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1979 WELFARE CASELOAD DYNAMICS SURVEY

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS  
COLLECTION  
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Donna Shandler Balboni

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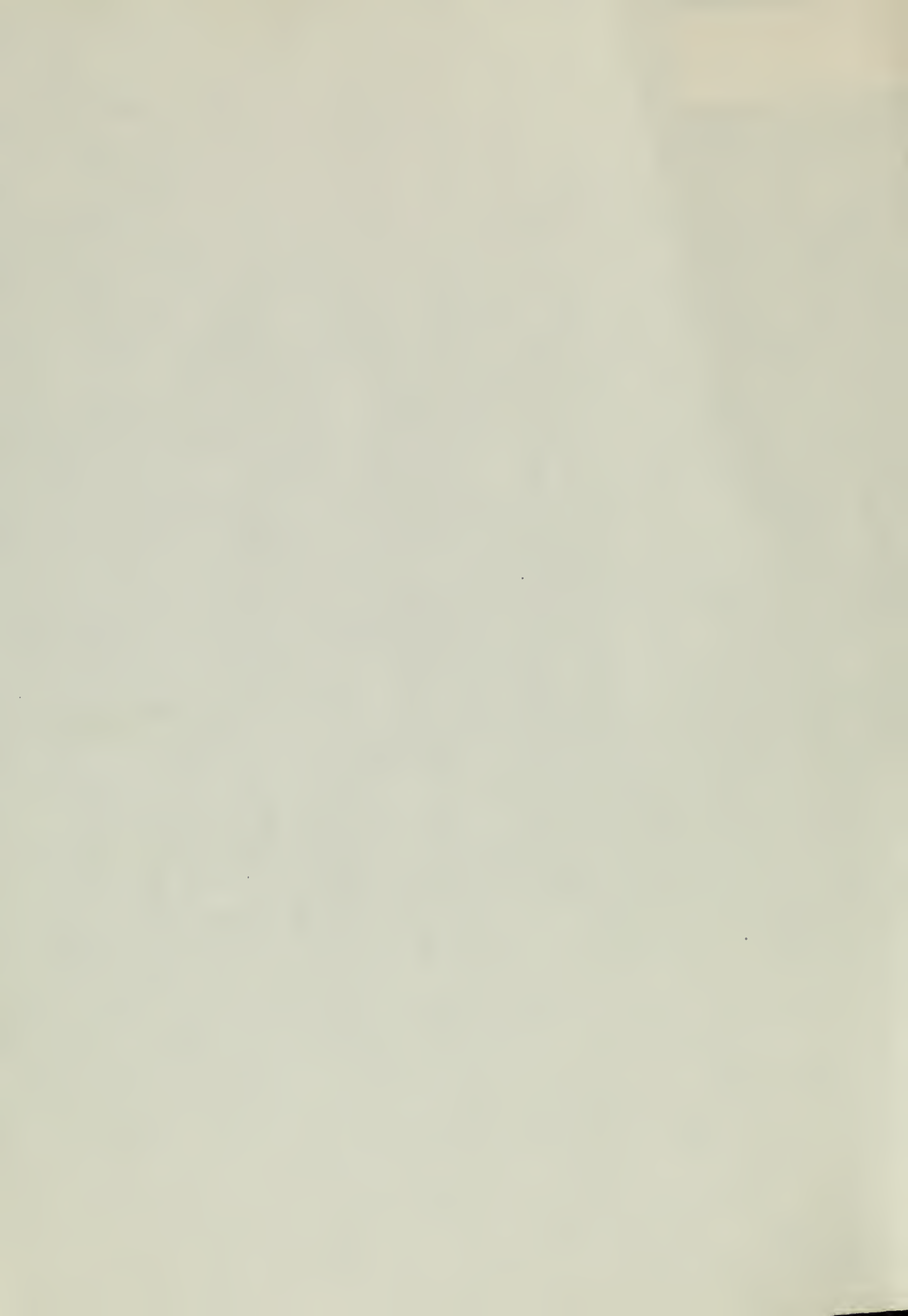


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## I. SUMMARY

The following profiles of AFDC-Basic and AFDC-UF family heads were obtained from mail surveys of the AFDC caseload conducted in January and February of 1979. Family heads were then contrasted with new and former recipients of AFDC. The samples of new recipients were drawn from case openings in May 1978. The samples of former recipients were drawn from cases closed during August and September 1977.

### AFDC-Basic

In early 1979, the average AFDC-Basic family head was a 33 year old, divorced or separated mother. She received aid for herself and two children. The average age of a Basic child was 9.8 years. Eighty-five percent of AFDC-Basic family heads were white (including Hispanics who classified themselves as white); 11% spoke Spanish or Portuguese as their primary language. 47% graduated from high school, and 15% attended college. Eighty-three percent had been living in Massachusetts over ten years and 2% had been living here less than one year. Most (51%) rented apartments not in public housing, and paid an average of \$156 monthly for rent. Eighty-six percent of Basic family heads had a paid employment history and 22% were working in January or February 1979. As of January 1979, the average Basic family head had been receiving AFDC for 3 years and 7 months.

All Basics had characteristics which might lead to a longer stay on AFDC than new Basics. Compared to Basic family heads new to the caseload, all Basics were: older, more often women, more often a minority, and less likely to be living with relatives other than spouse. Compared to Basic heads formerly receiving assistance, all Basics were less likely to be working at the time of survey completion.

### AFDC-UF\*

In early 1979, the average AFDC-UF family head was a 34 year old married father. He received aid for himself, his wife, and 2.5 children. The average age of a UF child was 8.2 years. Ninety-two percent were white (including Hispanics who classified themselves as white); 12% spoke Spanish or Portuguese as their primary language. Forty percent graduated from high school, and 13% attended college. Seventy-eight percent had lived in Massachusetts over ten years, and 2% had lived here less than one year. Most (51%) rented apartments not in public housing and paid an average of \$164 monthly for rent. 15% of UF family heads were working in January or February 1979; 10% of the wives in UF cases worked then too. As of January 1979 the average UF had been receiving AFDC for 1 year and 8 months.

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\*The AFDC-Unemployed Parent Program replaced the AFDC-Unemployed Father program in June, 1979. Eligibility for AFDC was expanded to include unemployed mothers on the same basis as fathers.

All UF's had characteristics which might lead to a longer stay on AFDC than new UFs. Compared to UF family heads new to the caseload, all UFs were less educated, more likely to speak Spanish, and less likely to be working at the time of survey completion. Compared to UF family heads formerly receiving assistance, all UF's were less likely to be working at the time of survey completion.



## II. INTRODUCTION

This report has two purposes:

- First, to portray AFDC-Basic and AFDC-Unemployed Father\* recipients by describing their demographic characteristics, housing situations, current welfare grants, other financial assistance, and employment and welfare histories; and
- Second, to contrast AFDC recipients with new and former AFDC recipients.<sup>1</sup>

Data on the AFDC caseload were obtained from mail surveys of 628 AFDC-Basic cases and 647 AFDC-Unemployed Father cases. Random samples were drawn from the December 1978 AFDC-Basic and UF caseloads, and data were collected in January and February 1979. The response rates (71% for Basics, 62% for UFs) were excellent for mail surveys.<sup>2</sup> Mail survey data were supplemented by and validated against data obtained from the Recipient and Dependent Master Files (RDMF) of DPW's computer (see Appendix). Statistical tests of significance were performed on characteristics being compared to determine real differences not attributable to sampling error.

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\*The AFDC-Unemployed Parent program replaced the AFDC-Unemployed Father program in June, 1979. Eligibility for AFDC was expanded to include unemployed mothers on the same basis as fathers.

### III. AFDC-BASIC RECIPIENTS (See Table I)

#### Demographics

- The typical AFDC-Basic family head (Basic)\* was a 33 year old, divorced or separated woman. She received AFDC for herself and two children. The average age of a Basic child was 9.8 years.<sup>3</sup>
- 81% of Basics attended high school; 47% graduated from high school; and 15% attended college.
- 85% were white\*\*, while 14% were black, and 1% were American Indian.<sup>4</sup>
- 86% spoke English as a primary language, 10% spoke Spanish, 1% spoke Portuguese, and 1% spoke French.
- 60% had lived in Massachusetts all their lives, another 23% had lived here over 10 years, 15% had lived in Massachusetts 1 to 10 years, and only 2% had lived in Massachusetts less than 1 year.
- 57% of Basics were divorced or separated, another 24% had never married, 16% were married and living with their spouses, and 3% were widowed.

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\*AFDC-Basic family head is defined as the person whose name appears on the assistance check.

\*\*This includes people of Hispanic origin who classified themselves as white.



## Housing and Household Situation

- 51% of Basics rented apartments (not in public housing),<sup>5</sup> 15% rented apartments in public housing, 13% rented houses,<sup>6</sup> 11% owned their own homes, and at least 6% shared apartments with other relatives.<sup>7</sup>
- The average Basic paid \$150 for rent or mortgage each month. Home-owners paid \$183 monthly on average for mortgage, house-renters paid \$177, apartment-renters (not in public housing) paid \$156 monthly on average for rent, and apartment-renters in public housing paid \$106.
- 19% of Basics lived with their spouses, boyfriends or girlfriends; 11% lived in households including relatives other than spouse; and 3% lived with friends or boarders.

## Current Grant

- 90% of AFDC-Basic family heads were mothers of all children included in the AFDC payment, 2% were grandmothers of all children included in the AFDC payment, an additional 1% were both mother and grandmother to different children included in the AFDC payment, 1% were aunts, 3% were fathers, and 1% were related in other ways to the AFDC children.
- 82% of Basic cases received AFDC for only one adult, including 81% for a female adult<sup>8</sup> and 1% for a male adult.<sup>9</sup> 4% of Basic cases received AFDC for two adults, including 3.2% for a wife or mother<sup>8</sup> and disabled husband/father.<sup>9,10</sup> 14% of Basic cases did not include an adult.<sup>11</sup>

--An average of 2 children received assistance in each Basic case. 45% of Basic cases included only 1 child, 28% included 2 children, 14% included 3 children, and 13% included 4 or more children.<sup>12</sup>

--In late 1978, Basic cases received a total monthly payment of \$296.<sup>13</sup>

#### Current Employment and Other Assistance

--22% of Basics were employed in January or February 1979.<sup>14</sup>

The average Basic who worked in January or February 1979 was employed 30 hours a week, and earned \$3.68 an hour before deductions.<sup>15</sup> 36% of Basics were service workers (such as waitresses, practical nurses, and counter workers), 27% were clerical or salespeople, 22% were semi-skilled (such as assemblers, seamstresses, and packers), 8% were technical or professional workers (such as nurses, teachers, and dental technicians), 4% were self-employed or managers, and 3% were skilled workers.

--4% of Basics received money from a spouse; 2% received money from other relatives; and 1% received child support payments paid directly to them.

--At least one fourth (25%) of Basics received Emergency Assistance during 1978.<sup>16</sup>

#### Employment History

--86% of Basic family heads had a paid employment history. 54% worked between 1975 and 1979, earning about \$3.02 hourly and working about 21 months during this period. 37% of Basics who

worked between 1975 and 1979 were service workers, 29% were clerical and salespeople, 21% were semi-skilled, 6% were technical or professional workers, 5% were skilled workers, and 3% were self-employed or managers.

### Welfare History

--As of January 1979, the average Basic case had been receiving welfare for 3 years 7 months.<sup>17</sup> 27% of Basic cases had received welfare previously; these cases averaged 3 years of assistance during their most recent stay on welfare. 72% of Basic cases had not received welfare previously; these cases averaged 3 years and 9 months of assistance.

#### IV. COMPARISON OF AFDC-BASIC RECIPIENTS WITH OTHER GROUPS

Demographic characteristics, current grant, current employment, employment history, and welfare history of AFDC-Basic recipients were compared with those of new and former recipients of AFDC-Basic in Massachusetts.<sup>18</sup> Comparisons are only reported when it is clear that differences are real and not due to sampling error.<sup>19</sup>

##### New Recipients of AFDC-Basic

A mail survey of new AFDC-Basic recipients was conducted in May 1978.<sup>20</sup> Generally, current Basics have characteristics which might lead to a longer stay on AFDC than new Basics. Compared to AFDC-Basic recipients new to the caseload (New Basic) in May 1978, current AFDC-Basic recipients (Current Basic) in December 1978 were:

- older (Current Basic: 33; New Basic: 29);
- more likely to be women (Current Basic: 96%; New Basic: 91%);
- more likely to be a minority<sup>21</sup> (Current Basic: 15%; New Basic: 10%);
- less likely to have arrived in Massachusetts in the last year (Current Basic: 2%; New Basic: 10%);
- more likely to be divorced (Current Basic: 29%; New Basic: 9%);
- less likely to be living with relatives other than spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend (Current Basic: 11%; New Basic: 23%);
- more likely to have no adults included in the AFDC check (Current Basic: 14%; New Basic: 9%);
- less likely to be pregnant women with no other children (Current Basic: 0%; New Basic: 21%);
- more likely to be working at the time of survey completion (Current Basic: 22%; New Basic: 13%).

No differences were found between Current Basics and New Basics in average number of children, educational level, and past work history.

Former Recipients of AFDC-Basic

A mail survey of former AFDC-Basic recipients was conducted in August and September 1977.<sup>22</sup> Compared to AFDC-Basic recipients who stopped receiving assistance (Former Basic) in August and September 1977, current AFDC-Basic recipients (Current Basic) in December 1978 were less likely to be working at the time of survey completion (Current Basic: 22%; Former Basic: 46%).

No differences were found between Current Basics and Former Basics in average age of recipient and work history.



## V. AFDC-UF RECIPIENTS\* (See Table II)

### Demographics

--The typical Unemployed Father (UF) was 34 years old. He received aid for himself, his wife, and 2.5 children. The average age of a UF child was 8.2 years.<sup>3</sup>

--73% of UFs attended high school; 40% graduated from high school; and 13% attended college.

--92% were white\*\*, while 6% were black, and 1% American Indian.<sup>4</sup>

--87% spoke English as a primary language, 11% spoke Spanish, 1% Portuguese, and 1% other languages.

--58% had lived in Massachusetts all their lives, another 20% had lived here more than 10 years, 19% had lived in Massachusetts 1 to 10 years, while 2% had lived in Massachusetts less than 1 year.

--97% of UFs were married and living with their wives.

### Housing and Household Situation

--51% of UFs rented apartments (not in public housing),<sup>5</sup> 16% owned their own homes, 15% rented apartments in public housing, and 14% rented houses.<sup>6,23</sup>

--The average UF paid \$166 for rent or mortgage each month. Homeowners averaged \$218 monthly for mortgage, house-renters paid \$191, apartment renters (not in public housing) paid \$164,<sup>5</sup> and apartment-renters in public housing paid \$100.

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\*The AFDC-Unemployed Parent program replaced the AFDC-Unemployed Father program in June, 1979. Eligibility for AFDC was expanded to include unemployed mothers on the same basis as fathers.

\*\*This includes people of Hispanic origin who classified themselves as white.



--The average UF household was a single family unit, consisting of husband, wife, and children. Only 3% had other relatives living in their households.

#### Current Grant

--90% of UF family heads were the fathers of all the children included in the AFDC payment, 2% were stepfathers of all children included in the AFDC payment, and an additional 7% were both father and stepfather to different children included in the AFDC payment.

--All UF cases received aid for 2 adults.<sup>24</sup> This included-- according to self-report--20% for a wife and disabled father, 4% for a father and disabled wife, and 3% for a disabled father and disabled wife. Neither father nor wife was disabled in 67% of UF cases.

--An average of 2.5 children received assistance in each UF case. 27% of UF cases included only one child, 32% included 2 children, 16% included 3 children, and 22% included 4 or more children.<sup>12</sup>

--In late 1978, UF cases received a total monthly payment of \$375.<sup>13</sup>

#### Employment History and Other Assistance of Father

--79% of UFs were employed at some time between 1975 and 1979, earning about \$4.20 hourly, and working about 26 months during this period. 27% were semi-skilled (such as assemblers and deliverymen), 22% were skilled (such as plumbers, auto mechanics, electricians, and bakers), 14% were unskilled, 14% were service

workers (such as waiters and janitors), 8% were self-employed or managers, 8% were clerical or sales, and 6% were professional and technical workers.

--28% were employed sometime from July to December 1978.

Average monthly earnings over the six month period were \$337.<sup>25</sup>

--15% of UFs were employed in January or February 1979, working 37 hours a week. An eligibility requirement for the program at that time was that the father be unemployed or work less than 100 hours a month. Some UFs might be eligible due to intermittent employment. For example, an UF who performs outside labor might work only two weeks per month due to weather conditions and still be eligible for assistance.

In addition, some of these UFs are not eligible for assistance, possibly due to a change in work situation at time of survey completion.

--At least 37% of UFs received Emergency Assistance in Massachusetts during 1978.<sup>15</sup>

--98% of UFs received Food Stamps.<sup>3</sup>

#### Employment History of Wife

--40% of the wives in UF cases worked at some time between 1975 and 1979, earning about \$2.81 an hour, and working about 16 months during this period. 42% of the wives in UF cases who worked between 1975 and 1979 were service workers, 28% were clerical or salespeople, 22% were semi-skilled, 4% were technical and professional workers, 2% were skilled workers, 2% were unskilled workers, and 1% were self-employed or managers.

- 16% of the wives in UF cases were employed sometime from July to December 1978. Average monthly earnings were \$242.<sup>25</sup>
- 10% of the wives in UF cases were employed in January or February 1979, working 30 hours a week.

### Welfare History

- As of January 1979, the average UF case had been receiving welfare for 1 year and 8 months.<sup>17</sup> 38% of UF cases had received welfare previously; these cases averaged 2 years and 2 months of assistance during their most recent stay on welfare. 59% of UF cases had not received welfare previously; these cases averaged 1 year and 5 months of assistance.

## VI. COMPARISON OF AFDC-UF RECIPIENTS WITH OTHER GROUPS

Demographic, current employment, and welfare history of AFDC-UF recipients were compared with those of new and former recipients of AFDC-UF in Massachusetts.<sup>18</sup> Comparisons are only reported when it is clear that differences are real and not due to sampling error.<sup>19</sup>

### New Recipients of AFDC-UF

A sample survey of new AFDC-UF recipients was conducted in May 1978.<sup>20</sup> Generally, current UFs have characteristics which might lead to a longer stay on AFDC than New UFs. Compared to AFDC-UF recipients new to the caseload (New UF) in May 1978, current AFDC-UF recipients (Current UF) in December 1978 were:

- more likely not to have received a high school education (Current UF: 59%; New UF: 47%); and less likely to have attended college (Current UF: 13%; New UF: 22%);
- more likely to be Spanish-speaking (Current UF: 11%; New UF: 3%);
- less likely to be working at the time of survey completion (Current UF: 15%; New UF: 26%).

No differences were found between Current UFs and New UFs in age, average number of children, and race.

### Former Recipients of AFDC-UF

A mail survey of former AFDC-UF recipients was conducted in August and September 1977. Compared to AFDC-UF recipients who stopped receiving assistance (Former UF) in August and September 1977, Current AFDC-UF recipients (Current UF) in December 1978 were less likely to be working at the time of survey completion (Current UF: 15%; Former UF: 80%).

## VII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Mary Melville and Robert Cloutier for questionnaire design suggestions, Renae Jenkins for editing assistance, and Roger Wirt and Gwendolyn Sams for technical assistance.



Table I  
AFDC-BASIC RECIPIENTS<sup>26</sup>

December 1978

Total Basic Population = 115,075

Estimate of Basic Population  
 Possessing Each Characteristic

Demographics

Average Age of Recipient	33 years	
Sex: Female	96%	110,472
Male	4%	4,603
Children:		
Average number <sup>27</sup>	2.0	
Average age of child <sup>3</sup>	9.3 years	
Educational Level:		
Some high school or less	51%	58,689
High School graduate or G.E.D.	32%	36,824
Attended college	15%	17,262
Race: White <sup>28</sup>	85%	97,814
Other	15%	17,262
Primary Language:		
English	86%	98,965
Spanish	10%	11,508
Portuguese	1%	1,151
Other	1%	1,151
Ethnic Origin:		
Hispanic	11%	12,659
Portuguese	4%	4,603
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1%	1,151
Residence in Massachusetts:		
10 years or more	83%	95,513
1 year to 10 years	15%	17,262
Less than 1 year	2%	2,302
Marital Status of Recipient:		
Divorced or separated	57%	65,593
Never married	24%	27,618
Married, living with spouse <sup>29</sup>	16%	18,412
Widowed	3%	3,453

Housing and Household Situation

Type:		
Apt. not in public housing <sup>5</sup>	51%	58,689
Apt. in public housing	15%	17,262
Rent house <sup>6</sup>	13%	14,960
Own house	11%	12,659
Share apt. with relative	6%	6,905
Other	3%	3,453
Average Rent or Mortgage:	\$150	
Own house		\$183
Rent house <sup>6</sup>		\$177
Rent apt. not in public housing <sup>5</sup>		\$156
Live with relative		\$113
Other		\$107
Rent apt. in public housing		\$106
Living Situation:		
Husband, boyfriend, wife or girlfriend	19%	21,865
Other relatives	11%	12,659
Friends or boarders	3%	3,453



Table I (con't.)

Total Basic Population = 115,075

Estimate of Basic Population  
Possessing Each CharacteristicCurrent Grant

## Relationship to Children in AFDC

## Payment:

Mother	90%	103,568
Father	3%	3,453
Grandmother	2%	2,302
Mother and Grandmother	1%	1,151
Aunt	1%	1,151

## Adults in AFDC Payment:

Zero	14%	16,111
One	82%	94,362
Female	81%	93,211
Male	1%	1,151
Two	4%	4,603
Mother or wife and disabled father or husband	3.2%	3,683
Disabled mother or wife and disabled father or husband	0.2%	231
Nondisabled mother or wife and nondisabled father or husband	0.7%	806
Mother or wife and father or husband with no disability identified	0.2%	231

## Number of Children in AFDC Payment:

One	45%	51,784
Two	28%	32,221
Three	14%	16,111
Four or More	13%	14,960

Average Total AFDC Monthly Payment<sup>13</sup> \$296Current Employment and Other Assistance

Working in January or February 1979: 22% 25,317

Type of work<sup>31</sup>

Service Worker	36%	8,742
Clerical and Sales	27%	6,557
Semi-skilled	22%	5,343
Professional and Technical	8%	1,943
Self-Employed and Manager	4%	972
Skilled Worker	3%	729

Average Hours per Week 30  
Average Hourly Wage \$3.68Sources of Assistance in January  
or February 1979:

None	50%	57,538
Work	22%	25,317
Spouse	4%	4,603
Other relatives	2%	2,302
Direct child support payments	1%	1,151

Emergency Assistance in 1978: 25% 28,769

Employment History

Ever worked 86% 98,965

Worked in Last Four Years: 54% 62,141

Type of Work at Longest Job<sup>32</sup>

Service Worker	37%	21,289
Clerical and Sales	29%	16,686
Semi-Skilled	21%	12,083
Professional and Technical	6%	3,453
Skilled Worker	5%	2,877
Self-Employed and Manager	3%	1,727
Unskilled Worker	0%	0

Table I (con't.)

Total Basic Population = 115,075Estimate of Basic Population Possessing Each Characteristic

Average Hourly Wage at Longest Job	\$3.02	
Average Duration in Months	21	

Welfare History

Average Duration of Most Recent Stay on AFDC:	43 months	
First time on AFDC	72%	82,854
Average Length of Stay	45 months	
Multiple times on AFDC	27%	31,071
Average Length of Stay	35 months	

Table II

AFDC-UF RECIPIENTS

December 1978

Total UF Population = 5176Estimate of UF Population Possessing Each CharacteristicDemographics

Average Age of Recipient	34 years	
Children:		
Average number <sup>27</sup>	2.5	
Average age of child <sup>3</sup>	8.2 years	
Educational Level:		
Some high school or less	59%	3,054
High school graduate or G.E.D.	27%	1,398
Attended college	13%	673
Race: White <sup>28</sup>	92%	4,762
Other	8%	415
Primary Language:		
English	87%	4,504
Spanish	11%	570
Portuguese	1%	52
Other	1%	52
Ethnic Origin:		
Hispanic	11%	570
Portuguese	5%	259
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1%	52
Asian or Pacific Islander	1%	52
Residence in Massachusetts:		
10 years or more	78%	4,038
1 year to 10 years	19%	984
Less than 1 year	2%	104
Marital Status of Recipient:		
Married and living together	97%	5,021
Never married, divorced and married but living apart <sup>33</sup>	2%	104

Housing and Household Situation

Type:		
Apt. not in public housing <sup>5</sup>	51%	2,640
Own house	16%	829
Apt. in public housing	15%	777
Rent house <sup>6</sup>	14%	725
Other <sup>23</sup>	4%	208
Average Rent or Mortgage:	\$166	
Own house	\$218	
Rent house <sup>6</sup>	\$191	
Rent apt. not in public housing <sup>5</sup>	\$164	
Other <sup>23</sup>	\$142	
Rent apt. in public housing	\$100	
Living Situation:		
Father or stepfather and wife or girlfriend	100%	5,176
Other relatives	3%	156

Table II (con't.)

Total UF Population = 5176

Estimate of UF Population  
Possessing Each CharacteristicCurrent Grant

Relationship to Children in AFDC Payment:		
Father	90%	4,659
Father and Stepfather	7%	363
Stepfather	2%	104

Adults in AFDC Payment:		
Two	100%	5,176
Nondisabled father or stepfather and wife or girlfriend		
	67%	3,468
Disabled father or stepfather and wife or girlfriend		
	20%	1,036
Disabled wife or girlfriend and father or stepfather		
	4%	208
Disabled father or stepfather and disabled wife or girlfriend		
	3%	156
No response	5%	259

Number of Children in AFDC Payment:		
One	27%	1,398
Two	32%	1,657
Three	16%	829
Four or More	22%	1,139

Average Total AFDC <sup>13</sup> Monthly Payment	\$375
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Employment of Father and Other Assistance

Work in Last Four Years	79%	4,090
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Type of Work at Longest Job <sup>32</sup>		
Semi-Skilled	27%	1,026
Skilled Worker	22%	836
Service Worker	14%	532
Unskilled Worker	14%	532
Self-Employed and Manager	8%	304
Clerical and Sales	8%	304
Professional and Technical	6%	228

Average Hourly Wage at Longest Job	\$4.20
Average Duration in Months	26

Work in Last Six Months:	28%	1,450
Average Monthly Wage for July-December 1978		
July 1978	\$462	
August 1978	\$456	
September 1978	\$395	
October 1978	\$313	
November 1978	\$247	
December 1978	\$216	

Working in January or February 1979:	15%	777
Average Hours per Week	37	

Emergency Assistance in 1978:	37%	1,916
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Food Stamps <sup>3</sup>	98%	5,072
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Table II (con't.)

Total UF Population = 5176

Estimate of UF Population  
Possessing Each CharacteristicEmployment of Wife

Work in Last Four Years:	40%	2,071
Type of Work at Longest Job <sup>32</sup>		
Service Worker	42%	827
Clerical and Sales	28%	551
Semi-Skilled	22%	433
Professional and Technical	4%	79
Skilled Worker	2%	40
Unskilled Worker	2%	40
Self-Employed and Manager	1%	20
Average Hourly Wage at Longest Job \$2.81		
Average Duration in Months 16		
Work in Last Six Months:	16%	829
Average Monthly Wage for July-December 1978 \$242		
July 1978	\$250	
August 1978	\$268	
September 1978	\$227	
October 1978	\$223	
November 1978	\$237	
December 1978	\$236	
Working in January or February 1979	10%	518
Average hours per week 30		

Welfare History

Average Duration of Most Recent Stay on AFDC: 20 months		
First time on AFDC	59%	3,054
Average Length of Stay 17 months		
Multiple times on AFDC	38%	1,967
Average Length of Stay 26 months		



## APPENDIX

DPW maintains ongoing Recipient and Dependent Master Files (RDMF) in DPW's computer. Current and past welfare history and payment for recipients are stored in the RDMF. RDMF yields: 1. timely information regarding individual cases for use by social workers, and 2. managerial efficiency by identification of certain categories of cases for special applications, such as adjustments for Social Security increases.

### Comparison of AFDC-Basic Survey and RDMF

No differences at all were found between the survey and RDMF on comparable characteristics. Variables compared were: number of children included in the AFDC payment, percentage of cases with no adult in the AFDC payment, and most recent length of stay.

### Comparison of AFDC-UF Survey and RDMF

No differences at all were found between the survey and RDMF on comparable characteristics. Variables compared were: number of children and adults included in the AFDC payment, and most recent length of stay.

### Comparison of Survey Respondents and Nonrespondents

Using data solely from RDMF, survey respondents were compared with those who did not respond to the survey at all. No apparent differences were found between Current Basic and UF respondents and nonrespondents in: monthly payment, most recent date of AFDC payment, average age of children included in the AFDC payment, and average number of children included in the AFDC payment.



## FOOTNOTES

1. Two factors limit comparability between results obtained in the August-September 1977 pretest survey of former AFDC recipients and the December 1978 survey. First, wording on a few questions was clarified in the December survey, and these wording changes limit comparability between the two surveys. Second, the December 1978 response rates (71% for Basics, 62% for UFs) constitute an improvement over the August-September 1977 response rates (54% for Basics, 53% for UFs). December survey results are probably less biased and more valid than August-September results. Only substantial differences in response percentages have been identified here, and even these differences might have resulted from sampling artifacts. Surer identification of differences in caseload composition will be possible with forthcoming surveys, since wording and response rate will be more consistent.

Later papers will provide detailed descriptions of specific groups of AFDC recipients:

- welfare mothers who have remarried a stepfather not legally responsible for the care of children;
- relatives such as aunts, grandmothers, and uncles caring for an AFDC child because of the absence of the parents;
- long-term recipients of welfare;
- recipients living in public housing; and
- teenagers receiving welfare.

2. Final sample sizes are 628 for Basics and 647 for UFs. For Basics, we are 96% confident that observed percentages are within  $\pm 5\%$  of the true population percentages. For UFs, we are 95% confident that observed percentages are within  $\pm 5\%$  of the true population percentages. Generalizations can be made only to the December 1978 AFDC caseload from which the sample was drawn. 15% (62) of the original 404 UF respondents were excluded from analysis because they did not fulfill UF eligibility or survey criteria. Examples are: the parent lived alone, two adults were not included in the AFDC check, and the respondent did not receive AFDC in 1978. These were due to change in circumstances of respondents and misclassifications by social workers.
3. These data regarding current and past welfare history and payment for recipients were collected from the Recipient and Dependent Master Files in DPW's computer (RDMF).
4. For Basics, 11% identified their ethnic origin as Hispanic, 4% as Portuguese, 1% as American Indian or Alaskan Native, and 83% as Other. For UFs, 11% identified their ethnic origin as Hispanic, 5% as Portuguese, 1% as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 1% as Asian or Pacific Islander, and 81% as Other. Also for UFs, 1% identified their race as Other.
5. This includes most of those in Section 8 and subsidized housing.

FOOTNOTES (Continued)

6. This might include some families in Section 8 housing, moderate and middle income housing, and so forth.
7. Three percent have other housing arrangements, including renting an apartment or room not designated by respondent in regard to public housing.
8. This includes a few women who are not the mother of any child in the grant, but are needy, i.e., a grandmother, aunt, and so forth.
9. This includes a few men who are not the father of any child in the grant, but are needy, i.e., the husband of a remarried mother, a grandfather, uncle, and so forth.
10. This group also contains .2% for a disabled wife or mother and disabled father, and .7% for a wife or mother and husband or father with no disability.
11. Examples of cases with no adult include remarried mothers who do not meet AFDC eligibility criteria, grandparents or aunts with responsibility for the child, as well as other caretakers who are not needy. Also, it is suspected that some recipients do not know the number of adults included in their AFDC payment or had problems answering the question. According to RDMF, 84% of Basic cases received AFDC for at least one adult. The difference between RDMF and survey data is probably caused by change in circumstance of respondent at time of survey completion.
12. DHEW figures from the 1979 Characteristics Study appear comparable regarding percentage of cases in receipt of AFDC for combined Basics and UFs in Massachusetts.
13. The total monthly payment excludes supplementary payments, per RDMF, \$279 average monthly payment for March 1980 for combined Basic and UF, plus a \$33 quarterly grant, totalled \$312 per case.
14. AFDC Quality Control figures for October 1978 to March 1979 in Massachusetts showed a comparable percentage of cases with earned income. We are 95% sure that the 18.6% of QC cases with earned income are not significantly different from the 22%. ( $z=1.20$ )
15. Federal minimum wage at this time was \$2.90 an hour.
16. Actual receipt of EA was from January and February 1978 to January and February 1979.
17. DHEW figures from the 1977 and 1979 Characteristics Studies have not been compared to these data because of differences in wording and meaning of the questions.
18. AFDC-Basics and UFs were also compared with those who received Unemployment Compensation in Massachusetts. A sample survey of the active file of claimants for unemployment compensation was conducted by the Division of Employment Security in December, 1978. Generally, those receiving Unemployment Compensation have characteristics which allow them to compete better in the employment market than do AFDC recipients. Compared to all those receiving Unemployment Compensation, Basics are



FOOTNOTES (Continued)

more often female (Basic: 96%; Total UC: 40%). In comparison to females receiving Unemployment Compensation (FUC), Basics are younger (Basics: 66%; 25-44 years; FUC: 43%; 25-44 years) and lower wage earners (Basic: 80% \$149 or less; FUC: 52% \$149 or less). In comparison to males receiving Unemployment Compensation (MUC), UFs are younger (UF: 64%; 25-44 years; MUC: 46%; 25-44 years) and lower wage earners (UF: 34% \$149 or less; MUC: 24% \$149 or less).

Average weekly wage for AFDC recipients was computed from weekly wage and hourly wage assuming a 40 hour work week. See Selected Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed - Statewide, December 1978, Tables 151, 351, and 551, Division of Employment Security, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

19. Statistical tests of differences between means and proportions were conducted so as to satisfy the requirements of 95% confidence.
20. See "Survey of AFDC Case Openings in May 1978", by Donna Balboni, Office of Research and Evaluation, Massachusetts Department of Public Welfare, November 1978.
21. This does not include those of Hispanic origin.
22. See "Welfare Census Project Paper #2, A Survey of AFDC Case Openings and Closings in August and September 1977" by Loran Bittman, Donna Balboni, and Martin Abramowitz, Office of Research and Evaluation, Massachusetts Department of Public Welfare, March 1978.
23. 4% had other housing arrangements including a small number of families who lived with relatives and who rented an apartment or room which they did not designate in regard to public housing.
24. 1% of UF cases had no eligible grantee in the case, per RDMF.
25. Average monthly earnings for UFs who worked any time from July to December 1978 were: \$216 for December; \$247 for November; \$313 for October; \$395 for September; \$456 for August; and \$462 for July. Average monthly earnings for a wife in a UF case who worked any time from July to December 1978 were: \$236 for December; \$237 for November; \$223 for October; \$226 for September; \$268 for August; and \$250 for July.
26. Unless otherwise stated, percentages are based on the number of returned questionnaires. Estimated population is this percentage multiplied by the total population, i.e., 115,075 for Basics and 5,176 for UFs. Rounding errors has resulted in total populations for some characteristics being different than these estimated populations.
27. The average number of children was computed excluding pregnancies when no other child was in care.
28. This includes people of Hispanic origin who classified themselves as white.

FOOTNOTES (Continued)

29. Although 16% are married and living with spouse, only 4% indicated two adults in the AFDC payment. The 12% difference can include remarried mothers, grandparents, aunts, etc. Also, it is suspected that some recipients do not know the number of adults included in their AFDC payment.
30. This group includes disabled spouses, remarried mothers, grandparents, aunts, and fathers under 21 in school full time, and so forth.
31. The percentages are based on the number of recipients answering the question regarding type of work in January and February 1979 (92 Basics). Total number of recipients answering the question was divided by the number of respondents. This number was multiplied by the total population. Finally, this result was multiplied by the percentages as just described.
32. The percentages are based on the number of recipients answering the question regarding type of work in the last four years (218 Basics, 251 for the UF fathers, and 130 for the UF wife). Total number of recipients answering this question was divided by the number of questionnaire respondents. This number was multiplied by the total population. Finally, this result was multiplied by the percentages as just described.
33. This group includes possible common law marriages.
34. Because the recipient indicated his perception of disability, this finding suggests either misclassification by social worker of a Basic case or a disability not defined as such under AFDC policy.