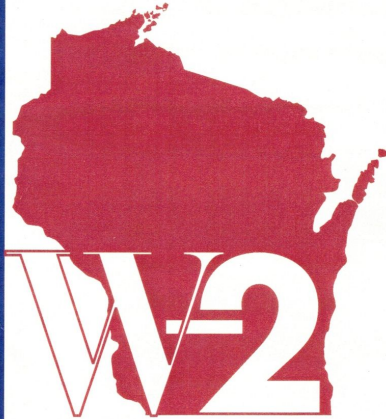


WISCONSIN



**WORKS**

TOMMY G. THOMPSON, GOVERNOR

## WISCONSIN WORKS

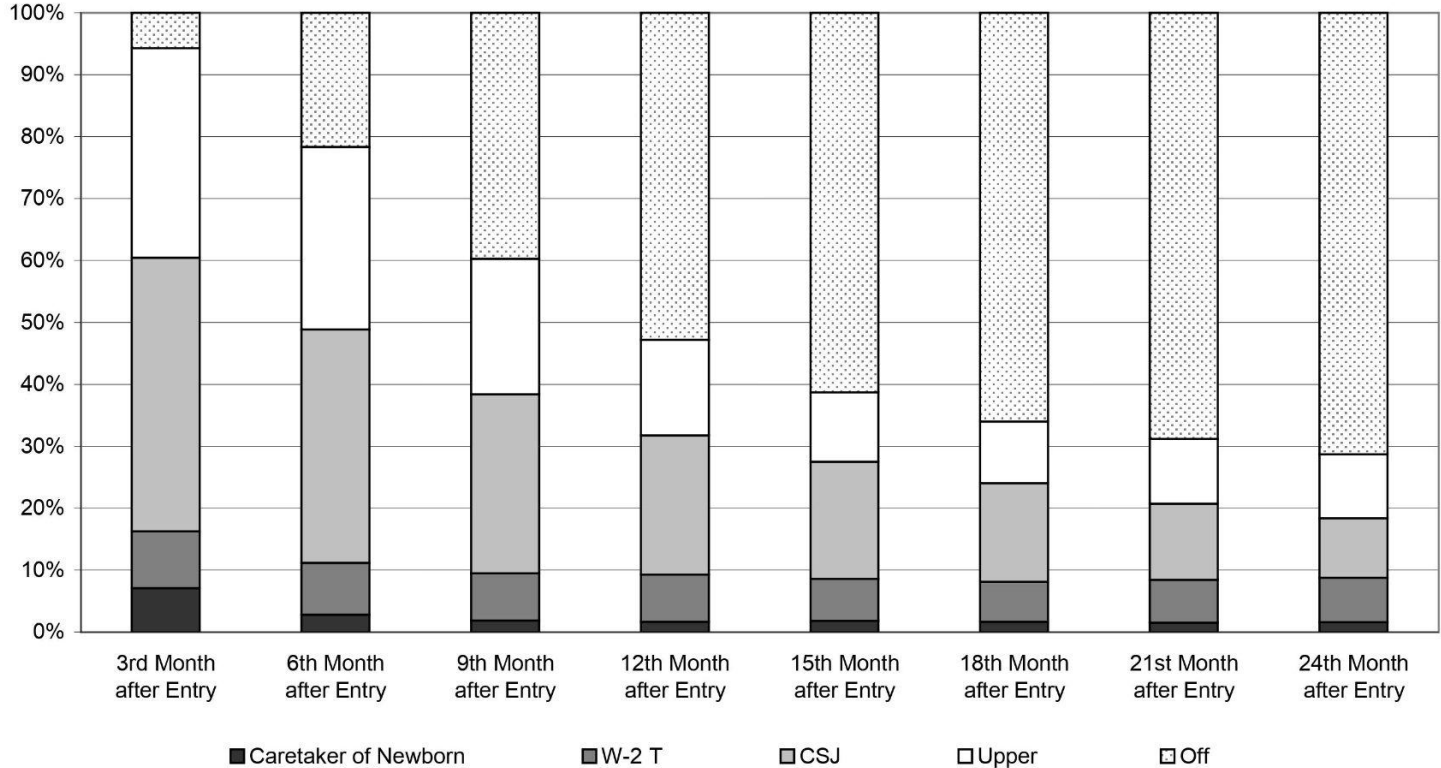
- State Legislature abolished AFDC effective 1999
- Required Governor Thomson to replace program
- Thompson proposed Wisconsin Works, an all-work replacement
- Milwaukee divided into six regions and privatized with FEPs
- Enactment of TANF allowed Thompsons plan to be enacted and implemented with no compromises
- Institute for Research on Poverty completed a highly detailed and comprehensive study of the first two years of implementation

**Table I.1.1**  
**The Four Tiers of Wisconsin Works**

<b>Tier</b>	<b>Income/Payments</b>	<b>Time Requirement</b>	<b>Program Time Limit</b>
<b>Unsubsidized Job</b>	Market wage	None	None
<b>Trial Job</b> (W-2 pays maximum of \$300 per month to the employer)	At least minimum wage	40 hours per week	3 months per placement with an option for one 3-month extension; total of 24 months over all Trial Job placements
<b>Community Service Job</b>	\$673 per month	30 hours per week, plus up to 10 hours per week in education and training	6 months per placement with an option for one 3-month extension; total of 24 months over all Community Service Job placements; extensions permitted on case-by-case basis
<b>W-2 Transition</b>	\$628 per month	28 hours per week of work activities, plus up to 12 hours per week in education and training	24 months; extensions permitted on case-by-case basis

**Note:** A final category, Caretaker of Newborn, provides \$673 per month for parents caring for a child younger than 13 weeks.

**Figure II.4.6a**  
**Tier Transitions among All W-2 Participants**



**Note:** We exclude 48 cases whose first slot occurred in the third month after entry and 67 cases whose first placement was Case Management for Pregnancy.

**Sample:** 12,387 experimental-group resident mothers. **Data:** CARES.

**Table II.5.3**  
**Occupation of Resident Mothers**

Occupation Code in Parentheses	In 1998		In 1999		Percentage Change	
	Frequency	Median Wage	Frequency	Median Wage	Frequency	Median Wage
Nursing Aides (447)	9.8%	\$8.00	13.0%	\$8.75	32.7%	9.4%
Food Preparation and Service (433-444)	9.2	6.00	9.4	6.25	2.2	4.2
Cashiers (276)	9.2	6.00	6.8	6.50	-26.1	8.3
Cleaning and Building Service (448-455)	7.5	6.50	5.2	7.00	-30.7	7.7
Office Machine and Other Clerks Operators (345-378)	5.6	8.00	4.7	8.42	-16.1	5.3
Miscellaneous Administrative Support (379-389)	5.4	7.75	5.5	8.40	1.9	8.4
Machine Operations and Tenders (703-779)	5.4	7.80	4.1	8.00	-24.1	2.6
Secretaries, Information Clerks (313-323)	4.9	8.00	6.3	9.00	28.6	12.5
Personal Service (456-469)	4.9	6.00	5.2	7.00	6.1	16.7
Fabricators, Assemblers, and Hand Working; Production Inspectors, Testers (783-799)	4.8	7.00	3.0	7.25	-37.5	3.6
Professional Speciality (043-199)	4.3	7.25	5.9	7.25	37.2	0.0
Helpers and Material Handlers (864-889)	3.5	7.00	2.6	7.75	-25.7	10.7
Sales Workers (263-285)	3.4	6.50	2.7	7.00	-20.6	7.7
Managerial (0-037)	3.1	8.50	4.0	9.00	29.0	5.9
Recording Processing (325-344)	3.1	7.80	3.7	9.25	19.4	18.6
Private Household and Protective Service (403-427)	2.9	7.50	2.7	7.50	-6.9	0.0
Hand Packers and Packages (888)	2.8	6.50	2.3	7.25	-17.9	11.5
Technicians and Related Support (203-235)	2.1	8.50	1.9	9.36	-9.5	10.1
Precision Production, Craft, and Repair (503-699)	1.9	7.50	3.1	7.50	63.2	0.0
Dental Assistants, Health Aides (445-446)	1.9	7.50	1.8	8.25	-5.3	10.0
Supervisors and Proprietors, and Sales Representatives (243-259)	1.6	8.00	3.2	8.00	100.0	0.0
Bus Driver (808)	1.6	9.10	1.4	9.70	-12.5	6.6
Other Occupations*	1.3	7.54	1.7	8.41	30.8	11.5

**Source:** Resident mother survey sample.

**Sample notes:** Total sample was 2,295 cases in 1998. Of them, 609 cases did not work during the past 12 months or refused to answer whether they worked; 20 cases had missing occupation. Relevant sample was 1,666 in 1998. Total sample was 2,242 cases in 1999. Of them, 483 cases did not work during the past 12 months or refused to answer whether they worked. Relevant sample was 1,759 in 1999.

\*Other occupations included transportation and material moving (803-859); supervising occupations and computer equipment operators (303-309); farming, forest, and fishing occupations (473-499); and military occupations (903-905).

## Parent With One Child

Hourly Wage A	Gross Income B	State Tax Pre-EITC C	Fed Tax Pre-EITC D	Soc. Sec. Tax E	Federal EITC '96 F	State EITC 1994 G	Net Refund (Net Tax) H	Post Tax Income I	Post Tax Poverty % J	Monthly Income K	Food Stamps L	Total Monthly Income M
\$4.25	\$8,840	\$0	\$0	\$676	\$2,040	\$92	\$1,456	\$10,296	103%	\$858	\$144	\$1,002
\$4.50	\$9,000	\$0	\$0	\$689	\$2,040	\$92	\$1,444	\$10,444	104%	\$870	\$141	\$1,011
\$5.50	\$11,000	\$88	\$75	\$842	\$2,040	\$92	\$1,128	\$12,128	121%	\$1,011	\$101	\$1,112
\$6.50	\$13,000	\$208	\$375	\$995	\$1,720	\$88	\$231	\$13,231	132%	\$1,103	\$0	\$1,103
\$7.50	\$15,000	\$363	\$675	\$1,148	\$1,401	\$72	(\$713)	\$14,288	142%	\$1,191	\$0	\$1,191
\$8.50	\$17,000	\$523	\$975	\$1,301	\$1,081	\$55	(\$1,663)	\$15,338	153%	\$1,278	\$0	\$1,278
\$9.50	\$19,000	\$684	\$1,275	\$1,454	\$762	\$39	(\$2,612)	\$16,389	163%	\$1,366	\$0	\$1,366

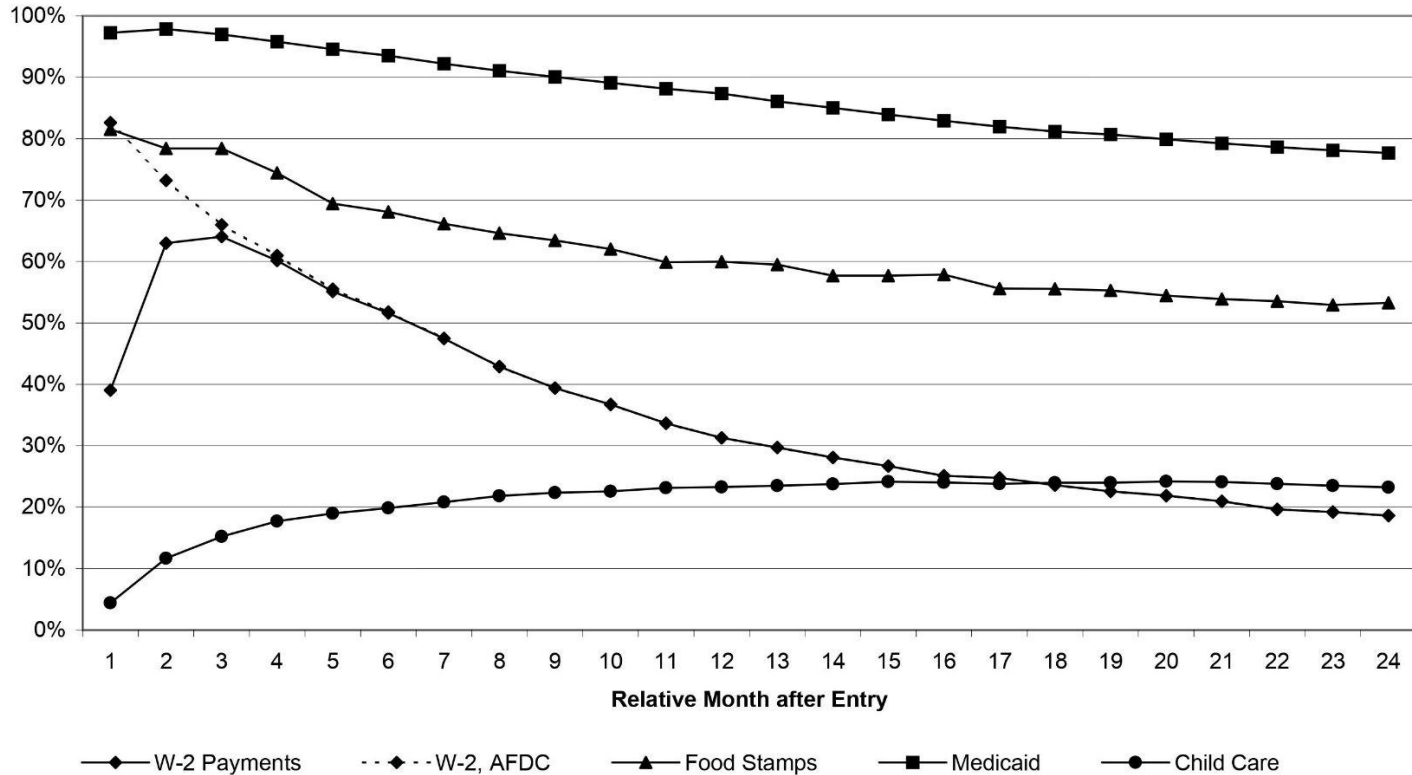
## Parent With Two Children

Hourly Wage A	Gross Income B	State Tax Pre-EITC C	Fed Tax Pre-EITC D	Soc. Sec. Tax E	Federal EITC '96 F	State EITC 1994 G	Net Refund (Net Tax) H	Post Tax Income I	Post Tax Poverty % J	Monthly Income K	Food Stamps L	Total Monthly Income M
\$4.25	\$8,840	\$0	\$0	\$676	\$3,370	\$499	\$3,193	\$12,033	96%	\$1,003	\$236	\$1,239
\$4.50	\$9,000	\$0	\$0	\$689	\$3,370	\$499	\$3,181	\$12,181	97%	\$1,015	\$233	\$1,248
\$5.50	\$11,000	\$38	\$0	\$842	\$3,370	\$499	\$2,990	\$13,990	111%	\$1,166	\$193	\$1,359
\$6.50	\$13,000	\$158	\$8	\$995	\$2,949	\$480	\$2,269	\$15,269	121%	\$1,272	\$150	\$1,422
\$7.50	\$15,000	\$313	\$308	\$1,148	\$2,528	\$390	\$1,150	\$16,150	128%	\$1,346	\$90	\$1,436
\$8.50	\$17,000	\$473	\$608	\$1,301	\$2,106	\$301	\$26	\$17,026	135%	\$1,419	\$0	\$1,419
\$9.50	\$19,000	\$634	\$908	\$1,454	\$1,685	\$211	(\$1,100)	\$17,901	142%	\$1,492	\$0	\$1,492

## Parent With Three Children

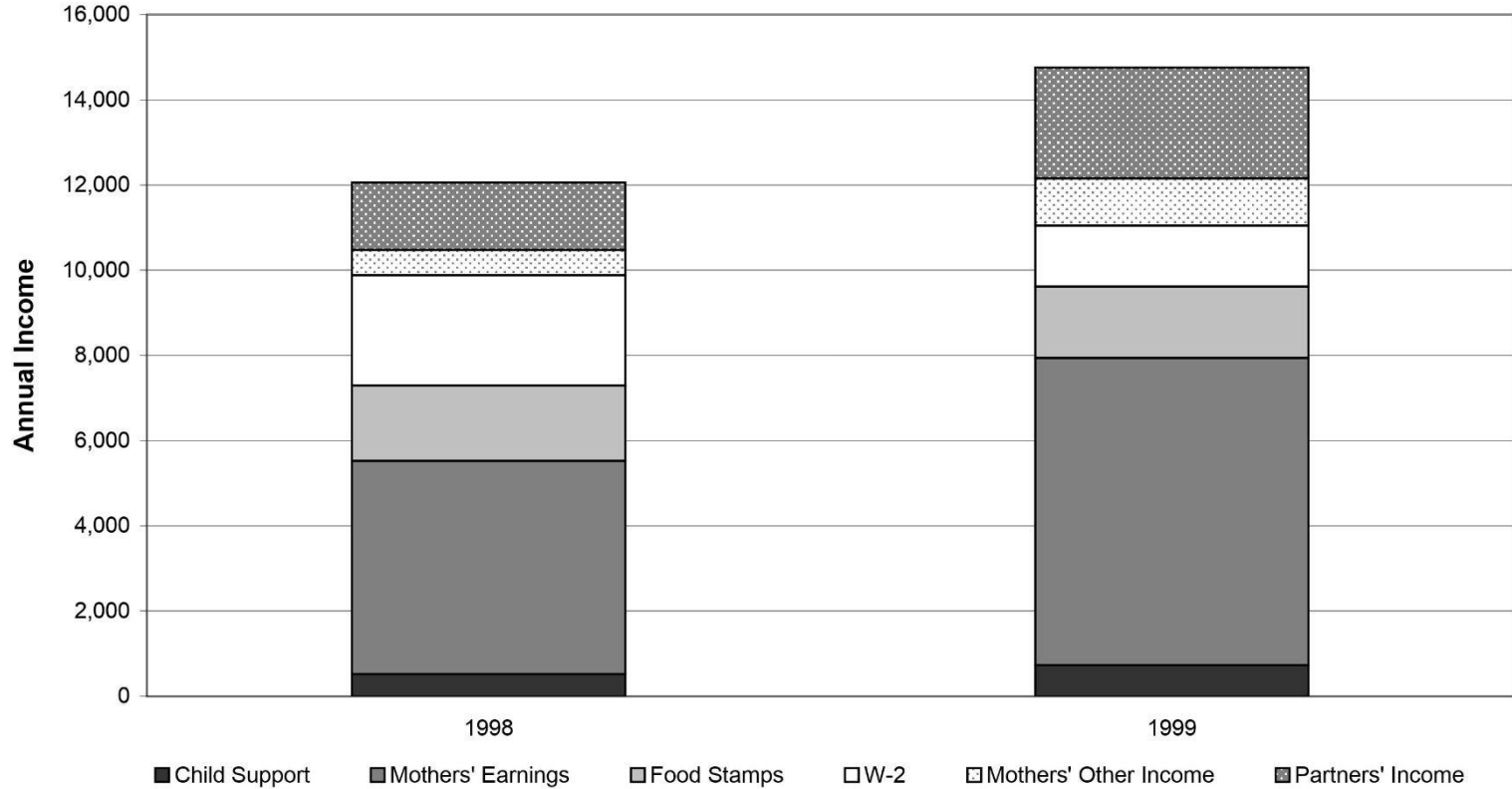
Hourly Wage A	Gross Income B	State Tax Pre-EITC C	Fed Tax Pre-EITC D	Soc. Sec. Tax E	Federal EITC '96 F	State EITC 1994 G	Net Refund (Net Tax) H	Post Tax Income I	Post Tax Poverty % J	Monthly Income K	Food Stamps L	Total Monthly Income M
\$4.25	\$8,840	\$0	\$0	\$676	\$3,370	\$1,496	\$4,190	\$13,030	86%	\$1,086	\$287	\$1,373
\$4.50	\$9,000	\$0	\$0	\$689	\$3,370	\$1,496	\$4,178	\$13,178	87%	\$1,098	\$287	\$1,385
\$5.50	\$11,000	\$0	\$0	\$842	\$3,370	\$1,496	\$4,025	\$15,025	99%	\$1,252	\$275	\$1,527
\$6.50	\$13,000	\$108	\$0	\$995	\$2,949	\$1,439	\$3,286	\$16,286	107%	\$1,357	\$232	\$1,589
\$7.50	\$15,000	\$263	\$0	\$1,148	\$2,528	\$1,171	\$2,289	\$17,289	114%	\$1,441	\$172	\$1,613
\$8.50	\$17,000	\$423	\$240	\$1,301	\$2,106	\$903	\$1,046	\$18,046	119%	\$1,504	\$112	\$1,616
\$9.50	\$19,000	\$584	\$540	\$1,454	\$1,685	\$584	(\$309)	\$18,692	123%	\$1,558	\$52	\$1,610

**Figure II.4.3**  
**Change in Percentage of Resident Mothers**  
**Receiving Any Government Payments**



**Sample:** 12,502 experimental-group resident mothers. **Data:** CARES.

**Figure II.6.4**  
**Mothers' Family Income Sources**  
**(Survey Data)**



**Sample:** 1,088 resident mothers for 1998 and 1,035 for 1999 (experimental group only). **Data:** Survey of Wisconsin Works Families.



## INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON POVERTY 1998 to 1999

IN part because of the substantial caseload reductions that preceded the implementation of W-2, many of the first participants in W-2 had low levels of education, substantial family responsibilities and a history of reliance on welfare. Notwithstanding these barriers, we find higher levels of employment than have been found in other states, and substantial growth in employment *and earnings* over the short period considered. From 1998 to 1999, median wages grew from about \$7.00 per hour to \$7.75 per hour (\$13,51 and \$14,47) and average family income for those who worked rose from about \$12,000 in 1998 to nearly \$15,000 (23,160 and 28,950) in 1999, while at the same time the poverty rate among enrollees fell from 77 percent to 67 percent. Moreover the use of food stamps among this population declined by almost half, while the enrollment in Medicaid declined by 20 percent. Furthermore the overall child poverty rate in the city of Milwaukee declined from 34% to 26%, Consistent with the requirement that all recipient households must work under W-2, the state elected to pass through the entire child support collected on behalf of TANF families to the parents, rather than retaining all but \$50. Paternity establishment rates doubled and the proportion of all mothers receiving any child support increased from 24% to 37% over the two year period.

THE MOSQUITO  
THAT WOULD NOT  
BE SMASHED  
By Gary Taubes

# The New York Times Magazine

AUGUST 24, 1997 / SECTION 6



## It Takes a Village to Reform Welfare

The early success of welfare-to-work has surprised everyone. But even in its first and perhaps best-run laboratory, Wisconsin, it has been a day-to-day struggle, especially for welfare recipients like Opal Caples. By Jason DeParle

# Work Status of Adult SNAP Recipients

Adults (18-59), Average Monthly SNAP QC Data, October 2019-February 2020

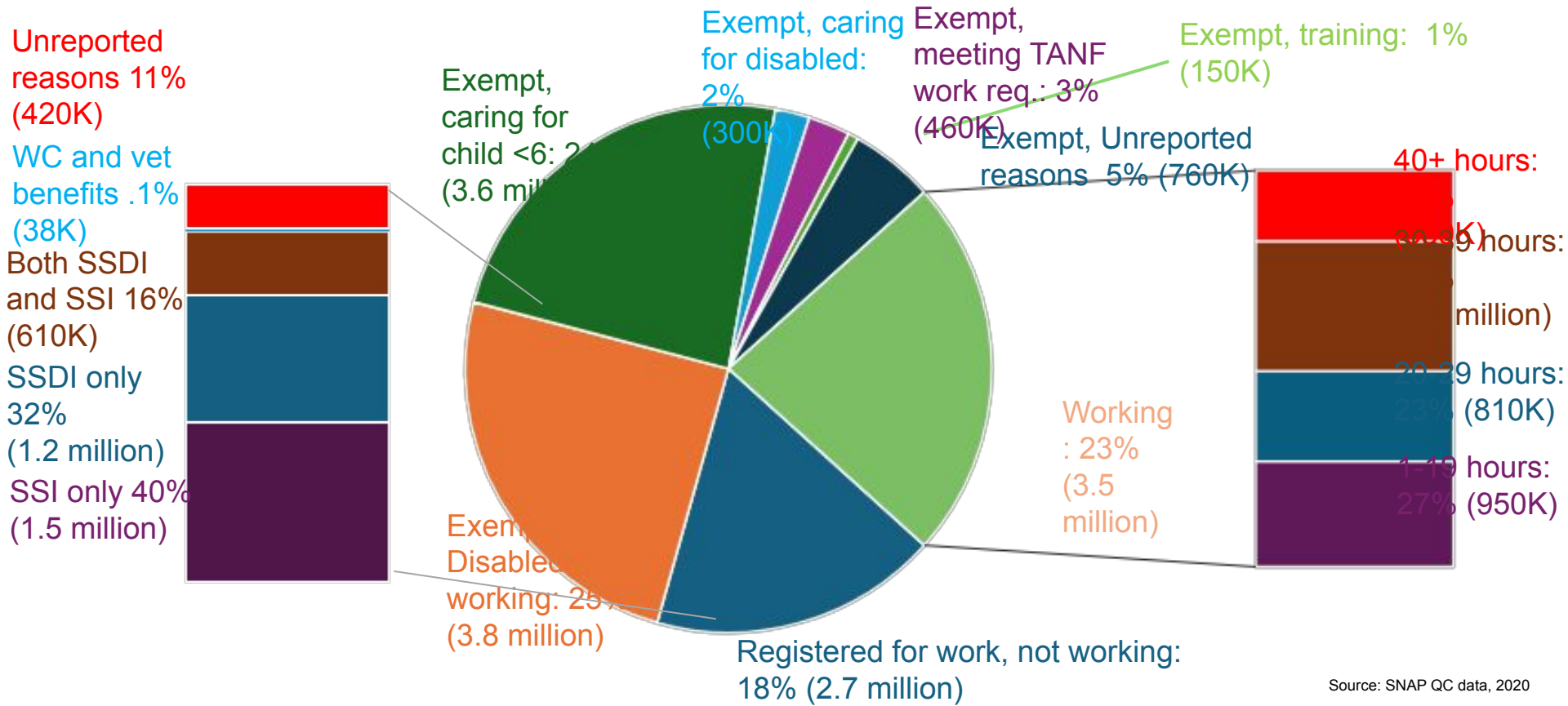
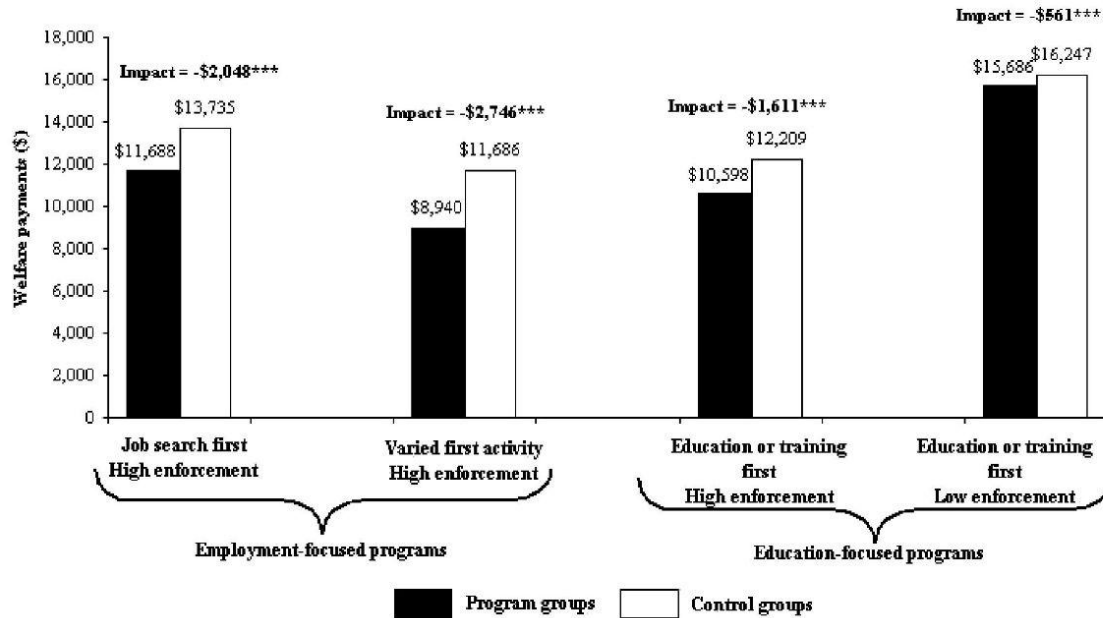


Figure 5.

**Welfare Payments over Five years, by Program Type:  
Program Group Received Less Welfare than Control Group Members**



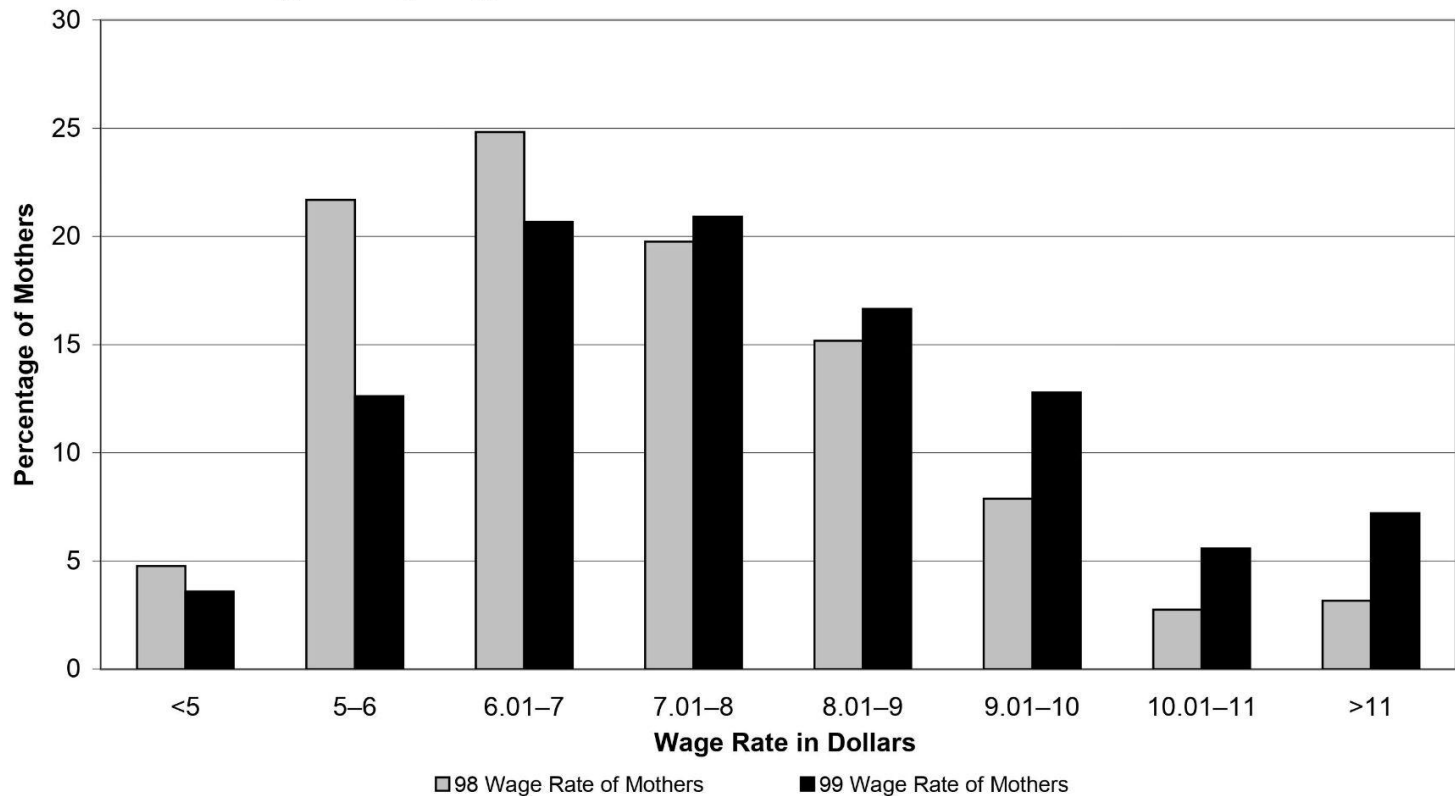
SOURCE: Hamilton et al., 2001

NOTES: Welfare payments for the program and control groups were averaged across programs within each program type.

The Riverside LFA program results include both graduates and nongraduates.

Asterisks (\*) denote statistical significance levels: \* = 10 percent; \*\* = 5 percent; \*\*\* = 1 percent.

**Figure II.5.2**  
**Average Hourly Wage of Resident Mothers Who Worked in 1998 and 1999**



**Source:** Resident mother survey sample.

**Sample notes:** Total sample in 1998 was 2,295 cases. Missing cases include those who had a W-2 assignment (424), with missing wages (100, most who refused to answer), who did not work (162), or did not know or refused to answer if they worked (23). Total relevant sample in 1998 was 1,586. Total sample in 1999 was 2,242 cases. Missing cases include those who were participating in a lower tier of W-2 (319), with missing wages (93, most who refused to answer), who did not work (151), or did not know or refused to answer if they worked (13). Total relevant sample in 1999 was 1,666.