A Shifting Safety Net After PRWORA?  
Use of Cash Assistance by Non-Citizens in Missouri

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Background
- PRWORA instituted new restrictions for certain categories of immigrants. Those entering the country after August, 1996, most impacted.
- New requirements included a five-year minimum waiting period for many immigrants.

Data
- Income maintenance administrative data
- Missouri Department of Social Services
- January 1999 – April 2004

Geographic Variation 1999 & 2003
- Non-citizen cases concentrated in a few counties in Missouri.
- Highest ranking counties by percent of non-citizen cases are:
  - Predominately rural counties
  - Experiencing new influxes of migration
  - Have small TANF loads
- Exceptions are St. Louis City (which may never be Bosnian immigrants and parts of Kansas City metropolitan area in 2004)

Caseload Declines
- Fewer non-citizens could be applying for assistance.
- Either no longer eligible or perceive eligibility status has changed.
- May have changed naturalization status.
- National declines have been attributed to changes in naturalization status (Van Hook, 2003).

Conclusions
- Despite relatively good access for non-citizens, comprise a small percentage of the total caseload.
- Not directly comparable but much lower percentage than found in neighboring states.
- Minnesota – 12 to 17% of cases contained non-citizens (Hirasuna, 2003).
- Cases have declined substantially over period in terms of raw numbers and relative to cases headed by citizens.