

*Prepared for:
North Carolina Department of
Health and Human Services*

Study of Families Leaving Work First In Selected Counties

Results of the First Round of Follow-Up Surveys

Philip Richardson, Ph.D., Project Director
Kim Reniero, Project Manager
Susan LaFever, Survey Supervisor
Gregg Schoenfeld, Database Analyst
Frances Jackson, Field Survey Manager

May 2000

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	ES-1
A. Summary of Key Findings	ES-1
B. Future Surveys.....	ES-16
I. INTRODUCTION.....	I-1
A. Objectives of the Surveys.....	I-1
B. Sample Design, Response Rates, and Survey Methods	I-1
C. Presentation of the Findings	I-6
II. RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS AND WELFARE HISTORY....	II-1
A. Basic Demographics.....	II-1
B. Household Composition	II-4
C. Year When First Received Welfare in North Carolina	II-7
D. Reasons for Leaving Welfare.....	II-7
E. Months on the 24-Month Time Clock	II-8
F. Summary Profiles of Each County.....	II-10

)

TABLE OF CONTENTS
(continued)

CHAPTER	PAGE
III.EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS AMONG RESPONDENTS	
STILL OFF WELFARE.....	III-1
A. Employment Status at the Time of the Surveys	III-1
B. Who is Work and Who is Not Working	III-2
C. Employment Experiences of Those Not Working.....	III-9
D. Job Retention and Turnover	III-16
E. Types of Jobs Held by Respondents	III-17
F. Work Hours and Non-Traditional Schedules.....	III-18
G. Earnings Patterns and Pay Raises.....	III-24
H. Employer Health Insurance.....	III-31
I. Job Satisfaction and Opportunities for Advancement	III-37
J. Discussion.....	III-41
IV. OVERALL INCOME, BENEFITS, AND POVERTY	IV-1
A. Receipt of Child Support.....	IV-1
B. Other Income Received by Respondents.....	IV-3
C. Employment and Earnings of Other Household Members	IV-4
D. Overall Income Status of Persons No Longer on Welfare	IV-5
E. Receipt of Public Assistance	IV-7
F. Income and Benefits Among Persons Not Working	IV-10
G. Percent of Families Living Above the Poverty Level	IV-11
H. Perceived Adequacy of Income and Benefits	IV-12
V. INDICATORS OF FAMILY WELL-BEING	V-1
A. Adverse Events Since Leaving Welfare.....	V-1
B. Access to Food	V-2
C. Access to Health Care	V-6
D. Housing Adequacy	V-11
E. School Attendance and Performance.....	V-12
F. Likelihood of Returning to Welfare.....	V-15
G. Overall Comparisons to Life on Welfare	V-18
VI. CHILD CARE AND THE RECEIPT OF OTHER SERVICES	VI-1
A. Use of Child Care.....	VI-1
B. Receipt of Job Training and Other Services.....	VI-9
C. Anticipated Needs for Services	VI-12

TABLE OF CONTENTS
(continued)

CHAPTER	PAGE
VII. WELFARE RECIDIVISM AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS	VII-1
A. Number and Characteristics of Recidivists	VII-1
B. Recidivism by Reasons for Leaving Work First	VII-2
C. Actual Recidivism Compared to Perceived Likelihood of Returning to Welfare.....	VII-5
VIII. RESULTS FOR THE TWO SMALL COUNTIES	VIII-1
A. Survey Results for County G	VIII-1
B. Survey Results for County H.....	VIII-5