

Testimony
Department of Human Services
Human Services Committee
Representative Alon Wieland, Chairman
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Caseload Comparison - Economic Assistance Policy
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	<u>2005 - 2007 Biennium</u>			<u>2007 - 2009 Biennium</u>			<u>2009 - 2011 Biennium</u>			<u>Budgeted 2011-13 Biennium</u>
	<u>Actual 2006</u>	<u>Actual 2007</u>	<u>Biennial Average</u>	<u>Actual 2008</u>	<u>Actual 2009</u>	<u>Biennial Average</u>	<u>Actual 2010</u>	<u>Actual 2011</u>	<u>Biennial Average</u>	
TANF	2,708	2,560	2,634	2,590	2,440	2,515	2,147	1,925	2,036	2,253
LIHEAP	5,737	5,872	5,805	5,732	6,353	6,042	6,265	6,100	6,182	6,879
Child Care Assistance	4,060	3,955	4,003	4,054	3,810	3,932	3,787	3,589	3,685	3,915
SNAP	19,214	19,926	19,570	21,572	23,104	22,338	26,686	27,857	27,272	33,890

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) caseload has decreased overtime due to the 2005 Deficit Reduction Act which identified work activities for adults in TANF families. Additional factors attributing to the decreased caseload are the 2009 Pay After Performance policy implementation and the economic climate in North Dakota. During the summer of 2010, when the budget was built, the projected caseload was decreased. However, the actual caseload from then to the end of the biennium was even lower than what was anticipated when the budget was built.

The Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) caseload is developed based on weather projections and fuel price projections.

The Child Care Assistance caseload has decreased overtime due to the economic climate in North Dakota. Increased household incomes have resulted in ineligibility or lower payments through the Child Care Assistance program. During the summer of 2010, when the budget was built, the projected caseload was decreased. However, the actual caseload from then to the end of the biennium was even lower than what was anticipated when the budget was built.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) caseload has increased over time due to the 2006 implementation of simplified reporting, which makes it easier for households to be on the program for longer periods of time. In addition, Federally required outreach efforts have also increased the number of SNAP cases. When the budget was built during the summer of 2010, the caseload was still growing; it has since stabilized.