

WELFARE 101:

busting myths about welfare



myth 04:

Welfare recipients only live in poor, urban areas, not the suburbs or wealthier areas of the state.

fact:

Michigan residents are struggling to put food on their tables and pay their bills in communities statewide. The Michigan Department of Human Services has seen an unprecedented increase in the number of families seeking temporary assistance, especially in Michigan's more affluent suburbs. Today, it is more likely than ever before that your relative, friend or neighbor is receiving benefits because economic hardship is being felt everywhere.

Here is a comparison of city-suburb benefit recipients from July 2008 to April 2010:

In Macomb County:

- Warren saw a 44 percent increase in Medicaid recipients – from 20,047 to 28,820; and a 48 percent increase in food assistance benefits – from 18,415 to 27,174.
- St. Clair Shores saw a 45 percent increase in Medicaid recipients – from 4,142 to 6,010; and a 70 percent increase in food assistance benefits – from 3,139 to 5,349.
- Sterling Heights saw a 32 percent increase in Medicaid recipients – from 15,510 to 20,526; and a 52 percent increase in food assistance benefits – from 10,917 to 16,545.

In Oakland County:

- Pontiac saw a 33 percent increase in Medicaid recipients – from 17,669 to 23,501; and a 14 percent increase in food assistance benefits – from 19,477 to 22,192.
- Bloomfield Hills saw a 37 percent increase in Medicaid recipients – from 202 to 276; and a 118 percent increase in food assistance benefits – from 89 to 194.
- Farmington saw a 36 percent increase in Medicaid recipients from 5,405 to 7,335; and a 59 percent increase in food assistance benefits – from 3,402 to 5,422.

more county information is on the back:



Defining the scope and effectiveness of public assistance is difficult when people are unfamiliar with programs and services. Misunderstandings lead to myths; we prefer to discuss the facts.

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In Washtenaw County:

- Ypsilanti saw a 37 percent increase in Medicaid recipients – from 14,509 to 19,927; and a 25 percent increase in food assistance benefits – from 15,624 to 19,521.
- Ann Arbor saw a 29 percent increase in Medicaid recipients – from 7,823 to 10,077; and a 38 percent increase in food assistance benefits – from 6,670 to 9,212.
- Saline saw a 58 percent increase in Medicaid recipients – from 745 to 1,179; and a 77 percent increase in food assistance benefits – from 441 to 781.

In Wayne County:

- Detroit saw a 42 percent increase in Medicaid recipients – from 199,106 to 283,294; and an 11 percent increase in food assistance benefits – from 254,326 to 283,460.
- Dearborn saw a 36 percent increase in Medicaid recipients – from 19,247 to 26,265; and a 41 percent increase in food assistance benefits – from 15,843 to 22,339.
- Dearborn Heights saw a 52 percent increase in Medicaid recipients – from 8,079 to 12,265; and a 62 percent increase in food assistance benefits – from 6,114 to 9,901.
- Livonia saw a 47 percent increase in Medicaid recipients – from 4,417 to 6,483; and a 77 percent increase in food assistance benefits – from 2,447 to 4,328.

fact:

There were more than one million foreclosures in Michigan from 2005 to 2009, according to the Michigan State Housing Developmental Authority. Home foreclosures increased 66 percent statewide during that period with foreclosures exceeding the state average in some of Michigan's more-prosperous counties. For example, from 2005 to 2009:

In Macomb County, foreclosures increased 78.9 percent – from 7,613 homes to 36,102 homes.

In Oakland County, foreclosures increased 79.1 percent – from 10,394 homes to 49,730 homes.

In Washtenaw County, foreclosures increased 76.9 percent – from 1,748 homes to 7,572 homes.

In Wayne County, foreclosures increased 57.4 percent – from 45,662 homes to 107,336 homes.

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