

CHAPTER III: PROFILE OF THE ABAWD LEAVERS

This chapter provides a demographic profile of the ABAWD leavers in the 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 samples. The chapter examines the following characteristics: gender, ethnicity, age, education, marital status, and household composition. Cross-tabulations of these variables are also presented. In addition, comparisons are drawn between the respondents from the three types of counties:

- counties exempt under the 15 percent provision;
- counties exempt due to unemployment; and
- non-exempt counties.

Data on the gender, ethnicity and age of the sample members are derived from administrative records and are presented for all persons in the two samples. For this chapter, the age of the respondent is based on the date when they left Food Stamps. In later chapters, age is based on the date of the survey. All of the data on the 1998-1999 leavers are weighted to adjust for the stratified sample design. Data on education and household composition are derived from the surveys and are presented only for persons who responded. The data on the 1999-2000 leavers are not weighted because the sample represents the universe of cases.

A. Objectives of the Analysis

The chapter is designed largely to present a descriptive profile of the ABAWD population. In addition, data on such variables as education and age have implications in terms of potential barriers that ABAWDs may face in the job market. Information on household composition is useful for understanding the support system that ABAWDs may have after they leave the Food Stamps program.

B. Gender, Ethnicity, Age and Education of the Respondents

Gender by Type of County

- Exhibit III-1 provides data on the gender of the sample members in the three types of counties.
- As indicated in the exhibit, males accounted for 59 percent of the 1998-1999 sample, while females accounted for about 41 percent. Females accounted for 44 percent of the 1999-2000 sample, while males represented 56 percent.
- In the 1998-1999 sample, the distribution of cases by gender was approximately the same in the counties exempt under the 15 percent rule as in the non-exempt counties. The percentage of females was slightly lower in the counties exempt due to unemployment. The same general pattern was found for the 1999-2000 sample.

**Exhibit III-1
Gender of the Sample Members, by Type of County**

1998-1999 Leavers				
Gender	Exempt - 15 Percent (N=131)	Exempt – Unemployment (N=201)	Non-Exempt (N=312)	Total (N=644)
Female	42.0%	38.3%	41.7%	40.7%
Male	58.0%	61.7%	58.3%	59.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
1999-2000 Leavers				
Gender	Exempt – 15 Percent (N=123)	Exempt – Unemployment (N=218)	Non-Exempt (N=312)	Total (N=653)
Female	45.5%	40.8%	46.2%	44.3%
Male	54.5%	59.2%	53.8%	55.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Ethnicity by Type of County

- Exhibit III-2 provides data on the ethnicity of the sample members in the three types of counties.
- As indicated in the exhibit, about 78 percent of the 1998-1999 sample members were black, and 21 percent were white. White respondents represented almost 82 percent of the cases from the counties exempt under the 15 percent provision, compared to 72 percent of the cases from the non-exempt counties.
- Among the 1999-2000 sample, blacks represented a slightly smaller percentage of the sample than in the 1998-1999 sample – almost 75 percent, while whites accounted for about 25 percent.
- In the 1999-2000 sample, blacks made up almost 83 percent of the cases in counties exempt under the 15 percent provision, compared to 67 percent of the cases in the non-exempt counties.

**Exhibit III-2
Ethnicity of the Sample Members, by Type of County**

	1998-1999 Leavers			
Ethnicity	Exempt – 15 Percent (N = 131)	Exempt – Unemployment (N=201)	Non-Exempt (N = 312)	Total (N = 644)
Black	81.7%	84.6%	72.1%	78.0%
White	16.0%	14.9%	26.6%	20.8%
Other	2.3%	0.5%	1.3%	1.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	1999-2000 Leavers			
Ethnicity	Exempt – 15 Percent (N = 123)	Exempt – Unemployment (N=218)	Non-Exempt (N = 312)	Total (N = 653)
Black	82.9%	81.2%	66.7%	74.6%
White	17.1%	17.4%	32.4%	24.5%
Other	0.0%	1.4%	0.1%	0.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Age by Type of County

- Exhibit III-3 presents data on the age distribution of the sample members by type of county.
- As indicated in the exhibit, 70 percent of the 1998-1999 sample members were aged 18-24. In the 1999-2000 sample, this percentage was somewhat lower at 63 percent.
- In the 1998-1999 sample, 18-24 year olds accounted for almost 72 percent of the cases in counties exempt under the 15 percent provision, compared to 66 percent of the cases in the non-exempt counties. Persons aged 40 and older accounted for relatively few of the cases in the counties exempt due to high unemployment.
- In the 1999-2000 sample, there was little difference in age distribution of the cases between the counties exempt under the 15 percent provision and the non-exempt counties.

**Exhibit III-3
Age of Sample Members When They Left Food Stamps, by Type of County**

	1998-1999 Leavers			
Age	Exempt – 15 Percent (N = 131)	Exempt – Unemployment (N=201)	Non-Exempt (N = 312)	Total (N = 644)
18-24	71.8%	76.1%	66.0%	70.3%
25-29	3.8%	10.0%	9.0%	8.2%
30-34	3.8%	5.5%	6.7%	5.7%
35-39	7.6%	4.0%	6.7%	6.1%
40+	13.0%	4.5%	11.5%	9.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	1999-2000 Leavers			
Age	Exempt – 15 Percent (N = 123)	Exempt – Unemployment (n=218)	Non-Exempt (N = 312)	Total (N = 653)
18-24	61.0%	66.1%	61.2%	62.8%
25-29	11.4%	10.1%	11.5%	11.0%
30-34	7.3%	7.3%	7.4%	7.4%
35-39	10.6%	6.4%	7.1%	7.5%
40+	9.8%	10.1%	12.8%	11.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Detailed Breakout of Data on 18-24 Year Olds

- Exhibit III-4 presents more detailed data on the age distribution of the sample members aged 18-24, while combining the data for older persons.
- The data show that 30 percent of the 1998-1999 sample members and almost 32 percent of the 1999-2000 sample members were aged 18-19.
- However, a much higher percentage of 1999-2000 sample members (15.2 percent) were aged 18 than 1998-1999 sample members (6.7 percent).
- In the 1998-1999 sample, persons aged 18-19 accounted for 29 percent of sample members from counties exempt under the 15 percent provision, and for 32 percent of the cases in non-exempt counties. In the 1999-2000 sample, the percentages were 32.5 percent and 33.0 percent, respectively.
- These findings indicate that there was not much difference between the exempt and non-exempt counties in terms of the percentage of very young ABAWDs.

Exhibit III-4 Specific Ages of the Sample Members When They Left Food Stamps

Age	1998-1999 Leavers				1999-2000 Leavers			
	Exempt-15 Percent	Exempt-Unemployment	Non-Exempt	Total	Exempt-15 Percent	Exempt-Unemployment	Non-Exempt	Total
18	6.1%	5.5%	8.0%	6.7%	18.7%	12.8%	15.4%	15.2%
19	22.3%	23.9%	24.2%	23.7%	13.8%	16.5%	17.6%	16.5%
20	17.8%	19.4%	16.4%	17.8%	13.0%	14.2%	8.7%	11.3%
21	15.6%	10.5%	7.3%	10.3%	4.9%	8.7%	8.0%	7.7%
22	3.6%	10.0%	3.0%	5.6%	4.1%	4.6%	5.4%	4.9%
23	2.0%	4.0%	4.1%	3.8%	2.4%	6.4%	2.2%	3.7%
24	2.0%	3.0%	2.2%	2.4%	4.1%	2.8%	3.8%	3.5%
25+	29.7%	23.8%	34.7%	29.7%	39.0%	33.9%	38.8%	37.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Discussion of the Data on Age Distribution

- The data on age distribution suggest that relatively few of the persons in the non-exempt counties in the 1998-1999 sample became ABAWDs as a result of turning 18. Under the ABAWD provisions, a minor child living in a household could become an ABAWD simply by turning 18. Only 8 percent of the non-exempt sample were 18 when they left Food Stamps.
- In the 1999-2000 sample, however, as many as 15.4 percent of the sample members may have become ABAWDs as a result of turning 18.

Age by Gender

- Exhibit III-5 presents data on the age distribution of the sample members by gender.
- As shown in the exhibit, almost 15 percent of the females in the 1998-1999 sample were 40 or older when they left Food Stamps, compared to only 6.2 percent of the males.
- A somewhat similar pattern was found for the 1999-2000 sample.

**Exhibit III-5
Age of Survey Sample Members by Gender**

	1998-1999 Leavers		
Age	Female (N = 262)	Male (N = 382)	Total (N = 644)
18-24	72.3%	68.9%	70.3%
25-29	4.7%	10.8%	8.2%
30-34	4.0%	6.9%	5.7%
35-39	4.4%	7.2%	6.1%
40+	14.6%	6.2%	9.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	1999-2000 Leavers		
Age	Female (N = 289)	Male (N = 364)	Total (N = 653)
18-24	65.7%	60.4%	62.8%
25-29	8.3%	13.2%	11.0%
30-34	5.9%	8.5%	7.4%
35-39	6.6%	8.2%	7.5%
40+	13.5%	9.6%	11.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Education by Type of County

- Exhibit III-6 presents data on the educational level of the survey respondents by type of county.
- The data show that a large percentage of the 1998-1999 survey respondents (57.2 percent) had not completed high school, and that only 5.6 percent had attended a two-year or four-year college. The same general pattern was found for the 1999-2000 respondents – about 50 percent had not completed high school.
- In the 1998-1999 sample, about 62 percent of the respondents from counties exempt under the 15 percent provision had not completed high school, compared to 51 percent of the respondents from counties exempt due to unemployment and 59 percent of the respondents from non-exempt counties.
- Among 1999-2000 respondents, however, persons from the non-exempt counties were slightly more likely to have dropped out of high school (51 percent) than persons from counties exempt under the 15 percent provision. Overall, however, there was not much difference between the exempt and non-exempt counties in the educational level of respondents.

**Exhibit III-6
Educational Level of Survey Respondents**

	1998-1999 Leavers			
Education	Exempt -15 Percent (N = 66)	Exempt- Unemployment (N=79)	Non-Exempt (N = 140)	Total (N = 285)
Did not complete high school	62.1%	50.6%	58.6%	57.2%
Completed high school only	34.8%	43.0%	35.0%	37.2%
Attended college	3.0%*	6.3%*	6.4%*	5.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	1999-2000 Leavers			
Education	Exempt – 15 Percent (N = 54)	Exempt- Unemployment (N=97)	Non-Exempt (N = 132)	Total (N = 283)
Did not complete high school	42.6%	50.5%	51.5%	49.5%
Completed high school only	48.1%	41.2%	36.4%	40.3%
Attended college	9.3%	8.2%	12.1%	10.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* N < 10

Education by Gender

- Exhibit III-7 presents data on education by the gender of respondents. Due to the small number of respondents who had attended college, this exhibit, as well as all subsequent exhibits that present data on education, combine persons who had attended college with persons who had completed high school only. This combined group is referred to as “completed high school.”
- The data indicate that female respondents were much more likely to have completed high school than male respondents. About two-thirds of the males in the 1998-1999 sample had not completed high school, compared to only 48 percent of the females.
- Among the 1999-2000 sample, 52 percent of males had not completed high school, compared to only 47.5 percent of females.
- Separate data for 1998-1999 respondents show that females (8.3 percent) were more likely to have attended college than males (2.8 percent).

**Exhibit III-7
Educational Level by Gender***

	1998-1999 Leavers		
Education	Female (N = 141)	Male (N = 142)	Total (N = 283)
Did not complete high school	48.1%	66.2%	57.2%
Completed high school	51.9%	33.5%	42.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	1999-2000 Leavers		
Education	Female (N = 160)	Male (N = 123)	Total (N = 283)
Did not complete high school	47.5%	52.0%	49.5%
Completed high school	52.5%	48.0%	50.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*In this and subsequent exhibits involving education, persons who attended college are combined with persons who completed high school only

Education by Ethnicity

- Exhibit III-8 indicates that blacks were much more likely than whites to have completed high school.
- Among the 1998-1999 sample, almost 70 percent of whites had not completed high school, compared to only 54 percent of blacks. In the 1999-2000 sample, 55 percent of whites were high school drop-outs, compared to 48 percent of blacks.

**Exhibit III-8
Educational Level of Respondents by Ethnicity**

	1998-1999 Leavers	
Education	Black (N = 228)	White (N = 55)
Did not complete high school	54.0%	69.8%
Completed high school	46.0%	30.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%
	1999-2000 Leavers	
Education	Black (N = 221)	White (N = 60)
Did not complete high school	48.0%	55.0%
Completed high school	52.0%	45.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

C. Household Composition

- The information on household composition was obtained from the surveys and is provided only for the survey respondents.

Presence of Other Adults in the Household by Type of County

- Exhibit III-9 indicates that in both samples, a large percentage of respondents (almost 66 percent) were living with at least one other adult.
- Among the 1998-1999 sample, the percentage of respondents who were living with other adults was slightly higher (almost 70 percent) in counties exempt under the 15 percent provision than in non-exempt counties (64 percent).
- Among the 1999-2000 respondents, there was not much difference between the two types of counties. However, persons from counties exempt due to unemployment were more likely than other respondents to be living with another adult (73 percent).

**Exhibit III-9
Percent of Respondents Living With Other Adults,
by Type of County**

	1998-1999 Leavers			
Number of Other Adults	Exempt – 15 Percent (N = 66)	Exempt- Unemployment (N=79)	Non-Exempt (N = 140)	Total (N = 285)
None	30.3%	34.2%	36.4%	34.4%
One or more	69.7%	65.8%	63.6%	65.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	1999-2000 Leavers			
Number of Other Adults	Exempt – 15 Percent (N = 54)	Exempt – Unemployment (N=97)	Non-Exempt (N = 132)	Total (N = 283)
None	37.0%	26.8%	38.6%	34.3%
One or more	63.0%	73.2%	61.4%	65.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Presence of Spouses/Partners by Type of County

- Exhibit III-10 indicates that almost 16 percent of all 1998-1999 respondents were living with a spouse or partner.

- As indicated previously in Exhibit III-9, almost 66 percent of all 1998-1999 respondents reported that they were living with another adult. Subtracting the 16 percent who were living with a spouse or partner, we find that about half of all 1998-1999 respondents were living with other adults who were not spouses or partners.
- Of the 1999-2000 sample, 15.2 percent were living with a spouse or partner. Subtracting this from the 65.7 percent who were living with another adult, we find that about 50 percent were living with an adult who was not a spouse or partner.
- For the younger respondents, it is likely that these other adults were mostly their parents.
- In the 1998-1999 sample, almost 22 percent of the respondents from counties exempt under the 15 percent provision were living with a spouse or partner, compared to about 16 percent of the respondents from non-exempt counties, and only 11 percent of the respondents from counties exempt due to unemployment.
- In the 1999-2000 sample, only 11 percent of the respondents from the non-exempt counties were living with a spouse or partner, compared to 18 percent of the respondents in counties exempt under the 15 percent provision.

Exhibit III-10
Percent of Respondents Living With Spouse/Partner,
by Type of County

Sample	Exempt – 15 Percent	Exempt – Unemployment	Non-Exempt	Total
1998-1999 Leavers	21.9%	11.4%	15.6%	15.9%
1999-2000 Leavers	18.5%	19.6%	10.6%	15.2%

Presence of Children in the Household

- As shown in Exhibit III-11, about 43 percent of the 1998-1999 respondents and the 1999-2000 respondents reported that there were children living in their home. Presumably, these children were mostly the younger siblings of the respondents, or newborn children of the respondents, or the children of other household members.

- The data are generally consistent with aggregate data published by SCDSS. In April 1998, for example, SCDSS data showed that 37.3 percent of the persons involved in ABAWD households were children living with two or more adults.
- In the 1998-1999 sample, about 40 percent of the respondents from counties exempt under the 15 percent provision had children in the household, compared to 45 percent of the respondents in non-exempt counties. In the 1999-2000 sample, however, this pattern was reversed.

Exhibit III-11
Number of Children Living in the Respondent’s Household,
by Type of County

	1998-1999 Leavers			
Number of Children	Exempt -15 Percent (N = 73)	Exempt – Unemployment (N= 90)	Non-Exempt (N = 122)	Total (N = 284)
None	60.2%	55.7%	54.9%	56.5%
One	27.7%	25.3%	23.4%	25.1%
Two	7.4%	7.6%	9.9%	8.6%
Three or more	4.7%	11.4%	11.8%	9.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	1999-2000 Leavers			
Number of Children	Exempt - 15 Percent (N = 54)	Exempt – Unemployment (N = 97)	Non-Exempt (N = 132)	Total (N = 283)
None	50.0%	55.7%	60.6%	56.9%
One	18.5%	20.6%	18.9%	19.4%
Two	16.7%	15.5%	9.8%	13.1%
Three or more	14.8%	8.2%	10.7%	10.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

D. Discussion of the Findings

The findings from the surveys show that a large percentage of the ABAWD leavers have potential educational barriers to stable employment and high earnings, with half or more being high school drop-outs. Age may also be a potential employment barrier, with 60-70 percent of the sample being under 25. These younger individuals typically have limited work histories. On the other hand, two-thirds of the ABAWDs were living with at least one other adult. This means that many of them may have alternative means of support in the event that they are unable to find stable employment.

The data show that, for some of the variables, there were slight differences among the three types of counties in the demographics of the survey respondents. As shown later in the report, we controlled for these demographic factors when examining the differences among the

three types of counties in key respondent outcomes. These outcomes included the percentage of respondents employed, the percentage of households living in poverty, and the percentage of respondents reporting hunger and overall food insecurity. The results of the analyses are presented below in Chapters IV and V of the report.