



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Characteristics of December 2008 Minnesota Food Support Program: Cases and People

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Characteristics of December 2008 Minnesota Food Support Program: Cases and People

This report provides a snapshot of the household, demographic, and economic characteristics of Food Support households and eligible or suspended people in December 2008. Food Support is Minnesota's name for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps).

The data presented pre-date three major Food Support policy changes. Food Support Six-Month Reporting went into effect March 1, 2009. Previous to this policy households with earned income or a recent work history reported income to their county financial worker each month. Now most households will report earned and unearned income once every six months and their Food Support grant amount will be calculated using that income amount for the entire six-month period following. Certain income or work hour changes must be reported if they occur during the six-month period. For information about six-month reporting, including which households are exempt, see DHS Bulletin #09-01-01.

Effective January 1, 2009, the three-month time limit for Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs) was waived. Previously, most unemployed ABAWDs were eligible for Food Support for only three months in any 36-month period. Under this policy change, ABAWDs can continue to receive Food Support so long as they meet eligibility criteria and the work requirement was waived. For information on this policy change, see DHS Bulletin #09-01-02.

Finally, as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, Food Support grants were increased by 13.6 percent on April 1, 2009. For more information regarding this change, see DHS Bulletin #09-01-03.

Data reflecting these changes will be included in next year's report with December 2009 data.

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 people 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.

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

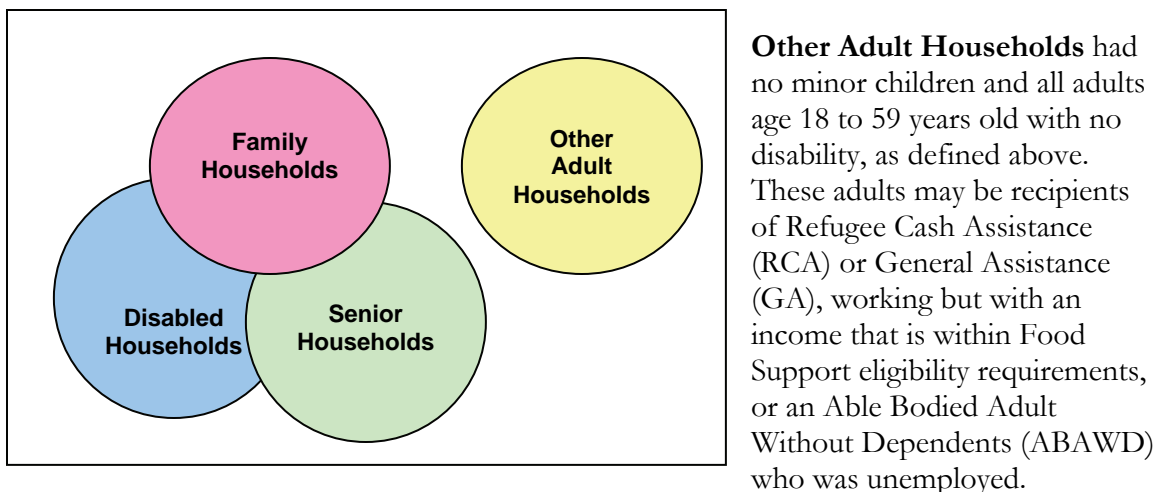
Households, Disabled Households, and Other Adult Households. Figure 1 shows the relationships among the different household types. The Total Households or Total People column in each table is the total of these four major household types.

Family Households had one or more eligible children up to age 22 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.

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



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

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. In previous reports in this series, cases that included parents and only adult children (no minor children) were considered Adult Households. In this report and future reports, they are reported as Family Households. Adult children are enumerated in Table 4 on page 8.

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

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 People column in each table is the total of the four major household types.

Report Themes

The Food Support caseload saw sharp increases in participation over the last year.

The Food Support caseload has been slowly increasing over the past decade, but in the last year the growth has increased greatly. The total Food Support caseload, including MFIP, increased by between 2 percent and 6 percent each year between December 2003 and December 2007. Between December 2007 and December 2008 it increased by 9 percent. When MFIP cases are not included, the caseload grew by 12 percent compared to between 4 and 8 percent each year since December 2004.³

A startling number of households have no income, earned or unearned, reported in the state's eligibility database. Fifteen percent of all Food Support households, including 13 percent of Family Households and 51 percent of Other Adult Households, have no income reported for December 2008. This includes all sources of unearned income, such as public assistance grants and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and earned income. The percent is increasing, particularly for Other Adult Households. Between December 2006 and December 2007, the percent of households with no income grew from 11 percent to 13 percent, which is an increase of two percentage points each year. Over that same period the percentage of Other Adult Households with no income increased from 42 percent to 47 percent.

While the number of Food Support participants increased, the characteristics of the caseload have remained the same. Since the first Food Support Characteristics report was completed for December 2005 data, the caseload has increased in each report. Nearly every variable enumerated in the report series has remained proportionally the same – the only one that has changed is the increase in households with no income.

We would expect that a poor economy would result in a wider variety of people with different characteristics becoming Food Support-eligible. For example, a greater share of married adults or people with some post-secondary education would be facing unemployment than in times of a strong economy. Despite the sudden increase in eligible people, the expected change has not occurred. The federal Program Access Index (PAI) for Minnesota shows that only about 45 percent of potentially Food Support-eligible people are actually using Food Support.⁴ There is a fine line between those who live in poverty and perceive the need for additional support they receive through Food Support and households in much the same situation that, for whatever reason, forego assistance.

³ The stand-alone Food Support caseload grew by 19 percent between December 2003 and December 2004, but that is largely due to the introduction of the Diversionary Work Program (DWP). Previous to DWP, these people would have received MFIP. DWP-eligible cases are categorically eligible for stand-alone Food Support. The MFIP caseload decreased by 17 percent between December 2003 and December 2004. Much of the decrease in MFIP and increase in Food Support was a shift in program eligibility, rather than new households becoming eligible.

⁴ See <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/government/program-improvement.htm> for information on the PAI.

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

Since December 2003, the total Food Support caseload, including the MFIP Food Portion, increased by 26 percent. Over the last year the total Food Support caseload increased by 9 percent. When MFIP cases are not included, the Food Support caseload (including Uncle Harry cases) grew by 55 percent since December 2003 and by 12 percent since December 2007.

As shown in Table 1, Family Households increased by 17 percent and Other Adult Households increased by 19 percent. This is a much larger rate of increase than in previous years. Family Households and Other Adult Households each increased by 10 percent between December 2006 and December 2007. Family Households increased by 5 percent and Other Adult Households increased by 4 percent between December 2005 and December 2006.

For the third consecutive year there were more children eligible in stand-alone Food Support households than in MFIP households. In December 2008, 94,621 children were eligible or suspended on a Food Support case and 63,127 children were eligible on a MFIP case. The number of children that received stand-alone Food Support increased by 18 percent and the number of children that received MFIP remained about the same since December 2007.

Figure 2. December Stand-alone Food Support and MFIP Cases, 2003 to 2008

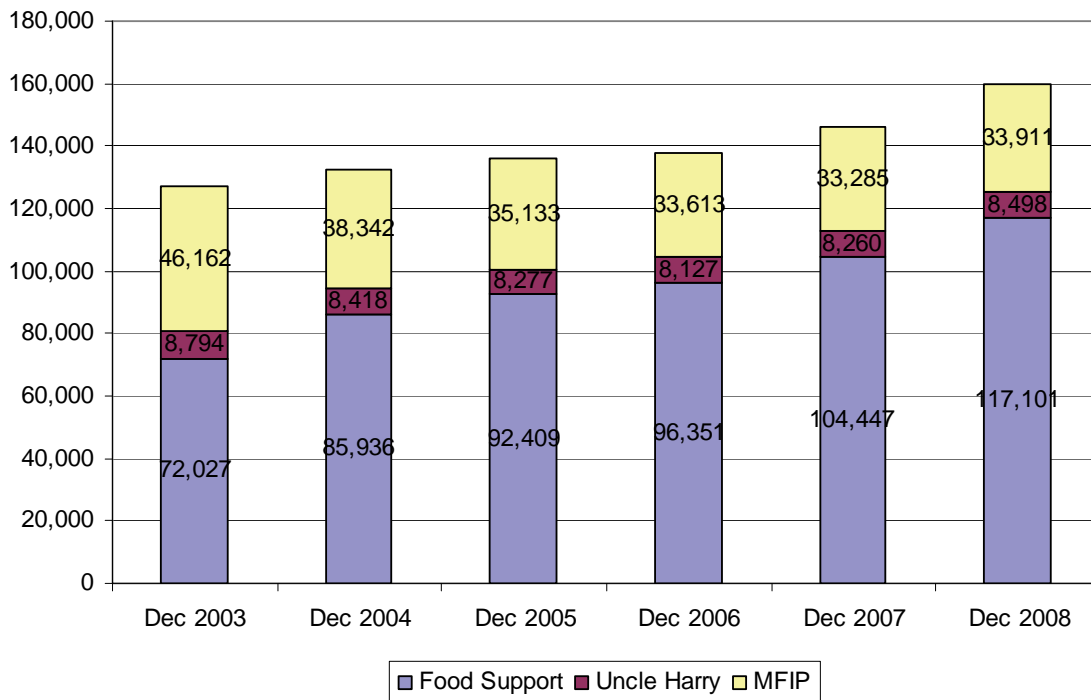


Table 1. December 2007 to December 2008 Change in Food Support Households

	December		Change from Dec 2007
	2007	December 2008	
Total Stand-alone Food Support	112,707	125,599	11.4%
Family Households	37,089	43,409	17.0%
Seniors	21,631	23,032	6.5%
Disabled	38,236	40,487	5.9%
Other Adult	15,751	18,671	18.5%
Uncle Harry	8,260	8,498	2.9%
MFIP Food Portion Households	33,285	33,911	1.9%
Total Food Support Households	145,992	159,510	9.3%

Table 2. December 2008 Food Support Households and People

	Total Households	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry
			Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
Households	125,599	43,409	23,032	40,487	18,671	8,498
	100.0%	34.6%	18.3%	32.2%	14.9%	6.8%
Adults	140,997	53,298	25,789	42,337	19,573	7,510
	100.0%	37.8%	18.3%	30.0%	13.9%	5.3%
Children	94,621	94,621	0	0	0	4,469
	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.7%

Figure 2 and Tables 1 and 2: Notes and Definitions

Cases and People. Eligible people were household members who met all Food Support eligibility requirements. Suspended people 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 people 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 2008. The family assistance characteristics (MFIP) reports include only paid cases and eligible people. 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, and 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 shows 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 people 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 people. MFIP-eligible households and people are excluded.⁵

Most Adult Households have one eligible or suspended member and very few have any ineligible members. The average Family Household has 3 eligible or suspended members; 73 percent do not have any ineligible adult members and 89 percent do not have any ineligible children in the household.

Food Support Households are less urban than MFIP Households. Sixty-seven percent of MFIP-eligible households live in the Twin Cities Metropolitan area compared to 53 percent of Food Support Family Households and 58 percent of all Food Support Households. Family Households are more likely to live in Greater Minnesota than not only MFIP-eligible families, but the overall Minnesota population. According to the 2008 American Community Survey (ACS), 60 percent of Minnesotans live in either Hennepin or Ramsey Counties or the 11 suburban counties.

One quarter of Food Support eligible or suspended people are disabled. Half of people in Senior Households are disabled as well as 15 percent of adults and 6 percent of children in Family Households. By definition members of Other Adult Households cannot be disabled.

⁵ For information about MFIP-eligible people and cases, please see [*Minnesota Family Investment Program and the Diversionary Work Program: Characteristics of December 2008 Cases and Eligible Adults*](#).

Table 3. Household Composition and Residence of Food Support Households, December 2008

		Total Households	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry
				Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
Households	Count	125,599	43,409	23,032	40,487	18,671	8,498
	Percent of All Households	100.0%	34.6%	18.3%	32.2%	14.9%	6.8%
Eligible or Suspended Persons in the Household	One Person	78,973	2,126	20,333	38,703	17,811	6,136
		62.9%	4.9%	88.3%	95.6%	95.4%	72.2%
	Two Persons	17,421	12,215	2,647	1,728	831	1,668
		13.9%	28.1%	11.5%	4.3%	4.5%	19.6%
	Three Persons	11,895	11,769	48	52	26	438
		9.5%	27.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	5.2%
	Four to Six Persons	15,373	15,362	4	4	3	239
		12.2%	35.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.8%
	Seven to Nine Persons	1,734	1,734	0	0	0	13
		1.4%	4.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
	Ten or More Persons	203	203	0	0	0	4
	0.2%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
	Mean Number of Persons	1.9	3.4	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.4
	Median	1	3	1	1	1	1
	Minimum	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Maximum	15	15	4	6	5	12
Uncle Harry Persons in the Household	Count of Cases with Uncle Harrys	8,498	3,376	736	3,962	424	8,498
	Percent of All Cases	6.8%	7.8%	3.2%	9.8%	2.3%	100.0%
	One Uncle Harry Person	6,136	1,628	547	3,561	400	6,136
		4.9%	3.8%	2.4%	8.8%	2.1%	72.2%
	Two Uncle Harry Persons	1,668	1,081	179	387	21	1,668
	1.3%	2.5%	0.8%	1.0%	0.1%	19.6%	
Three or More Uncle Harry Persons	694	667	10	14	3	694	
	0.6%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.2%	
Ineligible Adults in the Household	No Ineligible Adults	98,653	31,708	19,609	32,711	14,625	3,557
		78.5%	73.0%	85.1%	80.8%	78.3%	41.9%
	One Adult	18,703	7,787	2,141	5,911	2,864	3,483
		14.9%	17.9%	9.3%	14.6%	15.3%	41.0%
	Two Adults	6,335	3,105	874	1,462	894	1,127
		5.0%	7.2%	3.8%	3.6%	4.8%	13.3%
	Three or More Adults	1,908	809	408	403	288	331
	1.5%	1.9%	1.8%	1.0%	1.5%	3.9%	

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	10	8	8	10	8	10
	Count of Cases with an Ineligible Adult	26,946	11,701	3,423	7,776	4,046	4,612
Ineligible Children in the Household	No Ineligible Children	113,188	38,493	21,633	35,716	17,346	613
		90.1%	88.7%	93.9%	88.2%	92.9%	7.2%
	One Child	6,014	2,497	676	2,152	689	3,406
		4.8%	5.8%	2.9%	5.3%	3.7%	40.1%
	Two Children	3,245	1,266	344	1,264	371	2,099
		2.6%	2.9%	1.5%	3.1%	2.0%	24.7%
	Three or More Children	3,152	1,153	379	1,355	265	2,380
		2.5%	2.7%	1.6%	3.3%	1.4%	28.0%
	Mean Number of Ineligible Children	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.1	1.8	2.2
	Median	2	1	2	2	1	2
Minimum	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Maximum	11	10	9	11	8	11	
Count of Cases with an Ineligible Child	12,411	4,916	1,399	4,771	1,325	7,885	
Residence	Hennepin County	36,143	9,283	7,615	13,225	6,020	2,757
		28.8%	21.4%	33.1%	32.7%	32.2%	32.4%
	Ramsey County	18,460	5,299	3,976	7,217	1,968	2,329
		14.7%	12.2%	17.3%	17.8%	10.5%	27.4%
	Metropolitan Suburbs	18,551	8,331	3,231	4,727	2,262	1,033
		14.8%	19.2%	14.0%	11.7%	12.1%	12.2%
	Greater Minnesota	52,445	20,496	8,210	15,318	8,421	2,379
		41.8%	47.2%	35.6%	37.8%	45.1%	28.0%

Table 4. Relationship to Applicant and Disability Status of Eligible and Suspended People in Food Support Households, December 2008

		Total Persons	Family Households		Adult Households			Uncle Harry
			Adults	Children	Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
Eligible or Suspended Persons	Count	235,618	53,298	94,621	25,789	42,337	19,573	11,979
	Percent of All	100.0%	22.6%	40.2%	10.9%	18.0%	8.3%	5.1%
Count and Percent of Eligible or Suspended Persons: Relationship to Case Applicant	Applicant	121,205	39,581	0	22,965	40,168	18,491	5,942
		51.4%	74.3%	0.0%	89.0%	94.9%	94.5%	49.6%
	Spouse	12,210	7,967	0	2,440	1,342	461	913
		5.2%	14.9%	0.0%	9.5%	3.2%	2.4%	7.6%
	Biological/Adopted/Step Child (includes adult children)	92,574	214	91,986	151	183	40	4,200
		39.3%	0.4%	97.2%	0.6%	0.4%	0.2%	35.1%
	Other Related Child	1,967	0	1,967	0	0	0	307
		0.8%	0.0%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.6%
	Other Adult Relative	812	406	0	150	137	119	153
		0.3%	0.8%	0.0%	0.6%	0.3%	0.6%	1.3%
Not Related to Applicant	6,182	5,130	668	83	507	462	464	
	2.6%	9.6%	0.7%	0.3%	1.2%	2.4%	3.9%	
Disability Status	Total Disabled Count	61,979	7,752	6,031	12,727	41,500	0	9,002
	Percent of All Persons	26.3%	14.5%	6.4%	49.4%	98.0%	0.0%	75.1%
	SSI, RSDI, or SMRT Disability	46,490	4,703	5,827	12,300	29,487	0	8,538
	Percent of Disabled Persons	75.0%	60.7%	96.6%	96.6%	71.1%	0.0%	94.8%
	Temporarily Ill/Incapacitated	15,489	3,049	204	427	12,013	0	464
	25.0%	39.3%	3.4%	3.4%	28.9%	0.0%	5.2%	

Tables 3 and 4: Notes and Definitions

Ineligible Household Members. Adults may be ineligible for Food Support because they were not mandatory assistance unit members and opted out of benefits, receiving MFIP, ineligible post-secondary students, non-citizens without documents to prove their immigration 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 people living on Indian Reservations. Children may be ineligible due to receipt of MFIP, being non-citizens without documents to prove their immigration 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'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.

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 people 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).

Demographics of People Receiving Food Support

The average Food Support-eligible or suspended adult in a Family Household was 34 years old. Seventy-one percent of adults were female and 72 percent had at least a high school diploma or General Education Development (GED) certificate. Forty-five percent had never married and 32 percent were married and currently living with a spouse. Sixty percent of adults in Family Households were white and 22 percent were black compared to MFIP-eligible adults of whom 38 percent were white and 38 percent were black in December 2008. Ten 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 was 70 years old. Like Family Households, the majority of adults in Senior Households were female (65 percent). Adults in Senior Households had the least education of all household types; 51 percent had at least a high school diploma or GED compared to 64 percent overall. Senior Households were also the least likely to have never married (15 percent). Half were either divorced or widowed and 19 percent were currently living with a spouse. Like other household types, 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 (18 percent of adults compared to 6 percent or fewer in other households). Sixteen percent were non-citizens, the largest percentage of any household type.

The average age of an adult participating in a Disabled Household was 44 years and about half were male and half female. Sixty-eight percent had at least a high school diploma or GED. Fifty-five percent had never married. Like adults in other households, 60 percent were white and about a quarter were black. Nearly all were U.S. citizens.

Members of Other Adult Households were, on average, younger than members of Family Households and Disabled Households (37 years). Nearly a quarter were age 22 or younger compared to just 8 percent of adults in Family Households and 4 percent of adults in Disabled Households. Men made up a larger proportion of adults in these households than women (56 percent compared to 44 percent, respectively). Other Adult Household members were as likely as Disabled Households to have graduated high school and were the least likely to have been married (66 percent had never been married). About 60 percent of adults in Other Adult Households were white and about one quarter black, which is similar to other household types.

Table 5. Demographic Characteristics of Adults in Food Support Households, December 2008

		Total Persons	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry
				Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
Eligible or Suspended Adults	Count	140,997	53,298	25,789	42,337	19,573	7,510
	Percent of All Adults	100.0%	37.8%	18.3%	30.0%	13.9%	5.3%
Age	Mean	43.8	33.8	69.8	43.7	37.0	43.0
	Median	42	32	69	46	42	42
	Minimum	14	15	17	17	14	16
	Maximum	102	97	102	59	102	90
Frequency	22 and younger	10,599	4,559	73	1,587	4,380	407
		7.5%	8.6%	0.3%	3.7%	22.4%	5.4%
	23 - 29	24,029	16,015	55	4,403	3,556	991
		17.0%	30.0%	0.2%	10.4%	18.2%	13.2%
	30 - 39	29,169	19,349	43	7,077	2,700	1,733
		20.7%	36.3%	0.2%	16.7%	13.8%	23.1%
	40 - 49	27,788	9,994	135	14,166	3,493	2,060
		19.7%	18.8%	0.5%	33.5%	17.8%	27.4%
	50 - 59	24,016	2,767	701	15,104	5,444	1,400
		17.0%	5.2%	2.7%	35.7%	27.8%	18.6%
	60 - 64	7,669	344	7,325	0	0	409
		5.4%	0.6%	28.4%	0.0%	0.0%	5.4%
65 and over	17,727	270	17,457	0	0	510	
	12.6%	0.5%	67.7%	0.0%	0.0%	6.8%	
Gender	Female	85,008	37,872	16,823	21,731	8,582	5,701
		60.3%	71.1%	65.2%	51.3%	43.8%	75.9%
	Male	55,989	15,426	8,966	20,606	10,991	1,809
	39.7%	28.9%	34.8%	48.7%	56.2%	24.1%	
Education	None or Pre-1st Grade or Unknown	12,251	3,187	5,198	2,577	1,289	1,549
		8.7%	6.0%	20.2%	6.1%	6.6%	20.6%
	Grade School	4,352	1,094	1,970	924	364	368
		3.1%	2.1%	7.6%	2.2%	1.9%	4.9%
	Some High School	31,458	10,921	5,598	10,080	4,859	2,166
		22.3%	20.5%	21.7%	23.8%	24.8%	28.8%
	High School Graduate	75,734	31,499	10,277	23,253	10,705	2,977
		53.7%	59.1%	39.9%	54.9%	54.7%	39.6%
	Some Post-Secondary	12,677	5,283	1,554	4,129	1,711	368
		9.0%	9.9%	6.0%	9.8%	8.7%	4.9%
	College Graduate	2,113	702	494	639	278	41
	1.5%	1.3%	1.9%	1.5%	1.4%	0.5%	
Graduate Degree	2,412	612	698	735	367	41	
	1.7%	1.1%	2.7%	1.7%	1.9%	0.5%	
High School Graduate or Higher	92,936	38,096	13,023	28,756	13,061	3,427	
	65.9%	71.5%	50.5%	67.9%	66.7%	45.6%	
Marital Status	Divorced	25,590	5,609	7,076	9,610	3,295	955
		18.1%	10.5%	27.4%	22.7%	16.8%	12.7%
	Legally Separated	511	190	91	168	62	21
		0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%
	Married, Living with Spouse	25,705	16,930	4,860	2,899	1,016	1,885
		18.2%	31.8%	18.8%	6.8%	5.2%	25.1%
	Never Married	63,539	23,720	3,744	23,091	12,984	3,118
		45.1%	44.5%	14.5%	54.5%	66.3%	41.5%
	Married, Living Apart	17,773	6,338	4,042	5,527	1,866	1,206
		12.6%	11.9%	15.7%	13.1%	9.5%	16.1%
Widowed	7,878	510	5,976	1,042	350	325	
	5.6%	1.0%	23.2%	2.5%	1.8%	4.3%	
Race/Ethnicity	Asian	10,632	3,333	4,569	2,213	517	1,709
		7.5%	6.3%	17.7%	5.2%	2.6%	22.8%
	Black	32,749	11,660	4,537	11,189	5,363	2,740
		23.2%	21.9%	17.6%	26.4%	27.4%	36.5%
	Hispanic	5,230	2,934	740	977	579	204
		3.7%	5.5%	2.9%	2.3%	3.0%	2.7%
	American Indian	6,893	2,544	536	2,168	1,645	595
		4.9%	4.8%	2.1%	5.1%	8.4%	7.9%
	White	83,785	31,981	15,279	25,394	11,131	2,194
		59.4%	60.0%	59.2%	60.0%	56.9%	29.2%
Multiple	959	530	45	247	137	56	
	0.7%	1.0%	0.2%	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	

Table 5 – Page 2

		Total Persons	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry Cases
				Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
Citizenship	Non-U.S.	13,377	5,440	4,020	2,066	1,851	1,325
		9.5%	10.2%	15.6%	4.9%	9.5%	17.6%
	U.S.	127,620	47,858	21,769	40,271	17,722	6,185
		90.5%	89.8%	84.4%	95.1%	90.5%	82.4%
Non-citizens	Asian	4,343	1,733	1,457	847	306	765
	Percent of All Asians	40.8%	52.0%	31.9%	38.3%	59.2%	44.8%
	Black	6,754	2,708	1,753	922	1,371	487
	Percent of All Blacks	20.6%	23.2%	38.6%	8.2%	25.6%	17.8%
	Hispanic	1,066	566	268	148	84	36
	Percent of All Hispanics	20.4%	19.3%	36.2%	15.1%	14.5%	17.6%
	American Indian	19	6	2	7	4	1
	Percent of All American Indians	0.3%	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
	White	1,125	397	523	132	73	35
	Percent of All Whites	1.3%	1.2%	3.4%	0.5%	0.7%	1.6%

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.

Marital status was missing for 1 person and that person was excluded from the marital status section.

Race data were missing for 749 people. These people were excluded from the race/ethnicity section of the table.

Economic Characteristics

The economic situation of households receiving Food Support can best be described as unstable. Fifteen percent of all households, including 51 percent of Other Adult Households and 13 percent of Family Households, had no income known to the state's administrative database other than a Food Support grant. Seventy percent had some sort of unearned income, but compared to December 2007 there were decreases in SSI receipt and grants from cash public assistance programs and an increase in households receiving Unemployment Insurance or Worker's Compensation. Receipt of public assistance grants decreased by 6 percentage points overall. Households receiving SSI decreased by 3 percentage points overall. Just more than a quarter report earned income for December 2008, which is the same as in December 2007.

The average Family Household received \$291 in Food Support and had been Food Support-eligible for 27 months out of the past eight years. A quarter had received MFIP and 17 percent had received DWP during 2008. While 17 percent had received EA during 2008, nearly half had received EA during the last nine years. Fifty-six percent of Family Households reported earned income for December 2008 and they had an average of \$1,272 in earned income from an average of 136 hours of work. Fifty-seven percent of Family Households had unearned income for December 2008; 29 percent received Child Support and 16 percent received SSI. One quarter received a housing subsidy with an average subsidy of \$606.

Other Adult Households had little evidence of consistent economic support. Half had no income of any kind reported to the state's administrative database, only 27 percent had reported work for December 2008, and only 25 percent reported unearned income, the least of any other household type. Working households reported an average of \$633 in income and an average of 90 work hours. Households with unearned income reported an average of \$328 in income, most frequently from public assistance grants (11 percent of all Other Adult Cases). Most had not participated in cash welfare programs, either in the last year or in the previous eight. The average household had received Food Support for 14 months over the last eight years, with 64 percent receiving 12 or fewer months. The average Food Support grant was \$146.

Senior and Disabled Households each received most of their income from unearned sources. Ninety-seven percent of Senior Households and 91 percent of Disabled Households reported unearned income, most frequently from SSI or RSDI grants. The average amount of unearned income for Senior Households was \$747 and for Disabled Households was \$618. Very few of these households had reported income from work and, of those who did, most worked less than 80 hours during the month. Very few Senior Households had received cash public assistance in the last year, although 22 percent had received either GA or RCA at some point during the past eight years. Twenty-nine percent of Disabled Households had received GA or RCA in the last year as did 49 percent over the last eight years. Forty-four percent of Disabled Households used EA during the last eight years, more than any other Adult Household type.

Table 6. Economic Characteristics of Food Support Households, December 2008

		Total Households	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry
				Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
Households	Count	125,599	43,409	23,032	40,487	18,671	8,498
	Percent of All Cases	100.0%	34.6%	18.3%	32.2%	14.9%	6.8%
Food Support Grant Amount	Mean of All Cases	\$165	\$291	\$66	\$95	\$146	\$131
	Median	\$137	\$282	\$45	\$91	\$176	\$120
Food Support in Minnesota (Months): 2000 - 2008 Cumulative	Mean	39.9	26.8	67.5	50.0	14.1	50.7
	Median	28	20	73	43	8	45
Frequency of Cases Percent of Cases in Column	1 - 12 Months	35,752	14,861	2,453	6,460	11,978	1,081
		28.5%	34.2%	10.7%	16.0%	64.2%	12.7%
	13 - 24 Months	21,810	10,180	2,059	6,234	3,337	1,285
		17.4%	23.5%	8.9%	15.4%	17.9%	15.1%
	25 - 36 Months	15,396	6,836	1,907	5,116	1,537	1,198
		12.3%	15.7%	8.3%	12.6%	8.2%	14.1%
	37- 48 Months	11,315	4,432	1,822	4,208	853	983
		9.0%	10.2%	7.9%	10.4%	4.6%	11.6%
	49 - 60 Months	8,798	2,891	1,760	3,703	444	808
	7.0%	6.7%	7.6%	9.1%	2.4%	9.5%	
	Over 60 Months	32,528	4,209	13,031	14,766	522	3,143
		25.9%	9.7%	56.6%	36.5%	2.8%	37.0%
Other Public Assistance in Minnesota: 2008	MFIP/MFIP Food	16,378	10,134	860	4,567	817	8,217
		13.0%	23.3%	3.7%	11.3%	4.4%	96.7%
	Diversionary Work Program	7,849	7,176	6	127	540	358
		6.2%	16.5%	0.0%	0.3%	2.9%	4.2%
	General Assistance/Refugee Cash Programs	18,009	287	1,852	11,834	4,036	66
		14.3%	0.7%	8.0%	29.2%	21.6%	0.8%
	Emergency Assistance	14,551	7,471	818	4,913	1,349	1,906
		11.6%	17.2%	3.6%	12.1%	7.2%	22.4%
Other Public Assistance in Minnesota: 2000 - 2008	MFIP/MFIP Food	41,807	27,939	2,246	9,309	2,313	8,416
		33.3%	64.4%	9.8%	23.0%	12.4%	99.0%
	Diversionary Work Program	17,153	15,011	133	988	1,021	1,589
		13.7%	34.6%	0.6%	2.4%	5.5%	18.7%
	General Assistance/Refugee Cash Programs	32,675	1,859	5,096	19,881	5,939	676
		26.0%	4.3%	22.1%	49.1%	31.8%	8.0%
	Emergency Assistance	47,244	20,902	4,271	17,946	4,125	5,459
		37.6%	48.2%	18.5%	44.3%	22.1%	64.2%

Table 6 – Page 2

		Total Households	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry
				Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
No Earned or Unearned Income	Count of Cases	18,524	5,605	316	3,139	9,464	127
	Percent of All Cases	14.7%	12.9%	1.4%	7.8%	50.7%	1.5%
Income / Working	Count of Cases	33,505	24,282	1,085	3,077	5,061	837
	Percent of All Cases	26.7%	55.9%	4.7%	7.6%	27.1%	9.8%
December 2008 Total Earned Income	Mean of Working Cases	\$1,081	\$1,272	\$526	\$489	\$633	\$838
	Median	\$943	\$1,173	\$459	\$358	\$614	\$679
December 2008 Monthly Work Hours	Mean of Working Cases	121	136	88	67	90	101
	Median	110	125	68	52	80	82
Percent of Working Cases	1 - 79 Hours	10,898	5,940	593	1,971	2,394	382
		32.5%	24.5%	54.7%	64.1%	47.3%	45.6%
	80 - 119 Hours	7,073	4,817	282	613	1,361	177
		21.1%	19.8%	26.0%	19.9%	26.9%	21.1%
	120 - 159 Hours	6,619	5,481	87	281	770	116
		19.8%	22.6%	8.0%	9.1%	15.2%	13.9%
	160 Hours or More	8,797	7,936	111	200	550	155
		26.3%	32.7%	10.2%	6.5%	10.9%	18.5%
December Unearned Income	Count of Cases	88,366	24,628	22,422	36,676	4,640	7,676
	Percent of All Cases	70.4%	56.7%	97.4%	90.6%	24.9%	90.3%
Total Unearned Income	Mean of Cases Receiving	\$666	\$727	\$747	\$618	\$328	\$757
	Median	\$692	\$637	\$735	\$671	\$203	\$637
Type of Unearned Income	Child Support	12,690	12,472	17	113	88	582
		10.1%	28.7%	0.1%	0.3%	0.5%	6.8%
	SSI	41,383	6,913	13,733	20,665	72	7,153
		32.9%	15.9%	59.6%	51.0%	0.4%	84.2%
	RSDI	31,622	4,214	12,355	14,942	111	1,548
		25.2%	9.7%	53.6%	36.9%	0.6%	18.2%
	Public Assistance Grants	27,030	4,180	5,545	15,186	2,119	7,273
		21.5%	9.6%	24.1%	37.5%	11.3%	85.6%
	Unemployment Insurance/ Workers' Compensation	3,876	2,787	78	170	841	40
		3.1%	6.4%	0.3%	0.4%	4.5%	0.5%
	Veteran's Benefits	1,167	216	530	240	181	22
	0.9%	0.5%	2.3%	0.6%	1.0%	0.3%	
Other	5,459	3,378	1,082	524	475	197	
	4.3%	7.8%	4.7%	1.3%	2.5%	2.3%	

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		Total Households	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry
				Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
Total Shelter Costs	Mean of All Cases	\$443	\$623	\$408	\$360	\$244	\$438
	Median	\$391	\$578	\$392	\$328	\$89	\$400
Rent/Mortgage Amount	Mean of All Cases	\$273	\$400	\$223	\$218	\$157	\$262
	Median	\$200	\$339	\$200	\$187	\$0	\$169
Housing Subsidy Amount	Mean of Cases Receiving	\$507	\$606	\$427	\$462	\$459	\$673
	Median	\$478	\$580	\$412	\$435	\$432	\$657
	Count of Cases Receiving	29,245	10,768	6,724	10,368	1,385	3,716
	Percent of All Cases	23.3%	24.8%	29.2%	25.6%	7.4%	43.7%

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 2000 and December 2008 where a case was eligible or suspended for Food Support. 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 (2008 or 2000 to 2008). The 281 Uncle Harry cases that are listed in the tables as not MFIP eligible in 2008 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 2008; 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 2008. 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 2008 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 2008 income of all adults whose income was deemed for the case. The amount used was either (1) verified earnings for December 2008 or (2) zero for cases still active in February 2009 with no income reported for December 2008 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 2008.

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 2008 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.