

# States' Child-Only and Non-Parent Caretaker TANF Rules

Evidence from the Welfare Rules Database

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# Importance

- Despite growing slightly in absolute terms...
  - Growing percentage of caseload – about 40% of TANF units are child-only
  - Up from about 15% immediately after the transition to TANF



# Types of Child-Only Cases

- Two broad categories:
  - Non-parental cases (no parent in household)
  - Parental cases (parent in household but doesn't qualify due to non-financial reasons)



# Non-parental cases

- Arise when a child lives with a non-parent relative or a non-relative
- States' TANF program determine:
  - Under which circumstances children's caregivers can be eligible for TANF
  - Treatment of a caregiver's income and resources
  - Who is included in the assistance unit



# Child-Only Cases With a Parent in the Household

- Three primary causes
  - Supplemental security income (SSI) receipt
  - Immigration status
  - Program rules that remove the parent from the unit



# Data Source: The Welfare Rules Database

- Very detailed, state-specific TANF rules
- Longitudinal (1996 onward)
- 30 categories; 1,000+ variables
- Coded from caseworker manuals/updates
- Currently funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE
- **New child-only/NPC variables will be released this fall**



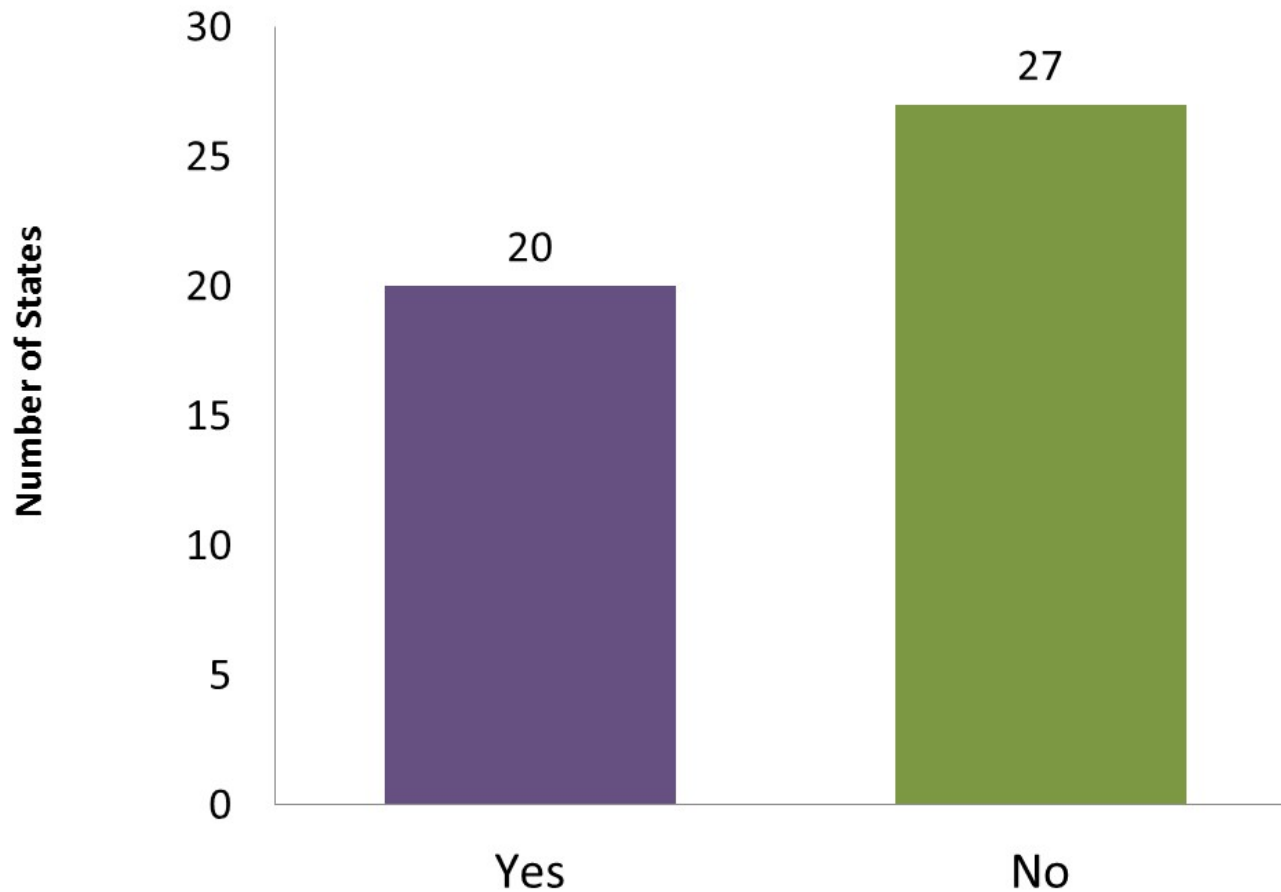
# Overview of New WRD Variables

- Who is included?
  - Children
  - Non-parent caretakers
- Income/asset eligibility
- Maximum child-only monthly benefits
- Activity requirements

❖ Note: All data presented here are preliminary; final data forthcoming this fall

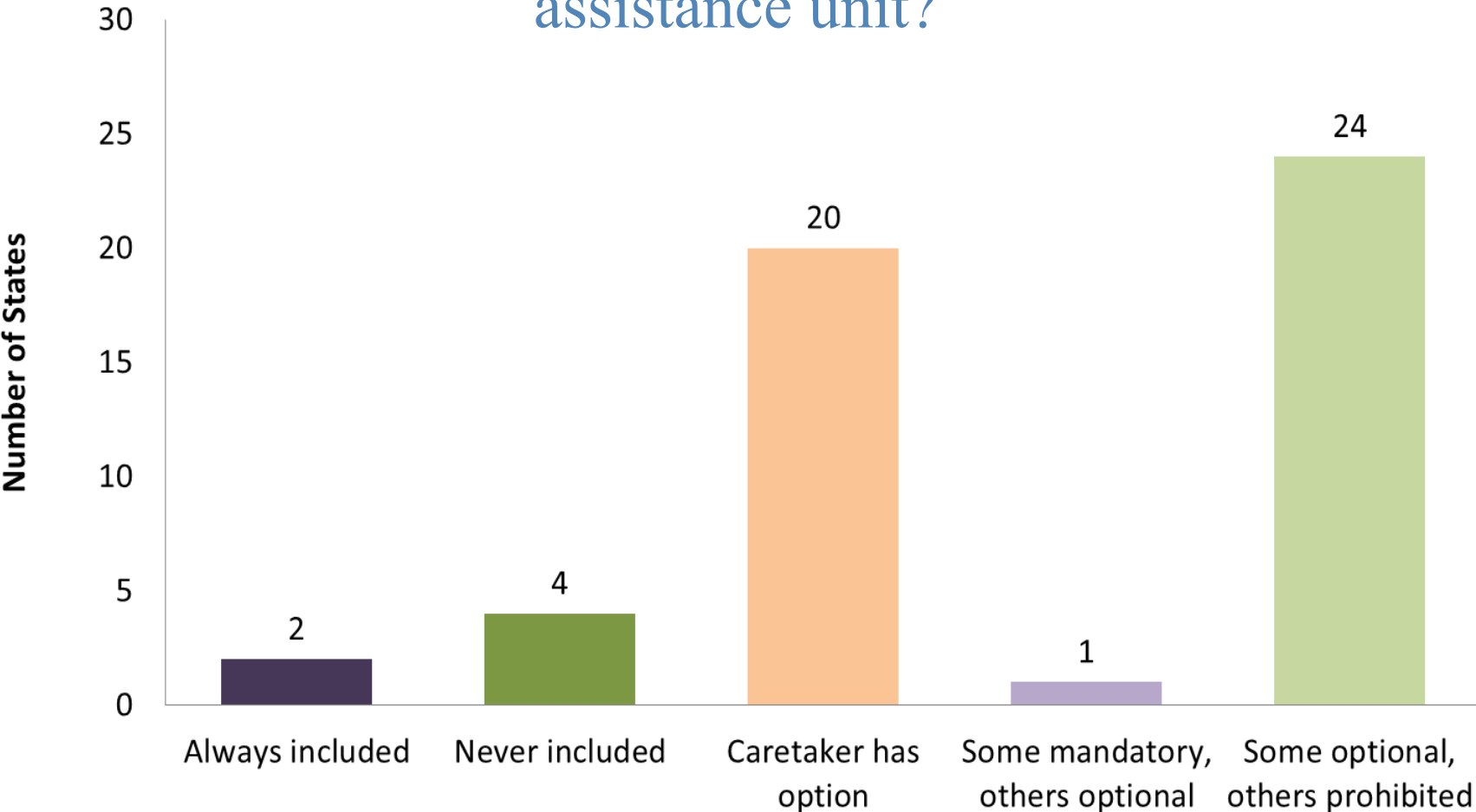


# Are children living with non-relative caretakers potentially eligible for TANF benefits?

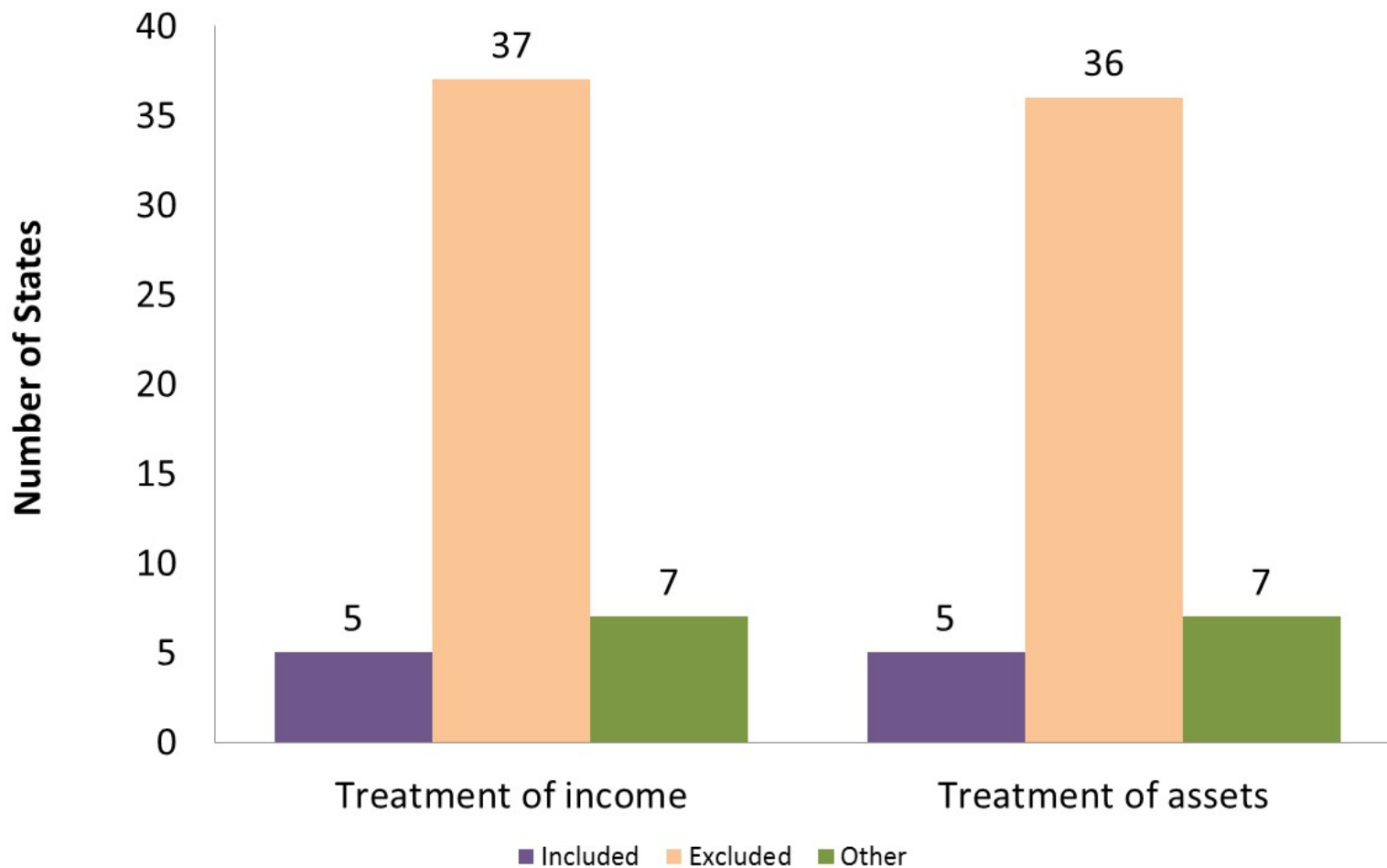




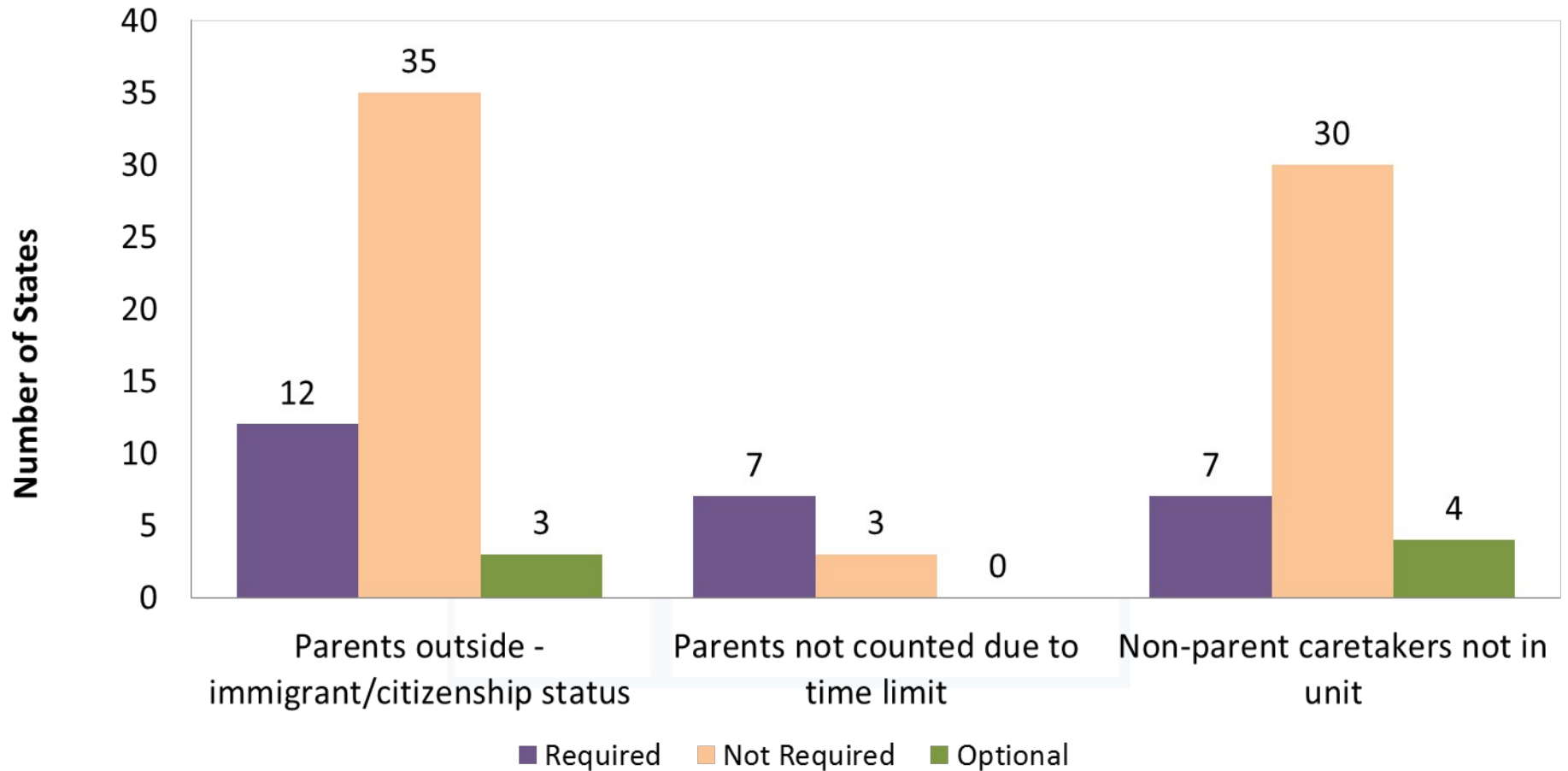
# In non-parent caretaker families potentially eligible for TANF, is the non-parent caretaker included in the assistance unit?



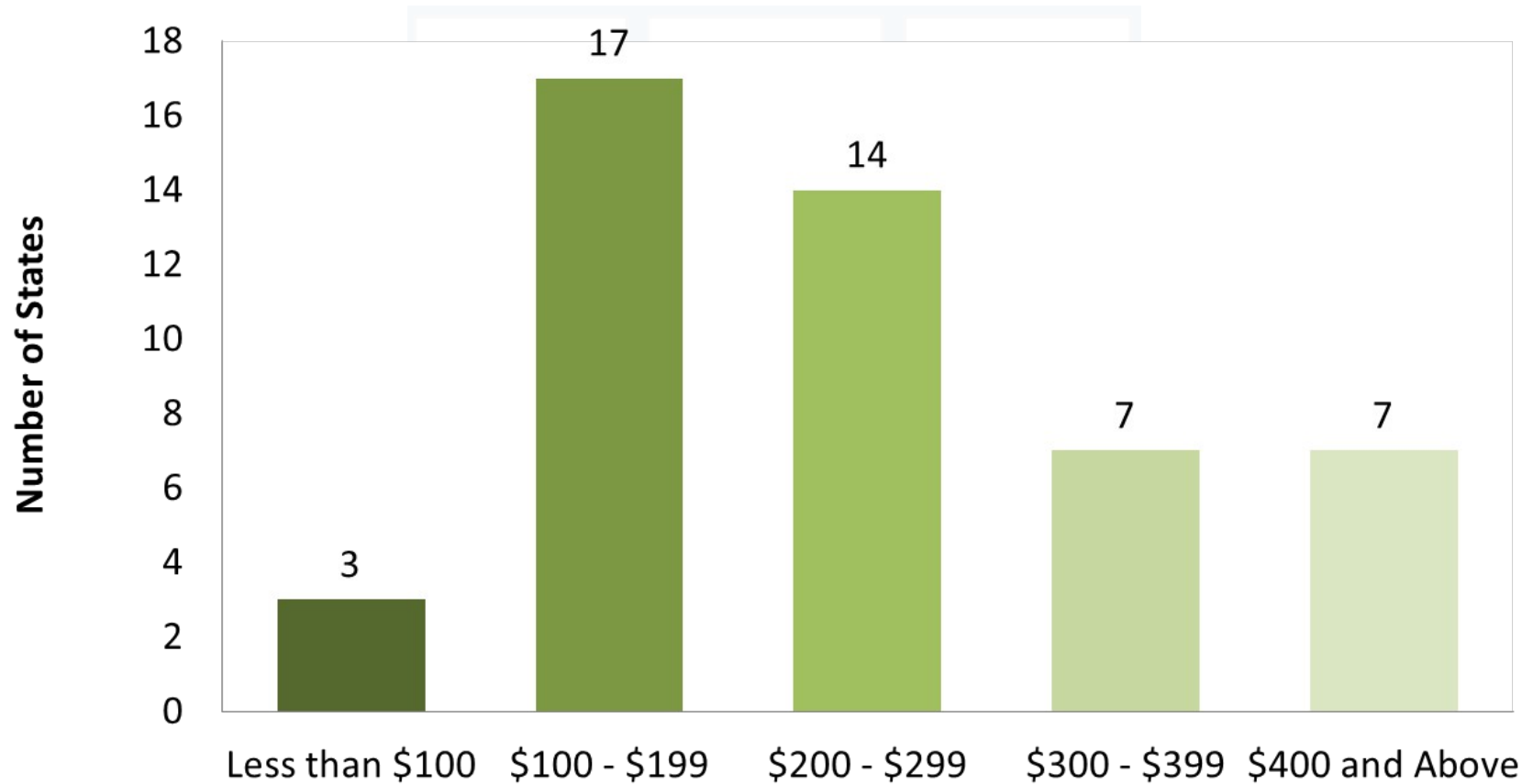
# Income and Assets of Non-Parent Caretakers Who Are Not in the Assistance Unit



# Work-Related Activity Requirements for Non-Parent Caretakers and Parents Outside the Unit



# Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Child-Only Unit with One Child, No Income



# Conclusion

- New data available in the fall
- Will be state-specific with the ability to query individual states
- New tables in the 2012 Welfare Rules Databook



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