



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

December 2015 Minnesota Supplemental Aid Cases and Eligible People

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LB3-0001 (3-13)



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Abbreviations and eligibility types

Programs

MSA	Minnesota Supplemental Aid
SSI	Supplemental Security Income

Eligibility types for Minnesota Supplemental Aid

Aged	Receives SSI and age 65 or older
Blind	Receives SSI and blind
Disabled	Receives SSI and has a disability listed in the program eligibility criteria
Other	Not receiving SSI but still meets the program eligibility criteria

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, people must meet the following requirements:

- Age 18 or older
- Receiving Supplemental Security Income, or eligible to receive it, except their income is too high. If income is too high, people may qualify if they meet one of the criteria:
 - Age 65 or older
 - Blind
 - Have a disability under SSI criteria.
- Meet the asset limit:
 - \$2,000 for an individual
 - \$3,000 for a couple
 - \$10,000 for non-SSI recipients, beginning June 1, 2016.
- As of October 2015, the program allows an earned income disregard for those on MSA but not SSI due to excess income:
 - The first \$65 of earned income, and then
 - Half of any remaining earned income.

Key findings

Between 2014 and 2015, the number of cases decreased by 0.2 percent. 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 was 101 months (about 8 years). In 2015, very few eligible people received assistance from other cash assistance programs.

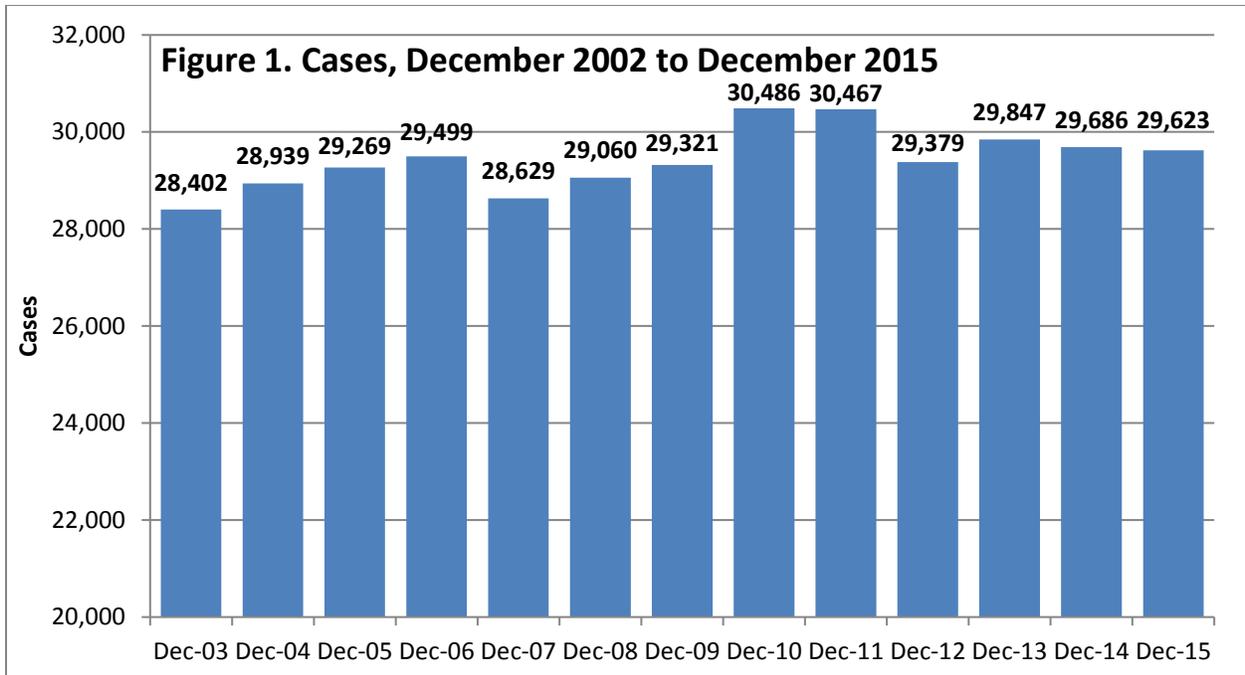
Caseloads

December cases

In December 2015, there were 30,807 MSA-eligible people in 29,623 cases. A case represents one or more people within a household receiving one program grant. For context, the Social Security Administration reported that 80,493 Minnesotans aged 18 and older were receiving SSI in December 2014. [[SSI Recipients by State and County, 2014](#), Social Security Administration]

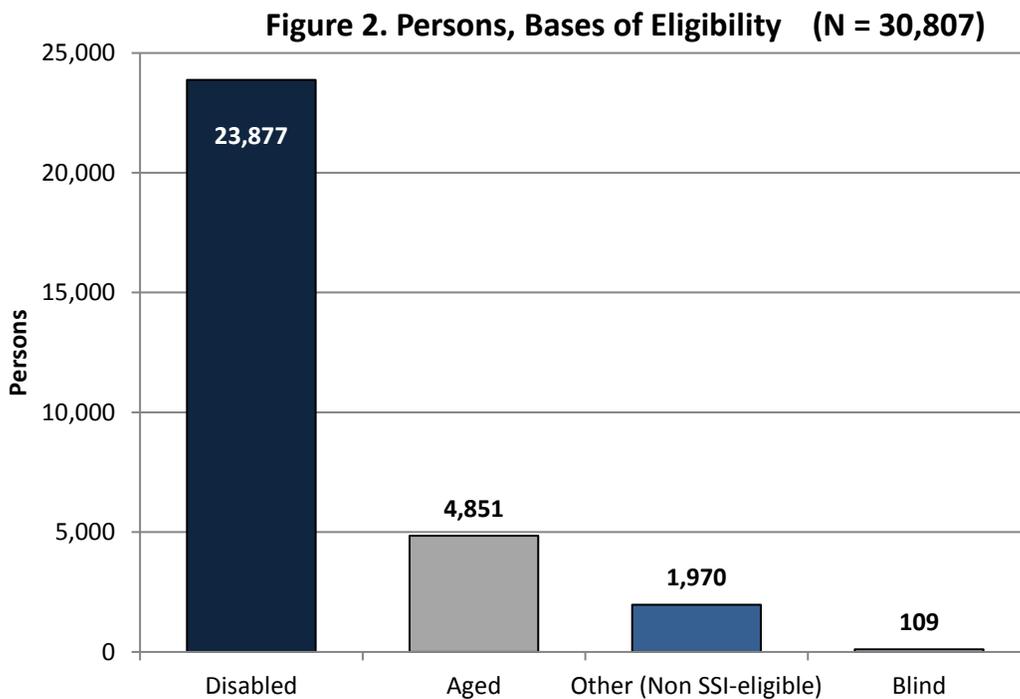
Caseload trends

The number of cases remained fairly stable. Between 2014 and 2015, the number of cases decreased by 0.2 percent. [Figure 1, Data Table 2 on page 8]



Bases of eligibility

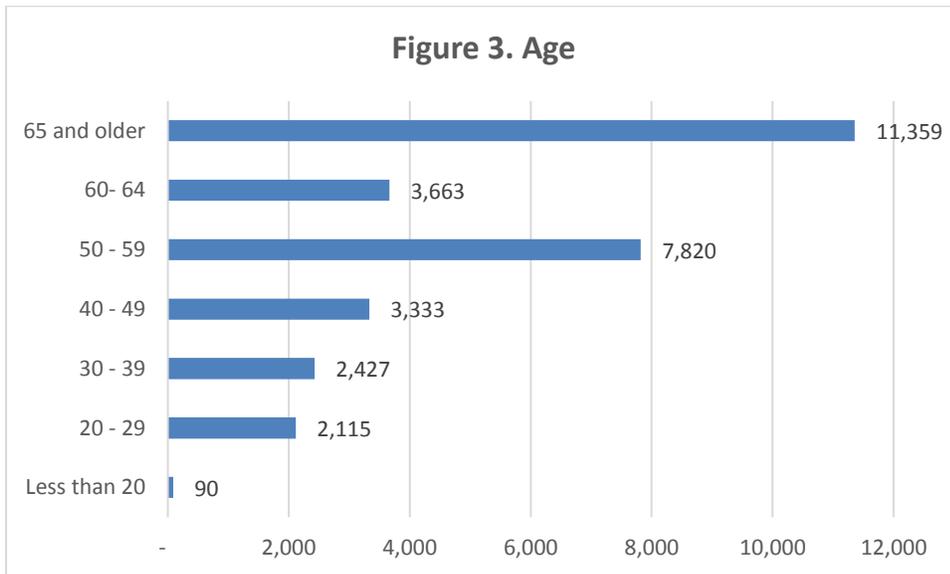
The majority of participants were eligible in the Disabled category (78 percent), 16 percent in the Aged category, and 6 percent in the Other category. Less than 1 percent were eligible under the Blind category. [Figure 2, Data Table 1 on page 7] The categories do not overlap.



Participant characteristics

Age

While 37 percent of eligible people were aged 65 or older, only 16 percent of eligible people were in the Aged eligibility type. Within the other eligibility types, people aged 65 or older made up 24 percent of the Disabled group, 18 percent of the Blind group, and 34 percent of the Other group. The average age was 59 years overall. The average age ranged from 50 years old in the Blind group to 79 years old for the Aged group. [Data Table 1 on page 7]



Gender

More than half of each eligibility group were female. Overall, 57 percent were female. The Aged group had the largest proportion of women (66 percent). [Data Table 1 on page 7]

Education

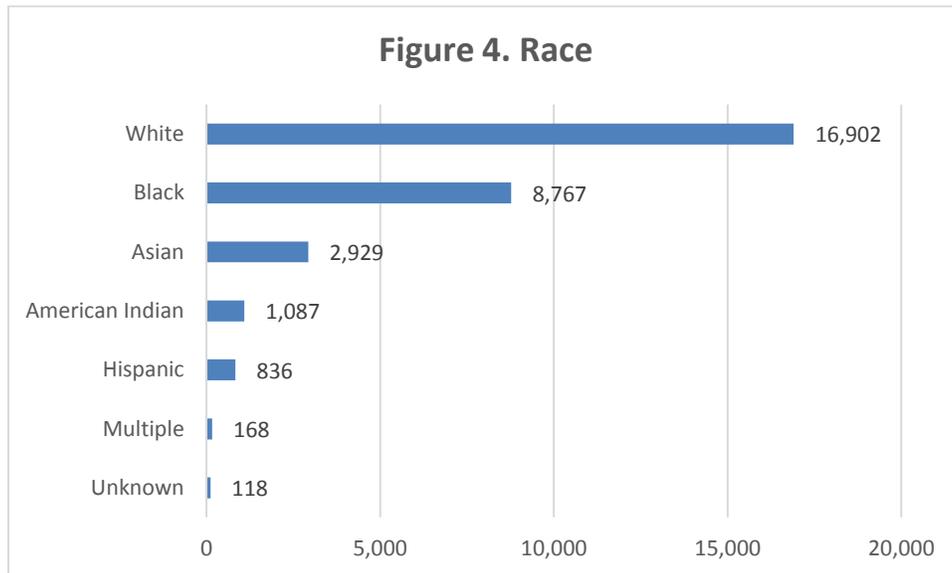
The majority of participants had at least a high school diploma, including 62 percent of the Disabled group, 65 percent of the Blind group, 77 percent of the Other group, and 45 percent of the Aged group. [Data Table 1 on page 7]

Marital status

Overall, 9 percent of participants were married and living with their spouse. Those eligible under the Aged group were most likely to be married (22 percent), while 6 percent of Disabled, 11 percent of Blind, and 5 percent of Other were married. [Data Table 1 on page 7]

Race and ethnicity

More than half of participants were white (55 percent), 29 percent were black, 10 percent were Asian, 4 percent were American Indian, and 3 were percent Hispanic. [Figure 4, Date Table 1 on page 5] Those eligible as Aged were more likely to be Asian (22 percent) than other eligibility groups. [Data Table 1 on page 7]



Reside in facility

In December 2015, 4 percent of participants lived in a facility. Of those living in facilities, 57 percent were living in nursing facilities and 17 percent in intermediate care facilities. [Data Table 1 on page 7]

Case characteristics

Grant amount and Special Needs grants

The average grant amount was \$105. About one quarter of cases also receive a special needs increase to their grant which adds an average of \$93 to the grant. Special diets are the most common reason for a grant increase; 21 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. Three percent received the housing assistance amount of \$194,¹ because 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 8]

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program eligibility

Nearly all cases were also eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, with an average grant amount of \$80. [Data Table 2 on page 8]

Time receiving Minnesota Supplemental Aid

The average length of time that cases had been eligible was 101 months (about 8 years); 24 percent received assistance for less than three years, and 31 percent for more than 10 years. Those eligible in the Aged and Blind categories had, on average, received benefits the longest. [Data Table 2 on page 8]

Other public assistance programs

In 2015, nearly all cases were eligible for Medical Assistance (Medicaid) or were covered by another state health insurance program, while very few received assistance from other cash assistance programs. However, more than a quarter had received Emergency Services or General Assistance in the last 10 years. Cases in the Disabled category were most likely to have been eligible for Emergency Services (31 percent) or General Assistance (28 percent), followed by Other eligible cases of which 30 percent used Emergency Services and 23 percent used General Assistance. [Data Table 2 on page 8]

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

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of Program Participants, December 2015

Participant characteristics		Total eligible people		All Minnesota Supplemental Aid							
				Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligible				Non-SSI eligible			
		Total	Percent of total	Disabled	Percent	Aged	Percent	Blind	Percent	Other	Percent
Eligible people	Count	30,807	100.0%	23,877	77.5%	4,851	15.7%	109	0.4%	1,970	6.4%
Age	Mean	58.9		54.8		79.0		50.3		59.5	
	Median	60		57		78		53		60	
	Minimum	18		18		65		21		19	
	Maximum	109		106		106		85		109	
Frequency	Less than 20	90	0.3%	89	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
	20 - 29	2,115	6.9%	2,053	8.6%	0	0.0%	14	12.8%	48	2.4%
	30 - 39	2,427	7.9%	2,265	9.5%	0	0.0%	20	18.3%	142	7.2%
	40 - 49	3,333	10.8%	3,070	12.9%	0	0.0%	16	14.7%	247	12.5%
	50 - 59	7,820	25.4%	7,234	30.3%	0	0.0%	21	19.3%	565	28.7%
	60 - 64	3,663	11.9%	3,347	14.0%	0	0.0%	18	16.5%	298	15.1%
	65 and older	11,359	36.9%	5,819	24.4%	4,851	100.0%	20	18.3%	669	34.0%
Gender	Female	17,536	56.9%	13,172	55.2%	3,183	65.6%	57	52.3%	1,124	57.1%
	Male	13,271	43.1%	10,705	44.8%	1,668	34.4%	52	47.7%	846	42.9%
Education level	None/unknown	3,561	11.6%	2,241	9.4%	1,232	25.4%	15	13.8%	73	3.7%
	Grade school	1,591	5.2%	1,048	4.4%	492	10.1%	10	9.2%	41	2.1%
	Some high school	7,032	22.8%	5,753	24.1%	924	19.0%	13	11.9%	342	17.4%
	High school graduate	14,965	48.6%	12,055	50.5%	1,734	35.7%	55	50.5%	1,121	56.9%
	Some post-secondary	2,456	8.0%	1,995	8.4%	186	3.8%	10	9.2%	265	13.5%
	College graduate	584	1.9%	396	1.7%	121	2.5%	4	3.7%	63	3.2%
	Graduate degree	618	2.0%	389	1.6%	162	3.3%	2	1.8%	65	3.3%
	High school grad. or more	18,623	60.5%	14,835	62.1%	2,203	45.4%	71	65.1%	1,514	76.9%
Marital status	Married, living with spouse	2,691	8.7%	1,496	6.3%	1,085	22.4%	12	11.0%	98	5.0%
	Never married	13,568	44.0%	12,006	50.3%	648	13.4%	55	50.5%	859	43.6%
	Previously married	14,548	47.2%	10,375	43.5%	3,118	64.3%	42	38.5%	1,013	51.4%
Race/ethnicity	Asian	2,929	9.5%	1,767	7.4%	1,084	22.3%	15	13.8%	63	3.2%
	Black	8,767	28.5%	7,130	29.9%	1,240	25.6%	26	23.9%	371	18.8%
	Hispanic	836	2.7%	605	2.5%	179	3.7%	2	1.8%	50	2.5%
	American Indian	1,087	3.5%	981	4.1%	54	1.1%	2	1.8%	50	2.5%
	White	16,902	54.9%	13,147	55.1%	2,274	46.9%	61	56.0%	1,420	72.1%
	Multiple	168	0.5%	151	0.6%	6	0.1%	1	0.9%	10	0.5%
	Unknown	118	0.4%	96	0.4%	14	0.3%	2	1.8%	6	0.3%
Citizenship	Non-U.S.	1,175	3.8%	767	3.2%	370	7.6%	6	5.5%	32	1.6%
	U.S.	29,632	96.2%	23,110	96.8%	4,481	92.4%	103	94.5%	1,938	98.4%
Facility resident	Count	1,173	3.8%	956	4.0%	167	3.4%	9	8.3%	41	2.1%
Facility type	Nursing	665	56.7%	485	50.7%	157	94.0%	3	33.3%	20	48.8%
Percent of facility residents	Intermediate care	197	16.8%	188	19.7%	0	0.0%	6	66.7%	3	7.3%
	Group Residential Housing	157	13.4%	140	14.6%	9	5.4%	0	0.0%	8	19.5%
	Chemical dependency	24	2.0%	23	2.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.4%
	Mental health	17	1.4%	17	1.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Other	116	9.9%	105	11.0%	1	0.6%	0	0.0%	9	22.0%

Table 2. Economic Characteristics of Cases, December 2015

Minnesota Supplemental Aid households		Total cases		All Minnesota Supplemental Aid							
				Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligible				Non-SSI eligible			
		Total	Percent of total	Disabled	Percent	Aged	Percent	Blind	Percent	Other	Percent
Cases	Count	29,623	100.0%	23,264	78.5%	4,321	14.6%	108	0.4%	1,930	6.5%
Grant amount	Mean	\$105		\$106		\$111		\$102		\$81	
	Median	\$81		\$81		\$81		\$81		\$54	
Special Needs grants	Mean of special need amount (all cases)	\$25		\$24		\$25		\$18		\$40	
	Mean of special need amount (receiving)	\$93		\$92		\$88		\$107		\$108	
	Total Special Needs Grants	8,059	27.2%	6,099	26.2%	1,227	28.4%	18	16.7%	715	37.0%
	Special Diets	6,188	20.9%	4,441	19.1%	1,207	27.9%	14	13.0%	526	27.3%
	Representative Payee	1,436	4.8%	1,291	5.5%	14	0.3%	4	3.7%	127	6.6%
	Housing Assistance	791	2.7%	668	2.9%	5	0.1%	3	2.8%	115	6.0%
	Guardianship Fees	24	0.1%	21	0.1%	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.1%
	Restaurant Meals	7	0.0%	4	0.0%	3	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Other Special Expenses	14	0.0%	13	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
SNAP	Mean of cases receiving	\$80		\$80		\$78		\$78		\$83	
	Count of cases receiving	27,027	91.2%	21,150	90.9%	3,961	91.7%	89	82.4%	1,827	94.7%
Medical Assistance		29,267	98.8%	22,963	98.7%	4,296	99.4%	107	99.1%	1,901	98.5%
Any state medical insurance		29,312	99.0%	23,000	98.9%	4,299	99.5%	107	99.1%	1,906	98.8%
Program usage	Mean months	101.1		98.3		115.1		120.0		101.1	
Cumulative months	Median months	81		78		103		99		81	
1992 - 2015	One - two years	7,222	24.4%	5,903	25.4%	787	18.2%	25	23.1%	507	26.3%
	Three - four years	4,336	14.6%	3,551	15.3%	505	11.7%	10	9.3%	270	14.0%
	Five - six years	3,549	12.0%	2,873	12.3%	456	10.6%	10	9.3%	210	10.9%
	Seven - eight years	3,019	10.2%	2,315	10.0%	528	12.2%	13	12.0%	163	8.4%
	Nine - 10 years	2,441	8.2%	1,854	8.0%	420	9.7%	4	3.7%	163	8.4%
	11 - 12 years	1,980	6.7%	1,463	6.3%	375	8.7%	7	6.5%	135	7.0%
	13 - 14 years	1,613	5.4%	1,220	5.2%	283	6.5%	9	8.3%	101	5.2%
	15 - 16 years	1,414	4.8%	1,061	4.6%	254	5.9%	7	6.5%	92	4.8%
	17 years or more	4,049	13.7%	3,024	13.0%	713	16.5%	23	21.3%	289	15.0%
Other public assistance in Minnesota: 2015	Emergency Services	1,521	5.1%	1,369	5.9%	33	0.8%	2	1.9%	117	6.1%
	General Assistance	846	2.9%	747	3.2%	62	1.4%	1	0.9%	36	1.9%
	Group Residential Housing	1,107	3.7%	1,014	4.4%	20	0.5%	1	0.9%	72	3.7%
	MN Family Investment Program	353	1.2%	336	1.4%	7	0.2%	4	3.7%	6	0.3%
	Refugee Cash Assistance	14	0.0%	10	0.0%	4	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other public assistance in Minnesota: 2006 - 2015	Emergency Services	8,065	27.2%	7,220	31.0%	260	6.0%	16	14.8%	569	29.5%
	General Assistance	7,693	26.0%	6,614	28.4%	625	14.5%	6	5.6%	448	23.2%
	Group Residential Housing	5,063	17.1%	4,649	20.0%	65	1.5%	8	7.4%	341	17.7%
	MN Family Investment Program	2,467	8.3%	2,224	9.6%	138	3.2%	12	11.1%	93	4.8%
	Refugee Cash Assistance	371	1.3%	258	1.1%	112	2.6%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Unearned income	SSI	27,372	92.4%	22,956	98.7%	4,294	99.4%	107	99.1%	15	0.8%
	RSDI	11,905	40.2%	8,435	36.3%	1,522	35.2%	41	38.0%	1,907	98.8%
	Both SSI and RSDI	9,734	32.9%	8,185	35.2%	1,502	34.8%	40	37.0%	7	0.4%
	Veterans benefits	133	0.4%	91	0.4%	30	0.7%	0	0.0%	12	0.6%
	Retirement income	87	0.3%	31	0.1%	36	0.8%	1	0.9%	19	1.0%
	Spousal or child support	40	0.1%	34	0.1%	2	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	0.2%
	Other	122	0.4%	92	0.4%	13	0.3%	0	0.0%	17	0.9%

Table 3. Cases by Servicing Agency (County, Consortium, or Tribe) December 2015

Servicing agency	Total cases		All Minnesota Supplemental Aid							
			Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligible						Non-SSI eligible	
	Total	Percent of Total	Disabled	Percent of servicing agency cases	Aged	Percent of servicing agency cases	Blind	Percent of servicing agency cases	Other	Percent of servicing agency cases
	29,623	100.0%	23,264	78.5%	4,321	14.6%	108	0.4%	1,930	6.5%
Aitkin	80	0.3%	56	70.0%	8	10.0%	0	0.0%	16	20.0%
Anoka	979	3.3%	757	77.3%	131	13.4%	2	0.2%	89	9.1%
Becker	145	0.5%	111	76.6%	21	14.5%	0	0.0%	13	9.0%
Beltrami	308	1.0%	279	90.6%	14	4.5%	1	0.3%	14	4.5%
Benton	216	0.7%	187	86.6%	9	4.2%	1	0.5%	19	8.8%
Big Stone	25	0.1%	17	68.0%	8	32.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Blue Earth	275	0.9%	227	82.5%	20	7.3%	3	1.1%	25	9.1%
Brown	93	0.3%	66	71.0%	14	15.1%	0	0.0%	13	14.0%
Carlton	172	0.6%	136	79.1%	10	5.8%	0	0.0%	26	15.1%
Carver	183	0.6%	149	81.4%	17	9.3%	1	0.5%	16	8.7%
Cass	173	0.6%	148	85.5%	18	10.4%	0	0.0%	7	4.0%
Chippewa	33	0.1%	26	78.8%	5	15.2%	2	6.1%	0	0.0%
Chisago	112	0.4%	92	82.1%	9	8.0%	1	0.9%	10	8.9%
Clay	333	1.1%	264	79.3%	47	14.1%	0	0.0%	22	6.6%
Clearwater	42	0.1%	35	83.3%	7	16.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Cook	17	0.1%	15	88.2%	2	11.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Crow Wing	342	1.2%	278	81.3%	28	8.2%	2	0.6%	34	9.9%
Dakota	1,259	4.3%	933	74.1%	212	16.8%	5	0.4%	109	8.7%
Des Moines Valley Health and Human Services	96	0.3%	76	79.2%	14	14.6%	1	1.0%	5	5.2%
Douglas	149	0.5%	119	79.9%	17	11.4%	2	1.3%	11	7.4%
Faribault / Martin	205	0.7%	162	79.0%	24	11.7%	0	0.0%	19	9.3%
Fillmore	64	0.2%	47	73.4%	11	17.2%	0	0.0%	6	9.4%
Freeborn	141	0.5%	119	84.4%	13	9.2%	0	0.0%	9	6.4%
Goodhue	95	0.3%	83	87.4%	10	10.5%	0	0.0%	2	2.1%
Grant	13	0.0%	12	92.3%	1	7.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Hennepin	10,165	34.3%	7,462	73.4%	2,138	21.0%	30	0.3%	535	5.3%
Houston	65	0.2%	45	69.2%	12	18.5%	0	0.0%	8	12.3%
Hubbard	102	0.3%	77	75.5%	16	15.7%	0	0.0%	9	8.8%
Isanti	101	0.3%	85	84.2%	7	6.9%	0	0.0%	9	8.9%

Table 3 – page 2

Servicing agency	Total cases		All Minnesota Supplemental Aid							
			Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligible						Non-SSI eligible	
	Total	Percent of Total	Disabled	Percent of servicing agency cases	Aged	Percent of servicing agency cases	Blind	Percent of servicing agency cases	Other	Percent of servicing agency cases
	29,623	100.0%	23,264	78.5%	4,321	14.6%	108	0.4%	1,930	6.5%
Itasca	325	1.1%	261	80.3%	32	9.8%	2	0.6%	30	9.2%
Kanabec	73	0.2%	60	82.2%	5	6.8%	0	0.0%	8	11.0%
Kandiyohi	165	0.6%	136	82.4%	15	9.1%	1	0.6%	13	7.9%
Kittson	17	0.1%	15	88.2%	2	11.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Koochiching	113	0.4%	97	85.8%	9	8.0%	0	0.0%	7	6.2%
Lac qui Parle	26	0.1%	18	69.2%	8	30.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Lake	45	0.2%	39	86.7%	3	6.7%	0	0.0%	3	6.7%
Lake of the Woods	12	0.0%	11	91.7%	1	8.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Le Seuer	68	0.2%	49	72.1%	13	19.1%	0	0.0%	6	8.8%
McLeod	107	0.4%	87	81.3%	9	8.4%	0	0.0%	11	10.3%
Mahnomen	26	0.1%	15	57.7%	6	23.1%	0	0.0%	5	19.2%
Marshall	44	0.1%	29	65.9%	12	27.3%	0	0.0%	3	6.8%
Meeker	62	0.2%	48	77.4%	6	9.7%	0	0.0%	8	12.9%
Mille Lacs	85	0.3%	68	80.0%	10	11.8%	1	1.2%	6	7.1%
Minnesota Prairie County Alliance	241	0.8%	201	83.4%	25	10.4%	1	0.4%	14	5.8%
Morrison	143	0.5%	109	76.2%	28	19.6%	0	0.0%	6	4.2%
Mower	218	0.7%	180	82.6%	16	7.3%	3	1.4%	19	8.7%
Nicollet	71	0.2%	57	80.3%	5	7.0%	0	0.0%	9	12.7%
Nobles	59	0.2%	45	76.3%	9	15.3%	0	0.0%	5	8.5%
Norman	42	0.1%	35	83.3%	5	11.9%	0	0.0%	2	4.8%
Olmsted	642	2.2%	494	76.9%	103	16.0%	2	0.3%	43	6.7%
Otter Tail	277	0.9%	215	77.6%	34	12.3%	0	0.0%	28	10.1%
Pennington	73	0.2%	46	63.0%	22	30.1%	0	0.0%	5	6.8%
Pine	101	0.3%	85	84.2%	11	10.9%	0	0.0%	5	5.0%
Polk	211	0.7%	181	85.8%	11	5.2%	1	0.5%	18	8.5%

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Servicing agency	Total cases		All Minnesota Supplemental Aid							
			Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligible						Non-SSI eligible	
	Total	Percent of Total	Disabled	Percent of servicing agency cases	Aged	Percent of servicing agency cases	Blind	Percent of servicing agency cases	Other	Percent of servicing agency cases
	29,623	100.0%	23,264	78.5%	4,321	14.6%	108	0.4%	1,930	6.5%
Pope	53	0.2%	43	81.1%	6	11.3%	0	0.0%	4	7.5%
Ramsey	5,465	18.4%	4,520	82.7%	641	11.7%	27	0.5%	277	5.1%
Red Lake	19	0.1%	16	84.2%	1	5.3%	0	0.0%	2	10.5%
Renville	59	0.2%	47	79.7%	3	5.1%	1	1.7%	8	13.6%
Rice	148	0.5%	124	83.8%	15	10.1%	0	0.0%	9	6.1%
Roseau	30	0.1%	26	86.7%	4	13.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
St. Louis	1,865	6.3%	1,661	89.1%	65	3.5%	9	0.5%	130	7.0%
Scott	273	0.9%	183	67.0%	75	27.5%	1	0.4%	14	5.1%
Sherburne	145	0.5%	116	80.0%	11	7.6%	0	0.0%	18	12.4%
Sibley	25	0.1%	25	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Southwest Health and Human Services	309	1.0%	241	78.0%	42	13.6%	2	0.6%	24	7.8%
Stearns	519	1.8%	431	83.0%	45	8.7%	2	0.4%	41	7.9%
Stevens	30	0.1%	25	83.3%	5	16.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Swift	47	0.2%	31	66.0%	12	25.5%	0	0.0%	4	8.5%
Todd	135	0.5%	101	74.8%	25	18.5%	1	0.7%	8	5.9%
Traverse	16	0.1%	13	81.3%	3	18.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Wabasha	56	0.2%	43	76.8%	9	16.1%	0	0.0%	4	7.1%
Wadena	131	0.4%	104	79.4%	17	13.0%	1	0.8%	9	6.9%
Washington	424	1.4%	343	80.9%	43	10.1%	1	0.2%	37	8.7%
Watsonwan	33	0.1%	29	87.9%	4	12.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
White Earth Nation	153	0.5%	126	82.4%	14	9.2%	0	0.0%	13	8.5%
Wilkin	44	0.1%	33	75.0%	6	13.6%	0	0.0%	5	11.4%
Winona	203	0.7%	168	82.8%	14	6.9%	1	0.5%	20	9.9%
Wright	171	0.6%	136	79.5%	14	8.2%	0	0.0%	21	12.3%
Yellow Medicine	41	0.1%	35	85.4%	4	9.8%	0	0.0%	2	4.9%

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 the program. Other household members are not eligible for Minnesota Supplemental Aid.

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, 2015, 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 redesigned the database that stores program 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, 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 prospective income reported to the state. 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 lead agency (county, consortium or tribe) was the agency that processed the eligibility version in effect for December.

As of December 2015, four 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
- Southwest Health and Human Services: Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Redwood and Rock
- Des Moines Valley Health and Human Services: Cottonwood and Jackson
- Minnesota Prairie County Alliance (MNPrairie): Dodge, Steele, and Waseca
- White Earth Nation

Data source: DHS MAXIS Data Warehouse, February 2016 download.