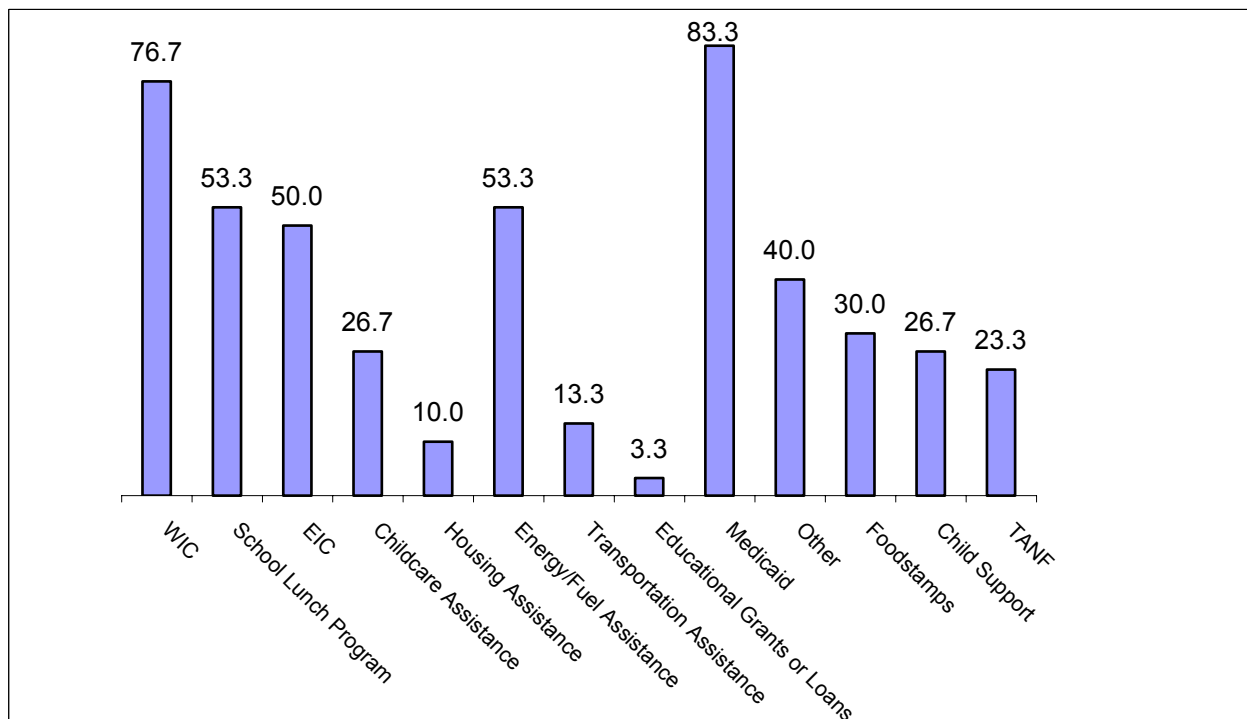


A Profile of New York Rural Families

Thirty families in two rural counties in New York participated in the Rural Families Speak project. All interviews took place in either the families' homes, a community center, places of work, and a relative's home. The main method of contact was through a local extension office. Each family was given a food gift certificate for their participation in the interview.

The average New York rural family size was about 5.0 members with an average total monthly income, not including food stamps, of \$1,528.82 or \$18,345.84 annually. According to the 2000 Federal Poverty Guidelines, the annual income for a family of five at 100% of poverty was \$1,662.50 monthly or \$19,950 annually. The number of children ranged from 1 to 7 with an average of about 3.0 children. The average age of the youngest child was about 2 years old. The chart below highlights the percentage of New York rural families that responded yes to receiving various types of assistance.



Ninety percent (90.0%) of the mothers were non-Hispanic White, 3.3% were African American and 6.7% were multi-racial. The average age of the mothers was about 29.0 years old. The marital status of the mothers varied with 6.7% single, 53.3% married, 26.7% living with a partner, 6.7% divorced, and 6.7% separated. Ninety-six percent of the partners were Non-Hispanic White and one partner was Multi-racial. The average age of partners was 31.6 years old.

The educational levels of the mothers that participated in the study varied with 3.3% holding a college or university degree, 16.7% having some college or an associates degree, 13.3% having specialized technical, business or vocational training, 46.7% with a high school

diploma or GED and 20.0% with some high school or less. The educational level of the partners also varied with 4.0% holding a degree from a college or university, 36.0% having some college or an associate's degree, 8.0% having a specialized technical, business or vocational training, 24.0% having a high school diploma or GED, 24.0% having some high school and 4.0% having an 8th grade education or less.

The level of work participation for these rural New York families was as follows: Fifty percent (50.0%) of mothers were currently working at time of the interview and none were students. Of all the mothers, four reported as currently looking for work. All of the mothers interviewed had worked for pay at one point in their lives and started their first paying job at an average of about 16.0 years old.

Of the fifteen mothers that were working, 92.9% had one job and 7.1% held two jobs. Thirteen percent (13.3%) of the mothers worked as laborers and helpers, 60.0% of the mothers worked in service-oriented jobs, 20.0% worked in administrative support, and 6.7% worked in sales. The average total number of hours worked per week for jobs held by the mothers interviewed was 30.7 hours.

Eighty percent (80.0%) of partners were currently working at time of the interview and none of the partners were students. One additional partner was a seasonal worker who was not working at the time of the interview. Similar to the mothers, the employment of the partners varied. Eighteen of the working partners held one job; one held the seasonal position and two held two jobs. Nineteen percent (19.0%) of the partners worked in transportation, 19.0% worked in production, 19.0% in construction, 23.8% in mechanics, 4.8% in the service industry and 14.3% worked in sales related positions. The average wage for partners' job was \$10.44 and the average number of hours worked was 47.9 hours per week. The average length that the partner had been at their current job was 66.7 months.

For many rural families, housing can be the largest monthly expense. Of these rural New York families, 43.3% of the families rented their place of residence, while 30.0% owned their own home and 26.7% did something other than rent or own.

In terms of childcare care arrangements, 46.7% had some type of childcare arrangement each week. Almost thirty-seven percent (36.7%) of families had one arrangement, 6.7% of families had two arrangements, and 3.3% of families had three childcare arrangements.

When asked about the types of food eaten in this household, according to Food Security Module created by the USDA, 36.7% were considered food insecure with hunger, 23.3% were food insecure without hunger, 10.0% were marginally food secure, and 30.0% were food secure.

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