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Public assistance up 11 percent from year ago

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — More Ohioans are receiving welfare payments and food stamps during this economic tailspin.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services says the number of people receiving cash assistance, formerly known as welfare, was up more than 11 percent in June from a year earlier. The number of people receiving food stamps was up more than 7 percent from a year earlier.

Officials say they expect the number of people receiving benefits to increase, as more and more people falling on hard times seek assistance for the first time. For instance, officials say a third of people in southwest Ohio applying for help were new to the system.
