

Low-Income Families, Labor Market Participation, and the Great Recession

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Presentation for the 2011 Tri-Regional TANF Directors' Meeting



- *State of the Labor Market*
- *Impact on Families and TANF Role*
- *Working toward Work in a Rough Labor Market*



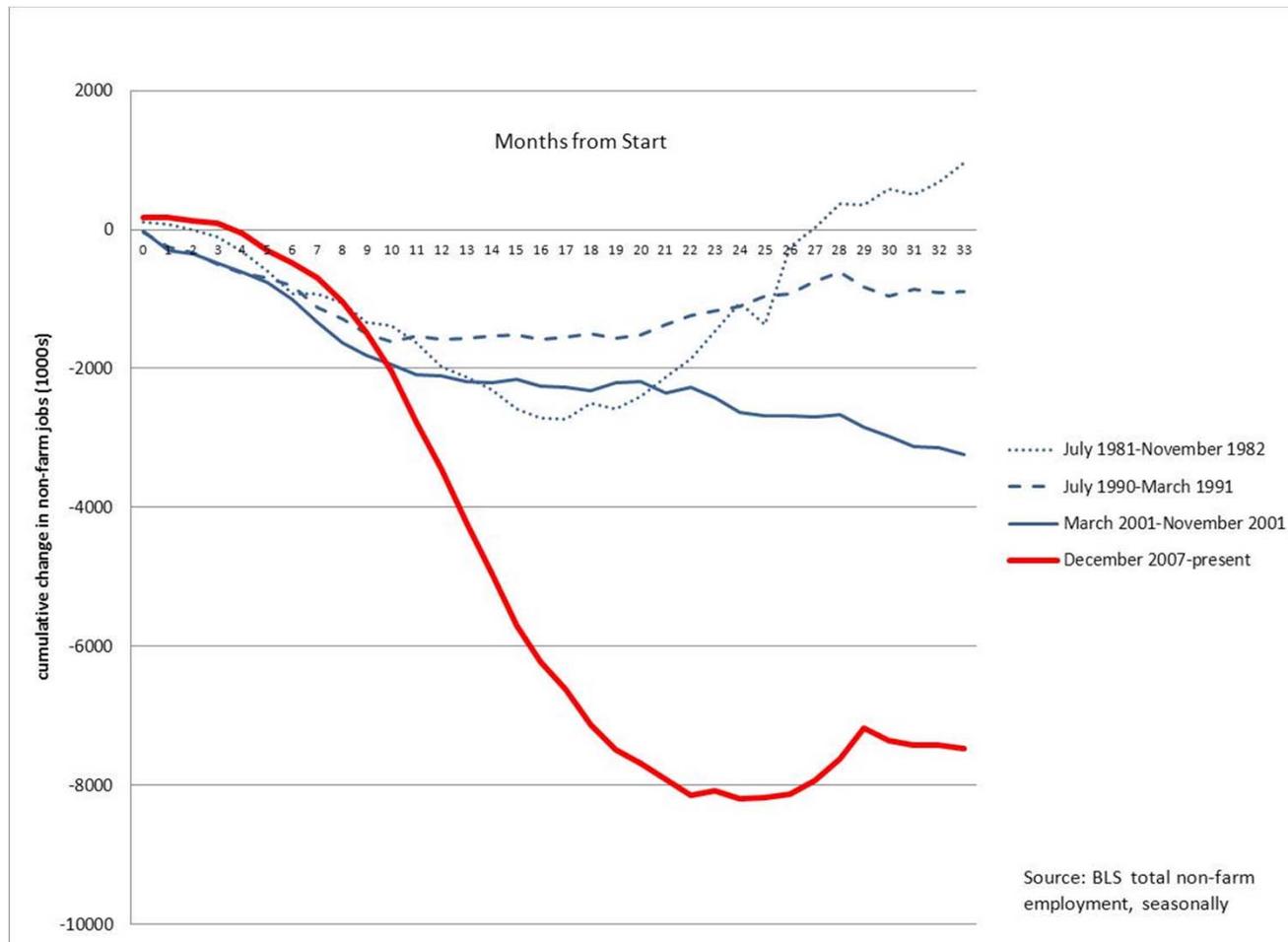
We're not Quite Here....



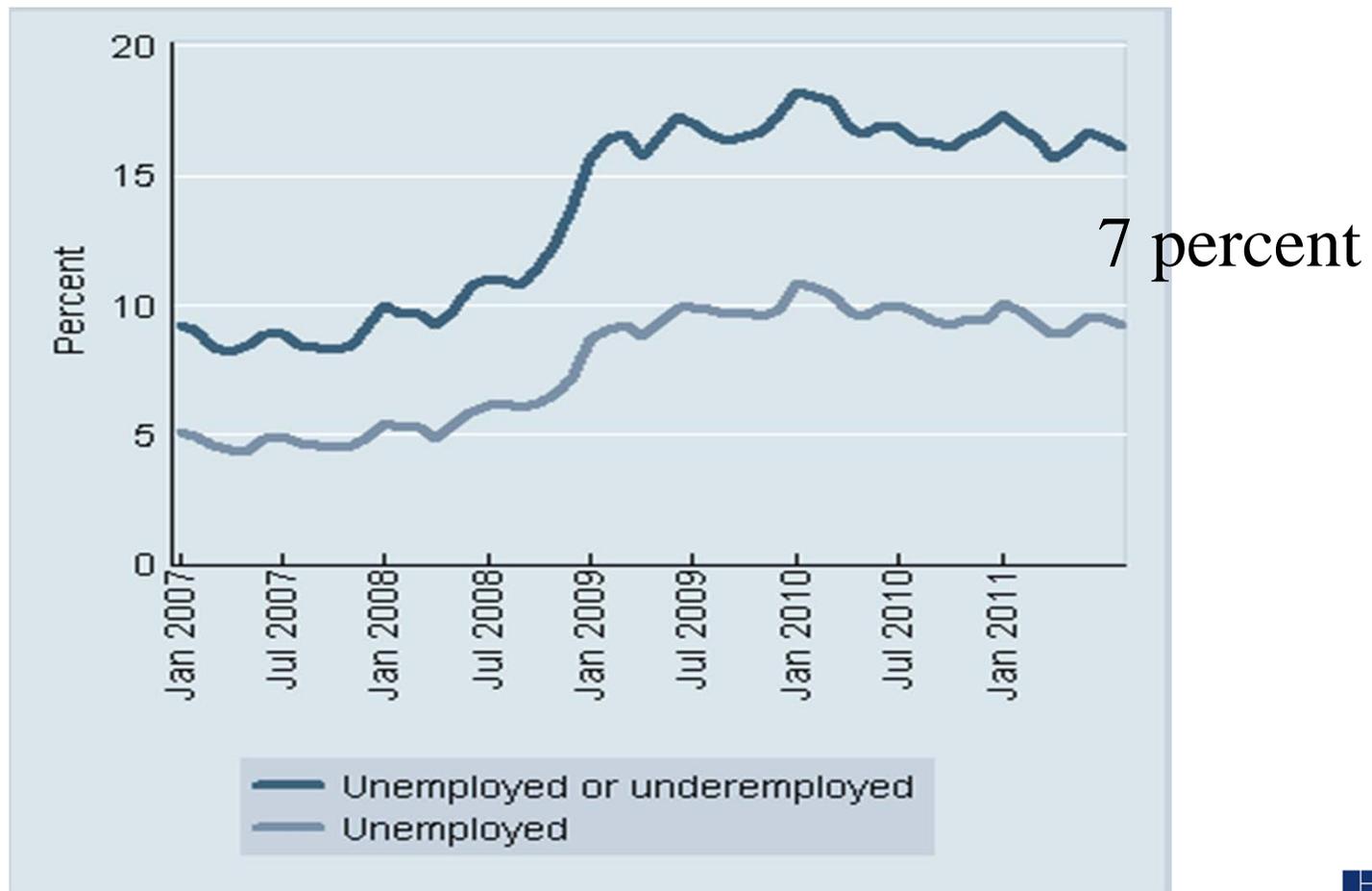
But we are hurting...



Path of Recovery Slow versus Recent Recessions



Underemployment (Involuntary Part-time and Marginally Attached)



Job Seekers per Job Openings

The number of unemployed per number of job openings is extremely high

December 2007 - 1.8

November 2009 - 6.4

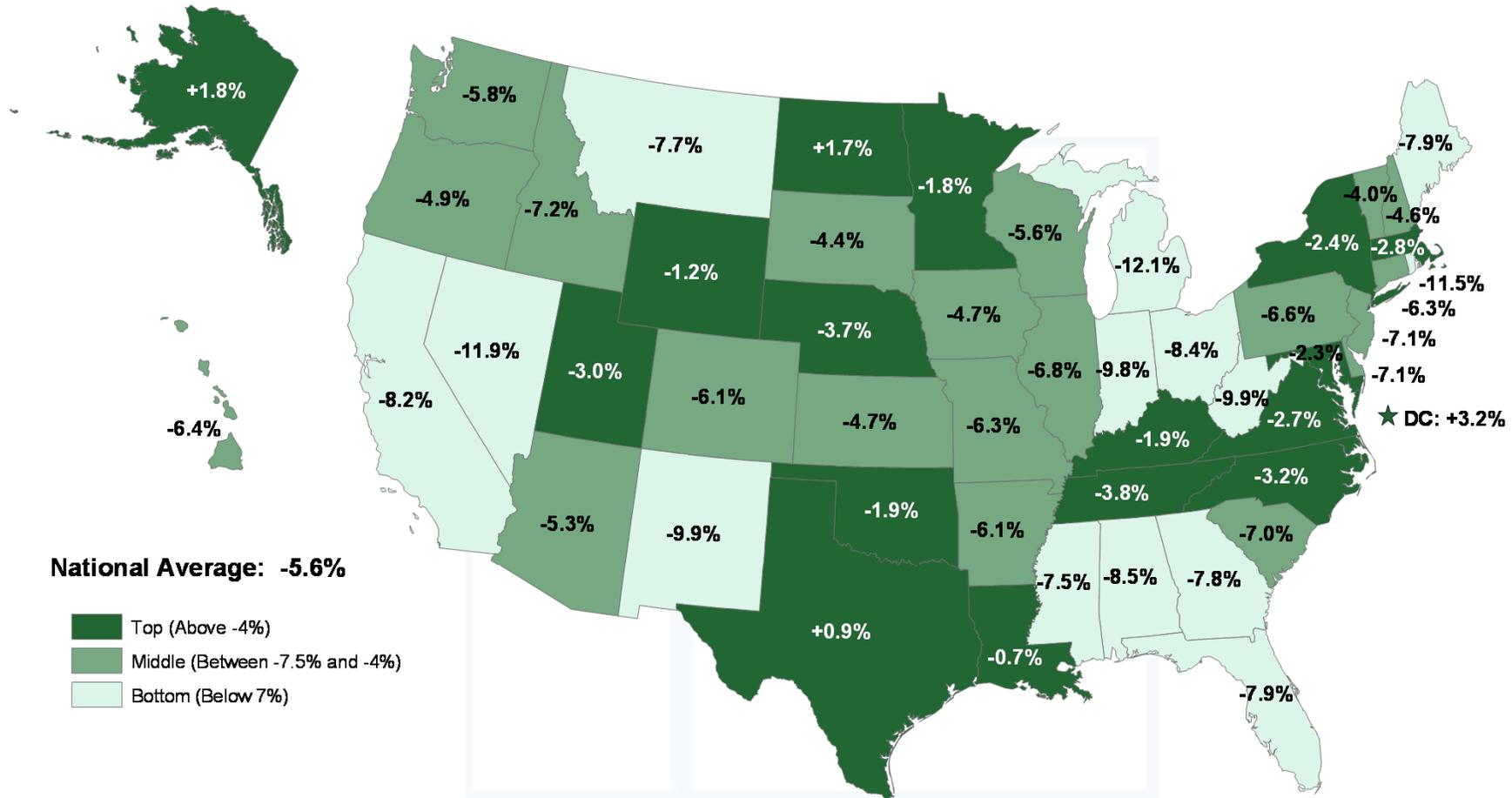
January 2010 - 5.4

July 2011 - 4.4





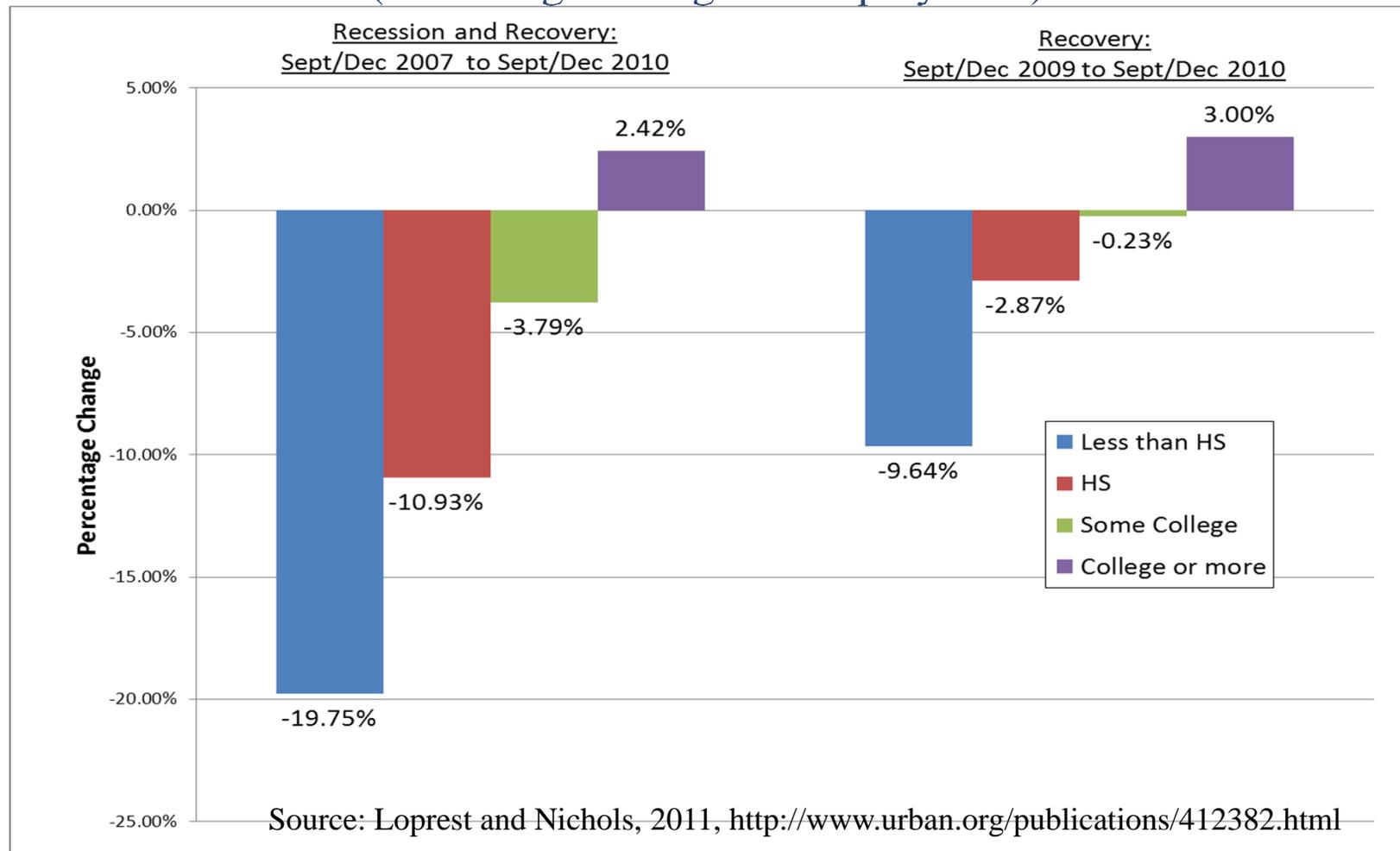
Nationwide Employment Declines 2007-2011



Source: Mitchell, 2011 <http://www.urban.org/publications/412420.html>

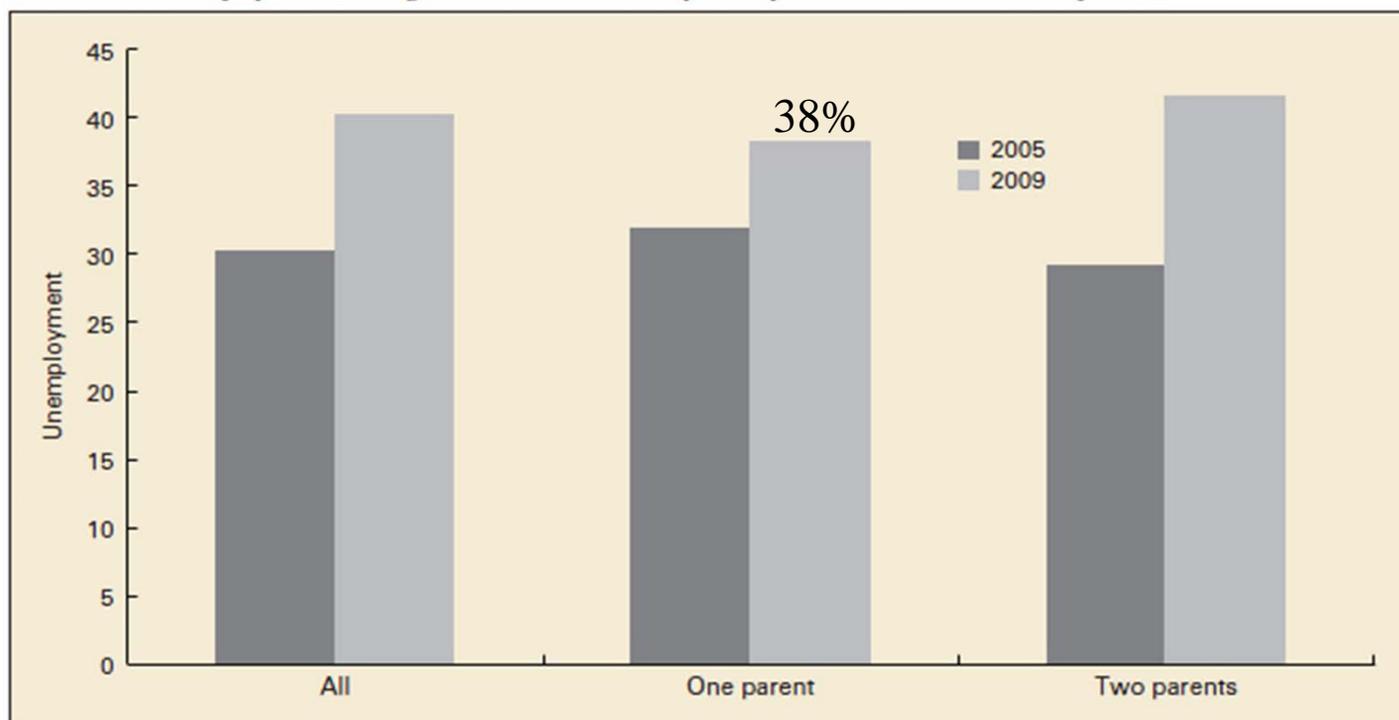


Net Employment Loss by Skill Levels (Percentage Change in Employment)



Unemployment Lasting 3+ weeks for Low-Income Families, 2005 and 2009

FIGURE 1. *Unemployment Lasting Three or More Weeks by Family Status, 2005 and 2009 (percent)*



Source: Authors' tabulations of the 2004 and 2008 Surveys of Income and Program Participation.

Note: Sample restricted to low-income (below 200% FPL) families with children in which at least one parent is unemployed for three or more weeks during the year and the mother is age 25–54.







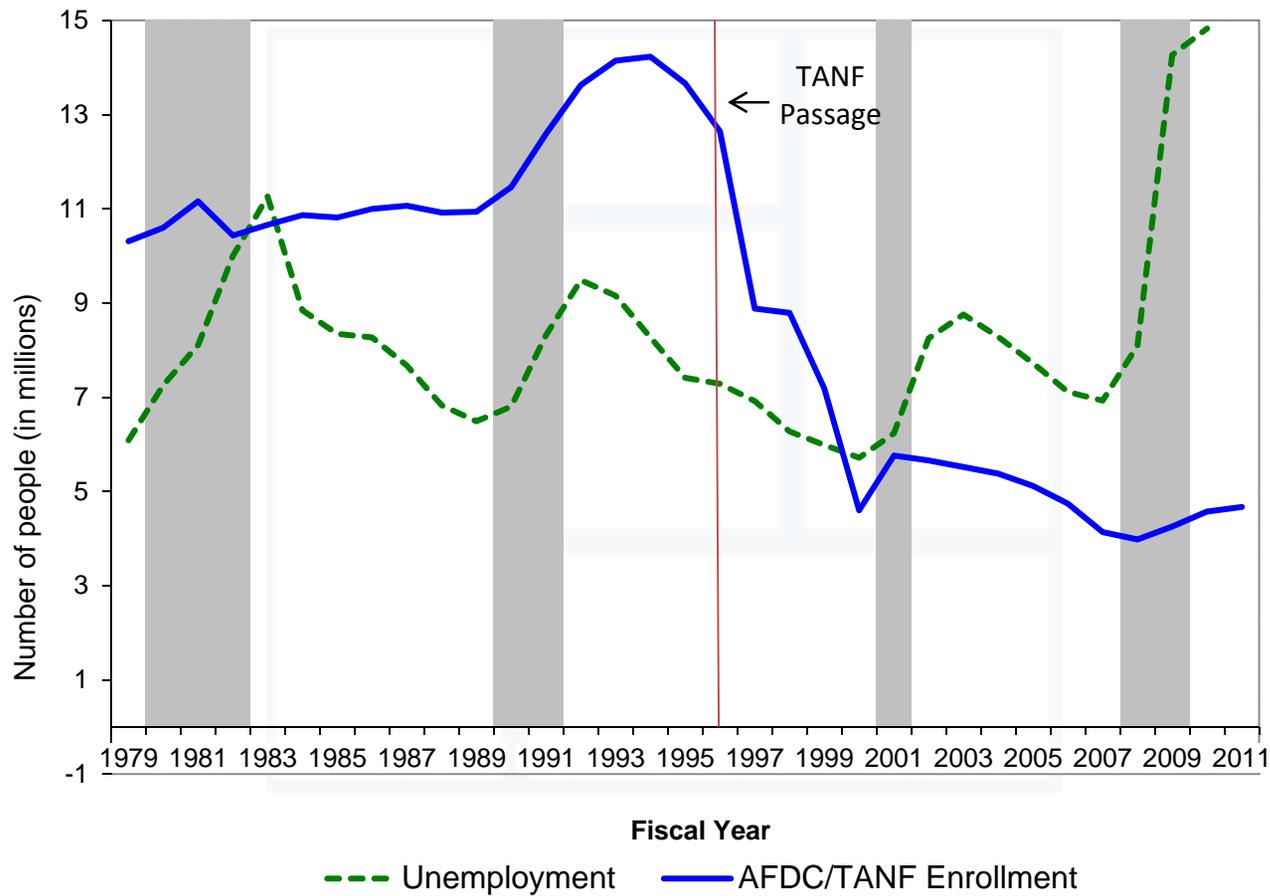
Unemployed Low-Income Single-Parent Families Receipt of Multiple Benefits 2009

	Low Work (<26 weeks)	More Work (>26 weeks)
One Benefit		
UI only	6.4	3.2
SNAP only	37.3	42.4
Two Benefits		
UI and SNAP	19.8	11.0
PA and SNAP	23.0	10.8
Three Benefits		
UI, PA, SNAP	4.5	3.7
No Benefits	9.0	28.5

Source: Nichols and Zedlewski, 2011, <http://www.urban.org/publications/412397.html>



Unemployment and AFDC/TANF Enrollment





Working toward Work – Role for Interventions

- Preparing for Jobs
 - Finding Job
 - Getting Hired
 - Retaining Jobs



Greatest Occupational Employment Growth

BLS projections 2008-2018

Professional and Related Occupations

- Computer and mathematical
- Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations
- Education, training and library occupations

Service Occupations

- Healthcare Support occupations
- Personal care and service occupations
- Food preparation and serving occupations



Largest Growth Occupations Requiring less than 4-year degree, by average wage quartile 2008

Third quartile wages (\$32,000 to \$52,000)

- Truck drivers; Carpenters; Bookkeeping/accounting clerks; Executive secretaries; First-line supervisors/managers; **Licensed practical/vocational nurses**; Maintenance and repair workers

Second quartile wages (\$22,000 to \$32,000)

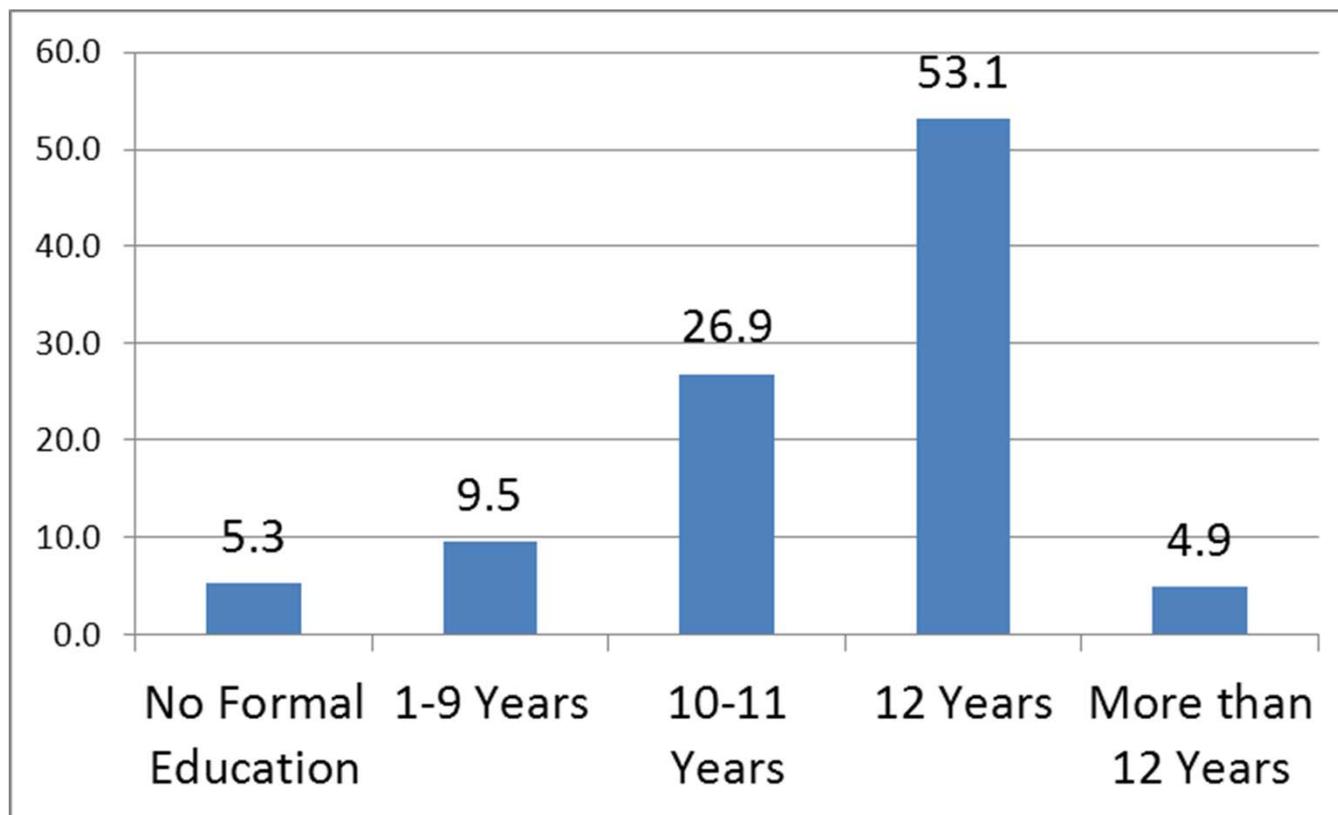
- Customer service rep; Office clerks; **Nursing aides/orderlies**; Construction laborers; Landscaping/groundskeepers; Receptionist; Medical Assistants; Security Guards; Teacher Assistant

Lowest quartile wages (<\$22,000)

- Home health aides; food preparation/serving; personal and home care aides; Retail sales; Waiters and waitresses; Child care workers



Education Levels of Adult TANF Recipients, FY 2009



Testing New Initiatives

- Health Professions Opportunities Grants
 - funds for demonstration projects that help eligible individuals find well-paying jobs in the healthcare field
- Innovative Strategies for Increasing Self-Sufficiency
 - Next generation employment and self-sufficiency interventions



Labor Market Work Strategies - Employment Preparation

- Education and Training
 - Assessment/matching
 - Stackable credentials
 - Basic skills
 - Community college connection
- Job readiness
 - Soft skills
 - Competitive market
- Addressing challenges
 - Treatment



Labor Market Work Strategies – Finding and Keeping Job

- Improving Job Search and Job Matching
 - Information; connections to regional economic data
 - Job development;
 - Employer involvement
- Transitional/Temporary Jobs
- Job Retention
 - Ongoing connection
 - Career Pathways – within and across employers
 - Support services (child care, transportation)



Conclusions/Discussion

- Poor Labor Market Outlook
- Work strategies even in difficult times?
- What is TANF role when jobs are scarce?

