|-----|-------|
| | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | | | |
| Total | 34,908 | 16,462 | 18,466 | 30,120 | 14,296 | 15,824 | 3,837 | 1,681 | 2,156 | 2,084 | 982 | 1,102 |
| Less than 6 years | 2,008 | 1,014 | 994 | 1,651 | 829 | 822 | 283 | 143 | 140 | 156 | 83 | 73 |
| 6 to 14 years | 4,869 | 2,394 | 2,475 | 4,018 | 1,965 | 2,053 | 709 | 348 | 361 | 392 | 199 | 193 |
| 15 to 19 years | 2,896 | 1,495 | 1,401 | 2,408 | 1,249 | 1,159 | 377 | 185 | 192 | 235 | 111 | 124 |
| 20 to 24 years | 2,778 | 1,339 | 1,439 | 2,334 | 1,112 | 1,222 | 357 | 174 | 183 | 185 | 83 | 102 |
| 25 to 29 years | 2,867 | 1,314 | 1,553 | 2,498 | 1,176 | 1,322 | 296 | 103 | 193 | 185 | 84 | 101 |
| 30 to 34 years | 2,911 | 1,377 | 1,534 | 2,497 | 1,198 | 1,299 | 327 | 137 | 190 | 172 | 81 | 91 |
| 35 to 39 years | 2,751 | 1,324 | 1,427 | 2,420 | 1,188 | 1,232 | 247 | 99 | 148 | 157 | 77 | 80 |
| 40 to 44 years | 2,145 | 1,025 | 1,120 | 1,910 | 927 | 983 | 180 | 74 | 106 | 115 | 56 | 59 |
| 45 to 49 years | 1,876 | 882 | 994 | 1,633 | 786 | 847 | 179 | 66 | 113 | 99 | 36 | 63 |
| 50 to 54 years | 1,743 | 832 | 911 | 1,534 | 744 | 790 | 160 | 66 | 94 | 84 | 43 | 41 |
| 55 to 59 years | 1,706 | 796 | 910 | 1,491 | 696 | 795 | 168 | 77 | 91 | 89 | 38 | 51 |
| 60 to 64 years | 1,734 | 790 | 944 | 1,576 | 723 | 844 | 143 | 59 | 84 | 75 | 29 | 46 |
| 65 to 69 years | 1,558 | 679 | 879 | 1,396 | 614 | 782 | 135 | 53 | 82 | 50 | 28 | 22 |
| 70 to 74 years | 1,284 | 550 | 734 | 1,156 | 504 | 652 | 115 | 39 | 76 | 32 | 15 | 17 |
| 75 to 79 years | 879 | 334 | 545 | 788 | 300 | 488 | 86 | 30 | 56 | 31 | 11 | 20 |
| 80 to 84 years | 548 | 214 | 334 | 493 | 192 | 301 | 50 | 19 | 31 | 17 | 7 | 10 |
| 85 years and over | 355 | 103 | 252 | 326 | 93 | 233 | 25 | 9 | 16 | 10 | 1 | 9 |

¹Persons of Hispanic Origin may be of any race.

Table 3. DISTRIBUTION OF FULLY INTERVIEWED PERSONS FROM THE 1984 PANEL RESEARCH FILE: UNWEIGHTED

| | Total | | White | | Black | | Hispanic Origin ¹ | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------------------------|-------|--------|-------|-----|-------|
| | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | | | |
| Total | 32,306 | 15,162 | 17,144 | 28,036 | 13,233 | 14,803 | 3,427 | 1,498 | 1,929 | 1,902 | 885 | 1,017 |
| Less than 6 years | 3,175 | 1,575 | 1,600 | 2,653 | 1,311 | 1,342 | 420 | 206 | 214 | 260 | 132 | 128 |
| 6 to 14 years | 4,629 | 2,324 | 2,305 | 3,838 | 1,917 | 1,921 | 641 | 321 | 320 | 374 | 188 | 186 |
| 15 to 19 years | 2,523 | 1,241 | 1,282 | 2,139 | 1,052 | 1,087 | 308 | 146 | 162 | 180 | 85 | 95 |
| 20 to 24 years | 2,543 | 1,160 | 1,383 | 2,199 | 1,008 | 1,191 | 283 | 121 | 162 | 156 | 62 | 94 |
| 25 to 29 years | 2,719 | 1,259 | 1,460 | 2,359 | 1,118 | 1,241 | 283 | 106 | 177 | 158 | 69 | 89 |
| 30 to 34 years | 2,562 | 1,216 | 1,346 | 2,226 | 1,069 | 1,157 | 255 | 105 | 150 | 164 | 75 | 89 |
| 35 to 39 years | 2,241 | 1,073 | 1,168 | 2,008 | 978 | 1,030 | 171 | 68 | 103 | 125 | 60 | 65 |
| 40 to 44 years | 1,898 | 894 | 1,004 | 1,690 | 802 | 888 | 150 | 64 | 86 | 92 | 40 | 52 |
| 45 to 49 years | 1,671 | 812 | 859 | 1,464 | 734 | 730 | 167 | 61 | 106 | 84 | 37 | 47 |
| 50 to 54 years | 1,596 | 752 | 844 | 1,415 | 665 | 750 | 132 | 64 | 68 | 74 | 33 | 41 |
| 55 to 59 years | 1,610 | 734 | 876 | 1,426 | 656 | 770 | 160 | 67 | 93 | 78 | 34 | 44 |
| 60 to 64 years | 1,567 | 700 | 867 | 1,404 | 636 | 768 | 139 | 55 | 84 | 48 | 22 | 26 |
| 65 to 69 years | 1,351 | 570 | 781 | 1,222 | 521 | 701 | 108 | 39 | 69 | 41 | 24 | 17 |
| 70 to 74 years | 991 | 410 | 581 | 880 | 369 | 511 | 102 | 36 | 66 | 30 | 13 | 17 |
| 75 to 79 years | 679 | 257 | 422 | 616 | 234 | 382 | 59 | 19 | 40 | 21 | 6 | 15 |
| 80 to 84 years | 355 | 132 | 223 | 320 | 118 | 202 | 32 | 13 | 19 | 11 | 5 | 6 |
| 85 years and over | 196 | 53 | 143 | 177 | 45 | 132 | 17 | 7 | 10 | 6 | - | 6 |

¹Persons of Hispanic Origin may be of any race.

Table 4. FULLY INTERVIEWED PERSONS AS A PERCENT OF INTERVIEWED PERSONS IN 1 MONTH FROM THE 1984 PANEL RESEARCH FILE

| | Total | | | White | | | Black | | | Hispanic Origin ¹ | | |
|-------------------|-------|------|--------|-------|------|--------|-------|------|--------|------------------------------|--------|-------|
| | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Male | Female | |
| Total | 60.1 | 59.1 | 61.0 | 61.1 | 60.0 | 62.1 | 54.4 | 52.9 | 55.5 | 58.4 | 56.2 | 60.5 |
| Less than 6 years | 61.1 | 61.0 | 61.3 | 62.6 | 62.2 | 63.0 | 54.1 | 54.9 | 53.4 | 53.8 | 50.8 | 57.4 |
| 6 to 14 years | 62.4 | 61.8 | 63.0 | 63.8 | 62.7 | 64.9 | 56.5 | 57.2 | 55.7 | 65.8 | 65.3 | 66.4 |
| 15 to 19 years | 56.1 | 54.4 | 57.9 | 57.7 | 55.7 | 59.9 | 47.4 | 46.1 | 48.6 | 53.9 | 53.1 | 54.6 |
| 20 to 24 years | 54.9 | 53.2 | 56.4 | 56.1 | 54.1 | 57.8 | 49.0 | 47.3 | 50.3 | 47.7 | 42.2 | 52.2 |
| 25 to 29 years | 58.2 | 56.5 | 59.7 | 58.2 | 58.2 | 61.4 | 50.5 | 48.4 | 51.9 | 49.2 | 45.1 | 53.0 |
| 30 to 34 years | 61.0 | 58.8 | 63.1 | 62.1 | 59.9 | 64.2 | 53.2 | 48.6 | 57.0 | 58.8 | 51.4 | 66.9 |
| 35 to 39 years | 61.9 | 61.6 | 62.2 | 63.3 | 62.8 | 63.8 | 48.4 | 47.6 | 49.0 | 61.9 | 65.2 | 59.1 |
| 40 to 44 years | 62.7 | 62.5 | 62.9 | 64.1 | 63.4 | 64.7 | 52.4 | 52.5 | 52.4 | 65.2 | 64.5 | 65.8 |
| 45 to 49 years | 60.9 | 60.6 | 61.2 | 61.3 | 61.3 | 61.3 | 58.8 | 55.0 | 61.3 | 61.3 | 58.7 | 63.5 |
| 50 to 54 years | 62.1 | 60.6 | 63.6 | 62.3 | 60.8 | 63.7 | 59.5 | 58.4 | 58.6 | 68.5 | 66.0 | 70.7 |
| 55 to 59 years | 61.9 | 61.1 | 62.7 | 61.9 | 61.4 | 62.3 | 60.4 | 58.8 | 71.0 | 61.4 | 61.8 | 61.1 |
| 60 to 64 years | 62.0 | 60.6 | 63.1 | 62.2 | 60.9 | 63.4 | 61.8 | 61.8 | 61.8 | 62.3 | 64.7 | 60.5 |
| 65 to 69 years | 63.0 | 62.4 | 63.4 | 63.0 | 63.0 | 63.0 | 62.4 | 54.9 | 67.6 | 68.3 | 72.7 | 63.0 |
| 70 to 74 years | 59.7 | 58.2 | 60.8 | 58.9 | 58.2 | 59.5 | 68.5 | 61.0 | 73.3 | 69.8 | 81.3 | 63.0 |
| 75 to 79 years | 60.2 | 58.3 | 61.4 | 60.3 | 58.8 | 61.2 | 60.2 | 54.3 | 63.5 | 75.0 | 60.0 | 83.3 |
| 80 to 84 years | 52.2 | 51.6 | 52.6 | 52.2 | 51.3 | 52.7 | 55.2 | 59.1 | 52.8 | 68.8 | 83.3 | 60.0 |
| 85 years and over | 46.1 | 43.8 | 47.0 | 45.9 | 43.7 | 46.6 | 50.0 | 43.8 | 55.6 | 85.7 | - | 100.0 |

¹Persons of Hispanic Origin may be of any race.

-Represents zero or rounds to zero.

Table 5. Months of Welfare Receipt by Type of Welfare Received

| Months of Receipt | Received welfare, total ¹ | Received cash assistance | Received food stamps or WIC only |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| NUMBER | | | |
| Total ever receiving | 4,983 | 2,849 | 2,134 |
| Receiving in Month 1 | 3,015 | 1,768 | 908 |
| Receiving in Month 32 | 2,861 | 1,852 | 728 |
| Receiving 6 months or less | 1,186 | 580 | 858 |
| Receiving 7 to 12 months | 698 | 346 | 423 |
| Receiving 13 to 18 months | 462 | 207 | 243 |
| Receiving 19 to 24 months | 493 | 287 | 213 |
| Receiving 25 months or more | 2,144 | 1,429 | 397 |
| Receiving all 32 months | 1,591 | 1,064 | 213 |
| PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION | | | |
| Total ever receiving | 15.4 | 8.8 | 6.6 |
| Receiving in Month 1 | 9.3 | 5.5 | 2.8 |
| Receiving in Month 32 | 8.9 | 5.7 | 2.3 |
| Receiving 6 months or less | 3.7 | 1.8 | 2.7 |
| Receiving 7 to 12 months | 2.2 | 1.1 | 1.3 |
| Receiving 13 to 18 months | 1.4 | 0.6 | 0.8 |
| Receiving 19 to 24 months | 1.5 | 0.9 | 0.6 |
| Receiving 25 months or more | 6.6 | 4.4 | 1.2 |
| Receiving all 32 months | 4.9 | 3.3 | 0.7 |
| PERCENT OF WELFARE POPULATIONS | | | |
| Total ever receiving | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Receiving in Month 1 | 60.5 | 62.1 | 42.5 |
| Receiving in Month 32 | 57.4 | 65.0 | 34.1 |
| Receiving 6 months or less | 23.8 | 20.4 | 40.2 |
| Receiving 7 to 12 months | 14.0 | 12.1 | 19.8 |
| Receiving 13 to 18 months | 9.3 | 7.3 | 11.4 |
| Receiving 19 to 24 months | 9.9 | 10.1 | 10.0 |
| Receiving 25 months or more | 43.0 | 50.2 | 18.6 |
| Receiving all 32 months | 31.9 | 37.3 | 10.0 |

¹ Rows are not additive except for "total ever received" since the "received welfare, total" column is based on either cash assistance or food stamps/WIC.

Table 6. Extent of Welfare Dependency for All Welfare Recipients

| Number of Receipt | Dependent on welfare for 50 percent or more of income | Dependent on welfare for 100 percent of income |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| | "DEPENDENT" | "TOTALLY" "DEPENDENT" |
| PERCENT OF TOTAL WELFARE POPULATION | | |
| Total ever receiving | 7.0 | 2.1 |
| Receiving in Month 1 | 5.6 | 3.4 |
| Receiving in Month 32 | 5.3 | 3.6 |
| Receiving 6 months or less | 0.8 | 0.4 |
| Receiving 7 to 12 months | 0.7 | 0.2 |
| Receiving 13 to 18 months | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| Receiving 19 to 24 months | 0.6 | 0.1 |
| Receiving 25 months or more | 4.3 | 1.4 |
| Receiving all 32 months | 3.4 | 1.3 |
| PERCENT OF TOTAL WELFARE POPULATION | | |
| Total ever receiving | 45.6 | 13.9 |
| Receiving in Month 1 | 59.3 | 22.1 |
| Receiving in Month 32 | 59.3 | 23.6 |
| Receiving 6 months or less | 5.3 | 2.3 |
| Receiving 7 to 12 months | 4.8 | 1.5 |
| Receiving 13 to 18 months | 3.3 | 0.5 |
| Receiving 19 to 24 months | 4.0 | 0.6 |
| Receiving 25 months or more | 28.1 | 9.0 |
| Receiving all 32 months | 22.3 | 8.1 |

Table 7. Extent of Welfare Dependency for Cash Welfare Recipients

| Number of Receipt | Dependent on welfare for 50 percent or more of income | Dependent on welfare for 100 percent of income |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| | "DEPENDENT" | "TOTALLY" "DEPENDENT" |
| PERCENT OF TOTAL WELFARE POPULATION | | |
| Total ever receiving | 73.3 | 24.4 |
| Receiving in Month 1 | 49.3 | 32.4 |
| Receiving in Month 32 | 48.9 | 23.6 |
| Receiving 6 months or less | 10.9 | 3.4 |
| Receiving 7 to 12 months | 7.9 | 2.7 |
| Receiving 13 to 18 months | 5.9 | 1.2 |
| Receiving 19 to 24 months | 7.8 | 1.9 |
| Receiving 25 months or more | 40.7 | 15.2 |
| Receiving all 32 months | 30.2 | 12.5 |

Table 8. Characteristics of Welfare Recipients by Length of Welfare Receipt

| Characteristics of recipient | Ever received | Receiving for 6 months or less "TEMPORARY" | Received for all 32 months | "TOTALLY DEPENDENT" for all 32 months |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Total | 4,983 | 1,186 | 1,591 | 404 |
| Percent | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| SEX | | | | |
| Male | 39.4 | 44.5 | 34.8 | 32.7 |
| Female | 60.6 | 55.5 | 65.2 | 67.3 |
| RACE | | | | |
| White | 67.1 | 78.3 | 59.3 | 52.2 |
| Black | 29.5 | 19.9 | 36.3 | 43.6 |
| Hispanic | 12.0 | 9.6 | 13.5 | 19.8 |
| REGION | | | | |
| Northeast | 18.0 | 18.0 | 20.3 | 28.2 |
| Midwest | 26.2 | 26.0 | 29.1 | 31.7 |
| South | 37.6 | 35.7 | 34.6 | 24.5 |
| West | 18.2 | 20.4 | 16.0 | 15.6 |
| AGE | | | | |
| Under 18 years | 44.2 | 36.8 | 45.6 | 52.2 |
| 18 to 34 years | 27.1 | 35.1 | 18.0 | 20.8 |
| 35 to 64 years | 20.6 | 23.9 | 20.3 | 17.8 |
| 65 years and over | 8.6 | 4.2 | 16.0 | 9.2 |
| RELATIONSHIP | | | | |
| Spouse or married couple | 23.7 | 36.4 | 14.1 | 8.7 |
| Family Householder, No spouse present | 11.3 | 6.8 | 16.5 | 18.3 |
| Other family member | 56.0 | 48.6 | 55.8 | 61.4 |
| Unrelated individual | 9.0 | 8.2 | 13.6 | 11.6 |

Total 9. Characteristics of Welfare Recipients by Type of Assistance

| Characteristics of recipients | Total Population | Ever received | Welfare Recipients | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | Cash assistance | Food stamps or WIC only |
| Total | 32,306 | 4,983 | 2,849 | 2,134 |
| Percent | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| SEX | | | | |
| Male | 46.9 | 39.4 | 36.3 | 43.5 |
| Female | 53.1 | 60.6 | 63.7 | 56.5 |
| RACE | | | | |
| White | 86.8 | 67.1 | 62.9 | 72.8 |
| Black | 10.6 | 29.5 | 33.3 | 24.5 |
| Hispanic | 5.9 | 12.0 | 12.8 | 10.8 |
| REGION | | | | |
| Northeast | 21.9 | 18.0 | 19.7 | 15.8 |
| Midwest | 27.6 | 25.2 | 30.0 | 21.1 |
| South | 32.0 | 37.6 | 29.5 | 48.4 |
| West | 18.5 | 18.2 | 20.8 | 14.7 |
| AGE | | | | |
| Under 18 years | 28.8 | 44.2 | 45.1 | 43.0 |
| 18 to 34 years | 27.3 | 27.1 | 24.5 | 30.6 |
| 35 to 64 years | 32.8 | 20.6 | 19.3 | 21.2 |
| 65 years and over | 11.0 | 8.6 | 11.1 | 5.2 |
| RELATIONSHIP | | | | |
| Spouse of married couple | 45.6 | 23.7 | 17.2 | 32.4 |
| Family householder, no spouse present | 4.9 | 11.3 | 14.5 | 7.0 |
| Other family member | 38.6 | 56.0 | 57.5 | 54.1 |
| Unrelated individual | 10.9 | 9.0 | 10.8 | 6.6 |

Total 10. Characteristics of Cash Assistance Recipients

| Characteristics recipient | Ever Received | Received for 6 months or less "TEMPORARY" | Received for all 32 months | "TOTALLY DEPENDENT" for all 32 months |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|--|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Total | 2,849 | 580 | 1,064 | 355 |
| Percent | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| SEX | | | | |
| Male | 36.3 | 45.0 | 33.4 | 32.4 |
| Female | 63.7 | 55.0 | 66.6 | 67.6 |
| RACE | | | | |
| White | 62.9 | 71.9 | 57.2 | 52.7 |
| Black | 33.3 | 24.7 | 38.2 | 43.7 |
| Hispanic | 12.8 | 7.1 | 14.2 | 19.4 |
| REGION | | | | |
| Northeast | 19.7 | 18.6 | 22.5 | 28.2 |
| Midwest | 30.0 | 31.6 | 30.3 | 33.0 |
| South | 29.5 | 31.2 | 28.8 | 24.2 |
| West | 20.8 | 18.6 | 18.5 | 14.6 |
| AGE | | | | |
| Under 18 years | 45.1 | 41.4 | 40.5 | 49.3 |
| 18 to 34 years | 24.5 | 30.9 | 18.8 | 21.7 |
| 35 to 64 years | 19.3 | 21.9 | 20.9 | 19.2 |
| 65 years and over | 11.1 | 5.9 | 19.8 | 9.9 |
| RELATIONSHIP | | | | |
| Spouse of married couple | 17.2 | 29.6 | 11.2 | 7.6 |
| Family householder, no spouse present | 14.5 | 8.3 | 19.7 | 20.0 |
| Other family member | 57.5 | 54.3 | 53.4 | 59.4 |
| Unrelated individual | 10.8 | 8.3 | 16.0 | 13.0 |

Table 11. AFDC Spells by Censorship and Length of Spell by Race of Recipients

| Spell characteristics | Total ² | White | Black |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-------|-------|
| Total AFDC spells | 1,034 | 656 | 356 |
| Censored right | 263 | 150 | 102 |
| Censored left | 222 | 149 | 65 |
| Censored left and right | 223 | 134 | 95 |
| Uncensored | 326 | 223 | 94 |
| Observed spell beginnings | 589 | 373 | 196 |
| SPELL LENGTHS | | | |
| 6 months or less | 370 | 256 | 106 |
| 7 to 12 months | 213 | 129 | 72 |
| 13 to 18 months | 90 | 58 | 26 |
| 19 to 24 months | 94 | 54 | 38 |
| 25 months or more | 295 | 167 | 119 |
| All 32 months | 223 | 126 | 90 |

¹ Includes only adults reporting dollar amounts received.

² Includes other races not shown separately.