



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Minnesota Family Investment Program and the Diversionary Work Program: Characteristics of December 2008 Cases and Eligible Adults

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Minnesota Family Investment Program and the Diversionary Work Program: Characteristics of December 2008 Cases and Eligible Adults

This is the twelfth annual report in this series¹ that provides a snapshot of the universe of cases and participants in Minnesota's economic assistance programs for low-income families. This report describes the characteristics of eligible adults and active cases receiving grants from the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) or the Diversionary Work Program (DWP) in December 2008. Information is provided on the demographics of the eligible adult and teenage caregivers; family composition, residence, and challenges; economic status of cases; and MFIP policy impacts. This report includes Child Protection data for the first time since December 2003. Economic status and MFIP policy data had previously been presented in a single table. These have been separated into Tables 4 and 5.

Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) provides funds for MFIP cases except those with two eligible caregivers and participants in the Family Stabilization Services (FSS) program. FSS enrolled its first participants in February 2008 and provides case management support and services to families that are not making significant progress on MFIP or DWP due to specific barriers to employment.² This is the first report to include information on FSS. TANF, first enacted in 1996, was reauthorized as part of the federal Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005. The original TANF legislation set program requirements such as the five-year limit on cash assistance receipt, a work-first emphasis, work participation requirements, and other rules. DRA retained these program requirements and, among other changes, narrowed the definition of work activities and broadened the definition of which participants are required to work or engage in work activities to include some MFIP-ineligible caregivers.

Findings that parallel this report for five major racial/ethnic groups and black and Asian subgroups will follow as a report in the DHS series on *Welfare Reform Outcomes of Racial/Ethnic and Immigrant Groups in Minnesota*. Input from readers is invited, both reactions to this report and suggestions for data to include in future reports.

Statewide Data

For reporting purposes the MFIP population was divided into three categories: child-only cases in which the grant includes children but not their caregivers, cases with one eligible adult, and cases with two eligible adults. The DWP population, which cannot include child-only cases, is divided into cases with one or two eligible adults. The Mille Lacs American Indian Tribal Council administers MFIP-eligible cases in its jurisdiction, including cases for tribal members that reside in Hennepin, Ramsey, or Anoka Counties. Their Tribal TANF program is a separate program from MFIP. Tribal TANF cases are only included in Table 1 of this report.

¹ This series was previously titled *Characteristics of December Minnesota Family Cash Assistance Programs: Cases and Eligible Adults*.

² For more information about FSS, please see DHS Bulletins #07-11-07 and #08-11-01.

Table 1 (page 2) provides the distributions of MFIP, DWP, and Tribal TANF cases, eligible adults, and eligible children. Figure 1 (page 3) shows the history of MFIP and DWP caseloads since 1999.³ Table 2 (pages 5 – 6) gives the demographic characteristics of eligible caregivers: age, gender, education, marital status, race/ethnicity, and citizenship status. Table 3 (pages 9 – 10) reports case-level statistics on family composition, residence, and challenges. Table 4 (pages 13 – 15) quantifies economic characteristics of cases and Table 5 (pages 19 – 20) details cases impacted by MFIP policies such as extensions beyond the time limit, exemptions from the time limit, the family cap, employment services sanctions, grant deductions due to receipt of a housing subsidy, and FSS eligibility. The Data Definitions and Policy Information sections that follow each table are essential for interpreting the data.⁴

Caseload Data

Caseload Trends. This is the first report since December 2002 that the family economic assistance caseload increased from the previous December report. As shown in Figure 1, the combined MFIP and DWP caseload increased by 2 percent in the last year. The MFIP caseload increased by 2 percent and the DWP caseload increased by 9 percent.

While the MFIP eligible-adult caseload decreased each year between 2002 and 2007, the child-only caseload continued to climb between 2 and 7 percent each year, becoming an ever larger percentage of the total caseload. This growth has slowed since December 2006, leveling out at about a 1 percent increase each year and about one-third of all MFIP cases.

Table 1. December 2008 Counts and Percentages of MFIP, DWP, and Tribal TANF Paid Cases and Eligible Persons

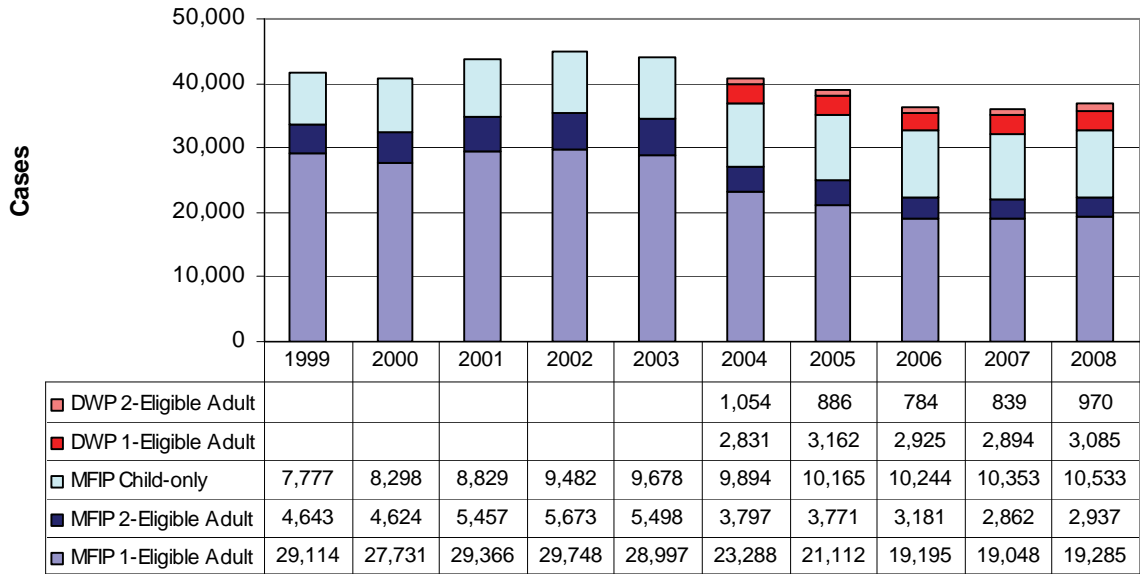
Counts of Cases	MFIP and Tribal TANF Paid Cases						DWP Paid Cases		
	Tribal TANF Cases	All MFIP Paid Cases	Child-Only Cases	MFIP Cases with Eligible Adults			DWP Cases with Eligible Adults		
				One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults*	Total Cases	One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	All Cases
Paid Cases	271	32,855	10,633	19,285	2,937	22,222	3,085	970	4,055
	100.0%	100%	32.4%	58.7%	8.9%	67.6%	76.1%	23.9%	100%
Eligible Adults	336	25,160	0	19,285	5,875	25,160	3,085	1,940	5,025
	100.0%	100%	0.0%	76.6%	23.4%	100.0%	61.4%	38.6%	100.0%
Eligible Children	494	63,127	19,840	35,754	7,533	43,287	4,907	2,178	7,085
	100.0%	100%	31.4%	56.6%	11.9%	68.6%	69.3%	30.7%	100.0%

* One case had three eligible adults and was included in the two-eligible-adult cases throughout this report.

³ DWP began enrolling its first participants in July 2004.

⁴ Public assistance data were extracted from MAXIS, medical data were extracted from MMIS, and Child Protective Services data were extracted from SSIS, all in the DHS Data Warehouse. Child support data were provided by the DHS Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED).

Figure 1. December MFIP and DWP Caseloads, December 1999 to December 2008



Data Definitions and Policy Information: Table 1 and Figure 1

“Eligible adult” refers to an adult caregiver or minor parent. Cases with two caregivers in which one caregiver was ineligible for MFIP or DWP are included in the one-eligible-adult cases column. Cases receiving MFIP cash or food grants or DWP cash grants are known as “paid cases”; this excludes active cases suspended for the month because they have income great enough to cancel out the cash grant. This typically occurs in months with five weekly or three biweekly pay periods. Suspended cases are not included in this report.

Percentages summed across subgroups sometimes do not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

Demographic Characteristics

All Minnesota Families with Minor Children. To provide context and for comparison, the 2007 American Community Survey (ACS) reports that the average age of a Minnesotan adult, aged 18 or older, that had at least one minor child living in the household was 39 years and 13 percent were between the ages of 20 and 29. Ninety-one percent of all Minnesotan adults have a high school diploma or General Education Development (GED) certificate. Eight percent had never married and 82 percent were married and living with a spouse. Eighty-six percent of Minnesotan adults with children were white, 5 percent were black, 4 percent Hispanic, 4 percent Asian, and 1 percent American Indian.

MFIP-eligible Caregivers. As shown in Table 2, the average age of a MFIP caregiver was 30 years with nearly half between the ages of 20 and 29 years. Eighty-two percent were female and 59 percent had at least a high school diploma or GED. Fourteen percent of MFIP-eligible adults were married and currently living with a spouse, including 48 percent of adults in two-eligible-adult cases. Two-thirds of MFIP-eligible adults had never married. Black adults and white adults each constituted 38 percent of MFIP-eligible adults. Eighty-six percent of MFIP-eligible adults were U.S. citizens.

DWP-eligible Caregivers. The demographic make-up of DWP-eligible adults did not look like that of MFIP-eligible adults. Asian, black, and American Indian adults were under-represented in DWP cases as compared to MFIP cases. While 38 percent of MFIP-eligible adults were black, 25 percent of DWP-eligible adults were and while 10 percent of MFIP-eligible adults were American Indian, 4 percent of DWP-eligible adults were. White adults were 57 percent of DWP-eligible adults compared to 38 percent of MFIP-eligible adults. DWP-eligible adults were also more likely to have at least a high school diploma or GED (74 percent compared to 59 percent of MFIP-eligible adults) and to have been married now or in the past (46 percent compared to 33 percent of MFIP-eligible adults).

These demographic differences can be attributed to differences between the programs. DWP is a short-term program lasting up to four months while MFIP provides longer-term assistance that is usually limited to 60 months of participation, but potentially lasting as long as minor children reside in the home for cases that are extended beyond the limit due to certain documented criteria. Long-term MFIP participants are more likely to face significant barriers to employment, such as a lack of education, single parenthood⁵, and racism⁶, whereas DWP participants are considered likely to gain employment quickly and, regardless of employment status, must exit the program after four months. Those without employment are likely to enroll in MFIP upon leaving DWP.

⁵ “Unemployment and marital status of women with young children.” (2003) *The Editor’s Desk*. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Retrieved August 11, 2009, from <http://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2003/jul/wk3/art04.htm>. See also: Correll, Shelley J., Benard, Stephan, and Paik, In. (2007) “Getting a Job: Is There a Motherhood Penalty?” *American Journal of Sociology*. 112(5): 1297 – 1338.

⁶ Applied Research Center. (2009) *Race and Recession: How Inequity Rigged the Economy and Changed the Rules*. Retrieved August 31, 2009, from www.arc.org/content/view/726/136/.

Table 2. Demographic Characteristics of Eligible Adults on December 2008 MFIP and DWP Paid Cases

Adult Characteristics		One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	All MFIP Cases	One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	All DWP Cases
Eligible Adults	Count	19,285	5,875	25,160	3,085	1,940	5,025
	Percent of All Eligible Adults	76.6%	23.4%	100.0%	61.4%	38.6%	100.0%
Age of Adults	Mean	29.7	30.8	29.9	30.6	30.9	30.7
	Median	27	28	28	29	29	29
	Minimum	14	15	14	17	16	16
	Maximum	79	74	79	58	61	61
Frequency	< 18	452	38	490	1	4	5
		2.3%	0.6%	1.9%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%
	18 - 19	1,631	334	1,965	118	58	176
		8.5%	5.7%	7.8%	3.8%	3.0%	3.5%
	20 - 29	9,205	2,805	12,010	1,512	921	2,433
		47.7%	47.7%	47.7%	49.0%	47.5%	48.4%
	30 - 39	4,811	1,611	6,422	952	629	1,581
		24.9%	27.4%	25.5%	30.9%	32.4%	31.5%
	40 - 49	2,426	811	3,237	431	276	707
	12.6%	13.8%	12.9%	14.0%	14.2%	14.1%	
	50 - 59	657	244	901	71	49	120
		3.4%	4.2%	3.6%	2.3%	2.5%	2.4%
	60 and over	103	32	135	0	3	3
		0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%
Gender	Female	17,624	2,938	20,565	2,734	970	3,704
		91.4%	50.0%	81.7%	88.6%	50.0%	73.7%
	Male	1,658	2,937	4,595	351	970	1,321
		8.6%	50.0%	18.3%	11.4%	50.0%	26.3%
Education	None or Pre-1st Grade or Unknown	1,017	670	1,687	129	124	253
		5.3%	11.4%	6.7%	4.2%	6.4%	5.0%
	Grade School	372	203	575	40	38	78
		1.9%	3.5%	2.3%	1.3%	2.0%	1.6%
	Some High School	6,293	1,803	8,096	550	427	977
		32.6%	30.7%	32.2%	17.8%	22.0%	19.4%
	High School Graduate	9,958	2,880	12,838	1,961	1,144	3,105
		51.6%	49.0%	51.0%	63.6%	59.0%	61.8%
	Some Post-Secondary	1,401	257	1,658	320	161	481
		7.3%	4.4%	6.6%	10.4%	8.3%	9.6%
College Graduate	140	24	164	49	23	72	
	0.7%	0.4%	0.7%	1.6%	1.2%	1.4%	
Graduate Degree	104	38	142	36	23	59	
	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	
	High School Graduate or Higher	11,603	3,199	14,802	2,366	1,351	3,717
		60.2%	54.5%	58.8%	76.7%	69.6%	74.0%
Marital Status	Divorced	1,507	146	1,653	374	47	421
		7.8%	2.5%	6.6%	12.1%	2.4%	8.4%
	Legally Separated	47	9	56	18	1	19
		0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.6%	0.1%	0.4%
	Married, Living with Spouse	789	2,836	3,625	90	1,118	1,208
		4.1%	48.3%	14.4%	2.9%	57.6%	24.0%
	Never Married	14,037	2,721	16,758	1,965	734	2,699
		72.8%	46.3%	66.6%	63.7%	37.8%	53.7%
Married, Living Apart	2,697	156	2,853	625	40	665	
	14.0%	2.7%	11.3%	20.3%	2.1%	13.2%	
Widowed	208	6	214	12	0	12	
	1.1%	0.1%	0.9%	0.4%	0.0%	0.2%	

Table 2 – Page 2

Adult Characteristics		MFIP Cases			DWP Cases		
		One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	All MFIP Cases	One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	All DWP Cases
Race/Ethnicity	Asian	828	891	1,719	97	160	257
		4.3%	15.2%	6.8%	3.1%	8.2%	5.1%
	Black	7,978	1,615	9,593	909	343	1,252
		41.4%	27.5%	38.1%	29.5%	17.7%	24.9%
	Hispanic	996	273	1,269	215	127	342
		5.2%	4.6%	5.0%	7.0%	6.5%	6.8%
	White	7,280	2,283	9,563	1,683	1,185	2,868
		37.7%	38.9%	38.0%	54.6%	61.1%	57.1%
American Indian		1,797	696	2,493	129	82	211
		9.3%	11.8%	9.9%	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%
Multiple		351	71	422	31	23	54
		1.8%	1.2%	1.7%	1.0%	1.2%	1.1%
Citizenship	Non-U.S.	2,111	1,438	3,549	244	243	487
		10.9%	24.5%	14.1%	7.9%	12.5%	9.7%
	U.S.	17,174	4,437	21,611	2,841	1,697	4,538
Noncitizens		89.1%	75.5%	85.9%	92.1%	87.5%	90.3%
	Asian	456	753	1,209	36	85	121
		55.1%	84.5%	70.3%	37.1%	53.1%	47.1%
	Black	1,447	492	1,939	152	102	254
		18.1%	30.5%	20.2%	16.7%	29.7%	20.3%
	Hispanic	129	37	166	47	27	74
		13.0%	13.6%	13.1%	21.9%	21.3%	21.6%
	American Indian	62	146	208	7	22	29
		0.9%	6.4%	2.2%	0.4%	1.9%	1.0%
	White	5	1	6	0	2	2
	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	2.4%	0.9%	

Data Definitions and Policy Information: Table 2

Characteristics with no bearing on program eligibility may not be routinely updated after the initial application, including education, marital status, and citizenship, and, therefore, may be underreported.

The coding method for race/ethnicity follows the 2000 U.S. Census methodology, with participants asked their racial choice (yes or no) of each of five racial categories (American Indian, Asian, black, Pacific Islander, and white) and ethnicity (Hispanic or non-Hispanic). Hispanics of all races were listed as Hispanic. Pacific Islanders and Asian groups were combined due to very small numbers of Pacific Islanders.

Race/ethnicity data were missing for 101 MFIP-eligible adults and 41 DWP-eligible adults.

Family Composition, Residence, and Challenges

Family Composition. The typical eligible-adult family that participated in MFIP or DWP in December 2008 was a parent caring for two children that were her own biological, adopted, or step children. The average age of the youngest child was 4 years in MFIP cases and 5 years in DWP cases. According to the 2007 ACS, the average age of the youngest child in all Minnesotan households with a minor child was 8 years and the households had an average of 2 children.

Thirty percent of MFIP families lived in Hennepin County and 33 percent lived in Greater Minnesota. Families that participated in DWP were more likely than MFIP participants to reside in Greater Minnesota (43 percent compared to 33 percent) and the Metropolitan Suburban counties (23 percent compared to 14 percent).

More than half (57 percent) of families in MFIP child-only cases were parents caring for their own biological, adopted, or step children and 43 percent were caregivers caring for their relatives' children. Thirty-one percent of child-only cases had two caregivers. While child-only cases averaged the same number of children as eligible-adult cases, the youngest child was older. The average age of the youngest child was 9 years and 30 percent of children in child-only cases were aged 13 or older compared to 9 percent of MFIP eligible-adult cases. Like eligible-adult cases, about one-third lived in Hennepin County and one-third in Greater Minnesota.

Ineligible Caregivers. Six percent of one-eligible-adult MFIP cases also included a second, ineligible caregiver; 68 percent of whom were parents ineligible for MFIP due to receipt of SSI for a disability. Fourteen percent were ineligible because they reached the 60-month limit and opted out of the grant to allow the other caregiver and children to continue receiving MFIP. Caregivers in child-only cases were most commonly relative caregivers (44 percent) or parents eligible for SSI (41 percent). Fourteen percent of caregivers in child-only cases were non-citizens without documents to confirm their residency status.

Serious Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Diagnoses. Forty-two percent of MFIP-eligible-adult cases had a caregiver who was diagnosed with a serious mental health condition in the past three years, an increase from 38 percent since December 2007. Twenty-six percent of MFIP-eligible-adult cases had a caregiver who was diagnosed with chemical dependency over the same period. Caregivers in child-only cases had similar rates of mental health diagnoses, but a smaller percentage had been diagnosed with chemical dependency (15 percent). Fewer caregivers in DWP cases had these diagnoses, but this may not be due to lower incidence so much as fewer DWP caregivers receiving publicly provided health care in the past three years than MFIP caregivers.

According to the federal office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Survey of Drug Use and Health 2005 - 2006, about 11 percent of Minnesotan adults experienced serious psychological distress within one year of their survey and 10 percent had been diagnosed with either alcohol or illicit drug dependency or abuse within one year of being surveyed.

Child Protection Involvement. Nineteen percent of MFIP-eligible adult cases and 11 percent of DWP cases had one or more caregivers that had a Child Protection Family Assessment (FA) or a Traditional Investigation during 2006 to 2008. Five percent of MFIP eligible-adult cases and 3 percent of DWP cases had at least one caregiver where the Traditional Investigation resulted in a maltreatment determination in the last three years.

Statewide, 18.8 children per 1,000 were alleged victims of child maltreatment in 2007.⁷ The rates for MFIP-eligible and DWP-eligible children were much higher – 87.8 per 1,000 MFIP-eligible children and 64.1 per 1,000 DWP-eligible children had a caregiver that had a family assessment or investigation in response to an accepted child maltreatment report.

⁷ Source: *Minnesota's Child Welfare Report, 2007: Report to the 2008 Minnesota Legislature* (page 15). DHS Children and Family Services. This report can be found at <http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Legacy/DHS-5408-ENG>.

Table 3. Family Composition, Residence, and Challenges of December 2008 MFIP and DWP Paid Cases

Family Composition, Residence, and Challenges		Child-only MFIP Cases	MFIP Cases with Eligible Caregivers			DWP Cases		
			One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	Total Cases	One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	All DWP Cases
Cases	Count	10,633	19,285	2,937	22,222	3,085	970	4,055
	Percent of All Cases	32.4%	58.7%	8.9%	67.6%	76.1%	23.9%	100.0%
Family Type	Natural/Adopted/Step Children	6,020	18,263	2,863	21,126	2,712	956	3,668
Count of Cases		56.6%	94.7%	97.5%	95.1%	87.9%	98.6%	90.5%
	Pregnant Only	-	433	4	437	303	11	314
		0.0%	2.2%	0.1%	2.0%	9.8%	1.1%	7.7%
	Relative Care	4,613	589	70	659	70	3	73
		43.4%	3.1%	2.4%	3.0%	2.3%	0.3%	1.8%
Two-caregiver Families	Count of Cases	3,249	1,225	2,937	4,162	89	970	1,059
	Percent of Cases in Column	30.6%	6.4%	100.0%	18.7%	2.9%	100.0%	26.1%
Two Caregivers Married	Count of Cases	2,209	697	1,405	2,102	51	557	608
	Percent of Cases in Column	20.8%	3.6%	47.8%	9.5%	1.7%	57.4%	15.0%
Ineligible Caregivers:	Relative Caregivers	5,755	38			22		
		43.8%	3.1%			24.7%		
Count of Persons & Percent of Ineligible Caregivers	SSI Parents	5,343	827			34		
		40.6%	67.5%			38.2%		
	Undocumented Noncitizen Parents	1,898	119			31		
		14.4%	9.7%			34.8%		
	MFIP Disqualified Parents	138	34			0		
		1.0%	2.8%			0.0%		
	Reached 60th Month And Opted Out	2	167			-		
		0.0%	13.6%			0.0%		
	Other Ineligible Parents	18	40			2		
		0.1%	3.3%			2.2%		
	Count of Ineligible Caregivers	13,154	1,225			89		
Number of Eligible Children in Family & Household	Mean	1.9	1.9	2.6	1.9	1.6	2.2	1.7
	Count of Cases	10,633	19,285	2,937	22,222	3,085	970	4,055
	Median	1	1	2	2	1	2	2
	Minimum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Maximum	12	12	12	12	9	8	9
	Frequency of Cases	0	10	918	38	956	360	14
		0.1%	4.8%	1.3%	4.3%	11.7%	1.4%	9.2%
	1	5,408	8,850	838	9,688	1,343	304	1,647
		50.9%	45.9%	28.5%	43.6%	43.5%	31.3%	40.6%
	2	2,849	5,089	864	5,953	856	316	1,172
		26.8%	26.4%	29.4%	26.8%	27.7%	32.6%	28.9%
	3	1,385	2,491	552	3,043	337	194	531
		13.0%	12.9%	18.8%	13.7%	10.9%	20.0%	13.1%
	4 - 6	914	1,772	538	2,310	182	126	308
		8.6%	9.2%	18.3%	10.4%	5.9%	13.0%	7.6%
	7 - 9	64	155	100	255	7	16	23
		0.6%	0.8%	3.4%	1.1%	0.2%	1.6%	0.6%
	10 or more	3	10	7	17	0	0	0
		0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Count of Eligible Children	19,840	35,754	7,533	43,287	4,907	2,178	7,085
Ineligible Children:	SSI Children	880	1,779	271	2,050	118	39	157
Count of Children & Percent of Ineligible Children		70.7%	98.0%	95.4%	97.6%	88.1%	90.7%	88.7%
	Undocumented Noncitizens	339	9	8	17	7	3	10
		27.3%	0.5%	2.8%	0.8%	5.2%	7.0%	5.6%
	Other Ineligible Children	25	34	8	42	9	1	10
		2.0%	1.9%	2.8%	2.0%	6.7%	2.3%	5.6%
	Count of Ineligible Children	1,244	1,816	284	2,100	134	43	177
	Percent of All Children in Column	5.9%	4.8%	3.6%	4.6%	2.7%	1.9%	2.4%

Table 3 – Page 2

Family Composition, Residence, and Challenges		Child-only MFIP Cases	MFIP Cases with Eligible Caregivers			DWP Cases			
			One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	Total Cases	One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	All DWP Cases	
Number of All Minor Children in Family & Household	Mean	2.0	1.9	2.7	2.0	1.6	2.3	1.8	
	Count of Cases	10,633	19,285	2,937	22,222	3,085	970	4,055	
	Median	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	
	Minimum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Maximum	12	12	12	12	9	8	9	
	Frequency of Cases	0	8	552	13	565	334	12	346
			0.1%	2.9%	0.4%	2.5%	10.8%	1.2%	8.5%
		1	4,970	8,713	799	9,512	1,317	292	1,609
			46.7%	45.2%	27.2%	42.8%	42.7%	30.1%	39.7%
		2	2,898	5,170	861	6,031	875	311	1,186
			27.3%	26.8%	29.3%	27.1%	28.4%	32.1%	29.2%
		3	1,550	2,646	560	3,206	356	207	563
			14.6%	13.7%	19.1%	14.4%	11.5%	21.3%	13.9%
		4 - 6	1,120	2,008	587	2,595	195	132	327
			10.5%	10.4%	20.0%	11.7%	6.3%	13.6%	8.1%
	7 - 9	84	181	108	289	8	16	24	
		0.8%	0.9%	3.7%	1.3%	0.3%	1.6%	0.6%	
	10 or more	3	15	9	24	0	0	0	
		0.0%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
	Count of All Children	21,084	37,570	7,817	45,387	5,041	2,221	7,262	
Age of Youngest Child (All Children)	Mean	8.5	4.4	2.7	4.2	5.6	3.1	5.0	
	Count of Cases	10,625	18,733	2,924	21,657	2,751	958	3,709	
	Median	8	2	1	2	4	1	3	
	Minimum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Maximum	19	19	18	19	18	18	18	
	Frequency of Cases	< 1 year old	646	4,015	998	5,013	299	318	617
			6.1%	20.8%	34.0%	22.6%	9.7%	32.8%	15.2%
		1-5 years old	3,229	9,102	1,430	10,532	1,330	442	1,772
			30.4%	47.2%	48.7%	47.4%	43.1%	45.6%	43.7%
		6-10 years old	2,588	2,922	290	3,212	587	116	703
			24.3%	15.2%	9.9%	14.5%	19.0%	12.0%	17.3%
		11-12 years old	1,004	808	76	884	155	36	191
			9.4%	4.2%	2.6%	4.0%	5.0%	3.7%	4.7%
		13-15 years old	1,671	1,118	78	1,196	235	30	265
			15.7%	5.8%	2.7%	5.4%	7.6%	3.1%	6.5%
	>15 years old	1,487	768	52	820	145	16	161	
		14.0%	4.0%	1.8%	3.7%	4.7%	1.6%	4.0%	
Region	Hennepin County	3,440	6,115	645	6,760	726	142	868	
		32.4%	31.7%	22.0%	30.4%	23.5%	14.6%	21.4%	
	Ramsey County	2,098	4,340	710	5,050	405	118	523	
		19.7%	22.5%	24.2%	22.7%	13.1%	12.2%	12.9%	
	Metro Suburban	1,525	2,654	377	3,031	699	224	923	
	14.3%	13.8%	12.8%	13.6%	22.7%	23.1%	22.8%		
	Greater Minnesota	3,570	6,176	1,205	7,381	1,255	486	1,741	
		33.6%	32.0%	41.0%	33.2%	40.7%	50.1%	42.9%	
Family Violence	MFIP Exemption or Extension		1,481	82	1,563	49	6	55	
	During 2000 - 2008		7.7%	2.8%	7.0%	1.6%	0.6%	1.4%	
Adult Serious Mental Health Diagnosis (All Caregivers)	During 2006 - 2008	3,852	8,096	1,270	9,366	753	268	1,021	
		36.2%	42.0%	43.2%	42.1%	24.4%	27.6%	25.2%	
	During 2008	2,887	6,156	953	7,109	521	182	703	
		27.2%	31.9%	32.4%	32.0%	16.9%	18.8%	17.3%	
Adult Chemical Dependency Diagnosis (All Caregivers)	During 2006 - 2008	1,537	4,884	858	5,742	452	161	613	
		14.5%	25.3%	29.2%	25.8%	14.7%	16.6%	15.1%	
	During 2008	923	2,959	531	3,490	273	87	360	
		8.7%	15.3%	18.1%	15.7%	8.8%	9.0%	8.9%	
Child Protection 2006 - 2008 (All Caregivers)	Family Assessment	781	2,079	328	2,407	190	71	261	
		7.3%	10.8%	11.2%	10.8%	6.2%	7.3%	6.4%	
	Traditional Investigation	260	519	80	599	64	22	86	
		2.4%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	2.1%	2.3%	2.1%	
	Child Maltreatment Determination	321	1,041	134	1,175	86	21	107	
		3.0%	5.4%	4.6%	5.3%	2.8%	2.2%	2.6%	

Data Definitions and Policy Information: Table 3

Table 3 provides case-level statistics, except for person counts in the sections on ineligible caregivers and counts of children.

Family Composition. The Family Type section defines households by the relationship of the caregivers to the children. The three types of families were parents caring for their biological, adopted, or step children; caregivers caring for a relative's children; and pregnant women (and sometimes a spouse) with no other children in the household. Households with both biological, adopted, or step children and relative children were considered natural/adopted/step children households.

Ineligible Caregivers. Ineligible caregivers may be parents that receive SSI for a disability, have relative caregiver status, lack documentation of their non-U.S. citizenship status, are disqualified due to fraud, or have reached their 60th month of MFIP eligibility and opted out of the case. A caregiver may not opt out once they reach 60 months for the purpose of continued eligibility for their children, but when caregivers in a two-caregiver household have different numbers of counted months the caregiver with 60 months may opt out and the other caregiver and children continue to receive a grant. Children in MFIP or DWP cases may also be ineligible. Children may be ineligible due to receipt of SSI, lack of documentation of their non-U.S. citizenship status, lack of documentation of a Social Security number, or coming in or out of foster care.

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

Family Challenges. Family violence was indicated by whether a case had a time limit exemption or extension for a family violence waiver at any time between 2000 and 2008. These numbers greatly underestimate the occurrence of family violence because they only include cases where the caregiver reported the abuse and had an alternative employment plan while receiving MFIP.

A serious mental health diagnosis identifies caregivers who were known to have been diagnosed with psychosis, depression, personality disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, or anxiety-state during 2008 or during the three-year period 2006 to 2008. Chemical dependency diagnosis identifies caregivers who received that diagnosis (not including tobacco) during 2008 or during the three-year period 2006 to 2008. Both of these measures may underestimate the actual number of adults with these diagnoses because they only include cases that receive publicly paid health care recorded in administrative records. On the other hand, these diagnoses may be a secondary diagnosis and do not indicate whether treatment services were received.

Child Protection data are from the DHS Social Services Information System (SSIS). Family Assessment (FA) (previously called Alternative Response) is an alternative to traditional child protection investigation and services for families where the child is not in imminent danger and allegations do not include egregious harm, sexual abuse, or maltreatment/abuse in a day care or foster home. In a FA no determination of maltreatment is made. County workers meet with the family to assess and discuss child safety concerns and provide services to help the family meet their child's safety needs. In a Traditional Investigation (TI) county workers interview persons involved with the report and investigate the allegation. If there is a preponderance of evidence that a child has been a victim of maltreatment and the harm was caused by an act, or failure to act, by a person responsible for the child's care, the county or tribal child protection worker makes a determination that maltreatment has occurred. All caregivers, regardless of MFIP eligibility, were included. For caregivers with multiple allegations within the three-year period, only the most serious incident was counted. All categories are mutually exclusive and are consistent with reporting by the DHS Child Safety and Permanency Division.

Economic Characteristics

MFIP Time Limit. Except under specific circumstances, a MFIP participant may only use 60 months of cash assistance between the ages of 18 and 60. In December 2008, eligible-adult MFIP cases averaged 26 months counted toward the limit. Fifty-six percent of MFIP eligible-adult cases had 24 or fewer counted months and 22 percent were within 12 months of the lifetime limit. Forty-five percent of DWP cases had at least one MFIP counted month from previous time on MFIP.

New Cases. Of the total caseload, 20 percent of MFIP eligible-adult cases and 51 percent of DWP cases were new to family cash assistance in Minnesota. The proportion of new DWP cases had not changed since December 2007, although it had been higher before then. In December 2004, new DWP cases were 65 percent and in December 2005, new DWP were 54 percent of the DWP caseload. The percentage of MFIP cases that are new has not changed in recent years.

The proportion of new eligible-adult MFIP cases that were also new or returning Minnesota residents has remained stable in recent years at about 20 percent, but the proportion of DWP cases that were new residents had decreased each year since 2004, the year that DWP started enrolling participants. In December 2008, 28 percent of new DWP cases had moved into Minnesota during 2008, which was a decrease from a high of 49 percent of December 2004 that was due to a large, one-time resettlement of Hmong people. The proportion decreased in each of the five years since 2004.

The most frequent states from which new residents in both programs had moved from were Illinois (361 cases), Wisconsin (219 cases), and Texas (178 cases); 249 cases moved directly from a foreign country.

Earned Income and Work Hours. The percentage of MFIP eligible-adult cases with earned income reported for December 2008 declined to 35 percent from 38 percent in December 2007. The percentage of DWP cases that reported earned income did not change (42 percent). For the second year in a row, the average number of hours worked and average income from work decreased for both programs. Caregivers in eligible-adult MFIP cases worked an average of 97 hours for the month, with 12 percent working 120 hours or more (about 30 hours a week); this was a decrease from 108 average hours in December 2006 and 99 average hours in December 2007. The average income reported for December 2008 was \$872, a decrease from \$961 in December 2006 and \$896 in December 2007.

DWP cases saw similar decreases. The average work hours of DWP cases fell from 104 hours in December 2006 to 94 hours in December 2008. Average income fell from \$1,003 a month in December 2006 to \$934 a month in December 2008.

While quarterly wages reported to the Unemployment Insurance (UI) system for April to June 2008 for MFIP eligible-adult cases saw a slight decrease from 50 percent to 48 percent, the percentage of DWP cases with UI wages increased from 58 percent to 62 percent. As these UI wages predate DWP eligibility, this may indicate that job loss was the precipitating factor for DWP application for more families.

Table 4. Economic Characteristics of December 2008 MFIP and DWP Paid Cases

Economic Characteristics of Cases		Child-only MFIP Cases	MFIP Cases with Eligible Caregivers			DWP Cases		
			One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	Total Cases	One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	All DWP Cases
Cases	Count	10,633	19,285	2,937	22,222	3,085	970	4,055
	Percent of All Cases	32.4%	58.7%	8.9%	67.6%	76.1%	23.9%	100.0%
Counted MFIP Months Sept. 1996 to Dec. 2008	Mean	13.9	26.2	22.2	25.7	9.7	8.0	9.3
	Median	0	21	17	20	0	0	0
Maximum for Eligible Adult in Case Frequency of Cases	No Counted Months	6,075	1,749	188	1,937	1,662	570	2,232
		57.1%	9.1%	6.4%	8.7%	53.9%	58.8%	55.0%
	1 - 12 Months	1,189	5,384	1,056	6,440	566	173	739
		11.2%	27.9%	36.0%	29.0%	18.3%	17.8%	18.2%
	13 - 24 Months	748	3,409	564	3,973	347	99	446
		7.0%	17.7%	19.2%	17.9%	11.2%	10.2%	11.0%
	25 - 36 Months	637	2,416	433	2,849	251	67	318
		6.0%	12.5%	14.7%	12.8%	8.1%	6.9%	7.8%
	37 - 42 Months	259	987	167	1,154	75	28	103
		2.4%	5.1%	5.7%	5.2%	2.4%	2.9%	2.5%
	43 - 48 Months	275	896	142	1,038	65	13	78
		2.6%	4.6%	4.8%	4.7%	2.1%	1.3%	1.9%
49 - 54 Months	261	783	88	871	71	11	82	
	2.5%	4.1%	3.0%	3.9%	2.3%	1.1%	2.0%	
55 - 60 Months	1,189	3,661	299	3,960	48	9	57	
	11.2%	19.0%	10.2%	17.8%	1.6%	0.9%	1.4%	
Months since Start of DWP Eligibility	1st Month					824	296	1,120
						26.7%	30.5%	27.6%
	2nd Month					882	297	1,179
						28.6%	30.6%	29.1%
	3rd Month					732	213	945
					23.7%	22.0%	23.3%	
4th Month					647	164	811	
					21.0%	16.9%	20.0%	
New Cases in 2008	Minnesota Resident before 2008	1,229	3,115	396	3,511	1,114	384	1,498
	Percent of New Cases	87.2%	83.7%	61.4%	80.4%	72.1%	73.8%	72.5%
	Moved into State in 2008	181	608	249	857	431	136	567
	Percent of New Cases	12.8%	16.3%	38.6%	19.6%	27.9%	26.2%	27.5%
	Total of New Cases	1,410	3,723	645	4,368	1,545	520	2,065
	Percent of All Cases	13.3%	19.3%	22.0%	19.7%	50.1%	53.6%	50.9%

Table 4 – Page 2

Economic Characteristics of Cases		Child-only MFIP Cases	MFIP Cases with Eligible Caregivers			DWP Cases		
			One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	Total Cases	One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	All DWP Cases
MFIP or DWP Cash Grants	Mean of All Cases in Column	\$324	\$386	\$477	\$397	\$335	\$484	\$371
MFIP Food Portion	Mean of All Cases in Column	\$257	\$361	\$514	\$381			
Food Support- "Uncle Harry" Cases	Mean of Cases Receiving	\$132	\$123	\$125	\$123	-	-	-
	Percent of Cases in Column Receiving	47.9%	13.0%	9.3%	12.5%			
Food Support - Other Cases	Mean of Cases Receiving	\$267	\$348	\$499	\$372	\$333	\$472	\$367
	Percent of Cases in Column Receiving	2.1%	5.1%	6.3%	5.3%	90.1%	93.1%	90.8%
MFIP Food-Only Assistance	Mean	\$160	\$272	\$401	\$297			
	Count of Cases	495	2,173	516	2,689			
	Percent of All Cases	4.7%	11.3%	17.6%	12.1%			
Income / Working	Count of Cases	961	6,097	1,569	7,666	1,184	534	1,718
	Percent of All Cases	9.0%	31.6%	53.4%	34.5%	38.4%	55.1%	42.4%
December Total Earned Income	Mean of Working Cases	\$902	\$816	\$1,087	\$872	\$833	\$1,157	\$934
	Median	\$660	\$714	\$977	\$759	\$697	\$956	\$754
December Budgeted Earnings	Mean of Working Cases		\$446	\$640	\$489	\$551	\$760	\$620
	Median		\$415	\$616	\$448	\$468	\$610	\$502
December Monthly Work Hours	Mean of Working Cases	94.8	91.1	121.3	97.3	85.5	113.7	94.4
	Median	85	87	117	92	80	105	85
Percent of All Cases	1 - 79 Hours	407	2,598	484	3,082	558	196	754
		3.8%	13.5%	16.5%	13.9%	18.1%	20.2%	18.6%
	80 - 119 Hours	176	1,608	311	1,919	262	110	372
		1.7%	8.3%	10.6%	8.6%	8.5%	11.3%	9.2%
	120 - 159 Hours	144	1,084	293	1,377	191	77	268
		1.4%	5.6%	10.0%	6.2%	6.2%	7.9%	6.6%
	160 Hours or More	185	719	462	1,181	143	144	287
		1.7%	3.7%	15.7%	5.3%	4.6%	14.8%	7.1%
Wages Reported for 2nd Quarter 2008 for Jobs Covered by Unemployment Insurance	Mean of Cases with UI Wages	\$7,500	\$2,850	\$3,250	\$2,917	\$4,725	\$6,055	\$5,096
	Median	\$6,228	\$2,158	\$2,673	\$2,236	\$4,183	\$5,480	\$4,522
	Count of Cases	3,584	8,848	1,807	10,655	1,789	693	2,482
	Percent of All Cases	33.7%	45.9%	61.5%	47.9%	58.0%	71.4%	61.2%

Table 4 – Page 3

Economic Characteristics of Cases		Child-only MFIP Cases	MFIP Cases with Eligible Caregivers			DWP Cases		
			One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	Total Cases	One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	All DWP Cases
Cases with Adult and/or Child Receiving SSI	Count of Cases	4,959	2,243	216	2,459	138	34	172
	Percent of Cases	46.6%	11.6%	7.4%	11.1%	4.5%	3.5%	4.2%
Child Support Disbursements: Average of Payments > \$0	Current Mean	\$196	\$223	\$214	\$223	\$325	\$280	\$320
	Median	\$171	\$195	\$184	\$195	\$290	\$241	\$281
	Count	1,498	2,551	137	2,688	538	69	607
	Percent of Cases	14.1%	13.2%	4.7%	12.1%	17.4%	7.1%	15.0%
	Sum	\$293,572	\$569,505	\$29,324	\$598,830	\$174,869	\$19,349	\$194,218
	Arrears Mean	\$118	\$128	\$122	\$127	\$199	\$164	\$195
	Median	\$74	\$85	\$74	\$85	\$120	\$94	\$117
	Count	1,291	2,289	124	2,413	385	57	442
	Percent of Cases	12.1%	11.9%	4.2%	10.9%	12.5%	5.9%	10.9%
	Sum	\$152,441	\$292,513	\$15,120	\$307,632	\$76,649	\$9,350	\$85,999
	Total Mean	\$245	\$272	\$250	\$270	\$433	\$354	\$423
	Median	\$194	\$219	\$224	\$220	\$361	\$299	\$352
	Count	1,818	3,175	178	3,353	581	81	662
	Percent of Cases	17.1%	16.5%	6.1%	15.1%	18.8%	8.4%	16.3%
Sum	\$446,013	\$862,018	\$44,444	\$906,462	\$251,517	\$28,699	\$280,216	

Data Definitions and Policy Information: Table 4

Months of Welfare Use. Counted MFIP months were defined as the maximum number of months of eligibility for TANF and/or MFIP counted toward the 60-month time limit between September 1996 and December 2008 of any eligible adult on the case. This includes Minnesota paid and federally paid months in Minnesota and federally paid months in other states, but excludes months exempt or excepted from the time limit.

DWP is a short-term, work-focused program lasting four months. Months on DWP do not count toward the MFIP lifetime limit. A case is eligible for DWP if the applicant has not received MFIP in the previous twelve months and is deemed likely to benefit from intensive employment services. An applicant is ineligible for DWP if he or she has 60 MFIP counted months.

New Cases. New welfare cases in 2008 were December 2008 cases active in either MFIP or DWP in Minnesota for one or more months in 2008 but active zero months in 1992 to 2007 (the period covered by the state administrative database). Cases new to the state had a 2008 state entry date. Minnesota residents were either lifelong residents or had moved to the state before 2008.

Cash and Food Grant Amounts. MFIP includes a cash grant and a food portion that can only be spent on food. As families work their way toward leaving assistance, their cash grant is decreased first so that some families only receive a food portion. A family can opt out of the cash portion, receiving only the food portion, and those months do not count toward their lifetime limit. If a household member is not eligible for MFIP, that person may be eligible to receive Food Support, Minnesota's name for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (previously known as Food Stamps). These cases are referred to as "Uncle Harry" cases in Minnesota. DWP provides only a cash grant, but families are categorically eligible to receive Food Support as well. MFIP cases that received Food Support that were not Uncle Harry cases were most often "expedited" cases, which meant that the household met the criteria for immediate Food Support assistance but their MFIP case was not opened until later in the month.

The means for MFIP and DWP cash grants and MFIP food portions were calculated using the grant amounts for all cases, including zero cash portion for some MFIP cases. The means for all other Food Support amounts include only cases with benefit amounts greater than zero.

Income, Earnings, and Work Hours. Total income was either actual or projected December 2008 income of eligible adults and other adults whose earnings were deemed for the case. The amount used was either verified earnings for December 2008 or zero for cases still active in February 2009 with no income reported for December 2008 (required to be reported by February 2009) or prospective December 2008 income for new cases with retrospective data missing and for all migrant cases. Total income was gross income 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 from eligible or deeming adults in December 2008.

The work hours reported for eligible and other deeming adults with earned income are defined in the same manner as earned income. The hours are totals for the case. The percentages of all cases with hours reported are slightly smaller than the percentages reported working because of hours that were not entered into the administrative database. Mean hours only included cases with any reported hours.

Budgeted earnings are total earnings with certain kinds and percentages of earnings subtracted to yield an amount that is then deducted from the MFIP grant level for work status and family size to determine the size of the MFIP grant paid. The budgeted earnings used to calculate the December 2008 grants were based on verified income earned in October 2008 or, for new cases and migrants, prospective earnings for December 2008. Mean budgeted earnings in the table were computed for cases which had budgeted earnings greater than zero.

Employers covered by the Unemployment Insurance (UI) system, which excludes federal government, religious, seasonal, and temporary workers, must report wages to the state. The table provides second quarter 2008 wages reported for participants' jobs covered by UI in Minnesota as a measure of recent work history and earnings. The second quarter predates DWP application (the earliest any of these DWP cases started was

September), so for many or most DWP cases the second quarter was before the occurrence of whatever caused them to apply, often the loss of a job. They had either never been on MFIP or had been off for at least one year before starting DWP. Some MFIP participants were on DWP in the second quarter; many were on MFIP. Therefore, it is not surprising that there were differences between average incomes of participants when making program comparisons.

Child Support. Child support disbursements were paid to families receiving MFIP or DWP in December 2008 from support payments on behalf of children on the cases. This included both current payments and payments made for arrears on past months. All current support was passed through to custodial families and counted dollar-for-dollar against the grants.

MFIP Policies

Table 5⁸ provides information on MFIP extensions and exemptions, sanctions, housing subsidy amounts and grant deductions, the family cap, and Family Stabilization Services (FSS) eligibility. Unless otherwise stated, all text describing the data in Table 5 refer to eligible-adult cases.

Time Limit Exemptions and Extensions. Ten percent of cases had a caregiver for whom December 2008 was not a MFIP counted month due to an exemption from the time limit. The most common exemption was for being an 18 or 19-year old parent complying with high school education requirements (40 percent of exempted cases), followed by living on an American Indian reservation with a not-employed rate of at least 50 percent (27 percent) and family violence (19 percent).

Thirteen percent of cases were extended beyond the time limit due to a documented hardship or because the caregiver was working but not earning enough to leave MFIP. The most common extension reasons were being ill or incapacitated for more than 30 days (36 percent), meeting Special Medical Criteria (18 percent), and having an IQ between 70 and 80 (14 percent). Extended cases averaged 29 extended months, with 30 percent having 12 or fewer months and 35 percent have 36 or more months in extension.

Family Cap. Fifteen percent of families had at least one child subject to the family cap, a policy where the MFIP grant does not include children born after 10 consecutive months of MFIP participation. The proportion of cases affected by the family cap has remained at about 14 percent since December 2006.

Family Stabilization Services (FSS). About one-third (35 percent) of cases were identified as having a caregiver eligible for FSS, a MFIP service track that assists families who are not making significant progress toward self-sufficiency due to specific barriers to employment.

⁸ Data in this section was previously found in Table 4.

Table 5. MFIP Policies and December 2008 Paid Cases

MFIP Policy and Cases		Child-only MFIP Cases	MFIP Cases with Eligible Caregivers		
			One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	Total Cases
Cases	Count	10,633	19,285	2,937	22,222
	Percent of All Cases	32.4%	58.7%	8.9%	67.6%
MFIP Exemptions from Time Limit	Count of Cases	2	1,823	297	2,120
	Percent of All Cases	0.0%	9.5%	10.1%	9.5%
Exemption Reason	18 - 19, Attending High School	2	724	116	842
	Percent of Exempted Cases	100.0%	39.7%	39.1%	39.7%
	Caregiver on Indian Reservation	0	444	122	562
	Percent of Exempted Cases	0.0%	24.4%	41.1%	26.5%
	Family Violence Waiver	0	395	64	406
	Percent of Exempted Cases	0.0%	21.7%	21.5%	19.2%
	Minor Caregiver	0	178	22	197
	Percent of Exempted Cases	0.0%	9.8%	7.4%	9.3%
Caregiver 60 or Older	0	77	25	102	
Percent of Exempted Cases	0.0%	4.2%	8.4%	4.8%	
MFIP Extensions	Count		2,639	184	2,823
	Percent of MFIP Cases		13.7%	6.3%	12.7%
Total Extension Months	Mean		29.6	27.4	29.4
	Median		25	23	25
	Minimum		1	1	1
	Maximum		85	78	85
	1 - 12 Months		780	73	853
Percent of Extended Cases	13 - 24 Months		29.6%	39.7%	30.2%
	25 - 36 Months		516	49	565
Percent of Extended Cases	25 - 36 Months		19.6%	26.6%	20.0%
	More than 36 Months		420	30	450
Percent of Extended Cases	More than 36 Months		15.9%	16.3%	15.9%
			923	56	979
Percent of Extended Cases			35.0%	30.4%	34.7%
Extension Reason	Ill or incapacitated		927	74	1,001
	Percent of Extended Cases		35.1%	40.2%	35.5%
	Special Medical Criteria		487	31	518
	Percent of Extended Cases		18.5%	16.8%	18.3%
	IQ Between 70 and 80		375	32	407
	Percent of Extended Cases		14.2%	17.4%	14.4%
	Mentally Ill		301	17	318
	Percent of Extended Cases		11.4%	9.2%	11.3%
	Care of Ill or Incapacitated		224	12	236
	Percent of Extended Cases		8.5%	6.5%	8.4%
	Employment Required Hours		124	9	133
	Percent of Extended Cases		4.7%	4.9%	4.7%
	Unemployable		38	1	39
	Percent of Extended Cases		1.4%	0.5%	1.4%
	Family Violence Waiver		68	0	68
	Percent of Extended Cases		2.6%	0.0%	2.4%
Learning Disabled		76	5	81	
Percent of Extended Cases		2.9%	2.7%	2.9%	
IQ Below 70		19	3	22	
Percent of Extended Cases		0.7%	1.6%	0.8%	
Appeal		0	0	0	
Percent of Extended Cases		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	

Table 5 – Page 2

MFIP Policy and Cases		Child-only MFIP Cases	MFIP Cases with Eligible Caregivers		
			One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	Total Cases
Employment Services Sanctions	10 % ES Sanction	0	294	66	360
	30 % ES Sanction	0	728	129	857
	All Cases with ES Sanctions	0	1,022	195	1,217
	Percent of All Cases	0.0%	5.3%	6.6%	5.5%
	Six Counted Sanction Months	1	138	32	170
	Percent of All Cases	0.0%	0.7%	1.1%	0.8%
Housing Subsidy	Mean Subsidy Amount > \$0	\$646	\$667	\$656	\$666
	Count of Cases	3,000	5,915	665	6,580
	Percent of All Cases	28.2%	30.7%	22.6%	29.6%
Deductions to MFIP Grant For Housing Subsidy (\$50 Maximum Per Case)	Count of Cases	53	3,429	448	3,877
	Percent of All Cases	0.5%	17.8%	15.3%	17.4%
Family Cap	Mean Deduction > \$0	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
	Count of Cases with One Child	596	2,145	505	2,650
	Two Children	102	447	118	565
	Three or More Children	14	75	22	97
	Percentage of Cases	6.7%	13.8%	22.0%	14.9%
Family Stabilization Services Cases with One or More FSS-eligible Caregiver	Count of Cases	19	6,673	1,073	7,746
	Percent of All Cases	0.2%	34.6%	36.5%	34.9%

Data Definitions and Policy Information: Table 5

Extensions beyond the Time Limit. A MFIP case can be extended beyond the 60-month lifetime limit for certain documented criteria that affect the caregiver’s ability to obtain or retain employment or if the caregiver is working but does not earn enough to leave assistance. Extensions may be granted for cases that have an ill or incapacitated caregiver, a family member or caregiver that meets special medical criteria, a caregiver with an IQ score below 80, a caregiver that is needed in the home to care for an ill or incapacitated family member, a single parent working at least 30 hours or two parents working a total of 55 hours, and other reasons. A case sanctioned for non-compliance with Employment Services (ES) or child support requirements in month 60 can never be extended.

Exemptions and Exceptions from the Time Limit. Cases can receive an exception from the time limit for special medical criteria. Counted months before the time limit of 60 months was reached in which special medical criteria were present can be “banked” and used to extend eligibility beyond 60 months after the time limit has been reached. The following cases are exempt from the time limit (neither counted nor banked): living on a reservation with a not-employed rate of at least 50 percent, family violence cases cooperating with an alternative employment plan, caregivers aged 60 or older, a minor parent, or an 18 or 19-year old parent complying with an education plan.

Sanctions. MFIP cases not complying with Employment Services (ES) requirements can be sanctioned with a reduction of the grant amount. For one eligible adult not in compliance, the first sanction was 10 percent and for two eligible adults, both of whom are not in compliance, the first sanction is 30 percent. If not resolved, the sanction is increased the next month to 30 percent. In July 2003, the Minnesota Legislature instituted a policy that after the sixth occurrence of non-compliance a case may face closure, or 100 percent sanction. Table 5 reports the number of cases with 10 percent and 30 percent sanctions in December 2008 and the number of cases with six unresolved sanction months in December 2008.

Deductions. In July 2003, the Minnesota Legislature mandated deductions from MFIP grants for cases including a family member who receives SSI (\$125 maximum deduction per SSI-eligible person) and cases with housing subsidies (\$50 maximum deduction per case). The SSI deduction to the MFIP grant ended February 1, 2008.

Family Cap. In July 2003, the Minnesota Legislature instituted the family cap, which does not allow a cash grant increase for cases with children conceived when the family was receiving MFIP. Any births after 10 consecutive months of eligibility do not result in a grant increase as they would have previously.

Family Stabilization Services. FSS is a MFIP service track that enrolled its first participants in February 2008. The purpose is to provide counties more flexibility in development of employment plans by removing FSS cases from the participation rate calculation. FSS is designed to help struggling families achieve the greatest degree of self-sufficiency possible. FSS eligibility is limited to caregivers who have an illness or injury lasting more than 30 days that prevents them from obtaining employment, are required to remain in the home to care for a household member with an illness or injury lasting more than 30 days, are a legal non-citizen in the United States for fewer than 12 months, have a developmental disability or mental illness that prevents them from obtaining employment, are unemployable, have a learning disability that prevents them from obtaining employment, have an IQ less than 80, have a family violence waiver, or have made an application for SSI or RSDI. Two caregiver cases are FSS-eligible if one caregiver meets the FSS criteria. Extended cases, except those extended as working, are also eligible for FSS.

County and Regional Data

Due to data privacy concerns, the tables in this section except for Table 6, which provides case load counts for county and region, will no longer be published online. If your organization would like county or regional data, please contact the report author to discuss your needs.

Table 6. December 2008 MFIP and DWP Paid Cases by County and Region

County/Region/ State	Child-only MFIP		MFIP Cases with Eligible Adults				DWP Cases with Eligible Adults			
	Count of Cases	Percent of State Cases	One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	Total Cases	Percent of State Cases	One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	Total Cases	Percent of State Cases
Aitkin	27	0.3%	43	15	58	0.5%	15	5	20	0.5%
Anoka	529	5.0%	887	154	1,041	9.8%	243	71	314	7.7%
Becker	97	0.9%	157	31	188	1.8%	24	6	30	0.7%
Beltrami	408	3.8%	803	189	992	9.3%	56	18	74	1.8%
Benton	49	0.5%	100	15	115	1.1%	20	4	24	0.6%
Big Stone	3	0.0%	15	3	18	0.2%	2	1	3	0.1%
Blue Earth	69	0.6%	164	26	190	1.8%	23	15	38	0.9%
Brown	10	0.1%	41	14	55	0.5%	14	3	17	0.4%
Carlton	65	0.6%	60	7	67	0.6%	20	11	31	0.8%
Carver	43	0.4%	66	6	72	0.7%	26	9	35	0.9%
Cass	127	1.2%	189	42	231	2.2%	22	15	37	0.9%
Chippewa	16	0.2%	23	6	29	0.3%	7	2	9	0.2%
Chisago	42	0.4%	84	16	100	0.9%	25	14	39	1.0%
Clay	75	0.7%	146	35	181	1.7%	24	12	36	0.9%
Clearwater	22	0.2%	45	6	51	0.5%	7	7	14	0.3%
Cook	4	0.0%	8	2	10	0.1%	1	0	1	0.0%

Table 6 – Page 2

County/Region/ State	Child-only MFIP		MFIP Cases with Eligible Adults				DWP Cases with Eligible Adults			
	Count of Cases	Percent of State Cases	One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	Total Cases	Percent of State Cases	One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	Total Cases	Percent of State Cases
Cottonwood	18		22	7	29		9	1	10	
		0.2%	75.9%	24.1%	100.0%	0.1%	90.0%	10.0%	100.0%	0.2%
Crow Wing	90		159	31	190		48	17	65	
		0.8%	83.7%	16.3%	100.0%	0.9%	73.8%	26.2%	100.0%	1.6%
Dakota	454		821	81	902		182	53	235	
		4.3%	91.0%	9.0%	100.0%	4.1%	77.4%	22.6%	100.0%	5.8%
Dodge	26		23	8	31		5	0	5	
		0.2%	74.2%	25.8%	100.0%	0.1%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.1%
Douglas	38		41	8	49		7	6	13	
		0.4%	83.7%	16.3%	100.0%	0.2%	53.8%	46.2%	100.0%	0.3%
Faribault	20		21	7	28		11	4	15	
		0.2%	75.0%	25.0%	100.0%	0.1%	73.3%	26.7%	100.0%	0.4%
Fillmore	11		26	10	36		11	6	17	
		0.1%	72.2%	27.8%	100.0%	0.2%	64.7%	35.3%	100.0%	0.4%
Freeborn	66		108	17	125		22	12	34	
		0.6%	86.4%	13.6%	100.0%	0.6%	64.7%	35.3%	100.0%	0.8%
Goodhue	31		91	10	101		25	8	33	
		0.3%	90.1%	9.9%	100.0%	0.5%	75.8%	24.2%	100.0%	0.8%
Grant	7		9	1	10		5	4	9	
		0.1%	90.0%	10.0%	100.0%	0.0%	55.6%	44.4%	100.0%	0.2%
Hennepin	3,440		6,115	645	6,760		726	142	868	
		32.4%	90.5%	9.5%	100.0%	30.4%	83.6%	16.4%	100.0%	21.4%
Houston	14		41	9	50		13	8	21	
		0.1%	82.0%	18.0%	100.0%	0.2%	61.9%	38.1%	100.0%	0.5%
Hubbard	41		40	8	48		5	3	8	
		0.4%	83.3%	16.7%	100.0%	0.2%	62.5%	37.5%	100.0%	0.2%
Isanti	49		84	19	103		29	7	36	
		0.5%	81.6%	18.4%	100.0%	0.5%	80.6%	19.4%	100.0%	0.9%
Itasca	116		157	39	196		30	15	45	
		1.1%	80.1%	19.9%	100.0%	0.9%	66.7%	33.3%	100.0%	1.1%
Jackson	11		17	4	21		2	1	3	
		0.1%	81.0%	19.0%	100.0%	0.1%	66.7%	33.3%	100.0%	0.1%

Table 6 – Page 3

County/Region/ State	Child-only MFIP		MFIP Cases with Eligible Adults				DWP Cases with Eligible Adults			
	Count of Cases	Percent of State Cases	One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	Total Cases	Percent of State Cases	One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	Total Cases	Percent of State Cases
Kanabec	37	0.3%	53	16	69	0.3%	16	5	21	0.5%
Kandiyohi	87	0.8%	141	34	175	0.8%	33	20	53	1.3%
Kittson	8	0.1%	3	0	3	0.0%	1	0	1	0.0%
Koochiching	19	0.2%	29	6	35	0.2%	7	3	10	0.2%
Lac Qui Parle	6	0.1%	4	0	4	0.0%	0	2	2	0.0%
Lake	9	0.1%	24	3	27	0.1%	5	1	6	0.1%
Lake of Woods	1	0.0%	4	5	9	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%
Le Sueur	16	0.2%	32	18	50	0.2%	17	7	24	0.6%
Lincoln	5	0.0%	6	1	7	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%
Lyon	32	0.3%	53	14	67	0.3%	18	2	20	0.5%
McLeod	37	0.3%	62	14	76	0.3%	14	11	25	0.6%
Mahnomen	68	0.6%	99	30	129	0.6%	3	2	5	0.1%
Marshall	8	0.1%	8	2	10	0.0%	3	0	3	0.1%
Martin	24	0.2%	33	10	43	0.2%	14	5	19	0.5%
Meeker	29	0.3%	41	7	48	0.2%	16	5	21	0.5%
Mille Lacs	62	0.6%	66	11	77	0.3%	15	6	21	0.5%

Table 6 – Page 4

County/Region/ State	Child-only MFIP		MFIP Cases with Eligible Adults				DWP Cases with Eligible Adults			
	Count of Cases	Percent of State Cases	One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	Total Cases	Percent of State Cases	One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	Total Cases	Percent of State Cases
Morrison	38	0.4%	57	11	68	0.3%	13	10	23	0.6%
Mower	84	0.8%	91	12	103	0.5%	29	10	39	1.0%
Murray	3	0.0%	5	2	7	0.0%	1	1	2	0.0%
Nicollet	26	0.2%	93	15	108	0.5%	21	3	24	0.6%
Nobles	58	0.5%	49	15	64	0.3%	21	5	26	0.6%
Norman	14	0.1%	22	1	23	0.1%	3	1	4	0.1%
Olmsted	214	2.0%	397	57	454	2.0%	105	32	137	3.4%
Otter Tail	46	0.4%	100	24	124	0.6%	27	10	37	0.9%
Pennington	21	0.2%	28	3	31	0.1%	5	2	7	0.2%
Pine	55	0.5%	90	21	111	0.5%	33	15	48	1.2%
Pipestone	7	0.1%	20	1	21	0.1%	5	2	7	0.2%
Polk	45	0.4%	110	28	138	0.6%	16	9	25	0.6%
Pope	10	0.1%	17	2	19	0.1%	4	0	4	0.1%
Ramsey	2,098	19.7%	4,340	710	5,050	22.7%	405	118	523	12.9%
Red Lake	5	0.0%	13	2	15	0.1%	3	1	4	0.1%
Redwood	16	0.2%	28	6	34	0.2%	9	2	11	0.3%

Table 6 – Page 5

County/Region/ State	Child-only MFIP		MFIP Cases with Eligible Adults				DWP Cases with Eligible Adults			
	Count of Cases	Percent of State Cases	One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	Total Cases	Percent of State Cases	One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	Total Cases	Percent of State Cases
Renville	31	0.3%	27	4	31	0.1%	11	2	13	0.3%
Rice	90	0.8%	138	23	161	0.7%	54	12	66	1.6%
Rock	8	0.1%	20	2	22	0.1%	4	2	6	0.1%
Roseau	13	0.1%	15	1	16	0.1%	2	0	2	0.0%
St. Louis	438	4.1%	842	125	967	4.4%	123	49	172	4.2%
Scott	101	0.9%	132	24	156	0.7%	54	16	70	1.7%
Sherburne	75	0.7%	115	11	126	0.6%	49	13	62	1.5%
Sibley	15	0.1%	24	5	29	0.1%	7	3	10	0.2%
Stearns	169	1.6%	378	52	430	1.9%	81	29	110	2.7%
Steele	44	0.4%	72	12	84	0.4%	10	5	15	0.4%
Stevens	2	0.0%	9	1	10	0.0%	3	0	3	0.0%
Swift	10	0.1%	22	4	26	0.1%	3	0	3	0.0%
Todd	35	0.3%	46	13	59	0.3%	15	5	20	0.5%
Traverse	5	0.0%	5	1	6	0.0%	0	3	3	0.1%
Wabasha	21	0.2%	22	7	29	0.1%	14	2	16	0.4%
Wadena	23	0.2%	59	15	74	0.3%	8	9	17	0.4%

Table 6 – Page 6

County/Region/ State	Child-only MFIP		MFIP Cases with Eligible Adults				DWP Cases with Eligible Adults			
	Count of Cases	Percent of State Cases	One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	Total Cases	Percent of State Cases	One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	Total Cases	Percent of State Cases
Waseca	31		46	6	52		14	3	17	
		0.3%	88.5%	11.5%	100.0%	0.2%	82.4%	17.6%	100.0%	0.4%
Washington	163		332	44	376		53	27	80	
		1.5%	88.3%	11.7%	100.0%	1.7%	66.3%	33.8%	100.0%	2.0%
Watsonwan	11		15	1	16		4	1	5	
		0.1%	93.8%	6.3%	100.0%	0.1%	80.0%	20.0%	100.0%	0.1%
Wilkin	4		10	0	10		2	2	4	
		0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%	0.1%
Winona	59		93	11	104		12	3	15	
		0.6%	89.4%	10.6%	100.0%	0.5%	80.0%	20.0%	100.0%	0.4%
Wright	69		133	22	155		38	14	52	
		0.6%	85.8%	14.2%	100.0%	0.7%	73.1%	26.9%	100.0%	1.3%
Yellow Medicine	10		6	1	7		3	0	3	
		0.1%	85.7%	14.3%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.1%
Northwest	114		199	37	236		33	13	46	
		1.1%	84.3%	15.7%	100.0%	1.1%	71.7%	28.3%	100.0%	1.1%
West Central	1,137		1,995	453	2,448		273	129	402	
		10.7%	81.5%	18.5%	100.0%	11.0%	67.9%	32.1%	100.0%	9.9%
Northeast	678		1,163	197	1,360		201	84	285	
		6.4%	85.5%	14.5%	100.0%	6.1%	70.5%	29.5%	100.0%	7.0%
Central	749		1,290	226	1,516		355	131	486	
		7.0%	85.1%	14.9%	100.0%	6.8%	73.0%	27.0%	100.0%	12.0%
Southwest	203		290	66	356		84	21	105	
		1.9%	81.5%	18.5%	100.0%	1.6%	80.0%	20.0%	100.0%	2.6%
South Central	222		469	102	571		125	44	169	
		2.1%	82.1%	17.9%	100.0%	2.6%	74.0%	26.0%	100.0%	4.2%
Southeast	660		1,102	176	1,278		300	98	398	
		6.2%	86.2%	13.8%	100.0%	5.8%	75.4%	24.6%	100.0%	9.8%
Metro Suburban	1,332		2,322	325	2,647		583	190	773	
		12.5%	87.7%	12.3%	100.0%	11.9%	75.4%	24.6%	100.0%	19.1%
Core Metro	5,538		10,455	1,355	11,810		1,131	260	1,391	
		52.1%	88.5%	11.5%	100.0%	53.1%	81.3%	18.7%	100.0%	34.3%
Minnesota	10,633		19,285	2,937	22,222		3,085	970	4,055	
		100.0%	86.8%	13.2%	100.0%	100.0%	76.1%	23.9%	100.0%	100.0%

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