

Appendix II: State Counts of Capped Children

APPENDIX II

In 16 states, family cap policies have resulted in more than **83,000** children being capped. This figure which is already greater than the current combined total recipient caseloads of Arkansas, Delaware, North Dakota, and Wyoming, most likely significantly understates the number of capped children in the country because:

- # Some family cap states do not count the number of capped children;
- # Some family cap states do not report counts of capped children during the state's entire implementation period;
- # Some family cap states do not count capped children statewide but rather report data from their waiver demonstration, which was limited to certain families;
- # Some states—including California, the state with the largest TANF caseload—have only recently implemented a family cap policy;
- # Many family cap states do not report complete counts of affected children. In these states, capped children who leave welfare are lost to the count. That is, if 100 children were capped in a given year but 40 left the rolls by the time a count was generated, the total count would be reported as 60—the number of capped children in active cases.

Table I includes for each family cap state with data:

- # the type of cap policy operating in the state:
 - typical family cap**: the full increment is denied to newborns,
 - partial family cap**: recipients receive a partial increment (e.g. Connecticut and Florida)
 - voucher**: recipients receive a voucher equal in value to the customary cash increment (except in Indiana which plans to implement a partial voucher), or
 - third party payment**: recipients do not receive the cash increment; it is instead paid to a third party service provider (Maryland).
- # the earliest date a child could be excluded (usually 10 months after the policy inception date to allow a “grace period”);
- # the number of reported children with capped grants; and
- # the reporting period during which this number was generated.

Table II includes for each family cap state without data:

- # the type of cap (including flat grants under which all families generally receive the same cash grant regardless of family size);
- # information explaining why the state is unable to provide data (note that flat grant states were not asked for a count of capped children because the grant amounts allocated to recipient families is universal); and
- # additional information on the state's policy.

TABLE I. State Counts of Children with Capped Grants				
State	Type of policy	Earliest date a child could be excluded	# Children with capped grants	Reporting period (# of months)
Arizona	typical family cap	9/96	3,024*	N/A
Arkansas	typical family cap	5/95	1,800	12
Connecticut	partial family cap	11/96	2,082*	N/A
Delaware	typical family cap	7/96	240	12
Florida	partial family cap	6/97	4,777*	N/A
Georgia	typical family cap	1/96	11,193	29
Illinois	typical family cap	11/96	15,625*	N/A
Indiana	planned voucher	3/96	7,120	2
Maryland	third party payment	8/96	846	13
Massachusetts	typical family cap	9/96	3,500*	N/A
Mississippi	typical family cap	9/96	2,207	17
New Jersey	typical family cap	5/93	28,000	60
North Carolina	typical family cap	5/97	163*	N/A
South Carolina	voucher	8/97	870	9
Tennessee	typical family cap	8/97	9	2
Virginia	typical family cap	5/96	2,307	21
Total			83,763	

* Includes only active cases at the point in time at which the count was generated. (Other states also may follow this practice.)

Source: CLASP 1998 survey of states with child exclusion policies.

TABLE II. States without Counts of Children with Capped Grants

State	Type of Policy	Why State Has No Data	Comment
California	typical family cap	recent inception date	The effective date was August 1, 1997, for families informed 12 months earlier.
Idaho	flat grant	all families receive a “flat” grant	A maximum grant of \$276 is provided to all families regardless of the family’s size (unless the family earns additional income; then the grant is prorated).
Nebraska	typical family cap	no data tracking	While no formal tracking has been undertaken, 11 children were counted as being denied benefits from September to December, 1996, and fewer than 20 children were counted in FY1998.
North Dakota	typical family cap	recent inception date	The introduction date and effective date are the same—July 1, 1998. Recipients were notified of the cap policy 10 months before it was introduced.
Oklahoma	voucher	recent inception date	The effective date is July 1, 1998. Capped children receive vouchers equal to the customary incremental grant increase.
Wisconsin	flat grant	all families receive a “flat” grant	The flat grant amount is predetermined by the work category (e.g., community service jobs, transitional placements) to which each recipient is assigned rather than the number of members included in the family assistance unit.
Wyoming	modified family cap	no data tracking	In Wyoming, the cap applies to newborns, children, and older persons added to the grant after the ten-month grace period, but the state does not track the number of persons who were capped.

Source: CLASP 1998 survey of states with child exclusion policies.