

TANF Cash Assistance Should Reach Many More Families in Massachusetts to Lessen Hardship

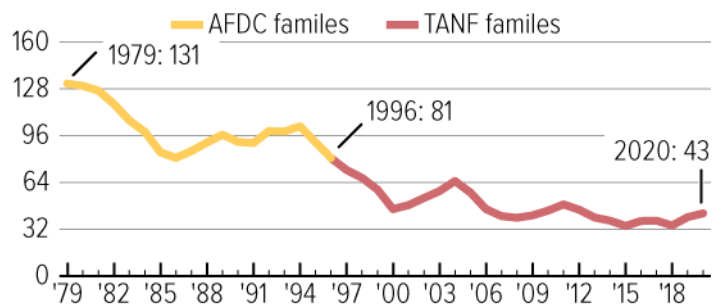


In 2019-20, for every 100 families living in poverty in Massachusetts, only 43 received TANF cash assistance. This “TANF-to-poverty ratio” has fallen 38 points since 1995-96. If TANF reached the same share of families in poverty that its predecessor AFDC did in 1996, 26,628 more families in Massachusetts would be helped by TANF now.

TANF-to-poverty ratio

	1995/96	2019/20
Massachusetts	81	43
National	68	21

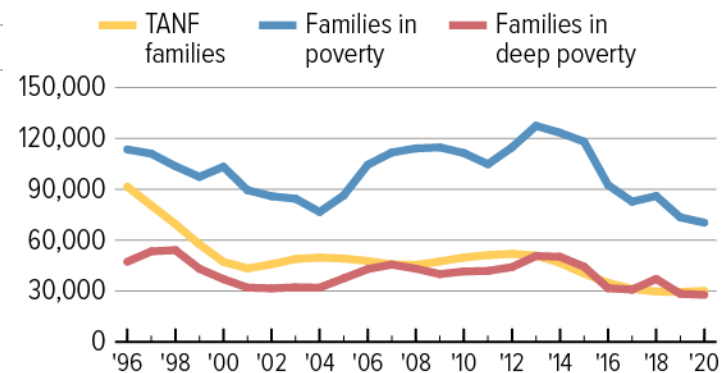
Number of Families in Massachusetts Receiving AFDC/TANF Cash Assistance for Every 100 Families With Children in Poverty



Families with children

	1995/96	2019/20
Receiving AFDC/TANF	91,542	30,088
In poverty	113,480	70,307
In deep poverty	47,289	27,756

Changes in AFDC/TANF Cases and the Number of Families With Children in Poverty and Deep Poverty in Massachusetts



Source note: TANF = Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; AFDC = Aid to Families with Dependent Children. CBPP analysis of poverty and deep poverty data from the Census’ Current Population Survey. CBPP uses two-year averages of the poverty data and the TANF-to-Poverty ratios to improve the reliability of the data at the state level. Single year labels represent two-year averages for state data. For example, “2020” represents “2019-2020.” AFDC/TANF caseload data from Department of Health and Human Services and (since September 2006) caseload data collected from state agencies. All ratios are rounded and point differences between ratios may appear inexact due to rounding.