



Social Assistance Summaries, 2021

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All of the data contained in this report is available to download at www.maytree.com/social-assistance-summaries

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About Social Assistance Summaries

What is Social Assistance Summaries?

Social Assistance Summaries uses data provided by provincial and territorial government officials to track the number of social assistance recipients across Canada. It also includes a brief description of the social assistance programs in each jurisdiction.

This resource was established by the Caledon Institute of Social Policy to maintain data previously published in the *Social Assistance Statistical Report* by the federal government. In 2018, Maytree assumed responsibility for updating the series.

What is social assistance?

Social assistance is the income program of last resort. It is intended for those who have exhausted all other means of financial support. Every province and territory has its own social assistance program(s), and no two are the same. The basic structure of social assistance is much the same across the country, but each program has different administrative rules, eligibility criteria, benefit levels, and provisions concerning special types of assistance.

What is new in the 2021 report?

Social Assistance Summaries, 2021 now includes disaggregated social assistance data from all provinces and territories, notably:

- Cases and beneficiaries by household type: unattached singles, single parents, couples with children, and couples without children.
- Beneficiaries by gender or sex (depending on provincial or territorial nomenclature) with two categories: male and female.

Please note that two jurisdictions provided incomplete data. Disaggregated data for Prince Edward Island was only available for cases, and not beneficiaries. Nunavut provided limited household data for cases.

In addition, *Social Assistance Summaries, 2021* now includes analysis of social assistance beneficiaries as a proportion of the under-65 population for every jurisdiction.



Who can claim social assistance?

Eligibility for social assistance is determined on the basis of a needs test. This test takes into account the household's basic needs and its financial resources, which include both assets and income. The needs test assesses whether there is a shortfall between available financial resources and the legislated amounts for basic needs (i.e., food, shelter, clothing, household, and personal needs). Additional amounts may be paid on a discretionary basis for special needs based on each household's circumstances.

Where does the data come from?

Every year provincial and territorial government officials provide us with an update of the social assistance case and recipient numbers (some jurisdictions also publish this information online). They can provide this data as a calendar year average, a fiscal year average, or as point-in-time data for March 31.

Data from before 2014 comes from two federal government reports: the *Social Assistance Statistical Report: 2008* and the *Social Assistance Statistical Report: 2009-13*. When the federal data did not reconcile with provincial/territorial figures, the Caledon Institute of Social Policy worked with jurisdictional representatives to present data in the format most often used by their governments.

What is the difference between cases and beneficiaries?


Cases are equivalent to an individual or family: the person who applied for benefits, their partner, and any dependent children count as a single case.

Beneficiaries or recipients refer to the total number of people who benefit from a single social assistance claim, i.e., the individual claimant plus their partner, and any dependent children within their household.

How does each jurisdiction vary in its reporting?

Each jurisdiction uses its own methodology for tracking and reporting social assistance caseloads. For example, some provinces include households that receive a partial benefit or top-up from social assistance while others do not; some include First Nations living on reserve while others do not. They also vary in the way they calculate the number of social assistance cases and beneficiaries:

- Three jurisdictions provide data for the situation on March 31: Alberta, Nova Scotia (prior to 2007), and Yukon.

- 
- Two jurisdictions provide an average over the calendar year: Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nunavut.
 - Nine jurisdictions provide an average over the fiscal year (April to March): British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, the Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia (2007-08 onwards), Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, and Saskatchewan.

Can I compare the data for different jurisdictions?

Comparisons between jurisdictions can be misleading because each jurisdiction has different eligibility criteria for social assistance and different methods for recording social assistance data. For example, the numbers will be lower for jurisdictions that count only households in receipt of full benefits.

The data is also affected by how federal programs interact with provincial/territorial benefits. For example, a higher take-up of related income security programs such as Employment Insurance typically reduces social assistance caseloads.

Why does the number of claims change from year to year?

There are two main reasons why the social assistance caseloads change from year to year. One reason is a change in the social and economic situation in an area. For example, a rise in unemployment is likely to result in a rise in social assistance claims. The other reason is a change in the way that social assistance programs operate. For example, people are ineligible for social assistance if their savings are above a certain threshold; if a jurisdiction increases this threshold, more people would be eligible and the number of claimants is likely to increase. Similarly, changes to eligibility for federal benefits can also have a knock-on effect on provincial/territorial caseloads.

Does the data include on-reserve First Nations claiming social assistance?

Not all jurisdictions include First Nations living on reserves in their social assistance data. For details, see the “data notes” under the statistics section for each province or territory.



Alberta

Alberta's social assistance program

Social assistance is the income program of last resort. It is intended for those who have exhausted all other means of financial support. Every province and territory has its own social assistance program(s), and no two are the same.

In Alberta, there are two social assistance programs:

1. Alberta Supports; and
2. Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped.

Alberta Supports (formerly Alberta Works)

Alberta Supports helps unemployed people to find and keep jobs, employers to meet their need for skilled workers, and Albertans with low incomes to cover their basic costs of living. There are four components to Alberta Supports:

1. Employment and Training Services – help to find employment, take training, or plan a new career;
2. Income Support – money to meet basic needs;
3. Child Support Services – free service to get child support agreements or court orders; and
4. Health Benefits – supplementary health coverage.

The caseload and beneficiary data below refers to those receiving the Income Support component of Alberta Supports. There are four channels through which Albertans can qualify for Income Support:

1. Barriers to Full Employment – for those who cannot work due to chronic health problems or other barriers to employment;
2. Expected to Work – for those looking for work, working but not earning enough, or temporarily unable to work;
3. Learners – for those who need training so they can get a job;
4. Emergency Allowance – for those with an unexpected, one-time emergency through no fault of their own (e.g., sudden eviction due to fire).

Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH)

The AISH program provides financial and health-related assistance to eligible adult Albertans with a disability. To be eligible for AISH, individuals must have a mental or physical impairment that causes substantial limitation in their ability to earn a livelihood, and is likely to affect them permanently. They must also meet criteria for income, assets, age, and residency.

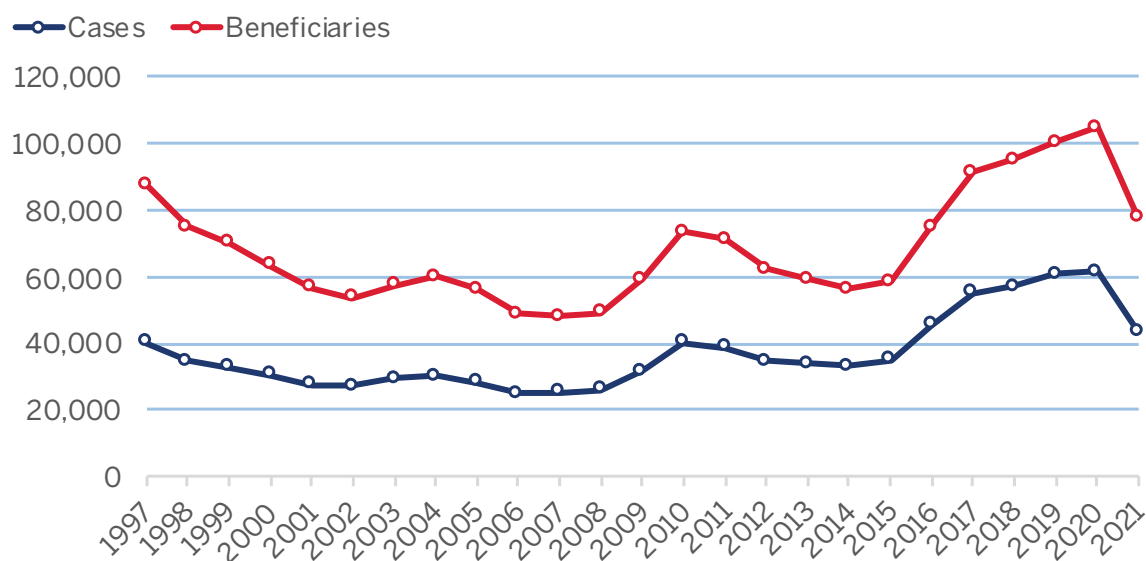
How many people claim social assistance?

Alberta Supports

Between March 2020 and March 2021, the number of cases (families and single adults) in the Alberta Supports program fell by almost 30 per cent to around 43,600. The previous year, it had reached the highest it has been since 1997 — just under 61,400. Previously, cases had increased yearly from March 2014 to March 2020.

Overall, about 77,700 people (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) benefited from Alberta Supports in March 2021.

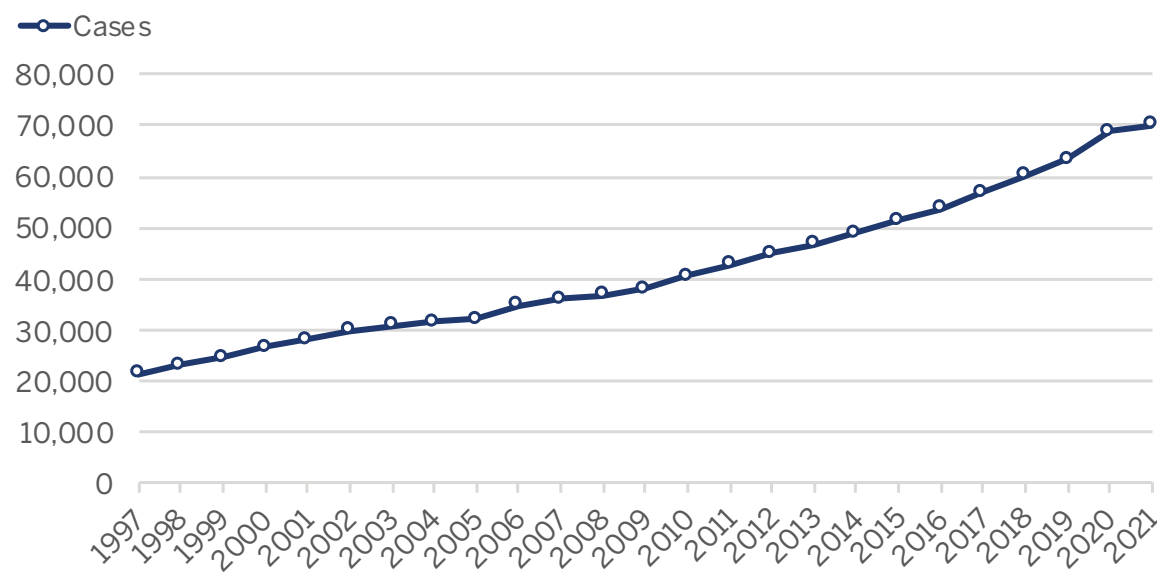
Figure 1AB – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Alberta Supports, 1997 to 2021



Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH)

In March 2021, there were almost 70,000 cases in Alberta's AISH program. The number of cases has been rising steadily over the last two decades, although the increase was notably smaller in 2021.

Figure 2AB – Yearly cases of Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) in Alberta, 1997 to 2021



What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

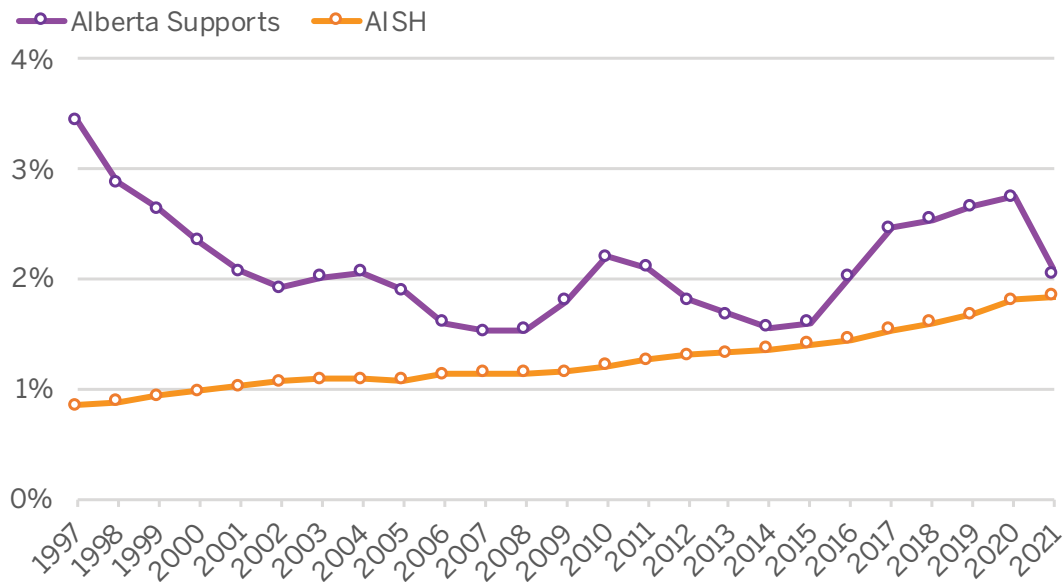
In March 2021, under 3.8 per cent of people in Alberta under 65 received Alberta Supports or AISH, which is about 1 in 26. The proportion of recipients receiving social assistance has followed a similar pattern as the total number of recipients.

The proportion of people under 65 receiving AISH has increased consistently since 1997, reaching a high of 1.8 per cent in both March 2020 and March 2021.

The proportion of Alberta Supports beneficiaries decreased gradually until March 2008, followed by a period of fluctuation between 1.5 per cent and 2.5 per cent from March 2002 to March 2017, and reaching a peak once again in March 2020 at 2.7 per cent. In March 2021, the proportion of Alberta Supports recipients declined for the first time in seven years, reaching 2 per cent.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of a given year, whereas social assistance beneficiary data is for March 31 of a given year.

Figure 3AB – Yearly beneficiaries of Alberta Supports and cases of AISH as a proportion of the under-65 Alberta population, 1997 to 2021



Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2021. Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex. Accessed at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>

Who is receiving social assistance?

In March 2021, unattached singles comprised the majority of cases among households for both Alberta Supports and AISH, with 66 per cent and 86 per cent, respectively. For Alberta Supports, single parent households comprise the highest proportion of beneficiaries, with over 44 per cent, followed by unattached singles, with 37 per cent.

Females made up the majority of Alberta Supports beneficiaries in March 2021, with almost 63 per cent. However, males made up the majority of AISH cases, with 53 per cent.

Alberta Supports (formerly Alberta Works)

Figure 4AB – Cases and beneficiaries of Alberta Supports by household, 2021

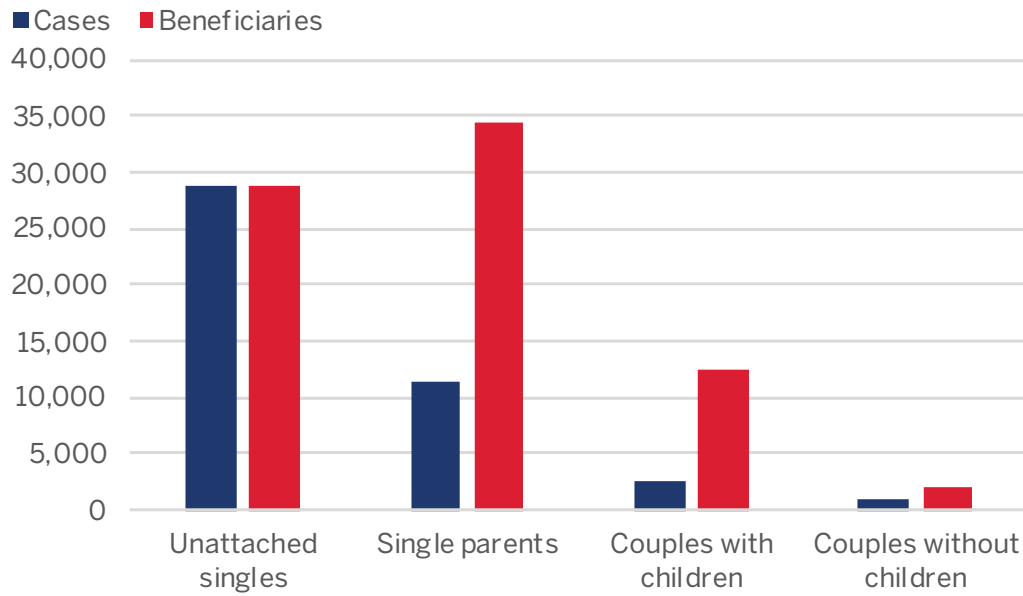
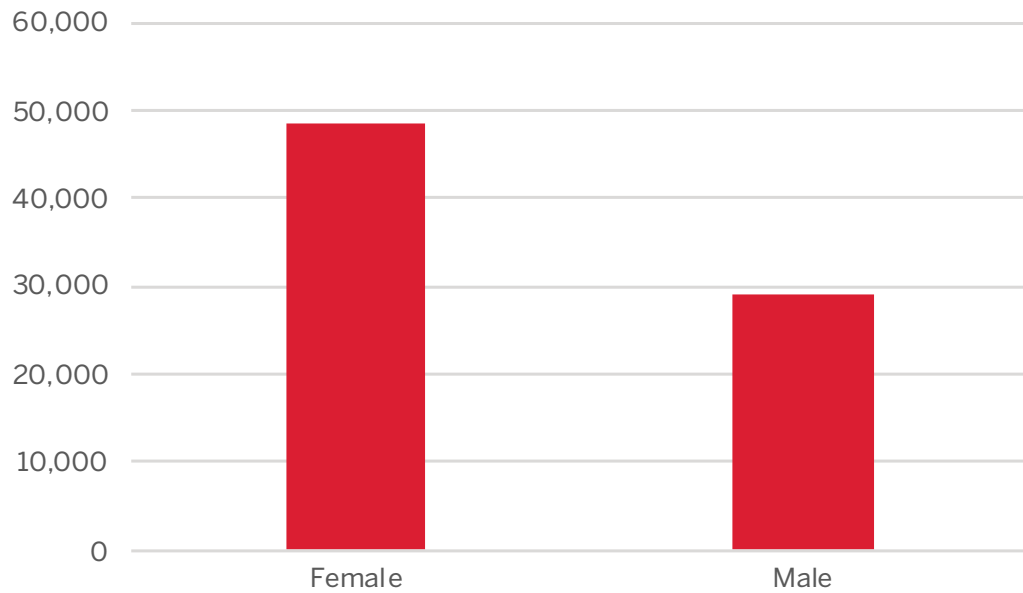


Figure 5AB – Beneficiaries of Alberta Supports by gender, 2021



Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH)

Figure 6AB – Cases of Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) by household, 2021

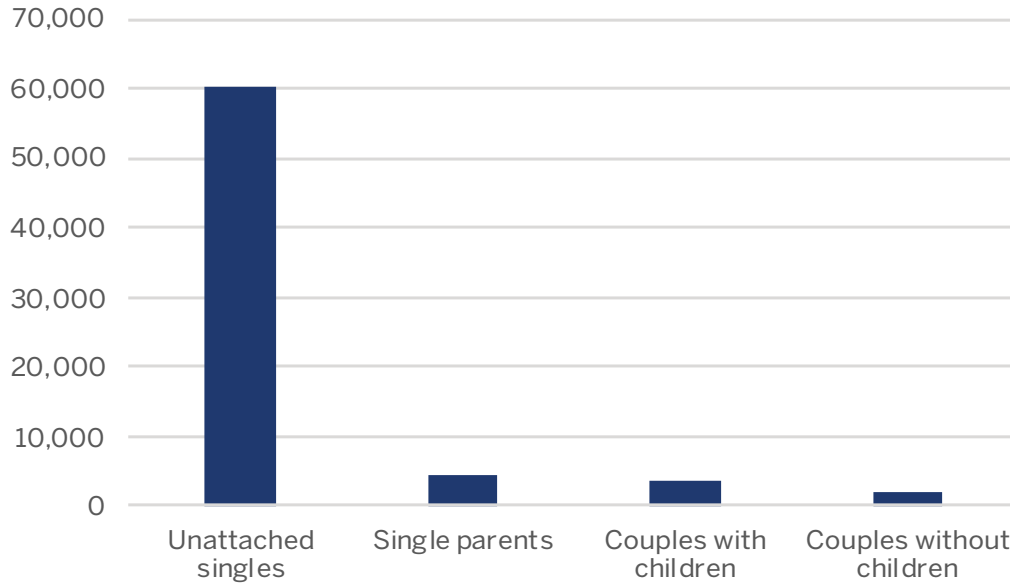
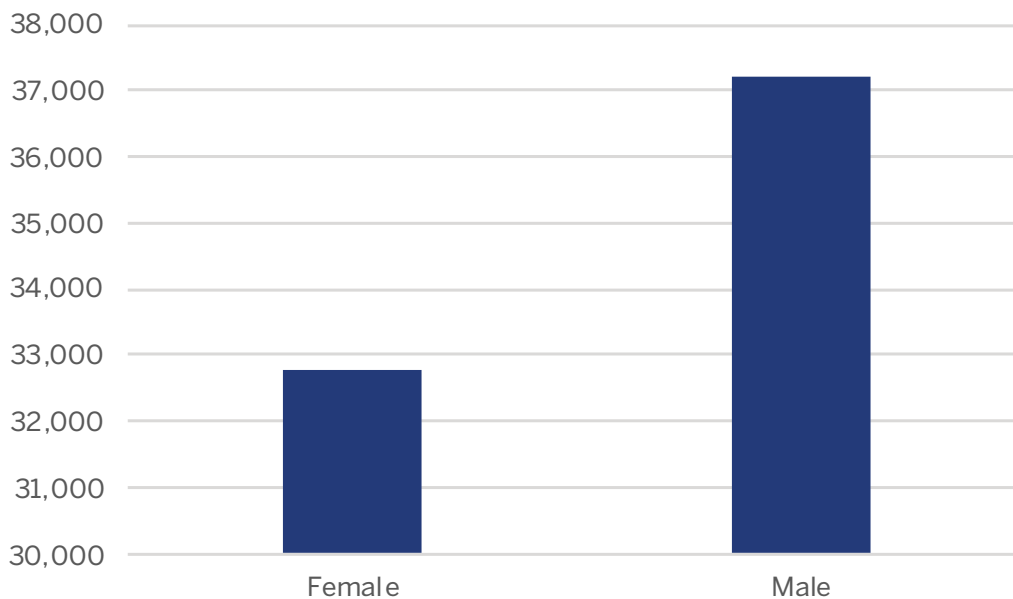


Figure 7AB – Cases of Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) by gender, 2021



Data

Figure 8AB – Yearly social assistance data for Alberta, 1997 to 2021

Year	Alberta Supports		AISH
	Cases	Beneficiaries	Cases
1997	40,100	87,700	21,500
1998	34,500	75,100	23,100
1999	32,800	70,000	24,700
2000	30,400	63,400	26,500
2001	27,600	56,800	28,200
2002	27,200	53,800	29,800
2003	29,600	57,500	30,900
2004	30,300	59,900	31,500
2005	28,500	56,400	32,000
2006	25,100	49,000	34,800
2007	25,200	48,100	36,100
2008	25,961	49,379	36,747
2009	31,615	59,176	38,065
2010	40,146	73,350	40,439
2011	38,955	71,137	42,820
2012	34,852	62,426	44,901
2013	34,068	59,356	46,805
2014	33,211	56,433	49,060
2015	35,009	58,653	51,492
2016	45,428	74,989	53,590
2017	55,241	91,267	57,012
2018	57,219	95,105	60,027
2019	60,581	100,329	63,453
2020	61,382	104,706	68,950
2021	43,640	77,729	69,976

Figure 9AB – Social assistance data by household for Alberta, 2021

Household Type	Alberta Supports		AISH
	Cases	Beneficiaries	Cases
Unattached singles	28,796	28,796	60,234
Single parents	11,434	34,421	4,345
Couples with children	2,418	12,528	3,461
Couples without children	992	1,984	1,936

Figure 10AB – Social assistance data by gender for Alberta, 2021

	Alberta Supports	AISH
Gender	Beneficiaries	Cases
Female	48,584	32,757
Male	29,145	37,219

Data notes

- Alberta Supports (formerly Alberta Works) was implemented in 2004. The data for 2003 and earlier is for its predecessor, the Supports for Independence program.
- The data reflects the number of cases and beneficiaries on March 31 of each year.
- Alberta Supports figures do not include First Nations living on reserves. AISH figures include First Nations living on reserves.
- Figures for 1997 to 2007 are drawn from the 2008 and 2009-13 Social Assistance Statistical Reports with figures rounded to 100s. Figures for 2008 onwards are the actual numbers supplied by Alberta Community and Social Services.



British Columbia

British Columbia's social assistance program

Social assistance is the income program of last resort. It is intended for those who have exhausted all other means of financial support. Every province and territory has its own social assistance program(s), and no two are the same.

In British Columbia, basic support and shelter benefits are provided through the British Columbia Employment and Assistance (BCEA) program, which is both income- and asset-tested.

BCEA clients are divided into two main streams of assistance:

1. Income Assistance (also called Temporary Assistance); and
2. Disability Assistance.


Those who are not eligible for Income or Disability Assistance may be able to access support for essential costs through BCEA Hardship Assistance, such as those awaiting other income or benefits like Employment Insurance or those completing the work search required to receive regular assistance. Hardship Assistance is provided on a temporary basis for one month at a time.

Income Assistance

Income Assistance consists of a support allowance and a shelter allowance. The support allowance is intended to cover the cost of food, clothing, and personal and household items of the family. The shelter allowance is intended to pay for actual shelter costs (up to a maximum amount). The maximum amount of support allowance and shelter allowance available varies by family size.

In order to be eligible for Income Assistance, applicants must meet eligibility requirements and fit the criteria of one of four groups:

1. Expected to Work: employable individuals;
2. Expected to Work Medical Condition: employable individuals with short-term medical issues;
3. No Employment-related Obligations: numerous categories (e.g., single parents with a child under three and seniors); and

- 
4. **Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers:** individuals with long-term barriers to employment that are not expected to be overcome in the short term.

Disability Assistance

The Disability Assistance stream of BCEA recognizes that people with disabilities may require additional supports in order to meet the challenges of daily living through a higher assistance rate, an annual earnings exemption, supplementary assistance, and specialized employment supports.

The BC Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act defines a person with disabilities as an individual who is at least 18 years of age, with a severe physical or mental impairment that is expected to continue for at least two years, and who:

- is significantly restricted in his or her ability to perform daily living activities, and
- requires assistance with daily living activities.

This definition also includes individuals with episodic illnesses that restrict daily living activities continuously or periodically for extended periods.

The BC Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act also allows individuals approved for another prescribed government program or benefit (e.g., Canada Pension Plan Disability Benefit) to be designated as a Person with Disabilities without going through the standard application process.

Once individuals qualify for Disability Assistance, they keep their Persons with Disabilities designation after they leave assistance (for employment or other income support programs) and may maintain their medical assistance.

BCEA Supplements

Along with assistance for everyday living and shelter costs, recipients may also qualify for General Supplements and Health Supplements through BCEA. These are intended to offset certain additional costs that some families face (such as the extra costs associated with a child's schooling or the transportation costs associated with essential medical treatment).

How many people claim social assistance?

On average, there were just over 160,700 cases (families and single adults) in British Columbia’s social assistance program during 2020-21. Twenty-nine per cent (46,637) of cases received Income Assistance (also known as Temporary Assistance) and 71 per cent (114,108) received Disability Assistance.

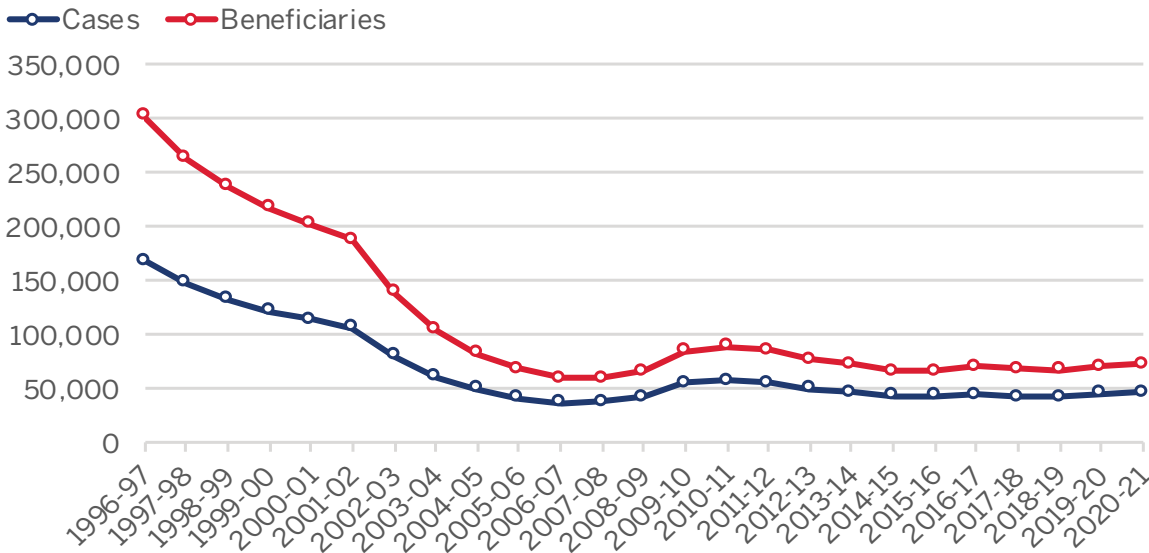
The total number of social assistance cases increased by about 5,600 in 2020-21. For the second year in a row, the increase was split between the two programs and did not strictly come from a rise in the number receiving Disability Assistance.

Income Assistance

The average number of Income Assistance cases and beneficiaries in British Columbia substantively increased for the second year in a row. In 2020-21, the number of Income Assistance cases rose by about 1,400 to reach just over 46,600, and the number of beneficiaries rose by more than 1,700 to reach over 72,700.

The number of Income Assistance cases and beneficiaries fell substantially in the late-1990s and early-2000s. They rose in the late-2000s following the recession, but have remained much lower than the numbers from the previous decade.

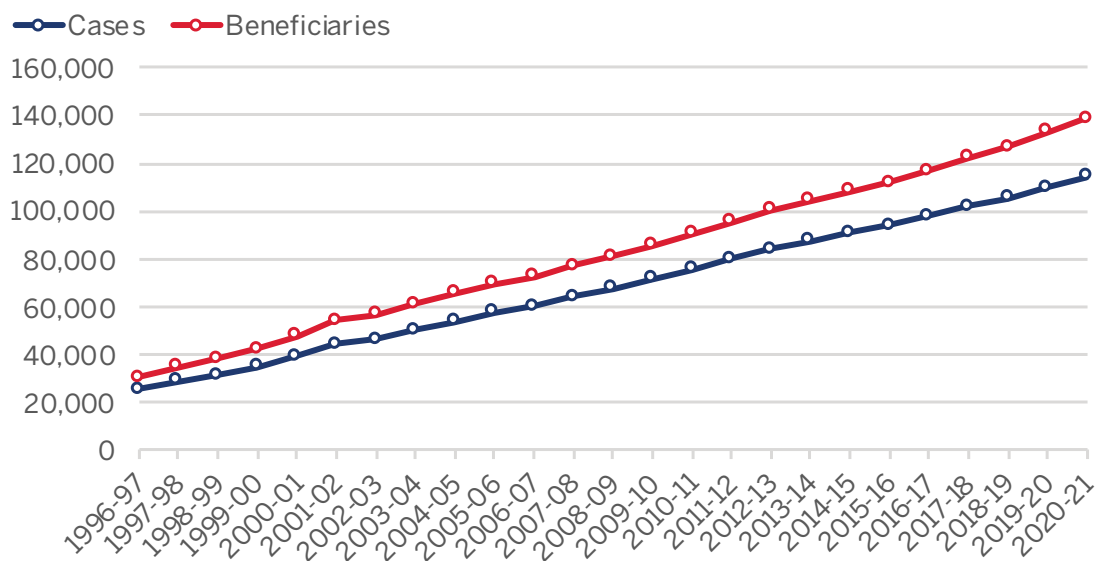
Figure 1BC – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Income Assistance in British Columbia, 1996 to 2021



Disability Assistance

In 2020-21, there was an average of about 114,100 cases in British Columbia's Disability Assistance program, and just under 138,500 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children). Both numbers have been steadily rising over the last two decades.

Figure 2BC – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Disability Assistance in British Columbia, 1996 to 2021



What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

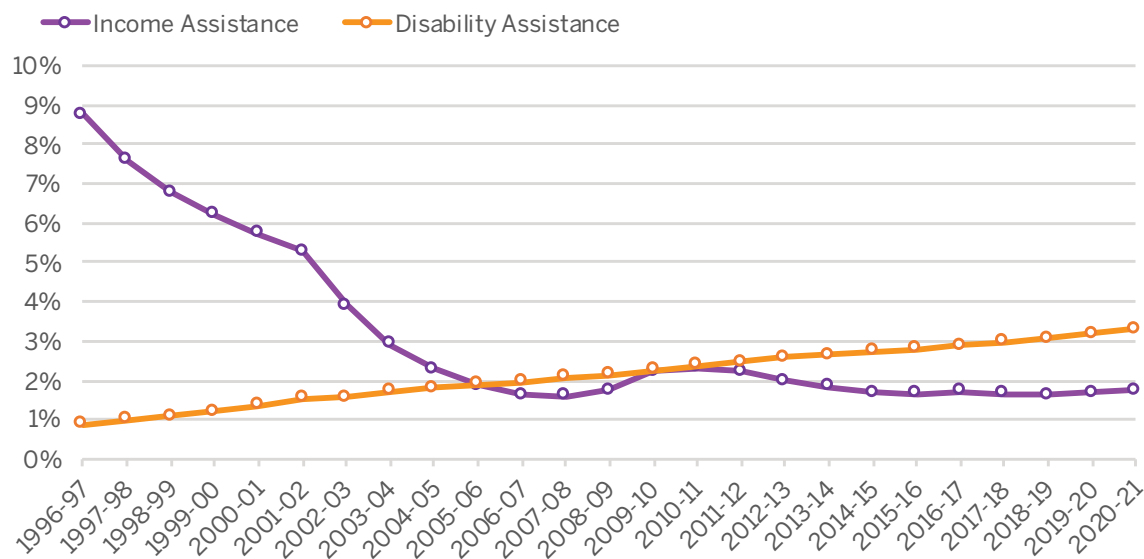
In 2020-21, on average, 5 per cent of people in British Columbia under 65 received Income Assistance or Disability Assistance, which is 1 in 20. The proportion of recipients receiving social assistance has followed a similar pattern as the total number of recipients.

The proportion of people under 65 receiving Disability Assistance has increased consistently since 1996-97, reaching 3.3 per cent in 2020-21.

The proportion of Income Assistance beneficiaries decreased steeply from 1996-97 to 2006-07, going from 8.8 per cent to 1.6 per cent. The proportion increased slightly to a peak of 2.4 per cent in 2010-11, and then decreased to reach a yearly average of about 1.7 per cent for the past seven years. In 2020-21, the average proportion of Income Assistance beneficiaries relative to the under-65 population remained stable at 1.7 per cent.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of a given year, whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April to March).

Figure 3BC – Yearly beneficiaries of Income Assistance and Disability Assistance as a proportion of the under-65 population of British Columbia, 1996 to 2021



Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2021. Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex. Accessed at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>

Who is receiving social assistance?

In 2020-21, unattached singles comprised the majority of social assistance cases among households for both Income Assistance and Disability Assistance, with 71 per cent and 87 per cent, respectively. For both programs, single parents were the second largest number of cases, with 25 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively. For Income Assistance, unattached singles households had the highest proportion of beneficiaries with just under 46 per cent, followed by single parents with over 45 per cent. Unattached singles also consisted of the significant majority of Disability Assistance beneficiaries with 72 per cent, followed by single parents with 15 per cent.

Income Assistance beneficiaries were almost equally split between female and male recipients. However, Disability Assistance had more male beneficiaries with 53 per cent.

Income Assistance

Figure 4BC – Cases and beneficiaries of Income Assistance by household in British Columbia, 2020-21

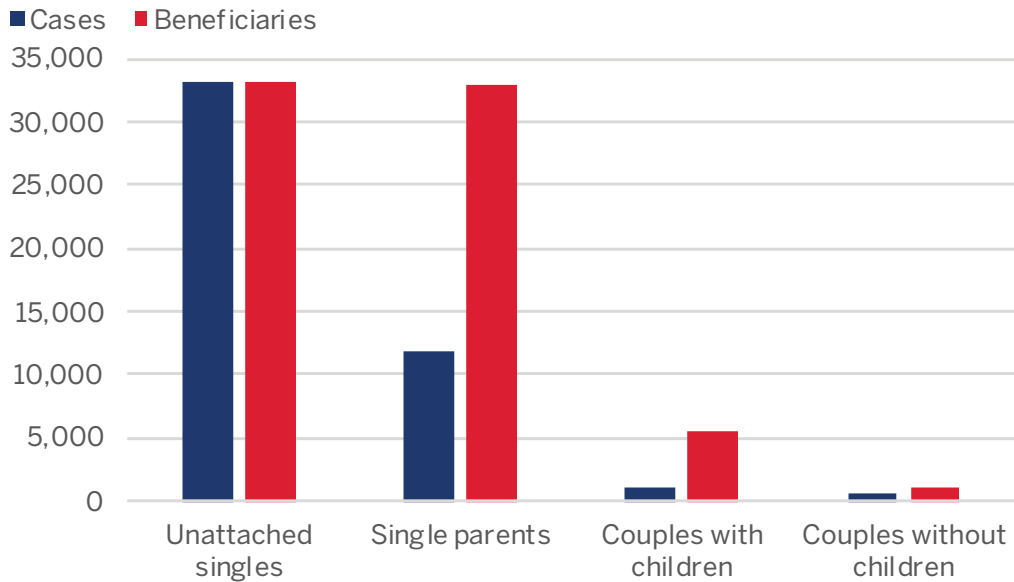
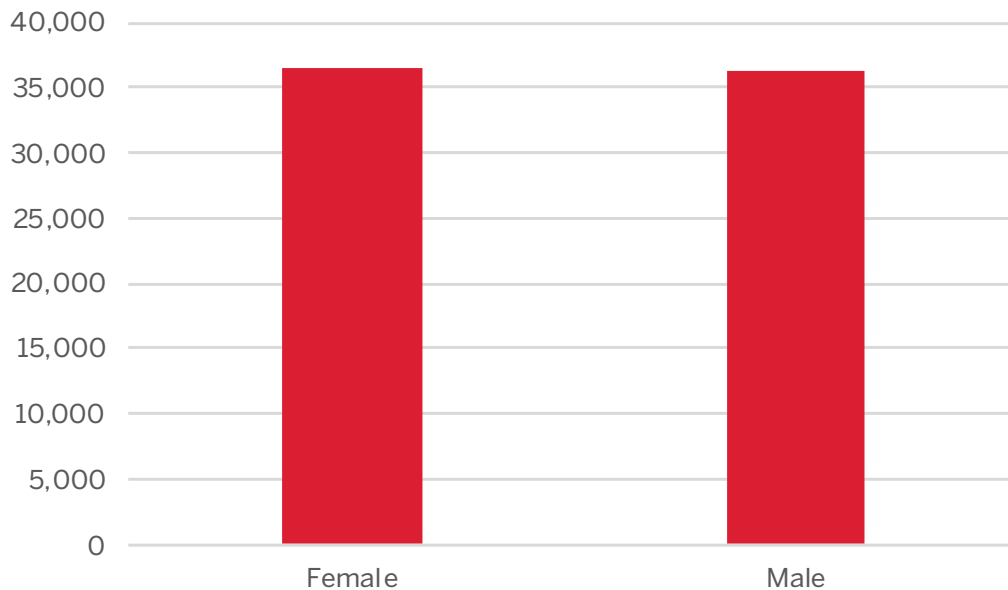


Figure 5BC – Beneficiaries of Income Assistance by gender in British Columbia, 2010-21



Disability Assistance

Figure 6BC – Cases and beneficiaries of Disability Assistance by household in British Columbia, 2020-21

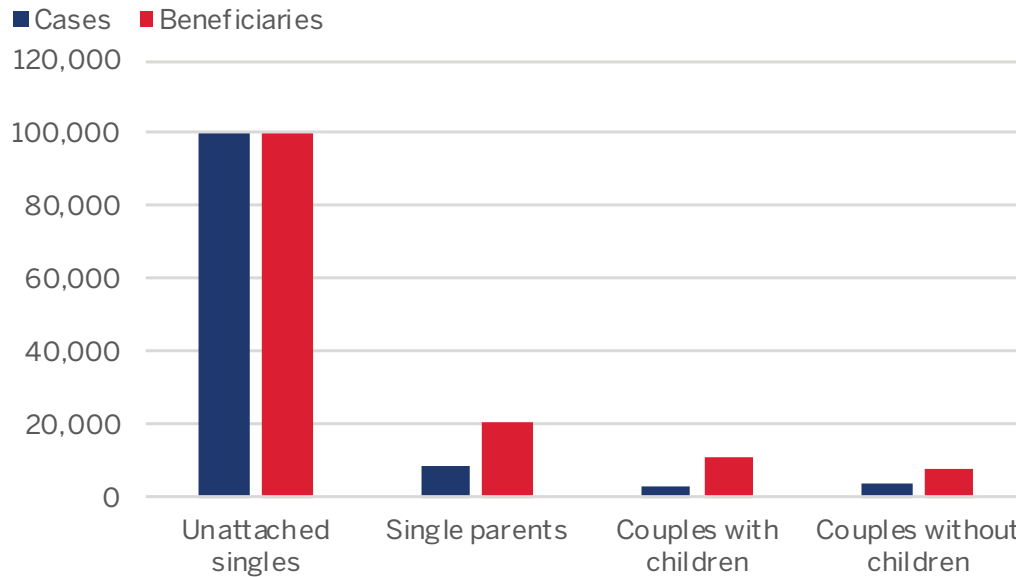
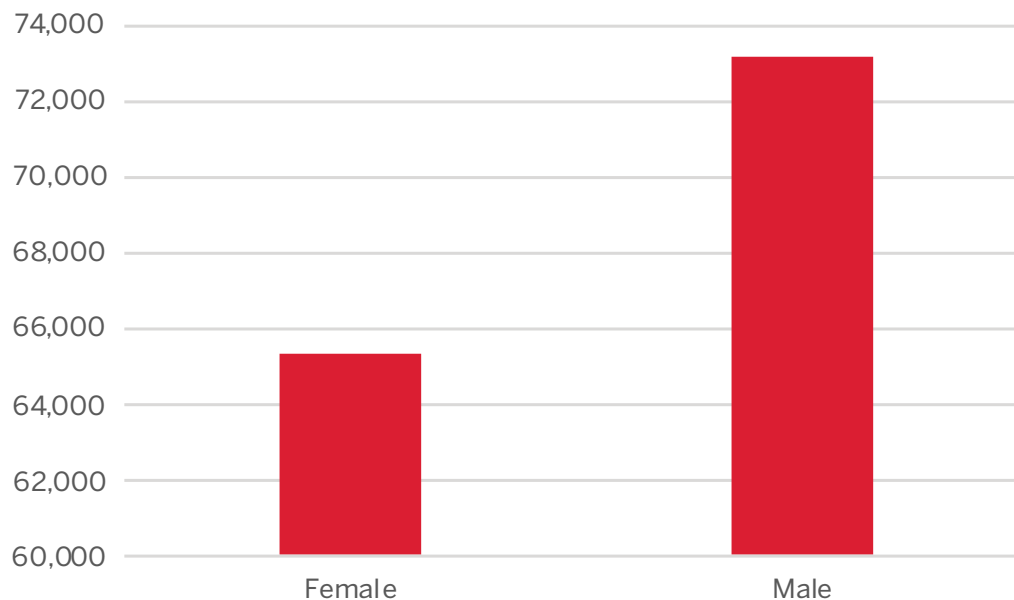


Figure 7BC – Beneficiaries of Disability Assistance by gender in British Columbia, 2020-21



Data

Figure 8BC – Yearly social assistance data for British Columbia, 1996 to 2021

Year	Income Assistance		Disability Assistance	
	Cases	Beneficiaries	Cases	Beneficiaries
1996-97	168,113	302,551	25,153	30,578
1997-98	147,872	263,438	28,741	35,027
1998-99	133,005	237,100	31,556	38,339
1999-00	122,154	217,561	34,838	42,411
2000-01	114,121	202,503	39,094	47,857
2001-02	106,785	187,924	44,060	54,234
2002-03	80,178	138,789	46,175	56,439
2003-04	61,412	104,592	50,235	61,331
2004-05	49,663	83,101	53,730	65,374
2005-06	41,343	68,087	57,524	69,708
2006-07	37,236	59,555	60,087	72,441
2007-08	38,203	59,872	64,300	77,036
2008-09	42,517	65,893	67,836	81,010
2009-10	55,231	84,518	71,647	85,514
2010-11	58,151	88,712	75,652	90,210
2011-12	56,009	85,885	79,996	95,344
2012-13	50,307	77,684	84,104	100,214
2013-14	47,189	72,773	87,402	104,172
2014-15	43,504	66,833	90,944	108,331
2015-16	43,275	66,669	94,028	111,993
2016-17	44,920	70,221	97,662	116,683
2017-18	42,820	68,220	102,097	122,431
2018-19	42,854	67,821	105,204	126,617
2019-20	45,214	70,983	109,919	133,140
2020-21	46,637	72,737	114,108	138,488

Figure 9BC – Social assistance data by household for British Columbia, 2020-21

Household Type	Income Assistance		Disability Assistance	
	Cases	Beneficia- ries	Cases	Beneficia- ries
Unattached singles	33,150	33,150	99,773	99,773
Single parents	11,737	33,001	8,060	20,515
Couples with children	1,167	5,422	2,625	10,900
Couples without children	583	1,165	3,650	7,300

Figure 10BC – Social assistance data by gender for British Columbia, 2020-21

	Income Assistance	Disability Assistance
Gender	Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries
Female	36,450	65,319
Male	36,287	73,169

Data notes

- The data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).
- The numbers do not include First Nations living on reserves.
- Gender for beneficiaries is estimated as information is not available for all recipients.

Manitoba

Manitoba’s social assistance program

Social assistance is the income program of last resort. It is intended for those who have exhausted all other means of financial support. Every province and territory has its own social assistance program(s), and no two are the same.

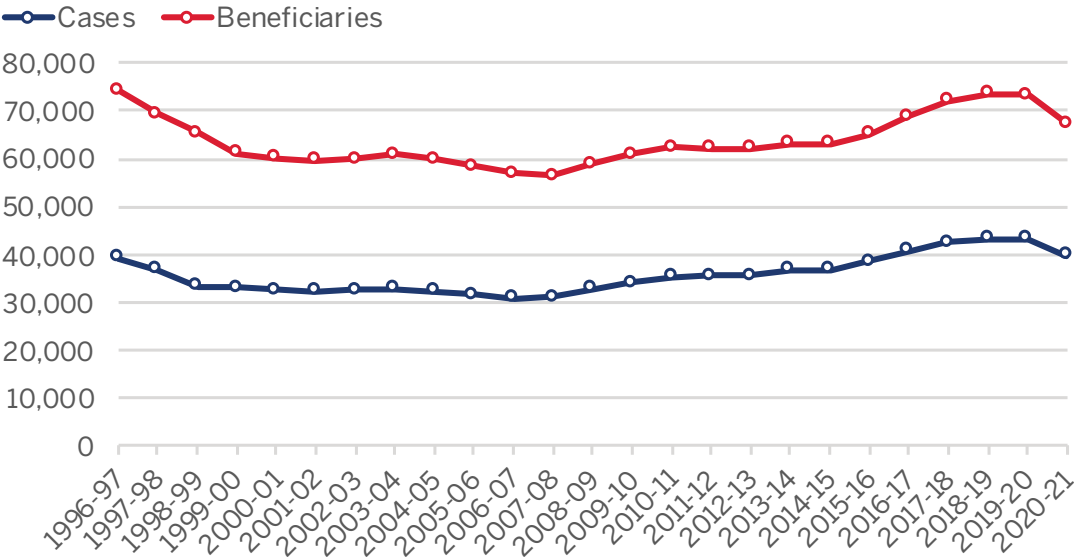
In Manitoba, social assistance is delivered through the Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) program.

EIA provides income assistance to Manitobans in need. In partnership with Training and Employment Services, it also provides employability assessments, personal job planning, work incentives, and other supports to assist Manitobans in entering, re-entering, or remaining in the labour force.

How many people claim social assistance?

On average, there were 39,700 cases (families and single adults) and 67,400 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in Manitoba’s Employment and Income Assistance program in 2020-21. This is the second year of decreases in both social assistance cases and beneficiaries. Previously, there was a trend of steady increases in Manitoba that dates back to 2007-08.

Figure 1MB – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) in Manitoba, 1996 to 2021

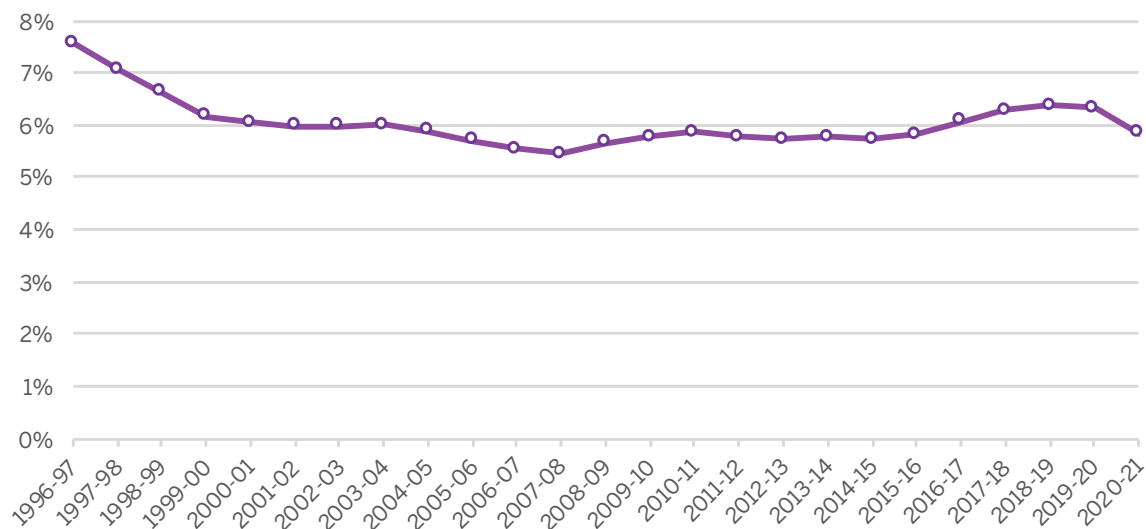


What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2020-21, on average, 5.8 per cent of people in Manitoba under 65 received Employment and Income Assistance (EIA), which is 1 in 17. The proportion of recipients receiving EIA has followed a similar pattern as the total number of recipients. On average, the proportion has remained stable at around 6 per cent since 1999-2000.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of a given year, whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April to March).

Figure 2MB – Yearly beneficiaries of Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) as a proportion of the under-65 Manitoba population, 1996 to 2021



Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2021. *Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex*. Accessed at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>

Who is receiving social assistance?

In 2020-21, unattached singles had the majority of cases of the Employment and Income Assistance among household types in Manitoba with 72 per cent, followed by single parents with 20 per cent. Unattached singles also made up the highest proportion of beneficiaries, with over 43 per cent, followed by single parents, with under 39 per cent.



Females made up the majority of Employment and Income Assistance beneficiaries in 2020-21, with about 53 per cent of recipients.

Figure 3MB – Cases and beneficiaries of Employment and Income Assistance by household in Manitoba, 2020-21

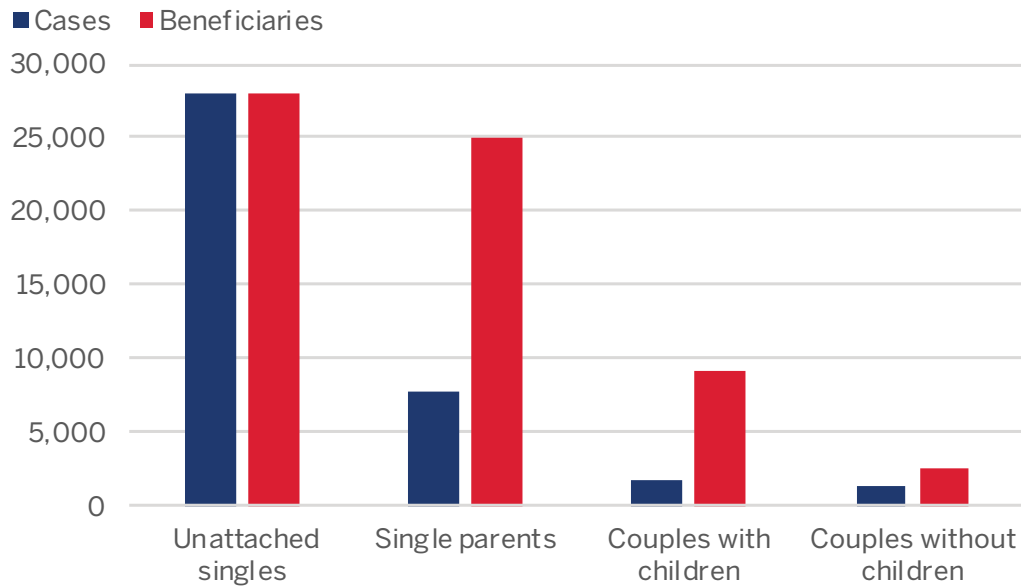
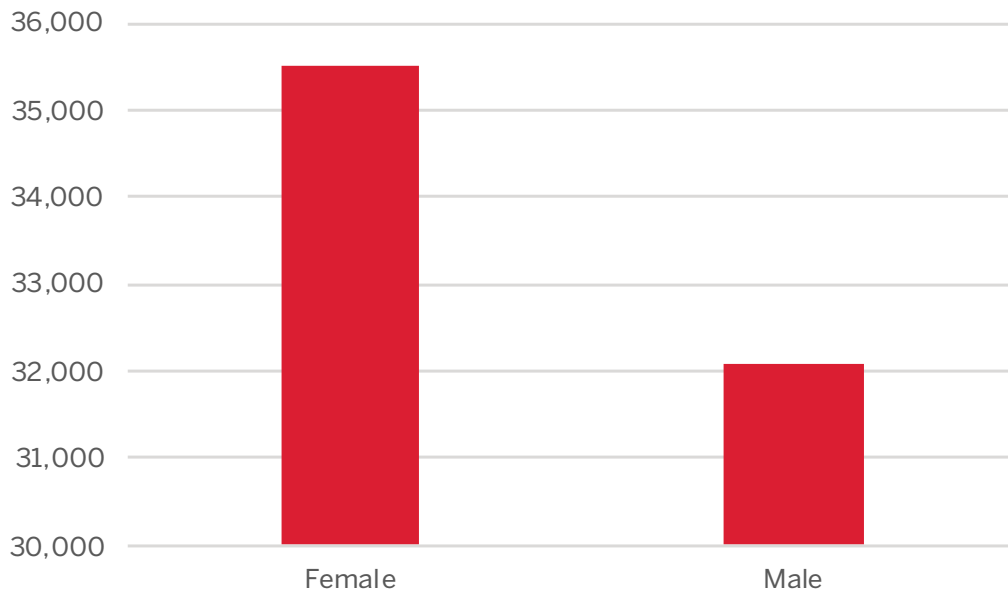


Figure 4MB – Beneficiaries of Employment and Income Assistance by sex in Manitoba, 2020-21



Data

Figure 5MB – Yearly social assistance data for Manitoba, 1996 to 2021

Year	Employment and Income Assistance	
	Cases	Beneficiaries
1996-97	39,200	74,400
1997-98	36,900	69,300
1998-99	33,300	65,300
1999-00	33,000	61,100
2000-01	32,600	60,100
2001-02	32,400	59,700
2002-03	32,600	60,000
2003-04	32,800	60,900
2004-05	32,400	60,000
2005-06	31,600	58,300
2006-07	30,900	56,800
2007-08	31,100	56,300
2008-09	32,800	58,900
2009-10	34,100	60,800
2010-11	35,400	62,300
2011-12	35,500	62,000
2012-13	35,600	62,000
2013-14	36,900	63,100
2014-15	36,900	63,100
2015-16	38,400	65,100
2016-17	40,800	68,900
2017-18	42,400	72,000
2018-19	43,300	73,500
2019-20	43,200	73,400
2020-21	39,700	67,400

Figure 6MB – Social assistance data by household for Manitoba, 2020-21

Household Type	Employment and Income Assistance	
	Cases	Beneficiaries
Unattached singles	28,000	28,000
Single parents	7,800	24,900
Couples with children	1,800	9,100
Couples without children	1,300	2,600



Figure 7MB – Social assistance data by sex for Manitoba, 2020-21

	Employment and Income Assistance
Sex	Beneficiaries
Female	35,500
Male	32,100

Data notes

- The data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).
- Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
- The numbers do not include First Nations living on reserves.
- Statistics represent all welfare cases in Manitoba and combine municipal and provincial income assistance statistics where appropriate.



New Brunswick

New Brunswick's social assistance program

Social assistance is the income program of last resort. It is intended for those who have exhausted all other means of financial support. Every province and territory has its own social assistance program(s), and no two are the same.

In New Brunswick, social assistance is delivered under two programs:

1. Transitional Assistance Program (TAP); and
2. Extended Benefits Program (EBP).

A third program, the Interim Assistance Program, was terminated in 2010.

Transitional Assistance Program (TAP)

Transitional assistance is intended for individuals who are employable as well as those requiring support and intervention to become employable. Within TAP, two rate categories exist:

1. Transitional Assistance Program is paid to those who are employable, as well as those requiring support and intervention to become employable. Most families are provided assistance under this program along with single adults who have a designated need; and
2. Transitional Assistance Program – Single Employable is paid to those who do not have a designation and are not certified as blind, deaf, or having a disability.

Extended Benefits Program (EBP)

EBP benefits are intended for individuals who are certified by the Medical Advisory Board as blind, deaf, or having a disability. It also includes some individuals who have been on assistance for many years and have a special designation.

How many people claim social assistance?

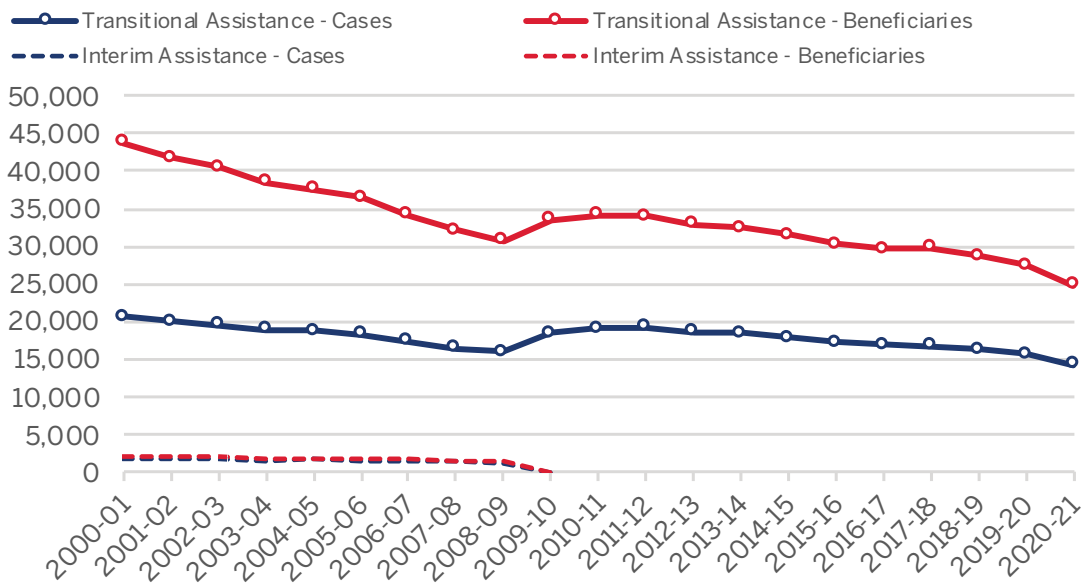
On average, there were 20,455 cases (families and single adults) in New Brunswick's social assistance programs during 2020-21. Seventy per cent (14,345) of cases received support through the Transitional Assistance Program, and 30 per cent (6,110) received support through the Extended Benefits Program.

Transitional Assistance Program (TAP)

On average, there were over 14,300 cases and just under 24,900 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in the TAP in 2020-21. Both of these numbers have seen a decreasing trend since 2011-12.

In the 2000s, the TAP operated alongside the Interim Assistance Program, which had between 1,300 and 1,800 cases until it was terminated in 2011.

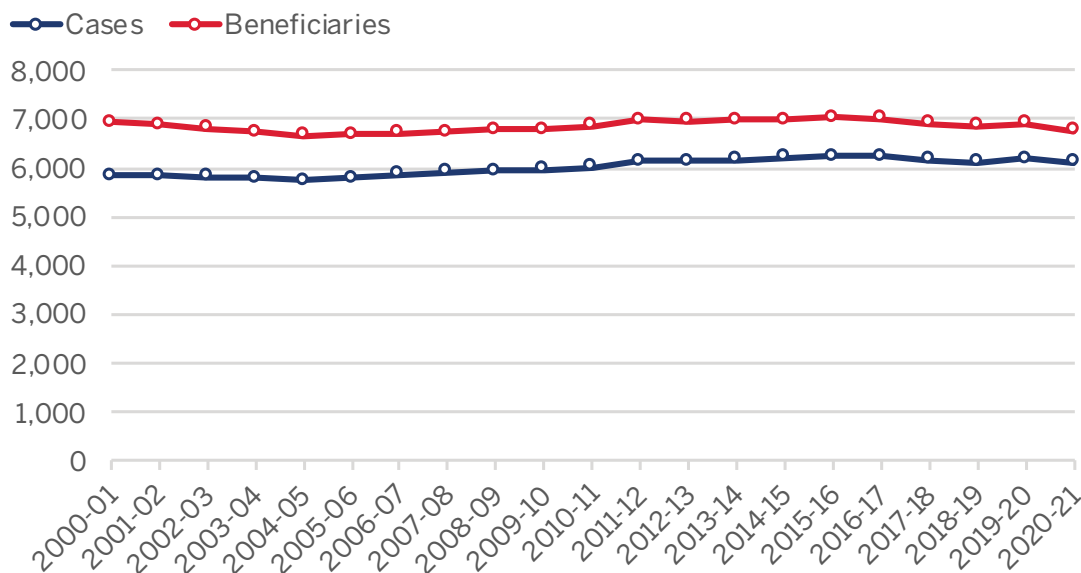
Figure 1NB – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of the Transitional Assistance Program (TAP) and the Interim Assistance Program (IAP) in New Brunswick, 2000 to 2021



Extended Benefits Program (EBP)

In 2020-21, there were an average of about 6,100 cases and just under 6,800 beneficiaries in New Brunswick's EBP. These numbers have remained steady over the last 15 years.

Figure 2NB – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of the Extended Benefits Program (EBP) in New Brunswick, 2000 to 2021



What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

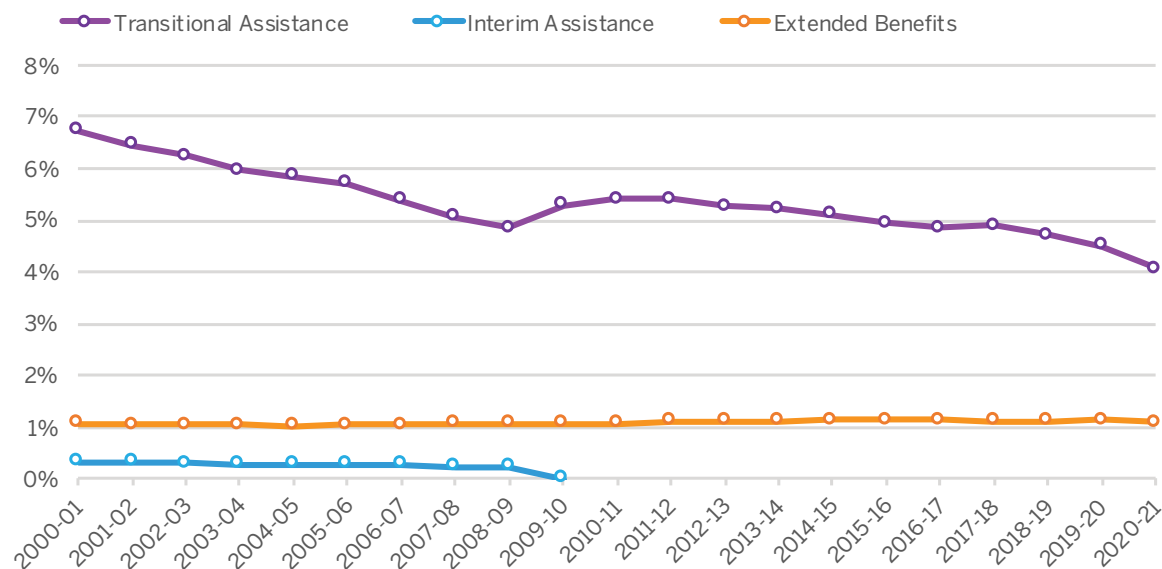
In 2020-21, on average, 5 per cent of people in New Brunswick under 65 received the Transitional Assistance Program (TAP) or the Extended Benefits Program (EBP), which is 1 in 20. The proportion of recipients receiving social assistance has followed a similar pattern as the total number of recipients.

The proportion of people under 65 receiving TAP has generally decreased, from 6.7 per cent in 2000-01 to 4.1 per cent in 2020-21.

The proportion of people under 65 receiving EBP has remained stable at 1.1 per cent.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of a given year, whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April to March).

Figure 3NB – Yearly beneficiaries by social assistance program as a proportion of the under-65 population of New Brunswick, 2000 to 2021



Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2021. *Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex*. Accessed at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>

Who is receiving social assistance?

In 2020-21, unattached singles consisted of the majority of social assistance cases among households for both programs, comprising almost 63 per cent of the Transitional Assistance Program (TAP) and over 92 per cent of the Extended Benefits Program (EBP). For TAP, single parents had the second highest percentage of cases, with nearly 26 per cent. Couples without children had the second highest percentage of cases of EBP, with under 4 per cent.

For TAP, single-parent households had the highest proportion of beneficiaries, at over 40 per cent, followed by unattached singles, at 36 per cent. Unattached singles consisted of the significant majority of EBP beneficiaries with just under 84 per cent, followed by couples without children, with over 7 per cent.

TAP beneficiaries were almost equally split between female and male recipients, with slightly more females. However, EBP had more male beneficiaries with just over 56 per cent.

Transitional Assistance Program (TAP)

Figure 4NB – Cases and beneficiaries of Transitional Assistance Program (TAP) by household in New Brunswick, 2020-21

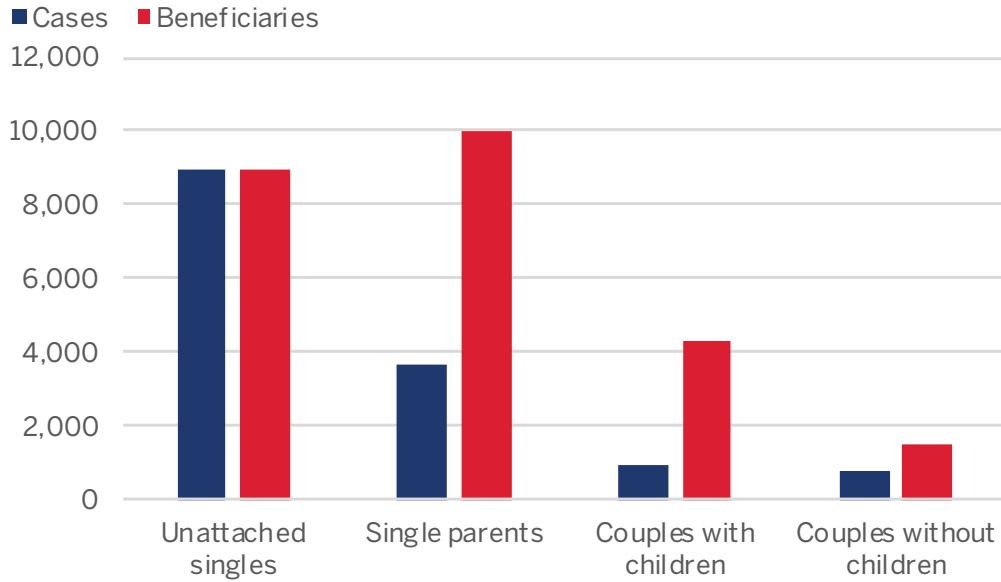
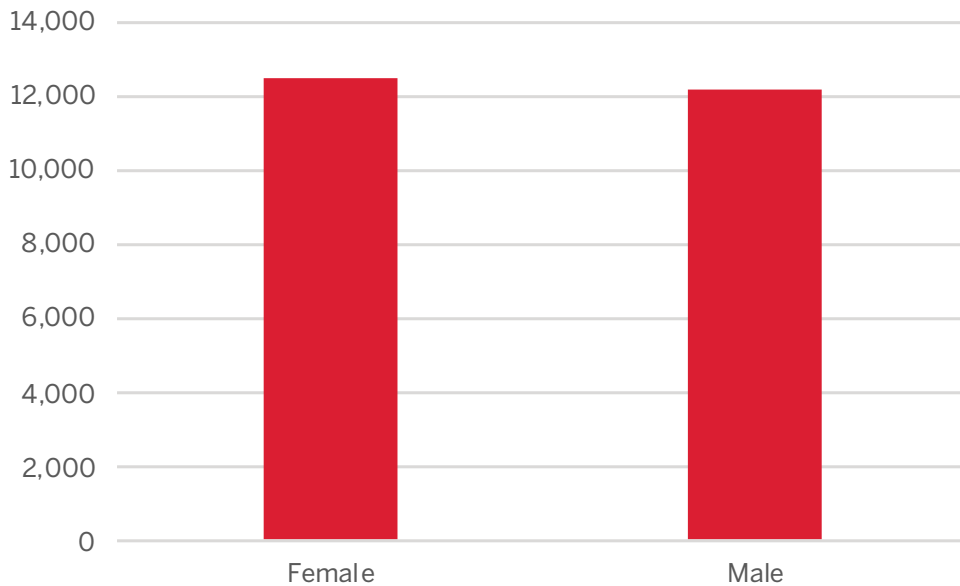


Figure 5NB – Beneficiaries of Transitional Assistance Program (TAP) by sex in New Brunswick, 2020-21



Extended Benefits Program (EBP)

Figure 6NB – Cases and beneficiaries of Extended Benefits Program (EBP) by household in New Brunswick, 2020-21

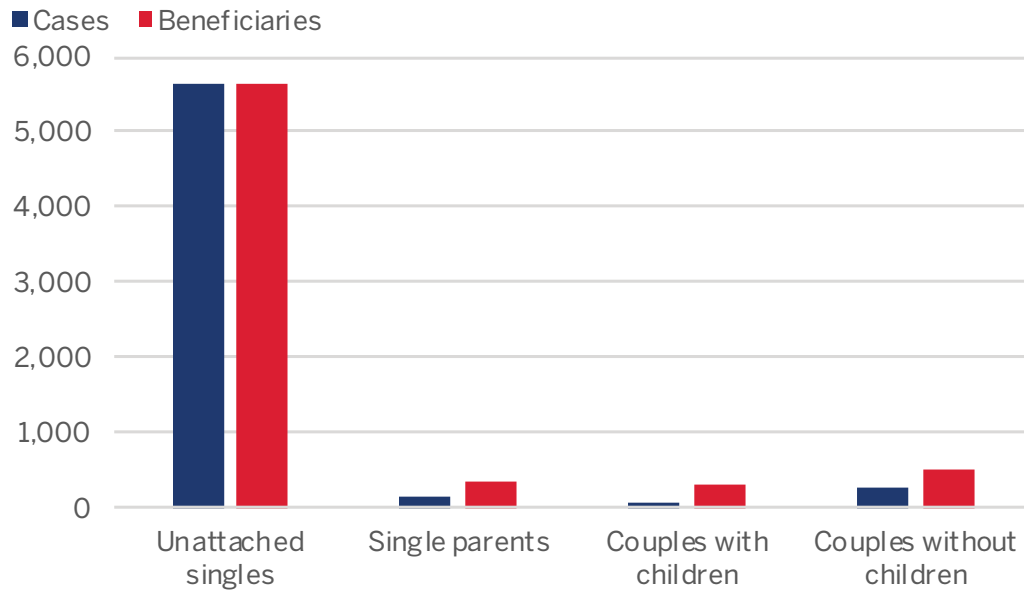
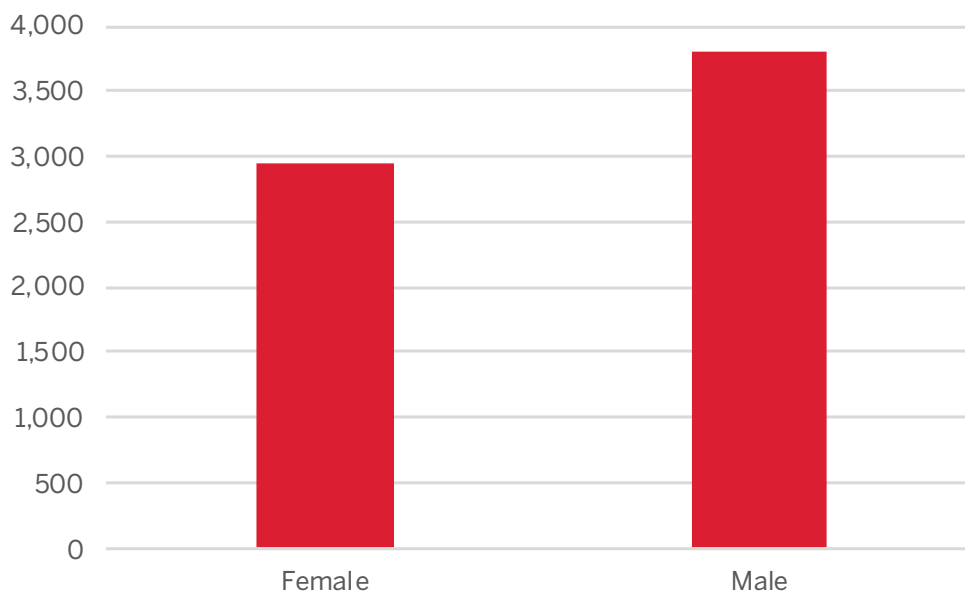


Figure 7NB – Beneficiaries of Extended Benefits Program (EBP) by sex in New Brunswick, 2020-21



Data

Figure 8NB – Yearly social assistance data for New Brunswick, 1997 to 2021

Year	Transitional Assistance		Interim Assistance		Extended Benefits	
	Cases	Beneficiaries	Cases	Beneficiaries	Cases	Beneficiaries
2000-01	20,705	43,780	1,827	2,182	5,837	6,941
2001-02	20,066	41,777	1,827	2,082	5,837	6,873
2002-03	19,633	40,480	1,767	2,031	5,822	6,819
2003-04	18,928	38,510	1,544	1,767	5,792	6,724
2004-05	18,764	37,644	1,641	1,894	5,728	6,656
2005-06	18,282	36,431	1,518	1,741	5,802	6,673
2006-07	17,461	34,199	1,519	1,746	5,875	6,713
2007-08	16,527	32,072	1,327	1,523	5,903	6,743
2008-09	15,987	30,765	1,284	1,455	5,946	6,787
2009-10	18,426	33,594	0	0	5,955	6,787
2010-11	19,061	34,180			6,023	6,861
2011-12	19,217	34,055			6,138	6,992
2012-13	18,683	32,943			6,134	6,958
2013-14	18,461	32,424			6,164	6,986
2014-15	17,825	31,471			6,206	6,994
2015-16	17,306	30,306			6,234	7,022
2016-17	16,936	29,662			6,230	6,998
2017-18	16,758	29,873			6,153	6,898
2018-19	16,251	28,810			6,121	6,854
2019-20	15,669	27,543			6,182	6,913
2020-21	14,345	24,867			6,110	6,770

Figure 9NB – Social assistance data by household for New Brunswick, 2020-21

Household Type	Transitional Assistance		Extended Benefits	
	Cases	Beneficiaries	Cases	Beneficiaries
Unattached singles	8,929	8,930	5,640	5,640
Single parents	3,640	9,954	142	330
Couples with children	916	4,279	74	291
Couples without children	739	1,491	243	492

Figure 10NB – Social assistance data by sex for New Brunswick, 2020-21

	Transitional Assistance	Extended Benefits
Sex	Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries
Female	12,455	2,947
Male	12,192	3,806

Data notes

- The data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).
- The numbers do not include First Nations living on reserves.
- In the late 1990s, the province's statistical agency was in the early stages of publishing data and provincial figures for 1997 to 2000 cannot be verified.
- The Transitional Assistance Program operated alongside the Interim Assistance Program through the 2000s until it was terminated in 2011.



Newfoundland and Labrador

Newfoundland and Labrador's social assistance program

Social assistance is the income program of last resort. It is intended for those who have exhausted all other means of financial support. Every province and territory has its own social assistance program(s), and no two are the same.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, social assistance is referred to as Income Support (IS).

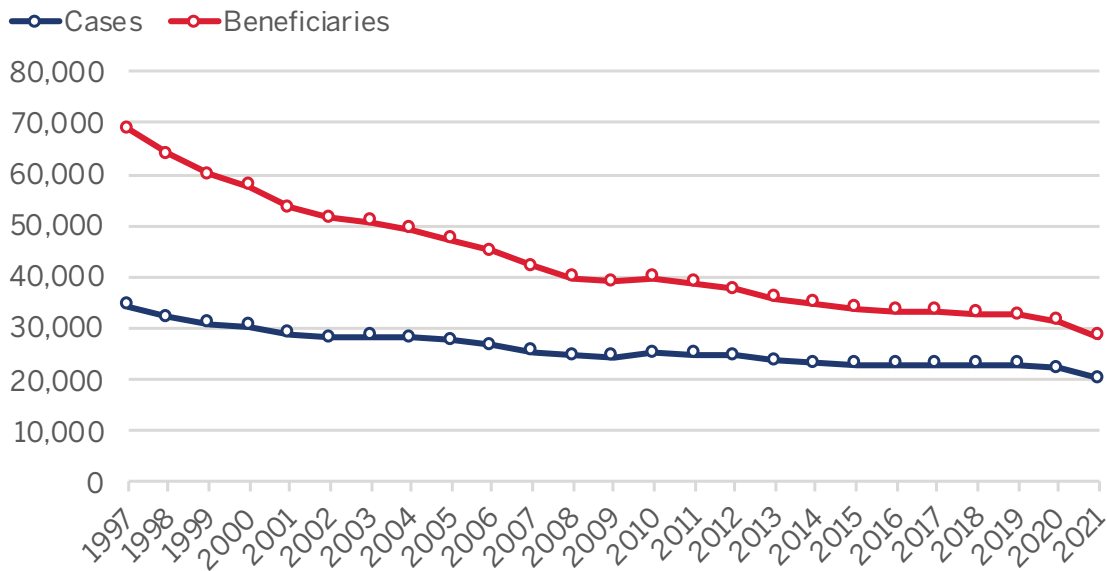
IS provides financial benefits and other services to eligible low-income people to assist in meeting daily living expenses. Basic benefits include a family and individual benefit (to assist with expenses such as food, clothing, personal care, household maintenance, and utilities) and a shelter benefit (to assist with rent, mortgage costs, utilities, and municipal taxes).

Depending on individual circumstances, recipients may also qualify for non-basic benefits such as municipal tax payments, prescription glasses, and special diets. Recipients can also receive further benefits outside of IS by other departments and agencies such as a prescription drug card, medical transportation, and medical equipment.

How many people claim social assistance?

On average, there were just over 20,000 cases (families and single adults) and slightly over 28,000 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in Newfoundland and Labrador's Income Support (IS) program in 2021. The number of cases and beneficiaries fell consistently through the 2000s, but has fallen at a slower pace more recently. Cases and beneficiaries of Income Assistance saw a steeper drop in 2021.

Figure 1NL – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Income Support (IS) in Newfoundland and Labrador, 1997 to 2021

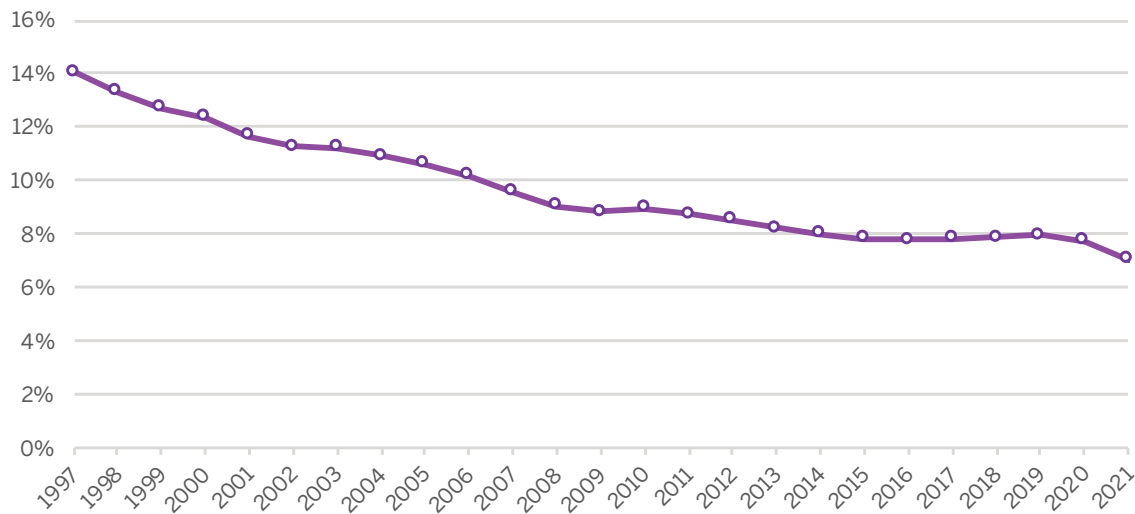


What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2021, on average, 7.1 per cent of people in Newfoundland and Labrador under 65 received Income Support (IS), which is 1 in 14. The proportion of recipients receiving IS has followed a similar pattern as the total number of recipients. On average, the proportion has consistently decreased, almost halving from a high of 14 per cent in 1997.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of a given year, whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a calendar year average (January to December).

Figure 2NL – Yearly beneficiaries of Income Support (IS) as a proportion of the under-65 population in Newfoundland and Labrador, 1997 to 2021



Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2021. *Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex*. Accessed at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>

Who is receiving social assistance?

In 2021, unattached singles were the majority household of both cases and beneficiaries of Newfoundland and Labrador’s Income Support (IS) program, with 76 per cent of cases and 54 per cent of beneficiaries. Single parents are second with nearly 17 per cent of cases and 31.5 per cent of beneficiaries.

IS beneficiaries were almost equally split between female and male recipients, with slightly more females.



Figure 3NL – Cases and beneficiaries of Income Support (IS) by household in Newfoundland and Labrador, 2021

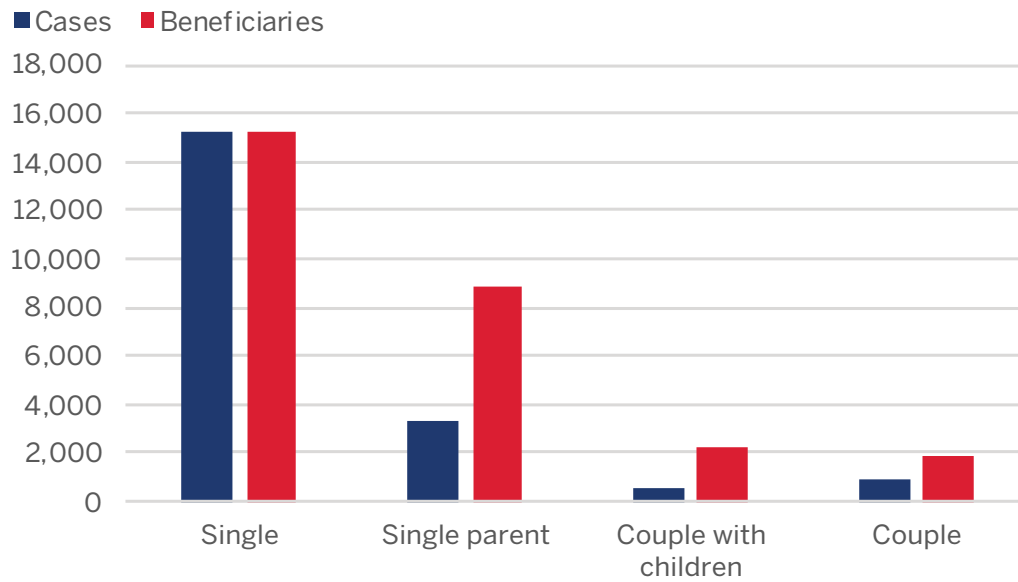
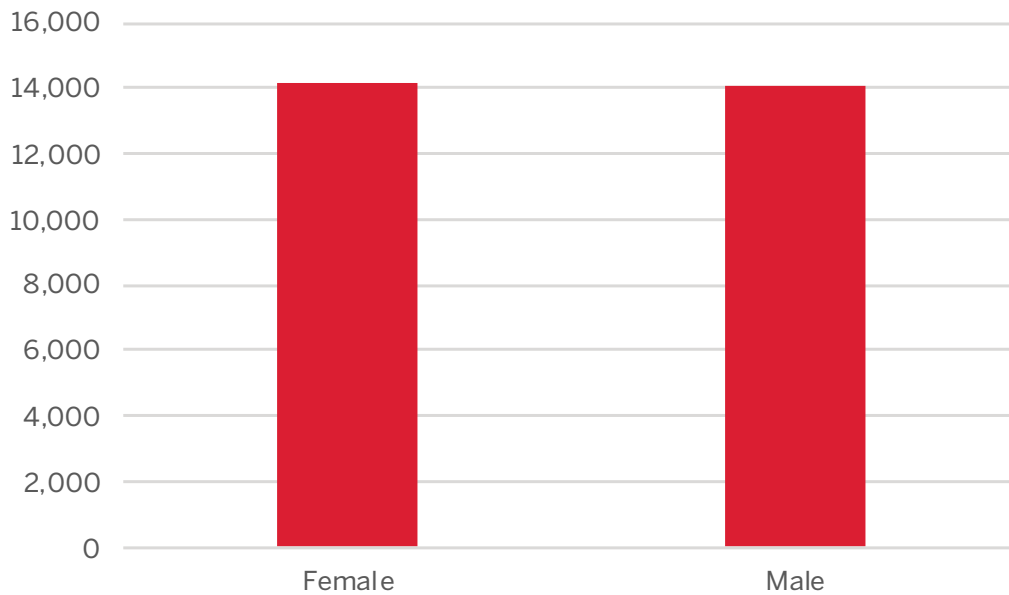


Figure 4NL – Beneficiaries of Income Support (IS) by gender in Newfoundland and Labrador, 2021



Data

Figure 5NL – Yearly social assistance data for Newfoundland and Labrador, 1997 to 2021

Year	Income Support	
	Cases	Beneficiaries
1997	34,245	68,855
1998	32,046	63,816
1999	30,737	59,900
2000	30,255	57,578
2001	28,720	53,520
2002	28,146	51,364
2003	28,454	50,783
2004	28,173	49,278
2005	27,650	47,324
2006	26,590	44,881
2007	25,337	41,916
2008	24,517	39,680
2009	24,336	38,946
2010	25,050	39,639
2011	24,917	38,676
2012	24,506	37,557
2013	23,679	35,862
2014	23,098	34,712
2015	22,850	33,853
2016	22,790	33,365
2017	22,848	33,246
2018	22,821	32,811
2019	22,828	32,632
2020	22,141	31,418
2021	20,068	28,251

Figure 6NL – Social assistance data by household for Newfoundland and Labrador, 2021

Household Type	Income Support	
	Cases	Beneficiaries
Unattached singles	15,242	15,242
Single parents	3,357	8,889
Couples with children	532	2,248
Couples without children	934	1,868

Figure 7NL – Social assistance data by gender for Newfoundland and Labrador, 2021

Gender	Income Support
	Beneficiaries
Female	14,181
Male	14,056

Data notes

- The data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the calendar year (January 1 to December 31).
- Eight beneficiaries were not categorized into either male or female gender options. They were labeled “X.”
- There are three First Nations reserves in Newfoundland and Labrador. Conne River is self-governed and operates its own social services programs. Its case and beneficiary numbers are not included in the data. The two other reserves are in Labrador: Natuashish and Sheshatshiu. From April 1, 2016, the delivery of Income Support was devolved to the Innu and statistics for these communities are no longer included in the data.



Northwest Territories

Newfoundland and Labrador's social assistance program

Social assistance is the income program of last resort. It is intended for those who have exhausted all other means of financial support. Every province and territory has its own social assistance program(s), and no two are the same.

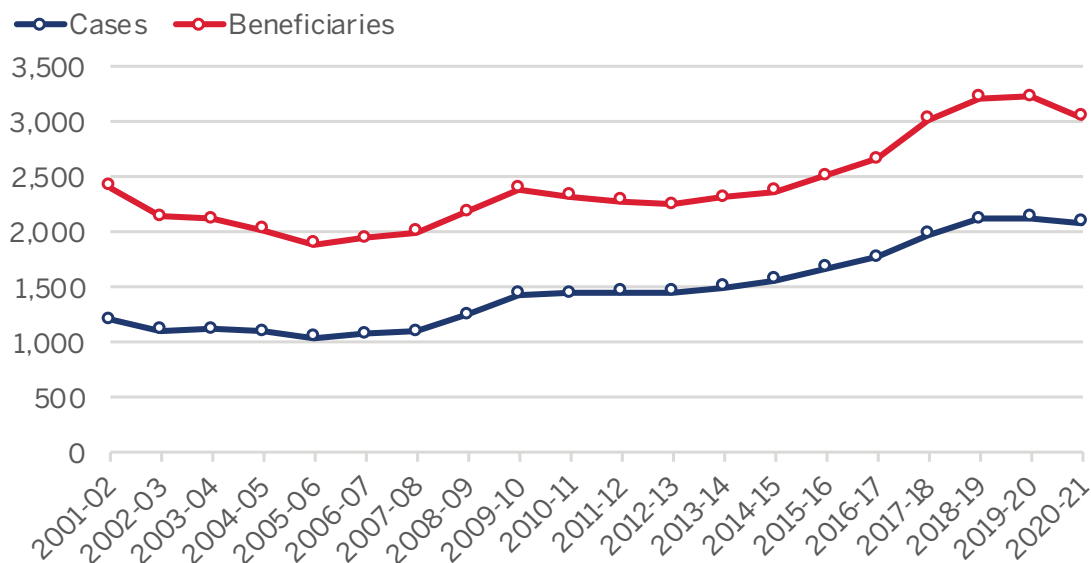
In the Northwest Territories, the Income Assistance Program provides financial assistance to residents to help meet basic living needs, such as food, shelter, and utilities. In combination with developmental opportunities, it aims to help recipients become self-reliant, as individual capacity allows, to participate fully in community life and to share in the opportunities available to them.

Alongside financial assistance for basic living needs, recipients may also qualify for enhanced benefits depending on their circumstances (such as clothing, educational assistance, child care, furniture, incidentals, and allowances for seniors and persons with a disability).

How many people claim social assistance?

On average, there were close to 2,100 cases (families and single adults) and over 3,000 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in the Northwest Territories' Income Assistance Program in 2020-21. The number of cases and beneficiaries fell in 2020-21 after increases for seven consecutive years.

Figure 1NT – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of the Income Assistance Program in the Northwest Territories, 2001 to 2021

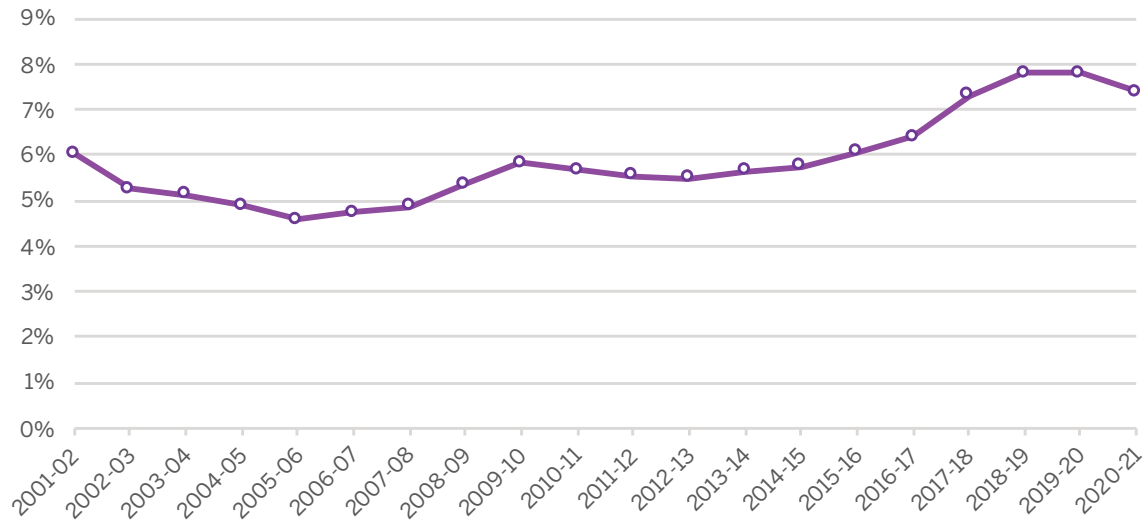


What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2020-21, on average, 7.4 per cent of people in Northwest Territories under 65 received the Income Assistance Program, which is about 2 in 25. The proportion of recipients receiving this program has followed a similar pattern as the total number of recipients. On average, the proportion increased from 5.5 per cent in 2012-13 to a high of 7.8 in 2018-19 and 2019-20. This was followed by the first decrease in nine years in 2020-21.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of a given year, whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April to March).

Figure 2NT – Yearly beneficiaries of the Income Assistance Program as a proportion of the under-65 Northwest Territories population, 1996 to 2021



Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2021. *Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex*. Accessed at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>

Who is receiving social assistance?

In 2020-21, unattached singles comprised the majority of both cases and beneficiaries of the Income Assistance Program in the Northwest Territories among households, with over 76 per cent of cases and over 52 per cent of beneficiaries. Single parents had the second highest percentages, with 16.5 per cent of cases and 31 per cent of beneficiaries.

Females made up the majority of beneficiaries in 2020-21, with 55 per cent, which is over 24 per cent more than males.



Figure 3NT – Cases and beneficiaries of the Income Assistance Program in the Northwest Territories by household, 2020-21

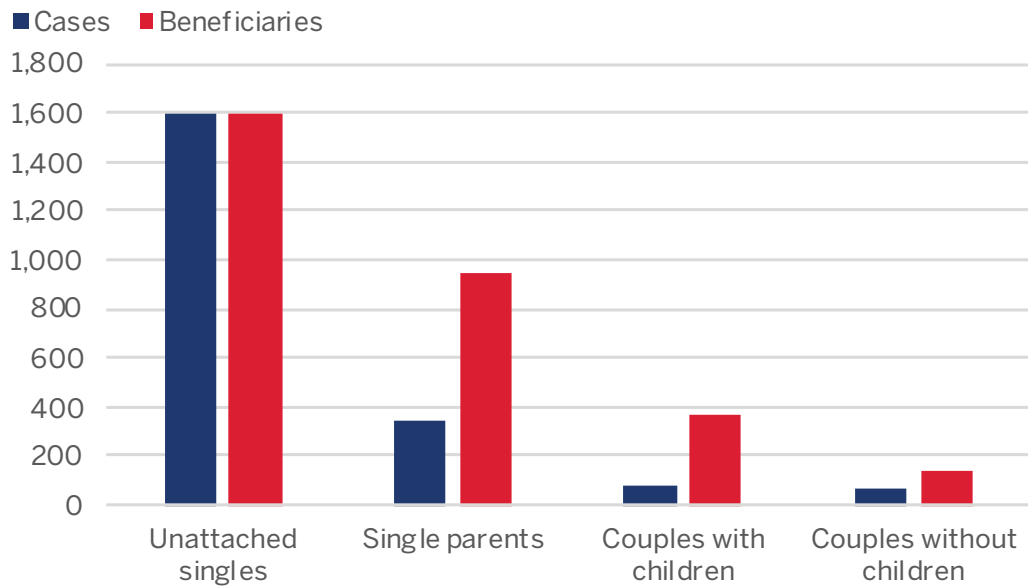
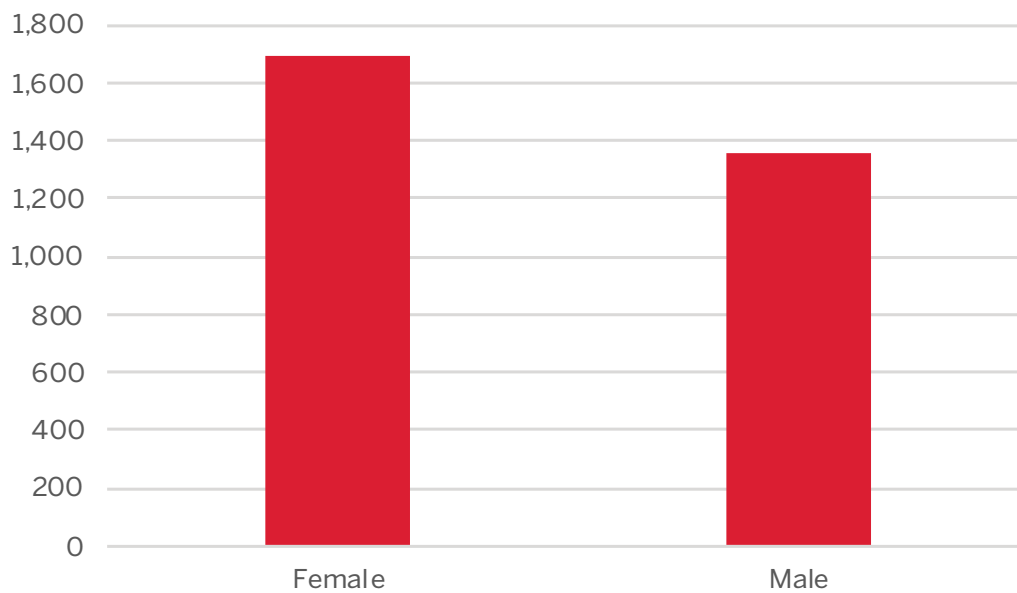


Figure 4NT – Beneficiaries of the Income Assistance Program in the Northwest Territories by gender, 2020-21



Data

Figure 5NT – Yearly social assistance data for Northwest Territories, 1997 to 2021

Year	Income Assistance	
	Cases	Beneficiaries
2001-02	1,204	2,411
2002-03	1,105	2,142
2003-04	1,118	2,125
2004-05	1,093	2,022
2005-06	1,042	1,888
2006-07	1,079	1,948
2007-08	1,102	1,997
2008-09	1,255	2,188
2009-10	1,432	2,388
2010-11	1,443	2,323
2011-12	1,462	2,279
2012-13	1,453	2,249
2013-14	1,497	2,316
2014-15	1,565	2,371
2015-16	1,673	2,513
2016-17	1,776	2,659
2017-18	1,974	3,025
2018-19	2,119	3,219
2019-20	2,132	3,229
2020-21	2,086	3,045

Figure 6NT – Social assistance data by household for Northwest Territories, 2020-21

Household Type	Income Assistance	
	Cases	Beneficiaries
Unattached singles	1,592	1,597
Single parents	344	947
Couples with children	83	366
Couples without children	67	135

Figure 7NT – Social assistance data by gender for Northwest Territories, 2020-21

Gender	Income Assistance
	Beneficiaries
Female	1,688
Male	1,357

Data notes

- The data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).
- Fiscal year averages prior to 2001 are not available due to changes in the gathering and reporting of case and beneficiary data.
- “Non-binary” is a third option for gender. No beneficiaries chose it in 2020-21.
- These income assistance numbers only represent clients served by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment of the Government of Northwest Territories. First Nations on reserves are included in this data.



Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia's social assistance program

Social assistance is the income program of last resort. It is intended for those who have exhausted all other means of financial support. Every province and territory has its own social assistance program(s), and no two are the same.

In Nova Scotia, social assistance is called Employment Support and Income Assistance (ESIA), which replaced the Family Benefits Program and Municipal Social Assistance in 2001.

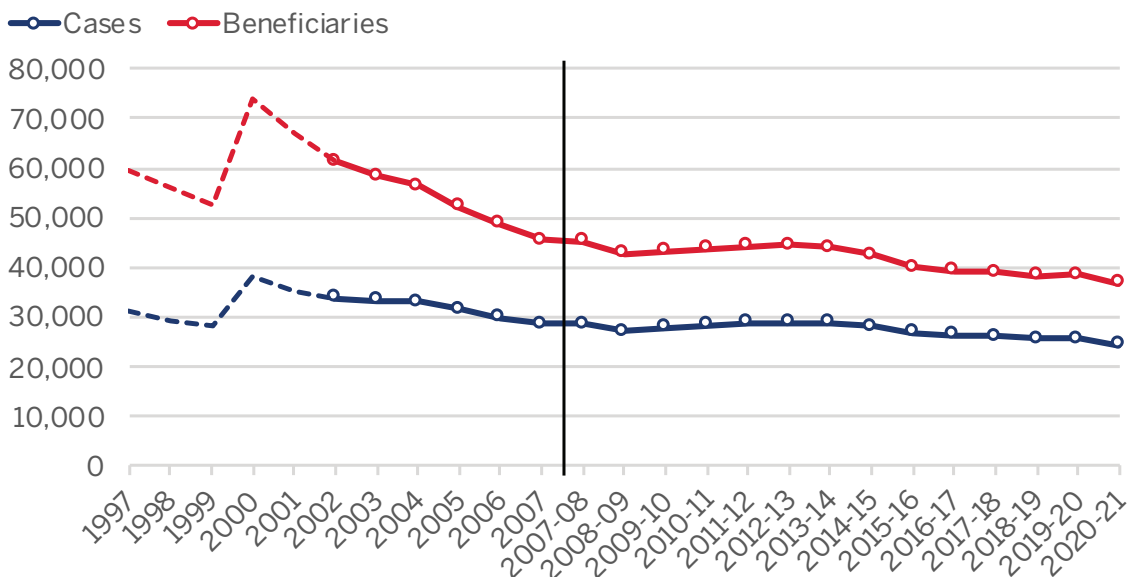
ESIA provides income and employment supports to Nova Scotians in financial need. Within the ESIA program, Income Assistance provides basic needs assistance in the form of an allowance called a Standard Household Rate (SHR). The amount provided is based on household size and living situation, and is for basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, fuel, utilities, and personal items. All recipients receive the maximum SHR for which they are eligible. Income Assistance also provides for special needs, such as pharmacare, child care, special diet, and transportation. Employment Support Services supports clients with information, opportunities, and services to build the skills and experience they need to work and become more self-sufficient.

How many people claim social assistance?

In 2020-21, there were almost 24,400 cases (families and single adults) and about 36,700 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in Nova Scotia's Employment Support and Income Assistance program. These numbers fell rapidly during the mid-2000s, increased slightly after the 2008 financial crisis, and then continued a more gradual fall between 2012 and 2021.

The data for 1997 to 2001 cannot be validated as they may include municipal assistance in addition to provincial family benefits. During this period, it was common for family benefits clients to access special needs benefits from their local municipal social assistance offices.

Figure 1NS – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Employment Support and Income Assistance (ESIA) in Nova Scotia, 1997 to 2021



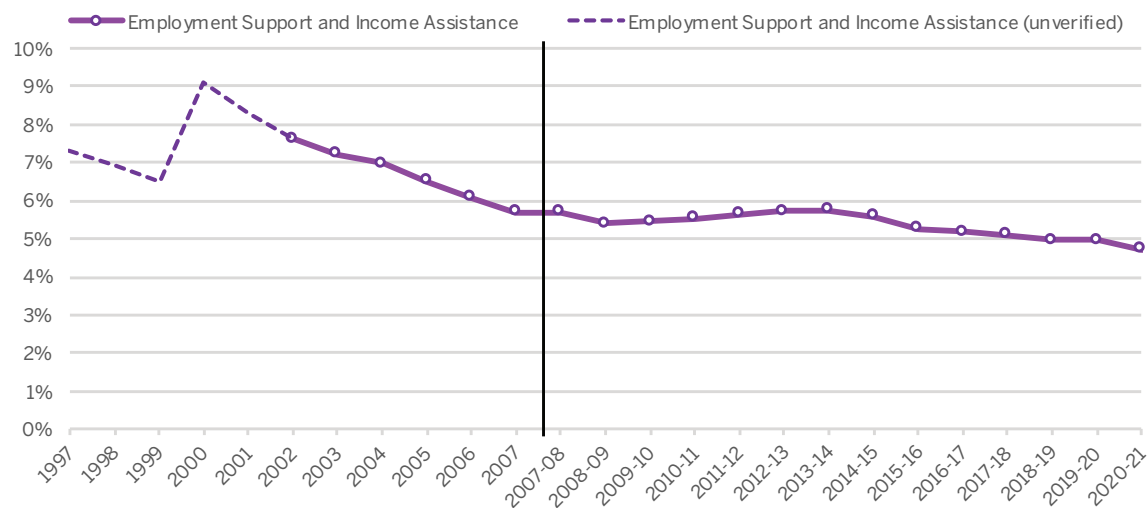
Note: 2006 and prior, the data reflects the number of cases and beneficiaries on March 31 of each year. In 2007, the data reflects the numbers in January. 2007-08 onwards, the data reflects the number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).

What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2020-21, on average, 4.7 per cent of people in Nova Scotia under 65 received Employment Support and Income Assistance (ESIA), which is 1 in 21. The proportion of recipients receiving ESIA has followed a similar pattern as the total number of recipients. On average, the proportion gradually decreased starting in 2002 until reaching 5.4 per cent in 2008-09, followed by a period of slight increase until hitting a peak of 5.8 per cent in 2013-14. Since then, the proportion has slowly decreased, reaching its lowest point in 2020-21.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of a given year, whereas social assistance beneficiary data is for March 31 of a given year until 2007, and a fiscal year average (April to March) afterwards.

Figure 2NS – Yearly beneficiaries of Employment Support and Income Assistance (ESIA) as a proportion of the under-65 population in Nova Scotia, 1997 to 2021



Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2021. *Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex*. Accessed at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>

Who is receiving social assistance?

In 2020-21, unattached singles were the vast majority household among cases of Employment Support and Income Assistance in Nova Scotia, with 74 per cent of cases. They also had the highest proportion of beneficiaries, with 49 per cent. Single parents were second for both, with 18 per cent of cases and just under 34 per cent of beneficiaries.

Females made up a narrow majority of beneficiaries in 2020-21, with under 51 per cent.

Figure 3NS – Cases and beneficiaries of the Employment Support and Income Assistance (ESIA) by household in Nova Scotia, 2020-21

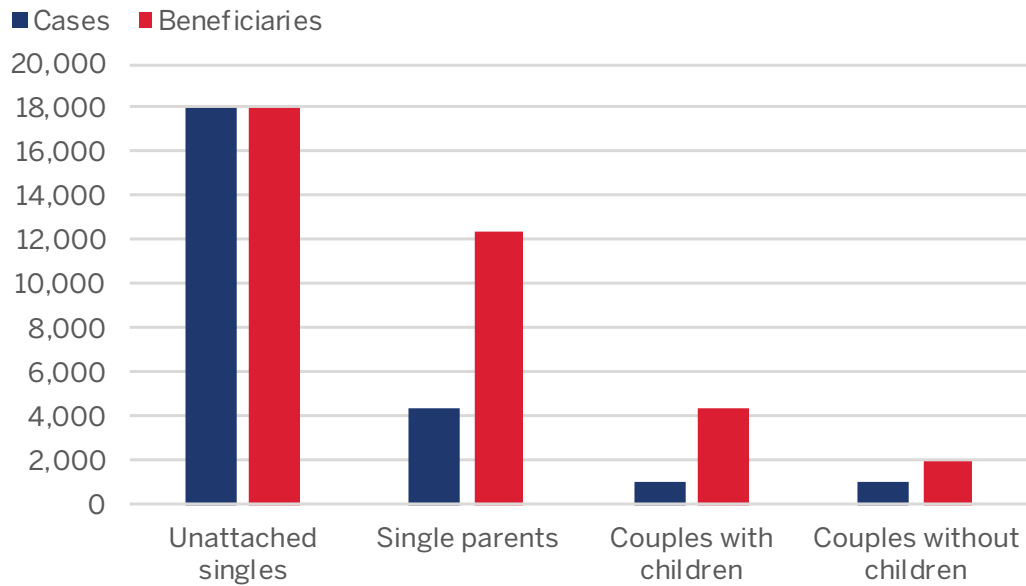
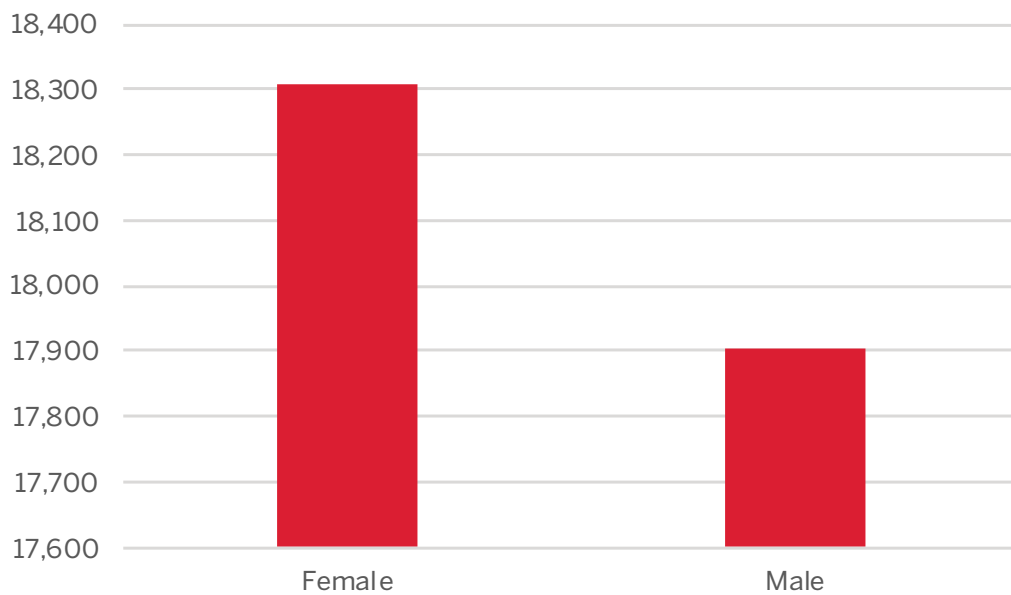


Figure 4NS – Beneficiaries of the Employment Support and Income Assistance (ESIA) by gender in Nova Scotia, 2020-21



Data

Figure 5NS – Yearly social assistance data for Nova Scotia, 1997 to 2021

Year	Employment Support and Income Assistance (ESIA)			
	Cases	Beneficiaries	Cases (Unverified)	Beneficiaries (Unverified)
1997			31,000	59,400
1998			29,300	56,000
1999			28,000	52,400
2000			38,300	73,700
2001			35,300	66,800
2002	33,800	61,500		
2003	33,300	58,300		
2004	33,000	56,300		
2005	31,500	52,300		
2006	29,800	48,600		
2007	28,500	45,400		
2007-08	28,477	45,250		
2008-09	27,196	42,663		
2009-10	27,778	43,254		
2010-11	28,386	43,737		
2011-12	28,800	44,179		
2012-13	28,947	44,392		
2013-14	28,893	44,101		
2014-15	28,094	42,490		
2015-16	26,777	39,906		
2016-17	26,450	39,350		
2017-18	26,072	38,972		
2018-19	25,506	38,171		
2019-20	25,488	38,482		
2020-21	24,378	36,720		

Unverified data

Figure 6NS – Social assistance data by household for Nova Scotia, 2020-21

Household Type	ESIA	
	Cases	Beneficiaries
Unattached singles	17,995	17,995
Single parents	4,405	12,335
Couples with children	974	4,383
Couples without children	1,004	2,007

Figure 7NS – Social assistance data by gender for Nova Scotia, 2020-21

Gender	ESIA
	Beneficiaries
Female	18,310
Male	17,902

Data notes

- 2006 and prior, the data reflects the number of cases and beneficiaries on March 31 of each year. In 2007, the data reflects the numbers in January.
- 2007-08 onwards, the data reflects the number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).
- In 2020-21, 509 beneficiaries did not provide information about their gender.
- Figures for 1997 to 2001 may include municipal assistance caseload and beneficiary figures in addition to provincial family benefits. During this period, it was common for family benefits clients to access special needs benefits from their local municipal social assistance offices. As a result, caseload figures for these years cannot be validated.
- The numbers do not include First Nations living on reserves.



Nunavut

Nunavut's social assistance program

Social assistance is the income program of last resort. It is intended for those who have exhausted all other means of financial support. Every province and territory has its own social assistance program(s), and no two are the same.

In Nunavut, social assistance is delivered under the Income Assistance Program. It is intended to help Nunavut families and individuals meet their basic needs when, for various reasons, including disability, illness, low income or periods of unemployment, they are unable to provide for themselves.

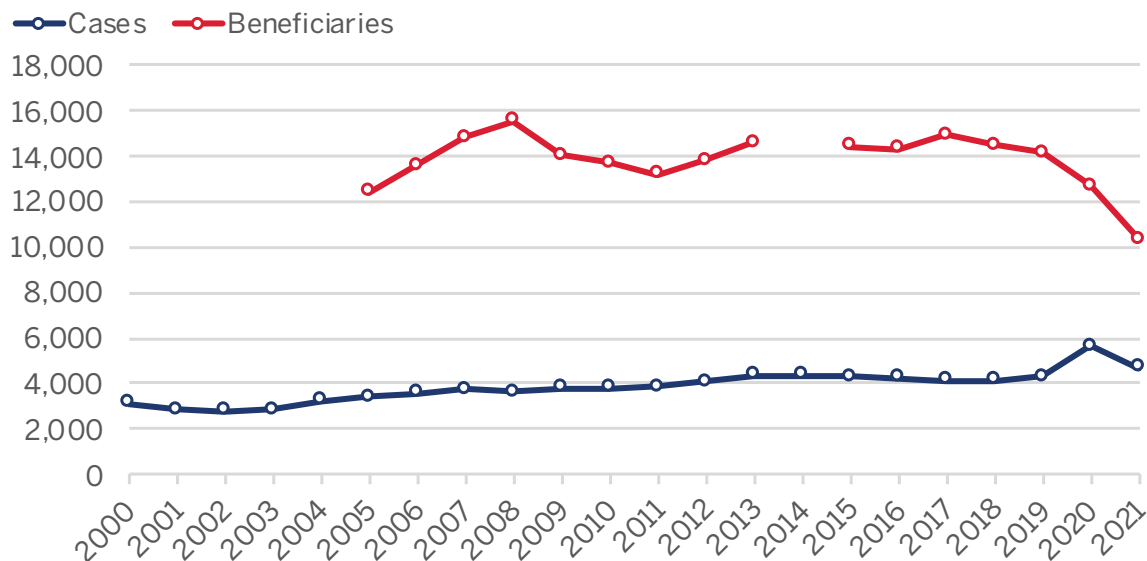
The Income Assistance Program provides basic benefits to residents 18 years of age and older for food, shelter, utilities, fuel, and municipal services. Extended benefits for clothing, incidental allowance (for seniors and people with disabilities), household furniture, security/damage deposits, emergency, and education are also paid to eligible individuals.

How many people claim social assistance?

On average, there were just under 4,700 cases (families and single adults) and almost 10,400 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in Nunavut's Income Assistance Program in 2021. Both numbers decreased in 2021, by about 960 cases (17 per cent), and 2,300 beneficiaries (18 per cent).

Over the longer term, the number of social assistance cases rose during the 2000s and early 2010s, but has been relatively stable in recent years until 2020, which saw a sharp increase in cases and a notable decrease in beneficiaries.

Figure 1NU – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of the Income Assistance Program in Nunavut, 2000 to 2021



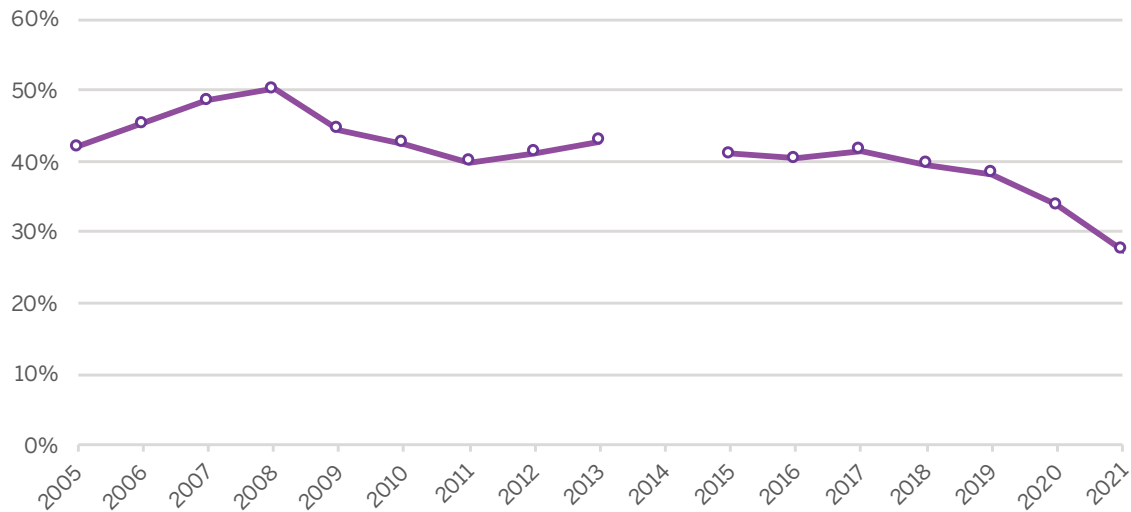
Note: Beneficiary statistics are not available for 2000 to 2004 and for 2014.

What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2021, on average, 27.4 per cent of people in Nunavut under 65 received the Income Assistance Program, which is over 1 in 4. The proportion of recipients receiving this program has followed a similar pattern as the total number of recipients. On average, the proportion fluctuated over 40 per cent until 2017, after which it began to decline, reaching its lowest point in 2021.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of a given year, whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a calendar year average (January to December).

Figure 2NU – Yearly beneficiaries of the Income Assistance Program as a proportion of the under-65 population in Nunavut, 2005 to 2021



Note: Beneficiary statistics are not available for 2014.

Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2021. *Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex*. Accessed at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>

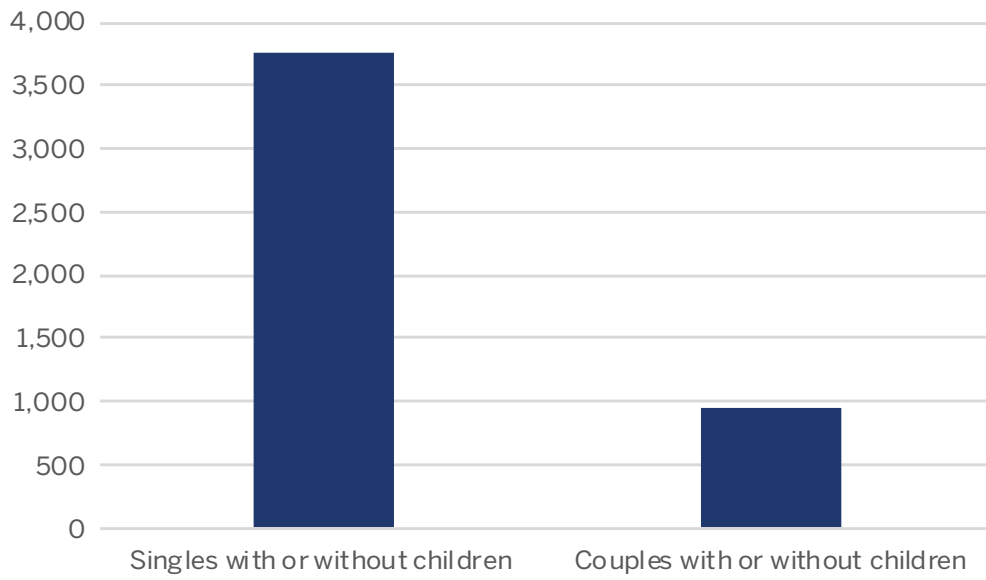
Who is receiving social assistance?

In 2021, singles with or without children were a significant majority of Income Assistance Program cases in Nunavut. They represented 80 per cent of cases, while couples with or without children comprised 20 per cent of cases.

Information on the gender of beneficiaries was not available.



Figure 3NU – Cases of the Income Assistance Program by household in Nunavut, 2021



Data

Figure 4NU – Yearly social assistance data for Nunavut, 1997 to 2021

Year	Income Assistance	
	Cases	Beneficiaries
2000	3,137	
2001	2,831	
2002	2,774	
2003	2,869	
2004	3,249	
2005	3,440	12,392
2006	3,594	13,570
2007	3,725	14,820
2008	3,646	15,523
2009	3,806	14,037
2010	3,822	13,716
2011	3,838	13,197
2012	4,083	13,797
2013	4,382	14,578
2014	4,389	
2015	4,287	14,428
2016	4,236	14,337
2017	4,147	14,952
2018	4,124	14,488
2019	4,293	14,142
2020	5,656	12,684
2021	4,696	10,359

Figure 5NU – Social assistance data by household for Nunavut, 2021

Household Type	Income Assistance
	Cases
Singles with or without children	3,748
Couples with or without children	948



Data notes

- The data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the calendar year (January 1 to December 31).
- Recipient statistics are not available for 2000 to 2004 and for 2014.
- The data for 2019 is an average for the months of January to October. The data in November and December has been omitted due to validity concerns.
- Data on beneficiaries by household, and more detailed data on cases by household, was not available.
- Data on gender was not available.



Ontario

Ontario's social assistance program

Social assistance is the income program of last resort. It is intended for those who have exhausted all other means of financial support. Every province and territory has its own social assistance program(s), and no two are the same.

In Ontario, social assistance is comprised of two programs:

1. Ontario Works, which provides income and employment assistance to people in financial need; and
2. Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), which is intended to help people with disabilities and their families live as independently as possible, and to reduce or eliminate disability-related barriers to employment.

Both Ontario Works and ODSP provide income and employment supports, as well as a range of benefits.

Ontario Works

Ontario Works income assistance includes an amount for shelter and basic needs such as food and clothing. In addition, employment assistance helps clients find, prepare for, and maintain a job.

Ontario Disability Support Program

ODSP provides income support and employment supports to eligible individuals with disabilities and their families. ODSP income support helps with the cost of basic needs as well as providing certain health- and employment-related benefits.

ODSP includes employment support in the form of a voluntary program that provides employment assistance to help people with disabilities prepare for, find, and keep a job. Individuals do not have to receive ODSP income support to be eligible for employment supports.

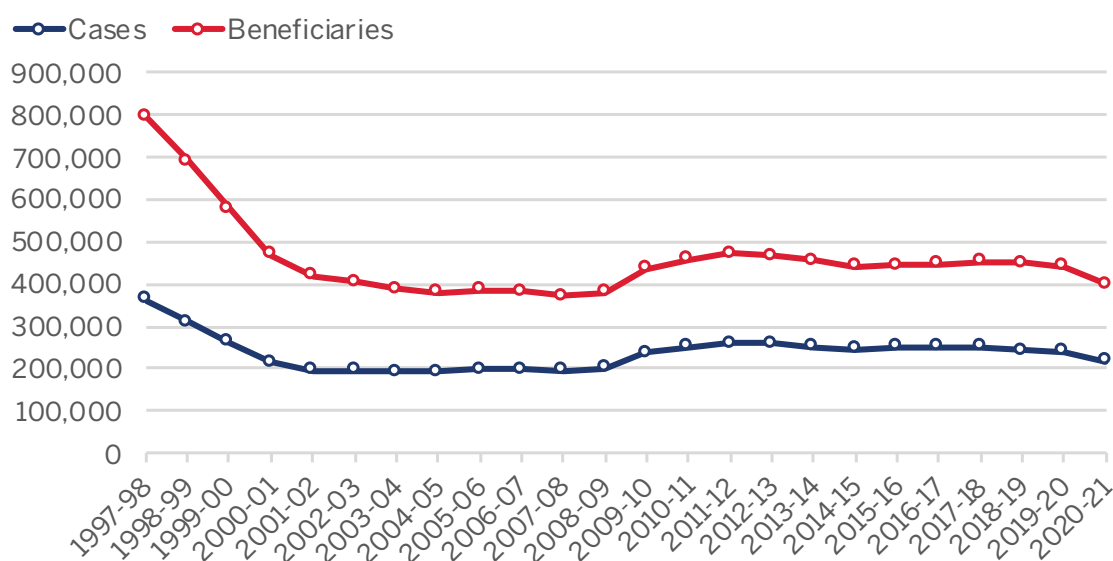
How many people claim social assistance?

On average, there were over 595,000 cases (families and single adults) in Ontario's social assistance programs during 2020-21. Over 36 per cent (217,234) were recipients of Ontario Works and 64 per cent (378,145) were recipients of the Ontario Disability Support Program.

Ontario Works

On average, there were just over 217,000 families or individuals receiving Ontario Works in 2020-21, a sharp drop of over 23,000 from 2019-20. The number of beneficiaries also decreased to just under 401,000 in 2020-21, about 41,000 fewer than the previous year. The number of cases and beneficiaries both decreased by between 9 and 10 per cent on average, the most significant drops in 20 years. The number of cases and beneficiaries remains above the pre-2008 financial crisis level.

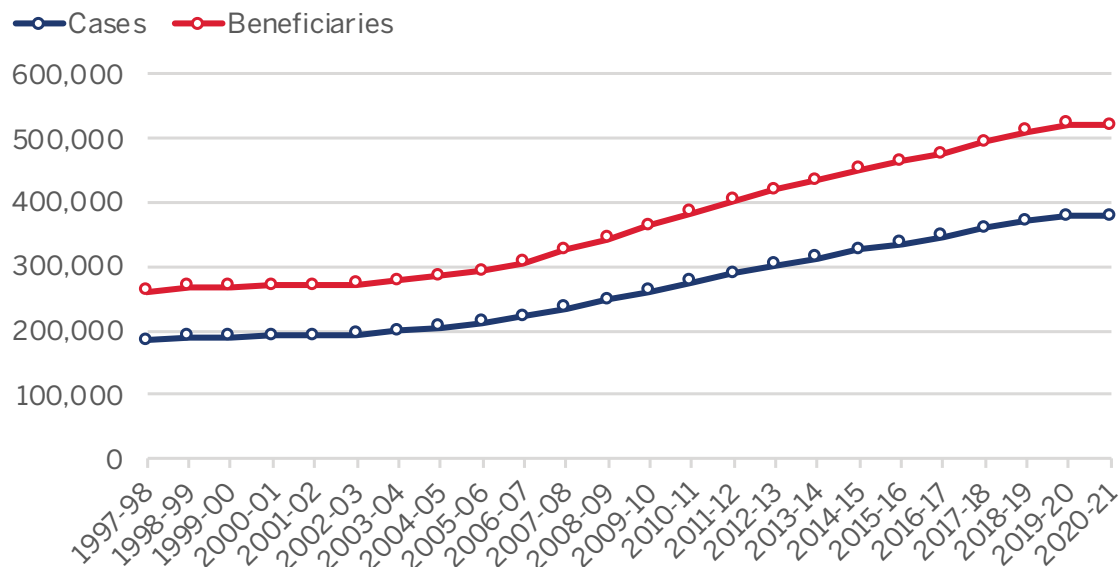
Figure 10N – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Ontario Works, 1997 to 2021



Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

In 2020-21, there was an average of just over 378,000 cases in the Ontario Disability Support Program and around 520,000 beneficiaries. After steadily rising since the early 2000s, both numbers saw their first decreases.

Figure 20N – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), 1997 to 2021



What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

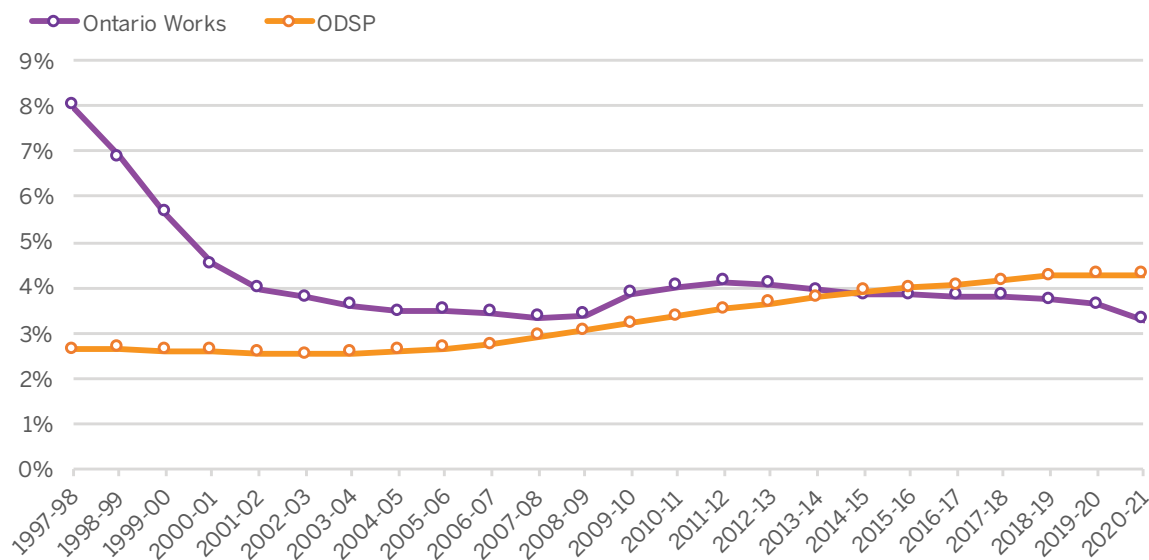
In 2020-21, on average, 7.6 per cent of people in Ontario under 65 received Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), which is 1 in 13. The proportion of recipients receiving social assistance has followed a similar pattern as the total number of recipients.

The proportion of people under 65 receiving ODSP has increased consistently since 1997-98, reaching a high of 4.3 per cent in 2020-21.

The proportion of Ontario Works beneficiaries decreased steeply from 1997-98 to 2001-02, going from 8 per cent to 4 per cent. Since then, the proportion has stayed in the range between 3.3 per cent to 4.1 per cent. In 2020-21, the average proportion of Ontario Works relative to the under-65 population matched the previous low of 3.3 per cent.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of a given year, whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April to March).

Figure 30N – Yearly beneficiaries of Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) as a proportion of the under-65 population of Ontario, 1997 to 2021



Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2021. Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex. Accessed at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>

Who is receiving social assistance?

In 2020-21, unattached singles comprised the majority of social assistance cases among households for both programs, with just over 61 per cent of Ontario Works and 79 per cent of the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). For both programs, single parents had the second largest percentage of cases, with almost 30 per cent for Ontario Works and 9 per cent for ODSP.

For Ontario Works, single parent households had the highest proportion of beneficiaries, with nearly 47 per cent, followed by unattached singles, with 33 per cent. Unattached singles comprised the majority of ODSP beneficiaries, with just under 58 per cent, followed by single parents, with around 17 per cent.

Females made up the majority of Ontario Works beneficiaries in 2020-21, with 64 per cent, about 77 per cent more than males. For ODSP, beneficiaries were almost equally split between males and females.

Ontario Works

Figure 40N – Cases and beneficiaries of the Ontario Works by household, 2020-21

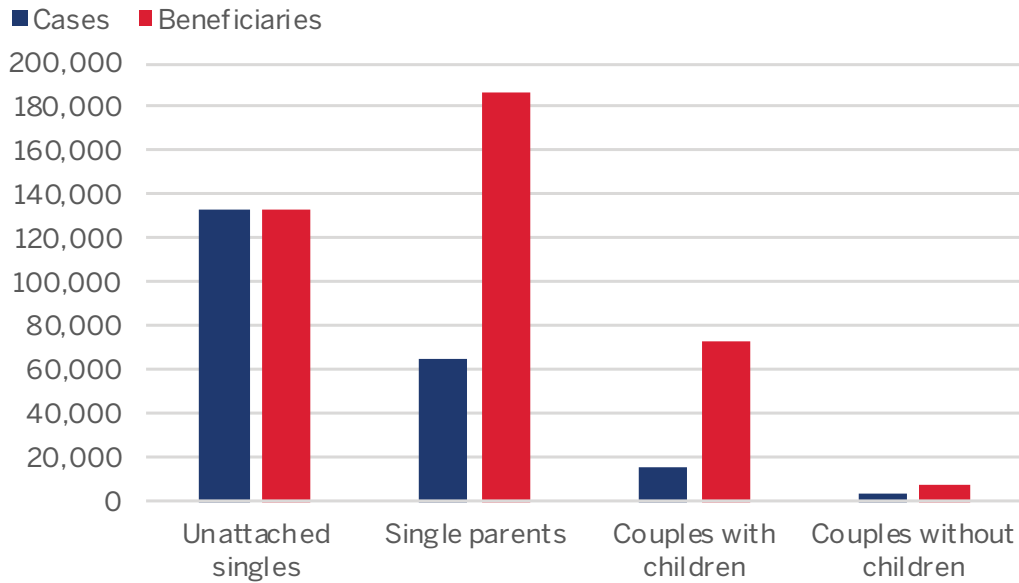
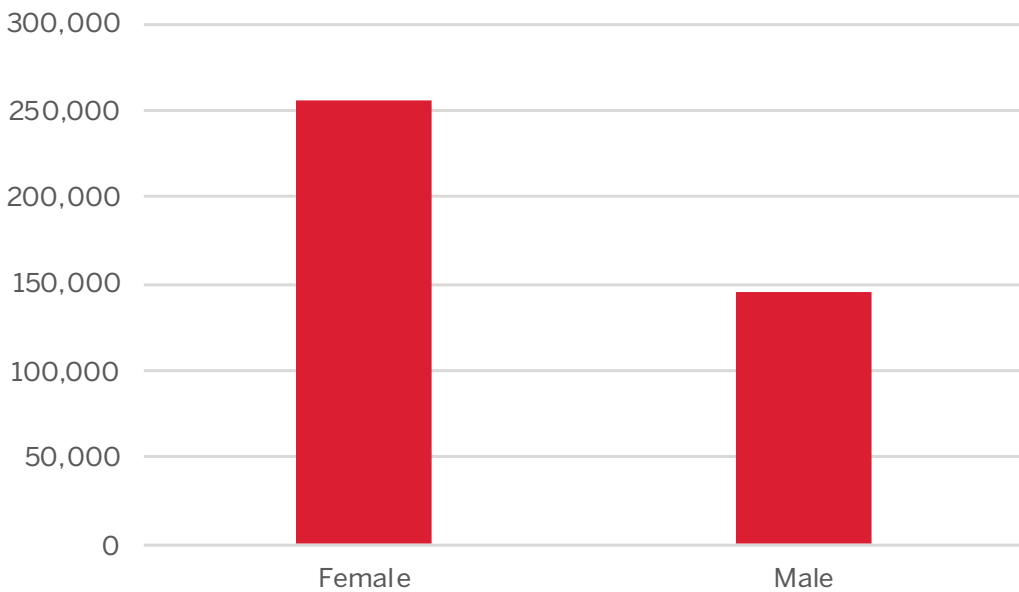


Figure 50N – Beneficiaries of the Ontario Works by sex, 2020-21



Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

Figure 60N – Cases and beneficiaries of the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) by household, 2020-21

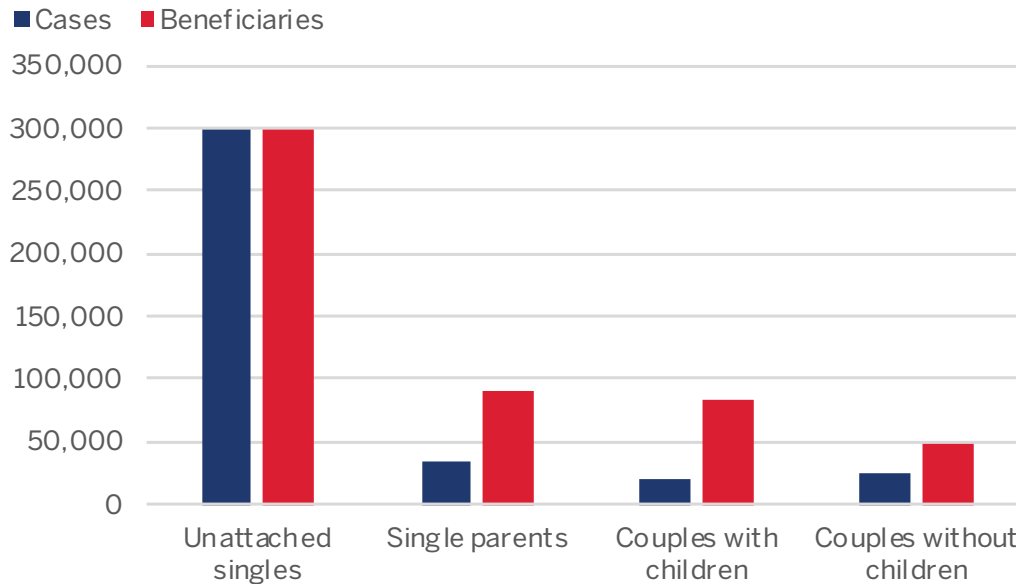
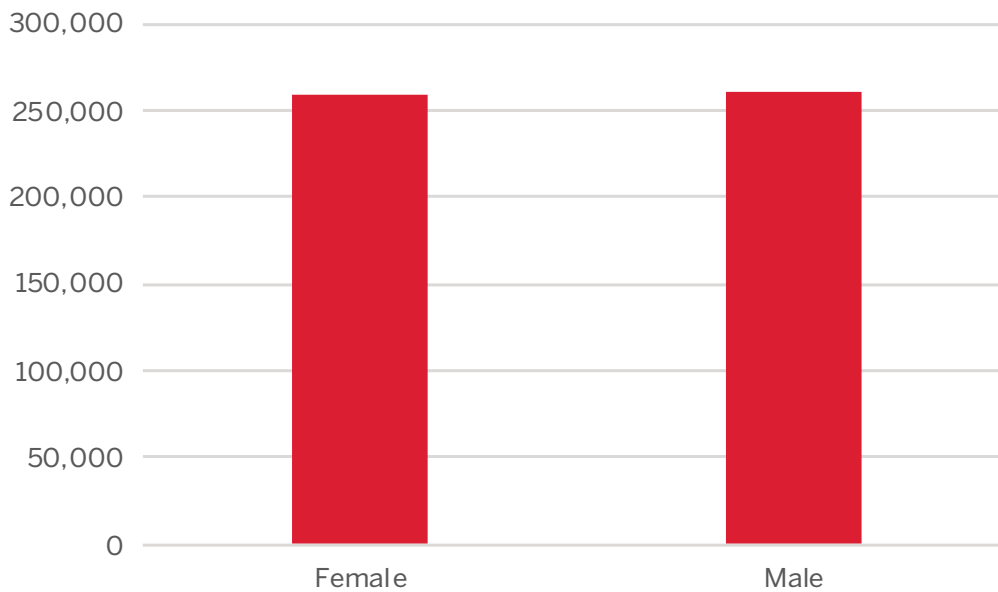


Figure 70N – Beneficiaries of the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) by sex, 2020-21



Data

Figure 80N – Yearly social assistance data for Ontario, 1997 to 2021

Year	Ontario Works		ODSP	
	Cases	Beneficia- ries	Cases	Beneficia- ries
1997-98	362,334	796,109	185,479	261,737
1998-99	310,493	690,608	189,392	268,159
1999-00	262,439	577,620	189,536	268,286
2000-01	215,618	469,494	191,885	271,144
2001-02	196,596	419,493	192,048	270,558
2002-03	195,137	404,067	194,140	271,740
2003-04	192,096	389,754	200,087	278,393
2004-05	191,723	380,670	205,880	285,231
2005-06	198,377	386,801	212,058	292,622
2006-07	199,242	383,068	221,718	305,202
2007-08	194,920	371,876	235,672	325,552
2008-09	202,181	380,442	247,476	342,149
2009-10	237,634	435,721	261,509	362,594
2010-11	251,280	457,774	276,191	383,341
2011-12	260,766	471,154	289,676	402,307
2012-13	259,819	468,074	302,733	420,128
2013-14	252,767	454,520	314,033	435,052
2014-15	246,903	442,942	326,293	451,576
2015-16	250,640	445,466	335,933	463,889
2016-17	252,247	447,408	346,070	475,637
2017-18	250,292	454,246	359,330	494,402
2018-19	243,875	448,724	370,673	511,206
2019-20	240,545	441,895	378,441	521,594
2020-21	217,234	400,899	378,145	520,064

Figure 90N – Social assistance data by household for Ontario, 2020-21

Household Type	Ontario Works		ODSP	
	Cases	Beneficia- ries	Cases	Beneficia- ries
Unattached singles	133,169	133,169	299,320	299,320
Single parents	64,458	187,214	34,566	89,652
Couples with children	15,652	72,605	20,093	82,759
Couples without children	3,955	7,911	24,167	48,334

Figure 100N – Social assistance data by sex for Ontario, 2020-21

	Ontario Works	ODSP
Sex	Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries
Female	256,016	258,871
Male	144,883	261,193

Data notes

- The data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).
- The numbers include First Nations living on reserves.
- Ontario Works was proclaimed on May 1, 1998 and replaced the General Welfare Assistance Act (GWA).
- Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) was proclaimed on June 1, 1998 and replaced the Family Benefits Act (FBA).
- Data prior to June 1998 have been adjusted to reflect Ontario Works and ODSP.



Prince Edward Island

Prince Edward Island's social assistance program

Social assistance is the income program of last resort. It is intended for those who have exhausted all other means of financial support. Every province and territory has its own social assistance program(s), and no two are the same.

Prince Edward Island delivers both a Social Assistance Program and an AccessAbility Supports program (formerly Disability Support Program).

Social Assistance Program

The Social Assistance Program delivers benefits on a case-by-case basis to residents who meet the eligibility requirements. The amount of financial support available varies depending on the individual's circumstances, such as the number of dependents in the household and whether they are a home owner. Assistance may include help with food and shelter costs, personal expenses, medical, dental, and optical care, and funeral costs. Changes were announced in June 2018 to increase income exemptions and support transitioning to work.

AccessAbility Supports

AccessAbility Supports (AAS) is the new name for the former Disability Support Program. The Disability Support Program was the first program in Canada to distinguish disability-specific support from social assistance. Enhancements were announced in July 2018.

People with disabilities (physical, intellectual, neurological, sensory, or mental health) can access tools they need to reach their full potential and contribute to society as fully as possible. Supports are identified using a capability assessment tool that helps to better understand how the disability affects activities of daily living to ensure appropriate support is provided.

There are five areas of supports available:

1. Personal supports

These supports help with personal daily living. Examples include life skills training, technical aids and assistive devices, in-home supports, or personal care workers.



2. Housing supports

Independent living can be supported by financial assistance for a caregiver to provide daily supervision and guidance in a community-based residential setting or financial help for home and vehicle modifications.

3. Community supports

These supports help active participation in the community. Examples include assistance with finding or keeping a job, supporting youth transitioning from the education system to the workforce, and enabling active participation in the community.

4. Caregiver supports

Provides help for family members or caregivers. Examples of supports include respite for caregivers to allow time for breaks to recharge or support to provide supervision for adults who are unable to stay home alone safely so that caregivers can go to work or school.

5. Financial supports

Assured Income is the financial support component of AAS. It covers basic needs, such as food, clothing, shelter, and household and personal supplies. Previously, if a person with a disability required financial assistance, they would need to apply to the Social Assistance Program.

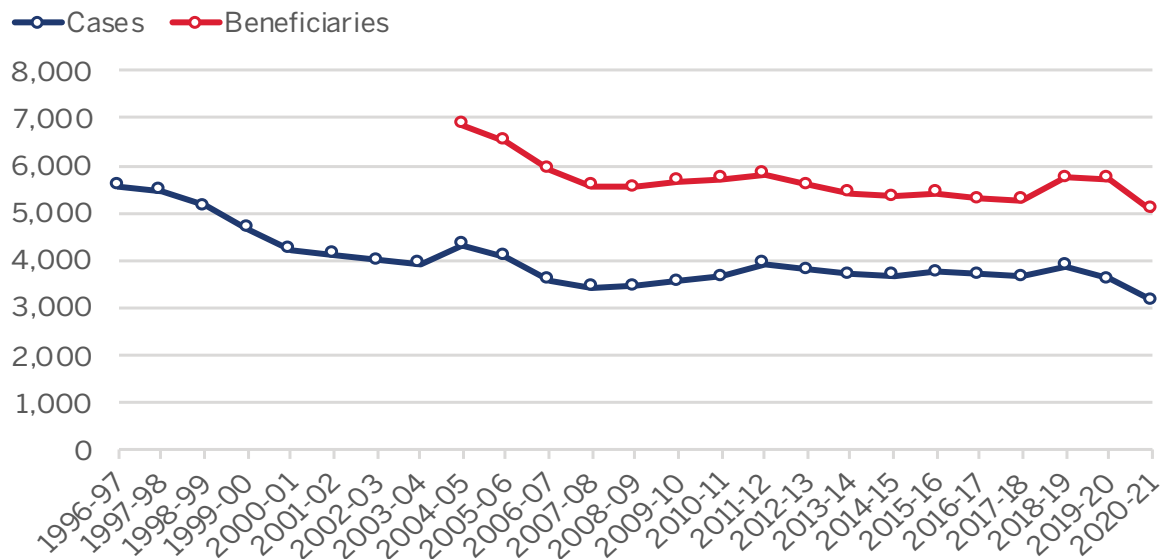
These supports are not meant to duplicate or replicate existing services.

How many people claim social assistance?

Social Assistance Program

On average, there were about 3,150 cases (families and single adults) and just under 5,100 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in Prince Edward Island's Social Assistance Program during 2020-21. Both numbers decreased from the previous year: 443 fewer cases (12 per cent) and 643 fewer beneficiaries (11 per cent). Over the long term, these numbers fell in the late 1990s and early 2000s, but have been reasonably stable over the last decade.

Figure 1PE – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of the Social Assistance Program in Prince Edward Island, 1996 to 2021

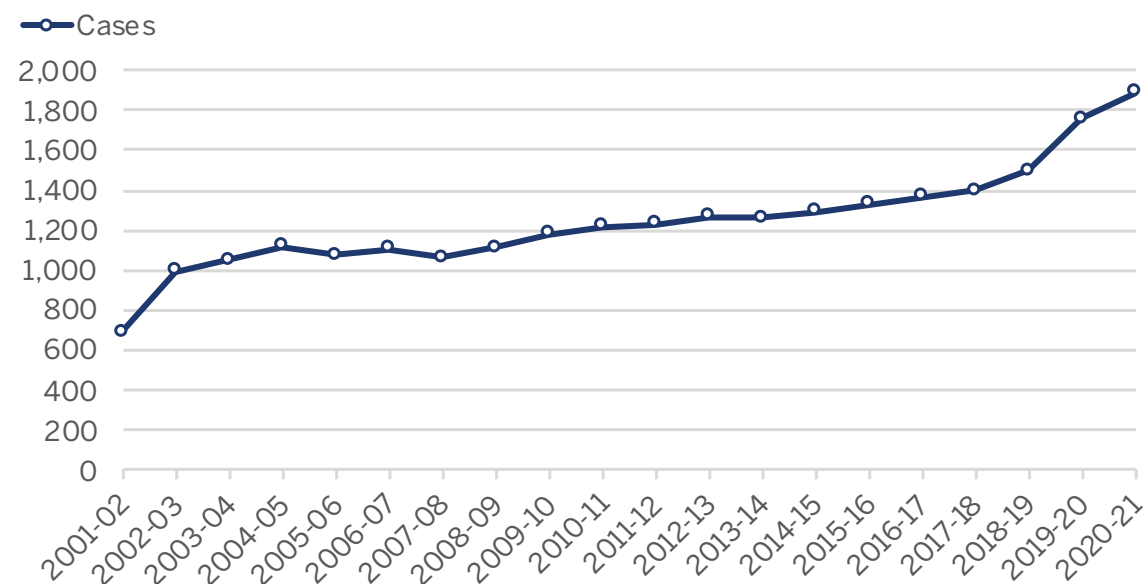


Note: Social Assistance Program beneficiary figures for the years 1996-97 to 2003-04 are not available.

AccessAbility Supports

On average, almost 1,900 individuals received support through the AccessAbility Supports Program. The number of cases has risen gradually since its introduction in 2001-02.

Figure 2PE – Yearly cases of AccessAbility Supports in Prince Edward Island, 2001 to 2021





What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

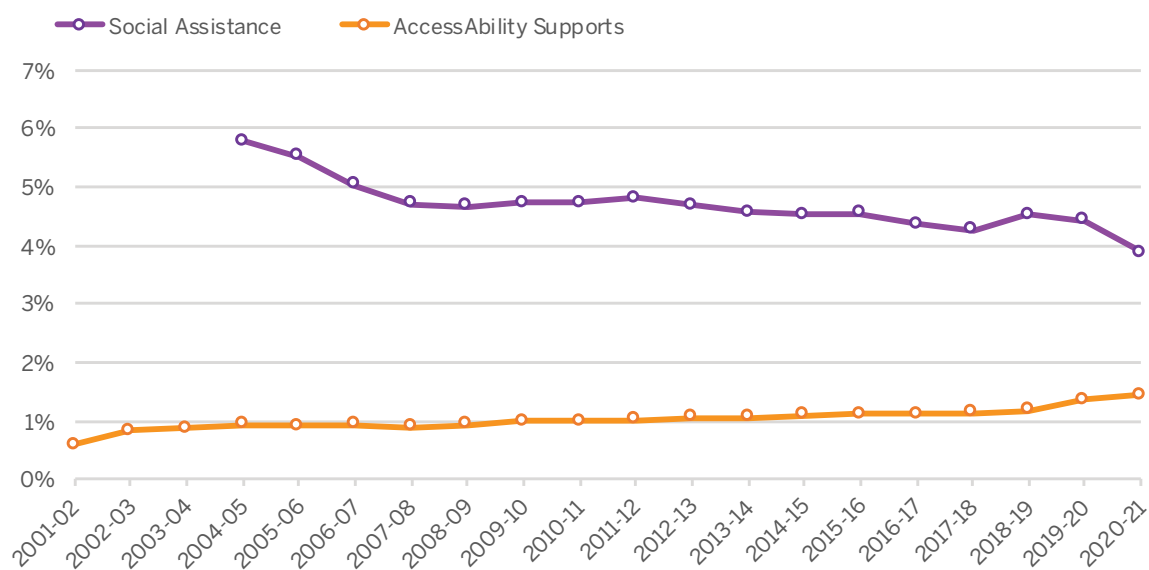
In 2020-21, on average, 5.3 per cent of people in Prince Edward Island under 65 received the AccessAbility Supports Program or the Social Assistance Program, which is 1 in 19. The proportion of recipients receiving social assistance has followed a similar pattern as the total number of recipients.

The proportion of people under 65 receiving AccessAbility Supports has slowly increased from 0.6 in 2001-02 to a high of 1.4 per cent in 2020-21.

The proportion of Social Assistance Program beneficiaries decreased until 2007-08, declining from 5.8 per cent to 4.7 per cent. From 2007-08 to 2019-20, on average, the proportion hovered around 4.5 per cent. In 2020-21, the average proportion of Social Assistance Program recipients relative to the under-65 population reached its lowest point of 3.9 per cent.

Note: The total population under-65 is estimated on July 1 of a given year, whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April to March).

Figure 3PE – Yearly beneficiaries of the Social Assistance Program and cases of the AccessAbility Supports Program as a proportion of the under-65 population of Prince Edward Island, 2001 to 2021



Note: Social Assistance Program beneficiary figures for the years 1996-97 to 2003-04 are not available.

Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2021. Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex. Accessed at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>

Who is receiving social assistance?

In March 2021, unattached singles comprised the majority of social assistance cases among households for both the Social Assistance Program and the Accessibility Supports Program, with 71 per cent and 92 per cent respectively.

For the Social Assistance Program, single parents were the second largest number of cases, with 19 per cent. For the Accessibility Supports Program, couples without children were the second largest number of cases, with 5 per cent.

The Social Assistance Program had more female cases with 57 per cent. Whereas, the Accessibility Supports Program had more male cases with 59 per cent.

Data on beneficiaries was not available for March 2021.



Social Assistance Program

Figure 4PE – Cases of the Social Assistance Program by household in Prince Edward Island, March 2021

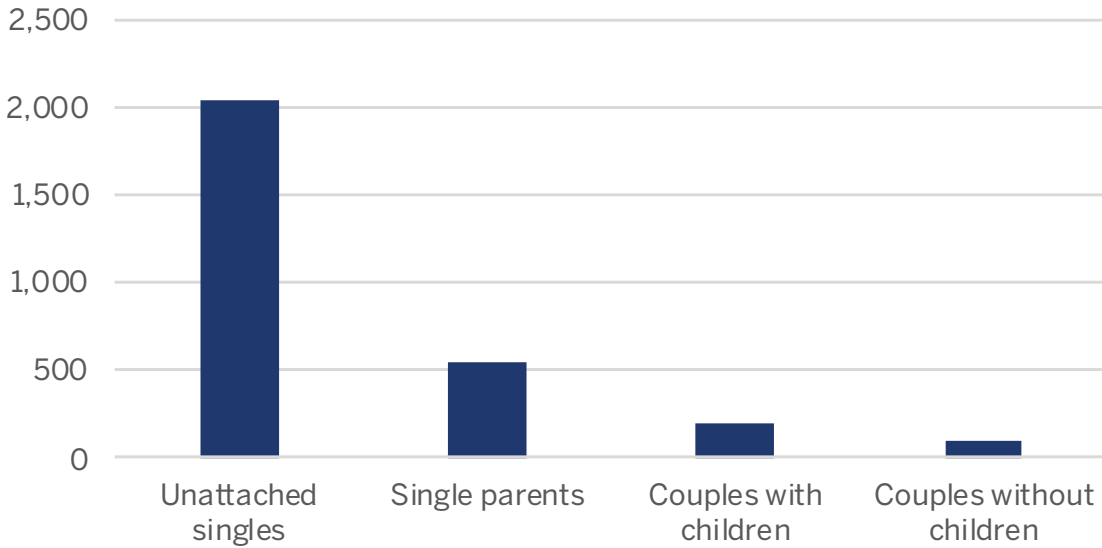
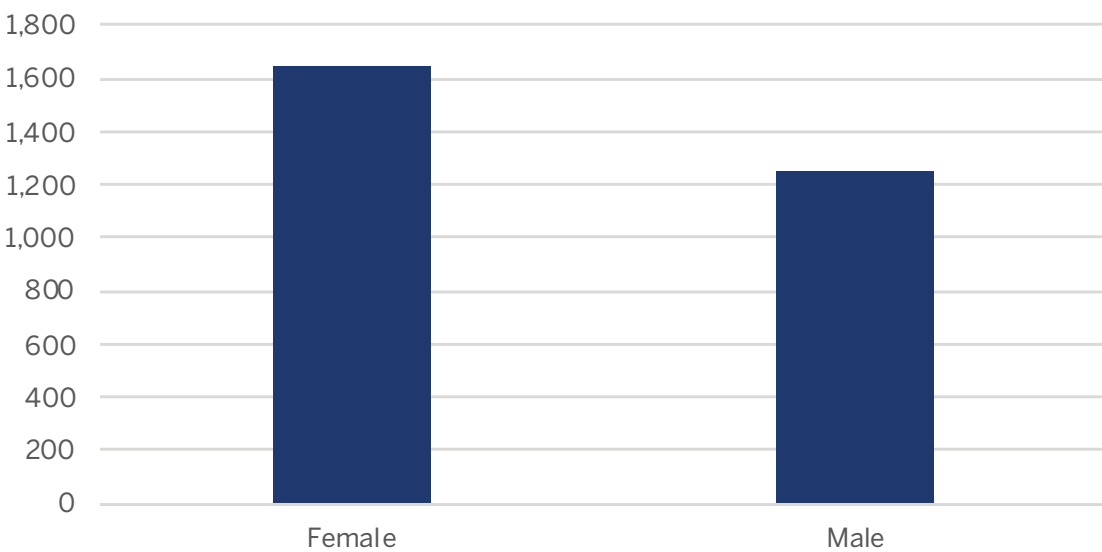


Figure 5PE – Cases of the Social Assistance Program by gender in Prince Edward Island, March 2021



AccessAbility Supports

Figure 6PE – Cases of AccessAbility Supports by household in Prince Edward Island, March 2021

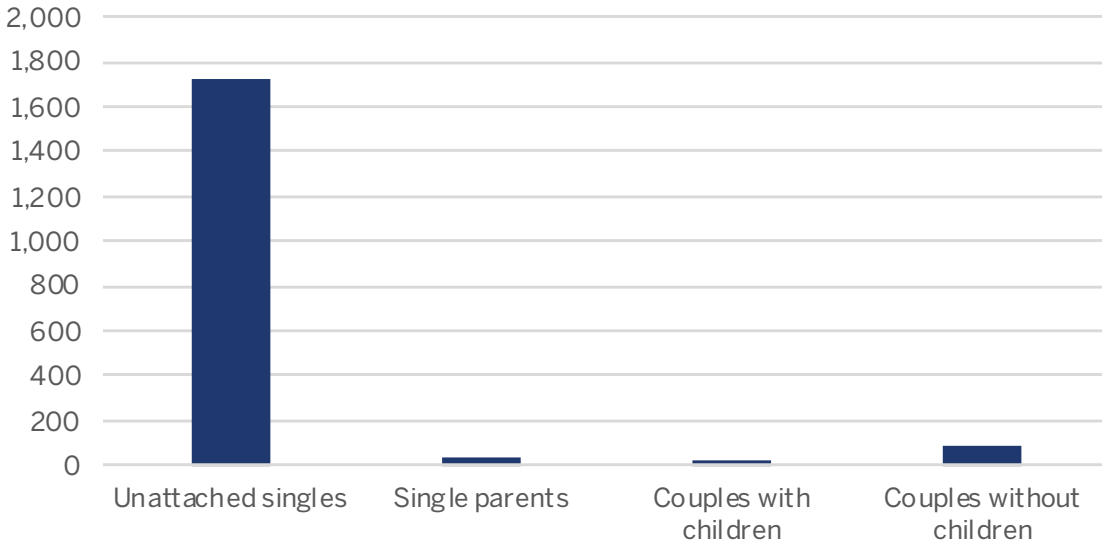
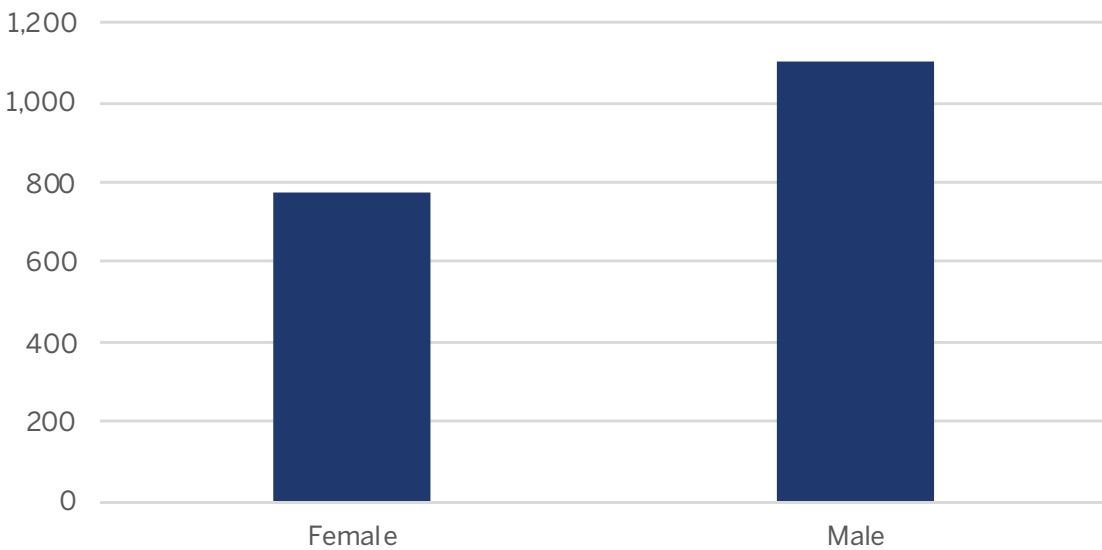


Figure 7PE – Cases of AccessAbility Supports by gender in Prince Edward Island, March 2021



Data

Figure 8PE – Yearly social assistance data for Prince Edward Island, 1997 to 2021

Year	Social Assistance Program		AccessAbility Supports
	Cases	Beneficiaries	Cases
1996-97	5,562		
1997-98	5,465		
1998-99	5,143		
1999-00	4,668		
2000-01	4,213		
2001-02	4,135		691
2002-03	3,999		991
2003-04	3,927		1,047
2004-05	4,330	6,848	1,117
2005-06	4,066	6,510	1,076
2006-07	3,568	5,905	1,106
2007-08	3,431	5,554	1,065
2008-09	3,455	5,529	1,115
2009-10	3,566	5,668	1,183
2010-11	3,660	5,724	1,215
2011-12	3,916	5,809	1,232
2012-13	3,800	5,597	1,269
2013-14	3,700	5,406	1,264
2014-15	3,687	5,335	1,294
2015-16	3,755	5,420	1,330
2016-17	3,700	5,302	1,365
2017-18	3,649	5,270	1,399
2018-19	3,872	5,733	1,495
2019-20	3,597	5,721	1,761
2020-21	3,154	5,078	1,887

Figure 9PE – Social assistance data by household for Prince Edward Island, March 2021

	Social Assistance	AccessAbility Supports
Household Type	Cases	Cases
Unattached singles	2,042	1,726
Single parents	550	32
Couples with children	199	26
Couples without children	104	91

Figure 10PE – Social assistance data by gender for Prince Edward Island, March 2021

	Social Assistance	AccessAbility Supports
Gender	Cases	Cases
Female	1,642	775
Male	1,251	1,100

Data notes

- Social Assistance Program beneficiary figures for the years 1996-97 to 2003-04 are not available.
- The Disability Support Program was introduced in 2001-02. In August 2018, it was expanded and became AccessAbility Supports.
- The yearly social assistance data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).
- The disaggregated social assistance data (by household and gender) reflects the number of cases on March 31, 2021.
- For 2019-20, the number of Social Assistance beneficiaries is for March 2020 and is not a yearly fiscal average as previously reported.
- Data for beneficiaries by household and gender was not available.
- The unattached singles cases of AccessAbility Supports include 402 child cases (0-17 year-olds).
- The gender of two Social Assistance Program cases was unknown.
- The numbers do not include First Nations living on reserves.



Quebec

Quebec's social assistance program

Social assistance is the income program of last resort. It is intended for those who have exhausted all other means of financial support. Every province and territory has its own social assistance program(s), and no two are the same.

In Quebec, the social assistance program is known as Last Resort Financial Assistance, which includes the Aim for Employment (*objectif emploi*), the Social Assistance program (*aide sociale*), and the Social Solidarity program (*solidarité sociale*).

Aim for Employment (*objectif emploi*)

The Aim for Employment program was introduced in April 2018, and it aims to help recipients improve their employability. It is a 12-month program that is mandatory for new social assistance recipients (with some exceptions). In addition to the basic benefit, recipients receive a participation allowance for carrying out the activities in their labour market entry plan.

Social Assistance Program (*aide sociale*)

The Social Assistance program provides basic benefits to adults only. Between September 1997 and 2005, children's basic benefits were delivered through the Quebec Family Allowance, but since 2005 children's basic benefits have been available through the Child Assistance Measure.

Social Solidarity Program (*solidarité sociale*)

The Social Solidarity program is for those with severely limited capacity for employment. To obtain a social solidarity allowance, a medical report must be produced confirming that the applicant's physical or psychological condition is significantly impaired and will be so permanently or for an indeterminate time. Such conditions, in combination with their socio-occupational profile (little schooling, no work experience) qualify the applicant as having a severely limited capacity for employment. In the case of a family composed of two adults, only one adult must prove his or her severely limited capacity for employment in order for the family to be eligible for the program.



How many people claim social assistance?

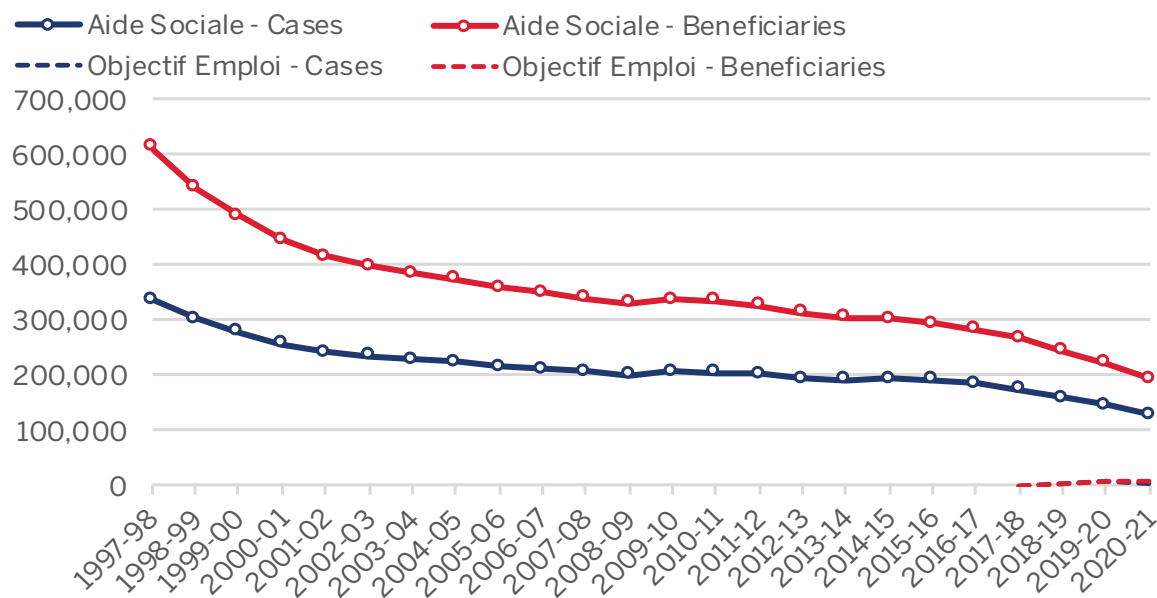
On average, there were almost 253,000 cases (families and single adults) in Quebec's social assistance programs during 2020-21. A very small proportion (2 per cent) were part of the Aim for Employment Program, over half (51 per cent) received support through the Social Assistance Program, and the remainder (47 per cent) received support through the Social Solidarity Program.

Aim for Employment Program (*objectif emploi*) and Social Assistance Program (*aide sociale*)

The number of Social Assistance Program cases in Quebec decreased by just under 16,400, or about 11 per cent, to reach just over 129,000 in 2020-21. Overall, the number of cases and beneficiaries has fallen most years since the mid-1990s, but the most recent decreases have been somewhat counter-balanced by increases in cases and beneficiaries in the Aim for Employment Program, which was introduced in April 2018. With this program in place, most individuals and families seeking income assistance in Quebec receive support through the Aim for Employment Program for 12 months. Those still in need of income support at the end of this period may then transition to the Social Assistance Program or Social Solidarity Program. After two years of increases, the number of Aim for Employment Program cases fell in 2020-21 to just under 4,600, a decrease of around 26 per cent.

On average, there were over 194,000 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) of Quebec's Social Assistance Program in 2020-21, around 26,700 (12 per cent) fewer than the year before. The number of Aim for Employment Program beneficiaries also fell in 2020-21 to reach about 7,000, a decrease of just under 2,400 (around 25 per cent).

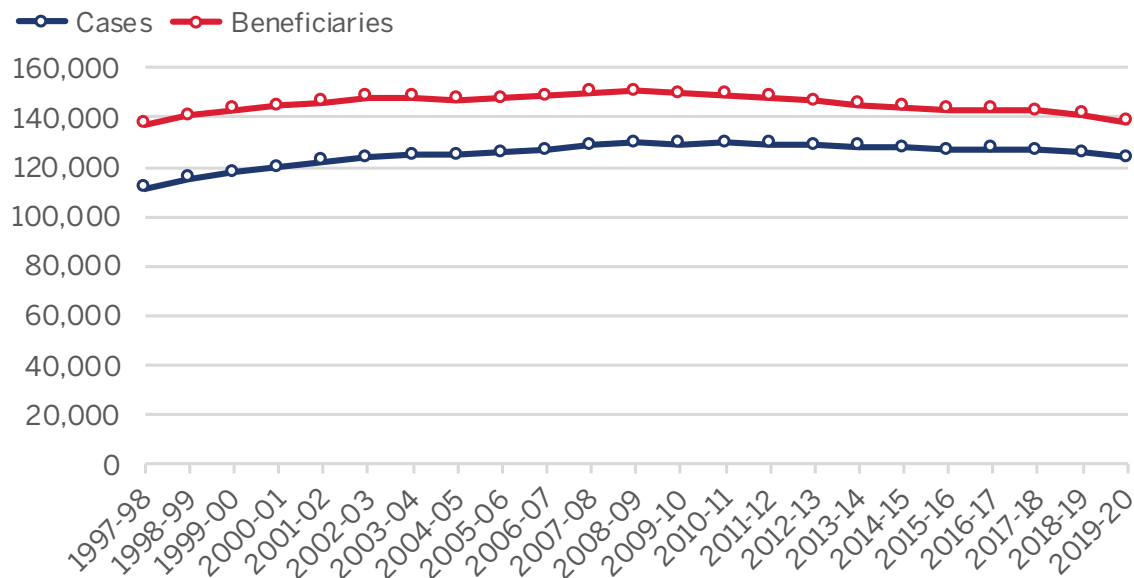
Figure 1QC – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of the Aim for Employment Program (*objectif emploi*) and the Social Assistance Program (*aide sociale*) in Quebec, 1997 to 2021



Social Solidarity Program (*solidarité sociale*)

In 2020-21, there was an average of more than 119,000 Social Solidarity Program cases, a decrease of about 4,300, and over 132,000 beneficiaries, a decrease of about 5,500. This marks the lowest number of cases since 1999-2000, and the lowest number of beneficiaries in the time series. Both numbers had remained relatively stable over the last decade, having gradually risen in the decade before that.

Figure 2QC – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of the Social Solidarity Program (*solidarité sociale*) in Quebec, 1997 to 2021



What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2020-21, on average, 4.8 per cent of people in Quebec under 65 received the Aim for Employment Program, the Social Assistance Program, or the Social Solidarity Program, which is 1 in 21. The proportion of recipients receiving social assistance has followed a similar pattern as the total number of recipients.

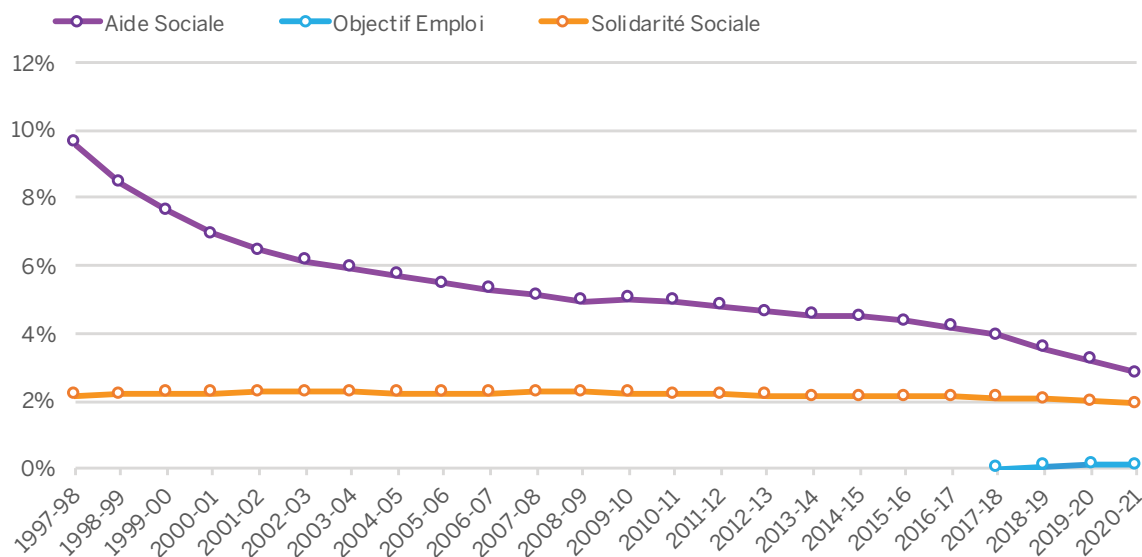
The proportion of people under 65 receiving the Social Assistance Program has decreased consistently since 1997-98, reaching a low of 2.8 per cent in 2020-21.

The proportion of Social Solidarity Program beneficiaries has remained stable at slightly above 2 per cent since 1997-98. In 2020-21, it reached its lowest point at 1.9 per cent.

Similarly, the proportion of Aim for Employment Program recipients has remained consistent at 0.1 per cent since its introduction in 2018-19.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of a given year, whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April to March).

Figure 3QC – Yearly beneficiaries of social assistance as a proportion of the under 65 population of Quebec, 1997 to 2021



Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2021. *Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex*. Accessed at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>

Who is receiving social assistance?

In 2020-21, unattached singles comprised the majority of social assistance cases among households for each program, with over 79 per cent for the Aim for Employment Program, over 74 per cent for the Social Assistance Program, and over 92 per cent for the Social Solidarity Program.

Unattached singles were also the majority of beneficiaries, except for the Social Assistance Program, in which they had the highest proportion (49 per cent).

Couples with children had the second largest number of cases and beneficiaries of the Aim for Employment Program. Single parents had the second largest number of cases and beneficiaries of the Social Assistance Program. Couples without children had the second largest number of cases and beneficiaries of the Social Solidarity Program.

In 2020-21, the majority of beneficiaries of each program were male, with around 54 per cent for the Aim for Employment Program, around 54 per cent for the Social Assistance Program, and almost 53 per cent for the Social Solidarity Program.

Aim for Employment Program (*objectif emploi*)

Figure 4QC – Cases and beneficiaries of the Aim for Employment Program (*objectif emploi*) by household in Quebec, 2020-21

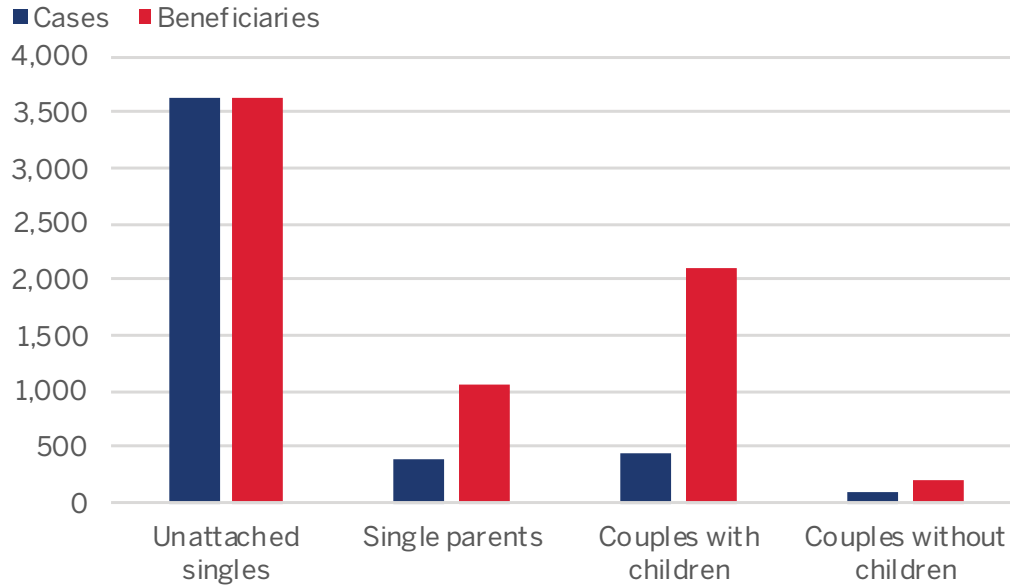
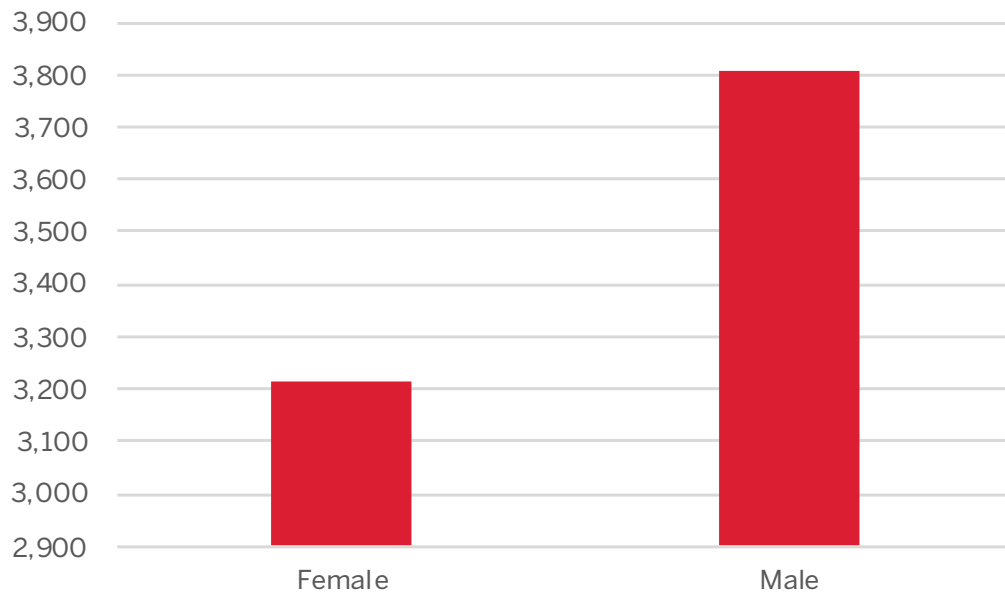


Figure 5QC – Beneficiaries of the Aim for Employment Program (*objectif emploi*) by sex in Quebec, 2020-21



Social Assistance Program (*aide sociale*)

Figure 6QC – Cases and beneficiaries of the Social Assistance Program (*aide sociale*) by household in Quebec, 2020-21

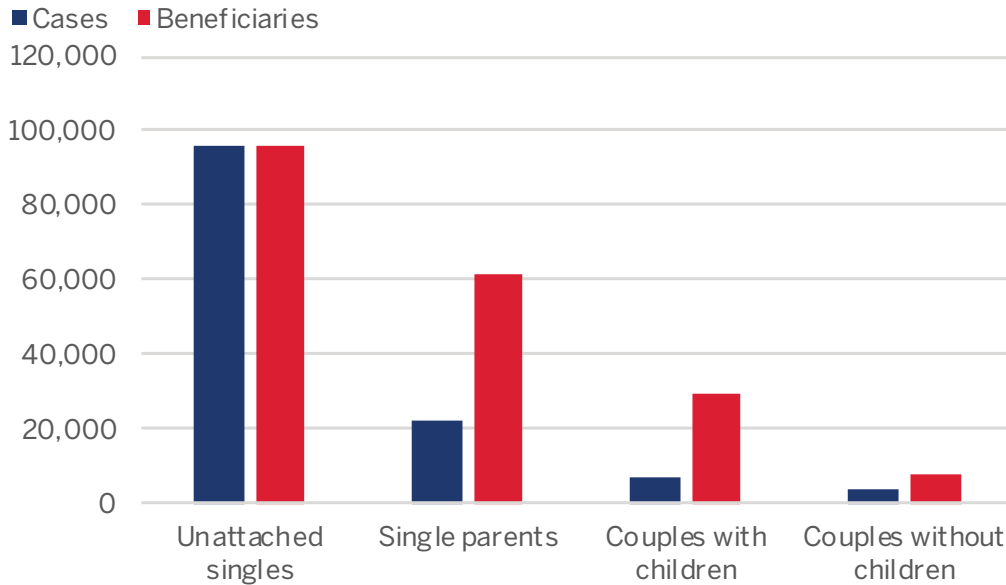
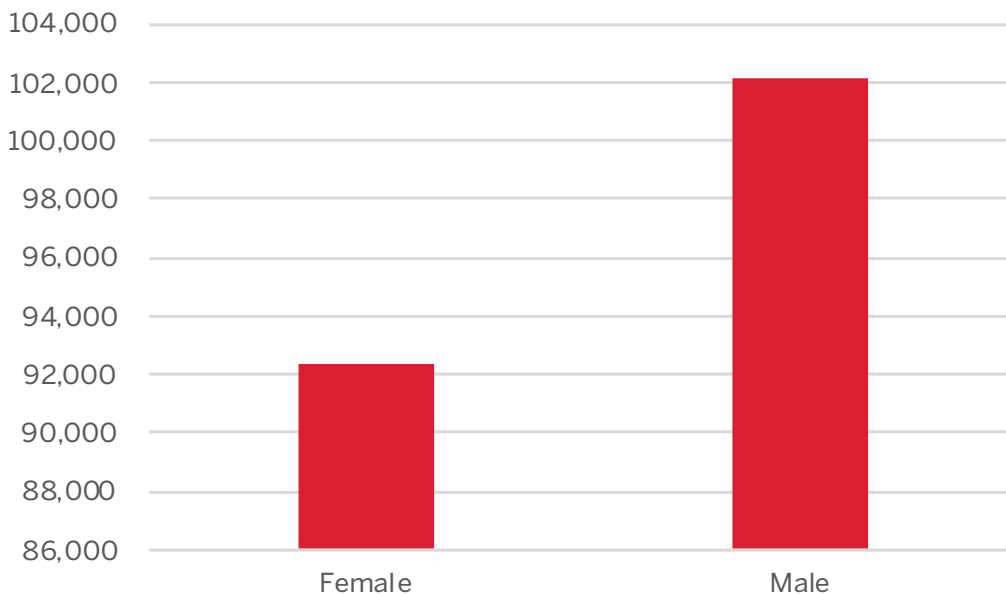


Figure 7QC – Beneficiaries of the Social Assistance Program (*aide sociale*) by sex in Quebec, 2020-21



Social Solidarity Program (*solidarité sociale*)

Figure 8QC – Cases and beneficiaries of the Social Solidarity Program (*solidarité sociale*) by household in Quebec, 2020-21

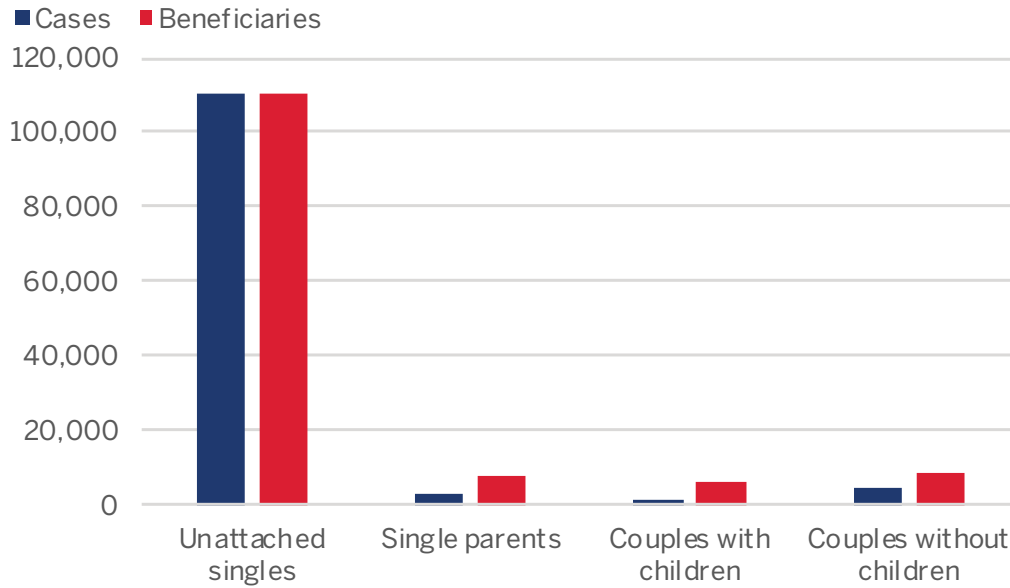
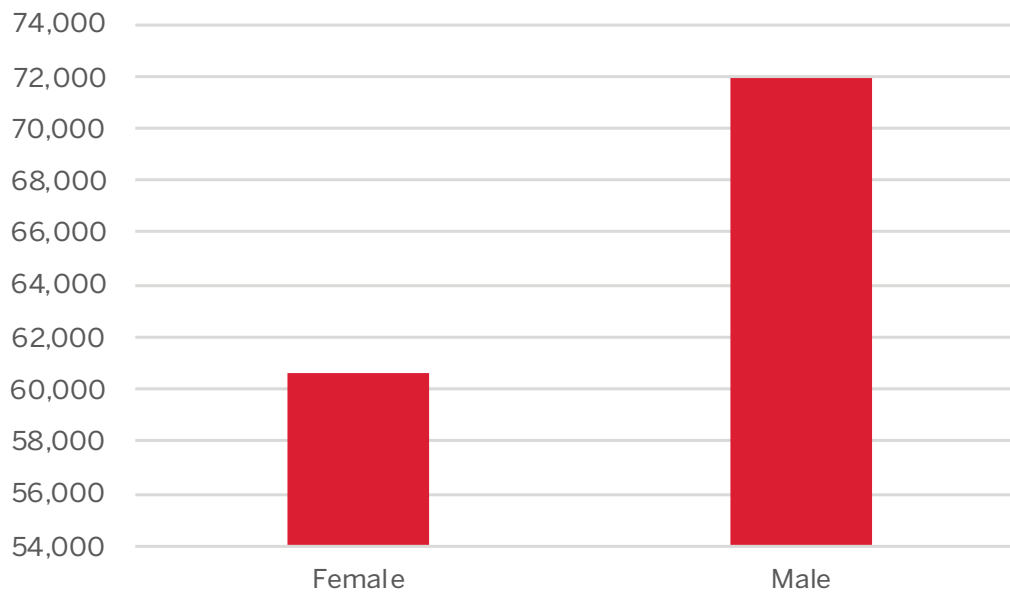


Figure 9QC – Beneficiaries of the Social Solidarity Program (*solidarité sociale*) by sex in Quebec, 2020-21



Data

Figure 10QC – Yearly social assistance data for Quebec, 1997 to 2021

Year	Objectif Emploi		Aide Sociale		Solidarité Sociale	
	Cases	Beneficia- ries	Cases	Beneficia- ries	Cases	Beneficia- ries
1997-98			337,681	613,626	111,548	137,244
1998-99			301,896	539,593	115,115	140,847
1999-00			278,326	489,087	117,815	143,023
2000-01			256,641	445,626	119,883	144,517
2001-02			241,984	415,886	122,011	146,349
2002-03			234,209	398,614	123,954	147,987
2003-04			228,822	385,299	124,663	147,969
2004-05			224,006	374,278	124,681	146,961
2005-06			215,623	358,242	125,691	147,503
2006-07			211,823	349,398	126,872	148,402
2007-08			206,149	339,002	128,785	150,327
2008-09			200,830	329,809	129,571	150,621
2009-10			205,698	336,554	129,407	149,593
2010-11			205,116	334,482	129,675	149,251
2011-12			201,438	326,070	129,269	147,852
2012-13			194,313	313,379	128,814	146,420
2013-14			191,392	305,388	128,209	145,196
2014-15			193,619	303,036	127,503	144,066
2015-16			190,615	294,244	126,946	143,258
2016-17			183,974	283,011	127,120	143,201
2017-18			173,635	267,705	126,879	142,538
2018-19	3,380	5,000	158,133	243,145	125,959	141,045
2019-20	6,181	9,397	145,399	221,191	123,603	138,025
2020-21	4,594	7,022	129,041	194,478	119,293	132,499

Figure 11QC – Social assistance data by household for Quebec, 2020-21

Household Type	Objectif Emploi		Aide Sociale		Solidarité Sociale	
	Cases	Beneficiaries	Cases	Beneficiaries	Cases	Beneficiaries
Unattached singles	3,617	3,617	95,815	95,815	110,194	110,194
Single parents	384	1,061	22,486	61,576	3,204	7,524
Couples with children	455	2,104	6,679	29,149	1,538	6,087
Couples without children	101	202	3,878	7,756	4,336	8,673

Figure 12QC – Social assistance data by sex for Quebec, 2020-21

Sex	Objectif Emploi	Aide Sociale	Solidarité Sociale
	Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries
Female	3,214	92,364	60,571
Male	3,808	102,113	71,928

Data notes

- The data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).
- Household data excludes a fifth category, “partner of a student.” In 2020-21, 243 cases and beneficiaries were partners of students, 38 in the Aim for Employment Program, 184 in the Social Assistance Program, and 22 in the Social Solidarity Program.
- The sex of some child beneficiaries is unknown. In 2020-21, the sex of one Social Assistance Program beneficiary was unknown.
- The numbers do not include First Nations living on reserves.



Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan's social assistance program

Social assistance is the income program of last resort. It is intended for those who have exhausted all other means of financial support. Every province and territory has its own social assistance program(s), and no two are the same.

In Saskatchewan, there are two social assistance programs:

1. Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID), and
2. Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS).

Please note: Previously, there were two additional social assistance programs, the Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP) and the Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA). Both closed on August 31, 2021.

Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID)


Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) was designed in collaboration with members of the disability community. It provides income assistance for persons with significant and enduring disabilities. It was introduced in 2009 for individuals in residential care settings and expanded in June 2012 to include people who live independently.

Eligibility for the SAID program is determined by financial criteria as well as the presence of an enduring and significant disability. SAID benefits include a living income benefit for basic needs, a disability needs benefit, and Supplementary Health Benefits.

Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS)

Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) was introduced on July 15, 2019, and is designed to help people overcome challenges and move to employment or participation in their communities to the best of their abilities. SIS clients also receive Supplementary Health Benefits.

Eligibility for the SIS program is determined by financial criteria. SIS benefits include a shelter benefit (for rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and other associated shelter costs) and a benefit for basic needs (like food, local transportation, clothing, personal, and household needs). SIS clients can also apply



for or be eligible for employment incentives, health and safety benefits, and benefits to support a change in circumstances, and Supplementary Health Benefits.

The rates for northern residents are also higher to reflect the increased costs of living in northern Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP)

SAP was a basic income support program for families and individuals who, for various reasons, could not meet basic living costs. The program had an adult allowance which included food, clothing, travel, personal, and household items. In addition, there was a shelter allowance which varied depending on the community, accommodations (shared or not), employability, and family size. A variety of other financial benefits as well as Supplementary Health Benefits were provided.

On July 15, 2019, the Government of Saskatchewan suspended intake of new SAP applications. The program closed on August 31, 2021.

Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA)

TEA was introduced in 2003 as an income support program to assist applicants participating in pre-employment programs and services or those who were “job ready” and seeking employment. TEA clients were provided a flat rate allowance to provide for basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, and utilities. Clients were expected to budget the benefits to meet their monthly needs. TEA clients also received Supplementary Health Benefits.

On July 15, 2019, the Government of Saskatchewan suspended intake of new TEA applications. The program closed on August 31, 2021.

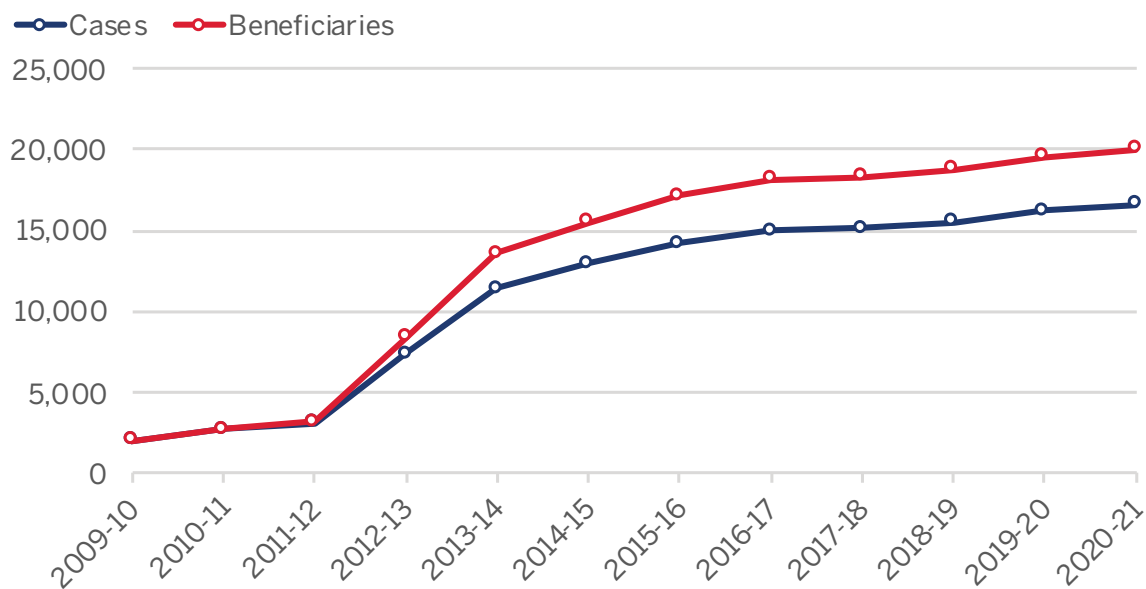
How many people claim social assistance?

On average, there were just over 35,780 cases (families and single adults) in Saskatchewan’s social assistance programs during 2020-21. Over 46 per cent (16,581) received support through the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID), under 24 per cent (8,480) received support through the Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP), under 8 per cent (2,685) received support through the Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA), and the remaining 22 per cent (8,036) received support through the Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS). The total number of social assistance cases in Saskatchewan fell in 2020-21, although it had previously been rising since 2011-12.

Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID)

During 2020-21, on average, there were around 16,600 cases in the SAID program and about 20,000 beneficiaries. These numbers rose sharply in the two years after eligibility was expanded in 2012 and have risen at a slower pace since then.

Figure 1SK – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID), 2009 to 2021



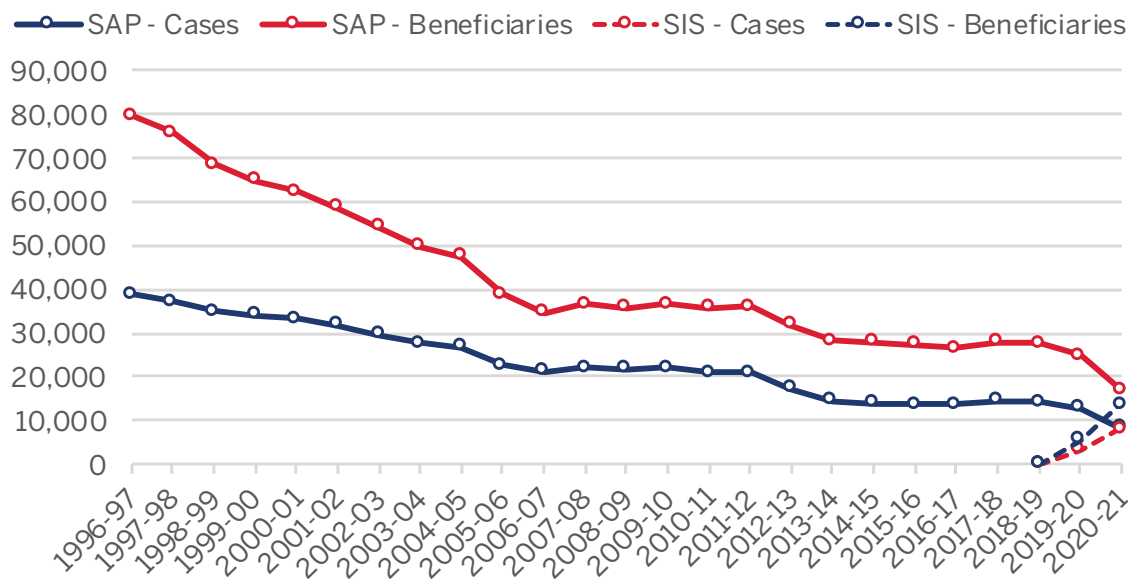
Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS)

SIS was launched on July 15, 2019, and has gradually replaced SAP and TEA as they ceased by the summer of 2021. In 2020-21, there were just over 8,000 cases in the SIS program and almost 13,700 beneficiaries, more than double the 2019-20 numbers.

Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP)

During 2020-21, on average, there were about 8,500 cases in the SAP, and almost 17,000 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children). The number of cases and beneficiaries will continue to dip as the program wound down by the summer of 2021 and was replaced by SIS. These numbers have fallen almost every year over the last two decades.

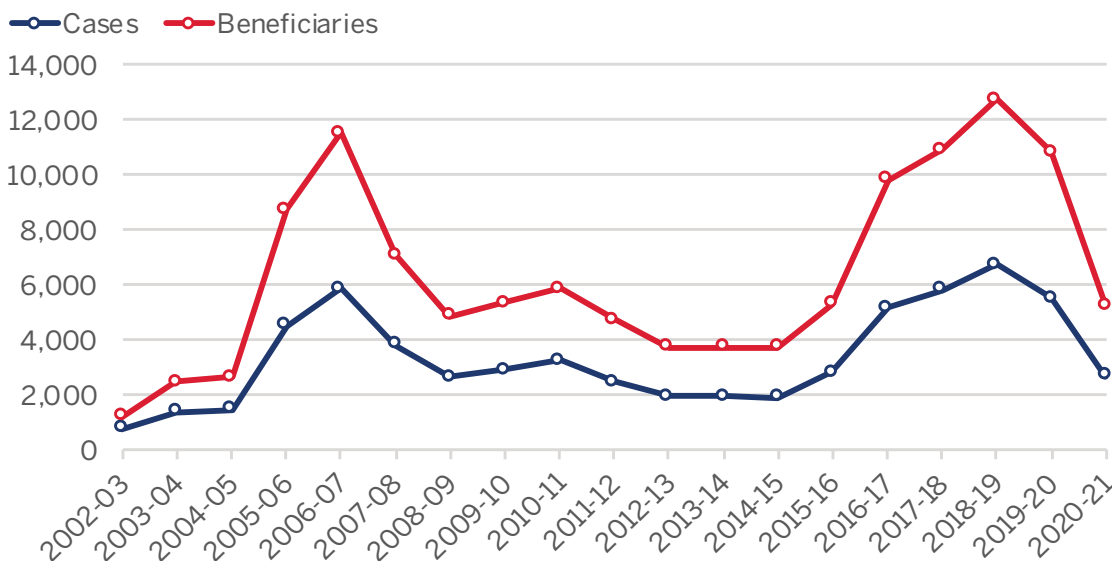
Figure 2SK – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) and the Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP), 1996 to 2021



Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA)

On average, there were around 2,700 cases in the TEA program in 2020-21, and just under 5,300 beneficiaries. The program saw its first dip in four years because it stopped accepting applications on July 15, 2020. TEA wound down in the summer of 2021 and was replaced by SIS.

Figure 3SK – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA) in Saskatchewan, 2002 to 2021



What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2020-21, on average, 5.6 per cent of people in Saskatchewan under 65 received Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID), Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS), Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP), or Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA), which is 1 in 18. The proportion of recipients receiving social assistance has followed a similar pattern as the total number of recipients.

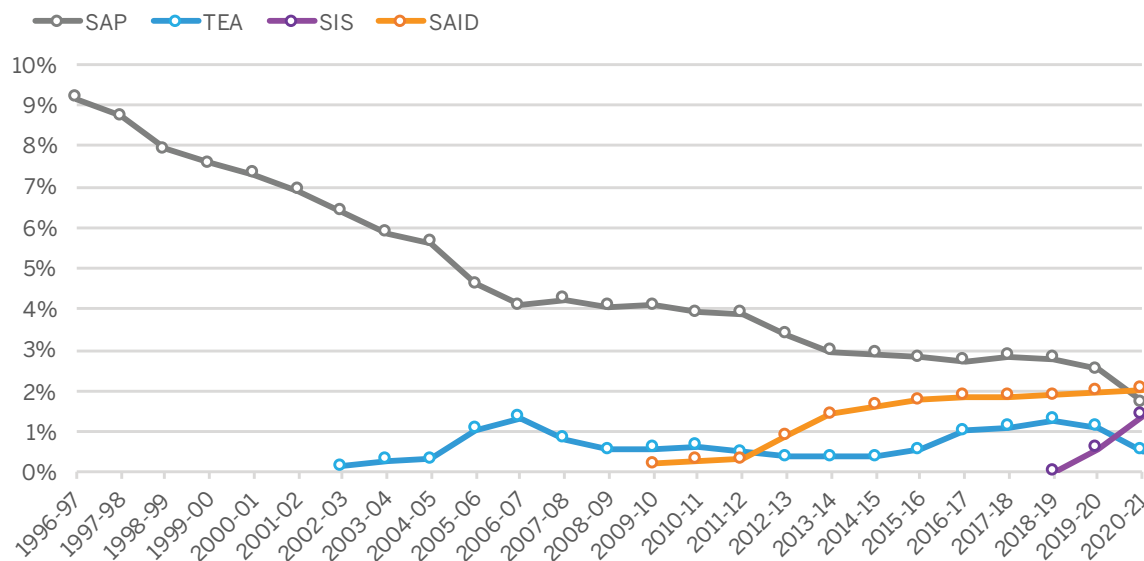
The proportion of people under 65 receiving SAID has increased consistently since 2009-10, with a high of 2 per cent in 2020-21. Since it was introduced in 2019-20, the proportion of SIS beneficiaries has increased rapidly reaching 1.4 per cent in 2020-21.

On the other hand, the proportion of SAP beneficiaries has been gradually decreasing, from a high of 9.2 per cent in 1996-97 to a low of 1.7 per cent in 2020-21.

The proportion of TEA beneficiaries gradually increased from 0.4 per cent in 2014-15 to a peak of 1.3 per cent in 2018-19, but it has decreased since to 0.5 per cent in 2020-21.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of a given year, whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April to March).

Figure 4SK – Yearly beneficiaries of social assistance as a proportion of the under-65 population of Saskatchewan, 1996 to 2021



Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2021. *Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex*. Accessed at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>



Who is receiving social assistance?

In 2020-21, unattached singles were the majority household of social assistance cases for all four programs: 87.5 per cent for Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID), 68 per cent for Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS), more than 58 per cent for the Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP), and 53 per cent for the Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA). Single parents had the second largest percentages of cases in each program: 6.5 per cent for SAID, more than 25 per cent for SIS, 32 per cent for SAP, and 42 per cent for TEA.

Unattached singles were only the majority beneficiaries for SAID with over 72 per cent. For SIS, single parents had the highest proportion of beneficiaries, with 46 per cent, followed by unattached singles, with 40 per cent. For SAP and TEA, the majority of beneficiaries were from single parent households, with around 52 and just under 64 per cent, respectively. For both programs, unattached singles were second, with 29 and 27 per cent of beneficiaries, respectively.

In 2020-21, males made up the majority of the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability beneficiaries, with 53 per cent. Females made up the majority of the Saskatchewan Assistance Program, with over 54 per cent, and the Transitional Employment Allowance beneficiaries, with over 53 per cent. Females also made up the majority of Saskatchewan Income Support cases, with 51 per cent.

Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID)

Figure 5SK – Cases and beneficiaries of the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) by household, 2020-21

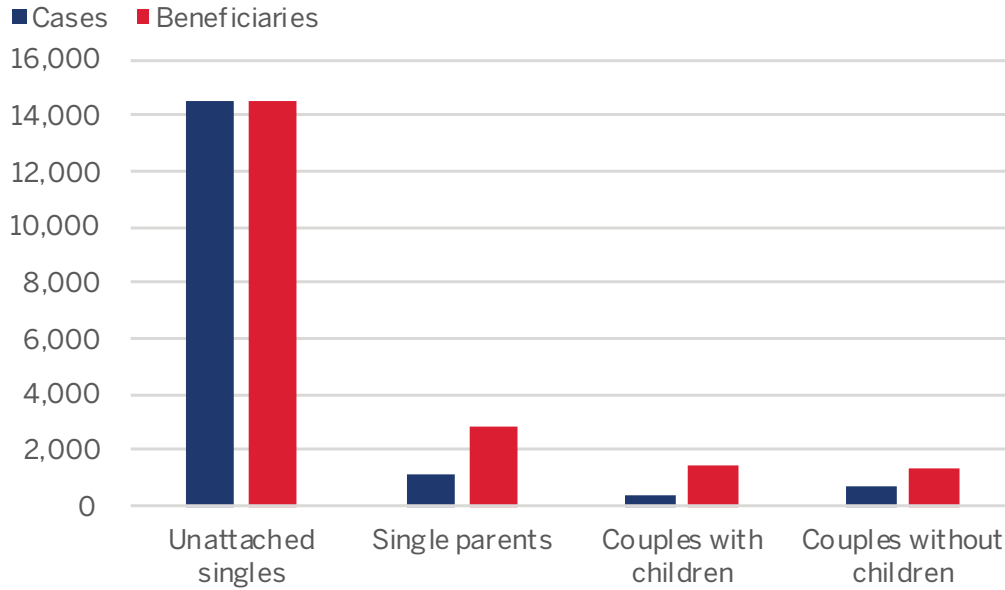
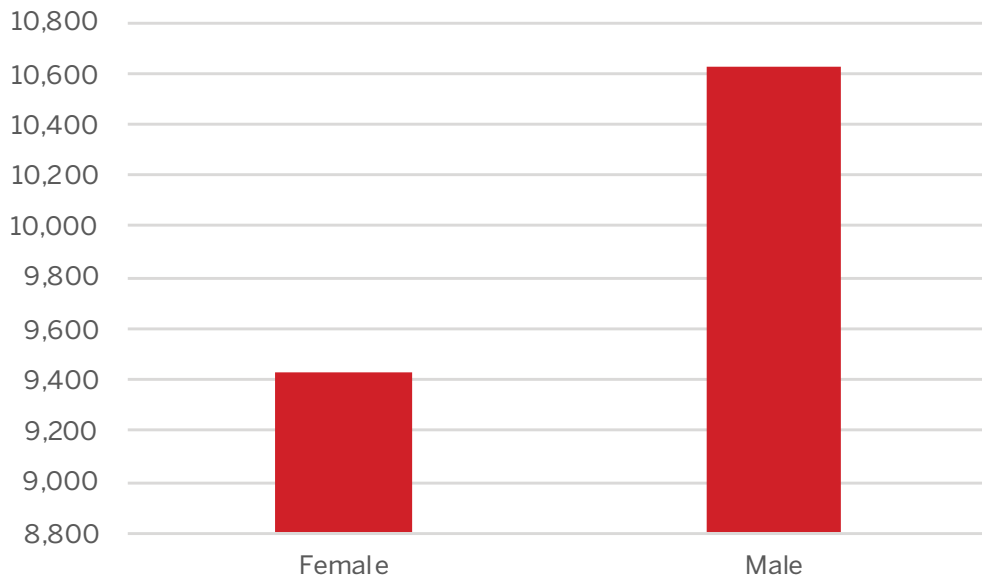


Figure 6SK – Beneficiaries of the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) by gender, 2020-21



Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS)

Figure 7SK – Cases and beneficiaries of the Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) by household, 2020-21

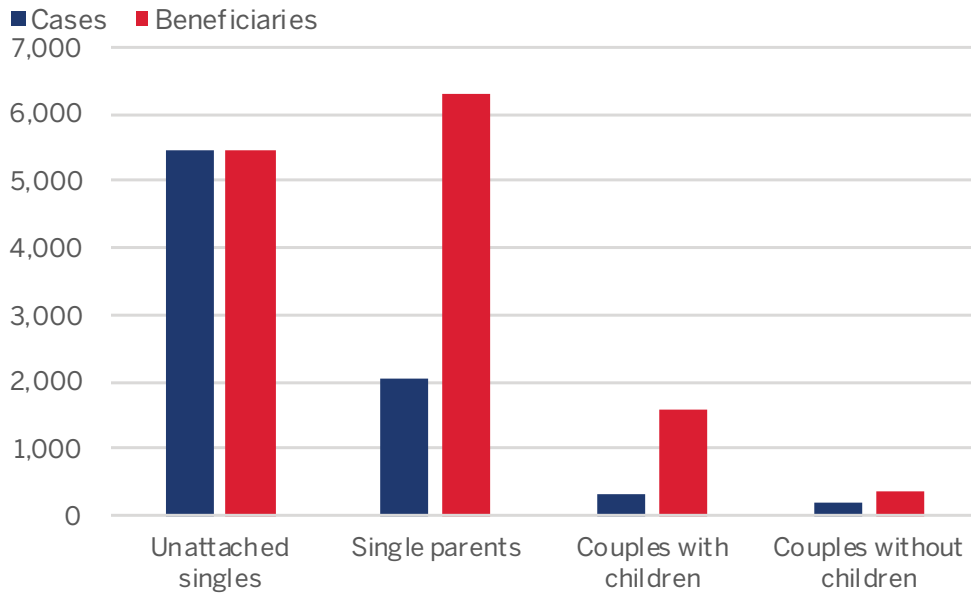
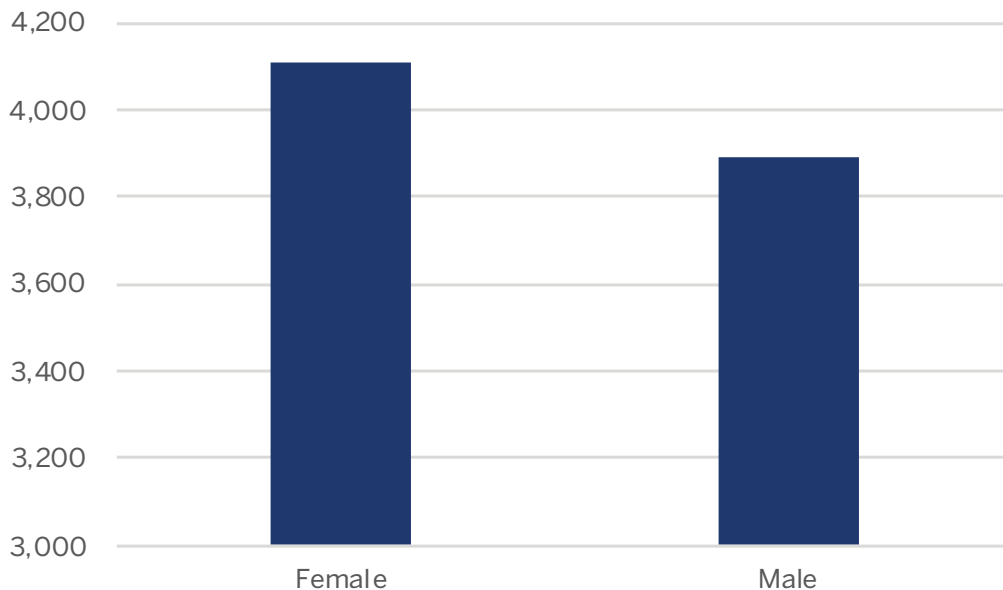


Figure 8SK – Beneficiaries of the Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) by gender, 2020-21



Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP)

Figure 9SK – Cases and beneficiaries of the Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP) by household, 2020-21

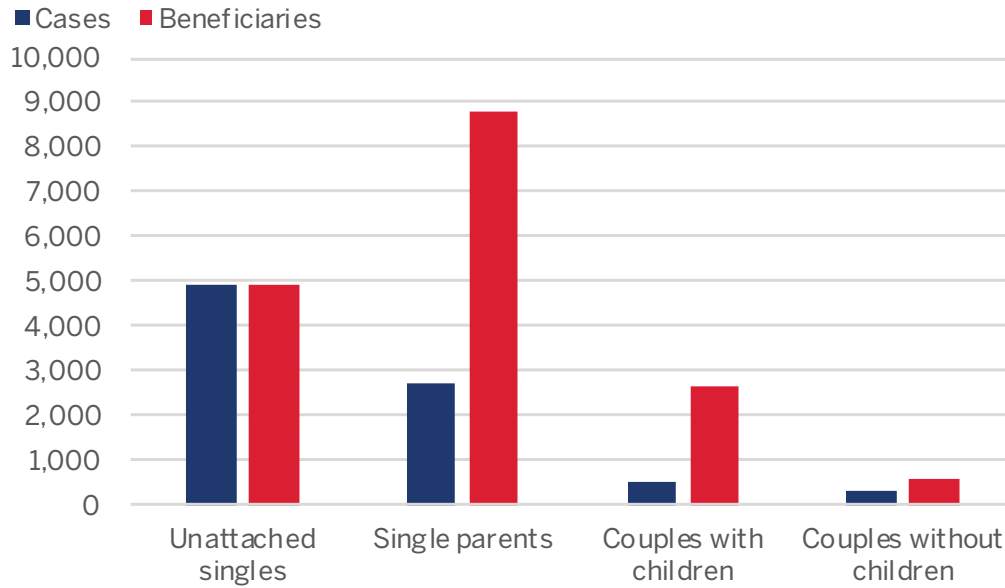
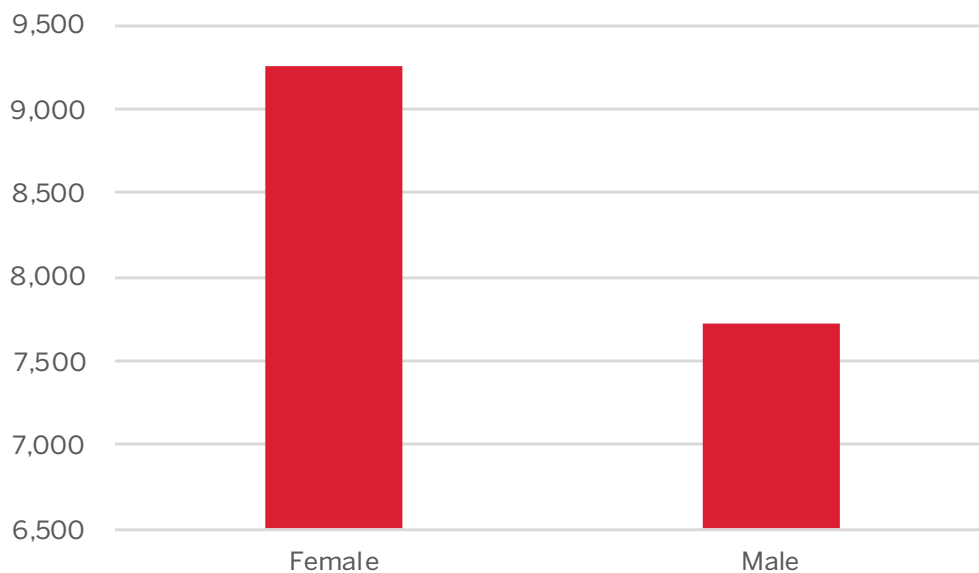


Figure 10SK – Beneficiaries of the Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP) by gender, 2020-21



Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA)

Figure 11SK – Cases and beneficiaries of the Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA) by household in Saskatchewan, 2020-21

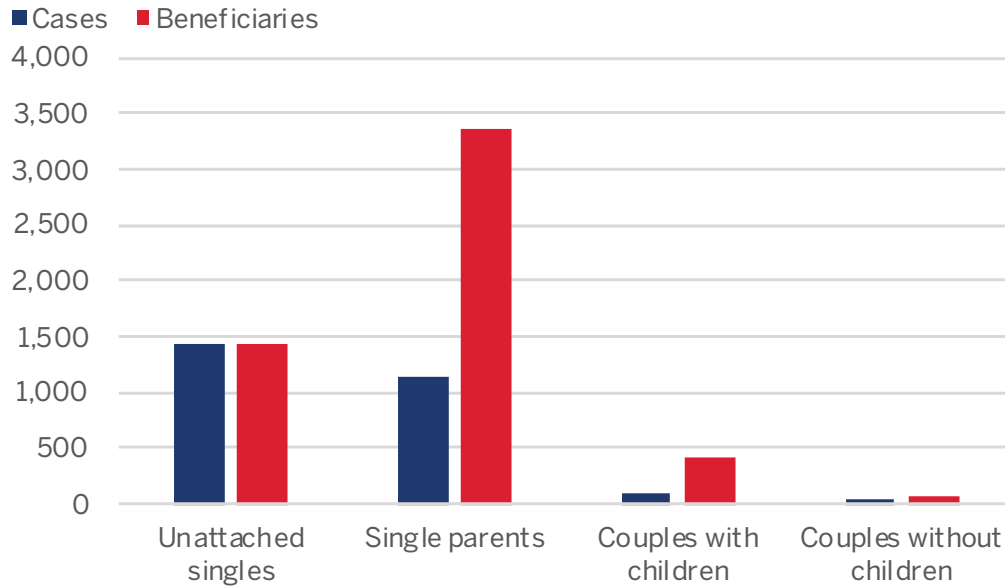
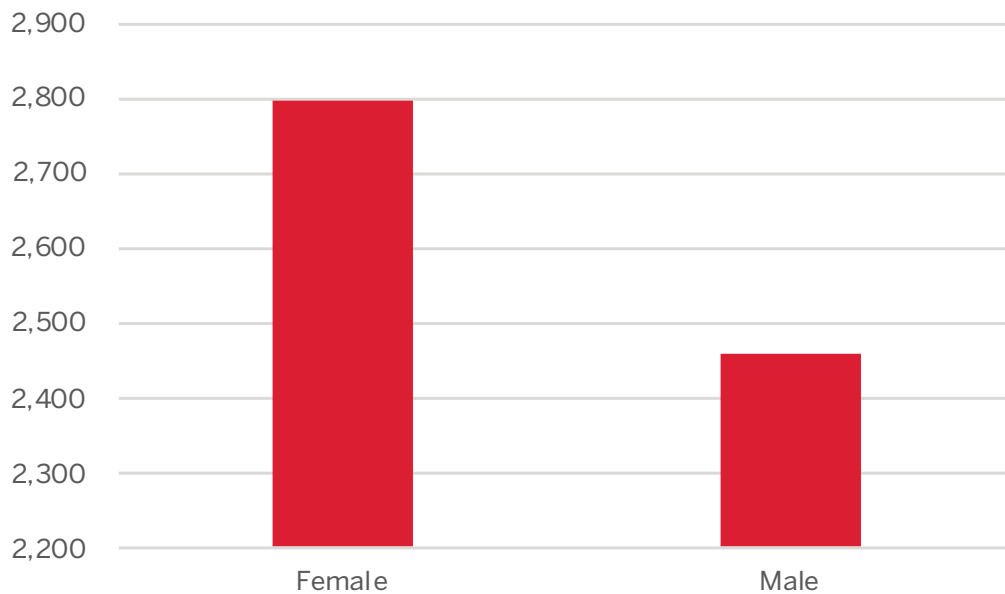


Figure 12SK – Beneficiaries of the Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA) by gender in Saskatchewan, 2020-21



Data

Figure 13SK – Yearly social assistance data for Saskatchewan, 1997 to 2021

Year	SAID		SIS		SAP		TEA	
	Cases	Benefi- ciaries	Cases	Benefi- ciaries	Cases	Benefi- ciaries	Cases	Benefi- ciaries
1996-97					38,900	79,685		
1997-98					37,190	75,886		
1998-99					34,842	68,560		
1999-00					34,249	64,993		
2000-01					33,363	62,241		
2001-02					31,821	58,699		
2002-03					29,554	54,225	777	1,231
2003-04					27,549	49,770	1,382	2,469
2004-05					26,818	47,513	1,470	2,670
2005-06					22,780	38,810	4,519	8,750
2006-07					21,218	34,804	5,861	11,542
2007-08					22,123	36,665	3,839	7,094
2008-09					21,766	35,843	2,646	4,870
2009-10	1,994	2,003			22,149	36,738	2,921	5,338
2010-11	2,687	2,698			20,915	35,858	3,255	5,875
2011-12	3,142	3,157			20,859	35,953	2,493	4,734
2012-13	7,357	8,397			17,383	31,757	1,948	3,730
2013-14	11,386	13,588			14,485	28,111	1,950	3,761
2014-15	12,939	15,545			14,077	27,861	1,933	3,758
2015-16	14,208	17,177			13,726	27,285	2,811	5,320
2016-17	14,988	18,172			13,584	26,639	5,194	9,845
2017-18	15,172	18,320			14,445	28,068	5,835	10,919
2018-19	15,564	18,756			14,334	27,620	6,738	12,743
2019-20	16,200	19,567	3,433	5,681	12,901	25,020	5,541	10,849
2020-21	16,581	20,049	8,036	13,656	8,480	16,977	2,685	5,255

Figure 14SK – Social assistance data by household for Saskatchewan, 2020-21

Household Type	SAID		SIS	
	Cases	Beneficiaries	Cases	Beneficiaries
Unattached singles	14,513	14,513	5,474	5,474
Single parents	1,079	2,816	2,055	6,275
Couples with children	340	1,423	334	1,561
Couples without children	649	1,298	172	345

Household Type	SAP		TEA	
	Cases	Beneficiaries	Cases	Beneficiaries
Unattached singles	4,948	4,948	1,425	1,425
Single parents	2,729	8,821	1,126	3,349
Couples with children	510	2,620	102	417
Couples without children	294	587	32	64

Figure 15SK – Social assistance data by gender for Saskatchewan, 2020-21

Gender	SAID	SIS	SAP	TEA
	Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries
Female	9,428	4,109	9,251	2,795
Male	10,621	3,888	7,726	2,460

Data notes

- SAP - Saskatchewan Assistance Program
- TEA - Transitional Employment Allowance
- SAID - Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability
- SIS - Saskatchewan Income Support
- Transitional Employment Allowance was introduced in 2003.



- Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability was introduced in 2009 and expanded in June 2012.
- Saskatchewan Income Support was launched on July 15, 2019. The intake of new SAP and TEA applications was suspended on July 15, 2019.
- The data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).
- SIS data disaggregated by gender is only available for cases, not beneficiaries. This is in part because this data is not collected for children under the SIS program.
- SIS applicants can choose to select an option other than “male” or “female,” or choose not to specify. In 2020-21, 38 cases of SIS chose this option.
- The numbers do not include First Nations living on reserves.

Yukon

Yukon's social assistance program

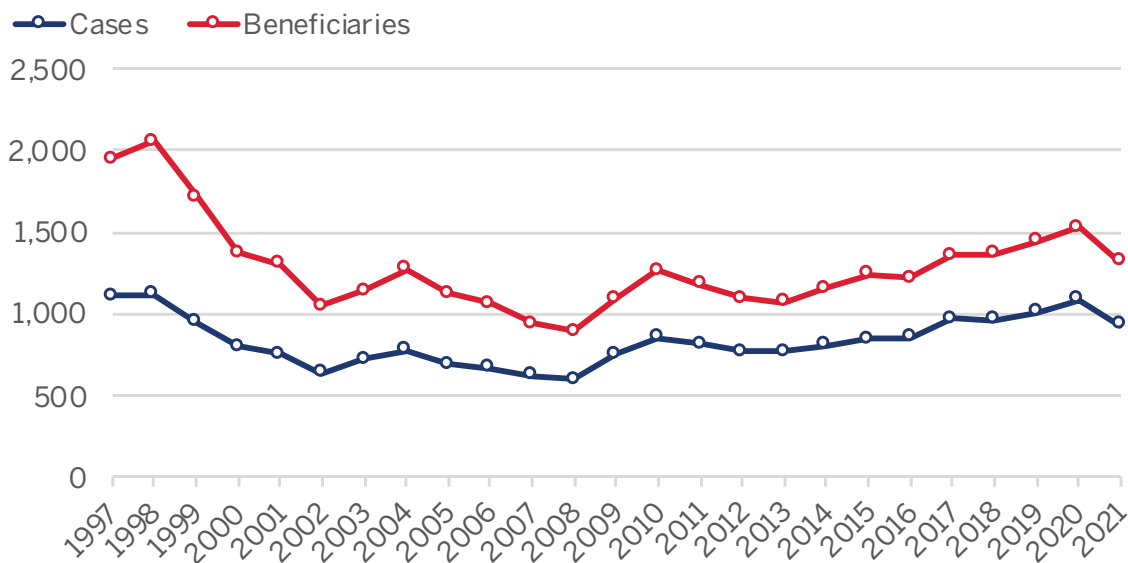
Social assistance is the income program of last resort. It is intended for those who have exhausted all other means of financial support. Every province and territory has its own social assistance program(s), and no two are the same.

In the Yukon Territory, the Social Assistance (SA) program provides benefits to eligible adults and children. Basic assistance consists of a basic allowance (for the cost of food, clothing, and personal and household items) and a shelter allowance (for the cost of shelter and sometimes utilities). The amount of support available is based on the household's size, composition, and geographical location. In addition, the basic assistance recipients may also qualify for the Yukon Supplementary Allowance – a disability benefit.

How many people claim social assistance?

At the end of March 2021, there were about 930 cases (families and single adults) and just over 1,320 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in Yukon's social assistance program. These numbers fell from the previous year by around 160 cases and around 210 beneficiaries. Previously, beginning in 2012, these numbers had risen slightly most years.

Figure 1YT – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Social Assistance in Yukon, 1997 to 2021

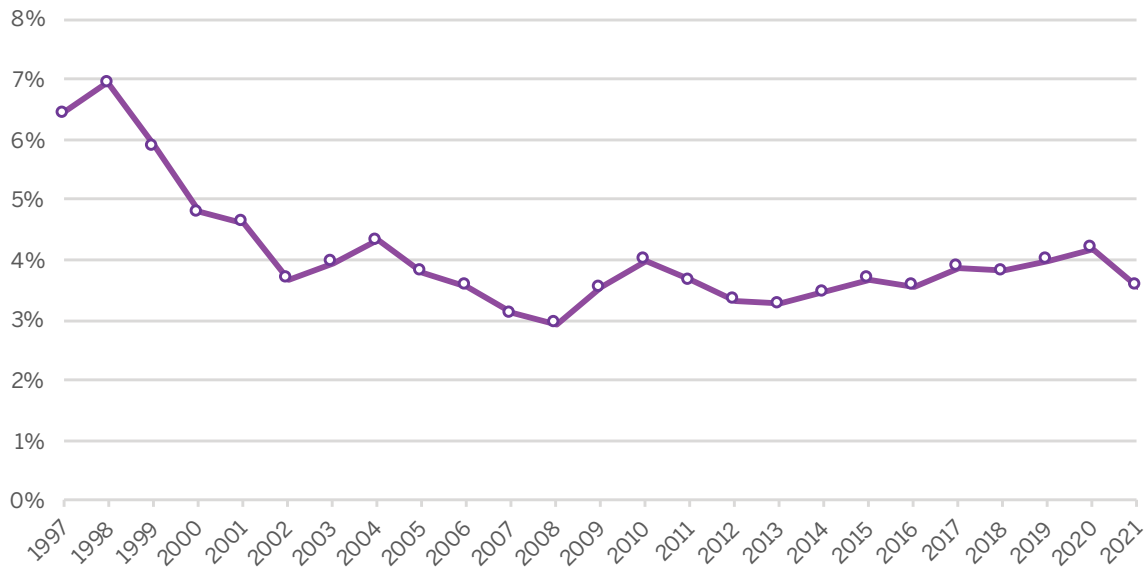


What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In March 2021, 3.6 per cent of people in Yukon under 65 received Social Assistance, which is about 1 in 28. The proportion of recipients receiving social assistance has followed a similar pattern as the total number of recipients. Since March 2002, the proportion of recipients receiving the program has generally fluctuated between 2.9 per cent and 4.3 per cent.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of a given year, whereas social assistance beneficiary data is for March 31 of a given year.

Figure 2YT – Yearly beneficiaries of Social Assistance as a proportion of the under-65 population of Yukon, 1997 to 2021



Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2021. *Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex*. Accessed at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>

Who is receiving social assistance?

In March 2021, unattached singles were the majority household of both cases and beneficiaries of Yukon Social Assistance, with just under 79 per cent of cases and around 56 per cent of beneficiaries. Single parents were second with 16 per cent of cases and 33 per cent of beneficiaries.



Yukon Social Assistance beneficiaries were almost equally split between female and male recipients, with slightly more males.

Figure 3YT – Cases and beneficiaries of Social Assistance by household in Yukon, 2021

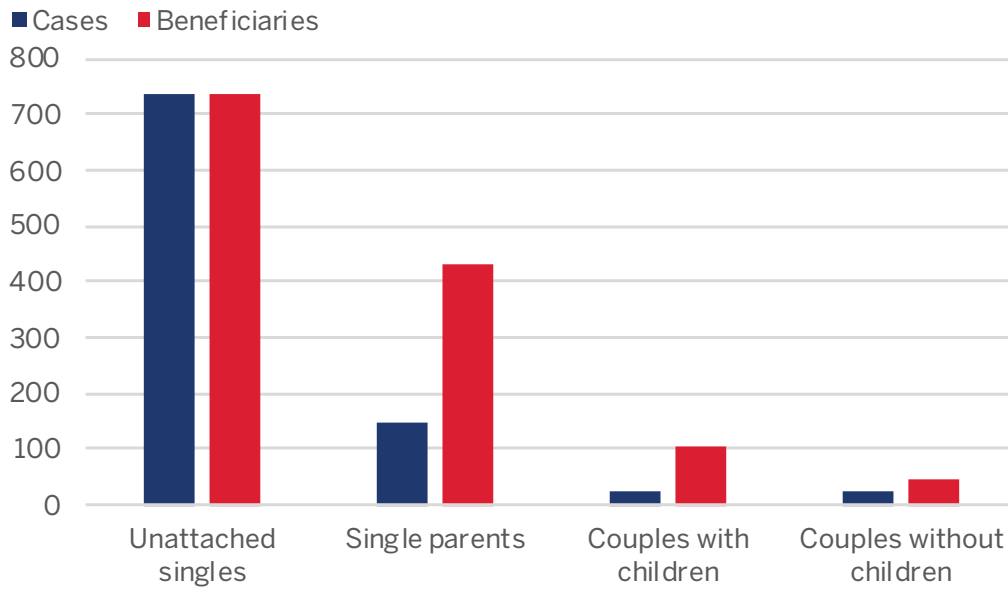
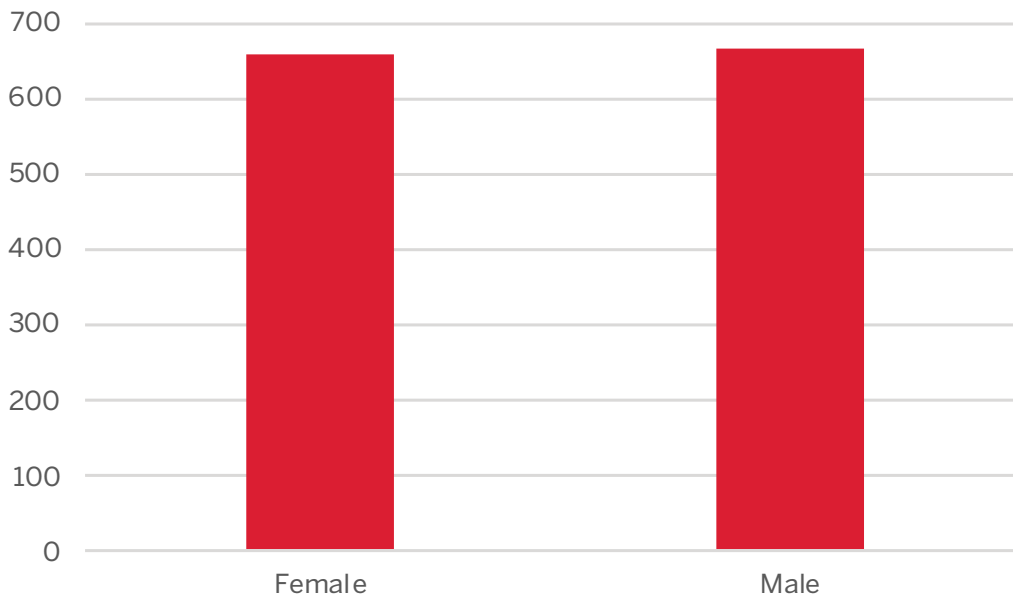


Figure 4YT – Beneficiaries of the Social Assistance by gender in Yukon, 2021



Data

Figure 5YT – Yearly social assistance data for Yukon, 1997 to 2021

Year	Social Assistance	
	Cases	Beneficiaries
1997	1,108	1,952
1998	1,117	2,055
1999	949	1,717
2000	798	1,376
2001	751	1,308
2002	637	1,048
2003	722	1,144
2004	773	1,272
2005	694	1,126
2006	667	1,067
2007	618	936
2008	595	895
2009	750	1,096
2010	855	1,264
2011	816	1,184
2012	770	1,097
2013	768	1,074
2014	810	1,156
2015	847	1,239
2016	857	1,219
2017	974	1,359
2018	961	1,363
2019	1,012	1,442
2020	1,091	1,529
2021	934	1,322

Figure 6YT – Social assistance data by household for Yukon, 2021

Household Type	Social Assistance	
	Cases	Beneficiaries
Unattached singles	736	736
Single parents	149	433
Couples with children	25	105
Couples without children	24	48

Figure 7YT – Social assistance data by gender for Yukon, 2021

	Social Assistance
Gender	Beneficiaries
Female	656
Male	664

Data notes

- These numbers represent only clients served by the Yukon Government. They do not include clients served by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada or the self-governing First Nations that administer their own social assistance programs.
- The data reflects the number of cases and beneficiaries on March 31 of each year.
- Two beneficiaries preferred not to disclose their gender.



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