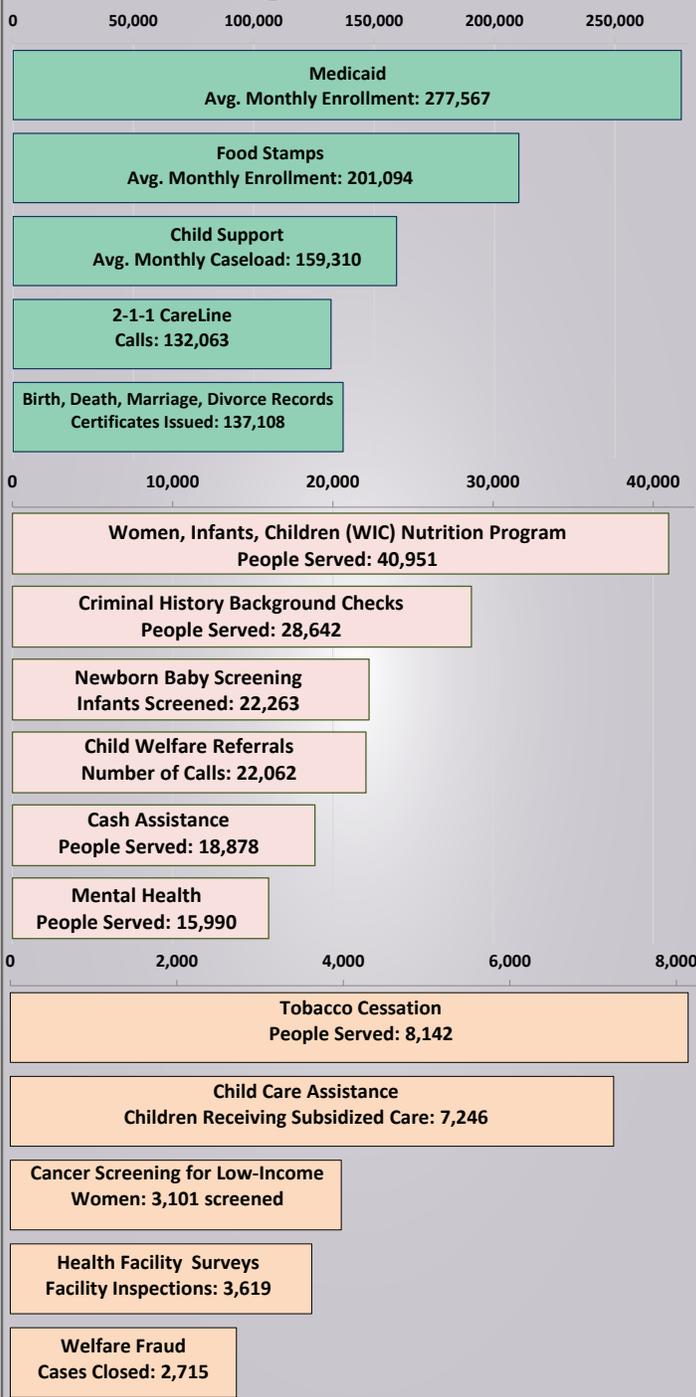




A Report to our Citizens

July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

2015 Program Performance



The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) offers programs that deal with complex social, economic and individual issues. These programs are designed to promote self-sufficiency and strengthen families. Last year, DHW served more than 400,000 Idahoans. Here are just some of the improvements we've made to better serve our state's citizens:

- Northern Idaho Crisis Center:** Idaho's second behavioral health crisis center opened its doors in Coeur d'Alene. These centers operate 24/7 for people who are experiencing a crisis because of a serious mental illness and/or a substance use disorder. Too often, people in crisis are taken to hospital emergency departments or jails, but a crisis center can provide more appropriate and humane treatment. The vision is to eventually open seven crisis centers in the state, spread geographically so all regions have access.

DHW By the Numbers

- **2015 Appropriation: \$2.5 B.**
- **Full-time Employees: 2,837**
- **State Offices: 23**
- **Psychiatric Hospitals: 2**
- **Divisions: 8**

- Guardian Scholars Program:** Boise State and Idaho State Universities partnered with DHW to provide mentoring and wrap-around educational support to young adults who aged out of foster care. Youth who are not adopted by the age of 18 are often without adult or family supports after high school. The Guardian Scholars Program wraps supports around them to help them stay in school and graduate with a skill or degree that can set a new course for their lives.

- Immunization Registry Connections:** Idaho's Immunization Reminder Information System can now electronically connect to healthcare practices and clinics. Healthcare providers have access to accurate and timely immunization histories so they can keep their patients on schedule for protective immunizations against preventable diseases and avoid duplicating immunizations their patients may have already received.

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Values: Integrity, high quality customer service and compassion are the foundation for all DHW activities. Focusing on these values will lead to success.

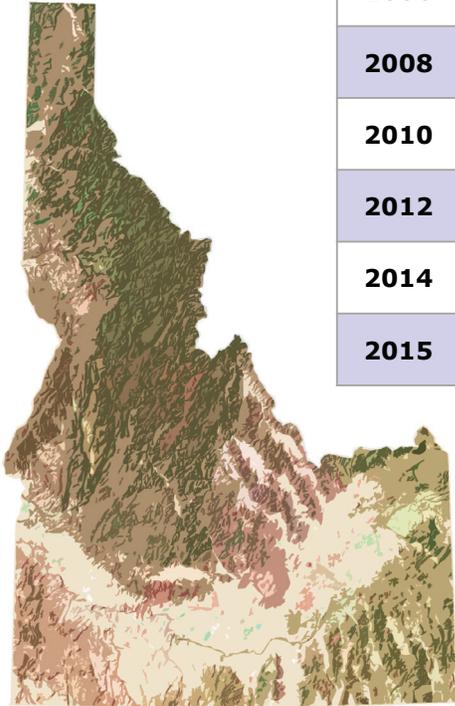
Public Assistance Trends 2004-2015

Counts are taken annually on June 30th. Percentages reflect the percent of Idaho's total population.

Year	Total Population	Cash Assistance	Medicaid	Food Stamps	Child Care	Unduplicated Total
2004	1,366,332	15,366 1.1%	165,909 12.1%	92,963 6.8%	9,016 0.7%	191,918 14.1%
2006	1,429,096	15,893 1.1%	171,795 12.0%	91,032 6.4%	8,100 0.6%	196,802 13.8%
2008	1,499,402	16,004 1.1%	189,396 12.6%	104,057 6.9%	6,717 0.4%	215,317 14.4%
2010	1,545,801	18,107 1.2%	217,539 14.1%	204,994 13.3%	5,812 0.4%	304,414 19.7%
2012	1,584,985	17,885 1.1%	239,472 15.1%	232,081 14.6%	6,306 0.4%	322,288 20.3%
2014	1,612,136	18,479 1.1%	272,363 16.9%	209,070 13.0%	7,230 0.4%	332,338 20.6%
2015	1,634,464	19,093* 1.2%	293,103 17.9%	195,163 11.9%	7,534 0.5%	345,596 21.1%

*98.5% of cash assistance goes to the elderly, disabled, blind, or children being raised by relatives. Four of five recipients received an average monthly payment of \$53.

A total of 345,596 people received public assistance in the form of Medicaid, Food Stamps, child care or cash assistance in June 2015. Some people, such as the elderly or disabled, may receive more than one service. The total column on the right provides an unduplicated count of program participants.



Eligibility in some programs is determined by income, while others such as Medicaid also consider other eligibility determinants, such as a disability. Food Stamps is an income-based program for people earning less than 130% of poverty. For a single person, that would be an annual income of \$15,444; for a family of four, \$31,590. The average Food Stamp allotment per person in Idaho is about \$115 per month, or about \$1.27 per meal.

DHW is still feeling the effects of The Great Recession, which began in 2008 and increased people's need for services in many public assistance programs. Before the economic downturn, the Food Stamp program served approximately 87,000 people. Enrollment peaked in January 2012, with more than 238,000 participants. Food Stamp numbers are expected to continue to slowly decline, as the economic recovery continues and Idahoans find employment.

Transforming Idaho's Healthcare to Patient Centered Medical Homes

The State Healthcare Innovation Plan (SHIP) and Idaho Medicaid are simultaneously advancing Idaho's medical system to a new model of healthcare – the Patient Centered Medical Home.

Through this model, a patient's medical home directs all of their primary and preventive care, enlisting a team of practitioners to pro-actively manage their health care. This will transform the current episodic and acute care model to one that focuses on prevention and management

of chronic conditions. It also shifts the payment model from paying providers for volume of patients treated to one that rewards providers for improved patient outcomes. Paying for value rather than volume will make the medical system more sustainable.

The SHIP program received a federal grant in February 2015, part of which is being used to transform 165 Idaho primary care practices to medical homes. During the first year of the grant, over

100 private medical practices applied for the 55 available positions, which shows the enthusiasm of Idaho medical providers for the patient-centered medical home model.

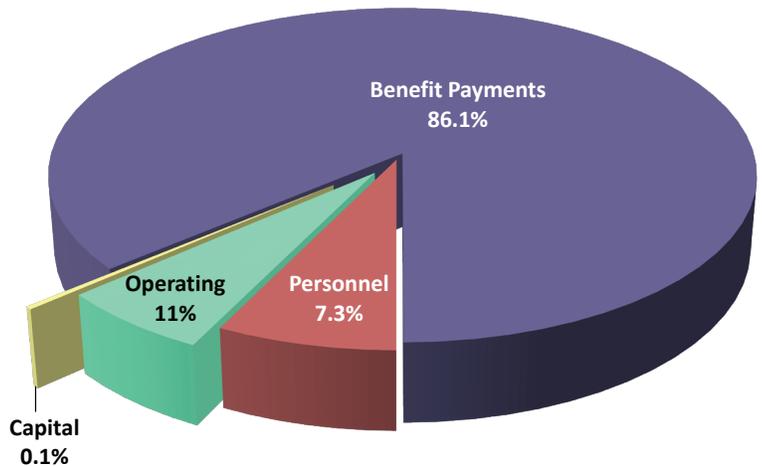
Idaho Medicaid also is transitioning enrollees to patient centered medical homes. The goal is to transition all eligible participants as soon as practical, embracing the care management and payment system principles of the patient-centered medical home model.

Vision:

Provide leadership for development and implementation of a sustainable, integrated health and human services system.

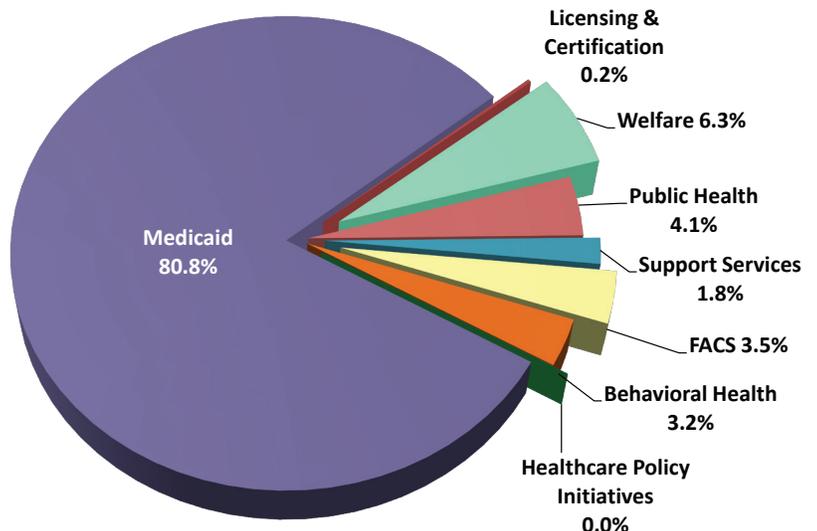
State Fiscal Year 2015 DHW Expenditures

Personnel Costs	\$180,102,700
Operating Expense	\$155,206,800
Capital Outlay	\$7,305,000
Benefit Payments	<u>\$2,128,162,800</u>
Total	\$2,470,777,300
Full Time Workers	2,837



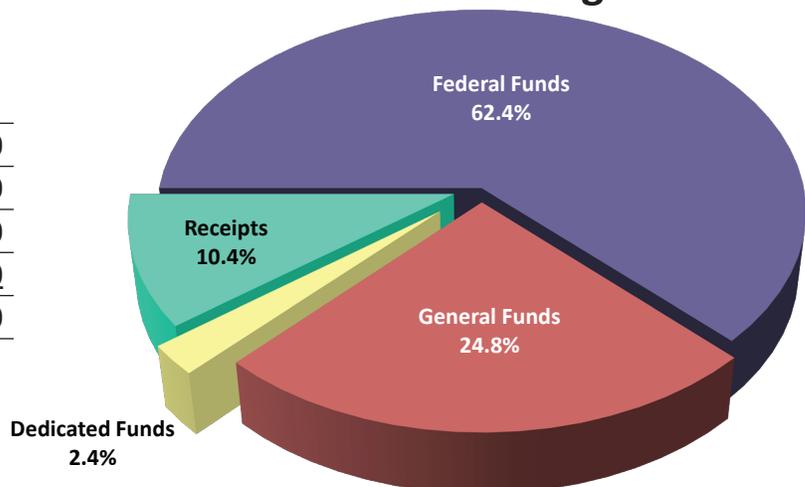
State Fiscal Year 2015 DHW Expenditures by Program

Medicaid	\$1,997,242,800
Licensing & Certification	\$5,900,600
Family & Community Svcs	\$87,455,500
Behavioral Health	\$79,524,500
Public Health	\$100,200,400
Welfare	\$156,372,000
Support Services	<u>\$43,870,700</u>
Total	\$2,470,777,300



State Fiscal Year 2015 DHW Sources of Funding

Federal Funds	\$1,541,613,800
State Funds	\$611,654,600
Dedicated Funds	\$59,472,600
Receipts	<u>\$258,036,300</u>
Total	\$2,470,777,300



Moving Forward: Analysis, Insights & the Future

Death of an Urban Legend

There are a lot of urban legends about public assistance, the most popular one being that once people begin receiving public assistance, they receive benefits for the rest of their lives. We analyzed data for the last six years, and found that's far from reality in Idaho.

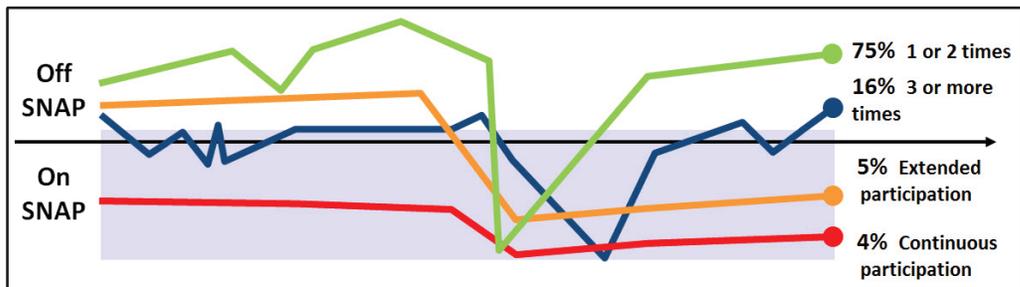
4 percent received benefits for the entire six years. And they were not welfare queens or kings. They included widows and other seniors, people with disabilities, and working families with children in the home.

Today, approximately 190,000 people participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or Food

Stamps as it is more commonly called. During the last six years, a total of 575,000 people received SNAP benefits for some period of time.

What we found was the average length of time people received benefits was 13 months. The vast majority of participants, 75 percent, experienced a crisis in their lives, most commonly unemployment. For most of them it was a one-time event; they relied on Food Stamps for a brief period until they got back on their feet.

Drilling down into the data a little more, we found that only



The remaining 21 percent also tell a story. Three-quarters of these participants cycled on and off the program multiple times during the six years. They are primarily the working poor, whose incomes and circum-

stances fluctuate, causing them to live in the gap between self-reliance and food stamp eligibility. They frequently work in fields such as home health, food service, construction, farming, forestry, retail sales, childcare and administrative support. They serve a key function to our economy, but they do not earn a livable wage.

The remaining 5 percent relied on services for longer periods of time. Most commonly, these are folks with a chronic physical or mental illness that makes it difficult for them to find or keep a job.

Overall, Idaho's public assistance programs are designed to help people achieve self-sufficiency.

Community Connections



DHW and community partners launched a new website to empower people to find solutions to

help them improve their financial security, nutrition, and family stability.

LiveBetterIdaho.org is a consumer-focused website designed to connect people to community opportunities to help them address challenges and make life changes to live better. The website is still under development, but is already proving to be a valuable tool for Idaho families.

SNAP Benefits to be Issued Over 10 Days

Idaho's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is changing the date it distributes benefits from the first day of each month to the first 10 days of the month beginning July 1, 2016. Food retailers requested the change to help them with inventory management due to the surge of shoppers their stores experience on the first of each month.

Participants in the program will have a number printed on their card that corresponds to their birthdate. If a person was born on the 5th, 15th, or 25th of any given month, their food payment will be available on the 5th of each month. If their birthdate was the 8th, 18th or 28th of a month, their food stamp benefits become available on the 8th of each month.

The Idaho SNAP program began engaging stakeholders in early 2015 to plan for the transition. Grocers, food banks, hunger action councils, Head Start and community action agencies all have been involved in the planning. SNAP benefits are funded entirely by the federal government, bring in over \$275 million annually to the state.

We want to hear from you! Do you like this report?
What would you like to see next year? Please let us know, citizensreport@dhw.idaho.gov.

