

SOUTHERN AREA CONSORTIUM OF HUMAN SERVICES

CalWORKs and Food Stamps Programs: A Comparison of SACHS Counties Applications and Cases (2007-2010)

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December 2010



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**CALWORKS AND FOOD STAMPS PROGRAMS:
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report addresses research questions from the SACHS directors regarding changes in applicants and recipients in the CalWORKs and Food Stamps programs which may be effects of the current recession. Data were collected for the months of January 2007 and January 2010. Variables include, for both programs, applications, denials, active case sizes, ages, and, for CalWORKs, reasons for denial based on excessive resources and/or income. In most cases, data are provided for individual SACHS counties and totals from all these counties.

Key findings, usually comparing January 2007 to January 2010, are detailed here.

APPLICATIONS CHANGES: 2007 AND 2010

	Applications	Denials	New Applications	Active Cases: % Increase
CalWORKs	* Increased 20%. * Varied by county (highest in Riverside and Orange)	* Rates remained the same overall (45%). * Varied considerably by county. * Higher rates for new applications.	* Increased 24%.	* All cases: 25% * Two-parent: 80% * Zero-parent: 21% * Safety Net: 25%
Food Stamps	* Increased 47%	* Rates remained the same overall (38%; 45% for first –time).	* Increased 85%.	* Increased 54% * Varied considerably by county.

CALWORKS REASONS FOR DENIALS: 2007 AND 2010

	Excess Resources and/or Income as Reasons	Other Reasons	Excess Resources and/or Income as % of all Denial Reasons
All Applicants	* Increased 86%	* Increased 8%	* Increased from 19% to 29%
Applicants with First-Time Payees	* Increased 64%	* Increased 15%	* Increased from 23% to 29%

The proportion of CalWORKs applicants in different age groups changed little, with a 4% decrease in ages 20-29 and a 4% increase in ages 30-59.

For context, a graph below shows that statewide (based on data from CA 237 CW Report), denial rates increased from approximately 21% in 2000 to 41% in 2010. Thus, the SACHS counties' denial rate of 44% is slightly higher than the statewide rate.

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These results show that in both of the programs considered here there were increases in terms of applications and cases. Denial rates stayed generally the same.

Some differences between the 2007 and 2010 periods suggest some changes in the populations seeking and receiving benefits. For example, CalWORKs denials due to excess resources and exceeding income requirements increased at much higher rates than did all other reasons, possibly suggesting that people who formerly did not need aid are now applying. Because these new applicants had higher amounts of income and resources, more of them did not meet the requirements for aid. Applications for first-time payees increased to a greater extent than did applications as a whole, suggesting that many people who did not show a need for aid in 2007 are now demonstrating need.

The fact that First-time Food Stamps applications increased by 85% may be another indicator of the impact of the recent recession.

Overall, it can be seen that there are larger numbers of people applying for and receiving aid from these programs than in 2007, and that there have been some changes in the characteristics of these people. According to one county analyst, county programs serve the same population as they did prior to the economic downturn, with the addition of a new population of people who hitherto were self-sufficient.

Some variations across counties are noted in data below, and some of these warrant further discussion and analysis to determine local factors which may be relevant.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This report will present research findings from the CalWORKs and Food Stamps programs in the SACHS counties. The basic research question had to do with changes in the caseloads through the current recession, particularly regarding changes in the numbers and characteristics of people seeking aid. This is based on a research question originally proposed in January at the Research and Training Network's (RTN) annual Leadership Symposium on Evidence-Based Practice in the Human Services.

At the May SACHS meeting, the directors selected as the research focus a comparison of applicants and clients currently in the CalWORKs and Food Stamps programs using the time periods of January 2007 and January 2010. The intent was to use data gathered to share with Boards, the public, and policymakers about who actually receives assistance, addressing stereotypes and inaccurate public perceptions, especially with the CalWORKs program currently at risk for major cuts.

The general research question was posed as: *What are the demographic characteristics of the clients currently receiving CalWORKs and Food Stamps, and how do they compare to the 2007 characteristics?*

Variables chosen included numbers of applicants and reasons for denial (specifically, excessive resources or income), numbers of first-time applicants, numbers of cases, ages, and family compositions. It was also noted that possible later analysis could examine applicant employment history (if available) and prior benefits history, recipient zip codes, and time taken to leave the system.

The working hypothesis was that there are significant differences in the characteristics of these populations between the present and the years just before the current recession, with many people now requesting self-sufficiency services for the first time. For example, there may be

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more applicants at present who have higher education and better work histories, and probably more two-parent families (with one or both having lost jobs).

Phone meetings and e-mail exchanges which included RTN members and SACHS counties' self-sufficiency program, research, and data staff began in February to refine the research questions and explore feasible ways to gather useful data. Based on these discussions, which included assessment of available data, some variables (such as education) were omitted, and all variables were defined precisely to allow compatibility across counties.

The months of January 2007 and January 2010 were chosen because the former represents conditions in the period before the current recession began and the latter represents current conditions. An earlier date proposed for pre-recession data, 2004, was ruled out because of changes in county data systems shortly before 2007.

DATA SOURCES AND LIMITATIONS

After considering the use of existing reports, such as those submitted to CDSS (e.g., CA 237, CA 253, CA 255 DFA 256, and DFA 296), county staff concluded that pulling individual county data on selected variables and compiling these into an overall summary would be the best approach. It is important to note here that, because of different data extraction procedures including the selection of time periods, SACHS definitions for counts in this report were not designed or intended to yield numbers that exactly match those in official reports to CDSS.

Some of the cells in tables in this report are blank or indicate N/A (Not Available). This is due to the fact that some data systems were not designed to capture these caseload characteristics.

Many complications and challenges were noted during these discussions, including determining precise definitions of the variables (e.g., for applications, considering those who applied in January but were not acted upon until a later month, or those who had a decision in January) and variations based on the use of different data systems across counties. Three different data systems (C-IV, Leader, and CalWIN) are used among SACHS counties; and while all report some of the same data elements to the State, there are some variations in how data elements are defined and compiled. There are also some limitations in the availability of data, such as the fact that data on education are gathered for Welfare-to-Work participants but not necessarily for CalWORKs applicants. Also, in some counties, data collected by eligibility staff may not be consistently done.

Another limitation was the fact that this study had to be conducted using existing resources. County staff needed to allocate staff time for this project by making staffing adjustments involving their other ongoing work.

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FINDINGS

All data are from the months of January in 2007 and 2010, except where noted.

Applications and denials to CalWORKs: All Applications

Applications to CalWORKs increased from January 2007 to January 2010 by 20% (see Table 1). Change seen in individual counties ranged from 11% in two counties to 55% in Riverside.

While the number of applications increased over the two time periods, rates of *denials* remained the same for SACHS counties as a whole. However, there were notable changes in rates in three counties. The denial rate decreased in two counties: in Imperial by 31%, and in Santa Barbara by 22%.

Table 1: Total CalWORKs Applications: % Increases and Denial Rates by SACHS County

	All Apps	% of All Apps Denied		
	% Increase	Jan-07	Jan-10	Difference
Imperial	34%	63%	44%	-31%
Los Angeles	11%	36%	36%	0%
Orange*	37%	45%	47%	6%
Riverside	55%	65%	61%	-6%
San Bernardino	27%	58%	58%	-0%
Santa Barbara	26%	62%	49%	-22%
Ventura	11%	36%	39%	3%
SACHS Total	20%	45%	45%	0%

**SACHS definitions for counts in this report were not designed or intended to yield numbers that exactly match those in official reports to CDSS.*

One factor that may have affected applications and denials in the counties is the unemployment rate. As can be seen in Table 2, unemployment increased in all counties, most significantly in Imperial County, which could lead to increases in CalWORKs applications, and, with unemployment resulting in greatly decreased income, to lower denial rates due to more lower-income applicants.

Table 2: Unemployment Rates in SACHS Counties

	Jan-07	Jan-10
Imperial County	15.3	28.2
Los Angeles County	5.1	13.1
Orange County	3.7	10.2
Riverside County	5.5	15.2
San Bernardino County	5.3	14.9
Santa Barbara County	4.9	10.4
Ventura County	4.8	11.6

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Applications and Denials to CalWORKs: First-Time Payees

It was expected that if this recession impacted people without a history of public assistance, that first-time applications would increase. Applications for first-time payees increased 24%, slightly more than the 20% increase in total applications. Denial rates for this group remained higher than for all applicants. As shown in Table 3, the percentage of first-time applicants decreased from 72% of all applicants to 67% in 2010.

**Table 3: First-Time Payee Applications and Denials
(by SACHS County)**

	% of All Apps w/First-Time Payee			% of First-Time Apps Denied		
	Jan-07	Jan-10	Difference	Jan-07	Jan-10	Difference
Imperial	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Los Angeles	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Orange*	81%	77%	-4	46%	49%	3%
Riverside	76%	74%	-2%	68%	65%	-3%
San Bernardino	70%	67%	-3%	62%	62%	0%
Santa Barbara	51%	38%	-13%	34%	35%	1%
Ventura	69%	50%	-19%	39%	40%	1%
SACHS Total	72%	67%	-5%	57%	58%	1%

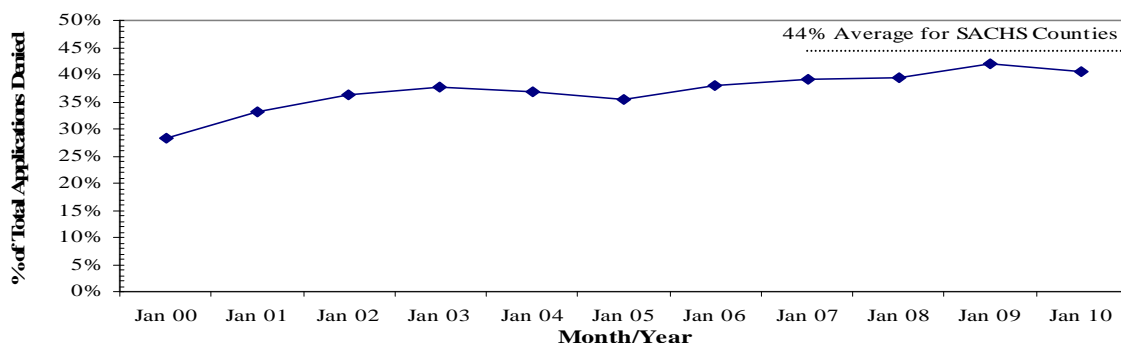
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Applications and Denials Statewide: 2000-2010

To provide some context for the data here representing only two points in time, trends on applications over a longer period, and covering all 58 counties, will be presented here. These data are taken directly from CDSS data, specifically the CA 237 CW Report. The numbers here for 2007 and 2010 will not match figures in the CDSS report because in the latter report, figures represent denials in January, not denials of cases that began in January only. Nevertheless, because data are gathered in the same way for each of the eleven years represented, the trends can be presumed to be valid.

Graph 1 shows the statewide denial rates in the months of January for the years 2000 to 2010. Denial rates trended upwards, with a slight dip in 2005, and then slight increases until 2009. In 2010, the State denial rate was 41%, with a 44% denial rate in the SACHS counties.

Graph 1: CA 237-CalWORKs Denial Rates (2000-2010): All Counties



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Further Analysis of Denials

This study was designed to shed light on the extent to which applicants for CalWORKs are tending to be from higher income groups than in the past: those who had not needed public assistance until this recession. To address this question, the reasons for denial that seemed most relevant were: “resources exceed limits” and “income exceeds standards.”

As shown in Table 4, there was a large increase (88%) in reasons having to do with income and resources exceeding the limits set by program rules. As with denials, the rate is a more complete indicator of

changes. In January 2007, 19% of denials were due to resources, income, or property. In January 2010, this had increased to 29%. “All Other” denial reasons, included to show the total number of denials in all categories, increased only 8%. The increases were greater for Income/Resources/Both vs. Other, suggesting that, in particular, being denied for exceeding income and/or resources changed more over time than did other denial reasons. This may support the notion that applicants in 2010 tended to be at higher income levels than those in 2007.

Table 4: CalWORKs Income/Resource Denial Reasons*

<i>Denial Reasons</i>	Totals		Change	
	Jan-07	Jan-10	N	%
Resources/Income/Both	1,517	2,819	1,302	86%
All Other Reasons	6,431	6,965	534	8%
Total Denials	7,941	9,784	1,843	23%
% Resources, Income, & Both	19%	29%		

**NOTE: Los Angeles County Data are from CA 255 CW*

Detail on denial reasons by county are shown in Table 5. In all counties, Resources, Income, and Both grew more than did reasons in Other, overall for all SACHS Counties there was a 10% increase. The largest increase was in Ventura County (27%).

Table 5: CalWORKs Resources, Income, and Both as Denial Reasons: Percentages of All Reasons

	Percentage of All Reasons (Resources, Income, & Both)		Difference
	Jan-07	Jan-10	
Imperial	N/A	N/A	
Los Angeles**	12%	24%	12%
Orange*	35%	42%	7%
Riverside	23%	26%	3%
San Bernardino	21%	29%	8%
Santa Barbara	19%	29%	10%
Ventura	21%	48%	27%
SACHS Total	19%	29%	10%

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***Los Angeles County Data are from CA 255 CW*

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As shown in Table 6, numbers for the selected denial reasons increased from 2007 to 2010 for first-time applicants. There was a 64% increase in too much income and/or excess

resources as a denial reason, while the increase in Other reasons increased only 15%. In January 2007, 23% of denials were due to resources, income, or property. In January 2010, this had increased to 29%.

Table 6: CalWORKs Resources/Income/Both Denial Reasons for First-time Payees*

<i>Denial Reasons</i>	Totals		Change	
	Jan-07	Jan-10	N	%
Resources/Income/Both	698	1,148	450	64%
All Other Reasons	2,394	2,763	369	15%
Total Denials	3,092	3,911	819	27%
% Resources, Income, & Both	23%	29%		

** Los Angeles County Data are from CA 255 CW*

Table 7 shows reasons for denials for first-time payees for individual SACHS counties. Overall, denial rates increased 6%, with the largest increase (24%) in Ventura.

Table 7: CalWORKs Resources, Income, and Both as Denial Reasons: Percentages of All Reasons for First-time Payees (by SACHS County)

	Percentage of All Reasons (Resources, Income, & Both)		Difference
	Jan-07	Jan-10	
Imperial	N/A	N/A	
Los Angeles	N/A	N/A	
Orange*	34%	39%	5%
Riverside	23%	25%	2%
San Bernardino	19%	28%	9%
Santa Barbara	23%	30%	7%
Ventura	16%	40%	24%
SACHS Total	23%	29%	6%

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Age of applicants

As shown in Table 8, the proportions of applicant ages shifted very little between 2007 and 2010. The percentage of applicants aged 20-29 dropped by 4%, while the percentages of applicants aged 30-50 increased by 4%. This reflects a greater proportion of prime working-age adults applying for CalWORKs.

Table 8: CalWORKs Applicants-Age*

	Total Percentage of Applicants		Difference
	Jan-07	Jan-10	
Ages 1-5	0%	0%	0
Ages 6-12	0%	0%	0
Ages 13-17	1%	1%	0
Ages 18-19	8%	8%	0
Ages 20-29	44%	40%	-4%
Ages 30-39	28%	29%	+1%
Ages 40-49	14%	16%	+2%
Ages 50-59	4%	5%	+1%
Ages 60-69	1%	1%	0
Ages 70-79	0%	0%	0
Ages 80	0%	0%	0
Ages 80+	0%	0%	0
TOTAL**	100%	100%	

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***Data from Los Angeles and Imperial Counties are unavailable.*

CalWORKs Active Caseloads

The number of active CalWORKs cases increased 25% between these two time periods. As shown in Table 9, the largest percentage increase was in Riverside, at 56%, followed by San Bernardino at 47%.

One way to look at the increases in active cases is to consider caseload growth as the relationship between entries and exits. The caseload grows if entries outpace exits. It goes down if exits outpace entries. In the current economic environment, a combination of more families coming on aid and fewer families exiting the program can explain the caseload increase.

Table 9: CalWORKs Active Cases

	Totals		Change	
	Jan-07	Jan-10	N	%
Imperial	3,618	4,616	998	28%
Los Angeles	146,490	167,450	20,960	14%
Orange *	15,672	21,947	6,275	40%
Riverside	20,157	31,540	11,383	56%
San Bernardino	32,265	47,443	15,178	47%
Santa Barbara	4,091	4,986	895	22%
Ventura	5,601	7,340	1,739	31%
SACHS Total	227,894	285,322	57,428	25%

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Table 10 shows cases carried forward from the previous month, cases added, cases open during the month, cases discontinued, and cases open at the end of the month. Growth was similar in all areas except for

Discontinued, which only

increased 9%. This suggests that people were staying on aid for longer periods in January 2010.

Table 10: CalWORKs Changes in Caseloads

	Totals		Change	
	Jan-07	Jan-10	N	%
(6) Carried forward	213,532	268,130	54,598	26%
(7) Added	14,953	18,468	3,515	24%
(8) Open	228,485	286,598	58,113	25%
(9) Discontinued	17,646	19,160	1,514	9%
(12) Open at end	210,839	267,438	56,599	27%

Source: CDSS CA 237 CW

It was expected that the number of two-parent cases in CalWORKs may increase during this recession, with increases in unemployment.

Table 11 shows that the numbers of CalWORKs cases with two parents increased by 80%. The largest increase was in Riverside County, which showed a 223% increase, followed by San Bernardino, with a 143%

increase. As noted above, Riverside and San Bernardino had two of the highest unemployment rates, at approximately 15%. The overall changes in caseloads noted above may apply here as well.

**Table 11: CalWORKs Two-Parent Cases
(by SACHS County)**

	Totals		Change	
	Jan-07	Jan-10	N	%
Imperial	N/A	N/A		
Los Angeles	9,563	13,347	3,784	40%
Orange *	973	1,461	488	50%
Riverside	984	3,180	2,196	223%
San Bernardino	4,531	11,022	6,491	143%
Santa Barbara	228	282	54	24%
Ventura	297	464	167	56%
SACHS Total	16,576	29,756	13,180	80%

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Table 12 shows that Zero-parent cases increased by 21% overall. Increases in this category ranged from 48% for Orange to 14% for Los Angeles.

**Table 12: CalWORKs Zero-Parent Cases
(by SACHS County)**

	Totals		Change	
	Jan-07	Jan-10	N	%
Imperial	N/A	N/A		
Los Angeles	56,365	64,261	7,896	14%
Orange*	7,562	11,217	3,655	48%
Riverside	7,777	10,601	2,824	36%
San Bernardino	N/A	N/A		
Santa Barbara	1,901	2,516	615	32%
Ventura	2,215	3,029	814	37%
SACHS Total	75,820	91,624	15,804	21%

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Table 13 shows the percentages of Two-parent and Zero-parent cases as percentages of active cases. Percentages of two-parent cases increased by 3%, while the percentage of Zero-parent cases remained nearly unchanged.

**Table 13: % Cases with Two-Parents and Zero-Parents
(by SACHS County)**

	% of Cases with Two-parents			% of Cases with Zero Parents		
	Jan-07	Jan-10	Difference	Jan-07	Jan-10	Difference
Imperial	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Los Angeles	7%	8%	1%	38%	38%	0%
Orange*	6%	7%	1%	48%	51%	5%
Riverside	5%	10%	5%	39%	34%	-5%
San Bernardino	14%	23%	9%	0%	0%	0%
Santa Barbara	6%	6%	0%	46%	50%	4%
Ventura	5%	6%	1%	40%	41%	1%
SACHS Total	7%	10%	3%	33%	32%	-1%

**SACHS definitions for counts in this report were not designed or intended to yield numbers that exactly match those in official reports to CDSS.*

Finally, Table 14 shows figures for Safety Net Cases. Changes in this category ranged from a 55% increase in Riverside to a 19% decrease in Orange. Safety Net cases as a percentage of all active cases remained the same at 1% for all SACHS counties, and varied only slightly within several counties.

**Table 14: Safety Net Cases
(by SACHS County)**

	Totals		Change	
	Jan-07	Jan-10	N	%
Imperial	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Los Angeles	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Orange *	1,110	897	-213	-19%
Riverside	1,383	2,140	757	55%
San Bernardino	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Santa Barbara	166	192	26	16%
Ventura	189	338	149	79%
SACHS Total	2,848	3,567	719	25%

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FOOD STAMPS

Another major income support program where changes were anticipated was Food Stamps. All the data here are from Non-Assistance Food Stamp (NAFS) cases only.

Number of Applications and Denials

The number of applications for Food Stamps increased by 47% during this period, as shown in Table 15. The largest increases were in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, where increases were over 100%. These two are large SACHS counties with high unemployment rates (Table 2). It was also expected that with large increases in applications that denials would increase as well.

Table 15: Total Food Stamps Applications (by SACHS County)

	Totals		Change	
	Jan-07	Jan-10	N	%
Imperial	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Los Angeles	33,912	45,674	11,762	35%
Orange	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Riverside	3,226	6,760	3,534	110%
San Bernardino	3,242	6,693	3,451	106%
Santa Barbara	1,060	1,588	528	50%
Ventura	1,158	1,830	672	58%
SACHS Total	42,598	62,545	19,947	47%

**Table 16: Food Stamps-Overall Denial Rates
(by SACHS County)**

	Denial Rate (% of All Applications Denied)		Difference
	Jan-07	Jan-10	
Imperial	N/A	N/A	
Los Angeles	36%	38%	2%
Orange*	N/A	N/A	
Riverside	52%	49%	-3%
San Bernardino	49%	40%	-9%
Santa Barbara	12%	9%	-3%
Ventura	25%	21%	-4%
SACHS Total	38%	38%	0%

The percentage of all Food Stamp applications that were denied remained the same, as indicated in Table 16. Denial rates within the counties varied only slightly.

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First-time Applicants and Denials

As with CalWORKs, it was expected that the numbers of first-time applicants would increase during this recession. As shown in Table 17, these numbers increased by 85%, and by over 100% for Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, both of which have high unemployment rates. Note that data are only available for four SACHS counties.

Table 17: Food Stamps-First Time Applications (by SACHS County)

	Totals		Change	
	Jan-07	Jan-10	N	%
Imperial	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Los Angeles	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Orange	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Riverside	2,390	5,001	2,611	109%
San Bernardino	2,183	4,458	2,275	104%
Santa Barbara	611	608	-3	0%
Ventura	863	1,099	236	27%
SACHS Total	6,047	11,166	5,119	85%

Denial rates overall were the same for both time periods (see Table 18). Note that data are only available for 4 SACHS counties.

Denial reasons were available for only three counties, so these figures are not included here.

**Table 18: Food Stamps-First Time Applicant Denial Rates
(by SACHS County)**

	Denial Rate		Difference
	Jan-07	Jan-10	
Imperial	N/A	N/A	N/A
Los Angeles	N/A	N/A	N/A
Orange	N/A	N/A	N/A
Riverside	55%	54%	-1%
San Bernardino	50%	43%	-7%
Santa Barbara	15%	13%	-2%
Ventura	28%	23%	-5%
SACHS Total	45%	45%	0%

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Age of Applicants

As shown in Table 19, the proportions of applicants in different age groups changed little, with the 18-29 age group increasing from 37% to 41% of the total applicants, and a 3% decrease in ages 30-49.

Table 19: Food Stamps Applicants-Age

	Total Percentage of Applicants		Difference
	Jan-07	Jan-10	
Ages 1-5	0%	0%	0%
Ages 6-12	0%	0%	0%
Ages 13-17	0%	0%	0%
Ages 18-19	6%	8%	2%
Ages 20-29	31%	33%	2%
Ages 30-39	23%	22%	-1%
Ages 40-49	21%	19%	-2%
Ages 50-59	11%	12%	1%
Ages 60-69	4%	4%	0%
Ages 70-79	2%	1%	-1%
Ages 80	0%	0%	0%
Ages 80+	0%	0%	0%
TOTAL**	100%	100%	0%

***Data from Los Angeles and Imperial Counties are unavailable.*

Active Cases

Active Food Stamps cases increased in all SACHS counties, overall by 54% (see Table 20). The largest increases were in Riverside (242%) and San Bernardino (165%) Counties. The increase in active cases (54%) was

Table 20: Food Stamps-Active Cases (by SACHS County)

	Totals		Change	
	Jan-07	Jan-10	N	%
Imperial	6,678	11,464	4,786	72%
Los Angeles	420,374	563,573	143,199	34%
Orange	19,627	44,765	25,138	128%
Riverside	15,061	51,523	36,462	242%
San Bernardino	27,852	73,925	46,073	165%
Santa Barbara	4,189	7,087	2,898	69%
Ventura	7,160	19,245	12,085	169%
SACHS Total	500,941	771,582	270,641	54%

greater than the increase in applications (47%), suggesting that perhaps people in 2010 were staying on Food Stamps for a longer duration than people in 2007.

CONCLUSIONS

After significant declines in CalWORKs (formerly AFDC) caseloads since implementation of the welfare reform legislation which created TANF in 1996, recent years have shown increased need for public assistance. The notion that the “face” of public assistance has changed is receiving increasing attention: the idea that since the recession, more people from higher income levels (working and middle class) are now requesting assistance due to significant losses in their incomes due to unemployment. More accurately, as one county analyst put it, it could be said that the face has not changed so much as it has expanded: county programs serve

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the same population as they did prior to the economic downturn, with the addition of a new population of people who hitherto were self-sufficient.

These findings do show increases and some changes in the characteristics of these populations in SACHS counties. Statewide data from CDSS show similar trends.

More detailed analysis of existing data, in SACHS counties and the other counties in the state, and other reports and studies from across the country could be used to guide public policy decision makers to make the best use of limited resources in helping the increasing numbers of people in need.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

A foundational resource, *Understanding CalWORKs: A Primer for Service Providers and Policymakers* (2nd edition) reviews the major laws, programs and financing mechanisms for California's welfare program, yet also provides a profile of welfare families (2007-2008) and highlights some of the key issues confronting practitioners and policymakers (available here: <http://www.ccrwf.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/ccrwf-CalWORKs-primer-2nd-edition.pdf>).

In addition to SACHS county data provided here, there are several useful files of statewide available from the CDSS Research and Data Reports webpage (<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/research/>). Statewide and county data are available regarding applications, cases, persons, aid categories, reasons for CalWORKs denials and discontinuances, and Food Stamps dollar values. One example, *CA 253 CW - CalWORKs Report on Reasons for Discontinuances of Cash Grant*, can be found at: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/research/PG285.htm>.

There are also a number of other reports prepared by individual counties which may be useful to illustrate trends and conditions within one county which may have relevance for other counties. For example, Orange County Social Services Agency (SSA) has completed reports which show increases in persons receiving CalWORKs and Food Stamps from December 2006 to December 2009. These are exactly one month before the timeframe of January 2007 and January 2010, which were chosen for reporting to SACHS. The most recent reports are available at the SSA Internet site (www.ssa.ocgov.com/). These reports show that not only did CalWORKs persons increase 38% and Food Stamp persons increase 83%, but increases occurred in every city and age group for Food Stamps, and in all age groups and 32 of 34 cities for CalWORKs. Some of the largest percentage increases were in cities often thought of as the most affluent.

Los Angeles County has prepared fact sheets including *Selected Social Service Programs in Los Angeles County: Increased Need and Benefits to the Economy* and *Demand Soars for General Relief in Los Angeles County* which provide succinct data and analysis on the effects of the recession and the value of human service programs.

The California Budget Project has various publications on related subjects such as the impact of the current recession on women, increased poverty rates, and widening income gaps for Californians (available here: <http://www.cbp.org/publications/publications.html>). One of their recent reports, *Stuck between a Recession and a Recovery* (http://cbp.org/pdfs/2010/1009_Labor_Day.pdf), highlights the extremely weak job market and employment opportunities in the state.

For additional background information, in September 2009, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities released a report entitled *Understanding Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Caseloads after Passage of the Deficit*

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Reduction Act of 2005. This report looked at changes in the total caseload between 2005 and 2008 (across 50 states), examining policy and structural changes states made in response to the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA) which may have influenced the level and composition of the TANF caseload (available here: http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/PDFs/family_support/TANF_caseloads.pdf).

Lastly, data have been prepared to provide support for the pending Senate Bill (SB) 1084, which would establish a California Economic Security Task Force to reduce poverty in the state.