Secretaries’ Innovation Group

Douglas J. Besharov
University of Maryland
and
Atlantic Council

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Growth in WIC Caseload
Children 1-5

Percent of population

Thousands


WIC child caseload

% of population receiving WIC

Thousands

1,250,000 2,500,000 3,750,000 5,000,000

0% 8% 15% 23% 30%

Causes of WIC Caseload Growth

- The economy
- Demographics
- Cursory/Selective income verification
- Definitional laxity
  - Economic unit
  - Income period
- Extended certification periods
  - Infants: Up to one year (at state option)
  - Children 1-5: Up to one year (at state option)
- Adjunctive eligibility
- Lax enforcement of nutritional risk
Federal Involvement in Child Welfare
The Role of Differential Reimbursement Rates

• Race and the “suitable home rule”
• Mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect (i.e. inadequate parenting)
• Separation of social services and income maintenance
• Federally mandated foster care reviews
• Permanency/Guardianship/Adoption subsidies
• TANF and child-only cases