

# Bulletin

August 14, 2007

Minnesota Department of Human Services □ PO Box 64245 □ St. Paul, MN 55164-0245

## 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

## ACTION/DUE DATE

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

## EXPIRATION DATE

August 14, 2009

## DHS Issues Annual Report Describing Characteristics of December 2006 MFIP and DWP Cases and Eligible Adults Along with a 10-Year Retrospective Supplement.

### TOPIC

Release of two reports: the first, *Characteristics of December 2006 Minnesota Family Assistance Programs: Cases and Eligible Adults*, an annual report describing characteristics of MFIP and DWP cases and eligible adults; the second, *Minnesota's Family Cash Assistance Caseload: A Ten-Year Retrospective*, a report that acts as a supplement to the full report.

### PURPOSE

This is the tenth annual report in this series that provides a snapshot of the universe of cases and participants in Minnesota's cash assistance programs for families. A supplement to this report shows select results from all ten reports in this series to highlight trends in the family cash assistance caseload since 1997.

### CONTACT

Dana DeMaster, Senior Research Analysis Specialist  
Program Assessment and Integrity Division  
PO Box 64245  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0245  
(651) 431-3963  
[dana.demaster@state.mn.us](mailto:dana.demaster@state.mn.us)

### SIGNED

CHARLES E. JOHNSON  
Assistant Commissioner  
Children and Family Services

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## BACKGROUND

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This is the tenth in a series of annual reports providing a snapshot of the universe of cases and 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. The 2004 report added data on the Diversionary Work Program (DWP) which enrolled its first cases in July 2004.

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## PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

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This report describes characteristics of eligible adults and active cases receiving family public assistance through either MFIP or DWP in December 2006. There is information on the demographics of the eligible adult caregivers; family composition, residence, and challenges; and economic status of paid cases is provided by state, county, and region.

- 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, MFIP extensions, months since the start of DWP eligibility, 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.

*The Data Definitions and Policy Information sections that follow each table are essential for interpreting the data.*

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

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 Dana DeMaster (651) 431-3963 [dana.demaster@state.mn.us](mailto:dana.demaster@state.mn.us).

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### RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET

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The report is posted at the following DHS Website: [http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/id\\_004113](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/id_004113). Once there, you will need to scroll down to the topic **Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) Reports** and then to the heading **MFIP and DWP Caseload and Participant Characteristics Reports**.

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### FUTURE REPORTS

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The next annual report in this series will describe the family assistance caseload in December 2007.

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### SPECIAL NEEDS

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This information is available in other forms to people with disabilities by contacting us at (651) 431-3936, toll free at 1-800-366-7895 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).