

MFIP Cases Reaching the 60-Month Time Limit

In 1996, the federal government reformed the welfare system with the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act. Included in the reform were 60-month time-limited benefits. The first cases reached these limits in 2002. This short subject summarizes data provided by the Minnesota Department of Human Services about the cases that have reached the time limit since 2002.

Cases reaching the 60-month time limit

As of December 2011, 17,044 Minnesota cases reached their 60-month time limit on or before that month.

- 71 percent of those cases were subsequently closed and ineligible for Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) in December 2011
- 18 percent were granted an extension and received a cash portion of the grant
- 11 percent remained active on MFIP for other reasons, such as child-only cases, food-only cases, and cases using a banked month (child-only cases and food-only cases are not time limited)

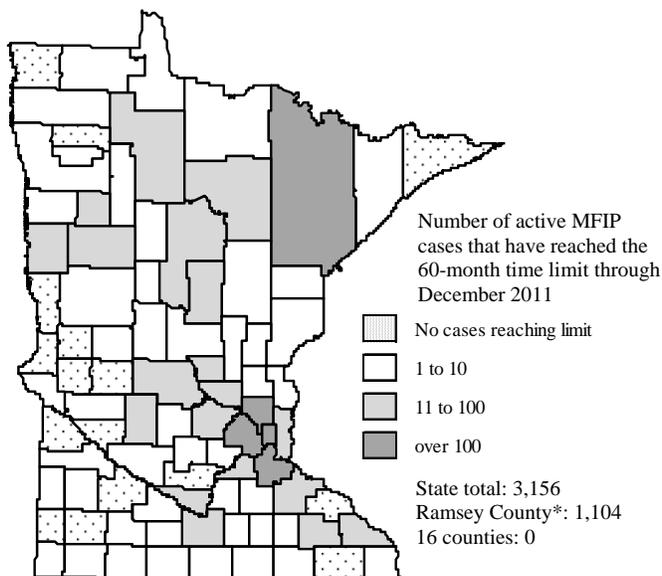
Who they are

Families reaching the 60-month time limit are more likely to be headed by an African American female who is 30 years of age or older, and families in which the family is eligible for family stabilization services.

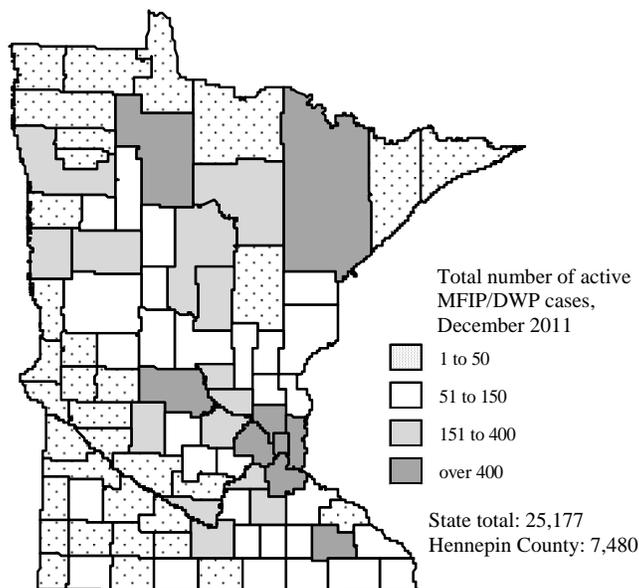
Where they live

Families living in Hennepin, Ramsey, and Anoka counties make up 74.9 percent of all cases that reached their 60-month time limit and were still active as of December 2011. Families living in these same three counties made up 56.9 percent of the total active MFIP and Diversionary Work Program (DWP) caseloads in December 2011.

Active MFIP Cases That Have Reached the 60-Month Time Limit Through December 2011



All Active MFIP and DWP Cases in December 2011



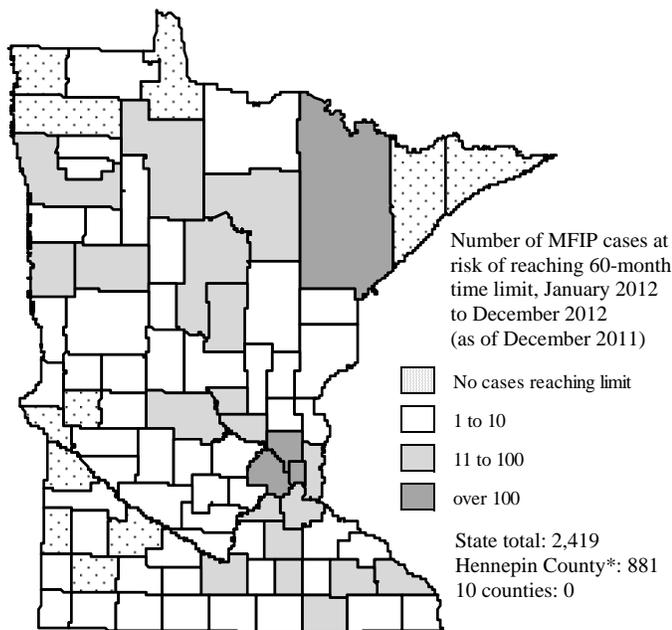
* Indicates county with the highest number of cases

Cases at risk of reaching the 60-month time limit by December 2012

There were 2,419 cases at risk of reaching the 60-month time limit by December 2012 (data through December 2011).

- 73.5 percent live in five counties within the state: Hennepin, Ramsey, St. Louis, Anoka, and Dakota
- 61.6 percent currently live in Hennepin or Ramsey County

Additional MFIP Cases at Risk of Reaching the 60-Month Time Limit by December 2012



* Indicates county with the highest number of cases

Data source: The data is from the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS). Parents at risk of reaching the 60-month time limit include all cases eligible since August 1997. These are the number of cases that have used over 48 months of their 60-month limit as of December 2011. This does not include any families that migrate into the state in future months with prior Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) months that will be counted toward the 60-month limit. The cases at risk of reaching the 60-month time limit are likely greater than the number of families that will reach the limit. Some of these families will leave welfare without using up all of their eligibility. Some parents may receive extensions. Still other parents will move into or leave the state. Parents entering the state may reach their welfare 60-month limit before December 2012 because of the number of months spent on TANF elsewhere.

For more information: Contact legislative analyst Danyell Punelli at 651-296-5058. Also see the House Research publications *Identifying Who Might Be Subject to the 60-Month Time Limit*, November 1999; *TANF Background*, January 2007; *The 60-Month Time Limit on TANF Assistance*, January 2002; *Factors Contributing to Longer Stays on Welfare: A Literature Review*, March 2002. See also the Minnesota DHS report *At the Time Limit: December 2007 Minnesota Family Investment Program Cases that Reached the 60-month Time Limit* (<http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfsrserver/legacy/DHS-5092C-eng>).

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