



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

December 2013 Minnesota Supplemental Aid Cases and Eligible People

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Abbreviations

DHS	Department of Human Services
EA	Emergency Assistance
GRH	Group Residential Housing
MSA	Minnesota Supplemental Aid
RSDI	Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
SSDI	Social Security Disability Income

Introduction

Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA) is a state funded program that provides cash assistance to help adults who get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) pay for their basic needs. To be eligible for MSA, people must meet the following requirements:

- Age 18 or older
- Receiving SSI, or eligible to receive it, except their income is too high. If income is too high for SSI, people may qualify for MSA if they meet one of the criteria:
 - Age 65 or older
 - Blind
 - Have a disability under SSI criteria.
- Meet the asset limit of:
 - \$2,000 for an individual
 - \$3,000 for a couple.

Key Findings

Between 2012 and 2013, the number of MSA caseloads increase by 1.6 percentage points. Over 70 percent of people were aged 50 or older. More than half of the people were white. The average length of time that cases had been eligible for MSA was 94 months (about 7.8 years). Very few MSA-eligible people received assistance from other cash assistance programs in 2013.

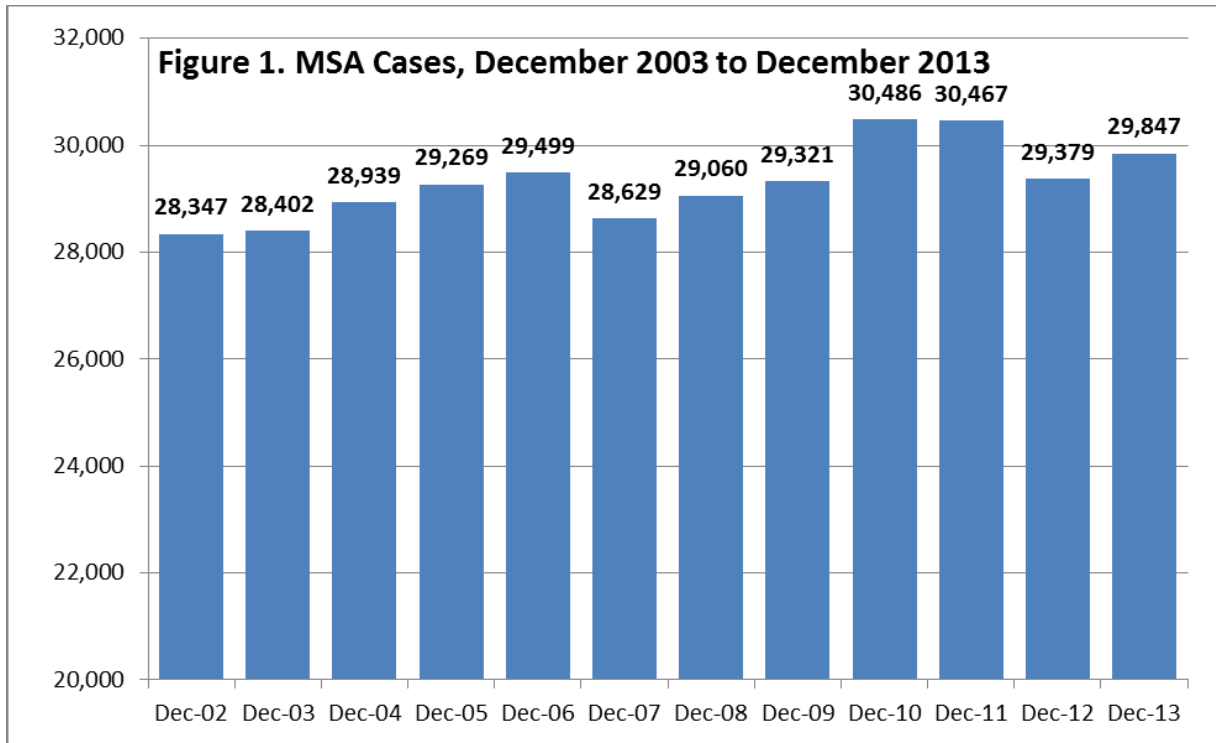
Caseloads

December cases

In December 2013, there were 31,012 MSA-eligible people in 29,847 cases. A case represents one or more people within a household receiving one MSA grant. The Social Security Administration reports that 93,748 Minnesotans aged 18 and older were receiving SSI in December 2013. [[SSI Recipients by State and County, 2013](#), Social Security Administration] Thirty-three percent of Minnesotans receiving SSI were also receiving MSA.

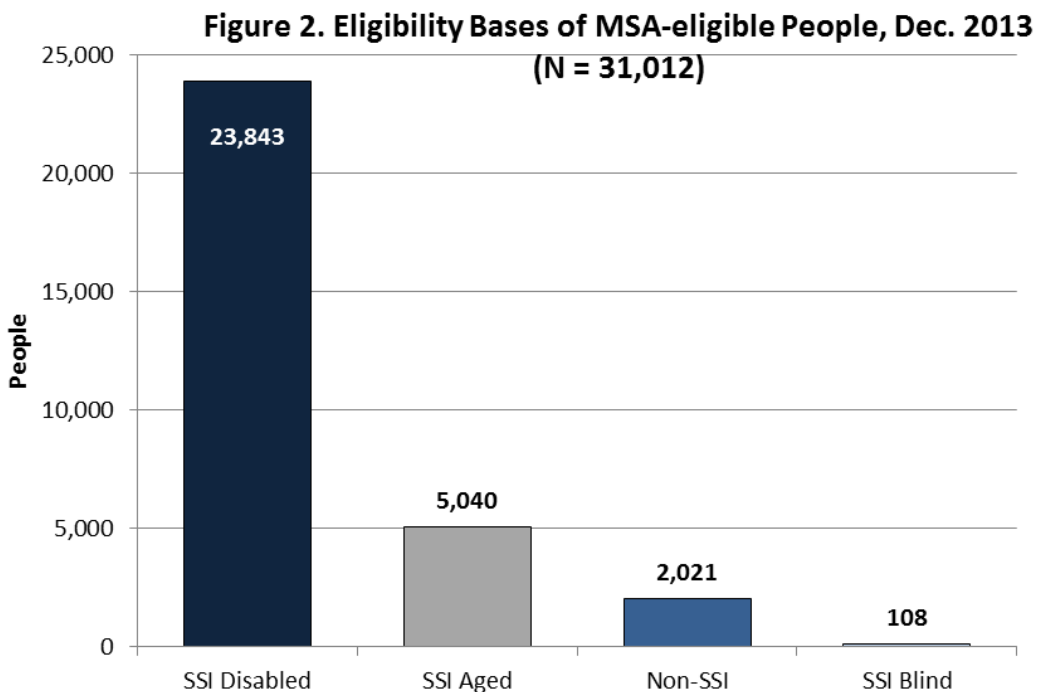
Caseload trends

The number of MSA cases remained fairly stable with increases and decreases of only a few percentage points each year. Between 2012 and 2013, the number of MSA caseloads increased by 1.6 percentage points. [Figure 1, Data Table 2 on page 6]



Eligibility bases

The majority of MSA-eligible people were eligible in the SSI Disabled category (77 percent), 16 percent in the SSI Aged category, and 7 percent in the Non-SSI category. Less than 1 percent were eligible under the SSI Blind category. [Figure 2, Data Table 1 on page 5] The categories do not overlap.

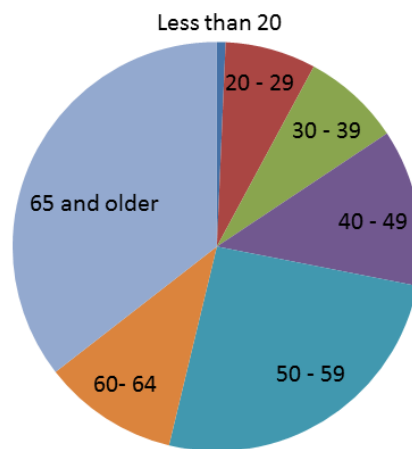


Participant characteristics

Age

Overall, 36 percent of MSA-eligible people were aged 65 or older. All of those with the SSI Aged eligibility type were age 65 and older. People eligible for other reasons were also aged 65 or older: 22 percent of those eligible as SSI Disabled, 19 percent of those eligible as SSI Blind, and 33 percent of Non-SSI eligible people were also 65 or older. The average age was 58 years overall. The average age ranged from 48-years-old in the SSI Blind group to 78-years-old for the SSI Aged group. [Data Table 1 on page 5]

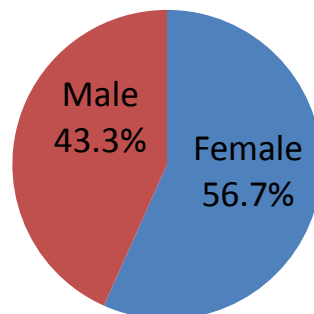
Figure 3: Age of MSA-Eligible People, Dec. 2013



Gender

More than half of each group were female, with the exception of the SSI Blind group. Overall, 57 percent were female. The SSI Aged group had the largest proportion of women (65 percent). [Data Table 1 on page 5]

Figure 4: Gender of MSA-Eligible People



Education

The majority of MSA participants have at least a high school diploma. Sixty-one percent of the SSI Disabled group, 62 percent of the SSI Blind group, and 75 percent of the Non-SSI group have at least a high school diploma. Forty-six percent of the SSI Aged group have a high school diploma. [Data Table 1 on page 5]

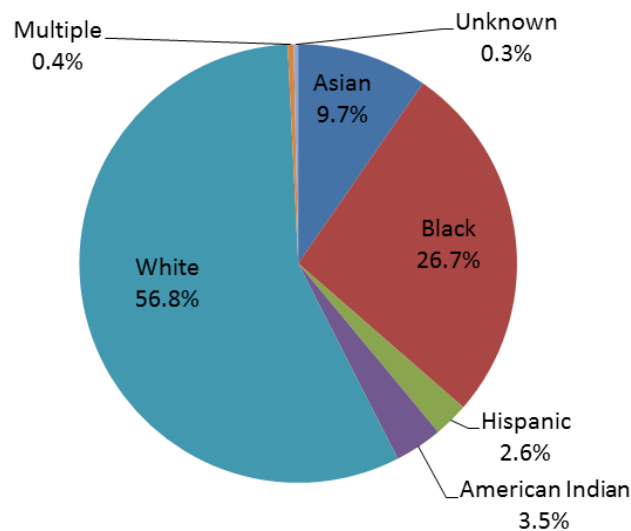
Marital status

Overall, 9 percent of MSA participants were married and living with their spouse. Those eligible under the SSI Aged group were most likely to be married (23 percent), while 7 percent of SSI Disabled, 7 percent of SSI Blind, and 5 percent of Non-SSI were married. [Data Table 1 on page 5]

Race and ethnicity

More than half of MSA participants were white (57 percent); 27 percent black, 10 percent Asian, 4 percent American Indian, and 3 percent Hispanic. [Figure 5, Date Table 1 on page 5] Those eligible as SSI Aged were more likely to be Asian (22 percent) than other groups. [Data Table 1 on page 5]

Figure 5: Race of MSA-Eligible People



Reside in facility

In December 2013, 4 percent of MSA participants lived in a facility. Of those living in facilities, 60 percent were living in nursing facilities and 17 percent in intermediate care facilities. [Data Table 1 on page 5]

Case characteristics

Grant amount and Special Needs grants

The average MSA grant was \$100. About one quarter of cases also receive a special needs increase to their grant which adds an average of \$85 to the grant. Special diets are the most common reason for a grant increase; 20 percent of cases have a special diet to address medically necessary dietary needs. Five percent of cases received an additional amount to help with costs associated with a representative payee. Two percent received housing assistance,¹ meaning their housing costs exceeded 40 percent of income and they had applied for subsidized housing. Less than 1 percent had guardianship fees and other special expenses. [Data Table 2 on page 6]

SNAP eligibility

Nearly all cases were eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), with an average grant amount of \$81. [Data Table 2 on page 6]

Time receiving MSA

The average length of time that cases had been eligible for MSA was 94 months (about 7.8 years); 20 percent received MSA for less than three years, and 31 percent received MSA for more than 10 years. Those eligible in the SSI Aged and SSI Blind categories received benefits the longest. [Data Table 2 on page 6]

Other public assistance programs

Very few MSA-eligible people received assistance from other cash assistance programs in 2013. However, more than a quarter had received Emergency Services or General Assistance (GA) in the last 10 years. Cases in the SSI Disabled category were most likely to have been eligible for Emergency Services (33 percent) or GA (30 percent), followed by non-SSI eligible cases of which 32 percent used Emergency Services and 25 percent used GA. [Data Table 2 on page 6]

¹ Previous to 2012, Housing Assistance was called Shelter Needy.

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of MSA-eligible People, December 2013

MSA recipient characteristics		Total eligible people		All MSA							
				Supplemental Security Income eligible				Non-SSI eligible			
		Total	Percent of total	Disabled	Percent	Aged	Percent	Blind	Percent	Non-SSI eligible	Percent
Eligible people	Count	31,012	100.0%	23,843	76.9%	5,040	16.3%	108	0.3%	2,021	6.5%
Age	Mean	57.7		53.4		78.1		47.9		58.1	
	Median	58		55		77		51		58	
	Minimum	16		16		65		17		20	
	Maximum	106		105		105		83		106	
Frequency	Less than 20	213	0.7%	211	0.9%	0	0.0%	1	0.9%	1	0.0%
	20 - 29	2,230	7.2%	2,143	9.0%	0	0.0%	16	14.8%	71	3.5%
	30 - 39	2,417	7.8%	2,236	9.4%	0	0.0%	26	24.1%	155	7.7%
	40 - 49	3,848	12.4%	3,547	14.9%	0	0.0%	10	9.3%	291	14.4%
	50 - 59	7,966	25.7%	7,348	30.8%	0	0.0%	26	24.1%	592	29.3%
	60 - 64	3,328	10.7%	3,078	12.9%	0	0.0%	9	8.3%	241	11.9%
	65 and older	11,010	35.5%	5,280	22.1%	5,040	100.0%	20	18.5%	670	33.2%
	Gender	Female	17,582	56.7%	13,118	55.0%	3,271	64.9%	52	48.1%	1,141
Male		13,430	43.3%	10,725	45.0%	1,769	35.1%	56	51.9%	880	43.5%
Education level	None/unknown	3,526	11.4%	2,237	9.4%	1,192	23.7%	13	12.0%	84	4.2%
	Grade school	1,616	5.2%	1,043	4.4%	513	10.2%	12	11.1%	48	2.4%
	Some high school	7,399	23.9%	5,983	25.1%	1,022	20.3%	16	14.8%	378	18.7%
	High school graduate	14,880	48.0%	11,872	49.8%	1,823	36.2%	53	49.1%	1,132	56.0%
	Some post-secondary	2,370	7.6%	1,926	8.1%	186	3.7%	9	8.3%	249	12.3%
	College graduate	575	1.9%	380	1.6%	127	2.5%	4	3.7%	64	3.2%
	Graduate degree	646	2.1%	402	1.7%	177	3.5%	1	0.9%	66	3.3%
	High school grad. or more	18,471	59.6%	14,580	61.2%	2,313	45.9%	67	62.0%	1,511	74.8%
Marital status	Married, living with spouse	2,783	9.0%	1,541	6.5%	1,136	22.5%	8	7.4%	98	4.8%
	Never married	13,373	43.1%	11,814	49.5%	624	12.4%	64	59.3%	871	43.1%
	Previously married	14,856	47.9%	10,488	44.0%	3,280	65.1%	36	33.3%	1,052	52.1%
Race/ethnicity	Asian	2,993	9.7%	1,827	7.7%	1,106	21.9%	10	9.3%	50	2.5%
	Black	8,292	26.7%	6,765	28.4%	1,132	22.5%	28	25.9%	367	18.2%
	Hispanic	797	2.6%	585	2.5%	167	3.3%	1	0.9%	44	2.2%
	American Indian	1,091	3.5%	964	4.0%	72	1.4%	2	1.9%	53	2.6%
	White	17,600	56.8%	13,495	56.6%	2,546	50.5%	65	60.2%	1,494	73.9%
	Multiple	136	0.4%	122	0.5%	5	0.1%	0	0.0%	9	0.4%
	Unknown	103	0.3%	85	0.4%	12	0.2%	2	1.9%	4	0.2%
Citizenship	Non-U.S.	1,394	4.5%	885	3.7%	474	9.4%	4	3.7%	31	1.5%
	U.S.	29,618	95.5%	22,958	96.3%	4,566	90.6%	104	96.3%	1,990	98.5%
Facility resident	Count	1,232	4.0%	995	4.2%	188	3.7%	13	12.0%	36	1.8%
Facility type Percent of facility residents	Nursing	735	59.7%	538	54.1%	175	93.1%	5	38.5%	17	47.2%
	Intermediate care	212	17.2%	202	20.3%	1	0.5%	8	61.5%	1	2.8%
	Group Residential Housing	135	11.0%	114	11.5%	10	5.3%	0	0.0%	11	30.6%
	Chemical dependency	39	3.2%	38	3.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.8%
	Mental health	12	1.0%	11	1.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.8%
	Other	99	8.0%	92	9.2%	2	1.1%	0	0.0%	5	13.9%

Table 2. Economic Characteristics of MSA Cases, December 2013

MSA households		Total cases		All MSA							
				Supplemental Security Income eligible				Non-SSI eligible			
		Total	Percent of total	Disabled	Percent	Aged	Percent	Blind	Percent	Non-SSI eligible	Percent
Cases	Count	29,847	100.0%	23,373	78.3%	4,399	14.7%	104	0.3%	1,971	6.6%
MSA grant amount	Mean	\$100		\$101		\$106		\$99		\$71	
	Median	\$81		\$81		\$81		\$81		\$50	
Special Needs grants	Mean of special need amount (all cases)	\$22		\$21		\$23		\$18		\$36	
	Mean of special need amount (receiving)	\$86		\$84		\$84		\$104		\$105	
	Total Special Needs Grants	7,659	25.7%	5,754	24.6%	1,203	27.3%	18	17.3%	684	34.7%
	Special Diets	5,859	19.6%	4,155	17.8%	1,177	26.8%	13	12.5%	514	26.1%
	Representative Payee	1,490	5.0%	1,351	5.8%	18	0.4%	4	3.8%	117	5.9%
	Housing Assistance	587	2.0%	478	2.0%	4	0.1%	2	1.9%	103	5.2%
	Guardianship Fees	27	0.1%	21	0.1%	2	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	0.2%
	Restaurant Meals	11	0.0%	8	0.0%	3	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Other Special Expenses	26	0.1%	21	0.1%	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.1%
SNAP	Mean of cases receiving	\$81		\$82		\$77		\$85		\$86	
	Count of cases receiving	27,086	90.7%	21,151	90.5%	3,981	90.5%	80	76.9%	1,874	95.1%
Medical Assistance		29,691	99.5%	23,257	99.5%	4,380	99.6%	102	98.1%	1,952	99.0%
MSA usage	Mean months	93.6		90.43		107.9		118.65		97.44	
Cumulative months	Median months	75		70		93		115		79	
1992 - 2013	One - two years	5,940	19.9%	4,978	21.3%	573	13.0%	19	18.3%	370	18.8%
	Three - four years	4,806	16.1%	3,910	16.7%	561	12.8%	7	6.7%	328	16.6%
	Five - six years	3,869	13.0%	3,048	13.0%	576	13.1%	12	11.5%	233	11.8%
	Seven - eight years	3,218	10.8%	2,444	10.5%	562	12.8%	11	10.6%	201	10.2%
	Nine - 10 years	2,626	8.8%	2,004	8.6%	438	10.0%	5	4.8%	179	9.1%
	11 - 12 years	2,032	6.8%	1,523	6.5%	364	8.3%	9	8.7%	136	6.9%
	13 - 14 years	1,765	5.9%	1,335	5.7%	311	7.1%	8	7.7%	111	5.6%
	15 - 16 years	1,556	5.2%	1,159	5.0%	273	6.2%	10	9.6%	114	5.8%
	17 years or more	4,035	13.5%	2,972	12.7%	741	16.8%	23	22.1%	299	15.2%
Other public assistance in Minnesota: 2013	Emergency Services	1,830	6.1%	1,651	7.1%	43	1.0%	4	3.8%	132	6.7%
	General Assistance	1,168	3.9%	1,075	4.6%	62	1.4%	1	1.0%	30	1.5%
	Group Residential Housing	1,130	3.8%	1,036	4.4%	20	0.5%	1	1.0%	73	3.7%
	MN Family Investment Program	334	1.1%	321	1.4%	10	0.2%	0	0.0%	3	0.2%
	Refugee Cash Assistance	9	0.0%	8	0.0%	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other public assistance in Minnesota: 2004 - 2013	Emergency Services	8,713	29.2%	7,782	33.3%	289	6.6%	17	16.3%	625	31.7%
	General Assistance	8,264	27.7%	7,082	30.3%	686	15.6%	6	5.8%	490	24.9%
	Group Residential Housing	5,127	17.2%	4,688	20.1%	68	1.5%	5	4.8%	366	18.6%
	MN Family Investment Program	2,664	8.9%	2,412	10.3%	158	3.6%	5	4.8%	89	4.5%
	Refugee Cash Assistance	667	2.2%	438	1.9%	227	5.2%	1	1.0%	1	0.1%
Unearned income	SSI	27,621	92.5%	23,127	98.9%	4,373	99.4%	104	100.0%	17	0.9%
	RSDI	12,172	40.8%	8,536	36.5%	1,645	37.4%	40	38.5%	1,951	99.0%
	Both SSI and RSDI	10,019	33.6%	8,344	35.7%	1,622	36.9%	40	38.5%	13	0.7%
	Veterans benefits	125	0.4%	75	0.3%	39	0.9%	1	1.0%	10	0.5%
	Retirement income	83	0.3%	26	0.1%	38	0.9%	0	0.0%	19	1.0%
	Spousal or child support	45	0.2%	35	0.1%	3	0.1%	0	0.0%	7	0.4%
	Other	113	0.4%	83	0.4%	15	0.3%	0	0.0%	15	0.8%

Table 3. December 2013 MSA Cases by County or Consortia

Servicing agency	Total cases		All MSA							
			Supplemental Security Income eligible						Non-SSI eligible	
	Total	Percent of Total	Disabled	Percent of servicing agency	Aged	Percent of servicing agency	Blind	Percent of servicing agency	Non-SSI Eligible	Percent of servicing agency
Aitkin	92	0.3%	66	71.7%	13	14.1%	0	0.0%	13	14.1%
Anoka	989	3.3%	781	79.0%	111	11.2%	3	0.3%	94	9.5%
Becker	179	0.6%	139	77.7%	24	13.4%	0	0.0%	16	8.9%
Beltrami	326	1.1%	285	87.4%	25	7.7%	2	0.6%	14	4.3%
Benton	205	0.7%	170	82.9%	11	5.4%	1	0.5%	23	11.2%
Big Stone	30	0.1%	21	70.0%	8	26.7%	0	0.0%	1	3.3%
Blue Earth	278	0.9%	228	82.0%	23	8.3%	2	0.7%	25	9.0%
Brown	88	0.3%	58	65.9%	18	20.5%	0	0.0%	12	13.6%
Carlton	165	0.6%	140	84.8%	13	7.9%	0	0.0%	12	7.3%
Carver	155	0.5%	125	80.6%	16	10.3%	0	0.0%	14	9.0%
Cass	159	0.5%	129	81.1%	22	13.8%	1	0.6%	7	4.4%
Chippewa	33	0.1%	28	84.8%	4	12.1%	1	3.0%	0	0.0%
Chisago	122	0.4%	100	82.0%	11	9.0%	1	0.8%	10	8.2%
Clay	355	1.2%	290	81.7%	37	10.4%	0	0.0%	28	7.9%
Clearwater	58	0.2%	42	72.4%	14	24.1%	0	0.0%	2	3.4%
Cook	25	0.1%	23	92.0%	2	8.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Cottonwood	48	0.2%	40	83.3%	3	6.3%	1	2.1%	4	8.3%
Crow Wing	365	1.2%	297	81.4%	32	8.8%	3	0.8%	33	9.0%
Dakota	1,223	4.1%	895	73.2%	206	16.8%	6	0.5%	116	9.5%
Dodge	54	0.2%	38	70.4%	10	18.5%	0	0.0%	6	11.1%
Douglas	146	0.5%	115	78.8%	18	12.3%	1	0.7%	12	8.2%
Faribault / Martin	181	0.6%	133	73.5%	22	12.2%	1	0.6%	25	13.8%
Fillmore	71	0.2%	50	70.4%	17	23.9%	1	1.4%	3	4.2%
Freeborn	133	0.4%	104	78.2%	17	12.8%	0	0.0%	12	9.0%
Goodhue	97	0.3%	81	83.5%	11	11.3%	1	1.0%	4	4.1%
Grant	17	0.1%	16	94.1%	1	5.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Hennepin	10,024	33.6%	7,376	73.6%	2,125	21.2%	24	0.2%	499	5.0%
Houston	64	0.2%	38	59.4%	16	25.0%	0	0.0%	10	15.6%
Hubbard	115	0.4%	91	79.1%	15	13.0%	0	0.0%	9	7.8%
Isanti	89	0.3%	79	88.8%	6	6.7%	0	0.0%	4	4.5%

Table 3 – page 2

Servicing agency	Total cases		All MSA							
			Supplemental Security Income eligible						Non-SSI eligible	
	Total	Percent of Total	Disabled	Percent of servicing agency	Aged	Percent of servicing agency	Blind	Percent of servicing agency	Non-SSI eligible	Percent of servicing agency
	29,847	100.0%	23,373	78.3%	4,399	14.7%	104	0.3%	1,971	6.6%
Itasca	319	1.1%	258	80.9%	28	8.8%	1	0.3%	32	10.0%
Jackson	32	0.1%	24	75.0%	7	21.9%	0	0.0%	1	3.1%
Kanabec	81	0.3%	66	81.5%	7	8.6%	0	0.0%	8	9.9%
Kandiyohi	175	0.6%	139	79.4%	23	13.1%	1	0.6%	12	6.9%
Kittson	14	0.0%	13	92.9%	1	7.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Koochiching	123	0.4%	103	83.7%	12	9.8%	0	0.0%	8	6.5%
Lac qui Parle	24	0.1%	19	79.2%	5	20.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Lake	43	0.1%	39	90.7%	2	4.7%	0	0.0%	2	4.7%
Lake of the Woods	12	0.0%	11	91.7%	1	8.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Le Seuer	49	0.2%	33	67.3%	13	26.5%	0	0.0%	3	6.1%
McLeod	112	0.4%	94	83.9%	9	8.0%	0	0.0%	9	8.0%
Mahnomen	67	0.2%	46	68.7%	11	16.4%	0	0.0%	10	14.9%
Marshall	45	0.2%	26	57.8%	16	35.6%	0	0.0%	3	6.7%
Meeker	78	0.3%	60	76.9%	8	10.3%	0	0.0%	10	12.8%
Mille Lacs	89	0.3%	78	87.6%	7	7.9%	1	1.1%	3	3.4%
Morrison	162	0.5%	118	72.8%	33	20.4%	0	0.0%	11	6.8%
Mower	206	0.7%	167	81.1%	24	11.7%	1	0.5%	14	6.8%
Nicollet	87	0.3%	62	71.3%	10	11.5%	1	1.1%	14	16.1%
Nobles	62	0.2%	51	82.3%	7	11.3%	0	0.0%	4	6.5%
Norman	40	0.1%	30	75.0%	8	20.0%	0	0.0%	2	5.0%
Olmsted	655	2.2%	511	78.0%	92	14.0%	2	0.3%	50	7.6%
Otter Tail	286	1.0%	210	73.4%	47	16.4%	1	0.3%	28	9.8%
Pennington	71	0.2%	46	64.8%	21	29.6%	0	0.0%	4	5.6%
Pine	122	0.4%	96	78.7%	16	13.1%	0	0.0%	10	8.2%
Polk	220	0.7%	186	84.5%	14	6.4%	1	0.5%	19	8.6%

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Servicing agency	Total cases		All MSA							
			Supplemental Security Income eligible						Non-SSI eligible	
	Total	Percent of Total	Disabled	Percent of servicing agency	Aged	Percent of servicing agency	Blind	Percent of servicing agency	Non-SSI eligible	Percent of servicing agency
	29,847	100.0%	23,373	78.3%	4,399	14.7%	104	0.3%	1,971	6.6%
Pope	40	0.1%	34	85.0%	3	7.5%	0	0.0%	3	7.5%
Ramsey	5,593	18.7%	4,611	82.4%	665	11.9%	26	0.5%	291	5.2%
Red Lake	16	0.1%	14	87.5%	1	6.3%	0	0.0%	1	6.3%
Renville	45	0.2%	36	80.0%	3	6.7%	2	4.4%	4	8.9%
Rice	139	0.5%	117	84.2%	14	10.1%	0	0.0%	8	5.8%
Roseau	38	0.1%	33	86.8%	5	13.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
St. Louis	2,029	6.8%	1,810	89.2%	72	3.5%	10	0.5%	137	6.8%
Scott	262	0.9%	172	65.6%	69	26.3%	0	0.0%	21	8.0%
Sherburne	143	0.5%	109	76.2%	12	8.4%	0	0.0%	22	15.4%
Sibley	22	0.1%	21	95.5%	1	4.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Southwest Health and Human Services	324	1.1%	262	80.9%	35	10.8%	0	0.0%	27	8.3%
Stearns	528	1.8%	423	80.1%	43	8.1%	2	0.4%	60	11.4%
Steele	146	0.5%	118	80.8%	16	11.0%	1	0.7%	11	7.5%
Stevens	30	0.1%	24	80.0%	5	16.7%	0	0.0%	1	3.3%
Swift	49	0.2%	32	65.3%	14	28.6%	0	0.0%	3	6.1%
Todd	140	0.5%	106	75.7%	24	17.1%	1	0.7%	9	6.4%
Traverse	17	0.1%	15	88.2%	2	11.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Wabasha	59	0.2%	43	72.9%	12	20.3%	0	0.0%	4	6.8%
Wadena	140	0.5%	111	79.3%	17	12.1%	1	0.7%	11	7.9%
Waseca	48	0.2%	41	85.4%	7	14.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Washington	433	1.5%	345	79.7%	43	9.9%	0	0.0%	45	10.4%
Watonwan	34	0.1%	27	79.4%	5	14.7%	1	2.9%	1	2.9%
White Earth Nation	41	0.1%	30	73.2%	7	17.1%	0	0.0%	4	9.8%
Wilkin	43	0.1%	29	67.4%	9	20.9%	0	0.0%	5	11.6%
Winona	213	0.7%	173	81.2%	19	8.9%	2	0.9%	19	8.9%
Wright	174	0.6%	140	80.5%	16	9.2%	0	0.0%	18	10.3%
Yellow Medicine	40	0.1%	32	80.0%	7	17.5%	0	0.0%	1	2.5%

Notes and Definitions

Table 1

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

The only households with more than one eligible person are married couples who are both eligible for MSA. Other household members are not eligible for MSA.

A person was determined to reside in a facility when an active STAT FACI panel in MAXIS, the state's administrative database, showed an entry date on or before Dec. 31, 2013, and an exit date that was blank or greater than a December entry date. People who spent part of, but not all of, December in a facility were considered facility residents.

Table 2

In 2011, the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) redesigned the database that stores MSA information. In reports previous to 2012, Special Needs grants were determined by a grant amount above the standard amount for cases receiving housing assistance and through various MAXIS panels for other special needs grants. The new database stores this information in the same place where grant amounts and eligibility are determined which allows for more accurate reporting of these grants, including the amount of the Special Needs grant.

Previous to the database changes, MSA-eligible spouses were on two different cases. For this report, those spouse cases were combined into a single household and reported as one. The new database combines these households. There should be no effect on the data due to these changes.

Before the 2012 MSA report, housing assistance was called shelter needy.

Eligibility for other food and cash assistance programs was determined by case number. If a member of the case had previously received assistance under a different case number, it was not included in the table.

Unearned income was verified, retrospective income reported to the state, except in cases where only prospective income was reported. Previous reports did not include prospective income as an alternative data source for unearned income. Because of the update in the unearned income measure, it is important not to make conclusions by comparing with the unearned income measure in previous reports.

Table 3

The county was the county that processed the eligibility version in effect for December.

As of December 2013, two county consortia had formed in Minnesota. A county consortium is the legal merger of the human services departments of multiple counties that consolidates the administrative activities of these counties. Such a county consortium is viewed as one entity by the state. Therefore, measures in this report are reported for the county consortium and not for its individual counties. County consortia and member counties include the following:

- Faribault/Martin: Faribault and Martin (before 2013)
- Southwest Health and Human Services: Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Redwood and Rock (Sixth county added by 2013).

Data source: DHS MAXIS Data Warehouse, February and April 2013 downloads

The Research, Planning and Evaluation Unit plans to add more content about DHS policy and activities to the 2014 Minnesota Supplemental Aid report.