



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

**At the Limit:
December 2008 Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)
Cases that Reached the 60-Month Time Limit**

Minnesota Department of Human Services
Program Assessment and Integrity Division
January 2010

Prepared by:
Dana DeMaster, Senior Research Analysis Specialist
(651) 431-3963 Dana.DeMaster@state.mn.us

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	1
MFIP CASES THAT REACHED 60 COUNTED MONTHS.....	3
Figure 1. MFIP Status of the 12,622 Adults that Had 60 Counted Months, December 2008	3
Table 1. Active MFIP Cases that Had 60 Counted Months: Reason for Continued Eligibility, Extension Reason, Months in Extension, Reported Wages, Number of Caregivers, and Family Stabilization Services, December 2008.....	5
Table 1a. Extension Months by Extension Reason, December 2008.....	5
MFIP Cases that Reached 60 Counted Months: County Data	6
Table 2. Servicing County of December 2008 MFIP Cases that Had 60 Counted Months	7
Table 3. MFIP Cases that Had 60 Counted Months: Eligibility Reason, Reported Employment, and Two-caregiver Cases by Large County and Reported Employment, December 2008	8
Table 4. Extended Cases: Extension Reason and Extension Months by Large County and Reported Employment, December 2008	8
MFIP-ELIGIBLE ADULTS THAT REACHED 60 COUNTED MONTHS.....	9
Table 5. Demographic Characteristics, Chemical Dependency Diagnosis, and Serious Mental Health Diagnosis of MFIP-eligible Adults with 60 Counted Months Compared to MFIP-eligible Adults with Fewer than 60 Counted Months, December 2008	10
Table 5a. Serious Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Diagnoses by Race/Ethnicity for December 2008 MFIP-eligible Adults with 60 Counted Months	11
CASES AT THE TIME LIMIT: MFIP CASES THAT REACHED THE 60TH COUNTED MONTH IN DECEMBER 2008.....	12
Figure 2. Number of MFIP Cases that Reached the 60 th Counted Month, December 2005 to December 2008	12
Figure 3. What Happened Next? Disposition of the 112 Cases that Reached the 60 th Counted Month in December 2008: January 2009 Case Status.....	13
Figure 4. Six Months Later: June 2008 MFIP Eligibility Status and Second Quarter 2009 Unemployment Insurance (UI) Wages.....	14
Table 6. The First Six Months after the Time Limit: Assistance Programs and Reported Wages for Cases that Reached the 60 th Counted Month in December 2008	14
TABLE DEFINITIONS AND NOTES	15

Introduction

With passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 and its creation of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), cash assistance to poor families was no longer an entitlement. Among other requirements, the PRWORA mandated a lifetime limit of 60 months for receipt of cash assistance. The PRWORA legislation allowed states to create their own TANF programs within certain guidelines. Minnesota implemented the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) in early 1998 and started counting months of cash assistance receipt toward the limit in July 1997, the latest allowed. Other states enacted shorter limits and some states started counting months as early as September 1996, the earliest allowed under PRWORA.

Minnesota Department of Human Services Reports on the Time Limit

Since PRWORA was enacted, there has been interest about what happens to families once they can no longer receive cash assistance from MFIP. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) has examined this issue, beginning with the report, *The Welfare Time Limit: A survey of families who lost MFIP eligibility as a result of the five-year time limit*,¹ which looked at the very first families affected by the lifetime limit. DHS also conducted a longitudinal study of MFIP-recipients and studied a subset of participants with long-term cash assistance cases, reported in *Minnesota Family Investment Program Longitudinal Study: Approaching the 60-Month Time Limit*.²

This report is the fourth in a series of annual reports that focus on a one-month snapshot of cases at their lifetime limit of MFIP receipt. It looks at two groups: (1) all cases that already have 60 counted months and continue to receive MFIP and (2) cases that reached their 60th counted month in the report month, December 2008. It identifies the total number of adults made ineligible due to the time limit, compares the characteristics of eligible adults that have reached their lifetime limit to those with fewer than 60 months, and gives the reasons that those in the first group continue to receive MFIP, the counties where these families reside, what happens to families in relation to MFIP in the month after they reach month 60, and assistance and employment outcomes for these families in their first six months after reaching the time limit.

The first section looks at the reasons for continued eligibility, extensions, work hours and income, number of caregivers in these households, and eligibility for Family Stabilization Services (FSS), statewide and for the largest eight counties, as well as counts of active cases that had reached 60 counted months by county. The next section examines the demographic characteristics and the prevalence of chemical and mental health diagnoses of adults that have reached the time limit and continue to receive MFIP. The final section focuses on the 108 households that reached their 60th counted month in December 2008.

The remainder of this introduction defines terms and explains policies related to the time limit.

¹ This report is available at <http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfsrserver/Legacy/DM-0176-ENG>.

² This report is available at <http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfsrserver/Legacy/DHS-4450G-ENG>.

Federal and State Time Limit Exceptions, Exemptions, and Extensions

Under PRWORA the federal government allowed certain exceptions from the time limit and states were allowed to create state-funded exceptions or exemptions from the time limit, as well as extensions beyond 60 months for documented hardships. An exception is a month that is not counted toward the limit. The federal government provides exceptions for families that live in Indian Country with a not-employed rate of at least 50 percent and for participants with a family violence waiver. Minnesota provides additional exceptions for persons aged 60 or older, minor parents complying with educational requirements, and 18 or 19-year old parents complying with high school education requirements.

A case may receive a future exemption in the form of a month counted toward the limit but “banked.” These banked months are credited back after the case reaches its 60th month. Hence, if a case is using a banked month it is using a credit that was received at an earlier time when the caregiver met the exemption criteria. Cases can receive a banked month if an adult or child meets certain special medical criteria that prevents otherwise work-eligible caregivers from participating in work activities.

States were also allowed to provide TANF-funded extensions for up to 20 percent of their caseloads for documented hardships. Minnesota provides extensions for persons experiencing barriers to work such as an illness lasting more than 30 days, caring for an ill or incapacitated relative for more than 30 days, an IQ lower than 80, or a disability, as well as for working families not earning enough to exit MFIP.

Other Months Not Counted Toward the Time Limit

There are also other cases where MFIP months are not counted toward the limit. Child-only cases are cases where parents are not eligible for MFIP, but who continue to receive a cash grant under MFIP for their children or cases where children are cared for by other relatives who are not personally MFIP eligible. The most common reason for caregiver ineligibility is receipt of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for a disability.

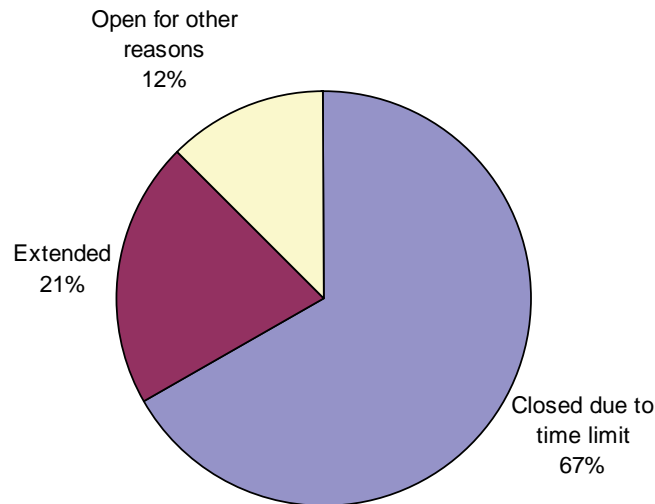
Months are not counted for “MFIP food-only” cases because these cases do not receive a cash grant. A federal waiver allows Minnesota to provide Food Support³ to households receiving MFIP as a combined program. As families work their way toward leaving assistance, their cash grant is decreased first so that some families only receive a food portion. Caregivers can also opt out of the cash portion, receiving only the food portion, and those months do not count toward their lifetime limit. Food-only cases with 60 months would have been in extension had they received a MFIP cash grant for the month.

³ Food Support is Minnesota’s federal Food Stamps program. In 2008 the Food Stamps program was renamed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

MFIP Cases that Reached 60 Counted Months

As of December 2008, 12,622 adults had reached the lifetime limit for MFIP cash receipt, an increase from 11,920 people in December 2007. As Figure 1 shows, 67 percent had their cases closed and were not receiving assistance in December 2008. Twenty-one percent currently had their case extended and the remaining 12 percent remained active on MFIP for other reasons (listed in first bullet below). This report will focus on the cases that remained active and their eligible adults.

Figure 1. MFIP Status of the 12,622 Adults that Had 60 Counted Months, December 2008



- In December 2008, 4,267 paid MFIP cases had 60 counted months, 66 percent of which were open due to an extension. (Table 1) Child-only cases made up 23 percent, food-only cases 6 percent, and cases using a banked month made up 2 percent. The remaining 3 percent (108 cases) were in their 60th month and, therefore, still within the lifetime limit. (Table 1)
- Since December 2006, the percentage of active 60-month cases that had an extension for the month increased from 59 percent to 66 percent and food-only cases decreased from 16 percent to 6 percent of cases. As food-only cases with 60 months are extended cases that did not receive a MFIP cash grant in the month, most often due to income, this change was likely due to the reported decreases in earned income and hours of working cases over the past two years. Fewer extended cases earned enough income to decrease their MFIP cash grant to zero and, thus, there were fewer food-only cases.
- The most common reason for an extension was being ill or incapacitated for more than 30 days (36 percent of extended cases), followed by caring for an ill or incapacitated family member (27 percent) and having an IQ between 70 and 80 (14 percent). The percentage of cases in extension for three years or more increased by 5 percentage points

since December 2007 while the percentage of cases extended for one year or less remained about the same.

- The percentage of 60-month cases with at least one working caregiver decreased by 3 percentage points since December 2007 and average reported income and work hours decreased as well. Average reported income decreased from \$924 to \$888 and average work hours decreased from 100 hours to 97 hours.
- Seventy percent of cases were eligible for FSS. This was expected as participants who are extended as ill or incapacitated or in a hard to employ category are required to follow FSS service requirements⁴ and this group makes up the largest proportion of 60-month cases.
- Cases that were extended for an IQ between 70 and 80 and cases extended to care for an ill or incapacitated family member were more likely to be in extension for more than three years than other extended cases. Fifty-seven percent of those extended for an IQ between 70 and 80 and 44 percent of cases extended to care for a family member had been in extension for more than 36 months compared to about a quarter of cases extended for other reasons. (Table 1a)

⁴ DHS Combined Manual 0011.33.

Table 1. Active MFIP Cases that Had 60 Counted Months: Reason for Continued Eligibility, Extension Reason, Months in Extension, Reported Wages, Number of Caregivers, and Family Stabilization Services, December 2008

MFIP Cases with 60 Months		Count of Cases	Percent
Number of Cases and Percent of Total MFIP		4,267	13.0%
MFIP-Eligibility Reason with Percent of 60-Month Cases	Extended Case	2,823	66.2%
	Child-only Case	997	23.4%
	MFIP Food-only	261	6.1%
	60th Counted Month	108	2.5%
	Banked Month	78	1.8%
Extended Cases: Total Extended Cases		2,823	66.2%
Extension Reason in December 2008 with Percent of Extended Cases	Ill or Incapacitated More than 30 Days	1,001	35.5%
	Care of Ill or Incapacitated Relative	754	26.7%
	IQ Between 70 and 80	407	14.4%
	Mentally Ill	318	11.3%
	Caregiver(s) Employed Enough Hours	133	4.7%
	Domestic Violence	68	2.4%
	Unemployable	39	1.4%
	Learning Disabled	81	2.9%
	IQ Less than 70	22	0.8%
	Appeal of MFIP Closure	0	0.0%
Extended Cases: Number of Extension Months with Percent of Extended Cases	1 to 12	821	29.1%
	13 to 24	565	20.0%
	25 to 36	452	16.0%
	37 or More	985	34.9%
	Mean	29.4	
	Median	25	
	Maximum	85	
Cases with at Least One Caregiver with Paid Work		755	17.7%
Earned Income	Mean	\$888	
	Median	\$800	
Work Hours	Mean	97.2	
	Median	95	
Number of Caregivers (Eligible and Ineligible)	One	3,594	84.2%
	Two	673	15.8%
Family Stabilization Services		Yes	2,981 69.9%

Table 1a. Extension Months by Extension Reason, December 2008

December 2008 Extended Cases	Total Extended Cases	Extension Reason				
		Ill or Incapacitated	Care of Ill/Special Medical	IQ Between 70 & 80	Mentally Ill	Other
All Extended Cases	2,823	1,001	754	407	318	343
Percent of Row	100.0%	35.5%	26.7%	14.4%	11.3%	12.2%
Extension Months 1 to 12	821	334	171	66	122	128
	Percent of Column 29.1%	33.4%	22.7%	16.2%	38.4%	37.3%
13 to 24	565	236	138	51	73	67
	20.0%	23.6%	18.3%	12.5%	23.0%	19.5%
25 to 36	452	172	111	60	50	59
	16.0%	17.2%	14.7%	14.7%	15.7%	17.2%
37 or More	985	259	334	230	73	89
	34.9%	25.9%	44.3%	56.5%	23.0%	25.9%

MFIP Cases that Reached 60 Counted Months: County Data

- Ramsey County accounted for 40 percent of the statewide total cases with 60 counted months, but 22 percent of all statewide MFIP cases. Hennepin County accounted for 31 percent of both the statewide total cases with 60 counted months and all statewide MFIP cases. Twenty-four percent of Ramsey County MFIP cases and 13 percent of Hennepin County MFIP cases were in extension. (Table 2)
- In each of the eight largest counties, the most common reason for continued eligibility after reaching the lifetime limit was an extension. In Anoka, Beltrami, Dakota, Hennepin, Olmsted, Ramsey, St. Louis, and Washington Counties, between 49 and 70 percent of cases with 60 counted months were extended. Ramsey County had the largest percentage of 60-month cases still open due to an extension. Beltrami County had the second lowest, at least in part because in Beltrami County many MFIP participants living on Red Lake Reservation are excepted from the time limit. (Table 3)
- Amongst these large counties, between 12 and 25 percent of cases with 60 counted months had at least one caregiver who reported employment in December 2008. All of the largest counties saw a decrease in participants with reported work since December 2007. Seventy-seven percent of food-only cases with 60 counted months reported work, while 5 percent of child-only and 16 percent of extended cases reported this. The large percentage of food-only cases with reported income makes sense because without that income the case most likely would have received a MFIP cash grant and been in extension.
- Being ill or incapacitated for more than 30 days was the most common reason for extension in most large counties (28 percent to 71 percent). In Ramsey County equal proportions were extended for an IQ between 70 and 80 and being ill or incapacitated (28 percent) and the most common extension reason in Washington County was care of an ill or incapacitated relative (44 percent). (Table 4)
- Statewide, about 29 percent of extended cases had been extended for one year or less and about 35 percent had been extended for three years or more. Ramsey County had the largest proportion of its extended cases in extension for three years or more; 43 percent of Ramsey County cases had been extended for more than 36 months compared to between 5 percent and 34 percent of other large counties.
- While nearly all extended cases were eligible for FSS⁵, 72 percent of Food-only and 46 percent of cases that had just reached their 60th month were FSS-eligible.

⁵ MFIP participants who are extended as ill or incapacitated or in a hard-to-employ category are required to follow FSS service requirements. See DHS Combined Manual 0011.33.

Table 2. Servicing County of December 2008 MFIP Cases that Had 60 Counted Months

Service County	Cases with 60 Counted Months	
	Count of Cases	Percent of Total MFIP Cases within County
Aitkin	1	1.2%
Anoka	231	14.7%
Becker	24	8.4%
Beltrami	41	2.9%
Benton	10	6.1%
Big Stone	4	19.0%
Blue Earth	27	10.4%
Brown	2	3.1%
Carlton	12	9.1%
Carver	6	5.2%
Cass	26	7.3%
Chippewa	1	2.2%
Chisago	7	4.9%
Clay	28	10.9%
Clearwater	8	11.0%
Cook	0	0.0%
Cottonwood	2	4.3%
Crow Wing	14	5.0%
Dakota	136	10.0%
Dodge	2	3.5%
Douglas	8	9.2%
Faribault	3	6.3%
Fillmore	2	4.3%
Freeborn	5	2.6%
Goodhue	11	8.3%
Grant	2	11.8%
Hennepin	1,328	13.0%
Houston	2	3.1%
Hubbard	4	4.5%
Isanti	9	5.9%
Itasca	27	8.7%
Jackson	1	3.1%
Kanabec	7	6.6%
Kandiyohi	14	5.3%
Kittson	0	0.0%
Koochiching	5	9.3%
Lac Qui Parle	1	10.0%
Lake	0	0.0%
Lake of the Woods	1	10.0%
Le Sueur	4	6.1%
Lincoln	2	16.7%
Lyon	9	9.1%
Mcleod	5	4.4%
Mahnomen	17	8.6%
Marshall	0	0.0%

Service County	Cases with 60 Counted Months	
	Count of Cases	Percent of Total MFIP Cases within County
Martin	0	0.0%
Meeker	4	5.2%
Mille Lacs	9	6.5%
Morrison	7	6.6%
Mower	5	2.7%
Murray	1	10.0%
Nicollet	8	6.0%
Nobles	7	5.7%
Norman	0	0.0%
Olmsted	34	5.1%
Otter Tail	9	5.3%
Pennington	1	1.9%
Pine	4	2.4%
Pipestone	0	0.0%
Polk	18	9.8%
Pope	3	10.3%
Ramsey	1,693	23.7%
Red Lake	2	10.0%
Redwood	2	4.0%
Renville	2	3.2%
Rice	9	3.6%
Rock	1	3.3%
Roseau	2	6.9%
St Louis	189	13.5%
Scott	23	8.9%
Sherburne	17	8.5%
Sibley	1	2.3%
Stearns	41	6.8%
Steele	8	6.3%
Stevens	0	0.0%
Swift	1	2.8%
Todd	5	5.3%
Traverse	0	0.0%
Wabasha	2	4.0%
Wadena	6	6.2%
Waseca	5	6.0%
Washington	64	11.9%
Watonwan	0	0.0%
Wilkin	2	14.3%
Winona	19	11.7%
Wright	10	4.5%
Yellow Medicine	1	5.9%
Statewide Total	4,267	13.0%

Table 3. MFIP Cases that Had 60 Counted Months: Eligibility Reason, Reported Employment, and Two-caregiver Cases by Large County and Reported Employment, December 2008

December 2008 60-Month Cases	Total Cases with 60 Counted Months	Eligibility Reason					One or More Working Caregivers	Cases with Two Caregivers
		Extended	Child-only	Food-only	Counted	Banked		
All Cases with 60 Months	4,267	2,823	997	261	108	78	755	673
Percent of Row	100.0%	66.2%	23.4%	6.1%	2.5%	1.8%	17.7%	15.8%
Anoka	231	156	60	9	3	3	34	39
	5.4%	67.5%	26.0%	3.9%	1.3%	1.3%	14.7%	16.9%
Beltrami	41	20	17	2	2	0	9	4
	1.0%	48.8%	41.5%	4.9%	4.9%	0.0%	22.0%	9.8%
Dakota	136	92	30	5	4	5	21	9
	3.2%	67.6%	22.1%	3.7%	2.9%	3.7%	15.4%	6.6%
Hennepin	1,328	854	340	61	42	31	199	151
	31.1%	64.3%	25.6%	4.6%	3.2%	2.3%	15.0%	11.4%
Olmsted	34	17	16	0	1	0	4	11
	0.8%	50.0%	47.1%	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%	11.8%	32.4%
Ramsey	1,693	1,182	329	130	25	27	305	313
	39.7%	69.8%	19.4%	7.7%	1.5%	1.6%	18.0%	18.5%
St. Louis	189	125	54	7	1	2	33	24
	4.4%	66.1%	28.6%	3.7%	0.5%	1.1%	17.5%	12.7%
Washington	64	41	16	6	0	1	15	15
	1.5%	64.1%	25.0%	9.4%	0.0%	1.6%	23.4%	23.4%
All Other Counties	551	336	135	41	30	9	135	106
	12.9%	61.0%	24.5%	7.4%	5.4%	1.6%	24.5%	19.2%
One or More Working Caregivers	755	462	52	201	28	12	755	177
	17.7%	16.4%	5.2%	77.0%	25.9%	15.4%	100.0%	26.3%
FSS	2,981	2,697	8	187	50	39	523	465
	69.9%	95.5%	0.8%	71.6%	46.3%	50.0%	69.3%	69.1%

Table 4. Extended Cases: Extension Reason and Extension Months by Large County and Reported Employment, December 2008

December 2008 Extended Cases	Total Extended Cases	Extension Reason					Extension Months			
		Ill or Incapacitated	Care of Ill or Incapacitated	IQ Between 70 & 80	Mentally Ill	Other	1 to 12	13 to 24	25 to 36	37 or More
All Extended Cases	2,823	1,001	754	407	318	343	821	565	452	985
Percent of Row	100.0%	35.5%	26.7%	14.4%	11.3%	12.2%	29.1%	20.0%	16.0%	34.9%
Anoka	156	76	46	6	16	12	47	36	30	43
	5.5%	48.7%	29.5%	3.8%	10.3%	7.7%	30.1%	23.1%	19.2%	27.6%
Beltrami	20	9	1	0	1	9	7	8	4	1
	0.7%	45.0%	5.0%	0.0%	5.0%	45.0%	35.0%	40.0%	20.0%	5.0%
Dakota	92	26	22	13	22	9	29	16	16	31
	3.3%	28.3%	23.9%	14.1%	23.9%	9.8%	31.5%	17.4%	17.4%	33.7%
Hennepin	854	349	262	40	75	128	274	180	126	274
	30.3%	40.9%	30.7%	4.7%	8.8%	15.0%	32.1%	21.1%	14.8%	32.1%
Olmsted	17	12	2	1	0	2	8	3	4	2
	0.6%	70.6%	11.8%	5.9%	0.0%	11.8%	47.1%	17.6%	23.5%	11.8%
Ramsey	1,182	325	287	325	137	108	253	226	193	510
	41.9%	27.5%	24.3%	27.5%	11.6%	9.1%	21.4%	19.1%	16.3%	43.1%
St. Louis	125	56	20	6	29	14	54	22	19	30
	4.4%	44.8%	16.0%	4.8%	23.2%	11.2%	43.2%	17.6%	15.2%	24.0%
Washington	41	10	18	4	4	5	18	7	7	9
	1.5%	24.4%	43.9%	9.8%	9.8%	12.2%	43.9%	17.1%	17.1%	22.0%
All Other Counties	336	138	96	12	34	56	131	67	53	85
	11.9%	41.1%	28.6%	3.6%	10.1%	16.7%	39.0%	19.9%	15.8%	25.3%
Cases with One or More Working Caregivers	462	95	103	85	38	141	138	94	85	145
	16.4%	9.5%	13.7%	20.9%	11.9%	41.1%	16.8%	16.6%	18.8%	14.7%

MFIP-eligible Adults that Reached 60 Counted Months

- Compared to eligible adults with fewer than 60 counted months, eligible adults in December 2008 who had reached the time limit were more likely to belong to each of these groups: female, black, a U.S. citizen, and history of chemical dependency or serious mental health diagnosis. They were also older, with an average age of 38 compared to 35 for adults with fewer than 60 months.⁶ (Table 5)
- Blacks were 52 percent of eligible adults with 60 counted months, but 36 percent of eligible adults with fewer than 60 months. This disproportion was only present in the African American subgroup, not the Somali or Other African Immigrant groups.
- Eligible adults with 60 counted months were only slightly more likely than adults with fewer than 60 months to have graduated from high school (62 percent compared to 57 percent) and slightly less likely never to have been married (64 percent compared to 67 percent). Eligible adults that had reached the time limit were also, on average, older than other MFIP-eligible adults and, therefore, had more time to attend school and graduate and to marry.
- Eligible adults with 60 counted months were much more likely to have received a chemical dependency or serious mental health diagnosis than their peers with fewer than 60 months. Nearly a quarter of eligible adults with fewer than 60 months had received a chemical dependency diagnosis between 2006 and 2008 compared to 31 percent of eligible adults with 60 months. Thirty-four percent of eligible adults with fewer than 60 months had received a serious mental health diagnosis between 2006 and 2008 compared to 60 percent of eligible adults with 60 months.⁷
- The majority of persons in each racial/ethnic groups except blacks had a serious mental health diagnosis made in the last three years. Whites were the most likely to have received such a diagnosis (73 percent), followed by American Indians (67 percent) and Asians (64 percent). Fifty-nine percent of American Indians had received a chemical dependency diagnosis in the last three years. (Table 5a)

⁶ There are fewer eligible adults than total cases included in this report due to the 997 child-only cases that have no MFIP-eligible adults. Because some cases had more than one eligible caregiver, the number of cases minus the number of eligible adults does not equal the number of child-only cases.

⁷ While these measures may underestimate the actual incidence of mental and chemical health disorders because they only include people who received publicly paid health care that was billed for in the state administrative database, adults nearing 60 months may be more likely to receive a diagnosis for an existing condition than adults with fewer months because of more intensive case reviews by county workers at or after 48 counted months.

Table 5. Demographic Characteristics, Chemical Dependency Diagnosis, and Serious Mental Health Diagnosis of MFIP-eligible Adults with 60 Counted Months Compared to MFIP-eligible Adults with Fewer than 60 Counted Months, December 2008

Characteristics of MFIP-Eligible Adults		MFIP-Eligible Adults with 60 Months		MFIP-Eligible Adults with 1 to 59 Counted Months	
		Count of Persons	Percent	Count of Persons	Percent
Total		3,498	13.9%	21,662	86.1%
Gender	Male	456	13.0%	4,139	19.1%
	Female	3,042	87.0%	17,523	80.9%
Age	19 and younger	0	0.0%	2,455	11.3%
	20 to 29	851	24.3%	11,159	51.5%
	30 to 39	1,626	46.5%	4,796	22.1%
	40 to 49	811	23.2%	2,426	11.2%
	50 to 59	195	5.6%	706	3.3%
	60 and older	15	0.4%	120	0.6%
	Mean	37.5		34.5	
	Median	36		31	
Race	Asian	233	6.7%	1,486	6.9%
	Black	1,818	52.0%	7,775	35.9%
	American Indian	247	7.1%	2,246	10.4%
	Hispanic	152	4.3%	1,117	5.2%
	White	1,000	28.6%	8,563	39.5%
	Multiple/Unknown	48	1.4%	475	2.2%
Asian Subgroups	Asian American	16	0.5%	211	1.0%
	Hmong	184	5.3%	756	3.5%
	Other Asian Immigrant	33	0.9%	519	2.4%
Black Subgroups	African American	1,604	45.9%	5,606	25.9%
	Somali	155	4.4%	1,421	6.6%
	Other African Immigrant	59	1.7%	748	3.5%
Education	Less than 1st Grade/Unknown	135	3.9%	1,552	7.2%
	Grade School	96	2.7%	479	2.2%
	Some High School	1,084	31.0%	7,012	32.4%
	High School Graduate	1,864	53.3%	10,974	50.7%
	Some Post-Secondary	278	7.9%	1,380	6.4%
	College Graduate	26	0.7%	138	0.6%
	Graduate Degree	15	0.4%	127	0.6%
	High School or Greater	2,183	62.4%	12,619	58.3%
Marital Status	Divorced	299	8.5%	1,354	6.3%
	Legally Separated	10	0.3%	46	0.2%
	Married, Living Apart	500	14.3%	2,353	10.9%
	Married, Living Together	423	12.1%	3,202	14.8%
	Never Married	2,223	63.6%	14,535	67.1%
	Widowed	42	1.2%	172	0.8%
Citizenship Status	US Citizen	3,226	92.2%	18,385	84.9%
	Non-Citizen	272	7.8%	3,277	15.1%
Chemical Dependency Diagnosis	During 2008	673	19.2%	2,817	13.0%
	During 2006 to 2008	1,087	31.1%	4,655	21.5%
Serious Mental Health Diagnosis	During 2008	1,651	47.2%	5,467	25.2%
	During 2006 to 2008	2,090	59.7%	7,276	33.6%

Table 5a. Serious Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Diagnoses by Race/Ethnicity for December 2008 MFIP-eligible Adults with 60 Counted Months

MFIP-eligible Caregivers	Total Eligible Caregivers with 60 months		Serious Mental Health Diagnosis, 2006 to 2008		Chemical Dependency Diagnosis, 2006 to 2008	
	Number	Caregivers with 60 Months	Number	Percent of Race	Number	Percent of Race
Asian	233	6.7%	150	64.4%	13	5.6%
Black	1,818	52.0%	927	51.0%	484	26.6%
American Indian	247	7.1%	166	67.2%	146	59.1%
Hispanic	152	4.3%	85	55.9%	38	25.0%
White	1,000	28.6%	731	73.1%	384	38.4%
Total Persons	3,498	100.0%	2,090	59.7%	1,087	31.1%

Cases at the Time Limit: MFIP Cases that Reached the 60th Counted Month in December 2008

The remainder of this report focuses on the 108 MFIP cases that reached their 60th counted month in December 2008. Figure 2 shows the number of cases that reached their 60th counted month each month since December 2005. An average of 119 cases reached the time limit each month.

Figure 2. Number of MFIP Cases that Reached the 60th Counted Month, December 2005 to December 2008

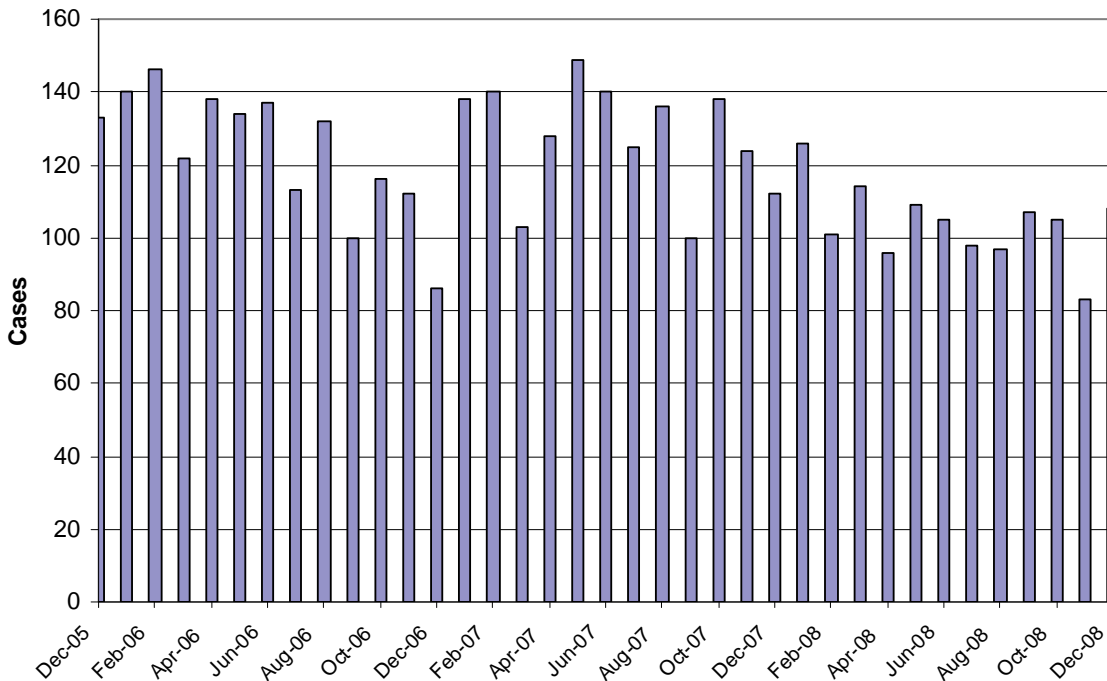
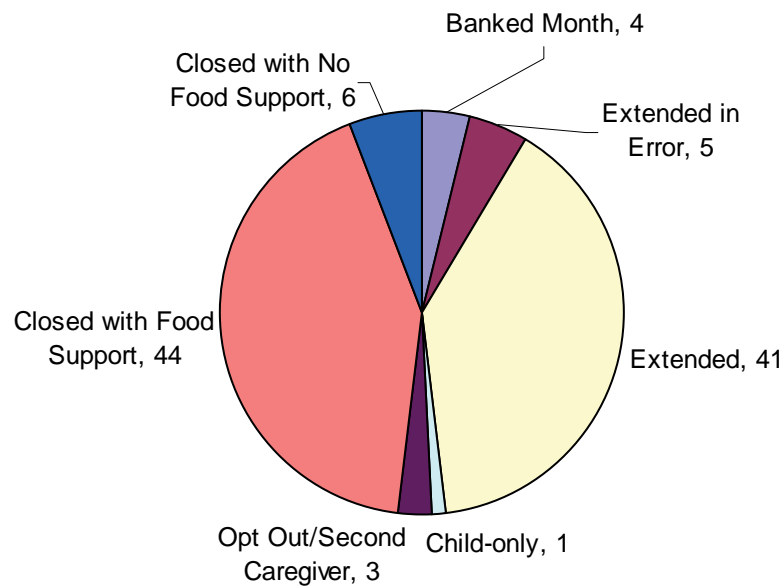


Figure 3 shows the status of these 108 cases in January 2009, the month after they reached the time limit. This status is not static. Case eligibility could change frequently in the months following, as shown in Table 7, with case outcomes for the six months following December 2008. Cases often move between eligibility reasons and ineligibility.

- In January 2009, the month after reaching the time limit, 58 remained open on MFIP and 50 cases were closed, 44 of which received Food Support.
- The percentage of these cases receiving MFIP decreased by 7 percentage points between January and June 2009, while the percentage of cases receiving stand-alone Food Support initially increased by 5 percentage points but then decreased to January levels by June.
- All of the cases had at least one household member eligible for Medical Assistance (MA) at some point between January and June 2008.

- In June 2009, 57 of the 108 cases that reached 60 counted months in December 2008 were not receiving MFIP. Of these 57 leavers, 27 had a caregiver with wages reported to Minnesota’s Unemployment Insurance (UI) system for the second quarter 2009. (Figure 5)
- Three cases were in sanction during their 60th counted months which means that they can never be extended. (Table 6)
- Sixty percent of the cases that reached the time limit in December 2008 received at least one month of MFIP in the next six months, with 42 percent receiving MFIP in all of the next six months. In addition to extended cases, these include cases that used banked months, became child-only,⁸ food-only, had a second caregiver with fewer than 60 months join the household, or other eligibility reasons.
- Forty-six percent of the cases were extended on MFIP in at least one month between January and June 2009 and 25 percent were in extension for the entire period. Fifty-seven percent of the cases received Food Support independently of MFIP in at least one month between January and June 2009 and 32 percent received Food Support in all of the next six months.

Figure 3. What Happened Next? Disposition of the 112 Cases that Reached the 60th Counted Month in December 2008: January 2009 Case Status



⁸ A case cannot become a child-only case just because the caregiver reached 60 counted months. Child-only cases with 60 counted months are cases where the caregiver either was in extension or reapplied after becoming ineligible for another reason, most often for being eligible for SSI.

Figure 4. Six Months Later: June 2008 MFIP Eligibility Status and Second Quarter 2009 Unemployment Insurance (UI) Wages

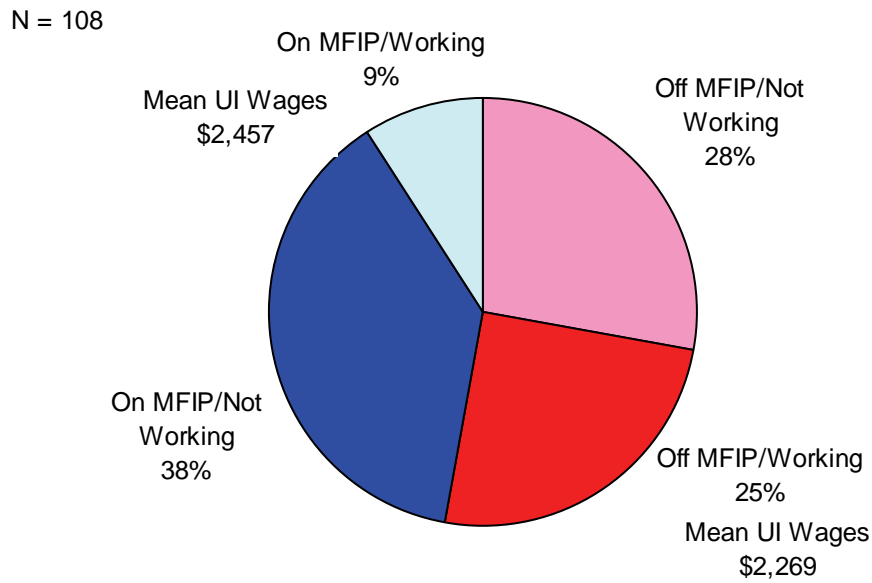


Table 6. The First Six Months after the Time Limit: Assistance Programs and Reported Wages for Cases that Reached the 60th Counted Month in December 2008

Cases at the 60-Month Time Limit		Count of Cases	Percent
Cases that Reached 60 Months in December 2008		108	100.0%
Cases in Sanction During December 2008		3	2.8%
Any MA-Eligible Persons During January to June 2009		108	100.0%
Any Food Support or MFIP-Eligible Months During January to June 2009		105	97.2%
MFIP Eligibility	No MFIP Eligibility	43	39.8%
(Includes all reasons for eligibility beyond 60 months)	January	58	53.7%
	February	53	49.1%
	March	52	48.1%
	April	55	50.9%
	May	53	49.1%
	June	51	47.2%
MFIP Extension Eligibility	No Extension Months	58	53.7%
	January	50	46.3%
	February	42	38.9%
	March	43	39.8%
	April	39	36.1%
	May	39	36.1%
	June	38	35.2%
Food Support Eligibility	No Food Support Eligibility	47	43.5%
(Stand-alone Food Support only)	January	47	43.5%
	February	52	48.1%
	March	51	47.2%
	April	50	46.3%
	May	47	43.5%
	June	48	44.4%
Unemployment Insurance Wages in Quarter After 60th MFIP Month	Yes	37	34.3%
	Mean Wages Quarter Two 2009, if any	\$2,320	

Table Definitions and Notes

Counted MFIP months are active, paid months that are counted toward the time limit. Counted months for a case are defined as the maximum number of counted eligibility months for TANF and/or MFIP between September 1996 and December 2008 of any eligible adult on the case. Minnesota started counting TANF months in July 1997, while several other states started counting earlier, some as early as September 1996. Totals in this report include time from other states.

An **eligible adult** is an adult caregiver or minor parent who personally meets MFIP eligibility requirements and receives an MFIP grant. Cases receiving a grant are known as **paid cases**; this excludes active cases suspended for the month because they have income great enough to cancel out the cash grant. This typically occurs in months with five weekly or three biweekly pay periods.

Food Support is Minnesota's name for the federal food assistance program (formerly the Food Stamp Program, now the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program).

Servicing county is the county in which the case received service in December 2008.

Table 1

An MFIP case can be extended beyond the 60-month lifetime limit if a hardship that is a permitted extension has been documented or there is employment of a given number of hours per month. Cases in sanction for not being in compliance with Employment Services (ES) or Child Support in month 60 can never be extended.

A child-only MFIP case is a case where the caregiver is ineligible for MFIP, but the children are eligible for a cash grant and/or food portion. The most common reasons for caregiver ineligibility are receipt of SSI, being a relative caregiver, or lack of documents that prove U.S. citizenship. These months are not counted toward the time limit. A case cannot become a child-only case because the caregiver reached 60 counted months. If the caregiver has accumulated 60 months and subsequently the case meets the criteria for becoming a child-only case, then the children may be eligible for MFIP.

MFIP provides both a cash grant and a food portion; the latter may only be spent on food. As caregivers increase income, the cash grant is reduced first, sometimes leaving only a food portion. Months in which a case receives only the food portion are not counted toward the time limit.

Total income was either actual or projected December 2008 income of eligible adults and other adults whose earnings were deemed for the cases. The amount used was either verified earnings for December 2008 or zero for cases still active in February 2009 with no income reported for December 2008 (required to be reported by February 2009) or prospective December 2008 income for new cases with retrospective data missing and for all migrant cases. Total income was gross income except for the self-employed where it was gross less expenses, with a minimum of zero, so the self-employed with no net income

would not be counted as employed. Means of income and hours do not include cases with zero earnings or hours.

Table 5 and Table 5a

Data include only MFIP-eligible adults. Child-only cases were not included in this table.

Characteristics with no bearing on program eligibility may not be routinely updated after the initial application, including education, marital status, and citizenship. Thus, high school graduation and U.S. citizenship attainment may be underreported.

The coding method for race/ethnicity follows the 2000 U.S. Census methodology, with participants asked their racial choice (yes or no) for each of five racial categories (American Indian, Asian, black, Pacific Islander, and white) and ethnicity (Hispanic or non-Hispanic). For this report, Asian and Pacific Islander categories were combined due to small numbers of Pacific Islanders. Hispanic persons of all races were reported as Hispanic.

The two largest immigrant groups in Minnesota are Hmong and Somali. To describe these important subgroups and compare their outcomes, Asians were subdivided into Hmong (identified by declared nationality or preferred language and race), non-Hmong Asian immigrants, and non-immigrant Asian American citizens. Blacks were subdivided into Somali (also identified by nationality or language and race), non-Somali black immigrants, and non-immigrant African American citizens.

A serious mental health diagnosis identifies eligible adults who were known to have been diagnosed with psychosis, depression, personality disorder, post-traumatic stress syndrome, or anxiety state during 2008 or during the three-year period from 2006 to 2008. Chemical dependency diagnosis identifies eligible adults who received that diagnosis (excepting tobacco) during 2008 or during the three-year period 2006 to 2008. Both of these measures may underestimate the actual number of adults with these diagnoses because only cases that received publicly paid health care that is recorded in administrative records are known. On the other hand, these diagnoses may be a secondary diagnosis and do not indicate whether treatment services were received.

Figure 3

Counted months are assigned to an individual person. An eligible adult in a two-eligible adult case, upon reaching his or her 60th counted month, can choose to **opt out** of the case if the other adult has fewer than 60 counted months or an extension reason, so the second caregiver and eligible children can continue to receive a MFIP grant.

Table 6

Medical Assistance (MA), Minnesota's Medicaid program, is a person-based, rather than a case-based program (either family or household). The count of cases with an MA-eligible person includes cases that had one or more MA-eligible persons in any month between January and June 2009.

Food Support eligibility months exclude cases that had any MFIP-eligible household members.

Table 6, Figure 5

Employers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) system (which excludes federal government, religious, and seasonal workers) must report wages to the state. Employment in other states or for cash is not included in UI data. The table provides second quarter 2009 (the second quarter after cases reached month 60) wages reported for participants' jobs covered by UI in Minnesota as a measure of earnings and labor market attachment.

Averages and medians of wages do not include cases with zero dollars.