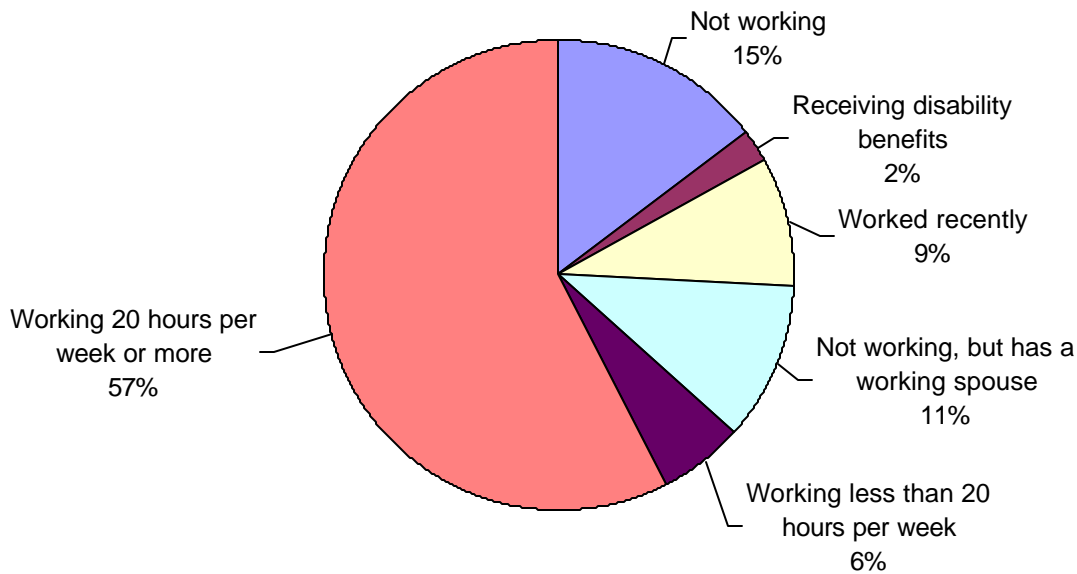




# Fast Facts on Welfare Policy

## Work Status of Welfare Leavers

### More Than Half of Former TANF Recipients are Working But One in Seven Has No Visible Source of Income



Source: Zedlewski, Sheila R., and Pamela Loprest. 2001. "Will TANF Work For the Most Disadvantaged Families?" In *The New World of Welfare* edited by Rebecca Blank and Ron Haskins (311-334). Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press.

TANF = Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

Nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of those who left the welfare rolls between 1997 and 1999 remained off welfare and were working in 1999. However, one in seven adults who leave welfare report no visible means of support. This group of leavers is not employed, is not in a family with someone who is employed, is not receiving disability benefits, and has not returned to the welfare rolls to obtain benefits. Little is known about how these several hundred thousand families with children survive and why they have completely disconnected from the welfare system.

For more on this topic, see [How Are Families That Left Welfare Doing? A Comparison of Early and Recent Welfare Leavers](#); Pamela Loprest; PB B-36; April 2001