



Social Assistance Statistical Report: 2007

**Federal-Provincial-Territorial
Directors of Income Support
May 2010**

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Chapter 1

Summary

Social assistance in Canada is also known as income support, income assistance, welfare and a few other program names, depending on the jurisdiction. No matter the name, all provincial and territorial social assistance programs provide financial assistance and in-kind goods and services to cover the cost of basic living requirements for an individual or family when all other financial resources of that individual or family have been exhausted. For the purpose of this report, in Chapter 1 and 2, the term social assistance program has been adopted.

In recognition of the growing public demand for comprehensive information on provincial and territorial social assistance programs and caseloads, the *Social Assistance Statistical Report: 2007* is the fourth annual joint publication by federal, provincial and territorial governments. The report provides a general overview of social assistance in Canada, as well as a description of income support-related/social assistance programs in each jurisdiction.

This report does not include social assistance rates as this information is currently available to the public on most provincial and territorial government Web sites.

Methodology

The data in this report was provided by provincial and territorial ministries responsible for administering social assistance programs. It was extracted from jurisdictional data systems developed to meet their administrative and case management needs. As such, there are extensive variations in the types of data collected, the manner in which the data is reported, and in the definitions and terminology used. The data in this report should not be used for the purpose of cross-jurisdictional comparison.



Chapter 2

Social Assistance in Canada: An Overview

The formal division of powers between the federal government and the provincial and territorial governments respecting social services is based on *The Constitution Act, 1867*. The Act itself did not refer to social services; however, the legislative authority for social services has been inferred from the interpretations of sections 91 and 92 of the Act. These sections of the Act set out the division of authority between the federal and provincial governments and the constitution has been interpreted to mean that the provinces have primary jurisdiction over social services. As such, the legislation governing the provision of social assistance varies by jurisdiction.

Following the approach of their provincial or territorial counterpart, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) has adopted similar terms and conditions of social assistance programs. Funding for social assistance activities is provided by INAC to First Nations communities, who in turn deliver programs and services to community members.¹

A Brief History of Federal Social Assistance

1966 - Canada Assistance Plan (CAP) – The federal government shared the eligible costs that provincial, territorial and municipal governments incurred in providing provincial social assistance and welfare services to persons in need.

1996 - The Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST) replaced CAP. The CHST was a federal transfer provided to provinces and territories in support of provincial health care, post-secondary education, social assistance and social services, including early childhood development and early learning and child care

2004 - The CHST was replaced by the **Canada Health Transfer (CHT)** in support of health care and the **Canada Social Transfer (CST)** in support of post-secondary education, social assistance and social services, including early childhood development and early learning and childcare.

Eligibility

In general, assistance may be granted to any individual or family head who has been determined, on the basis of need, unable to provide adequately for themselves and any dependants. Employable recipients may be required to participate in one or

¹ In Ontario, under the *1965 Indian Welfare Agreement*, Ontario assumes the responsibility of the provision of social assistance in First Nations and INAC reimburses Ontario a percentage share of provincial costs.

more employment activities as a condition of eligibility for financial assistance. Most jurisdictions require applicants to attain the age of majority prior to application, and be a resident at the time of their application and while receiving benefits.

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*.

Administrative Requirements

Depending on the jurisdiction, to establish a social assistance initial eligibility, an applicant may be required to:

- submit a completed application;
- provide all documentation or necessary information to verify his/her eligibility, such as proof of age, a medical certificate to confirm disability, pay cheque stubs, etc.;
- meet a representative from the ministry and discuss the financial and social situation of the household;
- provide consent for verification of any statement made in the application and any supporting documents concerning financial resources or any other circumstances of the household;
- report any change in circumstances that may affect continuing program eligibility or the amount of assistance to which the household is entitled.

Employment Requirements

Eligible employable persons are actively encouraged to pursue, accept, and retain any reasonable offer of employment or retraining as an initial and continuing condition of eligibility for social assistance. Thus, many jurisdictions offer employment services and training opportunities in combination with financial assistance. Should a recipient choose not to pursue employment or retraining, he/she may be subject to penalties ranging from a specified reduction in benefits over a prescribed period of time to the full cancellation of benefits.

To ensure that those who successfully leave social assistance for employment are better off working, a number of provinces and territories have introduced earned income or working income supplements.

Categories of Beneficiaries

Employable Persons - A number of measures promote the entry or re-entry of employable persons into the active labour force. 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.

Recipients may be required to sign and adhere to an individualized contract that stipulates training and rehabilitation measures to be undertaken in order to regain financial independence. However, assistance may be granted only when:

- unemployment is due to circumstances beyond the person's control;
- the person is willing to accept employment which he/she is 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 - A sole support parent may be required 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, single parents are considered as employable and required to actively seek and accept reasonable employment, where the parent and dependent child(ren) are physically and mentally healthy and when the dependants have reached a certain age.

Persons with Disabilities - An applicant with a 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. Evidence of a continuing disability on an annual basis may also be required. These requirements may be waived where the disability is obvious.

All programs have design features to assist persons with disabilities, including 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 – A variety of situations and personal circumstances could make it difficult for recipients to find and maintain employment. They 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.

They require interventions to address their personal circumstances in order to be able to find and maintain employment. They may have higher benefit levels and exemptions to reflect their longer-term reliance on social assistance.

Aged Persons - Seniors may qualify for social assistance notwithstanding their eligibility for benefits from other federal, provincial and territorial programs. 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. Most jurisdictions have established higher basic assistance benefit levels or other special considerations for aged persons.

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 to receive financial assistance.

Financial Eligibility

Needs Test - Social assistance is generally granted to eligible persons on the basis of a needs test. It takes into account the basic needs and the financial resources available to an individual or family (assets and income), and the ability of those financial resources to meet their basic needs.

Assets – A household's assets may be considered as exempt or non-exempt for the purpose of calculating the social assistance entitlement. In most jurisdictions, liquid assets are defined as any assets that are readily convertible into cash including cash on hand, bank accounts, stocks and bonds, or other securities. Certain exemptions are allowed with respect to actual and potential liquid assets and the property of an individual or family. A portion of the cash value of a life insurance policy may be exempt 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 as long as the value of the vehicle does not exceed an allowable limit. Provisions regarding the treatment of assets such as Registered Retirement Savings Plans and Registered Education Savings Plans vary between the jurisdictions.

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 – In addition to assets, income from all sources is examined in the calculation of entitlement to social assistance. The following types of income may be exempt:

- Canada Child Tax Benefit;
- foster home payments;
- child welfare payments;
- GST/HST rebates;
- insurance settlements;
- federal compensation payments (such as those under the Hepatitis C Program, those infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) virus through blood transfusions or blood products, and the Canadian merchant mariners who served in the First and Second World Wars or the Korean War);
- involuntary deductions from pay;
- gifts and inheritances; and
- income from full-time employment held by dependants who are students.

Partial exemptions for employment income exist in most provinces and territories. These income exemptions may be granted as an incentive for the individual to gain financial independence. The income exemption provision may take effect only after initial eligibility for social assistance has been established.

Other types of unearned income, such as Workers' Compensation benefits and Old Age Security, are non-exempt, and thereby reduces the amount of social assistance payable dollar-for-dollar.

In the determination of financial eligibility, some jurisdictional authorities 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, shelter, clothing, personal and household items, and may cover regularly recurring special needs. There are three basic methods used to calculate the amount of benefits to which an individual or family are entitled:

- i. Pre-added budget method – It combines all non-shelter requirements into a single support allowance. A separate shelter component is then provided.
- ii. Itemized budget method – It 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.
- iii. Flat rate of assistance – It is for non-shelter and shelter items based on a household's structure and the program in which it is participating.

Variables affecting the amount of shelter allowance payable include the number of beneficiaries in any given household, the type of living arrangement and the cost of fuel and utilities. In some jurisdictions, the shelter amount varies depending on the season, location and relative remoteness of the area in question.

Special Needs Assistance - Generally, this type of assistance provides items, services, or allowances related to age, disability, employment, education, training, and other special circumstances. It varies widely between jurisdictions but examples include transportation allowances, employment-related allowances, child-care subsidies, drug and medical services, as well as furniture replacement, minor home repair allowances, special diet allowances, school supply allowances, and funeral services. The provision of items of special need is on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the applicable policies and guidelines.

Transitional Assistance - In an effort to increase labour market attachment and reduce reliance on social assistance, attempts have been made to lessen the financial impact of the transition from social assistance to employment. For some jurisdictions, child-care and transportation allowances have been increased to facilitate the participation 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 province and territory is responsible for the indexation of its benefits. While most revise their rates on an adhoc basis, Quebec annually indexes

its benefits paid within their financial assistance program. Therefore, the benefits paid to those with severe constraints to employment are adjusted at the same indexation rates used in the personal taxation system. The benefits to those who are employable are increased at a rate corresponding to half of the fiscal indexation system.

Administration

Referral to Other Government Programs – An applicant's circumstances are reviewed to determine if social assistance is the most appropriate intervention for them. If it is determined that another governmental program may be more suitable, then the applicant is referred to that program.

Method of Payment - Social assistance benefits can be paid in a variety of ways—by cash, payroll or manual cheque issue, direct deposit, voucher or authorization to purchase, or direct payment to a third party vendor or supplier.

Case Review - As a condition of continuing eligibility for financial assistance, beneficiaries must report immediately any change in the circumstances of their household that would affect their entitlement to financial assistance. In addition, some jurisdictions require that long-term social assistance recipients be reviewed every year, and more frequently for short-term recipients.

Recoveries and Reimbursement - There are 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, such as, accidental or wilful representation, or fraud. Certain forms of assistance may be conditional upon a formal agreement signed by the recipient to reimburse the government for such assistance.

Appeals - An applicant or recipient is entitled to file a request for reconsideration or appeal where he/she is dissatisfied with a decision affecting his/her entitlement to social assistance. Some provinces and 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. Most jurisdictions have adopted a two-step appeals process in which social services personnel first conduct an internal administrative review before being subject to a formal Appeals Board consisting of appointed members.

Children's Benefits

Some provinces and territories have child benefit programs for all low-income families with children, whether they are working or on social assistance. Some programs were in existence when the National Child Benefit (NCB) program was established, and others were implemented afterwards.

The NCB is a joint initiative of federal, provincial and territorial governments², which includes a First Nations component, to support Canadian children living in low-income families. The goals of the NCB are to help prevent and reduce the depth of child poverty, to promote attachment to the labour market by ensuring that families will always be better off as a result of working; and to reduce overlap and duplication by harmonizing program objectives and benefits, and through simplified 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 children. The NCB Supplement is provided to low-income families with children, whether the parents are working or receiving social assistance.

Approaches to Replacing Social Assistance Benefits for Children

Jurisdictions 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. Jurisdictions may also invest additional funds, known as the NCB Investment Funds, in benefits and services consistent with the objectives of the NCB.

Since the inception of the NCB initiative, three distinct approaches have evolved by which provinces and territories replace social assistance benefits for children with the NCB Supplement.

The Social Assistance Offset Approach - Under this approach child benefits remain within the social assistance system, but these benefits have been gradually displaced by federal increases to the NCB Supplement. Provinces and territories either deduct the NCB Supplement as an unearned income charge against social assistance or reduce their social assistance rates for children. In the case of income offset, social assistance recipients have the amount of the NCB Supplement they receive deducted from their social assistance entitlement. This approach is used in Prince Edward Island³, Ontario,⁴ Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. In the case of rate reduction, the social assistance rates are reduced by the maximum NCB Supplement. Alberta^{5,6} uses this approach. Reinvestment fund under the social assistance offset approach are the savings in social assistance.

² 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.

³ Since 2001, any increases in the NCB Supplement have been used to fund an increase in the Healthy Child Allowance, which is a social assistance benefits.

⁴ Prior to July 2008, the 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 increases to the NCBS were flowed through to social assistance recipients. Beginning in July 2008, social assistance benefits and the Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families (OCCS) were restructured and no portion of the NCBS is currently deducted from social assistance.

⁵ 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

The Integrated Child Benefit Approach with Adjustment - Several jurisdictions restructured their social assistance system and children's benefits are now delivered through a separate income-tested child benefit program that is integrated with the CCTB. Under this approach, increases in the NCB Supplement are offset in full or in part against the provincial child benefit. In British Columbia, the savings from this offset become the province's reinvestment funds. In Saskatchewan, the amount of reinvestment funds is set at the amount that was being used for basic child benefits under the social assistance system at the time the system was restructured.

The Integrated Child Benefit Approach without Adjustment - Other jurisdictions also restructured their social assistance system as basic benefits for children were removed from the social assistance program and these benefits are now provided through a separate income-tested program integrated with the CCTB. In these cases, however, there is no offset of the NCB Supplement against provincial child benefits. The amount of reinvestment funds is set at the funds that were being used for basic child benefit under the social assistance system at the time the system was restructured and has remained the same for subsequent years. Newfoundland and Labrador⁷ and Nova Scotia⁸ have adopted this approach. Two jurisdictions, New Brunswick and Manitoba⁹, do not adjust social assistance benefits for children.

Other Approach - In Quebec, children needs are covered by the Canada Child Tax Benefit and the improved Quebec Family Allowances, since January 2005, by a new Tax Credit Reimbursement for Child Support. This new income support to families with children allows Quebec families with children, in particular those receiving last-resort financial benefits or those with a low income, to obtain transfer payments benefiting more their children. Those benefits are adjusted on January 1st of every year at the same indexation rate as the personal taxation system.

In 2007, provinces and territories provided NCB programs and services in six key areas: child/day care initiatives, child benefits and earned income supplements, early

NCB Supplement. Alberta extended the flow-through of NCB Supplement increases again in 2004, 2005, 2006 and in 2007 under the new Alberta Works – Income Support program.

⁶ Canada Child Tax Benefits (including the National Child Benefit (NCB)) are fully exempt under Alberta's Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) program. As such, AISH benefits are not reduced if a client receives the NCB Supplement.

⁷ Newfoundland and Labrador redesigned its income support program in 1999–2000. All basic benefits for children have been removed from the newly created Income Support Program as these benefits are now provided through the combined CCTB and Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit. As a result, Newfoundland and Labrador does not adjust its income support benefits for increases in the NCB Supplement, nor does it adjust the Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit.

⁸ With the advent of the NCB Supplement in 1998, Nova Scotia enhanced the supports available for children of low-income families by introducing the Nova Scotia Child Benefit as a provincial reinvestment initiative. In 2001, children's benefits were removed from the province's income assistance program, substantially increased and fully integrated with the CCTB to establish a single, non-taxable monthly payment for all low-income families with children. At the same time, Nova Scotia ensured that any future increases to the NCB Supplement flowed directly through to families receiving income assistance.

⁹ 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.

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: childcare, child nutrition, support to parents, home-to-work transition and cultural enrichment.

Additional information on the NCB is available in annual progress reports, which are available on the NCB Web site at: www.nationalchildbenefit.ca.



Chapter 3 – Newfoundland and Labrador

Income Support

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.14).

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.

Newfoundland and Labrador - Liquid Asset Exemptions March 2007		
	Clients without Disabilities	Clients with Disabilities ^a
Single	\$500	\$3,000
Family	\$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:

Newfoundland and Labrador - Earnings Exemptions March 2007		
	Clients without Disabilities	Clients with Disabilities^a
Single	\$75, plus 10% of income in excess of \$75 to a maximum total exemption of \$150 a month.	\$95, plus 10% of income in excess of \$95 to a maximum total exemption of \$150 a month.
Family	\$150, plus 10% of income in excess of \$150 to a maximum total exemption of \$275 a month.	\$190, plus 10% of income in excess of \$190 to a maximum total exemption of \$275 a month.
a. These clients must require supportive services.		

Benefits

Basic assistance consists of individual/family benefits and a shelter allowance. Individual/family benefits cover 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 who 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 2006, in addition to the National Child Benefit Supplement, families with one child may be entitled to receive \$257 per year. Families are eligible to receive \$335 per year for their second child, \$360 per year for their third child, and \$386 per year for each additional child.

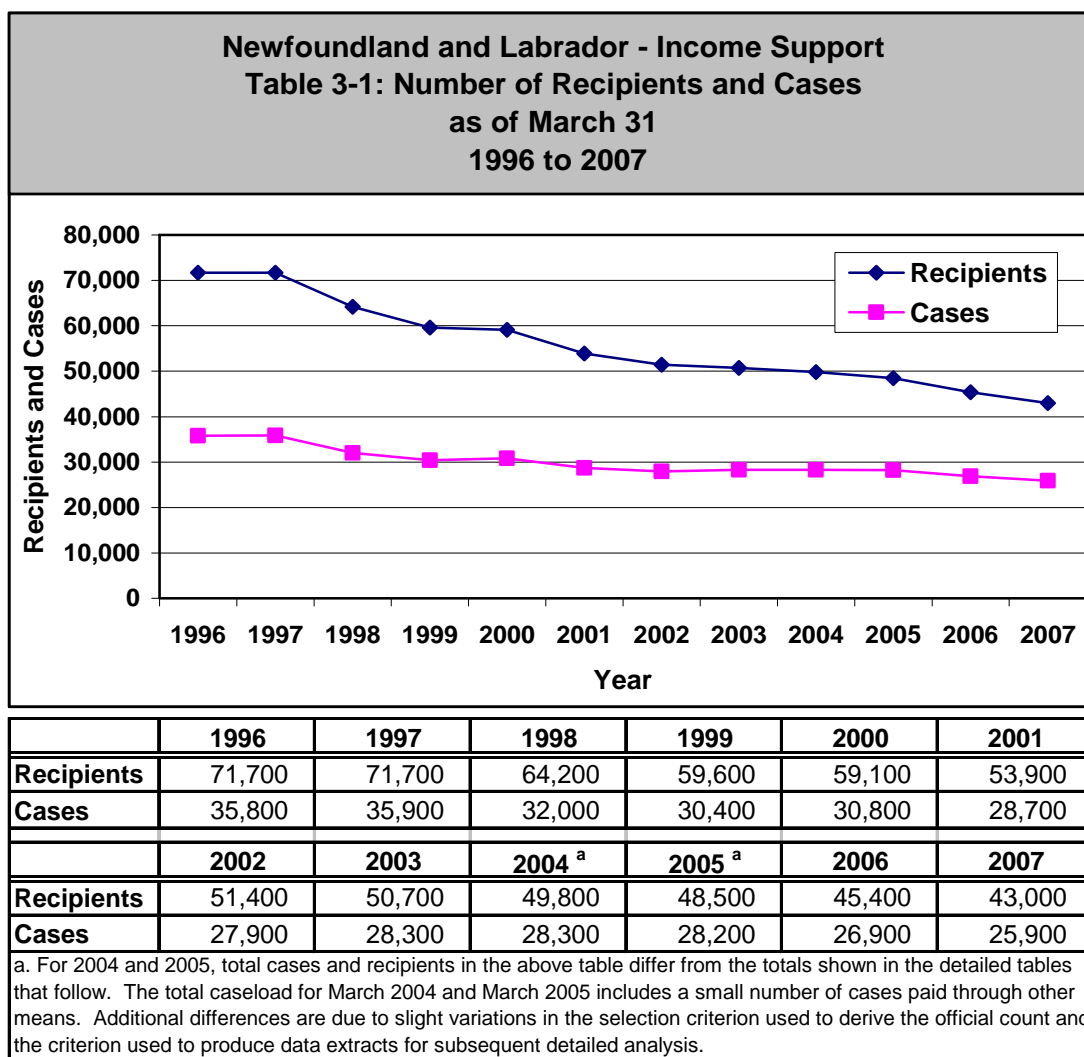
Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit Estimated Number of Recipients 2000-2001 to 2006-2007							
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Families	20,629	20,000	20,314	19,800	18,834	18,246	17,329
Children	33,182	32,000	31,500	30,000	29,306	28,393	27,072

More Information

For more information, please consult the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Human Resources, Labour, and Employment Web site at: www.hrle.gov.nl.ca/hrle.

STATISTICS

Recipients and Cases



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, 2007		
Reason for Assistance	#	
Employed	1,100	4%
Unemployed	14,400	56%
Disability	5,600	22%
Sole support parent	1,200	5%
Age-related	300	1%
Student	400	2%
Other ^a	2,900	11%
Total	25,900	100%
a. "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. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

Recipients by Family Type

Newfoundland and Labrador - Income Support Table 3-3: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type as of March 31, 2007		
Family Type	#	
Adults - Single	15,400	36%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	5,600	13%
Adults - Single parent	5,800	13%
Adults - Couple with dependants	3,800	9%
Total Adults	30,600	
Children - Single parent	8,900	21%
Children - Couple with dependants	3,500	8%
Total Children (29%)	12,400	
Total Recipients	43,000	100%
<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, 2007	
Age of Head	#
<20	600
20-24	2,400
25-29	2,500
30-34	2,700
35-39	2,900
40-44	3,200
45-49	3,200
50-54	3,100
55-59	2,800
60-64	2,100
65+	300
Total	25,900
<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, 2007		
Education of Head ^a	#	
Primary ^b	7,700	30%
Secondary ^c	13,900	54%
Community/technical college	2,500	10%
University	700	3%
Other	1,100	4%
Total	25,900	100%
a. Education is defined as level of education attained by the head of the household as of March 31. b. "Primary" includes Kindergarten to Grade 8. c. "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, 2007		
Source of Income	#	
Employment	1,100	19%
Government transfers	2,600	44%
Support payments	1,600	27%
Employment Insurance	300	5%
Other ^a	300	5%
Total ^b (includes double-counting)	5,900	100%
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 5,900 observations. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

Newfoundland and Labrador - Income Support Table 3-7: Number of Cases Reporting Income as of March 31, 2007	
Reporting Income	5,400
No Income	20,500
Total	25,900
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	



Chapter 4 – Prince Edward Island

Social Assistance

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.22).

Service Delivery

The Department of Community Services, Seniors and Labour¹⁰ 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.

¹⁰ The Department of Social Services and Seniors was renamed to the Department of Community Services, Seniors and Labour in January 2010.

*Long-Term Assistance*¹¹

Prince Edward Island - Long-Term Assistance Liquid Asset Exemptions March 2007		
	Clients without Disabilities	Clients with Disabilities
Single	\$200	\$900
Single-Parent Family	\$900 plus \$300 per dependant to a maximum of \$2,400.	\$900 plus \$300 per dependant to a maximum of \$2,400.
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 2007	
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 PEI 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.

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.

¹¹ Long-Term Assistance is for those clients expected to receive benefits for more than four months.

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 contribute¹².

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 2006-2007					
2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
691	946	1,030	1,117	1,129	1,106

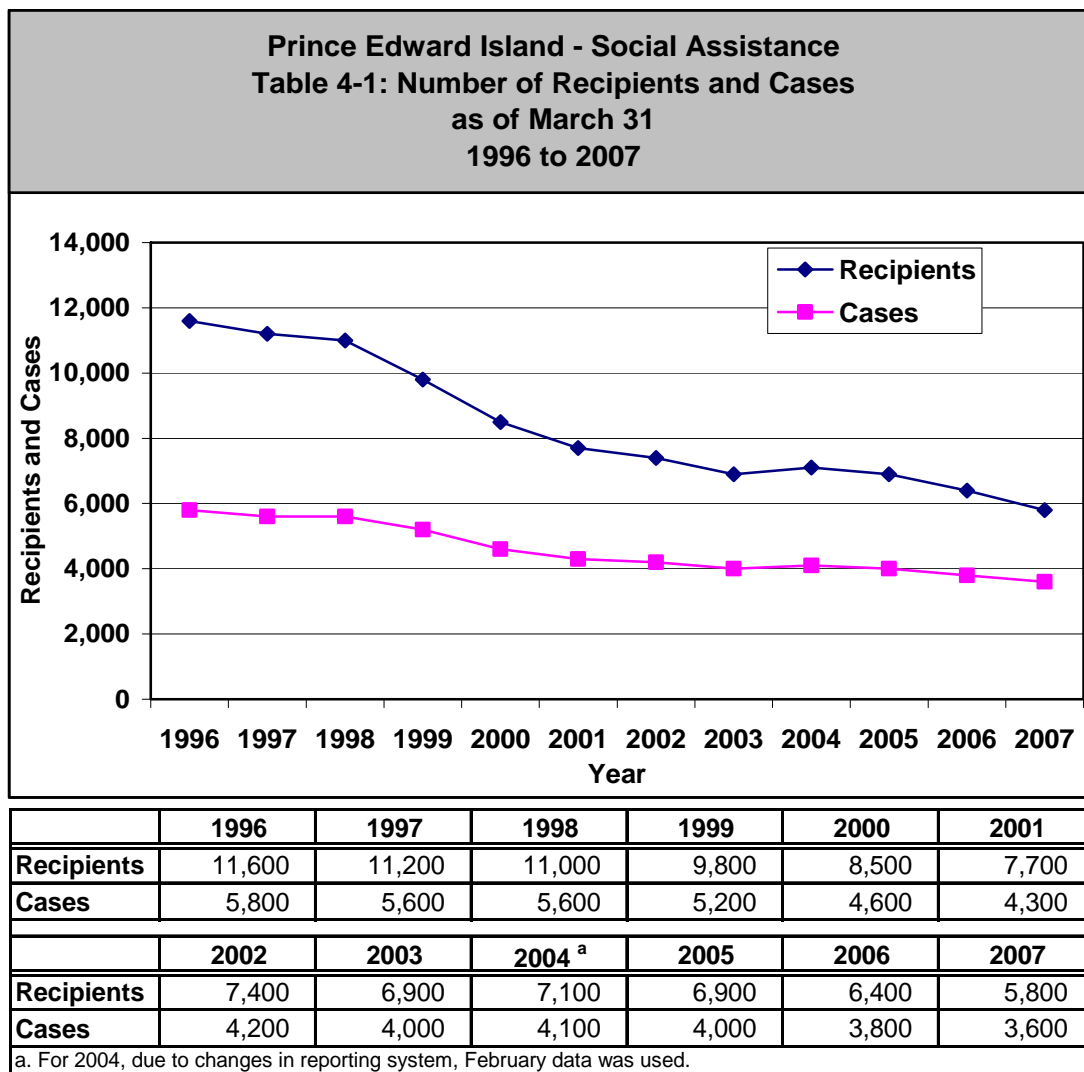
More Information

For more information, please consult the Prince Edward Island Department of Community Services, Seniors and Labour Web site at:
www.gov.pe.ca/ssss/index.php3 .

¹² In July 2007, income testing of the parents of minor children ceased.

STATISTICS

Recipients and Cases



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, 2007		
Reason for Assistance	#	
Employed	400	11%
Unemployed	900	25%
Short term disability	200	6%
Long term disability	1,900	53%
High support needs ^a	200	6%
Total	3,600	100%
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, 2007		
Family Type	#	
Adults - Single	2,400	41%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	400	7%
Adults - Single parent	800	14%
Adults - Couple with dependants	400	7%
Total Adults	4,000	
Children - Single parent	1,400	24%
Children - Couple with dependants	400	7%
Total Children (31%)	1,800	
Total Recipients	5,800	100%
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.		

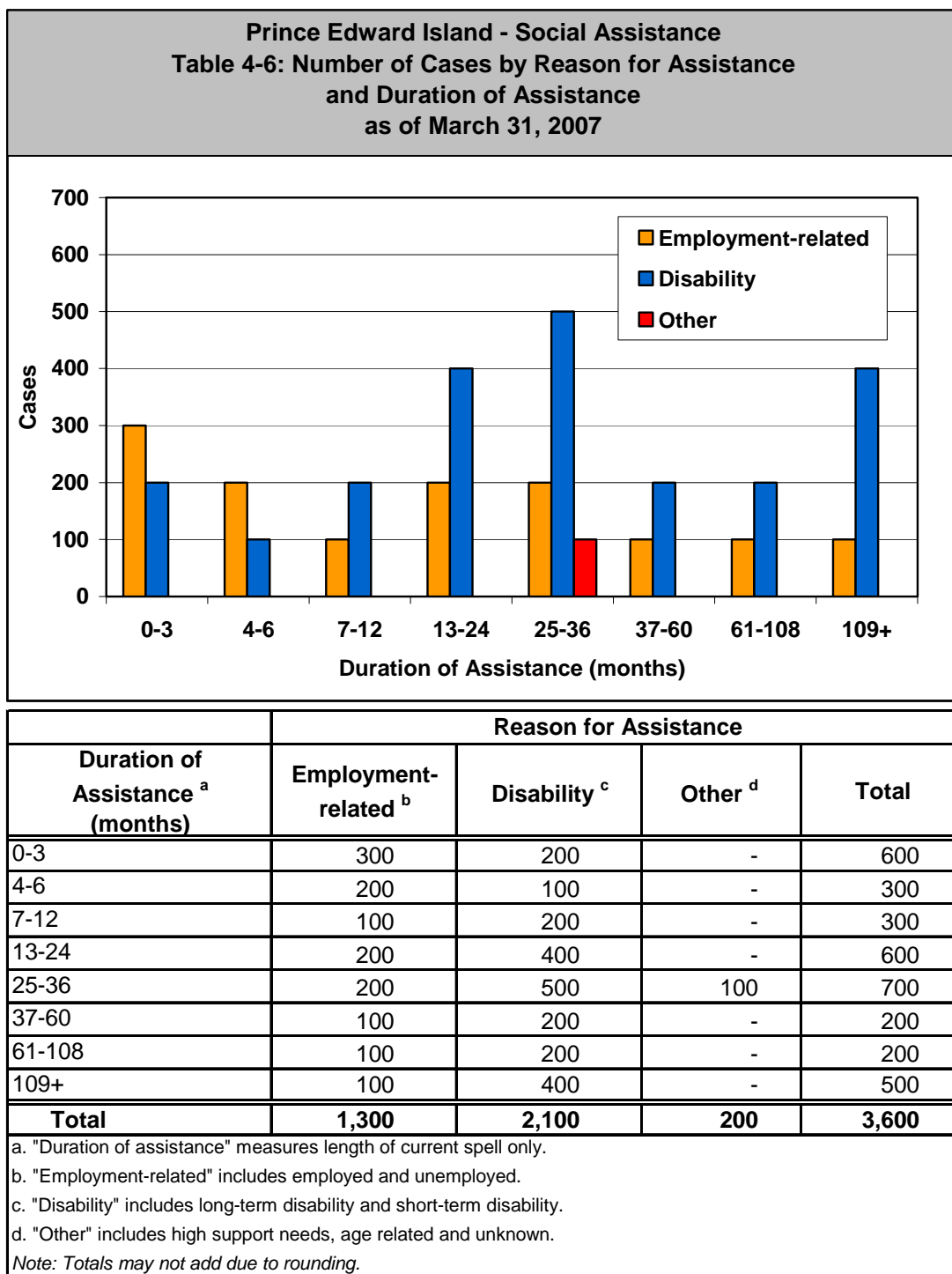
Cases by Age of Head

Prince Edward Island - Social Assistance Table 4-4: Number of Cases by Age of Head as of March 31, 2007	
Age of Head	#
<20	100
20-24	300
25-29	300
30-34	300
35-39	300
40-44	400
45-49	400
50-54	400
55-59	400
60-64	300
65+	300
Total	3,600
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

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, 2007		
Education of Head ^a	#	
Primary	900	25%
Secondary	1,800	50%
Community/technical college	300	8%
University	100	3%
Unknown	400	11%
Total	3,600	100%
a. Education is defined as level of education attained as of date of application.		
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance



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, 2007		
Source of Income	#	
Employment	400	22%
Government transfers	900	50%
Support payments	100	6%
Employment Insurance	300	17%
Other ^a	200	11%
Total ^b (includes double-counting)	1,800	100%
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 1,800 observations. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

Prince Edward Island - Social Assistance Table 4-8: Number of Cases Reporting Income as of March 31, 2007	
Reporting Income	700
No Income	2,900
Total	3,600
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	



Chapter 5 – Nova Scotia

Employment Support and Income Assistance

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 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.30).

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 2007		
	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 2007		
	Clients without Disabilities	Clients with Disabilities^a
Single	30% of net wages	Persons in supported employment are allowed \$150 plus 30% of the remaining net wages.
Family	30% of net wages	Persons in supported employment are allowed \$150 plus 30% of the remaining net wages.
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 transitional drug coverage for twelve months to clients who 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.

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.

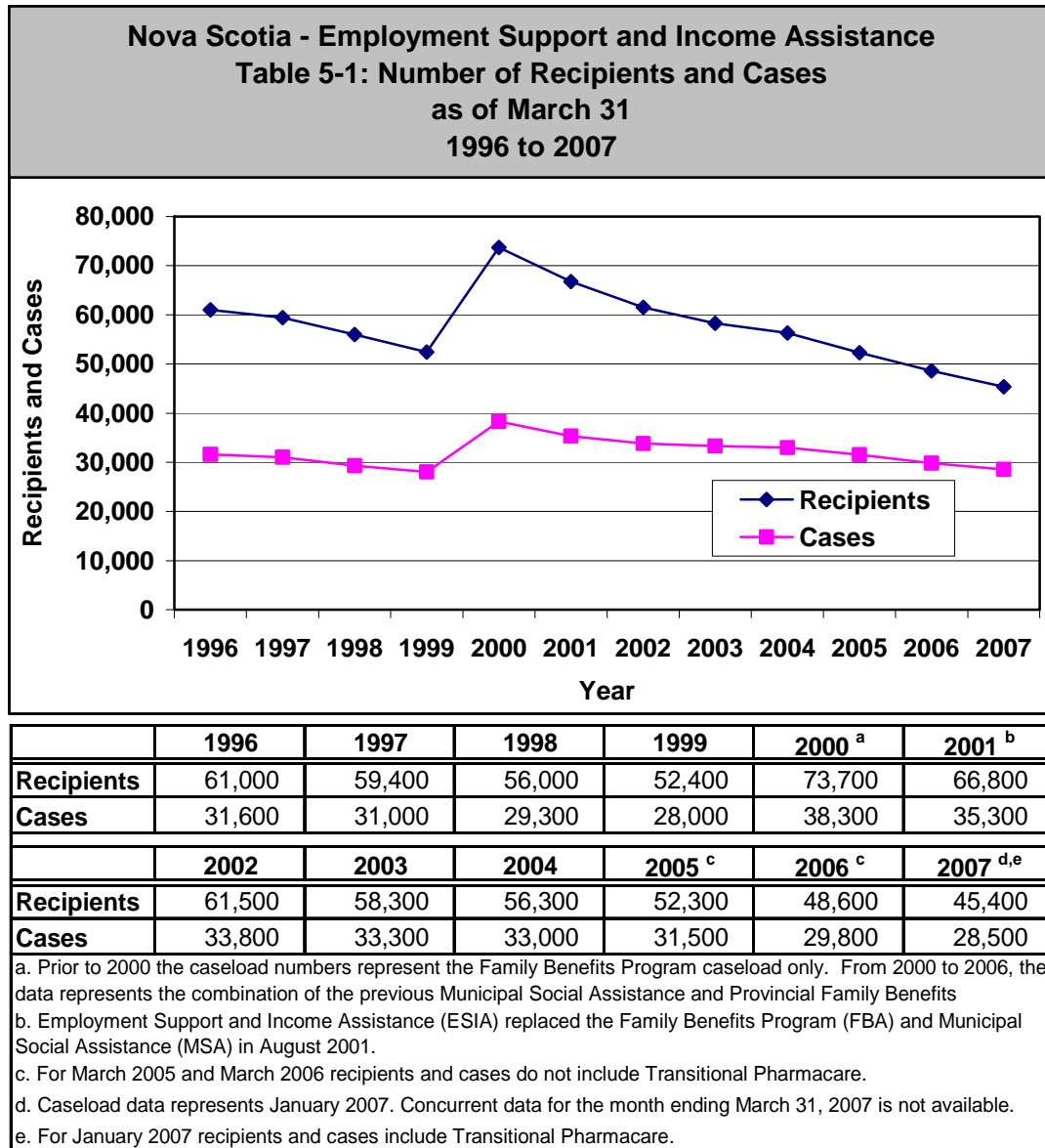
Nova Scotia Child Benefit Estimated Number of Recipients 2000-2001 to 2006-2007							
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Families	34,106	33,224	31,905	30,743	29,292	28,529	27,935
Children	57,325	55,986	53,961	52,054	49,732	48,556	47,087

More Information

For more information, please consult the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services Web site at: www.gov.ns.ca/coms/.

STATISTICS

Recipients and Cases



Cases by Reason for Assistance

Nova Scotia - Employment Support and Income Assistance Table 5-2: Number and Percentage of Cases by Reason for Assistance ^a as of January 31, 2007 ^b		
Reason for Assistance	#	
Employed	600	2%
Unemployed	5,000	18%
Short term disabled	3,200	11%
Long term disabled	13,200	46%
Sole support parent	3,500	12%
Age-related ^c	900	3%
Student	400	1%
Other ^d	1,700	6%
Total	28,500	100%
a. Cases include Transitional Pharmacare. b. Caseload data represents January 2007. Concurrent data for the month ending March 31, 2007 is not available. c. "Age-related" includes persons 55 years and over. d. "Other" includes clients receiving a one-time payment and clients receiving extended pharmacare (prescription drug benefits). <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

Recipients by Family Type

Nova Scotia - Employment Support and Income Assistance Table 5-3: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type ^a as of January 31, 2007 ^b		
Family Type	#	
Adults - Single	18,900	40%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	1,900	4%
- Spouse	1,900	4%
Adults - Single parent	6,800	15%
Adults - Couple with dependants	1,500	3%
- Spouse	1,500	3%
Total Adults	32,600	
Children - Single parent	11,300	24%
Children - Couple with dependants	2,900	6%
Total Children (30%)	14,200	
Total Recipients	46,800	100%
a. The above table includes 1,400 recipients receiving Transitional Pharmacare, which are not to be considered part of the 45,400 social assistance recipients that appears in Table 5-1. b. Caseload data represents January 2007. Concurrent data for the month ending March 31, 2007 is not available. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

Cases by Age of Head

Nova Scotia - Employment Support and Income Assistance Table 5-4: Number of Cases by Age of Head ^a as of January 31, 2007 ^b	
Age of Head	#
<20	400
20-24	2,800
25-29	2,800
30-34	2,800
35-39	2,900
40-44	3,500
45-49	3,700
50-54	3,500
55-59	3,300
60-64	2,500
65+	100
Total	28,500
a. Cases do not include Transitional Pharmacare. b. Caseload data represents January 2007. Concurrent data for the month ending March 31, 2007 is not available. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

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 ^a as of January 31, 2007 ^b		
Source of Income	#	
Employment	3,600	15%
Government transfers	14,600	62%
Support payments	3,600	15%
Employment Insurance	300	1%
Other ^c	1,400	6%
Total ^d (includes double-counting)	23,500	100%
<p>a. Cases include Transitional Pharmacare, but for the "Employment" category only.</p> <p>b. Caseload data represents January 2007. Concurrent data for the month ending March 31, 2007 is not available.</p> <p>c. "Other" includes clients receiving workers' compensation, training income, income tax refund, or income from rental or from room & board and roomers.</p> <p>d. 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 23,500 observations.</p> <p><i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i></p>		

Nova Scotia - Employment Support and Income Assistance Table 5-6: Number of Cases Reporting Income ^a as of January 31, 2007 ^b	
Reporting income	14,700
Not reporting income	13,700
Total ^c	28,500
<p>a. Cases do not include Transitional Pharmacare.</p> <p>b. Caseload data represents January 2007. Concurrent data for the month ending March 31, 2007 is not available.</p> <p>c. 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.</p> <p><i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i></p>	



Chapter 6 – New Brunswick

Social Assistance

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 Social Development¹³ 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.

New Brunswick - Liquid Asset Exemptions March 2007		
	Clients without Disabilities	Clients with Disabilities
Single	\$1,000	\$3,000
Single-Parent Family	\$2,000	\$3,000 for each person with a certified disability plus \$1,000 for each non-disabled person up to a maximum of \$4,000 per household.
Childless Couple	\$2,000	\$3,000 for each person with a certified disability plus \$1,000 for each non-disabled person up to a maximum of \$4,000 per household.
Two-Parent Family	\$2,000	\$3,000 for each person with a certified disability plus \$1,000 for each non-disabled person up to a maximum of \$4,000 per household.

¹³ The Department of Family and Community Services was renamed to the Department of Social Development in 2008.

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

New Brunswick - Earnings Exemptions March 2007			
	Transitional Assistance Program	Extended Benefits Program	Interim Assistance Program
Single	\$150	\$250	\$300
Family	\$200	\$300	\$350

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 barriers to their 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.

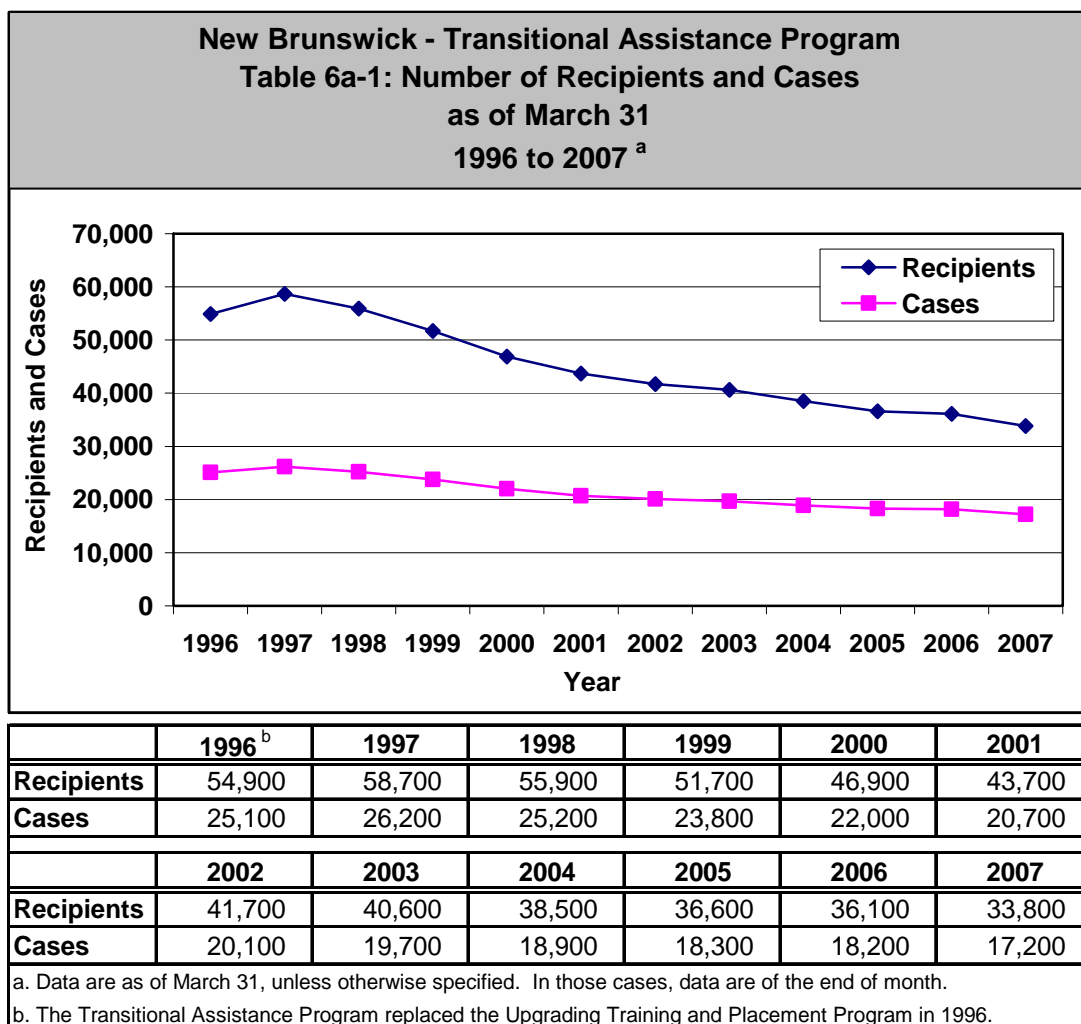
Effective September 2005, New Brunswick provides extended drug coverage for twelve months to clients who leave social assistance for employment.

More Information

For more information, please consult the New Brunswick Department of Social Development Web site at: www.gnb.ca/0017/index-e.asp.

STATISTICS: A – Transitional Assistance Program

Recipients and Cases



Recipients by Family Type

New Brunswick - Transitional Assistance Program Table 6a-2: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type as of March 31, 2007		
Family Type	#	
Adults - Single	7,800	23%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	3,000	9%
Adults - Single parent	6,400	19%
Adults - Couple with dependants	3,500	10%
Total Adults	20,700	
Children - Single parent	9,800	29%
Children - Couple with dependants	3,300	10%
Total Children (39%)	13,100	
Total Recipients	33,800	100%
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

Cases by Age of Head

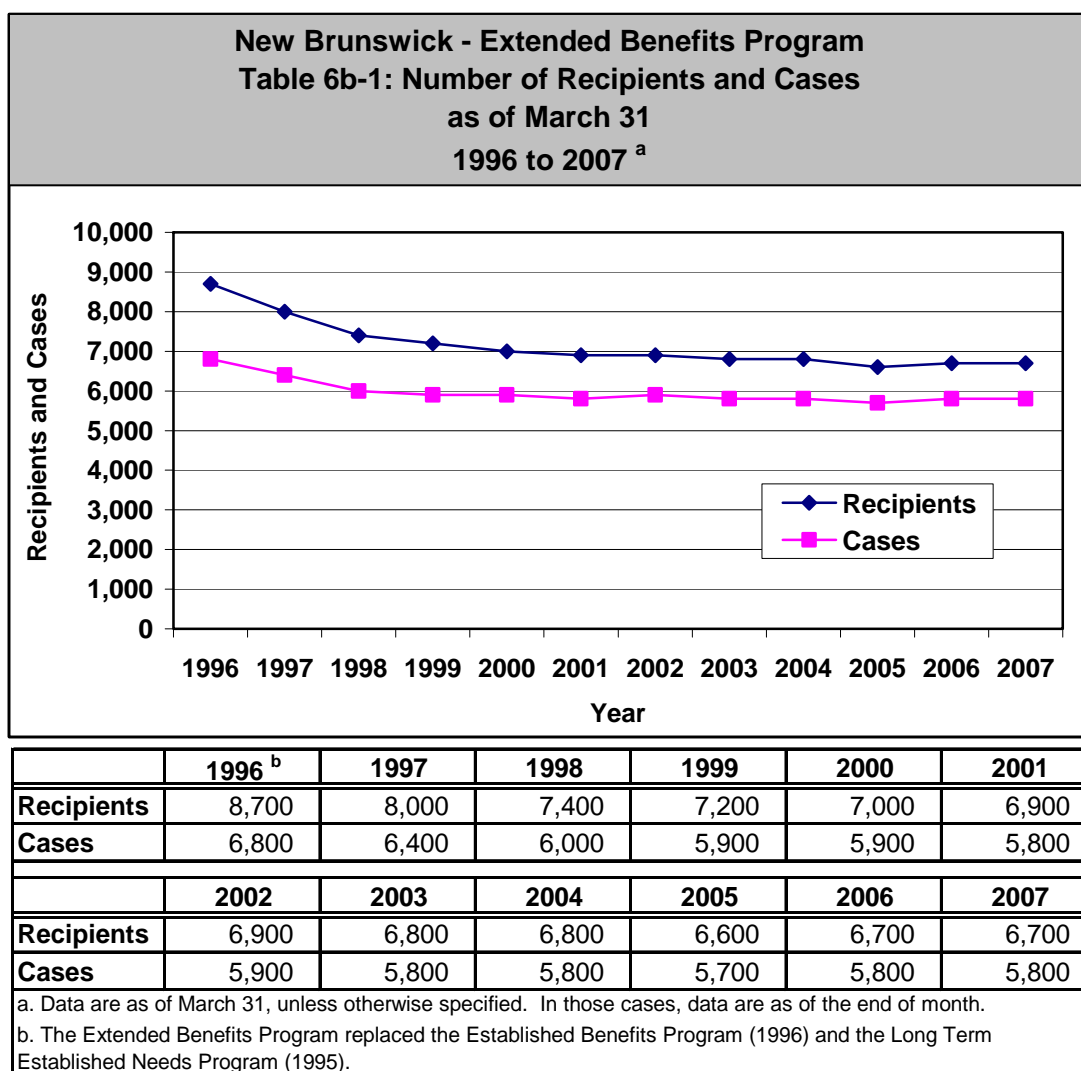
New Brunswick - Transitional Assistance Program Table 6a-3: Number of Cases by Age of Head as of March 31, 2007	
Age of Head	#
<20	500
20-24	1,500
25-29	1,800
30-34	1,900
35-39	1,900
40-44	2,100
45-49	2,200
50-54	2,000
55-59	2,000
60-64	1,300
65+	-
Total	17,200
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</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, 2007		
Source of Income	#	
Employment	2,000	7%
Government transfers	24,200	79%
Support payments	3,700	12%
Employment Insurance	200	1%
Other ^a	600	2%
Total ^b (includes double-counting)	30,600	100%
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 30,600 observations. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

STATISTICS: B – Extended Benefits Program

Recipients and Cases



Recipients by Family Type

New Brunswick - Extended Benefits Program Table 6b-2: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type as of March 31, 2007		
Family Type	#	
Adults - Single	5,200	78%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	800	12%
Adults - Single parent	200	3%
Adults - Couple with dependants	200	3%
Total Adults	6,400	
Children - Single parent	100	2%
Children - Couple with dependants	200	3%
Total Children (5%)	300	
Total Recipients	6,700	100%
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

Cases by Age of Head

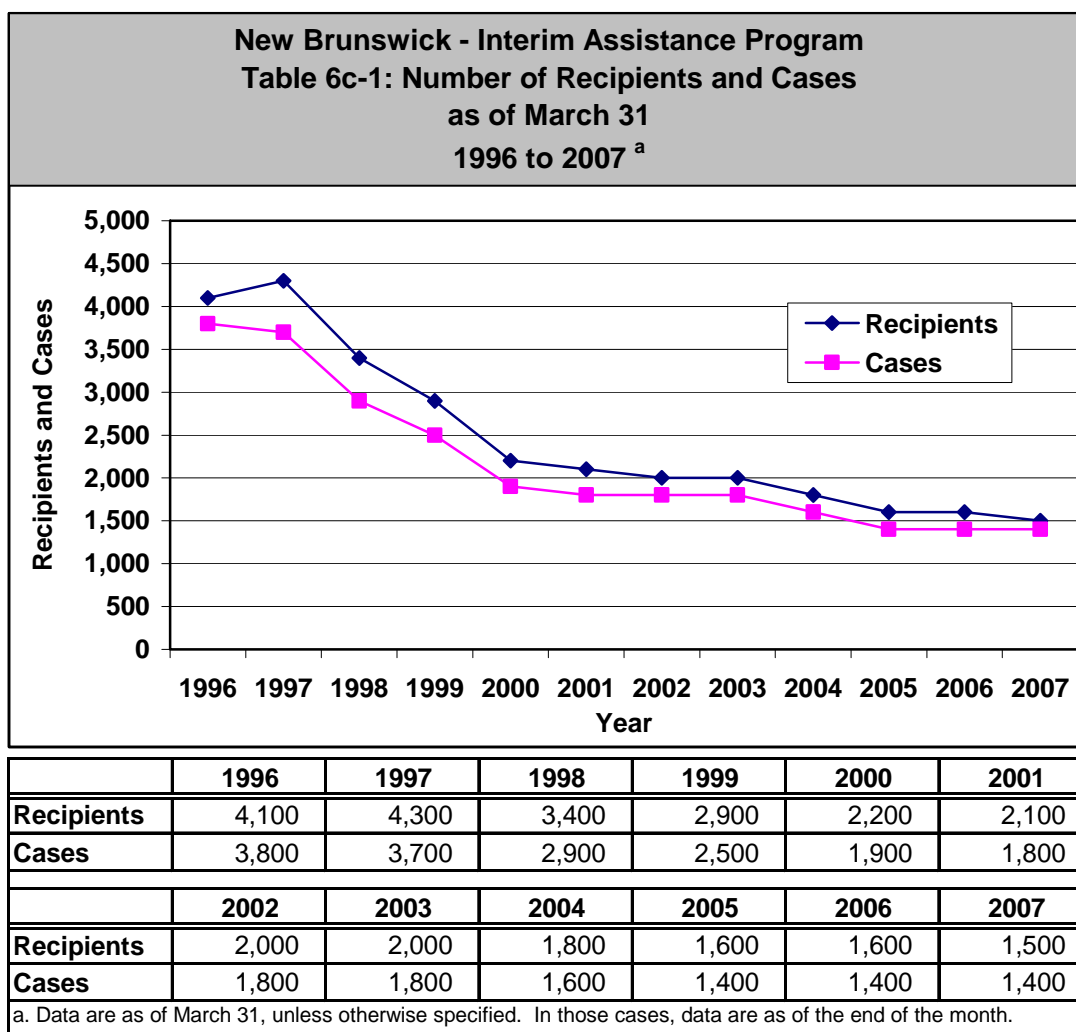
New Brunswick - Extended Benefits Program Table 6b-3: Number of Cases by Age of Head as of March 31, 2007	
Age of Head	#
<20	100
20-24	400
25-29	500
30-34	500
35-39	600
40-44	700
45-49	800
50-54	700
55-59	800
60-64	700
65+	-
Total	5,800
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

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, 2007		
Source of Income	#	
Employment	600	6%
Government transfers	6,200	67%
Support payments	100	1%
Other ^a	2,400	26%
Total ^b (includes double-counting)	9,300	100%
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 9,300 observations. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

STATISTICS: C – Interim Assistance Program

Recipients and Cases



Recipients by Family Type

New Brunswick - Interim Assistance Program Table 6c-2: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type as of March 31, 2007		
Family Type	#	
Adults - Single	1,200	80%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	200	13%
Adults - Single parent	-	-
Adults - Couple with dependants	-	-
Total Adults	1,400	
Children - Single parent	-	-
Children - Couple with dependants	-	-
Total Children (7%)	100	7%
Total Recipients	1,500	100%
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

Cases by Age of Head

New Brunswick - Interim Assistance Program Table 6c-3: Number of Cases by Age of Head as of March 31, 2007	
Age of Head	#
<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+	-
Total	1,400
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Cases Reporting Income by Source of Income

New Brunswick - Interim Assistance Program Table 6c-4: Number and Percentage of Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income, as of March 31, 2007		
Source of Income	#	
Employment	100	9%
Government transfers	900	82%
Others ^a	100	9%
Total ^b (includes double-counting)	1,100	100%
a. The category "Others" also includes Support Payments and Employment Insurance. 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 1,100 observations. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		



Chapter 7– Quebec

Last-Resort Financial Assistance

In Quebec, the provincial social assistance program is known as Last-Resort Financial Assistance which includes the Social Assistance Program and the Social Solidarity Program. The *Individual and Family Assistance Act*¹⁴ and the *Individual and Family Assistance Regulation* govern Quebec's Last-Resort Financial Assistance program.

The Last-Resort Financial 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 Last-Resort Financial Assistance program to adults within the province.

Eligibility

General

In order to be eligible for the Last-Resort Financial Assistance programs, 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:

¹⁴ The Quebec National Assembly adopted the *Individual and Family Assistance Act* on June 16, 2005. This Act replaces the *Act respecting income support, employment assistance and social solidarity*.

Quebec - Liquid Asset Exemptions at Application March 2007		
General application to Social Assistance Program and the Social Solidarity Program ^a		
Number of Adults	Number of Children	Liquid Assets
1	0	\$852
1	1	\$1,218
1	2	\$1,443
2	0	\$1,267
2	1	\$1,511
2	2	\$1,736
^a <i>Individual and Family Assistance Regulation</i> , Article 52 and 155		

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

Quebec - Liquid Asset Exemptions For the purpose of calculating the benefit level March 2007		
	Social Assistance Program ^a	Social Solidarity Program ^b
Independent adult, family of an ineligible student's spouse, or an adult who is a minor sheltered with her dependent child.	\$1,500	\$2,500
Other families	\$2,500	\$5,000
Additional amounts for minor dependent children:		
1 adult and 1 child	\$366	\$366
1 adult and 2 children	\$591	\$591
2 adults and 1 child	\$244	\$244
2 adults and 2 children	\$469	\$469
^a <i>Individual and Family Assistance Regulation</i> , Articles 131, 132.		
^b <i>Individual and Family Assistance Regulation</i> , Articles 163		

Earnings Exemptions

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

Quebec - Earnings Exemptions March 2007			
	Clients with no limitations to employment ^a	Clients with temporary limitations to employment ^a	Clients with severe limitations to employment ^b
Single	\$200	\$200	\$100
Single-parent family	\$200	\$200	\$100
Two-parent family	\$300	\$300	\$100
^a Exemption under the Social Assistance Program.			
^b Exemption under the Social Solidarity Program.			

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, caring for a child who does not yet attend school (5 years of age or under) or is disabled, or pregnant. In order to receive the solidarity allowance (allowance awarded to people with severe employment limitations in the Social Solidarity Program), 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.

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

In August 2004, families were entitled to receive a Family Allowance in the amount of \$625 per year per child. Single-parent families could also 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/Child Assistance Measure ^a Estimated Number of Recipients 2000 - 2007				
	2000	2001	2002	2003
Families	586,953	554,007	538,660	516,230
Children	1,047,699	989,020	959,313	918,470
	2004 ^b	2005	2006	2007
Families	503,520	873,100	878,020	888,410
Children	893,280	1,494,570	1,500,740	1,494,680
a. The <i>Child Assistance Measure</i> replaced the <i>Quebec Family Allowance</i> on January 1, 2005..				
b. These figures are 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 upon 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 for 2007, are as follows: for a family with one child: \$2,091 per year; for a family with two children: \$3,136; for a family with three children: \$4,181; and for a family with four children: \$5,748.

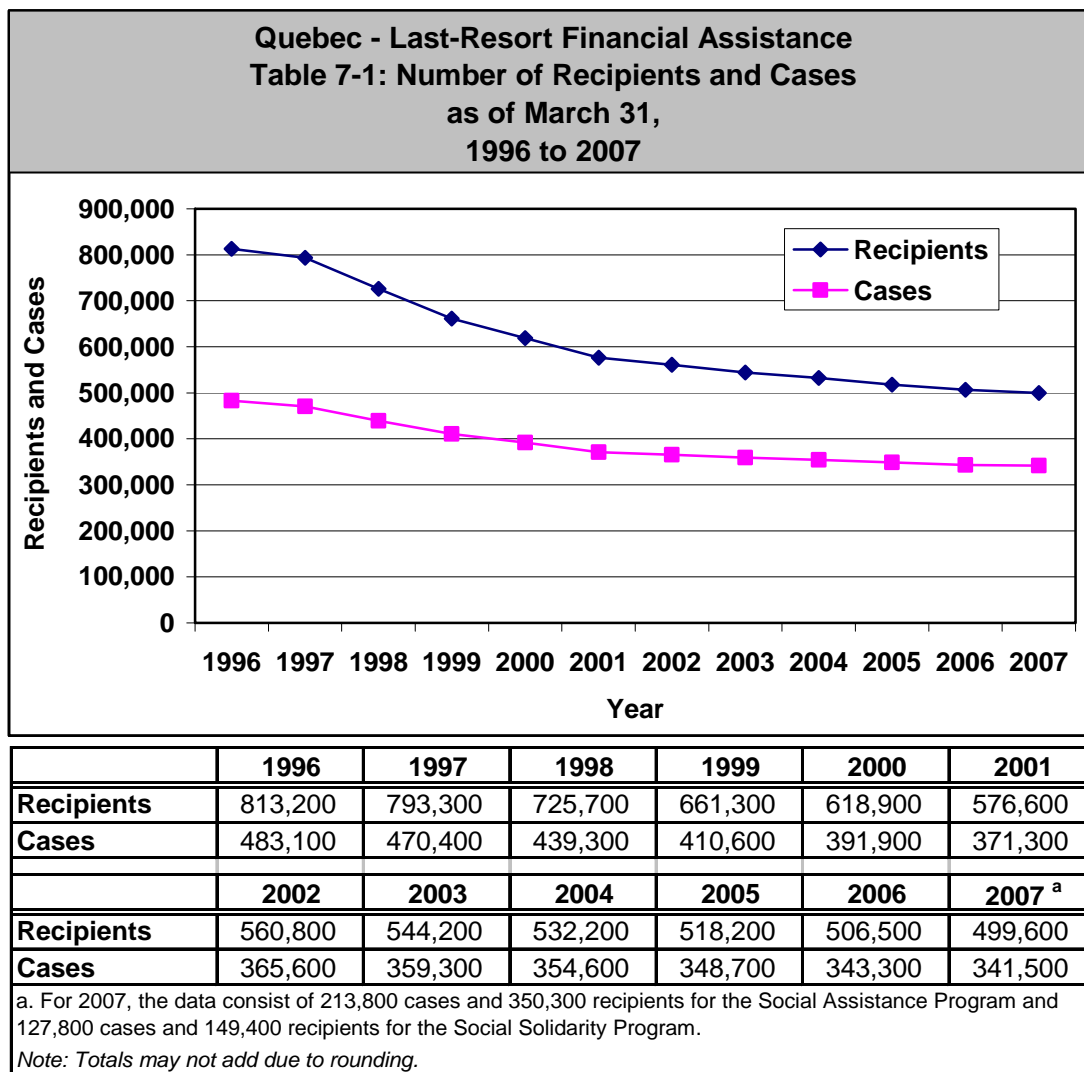
For each additional child, an amount of \$1,567 is added to the maximum of \$5,748. Single-parent families are entitled to a supplement of \$732, which is added to the basic Child Assistance Measure amount.

More information

For more information, please consult the Quebec Department of Employment and Social Solidarity Web site at: www.mess.gouv.qc.ca/solidarite-sociale/programmes-mesures/assistance-emploi/Index_en.asp.

STATISTICS

Recipients and Cases¹⁵



¹⁵ In Quebec, statistics are reported under the heading of “*ménages prestataires*”, i.e. households. 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 - Last-Resort Financial Assistance Table 7-2: Number and Percentage of Cases by Type of Benefits, as of March 31, 2007		
Type of Benefits	#	
Social Assistance - Basic benefit (housed beneficiaries) ^a	128,900	38%
Social Assistance - Allowance - temporary constraints ^b	81,100	24%
Social Assistance - Combined allowance ^c	3,700	1%
Total Social Assistance	213,700	
Social Solidarity - Allowance ^d	124,500	36%
Social Solidarity - Basic benefit (housed beneficiaries) ^a	3,200	1%
Total Social Solidarity	127,700	
Total	341,500	100%
a. "Basic benefit (housed beneficiaries)": Basic amount applicable to adult or to couples of the Program and to 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: b. "Allowance - temporary constraints": Where a single adult/adult member of the family is subject to temporary employment constraints. c. "Combined allowance": Where the two adults in the household are subject to temporary employment d. "Allowance": Amount applicable to single adult or couple recipients of the Social Solidarity Program. Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.		

Recipients by Family Type

Quebec - Last-Resort Financial Assistance Table 7-3: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type, as of March 31, 2007		
Family Type	#	
Adults - Single	256,100	51%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	33,500	7%
Adults - Single parent	46,400	9%
Adults - Couple with dependants	42,800	9%
Adults - Spouse of students ^a	800	0.16%
Total adults	379,600	
Children - Single parent	74,900	15%
Children - Couple with dependants	45,100	9%
Total children (24%)	120,000	
Total	499,600	100%
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

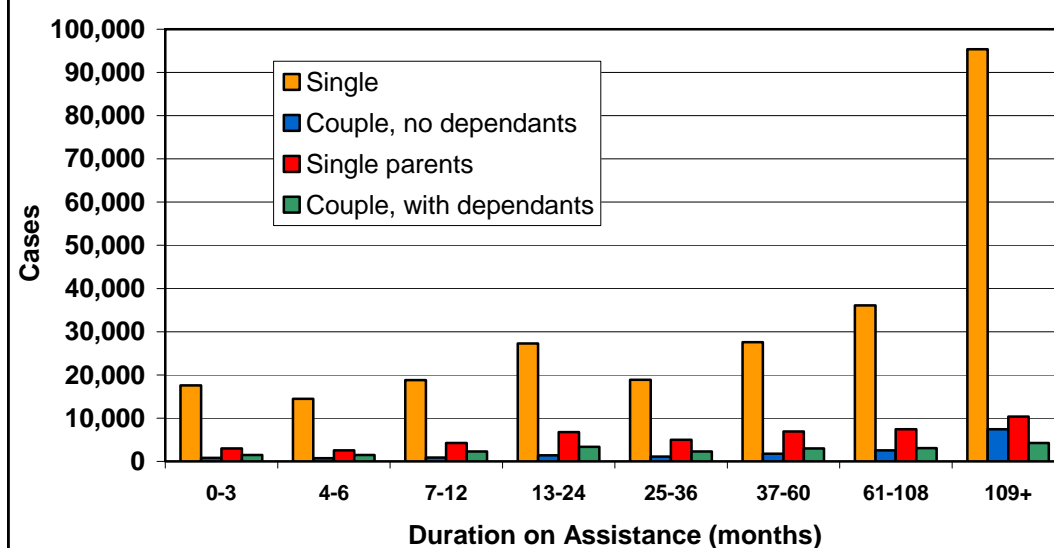
Quebec - Last-Resort Financial Assistance Table 7-4: Number of Cases by Age of Head, as of March 31, 2007	
Age of Head	#
<21	18,100
21-24	17,300
25-29	31,500
30-34	29,900
35-39	33,200
40-44	41,500
45-49	44,800
50-54	43,400
55-59	42,500
60-64	36,600
65+	2,800
Total	341,500
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Cases by Education of Head

Quebec - Last-Resort Financial Assistance Table 7-5: Number and Percentage of Cases by Education of Head, as of March 31, 2007		
Education of Head ^a	#	
Primary	30,100	9%
Secondary	170,900	50%
College	17,500	5%
University	15,700	5%
Unknown	107,300	31%
Total	341,500	100%
a. Education is defined as the level of education attained as of the date of application.		
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

Cases by Family Type and Duration of Assistance

Quebec - Last-Resort Financial Assistance
Table 7-6: Number of Cases by Family Type
and Duration on Assistance,
as of March 31, 2007



Duration on Assistance (months)	Family Type					Total
	Single	Couple no dependants	Single Parent	Couple, with dependants	Spouse of Student ^a	
0-3	17,600	800	3,000	1,500	100	23,000
4-6	14,500	700	2,600	1,500	100	19,400
7-12	18,800	900	4,300	2,300	100	26,500
13-24	27,300	1,400	6,800	3,400	200	39,100
25-36	18,900	1,100	5,000	2,300	100	27,400
37-60	27,600	1,800	6,900	3,000	100	39,400
61-108	36,100	2,600	7,400	3,100	-	49,300
109+	95,400	7,400	10,400	4,300	-	117,500
Total	256,100	16,800	46,400	21,400	800	341,500

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 Reporting Income by Source of Income

Quebec - Last-Resort Financial Assistance Table 7-7: Number and Percentage of Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income, as of March 31, 2007		
Source of income	#	
Employment	29,100	28%
Employment-Assistance allowance	9,800	9%
Employment Insurance	1,600	2%
Parental contribution	13,600	13%
Other ^a	51,400	49%
Total ^b (includes double-counting)	105,500	100%
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 105,500 observations. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

Quebec - Last-Resort Financial Assistance Table 7-8: Number of Cases Reporting Income, as of March 31, 2007	
Reporting Income	97,400
No Income	244,100
Total	341,500
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	



Chapter 8 – Ontario

A - Ontario Works

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

Social assistance for persons with disabilities is provided through the Ontario Disability Support Program (see p. 67).

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 100 First Nations who deliver the program across the province.

Eligibility

General

Eligibility for Ontario Works is based on an applicant's personal and financial circumstances such as place of residence, status in Canada, age, income, assets, and participation in employment assistance activities.

Liquid Assets

When determining eligibility, applicants' and recipients' liquid assets may not exceed the following allowable limits.

Ontario - Ontario Works - Liquid Asset Exemptions March 2007	
Single	\$548
Single-Parent Family	\$1,508 plus \$500 for each additional dependant
Childless Couple	\$949
Two-Parent Family	\$1,584 plus \$500 for each additional dependant

Earnings Exemptions

An Ontario Works client is eligible for a 50% exemption on their monthly earned income after the receipt of three continuous months of assistance.

Benefits

Basic financial assistance consists of three components: income assistance for basic needs and shelter, mandatory and discretionary benefits, and emergency assistance.

The basic needs allowance assists with the cost of food, clothing, and personal needs. Maximum basic needs allowance rates are based on the presence of a spouse and the number of adult members in the unit. A supplement for sole-support parents is also provided through the basic needs allowance. The shelter allowance pays an amount equal to a recipient's actual shelter costs, up to a maximum that is based on the number of persons (including children) in the benefit unit.

A number of mandatory benefits are provided within Ontario Works, such as:

- dental and vision care for children;
- drug coverage;
- benefits to help individuals start-up and maintain housing;
- guide dog allowance;
- benefits to assist individuals in maintaining full-time employment;
- benefits to assist individuals with expenses related to starting a new job or employment assistance activity; and
- advance (up front) child care.

Recipients, spouses and any dependents may also be eligible to receive a range of discretionary benefits on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Ontario Works Administrator. Discretionary benefits include:

- dental care for adults;
- vision care for adults;
- prosthetic appliances;
- vocational training and retraining;
- travel and transportation that is not for health-related purposes; and
- moving expenses.

In addition, Ontario Works provides extended drug coverage for up to six months to clients who leave social assistance for employment. Under extenuating circumstances, drug coverage can be extended for an additional six months after the first six month period.

Emergency assistance may be provided if the applicant is not currently in receipt of social assistance, is not serving a period of ineligibility, and if the applicant has not received emergency assistance in the past six months. The provision of financial assistance in an emergency may include an amount for basic needs, shelter and benefits.

When a member of a benefit unit receives or is pending receipt of income that is likely to cover the same period for which financial assistance is being paid, an agreement to reimburse must be completed.

Each member of the benefit unit who is 65 years of age or older receives an Advanced Age Allowance in addition to the standard amount for social assistance.

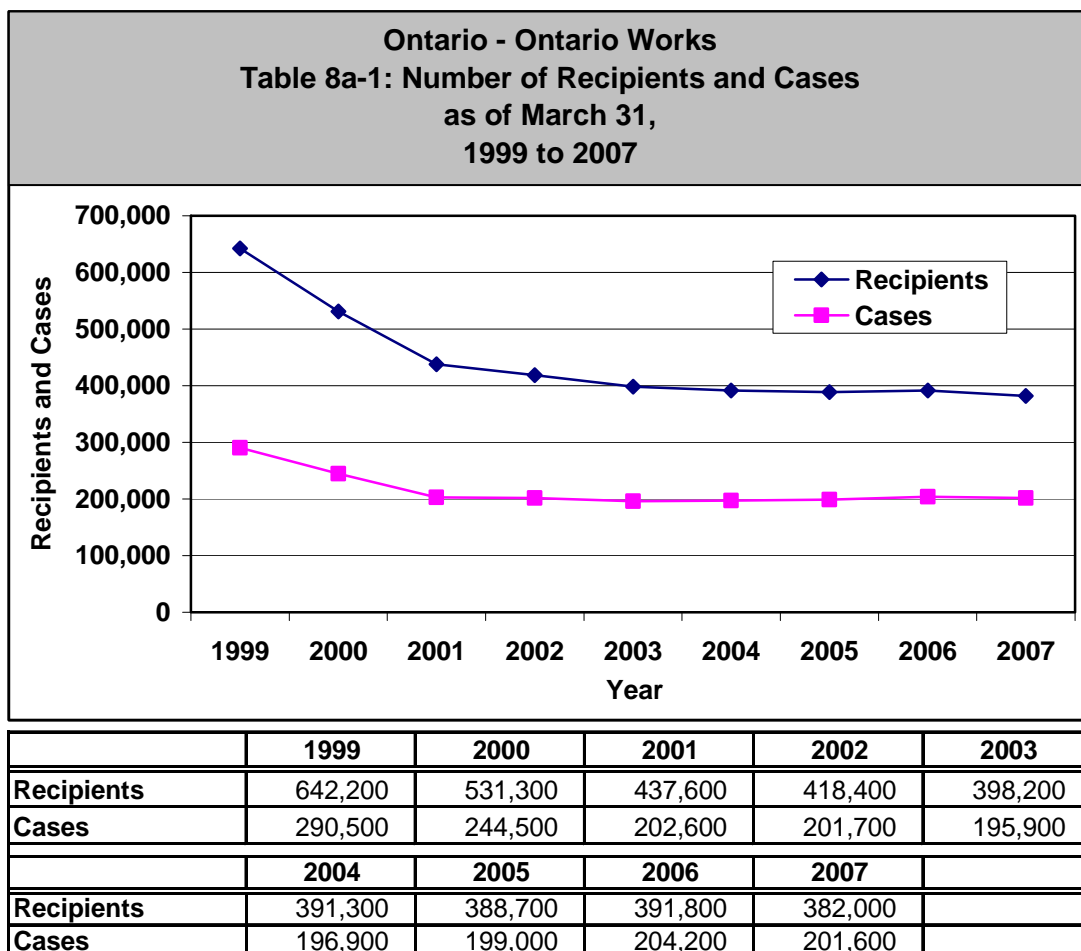
A sole support parent or member of a family benefit unit may be eligible for assistance if the amount of financial support received through the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) or Canada Student Loans (CSL) for personal living costs, does not exceed his/her budgetary requirements. In these situations, Ontario will provide a top-up cover amount included in the loan(s) and his/her budgetary requirements as long as all other eligibility requirements are met.

More Information

For more information, please consult the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services Web site at: www.mcscs.gov.on.ca/en/mcscs/index.aspx.

STATISTICS

Recipients and Cases



Recipients by Family Type

Ontario - Ontario Works Table 8a-2: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type as of March 31, 2007			
Family Type		#	
Adults			
Single	Cases	110,500	29%
Couple, no dependants	Cases	5,600	3%
	Spouses	5,600	
Single parent	Cases	69,600	20%
	Dependants 18 and over ^a	6,100	
Couple with dependants	Cases	15,900	9%
	Spouses	15,900	
	Dependants 18 and over ^a	2,100	
Total Adults		231,300	
Children			
Single parent	Children under 18	116,900	31%
Couple with dependants	Children under 18	33,700	9%
Total Children (40%)		150,700	
Total Recipients		382,000	100%
a. "Dependants 18 and over" are categorized as dependent adults, other than spouses. Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.			

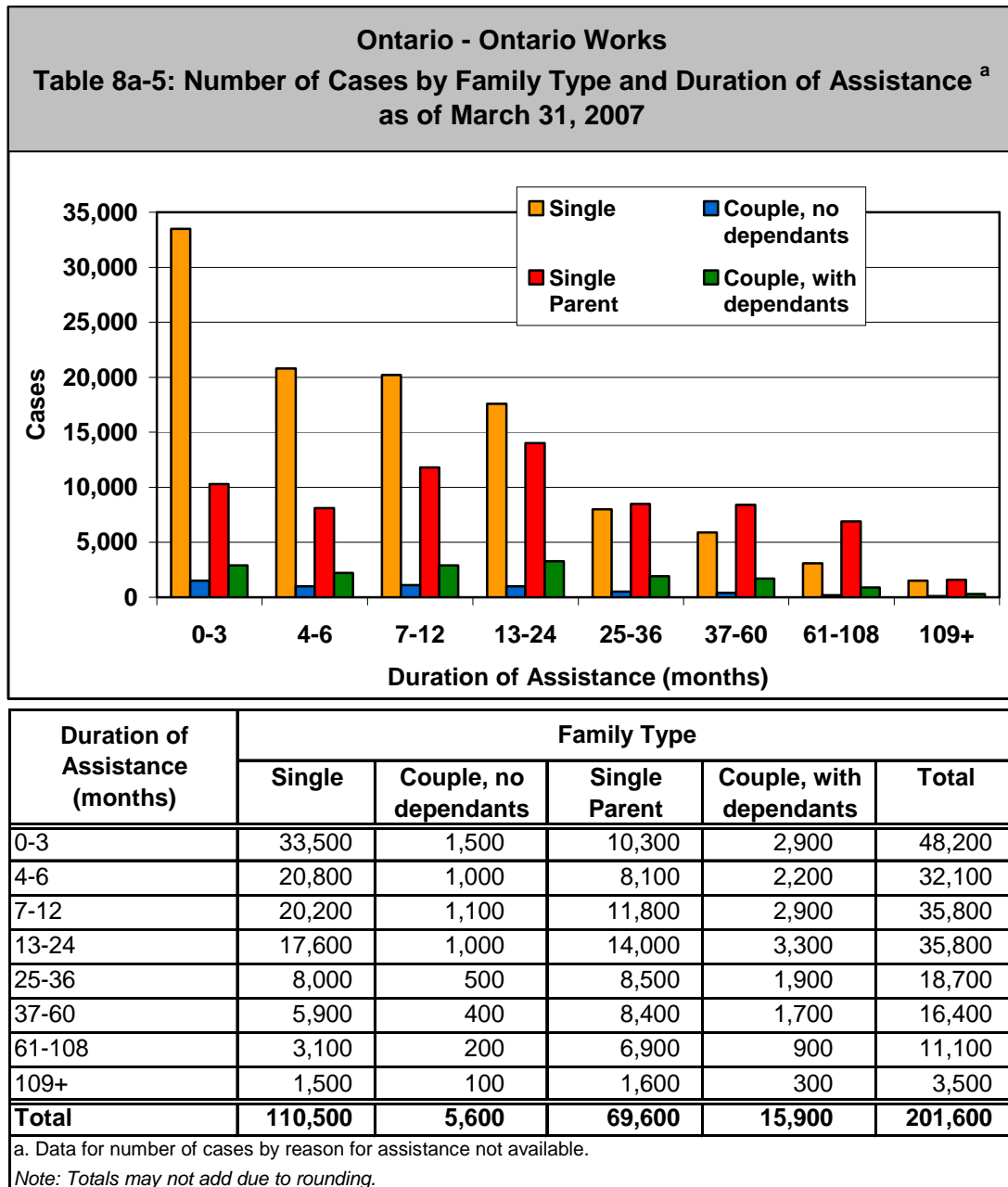
Cases by Age of Head

Ontario - Ontario Works Table 8a-3: Number of Cases by Age of Head as of March 31, 2007	
Age of Head	#
<20	12,300
20-24	32,200
25-29	28,700
30-34	25,400
35-39	25,600
40-44	26,000
45-49	21,300
50-54	14,400
55-59	9,400
60-64	5,600
65+	700
Total	201,600
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, 2007		
Education of Head	#	
Primary	16,900	8%
Secondary	139,400	69%
Post secondary	43,700	22%
Unknown	1,500	1%
Total	201,600	100%
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

Cases by Family Type and Duration of Assistance



B - Ontario Disability Support Program

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.

ODSP 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 ODSP through a network of nine regional offices located throughout the province.

Eligibility

General

In order to be eligible for the ODSP, 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 ODSP, applicants’ liquid assets may not exceed the following allowable limits.

Ontario - Ontario Disability Support Program Liquid Asset Exemptions March 2007	
Single	\$5,000
Couple	\$7,500 plus \$500 for each additional dependant

Earnings Exemptions

Once an application for assistance has been approved, a 50% exemption rate applies to earned income. For people on the ODSP who are in post-secondary school full-time, earned income is fully exempt:

The ODSP 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 ODSP can be categorized as either income support (basic assistance) or employment supports.

Income support consists of a basic needs amount and a shelter allowance. The basic needs amount helps with 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.

In addition, the ODSP provides supplemental health care benefits such as drug and dental coverage, and assistance with the costs of vision care, medical transportation, diabetic supplies, assistive devices and mobility device repairs and batteries.

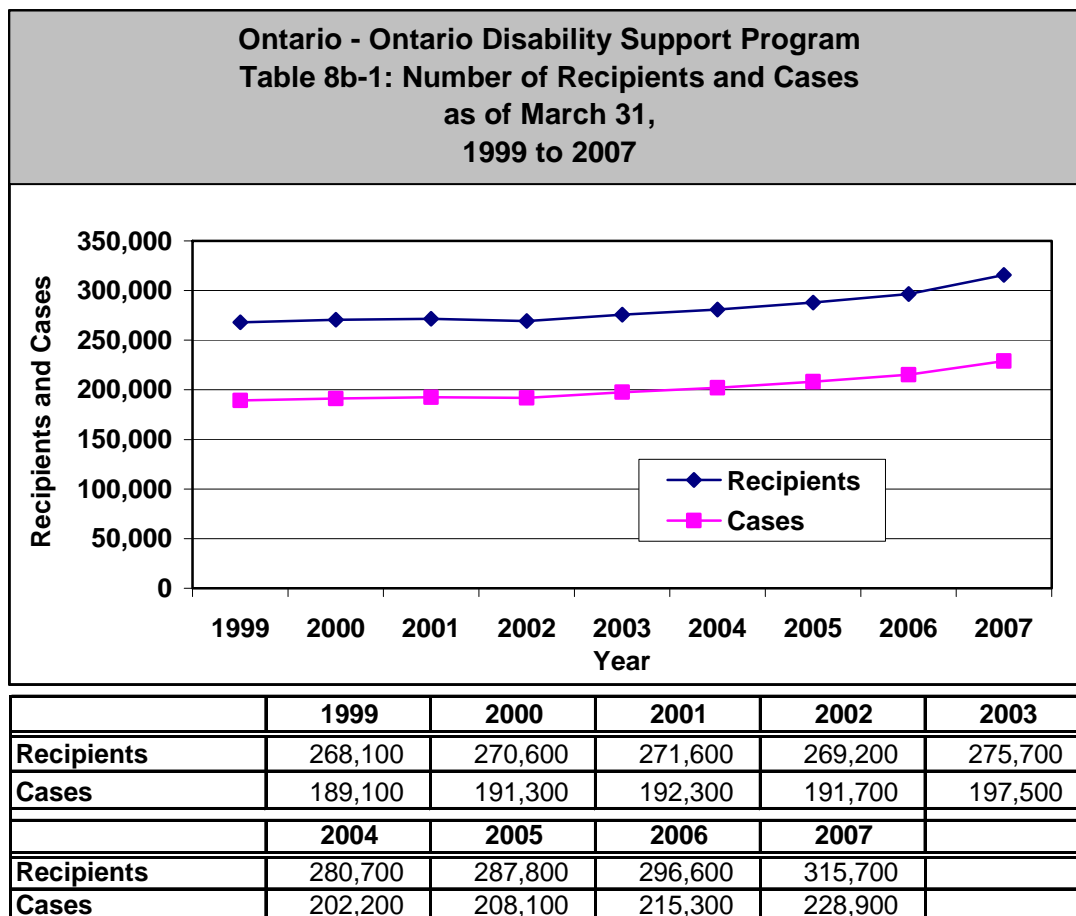
Employment Supports provide employment-related goods and services, such as job placement assistance and job retention supports, to help people with disabilities find and keep jobs. Services are provided through a network of community-based services providers. Participation in Employment Supports is voluntary. A person does not need to be receiving income support to qualify for the Employment Supports program.

More Information

For more information, please consult the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services Web site at: www.mcscs.gov.on.ca/en/mcscs/index.aspx.

STATISTICS

Recipients and Cases



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, 2007		
Reason for Assistance	#	
Disability ^a	221,900	97%
Age 65 and over	5,300	2%
Other	1,600	1%
Total	228,900	100%
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, 2007			
Family Type		#	
Adults			
Single	Cases	177,300	56%
Couple, no dependants	Cases	19,800	13%
	Spouses	19,800	
Single parent	Cases	18,700	7%
	Dependants 18 and over ^a	4,500	
Couple with dependants	Cases	13,000	9%
	Spouses	13,000	
	Dependants 18 and over ^a	3,100	
Total Adults		269,300	
Children			
Single parent	Children under 18	23,500	7%
Couple with dependants	Children under 18	22,900	7%
Total Children (14%)		46,300	
Total Recipients		315,700	100%
a. "Dependants 18 and over" are categorized as dependent adults, other than spouses. Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.			

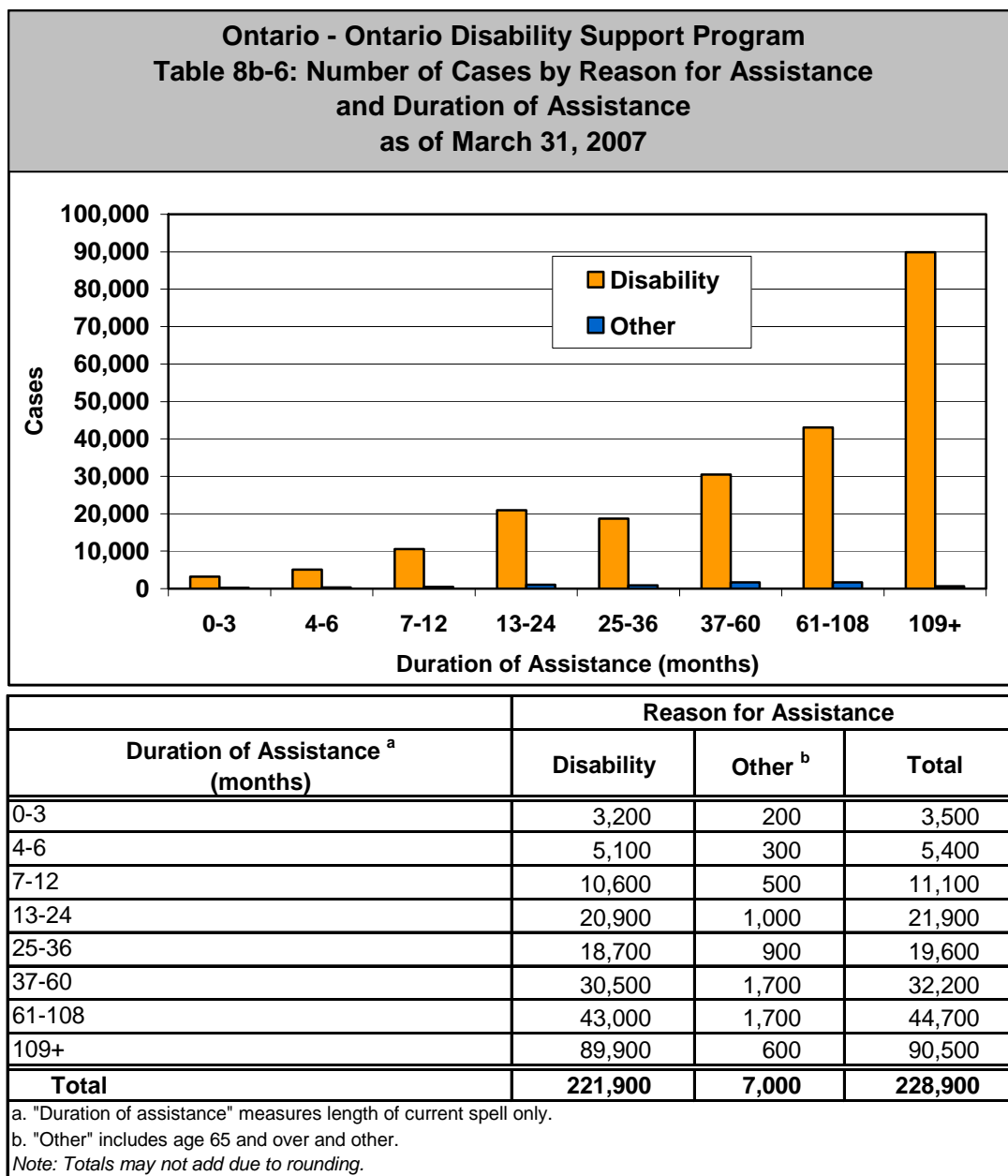
Cases by Age of Head

Ontario - Ontario Disability Support Program Table 8b-4: Number of Cases by Age of Head as of March 31, 2007	
Age of Head	#
<20	4,000
20-24	13,900
25-29	14,400
30-34	16,400
35-39	20,800
40-44	29,800
45-49	34,100
50-54	32,800
55-59	29,800
60-64	24,400
65+	8,400
Total	228,900

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, 2007		
Education of Head ^a	#	
Primary	36,400	16%
Secondary	134,000	59%
Post secondary	38,100	17%
Unknown	20,300	9%
Total	228,900	100%
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





Chapter 9 – Manitoba

Employment and Income Assistance

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 Consumer Affairs¹⁶ 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.

¹⁶ The Department of Family Services and Housing was renamed to the Department of Family Services and Consumer Affairs in November 2009.

Manitoba - Liquid Asset Exemptions March 2007			
	Disabilities	Employable	Other ^a
Single	\$2,000	\$400	\$1,000
Childless Couple	\$3,000	\$800	\$2,000
Two-Parent Family	\$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 income¹⁷:

Manitoba - Earnings Exemptions ^a March 2007			
Clients without Disabilities ^b	Clients with Disabilities ^c	Single Parents without Disabilities	Single Parents with Disabilities
\$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).

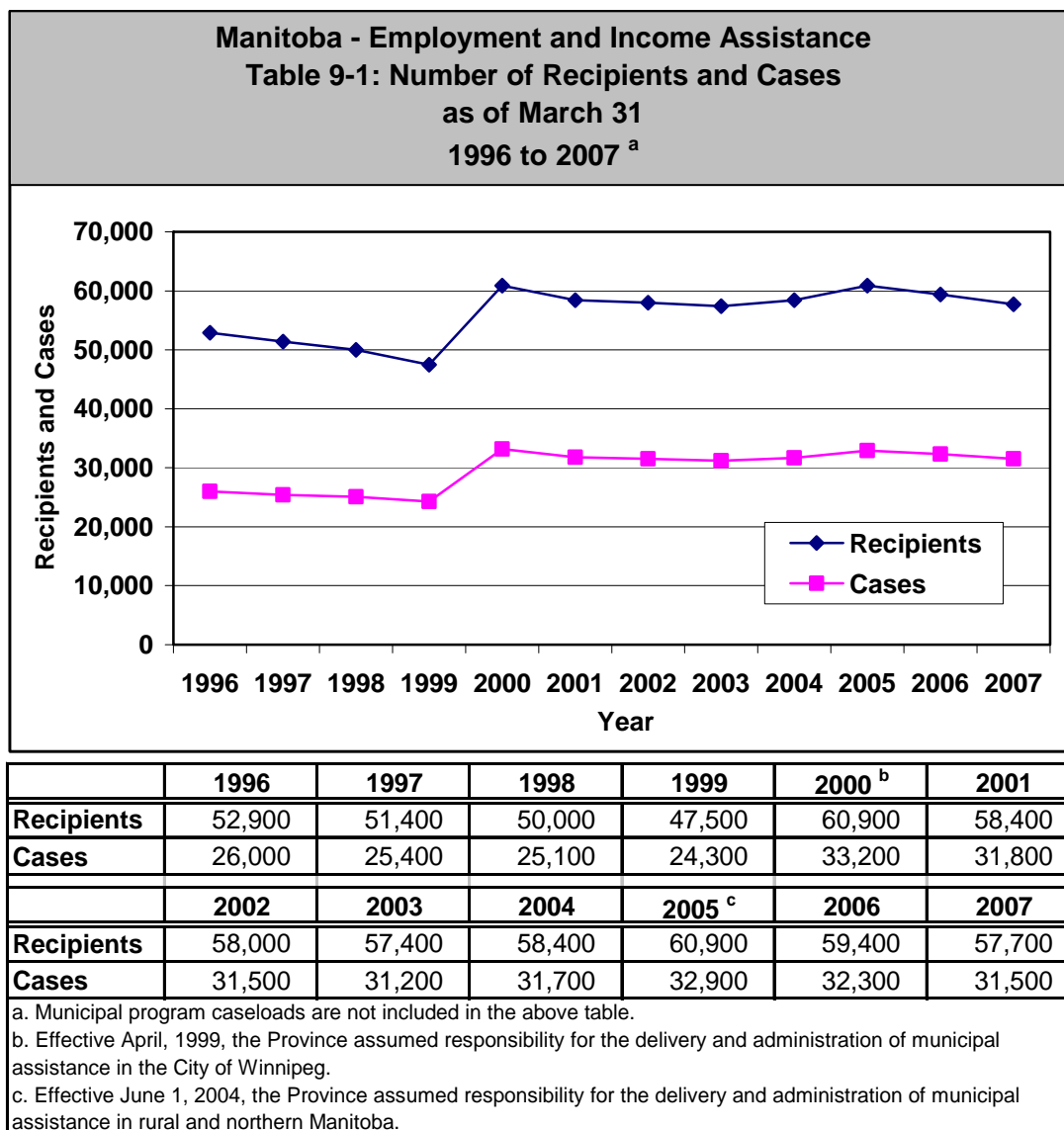
More Information

For more information, please consult the Manitoba Department of Family Services and Consumer Affairs site at: www.gov.mb.ca/fs/index.html.

¹⁷ 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



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, 2007		
Reason for Assistance	#	
Unemployed	5,000	16%
Disability	17,800	57%
Sole support parent	8,400	27%
Other ^a	200	1%
Total	31,500	100%
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.		
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

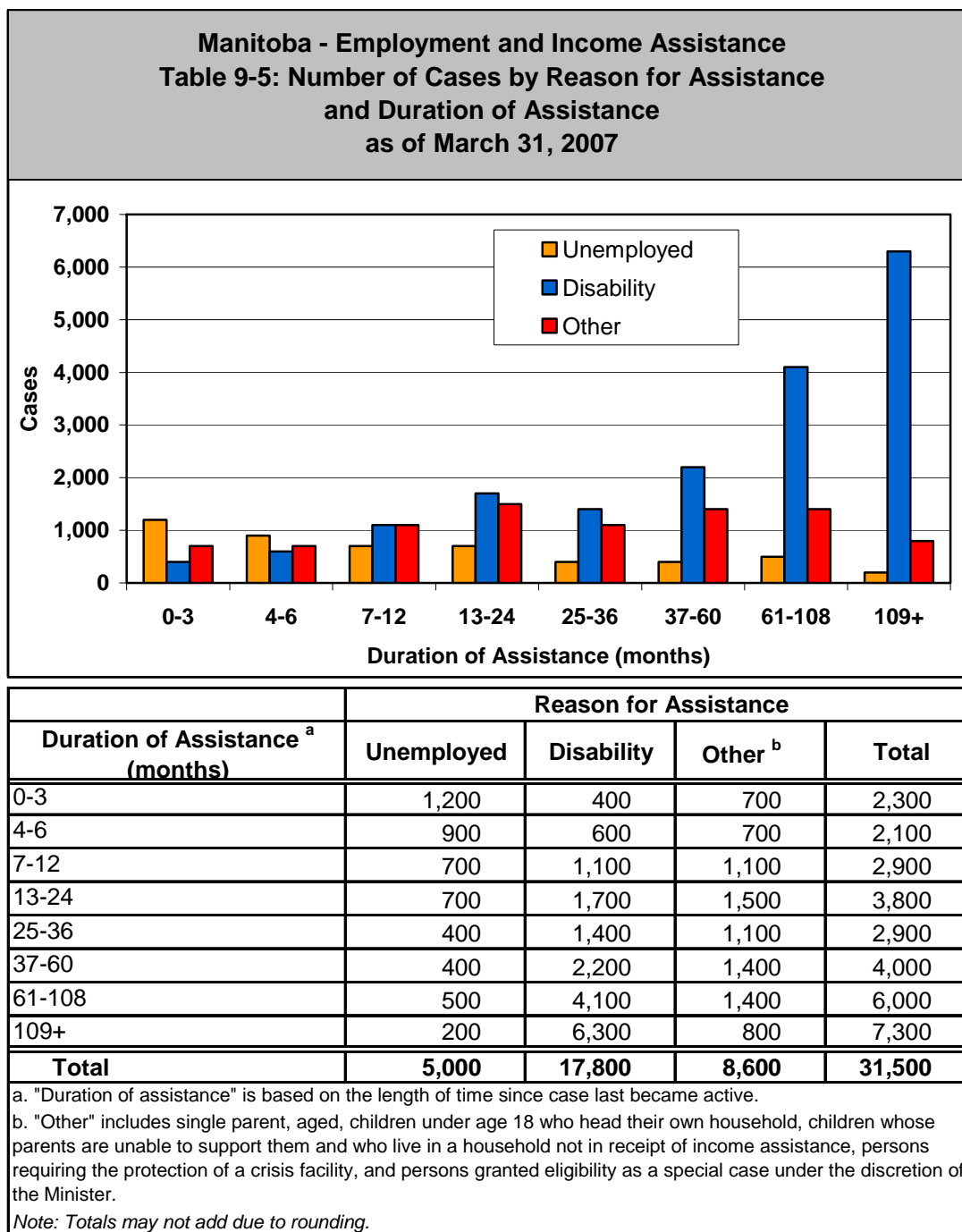
Recipients by Family Type

Manitoba - Employment and Income Assistance Table 9-3: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type as of March 31, 2007		
Family Type	#	
Adults - Single	19,400	34%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	1,900	3%
Adults - Single parent	9,600	17%
Adults - Couple with dependants	3,000	5%
Total Adults	33,900	
Children - Single parent	19,600	34%
Children - Couple with dependants	4,100	7%
Children - Head of household ^a	100	
Total Children (41%)	23,800	
Total Recipients	57,700	100%
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.		
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

Cases by Age of Head

Manitoba - Employment and Income Assistance Table 9-4: Number of Cases by Age of Head as of March 31, 2007	
Age of Head	#
<20	1,200
20-24	3,900
25-29	3,900
30-34	3,600
35-39	3,600
40-44	3,800
45-49	3,600
50-54	3,100
55-59	2,600
60-64	2,000
65+	200
Total	31,500
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance



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, 2007		
Source of Income	#	
Employment	3,200	40%
Government transfers	2,400	30%
Support payments ^a	1,500	19%
Employment Insurance	200	3%
Other ^b	700	9%
Total ^c (includes double-counting)	8,000	100%
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 2006/07 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 8,000 observations. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

Manitoba - Employment and Income Assistance Table 9-7: Number of Cases Reporting Income as of March 31, 2007	
Reporting Income	7,500
No Income	24,000
Total	31,500
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	



Chapter 10 – Saskatchewan

Social Assistance Programs

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

The Saskatchewan Assistance Program and the Transitional Employment Allowance provide basic benefits to adults only. Children's basic benefits are provided through the Canada Child Tax Benefit, the National Child Benefit Supplement and the Saskatchewan Child Benefit (see p. 82).

Service Delivery

The Department of Social Services¹⁸ is responsible for the delivery of the Saskatchewan Assistance Program to adults within the province.

Eligibility

General

In order to be eligible for the Saskatchewan 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.

Saskatchewan - Liquid Asset Exemptions March 2007	
Single	\$1,500
Family	\$3,000 plus \$500 for each additional dependant

¹⁸ The Department of Community Resources was renamed to Department of Social Services effective November 2007.

Earnings Exemptions¹⁹

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

Saskatchewan - Earnings Exemptions March 2007		
	Clients without Disabilities	Clients with Disabilities
Single	\$50 plus 25% of the remaining income, to a maximum of \$200.	\$100 plus 25% of the remaining income, to a maximum of \$225.
Childless Couple	\$75 plus 25% of the remaining income, to a maximum of \$275.	\$125 plus 25% of the remaining income, to a maximum of \$300.
Single Parent Family	\$125	\$200
Two-Parent Family	\$125	\$200

Benefits

Basic assistance under the Saskatchewan Assistance Program consists of an adult basic allowance, a shelter allowance, and utility allowances. The adult basic allowance covers the cost of food, clothing, and personal and household items. Maximum shelter allowance rates are based on household size (including children) and geographic location²⁰. Utility allowances (electricity, home heating and water) are based on actual costs.

Transitional Employment Allowance

The Transitional Employment Allowance, introduced in 2003, provides short-term assistance for job-ready people while they seek work or participate in employment services. A flat-rate allowance is provided for basic needs, covering food, clothing, personal and household items, and shelter. Flat-rate allowances are also provided for utilities. Rates are based on household size and geographic location. A centralized, provincial contact centre administers the Transitional Employment Allowance.

Saskatchewan Child Benefit

When the National Child Benefit (NCB) was introduced in 1998, Saskatchewan restructured social assistance by removing children's basic benefits from welfare and establishing a separate child benefit available to all low-income families. The restructured benefit, known as the Saskatchewan Child Benefit (SCB), was delivered

¹⁹ These exemptions do not apply to farmers, self-employed clients or, for the first three months on assistance, to those Saskatchewan Assistance Program clients who are capable of full-time work.

²⁰ Effective May 1, 2005, a four-tier scale is being used.

as an integrated payment with the Canada Child Tax Benefit to reduce duplication and simplify administration.

From 1998 to 2006, the province adjusted the SCB rates by the amount of federal increases to the NCB Supplement. Families on social assistance received at least the same in combined federal/provincial child benefits as they would have received under the previous welfare-model of child benefits. Under the adjustment approach, the SCB was designed to reduce over time, and eventually phase out as it was replaced by increases to the NCB Supplement. The SCB was fully phased out in July 2006. All subsequent federal increases to the NCB Supplement flow directly through to families.

Saskatchewan Child Benefit Estimated Number of Recipients 2000-2001 to 2006-2007							
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 ^a	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Families	33,070	29,020	26,090	15,260	18,770	17,910	16,960
Children	67,820	56,960	53,530	40,070	42,520	36,900	34,030
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 (SRHS) is designed to help low-income tenant families and individuals access quality and affordable housing. Supplements are available to low-income people on income assistance or in the workforce. The SRHS took effect in April 2005. It is delivered through a centralized, provincial contact centre.

There are two programs under the SRHS:

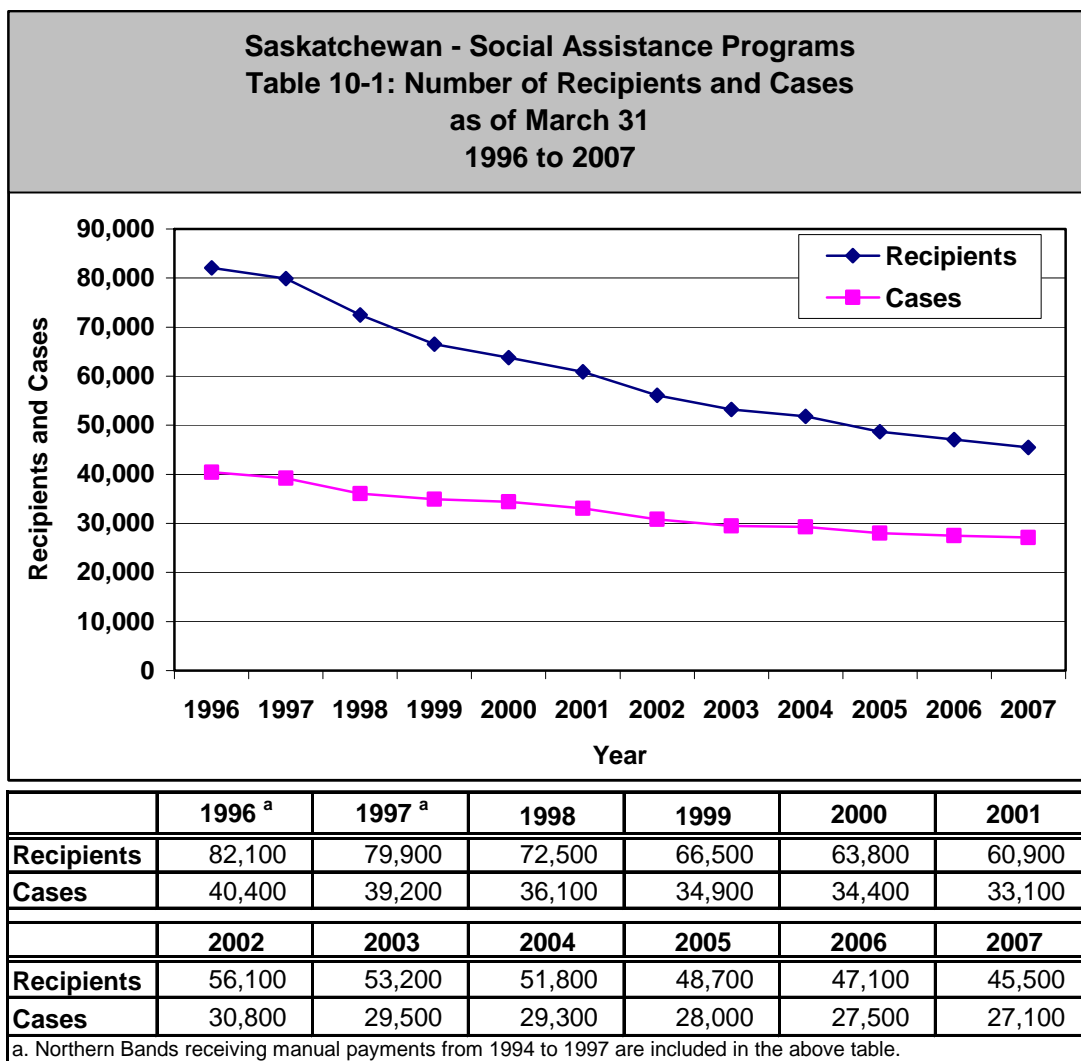
- The *Family Rental Housing Supplement* is available to families with children under the age of 18. Eligibility is based on family size, location, rent, household income and the rental property meeting minimum health and safety standards.
- The *Disability Rental Housing Supplement* is available to families, single individuals, and couples without children where at least one family member has a disability that produces a recognized housing impact. Supports that address the housing impact of the disability must be in place at the time of application. Eligibility is based on household size, location, rent, household income, and the rental property meeting minimum health and safety standards.

More Information

For more information, please consult the Saskatchewan Department of Social Services Web site at: www.socialservices.gov.sk.ca/.

STATISTICS

Recipients and Cases



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, 2007		
Reason for Assistance	#	
Employed ^a	700	3%
Unemployed ^b	2,600	10%
Health ^c	20,200	75%
Sole support parent ^d	200	1%
Student ^e	700	3%
Other ^f	2,700	10%
Total	27,100	100%
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 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. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

Recipients by Family Type

Saskatchewan - Social Assistance Programs Table 10-3: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type as of March 31, 2007		
Family Type	#	
Adults - Single	18,300	40%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	1,700	4%
Adults - Single parent	6,800	15%
Adults - Couple with dependants	2,200	5%
Total Adults	29,000	
Children - Single parent	13,800	30%
Children - Couple with dependants	2,700	6%
Total Children (36%)	16,500	
Total Recipients	45,500	100%
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

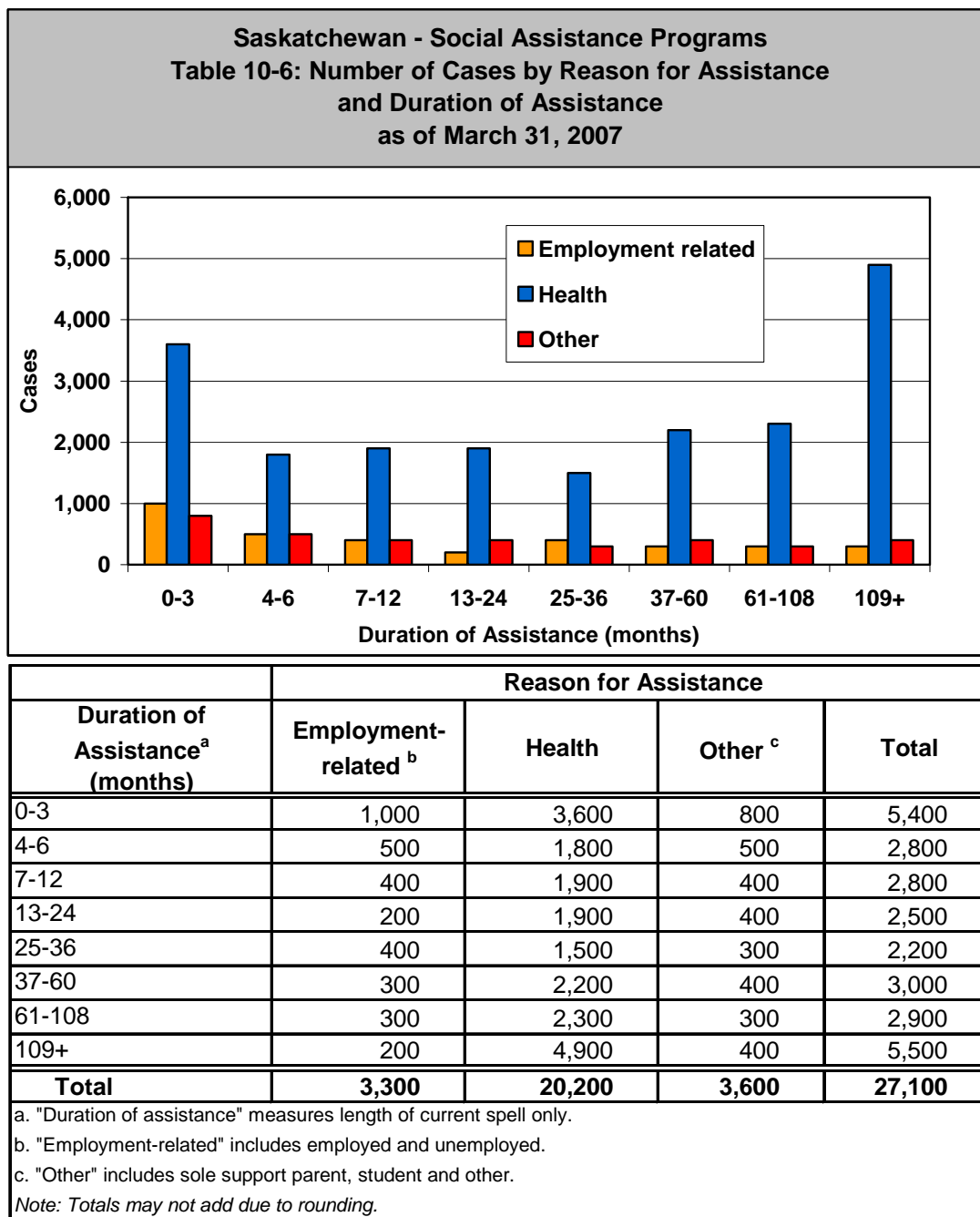
Cases by Age of Head

Saskatchewan - Social Assistance Programs Table 10-4: Number of Cases by Age of Head as of March 31, 2007	
Age of Head	#
<20	1,400
20-24	3,800
25-29	3,200
30-34	2,800
35-39	2,900
40-44	3,200
45-49	2,900
50-54	2,600
55-59	2,300
60-64	1,800
65+	300
Total	27,100
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

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, 2007		
Education of Head ^a	#	
Primary	5,800	21%
Secondary	15,400	57%
Post secondary ^b	800	3%
Unknown	5,000	18%
Total	27,100	100%
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.		
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance



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, 2007		
Source of Income	#	
Employment	1,700	35%
Government transfers	1,700	35%
Support payments	600	13%
Training allowance	100	2%
Employment Insurance	100	2%
Other	600	13%
Total ^a (does not include double-counting)	4,800	100%
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.		
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

Saskatchewan - Social Assistance Programs Table 10-8: Number of Cases Reporting Income as of March 31, 2007	
Reporting Income	4,700
No Income	22,400
Total	27,100
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	



Chapter 11 – Alberta

A – Alberta Works - Income Support

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 (AISH) program (see p. 97).

Service Delivery

Alberta Employment and Immigration²¹ 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 Assets²²

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

²¹ In March 2008 the Ministry was reorganized and the name changed to Alberta Employment and Immigration.

²² This table applies to the Expected to Work and the Not Expected to Work client groups only.

Alberta - Alberta Works - Income Support Cash and Liquid Asset Exemptions March 2007	
Expected to Work^a	Not Expected to Work^a
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 next page for description.	

Earnings Exemptions²³

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

Alberta - Alberta Works - Income Support Earnings Exemptions March 2007	
Singles	\$115 per month plus 25% of additional earnings
Single-Parent Family	\$230 per month plus 25% of additional earnings
Couples (with or without children)	\$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, mortgage, utilities, heating fuel, municipal taxes, insurance, condominium fees, lot rental, homeowner's maintenance and damage deposit.

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.

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 twelve months of age, fleeing an abusive relationship, etc.

²³ This table applies to the Expected to Work and the Not Expected to Work client groups only.

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.

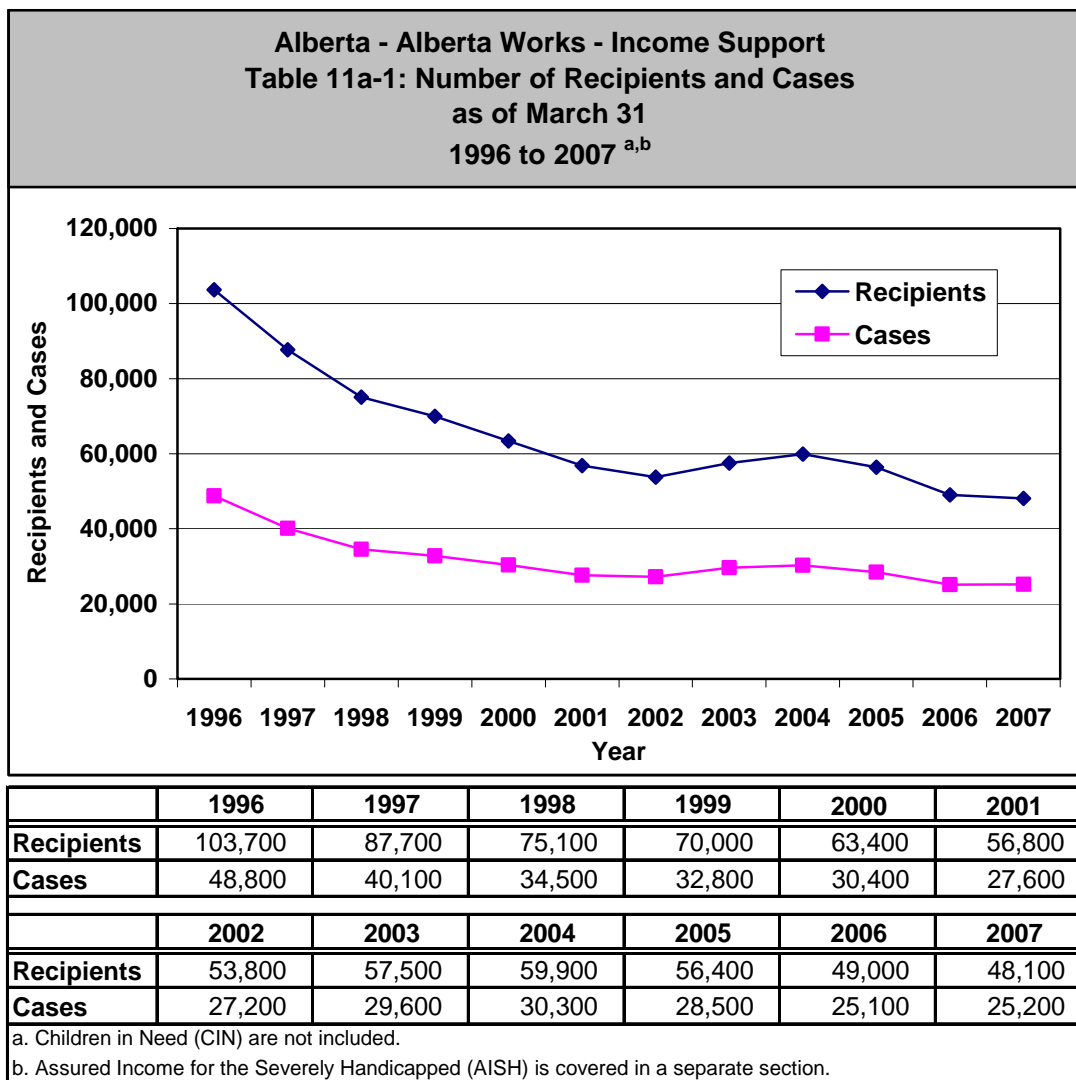
The “Learners” category includes those individuals and families that are participating in occupational training or attending classes or courses to improve their employability. Tuition, books, supplies, and a living allowance may be provided.

More Information

For more information, please consult the Alberta Employment and Immigration Web site at: www.employment.alberta.ca/.

STATISTICS

Recipients and Cases



Cases by Reason for Assistance

Alberta - Alberta Works - Income Support Table 11a-2: Number and Percentage of Cases by Reason for Assistance as of March 31, 2007		
Reason for Assistance	#	
Employed	3,400	13%
Unemployed	5,900	23%
Short term disability ^a	4,300	17%
Long term disability ^b	11,600	46%
Total	25,200	100%
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, 2007		
Family Type	#	
Adults - Single	14,100	29%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	1,700	4%
Adults - Single parent	8,900	19%
Adults - Couple with dependants	2,700	6%
Total Adults	27,400	
Children - Single parent	17,100	36%
Children - Couple with dependants	3,500	7%
Total Children (43%)	20,600	
Total Recipients	48,100	100%
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

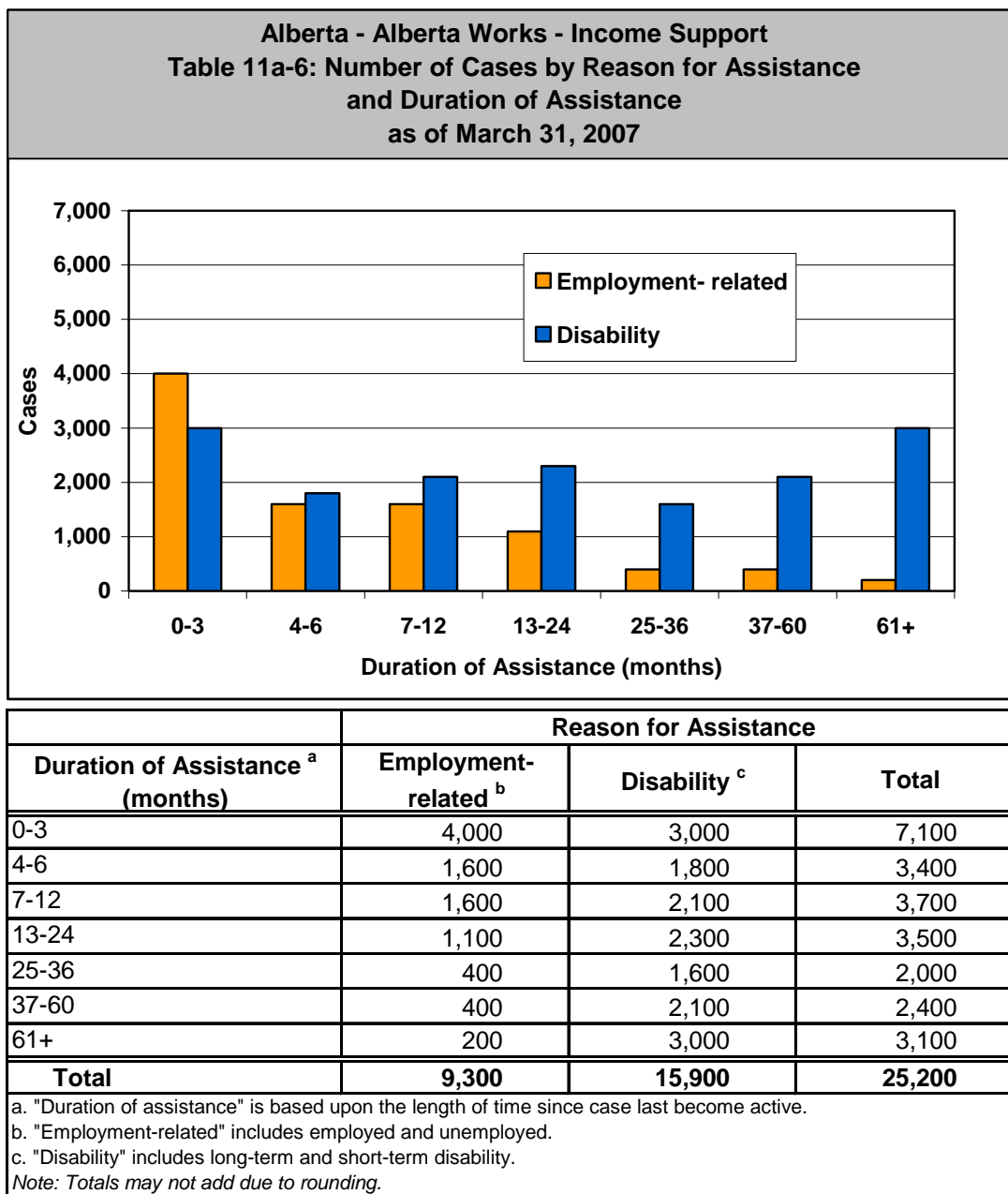
Cases by Age of Head

Alberta - Alberta Works - Income Support Table 11a-4: Number of Cases by Age of Head as of March 31, 2007	
Age of Head	#
<20	600
20-24	2,900
25-29	3,100
30-34	2,900
35-39	3,100
40-44	3,300
45-49	3,100
50-54	2,400
55-59	1,900
60-64	1,500
65+	400
Total	25,200
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

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, 2007		
Education of Head ^a	#	
Primary	6,000	24%
Secondary	15,200	60%
Community/technical college	1,900	8%
University	600	2%
Other post secondary	1,200	5%
Unknown	500	2%
Total	25,200	100%
a. Education is defined as level of education attained as of date of application.		
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance



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, 2007		
Source of Income	#	
Employment	2,800	48%
Government transfers	1,600	28%
Support payments	1,000	17%
Employment Insurance	100	2%
Other ^a	200	3%
Total ^b (includes double-counting)	5,800	100%
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 5,800 observations. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

Alberta - Alberta Works - Income Support Table 11a-8: Number of Cases Reporting Income as of March 31, 2007	
Reporting Income	5,200
No Income	20,100
Total	25,200
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

B - Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped

In Alberta, the provincial income assistance program for adults with a severe and permanent disability that substantially limits their ability to earn a livelihood is known as Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH). The *Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped Act*²⁴, the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped Regulation, the Facilities, Institutions, Health Benefits Regulation and the *Income and Employment Supports Act* govern Alberta's AISH program.

AISH provides program recipients with a monthly living allowance, health related benefits, a child benefit and personal benefits.

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, recipients must meet the eligibility criteria for severe handicap, age, residency, assets, and income.

Assets

The assets of AISH recipients and their cohabiting partners may not exceed \$100,000. Assets considered part of the \$100,000 limit include cash or cash equivalent assets, investments, and business/farm or other property. Key assets not included in the \$100,000 limit are a client's principal residence, a vehicle plus an adapted vehicle. Other exempt assets include insurance payments for damages or stolen goods, special compensation payments 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 cohabiting partner. Under AISH, income is classified into four categories: fully exempt (e.g. income tax refunds, an education or training grant, a goods and service tax credit), partially exempt (e.g.

²⁴ A new *AISH Act, General Regulation, and Applications and Appeals (ministerial) Regulation* came into force on May 1, 2007. The AISH program is no longer governed by the *Income and Employment Support Act* or the *Facilities, Institutions, Health Benefits Regulation*, which was repealed in July 2007.

interest/investment, rental income), non-exempt (e.g. Canada Pension Plan Disability Benefits, Employment Insurance) and employment income.

The level of exemption on partially exempt income and employment income varies depending on the composition of the household. The following are examples of monthly employment income exemptions:

Alberta - Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped Employment Income Exemptions March 2007	
Single Person, Childless Couple (both AISH)^a	\$400 of employment income, plus 50% of the net remainder to a maximum of \$1,000, per month
Single Parent, Childless Couple (one AISH), Couple with Children (both AISH)^b	\$975 of employment income, plus 50% of the net remainder to a maximum of \$2,000, per month.
a. For a childless couple (both AISH clients), each client qualifies for the \$400 exemption. b. Only one AISH recipient qualifies for this exemption. The other AISH client qualifies as a single person.	

Benefits

AISH provides a monthly living allowance, health related benefits, a child benefit, and personal benefits.

The health benefits are available to the recipient; his/her spouse/cohabiting partner, and dependent children under the age of 18 years, or under the age of 20 years if attending high school, who reside with the recipient. The health benefits 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.

The Child Benefit and Personal Benefits are provided to recipients with \$3,000 or less in assets. The Child Benefit is intended to help cover the cost of raising dependent children. Personal Benefits help AISH recipients to meet their extra needs, such as special diets, specialized clothing related to their disability, caring for a guide animal, and assistance with health-related travel. Recipients who live in facilities designated by the *Facilities, Institutions, Health Benefits Regulation* receive Modified AISH. Modified AISH benefits include the facility daily accommodation rate plus a personal allowance.

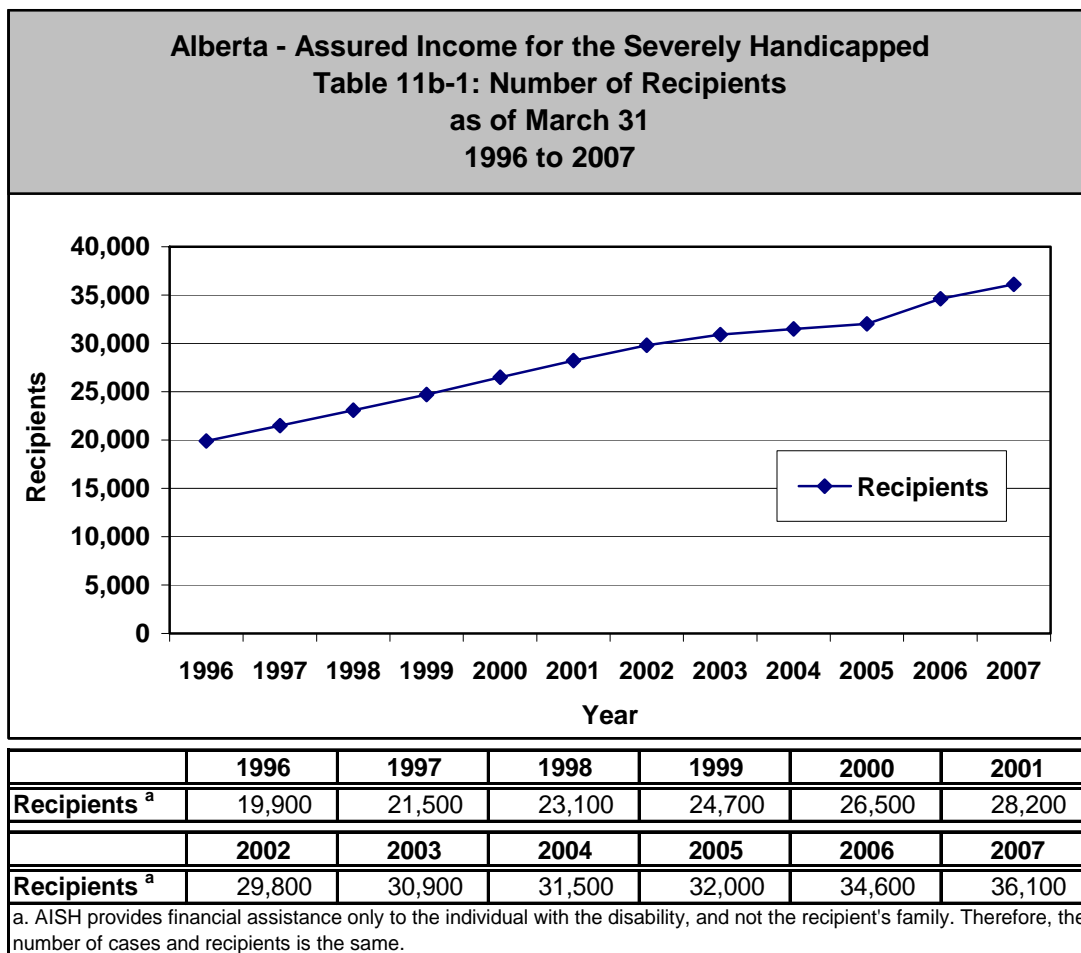
AISH recipients who have Canada Pension Plan Disability income, or who become employed and earn enough income to make them ineligible for AISH, may be eligible for the Alberta Adult Health Benefit, which provides the same health benefits as the AISH program. Rapid reinstatement of AISH benefits is also available for those eligible former AISH recipients who need to come back onto AISH within 2 years due to a reduction in their employment earnings.

More Information

For more information, please consult the Alberta Seniors and Community Supports Web site at: www.seniors.alberta.ca/AISH/.

STATISTICS

Recipients



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, 2007		
Medical Condition	#	
Physical disabilities	16,800	47%
Mental illness disorders	11,500	32%
Cognitive disorders	7,800	22%
Total	36,100	100%
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

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, 2007		
Family Type	#	
Single	32,300	89%
Couple with no children	1,400	4%
Single parent	1,800	5%
Couple with children	700	2%
Total	36,100	100%
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

Recipients by Age

Alberta - Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped Table 11b-4: Number of Recipients by Age as of March 31, 2007	
Age	#
18-19	700
20-24	3,000
25-29	3,000
30-34	2,800
35-39	3,200
40-44	4,400
45-49	5,000
50-54	5,000
55-59	4,700
60-64	4,200
65+	200
Total	36,100
<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 ^a as of March 31, 2007		
Education	#	
Grade school	28,200	78%
Post secondary ^b	2,100	6%
Trades	300	1%
University	1,500	4%
Unknown	4,100	11%
Total	36,100	100%
a. Education is defined as level of education attained as of date of application. This is not a required question on the AISH application form. Responses are not confirmed or updated if a client's level of education changes and the "unknown" results are high. b. "Post secondary" includes community/technical college and other post secondary. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

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, 2007		
Source of Income	#	
Employment ^a	6,200	27%
Canada Pension Plan Disability	7,000	30%
Other partially-exempt income ^b	10,100	43%
Total ^c (includes double-counting)	23,300	100%
a. Category "employment" includes employment and self-employment income. b. "Other partially-exempt income" includes farm, business, rental and investment income received by a client or cohabiting partner as well as pension income received by a cohabiting partner. c. Total recipients 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 23,300 observations. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

Alberta - Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped Table 11b-7: Number of Recipients Reporting Income as of March 31, 2007	
Reporting Income	18,100
No Income	18,000
Total	36,100
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	



Chapter 12 – British Columbia

Employment and Assistance

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 Bonus²⁵ (see p.107).

Service Delivery

The Ministry of Housing and Social Development²⁶ 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 interview; complete a reasonable work search with 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.

²⁵ 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.

²⁶ The Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance was renamed to Ministry of Housing and Social Development effective March 2009.

Liquid Assets

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

British Columbia - Liquid Asset Exemptions March 2007		
	Clients without Disabilities ^a	Clients with Disabilities
Single	\$1,500	\$3,000
Single-Parent Family	\$2,500	\$5,000
Childless Couple	\$2,500	\$5,000
Two-Parent Family	\$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:

British Columbia - Earnings Exemptions March 2007	
A single individual with Persons with Disabilities (PWD)	\$500
A single individual with Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers (PPMB)	\$500
A family unit where both individuals have PWD designation	\$750
A family unit where only one individual has PWD designation	\$500
A single parent who cares for a child with a severe disability where the disability of the child precludes the caregiver from working outside the home for more than 30 hours a week.	\$300

Benefits²⁷

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. The shelter allowance pays actual shelter costs to a maximum amount. Maximum shelter allowance rates are based on the number of persons in the family unit.

Employment and Assistance has three rates schedules: Income Assistance, Disability Assistance, and Hardship Assistance. Income Assistance rates apply to

²⁷ 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.

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 all households that include at least one person aged 18 years or older who has a severe and confirmed mental or physical impairment that restricts their ability to perform daily living activities and that is expected to continue for at least two years. 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, but present circumstances of undue hardship if no assistance is provided.

British Columbia Family Bonus

The British Columbia Family Bonus (BCFB) is a tax-free monthly benefit paid to low- and modest-income families with children. The program was implemented in 1996, two years prior to the implementation of the NCB. In 1998, the BCFB was combined with the Canada Child Tax Benefit into a single monthly payment for families with children. The BCEIB and the BCFB are tax-free monthly benefits that make it more attractive for those on income assistance to seek work and to remain employed.

The BCFB has been reduced by a portion of increases to the NCB Supplement since 1998. Since July 2005, only a small number of large families still receive basic BCFB in addition to the NCB Supplement. The combined BCFB and NCB Supplement have increases steadily. For example, the maximum monthly benefit for a first child was \$103 in July 1998. As of July 2007, it had increased to \$165.67.

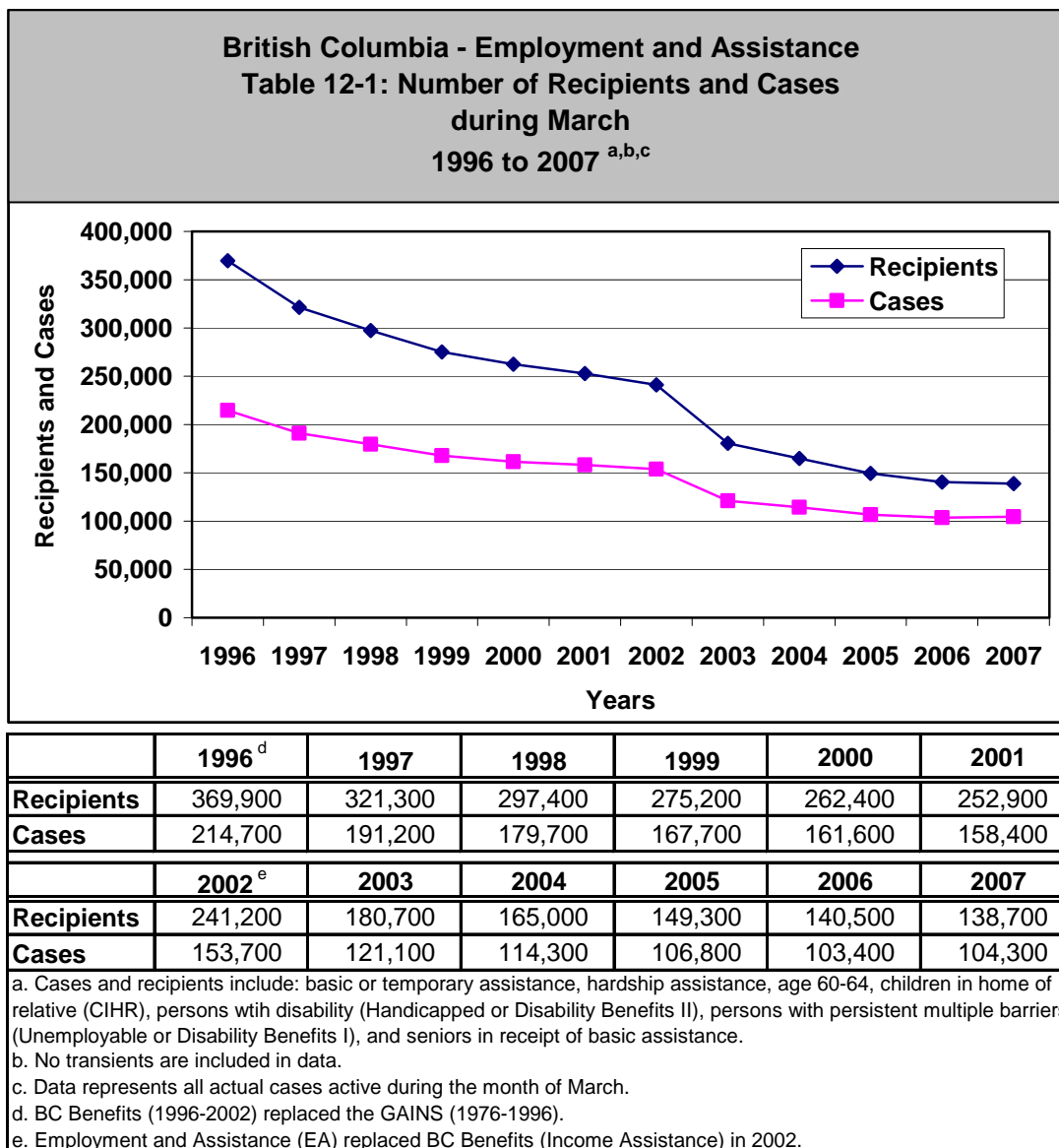
British Columbia Family Bonus (including BC Earned Income Benefit) ^a				
Estimated Number of Recipients				
1999-2000 to 2006-2007				
	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
Families	211,533	205,286	204,000	194,000
Children	384,191	370,253	364,433	368,637
	2003-2004	2004-2005 ^b	2005-2006 ^b	2006-2007 ^b
Families	203,700	190,310	143,900	103,050
Children	348,390	340,760	245,700	191,900
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. b. As of 2004-2005, the number of families and children benefiting from the BC Family Bonus starts to decline as a result of the full offset of the BC Family Bonus for most families with one child.				

More Information

For more information, please consult the British Columbia Ministry of Housing and Social Development Web site at: www.gov.bc.ca/hsd/index.html.

STATISTICS

Recipients and Cases



Cases by Reason for Assistance

British Columbia - Employment and Assistance Table 12-2: Number and Percentage of Cases by Reason for Assistance during March 2007		
Reason for Assistance	#	
Expected to work ^a	18,800	18%
Temporarily excused from working ^b	12,100	12%
Child in the home of a relative ^c	4,700	5%
Persons with disabilities ^d	61,300	59%
Persistent multiple barriers ^e	7,300	7%
Total	104,300	100%
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i></p>		

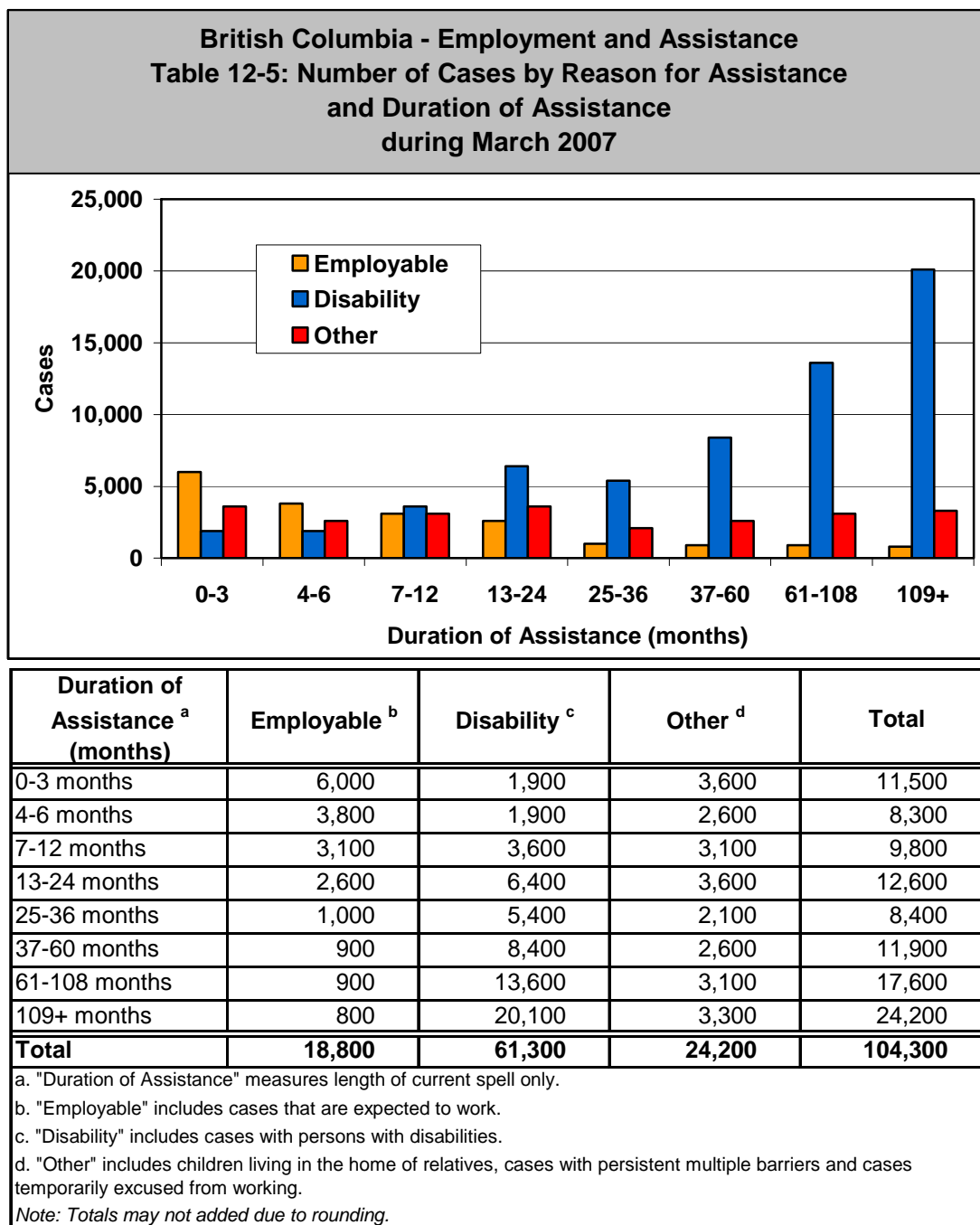
Recipients by Family Type

British Columbia - Employment and Assistance Table 12-3: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type during March 2007		
Family Type	#	
Adults - Single	78,800	57%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	8,300	6%
Adults - Single parent	14,200	10%
Adults - Couple with dependants	4,900	4%
Total Adults	106,200	
Children - Single parent	22,800	16%
Children - Couple with dependants	4,900	4%
Children in the Home of a Relative	4,700	3%
Total Children (23%)	32,500	
Total Recipients	138,700	100%
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

Cases by Age of Head

British Columbia - Employment and Assistance Table 12-4: Number of Cases by Age of Head during March 2007	
Age of Head	#
<20	6,600
20-24	8,200
25-29	8,900
30-34	9,000
35-39	11,100
40-44	13,700
45-49	14,700
50-54	12,800
55-59	10,900
60-64	7,600
65+	900
Total	104,300
<i>Note: Totals may not added due to rounding.</i>	

Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance





Chapter 13 – Yukon

Social Assistance

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.

Yukon - Liquid Asset Exemptions March 2007		
	Clients without Disabilities	Clients with Disabilities
Single	\$500	\$1,500
Family	\$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

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

Yukon - Earnings Exemptions March 2007	
Single	\$100 of all income plus 25% of earned income, after the third consecutive month of receiving assistance.
Family	\$150 of all income plus 25% of earned income, after the third consecutive month of receiving assistance.

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.²⁸ Maximum shelter allowance rates are based on the number of persons in the household (including children).

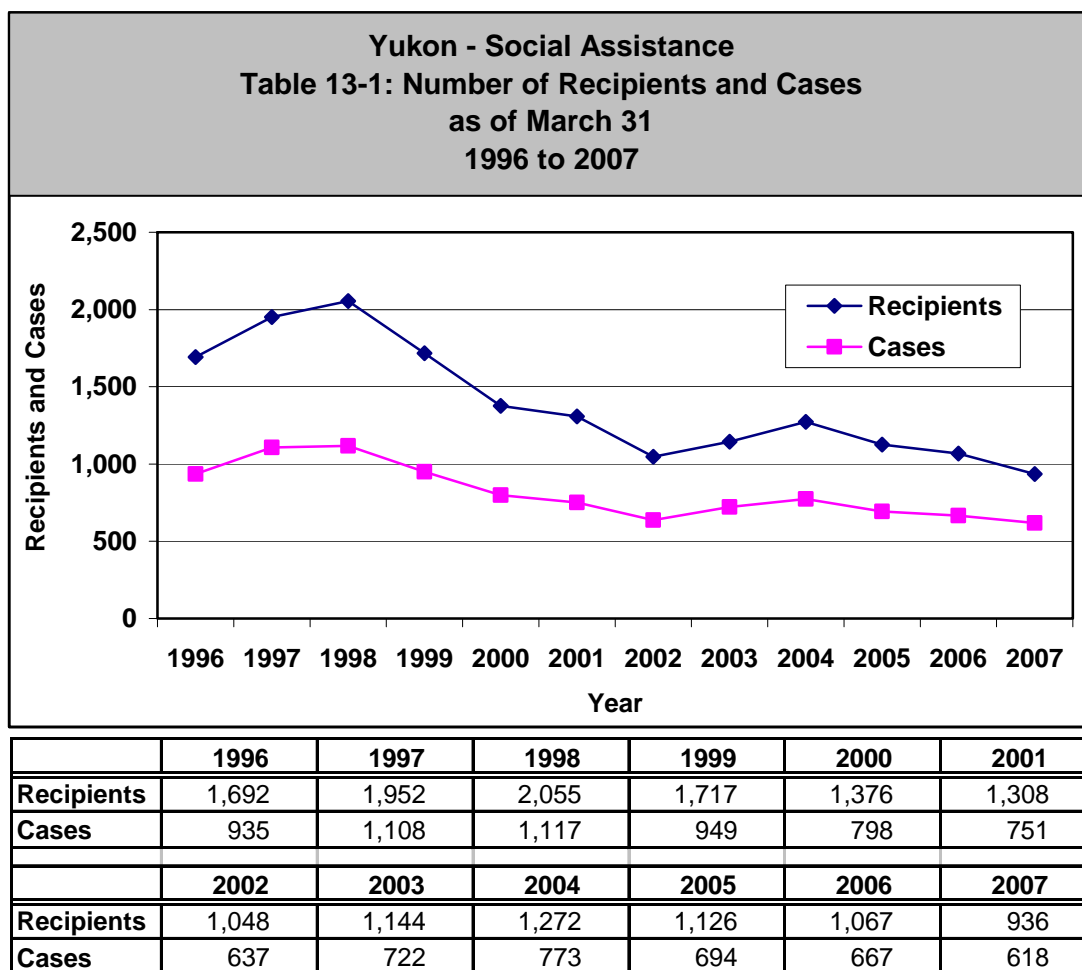
More Information

For more information, please consult the Yukon's Department of Health and Social Services Web site at: www.hss.gov.yk.ca/index.php.

²⁸ 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



Cases by Reason for Assistance

Yukon - Social Assistance Table 13-2: Number and Percentage of Cases by Reason for Assistance as of March 31, 2007		
Reason for Assistance	#	
Employable	334	54%
Physical Illness/Disability	112	18%
Mental Illness	21	3%
Developmental Disability	12	2%
Over 60	74	12%
Children ^a	35	6%
Unsuitable for employment	30	5%
Total	618	100%
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, 2007		
Family Type	#	
Adults - Single	440	47%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	62	7%
Adults - Single parent	121	13%
Adults - Couple with dependants	52	6%
Total Adults	675	
Children - Single parent	211	23%
Children - Couple with dependants	50	5%
Total Children (28%)	261	
Total Recipients	936	100%

Cases by Age of Head

Yukon - Social Assistance Table 13-4: Number of Cases by Age of Head as of March 31, 2007	
Age of Head	#
15-19	16
20-29	120
30-39	106
40-49	151
50-59	152
60-64	66
65+	7
Total	618

Cases by Education of Head

Yukon - Social Assistance Table 13-5: Number and Percentage of Cases by Education of Head as of March 31, 2007		
Education of Head	#	
< Grade 6	20	3%
Grade 7-9	23	4%
Grade 10-11	95	15%
Grade 12	195	32%
Other ^a	191	31%
Unknown	94	15%
Total	618	100%
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, 2007		
Source of Income	#	
Employment	80	34%
Government transfers	120	51%
Support payments	8	3%
Employment Insurance	9	4%
Other ^a	18	8%
Total ^b (includes double-counting)	235	100%
a. Other includes: training allowances (non-government), pensions (other than universal government pensions), rental income, and other sources of income not mentioned above. 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 235 observations.		

Yukon - Social Assistance Table 13-7: Number of Cases Reporting Income as of March 31, 2007	
Reporting Income	235
No Income	383
Total	618



Chapter 14 – Northwest Territories

Income Assistance

In the Northwest Territories, the territorial social assistance program is known as Income Assistance (IA). The *Social Assistance Act* and the Income Assistance Regulations²⁹ 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:

²⁹ The Social Assistance Regulations was renamed to the Income Assistance Regulations in 2007.

Northwest Territories - Earnings Exemptions March 2007		
	Clients without Disabilities	Clients with Disabilities
Single	\$200 plus 15% of any earned income in excess.	\$200 plus 15% of any earned income in excess.
Family	\$400 plus 15% of any earned income in excess.	\$400 plus 15% of any earned income in excess.

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.

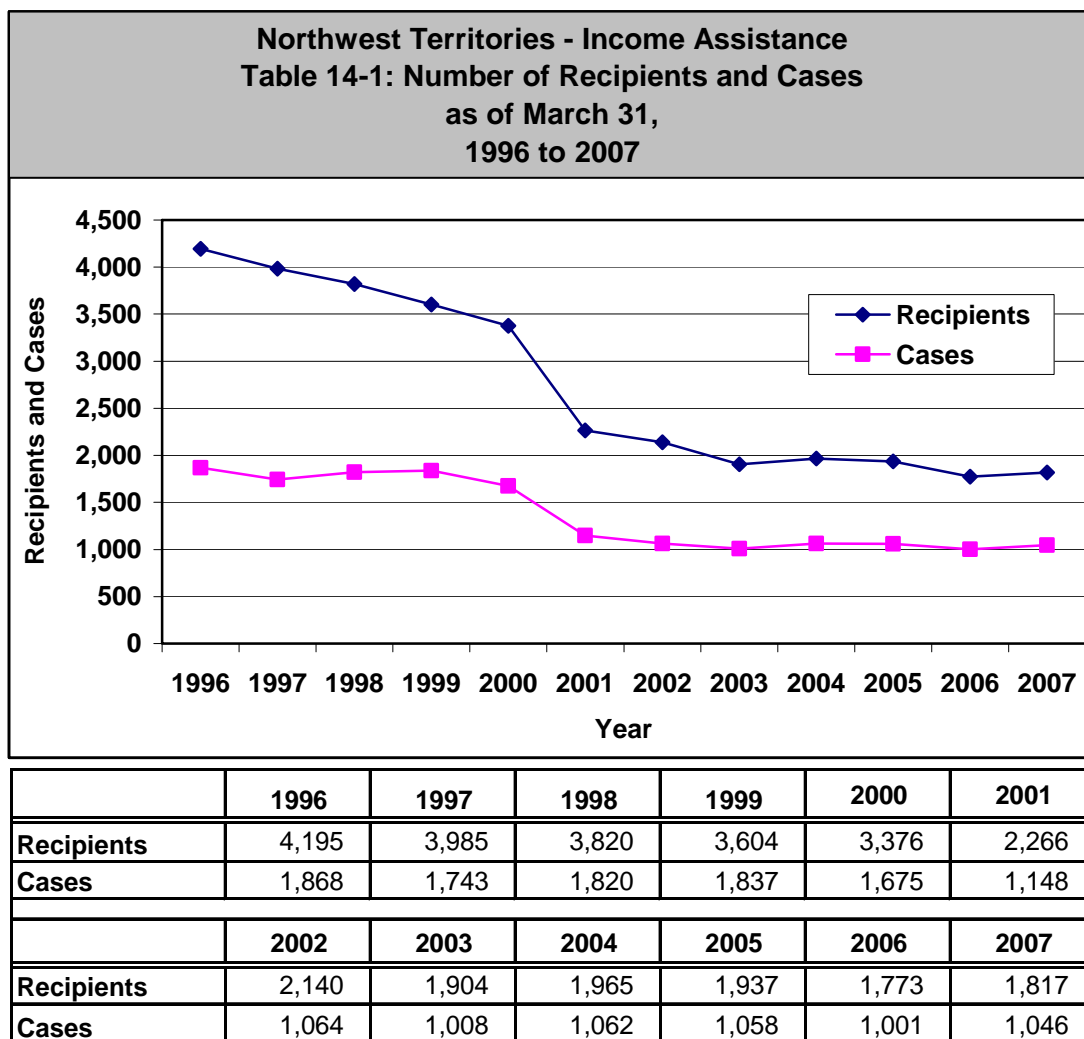
An enhanced benefit is also available for persons with disabilities, seniors and to applicants who participate in a program, such as employment or volunteering. The enhanced benefit provides allowances for clothing, furnishings, security deposits, emergencies and day care.

More Information

For more information, please consult the Northwest Territories Department of Education, Culture, and Employment Web site at: www.ece.gov.nt.ca.

STATISTICS

Recipients and Cases



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, 2007		
Reason for Assistance	#	
Employment	160	15%
Disability	351	34%
Other	535	51%
Total	1,046	100%

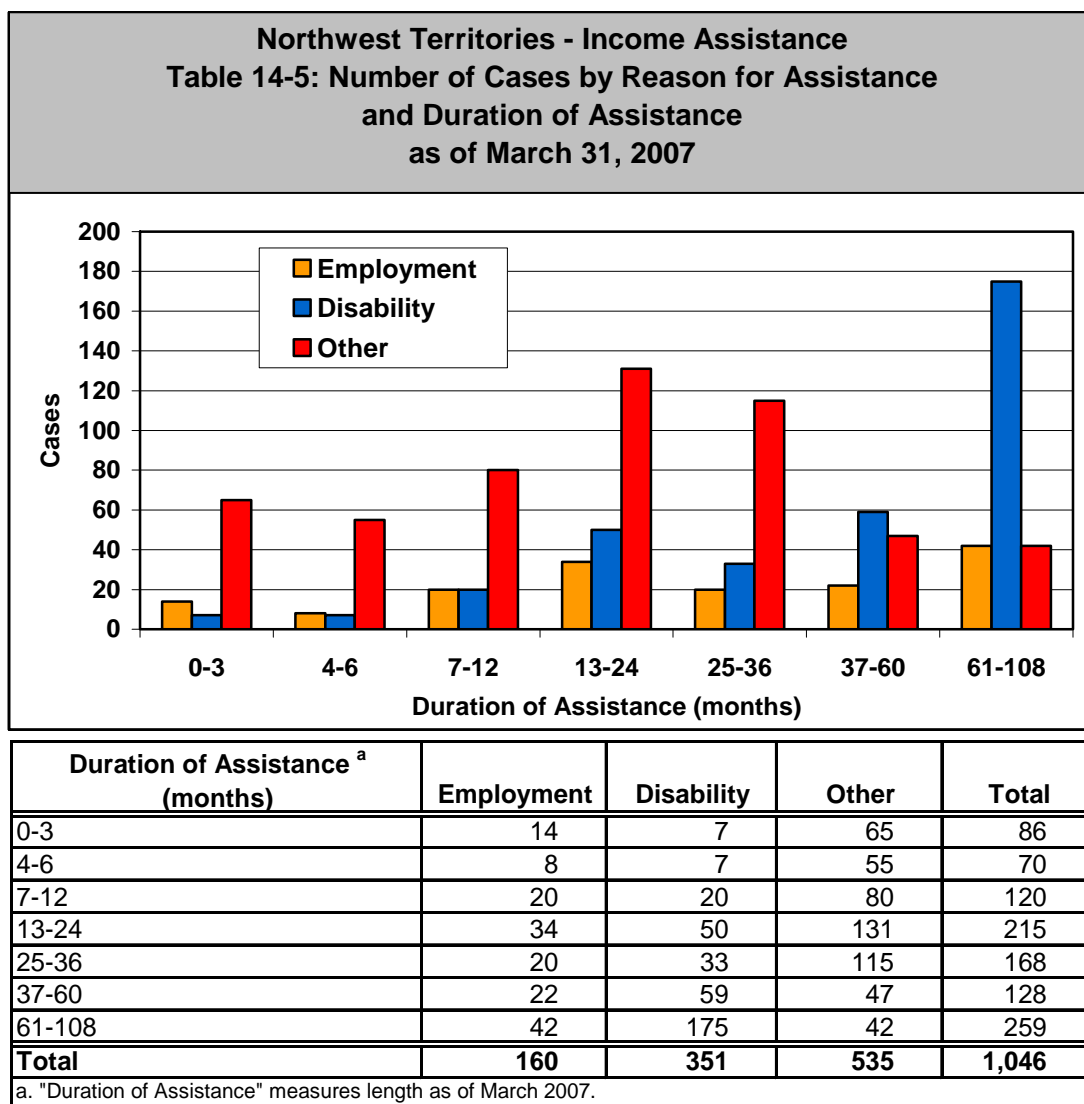
Recipients by Family Type

Northwest Territories - Income Assistance Table 14-3: Number and Percentage of Recipients by Family Type as of March 31, 2007		
Family Type	#	
Adults - Single	674	37%
Adults - Couple, no dependants	92	5%
Adults - Single parent	232	13%
Adults - Couple with dependants	188	10%
Total Adults	1,186	
Children - Single parent	414	23%
Children - Couple with dependants	217	12%
Total Children (35%)	631	
Total Recipients	1,817	100%

Cases by Age of Head

Northwest Territories - Income Assistance Table 14-4: Number of Cases by Age of Head as of March 31, 2007	
Age of Head	#
<20	40
20-24	174
25-29	137
30-34	95
35-39	132
40-44	90
45-49	100
50-54	81
55-59	99
60-64	95
65+	3
Total	1,046

Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance



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, 2007		
Source of Income	#	
Employment	316	29%
Government transfers	519	60%
Support payments	26	3%
Employment Insurance	32	3%
Other	69	5%
Total ^a (includes double-counting)	962	100%
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 962 observations.		

Northwest Territories - Income Assistance Table 14-7: Number of Cases Reporting Income as of March 31, 2007	
Reporting Income	592
No Income	454
Total	1,046



Chapter 15 – Nunavut

Income Support

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 2007		
	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 cost of fuel and utilities is paid.

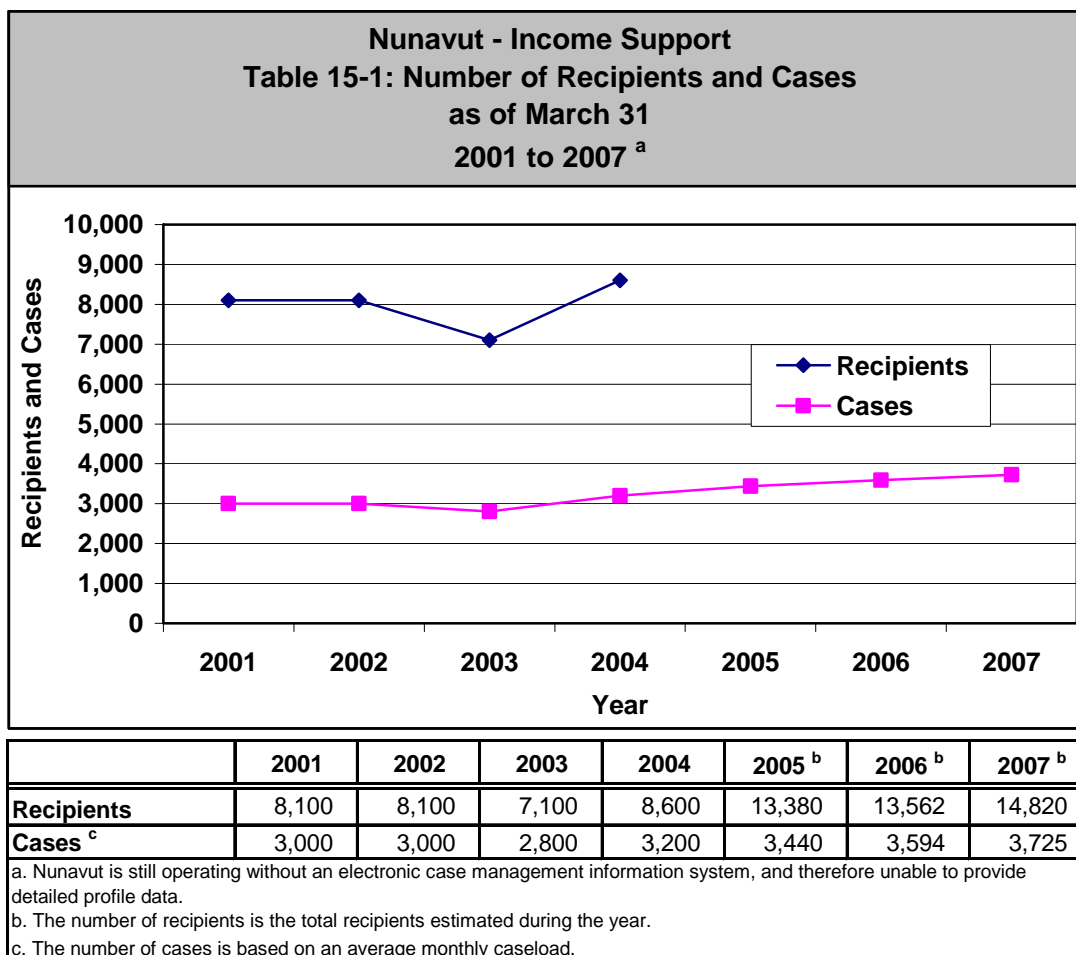
An extended benefit is also available for persons with disabilities, seniors and applicants who participate in a program, such as employment, education/training or volunteering. The extended benefit provides allowances for clothing, furnishings, security deposits, emergencies and day care.

More Information

For more information, please consult Nunavut's Department of Education, Web site at: www.gov.nu.ca/education/eng/.

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