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# **Social Assistance Statistical Report: 2005**

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**Federal-Provincial-Territorial  
Directors of Income Support  
August 2006**

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## Preface

The *Social Assistance Statistical Report: 2005* is the second edition of this report released by FPT Directors of Income Support. The report provides provincial-territorial income support (primarily social assistance) statistics and brief descriptions of income support-related programs in the provinces-territories. For further information on the provincial-territorial jurisdictional chapters, please contact the province or territory in question.

We would like to dedicate this edition of the report to our dear colleague from Human Resources and Social Development, Cindy Veness, who played a key role in the preparation of last year's report. Cindy passed away in February 2006.



# **Chapter 1**

## **Introduction**

### **Overview**

The primary focus of this report is programs that are considered as social assistance programs within each province and territory. For these programs, this report provides detailed statistics, such as the number of recipients and cases as of March of each year (time series) and the number of recipients and cases for the following variables where available:

- Age of Head of Case
- Family Type
- Number of Children on Assistance
- Reason for Assistance
- Duration on Assistance
- Highest Level of Education Attained (Head of Case)
- Sources of Income

However, in order to ensure that the presentation of provincial-territorial income support benefits is comprehensive, this report provides an overview of provincial-territorial income support-related programs, such as children's benefits and disability supports programs, and includes basic statistics for these programs. These programs provide income support benefits, but are administered separately from the main provincial-territorial social assistance program (e.g. Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped in Alberta, the Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit). Information on some of these programs is currently available to the public through the National Child Benefit and the Early Childhood Development reports.

This report does not include social assistance rates information for the provinces-territories. Social assistance rates information is currently available to the public on most provincial-territorial government websites.

### **Methodology**

### **Data Sources**

The design and delivery of income support programs is the responsibility of each province and territory. Individual jurisdictions develop their own policies, oversee operations, and coordinate services across their province or territory.

The statistics in this report have been extracted from provincial and territorial data systems developed to meet the administrative and case management needs of their respective jurisdictions. As a result, there are extensive variations in the types of data collected, the manner in which the data is reported, and the definitions and terminology used. For example, when considering the “Reason for Assistance” table, some jurisdictions design and implement income support programs around employability, while others adopt a target group approach (e.g. single parents, persons with disabilities). **Therefore, statistics for a given province or territory should not be compared across jurisdictions.**

### Description of Statistics

When possible, a common framework was used to structure and provide consistency to topics covered in the jurisdictional chapters. The numbers within the tables have been rounded to the nearest 100 except for Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut where actual numbers have been used. It is important to recognize that the table totals may not add due to rounding and that the rounded numbers in this report may not match other published figures.

### Limitations to the Methodology

Due to the complex and constantly changing nature of Canada's income support programs, certain limitations will affect the interpretation and use of the statistics. Therefore, when using the statistics contained in this report, it is important to remember the following caveats:

- Statistics are not available for all provinces-territories in all categories.
- Statistics, exemptions, and benefit rates are provided as of March 31 of each year unless otherwise noted and may be outdated at the time of publication.
- In some provinces and territories, the “Sources of Income” table may include double-counting since cases that have more than one source of income are counted for each source reported.
- In other provinces and territories, in the “Sources of Income” tables, cases receiving income from more than one source are counted only once; therefore, not all sources of income are counted in all categories. However, the total number of cases reporting income sources does not include double-counting.
- The “Education of Head” table reflects a specific point in time as it generally represents the level of education attained at the time of application.



## **Report Layout**

This report provides an overview of social assistance in Canada in Chapter 2, which is meant to serve as a general context piece for the detailed provincial-territorial social assistance information that follows. Detailed social assistance information for each province-territory is provided in the chapters that follow. For each province-territory, the following information is included:

- an overview of social assistance programs:
- a description and statistics for income support-related programs: and,
- detailed social assistance statistics.



## **Chapter 2**

### **Social Assistance in Canada: An Overview**

#### **Introduction**

Provincial-territorial and municipal social assistance programs, often called Canada's social safety net of last resort, provide financial assistance to cover the cost of basic living requirements and in-kind goods and services for an individual or family when all other financial resources (of that individual or family) have been exhausted.

#### **Jurisdictional Matters**

##### **General**

Section 92 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* (formerly the *British North America Act, 1867*) entrusts the design, delivery, and administration of social assistance programs to the provinces-territories. As such, the legislation and regulations governing the provision of social assistance in each of the provinces-territories varies by jurisdiction.

Most jurisdictions offer social assistance through a single, unified program at the provincial/territorial level. Only one province, Ontario, operates a two-tier social assistance program jointly with its municipalities. In Ontario, individual municipalities are responsible for the delivery of the Ontario Works program to employable clients. The role of the provincial government is to provide long-term benefits for persons with disabilities through the Ontario Disability Support Program.

##### **First Nations**

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) provides funding for social assistance programs delivered to First Nations individuals and families who live on-reserve. INAC provides social assistance funding through a block transfer arrangement while individual First Nations communities are responsible for the delivery of social assistance programs. In 2002-2003, 534 First Nations administered their own program (This figure does not include First Nations functioning under self-government arrangements).

Ontario is the only province that cost-shares social assistance programs for First Nations individuals and families directly. The province is then reimbursed by INAC for a percentage of its costs.

Social assistance rates and benefits provided to First Nations individuals and families mirror current provincial-territorial rates and benefits, so as to create a seamless social assistance system for those First Nations recipients and their families who decide to move off-reserve.

### **Canada Assistance Plan (CAP), Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST) and the Canada Social Transfer (CST)**

#### **CAP**

Prior to 1996, the federal government cost-shared social assistance and social services programs with the provinces-territories on a 50-50 basis under the terms of the CAP agreement.

CAP funding was provided to the provinces-territories specifically for the purpose of administering social assistance as well as homes for special care, child welfare, and other welfare services. Established Programs Financing (EPF) block funding was used for health services and post-secondary education.

CAP, the predecessor to the CHST, was created in 1966. It established three national standards to guide provincial-territorial spending on social assistance:

- Assistance must be provided to anyone “in need” as determined by a needs test;
- Applicants could not be denied social assistance because they came from outside the province-territory where they were seeking assistance; and
- Applicants were guaranteed the opportunity to appeal decisions regarding their application for assistance.

#### **CHST**

Effective April 1, 1996, the Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST) replaced the Canada Assistance Plan (CAP) and EPF as the funds transfer vehicle from the federal government to the provinces-territories. The new CHST provided funding for health services, post-secondary education and social assistance and social services in one fixed transfer.

The CHST, in contrast to CAP, was a block transfer. The CHST provided each of the provinces-territories with a fixed amount of money to fund social services.

The introduction of the CHST eliminated all but one of the above requirements under CAP. Within the terms of the CHST, the provinces-territories were required to continue to provide social assistance without a minimum residency requirement.

### **CST**

Effective April 1, 2004, the CHST was restructured to create two separate transfers:

- A Canada Health Transfer (CHT) in support of health; and
- A Canada Social Transfer (CST) in support of post-secondary education, social assistance and social services, including early childhood development. The residency requirement was maintained under the CST.

### **Eligibility**

#### **General**

In general, the only eligibility requirement for social assistance is need. Assistance may be granted to any individual or family head that is found, on the basis of need, to be unable to provide adequately for him or herself and any dependants.

Most jurisdictions also require that the applicant have attained the age of majority prior to application.

#### **Residence**

A minimum period of residence in a particular jurisdiction is not a condition of eligibility for social assistance. Social assistance applicants are only required to be resident in a particular jurisdiction and provide proof of residence at the time of their application and while receiving benefits.

In all provinces-territories, the following groups of individuals may be eligible for social assistance:

- Canadian citizens;
- Persons granted permanent resident status under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*; and

- Persons who have made a claim for refugee status or have been granted asylum in Canada under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*.

In some provinces-territories, persons subject to deportation or active removal orders are not eligible for social assistance.

### Administrative Requirements

In all jurisdictions, social assistance legislation provides for certain basic administrative requirements in order to establish an applicant's initial eligibility. Depending on the province-territory, a social assistance applicant may be required to:

- Submit a duly completed application to the appropriate authority (usually on a prescribed form);
- Provide any evidence as required in support of the application for assistance, such as proof of age, a medical certificate to confirm disability, a separation agreement, bank statements, pay cheque stubs, etc.;
- Meet with a departmental representative (either in person or by telephone) to discuss the financial and social situation of the household (this requirement may be waived in certain cases, such as emergency and short-term assistance);
- Provide the department with written permission to verify any statement made in the application and any supporting documents concerning financial resources or any other circumstances of the household;
- Agree to report any change in circumstances that might affect continuing program eligibility or the amount of assistance to which the household is entitled, such as the death or departure of a family member, or additional income from work or other sources.

### Employment Requirements

Provinces-territories actively encourage eligible unemployed able-bodied persons to pursue, accept, and retain any reasonable offer of employment or retraining as an initial and continuing condition of eligibility for social assistance. To this end, many provinces-territories offer employment services and training opportunities in combination with financial assistance. Should a recipient choose not to pursue employment or retraining, they may be subject to penalties ranging from a specified reduction in benefits over a prescribed period of time to the full cancellation of benefits.

Furthermore, to ensure that those individuals and families who successfully leave social assistance for employment are better off working, a number of provinces-territories have introduced earned income or in-work supplements

that are designed to increase the financial return associated with low-wage employment.

### **Categories of Beneficiaries**

#### *Unemployed Able-Bodied Persons*

Each provincial-territorial social assistance program includes a number of measures designed to promote the entry or re-entry into the active labour force of unemployed able-bodied persons. These measures may include different exemption levels on assets and income, lower benefit levels to reflect the temporary nature of their reliance on social assistance, and a wide range of employment support services and programs.

Some provinces-territories may require unemployed able-bodied persons, depending on their circumstances, to sign and adhere to an individualized contract that stipulates training and rehabilitation measures to be undertaken in order to regain financial independence. As a general rule, however, assistance may be granted to an unemployed able-bodied person only when the administering authority is satisfied that:

- Any unemployment is due to circumstances beyond the person's control;
- The person is willing to accept employment which he/she is physically capable of handling, or to engage in academic upgrading, re-training or other measures to reach a state of job readiness; and
- The person is making reasonable efforts to secure employment.

#### *Single-Parent Families*

In recognition of the financial responsibility of parents with respect to their children, regardless of the family situation, a sole support parent may be required, as a condition of eligibility for social assistance, to either initiate legal proceedings against an absent spouse (or ex-spouse), including common law partners, respecting maintenance payments, or to subrogate that right to the government. Generally, provinces-territories consider single parents as employable – and require them to actively seek and accept reasonable employment – where the parent and dependent child(ren) are physically and mentally healthy and where the dependants have reached a certain age (stipulated in provincial-territorial legislation).

#### *Persons with Disabilities*

An applicant requesting assistance because of illness or disability is generally required to submit a medical certificate completed by a licensed physician indicating the level of the impairment and the potential for rehabilitation. In

some jurisdictions, this requirement may be waived – at least in the initial determination of eligibility – where the disability is obvious. In some jurisdictions, persons with disabilities are required to submit evidence of their continuing disability on an annual basis.

All provincial-territorial programs have design features affecting persons with disabilities, including one or more of the following: higher exemption levels on assets and income, higher basic assistance levels, special disability-related allowances, and supplementary health and medical benefits.

### ***Persons with Multiple Barriers to Employment***

In recent years, a relatively new category of beneficiaries has emerged. Persons with multiple barriers to employment face a variety of situations and personal circumstances that make it difficult for them to find and maintain employment. Persons with multiple barriers to employment are identified by the fact that they face multiple significant barriers to employment, including substance abuse, childcare or transportation issues, histories of long-term unemployment, and/or low basic skills.

Several jurisdictions use targeted assessment and evaluation tools during the application process to determine the presence of multiple barriers to employment. Persons with multiple barriers to employment require intensive interventions to address their personal circumstances in order to be able to find and maintain employment. In some jurisdictions, they may have higher benefit levels and exemptions to reflect their longer-term reliance on social assistance.

### ***Aged Persons***

A person of advanced age may qualify for social assistance notwithstanding eligibility for benefits from federal and provincial-territorial programs for seniors. Financial hardship might be due to some age-related special needs, the number of dependants in the household, or ineligibility for Old Age Security benefits. Provided the applicant meets the legislated eligibility criteria, social assistance may be granted. Most provinces-territories have established higher basic assistance benefit levels or other special considerations for persons beyond their middle years.

### ***Students***

Post-secondary students are generally not permitted to receive social assistance while attending university, college, or trade school. Students requiring financial assistance during their study period are expected to contact the appropriate student loan organization (federal, provincial-territorial, or both) to receive financial assistance.



## **Financial Eligibility**

### *Needs Test*

Social assistance is generally granted to persons in need on the basis of a needs test. A needs test takes into account the basic needs and the financial resources available to an individual or family (both assets and income), and the ability of those financial resources to meet their basic needs. This procedure is also known as the “budget deficit method.”

Assistance may be granted on the basis of a budget deficit or an insufficient budget surplus. A budget deficit occurs where the amount of available financial resources falls short of the provincial-territorial amount of social assistance for that family type. Where a budget surplus is inadequate to provide for a recurring special need (as often occurs in the presence of a disability) or an unexpected situation, assistance may also be granted.

### *Assets*

Certain exemptions are allowed with respect to actual and potential liquid assets and the property of an individual or family applying for social assistance; any non-exempted assets are deemed to be available for current maintenance of the applicant and his/her dependants.

In most jurisdictions, liquid assets are defined as any assets which are readily convertible into cash including cash on hand, bank accounts, stocks and bonds, or other securities.

Many jurisdictions exempt some portion of the cash value of a life insurance policy from the calculation of liquid assets.

Homeowners applying for social assistance are not required to sell their principal residence and household effects (within reason) as a condition of eligibility. Similarly, applicants are not required to sell their primary vehicle in so long as the value of the vehicle does not exceed an allowable limit. Jurisdictions vary as to whether limits are placed on the value of the primary vehicle.

Provisions regarding the treatment of assets such as Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) and Registered Education Savings Plans (RESPs) vary between the provinces-territories.

Assistance may be withheld, reduced, or terminated where an applicant or recipient has disposed of his/her assets in an unreasonable manner in order to qualify for assistance.

### *Income*

Once a household's assets have been determined to fall within the limits allowed, income from all sources is examined in the calculation of entitlement to social assistance. In most jurisdictions, certain types of income are exempt from the calculation of eligibility, including:

- Canada Child Tax Benefit;
- foster home payments;
- child welfare payments;
- GST/HST rebates;
- insurance settlements;
- compensation payments (HIV, Hepatitis C, Japanese Canadians, Merchant Navy);
- involuntary deductions from pay;
- gifts and inheritances; and
- income from employment held by dependants who are full-time students.

Other types of unearned income are not subject to such exemptions, and as such, are considered available for the immediate maintenance of the applicant and his/her dependants. The net effect of this unearned income is to reduce the amount of social assistance payable dollar-for-dollar. Examples of unearned income include Workers' Compensation benefits and Old Age Security payments.

Partial exemptions for employment income exist in most jurisdictions. These earnings exemptions may be granted as an incentive for the individual or family head to gain or regain financial independence. It is important to note however that in some jurisdictions the earnings exemption provision takes effect only after initial eligibility for social assistance has been established.

In the determination of financial eligibility, authorities in some jurisdictions may include imputed income as part of a household's income even though the household is not actually receiving money from a particular source. Living rent-free in return for janitorial or superintendent services is a common example of imputed income.

## **Benefits**

### **Basic Assistance**

Basic assistance generally covers the cost of food, clothing, personal and household items, and in some provinces-territories, regularly-recurring special needs. There are three basic methods used to calculate the amount of benefits to which an individual or family are entitled. The first method, the pre-

added budget method, combines all non-shelter requirements into a single support allowance. A separate shelter component is then provided. The second method, the itemized budget method, provides a standard allowance for each of the non-shelter and shelter requirements. The sum of the individual items to which the individual or family is entitled then forms the total benefit payable. The third method provides a flat rate of assistance for non-shelter and shelter items based on a household's structure and the program in which it is participating.

Shelter requirements are usually paid at actual cost up to a specified maximum. Variables affecting the amount of shelter allowance payable include the number of beneficiaries in any given household, the type of living arrangement (room and board, market rental housing, living with a relative), and the cost of fuel and utilities. In some jurisdictions, the shelter amount varies depending on the location and relative remoteness of the area in question. In such jurisdictions, a scale of benefits based on location indicates the maximum amount of social assistance payable for shelter and utilities. The amount of the utility benefit to which an individual or family is entitled may also vary based on the season.

### **Special Needs Assistance**

A variety of special needs assistance is also available on an individual basis to clients of the social assistance system. Generally, special needs assistance provides items, services, or allowances related to age, disability, employment, education, training, and other special circumstances. Examples of special needs assistance include transportation allowances, employment-related allowances, childcare subsidies, drug and medical services, as well as furniture replacement, minor home repair allowances, special diet allowances, school supply allowances, and funeral services. The range of available special needs assistance varies widely by jurisdiction. It is important to note that the provision of items of special need is on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the applicable policies and guidelines. In other words, a social assistance client is not automatically guaranteed to receive an item of special need that they request. Such requests are subject to eligibility criteria and the discretion of social services personnel to assess individual circumstances.

### **Transitional Assistance**

In an effort to increase labour market attachment and reduce reliance on social assistance, provincial-territorial governments have attempted to lessen the financial impact of the transition from social assistance to employment. Child-care and transportation allowances have been increased in some jurisdictions to facilitate the participation of social assistance recipients in employment and retraining activities. Extended drug cards and

supplementary health benefits, valid after leaving social assistance (subject to renewal) have further lessened the financial impact of accepting employment.

### **Indexation**

Each jurisdiction is responsible for the indexation of its benefits. While most jurisdictions revise their rates on an “ad hoc” basis, Quebec annually indexes its benefits for those with significant limitation to employment. In addition, through the Government Action Plan to combat poverty and social exclusion, the Quebec government commits to partially indexed financial assistance benefits for those able to work to a level equivalent to 50% of the indexing rate applied for the personal taxation system.

### **Administration**

#### **Referral to Other Government Programs**

In some jurisdictions, the social assistance application process begins with a review of the applicant’s circumstances to determine if social assistance is the most appropriate intervention for them. For this purpose, many jurisdictions have established client contact centres in order to pre-screen potential applicants. If it is determined that another government program may be more suitable given their circumstances, applicants are referred to that program and their application for social assistance is discontinued.

#### **Method of Payment**

Social assistance benefits can be paid in a variety of ways – by cash, payroll or manual cheque issue, direct deposit to a client’s banking institution, voucher or authorization to purchase, or direct payment to a third party vendor or supplier.

#### **Case Review**

As a condition of continuing eligibility for assistance, beneficiaries must report immediately any change in the circumstances of their household that would affect its entitlement to assistance. In addition, some jurisdictions require that social assistance cases be reviewed regularly, usually every year in the case of long-term clients, and more frequently for short-term clients, such as unemployed able-bodied persons. Reviews are either conducted by a caseworker in person, or by telephone, or through the mail via a declaration that is appended directly to the social assistance cheque each month.

## **Recoveries and Reimbursement**

Every province-territory has established procedures and policies concerning the recovery of social assistance granted to a person who was not entitled because of a change in household income or other circumstances, accidental or wilful representation, or fraud. In addition, certain forms of assistance granted by a province-territory may be conditional upon a formal agreement signed by the recipient to reimburse the government for such assistance.

## **Appeals**

In every province-territory, an applicant or recipient is entitled to file a request for reconsideration or appeal where he/she is dissatisfied with a decision affecting his entitlement to social assistance. Some provinces-territories have established limits on issues that may be formally appealed, while others allow an individual to question any determination bearing on his/her case. Appeal systems may consist of a provincial-territorial appeals board made up of several members appointed by the minister responsible for social services or a local review committee of a few community members, or both. Most provinces-territories have adopted a two-step appeals process in which social services personnel first conduct an internal administrative review. The decision rendered by the administrative review is then subject to appeal to a formal Appeals Board consisting of appointed members.

## **Children's Benefits**

In some provinces and territories, child benefit programs provide benefits to all low-income families with children, whether they are working or on social assistance. Some programs were in existence when the National Child Benefit program was established, and others were implemented afterwards.

The National Child Benefit (NCB) is a joint initiative of Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments<sup>1</sup>, which includes a First Nations component. The goals of the NCB are to prevent and reduce the depth of child poverty, promote attachment to the labour force by ensuring that families are always better off working, and reduce overlap and duplication of programs and simplify administration.

The NCB is a component of the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB). The CCTB provides a base benefit to all low- and middle-income families with

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<sup>1</sup> The Government of Quebec has stated that it agrees with the basic principles of the NCB. Quebec chose not to participate in the NCB because it wanted to assume control over income support for children in Quebec; however, it has adopted a similar approach to the NCB. The reference to the NCB as a joint federal-provincial-territorial initiative does not include Quebec.

children. The NCB Supplement is provided to low-income families with children, whether the parents are working or receiving social assistance. Both the base benefit of the CCTB and the NCB Supplement are paid on a monthly basis and are income tested using information provided when a parent files an income tax return.

Provinces and territories have the flexibility to adjust social assistance or child benefit payments by an amount equivalent to the NCB Supplement. First Nations follow the approach of the relevant province or territory. Funds resulting from such adjustments support new or enhanced programs benefiting low-income families with children and are referred to as NCB Reinvestment Funds. Provinces, territories and First Nations may also invest additional funds in benefits and services consistent with the objectives of the NCB. These funds are known as NCB Investment Funds.

Since the implementation of the NCB in the summer of 1998, distinct approaches have evolved regarding the replacement of social assistance benefits for children through the NCB.

In the **social assistance offset approach**, the NCB Supplement is treated as an unearned income charged against social assistance. This approach is used in Prince Edward Island, Ontario,<sup>2</sup> Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. In Alberta<sup>3</sup>, the social assistance rate is reduced by the maximum NCB Supplement. Since 2001, in Prince Edward Island, any increases in the NCB Supplement have been used to fund an increase in the Healthy Child Allowance, which is a social assistance benefit.

Some jurisdictions have chosen to restructure their social assistance system to pay children's benefits through a separate income-tested child benefit program that is integrated with the CCTB program. Under this approach, which is known as the **integrated child benefit approach with adjustment**, increases in the NCB Supplement are offset in full or in part against the provincial child benefit. Saskatchewan and British Columbia have adopted this approach.

Other jurisdictions chose to restructure their social assistance system to provide children's benefits through a separate income-tested program. In these cases, however, there was no offset of the NCB Supplement against child benefits. This approach, which is known as the **integrated child benefit**

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<sup>2</sup>The 2005 Ontario Budget announced that social assistance payments would not be reduced by the amount of the July 2004 or July 2005 federal increases to the NCBS for another year.

<sup>3</sup> In 2003, Alberta enhanced the mix of income and in-kind benefits and services to families receiving assistance through the Supports for Independence program by flowing through the full increase of the NCB Supplement. Alberta extended the flow-through of NCB Supplement increases again in 2004 and in 2005 under the new Alberta Works - Income Support program.

**approach without adjustment**, has been adopted by Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia.

Two jurisdictions, New Brunswick and Manitoba<sup>4</sup>, do not adjust social assistance benefits for children and, instead, flow through the NCB Supplement directly to recipients.

In 2004-2005, provinces and territories provided NCB programs and services in child-care and day-care initiatives, child benefits and earned income supplements, early childhood services and children-at-risk services, supplementary health benefits, youth initiatives, and other NCB programs, benefits and services. First Nations reinvestments covered a broader range of programs in five key areas: home-to-work transition, cultural enrichment, child nutrition, childcare, and support to parents.

Additional information on the NCB is available in annual progress reports, which are available on the NCB web site at: [www.nationalchildbenefit.ca](http://www.nationalchildbenefit.ca) .

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<sup>4</sup> Effective July 2000, Manitoba discontinued recovering increases in the NCB Supplement for families receiving income assistance. Effective July 2001, Manitoba stopped recovering the NCB Supplement for children age six or under. Effective January 2003, Manitoba stopped recovering the NCB Supplement for children age seven to eleven; and effective January 2004, it stopped recovering the NCB Supplement for children age 12 to 17 years.





## **Chapter 3 – Newfoundland and Labrador**

### **Income Support**

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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##### **Overview**

In Newfoundland and Labrador, the provincial social assistance program is known as Income Support. The *Income and Employment Support Act* and the Income and Employment Support Regulations govern Newfoundland and Labrador's social assistance program.

Income Support provides basic benefits to adults only. Children's basic benefits are provided through the Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit (see p. 20).

##### **Service Delivery**

The Department of Human Resources, Labour, and Employment is responsible for the delivery of the Income Support program to adults within the province.

##### **Eligibility**

###### **General**

In order to be eligible for the Income Support program, applicants must meet the general eligibility requirements outlined in the "Social Assistance Overview" in this report.

###### **Liquid Assets**

At the time of application, applicants' liquid assets may not exceed the following allowable limits.

<b>Newfoundland and Labrador - Liquid Asset Exemptions March 2005</b>		
	<b>Clients without Disabilities</b>	<b>Clients with Disabilities<sup>a</sup></b>
<b>Single</b>	\$500	\$3,000
<b>Family</b>	\$1,500	\$5,500
a. These clients must require supportive services.		

## Earnings Exemptions

Once an application for assistance has been approved, Income Support program clients are eligible for the following monthly exemptions on earned income:

<b>Newfoundland and Labrador - Earnings Exemptions March 2005</b>		
	<b>Clients without Disabilities</b>	<b>Clients with Disabilities<sup>a</sup></b>
<b>Single</b>	\$75	\$95
<b>Family</b>	\$150	\$190
a. These clients must require supportive services.		

## Benefits

Basic assistance consists of individual/family benefits and a shelter allowance. Individual/family benefits covers the cost of food, clothing, and utilities for adults only. Maximum individual/family benefits rates are based on the number of adults in the household. Maximum shelter allowance rates are based on the number of persons in the household (including children) and the type of accommodation.

Newfoundland and Labrador provides clients that leave social assistance for employment with an extended drug card that is valid for six months.

Children's basic benefits are paid through the Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit.

## Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit

The Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit (NLCB) is a non-taxable amount paid monthly to help low-income families with the cost of raising children under the age of 18 years. The creation of the Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit, in July 1999, effectively removed children's benefits from the social assistance system.

The Canada Revenue Agency delivers the NLCB as an integrated payment with the CCTB and the NCB supplement. The NLCB rates are based on net income and number of children. For instance, maximum NLCB benefits are paid to those families whose income is less than \$17,397 per year. Families whose annual income falls between \$17,397 and \$22,397 per year (depending on the number of children) may be eligible for partial NLCB benefits.

Effective July 2004, in addition to the National Child Benefit Supplement, families with one child receive \$234 per year. Families are eligible to receive \$321 per year for their second child, \$345 per year for their third child, and \$370 per year for each additional child.

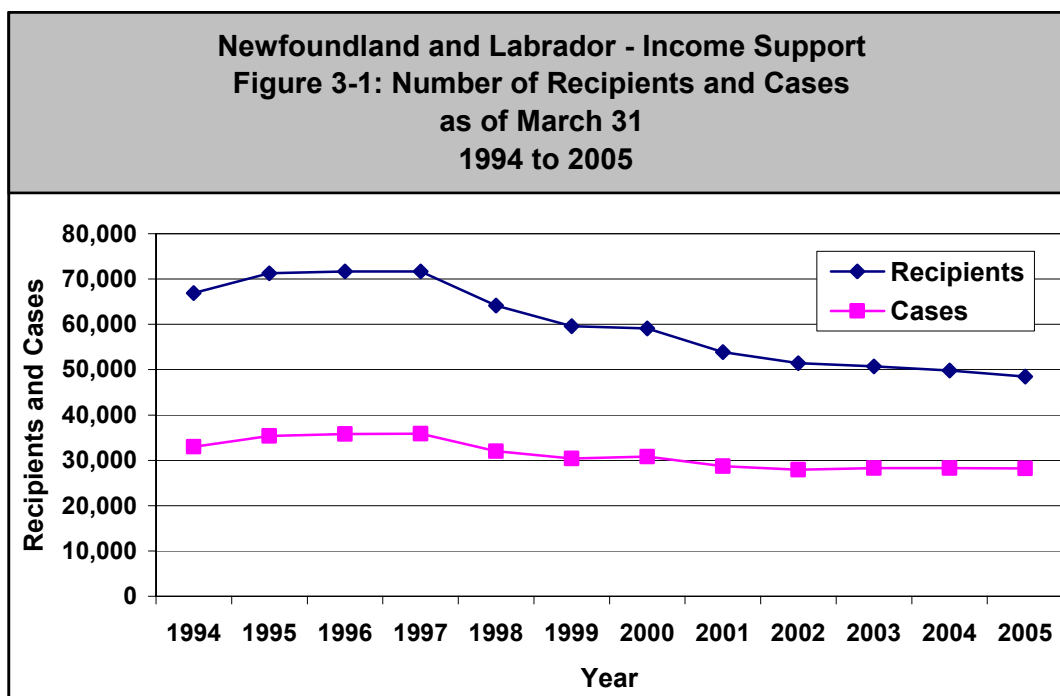
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit Estimated Number of Recipients 1999-2000 to 2004-2005</b>						
	<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>2001-2002</b>	<b>2002-2003</b>	<b>2003-2004</b>	<b>2004-2005</b>
<b>Families</b>	24,000	20,629	20,000	20,314	19,800	18,834
<b>Children</b>	35,000	33,182	32,000	31,500	30,000	29,306

## More Information

For more information, please consult the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Human Resources, Labour, and Employment website at: [www.hrle.gov.nl.ca/hrle](http://www.hrle.gov.nl.ca/hrle).

## STATISTICS

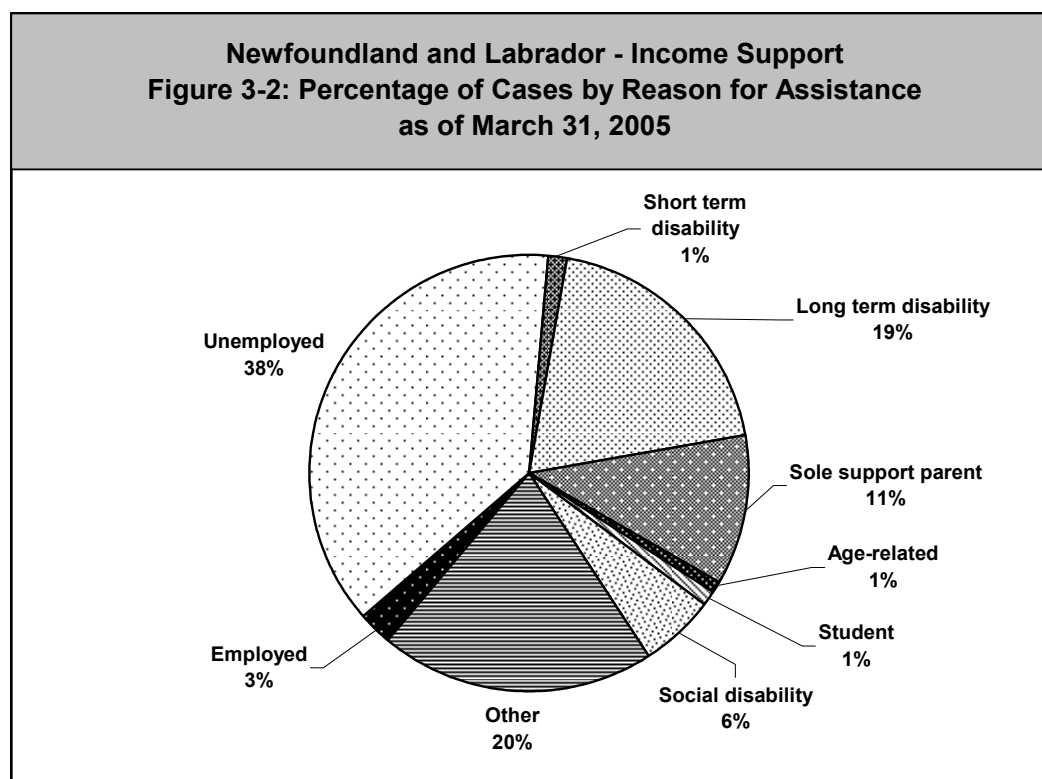
### Recipients and Cases



Newfoundland and Labrador - Income Support						
Table 3-1: Number of Recipients and Cases						
as of March 31						
1994 to 2005						
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Recipients	66,900	71,300	71,700	71,700	64,200	59,600
Cases	33,000	35,400	35,800	35,900	32,000	30,400
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 <sup>a</sup>	2005 <sup>a</sup>
Recipients	59,100	53,900	51,400	50,700	49,800	48,500
Cases	30,800	28,700	27,900	28,300	28,300	28,200

a. For 2004 and 2005, total cases and recipients in the above table differ from the totals shown in the detailed tables that follow. The total caseload for March 2004 and March 2005 includes a small number of cases paid through other means. Additional differences are due to slight variations in the selection criterion used to derive the official count and the criterion used to produce data extracts for subsequent detailed analysis.

## Cases by Reason for Assistance



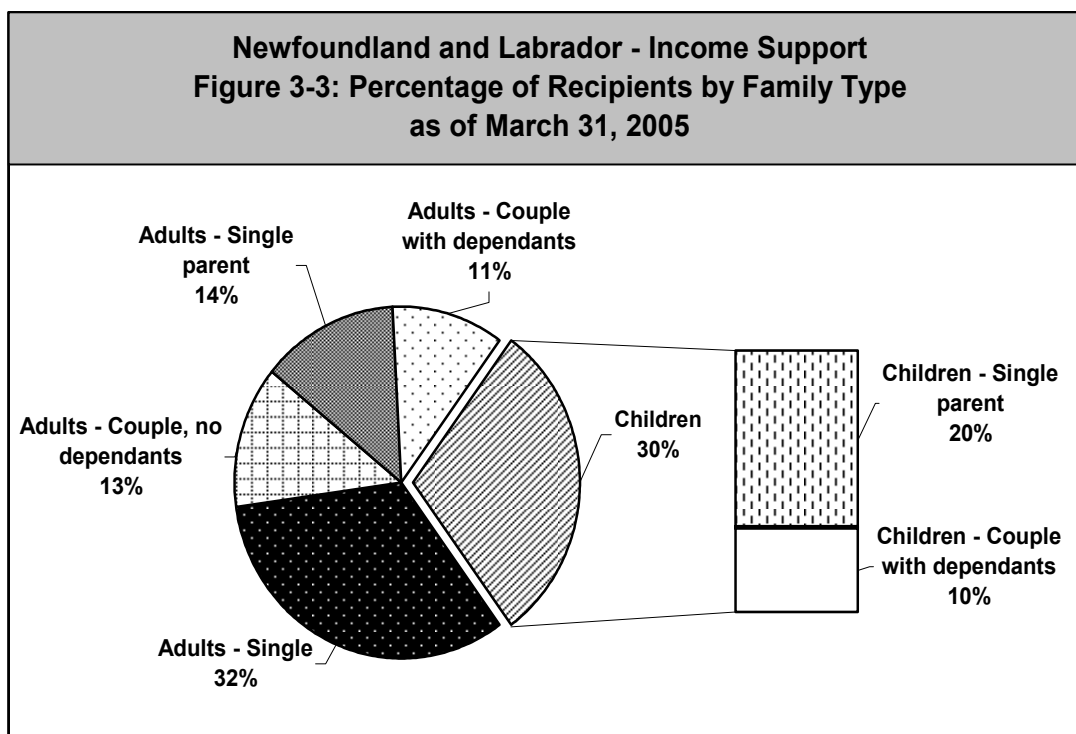
Newfoundland and Labrador - Income Support		
Table 3-2: Number and Percentage of Cases by Reason for Assistance as of March 31, 2005		
Reason for Assistance	2005	%
Employed	700	3%
Unemployed	10,500	38%
Short term disability	400	1%
Long term disability	5,400	19%
Sole support parent	3,100	11%
Age-related	200	1%
Student	300	1%
Social disability <sup>a</sup>	1,600	6%
Other <sup>b</sup>	5,600	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,900</b>	<b>100%</b>

a. "Social Disability" includes those clients who are considered "not employable" due to: low educational levels; lack of employment experience; addiction issues; repeated involvement with the criminal justice system; etc.

b. "Other" includes clients paid in the new CAPS pay system. This field did not match upon conversion from the old system. Until cases are reviewed in the new pay system and the reason for assistance field is updated, the number of cases in the "other" category will continue to be higher than previous years. Accuracy in this area will improve over time.

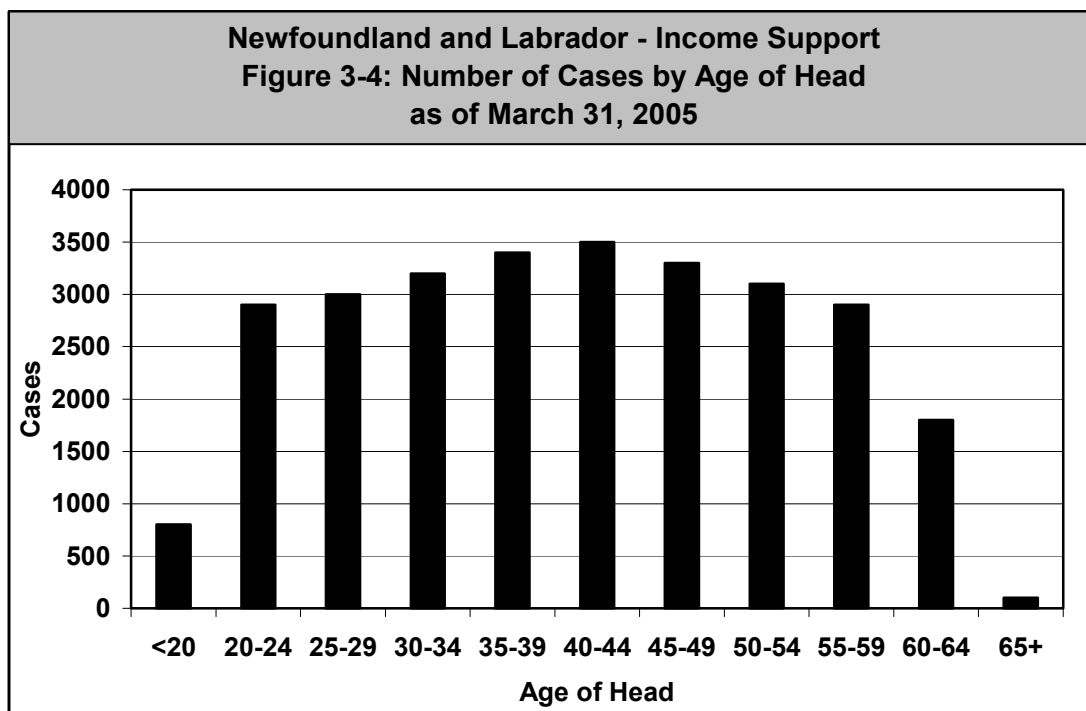
*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

## Recipients by Family Type



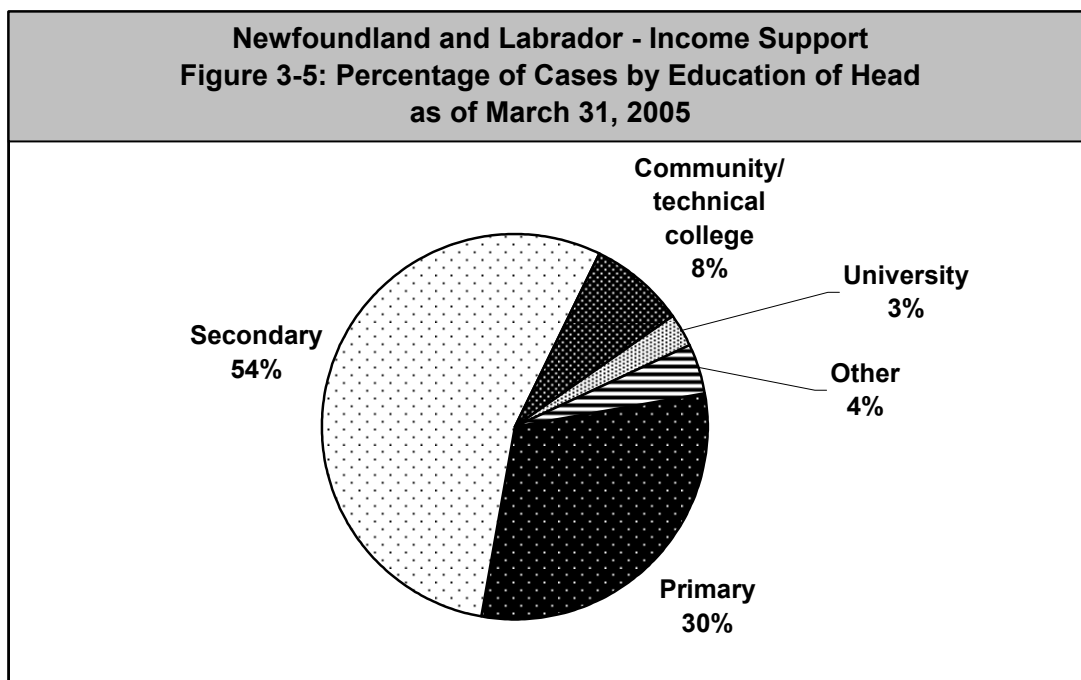
Newfoundland and Labrador - Income Support		
Table 3-3: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type		
as of March 31, 2005		
Family Type	2005	%
Adults - Single	15,700	32%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	6,200	13%
Adults - Single parent	6,500	14%
Adults - Couple with dependants	5,100	11%
<b>Total Adults</b>	<b>33,600</b>	
Children - Single parent	9,800	20%
Children - Couple with dependants	4,600	10%
<b>Total Children (30%)</b>	<b>14,500</b>	
<b>Total Recipients</b>	<b>48,000</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

## Cases by Age of Head



Newfoundland and Labrador - Income Support	
Table 3-4: Number of Cases by Age of Head	
as of March 31, 2005	
Age of Head	2005
<20	800
20-24	2,900
25-29	3,000
30-34	3,200
35-39	3,400
40-44	3,500
45-49	3,300
50-54	3,100
55-59	2,900
60-64	1,800
65+	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,900</b>
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

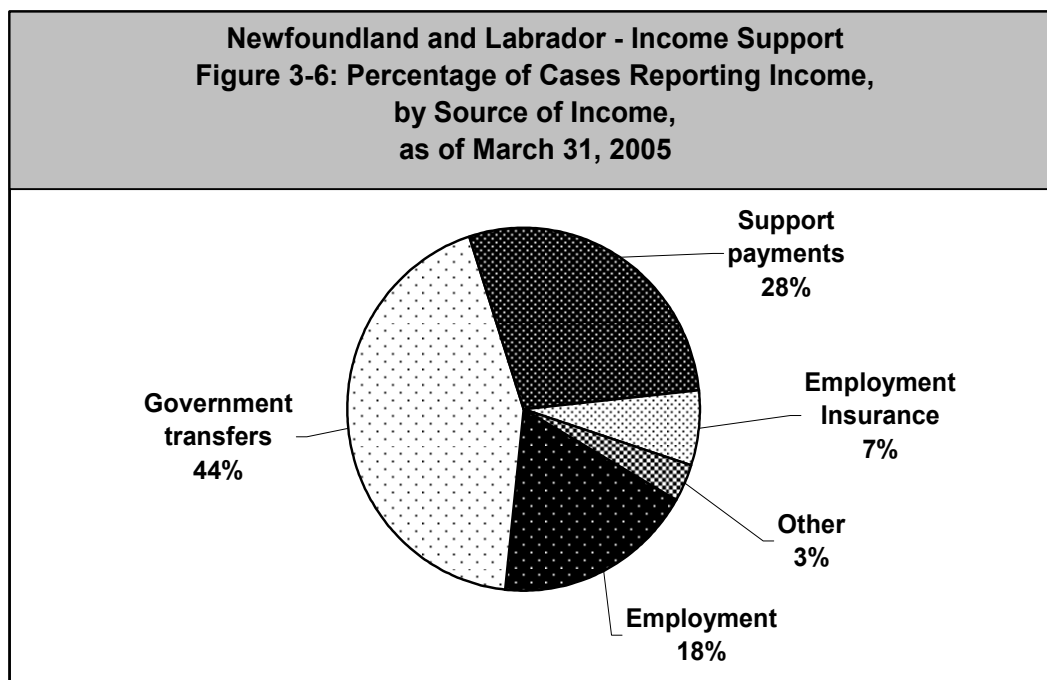
## Cases by Education of Head



Newfoundland and Labrador - Income Support		
Table 3-5: Number and Percentage of Cases by Education of Head as of March 31, 2005		
Education of Head <sup>a</sup>	2005	%
Primary <sup>b</sup>	8,500	30%
Secondary <sup>c</sup>	15,200	54%
Community/technical college	2,300	8%
University	700	3%
Other	1,200	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,900</b>	<b>100%</b>
<sup>a</sup> . Education is defined as level of education attained by the head of the household as of March 31, 2005. <sup>b</sup> . "Primary" includes Kindergarten to Grade 8. <sup>c</sup> . "Secondary" includes Grade 9 to Grade 12. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		



## Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income



**Newfoundland and Labrador - Income Support**  
**Table 3-6: Number and Percentage of Cases Reporting Income,**  
**by Source of Income,**  
**as of March 31, 2005**

Source of Income	2005	%
Employment	1,100	18%
Government transfers	2,600	44%
Support payments	1,700	28%
Employment Insurance	400	7%
Other <sup>a</sup>	200	3%
<b>Total <sup>b</sup> (includes double-counting)</b>	<b>6,100</b>	<b>100%</b>

a. "Other" includes training allowances and other income.  
b. Total cases in these categories may include double-counting, since cases that have more than one source of income are counted for each source reported. Percentages were calculated based on 6,100 observations.

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

**Newfoundland and Labrador - Income Support**  
**Table 3-7: Number of Cases Reporting Income**  
**as of March 31, 2005**

Reporting Income	5,700
No Income	22,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,900</b>

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*



## **Chapter 4 – Prince Edward Island**

### **Social Assistance**

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

---

##### **Overview**

In Prince Edward Island, the provincial social assistance program is known as Social Assistance (SA). The *Social Assistance Act* and the Social Assistance Regulations govern Prince Edward Island's Social Assistance program.

Social Assistance provides basic benefits to both adults and children.

Disability supports are provided through Prince Edward Island's Disability Support Program (see p. 30).

##### **Service Delivery**

The Department of Social Services and Seniors is responsible for the delivery of the Social Assistance program to adults and children within the province.

##### **Eligibility**

###### **General**

In order to be eligible for the Social Assistance program, applicants must meet the general eligibility requirements outlined in the "Social Assistance Overview" in this report.

###### **Liquid Assets**

At the time of application, applicants' liquid assets may not exceed the following allowable limits.

###### *Short-Term Assistance*

Single persons who are expected to receive benefits for less than four months (short-term assistance) and/or who are seasonally unemployed are entitled to retain \$50.

### *Long-Term Assistance*<sup>5</sup>

Prince Edward Island - Long-Term Assistance Liquid Asset Exemptions March 2005		
	Clients without Disabilities	Clients with Disabilities
Single	\$200	\$900
Single-Parent Family	\$900 plus \$300 per dependant to a maximum of \$2,400.	n/a
Childless Couple	\$1,200	\$1,800
Two-Parent Family	\$1,200 plus \$300 per dependant to a maximum of \$2,400.	\$1,800 plus \$300 per dependant to a maximum of \$2,400.

## Earnings Exemptions

Social Assistance program clients are eligible for the following monthly exemptions on earned income:

Prince Edward Island - Earnings Exemptions March 2005	
Single	\$ 75 plus 10% of the excess
Family	\$125 plus 10% of the excess

## Benefits

Basic assistance consists of a basic allowance and a shelter allowance. The basic allowance covers the cost of food, clothing, utilities, and personal and household items. Maximum basic allowance rates are based on the number of persons in the household and the age of the children. Maximum shelter allowance rates are based on the number of persons in the household (including children) and the type of living arrangements.

## Disability Support Program

In October 2001, Prince Edward Island launched the Prince Edward Island Disability Support Program. Designed to meet the unique needs of persons with disabilities, the Disability Support Program offers both financial and case planning assistance to eligible individuals. It is comprised of three components: Adult Disability Supports, Child Disability Supports, and Employment and Vocational Supports.

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<sup>5</sup> Long-Term Assistance is for those clients expected to receive benefits for more than four months.

## Chapter 4 – Prince Edward Island – Social Assistance

The Disability Support Program is available to individuals under 65 years of age who have a physical, neurological, or intellectual disability that limits their ability to perform activities necessary for their independence and well-being.

Individuals and families receiving benefits through the Disability Support Program must assume a portion of the cost associated with the provision of services. The amount of this contribution is based on the individual or family's ability to contribute.

Persons with disabilities continue to receive financial assistance through the Social Assistance program, but now receive targeted disability-related supports through the Disability Support Program. Individuals and families receiving support through the Disability Support Program are ineligible for certain benefits provided by the Social Assistance program.

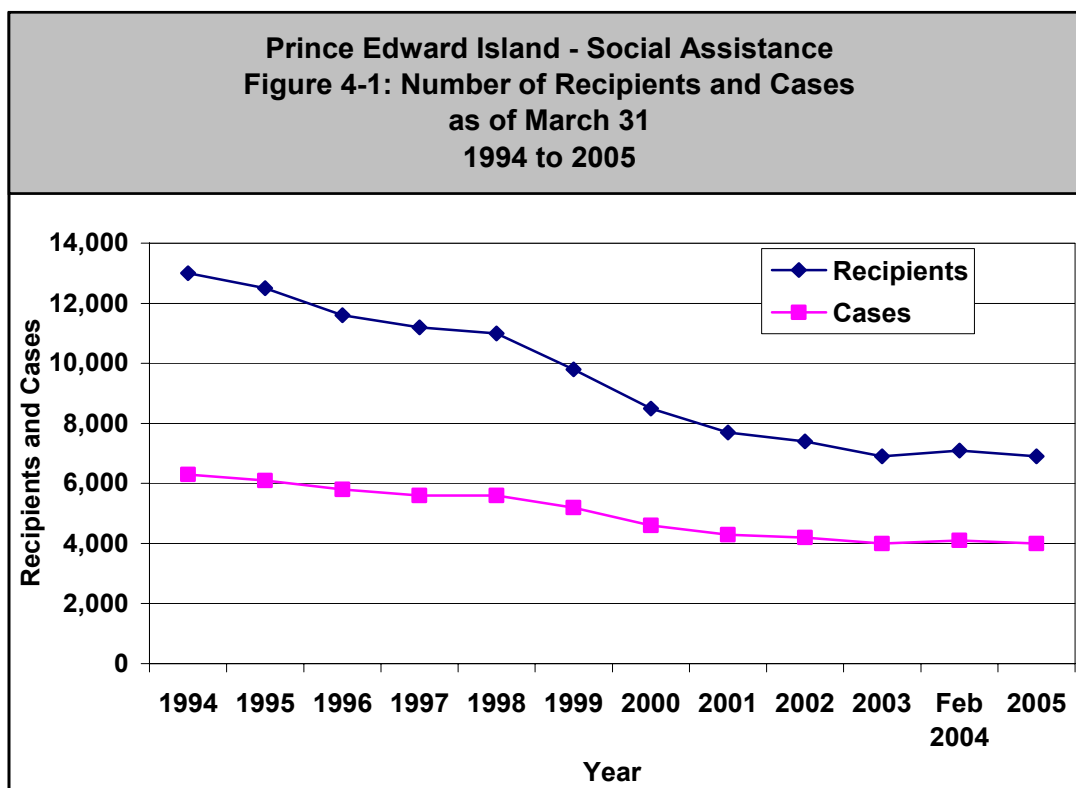
Prince Edward Island - Disability Support Program Number of Recipients 2001-2002 to 2004-2005			
2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
691	946	1,030	1,117

### More Information

For more information, please consult the Prince Edward Island Department of Social Services and Seniors website at: [www.gov.pe.ca/ssss/index.php3](http://www.gov.pe.ca/ssss/index.php3).

## STATISTICS

### Recipients and Cases

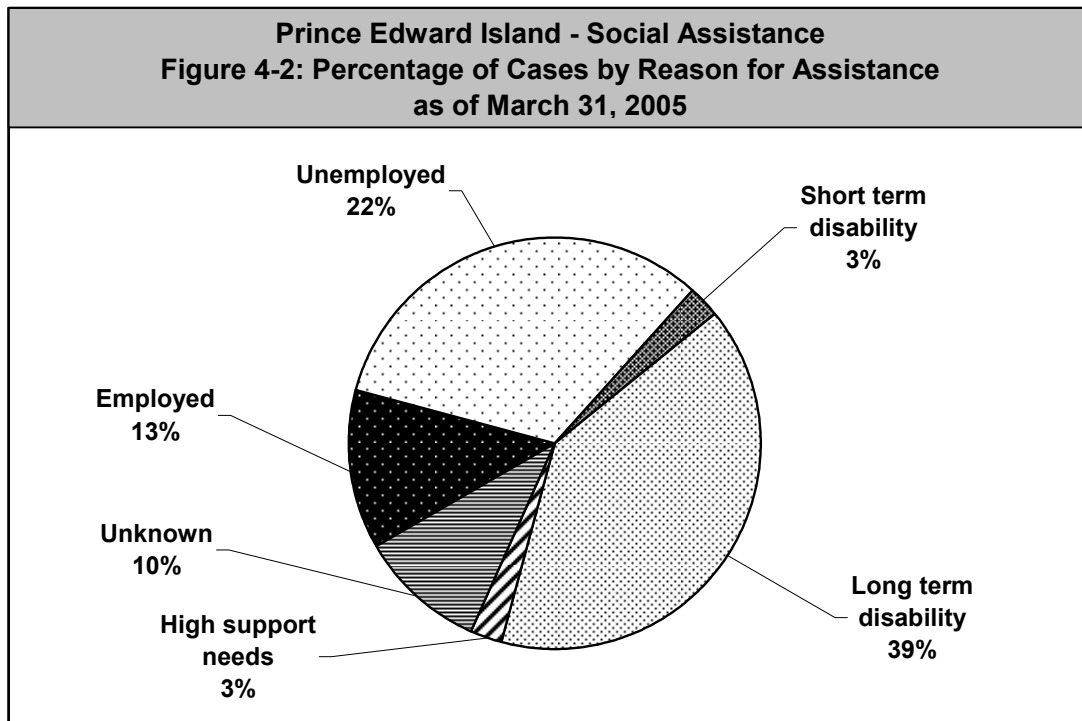


**Prince Edward Island - Social Assistance**  
**Table 4-1: Number of Recipients and Cases**  
**as of March 31**  
**1994 to 2005**

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
<b>Recipients</b>	13,000	12,500	11,600	11,200	11,000	9,800
<b>Cases</b>	6,300	6,100	5,800	5,600	5,600	5,200
	2000	2001	2002	2003	Feb 2004 <sup>a</sup>	2005
<b>Recipients</b>	8,500	7,700	7,400	6,900	7,100	6,900
<b>Cases</b>	4,600	4,300	4,200	4,000	4,100	4,000

a. March data not available.

## Cases by Reason for Assistance

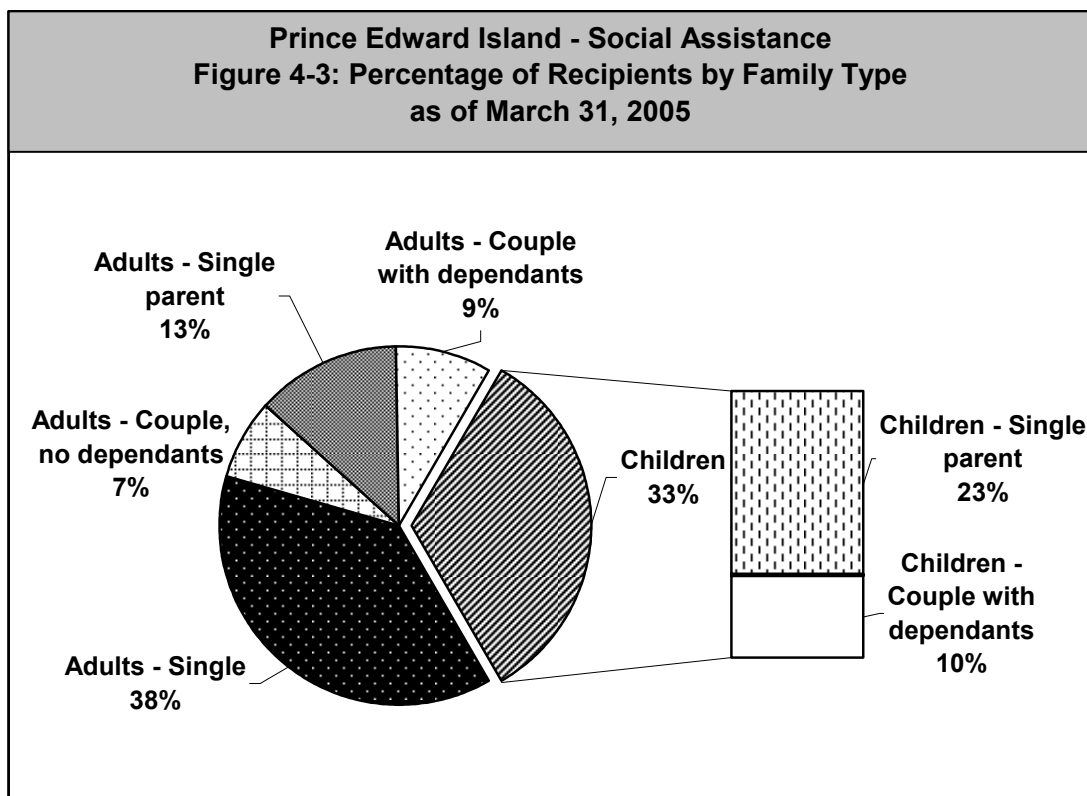


**Prince Edward Island - Social Assistance**  
**Table 4-2: Number and Percentage of Cases**  
**by Reason for Assistance**  
**as of March 31, 2005**

Reason for Assistance	2005	%
Employed	500	13%
Unemployed	1,300	22%
Short term disability	100	3%
Long term disability	1,600	39%
High support needs <sup>a</sup>	100	3%
Unknown	400	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

a. "High support needs" includes clients with multiple barriers to employment.  
 Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

## Recipients by Family Type

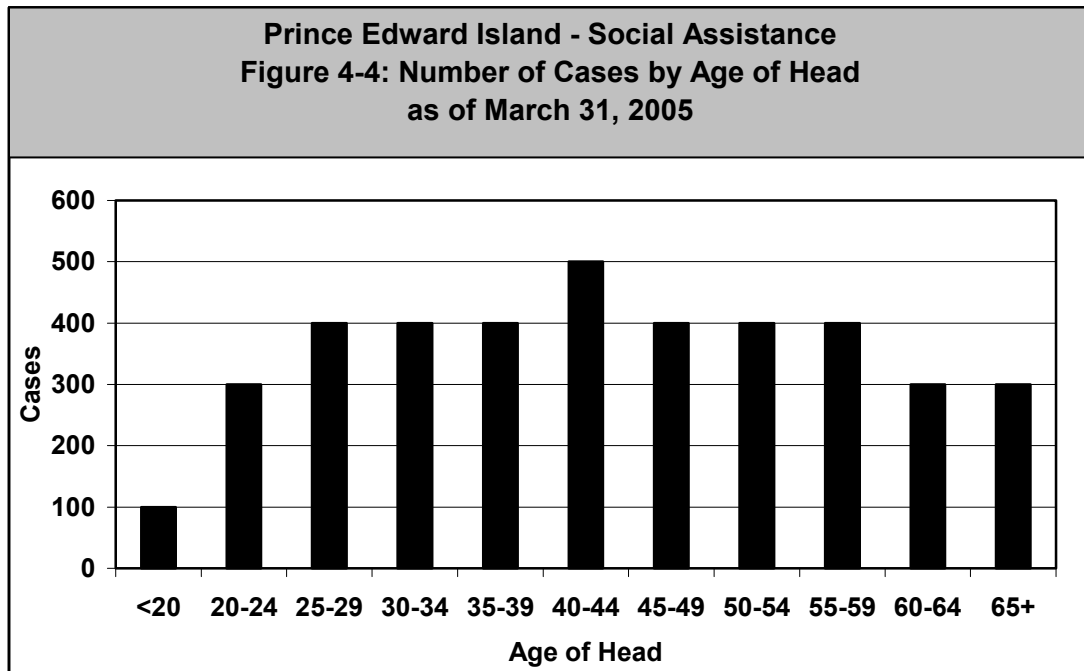


Prince Edward Island - Social Assistance		
Table 4-3: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type as of March 31, 2005		
Family Type	2005	%
Adults - Single	2,600	38%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	500	7%
Adults - Single parent	900	13%
Adults - Couple with dependants	600	9%
<b>Total Adults</b>	<b>4,600</b>	
Children - Single parent	1,600	23%
Children - Couple with dependants	700	10%
<b>Total Children (33%)</b>	<b>2,300</b>	
<b>Total Recipients</b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*



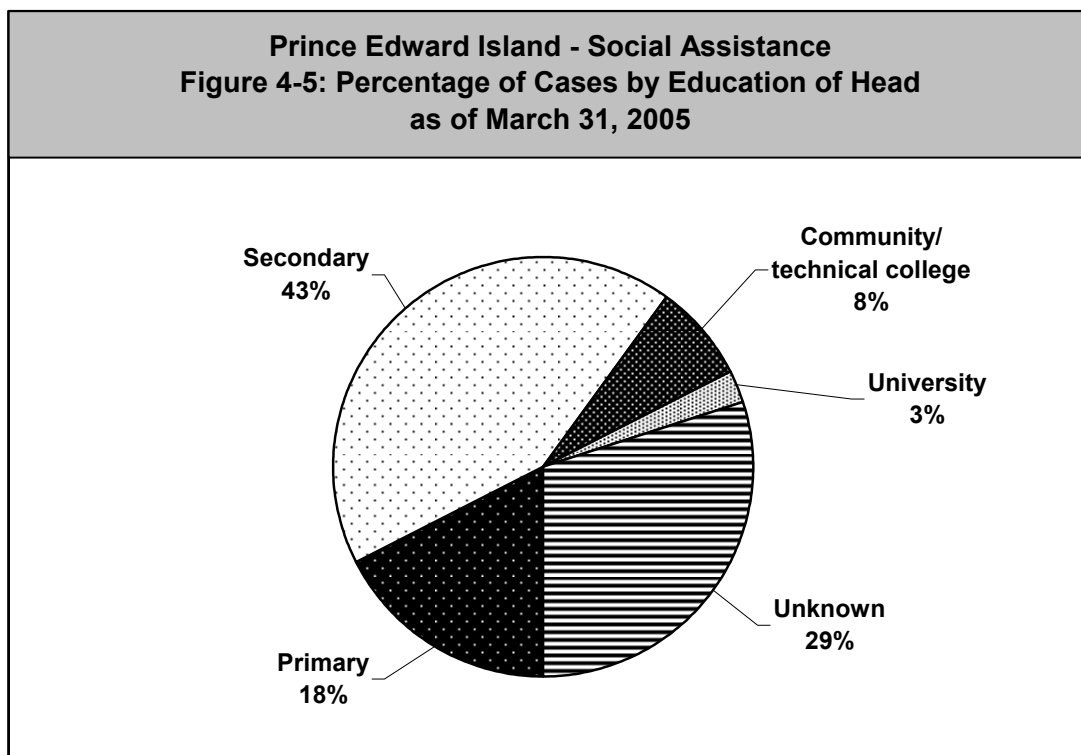
## Cases by Age of Head



Prince Edward Island - Social Assistance	
Table 4-4: Number of Cases by Age of Head	
as of March 31, 2005	
Age of Head	2005
<20	100
20-24	300
25-29	400
30-34	400
35-39	400
40-44	500
45-49	400
50-54	400
55-59	400
60-64	300
65+	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,000</b>

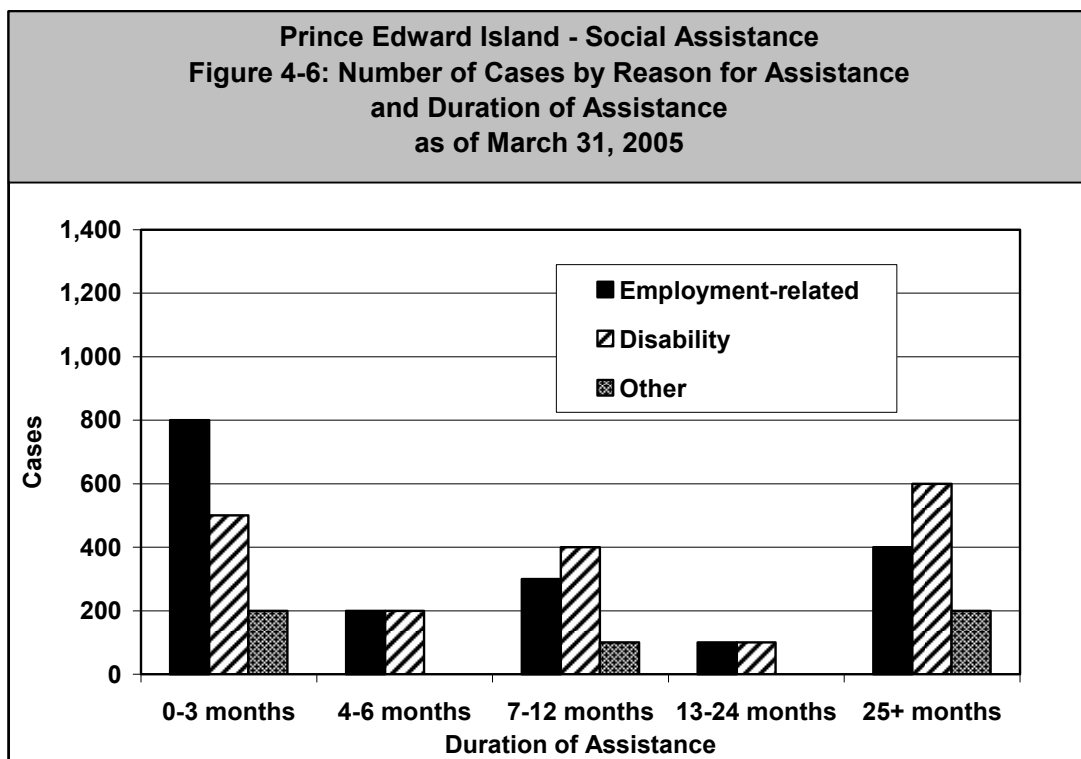
*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

## Cases by Education of Head



Prince Edward Island - Social Assistance		
Table 4-5: Number and Percentage of Cases by Education of Head as of March 31, 2005		
Education of Head <sup>a</sup>	2005	%
Primary	700	18%
Secondary	1,700	43%
Community/technical college	300	8%
University	100	3%
Unknown	1,200	29%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>100%</b>
a. Education is defined as level of education attained as of date of application.		
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.		

## Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance

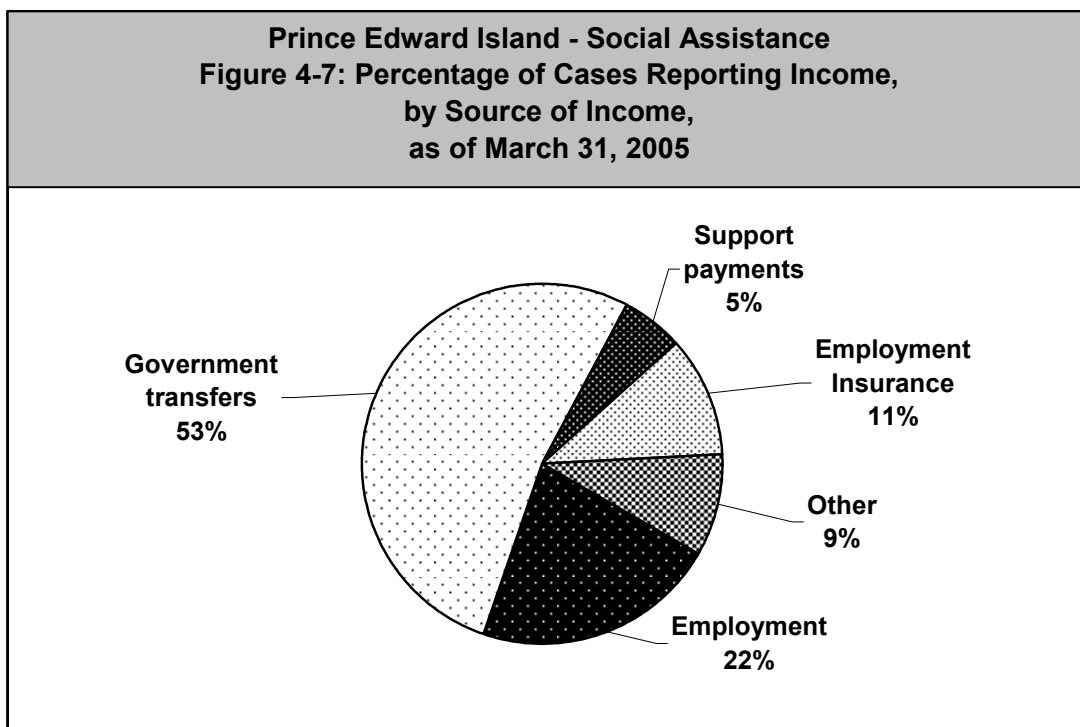


**Prince Edward Island - Social Assistance**  
**Table 4-6: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance as of March 31, 2005**

Duration by Reason <sup>a</sup>	Reason for Assistance			Total
	Employment-related <sup>b</sup>	Disability <sup>c</sup>	Other <sup>d</sup>	
0-3 months	800	500	200	1,400
4-6 months	200	200	-	400
7-12 months	300	400	100	700
13-24 months	100	100	-	200
25+ months	400	600	200	1,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>4,000</b>

<sup>a</sup> "Duration of assistance" measures length of current spell only.  
<sup>b</sup> "Employment-related" includes employed and unemployed.  
<sup>c</sup> "Disability" includes long-term disability and short-term disability.  
<sup>d</sup> "Other" includes high support needs, age related and unknown.  
*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

## Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income



**Prince Edward Island - Social Assistance**  
**Table 4-7: Number and Percentage of Cases Reporting Income,**  
**by Source of Income,**  
**as of March 31, 2005**

Source of Income	2005	%
Employment	1,200	22%
Government transfers	2,900	53%
Support payments	300	5%
Employment Insurance	600	11%
Other <sup>a</sup>	500	9%
<b>Total <sup>b</sup> (includes double-counting)</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>100%</b>

a. "Other" includes training allowances and other income.  
b. Total cases in these categories may include double-counting, since cases that have more than one source of income are counted for each source reported. Percentages were calculated based on 5,500 observations.  
*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

**Prince Edward Island - Social Assistance**  
**Table 4-8: Number of Cases Reporting Income**  
**as of March 31, 2005**

Reporting Income	2,300
No Income	1,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,000</b>

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

## **Chapter 5 – Nova Scotia**

### **Employment Support and Income Assistance**

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

---

##### **Overview**

In Nova Scotia, the provincial social assistance program is known as Employment Support and Income Assistance (ESIA). The *Employment Support and Income Assistance Act* and the Employment Support and Income Assistance Regulations govern Nova Scotia's Employment Support and Income Assistance program.

The Employment Support and Income Assistance program provides financial assistance and employment supports to help people maximize their self-sufficiency by increasing their employability and their independence.

Children's basic benefits are provided through the Nova Scotia Child Benefit (see p. 40).

##### **Service Delivery**

The Department of Community Services is responsible for the delivery of the Employment Support and Income Assistance program to adults within the province.

##### **Eligibility**

###### **General**

In order to be eligible for the Employment Support and Income Assistance program, applicants must meet the general eligibility requirements outlined in the "Social Assistance Overview" in this report.

###### **Liquid Assets**

At the time of application, applicants' liquid assets may not exceed the following allowable limits.

Nova Scotia - Liquid Asset Exemptions March 2005		
	Clients without Disabilities	Clients with Disabilities
Single	\$500	\$500
Family	\$1,000	\$1,000

## Earnings Exemptions

When determining initial eligibility for Employment Support and Income Assistance, earned income is considered completely in determination of eligibility. To determine ongoing eligibility, clients are eligible for the following monthly exemptions on earned income:

Nova Scotia - Earnings Exemptions March 2005		
	Clients without Disabilities	Clients with Disabilities <sup>a</sup>
Single	30% of net wages	\$150 plus 30% of the excess
Family	30% of net wages	not applicable
a. These clients are in supported employment.		

## Benefits

Basic assistance consists of a personal allowance and a shelter allowance. The personal allowance covers the cost of food, clothing, and miscellaneous essentials for adults in the family. The shelter allowance includes the actual amount for rent/mortgage, fuel and utilities, up to the allowed maximum. Maximum shelter allowance rates are based on the number of persons in the household (including children) and the type of accommodation.

Nova Scotia provides extended drug coverage for twelve months to clients that leave social assistance for employment.

Children's basic benefits are paid through the Nova Scotia Child Benefit.

## Nova Scotia Child Benefit

The Nova Scotia Child Benefit (NSCB) is a non-taxable amount paid monthly to help low-income families with the cost of raising children under the age of 18 years. The implementation of the *Employment Support and Income Assistance Act* and Employment Support and Income Assistance Regulations in August 2001 removed children's benefits from the social assistance system.

## Chapter 5 – Nova Scotia – Employment Support and Income Assistance

The Canada Revenue Agency delivers the NSCB as an integrated payment with the CCTB and the NCB Supplement. The NSCB rates are based on net income and number of children. For instance, maximum NSCB benefits are paid to those families whose income is less than \$15,999 per year, while families whose annual income falls between \$15,999 and \$20,921 per year (depending on the number of children) are eligible for partial NSCB benefits.

Effective July 2001, in addition to the National Child Benefit Supplement, families with one child may be entitled to receive a NSCB benefit of up to \$445 per year. Families may be entitled to receive \$645 per year for their second child, and \$720 per year for their third and each additional child.

There continues to be a decline in the number of families receiving the Nova Scotia Child Benefit. The changing demographics and improved economy in the Province of Nova Scotia may be contributing to this decline.

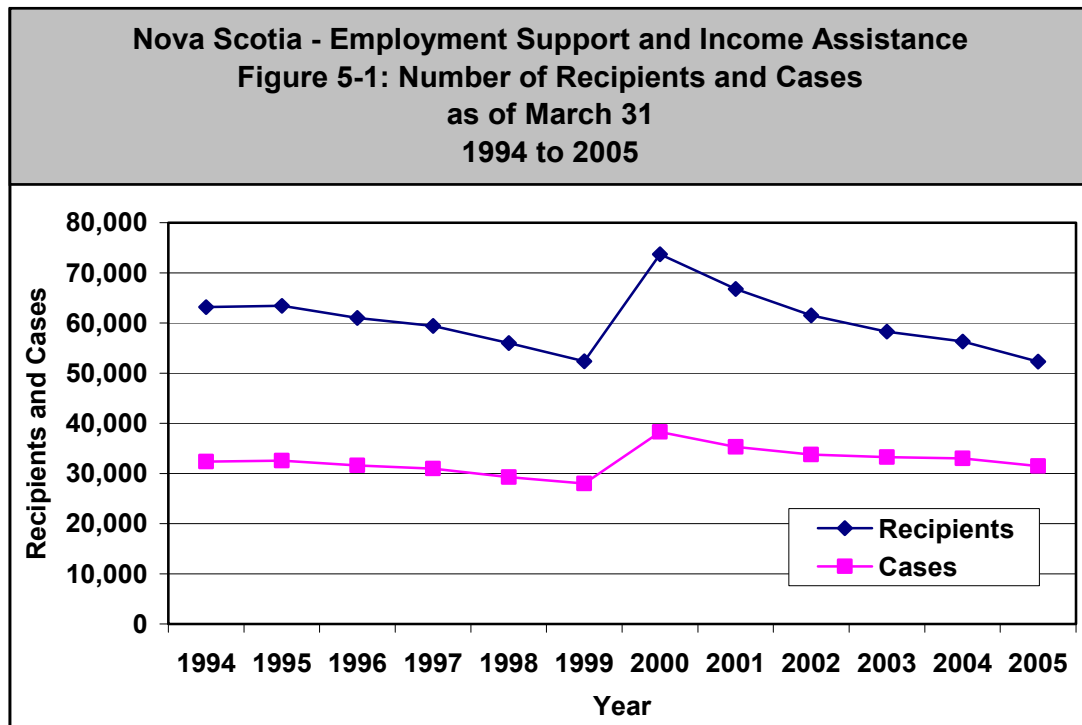
<b>Nova Scotia Child Benefit Estimated Number of Recipients 1999-2000 to 2004-2005</b>						
	<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>2001-2002</b>	<b>2002-2003</b>	<b>2003-2004</b>	<b>2004-2005</b>
<b>Families</b>	34,812	34,106	33,224	31,905	30,743	29,292
<b>Children</b>	55,828	57,325	55,986	53,961	52,054	49,732

### More Information

For more information, please consult the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services website at: [www.gov.ns.ca/coms/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/coms/).

## STATISTICS

### Recipients and Cases



Nova Scotia - Employment Support and Income Assistance						
Table 5-1: Number of Recipients and Cases						
as of March 31						
1994 to 2005						
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
<b>Recipients</b>	63,200	63,400	61,000	59,400	56,000	52,400
<b>Cases</b>	32,400	32,600	31,600	31,000	29,300	28,000
	2000 <sup>a</sup>	2001 <sup>b</sup>	2002	2003	2004	2005 <sup>c</sup>
<b>Recipients</b>	73,700	66,800	61,500	58,300	56,300	52,300
<b>Cases</b>	38,300	35,300	33,800	33,300	33,000	31,500

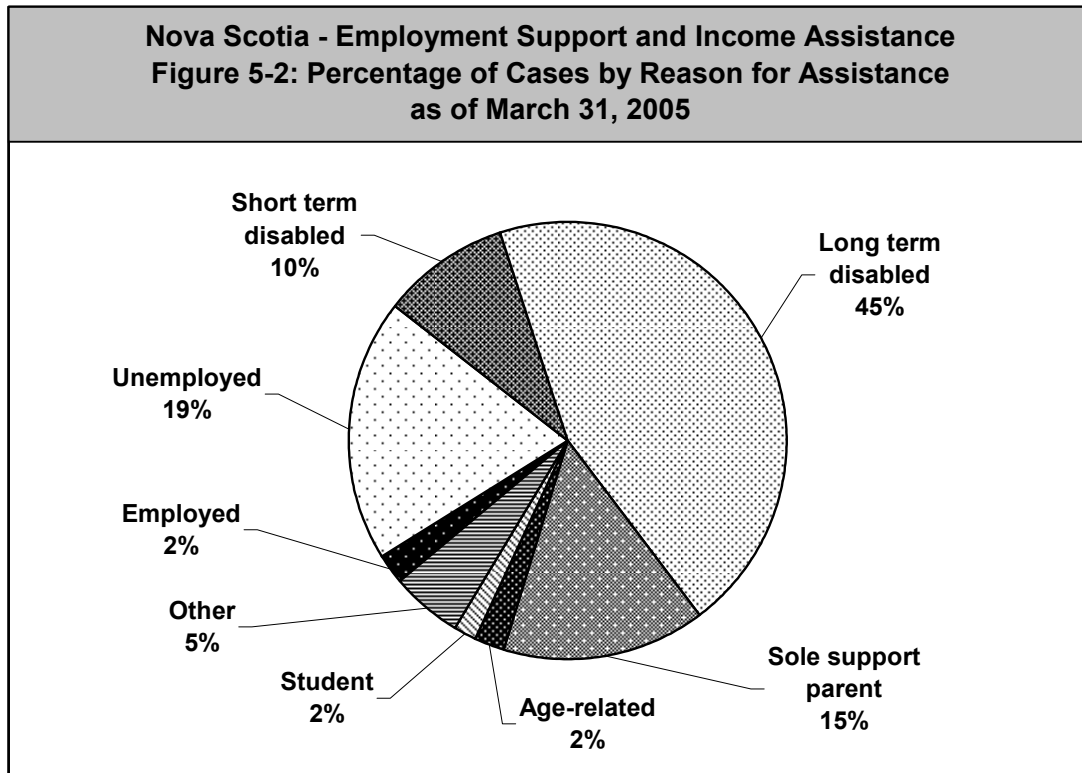
a. Prior to 2000 the caseload numbers represent the Family Benefits Program caseload only. From 2000 to 2005, the data represents the combination of the previous Municipal Social Assistance and Provincial Family Benefits

b. Employment Support and Income Assistance (ESIA) replaced the Family Benefits Program (FBA) and Municipal Social Assistance (MSA) in August 2001.

c. For March 2005, recipients and cases do not include Transitional Pharmacare.



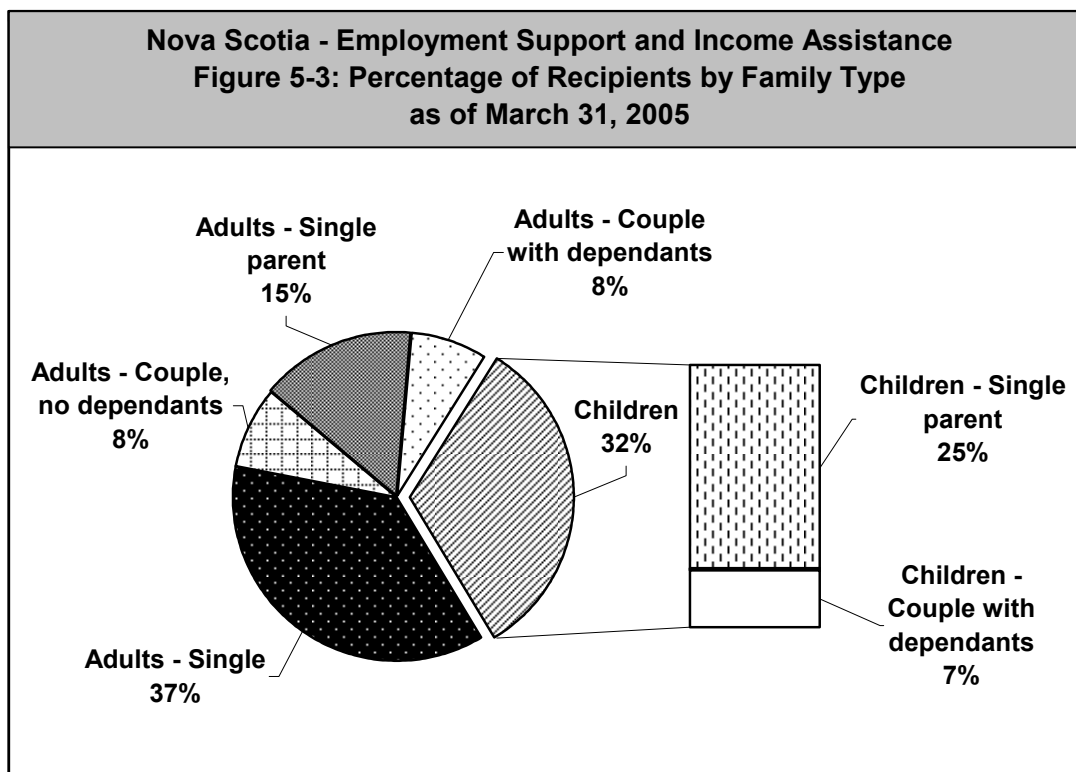
## Cases by Reason for Assistance



Nova Scotia - Employment Support and Income Assistance		
Table 5-2: Number and Percentage of Cases		
by Reason for Assistance <sup>a</sup>		
as of March 31, 2005		
Reason for Assistance	2005	%
Employed	700	2%
Unemployed	6,100	19%
Short term disabled	3,000	10%
Long term disabled	14,100	45%
Sole support parent	4,700	15%
Age-related <sup>b</sup>	700	2%
Student	500	2%
Other <sup>c</sup>	1,700	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,500</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>a</sup>. Cases do not include Transitional Pharmacare.  
<sup>b</sup>. "Age-related" includes persons 55 years and over.  
<sup>c</sup>. "Other" includes clients receiving a one-time payment and clients receiving extended pharmacare (prescription drug benefits).  
*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

## Recipients by Family Type

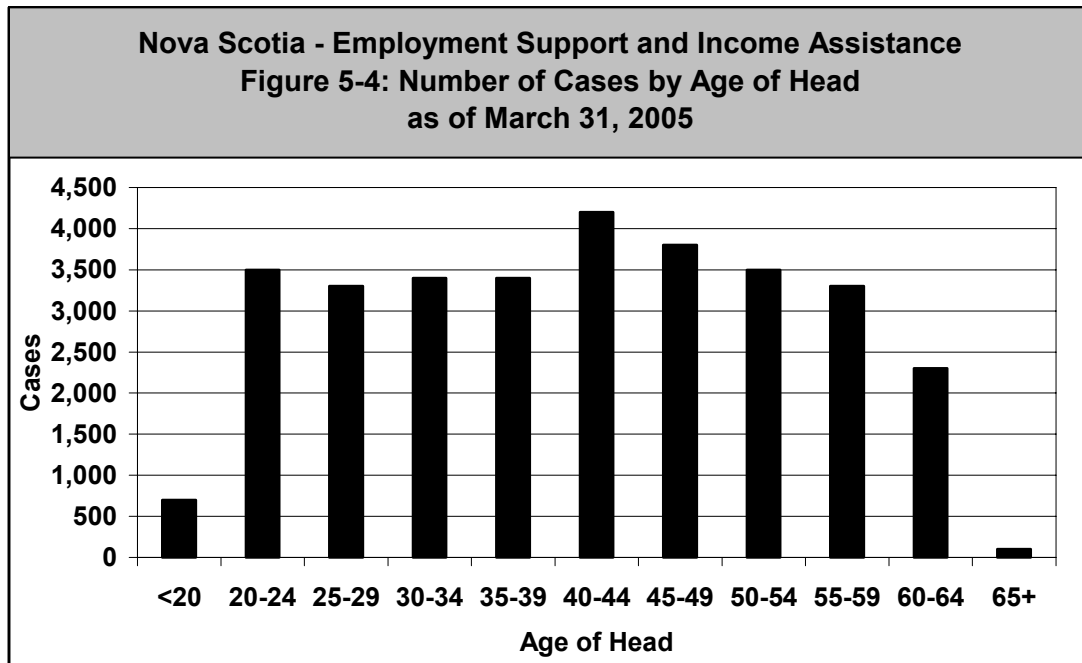


Nova Scotia - Employment Support and Income Assistance		
Table 5-3: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type <sup>a</sup>		
as of March 31, 2005		
Family Type	2005	%
Adults - Single	19,800	37%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	2,100	4%
- Spouse	2,100	4%
Adults - Single parent	8,300	15%
Adults - Couple with dependants	2,000	4%
- Spouse	2,000	4%
<b>Total Adults</b>	<b>36,300</b>	
Children - Single parent	13,700	25%
Children - Couple with dependants	3,800	7%
<b>Total Children (32%)</b>	<b>17,400</b>	
<b>Total Recipients</b>	<b>53,700</b>	<b>100%</b>

a. The above table includes 1,400 recipients receiving Transitional Pharmacare, which are not to be considered part of the 52,300 social assistance recipients that appears in Table 5-1.

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

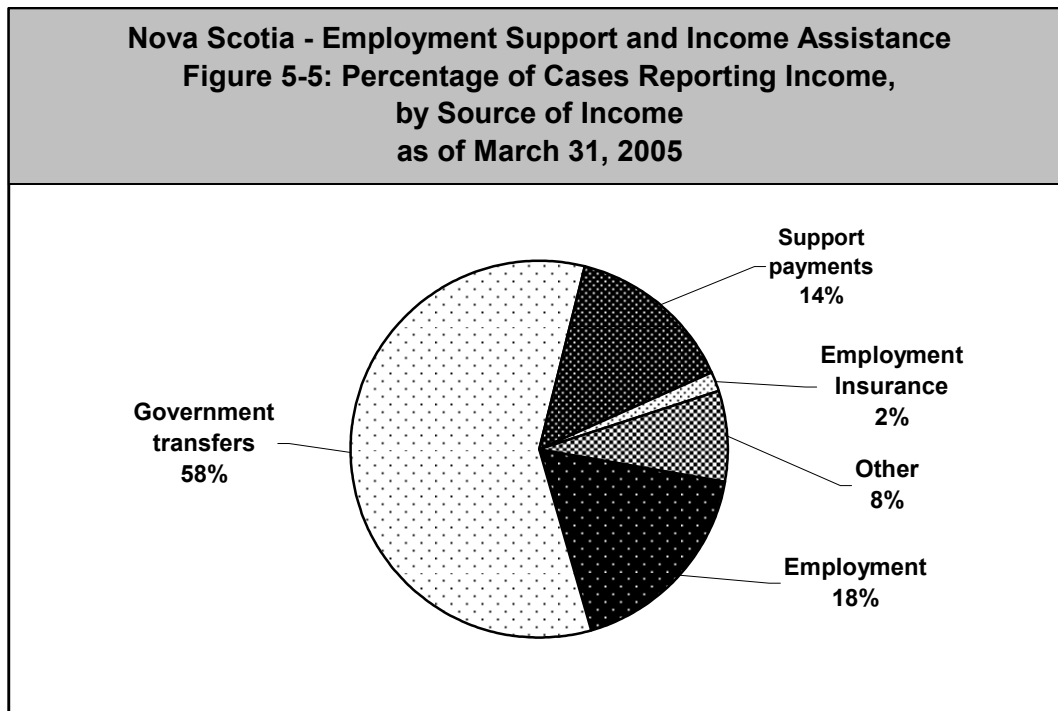
## Cases by Age of Head



Nova Scotia - Employment Support and Income Assistance	
Table 5-4: Number of Cases by Age of Head <sup>a</sup>	
as of March 31, 2005	
Age of Head	2005
<20	700
20-24	3,500
25-29	3,300
30-34	3,400
35-39	3,400
40-44	4,200
45-49	3,800
50-54	3,500
55-59	3,300
60-64	2,300
65+	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,500</b>

a. Cases do not include Transitional Pharmacare.  
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

## Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income



**Nova Scotia - Employment Support and Income Assistance**  
**Table 5-5: Number and Percentage of Cases**  
**Reporting Income, by Source of Income**  
**as of March 31, 2005**

Source of Income	2005	%
Employment	4,100	18%
Government transfers	13,400	58%
Support payments	3,300	14%
Employment Insurance	400	2%
Other <sup>a</sup>	1,800	8%
<b>Total<sup>b</sup></b> (includes double-counting)	<b>23,400</b>	<b>100%</b>

a. "Other" includes clients receiving workers' compensation, training income, income tax refund, or income from rental or from room & board and roomers.

b. Total cases in these categories may include double-counting, since cases that have more than one source of income are counted for each source reported. Percentages are based on 23,400 observations.

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

<b>Nova Scotia - Employment Support and Income Assistance</b> <b>Table 5-6: Number of Cases Reporting Income <sup>a</sup></b> <b>as of March 31, 2005</b>	
Reporting income	13,100
Not reporting income	17,800
<b>Total <sup>b</sup></b>	<b>30,900</b>
a. Cases do not include Transitional Pharmacare. b. Due to differences in reporting systems, the total number of cases reporting income and not reporting income in the above table do not match the total number of cases in previous tables. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	



## **Chapter 6 – New Brunswick**

### **Social Assistance**

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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##### **Overview**

In New Brunswick, the provincial social assistance program is known as Social Assistance (SA). The *Family Income Security Act* and the Family Income Security Regulations govern New Brunswick's Social Assistance program.

Social Assistance provides basic benefits to both adults and children.

##### **Service Delivery**

The Department of Family and Community Services is responsible for the delivery of the Social Assistance program to adults and children within the province.

##### **Eligibility**

###### **General**

In order to be eligible for the Social Assistance program, applicants must meet the general eligibility requirements outlined in the "Social Assistance Overview" in this report.

###### **Liquid Assets**

At the time of application, applicants' liquid assets may not exceed the following allowable limits.

<b>New Brunswick - Liquid Asset Exemptions March 2005</b>		
	<b>Clients without Disabilities</b>	<b>Clients with Disabilities</b>
<b>Single</b>	\$1,000	\$3,000
<b>Single-Parent Family</b>	\$2,000	\$3,000 for each person with a disability plus \$1,000 for each non-disabled person up to a maximum of \$4,000.
<b>Childless Couple</b>	\$2,000	\$3,000 for each person with a disability plus \$1,000 for each non-disabled person up to a maximum of \$4,000.
<b>Two-Parent Family</b>	\$2,000	\$3,000 for each person with a disability plus \$1,000 for each non-disabled person up to a maximum of \$4,000.

## **Earnings Exemptions**

Different levels of earning exemptions are in effect for each of the three programs in place: Transitional Assistance Program, Extended Benefits Program, and Interim Assistance Program. For more information on these social assistance programs, please refer to page 51. Once an application for assistance has been approved, program clients are eligible for the following monthly exemptions on earned income:

<b>New Brunswick - Earnings Exemptions March 2005</b>			
	<b>Transitional Assistance Program</b>	<b>Extended Benefits Program</b>	<b>Interim Assistance Program</b>
<b>Single</b>	\$150	\$150	\$200
<b>Family</b>	\$200	\$200	\$250

There is also the Extended Wage Exemption (EWE) available. The EWE is a benefit structure separate from the usual earnings exemption (provided above). The amount of the EWE is changed according to three different time frames within the two-year duration of the benefit. The first two time frames are six months in duration each, and allow clients the option of having a percentage of their salary exempted; which results in a higher exemption than the usual earnings exemption. In months 13 through 24, the earnings exemption amount will revert back to the appropriate maximum flat rate amount; that is the usual earnings exemption.



## **Benefits**

Basic assistance, also known as the basic unit rate, covers the cost of food, clothing, shelter, routine transportation, fuel and utilities, as well as personal and household items. Maximum basic assistance rates are based on the three rate programs involved (see below) and the number of persons in the household.

The Social Assistance program has three rate programs: Transitional Assistance Program (TAP), Extended Benefits Program (EBP), and Interim Assistance Program (INT).

The **Transitional Assistance** provides financial assistance to individuals and families who have a variety of intermittent foreseeable needs. This is a category of financial assistance for individuals and families who have the potential to achieve self-sufficiency once their barriers to employment are addressed.

The **Extended Benefits Program** provides financial assistance to individuals and families who are certified by the Medical Advisory Board as blind, deaf, or disabled. This is a category of financial assistance for those clients who, because of their disability, have long-term predictable needs.

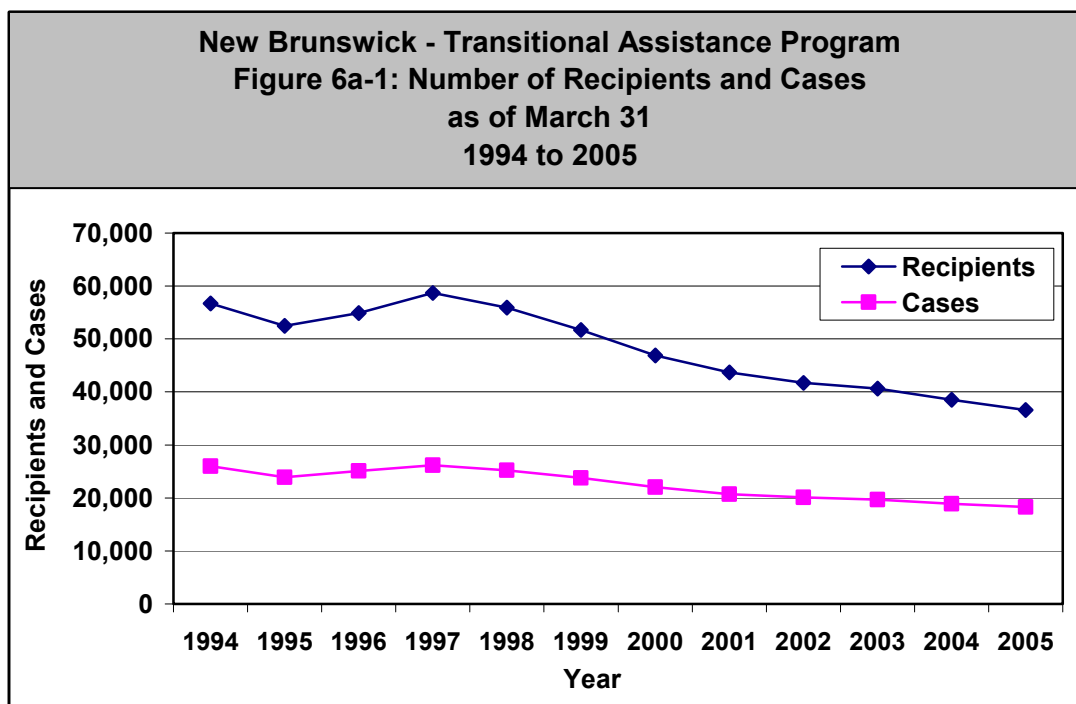
The **Interim Assistance** provides short-term assistance to individuals and families who are in need, yet who are expected to attain self-sufficiency in a relatively short period of time. Benefits and services provided to these clients are generally temporary in nature.

## **More Information**

For more information, please consult the New Brunswick Department of Family and Community Services website at: [www.gnb.ca/0017/index-e.asp](http://www.gnb.ca/0017/index-e.asp).

## STATISTICS: A – TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

### Recipients and Cases

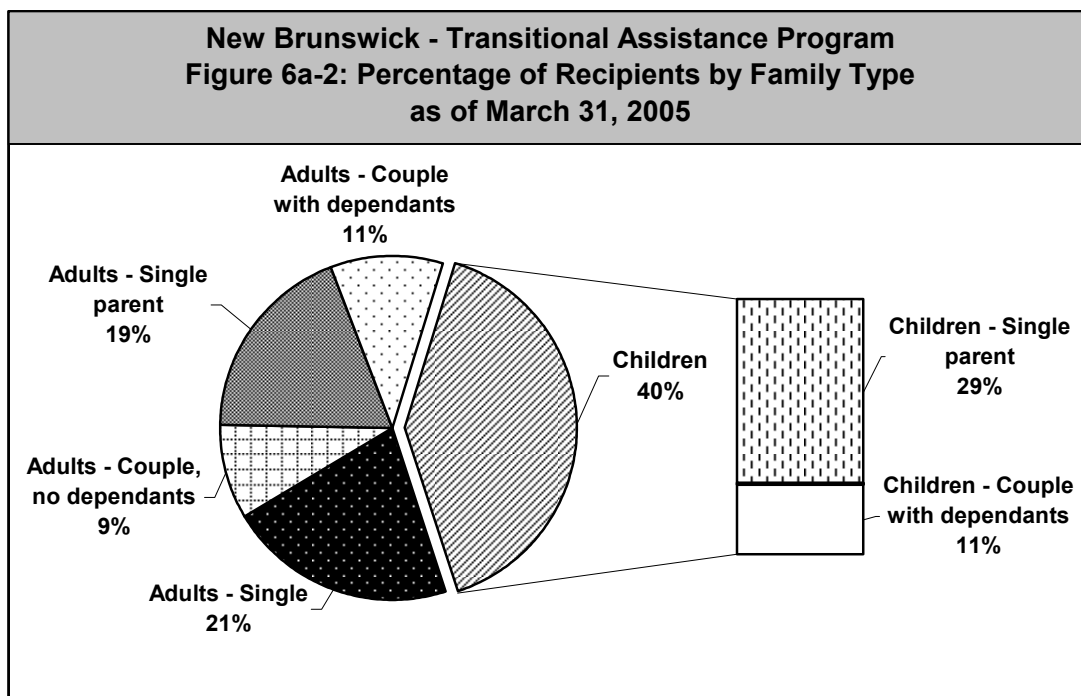


New Brunswick - Transitional Assistance Program						
Table 6a-1: Number of Recipients and Cases						
as of March 31						
1994 to 2005 <sup>a</sup>						
	1994	1995	1996 <sup>b</sup>	1997	1998	1999
Recipients	56,700	52,500	54,900	58,700	55,900	51,700
Cases	26,000	23,900	25,100	26,200	25,200	23,800
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Recipients	46,900	43,700	41,700	40,600	38,500	36,600
Cases	22,000	20,700	20,100	19,700	18,900	18,300

a. Data are as of March 31, unless otherwise specified. In those cases, data are of the end of month.

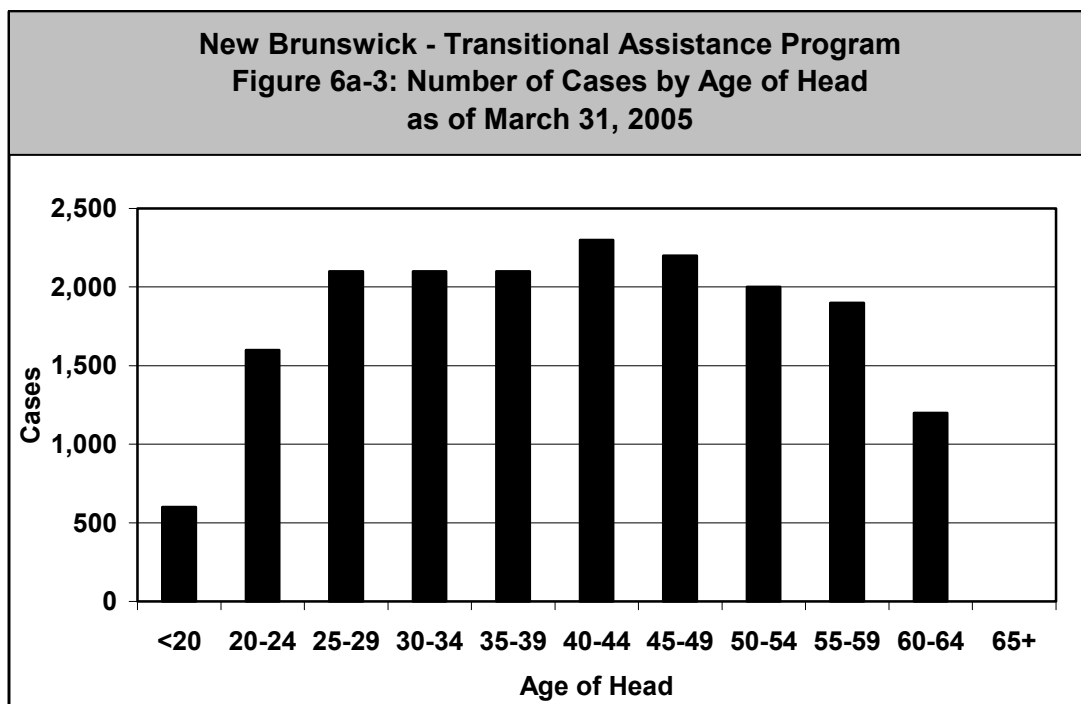
b. The Transitional Assistance Program replaced the Upgrading Training and Placement Program in 1996.

## Recipients by Family Type



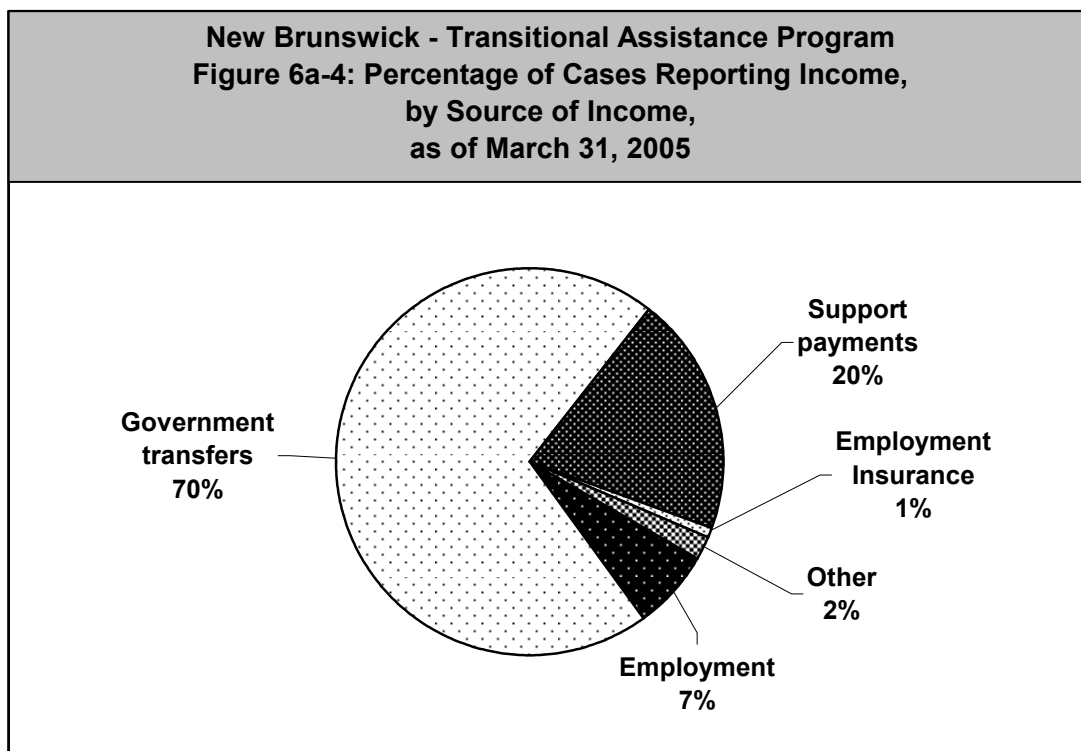
New Brunswick - Transitional Assistance Program		
Table 6a-2: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type		
as of March 31, 2005		
Family Type	2005	%
Adults - Single	7,800	21%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	3,300	9%
Adults - Single parent	6,900	19%
Adults - Couple with dependants	3,900	11%
<b>Total Adults</b>	<b>21,900</b>	
Children - Single parent	10,700	29%
Children - Couple with dependants	4,000	11%
<b>Total Children (40%)</b>	<b>14,700</b>	
<b>Total Recipients</b>	<b>36,600</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

## Cases by Age of Head



New Brunswick - Transitional Assistance Program	
Table 6a-3: Number of Cases by Age of Head	
as of March 31, 2005	
Age of Head	2005
<20	600
20-24	1,600
25-29	2,100
30-34	2,100
35-39	2,100
40-44	2,300
45-49	2,200
50-54	2,000
55-59	1,900
60-64	1,200
65+	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,300</b>
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

## Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income



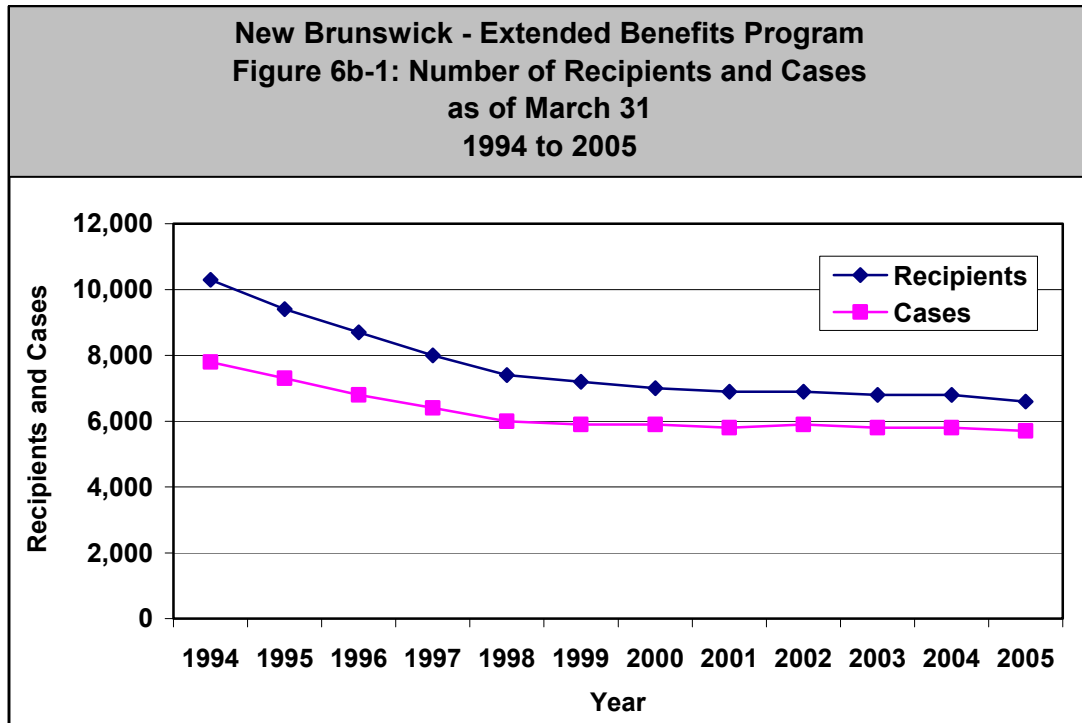
**New Brunswick - Transitional Assistance Program**  
**Table 6a-4: Number and Percentage of Cases Reporting Income,**  
**by Source of Income,**  
**as of March 31, 2005**

Source of Income	2005	%
Employment	2,300	7%
Government transfers	24,600	70%
Support payments	6,900	20%
Employment Insurance	300	1%
Other <sup>a</sup>	700	2%
<b>Total <sup>b</sup> (includes double-counting)</b>	<b>34,800</b>	<b>100%</b>

a. "Other" includes training allowances and other income.  
b. Total cases in these categories may include double-counting, since cases that have more than one source of income are counted for each source reported. Percentages were calculated based on 34,800 observations.  
*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

## STATISTICS: B – EXTENDED BENEFITS PROGRAM

### Recipients and Cases

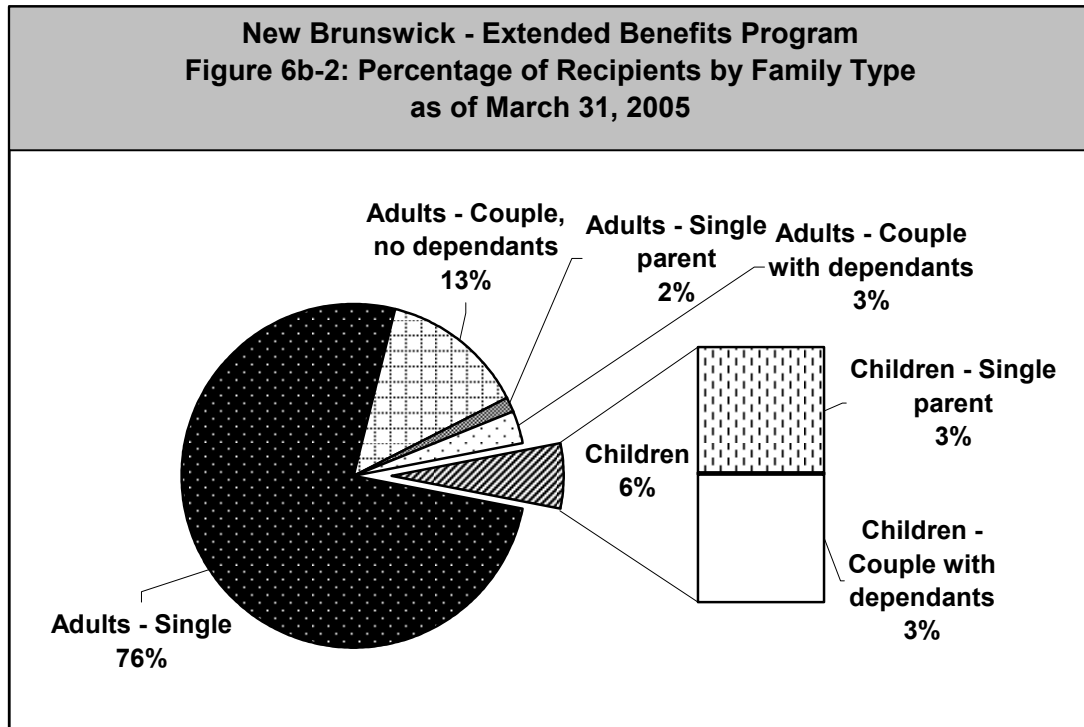


**New Brunswick - Extended Benefits Program**  
**Table 6b-1: Number of Recipients and Cases**  
**as of March 31**  
**1994 to 2005<sup>a</sup>**

	1994	1995	1996 <sup>b</sup>	1997	1998	1999
<b>Recipients</b>	10,300	9,400	8,700	8,000	7,400	7,200
<b>Cases</b>	7,800	7,300	6,800	6,400	6,000	5,900
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Recipients</b>	7,000	6,900	6,900	6,800	6,800	6,600
<b>Cases</b>	5,900	5,800	5,900	5,800	5,800	5,700

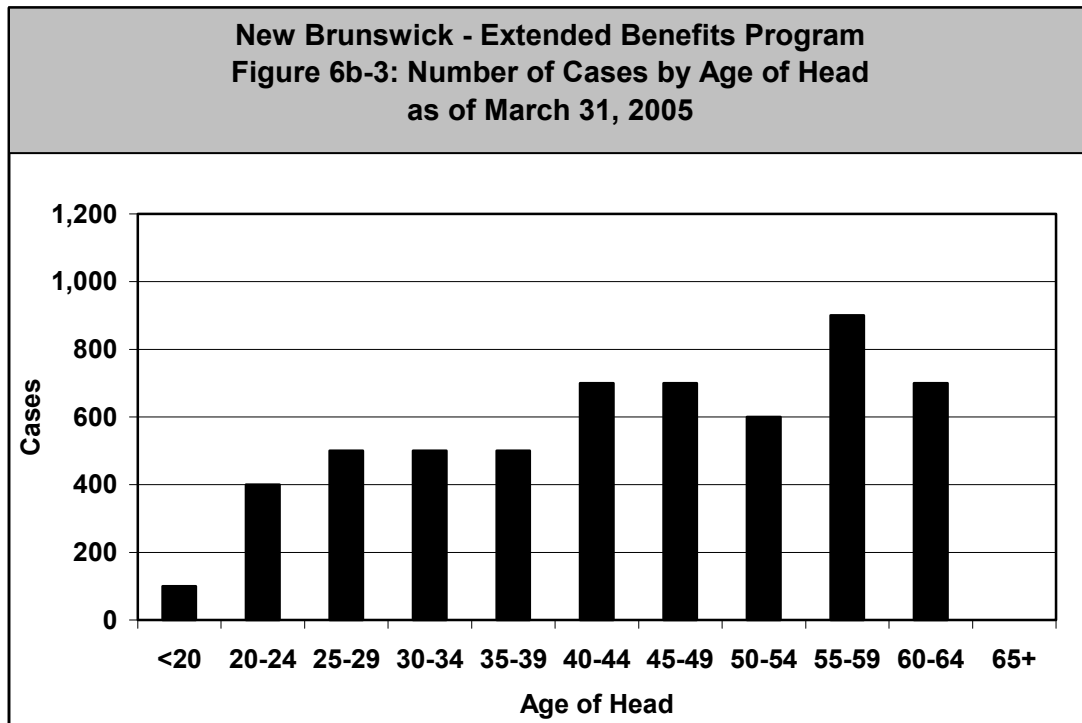
a. Data are as of March 31, unless otherwise specified. In those cases, data are as of the end of month.  
b. The Extended Benefits Program replaced the Established Benefits Program (1996) and the Long Term Established Needs Program (1994, 1995).

## Recipients by Family Type



New Brunswick - Extended Benefits Program		
Table 6b-2: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type		
as of March 31, 2005		
Family Type	2005	%
Adults - Single	5,000	76%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	900	13%
Adults - Single parent	100	2%
Adults - Couple with dependants	200	3%
<b>Total Adults</b>	<b>6,300</b>	
Children - Single parent	200	3%
Children - Couple with dependants	200	3%
<b>Total Children (6%)</b>	<b>400</b>	
<b>Total Recipients</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

## Cases by Age of Head

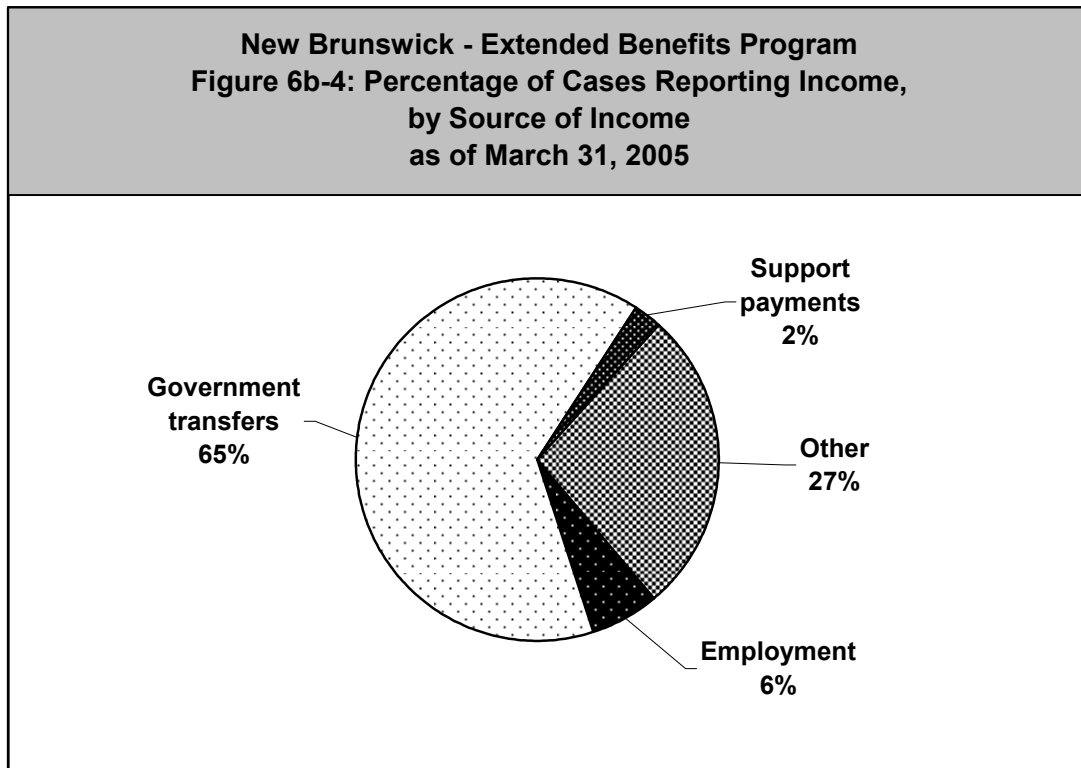


New Brunswick - Extended Benefits Program Table 6b-3: Number of Cases by Age of Head as of March 31, 2005	
Age of Head	2005
<20	100
20-24	400
25-29	500
30-34	500
35-39	500
40-44	700
45-49	700
50-54	600
55-59	900
60-64	700
65+	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,700</b>

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*



## Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income



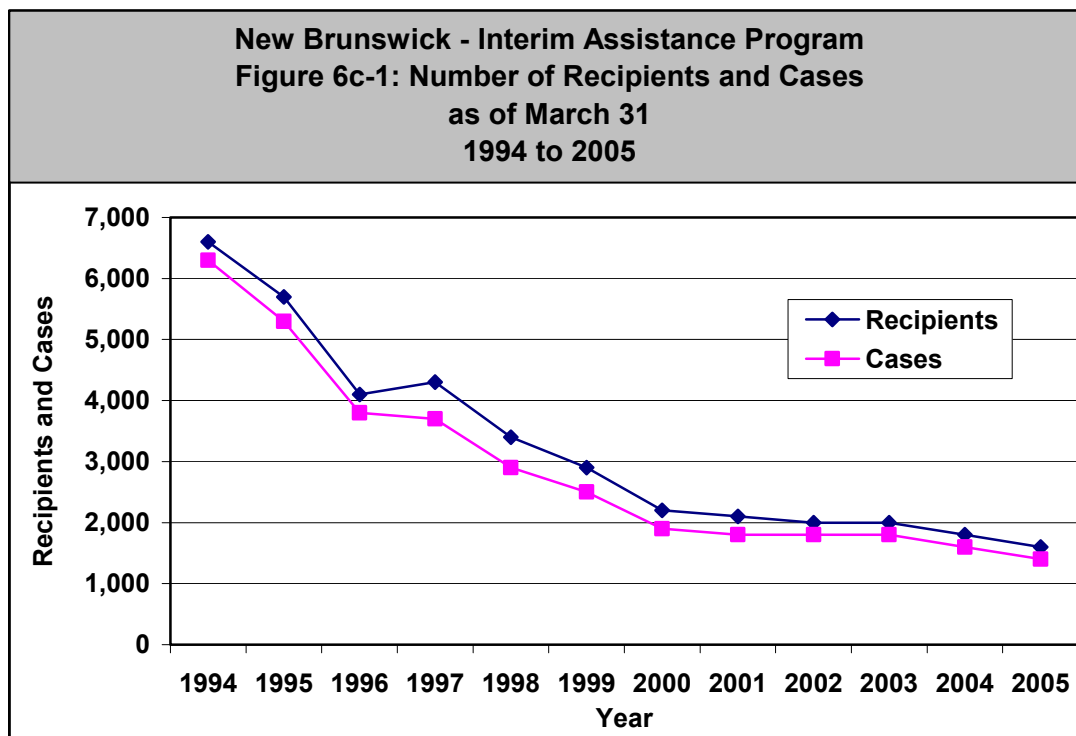
**New Brunswick - Extended Benefits Program**  
**Table 6b-4: Number and Percentage of Cases Reporting Income,**  
**by Source of Income,**  
**as of March 31, 2005**

Source of Income	2005	%
Employment	500	6%
Government transfers	5,200	65%
Support payments	200	2%
Other <sup>a</sup>	2,200	27%
<b>Total <sup>b</sup> (includes double-counting)</b>	<b>8,100</b>	<b>100%</b>

a. "Other" includes training allowances and other income.  
b. Total cases in these categories may include double-counting, since cases that have more than one source of income are counted for each source reported. Percentages were calculated based on 8,100 observations.  
*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

## STATISTICS: C – INTERIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

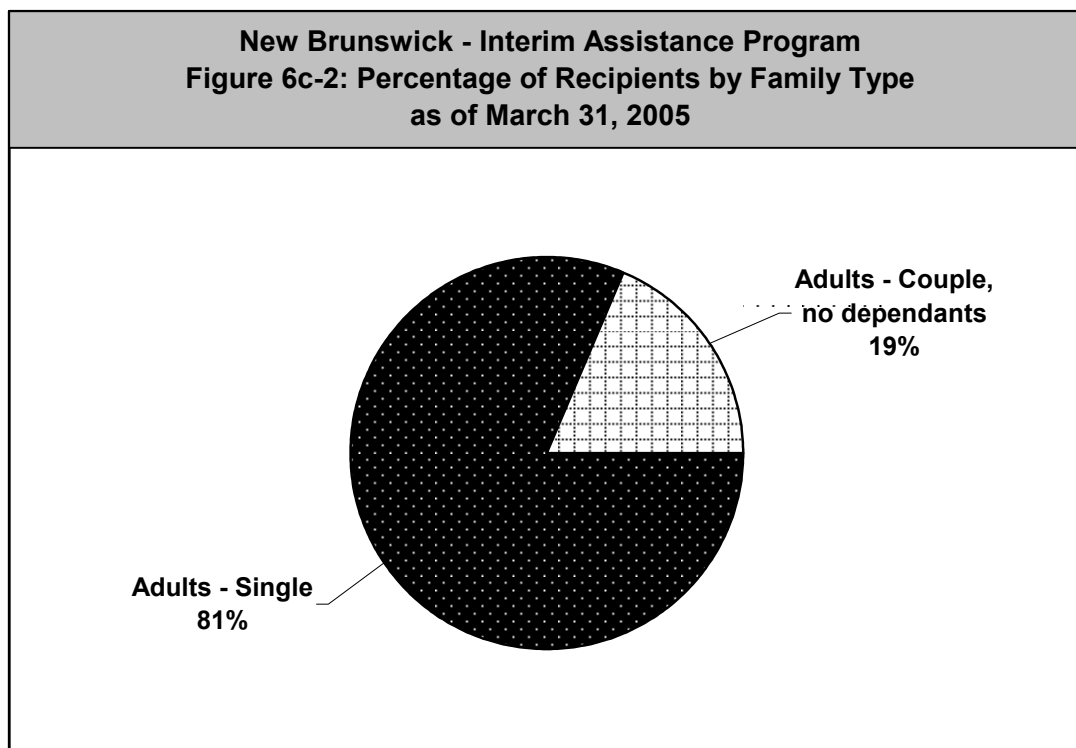
### Recipients and Cases



New Brunswick - Interim Assistance Program						
Table 6c-1: Number of Recipients and Cases						
as of March 31						
1994 to 2005 <sup>a</sup>						
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Recipients	6,600	5,700	4,100	4,300	3,400	2,900
Cases	6,300	5,300	3,800	3,700	2,900	2,500
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Recipients	2,200	2,100	2,000	2,000	1,800	1,600
Cases	1,900	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,600	1,400

a. Data are as of March 31, unless otherwise specified. In those cases, data are as of the end of the month.

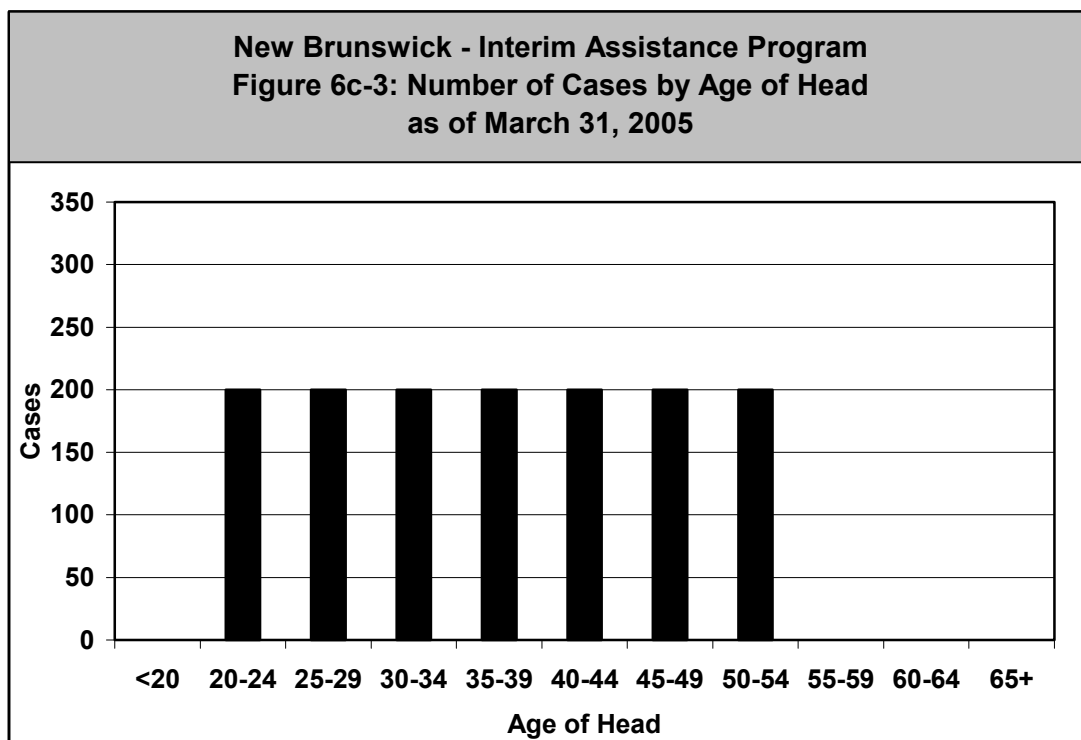
## Recipients by Family Type



New Brunswick - Interim Assistance Program		
Table 6c-2: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type as of March 31, 2005		
Family Type	2005	%
Adults - Single	1,300	81%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	300	19%
Adults - Single parent	-	-
Adults - Couple with dependants	-	-
<b>Total Adults</b>	<b>1,600</b>	
Children - Single parent	-	-
Children - Couple with dependants	-	-
<b>Total Children</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Total Recipients</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>100%</b>

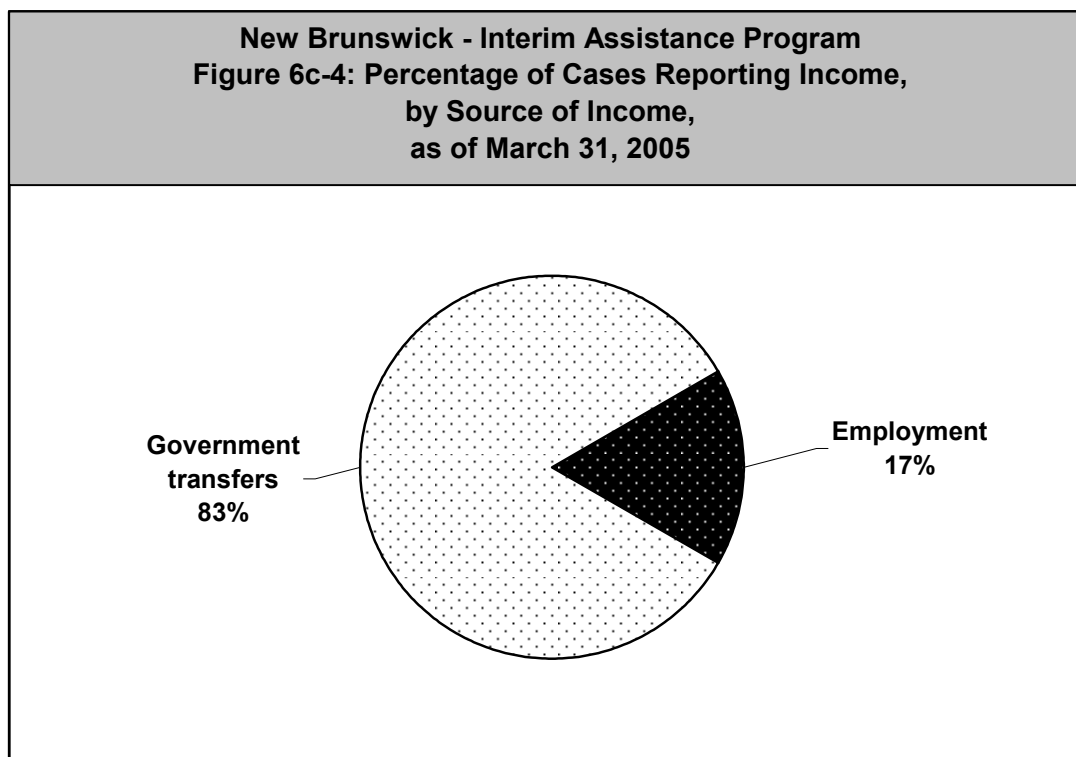
*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

## Cases by Age of Head



New Brunswick - Interim Assistance Program Table 6c-3: Number of Cases by Age of Head as of March 31, 2005	
Age of Head	2005
<20	-
20-24	200
25-29	200
30-34	200
35-39	200
40-44	200
45-49	200
50-54	200
55-59	-
60-64	-
65+	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,400</b>
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

## Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income



<b>New Brunswick - Interim Assistance Program</b> <b>Table 6c-4: Number and Percentage of Cases Reporting Income,</b> <b>by Source of Income,</b> <b>as of March 31, 2005</b>		
Source of Income	2005	%
Employment	200	17%
Government transfers	1,000	83%
<b>Total <sup>a</sup> (includes double-counting)</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>100%</b>
a. Total cases in these categories may include double-counting, since cases that have more than one source of income are counted for each source reported. Percentages were calculated based on 1,200 observations. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		



## Chapter 7– Quebec

### Employment Assistance

#### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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##### Overview

In Quebec, the provincial social assistance program is known as Employment Assistance (EA). The *Act respecting income support, employment assistance and social solidarity*<sup>6</sup> and the Regulations respecting income support govern Quebec's Employment Assistance program.

Employment Assistance provides basic benefits to adults only. Between September 1997 and January 2005, children's basic benefits were provided through the Quebec Family Allowance. Since January 2005, children's basic benefits have been provided through the Child Assistance Measure.

##### Service Delivery

The Department of Employment and Social Solidarity is responsible for the delivery of the Employment Assistance program to adults within the province.

##### Eligibility

###### General

In order to be eligible for the Employment Assistance program, applicants must meet the general eligibility requirements outlined in the "Social Assistance Overview" in this report.

###### Liquid Assets

At the time of application, applicants' liquid assets may not exceed the following allowable limits:

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<sup>6</sup> The Quebec National Assembly adopted the *Individual and Family Assistance Act* on June 16, 2005. This Act will replace the *Act respecting income support, employment assistance and social solidarity* when this Regulation of application will be in effect. It created the new Social Assistance and Social Solidarity programs. The Child Assistance Measure and a Work Premium program were created by the *Taxation Act*.

## Chapter 7 – Quebec – Employment Assistance

Quebec - Liquid Asset Exemptions at Application March 2005		
Number of Adults	Number of Children	Liquid Assets
1	0	\$816
1	1	\$1,166
1	2	\$1,382
2	0	\$1,212
2	1	\$1,445
2	2	\$1,661

Once an application for assistance has been approved, clients' liquid assets may not exceed the following allowable limits:

Quebec - Liquid Asset Exemptions after Enrolment March 2005		
	Clients with no limitations to employment	Clients with limitations to employment
Single	\$1,500	\$2,500
Family	\$2,500	\$5,000

## Earnings Exemptions

Once an application for assistance has been approved, Employment Assistance program clients are eligible for the following monthly exemptions on earned income:

Quebec - Earnings Exemptions March 2005			
	Clients with no limitations to employment	Clients with temporary limitations to employment	Clients with severe limitations to employment
Single	\$200	\$200	\$100
Single-parent family	\$200	\$200	\$100
Two-parent family	\$300	\$300	\$100

## Benefits

Financial assistance consists of a basic benefit, paid monthly, which may be supplemented by an allowance for individuals who are facing temporary or severe employment limitations. The basic benefit covers the cost of food and



clothing, shelter, as well as personal and household items for adults only. Maximum basic benefit rates are based on family composition.

In order to receive a benefit for temporary limitations to employment, an applicant must be 55 years of age or older, unable to participate in the labour market for health reasons for a period of no more than 12 months, be caring for a child who does not yet attend school (5 years of age or under) or is disabled, or be pregnant. In order to receive the allowance for severe employment limitations, the person's physical or mental state must be significantly altered or deficient for what will most likely be a permanent or indeterminate period of time.

The program also offers advance payment of the tax credit for the Quebec sales tax (TVQ).

### **Quebec Family Allowance**

The Quebec Family Allowance was a non-taxable amount paid monthly to help low-income families with the cost of raising children under 18 years of age. The creation of the Quebec Family Allowance in September 1997 effectively had removed children's benefits from the social assistance system. For the period covered in this report, the Quebec Family Allowance was in effect until December 31, 2004.

The *Régie des rentes du Québec* was responsible for administering the Quebec Family Allowance.

Effective August 2004, families were entitled to receive a Family Allowance in the amount of \$625 per year per child. Single-parent families could receive an additional family supplement of \$1,300 per year. An additional amount of \$1,431 was provided for each child with disabilities.

Maximum Family Allowance benefits were paid to single-parent families with one child whose income was less than \$20,603 per year. Single-parent families with one child whose annual income fell between \$20,603 and \$51,600 per year were eligible for partial Family Allowance benefits.

Maximum Family Allowance benefits were paid to two-parent families with one child whose income was less than \$24,005 per year. Two-parent families with one child whose annual income fell between \$24,005 and \$51,600 per year were eligible for partial Family Allowance benefits.

Quebec Family Allowance Estimated Number of Recipients 1997 - 2004				
	1997	1998	1999	2000
<b>Families</b>	680,017	660,939	629,843	587,005
<b>Children</b>	1,200,262	1,179,947	1,126,026	1,047,794
	2001	2002	2003	2004 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Families</b>	553,710	537,368	509,361	496,040
<b>Children</b>	988,587	957,214	907,059	881,149
a. These numbers are for QFA recipients from April 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004.				

## Child Assistance Measure

In 2004-2005 Budget Speech, the Quebec government announced a new Child Assistance measure to increase support for families. The Child Assistance Measure came into force on January 1, 2005, to cover the basic needs of dependent children under 18 years old. Child Assistance replaces and improves three measures: the Family Allowance, the non-refundable tax credit for dependent children and tax reduction for families. This measure provides more generous assistance than the Family Allowance, particularly to low-income families.

The amount of the Child Assistance Measure varies. Its amount is based on the following factors: net family income, the number of dependent children under the age of 18, and the type of family (single-parent or two-parent).

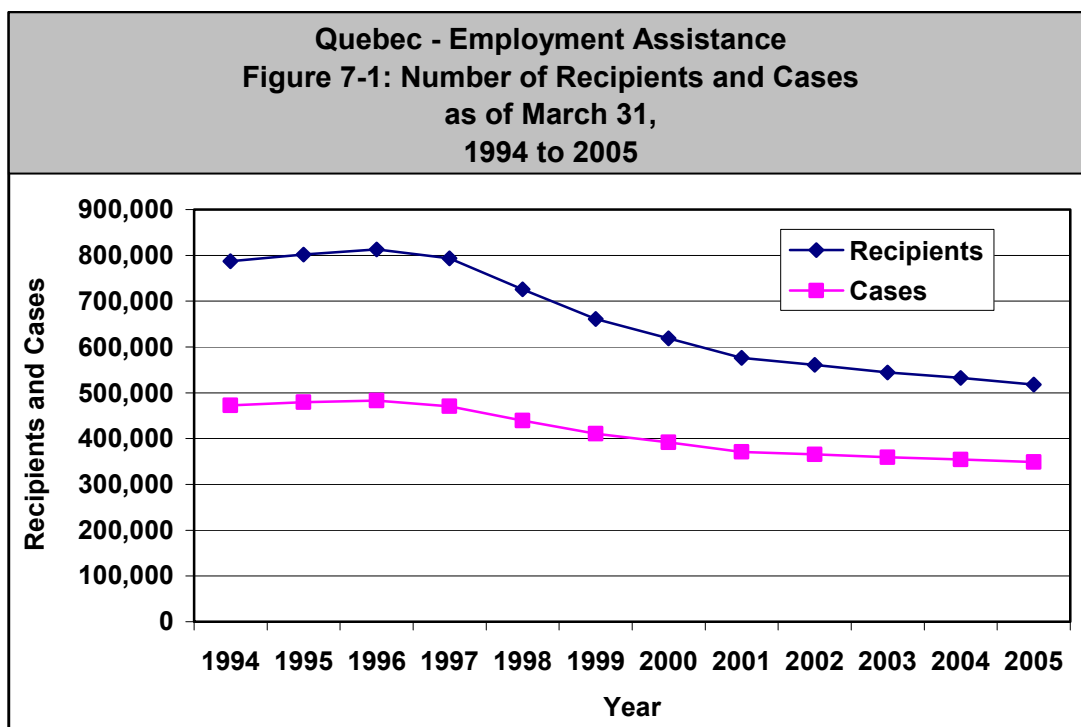
The maximum amounts paid are as follows: for a family with one child: \$2,049 per year; for a family with two children: \$3,073; for a family with three children: \$4,097; and for a family with four children: \$5,633.

For each additional child, an amount of \$1,536 is added to the maximum of \$5,633. Single-parent families are entitled to a supplement of up to \$717, which is added to the basic Child Assistance Measure amount.

## More information

For more information, please consult the Quebec Department of Employment and Social Solidarity website at: [www.mess.gouv.qc.ca/Index\\_en.asp](http://www.mess.gouv.qc.ca/Index_en.asp).

## STATISTICS

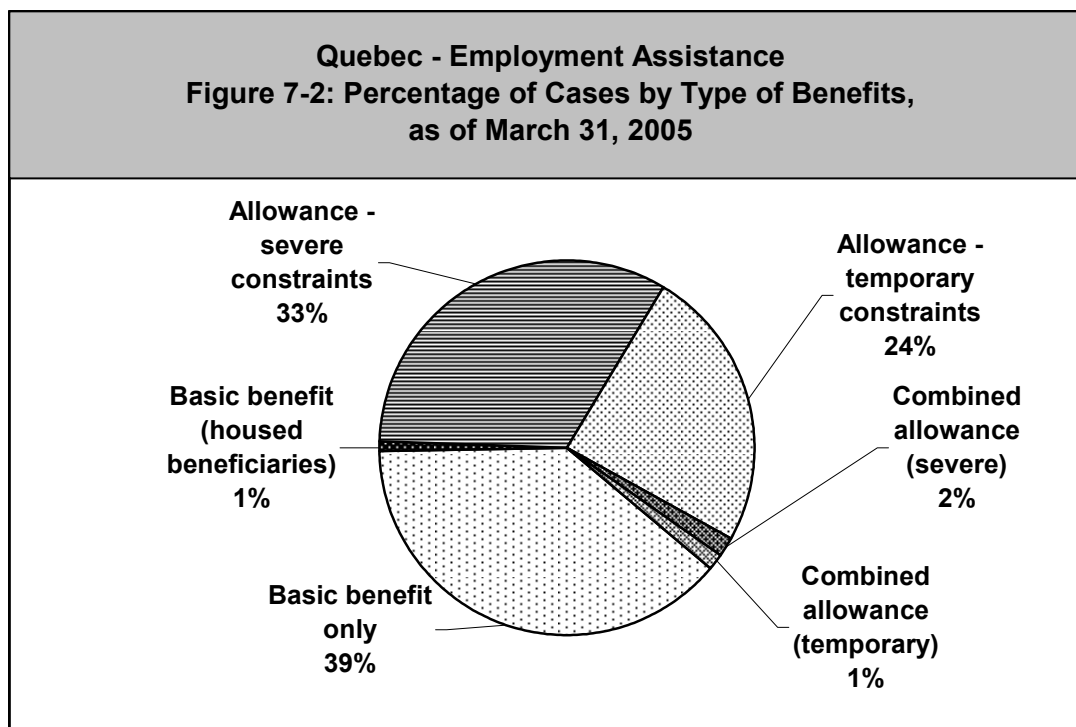
Recipients and Cases<sup>7</sup>

**Quebec - Employment Assistance**  
**Table 7-1: Number of Recipients and Cases**  
**as of March 31**  
**1994 to 2005**

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
<b>Recipients</b>	787,200	802,200	813,200	793,300	725,700	661,300
<b>Cases</b>	472,900	479,400	483,100	470,400	439,300	410,600
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Recipients</b>	618,900	576,600	560,800	544,200	532,200	518,200
<b>Cases</b>	391,900	371,300	365,600	359,300	354,600	348,700

<sup>7</sup> In Quebec, statistics are reported under the heading of “*ménages prestataire*”, i.e. household. As the concept is the same as the one used for “cases” in other jurisdictions, the latter is used throughout the English version as an equivalent.

## Cases by Type of Benefit



Quebec - Employment Assistance		
Table 7-2: Number and Percentage of Cases by Type of Benefits, as of March 31, 2005		
Type de prestations	2005	%
Basic benefit only <sup>a</sup>	134,400	39%
Basic benefit (housed beneficiaries) <sup>b</sup>	3,700	1%
Allowance - severe constraints <sup>c</sup>	115,200	33%
Allowance - temporary constraints <sup>d</sup>	84,700	24%
Combined allowance (severe) <sup>e</sup>	6,500	2%
Combined allowance (temporary) <sup>f</sup>	4,200	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>348,700</b>	<b>100%</b>

a. "Basic benefit only": Basic amount applicable to a single adult or a couple.

b. "Basic benefit (housed beneficiaries)": Basic amount applicable to a housed adult admitted to a home-care centre, reception centre, general hospital, rehabilitation centre, as well as to a former inmate housed in a recognized institution for the purpose of his/her social rehabilitation.

The following benefits include an amount added to the basic benefit:

c. "Allowance - severe constraints ": Where a single adult/adult member of the family is subject to severe employment constraints due to a significant physical or mental impairment, and is unable to support him/herself

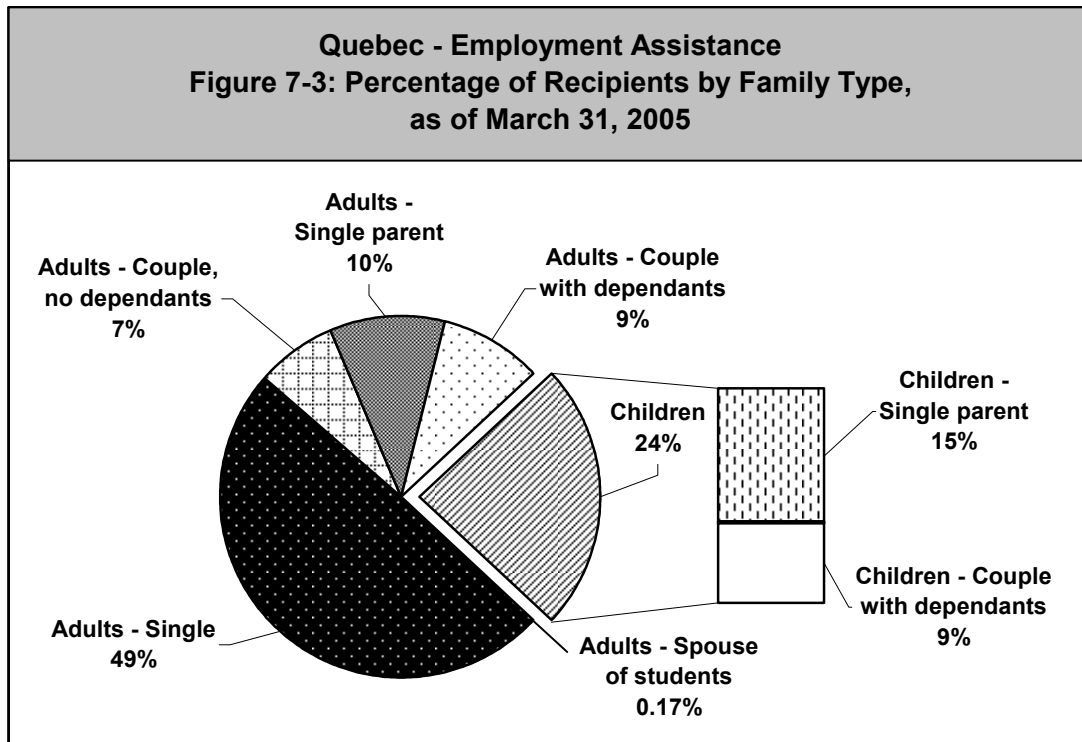
d. "Allowance - temporary constraints": Where a single adult/adult member of the family is subject to temporary employment constraints.

e. "Combined allowance (severe)": Where at least one of the two adults in the household is subject to a severe employment constraint and the other adult to a severe or temporary employment constraint.

f. "Combined allowance (temporary)": Where both adults in the household are subject to temporary employment constraints.

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

## Recipients by Family Type

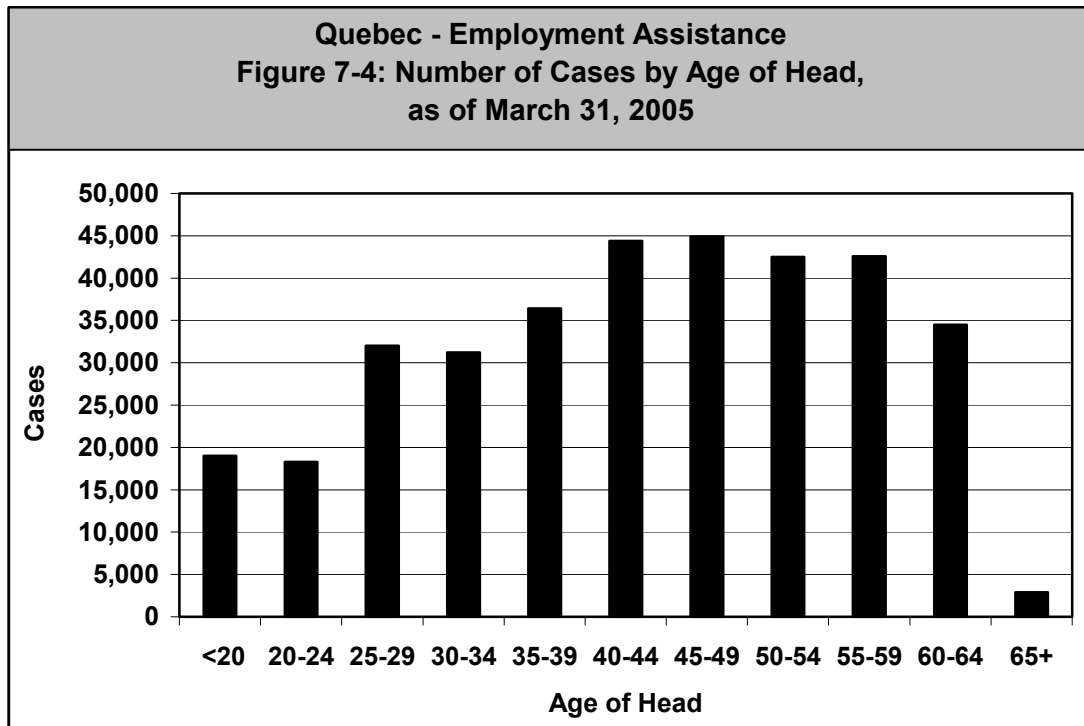


Quebec - Employment Assistance		
Table 7-3: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type, as of March 31, 2005		
Family Type	2005	%
Adults - Single	256,200	49%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	37,300	7%
Adults - Single parent	50,200	10%
Adults - Couple with dependants	45,400	9%
Adults - Spouse of students <sup>a</sup>	900	0.17%
<b>Total adults</b>	<b>390,100</b>	
Children - Single parent	80,800	15%
Children - Couple with dependants	47,300	9%
<b>Total children (24%)</b>	<b>128,100</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>518,200</b>	<b>100%</b>

a. "Spouse of students": An adult whose spouse is studying full-time at the post-secondary level and is receiving benefits from the financial assistance program of the Ministry of Education. This category includes adults only, since the needs of the children of either spouse are met by the student spouse.

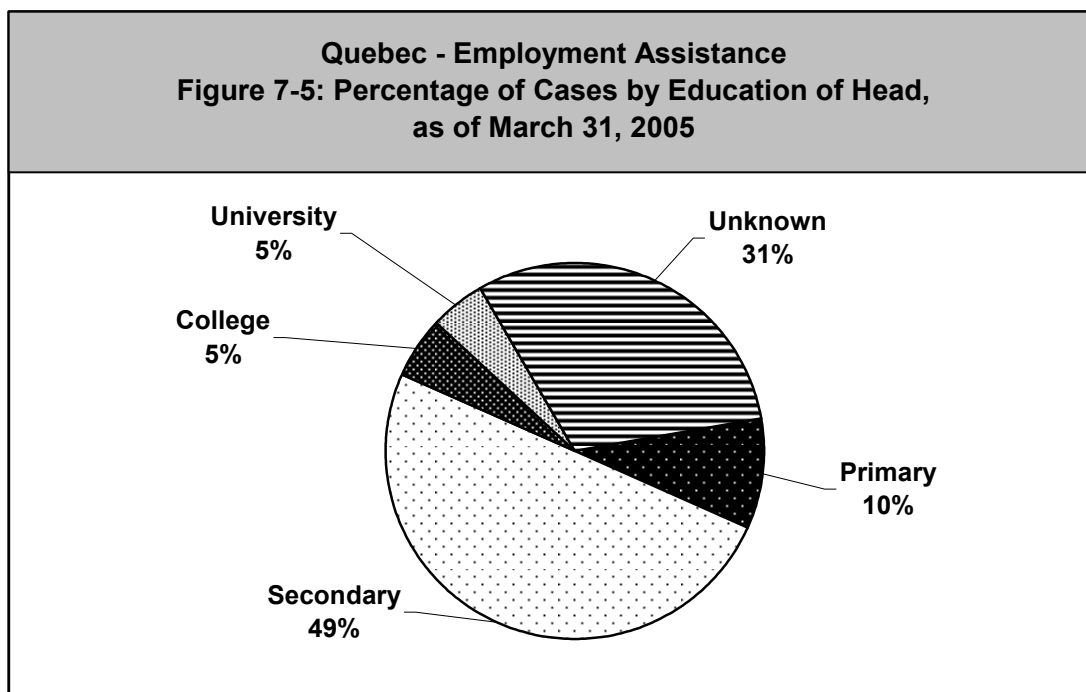
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

## Cases by Age of Head



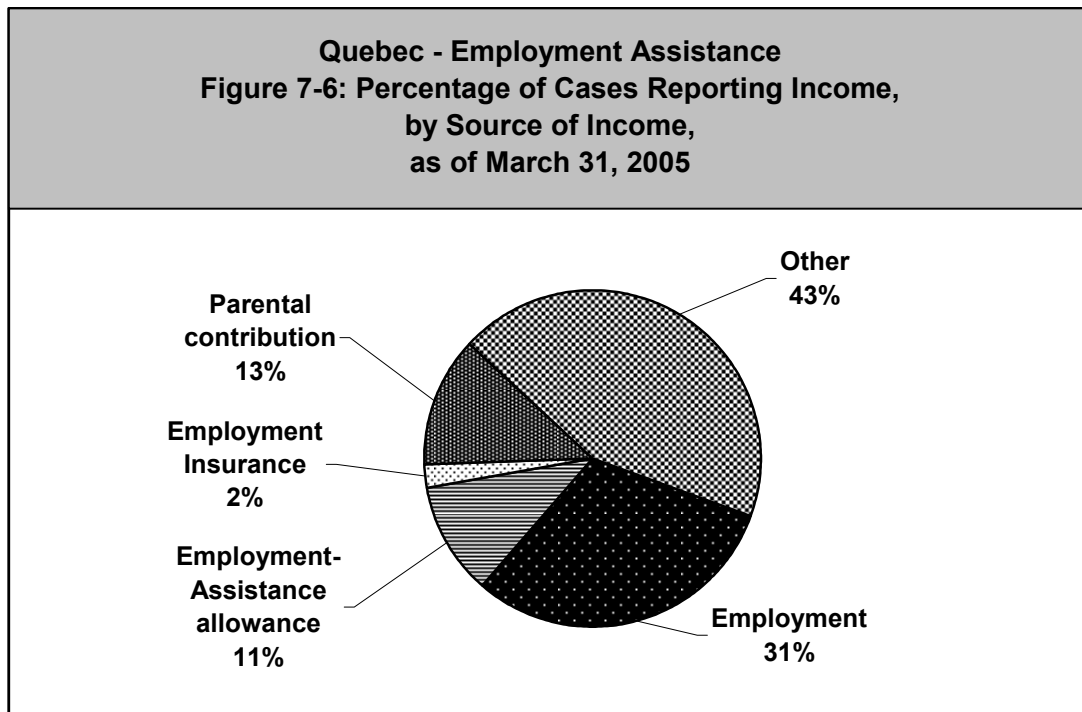
Quebec - Employment Assistance Table 7-4: Number of Cases by Age of Head, as of March 31, 2005	
Age of Head	2005
<20	19,000
20-24	18,300
25-29	32,000
30-34	31,200
35-39	36,400
40-44	44,400
45-49	44,900
50-54	42,500
55-59	42,600
60-64	34,500
65+	2,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>348,700</b>
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

## Cases by Education of Head



Quebec - Employment Assistance Table 7-5: Number and Percentage of Cases by Education of Head, as of March 31, 2005		
Education of Head <sup>a</sup>	2005	%
Primary	33,400	10%
Secondary	173,600	49%
College	18,500	5%
University	16,700	5%
Unknown	106,600	31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>348,700</b>	<b>100%</b>
a. Education is defined as the level of education attained as of the date of application. Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.		

## Recipients Reporting Income, by Source of Income



Quebec - Employment Assistance		
Table 7-6: Number and Percentage of Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income, as of March 31, 2005		
Source of income	2005	%
Employment	34,100	31%
Employment-Assistance allowance	12,100	11%
Employment Insurance	2,300	2%
Parental contribution	13,900	13%
Other <sup>a</sup>	48,400	43%
<b>Total<sup>b</sup> (includes double-counting)</b>	<b>110,800</b>	<b>100%</b>

a. "Other" includes salary grants and other sources of income.

b. Total cases in these categories may include double-counting, since cases that have more than one source of income are counted for each source reported. Percentages were calculated based on 110,800 observations.

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.



## **Chapter 8 – Ontario**

### **A - Ontario Works**

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

---

##### **Overview**

In Ontario, the provincial social assistance program is known as Ontario Works. The *Ontario Works Act, 1997*, and the Ontario Works Regulations govern the Ontario Works program.

Ontario Works provides basic benefits to both adults and children.

Social assistance for persons with severe disabilities is provided through the Ontario Disability Support Program (see p. 83).

##### **Service Delivery**

Under Ontario Works legislation, delivery agents are designated for a geographical area. Ontario Works delivery agents include 47 Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) and District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs) and 109 First Nations who deliver the program across the province.

##### **Eligibility**

###### **General**

In order to be eligible for Ontario Works, applicants must meet the general eligibility requirements outlined in the “Social Assistance Overview” in this report.

###### **Liquid Assets**

At the time of application for Ontario Works, applicants’ liquid assets may not exceed the following allowable limits.

Ontario - Ontario Works - Liquid Asset Exemptions March 2005	
Single	\$536
Single-Parent Family	\$1,487 plus \$500 for each additional dependant
Childless Couple	\$929
Two-Parent Family	\$1,562 plus \$500 for each additional dependant

## Earnings Exemptions

Once an application for assistance has been approved, Ontario Works clients are eligible for the following monthly exemptions on earned income:

Ontario - Ontario Works - Earnings Exemptions March 2005		
Number of Adults	Number of Children	Earnings Exemptions
1	0	\$143
1	1	\$275
1	2	\$321
1	3	\$372
2	0	\$249
2	1	\$295
2	2	\$346
2	3	\$397

## Benefits

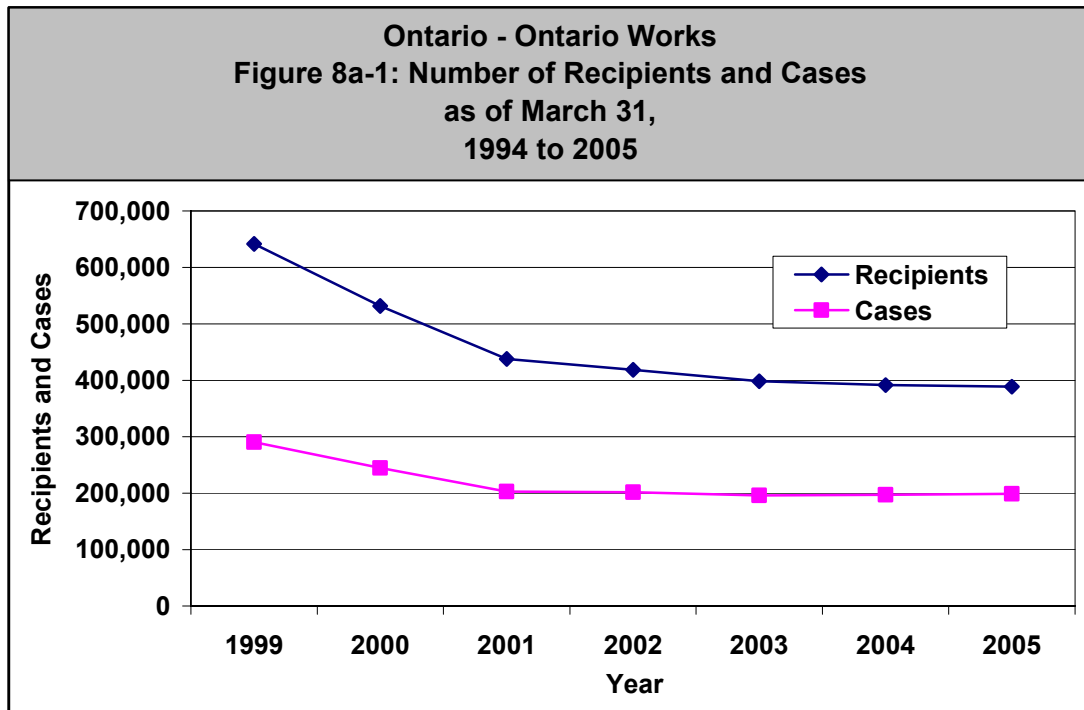
Basic assistance consists of a basic needs allowance and a shelter allowance. The basic needs allowance covers the cost of food, clothing, and personal needs. Maximum basic needs allowance rates are based on the presence of a spouse, the number of members in the unit, and the ages of the children in the unit. Maximum shelter allowance rates are based on the number of persons (including children) in the unit.

## More Information

For more information, please consult the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services website at: [www.cfcs.gov.on.ca/CFCS/en/default.htm](http://www.cfcs.gov.on.ca/CFCS/en/default.htm).

## STATISTICS

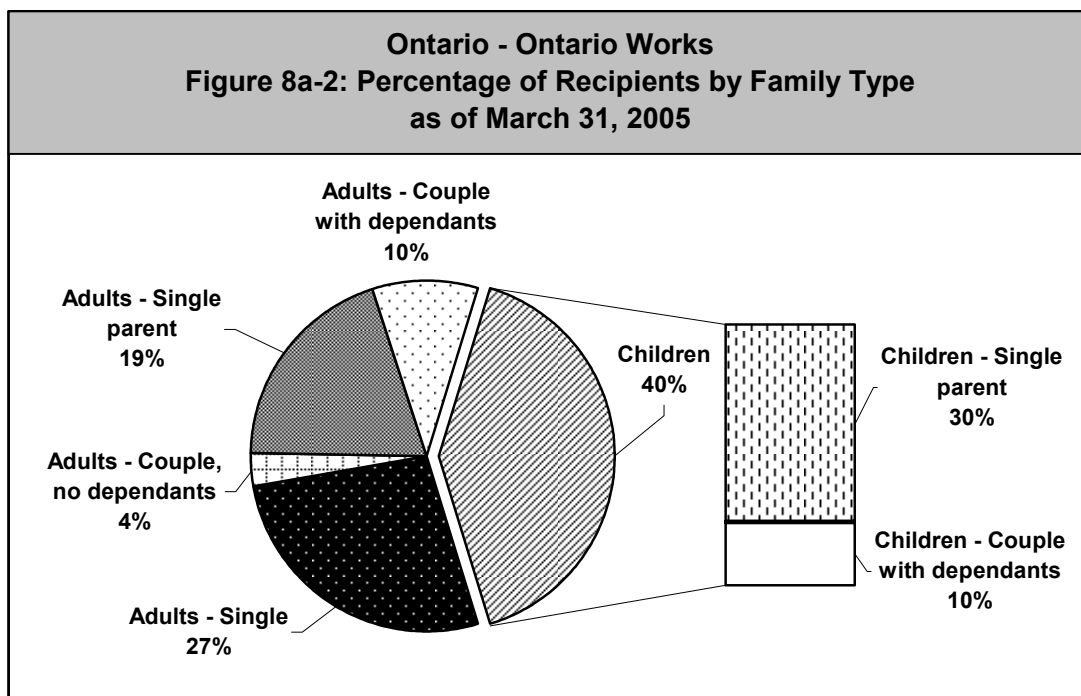
### Recipients and Cases



**Ontario - Ontario Works**  
**Table 8a-1: Number of Recipients and Cases**  
**as of March 31**  
**1999 to 2005**

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Recipients</b>	642,000	531,500	437,600	418,400	398,200	391,300	388,700
<b>Cases</b>	290,500	244,500	202,600	201,700	195,900	196,900	199,000

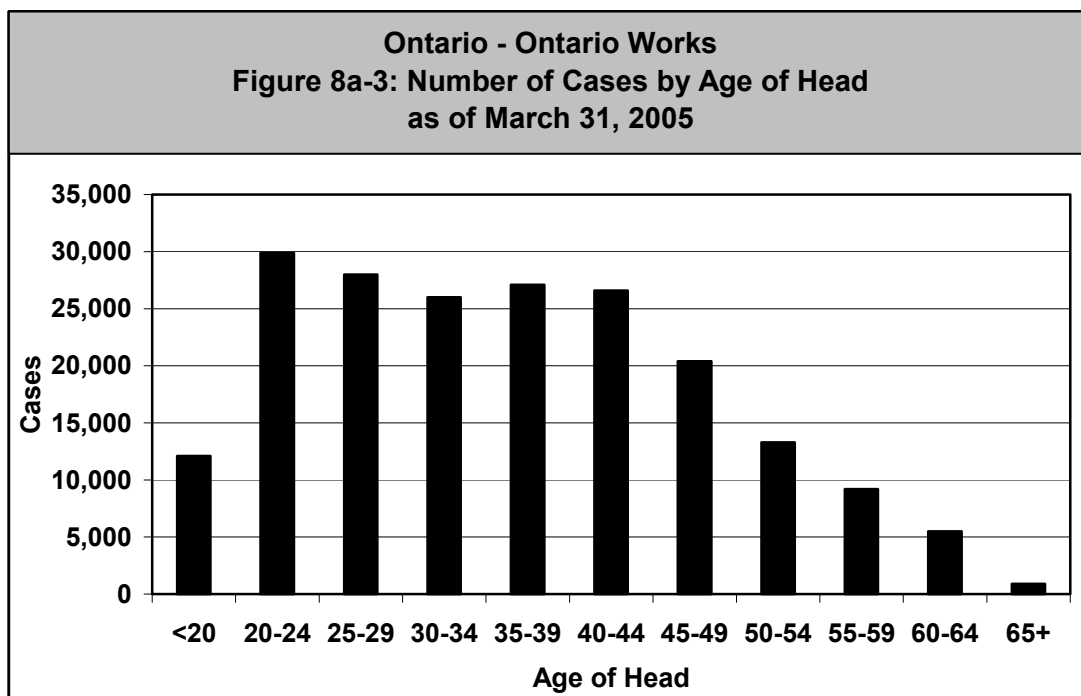
## Recipients by Family Type



Ontario - Ontario Works			
Table 8a-2: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type as of March 31, 2005			
Family Type		2005	%
<b>Adults</b>			
Single	Cases	104,800	27%
Couple, no dependants	Cases	5,900	4%
	Spouses	5,900	
Single parent	Cases	70,800	19%
	Dependants 18 and over <sup>a</sup>	6,500	
Couple with dependants	Cases	17,600	10%
	Spouses	17,600	
	Dependants 18 and over <sup>a</sup>	2,400	
<b>Total Adults</b>		<b>231,300</b>	
<b>Children</b>			
Single parent	Children under 18	119,600	30%
Couple with dependants	Children under 18	37,800	10%
<b>Total Children (40%)</b>		<b>157,400</b>	
<b>Total Recipients</b>		<b>388,700</b>	<b>100%</b>

a. "Dependants 18 and over" are categorized as dependent adults, other than spouses.  
 Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

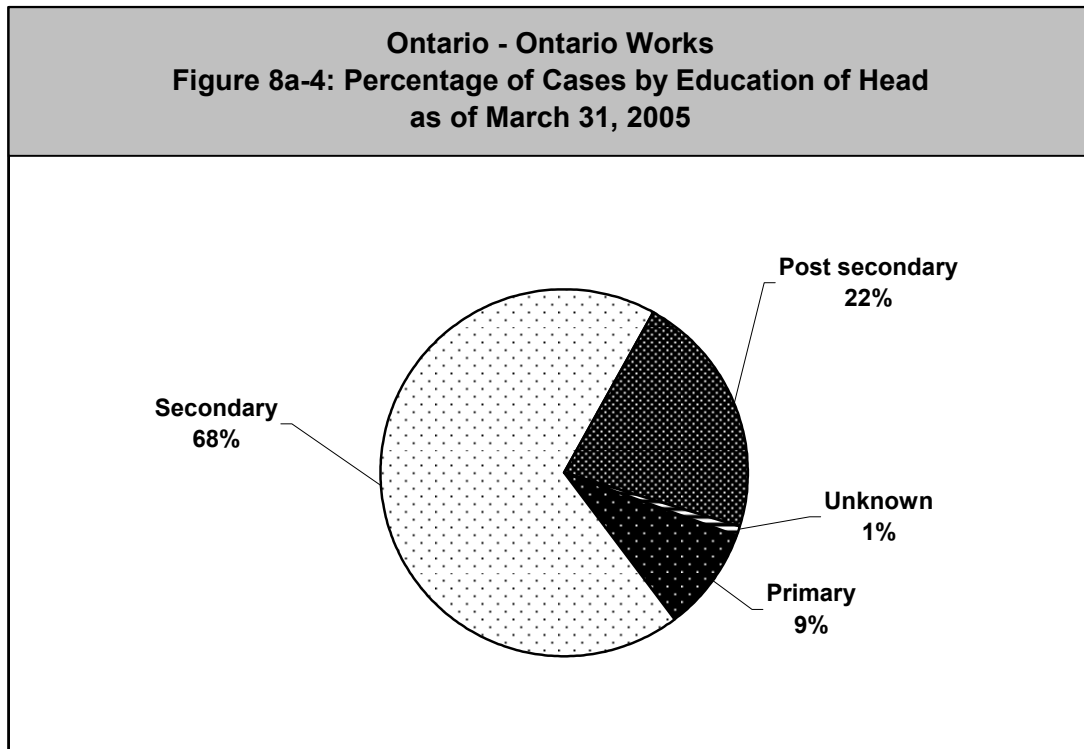
## Cases by Age of Head



Ontario - Ontario Works	
Table 8a-3: Number of Cases by Age of Head as of March 31, 2005.	
Age of Head	2005
<20	12,100
20-24	29,900
25-29	28,000
30-34	26,000
35-39	27,100
40-44	26,600
45-49	20,400
50-54	13,300
55-59	9,200
60-64	5,500
65+	900
<b>Total</b>	<b>199,000</b>

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

## Cases by Education of Head

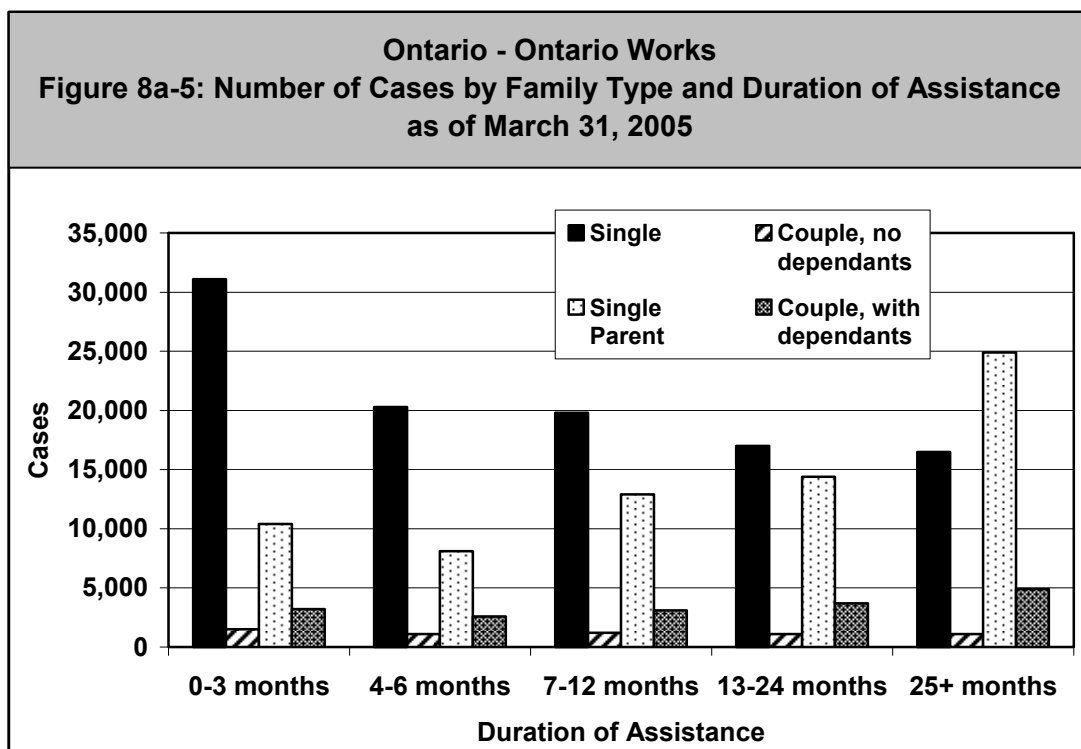


**Ontario - Ontario Works**  
**Table 8a-4: Number and Percentage of Cases by Education of Head**  
**as of March 31, 2005**

Education of Head	2005	%
Primary	18,300	9%
Secondary	135,900	68%
Post secondary	43,000	22%
Unknown	1,700	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>199,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

## Cases by Family Type and Duration of Assistance



**Ontario - Ontario Works**  
**Table 8a-5: Number of Cases by Family Type and Duration of Assistance <sup>a</sup>**  
 as of March 31, 2005

Duration of Assistance	Family Type				Total
	Single	Couple, no dependants	Single Parent	Couple, with dependants	
0-3 months	31,100	1,500	10,400	3,200	48,300
4-6 months	20,300	1,100	8,100	2,600	32,100
7-12 months	19,800	1,200	12,900	3,100	37,000
13-24 months	17,000	1,100	14,400	3,700	36,100
25+ months	16,500	1,100	24,900	4,900	47,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>104,800</b>	<b>5,900</b>	<b>70,800</b>	<b>17,600</b>	<b>199,000</b>

a. Data for number of cases by reason for assistance not available.  
 Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.





## B - Ontario Disability Support Program

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

---

#### Overview

In Ontario, the provincial social assistance program for persons with disabilities is known as the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). The *Ontario Disability Support Program Act* and its Regulations govern the program.

Ontario Disability Support Program provides income support and benefits, including health-related benefits, to people with disabilities and their families who are in financial need. It also provides employment supports on a voluntary basis.

#### Service Delivery

The Ministry of Community and Social Services is responsible for the delivery of Ontario Disability Support Program through a network of nine regional offices located throughout the province.

#### Eligibility

##### General

In order to be eligible for the Ontario Disability Support Program, applicants must meet the general eligibility requirements outlined in the “Social Assistance Overview” in this report.

##### Liquid Assets

At the time of application for the Ontario Disability Support Program, applicants’ liquid assets may not exceed the following allowable limits.

Ontario - Ontario Disability Support Program Liquid Asset Exemptions March 2005	
Single	\$5,000
Couple	\$7,500 plus \$500 for each additional dependant

## **Earnings Exemptions**

Once an application for assistance has been approved, Ontario Disability Support Program clients are eligible for the following monthly exemptions on earned income:

<b>Ontario - Ontario Disability Support Program Earnings Exemptions March 2005</b>	
<b>Clients with Disabilities</b>	
<b>Single</b>	\$160 plus 25% of the net remainder
<b>Family</b>	\$235 plus 25% of the net remainder

The Ontario Disability Support Program earnings exemptions are applied to net employment earnings for the purpose of reducing chargeable income in order to encourage recipients to pursue employment as a means of self-sufficiency.

## **Benefits**

Services provided through the Ontario Disability Support Program can be categorized as either income support (basic assistance) or employment supports.

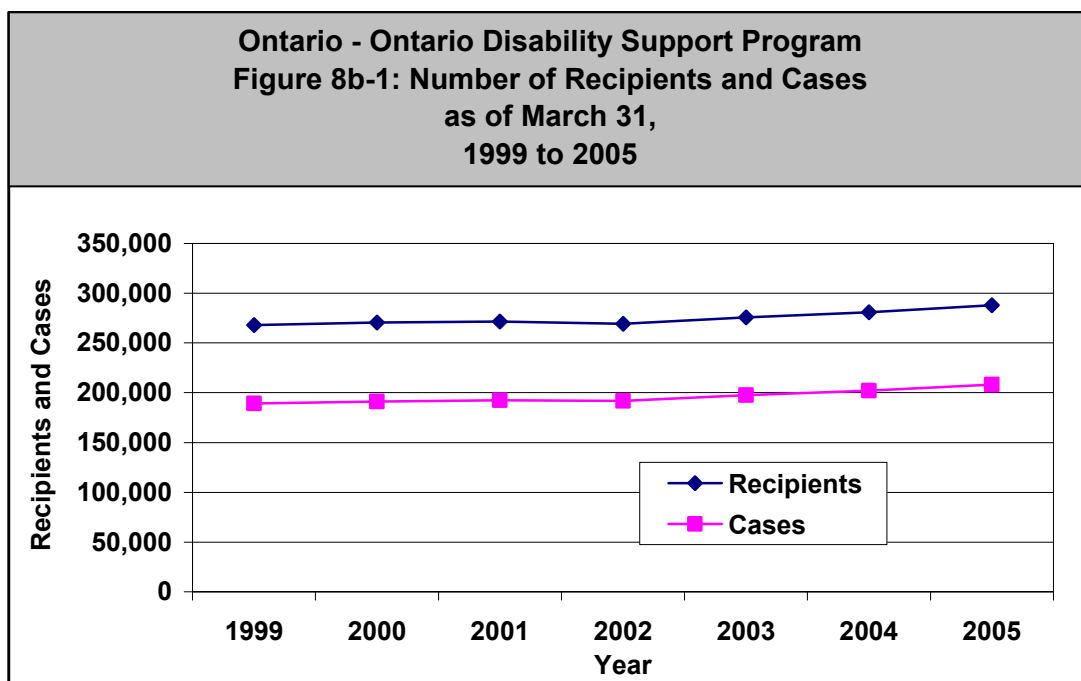
Basic assistance consists of a basic needs amount and a shelter allowance. The basic needs cover the cost of food, clothing, transportation, personal and non-shelter needs. Maximum basic needs rates are based on the number of members in the benefit unit, the ages of the children in the unit, and the unit's geographical location. Maximum shelter allowance rates are based on the number of people in the benefit unit.

## **More Information**

For more information, please consult the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services website at: [www.mcscs.gov.on.ca/CFCS/en/default.htm](http://www.mcscs.gov.on.ca/CFCS/en/default.htm).

## STATISTICS

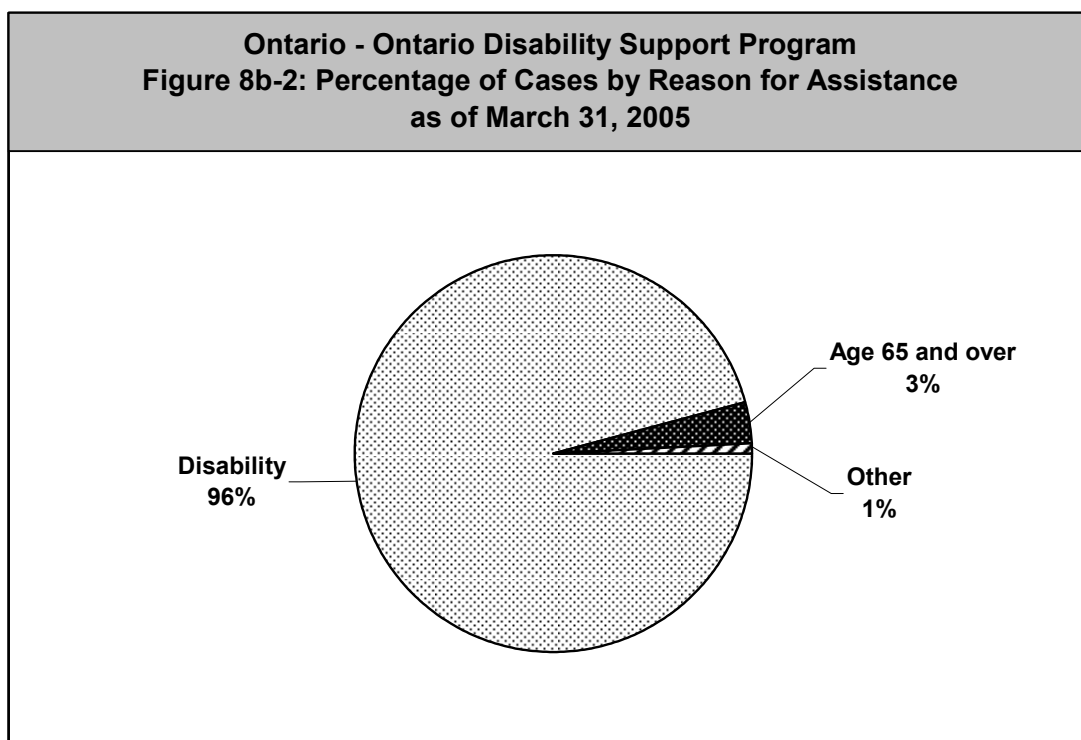
### Recipients and Cases



**Ontario - Ontario Disability Support Program**  
**Table 8b-1: Number of Recipients and Cases**  
**as of March 31**  
**1999 to 2005**

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Recipients</b>	268,100	270,600	271,600	269,200	275,700	280,700	287,800
<b>Cases</b>	189,100	191,300	192,300	191,700	197,500	202,200	208,100

## Cases by Reason of Assistance



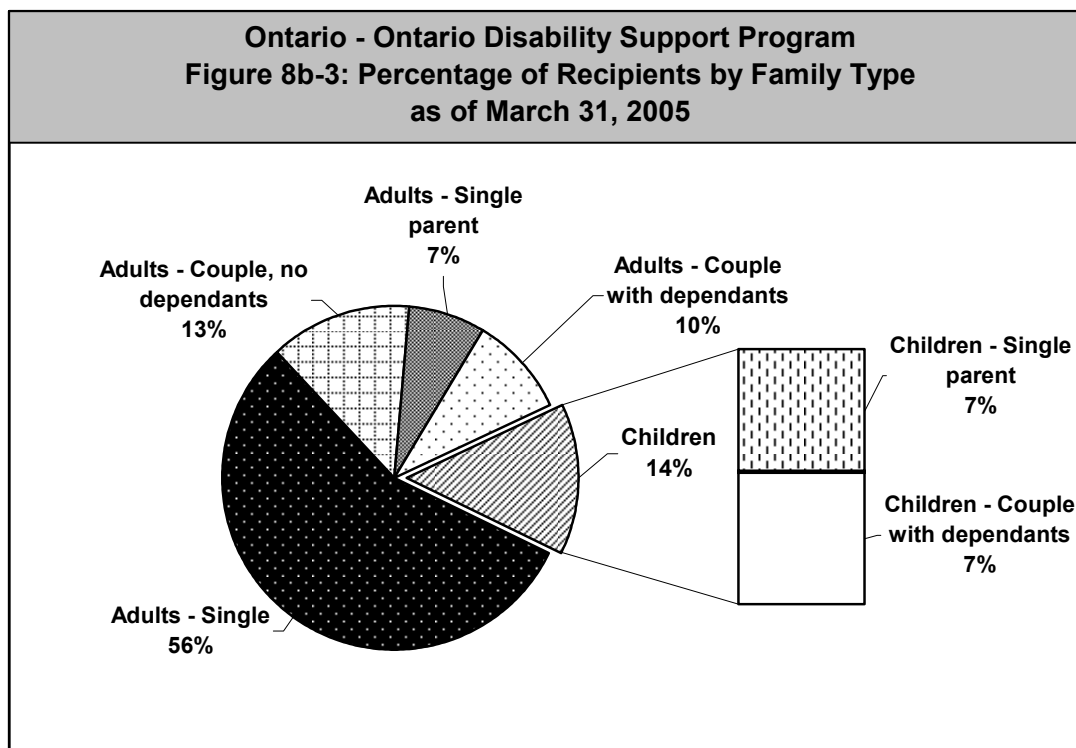
**Ontario - Ontario Disability Support Program**  
**Table 8b-2: Number and Percentage of Cases**  
**by Reason for Assistance**  
as of March 31, 2005

Reason for Assistance	2005	%
Disability <sup>a</sup>	199,400	96%
Age 65 and over	7,100	3%
Other	1,500	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>208,100</b>	<b>100%</b>

a. "Disability" is defined as a substantial physical or mental impairment that is continuous or recurrent and expected to last one year or more. The impairment must substantially restrict the person in one or more activities of daily living.

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

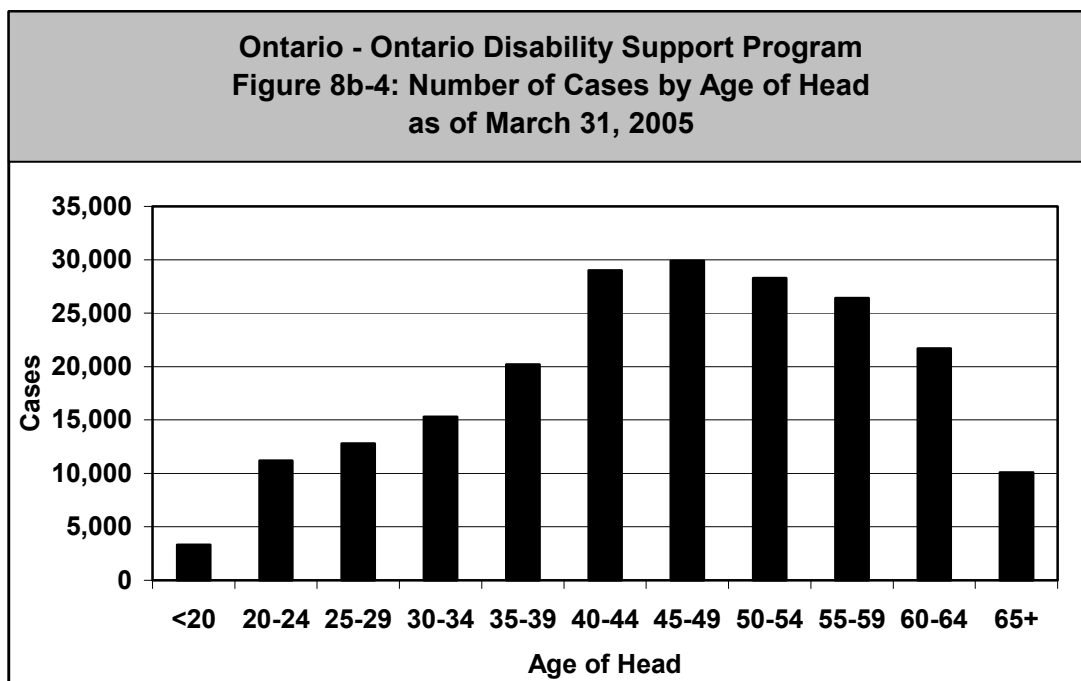
## Recipients by Family Type



Ontario - Ontario Disability Support Program			
Table 8b-3: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type as of March 31, 2005			
Family Type		2005	%
<b>Adults</b>			
Single	Cases	160,400	56%
Couple, no dependants	Cases	19,400	13%
	Spouses	19,400	
Single parent	Cases	16,100	7%
	Dependants 18 and over <sup>a</sup>	4,000	
Couple with dependants	Cases	12,100	10%
	Spouses	12,100	
	Dependants 18 and over <sup>a</sup>	3,200	
<b>Total Adults</b>		<b>246,800</b>	
<b>Children</b>			
Single parent	Children under 18	19,900	7%
Couple with dependants	Children under 18	21,000	7%
<b>Total Children (14%)</b>		<b>40,900</b>	
<b>Total Recipients</b>		<b>287,800</b>	<b>100%</b>

a. "Dependants 18 and over" are categorized as dependent adults, other than spouses.  
 Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

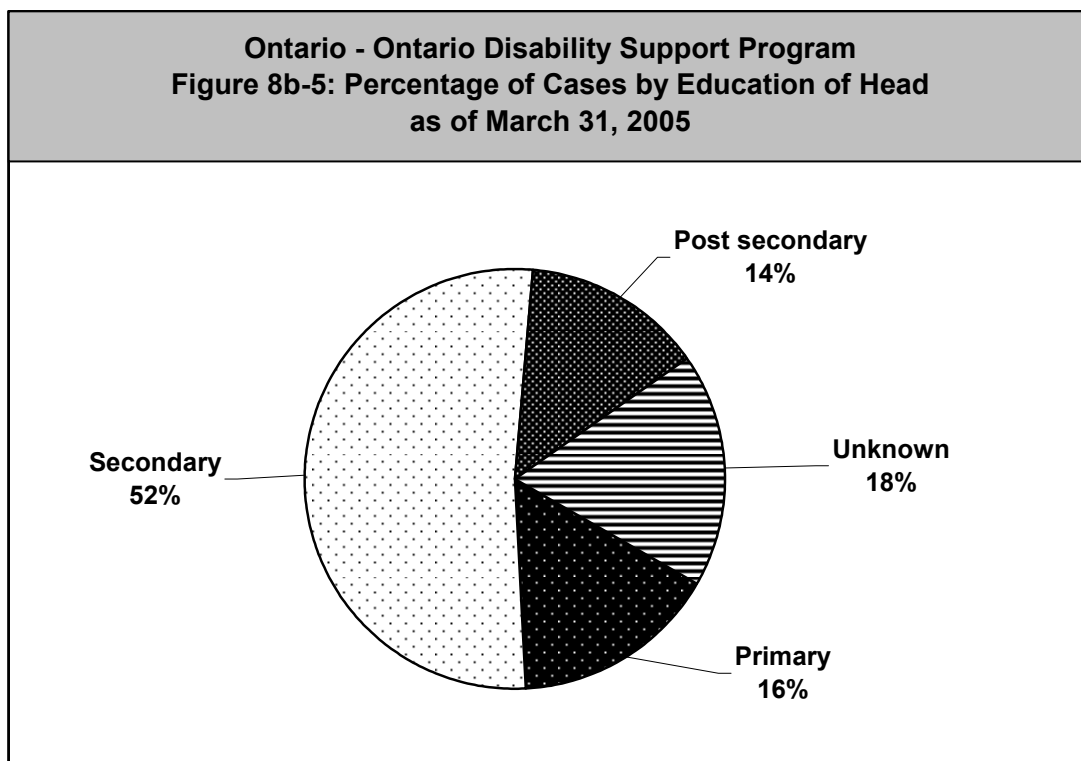
## Cases by Age of Head



Ontario - Ontario Disability Support Program Table 8b-4: Number of Cases by Age of Head as of March 31, 2005	
Age of Head	2005
<20	3,300
20-24	11,200
25-29	12,800
30-34	15,300
35-39	20,200
40-44	29,000
45-49	29,900
50-54	28,300
55-59	26,400
60-64	21,700
65+	10,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>208,100</b>

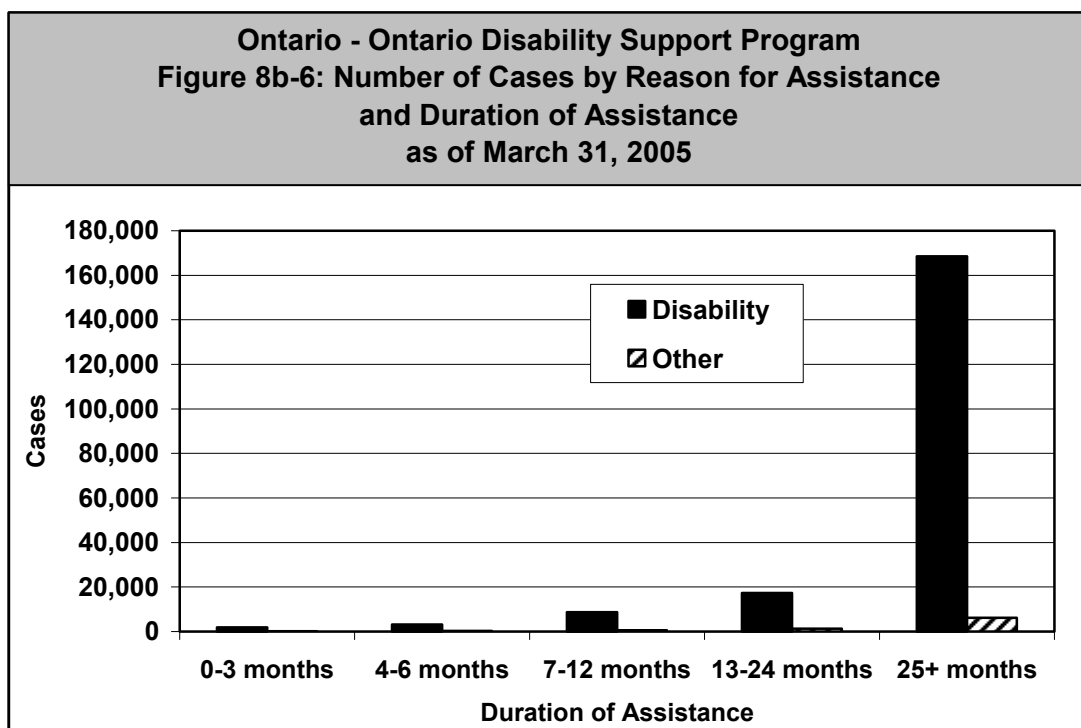
*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

## Cases by Education of Head



Ontario - Ontario Disability Support Program		
Table 8b-5: Number and Percentage of Cases by Education of Head		
as of March 31, 2005		
Education of Head <sup>a</sup>	2005	%
Primary	33,000	16%
Secondary	108,900	52%
Post secondary	28,800	14%
Unknown	37,400	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>208,100</b>	<b>100%</b>
a. Education is defined as level of education attained as of date of application.		
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.		

## Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance



Ontario - Ontario Disability Support Program			
Table 8b-6: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance as of March 31, 2005			
Duration by Reason <sup>a</sup>	Reason for Assistance		
	Disability	Other <sup>b</sup>	Total
0-3 months	1,800	200	2,000
4-6 months	3,100	300	3,400
7-12 months	8,700	600	9,300
13-24 months	17,300	1,300	18,500
25+ months	168,600	6,200	174,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>199,400</b>	<b>8,600</b>	<b>208,100</b>

a. "Duration of assistance" measures length of current spell only.  
b. "Other" includes rehabilitated, age 65 and over and other.  
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.



## **Chapter 9 – Manitoba**

### **Employment and Income Assistance**

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

---

##### **Overview**

In Manitoba, the provincial social assistance program is known as Employment and Income Assistance (EIA). The *Employment and Income Assistance Act* and its Regulation govern Manitoba's Employment and Income Assistance program.

Employment and Income Assistance provides basic benefits to both adults and children.

##### **Service Delivery**

The Department of Family Services and Housing is responsible for the delivery of the Employment and Income Assistance program to adults and children within the province.

##### **Eligibility**

###### **General**

In order to be eligible for the Employment and Income Assistance program, applicants must meet the general eligibility requirements outlined in the "Social Assistance Overview" in this report.

###### **Liquid Assets**

Employable clients are not allowed liquid assets at application, but are allowed the following levels after enrolment. Other clients are allowed the following liquid assets at the time of application and after enrolment.

<b>Manitoba - Liquid Asset Exemptions March 2005</b>			
	<b>Disabilities</b>	<b>Employable</b>	<b>Other<sup>a</sup></b>
<b>Single</b>	\$2,000	\$400	\$1,000
<b>Childless Couple</b>	\$3,000	\$800	\$2,000
<b>Two-Parent Family</b>	\$3,000 plus \$500 for each dependent child up to a maximum of \$4,000.	\$800 plus \$400 for each dependent child up to a maximum of \$2,000.	\$2,000 plus \$500 for each dependent child up to a maximum of \$3,000.
a. Includes single parents and aged persons.			

## Earnings Exemptions

Employment and Income Assistance program clients are eligible for the following monthly exemptions on earned income:<sup>8</sup>

<b>Manitoba - Earnings Exemptions<sup>a</sup> March 2005</b>			
<b>Clients without Disabilities<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Clients with Disabilities<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>Single Parents without Disabilities</b>	<b>Single Parents with Disabilities</b>
\$100 plus 25% of the net remainder	\$100 plus 30% of the net remainder	\$115 plus 25% of the net remainder	\$115 plus 30% of the net remainder
a. Earnings exemptions apply to each employed person in the household. The earnings of children who are in full-time attendance at an approved educational institution are totally exempt.			
b. Able-bodied employable persons (general assistance)			
c. Persons with disabilities and aged persons who are not single parents.			

## Benefits

Basic assistance consists of a basic allowance and a shelter allowance. The basic allowance covers the cost of food and clothing, as well as personal and household needs. Maximum basic allowance rates are based on the household's composition, as well as the number of children in the household and their ages. Maximum shelter allowance rates are based on the number of persons in the household (including children).

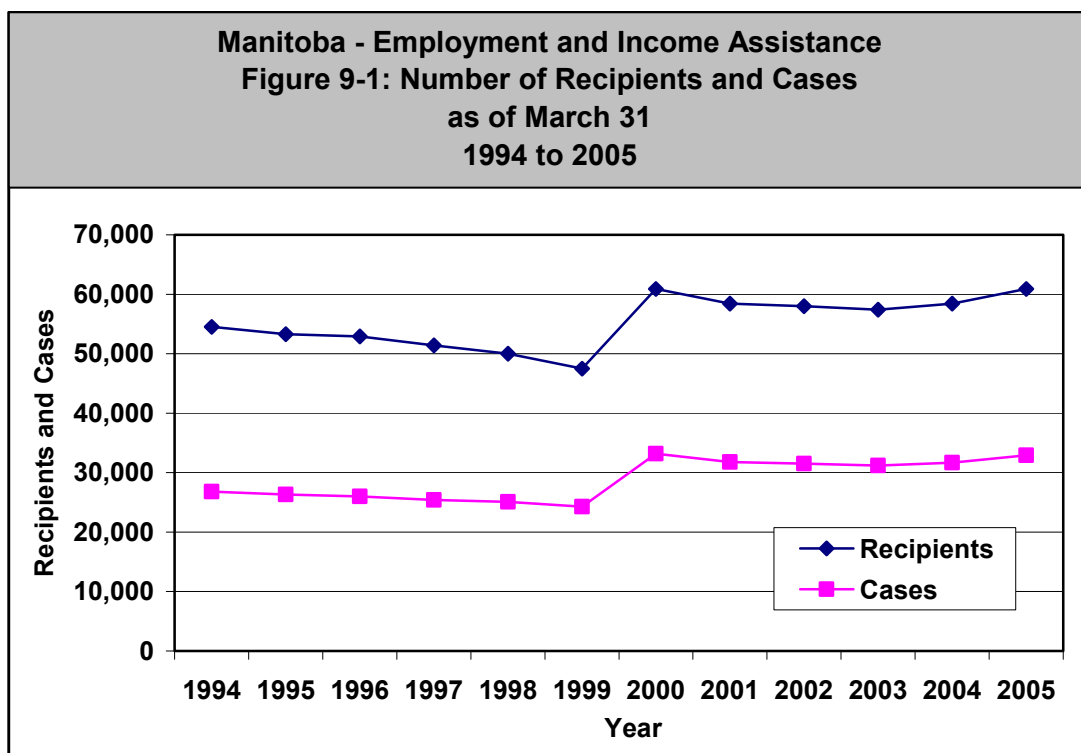
## More Information

For more information, please consult the Manitoba Department of Family Services and Housing website at: [www.gov.mb.ca/fs/](http://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/).

<sup>8</sup> Applicants and new clients are eligible only for the basic exemption (\$100 or \$115). Clients are eligible for the additional percentage after receiving Employment and Income Assistance for one month.

## STATISTICS

## Recipients and Cases

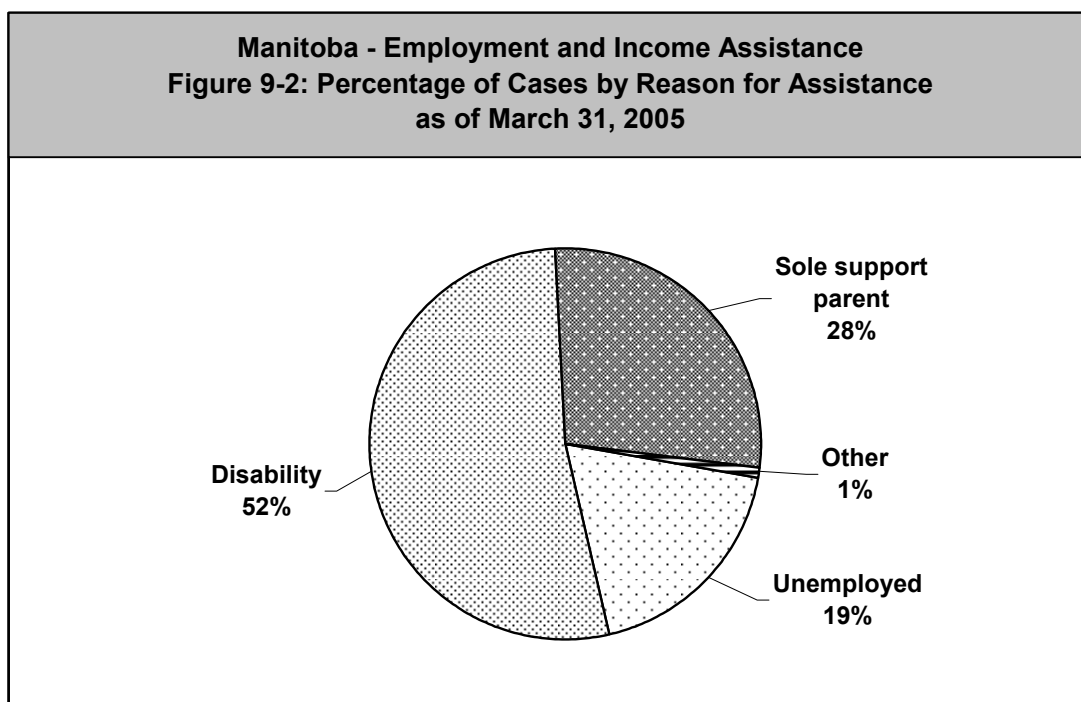


**Manitoba - Employment and Income Assistance**  
**Table 9-1: Number of Recipients and Cases**  
**as of March 31**  
**1994 to 2005 <sup>a</sup>**

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
<b>Recipients</b>	54,500	53,300	52,900	51,400	50,000	47,500
<b>Cases</b>	26,800	26,300	26,000	25,400	25,100	24,300
	2000 <sup>b</sup>	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 <sup>c</sup>
<b>Recipients</b>	60,900	58,400	58,000	57,400	58,400	60,900
<b>Cases</b>	33,200	31,800	31,500	31,200	31,700	32,900

a. Municipal program caseloads are not included in the above table.  
b. Effective April, 1999, the Province assumed responsibility for the delivery and administration of municipal assistance in the City of Winnipeg.  
c. Effective June 1, 2004, the Province assumed responsibility for the delivery and administration of municipal assistance in rural and northern Manitoba.

## Cases by Reason for Assistance



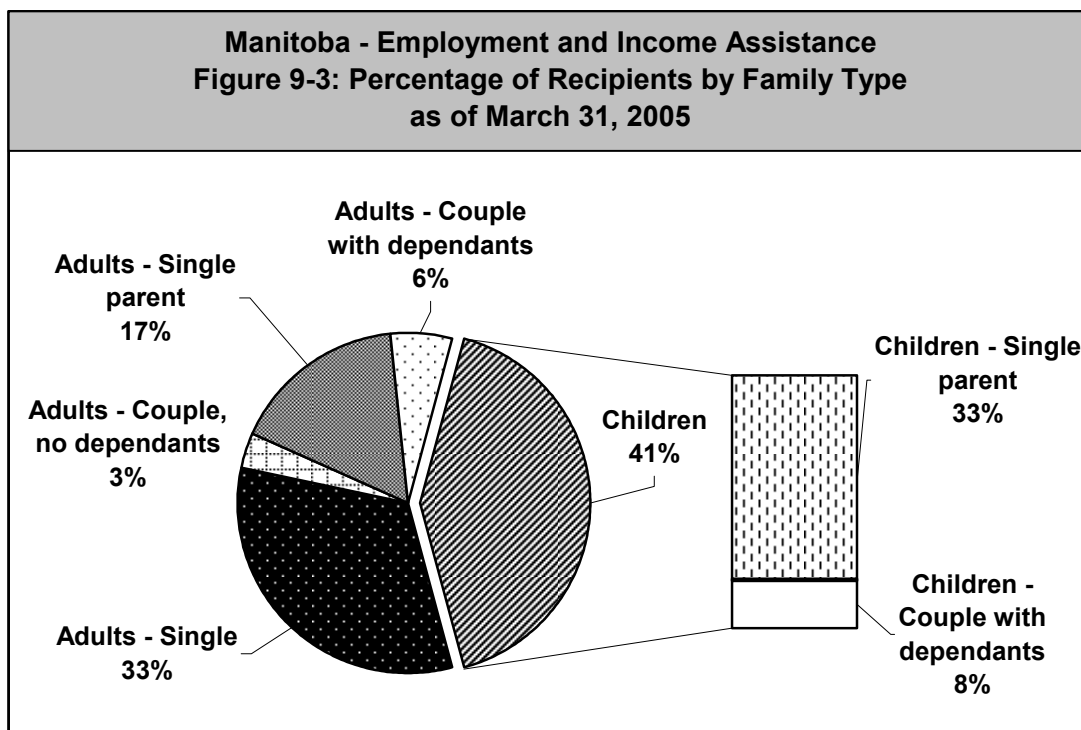
**Manitoba - Employment and Income Assistance**  
**Table 9-2: Number and Percentage of Cases**  
**by Reason for Assistance**  
as of March 31, 2005

Reason for Assistance	2005	%
Unemployed	6,100	19%
Disability	17,400	52%
Sole support parent	9,100	28%
Other <sup>a</sup>	300	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,900</b>	<b>100%</b>

a. "Other" includes aged, children under age 18 who head their own household, children whose parents are unable to support them and who live in a household not in receipt of income assistance, persons requiring the protection of a crisis facility, and persons granted eligibility as a special case under the discretion of the Minister.

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

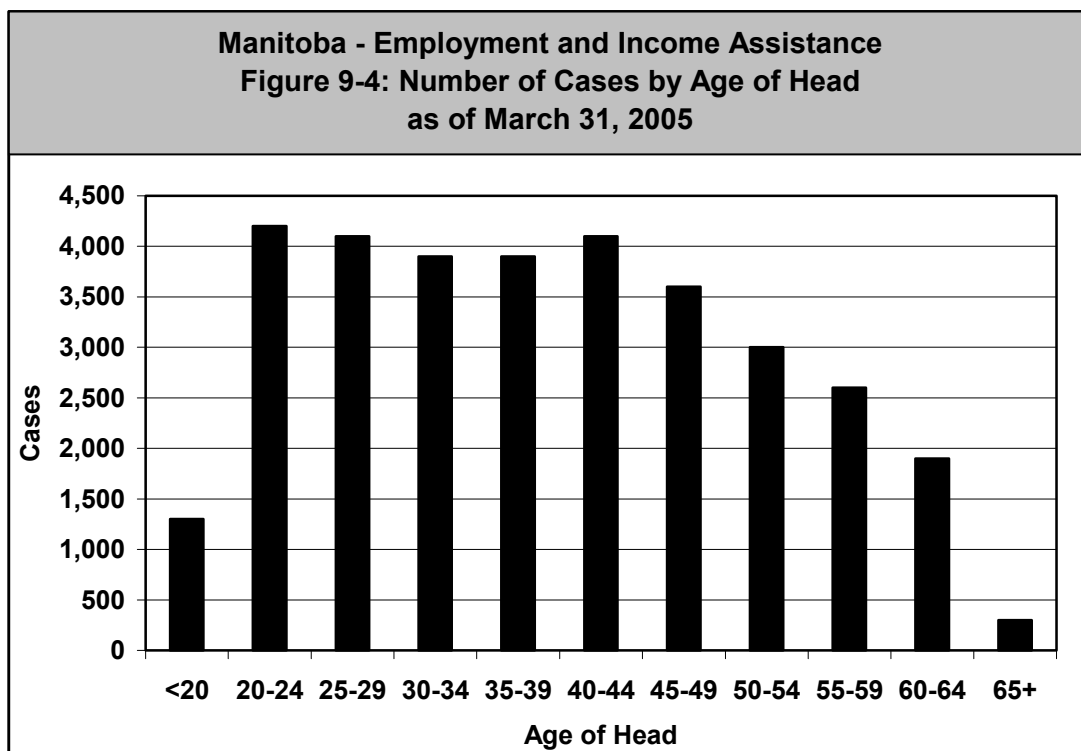
## Recipients by Family Type



Manitoba - Employment and Income Assistance		
Table 9-3: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type		
as of March 31, 2005		
Family Type	2005	%
Adults - Single	19,800	33%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	2,000	3%
Adults - Single parent	10,100	17%
Adults - Couple with dependants	3,500	6%
<b>Total Adults</b>	<b>35,400</b>	
Children - Single parent	20,700	33%
Children - Couple with dependants	4,700	8%
Children - Head of household <sup>a</sup>	100	
<b>Total Children (41%)</b>	<b>25,500</b>	
<b>Total Recipients</b>	<b>60,900</b>	<b>100%</b>

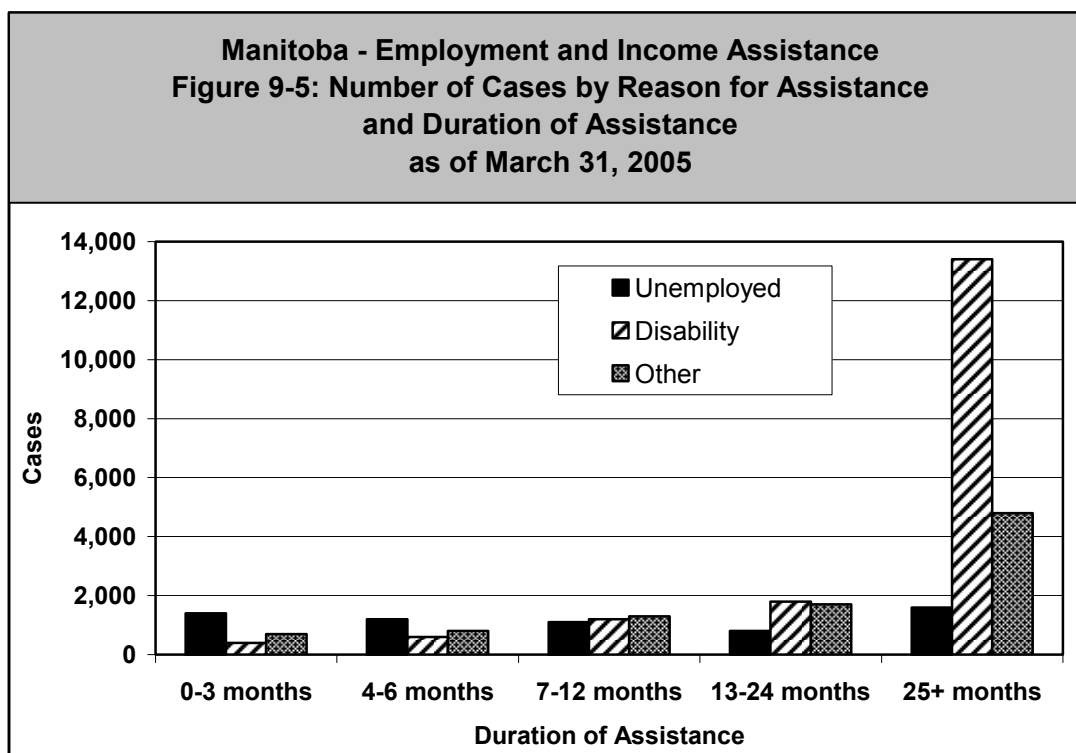
a. "Children - Head of household" includes children under age 18 who head their own household, as well as children whose parents are unable to support them and who live in a household not in receipt of income assistance.  
*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

## Cases by Age of Head



Manitoba - Employment and Income Assistance Table 9-4: Number of Cases by Age of Head as of March 31, 2005	
Age of Head	2005
<20	1,300
20-24	4,200
25-29	4,100
30-34	3,900
35-39	3,900
40-44	4,100
45-49	3,600
50-54	3,000
55-59	2,600
60-64	1,900
65+	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,900</b>
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

## Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance



**Manitoba - Employment and Income Assistance**  
**Table 9-5: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance**  
**and Duration of Assistance**  
**as of March 31, 2005**

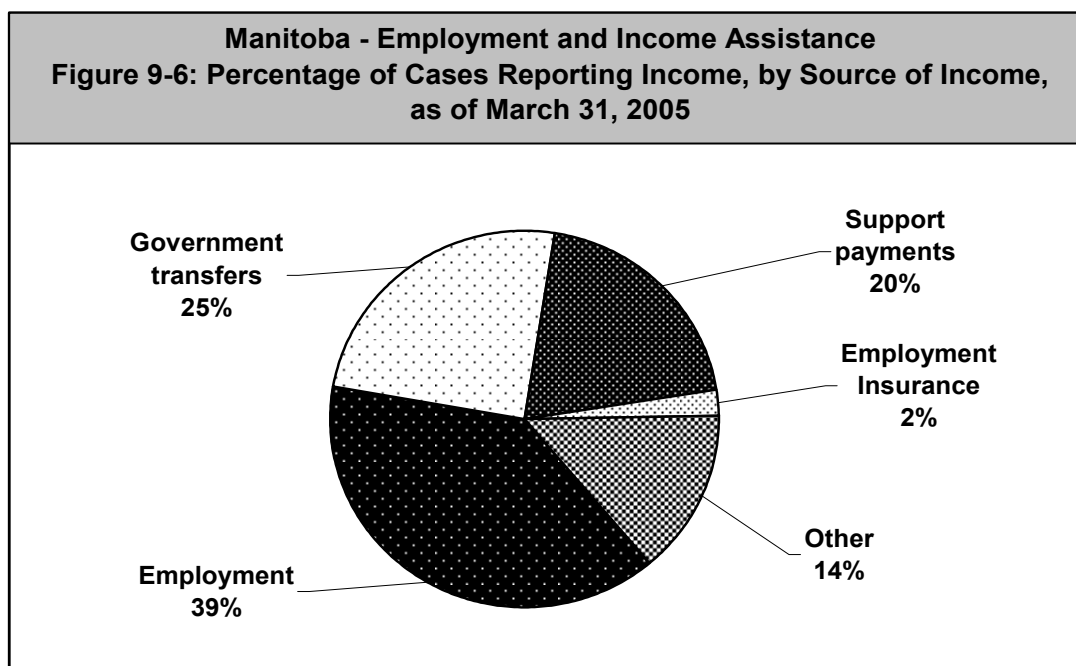
Duration by Reason <sup>a</sup>	Reason for Assistance			Total
	Unemployed	Disability	Other <sup>b</sup>	
0-3 months	1,400	400	700	2,500
4-6 months	1,200	600	800	2,600
7-12 months	1,100	1,200	1,300	3,600
13-24 months	800	1,800	1,700	4,200
25+ months	1,600	13,400	4,800	19,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,100</b>	<b>17,400</b>	<b>9,400</b>	<b>32,900</b>

a. "Duration of assistance" is based on the length of time since case last became active.

b. "Other" includes single parent, aged, children under age 18 who head their own household, children whose parents are unable to support them and who live in a household not in receipt of income assistance, persons requiring the protection of a crisis facility, and persons granted eligibility as a special case under the discretion of the Minister.

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

## Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income



**Manitoba - Employment and Income Assistance**  
**Table 9-6: Number and Percentage of Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income, as of March 31, 2005**

Source of Income	2005	%
Employment	3,300	39%
Government transfers	2,100	25%
Support payments <sup>a</sup>	1,700	20%
Employment Insurance	200	2%
Other <sup>b</sup>	1,200	14%
<b>Total <sup>c</sup> (includes double-counting)</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>100%</b>

a. "Support payments" do not include maintenance payments assigned directly to Employment and Income Assistance. There were an additional estimated 3,100 Employment and Income Assistance cases with maintenance payments in 2004/05 that are not reflected in the data.

b. "Other" includes training allowances and other income.

c. Total cases in these categories may include double-counting, since cases that have more than one source of income are counted for each source reported. Percentages were calculated based on 8,500 observations.

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

**Manitoba - Employment and Income Assistance**  
**Table 9-7: Number of Cases Reporting Income as of March 31, 2005**

Reporting Income	7,400
No Income	25,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,900</b>

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*



## **Chapter 10 – Saskatchewan**

### **Social Assistance Programs**

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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##### **Overview**

In Saskatchewan, the provincial social assistance programs are known as the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan (SAP) and the Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA). The *Saskatchewan Assistance Act*, and the Saskatchewan Assistance Regulations govern the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan. The *Saskatchewan Assistance Act* and the Transitional Employment Allowance Regulations govern the Transitional Employment Allowance.

The Saskatchewan Assistance Plan provides basic benefits to adults only. Children's basic benefits are provided through the Saskatchewan Child Benefit (see p. 101).

##### **Service Delivery**

The Department of Community Resources and Employment is responsible for the delivery of the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan to adults within the province.

##### **Eligibility**

###### **General**

In order to be eligible for the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan, applicants must meet the general eligibility requirements outlined in the "Social Assistance Overview" in this report.

###### **Liquid Assets**

At the time of application, applicants' liquid assets may not exceed the following allowable limits.

<b>Saskatchewan - Liquid Asset Exemptions March 2005</b>	
<b>Single</b>	\$1,500
<b>Family</b>	\$3,000 plus \$500 for each additional dependant

## **Earnings Exemptions<sup>9</sup>**

Once an application for assistance has been approved, Saskatchewan Assistance Plan clients are eligible for the following monthly exemptions on earned income:

<b>Saskatchewan - Earnings Exemptions March 2005</b>		
	<b>Clients without Disabilities</b>	<b>Clients with Disabilities</b>
<b>Single</b>	\$25 plus 20% of the next \$375	\$100 plus 20% of the next \$375
<b>Childless Couple</b>	\$50 plus 20% of the next \$625	\$125 plus 20% of the next \$625
<b>Two-Parent Family</b>	\$125	\$200

## **Benefits**

Basic assistance consists of a basic allowance and a shelter allowance. The basic allowance covers the cost of food, clothing and travel, as well as personal and household items for adults only. Maximum shelter allowance rates are calculated using a three-tier scale based on geographic location and family size<sup>10</sup>.

Effective February 2003, a new financial benefit for short-term clients was introduced. The Transitional Employment Allowance is available to clients who have a known date of self-sufficiency (such as a first pay or Employment Insurance), or who are participating in the Jobs First program. The allowance is a flat rate benefit which is payable for a maximum of four months<sup>11</sup>. The Department of Community Resources and Employment administers the allowance through its client contact centre.

Children's basic benefits are paid through the Saskatchewan Child Benefit.

<sup>9</sup> These exemptions do not apply to farmers, self-employed clients, or for the first three months on assistance for those Saskatchewan Assistance Plan clients who are capable of full-time work.

<sup>10</sup> Effective April 1, 2005, a four-tier scale is being used.

<sup>11</sup> Effective April 1, 2005, this limit is no longer in effect.

## Saskatchewan Child Benefit

The Saskatchewan Child Benefit (SCB) is a non-taxable amount paid monthly to help low-income families with the cost of raising children under the age of 18 years. The creation of the Saskatchewan Child Benefit in July 1998 effectively removed children's benefits from the social assistance system.

The Canada Revenue Agency delivers the SCB as an integrated payment with the CCTB and the NCB Supplement. The SCB rates are based on family type, net income and number of children. For instance, maximum SCB benefits are paid to those families whose income is less than \$15,921 per year, while two-parent families with two children, whose annual income falls between \$15,921 and \$16,631 per year, are eligible for partial SCB benefits. Single-parent families with two children, whose annual income falls between \$15,921 and \$18,025 per year, are also eligible for partial SCB benefits.

Effective July 2004, in addition to the National Child Benefit Supplement, families with two children may be entitled to receive an SCB benefit of up to \$214 per year. Families with three or more children receive an additional \$291 per year per child. Single parent families may be entitled to an additional amount of up to \$420.

Saskatchewan Child Benefit Estimated Number of Recipients 1999-2000 to 2004-2005						
	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004 <sup>a</sup>	2004-2005
<b>Families</b>	36,760	33,070	29,020	26,090	15,260	18,770
<b>Children</b>	75,300	67,820	56,960	53,530	40,070	42,520
a. In 2003-2004, the number of families and children declined due to a large NCB Supplement increase, which reduced the number of families eligible for the Saskatchewan Child Benefit. Furthermore, a large number of families with entitlements of less than \$10 per month, received a lump-sum payment at the beginning of the year rather than monthly payments, so they are not reflected in the statistics.						

## Saskatchewan Rental Housing Supplement

The Saskatchewan Rental Housing Supplement is designed to help low-income tenant families and people with disabilities access quality affordable housing. The Saskatchewan Rental Housing Supplement took effect in April 2005.

The Saskatchewan Rental Housing Supplement consists of two programs: the Family Rental Housing Supplement and the Disability Rental Housing Supplement.

Eligibility for the Family Rental Housing Supplement is based on the number of children in the household; household income; the amount of rent paid; and the rental property meeting minimum health and safety standards.

The Disability Rental Housing Supplement helps with some of the additional costs that people with disabilities have for disability-related housing supports. It is available to people with disabilities that live in rental housing, including single individuals, couples without children, and families.

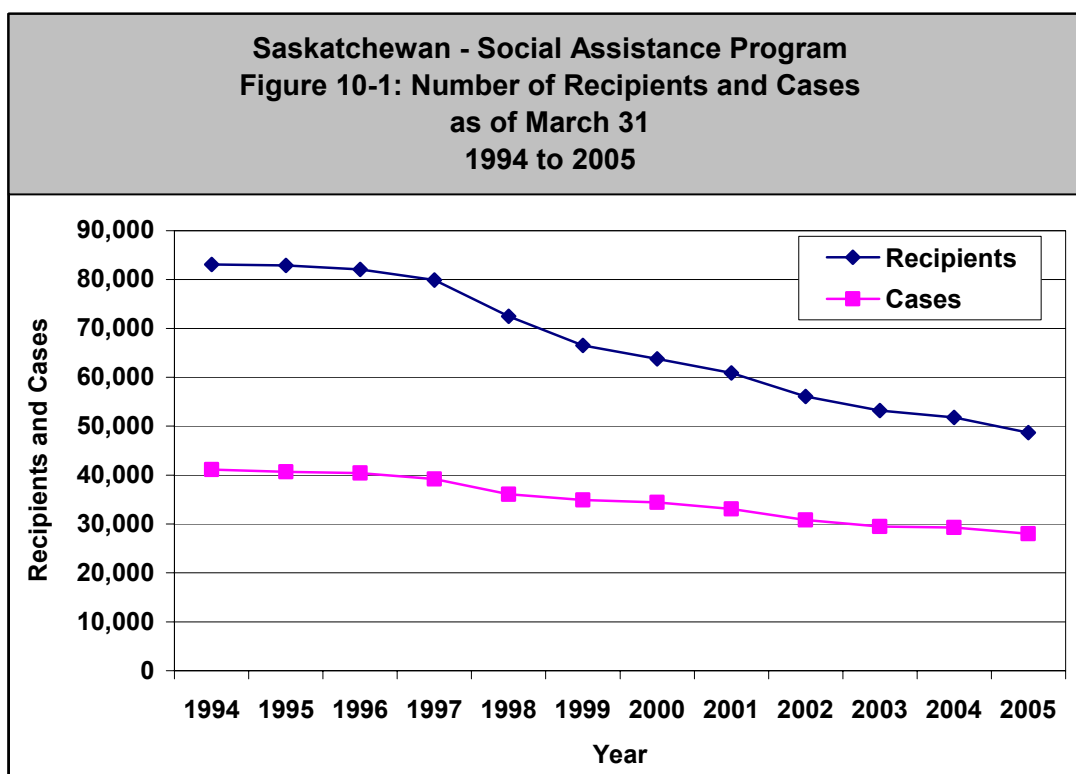
To qualify for the Disability Rental Housing Supplement, applicants must have a disability that restricts their daily activities within the home, and have physical housing supports already in place in the home. Eligibility for the Disability Rental Housing Supplement is further based on household income, the amount of rent paid, and the rental property meeting minimum health and safety standards.

## **More Information**

For more information, please consult the Saskatchewan Department of Community Resources and Employment website at: [www.dcre.gov.sk.ca](http://www.dcre.gov.sk.ca).

## STATISTICS

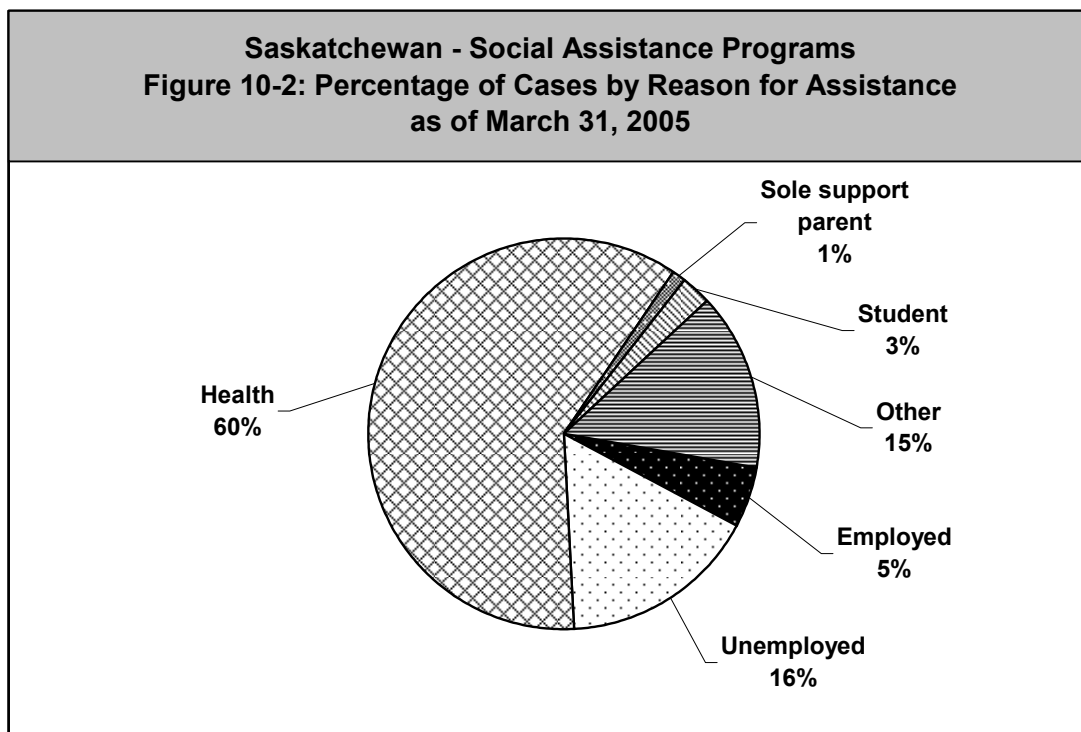
## Recipients and Cases



Saskatchewan - Social Assistance Programs						
Table 10-1: Number of Recipients and Cases						
as of March 31						
1994 to 2005						
	1994 <sup>a</sup>	1995 <sup>a</sup>	1996 <sup>a</sup>	1997 <sup>a</sup>	1998	1999
Recipients	83,100	82,900	82,100	79,900	72,500	66,500
Cases	41,100	40,700	40,400	39,200	36,100	34,900
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Recipients	63,800	60,900	56,100	53,200	51,800	48,700
Cases	34,400	33,100	30,800	29,500	29,300	28,000

a. Northern Bands receiving manual payments from 1994 to 1997 are included in the above table.

## Cases by Reason for Assistance

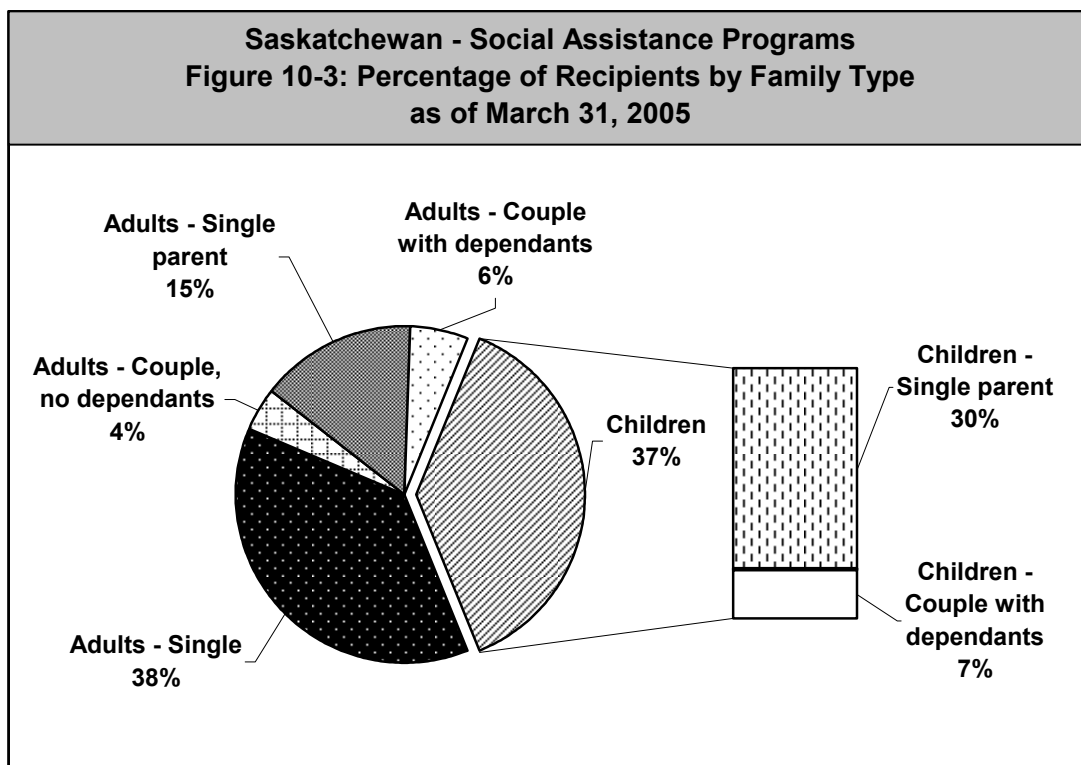


**Saskatchewan - Social Assistance Programs**  
**Table 10-2: Number and Percentage of Cases**  
**by Reason for Assistance**  
**as of March 31, 2005**

Reason for Assistance	2005	%
Employed <sup>a</sup>	1,400	5%
Unemployed <sup>b</sup>	4,600	16%
Health <sup>c</sup>	16,800	60%
Sole support parent <sup>d</sup>	300	1%
Student <sup>e</sup>	700	3%
Other <sup>f</sup>	4,100	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

a. "Employed" includes clients expecting income and those receiving an income supplement.  
b. "Unemployed" includes clients who quit working, or were fired, laid off, etc.  
c. "Health" includes mental and physical health restrictions.  
d. "Sole support parent" includes single parents receiving grants for child care problems and loss of spousal support.  
e. "Student" includes clients attending school and post-secondary students with no jobs.  
f. "Other" includes all reasons for assistance not named in the above categories, including: pending appeal and refugee claimant, as well as miscellaneous codes no longer in use.  
*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

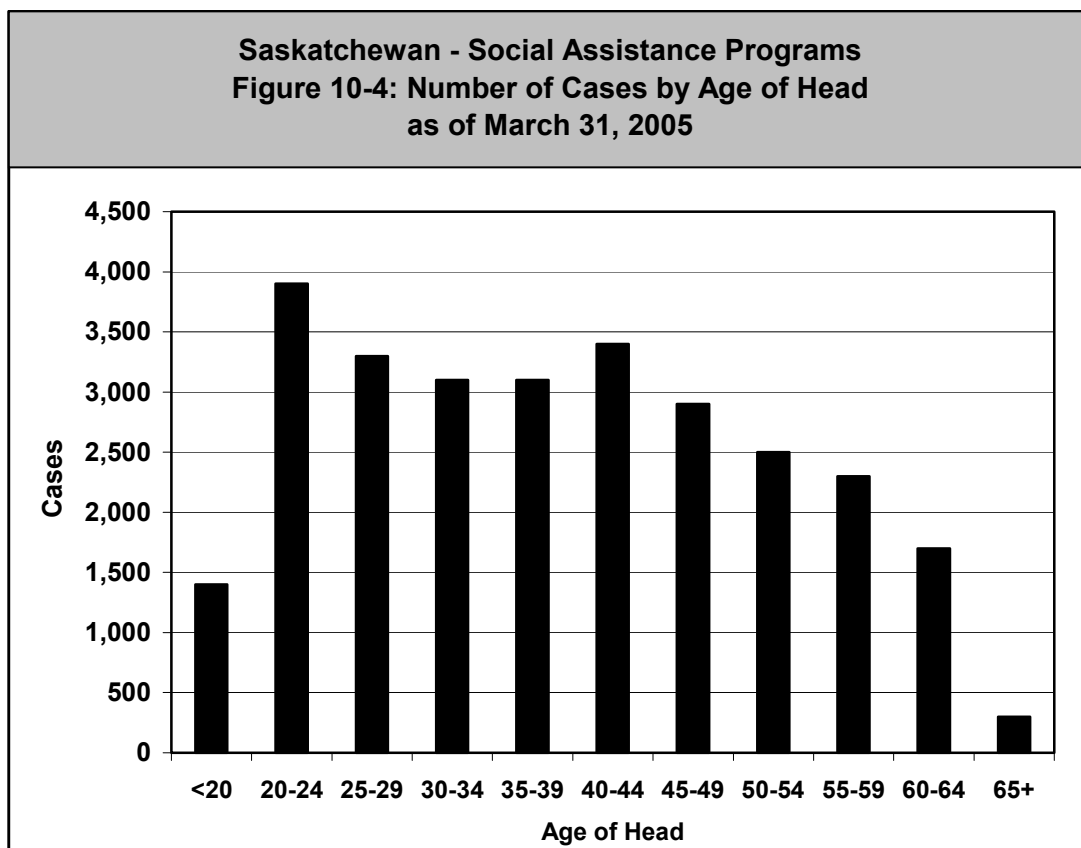
## Recipients by Family Type



Saskatchewan - Social Assistance Programs		
Table 10-3: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type		
as of March 31, 2005		
Family Type	2005	%
Adults - Single	18,200	38%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	2,100	4%
Adults - Single parent	7,200	15%
Adults - Couple with dependants	2,800	6%
<b>Total Adults</b>	<b>30,300</b>	
Children - Single parent	14,800	30%
Children - Couple with dependants	3,500	7%
<b>Total Children (37%)</b>	<b>18,300</b>	
<b>Total Recipients</b>	<b>48,700</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

## Cases by Age of Head



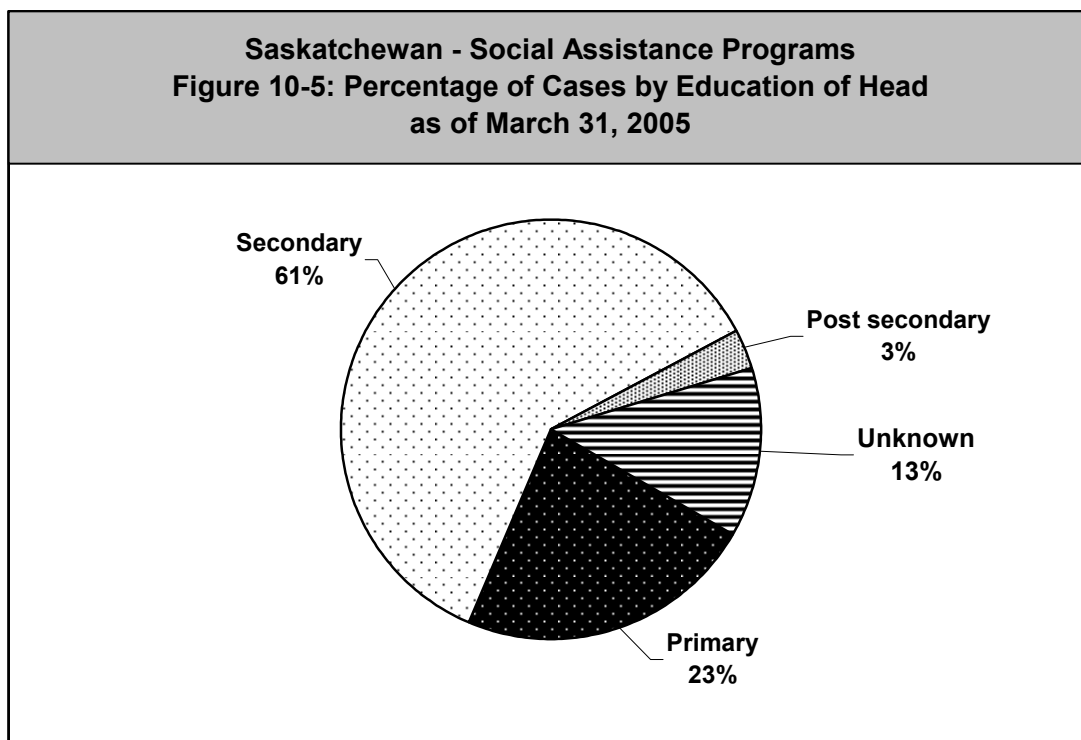
**Saskatchewan - Social Assistance Programs**  
**Table 10-4: Number of Cases by Age of Head**  
**as of March 31, 2005**

Age of Head	2005
<20	1,400
20-24	3,900
25-29	3,300
30-34	3,100
35-39	3,100
40-44	3,400
45-49	2,900
50-54	2,500
55-59	2,300
60-64	1,700
65+	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,000</b>

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

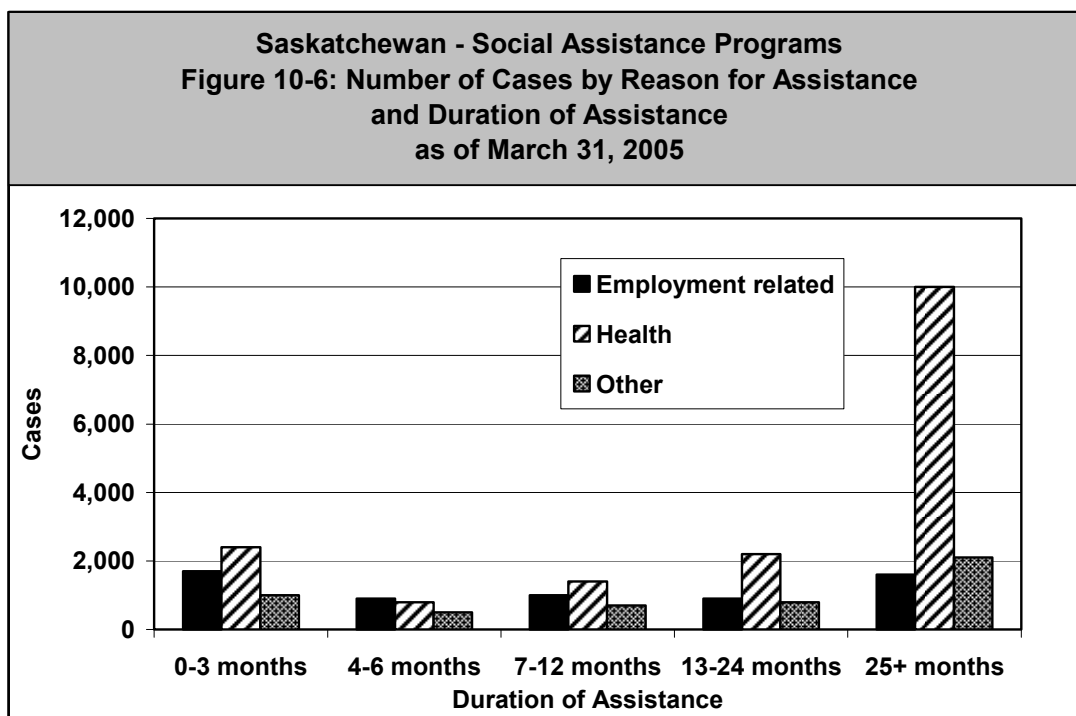


## Cases by Education of Head



Saskatchewan - Social Assistance Programs		
Table 10-5: Number and Percentage of Cases by Education of Head as of March 31, 2005		
Education of Head <sup>a</sup>	2005	%
Primary	6,400	23%
Secondary	16,900	61%
Post secondary <sup>b</sup>	900	3%
Unknown	3,600	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>100%</b>
a. Education is defined as level of education attained as of date of application.		
b. "Post secondary" includes community/technical college, university and other post secondary.		
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.		

## Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance



Saskatchewan - Social Assistance Programs				
Table 10-6: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance as of March 31, 2005				
	Reason for Assistance			
Duration by Reason <sup>a</sup>	Employment-related <sup>b</sup>	Health	Other <sup>c</sup>	Total
0-3 months	1,700	2,400	1,000	5,100
4-6 months	900	800	500	2,300
7-12 months	1,000	1,400	700	3,100
13-24 months	900	2,200	800	3,900
25+ months	1,600	10,000	2,100	13,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>16,800</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>28,000</b>

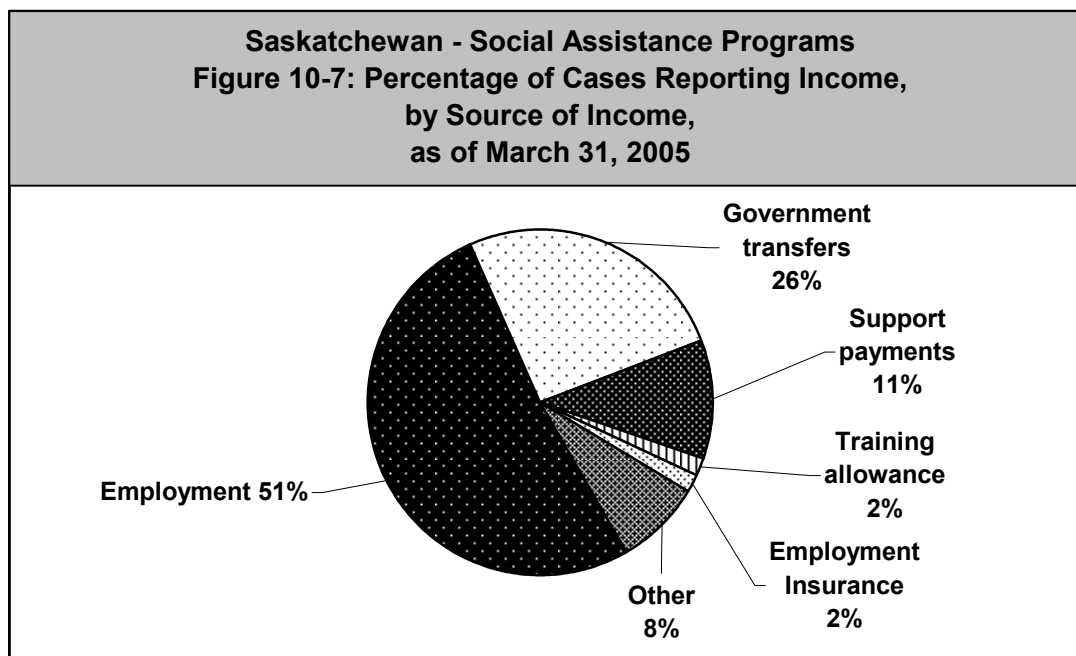
a. "Duration of assistance" measures length of current spell only.

b. "Employment-related" includes employed and unemployed.

c. "Other" includes sole support parent, student and other.

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

## Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income



Saskatchewan - Social Assistance Programs Table 10-7: Number and Percentage of Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income, as of March 31, 2005		
Source of Income	2005	%
Employment	3,200	51%
Government transfers	1,600	26%
Support payments	700	11%
Training allowance	100	2%
Employment Insurance	100	2%
Other	500	8%
<b>Total <sup>a</sup> (does not include double-counting)</b>	<b>6,200</b>	<b>100%</b>
a. Cases receiving income from more than one source are counted only once; therefore, not all sources of income are counted in all categories. However, the total number of cases reporting income sources does not include double counting.		
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.		

Saskatchewan - Social Assistance Programs Table 10-8: Number of Cases Reporting Income as of March 31, 2005	
Reporting Income	6,200
No Income	21,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,900</b>
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.	



## **Chapter 11 – Alberta**

### **A – Alberta Works - Income Support**

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

---

##### **Overview**

In Alberta, the provincial social assistance program is known as Alberta Works - Income Support. The *Income and Employment Supports Act* and the Income Supports, Health and Training Benefits Regulations govern the Alberta Works - Income Support program.

Alberta Works provides basic benefits to both adults and children. It includes four components: Employment and Training Services, Income Support, Child Support Services, and Health Benefits.

Alberta Works - Income Support replaced the Supports for Independence program effective April 1, 2004.

Social assistance for persons with severe disabilities is provided through Alberta's Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped program (see p. 121).

##### **Service Delivery**

Alberta Human Resources and Employment is responsible for the delivery of the Alberta Works - Income Support program to adults and children within the province.

##### **Eligibility**

###### **General**

In order to be eligible for Alberta Works - Income Support, applicants must meet the general eligibility requirements outlined in the "Social Assistance Overview" in this report.

## Liquid Assets<sup>12</sup>

At the time of application for Alberta Works - Income Support, applicants' liquid assets may not exceed the following allowable limits.

<b>Alberta - Alberta Works - Income Support</b> <b>Cash and Liquid Asset Exemptions</b> <b>March 2005</b>	
<b>Expected to Work<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Not Expected to Work<sup>a</sup></b>
Cash and liquid assets of the same value as one month of core benefits.	Cash and liquid assets of up to twice the value of one month of core benefits.
a. See p. 113 for description.	

## Earnings Exemptions<sup>12</sup>

Once an application for assistance has been approved, Alberta Works - Income Support clients are eligible for the following monthly exemptions on earned income:

<b>Alberta - Alberta Works - Income Support</b> <b>Earnings Exemptions</b> <b>March 2005</b>	
<b>Singles</b>	\$115 per month plus 25% of additional earnings
<b>Single-Parent Family</b>	\$230 per month plus 25% of additional earnings
<b>Couples (with or without children)</b>	\$115 per month plus 25% of additional earnings for each working adult

## Benefits

Core benefits consist of a core essential benefit and a core shelter benefit. The core essential benefit covers the cost of food, clothing, household and personal needs, the installation of a telephone, as well as laundry and transportation. The core shelter benefit is for rent and utilities.

The amount of the monthly core benefit depends on family size, the number of adults in the family unit, the ages of the children in the family unit, the family unit's level of employability, and available financial resources.

Alberta Works - Income Support clients are placed in one of three client groups: Expected to Work, Not Expected to Work, or Learners.

<sup>12</sup> These two tables apply to the Expected to Work and the Not Expected to Work client groups only.

The “Expected to Work” category includes those individuals and families that:

- Are working full-time or part-time, but whose income is less than the financial benefits provided under Alberta Works - Income Support;
- Are able to work, but unable to find employment; or
- Are temporarily not available for work for a short time due to illness, or the presence of a child under six months of age, fleeing an abusive relationship, etc.

The “Not Expected to Work” category includes those individuals and families that:

- Have a permanent disability as defined by the AISH program, but require benefits that are not provided under the AISH program; or
- Have multiple barriers or suffer from a chronic medical condition that inhibits their ability to seek and accept employment, but are not considered as having a permanent disability as defined by the AISH program.

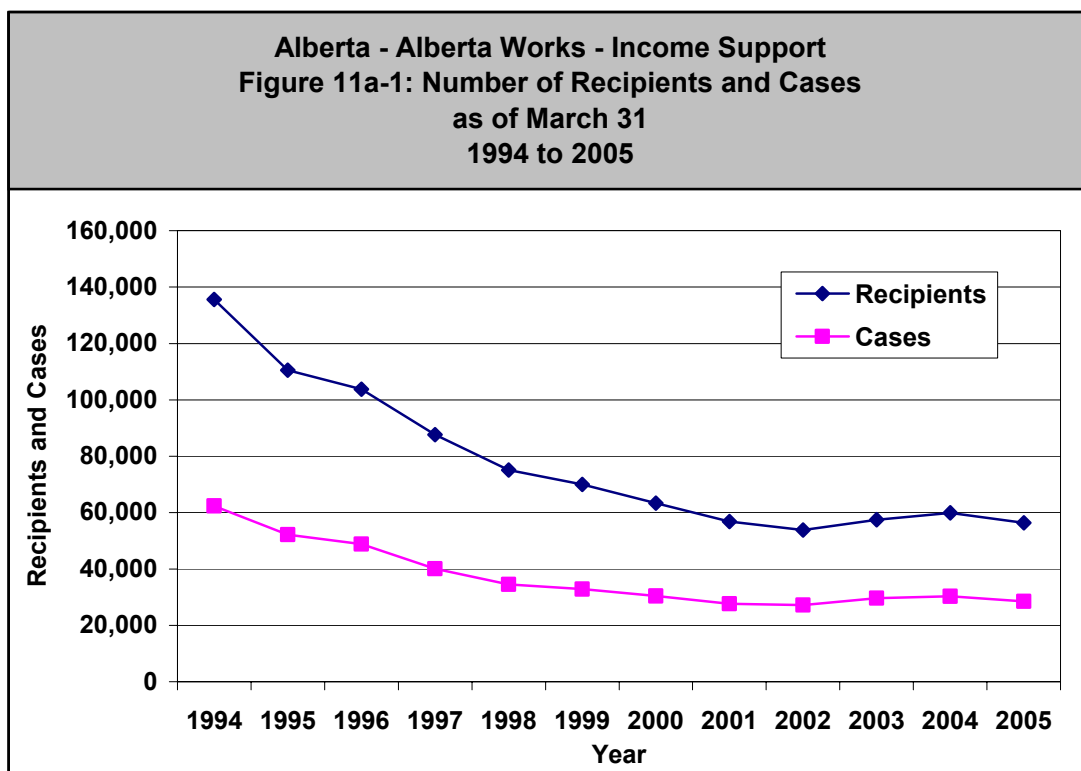
The “Learners” category includes those individuals and families that are participating in occupational training or attending classes or courses to improve their employability. Tuition, books, supplies, and a living allowance may be provided.

### **More Information**

For more information, please consult the Alberta Human Resources and Employment website at: [www3.gov.ab.ca/hre/](http://www3.gov.ab.ca/hre/).

## STATISTICS

## Recipients and Cases



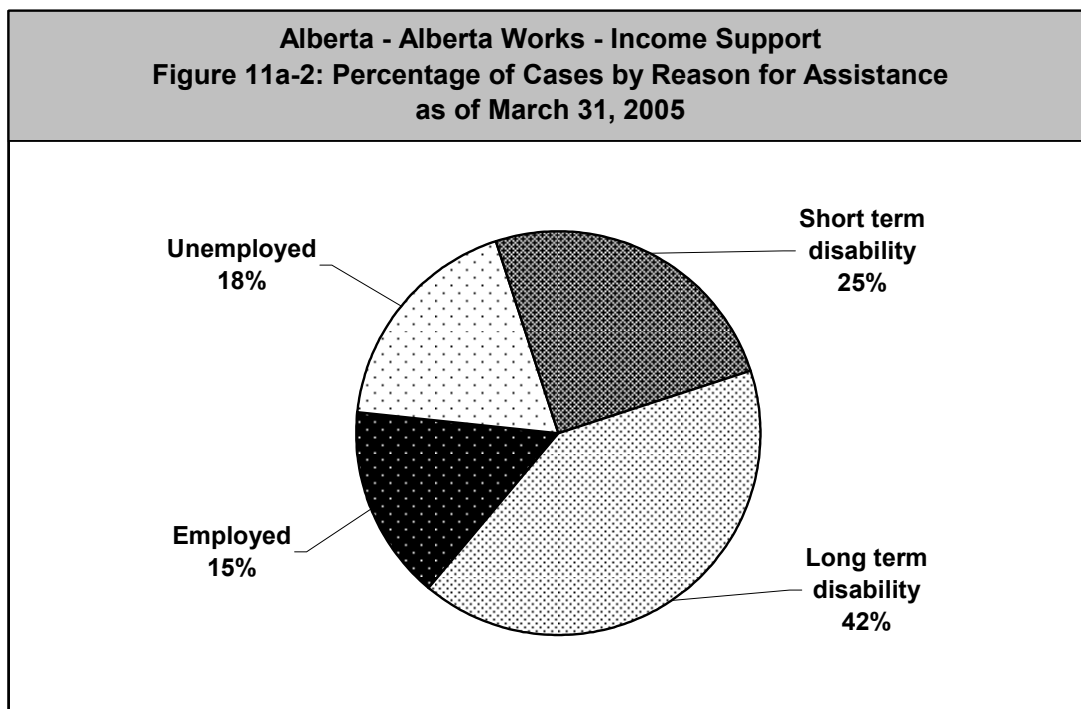
**Alberta - Alberta Works - Income Support**  
**Table 11a-1: Number of Recipients and Cases**  
**as of March 31**  
**1994 to 2005 <sup>a,b</sup>**

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
<b>Recipients</b>	135,600	110,500	103,700	87,700	75,100	70,000
<b>Cases</b>	62,400	52,200	48,800	40,100	34,500	32,800
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Recipients</b>	63,400	56,800	53,800	57,500	59,900	56,400
<b>Cases</b>	30,400	27,600	27,200	29,600	30,300	28,500

a. Children in Need (CIN) are not included.  
b. Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) is covered in a separate section.

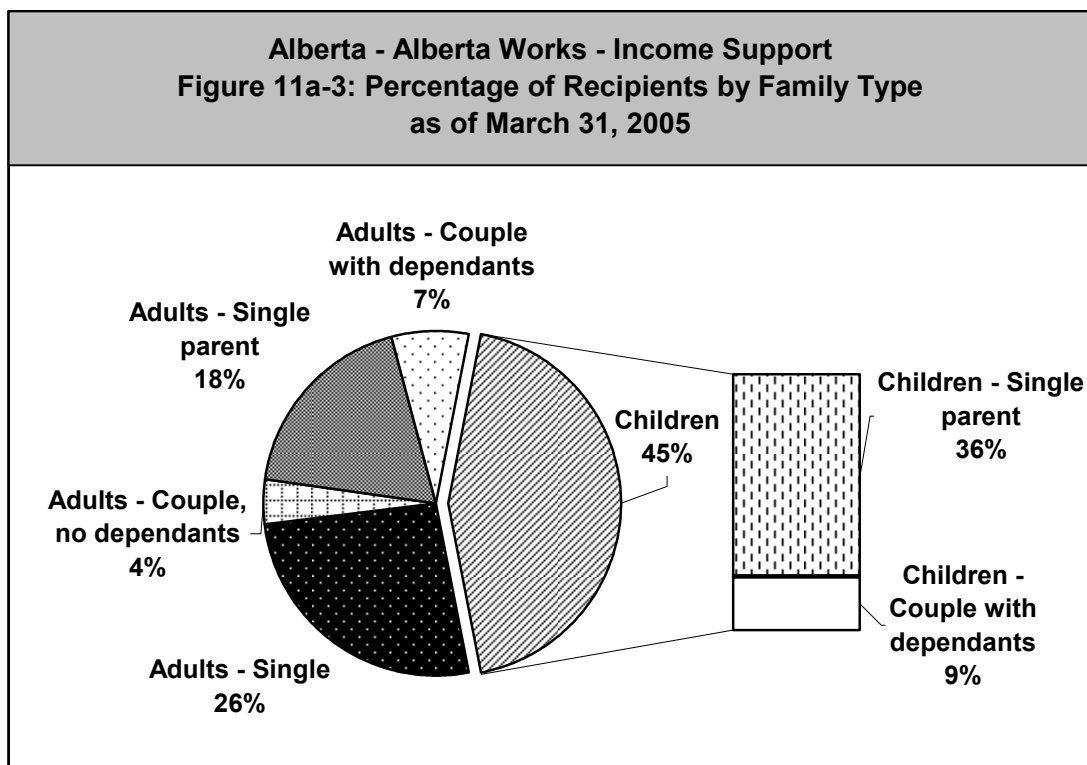


## Cases by Reason for Assistance



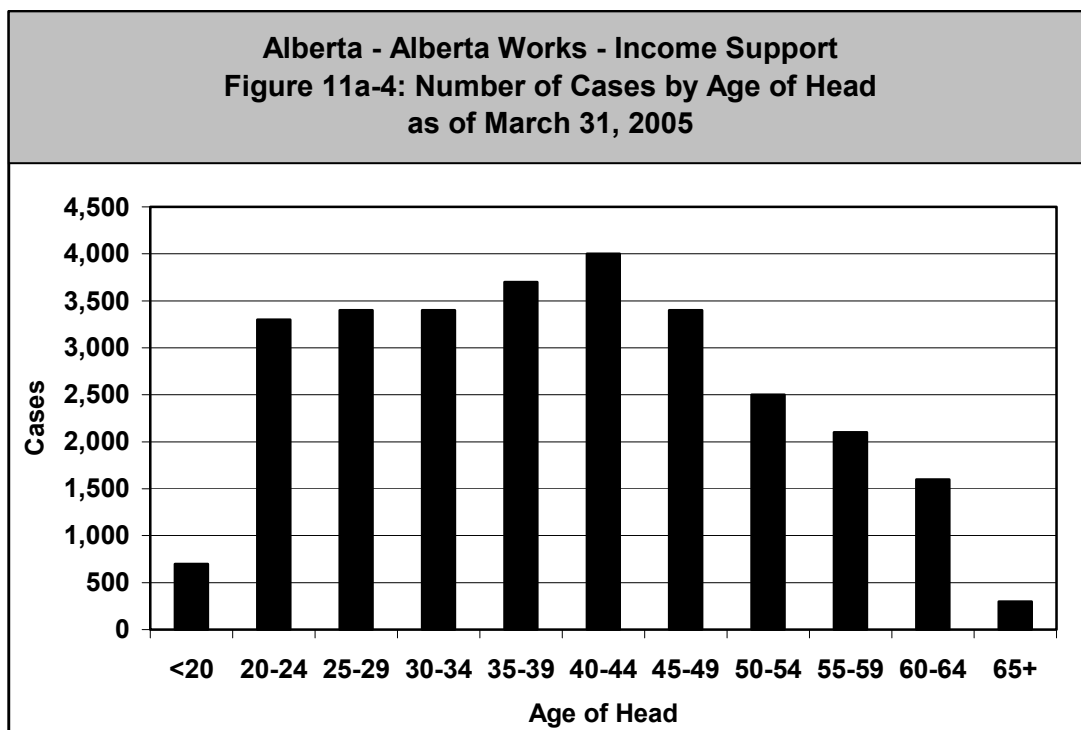
<b>Alberta - Alberta Works - Income Support</b> <b>Table 11a-2: Number and Percentage of Cases</b> <b>by Reason for Assistance</b> <b>as of March 31, 2005</b>		
Reason for Assistance	2005	%
Employed	4,400	15%
Unemployed	5,200	18%
Short term disability <sup>a</sup>	7,100	25%
Long term disability <sup>b</sup>	11,700	42%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,500</b>	<b>100%</b>
a. "Short-term disability" includes clients whose circumstances make them unavailable for work or training at present, but who will likely be able to return to work in the future. This category includes those with short-term medical problems or family responsibilities, and single persons age 50 years or older, who are unlikely to obtain continuous employment. b. "Long-term disability" includes clients who may never be able to return to full time work in the labour force. Often these clients suffer from multiple barriers, such as a combination of medical impairment, lack of education, and poor work history. This category may include AISH clients who have been transferred to the Alberta Works - Income Support program to access supplemental benefits which are not available through AISH. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

## Recipients by Family Type



Alberta - Alberta Works - Income Support		
Table 11a-3: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type as of March 31, 2005		
Family Type	2005	%
Adults - Single	14,700	26%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	2,400	4%
Adults - Single parent	10,400	18%
Adults - Couple with dependants	4,200	7%
<b>Total Adults</b>	<b>31,700</b>	
Children - Single parent	19,600	36%
Children - Couple with dependants	5,100	9%
<b>Total Children (45%)</b>	<b>24,700</b>	
<b>Total Recipients</b>	<b>56,400</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

## Cases by Age of Head

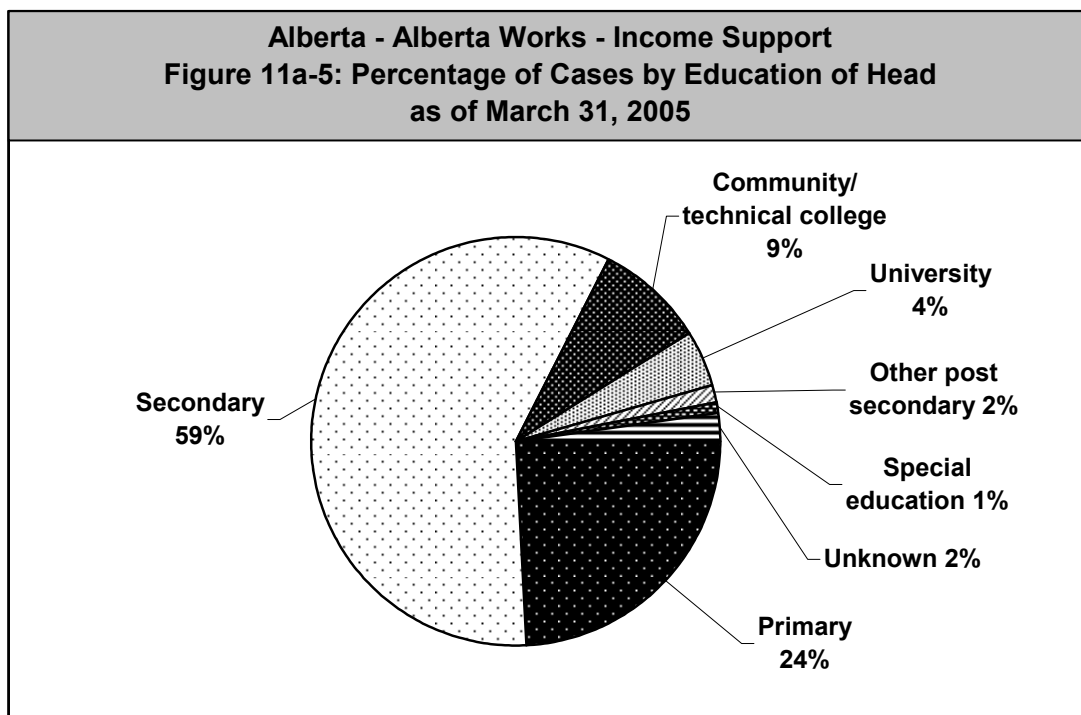


**Alberta - Alberta Works - Income Support**  
**Table 11a-4: Number of Cases by Age of Head**  
 as of March 31, 2005

Age of Head	2005
<20	700
20-24	3,300
25-29	3,400
30-34	3,400
35-39	3,700
40-44	4,000
45-49	3,400
50-54	2,500
55-59	2,100
60-64	1,600
65+	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,500</b>

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

## Cases by Education of Head



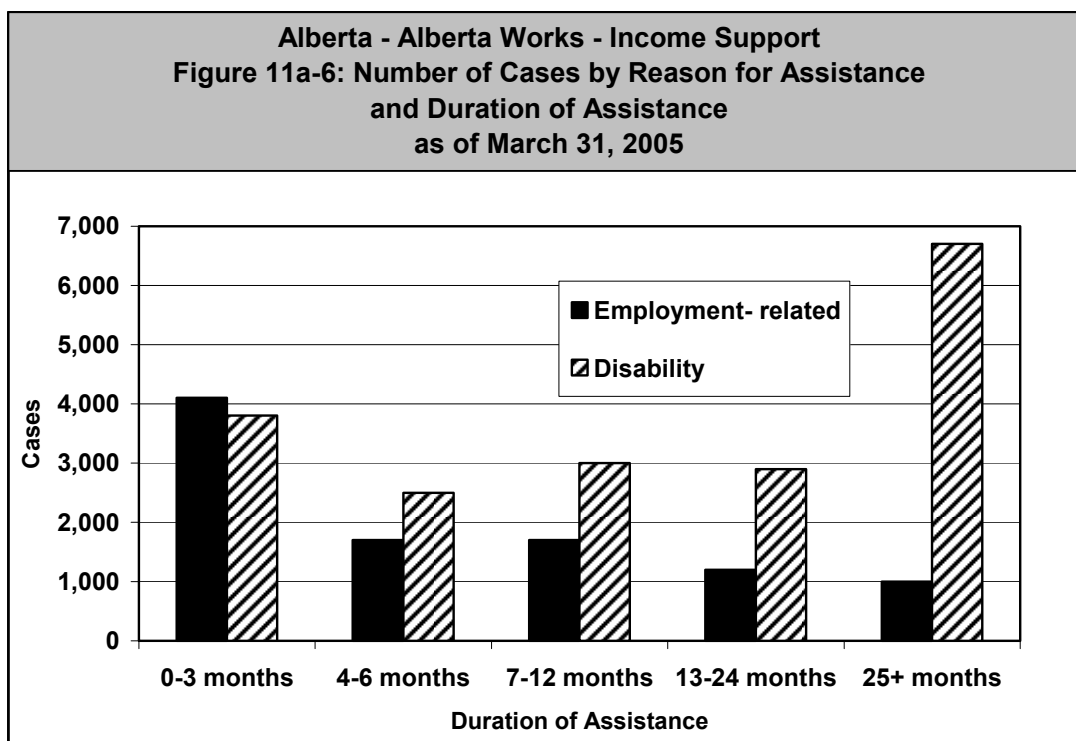
Alberta - Alberta Works - Income Support		
Table 11a-5: Number and Percentage of Cases by Education of Head as of March 31, 2005		
Education of Head <sup>a</sup>	2005	%
Primary	6,900	24%
Secondary	16,600	59%
Community/technical college	2,500	9%
University	1,200	4%
Other post secondary	400	2%
Special education <sup>b</sup>	300	1%
Unknown	600	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,500</b>	<b>100%</b>

a. Education is defined as level of education attained as of date of application.

b. "Special education" includes educational programs operating outside of the standard educational stream (kindergarten to grade 12), which provide training support, skills development and/or integrated occupational skills for clients with special needs.

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

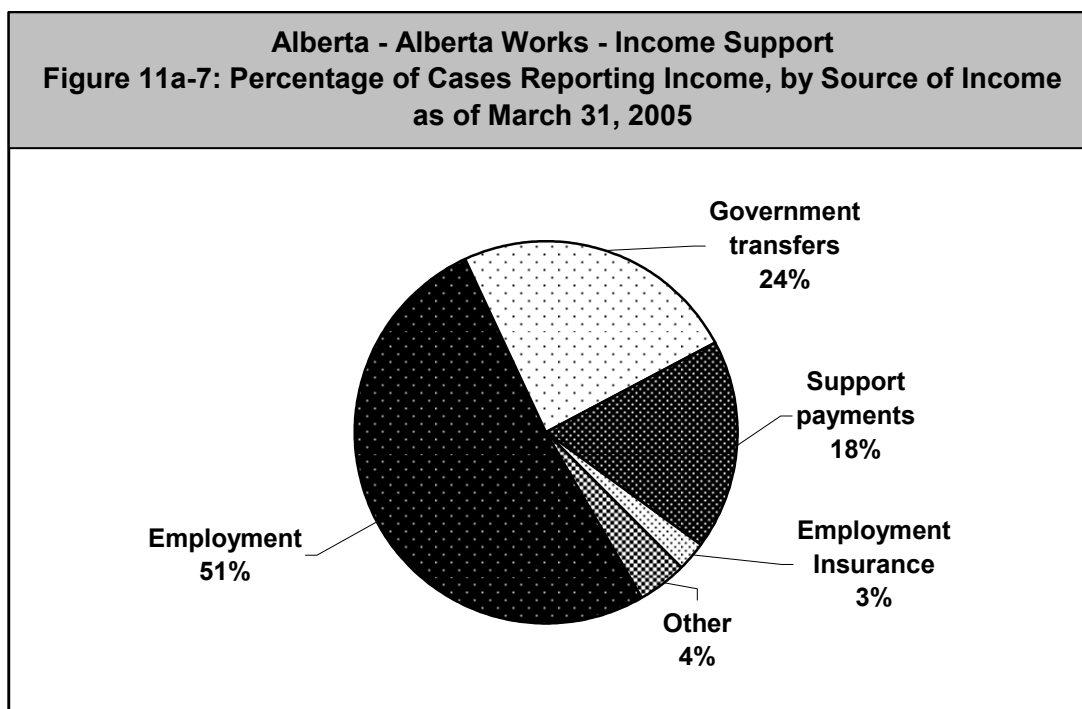
## Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance



Alberta - Alberta Works - Income Support			
Table 11a-6: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance as of March 31, 2005			
	Reason for Assistance		
Duration by Reason <sup>a</sup>	Employment-related <sup>b</sup>	Disability <sup>c</sup>	Total
0-3 months	4,100	3,800	7,900
4-6 months	1,700	2,500	4,100
7-12 months	1,700	3,000	4,600
13-24 months	1,200	2,900	4,100
25+ months	1,000	6,700	7,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,600</b>	<b>18,800</b>	<b>28,500</b>

<sup>a</sup> "Duration of assistance" is based upon the length of time since case last become active.  
<sup>b</sup> "Employment-related" includes employed and unemployed.  
<sup>c</sup> "Disability" includes long-term and short-term disability.  
*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

## Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income



Alberta - Alberta Works - Income Support		
Table 11a-7: Number and Percentage of Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income, as of March 31, 2005		
Source of Income	2005	%
Employment	3,800	51%
Government transfers	1,800	24%
Support payments	1,300	18%
Employment Insurance	200	3%
Other <sup>a</sup>	300	4%
<b>Total <sup>b</sup> (includes double-counting)</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>100%</b>

a. "Other" includes training allowances and other income.

b. Total cases in these categories may include double-counting, since cases that have more than one source of income are counted for each source reported. Percentages were calculated based on 7,500 observations.

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

Alberta - Alberta Works - Income Support	
Table 11a-8: Number of Cases Reporting Income as of March 31, 2005	
Reporting Income	6,800
No Income	21,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,500</b>

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

## **B - Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped**

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

---

#### **Overview**

In Alberta, the provincial income assistance for adults with a severe and permanent disability is known as Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH). The *Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped Act*, the *Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped Regulation*, the *Income and Employment Supports Act*, and the *Facilities, Institutions, Health Benefits Regulation* govern Alberta's AISH program.

AISH provides financial benefits to adults with a permanent disability that severely impairs their ability to earn a livelihood. Health benefits are provided to the AISH recipient, his/her spouse/cohabitating partner, and dependent children.

#### **Service Delivery**

Alberta Seniors and Community Supports is responsible for the delivery of AISH throughout the province.

#### **Eligibility**

##### **General**

In order to be eligible for the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped program, applicants must meet the general eligibility criteria for severe handicap, age, residence, assets, and income.

##### **Assets**

AISH applicants/recipients and their spouses/cohabitating partners may not have assets exceeding \$100,000. Assets considered part of the \$100,000 limit include cash or cash equivalent assets, investments, and business/farm or other property. Assets not included in the \$100,000 limit are the house where the applicant/recipient resides, a vehicle plus an adapted vehicle, insurance payments for damages or stolen goods, special compensation

payments, assets held in a discretionary trust, and locked-in retirement accounts.

## **Income Exemptions**

The level of benefits that a recipient receives from AISH depends on the type and amount of income of the recipient and his/her spouse/cohabitating partner. Under AISH, income is classified into three categories: fully exempt, partially exempt (e.g. employment, interest/investment, rental income), and non-exempt.

The amount of income that is partially exempt varies depending on the composition of the household. The following are examples of monthly income exemptions on partially exempt income:

<b>Alberta - Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped Partial Income Exemptions March 2005</b>	
<b>Single Person, Childless Couple (both AISH)</b>	\$200 plus 25% of the net remainder.
<b>Single Parent, Childless Couple (one AISH), Couple with Children (both AISH)<sup>a</sup></b>	\$775 plus 25% of the net remainder.
a. Only one AISH recipient qualifies for this exemption. The other AISH client qualifies as a single person.	

## **Benefits**

Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped provides a monthly financial benefit and health benefits.

The health benefits available to the recipient, his/her spouse/cohabitating partner, and dependent children under the age of 18 years who reside with the recipient include prescription drugs, optical, dental, emergency ambulance, and essential diabetic supplies. AISH recipients also receive premium-free Alberta Health Care Insurance, and an exemption of the Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) cost-share portion.

AISH has one sub-program called Modified AISH. Modified AISH is for recipients who live in facilities designated by the Facilities, Institutions, Health Benefits Regulation. Benefits include the facility daily accommodation rate, plus a living allowance of up to \$175 per month.

AISH recipients who have Canada Pension Plan Disability income, or who become employed and earn enough income to make them ineligible for AISH, may be eligible for the Alberta Adult Health Benefit, which provides the same



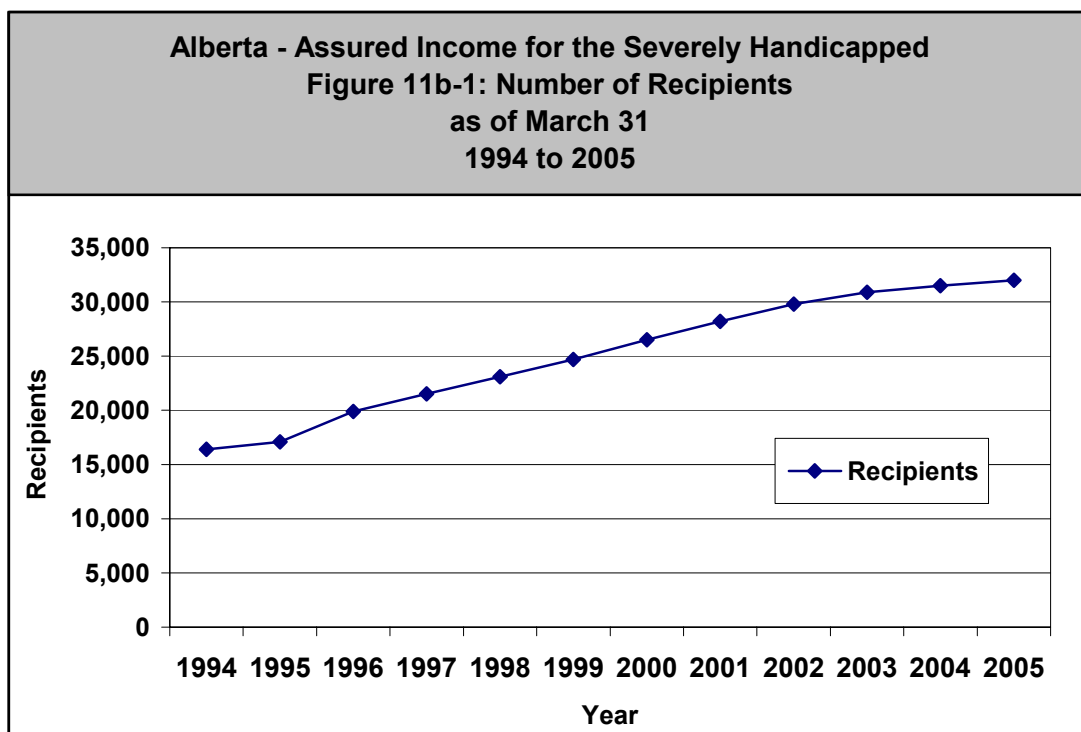
health benefits received by AISH recipients. Rapid reinstatement of AISH benefits is also available for those eligible former AISH recipients who lose their employment.

### **More Information**

For more information, please consult the Alberta Seniors and Community Supports website at: [www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/aish](http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/aish).

## STATISTICS

### Recipients



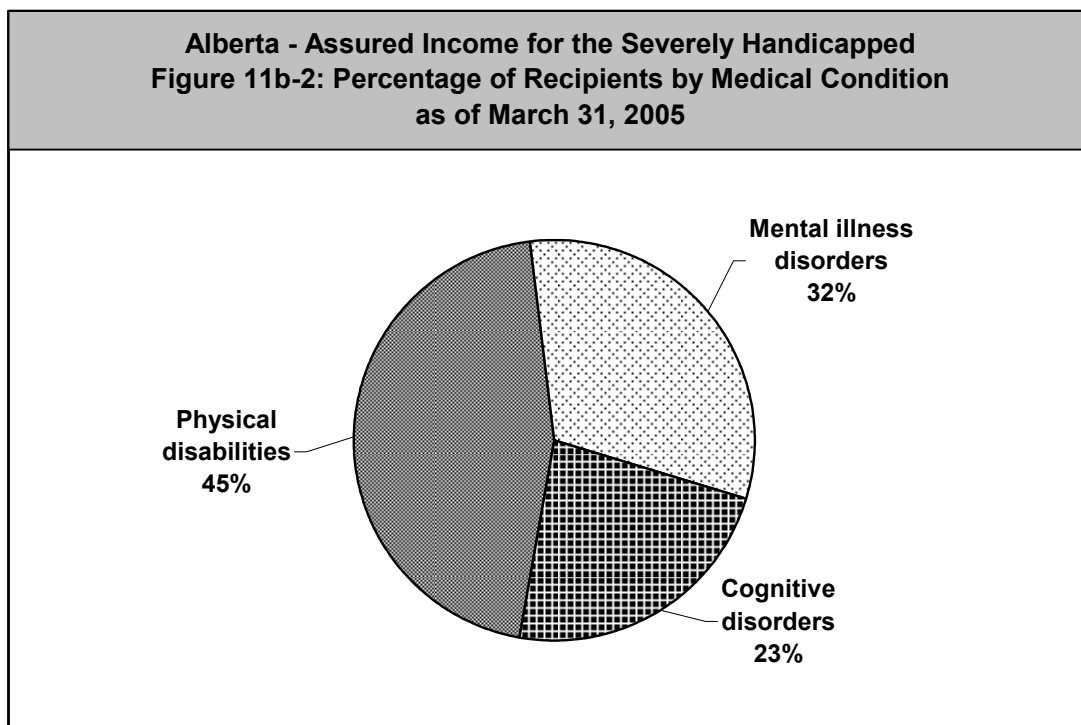
**Alberta - Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped**  
**Table 11b-1: Number of Recipients**  
**as of March 31**  
**1994 to 2005**

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
<b>Recipients<sup>a</sup></b>	16,400	17,100	19,900	21,500	23,100	24,700
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 <sup>b</sup>	2005
<b>Recipients<sup>a</sup></b>	26,500	28,200	29,800	30,900	31,500	32,000

a. AISH provides financial assistance only to the individual with the disability, and not the recipient's family. Therefore, the number of cases and recipients is the same.

b. In the above table, 2004 data does not include 829 AISH recipients who left the program for the Alberta Adult Health Benefit (AAHB).

## Recipients by Medical Condition

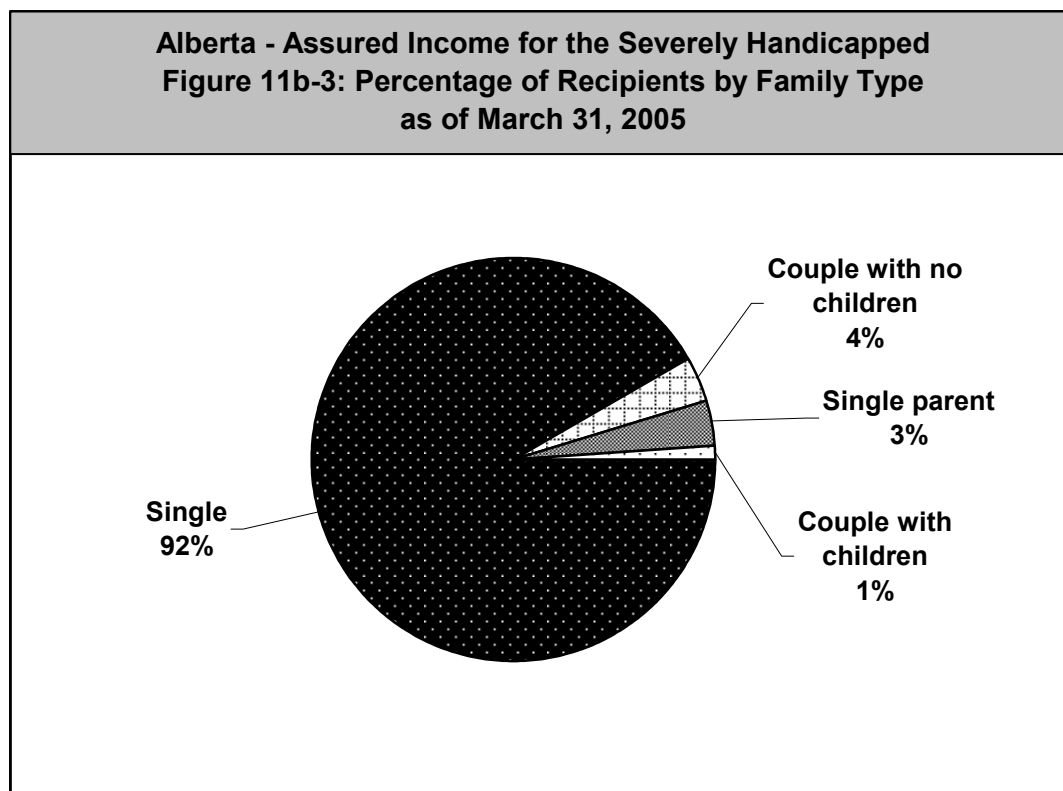


**Alberta - Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped**  
**Table 11b-2: Number and Percentage of Recipients**  
**by Medical Condition**  
**as of March 31, 2005**

Medical Condition	2005	%
Physical disabilities	14,500	45%
Mental illness disorders	10,100	32%
Cognitive disorders	7,400	23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

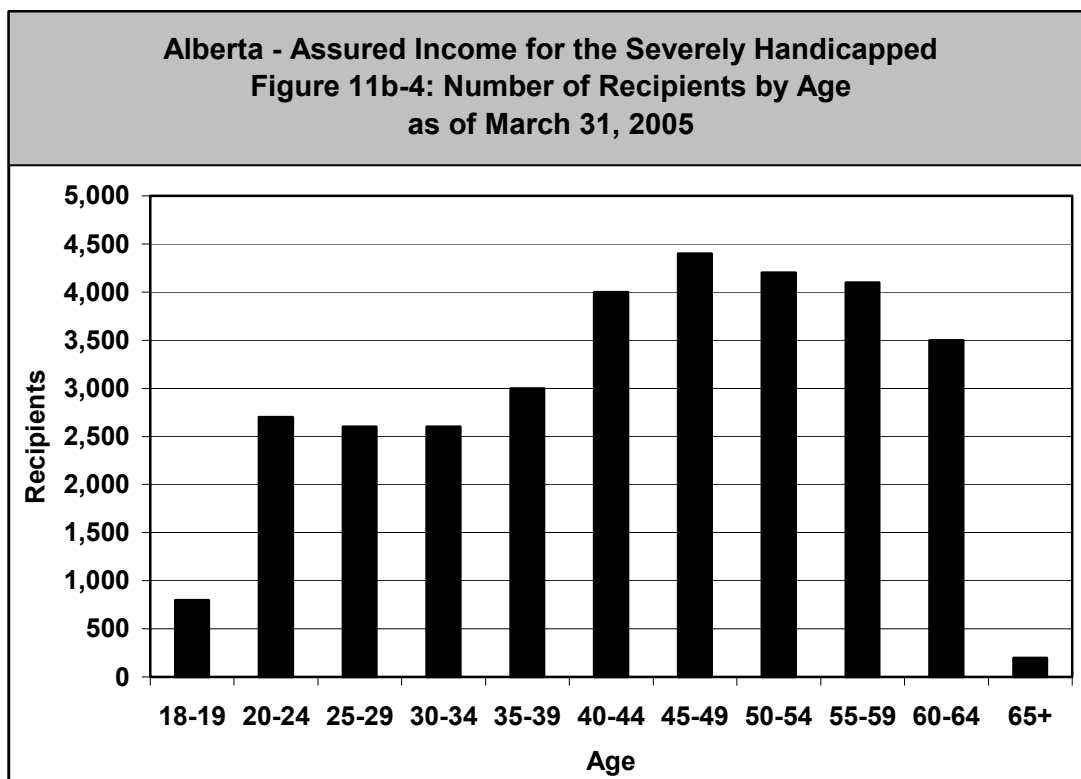
## Recipients by Family Type



Alberta - Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped Table 11b-3: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type as of March 31, 2005		
Family Type	2005	%
Single	29,400	92%
Couple with no children	1,200	4%
Single parent	1,100	3%
Couple with children	400	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

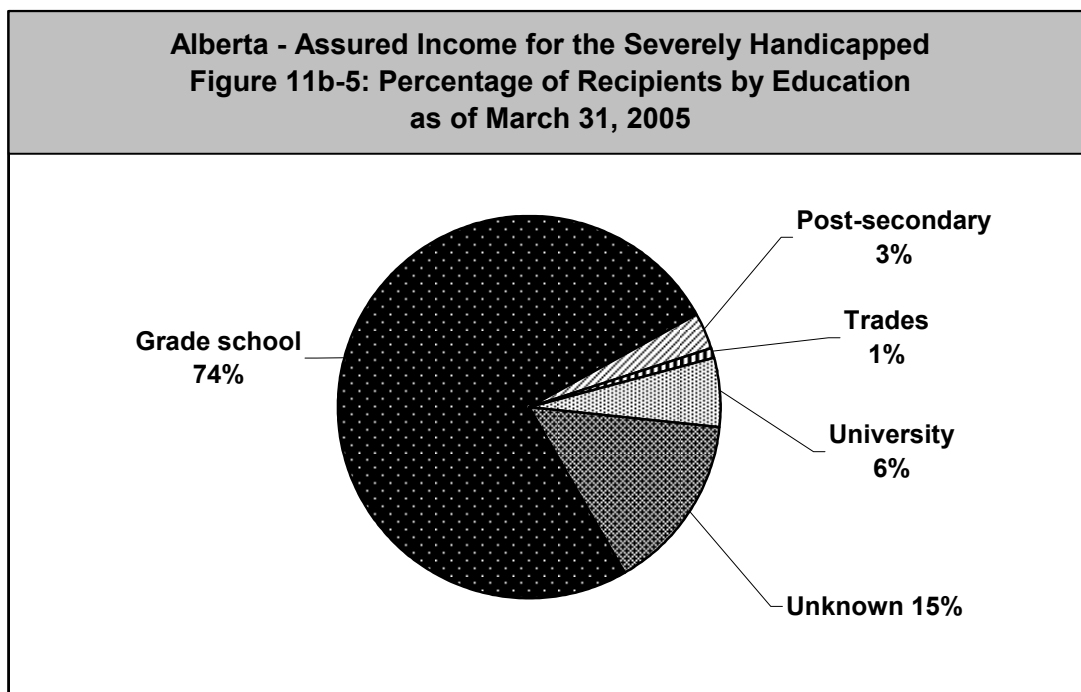
*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

## Recipients by Age



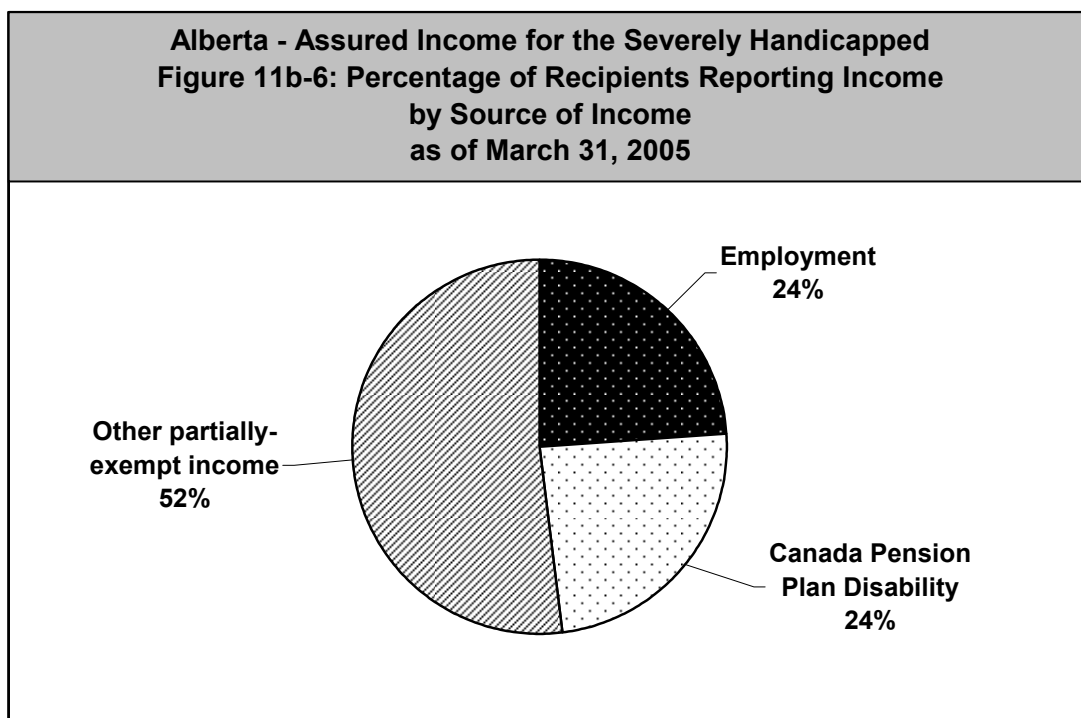
<b>Alberta - Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped</b> <b>Table 11b-4: Number of Recipients by Age</b> as of March 31, 2005	
Age	2005
18-19	800
20-24	2,700
25-29	2,600
30-34	2,600
35-39	3,000
40-44	4,000
45-49	4,400
50-54	4,200
55-59	4,100
60-64	3,500
65+	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,000</b>
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

## Recipients by Education



Alberta - Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped		
Table 11b-5: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Education		
as of March 31, 2005		
Education <sup>a</sup>	2005	%
Grade school	24,100	74%
Post secondary <sup>b</sup>	1,000	3%
Trades	200	1%
University	1,900	6%
Unknown	4,800	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>100%</b>
a. Education is defined as level of education attained as of date of application.		
b. "Post secondary" includes community/technical college and other post secondary.		
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.		

## Recipients Reporting Income, by Source of Income



**Alberta - Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped**  
**Table 11b-6: Number and Percentage of Recipients Reporting Income,**  
**by Source of Income**  
**as of March 31, 2005**

Source of Income	2005	%
Employment	4,300	24%
Canada Pension Plan Disability	4,400	24%
Other partially-exempt income	9,400	52%
<b>Total<sup>a</sup> (includes double-counting)</b>	<b>18,200</b>	<b>100%</b>

a. Total clients in these categories may include double-counting, since recipients that have more than one source of income are counted for each source reported. Percentages were calculated based on 18,200 observations.  
 Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

**Alberta - Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped**  
**Table 11b-7: Number of Recipients Reporting Income**  
**as of March 31, 2005**

Reporting Income	15,400
No Income	16,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,000</b>

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.





## **Chapter 12 – British Columbia**

### **Employment and Assistance**

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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##### **Overview**

In British Columbia, the provincial social assistance program is known as Employment and Assistance (BCEA). The *British Columbia Employment and Assistance Act*, the *British Columbia Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act*, the British Columbia Employment and Assistance Regulations, and the British Columbia Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Regulations govern British Columbia's Employment and Assistance program.

Employment and Assistance provides basic support and shelter benefits to family units. Children's basic support benefits are provided separately through the British Columbia Family Bonus<sup>13</sup> (see p.133).

##### **Service Delivery**

The Ministry of Human Resources<sup>14</sup> is responsible for the delivery of Employment and Assistance to adults within the province.

##### **Eligibility**

###### **General**

In order to be eligible for Employment and Assistance, applicants must meet the general eligibility requirements outlined in the "Social Assistance Overview" in this report.

Prior to applying for Employment and Assistance, all adults in the family unit must complete an applicant orientation program and prior to their application

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<sup>13</sup> Children aged 18 years living in a family receiving social assistance are paid a support allowance equivalent to the British Columbia Family Bonus (BCFB). For the purpose of British Columbia Employment and Assistance, children are defined as persons less than 19 years of age, while the BCFB is paid only for children under 18 years of age.

<sup>14</sup> The Ministry of Human Resources was renamed the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance effective June 2005.

interview, complete a reasonable work search in the three-week period. There are six exemptions to the work search requirement. In addition, at least one person in the family unit must demonstrate that they have received remuneration for at least 840 hours of paid employment, or earned at least \$7,000 in gross employment income in each of any two consecutive years prior to applying for assistance. There are 16 exemptions to this requirement in order to avoid hardship.

## Liquid Assets

At the time of application for Employment and Assistance, applicants' liquid assets may not exceed the following allowable limits.

<b>British Columbia - Liquid Asset Exemptions March 2005</b>		
	<b>Clients without Disabilities <sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Clients with Disabilities</b>
<b>Single</b>	\$1,500	\$3,000
<b>Single-Parent Family</b>	\$2,500	\$5,000
<b>Childless Couple</b>	\$2,500	\$5,000
<b>Two-Parent Family</b>	\$2,500	\$5,000
a. The amount of cash assets may not exceed one month of social assistance plus \$150 for single or \$250 for families.		

## Earnings Exemptions

Employment and Assistance clients are eligible for the following monthly exemptions on earned income following three months on assistance:

<b>British Columbia - Earnings Exemptions March 2005</b>	
<b>Employable Persons</b>	\$0
<b>Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers</b>	\$300
<b>Persons with Disabilities</b>	\$400
<b>Single parents with a disabled child</b>	\$300

## **Benefits<sup>15</sup>**

Basic assistance consists of a support allowance and a shelter allowance. The support allowance covers the cost of food, clothing, personal and household items. Maximum support allowance rates are based on the composition of the family unit and the age or marital status of the applicant. Maximum shelter allowance rates are based on the composition of the unit, as well as the age and disability status of the applicant.

Employment and Assistance has three rates schedules: Income Assistance, Disability Assistance, and Hardship Assistance. Income Assistance rates apply to two separate groups of clients across a range of family types. One group is classed as employable and these clients receive an assistance rate that is based on a temporary need for assistance. The other group consists of clients with persistent multiple barriers to employment (PPMB) and their rate is higher than employable clients since they typically require income assistance over a longer time period. Disability Assistance rates apply to unattached individuals and families that include persons aged 18 years and older who have a severe and confirmed mental or physical impairment that restricts their ability to perform daily living activities. Hardship Assistance rates apply to those persons requiring temporary financial assistance on a month-to-month basis who are not eligible for income or disability assistance for a number of specific reasons.

## **British Columbia Family Bonus**

The British Columbia Family Bonus (BCFB) is a non-taxable amount paid monthly to help low-income families with the cost of raising children under the age of 18 years. The creation of the British Columbia Family Bonus, in July 1996, effectively removed children's support benefits, but not shelter benefits, from the social assistance system.

The Canada Revenue Agency delivers the BCFB as an integrated payment with the CCTB and the NCB Supplement. The BCFB rates are based on net income and number of children. For instance, maximum combined benefits from the NCB Supplement and the British Columbia Family Bonus benefits are paid to those families whose income is less than \$20,500 per year.

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<sup>15</sup> Effective April 1, 2002, social assistance for singles and childless couples is limited to two years out of every five. This limit is waived for recipients in compliance with their employment obligations under an Employment Plan, as well as under many other conditions.

## Chapter 12 – British Columbia – Employment and Assistance

Effective July 2004, families with two children may be entitled to receive a BCFB benefit of up to \$142.92 per year. For the third and each additional child, an additional \$104.04 per year may be available.

Since July 2004, the NCB Supplement increases have been fully offset from the BCFB.

The BCFB portion for families with net income below \$20,500 was eliminated for the first child in July 2004. This change resulted in a decrease in recipients as shown in the 2004-2005 period in the table below.

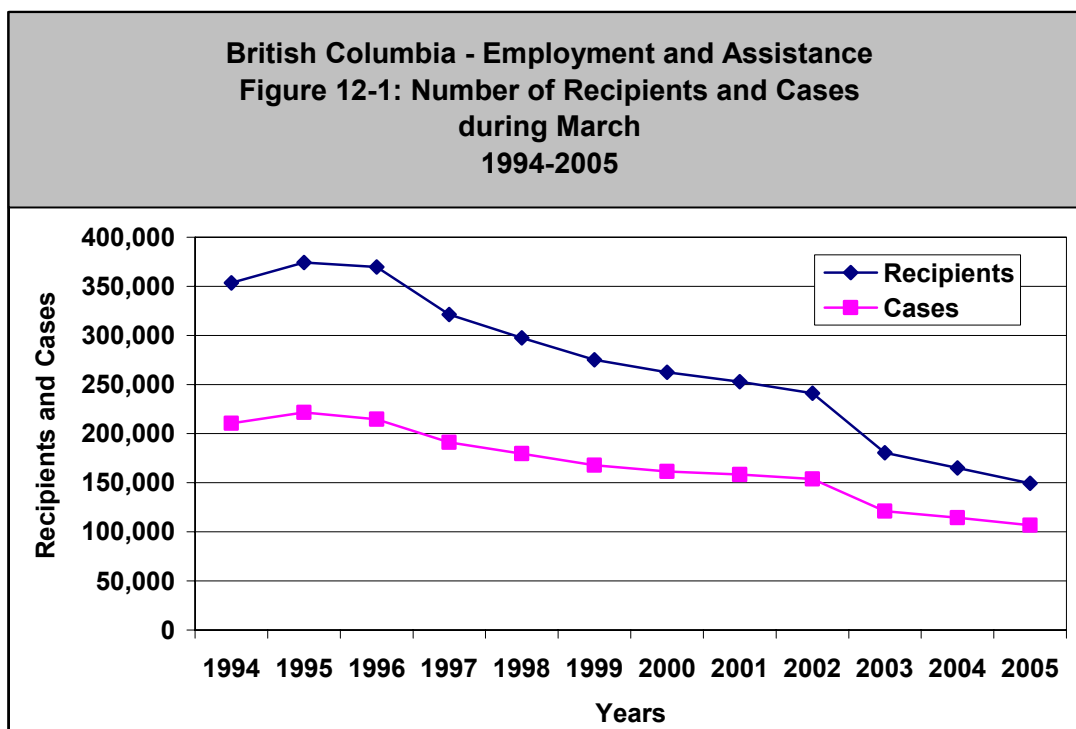
<b>British Columbia Family Bonus (including BC Earned Income Benefit) <sup>a</sup></b> <b>Estimated Number of Recipients</b> <b>1997-1998 to 2004-2005</b>				
	<b>1997-1998</b>	<b>1998-1999</b>	<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>
<b>Families</b>	209,780	207,830	211,533	205,286
<b>Children</b>	388,474	384,869	384,191	370,253
	<b>2001-2002</b>	<b>2002-2003</b>	<b>2003-2004</b>	<b>2004-2005</b>
<b>Families</b>	204,000	194,000	203,700	151,620
<b>Children</b>	364,433	368,637	348,390	259,320
a. The BC Earned Income Benefit (BCEIB) was introduced in July 1998 as an additional incentive for low-income families to seek work and remain employed. The BCEIB pays an additional monthly amount based upon the earned income that a family receives from working.				

### More Information

For more information, please consult the British Columbia Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance website at: [www.eia.gov.bc.ca](http://www.eia.gov.bc.ca).

## STATISTICS

## Recipients and Cases



**British Columbia - Employment and Assistance**  
**Table 12-1: Number of Recipients and Cases**  
**during March**  
**1994 to 2005<sup>a,b,c</sup>**

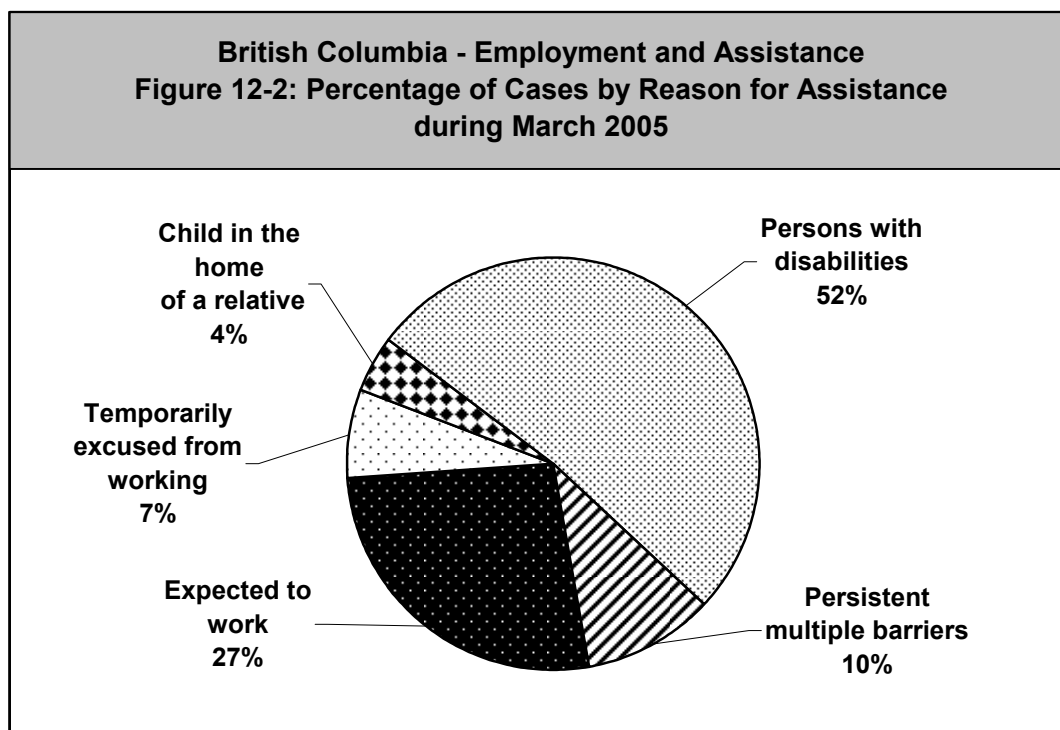
	1994	1995	1996 <sup>d</sup>	1997	1998	1999
<b>Recipients</b>	353,500	374,300	369,900	321,300	297,400	275,200
<b>Cases</b>	210,400	221,800	214,700	191,200	179,700	167,700

	2000	2001	2002 <sup>e</sup>	2003	2004	2005
<b>Recipients</b>	262,400	252,900	241,200	180,700	165,000	149,300
<b>Cases</b>	161,600	158,400	153,700	121,100	114,300	106,800

a. Cases and recipients include: basic or temporary assistance, hardship assistance, age 60-64, children in home of relative (CIHR), persons with disability (Handicapped or Disability Benefits II), persons with persistent multiple barriers (Unemployable or Disability Benefits I), and seniors in receipt of basic assistance.  
b. No transients are included in data.  
c. Data represents all actual cases active during the month of March.  
d. BC Benefits (1996-2002) replaced the GAINS (1976-1996).  
e. Employment and Assistance (EA) replaced BC Benefits (Income Assistance) in 2002.

## Cases by Reason for Assistance



British Columbia - Employment and Assistance		
Table 12-2: Number and Percentage of Cases by Reason for Assistance during March 2005		
Reason for Assistance	2005	%
Expected to work <sup>a</sup>	28,500	27%
Temporarily excused from working <sup>b</sup>	7,500	7%
Child in the home of a relative <sup>c</sup>	4,500	4%
Persons with disabilities <sup>d</sup>	55,400	52%
Persistent multiple barriers <sup>e</sup>	10,900	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>106,800</b>	<b>100%</b>

a. Includes EA recipients who are expected to search for and accept employment. It also includes persons who are expected to work with a temporary medical condition.

b. Includes single parents with children under age 3 years or who are caring for a child with a physical or mental condition, seniors over age 64 years, persons in a special care facility or hospital, participating in drug or alcohol treatment, recently separated from an abusive spouse/relative, caring for a spouse with a physical or mental condition, or who do not meet landed immigrant requirements.

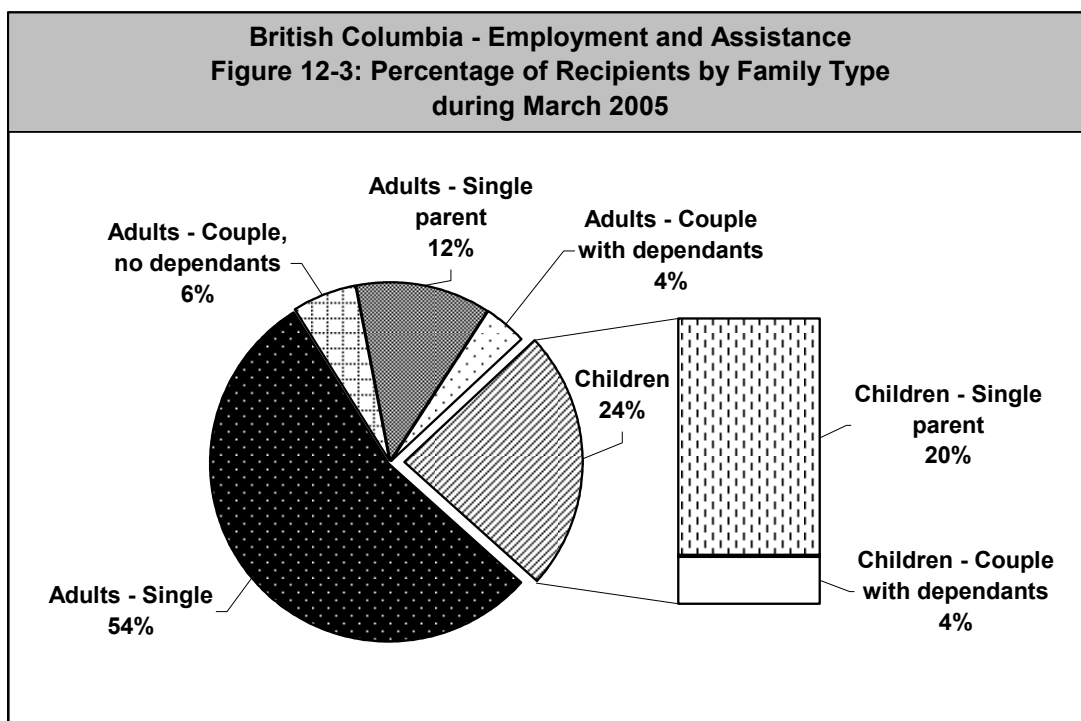
c. Benefit paid under EA to a relative who is taking care of a child where the parents are unable to provide the financial contributions required for the child's support and shelter needs.

d. Refers to cases which include a person 18 years of age or over with a severe mental or physical impairment, which restricts the person's ability to perform daily living activities. The person must require an assistive device, the help or supervision of another person, or the services of an assistance animal to perform daily living activities.

e. Includes EA recipients who have barriers that seriously impede their ability to work. Their medical condition must have existed for at least one year and be expected to continue for at least two more years. They are excused from working.

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

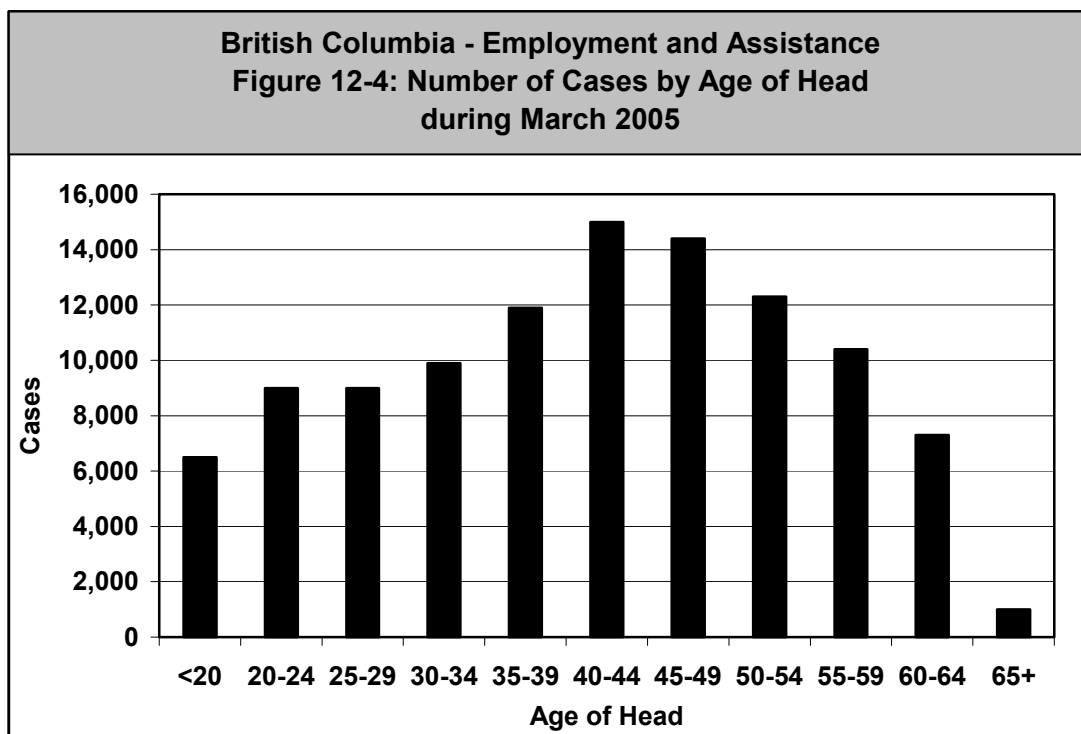
## Recipients by Family Type



British Columbia - Employment and Assistance		
Table 12-3: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type during March 2005		
Family Type	2005	%
Adults - Single	81,200	54%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	8,900	6%
Adults - Single parent	18,200	12%
Adults - Couple with dependants	5,800	4%
<b>Total Adults</b>	<b>114,100</b>	
Children - Single parent	29,400	20%
Children - Couple with dependants	5,800	4%
<b>Total Children (24%)</b>	<b>35,200</b>	
<b>Total Recipients</b>	<b>149,300</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.*

## Cases by Age of Head

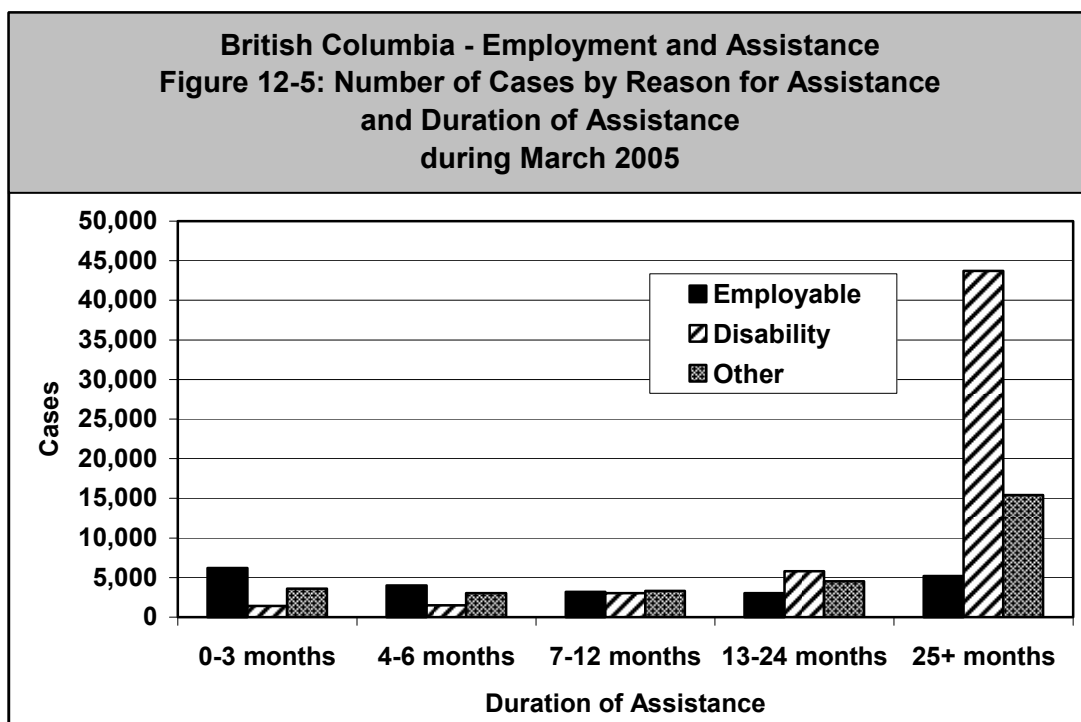


British Columbia - Employment and Assistance	
Table 12-4: Number of Cases by Age of Head during March 2005	
Age of Head	2005
<20	6,500
20-24	9,000
25-29	9,000
30-34	9,900
35-39	11,900
40-44	15,000
45-49	14,400
50-54	12,300
55-59	10,400
60-64	7,300
65+	1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>106,800</b>

*Note: Totals may not added due to rounding.*



## Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance



**British Columbia - Employment and Assistance**  
**Table 12-5: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance**  
**and Duration of Assistance**  
**during March 2005**

Duration of Assistance <sup>a</sup>	Employable <sup>b</sup>	Disability <sup>c</sup>	Other <sup>d</sup>	Total
0-3 months	6,200	1,400	3,600	11,300
4-6 months	4,000	1,500	3,000	8,500
7-12 months	3,200	3,000	3,300	9,500
13-24 months	3,000	5,800	4,500	13,200
25+ months	5,200	43,700	15,400	64,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,600</b>	<b>55,400</b>	<b>29,800</b>	<b>106,800</b>

<sup>a</sup>. "Duration of Assistance" measures length of current spell only.  
<sup>b</sup>. "Employable" includes cases that are expected to work.  
<sup>c</sup>. "Disability" includes cases with persons with disabilities.  
<sup>d</sup>. "Other" includes children living in the home of relatives, cases with persistent multiple barriers and cases temporarily excused from working.  
*Note: Totals may not added due to rounding.*



## **Chapter 13 – Yukon**

### **Social Assistance**

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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##### **Overview**

In the Yukon, the territorial social assistance program is known as Social Assistance (SA). The *Social Assistance Act* and the Social Assistance Regulations govern the Yukon's Social Assistance program.

The Social Assistance program provides basic benefits and Supplementary Benefits to both eligible adults and children.

##### **Service Delivery**

The Department of Health and Social Services is responsible for the delivery of the Social Assistance program to adults and children within the territory.

##### **Eligibility**

###### **General**

In order to be eligible for the Social Assistance program, applicants must meet the general eligibility requirements outlined in the "Social Assistance Overview" in this report.

###### **Liquid Assets**

At the time of application, applicants' liquid assets may not exceed the following allowable limits.

<b>Yukon - Liquid Asset Exemptions March 2005</b>		
	<b>Clients without Disabilities</b>	<b>Clients with Disabilities</b>
<b>Single</b>	\$500	\$1,500
<b>Family</b>	\$1,000 (for a family unit of 2) plus \$300 for each additional dependant.	\$2,500 (2 or more persons)
		An additional exemption up to \$1,500 for each person deemed permanently excluded from the labour force or a single parent or a dependent child under the age of 19 where such an amount has been placed irrevocably in trust for his or their future funeral or burial expenses or education.

## **Earnings Exemptions<sup>16</sup>**

Once an application for assistance has been approved, Social Assistance clients are eligible for the following monthly exemptions on earned income:

<b>Yukon - Earnings Exemptions March 2005</b>	
<b>Single</b>	\$100 of all income plus 25% of earned income.
<b>Family</b>	\$150 of all income plus 25% of earned income.

## **Benefits**

Basic assistance consists of a basic allowance and a shelter allowance. The basic allowance covers the cost of food, clothing, and personal and household items. The maximum basic assistance rates are based on the household's size, its composition, and its geographical location.<sup>17</sup> Maximum shelter allowance rates are based on the number of persons in the household (including children) to a maximum amount.

## **More Information**

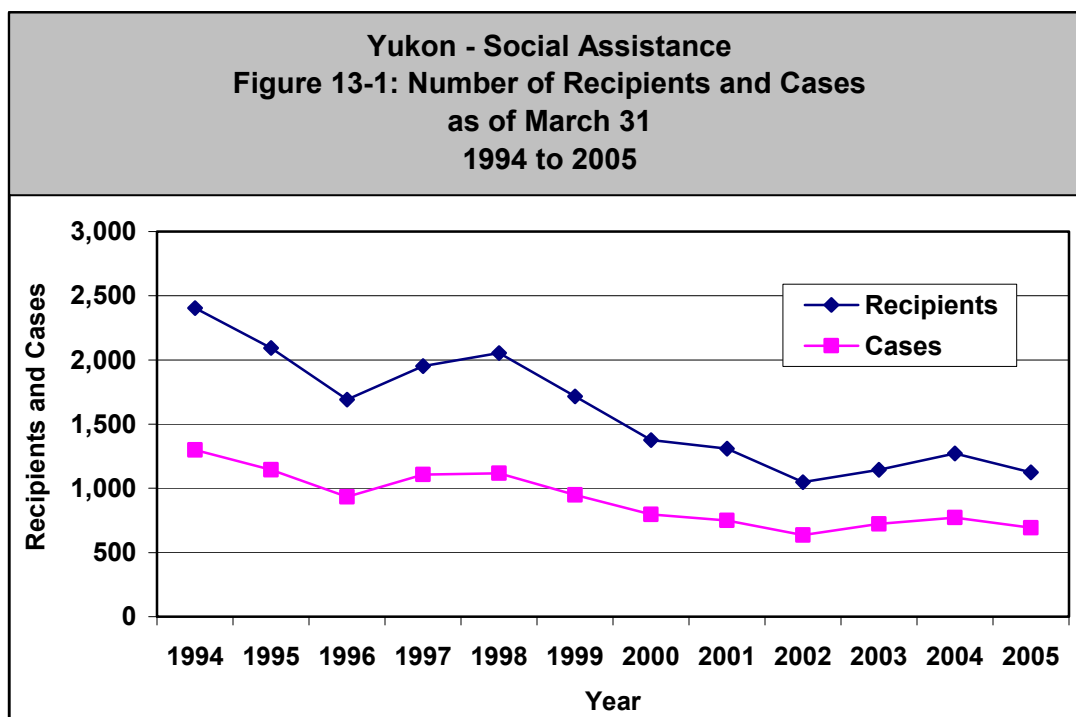
For more information, please consult the Yukon's Department of Health and Social Services website at: [www.hss.gov.yk.ca/](http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/).

<sup>16</sup> 25% of monthly income from employment or self-employment is also exempt after the third month on assistance.

<sup>17</sup> The amount of financial assistance that a family is entitled to receive is linked to a three-tier scale based on location. Tier 1 encompasses Whitehorse, while Tiers 2 and 3 include Dawson City, Mayo, Carcross, Carmacks, and Old Crow.

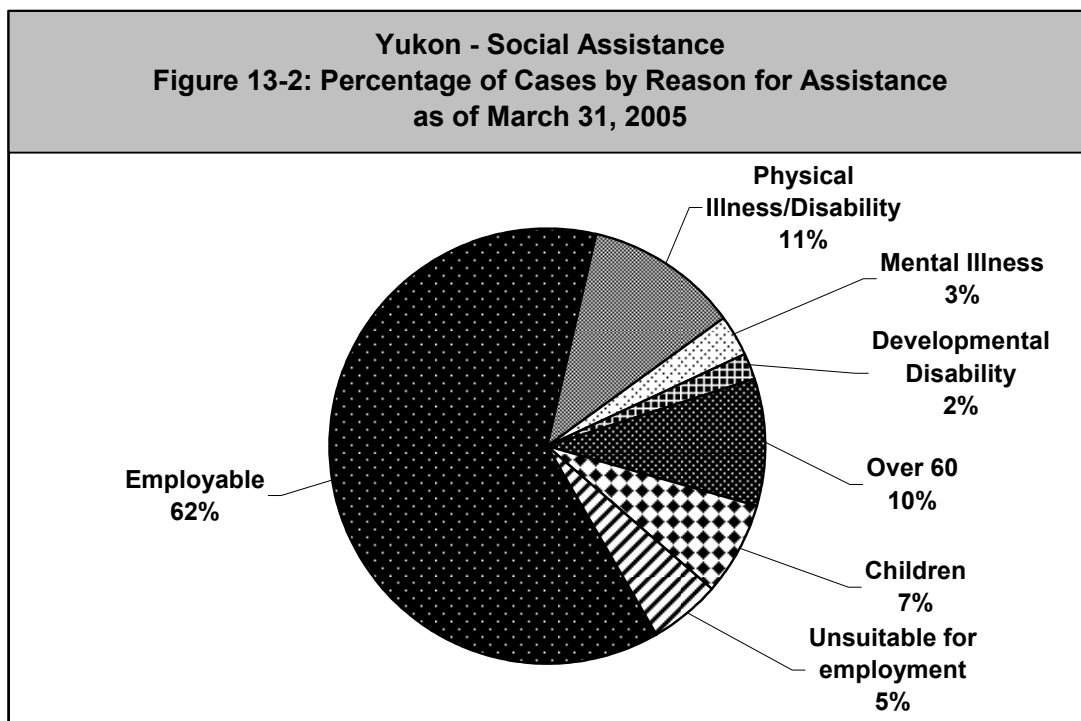
## STATISTICS

## Recipients and Cases



Yukon - Social Assistance						
Table 13-1: Number of Recipients and Cases						
as of March 31						
1994 to 2005						
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Recipients	2,405	2,094	1,692	1,952	2,055	1,717
Cases	1,299	1,146	935	1,108	1,117	949
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Recipients	1,376	1,308	1,048	1,144	1,272	1,126
Cases	798	751	637	722	773	694

## Cases by Reason for Assistance

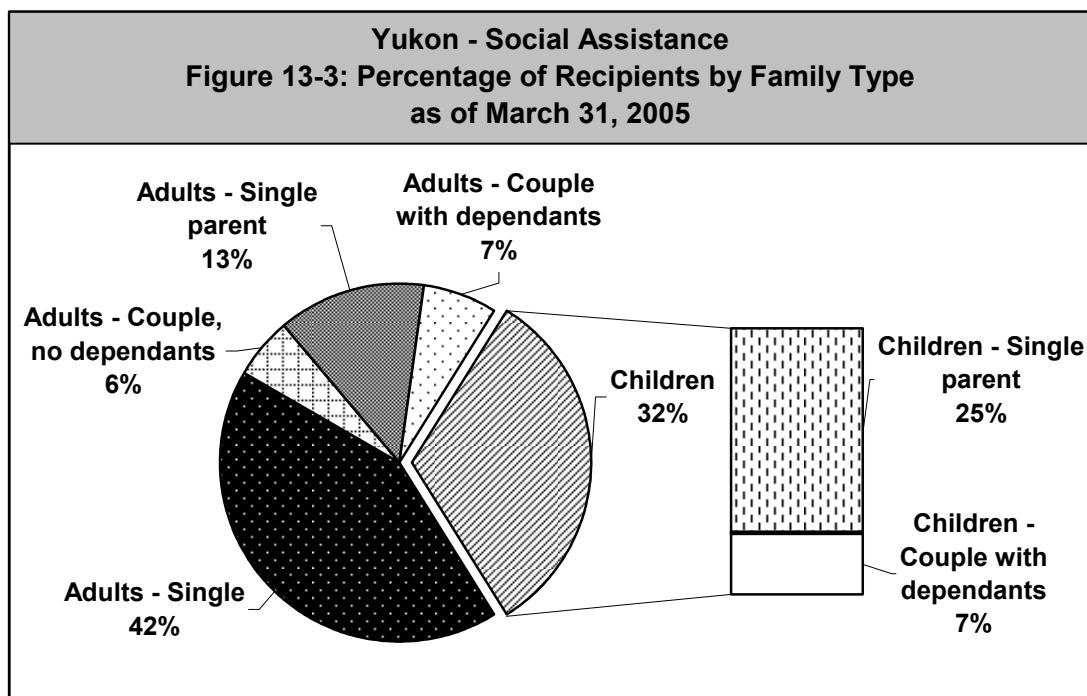


**Yukon - Social Assistance**  
**Table 13-2: Number and Percentage of Cases**  
**by Reason for Assistance**  
**as of March 31, 2005**

Reason for Assistance	2005	%
Employable	429	62%
Physical Illness/Disability	79	11%
Mental Illness	23	3%
Developmental Disability	12	2%
Over 60	67	10%
Children <sup>a</sup>	47	7%
Unsuitable for employment	37	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>100%</b>

a. Children: applicants receiving SA (exempt from seeking employment) for reasons of taking care of one or more of his or her own children under the age of 6 years, or children of any age with a severe disability.

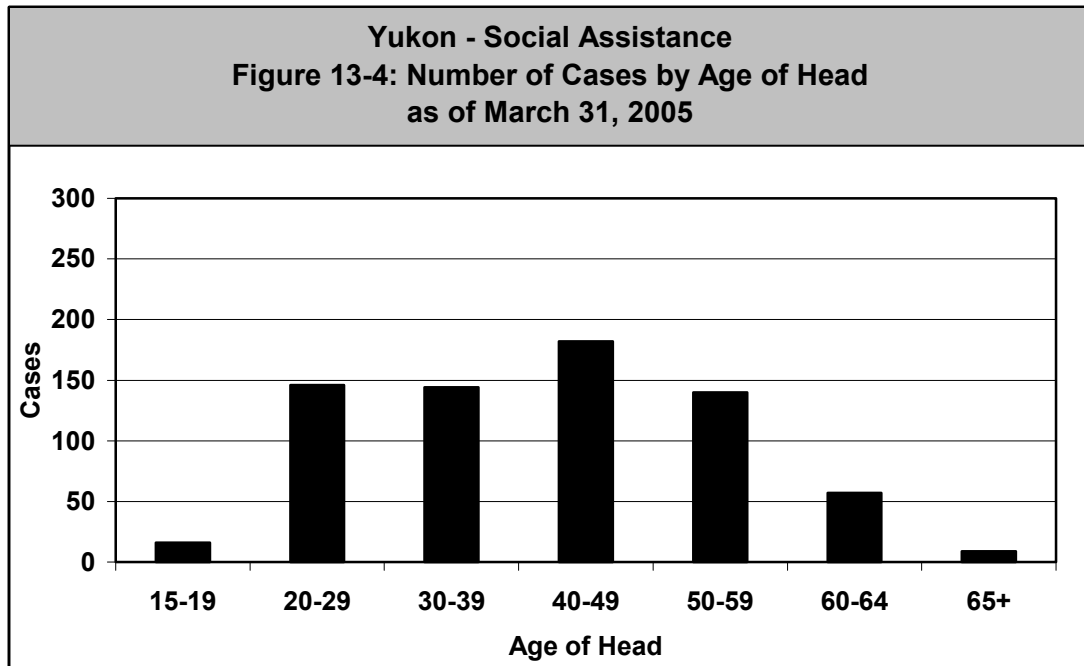
## Recipients by Family Type



**Yukon - Social Assistance**  
**Table 13-3: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type**  
**as of March 31, 2005**

Family Type	2005	%
Adults - Single	474	42%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	64	6%
Adults - Single parent	149	13%
Adults - Couple with dependants	76	7%
<b>Total Adults</b>	<b>763</b>	
Children - Single parent	280	25%
Children - Couple with dependants	83	7%
<b>Total Children (32%)</b>	<b>363</b>	
<b>Total Recipients</b>	<b>1,126</b>	<b>100%</b>

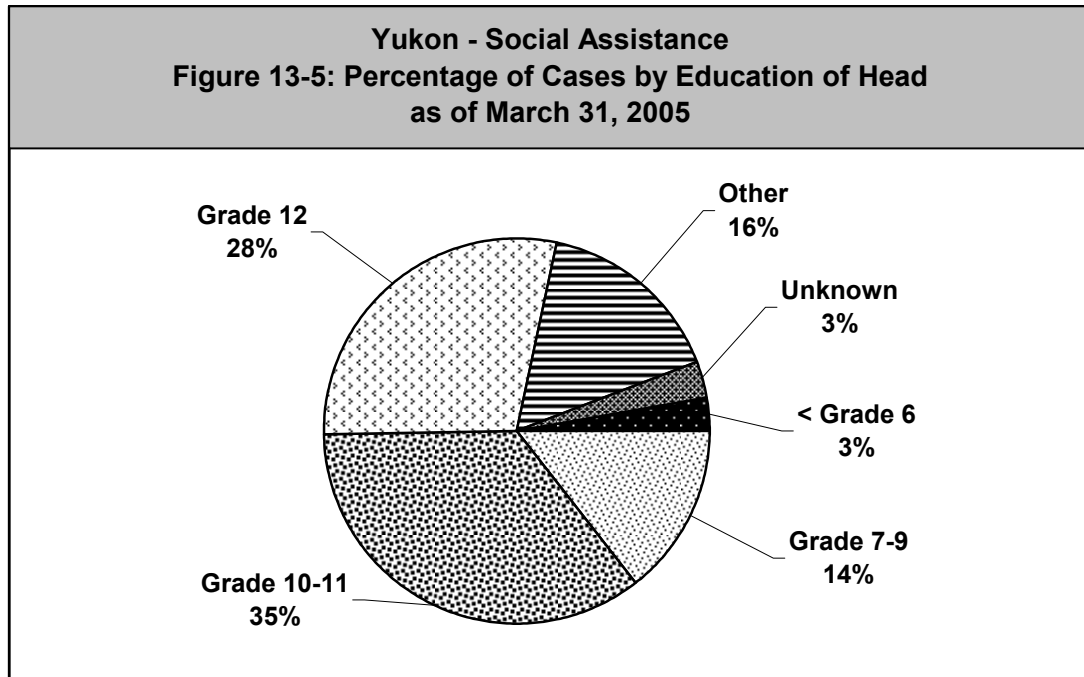
## Cases by Age of Head



Yukon - Social Assistance Table 13-4: Number of Cases by Age of Head as of March 31, 2005	
Age of Head	2005
15-19	16
20-29	146
30-39	144
40-49	182
50-59	140
60-64	57
65+	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>694</b>

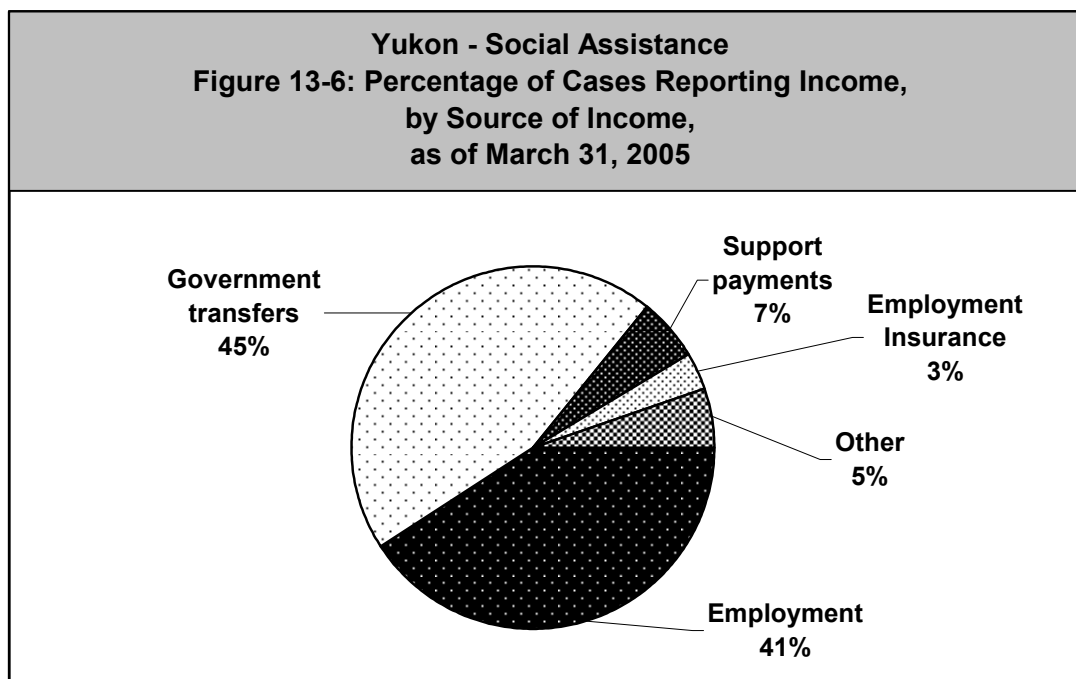


## Cases by Education of Head



Yukon - Social Assistance		
Table 13-5: Number and Percentage of Cases by Education of Head as of March 31, 2005		
Education of Head	2005	%
< Grade 6	20	3%
Grade 7-9	100	14%
Grade 10-11	245	35%
Grade 12	197	28%
Other <sup>a</sup>	110	16%
Unknown	22	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>100%</b>
a. Other: Includes Special Education, Partial Apprentice, Journeyman Certificate, Partial Tech Certificate/Partial College Diploma, Tech Certificate/College Diploma, Partial University, University/Professional Graduate.		

## Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income



Yukon - Social Assistance		
Table 13-6: Number and Percentage of Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income, as of March 31, 2005		
Source of Income	2005	%
Employment	115	41%
Government transfers	126	45%
Support payments	16	7%
Employment Insurance	9	3%
Other <sup>a</sup>	15	5%
<b>Total <sup>b</sup> (includes double-counting)</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>100%</b>
<sup>a</sup> . Other includes: training allowances (non-government), pensions (other than universal government pensions), rental income, and other sources of income not mentioned above. <sup>b</sup> . Total cases in these categories may include double-counting, since cases that have more than one source of income are counted for each source reported. Percentages were calculated based on 281 observations.		

Yukon - Social Assistance	
Table 13-7: Number of Cases Reporting Income as of March 31, 2005	
Reporting Income	275
No Income	419
<b>Total</b>	<b>694</b>

## **Chapter 14 – Northwest Territories**

### **Income Assistance**

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

---

##### **Overview**

In the Northwest Territories, the territorial social assistance program is known as Income Assistance (IA). The *Social Assistance Act* and the Social Assistance Regulations govern the Northwest Territories' Income Assistance program.

The Income Assistance program provides basic and enhanced benefits to both adults and children.

##### **Service Delivery**

The Department of Education, Culture, and Employment is responsible for the delivery of the Income Assistance program to adults and children within the territory.

##### **Eligibility**

###### **General**

In order to be eligible for the Income Assistance program, applicants must meet the general eligibility requirements outlined in the "Social Assistance Overview" in this report.

###### **Assets**

At the time of application, applicants' current assets may not exceed the following allowable limits. Persons with disabilities are entitled to retain \$5,000. Aged persons are also entitled to retain \$5,000. For all other applicants, all assets are reviewed and may be included in the calculation of eligibility.

## Earnings Exemptions

Once an application for assistance has been approved, Income Assistance clients are eligible for the following monthly exemptions on earned income:

Northwest Territories - Earnings Exemptions March 2005		
	Clients without Disabilities	Clients with Disabilities
Single	\$200	\$200
Family	\$400	\$400

## Benefits

Basic assistance consists of allowances for food, room and board or accommodations, utilities and fuel. The basic allowance rates are based on the family's size and its geographical location. Room and board or accommodation allowance rates are based on an applicant's eligibility, family size and what is available in the community. The actual amount of fuel and utilities is paid.

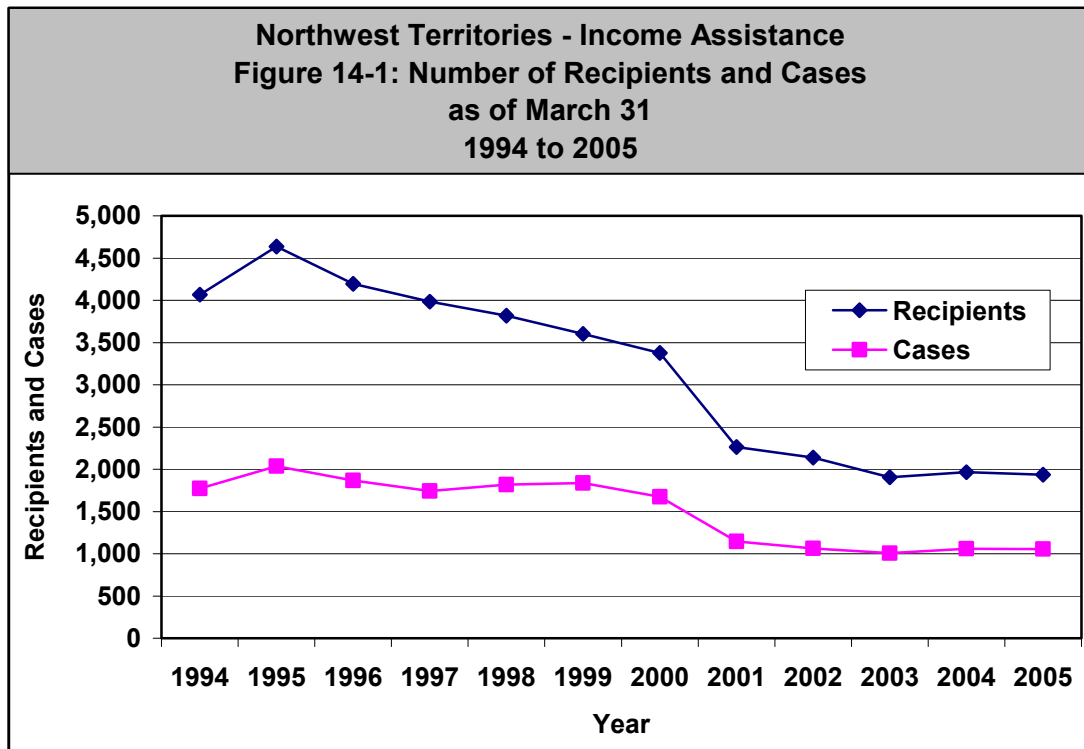
An enhanced benefit is also available for persons with disabilities, seniors and to applicants who participate in a program, such as employment or volunteering. The enhanced benefit provides allowances for clothing, furnishings, security deposits, emergencies and day care.

## More Information

For more information, please consult the Northwest Territories' Department of Education, Culture, and Employment website at: [www.ece.gov.nt.ca](http://www.ece.gov.nt.ca).

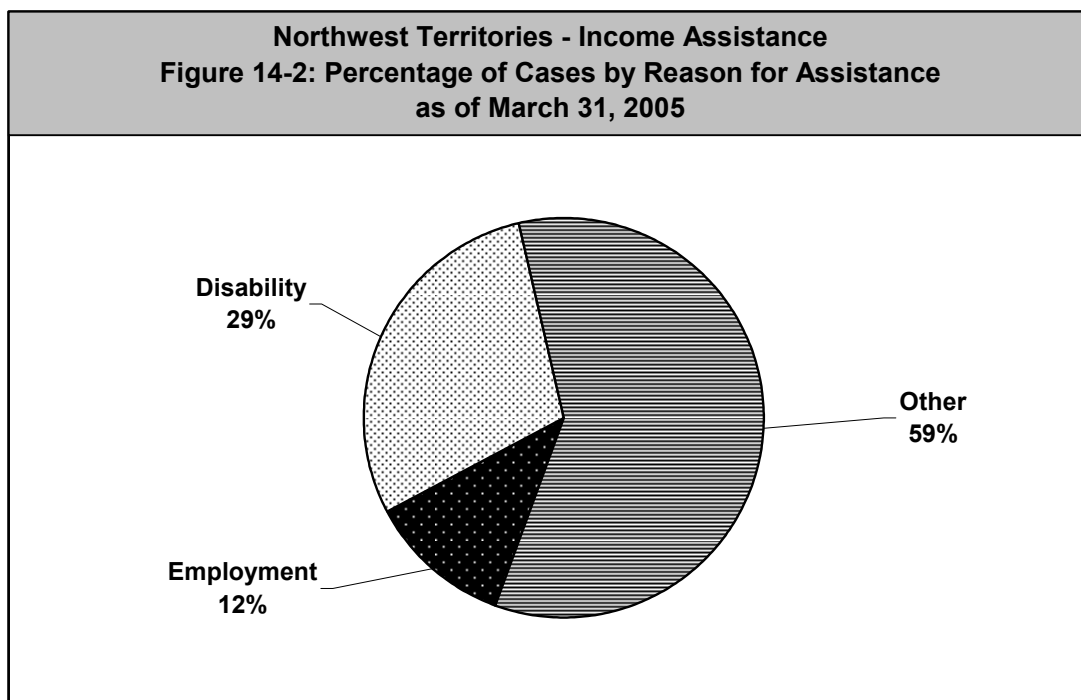
## STATISTICS

### Recipients and Cases



Northwest Territories - Income Assistance						
Table 14-1: Number of Recipients and Cases						
as of March 31,						
1994 to 2005						
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Recipients	4,067	4,638	4,195	3,985	3,820	3,604
Cases	1,773	2,038	1,868	1,743	1,820	1,837
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Recipients	3,376	2,266	2,140	1,904	1,965	1,937
Cases	1,675	1,148	1,064	1,008	1,062	1,058

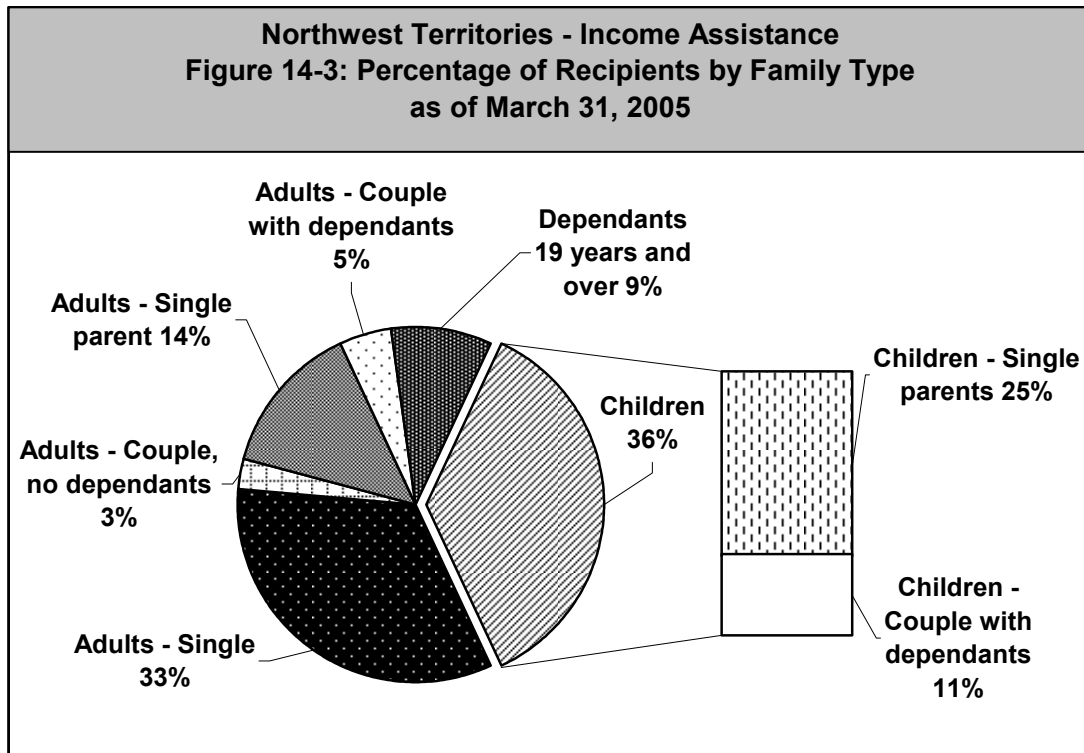
## Cases by Reason for Assistance



**Northwest Territories - Income Assistance**  
**Table 14-2: Number and Percentage of Cases**  
**by Reason for Assistance**  
**as of March 31, 2005**

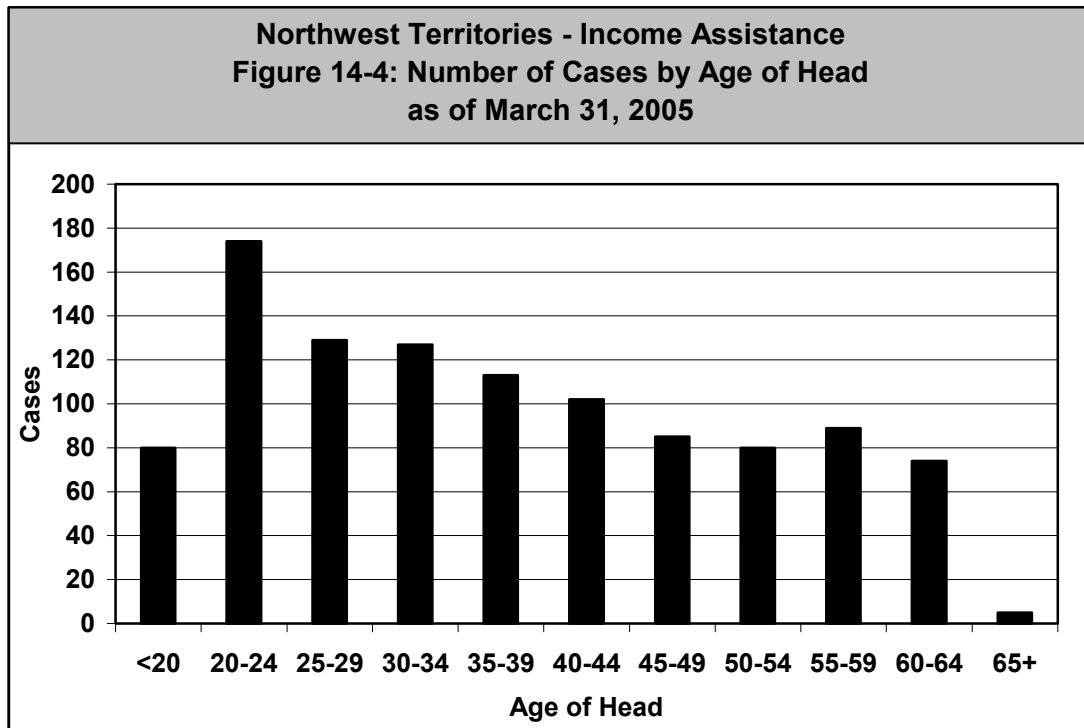
Reason for Assistance	2005	%
Employment	124	12%
Disability	308	29%
Other	626	59%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Recipients by Family Type



Northwest Territories - Income Assistance		
Table 14-3: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type		
as of March 31, 2005		
Family Type	2005	%
Adults - Single	643	33%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	55	3%
Adults - Single parent	269	14%
Adults - Couple with dependants	91	5%
<b>Total Adults</b>	<b>1,058</b>	
Children - Single parent	489	25%
Children - Couple with dependants	210	11%
<b>Total Children (36%)</b>	<b>699</b>	
Dependants 19 years and over	180	9%
<b>Total Recipients</b>	<b>1,937</b>	<b>100%</b>

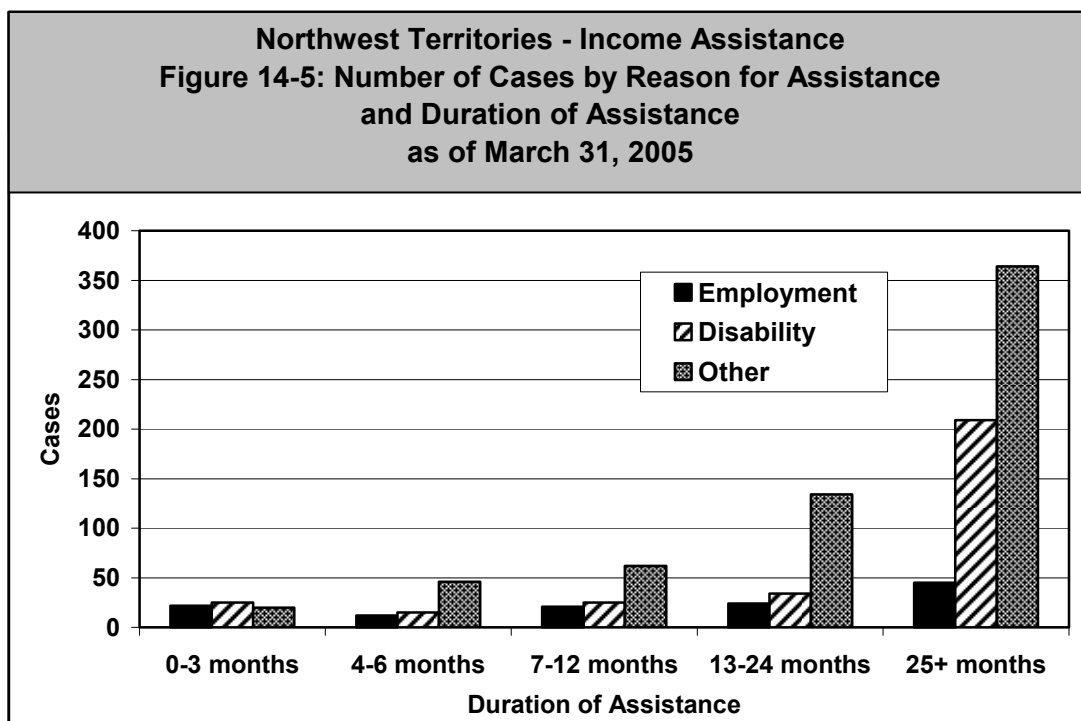
## Cases by Age of Head



Northwest Territories - Income Assistance	
Table 14-4: Number of Cases by Age of Head	
as of March 31, 2005	
Age of Head	2005
<20	80
20-24	174
25-29	129
30-34	127
35-39	113
40-44	102
45-49	85
50-54	80
55-59	89
60-64	74
65+	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,058</b>



## Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance

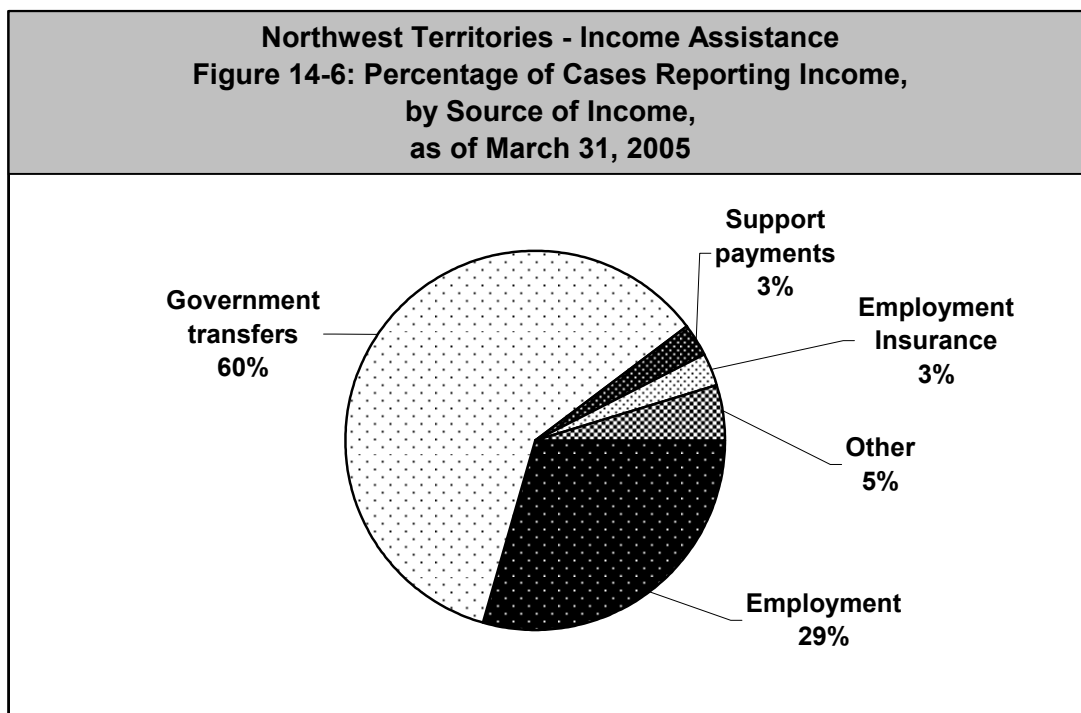


**Northwest Territories - Income Assistance**  
**Table 14-5: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance**  
**and Duration of Assistance**  
**as of March 31, 2005**

Duration of Assistance <sup>a</sup>	Employment	Disability	Other	Total
0-3 months	22	25	20	67
4-6 months	12	15	46	73
7-12 months	21	25	62	108
13-24 months	24	34	134	192
25+ months	45	209	364	618
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>1,058</b>

a. "Duration of Assistance" measures length as of March 2005.

## Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income



**Northwest Territories - Income Assistance**  
**Table 14-6: Number and Percentage of Cases Reporting Income,**  
**by Source of Income,**  
**as of March 31, 2005**

Source of Income	2005	%
Employment	230	29%
Government transfers	473	60%
Support payments	22	3%
Employment Insurance	22	3%
Other	36	5%
<b>Total <sup>a</sup> (includes double-counting)</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>100%</b>

a. Total cases in these categories may include double-counting, since cases that have more than one source of income are counted for each source reported. Percentage were calculated based on 783 observations.

**Northwest Territories - Income Assistance**  
**Table 14-7: Number of Cases Reporting Income**  
**as of March 31, 2005**

Reporting Income	517
No Income	541
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,058</b>

## **Chapter 15 – Nunavut**

### **Income Support**

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

---

##### **Overview**

In Nunavut, the territorial social assistance program is known as Income Support. The *Social Assistance Act* and the Social Assistance Regulations govern Nunavut's Income Support program.

The Income Support program provides basic and extended benefits to eligible heads of households and their dependants.

##### **Service Delivery**

The Department of Education is responsible for the delivery of the Income Support program within the territory.

##### **Eligibility**

###### **General**

In order to be eligible for the Income Support program, applicants must meet the general eligibility requirements outlined in the "Social Assistance Overview" in this report.

###### **Assets**

At the time of application, applicants' assets may not exceed the following allowable limits. Persons with disabilities are entitled to retain \$5,000. Aged persons are also entitled to retain \$5,000.

## Earnings Exemptions

Once an application for assistance has been approved, Income Support clients are eligible for the following monthly exemptions on earned income:

Nunavut - Earnings Exemptions March 2005		
	Clients without Disabilities	Clients with Disabilities
Single	\$200	\$200
Family	\$400	\$400

## Benefits

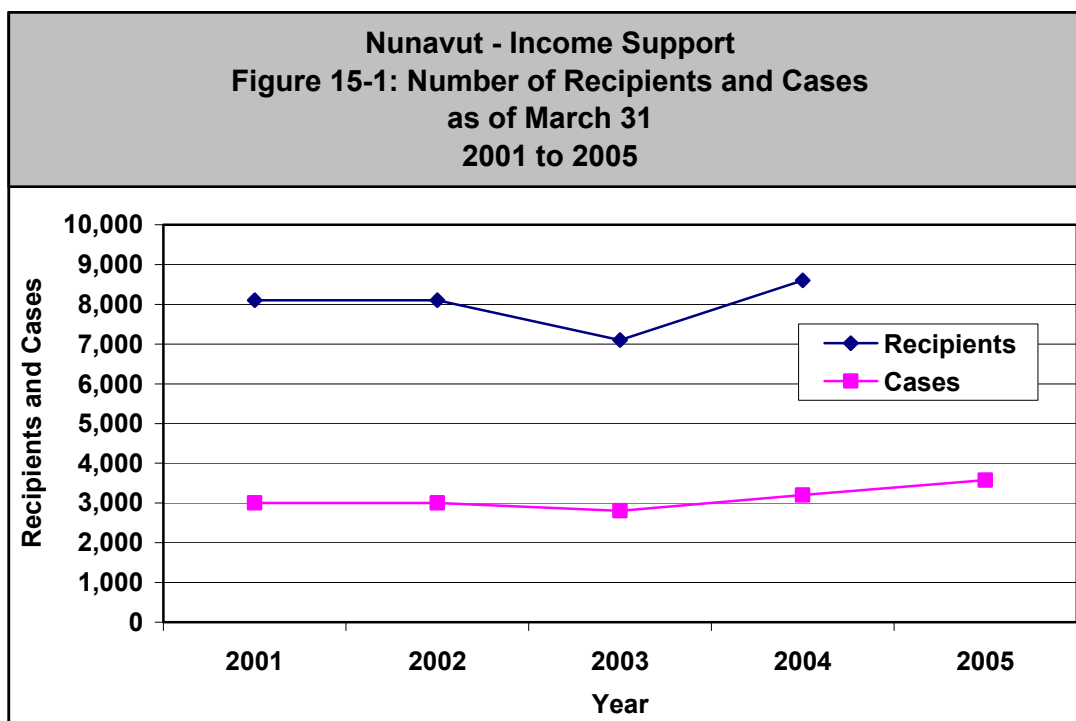
Income Support consists of basic benefits and extended benefits. The basic benefits cover the cost of food, shelter, and utilities. The food allowance component of basic benefits may be used to purchase personal and/or household items. Maximum shelter allowance rates depend on the composition of the household: single-person or including dependants. The actual amount of fuel and utilities is paid.

An extended benefit is also available for persons with disabilities, seniors and to applicants who participate in a program, such as employment or volunteering. The extended benefit provides allowances for clothing, furnishings, security deposits, emergencies and day care.

## More Information

For more information, please consult Nunavut's Department of Education, website at: [www.gov.nu.ca/education/eng/](http://www.gov.nu.ca/education/eng/).

## STATISTICS

**Recipients and Cases<sup>18</sup>**

<b>Nunavut - Income Support</b> <b>Table 15-1: Number of Recipients and Cases</b> <b>as of March 31,</b> <b>2001 to 2005<sup>a</sup></b>					
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Recipients</b>	8,100	8,100	7,100	8,600	13,380
<b>Cases</b>	3,000	3,000	2,800	3,200	3,577
a. Nunavut is still operating without an electronic case management information system, and therefore unable to provide detailed profile data. b. March data not available. December 2004 data was used.					

<sup>18</sup> For 2005, due to reporting changes, recipients are reported for the year rather than as a monthly average.



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