

Bulletin

March 30, 2006

Minnesota Department of Human Services □ 444 Lafayette Rd. □ St. Paul, MN 55155

OF INTEREST TO

County Agencies

- Directors
- Economic Assistance Supervisors and Staff
- Employment Services Directors and Providers
- Child Care Assistance Supervisors and Staff
- Social Services Supervisors and Staff
- Child Support Supervisors and Staff

Other Interested Parties

- Child Care Resource and Referral Directors
- Tribal Representatives

ACTION

Please notify agency staff and organizations that may be interested in these reports.

DUE DATE

None.

DHS Issues Annual Report Describing Characteristics of December 2004 MFIP and DWP Cases and Eligible Adults

TOPIC

The report, *Characteristics of December 2004 Minnesota Family Assistance Programs: Cases and Eligible Adults*, describes characteristics of eligible adults and active cases receiving family public assistance through either the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) or the Diversionary Work Program (DWP) in December 2004. There is information on the demographics of the eligible adult caregivers; family composition, residence, and challenges; and economic status for the state, counties, and regions.

PURPOSE

This is the eighth in a series of annual reports providing a snapshot of the universe of participants in Minnesota's public assistance programs for families.

CONTACT

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SIGNED

CHARLES E. JOHNSON
Assistant Commissioner
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BACKGROUND

This is the eighth in a series of annual reports providing a snapshot of the universe of participants in Minnesota's public assistance programs for families. The first caseload characteristics report described eligible participants and paid cases in December 1997, the month before the statewide program changed from Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) to the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP). Subsequent reports described MFIP participants and cases in December of each year. This latest report adds data on the Diversionary Work Program (DWP) that began July 1, 2004.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report describes characteristics of eligible adults and active cases receiving family public assistance through either MFIP or DWP in December 2004. There is information on the demographics of the eligible adult caregivers; family composition, residence, and challenges; and economic status, for the state, counties, and regions.

- Demographic characteristics include age, gender, education, marital status, race/ethnicity, and citizenship.
- Family variables include the relationship of adult caregivers to children, number of adult caregivers, married caregivers, reasons for ineligibility of adult caregivers, number of minor children (eligible, ineligible, and total), age of youngest child, region of residence, and indicators of family violence, severe mental health diagnosis (all caregivers), and chemical dependency diagnosis (all caregivers).
- Economic variables include welfare use, months counted toward the 60-month MFIP time limit, months since the start of DWP eligibility, MFIP extensions, cases new to welfare and to Minnesota, cash grants, MFIP food portion, Food Support, work, earned income, earnings budgeted against the grant, work hours, wages reported to the Unemployment Insurance system, sanctions, housing subsidy, SSI, deductions to the MFIP grant, family cap, and child support.

Input from readers is invited, both reactions to this report and suggestions for indicators in future reports. Feedback, questions or comments on this report series should be forwarded to Leslie Crichton at (651) 282-2323 / leslie.crichton@state.mn.us.

Findings that parallel this report for the traditional racial/ethnic groups (American Indian, Asian, black, Hispanic, and white) and major subgroups in Minnesota (African Americans, Asian Americans, Hmong, other Asian immigrants, Somali and non-Somali black immigrants) will follow as part of the Department of Human Services series on *Welfare Reform Outcomes of Racial/Ethnic and Immigrant Groups in Minnesota*.

RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET

The current report and previous reports in the series are posted at the DHS Website listed below. Once there, you will need to scroll down to the topic **Minnesota Family Investment Program Reports** and then to the heading **MFIP Caseload and Participant Characteristics Reports**.
http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/Economic_support/documents/pub/DHS_id_004113.hcsp

FUTURE REPORTS

The next annual report in this series will describe the family assistance caseload in December 2005.

SPECIAL NEEDS

This information is available in other forms to people with disabilities by contacting us at (651) 296-4410, toll free at 1-888-234-1138 or through the Minnesota Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TDD), 7-1-1 or 1-877-627-3848 (speech to speech relay service).