



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

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## **December 2010 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 2010. 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 2010 there were 30,486 eligible persons receiving MSA in 29,442 households.<sup>1</sup> As seen in Figure 1, except for a decrease in 2007, the MSA caseload has increased every year since 2002. It grew by 4 percent since December 2009.

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 59 percent were white. Fifty-eight percent had at least a high school diploma and 60 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> (80 percent). Twenty percent were eligible due to age and half of one percent were eligible due to blindness. Four percent had spent all or part of December 2010 living in a facility. The most common facility type was a nursing facility.

The average household size was one 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 \$96 and 89 percent of households also received a Food Support payment in December 2010.<sup>3</sup> The average Food Support payment was \$55. Nearly all of the

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<sup>1</sup> Most MSA cases have a single eligible person and applicants and their MSA-eligible spouses each have their own case. 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, 36 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 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

households had at least one member that was eligible for Medical Assistance (MA) or General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC) in December 2010.

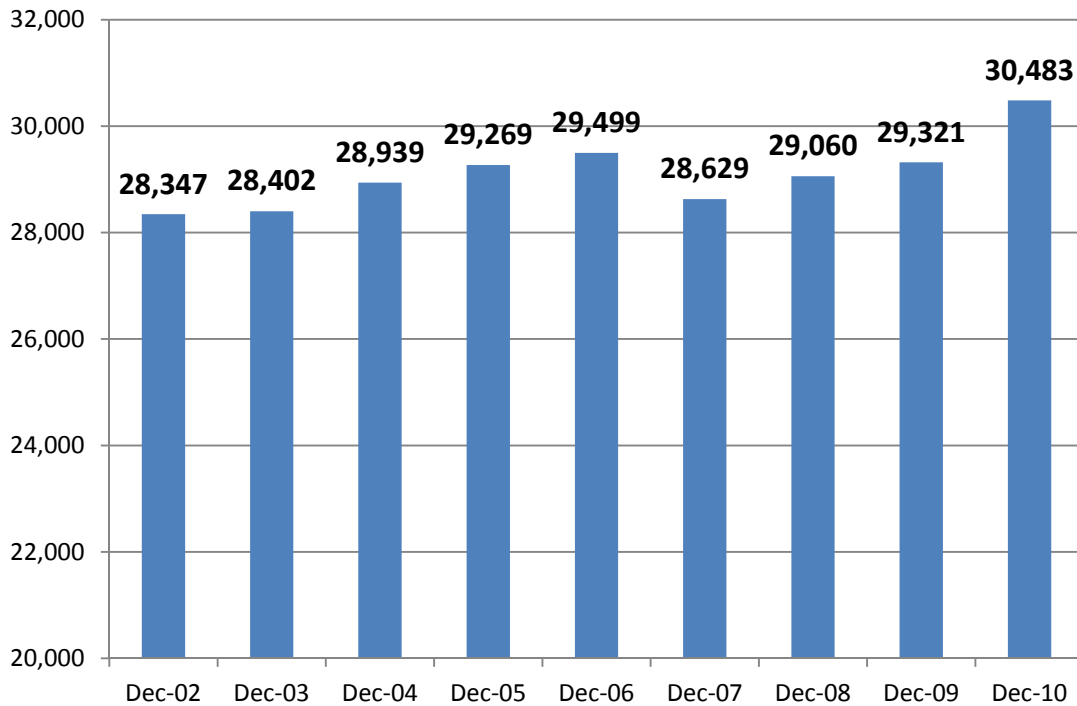
MSA grants can be increased due to certain special needs. For example, a shelter needy individual is someone whose housing costs are greater than 40 percent of his or her income and has an application for subsidized housing pending. Special diets provide additional funds to help address medically necessary dietary needs. Sixteen percent of MSA households received Special Diets, 4 percent received an additional grant amount to cover expenses associated with a representative payee, and 1 percent were considered Shelter Needy. Less than 1 percent received special payments for guardianship fees, restaurant meals, and other special expenses.

The average length of time that households received MSA since January 1992, the earliest available data in the state's administrative database, was 87 months and the average length of the most current spell was 68 months. About one in five MSA households had received MSA for less than 2 years while 30 percent had received MSA for more than 10 years. Very few MSA households used other cash assistance in the last year although 27 percent had been eligible for General Assistance (GA) and 16 percent had been eligible for Group Residential Housing (GRH) at some point in the last eight years.

Notes and data definitions are provided at the end of the report.

## Figures and Tables

Figure 1. Active MSA Cases, December 2002 to December 2010



**Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of MSA-eligible Persons, December 2010**

<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>30,486</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Age</b>	Mean	57.7	
	Median	58	
	Minimum	14	
	Maximum	105	
<b>Frequency</b>	Less than 18	2	0.0%
	18 - 19	108	0.4%
	20 - 29	2,159	7.1%
	30 - 39	2,310	7.6%
	40 - 49	4,472	14.7%
	50 - 59	7,303	24.0%
	60- 64	3,061	10.0%
	65 and older	11,071	36.3%
<b>Gender</b>	Female	17,523	57.5%
	Male	12,963	42.5%
<b>Education</b>	None/Unknown	3,664	12.0%
	Grade School	1,672	5.5%
	Some High School	7,477	24.5%
	High School Graduate	14,113	46.3%
	Some Post-Secondary	2,296	7.5%
	College Graduate	580	1.9%
	Graduate Degree	684	2.2%
	High School Graduate or More	17,673	58.0%
<b>Marital Status</b>	Married, Living with Spouse	2,831	9.3%
	Never Married	12,281	40.3%
	Previously Married	15,374	50.4%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	Asian	3,256	10.7%
	Black	7,351	24.1%
	Hispanic	732	2.4%
	American Indian	1,103	3.6%
	White	17,883	58.7%
	Multiple	111	0.4%
	Unknown/Missing	50	0.2%
<b>Citizenship</b>	Non-U.S.	2,518	8.3%
	U.S.	27,968	91.7%
<b>MSA Eligibility Type</b>	Disabled	24,301	79.7%
	Aged	6,047	19.8%
	Blind	138	0.5%
<b>Resident of a Facility</b>	Yes	1,341	4.4%
<b>Facility Type with Percent of Facility Residents</b>	Nursing Facility	735	54.8%
	Intermediate Care Facility	244	18.2%
	Group Residential Housing	235	17.5%
	Chemical Dependency	23	1.7%
	Mental Health	17	1.3%
	Other	87	6.5%

**Table 2. Household Composition of MSA-eligible Households, December 2010**

<b>MSA Households</b>		Total Cases	Percent of All Cases Unless Noted
MSA Households		29,442	100.0%
Household Size	Mean	1.2	
	Median	1	
	Minimum	1	
	Maximum	12	
	1 Person	25,481	86.5%
	2 People	3,877	13.2%
	3 People	577	2.0%
	4 or More People	559	1.9%
Relationship to Applicant (includes ineligible members)	Applicant	29,442	100.0%
	MSA-eligible Spouse	1,094	3.7%
	Non-MSA-eligible Spouse	675	2.3%
	Child - Under Age 18	385	1.3%
	Child - Adult	1,165	4.0%
	Other Relative - Under Age 18	629	2.1%
	Other Relative - Adult	1,510	5.1%
	Non-Relative - Under Age 18	48	0.2%
	Non - Relative - Adult	664	2.3%
	Care Attendent	9	0.0%

**Table 3. Economic Characteristics of MSA Households, December 2010**

<b>MSA Households</b>		<b>Total Households</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Households	Count	29,442	100.0%
MSA Grant Amount	Mean of All Cases	\$96	
	Median	\$81	
Special Needs Grants	Special Diets	4,823	16.4%
	Representative Payee	1,232	4.2%
	Shelter Needy	380	1.3%
	Other Special Expenses	94	0.3%
	Guardianship Fees	60	0.2%
	Restaurant Meals	36	0.1%
Food Support	Mean Payment of Cases Receiving	\$55	
	Count of Cases Receiving	26,335	89.4%
Medical Assistance	Cases with at Least One Eligible Person	29,247	99.3%
GAMC	Cases with at Least One Eligible Person	158	0.5%
MSA Usage in Minnesota: Cumulative Months 1992 to 2010	Mean Months	86.6	
	Median Months	70	
	1 to 2 Years	6,429	21.8%
	3 to 4 Years	4,913	16.7%
	5 to 6 Years	3,783	12.8%
	7 to 8 Years	2,926	9.9%
	9 to 10 Years	2,563	8.7%
	11 to 12 Years	2,198	7.5%
	13 to 14 Years	1,905	6.5%
	15 to 16 Years	1,782	6.1%
17 or More Years	2,949	10.0%	
MSA Usage in Minnesota: Current Spell	Mean Months	67.5	
	Median Months	44	
	1 to 2 Years	10,036	34.1%
	3 to 4 Years	5,530	18.8%
	5 to 6 Years	3,472	11.8%
	7 to 8 Years	2,400	8.2%
	9 to 10 Years	1,946	6.6%
	11 to 12 Years	1,587	5.4%
	13 to 14 Years	1,262	4.3%
	15 to 16 Years	1,196	4.1%
17 or More Years	2,019	6.9%	
Other Public Assistance: in Minnesota: 2010	Emergency Assistance	1,422	4.8%
	General Assistance	1,250	4.2%
	Group Residential Housing	1,092	3.7%
	Minnesota Family Investment Program	373	1.3%
	Refugee Cash Assistance	15	0.1%
Other Public Assistance in Minnesota: 2002 to 2010	Emergency Assistance	2,994	10.2%
	General Assistance	8,006	27.2%
	Group Residential Housing	4,714	16.0%
	Minnesota Family Investment Program	2,994	10.2%
	Refugee Cash Assistance	897	3.0%
Unearned Income	SSI with No RSDI	12,235	41.6%
	RSDI with No SSI	1,963	6.7%
	SSI and RSDI	7,207	24.5%
	No SSI or RSDI	8,043	27.3%
	Veterans Benefits	110	0.4%
	Retirement Income	79	0.3%
	Spousal or Child Support	55	0.2%
	Other	81	0.3%

**Table 4. Servicing County of MSA Households, December 2010**

County	MSA Households	Percent of State	County	MSA Households	Percent of State
Aitkin	88	0.3%	Martin	109	0.4%
Anoka	913	3.1%	Meeker	80	0.3%
Becker	203	0.7%	Mille Lacs	82	0.3%
Beltrami	358	1.2%	Morrison	155	0.5%
Benton	186	0.6%	Mower	196	0.7%
Big Stone	26	0.1%	Murray	32	0.1%
Blue Earth	272	0.9%	Nicollet	91	0.3%
Brown	87	0.3%	Nobles	68	0.2%
Carlton	162	0.6%	Norman	49	0.2%
Carver	135	0.5%	Olmsted	578	2.0%
Cass	129	0.4%	Otter Tail	292	1.0%
Chippewa	43	0.1%	Pennington	85	0.3%
Chisago	100	0.3%	Pine	110	0.4%
Clay	361	1.2%	Pipestone	53	0.2%
Clearwater	69	0.2%	Polk	239	0.8%
Cook	24	0.1%	Pope	50	0.2%
Cottonwood	66	0.2%	Ramsey	5,175	17.6%
Crow Wing	377	1.3%	Red Lake	19	0.1%
Dakota	1,041	3.5%	Redwood	63	0.2%
Dodge	59	0.2%	Renville	50	0.2%
Douglas	164	0.6%	Rice	128	0.4%
Faribault	60	0.2%	Rock	44	0.1%
Fillmore	79	0.3%	Roseau	47	0.2%
Freeborn	128	0.4%	St Louis	2,017	6.9%
Goodhue	102	0.3%	Scott	212	0.7%
Grant	11	0.0%	Sherburne	119	0.4%
Hennepin	10,454	35.5%	Sibley	33	0.1%
Houston	77	0.3%	Stearns	489	1.7%
Hubbard	107	0.4%	Steele	138	0.5%
Isanti	90	0.3%	Stevens	40	0.1%
Itasca	292	1.0%	Swift	62	0.2%
Jackson	32	0.1%	Todd	161	0.5%
Kanabec	63	0.2%	Traverse	18	0.1%
Kandiyohi	182	0.6%	Wabasha	61	0.2%
Kittson	14	0.0%	Wadena	129	0.4%
Koochiching	130	0.4%	Waseca	59	0.2%
Lac Qui Parle	26	0.1%	Washington	423	1.4%
Lake	43	0.1%	Watonwan	31	0.1%
Lake of the Woods	17	0.1%	Wilkin	37	0.1%
Le Sueur	56	0.2%	Winona	192	0.7%
Lincoln	19	0.1%	Wright	184	0.6%
Lyon	137	0.5%	Yellow Medicine	39	0.1%
McLeod	108	0.4%			
Mahnomen	63	0.2%	State	29,442	100.0%
Marshall	50	0.2%			

## Notes and Definitions

**Figure 1.** This figure is a count of MSA cases that were eligible and active in December 2010 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 2010 and a facility entry date on or before December 31, 2010, and a facility exit date that was either blank, in December 2010 and greater than the entry date, or greater than December 31, 2010. Cases that spent part, but not all, of December in a facility were considered to be facility residents.

**Table 3.** Shelter Needy status was indicated on the eligibility record and required an ongoing issuance amount greater than \$81. Special Diet is indicated by a diet type listed on the STAT DIET panel. All other special payments are from the STAT PDED panel with a prospective amount greater than \$0.

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.

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

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