

# Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): 2022

## Survey of Income and Program Participation Snapshots

By Adrienne R. Brown  
P70FS-208  
January 2025

### 2.4 million people received TANF benefits.

Approximately 55 percent of TANF recipients were children aged 5 to 17, and 16 percent of TANF recipients were children aged 0 to 4. Among TANF recipient households, 84 percent had at least one child under the age of 18, and 25 percent had three or more children under the age of 18.

### 88% of TANF recipients had health insurance through Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Other benefits received by TANF recipients include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (70 percent), free or reduced-price school meals (48 percent), housing assistance (30 percent), the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (14 percent), and Social Security (7 percent).

### 64% of TANF recipient households had household income below 200 percent of their poverty threshold.

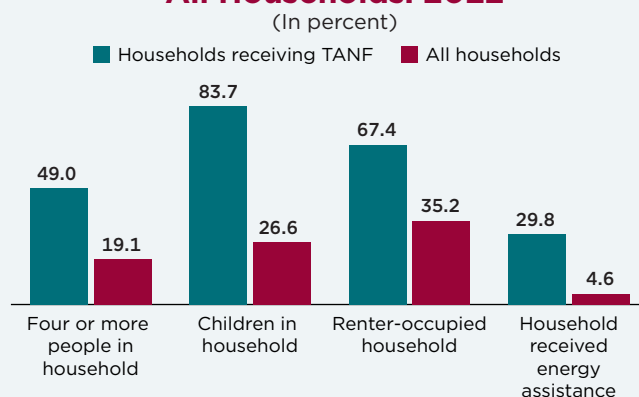
Among TANF recipient households, 34 percent had income below their poverty threshold, and 16 percent had income below 50 percent of their poverty threshold. About 95 percent of TANF recipient households received assistance from three or more programs.

## What is TANF?

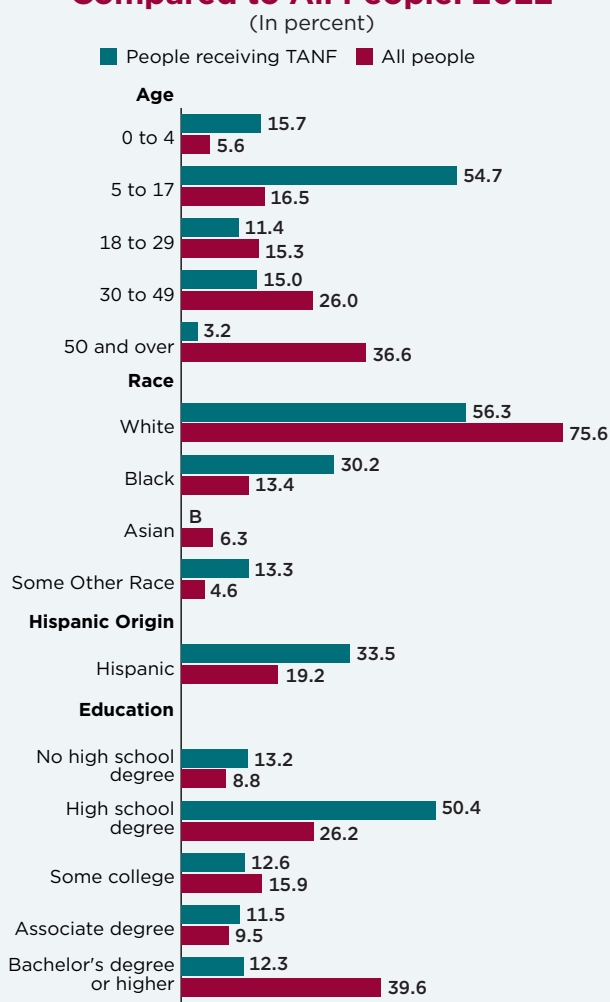
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a program designed to help low-income families with children, or pregnant individuals, by providing monthly cash benefits to recipients as well as funding for a wide range of services. TANF is funded through federal grants to states, and states determine specific eligibility rules such as income and asset limits, requirements regarding work and child support, benefit amounts, and time limits. Income eligibility thresholds vary significantly across states. Some states require income to be below the federal poverty line, others require income to be below a different, predetermined threshold, and others do not set an explicit income threshold for eligibility.

**More information** on TANF and other social safety net programs is available in [fact sheets](#), [detailed program participation tables](#), [interactive data visualizations](#), and [reports](#).

## Select Characteristics of Households Receiving TANF Compared to All Households: 2022



## Characteristics of TANF Recipients Compared to All People: 2022



B Base too small to meet statistical standards for reliability of derived figure.

Note: Numbers may not sum to the total due to rounding.  
Education results restricted to adults aged 25 and over.