

## General Characteristics of the Welfare Population

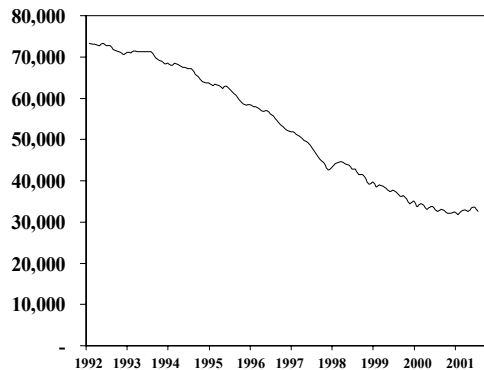
This short subject lists selected characteristics of families on welfare (Aid to Families with Dependent Children and Minnesota Family Investment Program). “Families” used here are households where both the parents and the children are eligible for welfare.

### *Number of families on welfare decreased*

From January 1992 to July 2001:

- The number of families with eligible parents and children decreased by 55 percent, from 72,218 to 33,652
- The Minnesota Department of Human Services reports that the average monthly number of child-only cases in fiscal year 2001 was 8,200

### The Number of Families on AFDC and MFIP from January 1992 through July 2002

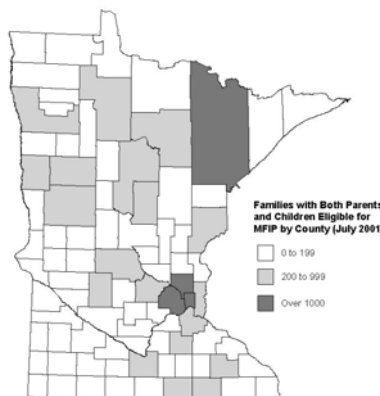


### *Where they lived*

As of July 2001:

- 52 percent of the families lived in Hennepin or Ramsey County
- 66 percent lived in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area or other standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas

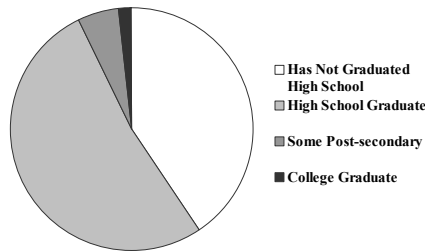
Families with Both Parents and Children Eligible for MFIP by County (July 2001)



***Their educational attainment***

- As of July 2001, 40 percent of caretakers had not finished high school.

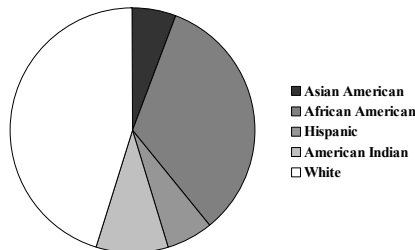
**Educational Attainment of Caretaker (July 2001)**



***Their racial background***

- As of July 2001, 45 percent of caretakers were white.

**Race of Caretaker (July 2001)**



***Their family size***

As of July 2001:

- 28 percent of families were or were eligible as a two-parent family
- 49 percent of the families had three or more children on AFDC or MFIP

***How long do families stay on welfare?***

**First-Time Entrants to Welfare.** For families entering after July 1997, which was the earliest year parents could enter MFIP:

- 50 percent of caretakers stay for eight or more months
- 25 percent of caretakers return within 12 months after their first time on welfare

(Family characteristics may vary over time.)

**Total Time on Welfare.** For families entering between July 1997 and December 1997, and includes all families regardless of whether they are subject to the 60-month time limit:

- 6.8 percent of caretakers have been on welfare for more than three years by July 2001

**For more information:** Contact legislative analyst Don Hirasuna at 651-296-8038. Also see the House Research publication *Characteristics of AFDC/MFIP Recipients*, March 2000, for more information.

The Research Department of the Minnesota House of Representatives is a nonpartisan office providing legislative, legal, and information services to the entire House.