



Minnesota Department of **Human Services** 

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## **December 2014 Minnesota Supplemental Aid Cases and Eligible People**

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Minnesota Department of Human Services  
Housing Division  
P.O. Box 64951  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0951

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**Direct questions about data or suggestions for future reports to:**

Benjamin Van Hunnik  
Agency Policy Specialist  
Community Living Supports Unit  
Housing Division  
651-431-6273  
[Benjamin.van.hunnik@state.mn.us](mailto:Benjamin.van.hunnik@state.mn.us)

**Direct questions about Minnesota Supplemental Aid policy to:**

Jane Lawrenz  
Community Living Supports Manager  
Community Living Supports Unit  
Housing Division  
651-431-3844  
[Jane.m.lawrenz@state.mn.us](mailto:Jane.m.lawrenz@state.mn.us)

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## Abbreviations and eligibility types

### Programs

MSA	Minnesota Supplemental Aid
SSI	Supplemental Security Income

### Eligibility types for Minnesota Supplemental Aid

Aged	Receives SSI and age 65 or older
Blind	Receives SSI and blind
Disabled	Receives SSI and has a disability listed in the program eligibility criteria
Other	Not receiving SSI but still meets the program eligibility criteria

## Introduction

Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA) is a state funded program that provides cash assistance to help adults who get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) pay for their basic needs. To be eligible, people must meet the following requirements:

- Age 18 or older
- Receiving Supplemental Security Income, or eligible to receive it, except their income is too high. If income is too high, people may qualify if they meet one of the criteria:
  - Age 65 or older
  - Blind
  - Have a disability under SSI criteria.
- Meet the asset limit of:
  - \$2,000 for an individual
  - \$3,000 for a couple.

### Key findings

Between 2013 and 2014, the number of cases decreased by 0.5 percent. Over 70 percent of people were aged 50 or older. More than half of the people were white. The average length of time that cases had been eligible was 97 months (about 8 years). In 2014, very few eligible people received assistance from other cash assistance programs.

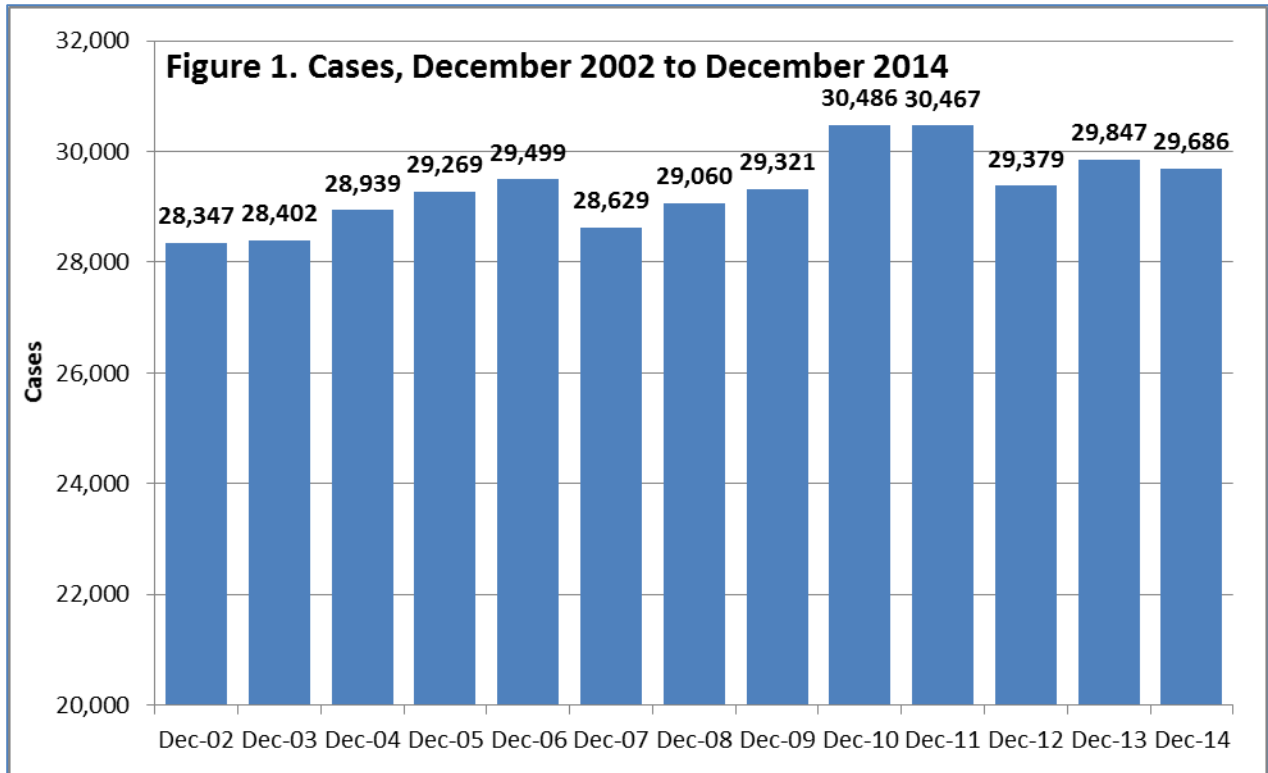
## Caseloads

### December cases

In December 2014, there were 30,832 MSA-eligible people in 29,686 cases. A case represents one or more people within a household receiving one program grant. For context, the Social Security Administration reported that 93,748 Minnesotans aged 18 and older were receiving SSI in December 2013. [[SSI Recipients by State and County, 2013](#), Social Security Administration]

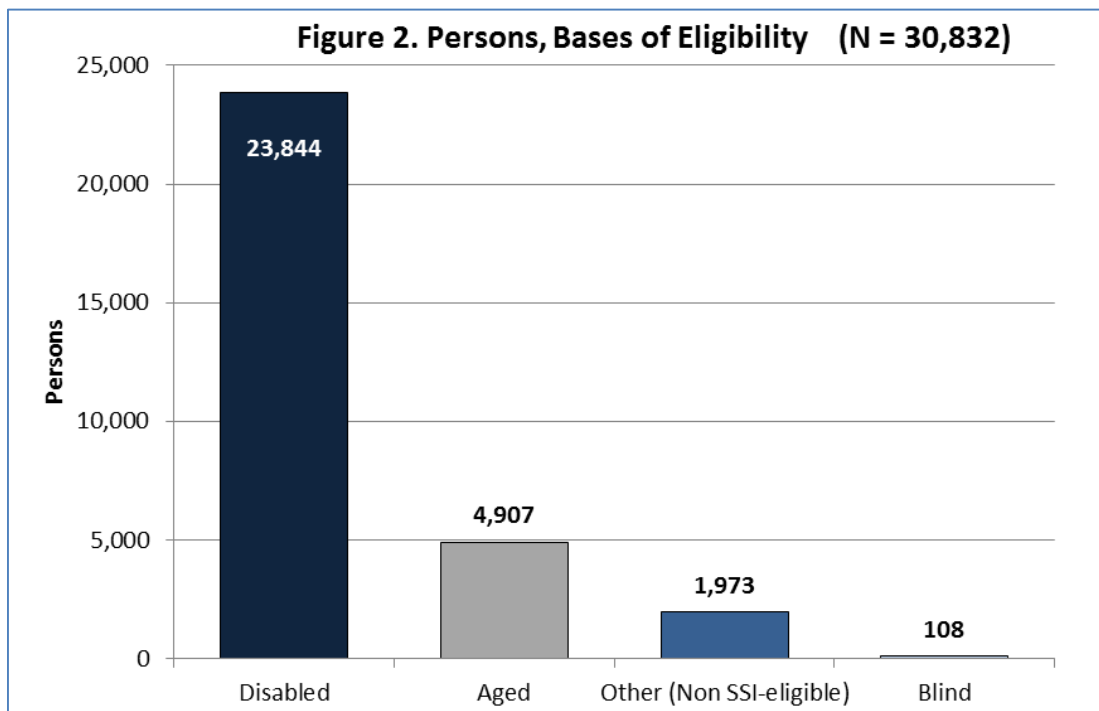
### Caseload trends

The number of cases remained fairly stable. Between 2013 and 2014, the number of cases decreased by 0.5 percent. [Figure 1, Data Table 2 on page 8]



**Bases of eligibility**

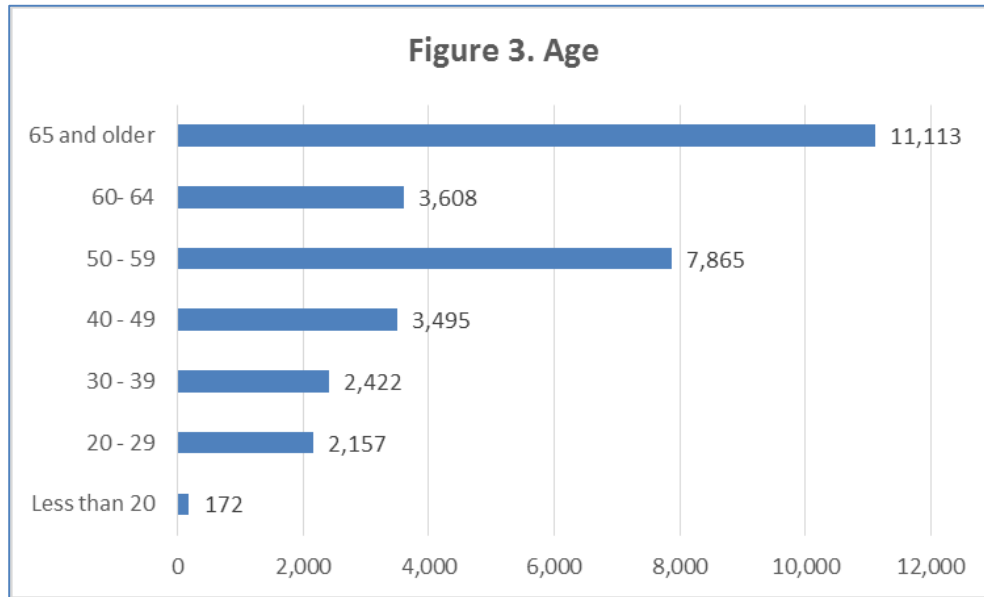
The majority of participants were eligible in the Disabled category (77 percent), 16 percent in the Aged category, and 6 percent in the Other category. Less than 1 percent were eligible under the Blind category. [Figure 2, Data Table 1 on page 7] The categories do not overlap.



## Participant characteristics

### Age

While 36 percent of eligible people were aged 65 or older, only 16 percent were in the Aged eligibility type. Within the other eligibility types, people aged 65 or older made up 23 percent of the Disabled group, 16 percent of the Blind group, and 34 percent of the Other group. The average age was 58 years overall. The average age ranged from 49-years-old in the Blind group to 78-years-old for the Aged group. [Data Table 1 on page 7]



### Gender

More than half of each eligibility group were female. Overall, 57 percent were female. The Aged group had the largest proportion of women (65 percent). [Data Table 1 on page 7]

### Education

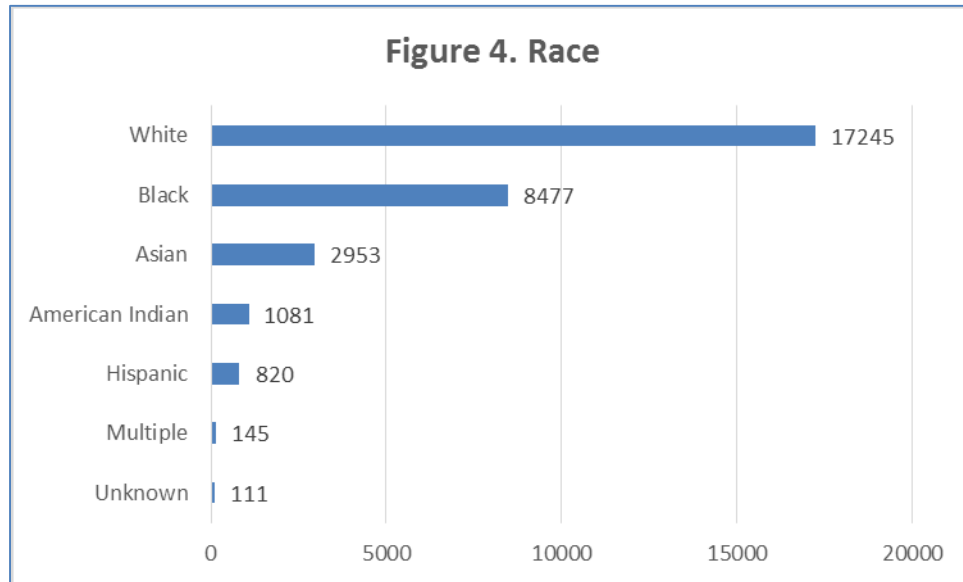
The majority of participants had at least a high school diploma, including 61 percent of the Disabled group, 63 percent of the Blind group, 76 percent of the Other group, and 46 percent of the Aged group. [Data Table 1 on page 7]

### Marital status

Overall, 9 percent of participants were married and living with their spouse. Those eligible under the Aged group were most likely to be married (23 percent), while 6 percent of Disabled, 8 percent of Blind, and 5 percent of Other were married. [Data Table 1 on page 7]

### Race and ethnicity

More than half of participants were white (56 percent); 28 percent black, 10 percent Asian, 4 percent American Indian, and 3 percent Hispanic. [Figure 5, Date Table 1 on page 5] Those eligible as Aged were more likely to be Asian (22 percent) than other eligibility groups. [Data Table 1 on page 7]



### Reside in facility

In December 2014, 4 percent of participants lived in a facility. Of those living in facilities, 59 percent were living in nursing facilities and 17 percent in intermediate care facilities. [Data Table 1 on page 7]

## Case characteristics

### **Grant amount and Special Needs grants**

The average grant amount was \$104. About one quarter of cases also receive a special needs increase to their grant which adds an average of \$88 to the grant. Special diets are the most common reason for a grant increase; 20 percent of cases have a special diet to address medically necessary dietary needs. Five percent of cases received an additional amount to help with costs associated with a representative payee. Two percent received housing assistance,<sup>1</sup> meaning their housing costs exceeded 40 percent of income and they had applied for subsidized housing. Less than 1 percent had guardianship fees and other special expenses. [Data Table 2 on page 8]

### **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program eligibility**

Nearly all cases were also eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, with an average grant amount of \$83. [Data Table 2 on page 8]

### **Time receiving Minnesota Supplemental Aid**

The average length of time that cases had been eligible was 97 months (about 8 years); 19 percent received assistance for less than three years, and 33 percent for more than 10 years. Those eligible in the Aged and Blind categories had received benefits the longest. [Data Table 2 on page 8]

### **Other public assistance programs**

In 2014, nearly all cases were eligible for Medical Assistance (Medicaid) while very few received assistance from other cash assistance programs. However, more than a quarter had received Emergency Services or General Assistance in the last 10 years. Cases in the Disabled category were most likely to have been eligible for Emergency Services (32 percent) or General Assistance (30 percent), followed by Other eligible cases of which 30 percent used Emergency Services and 24 percent used General Assistance. [Data Table 2 on page 8]

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<sup>1</sup> Previous to 2012, Housing Assistance was called Shelter Needy.



**Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of Program Participants, December 2014**

Participant characteristics		Total eligible people		All Minnesota Supplemental Aid							
				Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligible						Non-SSI eligible	
		Total	Percent of total	Disabled	Percent	Aged	Percent	Blind	Percent	Other	Percent
Eligible people	Count	30,832	100.0%	23,844	77.3%	4,907	15.9%	108	0.4%	1,973	6.4%
Age	Mean	58.1		53.9		78.3		47.5		58.7	
	Median	59		56		78		49		59	
	Minimum	18		18		65		18		20	
	Maximum	107		104		104		84		107	
Frequency	Less than 20	172	0.6%	169	0.7%	0	0.0%	2	1.9%	1	0.1%
	20 - 29	2,157	7.0%	2,087	8.8%	0	0.0%	19	17.6%	51	2.6%
	30 - 39	2,422	7.9%	2,250	9.4%	0	0.0%	24	22.2%	148	7.5%
	40 - 49	3,495	11.3%	3,233	13.6%	0	0.0%	11	10.2%	251	12.7%
	50 - 59	7,865	25.5%	7,256	30.4%	0	0.0%	23	21.3%	586	29.7%
	60 - 64	3,608	11.7%	3,327	14.0%	0	0.0%	12	11.1%	269	13.6%
	65 and older	11,113	36.0%	5,522	23.2%	4,907	100.0%	17	15.7%	667	33.8%
Gender	Female	17,520	56.8%	13,121	55.0%	3,203	65.3%	55	50.9%	1,141	57.8%
	Male	13,312	43.2%	10,723	45.0%	1,704	34.7%	53	49.1%	832	42.2%
Education level	None/unknown	3,557	11.5%	2,251	9.4%	1,216	24.8%	17	15.7%	73	3.7%
	Grade school	1,591	5.2%	1,055	4.4%	476	9.7%	12	11.1%	48	2.4%
	Some high school	7,239	23.5%	5,903	24.8%	967	19.7%	11	10.2%	358	18.1%
	High school graduate	14,858	48.2%	11,919	50.0%	1,767	36.0%	54	50.0%	1,118	56.7%
	Some post-secondary	2,384	7.7%	1,937	8.1%	185	3.8%	9	8.3%	253	12.8%
	College graduate	580	1.9%	384	1.6%	130	2.6%	3	2.8%	63	3.2%
	Graduate degree	623	2.0%	395	1.7%	166	3.4%	2	1.9%	60	3.0%
	High school grad. or more	18,445	59.8%	14,635	61.4%	2,248	45.8%	68	63.0%	1,494	75.7%
Marital status	Married, living with spouse	2,737	8.9%	1,509	6.3%	1,118	22.8%	9	8.3%	101	5.1%
	Never married	13,441	43.6%	11,888	49.9%	640	13.0%	66	61.1%	847	42.9%
	Previously married	14,654	47.5%	10,447	43.8%	3,149	64.2%	33	30.6%	1,025	52.0%
Race/ethnicity	Asian	2,953	9.6%	1,802	7.6%	1,080	22.0%	14	13.0%	57	2.9%
	Black	8,477	27.5%	6,909	29.0%	1,162	23.7%	31	28.7%	375	19.0%
	Hispanic	820	2.7%	593	2.5%	173	3.5%	1	0.9%	53	2.7%
	American Indian	1,081	3.5%	967	4.1%	62	1.3%	2	1.9%	50	2.5%
	White	17,245	55.9%	13,343	56.0%	2,415	49.2%	58	53.7%	1,429	72.4%
	Multiple	145	0.5%	135	0.6%	4	0.1%	0	0.0%	6	0.3%
	Unknown	111	0.4%	95	0.4%	11	0.2%	2	1.9%	3	0.2%
Citizenship	Non-U.S.	1,203	3.9%	788	3.3%	377	7.7%	6	5.6%	32	1.6%
	U.S.	29,629	96.1%	23,056	96.7%	4,530	92.3%	102	94.4%	1,941	98.4%
Facility resident	Count	1,168	3.8%	954	4.0%	170	3.5%	11	10.2%	33	1.7%
Facility type Percent of facility residents	Nursing	685	58.6%	511	53.6%	159	93.5%	3	27.3%	12	36.4%
	Intermediate care	201	17.2%	192	20.1%	1	0.6%	7	63.6%	1	3.0%
	Group Residential Housing	110	9.4%	94	9.9%	7	4.1%	0	0.0%	9	27.3%
	Chemical dependency	23	2.0%	21	2.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	6.1%
	Mental health	14	1.2%	13	1.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	3.0%
	Other	135	11.6%	123	12.9%	3	1.8%	1	9.1%	8	24.2%

**Table 2. Economic Characteristics of Cases, December 2014**

Minnesota Supplemental Aid households		Total cases		All Minnesota Supplemental Aid							
				Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligible						Non-SSI eligible	
		Total	Percent of total	Disabled	Percent	Aged	Percent	Blind	Percent	Other	Percent
<b>Cases</b>	Count	29,686	100.0%	23,274	78.4%	4,373	14.7%	103	0.3%	1,936	6.5%
<b>Grant amount</b>	Mean	\$104		\$105		\$111		\$100		\$75	
	Median	\$81		\$81		\$81		\$81		\$53	
<b>Special Needs grants</b>	Mean of special need amount (all cases)	\$23		\$22		\$24		\$18		\$37	
	Mean of special need amount (receiving)	\$88		\$87		\$86		\$88		\$103	
<b>Total Special Needs Grants</b>		7,831	26.4%	5,885	25.3%	1,223	28.0%	21	20.4%	702	36.3%
Special Diets		6,016	20.3%	4,269	18.3%	1,202	27.5%	16	15.5%	529	27.3%
Representative Payee		1,431	4.8%	1,295	5.6%	14	0.3%	5	4.9%	117	6.0%
Housing Assistance		723	2.4%	612	2.6%	4	0.1%	3	2.9%	104	5.4%
Guardianship Fees		28	0.1%	22	0.1%	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	0.3%
Restaurant Meals		9	0.0%	7	0.0%	2	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other Special Expenses		14	0.0%	13	0.1%	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>SNAP</b>	Mean of cases receiving	\$83		\$82		\$81		\$79		\$88	
	Count of cases receiving	26,936	90.7%	21,028	90.3%	3,988	91.2%	82	79.6%	1,838	94.9%
<b>Medical Assistance</b>		29,388	99.0%	23,023	98.9%	4,349	99.5%	102	99.0%	1,914	98.9%
<b>Program usage</b>	Mean months	96.8		93.74		111.29		119.10		99.2	
	Cumulative months	77		73		97		103		79	
<b>1992 - 2014</b>	One - two years	5,512	18.6%	4,554	19.6%	555	12.7%	26	25.2%	511	26.4%
	Three - four years	4,783	16.1%	3,928	16.9%	548	12.5%	9	8.7%	298	15.4%
	Five - six years	3,843	12.9%	3,105	13.3%	493	11.3%	9	8.7%	195	10.1%
	Seven - eight years	3,215	10.8%	2,454	10.5%	576	13.2%	8	7.8%	172	8.9%
	Nine - 10 years	2,638	8.9%	2,003	8.6%	455	10.4%	4	3.9%	167	8.6%
	11 - 12 years	2,110	7.1%	1,581	6.8%	377	8.6%	10	9.7%	124	6.4%
	13 - 14 years	1,753	5.9%	1,315	5.7%	314	7.2%	8	7.8%	101	5.2%
	15 - 16 years	1,474	5.0%	1,107	4.8%	263	6.0%	10	9.7%	99	5.1%
17 years or more		4,358	14.7%	3,227	13.9%	792	18.1%	19	18.4%	269	13.9%
<b>Other public assistance in Minnesota: 2014</b>	Emergency Services	1,554	5.2%	1,396	6.0%	45	1.0%	2	1.9%	111	5.7%
	General Assistance	904	3.0%	812	3.5%	54	1.2%	1	1.0%	37	1.9%
	Group Residential Housing	1,025	3.5%	950	4.1%	11	0.3%	2	1.9%	62	3.2%
	MN Family Investment Program	324	1.1%	309	1.3%	11	0.3%	0	0.0%	4	0.2%
	Refugee Cash Assistance	10	0.0%	6	0.0%	4	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Other public assistance in Minnesota: 2005 - 2014</b>	Emergency Services	8,398	28.3%	7,526	32.3%	270	6.2%	13	12.6%	589	30.4%
	General Assistance	8,022	27.0%	6,902	29.7%	645	14.7%	6	5.8%	469	24.2%
	Group Residential Housing	5,016	16.9%	4,607	19.8%	57	1.3%	7	6.8%	345	17.8%
	MN Family Investment Program	2,577	8.7%	2,315	9.9%	165	3.8%	6	5.8%	91	4.7%
	Refugee Cash Assistance	505	1.7%	343	1.5%	161	3.7%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
<b>Unearned income</b>	SSI	27,522	92.7%	23,040	99.0%	4,343	99.3%	103	100.0%	36	1.9%
	RSDI	12,266	41.3%	8,706	37.4%	1,603	36.7%	36	35.0%	1,921	99.2%
	Both SSI and RSDI	10,160	34.2%	8,513	36.6%	1,577	36.1%	36	35.0%	34	1.8%
	Veterans benefits	134	0.5%	89	0.4%	35	0.8%	0	0.0%	10	0.5%
	Retirement income	107	0.4%	48	0.2%	38	0.9%	0	0.0%	21	1.1%
	Spousal or child support	120	0.4%	104	0.4%	6	0.1%	1	1.0%	9	0.5%
	Other	155	0.5%	125	0.5%	16	0.4%	0	0.0%	14	0.7%

**Table 3. Cases by County or Consortium, December 2014**

Servicing agency	Total cases		All Minnesota Supplemental Aid							
			Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligible					Non-SSI eligible		
	Total	Percent of Total	Disabled	Percent of servicing agency cases	Aged	Percent of servicing agency cases	Blind	Percent of servicing agency cases	Other	Percent of servicing agency cases
	29,686	100.0%	23,274	78.4%	4,373	14.7%	103	0.3%	1,936	6.5%
Aitkin	81	0.3%	60	74.1%	7	8.6%	0	0.0%	14	17.3%
Anoka	960	3.2%	746	77.7%	125	13.0%	3	0.3%	86	9.0%
Becker	151	0.5%	118	78.1%	21	13.9%	0	0.0%	12	7.9%
Beltrami	325	1.1%	290	89.2%	18	5.5%	2	0.6%	15	4.6%
Benton	221	0.7%	186	84.2%	11	5.0%	1	0.5%	23	10.4%
Big Stone	25	0.1%	16	64.0%	9	36.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Blue Earth	264	0.9%	215	81.4%	24	9.1%	2	0.8%	23	8.7%
Brown	93	0.3%	64	68.8%	15	16.1%	0	0.0%	14	15.1%
Carlton	166	0.6%	135	81.3%	12	7.2%	0	0.0%	19	11.4%
Carver	170	0.6%	131	77.1%	20	11.8%	1	0.6%	18	10.6%
Cass	162	0.5%	133	82.1%	23	14.2%	0	0.0%	6	3.7%
Chippewa	31	0.1%	25	80.6%	5	16.1%	1	3.2%	0	0.0%
Chisago	108	0.4%	87	80.6%	10	9.3%	1	0.9%	10	9.3%
Clay	348	1.2%	281	80.7%	43	12.4%	0	0.0%	24	6.9%
Clearwater	45	0.2%	33	73.3%	10	22.2%	0	0.0%	2	4.4%
Cook	22	0.1%	19	86.4%	2	9.1%	0	0.0%	1	4.5%
Crow Wing	379	1.3%	316	83.4%	28	7.4%	2	0.5%	33	8.7%
Dakota	1,245	4.2%	916	73.6%	212	17.0%	7	0.6%	110	8.8%
Des Moines Valley Health and Human Services	89	0.3%	72	80.9%	12	13.5%	1	1.1%	4	4.5%
Douglas	138	0.5%	107	77.5%	18	13.0%	1	0.7%	12	8.7%
Faribault / Martin	202	0.7%	154	76.2%	22	10.9%	0	0.0%	26	12.9%
Fillmore	61	0.2%	44	72.1%	13	21.3%	0	0.0%	4	6.6%
Freeborn	137	0.5%	111	81.0%	14	10.2%	0	0.0%	12	8.8%
Goodhue	97	0.3%	87	89.7%	8	8.2%	0	0.0%	2	2.1%
Grant	13	0.0%	12	92.3%	1	7.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Hennepin	10,023	33.8%	7,376	73.6%	2,097	20.9%	28	0.3%	522	5.2%
Houston	69	0.2%	46	66.7%	14	20.3%	0	0.0%	9	13.0%
Hubbard	112	0.4%	83	74.1%	18	16.1%	0	0.0%	11	9.8%
Isanti	91	0.3%	82	90.1%	6	6.6%	0	0.0%	3	3.3%

Table 3 – page 2

Servicing agency	Total cases		All Minnesota Supplemental Aid							
			Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligible						Non-SSI eligible	
	Total	Percent of Total	Disabled	Percent of servicing agency cases	Aged	Percent of servicing agency cases	Blind	Percent of servicing agency cases	Other	Percent of servicing agency cases
	29,686	100.0%	23,274	78.4%	4,373	14.7%	103	0.3%	1,936	6.5%
Itasca	309	1.0%	248	80.3%	32	10.4%	0	0.0%	29	9.4%
Kanabec	77	0.3%	64	83.1%	5	6.5%	0	0.0%	8	10.4%
Kandiyohi	165	0.6%	137	83.0%	19	11.5%	1	0.6%	8	4.8%
Kittson	16	0.1%	14	87.5%	2	12.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Koochiching	120	0.4%	101	84.2%	11	9.2%	0	0.0%	8	6.7%
Lac qui Parle	25	0.1%	19	76.0%	6	24.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Lake	41	0.1%	36	87.8%	2	4.9%	0	0.0%	3	7.3%
Lake of the Woods	13	0.0%	12	92.3%	1	7.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Le Seuer	61	0.2%	44	72.1%	12	19.7%	0	0.0%	5	8.2%
McLeod	116	0.4%	97	83.6%	9	7.8%	0	0.0%	10	8.6%
Mahnomen	26	0.1%	18	69.2%	5	19.2%	0	0.0%	3	11.5%
Marshall	45	0.2%	27	60.0%	15	33.3%	0	0.0%	3	6.7%
Meeker	63	0.2%	49	77.8%	6	9.5%	0	0.0%	8	12.7%
Mille Lacs	92	0.3%	77	83.7%	9	9.8%	1	1.1%	5	5.4%
Minnesota Prairie County										
Alliance	234	0.8%	188	80.3%	31	13.2%	1	0.4%	14	6.0%
Morrison	152	0.5%	114	75.0%	29	19.1%	0	0.0%	9	5.9%
Mower	212	0.7%	172	81.1%	18	8.5%	1	0.5%	21	9.9%
Nicollet	88	0.3%	67	76.1%	10	11.4%	0	0.0%	11	12.5%
Nobles	53	0.2%	39	73.6%	8	15.1%	0	0.0%	6	11.3%
Norman	39	0.1%	31	79.5%	7	17.9%	0	0.0%	1	2.6%
Olmsted	671	2.3%	515	76.8%	107	15.9%	2	0.3%	47	7.0%
Otter Tail	271	0.9%	210	77.5%	31	11.4%	0	0.0%	30	11.1%
Pennington	72	0.2%	47	65.3%	22	30.6%	0	0.0%	3	4.2%
Pine	104	0.4%	85	81.7%	12	11.5%	0	0.0%	7	6.7%
Polk	218	0.7%	188	86.2%	13	6.0%	1	0.5%	16	7.3%

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Servicing agency	Total cases		All Minnesota Supplemental Aid							
			Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligible						Non-SSI eligible	
	Total	Percent of Total	Disabled	Percent of servicing agency cases	Aged	Percent of servicing agency cases	Blind	Percent of servicing agency cases	Other	Percent of servicing agency cases
	29,686	100.0%	23,274	78.4%	4,373	14.7%	103	0.3%	1,936	6.5%
Pope	46	0.2%	37	80.4%	6	13.0%	0	0.0%	3	6.5%
Ramsey	5,518	18.6%	4,563	82.7%	660	12.0%	26	0.5%	269	4.9%
Red Lake	16	0.1%	13	81.3%	1	6.3%	0	0.0%	2	12.5%
Renville	43	0.1%	35	81.4%	3	7.0%	1	2.3%	4	9.3%
Rice	161	0.5%	140	87.0%	12	7.5%	0	0.0%	9	5.6%
Roseau	35	0.1%	27	77.1%	7	20.0%	1	2.9%	0	0.0%
St. Louis	1,958	6.6%	1,740	88.9%	71	3.6%	9	0.5%	138	7.0%
Scott	277	0.9%	177	63.9%	78	28.2%	1	0.4%	21	7.6%
Sherburne	158	0.5%	127	80.4%	11	7.0%	0	0.0%	20	12.7%
Sibley	24	0.1%	23	95.8%	1	4.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Southwest Health and Human Services	330	1.1%	258	78.2%	43	13.0%	1	0.3%	28	8.5%
Stearns	525	1.8%	427	81.3%	46	8.8%	2	0.4%	50	9.5%
Stevens	32	0.1%	25	78.1%	7	21.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Swift	42	0.1%	27	64.3%	12	28.6%	0	0.0%	3	7.1%
Todd	137	0.5%	104	75.9%	24	17.5%	1	0.7%	8	5.8%
Traverse	14	0.0%	12	85.7%	2	14.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Wabasha	58	0.2%	40	69.0%	14	24.1%	0	0.0%	4	6.9%
Wadena	133	0.4%	105	78.9%	18	13.5%	1	0.8%	9	6.8%
Washington	426	1.4%	343	80.5%	45	10.6%	0	0.0%	38	8.9%
Watonwan	34	0.1%	28	82.4%	5	14.7%	0	0.0%	1	2.9%
White Earth Nation	146	0.5%	120	82.2%	16	11.0%	0	0.0%	10	6.8%
Wilkin	43	0.1%	28	65.1%	10	23.3%	0	0.0%	5	11.6%
Winona	211	0.7%	168	79.6%	18	8.5%	3	1.4%	22	10.4%
Wright	169	0.6%	131	77.5%	17	10.1%	0	0.0%	21	12.4%
Yellow Medicine	39	0.1%	32	82.1%	6	15.4%	0	0.0%	1	2.6%

## Notes and definitions

### Table 1

Certain demographic data are not routinely updated after the initial application. Changes in marital status, citizenship, and education level may be underreported.

The only households with more than one eligible person are married couples who are both eligible for the program. Other household members are not eligible for Minnesota Supplemental Aid.

A person was determined to reside in a facility when an active STAT FACI panel in MAXIS, the state's administrative database, showed an entry date on or before Dec. 31, 2014, and an exit date that was blank or greater than a December entry date. People who spent part of, but not all of, December in a facility were considered facility residents.

### Table 2

In 2011, the Minnesota Department of Human Services redesigned the database that stores program information. In reports previous to 2012, Special Needs grants were determined by a grant amount above the standard amount for cases receiving housing assistance and through various MAXIS panels for other special needs grants. The new database stores this information in the same place where grant amounts and eligibility are determined which allows for more accurate reporting of these grants, including the amount of the Special Needs grant.

Previous to the database changes, spouses were on two different cases. For this report, those spouse cases were combined into a single household and reported as one. The new database combines these households. There should be no effect on the data due to these changes.

Before the 2012 MSA report, housing assistance was called shelter needy.

Eligibility for other food and cash assistance programs was determined by case number. If a member of the case had previously received assistance under a different case number, it was not included in the table.

Unearned income was verified, retrospective income reported to the state, except in cases where only prospective income was reported. Previous reports did not include prospective income as an alternative data source for unearned income. Because of the update in the unearned income measure, it is important not to make conclusions by comparing with the unearned income measure in previous reports.

### **Table 3**

The county was the county that processed the eligibility version in effect for December.

As of December 2014, three county consortia had formed in Minnesota. A county consortium is the legal merger of the human services departments of multiple counties that consolidates the administrative activities of these counties. Such a county consortium is viewed as one entity by the state. Therefore, measures in this report are reported for the county consortium and not for its individual counties. County consortia and member counties include the following:

- Faribault/Martin: Faribault and Martin
- Southwest Health and Human Services: Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Redwood and Rock.
- Des Moines Valley Health and Human Services: Cottonwood and Jackson
- Minnesota Prairie County Alliance (MNPrairie): Dodge, Steele, Waseca (as of Jan.1, 2015) The December 2014 report includes the MNPrairie consortia because historical data in the MAXIS system was replaced two months before the report data was pulled in March 2015.

Data source: DHS MAXIS Data Warehouse, March 2015 download.