

# Medical Assistance for Employed Persons with Disabilities (MA-EPD)

## Semi-Annual Data Report

### January - June 2011

#### Background

The Medical Assistance for Employed Persons with Disabilities (MA-EPD) program was implemented in July 1999. As an optional Medical Assistance Buy-In program, MA-EPD allows working people with disabilities to keep Medical Assistance (MA) regardless of income and with higher asset limits. MA-EPD is a work incentive intended to encourage persons with disabilities to work and enjoy the benefits of being employed. This report presents select data on the MA-EPD program for the period of January to June, 2011.

#### To qualify for MA-EPD, an individual must:

- Be certified disabled by either the Social Security Administration (SSA) or the State Medical Review Team (SMRT)
- Be at least 16 but under 65 years of age
- Be employed and have required taxes withheld or paid from earned income
- Have monthly earnings of more than \$65
- Not exceed the asset limit (currently \$20,000)
- Pay a monthly premium.

#### Demographics, June 2010

- Gender:
  - Female: 49.7%
  - Male: 50.3%
- Average Age: 47

#### Report Highlights:

- Total Enrollment: 8,007
- Average monthly earned income: \$537.38
- Average monthly premium per enrollee: \$66.65
- 39.9% of enrollees were enrolled in a HCBS waiver
- 45.5% of enrollees lived in the Twin Cities Metro Area

**Figure 1. MA-EPD, MA Disabled Enrollment, Minnesota Population by Racial Category, June 2011**

Race	MA-EPD*	MA Disabled*	Minnesota**
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.8%	3.3%	1.1%
Asian	1.0%	5.6%	4.0%
Black/African American	3.0%	16.7%	5.2%
Multiple Races	0.2%	0.5%	2.4%
Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
White	93.1%	72.4%	85.3%
Unknown	1.8%	1.4%	N/A

\*Source: MMIS

\*\*Source: 2010 Census, US Census Bureau

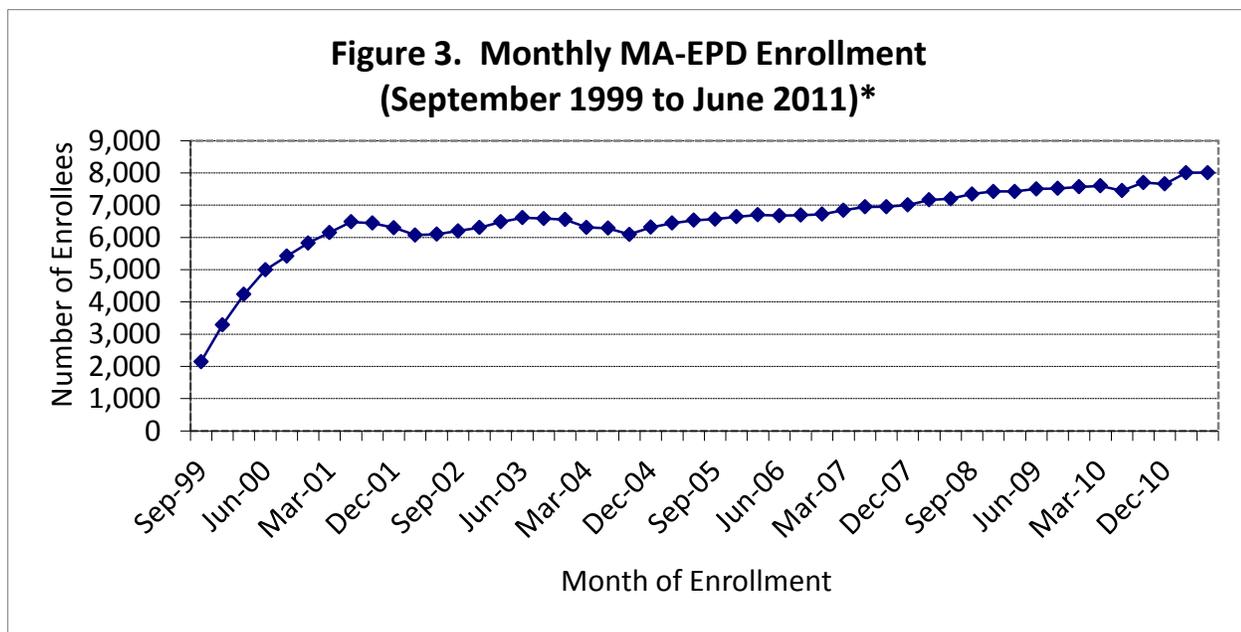
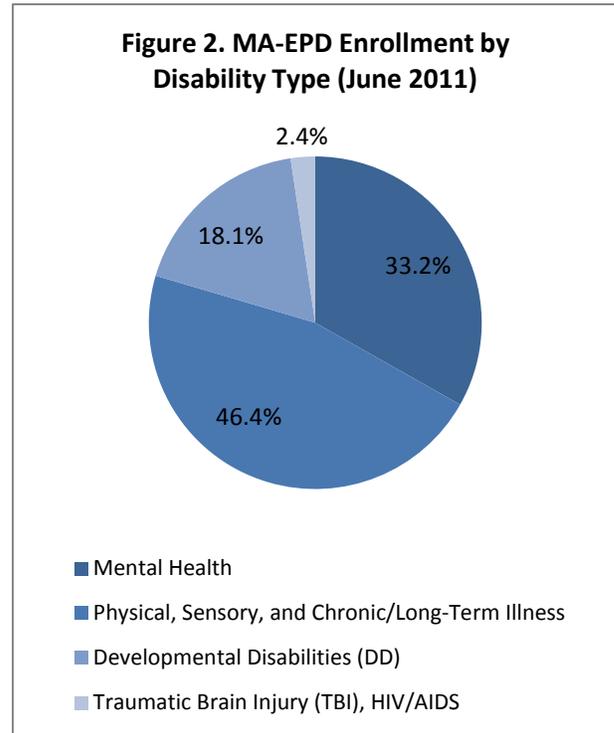
As shown in Figure 1, there are larger overall percentages of MA-EPD enrollees who are White (93.1%) when compared to the general population of Minnesota (87.4%) or those enrolled in Medical Assistance (MA) due to a disability (72.4%).

**Disability Type**

The majority of MA-EPD enrollees had a physical or sensory disability or chronic/long-term illness in June 2011 (46.4%). 33.2% of enrollees had a mental health condition while 18.1% of enrollees had a developmental disability (DD) or a related condition. The fewest number of enrollees (2.4%) had a traumatic brain injury (TBI) or HIV/AIDS.

**Enrollment**

MA-EPD enrollment has continued to grow since the program’s inception in July 1999. Rapid early growth over the first year and a half of the program leveled to a slow but steady growth rate thereafter. The rate of growth in MA-EPD has remained remarkably steady over the past seven years, despite significant shifts in the national economy and employment rate. Changes to program eligibility implemented in 2003 account for the decrease in enrollment in 2004. MA-EPD did not experience a decrease in enrollment due to implementation of Medicare Part D in 2006. Enrollment in the MA-EPD Program over time is detailed in Figure 3.



\*Source: MMIS

As shown in Figure 4, in 2011 during the months of January, February and March (Quarter 1), there were 118 new MA-EPD cases, 142 cases closed and 7,989 cases were active on average. In the months of April, May, and June (Quarter 2), there were 99 new cases, 200 cases closed and 8,021 cases were active on average.

**Figure 4. Enrollment Activity: Monthly Number of New, Closed, or Active MAEPD Cases: January through June 2011\***

Month 2011	New	Closed	Active
January	134	120	7,961
February	100	154	7,996
March	121	152	8,011
April	106	158	8,023
May	95	191	8,032
June	96	252	8,007

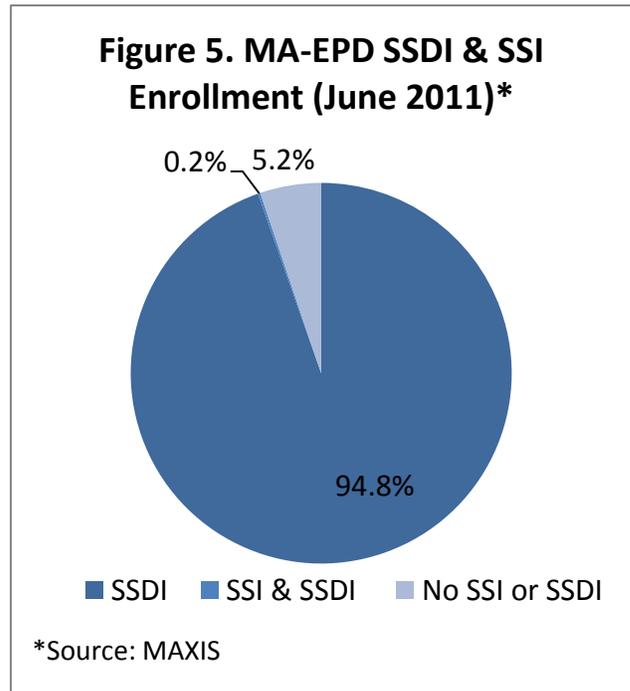
Average Monthly	New	Closed	Active
Quarter 1	118	142	7,989
Quarter 2	99	200	8,021

\*Source: MMIS

**MA-EPD and Social Security Benefits**

To qualify for MA-EPD, an individual must be certified disabled by the Social Security Administration (SSA) or the State Medical Review Team (SMRT). People who are certified disabled through SSA may receive monthly income support through Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), or both. As shown in Figure 5, in June 2011 94.8% of MA-EPD enrollees received SSDI. Few MA-EPD enrollees (0.2%) were concurrently receiving both SSI and SSDI, while 5.2% of enrollees did not receive SSI or SSDI.

In general, to be determined disabled by SSA, individuals must have monthly earnings below the level of Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA). In 2011, SGA was \$1,000 per month and \$1,640 per month for people who are blind.



SSA offers many employment supports that help people work and continue receiving SSDI or SSI cash payments or gradually work their way off these benefits. One such support available to MA-EPD enrollees on SSDI is the Trial Work Period (TWP). The TWP allows people on SSDI to test their ability to work for at least nine months within a 60-month period. During the TWP individuals can earn any amount and continue to receive full SSDI cash payment benefits. In 2011, a TWP month was any month with gross earnings of more than \$720.

**Figure 6. Income Limits for Select SSA Work Incentive Provisions\***

Provision	Earned Income Amount (2011)
Trial Work Period (TWP)	\$720/month
Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA)	\$1,000/month

\*Source: Social Security Administration

These income limits in mind, many MA-EPD enrollees may choose to earn less than the limits described above to retain their SSI or SSDI cash benefits. The implications of these income requirements for MA-EPD enrollees can be seen in more detail in the income section.

### Income

In June 2011, MA-EPD enrollees had an average of \$1,104 in unearned income, an average of \$537 in earned income, and an average gross income of \$1,558 per month. The interaction of MA-EPD with other benefits and work incentives impacts the earned and unearned income of MA-EPD enrollees. Figures 7 through 9 show unearned, earned and gross income of MA-EPD enrollees in the months of January and June 2011 by the program rules described on page 3.

### Unearned and Earned Income

As shown in Figures 7 and 8, the majority of MA-EPD enrollees had higher unearned income than earned income. Nearly 90% of MA-EPD enrollees had monthly unearned income at or above \$721 in January and June 2011.

**Figure 7. Monthly Unearned Income Distribution for MA-EPD Enrollees: January and June 2011\***

Income Range	January Unearned Income (Number)	January Unearned Income (Percent)	June Unearned Income (Number)	June Unearned Income (Percent)
\$0-65	3	0.0%	4	0.0%
\$66-200	6	0.1%	5	0.1%
\$201-500	47	0.6%	46	0.6%
\$501-720	559	7.0%	551	6.9%
\$721-1,000	2,970	37.3%	2,982	37.2%
\$1,001-2,000	3,842	48.3%	3,882	48.5%
\$2,001 and up	205	2.6%	205	2.6%
Unknown	329	4.1%	332	4.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,961</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>8,007</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\*Source: UI and MAXIS

As shown in Figure 8, over half of MA-EPD enrollees had monthly earned income below \$720 and thus did not have a TWP month. MA-EPD enrollees who lose their job through no fault of their own or who have a verified medical condition that prevents them from working may stay on the program for up to 4 months with no earned income. Generally, the monthly earned income of MA-EPD enrollees has increased slightly but steadily over time. In January and June, over 90% of MA-EPD enrollees had monthly earned income at or below \$1,000 (SGA). Substantial Gainful Activity does not apply to those MA-EPD enrollees who do not have SSI or SSDI benefits. MA-EPD enrollees also have the option to work themselves off SSA benefits, effectively decreasing or eliminating their monthly income supports

through SSI or SSDI. Some enrollees find they are better off financially if they increase their earnings even with decreased income supports or no supports at all.

**Figure 8. Monthly Earned Income Distribution for MA-EPD Enrollees: January and June 2011\***

Income Range	January Earned Income (Number)	January Earned Income (Percent)	June Earned Income (Number)	June Earned Income (Percent)
\$0-65	362	4.5%	334	4.1%
\$66-200	2,515	31.4%	2,453	30.3%
\$201-500	2,160	27.0%	2,120	26.2%
\$501-720	1,253	15.6%	1,233	15.2%
\$721-1,000	1,108	13.8%	1,206	14.9%
\$1,001-2,000	431	5.4%	553	6.8%
\$2,001 and up	183	2.3%	192	2.4%
Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Total**</b>	<b>8,012</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>8,087</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\*Source: MAXIS

\*\*Earned income includes individuals with earnings from self-employment and dually reported earned income.

### Gross Income

Figure 9 details the gross monthly income of MA-EPD enrollees for the months of January and June 2011. Gross income includes both earned and unearned income sources. In June 2011, the majority of MA-EPD enrollees (78.6%) had gross income over \$1,000 per month. 14.8% of enrollees had monthly gross income above \$2,000 during the same time period, up slightly from 14.1% in December, 2010.

**Figure 9. Monthly Gross Income Distribution for MA-EPD Enrollees: January and June 2011\***

Income Range	January Gross Income (Number)	January Gross Income (Percent)	June Gross Income (Number)	June Gross Income (Percent)
\$0-65	3	0.0%	2	0.0%
\$66-200	17	0.2%	17	0.2%
\$201-500	26	0.3%	14	0.2%
\$501-720	62	0.8%	50	0.6%
\$721-1,000	493	6.2%	439	5.5%
\$1,001-2000	6,229	78.2%	6,297	78.6%
\$2,001 and up	1,127	14.2%	1,185	14.8%
Unknown	4	0.1%	3	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,961</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>8,007</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\*Source: UI and MAXIS

Gross Income = Earned + Unearned Income

## Premiums

All MA-EPD enrollees are required to pay a monthly premium of \$35 or more based on a sliding fee scale. The premium amount is based on the enrollee's household size and gross earned and unearned income. MA-EPD has no maximum income limit. Premiums are capped at 7.5% of income at 300% of the federal poverty guideline. As shown in Figure 10, the average monthly premium billed to MA-EPD enrollees was \$66.65 in the months of January through June 2011. This increased slightly from the average premium billed during July through December 2010 (\$64.10). Initial premiums are billed and collected by counties and may result in a delay in the premium data reported. Half of all premiums paid by MA-EPD enrollees are allocated to the federal government based on Minnesota's federal medical assistance percentage. The federal medical assistance percentage is the share of state Medicaid costs paid by the federal government.

**Figure 10. Premium Billing: January through June 2011\***

Month 2011	Total Billed	Number of Enrollees Billed	Average Billed Per Enrollee
January	\$495,716	7,708	\$64.31
February	\$493,069	7,654	\$64.42
March	\$493,000	7,662	\$64.34
April	\$495,300	7,732	\$64.06
May	\$488,051	7,620	\$64.05
June	\$601,179	7,639	\$78.70
<b>Total Jan-June 2011</b>	<b>\$3,066,315</b>		
<b>Avg/Mo Jan-June</b>	<b>\$511,053</b>	<b>7,669</b>	<b>\$66.65</b>

\*Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services Premium Billing Unit.

## Program Utilization

MA-EPD enrollees receive the same coverage as offered under Medical Assistance (MA) and are therefore eligible for services under the home and community-based (HCB) waivers. The majority of enrollees were not enrolled in waivers during the months of January and June 2011.

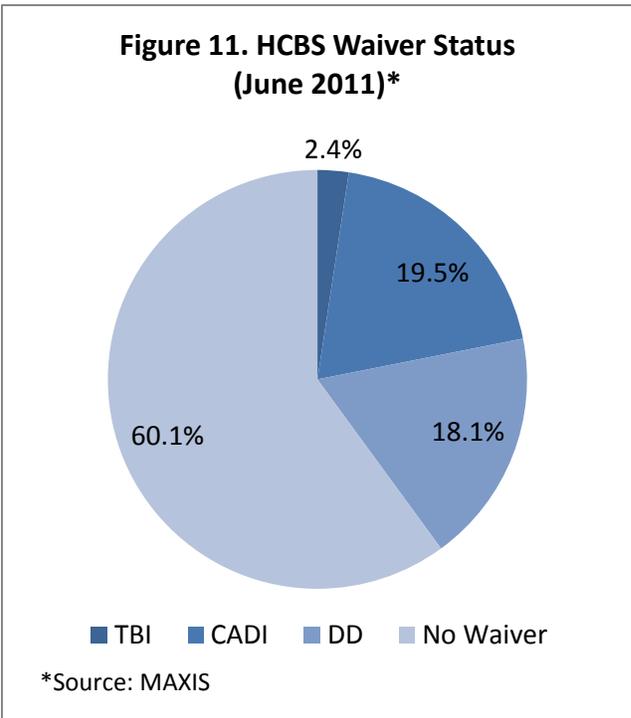
As shown in Figure 11, in June 2011, about 60% of enrollees were not on a waiver. Of all MA-EPD enrollees, 18.1% were on the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver, 19.5% of enrollees were on the Community Alternatives for Disabled Individuals (CADI) Waiver, and 2.4% of enrollees were on the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver. Fewer than ten enrollees were on the Community Alternative Care (CAC) waiver and are therefore not represented in Figure 11. MA-EPD enrollees who are on a home and community-based waiver are also eligible to receive certain employment and personal supports as part of the covered waiver services. MA-EPD enrollees on CADI, DD and TBI waivers are eligible to receive Supported Employment Services while the DD waiver is the only waiver that includes Day Training and Habilitation as a covered service. In June 2011, 568 enrollees (17.8% of MA-EPD enrollees on a CADI, DD, or TBI Waiver) received Supported Employment Services and 952 MA-EPD enrollees (66% of MA-EPD enrollees on the DD Waiver) received Day Training and Habilitation services through enrollment in a home and community-based waiver.

The majority of MA-EPD enrollees are also enrolled in Medicare. In June 2011, the majority of MA-EPD enrollees (93%) had Medicare coverage. Only 7% of enrollees did not have Medicare coverage in June 2011. The high percentage of MA-EPD enrollees with Medicare coverage is expected because of high enrollment in the SSDI program.

Some MA-EPD enrollees also retain third party liability insurance (TPL) other than Medicare. Enrollees with TPL coverage have medical costs paid by their TPL insurance before their MA coverage pays for medical claims. Fewer than 9% of all MA-EPD enrollees had TPL coverage in June 2011. Over 91% of all MA-EPD enrollees did not have TPL coverage in June 2011.

**Geographic Location**

The majority of MA-EPD enrollees (45.5%) lived in the Twin Cities metro area during the first half of 2011. Generally, MA-EPD enrollees are more often found in urban, rather than rural locations, in or near the major regional cities: Minneapolis/St. Paul, Duluth, Rochester, St. Cloud, Mankato, Moorhead and Bemidji. This pattern of geographic location continues to be stable over time. A breakdown of MA-EPD enrollment by county can be found on the last page of this report.



**Figure 13. Geographic Location of MA-EPD Enrollees: June 2011\***

Location in Minnesota	Region	Enrollees (Number)	Enrollees (Percent)
Northwest Corner	1	155	2.1%
North Central	2	118	1.6%
Northeast Corner	3	541	7.2%
West Central	4	362	4.8%
Central	5	242	3.2%
Southwest Central	6	334	4.4%
East Central	7	722	9.6%
Southwest Corner	8	256	3.4%
South Central	9	532	7.0%
Southeast Corner	10	849	11.2%
TC Metro Area	11	3,439	45.5%
Outside of MN		2	0.0%
<b>Total</b>		<b>7,552</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\*Source: MMIS

### **Data Sources & Methodology**

Data was compiled by Disability Services Division staff via the Minnesota Department of Human Services Data Warehouse unless otherwise noted.

Earned income can be wages from a job or self-employment. Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) income data is not available for all recipients, so income data was pulled from the MAXIS eligibility system for recipients whose income information is not found in the DEED Unemployment Insurance (UI) data system. All types of unearned income were considered for this category, including Social Security payments, Veterans benefits, Unemployment Compensation, Workers' Compensation, retirement funds, etc.

If you have any questions regarding this report or its contents, please contact the Minnesota Department of Human Services at (651) 431-4300.

# MA-EPD Enrollees by County (June 2011)

