



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Characteristics of December 2009 Minnesota Food Support Program: Cases and People

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Program Assessment and Integrity Division
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Characteristics of December 2009 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 2009. Food Support is Minnesota's name for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps.

Four major Food Support policy changes were implemented during 2009. Food Support Six-Month Reporting for certain income types and amounts went into effect March 1, 2009. Previous to this policy change households with earned income or recent work history reported income to their county financial worker each month. Now most households report earned and unearned income once every six months and their Food Support grant amount is calculated using that income amount for the entire six-month period following. Households must report income changes that result in total gross earnings that exceed 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG) for their household size. For information about six-month reporting, see DHS Bulletin #09-01-01.

Previous to six-month reporting the earned income and work hours included in Table 5 were verified earnings for December, typically reported in February. Now, earned income is estimated, prospective earnings reported at the household's last report which may have been in any month between July and December. Work hours have been dropped from Table 5.

Income amounts and percentages of working households cannot be compared to data in previous reports.

Effective January 1, 2009, the three-month time limit and mandatory work requirements for Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs) were waived. Previously, most unemployed ABAWDs were eligible for Food Support for only three months in any 36-month period and were required to participate in Food Support Employment and Training (FSET) services. Under this change, ABAWDs can continue to receive Food Support so long as they meet the other eligibility criteria. Prior to this waiver, ABAWDs were required to report if their work hours fell below 20 hours per week. This reporting requirement as also been waived. For information on this policy change, see DHS Bulletin #09-01-02. No changes to the data tables were necessary due to this change. This waiver was recently extended to September 30, 2011.

As of October 15, 2009, DHS received a waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) that allows counties to conduct eligibility and recertification interviews by telephone rather than face-to-face. This change was implemented to help counties manage caseload growth and make it easier for participants to apply for Food Support. See DHS Bulletin #09-01-05. No changes to this report were necessary due to this change.

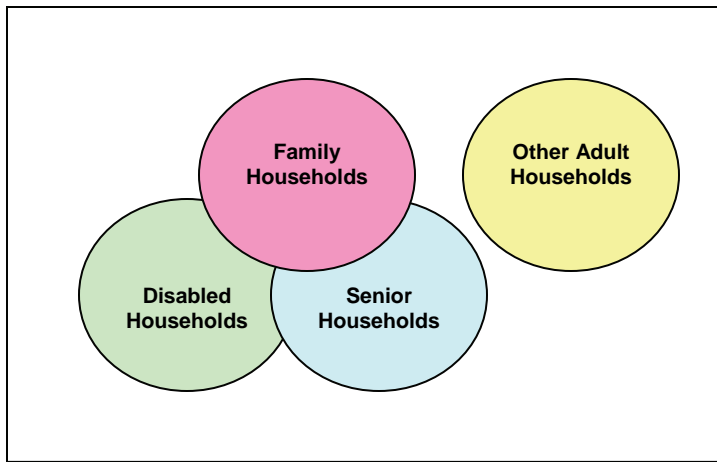
Finally, as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, Food Support grants increased by 13.6 percent on April 1, 2009. For more information on this change see DHS Bulletin #09-01-03.

Minnesota receives a waiver from the FNS that allows the state to provide Food Support to households enrolled in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), Minnesota’s Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) program (cash assistance), as a single program. To report the total number of people that receive assistance through Food Support, the Caseload Data section (starting on page 5) includes both households and people eligible for Food Support both outside MFIP (referred to as stand-alone Food Support) and those 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.

Figure 1. Relationship among Food Support Household Types



Family Households had one or more eligible children up to age 18 in the household, regardless of relationship to the applicant or other eligible adults in the household, or were households with children of the applicant ages 18 to 21.¹ 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 or young adult children of the case applicant. 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 as would a household of a 40 year-old woman and her 20 year-old son.

Senior Households had no children as defined for Family Households and at least one adult age 60 years or older. This excludes Family Households. Senior cases may have adults

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 reports prior to the December 2008 report, 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 10.

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 children as defined for Family Households, 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.

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

Stand-alone Food Support and Uncle Harry Food Support Cases. 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.

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

Report Themes

The 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. Between December 2008 and December 2009 it increased by 30 percent. Other Adult Households, which include ABAWDs, increased by 105 percent and Family Households increased by 37 percent. The total Food Support caseload, including MFIP, increased by between 2 percent and 6 percent each year between December 2004 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.

Other Adult Households face dire circumstances. Not only did the number of households more than double in the last year, nearly 60 percent have no income, earned or unearned, reported compared to 10 percent of Disabled, 8 percent of Family, and 2 percent of Senior Households. Very few were eligible for other cash assistance programs during 2009 and only 20 percent had other unearned income in December 2009. About one quarter reported earned income, but the amount averaged only \$617. The majority of the adults in these households (which typically consisted of only the one eligible adult) were young men in their 20s. When compared to all Food Support-eligible adults and the general Minnesota population, they were disproportionately black (30 percent of Other Adult Household eligible adults compared to 24 percent of all Food Support-eligible adults and 4 percent of all Minnesotan adults according to the 2008 American Community Survey).

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.

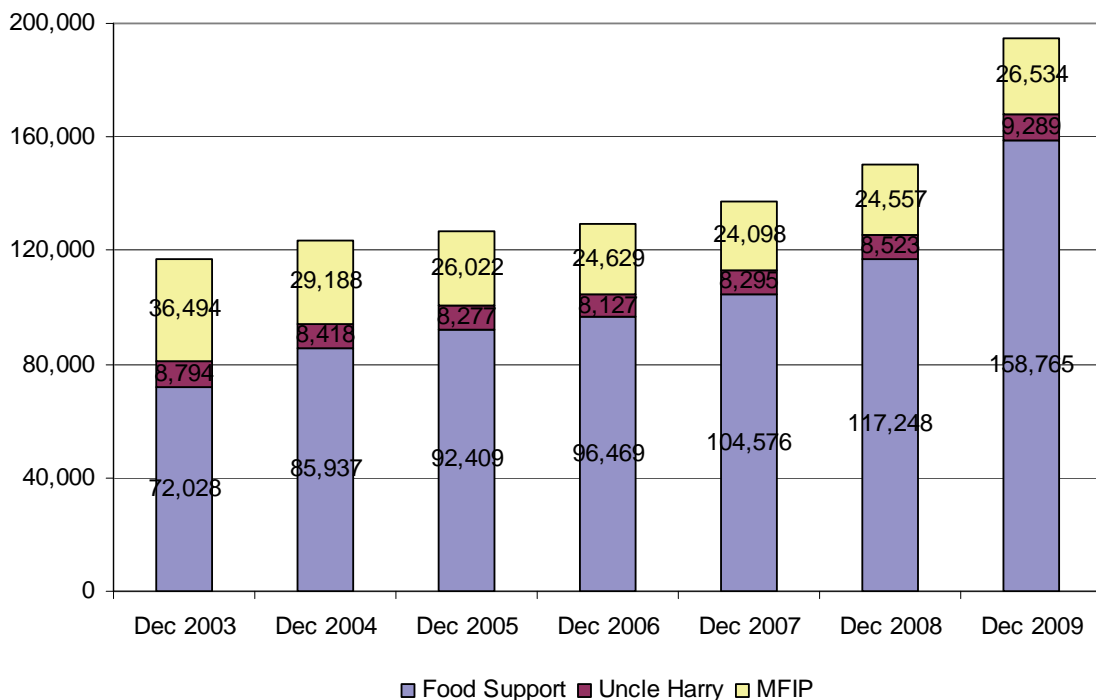
We would expect that a poor economy would result in a wider variety of people with different characteristics becoming Food Support-eligible. For example, a greater share of married adults or people with some post-secondary education would be facing unemployment than in times of a strong economy. Despite the sudden increase in eligible people, the expected change has not occurred. The 2008 federal Program Access Index (PAI) for Minnesota shows that only about 45 percent of potentially Food Support-eligible people are actually using Food Support.³ This shows that there is a large group of people that are similar to Food Support recipients in demography, household size, and income that, for whatever reason, forego assistance despite a potential need.

³ 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

In the last year, since the December 2008 report, the Food Support caseload, including the MFIP Food Portion, has increased by 30 percent. When MFIP cases are not included, the stand-alone Food Support caseload increased by 34 percent. As shown in Table 1, 44,432 more households became eligible for Food Support. The largest increases were in Other Adult Households (105 percent increase or 19,535 households) and Family Households (37 percent increase or 16,195 households). The increase in Other Adult Households can largely be attributed to the change in the ABAWD time limit policy.⁴ Senior Households increased by 8 percent and Disabled Households increased by 12 percent. As shown in Figure 2, the overall increase was much larger than any in recent history.

Figure 2. December Stand-alone Food Support and MFIP Cases, December 2003 to December 2009



In December 2009, there were 125,517 minor children under age 18 and 7,491 children ages 18 to 21 that were children of case applicants eligible on a stand-alone Food Support case. In addition to these children, there were 154 heads of household that were under age 18 and included with the adults in this report. There have been more children eligible on stand-alone Food Support cases than on MFIP cases since December 2005. In December 2009, there were 72,830 children eligible for MFIP.

⁴ For more information please see *Evaluation Note 21: The Growing Food Support Caseload*, available at <http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfsrver/Public/DHS-4064W-ENG>.

Table 1. December 2008 to December 2009 Change in Food Support Households

	December 2008	December 2009	Change from Dec 2008
Total Stand-alone Food Support	125,599	168,054	33.8%
Family Households	43,409	59,604	37.3%
Seniors	23,032	24,978	8.4%
Disabled	40,487	45,266	11.8%
Other Adult	18,671	38,206	104.6%
Uncle Harry	8,498	9,289	9.3%
MFIP Food Portion Households	24,557	26,534	8.1%
Total Food Support Households	150,156	194,588	29.6%

Table 2. December 2009 Food Support Households and Eligible or Suspended People

	Total Households	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry
			Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
Households	168,054 100.0%	59,604 35.5%	24,978 14.9%	45,266 26.9%	38,206 22.7%	9,289 5.5%
Adults	190,432 100.0%	74,688 39.2%	28,162 14.8%	47,619 25.0%	39,963 21.0%	8,168 4.3%
Children	130,008 100.0%	130,008 100.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	5,437 4.2%

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 2009. Beginning March 1, 2009, only Uncle Harry Food Support cases will utilize retrospective budgeting with suspensions. Due to the prospective budgeting and anticipation of income with Six-Month Reporting, is no longer a need for suspensions for Food Support cases that are Six-Month Reporters. The family assistance characteristics (MFIP) reports include only paid cases and eligible people, although this report includes MFIP cases that were not paid. 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 Table 2.

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 total Food Support 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.

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 consist of a single adult with no other eligible or ineligible household members. Family Households average 3 eligible or suspended people; 86 percent have no ineligible adult members and 89 percent have no ineligible children in the household.

Food Support-eligible households are less urban than MFIP-eligible households. Sixty-seven percent of MFIP-eligible households live in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area compared to 54 percent of Food Support-eligible Family Households and 59 percent of all Food Support-eligible households. Family Households are more likely to live in Greater Minnesota than both MFIP-eligible families and the overall Minnesota population. According to the 2008 American Community Survey (ACS), 60 percent of Minnesotans live in Hennepin County, Ramsey County, or the eleven suburban counties.

One quarter of Food Support-eligible or suspended people are disabled. About half of people in Senior Households are disabled as well as 13 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 the *Minnesota Family Investment Program and the Diversionary Work Program: Characteristics of Cases and Eligible Adults* report series.

Table 3. Household Composition and Residence of Food Support Households, December 2009

		Total Households	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry
				Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
Households	Count	168,054	59,604	24,978	45,266	38,206	9,289
	Percent of All Households	100.0%	35.5%	14.9%	26.9%	22.7%	5.5%
Eligible or Suspended Persons in the Household	1	104,143	2,704	21,899	43,018	36,522	6,485
		62.0%	4.5%	87.7%	95.0%	95.6%	69.8%
	2	23,218	16,471	2,984	2,148	1,615	1,885
		13.8%	27.6%	11.9%	4.7%	4.2%	20.3%
	3	16,416	16,171	87	95	63	575
		9.8%	27.1%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	6.2%
	4 to 6	21,662	21,643	8	5	6	321
		12.9%	36.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.5%
	7 to 9	2,343	2,343	0	0	0	19
		1.4%	3.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
	10 or more	272	272	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	1.1	1.1	1.5
	Median	1	3	1	1	1	1
	Minimum	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Maximum	15	15	5	4	5	11
Uncle Harry Persons in the Household	Count of Cases	9,289	4,050	667	3,995	577	9,289
	Percent of All Cases	5.5%	6.8%	2.7%	8.8%	1.5%	100.0%
	1	6,485	1,835	494	3,620	536	6,485
		3.9%	3.1%	2.0%	8.0%	1.4%	69.8%
	2	1,885	1,321	166	362	36	1,885
		1.1%	2.2%	0.7%	0.8%	0.1%	20.3%
	3 or more	919	894	7	13	5	919
	0.5%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.9%	
Ineligible Adults in the Household	0	148,377	51,079	21,768	39,033	36,497	5,578
		88.3%	85.7%	87.1%	86.2%	95.5%	60.0%
	1	13,391	5,470	2,009	4,702	1,210	2,421
		8.0%	9.2%	8.0%	10.4%	3.2%	26.1%
	2	4,702	2,363	790	1,168	381	946
		2.8%	4.0%	3.2%	2.6%	1.0%	10.2%
3 or more	1,584	692	411	363	118	344	
	0.9%	1.2%	1.6%	0.8%	0.3%	3.7%	

Table 3 – Page 2

		Total Households	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry
				Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
Ineligible Adults in the Household	Mean Number	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.5
	Median	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Minimum	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Maximum	11	8	8	11	6	11
	Count of Cases	19,677	8,525	3,210	6,233	1,709	3,711
Ineligible Children in the Household	0	153,040	53,203	23,555	40,298	35,984	710
		91.1%	89.3%	94.3%	89.0%	94.2%	7.6%
	1	7,525	3,343	703	2,295	1,184	3,757
		4.5%	5.6%	2.8%	5.1%	3.1%	40.4%
	2	3,963	1,658	375	1,356	574	2,327
		2.4%	2.8%	1.5%	3.0%	1.5%	25.1%
	3 or more	3,526	1,400	345	1,317	464	2,495
		2.1%	2.3%	1.4%	2.9%	1.2%	26.9%
	Mean	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.8	2.1
	Median	1	1	2	2	1	2
Minimum	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Maximum	14	11	12	12	14	12	
Count of Cases	15,014	6,401	1,423	4,968	2,222	8,579	
Residence	Hennepin County	49,379	12,872	8,224	14,874	13,409	3,002
		29.4%	21.6%	32.9%	32.9%	35.1%	32.3%
	Ramsey County	23,696	7,429	4,242	7,728	4,297	2,460
		14.1%	12.5%	17.0%	17.1%	11.2%	26.5%
	Metropolitan Suburbs	25,649	11,740	3,595	5,384	4,930	1,168
		15.3%	19.7%	14.4%	11.9%	12.9%	12.6%
	Greater Minnesota	69,330	27,563	8,917	17,280	15,570	2,659
		41.3%	46.2%	35.7%	38.2%	40.8%	28.6%

Table 4. Relationship to Applicant and Disability Status of Eligible and Suspended People in Food Support Households, December 2009

		Total Persons	Family Households		Adult Households			Uncle Harry
			Adults	Children	Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
Eligible or Suspended Persons	Count	320,440	74,688	130,008	28,162	47,619	39,963	13,605
	Percent of All	100.0%	23.3%	40.6%	8.8%	14.9%	12.5%	4.2%
Count and Percent of Eligible or Suspended Persons: Relationship to Case Applicant	Applicant	161,947	54,110	0	24,939	44,939	37,959	6,338
		50.5%	72.4%	0.0%	88.6%	94.4%	95.0%	46.6%
	Spouse	17,315	12,318	0	2,663	1,554	780	967
		5.4%	16.5%	0.0%	9.5%	3.3%	2.0%	7.1%
	Biological/Adopted/Step Child (includes adult children)	127,758	470	126,600	257	304	127	5,220
		39.9%	0.6%	97.4%	0.9%	0.6%	0.3%	38.4%
	Other Related Child	2,568	0	2,568	0	0	0	307
		0.8%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%
Other Adult Relative	1,294	686	0	205	180	223	218	
	0.4%	0.9%	0.0%	0.7%	0.4%	0.6%	1.6%	
Not Related to Applicant	9,563	7,104	846	98	641	874	555	
	3.0%	9.5%	0.7%	0.3%	1.3%	2.2%	4.1%	
Disability Status	Total Disabled Count	77,023	10,039	7,120	13,599	46,265	0	9,458
	Percent of All Persons	24.0%	13.4%	5.5%	48.3%	97.2%	0.0%	69.5%
	SSI, RSDI, or SMRT Disability	58,417	6,171	6,858	13,136	32,252	0	8,919
	Percent of Disabled Persons	75.8%	61.5%	96.3%	96.6%	69.7%	0.0%	94.3%
	Temporarily Ill/Incapacitated	18,606	3,868	262	463	14,013	0	539
	24.2%	38.5%	3.7%	3.4%	30.3%	0.0%	5.7%	

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 percent of adults were female and 72 percent had at least a high school diploma or General Education Development (GED) certificate. Forty-four percent had never married and 34 percent were currently married and living with a spouse. Sixty-one percent were white and 21 percent were black. Food Support-eligible adults were more likely to be white than MFIP-eligible adults of which 40 percent were white and 37 percent were black in December 2009.

Food Support-eligible or suspended adults in Senior Households were, of course, the oldest of all household types. The average age was 69 years old. Adults in Senior Households had the least education of all household types; 52 percent had at least a high school diploma or GED compared to 67 percent overall. Senior Households were also the least likely to have never married (16 percent). Half were either divorced or widowed and 19 percent were married and living with a spouse. Adults in Senior Households were more likely to be Asian than adults in other household types (17 percent compared to 7 percent or fewer in other household types). Fourteen percent were non-citizens, the largest percentage of any household type.

The average age of an adult participating in a Disabled Household was 43 years and about half were male and half female. Sixty-eight percent had at least a high school diploma or GED. Fifty-six percent had never married and 60 percent were white and 27 percent were black. Nearly all were U.S. citizens.

Although the average age of adults in Other Adult Households was about the same as adults in Family Households (35 years), a larger proportion was under age 22. Nearly one quarter were age 21 or younger and another 22 percent were ages 23 to 29 years old. Men made up a larger proportion than women (62 percent). Sixty-six percent were high school graduates and participants in these households were the least likely to have been married (72 percent had never married), which is likely related to their youth. Fifty-six percent were white and about one quarter were black.

Table 5. Demographic Characteristics of Adults in Food Support Households, December 2009

		Total Persons	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry
				Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
Eligible or Suspended Adults	Count	190,432	74,688	28,162	47,619	39,963	8,168
	Percent of All Adults	100.0%	39.2%	14.8%	25.0%	21.0%	4.3%
Age	Mean	41.8	34.0	69.4	43.3	34.9	42.5
	Median	39	32	68	46	32	42
	Minimum	15	15	18	16	16	16
	Maximum	103	90	103	59	59	98
Frequency	18 - 22	17,567	6,210	117	2,095	9,145	511
		9.2%	8.3%	0.4%	4.4%	22.9%	6.3%
	23 - 29	36,232	21,833	84	5,423	8,892	1,134
		19.0%	29.2%	0.3%	11.4%	22.3%	13.9%
	30 - 39	41,920	27,127	99	8,055	6,639	1,894
		22.0%	36.3%	0.4%	16.9%	16.6%	23.2%
	40 - 49	37,171	14,375	186	14,980	7,630	2,181
		19.5%	19.2%	0.7%	31.5%	19.1%	26.7%
	50 - 59	29,621	4,241	657	17,066	7,657	1,530
		15.6%	5.7%	2.3%	35.8%	19.2%	18.7%
60 - 64	8,862	511	8,351	0	0	409	
	4.7%	0.7%	29.7%	0.0%	0.0%	5.0%	
65 and over	19,059	391	18,668	0	0	509	
	10.0%	0.5%	66.3%	0.0%	0.0%	6.2%	
Gender	Female	109,146	51,871	18,208	23,694	15,373	6,106
		57.3%	69.5%	64.7%	49.8%	38.5%	74.8%
	Male	81,285	22,816	9,954	23,925	24,590	2,062
	42.7%	30.5%	35.3%	50.2%	61.5%	25.2%	
Education	None or Pre-1st Grade or Unknown	16,484	5,067	5,821	2,818	2,778	1,564
		8.7%	6.8%	20.7%	5.9%	7.0%	19.1%
	Grade School	5,180	1,424	2,042	957	757	392
		2.7%	1.9%	7.3%	2.0%	1.9%	4.8%
	Some High School	41,851	14,575	5,723	11,480	10,073	2,393
		22.0%	19.5%	20.3%	24.1%	25.2%	29.3%
	High School Graduate	104,022	44,177	11,445	26,387	22,013	3,326
		54.6%	59.1%	40.6%	55.4%	55.1%	40.7%
	Some Post-Secondary	17,119	7,596	1,821	4,522	3,180	414
		9.0%	10.2%	6.5%	9.5%	8.0%	5.1%
College Graduate	2,767	1,015	533	683	536	42	
	1.5%	1.4%	1.9%	1.4%	1.3%	0.5%	
Graduate Degree	3,009	834	777	772	626	37	
	1.6%	1.1%	2.8%	1.6%	1.6%	0.5%	
High School Graduate or Higher	126,917	53,622	14,576	32,364	26,355	3,819	
	66.6%	71.8%	51.8%	68.0%	65.9%	46.8%	
Marital Status	Divorced	31,111	7,560	7,776	10,311	5,464	1,033
		16.3%	10.1%	27.6%	21.7%	13.7%	12.6%
	Legally Separated	622	238	109	174	101	20
		0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%
	Married, Living with Spouse	35,288	25,064	5,325	3,245	1,654	2,012
		18.5%	33.6%	18.9%	6.8%	4.1%	24.6%
	Never Married	92,936	32,768	4,422	26,855	28,891	3,511
		48.8%	43.9%	15.7%	56.4%	72.3%	43.0%
Married, Living Apart	22,118	8,433	4,353	5,965	3,367	1,232	
	11.6%	11.3%	15.5%	12.5%	8.4%	15.1%	
Widowed	8,354	623	6,177	1,068	486	360	
	4.4%	0.8%	21.9%	2.2%	1.2%	4.4%	
Race/Ethnicity	Asian	12,996	5,133	4,764	2,208	891	1,748
		6.8%	6.9%	16.9%	4.6%	2.2%	21.4%
	Black	45,543	15,580	5,069	12,786	12,108	3,005
		23.9%	20.9%	18.0%	26.9%	30.3%	36.8%
	Hispanic	7,405	4,144	884	1,097	1,280	252
		3.9%	5.5%	3.1%	2.3%	3.2%	3.1%
	American Indian	8,717	2,977	608	2,519	2,613	692
		4.6%	4.0%	2.2%	5.3%	6.5%	8.5%
White	113,412	45,713	16,713	28,573	22,413	2,393	
	59.6%	61.2%	59.3%	60.0%	56.1%	29.3%	
Multiple	1435	748	57	307	323	70	
	0.8%	1.0%	0.2%	0.6%	0.8%	0.9%	

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		Total Persons	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry Cases
				Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
Citizenship	Non-U.S.	16,719	7,461	4,068	2,135	3,055	1,364
		8.8%	10.0%	14.4%	4.5%	7.6%	16.7%
	U.S.	173,713	67,227	24,094	45,484	36,908	6,804
		91.2%	90.0%	85.6%	95.5%	92.4%	83.3%
Non-citizens	Asian	5,252	2,531	1,453	833	435	789
	Percent of All Asians	40.4%	49.3%	30.5%	37.7%	48.8%	45.1%
	Black	8,605	3,542	1,783	999	2,281	492
	Percent of All Blacks	18.9%	22.7%	35.2%	7.8%	18.8%	16.4%
	Hispanic	1,390	756	321	156	157	40
	Percent of All Hispanics	18.8%	18.2%	36.3%	14.2%	12.3%	15.9%
	American Indian	27	11	4	8	4	1
	Percent of All American Indians	0.3%	0.4%	0.7%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%
	White	1,378	588	500	134	156	41
	Percent of All Whites	1.2%	1.3%	3.0%	0.5%	0.7%	1.7%

Table 5: Notes and Definitions

Table 5 includes all eligible and suspended adult, including minors who are heads of household and excluding people ages 18 to 21 who are considered adult children on a case on which their parent is the applicant. 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 3 people who were excluded from the marital status section.

Race data were missing for 924 people and 1,435 people chose multiple races.

Economic Characteristics

Due to six-month reporting for earned income, income amounts cannot be compared to previous reports. Prior to March 1, 2009, when six-month reporting began, working households or households with a recent work history reported earnings for each month to the county retrospectively. In some circumstances, such as when a new case opened, prospective, or expected earnings, were used to budget the Food Support amount. Now, households report their expected earnings and that amount is used for a six-month period unless their income increases above 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Guideline for their household size. In these situations, participants report the new income or hours and have their grants recalculated based upon the updated income. Earned income used in this table may be for any month between July and December. Due to these changes the work hours section of Table 6 has been removed.

The economic situation of households receiving Food Support can best be described as unstable. At last income reporting, 19 percent of all households, including 59 percent of Other Adult Households and 8 percent of Family Households, had no income known to the state's administrative database other than a Food Support grant. Sixty-four percent had some sort of unearned income, but this varied greatly by household type. Nearly all Senior Households and 88 percent of Disabled Households had unearned income compared to 58 percent of Family Households and 24 percent of Other Adult Households. Just more than a quarter of all households reported earned income with an average income of \$1,008.

In the last nine years, Family Households averaged 28 months of Food Support eligibility with 32 percent eligible for 12 months or fewer. Nearly two-thirds had been MFIP-eligible and nearly half had used Emergency Assistance (EA) sometime during the past nine years. At last income reporting, 58 percent had reported earned income with an average monthly amount of \$1,178. Sixty percent also received unearned income, the most common type being child support (28 percent). One in five Family Households had a housing subsidy.

In the last nine years, Senior Households and Disabled Households were eligible for Food Support longer than other households; Senior Households averaged 66 months and Disabled Households averaged 50 months of Food Support eligibility. Very few Senior Households had received other cash public assistance in the last year or over the last nine years. Just more than half of Disabled Households had received General Assistance (GA) or Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and 43 percent had received EA at some point in the last nine years. At last income reporting, very few of either Senior Households or Disabled Households reported earned income and the average amount was very low (\$797 for Senior Households and \$683 for Disabled Households). Nearly all Senior Households and Disabled Households reported unearned income. The most common types for Senior Households were SSI and Retired, Survivors, and Disability Income (RSDI) and the most common types for Disabled Households were public assistance cash grants (most commonly Minnesota Supplemental Aid) and SSI.

At last income reporting, nearly 60 percent of Other Adult Households had no income reported. Twenty percent reported unearned income and the most common types were public assistance (10 percent) and Unemployment Insurance/Worker's Compensation (7 percent). The average amount of unearned income was \$425. In the last nine years, these households averaged the least Food Support eligibility months (14 months with 61 percent using 12 months or fewer) and were least likely to have been eligible for public assistance. A quarter had been eligible for GA or RCA and 20 percent had used EA in the last nine years. Twenty-four percent had reported earned income with an average monthly amount of \$617.

Table 6. Economic Characteristics of Food Support Households, December 2009

		Total Households	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry
				Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
Households	Count	168,054	59,604	24,978	45,266	38,206	9,289
	Percent of All Cases	100.0%	35.5%	14.9%	26.9%	22.7%	5.5%
Food Support Grant Amount	Mean of All Cases	\$212	\$368	\$78	\$112	\$174	\$155
	Median	\$191	\$354	\$60	\$110	\$200	\$132
Food Support in Minnesota (Months): 2001 - 2009 Cumulative	Mean	36.4	28.0	66.4	49.6	14.0	51.0
	Median	24	21	70	42	10	46
Frequency of Cases Percent of Cases in Column	1 - 12 Months	52,161	19,230	2,812	6,675	23,444	1,169
		31.0%	32.3%	11.3%	14.7%	61.4%	12.6%
	13 - 24 Months	32,922	14,092	2,309	7,455	9,066	1,330
		19.6%	23.6%	9.2%	16.5%	23.7%	14.3%
	25 - 36 Months	20,302	9,356	2,060	6,030	2,856	1,254
		12.1%	15.7%	8.2%	13.3%	7.5%	13.5%
	37 - 48 Months	14,449	6,323	1,938	4,856	1,332	1,173
		8.6%	10.6%	7.8%	10.7%	3.5%	12.6%
49 - 60 Months	10,702	4,128	1,851	4,015	708	949	
	6.4%	6.9%	7.4%	8.9%	1.9%	10.2%	
Over 60 Months	37,488	6,447	14,007	16,235	799	3,414	
	22.3%	10.8%	56.1%	35.9%	2.1%	36.8%	
Other Public Assistance in Minnesota: 2009	MFIP/MFIP Food	18,729	12,289	776	4,616	1,048	8,960
		11.1%	20.6%	3.1%	10.2%	2.7%	96.5%
	Diversionsary Work Program	9,539	8,764	6	158	611	461
		5.7%	14.7%	0.0%	0.3%	1.6%	5.0%
	General Assistance/Refugee Cash Programs	21,143	375	1,925	13,638	5,205	98
		12.6%	0.6%	7.7%	30.1%	13.6%	1.1%
	Emergency Assistance	16,283	9,989	562	3,995	1,737	2,171
	9.7%	16.8%	2.2%	8.8%	4.5%	23.4%	
Other Public Assistance in Minnesota: 2001 - 2009	MFIP/MFIP Food	52,824	36,261	2,420	10,248	3,895	9,189
		31.4%	60.8%	9.7%	22.6%	10.2%	98.9%
	Diversionsary Work Program	24,583	21,476	163	1,351	1,593	2,103
		14.6%	36.0%	0.7%	3.0%	4.2%	22.6%
	General Assistance/Refugee Cash Programs	41,622	2,605	5,930	23,650	9,437	845
		24.8%	4.4%	23.7%	52.2%	24.7%	9.1%
	Emergency Assistance	59,481	27,664	4,758	19,583	7,476	6,094
	35.4%	46.4%	19.0%	43.3%	19.6%	65.6%	

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		Total Households	Family Households	Adult Households			Uncle Harry
				Senior	Disabled	Other Adult	
No Earned or Unearned Income	Count of Cases	31,994	4,804	434	4,383	22,373	207
	Percent of All Cases	19.0%	8.1%	1.7%	9.7%	58.6%	2.2%
Income / Working	Count of Cases	48,051	34,659	1,161	3,222	9,009	909
	Percent of All Cases	28.6%	58.1%	4.6%	7.1%	23.6%	9.8%
Total Earned Income at Last Report	Mean of Working Cases	\$1,008	\$1,178	\$492	\$452	\$617	\$810
	Median	\$885	\$1,100	\$365	\$344	\$602	\$681
December Unearned Income	Count of Cases	106,955	35,377	24,174	39,929	7,475	8,964
	Percent of All Cases	63.6%	59.4%	96.8%	88.2%	19.6%	96.5%
Total Unearned Income	Mean of Cases Receiving	\$732	\$807	\$797	\$683	\$425	\$1,043
	Median	\$755	\$674	\$755	\$755	\$250	\$944
Type of Unearned Income	Child Support	16,735	16,447	17	140	131	652
		10.0%	27.6%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	7.0%
	SSI	44,978	8,589	14,288	22,005	96	7,520
		26.8%	14.4%	57.2%	48.6%	0.3%	81.0%
	RSDI	36,014	5,424	13,572	16,878	140	1,651
		21.4%	9.1%	54.3%	37.3%	0.4%	17.8%
	Public Assistance Grants	48,362	7,470	12,744	24,423	3,725	7,900
		28.8%	12.5%	51.0%	54.0%	9.7%	85.0%
	Unemployment Insurance/ Workers' Compensation	10,304	7,247	209	380	2,468	141
		6.1%	12.2%	0.8%	0.8%	6.5%	1.5%
	Veteran's Benefits	1,352	279	554	269	250	19
		0.8%	0.5%	2.2%	0.6%	0.7%	0.2%
	Other	4,616	1,811	1,308	594	903	213
		2.7%	3.0%	5.2%	1.3%	2.4%	2.3%
Total Shelter Costs Less Any Subsidy	Mean of All Cases	\$436	\$642	\$425	\$361	\$210	\$438
	Median	\$372	\$605	\$400	\$328	\$0	\$403
Rent/Mortgage Amount	Mean of All Cases	\$282	\$412	\$251	\$234	\$155	\$268
	Median	\$206	\$350	\$211	\$200	\$0	\$188
Housing Subsidy Amount	Mean of Cases Receiving	\$500	\$601	\$426	\$443	\$473	\$629
	Median	\$477	\$585	\$413	\$427	\$458	\$634
	Count of Cases Receiving	33,297	12,398	7,754	11,194	1,951	2,974
	Percent of All Cases	19.8%	20.8%	31.0%	24.7%	5.1%	32.0%

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 2001 and December 2009 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 (2009, or 2001 to 2009). The 329 Uncle Harry cases that are listed in the tables as not MFIP eligible in 2009 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 2009; 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 2003 may have a child and be eligible for MFIP in 2006 and then be receiving Food Support with DWP in December 2009. 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 2009 and do not encompass the same nine-year period as other programs.

Earned Income. Total income was projected income of all adults whose income was deemed for the case. The amount used was prospective income that was reported at the start of the six-month reporting period or last reported, which may have been any month between July and December. 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 expected income for the reporting period.

Unearned Income. Unearned income was from the December 2009 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.