



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

**At the Limit:
December 2006 Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)
Cases that Reached the 60 Month Time Limit**

Minnesota Department of Human Services
Program Assessment and Integrity Division
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Prepared by:
Dana DeMaster, Senior Research Analysis Specialist
(651) 431-3963 Dana.DeMaster@state.mn.us

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Table of Contents

Introduction	1
What You Need to Know About MFIP Cases that Have Reached the 60-Month Time Limit	3
MFIP-Eligible Adults Who Had 60 Counted Months	4
Table 1. Characteristics of MFIP-Eligible Adults that Had 60 Counted Months Compared to MFIP-Eligible Adults that Had Fewer than 60 Months, December 2006	5
Table 1a. Chemical Dependency and Severe Mental Health Diagnoses by Race/Ethnicity for December 2006 MFIP-Eligible Adults that Had 60 Months	6
MFIP Cases that Had 60 Counted Months	7
Figure 1. MFIP Status of the 10,429 Adults that Had Reached 60 Months, December 2006	7
Table 2. MFIP Cases that Had 60 Counted Months: Reason for Continued Eligibility in December 2006, Reported Wages, and Number of Caregivers	8
MFIP Cases that Had 60 Counted Months: County Data	9
Table 3. Servicing County of December 2006 Cases that Had 60 Counted Months	10
Table 4. Cases that Had 60 Months: Eligibility Reason, Reported Employment, and Two-Caregiver Cases by Large County and Reported Work, December 2006.....	11
Table 5. Extended Cases: Extension Reason and Extension Months by Large County and Reported Work, December 2006	11
Cases at the Time Limit:	12
Figure 1. Number of MFIP Cases that Reached their 60 th Counted Month, December 2005 to December 2006	12
Figure 2. What Happened Next? Disposition on the 86 Cases that Reached 60 Months in December 2006: January 2007 Case Status	14
Figure 3. The First Six Months: MFIP and Stand-alone Food Support Eligibility for Cases that Reached 60 Months in December 2006, January to June 2007	14
Figure 4. Six Months Later: June 2007 MFIP-eligibility Status and Wages Reported to the Unemployment Insurance System for Quarter Two 2007	15
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 2006	16
Table Notes and Definitions	17

Introduction

With passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 and its creation of Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF), cash assistance to poor families was no longer guaranteed. 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) and started counting months of cash assistance receipt toward that limit in July 1997. Other states enacted shorter limits and some states started counting months as early as September 1996, the earliest allowed under PRWORA. June 2002 was the first month a case could have reached its 60th counted month with months entirely in Minnesota; cases could have reached 60 months earlier if they had months counted in other states.

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 and 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 experiencing family violence who are cooperating with an employment plan. 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, an IQ lower than 80, and other hardships.

Other Months Not Counted Toward the Time Limit

Under some circumstances, 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. MFIP includes both a cash grant and a food portion that can only be spent on

food. A federal waiver allows Minnesota to provide Food Support¹ 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.

Minnesota Department of Human Services Reports on the Time Limit

Since PRWORA was enacted, there has been increasing 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*,² 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, titled *Minnesota Family Investment Program Longitudinal Study: Approaching the 60-Month Time Limit*.³

This report is the second 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 2006. 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 less 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 outcomes for these families in their first six months after reaching the time limit. The first report in this series was *At the Limit: December 2005 Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) Cases that Reached the 60 Month Time Limit*.⁴

The first section examines the demographic characteristics and chemical and mental health diagnoses of adults that have reached the time limit and continue to receive MFIP. The next section looks at the reasons for continued eligibility, extensions, work hours and income, and number of caregivers in these households. Following that is a section that looks at the number of cases that reached 60 counted months by county and breaks down data from the previous section into the largest eight counties. The final section focuses on the 86 households that reached their 60th counted month in December 2006.

¹ Food Support is Minnesota's federal Food Stamps program.

² This report is available at <http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfsrserver/Legacy/DM-0176-ENG>.

³ This report is available at <http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfsrserver/Legacy/DHS-4450G-ENG>.

⁴ This report is available at <http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfsrserver/Legacy/DHS-5092A-ENG>.

What You Need to Know About MFIP Cases that Have Reached the 60-Month Time Limit

- A total of 10,429 adults had reached the 60-month time limit as of December 2006. Of those, 56 percent (5,888 adults) had their cases closed prior to December 2006. Twenty-five percent (2,622 adults in 2,259 cases) had their cases extended in December 2006. The remaining 18 percent (1,919 adults in 1,587 cases) had a case that remained active for other reasons, such as being a child-only case, receiving only the food portion, or using a banked month.
- An average of 123 cases reached their 60th counted month each month between January and December 2006. In December 2006, 86 cases reached the time limit. Over the next six months, 69 percent were eligible for MFIP in at least one month. Nearly half (47 percent) received MFIP for all six months and 23 percent received stand-alone Food Support in each of the next six months. In June 2007, 41 of these 86 cases were not receiving MFIP; half of the 41 had wages reported to Minnesota's Unemployment Insurance (UI) system and half did not.
- Compared to MFIP-eligible adults with fewer than 60 counted months, eligible adults with 60 months were much more likely to have had a chemical health or severe mental health diagnosis made in the last three years. While 29 percent of adults with fewer than 60 months had received a severe mental health diagnosis in the last three years, 52 percent of adults with 60 months had. Nineteen percent of adults with fewer than 60 months had received a drug or alcohol addiction diagnosis in the last three years compared to 27 percent of adults with 60 counted months.
- Large racial disparities exist between MFIP-eligible adults with 60 counted months and those with fewer than 60 months. White adults made up 39 percent of MFIP-eligible adults with fewer than 60 months, but made up 28 percent of MFIP-eligible adults with 60 months –11 percentage points fewer. On the other hand, black adults constituted 35 percent of MFIP-eligible adults with fewer than 60 months, but 50 percent of adults with 60 counted months – a 15 percentage point difference.

MFIP-Eligible Adults Who Had 60 Counted Months

- Compared to eligible adults with fewer than 60 counted months, eligible adults in December 2006, that had reached the time limit were more likely to be female, black, and have a chemical dependency or severe mental health diagnosis.⁵⁶ They were also older, with an average age of 38 compared to an average age of 35 for adults with fewer than 60 months.
- There were sizable racial differences between MFIP-eligible adults with fewer than 60 months and those with 60 counted months. Blacks were 35 percent of adults with fewer than 60 counted months, but were 50 percent of those with 60 counted months – a 15 percentage point difference. A smaller proportion of whites had 60 counted months (28 percent) than had fewer than 60 counted months (39 percent). While smaller proportions of American Indians had 60 counted months (8 percent compared to 10 percent), many American Indian cases were exempt from the time limit due to living in Indian Country with a not-employed rate of 50 percent or more.
- Eligible adults with 60 months had similar education levels as those with fewer than 60 months, with a slightly greater percentage of adults with 60 counted months having obtained at least a high school diploma (60 percent compared to 55 percent). The two groups also had similar marital status; 60 percent of eligible adults with 60 months had never married compared to 64 percent of adults with fewer than 60 months.
- Eligible adults with 60 months were much more likely to have received a chemical dependency (CD) or severe mental health diagnosis than those with fewer than 60 months.⁷ While 19 percent of adults with fewer than 60 months had received a CD diagnosis between 2004 and 2006, 27 percent of adults with 60 months had. Twenty-nine percent of adults with fewer than 60 months had received a severe mental health diagnosis between 2004 and 2006 compared to 52 percent of adults with 60 months.
- There were large racial differences in CD and severe mental health diagnoses. Sixty percent of American Indian adults with 60 months had received a CD diagnosis and 58 percent had received a severe mental health diagnosis in the last three years. White adults with 60 months also had greater than average likelihood of having received a severe mental health diagnosis – 65 percent of white adults with 60 months had such a diagnosis made in the last three years.

⁵ There are fewer eligible adults than total cases included in this report due to the 829 child-only cases, which have no MFIP-eligible adults. Because some cases had more than one eligible caregiver, the number of cases minus eligible adults does not equal the number of child-only cases.

⁶ See definition of severe mental health diagnosis on page 16.

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

Table 1. Characteristics of MFIP-Eligible Adults that Had 60 Counted Months Compared to MFIP-Eligible Adults that Had Fewer than 60 Months, December 2006

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		3,228	12.6%	22,329	87.4%
Gender	Male	450	13.9%	4,326	19.4%
	Female	2,778	86.1%	18,003	80.6%
Age	19 and younger	0	0.0%	2,488	11.1%
	20 to 29	834	25.8%	11,209	50.2%
	30 to 39	1,459	45.2%	5,072	22.7%
	40 to 49	751	23.3%	2,613	11.7%
	50 to 59	178	5.5%	763	3.4%
	60 and older	6	0.2%	184	0.8%
	Mean	37.5		34.5	
	Median	36		31	
	Minimum	21		13	
	Maximum	81		95	
Race	Asian	294	9.1%	2,001	9.0%
	Black	1,628	50.4%	7,877	35.3%
	American Indian	245	7.6%	2,171	9.7%
	Hispanic	130	4.0%	1,153	5.2%
	White	898	27.8%	8,700	39.0%
	Multiple/Unknown	33	1.0%	427	1.9%
Asian Subgroups	Asian American	23	0.7%	234	1.0%
	Hmong	237	7.3%	1,599	7.2%
	Other Asian Immigrant	34	1.1%	168	0.8%
Black Subgroups	African American	1,422	44.1%	5,580	25.0%
	Somali	161	5.0%	1,635	7.3%
	Other African Immigrant	45	1.4%	662	3.0%
Education	Less than 1st Grade/Unknown	163	5.0%	2,235	10.0%
	Grade School	112	3.5%	551	2.5%
	Some High School	1,027	31.8%	7,238	32.4%
	High School Graduate	1,618	50.1%	10,554	47.3%
	Some Post-Secondary	275	8.5%	1,454	6.5%
	College Graduate	21	0.7%	176	0.8%
	Graduate Degree	12	0.4%	121	0.5%
	High School or Greater	1,926	59.7%	12,305	55.1%
Marital Status	Divorced	282	8.7%	1,404	6.3%
	Legally Separated	7	0.2%	44	0.2%
	Married, Living Apart	429	13.3%	2,723	12.2%
	Married, Living Together	523	16.2%	3,758	16.8%
	Never Married	1,947	60.3%	14,212	63.6%
	Widowed	40	1.2%	188	0.8%
Citizenship Status	US Citizen	2,874	89.0%	18,317	82.0%
	Non-Citizen	354	11.0%	4,012	18.0%
Chemical Dependency Diagnosis	During 2006	543	16.8%	2,525	11.3%
	During 2004 to 2006	872	27.0%	4,232	19.0%
Severe Mental Health Diagnosis	During 2006	1,284	39.8%	4,696	21.0%
	During 2004 to 2006	1,670	51.7%	6,552	29.3%

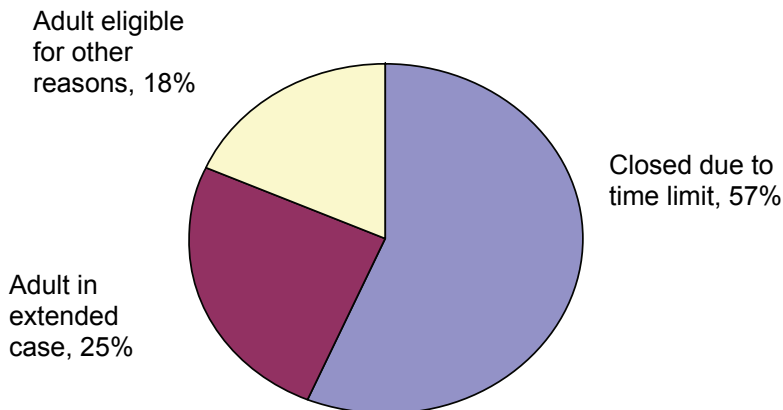
Table 1a. Chemical Dependency and Severe Mental Health Diagnoses by Race/Ethnicity for December 2006 MFIP-Eligible Adults that Had 60 Months

	Total Eligible Adults with 60 Months		Persons with a Severe Mental Health Diagnosis, 2004 to 2006		Persons with a Chemical Dependency Diagnosis, 2004 to 2006	
	Number	Adults with 60 Months	Number	Percent of Race	Number	Percent of Race
Asian	294	9.1%	133	45.2%	14	4.8%
Black	1,628	50.4%	724	44.5%	406	24.9%
American Indian	245	7.6%	146	59.6%	141	57.6%
Hispanic	130	4.0%	64	49.2%	27	20.8%
White	898	27.8%	584	65.0%	271	30.2%
Total Persons	3,228	100.0%	1,670	51.7%	872	27.0%

MFIP Cases that Had 60 Counted Months

- The most common reason that a case continued to receive MFIP benefits after the caregiver reached 60 counted months was an extension (59 percent of the 3,846 cases). Another 22 percent were child-only cases, which means that the caregivers in these cases became ineligible while in extension or reapplied when they met the criteria for a child-only case after the case was closed for the time limit. (These cases with 60 counted months were 8 percent of all child-only cases in December 2006.) Sixteen percent of cases with 60 counted months were receiving only the food portion of MFIP due to income great enough as to result in a grant of zero dollars or recoupment of previous payments.⁸ (These 617 cases constituted 12 percent of all food-only cases.) (Table 2)
- The three most common extension reasons in December 2006 were an illness or incapacitation lasting more than 30 days (31 percent), care of an ill or incapacitated relative (26 percent), and an IQ between 70 and 80 (17 percent).
- The average number of months cases were extended has increased since December 2005. The average number of months in extension in December 2006 was 24, an increase from 21 in December 2005, and a larger proportion of cases had been extended for 37 or more months, an increase from 14 percent to 24 percent of extended cases. Both the larger number of cases that had reached the time limit and the passage of time are factors in this increase.
- Twenty-one percent of all cases that had 60 counted months had at least one caregiver that reported paid work in December 2006, which is a decrease of 7 percentage points from December 2005 and fewer than in the overall MFIP caseload (29 percent including child-only cases).

Figure 1. MFIP Status of the 10,429 Adults that Had Reached 60 Months, December 2006



⁸ These cases had been receiving MFIP cash due to an extension, but received no cash payment in the report month. If these cases received a cash payment, they would be considered to be in extension.

Table 2. MFIP Cases that Had 60 Counted Months: Reason for Continued Eligibility in December 2006, Reported Wages, and Number of Caregivers

MFIP Cases with 60 Months		Count of Cases	Percent
Number of Cases and Percent of Total MFIP		3,846	11.8%
MFIP-Eligibility Reason with Percent of 60-Month Cases	Extended Case	2,259	58.7%
	Child-only Case	829	21.6%
	MFIP Food-only	617	16.0%
	60th Counted Month	86	2.2%
	Banked Month	55	1.4%
Extended Cases: Total Extended Cases		2,259	58.7%
Extension Reason in December 2006 with Percent of Extended Cases	Ill or Incapacitated More than 30 Days	689	30.5%
	Care of Ill or Incapacitated Relative	592	26.2%
	IQ Between 70 and 80	377	16.7%
	Mentally Ill	264	11.7%
	One Caregiver Employed 30 Hours or More	98	4.3%
	Domestic Violence	71	3.1%
	Unemployable	58	2.6%
	Learning Disabled	55	2.4%
	Extended in Error	20	0.9%
	IQ Less than 70	16	0.7%
	Two Caregivers Employed 55 Hours or More	14	0.6%
Appeal of MFIP Closure	2	0.1%	
Extended Cases: Number of Extension Months with Percent of Extended Cases	1 to 12	747	33.1%
	13 to 24	532	23.6%
	25 to 36	434	19.2%
	37 or More	546	24.2%
	Mean	23.5	
Median	21		
Maximum	63		
Paid Work	Cases with at Least One Caregiver with Paid Work	823	21.4%
Earned Income	Mean	\$1,013	
	Median	\$907	
Work Hours	Mean	110.4	
	Median	106	
Number of Caregivers (Eligible and Ineligible)	One	3,152	82.0%
	Two	694	18.0%

MFIP Cases that Had 60 Counted Months: County Data

- Ramsey County had the greatest number of cases with 60 counted months; 21 percent of Ramsey County's MFIP cases had reached the lifetime limit, an increase of 3 percentage points from December 2005. Twelve percent of Hennepin County MFIP cases had 60 counted months. Ramsey County MFIP cases accounted for 42 percent and Hennepin County MFIP cases accounted for 31 percent of the statewide total cases with 60 counted months. (Table 3)
- In each of Minnesota's eight largest counties the most common reason for continued eligibility after 60 counted months was an extension for a documented hardship. In Anoka, Beltrami, Dakota, Hennepin, Olmsted, Ramsey, St. Louis, and Washington Counties, between 38 and 64 percent of cases with 60 counted months were extended. Ramsey County had the largest percentage of cases still open due to an extension and Beltrami County had the smallest at least in part because in Beltrami County many MFIP participants living on Red Lake Reservation are excepted from the time limit. (Table 4)
- Across these large counties, between 15 and 27 percent of cases with 60 counted months had at least one caregiver with paid employment. Twenty-one percent of cases in Ramsey County and 20 percent of caregivers in Hennepin County had at least one working caregiver. More than half of cases (54 percent) still eligible because they received the food portion reported work, while 5 percent of child-only and 18 percent of extended cases reported work in December 2006. (Table 4)
- The most common extension reasons were being ill or incapacitated for more than 30 days and caring for an ill household member. Being ill or incapacitated for more than 30 days was the most common reason for extension in all large counties except for Ramsey and Washington Counties. The most common extension reason in Ramsey County was having an IQ between 70 and 80 (29 percent) and in Washington County it was care of an ill or incapacitated relative (35 percent). (Table 5)
- Statewide, about one-third of extended cases had been extended for one year or less and about one quarter had been extended for more than three years. These percentages were strongly influenced by Ramsey County, which accounted for nearly half of the state's extended cases. Twenty-eight percent of extended cases in Ramsey County had been extended for one year or less and 27 percent had been extended for more than three years. (Table 5)

Table 3. Servicing County of December 2006 Cases that Had 60 Counted Months

Service County	Cases with 60 Counted Months	
	Count of Cases	Percent of Total MFIP Cases within county
Aitkin	3	3.9%
Anoka	214	13.9%
Becker	12	4.5%
Beltrami	34	2.6%
Benton	9	5.4%
Big Stone	3	30.0%
Blue Earth	26	10.9%
Brown	1	1.5%
Carlton	12	7.4%
Carver	6	6.1%
Cass	32	8.4%
Chippewa	1	2.0%
Chisago	6	4.4%
Clay	29	9.4%
Clearwater	11	13.9%
Cook	0	0.0%
Cottonwood	1	2.4%
Crow Wing	14	4.8%
Dakota	91	7.5%
Dodge	1	1.8%
Douglas	6	5.8%
Faribault	1	2.1%
Fillmore	1	1.7%
Freeborn	6	3.7%
Goodhue	14	11.6%
Grant	2	11.8%
Hennepin	1,183	12.1%
Houston	0	0.0%
Hubbard	6	6.3%
Isanti	3	2.4%
Itasca	25	9.5%
Jackson	0	0.0%
Kanabec	10	10.9%
Kandiyohi	3	1.2%
Kittson	0	0.0%
Koochiching	7	7.9%
Lac Qui Parle	0	0.0%
Lake	1	4.5%
Lake of the Woods	0	0.0%
Le Sueur	3	4.0%
Lincoln	2	15.4%
Lyon	12	13.8%
Mcleod	5	5.6%
Mahnomen	16	10.1%
Marshall	1	7.1%

Service County	Cases with 60 Counted Months	
	Count of Cases	Percent of Total MFIP Cases within county
Martin	4	4.3%
Meeker	5	6.9%
Mille Lacs	3	2.4%
Morrison	3	3.6%
Mower	2	0.9%
Murray	0	0.0%
Nicollet	7	4.3%
Nobles	6	5.6%
Norman	0	0.0%
Olmsted	23	4.0%
Otter Tail	6	3.3%
Pennington	2	3.5%
Pine	7	4.5%
Pipestone	1	3.6%
Polk	14	8.2%
Pope	2	5.6%
Ramsey	1,626	20.8%
Red Lake	1	6.7%
Redwood	5	9.4%
Renville	2	2.9%
Rice	5	2.1%
Rock	0	0.0%
Roseau	1	4.2%
St Louis	143	10.0%
Scott	18	7.7%
Sherburne	11	6.0%
Sibley	3	5.7%
Stearns	39	6.9%
Steele	5	3.5%
Stevens	0	0.0%
Swift	2	7.4%
Todd	2	2.7%
Traverse	1	14.3%
Wabasha	1	2.4%
Wadena	4	3.8%
Waseca	6	6.5%
Washington	43	8.3%
Watonwan	1	2.8%
Wilkin	0	0.0%
Winona	21	11.9%
Wright	7	3.6%
Yellow Medicine	1	3.4%
Statewide Total	3,846	11.8%

Table 4. Cases that Had 60 Months: Eligibility Reason, Reported Employment, and Two-Caregiver Cases by Large County and Reported Work, December 2006

	Total Cases with 60 Counted Months	Eligibility Reason					One or More Working Caregivers	Cases with Two Caregivers
		Extended	Child-only	Food-only	Counted Month	Banked Month		
All Cases with 60 Months	3,846	2,259	829	617	86	55	823	694
Percent of Row	100.0%	58.7%	21.6%	16.0%	2.2%	1.4%	21.4%	18.0%
Anoka	214	128	48	32	3	3	51	34
Percent of Column	100.0%	59.8%	22.4%	15.0%	1.4%	1.4%	23.8%	15.9%
Beltrami	34	13	14	6	1	0	5	7
	100.0%	38.2%	41.2%	17.6%	2.9%	0.0%	14.7%	20.6%
Dakota	91	52	21	12	5	1	20	10
	100.0%	57.1%	23.1%	13.2%	5.5%	1.1%	22.0%	11.0%
Hennepin	1,183	620	295	217	27	23	231	159
	100.0%	52.4%	24.9%	18.3%	2.3%	1.9%	19.5%	13.4%
Olmsted	23	11	10	2	0	0	3	7
	100.0%	47.8%	43.5%	8.7%	0.0%	0.0%	13.0%	30.4%
Ramsey	1,626	1,041	293	260	22	10	342	333
	100.0%	64.0%	18.0%	16.0%	1.4%	0.6%	21.0%	20.5%
St. Louis	144	84	36	18	4	2	31	22
	100.0%	58.3%	25.0%	12.5%	2.8%	1.4%	21.5%	15.3%
Washington	43	23	14	5	1	0	10	9
	100.0%	53.5%	32.6%	11.6%	2.3%	0.0%	23.3%	20.9%
All Other Counties	489	287	98	65	23	16	130	113
	100.0%	58.7%	20.0%	13.3%	4.7%	3.3%	26.6%	23.1%
One or More Working Caregivers	823	409	44	332	23	15	823	217
	21.4%	18.1%	5.3%	53.8%	26.7%	27.3%	100.0%	31.3%

Table 5. Extended Cases: Extension Reason and Extension Months by Large County and Reported Work, December 2006

	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	2,259	689	592	377	264	337	747	532	434	546
Percent of Row	100.0%	30.5%	26.2%	16.7%	11.7%	14.9%	33.1%	23.6%	19.2%	24.2%
Anoka	128	51	40	5	20	12	50	32	22	24
Percent of Column	100.0%	39.8%	31.3%	3.9%	15.6%	9.4%	39.1%	25.0%	17.2%	18.8%
Beltrami	13	5	1	0	1	6	7	2	2	2
	100.0%	38.5%	7.7%	0.0%	7.7%	46.2%	53.8%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%
Dakota	52	14	16	7	8	7	15	13	12	12
	100.0%	26.9%	30.8%	13.5%	15.4%	13.5%	28.8%	25.0%	23.1%	23.1%
Hennepin	620	245	198	34	34	109	207	135	121	157
	100.0%	39.5%	31.9%	5.5%	5.5%	17.6%	33.4%	21.8%	19.5%	25.3%
Olmsted	11	8	2	0	1	0	7	3	0	1
	100.0%	72.7%	18.2%	0.0%	9.1%	0.0%	63.6%	27.3%	0.0%	9.1%
Ramsey	1,041	216	223	306	164	132	291	254	217	279
	100.0%	20.7%	21.4%	29.4%	15.8%	12.7%	28.0%	24.4%	20.8%	26.8%
St. Louis	84	39	14	7	10	14	34	19	9	22
	100.0%	46.4%	16.7%	8.3%	11.9%	16.7%	40.5%	22.6%	10.7%	26.2%
Washington	23	6	8	2	1	6	9	6	4	4
	100.0%	26.1%	34.8%	8.7%	4.3%	26.1%	39.1%	26.1%	17.4%	17.4%
All Other Counties	287	105	90	16	25	51	126	69	47	45
	100.0%	36.6%	31.4%	5.6%	8.7%	17.8%	43.9%	24.0%	16.4%	15.7%
Cases with One or More Working Caregivers	409	55	85	86	37	146	149	98	87	72
	18.1%	8.0%	14.4%	22.8%	14.0%	43.3%	19.9%	18.4%	20.0%	13.2%

Cases at the Time Limit: MFIP Cases that Reached Their 60th Counted Month in December 2006

The remainder of this report focuses on the 86 MFIP cases that had 59 months in November 2006 and reached their 60th counted month in December 2006. This was 47 fewer cases than the report for December 2005. Figure 1 shows the number of cases that reached their 60th counted month each month between December 2005 and December 2006.

Figure 1. Number of MFIP Cases that Reached their 60th Counted Month, December 2005 to December 2006

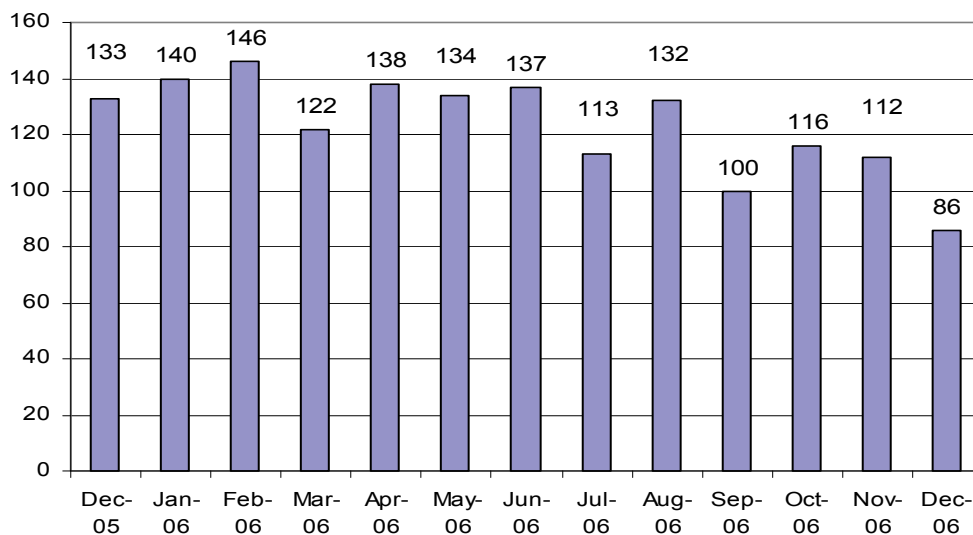


Figure 2 shows the status of these 86 cases in January 2007, the month after they reached their 60th month. Case eligibility status could change in the months following, as shown in Table 6, which has case outcomes in the six months following December 2006. Cases frequently move between eligibility reasons, for example, using a banked month and then becoming child-only due to caregiver ineligibility and later closing.

- In January 2007, the month after reaching month 60, 65 percent remained open on MFIP and 35 percent had their MFIP cases closed. (Figure 2)
- The percentage of cases receiving MFIP decreased by 13 percentage points between January and June 2007, while the percentage of cases receiving stand-alone Food Support increased by 7 percentage points. The difference was the cases that were no longer eligible for either program. In June 2007, six months after reaching their 60th counted month, 91 percent of these cases received either MFIP or Food Support. All of the cases had at least one household member that was eligible for Medical Assistance (MA) between January and June 2007. (Figure 3 and Table 6)

- In June 2007, 41 of the cases that reached 60 counted months in December were not receiving MFIP. Of these 41 leavers, 20 had a caregiver with wages reported to Minnesota's Unemployment Insurance (UI) system for the second quarter of 2007. (Figure 4)
- Four cases were in sanction during their 60th counted month and, therefore, can never be extended. (Table 6)
- Sixty-nine percent of the cases that reached the time limit in December 2006 received at least one month of MFIP in the next six months, with 47 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 only⁹, food-only¹⁰, had a second caregiver with fewer than 60 months join the household, or other eligibility reasons. (Table 6)
- Sixty-one percent of the cases were extended on MFIP in at least one month between January and June 2007 and 35 percent were in extension for the entire period. The average case with extended months was extended for 4.8 months between January and June 2007. (Table 6)
- Just more than half of the case received Food Support independent of MFIP in at least one month between January and June 2007. Twenty-three percent received stand-alone Food Support in all of the next six months. On average, these cases received 4.5 months of Food Support between January and June 2007. (Table 6)
- During the second quarter of 2007, 37 percent of the cases that reached their time limit in December 2006 had wages reported to Minnesota's UI system. The average quarterly wage amount for cases with wages was \$2,053 or about \$646 per month.¹¹ (Table 6)

⁹ A case cannot become a child-only case 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 becoming eligible for SSI.

¹⁰ A case with 60 counted months can become a food-only case if the case has sufficient income to decrease the grant to zero dollars or if the cash grant is being recouped for previous overpayments. These cases would be in extension if they had received a cash grant.

¹¹ UI wage data are reported by quarter. When dividing into monthly income, be aware that the income could have been earned in any month during the quarter rather than evenly divided across all three months.

Figure 2. What Happened Next? Disposition on the 86 Cases that Reached 60 Months in December 2006: January 2007 Case Status

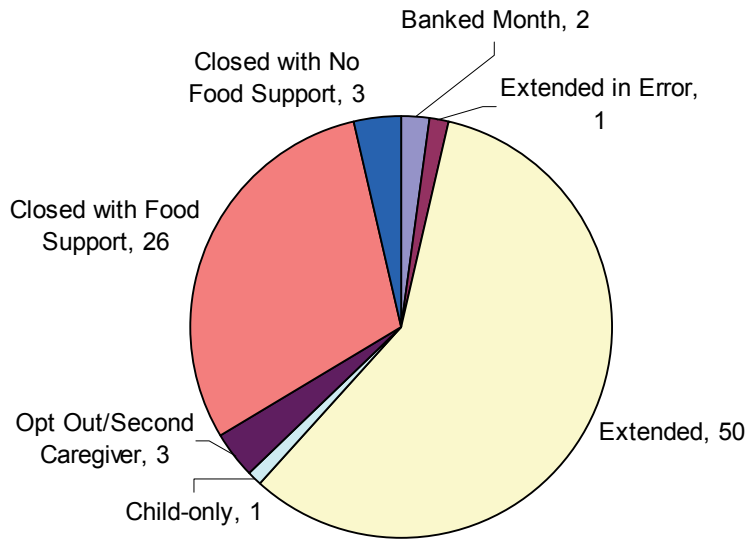


Figure 3. The First Six Months: MFIP and Stand-alone Food Support Eligibility for Cases that Reached 60 Months in December 2006, January to June 2007

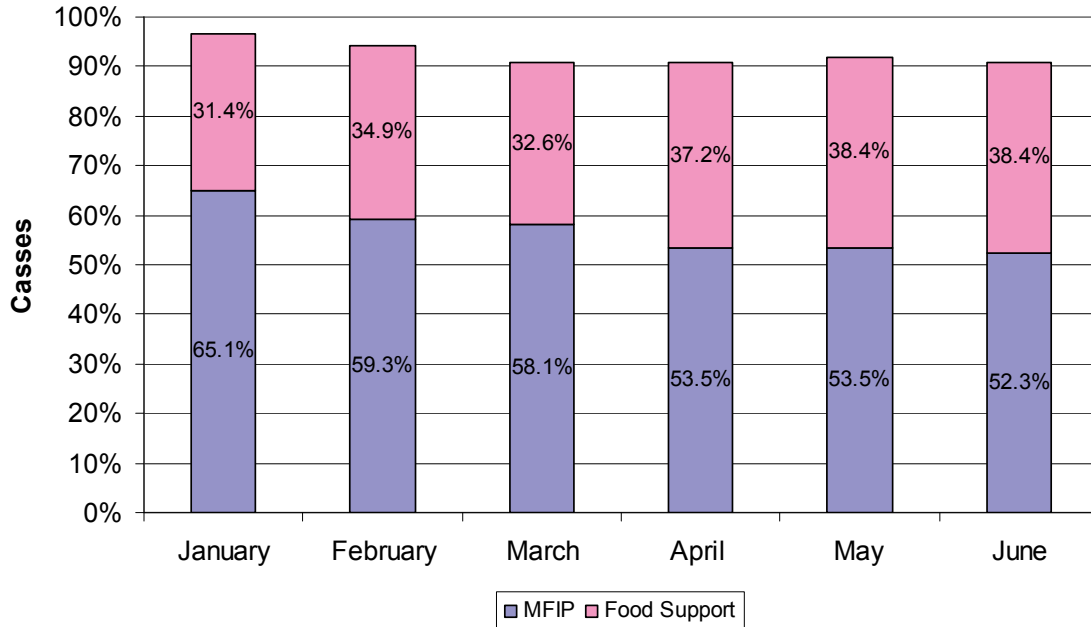


Figure 4. Six Months Later: June 2007 MFIP-eligibility Status and Wages Reported to the Unemployment Insurance System for Quarter Two 2007

N = 86

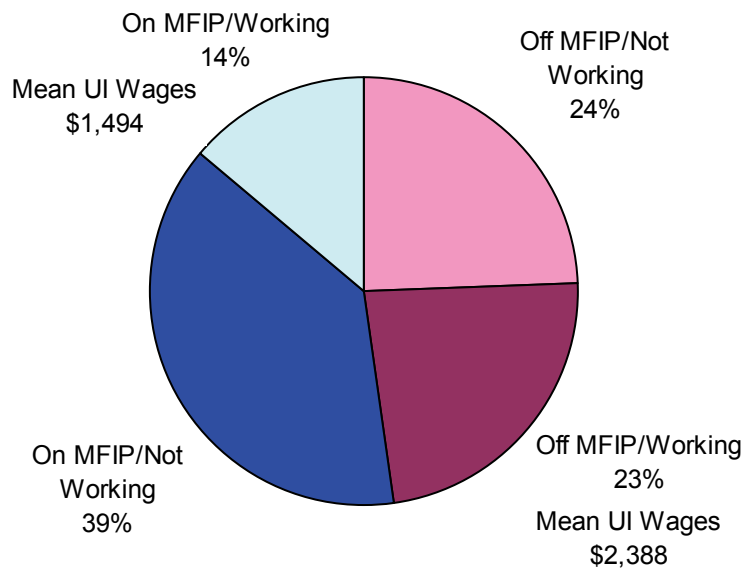


Table 6. The First Six Months after the Time Limit: Assistance Programs and Reported Wages for Cases that Reached the 60th Counted Month in December 2006

Cases at the 60-Month Time Limit		Count of Cases	Percent
Cases with 59 Months in November and 60 Months in December 2006		86	100.0%
Cases in Sanction During December 2006		4	4.7%
Any MA-Eligible Persons During January to June 2007		86	100.0%
Any Food Support or MFIP-Eligible Months During January to June 2007		86	100.0%
Number of MFIP Eligible Months (Includes all reasons for eligibility beyond 60 months)	0	27	31.4%
	1	6	7.0%
	2	2	2.3%
	3	3	3.5%
	4	5	5.8%
	5	3	3.5%
	6	40	46.5%
	Mean	4.9	
	Median	6	
Number of MFIP Extended Months	0	34	39.5%
	1	4	4.7%
	2	5	5.8%
	3	4	4.7%
	4	2	2.3%
	5	7	8.1%
	6	30	34.9%
	Mean	4.78	
	Median	6	
Number of Food Support Eligible Months (Stand-alone Food Support only)	0	41	47.7%
	1	9	10.5%
	2	4	4.7%
	3	3	3.5%
	4	2	2.3%
	5	7	8.1%
	6	20	23.3%
	Mean	4.45	
	Median	5	
Unemployment Insurance Wages in Quarter After 60th MFIP Month	Yes	32	37.2%
	Mean Wages Quarter Two 2007, if any	\$2,053	

Table Notes and Definitions

Counted MFIP months were defined as the maximum number of counted eligibility months for TANF and/or MFIP between September 1996 and December 2006 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. Minnesota counted months can be fewer than federally counted months because in the past Minnesota has funded more types of time limit exemptions.

An “eligible adult” is an adult caregiver or minor parent who personally meets MFIP eligibility requirements and receives an MFIP grant. Cases receiving MFIP 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.

Table 1 and Table 1a

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 severe 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 2006 or during the three-year period from 2004 to 2006. Chemical dependency diagnosis identifies eligible adults who received that diagnosis (excepting tobacco) during 2006 or during the three-year period 2004 to 2006. Both of these measures may underestimate the actual number of adults with these diagnoses because these only include cases that received publicly paid health care that is recorded in administrative records. On the other hand, these diagnoses may be a secondary diagnosis and do not indicate whether treatment services were received.

Table 2

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

Counted months are active, paid months that were counted toward the time limit. This report includes 86 cases that were in a counted month because the case was in its 60th counted in December 2006.

Total income was either actual or projected December 2006 income of eligible adults and other adults whose earnings were deemed for the cases. The amount used was either verified earnings for December 2006 or zero for cases still active in February 2007 with no income reported for December 2006 (required to be reported by February 2007) or prospective December 2006 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. Means of income and hours do not include cases with zero earnings or hours.

Table 3

Servicing county is the county in which the case received service in December 2006.

Tables 4 and 5

Refer to notes for Table 2.

Figure 1

Food Support is the name for Minnesota's federal Food Stamp program.

Counted months are assigned to an individual person so in some instances a caregiver may reach 60 months while another eligible caregiver in the household has fewer months or has an extension reason. The caregiver that has reached the time limit and does not have an extension reason may opt out of the case, resulting in the case having fewer than 60 months.

Table 6, Figure 2, and Figure 3

Medical Assistance (MA), Minnesota's Medicaid program, is a person-based, rather than a household-based program. The count of cases with an MA-eligible person includes cases that had one or more MA-eligible persons in any month between June and January 2007.

Food Support eligibility months exclude cases that were MFIP-eligible with one or more persons in the assistance unit that were ineligible for MFIP yet were eligible for Food Support (known as Uncle Harry Cases in Minnesota).

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 2007 (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 do not include cases with zero eligibility months or wages.