



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Minnesota Family Investment Program and the Diversionary Work Program: Characteristics of December 2009 Cases and Eligible Adults

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Table of Contents

MINNESOTA FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM AND THE DIVERSIONARY WORK PROGRAM: CHARACTERISTICS OF DECEMBER 2009 CASES AND ELIGIBLE ADULTS.....	1
STATEWIDE DATA.....	1
<i>Caseload Data</i>	2
Table 1. December 2009 Counts and Percentages of MFIP, DWP, and Tribal TANF Paid Cases and Eligible Persons	2
Figure 1. December MFIP and DWP Caseloads, December 2000 to December 2009.	3
<i>Demographic Characteristics</i>	4
Table 2. Demographic Characteristics of Eligible Adults on December 2009 MFIP and DWP Paid Cases	5
Table 3. Family Composition, Residence, and Challenges of December 2009 MFIP and DWP Paid Cases	9
<i>Economic Characteristics</i>	12
Table 4. Economic Characteristics of December 2009 MFIP and DWP Paid Cases ..	14
<i>MFIP Policies</i>	19
Table 5. MFIP Policies and December 2009 Paid Cases.....	20
COUNTY AND REGIONAL DATA	23
Table 6. December 2009 MFIP and DWP Paid Cases by County and Region.....	24

Minnesota Family Investment Program and the Diversionary Work Program: Characteristics of December 2009 Cases and Eligible Adults

This is the thirteenth 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 2009. 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. Economic status and MFIP policy data had previously been presented in a single table. These were separated into Tables 4 and 5 in December 2008 report.

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 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.

For the first time this report now includes the number and percent of cases that had at least one child eligible for the MFIP Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). These data are included in Table 4.

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

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.

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.

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 14 - 16) quantifies economic characteristics of cases and Table 5 (pages 20 - 21) 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. The MFIP caseload increased by 9 percent and the DWP caseload increased by 4 percent since December 2008. While all case types increased, two-eligible-adult MFIP cases saw the largest increase at 15 percent since last December. Although the MFIP and DWP caseloads increased, the Tribal TANF caseload actually decreased by 10 percent from 270 cases in December 2008 to 243 cases in December 2009. The combined MFIP and DWP caseload is nearing the levels of the early 2000s, but is not as high as the decade's peak year in 2002. (Figure 1)

Table 1. December 2009 Counts and Percentages of MFIP, DWP, and Tribal TANF Paid Cases and Eligible Persons

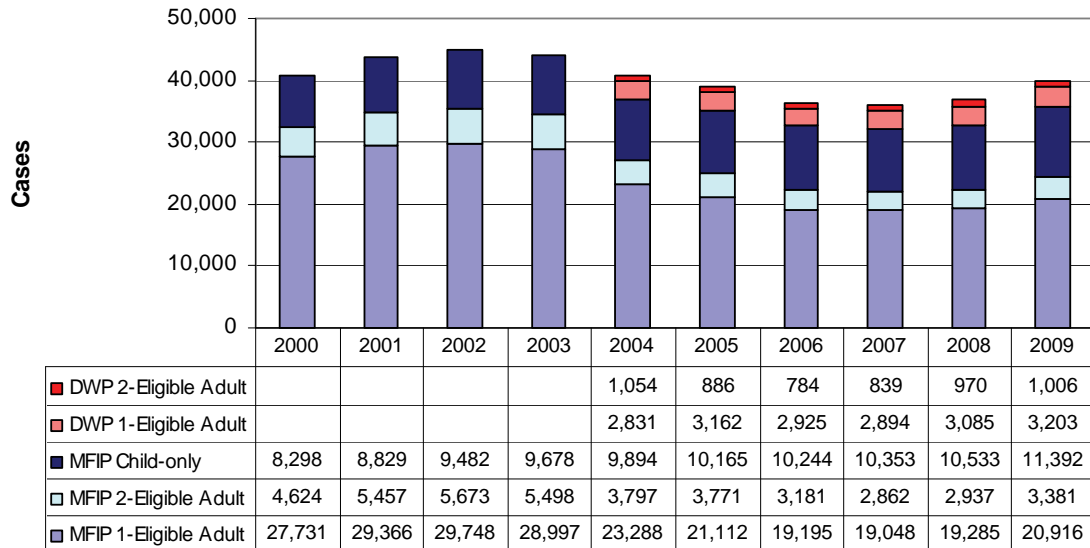
Counts of Cases	MFIP and Tribal TANF Paid Cases						DWP Paid Cases		
	Tribal TANF Cases	All MFIP Paid Cases	Child-Only Cases	MFIP Cases with Eligible Adults			DWP Cases with Eligible Adults		
				One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults*	Total Cases	One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	All Cases
Paid Cases	243	35,689	11,392	20,916	3,381	24,297	3,203	1,006	4,209
	100.0%	100%	31.9%	58.6%	9.5%	68.1%	76.1%	23.9%	100%
Eligible Adults	306	27,678	0	20,915	6,763	27,678	3,203	2,012	5,215
	100.0%	100%	0.0%	75.6%	24.4%	100.0%	61.4%	38.6%	100.0%
Eligible Children	446	72,830	23,602	40,312	8,916	49,228	5,386	2,532	7,918
	100.0%	100%	32.4%	55.4%	12.2%	67.6%	68.0%	32.0%	100.0%

* One case had three eligible caregivers 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, child care assistance from the Minnesota Electronic Child Care Information System (MEC²), 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 2000 to December 2009



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. The 2007 American Community Survey (ACS) provides this context for comparison: 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-one percent were female and 61 percent had at least a high school diploma or GED. Fifteen percent of MFIP-eligible adults were married and currently living with a spouse, including 46 percent of adults in two-eligible-adult cases. Two-thirds of MFIP-eligible adults had never married. The percentage of black and white adults had been equal in the previous two reports, but in December 2009, white adults made up 40 percent and black adults 37 percent of MFIP-eligible adults. Eighty-seven percent of MFIP-eligible adults were U.S. citizens. The percentage of Asian MFIP-eligible adults that were not U.S. citizens decreased from 70 percent in December 2008 to 63 percent in December 2009, this decrease was even larger in Asian cases with two-eligible caregivers (85 percent to 76 percent).

DWP-eligible Caregivers. The demographic make-up of DWP-eligible adults did not look like that of MFIP-eligible adults. Black and American Indian adults were under-represented in DWP cases as compared to MFIP cases. While 37 percent of MFIP-eligible adults were black, 25 percent of DWP-eligible adults were and while 9 percent of MFIP-eligible adults were American Indian, 4 percent of DWP-eligible adults were. White adults were 56 percent of DWP-eligible adults compared to 40 percent of MFIP-eligible adults. DWP-eligible adults were more likely to have at least a high school diploma or GED (74 percent compared to 61 percent of MFIP-eligible adults) and to have been married now or in the past (47 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, 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.

Table 2. Demographic Characteristics of Eligible Adults on December 2009 MFIP and DWP Paid Cases

Adult Characteristics		MFIP Cases			DWP Cases		
		One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	All MFIP Cases	One Eligible Adult	Two Eligible Adults	All DWP Cases
Eligible Adults	Count	20,916	6,763	27,679	3,203	2,012	5,215
	Percent of All Eligible Adults	75.6%	24.4%	100.0%	61.4%	38.6%	100.0%
Age of Adults	Mean	29.6	30.4	29.9	30.2	31.4	30.7
	Median	27	28	28	29	30	29
	Minimum	14	14	14	17	16	16
	Maximum	80	68	80	58	64	64
Frequency	< 18	460	47	507	2	8	10
		2.2%	0.7%	1.8%	0.1%	0.4%	0.2%
	18 - 19	1,659	446	2,105	116	65	181
		7.9%	6.6%	7.6%	3.6%	3.2%	3.5%
	20 - 29	10,132	3,223	13,355	1,622	885	2,507
		48.4%	47.7%	48.2%	50.6%	44.0%	48.1%
	30 - 39	5,372	1,891	7,263	997	692	1,689
		25.7%	28.0%	26.2%	31.1%	34.4%	32.4%
	40 - 49	2,553	889	3,442	412	292	704
	12.2%	13.1%	12.4%	12.9%	14.5%	13.5%	
50 - 59	650	235	884	54	64	118	
	3.1%	3.5%	3.2%	1.7%	3.2%	2.3%	
60 and over	90	32	122	0	6	6	
	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%	
Gender	Female	18,991	3,382	22,375	2,816	1,006	3,822
		90.8%	50.0%	80.8%	87.9%	50.0%	73.3%
	Male	1,925	3,381	5,303	387	1,006	1,393
	9.2%	50.0%	19.2%	12.1%	50.0%	26.7%	
Education	None or Pre-1st Grade or Unknown	1,010	698	1,708	121	152	273
		4.8%	10.3%	6.2%	3.8%	7.6%	5.2%
	Grade School	352	192	544	34	39	73
		1.7%	2.8%	2.0%	1.1%	1.9%	1.4%
	Some High School	6,668	2,026	8,694	626	410	1,036
		31.9%	30.0%	31.4%	19.5%	20.4%	19.9%
	High School Graduate	10,981	3,397	14,377	1,970	1,192	3,162
		52.5%	50.2%	51.9%	61.5%	59.2%	60.6%
	Some Post-Secondary	1,630	357	1,987	365	166	531
		7.8%	5.3%	7.2%	11.4%	8.3%	10.2%
College Graduate	151	43	194	48	23	71	
	0.7%	0.6%	0.7%	1.5%	1.1%	1.4%	
Graduate Degree	124	50	174	39	30	69	
	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%	1.2%	1.5%	1.3%	
High School Graduate or Higher	12,886	3,847	16,732	2,422	1,411	3,833	
	61.6%	56.9%	60.5%	75.6%	70.1%	73.5%	
Marital Status	Divorced	1,594	171	1,765	371	50	421
		7.6%	2.5%	6.4%	11.6%	2.5%	8.1%
	Legally Separated	64	4	68	16	2	18
		0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.5%	0.1%	0.3%
	Married, Living with Spouse	899	3,118	4,016	94	1,187	1,281
		4.3%	46.1%	14.5%	2.9%	59.0%	24.6%
	Never Married	15,279	3,335	18,614	2,051	733	2,784
		73.0%	49.3%	67.2%	64.0%	36.4%	53.4%
	Married, Living Apart	2,893	130	3,023	655	40	695
		13.8%	1.9%	10.9%	20.4%	2.0%	13.3%
Widowed	187	5	192	16	0	16	
	0.9%	0.1%	0.7%	0.5%	0.0%	0.3%	

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	889	871	1,759	110	159	269
		4.3%	12.9%	6.4%	3.4%	7.9%	5.2%
	Black	8,352	1,874	10,226	942	379	1,321
		39.9%	27.7%	36.9%	29.4%	18.8%	25.3%
	Hispanic	1,153	368	1,521	245	168	413
		5.5%	5.4%	5.5%	7.6%	8.3%	7.9%
	White	8,241	2,851	11,092	1,737	1,189	2,926
		39.4%	42.2%	40.1%	54.2%	59.1%	56.1%
American Indian		1,869	699	2,568	117	76	193
		8.9%	10.3%	9.3%	3.7%	3.8%	3.7%
Multiple		376	78	454	26	20	46
		1.8%	1.2%	1.6%	0.8%	1.0%	0.9%
Citizenship	Non-U.S.	2,077	1,503	3,580	253	304	557
		9.9%	22.2%	12.9%	7.9%	15.1%	10.7%
	U.S.	18,839	5,260	24,098	2,950	1,708	4,658
Noncitizens		90.1%	77.8%	87.1%	92.1%	84.9%	89.3%
	Asian	455	658	1,113	34	76	110
		51.2%	75.5%	63.3%	30.9%	47.8%	40.9%
	Black	1,400	588	1,988	165	142	307
		16.8%	31.4%	19.4%	17.5%	37.5%	23.2%
	Hispanic	150	45	195	37	39	76
		13.0%	12.2%	12.8%	15.1%	23.2%	18.4%
	White	62	208	270	14	44	58
		0.8%	7.3%	2.4%	0.8%	3.7%	2.0%
	American Indian	5	1	6	0	0	0
	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	

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 58 MFIP-eligible adults and 47 DWP-eligible adults.

Family Composition, Residence, and Challenges

Family Composition. The typical eligible-adult family that participated in MFIP or DWP in December 2009 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 34 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 34 percent) and the Metropolitan Suburban counties (22 percent compared to 14 percent).

Nearly two-thirds (60 percent) of families in MFIP child-only cases were parents caring for their own biological, adopted, or step children, 38 percent were caregivers caring for their relatives' children, and 2 percent were caring for both their own children and related children. In previous reports cases with both their own children and related children were reported with families caring for their own children. Twenty-four percent of child-only cases had two caregivers, a decrease of 7 percentage points from December 2008. 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 8 years and 28 percent of children in child-only cases were aged 13 or older compared to 8 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, 66 percent of whom were parents ineligible for MFIP due to receipt of SSI for a disability. Seventeen 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 (40 percent) or parents eligible for SSI (39 percent). Twenty percent of caregivers in child-only cases were non-citizens without documents to confirm their residency status, an increase of 6 percentage points since December 2008.

Serious Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Diagnoses. Forty-four percent of MFIP-eligible-adult cases had a caregiver who was diagnosed with a serious mental health condition in the past three years. 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 lower rates of both serious mental health and chemical dependency diagnoses than eligible caregivers. 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. Eighteen percent of MFIP-eligible adult cases and 10 percent of DWP cases had one or more caregivers that had a Child Protection Family Assessment or a Family Investigation during 2006 to 2008. Four percent of MFIP eligible-adult cases and 2 percent of DWP cases had at least one caregiver where the Family 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 2007.⁵ 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 Family Investigation in response to an accepted child maltreatment report.

⁵ 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 2009 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	11,392	20,916	3,381	24,297	3,203	1,006	4,209	
	Percent of All Cases	31.9%	58.6%	9.5%	68.1%	76.1%	23.9%	100.0%	
Family Type	Natural/Adopted/Step Children	6,803	19,920	3,323	23,243	2,876	999	3,875	
Count of Cases	Relative Care	4,374	282	5	287	22	0	22	
	Natural/Adopted/Step and Relative Care	215	284	49	333	22	6	28	
	Pregnant Only	0	430	4	434	283	1	284	
		0.0%	2.1%	0.1%	1.8%	8.8%	0.1%	6.7%	
Two-caregiver Families	Count of Cases	2,673	1,287	3,381	4,668	84	1,006	1,090	
	Percent of Cases in Column	23.5%	6.2%	100.0%	19.2%	2.6%	100.0%	25.9%	
Two Caregivers	Count of Cases	2,017	772	1,555	2,327	47	591	638	
Married	Percent of Cases in Column	17.7%	3.7%	46.0%	9.6%	1.5%	58.7%	15.2%	
Ineligible Caregivers:	Relative Caregivers	5,596	7			7			
		39.8%	0.5%			8.3%			
Count of Persons & Percent of Ineligible Caregivers	SSI Parents	5,469	854			31			
		38.9%	66.4%			36.9%			
	Undocumented Noncitizen Parents	2,853	166			43			
		20.3%	12.9%			51.2%			
	MFIP Disqualified Parents	129	44			2			
		0.9%	3.4%			0.0%			
	Reached 60th Month And Opted Out	8	215			-			
		0.1%	16.7%						
	Other Ineligible Parents	11	1			1			
		0.1%	0.1%			1.2%			
	Count of Ineligible Caregivers	14,066	1,287			84			
Number of Eligible Children in Family & Household	Mean	2.1	1.9	2.6	2.0	1.7	2.5	1.9	
	Median	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	
	Minimum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Maximum	16	11	16	11	10	11	11	
	Frequency of Cases	0	7	825	32	857	317	5	322
			0.1%	3.9%	0.9%	3.5%	9.9%	0.5%	7.7%
	1	4,876	9,184	1,047	10,231	1,375	295	1,670	
		42.8%	43.9%	31.0%	42.1%	42.9%	29.3%	39.7%	
	2	3,528	5,849	901	6,750	904	316	1,220	
		31.0%	28.0%	26.6%	27.8%	28.2%	31.4%	29.0%	
	3	1,481	2,763	573	3,336	373	176	549	
		13.0%	13.2%	16.9%	13.7%	11.6%	17.5%	13.0%	
	4 - 6	1,373	2,080	678	2,758	219	184	403	
		12.1%	9.9%	20.1%	11.4%	6.8%	18.3%	9.6%	
	7 - 9	113	194	127	321	13	25	38	
		1.0%	0.9%	3.8%	1.3%	0.4%	2.5%	0.9%	
	10 or more	15	20	23	43	2	5	7	
		0.1%	0.1%	0.7%	0.2%	0.1%	0.5%	0.2%	
	Count of Eligible Children	23,602	40,312	8,916	49,228	5,386	2,532	7,918	
Ineligible Children: Count of Children & Percent of Ineligible Children	SSI Children	1,016	2,022	328	2,350	144	37	181	
		64.8%	95.5%	97.0%	95.7%	88.3%	97.4%	90.0%	
	Undocumented Noncitizens	489	18	0	18	2	0	2	
		31.2%	0.8%	0.0%	0.7%	1.2%	0.0%	1.0%	
	Other Ineligible Children	62	78	10	88	17	1	18	
		4.0%	3.7%	3.0%	3.6%	10.4%	2.6%	9.0%	
	Count of Ineligible Children	1,567	2,118	338	2,456	163	38	201	
	Percent of All Children in Column	7.4%	5.6%	4.3%	5.4%	2.9%	1.5%	2.5%	

Table 3 – Page 3

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	2.2	2.0	2.6	2.1	1.7	2.6	1.9	
	Median	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	
	Minimum	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
	Maximum	16	11	16	11	10	11	11	
	Frequency of Cases	0	7	429	0	429	284	0	284
			0.1%	2.1%	0.0%	1.8%	8.9%	0.0%	6.7%
		1	4,412	8,976	1,024	10,000	1,352	292	1,644
			38.7%	42.9%	30.3%	41.2%	42.2%	29.0%	39.1%
		2	3,500	5,982	887	6,869	922	311	1,233
			30.7%	28.6%	26.2%	28.3%	28.8%	30.9%	29.3%
		3	1,660	2,921	592	3,513	395	182	577
			14.6%	14.0%	17.5%	14.5%	12.3%	18.1%	13.7%
		4 - 6	1,646	2,353	707	3,060	234	190	424
			14.4%	11.2%	20.9%	12.6%	7.3%	18.9%	10.1%
	7 - 9	148	225	141	366	13	25	38	
		1.3%	1.1%	4.2%	1.5%	0.4%	2.5%	0.9%	
	10 or more	20	29	30	59	3	6	9	
		0.2%	0.1%	0.9%	0.2%	0.1%	0.6%	0.2%	
	Count of All Children	25,169	42,430	9,254	51,684	5,549	2,570	8,119	
Age of Youngest Child (All Children)	Mean	8.1	4.3	2.7	4.1	5.4	3.3	4.9	
	Median	8	3	1	2	4	2	3	
	Minimum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Maximum	19	19	19	19	19	18	19	
	Frequency of Cases	< 1 year old	699	4,116	1,134	5,250	271	291	562
			6.1%	19.7%	33.5%	21.6%	8.5%	28.9%	13.4%
		1-5 years old	3,747	10,450	1,714	12,164	1,511	499	2,010
			32.9%	50.0%	50.7%	50.1%	47.2%	49.6%	47.8%
		6-10 years old	2,756	3,145	314	3,459	618	137	755
			24.2%	15.0%	9.3%	14.2%	19.3%	13.6%	17.9%
		11-12 years old	1,017	862	84	946	175	23	198
		8.9%	4.1%	2.5%	3.9%	5.5%	2.3%	4.7%	
	13-15 years old	1,671	1,077	70	1,147	205	30	235	
		14.7%	5.1%	2.1%	4.7%	6.4%	3.0%	5.6%	
	>15 years old	1,496	836	65	901	139	26	165	
		13.1%	4.0%	1.9%	3.7%	4.3%	2.6%	3.9%	
Region	Hennepin County	3,781	6,447	733	7,180	724	166	890	
		33.2%	30.8%	21.7%	29.6%	22.6%	16.5%	21.1%	
	Ramsey County	2,249	4,610	752	5,362	481	129	610	
		19.7%	22.0%	22.2%	22.1%	15.0%	12.8%	14.5%	
	Metro Suburban	1,581	2,952	508	3,460	668	239	907	
	13.9%	14.1%	15.0%	14.2%	20.9%	23.8%	21.5%		
	Greater Minnesota	3,782	6,906	1,388	8,294	1,330	472	1,802	
		33.2%	33.0%	41.1%	34.1%	41.5%	46.9%	42.8%	
Family Violence	MFIP Exemption or Extension During 2000 - 2009		1,691	79	1,770	48	10	58	
			8.1%	2.3%	7.3%	1.5%	1.0%	1.4%	
Adult Serious Mental Health Diagnosis (All Caregivers)	During 2007 - 2009	4,064	9,167	1,463	10,630	789	293	1,082	
		35.7%	43.8%	43.3%	43.8%	24.6%	29.1%	25.7%	
	During 2009	3,064	7,062	1,135	8,197	539	193	732	
		26.9%	33.8%	33.6%	33.7%	16.8%	19.2%	17.4%	
Adult Chemical Dependency Diagnosis (All Caregivers)	During 2007 - 2009	1,549	5,166	1,044	6,210	453	169	622	
		13.6%	24.7%	30.9%	25.6%	14.1%	16.8%	14.8%	
	During 2009	921	3,131	642	3,773	238	96	334	
		8.1%	15.0%	19.0%	15.5%	7.4%	9.5%	7.9%	
Child Protection 2007 - 2009 (All Caregivers)	Family Assessment	867	2,342	395	2,737	213	88	301	
		7.6%	11.2%	11.7%	11.3%	6.7%	8.7%	7.2%	
	Family Investigation	197	460	66	526	27	12	39	
		1.7%	2.2%	2.0%	2.2%	0.8%	1.2%	0.9%	
	Child Maltreatment Determination	319	929	100	1,029	59	15	74	
		2.8%	4.4%	3.0%	4.2%	1.8%	1.5%	1.8%	

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.

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 2009. 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 2009 or during the three-year period 2007 to 2009. Chemical dependency diagnosis identifies caregivers who received that diagnosis (not including tobacco) during 2009 or during the three-year period 2007 to 2009. 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 Family Investigation (FI) 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 2009, eligible-adult MFIP cases averaged 25 months counted toward the limit. Nearly 60 percent of MFIP eligible-adult cases had 24 or fewer counted months and 21 percent were within 12 months of the lifetime limit. Forty-four 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 52 percent of DWP cases were new to family cash assistance in Minnesota. 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 has decreased each year since 2004, the first year that DWP started enrolling participants. In December 2009, 29 percent of new DWP cases had moved to Minnesota during 2009, which was a decrease from a high of 49 percent in December 2004.

The most frequent states from which new residents in both programs had moved from were Illinois (383 cases), Wisconsin (260 cases), and Texas (213 cases); 269 cases moved directly from a foreign country. New residents moved to Minnesota from all 49 other states and Puerto Rico.

Earned Income and Work Hours. The percentage of MFIP eligible-adult and DWP cases with earned income reported for December 2009 did not change much from December 2008. Thirty-three percent of MFIP eligible-adult cases and 41 percent of DWP cases had at least one working caregiver compared to 35 percent of MFIP eligible-adult cases and 42 percent of DWP cases in December 2009. The average monthly income reported for MFIP eligible-adult cases, however, did increase since last year from an average of \$872 to \$911. Average reported income in DWP cases decreased overall from \$934 to \$920 although reported income in one-eligible-adult DWP cases increased from \$833 to \$852. The average number of work hours did not change from December 2008 except for DWP two-eligible-adult cases. MFIP eligible adult cases averaged 99 work hours in December 2009 and DWP cases averaged 94 hours.

The percentage of cases with wages and the average amount of quarterly wages reported to the Unemployment Insurance (UI) system for April to June 2009 decreased for all cases and case types. These wages predate DWP eligibility and may, for some MFIP cases, predate MFIP eligibility. In December 2008, 48 percent of MFIP eligible-adult cases and 61 percent of DWP cases had at least one caregiver with UI reported wages while in December 2009, 42 percent of MFIP eligible-adult and 53 percent of DWP cases had UI reported wages. The average amount of quarterly wages also decreased from \$2,917 to \$2,807 for MFIP eligible-adult and \$5,096 to \$4,876 for DWP cases.

Child Care Assistance Program. For the first time Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) eligibility data are available in this report. Thirty percent of MFIP eligible-adult and 27 percent of DWP cases had at least one child eligible for CCAP in December 2009. CCAP eligibility does not mean that a child was in childcare for which a payment was made;

it means a child was eligible and payments would be made if a caregiver had a child in care while he or she was working or engaging in work activities such as looking for a job or participating in required training. Two percent of MFIP child-only cases were eligible for Basic Sliding Fee childcare.

Table 4. Economic Characteristics of December 2009 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	11,392	20,916	3,381	24,296	3,203	1,006	4,209
	Percent of All Cases	31.9%	58.6%	9.5%	68.1%	76.1%	23.9%	100.0%
Counted MFIP Months Sept. 1996 to Dec. 2009	Mean	13.9	26.0	20.7	25.3	9.0	7.8	8.7
	Median	0	21	15	20	0	0	0
Maximum for Eligible Adult in Case Frequency of Cases	No Counted Months	6,521	1,750	214	1,964	1,755	602	2,357
		57.2%	8.4%	6.3%	8.1%	54.8%	59.8%	56.0%
	1 - 12 Months	1,278	5,876	1,303	7,179	603	177	780
		11.2%	28.1%	38.5%	29.5%	18.8%	17.6%	18.5%
	13 - 24 Months	796	3,933	742	4,675	384	96	480
		7.0%	18.8%	21.9%	19.2%	12.0%	9.5%	11.4%
	25 - 36 Months	630	2,706	400	3,106	216	67	283
		5.5%	12.9%	11.8%	12.8%	6.7%	6.7%	6.7%
	37 - 42 Months	294	1,081	154	1,235	70	21	91
		2.6%	5.2%	4.6%	5.1%	2.2%	2.1%	2.2%
	43 - 48 Months	281	889	162	1,051	76	15	91
		2.5%	4.3%	4.8%	4.3%	2.4%	1.5%	2.2%
	49 - 54 Months	284	838	113	951	56	12	68
	2.5%	4.0%	3.3%	3.9%	1.7%	1.2%	1.6%	
55 - 60 Months	1,308	3,841	293	4,134	43	16	59	
	11.5%	18.4%	8.7%	17.0%	1.3%	1.6%	1.4%	
Months since Start of DWP Eligibility	1st Month					789	279	1,068
						24.6%	27.7%	25.4%
	2nd Month					858	271	1,129
						26.8%	26.9%	26.8%
	3rd Month					834	245	1,079
					26.0%	24.4%	25.6%	
4th Month					722	211	933	
					22.5%	21.0%	22.2%	
New Cases in 2009	Minnesota Resident before 2009	1,541	3,292	580	3,872	1,164	403	1,567
	Percent of New Cases	90.1%	83.0%	69.2%	80.6%	70.6%	73.4%	71.3%
	Moved into State in 2009	171	671	258	929	485	146	631
	Percent of New Cases	10.0%	16.9%	30.8%	19.3%	29.4%	26.6%	28.7%
Total of New Cases	1,711	3,964	838	4,802	1,649	549	2,198	
Percent of All Cases	15.0%	19.0%	24.8%	19.8%	51.5%	54.6%	52.2%	

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	\$306	\$344	\$391	\$351	\$331	\$467	\$364
MFIP Food Portion	Mean of All Cases in Column	\$287	\$392	\$548	\$414			
Food Support- "Uncle Harry" Cases	Mean of Cases Receiving	\$157	\$143	\$148	\$144			
	Percent of Cases in Column Receiving	47.4%	13.9%	8.9%	9.5%			
Food Support - Other Cases	Mean of Cases Receiving	\$279	\$413	\$598	\$442	\$397	\$569	\$439
	Percent of Cases in Column Receiving	2.2%	5.0%	5.8%	5.1%	92.5%	94.3%	93.0%
MFIP Food-Only Assistance	Mean	\$192	\$315	\$417	\$335			
	Count of Cases	566	2,453	602	3,055			
	Percent of All Cases	5.0%	11.7%	17.8%	12.6%			
Income / Working	Count of Cases	1,029	6,298	1,798	8,096	1,184	534	1,718
	Percent of All Cases	9.0%	30.1%	53.2%	33.3%	37.0%	53.1%	40.8%
December Total Earned Income	Mean of Working Cases	\$819	\$848	\$1,133	\$911	\$852	\$1,043	\$920
	Median	\$563	\$739	\$965	\$785	\$731	\$932	\$793
December Budgeted Earnings	Mean of Working Cases		\$482	\$624	\$517	\$551	\$760	\$620
	Median		\$441	\$548	\$466	\$468	\$610	\$502
December Monthly Work Hours	Mean of Working Cases	87.4	93.1	121.7	99.4	86.0	108.6	94.0
	Median	78	89	114	93	80	99	83
Percent of All Cases	1 - 79 Hours	499	2,673	560	3,233	558	196	754
		4.4%	12.8%	16.6%	13.3%	17.4%	19.5%	17.9%
	80 - 119 Hours	189	1,643	360	2,003	262	110	372
		1.7%	7.9%	10.6%	8.2%	8.2%	10.9%	8.8%
	120 - 159 Hours	129	1,056	363	1,419	191	77	268
		1.1%	5.0%	10.7%	5.8%	6.0%	7.7%	6.4%
	160 Hours or More	168	846	492	1,338	143	144	287
		1.5%	4.0%	14.6%	5.5%	4.5%	14.3%	6.8%
Wages Reported for 2nd Quarter 2009 for Jobs Covered by Unemployment Insurance	Mean of Cases with UI Wages	\$7,795	\$2,765	\$3,003	\$2,807	\$4,711	\$5,305	\$4,876
	Median	\$6,424	\$2,035	\$2,359	\$2,089	\$4,130	\$4,505	\$4,257
	Count of Cases	3,381	8,318	1,776	10,094	1,602	619	2,221
	Percent of All Cases	29.7%	39.8%	52.5%	41.5%	50.0%	61.5%	52.8%

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 at Least One Child Eligible for the Child Care Assistance Program	Youngest Child Less than Age 6	200	6,090	814	6,904	788	219	1,007
	Percent of Cases	1.8%	29.1%	24.1%	28.4%	24.6%	21.8%	23.9%
	Youngest Child Age 6 to 12 Years	33	425	17	442	120	9	129
	Percent of Cases	0.3%	2.0%	0.5%	1.8%	3.7%	0.9%	3.1%
	Any Eligible Child	233	6,515	831	7,346	908	228	1,136
	Percent of Cases	2.0%	31.1%	24.6%	30.2%	28.3%	22.7%	27.0%
Cases with Adult and/or Child Receiving SSI	Count of Cases	5,134	2,430	228	2,658	149	32	181
	Percent of Cases	45.1%	11.6%	6.7%	10.9%	4.7%	3.2%	4.3%
Child Support Disbursements: Average of Payments > \$0	Current Mean	\$298	\$304	\$503	\$313	\$344	\$325	\$342
	Median	\$217	\$223	\$454	\$232	\$306	\$296	\$304
	Count	1,593	2,928	137	3,065	596	71	667
	Percent of Cases	14.0%	14.0%	4.1%	12.6%	18.6%	7.1%	15.8%
	Sum	\$474,280	\$890,439	\$68,860	\$959,299	\$205,110	\$23,102	\$228,211
	Arrears Mean	\$108	\$125	\$119	\$124	\$133	\$213	\$142
	Median	\$44	\$51	\$50	\$51	\$73	\$129	\$78
	Count	1,052	1,971	114	2,085	302	38	340
	Percent of Cases	9.2%	9.4%	3.4%	8.6%	9.4%	3.8%	8.1%
	Sum	\$113,812	\$245,963	\$13,580	\$259,544	\$40,046	\$8,083	\$48,129
	Total Mean	\$325	\$333	\$474	\$340	\$398	\$395	\$398
	Median	\$224	\$227	\$366	\$231	\$355	\$329	\$342
	Count	1,809	3,413	174	3,587	616	79	695
	Percent of Cases	15.9%	16.3%	5.1%	14.8%	19.2%	7.9%	16.5%
	Sum	\$587,895	\$1,135,447	\$82,440	\$1,217,887	\$245,103	\$31,185	\$276,288

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 2009 were December 2009 cases active in either MFIP or DWP in Minnesota for one or more months in 2009 but active zero months in 1992 to 2008 (the period covered by the state administrative database). Cases new to the state had a 2009 state entry date. Minnesota residents were either lifelong residents or had moved to the state before 2009.

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 2009 income of eligible adults and other adults whose earnings were deemed for the case. The amount used was either verified earnings for December 2009 or zero for cases still active in February 2010 with no income reported for December 2009 (required to be reported by February 2010) or prospective December 2009 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 2009.

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 2009 grants were based on verified income earned in October 2009 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 must report wages to the state. Some employers are exempt from this requirement and include federal government, other state government, religious, seasonal, sheltered work in a facility, work relief or training financed by a federal agency, National Guard, as an elected official, some domestic employment, inmates, some student workers at their school or college,

commissioned insurance salespeople, commissioned real estate agents, newspaper delivery, or temporary workers. (MN Statute §268.035) The table provides second quarter 2009 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 Care Assistance Program. Reported CCAP eligibility means that an eligibility determination has been made; the child may not have a service authorization (payment) made for the month. Data exclude children ages 13 and older with special needs that continue to receive CCAP. Data are reported by age of youngest child. Cases may have CCAP-eligible children in both age groups. MFIP-ineligible and DWP-ineligible children (for example, SSI-eligible children) are excluded. Children must be both CCAP and MFIP or DWP eligible. Children's eligibility for MFIP CCAP is determined based on parent's eligibility for MFIP or DWP. Data reported for MFIP child-only cases are eligible for Basic Sliding Fee child care. Data are reported from the Minnesota Electronic Child Care Information System (MEC²).

Child Support. Child support disbursements were paid to families receiving MFIP or DWP in December 2009 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 5⁶ provides information on MFIP extensions and exemptions from the time limit, sanctions, housing subsidy amounts and grant deductions, the family cap, and Family Stabilization Services (FSS). All text describing Table 5 refer to eligible-adult cases.

Time Limit Exemptions and Extensions. Ten percent of cases had a caregiver for whom December 2009 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), living on an American Indian reservation with a not-employed rate of at least 50 percent (22 percent of exempt cases), and being a minor caregiver (19 percent). The percentage of caregivers that were exempt due to being a minor increased by 10 percentage points since December 2008. This is due to changes in the state's administrative database tracking of these caregivers rather than an increase in minor caregivers.

Twelve 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 that the caregiver was ill or incapacitated for more than 30 days (32 percent of exempt cases), the caregiver was mentally ill (20 percent), and for Special Medical Criteria (17 percent). Extended cases averaged 33 extended months, with 29 percent having 12 or fewer months and 34 percent having more than 36 months in extension.

Family Cap. Fourteen 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. About one-third (35 percent) of cases were identified as having a caregiver eligible for FSS, an MFIP service track that assists families who are not making significant progress toward self-sufficiency due to specific barriers to employment. There was no change in the percentage of cases that were FSS-eligible since December 2008.

⁶ Data in this section were found in Table 4 previous to December 2008.

Table 5. MFIP Policies and December 2009 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	11,392	20,916	3,381	24,296
	Percent of All Cases	31.9%	58.6%	9.5%	68.1%
MFIP Exemptions from Time Limit	Count of Cases	11	2,203	328	2,531
	Percent of All Cases	0.1%	10.5%	9.7%	10.4%
Exemption Reason	18 - 19, Attending High School	8	829	169	1,006
	Percent of Exempted Cases	72.7%	37.6%	51.5%	39.7%
	Caregiver on Indian Reservation	1	469	98	568
	Percent of Exempted Cases	9.1%	21.3%	29.9%	22.4%
	Minor Caregiver	2	441	26	470
	Percent of Exempted Cases	18.2%	20.0%	7.9%	18.6%
	Family Violence Waiver	0	395	13	408
	Percent of Exempted Cases	0.0%	17.9%	4.0%	16.1%
Caregiver 60 or Older	Count	0	69	22	91
	Percent of Exempted Cases	0.0%	3.1%	6.7%	3.6%
MFIP Extensions	Count		2,724	171	2,895
	Percent of MFIP Cases		13.0%	5.1%	11.9%
Total Extension Months	Mean		32.8	29.0	32.6
	Median		27	25	27
	Minimum		1	1	1
	Maximum		97	88	97
	1 - 12 Months		779	73	852
Percent of Extended Cases	13 - 24 Months		516	49	565
	Percent of Extended Cases		18.9%	28.7%	19.5%
25 - 36 Months	Count		420	30	450
	Percent of Extended Cases		15.4%	17.5%	15.5%
More than 36 Months	Count		923	56	979
	Percent of Extended Cases		33.9%	32.7%	33.8%
Extension Reason	Ill or Incapacitated		864	55	921
	Percent of Extended Cases		31.7%	32.2%	31.8%
	Mentally Ill		529	38	568
	Percent of Extended Cases		19.4%	22.2%	19.6%
	Special Medical Criteria		477	23	500
	Percent of Extended Cases		17.5%	13.5%	17.3%
	IQ Between 70 and 80		237	22	260
	Percent of Extended Cases		8.7%	12.9%	9.0%
	Care of Ill or Incapacitated		264	20	285
	Percent of Extended Cases		9.7%	11.7%	9.8%
	Employment Required Hours		141	8	149
	Percent of Extended Cases		5.2%	4.7%	5.1%
	Unemployable		36	2	38
	Percent of Extended Cases		1.3%	1.2%	1.3%
	Family Violence Waiver		104	0	104
Percent of Extended Cases		3.8%	0.0%	3.6%	
Learning Disabled		56	4	61	
Percent of Extended Cases		2.1%	2.3%	2.1%	
IQ Below 70		24	1	25	
Percent of Extended Cases		0.9%	0.6%	0.9%	
Appeal		2	0	2	
Percent of Extended Cases		0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	

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	296	55	351
	30 % ES Sanction	1	752	170	922
	All Cases with ES Sanctions	0	1,048	225	1,273
	Percent of All Cases	0.0%	5.0%	6.7%	5.2%
	Six Counted Sanction Months	1	163	24	188
	Percent of All Cases	0.0%	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%
Housing Subsidy	Mean Subsidy Amount > \$0	\$614	\$689	\$712	\$691
	Count of Cases	3,001	6,209	700	6,909
	Percent of All Cases	26.3%	29.7%	20.7%	28.4%
Deductions to MFIP Grant For Housing Subsidy (\$50 Maximum Per Case)	Count of Cases	43	3,559	489	4,048
	Percent of All Cases	0.4%	17.0%	14.5%	16.7%
	Mean Deduction > \$0	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Family Cap	Count of Cases with One Child	687	2,224	481	2,705
	Two Children	135	537	125	662
	Three or More Children	32	98	35	133
	Percentage of Cases	7.5%	13.7%	19.0%	14.4%
Family Stabilization Services Cases with One or More FSS-eligible Caregiver	Count of Cases	39	7,298	1,200	8,537
	Percent of All Cases	0.3%	34.9%	35.5%	35.1%

Data Definitions and Policy Information: Table 5

Extensions beyond the Time Limit. An 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 2009 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	23	0.2%	50	18	68	0.6%	7	4	11	0.3%
Anoka	538	4.7%	1,023	213	1,236	10.8%	242	82	324	7.7%
Becker	105	0.9%	161	44	205	1.8%	26	7	33	0.8%
Beltrami	421	3.7%	836	185	1,021	9.0%	33	13	46	1.1%
Benton	47	0.4%	122	18	140	1.2%	25	13	38	0.9%
Big Stone	3	0.0%	11	4	15	0.1%	4	0	4	0.1%
Blue Earth	61	0.5%	166	41	207	1.8%	33	11	44	1.0%
Brown	18	0.2%	40	7	47	0.4%	22	4	26	0.6%
Carlton	66	0.6%	65	13	78	0.7%	22	10	32	0.8%
Carver	42	0.4%	78	5	83	0.7%	25	7	32	0.8%
Cass	136	1.2%	180	45	225	2.0%	31	4	35	0.8%
Chippewa	17	0.1%	32	8	40	0.4%	3	0	3	0.1%
Chisago	36	0.3%	62	18	80	0.7%	20	6	26	0.6%
Clay	83	0.7%	162	41	203	1.8%	33	18	51	1.2%
Clearwater	26	0.2%	46	6	52	0.5%	7	3	10	0.2%
Cook	3	0.0%	14	3	17	0.1%	3	2	5	0.1%

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	13	0.1%	24	4	28	0.1%	13	4	17	0.4%
Crow Wing	86	0.8%	167	30	197	0.8%	38	17	55	1.3%
Dakota	489	4.3%	850	127	977	4.0%	145	52	197	4.7%
Dodge	23	0.2%	33	15	48	0.2%	8	7	15	0.4%
Douglas	37	0.3%	58	10	68	0.3%	21	4	25	0.6%
Faribault	23	0.2%	20	6	26	0.1%	6	4	10	0.2%
Fillmore	16	0.1%	33	9	42	0.2%	2	9	11	0.3%
Freeborn	76	0.7%	109	22	131	0.5%	28	7	35	0.8%
Goodhue	25	0.2%	106	19	125	0.5%	26	5	31	0.7%
Grant	9	0.1%	14	1	15	0.1%	1	1	2	0.0%
Hennepin	3,781	33.2%	6,447	733	7,180	29.6%	724	166	890	21.1%
Houston	19	0.2%	50	15	65	0.3%	10	1	11	0.3%
Hubbard	42	0.4%	49	19	68	0.3%	12	4	16	0.4%
Isanti	43	0.4%	74	17	91	0.4%	32	13	45	1.1%
Itasca	109	1.0%	185	39	224	0.9%	30	14	44	1.0%
Jackson	12	0.1%	17	4	21	0.1%	9	1	10	0.2%

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	42	0.4%	56	15	71	0.3%	15	8	23	0.5%
Kandiyohi	101	0.9%	153	29	182	0.7%	21	12	33	0.8%
Kittson	3	0.0%	2	1	3	0.0%	1	0	1	0.0%
Koochiching	19	0.2%	33	4	37	0.2%	7	4	11	0.3%
Lac Qui Parle	7	0.1%	5	5	10	0.0%	1	0	1	0.0%
Lake	12	0.1%	26	5	31	0.1%	4	1	5	0.1%
Lake of Woods	3	0.0%	6	1	7	0.0%	1	2	3	0.0%
Le Sueur	22	0.2%	39	14	53	0.2%	10	9	19	0.5%
Lincoln	5	0.0%	2	1	3	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%
Lyon	45	0.4%	67	13	80	0.3%	9	6	15	0.4%
McLeod	31	0.3%	73	15	88	0.4%	24	7	31	0.7%
Mahnomen	65	0.6%	104	23	127	0.5%	8	4	12	0.3%
Marshall	13	0.1%	9	3	12	0.0%	2	0	2	0.0%
Martin	26	0.2%	41	12	53	0.2%	15	1	16	0.4%
Meeker	27	0.2%	49	11	60	0.2%	14	3	17	0.4%
Mille Lacs	59	0.5%	63	10	73	0.3%	18	2	20	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	33	0.3%	72	18	90	0.4%	13	3	16	0.4%
Mower	103	0.9%	122	24	146	0.6%	43	12	55	1.3%
Murray	7	0.1%	12	1	13	0.1%	1	0	1	0.0%
Nicollet	32	0.3%	114	20	134	0.6%	19	9	28	0.7%
Nobles	95	0.8%	55	22	77	0.3%	19	8	27	0.6%
Norman	13	0.1%	27	4	31	0.1%	9	3	12	0.3%
Olmsted	231	2.0%	442	63	505	2.1%	109	36	145	3.4%
Otter Tail	56	0.5%	119	26	145	0.6%	30	13	43	1.0%
Pennington	20	0.2%	38	6	44	0.2%	10	2	12	0.3%
Pine	57	0.5%	100	32	132	0.5%	33	20	53	1.3%
Pipestone	17	0.1%	30	5	35	0.1%	10	2	12	0.3%
Polk	42	0.4%	113	22	135	0.6%	26	13	39	0.9%
Pope	9	0.1%	23	3	26	0.1%	3	2	5	0.1%
Ramsey	2,249	19.7%	4,610	752	5,362	22.1%	481	129	610	14.5%
Red Lake	2	0.0%	10	1	11	0.0%	8	0	8	0.2%
Redwood	16	0.1%	35	12	47	0.2%	9	1	10	0.2%

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	28	0.2%	27	5	32	0.1%	9	7	16	0.4%
Rice	120	1.1%	164	31	195	0.8%	53	15	68	1.6%
Rock	11	0.1%	21	1	22	0.1%	4	0	4	0.1%
Roseau	11	0.1%	17	2	19	0.1%	5	0	5	0.1%
St. Louis	457	4.0%	908	130	1,038	4.3%	115	39	154	3.7%
Scott	128	1.1%	164	26	190	0.8%	47	23	70	1.7%
Sherburne	73	0.6%	144	25	169	0.7%	32	24	56	1.3%
Sibley	16	0.1%	32	2	34	0.1%	7	0	7	0.2%
Stearns	179	1.6%	463	74	537	2.2%	85	31	116	2.8%
Steele	42	0.4%	101	22	123	0.5%	19	3	22	0.5%
Stevens	2	0.0%	13	3	16	0.1%	4	2	6	0.0%
Swift	8	0.1%	23	4	27	0.1%	6	1	7	0.0%
Todd	30	0.3%	57	13	70	0.3%	13	4	17	0.4%
Traverse	2	0.0%	7	3	10	0.0%	1	1	2	0.0%
Wabasha	22	0.2%	29	3	32	0.1%	9	3	12	0.3%
Wadena	32	0.3%	68	16	84	0.3%	13	6	19	0.5%

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	24	0.2%	43	6	49	0.2%	7	1	8	0.2%
Washington	157	1.4%	402	51	453	1.9%	82	23	105	2.5%
Watonwan	15	0.1%	22	7	29	0.1%	11	2	13	0.3%
Wilkin	3	0.0%	12	1	13	0.1%	5	1	6	0.1%
Winona	55	0.5%	94	14	108	0.4%	16	4	20	0.5%
Wright	75	0.7%	155	26	181	0.7%	43	9	52	1.2%
Yellow Medicine	13	0.1%	15	4	19	0.1%	3	2	5	0.1%
Northwest	104	0.9%	216	39	255	1.0%	61	18	79	1.9%
West Central	1,180	10.4%	2,154	488	2,642	10.9%	293	109	402	9.6%
Northeast	689	6.0%	1,281	212	1,493	6.1%	188	74	262	6.2%
Central	614	5.4%	1,180	226	1,406	5.8%	276	116	392	9.3%
Southwest	269	2.4%	349	88	437	1.8%	91	25	116	2.8%
South Central	237	2.1%	517	115	632	2.6%	130	41	171	4.1%
Southeast	732	6.4%	1,283	237	1,520	6.3%	323	102	425	10.1%
Metro Suburban	1,538	13.5%	2,878	491	3,369	13.9%	636	226	862	20.5%
Core Metro	6,030	52.9%	11,057	1,485	12,542	51.6%	1,205	295	1,500	35.6%
Minnesota	11,393	100.0%	20,915	3,381	24,296	100.0%	3,203	1,006	4,209	100.0%