

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE ACTIVE CASELOAD: 2011

## SUMMARY

### Caseload Characteristics

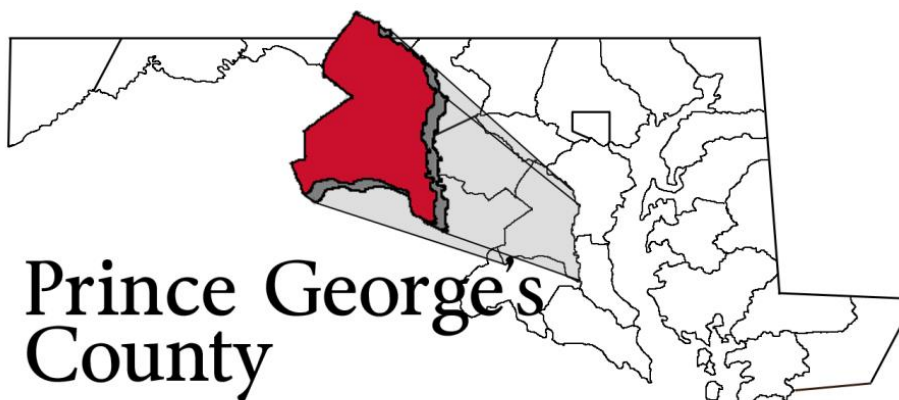
- Prince George's County experienced a 55% increase in its caseload from 2,406 cases in 2007 to 3,732 cases in 2009. This was followed by an 18% decline in the caseload by 2011 with only 3,072 cases. This caseload represents 11% of the total statewide caseload.
- A typical TCA recipient was an African American (88.3%) woman (95.7%) who was about 36 years of age and had received her high school diploma (77.9%).
- A typical TCA case had two or fewer people in the assistance unit (58.9%). The youngest child in the assistance unit was approximately six years old.
- Half (52.5%) of cases were work-exempt, largely child-only (34.4%).
- Single-parent cases (40.4%) made up the largest caseload designation, however.

### TCA Participation

- Cash assistance receipt declined slightly over time. In 2007, Prince George's clients received an average of 26 months of TCA in the previous 5 years, but average TCA receipt dropped to 20 months, on average, by 2009. In 2011 clients received TCA for 23 of the previous 60 months, on average.
- Cases accrued fewer months counting toward the federal time limit over time. In 2011, clients averaged 19 time-limited months, while in 2007 clients accrued 16 time-limited months, on average.

### Employment and Wages

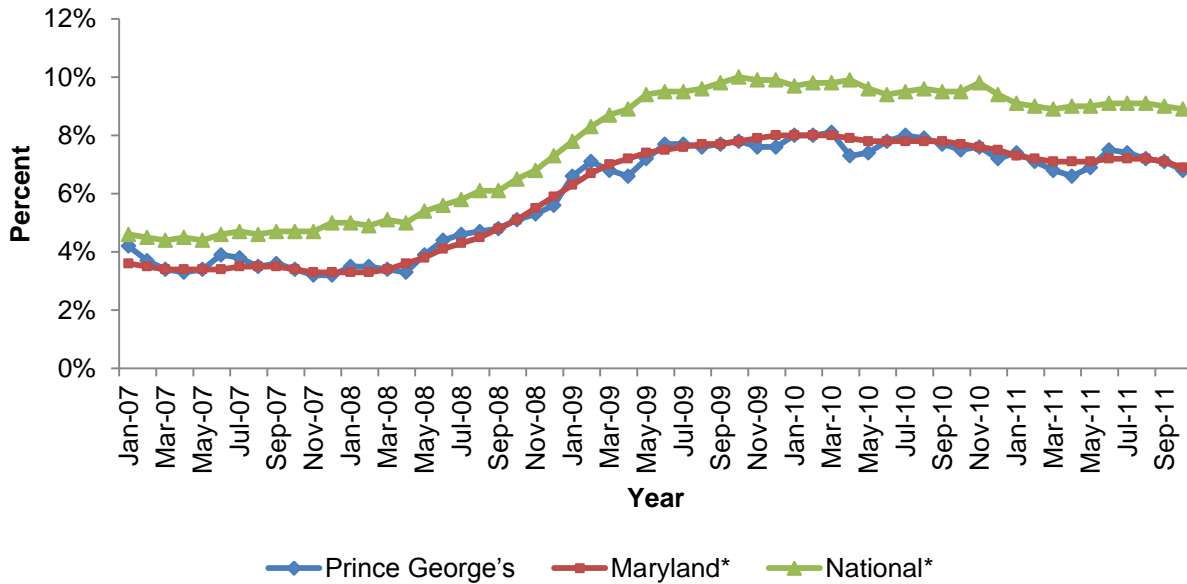
- Prince George's County recipients were less likely to have worked in the previous two years compared to their counterparts in the rest of Maryland. In 2007, half (49.2%) of Prince George's caseheads worked at some point in the previous two years; in 2011, only 43% worked in the previous two years.
- Median total earnings among those working in the previous two years decreased by 45%, from \$8,389 in 2007 to \$4,614 in 2011.



# INTRODUCTION

This report is a supplemental resource to *Life on Welfare: Characteristics of Maryland's TCA Caseload since the Great Recession*.<sup>i</sup> While the main report focuses on the statewide trends of the active caseload, this report provides trends specifically for Prince George's County by utilizing the same methodology and data. Located in the central part of the state, Prince George's County borders both Virginia and the District of Columbia. As Figure 1 shows, the unemployment rate in Prince George's County followed the state average between January 2007 and October 2011.<sup>ii</sup> Peak unemployment in the county occurred in March 2010 at 8.1%; the state average was 8.0% and the national rate was 9.8% in March 2010.

**Figure 1. Unemployment Rate, 2007-2011**



\* Indicates seasonal adjustment.

The largest industries within Prince George's County were educational services, and health care and social assistance; public administration; and professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services.<sup>iii</sup> Nearly one-fifth (18.2%) of county residents commuted for employment outside the county, and an additional two-fifths (43.0%) left the state for employment.<sup>iv</sup> The majority (85.8%) of Prince George's residents age 25 and older received a high school degree or higher, and one in three (29.6%) residents held a Bachelor's degree or higher.<sup>v</sup> About one in ten (11.6%) Prince George's households earned under \$25,000 while the average household income was \$85,275 in 2010 with a median household income of \$71,260.<sup>vi</sup> The estimated poverty rate for 2011 was 9.3%<sup>vii</sup> in Prince George's County, which was slightly higher than the state average (8.6%).<sup>viii</sup>

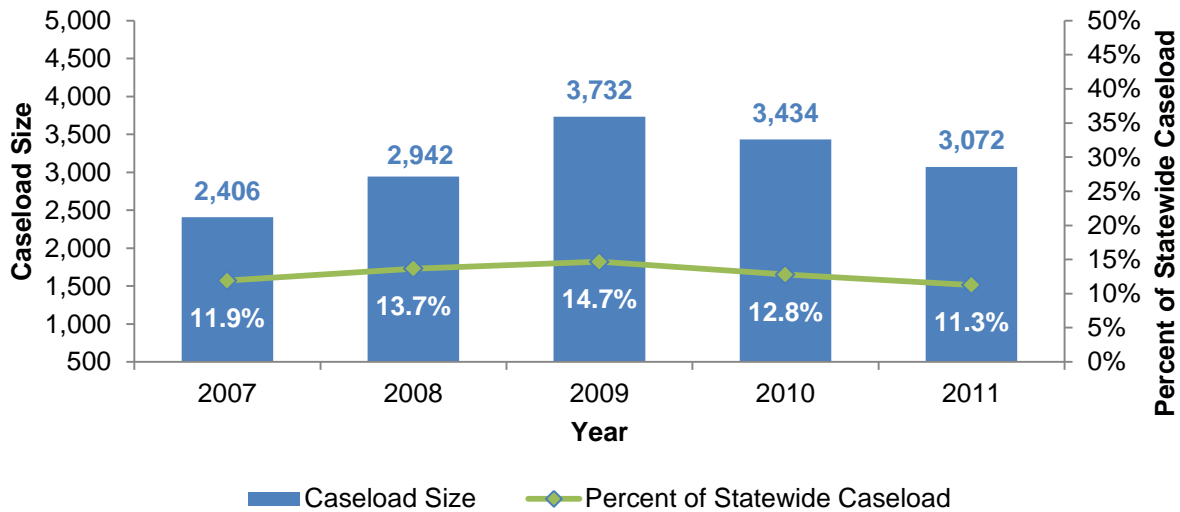
	<b>Prince George's</b>	<b>Maryland</b>
2010 Population	863,420	5,773,552
2011 Poverty Rate	9.3%	8.6%
2010 Median Household Income	\$71,260	\$90,500

## FINDINGS

### Caseload Characteristics

TCA caseloads across Maryland increased since the start of the Great Recession, although the statewide caseload began to decline in 2011. Prince George’s County also experienced some caseload growth, reaching its peak caseload size in 2009 with 3,732 cases, up 55.1% from the 2007 caseload (n=2,406). However, Prince George’s County was one of several jurisdictions that experienced a decline after 2009. In fact, Prince George’s County experienced the largest decline (17.7%), reaching a caseload size of 3,072 in 2011. In 2009, Prince George’s caseload represented 14.7% of the state’s entire caseload, but it was only 11.3% of the state’s caseload in 2011, similar to the 2007 caseload.

**Figure 2. TCA Caseload for Prince George’s County, 2007-2011**



**Note:** The active caseload for this and all other analyses are from October of each year between 2007 and 2011.

The general profile of a Prince George’s County TCA recipient, as displayed in Table 2, was an African American (88.3%) woman (95.7%) who has completed high school but received no additional education (70.6%). She never married (83.8%) and was 36 years old, on average. This profile has not changed between 2007 and 2011, except for a 17 percentage point increase in the percent of caseheads who had never married (67% in 2007). The profile was similar to that of the average TCA recipient in Maryland: an African-American (75.0%) woman (94.4%) who has never married (78.8%) and was in her mid-30s (mean=35.14 years). She was likely to have finished high school (61.8%) but not to have obtained further education (4.6%).

**Table 2. Prince George’s County Payee Demographic Characteristics: 2011 (n=3,072)**

<b>Gender</b>	
% Women	95.7% (2,939)
<b>Race</b>	
% African American <sup>^</sup>	88.3% (2,426)
% Caucasian <sup>^</sup>	2.8% (78)
% Hispanic	8.3% (227)
% Non-Hispanic Other	0.6% (18)
<b>Education</b>	
Finished 12th grade	70.6% (1,922)
Beyond 12th grade	7.3% (199)
<b>Marital Status</b>	
Never married	83.8% (2,361)
<b>Age at Study Month</b>	
Mean [median]	35.92 [32.32]
Range	17.94-85.78

**Note:** <sup>^</sup>=non-Hispanic. Counts may not sum to actual sample size because of missing data for some variables. Some information was excluded to protect recipient confidentiality when the sample was under 10 cases. Valid percentages are reported.

As shown in Table 3, most assistance units were relatively small: over half (58.9%) of all cases contained just one or two recipients, and less than one in five (19.5%) assistance units consisted of four or more people. On average, assistance units had one adult or less (mean=0.68) and two children (mean=1.85). The average age of the youngest child in the assistance unit was six years (mean=5.95). This was consistent with the average case in Maryland, where 57.8% of cases contained just one or two recipients and 19.7% had four or more people. The average age of the youngest child in a Maryland assistance unit was also six years (mean=5.92).

**Table 3. Prince George's County Case Demographic Characteristics: 2011 (n=3,072)**

<b>Size of Assistance Unit (AU)</b>	
1-2 people	58.9% (1,807)
3 people	21.7% (666)
4 or more people	19.5% (599)
Mean [median]	2.52 [2]
<b>Number of Adults in AU</b>	
Mean [median]	0.68 [1]
<b>Number of Children AU</b>	
Mean [median]	1.85 [1]
<b>Age of Youngest Recipient Child</b>	
Mean [median]	5.95 [4.02]
Range	0.02-17.99

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

As presented in Table 4, slightly more than half of the caseload is designated as work-exempt. The only exception to that is in 2009—the same year Prince George's County reached its peak caseload size—in which less than half (46.7%) of the caseload was work-exempt. The largest group among the work-exempt caseload were the child-only cases; however, their proportion of caseload decreased from two-fifths (41.6%) of the caseload in 2007 to one-third (34.4%) in 2011 (compared to a statewide average of 35.6% in 2007 to 29.0% in 2011). While the actual number of child-only cases has increased slightly from 999 cases in 2007 to 1,056 in 2011, its growth (5.7%) has been outpaced by nearly every other caseload designation.

**Table 4. Prince George's County Caseload Designations, 2007-2011\*\*\***

	<b>2007</b> (n=2,406)	<b>2008</b> (n=2,942)	<b>2009</b> (n=3,732)	<b>2010</b> (n=3,434)	<b>2011</b> (n=3,072)
<b>Work-Eligible</b>	<b>45.4% (1,090)</b>	<b>44.8% (1,309)</b>	<b>53.3% (1,990)</b>	<b>49.4% (1,695)</b>	<b>47.5% (1,459)</b>
Single-Parent Cases	41.3% (990)	39.3% (1,147)	47.0% (1,755)	41.7% (1,433)	40.4% (1,240)
Earnings	2.7% (64)	3.5% (102)	3.4% (128)	4.1% (141)	3.8% (118)
Legal Immigrant	0.5% (12)	0.7% (19)	0.9% (32)	1.5% (52)	1.1% (35)
Domestic Violence	-	-	0.4% (16)	0.4% (15)	0.5% (14)
Two-Parent Cases	0.5% (12)	1.1% (33)	1.6% (58)	1.5% (51)	1.6% (49)
<b>Work-Eligible</b>	<b>54.6% (1,309)</b>	<b>55.2% (1,611)</b>	<b>46.7% (1,742)</b>	<b>50.6% (1,793)</b>	<b>52.5% (1,613)</b>
Child-Only	41.6% (999)	38.8% (1,132)	31.8% (1,187)	32.8% (1,126)	34.4% (1,056)
Child Under One	6.5% (157)	9.8% (285)	8.5% (318)	9.9% (341)	9.9% (305)
Long-term Disability	3.3% (78)	4.3% (125)	4.6% (170)	6.1% (209)	5.9% (181)
Caring for Disabled Family Member	1.3% (30)	0.9% (26)	0.8% (29)	0.9% (30)	0.9% (29)
Needy Caretaker	1.9% (45)	1.5% (43)	1.0% (38)	1.0% (34)	1.4% (42)

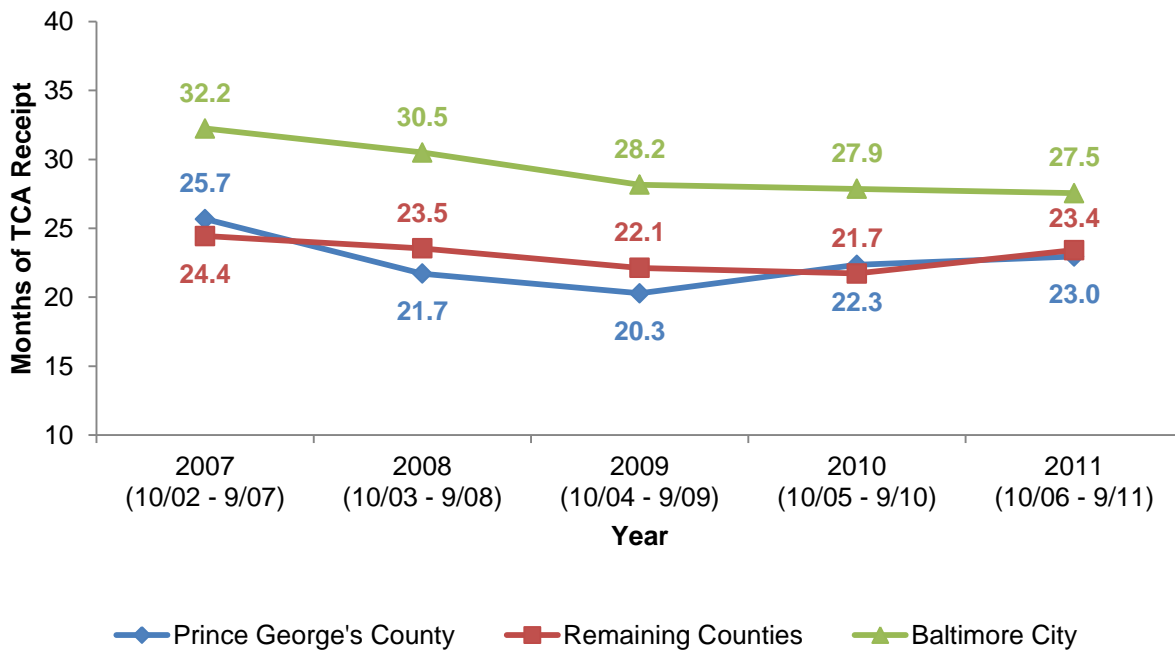
**Note:** Counts may not sum to actual sample size because caseload designations were excluded to protect recipient confidentiality when the sample was under 10 cases. The caseload designation completely excluded was short-term disabled cases. Valid percentages are reported. \*p<.05 \*\*p<.01 \*\*\*p<.001.

For example, Table 4 shows that, among other work-exempt categories, long-term disabled cases have more than doubled and child under one cases have nearly doubled. Among work-eligible cases, legal immigrant and two-parent family cases—state-funded cases—doubled throughout this period. Additionally, earnings cases increased by 84.4%, and single parent cases increased by 25.3%. In fact, single-parent cases were the largest category of cases in 2011, making up two-fifths (40.4%) of the entire caseload, slightly higher than the state average (35.2%).

### TCA Participation

Figure 3 provides the trends in the average number of months of TCA receipt in the last five years for Prince George’s County, Baltimore City, and the remaining 22 counties; statewide figures are excluded since they tend to reflect Baltimore City due its disproportionately large part of the state caseload. In 2007, Prince George’s clients received TCA for an average of 25.7 months in the previous five years (between October 2002 and September 2007). By 2009, Prince George’s clients reached a low of 20.3 months of TCA receipt, on average, in the previous 60 months, which occurred during the peak year for caseload size in the county. This suggests that the 2009 caseload may have been comprised of families who had no or little history of TCA receipt, thereby driving the average down. Nonetheless, as caseload size decreased, the average number of months of TCA receipt increased to 23 months in 2011. The other counties had a similar pattern while Baltimore City saw a continuous decline in TCA receipt.

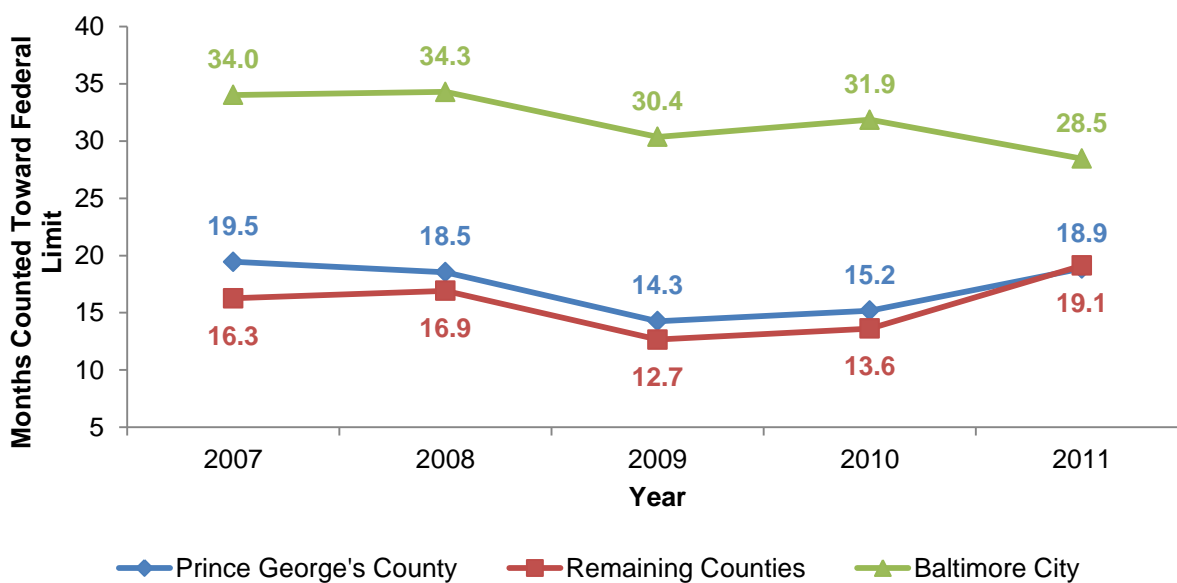
Figure 3. Average Number of Months of TCA in the Previous Five Years: 2007-2011\*\*\*



\*p<.05 \*\*p<.01 \*\*\*p<.001

TCA recipients, with some exceptions, have a 60-month time limit on cash assistance receipt according to federal regulations. However, Maryland does allow for hardship exemptions for cases that require additional months of receipt; statewide, only seven percent of the caseload has received more than 60 months of TCA.<sup>ix</sup> Figure 4 shows the trends in the average number of months counted toward the federal 60-month time limit between 2007 and 2011 for Prince George’s County, the remaining 22 counties, and Baltimore City. In 2007 and 2008, Prince George’s cases accrued close to 20 months of time-limited TCA; this decreased to an average of about 15 months during 2009 and 2010. By 2011, however, Prince George’s cases accrued about 19 months of time-limited TCA receipt. Again, the other counties followed a similar pattern, and Baltimore City continued to see a decrease in months counted toward the federal time limit, decreasing from 34.0 months in 2007 to 28.5 months in 2011.

**Figure 4. Average Number of Months Counted Towards Federal Limit\*\*\***



\*p<.05 \*\*p<.01 \*\*\*p<.001

### **Employment and Wages**

To encourage self-sufficiency, casehead employment is the ultimate goal of welfare, and research has confirmed that cash assistance recipients are not strangers to the world of work.<sup>x</sup> To provide a perspective on employment, Figure 5 compares Prince George’s County, the remaining counties, and Baltimore City on the percent of caseheads who worked in a Maryland UI-covered job in the two years before each study year. Compared to the other counties and Baltimore City, Prince George’s County’s caseheads were less likely to work throughout this period. However, lower employment participation in Prince George’s County may be related to the fact that more than two-fifths (43.0%) of the county’s residents commuted outside of Maryland for employment.<sup>xi</sup> The data provided here only accounts for employment in a Maryland UI-covered job, thereby potentially depressing actual employment participation.

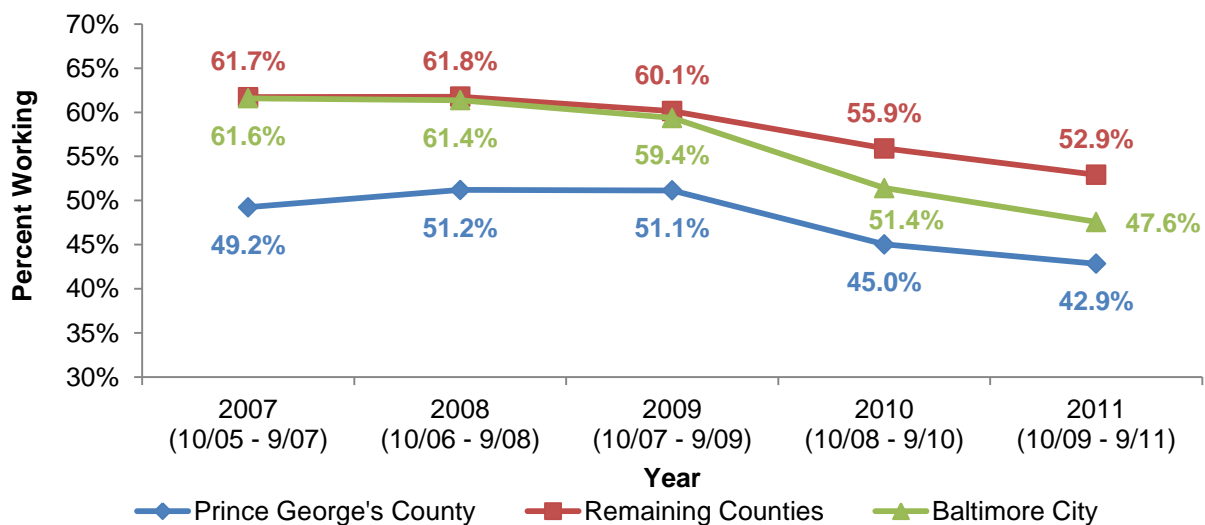
According to Figure 5, however, half (49.2%) of the 2007 caseheads in Prince George’s County worked at some point in the previous two years. About half of the 2008 and 2009 caseheads also worked in the previous two years; however by 2011, just over two-fifths (42.9%) of



caseheads worked. Baltimore City and the other counties also experienced a similar pattern of decline in employment participation, but their declines were larger than Prince George's County. Baltimore City's employment participation declined by 14 percentage points and the other counties' employment participation declined by 8.8 percentage points, compared to 6.3 percentage points in Prince George's County.

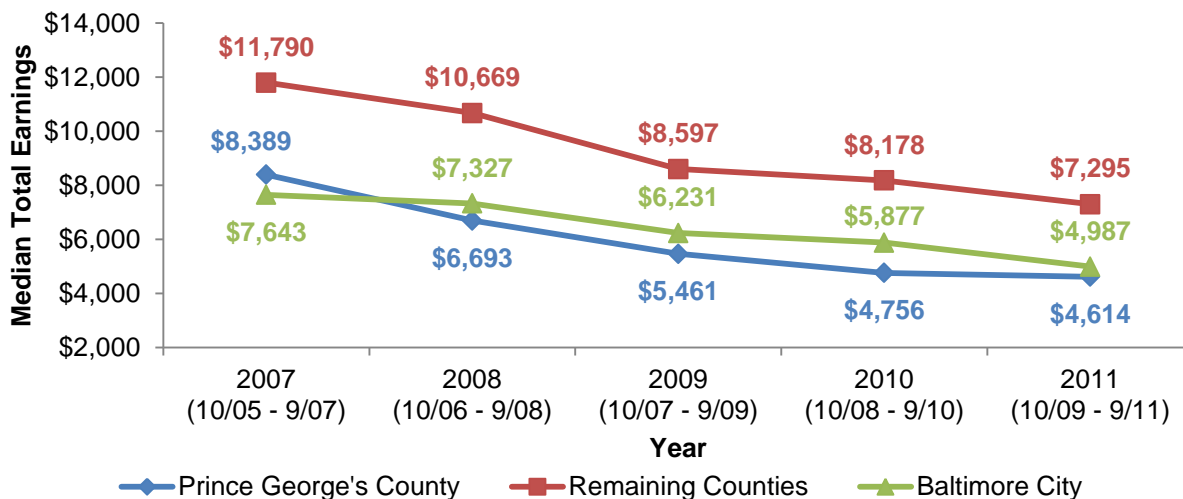
Figure 6 shows median total earnings in the previous two years for each study year for Prince George's County, the remaining counties, and Baltimore City. Working caseheads in Prince George's County, along with Baltimore City and the other counties, experienced a decline in earnings. Caseheads in Prince George's County experienced a larger decline in their two-year median earnings, from \$8,389 in 2007 to \$4,614 in 2011, a 45% decrease. Baltimore City's median earnings declined by 34.8%, and the other counties' median earnings declined by 38.1%.

**Figure 5. Percent of Caseheads Working in the Previous Two Years, 2007-2011\*\*\***



\*p<.05 \*\*p<.01 \*\*\*p<.001

**Figure 6. Median Total Earnings in Previous Two Years, 2007-2011\*\*\***



**Note:** All earning amounts are reported in 2011 dollars. \*p<.05 \*\*p<.01 \*\*\*p<.001

## CONCLUSION

In 2011, Prince George's County's TCA caseload was comprised of African American women about 36 years old with high school diplomas. Cases mostly consisted of one or two people, and the average age of the youngest child was about six years old. This profile was consistent over time. The caseload maintained a nearly even split between work-eligible and work-exempt cases during this period, with slightly more work-exempt cases. Child-only cases had a small increase between 2007 and 2011, while nearly all other caseload categories increased by 25% or more. TCA receipt declined with the peak caseload size in the county, suggesting that some of the new cases had no history with TCA. Employment participation and earnings declined throughout this period, like all other jurisdictions. Employment participation may actually be higher, however, because out-of-state employment is not included in these analyses. For those with employment, Prince George's County caseheads earned slightly less than caseheads throughout the state.

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### Notes and Sources:

<sup>i</sup> Nicoli, L.T., Logan, L., & Born, C.E. (2012). *Life after Welfare: Annual Update*. Baltimore: University of Maryland School of Social Work.

<sup>ii</sup> United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2011, November 22). Regional and state employment and unemployment (monthly) news release. Retrieved from [http://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/laus\\_11222011.htm](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/laus_11222011.htm).

<sup>iii</sup> United States Census Bureau. (2012a). American Community Survey. Available from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>.

<sup>iv</sup> United States Census Bureau. (2012a). American Community Survey. Available from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>.

<sup>v</sup> United States Census Bureau. (2012a). American Community Survey. Available from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>.

<sup>vi</sup> United States Census Bureau. (2012a). American Community Survey. Available from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>.

<sup>vii</sup> The 2011 estimate was available for Prince George's County. However, for comparison the 3 year 2009-2011 estimate was 9.0%.

<sup>viii</sup> United States Census Bureau. (2012b). Poverty thresholds. Available from <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/index.html>.

<sup>ix</sup> Logan, L., Saunders, C., & Born, C.E. (2012). *Welfare Time Limits: Hardship Exemptions in Maryland*. Baltimore: University of Maryland School of Social Work.

<sup>x</sup> Nicoli, L.T., Logan, L., & Born, C.E. (2012). *Life after Welfare: Annual Update*. Baltimore: University of Maryland School of Social Work.

<sup>xi</sup> United States Census Bureau. (2012a). American Community Survey. Available from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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