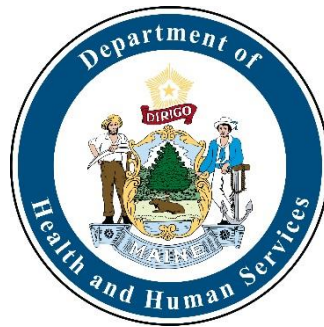


Report: Measures of Child and Family Economic Security for Families Participating in Maine's Public Assistance Programs

Department of Health and Human Services

February 15, 2022



Agenda

1. Opening Comments
2. Economic Security Data Overview
3. Program Updates Across OFI

1. Opening Comments

- Goals
- Pre-Pandemic Reset
- Impact of the Pandemic
- Efforts Through and Beyond the Pandemic

2. Economic Security Data Overview:

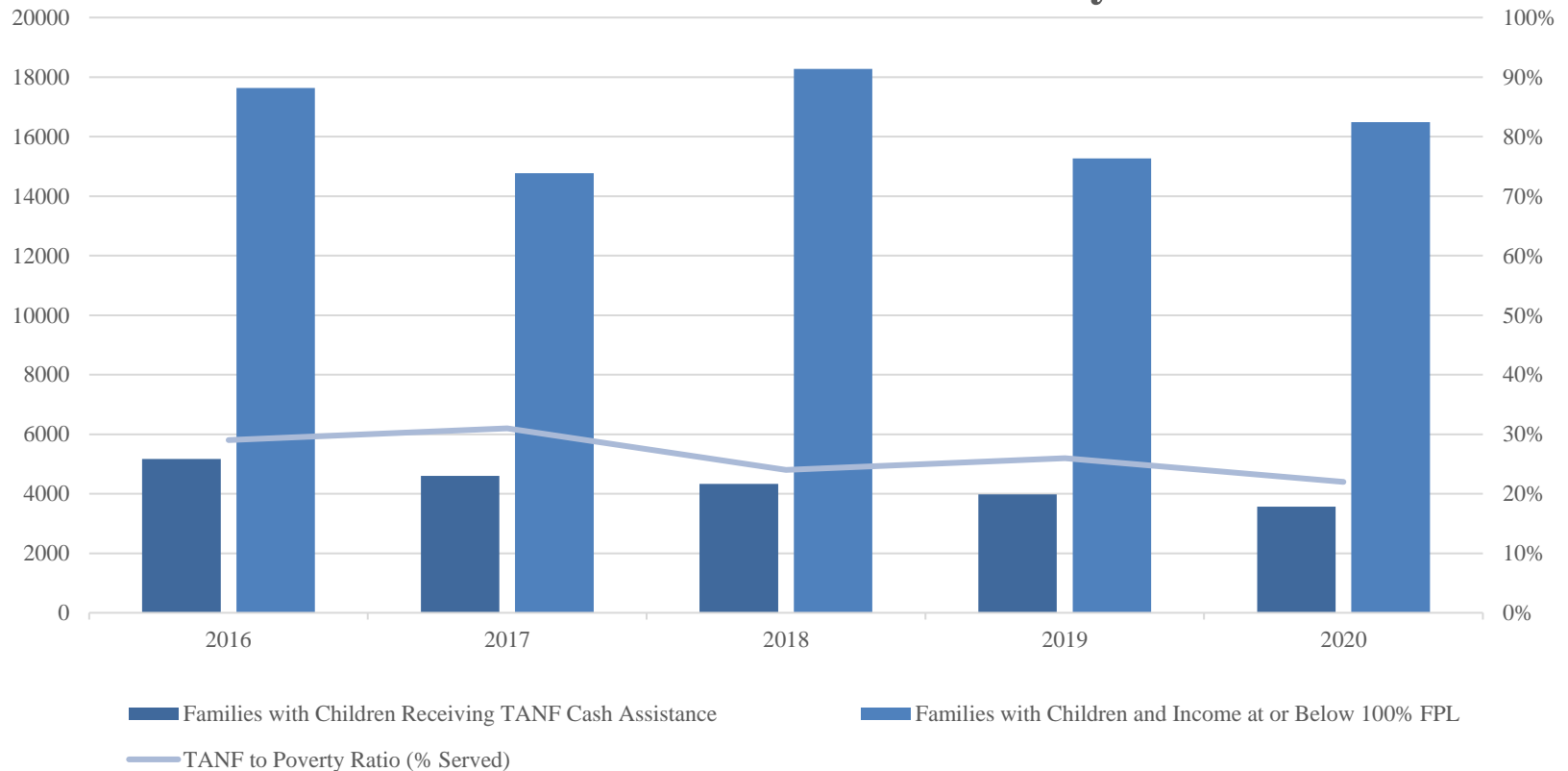
Measures of Economic Security Data

Provide Data on the Following:

- A. Ratio of Families with Children Receiving TANF and Families with Children and Income at or below 100% at the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- B. Percentage of Children Under 5 Years of Age Receiving TANF and WIC
- C. Percentage of Children Under 5 years of Age Receiving Food Supplement Program Benefits and WIC
- D. Employment Outcomes for Families for whom TANF Cash Assistance has Terminated
- E. Highest Level of Educational Attainment of Adult Parents or Caretaker Relatives Receiving TANF Cash Assistance or Prior Year Participation Termination
- F. Age and Disabled Breakdown of Persons Receiving Food Supplement Assistance to Those Potentially Eligible for Food Supplement Assistance
- G. Highest Level of Educational Attainment of Adult Parents or Caretaker Relatives Receiving Food Supplement Assistance
- H. The ratio of people participating in the MaineCare program, by eligibility group, to the total number of potentially eligible persons within each group
- I. MaineCare and CHIP Application Processing by CY 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019
- J. and K. Data on Calls to the Office for Family Independence

Measures of Economic Security

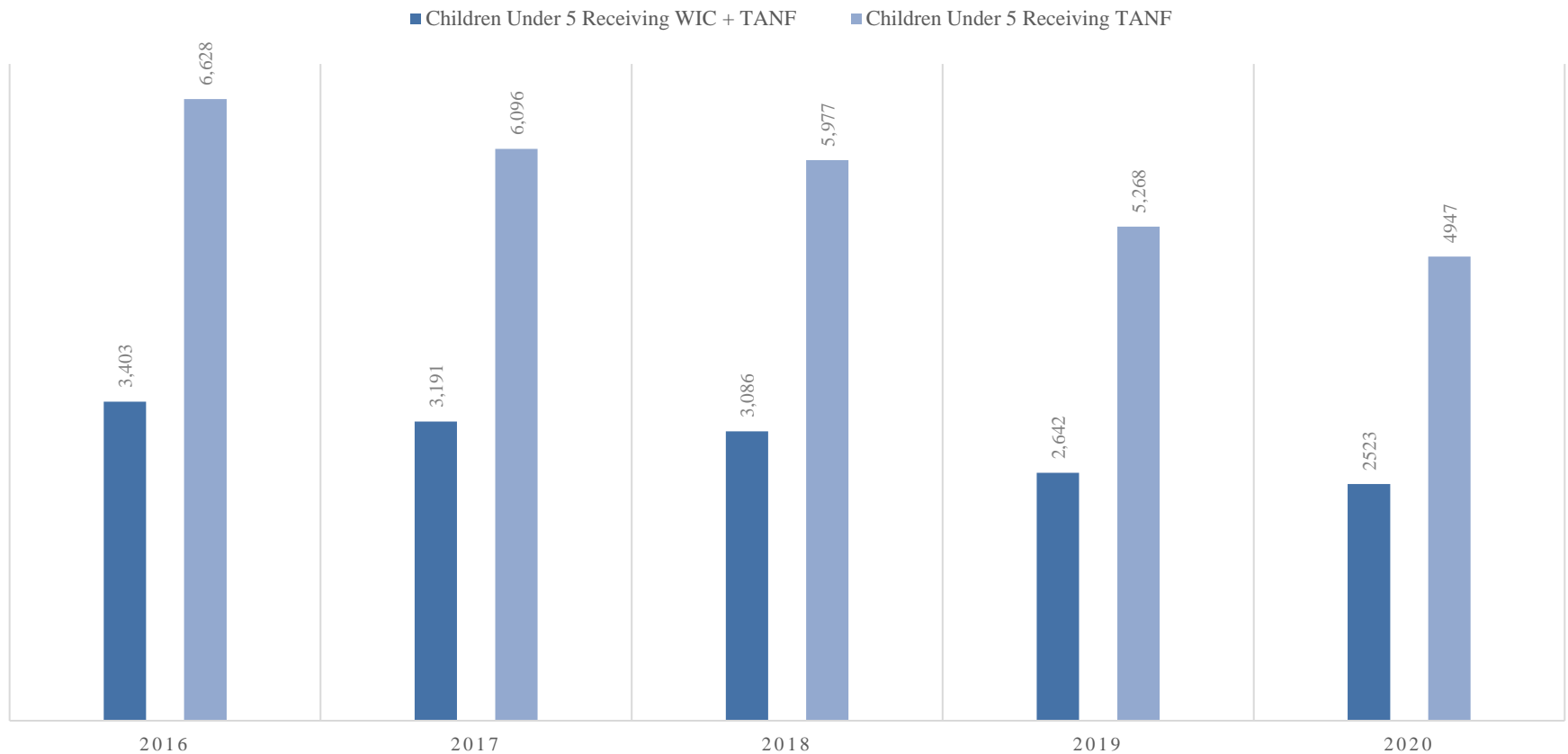
Ratio of Families with Children at or Below 100% FPL to Families with Children Served by TANF



Data Details: TANF Counts: ACES
Families Below 100% FPL: US
Census Bureau, 1-Year American
Community Survey

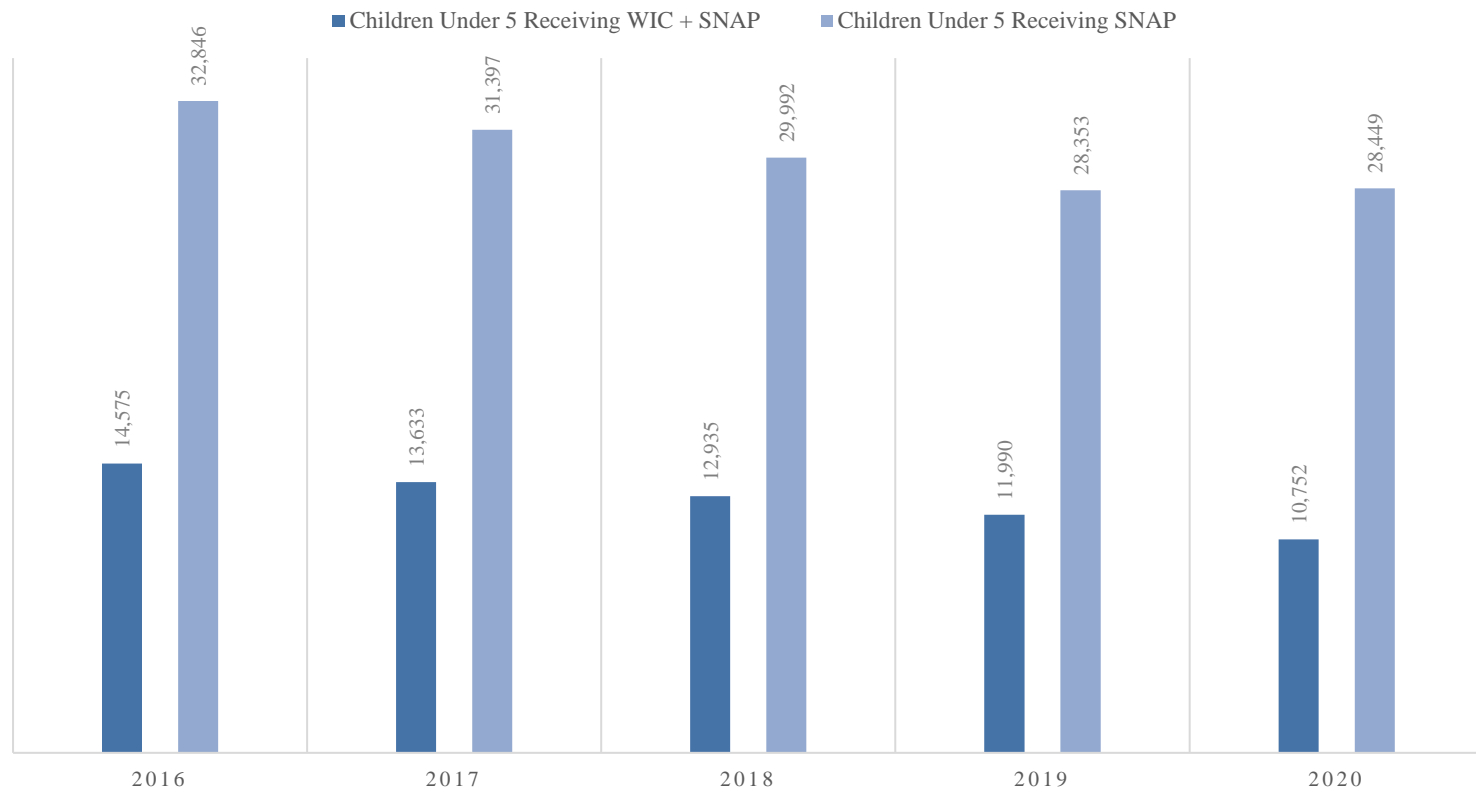
Measures of Economic Security

Children Under 5 Years Old Receiving WIC & TANF



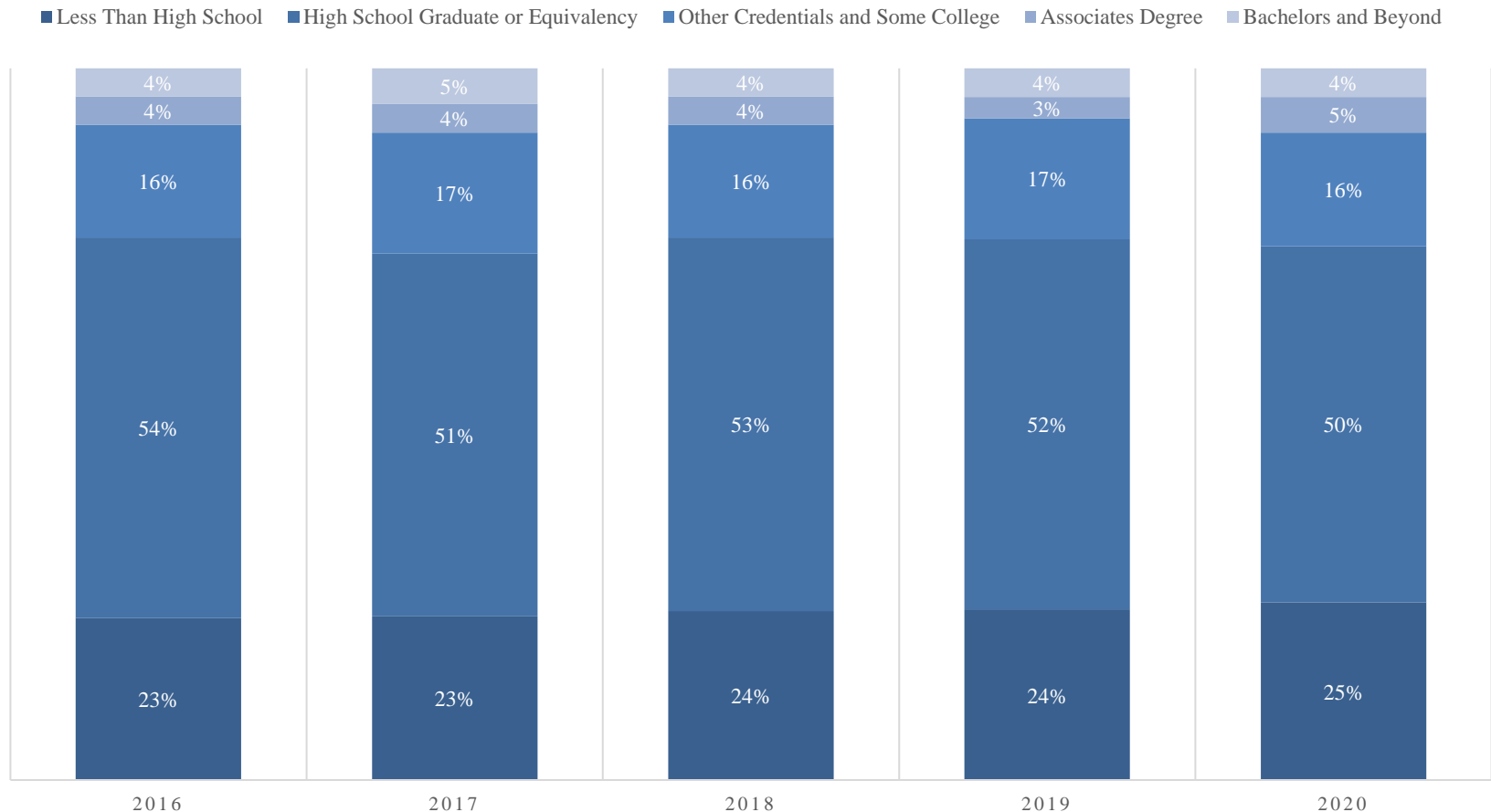
Measures of Economic Security

Children Under 5 Years Old Receiving SNAP and WIC BENEFITS



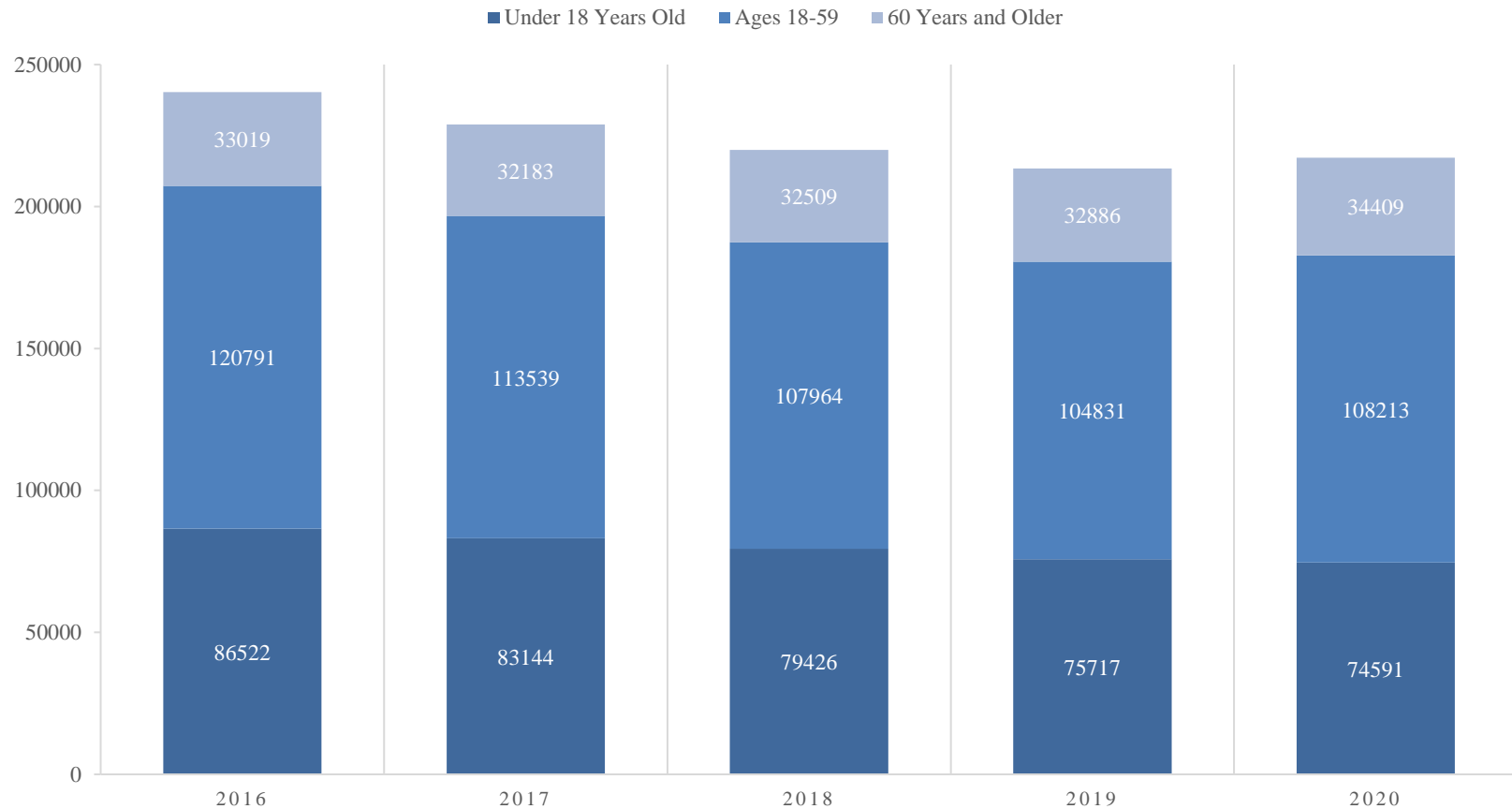
Measures of Economic Security

Highest Level of Education Attainment for Adult Parents and Caretaker Relatives on TANF



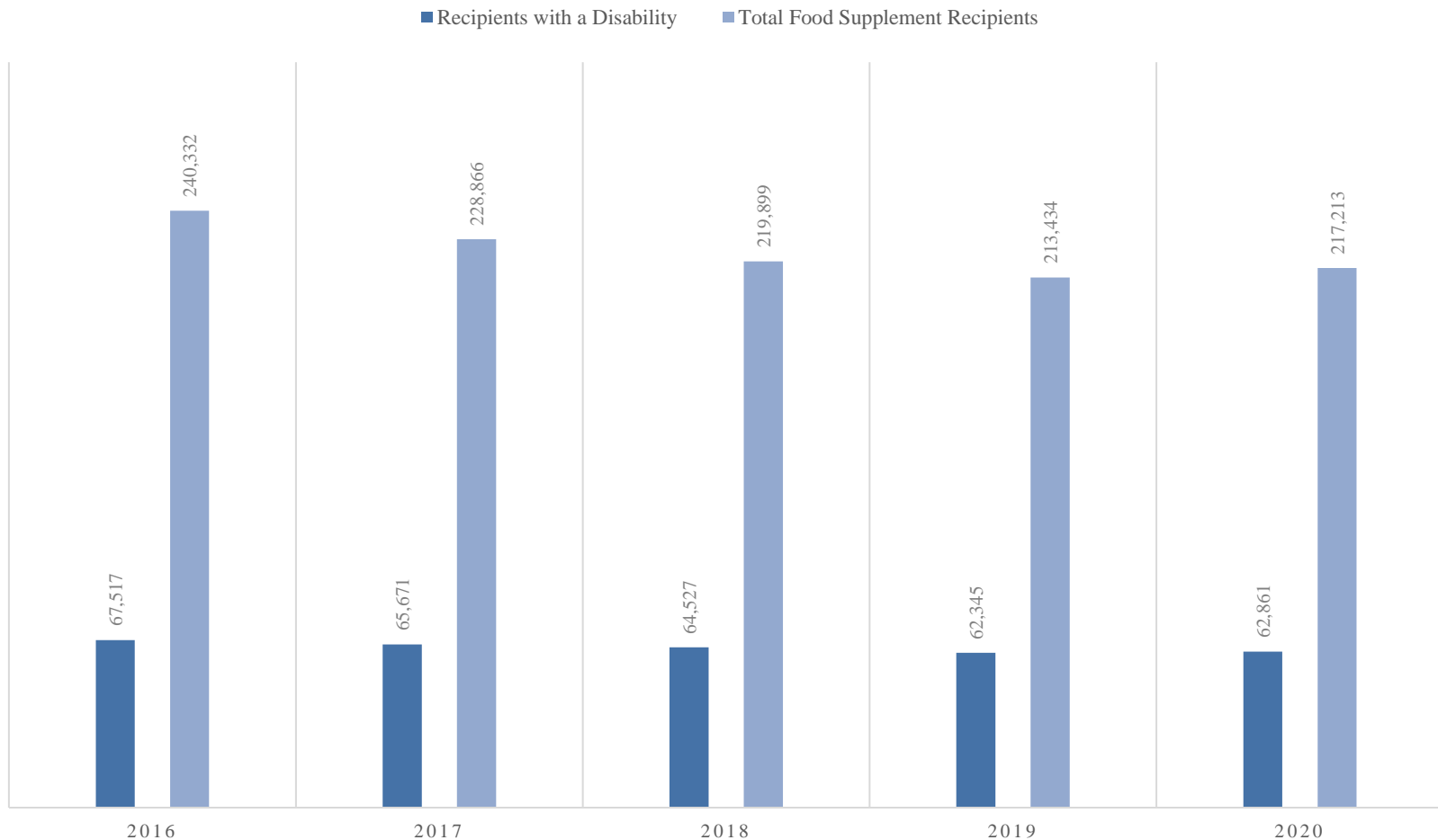
Measures of Economic Security

SNAP Recipients by Age Range



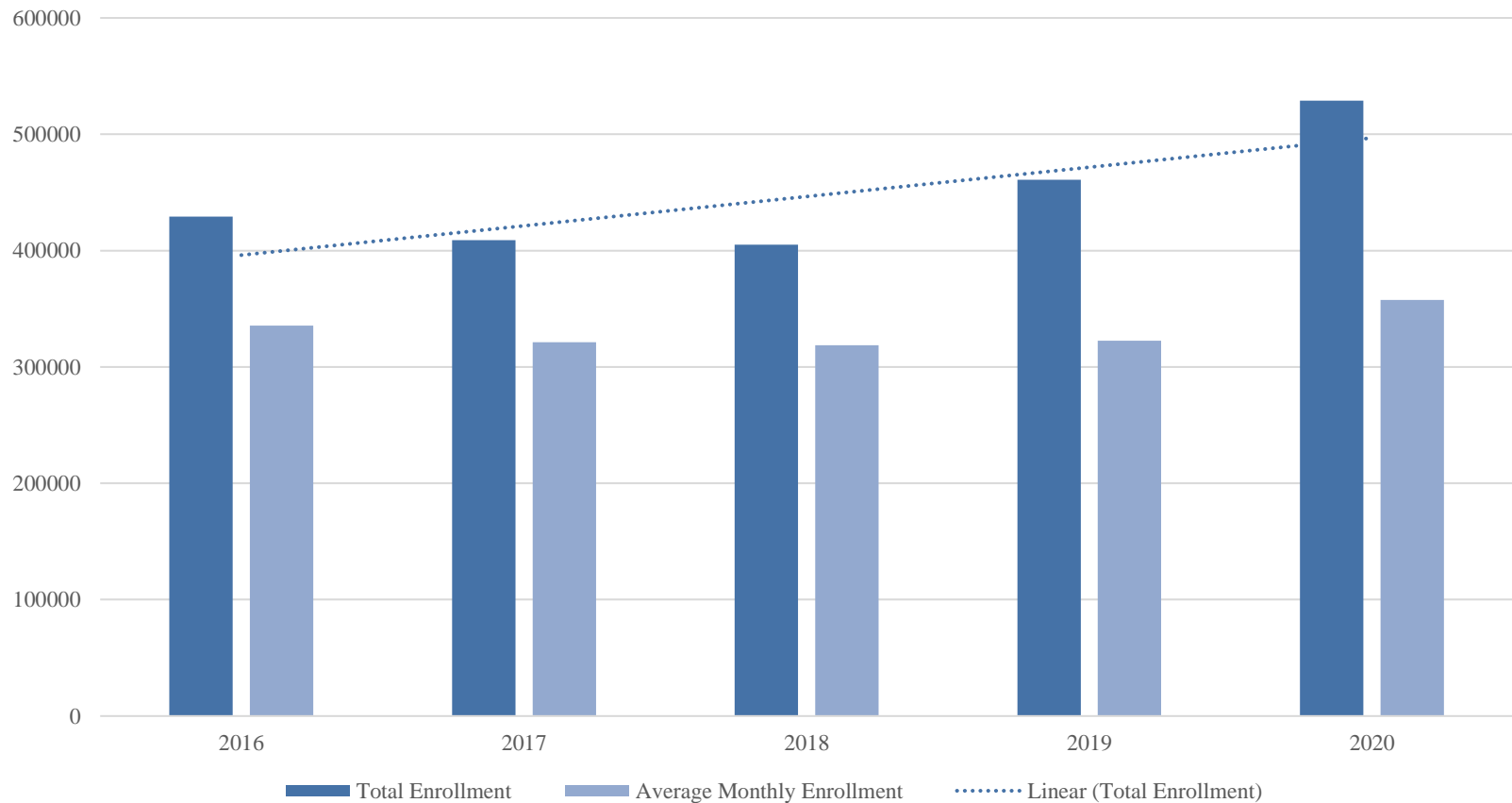
Measures of Economic Security

Number of SNAP Recipients with a Disability



Measures of Economic Security

Total Enrollment in MaineCare - All Coverage Groups



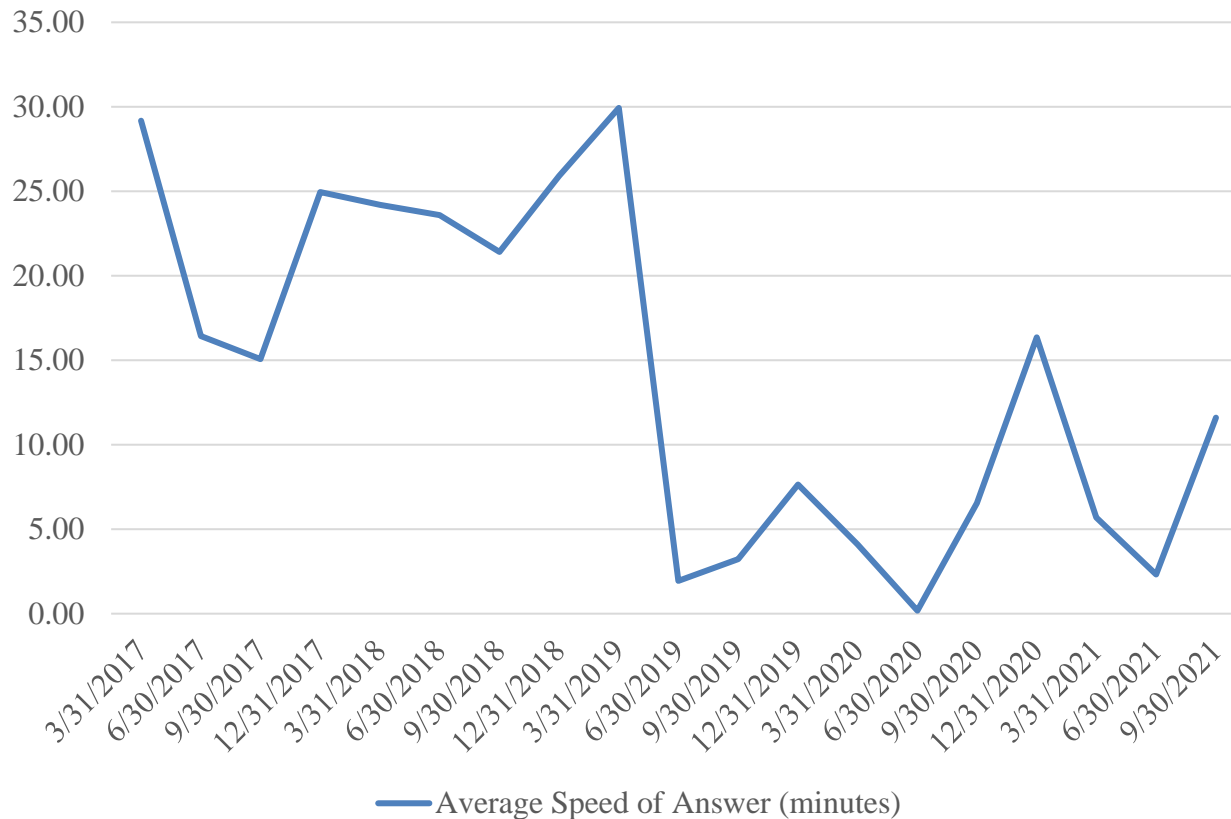
Measures of Economic Security

MaineCare Application Processing Times

Timeliness	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<24 Hours	29%	27%	28%	24%	23%
1-7 Days	11%	10%	12%	13%	15%
8-30 Days	30%	28%	26%	34%	35%
31-45 Days	9%	9%	9%	13%	12%
>45 Days	21%	27%	25%	17%	15%
Total Applications	24,179	25,709	24,133	33,305	34,534

Measures of Economic Security

Average Waiting Times to Speak with a Person at DHHS Call Center



3. Program Updates Across OFI SNAP

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)

- Federally funded benefit, implemented in partnership with Maine Dept. of Education
- Approx. \$35,000,000 in P-EBT was distributed to Maine children for the time period of March 2020 through August 2021 to address lost access to school meal programs.

Emergency Maximum Allotment

- All SNAP-eligible households receive the maximum benefit for their household size.
- Beginning in April 2020, OFI has issued and will continue to do so as approved by the Federal Government. Approval to issue these benefits is dependent on the Federal Public Health Emergency (PHE).
- SNAP benefits to Mainers increased from approximately \$17 million to \$32 million per month.

Updates: MaineCare Eligibility

MaineCare Expansion

- Maine people continue to benefit from expanded eligibility for the MaineCare program through the Affordable Care Act
- In late January 2022, over 89,000 people were actively enrolled through MaineCare expansion.
- As of November 2021, over 53,000 adults received mental health treatment and over 19,000 adults received substance use disorder treatment.

Improvements to Presumptive Eligibility

- Promulgated rules to provide short-term coverage to families, children, pregnant women, and other income eligible adults.
- Provides individuals with short term, immediate health care assistance and helps individuals connect to ongoing health coverage.

Expansion of Pregnancy Related Coverage

- Promulgating rules to increase the eligibility period for pregnant women
- Pursuant to legislation passed in 2021, the rule also provides coverage to pregnant women who would be otherwise eligible for MaineCare but for their citizenship status.
- Increasing coverage for women and children during pregnancy improves health outcomes for both mothers and babies.

Updates: HOPE Program

HOPE Program in 2021

- Enrollment has surpassed 400 students
- 62% of HOPE students are enrolled in a healthcare-related program.
- Expanded supported occupations and Bachelor's degree programs and HOPE already has accepted students under these new guidelines, which took effect in October of 2021.
- 101 graduates from the HOPE program in 2021, with 105 total credentials earned.
 - Significant increase over the 34 graduates in 2020.

Feedback from a recent HOPE Graduate:

"I also wanted to let you know that I have been offered a full time RN job with my current employer pending my graduation, and have an interview tomorrow with another facility as well.

I cannot even begin to explain how much of an impact being able to further my education has made for myself and my family. I feel so hopeful that I have permanently broken the chain of generational poverty within my little family, something which I feel is truly remarkable given that my co-parent and I had both grown up being frequently food and in my case, housing insecure, and became parents as teenagers.

I am so grateful for all the help that I have been given to get to where I am today."

Updates: Cross-Program Initiatives

My Maine Connection Replacement (scheduled to be in use by mid-2022)

- Enhanced client experience with self-service, mobile access, and document uploads and improved processing procedures, including auto import of client reported data
- Applicants and recipients will experience a dynamic communication flow which will only trigger relevant questions for the programs requested.
- Increased access to data sources to reduce consumer burden in providing verifications for eligibility determinations, and ultimately an increase in automation of MAGI MaineCare eligibility determinations for quicker application, recertification, and change processing.
- Work is already under way on the next phase, which will add HOPE, Emergency Assistance, and Alternative Aid programs to the new self-service model.

Resource Dashboard – Benefits Cliff Calculator (training began in January 2022)

- Continued partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (Atlanta Fed) to develop and provide a Maine Family Resources Dashboard and a Family Financial Planner tool.
- Depicts wages along select career pathways to indicate barriers presented by benefits cliffs.
- Developing a personalized Financial Planner, which is intended for more intensive career and financial counseling of families with low income and creates individually customized career paths which considers benefits, taxes, and expenses over time.
- The Dashboard and Financial Planner also calculate the net returns to the taxpayer from career advancement.

Updates: TANF Program

Eliminating the Full Family Sanction

- Implementation complete as of October 2021
- Rulemaking in development

Whole Family Services

- Implementing whole family (also known as “two-gen”) family-centered coaching services in 11 locations statewide to improve wraparound supports and help prioritize the family’s goals for economic stability and wellbeing.
- As of December 2021, 188 families (667 individuals) are enrolled with a total statewide program capacity of 550 families.

Step Disregard and HOPE Evaluation (Expected in 2022)

- DHHS has contracted with a national evaluation team at the American Institutes for Research (AIR) (formerly known as IMPAQ).
- Evaluation will include quantitative and qualitative research, assessing the impacts of the TANF enhanced earnings disregards and the HOPE program for Maine families.

Parents as Scholars (PaS)

- Adding of education navigator services for PaS participants, like those services which are provided to HOPE participants currently

Updates: ASPIRE Program

Improving Individualized Support for Clients

- 16 new staff dedicated to whole family coaching to complement FEDCAP work
- Individualized support provided to participants with special circumstances, such as those nearing the 60-month limit or needing additional support
- Coaching will include support for accessing other OFI, DHHS, State of Maine, and community services that the participant is eligible for
- Restorative practices: support for addressing barriers prior to sanctions

ASPIRE Request for Proposals (RFP) (Current contract expires 9-30-22)

- Two-Generation/whole family coaching model
- Restorative practices to address barriers, avoid sanctions when appropriate
- Trauma-informed approach to services
- Culturally and linguistically appropriate service delivery
- Hybrid service delivery model (DHHS-delivered and vendor-delivered services)
- Heightened focus on two major pathways: Education or Job Placement

Questions?

