

III. KEY MEASURE ANALYSIS

Agency Mission: Assisting people to become independent, healthy and safe.

KPM #6	TANF (WELFARE) RE-ENTRY The percentage of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) cases who do not return, or are off of cash assistance 18 months after exit due to employment.	Measure since: 1991
Goal	People are able to support themselves and their families.	
Oregon Context	This performance links to the DHS goal, "People are able to support themselves and their families." It also links to Oregon Benchmark #14 and the DHS high-level outcome; "Percentage of covered Oregon workers with earnings of 150% or more of the poverty level for a family of four."	
Data source	JAS/TRACS system placement data and Client Maintenance system public assistance data is used to determine the TANF clients who left TANF due to employment and did not return to case assistance ore were still off case assistance 18 months after case closed.	
Owner	Children, Adults and Families Division - Office of Self Sufficiency, Dave Lyda, TANF Manager, 945-6122	

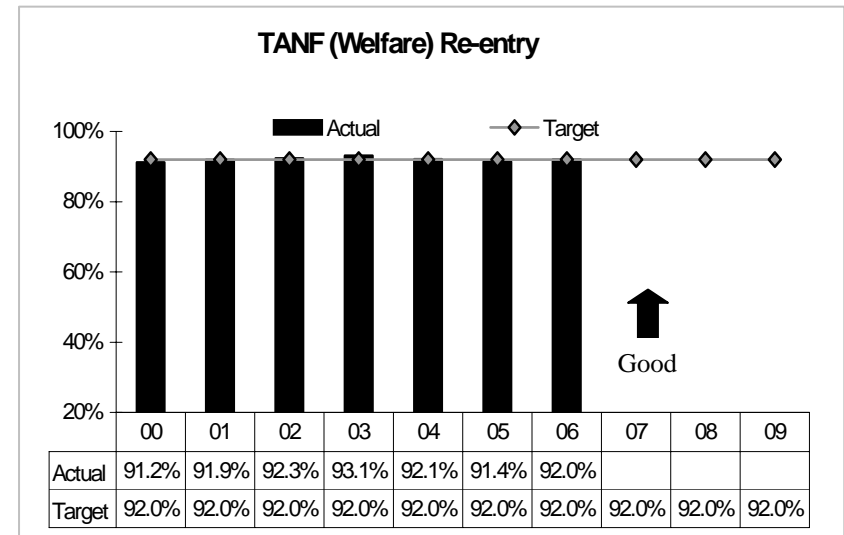
1. OUR STRATEGY

One of the goals of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) JOBS program is to help clients find and keep employment. The longer clients can maintain employment, the higher their wages will be. DHS does not want the TANF JOBS program to be a revolving door for families to go on and off assistance. Instead, we strive to give clients the tools they need to be successful in the workplace.

Our partners include other state agencies such as the Employment Department and Community Colleges and Workforce Development. We also work closely with county –based services, JOBS program providers, and community social service partners.

2. ABOUT THE TARGETS

Our objective is to increase the number of former TANF clients who do not require future TANF cash assistance. DHS used the 1991 performance data to develop a baseline. The target was determined by adding 1% to the baseline performance. The target has remained at a high rate. Our goal is to maintain the high level of success in this area. Due to new investments in the TANF/JOBS program, specifically the new Post-TANF employment support program, the performance for this measure should begin increasing in 2009. The target for this measure will increase to over 95% by 2010. This performance measure may be modified in the coming years to better reflect the new TANF/JOBS program design.



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3. HOW WE ARE DOING

92.0% of TANF clients that left public cash assistance due to employment between July 2004 and June 2005 were not receiving cash assistance 18 months later. This indicates that a larger majority of TANF clients that leave the program due to employment are having relative success in the workplace, or have found other resources to maintain their own and their family's financial independence. The department has met or exceeded its goal for this measure in four of the past five years.

4. HOW WE COMPARE

There are no relevant public or private industry standards that directly compare to this measure.

5. FACTORS AFFECTING RESULTS

This measure may be affected by several things, including the status of the labor market and industry, the effectiveness of the JOBS program that determines, coordinates, and provides services to assist TANF clients find and retain employment, and offer strategies to enhance wage gain efforts. As mentioned above, the new Post-TANF program, which will offer on-going cash payments to eligible former TANF recipients and applicants who enter employment, will increase the performance on this measure. Investments in improved assessment/evaluation services, case management and employment and training services should better prepare clients to maintain employment once they leave the program. Changes in TANF Related Medical policy beginning in October 2008 allowing more families to qualify for Extended Medical Assistance may also increase performance in the coming years.

6. WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

We will closely monitor the implementation of the new TANF/JOBS program design for expected increased outcomes from the investments mentioned above. This monitoring will provide data on possible further program modifications. Further study of this measure is also needed to ensure it accurately reflects the TANF/JOBS program's new design. This measure may be modified in the coming years.

7. ABOUT THE DATA

Reporting cycle – calendar year. The methodology and criteria used to obtain the data is adjusted as program changes occur, to ensure the validity of the data. Recidivism and Placement reports are issued separately, on a monthly basis and studied for any potential anomalies, as well as to identify trends in performance. The data is sent to program managers and interested parties.