

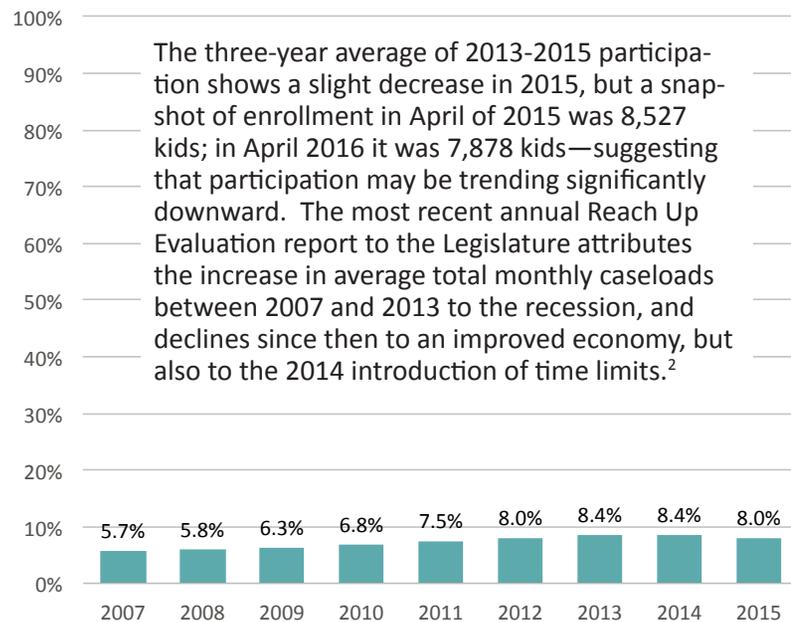
Children participating in Reach Up (TANF)



What the data show

Vermont's TANF program, called Reach Up, provides cash assistance to families experiencing extreme financial hardship.

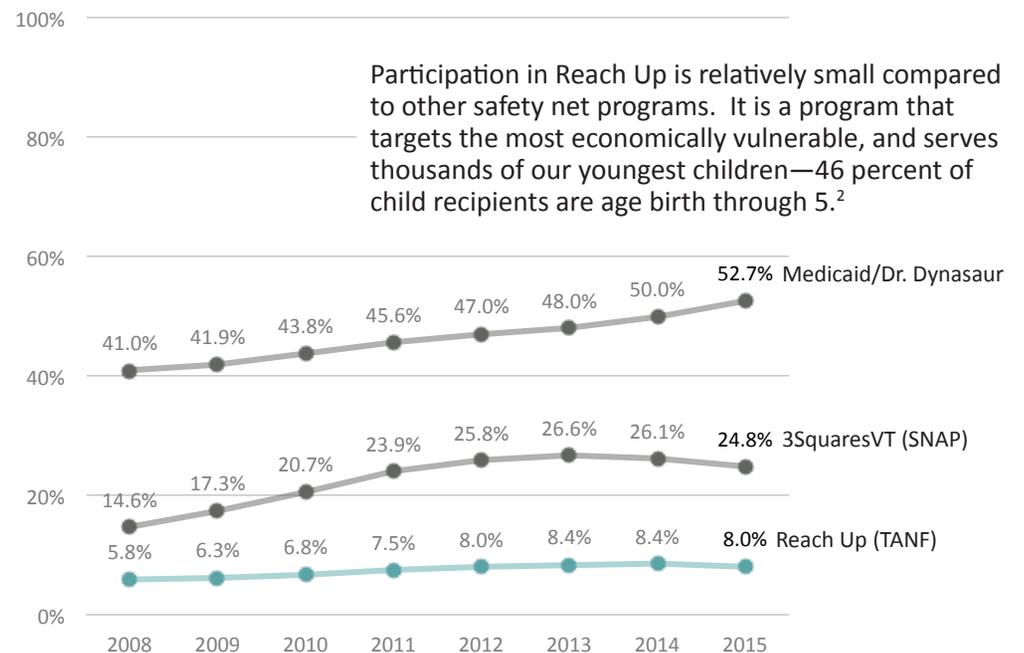
Percent of children in Vermont participating in Reach Up¹



What would it take...

...to increase the effectiveness of this critical part of Vermont's safety net? We should adjust grants to reflect the cost of living, protect TANF's identity as a cash assistance program, and restore or seek to achieve benefit levels that meet families' needs and so truly help protect children from deprivation.

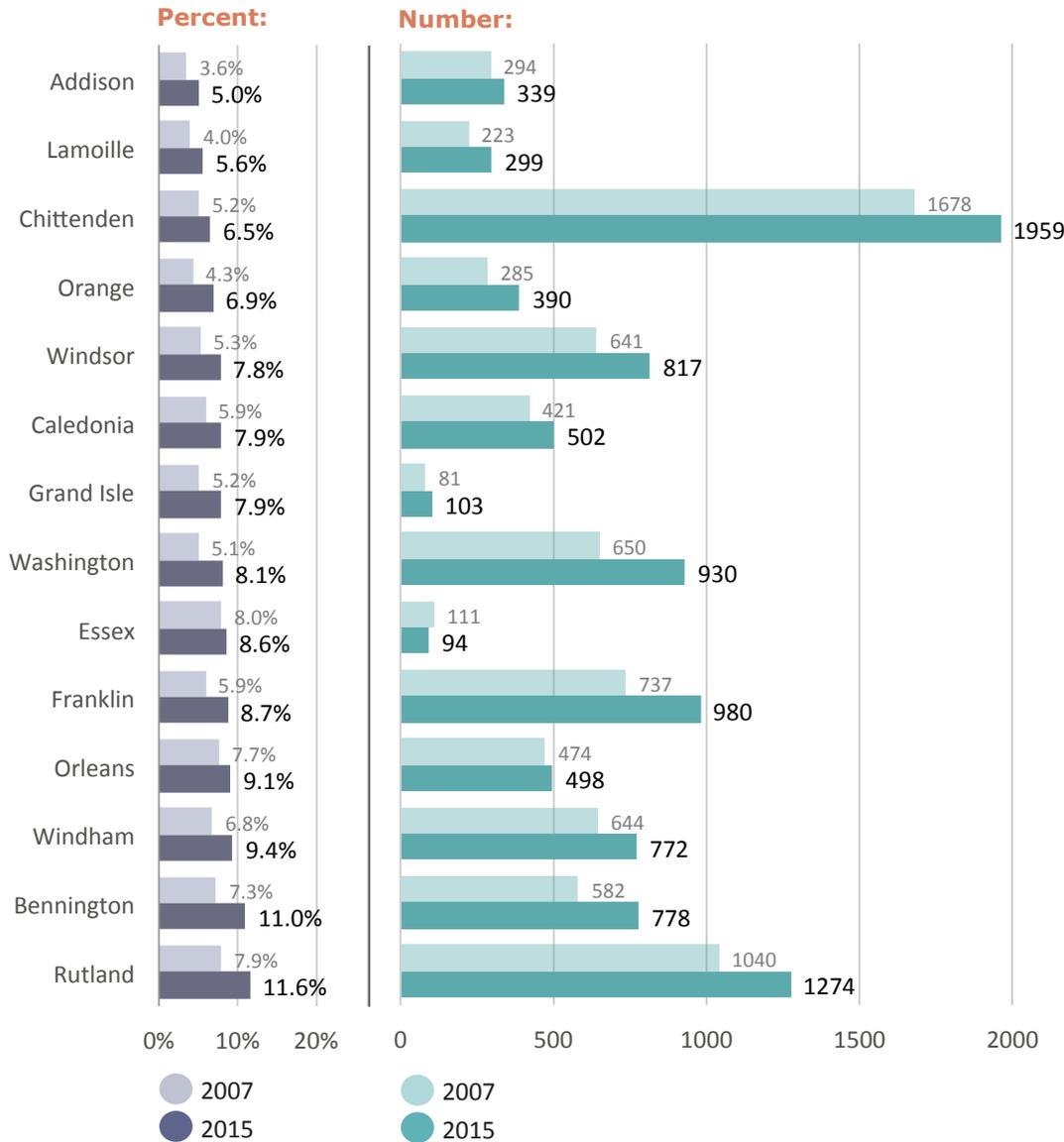
Children's participation in Reach Up is small compared to 3SquaresVT (SNAP) and Medicaid/Dr. Dynasaur³



Notes & Resources

1. Three-year average of 2013-2015 data provided by the Vermont Agency of Human Services, Department for Children and Families, Economic Services Division. Snapshots of April enrollment. Rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Department for Children and Families, Annual Reach Up Evaluation, Report to the Vermont Legislature, January 2017, <http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/Reach-Up-Annual-Report-2017.01.09.pdf>.
3. Three-year average of 2013-2015 data provided by the Vermont Agency of Human Services, Department for Children and Families, Economic Services Division and Department of Vermont Health Access. Snapshots of April enrollment.

Children participating in Reach Up by county⁴

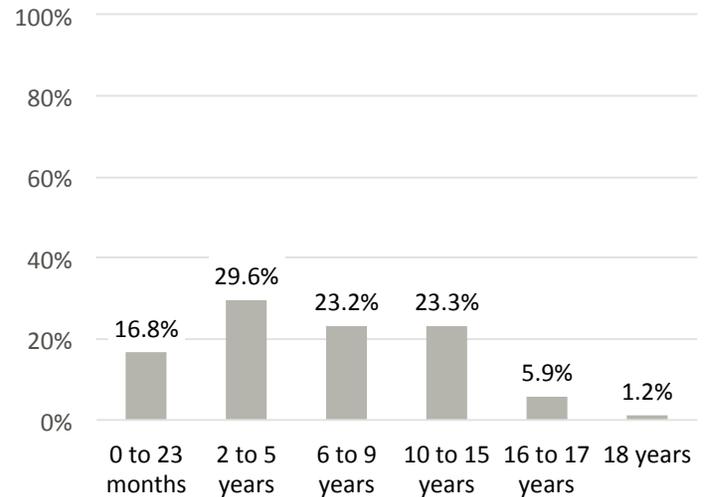


Maximum monthly Reach Up grants by family size, versus determined need⁵

	Outside Chittenden County	Chittenden County	"Basic needs" (2004)	"Basic needs" with cost-of-living increase (2016)
1	\$434	\$458	\$475	\$648
2	\$535	\$560	\$680	\$930
3	\$640	\$665	\$891	\$1,220
4	\$726	\$750	\$1,064	\$1,458

Grant amounts are based on budgeted funds available, not need. Current grant amounts are less than the 2004 basic needs calculation, and much less than the 2016 cost of living increase calculation. DCF currently pays 49.6 percent of need as determined in 2004.⁵

Children in households receiving Reach Up, by age group, Vermont 2015-2016⁵



Notes & Resources

4. Three-year average of 2013-2015 data provided by the Vermont Agency of Human Services, Department for Children and Families, Economic Services Division. Snapshots of April enrollment.

5. Department for Children and Families, Annual Reach Up Evaluation, Report to the Vermont Legislature, January 2017, <http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/Reach-Up-Annual-Report-2017.01.09.pdf>.