

ben\_doc.pdf

Documentation for Moffitt Welfare Benefits File (ben\_data.txt)  
(2/22/02)

The file ben\_data.txt is a text file containing data on state-specific welfare benefit variables from 1960-1998. A few additional welfare and non-welfare variables are also included. A list of variables appears below, followed by a list of sources.

Robert Moffitt  
Department of Economics  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
Tel: (410)-516-7611  
Fax: (410)-516-7600  
Email: [moffitt@jhu.edu](mailto:moffitt@jhu.edu)

## Variable List

There are 26 variables.

Format statement using Fortran syntax: 7(1X,F8.2)

Missing values are coded -1; all zeros are true.

1. State. Codes given in attachment below.

2. Year. Self-explanatory.

### **I. Welfare Guarantee Variables**

3. AFDC/TANF Maximum Amount Paid. Maximum amount paid per month for family of 4 (maximum amount paid = benefit if no other income). Unavailable in some years in the 1960s.

4. Food Stamp Guarantee. Amount of allotment, or allotment minus purchase requirement, for family of four with no other income. Unavailable 1962-1969 (program began in 1962).

5. Average Medicaid expenditure. Estimated Medicaid expenditure for AFDC/TANF family of 4, in fiscal year in question, who receives Medicaid benefits. Estimated as  $(3*MC + MA)$ , where MC is the average Medicaid expenditure for dependent children under 21 receiving cash benefits and MA is the average Medicaid expenditure for adults in AFDC families with dependent children receiving cash benefits. MC is calculated by dividing the total Medicaid payments to dependent children under 21 in categorically needy families who receive cash payments in the fiscal year by the number of such recipients in the fiscal year. MA is calculated analogously.

Note: these data are only available 1975+; the data given in ben\_data.txt for years 1968-1974 are crude estimates calculated by scaling the state-specific 1975 values down by the growth rate of national Medicaid expenditures. Users may wish to treat these years as missing.

Warning: the Medicaid data have a number of apparently erroneous values that are present, and acknowledged, in the government documents from which the statistics are drawn. The figures are administrative reports from the states to the federal government and appear to sometimes be erroneous. The most obvious errors are apparent in the data because they are extreme outliers.

6. Personal Consumption Expenditure Deflator. Price deflator for personal consumption in GNP accounts, base=1996..

7. CPI for Medical Care. Current Price Index for medical care, base=1996.

8. Real AFDC Maximum Amount Paid. Variable (3) divided by Variable (6).

9. Real Food Stamp Guarantee. Variable (4) divided by Variable (6).

10. Real Average Medicaid Expenditure. Variable (5) divided by Variable (7).

11. Straight Real Benefit Sum. Equal to Variable (8) prior to 1968. For 1969-1998, calculated as Variable(8) + Variable(9) + Variable(10).

12. Modified Real Benefit Sum. Equal to Variable (8) prior to 1968. For 1969-1998, calculated as  $[.70 * \text{Variable}(8) + \text{Variable}(9) + .368 * \text{Variable}(10)]$ .

## **II. Other Welfare Variables**

13. AFDC/TANF no. of families on the rolls in July (divided by 100)

14. AFDC/TANF no. of recipients on the rolls in July (divided by 100)

15. AFDC average benefit per family in July; unavailable after 1996

16. AFDC average benefit per recipient in July; unavailable after 1996

17. AFDC/TANF average annual no. of families on the rolls (divided by 100); unavailable before 1976; figures for 1996 and after are for fiscal year

18. AFDC/TANF average annual no. of recipients on the rolls (divided by 100); unavailable before 1976; figures for 1996 and after are for fiscal year

19. AFDC/TANF average annual benefit per family on the rolls; unavailable before 1976; variable has some noncomparabilities before and after 1996; figures for 1996 and after are for fiscal year

20. AFDC/TANF average annual benefit per recipient on the rolls; unavailable before 1976 or after 1995

21. AFDCUP Program Dummy. Variable equal to 1 if state had AFDC-UP program in July, 0 if not. Unavailable after 1996.

22. Medically Needy Program Dummy. Variable equal to 1 if state had Medically Needy Program anytime in fiscal year, 0 if not.

## **III. Other State Variables**

23. State population (thousands)

24. Personal income per capita

25. Unemployment rate

26. Mean weekly earnings of production workers in manufacturing

## Sources

### Variable 3:

1960, 1964, 1968: U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Ways and Means, Background Material and Data on Programs within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means, 1986, Table 17, p.576, known as the "Green Book" (converted to nominal dollars); 1969-1981: Kasten, R. and J. Todd, "Transfer Recipients and the Poor During the 1970s," in What Role for Government?, ed. R. Zeckhauser and D. Leebaert (Durham: Duke University Press, 1983), unpublished appendix (data taken from published government documents); 1982, 1983: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Quarterly Public Assistance Statistics, Table 25 in April-June 1982 issue and Table 24 in April-June 1984 issue; 1985-1995: unpublished data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; 1996-1998, Urban Institute Welfare Rules Database.

### Variable 4:

1970-1999: unpublished data from the Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

### Variable 5:

1975-1993: Unpublished data ("State Medicaid Tables") from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; 1994-1998, from website of the Health Care Financing Administration.

### Variable 6:

Website of the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

### Variable 7:

Website of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### Variables 13-16:

1960-1964: Social Security Bulletin (October or November issue); 1965-1976: U.S. National Center for Social Statistics, Public Assistance Statistics, various issues; 1977-1980: Office of Research and Statistics, Social Security Administration, Public Assistance Statistics, Series A-2, various issues; 1981-1993: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Quarterly Public Assistance Statistics, various issues; 1994-1998: unpublished data from the Office of Family Assistance, USDHHS.

Variables 17-18:

Annual Statistical Supplement of the Social Security Bulletin for 1995 and before; unpublished data from the Office of Family Assistance for 1996 and after

Variables 19-20:

Annual Statistical Supplement of the Social Security Bulletin for 1995 and before; from Green Book for 1996 and after (V19 only)

Variable 21:

1961-1963: Social Security Bulletin (November issue); 1964-1976: U.S. National Center for Social Statistics, Public Assistance Statistics, various issues; 1977-1980: Office of Research and Statistics, Social Security Administration, Public Assistance Statistics, Series A-2, various issues; 1981-1993: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Quarterly Public Assistance Statistics, various issues; 1994-1996: unpublished data from the Office of Family Assistance, USDHHS.

Variable 22:

1975-1993: Unpublished data ("State Medicaid Tables") from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; 1994-1997, from website of the Health Care Financing Administration.

Variable 23:

1960-1968: State Personal Income, 1929-1982, Bureau of Economic Analysis, 1984; 1969-1998: Website of the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Variable 24:

Same as Variable 23.

Variable 25:

1960-1969: Manpower Report of the President, 1970, 1974; 1970-1981: Employment and Training Report of the President, various issues; 1982-1983, Handbook of Labor Statistics, June 1985; 1984-1985, Employment and Earnings, May 1986; 1986-1988, Handbook of Labor Statistics, 1989; 1989-1991, Employment and Earnings, various issues; 1992-1998, Web site of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Variable 26:

1960-1971: BLS Handbook, 1974; 1972-1983: BLS Handbook, 1985; 1984-1988: BLS Handbook, 1989; 1989-1993: Employment and Earnings, various issues; 1994-1998: BLS

Website.

## State Codes

1. Alabama
2. Alaska
3. Arizona
4. Arkansas
5. California
6. Colorado
7. Connecticut
8. Delaware
9. District of Columbia
10. Florida
11. Georgia
12. Hawaii
13. Idaho
14. Illinois
15. Indiana
16. Iowa
17. Kansas
18. Kentucky
19. Louisiana
20. Maine
21. Maryland
22. Massachusetts
23. Michigan
24. Minnesota
25. Mississippi
26. Missouri
27. Montana
28. Nebraska
29. Nevada
30. New Hampshire
31. New Jersey
32. New Mexico
33. New York
34. North Carolina
35. North Dakota
36. Ohio
37. Oklahoma
38. Oregon
39. Pennsylvania
40. Rhode Island
41. South Carolina



42. South Dakota
43. Tennessee
44. Texas
45. Utah
46. Vermont
47. Virginia
48. Washington
49. West Virginia
50. Wisconsin
51. Wyoming