

# Bulletin

October 9, 2008

Minnesota Department of Human Services -- P.O. Box 64941 -- St. Paul, MN 55164-0941

**OF INTEREST TO**

County Agencies

- Directors
- Economic Assistance Supervisors and Staff
- 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
- Employment Services Directors and Providers
- Tribal Representatives

**ACTION/DUE DATE**

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

**EXPIRATION DATE**

October 9, 2010

## DHS Issues Annual Report Describing Characteristics of December 2007 MFIP and DWP Cases and Eligible Adults

**TOPIC**

Release of new report in series entitled *Characteristics of December 2007 Minnesota Family Assistance Programs: Cases and Eligible Adults*, an annual report describing characteristics of MFIP and DWP cases and eligible adults.

**PURPOSE**

This is the eleventh annual report in this series that provides a snapshot of the universe of cases and participants in Minnesota's cash assistance programs for families.

**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

---

## BACKGROUND

---

This is the eleventh 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.

---

## 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 2007. There is information on the demographics of the eligible adult caregivers; family composition, residence, and challenges; and the 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).

---

## RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET

---

You can find the report, *Characteristics of December 2007 Minnesota Family Assistance Programs: Cases and Eligible Adults*, on the DHS Public Web Site at <http://www.dhs.state.mn.us>. Once there,

- Click on **Economic Supports** from the menu at the top of the page.
- Click on **MFIP** located in the far left column.
- Click on **Reports** located in the far left column.
- Scroll down to the heading, **MFIP and DWP Caseload and Participant Characteristics Reports**.

You will also find reports and statistical information about welfare reform and evaluation related to the Minnesota Family Investment Program.

---

## FUTURE REPORTS

---

The next annual report in this series will describe the family assistance caseload in December 2008.

---

## SPECIAL NEEDS

---

This information is available in other forms to people with disabilities by contacting us at (651) 431-3936 or toll free at (800) 366-7895. TDD users can call the Minnesota Relay at 711 or (800) 627-3529. For the Speech-to-Speech Relay, call (877) 627-3848.