

New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance Public Assistance (PA) Case Closing by Reason Overview

General Description

On an annual basis, the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) publishes the *Statistical Report on the Operations of Public Assistance Programs*, which contains data relating to the operation of OTDA programs. Included in the report are a number of data tables providing statistics regarding transactions pertaining to the State's ongoing cash public assistance programs, Family Assistance (FA) and Safety Net Assistance (SNA). These tables include data on the number of and reasons for total PA, FA and SNA case closings. The file provided here contains the data similar to that provided in Tables 5 through 7 of the annual report, but in monthly intervals beginning with January of 2006, and continuing to most recently available data. Updates are scheduled to occur quarterly, 30 days after the end of the reference quarter. This data will allow interested parties to construct trends in case closings by reason and program type for each of the State's 58 Local Social Services Districts (SSDs) - consisting of namely New York City and the remaining 57 counties - and New York State as a whole.

The file is arrayed as follows:

- The column headings include the month and year the data is for, the SSD the data pertains to, a two-digit code for each SSD and the State, the full name of the geographic area and an array of columns designating the PA case categories and closing reason classifications displayed in the *Statistical Report on the Operations of Public Assistance Programs* the row data pertains to.
- The rows of the data are the table entries for the month and SSD, as designated by the column headings. There is one record for each month for each SSD.

The data dictionary attached to this data set provides a complete description of the data in the file.

Definitions:

Total Public Assistance: The sum of Family Assistance (FA) and Safety Net Assistance (SNA) cases closing in the designated month. These include Welfare Management System (WMS) Case Types 11, 12, 16 and 17. This definition excludes Emergency Assistance for Families (EAF) and Emergency Assistance for Adults (EAA).

Family Assistance: PA cases classified as FA, which are predominantly family cases funded through the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, but also include some non-disabled two parent family cases that would otherwise be funded through TANF but

are removed from that program to avoid substantial penalties for failure to meet the excessively high work participation mandates for that group. This group includes WMS Case Type 11.

Safety Net Assistance: Public Assistance cases classified as SNA, which includes adult without children cases, family cases funded through TANF but moved to SNA because they are mandated into substance abuse treatment, or family cases that would be TANF funded except that they have exceeded the 60-month lifetime limit for such assistance or are qualified aliens barred from TANF receipt for five years from their date of entry to the U.S. This group includes WMS Case Types 12, 16 and 17.

Financial Issues: These include increased earned or unearned income, exceeding resource limits, or other household circumstance changes that make the case financially ineligible.

Residence Issues: These include cases not residing in the jurisdiction of application or where the client cannot be located.

Compliance Issues/Employment: These include failure to participate as required in PA work participation requirements, such as failure to cooperate with establishing employability, failure to attend work program assignments and voluntarily leaving or failing to accept employment without good cause.

Compliance Issues/Other: These include failure to comply with rules other than those related to employment, such as failure to show for eligibility interviews, provide required documentation to verify eligibility or comply with household composition requirements.

Data Collection Methodology

The original source for this data is Welfare Management System monthly reports WINR0191 for New York City and WINR6141 for all other SSDs. These reports are loaded into a historical database maintained by the OTDA Bureau of Data Management and Analysis.

Statistical and Analytic Issues/ Limitations of Data Use

Users of these data should make themselves aware of the meaning of the case categories contained in the report before reaching analytic conclusions about specific subsets of the caseload. For instance, it is not the case that all families with children are in the FA program, nor that SNA cases consist of only single adults.

Users should also note that over time the way more detailed case closing codes have been mapped to the case closing reason categories in the data presented here have been reviewed and changed. The categorizations in the data presented here are those currently in use, so

summing the monthly data here to the annual data in earlier versions of the *Statistical Report on the Operations of Public Assistance Programs* may yield inconsistent results.