



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

December 2014 General Assistance Report Cases and Eligible People

Published July 2015
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Executive Summary

This report is an annual snapshot of demographic, policy and economic characteristics of General Assistance cases and eligible people. This reports focuses on:

- Caseloads
- Bases of eligibility
- Demographics of eligible people
- Length of use
- Eligibility for other cash and food assistance programs
- Income.

What is General Assistance?

General Assistance is a state program providing monthly cash grants to adults without children, and children under age 18 who are not living with their parents. To be eligible, people must meet the following requirements:

- One of 14 eligibility categories related to illness, disability, or injury that prevents them from working enough to meet their basic needs
- Countable assets of less than \$1,000
- Countable income less than the maximum grant amount, which is \$203 in most cases.

Primary findings

Overall increase in cases

In December 2014, there were 23,052 cases, with 23,170 eligible people. Between 2013 and 2014, the number of cases increased by 2 percent. This reflects a change from the previous year time period (2012 to 2013) where the overall cases decreased by 2 percent.

Decrease in child cases

In December 2014, there were 77 cases of children compared to 98 cases in December 2013.

Increase in active Interim Assistance Agreements among people with potential Supplemental Security Income eligibility

Participants potentially eligible for Supplemental Security Income must complete an Interim Assistance Agreement. After approval, the Department seeks reimbursement for grants paid while an application was pending. Of the potential Supplemental Security Income people on General Assistance, 70 percent had an active Interim Assistance Agreement as of December 2014. Between 2013 and 2014, the number of people with active Interim Assistance Agreements increased by 2 percentage points.

Earned income barriers

Very few people had income from work. Similar to December 2013, 2 percent of cases had earned income in December 2014.

Introduction

General Assistance (GA) is a state program providing monthly cash grants to adults without children, and to children under age 18 who are not living with their parents. To be eligible, people must meet the following requirements:

- One of 14 eligibility categories related to illness, disability, or injury that prevents them from working enough to meet their basic needs
- Countable assets of less than \$1,000
- Countable income less than the maximum grant amount, which is \$203 in most cases.

In the 2014 report, the term “eligible” refers to people who applied, were approved, and are currently enrolled in the program. This group does not include people who may meet a program’s eligibility criteria but have not completed the enrollment process.

This report provides a snapshot of demographic, policy and economic characteristics of General Assistance cases and eligible people, and focuses on several areas:

- Caseload and Trends
- Medical Assistance and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Other Benefits or Assistance Programs
- Earned Income
- Children Eligible for General Assistance

General Assistance reports are released annually. The 2014 report includes summary sheets highlighting important information for key areas of the program. Relevant policy information needed for interpreting data is included throughout the narrative and summaries. Tables with data on demographics, policy and economic characteristics along with explanatory notes and definitions follow. For previous reports, visit the [County reports page](#) on the DHS website. For eligibility information, visit the [General Assistance page](#) on the DHS website.

Caseload and Trends

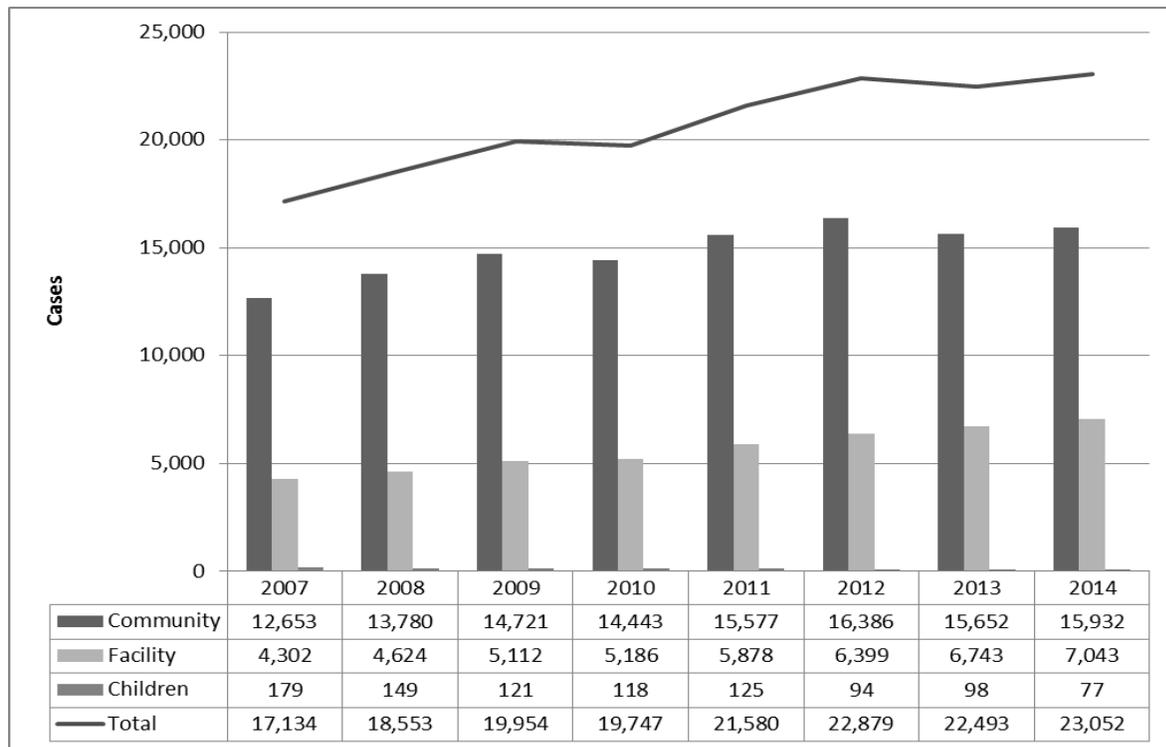
Background

The General Assistance program was created in 1973 to help provide for the very basic needs of individuals who cannot provide for themselves. Providing this assistance is a matter of public concern and a necessity in promoting public health and welfare. The program is statewide, reducing the need for many county and township assistance programs. Because it is a safety-net program, enrollment tends to increase during times of economic downturn. The benefit amount has not increased since 1986.

Data

In December 2014, there were 23,052 cases. The total caseload increased by 2 percent in 2014. The number of facility cases has increased each year since 2007. The number of child cases for GA decreased by over 20 percent in 2014.

Figure 1. Cases, December 2007 to December 2014



Sixty-nine percent were cases where participants resided in the community; 31 percent resided in a facility at some point during the month. Less than 1 percent were children either living independently of parents or guardians, or living with others who were not a child’s parent or legal guardian. [Figure 1, Data Table 3 on page 17]

Medical Assistance and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Background

Most people who are eligible for General Assistance are also eligible for Medical Assistance and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Medical Assistance

Medical Assistance is Minnesota's Medicaid program. It is the largest of Minnesota's publicly funded health care programs. Most enrollees get their health care through health plans. The rest get care on a fee-for-service basis, with providers billing the state directly for services provided. The Minnesota Department of Human Services oversees the program statewide.

Today, all people on General Assistance meet the eligibility criteria for Medical Assistance because they have very low income. However, they must complete a separate application in order to enroll.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

The goal of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is to help Minnesotans with low incomes get food they need for sound nutrition and well-balanced meals. Because of their low income, people eligible for General Assistance also meet the eligibility criteria for food assistance. General Assistance participants who receive 50 percent or more of their meals from a residential facility do not qualify unless they meet one of the following criteria:

- Live in certain chemical dependency treatment facilities
- Live in certain group living arrangements
- Experience blindness or disability and meet the criteria for Supplemental Security Income
- Live in a battered women's shelter
- Live in a homeless shelter.

Data

Medical Assistance

Eighty-nine percent of people are also eligible for Medical Assistance. Between 2013 and 2014, the percent of people on Medical Assistance dropped by 4 percentage points. [Figure 2, Data Table 3 on page 17]

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

More than 75 percent of total cases were also receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits in December 2014. This included more than 90 percent of community cases also receiving food benefits in December. [Figure 2, Data Table 3 on page 17]

Other cash assistance programs

Of the participants in December 2014, 30 percent were also eligible for Group Residential Housing in the last year. Six percent of December participants were eligible for Emergency Assistance in 2014. [Figure 4, Data Table 3 on page 17]

Figure 2. Percent of Cases with Member Eligible for Medical Assistance or General Assistance Medical Care

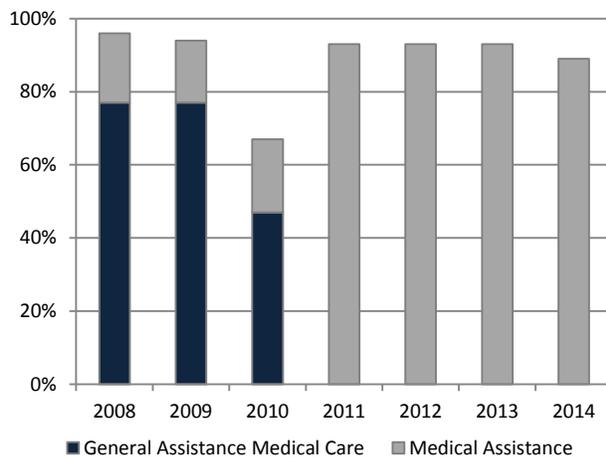


Figure 3. Percent of Cases with Member Eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in December

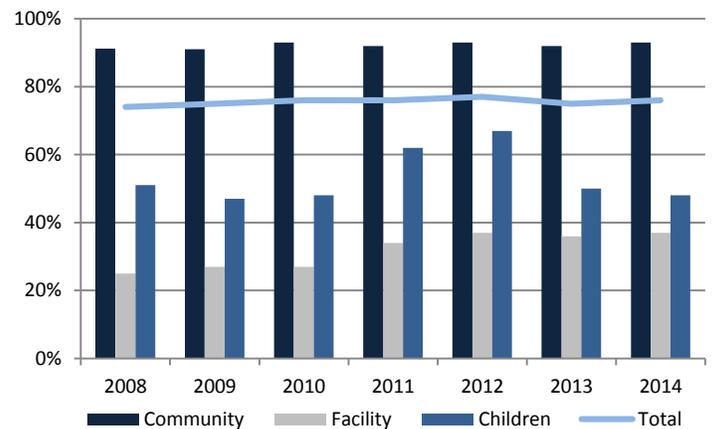
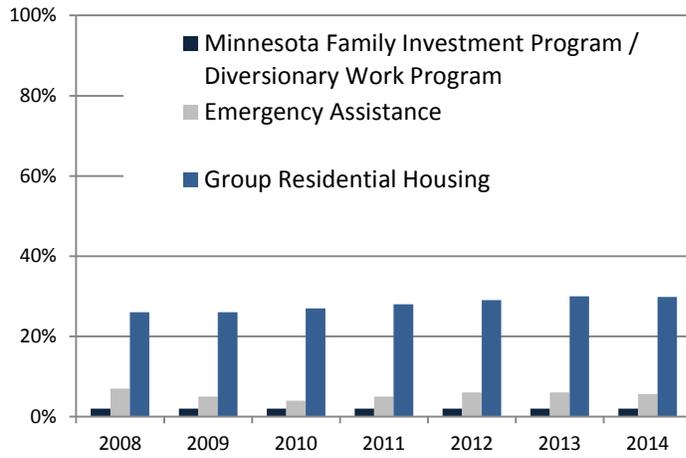


Figure 4. Percent of Cases Eligible for Other Cash Assistance Programs During 2014



Other Benefits or Assistance Programs

Background

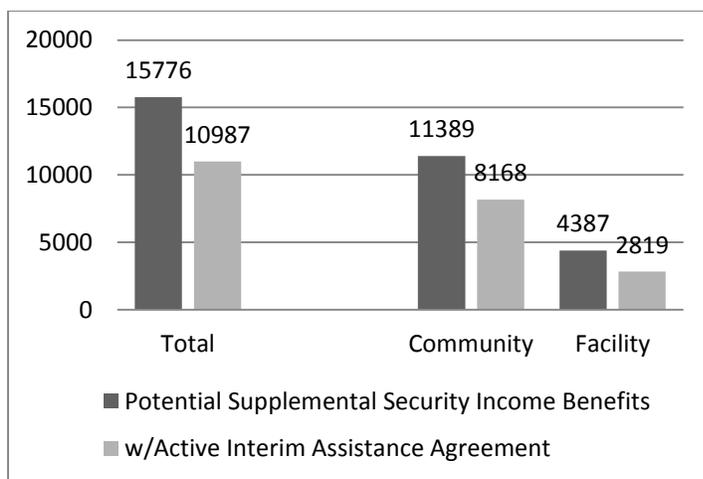
General Assistance is intended to serve as interim assistance to help people meet basic needs while waiting for other benefits or looking for employment. The benefit and income limit is very low, \$203 a month for an individual. Because other benefits are usually more substantial, participants who may meet eligibility criteria for other benefits must apply for them. These include Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disability Insurance and Worker's Compensation.

Participants must also complete an Interim Assistance Agreement. By signing the agreement, the person agrees to repay the amount received through General Assistance if other benefits provide income for the same months. When a person is eligible for Supplemental Security Income and has a current signed agreement, the Social Security Administration reimburses the Department directly from the participant's back payment. County agencies can request voluntary refunding for people who receive benefits but do not have a signed agreement.

Data

In December 2014, 15,776 adults were determined to have potential Supplemental Security Income benefits. Of this group, 70 percent had an active Interim Assistance Agreement. Almost 4,800 adults with potential Supplemental Security Income benefits did not have an active signed agreement in the Department's data system. [Figure 5, Data Table 2 on page 16]

Figure 5. Adults with Potential Supplemental Security Income Benefits; Interim Assistance Agreement Status as of December 2014



General Assistance and Earned Income

Background

General Assistance is intended to serve as interim assistance to help people pay for their basic needs while applying for federal disability benefits or looking for work.

Currently, no employment services are tied to the General Assistance. The program allows two small earned income disregards, including:

- The first \$50 of earned income
- Income used for certain work expenses.

Very few people utilize these earned income disregards. Often when people begin working they lose their eligibility for General Assistance and exit the program the following month.

People residing in Group Residential Housing are faced with an additional disincentive to work. People living in these settings who have no countable income get a \$97 GA personal needs allowance. When they go to work, they only get to keep \$97 of their earnings, but the rest of their income goes to the provider, unless they have a plan for discharge from Group Residential Housing. The amount of money the person keeps does not change when they go to work, which may minimize the incentive to work.

Participants living in Group Residential Housing or Intensive Rehabilitative Treatment settings with approved discharge plans can disregard up to \$500 per month of earned income, up to a maximum accumulated amount of \$2,000. This rule allows people with an approved plan to discharge to work and keep more of their earnings.

Data

Earned income not common

Overall, only 1.7 percent of people eligible for General Assistance benefits had earned income. The low number of people with earned income is common since limited ability to work is a factor of eligibility. When participants start working they must report their earnings and often lose their eligibility the following month because their countable income exceeds the program limits. Exiting the program as a result of earned income demonstrates a movement towards self-sufficiency. However, the average earned income was only \$591 in December 2014, which is often not enough to provide for basic needs. [Data Table 3 on page 18]

Between 2007 and 2012, the percentage of community cases with wages fell from a high of 5 percent in 2007 to a low of 1.5 percent in 2014. Although a slight increase occurred in 2013 to 1.7 percent, the percentage decreased to 1.5 percent in 2014. [Figure 6, Data Table 3 on page 18]

Increase in average earnings for December

2.2 percent of people living in a facility had earned income in December 2014. [Figure 7, Data Table 3 on page 18] The average amount of earned income for December 2014 was \$430, nearly \$100 more than the average in December 2013. [Data Table 3 on page 18, [2013 General Assistance Report](#)]. Some people were able to receive assistance while working because of earned income disregards described in the Background section. However, eligibility ends the following month if they sustained a level of earnings that exceed programs limits. The grant may also be retroactively recaptured if countable income exceeds the benefit amount or program limits.

1.7 percent of community cases had earned income for December 2014. [Figure 6, Data Table 3 on page 18] The average amount of earned income in December 2014 was \$695, up \$30 from December 2013. [Data Table 3 on page 18, [2013 General Assistance Report](#)] Program rules provide for a \$50 earnings disregard and work expense deductions. For more information regarding the difference between earned income and Unemployment Insurance (UI) wages, see the Notes & Definitions section on page 25]

Figure 6. Community Cases: Percent with Fourth Quarter Unemployment Insurance Wages and December Earned Income

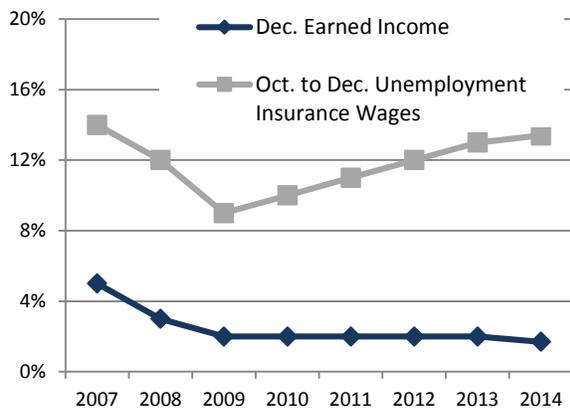
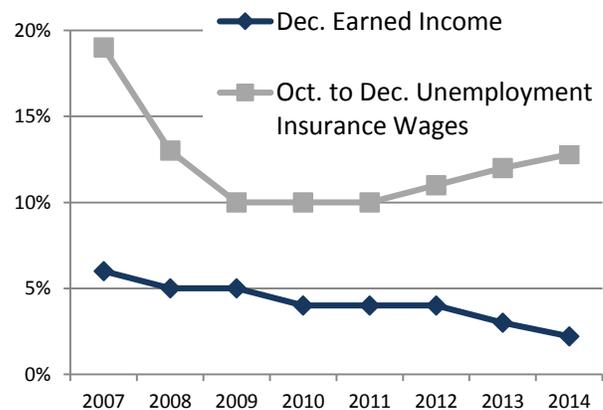


Figure 7. Facility Cases: Percent with Fourth Quarter Unemployment Insurance Wages and December Earned Income



Children Eligible for General Assistance

Background

General Assistance is not intended to be a program for children. However, occasionally this safety net is needed for children in certain situations. Children under age 18 are eligible if they are not living with their family and they meet any of the following criteria:

- Legally emancipated
- Age 16 or 17 and have a social service case plan
- Live with an adult with the consent of an agency as the legal custodian
- Live with an adult with the consent of county social services.

Case notes show that young children on the program most often live with step-grandparents, a parent's boyfriend or girlfriend (without the parent), or other family friends. If they live with a relative or legal guardian, a child is usually eligible for the Minnesota Family Investment Program.

Data

Seventy-seven children received General Assistance in December 2014. [Data Table 1 on page 16] The number of children in December 2013 was 98, so there was a decrease of 21 percent between 2013 and 2014. [Data Table 1 on page 14, [2013 General Assistance Report](#)]

Demographics

Sixty-four percent of the children were black, and 61 percent were female. Fifty-seven percent of children were aged 16 or 17. [Figure 8, Figure 9, Data Table 1 on page 14, Data Table 1 on page 15, Data Table 2 on page 16]

Eligibility basis

In December 2014, 46 percent of children were eligible because they lived with an unrelated adult such as a parent's significant other or step-grandparents. [Data Table 2 on page 16]

Length of time on General Assistance

The program provides short-term help for most children. Participants averaged ten months of assistance, with 77 percent receiving the benefit for less than a year. Eighty-seven percent of children's cases were new to the program in 2013. [Data Table 3 on page 18]

Figure 8. Children: Race/Ethnicity and Gender

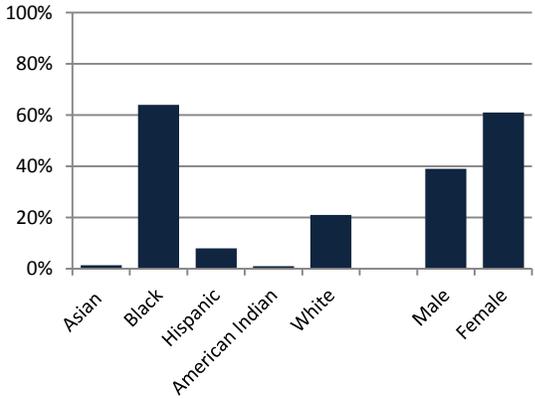
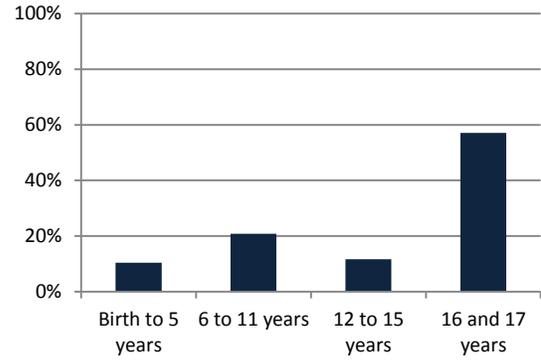


Figure 9. Children: Age



Data Tables¹

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics, December 2014

General Assistance recipient characteristics		Total eligible people	Adults		Children
			Community	Residential facility	
Eligible people	Count	23,170	16,049	7,044	77
	Percent of all eligible people	100.0%	69.3%	30.4%	0.3%
Age	Mean	43.5	45.0	40.6	13.2
	Median	46	47	41	16
	Minimum	0	18	18	0
	Maximum	97	91	97	17
	< 18	77	0	0	77
		0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	18 - 19	421	276	145	
		1.8%	1.7%	2.1%	
	20 - 29	3,826	2,284	1,542	
		16.5%	14.2%	21.9%	
	30 - 39	4,301	2,686	1,615	
		18.6%	16.7%	22.9%	
	40 - 49	5,568	3,857	1,711	
		24.0%	24.0%	24.3%	
50 - 61	8,018	6,145	1,873		
	34.6%	38.3%	26.6%		
62 - 64	603	507	96		
	2.6%	3.2%	1.4%		
65 and older	356	294	62		
	1.5%	1.8%	0.9%		
Gender	Female	8,491	6,796	1,648	47
		36.6%	42.3%	23.4%	61.0%
	Male	14,679	9,253	5,396	30
		63.4%	57.7%	76.6%	39.0%
Education	None or pre-first grade or unknown	1,236	963	259	14
		5.3%	6.0%	3.7%	18.2%
	Grade school	376	274	87	15
		1.6%	1.7%	1.2%	19.5%
	Some high school	5,011	3,340	1,623	48
		21.6%	20.8%	23.0%	62.3%
	High school graduate	13,423	9,244	4,179	0
		57.9%	57.6%	59.3%	0.0%
	Some post-secondary	2,315	1,642	673	0
		10.0%	10.2%	9.6%	0.0%
	College graduate	403	286	117	0
	1.7%	1.8%	1.7%	0.0%	
Graduate degree	406	300	106	0	
	1.8%	1.9%	1.5%	0.0%	
High school graduate or higher	16,547	11,472	5,075	0	
	71.4%	71.5%	72.0%	0.0%	

Table 1 – Page 2

General Assistance recipient characteristics		Total eligible people	Adults		Children
			Community	Residential facility	
Marital status	Married	484 2.1%	466 2.9%	18 0.3%	0 0.0%
	Never married	15,109 65.2%	9,829 61.2%	5,204 73.9%	76 98.7%
	Previously married	7,102 30.7%	5,332 33.2%	1,769 25.1%	1 1.3%
	Widowed	475 2.1%	422 2.6%	53 0.8%	0 0.0%
Race/ethnicity	Asian	861 3.7%	767 4.8%	93 1.3%	1 1.3%
	Black	7,152 30.9%	5,116 31.9%	1,987 28.2%	49 63.6%
	Hispanic	718 3.1%	498 3.1%	214 3.0%	6 7.8%
	American Indian	1,530 6.6%	1,067 6.6%	462 6.6%	1 1.3%
	White	12,513 54.0%	8,337 51.9%	4,160 59.1%	16 20.8%
	Multiple	136 0.6%	103 0.6%	30 0.4%	3 3.9%
Citizenship	Non-U.S.	1,489 6.4%	1,248 7.8%	234 3.3%	7 9.1%
	U.S.	21,680 93.6%	14,800 92.2%	6,810 96.7%	70 90.9%

Table 2. People and Policy, December 2014

General Assistance recipient characteristics		Total eligible persons	Adults		Children	
			Community	Residential facility		
Eligible people	Count	23,170	16,049	7,044	77	
	Percent of all eligible persons	100.0%	69.3%	30.4%	0.3%	
Homeless		5,702 24.6%	4,186 26.1%	1,490 21.2%	26 33.8%	
Potential Supplemental Security Income benefit		15,780 68.1%	11,389 71.0%	4,387 62.3%	4 5.2%	
Active Interim Assistance Agreement		10,987 Percent of potential Supplemental Security Income persons	8,168 71.7%	2,819 64.3%	0 0.0%	
State Medical Review Team		1,484 6.4%	982 6.1%	502 7.1%	0 0.0%	
Eligibility basis	Ill or incapacitated	11,516 49.7%	10,548 65.7%	968 13.7%	0 0.0%	
	Resident of a facility	6,371 27.5%	741 4.6%	5,630 79.9%	0 0.0%	
	Advanced age	4,108 17.7%	3,796 23.7%	312 4.4%	0 0.0%	
	English as a Second Language / homemaker in full-time school	357 1.5%	356 2.2%	1 0.0%	0 0.0%	
	Supplement Security Income / Retirement, Survivors, Disability Insurance pending	257 1.1%	236 1.5%	21 0.3%	0 0.0%	
	Age 16 or 17/social services	45 0.2%	6 0.0%	0 0.0%	39 50.6%	
	Unemployable	44 0.2%	39 0.2%	5 0.1%	0 0.0%	
	Minor living with unrelated adult	36 0.2%	1 0.0%	0 0.0%	35 45.5%	
	Other	436 1.9%	326 2.0%	107 1.5%	3 3.9%	
	Facility type	Group Residential Housing	5,116 22.1%		5,116 72.6%	
		Mental health facilities	786 3.4%		786 11.2%	
Nursing and medical		121 0.5%		121 1.7%		
Other		188 0.8%		188 2.7%		

Table 3. Economic Characteristics of Cases, December 2014

General Assistance case characteristics		Total paid cases	Adults		Children
			Community	Residential facility	
Cases	Count	23,052	15,932	7,043	77
		100.0%	69.1%	30.6%	0.3%
GA grant amount	Mean of all cases	\$168	\$195	\$106	\$243
	Median	\$203	\$203	\$95	\$250
	Personal needs allowance only	6,957	740	6,217	0
		30.2%	4.6%	88.3%	0.0%
Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program	Mean of cases receiving	\$185	\$185	\$187	\$171
	Count of cases receiving	17,430	14,756	2,637	37
		75.6%	92.6%	37.4%	48.1%
Medical Assistance	Eligible person in case	20,428	14,525	5,847	56
		88.6%	91.2%	83.0%	72.7%
General Assistance usage: Length of current spell	Mean	19.9	19.0	22.1	9.9
	Median	11	11	11	5
	One - six months	8,079	5,432	2,601	46
		35.0%	34.1%	36.9%	59.7%
	Seven - 12 months	4,465	3,357	1,091	17
		19.4%	21.1%	15.5%	22.1%
	13 - 18 months	2,393	1,727	659	7
		10.4%	10.8%	9.4%	9.1%
	19 - 24 months	1,779	1,290	487	2
	7.7%	8.1%	6.9%	2.6%	
25 months or more	6,336	4,126	2,205	5	
	27.5%	25.9%	31.3%	6.5%	
General Assistance usage: Cumulative months 2006 - 2014	Mean	28.8	27.6	31.8	10.6
	Median	20	19	22	5
	One - 12 months	8,443	5,896	2,488	59
		36.6%	37.0%	35.3%	76.6%
	13 - 24 months	4,631	3,396	1,222	13
		20.1%	21.3%	17.4%	16.9%
	25 - 36 months	3,119	2,222	897	0
		13.5%	13.9%	12.7%	0.0%
37 - 48 months	2,083	1,437	644	2	
	9.0%	9.0%	9.1%	2.6%	
49 months or more	4,776	2,981	1,792	3	
	20.7%	18.7%	25.4%	3.9%	
Public assistance in Minnesota: Use in 2014	Emergency Assistance/Emergency General Assistance	1,299	749	550	0
		5.6%	4.7%	7.8%	0.0%
	Group Residential Housing	6,872	1,606	5,266	0
		29.8%	10.1%	74.8%	0.0%
	Minnesota Family Investment Program / Diversionary Work Program	458	333	124	1
		2.0%	2.1%	1.8%	1.3%
	Minnesota Supplemental Aid	175	160	15	0
	0.8%	1.0%	0.2%	0.0%	
Refugee Cash Assistance	111	110	1	0	
	0.5%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	

Table 3 – Page 2

General Assistance case characteristics		Total paid cases	Adults		Children	
			Community	Residential facility		
Public assistance in Minnesota: Use in 2006 - 2014	Emergency Assistance/Emergency General Assistance	5,892 25.6%	3,877 24.3%	2,015 28.6%	0 0.0%	
	Group Residential Housing	9,214 40.0%	3,658 23.0%	5,556 78.9%	0 0.0%	
	Minnesota Family Investment Program / Diversionary Work Program	2,670 11.6%	2,046 12.8%	623 8.8%	1 1.3%	
	Minnesota Supplemental Aid	451 2.0%	347 2.2%	104 1.5%	0 0.0%	
	Refugee Cash Assistance	304 1.3%	292 1.8%	12 0.2%	0 0.0%	
Earned Income: December 2014	Mean for cases with earned income	\$591	\$695	\$430	\$506	
	Median	\$400	\$515	\$166	\$506	
	Count of cases with earned income	395	240	154	1	
	Percent of all cases	1.7%	1.5%	2.2%	1.3%	
Unemployment Insurance wages Fourth quarter 2014	Mean for cases with UI wages	\$1,657	\$1,712	\$1,534	\$1,052	
	Median	\$984	\$1,030	\$912	\$797	
	Count of cases with UI wages	3,082	2,169	899	14	
	Percent of all cases	13.4%	13.6%	12.8%	18.2%	
New cases in 2014	Minnesota resident before 2014	4,302	2,949	1,306	47	
	Percent of new cases	86.8%	85.9%	88.7%	87.0%	
	State entry date in 2014	656	483	166	7	
	Percent of new cases	13.2%	14.1%	11.3%	13.0%	
	Total of new cases	4,958	3,432	1,472	54	
	Percent of cases in column	21.5%	21.5%	20.9%	70.1%	

Table 4. County and Region of Cases, December 2014

County/Region/State	Total cases and percent of state	Adults Number and percent of county		Children Number and percent of county
		Community	Residential facility	
Aitkin	56	51	5	0
	0.2%	91.1%	8.9%	0.0%
Anoka	757	609	148	0
	3.3%	80.4%	19.6%	0.0%
Becker	97	82	15	0
	0.4%	84.5%	15.5%	0.0%
Beltrami	147	98	49	0
	0.6%	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%
Benton	164	111	52	1
	0.7%	67.7%	31.7%	0.6%
Big Stone	11	10	1	0
	0.0%	90.9%	9.1%	0.0%
Blue Earth	163	114	49	0
	0.7%	69.9%	30.1%	0.0%
Brown	39	28	11	0
	0.2%	71.8%	28.2%	0.0%
Carlton	124	86	38	0
	0.5%	69.4%	30.6%	0.0%
Carver	117	83	34	0
	0.5%	70.9%	29.1%	0.0%
Cass	119	89	30	0
	0.5%	74.8%	25.2%	0.0%
Chippewa	23	14	9	0
	0.1%	60.9%	39.1%	0.0%
Chisago	61	51	10	0
	0.3%	83.6%	16.4%	0.0%
Clay	199	137	62	0
	0.9%	68.8%	31.2%	0.0%
Clearwater	14	13	1	0
	0.1%	92.9%	7.1%	0.0%
Cook	8	7	1	0
	0.0%	87.5%	12.5%	0.0%
Crow Wing	119	60	58	1
	0.5%	50.4%	48.7%	0.8%
Dakota	909	605	304	0
	3.9%	66.6%	33.4%	0.0%
Des Moines Valley Health and Human Services	51	37	14	0
	0.2%	72.5%	27.5%	0.0%
Douglas	85	60	25	0
	0.4%	70.6%	29.4%	0.0%
Faribault/Martin	105	79	26	0
	0.5%	75.2%	24.8%	0.0%

Table 4 – Page 2

County/Region/State	Total cases and percent of state	Adults Number and percent of county		Children Number and percent of county
		Community	Residential facility	
Fillmore	21	16	5	0
	0.1%	76.2%	23.8%	0.0%
Freeborn	82	60	22	0
	0.4%	73.2%	26.8%	0.0%
Goodhue	70	59	10	1
	0.3%	84.3%	14.3%	1.4%
Grant	10	10	0	0
	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Hennepin	10,528	6,820	3,667	41
	45.7%	64.8%	34.8%	0.4%
Houston	26	16	10	0
	0.1%	61.5%	38.5%	0.0%
Hubbard	67	55	12	0
	0.3%	82.1%	17.9%	0.0%
Isanti	100	62	38	0
	0.4%	62.0%	38.0%	0.0%
Itasca	259	191	68	0
	1.1%	73.7%	26.3%	0.0%
Kanabec	71	45	26	0
	0.3%	63.4%	36.6%	0.0%
Kandiyohi	134	79	55	0
	0.6%	59.0%	41.0%	0.0%
Kittson	9	6	3	0
	0.0%	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%
Koochiching	26	20	6	0
	0.1%	76.9%	23.1%	0.0%
Lac Qui Parle	9	7	2	0
	0.0%	77.8%	22.2%	0.0%
Lake	28	14	14	0
	0.1%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%
Lake of the Woods	1	0	1	0
	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Le Sueur	52	40	12	0
	0.2%	76.9%	23.1%	0.0%
McLeod	46	33	13	0
	0.2%	71.7%	28.3%	0.0%
Mahnomon	18	8	10	0
	0.1%	44.4%	55.6%	0.0%
Marshall	12	6	6	0
	0.1%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%
Meeker	59	47	12	0
	0.3%	79.7%	20.3%	0.0%
Mille Lacs	73	58	15	0
	0.3%	79.5%	20.5%	0.0%
Minnesota Prairie County Alliance (MN Prairie)	216	154	62	0
	0.9%	71.3%	28.7%	0.0%

Table 4 – Page 3

County/Region/State	Total cases and percent of state	Adults Number and percent of county		Children Number and percent of county
		Community	Residential facility	
Morrison	74	49	25	0
	0.3%	66.2%	33.8%	0.0%
Mower	83	61	22	0
	0.4%	73.5%	26.5%	0.0%
Nicollet	79	58	21	0
	0.3%	73.4%	26.6%	0.0%
Nobles	42	38	4	0
	0.2%	90.5%	9.5%	0.0%
Norman	10	9	1	0
	0.0%	90.0%	10.0%	0.0%
Olmsted	481	226	255	0
	2.1%	47.0%	53.0%	0.0%
Otter Tail	120	74	46	0
	0.5%	61.7%	38.3%	0.0%
Pennington	43	32	11	0
	0.2%	74.4%	25.6%	0.0%
Pine	112	95	17	0
	0.5%	84.8%	15.2%	0.0%
Polk	110	90	20	0
	0.5%	81.8%	18.2%	0.0%
Pope	35	30	5	0
	0.2%	85.7%	14.3%	0.0%
Ramsey	3,477	2,779	679	19
	15.1%	79.9%	19.5%	0.5%
Red Lake	6	6	0	0
	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Renville	44	36	8	0
	0.2%	81.8%	18.2%	0.0%
Rice	121	93	28	0
	0.5%	76.9%	23.1%	0.0%
Roseau	25	16	9	0
	0.1%	64.0%	36.0%	0.0%
St. Louis	1,232	857	373	2
	5.3%	69.6%	30.3%	0.2%
Scott	104	71	33	0
	0.5%	68.3%	31.7%	0.0%
Sherburne	127	79	47	1
	0.6%	62.2%	37.0%	0.8%
Sibley	31	23	8	0
	0.1%	74.2%	25.8%	0.0%
Southwest Health and Human Services	146	109	35	2
	0.6%	74.7%	24.0%	1.4%
Stearns	399	252	141	6
	1.7%	63.2%	35.3%	1.5%
Stevens	19	16	3	0
	0.1%	84.2%	15.8%	0.0%

Table 4 – Page 4

County/Region/State	Total cases and percent of state	Adults Number and percent of county		Children Number and percent of county
		Community	Residential facility	
Swift	21 0.1%	18 85.7%	3 14.3%	0 0.0%
Todd	56 0.2%	38 67.9%	18 32.1%	0 0.0%
Traverse	14 0.1%	11 78.6%	3 21.4%	0 0.0%
Wabasha	38 0.2%	27 71.1%	11 28.9%	0 0.0%
Wadena	103 0.4%	55 53.4%	47 45.6%	1 1.0%
Washington	180 0.8%	137 76.1%	43 23.9%	0 0.0%
Watonwan	19 0.1%	19 100.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%
White Earth Nation	150 0.7%	130 86.7%	20 13.3%	0 0.0%
Wilkin	40 0.2%	35 87.5%	5 12.5%	0 0.0%
Winona	107 0.46%	51 47.7%	55 51.4%	1 0.9%
Wright	95 0.4%	68 71.6%	27 28.4%	0 0.0%
Yellow Medicine	24 0.1%	14 58.3%	9 37.5%	1 4.2%
Northwest	215 0.9%	165 76.7%	50 23.3%	0 0.0%
West Central	1,337 5.8%	920 68.8%	415 31.0%	2 0.1%
Northeast	1,733 7.5%	1,226 70.7%	505 29.1%	2 0.1%
Central	1,202 5.2%	818 68.1%	377 31.4%	7 0.6%
Southwest	327 1.4%	247 75.5%	77 23.5%	3 0.9%
South Central	488 2.1%	361 74.0%	127 26.0%	0 0.0%
Southeast	1,245 5.4%	763 61.3%	480 38.6%	2 0.2%
Metro Suburban	2,350 10.2%	1,703 72.5%	646 27.5%	1 0.0%
Core Metro	14,005 60.8%	9,599 68.5%	4,346 31.0%	60 0.4%
Tribal	150 0.7%	130 86.7%	20 13.3%	0 0.0%
Minnesota	23,052 100.0%	15,932 69.1%	7,043 30.6%	77 0.3%

Notes and Definitions

Case types

Children cases were less than age 18 as of the last day of December 2014.

Residential facility cases were those meeting all of the following criteria:

- Active facility panel in the Department's administrative database for December 2014
- Facility entry date on or before Dec. 31, 2014
- Facility exit date was either blank, a December 2014 date greater than the entry date, or greater than Dec. 31, 2014.

Cases that spent only part of December in a facility were considered residential facility cases.

Community cases were all other cases that did not meet the criteria for residential facility case or children case.

Demographic data

Data that do not affect program eligibility might not be updated after the initial application. Changes in marital status, citizenship and education level may be under-reported.

Race and ethnicity data were missing for 260 people.

Previously married includes people who were divorced and legally separated. Married includes those living together and spouses not living together.

County data reflects the servicing county. Data were missing for two cases.

Homeless measure

The administrative data indicator for homelessness undercounts actual homelessness. This indicator is seldom updated, thus a person who gained housing may still be marked as homeless, or a person who had housing and became homeless may still be marked as being housed. People that are doubled up or otherwise precariously housed are not coded as homeless.

In 2014, the Department updated the homeless measure. People were counted as homeless if they met any of the following conditions in the Department's data system:

- Homeless Indicator marked "Yes"
- Current address listed as "homeless"
- Current address listed as "general delivery"
- Current address matching a list of homeless shelters throughout Minnesota.

Interim Assistance Agreements

Participants were considered to have a current signed agreement if they met the following criteria:

- A potential benefit type of “SSI” as of December 2014
- An Interim Assistance Agreement dated between Dec. 1, 2013 and Dec. 31, 2014.

The Social Security Administration will accept agreements that were signed up to a year before a Supplemental Security Income approval date. The STAT PBEN panel in the Department’s database may not be updated to reflect a signed Interim Assistance Agreement.

State Medical Review Team

A participant was considered to have an active State Medical Review Team disability determination if they met all of the following criteria in the Department’s database:

- A current disability panel (“STAT DISA”)
- A disability start date before Dec. 31, 2014
- Either no disability end date or an end date after Dec. 31, 2014
- A cash/Group Residential Housing disability status, food support disability status, or health care disability status that indicated a State Medical Review Team review.

Pending reviews are not included in the review match.

Bases of eligibility

The other eligibility bases include the following:

- Emancipated minor
- Family violence
- Mentally ill or developmentally disabled
- Learning disabled
- Under protection/court ordered
- Family member with no other eligibility basis.

Some adults have eligibility bases intended for minors. This is because their eligibility basis has not been updated since their 18th birthday.

Facility types

The other facility types were nursing and intensive care facilities, hospitals, non-group residential housing and adult correctional facilities.

Economic characteristics

Case eligibility for other cash, food, and medical programs was determined by case number, with the exception of Medical Assistance for which the person identifier was used. If a member in the case received applicable benefits under a different case number, that person's benefits were not included in this report.

The General Assistance grant amount is based on the eligible grant amount for December 2014 (the benefit month). The actual amount received in December 2014 (the accounting month) may be different than the eligible amount because of a previous underpayment, overpayment or a delay in receipt. The report is based on the benefit month.

There were 238 General Assistance cases with active eligibility status for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, but did not receive benefits in December 2014.

Earned income was self-employment or paid wages reported in the Department's data system. Income was either verified retrospective earnings reported in February 2015 for December 2014 or, in the absence of retrospective income, prospective earnings for December 2014.

Unemployment Insurance wages only include those reported to Minnesota's system. Religious, federal government and seasonal or temporary employment are excluded, as well as employment for cash and from other states.

New cases

New cases in 2014 were December 2014 cases active in a case in Minnesota for one or more months in 2013, but receiving no cash from 1992 to 2013 (the period covered by the state administrative database) in Minnesota Family Investment Program, Diversionary Work Program, Group Residential Housing, Minnesota Supplemental Aid, General Assistance, Refugee Cash Assistance, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, or Family General Assistance. Cases new to the state had a 2014 state entry date. Minnesota residents were either lifelong residents or had moved to the state before 2014.

County consortia

A county consortium is the legal merger of county human services agencies of multiple counties that consolidates administrative activities for human services programs. Such a county consortium is viewed as one entity by the department. Therefore, measures in this report are reported for the county consortium and not for its individual counties. County consortia's 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, Waseca (as of Jan. 1, 2015).