



Minnesota Department of **Human Services** _____

**At the Limit:
December 2009 Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)
Cases that Reached the 60-Month Time Limit**

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

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Introduction

With passage of the federal 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 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 would happen 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 fifth 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 2009. 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 cases that met Family Stabilization Services³ (FSS) eligibility, 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 112 households that reached their 60th counted month in December 2009.

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>.

³ FSS is a MFIP service track for the hard-to-employ.

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. In December 2009, residents of Red Lake and Prairie Island Reservations were exempt from the time limit due to their not-employed rate. 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 any of certain special medical criteria that prevent otherwise work-eligible caregivers from participating in work activities because they are providing care to family members.

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 although working the required number of hours.

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. 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 because of receiving SSI.

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 Support⁴ 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.

⁴ Food Support is Minnesota’s federal Food Stamps program. In 2008, the Food Stamps program was renamed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

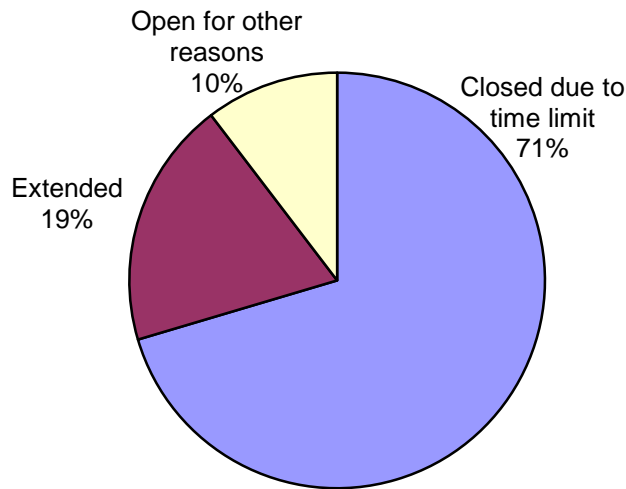
Food-only and child-only cases described in this report are cases where the caregiver has 60 counted months, but meet the eligibility requirements for a food-only or child-only grant.

MFIP Cases that Reached 60 Counted Months

As of December 2009, 15,010 adults had reached the lifetime limit for MFIP cash receipt, an increase of 2,388 from December 2008. As Figure 1 shows, 71 percent had their cases closed and were not currently receiving assistance. Some of these people had their MFIP cases extended and then closed rather than closing immediately following their 60th month. Case closure of extended cases and, in particular, case closures of cases with two caregivers were the main causes of the increased number of closed 60-month cases, not an increase in the overall number of adults reaching 60 months and closing immediately.

In December 2009, 19 percent of all adults with 60 months were extended⁵ and 10 percent were open for other reasons. This report will focus on these 4,442 cases that remained active and their eligible adults.

Figure 1. MFIP Status of the 15,010 Adults that Had 60 Counted Months, December 2009



- In December 2009, of the 4,442 MFIP cases with 60 counted months, 65 percent were extended, 25 percent were child-only, 6 percent were food-only, and 2 percent were using a banked month. The remaining 3 percent (112 cases) were in their 60th counted month and, therefore, still within the time limit. (Table 1)
- The most common extension reason was being ill or incapacitated for more than 30 days (32 percent of extended cases), followed by mental illness (20 percent) and Special

⁵ TANF legislation allows up to 20 percent of a state's TANF-funded caseload to be extended. Most of Minnesota's extended cases are funded through state, non-maintenance of effort funds because they are eligible for FSS, they are not counted toward the 20 percent limit.

Medical Criteria⁶ (17 percent). The percentage of cases extended for three years or more continued to increase, growing from 30 percent of extended cases in December 2007 to 35 percent in December 2008 to 38 percent in December 2009. Cases extended for having an IQ less than 80 and Special Medical Criteria were most likely to be extended for three years or more; 67 percent of cases extended for IQ less than 80 and 52 percent of cases extended for Special Medical Criteria were extended for three years or more.

- The percentage of 60-month cases with at least one working caregiver has remained the same since December 2008 at 17 percent. Average December income increased from \$888 last year to \$942 this December.
- Sixty-eight percent of cases met eligibility for FSS. This was expected as participants who are extended as ill or incapacitated or in a hard-to-employ category meet criteria for FSS services⁷ and this group makes up the largest proportion of 60-month cases.

⁶ Special Medical Criteria are met when a child or adult in the household is eligible for Home Care Services, a Medical Assistance home or community-based waiver has a severe emotional disturbance, or a serious or persistent mental illness. If an adult meets Special Medical Criteria there must be a second caregiver who provides the care. Single caregiver households would be extended. See the DHS Combined Manual 0011.36.

⁷ DHS Combined Manual 0011.33.

Table 1. 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 2009

MFIP Cases with 60 Months		Count of Cases	Percent
Number of Cases and Percent of Total MFIP		4,442	12.4%
MFIP-Eligibility Reason with Percent of 60-Month Cases	Extended Case	2,885	64.9%
	Child-only Case	1,088	24.5%
	MFIP Food-only	274	6.2%
	60th Counted Month	112	2.5%
	Banked Month	83	1.9%
Extended Cases: Total Extended Cases		2,885	64.9%
Extension Reason in December 2009 with Percent of Extended Cases	Ill or Incapacitated More than 30 Days	913	31.6%
	Mentally Ill	564	19.5%
	Special Medical Criteria	497	17.2%
	Care of Ill or Incapacitated Relative	280	9.7%
	IQ Less than 80	257	8.9%
	Caregiver(s) Employed Enough Hours	148	5.1%
	Family Violence	101	3.5%
	Unemployable	38	1.3%
	Learning Disabled	60	2.1%
	IQ Less than 70	25	0.9%
	Appeal of MFIP Closure	2	0.1%
Extended Cases: Number of Extension Months with Percent of Extended Cases	1 to 12	742	25.7%
	13 to 24	595	20.6%
	25 to 36	451	15.6%
	37 or More	1,097	38.0%
	Mean	32.7	
	Median	27	
	Maximum	97	
Cases with at Least One Caregiver with Paid Work		760	17.1%
Earned Income	Mean	\$942	
	Median	\$812	
Work Hours	Mean	100.2	
	Median	94	
Number of Caregivers (Eligible and Ineligible)	One	3,769	84.8%
	Two	673	15.2%
Family Stabilization Services	Yes	3,039	68.4%

Table 1a. Extension Months by Extension Reason, December 2009

December 2009 Extended Cases	Total Extended Cases	Extension Reason					
		Ill or Incapacitated	Mentally Ill	Special Medical	Care of Ill	IQ Less than 80	Other
All Extended Cases	2,885	913	564	497	280	257	374
Percent of Row	100.0%	31.6%	19.5%	17.2%	9.7%	8.9%	13.0%
Extension Months 1 to 12	742	281	142	89	74	20	136
Percent of Column	25.7%	30.8%	25.2%	17.9%	26.4%	7.8%	36.4%
13 to 24	595	204	121	85	56	40	89
Percent of Column	20.6%	22.3%	21.5%	17.1%	20.0%	15.6%	23.8%
25 to 36	451	165	103	66	41	26	50
Percent of Column	15.6%	18.1%	18.3%	13.3%	14.6%	10.1%	13.4%
37 or More	1,097	263	198	257	109	171	99
Percent of Column	38.0%	28.8%	35.1%	51.7%	38.9%	66.5%	26.5%

MFIP Cases that Reached 60 Counted Months: County Data

- Ramsey County accounted for 39 percent of the statewide total cases with 60 counted months, but 23 percent of all statewide MFIP cases. Hennepin County accounted for 23 percent of the statewide total cases with 60 counted months while their share of the total MFIP caseload was 33 percent. Twenty-two percent of Ramsey County MFIP cases and 13 percent of Hennepin County MFIP cases were in extension. (Table 2)
- In 6 of the 8 largest counties, around two-thirds of 60-month cases with continued eligibility were extended. In Beltrami County and Olmsted County, it was about half, with child-only cases about half. These two counties had the smallest numbers of active 60-month cases among the large counties. In Beltrami County, this was in part because MFIP participants living on Red Lake Reservation are not subject to the time limit. (Table 3)
- Among these 8 large counties, between 11 and 22 percent of cases with 60 counted months had at least one caregiver who reported employment in December 2009. All of the largest counties saw a decrease in participants with reported work since December 2008, except for Ramsey and Olmsted Counties which remained the same. Seventy-three percent of food-only cases with 60 counted months reported work, while 4 percent of child-only and 17 percent of extended cases reported income. 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. (Table 3)
- Being ill or incapacitated for more than 30 days was the most common extension reason in all large counties except for Ramsey and Washington Counties. In Ramsey County the most common extension reason was mental illness (31 percent) followed by illness or incapacitation (16 percent). In previous years the most common extension reason in Ramsey County was an IQ less than 80, but this decreased from 28 percent in December 2008 to 16 percent of December 2009. Washington County only had 38 extended cases and half of them were extended due to Special Medical Criteria. (Table 4)

- Statewide, 26 percent of extended cases had been extended for one year or less and 38 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; 47 percent compared to between 25 and 37 percent of other large counties.
- Nearly all extended cases were eligible for FSS⁸, 64 percent of food-only, and 40 percent of cases that had just reached their 60th month were. One percent of Child-only cases were eligible for FSS because most ineligible caregivers are not subject to MFIP's work requirements.

⁸ 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 Employment Services Manual 13.15.

Table 2. Servicing County of December 2009 MFIP Cases that Had 60 Counted Months

Service County	Cases with 60 Counted Months		Service County	Cases with 60 Counted Months	
	Count of Cases	Percent of Total MFIP Cases within County		Count of Cases	Percent of Total MFIP Cases within County
Aitkin	2	2.2%	Martin	3	3.8%
Anoka	239	13.5%	Meeker	8	9.2%
Becker	24	7.7%	Mille Lacs	6	4.5%
Beltrami	43	3.0%	Morrison	6	4.9%
Benton	9	4.8%	Mower	5	2.0%
Big Stone	5	27.8%	Murray	2	10.0%
Blue Earth	28	10.4%	Nicollet	11	6.6%
Brown	2	3.1%	Nobles	7	4.1%
Carlton	10	6.9%	Norman	0	0.0%
Carver	10	8.0%	Olmsted	35	4.8%
Cass	29	8.0%	Otter Tail	10	5.0%
Chippewa	1	1.8%	Pennington	0	0.0%
Chisago	7	6.0%	Pine	4	2.1%
Clay	29	10.1%	Pipestone	0	0.0%
Clearwater	8	10.3%	Polk	18	10.2%
Cook	0	0.0%	Pope	2	5.7%
Cottonwood	4	9.8%	Ramsey	1,650	21.7%
Crow Wing	18	6.4%	Red Lake	4	30.8%
Dakota	156	10.6%	Redwood	3	4.8%
Dodge	3	4.2%	Renville	3	5.0%
Douglas	10	9.5%	Rice	12	3.8%
Faribault	3	6.1%	Rock	1	3.0%
Fillmore	1	1.7%	Roseau	4	13.3%
Freeborn	5	2.4%	St Louis	204	13.6%
Goodhue	11	7.3%	Scott	23	7.2%
Grant	3	12.5%	Sherburne	17	7.0%
Hennepin	1,447	13.2%	Sibley	1	2.0%
Houston	5	6.0%	Stearns	53	7.4%
Hubbard	5	4.5%	Steele	7	4.2%
Isanti	5	3.7%	Stevens	0	0.0%
Itasca	33	9.9%	Swift	2	5.7%
Jackson	0	0.0%	Todd	7	7.0%
Kanabec	4	3.5%	Traverse	2	16.7%
Kandiyohi	13	4.6%	Wabasha	4	7.4%
Kittson	0	0.0%	Wadena	8	6.9%
Koochiching	4	7.1%	Waseca	5	6.8%
Lac Qui Parle	1	5.9%	Washington	59	9.7%
Lake	0	0.0%	Watonwan	0	0.0%
Lake of the Woods	1	10.0%	Wilkin	0	0.0%
Le Sueur	5	6.7%	Winona	15	9.2%
Lincoln	1	12.5%	Wright	14	5.5%
Lyon	10	8.0%	Yellow Medicine	1	3.1%
Mcleod	4	3.4%	Statewide Total	4,267	13.0%
Mahnomen	28	14.6%			
Marshall	4	16.0%			

Table 3. MFIP Cases that Had 60 Counted Months: Eligibility Reason, Reported Employment, and Two-caregiver Cases by Large County and Reported Employment, December 2009

December 2009 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	4,442	2,885	1,088	274	112	83	760	673
Percent of Row	100.0%	64.9%	24.5%	6.2%	2.5%	1.9%	17.1%	15.2%
Anoka	239	167	60	3	6	3	33	36
	5.4%	69.9%	25.1%	1.3%	2.5%	1.3%	13.8%	15.1%
Beltrami	43	21	20	1	1	0	6	4
	1.0%	48.8%	46.5%	2.3%	2.3%	0.0%	14.0%	9.3%
Dakota	156	107	34	6	7	2	28	11
	3.5%	68.6%	21.8%	3.8%	4.5%	1.3%	17.9%	7.1%
Hennepin	1,447	920	378	81	40	28	208	153
	32.6%	63.6%	26.1%	5.6%	2.8%	1.9%	14.4%	10.6%
Olmsted	35	16	16	0	2	1	4	11
	0.8%	45.7%	45.7%	0.0%	5.7%	2.9%	11.4%	31.4%
Ramsey	1,650	1,095	365	131	29	30	311	308
	37.1%	66.4%	22.1%	7.9%	1.8%	1.8%	18.8%	18.7%
St. Louis	204	130	59	8	5	2	29	20
	4.6%	63.7%	28.9%	3.9%	2.5%	1.0%	14.2%	9.8%
Washington	59	38	13	3	4	1	13	12
	1.3%	64.4%	22.0%	5.1%	6.8%	1.7%	22.0%	20.3%
All Other Counties	609	391	143	41	18	16	128	118
	13.7%	64.2%	23.5%	6.7%	3.0%	2.6%	21.0%	19.4%
Working Caregiver(s)	760	481	41	201	26	11	760	177
Percent of Column	17.1%	16.7%	3.8%	73.4%	23.2%	13.3%	100.0%	26.3%
FSS	3,039	2,762	12	174	44	47	512	441
Percent of Column	68.4%	95.7%	1.1%	63.5%	39.3%	56.6%	67.4%	65.5%

Table 4. Extended Cases: Extension Reason and Extension Months by Large County and Reported Employment, December 2009

December 2009 Extended Cases	Total Extended Cases	Extension Reason						Extension Months			
		Ill or Incapacitated	Mentally Ill	Special Medical	Care of Ill	IQ Less than 80	Other	1 to 12	13 to 24	25 to 36	37 or More
All Extended Cases	2,885	913	564	497	280	257	374	742	595	451	1,097
Percent of Row	100.0%	31.6%	19.5%	17.2%	9.7%	8.9%	13.0%	25.7%	20.6%	15.6%	38.0%
Anoka	167	80	16	36	17	7	11	46	43	24	54
	5.8%	47.9%	9.6%	21.6%	10.2%	4.2%	6.6%	27.5%	25.7%	14.4%	32.3%
Beltrami	21	13	0	2	1	0	5	6	5	4	6
	0.7%	61.9%	0.0%	9.5%	4.8%	0.0%	23.8%	28.6%	23.8%	19.0%	28.6%
Dakota	107	33	25	9	11	15	14	30	25	12	40
	3.7%	30.8%	23.4%	8.4%	10.3%	14.0%	13.1%	28.0%	23.4%	11.2%	37.4%
Hennepin	920	368	103	176	110	40	123	256	199	145	320
	31.9%	40.0%	11.2%	19.1%	12.0%	4.3%	13.4%	27.8%	21.6%	15.8%	34.8%
Olmsted	16	9	1	1	0	2	3	5	2	4	5
	0.6%	56.3%	6.3%	6.3%	0.0%	12.5%	18.8%	31.3%	12.5%	25.0%	31.3%
Ramsey	1,095	176	341	178	84	172	144	203	194	180	518
	38.0%	16.1%	31.1%	16.3%	7.7%	15.7%	13.2%	18.5%	17.7%	16.4%	47.3%
St. Louis	130	56	34	7	12	5	16	39	35	18	38
	4.5%	43.1%	26.2%	5.4%	9.2%	3.8%	12.3%	30.0%	26.9%	13.8%	29.2%
Washington	38	8	4	19	2	1	4	7	8	6	17
	1.3%	21.1%	10.5%	50.0%	5.3%	2.6%	10.5%	18.4%	21.1%	15.8%	44.7%
All Other Counties	391	170	40	69	43	15	54	150	84	58	99
	13.6%	43.5%	10.2%	17.6%	11.0%	3.8%	13.8%	38.4%	21.5%	14.8%	25.3%
Working Caregiver(s)	481	72	64	79	49	63	154	130	92	85	174
Percent of Column	16.7%	7.9%	11.3%	15.9%	17.5%	24.5%	41.2%	17.5%	15.5%	18.8%	15.9%

MFIP-eligible Adults that Reached 60 Counted Months

- Compared to eligible adults with fewer than 60 counted months, eligible adults in December 2009 who had reached the time limit were more likely to belong to each of these groups: female, black, a U.S. citizen, and a history of chemical dependency or serious mental health diagnosis. They were also older, with an average age of 36 compared to 29 for adults with fewer than 60 months.⁹ (Table 5)
- Blacks were 51 percent of eligible adults with 60 counted months, but 35 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 as likely as adults with fewer months to have graduated from high school (64 percent compared to 60 percent) and as likely never to have been married (65 percent compared to 68 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 have attended school and graduated and to have married.
- Eligible adults with 60 counted months were much more likely to have received a chemical dependency or serious mental health diagnosis during 2007 to 2009 than their peers with fewer than 60 months; 32 percent compared to 22 percent with a chemical dependency diagnosis and 63 percent versus 35 percent with a serious mental health diagnosis.¹⁰
- Rates of serious mental health and chemical dependency diagnoses varied by race/ethnicity. While a majority of each race and ethnic group had a serious mental health diagnosis made in the last three years, 72 percent of Asians and whites each had such a diagnosis compared to about half of other groups. Half of American Indian caregivers and 38 percent of white caregivers had a chemical dependency diagnosis in the last three years compared to about a quarter of Hispanic and black caregivers. Only 6 percent of Asian caregivers had such a diagnosis. (Table 5a)

⁹ There are fewer eligible adults than total cases included in this report due to the 1,088 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.

¹⁰ 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. Since the creation of FSS, earlier screening may be occurring more frequently.

Table 5. Demographic Characteristics, Chemical Dependency Diagnosis, and Serious Mental Health Diagnosis of MFIP-eligible Adults by Counted Months, December 2009

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		3,567	12.9%	24,111	87.1%
Gender	Male	445	12.5%	4,859	20.2%
	Female	3,122	87.5%	19,252	79.8%
Age	19 and younger	0	0.0%	2,612	10.8%
	20 to 29	792	22.2%	12,563	52.1%
	30 to 39	1,794	50.3%	5,468	22.7%
	40 to 49	768	21.5%	2,674	11.1%
	50 to 59	197	5.5%	688	2.9%
	60 and older	16	0.4%	106	0.4%
	Mean	35.8		28.9	
	Median	35		26	
Race	Asian	209	5.9%	1,551	6.4%
	Black	1,829	51.3%	8,396	34.8%
	American Indian	304	8.5%	2,264	9.4%
	Hispanic	157	4.4%	1,364	5.7%
	White	1,020	28.6%	10,072	41.8%
	Multiple/Unknown	48	1.3%	464	1.9%
Asian Subgroups	Asian American	28	0.8%	410	1.7%
	Hmong	147	4.1%	556	2.3%
	Other Asian Immigrant	34	1.0%	585	2.4%
Black Subgroups	African American	1,623	45.5%	6,170	25.6%
	Somali	147	4.1%	1,406	5.8%
	Other African Immigrant	59	1.7%	820	3.4%
Education	Less than 1st Grade/Unknown	131	3.7%	1,576	6.5%
	Grade School	85	2.4%	459	1.9%
	Some High School	1,076	30.2%	7,618	31.6%
	High School Graduate	1,906	53.4%	12,471	51.7%
	Some Post-Secondary	328	9.2%	1,659	6.9%
	College Graduate	25	0.7%	170	0.7%
	Graduate Degree	16	0.4%	158	0.7%
	High School or Greater	2,275	63.8%	14,458	60.0%
Marital Status	Divorced	309	8.7%	1,455	6.0%
	Legally Separated	8	0.2%	60	0.2%
	Married, Living Apart	471	13.2%	2,552	10.6%
	Married, Living Together	419	11.7%	3,598	14.9%
	Never Married	2,325	65.2%	16,289	67.6%
	Widowed	35	1.0%	157	0.7%
Citizenship Status	US Citizen	3,320	93.1%	20,779	86.2%
	Non-Citizen	247	6.9%	3,332	13.8%
Chemical Dependency Diagnosis	During 2009	710	19.9%	3,193	13.2%
	During 2007 to 2009	1,137	31.9%	5,191	21.5%
Serious Mental Health Diagnosis	During 2009	1,894	53.1%	6,497	26.9%
	During 2007 to 2009	2,259	63.3%	8,544	35.4%

Table 5a. Serious Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Diagnoses by Race/Ethnicity for December 2009 MFIP-eligible Adults with 60 Counted Months

MFIP-eligible Caregivers	Total Eligible Caregivers with 60 months		Serious Mental Health Diagnosis, 2007 to 2009		Chemical Dependency Diagnosis, 2007 to 2009	
	Number	Caregivers with 60 Months	Number	Percent of Race	Number	Percent of Race
Asian	209	5.9%	150	71.8%	13	6.2%
Black	1,829	51.3%	927	50.7%	484	26.5%
American Indian	304	8.5%	166	54.6%	146	48.0%
Hispanic	157	4.4%	85	54.1%	38	24.2%
White	1,020	28.6%	731	71.7%	384	37.6%
Total Persons	3,567	100.0%	2,059	57.7%	1,065	29.9%

Cases at the Time Limit: MFIP Cases that Reached the 60th Counted Month in December 2009

The remainder of this report focuses on the 112 MFIP cases that reached their 60th counted month in December 2009. Figure 2 shows the number of cases that reached their 60th counted month each month since December 2005. An average of 115 cases reached the time limit each month.

Figure 2. Number of MFIP Cases that Reached the 60th Counted Month, December 2005 to December 2009

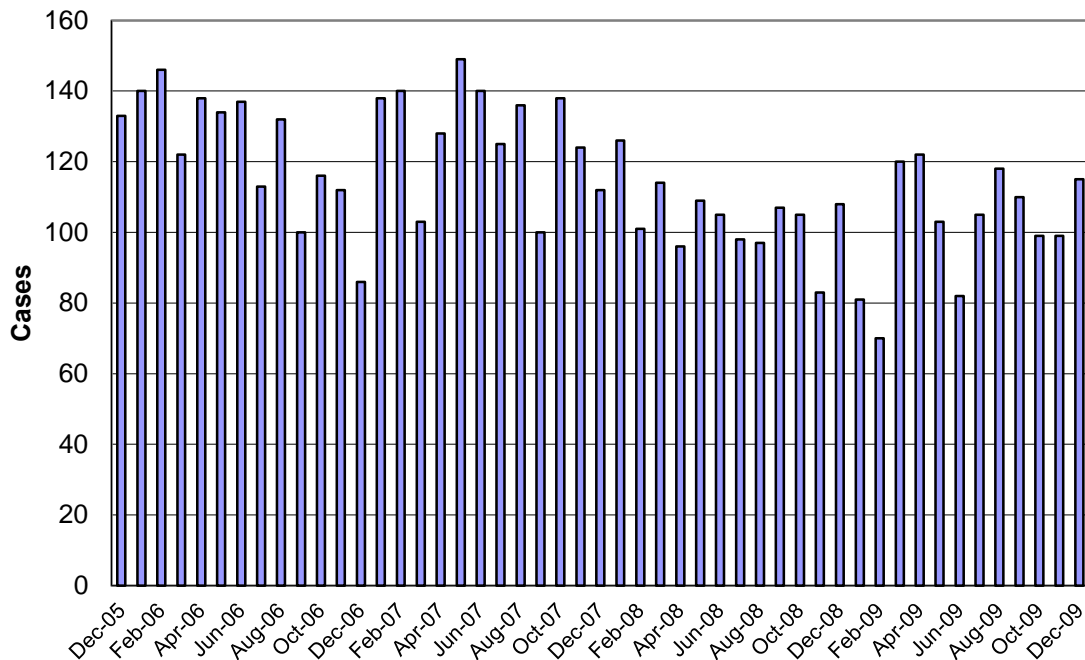
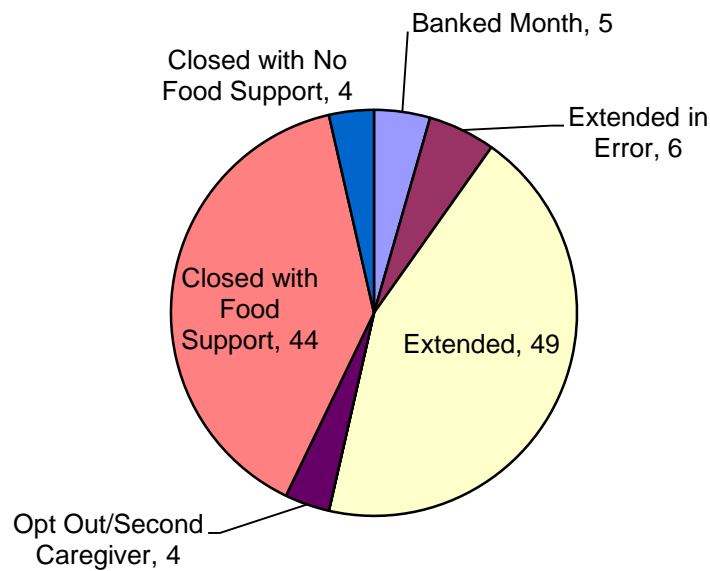


Figure 3 shows the status of these 112 cases in January 2010, the month after they reached the time limit. Ninety-four percent of these cases received Food Support or MFIP during the six months following month 60. A case's status is not static; cases often move between eligibility reasons and ineligibility. One case was in sanction during its 60th month which means the case cannot be extended. All but two cases had at least one member that was eligible for Medical Assistance (MA) during the six months following its 60th month.

- In January 2010, the month after reaching the time limit, 64 cases remained open on MFIP and 48 cases were closed, 44 of which received Food Support. (Figure 3)
- In June 2010, 61 of the 112 cases that reached 60 counted months in December 2009 were not receiving MFIP. Of these 61 leavers, 24 had a caregiver with wages reported to Minnesota's Unemployment Insurance (UI) system for the second quarter 2010. The average reported quarterly wages were \$3,021. (Figure 4)

- Sixty-five percent of the cases that reached the time limit in December 2009 received at least one month of MFIP in the next six months, with 38 percent receiving MFIP in all of the next six months. Fifty percent of the cases were extended on MFIP in at least one month between January and June 2010. In addition to extensions, active 60-month cases used banked months, opened as child-only¹¹ or food-only, had a second caregiver with fewer than 60 months join the household, or other eligibility reasons. Twenty-nine percent were in extension the entire period.
- Sixty-three percent of the cases received Food Support independently of MFIP in at least one month between January and June 2010 and 31 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 2009: January 2010 Case Status



¹¹ 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 because of receiving SSI.

Figure 4. Six Months Later: June 2010 MFIP Eligibility Status and Second Quarter 2010 Unemployment Insurance (UI) Wages

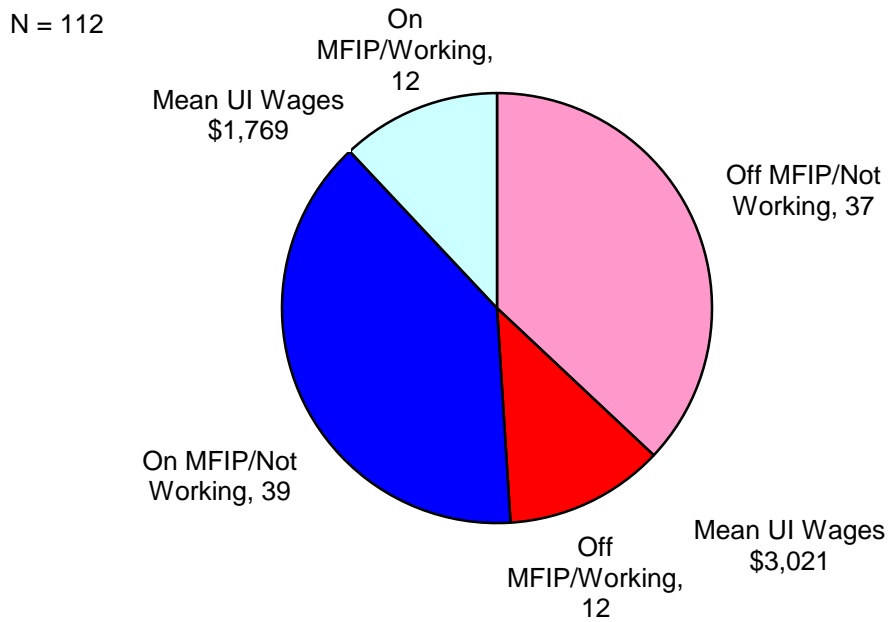


Figure 5. The First Six Months after the Time Limit: MFIP and Food Support Eligibility for Cases that Reached the 60th Counted Month in December 2009

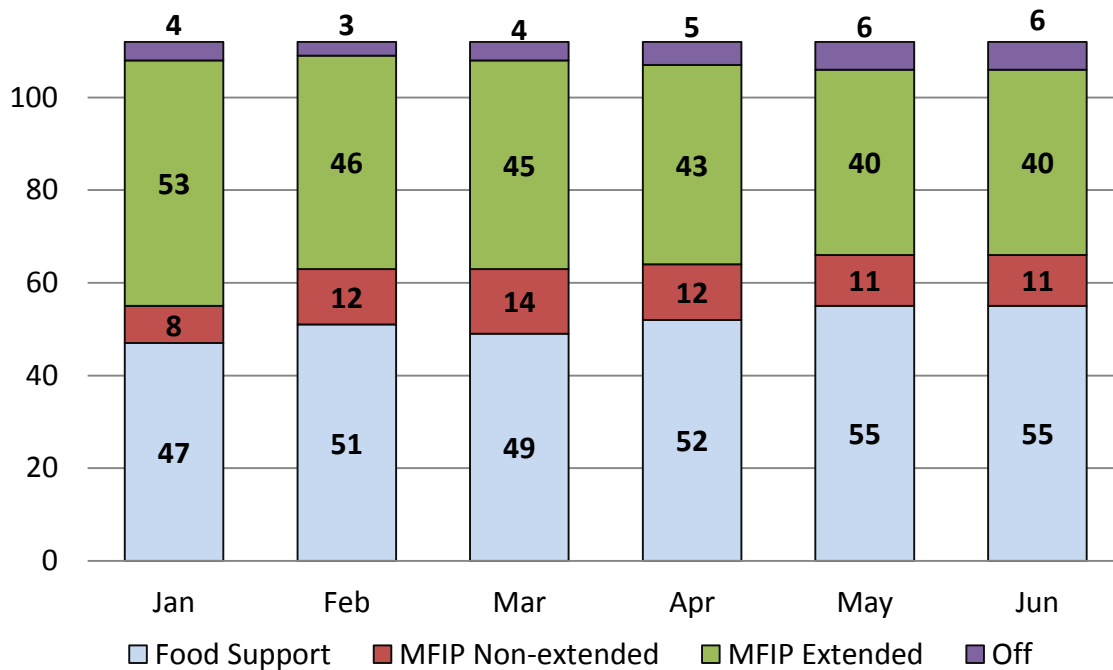


Table Definitions and Notes

Counted MFIP months are months with a MFIP cash grant 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 2009 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. Paid cases can receive either or both a cash grant and food portion.

Food Support is Minnesota's name for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly called the Food Stamp Program).

Servicing county is the county in which the case received service in December 2009.

Table 1

An MFIP case can be extended beyond the 60-month lifetime limit if a hardship that is a permitted extension criterion 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 2009 income of eligible adults and other adults whose earnings were deemed for the cases. The amount used was either verified earnings for December 2009 or zero for cases still active in February 2010 with no income reported for December 2009 (required to be reported by February 2010) or prospective December 2009 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 often are not 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 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, with non-Hispanics reported by race.

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 2009 or during the three-year period from 2007 to 2009. Chemical dependency diagnosis identifies eligible adults who received that diagnosis (excepting tobacco) during 2009 or during the three-year period 2007 to 2009. 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 2010.

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

Table 6, Figure 5

Employers covered by the Unemployment Insurance (UI) system (which excludes federal government, religious, temporary workers, and seasonal workers, and others) must report wages to the state. Employment in other states or for cash is not included in UI data. The table provides second quarter 2010 (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.