

Table 1

North Carolina County Officials - Level of Importance of Welfare Reform: Past and Present

| <i>Level of Importance by Time Periods</i> | <i>Type of Respondent</i> (mean scores) | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| | All Respondents* | County Commissioners | County Managers | DSS Directors | DSS Board Chairs |
| <i>Pre-1997</i> | 4.4 | 3.9 | 4.6 | 5.6 | 4.4 |
| <i>1997-1998</i> | 5.7 | 5.2 | 5.9 | 6.7 | 6.3 |
| <i>Currently (1999-2000)</i> | 5.5 | 5.0 | 5.5 | 6.4 | 6.3 |
| | N ≅ 343 | N ≅ 125 | N ≅ 51 | N ≅ 28 | N ≅ 59 |

Responses scored from 0 to 7, with 0 = no influence, 1 = low influence, and 7 = high influence.

*Question: What level of importance did your **County Board of Commissioners** give to welfare (Work First) and welfare reform issues during the following time periods?

- Before** the 1997 NC General Assembly welfare reforms
- During** the year immediately following the 1997 NC welfare reform (1997-1998)
- Currently** (1999-2000)

Source: Odum IRSS UNC-CH; Tracking County Responses to Welfare Reform Project, 2000