



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

NOVEMBER 2014

CASELOAD EXITS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL: OCTOBER 2012 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2013

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to thank Jamie Haskel and Somlak Suvanasorn for their assistance in the collection and processing of data for this report as well as Lisa Nicoli for assistance with report editing and Kathy Patterson for the cover design.

This report was prepared by the Family Welfare Research and Training Group, School of Social Work, University of Maryland - Baltimore, 525 West Redwood Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201 with support from its long time research partner, the Maryland Department of Human Resources.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This installment of *Caseload Exits at the Local Level* continues the annual series by providing information about welfare leavers across Maryland and the individual 24 jurisdictions over a one-year period between October 2012 and September 2013. This macro-level snapshot presents the number and types of families that leave Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA, Maryland's TANF program) in each jurisdiction and why they leave. Specifically, this report focuses on the profiles of leavers, including their cases, caseload designations, case closure reasons, and use of full-family sanctions. The sample consists of 26,783 unique case closures that occurred between October 2012 and September 2013.

There are two major findings from this update of the *Caseload Exits at the Local Level* report. First, this year marks the first decline in the number of case closures in six years. The six percent decline in the number of case closures from the previous year reflects the declining number of families receiving TCA in Maryland. Second, there was an increase in work sanctions, which is the closure of cases for non-compliance with work requirement. After two years of a lower rate of work sanctions (29%), two in every five (40%) cases were closed due to a work sanction in the current year. Other key findings are highlighted below.

Statewide and Jurisdictional Closures

- As in previous years, the five large jurisdictions—Baltimore City and Baltimore, Prince George's, Anne Arundel, and Montgomery counties—accounted for the majority (77%) of 26,783 closures, with Baltimore City comprising two-fifths (43%) of closures.
- The majority of jurisdictions (21 of 24) experienced a decline in the number of case closures, reflecting the 6% decline statewide.

Payee and Case Characteristics

- The typical payee among closed cases was an African American (76%) woman (95%) about 33 years old, and the average case was composed of two people—one adult and one child. However, this may vary substantially by jurisdiction. In Garrett County, for example, the majority of payees were Caucasian women.
- The typical closed case received TCA for about 8 months in the year before exit and for about 22 months in the five years before exit. This was consistent across jurisdictions.

Caseload Designation

- Almost two-thirds (63%) of all closures were work-eligible cases, which means they were required to participate in a work-related activity. The remainder of the 2012-2013 closures (37%) was work-exempt cases.
- In a majority of jurisdictions (17 of 24), more than half of the closures were work-eligible, while seven jurisdictions had a majority of closures designated as work-exempt.

Case Closure Reasons

- Work sanctions were the most common closure reason in Maryland (40%), followed by closures where the client had income above the financial eligibility limit (14%). These two reasons were among the top closure reasons in 21 of the 24 jurisdictions.

- Work sanctions were the most common closure reason among work-eligible closures in Maryland (61%). In contrast, no recertification was the most common closure reason among work-exempt closures in Maryland (31%).

Full-Family Sanctions

- Since work sanctions increased from 29% in the previous study year to 40% in the

current study year, it is not surprising that the use of work sanctions increased in 19 of the 24 jurisdictions.

- Child support sanctions remained relatively stable, accounting for about 4% of closures at the state level. Most jurisdictions had rates of child support sanctions of less than 5%.

INTRODUCTION

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA), which created Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), instituted a number of policy changes in the nation's cash assistance program, including time limits and work participation requirements. These changes, coupled with a robust economy, resulted in sharp caseload declines throughout the country, including in Maryland. As the caseload decreased, so did the number of potential case closures. The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005, which reauthorized TANF, introduced further changes. DRA altered federal work participation requirements and limited states' flexibility with respect to meeting these standards. This stricter policy increased the number of case closures that were due to a work sanction (Williamson, 2011). Examining the cases that closed each year is thus crucial to understanding how policy is implemented, and it aids in comprehending trends and changes within Maryland's TANF caseload.

In particular, one trend worth observing is the percentage of case closures that are the result of a work sanction. Since the DRA's passage, work sanctions have increased, rising to 39% of closures in the 2009-2010 study year. At the same time, the Great Recession decimated the labor market, making it difficult for clients to find jobs and possibly contributing to the high work

sanction rate. This 2009-2010 peak was followed by a 10 percentage point drop, bringing the percentage of work sanctions down to 29%, which held through the 2011-2012 study year. This may indicate a new trend in work sanctioning, perhaps countering the consistent post-DRA increase. In addition to documenting the changes in case closures over time, this report series provides a snapshot of the families whose cases closed and their reasons for case closure over one year.

This edition of the *Caseload Exits* report covers the 12-month period from October 2012 through September 2013 and presents findings on the universe of 26,783 unique Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) cases with a closure. We examine the following questions throughout the report for the state and each jurisdiction:

1. What are the trends in the number of case closures over time?
2. What are the characteristics of these cases and their payees?
3. What is the distribution of caseload designations among the exiting cases?
4. What are the most frequently recorded case closure reasons?
5. How many cases closed because of a full-family sanction?

METHODS

This study is a part of the series, *Caseload Exits at the Local Level*. As such, the description of the sample and data sources used is similar to that of previous reports, reflecting minor changes when necessary.

Sample

The sample used for this report includes every TCA case that closed in Maryland between October 2012 and September 2013, regardless of the length of the closure. An assistance unit was included in the sample only once, even if the case may have closed on more than one occasion during the study period. For those cases with multiple closures during the study year, we randomly select one of those closures for inclusion in our analyses. By randomly selecting one closing record per case, we ensure no systematic effect of removing duplicates on the number of closures by month. Between October 2012 and September 2013, there were 26,783 unique case closures.¹

This report also provides information on open TCA cases that were receiving TCA in October 2012 in order to make comparisons between the caseload and case closures. Data on the TCA caseload in Maryland come from the universe of cases receiving TCA in October 2012 (n=25,566), originally drawn for our *Life on Welfare* series (Gleason, Nicoli, & Born, 2014).

Data Sources

Study findings are based on analyses of administrative data retrieved from computerized management information systems maintained by the State of Maryland, specifically the Client Automated Resources and Eligibility System (CARES).

CARES

CARES became the statewide automated data system for certain DHR programs in March 1998. CARES provides individual and case level program participation data for cash assistance (AFDC or TCA), Food Supplement (formerly known as Food Stamps), Medical Assistance, and other services. Demographic data are provided, as well as information about the type of program, application and disposition (denial or closure), dates for each service episode, and codes indicating the relationship of each individual to the head of the assistance unit.

Analyses

Throughout this report, descriptive analyses are used to provide an overall picture of case closures occurring between October 2012 and September 2013 at both the state and jurisdictional level.

¹ The total number of closures reported here (n=26,783) may differ from the total number of closures reported by the Family Investment Administration for the same period. This is due, in large part, to our counting each case only once during the 12-month study period.

FINDINGS: OVERVIEW OF CASE CLOSURE

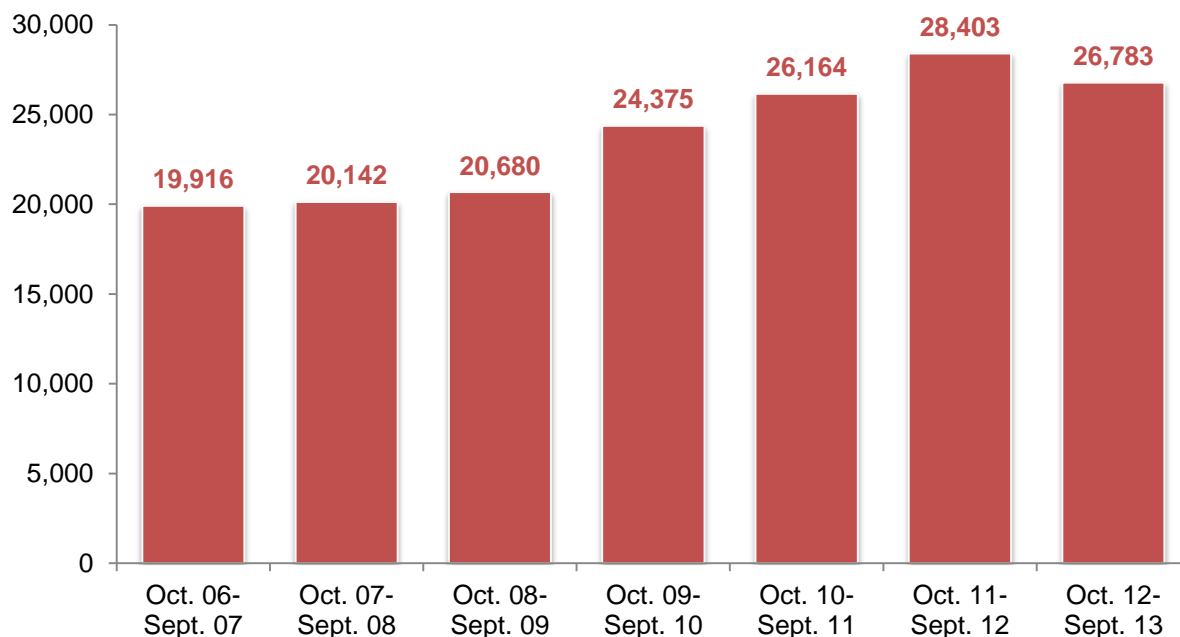
This report examines the 26,783 unique TCA cases that experienced a closure between October 2012 and September 2013. The findings are separated into discussions including an overview of closures, characteristics of case closures, and reasons for closure. The first chapter focuses on the number of case closures over time and how closures are distributed across jurisdictions.

Case Closures by Year

Examining closures in each year allows for the exploration of closure trends over time. Figure 1 presents the number of unduplicated case closures from the current and previous *Caseload Exits at the Local Level* reports going back to study year 2006-2007. We begin with the 2006-2007 study year because that year represents the lowest number of case closures since welfare reform. Prior to the 2006-2007 study year, there was a consistent decline in closures.

However, after the 2006-2007 study year, the number of case closures increased, paralleling the increase in the number of families that were in need and receiving TCA, throughout the Great Recession. In fact, there was a 43% increase in case closures between the 2006-2007 and 2011-2012 study years from 19,916 to 28,403 closures. However, since 2011, the number of recipient cases has been declining (DHR, n.d.). Therefore, with a smaller number of recipient cases, there were fewer cases to close. Hence, the 2012-2013 study year is marked by the first decline in case closures since the Great Recession—a decline of nearly 6%. These declines in both the number of cases receiving TCA and number of case closures may indicate that recovery among vulnerable families is occurring after the devastating effects of the recession for these families.

Figure 1. Statewide Case Closures by Year: 2006-2007 to 2012-2013



Note: The annual number of case closures is an unduplicated count of assistance units that occurred during the specified time periods.

Case Closures by Jurisdiction

Maryland is a small but diverse state with respect to local economic conditions, employment opportunities, culture, population sizes, and demographics. Consequently, the 24 jurisdictions that make up the state also reflect variation in the number of recipient cases and case closures. Therefore, jurisdictional data are presented to develop a better understanding of the caseload and closures throughout the state. Specifically, Table 1 provides the number of case closures by jurisdiction as well as the average number of cases receiving TCA during the study year.

As in previous years, Baltimore City had the largest number of closures ($n=11,612$), which represented more than two-fifths (43.4%) of all statewide closures. Only two other counties—Baltimore County (11.9%) and Prince George's County (11.3%)—accounted for more than 10% of statewide closures. These three counties comprised two-thirds of all TCA case closures in Maryland during the study year. The other two major metropolitan counties—Anne Arundel County (5.7%) and

Montgomery County (5.0%)—each had about five percent of the statewide case closures during the study year. These larger jurisdictions generally drive major changes in Maryland, but smaller jurisdictions might have different trends. After all, the remaining 19 jurisdictions accounted for less than one-quarter (22.7%) of all case closures in Maryland but represent very different populations. However, none of the remaining 19 jurisdictions contained more than three percent of statewide case closures.

For comparison, Table 1 also provides the average number of cases that received TCA in each jurisdiction during the study year. As expected, the statewide distribution of recipient cases was similar to that of case closures, meaning, jurisdictions with larger percentages of families receiving TCA also had larger percentages of the case closures. Similar to case closures, three large jurisdictions—Baltimore City (42.3%), Baltimore County (12.5%), and Prince George's County (10.5%)—constituted about two-thirds of the statewide caseload.

Table 1. Percent of Closures and Average Caseload: October 2012 to September 2013

Jurisdiction	Percent of Statewide Closures (n=26,783)	Percent of Average Statewide Recipient Cases (n=26,310)
Baltimore City	43.4% (11,612)	42.3% (11,129)
Baltimore County	11.9% (3,174)	12.5% (3,283)
Prince George's	11.3% (3,014)	10.5% (2,774)
Anne Arundel	5.7% (1,533)	5.8% (1,536)
Montgomery	5.0% (1,350)	4.6% (1,205)
Wicomico	2.7% (726)	2.9% (751)
Washington	2.5% (664)	2.7% (698)
Cecil	2.2% (594)	2.3% (597)
Harford	2.1% (559)	2.1% (558)
Howard	2.0% (524)	2.2% (578)
Frederick	1.8% (482)	1.8% (466)
St Mary's	1.8% (475)	1.8% (479)
Charles	1.6% (441)	1.6% (417)
Allegany	1.4% (364)	1.4% (373)
Dorchester	1.0% (267)	1.2% (316)
Carroll	0.7% (197)	0.8% (206)
Caroline	0.6% (150)	0.7% (193)
Somerset	0.5% (139)	0.7% (185)
Calvert	0.5% (132)	0.5% (132)
Queen Anne's	0.4% (96)	0.4% (99)
Kent	0.3% (87)	0.3% (88)
Worcester	0.3% (77)	0.4% (97)
Garrett	0.3% (69)	0.3% (75)
Talbot	0.2% (57)	0.3% (75)

Note: Counts may not sum to actual sample size because of missing data. Valid percentages are reported. The percent of statewide closures is a unique count of cases closing at least one time between October 2012 and September 2013. The percent of average recipient cases is an average of paid cases across the 12 months between October 2012 and September 2013, retrieved from statistical reports provided by the Maryland Department of Human Resources.

For the first time in six years the number of case closures declined. Therefore, to further explore the decline in case closures, Table 2 provides the number of closures in the previous and current study years by jurisdiction. Examining the percent change in closures for each of the 24 jurisdictions allows us to determine whether this decline was experienced across the entire state or concentrated in a few large jurisdictions.

The number of case closures declined in most jurisdictions, suggesting that the decline was not driven by the larger jurisdictions alone. In fact, there were jurisdictions with declines exceeding 20%—more than three times the statewide average (5.7%). Specifically, St. Mary's, Carroll, Caroline, Queen Anne's, and Worcester counties had declines ranging from 20.2% to 34.2%. However, each of these jurisdictions had fewer than 500 case closures in the current study year, limiting their influence on the overall statewide average.

Of course, the decline in case closures was not so dramatic in all jurisdictions. For example, the smallest decline in case closures—0.6%—occurred in Frederick County. On the other hand, all jurisdictions did not experience a decrease in the number

of case closures. Specifically, four jurisdictions had an increase in the number of case closures between the previous and current study years: Washington (5.4%), Allegany (7.7%), Dorchester (10.3%), and Kent (20.8%) counties. All four of these jurisdictions had fewer than 700 case closures during the study year, though, limiting their ability to influence the statewide average with their increased number of closures.

Even though most of the jurisdictions in Maryland experienced a decline in the number of case closures, the larger jurisdictions still had greater influence in the overall statewide change. Each of the five large jurisdictions had a decline in the number of case closures between the two study years, ranging from 0.8% in Baltimore County to 7.6% in Baltimore City. However, the only large jurisdiction with a decline of more than 2% was Baltimore City, which further emphasizes the effect it has on the state as a whole. Notably, Baltimore City's decline of 967 case closures accounted for more than half of the decline in all Maryland closures (1,620 cases). These extreme differences by jurisdiction echo the importance of not using broad strokes to paint Maryland's case closures.

Table 2. Change in the Number of Case Closures*October 2011-September 2012 to October 2012-September 2013*

	Total Closures Oct. 2011- Sept. 2012	Total Closures Oct. 2012- Sept. 2013	Percent Change & Difference in Case Closures
Baltimore City	12,579	11,612	-7.6% (967)
Baltimore County	3,200	3,174	-0.8% (26)
Prince George's	3,065	3,014	-1.7% (51)
Anne Arundel	1,549	1,533	-1.0% (16)
Montgomery	1,363	1,350	-1.0% (13)
Wicomico	731	726	-0.7% (5)
Washington	630	664	5.4% (34)
Cecil	641	594	-7.3% (47)
Harford	625	559	-10.6% (66)
Howard	595	524	-11.9% (71)
Frederick	485	482	-0.6% (3)
St Mary's	650	475	-26.9% (175)
Charles	449	441	-1.8% (8)
Allegany	338	364	7.7% (26)
Dorchester	242	267	10.3% (25)
Carroll	247	197	-20.2% (50)
Caroline	228	150	-34.2% (78)
Somerset	154	139	-9.7% (15)
Calvert	139	132	-5.0% (7)
Queen Anne's	131	96	-26.7% (35)
Kent	72	87	20.8% (15)
Worcester	113	77	-27.1% (36)
Garrett	86	69	-19.8% (17)
Talbot	70	57	-18.6% (13)
Maryland	28,403	26,783	-5.7% (1,620)

FINDINGS: CHARACTERISTICS OF CASE CLOSURES

This chapter profiles families whose TCA cases closed between October 2012 and September 2013. The findings include information on previous TCA receipt as well as demographic characteristics of the payee and characteristics of the case at the time of closure. Findings are first presented for Maryland and then separately for each jurisdiction.

Case and payee descriptors are important for several reasons. First, the numbers related to case closures represent actual low-income, Maryland families with children, and this is sometimes overlooked when discussing welfare. Second, just as jurisdictions vary in the size of their cash assistance caseloads, they also vary in the profiles of families who receive TCA and whose cases subsequently close. For example, many child-only cases—cases where the adult is not included in the cash assistance grant—exit assistance when the child reaches the age of majority, and as a result, jurisdictions with larger percentages of child-only cases may have different case closure profiles than jurisdictions with lower percentages of child-only cases (Hetling, Saunders, & Born, 2005).

Characteristics of Case Closures and Payees: Statewide

Table 3 presents the profile of closed cases as well as the characteristics of the payee at the state level. For comparison purposes, Table 3 also provides profile information about payees and cases that were on open TCA cases in October 2012, the first month of our study period (Gleason et al., 2014).

The payee characteristics were very similar between those receiving TCA and those with a case closure. The typical payee among closed cases was an African American (75.7%) woman (94.6%) who was about 33 years old, on average. The average age of the youngest child on these cases was about five years old. Similarly, payees on an open TCA case were generally African American women with young children. They differed slightly on average age, however. In comparison to the 2012 caseload, payees on a closed case were about three years younger (35.45 years vs. 32.77 years).

Like payee characteristics, TCA recipient cases and case closures had some common case characteristics. For example, the typical case closure during the study year was a two-person assistance unit (40.3%) with one adult (79.5%) and one child (47.9%). In comparison, the typical recipient case was also a two-person assistance unit (37.6%), consisting of one adult (66.7%) and one child (48.1%). However, the typical closure was slightly more likely to have an adult on the case.

Conversely, closed and open cases diverged on other characteristics including TCA receipt and the percentage of child-only cases. TCA receipt, as shown in the table below, indicates the total number of months a case received TCA in either the previous 12 or 60 months. The typical closed case received TCA for about 8 of the previous 12 months and about 22 of the previous 60 months. In comparison, the open cases had a similar average number of months of receipt in the previous 12 months—8.47 months—and a slightly higher average in the previous 60 months (26.43 months).

A partial explanation for the lower TCA receipt among case closures is the difference in the percentage of child-only cases that typically stay on assistance for longer periods of time. Specifically, child-only cases were more common among recipient cases

(30.4%) than among case closures (15.9%), thereby lowering the average number months of TCA receipt among the case closures. Again, child-only cases often close when the child reaches the age of majority, resulting in longer periods of receipt (Hetling, et al. 2005).

Table 3. Payee Characteristics: Statewide

	Closed Cases Oct. 2012-Sept. 2013 (n=26,783)	Open Cases Oct. 2012 (n=25,566)
Payee Characteristics		
% African American ^	75.7% (19,710)	74.4% (17,830)
% Female	94.6% (25,325)	94.5% (24,164)
Average Age [Median Age]	32.77 [30.02]	35.45 [32.22]
Case Characteristics		
Size of Assistance Unit		
1	13.1% (3,518)	20.8% (5,312)
2	40.3% (10,784)	37.6% (9,599)
3	24.8% (6,629)	22.2% (5,666)
4 or more	21.8% (5,843)	19.5% (4,983)
Number of Adults		
0 (child-only)	15.9% (4,268)	30.4% (7,771)
1	79.5% (21,294)	66.7% (17,039)
2	4.5% (1,212)	2.9% (750)
Number of Children		
0	3.2% (850)	3.0% (762)
1	47.9% (12,831)	48.1% (12,295)
2	26.9% (7,214)	27.3% (6,979)
3 or more	22.0% (5,879)	21.6% (5,524)
Average Age of Youngest Child		
Average [Median]	5.39 [3.72]	6.01 [4.45]
TCA Receipt		
Average [Median] Months in Previous 12 Months	7.92 [9.00]	8.47 [11.00]
Average [Median] Months in Previous 60 Months	22.29 [17.00]	26.43 [22.00]

Note: ^ Non-Hispanic. Counts may not sum to actual sample size because of missing data for some variables. Valid percentages are reported. For closed cases, months of receipt in the last 12 or 60 months refers to the 12 or 60 months prior to case closure; for the open TCA cases this refers to the 12 or 60 months prior to October 2012.

Characteristics of Case Closures and Payees: Jurisdictions

While many jurisdictions were similar to the average statewide payee and case characteristics, there were differences, which highlight the importance of looking at the individual jurisdictions. Table 4 follows this discussion and spans several pages, presenting payee and case characteristics for each of the 24 jurisdictions. This discussion focuses on key differences and similarities among jurisdictions, but a detailed examination of Table 4 provides more information and demonstrates how Maryland and its jurisdictions are quite diverse.

Payee Characteristics

There was considerable variation among jurisdictions with respect to payee race. For example, 75.7% of Maryland payees with a case closure were African American; only 1.5% of closures in Garrett County had an African American payee, compared to 91.7% of closures in Baltimore City. Besides Baltimore City, African American payees accounted for more than two-thirds of the closures in eight counties: Baltimore (68.0%), Prince George's (90.1%), Montgomery (70.5%), Wicomico (67.2%), Howard (75.3%), Charles (78.1%), Dorchester (70.2%), and Somerset (68.1%). On the other hand, in some jurisdictions, such as Garrett County, less than one-fifth of the payees were as African American: Cecil (18.2%), Allegany (9.4%), and Carroll (14.8%) counties.

While the average age of payees also varied slightly across jurisdictions, it usually fell within one or two years of the statewide average of 33 years. For example, four jurisdictions had an average age of more than 35 years old: Carroll (36.5), Caroline (35.6), Talbot (35.9), and Worcester (36.2) counties. On the other hand, there were jurisdictions with an average age under 32 years old:

Allegany (31.8), Dorchester (30.7), and Kent (31.1) counties. The payees in the larger jurisdictions, however, had an average age on par with the statewide average. For example, Baltimore, Prince George's, Anne Arundel, and Montgomery counties had average ages between 33 and 34 years old.

Assistance Unit Size and Composition

The assistance unit size for all jurisdictions as well as Maryland was two to three persons, on average, ranging from 2.28 persons in Talbot County to 2.84 persons in Dorchester. Typically, less than one-fifth of assistance units consisted of only one person with three exceptions: Carroll (21.3%), Caroline (22.0%), and Talbot (21.1%) counties. Likewise, less than one-quarter of closed cases in most jurisdictions had more than four members in the assistance unit. Wicomico (25.3%), Howard (26.1%), and Dorchester (26.2%) counties were the only exceptions.

Regardless of the size of the assistance unit, most only included one adult, ranging from 56.1% in Talbot County to 86.2% in Kent County. Similarly, 8 in 10 (79.5%) cases at the state level included only one adult. Statewide, there were very few assistance units (4.5%) with two adults on the case receiving TCA benefits. Even jurisdictions with higher percentages of two adults on a case remained below 15%: Cecil (10.4%), St. Mary's (9.8%), Allegany (12.1%), Somerset (9.4%), Calvert (9.8%), Queen Anne's (12.5%), and Garrett (14.5%) counties. While these seven counties had higher percentages of assistance units with two adults, many of the larger jurisdictions had percentages near the state average: Baltimore (5.3%), Prince George's (3.0%), Anne Arundel (4.6%), and Montgomery (7.1%) counties as well as Baltimore City (3.2%).

Not all case closures included an adult on the case, however. The cases with no adults in the assistance unit, meaning the adult in the household was not calculated in the cash assistance benefit amount, ranged from as low as 8.0% in Kent County to as high as 43.9% in Talbot County. In most jurisdictions, (18 of 24) less than one-fifth of the closed assistance units had no adults receiving TCA benefits.

Most case closures during this study period included only one child, from two-fifths (40.6%) of case closures in Queen Anne's County to three-fifths (59.1%) in Calvert County. About one-fifth (22.0%) of Maryland assistance units included three or more children, and most jurisdictions fell near the statewide average. For instance, of the 24 jurisdictions, only four counties had one-quarter of their cases close with three or more children in the assistance unit: Wicomico (25.9%), Howard (24.8%), Frederick (24.7%), and Dorchester (25.5%) counties. At the other extreme, only 1 in 10 (10.7%) cases in Caroline County included three or more children. Lastly, the average age of the youngest child on these closed cases was about five or six years old, which was on par with the statewide average of 5.39 years old.

TCA Receipt

TCA receipt, as mentioned above, refers to the cumulative number of months of cash assistance a case received, which does not mean all the months of receipt were consecutive. In many jurisdictions, cases received fewer months of TCA in the previous 12 months than the statewide average of 8 months. In fact, at the time of closure, cases in 10 jurisdictions received fewer than eight months of TCA, ranging from 5.87 months in Kent County to 7.2 months in Washington County. The remaining 14 jurisdictions hover around the statewide average (8 months).

Nearly all jurisdictions received fewer months of TCA in the previous 60 months compared to the state. However, Baltimore City had four additional months of receipt, on average, than the statewide figure (26.87 months vs. 22.29 months). Months of TCA receipt in the other counties ranged from 11 months in Kent County to 22 months in Howard County. Since each of the jurisdictions fell below the statewide average, the influence Baltimore City had over the statewide average was evident in TCA receipt. This finding continues to highlight the difficulty in generalizing trends at the state level since the trends often reflect Baltimore City's cases.

Table 4. Payee Characteristics: Jurisdictions

	Baltimore City (n=11,612)	Baltimore County (n=3,174)	Prince George's (n=3,014)	Anne Arundel (n=1,533)	Montgomery (n=1,350)	Wicomico (n=726)
Payee Characteristics						
% African American^	91.7% (10,533)	68.0% (2,071)	90.1% (2,584)	57.4% (855)	70.5% (889)	67.2% (474)
% Female	95.2% (11,059)	93.5% (2,969)	95.8% (2,886)	94.0% (1,441)	94.1% (1,271)	95.3% (692)
Average Age [Median]	32.05 [29.38]	33.65 [31.03]	33.00 [30.01]	33.42 [30.83]	33.86 [32.08]	32.68 [29.63]
Case Characteristics						
Size of Assistance Unit						
1	12.2% (1,420)	13.9% (441)	13.4% (405)	14.5% (222)	12.9% (174)	12.7% (92)
2	40.6% (4,713)	40.5% (1,285)	41.3% (1,245)	41.3% (633)	40.4% (546)	39.4% (286)
3	25.0% (2,901)	25.4% (806)	23.5% (709)	24.9% (382)	24.5% (331)	22.6% (164)
4 or more	22.2% (2,574)	20.2% (642)	21.7% (654)	19.3% (296)	22.1% (299)	25.3% (184)
Average [Median]	2.70 [2.00]	2.62 [2.00]	2.68 [2.00]	2.60 [2.00]	2.71 [2.00]	2.77 [2.00]
Number of Adults						
0 (Child-Only)	13.4% (1,553)	15.8% (503)	18.3% (552)	17.0% (261)	20.0% (270)	18.2% (132)
1	83.5% (9,688)	78.8% (2,502)	78.7% (2,371)	78.3% (1,201)	72.9% (984)	76.9% (558)
2	3.2% (367)	5.3% (169)	3.0% (90)	4.6% (71)	7.1% (96)	5.0% (36)
Number of Children						
0	3.6% (413)	3.5% (112)	2.5% (75)	3.4% (52)	2.1% (28)	2.9% (21)
1	47.2% (5,474)	49.3% (1,564)	48.9% (1,474)	50.4% (773)	47.9% (647)	45.5% (330)
2	27.0% (3,129)	27.5% (873)	25.6% (770)	26.6% (408)	27.8% (375)	25.8% (187)
3 or more	22.3% (2,592)	19.7% (625)	23.0% (694)	19.6% (300)	22.2% (300)	25.9% (188)
Average Age of Youngest Child [Median]	5.38 [3.77]	5.80 [4.13]	5.28 [3.46]	5.56 [3.95]	5.32 [3.70]	4.78 [2.97]
Months of TCA Receipt						
Average [Median] in Previous 12 Months	8.40 [10.00]	8.11 [9.00]	7.61 [9.00]	7.01 [7.00]	7.13 [7.00]	7.81 [9.00]
Average [Median] in Previous 60 Months	26.87 [24.00]	20.47 [15.00]	20.22 [14.00]	16.74 [11.00]	15.93 [10.00]	19.43 [15.00]

Note: ^ Non-Hispanic. Counts may not sum to actual sample size because of missing data for some variables. Valid percentages are reported.

	Washington (n=664)	Cecil (n=594)	Harford (n=559)	Howard (n=524)	Frederick (n=482)	St. Mary's (n=475)
Payee Characteristics						
% African American^	31.1% (195)	18.2% (106)	49.0% (267)	75.3% (371)	47.7% (217)	50.9% (236)
% Female	93.1% (618)	93.6% (556)	93.4% (522)	95.2% (499)	92.5% (446)	92.6% (440)
Average Age [Median]	32.50 [29.57]	33.53 [30.23]	34.18 [31.00]	33.55 [30.97]	33.82 [30.84]	32.81 [29.71]
Case Characteristics						
Size of Assistance Unit						
1	12.0% (80)	14.3% (85)	17.0% (95)	10.5% (55)	14.5% (70)	14.4% (68)
2	38.7% (257)	37.7% (224)	36.5% (204)	39.3% (206)	42.5% (205)	35.2% (166)
3	27.0% (179)	25.1% (149)	24.0% (134)	24.0% (126)	19.5% (94)	27.6% (130)
4 or more	22.3% (148)	22.9% (136)	22.5% (126)	26.1% (137)	23.4% (113)	22.7% (107)
Average [Median]	2.74 [2.00]	2.69 [2.00]	2.63 [2.00]	2.80 [3.00]	2.67 [2.00]	2.76 [3.00]
Number of Adults						
0 (Child-Only)	17.0% (113)	18.9% (112)	21.5% (120)	12.0% (63)	18.0% (87)	19.5% (92)
1	78.5% (521)	70.7% (420)	73.0% (408)	81.3% (426)	76.3% (368)	70.7% (333)
2	4.5% (30)	10.4% (62)	5.5% (31)	6.7% (35)	5.6% (27)	9.8% (46)
Number of Children						
0	1.2% (8)	3.5% (21)	3.2% (18)	2.3% (12)	3.9% (19)	2.1% (10)
1	47.1% (313)	47.6% (283)	47.0% (263)	46.8% (245)	51.0% (246)	44.8% (211)
2	29.5% (196)	26.4% (157)	27.2% (152)	26.1% (137)	20.3% (98)	31.6% (149)
3 or more	22.1% (147)	22.4% (133)	22.5% (126)	24.8% (130)	24.7% (119)	21.4% (101)
Average Age of Youngest Child [Median]	4.54 [2.60]	5.44 [3.81]	5.63 [4.20]	5.80 [4.07]	5.66 [3.86]	5.25 [3.67]
Months of TCA Receipt						
Average [Median] in Previous 12 Months	7.20 [7.00]	7.78 [9.00]	7.10 [8.00]	8.23 [10.00]	6.91 [7.00]	7.69 [9.00]
Average [Median] in Previous 60 Months	15.97 [11.00]	18.95 [13.00]	19.67 [14.00]	22.25 [16.00]	16.17 [11.00]	20.20 [16.00]

Note: ^ Non-Hispanic. Counts may not sum to actual sample size because of missing data for some variables. Valid percentages are reported.

	Charles (n=441)	Allegany (n=364)	Dorchester (n=267)	Carroll (n=197)	Caroline (n=150)	Somerset (n=139)
Payee Characteristics						
% African American^	78.1% (321)	9.4% (34)	70.2% (179)	14.8% (28)	38.3% (57)	68.1% (94)
% Female	94.1% (415)	91.8% (334)	92.5% (247)	91.9% (181)	89.3% (134)	95.7% (133)
Average Age [Median]	32.36 [28.77]	31.76 [29.38]	30.71 [27.94]	36.50 [34.33]	35.64 [32.83]	32.01 [29.24]
Case Characteristics						
Size of Assistance Unit						
1	13.6% (60)	12.9% (47)	11.6% (31)	21.3% (42)	22.0% (33)	14.4% (20)
2	41.7% (184)	37.9% (138)	36.0% (96)	39.6% (78)	43.3% (65)	33.1% (46)
3	22.2% (98)	28.0% (102)	26.2% (70)	23.9% (47)	23.3% (35)	30.2% (42)
4 or more	22.4% (99)	21.2% (77)	26.2% (70)	15.2% (30)	11.3% (17)	22.3% (31)
Average [Median]	2.67 [2.00]	2.68 [2.00]	2.84 [3.00]	2.39 [2.00]	2.32 [2.00]	2.74 [3.00]
Number of Adults						
0 (Child-Only)	16.6% (73)	17.0% (62)	14.2% (38)	28.4% (56)	37.3% (56)	15.8% (22)
1	79.8% (352)	70.9% (258)	79.0% (211)	67.5% (133)	57.3% (86)	74.8% (104)
2	3.6% (16)	12.1% (44)	6.7% (18)	4.1% (8)	5.3% (8)	9.4% (13)
Number of Children						
0	1.8% (8)	4.9% (18)	2.6% (7)	1.5% (3)	1.3% (2)	3.6% (5)
1	51.9% (229)	43.1% (157)	43.4% (116)	56.3% (111)	50.0% (75)	44.6% (62)
2	22.7% (100)	32.7% (119)	28.5% (76)	24.9% (49)	38.0% (57)	30.2% (42)
3 or more	23.6% (104)	19.2% (70)	25.5% (68)	17.3% (34)	10.7% (16)	21.6% (30)
Average Age of Youngest Child [Median]	5.09 [3.23]	4.91 [3.33]	4.40 [2.95]	5.46 [3.97]	6.24 [5.19]	4.88 [3.04]
Months of TCA Receipt						
Mean [Median] in Previous 12 Months	6.81 [6.00]	6.87 [7.00]	8.07 [9.00]	7.62 [8.00]	7.50 [9.00]	8.53 [10.00]
Average [Median] in Previous 60 Months	15.53 [10.00]	16.75 [12.00]	20.17 [16.00]	18.58 [11.00]	19.65 [14.50]	20.63 [17.00]

Note: ^ Non-Hispanic. Counts may not sum to actual sample size because of missing data for some variables. Valid percentages are reported.

	Calvert (n=132)	Queen Anne's (n=96)	Kent (n=87)	Worcester (n=77)	Garrett (n=69)	Talbot (n=57)
Payee Characteristics						
% African American^	43.2% (54)	31.6% (30)	61.2% (52)	49.3% (35)	1.5% (1)	49.1% (27)
% Female	92.4% (122)	94.8% (91)	87.4% (76)	96.1% (74)	92.8% (64)	96.5% (55)
Average Age [Median]	32.28 [29.71]	34.71 [34.05]	31.14 [28.49]	36.22 [30.29]	34.02 [32.02]	35.88 [32.74]
Case Characteristics						
Size of Assistance Unit						
1	16.7% (22)	12.5% (12)	11.5% (10)	18.2% (14)	11.6% (8)	21.1% (12)
2	43.9% (58)	31.3% (30)	41.4% (36)	35.1% (27)	42.0% (29)	47.4% (27)
3	21.2% (28)	33.3% (32)	24.1% (21)	23.4% (18)	29.0% (20)	19.3% (11)
4 or more	18.2% (24)	22.9% (22)	23.0% (20)	23.4% (18)	17.4% (12)	12.3% (7)
Average [Median]	2.53 [2.00]	2.80 [3.00]	2.75 [2.00]	2.62 [2.00]	2.62 [2.00]	2.28 [2.00]
Number of Adults						
0 (Child-Only)	16.7% (22)	18.8% (18)	8.0% (7)	27.3% (21)	14.5% (10)	43.9% (25)
1	73.5% (97)	68.8% (66)	86.2% (75)	66.2% (51)	71.0% (49)	56.1% (32)
2	9.8% (13)	12.5% (12)	5.7% (5)	6.5% (5)	14.5% (10)	0.0% (0)
Number of Children						
0	3.8% (5)	2.1% (2)	8.0% (7)	2.6% (2)	2.9% (2)	0.0% (0)
1	59.1% (78)	40.6% (39)	43.7% (38)	42.9% (33)	55.1% (38)	56.1% (32)
2	19.7% (26)	36.5% (35)	26.4% (23)	32.5% (25)	24.6% (17)	24.6% (14)
3 or more	17.4% (23)	20.8% (20)	21.8% (19)	22.1% (17)	17.4% (12)	19.3% (11)
Average Age of Youngest Child [Median]	4.76 [3.29]	5.73 [3.80]	5.10 [3.74]	4.90 [3.17]	5.93 [5.15]	6.19 [4.85]
Months of TCA Receipt						
Average [Median] in Previous 12 Months	6.43 [5.00]	6.91 [6.50]	5.87 [5.00]	7.52 [8.00]	7.57 [9.00]	8.54 [10.00]
Average [Median] in Previous 60 Months	13.48 [10.00]	19.57 [14.50]	11.43 [9.00]	14.65 [11.00]	18.13 [11.00]	21.11 [14.00]

Note: ^ Non-Hispanic. Counts may not sum to actual sample size because of missing data for some variables. Valid percentages are reported.

Caseload Designation: Statewide

Maryland's TCA cases are classified into categories, known as caseload designations, that determine whether they are subject to work requirements—that is, work-eligible—or if they are work exempt and thus free from those requirements. The categorization is based on a number of different case and payee characteristics available in the administrative data, and a hierarchy guides category assignment, so a case is included in a single category even if it meets the criteria for multiple categories. These classifications can change as family circumstances change, but for this report, we use the caseload designation assigned to the case at the time of closure. Table 5 provides the caseload designations for all case closures as well as the designations for the 2012 caseload, for comparison.

Two-thirds (63.1%) of all closures were work-eligible cases, but these cases only made up 40.8% of the 2012 caseload. While there were multiple categories of work-eligible closures, most work-eligible closures were single-parent cases (48.9%). Of the remaining work-eligible case closures, earnings² cases made up the largest percentage of case closures at 7.4%. This figure, however, was about twice the percentage of earnings cases in the 2012 caseload (3.5%).

Of course, the remaining two-fifths (36.9%) of case closures were work-exempt. With the exception of child-only case closures, the case closures were fairly representative of the 2012 caseload. Indeed, the proportions of closures and the 2012 caseload were within five percentage points of each other. However, child-only cases made up less than one in five (16.0%) case closures, which was about half of the child-only representation in the 2012 caseload (30.4%). This finding is expected as it has been established that child-only cases have longer, uninterrupted spells of welfare receipt, often because the child was placed with a relative and the payee receives TCA for the care of the child as an alternative to foster care (Hetling et. al., 2005).

² Earnings cases are those with payees who have wages while receiving TCA but those wages were not enough to disqualify them from TCA receipt.

Table 5. Caseload Designation: Statewide

	Closed Cases Oct. 2012-Sept. 2013 (n=26,783)	Open Cases Oct. 2012 (n=25,566)
Work-Eligible Cases	63.1% (16,891)	40.8% (10,416)
Single-Parent Cases	48.9% (13,089)	32.1% (8,201)
Earnings	7.4% (1,969)	3.5% (903)
Short-Term Disabled	1.6% (441)	1.9% (488)
Legal Immigrant	0.8% (211)	0.6% (147)
Domestic Violence	1.1% (297)	0.9% (226)
Two-Parent Household	3.3% (884)	1.8% (451)
Work-Exempt Cases	36.9% (9,875)	59.2% (15,142)
Child-Only	16.0% (4,276)	30.4% (7,781)
Child Under one	7.9% (2,103)	9.5% (2,423)
Long-Term Disabled	10.1% (2,701)	14.6% (3,741)
Caring for a Disabled Household Member	1.9% (517)	2.8% (717)
Needy Caretaker Relative	1.0% (278)	1.9% (480)

Note: Counts may not sum to actual sample size because of missing data for some variables. Valid percentages are shown.

Caseload Designation: Jurisdictions

Variation among jurisdictions has been discussed in previous sections of this report, but with caseload designation, there is consistency among jurisdictions. As presented in Table 6, caseload designations among jurisdictions largely resemble the statewide distribution. More than half of closures were work-eligible in most jurisdictions (17 of 24). On the other hand, there were seven jurisdictions where more than half of closures were work-exempt. For example, 7 in 10 (70.2%) case closures were designated as work-exempt in Talbot County.

Of work-eligible designations, single-parent cases were the most common closures. All jurisdictions except five (Carroll, Caroline, Worcester, Garrett, and Talbot counties) had the largest portion of their case closures designated as single-parent cases. In fact, single-parent cases represented two-fifths or more of case closures in half of all jurisdictions. Furthermore, six jurisdictions

had more than 50% of their closures designated as single-parent cases: Baltimore (50.9%), Prince George's (55.9%), Charles (51.7%), Dorchester (53.9%), and Somerset (56.1%) counties and Baltimore City (53.3%).

In addition to single-parent cases, a common designation among closures was child-only cases, the most common of the work-exempt cases. Child-only cases were the most common case closure in Caroline (38.0%) and Talbot (43.9%) counties and were tied with single-parent cases in two counties: Carroll (27.9%) and Worcester (27.3%). Child-only cases were the second most common designation among closures in 17 of the 24 jurisdictions. While the proportions vary among the jurisdictions, single-parent and child-only cases accounted for the plurality, if not the majority, of families leaving cash assistance in Maryland. One exception to this trend is Garrett County, where the largest percentage of the case closures were long-term disabled cases (30.4%).

Table 6. Caseload Designation: Jurisdiction

	Baltimore City (n=11,612)	Baltimore County (n=3,174)	Prince George's (n=3,014)	Anne Arundel (n=1,533)	Montgomery (n=1,350)	Wicomico (n=726)
Work-Eligible Cases	64.4% (7,469)	66.6% (2,114)	67.6% (2,035)	63.5% (971)	59.6% (804)	63.1% (458)
Single-Parent Cases	53.3% (6,189)	50.9% (1,614)	55.9% (1,684)	43.4% (663)	40.1% (541)	45.7% (332)
Earnings	5.8% (673)	8.0% (254)	7.0% (210)	12.0% (184)	5.7% (77)	9.2% (67)
Two-Parent Household	2.2% (258)	3.9% (125)	2.5% (74)	4.0% (61)	6.2% (83)	4.0% (29)
Other Work-Eligible Cases	3.0% (349)	3.9% (121)	2.2% (67)	4.1% (63)	7.4% (103)	4.2% (30)
Work-Exempt Cases	35.6% (4,137)	33.4% (1,059)	32.4% (976)	36.5% (558)	40.4% (545)	36.9% (268)
Child-Only	13.4% (1,561)	15.9% (504)	18.2% (548)	17.3% (265)	19.7% (266)	17.9% (130)
Child Under one	7.5% (871)	5.5% (174)	7.2% (216)	7.3% (112)	10.2% (138)	9.2% (67)
Long-Term Disabled	11.1% (1,285)	9.0% (287)	4.7% (141)	9.0% (138)	8.1% (109)	6.7% (49)
Other Work-Exempt Cases	3.6% (420)	2.9% (94)	2.4% (71)	2.9% (43)	2.4% (32)	3.1% (22)

Number of Unique Case Closures	Washington (n=664)	Cecil (n=594)	Harford (n=559)	Howard (n=524)	Frederick (n=482)	St. Mary's (n=475)
Work-Eligible Cases	48.3% (321)	49.5% (294)	49.7% (278)	69.6% (364)	63.3% (305)	60.8% (289)
Single-Parent Cases	28.8% (191)	35.9% (213)	34.2% (191)	46.8% (245)	42.9% (207)	37.9% (180)
Earnings	11.9% (79)	5.7% (34)	8.9% (50)	11.3% (59)	11.6% (56)	11.2% (53)
Two-Parent Household	2.7% (18)	5.6% (33)	2.5% (14)	5.7% (30)	3.9% (19)	7.4% (35)
Other Work-Eligible Cases	5.0% (33)	2.3% (14)	4.1% (23)	5.7% (30)	4.8% (23)	4.4% (21)
Work-Exempt Cases	51.7% (343)	50.5% (300)	50.3% (281)	30.4% (159)	36.7% (177)	39.2% (186)
Child-Only	17.3% (115)	19.2% (114)	21.5% (120)	12.0% (63)	18.3% (88)	19.4% (92)
Child Under one	17.0% (113)	10.6% (63)	7.9% (44)	5.7% (30)	7.1% (34)	6.1% (29)
Long-Term Disabled	15.4% (102)	17.5% (104)	17.9% (100)	10.7% (56)	10.2% (49)	11.4% (54)
Other Work-Exempt Cases	2.0% (13)	3.2% (19)	3.1% (17)	1.9% (10)	1.2% (6)	2.4% (11)

Note: Counts may not sum to actual sample size because of missing data. Valid percentages are reported. To protect confidentiality, smaller caseload designations were combined into an 'other' category. Other work-eligible cases include short-term disabled, legal immigrant, and domestic violence cases. Other work-exempt cases include caring for a disabled family member and needy caretaker relative.

Number of Unique Case Closures	Charles (n=441)	Allegany (n=364)	Dorchester (n=267)	Carroll (n=197)	Caroline (n=150)	Somerset (n=139)
Work-Eligible Cases	64.2% (283)	50.8% (185)	68.9% (184)	45.7% (90)	51.3% (77)	72.7% (101)
Single-Parent Cases	51.7% (228)	34.1% (124)	53.9% (144)	27.9% (55)	34.0% (51)	56.1% (78)
Earnings	7.5% (33)	4.4% (16)	7.5% (20)	10.2% (20)	10.7% (16)	7.9% (11)
Two-Parent Household	2.3% (10)	6.9% (25)	5.6% (15)	1.5% (3)	4.0% (6)	8.6% (12)
Other Work-Eligible Cases	2.7% (11)	5.5% (20)	1.4% (5)	6.1% (11)	2.7% (4)	0.0% (0)
Work-Exempt Cases	35.8% (158)	49.2% (179)	31.1% (83)	54.3% (107)	48.7% (73)	27.3% (38)
Child-Only	16.8% (74)	17.3% (63)	13.9% (37)	27.9% (55)	38.0% (57)	15.8% (22)
Child Under one	10.7% (47)	11.5% (42)	9.4% (25)	9.6% (19)	5.3% (8)	5.0% (7)
Long-Term Disabled	7.3% (32)	18.1% (66)	6.0% (16)	14.7% (29)	4.7% (7)	5.8% (8)
Other Work-Exempt Cases	0.7% (5)	2.2% (8)	1.9% (5)	2.0% (4)	0.7% (1)	0.7% (1)

Number of Unique Case Closures	Calvert (n=132)	Queen Anne's (n=96)	Kent (n=87)	Worcester (n=77)	Garrett (n=69)	Talbot (n=57)
Work-Eligible Cases	58.8% (77)	57.3% (55)	63.2% (55)	48.1% (37)	40.6% (28)	29.8% (17)
Single-Parent Cases	29.8% (39)	34.4% (33)	43.7% (38)	27.3% (21)	18.8% (13)	26.3% (15)
Earnings	12.2% (16)	12.5% (12)	13.8% (12)	14.3% (11)	5.8% (4)	3.5% (2)
Two-Parent Household	9.2% (12)	9.4% (9)	3.4% (3)	6.5% (5)	7.2% (5)	0.0% (0)
Other Work-Eligible Cases	7.6% (10)	1.0% (1)	2.3% (2)	0.0% (0)	8.7% (6)	0.0% (0)
Work-Exempt Cases	41.2% (54)	42.7% (41)	36.8% (32)	51.9% (40)	59.4% (41)	70.2% (40)
Child-Only	16.0% (21)	18.8% (18)	8.0% (7)	27.3% (21)	14.5% (10)	43.9% (25)
Child Under one	13.0% (17)	10.4% (10)	12.6% (11)	14.3% (11)	13.0% (9)	10.5% (6)
Long-Term Disabled	9.2% (12)	11.5% (11)	13.8% (12)	7.8% (6)	30.4% (21)	12.3% (7)
Other Work-Exempt Cases	3.1% (4)	2.0% (2)	2.3% (2)	2.6% (2)	1.4% (1)	3.5% (2)

Note: Counts may not sum to actual sample size because of missing data. Valid percentages are reported. To protect confidentiality, smaller caseload designations were combined into an 'other' category. Other work-eligible cases include short-term disabled, legal immigrant, and domestic violence cases. Other work-exempt cases include caring for a disabled family member and needy caretaker relative.

FINDINGS: REASONS FOR CASE CLOSURE

This chapter presents administratively-recorded case closure reasons for the universe of the 26,783 assistance cases that closed between October 2012 and September 2013. When a case closes, an administrative closure reason is assigned to the case. While some cases close more than once, for the purpose of this report one closure is selected, and this information is presented in this chapter for the state and each local jurisdiction. Additionally, this chapter provides a closer look at the administrative closure codes that are full-family sanctions. These sanctions are issued for non-compliance with work requirements or non-cooperation with child support requirements.

While administrative closure reasons provide some context for case closures, these codes are incapable of providing all possible reasons that a case was closed, especially from the perspective of the family. Case closure reasons are available to caseworkers in the automated information management system, and depending on the reason for case closure, the caseworker selects the corresponding administrative closure reason. However, these recorded closure reasons understate the actual rate of work-related closures, and these codes do not always reflect the circumstances that may lead to clients' voluntary or involuntary exits from cash assistance (Ovwigbo, Tracy, & Born, 2004). For instance, if a client finds a job without informing the caseworker and misses the appointment for the redetermination of benefits, then the caseworker will likely record a 'no redetermination' case closure reason rather than an employment-related reason. While these limitations are important to note, administrative closures still provide useful information about case closures.

Case Closure Reasons: Statewide

Figure 2 presents the distribution of case closure reasons at the state level. Work sanctions have consistently been the most common closure reason, and they continue to be the most common reason for case closure this year. However, this study year showed an increase in work sanctions, to two-fifths (39.6%) of total closures. This was a 10 percentage point increase from the previous two study years where the work sanctions among case closures held steady at 28.8% (O'Donnell, Passarella, & Born, 2013).

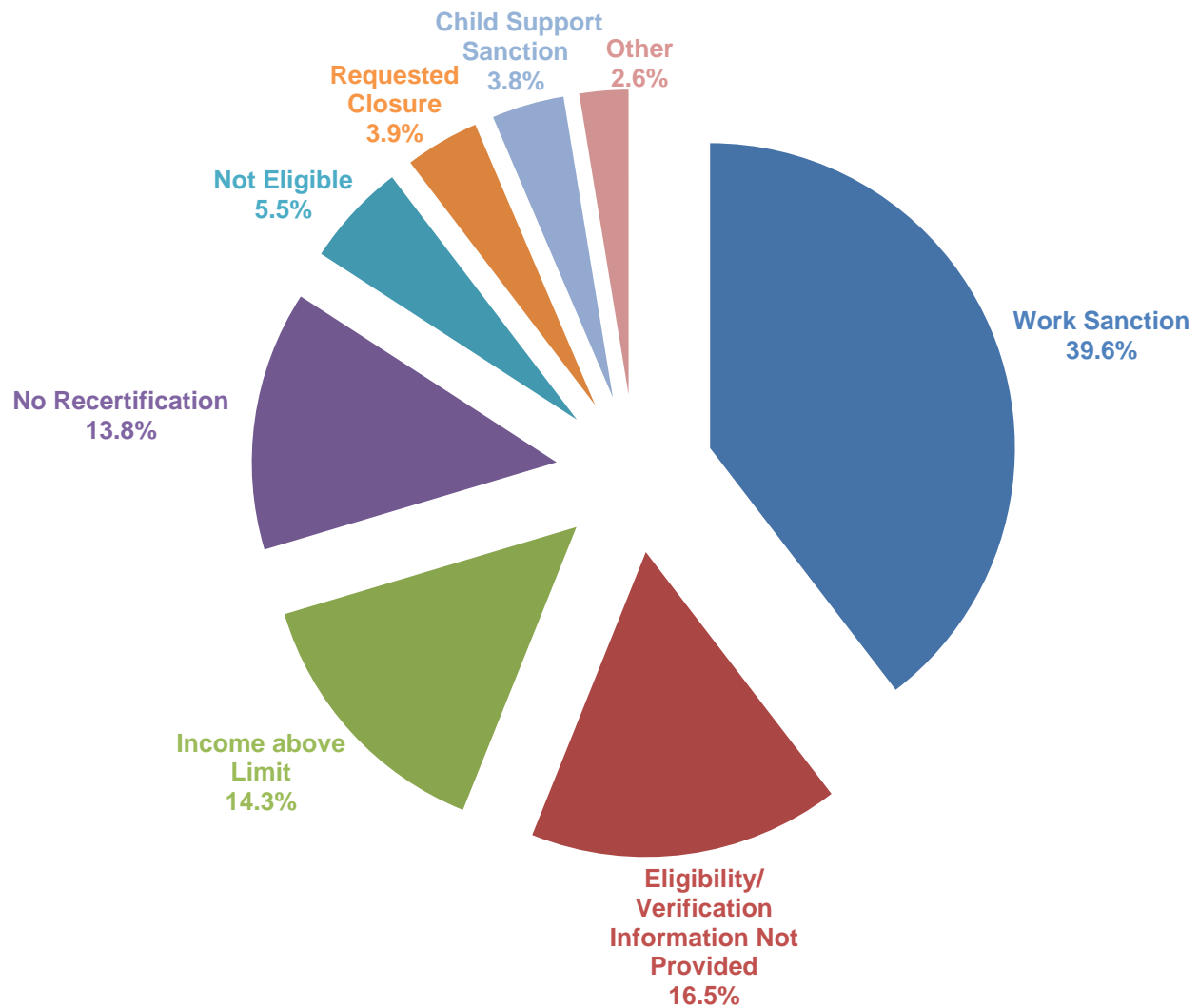
Eligibility and verification information not provided was the second most common closure reason, accounting for 16.5% of closures in Maryland; it has occupied this position for the previous two study years as well. These closures resulted from a casehead failing to provide paperwork or documentation to meet eligibility requirements. Nonetheless, this figure represented a decline from the last study year where it constituted a quarter (25.4%) of all closures (O'Donnell et al. 2013). It seems that the increase in the percentage of work sanctioned closures was met by a proportional decrease in the percentage of closures with the reason eligibility and verification information not provided.

Income above limit, which is most often used when a client leaves welfare for work and their income disqualifies them from receiving benefits, was the third most common reason for case closure during this study year, as it has been in the previous three study years. This closure reason comprised 14.3% of closures in Maryland, which was a slight decline from the previous study year (15.7%). The fourth most common closure reason in Maryland was no recertification (13.8%). The

remaining case closure reasons were used much more scarcely: not eligible (5.5%), requested closure (3.9%), child support sanction (3.8%), and other reasons (2.6%).

There was little change in these remaining closure reasons between this study year and previous study years.

Figure 2. Top Case Closure Reasons: Statewide



Note: “Other” includes: residency, intentional violation, whereabouts unknown, death of head of household or other member, and did not cooperate with quality control.

Case Closure Reasons: Jurisdictions

Table 7 presents the top three administrative closure reasons in each jurisdiction between October 2012 and September 2013. As in previous years, specific closure reasons were more common in some jurisdictions than others, but in general, the top four closure reasons across jurisdictions were work sanctions, income above limit, eligibility and verification information not provided, and no recertification. While these four closure reasons were also the most common among jurisdictions in the previous study year, there was some shifting in the frequency of these closure reasons. Specifically, work sanctions were the third most frequent closure reason among jurisdictions last year, but moved to the most common closure reason this year; also, eligibility and verification information not provided was second among jurisdictions, but slipped to the third most common reason this year (O'Donnell et al., 2013).

Work Sanctions

Work sanctions were one of the top three closure reasons in 21 of the jurisdictions. In the previous study year, there were only 15 jurisdictions with a work sanction as a top three frequently used closure reason. Also, work sanctions were the most commonly used closure reason in 15 jurisdictions this year. Additionally, work sanctions accounted for more than two-fifths of all closures in four jurisdictions: Baltimore (44.6%), Prince George's (44.0%), and Anne Arundel (43.1%) counties and Baltimore City (43.4%).

Conversely, the three jurisdictions that did not have work sanctions as one of the top three closure reasons were Worcester, Garrett, and Talbot counties. These three counties combined account for about 200 case closures—a very small portion of statewide closures, so the impact on the overall statewide closures was limited.

Income above Limit

Like work sanctions, income above limit was among the top three closure reasons in 21 of the 24 jurisdictions, ranging from 15.2% in Cecil County to 34.7% in Caroline County. This closure reason, which can indicate families are achieving self-sufficiency through employment, decreased from the previous study year, where 22 of the 24 jurisdictions had income above limit as one of the top three closure reasons (O'Donnell et al., 2013). Income above limit was the most common closure reason in five jurisdictions: Caroline (34.7%), Calvert (31.1%), Queen Anne's (32.3%), Kent (34.5%), and Worcester (29.9%) counties. As in the previous study year, income above limit was not one of the three most common closure reasons for either Baltimore City or Prince George's County. Additionally, income above limit was not a top three closure reason in Washington County.

Eligibility and Verification Information not Provided

Eligibility and verification information not provided fell from the second most common closure reason among jurisdictions to the third during this study year. However, eligibility and verification information not provided was among the top three closure reasons for 15 of the 24 jurisdictions, accounting for at least 1 in 10 closures within each of these jurisdictions. Across these 15 jurisdictions, eligibility and verification information not provided ranged from 10.4% in Queen Anne's County to 31.9% in Garrett County. Nonetheless, only three jurisdictions had this closure code as the most commonly used reason for case closure: Charles (23.8%), Garrett (31.9%), and Talbot (22.8%) counties.

No Recertification

Consistent with last year's report, about one in seven (13.8%) cases statewide closed due to no recertification—lack of filing for recertification or redetermination of TCA benefits—making it the fourth most common closure reason in Maryland. This was one of

the top three closure reasons in 10 of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions, ranging from 10.8% in Montgomery County to 22.3% in Washington County. It was the most commonly used closure reason in only one jurisdiction, Washington County, comprising one-fifth of all their closures.

Table 7. Top 3 Case Closure Reasons: Jurisdictions

	Closure Reason	Oct. 2012-Sept. 2013 (n=26,783)
Baltimore City (n=11,612)	Work Sanction Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided No Recertification	43.4% (5,035) 22.5% (2,618) 14.3% (1,655)
Baltimore County (n=3,174)	Work Sanction Income above Limit No Recertification	44.6% (1,415) 18.6% (591) 15.4% (489)
Prince George's (n=3,014)	Work Sanction No Recertification Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	44.0% (1,327) 14.6% (440) 13.4% (404)
Anne Arundel (1,533)	Work Sanction Income above Limit No Recertification	43.1% (661) 18.9% (289) 11.0% (168)
Montgomery (n=1,350)	Work Sanction Income above Limit No Recertification	37.4% (505) 23.0% (311) 10.8% (146)
Wicomico (n=726)	Work Sanction Income above Limit Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	30.0% (218) 19.0% (138) 15.3% (111)
Washington (n=664)	No Recertification Work Sanction Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	22.3% (148) 21.1% (140) 18.7% (124)
Cecil (n=594)	Work Sanction No Recertification Income above Limit	33.8% (201) 18.7% (111) 15.2% (90)
Harford (n=559)	Work Sanction Income above Limit Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	26.3% (147) 23.3% (130) 17.7% (99)
Howard (n=524)	Work Sanction No Recertification Income above Limit	32.3% (169) 21.8% (114) 19.3% (101)
Frederick (n=482)	Work Sanction Income above Limit Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	28.4% (137) 27.4% (132) 10.6% (51)
St Mary's (n=475)	Work Sanction Income above Limit Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	31.4% (149) 22.1% (105) 15.4% (73)
Charles (n=441)	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided No Recertification Work Sanction Income above Limit	23.8% (105) 19.5% (86) 17.7% (78) 17.7% (78)

	Closure Reason	Oct. 2012-Sept. 2013 (n=26,783)
Allegany (n=364)	Work Sanction Requested Closure Income above Limit	26.1% (95) 21.4% (78) 18.4% (67)
Dorchester (n=267)	Work Sanction Income above Limit Not Eligible	35.6% (95) 22.8% (61) 10.1% (27)
Carroll (n=197)	Work Sanction Income above Limit Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	27.4% (54) 19.8% (39) 17.3% (34)
Caroline (n=150)	Income above Limit Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided Work Sanction	34.7% (52) 25.3% (38) 12.7% (19)
Somerset (n=139)	Work Sanction Income above Limit Requested Closure	36.0% (50) 20.1% (28) 15.1% (21)
Calvert (n=132)	Income above Limit Work Sanction Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	31.1% (41) 19.7% (26) 13.6% (18)
Queen Anne's (n=96)	Income above Limit Work Sanction Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	32.3% (31) 28.1% (27) 10.4% (10)
Kent (n=87)	Income above Limit Work Sanction Not Eligible	34.5% (30) 28.7% (25) 10.3% --
Worcester (n=77)	Income above Limit Requested Closure Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	29.9% (23) 15.6% (12) 14.3% (11)
Garrett (n=69)	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided Income above Limit Requested Closure	31.9% (22) 24.6% (17) 15.9% (11)
Talbot (n=57)	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided No Recertification Income above Limit	22.8% (13) 19.3% (11) 17.5% (10)
Maryland (n=26,783)	Work Sanction Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided Income above Limit	39.6% (10,599) 16.5% (4,420) 14.3% (3,831)

Note: Due to some instances of missing data, counts may not sum to total cases. Valid percentages reported.

Case Closure Reasons: Caseload Designations

This section presents closure reasons among the work-eligible and work-exempt cases. Since caseload designations are based on the composition or characteristics of the individuals on the case, cases' closures reasons may differ substantially by caseload designation. Figures 3 and 4 provide the frequency of case closure reasons among Maryland's work-eligible and work-exempt case closures, respectively. Additionally, Appendix A includes two tables with closure reasons by jurisdiction: Table A-1, which shows the most common three closure reasons by jurisdiction for work-eligible closures, and Table A-2, which shows the same for work-exempt closures.

Work Sanctions

According to Figure 3, work sanctions were responsible for 6 in 10 (60.5%) work-eligible closures in Maryland. While work sanctions accounted for the majority of work-eligible closures, only 3.8% of work-exempt closures were due to work sanctions (Figure 4). This finding is expected, because work-eligible cases are required to participate in work-related activities, and non-compliance results in a work sanction. Hence, work sanctioning among work-exempt closures was rare.³

The same holds when examining work sanctions among work-eligible and work-exempt closures in individual jurisdictions. Work sanctions were common among work-eligible cases, but rare among work-exempt cases. In fact, work sanctions were among one of the top three closure reasons for the work-eligible closures in all 24 jurisdictions, ranging from a high of 65.2% in Baltimore City to a low of 24.7% in Caroline County.

³ Work sanctions among work-exempt closures can be due to either an administrative coding error or system updates to caseload designations.

Furthermore, in 20 of the 24 jurisdictions, work sanctions were the most commonly used reason for case closure among work-eligible cases. The four jurisdictions that did not have work sanctions as the most common closure reason were Caroline, Calvert, Garrett, and Worcester counties. On the other hand, work sanctions were not among the top three closure reasons in any jurisdiction for work-exempt cases.

No Recertification

No recertification accounted for 3 in 10 (30.7%) work-exempt case closures, making it the most common closure reason for this group. The use of this closure code was substantially higher among work-exempt cases than it was among work-eligible cases (3.9%). It was one of the top three closure reasons among work-exempt closures in 17 jurisdictions. Among the work-exempt closures, no recertification was the most commonly used closure reason in 11 of 24 jurisdictions, ranging from a high of 50.9% in Howard County to a low of 23.6% in Harford County. Conversely, no recertification only occurred as a common closure reason among the work-eligible caseload in Baltimore County (5.2%).

Income above Limit

Income above limit was the second most common closure reason for work-eligible closures, constituting one-sixth (15.1%) of those closures. Likewise, slightly more than one-tenth (12.9%) of work-exempt closures were due to income above limit making it the third most common closure reason for work-exempt closures. Income above limit case closures were not exclusive to either work-eligible or work-exempt cases, although income above limit closures were slightly more common among work-eligible closures. Among work-eligible closures, income above limit was the most commonly used closure

reason in Calvert County (39.0%) and Worcester County (40.5%), while it was among one of the top three closure reasons in all 24 jurisdictions. Among work-exempt closures, income above limit was the most commonly used closure reason in 7 of the 24 jurisdictions, ranging from a high of 39.7% in Caroline County to a low of 19.9% in St. Mary's County, and it was one of the top three closure reasons in 18 of the 24 jurisdictions.

Eligibility and Verification Information not Provided

Work-eligible cases were less likely to close due to not providing eligibility and verification information (13.7%) than work-exempt cases (21.3%). This made eligibility and verification information not provided the second most frequent closure reason for work-exempt case closures and third among work-eligible closures.

Eligibility and verification information not provided was one of the top three closure reasons for 19 of 24 jurisdictions among their work-eligible closures. Additionally, it was the most commonly used closure reason for two of those jurisdictions: Caroline (32.5%) and Garrett (35.7%) counties. Among work-exempt case closures, eligibility and verification information not provided was a top three closure reason in 15 jurisdictions, and it was the most commonly used closure reason in Carroll (20.6%), Garrett (29.3%), and Talbot (27.5%) counties.

Remaining Closure Reasons

Work-exempt cases were more likely to close due to the remaining closure reasons, such as requested closure, not eligible, and child support sanctions, than work-eligible cases.⁴

In fact, requested closure, which represented only 2.5% of all work-eligible case closures, was the only remaining closure code that appeared among work-eligible cases as a top three closure reason in any jurisdiction; it was in the top three in Montgomery (4.2%), Cecil (6.5%), Allegany (21.1%), and Somerset (14.9%) counties. However, requested closure—representing 6.4% of all work-exempt closures—appeared as a top three closure reason in five jurisdictions among work-exempt closures ranging from 24.4% in Garrett County to 15.8% in Somerset County.

The not eligible closure reason was responsible for 12.8% of work-exempt closures, which was substantially higher than among work-eligible closures (1.2%). Not eligible was a common closure reason in 15 of the 24 jurisdictions among work-exempt closures, ranging from 34.2% in Somerset County to 10.7% in Howard County, and it was the most commonly used reason in Dorchester (26.5%) and Somerset (34.2%) counties. It does not appear as a top closure reason among work-eligible closures in the jurisdictions.

Child support sanctions accounted for only 1.8% of work-eligible closures, but they comprised 7.3% of work-exempt closures. Among work-exempt closures, child support sanctions are a top three closure code in four jurisdictions: Prince George's (14.3%), Charles (14.6%), Kent (12.5%), and Worcester (17.5%) counties. Like the closure reason not eligible, child support sanctions did not appear as a top closure reason among work-eligible closures in any jurisdiction.

⁴ The other category includes residency, intentional violation, whereabouts unknown, death of head of

household or other member, and did not cooperate with quality control.

Figure 3. Work-Eligible Case Closure Reasons: Statewide

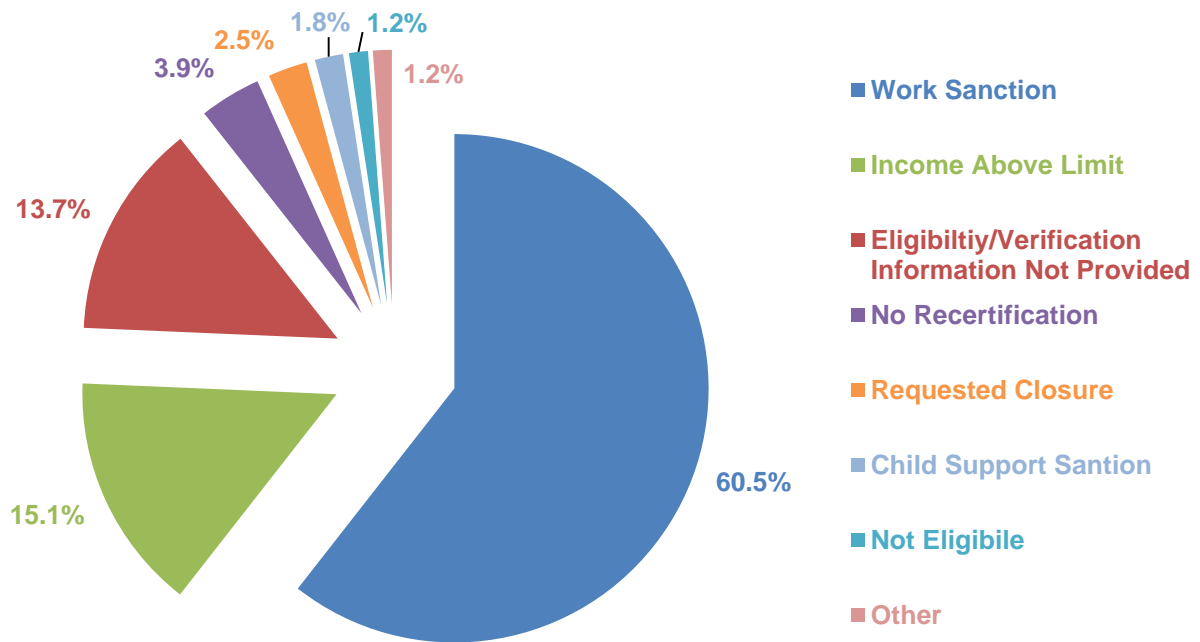
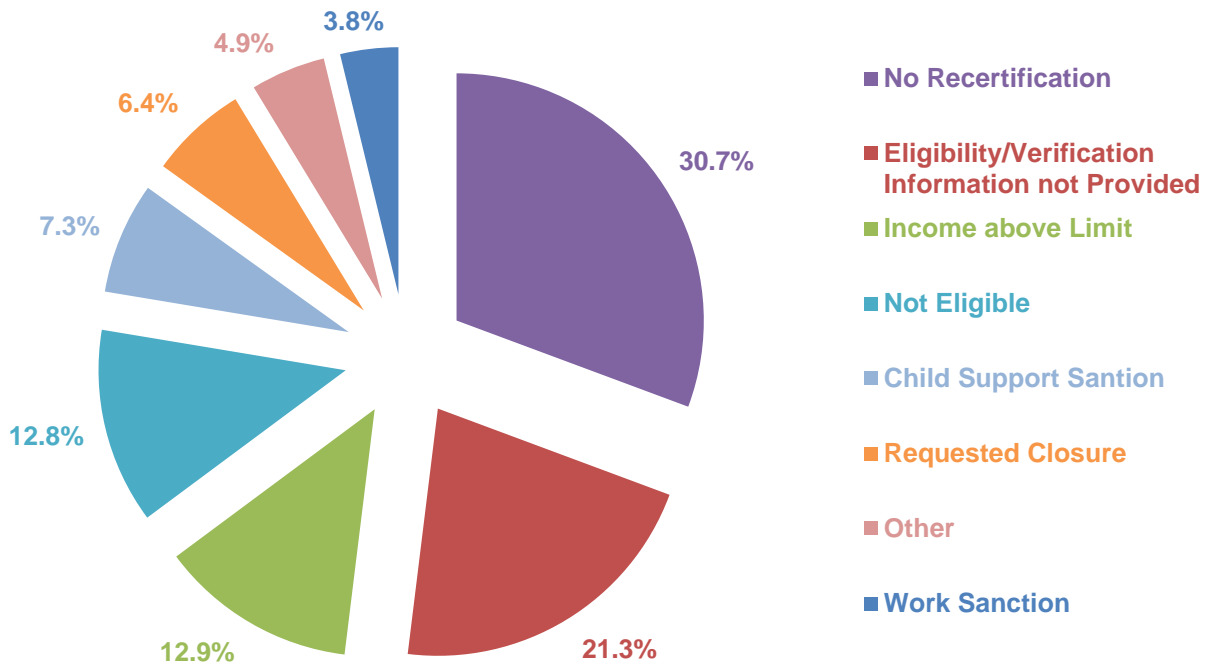


Figure 4. Work-Exempt Case Closure Reasons: Statewide

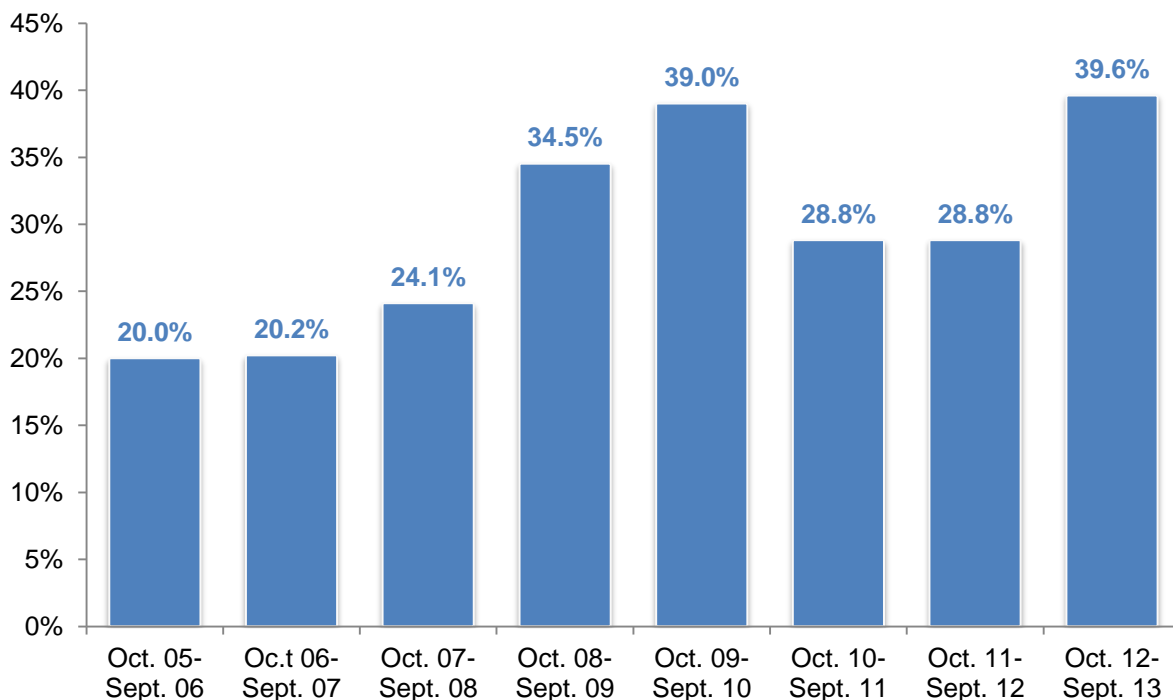


Work Sanctions: Statewide

Full-family sanctions are the cessation of the entire assistance unit's benefit when the adult is not compliant with specific program requirements. They are issued for non-cooperation with work requirements, and they are implemented in Maryland and 48 other states (Kassabian, Huber, Cohen, & Giannarelli, 2012). They are also issued for non-compliance with child support requirements, but are fairly rare in Maryland, remaining under 5% of all closures (more information on child support sanctions can be found in Appendix B). The vast majority of full-family sanctions are due to non-compliance with a work-related activity. Not only were work sanctions more common than child support sanctions, but, as discussed previously, work sanctions were the most common closure reason statewide and among the work-eligible caseload. Figure 5 provides the percentage of work sanctions occurring between the 2006-2007 and 2012-2013 study years.

Coinciding with the implementation of the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA), work sanctions began a steady increase after the 2006-2007 study year from 20.2% to 39.0% in the 2009-2010 study year. Work sanctions then declined to 28.8% in the 2010-2011 and the 2011-2012 study years, possibly reflecting changes from the Great Recession. We found in the previous *Caseload Exits* report that as work sanctions declined by 10 percentage points, the use of the closure code, eligibility and verification information not provided, increased by 10 percentage points as well. This may indicate that cases were closed because clients, perhaps new to the TCA program, were unfamiliar with program rules. While this could have been a new normal in work sanction trends, the use of work sanctions returned to 2009-2010 levels in this study year, increasing to nearly 40% of all closures.

Figure 5. Work Sanctions by Year: Statewide



Work Sanctions: Jurisdictions

Since there was a return to the 2009-2010 level of work sanctioning statewide, one might also assume that jurisdictions reverted back to their rates of work sanctioning from the 2009-2010 study year. In order to more fully examine this assumption and the use of work sanctions, Table 8 presents the percentage of case closures that were due to work sanctions in each jurisdiction between 2009-2010 and the current study year (2012-2013).

As Table 8 shows, 16 jurisdictions had a higher work sanction rate now than they did in the 2009-2010 study year. This ranged from a 5 percentage point increase in Wicomico County to a 27 percentage point increase in St. Mary's County. Hence, the increase in work sanctions in two-thirds of jurisdictions is evidence that this is not a simple return to the 2009-2010 levels.

Among the 16 jurisdictions with an increase in work sanctions from the 2009-2010 level, three are large jurisdictions. These jurisdictions experienced an increase ranging from 8 to 15 percentage points, resulting in more than two in five of their cases closing due to a work sanction: Baltimore (44.5%), Prince George's (44.0%), and Anne Arundel (43.1%) counties. The remaining jurisdictions with an increase from their 2009-2010 work

sanction level were smaller, with fewer than 750 cases. Eight of these smaller jurisdictions, however, experienced substantial growth in work sanctions, such as Washington County, which had a 15 percentage point increase between the 2009-2010 (5.8%) and 2012-2013 (21.1%) study years.

Baltimore City was one of the jurisdictions that did not experience increased use of work sanction between the 2009-2010 and 2012-2013 study years. Although Baltimore City did have a one-year increase of 10 percentage points between the 2011-2012 (33.0%) and 2012-2013 (43.4%) study years, it did not reach the heights of its work sanctioning rate in 2009-2010, when more than half (53.6%) of cases closed due to a work sanction.

In addition to Baltimore City, seven other jurisdictions experienced a decline in the use of work sanctions between the 2009-2010 and current study years. Of the other large jurisdictions, Montgomery County declined from 41.2% in 2009-2010 to 37.4% in 2012-2013. However, the remaining six jurisdictions were small, with less than 560 closures. Most of these declines were by a few percentage points, except Caroline County, where the decline was 20 percentage points between the 2009-2010 (32.7%) and 2012-2013 (12.7%) study years.

Table 8. Work Sanctions by Jurisdiction: 2009-2010 through 2012-2013

	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Baltimore City	53.6%	33.6%	33.0%	43.4%
Baltimore County	36.4%	34.9%	38.2%	44.6%
Prince George's	28.7%	29.5%	29.7%	44.0%
Anne Arundel	30.8%	27.1%	22.1%	43.1%
Montgomery	41.2%	38.0%	37.5%	37.4%
Wicomico	24.9%	27.6%	18.6%	30.0%
Washington	5.8%	3.1%	10.5%	21.1%
Cecil	28.0%	35.1%	26.1%	33.8%
Harford	28.4%	23.3%	25.9%	26.3%
Howard	10.2%	5.2%	6.6%	32.3%
Frederick	15.8%	5.4%	10.9%	28.4%
St. Mary's	4.2%	6.8%	4.2%	31.6%
Charles	24.6%	13.5%	13.4%	17.7%
Allegany	8.9%	6.8%	26.0%	26.1%
Dorchester	37.7%	33.3%	36.0%	35.6%
Carroll	4.5%	4.5%	8.9%	27.4%
Caroline	32.7%	11.5%	14.0%	12.7%
Somerset	18.6%	23.1%	26.6%	36.0%
Calvert	12.6%	11.9%	12.2%	19.7%
Queen Anne's	7.8%	0.0%	3.1%	28.1%
Kent	20.0%	12.3%	13.9%	28.7%
Worcester	24.9%	13.5%	10.6%	13.0%
Garrett	20.2%	11.0%	14.0%	13.0%
Talbot	4.1%	4.9%	11.4%	12.3%
Maryland	39.0%	28.8%	28.8%	39.6%

Note: Valid percentages reported.

CONCLUSIONS

This *Caseload Exits at the Local Level* report documents 26,783 unique case closures between October 2012 and September 2013. The report provides information on trends in case closures. By and large, many of the findings are consistent with previous reports in this series. However, some findings indicate important changes.

First, this study year marks the first decline in case closures in six years. Although the Great Recession had been officially over for more than four years and the number of recipient cases began to decline in 2011, it is not surprising to see a delay in case closure declines. That is, welfare caseloads tend to be a leading indicator of recession and a lagging indicator of recovery.

Second, the percentage of work sanctions increased after two years at a lower rate (from 28.8% to 39.6%). This increase appeared to be a return to the work sanction rate from the 2009-2010 study year (39.0%). However, the number of cases with a work sanction was higher in 2012-2013 than in 2009-2010 (10,600 vs. 9,500 cases). Also, the distribution of work sanctions across the state is now different. Specifically, 2009-2010 was marked by a very high rate of work sanctions in Baltimore City (53.6%). In the current study year, though, Baltimore City had a lower work sanction rate (43.4%) than in 2009-2010, while 16 other jurisdictions experienced an increase. This indicates that the statewide growth in work sanctions is due to increased use in other jurisdictions.

While we expect to see a continued decline in the number of case closures as there have been fewer and fewer recipient cases over

the past few years, it remains to be seen whether we will continue to see an increase in work sanctions. As documented in this report, two in every three work-eligible clients were work sanctioned at some point during the study year. This suggests that clients are less likely to comply with work requirements, or work sanctions are now initiated at each instance of non-compliance.

Work sanctions are the only real tool that local offices have to enforce the compliance necessary for the federal work participation rate. This tool certainly delivers on compliance, as these clients can return to welfare only after complying with requirements; in fact, work sanctioned clients return to welfare more often than cases closed for other reasons (Williamson, 2011). Ideally, if work sanctions compel clients to participate in activities that encourage self-sufficient employment, then work sanctions are constructive to the program. However, if repeated work sanctions do not result in the desired effect, then other strategies may need to be employed with those clients.

Follow-up data is necessary to really ascertain the outcomes of case closures, particularly work sanctioned closures. Fortunately, Maryland understands the importance of such information. As such, we document the outcomes of leavers in an annual report entitled *Life after Welfare*. Combined with the *Caseload Exits at the Local Level* series, these two reports provide policymakers and program managers with important information on the reasons for case closures across the state and client outcomes among these case closures.

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APPENDIX A. TOP THREE CASE CLOSURE REASONS BY CASELOAD DESIGNATION AND JURISDICTION

Table A-1. Top 3 Case Closure Reasons for the Work-Eligible Caseload by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Closure Reason	Oct. 11-Sept 12 (n=28,403)
Baltimore City (n=7,469)	Work Sanction	65.2% (4,870)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	18.0% (1,345)
	Income above Limit	9.1% (676)
Baltimore County (n=2,114)	Work Sanction	64.9% (1,373)
	Income above Limit	20.1% (424)
	No Recertification	5.2% (110)
Prince George's (n=2,035)	Work Sanction	64.4% (1,310)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	13.6% (276)
	Income above Limit	11.6% (237)
Anne Arundel (n=971)	Work Sanction	63.3% (615)
	Income above Limit	20.7% (201)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	8.0% (78)
Montgomery (n=804)	Work Sanction	59.5% (478)
	Income above Limit	25.0% (201)
	Requested Closure	4.2% (34)
Wicomico (n=458)	Work Sanction	45.9% (210)
	Income above Limit	19.0% (87)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	17.0% (78)
Howard (n=364)	Work Sanction	45.9% (167)
	Income above Limit	22.3% (81)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	18.4% (67)
Washington (n=321)	Work Sanction	43.0% (138)
	Income above Limit	21.5% (69)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	15.3% (49)
Frederick (n=305)	Work Sanction	43.0% (131)
	Income above Limit	28.2% (86)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	11.8% (36)
Cecil (n=294)	Work Sanction	61.2% (180)
	Income above Limit	17.7% (52)
	Requested Closure	6.5% (19)
St Mary's (n=289)	Work Sanction	47.1% (136)
	Income above Limit	23.5% (68)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	13.8% (40)
Charles (n=283)	Work Sanction	27.6% (78)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	27.6% (78)
	Income above Limit	21.2% (60)
Harford (n=278)	Work Sanction	50.0% (139)
	Income above Limit	25.9% (72)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	14.4% (40)
Allegany (n=185)	Work Sanction	47.0% (87)
	Requested Closure	21.1% (39)
	Income above Limit	20.5% (38)

Dorchester (n=184)	Work Sanction	50.0% (92)
	Income above Limit	25.0% (46)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	6.0% (11)
Carroll (n=90)	Work Sanction	54.4% (49)
	Income above Limit	21.1% (19)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	13.3% (12)
Caroline (n=77)	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	32.5% (25)
	Income above Limit	29.9% (23)
	Work Sanction	24.7% (19)
Somerset (n=101)	Work Sanction	49.5% (50)
	Income above Limit	20.8% (21)
	Requested Closure	14.9% (15)
Calvert (n=77)	Income above Limit	39.0% (30)
	Work Sanction	29.9% (23)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	14.3% (11)
Queen Anne's (n=55)	Work Sanction	43.6% (24)
	Income above Limit	34.5% (19)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	10.9% (6)
Kent (n=55)	Work Sanction	43.6% (24)
	Income above Limit	36.4% (20)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	9.1% (5)
Worcester (n=37)	Income above Limit	40.5% (15)
	Work Sanction	27.0% (10)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	13.5% (5)
Garrett (n=28)	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	35.7% (10)
	Income above Limit	32.1% (9)
	Work Sanction	28.6% (8)
Talbot (n=17)	Work Sanction	41.2% (7)
	Income above Limit	23.5% (4)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	11.8% (2)

Note: Due to some instances of missing data, counts may not sum to total cases. Valid percentages reported.

Table A-2. Top 3 Case Closure Reasons for the Work-Exempt Caseload by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Closure Reason	Oct. 11-Sept 12 (n=28,403)
Baltimore City (n=4,137)	No Recertification	32.8% (1,357)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	30.8% (1,273)
	Not Eligible	11.7% (486)
Baltimore County (n=1,059)	No Recertification	35.8% (379)
	Income above Limit	15.8% (167)
	Not Eligible	15.5% (164)
Prince George's (n=976)	No Recertification	37.4% (365)
	Child Support Sanction	14.3% (140)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	13.1% (128)
Anne Arundel (n=558)	No Recertification	27.6% (154)
	Income above Limit	15.6% (87)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	13.6% (76)
Montgomery (n=545)	No Recertification	25.1% (137)
	Income above Limit	20.2% (110)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	15.0% (82)
Washington (n=343)	No Recertification	34.4% (118)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	21.9% (75)
	Not Eligible	13.7% (47)
Cecil (n=300)	No Recertification	34.0% (102)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	13.0% (39)
	Income above Limit	12.7% (38)
	Not Eligible	12.7% (38)
Harford (n=281)	No Recertification	23.5% (66)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	21.0% (59)
	Income above Limit	20.6% (58)
Wicomico (n=268)	No Recertification	24.6% (66)
	Income above Limit	19.0% (51)
	Not Eligible	17.5% (47)
St Mary's (n=186)	Income above Limit	19.9% (37)
	No Recertification	19.4% (36)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	17.7% (33)
Allegany (n=179)	Requested Closure	21.8% (39)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	19.0% (34)
	Not Eligible	17.3% (31)
Frederick (n=177)	Income above Limit	26.0% (46)
	Not Eligible	16.9% (30)
	No Recertification	15.3% (27)
Howard (n=159)	No Recertification	50.9% (81)
	Income above Limit	12.6% (20)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	12.6% (20)
	Not Eligible	10.7% (17)
Charles (n=158)	No Recertification	33.5% (53)
	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	17.1% (27)
	Child Support Sanction	14.6% (23)
Carroll (n=107)	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided	20.6% (22)
	Income above Limit	18.7% (20)
	Requested Closure	17.8% (19)

Jurisdiction	Closure Reason	Oct. 11-Sept 12 (n=28,403)
Dorchester (n=83)	Not Eligible No Recertification Income above Limit	26.5% (22) 19.3% (16) 18.1% (15)
Caroline (n=73)	Income above Limit Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided Not Eligible	39.7% (29) 17.8% (13) 15.1% (11)
Calvert (n=54)	Income above Limit Not Eligible No Recertification	20.4% (11) 18.5% (10) 16.7% (9)
Garrett (n=41)	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided Requested Closure Income above Limit	29.3% (12) 24.4% (10) 19.5% (8)
Queen Anne's (n=41)	Income above Limit Not Eligible No Recertification	29.3% (12) 19.5% (8) 14.6% (6)
Talbot (n=40)	Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided No Recertification Not Eligible	27.5% (11) 25.0% (10) 20.0% (8)
Worcester (n=40)	Income above Limit Requested Closure Child Support Sanction	20.0% (8) 20.0% (8) 17.5% (7)
Somerset (n=38)	Not Eligible Income above Limit Requested Closure	34.2% (13) 18.4% (7) 15.8% (6)
Kent (n=32)	Income above Limit Not Eligible Child Support Sanction	31.3% (10) 21.9% (7) 12.5% (4)

Note: Due to some instances of missing data, counts may not sum to total cases. Valid percentages reported.

APPENDIX B. CHILD SUPPORT SANCTIONS BY JURISDICTION

Table B. Child Support Sanctions: 2011-2012 to 2012-2013

	2011-2012	2012-2013
Baltimore City	2.5%	3.6%
Baltimore County	1.8%	2.9%
Prince George's	5.4%	6.5%
Anne Arundel	3.1%	4.4%
Montgomery	3.4%	6.6%
Wicomico	1.8%	1.8%
Washington	0.3%	0.3%
Cecil	3.6%	1.9%
Harford	4.2%	2.9%
Howard	1.3%	0.4%
Frederick	5.2%	5.6%
St. Mary's	0.6%	1.9%
Charles	9.8%	8.8%
Allegany	0.0%	0.3%
Dorchester	7.4%	3.7%
Carroll	0.0%	0.5%
Caroline	0.9%	1.3%
Somerset	0.0%	1.4%
Calvert	6.5%	10.6%
Queen Anne's	3.8%	3.1%
Kent	2.8%	4.6%
Worcester	5.3%	11.7%
Garrett	0.0%	0.0%
Talbot	0.0%	1.8%
Maryland	2.9%	3.8%

Note: Valid percentages reported.