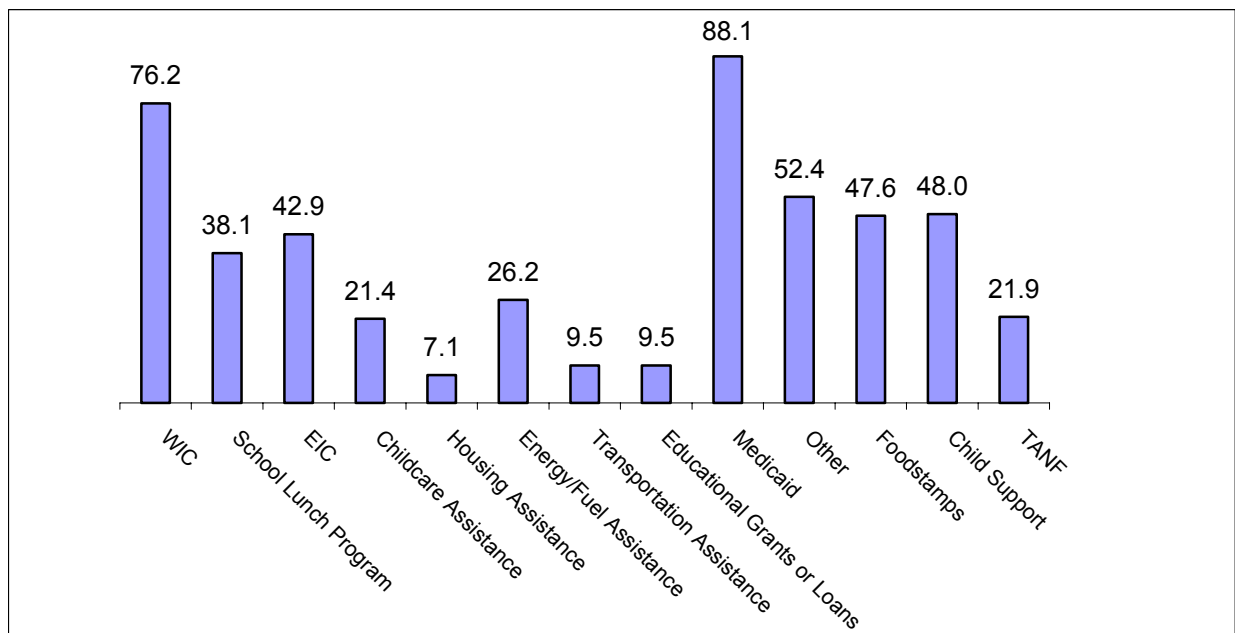


## A Profile of Indiana Rural Families

Forty-two families in three rural Indiana counties participated in the Rural Families Speak project. All interviews with the mothers took place in the families' homes and were conducted by research staff and associates.

The average Indiana rural family size was 3.8 members with an average total monthly income, not including food stamps of \$1402.44 or \$16,829.28 annually. According to the 2000 Federal Poverty Guidelines, the annual income for a family of four at 100% of poverty was \$1420.83 monthly or \$17,050 annually. The number of children ranged from 1 to 4 children with an average of 1.9 children. The average age of the youngest child was 1.8 years old. The chart below highlights the percentage of Indiana rural families that responded yes to receiving various types of assistance.



Most of the mothers were non-Hispanic White (96.4%) while 3.6% of mothers were Hispanic. The average age of the mothers was 27.2 years old. The marital status of the mothers varied with 19.0% single, 50.0% married, 16.7% living with a partner, 4.8% divorced, and 9.5% separated. Ninety-six (96.4%) of the partners were Non-Hispanic White, while 3.6% were Hispanic. The average age of partners was 28.8 years old.

The mothers that participated in the study varied in education level with one mother holding a graduate degree, 28.6% having some college or Associates degrees, 11.9% having specialized technical, business or vocational training, 35.7% with a high school diploma or GED and 21.4% with some high school or less. The educational level of the partners also varied with 7.1% being college or university graduates, 14.3% having some college or Associates Degree, 3.6% having a specialized technical, business or vocational training, 56.3% having a high school diploma or GED, 21.5% having high school or less.

The level of work participation for these rural Indiana families varied. Almost forty-three (42.9%) were currently working at time of the interview while 9.5% were students. Of those

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mothers who were students, 50.0% were not currently working. Twenty-seven percent (27.3%) of mothers reported that they were currently looking for work. All mothers interviewed had worked for pay at one point in their lives and started their first paying job at about 16 years old.

Of the mothers that were working, 83.3% had one job and 16.7% had two jobs. The types of jobs that mothers reported were mostly service orientated (66.7%) and administrative support positions (11.1%). The average time spent in the first job was almost 18 months with an average wage of \$7.02 per hour. Of the 16.7% of the mothers who had a second job reported that these jobs were mostly service orientated jobs (66.7%) and sales positions (33.3%), which they held for an average of 3 months and earned an average wage of \$5.15 per hour. The average total number of hours worked per week was 34.4 hours.

Eighty-nine percent (89.3%) of the partners were currently working at time of the interview and 3.6% of the partners were students. Similar to the mothers, the employment of the partners also varied. All of the partners reported having only one job. The type of jobs that partners held varied greatly across production (48.0%), construction (16.0%), service (12.0%), and sales, transportation and management (8.0%) positions. The average wage for partners' job was \$9.46 and the average number of hours worked per week was 44.3 hours per week.

For many rural families, housing can be the largest monthly expense. Of these rural Indiana families, 42.9% of the families rented their place of residence, while 28.6% owned their own home and 28.6% did something other than rent or own their place of residence.

In terms of childcare care arrangements, 78.6% had some type of childcare arrangement each week. On average, each family had 1.2 total childcare arrangements.

When asked about the types of food eaten in this household, according to Food Security Module created by USDA, 16.7% were considered food insecure with hunger, 26.2% were food insecure without hunger, 23.8% were marginally food secure, and 33.3% were food secure.

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