



Minnesota Department of **Human Services** 

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## **Characteristics of December 2006 Minnesota Food Support Program: Cases and Persons**

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Program Assessment and Integrity Division  
Minnesota Department of Human Services

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## Characteristics of December 2006 Minnesota Food Support Program: Cases and Persons

This report provides a snapshot of the household, demographic, and economic characteristics of Food Support households and eligible or suspended persons in December 2006. Food Support is Minnesota's name for the federal Food Stamp Program. Minnesota receives a federal waiver that allows the state to provide Food Support to households enrolled in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), Minnesota's Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) program, as a single program. To understand the size of the total number of people that receive assistance through Food Support, the Caseload Data section (starting on page 4) includes both households and persons eligible for stand-alone Food Support and those eligible for Food Support through MFIP. The combined stand-alone Food Support and MFIP caseload are referred to as the total Food Support caseload. The remainder of the report looks at Food Support eligible or suspended households and persons only, referred to as stand-alone Food Support.

To allow for ease of comparisons, this report mirrors many of the data definitions, style, and time frame of the *Characteristics of December 2006 Minnesota Family Assistance Programs: Cases and Eligible Adults*. However, to understand the data, it is critical to read the table notes and definitions herein rather than assume that they are the same as those found in the family cash assistance report.

### Food Support Household Types

Stand-alone Food Support households include people who live together and purchase and prepare food together and meet certain eligibility requirements. The stand-alone Food Support caseload excludes individuals receiving Food Support as part of a grant from MFIP. For information about the latter households, see the report mentioned above.

For reporting purposes, the stand-alone Food Support caseload is divided into four major household types. The household types are exclusive of one another and, therefore, unduplicated. Food Support households are divided into Family Households, Senior Households, Disabled Households, and Other Adult Households. Figure 1 shows the relationships among the different household types. The Total Households or Total Persons column in each table is the total of these four major household types.

**Family Households** had one or more eligible, minor children in the household – regardless of relationship to the applicant or other eligible adults in the household.<sup>1</sup> As Figure 1 shows, Family Households could include senior (age 60 or older) or disabled household members as long as one or more household members were minor children. For example, a household consisting of two grandparents age 65, an adult parent, age 34, who was disabled, and three minor children would be a Family Household. MFIP-eligible households receiving the

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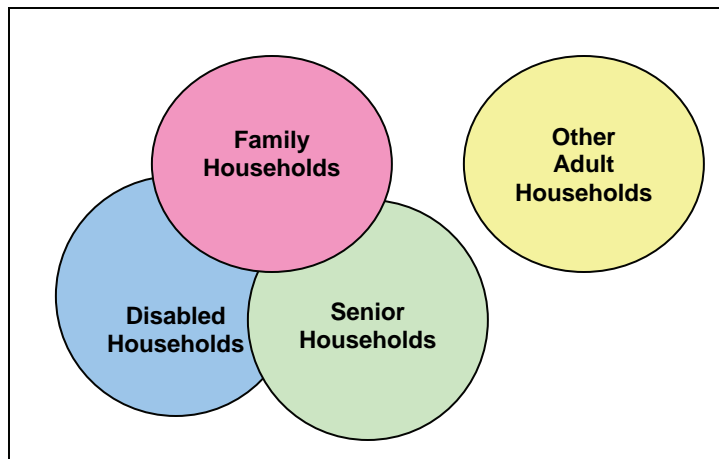
<sup>1</sup> Adult children, ages 18 to 21 that are living with a parent or guardian, are considered children and are included in their parent's Food Support case per Food Support policy, but are considered adults for the purposes of this report. If the household had one child, age 19, and no minor children, it would be considered an adult household. Adult children are enumerated in Table 3 on page 7.

MFIP Food Portion are only included in the first section of this report; the remainder only includes families receiving stand-alone Food Support.

**Senior Households** had no minor children and at least one adult aged 60 years or older. This excludes Family Households. Senior cases may have adults younger than age 60 in the household, but at least one adult must be 60 or older. For example, a household of a married couple ages 70 and 73 and their adult child, age 47, would be a Senior Household.

**Disabled Households** had no minor children, no adults age 60 or older, and at least one adult with a Food Support disability status recorded in the Minnesota Department of Human Services' (DHS) administrative database.<sup>2</sup> This excludes Family and Senior Households. For example, a single adult age 40 who received SSI for a disability and that person's non-disabled niece, age 20, would be a Disabled Household.

**Figure 1. Relationship among Food Support Household Types**



**Other Adult Households** had no minor children and all adults age 18 to 59 years old with no disability, as defined above. These adults may be recipients of Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) or General Assistance (GA), working but with an income that is within Food Support eligibility requirements, or an Able Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) who was unemployed.

**Stand-alone Food Support and Uncle Harry Food Support Cases.** Any type of Food Support household could include people who would have been part of the Food Support case if they were not receiving MFIP. The Food Support benefits issued to mixed Food Support and MFIP households are called “Uncle Harry” cases in Minnesota. The most common reason for MFIP ineligibility and, thus, a mixed Food Support and MFIP household is receipt of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) due to a disability. In these households, MFIP-eligible members receive Food Support through the MFIP Food Portion and MFIP-ineligible members receive stand-alone Food Support.

In all tables, Uncle Harry cases are listed in a separate column and all Uncle Harry cases belong in one of the four major household types. The Total Households or Persons column in each table is the total of the four major household types.

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<sup>2</sup> DHS's administrative database is called MAXIS. Food Support disability information for this report was taken from the MAXIS STAT DISA panel.

## Report Themes

### **The number of Food Support households continues to increase.**

Food Support is the state's largest non-medical assistance program with 128,971 households in December 2006, including both stand-alone Food Support and the MFIP Food Portion cases. The total Food Support caseload increased by 1 percent since December 2005 and increased by 11 percent since December 2003. This report was the first where the number of eligible children receiving stand-alone Food Support was greater than the number of children receiving the MFIP Food Portion; 16 percent more children received Food Support than MFIP in December 2006 (72,519 children as compared to 64,662 children, respectively).

### **Food Support assists a wide range of diverse Minnesotans.**

The region of residence closely mirrors that of all Minnesotans with 42 percent of Food Support households residing in Greater Minnesota, the same percentage as in the general population<sup>3</sup>. Hennepin County residents accounted for a slightly larger percentage of Food Support households than the overall Minnesota population, with 29 percent of Food Support households living in Hennepin County compared to 23 percent of all Minnesota households.

Food Support served a large number of disabled Minnesotans, with 31 percent of all adults and 7 percent of children under the age of 18 receiving Food Support reporting a disability. Fourteen percent of adults in Family Households and 48 percent of adults in Senior Households were disabled.

Food Support reached adults of all ages, with the age distribution evenly disbursed across all ages and an average age of 44 years. Children were most likely to be school-aged, with 39 percent of Food Support-eligible children between the ages of six and 12 years.

The race/ethnicity of adults receiving Food Support showed racial disparities between recipients and the overall Minnesota adult population; 58 percent of adults receiving Food Support were white compared to 88 percent of all Minnesota adults.<sup>4</sup> Nearly one-quarter of adults on Food Support were black compared to 4 percent of all Minnesotans.

**Food Support recipients experience regular financial instability.** As evidenced through low rates of earned income and frequent use of other economic assistance programs, Food Support households encountered recurrent periods of great financial instability. Less than half of Family Households and about one-in-five Other Adult Households had earned income in December 2006. Ninety-five percent of Family Households received either MFIP or the Diversionary Work Program<sup>5</sup> (DWP) and half had used Emergency Assistance (EA) in the previous nine years. Nearly half of Disabled Households and one-third of Other

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<sup>3</sup> Source: 2000 US Census.

<sup>4</sup> Source: American Community Survey, 2005.

<sup>5</sup> DWP is a short-term family cash assistance program that diverts families applying for cash assistance from MFIP that are considered likely to benefit from work-intensive services and have not received MFIP in the previous 12 months.

Adult Households had used either GA or RCA in the previous nine years. One quarter of Senior Households relied on SSI as their sole source of cash income.

## **Stand-alone Food Support and MFIP Food Portion: Caseload Data**

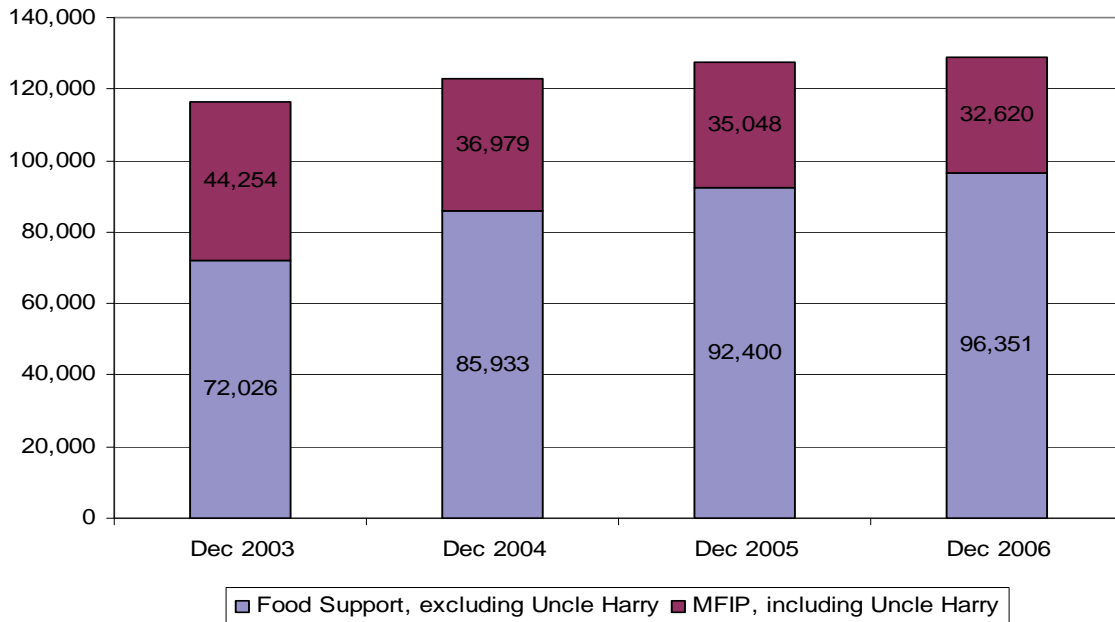
- Food Support assistance continues to reach more Minnesota households each year, through either stand-alone Food Support or the MFIP Food Portion. As shown in Figure 2, the total Food Support caseload, including MFIP with unduplicated Uncle Harry cases, has increased steadily since December 2003. Over this period the total number of Food Support cases increased by 11 percent, from 116,280 cases in December 2003 to 128,971 cases in December 2006<sup>6</sup>. When MFIP cases are not included, the Food Support caseload increased by 17 percent over the same period.
- Over the most recent year, the stand-alone Food Support caseload had increased 4 percent (Table 1). When MFIP Food Portion cases are included, the total Food Support caseload only increased by 1 percent due to the decline in MFIP cases over the same period. All types of Food Support Households increased since 2005, although the percentage of Uncle Harry cases declined, which reflects the decline in the MFIP caseload.
- This is the first year that the number of eligible children receiving Food Support exceeded the number of children receiving MFIP. In December 2006, 72,519 children were eligible or suspended on a Food Support case (Table 2) and 64,662 children were eligible on an MFIP case. The number of children receiving Food Support increased by 6 percent and the number of children receiving MFIP decreased by 6 percent since December 2005. This increase was not due to children in households that previous to DWP would have received the MFIP Food Portion; the number of children on stand-alone Food Support increased faster than the number of children on DWP, which actually decreased between December 2005 and December 2006.

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<sup>6</sup> The sudden increase in Food Support households (Figure 2) compared to MFIP Food Portion households in 2004 was partially due to the introduction of DWP in July 2004. Households receiving DWP after July 2004 would have previously received MFIP and, therefore, be an MFIP Food Portion household in this graph. Households receiving DWP are categorically eligible for Food Support and approximately 90 percent receive Food Support.



**Figure 2. December Food Support and MFIP Caseloads**



**Table 1. December 2005 to December 2006 Change in Food Support Households<sup>7</sup>**

Food Support Households	Total Households	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry
			Seniors	Disabled	Other Adult	
Dec 2005 Food Support Households, including Uncle Harry	100,671	32,068	19,728	35,153	13,722	8,271
Dec 2005 Food Support and MFIP Food Portion Households	127,448					
Dec 2006 Food Support Households, including Uncle Harry	104,478	33,724	20,546	35,900	14,308	8,127
Change from Dec 2005	4%	5%	4%	2%	4%	-2%
Dec 2006 Food Support and MFIP Food Portion Households	128,971					
Change from Dec 2005	1%					

**Table 2. December 2006 Food Support Households and Persons<sup>8</sup>**

	Total Households	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry
			Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
Households	104,478	33,724	20,546	35,900	14,308	8,127
	100.0%	32.3%	19.7%	34.4%	13.7%	7.8%
Adults	118,936	42,223	23,322	38,190	15,201	7,924
	100.0%	35.5%	19.6%	32.1%	12.8%	6.7%
Children	72,519	72,519	0	0	0	3,355
	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.6%

<sup>7</sup> Table 1 only includes unduplicated households. Uncle Harry Households, or mixed MFIP and Food Support households, are counted once.

<sup>8</sup> In all tables in this report, the Total Households column is equal to the sum of Family Households, Senior, Disabled, and Other Adult Households. Uncle Harry cases could be in any household type, although they are most frequently in Disabled Adult households. Table 3 shows the household types of Uncle Harry cases.

## **Figure 2 and Tables 1 and 2: Notes and Definitions**

**Cases and Persons.** Eligible persons were household members who met all Food Support eligibility requirements. Suspended persons were those who would normally be eligible for Food Support, but whose income was over the limit for one month. This was often the case for working persons when a month included three bi-weekly or five weekly pay periods. These cases may be paid or suspended and each individual was either eligible or suspended in December 2006. The family assistance characteristics (MFIP) reports include only paid cases and eligible persons.

**Unduplicated Cases.** Uncle Harry Food Support recipients share a single case number with the other household members who were receiving MFIP. If cases were counted by program without accounting for Uncle Harry cases, cases with an Uncle Harry would be counted twice. In Figure 2 and Table 1, Uncle Harry cases were subtracted from the total to avoid duplication. They were excluded from the stand-alone Food Support total in Figure 2 and included in the stand-alone Food Support total in Table 1.

**Relationship to Internal DHS Reports.** The total number of cases was different than the total number of cases in the Food Support Quarterly Report because the Quarterly Report only includes cases that received a payment during the benefit month. This report (like the Food Support Participation Trends Report) includes all cases that were approved for the benefit month, regardless of payment.

Senior Households were defined differently in this report than in the Quarterly Report. In the Quarterly Report a Senior Household is any case with a person aged 65 or older, regardless of other household members. In this report, a Senior Household is a case with an adult aged 60 or older with no minor children in the household. Food Support policy defines a senior as aged 60 or older. The Quarterly Report defined seniors as 65 or older to align with US Census age categories to make calculation of the participation rate possible.

## Household Composition and Residence

The remainder of this report only includes stand-alone Food Support households and persons. MFIP-eligible households and persons are excluded.

- The majority of all Food Support households, except Family Households, consist of one eligible person. More than 90 percent of Disabled and Other Adult Households had one member as did nearly 90 percent of Senior Households. The average household size for a Family Household was 3.4 eligible persons.
- Eight percent of Food Support households were Uncle Harry Households, meaning that other household members were MFIP-eligible. Disabled Households were most likely to be Uncle Harry Households (12 percent), where the Food Support-eligible person received SSI for a disability and was, thus, made ineligible for MFIP.
- Twenty percent of households had at least one Food Support ineligible adult. The most common reason for Food Support ineligibility was that the person was not a mandatory assistance unit member and opted not to participate in the Food Support case (61 percent of ineligible adults). Thirteen percent were ineligible due to receipt of MFIP, 8 percent were ineligible students, 7 percent were non-citizens without documents that prove their citizenship, and the remainder were ineligible for fraud, non-compliance with work registration requirements, or receipt of the Food Distribution Program or Mothers and Children (MAC), both of which are food assistance programs available to persons living on Indian Reservations.
- Ten percent of all households had at least one Food Support ineligible child in the household. The most common reason for ineligibility was MFIP-eligibility (85 percent of ineligible children). The rest were ineligible for either lacking documents to prove their citizenship or receiving assistance in another household during the month.
- Forty-two percent of Food Support-eligible households lived in Greater Minnesota. Family Households were the most likely to live outside of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area; 48 percent of Family Households resided in Greater Minnesota. Uncle Harry Households were more likely to live in Hennepin or Ramsey Counties than other households (61 percent compared to 44 percent of all Food Support households).
- Nearly one-third of Food Support recipients were disabled (Table 4). Family Households were the least likely to include a disabled person (20 percent of all persons in Family Households). Almost half of persons in Senior Households were disabled and 97 percent of those in Disabled Households were disabled. The majority of disabled persons in all household types had a disability for which they received SSI, RSDI, or were SMRT Certified; an additional 2 percent and 40 percent were temporarily disabled.

**Table 3. Household Composition and Residence of Food Support Households in December 2006**

		Total Households	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry	
				Senior	Disabled	Other Adult		
Households	Count	104,478	33,724	20,546	35,900	14,308	8,127	
	Percent of All Households	100.0%	32.3%	19.7%	34.4%	13.7%	7.8%	
Eligible or Suspended Persons in the Household	One Person	67,000	1,776	17,898	33,810	13,516	5,938	
		64.1%	5.3%	87.1%	94.2%	94.5%	73.1%	
	Two Persons	14,472	9,304	2,539	1,913	716	1,591	
		13.9%	27.6%	12.4%	5.3%	5.0%	19.6%	
	Three Persons	9,521	9,205	98	158	60	384	
		9.1%	27.3%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	4.7%	
	Four to Six Persons	12,003	11,958	10	19	16	194	
		11.5%	35.5%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	2.4%	
	Seven to Nine Persons	1,309	1,308	1	0	0	19	
		1.3%	3.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	
	Ten or More Persons	173	173	0	0	0	1	
	0.2%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		
	Mean Number of Persons	1.8	3.4	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.4	
	Median	1	3	1	1	1	1	
	Minimum	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	Maximum	16	16	7	5	6	10	
Uncle Harry Persons in the Household	Count of Cases with Uncle Harrys	8,127	2,600	753	4,182	592	8,127	
	Percent of All Cases	7.8%	7.7%	3.7%	11.6%	4.1%	100.0%	
	One Uncle Harry Person	5,938	1,353	504	3,544	537	5,938	
		5.7%	4.0%	2.5%	9.9%	3.8%	73.1%	
	Two Uncle Harry Persons	1,591	753	216	575	47	1,591	
	1.5%	2.2%	1.1%	1.6%	0.3%	19.6%		
Three or More Uncle Harry Persons	598	494	33	63	8	598		
	0.6%	1.5%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	7.4%		
Ineligible Adults in the Household	No Ineligible Adults	83,942	25,586	17,498	29,230	11,628	3,515	
		80.3%	75.9%	85.2%	81.4%	81.3%	43.3%	
	One Adult	14,855	5,788	1,975	5,143	1,949	3,298	
		14.2%	17.2%	9.6%	14.3%	13.6%	40.6%	
	Two Adults	4,398	1,921	763	1,157	557	1,018	
		4.2%	5.7%	3.7%	3.2%	3.9%	12.5%	
	Three or More Adults	1,283	429	310	370	174	296	
		1.2%	1.3%	1.5%	1.0%	1.2%	3.6%	
		Mean Number of Ineligible Adults	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.4
		Median	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Minimum	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	Maximum	9	6	7	9	9	9	
	Count of Cases with an Ineligible Adult	20,536	8,138	3,048	6,670	2,680	4,612	

**Table 3 – page 2**

	Total Households	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry	
			Senior	Disabled	Other Adult		
Ineligible Children in the Household	No Ineligible Children	93,612	30,076	19,289	31,084	13,163	480
		89.6%	89.2%	93.9%	86.6%	92.0%	5.9%
	One Child	5,135	1,865	608	2,124	538	3,181
		4.9%	5.5%	3.0%	5.9%	3.8%	39.1%
	Two Children	2,776	954	292	1,214	316	2,010
		2.7%	2.8%	1.4%	3.4%	2.2%	24.7%
	Three or More Children	2,955	829	357	1,478	291	2,456
		2.8%	2.5%	1.7%	4.1%	2.0%	30.2%
	Mean Number of Ineligible Children	2.1	2	2.1	2.2	2.0	2.3
	Median	2	1	2	2	2	2
Minimum	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Maximum	12	11	10	12	10	12	
Count of Cases	10,866	3,648	1,257	4,816	1,145	7,647	
Residence	Hennepin County	30,568	7,171	6,791	11,428	5,178	2,604
		29.3%	21.3%	33.1%	31.8%	36.2%	32.0%
	Ramsey County	15,793	4,001	3,665	6,602	1,525	2,343
		15.1%	11.9%	17.8%	18.4%	10.7%	28.8%
	Metropolitan Suburbs	14,646	6,329	2,745	4,074	1,498	906
		14.0%	18.8%	13.4%	11.3%	10.5%	11.1%
Greater Minnesota	43,471	16,223	7,345	13,796	6,107	2,274	
	41.6%	48.1%	35.7%	38.4%	42.7%	28.0%	

**Table 4. Case Relationship and Disability Status of Eligible and Suspended Persons in Food Support Households in December 2006**

		Total Persons	Family Households		Adult Households			Uncle Harry
			Adults	Children	Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
Eligible or Suspended Persons	Count	191,455	42,223	72,519	23,322	38,190	15,201	11,279
	Percent of All	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Count and Percent of Eligible or Suspended Persons: Relationship to Case Applicant	Applicant	100,813	30,764	165	20,453	35,463	13,968	5,723
		52.7%	72.9%	0.2%	87.7%	92.9%	91.9%	50.7%
	Spouse	9,767	5,782	2	2,380	1,313	290	940
		5.1%	13.7%	0.0%	10.2%	3.4%	1.9%	8.3%
	Biological/Adopted/Step Child (includes adult children)	74,470	1,883	70,813	306	920	548	5,853
		38.9%	4.5%	97.6%	1.3%	2.4%	3.6%	51.9%
	Other Related Child	1,114	0	1,114	0	0	0	279
		0.6%	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%
	Other Adult Relative	583	272	0	123	95	93	451
	0.3%	0.6%	0.0%	0.5%	0.2%	0.6%	4.0%	
Not Related	4,708	3,522	425	60	399	302	4,022	
	2.5%	8.3%	0.6%	0.3%	1.0%	2.0%	35.7%	
Disability Status	Total Disabled Count	58,860	5,855	4,727	11,198	37,080	0	8,619
	Percent of All Persons	30.7%	13.9%	6.5%	48.0%	97.1%	0.0%	76.4%
	SSI, RSDI, or SMRT Disability	46,701	3,511	4,624	10,812	27,754	0	8,269
	Percent of Disabled Persons	79.3%	60.0%	97.8%	96.6%	74.8%		95.9%
	Temporarily Ill/Incapacitated	12,159	2,344	103	386	9,326	0	350
	20.7%	40.0%	2.2%	3.4%	25.2%		4.1%	

### **Tables 3 and 4: Notes and Definitions**

**Regions.** The counties where households lived were grouped into the following regions: Hennepin County, Ramsey County, Twin Cities metropolitan suburban counties (Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Isanti, Scott, Sherburne, Washington, and Wright), and Greater Minnesota (the remaining 76 counties).

**Case Relationships.** An applicant was considered a child if he or she was under age 18. This occurred in 165 households and the most common reason for this was a single child, age 16 or 17, who was eligible for General Assistance (GA).

An applicant's non-marital partner with children in common was considered to be not-related.

The category for Biological/Adopted/Step-Children includes adult children living with a parent. If there were no minor children in the household, these cases were considered Adult Households. If there were other children under the age of 18, the case was a Family Household.

**Disability Status.** Disabled people were in household types other than Disabled Household if they were older than 59 years (Senior) or had minor children in the household (Family). The number of disabled people in Disabled Households does not equal 100 percent of all people in Disabled Households because non-disabled people resided in some of those households.

Disability status was indicated by the MAXIS Disability panel (STAT DISA), with the person having a disability status in Food Support Disability Status. Disabled persons were temporarily ill or incapacitated for 30 days or more; eligible for Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI) due to a disability or blindness; eligible for SSI due to a disability or blindness; or determined to be disabled or blind by the State Medical Review Team (SMRT).

## Demographic Data

- The age of adult Food Support recipients was evenly distributed overall, but there were differences between household types. Adults in Family Households tended to be younger with an average age of 33 years. Adults in Disabled Households were older than adults in Other Adult Households with an average age of 43 years compared to 36 years and, of course, adults in Senior Households were oldest with an average age of 70 years.
- While a majority (62 percent) of all adults were female, adults in Family Households and Senior Households were more likely to be female than male (72 percent and 66 percent, respectively) and Disabled and Other Adult Households were about evenly split between male and female. Adults in Uncle Harry Households were more likely to be female (73 percent).
- Between 62 percent and 69 percent of adults had at least a high school diploma in all household types, except for Senior Households where 47 percent had at least a high school diploma. The lower educational attainment of adults in Senior Households was most likely due to increased educational attainment in the overall Minnesota population over the past few decades and the proportion of elderly non-citizens, many of whom are refugees. According to the US Census 2000, 87 percent of all Minnesotans age 25 and older had at least a high school diploma.
- A majority of adults receiving Food Support were white; about 60 percent of adults in all household types, except Other Adult Households, were white. Half of adults in Other Adult Households were white and 35 percent were black; the latter was the greatest proportion of blacks in any household type. Adults in Uncle Harry Households had greater racial disparities than other groups, with 36 percent black, 28 percent white, and 25 percent Asian.
- Between 80 percent and 94 percent of adults were US citizens with adults in Senior Households least likely to be US citizens and adults in Disabled Households most likely. About one-fifth of adults in Uncle Harry Households were not citizens.



**Table 5. Demographic Characteristics of Persons in Food Support Households in December 2006**

		Total Persons	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry	
				Senior	Disabled	Other Adult		
Eligible or Suspended Adults	Count	118,936	42,223	23,322	38,190	15,201	7,924	
	Percent of All Adults	100.0%	35.5%	19.6%	32.1%	12.8%	6.7%	
Eligible or Suspended Children	Count of Children	72,519	72,519	0	0	0	3,355	
	Percent of Eligible Children	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.6%	
Age of Adults	Mean	43.7	32.7	69.7	43.1	36.1	41.0	
	Median	42	31	69	45	35	42	
	Minimum	18	18	18	18	18	18	
	Maximum	104	86	104	59	59	104	
Frequency	18 - 22	11,535 9.7%	5,173 12.3%	236 1.0%	2,058 5.4%	4,068 26.8%	1,044 13.2%	
	23 - 29	18,950 15.9%	12,826 30.4%	32 0.1%	3,590 9.4%	2,502 16.5%	894 11.3%	
	30 - 39	23,023 19.4%	14,562 34.5%	47 0.2%	6,431 16.8%	1,983 13.0%	1,683 21.2%	
	40 - 49	23,538 19.8%	7,460 17.7%	113 0.5%	13,390 35.1%	2,575 16.9%	2,065 26.1%	
	50 - 59	19,078 16.0%	1,676 4.0%	677 2.9%	12,690 33.2%	4,035 26.5%	1,348 17.0%	
	60 - 64	6,378 5.4%	200 0.5%	6,178 26.5%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	387 4.9%	
	65 and over	16,215 13.6%	177 0.4%	16,038 68.8%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	488 6.2%	
	Ages of Eligible or Suspended Minor Children	Mean Age of Children		7.6				9.6
		Median		7				10
Count and Percent of All Children	< 1 year old		4,192 5.8%				73 2.2%	
	1 to 5 years old		24,427 33.7%				719 21.4%	
	6 to 10 years old		21,181 29.2%				970 28.9%	
	11 to 12 years old		7,097 9.8%				453 13.5%	
	13 to 15 years old		10,051 13.9%				714 21.3%	
	> 15 years old		5,571 7.7%				426 12.7%	
	Gender of Adults	Female	73,279 61.6%	30,406 72.0%	15,480 66.4%	20,280 53.1%	7,113 46.8%	5,766 72.8%
		Male	45,657 38.4%	11,817 28.0%	7,842 33.6%	17,910 46.9%	8,088 53.2%	2,158 27.2%
Education of Adults	None or Pre-1st Grade or Unknown	10,420 8.8%	2,185 5.2%	4,595 19.7%	2,337 6.1%	1,303 8.6%	1,496 18.9%	
	Grade School	4,365 3.7%	931 2.2%	1,971 8.5%	1,008 2.6%	455 3.0%	467 5.9%	
	Some High School	29,469 24.8%	10,097 23.9%	5,821 25.0%	9,505 24.9%	4,046 26.6%	2,584 32.6%	
	High School Graduate	60,350 50.7%	23,708 56.1%	8,714 37.4%	20,233 53.0%	7,695 50.6%	2,942 37.1%	
	Some Post-Secondary	10,402 8.7%	4,203 10.0%	1,229 5.3%	3,730 9.8%	1,240 8.2%	348 4.4%	
	College Graduate	1,833 1.5%	552 1.3%	398 1.7%	670 1.8%	213 1.4%	43 0.5%	
	Graduate Degree	2,097 1.8%	547 1.3%	594 2.5%	707 1.9%	249 1.6%	44 0.6%	
	High School Graduate or Higher	74,682 62.8%	29,010 68.7%	10,935 46.9%	25,340 66.4%	9,397 61.8%	3,377 42.6%	

**Table 5 – page 2**

		Total Persons	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry Cases	
				Senior	Disabled	Other Adult		
Marital Status of Adults	Divorced	21,580 18.1%	4,222 10.0%	5,977 25.6%	8,814 23.1%	2,567 16.9%	951 12.0%	
	Legally Separated	483 0.4%	174 0.4%	94 0.4%	170 0.4%	45 0.3%	26 0.3%	
	Married, Living with Spouse	20,575 17.3%	12,389 29.3%	4,714 20.2%	2,810 7.4%	662 4.4%	1,930 24.4%	
	Never Married	53,237 44.8%	19,704 46.7%	3,205 13.7%	20,243 53.0%	10,085 66.3%	3,494 44.1%	
	Married, Living Apart	15,549 13.1%	5,383 12.7%	3,482 14.9%	5,156 13.5%	1,528 10.1%	1,187 15.0%	
	Widowed	7,512 6.3%	351 0.8%	5,850 25.1%	997 2.6%	314 2.1%	336 4.2%	
	Race/Ethnicity of Adults	Asian	9,203 7.7%	2,034 4.8%	4,326 18.5%	2,451 6.4%	392 2.6%	1,955 24.7%
	Black	28,706 24.1%	10,102 23.9%	3,816 16.4%	9,544 25.0%	5,244 34.5%	2,818 35.6%	
	Hispanic	4,432 3.7%	2,462 5.8%	670 2.9%	870 2.3%	430 2.8%	259 3.3%	
	American Indian	6,013 5.1%	2,108 5.0%	502 2.2%	1,934 5.1%	1,469 9.7%	598 7.5%	
	White	69,038 58.0%	24,813 58.8%	13,826 59.3%	22,981 60.2%	7,418 48.8%	2,226 28.1%	
	Multiple	629 0.5%	316 0.7%	39 0.2%	183 0.5%	91 0.6%	37 0.5%	
Citizenship of Adults	Non-U.S.	14,086 11.8%	4,686 11.1%	4,635 19.9%	2,214 5.8%	2,551 16.8%	1,712 21.6%	
	U.S.	104,850 88.2%	37,537 88.9%	18,687 80.1%	35,976 94.2%	12,650 83.2%	6,212 78.4%	
Non-citizens	Asian	4,190 45.5%	1,072 52.7%	1,800 41.6%	1,071 43.7%	247 63.0%	969 49.6%	
	Black	7,659 26.7%	2,795 27.7%	1,860 48.7%	854 8.9%	2,150 41.0%	640 22.7%	
	Hispanic	924 20.8%	453 18.4%	271 40.4%	129 14.8%	71 16.5%	45 17.4%	
	American Indian	25 0.4%	8 0.4%	5 1.0%	10 0.5%	2 0.1%	1 0.2%	
	White	1,169 1.7%	315 1.3%	660 4.8%	135 0.6%	59 0.8%	50 2.2%	
		Percent of All Whites						

**Table 5: Notes and Definitions**

Table 5 includes all eligible and suspended adults and children. All data are person-level.

**MAXIS Data.** Data not required for program eligibility may not be routinely updated after the initial application, thus demographic data that does not affect program eligibility may not be routinely updated after the application date.

If a person’s education level is unknown it is coded the same as if he or she had no formal education.

Race data were missing for 950 people. These people were excluded from the race/ethnicity section of the table.

## Economic Characteristics

- The average Food Support household received 21 months of stand-alone Food Support in Minnesota over the past nine years. All household types except for Other Adult Households received an average of 19 to 25 months of Food Support; Other Adult Households received an average of 9 months.<sup>9</sup> Uncle Harry Households had the longest Food Support histories with an average of 30 months.
- Food Support households frequently received assistance from cash assistance programs. Just more than one-quarter of Family Households had used MFIP in the last year and 18 percent had used DWP. Seventy percent of Family Households had used MFIP in the last nine years and one-quarter had used DWP since July 2004, when DWP enrolled its first participants. One-quarter of both Disabled and Other Adult Households had used either GA or RCA in the last year, with half of Senior Households and 34 percent of Other Adult Households using these programs in the previous nine years.
- The percentage of households with earned income decreased since December 2005. In December 2005, 25 percent of all households had earned income while in December 2006, 20 percent of households had earned income. Family Households were most likely to have earned income, although the percentage decreased in the past year (54 percent in December 2005 and 46 percent in December 2006).
- Although the percentage of households with earned income decreased, the hours and wages of those with earned income both increased. In December 2005 households with earned income worked an average of 108 hours and had average wages of \$985. In December 2006, work hours increased to an average of 118 hours and wages increased to an average of \$1,350.
- Three-quarters of all Food Support households had an average of \$733 in unearned income, ranging from 33 percent of Other Adult Households to 98 percent of Senior Households. The most common type of unearned income in all households was SSI; 62 percent of Senior Households and 56 percent of Disabled Households received SSI, while Family Households were the least likely to have SSI income at 16 percent.
- One quarter of all households received an average housing subsidy of \$504. Uncle Harry Households were most likely to have a housing subsidy with 45 percent of households.

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<sup>9</sup> Other Adult Households include Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs). These people are limited to three months of Food Support in a 36-month period unless they are working at least 20 hours per week or are exempt from the work requirement. Individuals may be exempt for the work requirement if they are under age 18, age 50 or older, responsible for a minor child, or reside in a county or an Indian reservation that is exempt based upon its not-employed rate.

**Table 6. Economic Characteristics of Food Support Households in December 2006**

		Total Households	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry
				Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
Households	Count	104,478	33,724	20,546	35,900	14,308	8,127
	Percent of All Cases	100.0%	32.3%	19.7%	34.4%	13.7%	7.8%
Food Support Grant Amount	Mean of All Cases	\$142	\$272	\$53	\$78	\$131	\$112
	Median	\$116	\$263	\$30	\$71	\$155	\$104
Food Support in Minnesota (Months): 1998 - 2006 Cumulative	Mean	20.9	19.3	25.3	24.6	8.9	29.9
	Median	17	14	26	21	5	26
Frequency of Cases	1 - 12 Months	42,261	15,204	5,138	10,678	11,241	2,035
	Percent of Cases in Column	40.4%	45.1%	25.0%	29.7%	78.6%	25.0%
	13 - 24 Months	24,993	8,897	4,550	9,511	2,035	1,859
		23.9%	26.4%	22.1%	26.5%	14.2%	22.9%
	25 - 36 Months	20,695	4,784	7,133	8,156	622	1,451
		19.8%	14.2%	34.7%	22.7%	4.3%	17.9%
	37 - 48 Months	9,780	2,426	2,652	4,463	239	1,224
		9.4%	7.2%	12.9%	12.4%	1.7%	15.1%
	49 - 60 Months	3,401	1,225	504	1,601	71	778
		3.3%	3.6%	2.5%	4.5%	0.5%	9.6%
	Over 60 Months	3,330	1,173	568	1,490	99	780
		3.2%	3.5%	2.8%	4.2%	0.7%	9.6%
Other Public Assistance in Minnesota: 2006	MFIP/MFIP Food	15,921	9,169	894	4,897	961	7,891
		15.2%	27.2%	4.4%	13.6%	6.7%	97.1%
	DWP	6,951	6,167	43	154	587	386
		6.7%	18.3%	0.2%	0.4%	4.1%	4.7%
	GA/RCA	14,778	254	1,506	9,485	3,533	74
	14.1%	0.8%	7.3%	26.4%	24.7%	0.9%	
Other Public Assistance in Minnesota: 1998 - 2006	EA	13,571	6,540	740	5,009	1,282	2,028
		13.0%	19.4%	3.6%	14.0%	9.0%	25.0%
	MFIP/MFIP Food	36,888	23,340	2,081	9,225	2,242	8,041
		35.3%	69.2%	10.1%	25.7%	15.7%	98.9%
	DWP	10,178	8,828	104	448	798	934
	9.7%	26.2%	0.5%	1.2%	5.6%	11.5%	
	GA/RCA	28,746	1,609	5,252	17,035	4,850	1,083
		27.5%	4.8%	25.6%	47.5%	33.9%	13.3%
	EA	40,774	16,982	3,744	16,480	3,568	5,138
		39.0%	50.4%	18.2%	45.9%	24.9%	63.2%
Income / Working	Count of Cases	20,782	15,456	573	2,261	2,492	620
	Percent of All Cases	19.9%	45.8%	2.8%	6.3%	17.4%	7.6%
December 2006 Total Earned Income	Mean of Working Cases	\$1,350	\$1,343	\$557	\$535	\$699	\$934
	Median	\$998	\$1,224	\$492	\$414	\$627	\$786
December 2006 Monthly Work Hours	Mean of Working Cases	118	131	69	70	87	118
	Median	117	130	67	60	81	95
Percent of Working Cases	1 - 79 Hours	6,306	3,474	317	1,381	1,134	242
		30.3%	22.5%	55.3%	61.1%	45.5%	39.0%
	80 - 119 Hours	4,221	2,930	173	474	644	146
		20.3%	19.0%	30.2%	21.0%	25.8%	23.5%
	120 - 159 Hours	4,108	3,378	44	258	428	114
	19.8%	21.9%	7.7%	11.4%	17.2%	18.4%	
	160 Hours or More	6,166	5,670	34	162	300	123
		29.7%	36.7%	5.9%	7.2%	12.0%	19.8%

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		Total Households	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry
				Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
December Unearned Income	Count of Cases	77,560	19,769	20,064	33,060	4,667	7,913
	Percent of All Cases	74.2%	58.6%	97.7%	92.1%	32.6%	97.4%
Total Unearned Income	Mean of Cases Receiving	\$733	\$825	\$762	\$713	\$368	\$861
	Median	\$684	\$603	\$704	\$684	\$203	\$728
Type of Unearned Income	Child Support	10,297	10,045	14	136	102	495
		9.9%	29.8%	0.1%	0.4%	0.7%	6.1%
	SSI	37,962	5,274	12,667	19,943	78	6,902
		36.3%	15.6%	61.7%	55.6%	0.5%	84.9%
	RSDI	27,819	3,260	11,154	13,299	105	1,372
		26.6%	9.7%	54.3%	37.0%	0.7%	16.9%
	Public Assistance Grants	28,261	6,172	5,210	14,072	2,807	7,819
		27.0%	18.3%	25.4%	39.2%	19.6%	96.2%
	Unemployment Insurance/ Workers' Compensation	1,879	1,328	40	120	391	21
		1.8%	3.9%	0.2%	0.3%	2.7%	0.3%
	Veteran's Benefits	1,077	155	496	258	168	15
	1.0%	0.5%	2.4%	0.7%	1.2%	0.2%	
Other	4,326	2,547	951	463	365	167	
	4.1%	7.6%	4.6%	1.3%	2.6%	2.1%	
Total Shelter Costs	Mean of All Cases	\$506	\$667	\$415	\$431	\$411	\$578
	Median	\$450	\$605	\$395	\$403	\$334	\$497
Rent/Mortgage Amount	Mean of All Cases	\$354	\$484	\$265	\$291	\$317	\$397
	Median	\$275	\$425	\$201	\$222	\$269	\$300
Housing Subsidy Amount	Mean of Cases Receiving	\$504	\$597	\$419	\$462	\$483	\$646
	Median	\$466	\$564	\$400	\$428	\$422	\$634
	Count of Cases Receiving	23,605	8,793	4,870	8,813	1,129	3,625
	Percent of All Cases	22.6%	26.1%	23.7%	24.5%	7.9%	44.6%

**Table 6: Notes and Definitions**

**Means and Medians.** Unless otherwise indicated (for example, “mean of cases receiving”), all mean and median dollar amounts include all cases, including those with zero dollars.

**Program Eligibility.** All program eligibility data are based upon MAXIS case number, rather than person identification numbers. Thus, if a person had been eligible on a different case, those benefit months would not be included in this report.

Food Support months are cumulative months between January 1998 and December 2006 where a case was eligible or suspended for Food Support; this parallels the nine-year period of MFIP eligibility found in the *Characteristics of December 2006 Minnesota Family Assistance Programs: Cases and Eligible Adults* report. Food Support benefit months do not include MFIP Food Portion months; these months would be MFIP eligibility months.

Program eligibility in programs other than Food Support are reported if a case number was program eligible for at least one month during the specified time period (2006 or 1998 to 2006). The 236 Uncle Harry cases that were not MFIP eligible in 2006 were cases where the Food Support case was an Uncle Harry to another case number, typically an adult caregiver of a minor parent that was receiving MFIP or a step child eligible on their biological parent’s MFIP case.

Household types identify the household by its composition in December 2006; during other time periods the household composition may have been different, which allowed eligibility in programs for which they are no longer eligible. For example, a single adult receiving RCA in 2001 may have a child and be eligible for MFIP in 2003 and then be receiving Food Support with DWP in December 2006. Thus, this case’s current household type would be a Family Household, but their program history would include MFIP, DWP, and RCA, a program for which adults with children are not eligible.

DWP began enrolling its first participants in July 2004. Thus, DWP eligibility months were from July 2004 to December 2006 and do not encompass the same nine-year period as other programs.

**Earned Income and Work Hours.** Total income was either actual or projected December 2006 income of all adults whose income was deemed for the case. The amount used was either (1) verified earnings for December

2006 or (2) zero for cases still active in February 2007 with no income reported for December 2006 or (3) prospective income for new cases with retrospective data missing and for all migrant cases. Total income was gross except for the self-employed where it was gross less expenses, with a minimum of zero. Mean total income excluded cases with no verified or expected income in December 2006.

The work hours reported for deeming household members with earned income are defined in the same manner as earned income. The hours are totals for the case. Mean hours only included cases with hours reported.

**Unearned Income.** Unearned income was from the December 2006 Food Support budget panel for the active budget type (retrospective or prospective). If income was not reported on the budget panel, it was not included. Public Assistance grants income includes RCA, GA, Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA), MFIP, and DWP. Other Unearned Income includes annuity and pension payments, contract for deed income, certain royalties and honoraria, trust disbursements, gambling winnings, severance payments, and tribal payments.

**Shelter Costs.** Mean and median total shelter costs were less than housing subsidy amounts. This was because when a case had a housing subsidy, the rent amount entered into the Food Support budget panel was actual paid rent less the subsidy amount, often resulting in zero for rent amount.

**Table Data.** All data are case level information for cases that include eligible and suspended adults except for a small number of Uncle Harry Cases that may be headed by a child on a caregiver's (the applicant's) MFIP case.