



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

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## December 2009 Minnesota Supplemental Aid: Active Households and Eligible Persons

### Summary

This monograph provides a snapshot of the household, demographic, and economic characteristics of Minnesota Supplement Aid (MSA) households and eligible persons in December 2009. MSA is a state funded program that provides a monthly cash supplement to people who are aged, blind, or disabled and are either eligible for federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or would be SSI eligible, but whose income exceeds SSI income standards while still within MSA standards. In December 2009 there were 29,306 eligible persons receiving MSA in 28,272 households.<sup>1</sup> As seen in Figure 1, except for a small decrease last year, the MSA caseload has slowly increased since 2002. It grew by less than 1 percent since December 2008.

Nearly half (46 percent) of MSA recipients were age 60 or older with an average age of 58 years. More than half (58 percent) were female and 62 percent were white. Fifty-eight percent had at least a high school diploma and 61 percent were married or had been married in the past, although only 9 percent were currently married and living with a spouse.

The most common eligibility type was disabled<sup>2</sup> (79 percent). Twenty percent were eligible due to age and less than 1 percent was eligible due to blindness. Five percent had spent all or part of December 2009 living in a facility. The most common facility type was a nursing facility.

The average household size was 1 person. Four percent of households included an MSA-eligible spouse who was on his or her own case. Another 2 percent of households included a non-MSA-eligible spouse.

The average MSA grant was \$91 and 86 percent of households also received a Food Support payment in December 2008.<sup>3</sup> The average Food Support payment was \$51. All of the

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<sup>1</sup> The Figure 1 case count tallies applicants and their MSA-eligible spouses as two cases, as they are found in the state's administrative database. All other household tables in this report combine these 1,083 couples into one household.

<sup>2</sup> Although only a single eligibility category can be used in the state's administrative database, 37 percent of MSA-eligible adults were aged 65 and older and, therefore, could also be eligible under the aged eligibility category.

<sup>3</sup> Food Support is Minnesota's name for the federal Food Stamp program, that was renamed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the 2008 Farm Bill.

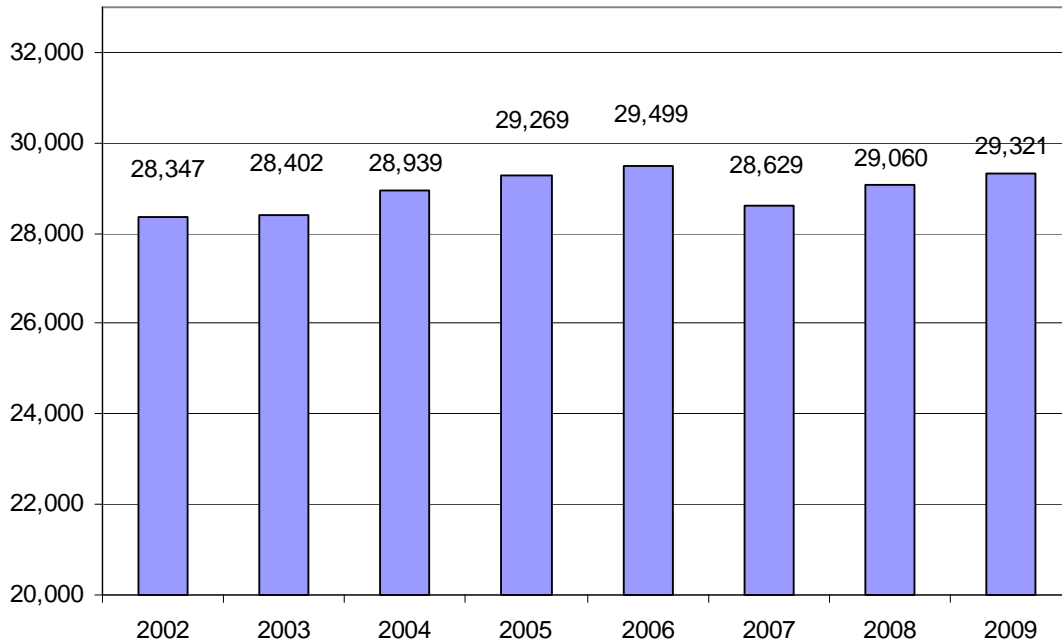
households had at least one member that was eligible for Medical Assistance (MA) or General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC) in December 2008.

The average length of time that households received MSA over the past nine years was 63 months and the average length of the most current spell was 54 months. More than half had received MSA for more than 60 months cumulatively over the past nine years. The most commonly used state-administered cash assistance program in addition to MSA was Emergency MSA. Four percent of MSA-eligible households had used Emergency MSA during the last year. Just more than a quarter had received General Assistance (GA) and 16 percent had received Group Residential Housing (GRH) in the last nine years.

Three percent had reported earned income, either self-employment or wage income, for the month of December 2009. Also, 7 percent had wages reported for the fourth quarter 2009 to the Department of Employment and Economic Security Unemployment Insurance (UI) system. Eighty-five percent of MSA-eligible households received SSI or RSDI payments in December 2009.

## Figures and Tables

**Figure 1. Active MSA Cases, December 2002 to December 2009**



**Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of MSA-eligible Persons, December 2009**

<b>MSA Recipient Characteristics</b>		<b>Count of Eligible Persons</b>	<b>Percent of All Persons</b>
<b>Eligible Persons</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>29,306</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Age</b>	Mean	57.7	
	Median	58	
	Minimum	13	
	Maximum	103	
<b>Frequency</b>	Less than 18	1	0.0%
	18 - 19	116	0.4%
	20 - 29	2,012	6.9%
	30 - 39	2,153	7.3%
	40 - 49	4,608	15.7%
	50 - 59	6,822	23.3%
	60- 64	2,878	9.8%
	65 and older	10,716	36.6%
<b>Gender</b>	Female	16,992	58.0%
	Male	12,314	42.0%
<b>Education</b>	None/Unknown	3,485	11.9%
	Grade School	1,652	5.6%
	Some High School	7,285	24.9%
	High School Graduate	13,477	46.0%
	Some Post-Secondary	2,188	7.5%
	College Graduate	536	1.8%
	Graduate Degree	683	2.3%
	High School Graduate or More	16,884	57.6%
<b>Marital Status</b>	Married, Living with Spouse	2,767	9.4%
	Never Married	11,509	39.3%
	Previously Married	15,030	51.3%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	Asian	3,066	10.5%
	Black	6,746	23.0%
	Hispanic	1,054	3.6%
	American Indian	1,054	3.6%
	White	18,086	61.7%
	Multiple	261	0.9%
	Unknown/Missing	29,306	100.0%
<b>Citizenship</b>	Non-U.S.	2,556	8.7%
	U.S.	26,750	91.3%
<b>MSA Eligibility Type</b>	Disabled	23,165	79.0%
	Aged	5,993	20.4%
	Blind	148	0.5%
<b>Resident of a Facility</b>	Yes	1,416	4.8%
<b>Facility Type with Percent of Facility Residents</b>	Nursing Facility	797	56.3%
	Intermediate Care Facility	246	17.4%
	Group Residential Housing	251	17.7%
	Chemical Dependency	25	1.8%
	Mental Health	19	1.3%
	Other	78	5.5%

**Table 2. Household Composition of MSA-eligible Households, December 2009**

<b>MSA Households</b>		Total Cases	Percent of All Cases Unless Noted
MSA Households		28,272	100.0%
Household Size	Mean	1.2	
	Median	1	
	Minimum	1	
	Maximum	12	
	1 Person	24,581	86.9%
	2 People	3,768	13.3%
	3 People	509	1.8%
	4 or More People	463	1.6%
Relationship to Applicant (includes ineligible members)	Applicant	28,272	100.0%
	MSA-eligible Spouse	1,083	3.8%
	Non-MSA-eligible Spouse	651	2.3%
	Child - Under Age 18	239	0.8%
	Child - Adult	1,049	3.7%
	Other Relative - Under Age 18	506	1.8%
	Other Relative - Adult	1,443	5.1%
	Non-Relative - Under Age 18	42	0.1%
	Non - Relative - Adult	641	2.3%
	Care Attendent	10	0.0%

**Table 3. Economic Characteristics of MSA Households, December 2009**

<b>MSA Households</b>		Total Households	Percent
Households	Count	28,272	100.0%
MSA Grant Amount	Mean of All Cases	\$91	
	Median	\$81	
Food Support	Mean Payment of Cases Receiving	\$51	
	Count of Cases Receiving	24,357	86.2%
Medical Assistance	Cases with at Least One Eligible Person	28,121	99.5%
GAMC	Cases with at Least One Eligible Person	252	0.9%
MSA Usage in Minnesota:	Mean	63.1	
Cumulative Months	Median	64	
2001 to 2009	Maximum	108	
	1 to 24 Months	6,430	22.7%
	25 to 48 Months	5,060	17.9%
	49 to 60 Months	2,102	7.4%
	61 to 84 Months	3,635	12.9%
	85 to 108 Months	11,045	39.1%
MSA Usage in Minnesota:	Mean	53.9	
Current Spell	Median	45	
	Maximum	108	
	1 to 24 Months	9,687	34.3%
	24 to 48 Months	5,114	18.1%
	48 to 60 Months	1,822	6.4%
	61 to 84 Months	2,707	9.6%
	85 to 108 Months	8,942	31.6%
Other Public Assistance:	Emergency MSA	1,213	4.3%
in Minnesota: 2009	Emergency General Assistance	428	1.5%
	Emergency Assistance	42	0.1%
	General Assistance	1,271	4.5%
	Group Residential Housing	1,015	3.6%
	Minnesota Family Investment Program	294	1.0%
	Refugee Cash Assistance	11	0.0%
Other Public Assistance	Emergency Assistance	9,244	32.7%
in Minnesota: 2001 to 2009	General Assistance	7,495	26.5%
	Group Residential Housing	4,437	15.7%
	Minnesota Family Investment Program	2,825	10.0%
	Refugee Cash Assistance	935	3.3%
Earned Income	Mean of Cases with Earned Income	\$626	
	Median	\$354	
	Count of Cases with Earned Income	860	3.0%
UI Wages for Quarter 4 2009	Mean of Cases with UI Wages	\$6,937	
	Median	\$3,071	
	Count of Cases with UI Wages	2,020	7.1%
Unearned Income	SSI and/or RSDI	23,929	84.6%
	SSI	21,777	77.0%
	RSDI	10,450	37.0%
	Veterans Benefits	129	0.5%
	Retirement Income	101	0.4%
	Spousal or Child Support	57	0.2%
	Other	102	0.4%

**Table 4. Servicing County of MSA Households, December 2009**

County	MSA Households	Percent of State	County	MSA Households	Percent of State
Aitkin	83	0.3%	Martin	114	0.4%
Anoka	857	2.9%	Meeker	82	0.3%
Becker	193	0.7%	Mille Lacs	68	0.2%
Beltrami	373	1.3%	Morrison	158	0.5%
Benton	171	0.6%	Mower	193	0.7%
Big Stone	28	0.1%	Murray	34	0.1%
Blue Earth	266	0.9%	Nicollet	86	0.3%
Brown	91	0.3%	Nobles	87	0.3%
Carlton	168	0.6%	Norman	45	0.2%
Carver	142	0.5%	Olmsted	580	2.0%
Cass	123	0.4%	Otter Tail	302	1.0%
Chippewa	44	0.2%	Pennington	82	0.3%
Chisago	100	0.3%	Pine	120	0.4%
Clay	372	1.3%	Pipestone	56	0.2%
Clearwater	71	0.2%	Polk	243	0.8%
Cook	21	0.1%	Pope	45	0.2%
Cottonwood	69	0.2%	Ramsey	5,104	17.4%
Crow Wing	370	1.3%	Red Lake	24	0.1%
Dakota	1,069	3.6%	Redwood	63	0.2%
Dodge	61	0.2%	Renville	51	0.2%
Douglas	163	0.6%	Rice	120	0.4%
Faribault	59	0.2%	Rock	40	0.1%
Fillmore	81	0.3%	Roseau	42	0.1%
Freeborn	137	0.5%	St Louis	1,990	6.8%
Goodhue	102	0.3%	Scott	217	0.7%
Grant	11	0.0%	Sherburne	114	0.4%
Hennepin	10,491	35.8%	Sibley	30	0.1%
Houston	74	0.3%	Stearns	457	1.6%
Hubbard	107	0.4%	Steele	126	0.4%
Isanti	91	0.3%	Stevens	42	0.1%
Itasca	296	1.0%	Swift	68	0.2%
Jackson	34	0.1%	Todd	162	0.6%
Kanabec	62	0.2%	Traverse	20	0.1%
Kandiyohi	181	0.6%	Wabasha	62	0.2%
Kittson	12	0.0%	Wadena	142	0.5%
Koochiching	126	0.4%	Waseca	52	0.2%
Lac Qui Parle	27	0.1%	Washington	418	1.4%
Lake	38	0.1%	Watsonwan	29	0.1%
Lake of the Woods	20	0.1%	Wilkin	31	0.1%
Le Sueur	56	0.2%	Winona	188	0.6%
Lincoln	24	0.1%	Wright	179	0.6%
Lyon	142	0.5%	Yellow Medicine	46	0.2%
Mcleod	98	0.3%			
Mahnomen	57	0.2%	State	29,321	100.0%
Marshall	48	0.2%			

## Notes and Definitions

**Figure 1.** This figure is a count of MSA cases that were eligible and active in December 2009 regardless of payment received in that month. Cases with MSA-eligible spouses were counted separately, while in Tables 2, 3, and 4 MSA-spouse cases are combined into a single household. The cash and food payments and earned income were summed for the couple, MSA usage was the maximum number of months used by either spouse, and other public assistance and unearned income was whether either spouse had received one of those types of payments.

**Table 1.** Certain demographic data are not routinely updated after the initial application. Changes in marital status, citizenship, and education status may be underreported.

A person was determined to reside in a facility where that was an active STAT FACI panel in MAXIS for December 2009 and a facility entry date on or before December 31, 2009, and a facility exit date that was either blank, in December 2009 and greater than the entry date, or greater than December 31, 2009. Cases that spent part, but not all, of December in a facility were considered to be facility residents.

**Table 3.** Case eligibility for other cash programs was by case number. If a member in the case had previously been eligible for another program while on another case, it was not included in this table. In MSA-eligible spouse households the case numbers of both spouses were queried.

Earned income included verified, retrospective income from self-employment (STAT BUSI) and wages (STAT JOBS) or, where retrospective income was not available, prospective income. If a person receives SSI, it is unnecessary to report earned income to the county for their MSA case as MSA-eligibility is based upon SSI eligibility. Due to this, earned income in households not eligible for another state-administered cash or food program may be underreported.

UI wages only included wages for jobs that were reported to the UI system. Religious, federal government, and seasonal/temporary employment are not reported, as well as employment in other states or for cash in the informal economy. UI data were reported quarterly. Quarterly earnings divided by three may not equal monthly income because the income could have been earned at any point in the quarter.

Unearned income was verified, retrospective income reported to the state or, if there was no retrospective income, prospective.

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