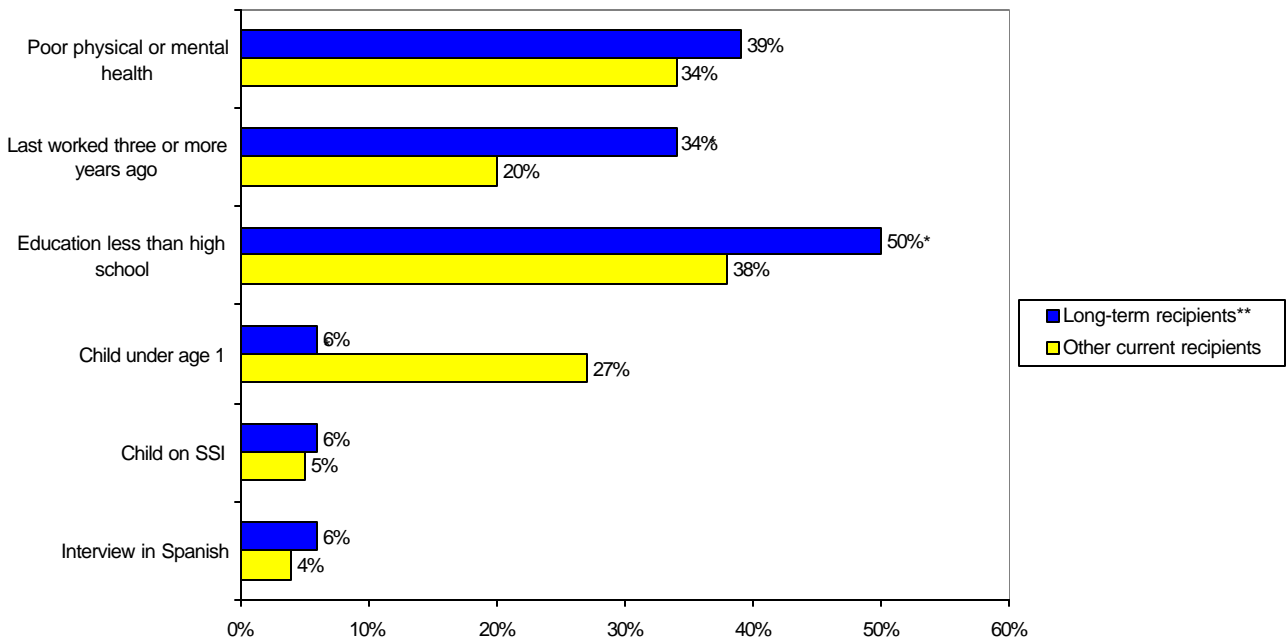




Fast Facts on Welfare Policy

Long-Term Welfare Recipients are More Likely to Face Barriers to Work than Other Welfare Recipients



Source: *National Survey of America's Families*, 1999

**Those who have received TANF continuously for two or more years.

*The two groups are significantly different at the 90 percent confidence level.

Long-term recipients, those who have received cash assistance continuously for at least two years, are more likely than other welfare recipients to face barriers to work. In 1999, more long-term recipients lacked a high school education (50 percent compared to 38 percent of other recipients) and had last worked more than three years ago (34 percent, compared to 20 percent). In addition, 39 percent of long-term recipients have poor mental or physical health. These results suggest that some long-term recipients face serious barriers to work.

Source: Chart appears in Loprest, Pamela J. 2002. "Making the Transition from Welfare to Work: Successes but Continuing Concerns." In *Welfare Reform: The Next Act* edited by Alan Weil and Kenneth Finegold (17-31). Washington, D.C.: Urban Institute Press.

Additional Resources:

- Loprest, Pamela, and Sheila Zedlewski; "[Making TANF Work for the Hard to Serve](#);" *Short Takes on Welfare Policy* #2; April 2002.
- Zedlewski, Sheila R., and David W. Alderson; [Before and After Reform: How Have Families on Welfare Changed?](#); Policy Brief B-32; April 2001.
- Zedlewski, Sheila R., and David W. Alderson; [Do Families on Welfare in the Post-TANF Era Differ From their pre-TANF Counterparts?](#); Discussion Paper 01-03; February 2001.