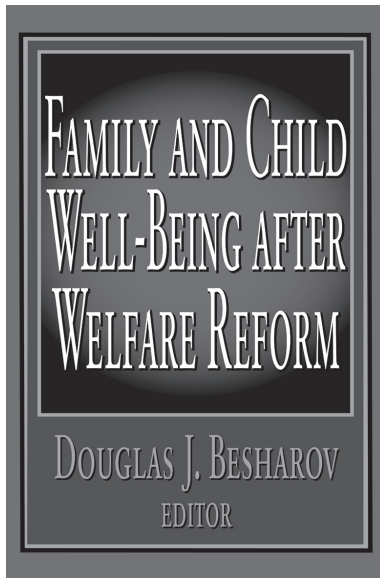




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Family and Child Well-Being after Welfare Reform

Douglas J. Besharov, editor

Since their historic high in 1994, welfare caseloads in the United States have dropped an astounding 59 percent—more than 5 million fewer families now receive welfare. ***Family and Child Well-Being after Welfare Reform*** explores how low-income children and their families are faring in the wake of recent welfare reforms.

The contributors to ***Family and Child Well-Being after Welfare Reform*** include leading social researchers from around the United States. They come from both the political left and right, but without exception, their analyses are grounded on careful and honest scholarship, not political orientation. Each chapter examines a series of questions: Can existing surveys and other data be used to measure trends in the area? What key indicators should be tracked? What are the initial trends after welfare reform? What other information or approaches would be helpful?

Family and Child Well-Being after Welfare Reform covers a broad range of topics: an update on welfare reform; ongoing major research; material well-being; and family versus household. Other discussions include teenage sex, pregnancy, and non-marital births; child maltreatment and foster care; homelessness and housing; child health and well-being; nutrition, food security, and obesity; crime, juvenile delinquency, and dysfunctional behavior; and mothers' work and child care.

When welfare reform was first debated, many people feared that it would hurt the poor, especially children. This informative volume finds little evidence to suggest this has occurred. As time limits and other programmatic requirements take hold, more information will be needed to assess the condition of low-income families after welfare reform. ***Family and Child Well-Being after Welfare Reform*** establishes a baseline for such an assessment.

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