

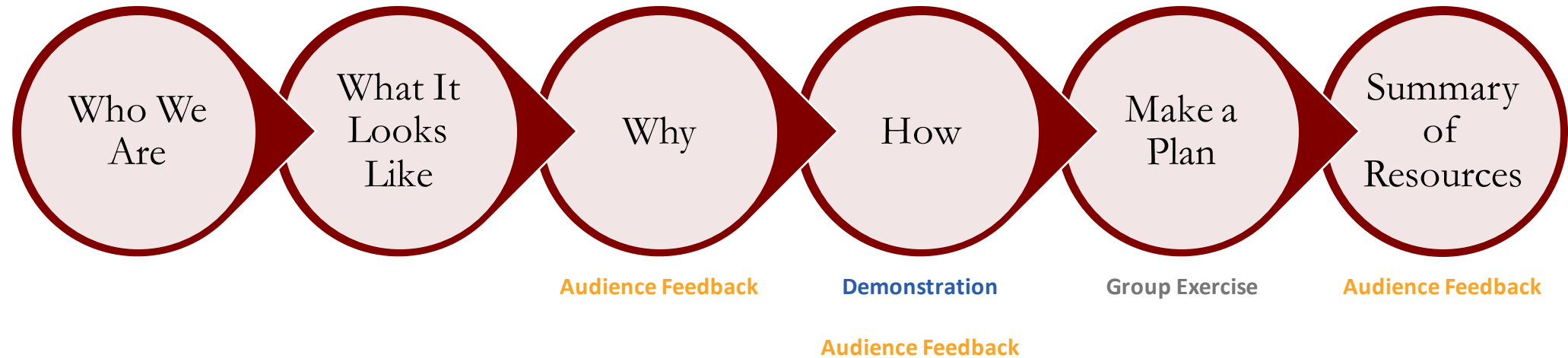
Describing TANF Caseloads

Methods and Considerations from the Family Self-Sufficiency Data Center

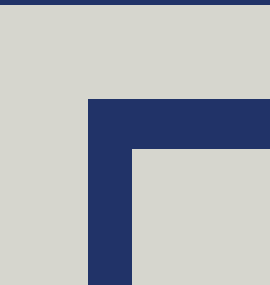
EMILY WIEGAND, ROBERT GOERGE, LEAH GJERTSON | JULY 30, 2019

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Today's Session



Who We Are:
The Family Self-Sufficiency Data Center



Family Self-Sufficiency Data Center



Describing TANF Caseloads: What It Looks Like



Beyond Basic Reporting

Basic Aggregate Caseload Reports

Longitudinal Caseload Analyses

Presenting Frequencies

Count cases and recipients active by month, quarter, or year

Contextualize caseload size with counts of entries, exits, and returning cases or recipients by month, quarter, or year

Presenting Change over Time

Changes in overall caseload size over time

Identify key drivers of caseload changes (i.e. new cases, change in exits, returning cases)

Working with Subpopulations

Counts for subpopulations (e.g. case type, location, etc.)

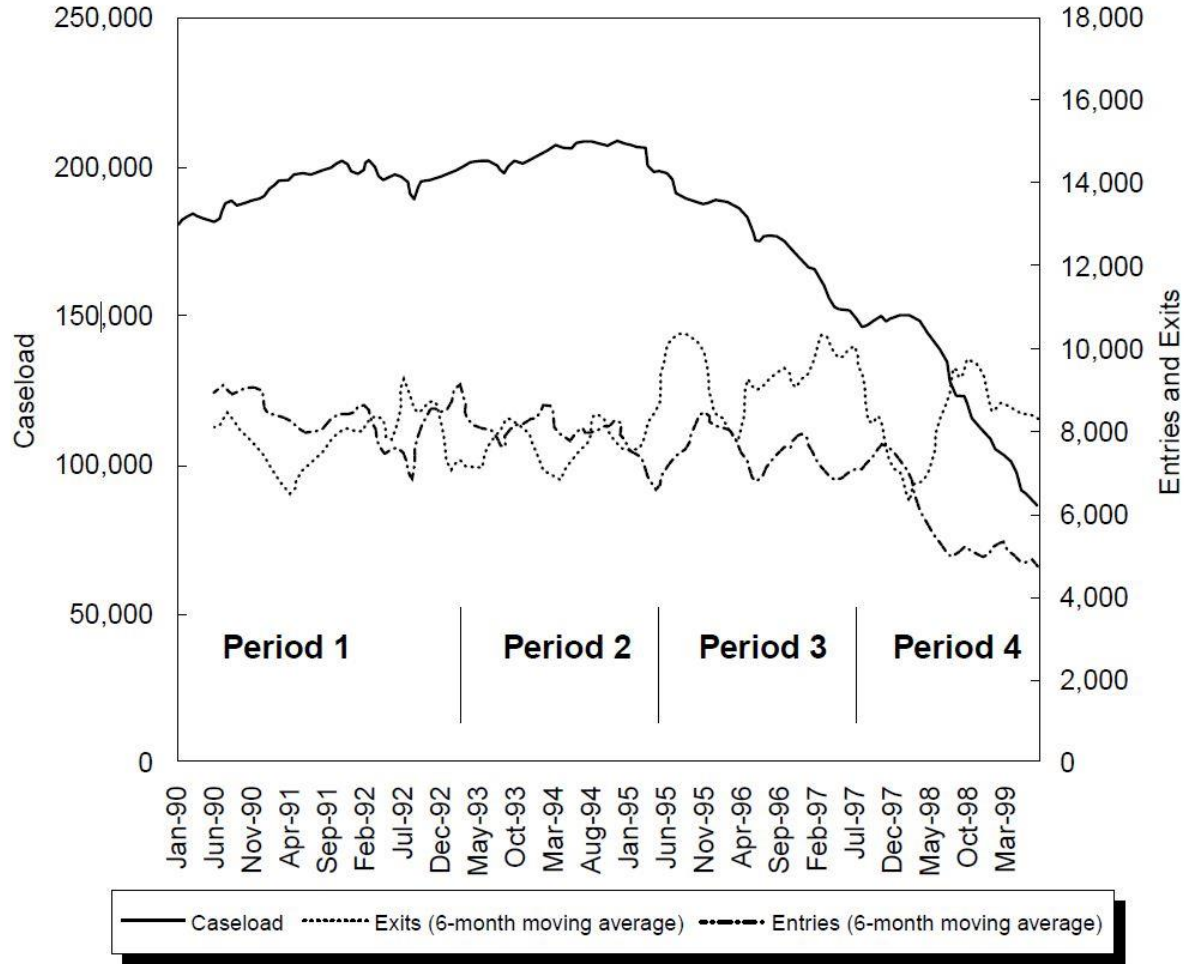
Identify cases that move across subpopulations

Data Requirements

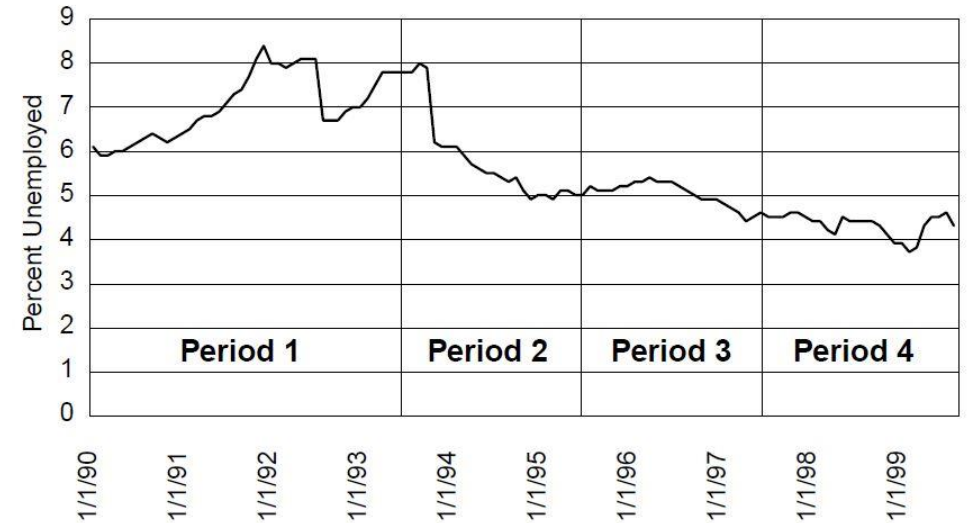
Can be updated by adding new totals to existing reports (no historical disaggregated data needed)

Require longitudinal disaggregated data that can be linked over time by a case- and/or individual-identifier

AFDC/TANF Caseload, Entries, Exits



Illinois Unemployment Rate



Patterns of AFDC/TANF Exit with Earnings Reported Among Grantees Who Entered AFDC/TANF Between 1995 and 1999 in Illinois

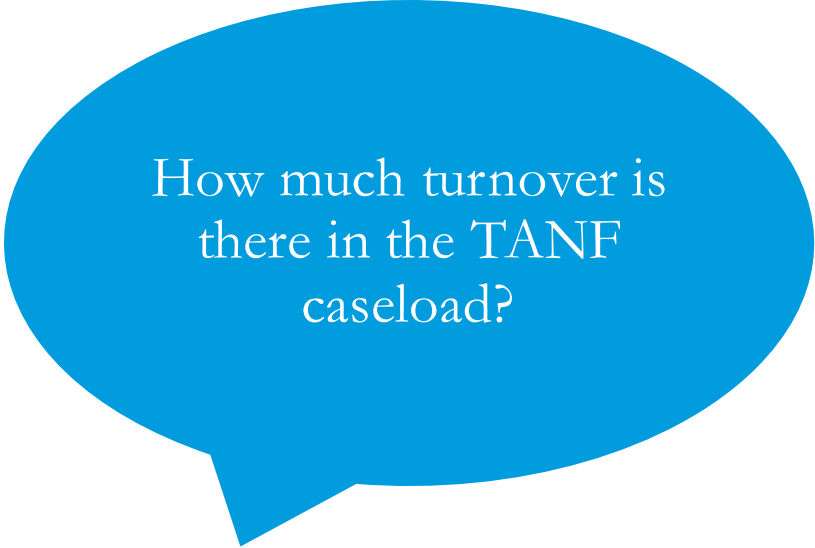
Year of Entry to AFDC/TANF	Number of New Entries to AFDC/TANF	Exit from AFDC/TANF Within					
		2 Quarters	4 Quarters	8 Quarters	12 Quarters	16 Quarters	20 Quarters
Percent Leaving AFDC/TANF							
1995	51,397	34.2	58.5	80.6	89.8	95.5	97.4
1996	46,955	38.9	66.2	84.8	93.9	96.4	
1997	43,709	36.9	63.1	87.6	93.0		
1998	33,303	45.8	71.5	85.4			
1999	19,466	36.4	45.9				
Percent Leaving with Earnings							
1995	51,397	14.3	25.4	37.2	42.6	45.9	47.1
1996	46,955	17.1	30.9	41.9	47.0	48.6	
1997	43,709	18.0	31.9	45.2	48.6		
1998	33,303	22.6	36.6	44.9			
1999	19,466	19.0	24.7				
Percent of All Exits with Earnings							
1995		41.7	43.5	46.2	47.4	48.1	48.4
1996		43.9	46.7	49.4	50.1	50.4	
1997		48.8	50.6	51.6	52.2		
1998		49.3	51.2	52.6			
1999		52.2	53.8				
Average Exit Quarter Earnings of Those Leaving with Earnings (\$)							
1995		1,978	2,394	2,381	2,374	2,306	2,448
1996		2,003	2,262	2,310	2,193	2,357	
1997		1,966	2,299	2,237	2,207		
1998		1,960	2,122	2,244			
1999		1,944	2,289				

Note: Shaded areas represent partially censored observations, meaning that all of the entries had not yet reached the associated time point. The reported earnings are in 1999 dollars.

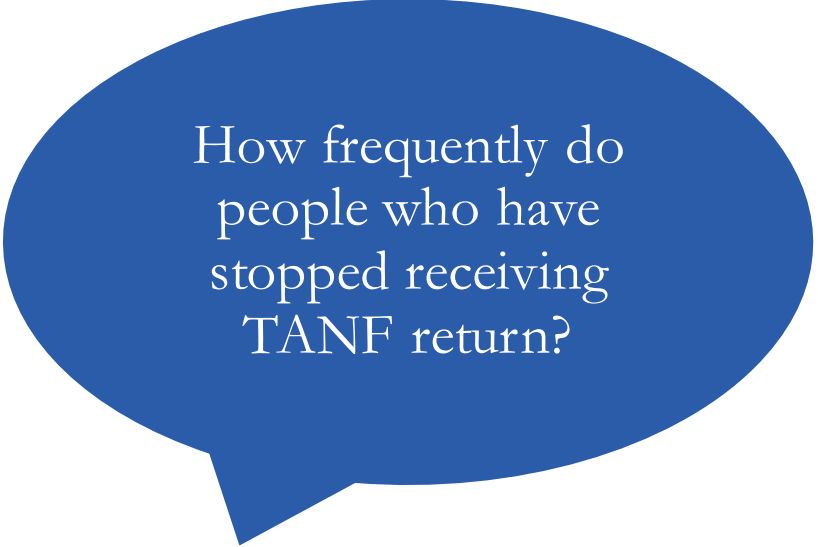
Lee, B.J., Goerge, R.M., and Dilts, J (2001). "Outcomes for the Income Maintenance Caseload after Receipt: Caseload Dynamics, Employment and Earnings in Illinois 1995-1999." Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall Center for Children.

Why Go Beyond Basic Reporting?

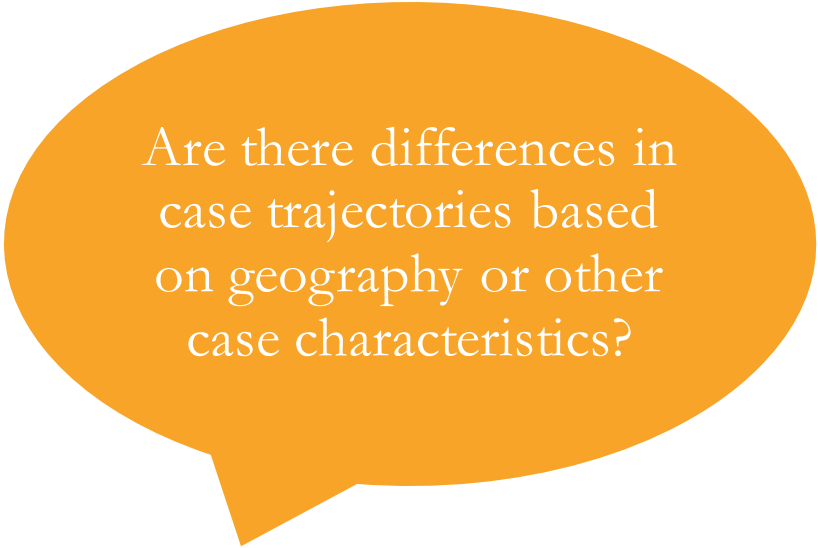




How much turnover is there in the TANF caseload?

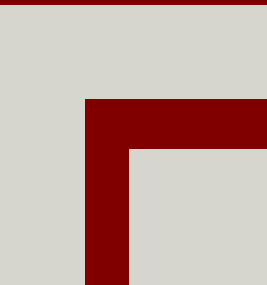


How frequently do people who have stopped receiving TANF return?



Are there differences in case trajectories based on geography or other case characteristics?

What similar questions have you asked?



How: Getting Started with Caseload Analyses



Considerations in Historical Data

Historical data are available

- Contents and formats are well documented
- Key policy changes are understood and documented

Data identify cases and members clearly and consistently over time

- Are members or cases returning to the system ever issued new identifiers?
- How are time-variant identifiers (such as name or address) or corrections to static fields (such as birthdate) handled?

If these conditions aren't true today, you can start building a longitudinal dataset for the future.

Organizing Longitudinal TANF Data

Figure 1. Case and member data



Case-level Data:
Case type,
household size,
location, benefit
receipt, head of
household (HOH)
characteristics



Member-level Data:
Birth date, race/
ethnicity, education
and work status,
marital status,
individual eligibility

**Figure 2. Transformation
from Raw Data to TANF Model
Analytic Files**

Raw Data Files ▶

Administrative client
files, case files, payment
files (longitudinal)



Data Processing ▶

Output Files ▶



Case-months



Member-months

caseid	date	benefits	case_type	num_adults
1	1/1/2016	1	child only	0
1	2/1/2016	1	child only	0
1	3/1/2016	1	child only	0
1	4/1/2016	1	one parent	1
1	5/1/2016	1	one parent	1
1	6/1/2016	1	one parent	1
1	7/1/2016	0	one parent	1
1	8/1/2016	0	one parent	1
1	9/1/2016	0	one parent	1
1	10/1/2016	0	one parent	1
1	11/1/2016	0	one parent	1
1	12/1/2016	0	one parent	1

Spells Data

caseid	benefits	startMonth	endMonth	spellLength
1	1	01/2016	06/2016	6
1	0	07/2016	12/2016	6

TANF Data Model

See an example and see it in action:

<https://tinyurl.com/fssdc-powerbi>

Creating Spells

See code and resources here:

https://chapinhall.github.io/FSSDC/create_spells/

Analysis Design Considerations

Policy Context

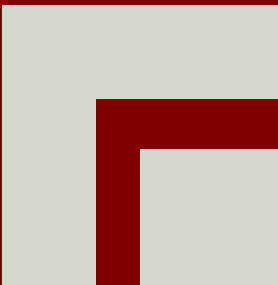
- Have there been policy changes that you would expect to see represented in analyses?
- Is it important to review a given analysis by subpopulation?
- What kind of churn patterns do you expect to see (i.e. cases closing or reopening in short periods of time for administrative reasons)?

Data Context

- Have there been changes in the data system or how data are recorded that will impact the analysis?
- How are sanctions represented?
- How do you define a case “closing”?
- How are changes in household composition reflected in the data?
- How are retroactive payments represented?

Do you have examples of these design considerations from your own experience?

What questions would you add?



Make a Plan: Designing and Preparing for Caseload Analyses



See worksheet on
“Designing and
Preparing for
Caseload Analyses.”

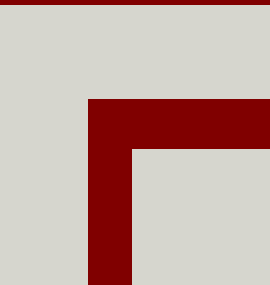
Designing and Preparing for Caseload Analyses

This document is intended to guide analytic design decisions. While most specific analyses will begin with defining a question, we focus here on creating a dataset that can be versatile enough to answer a range of simple questions about caseload dynamics – the kind of questions that start with phrases like “How many...?”, “How often...?”, and “How long...?”

Finding and Restructuring Data

I want to answer questions about...	Cases	People
My data <u>must</u> include:	Unique identifier for a case over time Some way of determining the status of a case in any given month/quarter/year (i.e. a case status field, a payment history by case ID, etc.)	Unique identifier for a person over time Some way of determining the status of a recipient in any given month/quarter/year

What questions do you want to answer?
How would you proceed to answer them?



Resources



Summary of FSSDC Resources

Power BI
Examples

<https://tinyurl.com/fssdc-powerbi>

TANF Data
Model

See handout or <https://www.opressrc.org/content/family-self-sufficiency-data-center-creating-data-model-analyze-tanf-caseloads>

R Spells Code

https://chapinhall.github.io/FSSDC/create_spells

Other FSSDC
Programming
Resources

<https://chapinhall.github.io>

TANF Data Collaborative (TDC)



Get involved with TDC



HOME

WHAT TO EXPECT

ENGAGE

HIGHLIGHTS

PARTNERS

JOIN THE COLLABORATIVE

TANF DATA COLLABORATIVE

USING DATA TO IMPROVE FAMILY OUTCOMES

JOIN THE COLLABORATIVE

<https://www.tanfdata.org/>

What other resources do you recommend?

