



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Characteristics of December 2007 Minnesota Food Support Program: Cases and Persons

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Program Assessment and Integrity Division
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Characteristics of December 2007 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 2007. 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 for Needy Families (TANF) program, as a single program. To report the total number of people that receive assistance through Food Support, the Caseload Data section (starting on page 3) includes both households and persons eligible for Food Support and not MFIP, referred to as stand-alone Food Support, and those eligible for Food Support through MFIP. The combined Food Support and MFIP caseloads are referred to as the total Food Support caseload. The remainder of the report looks at stand-alone Food Support eligible or suspended households and persons only.

To allow for ease of comparisons, this report mirrors many of the data definitions, style, and time frame of the *Characteristics of December 2007 Minnesota Family Assistance Programs: Cases and Eligible Adults*. However, to understand the data, it is critical to read the table notes and definitions herein due to differences from those found in the family cash assistance report.

Food Support Household Types

Stand-alone Food Support households are people who live, purchase, and prepare food together and meet certain eligibility requirements. 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. They are 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.

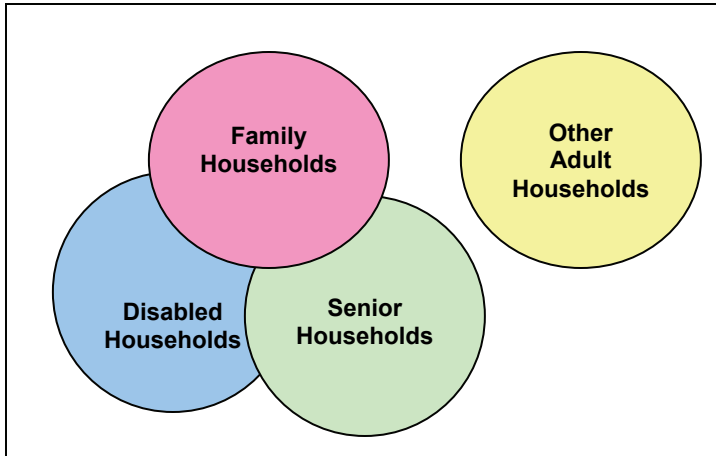
Family Households had one or more eligible, minor children in the household – regardless of relationship to the applicant or other eligible adults in the household.¹ As Figure 1 shows, Family Households could include senior (age 60 or older) or disabled household members as long as one or more household 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.

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.

¹ 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 4 on page 8.

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.² 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.

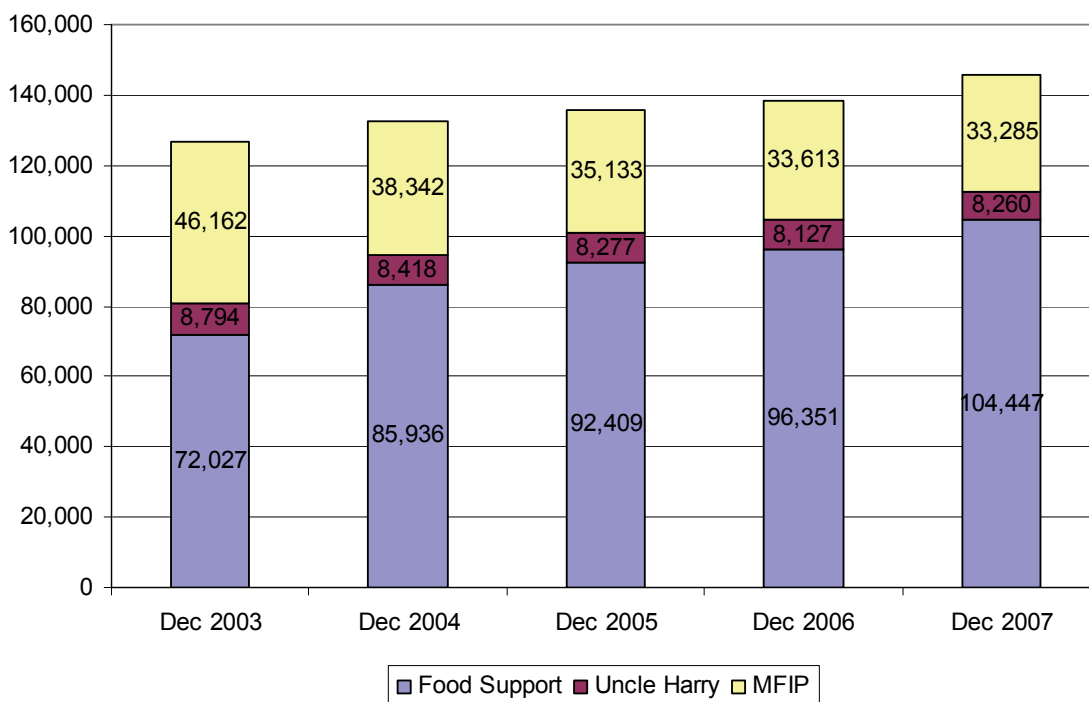
² DHS’s administrative database is called MAXIS. Food Support disability information for this report was taken from the MAXIS STAT DISA panel.

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

Since December 2003 the total Food Support caseload, that includes families receiving MFIP, increased by 15 percent. Over the last year the total Food Support caseload increased by 6 percent. MFIP cases had decreased each year since December 2002 while the number of stand-alone Food Support cases grew. The growth in stand-alone Food Support cases was larger than the decline in MFIP cases, even when cases that had received MFIP prior to the implementation of the Diversionary Work Program (DWP) were accounted for.³ When MFIP was not included, the Food Support caseload (including Uncle Harry cases) grew by 39 percent since December 2003 and grew by 8 percent since December 2006.

For the second consecutive year there were more children eligible in stand-alone Food Support households than in MFIP households. In December 2007, 80,088 children were eligible or suspended on a Food Support case and 62,852 children eligible on a MFIP case. The number of children that received Food Support increased by 10 percent and the number of children that received MFIP decreased by 2 percent since December 2006.

Figure 2. December Food Support and MFIP Cases



³ DWP, a short-term cash assistance program for families with children, began enrolling its first clients in July 2004. Families that are eligible for DWP are also categorically eligible for stand-alone Food Support. Prior to July 2004, these families would have received MFIP and the MFIP Food Portion. Hence, some decrease in the MFIP caseload and increase in the Food Support caseload was due to families being enrolled in DWP.

Table 1. December 2006 to December 2007 Change in Food Support Households

	December 2006	December 2007	Change from Dec 2006
Total Stand-alone Food Support	104,478	112,707	8%
Family Households	33,724	37,089	10%
Seniors	20,546	21,631	5%
Disabled	35,900	38,236	7%
Other Adult	14,308	15,751	10%
Uncle Harry	8,127	8,260	2%
MFIP Food Portion Households	33,613	33,285	-1%
Total Food Support Households	138,091	145,992	6%

Table 2. December 2007 Food Support Households and Persons

	Total Households	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry
			Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
Households	112,707	37,089	21,631	38,236	15,751	8,260
	100.0%	32.9%	19.2%	33.9%	14.0%	7.3%
Adults	129,216	47,063	24,513	40,789	16,851	8,202
	100.0%	36.4%	19.0%	31.6%	13.0%	6.3%
Children	80,088	80,088	0	0	0	3,420
	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%

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 2007. The family assistance characteristics (MFIP) reports include only paid cases and eligible persons. Table 1 only includes unduplicated households. Uncle Harry Households, which are mixed MFIP and Food Support households, are counted once as part of one of the Household types, then totaled separately.

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 will show the household types of Uncle Harry cases.

Unduplicated Cases. Uncle Harry Food Support recipients generally 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. Figure 2 shows Uncle Harry cases as their own, discrete category. In all other tables Uncle Harry cases or persons were shown separately as a subgroup and were also included in the Food Support household type to which they belong.

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 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 to better align with the way that the United State Census groups ages. In this report, a Senior Household is a case with an adult aged 60 or older with no minor children in the household because age 60 is the Food Support policy definition of a senior.

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.⁴

As shown in Table 3, Family Households that received Food Support in December 2007 had an average of 3 eligible or suspended members. One quarter of Family Households had at least one ineligible adult and 10 percent had at least one ineligible child. Seven percent had at least one MFIP-eligible person (Uncle Harry). Compared to MFIP-eligible families, Family Households that received Food Support in December 2007 were more likely to live outside of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area; 52 percent of Family Households resided in Greater Minnesota compared to 33 percent of MFIP-eligible households. As seen in Table 4, 20 percent of Family Households included at least one disabled person.

Adult Households that received Food Support were more like each other than like Family Households. All types of Adult Households averaged 1 Food Support-eligible or suspended person. Other Adult Households were most likely to have at least 1 ineligible adult and Senior Households were least likely (22 percent and 15 percent, respectively). Disabled Households were most likely to have an MFIP-eligible member (11 percent compared to 4 percent of each Disabled and Senior Households). Disabled Households were also more likely to have ineligible children (13 percent) than any other household type. The majority of all Adult Households resided in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. While more than half of Family Households lived in Greater Minnesota, 44 percent of Other Adult Households, 38 percent of Disabled Households, and 35 percent of Senior Households did.

Half of all eligible or suspended persons in Senior Households were disabled. Nearly all (97 percent) of eligible or suspended persons in Disabled Households were disabled. By definition, persons in Other Adult Households could not be disabled.

⁴ For information on the MFIP caseload, please refer to the *Characteristics of December 2007 Minnesota Family Assistance Programs: Cases and Eligible Adults*.

Table 3. Household Composition and Residence of Food Support Households in December 2007

		Total Households	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry
				Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
Households	Count	112,707	37,089	21,631	38,236	15,751	8,260
	Percent of All Households	100.0%	32.9%	19.2%	33.9%	14.0%	7.3%
Eligible or Suspended Persons in the Household	One Person	71,417	1,825	18,903	35,927	14,762	5,973
		63.4%	4.9%	87.4%	94.0%	93.7%	72.3%
	Two Persons	15,730	10,143	2,598	2,090	899	1,606
		14.0%	27.3%	12.0%	5.5%	5.7%	19.4%
	Three Persons	10,558	10,171	115	198	74	443
		9.4%	27.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	5.4%
	Four to Six Persons	13,288	13,237	14	21	16	221
		11.8%	35.7%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	2.7%
	Seven to Nine Persons	1,529	1,528	1	0	0	15
		1.4%	4.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
	Ten or More Persons	185	185	0	0	0	2
	0.2%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
	Mean Number of Persons	1.9	3.4	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.4
	Median	1	3	1	1	1	1
	Minimum	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Maximum	15	15	8	6	6	15
Uncle Harry Persons in the Household	Count of Cases with Uncle Harrys	8,260	2,648	833	4,211	568	8,260
	Percent of All Cases	7.3%	7.1%	3.9%	11.0%	3.6%	100.0%
	One Uncle Harry Person	5,973	1,332	568	3,553	520	5,973
		5.3%	3.6%	2.6%	9.3%	3.3%	72.3%
	Two Uncle Harry Persons	1,606	762	220	581	43	1,606
	1.4%	2.1%	1.0%	1.5%	0.3%	19.4%	
Three or More Uncle Harry Persons	681	554	45	77	5	681	
	0.6%	1.5%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	8.2%	
Ineligible Adults in the Household	No Ineligible Adults	89,737	27,811	18,477	31,123	12,326	3,695
		79.6%	75.0%	85.4%	81.4%	78.3%	44.7%
	One Adult	16,279	6,422	1,972	5,485	2,400	3,277
		14.4%	17.3%	9.1%	14.3%	15.2%	39.7%
	Two Adults	5,101	2,254	833	1,262	752	986
	4.5%	6.1%	3.9%	3.3%	4.8%	11.9%	
Three or More Adults	1,590	602	349	366	273	302	
	1.4%	1.6%	1.6%	1.0%	1.7%	3.7%	

Table 3 – Page 2

		Total Households	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry
				Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
Ineligible Adults in the Household	Mean Number of Ineligible Adults	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.4
	Median	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Minimum	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Maximum	9	3	8	9	7	9
	Count of Cases with an Ineligible Adult	22,970	9,278	3,154	7,113	3,425	4,612
Ineligible Children in the Household	No Ineligible Children	101,185	33,220	20,234	33,294	14,437	552
		89.8%	89.6%	93.5%	87.1%	91.7%	6.7%
	One Child	5,433	1,991	649	2,153	640	3,172
		4.8%	5.4%	3.0%	5.6%	4.1%	38.4%
	Two Children	2,928	981	330	1,288	329	2,047
		2.6%	2.6%	1.5%	3.4%	2.1%	24.8%
	Three or More Children	3,161	897	418	1,501	345	2,489
		2.8%	2.4%	1.9%	3.9%	2.2%	30.1%
	Mean Number of Ineligible Children	2.1	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.0	2.3
	Median	2	1	2	2	2	2
Minimum	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Maximum	12	10	12	12	11	12	
Count of Cases with an Ineligible Child	11,522	3,869	1,397	4,942	1,314	7,708	
Residence	Hennepin County	32,370	7,872	7,158	12,154	5,186	2,662
		28.7%	21.2%	33.1%	31.8%	32.9%	32.2%
	Ramsey County	17,169	4,508	3,848	7,001	1,812	2,331
		15.2%	12.2%	17.8%	18.3%	11.5%	28.2%
	Metropolitan Suburbs	16,263	7,017	2,988	4,445	1,813	977
		14.4%	18.9%	13.8%	11.6%	11.5%	11.8%
Greater Minnesota	46,905	17,692	7,637	14,636	6,940	2,290	
	41.6%	47.7%	35.3%	38.3%	44.1%	27.7%	

Table 4. Case Relationship and Disability Status of Eligible and Suspended Persons in Food Support Households in December 2007

		Total Persons	Family Households		Adult Households			Uncle Harry
			Adults	Children	Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
Eligible or Suspended Persons	Count	209,304	47,063	80,088	24,513	40,789	16,851	11,622
	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	108,967	33,988	172	21,551	37,836	15,420	5,902
		52.1%	72.2%	0.2%	87.9%	92.8%	91.5%	50.8%
	Spouse	10,663	6,542	2	2,407	1,374	338	946
		5.1%	13.9%	0.0%	9.8%	3.4%	2.0%	8.1%
	Biological/Adopted/Step Child (includes adult children)	82,312	2,077	78,182	354	1,055	644	3,986
		39.3%	4.4%	97.6%	1.4%	2.6%	3.8%	34.3%
	Other Related Child	1,189	0	1,189	0	0	0	256
		0.6%	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%
Other Adult Relative	638	323	0	129	110	76	130	
	0.3%	0.7%	0.0%	0.5%	0.3%	0.5%	1.1%	
Not Related to Applicant	5,535	4,133	543	72	414	373	402	
	2.6%	8.8%	0.7%	0.3%	1.0%	2.2%	3.5%	
Disability Status	Total Disabled Count	62,850	6,317	5,044	12,054	39,435	0	8,751
	Percent of All Persons	30.0%	13.4%	6.3%	49.2%	96.7%	0.0%	75.3%
	SSI, RSDI, or SMRT Disability	49,006	3,781	4,917	11,655	28,653	0	8,382
	Percent of Disabled Persons	78.0%	59.9%	97.5%	96.7%	72.7%	0.0%	95.8%
	Temporarily Ill/Incapacitated	13,844	2,536	127	399	10,782	0	405
	22.0%	40.1%	2.5%	3.3%	27.3%	0.0%	4.6%	

Tables 3 and 4: Notes and Definitions

Ineligible Household Members. Adults may be ineligible for Food Support because they were not mandated assistance unit members and opted out of benefits, receiving MFIP, ineligible post-secondary students, non-citizens without documents to prove their citizenship status, convicted of fraud to obtain benefits, non-compliant with work registration requirements, or receiving benefits from the Food Distribution Program or Mothers and Children (MAC), both of which are food assistance programs available to persons living on Indian Reservations. Children may be ineligible due to receipt of MFIP, being non-citizens without documents to prove their citizenship status, or having received assistance in another household.

Regions. The counties where households received benefits 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 172 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

Food Support serves a wide-range of Minnesotans. The demographic data did not lend themselves to making a single statement about the typical Food Support recipient. Each major household type and Uncle Harry cases looked different than the others.

The average Food Support-eligible or suspended adult in a Family Household in December 2007 was 33 years old and had an 8 year-old child. Nearly three-quarters were female and 69 percent had at least a high school diploma. Forty-seven percent had never married, but 30 percent were married and currently living with a spouse. Nearly 60 percent of adults in Family Households were white and 23 percent were black compared to MFIP-eligible adults of whom 38 percent were white and 38 percent black in December 2007. Eleven percent were non-citizens.

Food Support-eligible or suspended adults in Senior Households were, of course, the oldest of all household types. The average adult in Senior Households was 69 years old. Like Family Households, the majority of adults in Senior Households were female (66 percent). Adults in Senior Households had the least education of all household types; 48 percent had at least a high school diploma compared to 64 percent overall. Senior Households were also the least likely never to have married (15 percent). Half were either divorced or widowed and 20 percent were currently married and living with a spouse. Nearly 60 percent of adults in Senior Households were white. Adults in Senior Households were more likely to be Asian than adults in other household types (19 percent of adults compared to 6 percent each in Family and Disabled Households and 3 percent of Other Adult Households). Eighteen percent of adults in Senior Households were non-citizens, the largest proportion of any household type.

Adults in Disabled Households and Other Adult Households had more similarities to each other. Adults in Disabled Households were, on average, older than adults in Other Adult Households (43 years and 37 years, respectively). Both household types were evenly divided between males and females and about two-thirds of adults in each type had at least a high school diploma. The majority of adults in each group had never married (54 percent of Disabled Households and 66 percent of Other Adult Households). Other Adult Households were more racially diverse than Disabled Households. Adults in Other Adult Households were more likely to be non-citizens (13 percent compared to 5 percent in Disabled Households).

Food Support-eligible adults in Uncle Harry Households were unlike adults in the other Food Support household types. The average Uncle Harry adult was age 41 and the average Uncle Harry child was 10 years old. Like Family Households, nearly three-quarters of Uncle Harry adults were female. Only 43 percent of Uncle Harry adults had a high school diploma. Forty-five percent had never married, but 24 percent were married and currently living with a spouse. Uncle Harry adults were more racially diverse than the household types. Only 27 percent were white compared with 58 percent of adults overall. Thirty-six percent were black and 25 percent were Asian – more than the household types. Uncle Harry adults were also less likely to be U.S. citizens than other adults (20 percent non-citizens compared to 11 percent overall).

Table 5. Demographic Characteristics of Persons in Food Support Households in December 2007

		Total Persons	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry
				Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
Eligible or Suspended Adults	Count	129,216	47,063	24,513	40,789	16,851	8,202
	Percent of All Adults	100.0%	36.4%	19.0%	31.6%	13.0%	6.3%
Eligible or Suspended Children	Count of Children	80,088	80,088	0	0	0	3,420
	Percent of Eligible Children	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%
Age of Adults	Mean	43.5	32.7	69.4	43.1	36.6	41.2
	Median	42	31	69	46	36	41
	Minimum	18	18	18	18	18	18
	Maximum	102	92	203	59	59	102
Frequency	18 - 22	12,843	5,871	281	2,341	4,350	1,152
		9.9%	12.5%	1.1%	5.7%	25.8%	14.0%
	23 - 29	20,829	14,133	38	3,951	2,707	933
		16.1%	30.0%	0.2%	9.7%	16.1%	11.4%
	30 - 39	25,536	16,557	57	6,712	2,210	1,703
		19.8%	35.2%	0.2%	16.5%	13.1%	20.8%
	40 - 49	25,210	8,223	132	13,865	2,990	2,022
		19.5%	17.5%	0.5%	34.0%	17.7%	24.7%
	50 - 59	21,077	1,890	674	13,919	4,594	1,433
		16.3%	4.0%	2.7%	34.1%	27.3%	17.5%
60 - 64	6,887	218	6,669	0	0	419	
	5.3%	0.5%	27.2%	0.0%	0.0%	5.1%	
65 and over	16,833	171	16,662	0	0	540	
	13.0%	0.4%	68.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.6%	
Ages of Eligible or Suspended Minor Children	Mean Age of Children		7.6				9.7
	Median		7				10
Count and Percent of All Children	< 1 year old		4,672				83
			5.8%				2.4%
	1 to 5 years old		27,203				705
			34.0%				20.6%
	6 to 10 years old		23,758				993
			29.7%				29.0%
	11 to 12 years old		7,722				456
			9.6%				13.3%
13 to 15 years old		10,591				699	
		13.2%				20.4%	
> 15 years old		6,142				484	
		7.7%				14.2%	
Gender of Adults	Female	78,962	33,598	16,150	21,426	7,788	5,994
		61.1%	71.4%	65.9%	52.5%	46.2%	73.1%
	Male	50,254	13,465	8,363	19,363	9,063	2,208
	38.9%	28.6%	34.1%	47.5%	53.8%	26.9%	
Education of Adults	None or Pre-1st Grade or Unknown	11,168	2,472	4,983	2,535	1,178	1,620
		8.6%	5.3%	20.3%	6.2%	7.0%	19.8%
	Grade School	4,463	1,070	1,990	999	404	458
		3.5%	2.3%	8.1%	2.4%	2.4%	5.6%
	Some High School	31,070	10,871	5,718	10,078	4,403	2,591
		24.0%	23.1%	23.3%	24.7%	26.1%	31.6%
	High School Graduate	66,939	26,920	9,369	21,789	8,861	3,054
		51.8%	57.2%	38.2%	53.4%	52.6%	37.2%
	Some Post-Secondary	11,405	4,554	1,376	4,025	1,450	395
		8.8%	9.7%	5.6%	9.9%	8.6%	4.8%
	College Graduate	1,929	596	434	657	242	45
		1.5%	1.3%	1.8%	1.6%	1.4%	0.5%
	Graduate Degree	2,242	580	643	706	313	39
	1.7%	1.2%	2.6%	1.7%	1.9%	0.5%	
High School Graduate or Higher	82,515	32,650	11,822	27,177	10,866	3,533	
	63.9%	69.4%	48.2%	66.6%	64.5%	43.1%	

Table 5 – page 2

		Total Persons	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry Cases
				Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
Marital Status of Adults	Divorced	23,255	4,620	6,408	9,346	2,881	960
		18.0%	9.8%	26.1%	22.9%	17.1%	11.7%
	Legally Separated	487	171	93	157	66	20
		0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%
	Married, Living with Spouse	22,466	13,999	4,789	2,936	742	1,943
		17.4%	29.7%	19.5%	7.2%	4.4%	23.7%
	Never Married	58,820	22,197	3,560	21,929	11,134	3,673
		45.5%	47.2%	14.5%	53.8%	66.1%	44.8%
Married, Living Apart		16,531	5,678	3,810	5,366	1,677	1,250
		12.8%	12.1%	15.5%	13.2%	10.0%	15.2%
Widowed		7,656	398	5,852	1,055	351	355
		5.9%	0.8%	23.9%	2.6%	2.1%	4.3%
Race/Ethnicity of Adults	Asian	10,265	2,668	4,560	2,567	470	2,041
		7.9%	5.7%	18.6%	6.3%	2.8%	24.9%
	Black	30,799	10,976	4,297	10,372	5,154	2,977
		23.8%	23.3%	17.5%	25.4%	30.6%	36.3%
	Hispanic	4,727	2,617	693	948	469	264
		3.7%	5.6%	2.8%	2.3%	2.8%	3.2%
	American Indian	6,620	2,400	535	2,079	1,606	634
		5.1%	5.1%	2.2%	5.1%	9.5%	7.7%
White		75,251	27,604	14,297	24,471	8,879	2,222
		58.2%	58.7%	58.3%	60.0%	52.7%	27.1%
Multiple		856	470	42	213	131	50
		0.7%	1.0%	0.2%	0.5%	0.8%	0.6%
Citizenship of Adults	Non-U.S.	13,865	5,041	4,416	2,199	2,209	1,665
		10.7%	10.7%	18.0%	5.4%	13.1%	20.3%
U.S.		115,351	42,022	20,097	38,590	14,642	6,537
		89.3%	89.3%	82.0%	94.6%	86.9%	79.7%
Non-citizens	Asian	4,401	1,418	1,640	1,029	314	934
		42.9%	53.1%	36.0%	40.1%	66.8%	45.8%
	Black	7,261	2,697	1,917	900	1,747	641
		23.6%	24.6%	44.6%	8.7%	33.9%	21.5%
	Hispanic	961	504	260	135	62	43
		20.3%	19.3%	37.5%	14.2%	13.2%	16.3%
	American Indian	24	8	5	8	3	3
		0.4%	0.3%	0.9%	0.4%	0.2%	0.5%
White	1,132	371	573	121	67	38	
	1.5%	1.3%	4.0%	0.5%	0.8%	1.7%	

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 do 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 698 people. These people were excluded from the race/ethnicity section of the table.

Economic Characteristics

Although Food Support households used a variety of income sources to support themselves, their financial condition may be best described as unstable as evidenced by use of Emergency Assistance (EA), other cash assistance programs, and low earned income. In the last year, 50 percent of Family Households, 48 percent of Disabled Households, and 37 percent of Other Adult Households received assistance from MFIP, DWP, GA, RCA, or EA. Twenty percent of Family Households and 14 percent of Disabled Households received EA. Over the past nine years 83 percent of Family Households, 77 percent of Disabled Households, 55 percent of Other Adult Households, and 40 percent of Senior Households received benefits from a cash assistance program. Half of Family Households, 46 percent of Disabled Households, 24 percent of Other Adult Households, and 18 percent of Senior Households used EA at some point in the last nine years.

Nearly 60 percent of Family Households reported earned income in December 2007 and the average earned income for these working families was \$1,255. Family Households with an employed adult reported an average of 137 work hours with 34 percent of households working 160 hours or more. Thirty percent of Other Adult Households reported earned income with average earnings of \$658 and average work hours of 92 hours. Twelve percent reported 160 work hours or more for December 2007. Small percentages of Senior and Disabled Households reported earned income.

Nearly all Senior Households (98 percent) and 92 percent of Disabled Households reported unearned income in December 2007. The most common types for Senior Households were SSI (62 percent) and RSDI (54 percent) and the most common types for Disabled Households were SSI (56 percent) and public assistance grants (39 percent). Nearly 60 percent of Family Households reported unearned income, most commonly child support (30 percent) and public assistance grants (18 percent). One-third of Other Adult Households had unearned income.

Nearly half (47 percent) of Other Adult Households, 13 percent of Family Households, 7 percent of Disabled Households, and 1 percent of Senior Households reported no earned or unearned income for the month.

Overall, Food Support households used an average of 41 months of Food Support in the last nine years, with 27 percent using less than 13 months and 27 percent using 60 months or more. Senior Households had used the most months on average; they used an average of 68 months with 58 percent using 60 months or more. Other Adult Households averaged the fewest number of months (15 months). Sixty-two percent of Other Adult Households had used 12 or fewer months. More than one-third of Uncle Harry cases had used 60 or more months of Food Support.

Table 6. Economic Characteristics of Food Support Households in December 2007

		Total Households	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry
				Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
Households	Count	112,707	37,089	21,631	38,236	15,751	8,260
	Percent of All Cases	100.0%	32.9%	19.2%	33.9%	14.0%	7.3%
Food Support Grant Amount	Mean of All Cases	\$154	\$293	\$55	\$84	\$140	\$117
	Median	\$127	\$283	\$31	\$79	\$162	\$108
Food Support in Minnesota (Months): 1999 - 2007 Cumulative	Mean	40.6	25.9	67.8	50.1	14.7	50.1
	Median	29	20	76	43	9	44
Frequency of Cases	1 - 12 Months	30,820	12,798	2,152	6,184	9,686	1,073
Percent of Cases in Column		27.3%	34.5%	9.9%	16.2%	61.5%	13.0%
	13 - 24 Months	19,581	8,935	1,970	5,665	3,011	1,282
		17.4%	24.1%	9.1%	14.8%	19.1%	15.5%
	25 - 36 Months	14,115	6,079	1,837	4,772	1,427	1,122
		12.5%	16.4%	8.5%	12.5%	9.1%	13.6%
	37 - 48 Months	10,629	3,912	1,791	4,104	822	971
		9.4%	10.5%	8.3%	10.7%	5.2%	11.8%
49 - 60 Months	7,519	2,224	1,434	3,449	412	816	
	6.7%	6.0%	6.6%	9.0%	2.6%	9.9%	
Over 60 Months	30,043	3,141	12,447	14,062	393	2,996	
	26.7%	8.5%	57.5%	36.8%	2.5%	36.3%	
Other Public Assistance in Minnesota: 2007	MFIP/MFIP Food	15,967	9,097	958	4,938	984	8,009
		14.2%	24.5%	4.4%	12.9%	6.2%	97.0%
	DWP	7,141	6,423	24	133	561	375
		6.3%	17.3%	0.1%	0.3%	3.6%	4.5%
	GA/RCA	16,408	277	1,662	10,721	3,748	81
	14.6%	0.7%	7.7%	28.0%	23.8%	1.0%	
EA	14,756	7,381	789	5,271	1,315	2,041	
	13.1%	19.9%	3.6%	13.8%	8.3%	24.7%	
Other Public Assistance in Minnesota: 1999 - 2007	MFIP/MFIP Food	39,024	24,708	2,274	9,578	2,464	8,161
		34.6%	66.6%	10.5%	25.0%	15.6%	98.8%
	DWP	13,371	11,503	148	760	960	1,245
		11.9%	31.0%	0.7%	2.0%	6.1%	15.1%
	GA/RCA	29,603	1,598	4,628	18,174	5,202	674
	26.3%	4.3%	21.4%	47.5%	33.0%	8.2%	
EA	43,744	18,471	3,960	17,511	3,802	5,272	
	38.8%	49.8%	18.3%	45.8%	24.1%	63.8%	
Income / Working	Count of Cases	30,260	21,463	978	3,223	4,596	823
	Percent of All Cases	26.8%	57.9%	4.5%	8.4%	29.2%	10.0%
December 2007 Total Earned Income	Mean of Working Cases	\$1,060	\$1,255	\$501	\$500	\$658	\$814
	Median	\$924	\$1,164	\$424	\$377	\$601	\$658
December 2007 Monthly Work Hours	Mean of Working Cases	121	137	75	70	92	106
	Median	111	126	61	56	80	85
Percent of Working Cases	1 - 79 Hours	9,440	4,895	530	1,963	2,052	322
		31.2%	22.8%	54.2%	60.9%	44.6%	39.1%
	80 - 119 Hours	6,242	4,200	233	637	1,172	208
		20.6%	19.6%	23.8%	19.8%	25.5%	25.3%
	120 - 159 Hours	6,068	4,884	74	327	783	129
	20.1%	22.8%	7.6%	10.1%	17.0%	15.7%	
160 Hours or More	8,171	7,300	100	235	536	151	
	27.0%	34.0%	10.2%	7.3%	11.7%	18.3%	

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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 public assistance program eligibility data are based upon MAXIS case number and not person identification numbers. Thus, if a person had been eligible for a public assistance program on a different case number those benefit months would not be included in this report.

Food Support months are cumulative months between January 1999 and December 2007 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 2007 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 (2007 or 1999 to 2007). The 151 Uncle Harry cases that are listed in the tables as not MFIP eligible in 2007 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 2007; 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 2007. 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 2007 income of all adults whose income was deemed for the case. The amount used was either (1) verified earnings for December

2007 or (2) zero for cases still active in February 2008 with no income reported for December 2007 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 and room and board income where it was gross less expenses, with a minimum of zero. Mean total income excluded cases with no verified or expected income in December 2007.

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 income reported.

Unearned Income. Unearned income was from the December 2007 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 rent paid 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.