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# **Minnesota Family Investment Program and Diversionary Work Program: Characteristics of Cases and People**

December 2020

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## Abbreviations

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Abbreviation	Full Title
CCAP	Child Care Assistance Program
DWP	Diversionsary Work Program
DHS	Minnesota Department of Human Services (department)
FSS	Family Stabilization Services
HAG	Housing Assistance Grant
MFIP	Minnesota Family Investment Program
PRWORA	Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

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## Executive Summary

The Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) is Minnesota's family cash assistance program, providing financial payments and other services to help stabilize families with low incomes. It includes both a cash portion and a food portion which is funded by the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The Diversionary Work Program (DWP) is a short-term program meant to assist families in crisis to quickly regain employment. DWP grants are cash-only, though participants can apply for SNAP independent of their DWP benefits. Both programs are available only to families with minor children or pregnant women.

### Effects of COVID-19 on MFIP and DWP characteristics

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a state peacetime emergency in Minnesota beginning March 13, 2020. The federal government also declared a public health emergency that is still in effect as of this report. Many federal and state policy waivers granted during the emergency affected normal program operations.

As of December 2020, the following changes relevant to this report were in effect:

- DWP was suspended, and all DWP-eligible cases enrolled in MFIP.
- MFIP cases reaching the 60-month time limit were extended.
- MFIP cases were not put into sanction.
- Reporting requirements for all cash programs were suspended.

### Cases and people

In December 2020, the number of individuals served by MFIP included 60,963 children and 27,196 adults in 31,136 cases.

For both programs combined, the caseload size rose by 18% overall from December 2019 to December 2020. Over the ten-year period of 2011 to 2020, the caseload fell by 22%.

### Participant demographics

The median age of adults enrolled in MFIP was 32, with 81 percent of enrolled adults being female. Most MFIP-enrolled adults had at least a high school diploma or a General Educational Development (GED) certificate (72%) and are U.S citizens (91%).

## Introduction

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 [PL 104-193] set federal program requirements for state cash assistance programs that use federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds, such as a five-year limit on cash assistance, a work-first emphasis, work requirements, and other rules. Within this broad framework, states have flexibility to designate specific policies for programs. The Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), the state's TANF program, was established in 1998. It uses the TANF federal block grant and state funds to provide families in deep poverty with income support, food benefits, and services to support employment. State funds are used for grants to households with two parents, teen parents, certain non-citizens, and families participating in the Family Stabilization Services (FSS) track.

The federal Deficit Reduction Act [PL 109-171] of 2005 retained the original main program requirements but narrowed the definition of work activities and increased work activity documentation requirements.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) introduced the Family Stabilization Services track to MFIP in February 2008 for families with multiple barriers or disabilities who may benefit from a more flexible employment plan. This service track enables county agencies and Tribal Nations to develop employment plans with an emphasis on overcoming barriers to employment. It uses a case management model to help families achieve the greatest amount of economic stability possible. Because state funding provides the benefits to families in this service track, these households are not included in the federal Work Participation Rate. All active MFIP cases, including families in Family Stabilization Services, are included in the MFIP case and person totals in this report.

The Diversionary Work Program (DWP) is a separate program with services that include job training and education, and employment support services, such as child care and transportation assistance. DWP participants are required to engage in approved activities documented in their mandatory individual employment plan. DWP grants last a maximum of four consecutive months, paid directly to landlords and utility companies to cover portions of these costs.

## COVID-19, the state peacetime emergency and federal public health emergency

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a state peacetime emergency in Minnesota beginning March 13, 2020. The federal government also declared a public health emergency, which was still in effect as of the period reported of this report. Many federal and state policy waivers granted during the public health emergency affected normal program operations. These waivers included a reduction in participant reporting requirements, suspension of in-person meetings, and verbal attestations and signatures. Financial workers and employment service providers adapted during the emergency, using more flexible, person-centered approaches.

As of December 2020, the following changes relevant to this report were in effect:

- DWP was suspended. All DWP-eligible cases were enrolled in MFIP and coded as “Unemployable” to create MFIP eligibility in MAXIS if no other “unlikely to benefit” category applied.
- MFIP cases reaching the 60-month time limit were automatically extended and listed as “Unemployable” if no other extension reason applied.
- MFIP cases were not put into sanction, nor were they disqualified for non-compliance with work requirements, financial orientation, or child support.

Reporting requirements for all cash programs were suspended and monthly reporters were not required to complete household report forms or verify their income each month. Participants submitting recertifications for December 2020 were required to report changes.



## Report format

This report provides a snapshot of all active cases in MFIP in December 2020. This includes households and persons receiving MFIP cash grants and/or MFIP food grants (i.e., paid cases). Department staff has produced annual characteristics reports since MFIP began in 1998. Data are provided on the demographics of enrolled adults and children; family composition, residence, and barriers; economic status of cases; and MFIP policy impacts.

Some families receiving MFIP only have children, but no adults who are eligible for MFIP cash assistance. This includes families with disabled parents receiving federal disability income support, and families in which a relative with custody of children is only requesting assistance for the children. These households are not subject to work requirements and time limits. To reflect program differences, the MFIP population is divided into three categories:

- **Child-only cases** that include children but not their caregivers on the grant
- Families with **one enrolled adult**
- Families with **two adults enrolled**.

DWP was suspended during December 2020 and will not be included in this report except when previous years are represented. DWP cases, which do not include child-only cases, are divided into cases with one or two enrolled adults.

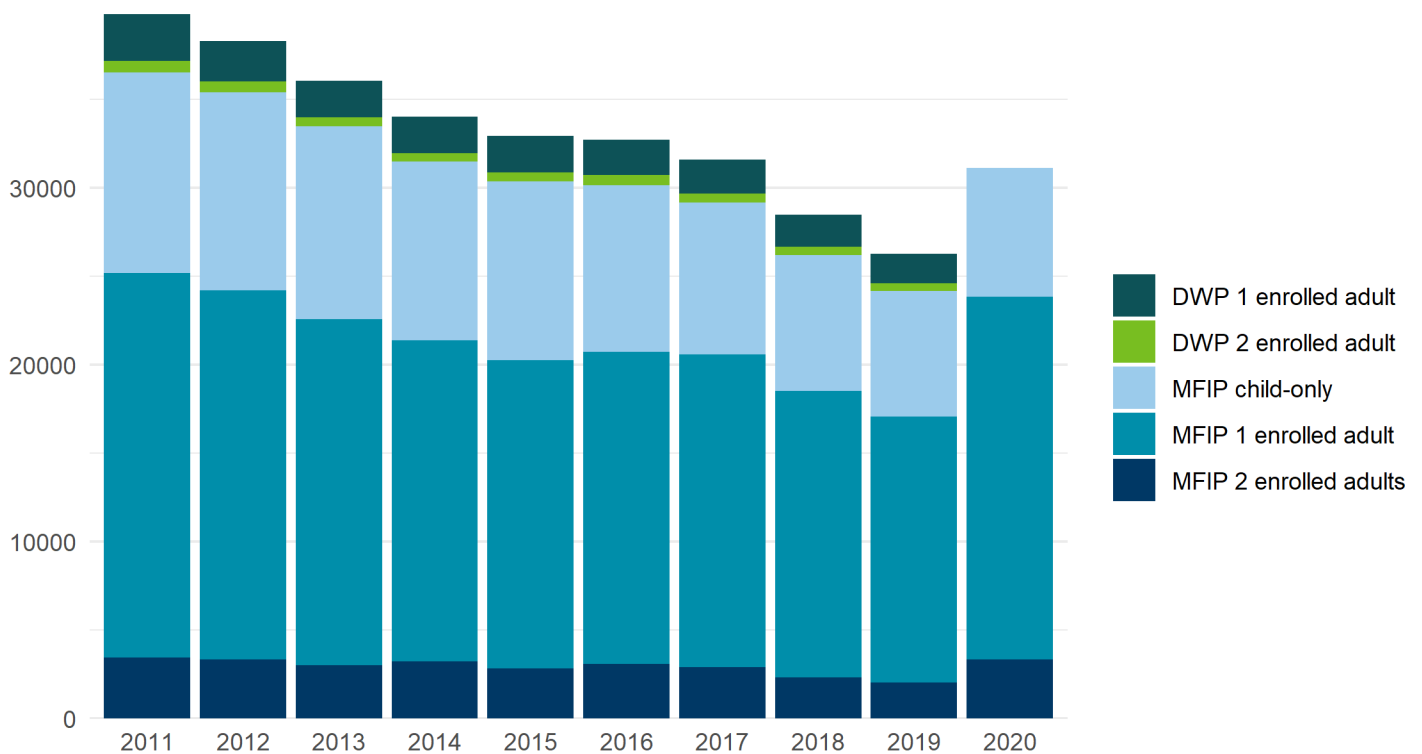
All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent so they may not equal 100% when summed across subgroups.

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and Red Lake Nation both administer Tribal TANF programs. Tribal TANF programs are not under jurisdiction of the state. The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe administers TANF-eligible cases in its jurisdiction. This includes cases of adult members of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, first-generation descendants living in Aitkin, Benton, Chisago, Crow Wing, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison and Pine counties, and at least one active enrolled adult member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe living in Hennepin, Ramsey and Anoka Counties. Red Lake Nation administers Tribal TANF to TANF-eligible cases within its jurisdiction, including TANF-eligible families who identified their race as American Indian and to non-Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe enrolled Tribal members living in Beltrami County. These two Tribal TANF programs are not included in this report. The White Earth Nation administers state MFIP eligibility and employment services for its members; their program is included in this report.

## MFIP and DWP December caseload trends

- The COVID-19 public health emergency, and related policy changes, greatly impacted MFIP case counts. The total number of MFIP cases in December 2020 was 18% higher than the total MFIP and DWP enrollment in December 2019. Prior to that, enrollment decreased each year from December 2011 to December 2019 by an average of 5% per year, with an 8% decrease from December 2018 to 2019.
- MFIP cases with one enrolled adult, the most common case type, increased by 36% from December 2019 to 2020. Over the same period, two-adult MFIP cases increased by 65% and child-only cases grew by 3%.
- Due to policy changes related to the COVID-19 public health emergency, DWP was suspended at the time of this report and all DWP-eligible cases enrolled in MFIP. Prior to that, enrollment decreased each year from December 2015 to December 2019 by an average of 5% per year, with a 6% decrease from December 2018 to 2019.

**Figure 1. MFIP and DWP caseloads, December 2011 to December 2020**



## Tables

**Table 1: MFIP and DWP case counts, December 2011 to December 2020<sup>1</sup>**

Year	One-adult MFIP cases	Two-adult MFIP cases	Child-only MFIP cases	One-adult DWP cases	Two-adult DWP cases
2010	21,966	3,915	11,409	2,718	833
2011	21,745	3,432	11,350	2,645	638
2012	20,877	3,336	11,195	2,284	606
2013	19,566	3,009	10,902	2,047	517
2014	18,144	3,247	10,116	2,037	463
2015	17,440	2,820	10,089	2,047	528
2016	17,626	3,098	9,419	2,002	567
2017	17,691	2,903	8,560	1,949	507
2018	16,188	2,330	7,697	1,819	443
2019	15,047	2,030	7,077	1,691	436
2020	20,489	3,352	7,293	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Case counts include paid cases, receiving MFIP cash or food grants, or DWP cash grants, and active cases suspended for a month because they have enough income to cancel out the cash grant. Suspension typically happens in a three or five paycheck month, and such cases may receive an MFIP grant again the following month. Counts of MFIP and DWP cases are categorized by the number of adults enrolled on the case and eligible for the grant. For more information on the MFIP and DWP rules that determine who in the household is enrolled on the case see Table 2 notes.

**Table 2: MFIP case and person counts and percentages by type of case, December 2020 <sup>2</sup>**

	<b>Total MFIP cases</b>	<b>MFIP cases with adult</b>	<b>Two-adult MFIP cases</b>	<b>One-adult MFIP cases</b>	<b>Child-only MFIP cases</b>
Case count	31,136	23,843	3,353	20,490	7,293
<i>Case percent</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>77%</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i>66%</i>	<i>23%</i>
Enrolled adults count	27,196	27,196	6,706	20,490	0
<i>Enrolled adults percent</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>75%</i>	<i>0%</i>
Enrolled children count	60,963	48,121	9,101	39,020	12,842
<i>Enrolled children percent</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>79%</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>64%</i>	<i>21%</i>

<sup>2</sup> Case counts include paid cases, receiving MFIP cash or food grants, and active cases suspended for a month because they have enough income to cancel out the cash grant. Suspension typically happens in a three or five paycheck month, and such cases may receive an MFIP grant again the following month. Counts of MFIP cases are categorized by the number of adults enrolled on the case and eligible for the grant. Adult refers to a caregiver (parent or other relative), or minor parent responsible for a child/ren. Cases with two adults where only one is enrolled in MFIP are included in the one enrolled-adult cases column. Cases with no MFIP enrolled adult are child-only but have at least one caregiver. Person counts include only enrolled adults and children. MFIP rules determine whom in a household is a member of an assistance unit and who in that unit is eligible to be enrolled on the grant. The assistance unit is based on the relationship to case applicants. This includes minor children and/or minor relative care children of an applicant, spouse of applicant or second parent of applicant's child/ren, and other minor children of the spouse. Pregnant women with no children of their own living with them are also eligible. Eligibility of unit members, in turn determines the size of cash grants for active cases. In certain cases, people who would otherwise be included in the grant are not eligible for reasons such as receiving Supplemental Security Income, immigration status, or convicted of welfare fraud.

**Table 3: Age of adults enrolled in MFIP, December 2020 <sup>3</sup>**

	One-adult MFIP cases	Two-adult MFIP cases	MFIP cases with adult
Age mean	33	33	33
Age median	31	32	32
Age minimum	13	15	13
Age maximum	76	71	76
Under 18	107	12	119
<i>% Under 18</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>
18 - 19	555	155	710
<i>% 18 - 19</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>2%</i>	<i>3%</i>
20 - 29	7,674	2,316	9,990
<i>% 20 - 29</i>	<i>37%</i>	<i>35%</i>	<i>37%</i>
30 - 39	8,000	2,745	10,745
<i>% 30 - 39</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>41%</i>	<i>40%</i>
40 - 49	3,288	1,113	4,401
<i>% 40 - 49</i>	<i>16%</i>	<i>17%</i>	<i>16%</i>
50 - 59	793	317	1,110
<i>% 50 - 59</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>4%</i>
60 and over	73	49	122
<i>% 60 and over</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>0%</i>

<sup>3</sup> Adult refers to a caregiver (parent or other relative), or minor parent responsible for a child/ren.

**Table 4: Race, ethnicity, and immigrant status of adults enrolled in MFIP, December 2020 <sup>4</sup>**

	One-adult MFIP cases	Two-adult MFIP cases	MFIP cases with adult
African American	7,264	1,502	8,766
<i>% African American</i>	35%	22%	32%
Asian American	433	343	776
<i>% Asian American</i>	2%	5%	3%
Hispanic	1,652	499	2,151
<i>% Hispanic</i>	8%	7%	8%
Hmong Immigrant	44	27	71
<i>% Hmong Immigrant</i>	0%	0%	0%
Multiple Races	816	152	968
<i>% Multiple Races</i>	4%	2%	4%
Native American	1,382	455	1,837
<i>% Native American</i>	7%	7%	7%
Other African Immigrant	274	156	430
<i>% Other African Immigrant</i>	1%	2%	2%
Other Asian Immigrant	170	246	416
<i>% Other Asian Immigrant</i>	1%	4%	2%
Somali Immigrant	522	429	951
<i>% Somali Immigrant</i>	3%	6%	3%
Unknown	108	65	173
<i>% Unknown</i>	1%	1%	1%

<sup>4</sup> The race and ethnicity information is categorized in the following hierarchy aligned with department standards. 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). All persons endorsing Hispanic ethnicity are listed reported as Hispanic. All other racial categories are non-Hispanic. Pacific Islanders and Asian groups are combined due to very small numbers of Pacific Islanders. Only non-citizens can be assigned to immigrant groups, using their reported country of origin, race and primary language.

	One-adult MFIP cases	Two-adult MFIP cases	MFIP cases with adult
White	7,825	2,833	10,658
% White	38%	42%	39%

**Table 5: Citizenship status of adults enrolled in MFIP cases, December 2020 <sup>5</sup>**

	One-adult MFIP cases	Two-adult MFIP cases	MFIP cases with adult
Non-U.S.	1,288	1,081	2,369
<i>% Non-U.S.</i>	6%	16%	9%
U.S.	19,202	5,626	24,828
<i>% U.S.</i>	94%	84%	91%

**Table 6: Sex of adults enrolled in MFIP cases, December 2020**

	One-adult MFIP cases	Two-adult MFIP cases	MFIP cases with adult
Female	18,581	3,364	21,945
<i>% Female</i>	91%	50%	81%
Male	1,909	3,343	5,252
<i>% Male</i>	9%	50%	19%

<sup>5</sup> Citizenship status is not routinely updated after initial application, therefore these categories may be under- or over-reported.



**Table 7: Educational attainment of adults enrolled in MFIP cases, December 2020 <sup>6</sup>**

	One-adult MFIP cases	Two-adult MFIP cases	MFIP cases with adult
None or pre 1st grade	686	575	1,261
<i>% None or pre 1st grade</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>9%</i>	<i>5%</i>
Grade School	312	228	540
<i>% Grade School</i>	<i>2%</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>2%</i>
Some High School	4,425	1,421	5,846
<i>% Some High School</i>	<i>22%</i>	<i>21%</i>	<i>21%</i>
High School Graduate	11,398	3,525	14,923
<i>% High School Graduate</i>	<i>56%</i>	<i>53%</i>	<i>55%</i>
Some Post Secondary	3,114	722	3,836
<i>% Some Post Secondary</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i>14%</i>
College Graduate	373	150	523
<i>% College Graduate</i>	<i>2%</i>	<i>2%</i>	<i>2%</i>
Graduate Degree	182	86	268
<i>% Graduate Degree</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>1%</i>

<sup>6</sup> Education is not routinely updated after initial application, therefore these categories may be under- or over-reported.

**Table 8: Marital status of adults enrolled in MFIP cases, December 2020 <sup>7</sup>**

	One-adult MFIP cases	Two-adult MFIP cases	MFIP cases with adult
Divorced	1,908	141	2,049
<i>% Divorced</i>	<i>9%</i>	<i>2%</i>	<i>8%</i>
Legally Separated	78	4	82
<i>% Legally Separated</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>
Married, living with spouse	593	3,518	4,111
<i>% Married, living with spouse</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>52%</i>	<i>15%</i>
Never married	14,862	2,896	17,758
<i>% Never married</i>	<i>73%</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>65%</i>
Married, living apart	2,866	141	3,007
<i>% Married, living apart</i>	<i>14%</i>	<i>2%</i>	<i>11%</i>
Widowed	183	7	190
<i>% Widowed</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>1%</i>

<sup>7</sup> Marital status is not routinely updated after initial application, therefore these categories may be under- or over-reported.

**Table 9: Adults enrolled in MFIP who received assistance as a child in Minnesota, December 2020 <sup>8</sup>**

	One-adult MFIP cases	Two-adult MFIP cases	MFIP cases with adult
Any program	11,818	2,930	14,748
<i>% Any program</i>	<i>58%</i>	<i>44%</i>	<i>54%</i>
Family assistance	10,480	2,562	13,042
<i>% Family assistance</i>	<i>51%</i>	<i>38%</i>	<i>48%</i>
Emergency Assistance only	217	39	256
<i>% Emergency Assistance only</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>1%</i>
Food Support	1,121	329	1,450
<i>% Food Support</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>5%</i>

<sup>8</sup> Receiving assistance as a child is reported in a hierarchy of family assistance, food support and emergency assistance. Family assistance includes all persons whose families received cash assistance, including MFIP, DWP, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, and Family General Assistance. Food support counts persons whose families received assistance through Food Stamps, Food Support or SNAP but did not receive cash assistance. Emergency assistance includes adults whose families received only emergency assistance when they were children.

**Table 10: Number of children per case receiving MFIP, December 2020**

	<b>Child-only MFIP cases</b>	<b>One-adult MFIP cases</b>	<b>Two-adult MFIP cases</b>	<b>MFIP cases with adult</b>
Cases	7,293	20,490	3,353	23,843
Children	12,842	39,020	9,101	48,121
Children mean	1.8	1.9	2.7	2.0
Children median	1	2	2	2
Minimum children	1	0	0	0
Maximum children	10	12	11	12

**Table 11: Age characteristics of children receiving MFIP, December 2020**

	Child-only MFIP cases	One-adult MFIP cases	Two-adult MFIP cases	MFIP cases with adult
Age mean	10.2	7.2	6.4	7.0
Age median	11	6	5	6
<1 year old	382	3,144	998	4,142
<i>% &lt;1 year old</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>8%</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i>9%</i>
1-3 years old	1,305	8,765	2,312	11,077
<i>% 1-3 years old</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>22%</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>23%</i>
4-5 years old	1,054	5,235	1,290	6,525
<i>% 4-5 years old</i>	<i>8%</i>	<i>13%</i>	<i>14%</i>	<i>14%</i>
6-10 years old	3,392	10,651	2,405	13,056
<i>% 6-10 years old</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>27%</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>27%</i>
11-15 years old	4,587	8,328	1,594	9,922
<i>% 11-15 years old</i>	<i>36%</i>	<i>21%</i>	<i>18%</i>	<i>21%</i>
>15 years old	2,122	2,897	502	3,399
<i>% &gt;15 years old</i>	<i>17%</i>	<i>7%</i>	<i>6%</i>	<i>7%</i>

**Table 12: Ages of youngest child per MFIP case, December 2020**

	Child-only MFIP cases	One-adult MFIP cases	Two-adult MFIP cases	MFIP cases with adult
Youngest mean	9.1	5.2	3.1	4.9
Youngest median	10	4	1	3

**Table 13: Race, ethnicity, and immigrant status of children receiving MFIP, December 2020 <sup>9</sup>**

	Child-only MFIP cases	One-adult MFIP cases	Two-adult MFIP cases	MFIP cases with adult
African American	3,133	14,938	2,660	17,598
<i>% African American</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>38%</i>	<i>29%</i>	<i>37%</i>
Asian American	669	1,108	636	1,744
<i>% Asian American</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>7%</i>	<i>4%</i>
Hispanic	3,417	3,766	635	4,401
<i>% Hispanic</i>	<i>27%</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>7%</i>	<i>9%</i>
Hmong Immigrant	19	11	4	15
<i>% Hmong Immigrant</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>
Multiple Races	937	3,725	597	4,322
<i>% Multiple Races</i>	<i>7%</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>7%</i>	<i>9%</i>
Native American	1,108	2,023	447	2,470
<i>% Native American</i>	<i>9%</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>5%</i>
Other African Immigrant	54	311	250	561
<i>% Other African Immigrant</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>1%</i>
Other Asian Immigrant	65	194	191	385
<i>% Other Asian Immigrant</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>2%</i>	<i>1%</i>
Somali Immigrant	175	1,024	585	1,609
<i>% Somali Immigrant</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>6%</i>	<i>3%</i>
Unknown	219	1,355	341	1,696

<sup>9</sup> The race and ethnicity information is categorized in the following hierarchy aligned with department standards. 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). All persons endorsing Hispanic ethnicity are reported as Hispanic. All other racial categories are non-Hispanic. Pacific Islanders and Asian groups are combined due to very small numbers of Pacific Islanders. Only non-citizens can be assigned to immigrant groups, using their reported country of origin, race and primary language.

	<b>Child-only MFIP cases</b>	<b>One-adult MFIP cases</b>	<b>Two-adult MFIP cases</b>	<b>MFIP cases with adult</b>
<i>% Unknown</i>	2%	3%	4%	4%
White	3,046	10,565	2,755	13,320
<i>% White</i>	24%	27%	30%	28%

**Table 14: Mean assistance amount of MFIP cases, December 2020** <sup>10</sup>

	Child-only MFIP cases	One-adult MFIP cases	Two-adult MFIP cases	MFIP cases with adult
Cash	\$398	\$417	\$387	\$412
MFIP food	\$253	\$357	\$485	\$375
SNAP	\$133	\$64	\$88	\$67

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<sup>10</sup> MFIP typically includes a cash portion and a food portion that can only be spent on food. These amounts are reported separately here. Some households that received a SNAP grant early in the reporting month and later in the month become eligible for MFIP. These households receive (all or most of) their food portion through SNAP and the cash grant through MFIP. For this reason, some MFIP cases are indicated here as receiving a SNAP grant. As families work their way toward leaving assistance, their cash portion is decreased first, so some families participating in MFIP only receive a food portion. Many MFIP enrolled households receive a \$110 housing assistance grant (HAG). The full amount of the (HAG), \$110, is issued to a household if they are eligible for MFIP and meet certain criteria; it does not decrease as income from other sources increases. In addition, a family can opt out of the cash portion and the HAG, receiving only the food portion; those months do not count toward their lifetime limit. The MFIP cash amounts reported here include this HAG when applicable. The mean assistance amounts reported here are calculated using all MFIP cases, including those MFIP cases receiving zero cash and/or food portions.



**Table 15: Work hours and income of MFIP cases, December 2020** <sup>11</sup>

	One-adult MFIP cases	Two-adult MFIP cases	MFIP cases with adult
Cases	4,824	1,587	6,411
% Cases	24%	47%	27%
Mean work hours	84.7	121.3	93.7
Median work hours	80	120	88
Mean earnings	\$1,173	\$1,720	\$1,309
Median earnings	\$1,052	\$1,648	\$1,166

<sup>11</sup> Total income is either the actual or projected income of eligible adults used in the budget for a case for the report month. The income used in a month will be different depending on whether past actual or projected income methods were used to determine eligibility for a case. Amounts used were verified. Total income is gross income except for those who are self-employed, where it is gross less expenses, with a minimum of zero. Mean and median total income excludes cases with no verified or expected income from eligible adults. Work hours reported for enrolled adults with earned income are defined in the same manner as earned income. The hours are totals for a case. The percentages of all cases with hours reported are slightly smaller than the percentages reported working because of hours not entered into the administrative database. Mean and median hours exclude cases with no income from work.

**Table 16: Counted MFIP months by MFIP case type, December 2020 <sup>12</sup>**

	One-adult MFIP cases	Two-adult MFIP cases	MFIP cases with adult
Mean	30.1	22.7	29.1
Median	27	16	25
0 counted months	419	22	441
<i>% 0 counted months</i>	<i>2%</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>2%</i>
1 - 12 months	5,976	1,450	7,426
<i>% 1 - 12 months</i>	<i>29%</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>31%</i>
13 - 36 months	5,958	1,059	7,017
<i>% 13 - 36 months</i>	<i>29%</i>	<i>32%</i>	<i>29%</i>
37 - 48 months	2,059	255	2,314
<i>% 37 - 48 months</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>8%</i>	<i>10%</i>
49 - 54 months	876	107	983
<i>% 49 - 54 months</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>4%</i>
55 - 60 months	5,202	460	5,662
<i>% 55 - 60 months</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>14%</i>	<i>24%</i>

<sup>12</sup> Beginning in September 1996 nationally and July of 1997 in Minnesota, months in which adults receive the MFIP cash portion or the HAG are counted towards the five-year limit, also known as the 60-month time limit. This includes both state-funded and federally funded MFIP as well as federally paid TANF months in other states but excludes months with an exemption or exception from the time limit. DWP months do not count but DWP cases may have previous MFIP counted months.

**Table 17: MFIP cases Receiving Child Care Assistance, December 2020 <sup>13</sup>**

	Child-only MFIP cases	One-adult MFIP cases	Two-adult MFIP cases	MFIP cases with adult
Cases with children less than age 6	2,108	12,158	2,667	14,825
< age 6 Cases with CCAP	74	2,183	298	2,481
% < age 6 Cases with CCAP	4%	18%	11%	17%
Cases with children less than age 13	4,953	17,222	3,153	20,375
Age 0-12 cases with CCAP	86	2,380	306	2,686
% Age 0-12 cases with CCAP	2%	14%	10%	13%
Cases with children age 13-15	2,507	4,085	662	4,747
Age 13-15 cases with CCAP	10	274	87	361
% Age 13-15 cases with CCAP	0%	7%	13%	8%

<sup>13</sup> MFIP cases are reported as receiving child care assistance when a Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) payment was made for at least one child enrolled on the case for the report month based on data available in the Minnesota Electronic Child Care (MEC2) system. MFIP cases are categorized by the age of the youngest child on the case, counts of cases with children under 6 and those under 12 are not mutually exclusive. Children enrolled in MFIP up to age 12 or aged 13-15 with identified special needs are eligible to receive a CCAP subsidy through the MFIP Child Care Program or through the Basic Sliding Fee Child Care Program in the case of MFIP child only cases.

**Table 18: MFIP cases with time limit exemption counts by exemption reason, December 2020**

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	One-adult MFIP cases	Two-adult MFIP cases	MFIP cases with adult
Cases	1,012	73	1,085
% of MFIP cases	5%	2%	5%
Aged 18-19, attending high school	255	37	292
<i>% Aged 18-19, attending high school</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>51%</i>	<i>27%</i>
Caregiver on Indian reservation	7	1	8
<i>% Caregiver on Indian reservation</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>1%</i>
Caregiver over 60	63	14	77
<i>% Caregiver over 60</i>	<i>6%</i>	<i>19%</i>	<i>7%</i>
Family violence waiver	583	11	594
<i>% Family violence waiver</i>	<i>58%</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>55%</i>
Minor caregiver	104	10	114
<i>% Minor caregiver</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>14%</i>	<i>11%</i>

<sup>14</sup> The following cases are exempt from the time limit (neither counted nor banked) in months with the following conditions: Living on a reservation with a not employed rate of at least 50%, family violence cases cooperating with an alternative employment plan, caregivers age 60 or older, a minor parent, or an 18- or 19-year-old parent complying with an education plan.

**Table 19: MFIP cases time limit extensions counts by extension reason, December 2020** <sup>15</sup>

	One-adult MFIP cases	Two-adult MFIP cases	MFIP cases with adult
Cases	4,418	368	4,699
Extension months mean	42	27	41
Extension months median	27	12	26
Extension months maximum	222	195	222
Care of ill or incapacitated	338	25	363
<i>% Care of ill or incapacitated</i>	<i>8%</i>	<i>7%</i>	<i>8%</i>
Care of special medical criteria	327	13	340
<i>% Care of special medical criteria</i>	<i>7%</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>7%</i>
Developmental disability	1	0	1
<i>% Developmental disability</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>
Employment required hours	124	15	139
<i>% Employment required hours</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>3%</i>
Family violence waiver	178	2	180
<i>% Family violence waiver</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>4%</i>
IQ between 70 and 80	20	4	24
<i>% IQ between 70 and 80</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>1%</i>
Ill or incapacitated	776	49	825
<i>% Ill or incapacitated</i>	<i>18%</i>	<i>13%</i>	<i>18%</i>
Learning disability	3	0	3

<sup>15</sup> MFIP cases can be extended beyond the 60-month lifetime limit for certain documented criteria that affect an adult’s ability to obtain or retain employment, or if an adult is working but does not earn enough to leave assistance. Extensions may be granted for cases that have an ill or incapacitated adult, family member or caregiver who meets special medical criteria, caregiver with an IQ score below 80, caregiver who is needed in the home to care for an ill or incapacitated family member, a single parent working an average of at least 30 hours, or two parents working a total of 55 hours a month, and other less common reasons. Cases automatically extended due to the COVID-19 PHE were coded as “Unemployable” if no other extension criteria applied.

	One-adult MFIP cases	Two-adult MFIP cases	MFIP cases with adult
<i>% Learning disability</i>	0%	0%	0%
Mental illness	876	55	931
<i>% Mental illness</i>	20%	15%	20%
Unemployable	1,670	163	1,833
<i>% Unemployable</i>	38%	44%	39%

**Table 20: MFIP Family Stabilization Services counts and reasons, December 2020** <sup>16</sup>

	One-adult MFIP cases	Two-adult MFIP cases	MFIP cases with adult
Cases	13,472	2,385	15,857
<i>% of MFIP cases</i>	<i>66%</i>	<i>71%</i>	<i>67%</i>
Age 60 or older	32	12	44
<i>% Age 60 or older</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>0%</i>
Care of ill or incapacitated	537	65	602
<i>% Care of ill or incapacitated</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>4%</i>
Developmental disability	2	1	3
<i>% Developmental disability</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>
Family violence waiver	611	12	623
<i>% Family violence waiver</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>4%</i>
IQ < 80	23	3	26
<i>% IQ &lt; 80</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>
Ill or incapacitated	1,207	185	1,392
<i>% Ill or incapacitated</i>	<i>9%</i>	<i>8%</i>	<i>9%</i>
Learning disability	9	0	9
<i>% Learning disability</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>
Mental illness	1,139	99	1,238

<sup>16</sup> FSS is a state funded MFIP service track that enrolled its first participants in February 2008. The purpose is to provide county and Tribal nation staff more flexibility in development of employment plans by removing FSS cases from the federal Work Participation Rate calculation. FSS eligibility is limited to caregivers who meet one of the following criteria: illness or injury lasting more than 30 days that prevents them from obtaining employment, requirement to remain in the home to care for a household member with an illness or injury lasting more than 30 days, legal non-citizen in the U.S. for fewer than 12 months, developmental disability or mental illness that prevents person from obtaining employment, unemployable, learning disability that prevents person from obtaining employment, IQ less than 80 that prevents person from obtaining employment, family violence waiver, or pending application for SSI or RSDI. Additionally, cases participating in FSS due to the COVID-19 PHE were coded as “Unemployable” if no other extension criteria applied. Two-caregiver cases are FSS eligible if one caregiver meets FSS criteria.

	One-adult MFIP cases	Two-adult MFIP cases	MFIP cases with adult
<i>% Mental illness</i>	8%	4%	8%
New Immigrant	51	61	112
<i>% New Immigrant</i>	0%	3%	1%
SSI or RSDI application	1,013	126	1,139
<i>% SSI or RSDI application</i>	8%	5%	7%
Special medical criteria	624	47	671
<i>% Special medical criteria</i>	5%	2%	4%
Unemployable	8,224	1,773	9,997
<i>% Unemployable</i>	61%	74%	63%
Not Exempt	0	1	1
<i>% Not Exempt</i>	0%	0%	0%



**Table 21: MFIP cases with countable sanctions, December 2020** <sup>17</sup>

Zero cases were sanctioned in December 2020 due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

**Table 22: MFIP recipients of subsidized housing, December 2020**

	One-adult MFIP cases	Two-adult MFIP cases	MFIP cases with adult
Cases	5,062	615	5,677
% Cases	25%	18%	24%

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<sup>17</sup> Reported here are the number of cases with 10% and 30% sanctions, and the number of cases with six or more unresolved sanction months. MFIP cases not complying with Employment Services requirements can be sanctioned with reduction of grant amounts. The first sanction is 10%, and if not resolved, the sanction is increased the next month to 30%. Some sanctions can be addressed (cured) and removed. In July 2003, the Minnesota Legislature instituted a policy that after the sixth occurrence of non-compliance, a case may face closure, or 100% sanction. Pre-sanction procedures for FSS enrolled adults are different from those for other MFIP adults.