



CASELOAD EXITS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL: OCTOBER 2016 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2017

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Maryland's Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) caseload has steadily declined in recent years, and it reached a record low by the end of federal fiscal year (FFY) 2017 (Maryland Department of Human Services, 2018). The state's continuing recovery from the Great Recession, including Maryland's lowest unemployment rate in almost a decade (4.0%) in 2017, creates economic conditions in which fewer families need to seek assistance (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018). When the TCA caseload declines, the number of families leaving TCA inevitably declines as well, and between FFY 2012 and FFY 2017 the number of case closures decreased by one third.

Examining the characteristics of these case closures is key to understanding why families leave TCA. This information is especially valuable to policymakers and program administrators, as it can help them understand the programmatic or economic circumstances that may lead a case to close. This enables policymakers and administrators to better serve TCA customers across the state and in local jurisdictions. TCA cases can close for a variety of reasons, with the most common being work sanctions. A work sanction results from non-compliance with the requirement to participate in work activities in order to receive assistance. In addition to work requirements, TCA recipients are also responsible for providing up-to-date eligibility and verification documentation to their caseworkers; recipients not providing this information is another common cause of case closures. Changes in income can also impact TCA eligibility, and an increase in income may render a family ineligible for assistance.

This report, the latest edition in the *Caseload Exits at the Local Level* series, examines TCA closures during FFY 2017, which is the one-year period of October 2016 to September 2017. Throughout this report, we examine case-level characteristics for closed cases in Maryland. We also assess how these characteristics vary across the state's 24 jurisdictions. This information provides important insight into the TCA program and those who rely on assistance.

KEY FINDINGS

- ❖ There were 19,013 closed cases in 2017, the lowest number since welfare reform in 1996 and an 8% decrease from 2016.
- ❖ Most closed cases had one adult recipient and one to two recipient children.
- ❖ On average, closed cases received TCA for just under one year consecutively, and cumulatively for slightly less than two of the previous five years.
- ❖ Almost 70% of cases were work-eligible, and just over 30% were work exempt.
- ❖ Work sanctions were the most common closure reason.
- ❖ Child support sanctions reached a historical high in 2017, having doubled in the past two years.

Methods

This report examines every TCA case that closed in Maryland between October 2016 and September 2017, regardless of the length of closure (n=19,013). Cases may close multiple times during the year, but each case is only included in the sample once. For cases with multiple closures during the year, one closure is randomly selected for inclusion. Thus, the counts of closures in this report do not match the counts kept by Maryland's Department of Human Services (DHS). Data on open TCA cases, included in some tables, is drawn from the population of cases receiving TCA for at least one month in state fiscal year 2017 (n=30,803) (McColl & Nicoli, 2018).

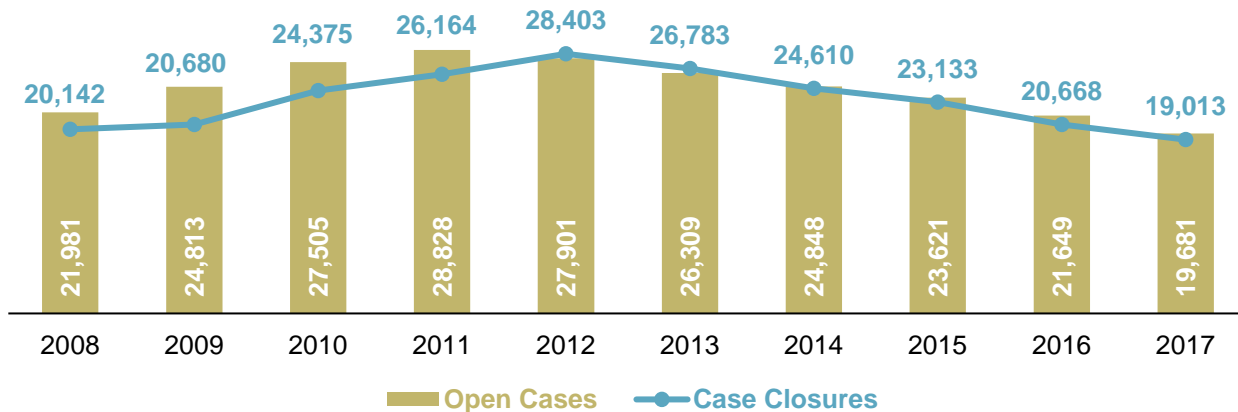
Analyses in this report are based on data from the Client Automated Resources and

Eligibility System (CARES), an administrative database maintained by the state of Maryland. CARES provides individual- and case-level program participation data for recipients of TCA. This report discusses findings for the state and the 24 jurisdictions in Maryland. State-level data are included in the body of the text, and full jurisdictional data are provided in the appendix.

Case Closures over Time

The analyses in this year's *Caseload Exits at the Local Level* report continue trends seen in previous research, documenting declines in both closed and open cases across Maryland in 2017.¹ Figure 1 displays the unique number of closed cases and the average number of open cases in each year from 2008 to 2017. Since 2012, the number of closed cases has continued to decrease

Figure 1. Statewide Case Closures and Open Cases by Federal Fiscal Year: 2008 to 2017



Note: The annual number of case closures is a count of unique assistance units receiving TCA that closed during the specified federal fiscal year (FFY), which is a one-year time period that begins in October of the previous calendar year. For example, FFY 2017 represents the months of October 2016 through September 2017. The annual number of open cases represents an average of the number of cases receiving TCA in each month of the given year and was obtained from the Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) Statistical Reports (<http://dhs.maryland.gov/business-center/documents/>).

¹ All years mentioned in this report are federal fiscal years unless otherwise noted.

statewide, with annual declines ranging from 6% to 11%. In 2017, Maryland had 19,013 closed cases, which is the lowest number since welfare reform in 1996 and represents an 8% decrease from 2016.

To fully understand these trends, it is important to place fluctuations in the TCA caseload in context with Maryland's economy. When the economy is doing poorly, more families tend to utilize assistance programs such as TCA. Conversely, when the economy is doing well, fewer families tend to seek out assistance, leading to declines in both open and closed cases as fewer families enter and exit TCA. After the Great Recession, poor economic conditions caused unemployment in Maryland to rise, reaching a high of 7.8% in the beginning of 2010. During this time, there was an increase in open and closed cases for several years beginning in 2009, as illustrated in Figure 1.

In subsequent years, the economy showed signs of improvement and the unemployment rate declined, falling below 7% in December 2011 for the first time in almost three years. By 2013, open and closed cases began to decline, reflecting the recovering economy, and those declines have continued through 2017.

Although Maryland experienced an 8% decline in closed cases between 2016 and 2017, the distribution of these cases differed by jurisdiction. Table 1 shows the jurisdictional distribution of closed cases in 2016 and 2017 and the change between the two years. Closed cases tended to be concentrated in Maryland's most populous

jurisdictions, and five jurisdictions—Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Prince George's County, Anne Arundel County, and Montgomery County—accounted for three fourths of closed cases in 2017. Of these jurisdictions, Prince George's County had the largest decline (-17.2%), followed by Anne Arundel County (-12.3%) and Montgomery County (-10.1%). All three counties had declines that exceeded the state average by at least two percentage points, but Baltimore City experienced a decline closer to that of the state (-7.1%). In contrast, Baltimore County's caseload remained largely the same, decreasing by only 12 cases.

Changes in closed cases among Maryland's smaller jurisdictions varied more greatly. Dorchester County had the largest percentage decline of any jurisdiction statewide (-41.7%), while Garrett County (-29.3%) and Carroll County (-25.1%) also saw substantial decreases. Despite the statewide trend of decreases in closed cases, several counties had increases. Talbot County (39.5%) and Worcester County (21.8%) both experienced considerable percentage increases between 2016 and 2017. Although many of the state's smaller jurisdictions experienced substantial percentage changes, the numerical changes were generally quite small and thus did not have a large impact on the overall caseload. Still, these changes in closed cases over time give local program managers and administrators important insight into the TCA caseloads in their jurisdictions.

Table 1. Change in the Number of Case Closures by Jurisdiction
FFY 2016 to FFY 2017

| | Total Closures FFY 2016 | Total Closures FFY 2017 | Percent Change & Difference in Closures |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Baltimore City | 8,571 | 7,961 | -7.1% (-610) |
| Baltimore County | 2,424 | 2,412 | -0.5% (-12) |
| Prince George's County | 2,119 | 1,755 | -17.2% (-364) |
| Anne Arundel County | 1,345 | 1,180 | -12.3% (-165) |
| Montgomery County | 1,072 | 964 | -10.1% (-108) |
| Washington County | 670 | 687 | +2.5% (+17) |
| Wicomico County | 575 | 524 | -8.9% (-51) |
| Cecil County | 467 | 433 | -7.3% (-34) |
| St. Mary's County | 437 | 405 | -7.3% (-32) |
| Harford County | 467 | 402 | -13.9% (-65) |
| Howard County | 443 | 393 | -11.3% (-50) |
| Allegany County | 348 | 338 | -2.9% (-10) |
| Charles County | 320 | 330 | +3.1% (+10) |
| Frederick County | 334 | 308 | -7.8% (-26) |
| Somerset County | 153 | 144 | -5.9% (-9) |
| Carroll County | 183 | 137 | -25.1% (-46) |
| Dorchester County | 230 | 134 | -41.7% (-96) |
| Calvert County | 110 | 95 | -13.6% (-15) |
| Caroline County | 98 | 92 | -6.1% (-6) |
| Queen Anne's County | 65 | 72 | +10.8% (+7) |
| Worcester Country | 55 | 67 | +21.8% (+12) |
| Kent County | 64 | 62 | -3.1% (-2) |
| Talbot County | 43 | 60 | +39.5% (+17) |
| Garrett County | 75 | 53 | -29.3% (-22) |
| Maryland | 20,668 | 19,013 | -8.0% (-1,655) |

Note: Counts may not sum to actual sample size due to missing data (n=5).

Case Characteristics

Case characteristics, such as the number of adults and children on cases and the length of TCA receipt, can provide a clearer picture of those who enter and exit the TCA program. These characteristics are generally similar between open and closed cases, but there are some key differences. Table 2 displays case characteristics of closed cases in 2017, based on the month of closure, and for open cases from state fiscal year 2017, based on the first month of receipt in the year.

Almost half of all cases, both open and closed, had one recipient child. About one quarter of open and closed cases had two children, and slightly over one in five had three or more children. A small percentage of cases had no recipient children, due to these cases having an expectant mother or other special circumstances. While the most common number of recipient children on

closed cases statewide was one, Kent County had the smallest percentage of closed cases with one child (36.1%), and Caroline County had the largest (53.3%).

In terms of adult recipients, the majority of both open and closed cases had just one adult recipient. Open cases were more likely to have no adult recipients; one in five (19.2%) closed cases had no adult recipients, compared to just under one in three (29.0%) open cases. Cases without adult recipients are known as *child-only* cases. Because child-only cases are not subject to work requirements, these cases generally close once the recipient child ages out of eligibility. This results in lengthier periods of TCA receipt than cases with an adult recipient (Passarella, 2018).

In addition to similarities in case composition, open and closed cases are also similar when it comes to the length of time they receive TCA. Table 2 shows the

Table 2. Case Characteristics: Statewide

| | Closed Cases FFY 2017 (n=19,013) | Open Cases SFY 2017 (n=30,803) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| Recipient Children | | |
| 0 | 2.6% (493) | 4.0% (1,227) |
| 1 | 46.3% (8,809) | 47.0% (14,467) |
| 2 | 27.7% (5,260) | 27.4% (8,433) |
| 3 or more | 23.4% (4,443) | 21.7% (6,676) |
| Recipient Adults | | |
| 0 (children only) | 19.2% (3,642) | 29.0% (8,938) |
| 1 | 75.8% (14,407) | 66.6% (20,527) |
| 2 | 5.0% (956) | 4.3% (1,338) |
| Months of TCA Receipt | | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | 11.2 [6] | 11.9 [3] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 Months | 23.4 [18] | 21.4 [14] |

Note: Cases can have zero children in the assistance unit if the mother is pregnant with the only recipient child, or the only child(ren) in the household receives Supplemental Security Income, subsidized adoption payments, or foster care payments (DHS, 2008). The average and median numbers for months of TCA receipt are calculated differently than in previous reports focusing on SFY17, so numbers may not match.

average spell² of continuous TCA receipt and the average number of months of receipt in the last five years for open and closed cases. On average, both open and closed cases received TCA continuously for just under one year and cumulatively received benefits for slightly less than two out of the previous five years.

For closed cases, months of TCA receipt varied across jurisdictions. Although the average TCA spell was just over 11 months, Calvert County had the shortest spell length (9.8 months), and Caroline County had the longest (18.4 months). There were greater differences among jurisdictions for average number of months of receipt in the past five years, although 16 of Maryland's jurisdictions fell between 18 and 24 months. Calvert County had the lowest number of months of receipt in the past five years (15.7 months), while Baltimore City had the highest (26.2 months).

Caseload Designations

In order to effectively manage the variety of cases that comprise the TCA caseload, the Maryland Department of Human Services assigns each case a caseload designation. These designations, based on individual case information, are assigned through a hierarchical classification system that allocates only one designation to each case, even if multiple designations may apply. Caseload designations generally fall under two main categories: work-eligible and work-exempt. Work-eligible cases are those in which the adult is subject to work requirements, and in work-exempt cases,

either the adult is not subject to work requirements or there is no adult recipient.

Work-Eligible Cases

Closed cases in 2017 were more likely to be work-eligible than work-exempt, continuing the trends seen in 2016.³ As shown in Table 3, work-eligible cases made up over two thirds (69.3%) of the state's closed cases in 2017, while work-exempt cases accounted for less than one third (30.7%). These percentages are effectively unchanged from the previous year.

Although approximately 60% to 75% of closed cases were work-eligible in most jurisdictions, some jurisdictions fell outside this range. Work-eligible cases were less than half of closed cases in only Caroline County (35.9%) and Worcester County (44.8%). More than 75% of closed cases were work-eligible in St. Mary's County (78.3%) and Somerset County (80.6%). Although the statewide percentage of closed cases that were work-eligible remained virtually the same as it was in 2016, a handful of smaller jurisdictions did see changes from year to year. Talbot, Frederick, and Kent counties all experienced declines in work-eligible closed cases between seven and 11 percentage points, while Somerset, Garrett, and Queen Anne's counties each had increases between seven and 15 percentage points.

Under the broad umbrella of work-eligible cases, closed cases are further broken down into more specific designations. Half (50.0%) of all work-eligible cases were

² A TCA spell is defined as the number of consecutive months that a family received cash assistance.

³ The removal of the long-term disabled designation in October 2015 changed the way some cases are

designated. Due to these changes, these percentages are not comparable to data gathered prior to 2016.

Table 3. Caseload Designations: Statewide

| | Closed Cases FFY 2017 | Open Cases FFY 2017 |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Work-Eligible Cases | 69.3% (13,169) | 56.8% (17,495) |
| <i>Included in Federal WPR</i> | <i>64.4% (12,235)</i> | <i>52.8% (16,248)</i> |
| Single-Parent Cases | 50.0% (9,497) | 43.5% (13,378) |
| Earnings | 10.3% (1,948) | 4.5% (1,391) |
| Short-Term Disabled | 2.6% (491) | 3.5% (1,064) |
| Domestic Violence | 1.6% (299) | 1.3% (415) |
| <i>Other Work-Eligible Cases</i> | <i>4.9% (934)</i> | <i>4.1% (1,247)</i> |
| Two-Parent Household | 4.0% (768) | 3.3% (1,003) |
| Legal Immigrant | 0.9% (166) | 0.8% (244) |
| Work-Exempt Cases | 30.7% (5,828) | 43.2% (13,292) |
| Child-Only | 19.3% (3,659) | 29.1% (8,974) |
| Child Under One | 7.4% (1,400) | 9.1% (2,813) |
| Caring for Disabled HH Member | 2.8% (538) | 3.3% (1,025) |
| Needy Caretaker Relative | 1.2% (231) | 1.6% (480) |

Note: Federal WPR stands for Federal Work Participation Rate.

designated as single parent, and one in 10 (10.3%) were designated as earnings cases. Other work-eligible designations each comprised less than five percent of closures: two-parent household (4.0%), short-term disabled (2.6%), domestic violence (1.6%), and legal immigrant (0.9%).

There were notable differences among jurisdictions on work-eligible caseload designations. In 19 of Maryland’s jurisdictions, 40% or more of closed cases were single-parent cases. While the percentage of single-parent cases was similar to the state (50.0%) in most jurisdictions, this designation was much less common in some jurisdictions, such as Caroline County (15.2%) and Worcester County (28.4%). In contrast, single-parent cases were much more common in Maryland’s two largest jurisdictions, Baltimore City (55.6%) and Baltimore County (52.7%).

In terms of earnings cases, Allegany County (3.8%) had the lowest percentage of any jurisdiction, whereas St. Mary’s County (19.5%) had the highest. Among jurisdictions with the largest caseloads,

Work-Eligible Cases
Cases in which an adult is subject to work participation requirements

Single-Parent Cases
Traditional TCA cases with a single parent

Earnings Cases
Client has earnings below the eligibility threshold

Short-term Disabled
A member of the assistance unit has a disability lasting less than 12 months

Legal Immigrant[^]
Qualified immigrants who do not meet the requirements to receive federally-funded TCA

Domestic Violence
A victim of domestic/family violence who receives a good cause waiver for certain requirements

Two-Parent Cases[^]
Two able-bodied adults who share a child

[^] These cases do not receive federal TANF funding and are not included in the federal work participation rate.

such as Baltimore City (10.0%), Baltimore County (11.8%), and Prince George's County (9.2%), the percentage of earnings cases was closer to the state (10.3%).

Other work-eligible designations occurred less frequently among closed cases. Seven jurisdictions had no closed cases that were categorized as short-term disabled, and eight jurisdictions had no closed cases with the legal immigrant designation. In nine jurisdictions, less than 1% of closed cases had the domestic violence designation. Each of these designations did not exceed 10% of case closures in any jurisdiction. Two-parent household cases were slightly more common and made up notable portions of closed cases in Somerset County (10.4%), Garrett County (11.3%), and Montgomery County (12.2%). Although more common in some jurisdictions, two-parent households still constituted less than 3% of case closures in 11 jurisdictions.

That several designations are absent or uncommon in some jurisdictions is not surprising as many of these designations are rarely used throughout the TCA caseload. Short-term disabled, legal immigrant, domestic violence, and two-parent cases each accounted for less than 4% of open cases in SFY 2017 (McColl & Nicoli, 2018).

Work-Exempt Cases

Work-exempt cases are much less common than work-eligible cases, constituting less than one in three (30.7%) closed cases in 2017. The most common designation for work-exempt cases was child-only, which comprised one fifth (19.3%) of all closed cases. The remaining work-exempt designations each made up less than 8% of closed cases: child under one (7.4%),

caring for a disabled family member (2.8%), and needy caretaker relative (1.2%).

Although work-exempt closed cases were less common than work-eligible closed cases statewide, this was not true for every jurisdiction. Two small counties had more work-exempt closed cases than the state; Caroline County (64.1%) and Worcester County (55.2%). Another 15 jurisdictions had percentages above the state average of 31%. In the two largest jurisdictions, Baltimore City and Baltimore County, work-exempt cases accounted for only about 25% of closed cases.

Child-only was, by far, the most common work-exempt designation for case closures statewide in 2017. In fact, it was the most common designation overall in Caroline County (55.4%) and Worcester County (38.8%); in total, 20 of the state's 24 jurisdictions had a greater percentage of child-only cases than the state average (19.2%). This discrepancy is likely due to more populous jurisdictions having fewer child-only cases. For example, Baltimore City, which had the most closed cases of any jurisdiction, also had the second-lowest percentage of child-only cases (14.6%).

Work-Exempt Cases

Cases in which the adult is not required to participate in a work-related activity

Child-Only

Cases in which only children are included in the calculation of the cash assistance benefit

Child Under One

Single parent with a child under the age of one

Caring for a Disabled Family Member

Client is caring for a family member with a disability, such as a spouse or child

Needy Caretaker Relative

A non-parent relative who is caring for a child

The remaining work-exempt designations were less common than child-only cases. Across jurisdictions, there was a wide range of child under one case closures, with Garrett County (1.9%) and Worcester County (14.9%) representing the two extremes. Cases in which the recipient was caring for a disabled family member represented less than 3% of closed cases in 18 jurisdictions. Closed cases in which the recipient was a needy caretaker relative did not exceed more than 4% of closures in any jurisdiction and represented less than 1% of case closures in 11 jurisdictions. These cases were similarly uncommon among open cases throughout 2017; child under one accounted for about one in 10 (9.1%) open cases, whereas caring for a disabled family member (3.3%) and needy caretaker relative (1.6%) both represented smaller portions of open cases (McColl & Nicoli, 2018).

Case Closure Reasons

As the circumstances of families receiving TCA change, their cases may close for a variety of reasons. When these cases close, a caseworker assigns a reason for the closure in the program's administrative database. Closure reasons provide a general description of why a particular recipient stopped receiving benefits, although the reasons are often not fully explanatory.

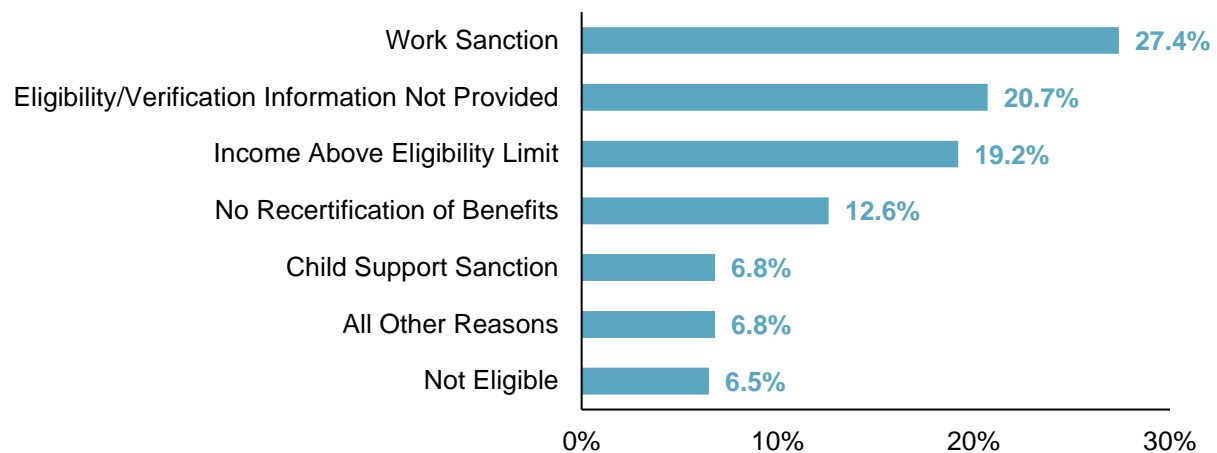
There are six commonly used categories of closure reasons for cases that closed in 2017. Figure 2 shows the percentage of closed cases associated with each reason and a final category combining less-common reasons. The most common reason for case closure in 2017 was a work sanction (27.4%), which declined 2.5 percentage points from 2016. As a

requirement of receiving TCA, many recipients must participate in work activities for 20 or 30 hours each week. When recipients do not meet these requirements, a work sanction is imposed. Work sanctions can leave recipients particularly disadvantaged. Clients who receive work sanctions lasting 30 days have lower levels of education, lower earnings, and higher rates of returns to welfare than their counterparts who have received shorter or no work sanctions (Nicoli, 2016).

In addition to complying with work requirements, TCA recipients must also provide up-to-date eligibility and verification information to their caseworkers. If recipients do not provide this information, their cases will close. One in five cases (20.7%) closed because eligibility or verification information was not provided. As TCA recipients' incomes fluctuate, their eligibility for TCA may change, and an increase in income can render a family ineligible for TCA receipt. An additional one in five (19.2%) cases closed in 2017 due to the recipient having income that placed the family above the eligibility limit for receiving benefits. Another requirement for TCA receipt is that recipients must recertify their eligibility at regular intervals. One in eight (12.6%) cases closed because recipients did not recertify their eligibility for benefits.

Failure to cooperate with the process of obtaining child support can lead to a child support sanction, which is another reason for case closure. One in 15 (6.8%) cases closed due to a child support sanction, a percentage that has increased in recent years. Cases that closed due to the recipient no longer being eligible (6.4%) accounted for about the same percentage as those with a child support sanction.

Figure 2. Case Closure Reasons: Statewide



Note: The All Other Reasons category includes cases that closed due to requested closure, reasons of residency, intentional violation, unknown whereabouts, death of a head of household or other member, or did not cooperate with quality control. Each of these reasons represents less than 5% of case closures. Valid percentages are reported.

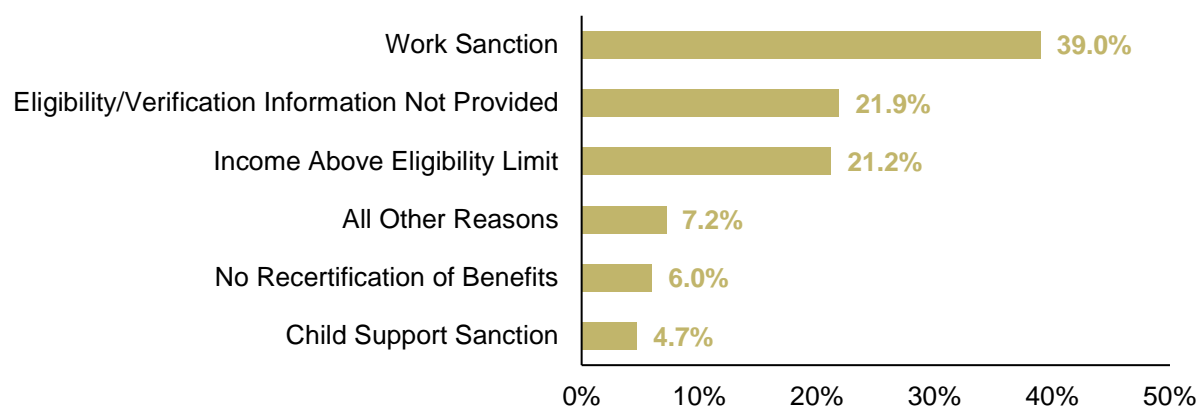
Differences in closure reasons among jurisdictions are often a reflection of the types of closed cases in each jurisdiction. For example, if a jurisdiction has a higher percentage of work-eligible cases, there are more cases with the potential to receive work sanctions. Work sanctions were the most common closure reason in eight of Maryland's jurisdictions in 2017, and work sanctions were among the three most common closure reasons in 19 jurisdictions. In all eight jurisdictions that had work sanctions as the top case closure reason, at least 60% of closed cases were work-eligible. Conversely, in all but one of the five jurisdictions in which work sanctions were not among the top three case closure reasons, less than 60% of closed cases were work-eligible. Clearly, the prevalence of work sanctions as a case closure reason is linked to the percentage of closed cases that are work-eligible.

The second and third most common closure reasons—eligibility or verification information not provided and income above the eligibility limit—each represented about one fifth of closed cases and were present

in the top three closure reasons for most jurisdictions. Eligibility or verification information not provided was the top case closure reason for seven jurisdictions and was in the top three reasons for 17 jurisdictions. In eight jurisdictions, income above the eligibility limit was the most common case closure reason, and it was in the top three case closure reasons for every jurisdiction. No recertification of benefits was the top closure reason in just one jurisdiction, Washington County, but was present in the top three closure reasons for eight jurisdictions.

The next most common closure reason, child support sanction (6.8%), reached an all-time high and was up almost two percentage points from the previous year. No jurisdiction had this reason in its top three closure reasons. The prevalence of child support sanctions as a closure reason ranged from zero in three jurisdictions to just under one in eight (13.0%) in Prince George's County. The next most common case closure reason, not eligible, was in the top three closure reasons in five small Eastern Shore jurisdictions.

Figure 3. Case Closure Reasons: Work-Eligible Cases



Note: The All Other Reasons category includes cases that closed due to death of a head of household or other member, did not cooperate with quality control, intentional violation, not eligible, requested closure, residency, and whereabouts unknown. Each of these reasons represents less than 5% of work-eligible closures. Valid percentages are reported.

Work-Eligible Case Closures

As closure reasons can vary depending on whether adult recipients are required to participate in work activities, it is important to examine work-eligible and work-exempt closed cases separately. Figure 3 displays case closure reasons for all work-eligible cases. The most common closure reason for work-eligible cases was a work sanction (39.0%). This is not surprising, as only work-eligible cases can be work sanctioned. This is a 3.5 percentage point drop from the percentage of work-eligible cases that closed due to work sanctions in 2016.

Similar to the state as a whole, eligibility or verification information not provided and income above the eligibility limit each comprised about one fifth of work-eligible closed cases. The percent of cases with the closure reason of eligibility or verification information not provided (21.9%) and the percent of cases that closed due to income above the eligibility limit (21.2%) both remained stable from 2016.

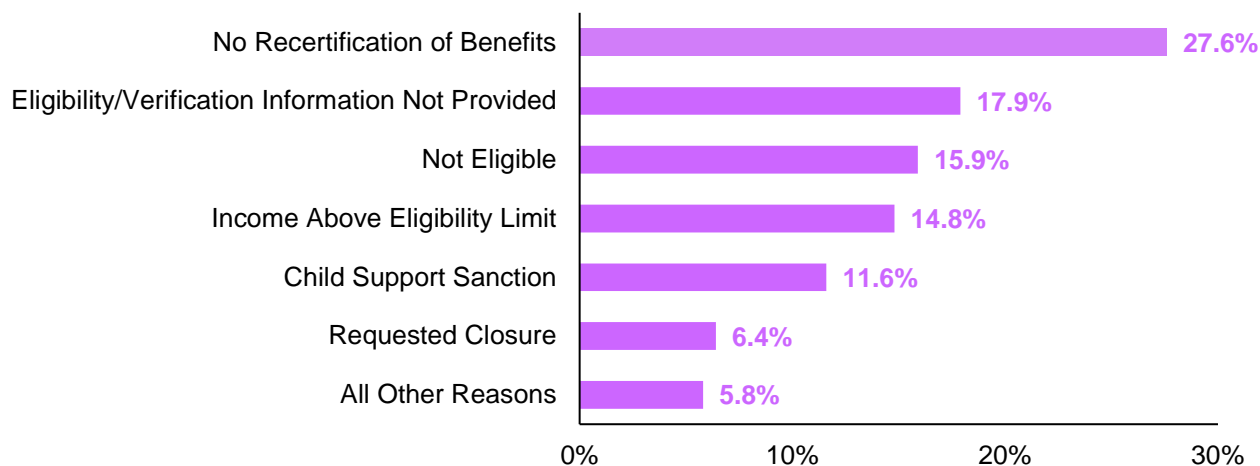
The remaining closure reasons were less common. Cases with the closure reason of

no recertification of benefits (6.0%) remained virtually the same as in 2016. The final designation for closure reasons among work-eligible cases, child support sanction, was present in about one out of 20 (4.7%) cases. While this is a relatively small portion of work-eligible cases, it is notable that there was a 1.5 percentage point increase in these closed cases from 2016.

Work-Exempt Case Closures

Work-exempt cases often have very different closure reasons from work-eligible cases. As work-exempt cases are not subject to work requirements, they cannot receive work sanctions and close for a range of other reasons. Figure 4 shows case closure reasons for work-exempt cases. The most common closure reason among work-exempt cases was no recertification of benefits (27.6%), a decline of over four percentage points from 2016. The next most common closure reason was eligibility or verification information not provided (17.9%), which remained comparable to 2016.

Figure 4. Case Closure Reasons: Work-Exempt Cases



Note: The All Other Reasons category includes cases that closed due to death of head of household or other member, did not cooperate with quality control, intentional violation, residency, whereabouts unknown, and work sanctions. Each of these reasons represents less than 5% of work-exempt closures. Valid percentages are reported.

Cases that closed because the recipient was no longer eligible for benefits accounted for about one in six (15.9%) work-exempt closed cases, essentially the same as in 2016. Similarly, cases that closed due to an income above the eligibility limit (14.8%) remained stable from the previous year. Child support sanctions accounted for over one in 10 (11.6%) work-exempt closed cases, an increase of three percentage points from 2016. Closures requested by the recipient (6.4%) were virtually the same as in 2016.

Child Support Sanctions

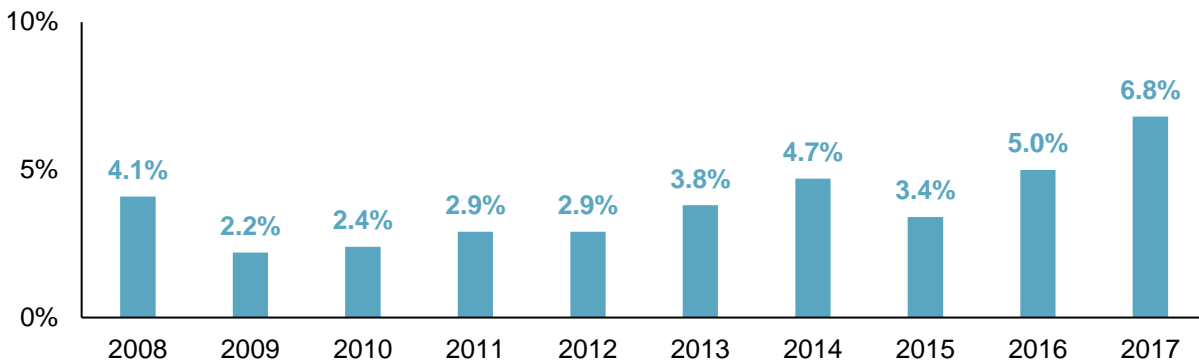
Child support sanctions, which occur when a parent or caregiver does not cooperate with the child support process, are one of the ways in which a TCA case can close. As a condition of receiving TCA benefits, caregivers are required to pursue child support from the nonresident parent(s). Any child support payments that are

subsequently paid while the family received benefits are recouped by the state for reimbursement of the family's TCA benefits.⁴ If caregivers do not cooperate with the public child support program, then their cases will be closed and the entire family will lose TCA benefits. In 2017, child support sanctions reached an all-time high (6.8%), as shown in Figure 5.

These sanctions have increased statewide across both work-eligible and work-exempt cases. In fact, use of this case closure reason has doubled since 2015. The increase in child support sanctions has been particularly dramatic in some of the state's large jurisdictions, which is likely impacting the increase seen across the state. In Baltimore City (8.9%), the percentage of closed cases with a child support sanction is up by almost seven percentage points since 2015, and in Prince George's County (13.0%) the percentage

⁴ Beginning in July 2019, some child support will be passed through to families while they receive TCA benefits.

Figure 5. Child Support Sanctions by Year: Statewide



Note: Valid percentages are reported.

has grown by six percentage points in the same period. These considerable increases suggest that some jurisdictions are now imposing this sanction more often than they have in previous years.

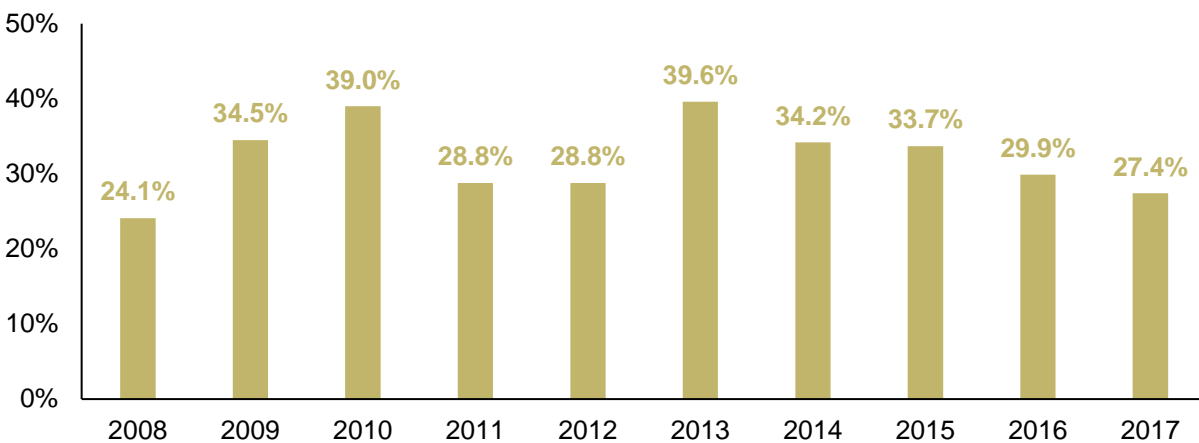
Work Sanctions

Work sanctions were the most common case closure reason statewide in 2017, accounting for over one quarter (27.4%) of closures statewide and just under 40% (39.0%) of work-eligible closures. In fact, work sanctions have been the most commonly used case closure reason for the past 10 years. Tracking work sanctions over time is important due to their prevalence

and the impact on families who are sanctioned. Work sanctions in Maryland are full-family sanctions, resulting in the removal of benefits for all family members, including children. Research suggests that such sanctions can have negative impacts on low-income families, including increasing welfare exits and a greater likelihood of unemployment or low-paying employment after exit (Wu, Cancian, & Wallace, 2014).

Despite work sanctions continuing to be the most common case closure reason statewide, they have declined by over 12 percentage points since 2013, as displayed in Figure 6. This decline is especially notable in Maryland's more populous

Figure 6. Work Sanctions by Year: Statewide



Note: Valid percentages are reported.

jurisdictions; Montgomery County's (27.5%) use of work sanctions has declined by 12 percentage points since 2015, and Prince George's County (22.3%) has decreased work sanctions by eight percentage points since 2015.

Although reasons for a decline in work sanctions may vary among jurisdictions, it is possible that the overall decline in work sanctions is linked to the improving economy. When the economy is doing well, recipients may find it easier to find and retain employment or participate in work-related activities. This means recipients may be more likely to be compliant with work requirements and less likely to be work-sanctioned.

Conclusions

The number of closed cases in Maryland reached an all-time low in 2017, mirroring declines among open cases in the state. This is Maryland's fifth year of decline; since 2012, closed cases have decreased by one third. While changes in caseload varied across jurisdictions, Maryland's five most populous jurisdictions accounted for three fourths of closed cases within the state.

In terms of case characteristics, closed and open cases had many similar attributes. On average, both closed and open cases had one recipient adult and one or two recipient children. Closed cases were less likely to be child-only than open cases, and the percentage of child-only closed cases differed among jurisdictions, with 20 of Maryland's jurisdictions having higher percentages of child-only cases than the state. Both open and closed cases had continuous spells of TCA receipt for an average of just under one year, and both

received benefits for slightly less than two of the previous five years.

Work-eligible cases were far more common than work-exempt cases, in keeping with trends from the previous year. Just over two thirds (69.3%) of closed cases in 2017 were categorized as work-eligible, while slightly under one third (30.7%) were classified as work-exempt. More specifically, half of all cases were designated as single-parent cases, one in five were designated as child-only, and one in 10 were earnings cases.

Among all closed cases, work sanctions continued to be the most common reason for case closure for the tenth year in a row, accounting for over one quarter of closed cases. Work sanctions were the most common closure reason in eight jurisdictions and one of the top three closure reasons in 19 jurisdictions. Despite the continued prevalence of work sanctions, use of this closure reason has actually decreased over the past four years, declining 12 percentage points since 2013. In contrast, use of child support sanctions has increased across the state over the past several years. At seven percent of all closed cases, child support sanctions reached an all-time high in 2017, and use of these sanctions has doubled since 2015.

It is clear that there is substantial variation in the TCA caseload across Maryland's 24 jurisdictions. To provide insight into local closed cases, we provide an appendix with detailed data on each jurisdiction. Each profile contains data on case characteristics, caseload designations, and closure reasons, providing local program administrators with more information on their jurisdictions.

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APPENDIX: JURISDICTIONAL TABLES

| Allegany County: FFY 2017 | 338 Case Closures |
|--|--------------------------|
| Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year | -2.9% (-10) |
| Case Characteristics | |
| Recipient Children | |
| 0 | 2.1% |
| 1 | 45.0% |
| 2 | 28.1% |
| 3 or more | 24.9% |
| Recipient Adults | |
| 0 (children only) | 24.0% |
| 1 | 65.4% |
| 2 | 10.7% |
| Months of TCA Receipt | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | 12.1 [6] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 | 22.9 [18] |
| Caseload Designations | |
| Work-Eligible Cases | 65.1% |
| Included in Federal WPR | 58.6% |
| Other Work-Eligible Cases | 6.5% |
| Work-Exempt Cases | 34.9% |
| Child-Only | 23.7% |
| Other Work-Exempt Cases | 11.2% |
| Top Three Case Closure Reasons | |
| Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided | 21.9% |
| Income Above the Eligibility Limit | 20.4% |
| Work Sanction | 18.0% |
| Work Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 18.0% |
| 2016 | 21.3% |
| 2015 | 23.8% |
| Child Support Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 0.0% |
| 2016 | 0.6% |
| 2015 | 0.7% |

| Anne Arundel County: FFY 2017 | | 1,180 Case Closures |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year | | -12.3% (-165) |
| Case Characteristics | | |
| Recipient Children | | |
| 0 | | 3.3% |
| 1 | | 50.4% |
| 2 | | 25.0% |
| 3 or more | | 21.3% |
| Recipient Adults | | |
| 0 (children only) | | 23.1% |
| 1 | | 72.4% |
| 2 | | 4.5% |
| Months of TCA Receipt | | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | | 11.4 [6] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 | | 19.4 [13] |
| Caseload Designations | | |
| Work-Eligible Cases | | 65.8% |
| Included in Federal WPR | | 62.4% |
| Other Work-Eligible Cases | | 3.4% |
| Work-Exempt Cases | | 34.2% |
| Child-Only | | 23.5% |
| Other Work-Exempt Cases | | 10.6% |
| Top Three Case Closure Reasons | | |
| Work Sanction | | 40.2% |
| Income Above the Eligibility Limit | | 14.7% |
| No Recertification for Benefits | | 14.7% |
| Work Sanctions | | |
| 2017 | | 40.2% |
| 2016 | | 38.6% |
| 2015 | | 40.4% |
| Child Support Sanctions | | |
| 2017 | | 4.9% |
| 2016 | | 6.3% |
| 2015 | | 3.3% |

| Baltimore City: FFY 2017 | 7,961 Case Closures |
|--|----------------------------|
| Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year | -7.1% (-610) |
| Case Characteristics | |
| Recipient Children | |
| 0 | 3.0% |
| 1 | 46.6% |
| 2 | 27.4% |
| 3 or more | 23.0% |
| Recipient Adults | |
| 0 (children only) | 14.5% |
| 1 | 82.0% |
| 2 | 3.5% |
| Months of TCA Receipt | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | 10.6 [5] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 | 26.2 [22] |
| Caseload Designations | |
| Work-Eligible Cases | 73.7% |
| Included in Federal WPR | 70.6% |
| Other Work-Eligible Cases | 3.1% |
| Work-Exempt Cases | 26.3% |
| Child-Only | 14.6% |
| Other Work-Exempt Cases | 11.6% |
| Top Three Case Closure Reasons | |
| Work Sanction | 30.3% |
| Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided | 26.8% |
| Income Above the Eligibility Limit | 13.5% |
| Work Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 30.3% |
| 2016 | 32.2% |
| 2015 | 36.4% |
| Child Support Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 8.9% |
| 2016 | 5.6% |
| 2015 | 2.2% |

| Baltimore County: FFY 2017 | 2,412 Case Closures |
|--|----------------------------|
| Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year | -0.5% (-12) |
| Case Characteristics | |
| Recipient Children | |
| 0 | 2.8% |
| 1 | 47.9% |
| 2 | 26.9% |
| 3 or more | 22.4% |
| Recipient Adults | |
| 0 (children only) | 19.3% |
| 1 | 75.7% |
| 2 | 5.1% |
| Months of TCA Receipt | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | 11.5 [6] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 | 23.5 [18] |
| Caseload Designations | |
| Work-Eligible Cases | |
| 72.6% | |
| Included in Federal WPR | 67.6% |
| Other Work-Eligible Cases | 5.0% |
| Work-Exempt Cases | |
| 27.4% | |
| Child-Only | 19.5% |
| Other Work-Exempt Cases | 7.9% |
| Top Three Case Closure Reasons | |
| Work Sanction | 30.9% |
| Income Above the Eligibility Limit | 26.0% |
| No Recertification for Benefits | 14.3% |
| Work Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 30.9% |
| 2016 | 34.5% |
| 2015 | 36.7% |
| Child Support Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 3.9% |
| 2016 | 2.8% |
| 2015 | 3.5% |

| Calvert County: FFY 2017 | 95 Case Closures |
|--|-------------------------|
| Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year | -13.6% (-15) |
| Case Characteristics | |
| Recipient Children | |
| 0 | 1.1% |
| 1 | 41.1% |
| 2 | 38.9% |
| 3 or more | 18.9% |
| Recipient Adults | |
| 0 (children only) | 24.2% |
| 1 | 70.5% |
| 2 | 5.3% |
| Months of TCA Receipt | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | 9.8 [5] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 | 15.7 [10] |
| Caseload Designations | |
| Work-Eligible Cases | |
| 57.9% | |
| Included in Federal WPR | 52.6% |
| Other Work-Eligible Cases | 5.3% |
| Work-Exempt Cases | |
| 42.1% | |
| Child-Only | 25.3% |
| Other Work-Exempt Cases | 16.8% |
| Top Three Case Closure Reasons | |
| Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided | 28.4% |
| Income Above the Eligibility Limit | 26.3% |
| Work Sanction | 18.9% |
| Work Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 18.9% |
| 2016 | 11.8% |
| 2015 | 17.1% |
| Child Support Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 2.1% |
| 2016 | 0.0% |
| 2015 | 3.4% |

| Caroline County: FFY 2017 | 92 Case Closures |
|--|-------------------------|
| Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year | -6.1% (-6) |
| Case Characteristics | |
| Recipient Children | |
| 0 | 0.0% |
| 1 | 53.3% |
| 2 | 25.0% |
| 3 or more | 21.7% |
| Recipient Adults | |
| 0 (children only) | 55.4% |
| 1 | 42.4% |
| 2 | 2.2% |
| Months of TCA Receipt | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | 18.4 [10] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 | 23.1 [15] |
| Caseload Designations | |
| Work-Eligible Cases | 35.9% |
| Included in Federal WPR | 33.7% |
| Other Work-Eligible Cases | 2.2% |
| Work-Exempt Cases | 64.1% |
| Child-Only | 55.4% |
| Other Work-Exempt Cases | 8.7% |
| Top Three Case Closure Reasons | |
| Income Above the Eligibility Limit | 34.8% |
| Not Eligible | 18.5% |
| Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided | 16.3% |
| Work Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 8.7% |
| 2016 | 11.2% |
| 2015 | 7.5% |
| Child Support Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 1.1% |
| 2016 | 4.1% |
| 2015 | 0.0% |

| Carroll County: FFY 2017 | 137 Case Closures |
|--|--------------------------|
| Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year | -25.1% (-46) |
| Case Characteristics | |
| Recipient Children | |
| 0 | 3.7% |
| 1 | 47.1% |
| 2 | 27.2% |
| 3 or more | 22.1% |
| Recipient Adults | |
| 0 (children only) | 27.9% |
| 1 | 68.4% |
| 2 | 3.7% |
| Months of TCA Receipt | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | 13.0 [7] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 | 19.9 [13.5] |
| Caseload Designations | |
| Work-Eligible Cases | |
| 62.0% | |
| Included in Federal WPR | 59.1% |
| Other Work-Eligible Cases | 2.9% |
| Work-Exempt Cases | |
| 38.0% | |
| Child-Only | 27.0% |
| Other Work-Exempt Cases | 10.9% |
| Top Three Case Closure Reasons | |
| Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided | 23.4% |
| Income Above the Eligibility Limit | 22.6% |
| Work Sanctions | 18.2% |
| Work Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 18.2% |
| 2016 | 20.8% |
| 2015 | 26.1% |
| Child Support Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 0.0% |
| 2016 | 0.0% |
| 2015 | 0.0% |

| Cecil County: FFY 2017 | 433 Case Closures |
|--|--------------------------|
| Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year | -7.3% (-34) |
| Case Characteristics | |
| Recipient Children | |
| 0 | 0.9% |
| 1 | 53.1% |
| 2 | 26.1% |
| 3 or more | 19.9% |
| Recipient Adults | |
| 0 (children only) | 29.1% |
| 1 | 66.1% |
| 2 | 4.8% |
| Months of TCA Receipt | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | 13.6 [8] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 | 22.7 [16] |
| Caseload Designations | |
| Work-Eligible Cases | |
| 60.5% | |
| Included in Federal WPR | 56.8% |
| Other Work-Eligible Cases | 3.7% |
| Work-Exempt Cases | |
| 39.5% | |
| Child-Only | 29.6% |
| Other Work-Exempt Cases | 9.9% |
| Top Three Case Closure Reasons | |
| Work Sanction | 27.5% |
| No Recertification for Benefits | 19.6% |
| Income Above the Eligibility Limit | 15.0% |
| Work Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 27.5% |
| 2016 | 28.3% |
| 2015 | 32.7% |
| Child Support Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 0.7% |
| 2016 | 2.6% |
| 2015 | 3.5% |

| Charles County: FFY 2017 | 330 Case Closures |
|--|--------------------------|
| Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year | +3.1% (+10) |
| Case Characteristics | |
| Recipient Children | |
| 0 | 1.8% |
| 1 | 41.8% |
| 2 | 32.0% |
| 3 or more | 24.4% |
| Recipient Adults | |
| 0 (children only) | 22.0% |
| 1 | 75.9% |
| 2 | 2.1% |
| Months of TCA Receipt | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | 11.0 [5] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 | 18.3 [12] |
| Caseload Designations | |
| Work-Eligible Cases | |
| | 60.6% |
| Included in Federal WPR | 58.8% |
| Other Work-Eligible Cases | 1.8% |
| Work-Exempt Cases | |
| | 39.4% |
| Child-Only | 22.7% |
| Other Work-Exempt Cases | 16.7% |
| Top Three Case Closure Reasons | |
| Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided | 29.7% |
| Income Above the Eligibility Limit | 20.9% |
| Work Sanction | 15.5% |
| Work Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 15.5% |
| 2016 | 18.8% |
| 2015 | 27.8% |
| Child Support Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 3.3% |
| 2016 | 1.6% |
| 2015 | 2.9% |

| Dorchester County: FFY 2017 | 134 Case Closures |
|--|--------------------------|
| Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year | -41.7% (-96) |
| Case Characteristics | |
| Recipient Children | |
| 0 | 1.5% |
| 1 | 43.3% |
| 2 | 31.3% |
| 3 or more | 23.9% |
| Recipient Adults | |
| 0 (children only) | 28.4% |
| 1 | 67.2% |
| 2 | 4.5% |
| Months of TCA Receipt | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | 15.3 [6] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 | 24.5 [20] |
| Caseload Designations | |
| Work-Eligible Cases | |
| 65.7% | |
| Included in Federal WPR | 60.4% |
| Other Work-Eligible Cases | 5.2% |
| Work-Exempt Cases | |
| 34.3% | |
| Child-Only | 28.4% |
| Other Work-Exempt Cases | 6.0% |
| Top Three Case Closure Reasons | |
| Work Sanction | 32.8% |
| Income Above the Eligibility Limit | 20.1% |
| Not Eligible | 12.7% |
| Work Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 32.8% |
| 2016 | 27.4% |
| 2015 | 33.2% |
| Child Support Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 6.0% |
| 2016 | 7.4% |
| 2015 | 4.1% |

| Frederick County: FFY 2017 | 308 Case Closures |
|--|--------------------------|
| Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year | -7.8% (-26) |
| Case Characteristics | |
| Recipient Children | |
| 0 | 2.3% |
| 1 | 48.1% |
| 2 | 26.6% |
| 3 or more | 23.1% |
| Recipient Adults | |
| 0 (children only) | 24.7% |
| 1 | 71.4% |
| 2 | 3.9% |
| Months of TCA Receipt | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | 10.8 [6] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 | 17.6 [11] |
| Caseload Designations | |
| Work-Eligible Cases | |
| 59.7% | |
| Included in Federal WPR | 56.8% |
| Other Work-Eligible Cases | 2.9% |
| Work-Exempt Cases | |
| 40.3% | |
| Child-Only | 24.7% |
| Other Work-Exempt Cases | 15.6% |
| Top Three Case Closure Reasons | |
| Income Above the Eligibility Limit | 22.7% |
| Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided | 20.1% |
| Work Sanction | 19.8% |
| Work Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 19.8% |
| 2016 | 24.9% |
| 2015 | 23.8% |
| Child Support Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 5.5% |
| 2016 | 4.5% |
| 2015 | 2.9% |

| Garrett County: FFY 2017 | 53 Case Closures |
|--|-------------------------|
| Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year | -29.3% (-22) |
| Case Characteristics | |
| Recipient Children | |
| 0 | 1.9% |
| 1 | 47.2% |
| 2 | 22.6% |
| 3 or more | 28.3% |
| Recipient Adults | |
| 0 (children only) | 18.9% |
| 1 | 64.2% |
| 2 | 17.0% |
| Months of TCA Receipt | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | 11.7 [7] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 | 19.7 [11] |
| Caseload Designations | |
| Work-Eligible Cases | |
| 75.5% | |
| Included in Federal WPR | 64.2% |
| Other Work-Eligible Cases | 11.3% |
| Work-Exempt Cases | |
| 24.5% | |
| Child-Only | 18.9% |
| Other Work-Exempt Cases | 5.7% |
| Top Three Case Closure Reasons | |
| Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided | 24.5% |
| Work Sanction | 20.8% |
| Income Above the Eligibility Limit | 18.9% |
| Work Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 20.8% |
| 2016 | 17.3% |
| 2015 | 26.7% |
| Child Support Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 3.8% |
| 2016 | 0.0% |
| 2015 | 1.7% |

| Harford County: FFY 2017 | 402 Case Closures |
|--|--------------------------|
| Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year | -13.9% (-65) |
| Case Characteristics | |
| Recipient Children | |
| 0 | 1.2% |
| 1 | 46.8% |
| 2 | 31.3% |
| 3 or more | 20.6% |
| Recipient Adults | |
| 0 (children only) | 25.6% |
| 1 | 68.7% |
| 2 | 5.7% |
| Months of TCA Receipt | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | 10.7 [6] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 | 20.7 [13.5] |
| Caseload Designations | |
| Work-Eligible Cases | |
| 62.4% | |
| Included in Federal WPR | 55.7% |
| Other Work-Eligible Cases | 6.7% |
| Work-Exempt Cases | |
| 37.6% | |
| Child-Only | 25.6% |
| Other Work-Exempt Cases | 11.9% |
| Top Three Case Closure Reasons | |
| Income Above the Eligibility Limit | 25.9% |
| Work Sanction | 25.1% |
| Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided | 15.4% |
| Work Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 25.1% |
| 2016 | 22.1% |
| 2015 | 23.0% |
| Child Support Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 2.7% |
| 2016 | 3.6% |
| 2015 | 3.6% |

| Howard County: FFY 2017 | 393 Case Closures |
|--|--------------------------|
| Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year | -11.3% (-50) |
| Case Characteristics | |
| Recipient Children | |
| 0 | 2.0% |
| 1 | 44.3% |
| 2 | 28.8% |
| 3 or more | 24.9% |
| Recipient Adults | |
| 0 (children only) | 22.1% |
| 1 | 74.0% |
| 2 | 3.8% |
| Months of TCA Receipt | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | 10.1 [5] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 | 25.4 [19] |
| Caseload Designations | |
| Work-Eligible Cases | 71.4% |
| Included in Federal WPR | 66.8% |
| Other Work-Eligible Cases | 4.6% |
| Work-Exempt Cases | 28.6% |
| Child-Only | 22.2% |
| Other Work-Exempt Cases | 6.4% |
| Top Three Case Closure Reasons | |
| Work Sanction | 23.7% |
| Income Above the Eligibility Limit | 21.4% |
| No Recertification for Benefits | 21.4% |
| Work Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 23.7% |
| 2016 | 25.5% |
| 2015 | 28.7% |
| Child Support Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 5.1% |
| 2016 | 3.4% |
| 2015 | 1.6% |

| Kent County: FFY 2017 | 62 Case Closures |
|--|-------------------------|
| Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year | -3.1% (-2) |
| Case Characteristics | |
| Recipient Children | |
| 0 | 3.3% |
| 1 | 36.1% |
| 2 | 29.5% |
| 3 or more | 31.1% |
| Recipient Adults | |
| 0 (children only) | 18.0% |
| 1 | 72.1% |
| 2 | 9.8% |
| Months of TCA Receipt | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | 15.7 [7] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 | 23.4 [18] |
| Caseload Designations | |
| Work-Eligible Cases | |
| | 71.0% |
| Included in Federal WPR | 62.9% |
| Other Work-Eligible Cases | 8.1% |
| Work-Exempt Cases | |
| | 29.0% |
| Child-Only | 19.4% |
| Other Work-Exempt Cases | 9.7% |
| Top Three Case Closure Reasons | |
| Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided | 30.6% |
| Income Above the Eligibility Limit | 19.4% |
| Not Eligible | 19.4% |
| Work Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 16.1% |
| 2016 | 26.6% |
| 2015 | 21.2% |
| Child Support Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 0.0% |
| 2016 | 1.6% |
| 2015 | 0.0% |

| Montgomery County: FFY 2017 | 964 Case Closures |
|--|--------------------------|
| Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year | -10.1% (-108) |
| Case Characteristics | |
| Recipient Children | |
| 0 | 1.6% |
| 1 | 44.8% |
| 2 | 27.9% |
| 3 or more | 25.7% |
| Recipient Adults | |
| 0 (children only) | 19.3% |
| 1 | 67.7% |
| 2 | 13.0% |
| Months of TCA Receipt | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | 10.0 [5] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 | 17.7 [11] |
| Caseload Designations | |
| Work-Eligible Cases | |
| 68.2% | |
| Included in Federal WPR | 51.5% |
| Other Work-Eligible Cases | 16.6% |
| Work-Exempt Cases | |
| 31.8% | |
| Child-Only | 19.4% |
| Other Work-Exempt Cases | 12.5% |
| Top Three Case Closure Reasons | |
| Income Above the Eligibility Limit | 33.4% |
| Work Sanction | 27.5% |
| Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided | 12.8% |
| Work Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 27.5% |
| 2016 | 34.4% |
| 2015 | 39.3% |
| Child Support Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 6.8% |
| 2016 | 8.1% |
| 2015 | 7.7% |

| Prince George's County: FFY 2017 | 1,755 Case Closures |
|--|----------------------------|
| Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year | -17.2% (-364) |
| Case Characteristics | |
| Recipient Children | |
| 0 | 2.3% |
| 1 | 43.6% |
| 2 | 28.5% |
| 3 or more | 25.5% |
| Recipient Adults | |
| 0 (children only) | 24.8% |
| 1 | 68.8% |
| 2 | 6.3% |
| Months of TCA Receipt | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | 12.6 [6] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 | 21.7 [15] |
| Caseload Designations | |
| Work-Eligible Cases | |
| | 61.8% |
| Included in Federal WPR | 54.6% |
| Other Work-Eligible Cases | 7.1% |
| Work-Exempt Cases | |
| | 38.2% |
| Child-Only | 24.7% |
| Other Work-Exempt Cases | 13.6% |
| Top Three Case Closure Reasons | |
| Work Sanction | 22.3% |
| Income Above the Eligibility Limit | 21.9% |
| Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided | 17.1% |
| Work Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 22.3% |
| 2016 | 27.2% |
| 2015 | 30.2% |
| Child Support Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 13.0% |
| 2016 | 7.2% |
| 2015 | 7.0% |

| Queen Anne's County: FFY 2017 | 72 Case Closures |
|--|-------------------------|
| Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year | +10.8% (+7) |
| Case Characteristics | |
| Recipient Children | |
| 0 | 1.4% |
| 1 | 47.2% |
| 2 | 33.3% |
| 3 or more | 18.1% |
| Recipient Adults | |
| 0 (children only) | 20.8% |
| 1 | 76.4% |
| 2 | 2.8% |
| Months of TCA Receipt | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | 11.4 [6.5] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 | 16.9 [9.5] |
| Caseload Designations | |
| Work-Eligible Cases | 65.3% |
| Included in Federal WPR | 61.1% |
| Other Work-Eligible Cases | 4.2% |
| Work-Exempt Cases | 34.7% |
| Child-Only | 20.8% |
| Other Work-Exempt Cases | 13.9% |
| Top Three Case Closure Reasons | |
| Income Above the Eligibility Limit | 23.6% |
| No Recertification for Benefits | 22.2% |
| Work Sanction | 11.1% |
| Requested Closure | 11.1% |
| Work Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 11.1% |
| 2016 | 15.4% |
| 2015 | 28.9% |
| Child Support Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 6.9% |
| 2016 | 0.0% |
| 2015 | 5.6% |

| St. Mary's County: FFY 2017 | 405 Case Closures |
|--|--------------------------|
| Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year | -7.3% (-32) |
| Case Characteristics | |
| Recipient Children | |
| 0 | 2.2% |
| 1 | 43.0% |
| 2 | 24.9% |
| 3 or more | 29.9% |
| Recipient Adults | |
| 0 (children only) | 15.1% |
| 1 | 74.3% |
| 2 | 10.6% |
| Months of TCA Receipt | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | 11.4 [6] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 | 21.6 [17] |
| Caseload Designations | |
| Work-Eligible Cases | 78.3% |
| Included in Federal WPR | 70.9% |
| Other Work-Eligible Cases | 7.4% |
| Work-Exempt Cases | 21.7% |
| Child-Only | 15.1% |
| Other Work-Exempt Cases | 6.7% |
| Top Three Case Closure Reasons | |
| Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided | 28.9% |
| Income Above the Eligibility Limit | 27.9% |
| Work Sanction | 14.3% |
| Work Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 14.3% |
| 2016 | 18.1% |
| 2015 | 30.8% |
| Child Support Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 2.2% |
| 2016 | 3.4% |
| 2015 | 2.8% |

| Somerset County: FFY 2017 | 144 Case Closures |
|--|--------------------------|
| Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year | -5.9% (-9) |
| Case Characteristics | |
| Recipient Children | |
| 0 | 2.8% |
| 1 | 38.2% |
| 2 | 29.2% |
| 3 or more | 29.9% |
| Recipient Adults | |
| 0 (children only) | 12.5% |
| 1 | 74.3% |
| 2 | 13.2% |
| Months of TCA Receipt | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | 12.6 [7] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 | 24.7 [20] |
| Caseload Designations | |
| Work-Eligible Cases | 80.6% |
| Included in Federal WPR | 69.4% |
| Other Work-Eligible Cases | 11.1% |
| Work-Exempt Cases | 19.4% |
| Child-Only | 12.5% |
| Other Work-Exempt Cases | 6.9% |
| Top Three Case Closure Reasons | |
| Work Sanction | 29.9% |
| Income Above the Eligibility Limit | 28.5% |
| No Recertification for Benefits | 10.4% |
| Requested Closure | 10.4% |
| Work Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 29.9% |
| 2016 | 30.1% |
| 2015 | 32.9% |
| Child Support Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 4.2% |
| 2016 | 4.6% |
| 2015 | 1.2% |

| Talbot County: FFY 2017 | 60 Case Closures |
|--|-------------------------|
| Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year | +39.5% (+17) |
| Case Characteristics | |
| Recipient Children | |
| 0 | 1.7% |
| 1 | 51.7% |
| 2 | 30.0% |
| 3 or more | 16.7% |
| Recipient Adults | |
| 0 (children only) | 38.3% |
| 1 | 61.7% |
| 2 | 0.0% |
| Months of TCA Receipt | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | 14.4 [7] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 | 18.6 [10.5] |
| Caseload Designations | |
| Work-Eligible Cases | |
| Included in Federal WPR | 56.7% |
| Other Work-Eligible Cases | 0.0% |
| Work-Exempt Cases | |
| Child-Only | 38.3% |
| Other Work-Exempt Cases | 5.0% |
| Top Three Case Closure Reasons | |
| Income Above the Eligibility Limit | 31.7% |
| Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided | 18.3% |
| Not Eligible | 11.7% |
| No Recertification for Benefits | 11.7% |
| Work Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 10.0% |
| 2016 | 9.3% |
| 2015 | 4.5% |
| Child Support Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 6.7% |
| 2016 | 4.7% |
| 2015 | 6.8% |

| Washington County: FFY 2017 | 687 Case Closures |
|--|--------------------------|
| Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year | +2.5% (+17) |
| Case Characteristics | |
| Recipient Children | |
| 0 | 2.5% |
| 1 | 45.7% |
| 2 | 28.1% |
| 3 or more | 23.7% |
| Recipient Adults | |
| 0 (children only) | 22.4% |
| 1 | 74.4% |
| 2 | 3.2% |
| Months of TCA Receipt | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | 10.2 [5] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 | 19.5 [13] |
| Caseload Designations | |
| Work-Eligible Cases | 59.1% |
| Included in Federal WPR | 55.8% |
| Other Work-Eligible Cases | 3.4% |
| Work-Exempt Cases | 40.9% |
| Child-Only | 22.5% |
| Other Work-Exempt Cases | 18.4% |
| Top Three Case Closure Reasons | |
| No Recertification for Benefits | 25.9% |
| Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided | 21.8% |
| Income Above the Eligibility Limit | 17.9% |
| Work Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 12.4% |
| 2016 | 14.6% |
| 2015 | 17.8% |
| Child Support Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 0.6% |
| 2016 | 1.3% |
| 2015 | 1.7% |

| Wicomico County: FFY 2017 | 524 Case Closures |
|--|--------------------------|
| Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year | -8.9% (-51) |
| Case Characteristics | |
| Recipient Children | |
| 0 | 2.3% |
| 1 | 43.3% |
| 2 | 30.3% |
| 3 or more | 24.0% |
| Recipient Adults | |
| 0 (children only) | 21.0% |
| 1 | 72.7% |
| 2 | 6.3% |
| Months of TCA Receipt | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | 11.1 [5] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 | 22.6 [18] |
| Caseload Designations | |
| Work-Eligible Cases | |
| 66.2% | |
| Included in Federal WPR | 58.6% |
| Other Work-Eligible Cases | 7.6% |
| Work-Exempt Cases | |
| 33.8% | |
| Child-Only | 20.8% |
| Other Work-Exempt Cases | 13.0% |
| Top Three Case Closure Reasons | |
| Income Above the Eligibility Limit | 25.8% |
| Work Sanction | 22.3% |
| Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided | 18.5% |
| Work Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 22.3% |
| 2016 | 29.6% |
| 2015 | 31.3% |
| Child Support Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 5.2% |
| 2016 | 4.5% |
| 2015 | 4.5% |

| Worcester County: FFY 2017 | 67 Case Closures |
|--|-------------------------|
| Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year | +21.8% (+12) |
| Case Characteristics | |
| Recipient Children | |
| 0 | 1.5% |
| 1 | 50.7% |
| 2 | 31.3% |
| 3 or more | 16.4% |
| Recipient Adults | |
| 0 (children only) | 38.8% |
| 1 | 58.2% |
| 2 | 3.0% |
| Months of TCA Receipt | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | 15.4 [8] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 | 19.6 [11] |
| Caseload Designations | |
| Work-Eligible Cases | |
| 44.8% | |
| Included in Federal WPR | 41.8% |
| Other Work-Eligible Cases | 3.0% |
| Work-Exempt Cases | |
| 55.2% | |
| Child-Only | 38.8% |
| Other Work-Exempt Cases | 16.4% |
| Top Three Case Closure Reasons | |
| Income Above the Eligibility Limit | 37.3% |
| Not Eligible | 22.4% |
| Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided | 19.4% |
| Work Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 4.5% |
| 2016 | 7.3% |
| 2015 | 16.0% |
| Child Support Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 4.5% |
| 2016 | 7.3% |
| 2015 | 8.0% |

| Maryland: FFY 2017 | 19,013 Case Closures |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year | -8.0% (-1,655) |
| Case Characteristics | |
| Recipient Children | |
| 0 | 2.6% |
| 1 | 46.3% |
| 2 | 27.7% |
| 3 or more | 23.4% |
| Recipient Adults | |
| 0 (children only) | 19.2% |
| 1 | 75.8% |
| 2 | 5.0% |
| Months of TCA Receipt | |
| Average [Median] TCA Spell | 11.2 [6] |
| Average [Median] in Previous 60 | 23.4 [18] |
| Caseload Designations | |
| Work-Eligible Cases | |
| 69.3% | |
| Included in Federal WPR | 64.4% |
| Other Work-Eligible Cases | 4.9% |
| Work-Exempt Cases | |
| 30.7% | |
| Child-Only | 19.2% |
| Other Work-Exempt Cases | 11.4% |
| Top Three Case Closure Reasons | |
| Work Sanction | 27.4% |
| Eligibility/Verification Information Not Provided | 20.7% |
| Income Above the Eligibility Limit | 19.2% |
| Work Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 27.4% |
| 2016 | 29.9% |
| 2015 | 33.7% |
| Child Support Sanctions | |
| 2017 | 6.8% |
| 2016 | 5.0% |
| 2015 | 3.4% |

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