



Changes to Missouri’s TANF Cash Assistance Program Result in 60% Decline in Missouri Children & Families Assisted

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) provides a modest cash benefit to Missouri families with children who earn less than \$18,780 per year for a family of three. Unlike other safety net services, cash assistance allows families to pay for basic necessities, such as toothpaste, diapers, and gas. The flexibility of cash helps families afford unexpected or irregular expenses like their children’s school supplies or medication. **Currently, cash assistance helps support fewer than 10,000 Missouri families per month with an average monthly benefit of just \$223 per family.**

The number of families receiving cash assistance in Missouri has declined by 60% since 2015. While a portion of the decline in enrollment results from improvement in the economy, a sudden drop occurred immediately after the implementation of Senate Bill 24 (SB 24). The decline in enrollment during the period between December 2015-July 2016 (or the first 6 months following implementation of SB24) accounts for approximately 70% of the total statewide decline in enrollment since December 2015.

Senate Bill 24: Implemented January 1 2016

- **Decreased the lifetime limit** that families could receive assistance from 60 months to 45 months
- **Implemented full-family sanctions**, meaning that if one family member is non-compliant with eligibility rules, the entire family (including children) loses cash assistance, as opposed to just the member who is non-compliant¹.

SB 24 was implemented January 1, 2016 and by July of 2016 nearly 29,000 Missourians (nearly 2/3 of whom were children) lost cash assistance. This accounted for nearly half of all TANF recipients in Missouri.

**Drop in TANF Consumers
Since SB 24 Implementation
Dec 2015**



Between December 2015 and December 2018,
25,303 children and nearly 15,000 families lost
TANF cash assistance, a decline of 60%

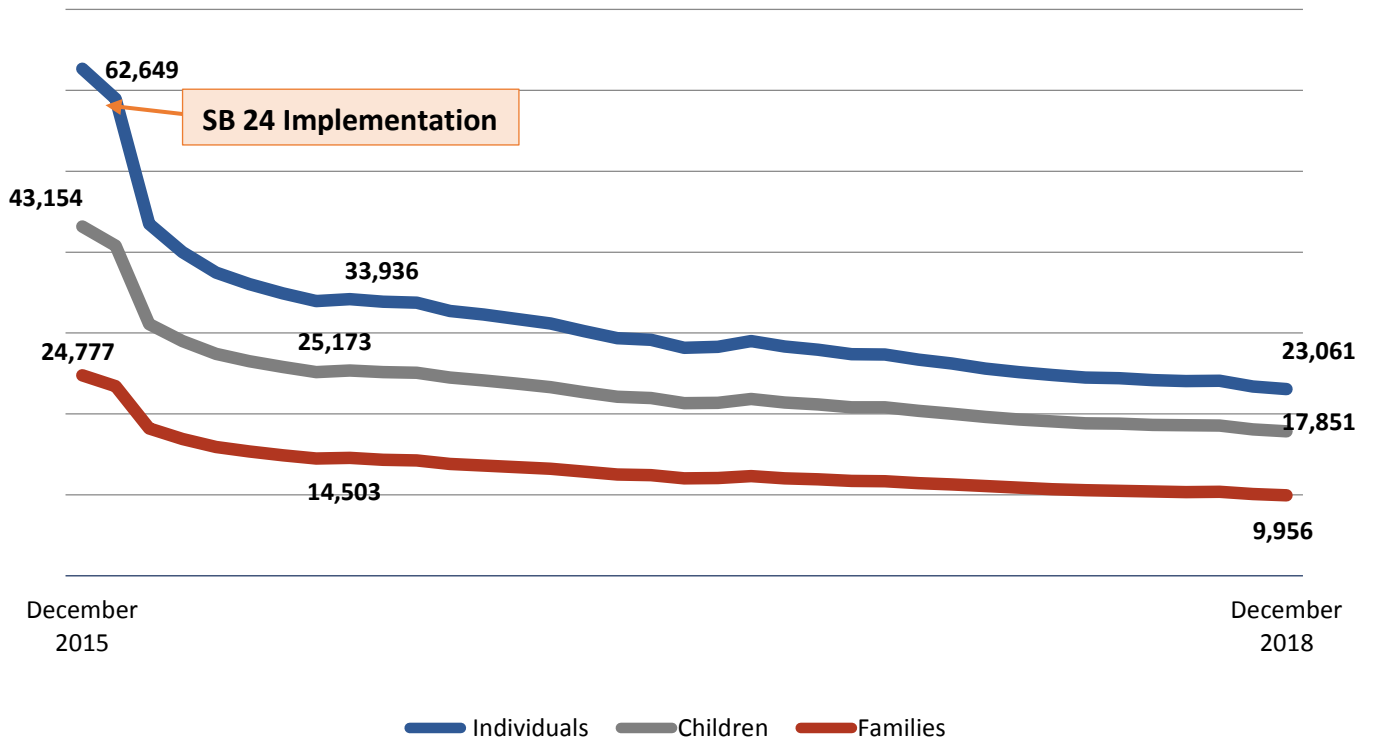
Missouri TANF Enrollment: Pre & Post SB24				
	December 2015	July 2016	Change Dec. -July	
			Number	Percent Change
Families	24,777	14,503	-10,274	-41.5%
Individuals	62,649	33,936	-28,713	-45.8%
Children	43,154	25,173	-17,981	-41.7%

¹ A person is considered non-compliant if they fail to report at least 20 hours per week of work activity. Acceptable work activities include employment, job training, education, and volunteer service.

The bulk of this decline occurred between January and February 2016. Over 15,000 Missourians (including over 5,000 families and 9,500 children) lost assistance during this period. This is a 26% drop in enrollment in just one month. By contrast, the decline in enrollment for the same period in 2017 was only 1.8%.

As shown in Appendix 1, the decline in enrollment has been felt across Missouri with the largest declines occurring primarily in Missouri’s rural counties.

Total Individuals, Children, & Families Receiving Cash Assistance December 2015 - December 2018



Source: Missouri Department of Social Services, "Family Support Division, MO HealthNet Division, Monthly Management Report"

Appendix 1: Persons Receiving Cash Assistance By County

	December 2015		July 2016		% Change Dec. 2015-July 2016		December 2018		% Change Dec. 2015-Dec. 2018	
	Families	Children	Families	Children	Families	Children	Families	Children	Families	Children
Statewide	24,777	43,154	14,500	25,173	-41%	-42%	9,956	17,851	-60%	-59%
Adair	70	112	48	77	-31%	-31%	20	34	-71%	-70%
Andrew	38	70	18	35	-53%	-50%	9	15	-76%	-79%
Atchison	6	8	5	6	-17%	-25%	4	8	-33%	0%
Audrain	82	145	77	127	-6%	-12%	41	77	-50%	-47%
Barry	141	247	98	170	-30%	-31%	66	117	-53%	-53%
Barton	50	78	26	46	-48%	-41%	18	29	-64%	-63%
Bates	55	102	30	55	-45%	-46%	15	26	-73%	-75%
Benton	95	157	57	91	-40%	-42%	37	66	-61%	-58%
Bollinger	59	100	36	63	-39%	-37%	22	37	-63%	-63%
Boone	520	899	341	598	-34%	-33%	265	477	-49%	-47%
Buchanan	510	928	279	520	-45%	-44%	168	296	-67%	-68%
Butler	335	551	178	286	-47%	-48%	119	207	-64%	-62%
Caldwell	23	56	14	33	-39%	-41%	12	30	-48%	-46%
Callaway	166	300	95	141	-43%	-53%	62	106	-63%	-65%
Camden	107	177	68	108	-36%	-39%	46	79	-57%	-55%
Cape Girardeau	331	611	187	327	-44%	-46%	129	238	-61%	-61%
Carroll	41	65	29	51	-29%	-22%	15	22	-63%	-66%
Carter	31	51	21	38	-32%	-25%	11	22	-65%	-57%
Cass	264	463	135	229	-49%	-51%	84	140	-68%	-70%
Cedar	61	104	43	73	-30%	-30%	37	60	-39%	-42%
Chariton	16	31	9	15	-44%	-52%	5	6	-69%	-81%
Christian	140	238	88	144	-37%	-39%	77	125	-45%	-47%
Clark	15	29	12	26	-20%	-10%	7	13	-53%	-55%
Clay	404	711	238	390	-41%	-45%	181	317	-55%	-55%

Clinton	55	98	32	55	-42%	-44%	14	26	-75%	-73%
Cole	252	454	162	300	-36%	-34%	123	222	-51%	-51%
Cooper	52	95	31	55	-40%	-42%	18	26	-65%	-73%
Crawford	148	270	76	129	-49%	-52%	70	118	-53%	-56%
Dade	18	28	16	27	-11%	-4%	10	20	-44%	-29%
Dallas	79	131	41	64	-48%	-51%	28	46	-65%	-65%
Daviess	32	44	19	32	-41%	-27%	12	24	-63%	-45%
De Kalb	14	20	12	27	-14%	35%	8	14	-43%	-30%
Dent	101	172	55	104	-46%	-40%	40	60	-60%	-65%
Douglas	62	119	28	53	-55%	-55%	18	40	-71%	-66%
Dunklin	422	806	283	518	-33%	-36%	158	306	-63%	-62%
Franklin	330	565	179	306	-46%	-46%	135	237	-59%	-58%
Gasconade	30	51	20	34	-33%	-33%	11	17	-63%	-67%
Gentry	7	15	4	7	-43%	-53%	2	3	-71%	-80%
Greene	900	1,489	542	861	-40%	-42%	415	706	-54%	-53%
Grundy	37	62	30	49	-19%	-21%	17	23	-54%	-63%
Harrison	30	53	26	48	-13%	-9%	18	33	-40%	-38%
Henry	99	160	76	125	-23%	-22%	39	64	-61%	-60%
Hickory	37	61	15	21	-59%	-66%	17	28	-54%	-54%
Holt	7	9	4	4	-43%	-56%	1	2	-86%	-78%
Howard	35	57	18	27	-49%	-53%	12	20	-66%	-65%
Howell	279	485	164	273	-41%	-44%	107	185	-62%	-62%
Iron	68	106	29	41	-57%	-61%	17	25	-75%	-76%
Jackson	3,853	7,118	2,237	4,147	-42%	-42%	1,505	2,855	-61%	-60%
Jasper	448	855	255	485	-43%	-43%	222	421	-50%	-51%
Jefferson	583	998	256	435	-56%	-56%	192	344	-67%	-66%
Johnson	89	151	57	95	-36%	-37%	35	59	-61%	-61%
Knox	10	14	2	3	-80%	-79%	1	5	-90%	-64%
Laclede	211	366	115	204	-45%	-44%	81	145	-62%	-60%
Lafayette	87	153	51	76	-41%	-50%	40	69	-54%	-55%
Lawrence	133	225	70	124	-47%	-45%	57	112	-57%	-50%

Lewis	24	38	16	29	-33%	-24%	22	40	-8%	5%
Lincoln	230	396	123	213	-47%	-46%	91	152	-60%	-62%
Linn	50	87	25	40	-50%	-54%	27	44	-46%	-49%
Livingston	43	71	20	36	-53%	-49%	16	27	-63%	-62%
Macon	35	54	21	32	-40%	-41%	18	25	-49%	-54%
Madison	70	134	45	78	-36%	-42%	32	58	-54%	-57%
Maries	21	43	10	19	-52%	-56%	9	18	-57%	-58%
Marion	139	256	81	149	-42%	-42%	70	114	-50%	-55%
McDonald	88	169	64	139	-27%	-18%	44	85	-50%	-50%
Mercer	8	14	8	15	0%	7%	4	6	-50%	-57%
Miller	94	159	62	97	-34%	-39%	46	71	-51%	-55%
Mississippi	124	214	79	154	-36%	-28%	48	87	-61%	-59%
Moniteau	38	64	26	47	-32%	-27%	16	36	-58%	-44%
Monroe	26	51	18	33	-31%	-35%	10	17	-62%	-67%
Montgomery	47	76	27	46	-43%	-39%	22	41	-53%	-46%
Morgan	78	119	39	62	-50%	-48%	44	77	-44%	-35%
New Madrid	154	252	89	140	-42%	-44%	69	124	-55%	-51%
Newton	180	320	103	193	-43%	-40%	78	135	-57%	-58%
Nodaway	31	56	15	21	-52%	-63%	6	11	-81%	-80%
Oregon	60	122	48	97	-20%	-20%	23	46	-62%	-62%
Osage	24	36	11	17	-54%	-53%	9	13	-63%	-64%
Ozark	43	71	21	37	-51%	-48%	17	30	-60%	-58%
Pemiscot	256	463	142	253	-45%	-45%	103	194	-60%	-58%
Perry	54	99	24	35	-56%	-65%	16	33	-70%	-67%
Pettis	223	427	154	297	-31%	-30%	89	197	-60%	-54%
Phelps	163	273	72	121	-56%	-56%	61	103	-63%	-62%
Pike	53	92	46	76	-13%	-17%	23	48	-57%	-48%
Platte	143	252	71	134	-50%	-47%	67	107	-53%	-58%
Polk	97	179	55	93	-43%	-48%	50	87	-48%	-51%
Pulaski	139	236	80	141	-42%	-40%	72	122	-48%	-48%
Putnam	21	43	8	17	-62%	-60%	7	10	-67%	-77%

Ralls	24	36	20	32	-17%	-11%	12	22	-50%	-39%
Randolph	153	267	91	166	-41%	-38%	50	87	-67%	-67%
Ray	67	120	45	76	-33%	-37%	25	47	-63%	-61%
Reynolds	32	53	12	16	-63%	-70%	9	17	-72%	-68%
Ripley	121	219	75	130	-38%	-41%	40	69	-67%	-68%
Saline	101	187	60	107	-41%	-43%	46	78	-54%	-58%
Schuyler	11	17	9	12	-18%	-29%	5	7	-55%	-59%
Scotland	12	17	8	11	-33%	-35%	5	11	-58%	-35%
Scott	349	594	224	394	-36%	-34%	162	279	-54%	-53%
Shannon	48	81	34	64	-29%	-21%	21	41	-56%	-49%
Shelby	15	30	4	6	-73%	-80%	7	14	-53%	-53%
St Charles	453	798	281	480	-38%	-40%	188	337	-58%	-58%
St Clair	30	64	16	36	-47%	-44%	16	38	-47%	-41%
St Francois	416	695	239	406	-43%	-42%	166	277	-60%	-60%
St Louis City	3,495	5,849	2,054	3,517	-41%	-40%	1,158	2,040	-67%	-65%
St Louis County	3,311	5,491	1,872	3,118	-43%	-43%	1,396	2,513	-58%	-54%
Ste Genevieve	46	72	30	53	-35%	-26%	25	39	-46%	-46%
Stoddard	143	246	87	146	-39%	-41%	65	92	-55%	-63%
Stone	74	131	47	71	-36%	-46%	27	46	-64%	-65%
Sullivan	19	36	17	29	-11%	-19%	8	19	-58%	-47%
Taney	130	209	91	159	-30%	-24%	68	131	-48%	-37%
Texas	142	255	83	135	-42%	-47%	58	113	-59%	-56%
Vernon	93	165	57	85	-39%	-48%	44	86	-53%	-48%
Warren	135	258	89	157	-34%	-39%	56	103	-59%	-60%
Washington	203	335	120	189	-41%	-44%	85	135	-58%	-60%
Wayne	74	127	33	60	-55%	-53%	28	54	-62%	-57%
Webster	126	233	89	157	-29%	-33%	48	85	-62%	-64%
Worth	1	2	2	6	100%	200%	2	3	100%	50%
Wright	129	238	71	116	-45%	-51%	44	82	-66%	-66%