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## **Welfare Caseloads Increase in 27 States Between June and September 2003**

*National Welfare Caseload Remains Flat; Contrasts with Rising Food Stamp Caseload*

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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 September 2003 for 50 states and the District of Columbia.<sup>1</sup> These are the most current and complete data available.<sup>2</sup>

Between June 2003 and September 2003, 27 states reported caseload increases and 24 reported decreases. The changes in most states were small; for 34 states, the September 2003 caseload was within 3 percent of the June caseload. Overall, the national caseload remained essentially flat, declining by 0.1 percent. The national caseload was 2,021,089 families in September, with 2,762 fewer families receiving assistance than in June.

Caseloads increased slightly over the past year but have fallen since March 2001, the official beginning of the 2001-2002 recession. Between September 2002 and September 2003, the overall caseload increased by 0.4 percent and 30 states had caseload increases. Most states (28) have experienced a caseload increase since the start of the recession in March 2001; however, the overall caseload decreased by 3.7 percent since that time.

Over the past two years, there has been a sharp contrast in changes in participation between TANF and the Food Stamp Program. Between September 2001 and September 2002, food stamp receipt went up by 10.6 percent, while TANF caseloads fell by 3.4 percent.<sup>3</sup> Between September 2002 and September 2003, the number of households receiving food stamps increased

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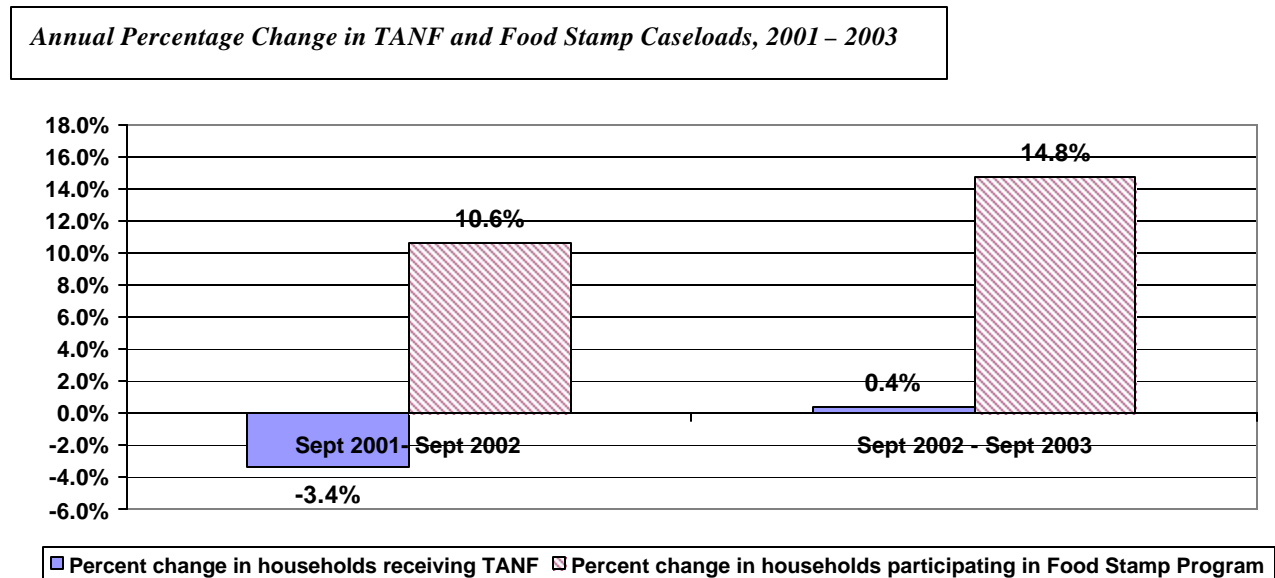
<sup>1</sup> CLASP has been gathering caseload data with the cooperation of state TANF agencies (for simplicity's sake, we refer to the District of Columbia as a state in the rest of our analysis). These data do not include caseload information for Puerto Rico, Guam, or the Virgin Islands.

<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.

<sup>3</sup> 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>

14.8 percent, while the TANF caseload increased 0.4 percent. Between September 2001 and September 2003, the number of households participating in the Food Stamp Program increased by 2,064,112, while the number of families receiving TANF *fell* by 62,239. 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 has the TANF program.

### Contrast Between TANF and Food Stamp Caseloads



### Additional Findings

In reviewing the new caseload data, CLASP also finds:

- **From June to September 2003, 24 states reported caseload decreases.** From June to September 2003, 27 states reported caseload increases, while 24 reported decreases. The magnitude of the average increase was smaller than the average decrease, causing the caseload to remain relatively flat. The average increase was 1 percent compared to the average decrease of 4.2 percent. Over the same period last year (June 2002 to September 2002), 31 states experienced caseload increases.
- **Over the year, from September 2002 to September 2003, TANF caseloads increased in 30 states.** The average increase over this period was 6.0 percent. In comparison, during the prior year, from September 2001 to September 2002, 24 states reported increases, averaging 8.7 percent.
- **Two states experienced caseload growth of at least 15 percent in the past year.** Idaho’s caseload grew by 22 percent and Arizona’s by 17 percent between September 2002 and September 2003.

- **Three states experienced caseload declines of at least 15 percent in the past year.** Between September 2002 and September 2003, Illinois and Nevada reported a caseload decline of 18 percent each, while Utah's caseload fell 24 percent.
- **Most states are experiencing relatively small caseload changes each quarter.** In the most recent quarter, between June 2003 and September 2003, 34 states saw their caseloads change by less than 3 percent. Eight states (Alaska, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, and Virginia) saw their caseloads change by more than 5 percent. The remaining 9 states fluctuated between 3 and 5 percent.
- **Since the recession began, 28 states have experienced an overall caseload increase.** Between the "official" start of the recession in March 2001 and September 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 (56.0 percent), Idaho (33.1 percent), Colorado (32.9 percent), Nevada (32.0 percent), and Mississippi (29.6 percent). For the 23 states experiencing caseload declines during the recession, the average decrease has been 13.5 percent, with the largest declines in Illinois (45.5 percent), New York (36.0 percent), Wyoming (31.7 percent), and Hawaii (27.4 percent). The overall caseload decreased 3.7 percent overall since the recession began.

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-September 2003<sup>4</sup>

	Mar-01	Sept-02	Jun-03	Sept-03	Change 3/01 – 9/03	Change 9/02 – 9/03	Change 6/03 – 9/03
<b>United States</b>	2,099,832	2,012,952	2,023,851	2,021,089	-3.7%	0.4%	-0.1%
Alabama	18,396	17,992	19,279	19,533	6.2%	8.6%	1.3%
Alaska	6,181	5,583	5,384	4,909	-20.6%	-12.1%	-8.8%
Arizona	32,909	43,871	49,275	51,336	56.0%	17.0%	4.2%
Arkansas	12,022	11,729	10,770	10,751	-10.6%	-8.3%	-0.2%
California	471,668	454,169	450,184	449,275	-4.7%	-1.1%	-0.2%
Colorado	10,696	12,444	14,287	14,210	32.9%	14.2%	-0.5%
Connecticut	25,101	22,415	22,265	22,850	-9.0%	1.9%	2.6%
Delaware	5,887	5,982	6,044	6,236	5.9%	4.2%	3.2%
District of Columbia	16,241	16,788	16,639	16,825	3.6%	0.2%	1.1%
Florida	58,723	60,632	58,535	60,954	3.8%	0.5%	4.1%
Georgia	49,814	54,867	55,234	56,496	13.4%	3.0%	2.3%
Hawaii	13,252	10,603	9,790	9,624	-27.4%	-9.2%	-1.7%
Idaho	1,311	1,433	1,760	1,745	33.1%	21.8%	-0.9%
Illinois	63,626	42,499	36,285	34,688	-45.5%	-18.4%	-4.4%
Indiana	40,421	51,933	52,500	51,501	27.4%	-0.8%	-1.9%
Iowa	19,916	19,822	19,952	20,017	0.5%	1.0%	0.3%
Kansas	12,659	14,507	15,247	15,423	21.8%	6.3%	1.2%
Kentucky	34,633	31,975	31,537	32,045	-7.5%	0.2%	1.6%
Louisiana	25,776	24,232	23,343	24,268	-5.9%	0.1%	4.0%
Maine	9,710	9,345	10,706	10,502	8.2%	12.4%	-1.9%
Maryland	28,040	25,903	25,568	25,678	-8.4%	-0.9%	0.4%
Massachusetts	42,250	47,339	48,057	49,432	17.0%	4.4%	2.9%
Michigan	70,192	68,761	75,242	77,823	10.9%	13.2%	3.4%
Minnesota	38,316	36,927	37,097	36,096	-5.8%	-2.3%	-2.7%
Mississippi	15,213	19,262	19,620	19,722	29.6%	2.4%	0.5%
Missouri	48,670	47,542	45,371	47,718	-2.0%	0.4%	5.2%
Montana	4,990	5,816	6,323	5,447	9.2%	-6.3%	-13.9%
Nebraska	10,482	11,673	11,965	12,272	17.1%	5.1%	2.6%
Nevada	7,240	11,589	10,178	9,558	32.0%	-17.5%	-6.1%
New Hampshire	5,580	6,126	6,125	6,077	8.9%	-0.8%	-0.8%
New Jersey	47,246	41,734	43,006	43,794	-7.3%	4.9%	1.8%
New Mexico	20,986	16,450	16,361	17,282	-17.6%	5.1%	5.6%
New York	227,409	151,450	146,941	145,627	-36.0%	-3.8%	-0.9%
North Carolina	43,309	41,838	41,108	39,919	-7.8%	-4.6%	-2.9%
North Dakota	2,909	3,205	3,277	3,226	10.9%	0.7%	-1.6%
Ohio	87,283	84,535	85,570	87,006	-0.3%	2.9%	1.7%
Oklahoma	13,919	14,917	14,312	14,719	5.7%	-1.3%	2.8%
Oregon	16,031	17,558	18,590	18,262	13.9%	4.0%	-1.8%
Pennsylvania	87,903	84,980	86,038	89,261	1.5%	5.0%	3.7%
Rhode Island	15,245	13,723	13,026	12,961	-15.0%	-5.6%	-0.5%
South Carolina	16,513	20,241	19,220	19,453	17.8%	-3.9%	1.2%
South Dakota	2,702	2,781	2,766	2,700	-0.1%	-2.9%	-2.4%
Tennessee	59,520	65,593	69,751	72,345	21.5%	10.3%	3.7%
Texas	129,602	131,683	134,358	117,532	-9.3%	-10.7%	-12.5%
Utah	8,163	8,524	9,161	6,455	-20.9%	-24.3%	-29.5%
Vermont	5,586	5,022	4,847	4,815	-13.8%	-4.1%	-0.7%
Virginia	29,410	29,786	30,971	33,046	12.4%	10.9%	6.7%
Washington	55,019	51,956	54,964	53,534	-2.7%	3.0%	-2.6%
West Virginia	13,380	13,398	13,750	14,040	4.9%	4.8%	2.1%
Wisconsin	17,207	19,395	20,871	21,708	26.2%	11.9%	4.0%
Wyoming	575	424	401	393	-31.7%	-7.3%	-2.0%

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

## State TANF Caseload Data, Change from June 2003 – September 2003

	June 2003	September 2003	Change
<b>United States</b>	2,023,851	2,021,089	-0.1%
Virginia	30,971	33,046	6.7%
New Mexico	16,361	17,282	5.6%
Missouri	45,371	47,718	5.2%
Arizona	49,275	51,336	4.2%
Florida	58,535	60,954	4.1%
Wisconsin	20,871	21,708	4.0%
Louisiana	23,343	24,268	4.0%
Pennsylvania	86,038	89,261	3.7%
Tennessee	69,751	72,345	3.7%
Michigan	75,242	77,823	3.4%
Delaware	6,044	6,236	3.2%
Massachusetts	48,057	49,432	2.9%
Oklahoma	14,312	14,719	2.8%
Connecticut	22,265	22,850	2.6%
Nebraska	11,965	12,272	2.6%
Georgia	55,234	56,496	2.3%
West Virginia	13,750	14,040	2.1%
New Jersey	43,006	43,794	1.8%
Ohio	85,570	87,006	1.7%
Kentucky	31,537	32,045	1.6%
Alabama	19,279	19,533	1.3%
South Carolina	19,220	19,453	1.2%
Kansas	15,247	15,423	1.2%
District of Columbia	16,639	16,825	1.1%
Mississippi	19,620	19,722	0.5%
Maryland	25,568	25,678	0.4%
Iowa	19,952	20,017	0.3%
Maine	10,706	10,502	0.0%
Arkansas	10,770	10,751	-0.2%
California	450,184	449,275	-0.2%
Rhode Island	13,026	12,961	-0.5%
Colorado	14,287	14,210	-0.5%
Vermont	4,847	4,815	-0.7%
New Hampshire	6,125	6,077	-0.8%
Idaho	1,760	1,745	-0.9%
New York	146,941	145,627	-0.9%
North Dakota	3,277	3,226	-1.6%
Hawaii	9,790	9,624	-1.7%
Oregon	18,590	18,262	-1.8%
Indiana	52,500	51,501	-1.9%
Wyoming	401	393	-2.0%
South Dakota	2,766	2,700	-2.4%
Washington	54,964	53,534	-2.6%
Minnesota	37,097	36,096	-2.7%
North Carolina	41,108	39,919	-2.9%
Illinois	36,285	34,688	-4.4%
Nevada	10,178	9,558	-6.1%
Alaska	5,384	4,909	-8.8%
Texas	134,358	117,532	-12.5%
Montana	6,323	5,447	-13.9%
Utah	9,161	6,455	-29.5%

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

	September 2002	September 2003	Change
United States	2,012,952	2,021,089	0.4%
Idaho	1,433	1,745	21.8%
Arizona	43,871	51,336	17.0%
Colorado	12,444	14,210	14.2%
Michigan	68,761	77,823	13.2%
Maine	9,345	10,502	12.4%
Wisconsin	19,395	21,708	11.9%
Virginia	29,786	33,046	10.9%
Tennessee	65,593	72,345	10.3%
Alabama	17,992	19,533	8.6%
Kansas	14,507	15,423	6.3%
Nebraska	11,673	12,272	5.1%
New Mexico	16,450	17,282	5.1%
Pennsylvania	84,980	89,261	5.0%
New Jersey	41,734	43,794	4.9%
West Virginia	13,398	14,040	4.8%
Massachusetts	47,339	49,432	4.4%
Delaware	5,982	6,236	4.2%
Oregon	17,558	18,262	4.0%
Washington	51,956	53,534	3.0%
Georgia	54,867	56,496	3.0%
Ohio	84,535	87,006	2.9%
Mississippi	19,262	19,722	2.4%
Connecticut	22,415	22,850	1.9%
Iowa	19,822	20,017	1.0%
North Dakota	3,205	3,226	0.7%
Florida	60,632	60,954	0.5%
Missouri	47,542	47,718	0.4%
District of Columbia	16,788	16,825	0.2%
Kentucky	31,975	32,045	0.2%
Louisiana	24,232	24,268	0.1%
New Hampshire	6,126	6,077	-0.8%
Indiana	51,933	51,501	-0.8%
Maryland	25,903	25,678	-0.9%
California	454,169	449,275	-1.1%
Oklahoma	14,917	14,719	-1.3%
Minnesota	36,927	36,096	-2.3%
South Dakota	2,781	2,700	-2.9%
New York	151,450	145,627	-3.8%
South Carolina	20,241	19,453	-3.9%
Vermont	5,022	4,815	-4.1%
North Carolina	41,838	39,919	-4.6%
Rhode Island	13,723	12,961	-5.6%
Montana	5,816	5,447	-6.3%
Wyoming	424	393	-7.3%
Arkansas	11,729	10,751	-8.3%
Hawaii	10,603	9,624	-9.2%
Texas	131,683	117,532	-10.7%
Alaska	5,583	4,909	-12.1%
Nevada	11,589	9,558	-17.5%
Illinois	42,499	34,688	-18.4%
Utah	8,524	6,455	-24.3%

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

	March 2001	September 2003	Change
United States	2,099,832	2,021,089	-3.7%
Arizona	32,909	51,336	56.0%
Idaho	1,311	1,745	33.1%
Colorado	10,696	14,210	32.9%
Nevada	7,240	9,558	32.0%
Mississippi	15,213	19,722	29.6%
Indiana	40,421	51,501	27.4%
Wisconsin	17,207	21,708	26.2%
Kansas	12,659	15,423	21.8%
Tennessee	59,520	72,345	21.5%
South Carolina	16,513	19,453	17.8%
Nebraska	10,482	12,272	17.1%
Massachusetts	42,250	49,432	17.0%
Oregon	16,031	18,262	13.9%
Georgia	49,814	56,496	13.4%
Virginia	29,410	33,046	12.4%
North Dakota	2,909	3,226	10.9%
Michigan	70,192	77,823	10.9%
Montana	4,990	5,447	9.2%
New Hampshire	5,580	6,077	8.9%
Maine	9,710	10,502	8.2%
Alabama	18,396	19,533	6.2%
Delaware	5,887	6,236	5.9%
Oklahoma	13,919	14,719	5.7%
West Virginia	13,380	14,040	4.9%
Florida	58,723	60,954	3.8%
District of Columbia	16,241	16,825	3.6%
Pennsylvania	87,903	89,261	1.5%
Iowa	19,916	20,017	0.5%
South Dakota	2,702	2,700	-0.1%
Ohio	87,283	87,006	-0.3%
Missouri	48,670	47,718	-2.0%
Washington	55,019	53,534	-2.7%
California	471,668	449,275	-4.7%
Minnesota	38,316	36,096	-5.8%
Louisiana	25,776	24,268	-5.9%
New Jersey	47,246	43,794	-7.3%
Kentucky	34,633	32,045	-7.5%
North Carolina	43,309	39,919	-7.8%
Maryland	28,040	25,678	-8.4%
Connecticut	25,101	22,850	-9.0%
Texas	129,602	117,532	-9.3%
Arkansas	12,022	10,751	-10.6%
Vermont	5,586	4,815	-13.8%
Rhode Island	15,245	12,961	-15.0%
New Mexico	20,986	17,282	-17.6%
Alaska	6,181	4,909	-20.6%
Utah	8,163	6,455	-20.9%
Hawaii	13,252	9,624	-27.4%
Wyoming	575	393	-31.7%
New York	227,409	145,627	-36.0%
Illinois	63,626	34,688	-45.5%