

What's Up With Work First?

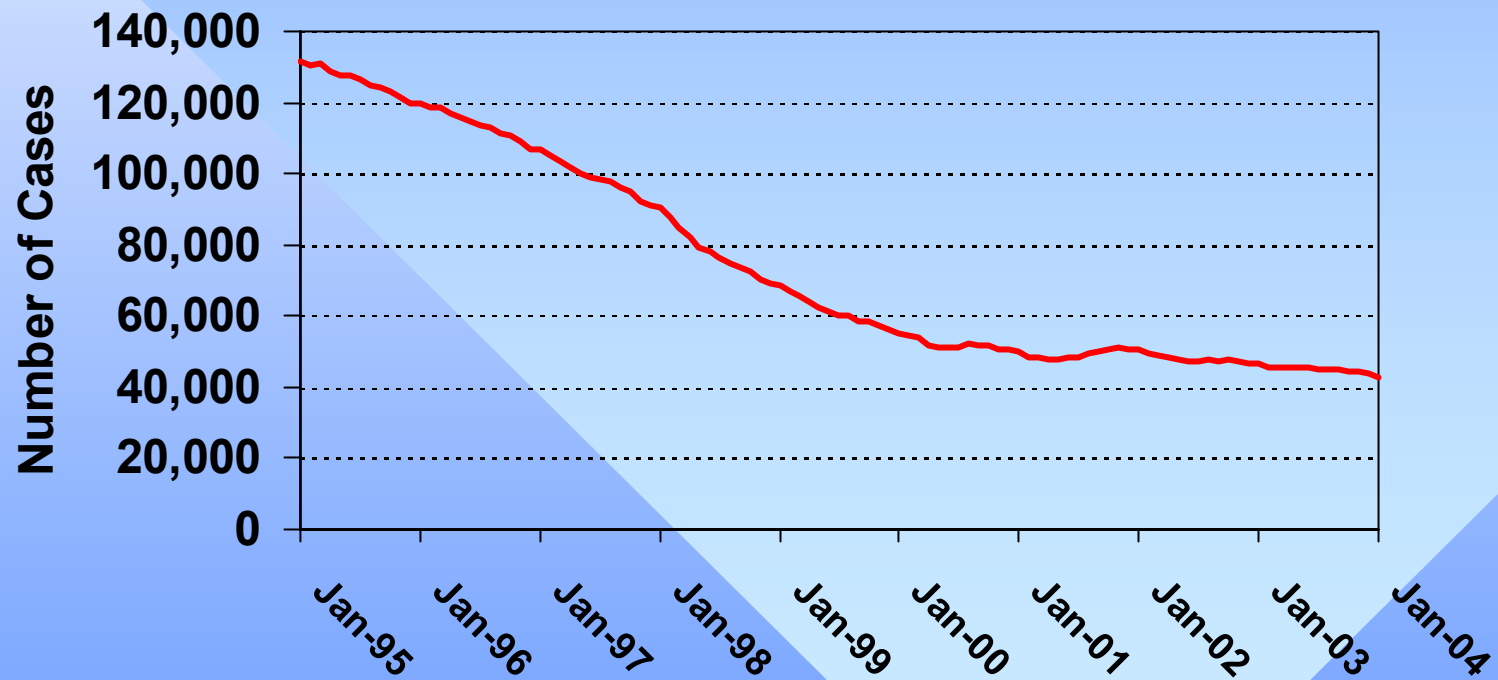
by
Dean Duncan
UNC-CH School of Social Work
April 2, 2004

North Carolina – Welfare Reform Client Issues

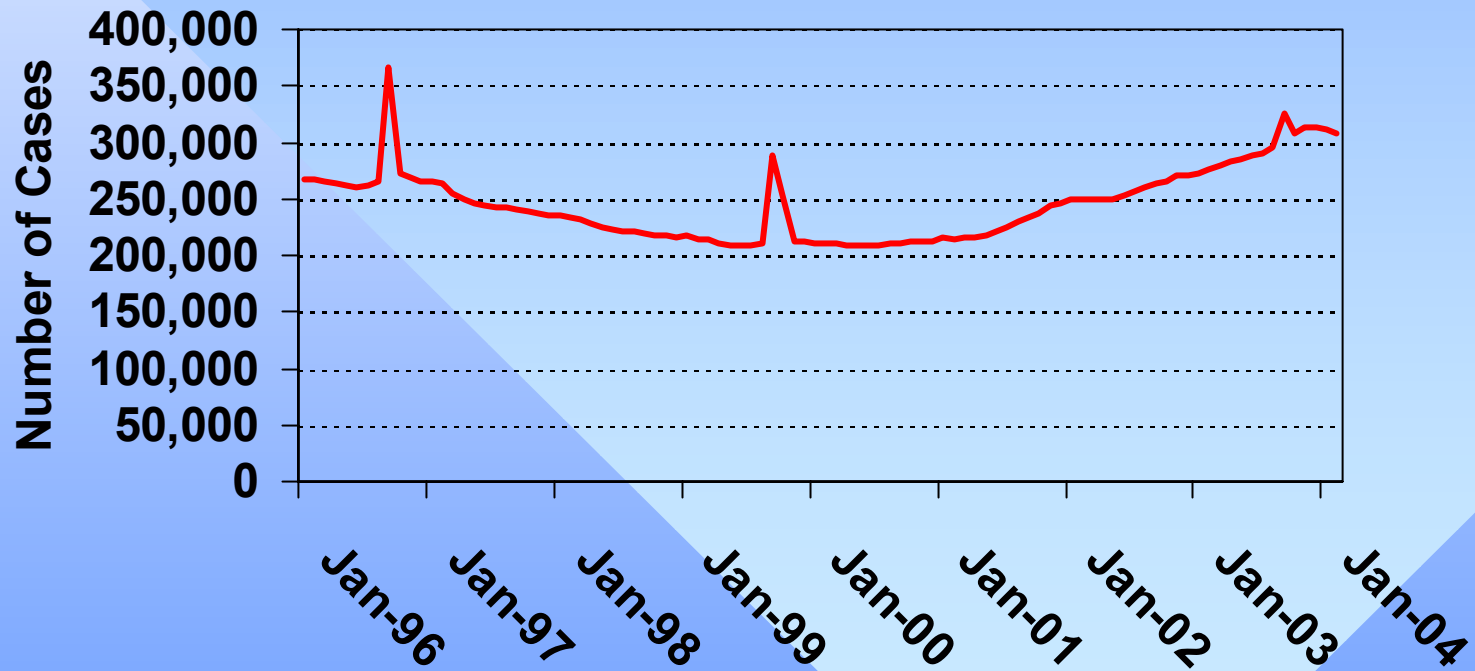
- The analysis is based on a project funded by the North Carolina Division of Social Services.
- It uses a longitudinal database that tracks the experiences of more than 446,000 families and 1,010,000 individuals that have received assistance since January 1995.

Changes in the Work First Caseload

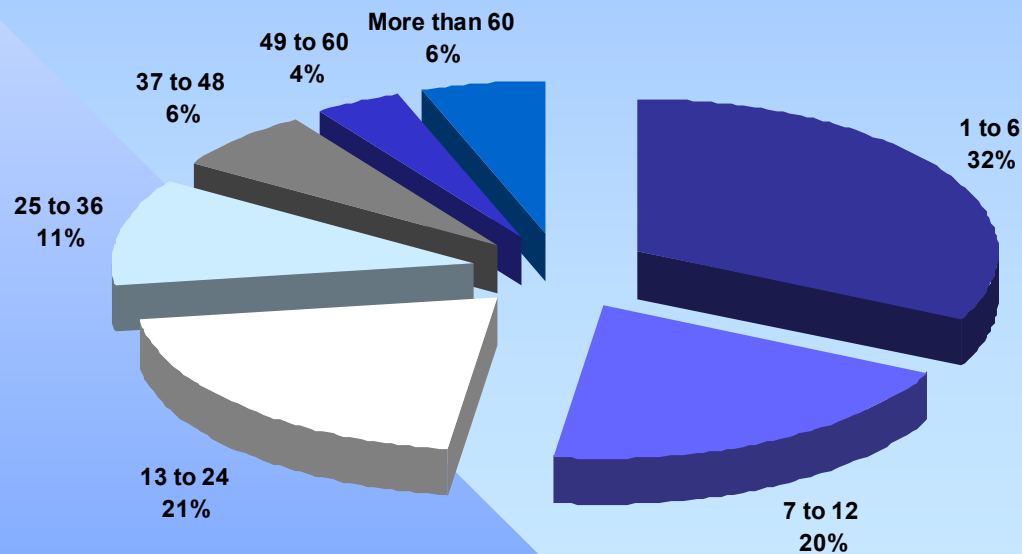
Changes in the Work First Caseload Since 1995



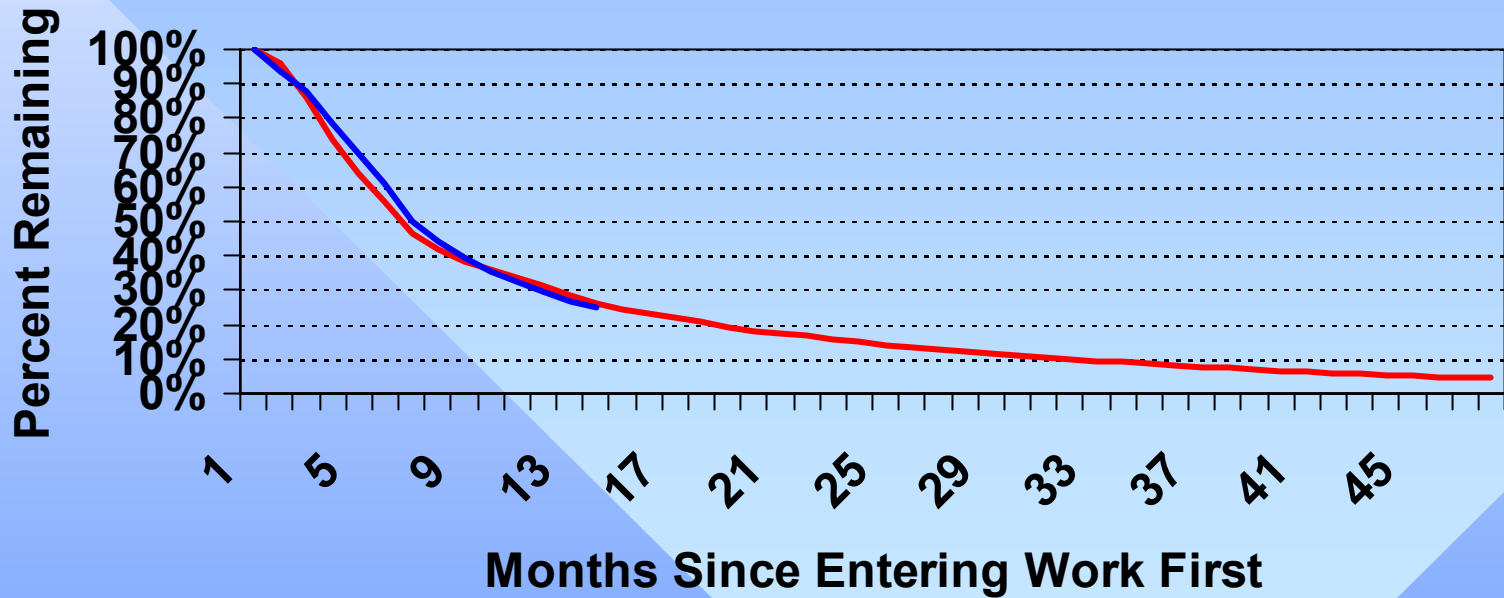
Changes in the Food Stamp Caseload in North Carolina Since January 1996



The Number of Months Families Receive Work First Benefits

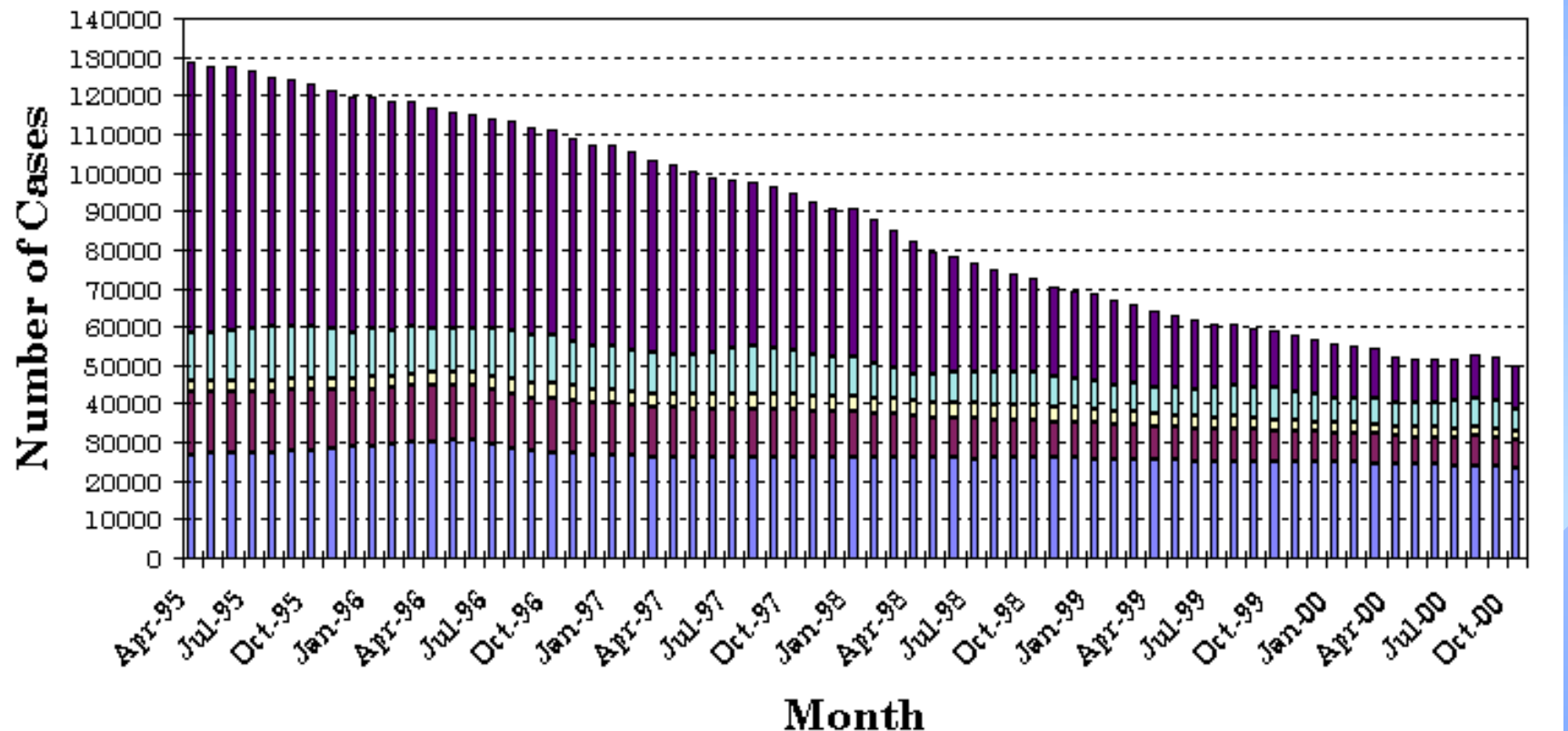


Changes in the Rate Families Remain on Work First Over Time



— Families Entering 1995, Qtr. 2 — Families Entering 2003, Qtr. 1

Participation in Work First Family Assistance Over Time



Child Only Case

Case Involving Disabled Person

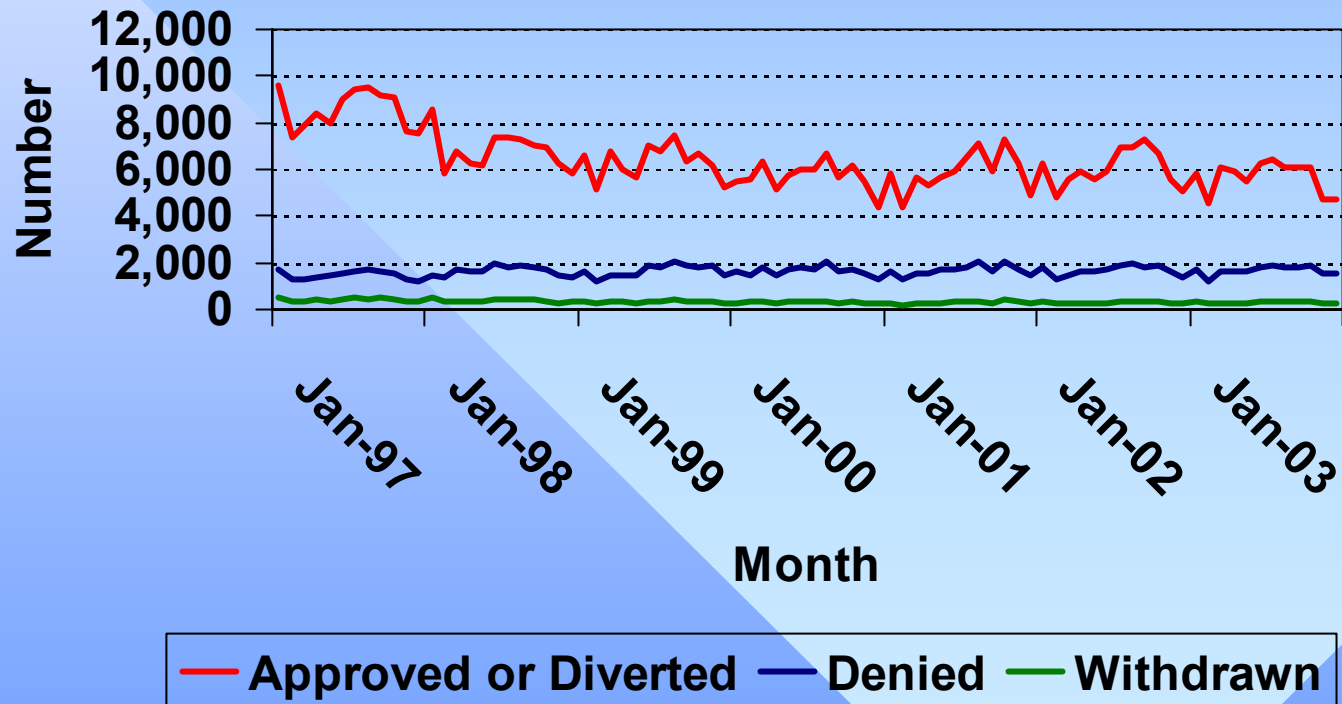
Other Cases Participating for More Than Three Months

Case With a Child Under 1

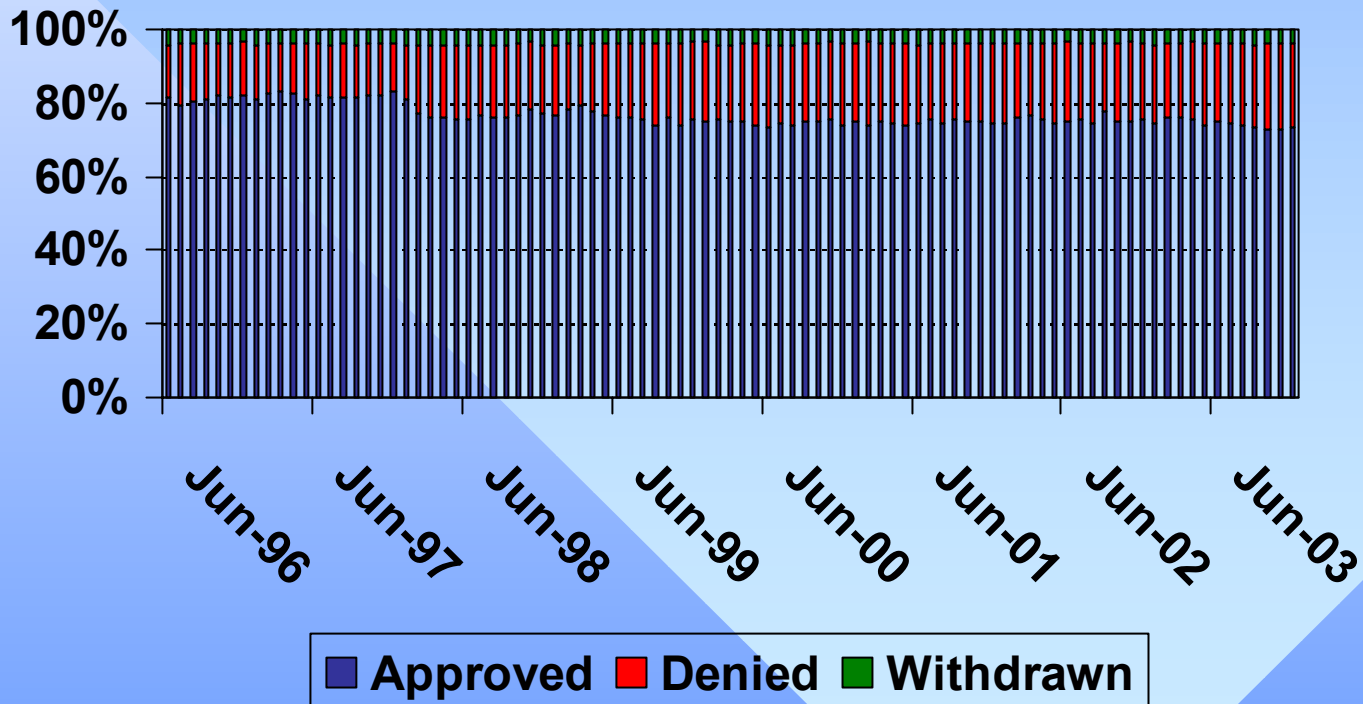
Case Participating Three Months

Impact of the Economic Downturn on the Work First Caseload

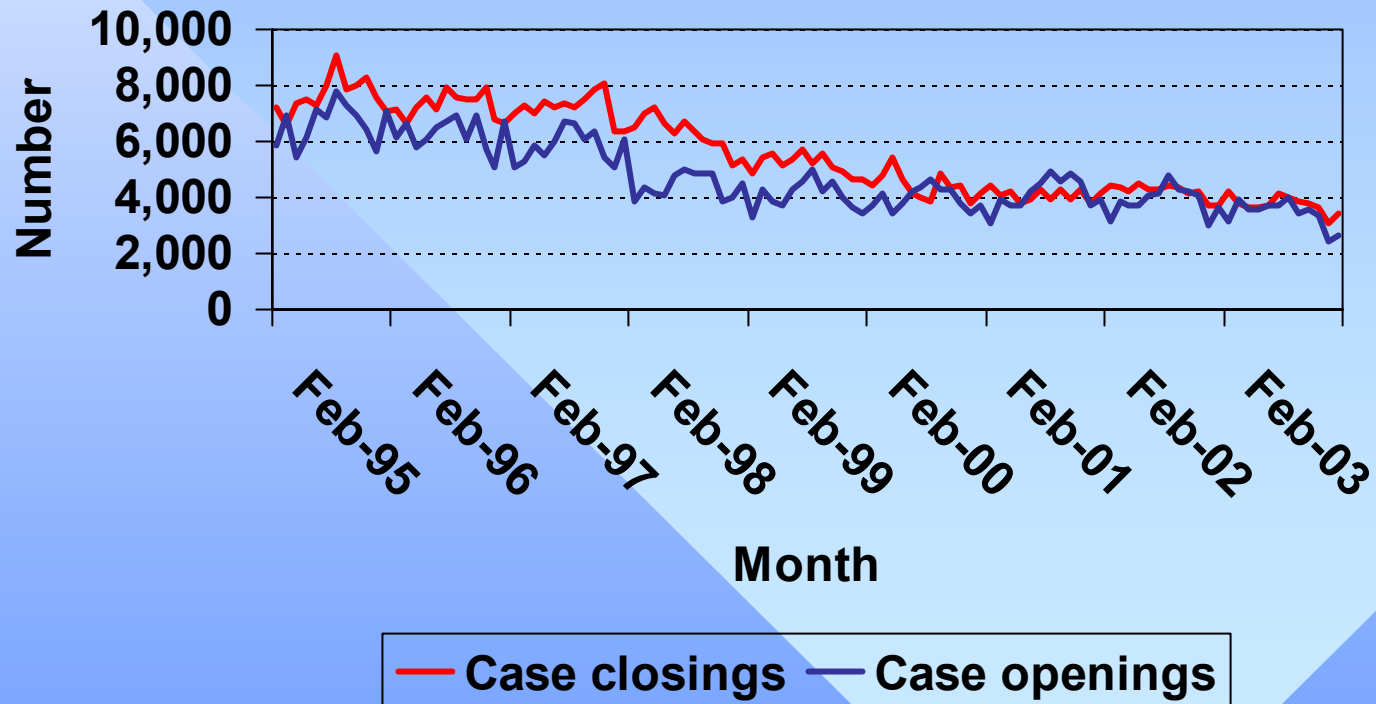
Patterns of Work First Applications



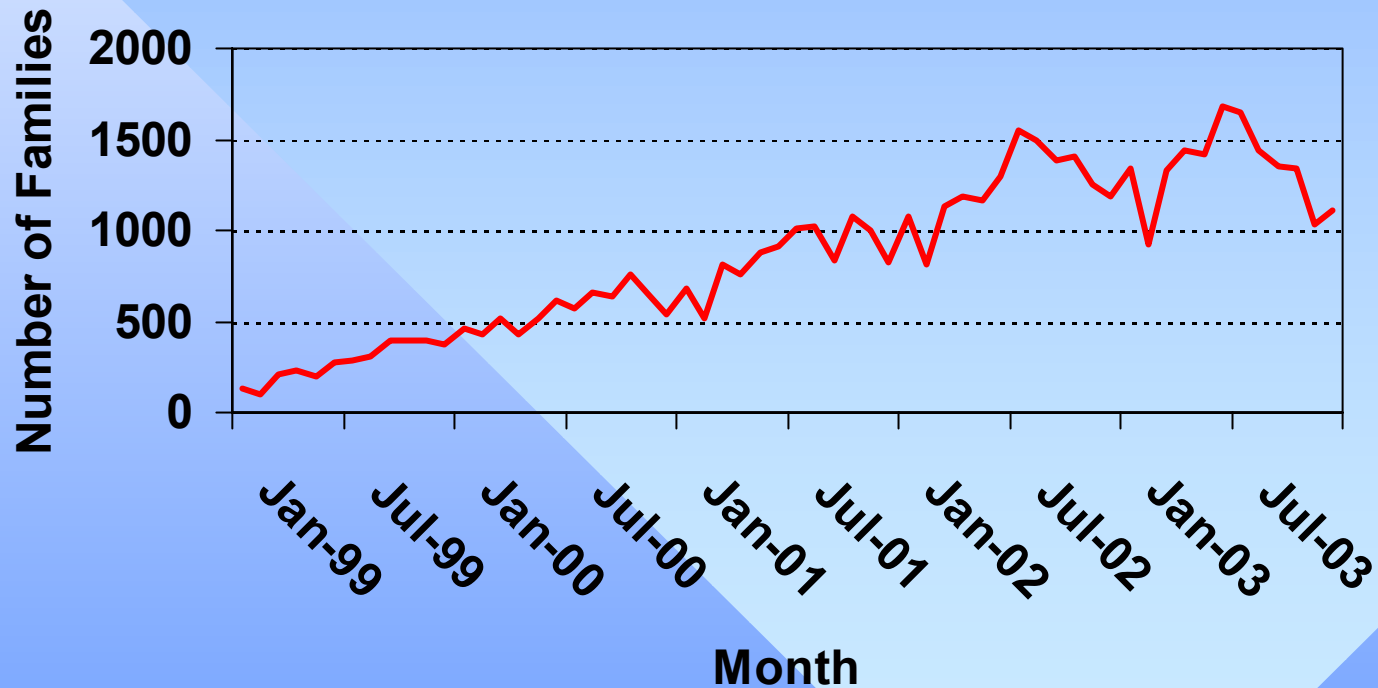
Disposition of Applications for Work First Over Time



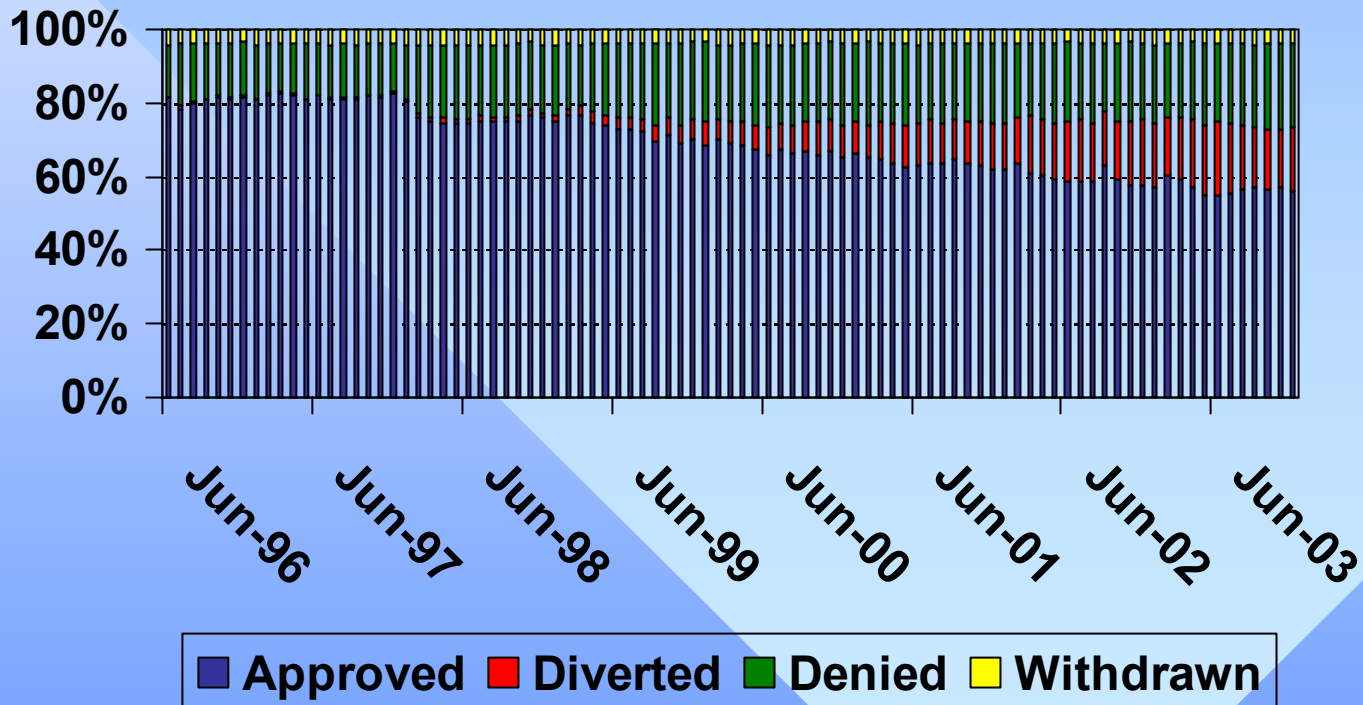
Changes in Work First Case Openings and Closings



Families Provided Work First Diversion Assistance

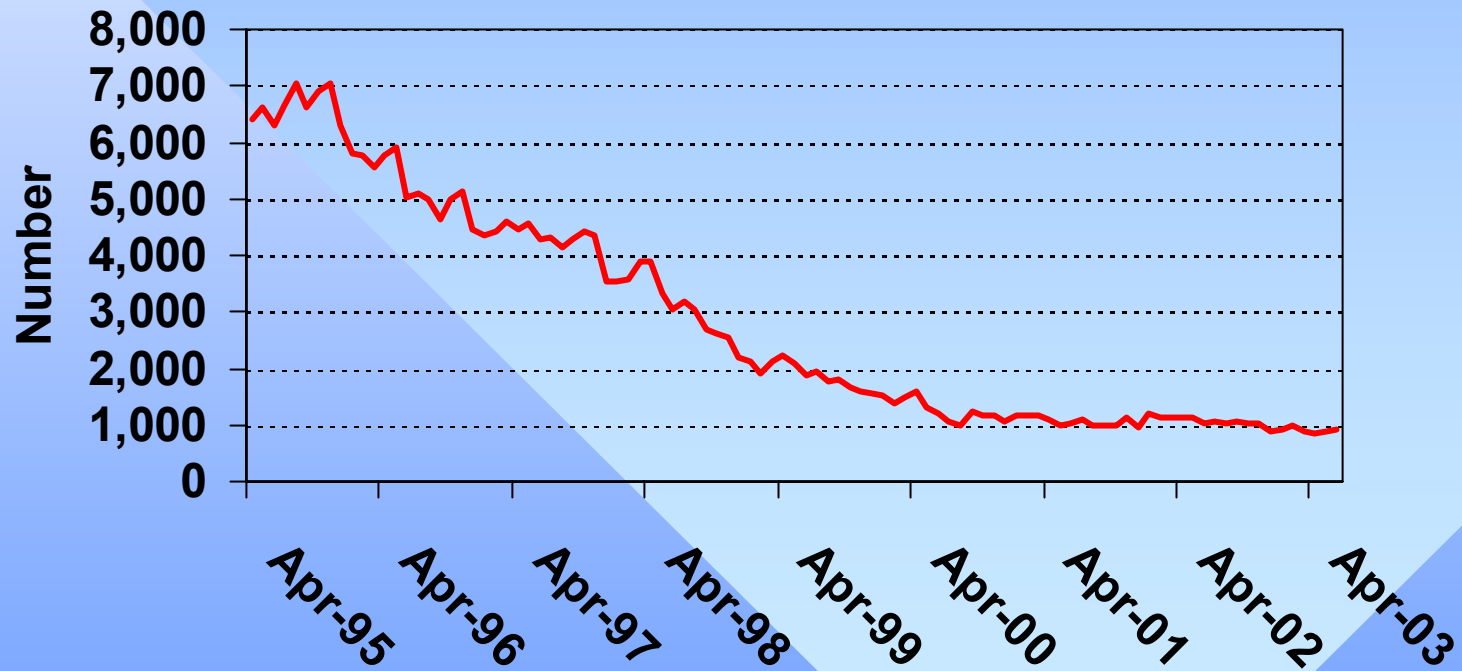


Disposition of Applications For Work First Showing Approvals, Diversion, Denied, and Withdrawn

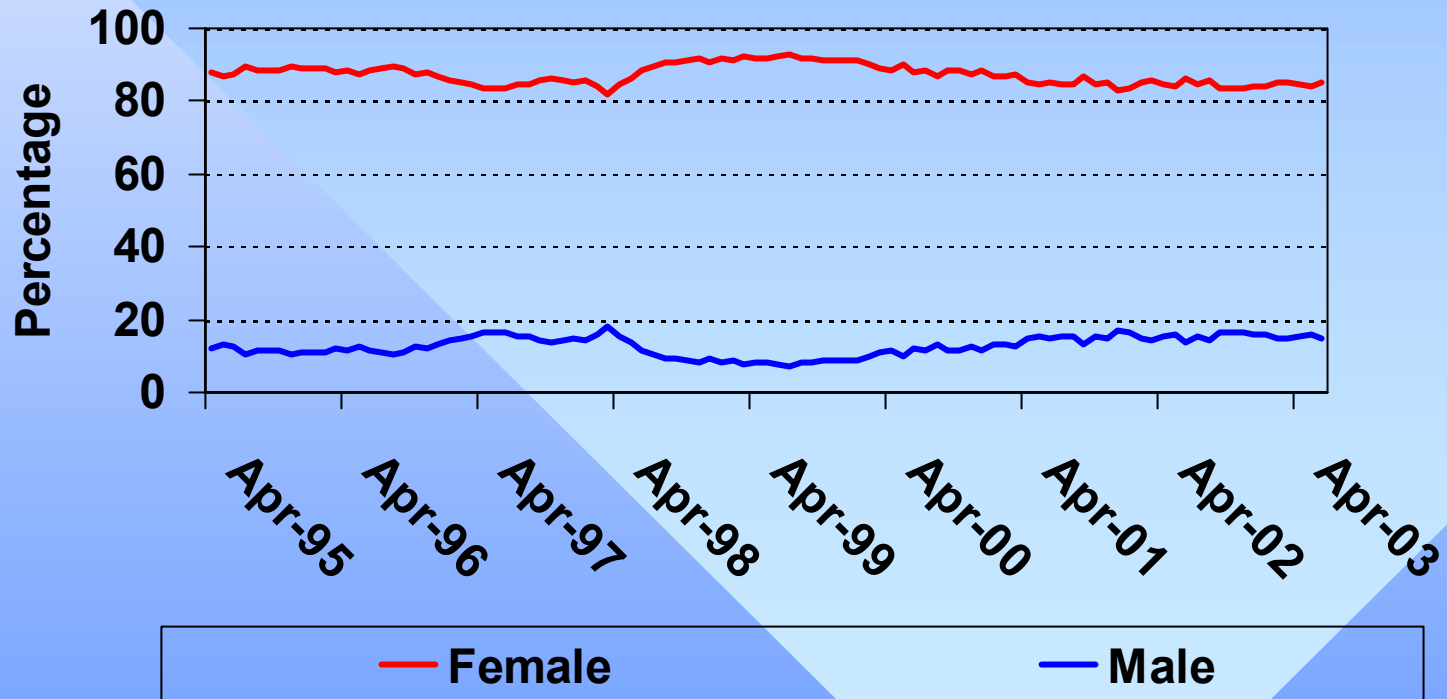


Who's Leaving Work First

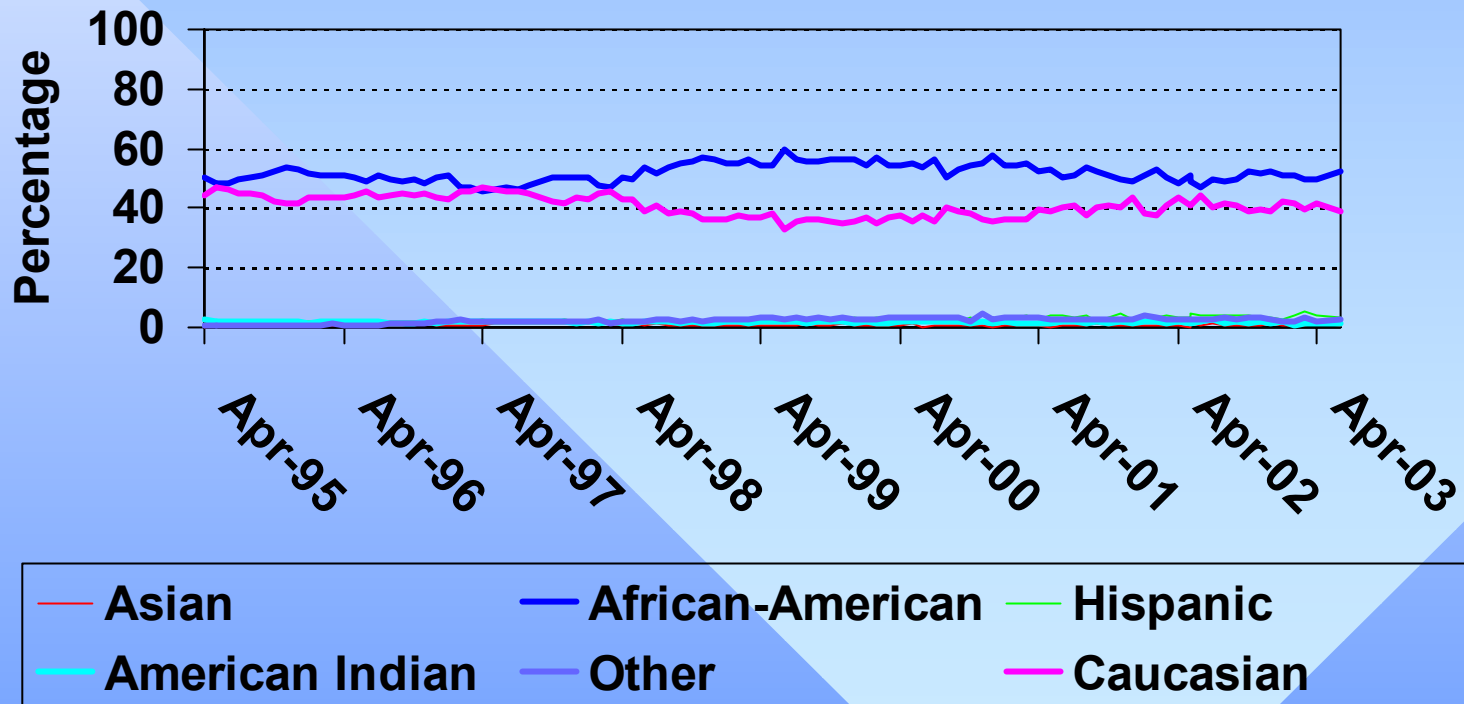
Number of Adults Leaving Work First Each Month



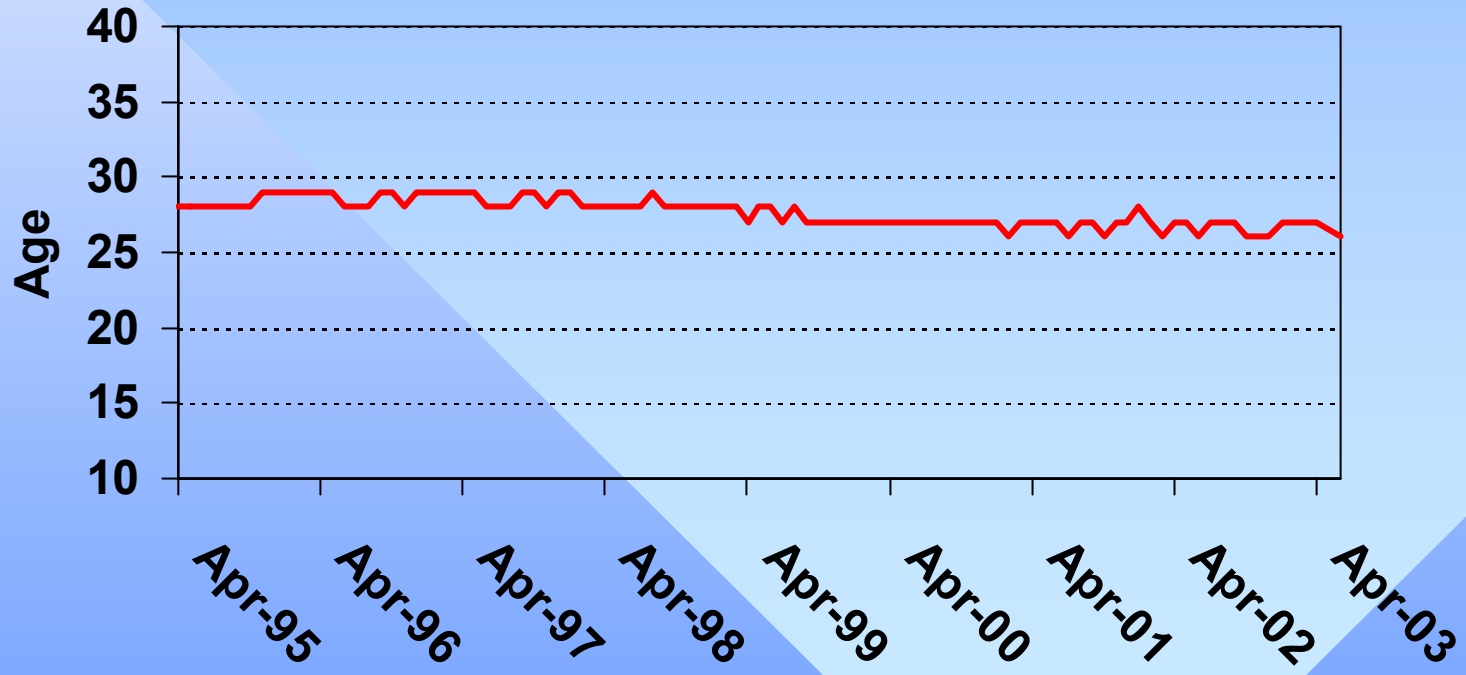
Gender of Adults Leaving Work First Each Month



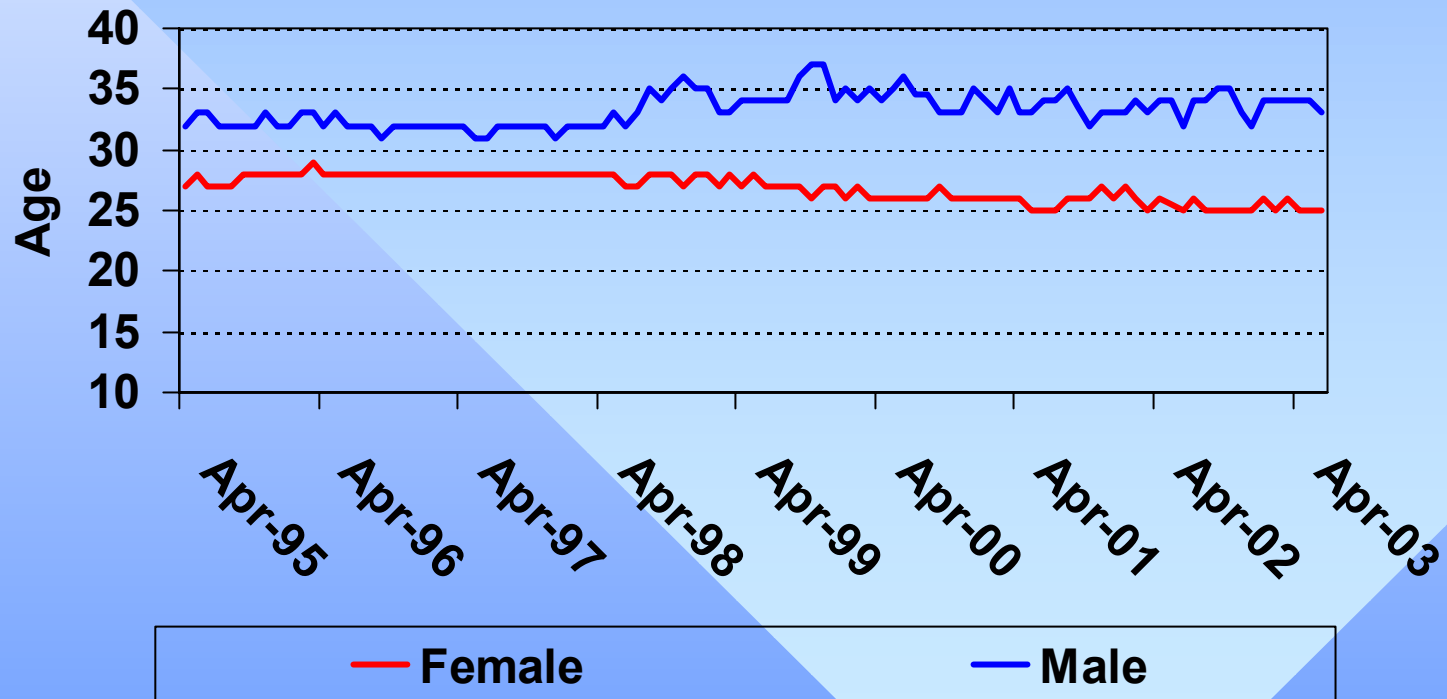
Racial Classification of Adults Leaving Work First



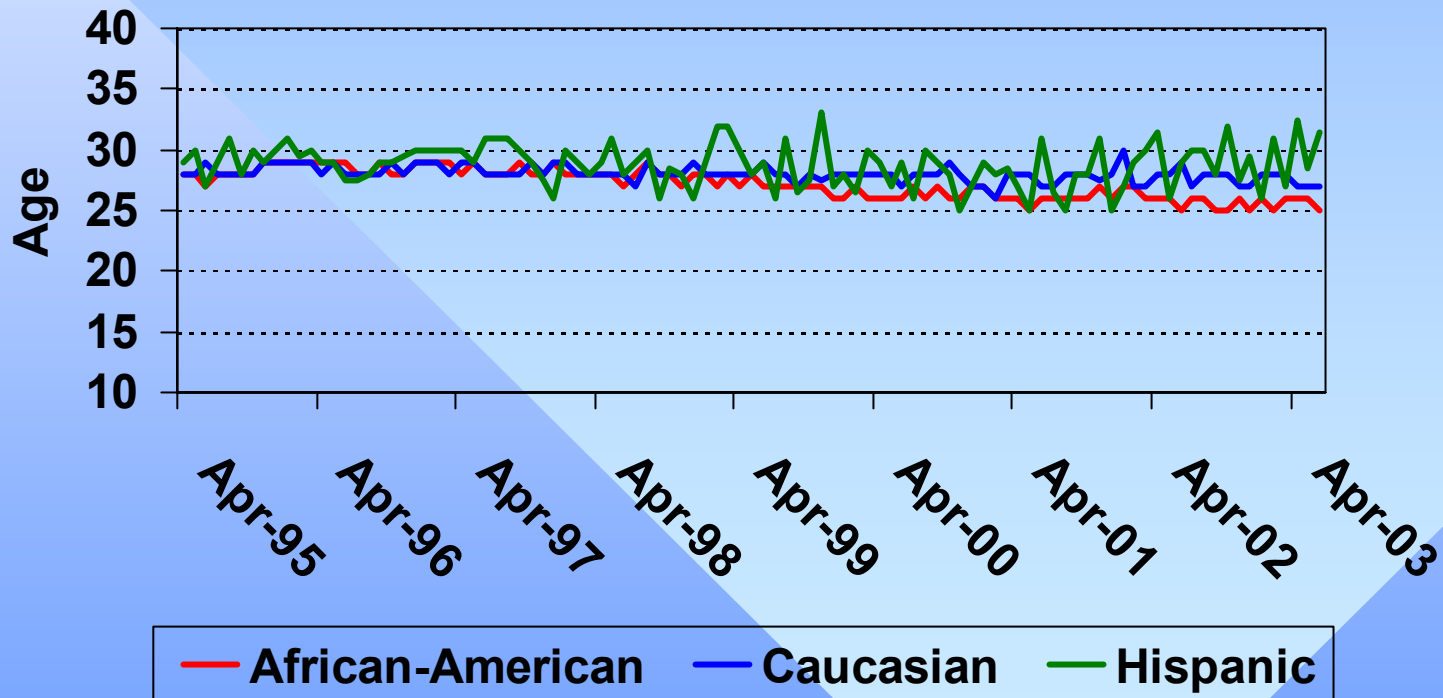
Median Age of Adults Leaving Work First



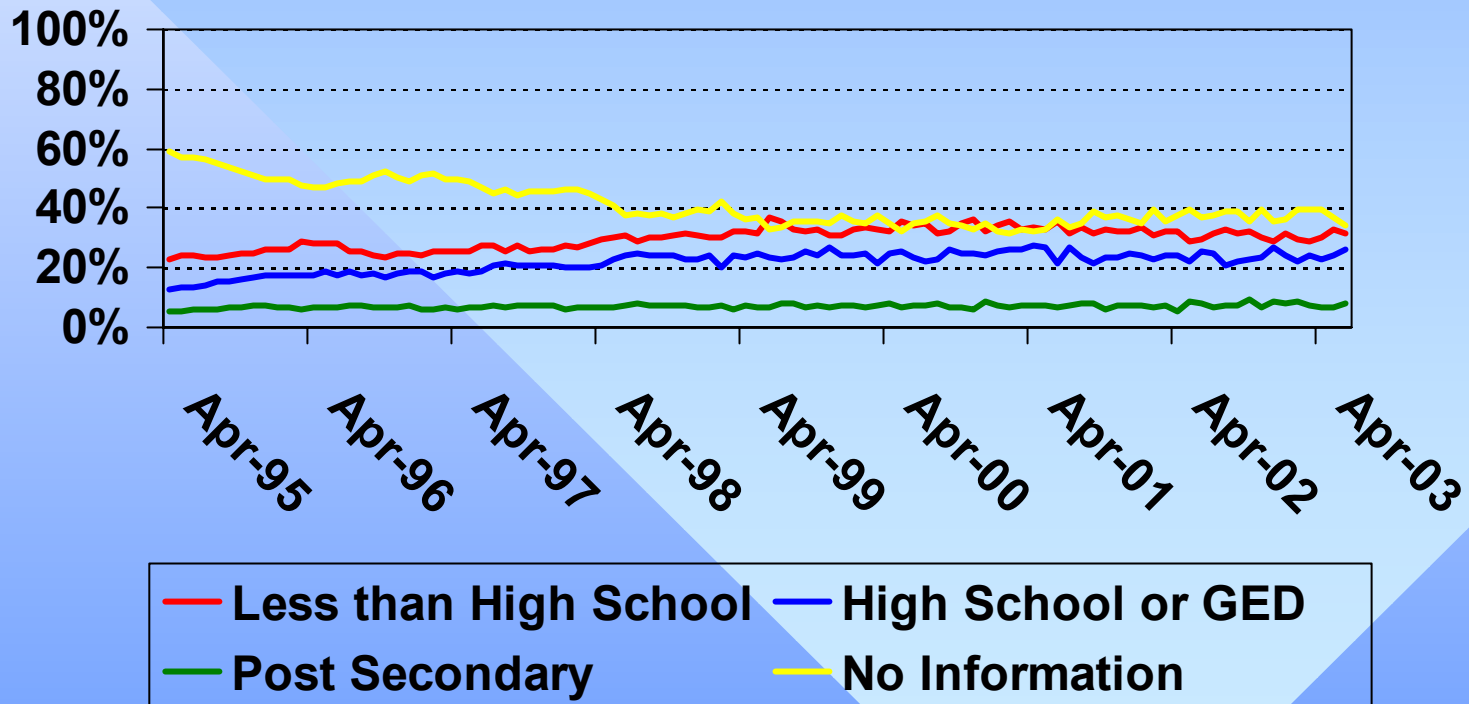
Median Age of Adults Leaving Work First by Gender



Median Age of Adults Leaving Work First by Racial Classification

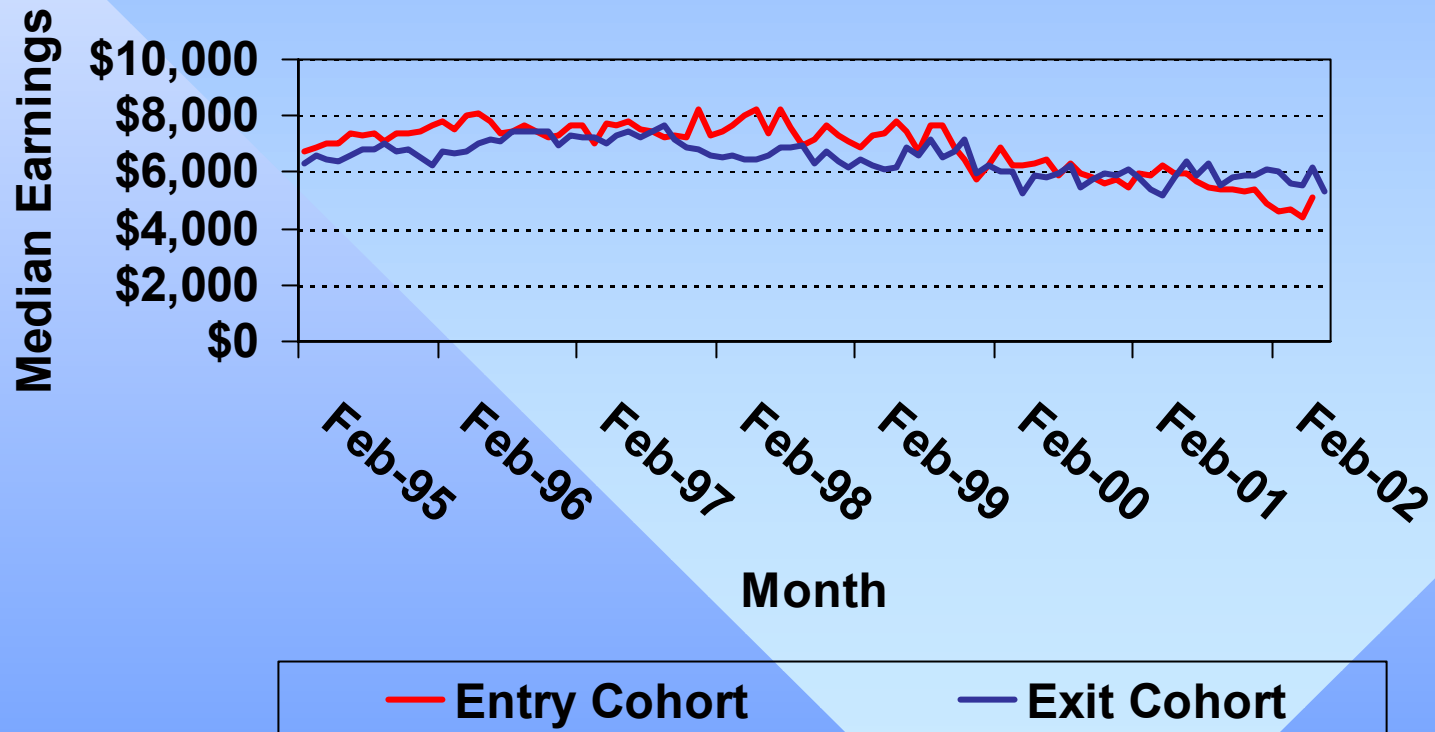


Educational Attainment of Adults Leaving Work First

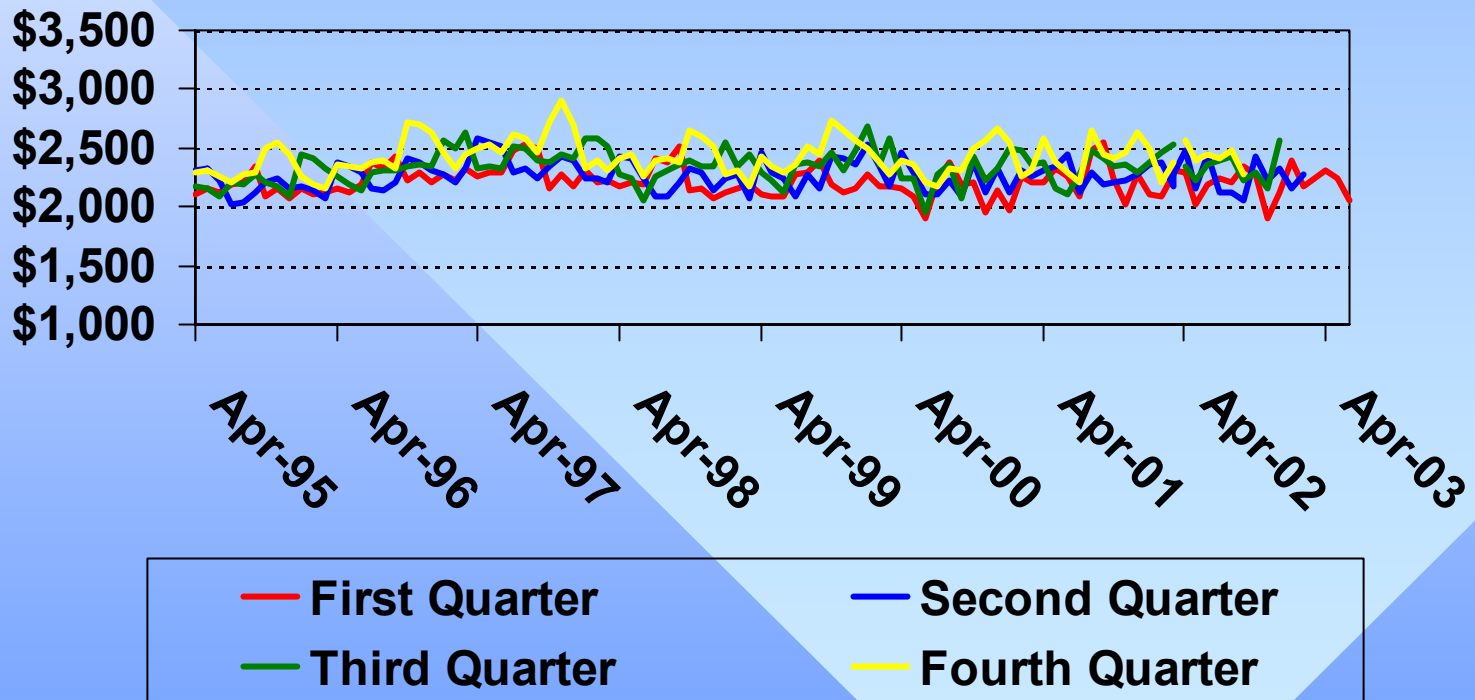


Earnings in the First Year After Leaving Work First

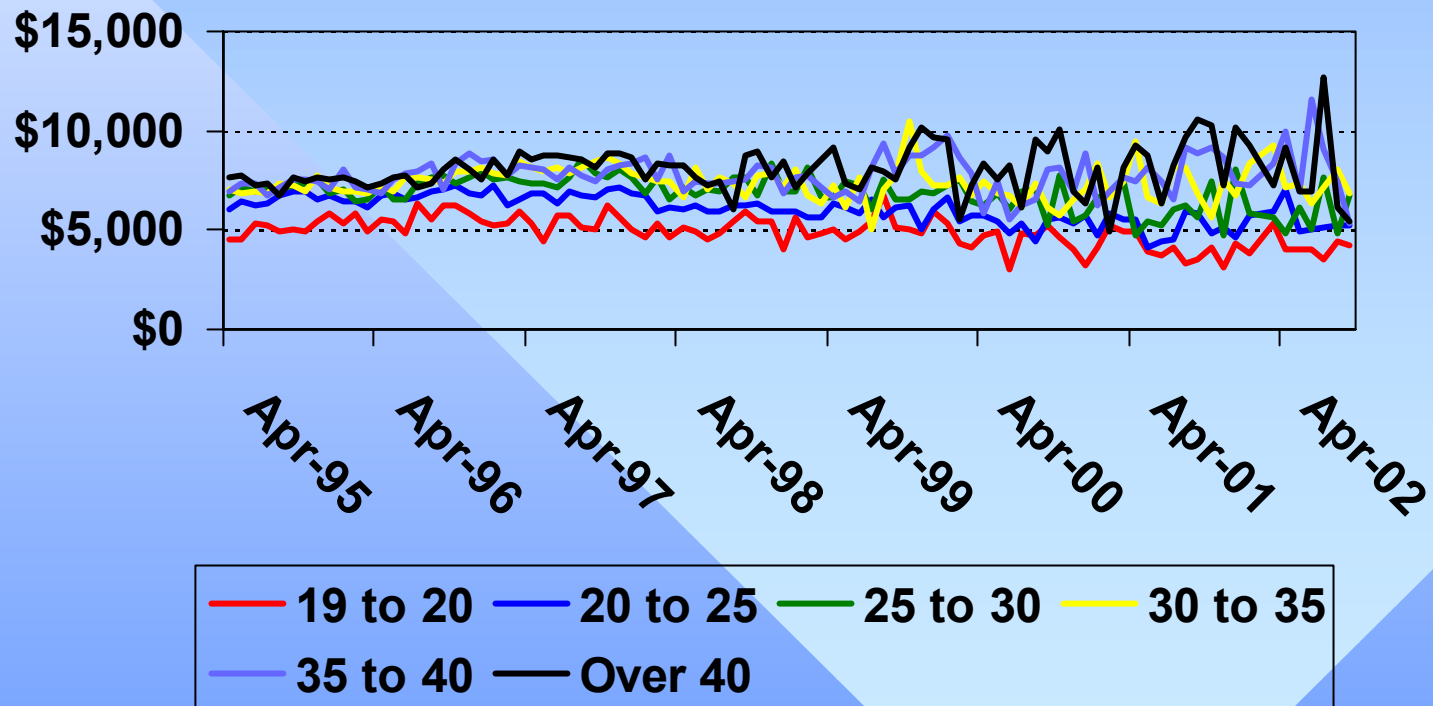
Median Earnings for the First Four Quarters After Leaving Work First (for Entry and Exit Cohorts)



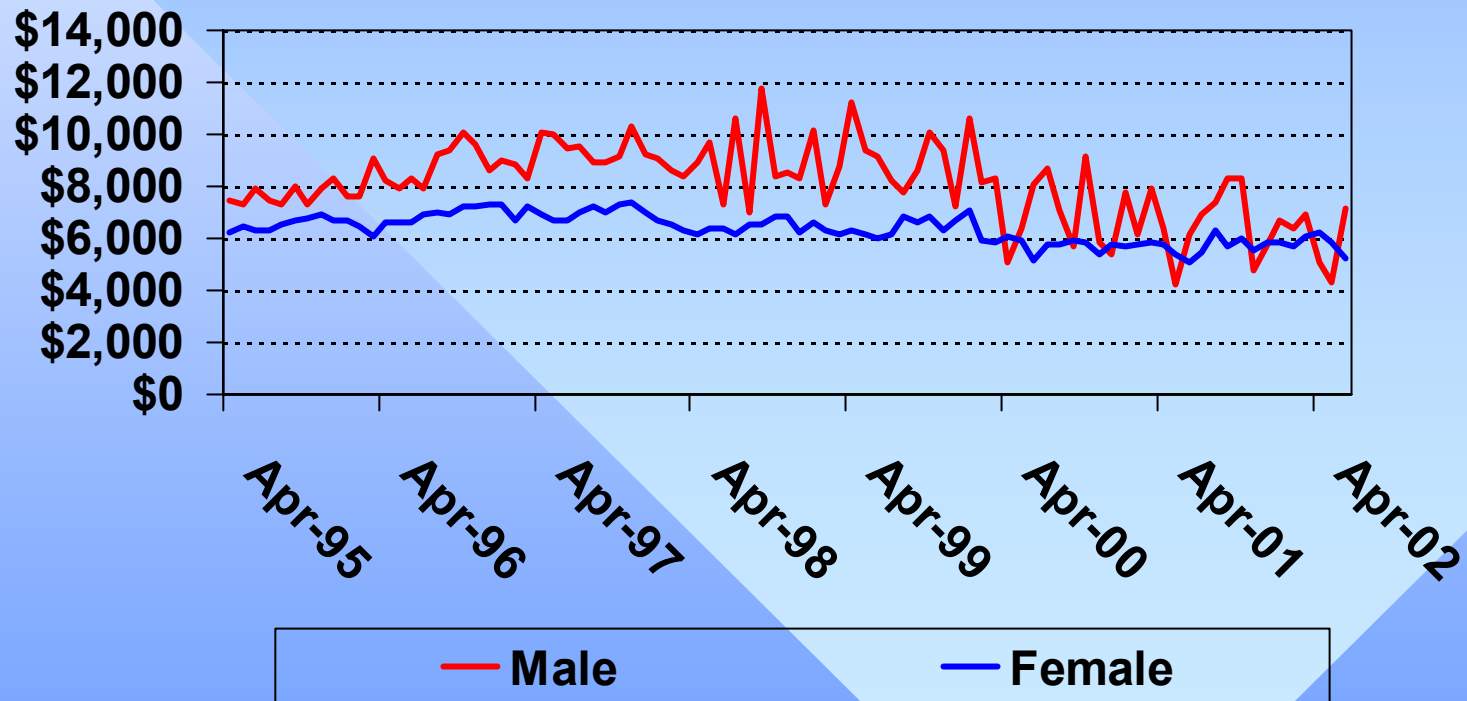
Earnings by Quarter for Adults Leaving Work First



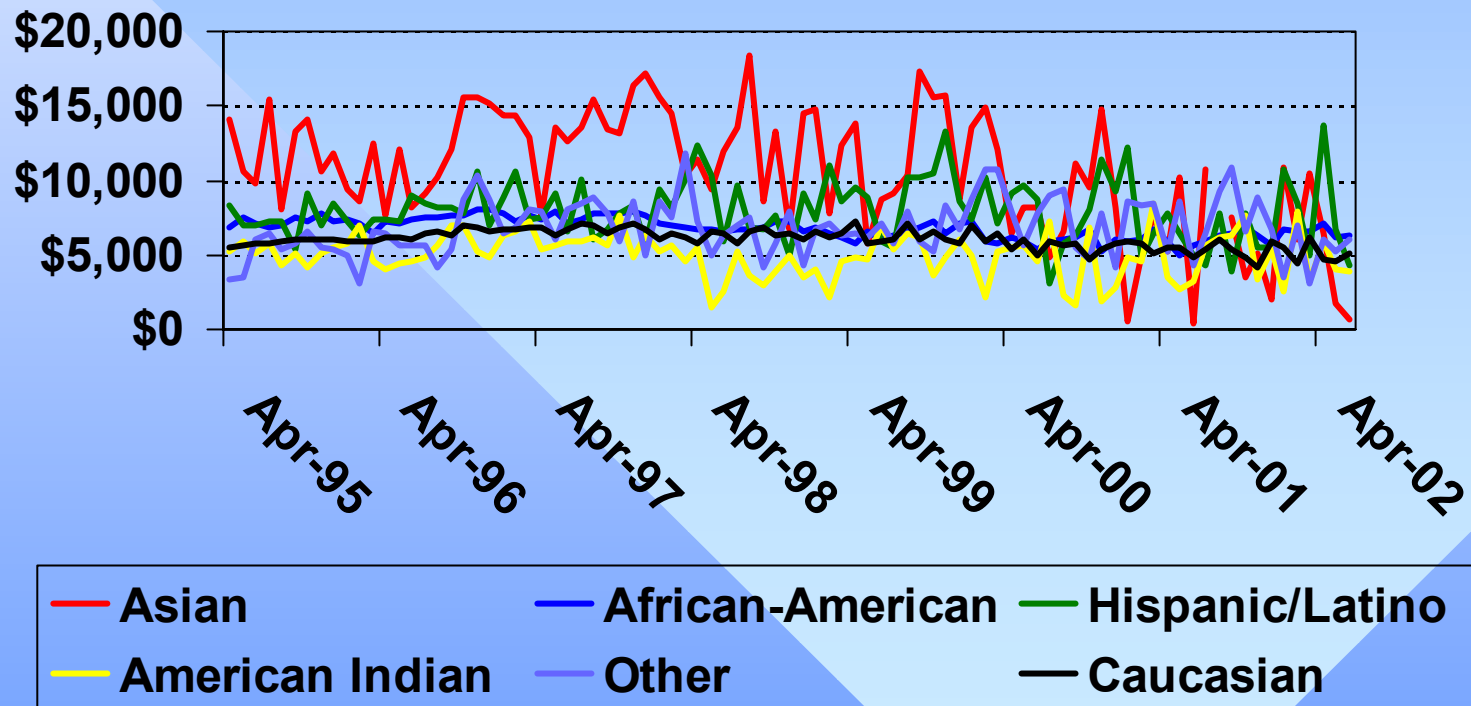
Median Earnings For the First Four Quarters After Leaving Work First by Age Group



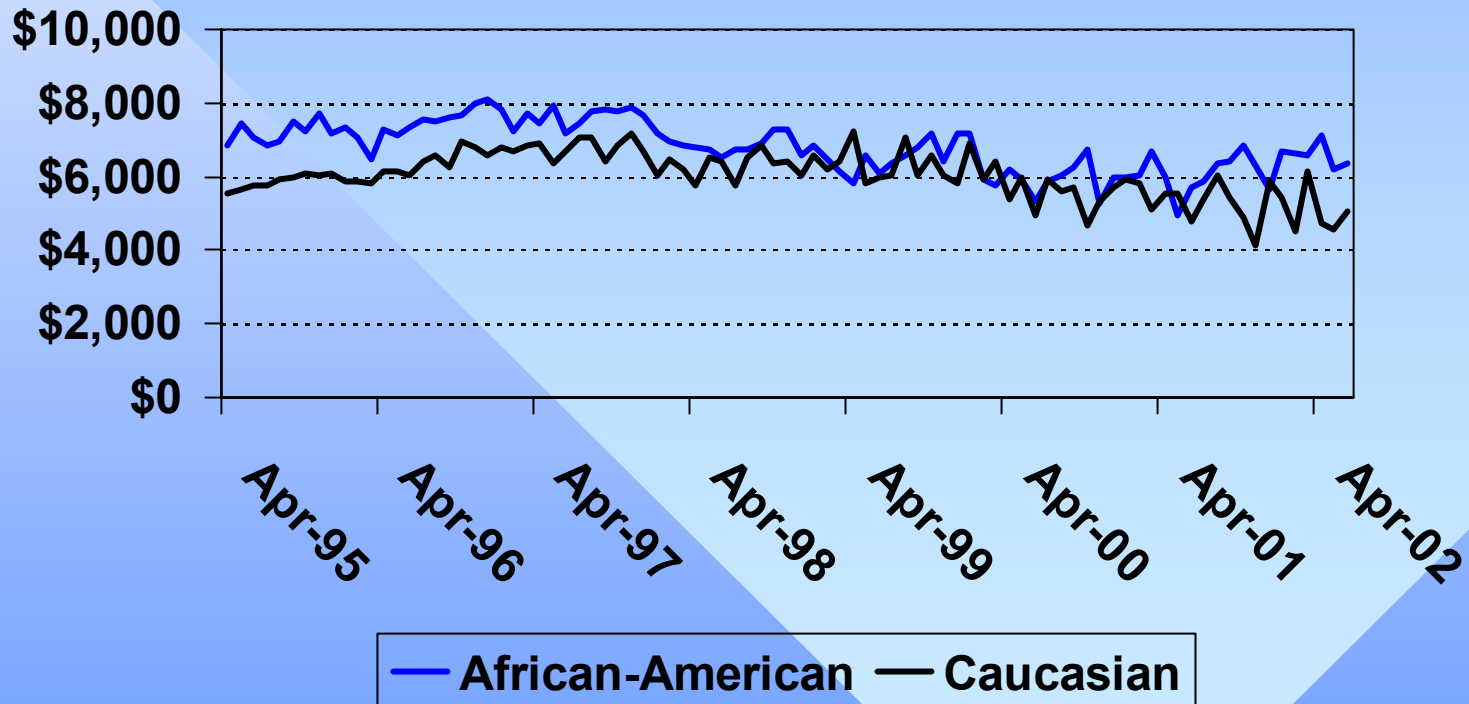
Median Earnings For the First Four Quarters After Leaving Work First by Gender



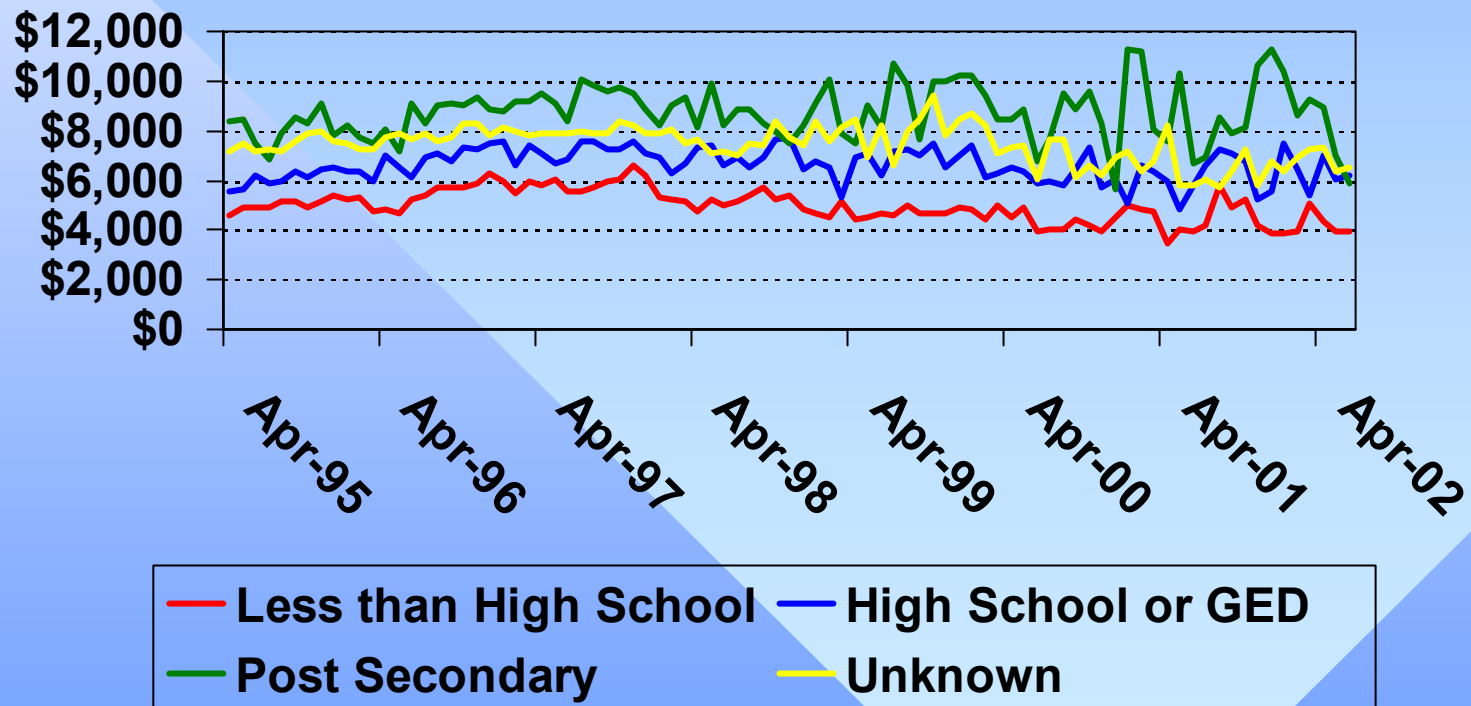
Median Earnings For the First Four Quarters After Leaving Work First by Racial Classification



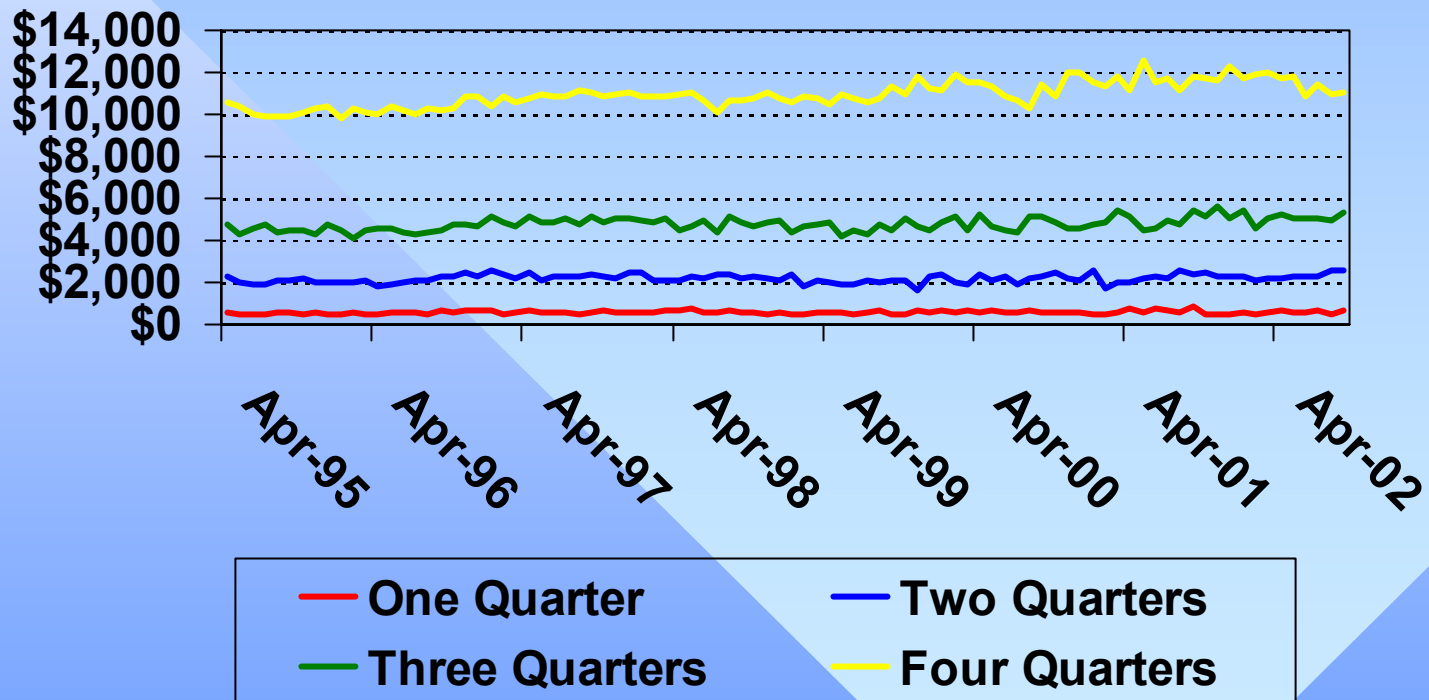
Median Earnings For the First Four Quarters After Leaving Work First For Two Racial Classifications



Median Earnings For the First Four Quarters After Leaving Work First by Educational Attainment

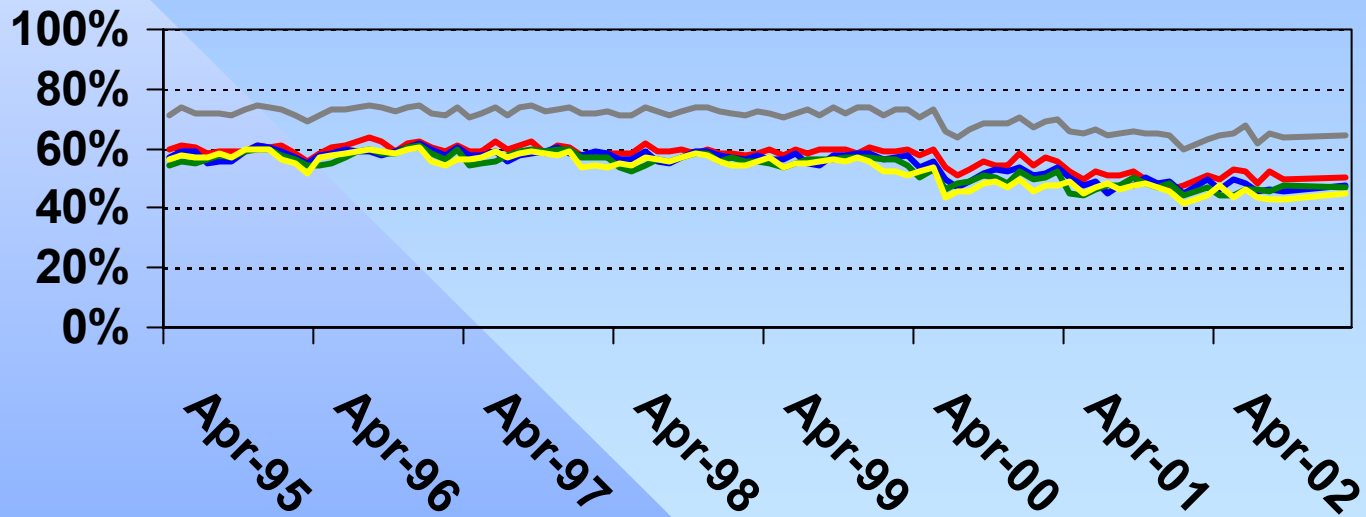


Median Earnings For The First Four Quarters After Leaving Work First by the Number of Quarters With Earnings

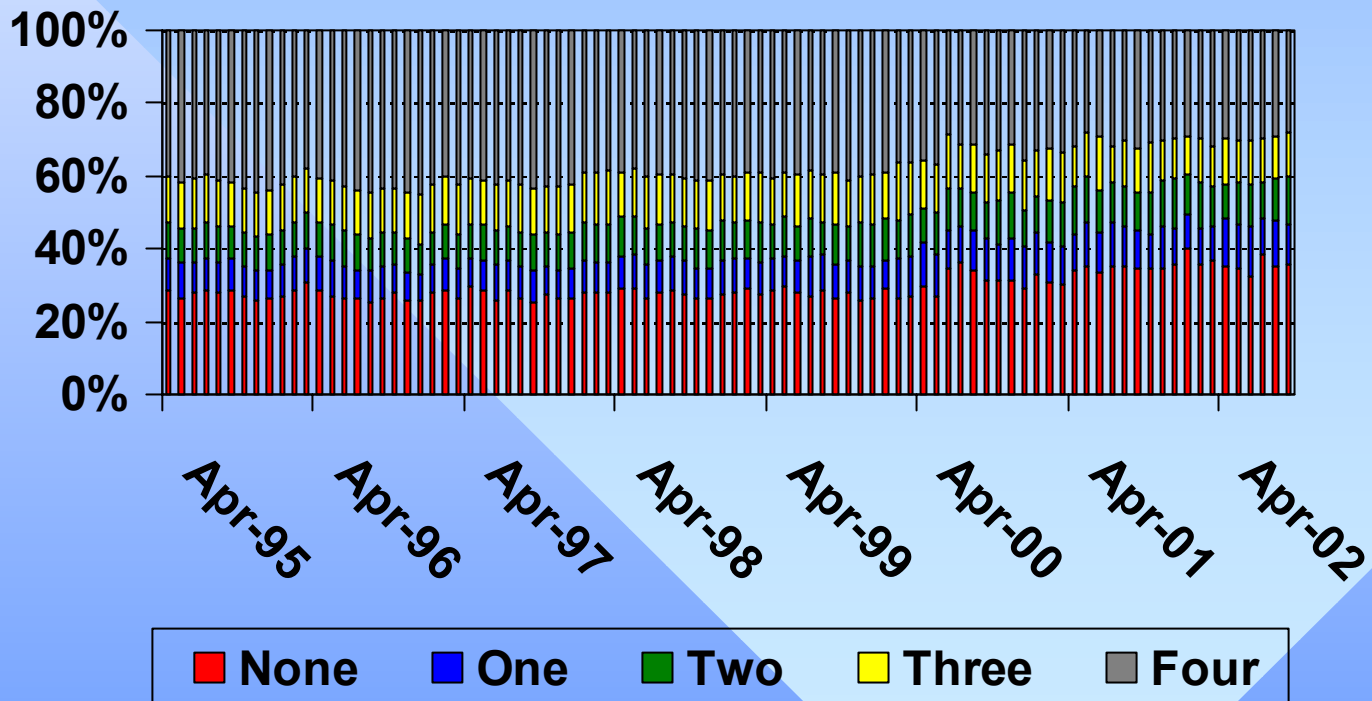


The Work Experiences of Individuals Leaving Work First

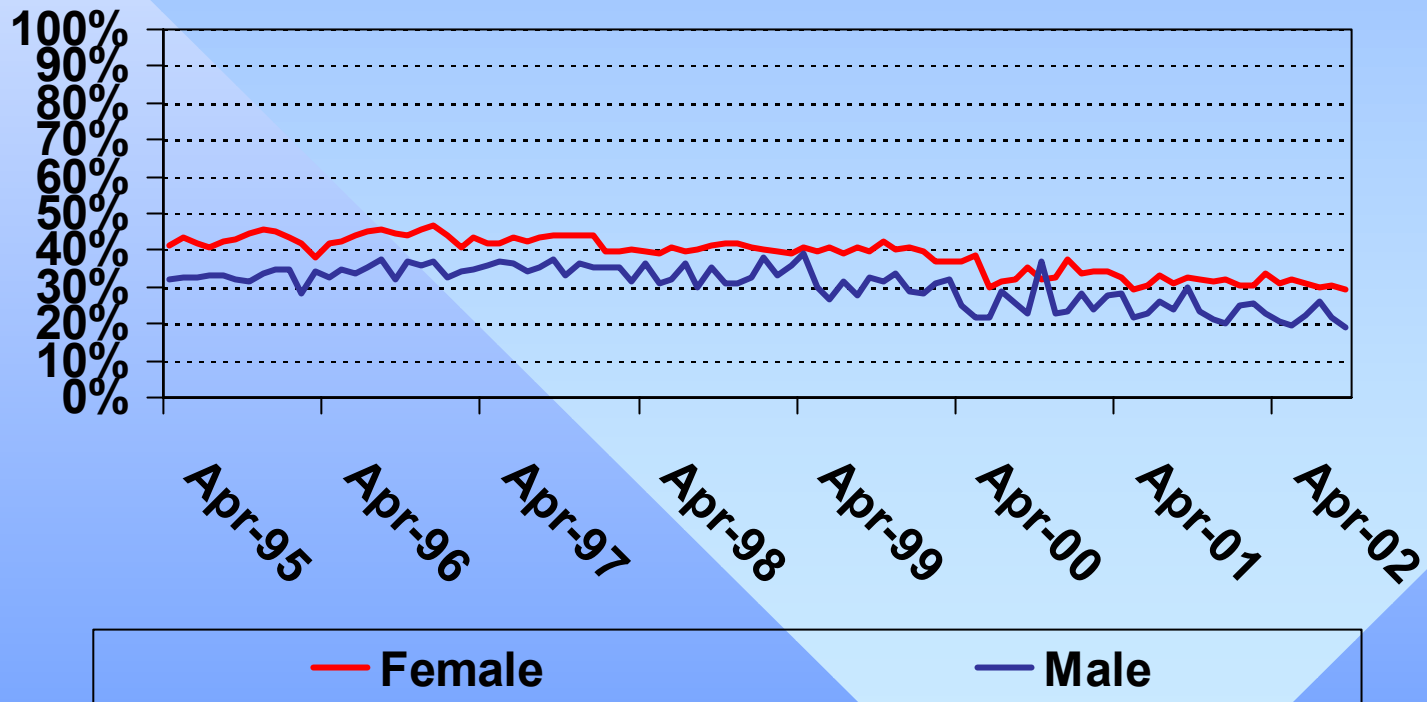
Percentage of Adults Leaving Work First That Have Earnings



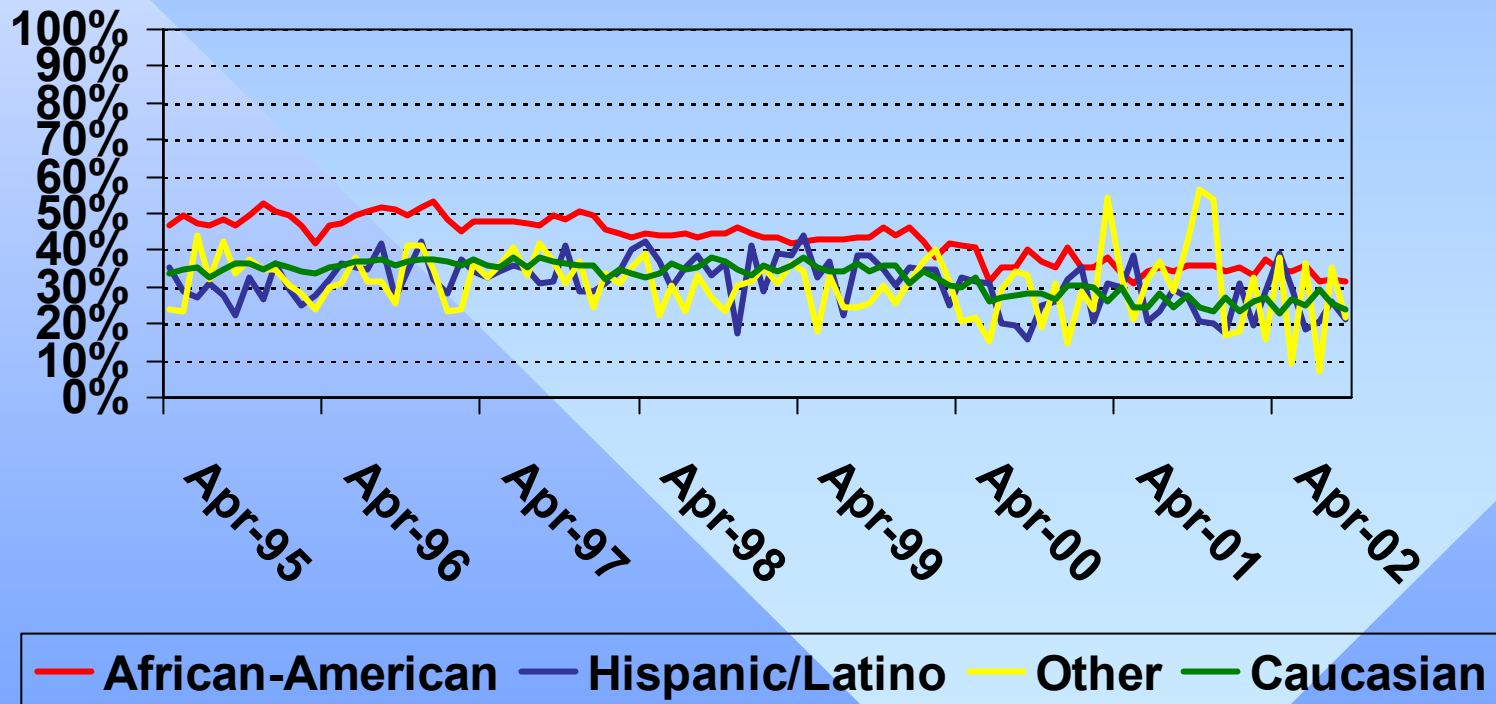
Percentage of Adults Leaving Work First by the Number of Quarters With Earnings During the First Year



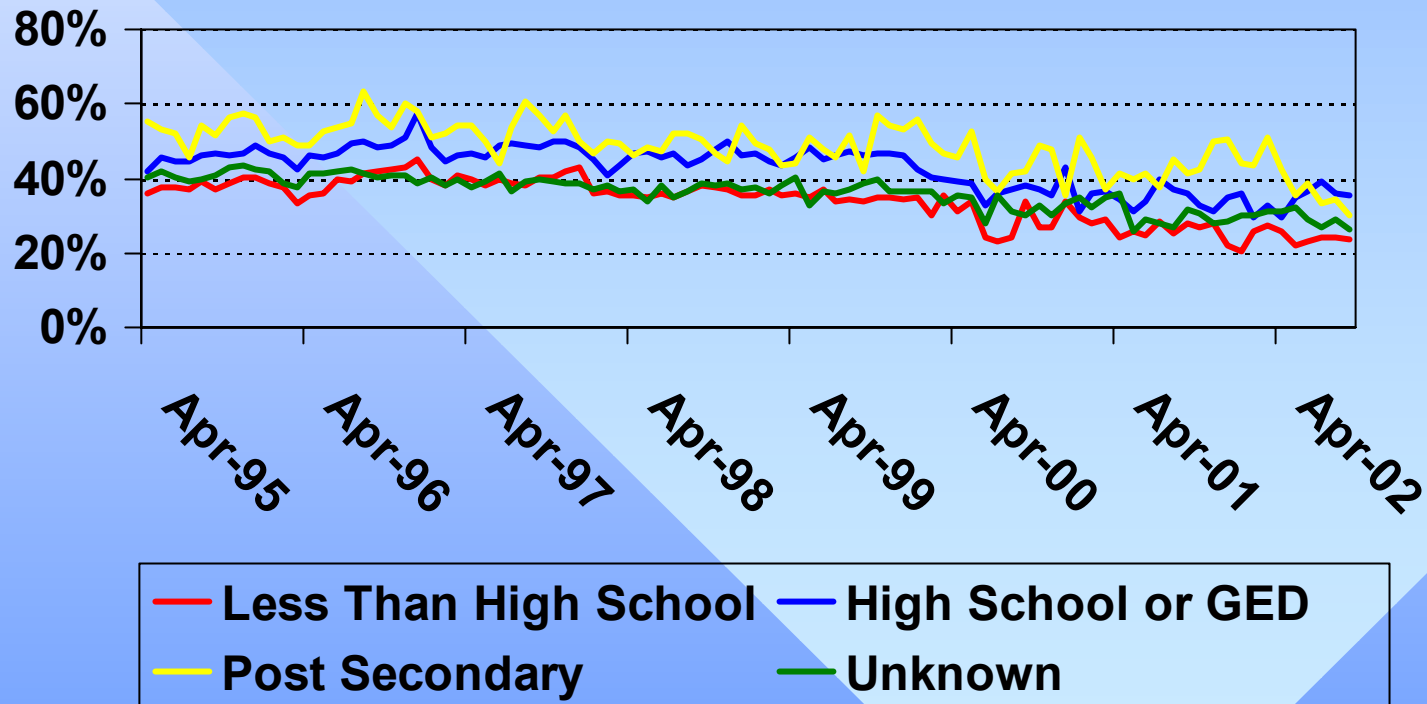
Percentage of Adults With Earnings in All Four Quarters After Leaving Work First by Gender



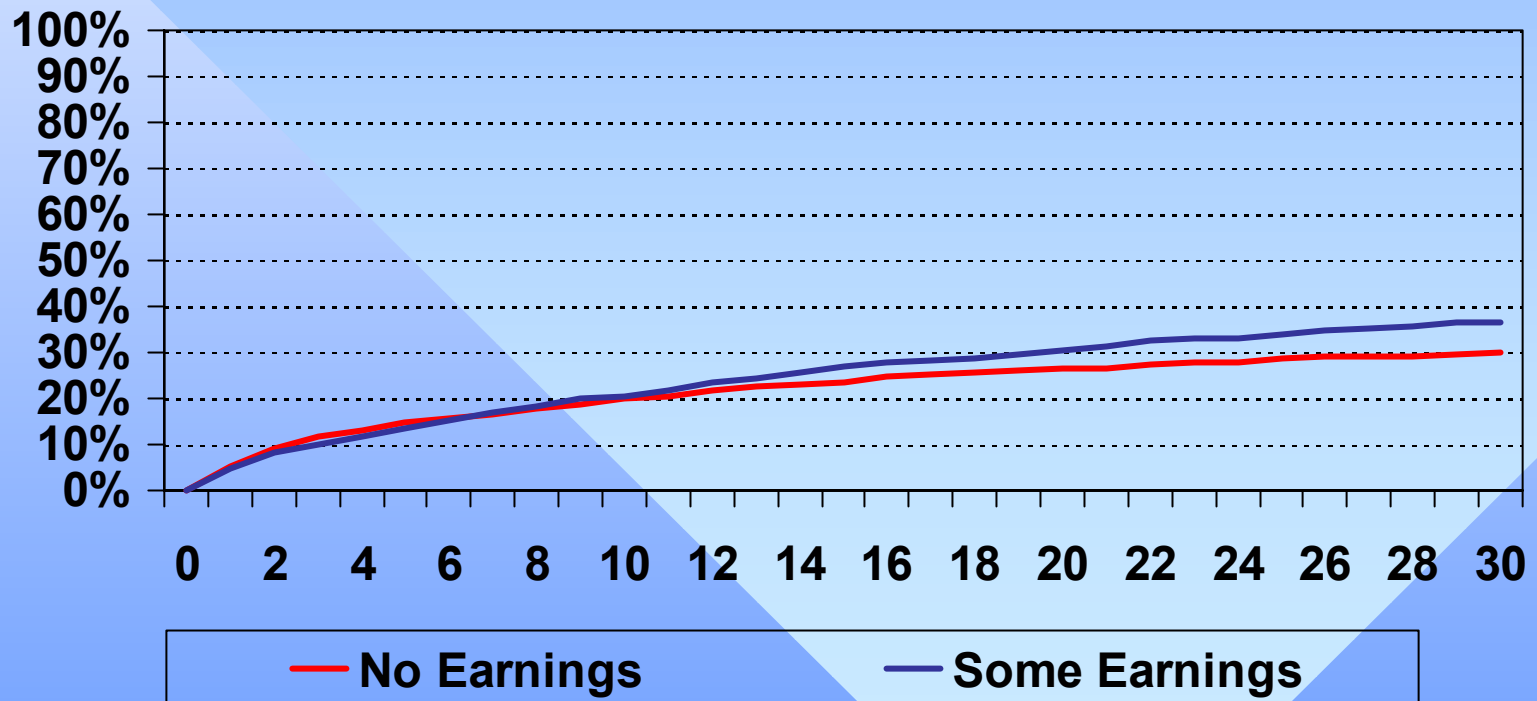
Percentage of Adults With Earnings in All Four Quarters After Leaving Work First by Racial Classification



The Percentage of Adults with Earnings in All Four Quarters After Leaving Work First by Educational Attainment

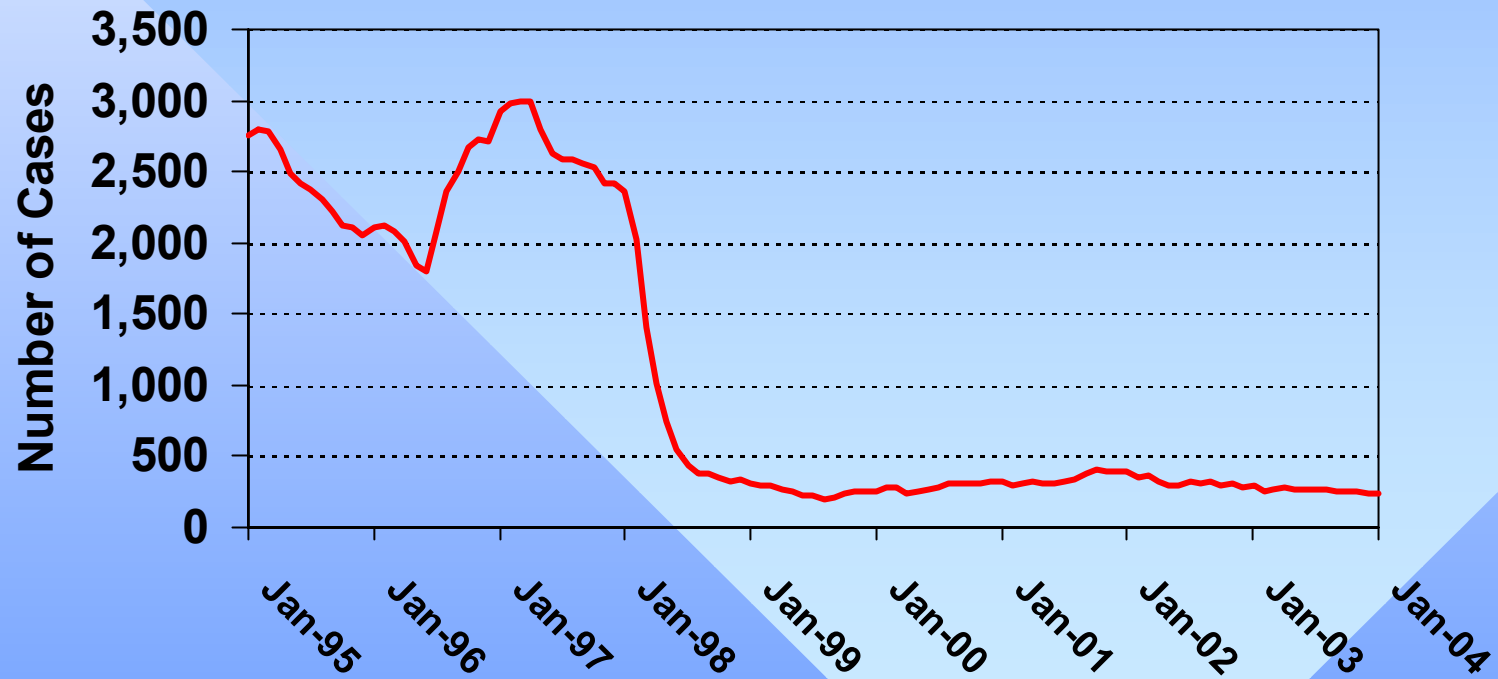


The Rate of Return to Work First by the Presence of Income in the Last Quarter on the Program for the June 2000 Entry Cohort

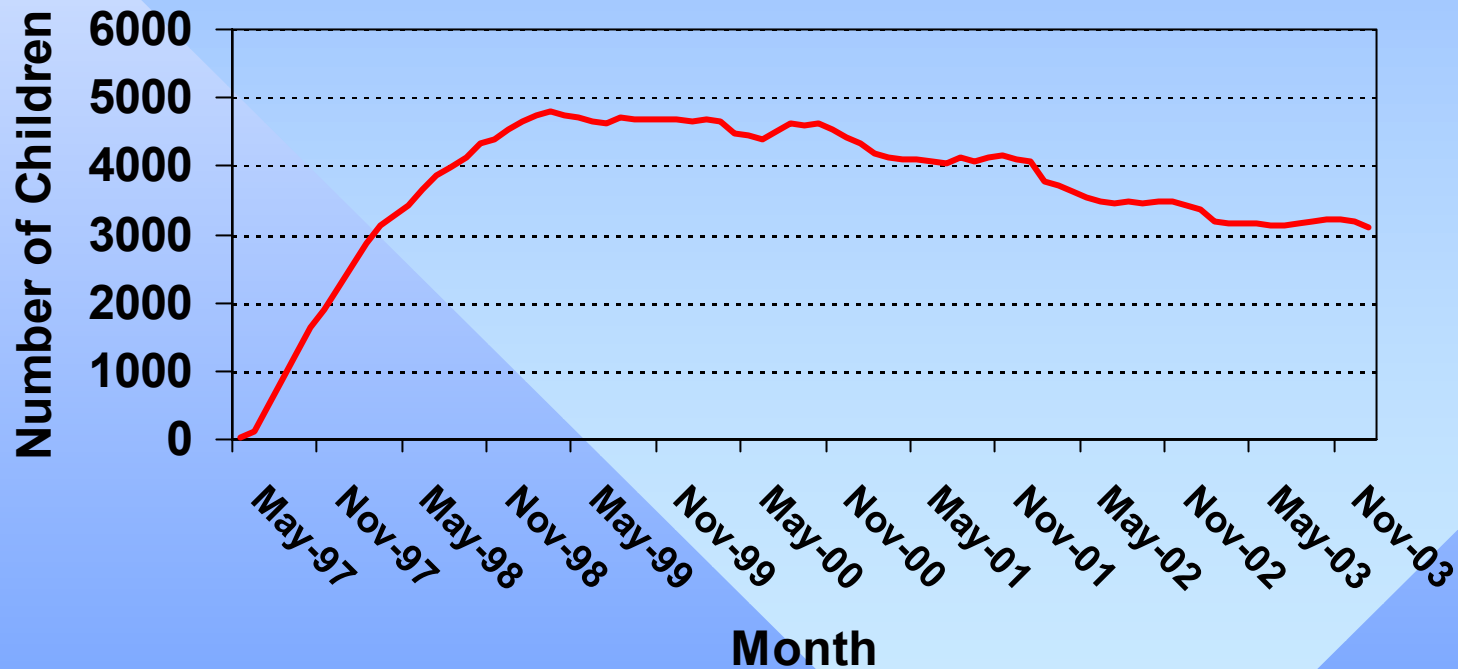


Special Cases, Family Caps and Time Limits

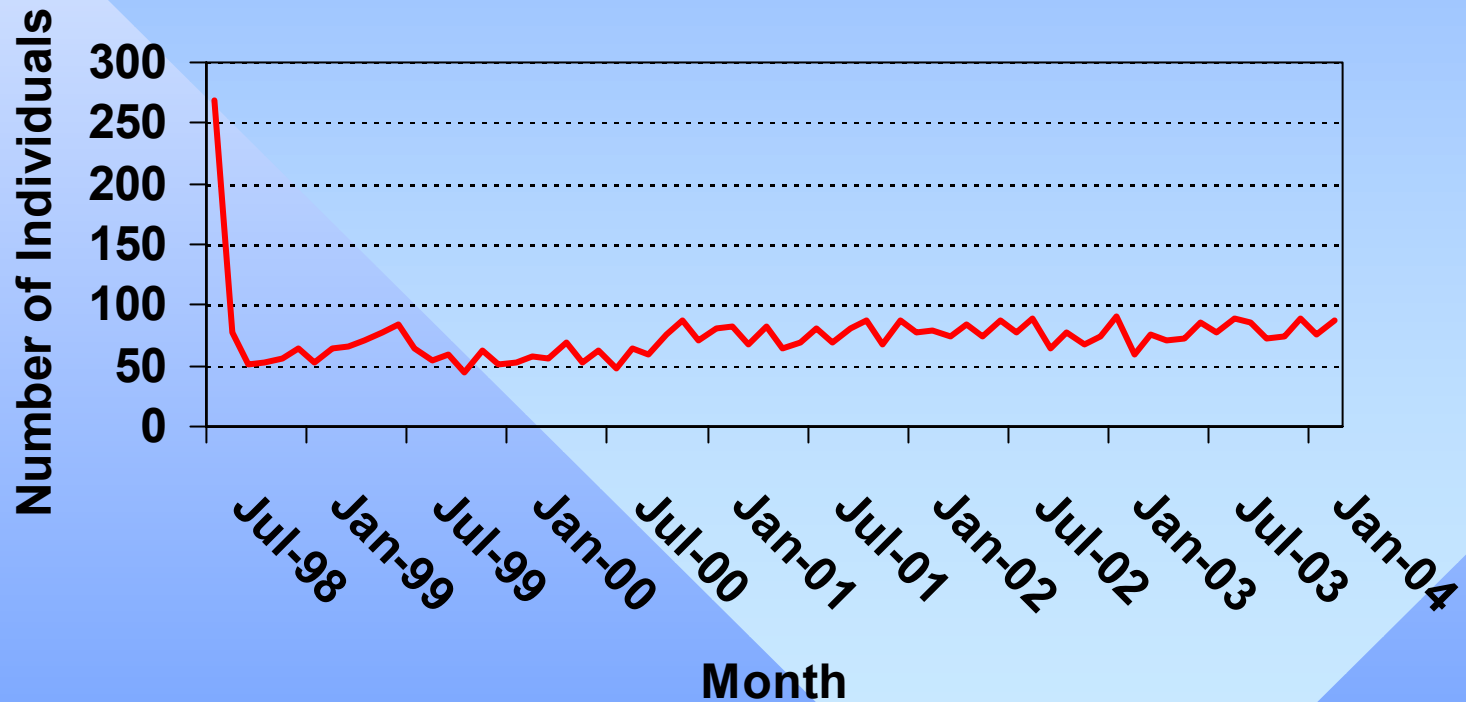
Changes in the Two Parent Caseload



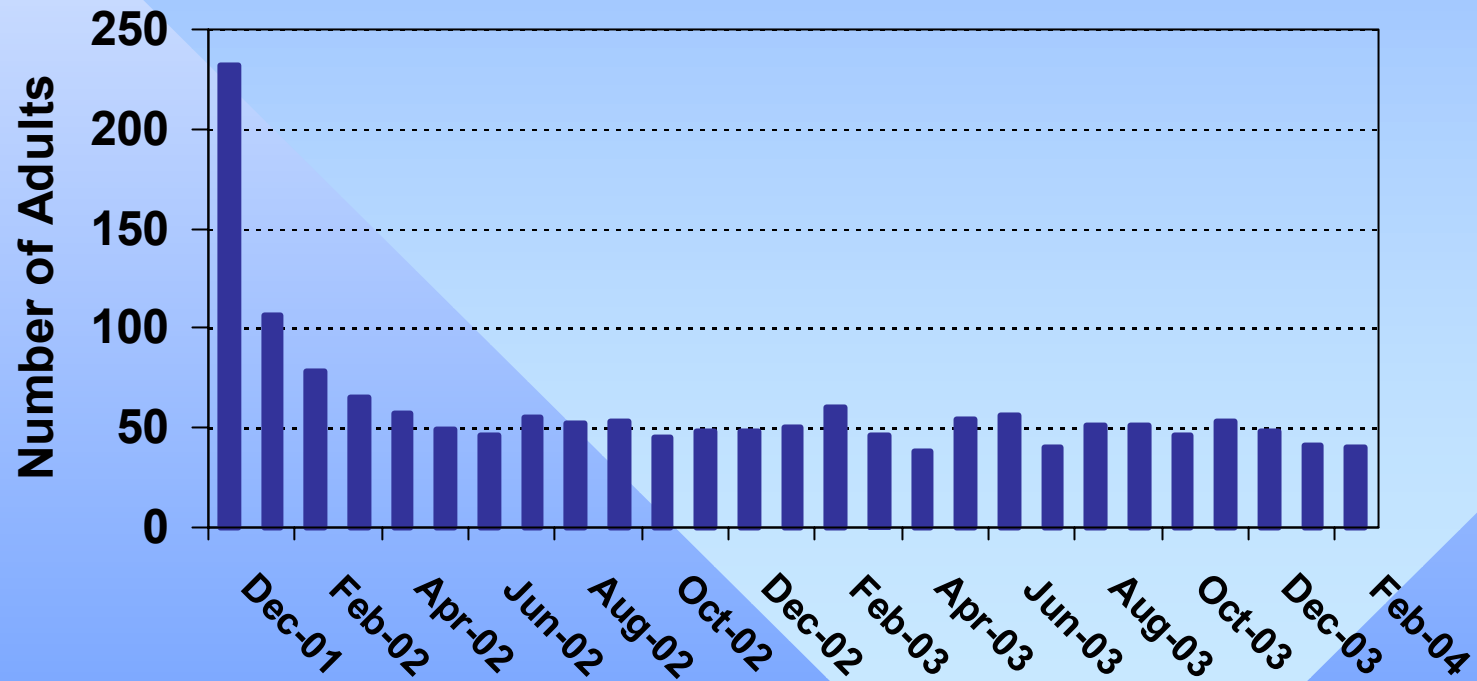
The Number of Family Cap Children in Work First Families



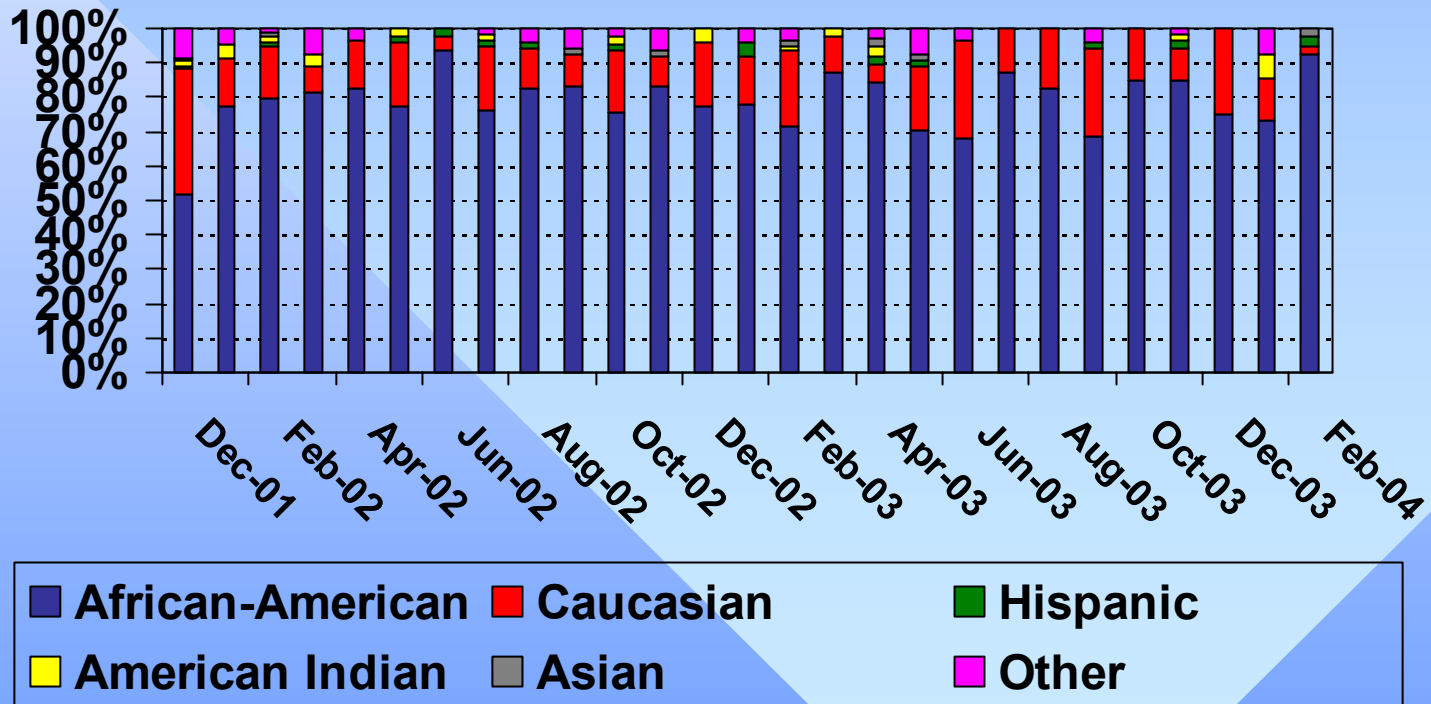
Individuals Accumulating 24 Months on the Time Clock and Leaving



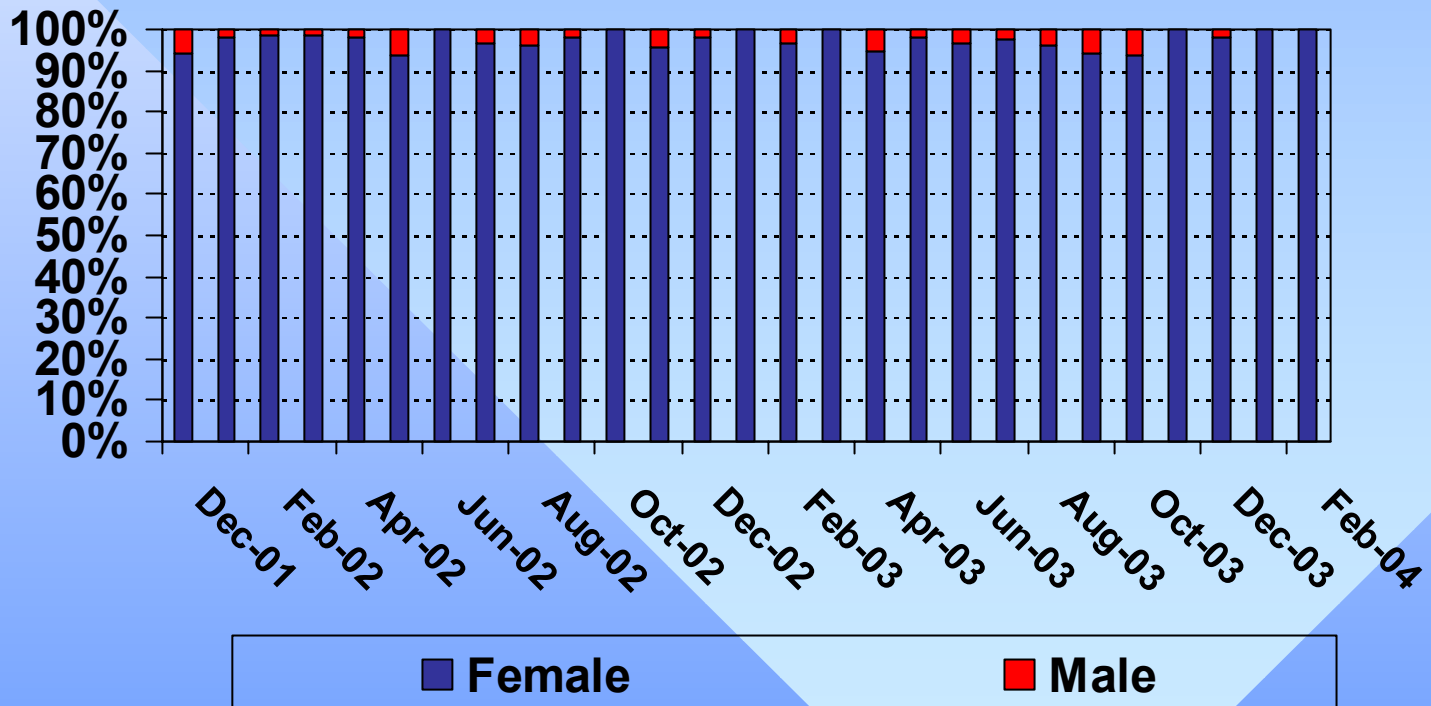
The Number of Adults Reaching the 60-Month Time Limit



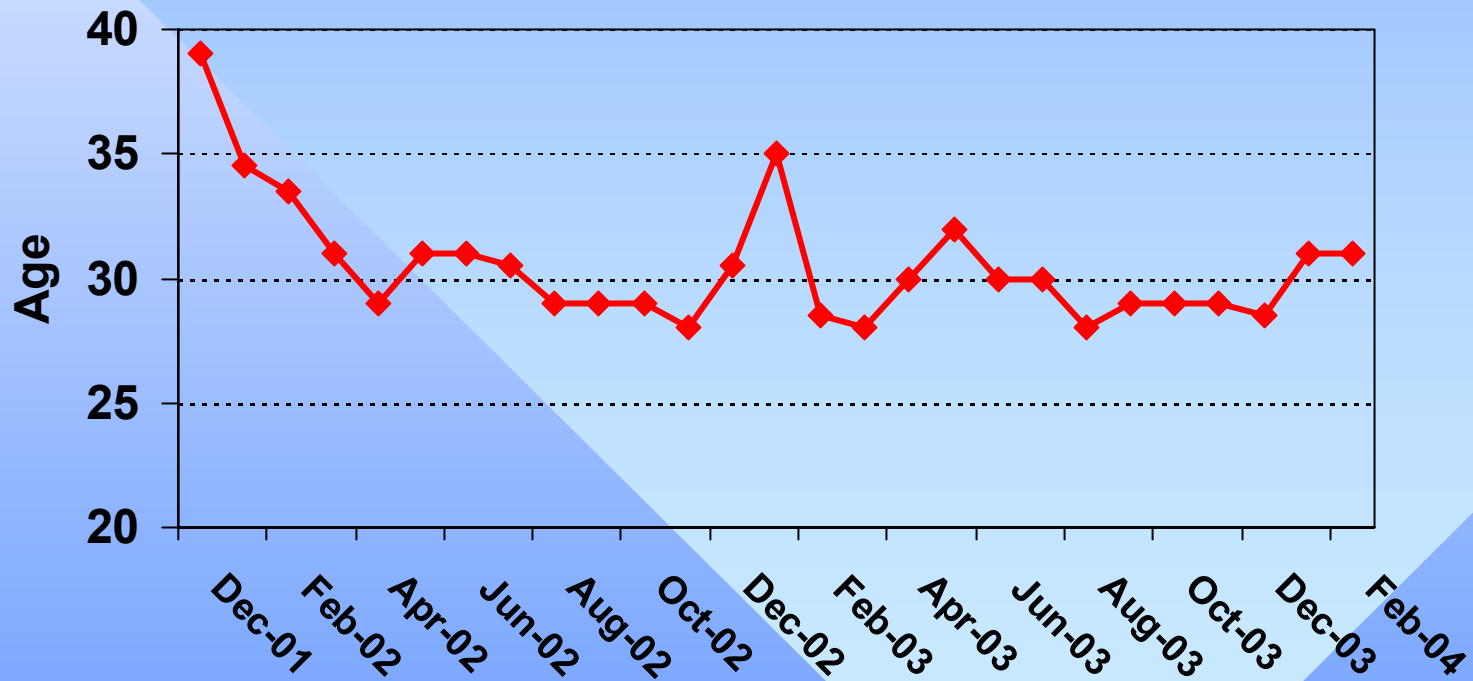
Racial Classification of Adults Reaching the 60-Month Time Limit



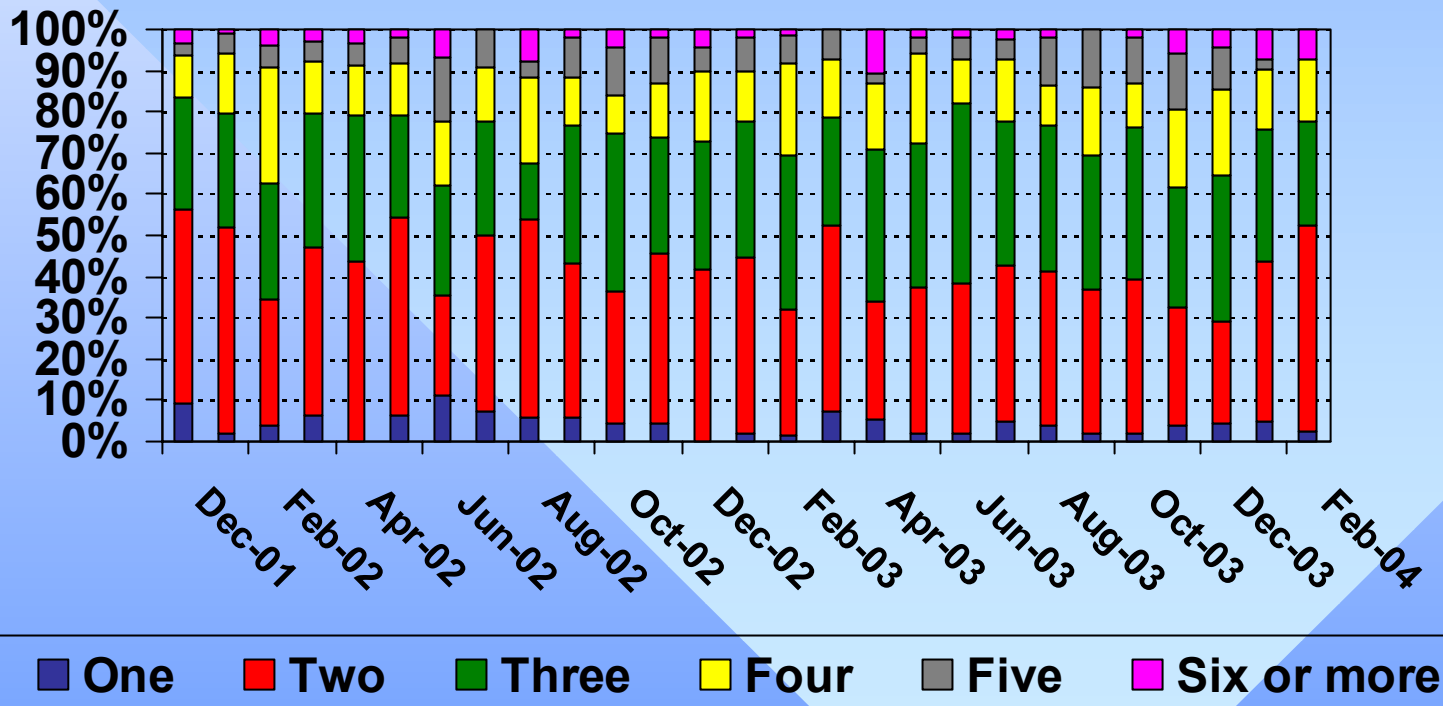
Gender of Adults Reaching the 60-Month Time Limit



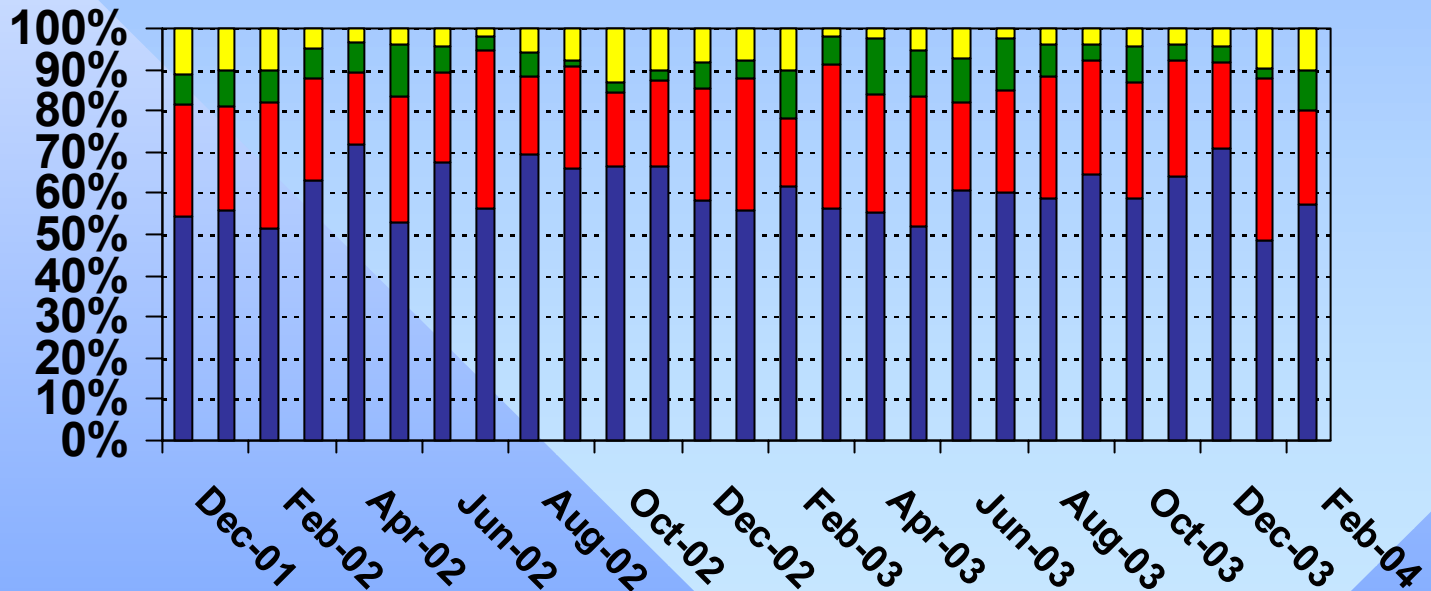
Median Age of Adults Reaching the 60-Month Time Limit



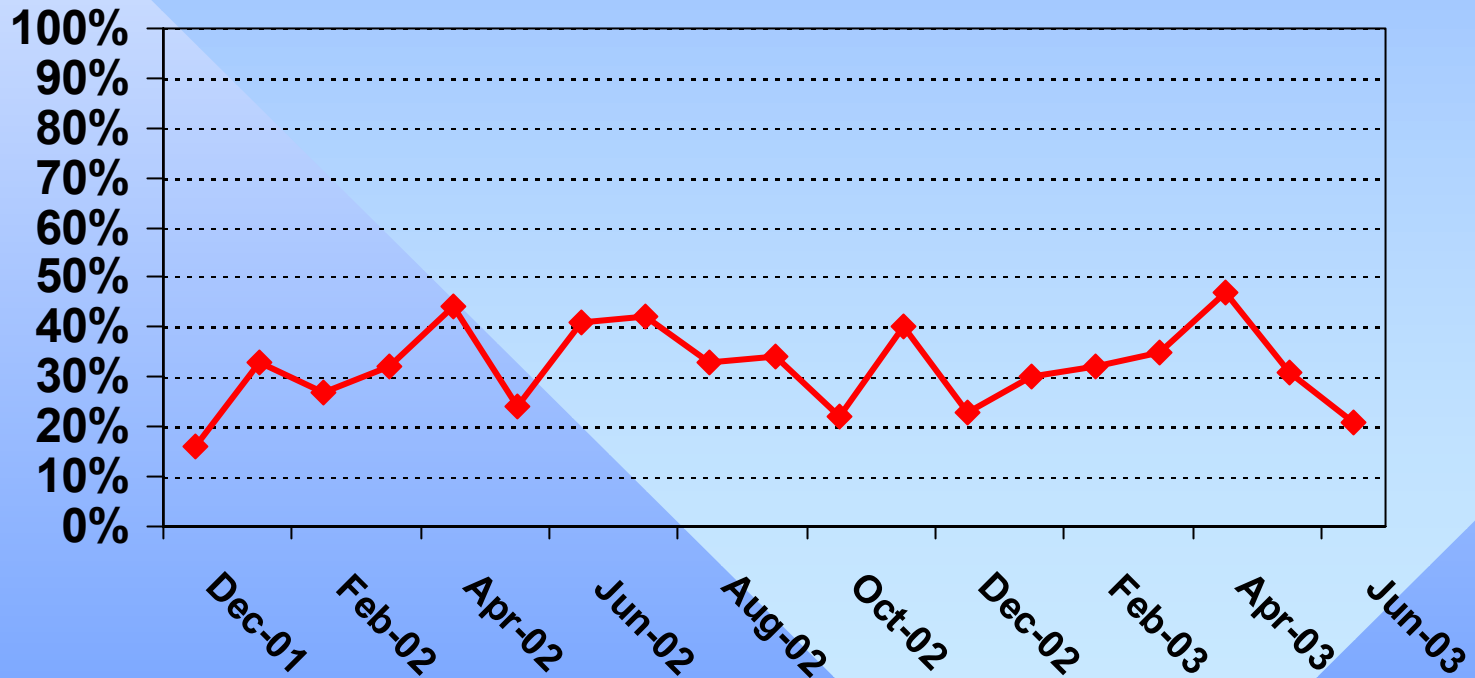
Family Size for Adults Reaching the 60-Month Time Limit



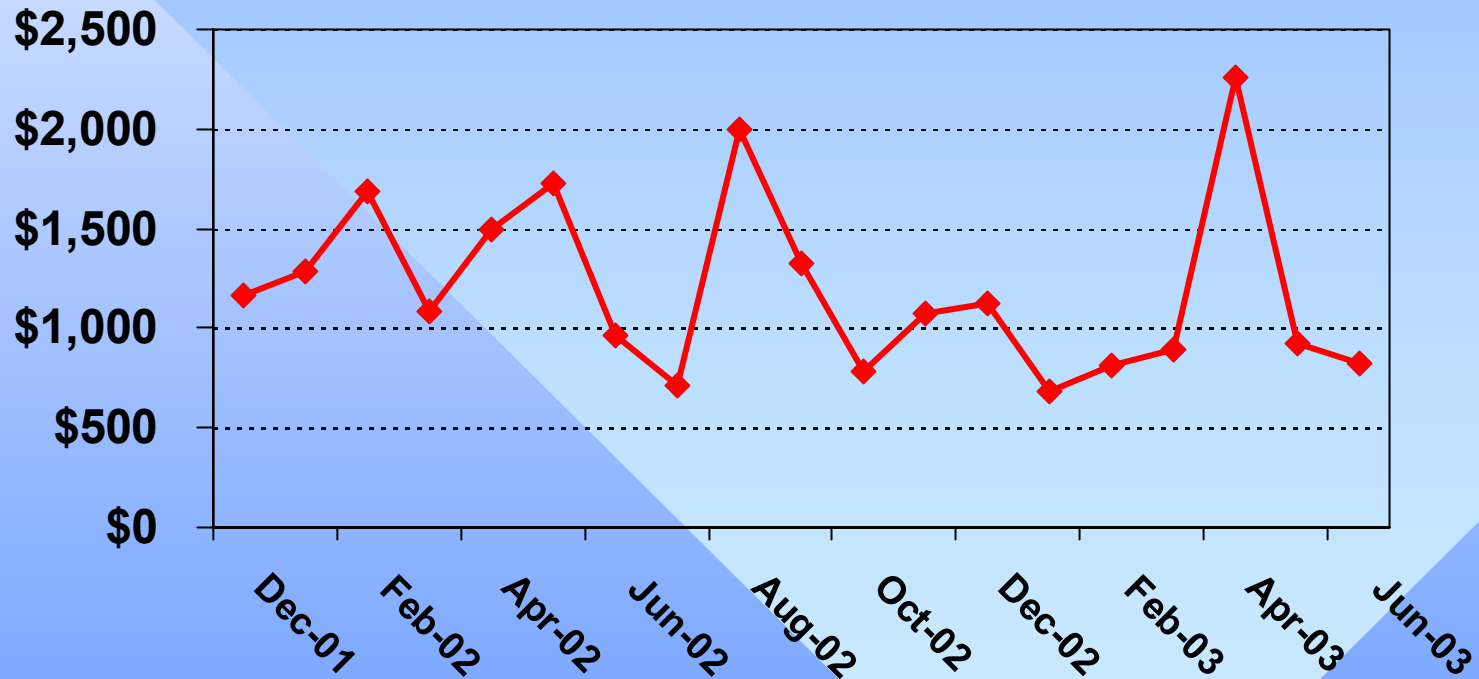
Educational Attainment of Adults Reaching the 60-Month Time Limit



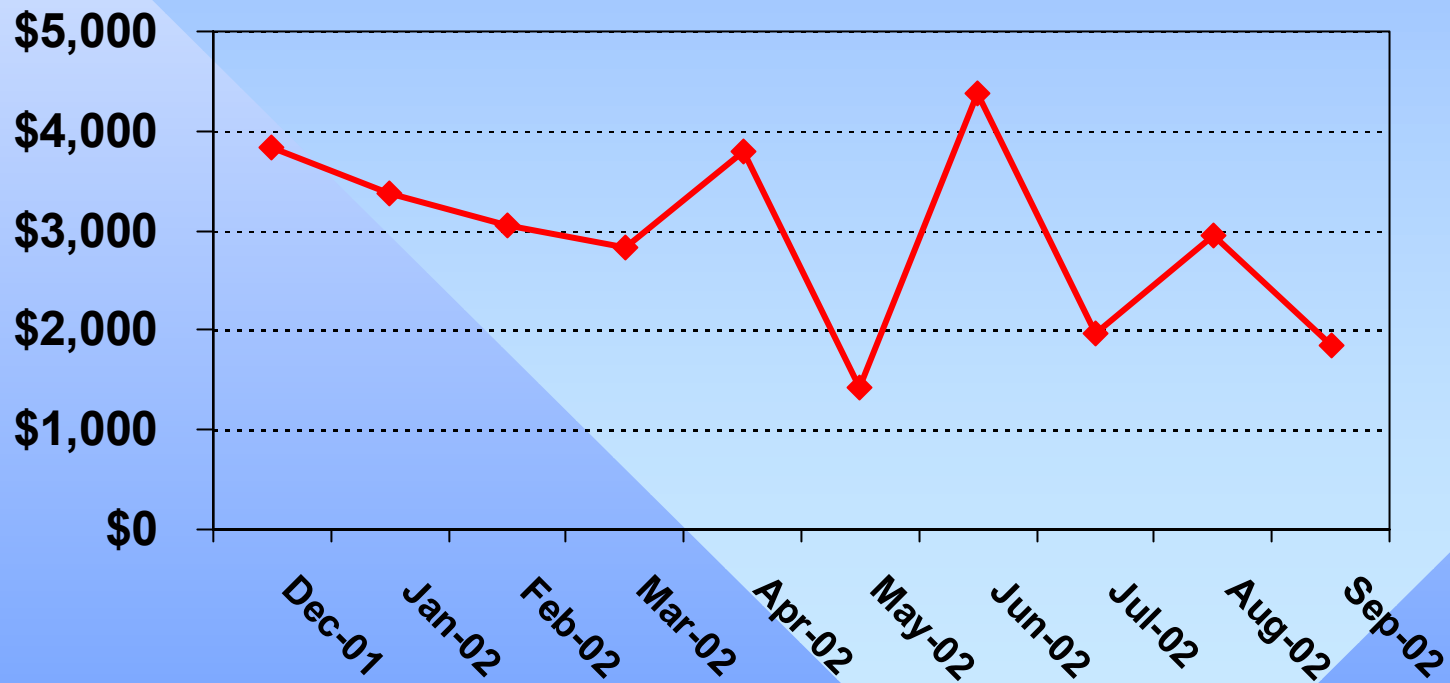
Earnings After Leaving Work First for Adults Reaching the 60 Month Time Limit



Earnings in the First Quarter After Leaving Work First for Adults Reaching the 60 Month Time Limit



Earnings in the First Four Quarters After Leaving Work First for Adults Reaching the 60 Month Time Limit



Has Welfare Reform Worked?

- Caseloads have dropped
- Individuals have moved into jobs but at about the same rate as under AFDC
- Average earnings have generally remained stable (except for the possible impact of the recession)

Has Welfare Reform Worked?

- The two-parent caseload has dropped
- One of the largest impacts on the caseload has been First Stop which appears to have decreased case openings
- The caseload appears to be leveling off

Has Welfare Reform Worked?

- There does not appear to be an increase in case openings in the Work First caseload statewide associated with the economic downturn
- This appears to be due to families being offered diversion assistance
- Without diversion assistance, the caseload would likely have climbed dramatically over the last year

Has Welfare Reform Worked?

- The recession seems to have had an impact on the employment of adults that left Work First
- That impact can be observed in the wages earned
- The recession also reduced the percentage of adults with earnings in the first four quarters after leaving

Has Welfare Reform Worked?

- The website address is:

<http://ssw.unc.edu/workfirst>