

Three Women, Ten Kids, and a National Drive to End Welfare



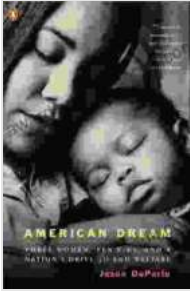
In the early 1990s, three women—Barbara Howell, Teresa Purnell, and Monica Danziger—set out on a mission to end welfare. They had all been on welfare themselves, and they knew firsthand how difficult it was to get off. They also knew that welfare was not a long-term solution to poverty. It was simply a way to keep people trapped in a cycle of dependency.

American Dream: Three Women, Ten Kids, and a Nation's Drive to End Welfare by Jason DeParle

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Howell, Purnell, and Danziger wanted to create a new system that would help people get off welfare and into work. They called their plan "welfare reform." The plan would require welfare recipients to work in order to receive benefits. It would also provide them with job training, childcare, and other supports to help them succeed in the workforce.

Welfare reform was a controversial idea at the time. Many people argued that it would be too harsh on welfare recipients. They said that it would force people into low-paying jobs that would not lift them out of poverty. Others argued that welfare reform was necessary to break the cycle of dependency. They said that it would help people become self-sufficient and improve their lives.

Despite the controversy, welfare reform was passed into law in 1996. The law required states to implement welfare reform programs that met certain federal standards. States were given flexibility to design their own programs, but all programs had to include work requirements.

Welfare reform has been a success. Since the law was passed, the number of people on welfare has declined by more than half. The number of people living in poverty has also declined. Welfare reform has helped people get

off welfare and into work. It has also helped improve the lives of children and families.

Here are some of the key provisions of welfare reform:

- **Work requirements:** Welfare recipients are required to work in order to receive benefits. The number of hours they must work each month varies depending on the state.
- **Job training:** Welfare recipients are provided with job training to help them get jobs. The training can include job search assistance, resume writing, and skills training.
- **Childcare:** Welfare recipients who are parents are provided with childcare assistance to help them work. The assistance can include paying for daycare or providing subsidies for childcare.
- **Other supports:** Welfare recipients may also be provided with other supports, such as transportation assistance, housing assistance, and food stamps.

Welfare reform has been a controversial program. However, there is evidence that it has been successful in helping people get off welfare and into work. It has also helped improve the lives of children and families.

The Impact of Welfare Reform on Women

Welfare reform has had a significant impact on women. Before welfare reform, most welfare recipients were women. In 1996, 80% of welfare recipients were women. By 2016, that number had declined to 52%.

Welfare reform has also helped women get into work. In 1996, only 38% of welfare recipients were employed. By 2016, that number had increased to 64%.

Welfare reform has also helped women improve their lives. Women who have left welfare are more likely to have stable housing, better health, and higher incomes.

However, welfare reform has also had some negative consequences for women. For example, welfare reform has led to an increase in the number of women who are homeless. It has also led to an increase in the number of women who are working in low-paying jobs.

Overall, welfare reform has had a positive impact on women. It has helped women get off welfare and into work. It has also helped women improve their lives.

The Future of Welfare Reform

Welfare reform is a complex issue with a long and complicated history. There is no easy answer to the question of whether or not welfare reform has been a success. However, the evidence shows that welfare reform has helped people get off welfare and into work. It has also helped improve the lives of children and families.

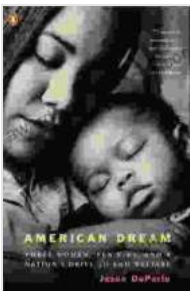
The future of welfare reform is uncertain. There are many different proposals for how to reform the system. Some people believe that welfare reform should be more generous, while others believe that it should be more strict.

One thing is for sure: welfare reform will continue to be a contentious issue for many years to come.

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