

# VIEW and TANF:

Virginia Initiative for Employment Not Welfare  
and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

December 2014

# TANF

- 100.1 - LEGAL BASE - Virginia's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program is based on Title IV-A of the Social Security Act as amended by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996, the TANF State Plan, and on the Code of Virginia, Sections 63.2-602 through 63.2- 619. PRWORA allows states to establish program requirements in any manner which will reasonably accomplish the purpose of TANF.\*

\* Social Security Act, Sec. 404(a)(1)

# The Purposes of TANF

The purpose of TANF is to:

- provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives;
- end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;
- prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and
- encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Social Security Act, Sec. 401(a)

# Funding

**FUNDING - The TANF Program is funded through a federal block grant and from State funds authorized by the General Assembly of Virginia.**

## TANF NEED AND PAYMENT STANDARDS

GROUP I (includes Hanover)

Size of Standard of Standard of

Assistance	Unit Need	Assistance
1	\$ 146	<b>\$144</b>
2	229	<b>228</b>
3	295	<b>292</b>
4	358	<b>354</b>
5	422	<b>418</b>
6	473	<b>470</b>
7	535	<b>530</b>
8	602	<b>595</b>
9	657	650
10	718	712

**MAXIMUM REIMBURSABLE PAYMENT \$443**

# What is VIEW?

The Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare Program (VIEW) is a program of employment opportunities to assist individuals in attaining the goal of self-sufficiency.\*

The program goals are to offer Virginians living in poverty the opportunity:

- To achieve economic independence by removing barriers and disincentives to work and by providing positive incentives to work;
- To provide work skills necessary for self-sufficiency;
- To allow families living in poverty to contribute materially to their own self-sufficiency;
- To set out the responsibilities of and expectations for recipients of public assistance;
- To obtain work experience through the Virginia Initiative for Employment Not Welfare (VIEW).

# VIEW Responsibilities

- . The Department shall establish and administer the Virginia Initiative for Employment Not Welfare (VIEW) to reduce long-term dependence on welfare, to emphasize personal responsibility and to enhance opportunities for personal initiative and self-sufficiency by promoting the value of work. The Department shall endeavor to develop placements for VIEW participants that will enable participants to develop job skills that are likely to result in independent employment and that take into consideration the proficiency, experience, skills and prior training of a participant.

VIEW shall recognize clearly defined responsibilities and obligations on the part of public assistance recipients and shall include a written agreement of personal responsibility requiring parents to participate in work activities while receiving TANF, earned-income disregards to reduce disincentives to work, and a limit on TANF financial assistance.

# VIEW Responsibilities

VIEW *shall* require all able-bodied recipients of TANF who do not meet an exemption to participate in a work activity. VIEW shall require eligible TANF recipients to participate in unsubsidized, partially subsidized or fully subsidized employment or other allowable TANF work activity as defined by federal law and enter into an agreement of personal responsibility

# Agreement

**Agreement of Personal Responsibility** - As a condition of eligibility, all non-exempt individuals must sign a written Agreement of Personal Responsibility (APR). **An individual who signs an APR is considered a VIEW participant at the point the APR has been signed and will be considered to be participating in VIEW unless notice is received from the VIEW worker that he has failed or refused to participate. If an individual fails/refuses to participate/cooperate without good cause, the case is not eligible to receive a grant.**

# Agreement

The Agreement of Personal Responsibility will, at a minimum, explain the 24- month time limit and the following participant responsibilities:

1. To seek employment to support his own family.
2. To participate in assignments made by the case manager.
3. To notify the case manager of any change in the participant's circumstances which will impact the participant's ability to satisfactorily participate in the program.
4. To accept a job offer. Refusal to accept a job offer may result in a sanction if so determined by the VIEW worker.
5. To arrange and find transportation and day care. The case manager will assist the participant if he has tried, but has been unable to find transportation or day care.

# Who Participates?

- Anyone who receives TANF may be required to participate in the Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare (VIEW) program. Families in the VIEW program may earn income and receive a TANF check. However, the total income cannot be more than the federal poverty level for the family size.

## **2013 FEDERAL POVERTY LEVELS**

Size of Family Unit Monthly Poverty Guideline

1..... **\$ 958.00**

2..... **\$ 1,293.00**

3..... **\$ 1,628.00**

4..... **\$ 1,963.00**

5..... **\$ 2,298.00**

6..... **\$ 2,633.00**

7..... **\$ 2,968.00**

8..... **\$ 3,303.00**

For each additional person add **\$335**

# Restrictions

- A family with someone in VIEW may receive TANF for no longer than 24 months followed by a period of 24 months ineligibility. A family may receive TANF no more than a total of 60 months in a lifetime.

# Sanctions

**SANCTIONS** - Participants who fail to participate in the VIEW Program will be sanctioned.

A. The sanction will be imposed by suspending the TANF payment for the period of time specified at 901.6F.

B. For needy non-parent caretakers, the caretaker is to be removed from the grant, rather than suspending the payment. The caretaker may not be added back to the TANF grant during the current period of TANF assistance. If the caretaker files a new TANF application, and will be included on the TANF grant, she will be referred to VIEW unless otherwise exempt.

# Sanction Time Frames

1. For the first sanction, the grant will be suspended for a minimum period of one month and will continue to be suspended until the client complies.
2. For the second sanction, the grant will be suspended for a minimum period of three consecutive months and will continue to be suspended until the client complies
3. For the third and subsequent sanctions, the grant will be suspended for a minimum period of six consecutive months and will continue to be suspended until the client complies.

The time clock for VIEW participants continues during the sanction.

# Transitional Benefits

A VIEW participant may be eligible for transitional services for up to 12-months beginning with the month following TANF case closure. VIEW transitional services are child care, medical/dental services, work-related expenses, emergency intervention services, transportation, Transitional Employment and Training Services (TET) and the VIEW Transitional Payment (VTP). The exact period of eligibility will depend on the specific service and the client's employment status.

# VIEW Transitional Payment

The purpose of the transitional payment is to encourage job retention. The amount of the VTP is \$50 for each VIEW participant who meets the criteria listed below. The VTP amount is \$100 for a two parent household in which both parents meet the VTP criteria. If one parent leaves the home, the payment must be reduced by \$50.

# VIEW Transitional Payment

## Criteria for Receipt of the VTP:

1. The TANF case closes for any reason other than no eligible child in the home (including a child ineligible due to truancy) or because the client cannot be located.
2. The TANF recipient must not be in a penalty period for TANF at the time of the TANF case closure.
3. The TANF recipient is a VIEW participant at time of the TANF case closure.
4. The VIEW participant must be employed at least 30 hours per week, and earning at least minimum wage at the time of TANF case closure. (Note: If the client's scheduled hours of employment for a given week fall below 30, a VTP may still be established as long as the average weekly scheduled hours for the month are 30 or more).

# Termination of VTP

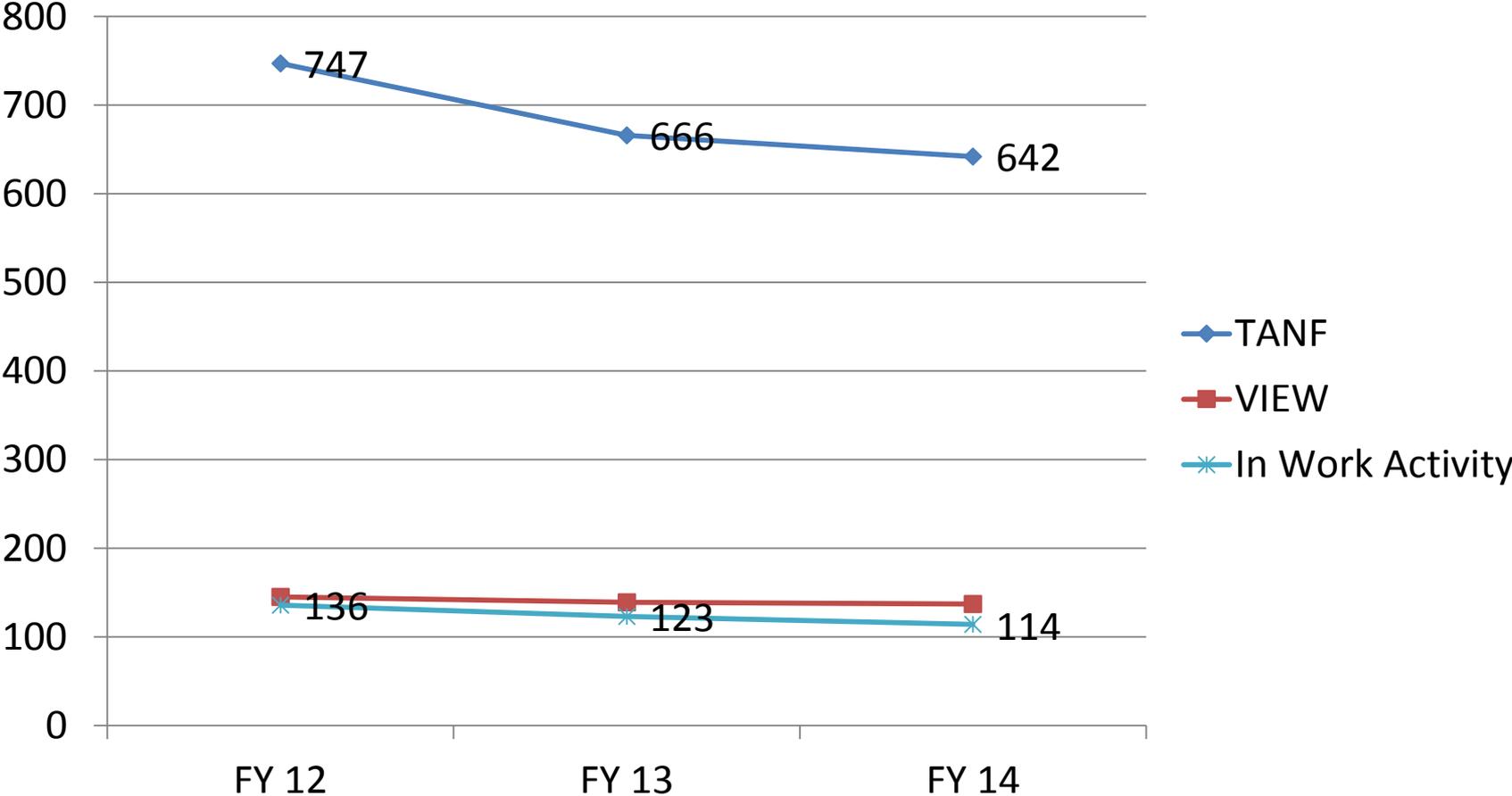
## Criteria for Termination of VTP:

1. The client is no longer working at least 30 hours per week.
2. The client's earnings fall below the current federal minimum wage.
3. There are no TANF eligible children in the home.

Note: If the only eligible child(ren) in the home at the time the TANF case closed reaches the age of 18 (or has already reached the age of 18 but had remained eligible for TANF because he/she was scheduled to graduate before reaching age 19 and he/she has now graduated) during the VTP period, the caretaker's eligibility for VTP will not be affected.

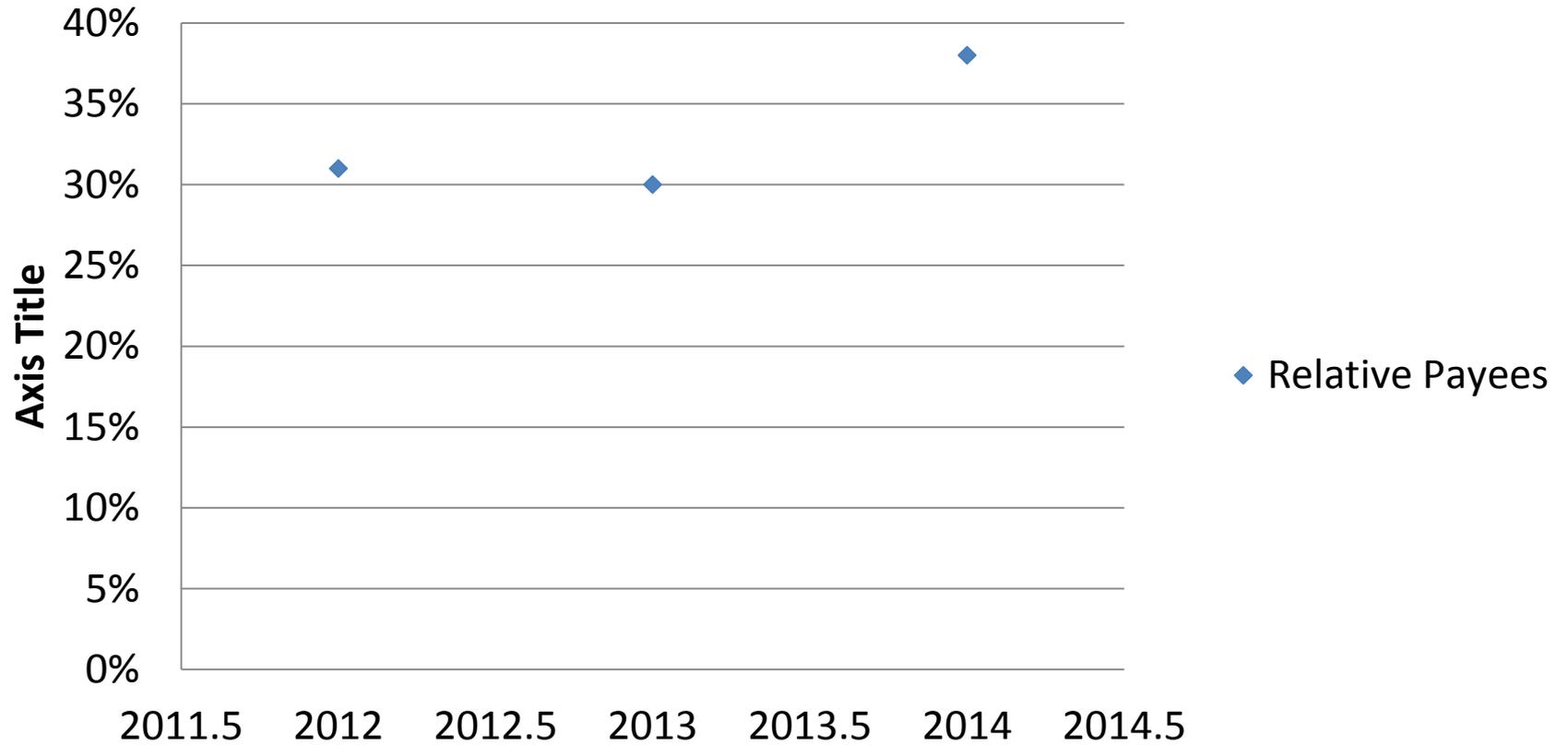
4. The client files a TANF reapplication.

# Hanover's VIEW and TANF

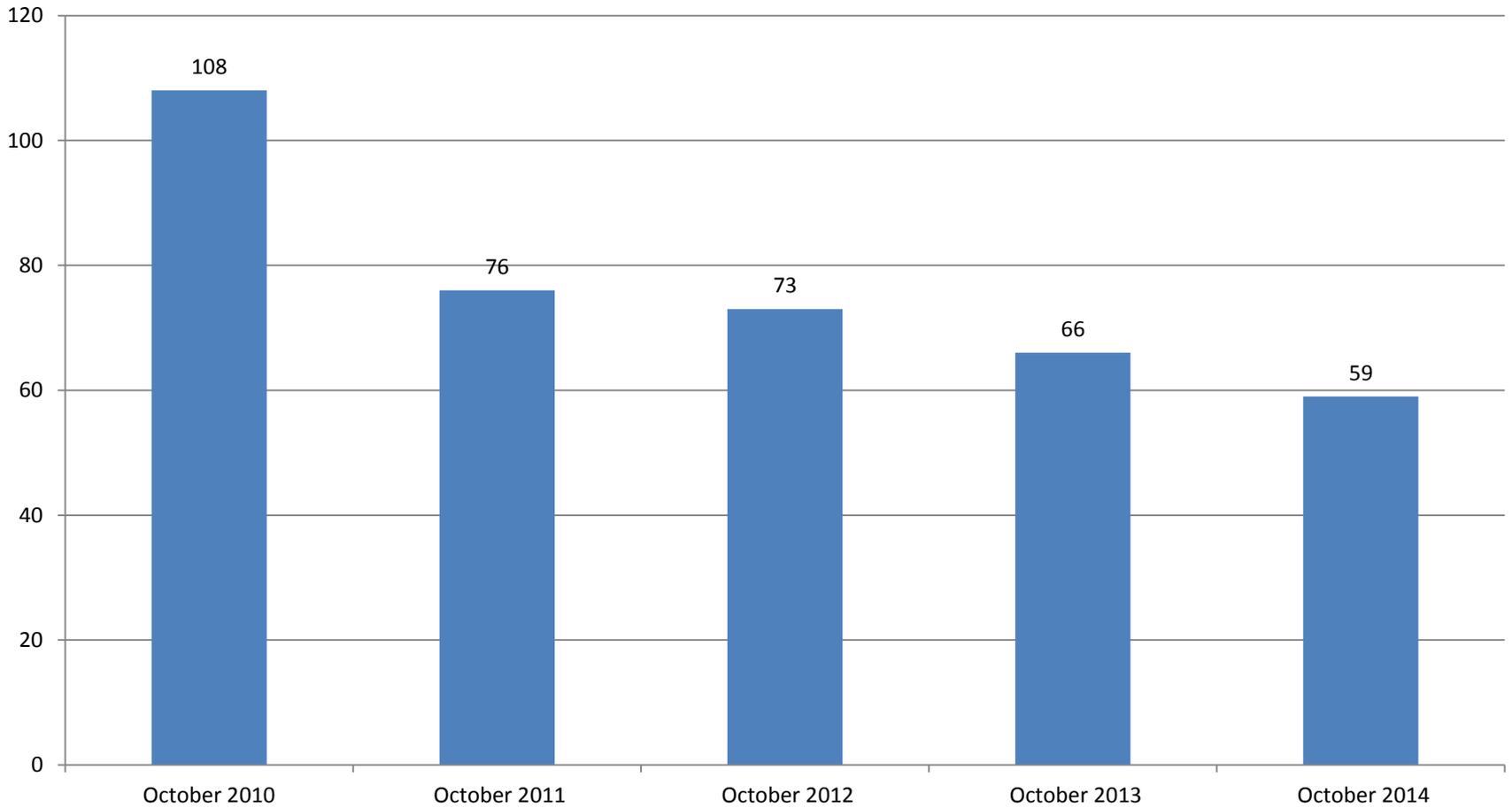


# No-Parent Caretakers

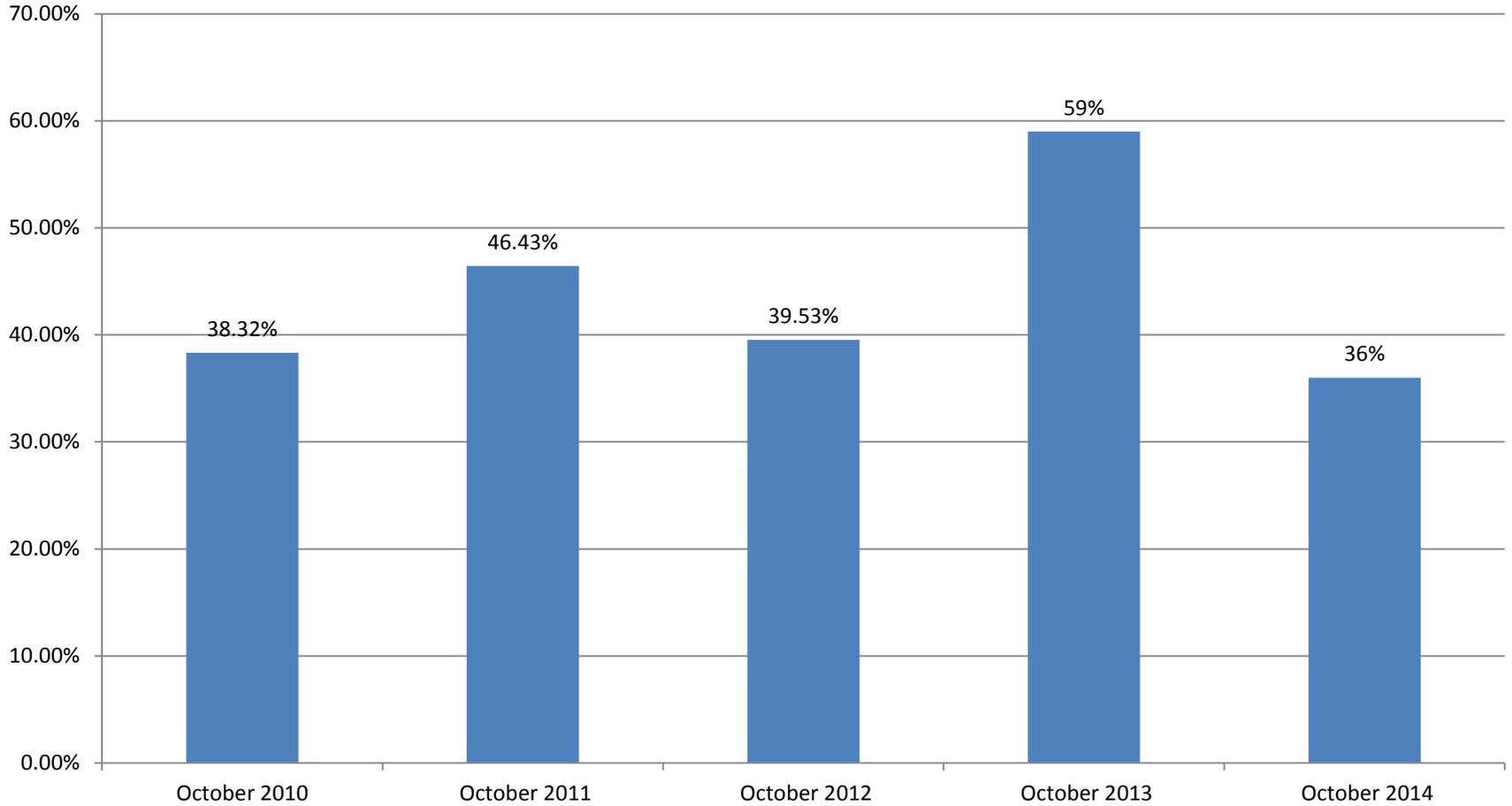
## Relative Payees



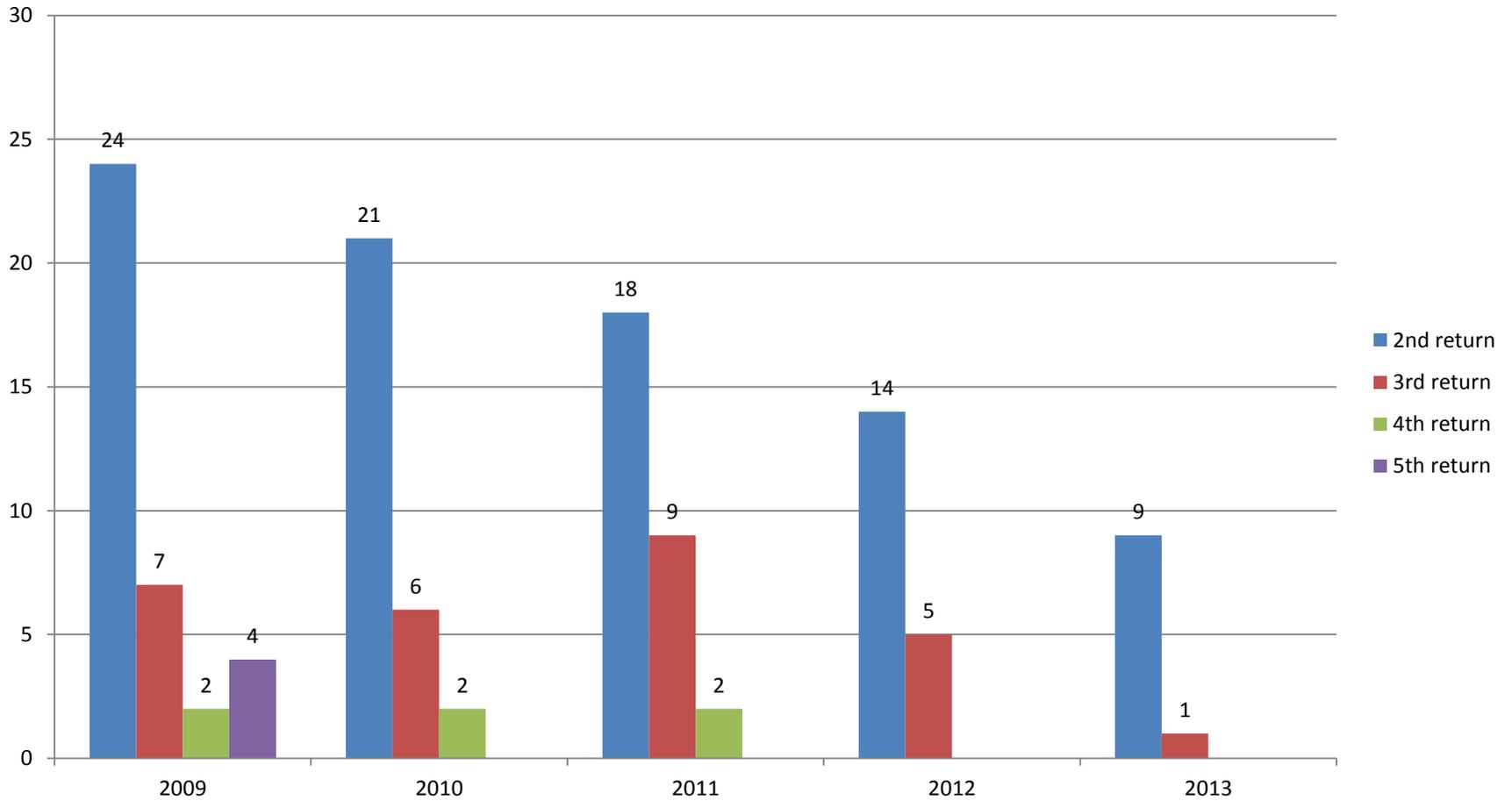
# Active VIEW Cases (PIT)



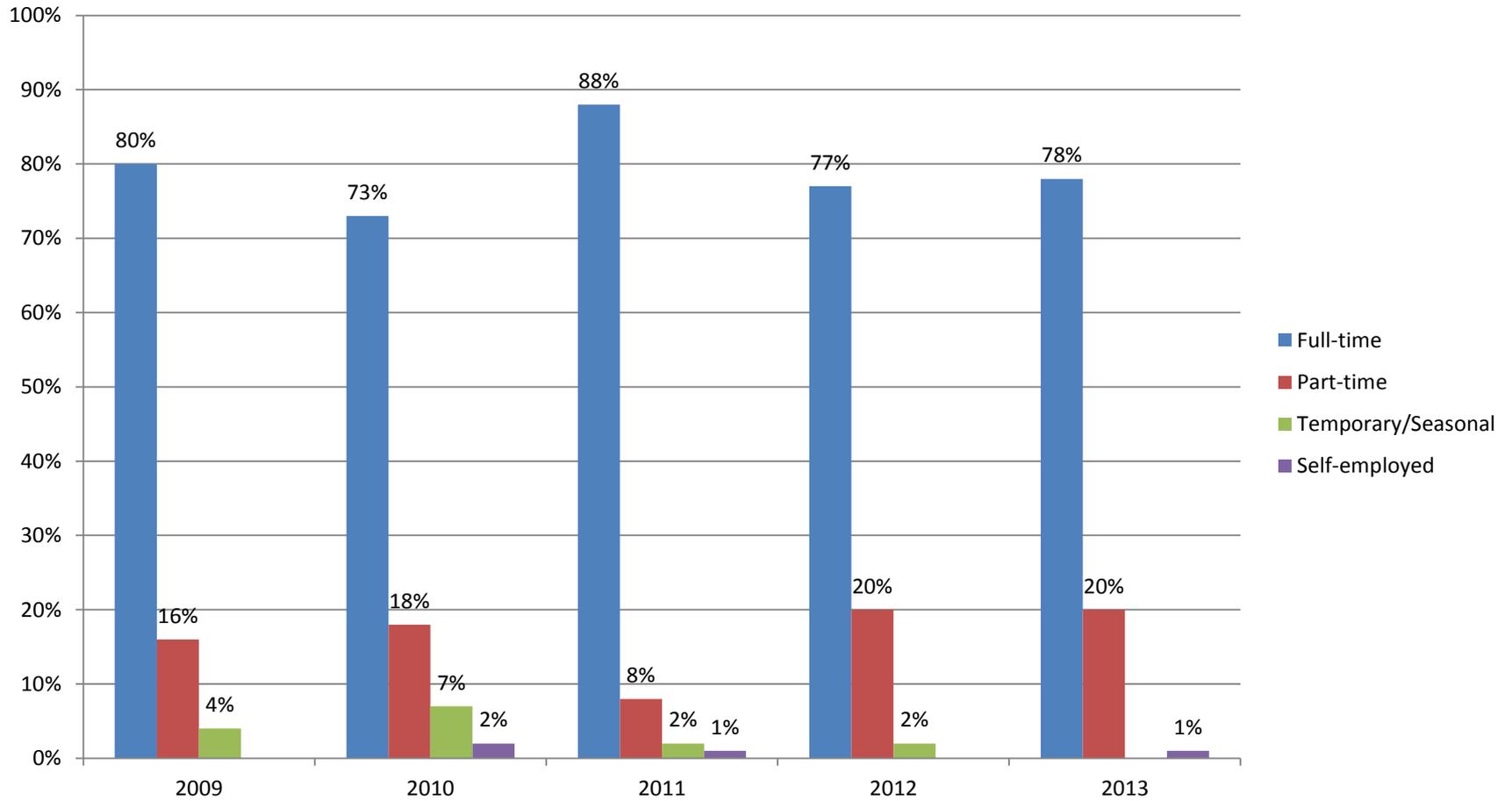
# VIEW Participation Rates



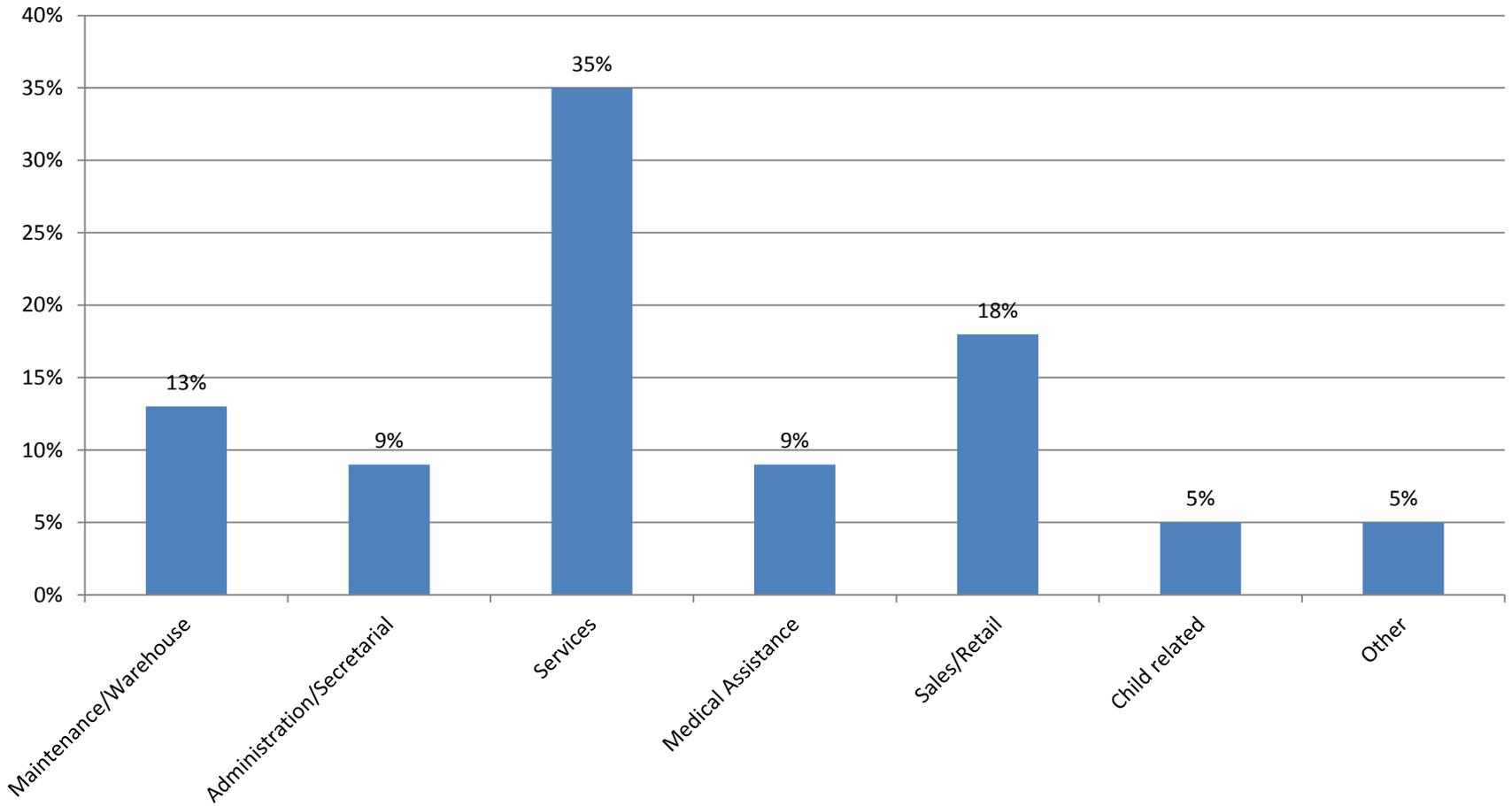
# Recidivism Rates



# Types of Employment



# Occupation Types



# Transportation Costs

## Transportation Related Costs

