

Participation of Mothers in Government Assistance Programs: 2004

Issued May 2008

Household Economic Studies

P70-116

HIGHLIGHTS

Some of the findings of this report are as follows:

- The participation of mothers with a recent birth in government assistance programs declined from 42 percent in 1996 to 29 percent in 2001 and subsequently increased to 34 percent in 2004.
- One-half of mothers were working while receiving assistance (52 percent).
- Thirty-nine percent of participant mothers with a recent birth had a job, and 55 percent of participant mothers without a recent birth were working.
- Mothers with a recent birth were more likely than mothers with older children to rely on government assistance (34 and 20 percent, respectively).
- The program with the highest participation rate among women aged 15 to 44, regardless of their fertility status, was Medicaid (14 percent), followed by food stamps (9 percent).
- Seventy-eight percent of mothers participating in two or more programs were receiving both Medicaid and food stamps.
- Mothers who were not living with their spouse and did not receive child support payments were more likely to be program participants (46 percent) than mothers who received child support from the child's father (31 percent).
- After accounting for differences in demographic and socioeconomic

characteristics, the odds of foreign-born mothers receiving assistance were no different than native mothers.

INTRODUCTION

This report focuses on the fertility and socioeconomic characteristics of mothers in 2004 related to participation in six public assistance programs: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF); food stamps; Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); Medicaid; housing assistance; and other assistance (see the "Assistance Programs" description box). It continues the series of reports that began in 1993 and were revised in 1996 and 2001.¹

The data come from Wave 2 of the 2004 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), which was conducted from June through September 2004. This report provides a long-range view of the participation of mothers in these programs since the 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) was enacted.² Some of the goals outlined in PRWORA were reducing unwed births, teen pregnancy, and welfare caseloads, as well as increasing work, marriage, and child support.

¹ Amara Bachu, *Mothers Who Receive AFDC Payments, Mothers Who Receive WIC Payments, and Mothers Who Receive Food Stamps*, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 1995; Jane L. Dye, *Fertility and Program Participation in the United States: 1996*, P70-82, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2002, <www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/p70-82.pdf>; and Terry A. Lugaila, *Participation of Mothers in Government Assistance Programs: 2001*, P70-102, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2005, <www.census.gov/prod/2005pubs/p70-102.pdf>.

² U.S. Congress, Public Law 104-193. H.R. 3734, 1996.

Current Population Reports

By
Jane Lawler Dye

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Helping You Make Informed Decisions

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The following descriptions explain federal and state programs as they existed at the time Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) data were collected in 2004.* Participation in programs is defined to include women who were enrolled or covered in the programs and living in households receiving housing assistance.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

TANF benefits are tied to economic requirements that most adult recipients work as soon as “job ready” or no later than 2 years after assistance begins.** TANF defines work as labor force participation, such as looking for employment or being employed. Work may also be defined as work-related activities, such as community service, schooling, vocational training, general skill development, or other types of training. Eligibility may vary by state, but eligibility for TANF generally depends upon income, assets, and the presence of a dependent child under age 18 (or an older age if the child is enrolled full-time in high school or an equivalency program). The child must be deprived of financial support or care because a parent died, left home, is physically or mentally incapacitated, or is unemployed or underemployed. Applicants must be residents of the state making the payments and a U.S. citizen or an eligible, qualified alien. In fiscal year 2004, 1.2 million adults received TANF, of whom about 91 percent (1.1 million) were women of

* More detailed information on the eligibility requirements for these programs can be found in the U.S. House of Representatives' 2004 Green Book: Background Material and Data on Programs Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means: WMCP 108-6, 2004.

** Administration for Children and Families, ACF News, Fact Sheets, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), October 2006, <www.acf.hhs.gov/opa/fact_sheets/tanf_factsheet.html>.

all ages <www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/tanfindex.htm>.

Food Stamps

The Food Stamp Program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, provides low-income households with access to a “nutritionally adequate low-cost diet.” The value of food stamps received by eligible households is based on the requirement that households contribute about 30 percent of their income to the purchase of food. People who were eligible for TANF were, in general, automatically eligible for food stamps, although not all TANF participants received food stamps. In fiscal year 2004, 10.3 million households participated in the Food Stamp Program <www.fns.usda.gov/pd/34fsmthly.htm>.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

WIC provides nutritional assistance to low-income pregnant and postpartum women, their infants, and their other children under 5 years of age. To be eligible, a recipient's income must fall at or below 185 percent of the U.S. Poverty Income Guidelines (\$28,231 for a family of three between July 2003–June 2004) and the recipient must have been nutritionally at risk. Benefits include checks or vouchers to purchase specific food items, nutrition education and counseling, and breastfeeding support. In fiscal year 2004, 1.9 million women participated in the WIC program <www.fns.usda.gov/pd/37WIC_Monthly.htm>

Medicaid

Medicaid provides access to health care for low-income families, the aged, the disabled, the medically

needy, and the poor. Unlike its predecessor program, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), TANF eligibility does not automatically confer Medicaid eligibility on families. Medicaid covered pregnant women and children under age 6 with family incomes up to 133 percent of the poverty level (\$20,841 for a family of three in 2004). States had the option of covering pregnant women and infants with family incomes up to 185 percent of the poverty level. In 2004, 15.2 million adults were enrolled in Medicaid <<http://aspe.hhs.gov/health/reports/06/trendsmedicaid/report.pdf>>.

Housing Assistance

Housing assistance reduces housing costs and improves housing quality for low-income households. Participants may live in public housing developments or receive subsidies for rent outside of public housing. Eligibility is based on income limits developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and varies from area to area. U.S. citizenship or eligible immigration status is also required.

General Assistance or Other Welfare

General assistance (or general relief) usually covers those not covered by TANF or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). SSI usually assists the elderly and severely disabled and is not covered in this report. Not all states offer general assistance. Benefits to families with children or to pregnant women in their first two trimesters may be administered under general assistance or TANF. “Other welfare” in this report describes any type of state or county welfare programs not accounted for under TANF or general assistance.

The law also restricted public benefits for the foreign born. There is considerable debate about whether or not welfare reform has been a success.³

The SIPP data represent program participation at one point in time. They do not represent annual caseloads or the total number of people who may have participated in these programs at any time during the year, which is typically what is shown in the administrative data compiled by agencies overseeing their programs.⁴

This report focuses on the fertility differences among women in their childbearing years—15 to 44 years old in 2004. This report begins by giving an overview of mothers' participation in government programs over time. The next section shows characteristics of mothers by program participation and fertility status. Two basic groups are shown—women who had at least one child (mothers) and those who never had a child. Within this group of mothers, a further distinction is made by those who had a recent

birth (within 1 year of the interview date) and those who had not had a child within a year of the survey. Lastly, the report shows the results of a multivariate analysis of program participation among mothers.

MOTHERS' PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

In 2004, 11.1 million women 15 to 44 years old, or 18 percent of all women of childbearing age, were participants in or covered by at least 1 of the 6 public assistance programs covered in this report (Table 1).⁵ Sixty-seven percent (7.5 million) of these participants were mothers; 13 percent (1.4 million) had a birth in the last year. Overall, participation rates were highest for mothers with a child born in the last year (34 percent), followed by mothers without a recent birth (20 percent), and lowest for women 15 to 44 years old who were childless (14 percent).⁶

The program with the highest participation rate among women aged 15 to 44, regardless of their fertility status, was Medicaid (14 percent), followed by food stamps (9 percent).⁷ Mothers, with and without a birth in the last year, who were

program participants also participated most frequently in Medicaid and food stamps.

From a longer perspective, Figure 1 shows that in 1996, 42 percent of mothers with a recent birth were participants in one or more programs. This measure declined to 29 percent in 2001 and increased to 34 percent in 2004. A similar pattern of decline between 1996 and 2001 followed by an increase by 2004 is also noted for mothers without recent births.⁸ In 2004, 1 in every 4 mothers with a recent birth received Medicaid for herself and her family, while about 1 in 5 mothers received food stamps. Administrative program data also indicate that these two programs experienced enrollment increases between 2001 and 2004. Medicaid enrollment increased 14 percent between 1999 and 2004.⁹ One-half (29.2 million) of the 58.6 million people enrolled in Medicaid in 2004 were children. Overall, food stamp participation declined from 25.5 million in 1996 to 17.3 million in 2001 and subsequently increased to 23.9 million in 2004.¹⁰

³ For examples of the views about welfare reform see: The Urban Institute <www.urban.org>, The Brookings Institution <www.brookings.edu>, and The American Enterprise Institute <www.aei.org>.

⁴ The population represented (the population universe) is the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in the United States. Differences may be noted between estimates of program participation shown in this report and estimates presented in reports from agencies that administer these programs. In addition to different universe definitions (this analysis includes only women 15 to 44 years old), the SIPP data are based on participation at one point in time rather than total participation in a calendar year. Administrative data may include people multiple times as they enroll, leave, and reenroll in a program over the course of a year. In addition to these differences, reports of program participation from surveys may be affected by different names of programs in different states and by inaccuracies or omissions made by the household respondent for other members of the household in the survey.

⁵ The estimates in this report (which may be shown in text, figures, or tables) are based on responses from a sample of the population and may differ from actual values because of sampling variability or other factors. As a result, apparent differences between estimates for two or more groups may not be statistically significant. All comparative statements in this report have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

⁶ The percentage of program participants who had a birth in the last year (13 percent) is not statistically different from the participation rate of women who were childless (14 percent).

⁷ Participation rates for mothers with a birth in the last year in TANF and in housing assistance programs were not statistically different.

⁸ For a detailed discussion of "welfare leavers," see Richard Bavier, "Welfare Reform Impacts in the SIPP," *Monthly Labor Review*, Vol. 125, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, DC, 2003, pp.23–38; and for a discussion of declines in caseloads due to nonentry, see R. Moffitt, K. Winder, L. Burton, A.F. Benjamin, T.R. Hurt, S.L. Woodruff, and A. Lokak, *A Study of TANF Non-Entrants*, Final Report to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington DC, November 2003.

⁹ *Historical and Projected Trends in Medicaid*, ASPE Staff Paper, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC, October 2006, <<http://aspe.hhs.gov/health/reports/06/trendsinnicaid/report.pdf>> (Figures 1 and 3).

¹⁰ For historical data on food stamps, see the Food and Nutrition Service Web page at <www.fns.usda.gov/pd/fspmmain.htm>.

Table 1.
Fertility and Program Participation Status for Women 15 to 44 Years Old: 2004

Participation	Total women		Women with at least one child ever born						Women with no children ever born	Margin of error ¹
	Number	Margin of error ¹	Total	Margin of error ¹	Mothers who had a child in the last year	Margin of error ¹	Mothers who did not have a child in the last year	Margin of error ¹		
Number (in thousands)										
Total²	61,661	681	34,573	620	4,138	250	30,435	596	27,088	573
Participants ³	11,132	398	7,487	332	1,417	148	6,070	301	3,645	236
TANF	741	108	520	90	135	46	385	78	221	59
Food stamps	5,718	292	4,407	258	776	110	3,631	235	1,311	143
WIC	1,254	140	1,003	125	501	89	502	89	251	63
Medicaid	8,751	357	5,548	288	1,025	126	4,523	261	3,203	221
Housing assistance	1,898	171	1,683	161	184	54	1,499	152	215	58
Other ⁴	314	70	214	58	33	23	181	53	100	40
Nonparticipants ⁵	50,529	674	27,086	573	2,721	204	24,365	551	23,443	543
Percent by Program Participation Status										
Total²	100.0	(X)	100.0	(X)	100.0	(X)	100.0	(X)	100.0	(X)
Participants ³	18.1	1.4	21.7	0.9	34.2	2.9	19.9	0.9	13.5	0.8
TANF	1.2	1.6	1.5	0.3	3.3	1.1	1.3	0.3	0.8	0.2
Food stamps	9.3	1.5	12.7	0.7	18.8	2.4	11.9	0.7	4.8	0.5
WIC	2.0	1.6	2.9	0.4	12.1	2.0	1.6	0.3	0.9	0.2
Medicaid	14.2	1.5	16.0	0.8	24.8	2.7	14.9	0.8	11.8	0.8
Housing assistance	3.1	1.6	4.9	0.5	4.4	1.3	4.9	0.5	0.8	0.2
Other ⁴	0.5	1.6	0.6	0.2	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.1
Nonparticipants ⁵	81.9	0.7	78.3	0.9	65.8	2.9	80.1	0.9	86.5	0.8
Percent Distribution by Fertility Status										
Total	100.0	(X)	56.1	0.8	6.7	0.5	49.4	0.8	43.9	0.8
Participants ³	100.0	(X)	67.3	1.8	12.7	1.5	54.5	1.8	32.7	1.8
TANF	100.0	(X)	70.2	6.7	18.2	6.6	52.0	7.0	29.8	6.7
Food stamps	100.0	(X)	77.1	2.2	13.6	2.1	63.5	2.4	22.9	2.2
WIC	100.0	(X)	80.0	4.5	40.0	6.4	40.0	5.3	20.0	4.5
Medicaid	100.0	(X)	63.4	2.0	11.7	1.6	51.7	2.0	36.6	2.0
Housing assistance	100.0	(X)	88.7	2.9	9.7	3.1	79.0	3.6	11.3	2.9
Other ⁴	100.0	(X)	68.2	10.4	10.5	6.6	57.6	10.6	31.8	10.4
Nonparticipants ⁵	100.0	(X)	53.6	1.0	5.4	0.4	48.2	0.8	46.4	1.0

(X) Not applicable.

¹ This figure added to and subtracted from the estimate provides the 90-percent confidence interval.

² The sum of participants in individual programs may exceed the total because of participation in more than one program.

³ Currently participating in or covered by one or more programs.

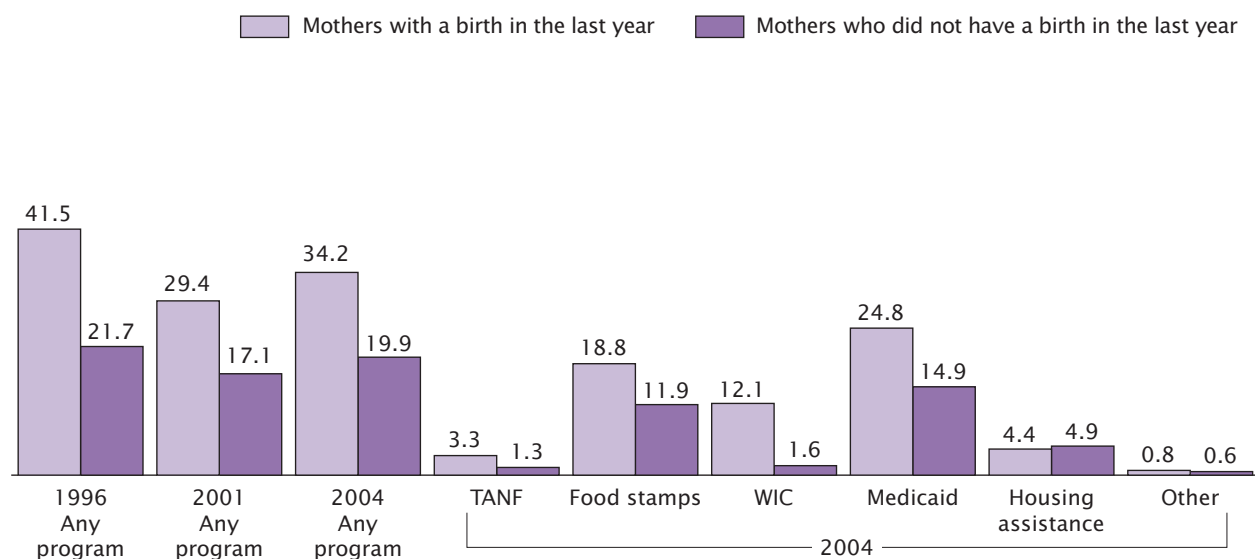
⁴ Includes general assistance and other welfare.

⁵ Not currently participating in any program.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, Wave 2, 2004. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

Figure 1.
Mothers by Participation in Public Assistance Programs by Program and Fertility Status: 1996–2004

(Percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, Wave 2, 2004. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

Compared with other programs, a larger proportion of WIC participants (40 percent) in 2004 were women who had a birth in the last year because WIC is targeted toward women and infants.¹¹ Eighteen percent of TANF participants and 14 percent of food stamp

¹¹ The percentages of mothers receiving WIC with a birth in the last year and without a recent birth were not statistically different. Childless pregnant women may also receive WIC benefits. The SIPP does not collect information on the pregnancy status of respondents, so WIC participants who are pregnant but childless are excluded from this analysis except as shown in Table 1. There may also be other reasons why women without children receive WIC benefits, such as having custody of a child they did not give birth to.

recipients had a birth in the last year (Table 1).¹²

Women who received public assistance often are qualified to participate in more than one program. Figure 2 shows that, among mothers who had a birth in the last year, 34 percent were receiving assistance; 15 percent were participating in only one program; 11 percent were in two programs; 5 percent were in three programs;

¹² The following percentages of program participants with a birth in the last year are not statistically different: TANF and food stamps and other programs; food stamps and Medicaid and other programs; Medicaid and housing and other programs; and housing and other programs.

and 3 percent were in four or more programs. Mothers who did not have a recent birth had lower participation rates—10 percent were in one program; 7 percent were in two programs; 3 percent were in three programs; and 1 percent were in four or more programs. Seventy-eight percent of mothers participating in two or more programs were receiving both food stamps and Medicaid. Compared with 2001, a larger percentage of recent mothers in 2004 were participating in more than one public assistance program (14 percent and 19 percent, respectively).

CHARACTERISTICS OF MOTHERS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE

Age and Marital Status

Age and marital status are characteristics that may reflect different degrees of economic resources and needs. Young people have relatively less labor force experience and lower earnings from their jobs and have higher levels of unemployment.¹³ Unmarried mothers living without a spouse also tend to have fewer family resources and may need to depend on outside assistance.¹⁴

Participation rates in programs tend to be highest for younger mothers. Table 2 shows that in 2004, as in 1996 and 2001, participation rates were generally higher for women 15 to 24 years old among both married and unmarried women and for mothers with or without a recent birth.¹⁵ Figure 3 shows program participation rates by 5-year age groups for mothers with and without a recent birth further delineated by marital status at the time of the survey. Overall, mothers under age 25 were more likely to be receiving government assistance than older mothers, and the majority of those participants were

¹³ Author's tabulations, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006 PUMS DataFerrett and American FactFinder 2006 Employment Status Subject Table (S2301).

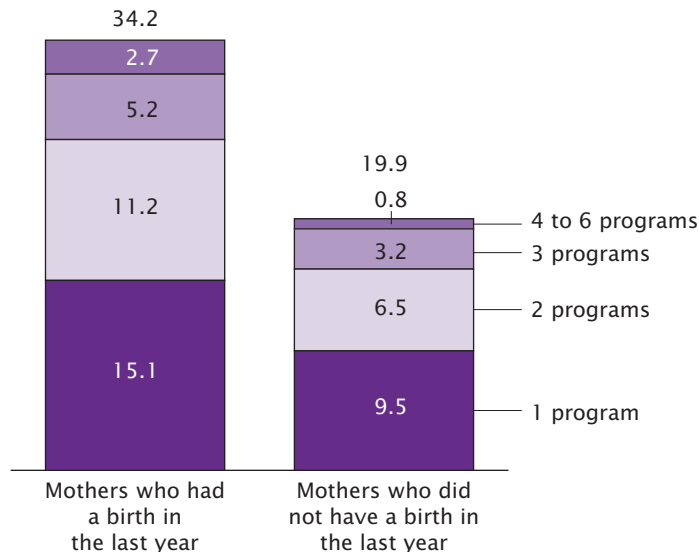
¹⁴ Twenty-nine percent of female-headed families with no spouse present were in poverty, compared with 5 percent of married-couple families. U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, American FactFinder 2006 Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families Subject Table (S1702).

¹⁵ The percentage of mothers aged 15 to 24 with a birth in the last year who were not married was not statistically different from that of mothers aged 25 and over in this group. Further, the participation rates for mothers 15 to 24 years old in 2004, 2001, and 1996 were not statistically different.

Figure 2.

Participation in Public Assistance Programs by Number of Programs: 2004

(Percent of mothers. Mothers are defined as women aged 15 to 44 who have had one or more births)



Note: The public assistance programs included are TANF, food stamps, WIC, Medicaid, housing assistance, and other (which includes general assistance and other welfare).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, Wave 2, 2004. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

unmarried. Calculations based on Table 2 show that, beginning at age 25, mothers with a birth in the last year who were program participants were just as or slightly more likely to be married than unmarried. Among mothers who did not have a recent birth, and who may have older children and/or may be divorced, unmarried women still made up half of all participants.

Unmarried mothers were more likely to receive assistance than married mothers. Among unmarried mothers who had a birth in the last year, 64 percent received government assistance, compared with 22 percent of married mothers

who had a birth last year (Table 2). For unmarried mothers without a recent birth, 41 percent were program participants, compared with 10 percent of married mothers.

Regardless of whether a mother had a birth in the last year, mothers participating in programs were less likely to be living with their spouse than mothers not participating (Table 3 and Figure 4). Among mothers with a recent birth, 42 percent of program participants were living with their spouse, compared with 83 percent of non-participants. For mothers without a recent birth, the percentage living with their spouse was also lower

Table 2.
Program Participation Status of Mothers 15 to 44 Years Old With a Birth in the Last Year by Marital Status and Age: 1996, 2001, and 2004

(Numbers in thousands)

Marital status and age of mother	Total, 2004		Participants ¹								Nonparticipants ²		Participation rate ³	
	Number	Participation rate ³	Total		TANF	Food stamps	WIC	Medicaid	Housing assistance	Other ⁴	Number	Percent	1996 ⁵	2001
			Number	Percent										
Mothers who had a child in the last year.....	4,138	34.2	1,417	100.0	135	776	501	1,025	184	33	2,721	100.0	41.5	29.4
Now Married⁶														
Total	2,919	21.7	634	44.7	16	272	282	360	28	10	2,285	84.0	27.7	18.2
15 to 24 years	518	44.8	232	16.4	10	98	103	138	10	5	286	10.5	55.4	41.7
25 to 34 years	1,742	17.5	304	21.5	6	117	128	180	17	5	1,438	52.8	21.7	12.9
35 to 44 years	659	15.0	99	7.0	—	58	52	43	—	—	560	20.6	15.2	14.8
Unmarried⁷														
Total	1,219	64.2	782	55.2	119	504	219	664	157	23	437	16.1	74.7	57.2
15 to 24 years	694	68.0	472	33.3	79	282	120	410	79	8	221	8.1	80.9	59.8
25 to 34 years	390	59.7	233	16.4	33	171	77	203	49	6	157	5.8	68.0	56.0
35 to 44 years	135	57.0	77	5.4	6	50	22	52	28	9	59	2.2	(B)	(B)
Mothers who did not have a child in the last year	30,435	19.9	6,070	100.0	385	3,631	502	4,523	1,499	181	24,365	100.0	21.7	17.1
Now Married⁶														
Total	20,530	9.7	1,989	32.8	86	987	224	1,415	213	72	18,541	76.1	11.5	8.4
15 to 24 years	982	26.0	255	4.2	13	128	46	202	27	7	727	3.0	34.4	24.3
25 to 34 years	7,046	12.6	886	14.6	24	443	137	605	88	29	6,161	25.3	14.7	10.7
35 to 44 years	12,501	6.8	849	14.0	49	417	41	609	98	36	11,653	47.8	7.5	6.0
Unmarried⁷														
Total	9,905	41.2	4,081	67.2	299	2,644	278	3,108	1,286	110	5,824	23.9	44.2	34.2
15 to 24 years	1,630	57.1	930	15.3	109	606	137	729	219	23	700	2.9	63.5	48.6
25 to 34 years	3,522	45.8	1,613	26.6	85	1,096	122	1,181	559	37	1,908	7.8	50.1	37.9
35 to 44 years	4,753	32.4	1,538	25.3	105	942	19	1,198	508	50	3,215	13.2	33.1	26.4

— Represents or rounds to zero.

(B) Derived measure not shown when base is less than 75,000.

¹ Currently participating in or covered by one or more programs.

² Not currently participating in any program.

³ Percent of mothers currently participating in or covered by one or more programs.

⁴ Includes general assistance and other welfare.

⁵ Data for 1996 in this report may vary from the report *Fertility and Program Participation in the United States: 1996 (P70-82)* due to the inclusion of additional assistance programs for consistency with 2004 data.

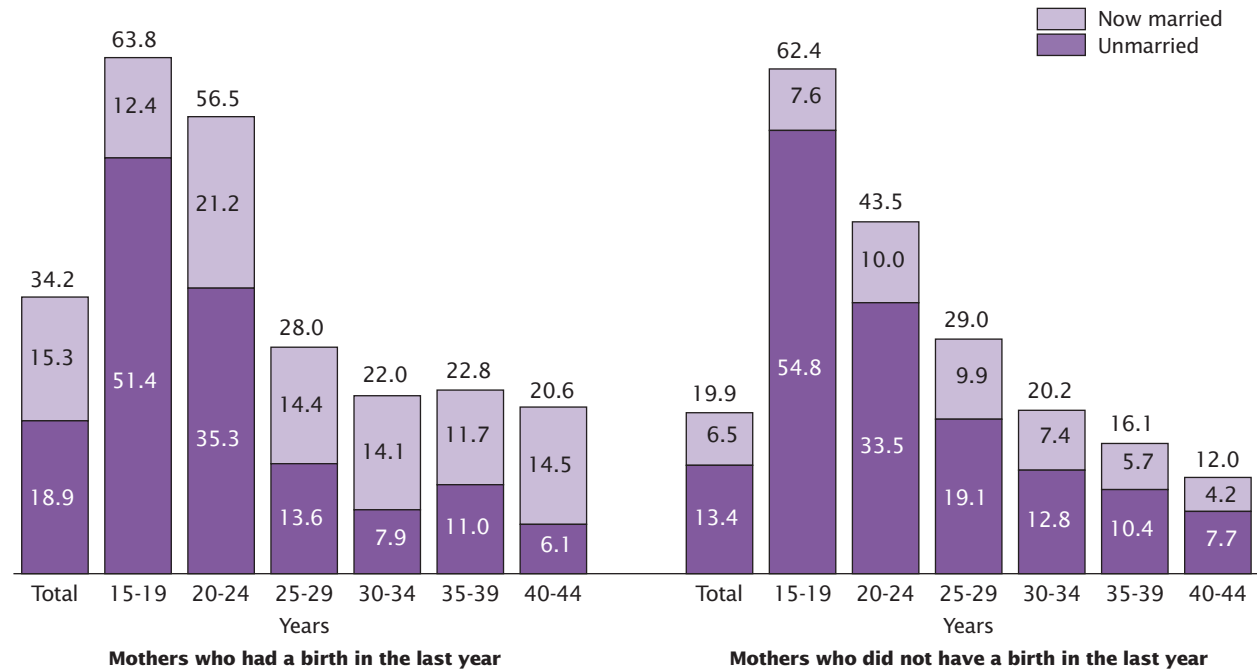
⁶ Includes married, spouse present; married, spouse absent (excluding separated).

⁷ Includes separated, divorced, widowed, and never married.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, Wave 2, 2004. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

Figure 3.
Program Participation Rates by Age and Marital Status: 2004

(Percent participating in programs)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, Wave 2, 2004. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

for participants than nonparticipants—30 percent and 75 percent, respectively. Higher proportions of program participants had never been married—45 percent of mothers with a recent birth and 41 percent of mothers without a birth in the last year—compared with 12 percent and 10 percent, respectively, of nonparticipants.¹⁶

Living Arrangements

Often households include a householder, spouse, and other adults. Other adults may include relatives, such as a child's grandparent, or nonrelatives, such as an unmarried partner of the mother or a roommate. Program participants were more likely than nonparticipants

¹⁶ The percentages of participant mothers with a recent birth and without a recent birth who had never married were not statistically different. The percentages of nonparticipant mothers with and without a recent birth who never married were also not statistically different.

to have another adult who was not a spouse living in the household. The presence of adult relatives may indicate additional support for, or strain on, family resources. For example, some households may include a child's grandparent who helps the parent by providing financial or in-kind support, such as childcare; while in other households, the child's grandparent may require additional care because of old age or disability.¹⁷ Among women with a recent birth who were program participants, 23 percent lived with an adult relative who was not a spouse, compared with 8 percent of nonparticipants (Figure 4). Twenty percent of mothers without a recent birth lived with an adult relative, compared with

¹⁷ Ken Bryson and Lynne M. Casper, *Coresident Grandparents and Grandchildren*, P23-198, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 1999, <www.census.gov/prod/99pubs/p23-198.pdf>.

9 percent of nonparticipants (Table 3).¹⁸

In 2004, a total of 2.4 million mothers lived with an unmarried partner—of these, 357,000 were mothers who had a birth in the last year and 2.1 million were mothers without a birth in the last year (Table 3). Fifteen percent of participant mothers with a recent birth were cohabiting, as were 12 percent of participant mothers without a recent birth.¹⁹ A smaller percentage

¹⁸ The percentage of program participants with a recent birth who were living with a relative who was not a spouse was not statistically different from the percentage of the corresponding group of nonparticipants. The same is true for mothers in this living arrangement without a recent birth.

¹⁹ The percentage of program participants with a birth in the last year who were cohabiting is not statistically different from the percentage without a recent birth that were cohabiting. The percentage of nonparticipants with a birth in the last year who were cohabiting is also not statistically different from the percentage without a recent birth that were cohabiting.

Table 3.
Mothers 15 to 44 Years Old by Program Participation Status, Age, and Family Characteristics: 2004

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Mothers who had a child in the last year						Mothers who did not have a child in the last year					
	Total		Participants ¹		Nonparticipants ²		Total		Participants ¹		Nonparticipants ²	
	Number	Participation ³	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Participation ³	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	4,138	34.2	1,417	100.0	2,721	100.0	30,435	19.9	6,070	100.0	24,365	100.0
Age												
15 to 19 years	282	63.8	180	12.7	102	3.7	250	62.4	156	2.6	94	0.4
20 to 24 years	929	56.4	524	37.0	405	14.9	2,362	43.6	1,029	17.0	1,333	5.5
25 to 29 years	1,124	28.0	315	22.2	809	29.7	4,184	29.0	1,212	20.0	2,973	12.2
30 to 34 years	1,009	22.0	222	15.7	787	28.9	6,384	20.2	1,287	21.2	5,097	20.9
35 to 39 years	580	22.6	131	9.2	449	16.5	7,801	16.1	1,255	20.7	6,545	26.9
40 to 44 years	214	20.6	44	3.1	170	6.2	9,454	12.0	1,131	18.6	8,323	34.2
Marital Status												
Now married	2,919	21.7	634	44.7	2,285	84.0	20,530	9.7	1,989	32.8	18,541	76.1
Married, husband present	2,853	21.1	601	42.4	2,253	82.8	20,088	9.0	1,802	29.7	18,285	75.0
Married, husband absent ⁴	66	(B)	34	2.4	32	1.2	442	42.3	187	3.1	255	1.0
Separated	86	54.7	47	3.3	39	1.4	1,260	44.5	561	9.2	699	2.9
Divorced	165	55.8	92	6.5	73	2.7	3,479	27.2	947	15.6	2,532	10.4
Widowed	20	(B)	11	0.8	9	0.3	235	25.5	60	1.0	175	0.7
Never married	948	66.8	633	44.7	315	11.6	4,931	50.9	2,512	41.4	2,419	9.9
Living Arrangements												
No other person 18 years and older present	376	77.4	291	20.5	85	3.1	4,859	46.7	2,270	37.4	2,589	10.6
Other adult present ⁵	3,762	29.9	1,126	79.5	2,636	96.9	25,576	14.9	3,800	62.6	21,776	89.4
Living with spouse	2,853	21.1	601	42.4	2,253	82.8	20,088	9.0	1,802	29.7	18,285	75.0
Living with other adult relative(s) ⁶	540	59.6	322	22.7	218	8.0	3,356	36.7	1,231	20.3	2,126	8.7
Living with an unmarried partner	357	57.4	205	14.5	152	5.6	2,072	35.6	738	12.2	1,333	5.5
Living with other adult nonrelative(s) ⁷	156	46.2	72	5.1	84	3.1	686	31.2	214	3.5	472	1.9

(B) Derived measure not shown when base is less than 75,000.

¹ Currently participating in or covered by one or more programs.

² Not currently participating in any program.

³ Percent of mothers currently participating in or covered by one or more programs.

⁴ Includes women whose spouse is absent other than due to marital separation.

⁵ Categories under "Other adult present" are not mutually exclusive.

⁶ Excludes spouse.

⁷ Excludes unmarried partner.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, Wave 2, 2004. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

of mothers not receiving government assistance were living with a cohabiting partner (about 6 percent).

Teen Mothers

Teenage childbearing has been identified as a factor that potentially leads to long-term economic hardship and welfare dependence. In addition, early childbearing can lead to higher levels of lifetime fertility, which may increase the likelihood of receiving public assistance.²⁰ In 2004, there were an estimated 532,000 teen mothers, 63 percent of whom were enrolled in public assistance, which was not statistically different than the 73 percent who were participating in 1996.²¹ Teen mothers in 2004 made up 13 percent of participants with a birth in the last year, compared with 3 percent of participants without a recent birth.

Race, Hispanic Origin, and Nativity

Program participation rates among mothers in 2004 differed by race, Hispanic origin, and nativity (Table 4).²² Among Black mothers

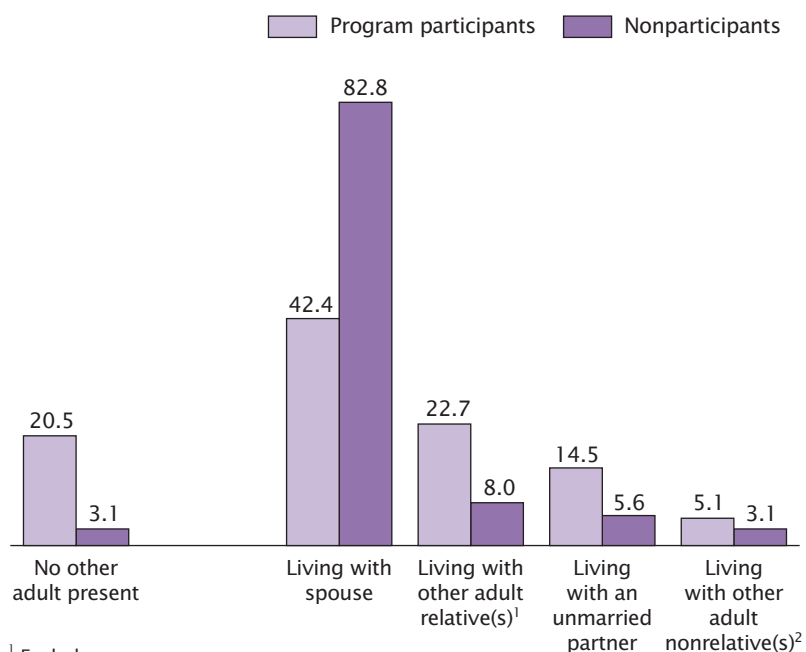
²⁰ R. A. Maynard (ed.), *Kids Having Kids: Economic Costs and Social Consequences of Teen Pregnancy*, Washington, DC: The Urban Institute, 1997.

²¹ Jane L. Dye, *Fertility and Program Participation in the United States: 1996*, P70-82, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2002, <www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/p70-82.pdf>.

²² Hispanics may be any race. Based on the population of mothers aged 15 to 44 in Wave 2 of the 2004 SIPP Panel, 22.1 percent of the White population and 3.9 percent of the Black population were also Hispanic. Data for the American Indian and Alaska Native population are not shown in this report because of the small sample size in the SIPP. In 2001, Asian and Pacific Islanders were counted as one racial category. Beginning in 2004, the SIPP uses the same racial categories used in the Current Population Survey, the American Community Survey, and Census 2000.

Figure 4.
Living Arrangements of Mothers Who Had a Birth in the Last Year by Program Participation Status: 2004

(Percent in living arrangement)



¹ Excludes spouses.

² Excludes unmarried partners.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, Wave 2, 2004.

For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see

<www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

with infants—mothers with a birth in the last year—62 percent were program participants, compared with 49 percent of Asian mothers, 48 percent of Hispanic mothers, and 24 percent of non-Hispanic White mothers.²³ For all race groups and Hispanics, participation rates were lower for mothers without a recent birth—38 percent of Black mothers, 28 percent of Asian mothers, 27 percent of Hispanic mothers, and 14 percent of non-Hispanic White mothers.

²³ The participation rates for Asian mothers and Hispanic mothers were not statistically different from each other. The participation rates for Black mothers and Asian mothers with a birth in the last year were also not statistically different.

Overall, 24 percent of foreign-born mothers (929,000) participated in some type of government assistance program, compared with 21 percent of native mothers. For mothers with a birth in the last year, 38 percent of foreign-born mothers received assistance, compared with 34 percent of native mothers. For mothers without a recent birth, 22 percent of foreign-born mothers received assistance, compared with 20 percent of native mothers. The percentages of foreign-born and native mothers with a recent birth receiving assistance were not statistically different; the same was true of their counterparts without a recent birth.

Table 4.
Mothers 15 to 44 Years Old by Program Participation Status and Selected Characteristics: 2004

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Mothers who had a child in the last year						Mothers who did not have a child in the last year					
	Total		Participants ¹		Nonparticipants ²		Total		Participants ¹		Nonparticipants ²	
	Number	Participation rate ³	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Participation rate ³	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	4,138	34.2	1,417	100.0	2,721	100.0	30,435	19.9	6,070	100.0	24,365	100.0
Race and Hispanic Origin												
White	3,275	29.9	978	69.0	2,298	84.5	23,367	16.3	3,800	62.6	19,568	80.3
Non-Hispanic	2,388	23.9	570	40.2	1,818	66.8	18,355	13.5	2,486	41.0	15,869	65.1
Black	527	62.4	329	23.2	198	7.3	4,739	38.2	1,810	29.8	2,928	12.0
Asian	170	49.4	84	5.9	86	3.2	1,123	28.2	317	5.2	806	3.3
Hispanic (any race)	956	47.6	455	32.1	502	18.4	5,409	27.0	1,460	24.1	3,949	16.2
Nativity Status												
Native ⁴	3,557	33.7	1,198	84.5	2,359	86.7	27,138	19.8	5,360	88.3	21,777	89.4
Foreign born	581	37.7	219	15.5	362	13.3	3,297	21.5	710	11.7	2,587	10.6
Labor Force Status												
Had a job during last 4 months ..	2,303	23.7	545	38.5	1,758	64.6	22,094	15.1	3,338	55.0	18,757	77.0
No job last 4 months ⁵	1,835	47.5	872	61.5	963	35.4	8,341	32.8	2,733	45.0	5,608	23.0
Unable to find work	57	(B)	49	3.5	7	0.3	451	57.6	260	4.3	191	0.8
Not able to work due to disability	35	(B)	28	2.0	7	0.3	851	76.3	649	10.7	202	0.8
Educational Attainment												
Not a high school graduate	791	58.3	461	32.5	331	12.2	3,783	42.3	1,601	26.4	2,183	9.0
High school graduate	1,066	47.5	506	35.7	560	20.6	8,339	23.6	1,968	32.4	6,371	26.1
College, 1 or more years	2,281	19.7	450	31.8	1,831	67.3	18,312	13.7	2,501	41.2	15,811	64.9
Monthly Family Income⁶												
Less than \$500	250	72.4	181	14.6	69	2.6	1,253	62.3	781	14.0	472	2.0
\$500 to \$1,499	612	67.0	410	33.2	202	7.6	3,650	57.2	2,087	37.5	1,563	6.6
\$1,500 and over	3,016	21.4	645	52.2	2,370	89.7	24,520	11.0	2,695	48.4	21,825	91.5
\$1,500 to \$2,499	601	47.3	284	23.0	317	12.0	4,265	31.2	1,331	23.9	2,934	12.3
\$2,500 to \$3,999	724	30.2	219	17.7	505	19.1	5,569	13.6	758	13.6	4,811	20.2
\$4,000 and over	1,691	8.4	142	11.5	1,548	58.6	14,686	4.1	605	10.9	14,081	59.0
Poverty Level⁶												
Below poverty level	818	70.0	573	46.4	245	9.3	4,311	61.3	2,642	47.5	1,670	7.0
100 to 199 percent of poverty level	979	43.6	427	34.5	552	20.9	6,465	30.0	1,940	34.9	4,525	19.0
200 percent of poverty level or higher	2,080	11.3	236	19.1	1,844	69.8	18,647	5.3	981	17.6	17,665	74.0
Child Support⁷												
Received payments	348	51.7	180	23.6	168	33.9	4,751	29.8	1,414	34.1	3,337	48.5
Did not receive payments	910	64.1	583	76.4	327	66.1	6,280	43.6	2,736	65.9	3,544	51.5
Type of Residence												
Metropolitan	3,760	33.9	1,274	89.9	2,486	91.4	27,186	19.1	5,198	85.6	21,988	90.2
In central city	1,862	35.9	668	47.1	1,194	43.9	15,387	23.1	3,557	58.6	11,830	48.6
Not in central city	1,898	31.9	606	42.8	1,292	47.5	11,799	13.9	1,641	27.0	10,158	41.7
Nonmetropolitan	378	37.8	143	10.1	235	8.6	3,249	26.8	872	14.4	2,377	9.8

(B) Derived measure not shown when base is less than 75,000.

¹ Currently participating in or covered by one or more programs.

² Not currently participating in any program.

³ Percent of mothers participating in or covered by one or more programs.

⁴ Includes people born in U.S. outlying areas and abroad to parents who were U.S. citizens.

⁵ Includes people not in the labor force.

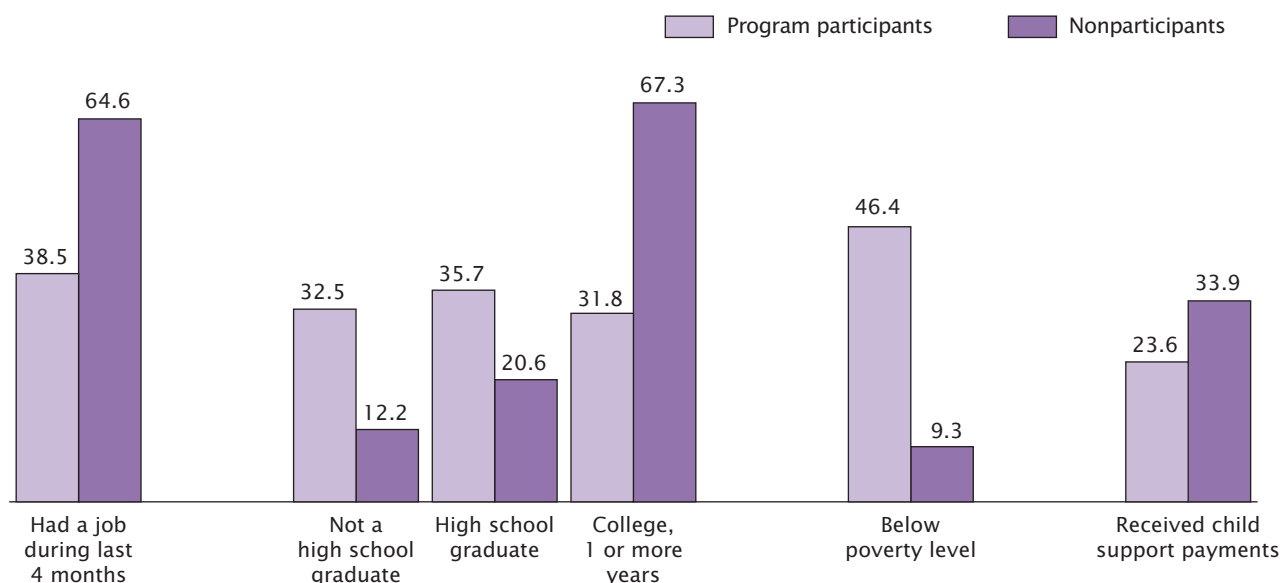
⁶ Percent distribution based only on families reporting income in the past 4 months. Average income for 4 months prior to the interview date.

⁷ Data shown only for mothers whose children are under 21 years old and whose marital status is other than married, spouse present unless the spouse is a stepparent. Percent distribution based on this specified universe of mothers.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, Wave 2, 2004. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

Figure 5.
Selected Employment, Educational, and Economic Characteristics of Mothers Who Had a Birth in the Last Year by Program Participation Status: 2004

(Percent with selected characteristics)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, Wave 2, 2004. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMIC STATUS

Families usually obtain their economic support from various sources, including earnings of family members, child support, public assistance, and other sources such as help from friends and relatives.²⁴ In general, mothers receiving government assistance had lower family incomes, lower levels of labor force participation, and less education than nonparticipant mothers (Table 4). The younger age of program participants may account for some of the socioeconomic differences by program status, as younger mothers have had less time to build an attachment to the labor force and are

more able to leave welfare when their work experience, wages, or hours increase.²⁵ Among mothers with infants, 50 percent of program participants were under age 25, compared with 19 percent of nonparticipants (Table 3).

Labor Force Participation

In 2004, 7 out of every 10 mothers had a job during the 4 months preceding the survey. Fifty-six percent of mothers with a recent birth were working, compared with 73 percent of mothers without a birth in the last year.²⁶ Mothers who had not worked in the past 4 months were more likely to be receiving government assistance. Forty-eight percent of mothers with a recent birth and no job were participating in some government assistance

program, twice the participation rate of recent mothers who had a job (24 percent). Mothers without a recent birth who were not working had participation rates that were more than twice as high (33 percent) as those of mothers who had a job (15 percent).

Many mothers who were receiving public assistance also had jobs. Of the 7.5 million mothers receiving some type of government assistance, 3.9 million had a job during the 4 months prior to the survey. Thirty-nine percent of mothers with a birth in the last year who were program participants had jobs, as did 55 percent of mothers without a recent birth who were program participants. An estimated 309,000 mothers participating in assistance programs were not able to find work, while 677,000 were unable to work because of a disability.

²⁴ Richard Bavier, "Welfare Reform Impacts in the SIPP," *Monthly Labor Review*, Vol. 125, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, DC, 2003, pp.23–38.

²⁵ Kathleen Mullen Harris, "Work and Welfare Among Single Mothers in Poverty," *The American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 99, No. 2, 1993, pp. 317–352.

²⁶ Percents derived from Table 4.

Educational Attainment

Figure 5 shows that in 2004, 33 percent of participant mothers with a birth in the last year had not completed high school, compared with 12 percent of nonparticipant mothers. About one-third (32 percent) of participating mothers with infants had completed one or more years of college in 2004.²⁷ The proportion of nonparticipant mothers with a recent birth who completed some college was twice as high (67 percent).

Income and Poverty

Since qualifying for assistance is income-based, the participation rates were highest for the mothers with the lowest family incomes, categorized as less than \$500 per month. As shown in Table 4, 72 percent of mothers with a birth in the last year and 62 percent of other mothers participated in one or more programs.²⁸

Mothers in poverty were much more likely to receive assistance than mothers not in poverty. Among mothers with a birth in the last year, 70 percent of those in poverty received assistance, compared with 11 percent of mothers with a family income of 200 percent of the poverty level or higher.²⁹ For mothers without a recent birth, 61 percent of those in poverty received assistance, compared with 5 percent of mothers

²⁷ The percentage of participant mothers with a recent birth who had less than a high school education was not statistically different from that of their counterparts who had completed high school or one or more years of college. Similarly, the percentage who completed high school was not statistically different from the percentage of those who completed one or more years of college.

²⁸ Participation rates among mothers with incomes less than \$500 monthly are not statistically different from the rates for mothers with incomes of \$500 to \$1,499 monthly.

²⁹ The poverty universe consists only of those respondents for whom poverty status was determined (i.e., who reported income or had family income reported in the past 4 months).

with a family income of 200 percent of the poverty level or higher.

Mothers with infants who were living in poverty in 2004 were less likely to receive aid than their counterparts in 1996 (70 percent and 84 percent, respectively), while mothers with infants at or above 200 percent of poverty were about equally likely to receive aid in 2004 and 1996 (11 percent and 13 percent, respectively).

Child Support

Economic support from nonresident fathers is another potential source of income for mothers and children and may reduce the need for outside or public assistance. Child support enforcement programs linked with government assistance enrollment procedures may affect the likelihood that participant mothers receive support from their children's biological fathers. In 2004, participation rates were lower for mothers with older children—mothers without a birth in the last year—if they received child support (30 percent) than if they did not receive child support (44 percent). About half (52 percent) of mothers with a recent birth who received child support also received public assistance, compared with 64 percent of their counterparts who did not receive child support payments.³⁰ Figure 5 shows that 24 percent of participant mothers with a birth last year were receiving child support payments from the baby's biological father.³¹

³⁰ The participation rates of mothers with a birth in the last year who were receiving child support and those not receiving child support were not statistically different.

³¹ Child support data are shown only for mothers whose children are under 21 years old and whose marital status is not married, spouse present unless the spouse who is present is a stepparent. The percentage of participating mothers with a birth in the last year who received child support was not statistically different from that of nonparticipant mothers with a birth in the last year.

Metropolitan Residence

Regardless of recent childbearing or participation status, about 9 out of 10 mothers lived in metropolitan areas. The participation rates of mothers without a birth in the last year were higher in nonmetropolitan areas (27 percent) than in the suburbs of metropolitan areas (14 percent). For mothers with a birth in the last year, the difference was not statistically significant.

MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS

Because the characteristics of mothers that may influence public assistance receipt are closely related to each other—for example, younger mothers also tend to be less educated—a multivariate analysis was performed to ascertain the independent effects of each characteristic on the odds of receiving public assistance, statistically controlling for each of the other factors. In this model, several factors will be accounted for: whether or not the mother had a birth in the last year, age and living arrangements, race, Hispanic origin, nativity, employment status, work-related disability status, educational attainment, and child support receipt.³² Table 5 shows the percentage of mothers receiving one or more types of government assistance by these characteristics, along with the “Odds Ratio” showing the likelihood a mother with that characteristic would receive government assistance relative to the reference category.³³

The findings indicate that many demographic characteristics and living arrangements are associated with receipt of government

³² Poverty status was excluded from the multivariate model since it is a requirement for eligibility in government assistance programs.

³³ Ratios under 1.0 or over 1.0 indicate that a mother is less likely or more likely to receive assistance, respectively, than the reference category, which is indicated by an R.

assistance. Controlling for all of these other factors, the odds of mothers who had a birth in the last year receiving government assistance were twice that of mothers who did not have a birth in the last year. Holding all else constant, the odds of receiving government assistance for young mothers were much higher than for older mothers. For mothers under age 24, the odds of receiving assistance were more than four times that of women 40 to 44 years old. About 50 percent of mothers receiving assistance lived with no other adult in the household. Compared with those living with their spouse, the odds that mothers living alone with children would receive government assistance were five times as high. The odds that mothers with an unmarried partner would receive aid were two times that of those with a spouse. The odds of receiving assistance for Black mothers were two times that of non-Hispanic White mothers. Similarly, for Asian and Hispanic mothers, the odds of receiving assistance were also higher than for non-Hispanic mothers. Only the nativity status variable failed to produce any statistically significant differences in receipt of government assistance. The odds that foreign-born mothers would receive assistance were no higher than those of native mothers.

Socioeconomic characteristics also played a role in the likelihood that mothers would participate in assistance programs. Controlling for other factors, the odds that mothers who were unable to find work would receive assistance were five times those of working mothers. For mothers with a work-related disability, the odds of receiving aid were 24 times those of mothers with a job.

Even after controlling for age, the odds that mothers with less than

Table 5.

Odds of Mothers Receiving Government Assistance: 2004

Characteristic	Among mothers 15 to 44 years old	
	Percent ¹	Odds ratio
Total	21.7	
Current Fertility Status		
Birth last year	34.2	1.8 ***
No birth last year	19.9	(R)
Age		
Under 20 years	63.0	4.3 ***
21 to 24 years	47.2	4.4 ***
25 to 29 years	28.8	2.6 ***
30 to 34 years	20.4	2.0 ***
35 to 39 years	16.5	1.6 ***
40 to 44 years	12.2	(R)
Living Arrangements		
No other person 18 years and older present	49.2	4.6 ***
Living with spouse and no other adult	9.9	(R)
Living with an unmarried partner and no other adult ...	38.5	2.0 ***
Other living arrangement	27.4	1.8 ***
Race and Hispanic Origin		
White	17.9	
Non-Hispanic	14.7	
Black	40.6	
Asian	31.0	
Hispanic (any race)	30.1	
Race and Hispanic Origin		
White non-Hispanic		(R)
Black non-Hispanic		2.2 ***
Asian non-Hispanic		1.9 **
Hispanic		1.6 ***
Nativity Status		
Native ²	21.4	1.3
Foreign	23.9	(R)
Employment Status		
Had a job during last 4 months	15.9	(R)
No job in last 4 months ³	35.4	
Unable to find work	60.8	5.3 ***
Has a work-related disability	76.4	23.5 ***
Other reason for not working	29.8	2.7 ***
Educational Attainment		
Not a high school graduate	45.1	2.8 ***
High school graduate	26.3	1.6 ***
College, 1 or more years	14.3	(R)
Child Support⁴		
Received payments	31.3	2.3 ***
Did not receive payments	46.2	3.2 ***
Not in universe	11.6	(R)
Unweighted N	(NA)	12,720
Chi-square	(NA)	3,844
Degrees of freedom	(NA)	21

*** Significant at .001 level. ** Significant at .01 level.

(R) Reference group.
(NA) Not available.

¹ Percent of mothers participating in or covered by one or more programs.

² Includes people born in U.S. outlying areas and abroad to parents who were U.S. citizens.

³ Includes people not in the labor force.

⁴ Data shown only for mothers whose children are under 21 years old and whose marital status is not married, spouse present unless the spouse present is a stepparent. Percent distribution based on this specified universe of mothers.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, Wave 2, 2004. For information on sampling and nonsampling error, see <www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.

a high school education would receive government assistance were three times those of mothers with some college, while the odds for mothers with a high school diploma were two times those of mothers with some college. Compared with married mothers, the odds that unmarried mothers or mothers not living with the biological father of their child not receiving child support would be program participants were three times as high, while that of corresponding mothers receiving child support were two times as high.

SUMMARY

This report examined participation in selected public assistance programs for mothers with and without a birth in the last year. It also looked at differences in characteristics between mothers who were participants and nonparticipants. Of the 34.6 million mothers 15 to 44 years old in 2004, 7.5 million (22 percent) were participating in one or more of the programs included in the analysis (TANF, food stamps, WIC, Medicaid, housing assistance, or other assistance). Mothers with a recent birth were more likely than other mothers to receive government assistance (34 percent and 20 percent, respectively). After controlling for other characteristics, the odds that mothers with infants would participate in government assistance programs were found to be twice the odds of mothers with older children.

In general, mothers' participation in government assistance programs declined since 1996, although an increase was noted between 2001 and 2004. Teen mothers in 2004 were as likely to rely on public assistance as their counterparts in 1996. The participation rate for teen mothers remained stable between 2001 and 2004. One-half

of mothers receiving assistance had a job during the previous 4 months.

Characteristics of mothers that contributed to an increased likelihood of receiving public assistance include having a recent birth; being young; living with no other adult or with an unmarried partner; being Black, Asian, or Hispanic; not working in the past month due to inability to find work, not working because of a work related disability, or otherwise not working; never having gone to college; and not receiving child support if unmarried.

SOURCE OF THE DATA

The population represented (the population universe) in the 2004 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in the United States. The SIPP is a longitudinal survey conducted at 4-month intervals. The data in this report were collected from June through September 2004 in the second wave (interview) of the 2004 SIPP. The data highlighted in this report come primarily from the core and the fertility history topical modules. Although the main focus of the SIPP is information on labor force participation, jobs, income, and participation in federal assistance programs, information on other topics is also collected in topical modules on a rotating basis. For the 2004 SIPP Panel, approximately 62,700 housing units were in sample for Wave 1. Of the 51,400 eligible units, 43,700 were interviewed.

The institutionalized population, which is excluded from the population universe, is composed primarily of the population in correctional institutions and nursing homes (91 percent of the 4.1 million institutionalized people in Census 2000). The population includes people

living in group quarters, such as dormitories, rooming houses, and religious group dwellings.

ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted. This means the 90-percent confidence interval for the difference between the estimates being compared does not include zero. Nonsampling errors in surveys may be attributed to a variety of sources, such as how the survey is designed, how respondents interpret questions, how able and willing respondents are to provide correct answers, and how accurately the answers are coded and classified. To minimize these errors, the U.S. Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the production process, including the overall design of surveys, the wording of questions, the review of the work of interviewers and coders, and the statistical review of reports.

The SIPP weighting procedure uses ratio estimation, whereby sample estimates are adjusted to independent estimates of the national population by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to undercoverage, but biases may still be present when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

For further information on statistical standards and the computation and use of standard errors, consult <www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/2004SandA.pdf> or contact Heather L. Haas of the Census Bureau's Demographic Statistical Methods Division at <Heather.L.Haas@census.gov>. Additional information on the SIPP can be found at the following Web sites: <www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/> (main SIPP Web site), <www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/workpapr/wp230.pdf> (SIPP Quality Profile), and <www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/usrguide/sipp2001.pdf> (SIPP Users' Guide).

MORE INFORMATION

The report as well as five additional detailed tables are available on the Internet <www.census.gov>; search for this report by clicking on the word "People" on the Web page and selecting "Fertility."

CONTACTS

For additional information on fertility and program participation, contact the author of this report in the Fertility and Family Statistics Branch at 301-763-2416 or by e-mail at <Jane.L.Dye@census.gov>.

USER COMMENTS

The Census Bureau welcomes the comments and advice of data and report users. If you have any suggestions or comments, please write to:

Chief, Housing and Household
Economic Statistics Division
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233

or send e-mail to
<hhes@census.gov>.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Carrie R. Simon assisted with the creation of this report.

SUGGESTED CITATION

Dye, Jane Lawler, 2008. *Participation of Mothers in Government Assistance Programs: 2004*. Current Population Reports, P70-116. U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
U.S. Census Bureau
Permit No. G-58

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
Washington, DC 20233
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use \$300