

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): 2024

Survey of Income and Program Participation Snapshots

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1.8 million people received TANF benefits.

Approximately 50 percent of TANF recipients were children ages 5 to 17, and 22 percent of TANF recipients were children ages 0 to 4. Among TANF recipient households, 84 percent had at least one child under the age of 18, and 18 percent had three or more children under the age of 18.

87% 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 (SNAP; 70 percent), free or reduced-price school meals (44 percent), and Social Security (16 percent).

57% of TANF recipient households had household income below 200 percent of their poverty threshold.

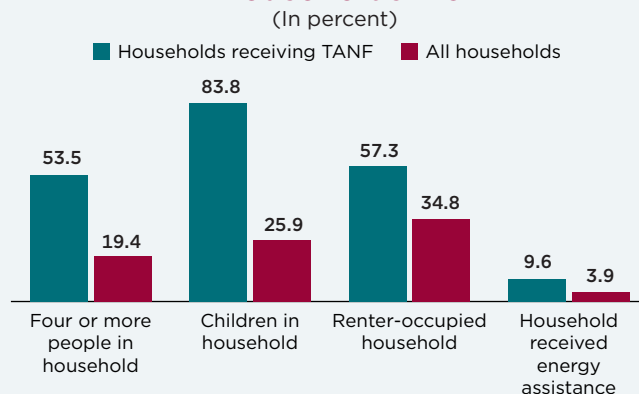
Among TANF recipient households, 28 percent had income below their poverty threshold. About 77 percent of TANF recipient households received assistance from three or more programs.

What Is TANF?

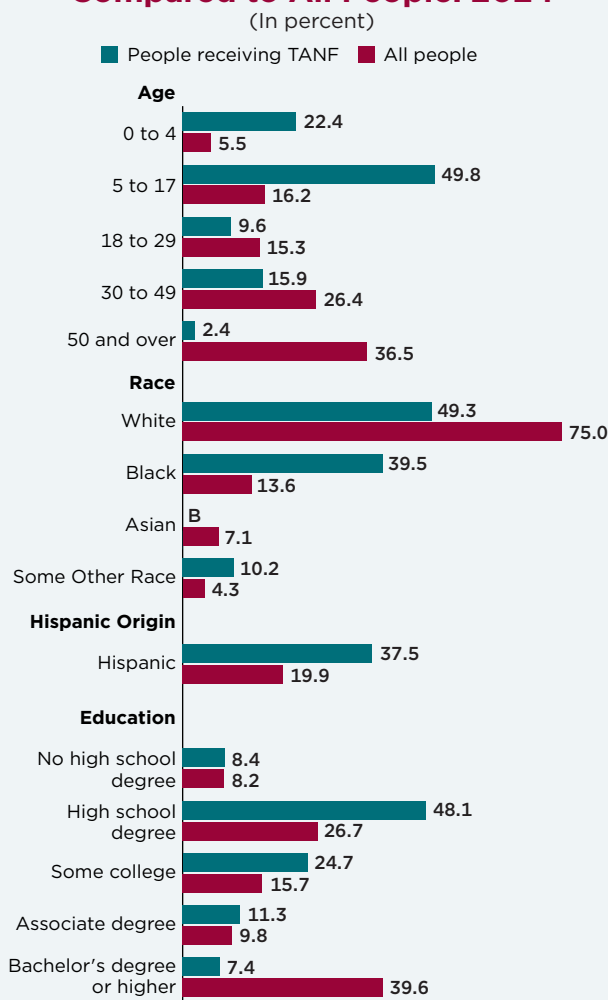
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a program designed to help low-income families with children, or pregnant individuals, by providing monthly cash benefits to recipients as well as funding for a wide range of services. TANF is funded through federal grants to states, and states determine 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 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](#), [data visualizations](#), and [reports](#).

Select Characteristics of Households Receiving TANF Compared to All Households: 2024



Characteristics of TANF Recipients Compared to All People: 2024



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 age 25 and over.