
Social Assistance Statistical Report: 2004

Federal-Provincial-Territorial
Directors of Income Support
September 2005

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Preface

This is the first edition of the *Social Assistance Statistical Report: 2004* of the FPT Directors of Income Support. The *Social Assistance Statistical Report: 2004* provides provincial-territorial income support (primarily social assistance) statistics. For further information on the jurisdictional chapters, please contact the province or territory in question.

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Introduction

1.1 Overview:

The purpose of this report is to provide a public source of provincial-territorial income support (primarily social assistance) statistics for users both within and outside of the federal and provincial-territorial governments.

1.2 Target Audience:

This report is a public document intended for government officials, the general public, non-governmental organizations, and the media. It is available to users both within and outside of the federal and provincial-territorial governments.

1.3 Scope:

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

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

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

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

1.4 Constraints:

When using the statistics contained in this report, it is important to remember the following caveats:

- Data may not be available for all provinces-territories in all categories (e.g. reason for assistance).
- Variations in provincial-territorial programs, definitions, and reporting systems limit the comparability of the data.
- Data provided is for March of each year and may be outdated at the time of publication.
- Several of the potential categories are self-reporting and are potentially unreliable (e.g. education, sources of income).

1.5 Report Layout:

This report contains two major sections. The first section provides an overview of social assistance in Canada and is meant to serve as a general context piece for the detailed provincial-territorial social assistance information that follows. The second section provides detailed social assistance information for each province-territory. For each province-territory, a brief context piece describing that province or territory's social assistance program is provided, followed by detailed statistics on that province or territory's social assistance program, and basic statistics for its social assistance-related programs.

2.0 Social Assistance in Canada: An Overview

1.0 Introduction

Provincial-territorial and municipal social assistance programs, often called Canada's social safety net of last resort, 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.

2.0 Jurisdictional Matters

2.1 General

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

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

2.2 First Nations

The federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) provides funding for social assistance programs delivered to First Nations individuals and families who live on-reserve. DIAND provides social assistance funding through a block transfer arrangement while individual First Nations communities are responsible for the delivery of social assistance programs. In 2000-2001, 534 First Nations administered their own program (This figure does not include First Nations functioning under self-government arrangements).

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

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

2.3 Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST) and the Canada Social Transfer (CST)

Effective April 1, 1996, the Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST) replaced the Canada Assistance Plan (CAP) and Established Programs Financing (EPF) as the funds transfer vehicle from the federal government to the provinces-territories.

The CHST, in contrast to CAP, was a block transfer. The CHST provided each of the provinces-territories with a fixed amount of money to fund social services. Prior to 1996, the federal government cost-shared social assistance programs with the provinces-territories on a 50-50 basis under the terms of the CAP agreement.

CAP funding was provided to the provinces-territories specifically for the purpose of administering social assistance as well as homes for special care, child welfare, and other welfare services. EPF block funding was used for health services and post-secondary education. The new CHST provided funding for health services, post-secondary education and social assistance in one large fixed transfer.

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

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

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

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

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

3.0 Eligibility

3.1 General

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

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

3.2 Residence

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

3.3 Administrative Requirements

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

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

3.4 Employment Requirements

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

Furthermore, to ensure that those individuals and families who successfully leave social assistance for employment are better off working, a number of provinces-territories have introduced earned income or in-work supplements that are designed to increase the financial return associated with low-wage employment.

3.5 Categories of Beneficiaries

3.5.1. Unemployed Able-Bodied Persons

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

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

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

3.5.2 Single-Parent Families

In recognition of the financial responsibility of parents with respect to their children, regardless of the family situation, a sole support parent may be

required, as a condition of eligibility for social assistance, to either initiate legal proceedings against an absent spouse (or ex-spouse) respecting maintenance payments, or to subrogate that right to the government. Generally, provinces-territories consider single parents as employable – and require them to actively seek and accept reasonable employment – where the parent and dependent child(ren) are physically and mentally healthy and where the dependants have reached a certain age (stipulated in provincial-territorial legislation).

3.5.3 Persons with Disabilities

An applicant requesting assistance because of illness or disability is generally required to submit a medical certificate completed by a licensed physician indicating the level of the impairment and the potential for rehabilitation. In some jurisdictions, this requirement may be waived – at least in the initial determination of eligibility – where the disability is obvious. In some jurisdictions, persons with disabilities are required to submit evidence of their continuing disability on an annual basis.

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

3.5.4 Persons with Multiple Barriers to Employment

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

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

3.5.5 Aged Persons

A person of advanced age may qualify for social assistance notwithstanding eligibility for benefits from federal and provincial-territorial programs for seniors. Financial hardship might be due to some age-related special needs, the number of dependants in the household, or ineligibility for Old Age Security benefits.

Provided the applicant meets the legislated eligibility criteria, social assistance may be granted. Most provinces-territories have established higher basic assistance benefit levels or other special considerations for persons beyond their middle years.

3.5.6 Students

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

3.6 Financial Eligibility

3.6.1 Needs Test

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

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

3.6.2 Assets

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

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

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

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

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

3.6.3 Income

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

- Canada Child Tax Benefit;
- Foster Home payments;
- Child Welfare payments;
- GST/HST rebates;
- Insurance settlements;
- Compensation payments (HIV, Hepatitis C, Japanese Canadians, Merchant Navy);
- Involuntary deductions from pay;
- Gifts and inheritances; and
- Income from employment held by dependants who are full-time students.

Other types of income are not subject to such exemptions, and as such, are considered available for the immediate maintenance of the family and its members. The net effect of this unearned income is to reduce the amount of social assistance payable dollar-for-dollar. Examples of unearned income include workers' compensation benefits and Old Age Security payments.

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

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

4.0 Benefits

4.1 Basic Assistance

Basic assistance generally covers the cost of food, clothing, personal and household items, and in some provinces-territories, regularly-recurring special needs. There are three basic methods used to calculate the amount of benefits to which an individual or family are entitled. The first method, the pre-added budget method, combines all non-shelter requirements into a single support allowance. A separate shelter component is then provided. The second method, the itemized budget method, provides a standard allowance for each of the non-shelter and shelter requirements. The sum of the individual items to which the individual or family is entitled then forms the total benefit payable. The third method provides a flat rate of assistance for non-shelter and shelter items based on a household's structure and the program in which it is participating.

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

4.2 Special Needs Assistance

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

4.3 Transitional Assistance

In an effort to increase labour market attachment and reduce reliance on social assistance, provincial-territorial governments have attempted to lessen the financial impact of the transition from social assistance to employment. Childcare and transportation allowances have been increased in some jurisdictions to facilitate the participation of social assistance recipients in employment and retraining activities. Extended drug cards and supplementary health benefits, valid after leaving social assistance (subject to renewal) have further lessened the financial impact of accepting employment.

4.4 Indexation

Each jurisdiction is responsible for the indexation of its benefits. While most jurisdictions revise their rates on an “ad hoc” basis, Quebec regularly indexes its benefits in January of each year based on changes to the Consumer Price Index.

5.0 Administration

5.1 Diversion

In some jurisdictions, the social assistance application process begins with a review of the applicant’s circumstances to determine if social assistance is the most appropriate intervention for them. If it is determined that another government program may be more suitable given their circumstances, applicants are referred to that program and their application for social assistance is discontinued.

5.2 Method of Payment

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

5.3 Case Review

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

5.4 Recoveries and Reimbursement

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

5.5 Appeals

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

6.0 Children's Benefits

The National Child Benefit (NCB) is a joint federal-provincial-territorial initiative designed to prevent and reduce the depth of child poverty, promote attachment to the labour force by ensuring that families are always better off working, and reduce overlap and duplication of programs and simplify administration.

Under the NCB, the Government of Canada provides benefits directly to low-income families with children through the NCB Supplement (NCBS) component of the Canada Child Tax Benefit. Provinces, territories and First Nations provide other programs and services to low-income families with children in their communities. The CCTB is payable to all low- and middle-income families with children, while the NCBS is paid to low-income families only.

Since the implementation of the NCB in the summer of 1998, several jurisdictions have removed children's benefits from their social assistance systems and extended them (on an income-tested basis) to all low- to middle-income families. Three distinct approaches have evolved respecting the replacement of social assistance benefits for children through the NCB. These are:

- the social assistance offset approach;
- the integrated child benefit approach with adjustment; and
- the integrated child benefit approach without adjustment.

In addition, some jurisdictions (New Brunswick, Manitoba¹) do not adjust social assistance benefits for children and, instead, flow through the NCBS directly to recipients.

In the case of the social assistance offset, social assistance recipients have the amount of the NCBS they receive deducted from their social assistance entitlement. This approach is used in Prince Edward Island, Ontario,² Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. In other jurisdictions, the social assistance rate is reduced by the maximum NCBS. Alberta³ uses this approach.

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

Likewise, some jurisdictions chose to restructure their social assistance system to provide children's benefits through a separate income-tested program. In these cases, however, there was no offset of the NCBS against child benefits. Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia have adopted this approach.

In most jurisdictions, the amount of the NCBS is offset by the province-territory against social assistance or child benefit payments. The resulting savings are reinvested in child-related initiatives for low-income families with children.

These NCB initiatives are funded from two sources: investment funds and re-investment funds. Reinvestment funds are the result of adjustments to social assistance payments made by the provinces-territories. Investment funds are those monies contributed by the provinces-territories over and above the reinvestment amounts. Provincial-territorial NCB investment and re-investment initiatives for 2002-2003 include early childhood and children-at-risk services, supplementary health benefits, youth initiatives, day care services, as well as child benefits and earned income supplements.

¹ Effective July 2000, Manitoba discontinued recovering increases in the NCBS for families receiving income assistance. Effective July 2001, Manitoba stopped recovering the NCBS for children age six or under. Effective January 2003, Manitoba stopped recovering the NCBS for children age seven to eleven; and effective January 2004, it stopped recovering the NCBS for children age 12 to 17 years.

² In its 2004 Budget, Ontario announced that social assistance benefits would not be reduced to take into account the Government of Canada's July 1, 2004 increase for indexation to the NCBS for one year.

³ 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 NCBS. This flow-through is also in place in 2004.

3.1 Newfoundland and Labrador - Social Assistance

1.0 Overview

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

Social Assistance provides basic benefits to adults only. Children's basic benefits are provided through the Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit.

2.0 Service Delivery

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

3.0 Eligibility

3.1 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.

3.2 Liquid Assets

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

	Clients without Disabilities	Clients with Disabilities
Single	\$ 500	\$3,000
Family	\$1,500	\$5,500
<i>Newfoundland and Labrador, Liquid Asset Exemptions, March 2004</i>		

3.3 Earnings Exemptions

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

	Clients without Disabilities	Clients with Disabilities*
Single	\$ 75	\$ 95
Family	\$150	\$190
* These clients must require supportive services. <i>Newfoundland and Labrador, Earnings Exemptions, March 2004</i>		

4.0 Benefits

Basic assistance consists of Individual/Family Benefits and a Shelter Allowance. Individual/Family Benefits covers the cost of food, clothing, and utilities for adults only. Maximum Individual/Family Benefits rates are based on the number of adults in the household. Maximum Shelter Allowance rates are based on the number of persons in the household (including children) and the type of accommodation.

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

5.0 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.

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.

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

	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Families	24,000	20,629	20,000	20,314	19,800
Children	35,000	33,182	32,000	31,500	30,000
<i>Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit, Number of Recipients, 1999-2004</i>					

6.0 More Information

For more information, please consult the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Human Resources, Labour, and Employment website at: <http://www.gov.nf.ca/hre/>.

Newfoundland and Labrador Social Assistance

Figure 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1994-2004

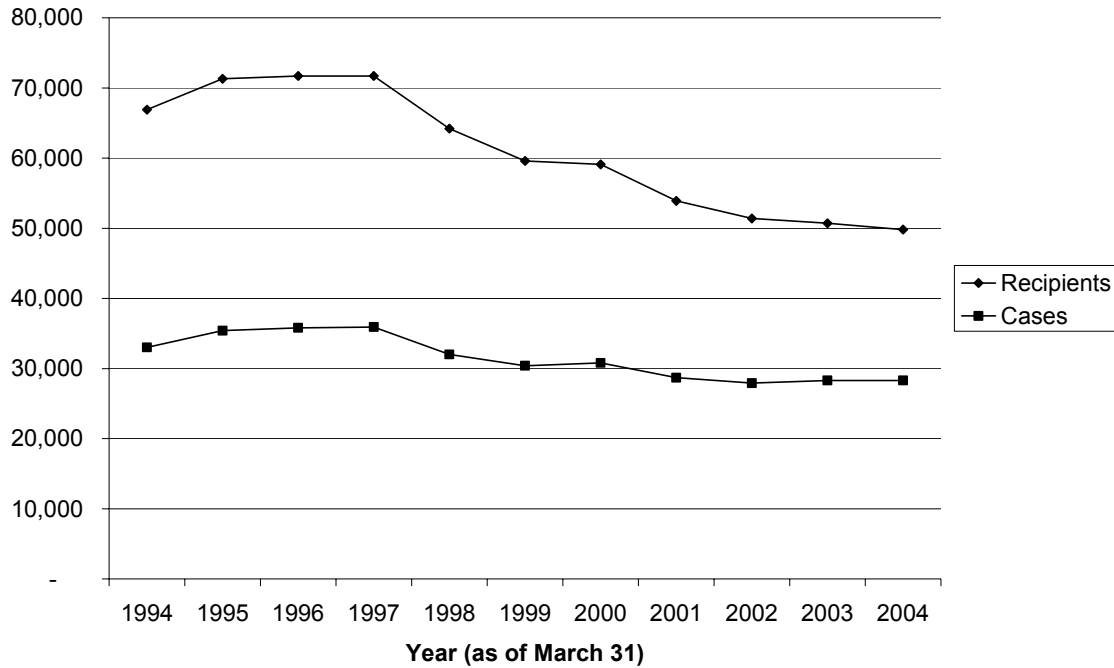


Table 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1994-2004

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004*
Recipients	59,100	53,900	51,400	50,700	49,800
Cases	30,800	28,700	27,900	28,300	28,300
* For 2004, total cases and recipients in the above table differ from the totals shown in the detailed tables that follow. The total caseload for March 2004 includes a small number of cases paid through other means. Additional differences are due to slight variations in the selection criterion used to derive the official count and the criterion used to produce data extracts for subsequent detailed analysis.					

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Recipients	66,900	71,300	71,700	71,700	64,200	59,600
Cases	33,000	35,400	35,800	35,900	32,000	30,400

Newfoundland and Labrador Social Assistance

Figure 2: Percentage of Cases by Reason for Assistance, March 31, 2004

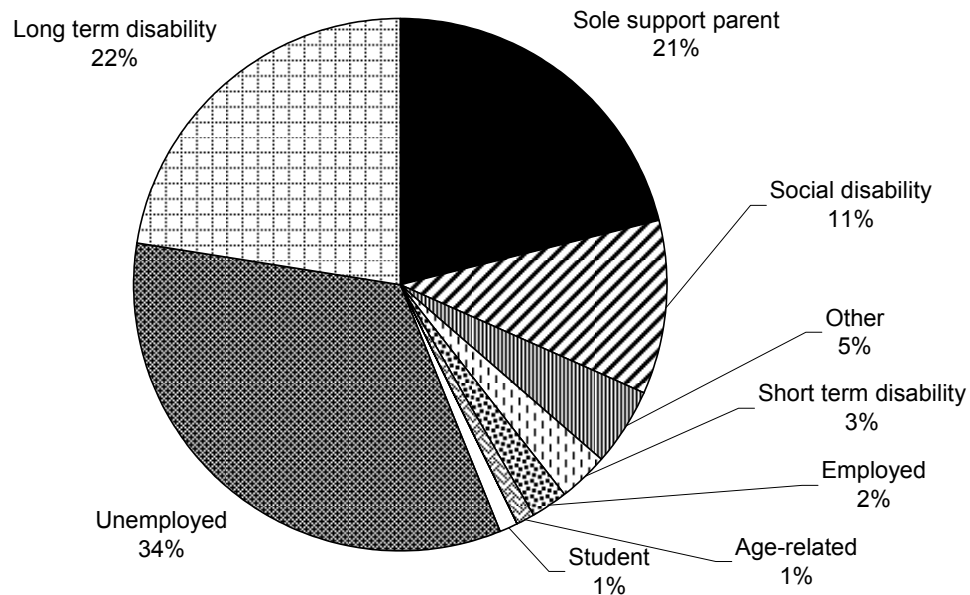


Table 2: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance, March 31, 2004

Reason for Assistance	2004
Unemployed	9,500
Long term disability	6,300
Sole support parent	5,900
Social disability*	3,000
Other**	1,300
Short term disability	900
Employed	600
Age-related	300
Student	300
Total	28,100
<p>***"Social disability" includes those clients who are considered "not employable" due to: low educational levels; lack of employment experience; addiction issues; repeated involvement with the criminal justice system; etc.</p> <p>***"Other" includes clients paid under the new CAPS pay system. Under the new system, "reason for assistance" categories are incompatible with the categories shown above.</p> <p><i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i></p>	

Newfoundland and Labrador Social Assistance

Figure 3: Percentage of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

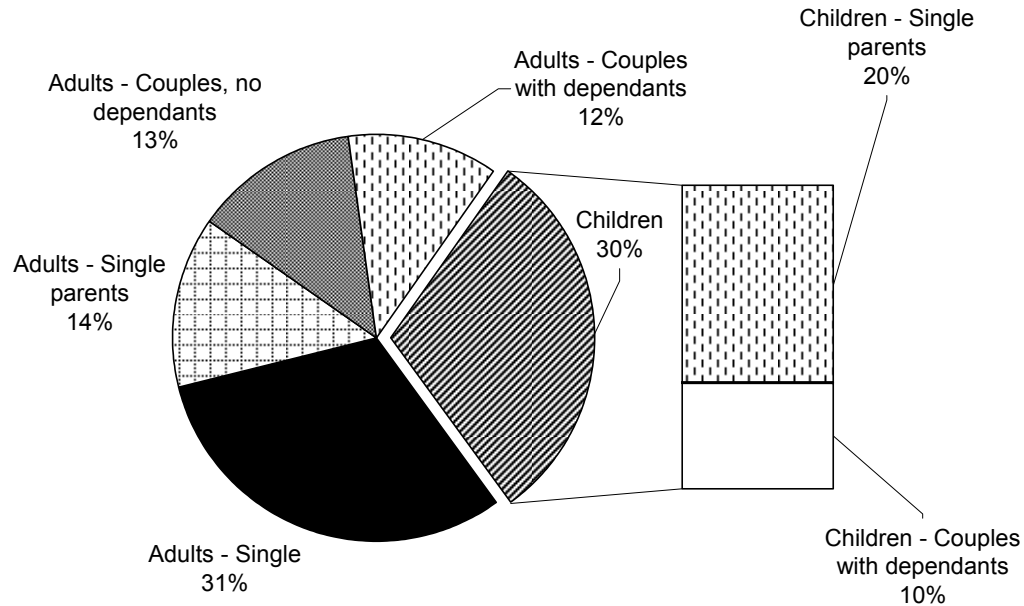


Table 3: Number of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

Family Type	2004
Adults – Single	15,400
Adults - Single parents	6,800
Adults - Couples, no dependants	6,400
Adults - Couples with dependants	6,000
Total adults	34,600
Children - Single parents	9,800
Children - Couples with dependants	5,200
Total children	14,900
Total	49,500
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Newfoundland and Labrador Social Assistance

Figure 4: Number of Cases by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

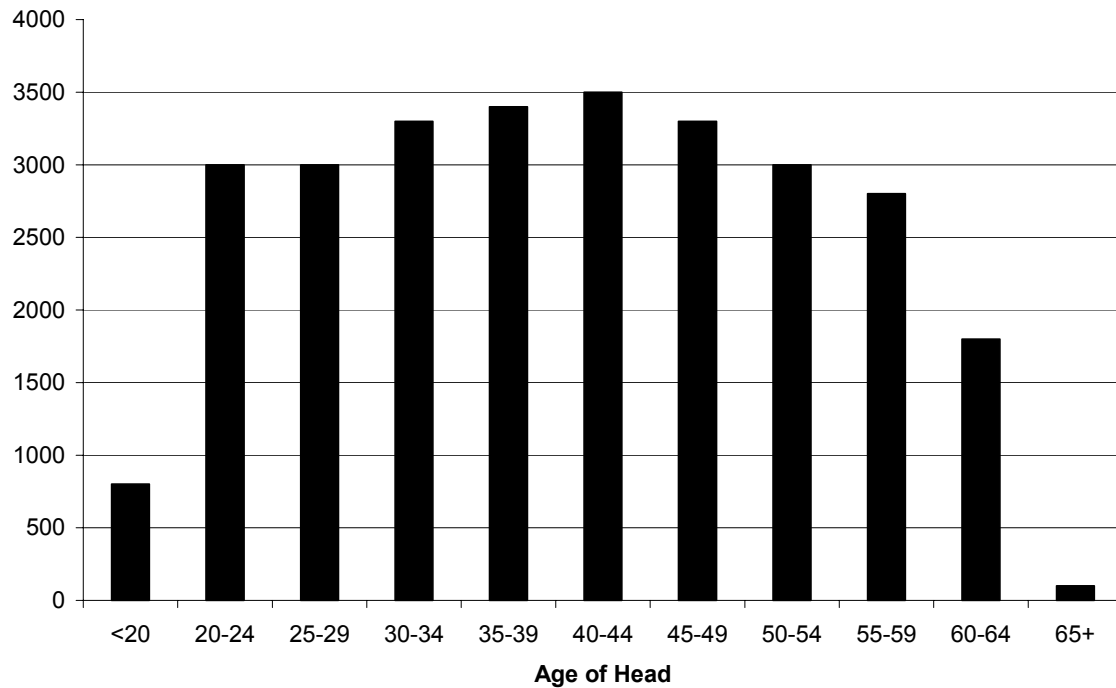


Table 4: Number of Cases by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

Age of Head	2004
<20	800
20-24	3,000
25-29	3,000
30-34	3,300
35-39	3,400
40-44	3,500
45-49	3,300
50-54	3,000
55-59	2,800
60-64	1,800
65+	100
Total	28,100
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding</i>	

Newfoundland and Labrador Social Assistance

Figure 5: Percentage of Caseload by Education of Head, March 31, 2004

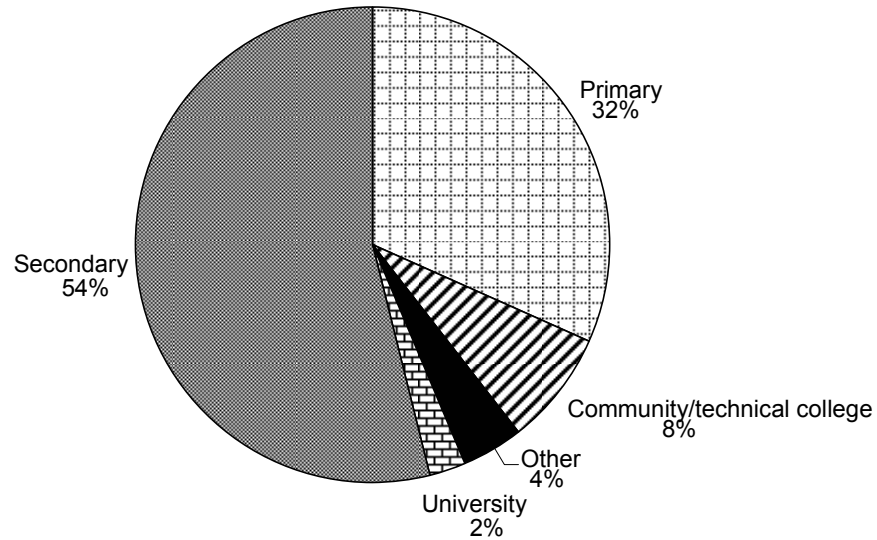


Table 5: Number of Cases by Education of Head, March 31, 2004

Education of Head [*]	2004
Secondary ^{**}	15,200
Primary ^{***}	8,900
Community/technical college	2,200
Other	1,200
University	700
Total	28,100
[*] Education is defined as the level of education attained by the head of the household as of March 31, 2004. ^{**} "Secondary" includes Grade 9 to Grade 12 ^{***} "Primary" includes Kindergarten to Grade 8 <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Newfoundland and Labrador Social Assistance

Figure 6: Percentage of Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income, March 31, 2004

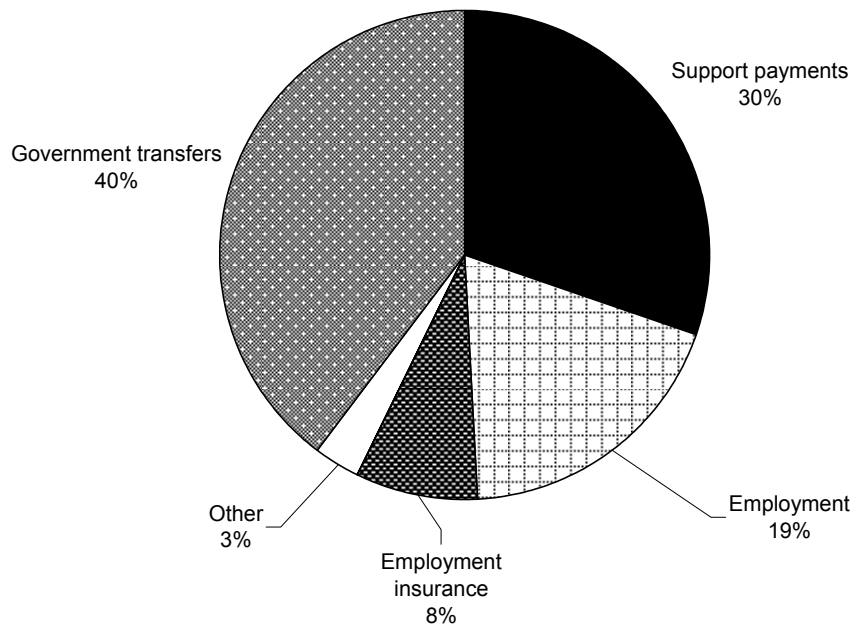


Table 6: Number of Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income, March 31, 2004

Source of Income	2004
Government transfers	2,500
Support payments	1,900
Employment	1,200
Employment insurance	500
Other*	200
Total** (includes double-counting)	6,300
*"Other" includes training allowances and other income. **Total cases in these categories may include double-counting, since cases that have more than one source of income are counted for each source reported. Percentages were calculated based on 6,300 observations. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding</i>	

Table 7: Number of Cases Reporting Income, March 31, 2004

Reporting income	6,000
No income	22,200
Total	28,100
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

3.2 Prince Edward Island - Social Assistance

1.0 Overview

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

Social Assistance provides basic benefits to both adults and children.

Disability supports are provided through Prince Edward Island's Disability Support Program.

2.0 Service Delivery

The health and social services system is responsible for the delivery of the Social Assistance program to adults and children within the province.

3.0 Eligibility

3.1 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.

3.2 Liquid Assets

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

Short-Term Assistance

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

Long-Term Assistance⁴

	Clients without Disabilities	Clients with Disabilities
Single	\$200	\$900
Single-Parent Family	\$900 plus \$300 per dependant to a maximum of \$2,400.	n/a
Childless Couple	\$1,200	\$1,800
Two-Parent Family	\$1,200 plus \$300 per dependant to a maximum of \$2,400.	\$1,800 plus \$300 per dependant to a maximum of \$2,400.
<i>Prince Edward Island, Long-Term Assistance Liquid Asset Exemptions, March 2004</i>		

3.3 Earnings Exemptions

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

Single	\$ 75 plus 10% of the excess.
Family	\$125 plus 10% of the excess.
<i>Prince Edward Island, Earnings Exemptions, March 2004</i>	

4.0 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.

A monthly Travel Allowance and a monthly Healthy Child Allowance are also available.

5.0 Disability Support Program

In October 2001, Prince Edward Island launched the Prince Edward Island Disability Support Program. Designed to meet the unique needs of persons with disabilities, the Disability Support Program offers both financial and case

⁴ Long-Term Assistance is for those clients expected to receive benefits for more than four months.

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 all individuals under 64 years of age who have a physical, neurological, or intellectual disability that limits their ability to perform activities necessary for their independence and well-being.

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

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

	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Individuals	691	946	1,030
<i>Disability Support Program, Number of Recipients, 2001-2004.</i>			

6.0 More Information

For more information, please consult the Prince Edward Island Department of Health and Social Services website at: <http://www.gov.pe.ca/hss/index.php3>.

Prince Edward Island Social Assistance

Figure 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1994 - 2003 and February 29, 2004

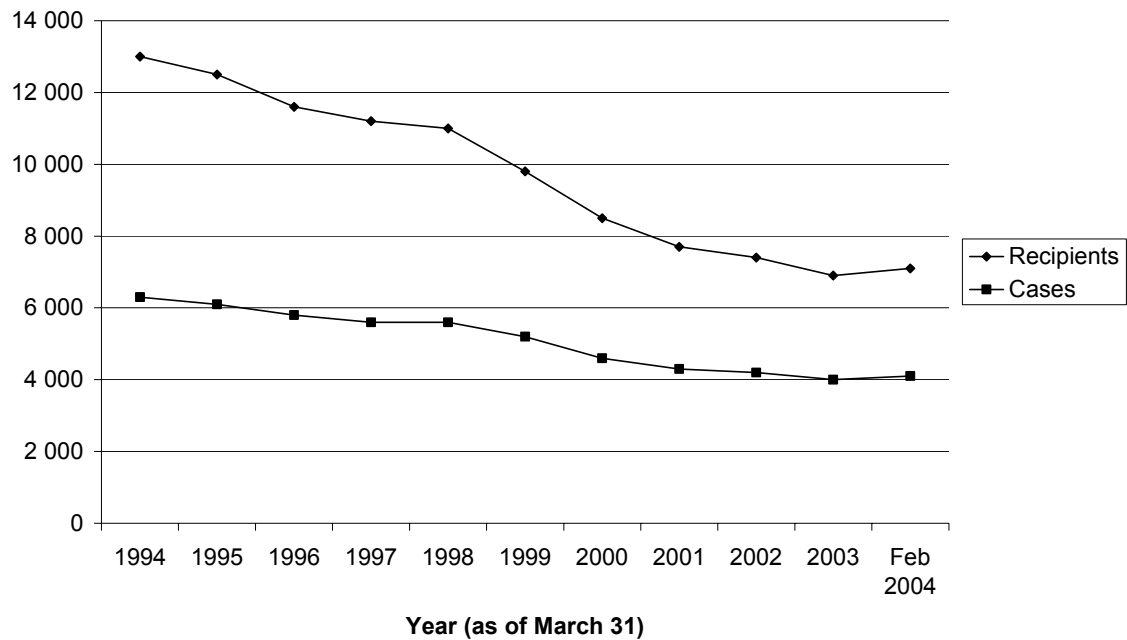


Table 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1994-2003 and February 29, 2004

	2000	2001	2002	2003	Feb 2004*
Recipients	8,500	7,700	7,400	6,900	7,100
Cases	4,600	4,300	4,200	4,000	4,100
* March data not available.					

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Recipients	13,000	12,500	11,600	11,200	11,000	9,800
Cases	6,300	6,100	5,800	5,600	5,600	5,200

Prince Edward Island Social Assistance

Figure 2: Percentage of Cases by Reason for Assistance, February 29, 2004

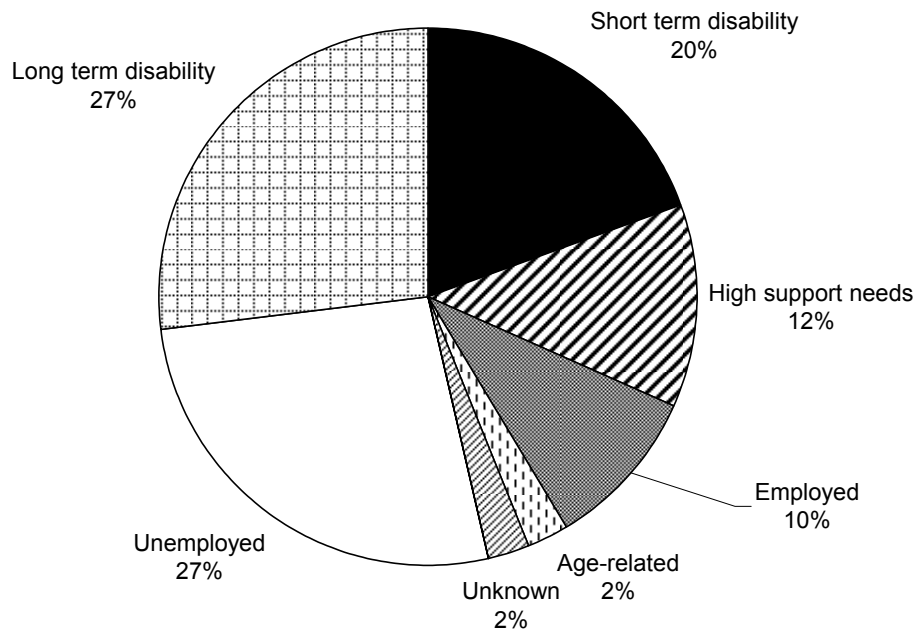


Table 2: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance, February 29, 2004^{*}

Reason for Assistance	2004
Unemployed	1,100
Long term disability	1,100
Short term disability	800
High support needs**	500
Employed	400
Age-related	100
Unknown	100
Total	4,100
<p>* March data not available. ** "High support needs" includes clients with multiple barriers to employment. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding</i></p>	

Prince Edward Island Social Assistance

Figure 3: Percentage of Recipients by Family Type, February 29, 2004

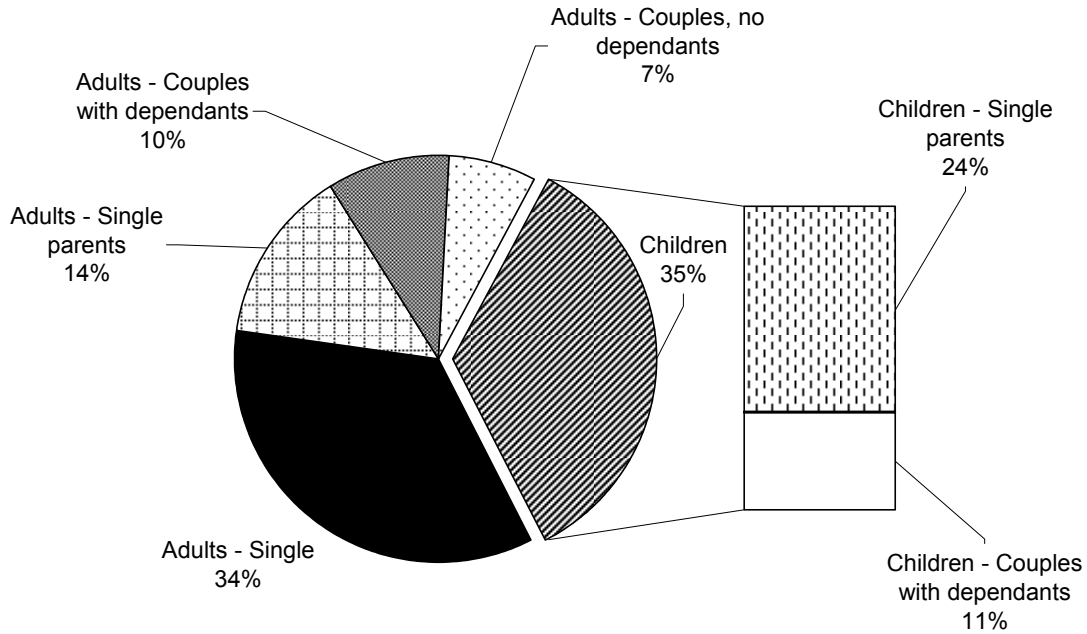


Table 3: Number of Recipients by Family Type, February 29, 2004*

Family Type	2004
Adults – Single	2,500
Adults - Single parents	1,000
Adults - Couples with dependants	700
Adults - Couples, no dependants	500
Total adults	4,600
Children - Single parents	1,700
Children - Couples with dependants	800
Total children	2,500
Total	7,100
* March data was available.	
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.	

Prince Edward Island Social Assistance

Figure 4: Number of Cases by Age of Head, February 29, 2004

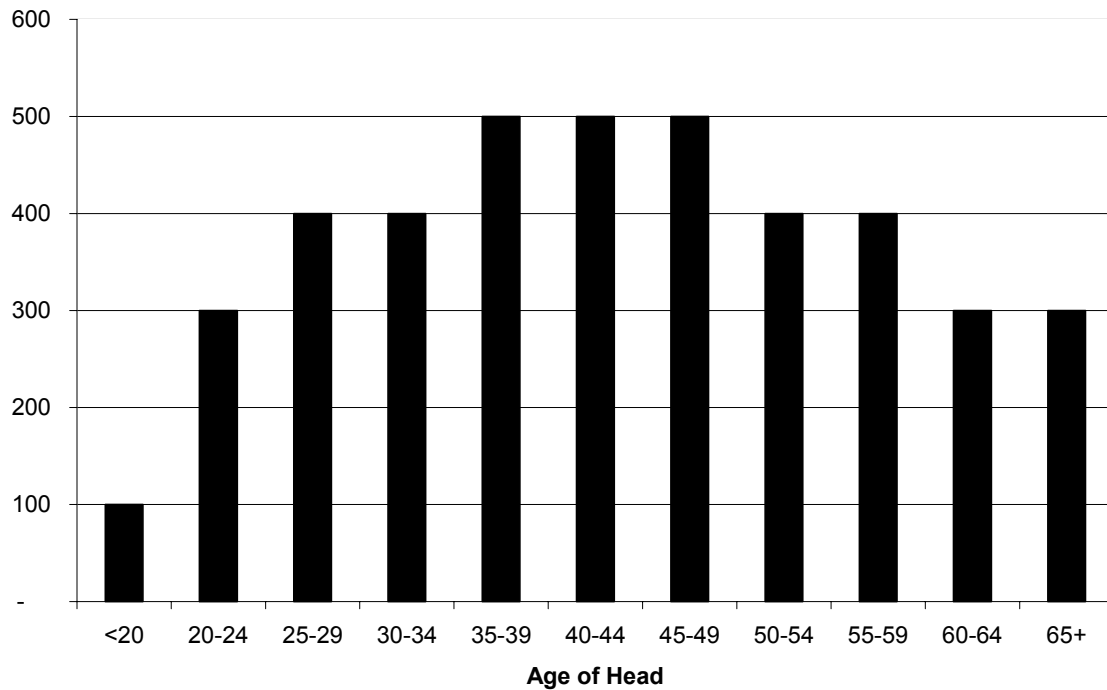


Table 4: Number of Cases by Age of Head, February 29, 2004*

Age of Head	2004
<20	100
20-24	300
25-29	400
30-34	400
35-39	500
40-44	500
45-49	500
50-54	400
55-59	400
60-64	300
65+	300
Total	4,100
* March data not available. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Prince Edward Island Social Assistance

Figure 5: Percentage of Cases by Education of Head, February 29, 2004

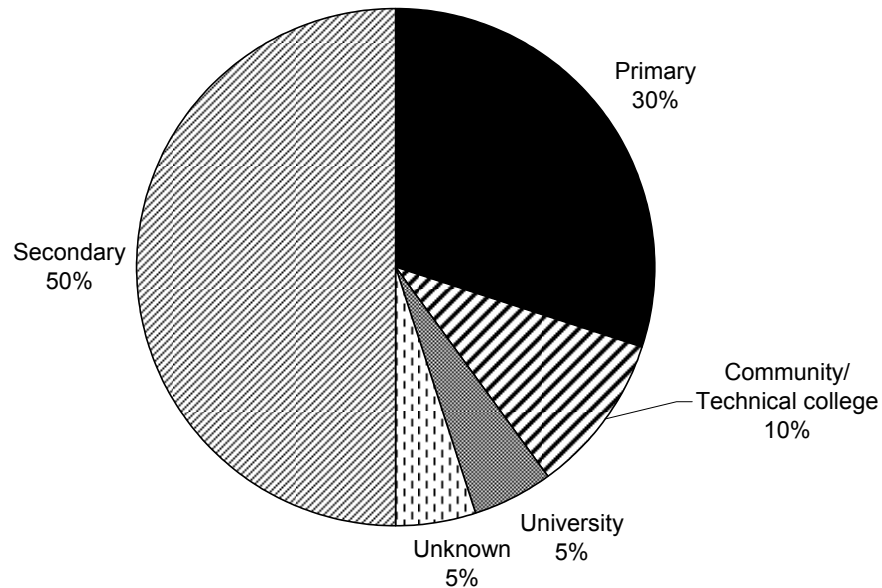


Table 5: Number of Cases by Education of Head, February 29, 2004^{*}

Education of Head ^{**}	2004
Secondary	2,000
Primary	1,200
Community/Technical college	400
University	200
Unknown	200
Total	4,100
[*] March data not available. ^{**} Education is defined as level of education attained as of date of application. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Prince Edward Island Social Assistance

Figure 6: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance, February 29, 2004

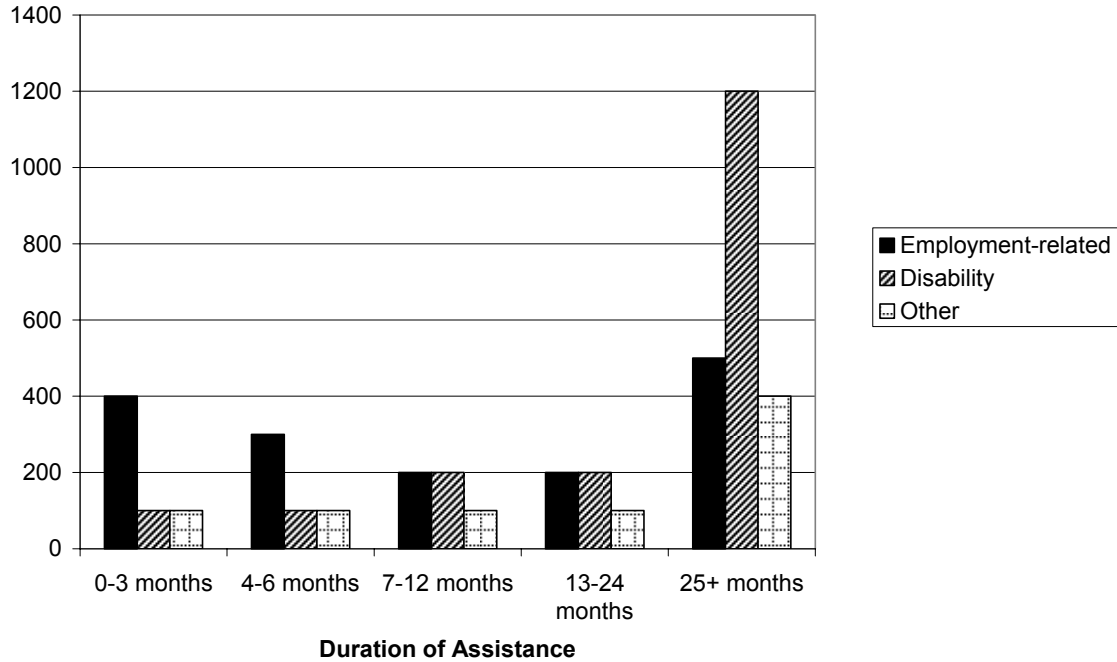


Table 6: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance, February 29, 2004*

Duration of Assistance**	Reason for Assistance			Total
	Employment-related***	Disability****	Other*****	
0-3 months	400	100	100	600
4-6 months	300	100	100	500
7-12 months	200	200	100	400
13-24 months	200	200	100	400
25+ months	500	1,200	400	2,100
Total	1,500	1,800	700	4,100

* March data not available
 ** "Duration of assistance" measures length of current spell only
 *** "Employment-related" includes employed and unemployed.
 **** "Disability" includes long-term disability, long-term other and short-term disability.
 ***** "Other" includes high support needs and unknown
 Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Prince Edward Island Social Assistance

**Figure 7: Percentage of Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income,
February 29, 2004**

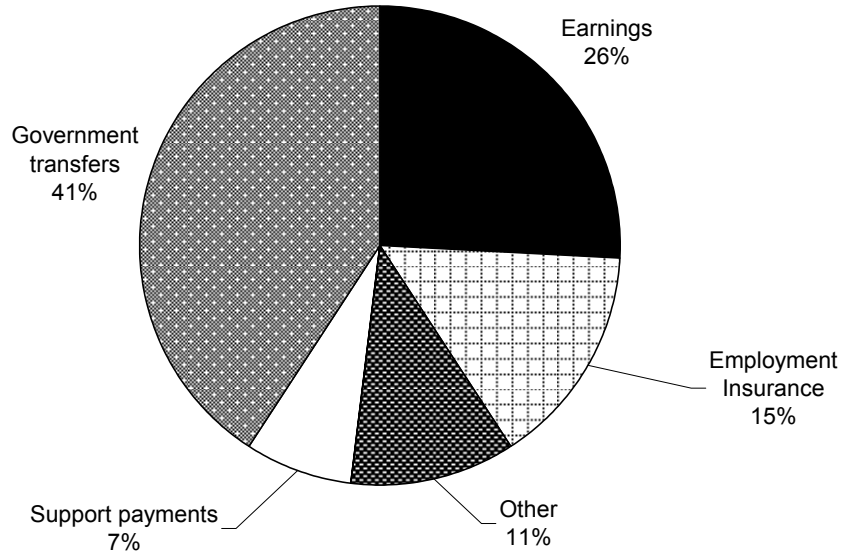


Table 7: Number of Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income, February 29, 2004*

Source of Income	2004
Government transfers	1,100
Earnings	700
Employment Insurance	400
Other	300
Support payments	200
Total *** (includes double-counting)	2,700

* March data not available.

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

*** 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 2,700 observations.

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Table 8: Number of Cases Reporting Income, February 29, 2004

Reporting income	2,100
No income	2,000
Total	4,100
* March data not available.	
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

3.3 Nova Scotia - Employment Support and Income Assistance

1.0 Overview

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

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

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

2.0 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.

3.0 Eligibility

3.1 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.

3.2 Liquid Assets

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

	Clients without Disabilities	Clients with Disabilities
Single	\$ 500	\$ 500
Family	\$1,000	\$1,000
<i>Nova Scotia, Liquid Asset Exemptions, March 2004</i>		

3.3 Earnings Exemptions

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

	Clients without Disabilities	Clients with Disabilities*
Single	30% of net wages.	\$150 plus 30% of the excess.
Family	30% of net wages.	n/a
* These clients are in supported employment. <i>Nova Scotia, Earnings Exemptions, March 2004</i>		

4.0 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.

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

5.0 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 Regulations in August 2001 removed children's benefits from the social assistance system.

Maximum NSCB benefits are paid to those families whose income is less than \$16,000 per year. Families whose annual income falls between \$16,000 and \$20,921 per year (depending on the number of children) are eligible for partial NSCB benefits.

As of July 2004, families with one child may be entitled to receive a NSCB benefit of up to \$445 per year in addition to the National Child Benefit Supplement. Families may be entitled to receive \$645 per year for their second child, and \$720 per year for their third and each additional child.

	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Families	30,000	34,763	34,106	33,224	31,905	31,047
Children	49,000	58,524	57,325	55,986	53,961	52,511

6.0 More Information

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

Nova Scotia Employment Support and Income Assistance

Figure 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1994-2004

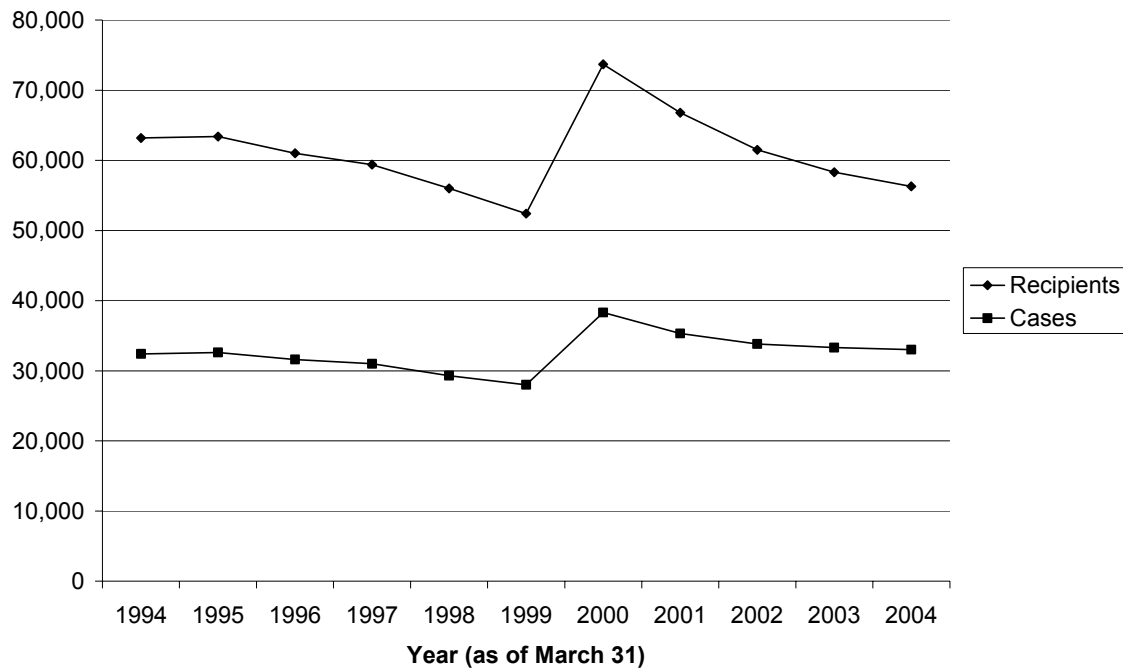


Table 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1994-2004

	2000*	2001**	2002	2003	2004
Recipients	73,700	66,800	61,500	58,300	56,300
Cases	38,300	35,300	33,800	33,300	33,000
* Prior to 2000 the caseload numbers represent the FBA caseload only. From 2000 to 2004 the data represents the combination of the two previous Municipal Social Assistance and provincial Family Benefits programs. ** Employment Support and Income Assistance (ESIA) replaced the Family Benefits Program (FBA) and Municipal Social Assistance (MSA) in August 2001.					

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Recipients	63,200	63,400	61,000	59,400	56,000	52,400
Cases	32,400	32,600	31,600	31,000	29,300	28,000
* Prior to 2000 the caseload numbers represent the FBA caseload only. From 2000 to 2004 the data represents the combination of the two previous Municipal Social Assistance and provincial Family Benefits programs.						

Nova Scotia Employment Support and Income Assistance

Figure 2: Percentage of Cases by Reason for Assistance, March 31, 2004

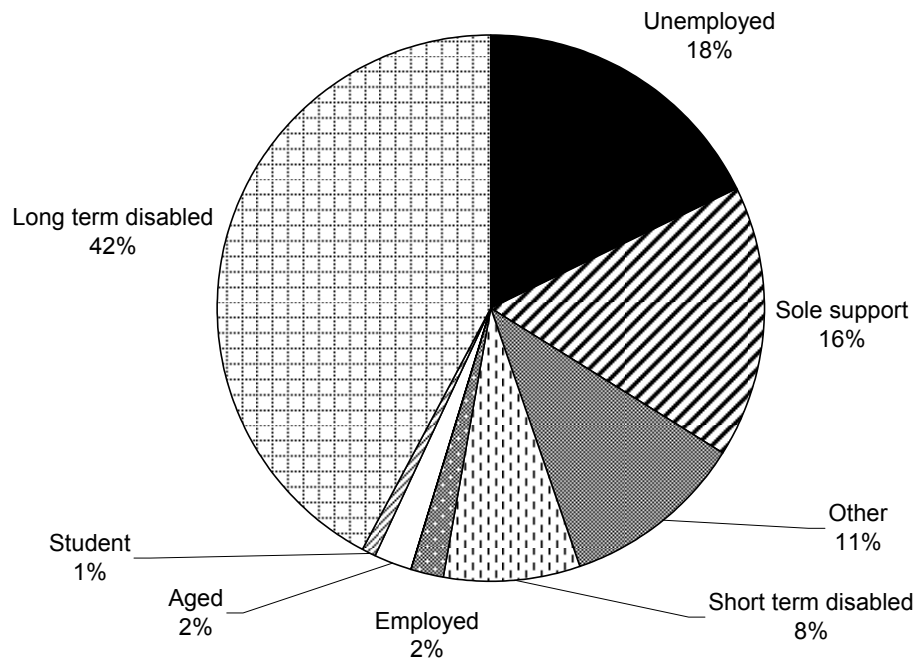


Table 2: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance, March 31, 2004

Reason for Assistance	2004
Long term disabled	13,900
Unemployed	5,900
Sole support parent	5,300
Other*	3,600
Short term disabled	2,600
Employed	700
Aged**	700
Student	300
Total	33,000

* "Other" includes clients receiving a one-time payment, transients, and clients receiving extended and transitional pharmacare (prescription drug benefits).
 ** "Aged" includes persons 55 years and over.
 Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Nova Scotia Employment Support and Income Assistance

Figure 3: Percentage of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

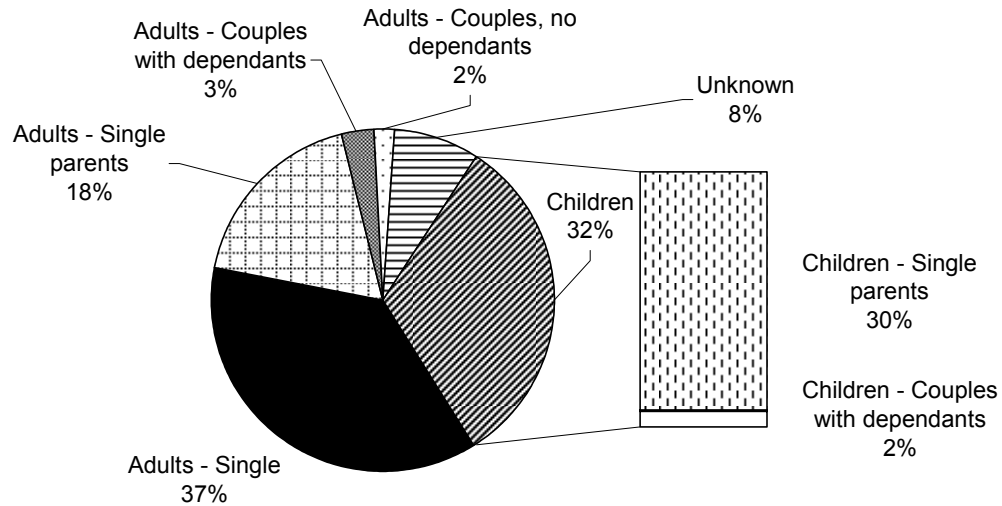


Table 3: Number of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

Family Type	2004
Adults - Single	20,800
Adults - Single parents	10,100
Adults - Couples with dependants	1,700
Adults - Couples, no dependants	1,100
Total adults	33,700
Children - Single parents	16,900
Children - Couples with dependants	1,100
Total children	18,000
Unknown	4,500
Total	56,300
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Nova Scotia Employment Support and Income Assistance

Figure 4: Number of Cases by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

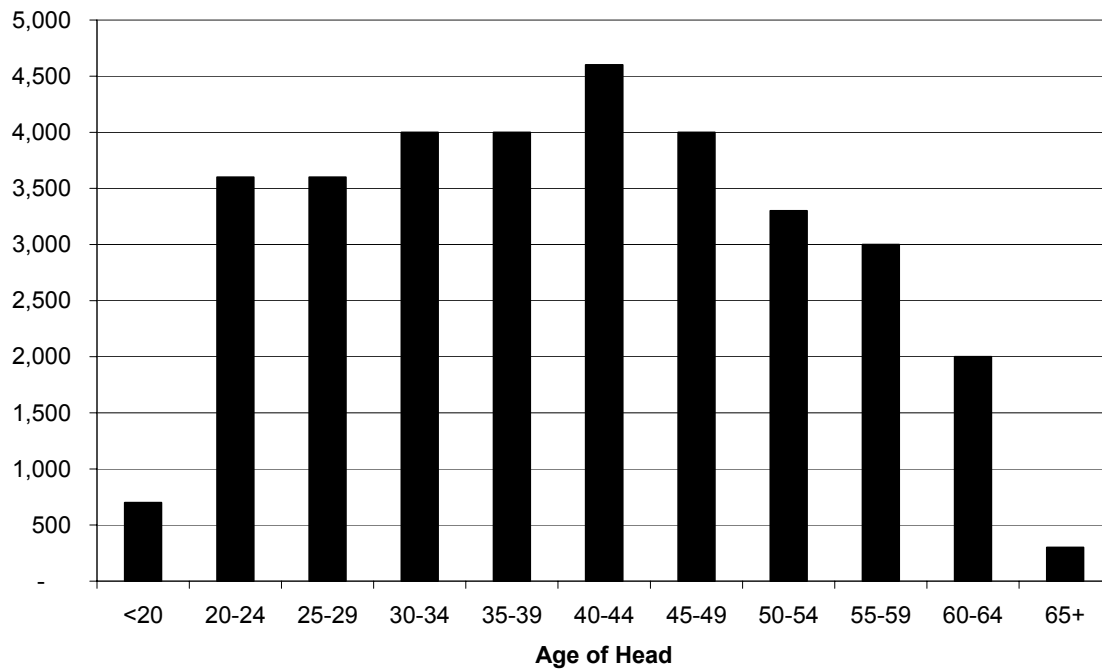


Table 4: Number of Cases by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

Age of Head	2004
<20	700
20-24	3,600
25-29	3,600
30-34	4,000
35-39	4,000
40-44	4,600
45-49	4,000
50-54	3,300
55-59	3,000
60-64	2,000
65+	300
Total	33,000
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

3.4 New Brunswick - Social Assistance

1.0 Overview

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

Social Assistance provides basic benefits to both adults and children.

2.0 Service Delivery

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

3.0 Eligibility

3.1 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.

3.2 Liquid Assets

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

	Clients without Disabilities	Clients with Disabilities
Single	\$1,000	\$3,000
Single-Parent Family	\$2,000	\$3,000 plus \$1,000 for each additional dependant up to a maximum of \$4,000.
Childless Couple	\$2,000	\$3,000 for each person with a disability.
Two-Parent Family	\$2,000	\$3,000 for each person with a disability plus \$1,000 for each person without a disability up to a maximum of \$4,000.
<i>New Brunswick, Liquid Asset Exemptions, March 2004</i>		

3.3 Earnings Exemptions

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

	Interim Assistance	Transitional Assistance or Extended Benefits
Single	\$200	\$150
Family	\$250	\$200
<i>New Brunswick, Earnings Exemptions, March 2004</i>		

There is also an Extended Wage Exemption (EWE) available. The EWE is a benefit structure separate from the usual Wage 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 Wage Exemption. In months 13 through 24, the wage exemption amount will revert back to the appropriate maximum flat rate amount; that is the usual Wage Exemption.

4.0 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: Extended Benefits Program (EBP), Transitional Assistance Program (TAP), and Interim Assistance.

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.

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

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

Special needs benefits are supplementary to basic assistance and can be provided to meet either one-time emergencies, or on a long-term basis.

5.0 More Information

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

New Brunswick Transitional Assistance Program

Figure 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1994-2004

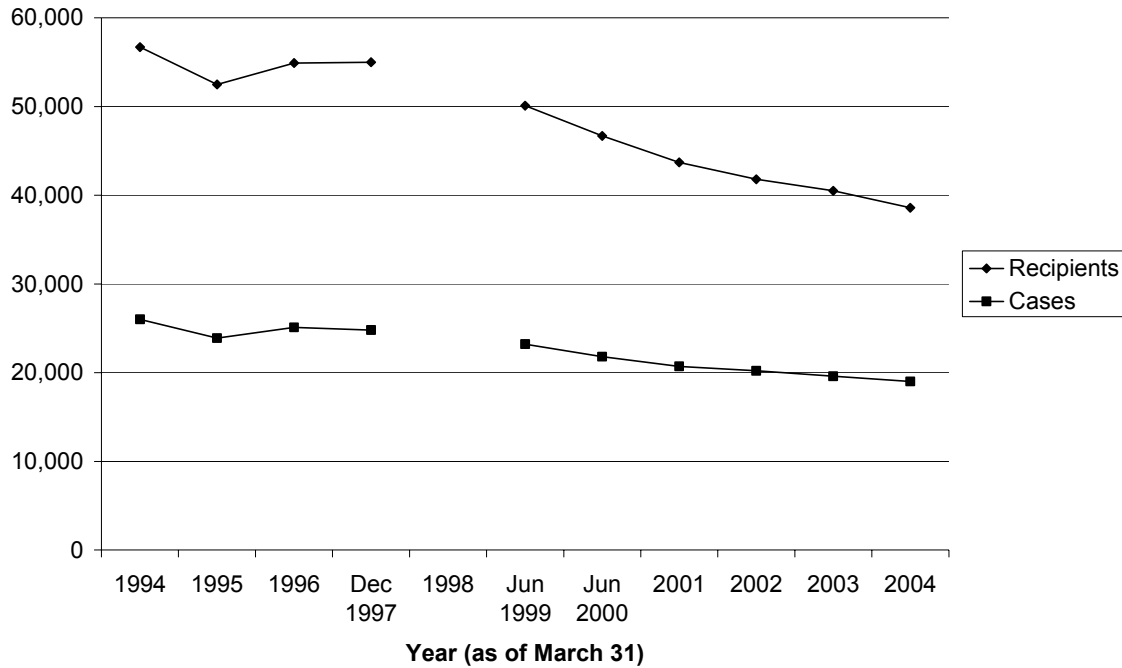


Table 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1994-2004

	June 2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Recipients	46,700	43,700	41,800	40,500	38,600
Cases	21,800	20,700	20,200	19,600	19,000
Data is as of March 31, unless otherwise specified. In those cases, data is as of the end of month, i.e., December 31, 1997.					

	1994	1995	1996**	Dec 1997	1998***	June 1999
Recipients	56,700	52,500	54,900	55,000		50,100
Cases	26,000	23,900	25,100	24,800		23,200

* Data is as of March 31, unless otherwise specified. In those cases, data is as of the end of month, i.e., December 31, 1997.

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

*** Data not available for 1998.

New Brunswick Transitional Assistance Program

Figure 2: Percentage of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

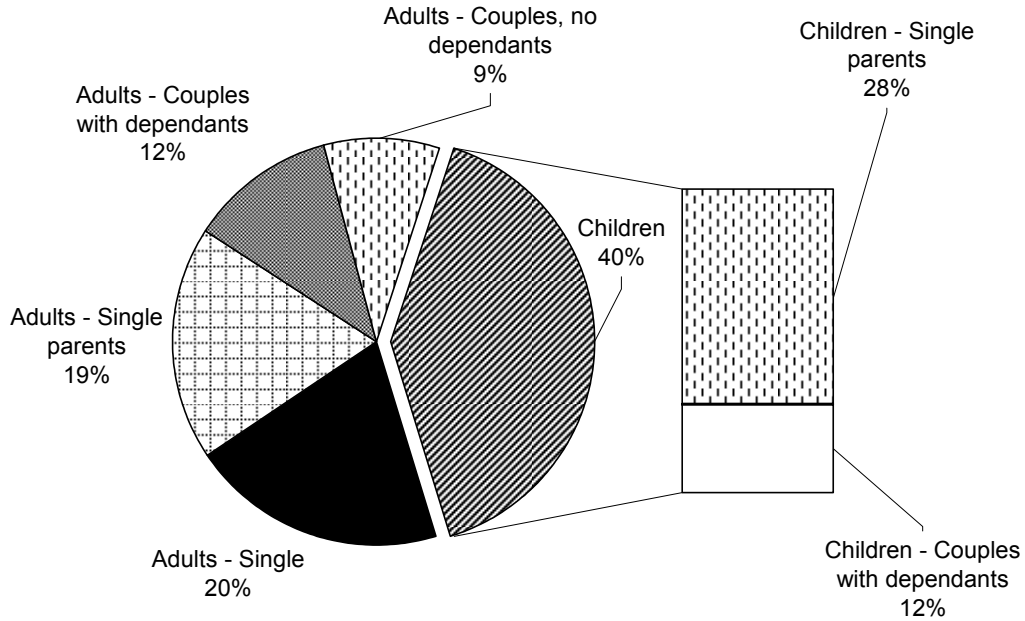


Table 2: Number of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

Family Type	2004
Adults – Single	7,800
Adults - Single parents	7,200
Adults - Couples with dependants	4,500
Adults - Couples, no dependants	3,500
Total adults	23,000
Children - Single parents	11,100
Children - Couples with dependants	4,500
Total children	15,600
Total	38,600
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

New Brunswick Transitional Assistance Program

Figure 3: Number of Cases by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

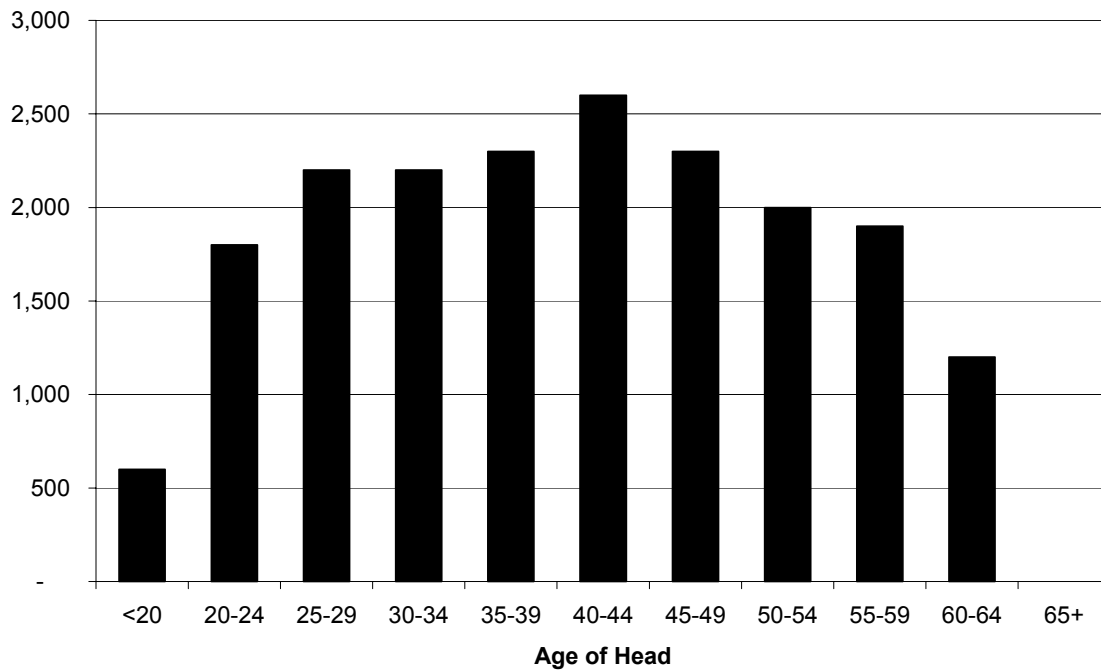


Table 3: Number of Cases by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

Age of Head	2004
<20	600
20-24	1,800
25-29	2,200
30-34	2,200
35-39	2,300
40-44	2,600
45-49	2,300
50-54	2,000
55-59	1,900
60-64	1,200
65+	-
Total	19,000
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

New Brunswick Transitional Assistance Program

Figure 4: Percentage of Cases Reporting Income by Source of Income, March 31, 2004

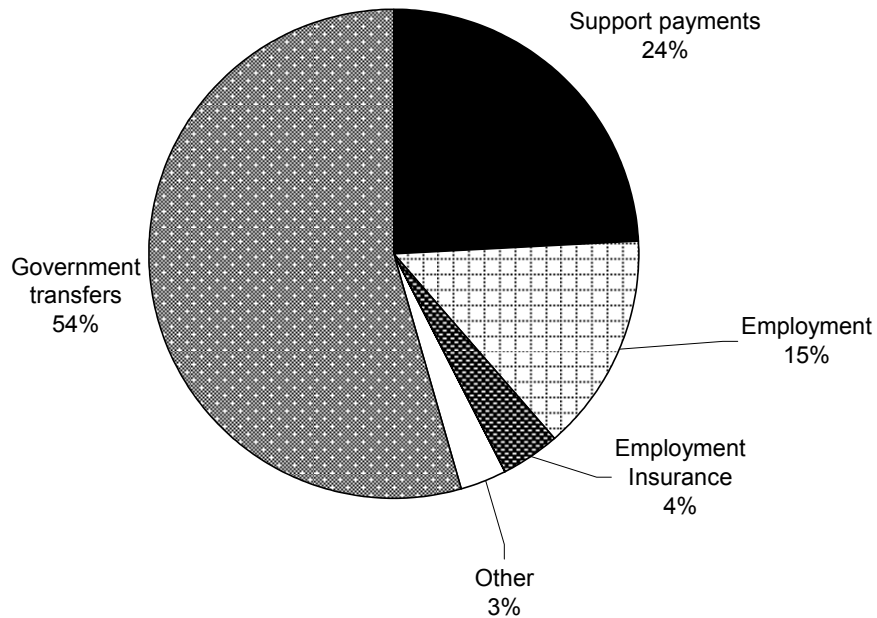


Table 4: Number of Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income, March 31, 2004

Source of Income	2004
Government transfers	26,500
Support payments	11,700
Employment	7,100
Employment Insurance	1,800
Other*	1,500
Total** (includes double-counting)	48,500
* "Other" includes training allowances and other income.	
** 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.	
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

New Brunswick Extended Benefits Program

Figure 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1994-2004

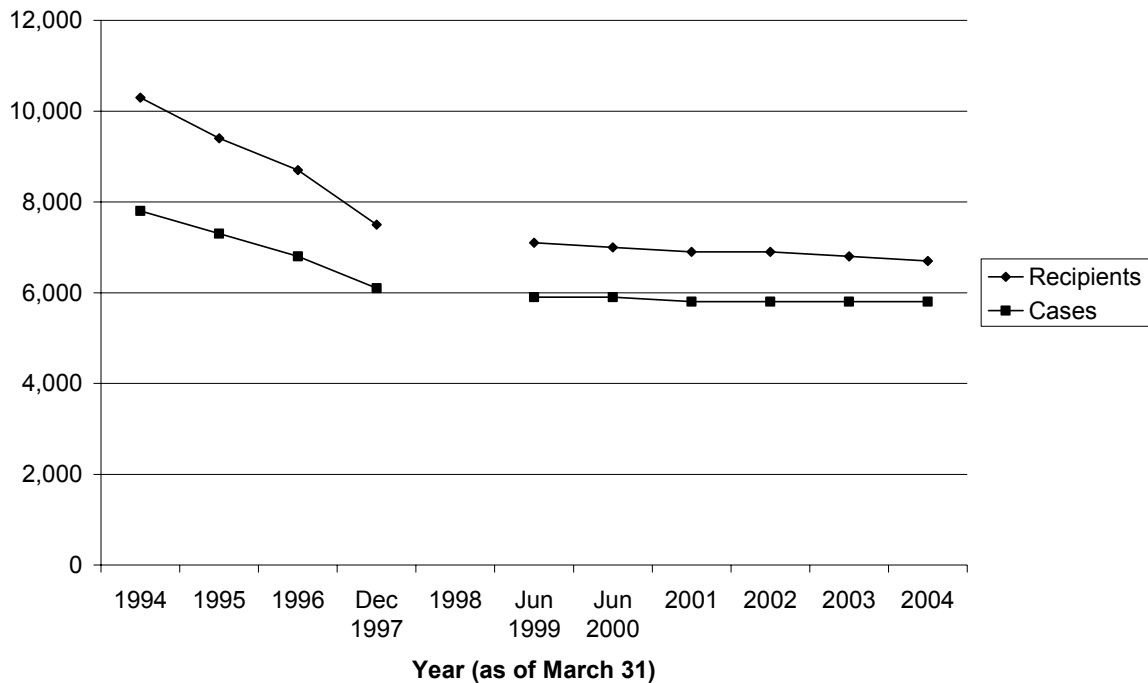


Table 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1994-2004^{*}

	June 2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Recipients	7,000	6,900	6,900	6,800	6,700
Cases	5,900	5,800	5,800	5,800	5,800

^{*} Data is as of March 31, unless otherwise specified. In those cases, data is as of the end of month, i.e., December 31, 1997.

	1994	1995	1996 ^{**}	Dec 1997	1998 ^{***}	June 1999
Recipients	10,300	9,400	8,700	7,500		7,100
Cases	7,800	7,300	6,800	6,100		5,900

^{*} Data is as of March 31, unless otherwise specified. In those cases, data is as of the end of month, i.e., December 31, 1997.

^{**} The Extended Benefits Program replaced the Established Benefits Program (1996) and the Long Term Established Needs Program (1994, 1995).

^{***} Data not available for 1998.

New Brunswick Extended Benefits Program

Figure 2: Percentage of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

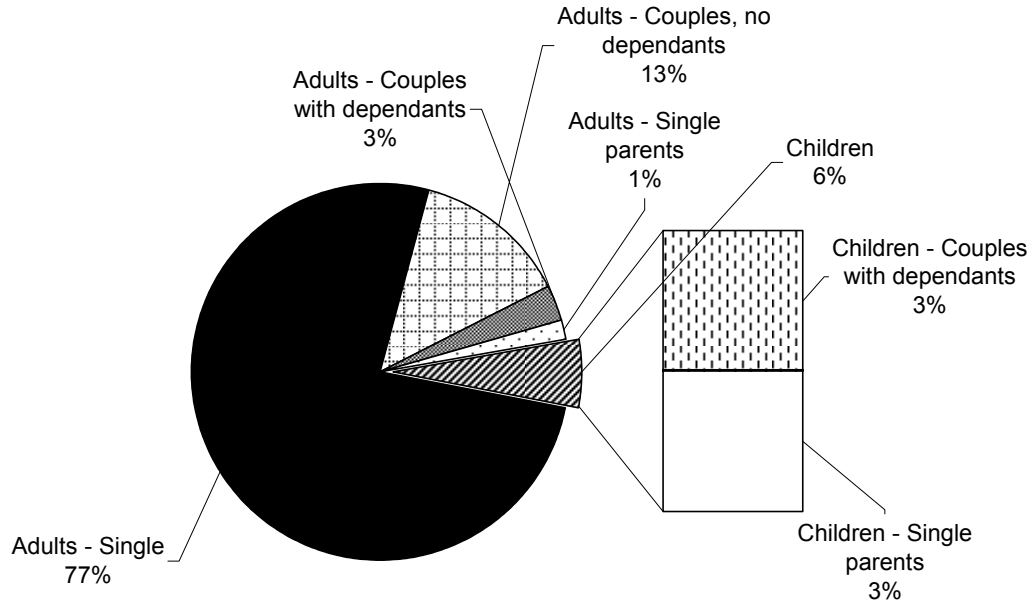


Table 2: Number of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

Family Type	2004
Adults - Single	5,100
Adults - Couples, no dependants	900
Adults - Couples with dependants	200
Adults - Single parents	100
Total adults	6,400
Children - Single parents	200
Children - Couples with dependants	200
Total children	400
Total	6,700
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

New Brunswick Extended Benefits Program

Figure 3: Number of Cases by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

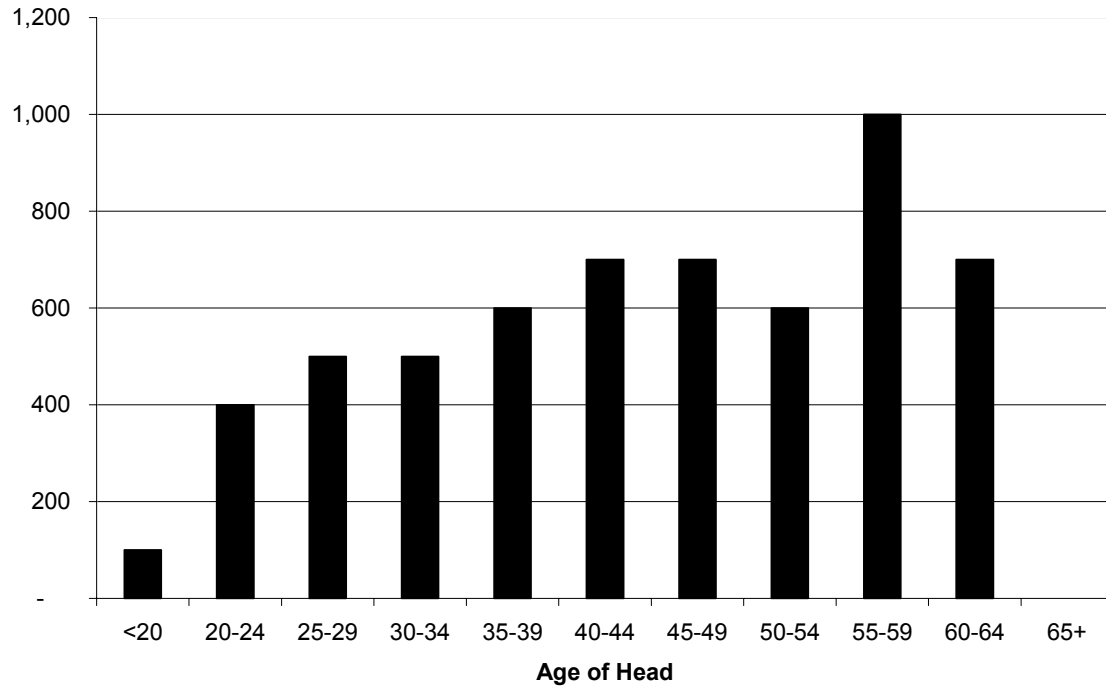


Table 3: Number of Cases by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

Age of Head	2004
<20	100
20-24	400
25-29	500
30-34	500
35-39	600
40-44	700
45-49	700
50-54	600
55-59	1,000
60-64	700
65+	-
Total	5,800
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

New Brunswick Extended Benefits Program

Figure 4: Percentage of Cases Reporting Income by Source of Income, March 31, 2004

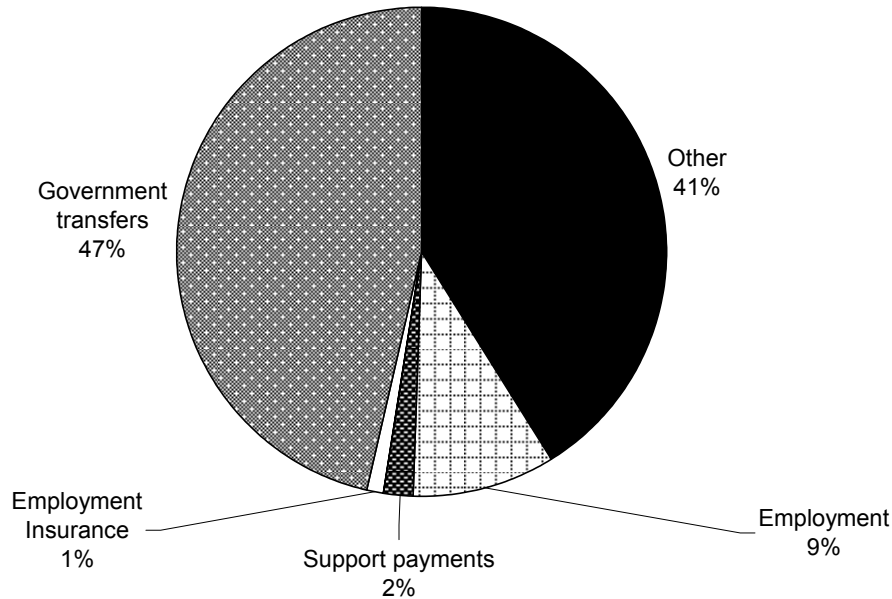


Table 4: Number of Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income, March 31, 2004

Source of Income	2004
Government transfers	4,400
Other	3,900
Employment	900
Support payments	200
Employment Insurance	100
Total (includes double-counting)	9,400
<p>*"Other" includes training allowances and other income.</p> <p>**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.</p> <p><i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i></p>	

New Brunswick Interim Assistance Program

Figure 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1994-2004

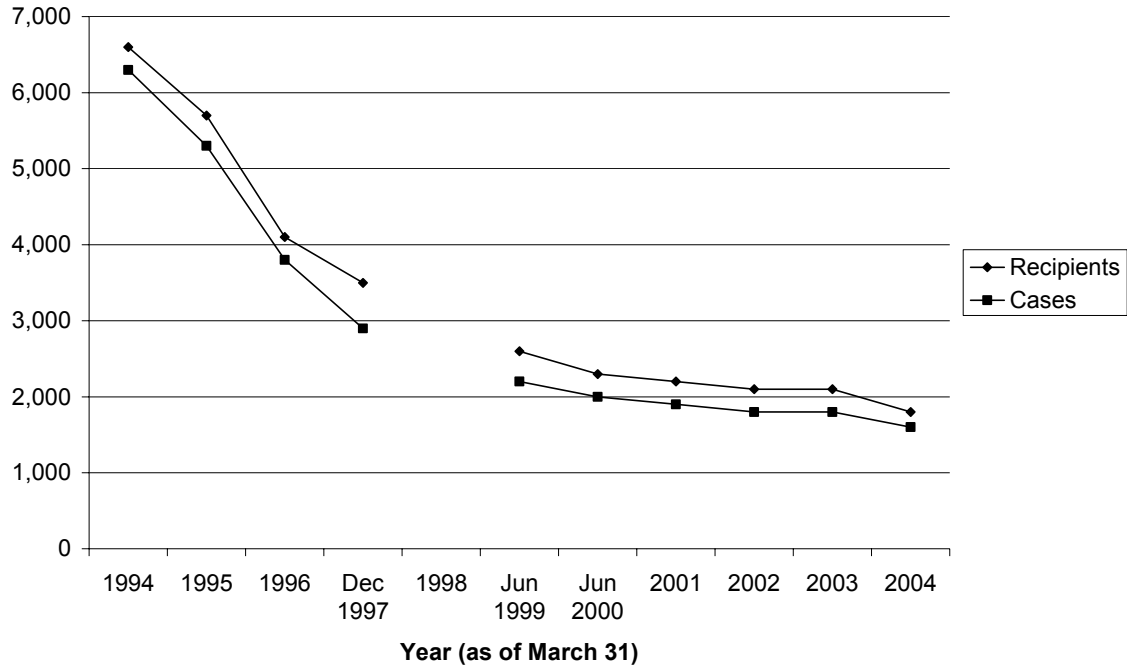


Table 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1994-2004*

	June 2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Recipients	2,300	2,200	2,100	2,100	1,800
Cases	2,000	1,900	1,800	1,800	1,600

* Data is as of March 31, unless otherwise specified. In those cases, data is as of the end of month, i.e., December 31, 1997.

	1994	1995	1996	Dec 1997	1998**	June 1999
Recipients	6,600	5,700	4,100	3,500		2,600
Cases	6,300	5,300	3,800	2,900		2,200

Data is as of March 31, unless otherwise specified. In those cases, data is as of the end of month, i.e., December 31, 1997.

** Data not available for 1998.

New Brunswick Interim Assistance Program

Figure 2: Percentage of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

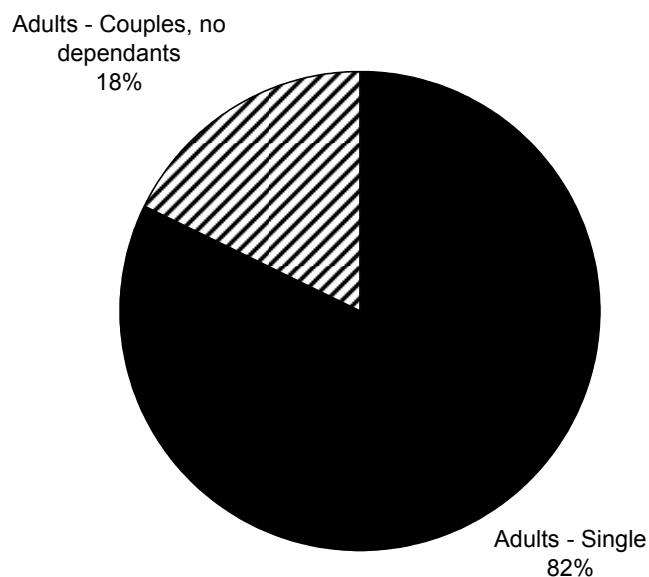


Table 2: Number of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

Family Type	2004
Adults – Single	1,400
Adults - Couples, no dependants	300
Adults - Single parents	-
Adults - Couples with dependants	-
Total adults	1,700
Children - Single parents	-
Children - Couples with dependants	-
Total children	100
Total	1,800
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

New Brunswick Interim Assistance Program

Figure 3: Number of Cases by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

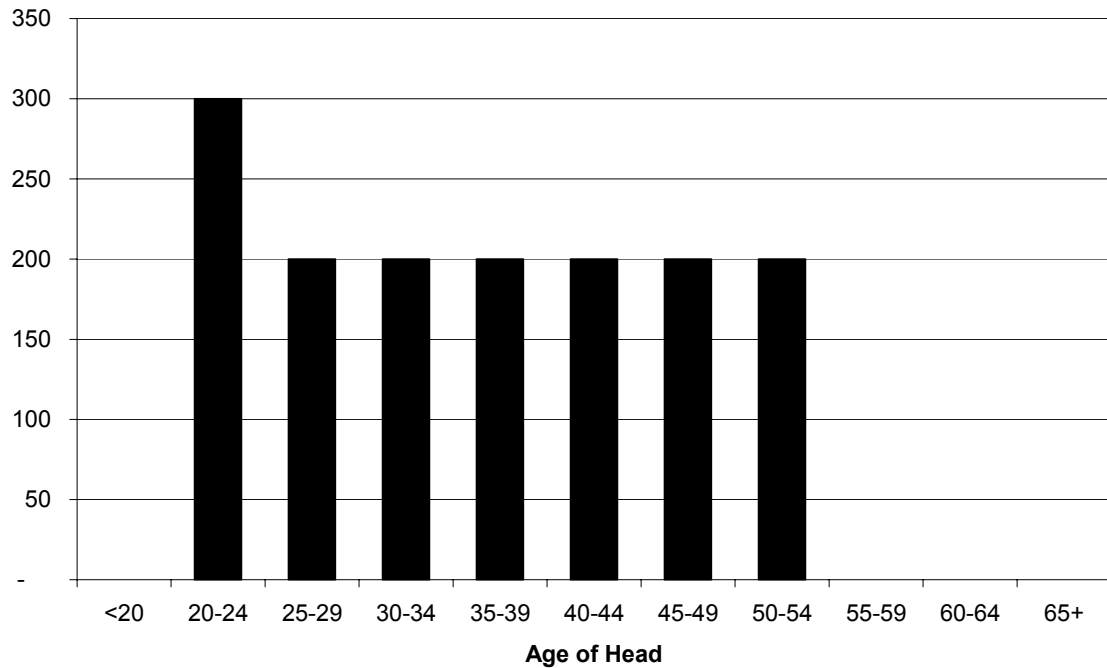


Table 3: Number of Cases by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

Age of Head	2004
<20	-
20-24	300
25-29	200
30-34	200
35-39	200
40-44	200
45-49	200
50-54	200
55-59	-
60-64	-
65+	-
Total	1,600
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

New Brunswick Interim Assistance Program

Figure 4: Percentage of Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income, March 31, 2004

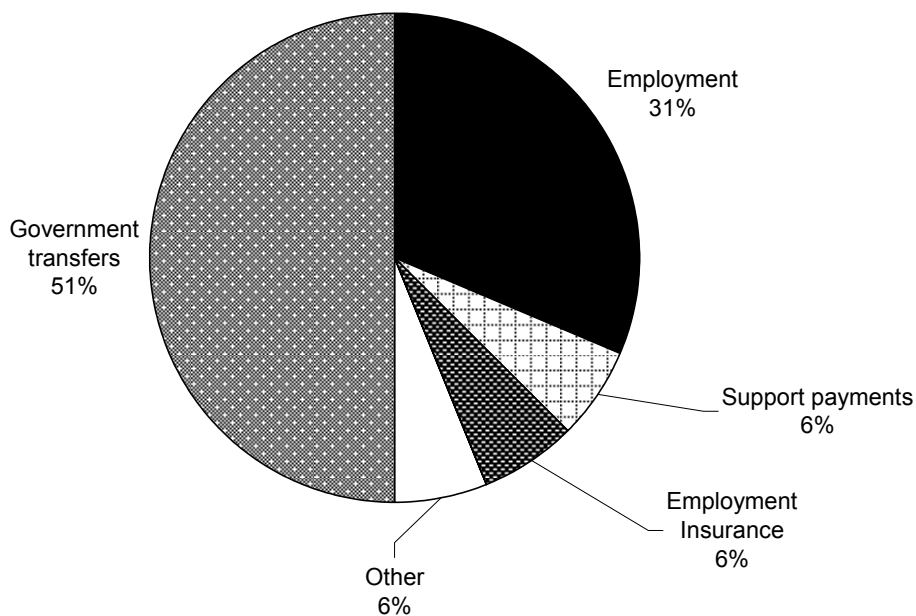


Table 4: Number of Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income, March 31, 2004

Source of Income	2004
Government transfers	800
Employment	500
Support payments	100
Employment Insurance	100
Other	100
Total (includes double-counting)	1,600
* 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. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

3.5 Quebec – Employment Assistance

1.0 Overview

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

The purpose of Employment Assistance is to provide financial assistance to people with no resources and to foster their integration into the labour force. It should be noted that, since 1997, children's needs have been met by the Quebec Family Allowance.

2.0 Service Delivery

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

3.0 Eligibility

3.1 General

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

3.2 Liquid Assets

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

Number of Adults	Number of Children	Liquid Assets
1	0	\$ 804
1	1	\$1,149
1	2	\$1,362
2	0	\$1,194
2	1	\$1,424
2	2	\$1,637
<i>Quebec, Liquid Asset Exemptions at Application, March 2004</i>		

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

	Clients with no limitations to employment	Clients with limitations to employment
Single	\$1,500	\$2,500
Family	\$2,500	\$5,000
<i>Quebec, Liquid Asset Exemptions after Enrolment, March 2004</i>		

3.3 Earnings Exemptions

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

	Clients with no limitations to employment	Clients with temporary limitations to employment	Clients with severe limitations to employment
Single	\$200	\$200	\$100
Single-Parent Family	\$200	\$200	\$100
Two-Parent Family	\$300	\$300	\$100
<i>Quebec, Earnings Exemptions, March 2004</i>			

4.0 Benefits

Financial assistance consists of a basic benefit, paid monthly, which may be supplemented by an allowance for individuals who are facing temporary or severe employment limitations. The basic benefit covers the cost of food and clothing, shelter, as well as personal and household items for adults only. Maximum basic benefit rates are based on family composition.

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

Since 1997, children's needs have been met through the Quebec Family Allowance.

The program also offers advance payment of the tax credit for the Quebec sales tax (TVQ) and eligible individuals may receive special benefits to meet specific needs, particularly in relation to health care.

5.0 Quebec Family Allowance

The Quebec Family Allowance is 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 removed children's benefits from the social assistance system.

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

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Families	680,017	660,939	629,843	587,005	553,710	537,368	509,361	496,040
Children	1,200,262	1,179,947	1,126,026	1,047,794	988,587	957,214	907,059	881,149
<i>Quebec Family Allowance, Number of Recipients, 1997-2004</i>								

6.0 More information

For more information, please consult the Quebec Department of Employment, Social Solidarity, and Family website at:
http://www.messf.gouv.qc.ca/Index_en.asp.

Quebec Employment-Assistance

Figure 1: Number of Recipients and Recipient Households, March 31, 1994-2004

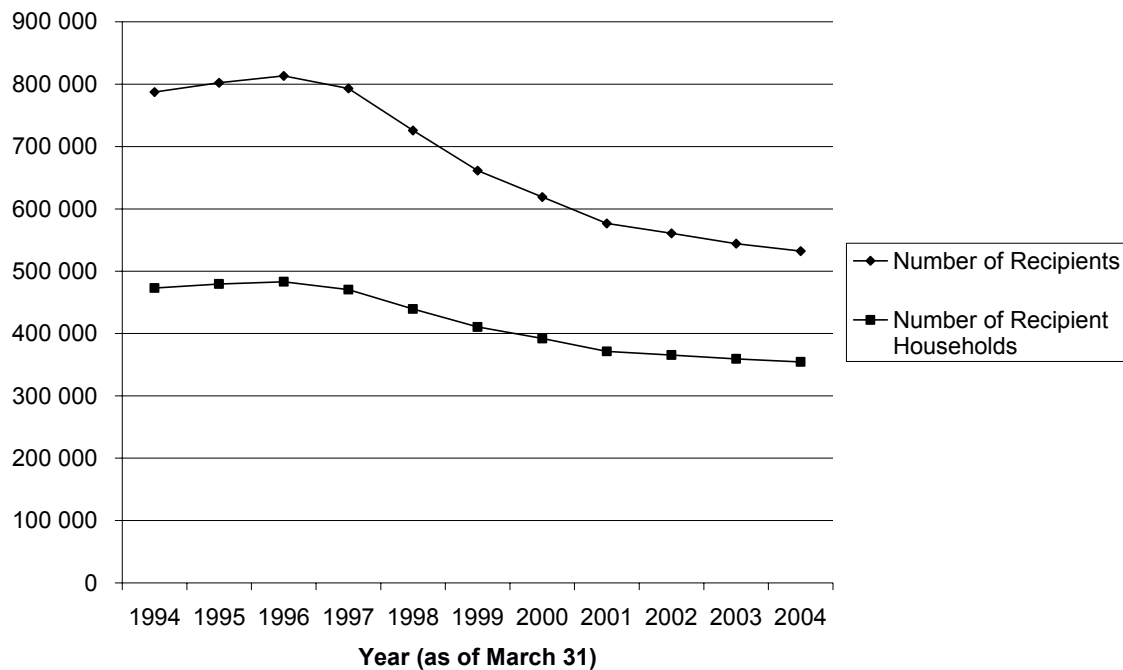


Table 1: Number of Recipients and Recipient Households, March 31, 1994-2004

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Number of recipients*	618,900	576,600	560,800	544,200	532,200
Number of recipient households	391,900	371,300	365,600	359,300	354,600
* "Number of recipients" includes adults and children.					

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number of recipients*	787,200	802,200	813,200	793,300	725,700	661,300
Number of recipient households	472,900	479,400	483,100	470,400	439,300	410,600
* "Number of recipients" includes adults and children.						

Quebec Employment-Assistance

Figure 2: Percentage of Recipient Households by Type of Benefit, March 31, 2004

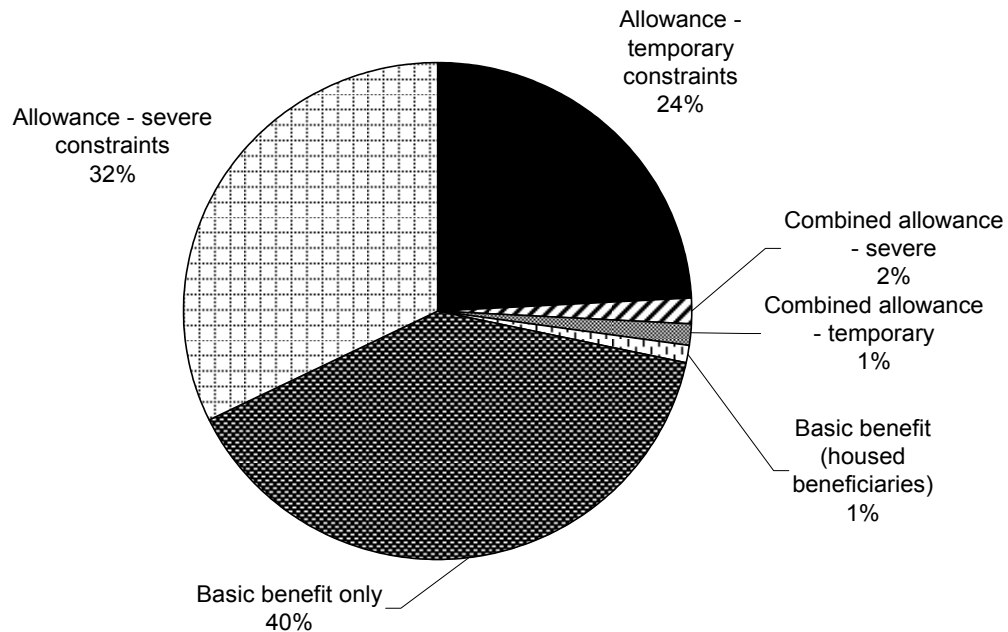


Table 2: Number of Recipient Households by Type of Benefit, March 31, 2004

Type of Benefit	2004
Basic benefit only [*]	139,900
Basic benefit (housed beneficiaries) ^{**}	3,900
Allowance – severe constraints ^{***}	114,400
Allowance – temporary constraints ^{****}	85,400
Combined allowance (severe) ^{*****}	6,700
Combined allowance (temporary) ^{*****}	4,400
Total	354,600

^{*} “Basic benefit only”: Basic amount applicable to a single adult or a couple.

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

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

^{***} “Allowance – severe constraints”: Where a single adult /adult member of the family is subject to severe employment constraints due to a significant physical or mental impairment, and is unable to support him/herself or family.

^{****} “Allowance – temporary constraints”: Where a single adult/adult member of the family is subject to temporary employment constraints.

^{*****} “Combined allowance (severe)”: Where at least one of the two adults in the household is subject to a severe employment constraint and the other adult to a severe or temporary employment constraint.

^{*****} “Combined allowance (temporary)”: Where both adults in household are subject to temporary employment constraints.

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Quebec Employment-Assistance

Figure 3: Percentage of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

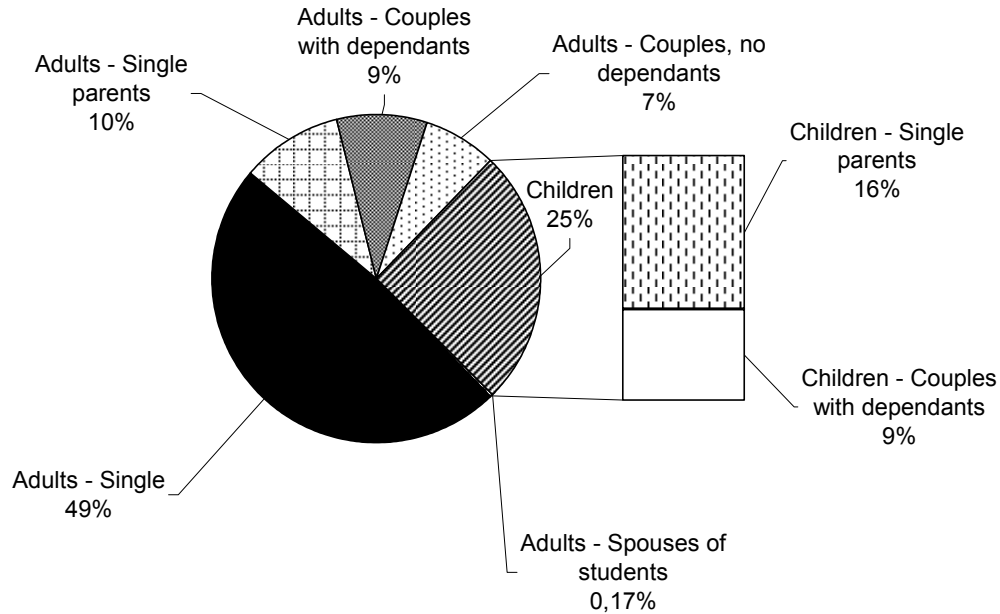


Table 3: Number of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

Family Type	2004
Adults – Single	257,900
Adults – Single parent	52,400
Adults – Couples with dependants	47,600
Adults – Couples, no dependants	39,300
Adults – Spouses of students*	900
Total adults	398,000
Children – Single parent	84,600
Children – Couples with dependants	49,500
Total children	134,100
Total	532,200
*"Spouses of students": An adult whose spouse is studying full-time at the postsecondary 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. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Quebec Employment-Assistance

Figure 4: Number of Recipient Households by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

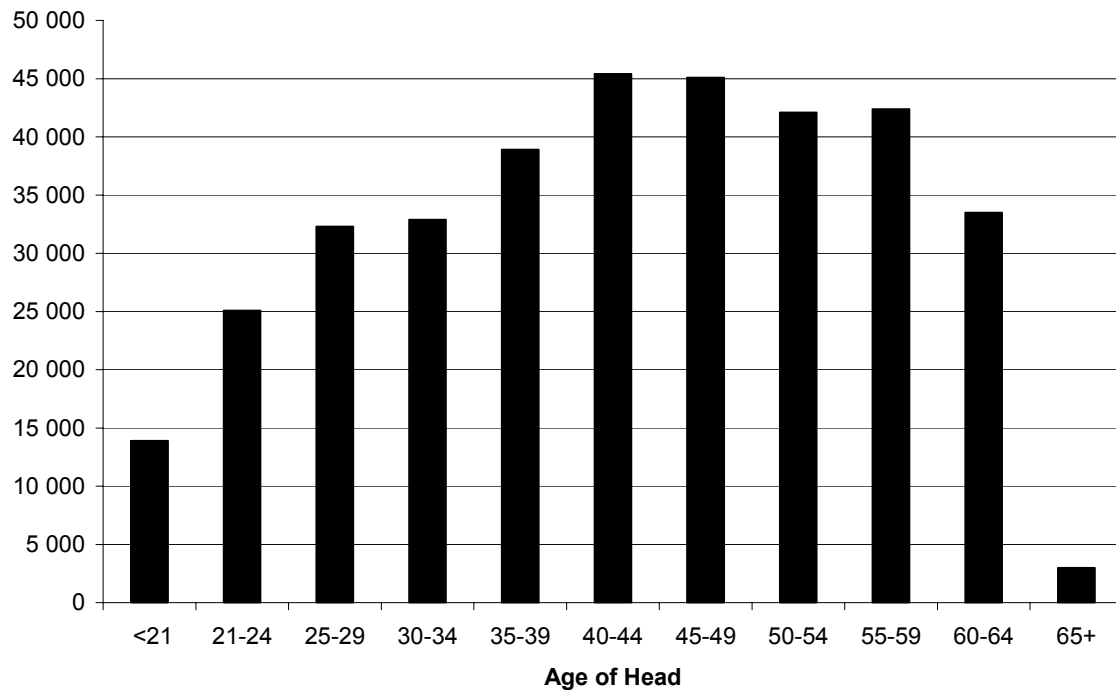


Table 4: Number of Recipient Households by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

Age of Head	2004
<21	13,900
21-24	25,100
25-29	32,300
30-34	32,900
35-39	38,900
40-44	45,400
45-49	45,100
50-54	42,100
55-59	42,400
60-64	33,500
65+	3,000
Total	354,600
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Quebec Employment-Assistance

**Figure 5: Percentage of Recipient Households by Education of Head,
March 31, 2004**

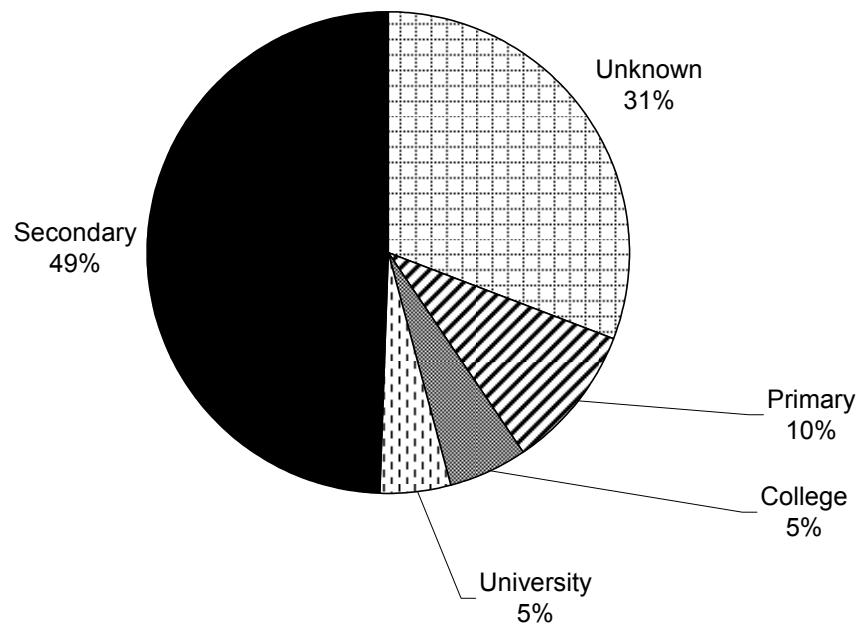


Table 5: Number of Recipient Households by Education of Head, March 31, 2004

Education of Head [*]	2004
Secondary	175,600
Unknown	109,000
Primary	34,800
College	19,000
University	16,300
Total	354,600
[*] 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>	

Quebec Employment-Assistance

Figure 6: Percentage of Recipient Households Reporting Income, by Source of Income, at March 31, 2004

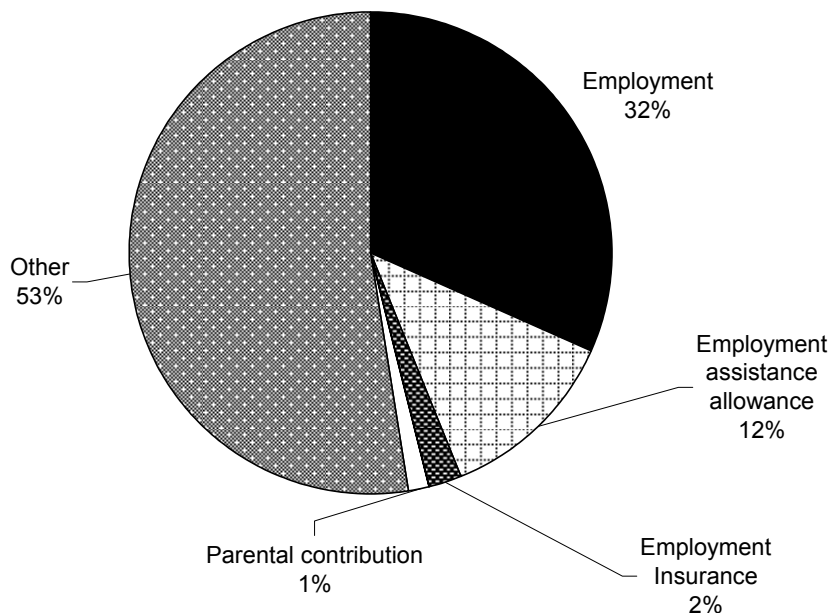


Table 6: Number of Recipient Households Reporting Income, by Source of Income, March 31, 2004

Source of income	2004
Other*	59,400
Employment	35,700
Employment-Assistance allowance	13,700
Employment Insurance	2,700
Parental contribution	1,400
Total** (includes double-counting)	112,900
* "Other" includes salary grants and other sources of income. ** 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. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

3.6 Ontario - Ontario Works

1.0 Overview

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

Ontario Works provides basic benefits to both adults and children.

Social assistance for persons with severe disabilities is provided through the Ontario Disability Support Program.

2.0 Service Delivery

Municipalities in Ontario are responsible for the delivery of Ontario Works assistance to adults and children within the province.

3.0 Eligibility

3.1 General

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

3.2 Liquid Assets

At the time of application for Ontario Works, applicants’ liquid assets may not exceed the following allowable limits.⁵

Single	\$520
Single-Parent Family	\$1,427 plus \$500 for each additional dependant.
Childless Couple	\$901
Two-Parent Family	\$1,530 plus \$500 for each additional dependant.
<i>Ontario, Ontario Works, Liquid Asset Exemptions, March 2004</i>	

⁵ In March 2005, the maximum monthly Ontario Works basic needs and shelter rates increased by 3%. The allowable asset limits for Ontario Works applicants and recipients also increased by 3%.

3.3 Earnings Exemptions

Once an application for assistance has been approved, Ontario Works⁶ clients are eligible for the following monthly exemptions on earned income:

Number of Adults	Number of Children	Earnings Exemption
1	0	\$143
1	1	\$275
1	2	\$321
1	3	\$372
2	0	\$249
2	1	\$295
2	2	\$346
2	3	\$397
<i>Ontario, Ontario Works, Earnings Exemptions, March 2004</i>		

4.0 Benefits

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

5.0 More Information

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

⁶ Ontario Works earnings exemption reduction: if a client has been on assistance for less than 12 months, they are entitled to retain an additional 25% of the net remainder, if they have been on assistance for 12-24 months, they are entitled to retain 15% of the net remainder, if they have been on assistance for more than 24 months, they are not entitled to retain any of the net remainder. These exemptions are subject to a three-month qualifying period.

Ontario Ontario Works

Figure 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1999-2004

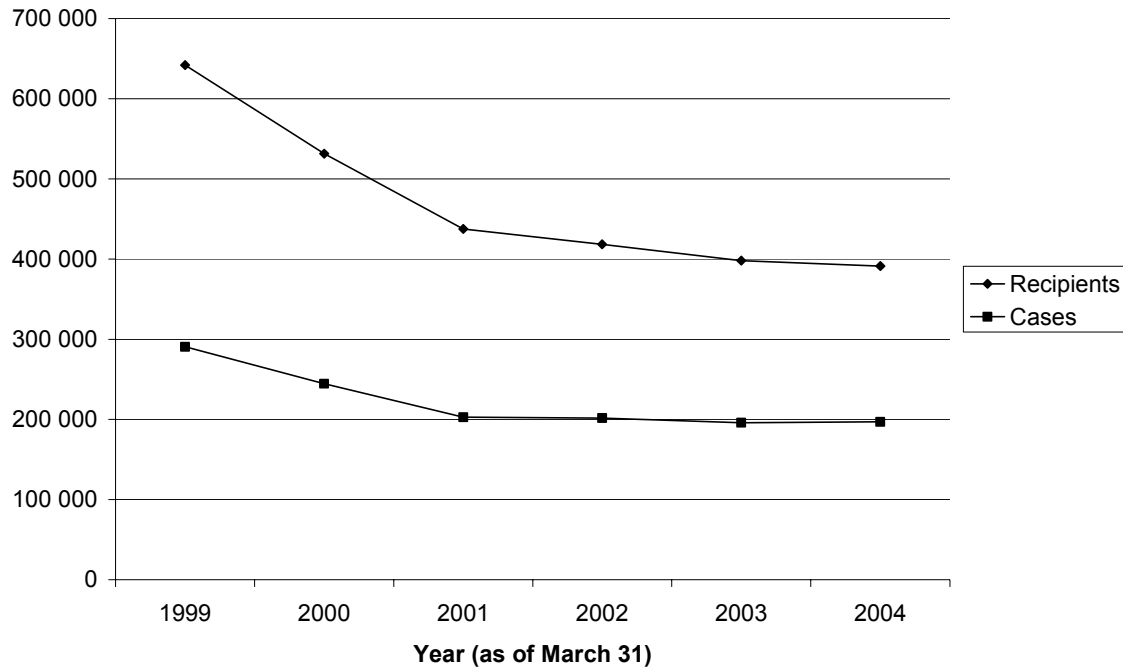


Table 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1999-2004

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

Ontario Ontario Works

Figure 2: Percentage of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

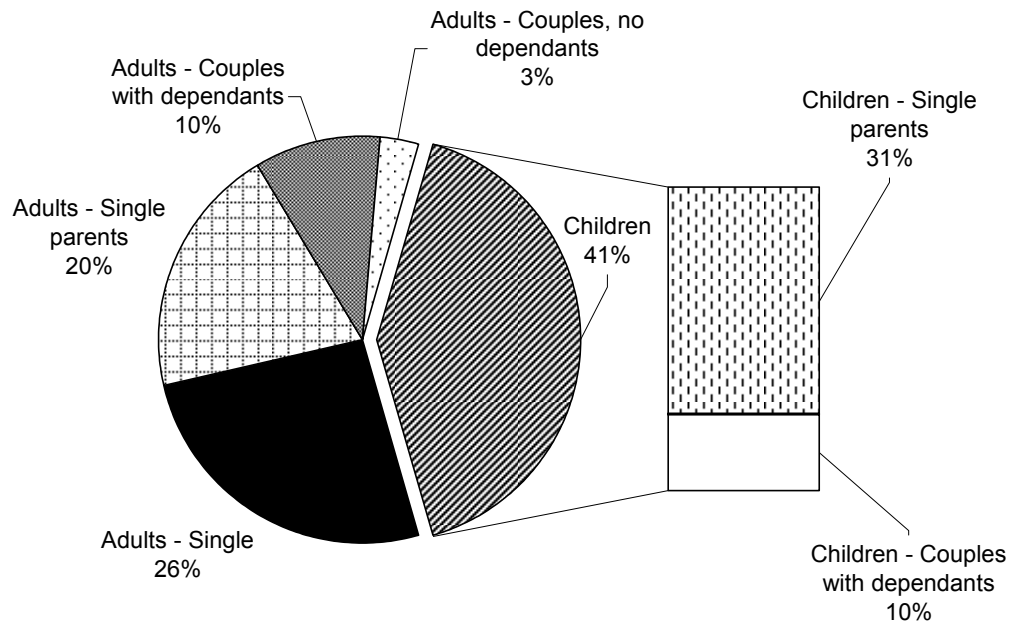


Table 2: Number of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

Family Type		2004
Adults		
Single	Cases	101,100
Single parents	Cases	71,300
	Children 18 and over	6,500
Couples with dependants	Cases	18,500
	Spouses	18,500
	Children 18 and over	2,500
Couples, no dependants	Cases	6,100
	Spouses	6,100
Total adults		230,500
Children		
Single parents	Children under 18	120,800
Couples with dependants	Children under 18	40,100
Total children		160,900
Total		391,300
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>		

Ontario Ontario Works

Figure 3: Number of Cases by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

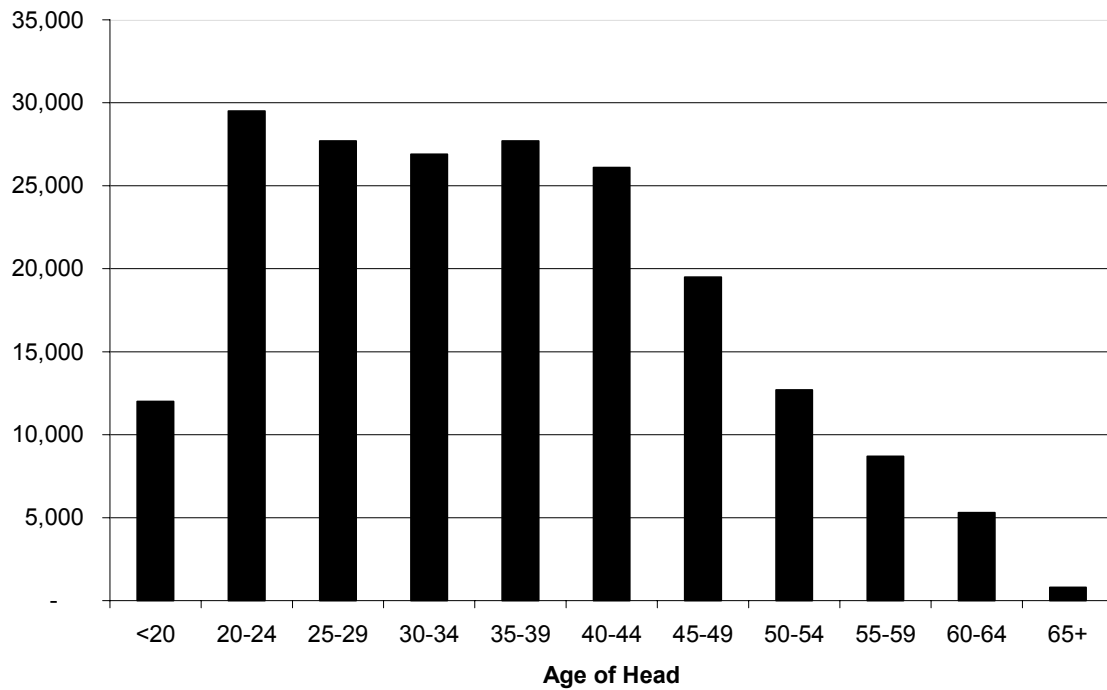


Table 3: Number of Cases by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

Age of Head	2004
<20	12,000
20-24	29,500
25-29	27,700
30-34	26,900
35-39	27,700
40-44	26,100
45-49	19,500
50-54	12,700
55-59	8,700
60-64	5,300
65+	800
Total	196,900
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Ontario Ontario Works

Figure 4: Percentage of Cases by Education of Head, March 31, 2004

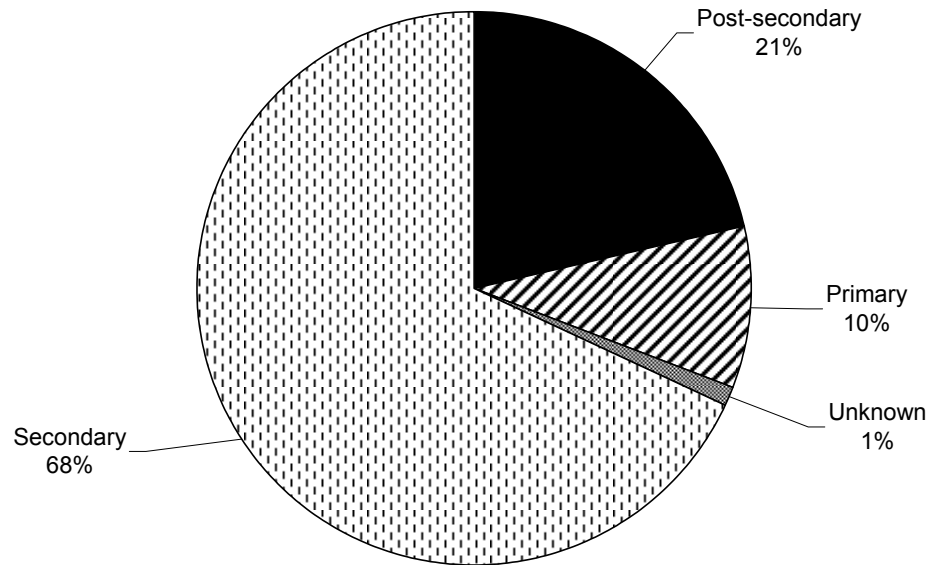


Table 4: Number of Cases by Education of Head, March 31, 2004

Education of Head	2004
Secondary	134,000
Post-secondary	42,200
Primary	18,700
Unknown	1,900
Total	196,900
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

3.7 Ontario - Ontario Disability Support Program

1.0 Overview

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

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.

2.0 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.

3.0 Eligibility

3.1 General

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

3.2 Liquid Assets

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

Single	\$5,000
Couple	\$7,500 plus \$500 for each additional dependant.
<i>Ontario, Ontario Disability Support Program, Liquid Asset Exemptions, March 2004</i>	

3.3 Earnings Exemptions

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

	Clients with Disabilities
Single	\$160 plus 25% of the net remainder.
Family	\$235 plus 25% of the net remainder.
<i>Ontario, Ontario Disability Support Program, Earnings Exemptions, March 2004</i>	

The ODSP earnings exemption is known as the Supports to Employment Program (STEP). STEP 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.

4.0 Benefits

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

Basic assistance consists of a Basic Needs amount and a Shelter Allowance. Basic Needs covers 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.

5.0 More Information

For more information, please consult the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services website at: <http://www.mcscs.gov.on.ca/CFCSS/default.htm>.

Ontario Ontario Disability Support Program

Figure 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1999-2004

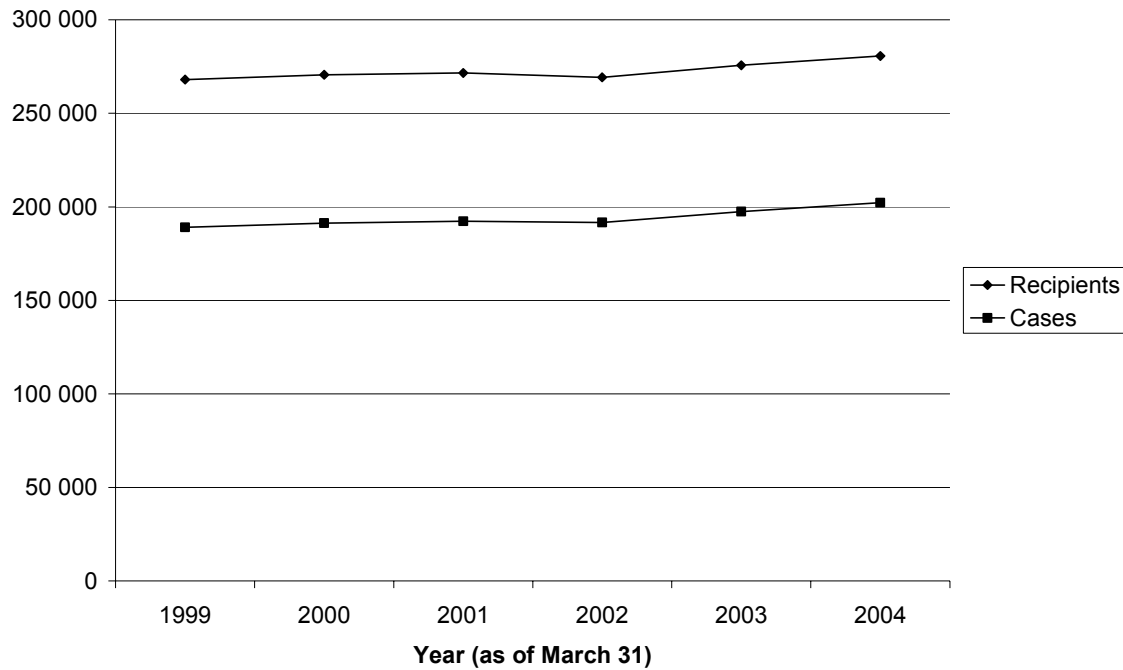


Table 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Recipients	268,100	270,600	271,600	269,200	275,700	280,700
Cases	189,100	191,300	192,300	191,700	197,500	202,200

Ontario Ontario Disability Support Program

Figure 2: Percentage of Cases by Reason for Assistance, March 31, 2004

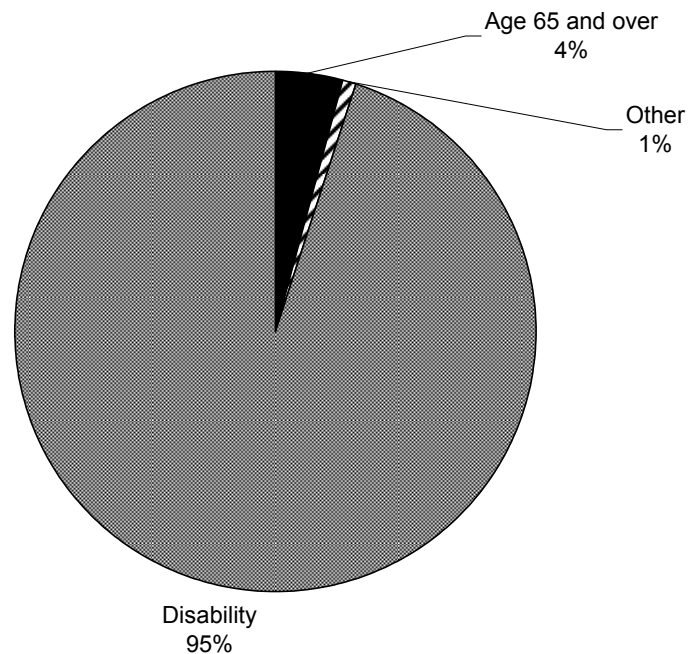


Table 2: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance, March 31, 2004

Reason for Assistance	2004
Disability	192,300
Age 65 and over	8,500
Other	1,500
Total	202,200
* "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. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Ontario Ontario Disability Support Program

Figure 3: Percentage of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

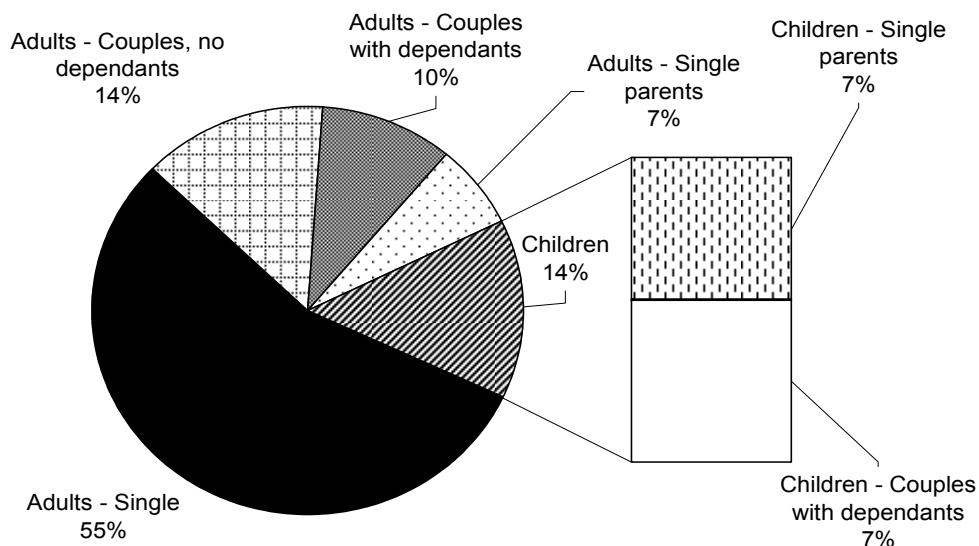


Table 3: Number of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

Family Type		2004
Adults		
Single	Cases	155,400
Single parents	Cases	15,200
	Children 18 and over*	3,900
Couples with dependants	Cases	12,100
	Spouses	12,100
	Children 18 and over*	3,300
Couples, no dependants	Cases	19,500
	Spouses	19,500
Total adults		241,100
Children		
Single parents	Children under 18	18,600
Couples with dependants	Children under 18	21,000
Total children		39,600
Total		280,700

* Children over 18 years are categorized as dependent adults, other than spouses.
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Ontario Ontario Disability Support Program

Figure 4: Number of Cases by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

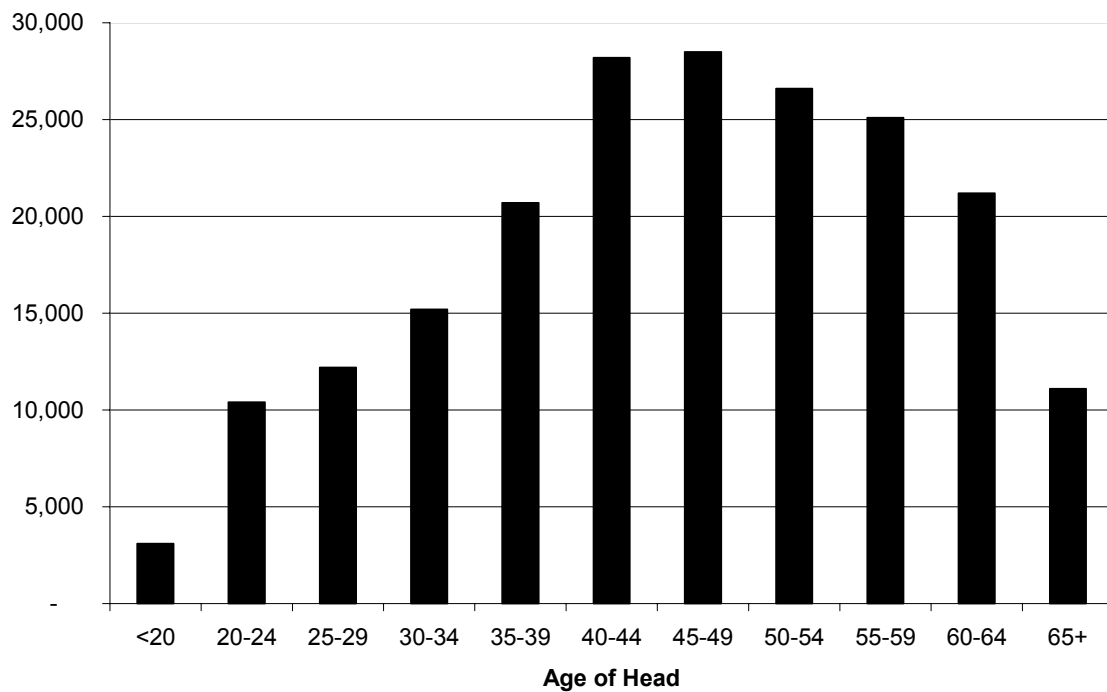


Table 4: Number of Cases by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

Age of Head	2004
<20	3,100
20-24	10,400
25-29	12,200
30-34	15,200
35-39	20,700
40-44	28,200
45-49	28,500
50-54	26,600
55-59	25,100
60-64	21,200
65+	11,100
Total	202,200
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Ontario Ontario Disability Support Program

Figure 5: Percentage of Cases by Education of Head, March 31, 2004

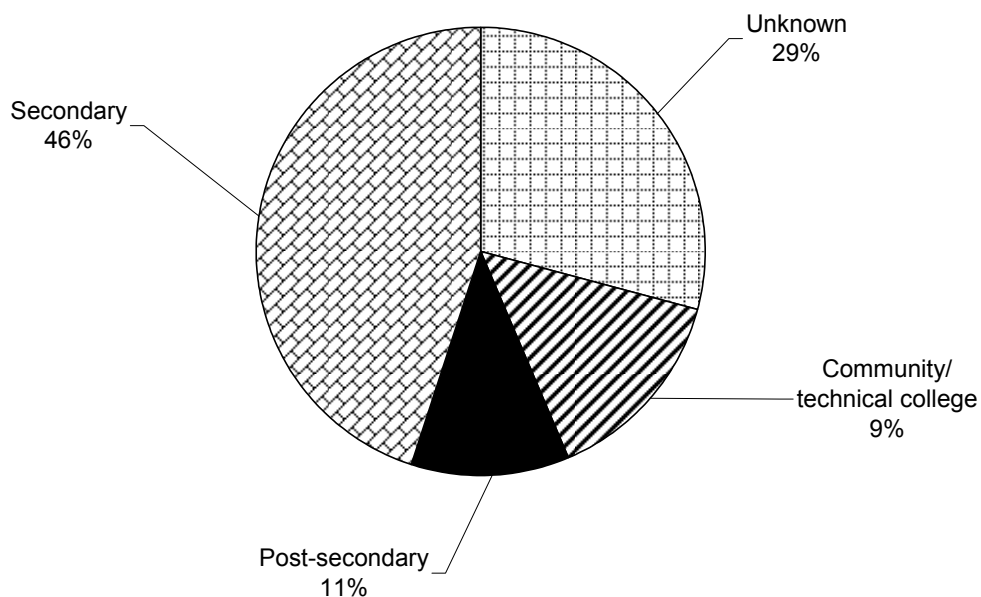


Table 5: Number of Cases by Education of Head, March 31, 2004

Education of Head*	2004
Secondary	91,300
Unknown	59,100
Primary	29,200
Post-secondary	22,700
Total	202,200
* Education is defined as level of education attained as of date of application. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Ontario Ontario Disability Support Program

Figure 6: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance, March 31, 2004

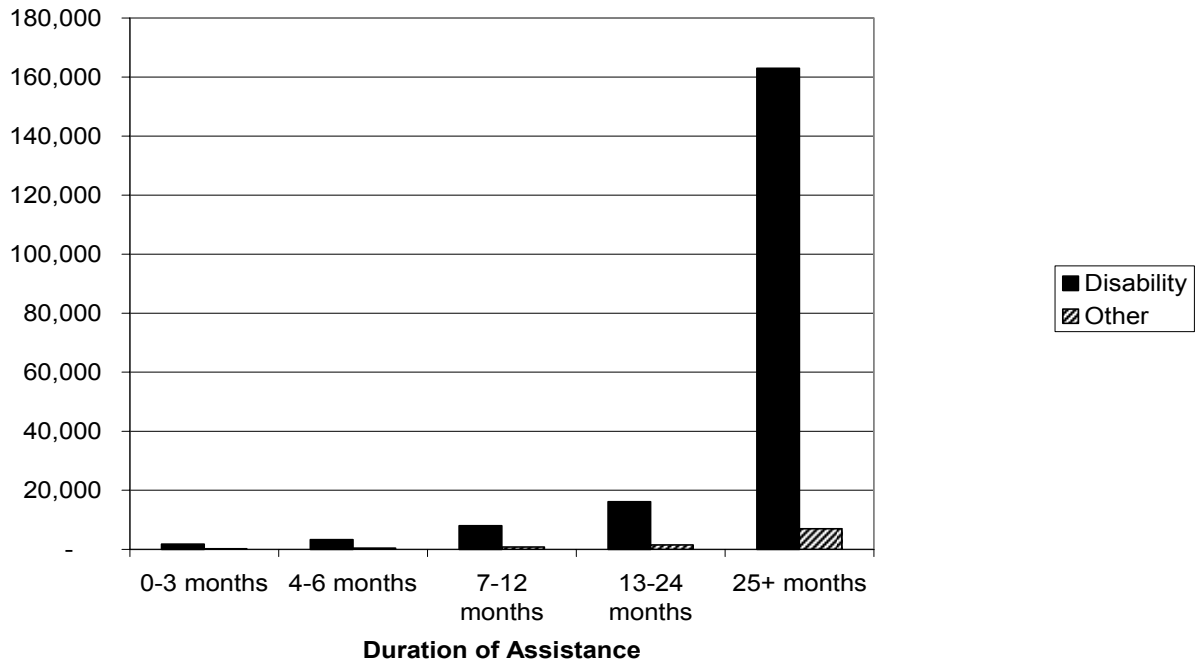


Table 6: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance, March 31, 2004

Duration of Assistance*	Reason for Assistance		Total
	Disability	Other**	
0-3 months	1,800	200	2,100
4-6 months	3,300	400	3,700
7-12 months	8,000	800	8,800
13-24 months	16,100	1,500	17,600
25+ months	163,000	7,000	170,000
Total	192,300	9,900	202,200
* "Duration of assistance" measures length of current spell only.			
** "Other" includes rehabilitated, age 65 and over and other.			
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>			

3.8 Manitoba - Employment and Income Assistance

1.0 Overview

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

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

2.0 Service Delivery

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

3.0 Eligibility

3.1 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.

3.2 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.

	Disabilities	Employable	Other*
Single	\$2,000	\$400	\$1,000
Childless Couple	\$3,000	\$800	\$2,000
Two-Parent Family	\$3,000 plus \$500 for each dependant child up to a maximum of \$4,000.	\$800 plus \$400 for each dependant child up to a maximum of \$2,000.	\$2,000 plus \$500 for each dependant child up to a maximum of \$3,000.
*Includes single parents and aged persons. <i>Manitoba, Liquid Asset Exemptions, March 2004</i>			

3.3 Earnings Exemptions

Employment and Income Assistance program clients are eligible for the following monthly exemptions on earned income:⁷

	Clients without Disabilities*	Clients without Disabilities**	Clients with Disabilities***	Single Parents with Disabilities
Single	\$100 plus 25% of the net remainder.	\$115 plus 25% of the net remainder.	\$100 plus 30% of the net remainder.	\$115 plus 30% of the net remainder.
<p>* Able-bodied employable persons (general assistance). ** Single parents. *** Persons with disabilities and aged persons who are not single parents. <i>Manitoba, Earnings Exemptions, March 2004</i></p>				

4.0 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 for both adults and children. 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).

Health Services provides coverage for essential drug, dental, and optical supplies, and certain uninsured essential health needs. School-age children receive an annual sum to cover the cost of school supplies.

5.0 More Information

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

⁷ 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.

Manitoba Employment and Income Assistance

Figure 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1994-2004

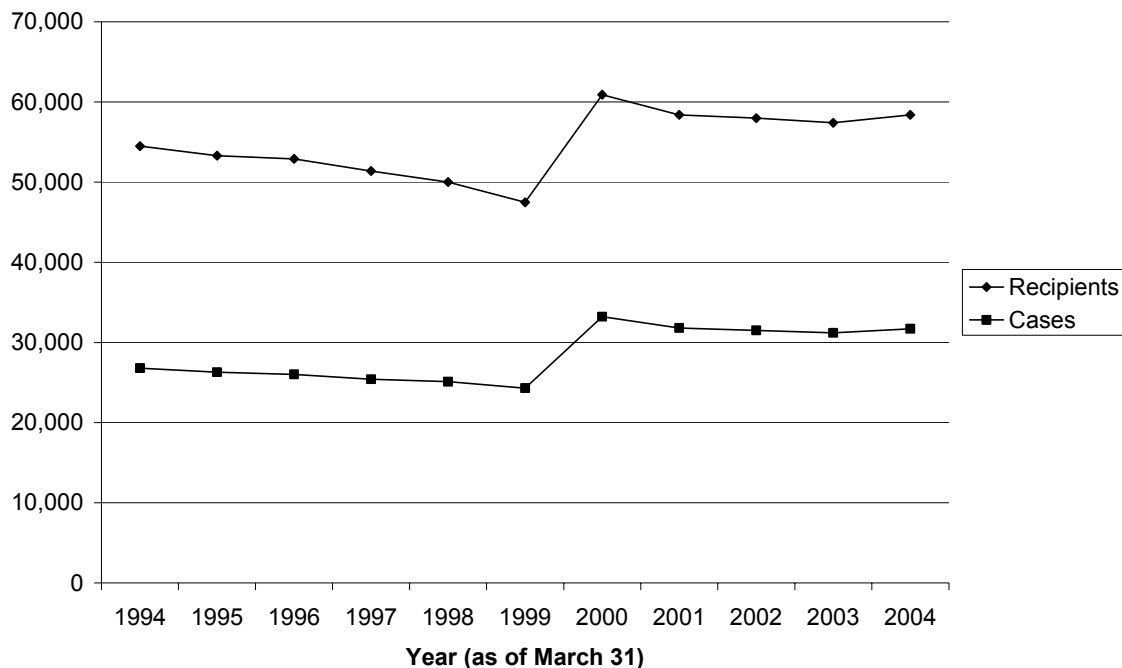


Table 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1994-2004*

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004**
Recipients	60,900	58,400	58,000	57,400	58,400
Cases	33,200	31,800	31,500	31,200	31,700

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

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999***
Recipients	54,500	53,300	52,900	51,400	50,000	47,500
Cases	26,800	26,300	26,000	25,400	25,100	24,300

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

Manitoba Employment and Income Assistance

Figure 2: Percentage of Cases by Reason for Assistance, March 31, 2004

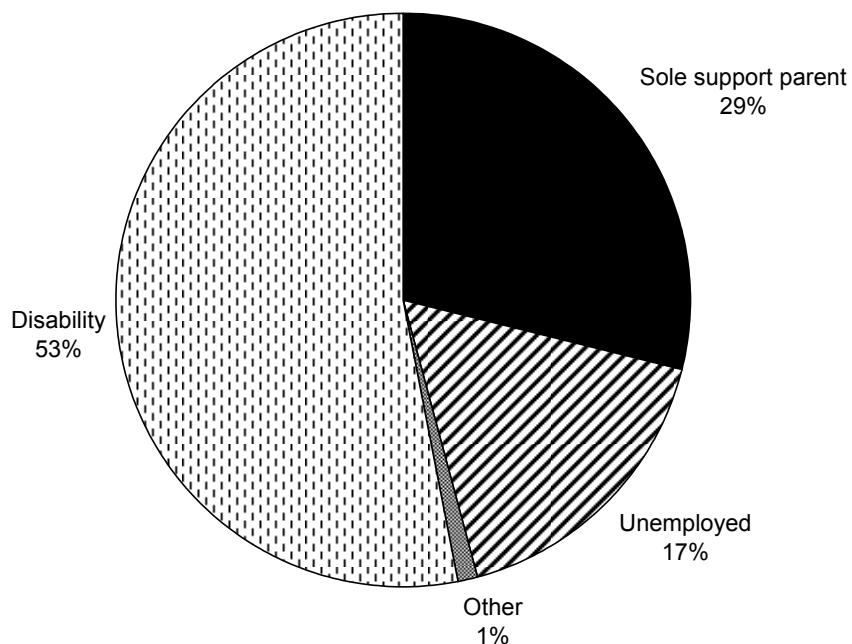


Table 2: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance, March 31, 2004

Reason for Assistance	2004
Disability	16,900
Sole support parent	9,200
Unemployed	5,400
Other	300
Total	31,700
* "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>	

Manitoba Employment and Income Assistance

Figure 3: Percentage of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

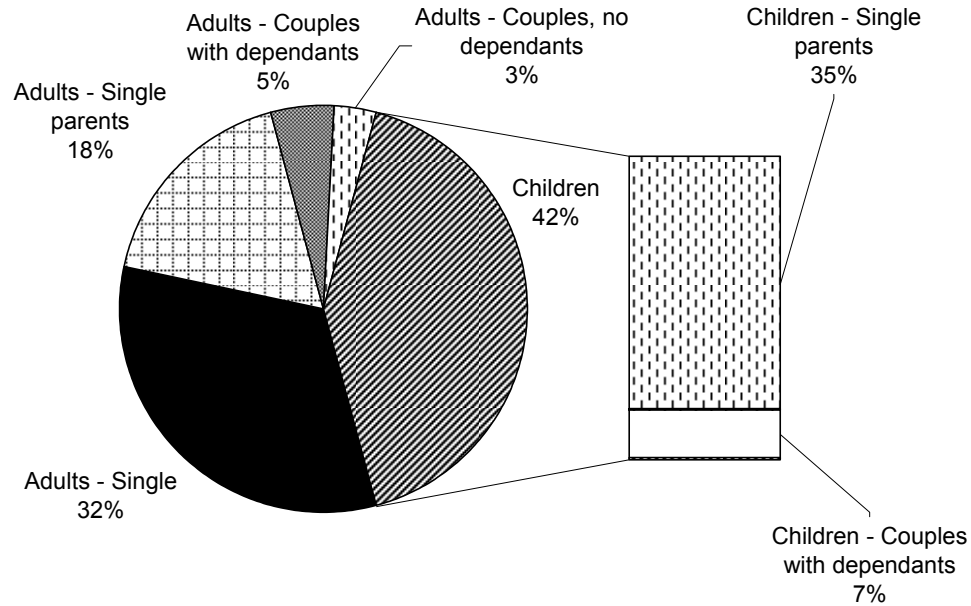


Table 3: Number of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

Family Type	2004
Adults – Single	18,900
Adults - Single parents	10,300
Adults - Couples with dependants	2,900
Adults - Couples, no dependants	1,900
Total adults	34,100
Children - Single parents	20,300
Children - Couples with dependants	3,900
Children - Head of household*	100
Total children	24,300
Total	58,400
<p>* “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.</p> <p><i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i></p>	

Manitoba Employment and Income Assistance

Figure 4: Number of Cases by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

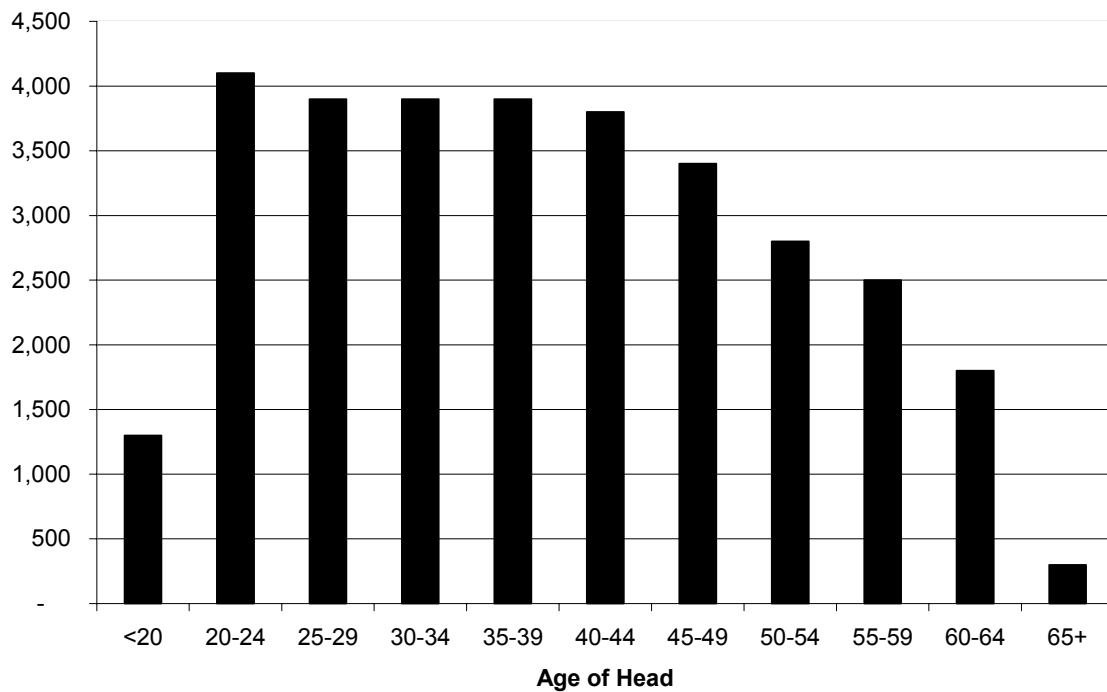


Table 4: Number of Cases by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

Age of Head	2004
<20	1,300
20-24	4,100
25-29	3,900
30-34	3,900
35-39	3,900
40-44	3,800
45-49	3,400
50-54	2,800
55-59	2,500
60-64	1,800
65+	300
Total	31,700
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Manitoba Employment and Income Assistance

Figure 5: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance, March 31, 2004

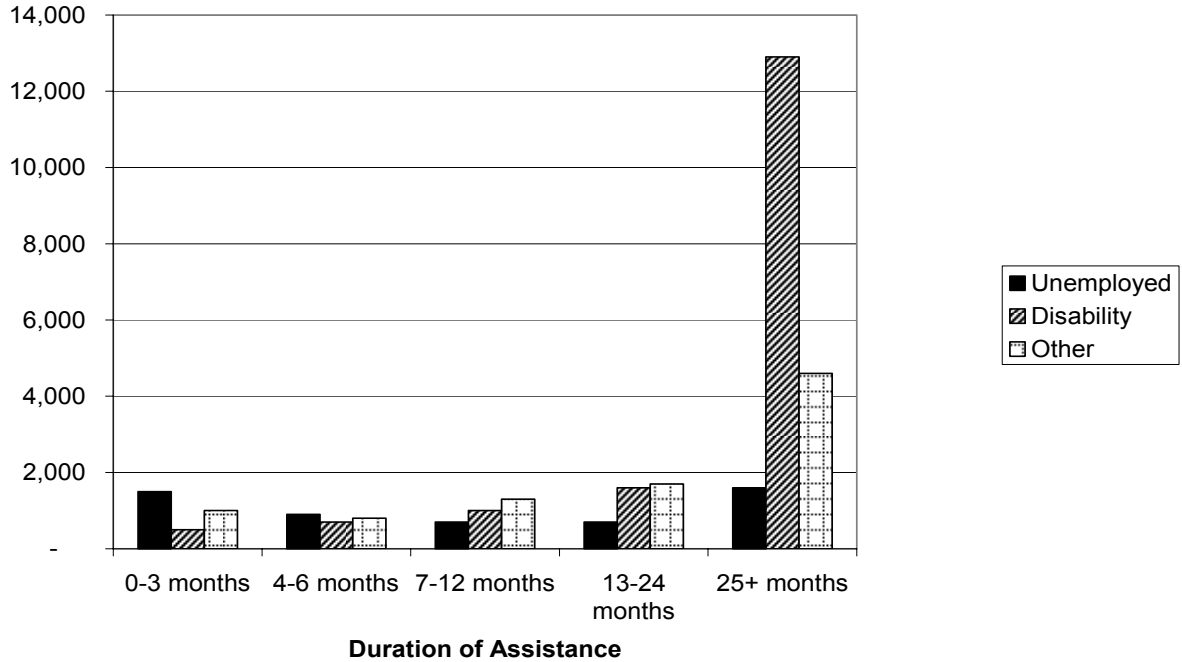


Table 5: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance, March 31, 2004

Duration of Assistance*	Reason for Assistance			Total
	Unemployed	Disability	Other**	
0-3 months	1,500	500	1,000	3,100
4-6 months	900	700	800	2,400
7-12 months	700	1,000	1,300	3,100
13-24 months	700	1,600	1,700	4,000
25+ months	1,600	12,900	4,600	19,200
Total	5,400	16,900	9,500	31,700

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

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

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Manitoba Employment and Income Assistance

**Figure 6: Percentage of Caseload Reporting Income by Source of Income,
March 31, 2004**

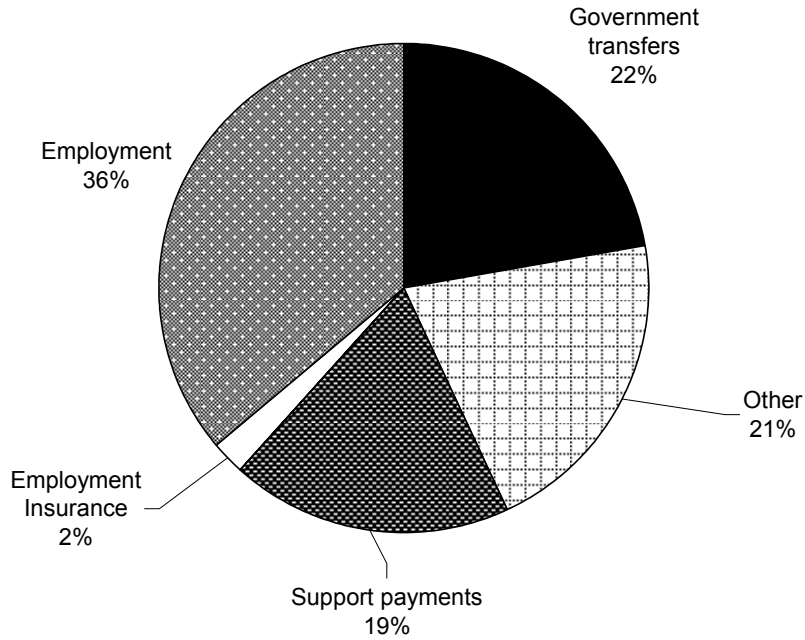


Table 6: Number of Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income, March 31, 2004

Source of Income	2004
Employment	3,100
Government transfers	1,900
Other*	1,800
Support payments**	1,600
Employment Insurance	200
Total*** (includes double-counting)	8,600
<p>* "Other" includes training allowances and other income.</p> <p>** "Support payments" do not include maintenance payments assigned directly to EIA. There were an additional estimated 1,300 EIA cases with maintenance payments in 2003/04 that are not reflected in the data.</p> <p>*** 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 8,600 observations.</p> <p><i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i></p>	

Manitoba Employment and Income Assistance

Table 7: Number of Cases Reporting Income, March 31, 2004

Reporting income	6,900
No income	24,800
Total	31,700
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

3.9 Saskatchewan – Social Assistance Programs⁸

1.0 Overview

In Saskatchewan, the provincial social assistance program is known as the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan (SAP). The *Saskatchewan Assistance Act* and the Saskatchewan Assistance Regulations govern the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan.

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

2.0 Service Delivery

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

3.0 Eligibility

3.1 General

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

3.2 Liquid Assets

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

Single	\$1,500
Family	\$3,000 plus \$500 for each additional dependant.
<i>Saskatchewan, Liquid Asset Exemptions, March 2004</i>	

⁸ Social Assistance programs include the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan (SAP) and the Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA). In March 2004, SAP constituted 95% of the SA caseload while the TEA was 5%.

3.3 Earnings Exemptions⁹

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

	Clients without Disabilities	Clients with Disabilities
Single	\$25 plus 20% of the next \$375.	\$100 plus 20% of the next \$375.
Childless Couple	\$50 plus 20% of the next \$625.	\$125 plus 20% of the next \$625.
Two-Parent Family	\$125	\$200
<i>Saskatchewan, Earnings Exemptions, March 2004</i>		

4.0 Benefits

Basic assistance consists of a Basic Allowance and a Shelter Allowance. The Basic Allowance covers the cost of food, clothing and travel, as well as personal and household items for adults only. Maximum Shelter Allowance rates are calculated using a three-tier scale based on geographic location and family size.

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

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

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

5.0 Saskatchewan Child Benefit

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

Maximum SCB benefits are paid to those families whose income is less than \$15,921 per year. Families whose annual income falls between \$15,921 and \$21,000 per year (depending on the number of children) are eligible for partial SCB benefits.

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

	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Families	38,810	36,760	33,070	29,020	26,090	15,270
Children	79,290	75,300	67,820	56,960	53,530	39,600
<i>Saskatchewan Child Benefit, Number of Recipients, 1998-2004</i>						

6.0 More Information

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

Saskatchewan Social Assistance Programs

Figure 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1994-2004

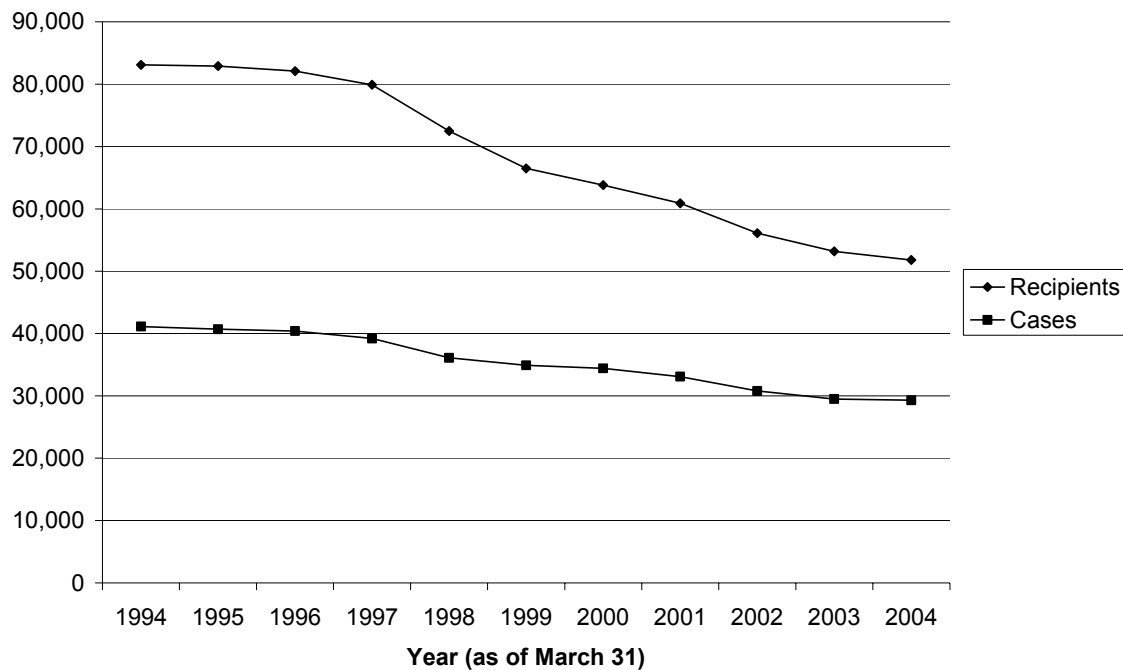


Table 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1994-2004

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Recipients	63,800	60,900	56,100	53,200	51,800
Cases	34,400	33,100	30,800	29,500	29,300

	1994*	1995*	1996*	1997*	1998	1999
Recipients	83,100	82,900	82,100	79,900	72,500	66,500
Cases	41,100	40,700	40,400	39,200	36,100	34,900
Northern Bands receiving manual payments from 1994 to 1997 are included in the above table.						

Saskatchewan Social Assistance Programs

Figure 2: Percentage of Cases by Reason for Assistance, March 31, 2004

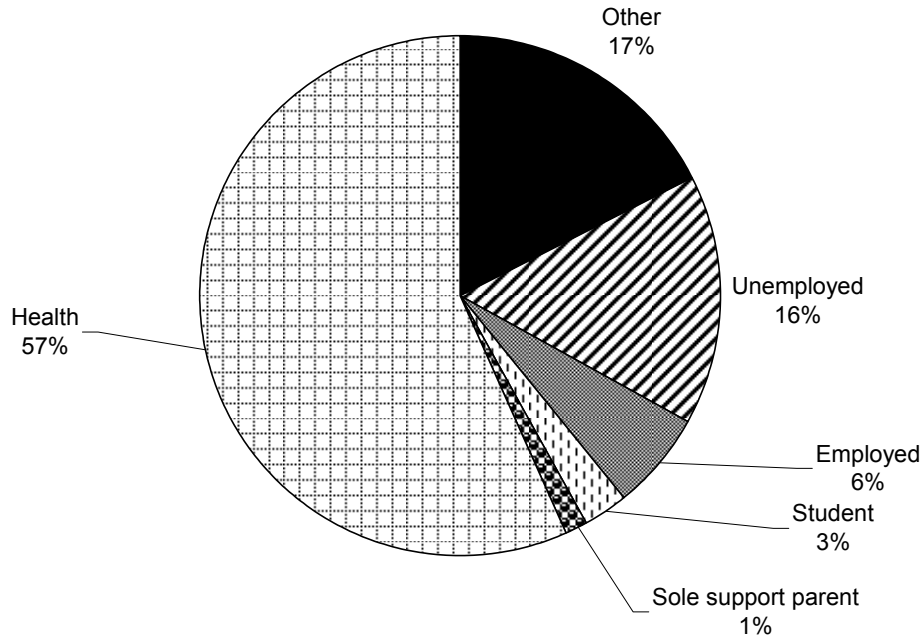


Table 2: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance, March 31, 2004

Reason for Assistance	2004
Health [*]	16,600
Other ^{**}	5,100
Unemployed ^{***}	4,600
Employed ^{****}	1,800
Student ^{*****}	800
Sole support parent ^{*****}	400
Total	29,300
[*] "Health" includes mental and physical health restrictions. ^{**} "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. ^{***} "Unemployed" includes clients who quit working, or were fired, laid off, etc. ^{****} "Employed" includes clients expecting income and those receiving an income supplement. ^{*****} "Student" includes clients attending school and post-secondary students with no job. ^{*****} "Sole support parent" includes single parents receiving grants for child care problems and loss of spousal support. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Saskatchewan Social Assistance Programs

Figure 3: Percentage of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

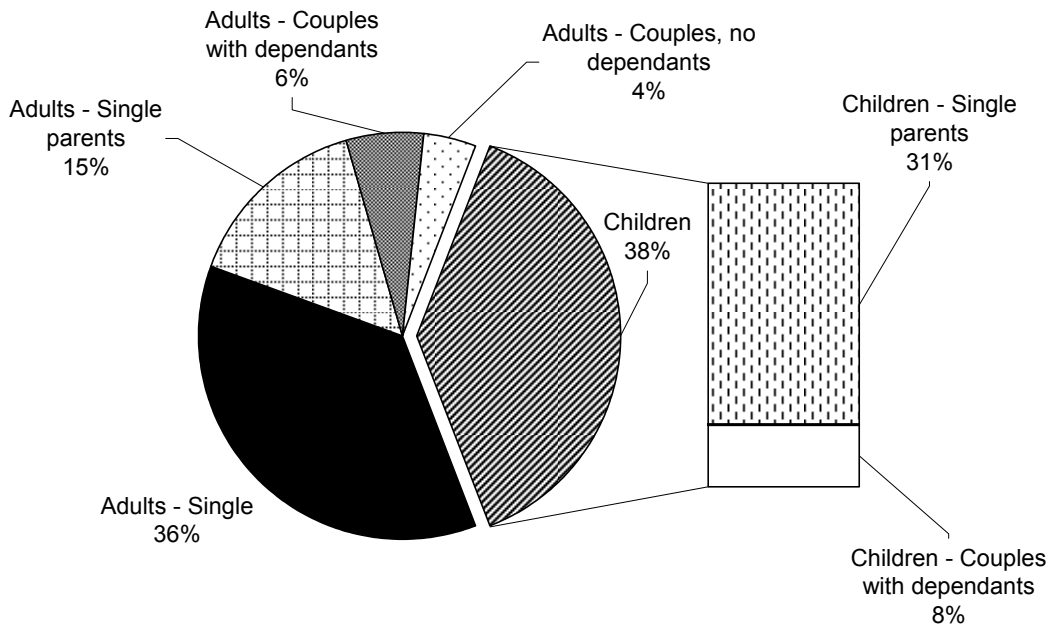


Table 3: Number of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

Family Type	2004
Adults - Single	18,800
Adults - Single parents	7,800
Adults - Couples with dependants	3,200
Adults - Couples, no dependants	2,200
Total adults	32,000
Children - Single parents	15,800
Children - Couples with dependants	4,000
Total children	19,800
Total	51,800
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Saskatchewan Social Assistance Programs

Figure 4: Number of Cases by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

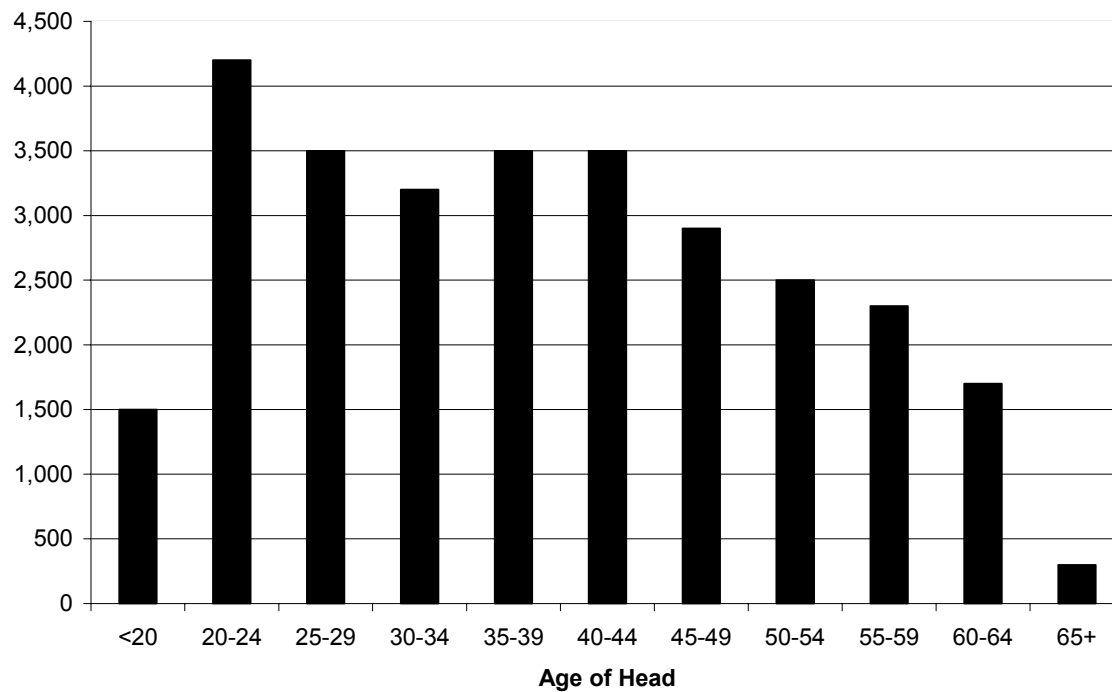


Table 4: Number of Cases by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

Age of Head	2004
<20	1,500
20-24	4,200
25-29	3,500
30-34	3,200
35-39	3,500
40-44	3,500
45-49	2,900
50-54	2,500
55-59	2,300
60-64	1,700
65+	300
Total	29,300
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Saskatchewan Social Assistance Programs

Figure 5: Percentage of Cases by Education of Head, March 31, 2004

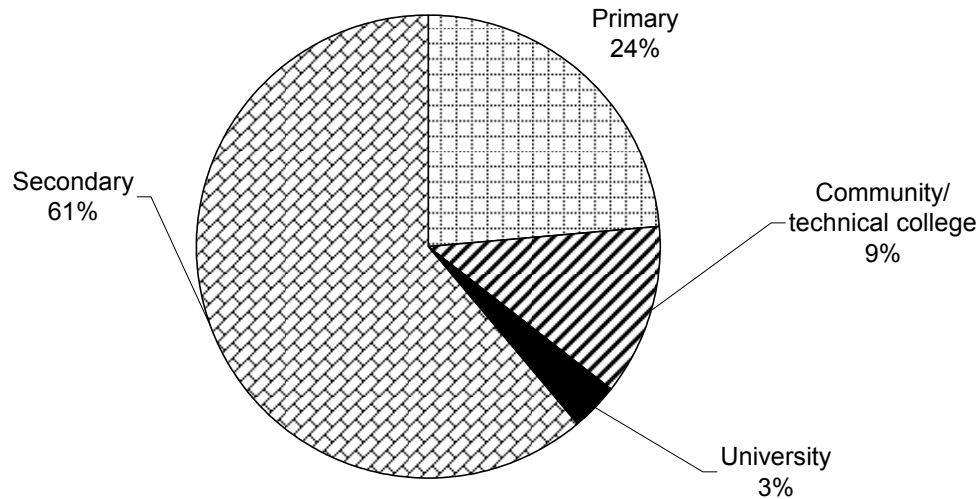


Table 5: Number of Cases by Education of Head, March 31, 2004

Education of Head*	2004
Secondary	17,900
Primary	6,900
Unknown	3,500
University	1,000
Total	29,300
* Education is defined as level of education attained as of date of application. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Saskatchewan Social Assistance Programs

Figure 6: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance, March 31, 2004

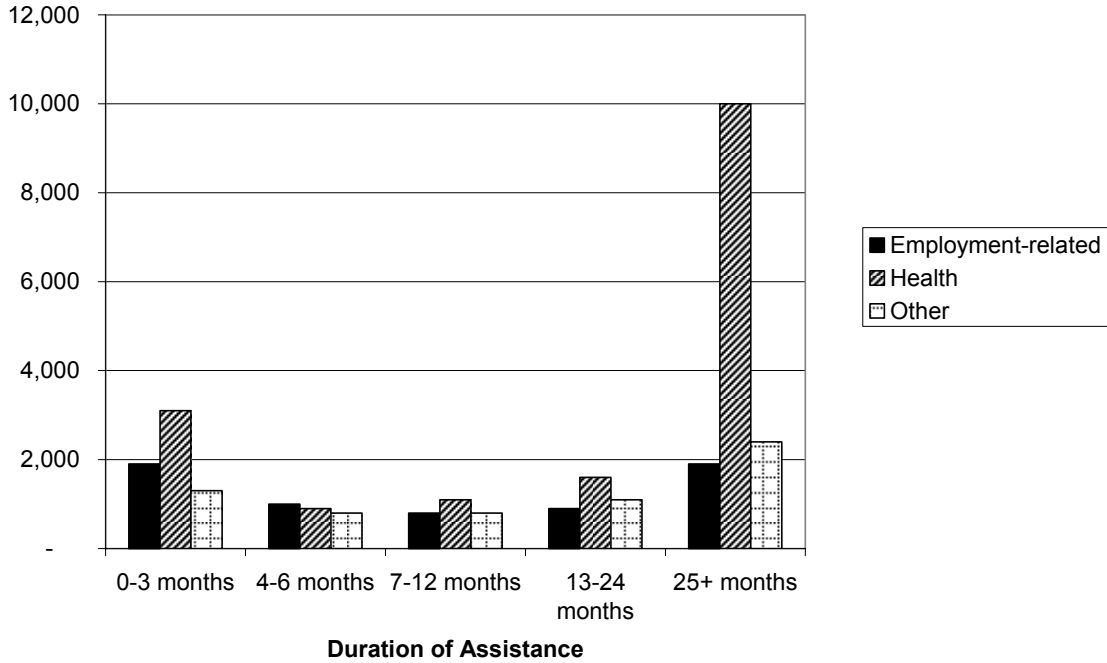


Table 6: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance, March 31, 2004

Duration of Assistance *	Reason for Assistance			
	Employment-related**	Health	Other***	Total
0-3 months	1,900	3,100	1,300	6,300
4-6 months	1,000	900	800	2,600
7-12 months	800	1,100	800	2,600
13-24 months	900	1,600	1,100	3,500
25+ months	1,900	10,000	2,400	14,300
Total	6,400	16,600	6,300	29,300
* "Duration of assistance" measures length of current spell only. ** "Employment-related" includes employed and unemployed. *** "Other" includes sole support parent, student and other. Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.				

Saskatchewan Social Assistance Programs

Figure 7: Percentage of Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income, March 31, 2004

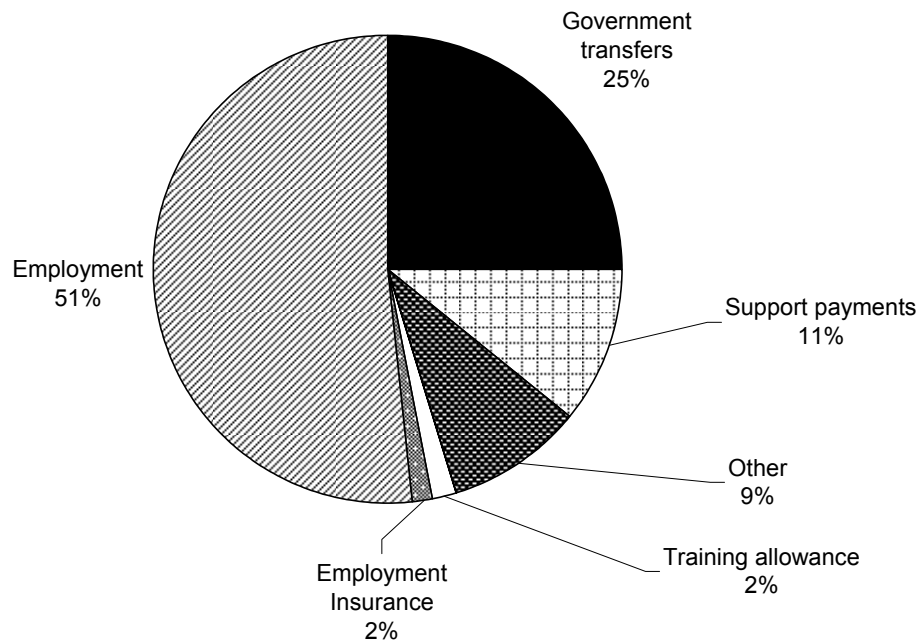


Table 7: Number of Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income, March 31, 2004

Source of Income	2004
Employment	3,300
Government transfers	1,600
Support payments	700
Other	600
Training allowance	100
Employment Insurance	100
Total	6,400
* Total cases in these categories are unique. Cases receiving income from more than one source are counted only once. Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.	

Table 8: Number of Cases Reporting Income, March 31, 2004

Reporting income	6,400
No income	22,900
Total	29,300
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.	

3.10 Alberta – Supports for Independence

1.0 Overview

In Alberta, the provincial social assistance program is known as Supports for Independence (SFI). The *Social Development Act* and the Social Allowances Regulations govern Alberta's Supports for Independence program.

The Supports for Independence program provides basic benefits to both adults and children.

Effective April 1, 2004, Supports for Independence was replaced by Alberta Works.

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

2.0 Service Delivery

Alberta Human Resources and Employment is responsible for the delivery of Supports for Independence to adults and children within the province.

3.0 Eligibility

3.1 General

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

3.2 Liquid Assets

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

	Transitional Support	Assured Support	Employment and Training Support	Supplement to Earnings
Single	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500*	\$1,500***
Family	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500**	\$2,500****
* Not more than \$50 of this amount may be in the form of cash. ** Not more than \$50 of this amount may be in the form of cash. *** Not more than \$250 of this amount may be in the form of cash. **** Not more than \$250 of this amount may be in the form of cash. <i>Alberta, Supports for Independence, Liquid Asset Exemptions, March 2004</i>				

3.3 Earnings Exemptions

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

Single	\$115 plus 25% of the net remainder.
Single-Parent Family	\$230 plus 25% of the net remainder.
Childless Couple	\$115 combined income plus 25% of the net remainder for each working adult.
Two-Parent Family	\$115 per adult plus 25% of the net remainder for each working adult.
<i>Alberta, Supports for Independence, Earnings Exemptions, March 2004</i>	

4.0 Benefits

Basic assistance consists of a Basic Allowance and a Shelter Allowance. The Basic Allowance covers the cost of food, clothing, household and personal needs, the installation of a telephone, as well as laundry and transportation. Maximum Basic Allowance rates are based on the number of adults in the family unit, as well as the number and ages of any dependent children. Maximum Shelter Allowance rates are based on the size of the family, the type of accommodation, and the sub-program (see below) to which the family unit is assigned.

The Supports for Independence program consists of four sub-programs: Transitional Support, Employment and Training Support, Supplement to Earnings, and Assured Support.

5.0 More Information

For more information, please consult the Alberta Human Resources and Employment website at: <http://www3.gov.ab.ca/hre/>.

Alberta Supports for Independence

Figure 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1994-2004

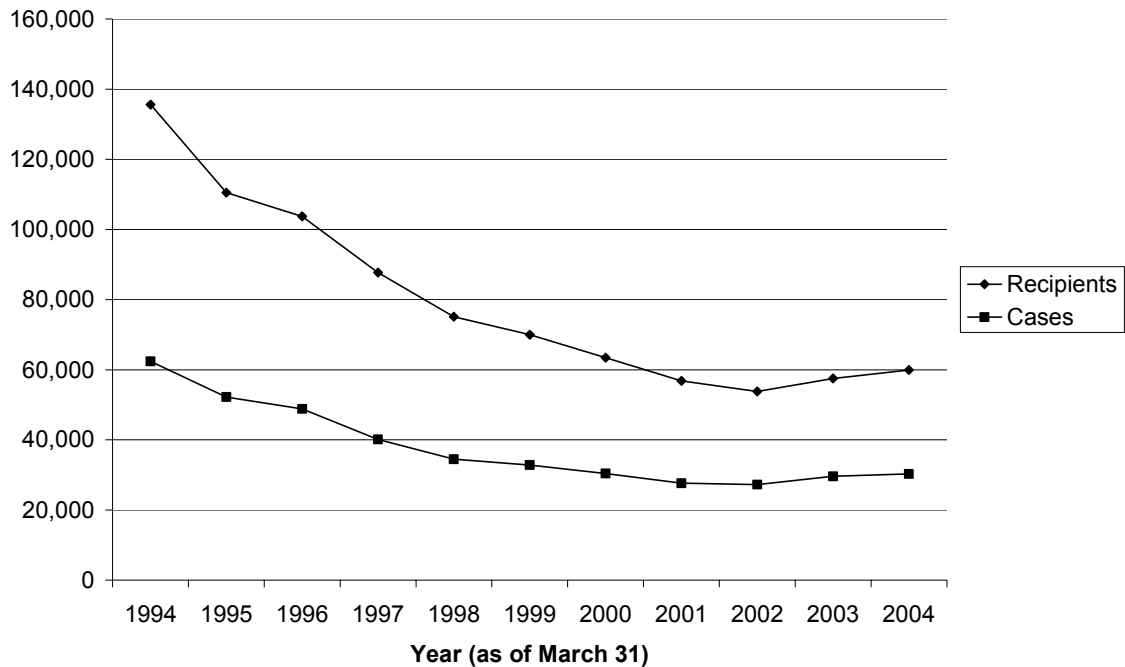


Table 1: Number of Cases and Recipients^{*, **}, March 31, 1994-2004

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 ^{***}
Recipients	63,400	56,800	53,800	57,500	59,900
Cases	30,400	27,600	27,200	29,600	30,300
[*] Children in Need (CIN) are not included in the above table. ^{**} Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) is covered in a separate section. ^{***} Alberta Works (AW) replaced Supports for Independence (SFI) in May 2004.					

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Recipients	135,600	110,500	103,700	87,700	75,100	70,000
Cases	62,400	52,200	48,800	40,100	34,500	32,800
[*] Children in Need (CIN) are not included in the above table. ^{**} Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) is covered in a separate section.						

Alberta Supports for Independence

Figure 2: Percentage of Cases by Reason for Assistance, March 31, 2004

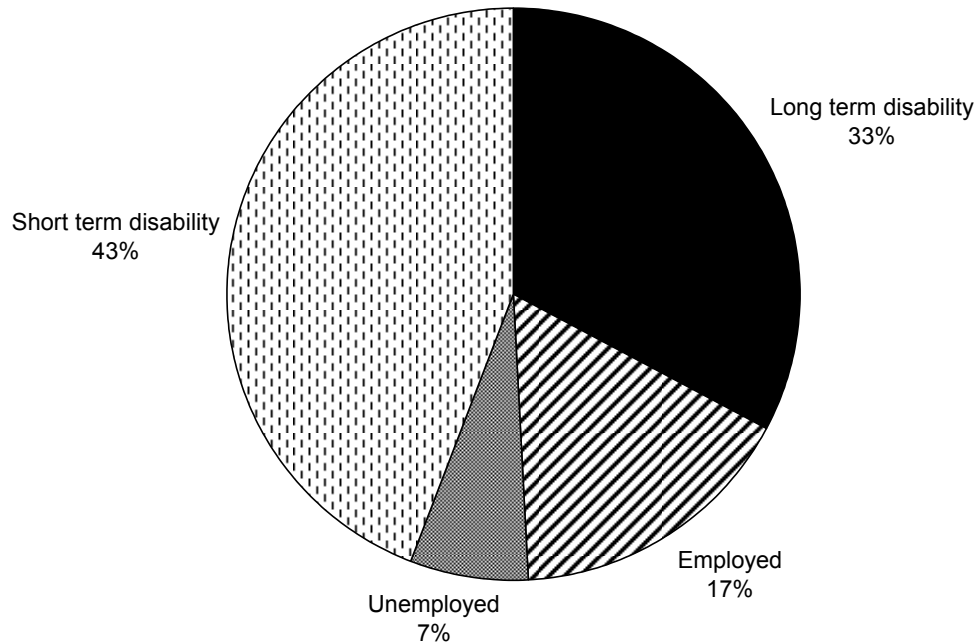


Table 2: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance, March 31, 2004

Reason for Assistance	2004
Short term disability [*]	13,400
Long term disability ^{**}	9,900
Employed	5,000
Unemployed	2,000
Total	30,300
[*] "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.	
^{**} "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 SFI program to access supplemental benefits which are not available through AISH.	
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Alberta Supports for Independence

Figure 3: Percentage of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

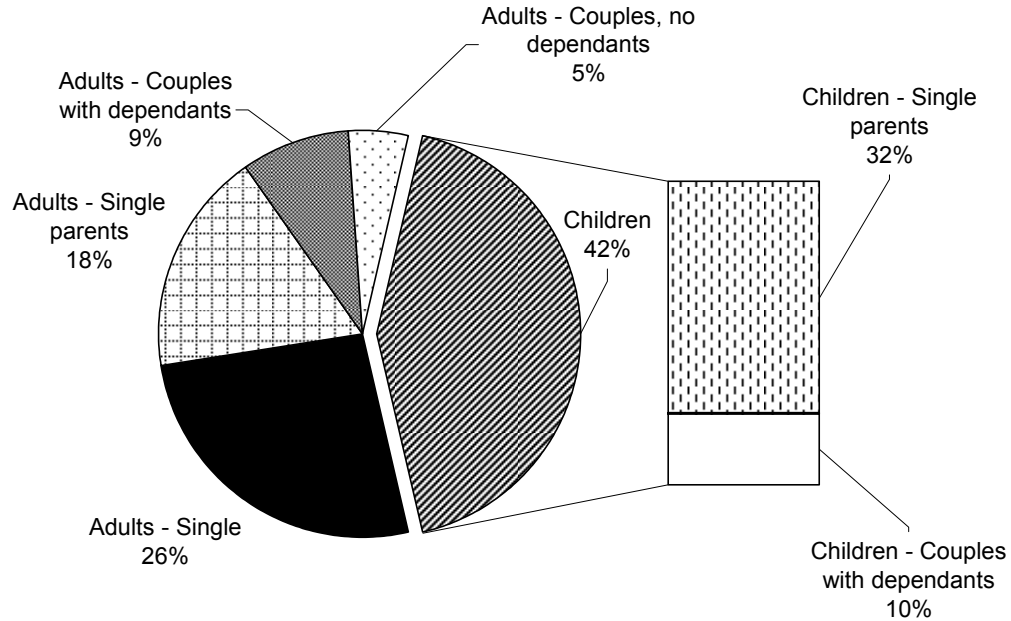


Table 3: Number of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

Family Type	2004
Adults – Single	15,600
Adults - Single parents	10,700
Adults - Couples with dependants	5,100
Adults - Couples, no dependants	2,800
Total adults	34,200
Children - Single parents	19,600
Children - Couples with dependants	6,000
Total children	25,600
Total	59,900
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Alberta Supports for Independence

Figure 4: Number of Cases by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

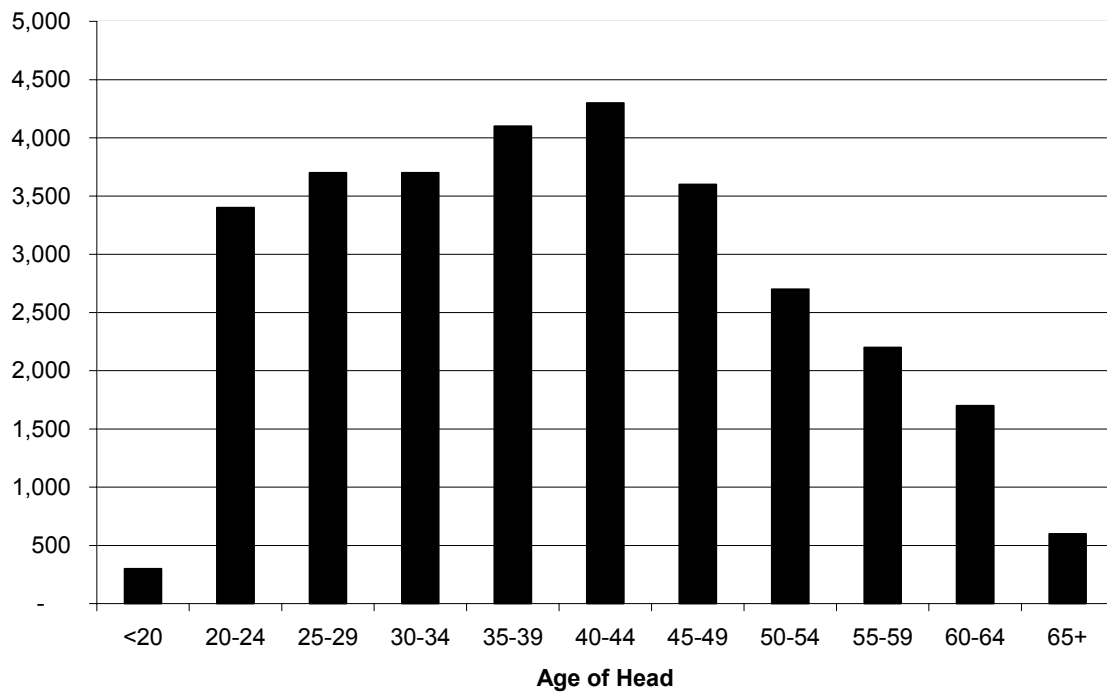


Table 4: Number of Cases by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

Age of Head	2004
<20	300
20-24	3,400
25-29	3,700
30-34	3,700
35-39	4,100
40-44	4,300
45-49	3,600
50-54	2,700
55-59	2,200
60-64	1,700
65+	600
Total	30,300
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Alberta Supports for Independence

Figure 5: Percentage of Cases by Education of Head, March 31, 2004

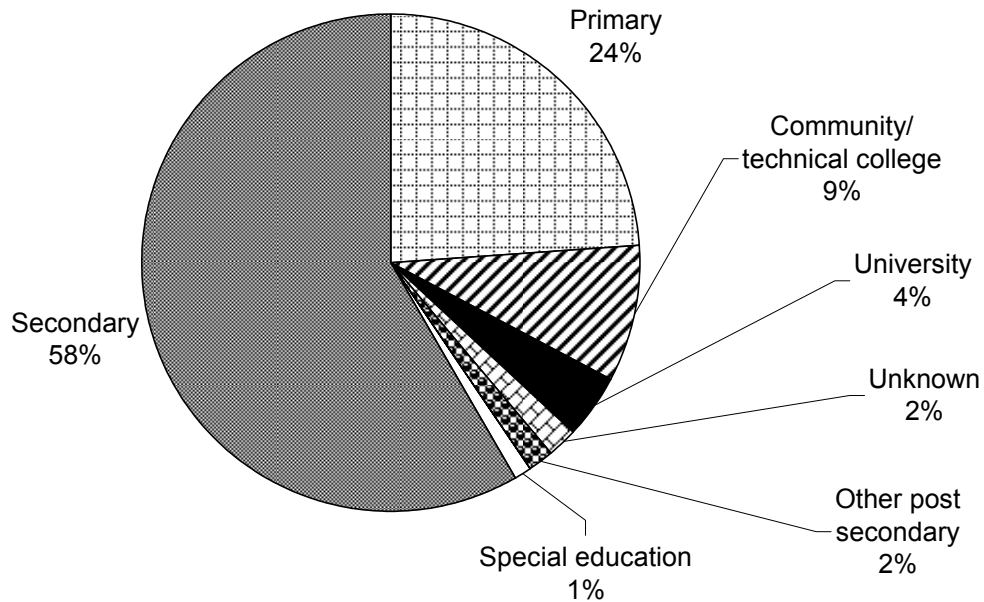


Table 5: Number of Cases by Education of Head, March 31, 2004

Education of Head*	2004
Secondary	17,700
Primary	7,200
Community/technical college	2,700
University	1,300
Unknown	600
Other post secondary	500
Special education**	300
Total	30,300

* Education is defined as level of education attained as of date of application.
 ** "Special education" includes educational programs operating outside of the standard educational stream (kindergarten to grade 12), which provide training support, skills development and/or integrated occupational skills for clients with special needs.
 Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Alberta Supports for Independence

Figure 6: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance, March 31, 2004

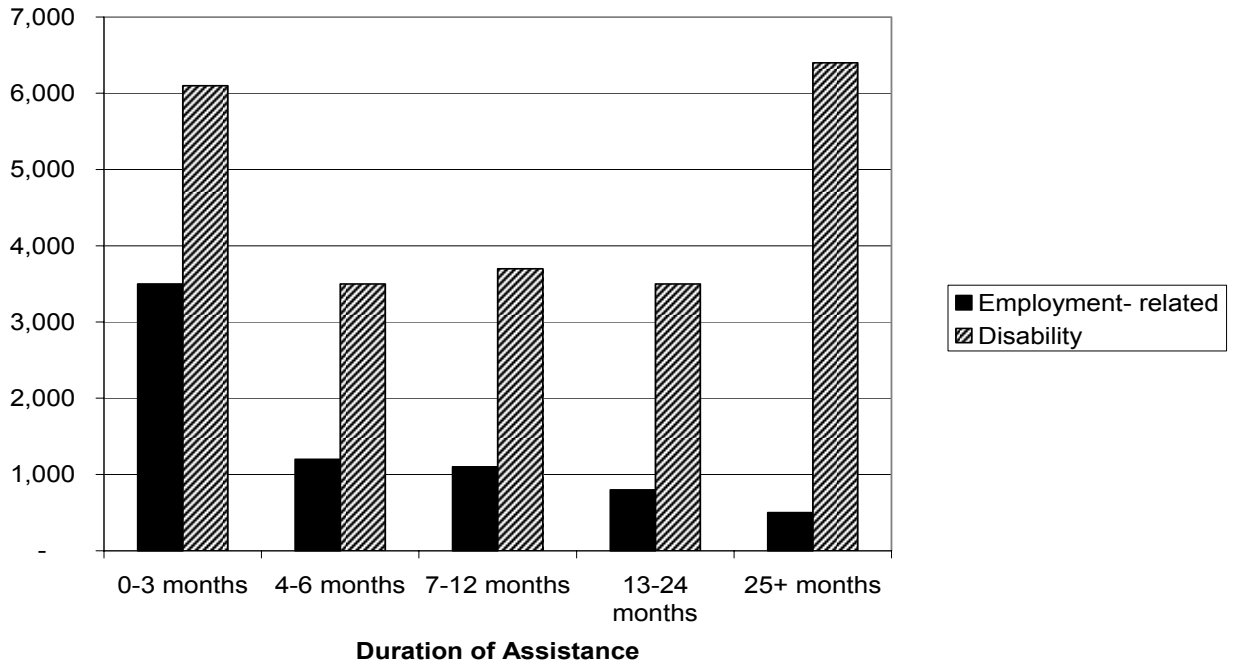


Table 6: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance, March 31, 2004

Duration of Assistance *	Reason for Assistance		
	Employment- related **	Disability ***	Total
0-3 months	3,500	6,100	9,600
4-6 months	1,200	3,500	4,800
7-12 months	1,100	3,700	4,800
13-24 months	800	3,500	4,300
25+ months	500	6,400	6,900
Total	7,000	23,300	30,300
* "Duration of assistance" is based upon the length of time since case last became active. ** "Employment-related" includes employed and unemployed. *** "Disability" includes long-term and short-term disability. Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.			

Alberta Supports for Independence

Figure 7: Percentage of Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income, March 31, 2004

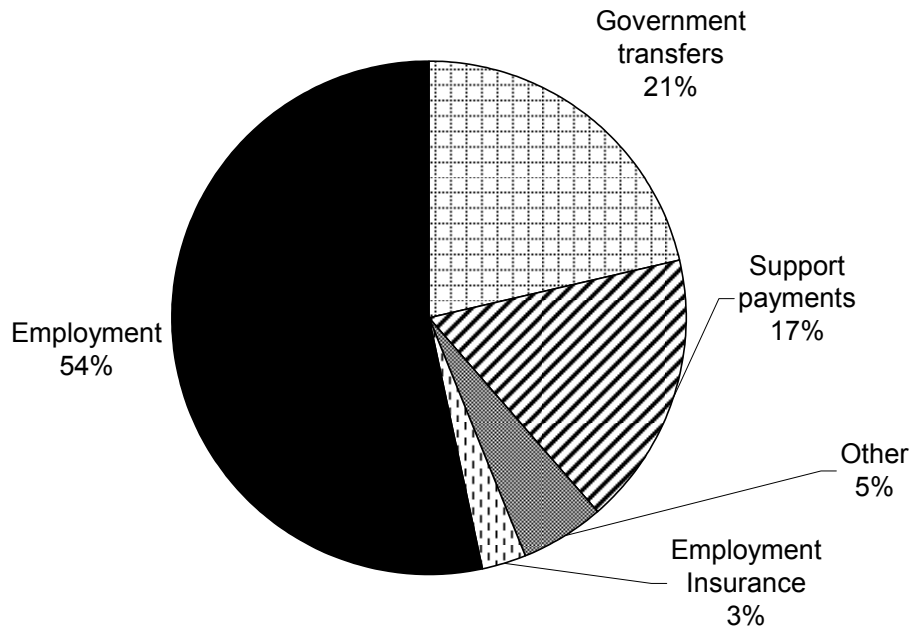


Table 7: Number of Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income, March 31, 2004

Source of Income	2004
Employment	4,000
Government transfers	1,600
Support payments	1,300
Other [*]	400
Employment Insurance	200
Total ^{**} (includes double-counting)	7,500
[*] "Other" includes training allowances and other income. ^{**} Total cases in these categories may include double-counting, since cases that have more than one source of income are counted for each source reported. Percentages were calculated based on 7,500 observations. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Table 8: Number of Cases Reporting Income, March 31, 2004

Reporting income	6,800
No income	23,500
Total	30,300
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

3.11 Alberta - Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped

1.0 Overview

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

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

2.0 Service Delivery

Alberta Seniors and Community Supports is responsible for the delivery of AISH throughout the province.¹⁰

3.0 Eligibility

3.1 General

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

3.2 Assets

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

¹⁰ Effective November 24, 2004.

3.3 Income Exemptions

The level of benefits that a recipient receives from AISH depends on the type and amount of income of the recipient and his/her spouse/cohabitating partner. Under AISH, income is classified into three categories: totally exempt, partially exempt, and non-exempt.

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

Single	\$200 plus 25% of the net remainder.
Single-Parent Family	\$775 plus 25% of the net remainder.
Married/cohabitating partner and only one is eligible for AISH	\$775 plus 25% of the net remainder.
Married/cohabitating partner and children and both adults are eligible for AISH.	\$200 plus 25% of the net remainder for one AISH applicant/recipient. \$775 plus 25% of the net remainder for the other AISH applicant/recipient.
Income received on behalf of a dependent child.	\$400 is exempt. Any amount over \$400 is deducted dollar-for-dollar.
<i>Alberta, Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped, Partial Income Exemptions, March 2004</i>	

4.0 Benefits

Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped provides a monthly financial benefit and health benefits (straight AISH). There are no additional benefits to address special needs or emergency issues under AISH, since the program provides flat-rate benefits and is not needs-tested.

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

AISH has one sub-program called Modified AISH. Modified AISH is for recipients who live in facilities designated by the *AISH Act*. Benefits include the facility daily rate, plus a handicapped benefit of \$175 per month.

5.0 More Information

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

Alberta Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped

Figure 1: Number of Recipients as of March 31, 1994-2004

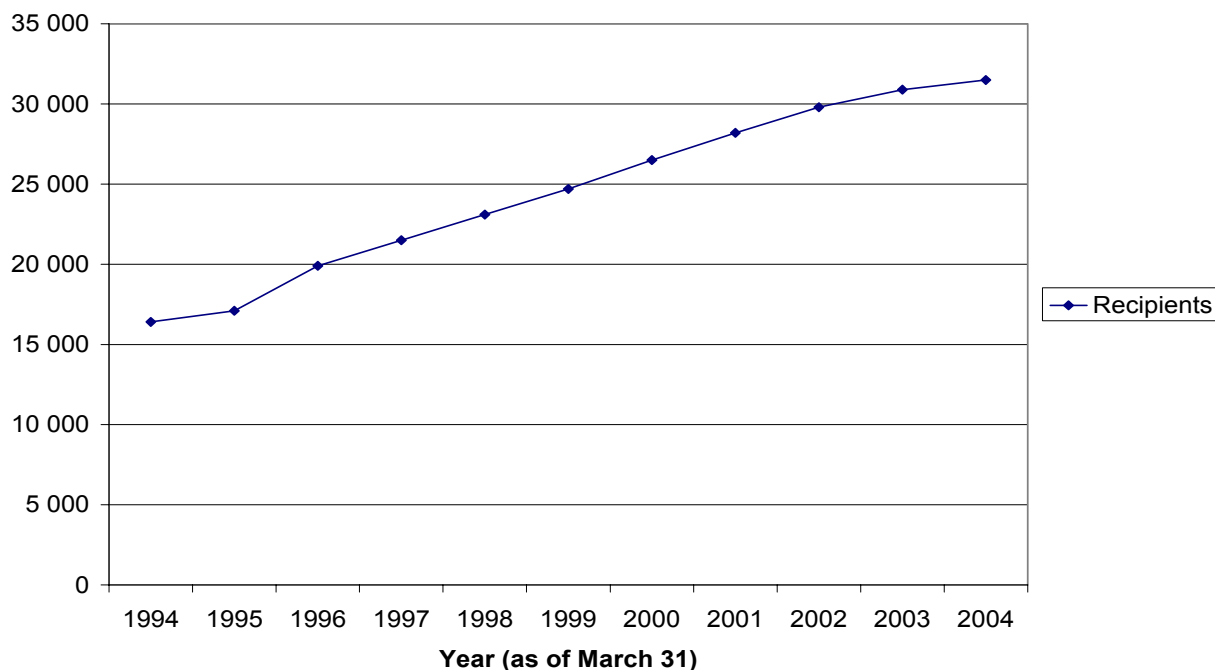


Table 1: Number of Recipients, March 31, 1994-2004

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004**
Recipients*	26,500	28,200	29,800	30,900	31,500
* AISH provides financial assistance only to the individual with the disability, and not the client's family. Therefore, the number of cases and recipients are the same.					
** In the above table, 2004 data does not include 829 AISH recipients who left the program for the Alberta Adult Health Benefit (AAHB), whereas the following charts include these individuals.					

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Recipients*	16,400	17,100	19,900	21,500	23,100	24,700
* AISH provides financial assistance only to the individual with the disability, and not the client's family. Therefore, the number of cases and recipients are the same.						

Alberta

Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped

Figure 2: Percentage of Recipients by Medical Condition, March 31, 2004

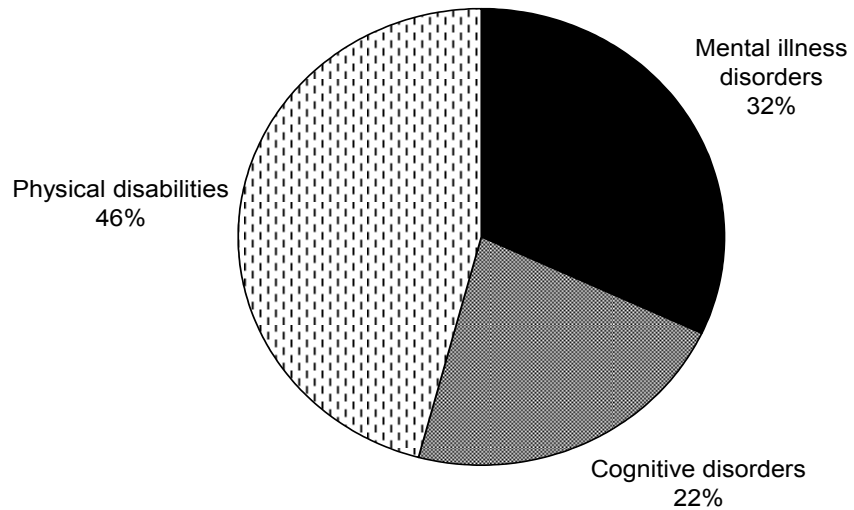


Table 2: Number of Recipients by Medical Condition, March 31, 2004

Medical Condition	2004
Physical disabilities	14,800
Mental illness disorders	10,300
Cognitive disorders	7,100
Total	32,200
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Alberta Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped

Figure 3: Percentage of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

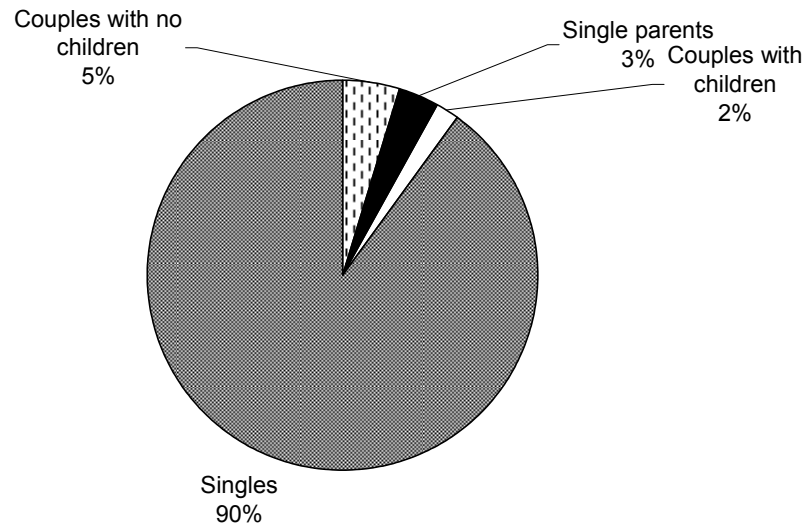


Table 3: Number of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

Family Type	2004
Singles	29,100
Couples with no children	1,500
Single parents	1,100
Couples with children	600
Total	32,200
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Alberta Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped

Figure 4: Number of Recipients by Age, March 31, 2004

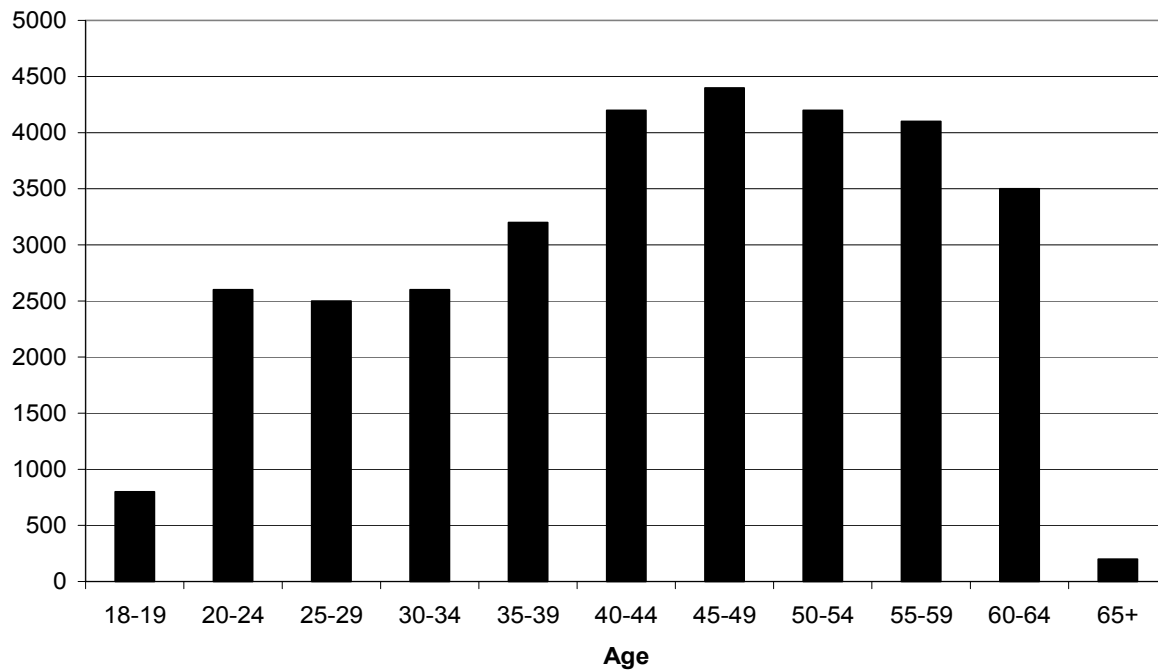


Table 4: Number of Recipients by Age, March 31, 2004

Age	2004
18-19	800
20-24	2,600
25-29	2,500
30-34	2,600
35-39	3,200
40-44	4,200
45-49	4,400
50-54	4,200
55-59	4,100
60-64	3,500
65+	200
Total	32,200
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Alberta Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped

Figure 5: Percentage of Recipients by Education, March 31, 2004

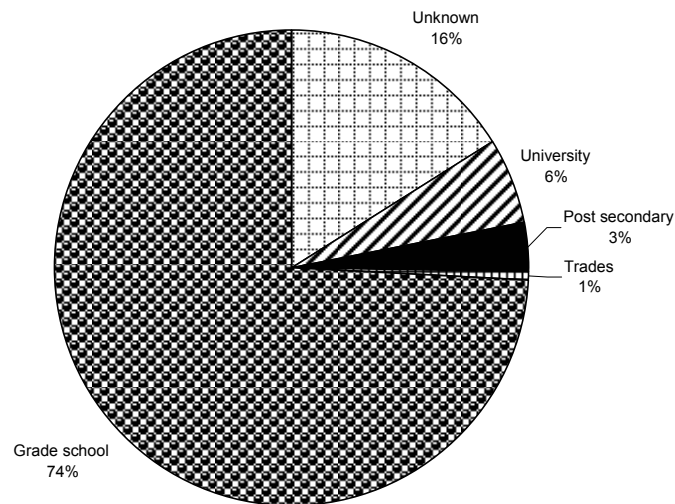


Table 5: Number of Recipients by Education, March 31, 2004

Education*	2004
Grade school	23,900
Unknown	5,200
University	1,900
Post secondary**	1,000
Trades	200
Total	32,200
* Education is defined as level of education attained as of date of application. ** "Post secondary" includes community/technical college and other post secondary training. Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.	

Alberta Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped

**Figure 6: Percentage of Recipients Reporting Income, by Source of Income,
March 31, 2004**

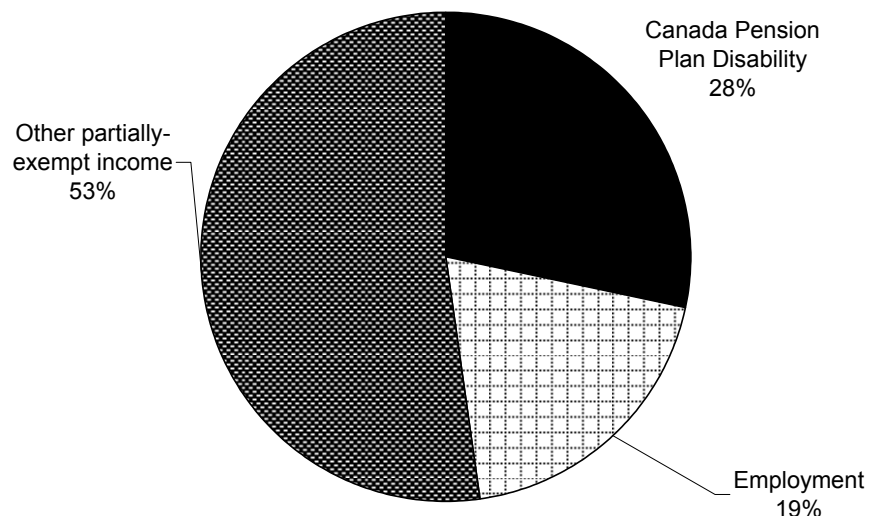


Table 6: Number of Recipients Reporting Income, by Source of Income, March 31, 2004

Source of Income	2004
Other partially-exempt income	10,300
Canada Pension Plan Disability	5,600
Employment	3,800
Total (includes double counting)	19,700
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 19,700 observations. <i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

Table 7: Number of Recipients Reporting Income, March 31, 2004

Reporting income	15,200
No income	17,000
Total	32,200
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

3.12 British Columbia - Employment and Assistance

1.0 Overview

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

Employment and Assistance provides basic support and shelter benefits to family units. Children's basic support benefits are provided separately through the British Columbia Family Bonus.¹¹

2.0 Service Delivery

The Ministry of Human Resources is responsible for the delivery of Employment and Assistance to individuals and families within the province.

3.0 Eligibility

3.1 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.

In addition, in the 60 days prior to applying for Employment and Assistance, all adults in the family unit must complete an applicant orientation program and complete a reasonable work search in the three-week period between their assistance enquiry and their application, unless this requirement is waived on the basis of undue hardship. 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.

¹¹ 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 purposes 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.

3.2 Liquid Assets

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

	Clients without Disabilities*	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
* And the amount of cash assets may not exceed one month of social assistance plus \$150 or \$250, respectively. <i>British Columbia, Liquid Asset Exemptions, March 2004</i>		

3.3 Earnings Exemptions

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

Employable Persons	\$0
Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers	\$300
Persons with Disabilities	\$400
Single parents with a disabled child	\$300
<i>British Columbia, Earnings Exemptions, March 2004</i>	

4.0 Benefits¹²

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

Employment and Assistance has three rates schedules: Income Assistance, Disability Assistance, and Hardship Assistance. Income Assistance rates apply to employable unattached individuals and families that do not include a person with disabilities. Disability Assistance rates apply to unattached individuals and families that include persons aged 18 years and older who have a severe and confirmed mental or physical impairment that restricts their ability to perform daily living activities. Hardship Assistance rates apply to those persons requiring temporary financial assistance on a month-to-month basis who are not eligible for income or disability assistance for a number of specific reasons.

5.0 British Columbia Family Bonus

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

The British Columbia Family Bonus is integrated with the National Child Benefit Supplement which is delivered with the Canada Child Tax Benefit and administered by the Canada Revenue Agency. Maximum combined NCBS and Family Bonus benefits are paid to those families whose income is less than \$20,500 per year.

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

¹² Effective April 1, 2002, social assistance for singles and childless couples are 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.

	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Families	220,000	209,780	207,830	207,460	205,286	204,000	194,000	186,500
Children	420,000	388,474	384,869	384,191	370,253	364,433	368,637	333,000
<i>British Columbia Family Bonus (including BC Earned Income Benefit), Number of Recipients, 1996-2004</i>								

6.0 More Information

For more information, please consult the British Columbia Ministry of Human Resources website at:

http://www.gov.bc.ca/bvprd/bc/channel.do?action=ministry&channelID=-8388&navId=NAV_ID_province.

British Columbia Employment and Assistance

Figure 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1994-2004

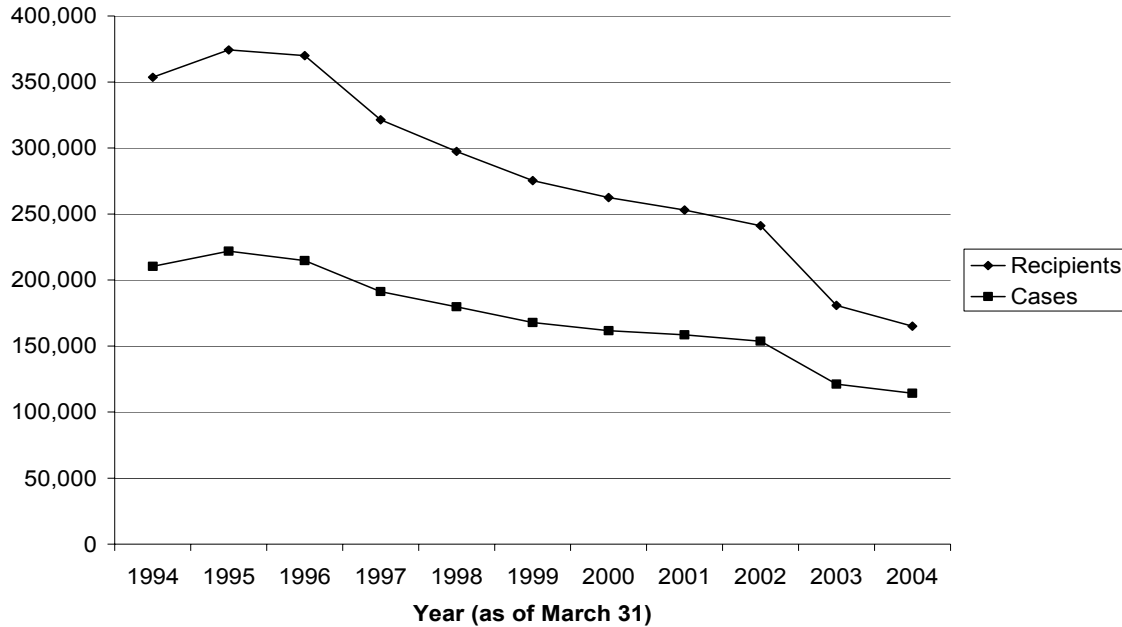


Table 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1994-2004 ^{*, ***, ****}

	2000	2001	2002 ^{****}	2003	2004
Recipients	262,400	252,900	241,200	180,700	165,000
Cases	161,600	158,400	153,700	121,100	114,300

* Cases and recipients include: basic or temporary assistance, hardship assistance, Age 60-64, Children in Home of Relative (CIHR), Persons with Disability (Handicapped or Disability Benefits II), Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers (Unemployable or Disability Benefits I), and Seniors in receipt of basic assistance.

** No transients are included in data.

*** Data represents all actual cases active during the month of March.

**** Employment and Assistance (EA) replaced BC Benefits (Income Assistance) in 2002.

	1994	1995	1996 ^{****}	1997	1998	1999
Recipients	353,500	374,300	369,900	321,300	297,400	275,200
Cases	210,400	221,800	214,700	191,200	179,700	167,700

* Cases and recipients include: basic or temporary assistance, hardship assistance, Age 60-64, Children in Home of Relative (CIHR), Persons with Disability (Handicapped or Disability Benefits II), Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers (Unemployable or Disability Benefits I), and Seniors in receipt of basic assistance.

** No transients are included in data.

*** Data represents all actual cases active during the month of March.

**** BC Benefits (1996-2002) replaced the GAINS (1976-1996).

British Columbia Employment and Assistance

Figure 2: Percentage of Cases by Reason for Assistance, March 31, 2004

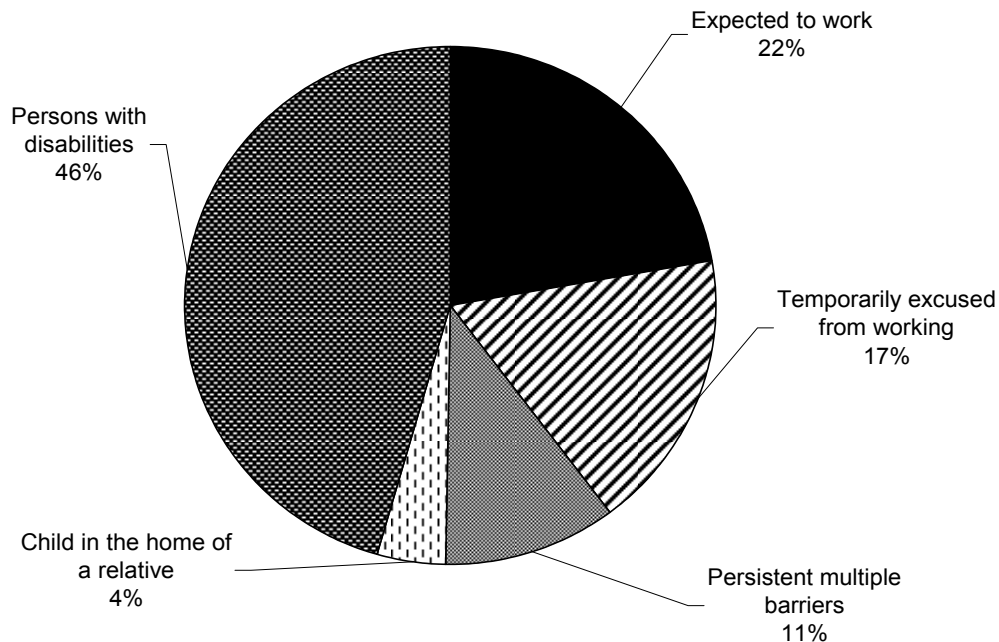


Table 2: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance, March 31, 2004

Reason for Assistance	2004
Persons with disabilities	52,200
Expected to work	25,500
Temporarily excused from working	19,900
Persistent multiple barriers	12,200
Child in the home of a relative	4,500
Total	114,300

* "Persons with disabilities" 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.

** "Expected to work" 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.

*** "Temporarily excused from working" 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.

**** "Persistent multiple barriers" include 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.

***** "Child in the home of a relative" is a 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.

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

British Columbia Employment and Assistance

Figure 3: Percentage of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

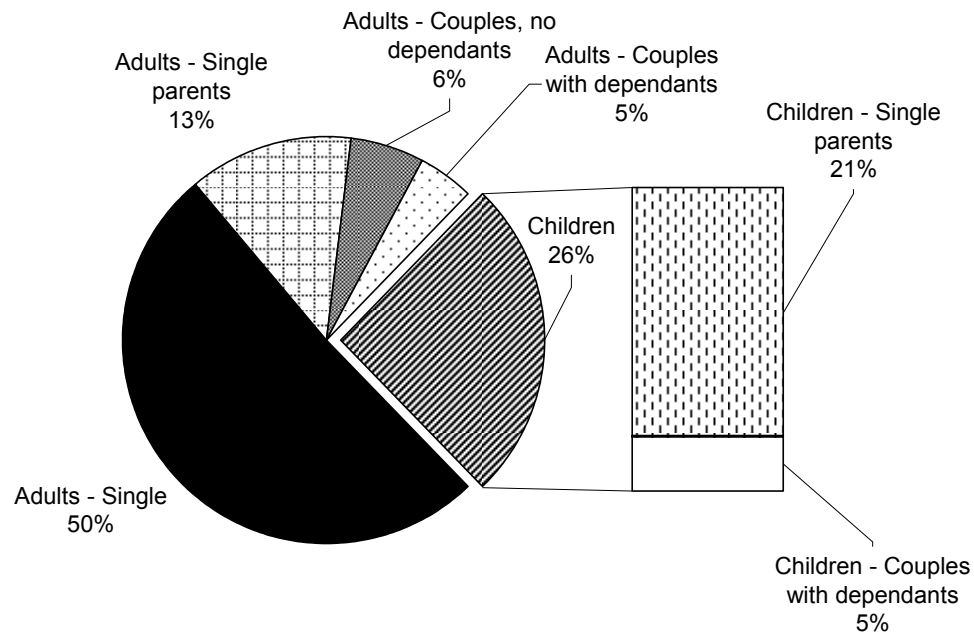


Table 3: Number of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

Family Type	2004
Adults – Single	84,400
Adults - Single parents	21,300
Adults - Couples, no dependants	9,700
Adults - Couples with dependants	7,600
Total adults	122,900
Children - Single parents	34,500
Children - Couples with dependants	7,500
Total children	42,100
Total	165,000
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

British Columbia Employment and Assistance

Figure 4: Number of Cases by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

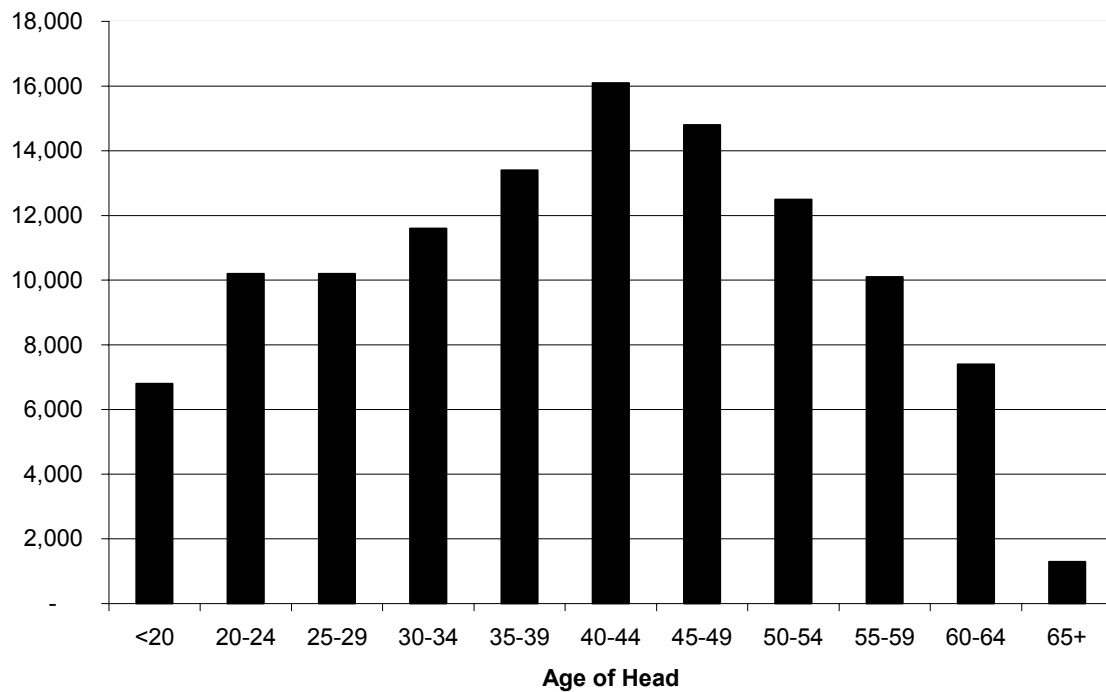


Table 4: Number of Cases by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

Age of Head	2004
<20	6,800
20-24	10,200
25-29	10,200
30-34	11,600
35-39	13,400
40-44	16,100
45-49	14,800
50-54	12,500
55-59	10,100
60-64	7,400
65+	1,300
Total	114,300
<i>Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.</i>	

British Columbia Employment and Assistance

Figure 5: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance, March 31, 2004

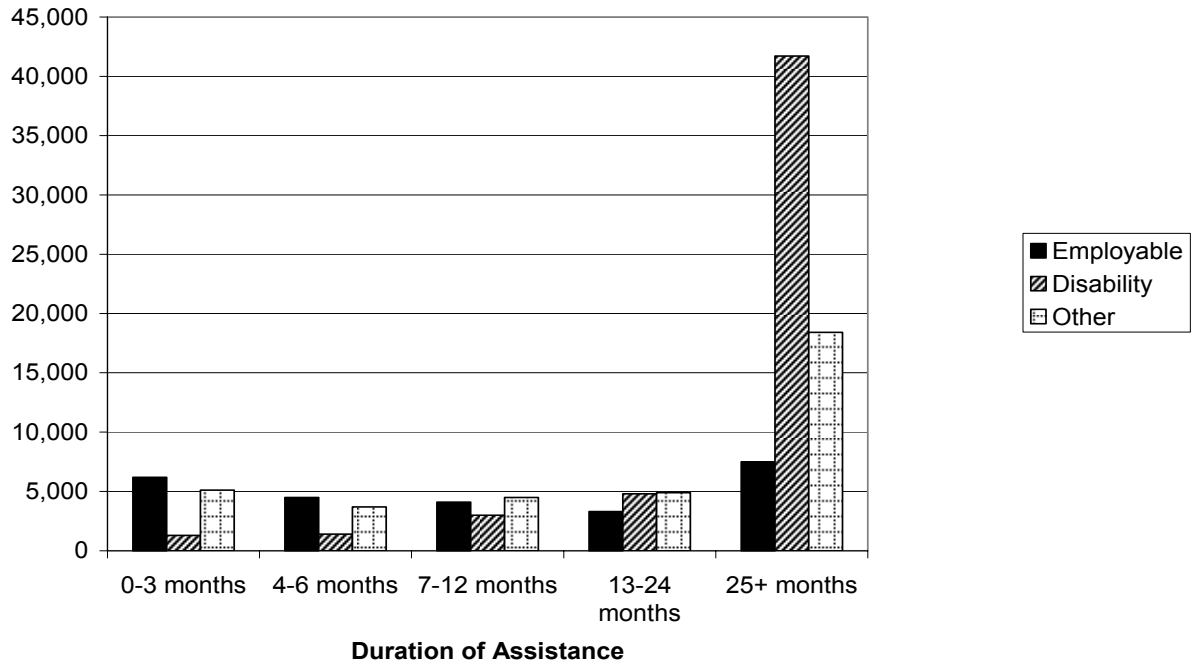


Table 5: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance, March 31, 2004

Duration of Assistance *	Reason for Assistance			Total
	Employable **	Disability ***	Other ****	
0-3 months	6,200	1,300	5,100	12,500
4-6 months	4,500	1,400	3,700	9,500
7-12 months	4,100	3,000	4,500	11,600
13-24 months	3,300	4,800	4,900	13,000
25+ months	7,500	41,700	18,400	67,600
Total	25,500	52,200	36,600	114,300
* "Duration of Assistance" measures length of current spell only. ** "Employable" includes cases that are expected to work. *** "Disability" includes cases with persons with disabilities. **** "Other" includes children living in the home of relatives, cases with persistent multiple barriers and cases temporarily excused from working. Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.				

3.13 Yukon - Social Assistance

1.0 Overview

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

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

2.0 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.

3.0 Eligibility

3.1 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.

3.2 Liquid Assets

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

	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 (of 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.
<i>Yukon, Liquid Asset Exemptions, March 2004</i>		

3.3 Earnings Exemptions¹³

¹³ 25% of monthly income from employment or self-employment is also exempt after the third month on assistance.

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

Single	\$100 of all income plus 25% of earned income.
Family	\$150 of all income plus 25% of earned income.
<i>Yukon, Earnings Exemptions, March 2004</i>	

4.0 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.¹⁴ Maximum Shelter Allowance rates are based on the number of persons in the household (including children).

5.0 More Information

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

¹⁴ 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, respectively.

Yukon Social Assistance

Figure 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1994-2004

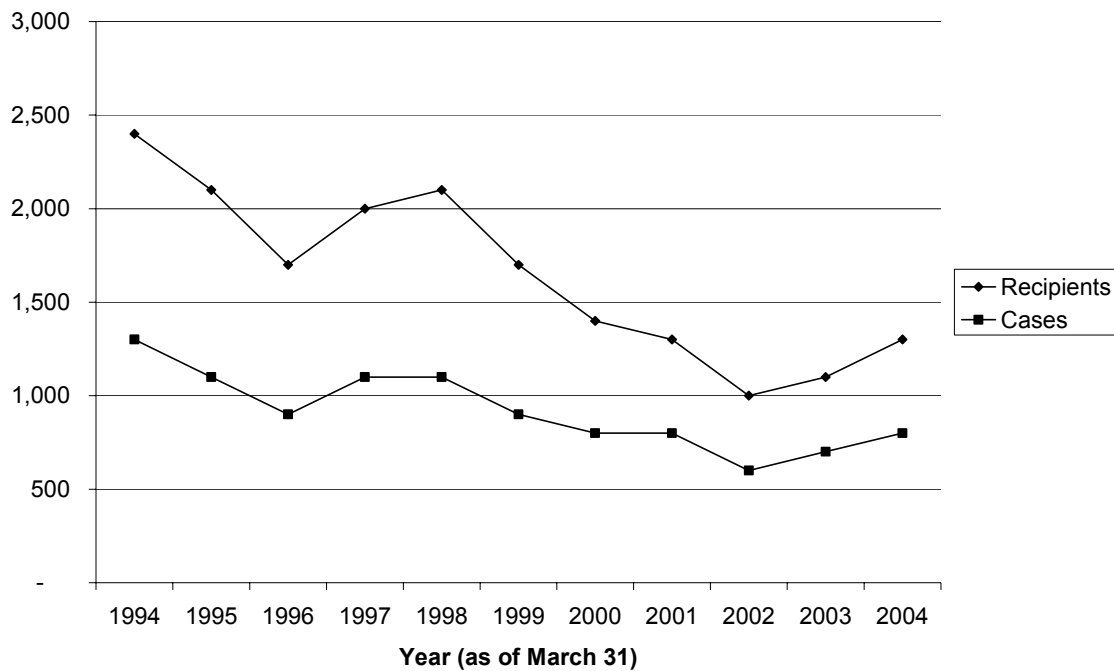


Table 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1994-2004

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Recipients	1,400	1,300	1,000	1,100	1,300
Cases	800	800	600	700	800

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Recipients	2,400	2,100	1,700	2,000	2,100	1,700
Cases	1,300	1,100	900	1,100	1,100	900

3.14 Northwest Territories - Income Assistance

1.0 Overview

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

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

2.0 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.

3.0 Eligibility

3.1 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.

3.2 Liquid Assets

At the time of application, applicants' liquid 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.

3.3 Earnings Exemptions

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

	Clients without Disabilities	Clients with Disabilities
Single	\$200	\$200
Family	\$400	\$400

Northwest Territories, Earnings Exemptions, March 2004

4.0 Benefits

Basic assistance consists of a Basic Allowance and a Shelter Allowance. The Basic Allowance covers the cost of food and personal and household items. Maximum Basic Allowance rates are based on the household's size, its composition, and its geographical location. Maximum Shelter Allowance rates are based on the number of persons in the household (including children). The actual amount of fuel and utilities is paid.

Supplementary assistance consists of additional benefits for clothing, furnishings, school expenses for Kindergarten to Grade 12, tuition and textbooks for post-secondary education, seasonal clothing, security deposits and child care.¹⁵ Clients must be participating in a Productive Choice in order to be eligible for supplementary assistance.

An enhanced benefit is also available for persons with disabilities and seniors.

5.0 More Information

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

¹⁵ In order to receive the seasonal clothing and furnishings benefits, a client must have been in receipt of assistance for six of the twelve previous months.

Northwest Territories Income Assistance

Figure 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1994-2004

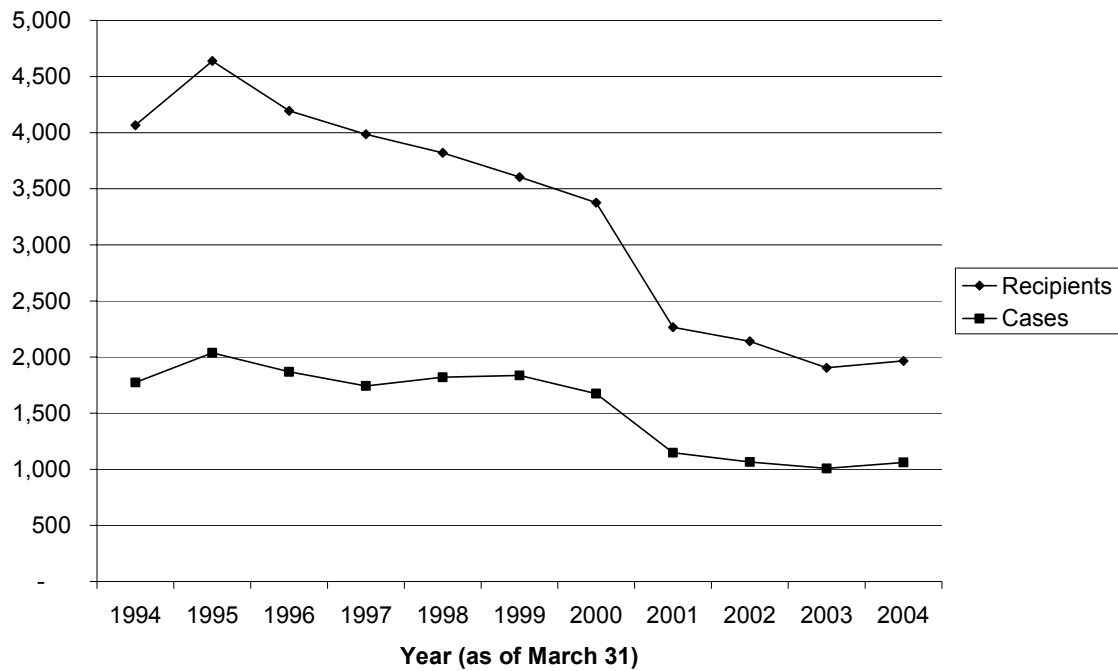


Table 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 1994-2004

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Recipients	3,376	2,266	2,140	1,904	1,965
Cases	1,675	1,148	1,064	1,008	1,062

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Recipients	4,067	4,638	4,195	3,985	3,820	3,604
Cases	1,773	2,038	1,868	1,743	1,820	1,837

Northwest Territories Income Assistance

Figure 2: Percentage of Cases by Reason for Assistance, March 31, 2004

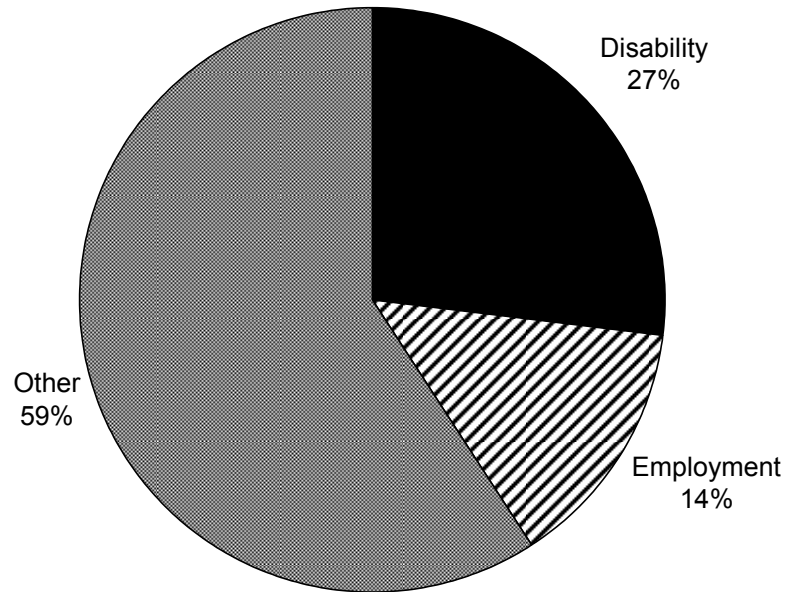


Table 2: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance, March 31, 2004

Reason for Assistance	2004
Other	629
Disability	286
Employment	147
Total	1,062

Northwest Territories Income Assistance

Figure 3: Percentage of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

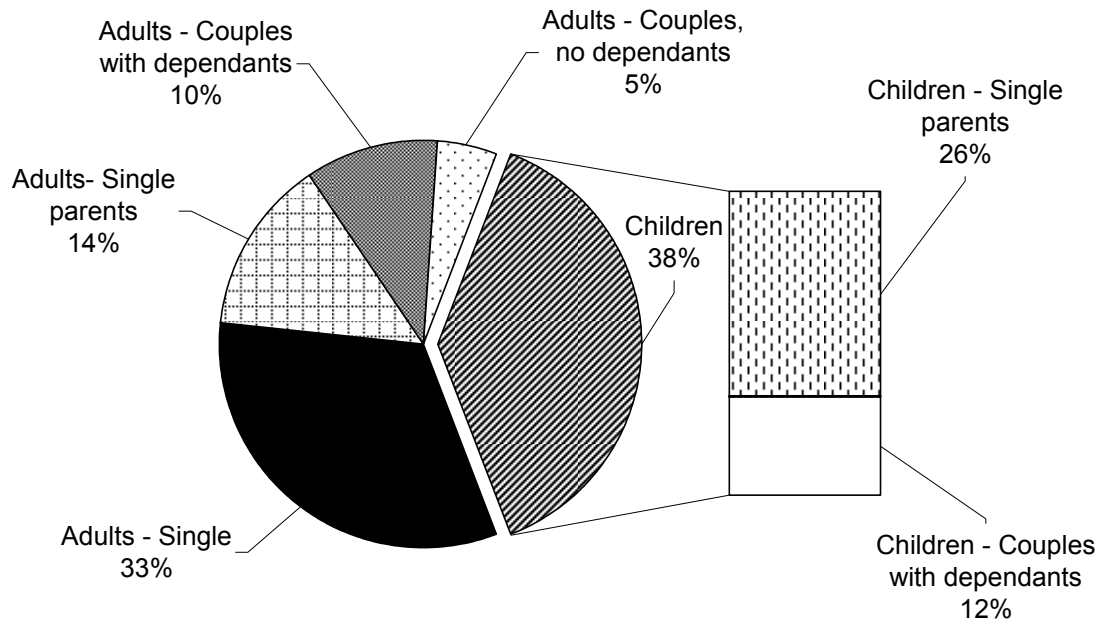


Table 3: Number of Recipients by Family Type, March 31, 2004

Family Type	2004
Adults – Single	637
Adults - Single parents	276
Adults - Couples with dependants	204
Adults - Couples, no dependants	94
Total adults	1,211
Children - Single parents	512
Children - Couples with dependants	242
Total children	754
Total	1,965

Northwest Territories Income Assistance

Figure 4: Number of Cases by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

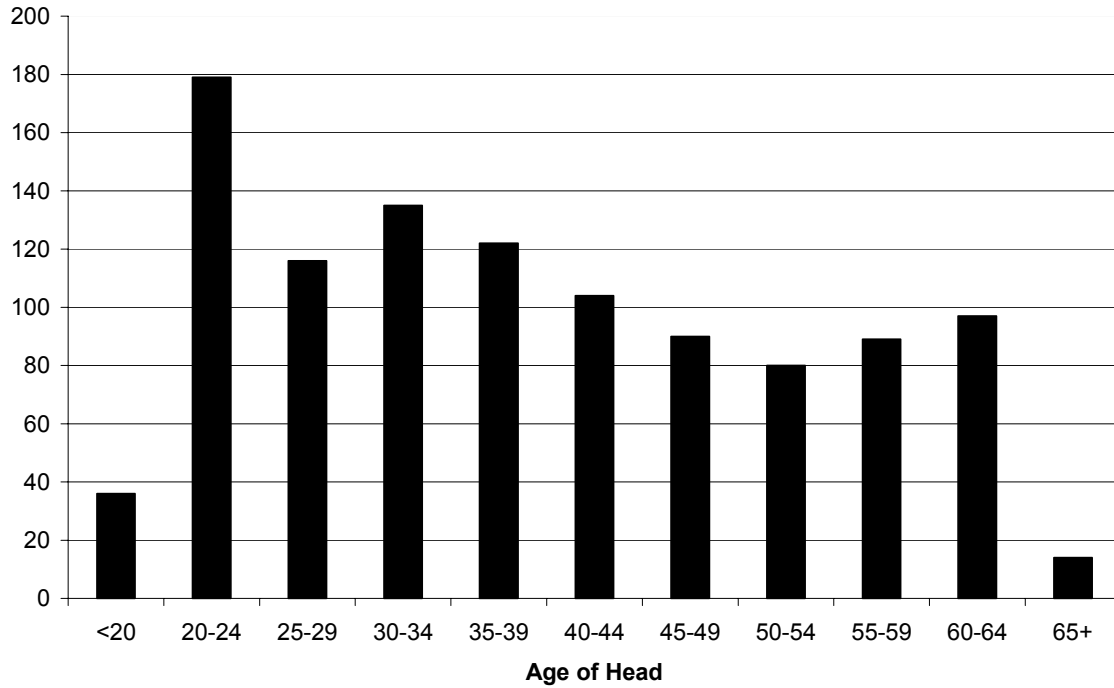


Table 4: Number of Cases by Age of Head, March 31, 2004

Age of Head	2004
<20	36
20-24	179
25-29	116
30-34	135
35-39	122
40-44	104
45-49	90
50-54	80
55-59	89
60-64	97
65+	14
Total	1,062

Northwest Territories Income Assistance

Figure 5: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance, March 31, 2004

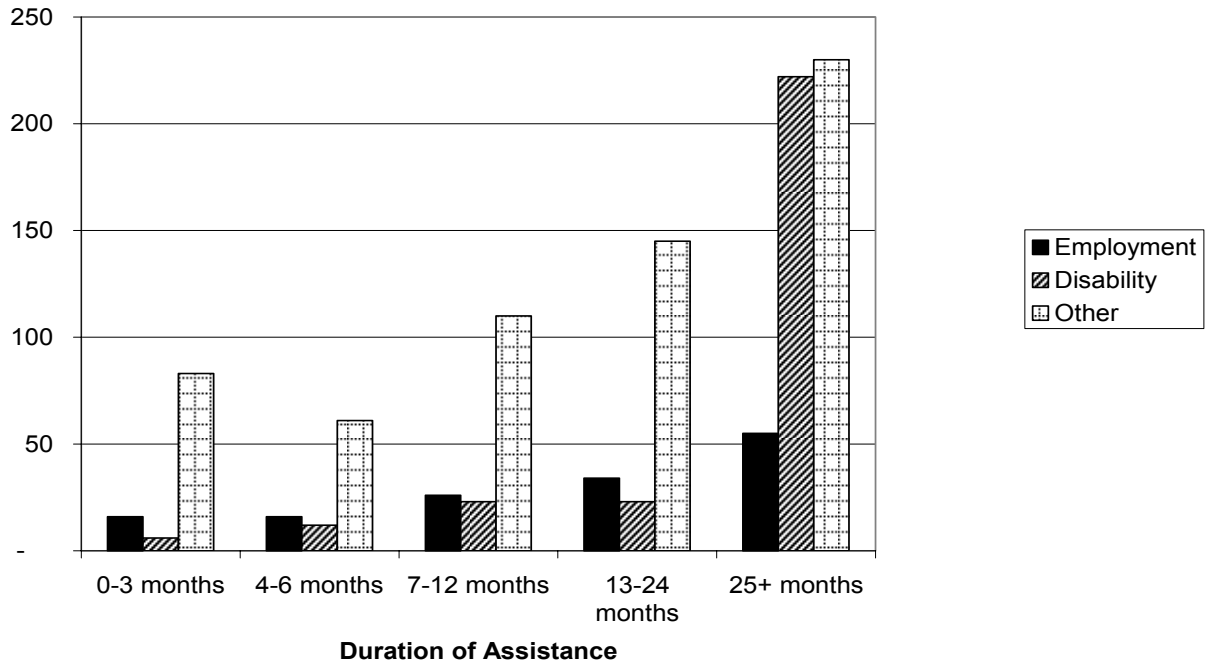


Table 5: Number of Cases by Reason for Assistance and Duration of Assistance, March 31, 2004

Duration of Assistance*	Reason for Assistance			Total
	Employment	Disability	Other	
0-3 months	16	6	83	105
4-6 months	16	12	61	89
7-12 months	26	23	110	159
13-24 months	34	23	145	202
25+ months	55	222	230	507
Total	147	286	629	1,062
* "Duration of Assistance" measures length of current spell only.				

Northwest Territories Income Assistance

Figure 6: Percentage of Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income, March 31, 2004

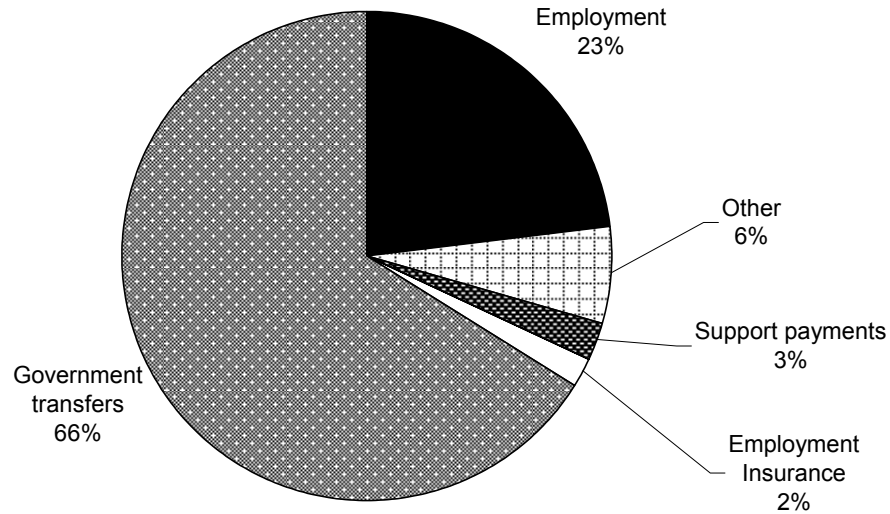


Table 6: Number of Cases Reporting Income, by Source of Income, March 31, 2004

Source of Income	2004
Government transfers	424
Employment	147
Other	41
Support payments	17
Employment Insurance	11
Total	640
Total cases in these categories are unique. Cases receiving income from more than one source are counted only once.	

Table 7: Number of Cases Reporting Income, March 31, 2004

Reporting income	640
No income	422
Total	1,062

3.15 Nunavut - Income Support

1.0 Overview

In Nunavut, the territorial social assistance program is known as Income Support (IS). 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.

2.0 Service Delivery

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

3.0 Eligibility

3.1 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.

3.2 Liquid Assets

At the time of application, applicants' liquid 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.

3.3 Earnings Exemptions

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

	Clients without Disabilities	Clients with Disabilities
Single	\$200	\$200
Family	\$400	\$400
<i>Nunavut, Earnings Exemptions, March 2004</i>		

4.0 Benefits

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

Extended Benefits such as a clothing allowance, expenses related to education and training, an incidental allowance, a furniture and equipment replacement allowance, and emergency assistance may be available to eligible clients. Clients must be participating in a Productive Choice in order to be eligible for extended benefits.

An extended benefit may also be available for persons with disabilities and seniors. Clients in these categories do not have to participate in a Productive Choice.

5.0 More Information

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

Nunavut Income Support

Figure 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 2001-2004

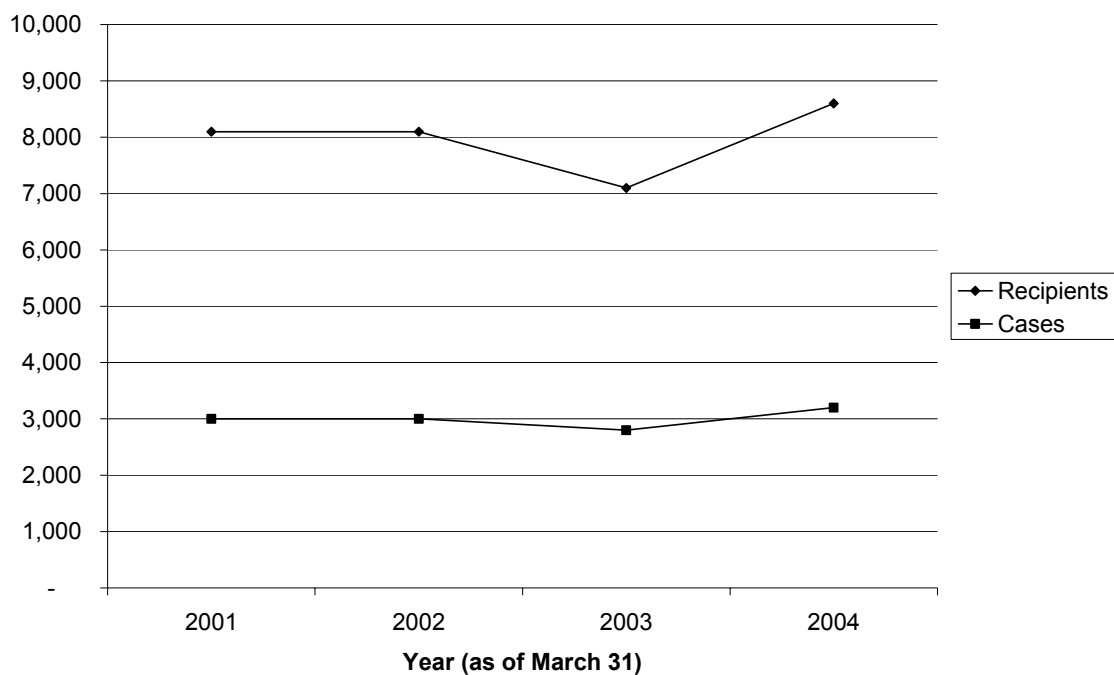


Table 1: Number of Cases and Recipients, March 31, 2001-2004

	2001	2002	2003	2004
Recipients	8,100	8,100	7,100	8,600
Cases	3,000	3,000	2,800	3,200
* Nunavut is still operating without an electronic case management information system, and therefore unable to provide detailed profile data.				