



CWHS

Data Points

RESULTS FROM THE 2005 CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

The California Women's Health Survey (CWHS) questioned women about their participation at any time during the preceding 12 months in California's public assistance welfare program, also known as California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs). Women were also asked about their race/ethnicity (self-identification), age and marital status. Data presented here are from a combination of 2004 and 2005 surveys.

Of the women in the CWHS, 4.4 percent (n=396 women) said they had received public assistance some time during the 12 months preceding the survey. The percent distribution among women who said they had received assistance varied by race/ethnicity. Hispanics

were the largest group (40.5 percent), followed by whites (26.9 percent), Black/African American (21.5 percent), and Asians/Others (11.1 percent).

The percentage of women who received welfare assistance also varied by age. The largest group was aged 25 to 34 years (34.3 percent), and the smallest group was among those aged 65 years and older.

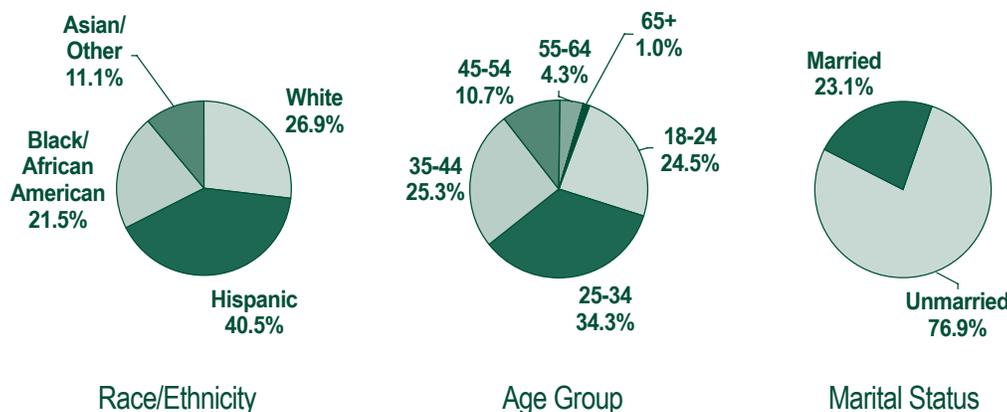
More than three times the number of unmarried women received public assistance than did married women (76.9 percent vs. 23.1 percent, respectively).

Women Receiving Public Assistance in the Preceding 12 Months and Their History of Foster Care

Department of Social Services
Research and Evaluation Branch

Public Health Message: *Women with a history of being in foster care were more likely than the general population to have received public assistance in the past 12 months. Therefore, outreach toward Foster Care providers and those currently in the Foster Care Program could help reduce dependency among former foster children.*

Women Who Received Public Assistance By Selected Demographic Characteristics, California, 2004-2005



Source: California Women's Health Survey, 2004-2005

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WOMEN WHO WERE IN THE FOSTER CARE PROGRAM PRIOR TO THEIR EIGHTEENTH BIRTHDAY

Caring for children has long been a priority for California agencies. The Foster Care Program (FCP) includes many diverse programs to address issues confronting California children. The FCP is currently administered by the counties, with oversight by the Department of Social Services.

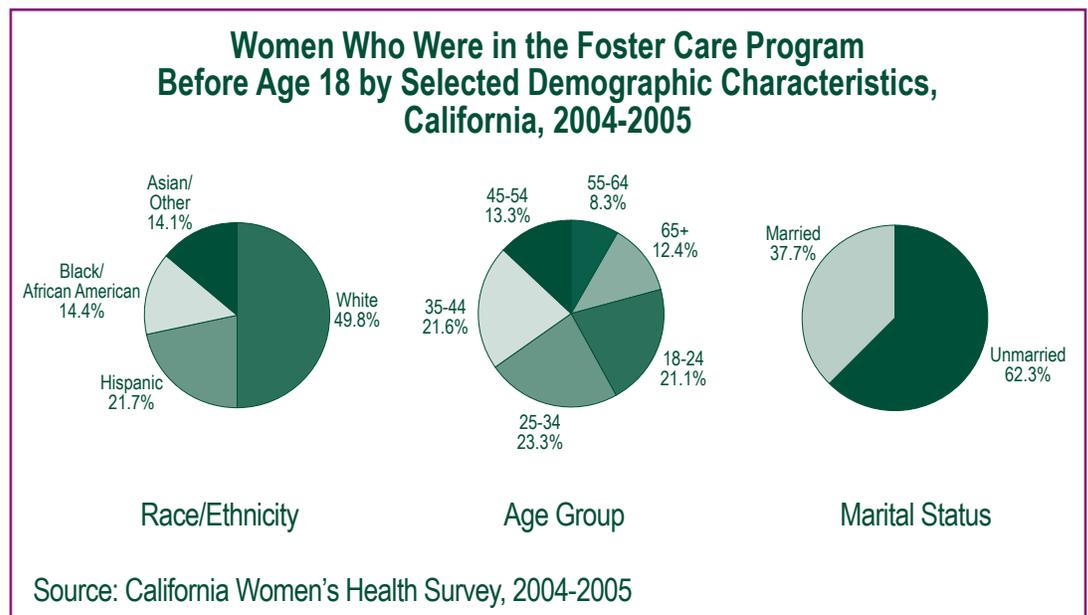
Women in the 2004 and 2005 CWSHS surveys were asked if they had participated in the FCP prior to their 18th birthday, and 2.7 percent of California women (n=243) reported that they had.

This group of women who had been in the FCP varied by race/ethnicity, age and marital status. White women comprised the largest group (49.8 percent), followed by Hispanics (21.7 percent), Black/African American (14.4

percent) and Asians/Others (14.1 percent). More younger women (aged 25 to 34 years) had participated before age 18 (23.3 percent), followed by women aged 35 to 44. (21.6 percent). More unmarried women had once participated in foster care (62.3 percent) than married women (37.7 percent).

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND FOSTER CARE

Of the 243 women who reported having been in Foster Care, 20.5 percent reported they had received public assistance in the previous 12 months. This rate was 4.7 times higher than that observed in the general population (4.4 percent). Conversely, of the 395 women who reported they had received public assistance, 12.6 percent reported having been in the Foster Care Program, which was 4.7 times the rate in the general population (2.7 percent).



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