

## IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2011 PARTICIPATION INCREASED 4.9% IN FOOD STAMPS BUT FELL 2.2% IN TANF

43,839 (2.2%) fewer families received TANF in June 2011 (1,924,449) than in January 2011 (1,968,288).<sup>1</sup> The number of children receiving TANF in June 2011 (3,437,062) was just 21% of the number of poor children in 2010 (16,401,000).<sup>2</sup>

The number of households receiving Food Stamps (SNAP)<sup>3</sup> increased by 1,009,254 (4.9%) between January 2011 (20,748,799) and June 2011 (21,758,053).<sup>4</sup> The Food Stamps participation increase suggests that the TANF participation decrease was more likely due to stricter state eligibility and access policies than to decreased need.

It is likely that TANF participation has continued to fall. In October, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities reported that in 2011 several states had implemented harsh TANF cuts affecting an estimated 700,000 poor families in total.<sup>5</sup> Some of these cuts were not yet implemented at all or fully in the first half of 2011.

(Nov. 2011). (For further information, contact Timothy Casey, [tcasey@legalmomentum.org](mailto:tcasey@legalmomentum.org))

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This report supported in part by a grant from the Open Society Foundations.

<sup>1</sup> The TANF figures cited here are from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) tables at [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/data-reports/caseload/caseload\\_current.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/data-reports/caseload/caseload_current.htm). The figures include families in separate state programs funded with maintenance of effort dollars.

<sup>2</sup> *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2010*, U.S. Census Bureau, P60--239 (2011), available at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/p60-239.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is now the Food Stamp program's official name.

<sup>4</sup> Food Stamp receipt data is available at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/snapmain.htm>.

<sup>5</sup> Liz Schott & LaDonna Pavetti, *Many States Cutting TANF Benefits Harshly Despite High Unemployment And Unprecedented Need*, (Center on Budget & Policy Priorities, Oct. 2011), available at <http://www.cbpp.org/files/5-19-11tanf.pdf>