

## Welfare Caseload Remains Relatively Flat in Second Quarter of 2003

*Sharp contrast between rising Food Stamp and flat TANF caseloads, 2001-2003*

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The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) has collected new data on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) caseloads through June 2003 for 49 states and the District of Columbia.<sup>1</sup> (Figures from Maine are not available due to the state's transition to a new computer system.) These are the most current and complete data available.<sup>2</sup> Between March 2003 and June 2003, 22 states reported caseload increases and 28 reported decreases. The changes in most states were small; for 40 states, the June 2003 caseload was within 3 percent of the March caseload. Over the past year, between June 2002 and June 2003, 31 states had caseload increases and 17 had decreases, and two experienced no change. Since the start of the recession in March 2001, 28 states have reported caseload increases, and 22 have reported decreases.

Due to the absence of caseload data from Maine, we cannot present a figure for the national welfare caseload. However, the caseload total for the other 49 states and the District of Columbia decreased 0.1 percent between March and June. Over the past year (June 2002-June 2003), the overall caseload rose by 0.3 percent (excluding Maine). The national welfare caseload has declined each year since 1997. However, the rate of decline has steadily slowed, and now the national caseload appears essentially flat.

Most states continue to report fluctuating caseloads on a month-to-month basis. However, four states (Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, and Tennessee) reported a steady caseload increase for the past six months (January-June 2003). Three states—Arkansas,

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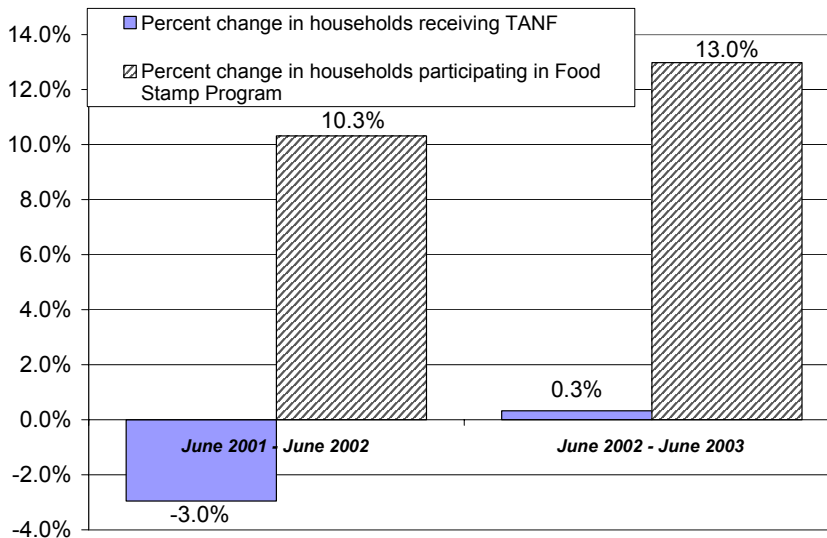
<sup>1</sup> CLASP has been gathering caseload data with the cooperation of state TANF agencies (for simplicity's sake, we refer to the District of Columbia as a state in the rest of our analysis). These data do not include caseload information for Puerto Rico, Guam, or the Virgin Islands.

<sup>2</sup> State TANF caseloads generally count only those recipients receiving cash assistance, not other TANF-funded services. CLASP has posted these figures in an effort to supplement data available from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). DHHS's most recent official TANF caseload data (March 2002 compared to March 2003) are posted at <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/news/stats/Mar02-Mar03.htm>. A month-to-month series from October 2001 to September 2002 is also available at <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/news/stats/2002tanfrecipients.htm>. The National Conference of State Legislatures also has posted unofficial caseload data at <http://www.ncsl.org/statefed/welfare/caseload02.htm>. Please note that the initial caseload data reported to CLASP are sometimes subsequently modified, and some states report data slightly differently from how they are reported at DHHS's website, so these numbers may change by the time they are formally posted by DHHS.

Rhode Island, and South Carolina— experienced a steady decline over the same six months.

### Contrast Between TANF and Food Stamp Caseloads

*Annual Percentage Change in TANF and Food Stamp Caseloads, 2001 – 2003*



Over the past two years, there has been a sharp contrast in changes in participation between TANF and the Food Stamp Program. Between June 2001 and June 2002, food stamp receipt went up by 10.3 percent, while TANF caseloads fell by 3 percent.<sup>3</sup> Between June 2002 and June 2003, the number of families receiving food stamps

increased 13 percent, while the TANF caseload increased 0.3 percent. Although it might be expected that caseloads for the two programs would move in tandem during an economic downturn, it appears that the Food Stamp Program has been far more responsive to increased economic need than the TANF program.

### Additional Findings

In reviewing the new caseload data, CLASP also finds:

- **In the last quarter, 28 states reported caseload decreases.** From March 2003 to June 2003, 22 states reported caseload increases, while 28 reported decreases. Both the average increase and decrease were 2.1 percent. Over the same period last year (March 2002 to June 2002), nine states experienced caseload increases.
- **Over the year, from June 2002 to June 2003, TANF caseloads increased in 31 states.** The average increase over this period was 7.4 percent. In comparison, during the prior year, from June 2001 to June 2002, 24 states reported increases, averaging 6.9 percent.
- **Four states experienced caseload growth of at least 15 percent in the past year.** Idaho's caseload grew by 29 percent, Arizona's by 21 percent, Colorado's by 16 percent, and Mississippi's by 16 percent between June 2002 and June 2003.

<sup>3</sup> The June 2003 TANF figure excludes Maine. Food stamp data include Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Food and Nutrition Service, United States Department of Agriculture. Available at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/fsmonthly.htm>.

- **Two states experienced caseload declines of at least 15 percent in the past year.** Between June 2002 and June 2003, Illinois reported a caseload decline of 19 percent and Nevada reported a decline of 23 percent.
- **Most states are experiencing relatively small caseload changes each quarter.** In the current quarter, between March 2003 and June 2003, 40 states saw their caseloads change by less than 3 percent. Three states (Colorado, Illinois, and Nevada) saw their caseloads change by more than 5 percent. The remaining seven states fluctuated between 3 and 5 percent.
- **Twenty-eight states have experienced an overall caseload increase since the recession began.** Between the “official” start of the recession in March 2001 and June 2003, 28 states have experienced a caseload increase. On average, these states have seen their caseloads increase 16.2 percent during this time period. The states experiencing the largest increases over this period are Arizona (49.7 percent), Nevada (40.6 percent), Idaho (34.2 percent), Colorado (33.6 percent), Mississippi (33.3 percent), Indiana (29.9 percent), and Montana (26.7 percent). For the 22 states experiencing caseload declines during the recession, the average decrease has been 12.5 percent, with the largest declines in Illinois (43.0 percent), New York (35.4 percent), Wyoming (30.3 percent), and Hawaii (26.1 percent).

Selected state-by-state caseload data are attached. To view more complete month-by-month caseload figures, please visit the CLASP website at [www.clasp.org](http://www.clasp.org).

## State TANF Caseload Data, Selected Months, March 2001-June 2003<sup>4</sup>

	Mar-01	Jun-02	Mar-03	Jun-03	Change 3/01 – 6/03	Change 6/02 – 6/03	Change 3/03 – 6/03
<b>United States</b>	2,099,832	2,009,289	2,017,423	2,015,730	-4.0%	0.3%	-0.1%
Alabama	18,396	17,677	18,987	19,279	4.8%	9.1%	1.5%
Alaska	6,181	6,174	5,549	5,384	-12.9%	-12.8%	-3.0%
Arizona	32,909	40,599	47,302	49,275	49.7%	21.4%	4.2%
Arkansas	12,022	11,640	11,169	10,770	-10.4%	-7.5%	-3.6%
California	471,668	462,179	449,170	450,016	-4.6%	-2.6%	0.2%
Colorado	10,696	12,298	13,321	14,287	33.6%	16.2%	7.3%
Connecticut	25,101	22,404	22,754	22,265	-11.3%	-0.6%	-2.1%
Delaware	5,887	5,650	5,961	6,044	2.7%	7.0%	1.4%
District of Columbia	16,241	15,860	16,882	16,639	2.5%	4.9%	-1.4%
Florida	58,723	58,877	59,876	58,535	-0.3%	-0.6%	-2.2%
Georgia	49,814	53,152	55,325	55,234	10.9%	3.9%	-0.2%
Hawaii	13,252	10,896	9,924	9,790	-26.1%	-10.2%	-1.4%
Idaho	1,311	1,363	1,732	1,760	34.2%	29.1%	1.6%
Illinois	63,626	44,831	38,472	36,285	-43.0%	-19.1%	-5.7%
Indiana	40,421	49,891	52,624	52,500	29.9%	5.2%	-0.2%
Iowa	19,916	19,816	19,806	19,952	0.2%	0.7%	0.7%
Kansas	12,659	13,689	14,694	15,247	20.4%	11.4%	3.8%
Kentucky	34,633	31,581	31,893	31,537	-8.9%	-0.1%	-1.1%
Louisiana	25,776	23,334	23,082	23,343	-9.4%	0.0%	1.1%
Maine	9,710	9,884	N/A	N/A			
Maryland	28,040	25,983	26,008	25,568	-8.8%	-1.6%	-1.7%
Massachusetts	42,250	46,323	48,407	48,057	13.7%	3.7%	-0.7%
Michigan	70,192	70,821	74,961	75,242	7.2%	6.2%	0.4%
Minnesota	38,316	36,244	36,257	37,097	-3.2%	2.4%	2.3%
Mississippi	15,213	17,513	19,597	20,280	33.3%	15.8%	3.5%
Missouri	48,670	47,289	45,996	47,289	-2.8%	0.0%	2.8%
Montana	4,990	5,914	6,427	6,323	26.7%	6.9%	-1.6%
Nebraska	10,482	11,468	12,218	11,965	14.1%	4.3%	-2.1%
Nevada	7,240	13,192	11,130	10,178	40.6%	-22.8%	-8.6%
New Hampshire	5,580	6,112	6,321	6,290	12.7%	2.9%	-0.5%
New Jersey	47,246	41,842	42,339	43,006	-9.0%	2.8%	1.6%
New Mexico	20,986	17,172	16,093	16,361	-22.0%	-4.7%	1.7%
New York	227,409	156,032	149,947	146,941	-35.4%	-5.8%	-2.0%
North Carolina	43,309	42,649	41,294	41,108	-5.1%	-3.6%	-0.5%
North Dakota	2,909	3,122	3,284	3,354	15.3%	7.4%	2.1%
Ohio	87,283	83,958	86,263	85,570	-2.0%	1.9%	-0.8%
Oklahoma	13,919	14,073	14,370	14,312	2.8%	1.7%	-0.4%
Oregon	16,031	17,724	18,928	18,590	16.0%	4.9%	-1.8%
Pennsylvania	87,903	84,941	85,917	86,038	-2.1%	1.3%	0.1%
Rhode Island	15,245	13,986	13,424	13,026	-14.6%	-6.9%	-3.0%
South Carolina	16,513	19,377	19,953	19,220	16.4%	-0.8%	-3.7%
South Dakota	2,702	2,815	2,777	2,766	2.4%	-1.7%	-0.4%
Tennessee	59,520	62,668	68,517	69,751	17.2%	11.3%	1.8%
Texas	129,602	127,340	132,796	134,291	3.6%	5.5%	1.1%
Utah	8,163	8,082	9,082	9,161	12.2%	13.4%	0.9%
Vermont	5,586	5,079	4,904	4,847	-13.2%	-4.6%	-1.2%
Virginia	29,410	30,361	30,568	30,971	5.3%	2.0%	1.3%
Washington	55,019	52,634	56,513	54,964	-0.1%	4.4%	-2.7%
West Virginia	13,380	13,142	14,096	13,750	2.8%	4.6%	-2.5%
Wisconsin	17,207	19,189	20,096	20,871	21.3%	8.8%	3.9%
Wyoming	575	449	417	401	-30.3%	-10.7%	-3.8%

Note: U.S. Totals for March 2003 and June 2003 exclude Maine.

<sup>4</sup> Please see full spreadsheet for information about how data may differ from numbers reported to ACF.

## State TANF Caseload Data, Change During March 2003 – June 2003

	March 2003	June 2003	Change
<b>United States</b>	2,018,269	2,015,730	-0.1%
Colorado	13,321	14,287	7.3%
Arizona	47,302	49,275	4.2%
Wisconsin	20,096	20,871	3.9%
Kansas	14,694	15,247	3.8%
Mississippi	19,597	20,280	3.5%
Missouri	45,996	47,289	2.8%
Minnesota	36,257	37,097	2.3%
North Dakota	3,284	3,354	2.1%
Tennessee	68,517	69,751	1.8%
New Mexico	16,093	16,361	1.7%
Idaho	1,732	1,760	1.6%
New Jersey	42,339	43,006	1.6%
Alabama	18,987	19,279	1.5%
Delaware	5,961	6,044	1.4%
Virginia	30,568	30,971	1.3%
Louisiana	23,082	23,343	1.1%
Texas	132,796	134,291	1.1%
Utah	9,082	9,161	0.9%
Iowa	19,806	19,952	0.7%
Michigan	74,961	75,242	0.4%
California	449,170	450,016	0.2%
Pennsylvania	85,917	86,038	0.1%
Georgia	55,325	55,234	-0.2%
Indiana	52,624	52,500	-0.2%
South Dakota	2,777	2,766	-0.4%
Oklahoma	14,370	14,312	-0.4%
North Carolina	41,294	41,108	-0.5%
New Hampshire	6,321	6,290	-0.5%
Massachusetts	48,407	48,057	-0.7%
Ohio	86,263	85,570	-0.8%
Kentucky	31,893	31,537	-1.1%
Vermont	4,904	4,847	-1.2%
Hawaii	9,924	9,790	-1.4%
District of Columbia	16,882	16,639	-1.4%
Montana	6,427	6,323	-1.6%
Maryland	26,008	25,568	-1.7%
Oregon	18,928	18,590	-1.8%
New York	149,947	146,941	-2.0%
Nebraska	12,218	11,965	-2.1%
Connecticut	22,754	22,265	-2.1%
Florida	59,876	58,535	-2.2%
West Virginia	14,096	13,750	-2.5%
Washington	56,513	54,964	-2.7%
Rhode Island	13,424	13,026	-3.0%
Alaska	5,549	5,384	-3.0%
Arkansas	11,169	10,770	-3.6%
South Carolina	19,953	19,220	-3.7%
Wyoming	417	401	-3.8%
Illinois	38,472	36,285	-5.7%
Nevada	11,130	10,178	-8.6%

*Note: Data from Maine are unavailable at this time.*

## State TANF Caseload Data, Annual Change, June 2002 – June 2003

	June 2002	June 2003	Change
United States	2,011,552	2,015,730	0.3%
Idaho	1,363	1,760	29.1%
Arizona	40,599	49,275	21.4%
Colorado	12,298	14,287	16.2%
Mississippi	17,513	20,280	15.8%
Utah	8,082	9,161	13.4%
Kansas	13,689	15,247	11.4%
Tennessee	62,668	69,751	11.3%
Alabama	17,677	19,279	9.1%
Wisconsin	19,189	20,871	8.8%
North Dakota	3,122	3,354	7.4%
Delaware	5,650	6,044	7.0%
Montana	5,914	6,323	6.9%
Michigan	70,821	75,242	6.2%
Texas	127,340	134,291	5.5%
Indiana	49,891	52,500	5.2%
District of Columbia	15,860	16,639	4.9%
Oregon	17,724	18,590	4.9%
West Virginia	13,142	13,750	4.6%
Washington	52,634	54,964	4.4%
Nebraska	11,468	11,965	4.3%
Georgia	53,152	55,234	3.9%
Massachusetts	46,323	48,057	3.7%
New Hampshire	6,112	6,290	2.9%
New Jersey	41,842	43,006	2.8%
Minnesota	36,244	37,097	2.4%
Virginia	30,361	30,971	2.0%
Ohio	83,958	85,570	1.9%
Oklahoma	14,073	14,312	1.7%
Pennsylvania	84,941	86,038	1.3%
Iowa	19,816	19,952	0.7%
Louisiana	23,334	23,343	0.0%
Missouri	47,289	47,289	0.0%
Kentucky	31,581	31,537	-0.1%
Florida	58,877	58,535	-0.6%
Connecticut	22,404	22,265	-0.6%
South Carolina	19,377	19,220	-0.8%
Maryland	25,983	25,568	-1.6%
South Dakota	2,815	2,766	-1.7%
California	462,179	450,016	-2.6%
North Carolina	42,649	41,108	-3.6%
Vermont	5,079	4,847	-4.6%
New Mexico	17,172	16,361	-4.7%
New York	156,032	146,941	-5.8%
Rhode Island	13,986	13,026	-6.9%
Arkansas	11,640	10,770	-7.5%
Hawaii	10,896	9,790	-10.2%
Wyoming	449	401	-10.7%
Alaska	6,174	5,384	-12.8%
Illinois	44,831	36,285	-19.1%
Nevada	13,192	10,178	-22.8%

*Note: Data from Maine are unavailable at this time.*

## State TANF Caseload Data, Change Since Recession, March 2001 – June 2003

	March 2001	June 2003	Change
United States	2,103,793	2,015,730	-4.0%
Arizona	32,909	49,275	49.7%
Nevada	7,240	10,178	40.6%
Idaho	1,311	1,760	34.2%
Colorado	10,696	14,287	33.6%
Mississippi	15,213	20,280	33.3%
Indiana	40,421	52,500	29.9%
Montana	4,990	6,323	26.7%
Wisconsin	17,207	20,871	21.3%
Kansas	12,659	15,247	20.4%
Tennessee	59,520	69,751	17.2%
South Carolina	16,513	19,220	16.4%
Oregon	16,031	18,590	16.0%
North Dakota	2,909	3,354	15.3%
Nebraska	10,482	11,965	14.1%
Massachusetts	42,250	48,057	13.7%
New Hampshire	5,580	6,290	12.7%
Utah	8,163	9,161	12.2%
Georgia	49,814	55,234	10.9%
Michigan	70,192	75,242	7.2%
Virginia	29,410	30,971	5.3%
Alabama	18,396	19,279	4.8%
Texas	129,602	134,291	3.6%
Oklahoma	13,919	14,312	2.8%
West Virginia	13,380	13,750	2.8%
Delaware	5,887	6,044	2.7%
District of Columbia	16,241	16,639	2.5%
South Dakota	2,702	2,766	2.4%
Iowa	19,916	19,952	0.2%
Washington	55,019	54,964	-0.1%
Florida	58,723	58,535	-0.3%
Ohio	87,283	85,570	-2.0%
Pennsylvania	87,903	86,038	-2.1%
Missouri	48,670	47,289	-2.8%
Minnesota	38,316	37,097	-3.2%
California	471,668	450,016	-4.6%
North Carolina	43,309	41,108	-5.1%
Maryland	28,040	25,568	-8.8%
Kentucky	34,633	31,537	-8.9%
New Jersey	47,246	43,006	-9.0%
Louisiana	25,776	23,343	-9.4%
Arkansas	12,022	10,770	-10.4%
Connecticut	25,101	22,265	-11.3%
Alaska	6,181	5,384	-12.9%
Vermont	5,586	4,847	-13.2%
Rhode Island	15,245	13,026	-14.6%
New Mexico	20,986	16,361	-22.0%
Hawaii	13,252	9,790	-26.1%
Wyoming	575	401	-30.3%
New York	227,409	146,941	-35.4%
Illinois	63,626	36,285	-43.0%

*Note: Data from Maine are unavailable at this time.*