



Minnesota Department of **Human Services** 

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**At the Limit:  
MFIP Participants That Reached the Time Limit in 2011**

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Minnesota Department of Human Services  
Transition to Economic Stability Division  
December 2012

## Abbreviations Used in this Report

DEED	Department of Employment and Economic Development
DHS	Department of Human Services
FPG	Federal Poverty Guideline
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 to Needy Families
UI	Unemployment Insurance

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## Questions Answered in this Report

- 1) How many people reach the 60-month MFIP time limit?

As of December 2011, 17,044 adults (about 7 percent of all adults ever eligible for MFIP) had reached the lifetime limit of MFIP cash receipt since August 2001 which was the first month someone reached the time limit. Nearly three-quarters (71 percent) were no longer eligible, 18 percent were extended, and 11 percent were in cases open for other reasons, such as being child-only or receiving only the food portion and no cash grant. An average of 119 people reached the time limit each month.

- 2) What happens after people reach their 60<sup>th</sup> month?

In calendar year 2011, 1,412 people reached the MFIP time limit. In the half year following their 60<sup>th</sup> month nearly 40 percent remained eligible for MFIP in all of the 6 months due to extension, using a banked month, or other reasons. Twenty-nine percent were ineligible for MFIP in all 6 months, although most of these people were eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Eight percent of post-60 month people were personally ineligible, but the case remained open because a second caregiver was eligible or the case met criteria for child-only eligibility. The remaining 24 percent were on and off MFIP over the 6 month period.

- 3) Some people exit the program after reaching the time limit. What happens to them?

After people leave MFIP we have very little information about them. With our current data we cannot say much about the well-being of post-time limit families. Are they doing well, with employment and housing? Are they homeless? Did they move to another state? We do not have the answers to these questions.

We know through the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development's (DEED) Unemployment Insurance system that half of those who reached the time limit in 2011 and remained off MFIP in all six months after reaching the limit had reported wages in the quarter following their 60<sup>th</sup> counted month. The average quarterly wage for those with employment was \$2,729, which is below the Federal Poverty Guideline for a family of two (\$3,678 a quarter).

- 4) Who reaches the time limit?

Compared to MFIP-eligible caregivers with less than 60 counted months, those that reached the limit were more likely to be in each of the following groups: age 30 or older, female, African American, and eligible for Family Stabilization Services<sup>1</sup> (FSS). There were no differences in education level or the percent never married.

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<sup>1</sup> FSS eligibility categories overlap with many of the extension categories so this group already has documented the situations that make them eligible for extension.

## 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 a federal entitlement. Among other requirements, the PRWORA mandated a lifetime limit of 60 months for receipt of cash assistance with limited extensions for hardship. 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 toward the limit in July 1997. Other states enacted shorter limits and some states started counting months as early as September 1996, the earliest allowed.

Since PRWORA was enacted there has been interest in what would happen to families once they could no longer receive cash assistance. 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*<sup>2</sup>, which looked at the very first families affected by the time limit. DHS also conducted a longitudinal study of MFIP participants 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*<sup>3</sup>. Six reports in the *At the Limit: December Minnesota Family Investment Program Cases that Reached the 60 Month Time Limit*<sup>4</sup> looked at cases still eligible after reaching the time limit.

### Federal and State Time Limit Exemptions and Extensions

Under PRWORA the federal government allowed certain exemptions from the time limit and states were allowed to fund their own exemption categories, as well as extensions beyond the time limit for documented hardships. The federal government provides exemptions for families that live on Indian reservations with a not-employed rate of at least 50 percent and for participants with a family violence waiver. In 2011 residents of Red Lake and Prairie Island Indian Reservations were exempt from the time limit. Minnesota provides funds to exempt people aged 60 and older, minor parents while they are complying with educational requirements, and 18 and 19-year old parents while they are complying with high school educational 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 if the caregiver reaches 60 months. Hence, if a case is using a banked month it is using a credit received at an earlier time when the caregiver met the criteria. Caregivers can receive a banked month if an adult or child meets certain special medical criteria that prevent otherwise work-eligible caregivers from participating in work activities because they are needed in the home to provide care to family members.

States are also allowed to provide TANF-funded extensions for up to 20 percent of their caseloads for documented hardships. Most extended cases in Minnesota are state-funded which means these cases are not counted toward the 20 percent limit. Minnesota provides extensions for people 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, certain mental illness, as well as

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<sup>2</sup> Available at <http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Legacy/DM-0176-ENG>.

<sup>3</sup> Available at <http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Legacy/DHS-4450G-ENG>.

<sup>4</sup> Available at [http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/id\\_004113](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/id_004113).

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 other situations where months are not counted toward the time limit. These are cases when either a cash grant was not issued and the household only received the food portion and cases when the caregiver was not eligible and not included in the cash grant calculation. Child-only cases are cases where the parent is not eligible for MFIP, but cash is issued for eligible children, or cases where children are cared for by a relative who is not eligible for MFIP. The most common reasons 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 was extended or reapplied after becoming ineligible for another reason. Cases cannot become child-only solely because the caregiver reached 60 counted months; caregivers must meet other criteria for child-only case eligibility.

Months are also not counted for MFIP “food-only” cases because these cases do not receive a cash grant. A federal waiver allows Minnesota to provide the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program <sup>5</sup>(SNAP) to households receiving MFIP as a combined program. As families work their way off MFIP, their cash grant is decreased first so that some families only receive a food grant. Caregivers can also opt out of the cash portion and those months do not count toward their lifetime limit. Food-only cases with 60 months need to meet other extension criteria.

### **At the Limit: MFIP Participants that Reached the Time Limit in 2011**

This report is the first in this series that takes the most useful information from the previous *At the Limit* report series and looks at a larger group of caregivers that reached the time limit: those from the entire calendar year rather than only December. It then tells what happened to them in the 6 months following that month. It examines continued MFIP eligibility, SNAP eligibility, and wages reported to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development’s (DEED) Unemployment Insurance (UI) system in the quarter coinciding with the 6<sup>th</sup> month after reaching the time limit, Family Stabilization Services (FSS) eligibility, and demographic data of those at the limit compared to those eligible in 2011 who did not reach the limit during the year. Outcomes data are provided by county.

The older reports focused on cases still eligible after reaching 60 months no matter when they had reached the time limit, including those in their 60<sup>th</sup> month. These data are available in other reports, in particular the *MFIP and DWP Caseload and Participant Characteristics Reports*, which has information on extended cases. To avoid duplication these data were dropped from this report.

The Mille Lacs American Indian Tribal Council administers MFIP-eligible cases in its jurisdiction, including cases for tribal members in Hennepin, Ramsey, and Anoka Counties. As this is a separate program from MFIP, these cases and participants are not included in most MFIP reports. They are, however, including in this report as the participants may have reached the time limit with most months in MFIP rather than Tribal TANF and only received Tribal TANF in their 60<sup>th</sup> month.

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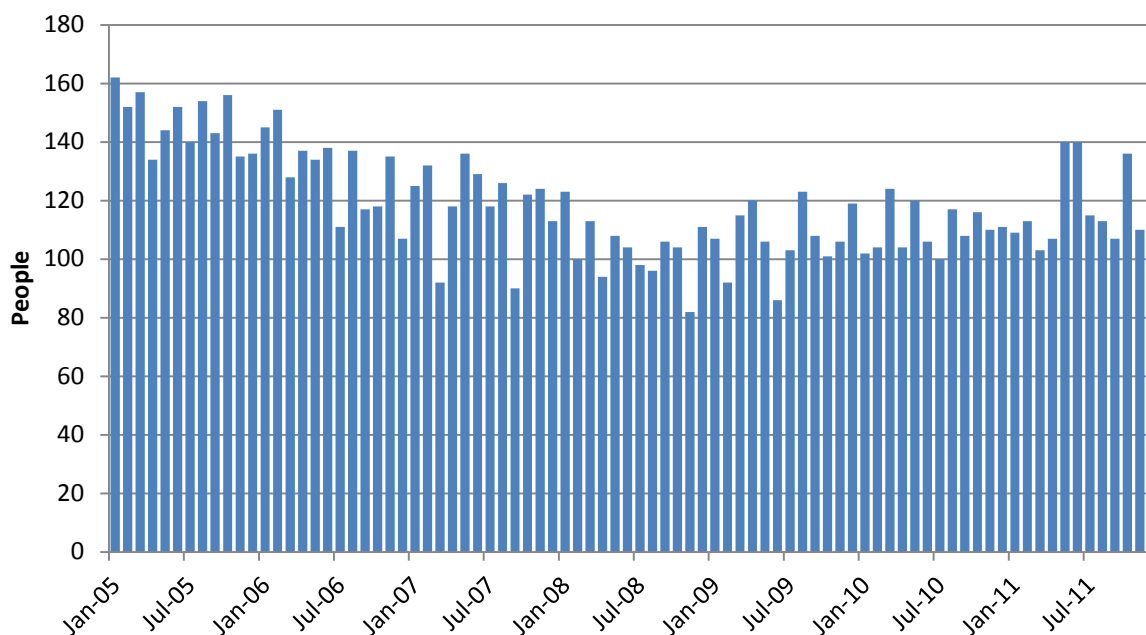
<sup>5</sup> SNAP is the formal name of the federal food stamps program. It was formerly called Food Support in Minnesota.

## At the Limit: People Reaching the MFIP Time Limit

As of December 2011, 17,044 adults had reached the lifetime limit of MFIP cash receipt since August 2001 which was the first month someone reached the time limit, about 7 percent of all adults ever eligible for MFIP. Nearly three-quarters (71 percent) were no longer eligible, 18 percent were extended, and 11 percent were in cases open for other reasons, such as being child-only or receiving no cash grant.

Figure 1 shows the number of people reaching 60 months each month since January 2005. An average of 119 people reached the time limit each month.

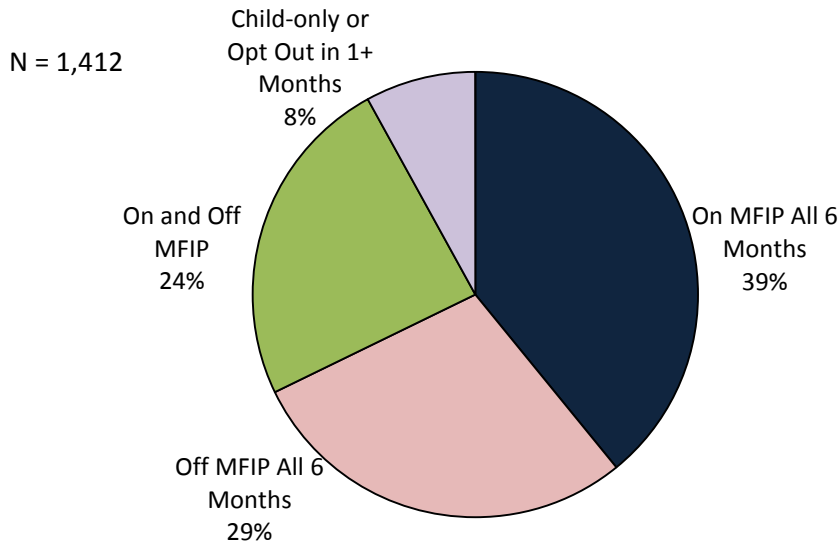
**Figure 1. People Reaching the MFIP Time Limit, January 2005 to December 2011**



### What Happened Next? Program Exits and Eligibility in the Six Months after Reaching the Time Limit

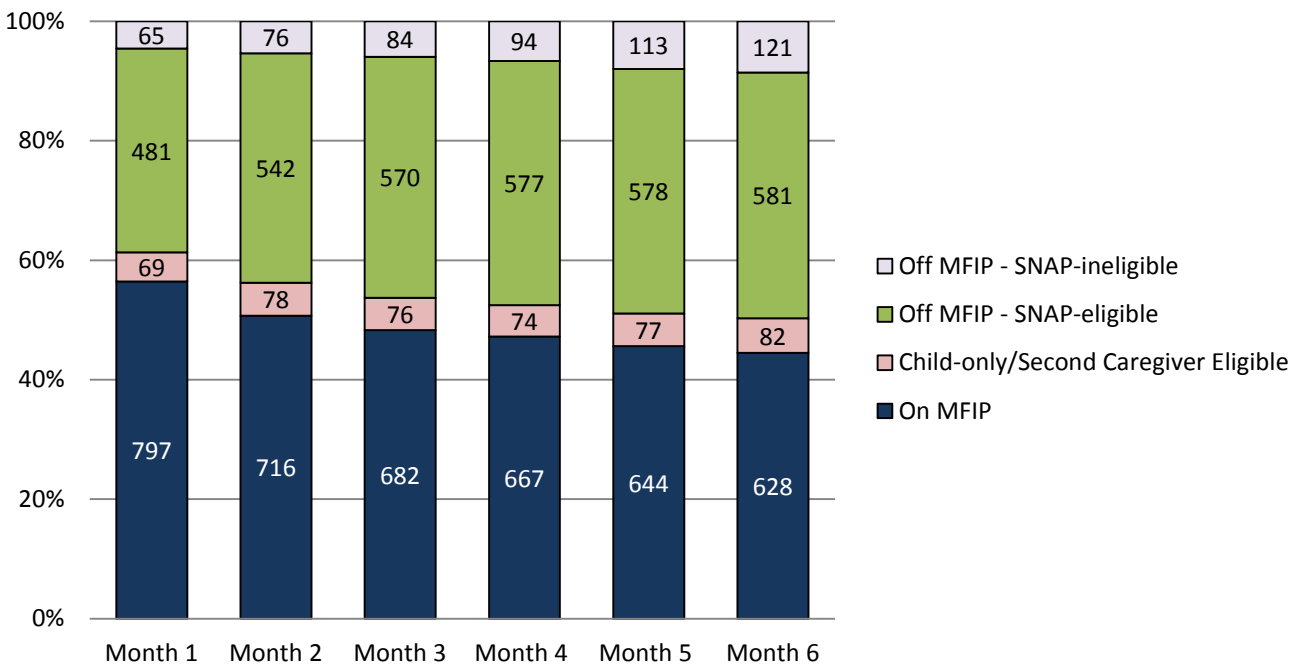
This report focuses on the 1,412 people who reached the time limit during calendar year 2011 and what happened in the 6 months following. As shown in Figure 2 (next page), 39 percent (552 people) remained eligible for MFIP in all of the 6 months after reaching the time limit due to extension or using a banked month. Twenty-nine percent were ineligible for MFIP in all 6 months; most of these people were eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Eight percent of post-60 month people were personally ineligible, but the case remained open because a second caregiver was eligible and the caregiver with 60 counted months opted out or the case met criteria for child-only eligibility, typically because the single caregiver with 60 months became eligible for SSI for a disability. The remaining 24 percent had some combination of MFIP and SNAP eligibility that varied from month to month, but were never in cases eligible as food-only, child-only, or with second caregivers with less than 60 counted months.

**Figure 2. Caregiver's Program Eligibility in the 6 Months after Reaching the Time Limit**



As shown in Figure 3, the number of people either eligible for MFIP or in households eligible for MFIP declined over the 6 months while those ineligible increased, although most remained eligible for SNAP. At month 6, equal proportions were either off MFIP (with or without SNAP eligibility) and on MFIP or in the household still on MFIP. Information was not available on people who may have moved to another state after reaching the time limit.

**Figure 3. Program Eligibility by Month for People Reaching the Time Limit in 2011**





People in sanction during their 60<sup>th</sup> counted month cannot be extended. Three percent of caregivers (46 people) who reached the time limit in 2011 were in sanction in the final month. Of those, two-thirds were off MFIP in each of the following 6 months and one-third had banked months or met eligibility for child-only MFIP so had some continued case eligibility.

About a third of people reaching the time limit had wages reported to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development’s (DEED) Unemployment Insurance for the quarter coinciding with their 6<sup>th</sup> month post-time limit. As shown in Table 1, half of those off MFIP in all 6 months had wages compared to 36 percent of those on and off MFIP, 26 percent of those in active cases who were personally ineligible, and 19 percent of those on MFIP in all 6 months<sup>6</sup>.

The average quarterly wage for those with wages was highest for participants who were on and off MFIP in the 6 months following the time limit at \$2,984 (Table 1), followed by participants who were off MFIP in all 6 months (\$2,729). These wages are below the Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG) for a family of 2 which in 2011 was \$3,678 per quarter or \$14,710 per year<sup>7</sup>.

**Table 1. Two Quarters Later: Quarterly UI Wages of People at the Limit**

	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Number with UI Wages	Percent with Wages	Total
<b>On MFIP All 6 Months</b>	\$2,199.59	\$1,656.00	\$13	\$8,678	107	19%	552
<b>Off MFIP All 6 Months</b>	\$2,728.50	\$2,427.12	\$30	\$11,272	201	50%	405
<b>Child-only/Opt Out</b>	\$1,939.30	\$909.10	\$36	\$9,716	29	26%	113
<b>On and Off MFIP</b>	\$2,984.18	\$2,591.78	\$30	\$12,526	124	36%	342
<b>Total</b>	\$2,624.86	\$2,347.19	\$13	\$12,526	461	33%	1,412

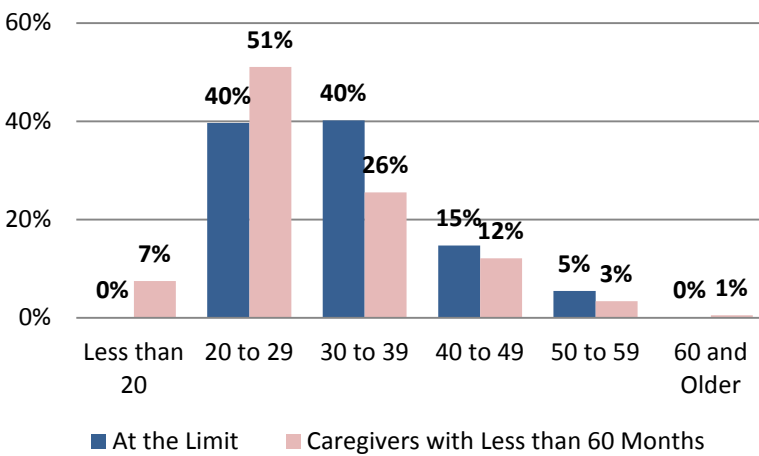
<sup>6</sup> Employers covered by the Unemployment Insurance (UI) system must report wages to the state. Some employers are exempt from this requirement and include federal government, other state government, religious, seasonal, sheltered work in a facility, work relief or training financed by a federal agency, National Guard, as an elected official, some domestic employment, inmates, some student workers at their school or college, commissioned insurance salespeople, commissioned real estate agents, newspaper delivery, or temporary workers. In addition, earnings made from jobs in other states are not reported. (MN Statute §268.035)

<sup>7</sup> <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/11poverty.shtml>

## Who Reached the Time Limit

**Participants at the Limit Compared to Participants with Less than 60 Months.** Compared to MFIP-eligible caregivers with less than 60 counted months, those that reached the limit were more likely to be in each of these groups: age 30 or older, female, African American, and eligible for Family Stabilization Services (FSS). There were no differences in education level or the percent never married.

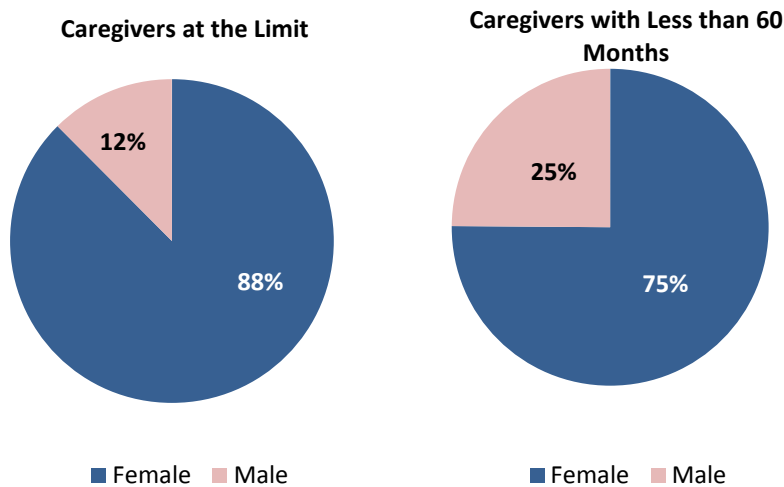
**Figure 4. Age of MFIP Caregivers at 60 Months Compared to Those with Less than 60 Months**



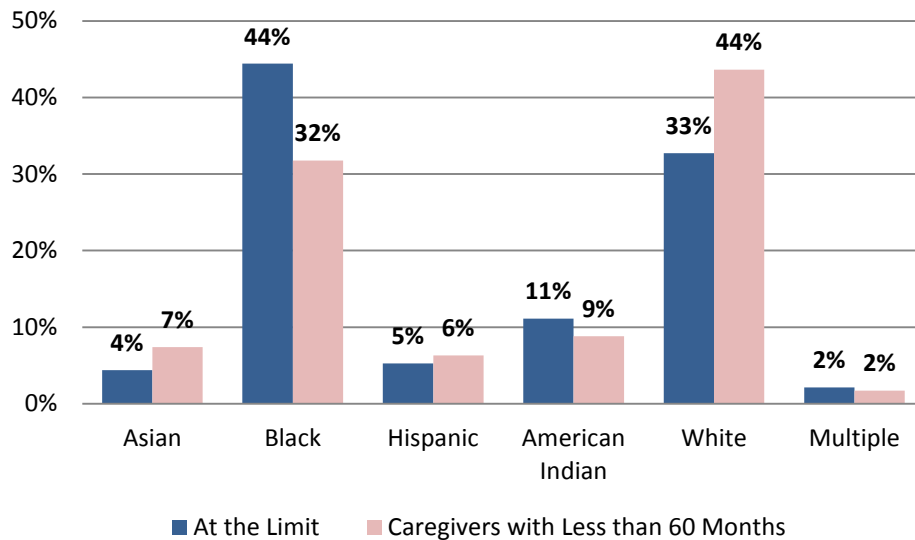
Some of these differences, such as age and immigrant status, are due to time. Older people are more likely to be at the time limit simply because they have had more time to accumulate counted months. Immigrants are less likely to be at the time limit because many of them have not been in the United States very long. (Figure 4)

Men on MFIP tend to be in two caregiver households rather than as single parents hence they are less likely to reach the time limit than women. (Figure 5) Two caregiver households have two potential earners and tend to have higher incomes than one caregiver households. Likewise, married participants are a little less likely than those who were previously married to reach the limit, most likely due to the presence of two wage-earners.

**Figure 5. Gender of MFIP Caregivers: At the Limit Compared to Less than 60 Months**



**Figure 6. Race/Ethnicity of Caregivers at the Limit Compared to those with Less than 60 Months**

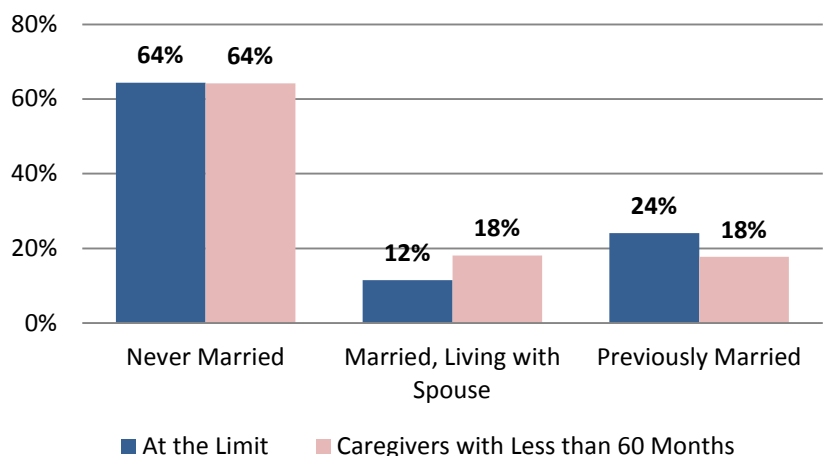


Black caregivers were overrepresented in the At the Limit group compared to caregivers with less than 60 months. (Figure 6) About 30 percent of caregivers with less than 60 months were black compared to 44 percent of those at the limit. Of black people who were at the limit, 85 percent of those with 60

months were African American, which are people born in the United States rather than immigrants, compared to 69 percent of the black people with less than 60 months. As noted above, this is partially because immigrants are less likely to have had time to accumulate counted months.

American Indians were slightly overrepresented in the 60 month group (11 percent compared to 9 percent of the less than 60 month group). However, this difference would likely be greater if not for a federal exemption from the time limit for people living on Indian reservations with a not employed rate of 50 percent or higher that includes Red Lake and Prairie Island Reservations. In December 2011, 24 percent of MFIP cases headed by an American Indian were exempt for that reason.

**Figure 7. Marital Status of Caregivers at the Limit Compared to those with Less than 60 Months**



There was no difference in the percentage of caregivers at the time limit and those with less than 60 months who had never married. (Figure 7) Those currently married and living with a spouse were less likely to be at the limit, while caregivers who previously had been married but were now widowed, divorced, or separated were more likely to be at the limit.

There were no differences in education level. About 65 percent of both groups had a high school diploma or GED, about 29 percent had some high school but had not graduated, and the remaining 6 percent had either no high school or their education level was unknown.

Forty-five percent of caregivers that reached the time limit in 2011 were eligible for Family Stabilization Services (FSS) in their 60<sup>th</sup> month compared to 32 percent of caregivers with less than 60 months. FSS is an MFIP service track that allows counties and employment service providers to develop more flexible employment plans for participants with specific barriers to employment, mostly related to disability or illness. It is not surprising that people with identified barriers to employment were more likely to reach the time limit than others. It may be that employment counselors and financial workers were able to identify participants who qualify and, therefore, provide necessary services earlier in a participant’s time on MFIP. However, criteria for FSS eligibility and extension beyond the time limit are nearly all the same. FSS eligible participants already have the documentation needed to be extended which may increase the likelihood of extension, while non-FSS participants may have the same barriers, but lack the documentation or recognition.

**Characteristics by Program Status after Reaching the Time Limit.** Caregivers at the limit had very few differences when compared by program eligibility in the 6 months following reaching month 60. Age, gender, education level, and marital status were about the same whether a caregiver was on MFIP in all 6 months, was off MFIP all 6 months, was ineligible in an otherwise eligible household, or was on and off the program. There were some differences by race/ethnicity as shown in Table 2.

Whites were most likely to be in cases with continuing MFIP eligibility as child-only cases, most of which were due to the caregivers’ eligibility for SSI. Blacks were most likely to be off MFIP for all 6 follow-up months, but were also overrepresented in the group that was on for all 6 months. American Indian caregivers had higher rates of child-only or opt-out statuses and those who were on and off MFIP.

with Caregivers eligible for MFIP in all 6 months were most likely to be eligible for FSS in their 60<sup>th</sup> month while those off in all 6 months were least likely.

**Table 2. Race/Ethnicity and Family Stabilization Services Eligibility of MFIP Caregivers at the Limit by Program Status**

	<b>Total Caregivers</b>	<b>On All 6 Months</b>	<b>Off All 6 Months</b>	<b>Child-only/Opt-out</b>	<b>On and Off MFIP</b>
Count of Caregivers	1,412	39%	29%	8%	24%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>					
Asian	62	61%	16%	11%	11%
Black	627	38%	34%	16%	22%
Hispanic	74	31%	36%	5%	27%
American Indian	157	31%	27%	10%	32%
White	462	43%	23%	10%	24%
<b>Eligible for Family Stabilization Services</b>					
FSS	640	62.8%	9.8%	6.7%	20.6%

Table 3, starting on the next page, provides program status data by the county a person was eligible in during their 60<sup>th</sup> counted month. People may have been eligible in other counties or the Mille Lacs American Indian Band's Tribal TANF program in any other month of their MFIP tenure. They also may have left that county in the months following their 60<sup>th</sup> month; extensions may have been granted by another county. These data are for information only and should not be used to judge the number of people reaching the time limit in a county or any effects of an individual county's policies on people reaching the time limit. Refer to Tables 4 and 5 in the *Minnesota Family Investment Program and Diversionary Work Program: Characteristics of December Cases and Eligible Adults* for information on the proportion of cases nearing the time limit and extension rates and reasons. Information are available by county upon request.

**Table 3. Program Status of MFIP Caregivers at the Limit by County in their 60<sup>th</sup> Month**

Last County of Eligibility	Total with Percent of Statewide	On All 6 Months	Off All 6 Months	Child-only/Opt-out	On and Off MFIP
<b>Statewide</b>	1,498	578	430	123	355
<b>Row Percent</b>	100%	39%	29%	8%	24%
<b>AITKIN</b>	2 0%	0 0%	2 100%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>ANOKA</b>	73 5%	32 44%	24 33%	6 8%	11 15%
<b>BECKER</b>	16 1%	6 38%	5 31%	2 13%	3 19%
<b>BELTRAMI</b>	23 2%	8 35%	3 13%	3 13%	9 39%
<b>BENTON</b>	4 0%	4 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>BIG STONE</b>	1 0%	0 0%	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>BLUE EARTH</b>	7 0%	5 71%	0 0%	1 14%	1 14%
<b>BROWN</b>	2 0%	0 0%	1 50%	1 50%	0 0%
<b>CARLTON</b>	2 0%	1 50%	0 0%	0 0%	1 50%
<b>CARVER</b>	4 0%	1 25%	3 75%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>CASS</b>	14 1%	4 29%	4 29%	5 36%	1 7%
<b>CHIPPEWA</b>	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>CHISAGO</b>	1 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 100%
<b>CLAY</b>	12 1%	1 8%	2 17%	2 17%	7 58%
<b>CLEARWATER</b>	2 0%	1 50%	0 0%	0 0%	1 50%
<b>COOK</b>	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>COTTONWOOD</b>	2 0%	0 0%	0 0%	2 100%	0 0%
<b>CROW WING</b>	7 0%	2 29%	4 57%	0 0%	1 14%
<b>DAKOTA</b>	56 4%	18 32%	21 38%	5 9%	12 21%
<b>DODGE</b>	3 0%	1 33%	0 0%	0 0%	2 67%
<b>DOUGLAS</b>	4 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 25%	3 75%
<b>FARIBAULT</b>	1 0%	0 0%	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>FILLMORE</b>	1 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 100%	0 0%

Table 3, Page 2

Last County of Eligibility	Total with Percent of Statewide	On All 6 Months	Off All 6 Months	Child-only/Opt-out	On and Off MFIP
<b>Statewide</b>	1,498 100%	578 39%	430 29%	123 8%	355 24%
<b>FREEBORN</b>	5 0%	2 40%	2 40%	1 20%	0 0%
<b>GOODHUE</b>	5 0%	2 40%	3 60%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>GRANT</b>	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>HENNEPIN</b>	510 34%	175 34%	164 32%	37 7%	134 26%
<b>HOUSTON</b>	5 0%	3 60%	0 0%	0 0%	2 40%
<b>HUBBARD</b>	4 0%	1 25%	0 0%	1 25%	2 50%
<b>ISANTI</b>	1 0%	0 0%	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>ITASCA</b>	21 1%	8 38%	2 10%	2 10%	9 43%
<b>JACKSON</b>	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>KANABEC</b>	3 0%	0 0%	1 33%	1 33%	1 33%
<b>KANDIYOHI</b>	5 0%	1 20%	4 80%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>KITTSOON</b>	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>KOOCHICHING</b>	4 0%	2 50%	2 50%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>LAC QUI PARLE</b>	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>LAKE</b>	1 0%	0 0%	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>LAKE OF THE WOODS</b>	1 0%	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>LE SUEUR</b>	3 0%	2 67%	0 0%	0 0%	1 33%
<b>LINCOLN</b>	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>LYON</b>	1 0%	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>MAHNOMEN</b>	7 0%	1 14%	2 29%	0 0%	4 57%
<b>MARSHALL</b>	1 0%	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>MARTIN</b>	3 0%	1 33%	0 0%	2 67%	0 0%
<b>MCLEOD</b>	1 0%	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%

Table 3, Page 2

Last County of Eligibility	Total with Percent of Statewide	On All 6 Months	Off All 6 Months	Child-only/Opt-out	On and Off MFIP
<b>Statewide</b>	1,498 100%	578 39%	430 29%	123 8%	355 24%
<b>MEEKER</b>	2 0%	1 50%	0 0%	1 50%	0 0%
<b>MILLE LACS</b>	3 0%	0 0%	1 33%	1 33%	1 33%
<b>MORRISON</b>	4 0%	1 25%	0 0%	1 25%	2 50%
<b>MOWER</b>	1 0%	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>MURRAY</b>	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>NICOLLET</b>	6 0%	3 50%	2 33%	0 0%	1 17%
<b>NOBLES</b>	3 0%	0 0%	2 67%	0 0%	1 33%
<b>NORMAN</b>	1 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 100%
<b>OLMSTED</b>	25 2%	4 16%	11 44%	1 4%	9 36%
<b>OTTER TAIL</b>	6 0%	2 33%	1 17%	2 33%	1 17%
<b>PENNINGTON</b>	1 0%	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>PINE</b>	5 0%	2 40%	2 40%	1 20%	0 0%
<b>PIPESTONE</b>	1 0%	0 0%	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>POLK</b>	9 1%	6 67%	0 0%	0 0%	3 33%
<b>POPE</b>	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>RAMSEY</b>	319 21%	177 55%	79 25%	14 4%	49 15%
<b>RED LAKE</b>	1 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 100%	0 0%
<b>REDWOOD</b>	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>RENVILLE</b>	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>RICE</b>	8 1%	2 25%	3 38%	0 0%	3 38%
<b>ROCK</b>	2 0%	0 0%	1 50%	0 0%	1 50%
<b>ROSEAU</b>	1 0%	0 0%	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>SCOTT</b>	5 0%	2 40%	1 20%	1 20%	1 20%
<b>SHERBURNE</b>	11 1%	6 55%	1 9%	2 18%	2 18%



Table 3, Page 2

Last County of Eligibility	Total with Percent of Statewide	On All 6 Months	Off All 6 Months	Child-only/Opt-out	On and Off MFIP
Statewide	1,498 100%	578 39%	430 29%	123 8%	355 24%
SIBLEY	1 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 100%
ST. LOUIS	65 4%	24 37%	11 17%	4 6%	26 40%
STEARNS	24 2%	9 38%	8 33%	1 4%	6 25%
STEELE	7 0%	3 43%	2 29%	1 14%	1 14%
STEVENS	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
SWIFT	1 0%	0 0%	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%
TODD	7 0%	2 29%	2 29%	2 29%	1 14%
TRAVERSE	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
WABASHA	1 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 100%
WADENA	7 0%	4 57%	1 14%	2 29%	0 0%
WASECA	3 0%	1 33%	0 0%	2 67%	0 0%
WASHINGTON	10 1%	5 50%	2 20%	0 0%	3 30%
WATONWAN	2 0%	2 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
WILKIN	1 0%	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
WINONA	5 0%	2 40%	2 40%	0 0%	1 20%
WRIGHT	7 0%	3 43%	2 29%	0 0%	2 29%
YELLOW MEDICINE	3 0%	1 33%	0 0%	1 33%	1 33%
MILLE LACS	36 2%	1 3%	19 53%	2 6%	14 39%

## Data Definitions and Notes

**Counted MFIP months** are months with a MFIP cash grant that are not exempt from the 60 month time limit. Minnesota began counting months in July 1997 while other states started counting as early as September 1996. Total counted months include months in other states. People acquire counted months, cases do not.

Eligibility in Figures 1, 2, and 3 are person-level. Other household members (“the case”) may continue to be eligible for MFIP under certain circumstances as outlined in the introduction.

An **eligible caregiver** is an adult caregiver or minor parent who personally meets MFIP eligibility requirements and is counted in the MFIP cash or food grant calculation.

Caregivers that reached 60 counted months in this report may have reached the time limit in any month during 2011. The 6 month period following may start as early as February 2011 and end as late as June 2012.

The **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** (SNAP) is a federal food assistance program, popularly known as “food stamps” and formerly known as Food Support in Minnesota. Eligibility for SNAP allows for income up to 165 percent of the Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG) – while the MFIP exit level is 115 percent of FPG - and has no asset limits. People who are ineligible for MFIP due to the time limit may continue to meet the criteria for SNAP.

**Demographic data** in Figures 5, 6, 7, and 8 and Table 2 with no bearing on program eligibility often are not routinely updated after initial application, including education level and marital status. Thus, high school graduation and changes to marital status may be underreported.

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

**Sanctions** are financial penalties for non-compliance with employment services, child support, and other policies. After 6 sanction months a case may be closed (100 percent sanction). People who are sanctioned in their 60<sup>th</sup> counted month cannot be extended, although cases may remain open as child-only, by using a banked month, or where a second caregiver has less than 60 months.