

The strength of the safety net for parents who receive SSI



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Supplementary Security Income (SSI)



- ❧ Began in 1974
- ❧ Offers minimal cash-aid to those with work-limiting disabilities or the aged without work histories
- ❧ Substantial Gainful Activity requirement
- ❧ Current individual federal benefit is \$710/month (although most states supplement)

Methods



- ❧ Interviews were conducted with 127 parents randomly selected from Alameda and San Francisco counties' caseload of child-only TANF cases with English-speaking SSI parents over an 11 month period.
- ❧ Parents were interviewed on their experiences receiving TANF and SSI, other public and private sources of support they relied on, their health status and use of medical care, their parenting practices and involvement with Child Protective Services.

Sample Description



- Mean age: 40.1 years
- Gender: 94% female
- Race:
 - 65% African-American
 - 14% Caucasian
 - 13% Hispanic
 - 8% Other
- High school degree/GED: 67%

Sample Description



- Mean number of minor children: 1.8
- Mean age of minor children: 11.1 years
- Mean number of years receiving SSI: 9.4 years

Sources of Support



Public

- ❧ SSI
- ❧ Child-Only TANF
- ❧ Medicaid
- ❧ SNAP
- ❧ Food Banks
- ❧ In-Home Supportive Services
- ❧ Housing Assistance
- ❧ Child Protective Services

Private

- ❧ Financial, material, practical and emotional support from friends and family

Frequency of Supports



Type of support	All (N/%)
Practical support from friends/family	81 (64%)
Emotional support from friends/family	94 (74%)
Financial help from friends/family	57 (45%)
Material help from friends/family	42 (33%)
SSI	127 (100%)
TANF	109 (86%)
SNAP	127 (100%)
Food Banks	56 (44%)
In-Home Supportive Services	36 (28%)
Housing Assistance	68 (54%)
Child Protective Services	37 (29%)

Relationship of supports to needs



Health

Caregiving

Economic

Activity	% with specific limitation (N=127)
Vigorous activities, such as running, lifting heavy objects, or participating in strenuous sports.	87%
Walking more than a mile.	79%
Moderate activities, such as changing a bed, pushing a vacuum cleaner, or carrying a small child.	72%
Lifting or carrying groceries.	71%
Climbing several flights of stairs.	70%
Climbing one flight of stairs.	64%
Walking several blocks.	63%
Bending, kneeling, or stooping.	62%
Walking one block.	45%
Using your hands for tasks like writing or typing.	45%
Bathing or dressing yourself.	38%

Frequency table of respondent's scores on the Kessler Psychological Distress Index



Score	
Under 16 = well	36 (29%)
16-19 = mild mental disorder	22 (18%)
20-23 = moderate mental disorder	24 (19%)
24+ = severe mental disorder	44 (35%)
N	126

	ADLs	Average pain	Psychological distress	Child health problems
Practical support	.032	-.136	-.108	-.072
Emotional support	-.129	-.009	-.087	-.070
Financial support	-.185*	-.151	.156	-.043
Material support	-.323***	-.272***	-.190*	-.164
Housing subsidy	.184*	.046	.027	.251***
Food bank	.047	.162	.199*	-.025
IHSS	.515***	.260***	.037	-.064
CPS	-.066	.083	-.071	.179*

Caregiving measures



- ☞ Index for caregiving limitations
- ☞ Parent Sense of Competence Scale
- ☞ Parent Stress Index

Mean scores on the Parent Stress Index relative to the general population



	High Score (at or above the 90 th percentile)	Mean Score	% scoring at or above 90 th percentile
Parental Distress	36	34.7	43%
Parent-Child Dysfunction	27	29.6	73%
Difficult Child	36	31.5	29%
Parent Stress Index (sum of the 3 scores)	89	95.8	65%

	Caregiving limitations	Parent Sense of Competence	Parent Stress Index
Practical support	-.021	.107	-.252***
Emotional support	-.109	-.017	-.137
Financial support	-.107	-.037	-.015
Material support	-.307***	.097	-.178*
Housing subsidy	.237***	-.115	.050
Food bank	.058	-.071	.149
IHSS	.289**	.032	.006
CPS	.051	-.212*	.121

Which supports were associated with less material hardship?



Average rent and material hardship



	%
Average rent paid	\$568/month
Unable to pay rent	22%
Unable to pay utilities	48%
Food insecurity	37%

	Unable to pay rent	Unable to pay utilities	Food insecurity
Practical support	-.198*	-.232**	-.200*
Emotional support	-.322***	-.182*	-.110
Financial support	.023	-.008	.040
Material support	-.056	-.094	-.003
Housing subsidy	-.174*	-.119	.001
Food bank	.115	.119	.269**
IHSS	-.006	-.081	-.210*
CPS	-.050	.036	.019

Relationships between supports and family needs



Practical support	Less stress and material hardship
Emotional support	Less trouble paying rent and utilities
Financial support	Fewer ADLs
Material support	Fewer ADLs, less pain, psych. distress and parenting stress, fewer caregiving limitations
Housing subsidy	More child health problems and caregiving limitations, less trouble paying rent
Food bank	Greater ADLs, pain and caregiving limitations, greater food insecurity
IHSS	Greater ADLs, pain and caregiving limitations, less food insecurity
CPS	More child health problems, less sense of competence