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# **Minnesota Family Investment Program and Diversionary Work Program: Characteristics of Cases and People**

December 2015

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## Abbreviations used in this report

AFDC	Aid to Families with Dependent Children
DHS	Minnesota Department of Human Services (department)
DWP	Diversionary Work Program
ES	Employment Services
FSS	Family Stabilization Services
GED	General Educational Development Equivalency Certificate
MFIP	Minnesota Family Investment Program
PRWORA	Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act
RSDI	Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
WPR	Work Participation Rate

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## Executive summary

The Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) is Minnesota's family cash assistance program providing financial payments and other services to help economically stabilize low-income families. The Diversionary Work Program (DWP) is a short-term program meant to assist families in crisis to quickly regain employment. The MFIP grant includes a food portion funded by the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); DWP participants can apply separately for SNAP.

Families applying for assistance are enrolled in DWP up to its four-month maximum, unless they have been enrolled in MFIP within the past 12 months, or are considered unlikely to benefit from DWP's intensive work supports. DWP enrolled its first participants in July 2004. Both programs are available only to families with minor children or pregnant women.

**Cases and people.** In December 2015, 23,311 adults and 60,495 children received cash assistance through MFIP in 30,349 cases. For DWP, the numbers are 3,108 adults and 4,980 children on 2,575 cases.

**Participant demographics.** Families participating in MFIP or DWP have an average adult age of 32 for both MFIP enrolled adult and DWP cases.

Seventy-one percent of MFIP enrolled adult cases and 63 percent of DWP cases have a child under age 6. The majority of enrolled adults are female (81 percent of MFIP adults and 75 percent of DWP adults); about 24 percent of all MFIP cases with enrolled adults have two caregivers present.

The majority of MFIP and DWP adults have at least a high school diploma or a General Educational Development (GED) certificate (57 percent and 58 percent, respectively); have never been married (63 percent and 53 percent); and are U.S. citizens (80 percent and 75 percent).

More than half (54 percent) of MFIP adults were on public assistance (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) when they were children. Forty-six percent of enrolled adults were on MFIP or DWP cases as children.

**Grant amounts.** The average cash grant in December 2015 for MFIP child only cases was \$402; for MFIP enrolled adult cases \$387, and for DWP cases \$429. The average food portion grant for MFIP enrolled adult cases was \$486.

**Employment.** Many MFIP and DWP participants are working (43 percent and 53 percent, respectively). The median monthly income for working MFIP parents was \$1,202 whereas DWP participants earned slightly more at \$1,228 a month. Employed parents on MFIP worked an average of 121 hours a month whereas DWP participants worked slightly less, at 114 hours a month.

**Time counted toward the lifetime limit.** In December 2015, MFIP cases averaged 30 counted months and DWP cases average 21 counted months. Approximately 16 percent of MFIP cases had received time limit extensions for documented hardships. The average of case extended families was 43 months.

## Introduction

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 [PL 104-193] set federal program requirements for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), such as a five-year limit on cash assistance, a work-first emphasis, work participation requirements and other rules. Within this broad framework, states have flexibility to design TANF programs to meet their needs. Minnesota's TANF program, the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) began in 1998 and uses the TANF federal block grant and state funds to meet the needs of low-income families for cash, food and services. State grant funds are used for cases with two enrolled adults, participants in Family Stabilization Services (FSS), teen parents and certain non-citizens.

In 2005, the Deficit Reduction Act [PL 109-171] extended funding for TANF. It retained the original program requirements and narrowed the definition of work activities, broadened the definition of which participants are required to participate in work activities to include some MFIP-ineligible caregivers, and increased work activity documentation requirements.

Family Stabilization Services) is an MFIP service track for families facing barriers to employment or certain disabilities who may benefit from a more flexible employment plan. Because Minnesota funds FSS cases, they are not included in the federal Work Participation Rate (WPR). All active MFIP cases, including FSS enrolled cases, are included in the MFIP case and person totals in this report.

The Diversionary Work Program (DWP) is a separate program with services that include job training and education, and employment support services such as child care and transportation assistance. DWP participants are required to engage in approved activities documented in their mandatory individual employment plan. DWP grants last a maximum of four months and are vendor-paid for rent and utilities.

## Report format

This report provides a snapshot of all active paid cases in MFIP and DWP in December of the report year. The characteristics reports date back to the beginning of MFIP in 1998. Data are provided on the demographics of enrolled adults<sup>1</sup>; family composition, residence and challenges; economic status of cases; and MFIP policy impacts. To reflect program differences, the MFIP population is divided into three categories: Child only cases that include children but not their caregivers on the grant, cases with one enrolled adult and cases with two enrolled adults. The DWP population, which does not include child only cases, is divided into cases with one or two enrolled adults. Tribal TANF programs administered through the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and Red Lake Nation do not have their participants included in this report.

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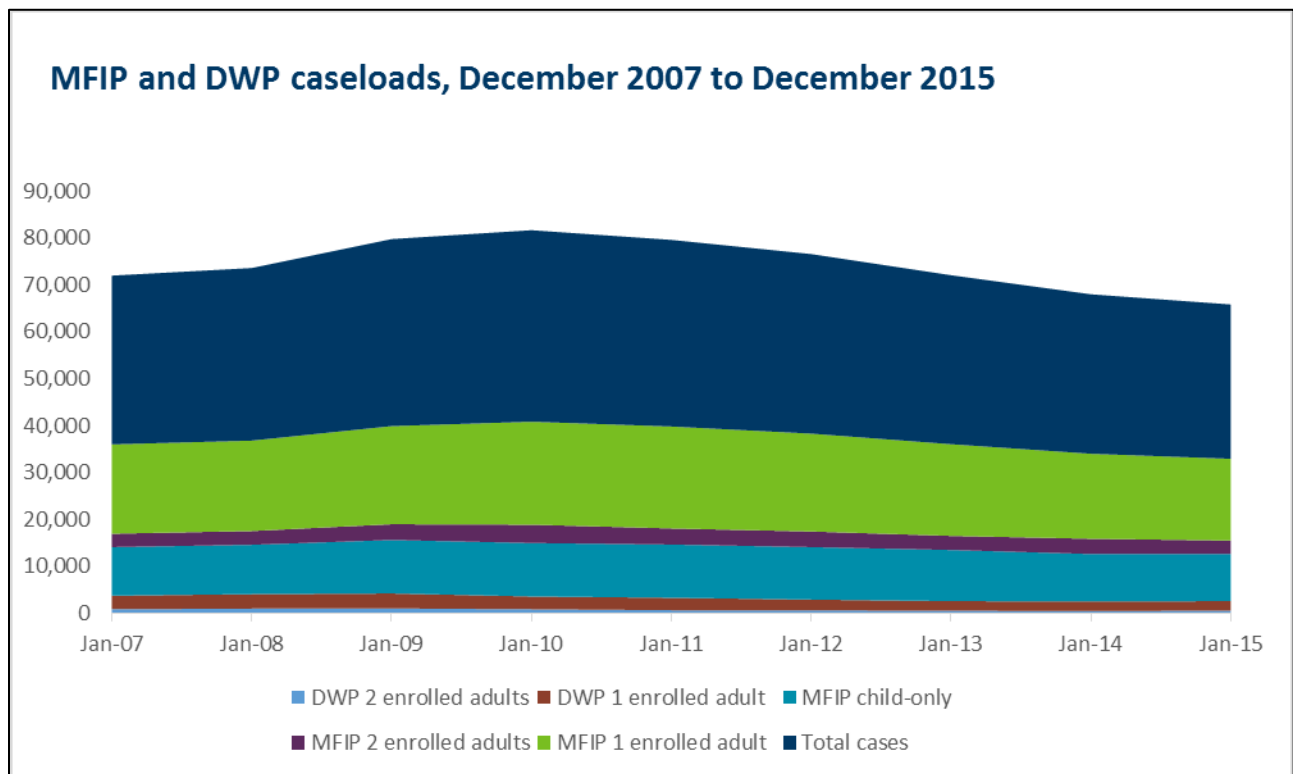
<sup>1</sup> "Adult" is a caregiver in a case, usually a biological, adoptive or step-parent – including minor teen parents and second parents if in the household – or a relative responsible for children on a case, or a pregnant woman with no other children in the household.

## Quick facts: Characteristics of MFIP and DWP participants, December 2015

### Caseload sizes and trends

The Minnesota Family Investment Program and Diversionary Work Program provided benefits for 32,924 families in December 2015. Corresponding with the great recession, the number of families served reached a high point in December 2010 but has declined between December 2011 and December 2015.

**Figure 1: MFIP and DWP caseloads, December 2007 to December 2015**

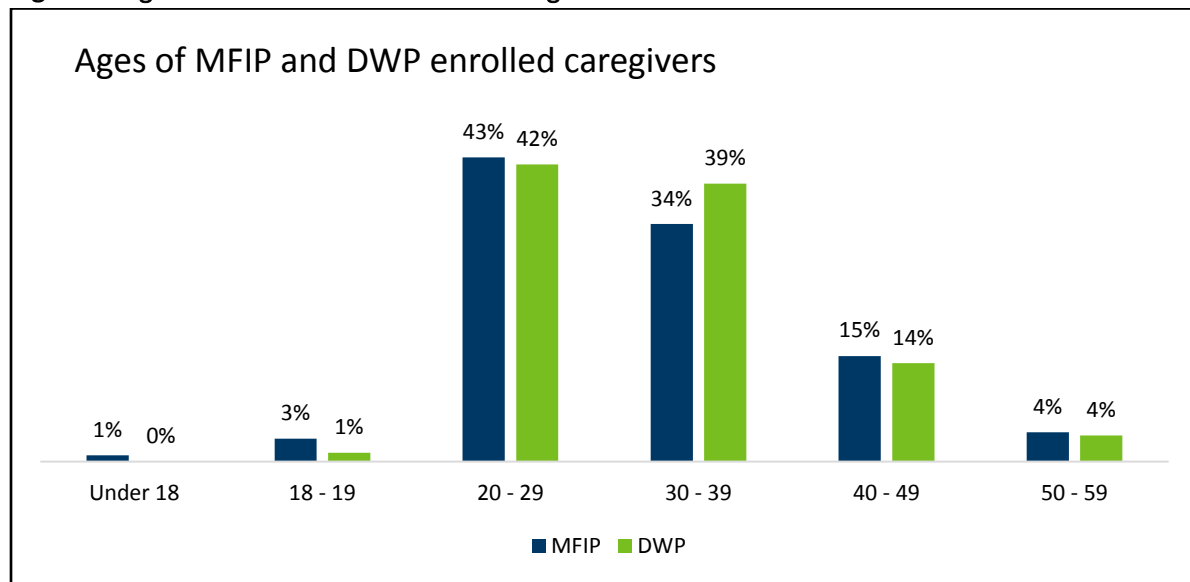


Case Type and Composition	Dec-07	Dec-08	Dec-09	Dec-10	Dec-11	Dec-12	Dec-13	Dec-14
DWP 2 enrolled adults	839	970	1,006	833	638	606	517	463
DWP 1 enrolled adult	2,894	3,085	3,203	2,718	2,645	2,284	2,047	2,037
MFIP child-only	10,353	10,533	11,392	11,409	11,350	11,195	10,902	10,116
MFIP 2 enrolled adults	2,862	2,937	3,381	3,915	3,432	3,336	3,009	3,247
MFIP 1 enrolled adult	19,048	19,285	20,916	21,966	21,745	20,877	19,566	18,144
<b>Total cases</b>	<b>35,996</b>	<b>36,810</b>	<b>39,898</b>	<b>40,841</b>	<b>39,810</b>	<b>38,298</b>	<b>36,041</b>	<b>34,007</b>

## Quick facts: Demographics of parents receiving MFIP and DWP, December 2015

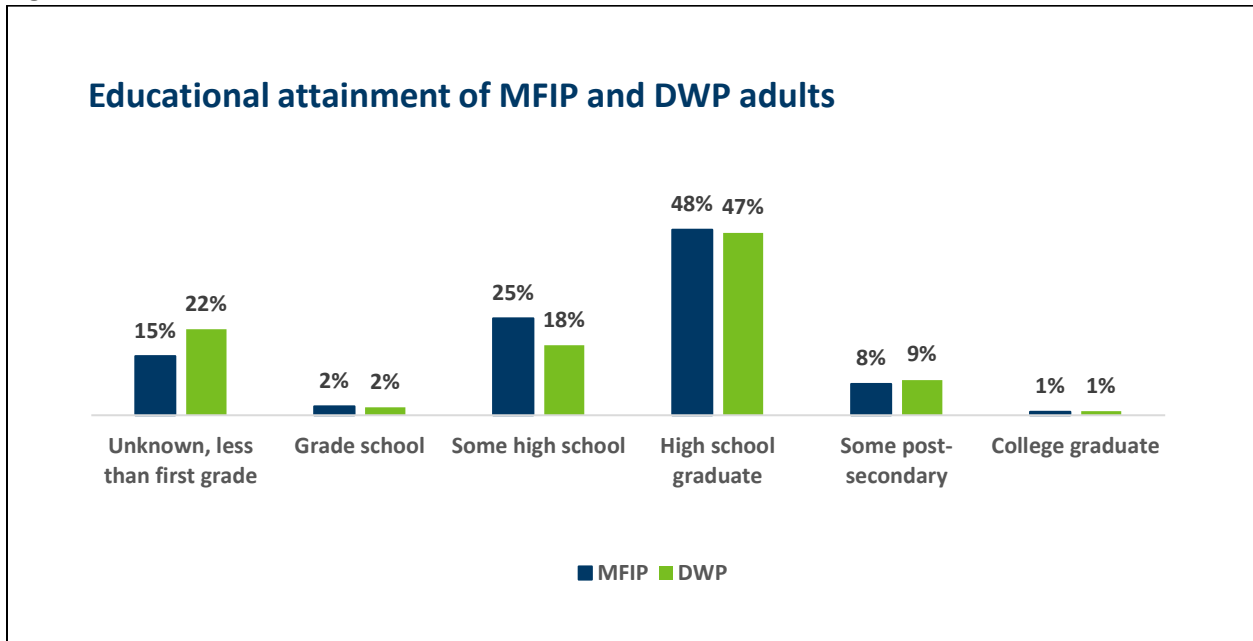
- Number of families served.** In December 2015, 23,311 adults and 60,495 children received cash assistance through MFIP in 30,349 cases. For DWP, the numbers are 3,108 adults and 4,981 children on 2,575 cases.
- Average age.** The average age for adults in both programs was 32, but ranged from 12-81. The majority of participants were between the ages of 20 and 39. Figure 2 shows the ages of MFIP and DWP enrolled caregivers.

Figure 2: Ages of MFIP and DWP enrolled caregivers



- Gender of MFIP/DWP participants.** The majority of caregivers in each program were female, 81 percent in MFIP and 75 percent in DWP. In single adult families, 12 percent of DWP caregivers were male, as were 9 percent of MFIP caregivers.
- Citizenship status.** Most MFIP and DWP participants were US citizens – 80 percent and 75 percent, respectively
- Marital status.** The majority of participants in both programs have never been married, 63 percent of MFIP adults and 53 percent of DWP adults. Fourteen percent of MFIP participants and 18 percent of DWP recipients were married and living with their spouse.
- Education level.** The majority of program participants have completed at least a high school diploma – 57 percent of MFIP participants and 58 percent in DWP. Figure 3 shows the education levels of adults enrolled in MFIP or DWP.

**Figure 3: Educational attainment of MFIP and DWP e adults**

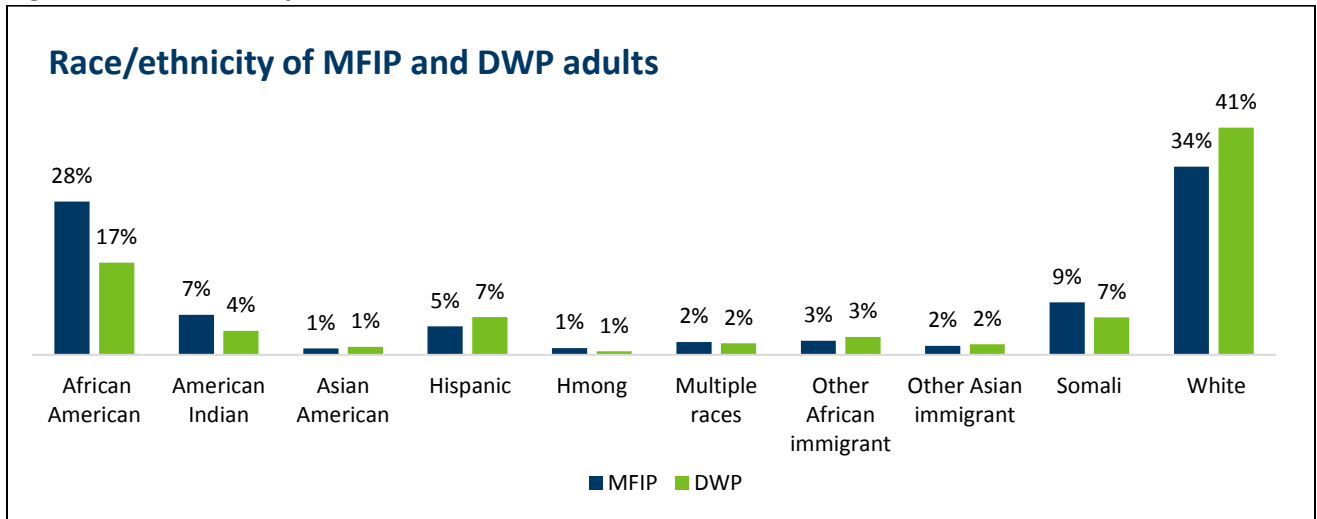


- Indicators of generational poverty.** More than half (54 percent) of MFIP adults were on public assistance (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) when they were children. Forty-six percent of enrolled adults were on MFIP or DWP cases as children.
- Race/ethnicity of MFIP and DWP adults.** The greatest percentage of adults enrolled on MFIP or DWP in December 2015 were White (34 percent of MFIP adults and 41 percent of DWP adults) as compared to 81.4<sup>2</sup> percent of the population in Minnesota. The second largest group of enrolled adults were African American (28 percent in MFIP and 17 percent in DWP) as compared to 5.8 percent of state residents. Figure 4 shows the race/ethnicity of MFIP and DWP adults.

<sup>2</sup> Minnesota State Demographic Center, available at <https://mn.gov/admin/demography/data-by-topic/age-race-ethnicity/>

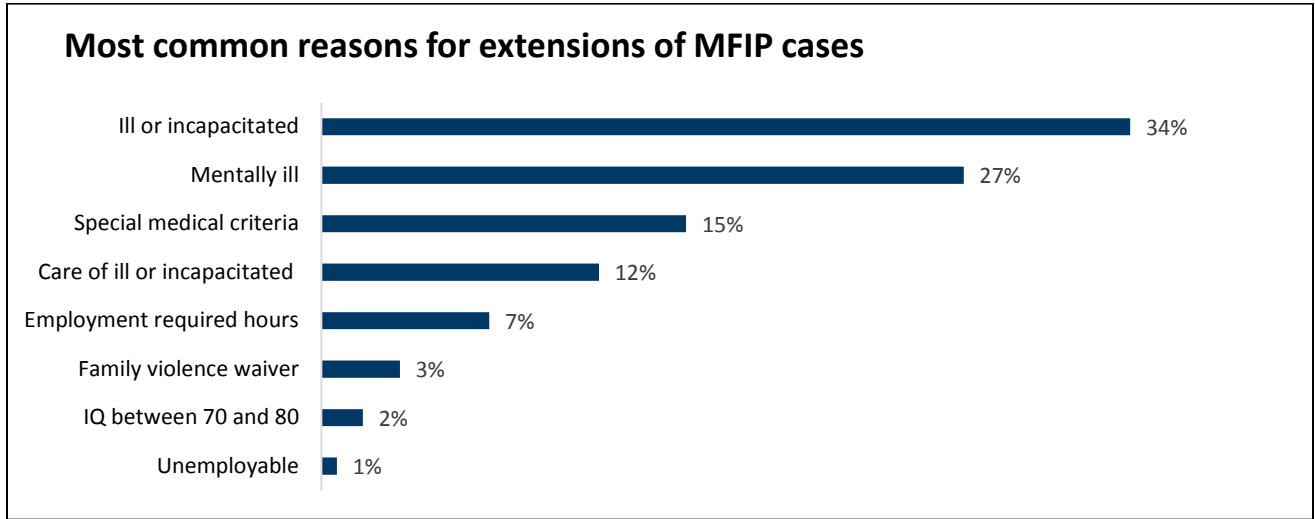


**Figure 4: Race/ethnicity of MFIP and DWP adults**



- Employment status of enrolled adults.** Many MFIP and DWP participants are working (43 percent and 53 percent, respectively). The median monthly income for working MFIP parents was \$1,202 whereas DWP participants earned slightly more at \$1,228 a month. Working parents in MFIP worked an average of 121 hours a month whereas DWP participants worked slightly less, at 114 hours a month.
- Average cash grant.** The average cash grant in December 2015 for MFIP child only cases was \$402; for MFIP enrolled adult cases \$387, and for DWP cases \$429. The average food portion grant for MFIP enrolled adult cases was \$486.
- Time counted toward the lifetime limit.** In December 2015, MFIP cases averaged 30 counted months and DWP cases average 21 months. Approximately 16 percent of MFIP cases had received time limit extensions for documented hardships. The average of case extended families was 43 months.

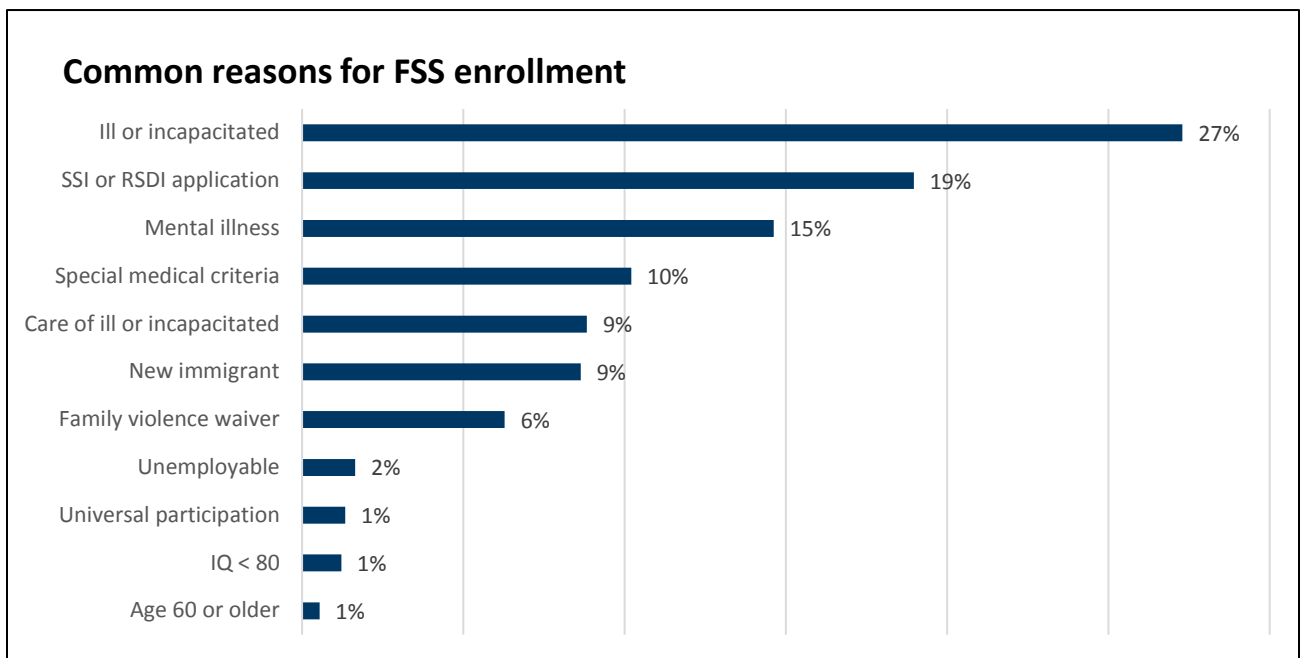
**Figure 5: Most common reasons for extensions of MFIP cases**



**Family Stabilization Services**

- Family Stabilization Services (FSS) is an MFIP service track for families facing barriers to employment or certain disabilities who may benefit from a more flexible employment plan. The most common reasons for FSS enrollment are presented in figure 6. Approximately 42 percent of MFIP families have at least one caregiver enrolled in FSS, whereas approximately 44 percent of two-parent cases have at least one adult enrolled in FSS.

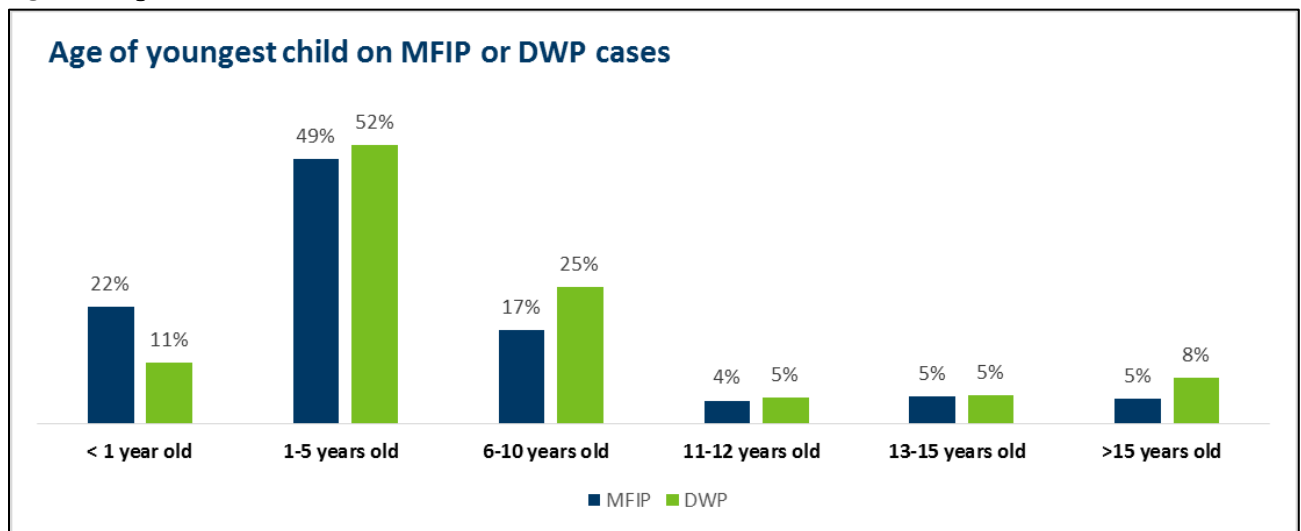
**Figure 6: Most common reasons for FSS enrollment**



## Quick facts: Children receiving MFIP or DWP

- Families enrolled in MFIP and DWP had an average of 2.1 children, ranging from zero - 12. (Pregnant women are also eligible for family cash programs.)
- The average age of a child enrolled in MFIP is 7.5, the average in DWP is 7.
- Families enrolled in DWP have slightly younger children than those enrolled in MFIP. The average age of a DWP participant's youngest child is 5.2, compared to the average age in MFIP, which is 6. Children in child only MFIP cases tend to be older, with an average age of 9.7 and an average youngest child age of 8.5.

Figure 7: Ages of children enrolled in MFIP or DWP



## Data tables

**Table 1: MFIP and DWP caseload counts, December 2015**

Counts	MFIP cases					DWP cases		
	Total MFIP	Child only	Number of enrolled adults			Number of enrolled adults		
			One	Two	Total	One	Two	Total
Paid cases	30,349 100%	10,089 33%	17,440 57%	2,820 9%	20,260 67%	2,047 79%	528 21%	2,575 100%
Enrolled adults	23,311 100%	210 1%	17,462 75%	5,639 24%	23,101 99%	2,052 66%	1,056 34%	3,108 100%
Enrolled children	60,495 100%	18,165 30%	33,907 56%	8,423 14%	42,330 70%	3,607 72%	1,373 28%	4,980 100%

**Table 2: Demographic characteristics of adults in MFIP and DWP paid cases, December 2015**

		MFIP enrolled adults			DWP enrolled adults		
		Types of people			Types of people		
		One adult in case	Two adults in case	All adults	One adult in case	Two adults in case	All adults
Adults	Count	17,462	5,639	23,101	2,052	1,056	3,108
	Percent	75%	24%	99%	66%	34%	100%
Age	Mean	32	34	32	32	33	32
	Median	30	32	31	31	31	31
	Minimum	12	12	12	18	18	18
	Maximum	77	81	81	59	59	59
	< 18	175	31	206	0	0	0
		1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%
	18 - 19	632	117	749	23	16	39
		4%	2%	3%	1%	2%	1%
	20 - 29	7,912	2,009	9,921	879	424	1,303
		45%	36%	43%	43%	40%	42%
	30 - 39	5,709	2,036	7,745	799	421	1,220
		33%	36%	34%	39%	40%	39%
	40 - 49	2,389	1,053	3,442	283	149	432
		14%	19%	15%	14%	14%	14%
	50 - 59	600	358	958	68	46	114
	3%	6%	4%	3%	4%	4%	
60 and over	45	35	80	0	0	0	
	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Gender	Female	15,925	2,819	18,744	1,816	529	2,345
		91%	50%	81%	88%	50%	75%
	Male	1,537	2,820	4,357	236	527	763
		9%	50%	19%	12%	50%	25%
Education	None, < first, Unknown	1,765	1,758	3,523	358	333	691
		10%	31%	15%	17%	32%	22%
	Grade school	344	181	525	37	26	63
		2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%
	Some high school	4,645	1,145	5,790	375	188	563
		27%	20%	25%	18%	18%	18%
	High school graduate	8,881	2,195	11,076	1,025	438	1,463
		51%	39%	48%	50%	41%	47%
	Some post-secondary	1,589	288	1,877	221	62	283
		9%	5%	8%	11%	6%	9%
	College graduate	160	44	204	27	6	33
		1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
	Graduate degree	78	28	106	9	3	12
0%		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
High school grad or higher	10,708	2,555	13,263	1,282	509	1,791	
	61%	45%	57%	62%	48%	58%	

Table 2: page 2

		MFIP enrolled adults			DWP enrolled adults		
		Types of people			Types of people		
		One adult in case	Two adults in case	All adults	One adult in case	Two adults in case	All adults
Marital status	Divorced	1,024	99	1,123	127	20	147
		6%	2%	5%	6%	2%	5%
	Legally separated	42	4	46	4	1	5
		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Married, living with spouse	1,063	2,156	3,219	184	374	558
		6%	38%	14%	9%	35%	18%
	Never married	12,494	2,113	14,607	1,268	394	1,662
		72%	37%	63%	62%	37%	53%
	Married, living apart	1,992	258	2,250	220	46	266
		11%	5%	10%	11%	4%	9%
Widowed	151	4	155	2	0	2	
	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	
Unknown	4	1	5	3	2	5	
	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Race/ethnicity	African American	5,605	773	6,378	414	102	516
		32%	14%	28%	20%	10%	17%
	American Indian	1,302	365	1,667	92	43	135
		7%	6%	7%	4%	4%	4%
	Asian American	182	79	261	23	22	45
		1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%
	Hispanic	962	221	1,183	149	62	211
		6%	4%	5%	7%	6%	7%
	Hmong	200	84	284	13	7	20
		1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
	Multiple races	456	82	538	49	15	64
		3%	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%
	Other African immigrant	406	177	583	67	33	100
		2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
	Other Asian immigrant	184	193	377	18	41	59
		1%	3%	2%	1%	4%	2%
	Somali	1,224	961	2,185	110	99	209
		7%	17%	9%	5%	9%	7%
Unknown	69	37	106	6	7	13	
	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	
White	6,180	1,663	7,843	867	406	1,273	
	35%	29%	34%	42%	38%	41%	
Citizenship	Non-U.S.	1,571	1,330	2,901	143	144	287
		9%	24%	13%	7%	14%	9%
	Unknown	11	5	16	10	6	16
		0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%
	U.S.	15,188	3,300	18,488	1,655	687	2,342
87%		59%	80%	81%	65%	75%	
On assistance as a child in Minn.	Family Assistance (AFDC)	9,898	2,532	12,430	970	523	1,493
		57%	45%	54%	47%	50%	48%
	Family assistance (MFIP/DWP)	8,448	2,085	10,533	778	422	1,200
		48%	37%	46%	38%	40%	39%

**Table 3: Family composition, MFIP and DWP paid cases, December 2015**

			MFIP Cases				DWP Cases		
			Child only	Types of cases			Types of cases		
				Number of enrolled adults			Number of enrolled adults		
			One	Two	Total	One	Two	Total	
Cases	Count		10,171	17,020	2,838	19,858	1,881	527	2,408
			20%	57%	14%	66%	78%	22%	100%
Number of children			17,709	30,468	7,550	38,018	3539	1,179	4,718
Count of enrolled children per family	Mean Median Minimum Maximum		1.9	2.1	3.1	2.1	2.0	2.6	2.1
			2	2	3	2	2	2	2
			1	1	1	1	1	1	1
			12	12	12	12	8	10	10
Ages of children on MFIP	Mean Median Minimum Maximum		9.7	6.7	6.6	7.5	7.5	5.8	7.0
			10	7	7	7	7	7	6
			0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			18	18	18	18	18	18	18
Age of youngest child on MFIP		< 1 year old	522	3,466	851	4,317	74	196	270
			5%	20%	30%	22%	4%	37%	11%
		1-5 years old	3,175	8,356	1,417	9,773	1,017	233	1,250
			31%	49%	50%	49%	54%	44%	52%
		6-10 years old	2,953	3,104	338	3,442	541	72	613
			29%	18%	12%	17%	29%	14%	25%
		11-12 years old	980	768	75	843	105	10	115
			10%	5%	3%	4%	6%	2%	5%
Ages of youngest child on MFIP	Mean Median	13-15 years old	1,416	903	85	988	115	10	125
			14%	5%	3%	5%	6%	2%	5%
Ages of youngest child on MFIP	Mean Median	>15 years old	1,043	843	54	897	195	7	202
			10%	5%	2%	5%	10%	1%	8%
			8.5	4.4	3.1	6.0	5.7	2.8	5.2
			8	3	1	5	5	1	4

**Table 4: Economic characteristics of MFIP and DWP paid cases, December 2015**

		MFIP Cases				DWP Cases		
		Child only	Types of cases			Types of cases		
			One	Two	Total	One	Two	Total
	Total of new cases	10,171	17,020	2,838	19,858	1,881	527	2,408
	Percent of all cases	20.4%	56.7%	14.3%	66.1%	78.1%	21.9%	100.0%
Cash grant	Mean of all cases in column	\$402	\$389	\$371	\$387	\$377	\$492	\$429
MFIP food portion	Mean of all cases in column	\$365	\$461	\$634	\$486			
DWP SNAP food grant	Mean of all cases in column					431.5	596.2	505.6
Income from work	Count of cases	1782	6710	1844	8554	934	333	\$1,267
	Percent of all cases	18%	39%	65%	43%	50%	63%	53%
	Mean of working cases	\$ 1,240	\$ 1,272	\$ 1,807	\$ 1,387	\$ 1,243	\$ 1,746	\$ 1,375
	Median	\$ 943	\$ 1,106	\$ 1,671	\$ 1,202	\$ 1,103	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,228
Work hours	Mean of working cases	110	111	160	121	104	142	114
	Median	93	102	154	112	100	140	108
Counted MFIP months	Mean	35	33	22	30	22	20	21
	Median	36	31	16	26	18	16	18
	0-12 months	6,560	4,668	1,218	5,886	439	92	531
		64.5%	27.4%	42.9%	29.6%	23.3%	17.5%	22.1%
	13-36 months	1,315	5,672	1,034	6,706	482	95	577
		12.9%	33.3%	36.4%	33.8%	25.6%	18.0%	24.0%
	37-48 months	510	1,837	244	2,081	140	20	160
		5.0%	10.8%	8.6%	10.5%	7.4%	3.8%	6.6%
	49-54 months	226	759	85	844	49	6	55
		2.2%	4.5%	3.0%	4.3%	2.6%	1.1%	2.3%
	55-60 months	1,560	4,084	257	4,341	43	9	52
		15.3%	24.0%	9.1%	21.9%	2.3%	1.7%	2.2%
Child Care Assistance Program recipients	Youngest MFIP enrolled child less than age 6	122	3,376	535	3,911	287	61	348
		9.3%	59.5%	51.7%	58.3%	59.5%	64.2%	60.3%
	Youngest MFIP enrolled child age 6 to 12 years	27	268	27	295	43	1	44
		2.1%	4.7%	2.6%	4.4%	8.9%	1.1%	7.6%
	Any MFIP enrolled child, 12 and under	142	3,971	624	4,595	329	62	391
10.8%		70.0%	60.3%	68.5%	68.3%	65.3%	67.8%	



**Table 5: MFIP policies and paid cases, December 2015**

		MFIP cases			
		Child only	Number of enrolled adults		
			One	Two	Total
<b>Cases</b>	<b>Count</b>	10,171	17,020	2,838	19,858
		20.4%	56.7%	14.3%	66.1%
<b>Time limit exemptions</b>	<b>Count of cases</b>		1,165	127	1,292
	<b>Percent of all cases</b>		7%	4%	7%
	<b>Aged 18 - 19, attending high school</b>		313	50	363
	Percent of exempted cases		2%	2%	2%
	<b>Family violence waiver</b>		501	9	510
	Percent of exempted cases		3%	0%	3%
	<b>Caregiver on Indian reservation</b>		150	19	169
	Percent of exempted cases		1%	1%	1%
	<b>Minor Caregiver</b>		166	18	184
	Percent of exempted cases		1%	1%	1%
<b>Time limit extensions</b>	<b>Count</b>		3,073	178	3,251
	Percent of MFIP cases		18%	6%	16%
<b>Extension reason</b>	<b>Ill or incapacitated</b>		1,045	48	1,093
	Percent of extension cases		6%	2%	34%
	<b>Mentally ill</b>		818	50	868
	Percent of extension cases		5%	2%	27%
	<b>Special medical criteria</b>		465	28	493
	Percent of extension cases		3%	1%	15%
	<b>Care of ill or incapacitated</b>		348	27	375
	Percent of extension cases		2%	1%	12%
	<b>Employment required hours</b>		207	20	227
	Percent of extension cases		1%	1%	7%
	<b>Family Violence Waiver</b>		106	0	106
	Percent of extension cases		1%	0%	3%
	<b>IQ between 70 and 80</b>		53	3	56
	Percent of extension cases		0%	0%	2%
	<b>Unemployable</b>		20	1	21
	Percent of extension cases		0%	0%	1%
<b>Learning disabled</b>		7	0	7	
Percent of extension cases		0%	0%	0%	
<b>Developmental disability</b>		3	1	4	
Percent of extension cases		0%	0%	0%	
<b>Appeal</b>		1	0	1	
Percent of extension cases		0%	0%	0%	
<b>Extension months</b>	<b>Mean</b>		45	31	43
	<b>Median</b>		34	18	32
	<b>Minimum</b>		1	1	1
	<b>Maximum</b>		166	162	166

Table 5 – part 2

		MFIP cases			
		Child only	Number of eligible adults		
			One	Two	Total
<b>Cases</b>	<b>Count</b>	10,171	17,020	2,838	19,858
		20.4%	56.7%	14.3%	66.1%
<b>Employment Services sanctions</b>	<b>10 % ES sanction</b>		153	48	201
	<b>30 % ES sanction</b>		661	92	753
	<b>All cases with ES sanctions</b>		814	140	954
	Percent of all cases		5%	5%	5%
	<b>Six counted sanction months</b>		121	18	139
	Percent of all cases		1%	1%	1%
<b>Recipients of subsidized housing</b>	<b>Count</b>	92	3,962	528	4,490
	<b>Percent</b>	1%	23%	19%	23%
<b>Family Stabilization Services</b>	<b>Count</b>	163	7,069	1,241	8,310
	Percent of All cases	2%	42%	44%	42%
<b>Eligibility Reason</b>	<b>Ill or incapacitated</b>	46	1,931	337	2,268
	Percent of FSS cases	28%	27%	27%	27%
	<b>SSI or RSDI application</b>	56	1,385	191	1576
	Percent of FSS cases	34%	20%	15%	19%
	<b>Mental illness</b>	8	1,115	100	1,215
	Percent of FSS cases	5%	16%	8%	15%
	<b>Special medical criteria</b>	12	785	63	848
	Percent of FSS cases	7%	11%	5%	10%
	<b>New immigrant</b>	11	350	368	718
	Percent of FSS cases	7%	5%	30%	9%
	<b>Care of ill or incapacitated</b>	9	638	96	734
	Percent of FSS cases	6%	9%	8%	9%
	<b>Family Violence Waiver</b>	2	516	6	522
	Percent of FSS cases	1%	7%	0%	6%
	<b>Unemployable</b>	4	115	22	137
	Percent of FSS cases	2%	2%	2%	2%
	<b>Universal Participation</b>	1	88	23	111
	Percent of FSS cases	1%	1%	2%	1%
	<b>IQ &lt; 80</b>	1	94	7	101
	Percent of FSS cases	1%	1%	1%	1%
<b>Age 60 or older</b>	13	22	23	45	
Percent of FSS cases	11%	0%	2%	1%	
<b>Learning disability</b>	0	17	3	20	
Percent of FSS cases	0%	0%	0%	0%	
<b>Developmental disability</b>	0	7	1	8	
Percent of FSS cases	0%	0%	0%	0%	

## Data definitions and policy information

Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent so may not equal 100 percent when summed across subgroups.

### Table 1

MFIP and DWP rules determine who in a household is a member of the assistance unit, based on their relationship to case applicants. This includes minor child(ren) and/or minor relative care children of an applicant; spouse of applicant or second parent of applicant's child(ren); and other minor children of the spouse. Pregnant women with no children of their own living with them are also eligible. Program rules define eligibility of unit members, which in turn determines the size of the cash grant for an active case. Adult refers to an adult caregiver (parent or other relative), or minor parent responsible for a child(ren). Cases with two adults where only one is enrolled for MFIP or DWP are included in the one-enrolled-adult cases column. Cases with no MFIP enrolled adult are called "child only" but do have at least one caregiver. Cases receiving MFIP cash or food grants or DWP cash grants are known as "paid cases;" this excludes active cases suspended for a month because they have enough income to cancel out the cash grant. This typically occurs in months with five weekly or three biweekly pay periods. Suspended cases are not included in this report.

### Table 2

Characteristics with no effect on program eligibility are not routinely updated after the initial application. This includes education, marital status and citizenship. Therefore, these categories may be under- or over-reported.

The coding method for race/ethnicity continues to follow department standards, with participants asked their racial choice (yes or no) of each of five racial categories (American Indian, Asian, black, Pacific Islander and white), and ethnicity (Hispanic or non-Hispanic). Hispanics of all races are listed as Hispanic, meaning the other racial categories are non-Hispanic. Pacific Islanders and Asian groups are combined due to very small numbers of Pacific Islanders. Additional nationalities are determined by looking at primary language and citizenship status.

### Table 3

Table 3 provides case-level statistics for family type and age of youngest child.

### Table 4

**Months of welfare use.** Counted MFIP months are defined as the maximum number of months of eligibility for TANF and/or MFIP counted toward the 60-month time limit between September 1996 and December 2015 for either enrolled adult on a case. This includes Minnesota and federally paid months in Minnesota, and federally paid months in other states, but excludes months with an exemption or exception from the time limit.

**Cash and food grant amounts.** MFIP includes a cash grant and a food portion that can only be spent on food. As families work their way toward leaving assistance, their cash grant is decreased first so that some families only receive a food portion. A family can opt out of the cash portion, receiving only the food portion, and those months do not count toward their lifetime limit. DWP provides only a cash grant, but these families are categorically eligible to receive SNAP as well.

The means for MFIP and DWP cash grants and MFIP food portions are calculated using grant amounts for all cases, including zero cash portion for some MFIP cases. The means for all other SNAP amounts include only cases with benefit amounts greater than zero.

**Income, earnings and work hours.** Total income is either actual or projected December 2015 income of enrolled adults and other adults whose earnings were deemed counted for a case. The amount used was either verified earnings for December 2015, or zero for cases still active in February 2016 with no income reported for December 2015 (required to be reported by February 2016), or prospective December 2015 income for new cases with retrospective data missing, and for all migrant cases. Total income is gross income, except for self-employed where it is gross less expenses, with a minimum of zero. Mean total income excludes cases with no verified or expected income from enrolled or deeming adults in December 2015.

Work hours reported for enrolled and other deeming adults with earned income are defined in the same manner as earned income. The hours are totals for a case. The percentages of all cases with hours reported are slightly smaller than the percentages reported working because of hours that are not entered into the administrative database. Mean hours only include cases with reported hours.

**Child Care Assistance Program.** Reported CCAP eligibility means that an eligibility determination is currently active and a child may or may not have service authorization (payment) for the month. The table excludes children ages 13 and older with special needs who continue to receive CCAP. Data are reported by age of youngest child. Cases may have CCAP eligible children in both age groups. MFIP-ineligible and DWP ineligible children (for example, SSI eligible children) are excluded. Children must be both CCAP eligible and MFIP or DWP eligible. Children's eligibility for MFIP CCAP is determined based on parents' eligibility for MFIP or DWP. Cases labeled as MFIP child only are eligible for Basic Sliding Fee child care. Data are collected from the Minnesota Electronic Child Care (MEC<sup>2</sup>) information system.

#### Table 5

**Extensions beyond the time limit.** An MFIP case can be extended beyond the 60-month lifetime limit for certain documented criteria that affect an adult's ability to obtain or retain employment, or if an adult is working but does not earn enough to leave assistance. Extensions may be granted for cases that have an ill or incapacitated adult, a family member or caregiver who meets special medical criteria, a caregiver with an IQ score below 80, a caregiver who is needed in the home to care for an ill or incapacitated family member, a single parent working an average of at least 30 hours, or two parents working a total of 55 hours a month, and other less common reasons. A case sanctioned for non-compliance with Employment Services or child support requirements in month 60 can never be extended.

**Exemptions and exceptions from the time limit.** Cases can receive an exception from the time limit for special medical criteria. Counted months in which special medical criteria are present before the time limit of 60 months is reached can be “banked” and used to extend eligibility beyond 60 months after the time limit has been reached. The following cases are exempt from the time limit (neither counted nor banked) in the months with these conditions: Living on a reservation with a not-employed rate of at least 50 percent, family violence cases cooperating with an alternative employment plan, caregivers age 60 or older, a minor parent, or an 18- or 19-year old parent who is complying with an education plan.

**Sanctions.** MFIP cases not complying with ES requirements can be sanctioned with a reduction of the grant amount. The first sanction is 10 percent, and if not resolved, the sanction is increased the next month to 30 percent. Some sanctions can be addressed (“cured”) and removed. In July 2003, the Minnesota Legislature instituted a policy that after the sixth occurrence of non-compliance, a case may face closure or 100 percent sanction. Table 5 reports the number of cases with 10 percent and 30 percent sanctions in December 2015, and the number of cases with six unresolved sanction months in December 2015.

Pre-sanction procedures for FSS enrolled adults are different from those for other MFIP adults. See the “Employment Services Manual”<sup>3</sup>, Appendix H, for details on what steps must be taken prior to sanction.

**Family Stabilization Services.** FSS is a state-funded MFIP service track that enrolled its first participants in February 2008. The purpose is to provide county agency staff more flexibility in development of employment plans by removing FSS cases from the federal Work Participation Rate calculation. FSS eligibility is limited to caregivers who have one of these extension reasons: An illness or injury lasting more than 30 days that prevents them from obtaining employment, requirement to remain in the home to care for a household member with an illness or injury lasting more than 30 days, legal non-citizen in the U.S. for fewer than 12 months, developmental disability or mental illness that prevents person from obtaining employment, unemployable, learning disability that prevents person from obtaining employment, IQ less than 80, family violence waiver or pending application for SSI or RSDI. Two-caregiver cases are FSS eligible if one caregiver meets FSS criteria. Extended cases, apart from those extended as working, are also eligible for FSS.

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<sup>3</sup>[Link to the MFIP Employment Services manual](#)