Overview of the 1996 Welfare Reform Law

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Non-marital Births
- Supplemental Security Income for Children
- Child Support Enforcement
- Welfare for Non-citizens
- Child Care
- Food Stamps
- Drug Addiction & Alcoholics
- Abstinence Education
- Charitable Choice
Five Components of TANF

1. **End Cash Entitlement**
2. **Block Grant Funding**
3. **Work Requirements**
4. **Sanctions**
5. **5-Year Time Limit**
AFDC/TANF Caseload, 1962-2006*

Sources: Congressional Research Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Data for 2006 is preliminary

Prepared by the Brookings Center on Children and Families
Percentage of Married, Single, and Never-Married Mothers Working, 1985-2005

Earnings Increase, Welfare Income Falls for Bottom Two Fifths of Female-Headed Families, 1990-2004

Source: Richard Bavier with U.S. Census Bureau data (Welfare income is cash, school lunch, food stamps, and housing; constant 2004 dollars).

Prepared by the Brookings Center on Children and Families
Poverty in Female-Headed Households and Married-Couple Households, 1974-2005

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Prepared by the Brookings Center on Children and Families
Child and Youth Well-Being Index 1975 - 2005


Prepared by the Brookings Center on Children and Families
Support for Working Families Increases Dramatically, 1984-1999

Spending in 1999 under:
- 1984 Law
- 1999 Law

Billions of 1999 Dollars


Prepared by the Brookings Center on Children and Families
Poverty Rates for Children Living with Unmarried Mothers Before and After Government Programs, 1990 and 1999

Prepared by the Brookings Center on Children and Families
Welfare Reform Challenges

1. Poor males

2. Floundering families

3. Job retention and advancement
Welfare Reform Principles

1. Personal responsibility
2. Federalism
3. Market compatibility
4. Permanent work subsidies
What it Means

• Big ideas
  • End of entitlement
  • Mandatory work and sanctions
  • Time limits
  • Work not education
  • Personal responsibility

• Bipartisan and Major Legislation
• Majority Unity
• Leadership (big guns; little guns)
• Long gestation
• Big legislation consistent with American values
Effectiveness of Five Factors in Reducing Poverty Rates

Based on Thomas and Sawhill, 2002; and Haskins and Sawhill, 2003.

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