



Social Assistance Summaries, 2022

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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. For each province and territory, it includes:

- A brief description of the social assistance program(s).
- Analysis of the total number of cases and beneficiaries of social assistance over time by program.
- Analysis of social assistance beneficiaries as a proportion of the under-65 population over time by program.
- Analysis of disaggregated social assistance data (since 2021) by program for:
 - 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.

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

What is new in the 2022 report?

Twelve of 13 jurisdictions now provide their data as an average over the fiscal year (April to March). Three jurisdictions converted all, or part of, their data for the 2022 report: Alberta and the Yukon previously provided point-in-time data on March 31 of every given year, and Newfoundland and Labrador previously provided their data as an average over the calendar year (January to December). The only exception is Nunavut, which continues to provide their data as an average over the calendar year.

In addition, *Social Assistance Summaries, 2022* now includes disaggregated data by household type and gender for Prince Edward Island and Nunavut. Both provided partial disaggregated data in the 2021 version of the report, the first *Social Assistance Summaries* report to include such data.



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. While the basic structure of social assistance is much the same across the country, each program has different administrative rules, eligibility criteria, benefit levels, and provisions concerning special types of assistance.

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 Maytree with an update of the social assistance case and beneficiary numbers (some jurisdictions also publish this information online). They provide this data as a fiscal year average (April to March), except Nunavut, which provides this data as a calendar year average (January to December).

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 a household, whether 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 reserves while others do not. They also vary in the way they calculate the number of social assistance cases and beneficiaries: twelve of 13 jurisdictions provide their data as fiscal year average (April to March), and one (Nunavut) provides it as calendar year average (January to December).

Three jurisdictions have historically provided point-in-time data (March 31 of a given year), having more recently converted to fiscal year average: Alberta (1997 to 2000 for Alberta Support and 1997 to 2010 for AISH), Nova Scotia (prior to 2007), and Yukon (1997 to 2018).

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 households 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:

- Employment and Training Services – help to find employment, take training, or plan a new career;
- Income Support – money to meet basic needs;
- Child Support Services – free service to get child support agreements or court orders; and
- 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:

- Barriers to Full Employment – for those who cannot work due to chronic health problems or other barriers to employment;
- Expected to Work – for those looking for work, working but not earning enough, or temporarily unable to work;
- Learners – for those who need training so they can get a job;
- 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?

On average, there were just under 113,800 cases (family units and unattached single adults) receiving social assistance in Alberta during the 2021-22 fiscal year.

Thirty-eight per cent (43,560) of cases received Alberta Supports (formerly Alberta Works) and 62 per cent (70,228) received Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH).

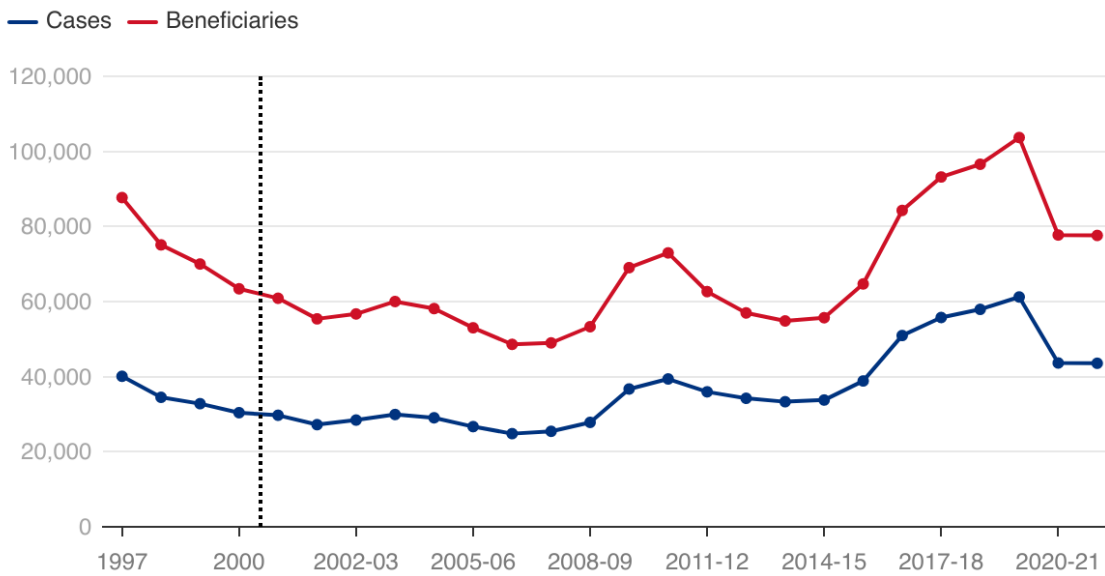
The total number of social assistance cases decreased, on average, by about 3,900 in 2021-22. These decreases came from Alberta Supports, while AISH saw a slight increase from the previous year.

Alberta Supports

After six years of increases between 2014-15 and the peak in 2019-20, the number of cases in the Alberta Supports program saw significant decreases over the past two fiscal years. In 2021-22, the number of cases fell, on average, by over nine per cent, to around 43,560.

The number of Alberta Supports beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) saw a similar trend. After increasing from 2014-15 to a peak in 2019-20, there were significant decreases over the past two years. There were, on average, 77,600 beneficiaries of Alberta Supports in the 2021-22 fiscal year, over eight per cent less than the previous year.

Figure 1AB – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Alberta Supports, 1997 to 2022

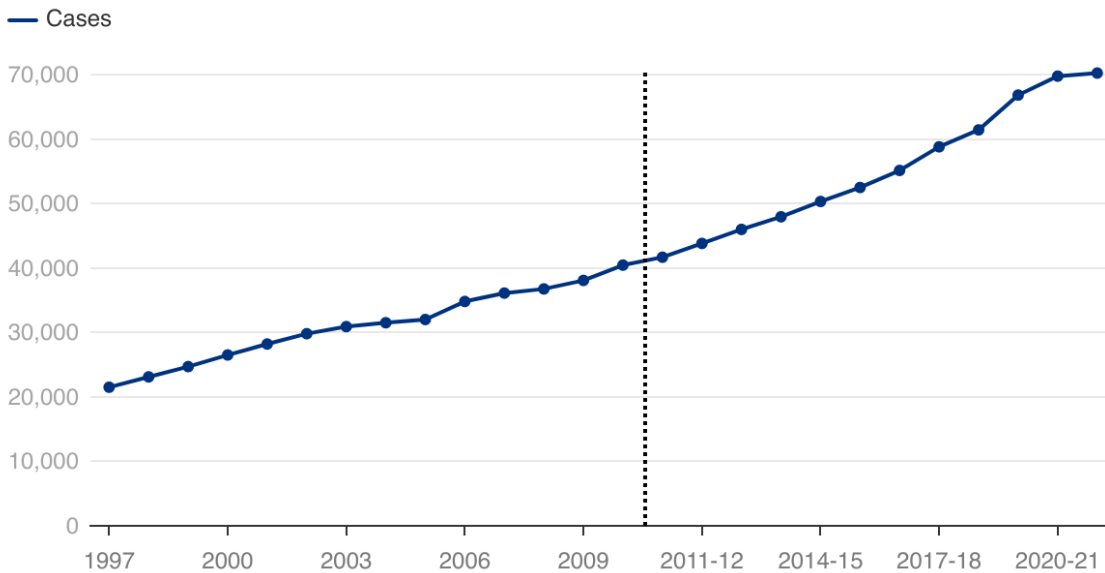


Note: The data reflects the number of cases and beneficiaries on March 31 of each year from 1997 to 2000, and the average over the fiscal year (April to March) from 2000-01 onward.

Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH)

During the 2021-22 fiscal year, there were, on average, just over 70,200 cases in Alberta’s AISH program. The number of cases has been rising steadily over the last two decades, with an, on average, increase of under one per cent between 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Figure 2AB – Yearly cases of Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) in Alberta, 1997 to 2022



Note: The data reflects the number of cases and beneficiaries on March 31 of each year from 1997 to 2010, and the average over the fiscal year (April to March) from 2011-11 onward.

What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

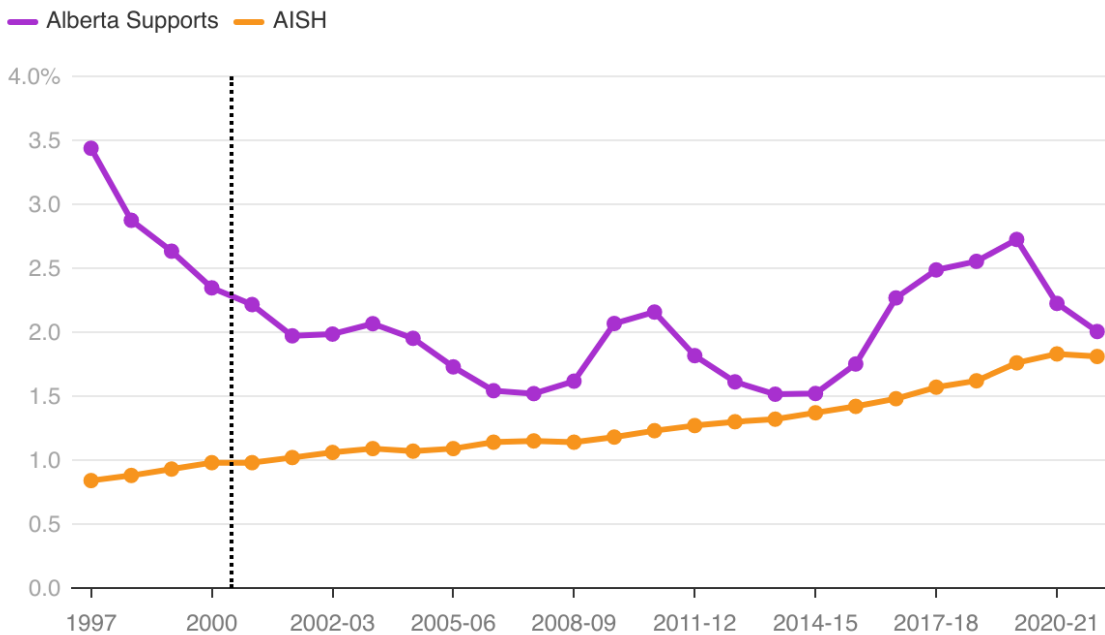
In 2021-22, just over 3.8 per cent of people in Alberta under 65 received Alberta Supports or AISH, which is about one in 26. The proportion of recipients receiving social assistance has followed a similar pattern as the total number of recipients.

The proportion of Alberta Supports beneficiaries decreased gradually until 2007-08, followed by a period of fluctuation between 1.5 per cent and 2.5 per cent from 2008-09 to 2013-14. The period starting 2014-15 saw a gradual increase, reaching a peak of 2.7 per cent in 2019-20. In 2020-21, the proportion of Alberta Supports recipients declined for the first time in seven years, declining again in 2021-22 to reach two per cent of people in Alberta under 65.

The proportion of people under 65 receiving AISH has increased consistently since 1997, reaching a high of 1.8 per cent in 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22.

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 from 1997 to 2000 and fiscal year average (April to March) from 2000-01 onward.

Figure 3AB – Yearly beneficiaries of Alberta Supports and cases of AISH as a proportion of the under-65 Alberta population, 1997 to 2022



Note: The data reflects the number of cases and beneficiaries on March 31 of each year from 1997 to 2000, and the average over the fiscal year (April to March) from 2000-01 onward.

Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2022. 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 2021-22, 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.

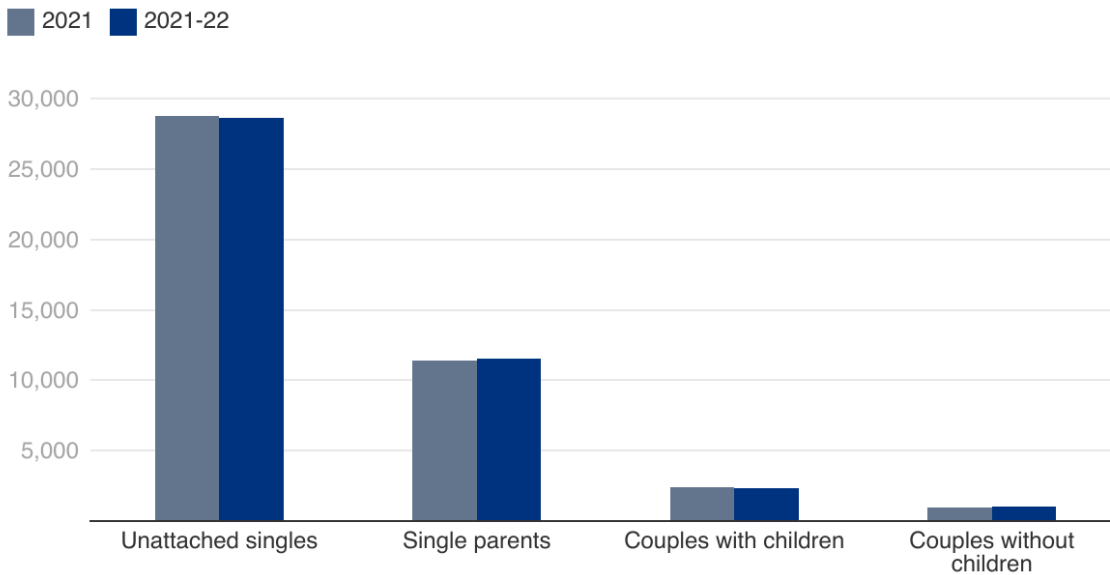
Females made up the majority of Alberta Supports beneficiaries in 2021-22, with 63 per cent, whereas males made up the majority of AISH cases, with 53 per cent.



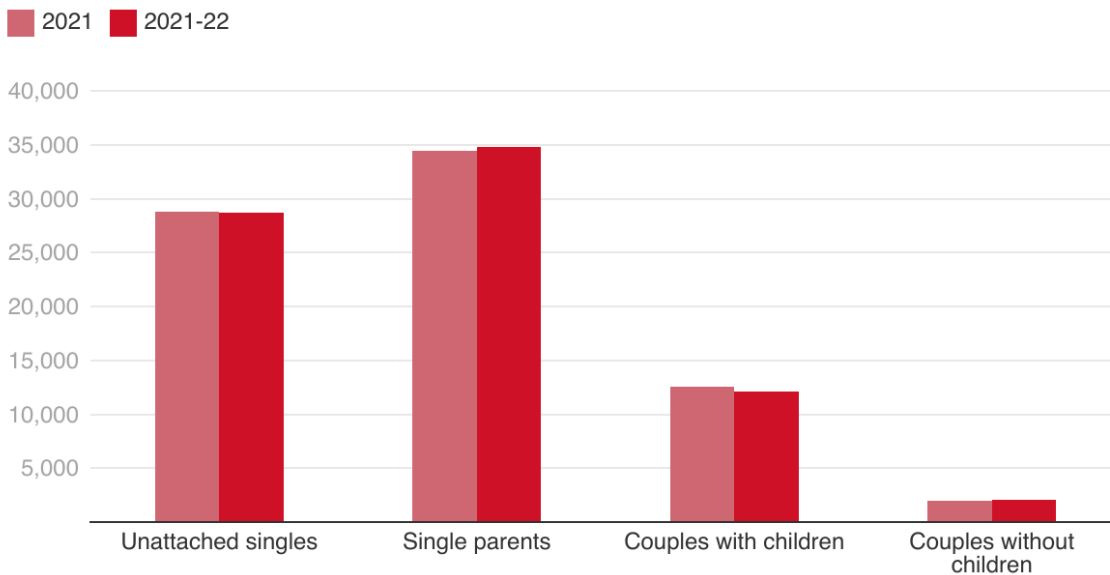
Alberta Supports

Figure 4AB – Cases and beneficiaries of Alberta Supports by household, 2021 and 2021-22

A. Cases

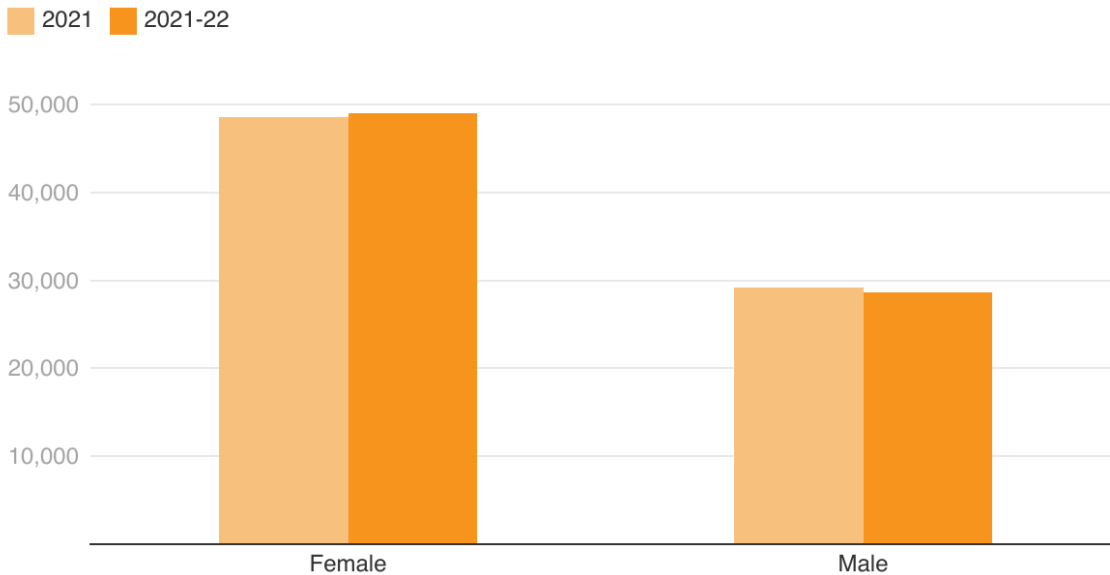


B. Beneficiaries



Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 numbers are fiscal year averages.

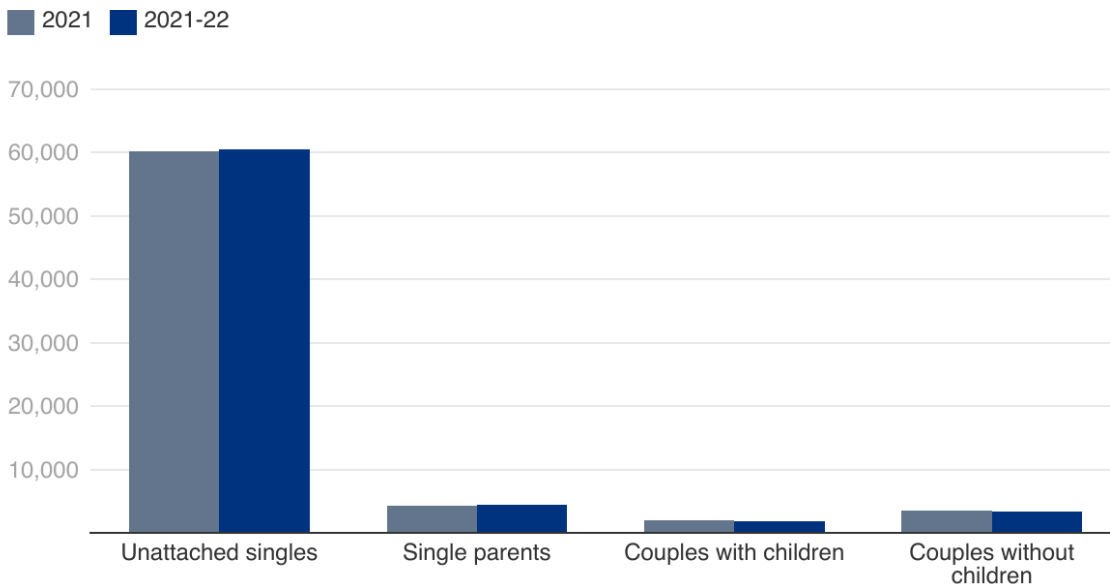
Figure 5AB – Beneficiaries of Alberta Supports by gender, 2021 and 2021-22



Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 numbers are fiscal year averages

Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH)

Figure 6AB – Cases of Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) by household, 2021 and 2021-22

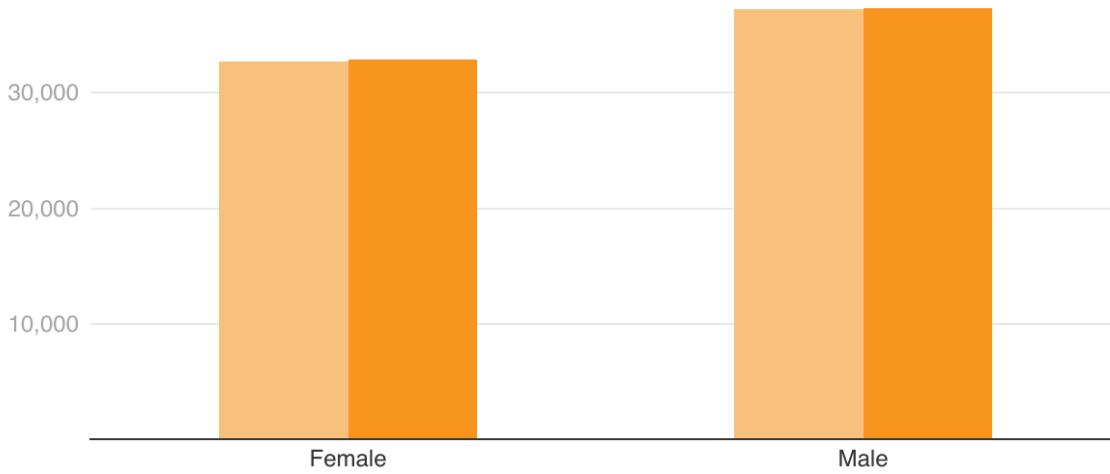


Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 numbers are fiscal year averages.



Figure 7AB – Cases of Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) by gender, 2021 and 2021-22

2021 2021-22



Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 numbers are fiscal year averages.

Data

Figure 8AB – Yearly social assistance data for Alberta, 1997 to 2022

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
2000-01	29,715	60,883	26,827
2001-02	27,214	55,394	28,696
2002-03	28,435	56,704	30,361
2003-04	29,911	60,011	31,607
2004-05	29,043	58,129	31,736
2005-06	26,694	53,016	33,571
2006-07	24,817	48,601	35,824
2007-08	25,440	48,987	36,944
2008-09	27,821	53,302	37,428
2009-10	36,711	69,032	39,427
2010-11	39,388	72,964	41,664
2011-12	35,960	62,649	43,801
2012-13	34,235	56,974	45,977
2013-14	33,317	54,840	47,934
2014-15	33,773	55,696	50,310
2015-16	38,852	64,695	52,477
2016-17	50,954	84,273	55,123
2017-18	55,754	93,187	58,786
2018-19	57,923	96,573	61,416
2019-20	61,220	103,691	66,816
2020-21	47,942	84,629	69,750
2021-22	43,560	77,613	70,228

Figure 9AB – Social assistance data by household for Alberta, 2021 and 2021-22

Household Type	Year	Alberta Supports		AISH
		Cases	Beneficiaries	Cases
Unattached singles	2021	28,796	28,796	60,234
	2021-22	28,679	28,679	60,521
Single parents	2021	11,434	34,421	4,345
	2021-22	11,556	34,821	4,422
Couples with children	2021	2,418	12,528	1,936
	2021-22	2,308	12,068	1,876
Couples without children	2021	992	1,984	3,461
	2021-22	1,017	2,035	3,411

Figure 10AB – Social assistance data by gender for Alberta, 2021 and 2021-22

Gender	Year	Alberta Supports	AISH
		Beneficiaries	Cases
Female	2021	48,584	32,757
	2021-22	48,995	32,900
Male	2021	29,145	37,219
	2021-22	28,615	37,328



Data notes

- Alberta Supports (formerly Alberta Works) was implemented in 2004. The data for 2002-03 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 from 1997 to 2000 for Alberta Supports and 1997 to 2010 for AISH.
- The data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April to March) from 2000-01 onward for Alberta Supports and from 2010-11 onward for AISH.
- For data by household type and by gender, 2021 numbers are for March 31st of that year, 2021-22 numbers are fiscal year averages.
- Alberta Supports figures do not include First Nations living on reserves. AISH figures include First Nations living on reserves.
- Figures for 1997 to 2000 for Alberta Supports and 1997 to 2007 for AISH 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 households 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, such as those awaiting income, or those completing the work search required to receive regular assistance, may be able to access support for essential needs through BCEA Hardship 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. Families are guaranteed a minimum shelter allowance and can receive up to a maximum amount based on their costs. The maximum amount of support allowance and the minimum/maximum shelter allowances available vary by family size.

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 Temporary 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, seniors); and
 4. Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers: individuals with long-term health conditions and an additional barrier that seriously impedes their ability to search for, accept, or continue in employment.

Disability Assistance

The Disability Assistance stream of BCEA recognizes that Persons with Disabilities (PWD) may require additional supports 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 PWD 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 their 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 PWD without going through the standard application process.

Once individuals qualify for Disability Assistance, they keep their PWD 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 under 162,700 cases (family units and unattached single adults) in British Columbia's social assistance programs during 2021-22.

Twenty-nine per cent (46,879) of cases received Income Assistance (also known as Temporary Assistance) and 71 per cent (115,813) received Disability Assistance.

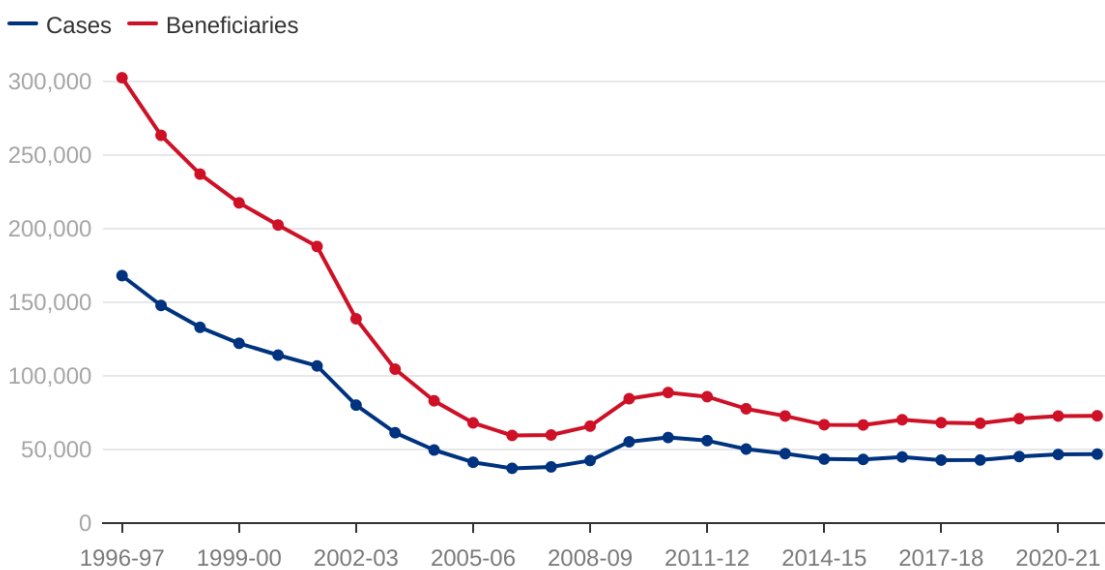
The total number of social assistance cases increased by about 1,950 in 2021-22. Both programs saw increases, but Disability Assistance accounted for almost 88 per cent of new cases.

Income Assistance

After two years of steep increases, the average number of Income Assistance cases and beneficiaries in British Columbia saw a modest increase. In 2021-22, the number of Income Assistance cases rose by about 240 to reach nearly 46,900, and the number of beneficiaries rose by about 170 to reach 72,900.

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.

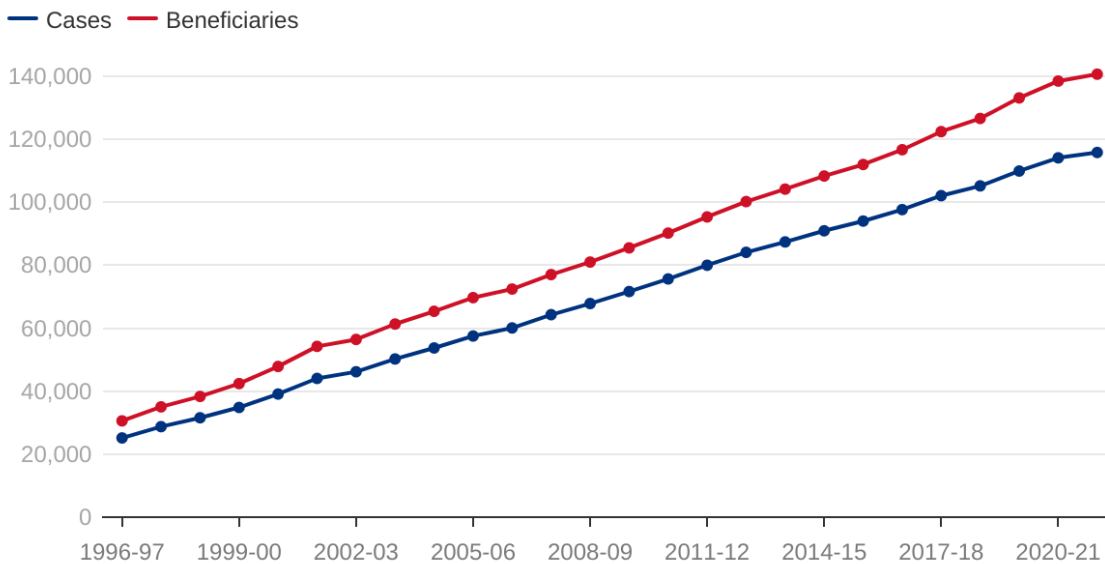
Figure 1BC – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Income Assistance in British Columbia, 1996 to 2022



Disability Assistance

In 2021-22, there was an average of just over 115,800 cases in British Columbia's Disability Assistance program, and nearly 140,700 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children). Both numbers have been steadily rising over the last 26 years.

Figure 2BC – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Disability Assistance in British Columbia, 1996 to 2022



What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2021-22, on average, five per cent of people in British Columbia under 65 received Income Assistance or Disability Assistance, which is one in 20. The proportion of recipients receiving social assistance has followed a similar pattern as the total number of recipients.

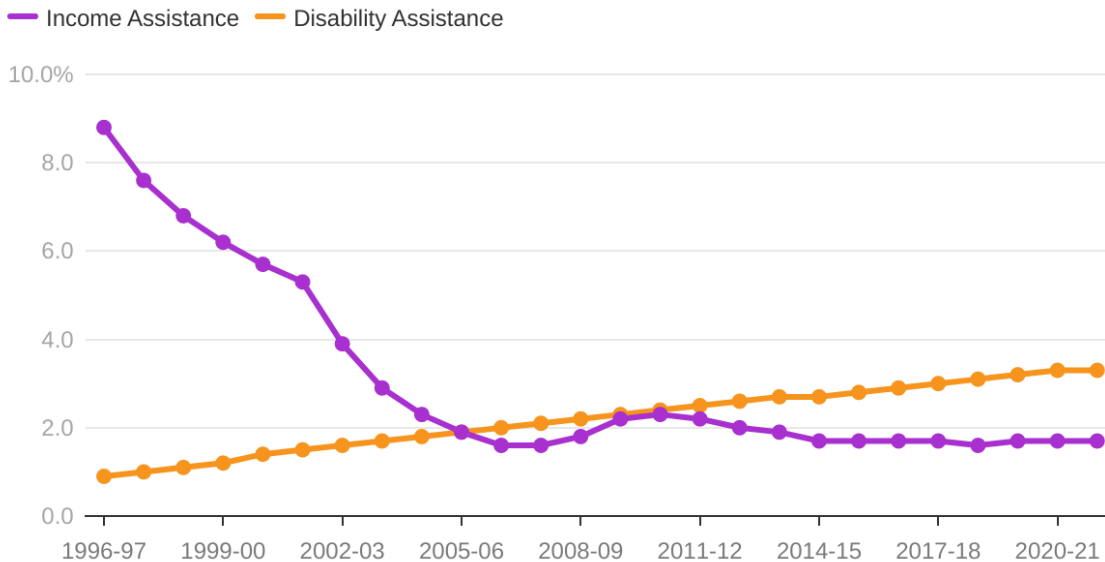
The proportion of people under 65 receiving Disability Assistance has increased consistently since 1996-97, reaching 3.3 per cent in 2021-22.

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 eight years. In 2021-22, 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 2022



Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2022. 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 2021-22, 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 seven per cent, respectively.

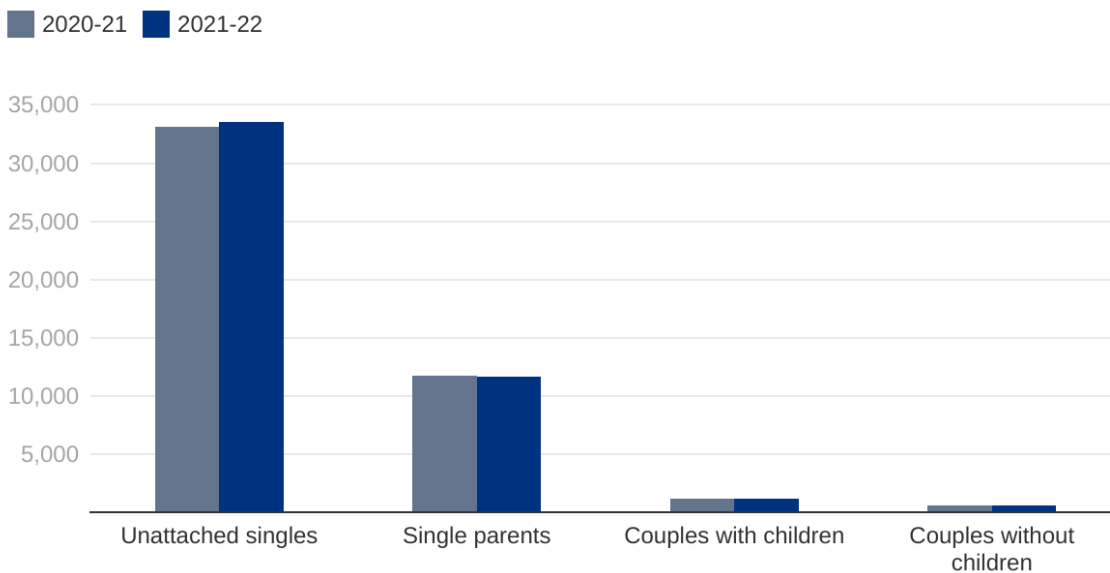
For Income Assistance, unattached singles households had the highest proportion of beneficiaries, with 46 per cent followed by single parent households, with 45 per cent. Unattached singles also consisted of the significant majority of Disability Assistance beneficiaries, with 72 per cent followed by single parent households 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 and 2021-22

A. Cases



B. Beneficiaries

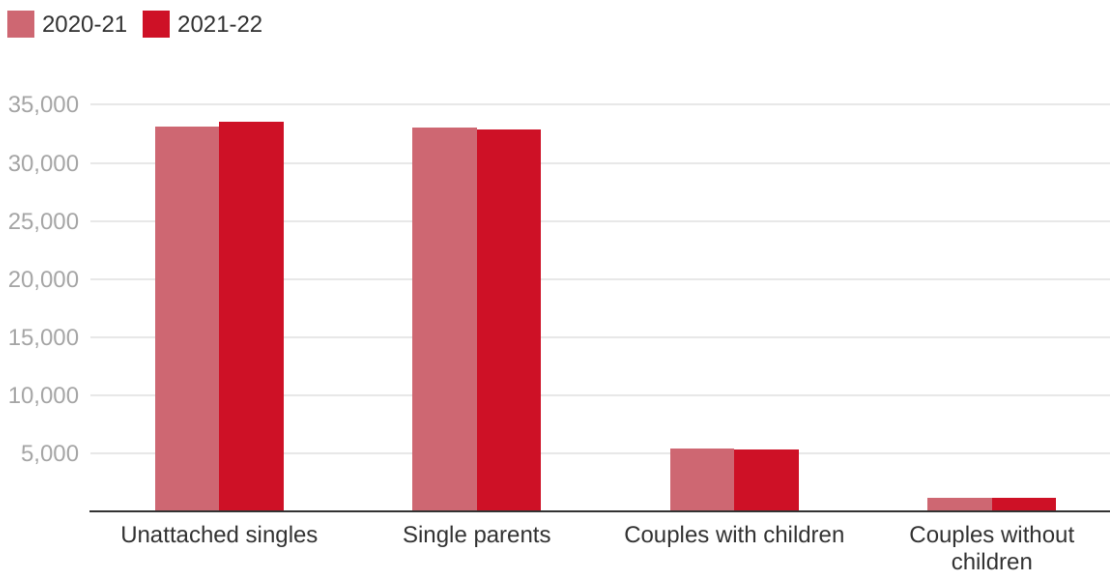
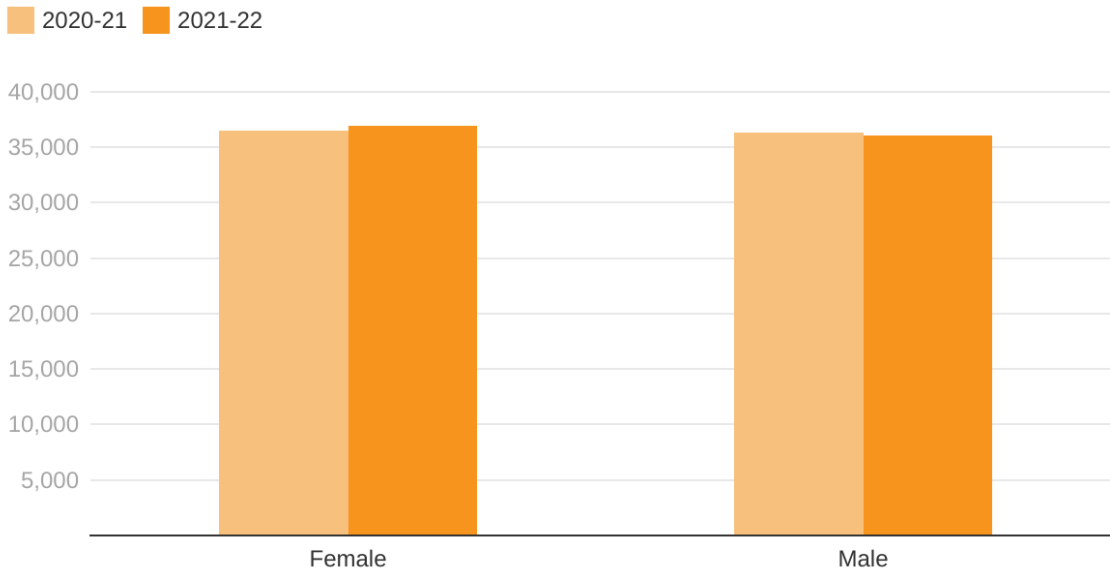






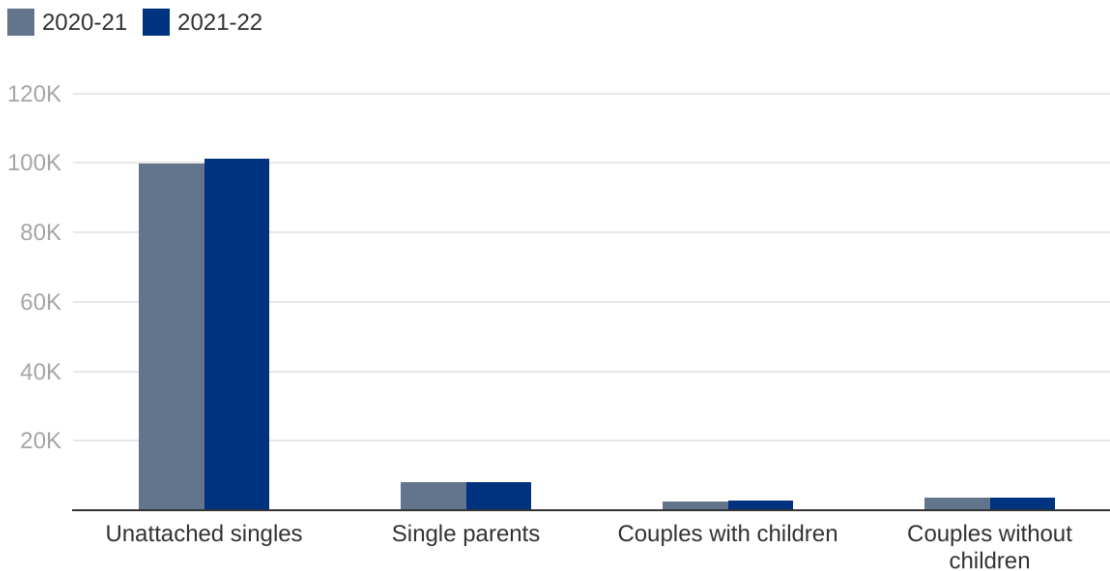
Figure 5BC – Beneficiaries of Income Assistance by gender in British Columbia, 2020-21 and 2021-22



Disability Assistance

Figure 6BC – Cases and beneficiaries of Disability Assistance by household in British Columbia, 2020-21 and 2021-22

A. Cases





B. Beneficiaries

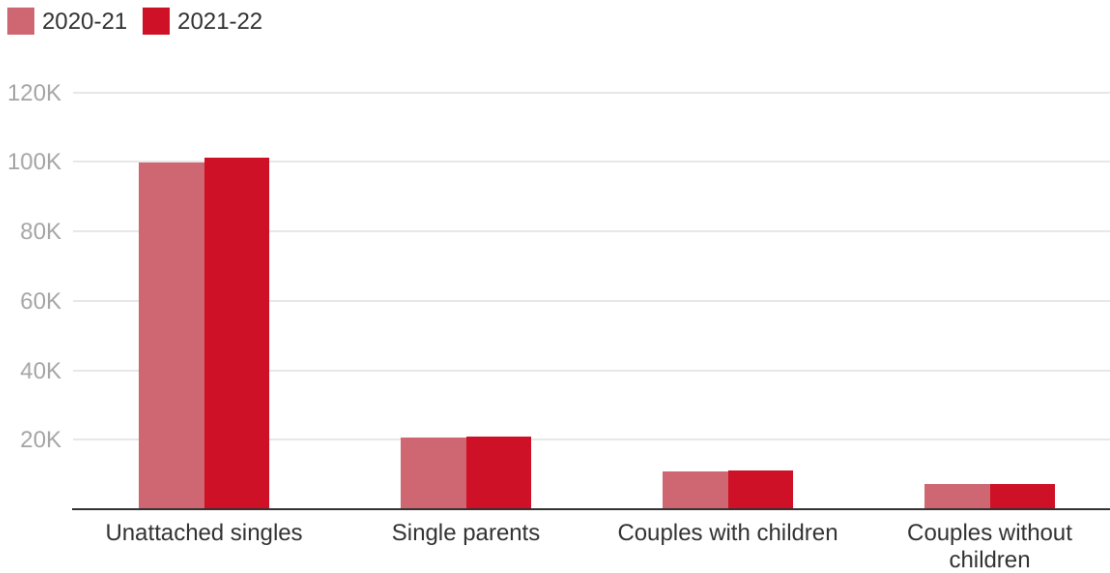
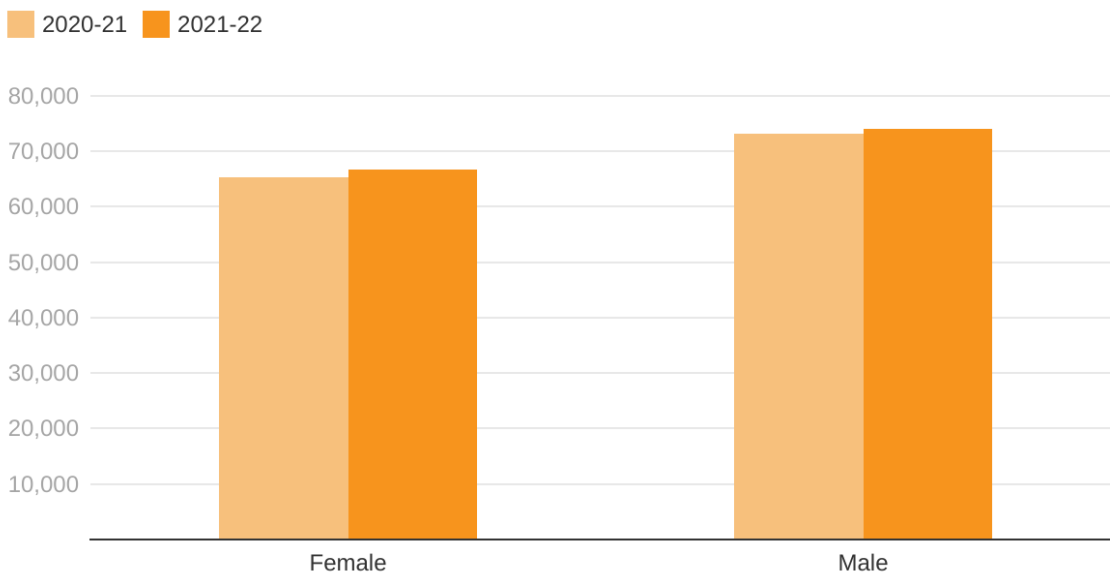


Figure 7BC – Beneficiaries of Disability Assistance by gender in British Columbia, 2020-21 and 2021-22



Data

Figure 8BC – Yearly social assistance data for British Columbia, 1996 to 2022

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
2021-22	46,879	72,902	115,813	140,672

Figure 9BC – Social assistance data by household for British Columbia, 2020-21 and 2021-22

Household Type	Year	Income Assistance		Disability Assistance	
		Cases	Beneficiaries	Cases	Beneficiaries
Unattached singles	2020-21	33,150	33,150	99,773	99,773
	2021-22	33,514	33,514	101,271	101,271
Single parents	2020-21	11,737	33,001	8,060	20,515
	2021-22	11,623	32,844	8,206	20,966
Couples with children	2020-21	1,167	5,422	2,625	10,900
	2021-22	1,140	5,338	2,672	11,107
Couples without children	2020-21	583	1,165	3,650	7,300
	2021-22	603	1,206	3,664	7,328

Figure 10BC – Social assistance data by gender for British Columbia, 2020-21 and 2021-22

Gender	Year	Income Assistance	Disability Assistance
		Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries
Female	2020-21	36,450	65,319
	2021-22	36,886	66,589
Male	2020-21	36,287	73,169
	2021-22	36,016	74,083

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 households 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.

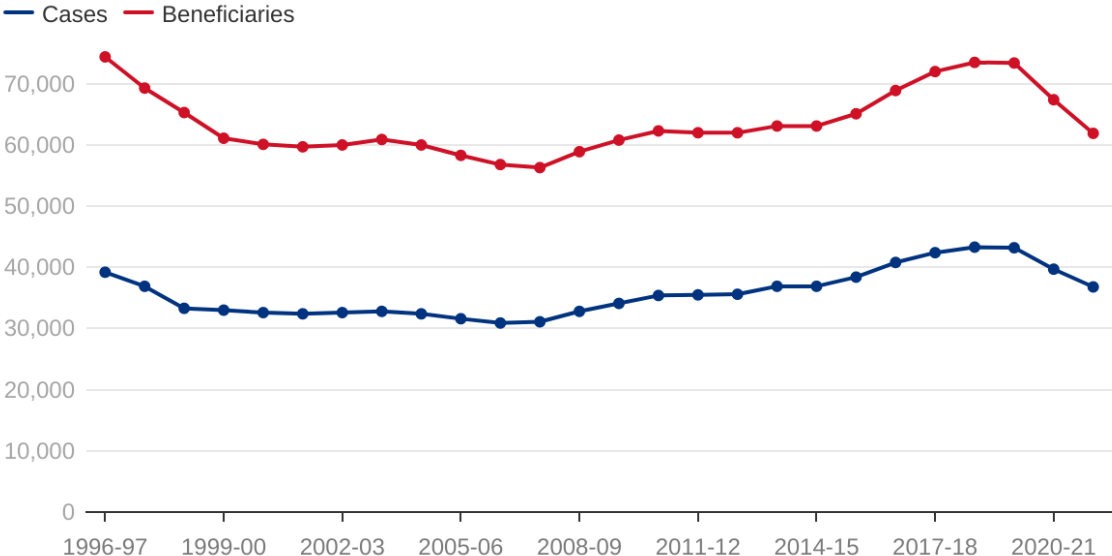
In Manitoba, social assistance is delivered through the Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) program.

EIA provides income assistance to Manitobans in need, as well as assessment-informed, person centred-planning that supports clients to move forward in their journey to independence. Supports may include referrals to employment enhancement measures, supportive programming, and/or treatment programming.

How many people claim social assistance?

On average, there were 36,800 cases (families and single adults) and 61,900 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in Manitoba's Employment and Income Assistance program in 2021-22. This is the third year of decreases in both social assistance cases and beneficiaries. Previously, there was a trend of steady increases in Manitoba from 2007-08 to 2018-19.

Figure 1MB – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) in Manitoba, 1996 to 2022

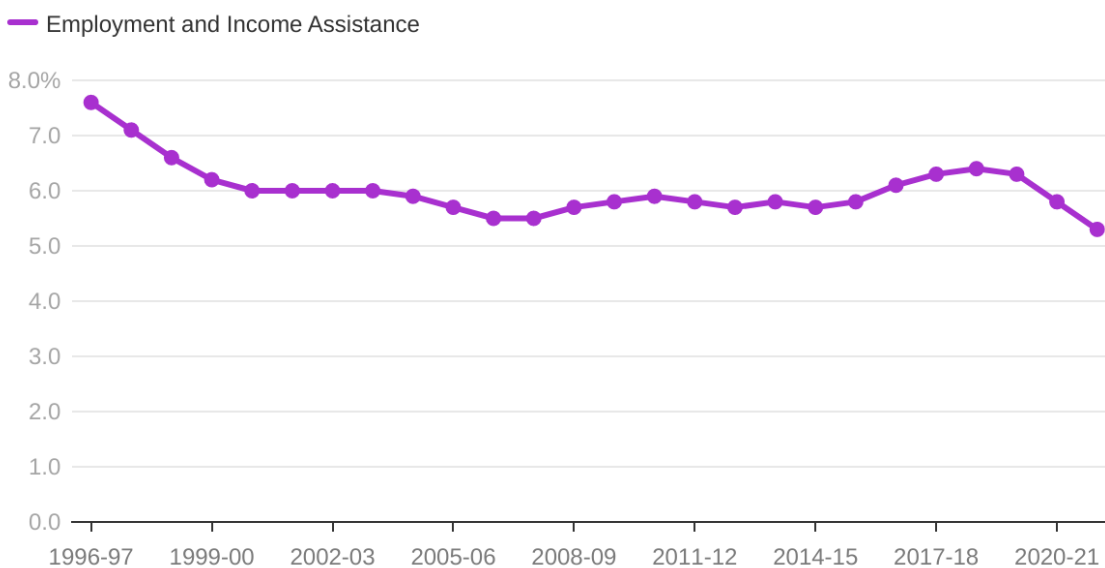


What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2021-22, on average, 5.3 per cent of people in Manitoba under 65 received Employment and Income Assistance (EIA), which is one in 19. The proportion of recipients receiving EIA has followed a similar pattern as the total number of recipients. 2021-22 had the lowest proportion of people receiving EIA to date. In prior years, on average, the proportion has remained stable at around six 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 2022



Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2022. Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex. Accessed at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>

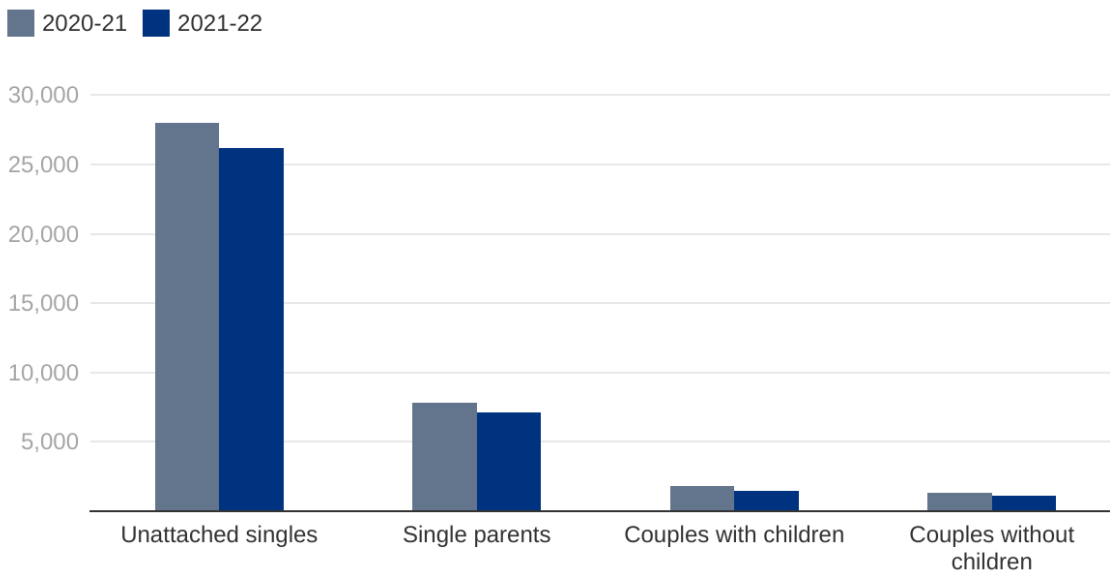
Who is receiving social assistance?

In 2021-22, unattached singles had the majority of cases of the Employment and Income Assistance among household types in Manitoba, with 73 per cent, followed by single parents, with 20 per cent. Unattached singles also made up the highest proportion of beneficiaries, with over 44 per cent, followed by single parent households, with almost 39 per cent.

Females made up the majority of Employment and Income Assistance beneficiaries in 2021-22, with about 53 per cent of recipients.

Figure 3MB – Cases and beneficiaries of Employment and Income Assistance by household in Manitoba, 2020-21 and 2021-22

A. Cases



B. Beneficiaries

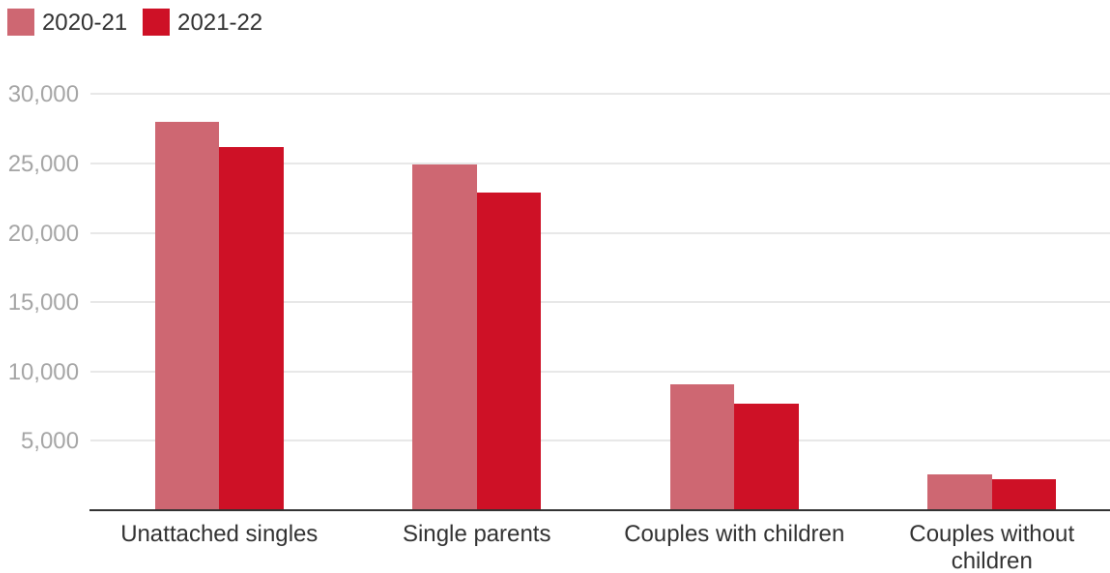
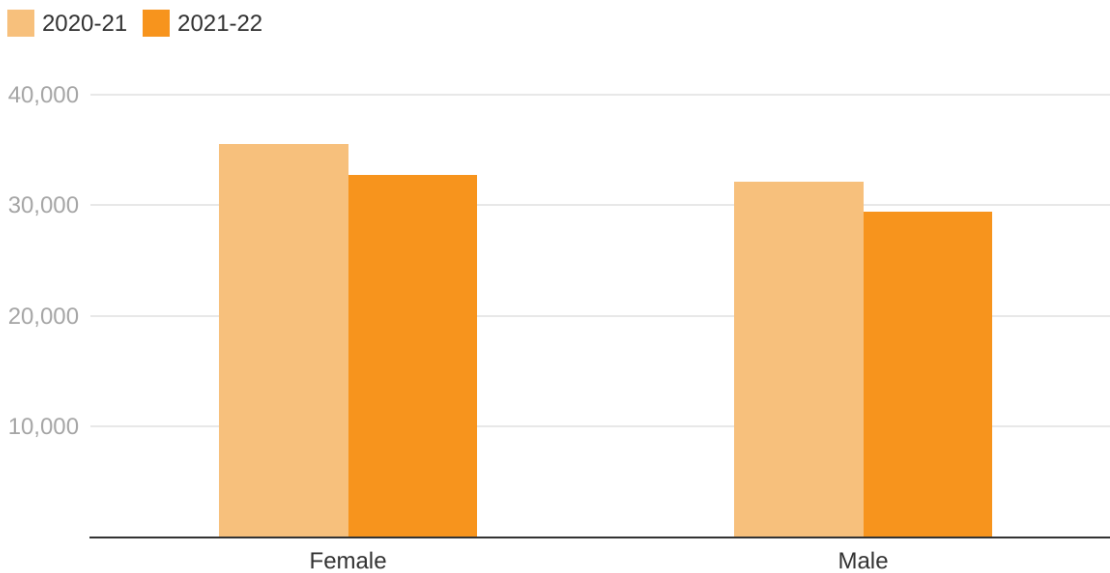


Figure 4MB – Beneficiaries of Employment and Income Assistance by sex in Manitoba, 2020-21 and 2021-22



Data

Figure 5MB – Yearly social assistance data for Manitoba, 1996 to 2022

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
2021-22	36,800	61,900

Figure 6MB – Social assistance data by household for Manitoba, 2020-21 and 2021-22

Household Type	Year	Employment and Income Assistance	
		Cases	Beneficiaries
Unattached singles	2020-21	28,000	28,000
	2021-22	26,200	26,200
Single parents	2020-21	7,800	24,900
	2021-22	7,100	22,900
Couples with children	2020-21	1,800	9,100
	2021-22	1,500	7,700
Couples without children	2020-21	1,300	2,600
	2021-22	1,100	2,200

Figure 7MB – Social assistance data by sex for Manitoba, 2020-21 and 2021-22

Gender	Year	Employment and Income Assistance
		Beneficiaries
Female	2020-21	35,500
	2021-22	32,700
Male	2020-21	32,100
	2021-22	29,400

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.
- Data for total cases and beneficiaries is from a different source than data for disaggregated cases and beneficiaries (household and sex) so there may be discrepancies between them.
- 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 households 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:

- Transitional Assistance Program (TAP)
- 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 — Multi-person units and single adults with a designation are provided assistance under this category; and
2. Transitional Assistance Program – Single Employable — Single adult units who do not have a designation and are not certified as blind, deaf, or having a disability are provided assistance under this category.

Extended Benefits Program (EBP)

EBP benefits are intended for units with an individual who has been 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 18,426 cases (families and single adults) in New Brunswick's social assistance programs during 2021-22. Sixty-seven per cent (12,436) of cases received support through the Transitional Assistance Program, and 33 per cent (5,990) received support through the Extended Benefits Program.

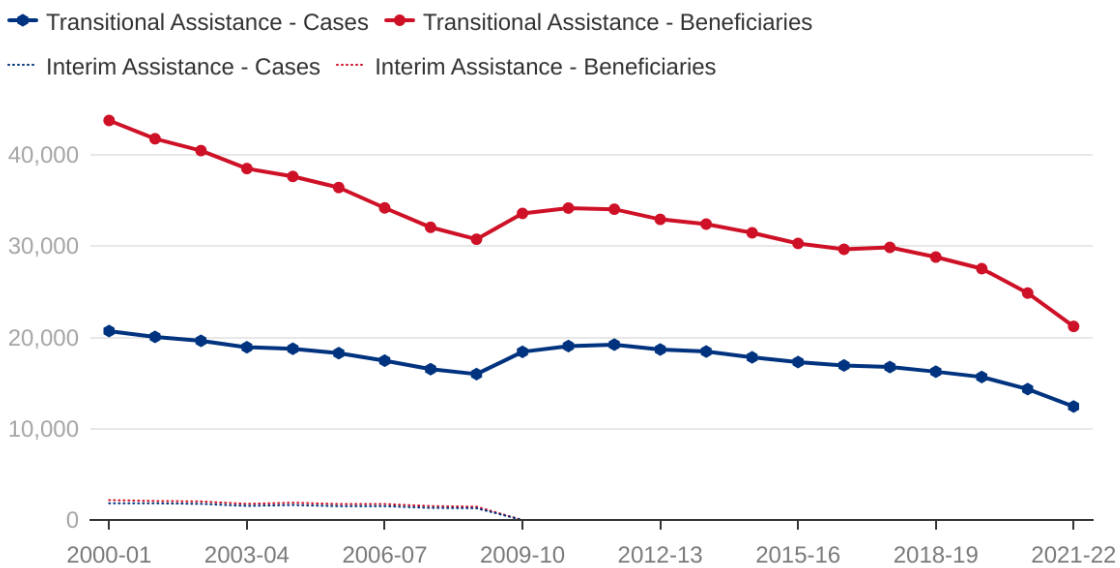


Transitional Assistance Program (TAP)

On average, there were over 12,400 cases and just over 21,200 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) receiving the TAP in 2021-22. Both of these numbers have been decreasing 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.

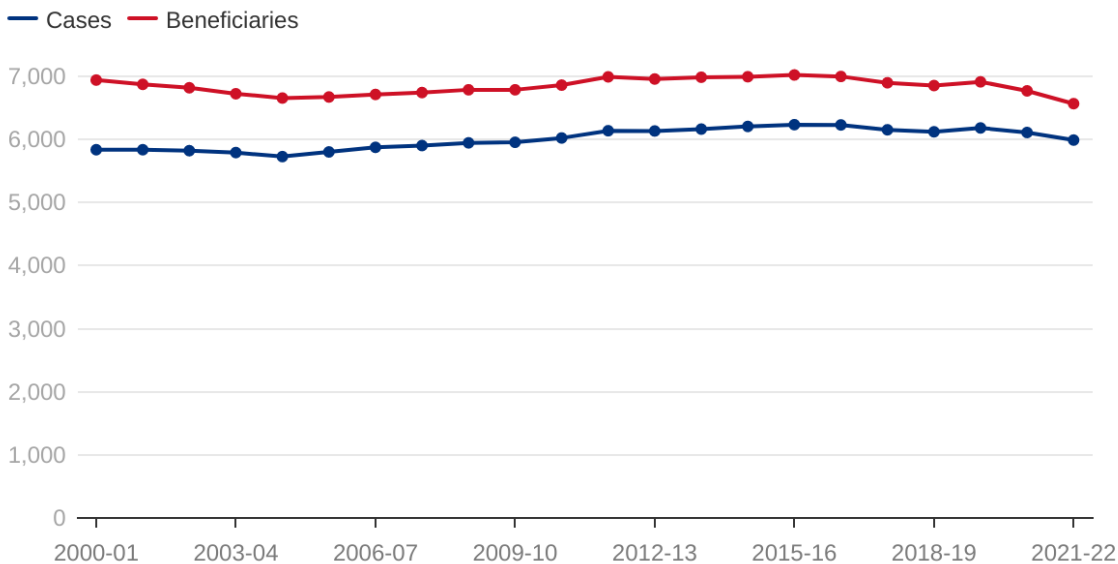
Figure 1NB – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of the Transitional Assistance Program (TAP) and the Interim Assistance Program (IAP) in New Brunswick, 2000 to 2022



Extended Benefits Program (EBP)

In 2021-22, there were an average of about 6,000 cases and almost 6,600 beneficiaries receiving 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 2022



What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

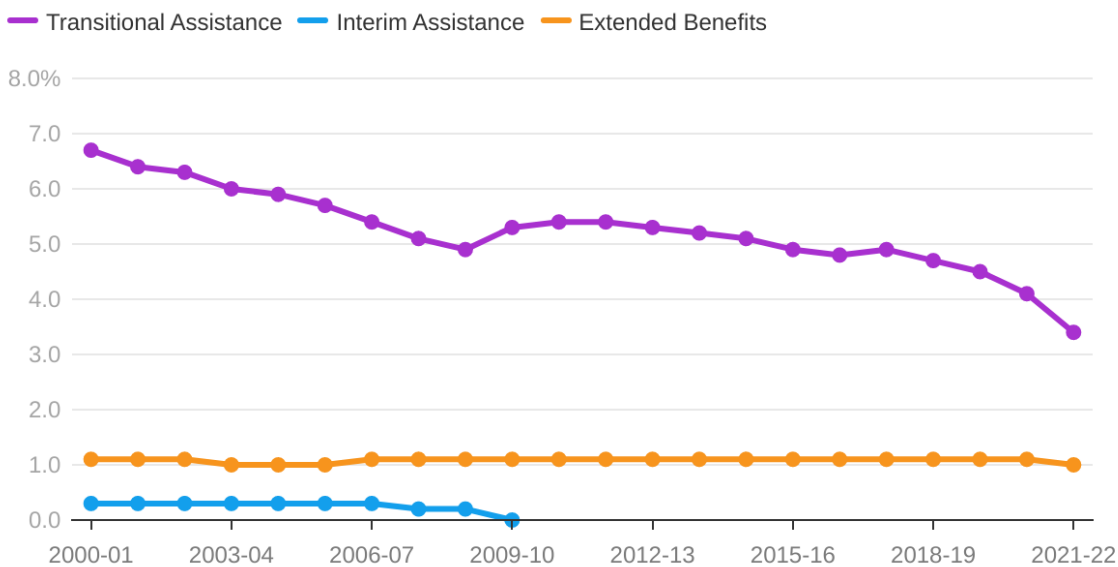
In 2021-22, on average, 4.4 per cent of people in New Brunswick under 65 received the Transitional Assistance Program (TAP) or the Extended Benefits Program (EBP), which is one in 23. The proportion of recipients receiving social assistance has followed a similar pattern as the total number of recipients.

The proportion of people under 65 receiving TAP has generally decreased, from 6.7 per cent in 2000-01 to 3.4 per cent in 2021-22.

The proportion of people under 65 receiving EBP was one per cent in 2021-22. It has remained stable at between one and 1.1 per cent since 2000-01.

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 2022



Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2022. 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 2021-22, unattached singles were the majority of social assistance cases among households for both programs, comprising almost 65 per cent of the Transitional Assistance Program (TAP) and over 93 per cent of the Extended Benefits Program (EBP). For TAP, single parents had the second highest percentage of cases, with just under 25 per cent. Couples without children had the second highest percentage of cases of EBP, with under four per cent.

For TAP, single-parent households had the highest proportion of beneficiaries, at over 40 per cent, followed by unattached singles, at nearly 38 per cent. Unattached singles consisted of the significant majority of EBP beneficiaries with just over 85 per cent, followed by couples without children, with under seven per cent.

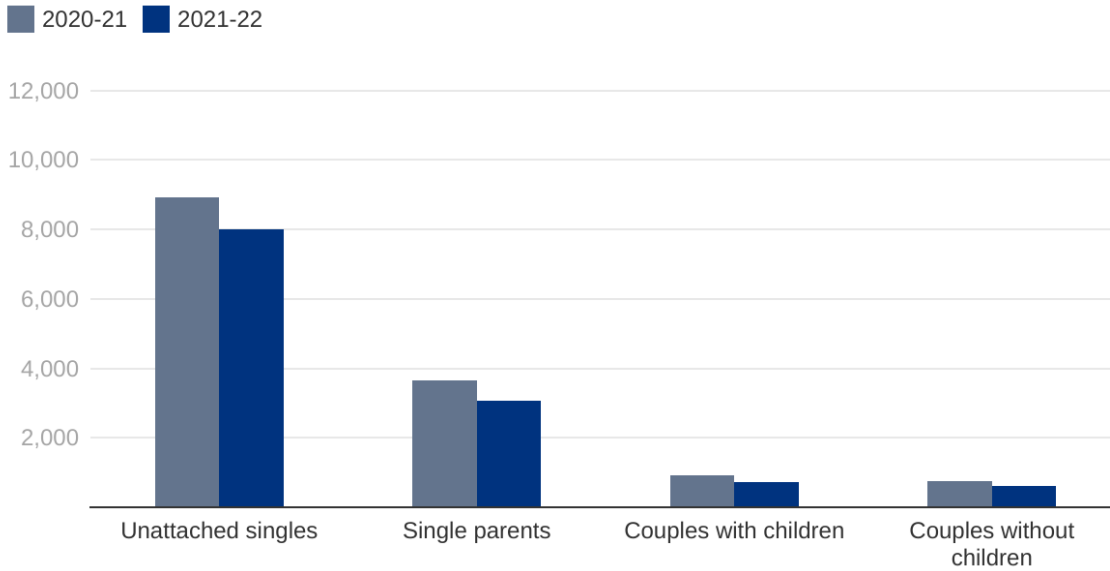
On average, in 2021-22, TAP beneficiaries were almost equally split between female and male recipients, with slightly more females. However, EBP had more male beneficiaries with almost 57 per cent.



Transitional Assistance Program (TAP)

Figure 4NB – Cases and beneficiaries of Transitional Assistance Program (TAP) by household in New Brunswick, 2020-21 and 2021-22

A. Cases



B. Beneficiaries

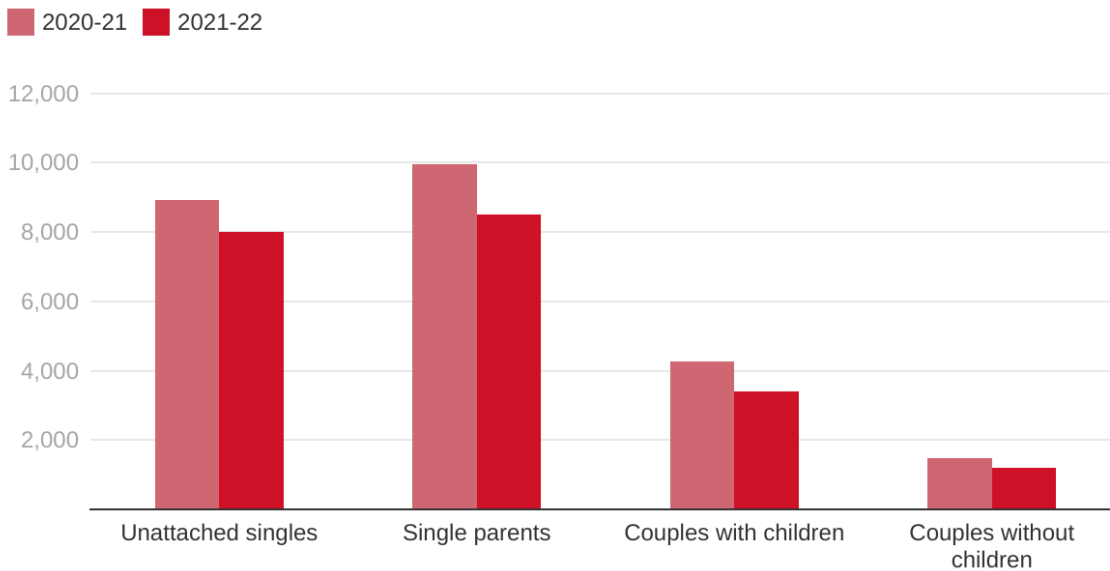
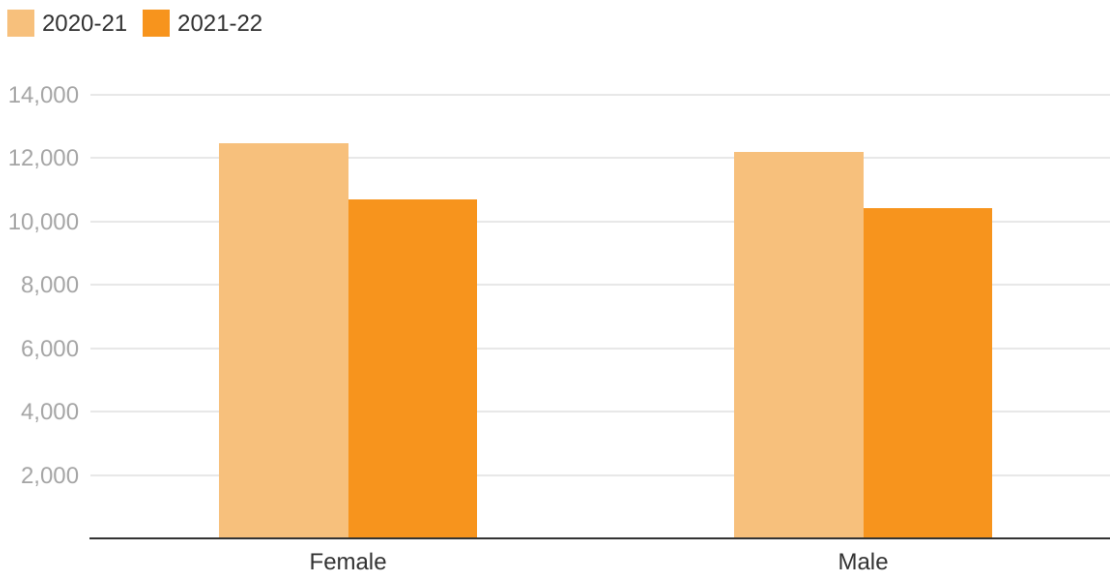




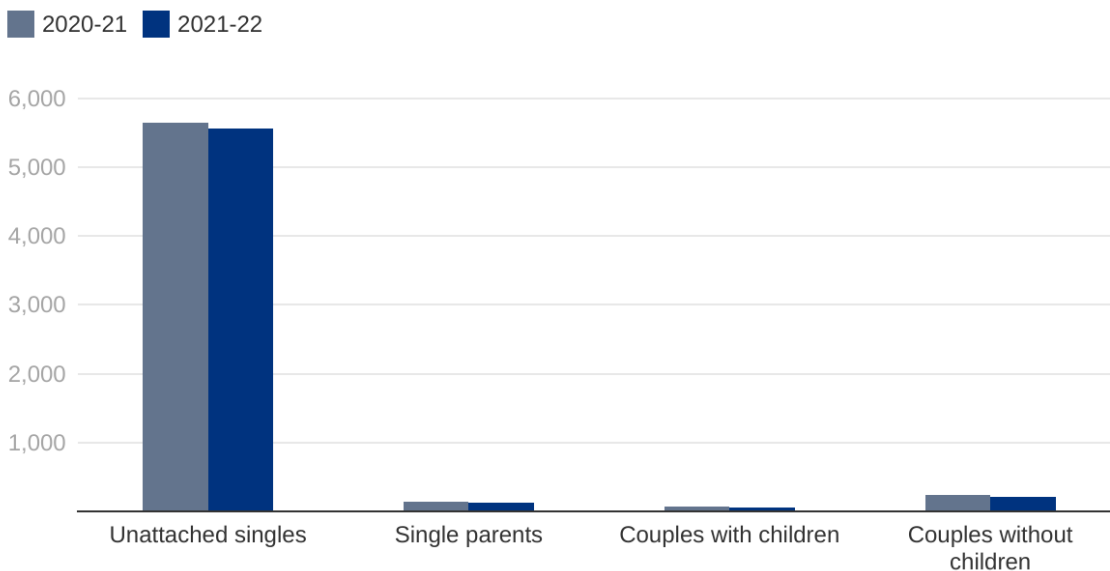
Figure 5NB – Beneficiaries of Transitional Assistance Program (TAP) by sex in New Brunswick, 2020-21 and 2021-22



Extended Benefits Program (EBP)

Figure 6NB – Cases and beneficiaries of Extended Benefits Program (EBP) by household in New Brunswick, 2020-21 and 2021-22

A. Cases



B. Beneficiaries

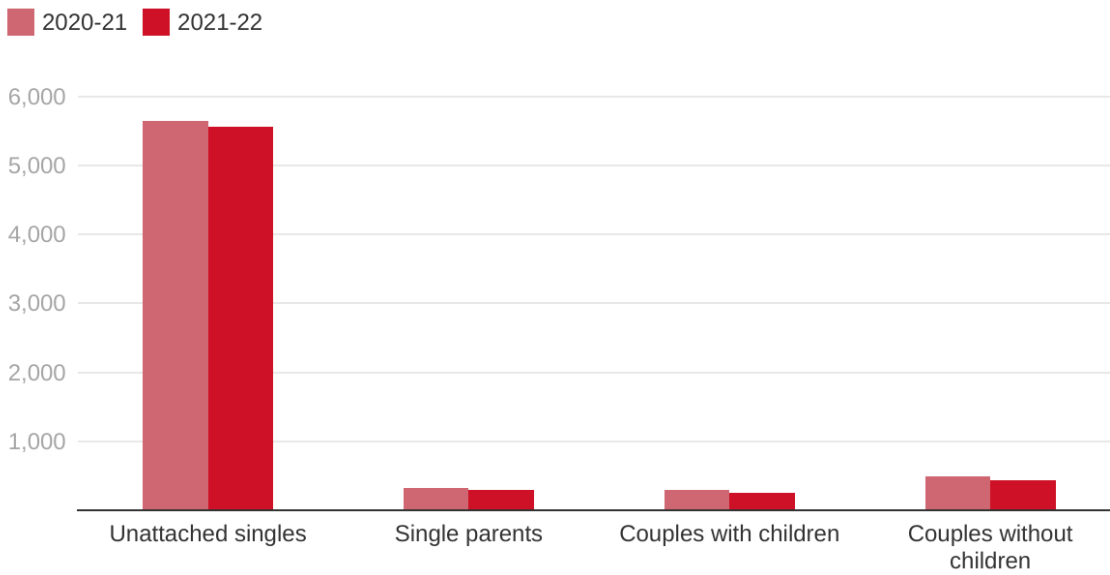
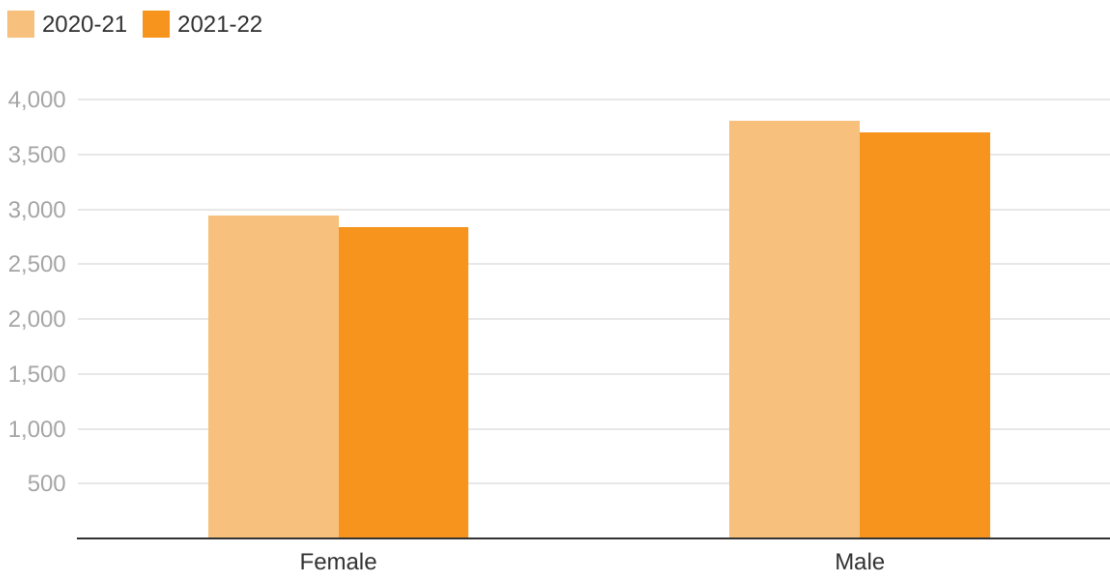


Figure 7NB – Beneficiaries of Extended Benefits Program (EBP) by sex in New Brunswick, 2020-21 and 2021-22



Data

Figure 8NB – Yearly social assistance data for New Brunswick, 1997 to 2022

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
2021-22	12,436	21,216			5,990	6,567

Figure 9NB – Social assistance data by household for New Brunswick, 2020-21 and 2021-22

Household Type	Year	Transitional Assistance		Extended Benefits	
		Cases	Beneficia-ries	Cases	Beneficia-ries
Unattached singles	2020-21	8,929	8,930	5,640	5,640
	2021-22	7,997	7,999	5,569	5,569
Single parents	2020-21	3,640	9,954	142	330
	2021-22	3,070	8,507	124	292
Couples with children	2020-21	916	4,279	74	291
	2021-22	726	3,407	63	248
Couples without children	2020-21	739	1,491	243	492
	2021-22	600	1,210	216	436

Figure 10NB – Social assistance data by sex for New Brunswick, 2020-21 and 2021-22

Gender	Year	Transitional Assistance	Extended Benefits
		Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries
Female	2020-21	12,455	2,947
	2021-22	10,697	2,840
Male	2020-21	12,192	3,806
	2021-22	10,422	3,705

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 households 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.

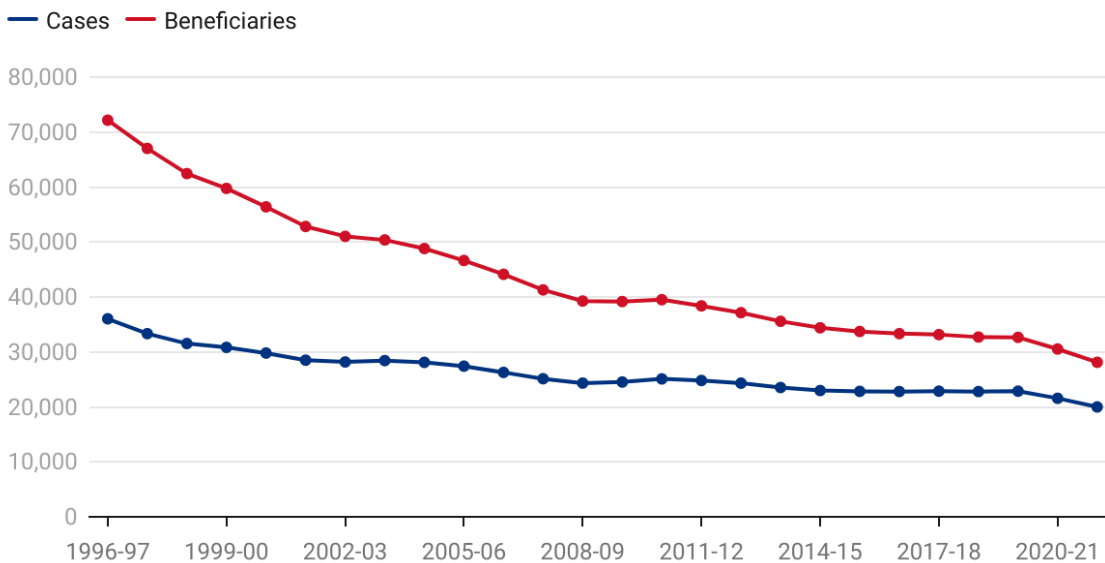
In Newfoundland and Labrador, social assistance is referred to as Income Support (IS). IS provides financial benefits and other services to eligible low-income people to assist in meeting daily living expenses. Basic benefits include a family and individual benefit (to assist with expenses such as food, 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?

In 2021-22, there were on average about 20,000 cases (families or single adults) and slightly over 28,100 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in Newfoundland and Labrador's Income Support (IS) program. The number of cases and beneficiaries fell consistently from the mid-1990s through to the mid-2010s, followed by a period of stability up until the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Cases and beneficiaries of Income Assistance then saw decreases in both 2020-2021 and 2021-22.

Figure 1NL – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Income Support (IS) in Newfoundland and Labrador, 1996 to 2022

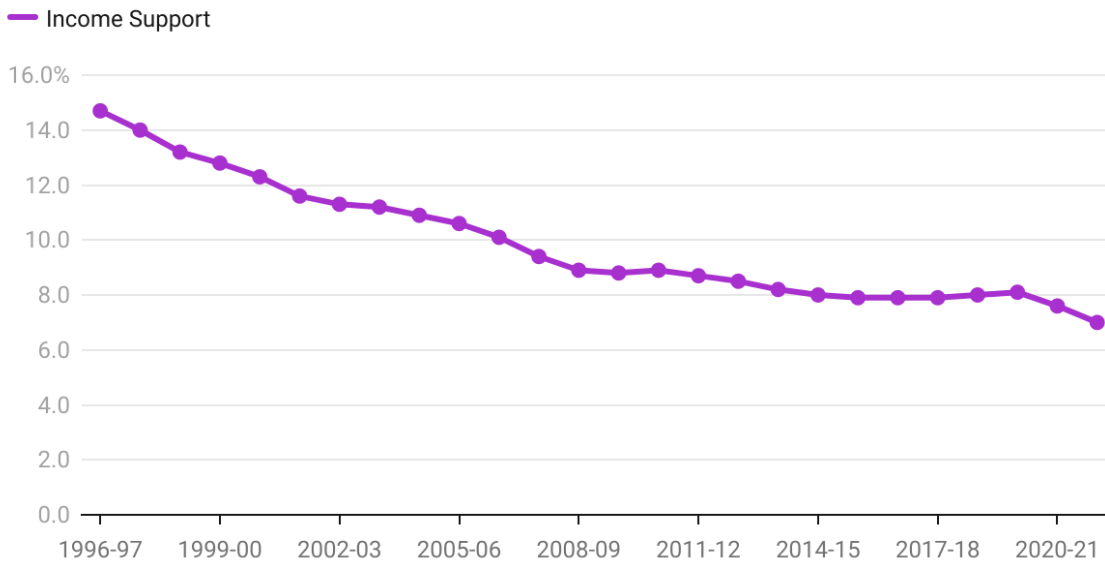


What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2021-22, on average, seven per cent of people in Newfoundland and Labrador under 65 received Income Support (IS), which is one 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, more than halving from a high of 14.7 per cent in 1996-97.

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 2NL – Yearly beneficiaries of Income Support (IS) as a proportion of the under-65 population in Newfoundland and Labrador, 1996 to 2022



Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2022. Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex. Accessed at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>

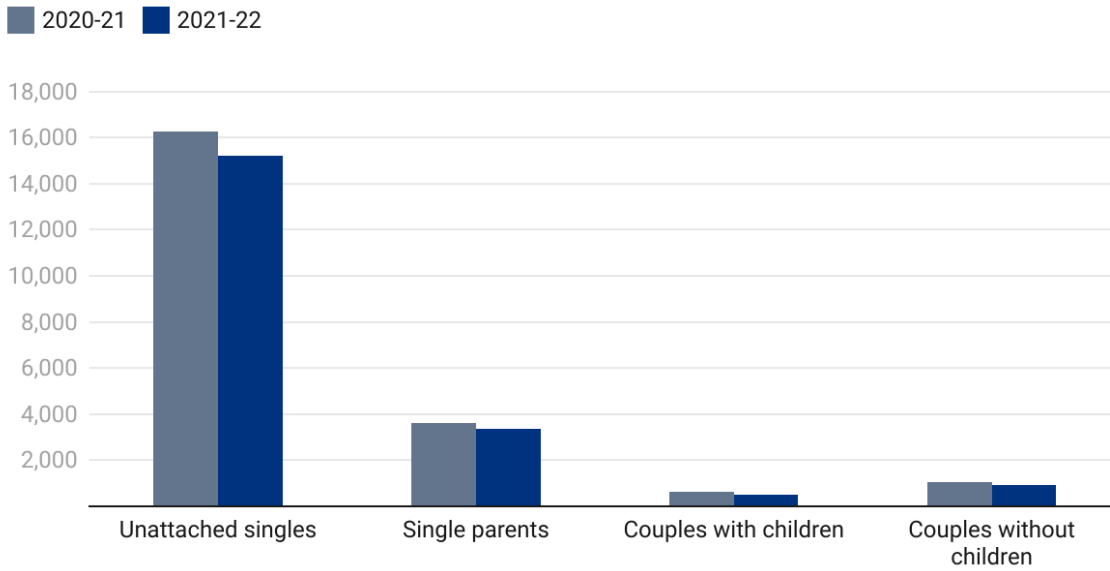
Who is receiving social assistance?

In 2021-22, unattached singles were the majority household of both cases and beneficiaries of Newfoundland and Labrador’s Income Support (IS) program, with, on average, 76 per cent of cases and 54 per cent of beneficiaries. Single parents are second with nearly 17 per cent of cases and just under 32 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, 2020-21 and 2021-22

A. Cases



B. Beneficiaries

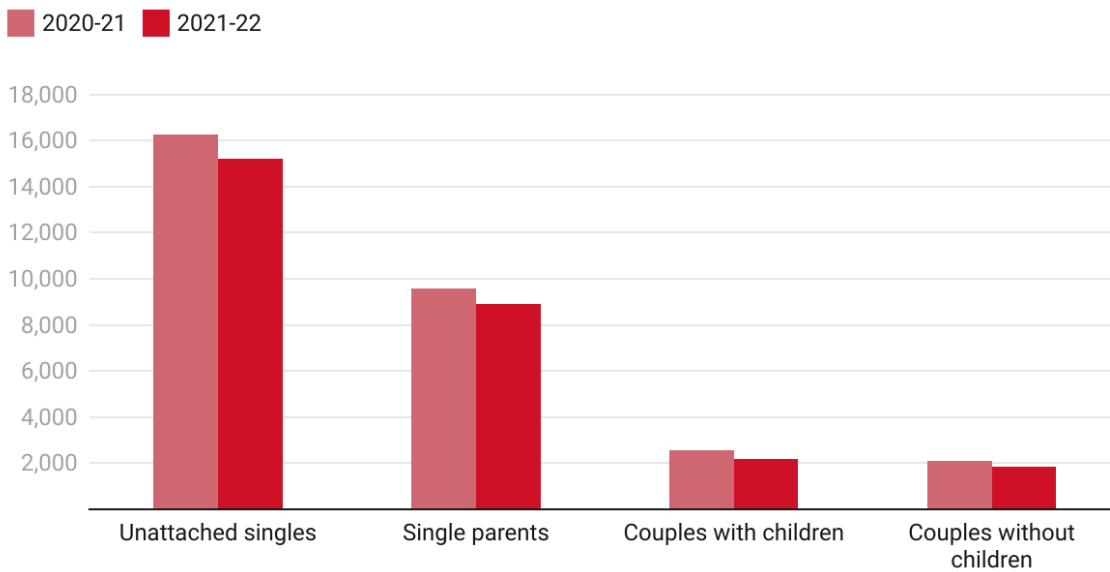
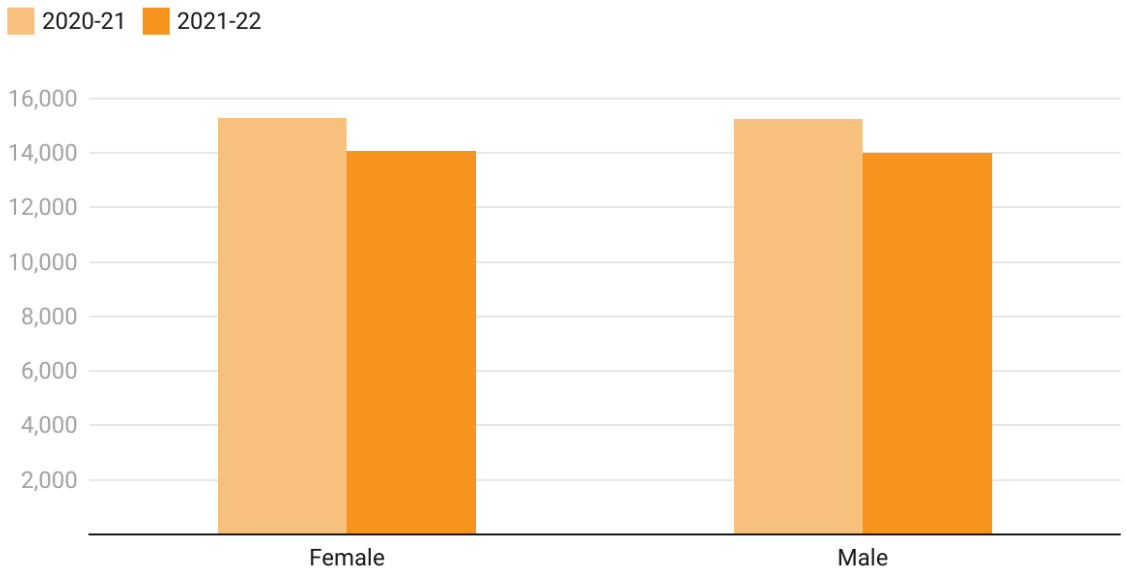




Figure 4NL – Beneficiaries of Income Support (IS) by gender in Newfoundland and Labrador, 2020-21 and 2021-22



Data

Figure 5NL – Yearly social assistance data for Newfoundland and Labrador, 1996 to 2022

Year	Income Support	
	Cases	Beneficiaries
1996-97	36,029	72,164
1997-98	33,325	67,027
1998-99	31,528	62,447
1999-00	30,830	59,755
2000-01	29,795	56,398
2001-02	28,500	52,824
2002-03	28,174	51,028
2003-04	28,421	50,374
2004-05	28,104	48,811
2005-06	27,412	46,635
2006-07	26,274	44,126
2007-08	25,125	41,288
2008-09	24,333	39,257
2009-10	24,530	39,165
2010-11	25,092	39,506
2011-12	24,802	38,382
2012-13	24,320	37,142
2013-14	23,524	35,576
2014-15	22,975	34,392
2015-16	22,829	33,716
2016-17	22,797	33,332
2017-18	22,864	33,150
2018-19	22,794	32,709
2019-20	22,861	32,656
2020-21	21,562	30,529
2021-22	19,993	28,117

Figure 6NL – Social assistance data by household for Newfoundland and Labrador, 2020-21 and 2021-22

Household Type	Year	Income Support	
		Cases	Beneficiaries
Unattached singles	2020-21	16,260	16,260
	2021-22	15,199	15,199
Single parents	2020-21	3,632	9,578
	2021-22	3,356	8,900
Couples with children	2020-21	617	2,580
	2021-22	513	2,169
Couples without children	2020-21	1,059	2,118
	2021-22	924	1,848

Figure 7NL – Social assistance data by gender for Newfoundland and Labrador, 2020-21 and 2021-22

Gender	Year	Income Support
		Beneficiaries
Female	2020-21	15,277
	2021-22	14,084
Male	2020-21	15,247
	2021-22	14,012

Data notes

- The data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).
- Prior to the 2022 edition of Social Assistance Summaries, social assistance data for Newfoundland and Labrador was provided as calendar-year average.
- Ten beneficiaries in 2020-21 and 14 beneficiaries in 2021-22 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

Northwest Territories' social assistance program

Social assistance is the income program of last resort. It is intended for households 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.

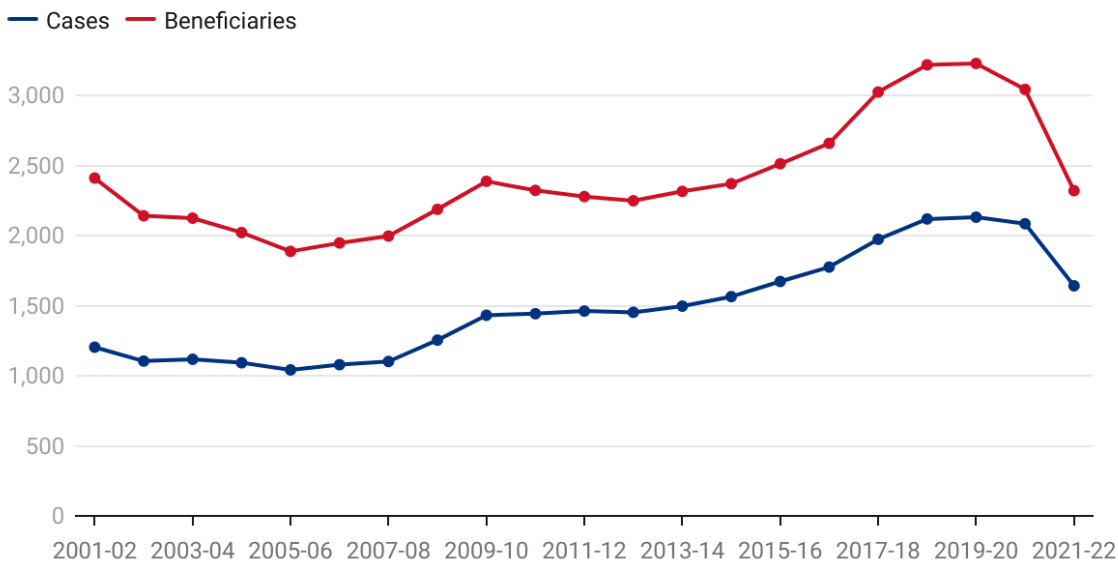
In the Northwest Territories, the Income Assistance Program provides financial assistance to residents to help meet basic living needs, such as food, shelter, and utilities. In combination with developmental opportunities, it aims to help recipients become self-reliant as individual capacity allows, 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 over 1,600 cases (families and single adults) and about 2,300 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in the Northwest Territories' Income Assistance Program in 2021-22. After a gradual increase in the number of cases and beneficiaries from 2002-03 to 2019-20, 2020-21 saw the first decrease in two decades, followed by further decrease in 2021-22.

Figure 1NT – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of the Income Assistance Program in the Northwest Territories, 2001 to 2022



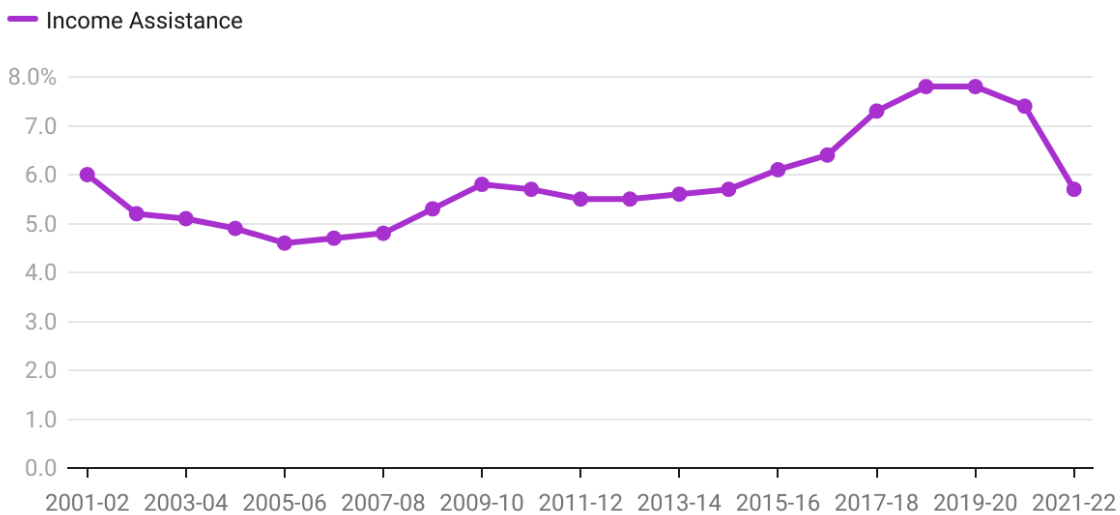
What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2021-22, on average, 5.7 per cent of people in Northwest Territories under 65 received the Income Assistance Program, which is about one in 18. The proportion of recipients receiving this program has followed a similar pattern as the total number of recipients.

After a gradual rise from 5.5 per cent in 2012-13 to 7.8 in 2019-20, the proportion of recipients decreased in 2020-21 to 7.4 per cent, and again in 2021-22 to 5.7 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 2NT – Yearly beneficiaries of the Income Assistance Program as a proportion of the under-65 Northwest Territories population, 2001 to 2022



Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2022. 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?

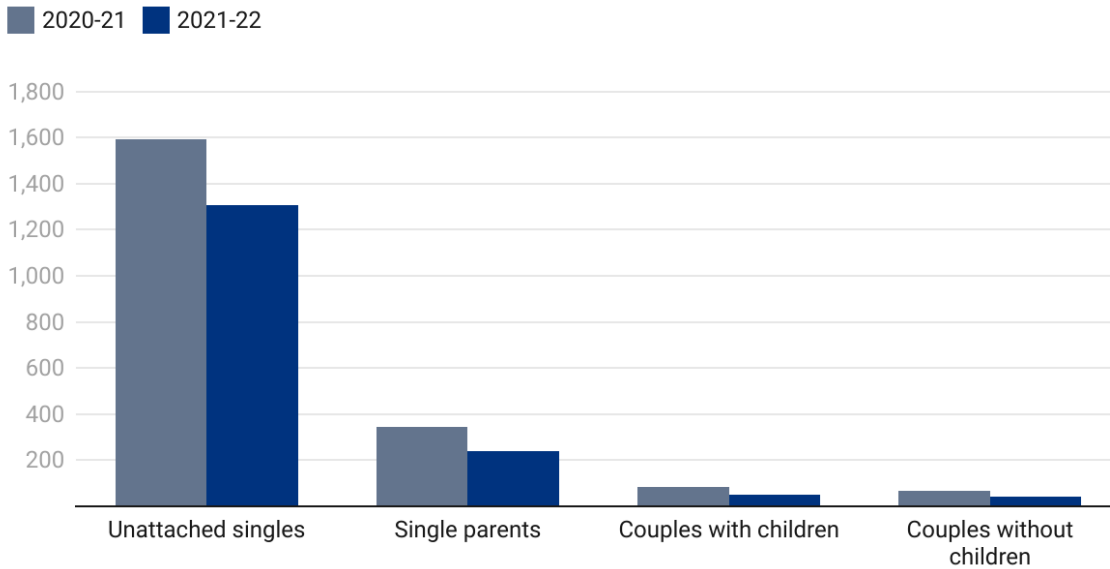
In 2021-22, unattached singles comprised the majority of both cases and beneficiaries of the Income Assistance Program in the Northwest Territories among households, with nearly 80 per cent of cases and just under 57 per cent of beneficiaries. Single parents had the second highest percentages, with under 15 per cent of cases and almost 30 per cent of beneficiaries.

Similarly to 2020-21, females made up the majority of beneficiaries in 2021-22, with 55 per cent.



Figure 3NT – Cases and beneficiaries of the Income Assistance Program in the Northwest Territories by household, 2020-21 and 2021-22

A. Cases



B. Beneficiaries

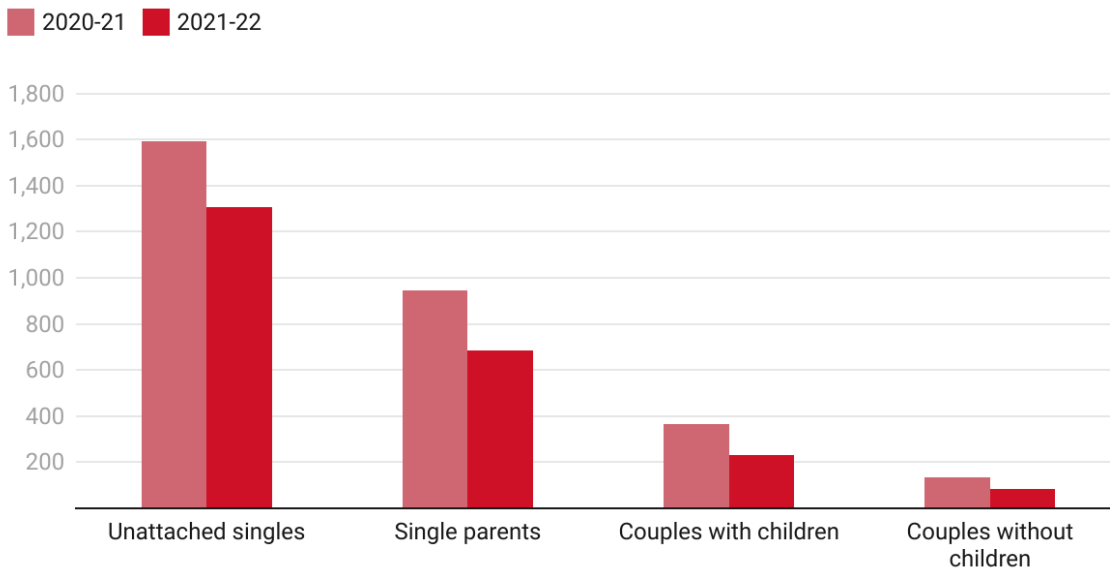
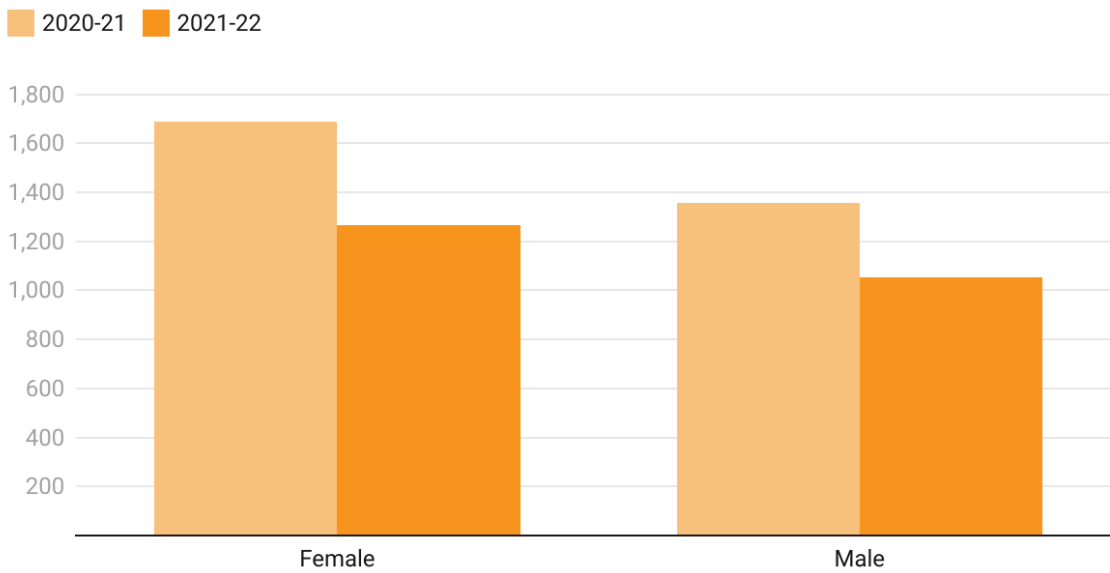




Figure 4NT – Beneficiaries of the Income Assistance Program in the Northwest Territories by gender, 2020-21 and 2021-22



Data

Figure 5NT – Yearly social assistance data for Northwest Territories, 2001 to 2022

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	2,085	3,044
2021-22	1,642	2,321

Figure 6NT – Social assistance data by household for Northwest Territories, 2020-21 and 2021-22

Household Type	Year	Income Assistance	
		Cases	Beneficiaries
Unattached singles	2020-21	1,591	1,591
	2021-22	1,307	1,307
Single parents	2020-21	343	947
	2021-22	241	686
Couples with children	2020-21	83	365
	2021-22	50	233
Couples without children	2020-21	67	135
	2021-22	43	86

Figure 7NT – Social assistance data by gender for Northwest Territories, 2020-21 and 2021-22

Gender	Year	Income Assistance
		Beneficiaries
Female	2020-21	1,688
	2021-22	1,266
Male	2020-21	1,356
	2021-22	1,054

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. None chose it in 2020-21 and one beneficiary chose it in 2021-22.
- 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 households 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.

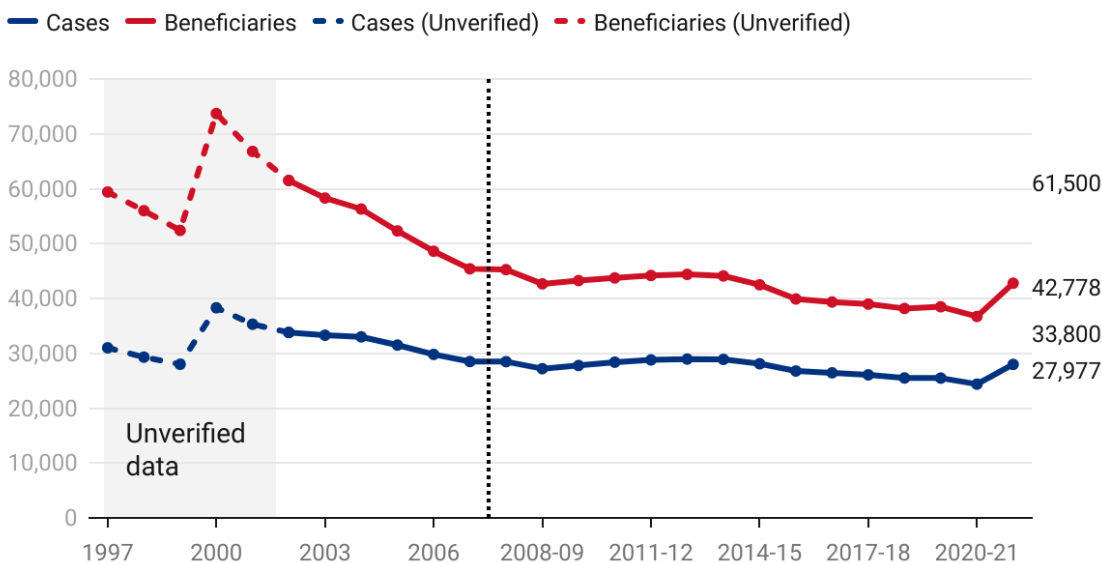
How many people claim social assistance?

In 2021-22, there were, on average, almost 28,000 cases (families and single adults) and almost 42,800 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) receiving Nova Scotia's Employment Support and Income Assistance program.

From the previous year, both cases and beneficiaries saw notable increases of about 15 and 16.5 per cent respectively. Previously, 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 2022



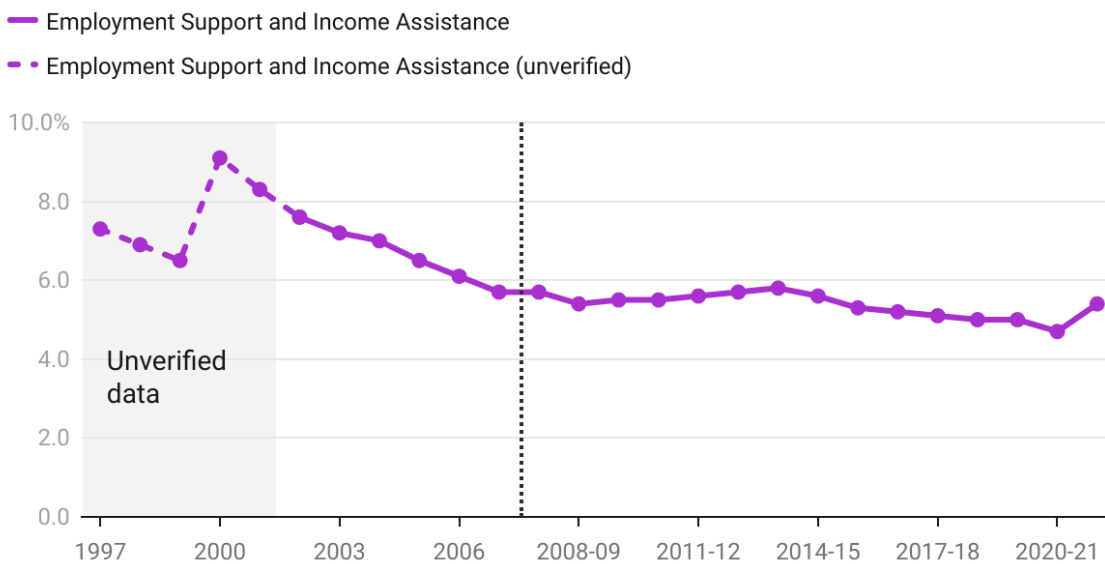
Note: 2006 and prior, the data reflects the number of cases and beneficiaries on March 31 of each year. In 2007, the data reflects the numbers in January. 2007-08 onward, the data reflects the number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).

What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2021-22, on average, 5.4 per cent of people in Nova Scotia under 65 received Employment Support and Income Assistance (ESIA), which is one in 19. 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, then a gradual decrease until reaching its lowest point in 2020-21. This was followed by the first increase in nine years in 2021-22.

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 2022



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

Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2022. 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 2021-22, the vast majority of cases of Employment Support and Income Assistance in Nova Scotia were unattached single households with 73 per cent. They also had the highest proportion of beneficiaries, with nearly 48 per cent. Single parents were second for both, with over 18 per cent of cases and 34 per cent of beneficiaries.

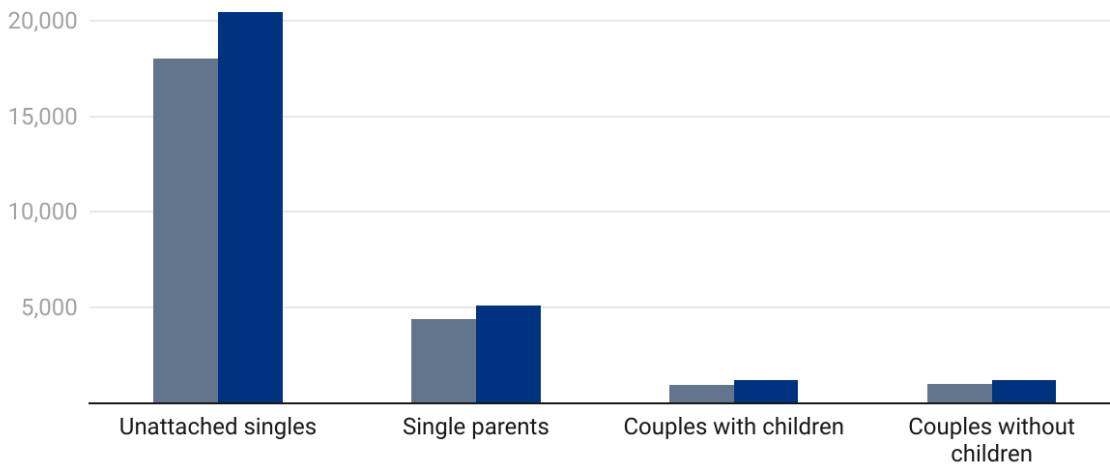
Females made up a large majority of ESIA beneficiaries in 2021-22, with almost 60 per cent. The distribution of beneficiaries between both gender categories changed significantly, going from 51 per cent female and 49 per cent male in 2020-21 to 60 per cent female and 40 per cent male in 2021-22.



Figure 3NS – Cases and beneficiaries of the Employment Support and Income Assistance (ESIA) by household in Nova Scotia, 2020-21 and 2021-22

A. Cases

2020-21 2021-22



B. Beneficiaries

2020-21 2021-22

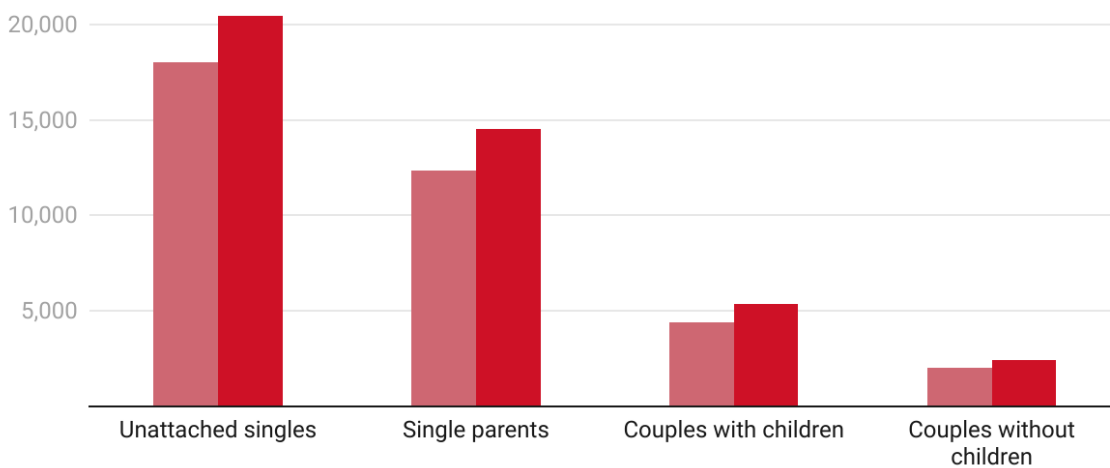
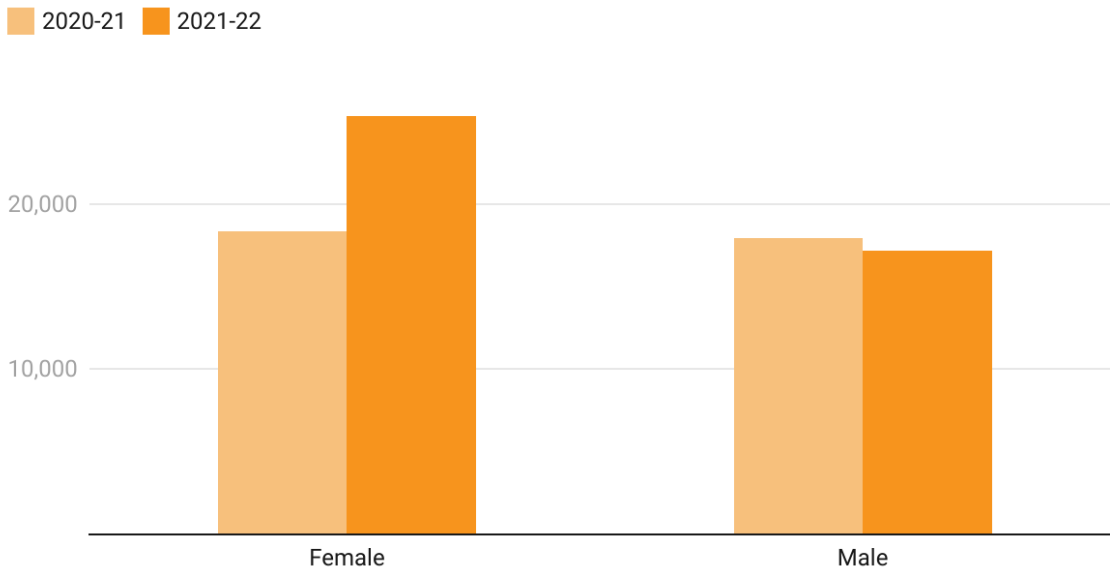


Figure 4NS – Beneficiaries of the Employment Support and Income Assistance (ESIA) by gender in Nova Scotia, 2020-21 and 2021-22



Data

Figure 5NS – Yearly social assistance data for Nova Scotia, 1997 to 2022

Year	Employment Support and Income Assistance (ESIA)	
	Cases	Beneficiaries
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
2021-22	27,977	42,778

Unverified data

Figure 6NS – Social assistance data by household for Nova Scotia, 2020-21 and 2021-22

Household Type	Year	ESIA	
		Cases	Beneficiaries
Unattached singles	2020-21	17,995	17,995
	2021-22	20,463	20,463
Single parents	2020-21	4,405	12,335
	2021-22	5,112	14,506
Couples with children	2020-21	974	4,383
	2021-22	1,193	5,387
Couples without children	2020-21	1,004	2,007
	2021-22	1,209	2,422

Figure 7NS – Social assistance data by gender for Nova Scotia, 2020-21 and 2021-22

Gender	Year	ESIA
		Beneficiaries
Female	2020-21	18,310
	2021-22	25,321
Male	2020-21	17,902
	2021-22	17,152

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).
- 509 beneficiaries in 2020-21 and 305 beneficiaries in 2021-22 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.

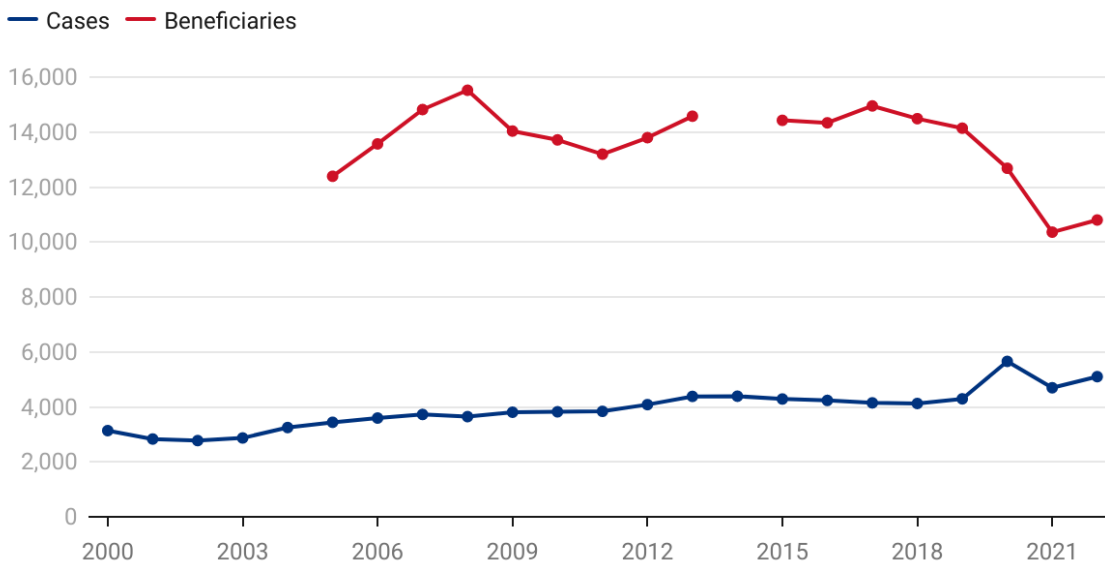
The Income Assistance Program provides basic benefits to residents 18 years of age and older for food, shelter, utilities, fuel, and municipal services. Extended benefits for clothing, incidental allowance (for seniors and people with disabilities), household furniture, security/damage deposits, emergency,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

How many people claim social assistance?

In the 2022 calendar year, on average, there were about 5,100 cases (families and single adults) and about 10,800 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in Nunavut's Income Assistance Program. Both numbers saw small increases in 2021, by almost 410 cases (9 per cent), and around 440 beneficiaries (4 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. This was followed by a significant decrease in the number of cases and beneficiaries in 2021, and then increases to both in 2022.

Figure 1NU – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of the Income Assistance Program in Nunavut, 2000 to 2022



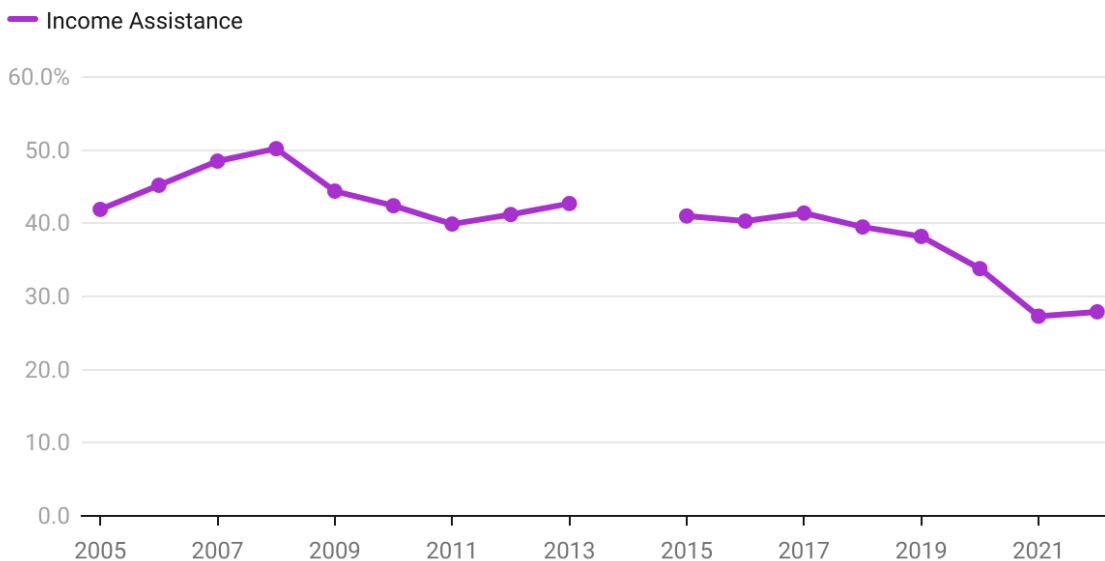
Note: Beneficiary statistics are not available for 2000 to 2004 and for 2014.

What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2022, on average, 27.9 per cent of people in Nunavut under 65 received the Income Assistance Program, which is over one in four. 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 2022



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

Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2022. 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?

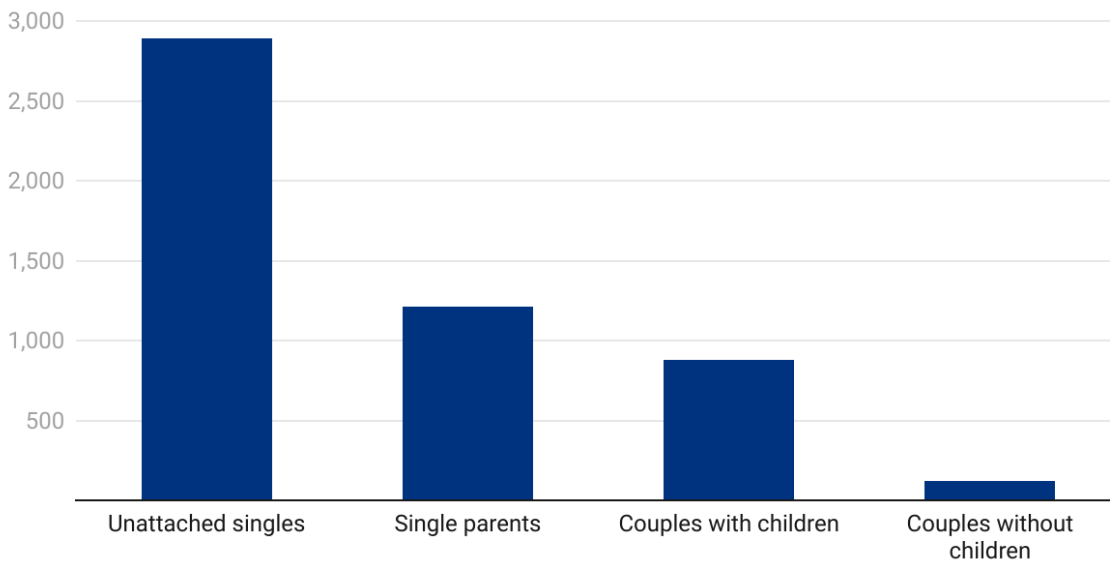
In 2022, unattached singles were the majority of Income Assistance Program cases in Nunavut, with on average almost 57 per cent. Single parents were the second largest number of cases with just under 24 per cent.

Couples with children were on average the highest proportion of Income Assistance Program beneficiaries in 2022 with just about 38 per cent, followed by single parent households with under 34 per cent, then unattached singles with over 26 per cent.

On average, males were the majority of Income Assistance Program beneficiaries in 2022 with close to 53 per cent.

Figure 3NU – Cases and beneficiaries of the Income Assistance Program by household in Nunavut, 2022

A. Cases



B. Beneficiaries

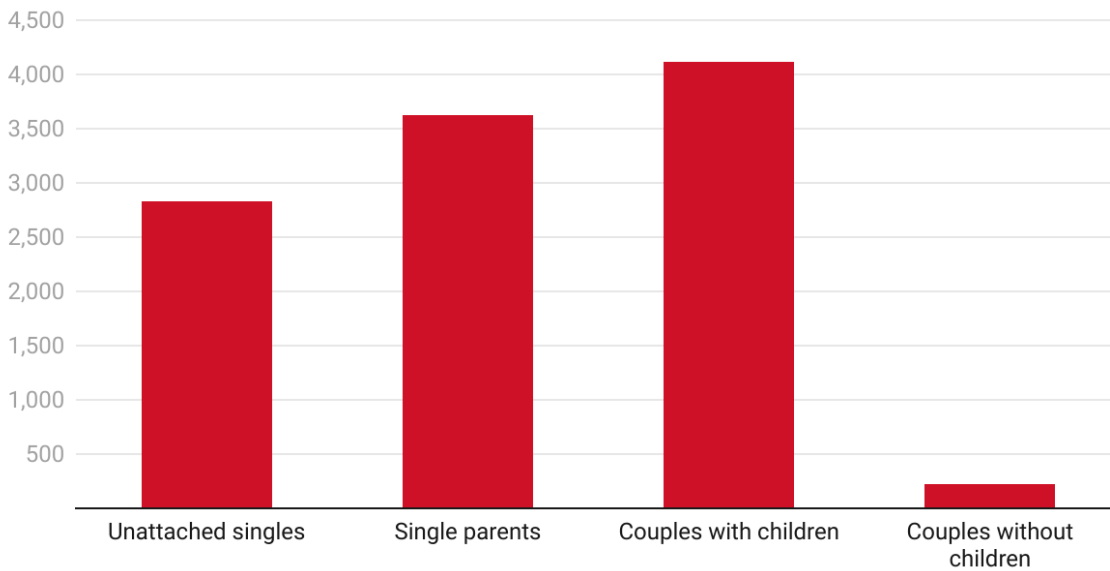
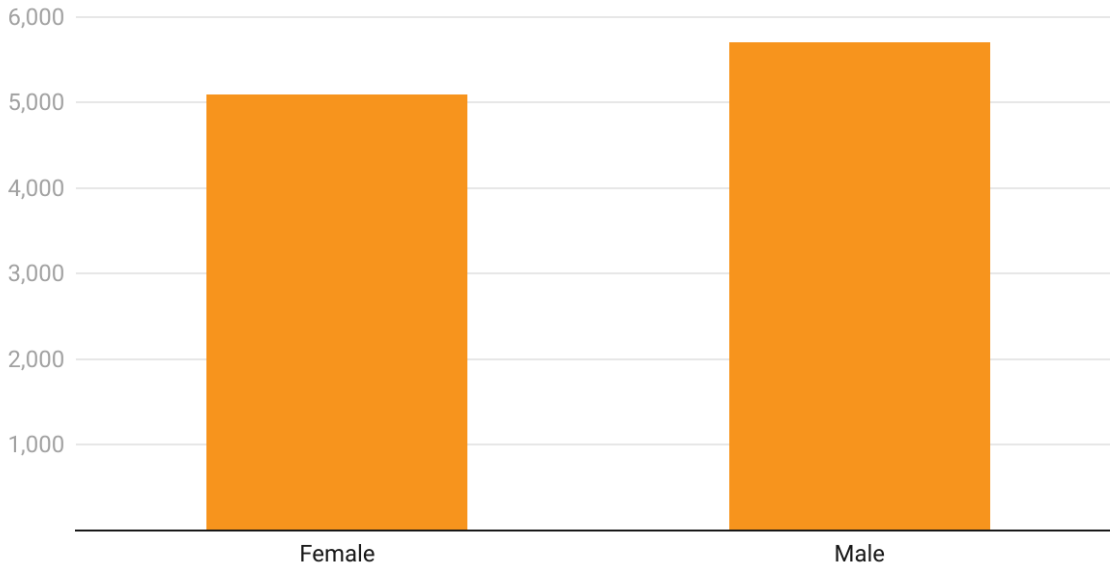




Figure 4NU – Beneficiaries of the Income Assistance Program by gender in Nunavut, 2022



Data

Figure 5NU – Yearly social assistance data for Nunavut, 1997 to 2022

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
2022	5,101	10,801

Figure 6NU – Social assistance data by household for Nunavut, 2022

Household Type	Income Assistance	
	Cases	Beneficiaries
Unattached singles	2,893	2,830
Single parents	1,211	3,626
Couples with children	877	4,118
Couples without children	120	227

Figure 6NU – Social assistance data by gender for Nunavut, 2022

Gender	Income Assistance
	Beneficiaries
Female	5,091
Male	5,710

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.
- Income assistance data by household type and by gender was not available for 2021.
- Discrepancy between the number of cases and beneficiaries for data by household type is due to client movement. When a client relocates within the territory, a different case is sometimes made.



Ontario

Ontario's social assistance program

Social assistance is the income program of last resort. It is intended for households 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 composed of two programs:

1. Ontario Works (OW), which provides income and employment assistance to people in financial need; and
2. Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), which provides income and employment support to people with disabilities who are in financial need.

Both Ontario Works and ODSP provide a range of allowances and 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 income support helps with the cost of basic needs as well as providing certain health- and employment-related benefits.

People with disabilities can also voluntarily access support for employment to prepare for, find, and keep a job. Individuals do not have to receive ODSP income support to be eligible for employment programming.

How many people claim social assistance?

In 2021-22, there were, on average, over 561,000 cases (families and single adults) and 855,000 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in Ontario's social assistance programs.

Among the cases, 34 per cent (189,981) were recipients of Ontario Works and about 66 per cent (371,462) were recipients of the Ontario Disability Support

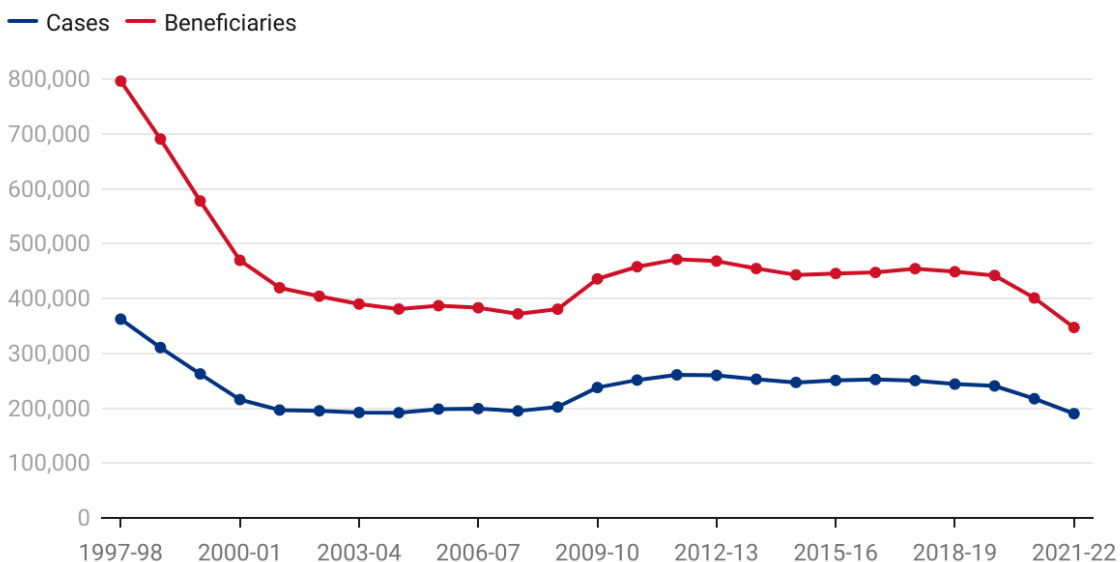
Program. And among the beneficiaries, almost 41 per cent (347,094) were recipients of Ontario Works and over 59 per cent (507,904) were recipients of the Ontario Disability Support Program.

Ontario Works

On average, there were just under 190,000 households, families or individuals receiving Ontario Works in 2021-22, a sharp drop of over 27,000 from 2020-21. The number of beneficiaries also decreased to 347,000 in 2021-22, almost 54,000 fewer than the previous year.

The number of cases and beneficiaries, on average, decreased by 12.5 and 13.5 per cent, respectively, the second significant drop in a row. The 2021-22 number of cases and beneficiaries are the lowest since we began tracking social assistance numbers in 1996-97, and have for the first time fallen below the pre-2008 financial crisis levels.

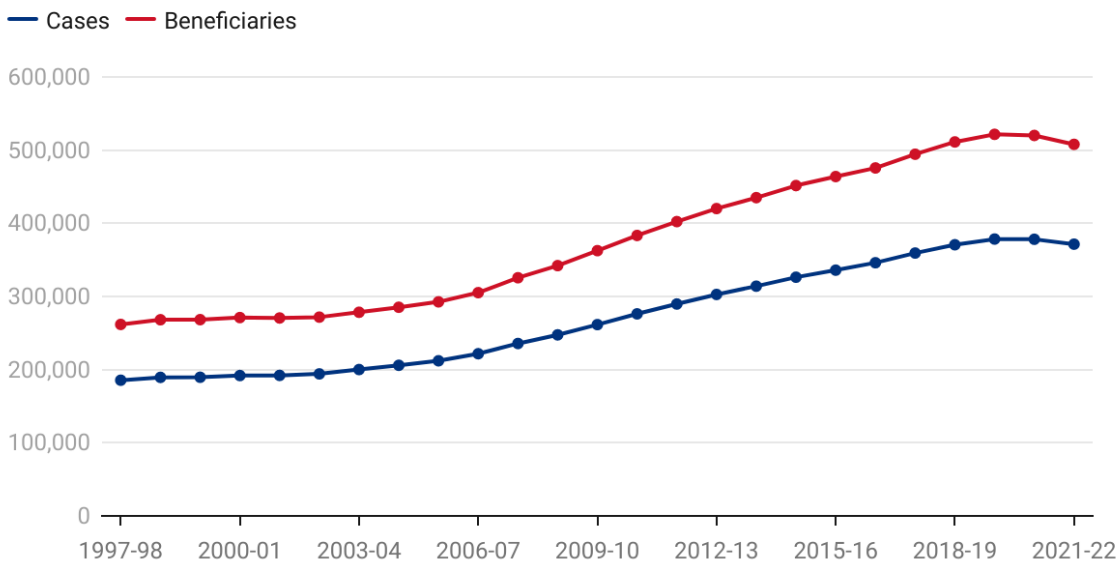
Figure 10N – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Ontario Works, 1997 to 2022



Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

In 2021-22, there was an average of over 371,000 cases in the Ontario Disability Support Program and nearly 508,000 beneficiaries. After steadily rising since the early 2000s, both numbers saw an initial decrease in 2020-21, and a sharper decrease in 2021-22. From the previous year, the number of cases and beneficiaries, on average, decreased by about 6,700 and almost 12,200, respectively.

Figure 20N – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), 1997 to 2022



What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

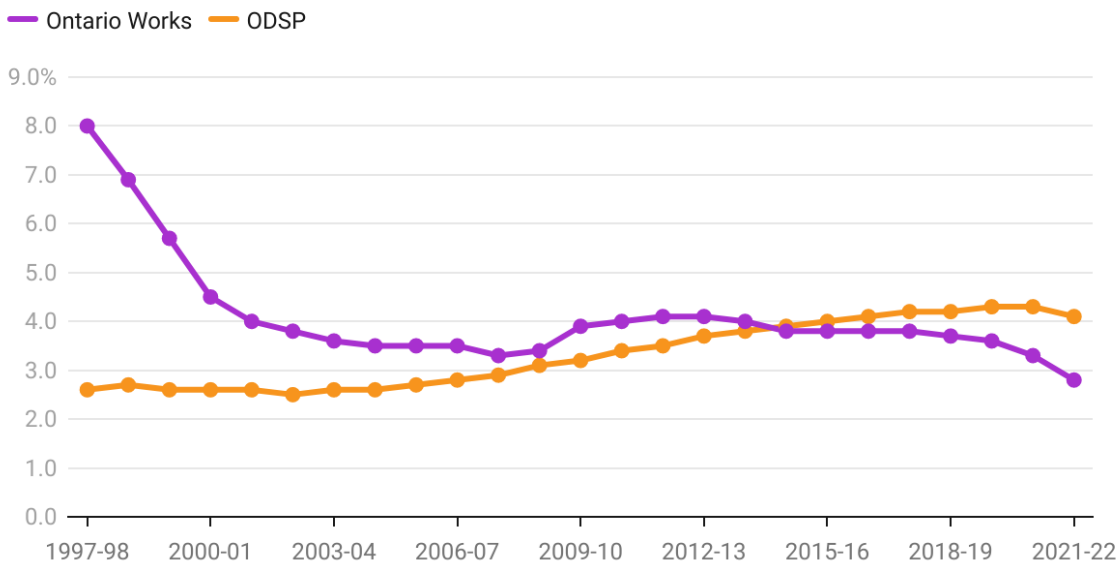
In 2021-22, on average, 6.9 per cent of people in Ontario under 65 received Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), which is about one in 14. The proportion of recipients receiving social assistance has followed a similar pattern as the total number of recipients.

The proportion of people under 65 receiving ODSP decreased for the first time in 2021-22 to 4.1 per cent. Previously, the proportion had 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 eight per cent to four per cent. Since then, the proportion has stayed in a range between 2.8 per cent to 4.1 per cent. In 2020-21, the average proportion of Ontario Works relative to the under-65 population reached its lowest value 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 2022



Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2022. 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 2021-22, on average, unattached singles comprised the majority of social assistance cases among households for both programs, with nearly 62 per cent of Ontario Works and almost 80 per cent of the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). For both programs, single parents had the second largest percentage of cases, with 30 per cent for Ontario Works and nine per cent for ODSP.

For Ontario Works, single parent households had the highest proportion of beneficiaries, on average, with over 48 per cent, followed by unattached singles, with 34 per cent. Unattached singles comprised the majority of ODSP beneficiaries, with more than 58 per cent, followed by single parent households, with over 17 per cent.

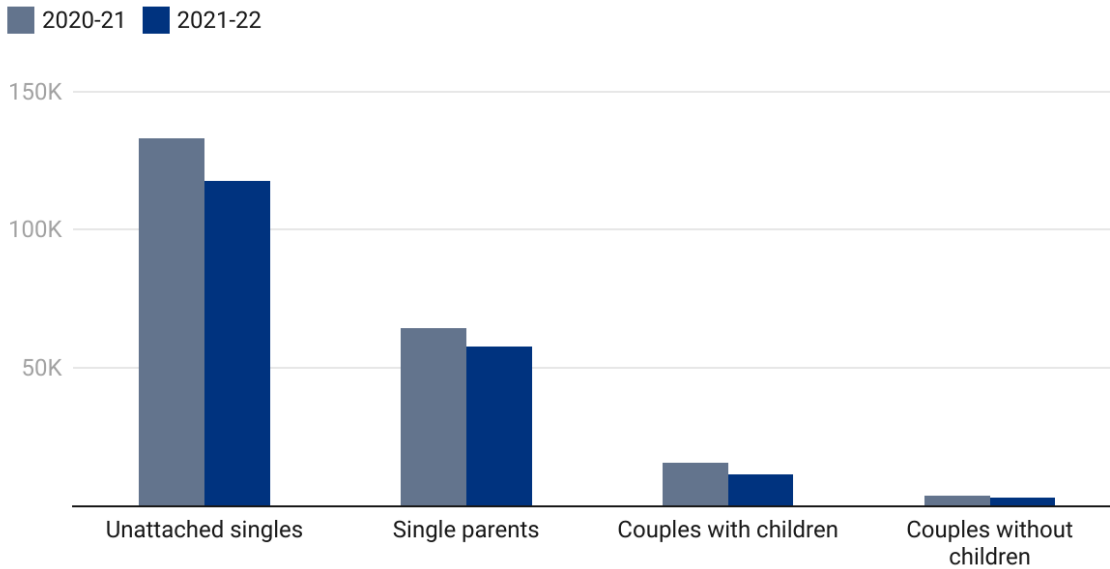
Females made up the majority of Ontario Works beneficiaries, on average, in 2021-22, with 65 per cent. For ODSP, beneficiaries were almost equally split between males and females.



Ontario Works

Figure 40N – Cases and beneficiaries of the Ontario Works by household, 2020-21 and 2021-22

A. Cases



B. Beneficiaries

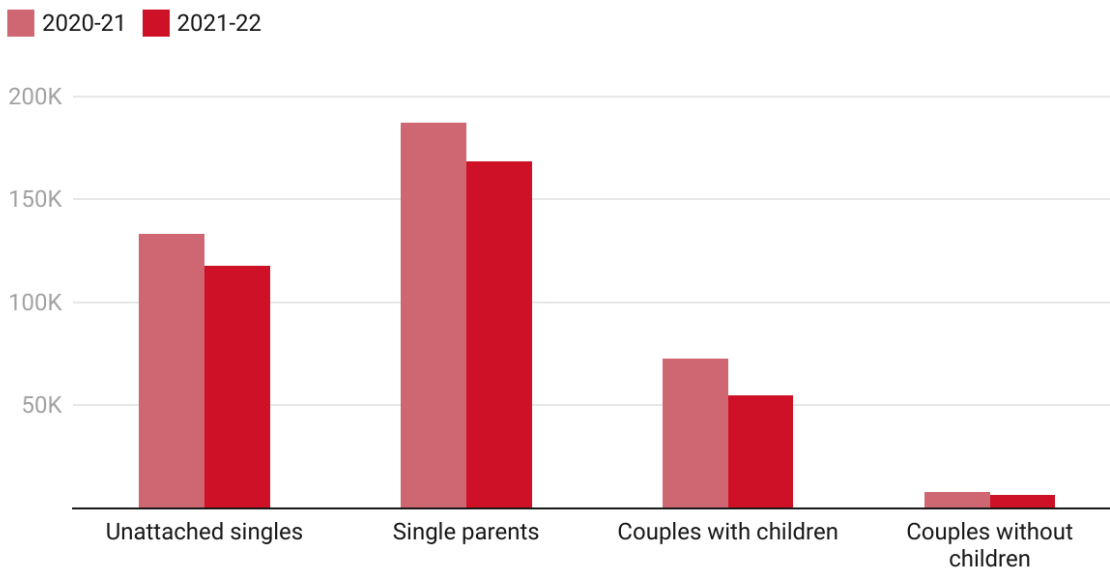
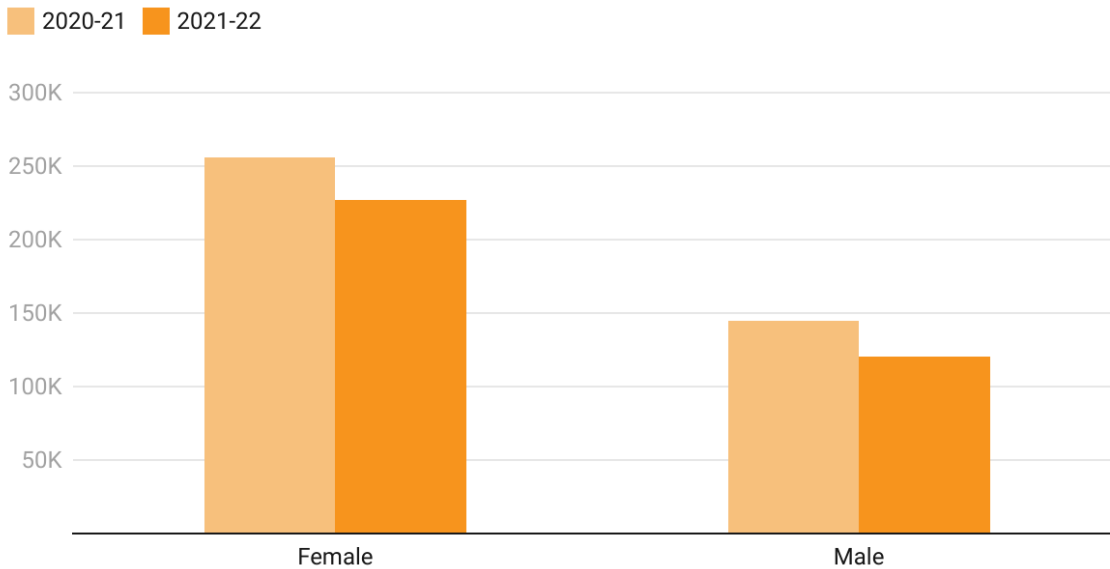




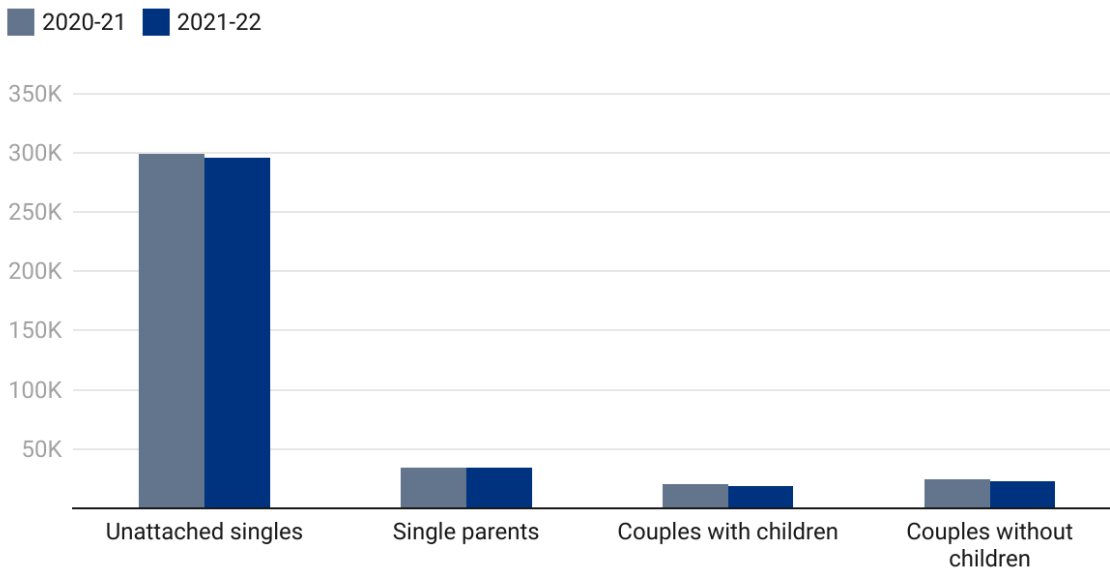
Figure 5ON – Beneficiaries of the Ontario Works by sex, 2020-21 and 2021-22



Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

Figure 6ON – Cases and beneficiaries of the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) by household, 2020-21 and 2021-22

A. Cases





B. Beneficiaries

2020-21 2021-22

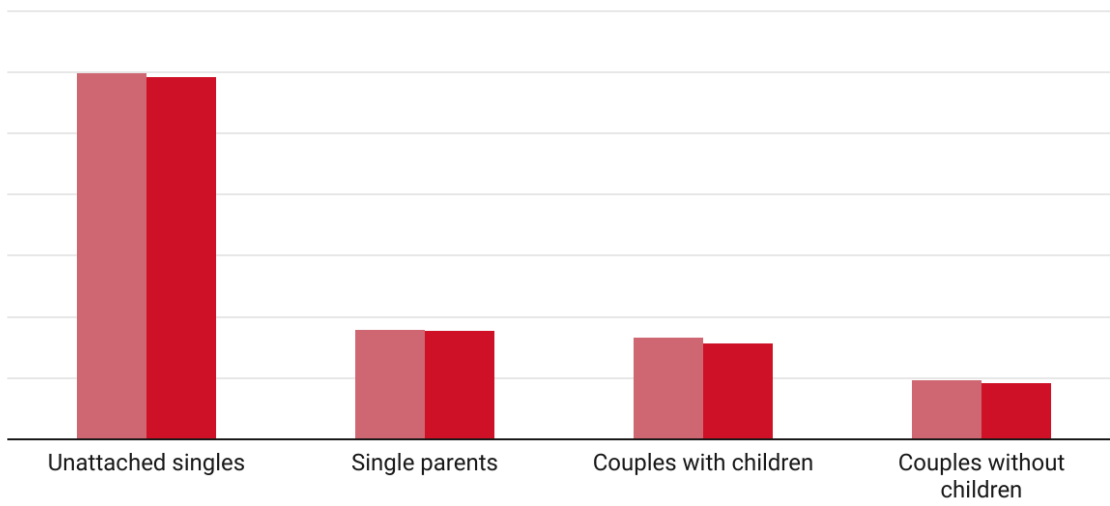
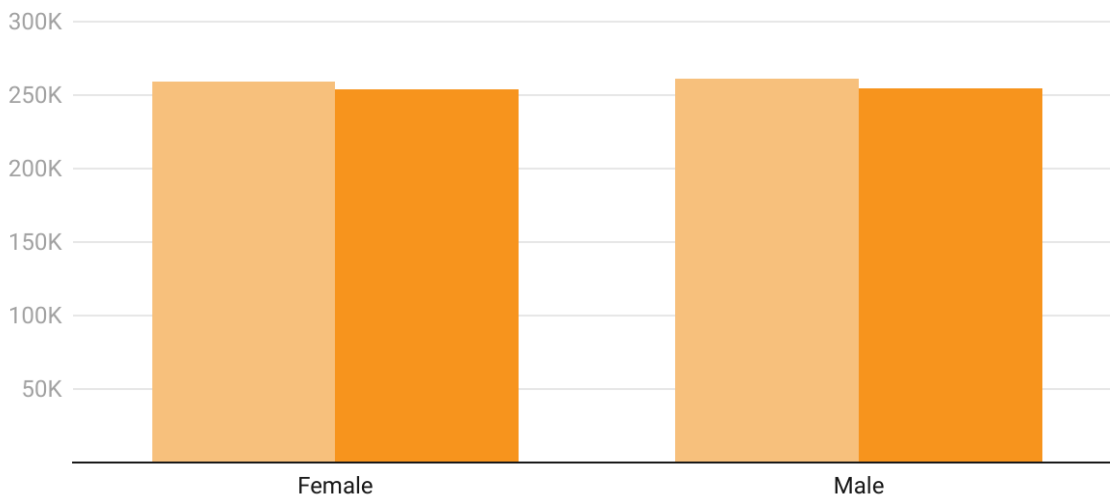


Figure 7ON – Beneficiaries of the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) by sex, 2020-21 and 2021-22

2020-21 2021-22



Data

Figure 80N – Yearly social assistance data for Ontario, 1997 to 2022

Year	Ontario Works		ODSP	
	Cases	Beneficiaries	Cases	Beneficiaries
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
2021-22	189,981	347,094	371,462	507,904

Figure 90N – Social assistance data by household for Ontario, 2020-21 and 2021-22

Household Type	Year	Ontario Works		ODSP	
		Cases	Beneficiaries	Cases	Beneficiaries
Unattached singles	2020-21	133,169	133,169	299,320	299,320
	2021-22	117,497	117,497	295,788	295,788
Single parents	2020-21	64,458	187,214	34,566	89,652
	2021-22	57,626	168,269	34,007	88,475
Couples with children	2020-21	15,652	72,605	20,093	82,759
	2021-22	11,640	54,892	18,862	78,030
Couples without children	2020-21	3,955	7,911	24,167	48,334
	2021-22	3,218	6,436	22,806	45,611

Figure 100N – Social assistance data by sex for Ontario, 2020-21 and 2021-22

Sex	Year	Ontario Works	ODSP
		Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries
Female	2020-21	256,016	258,871
	2021-22	226,771	253,770
Male	2020-21	144,883	261,193
	2021-22	120,323	254,134

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 households 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 assistance 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, optical care, and funeral costs.

Since June 2018, the program has seen increases in income and asset exemptions, as well as rate adjustments to provide additional financial assistance to its clients. Moreover, the program has been focusing more on supporting clients to transition to work.

AccessAbility Supports

AccessAbility Supports (AAS) replaced the former Disability Support Program in July 2018 with expanded supports. Under AAS, people with disabilities (physical, intellectual, neurological, sensory, or mental health) can access the supports they need to achieve full citizenship by enabling social inclusion and economic participation.

Supports are identified through individualized case plans. These plans take into account the results of 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 providing funding to a caregiver for 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 assistance component of AAS for eligible clients. It covers basic needs, such as food, shelter, clothing, household and personal supplies. Previously, if a person with a disability required financial assistance, the individual 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?

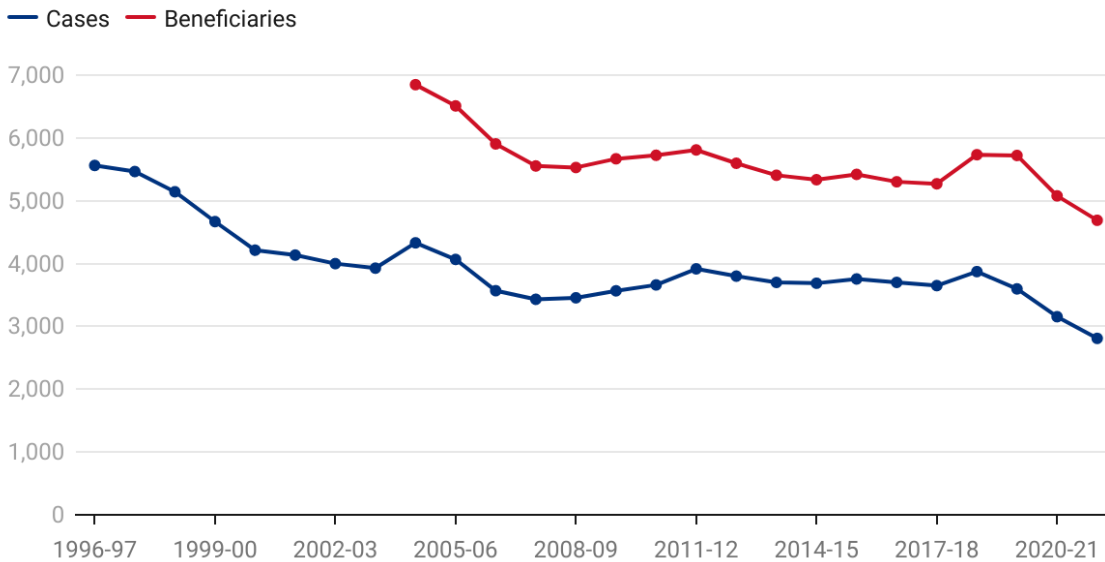
Social Assistance Program

On average, there were about 2,800 cases (families and single adults) and just nearly 4,700 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: 345 fewer cases (11 per cent) and 389 fewer beneficiaries (8 per cent).



Over the long term, these numbers fell in the late 1990s and early 2000s, then remained reasonably stable until 2018-19, after which they fell for three consecutive years.

Figure 1PE – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of the Social Assistance Program in Prince Edward Island, 1996 to 2022



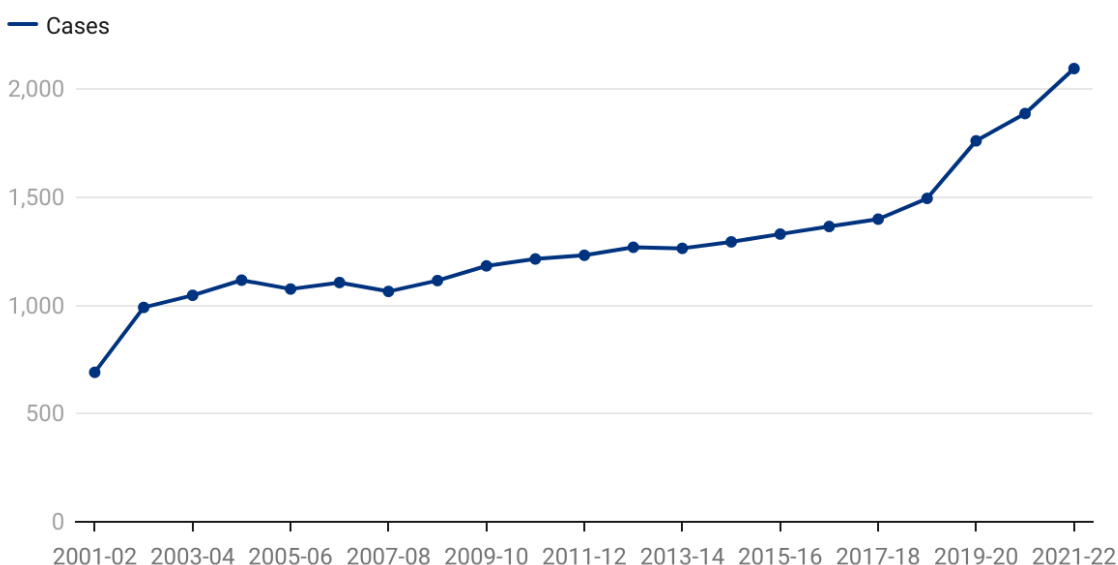
Note: Social Assistance Program beneficiary figures for the years 1996-97 to 2003-04 are not available.

AccessAbility Supports

In 2021-22, on average, almost 2,100 individuals received support through the AccessAbility Supports Program.

The number of cases has risen gradually since its introduction in 2001-02, with on average 200 more cases in 2021-22.

Figure 2PE – Yearly cases of AccessAbility Supports in Prince Edward Island, 2001 to 2022



What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2020-21, on average, 4.9 per cent of people in Prince Edward Island under 65 received the Social Assistance Program or the AccessAbility Supports Program, which is one in 20. The proportion of recipients receiving social assistance has followed a similar pattern as the total number of recipients.

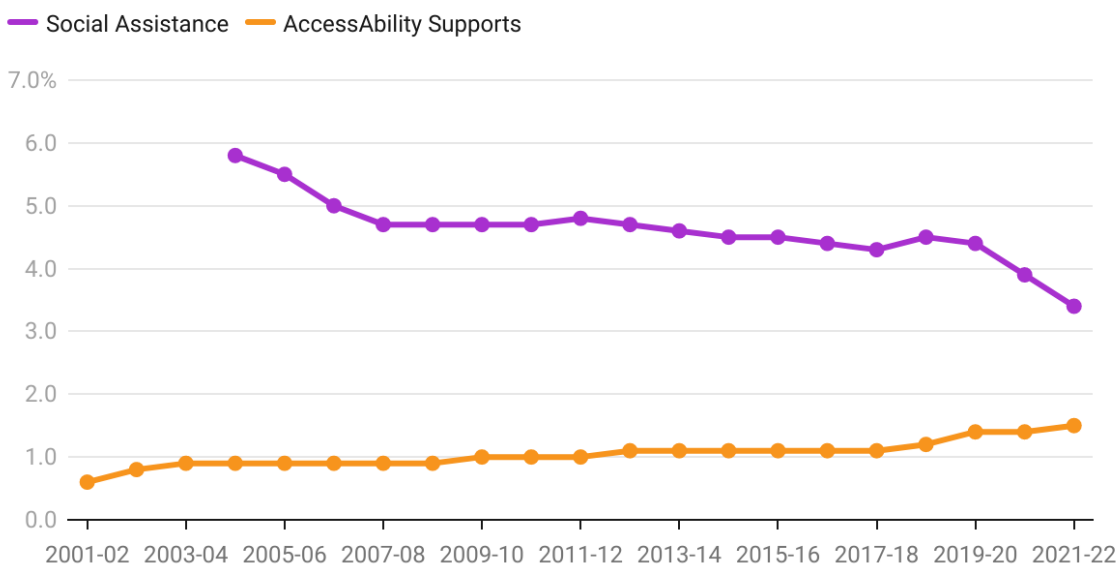
The proportion of Social Assistance Program beneficiaries decreased until 2007-08, declining from 5.8 per cent to 4.7 per cent. From 2007-08 to 2019-20, on average, the proportion hovered around 4.5 per cent. Since then, the average proportion of Social Assistance Program recipients relative to the under-65 population has fallen, reaching its lowest point of 3.4 per cent in 2021-22.

The proportion of people under 65 receiving AccessAbility Supports has slowly increased from 0.6 in 2001-02 to a high of 1.5 per cent in 2021-22.



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 2022



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

Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2022. 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 2021-22, on average, unattached singles comprised the majority of social assistance cases among households for both the Social Assistance Program and the AccessAbility Supports Program, with 71 per cent and 91 per cent, respectively. On average, single parents had the second largest number of Social Assistance Program cases, with 19 per cent, and couples without children had the second largest number of AccessAbility Supports cases, with over five per cent.

Unattached singles also had, on average, the largest percentage of Social Assistance Program beneficiaries in 2021-22, with almost 43 per cent, followed by single parent households, with 33 per cent.

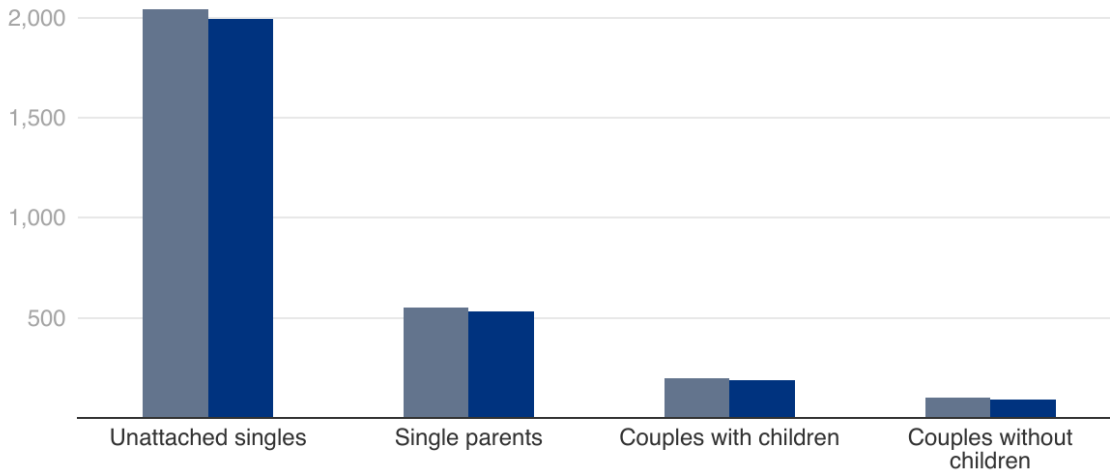
In 2021-22, the majority of the Social Assistance Program’s beneficiaries were female with, on average, 64 per cent, and the majority of AccessAbility Supports Program cases were male with, on average, 58 per cent.

Social Assistance Program

Figure 4PE – Cases and beneficiaries of the Social Assistance Program by household in Prince Edward Island, 2021 and 2021-22

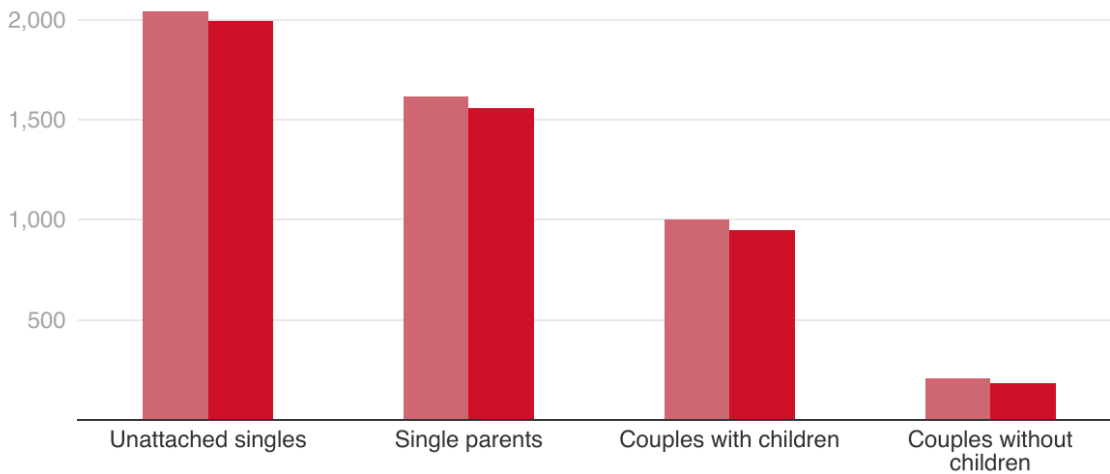
A. Cases

2021 2021-22



B. Beneficiaries

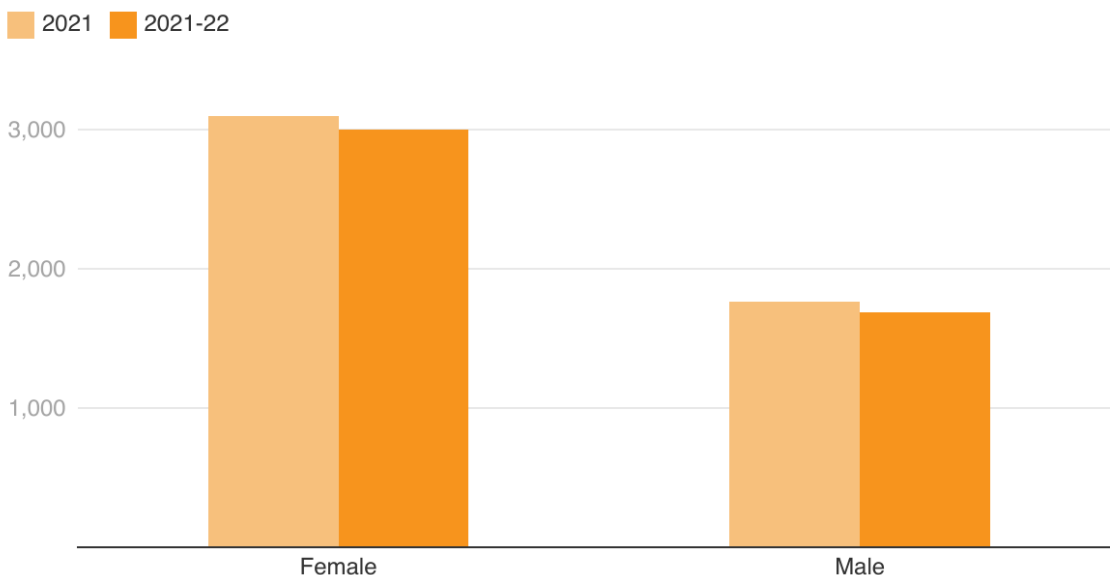
2021 2021-22



Note: The data reflects the number of cases and beneficiaries by household on March 31st for 2021, and the average over the fiscal year for 2021-22.



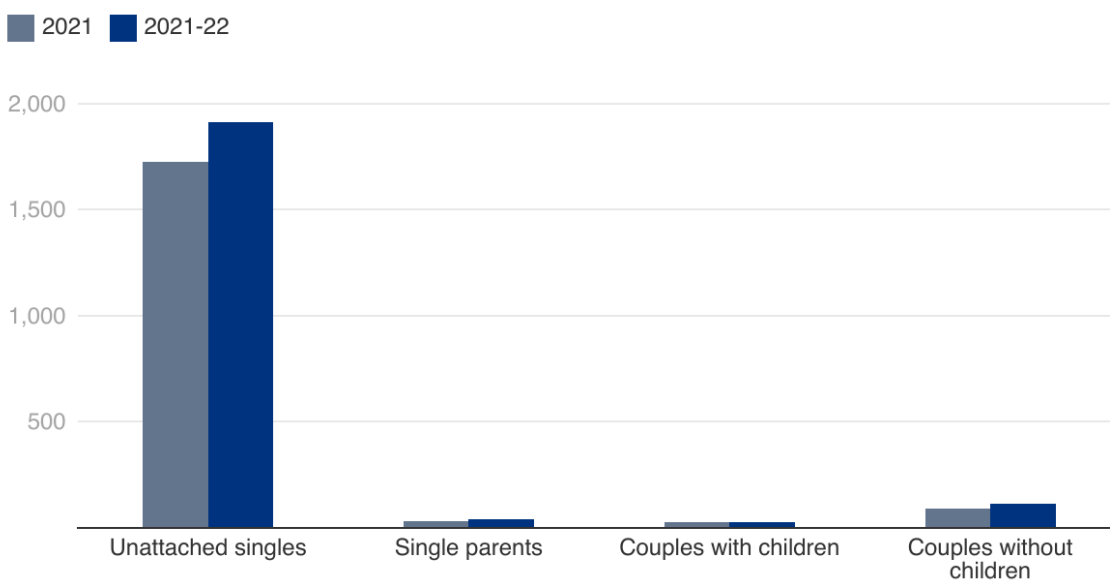
Figure 5PE – Beneficiaries of the Social Assistance Program by gender in Prince Edward Island, 2021 and 2021-22



Note: The data reflects the number of beneficiaries by gender on March 31st for 2021, and the average over the fiscal year for 2021-22.

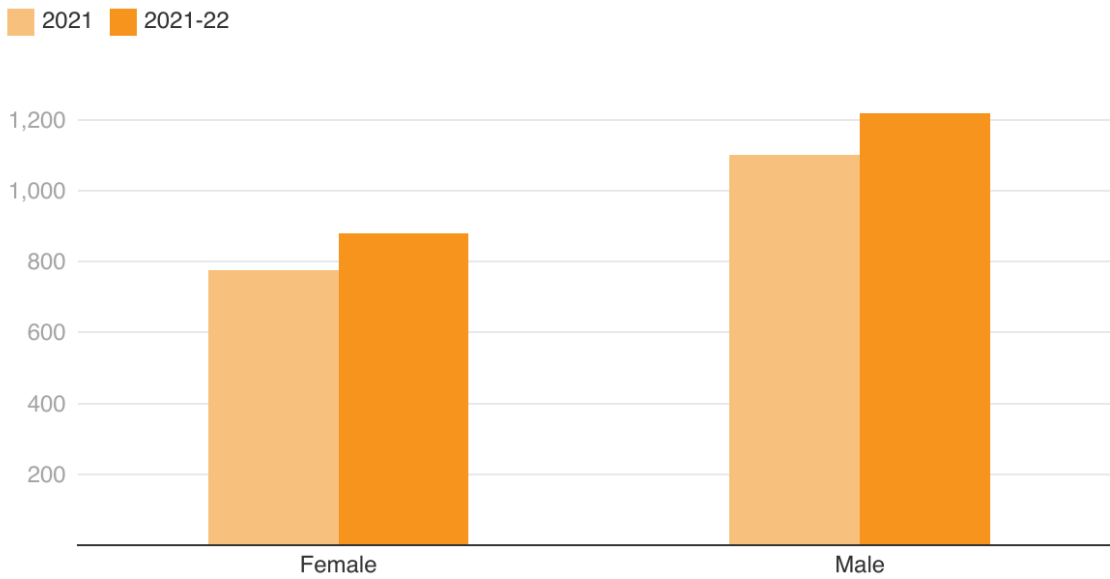
AccessAbility Supports

Figure 6PE – Cases of AccessAbility Supports by household in Prince Edward Island, 2021 and 2021-22



Note: The data reflects the number of cases by household on March 31st for 2021, and the average over the fiscal year for 2021-22.

Figure 7PE – Cases of AccessAbility Supports by gender in Prince Edward Island, 2021 and 2021-22



Note: The data reflects the number of cases by gender on March 31st for 2021, and the average over the fiscal year for 2021-22.

Data

Figure 8PE – Yearly social assistance data for Prince Edward Island, 1997 to 2022

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
2021-22	2,809	4,689	2,095

Figure 9PE – Social assistance data by household for Prince Edward Island, 2021 and 2021-22

Household Type	Year	Social Assistance Program		AccessAbility Supports
		Cases	Beneficiaries	Cases
Unattached singles	2021	2,042	2,042	1,726
	2021-22	1,996	1,996	1,910
Single parents	2021	551	1,618	32
	2021-22	533	1,560	43
Couples with children	2021	199	1,002	26
	2021-22	188	950	28
Couples without children	2021	103	206	91
	2021-22	91	183	114

Figure 10PE – Social assistance data by gender for Prince Edward Island, 2021 and 2021-22

Gender	Year	Social Assistance Program	AccessAbility Supports
		Beneficiaries	Cases
Female	2021	3,099	775
	2021-22	3,001	878
Male	2021	1,767	1,100
	2021-22	1,687	1,218

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 July 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 and AccessAbility Supports data (by household and gender) for 2021 reflects the number of cases and beneficiaries on March 31, 2021 and for 2021-22 it is a fiscal year average.
- For 2019-20, the number of Social Assistance beneficiaries is for March 2020 and is not a yearly fiscal average as previously reported.
- The unattached singles cases of AccessAbility Supports for 2021 include 402 child cases (0-17 year-olds) and for 2021-22, 436 child cases (0-17 year-olds).
- The gender of two Social Assistance Program cases and beneficiaries in 2021 was unknown as well as one case and beneficiary in 2021-22.
- 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 households 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 their severely limited capacity for employment in order for the family to be eligible for the program.



How many people claim social assistance?

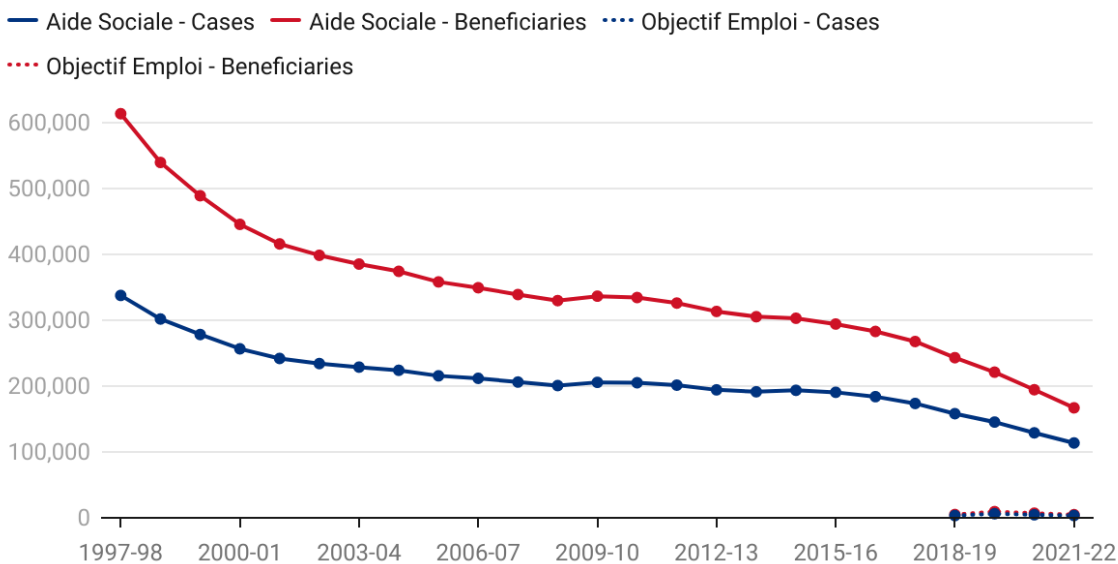
On average, there were 232,000 cases (families and single adults) in Quebec's social assistance programs during 2021-22. Less than 3,500 cases (1.5 per cent) were part of the Aim for Employment Program, about 113,700 cases (49 per cent) received support through the Social Assistance Program, and 115,000 (49.5 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 15,400, or about 12 per cent, to reach just under 113,700 in 2021-22. 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 two years in a row to just under 3,500 in 2021-22, a decrease of around 24 per cent from the previous year.

On average, there were 167,000 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) of Quebec's Social Assistance Program in 2021-22, nearly 27,500 (14 per cent) fewer than the year before. The number of Aim for Employment Program beneficiaries also fell in 2021-22 to under 4,800, a decrease of around 2,200 (around 32 per cent).

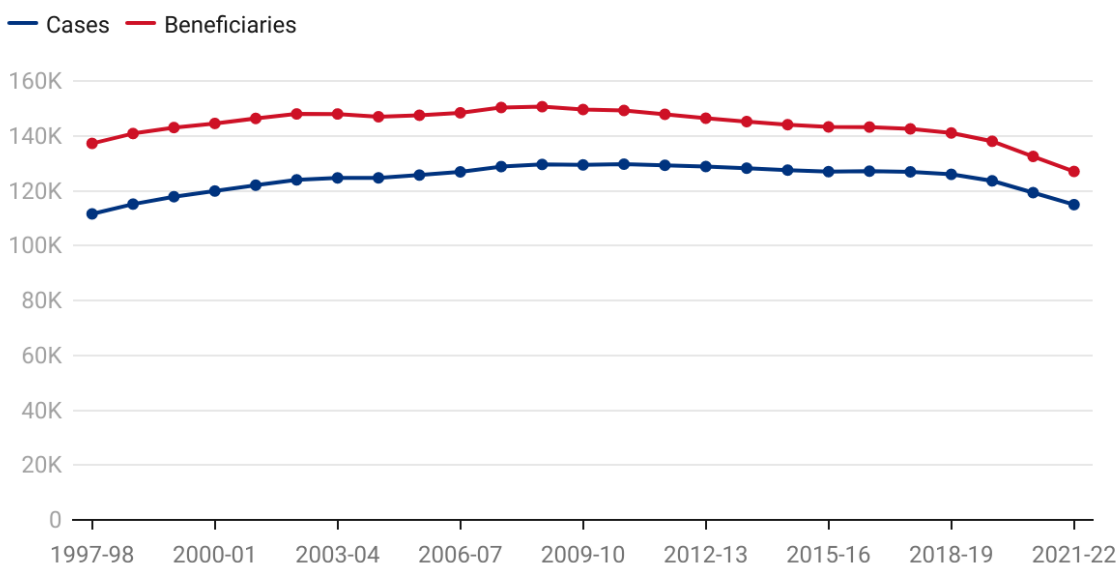
Figure 1QC – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of the Aim for Employment Program (*objectif emploi*) and the Social Assistance Program (*aide sociale*) in Quebec, 1997 to 2022



Social Solidarity Program (*solidarité sociale*)

In 2021-22, there was an average of nearly 115,000 Social Solidarity Program cases, a decrease of about 4,400, and 127,000 beneficiaries, a decrease of about 5,500. This marks the lowest number of cases since 1997-98, 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 2022



What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2021-22, on average, 4.3 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 one in 23. The proportion of recipients receiving social assistance has followed a similar pattern as the total number of recipients.

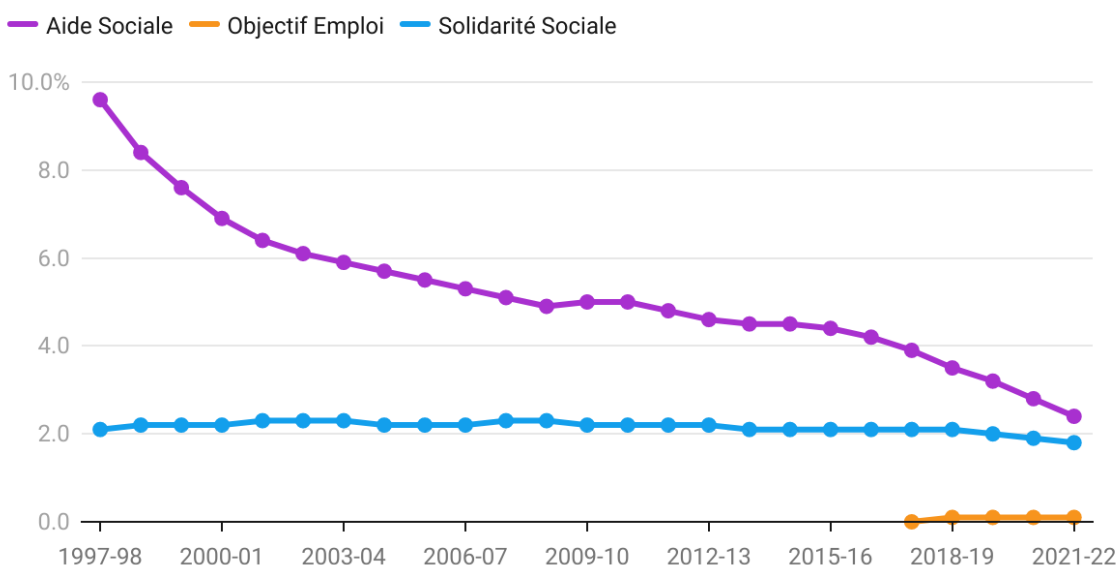
The proportion of people under 65 receiving the Social Assistance Program has decreased consistently since 1997-98, reaching a low of 2.4 per cent in 2021-22.

The proportion of Social Solidarity Program beneficiaries has remained stable at slightly above two per cent since 1997-98. In 2021-22, it reached its lowest point at 1.8 per cent.

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 2022



Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2022. 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 2021-22, on average, unattached singles comprised the majority of social assistance cases among households for each program, with over 80 per cent for the Aim for Employment Program, almost 76 per cent for the Social Assistance Program, and nearly 93 per cent for the Social Solidarity Program.

Unattached singles were also the majority of beneficiaries among households for each program, on average, in 2021-22, with just under 56 per cent for the Aim for Employment Program, 51 per cent for the Social Assistance Program, and over 84 per cent for the Social Solidarity Program.

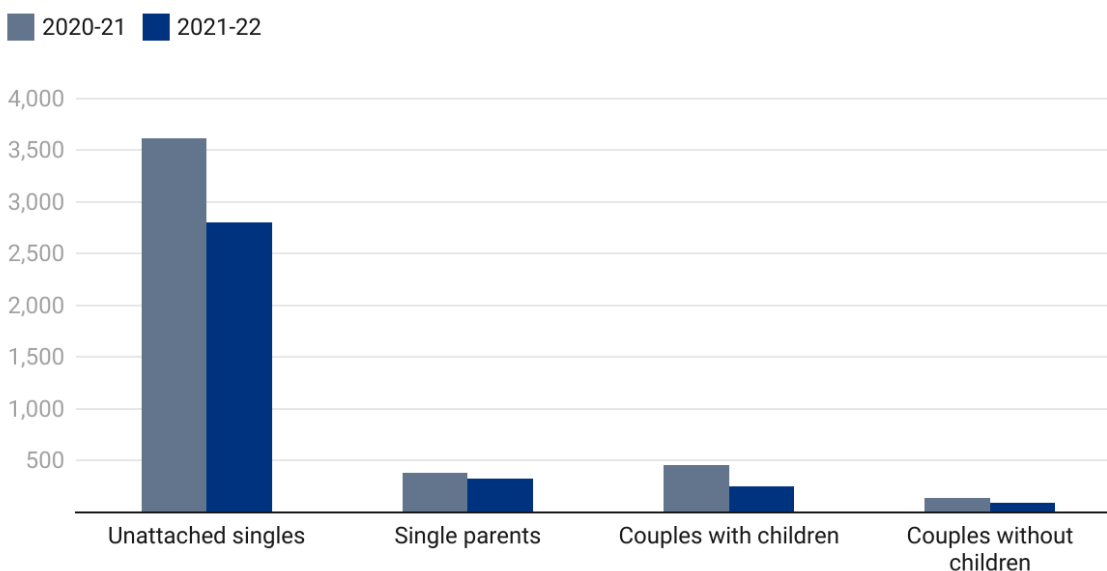
In the Aim for Employment Program single parents had the second largest number of cases. Couples with children had the second largest number of beneficiaries. Single parent households had the second largest number of cases and beneficiaries of the Social Assistance Program. Couples without children had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

In 2021-22, the majority of beneficiaries of each program were male, with more than 53 per cent for the Aim for Employment Program, almost 53 per cent for the Social Assistance Program, and over 54 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 and 2021-22

A. Cases



B. Beneficiaries

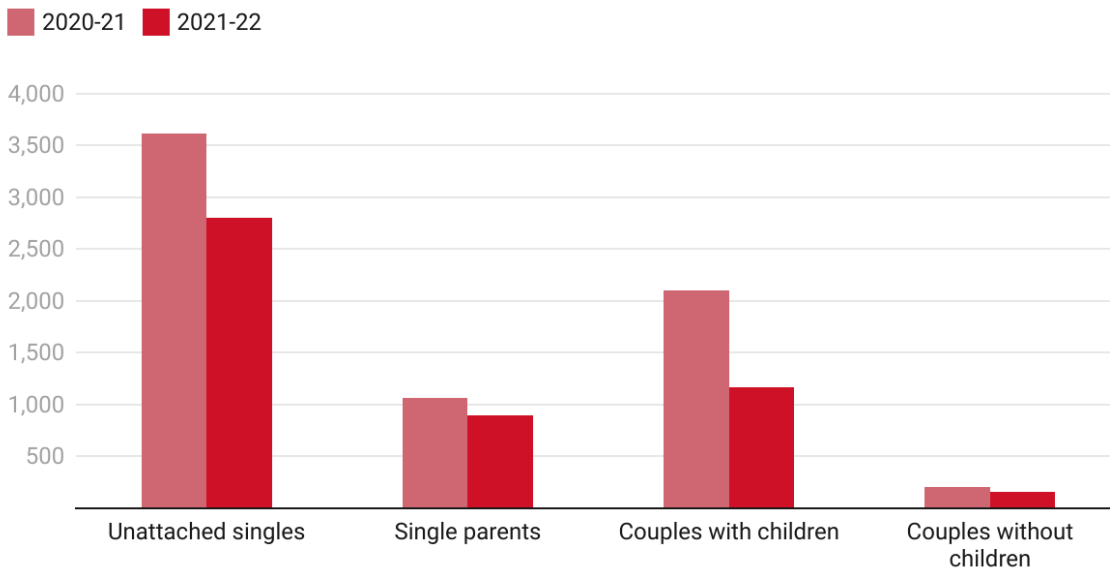
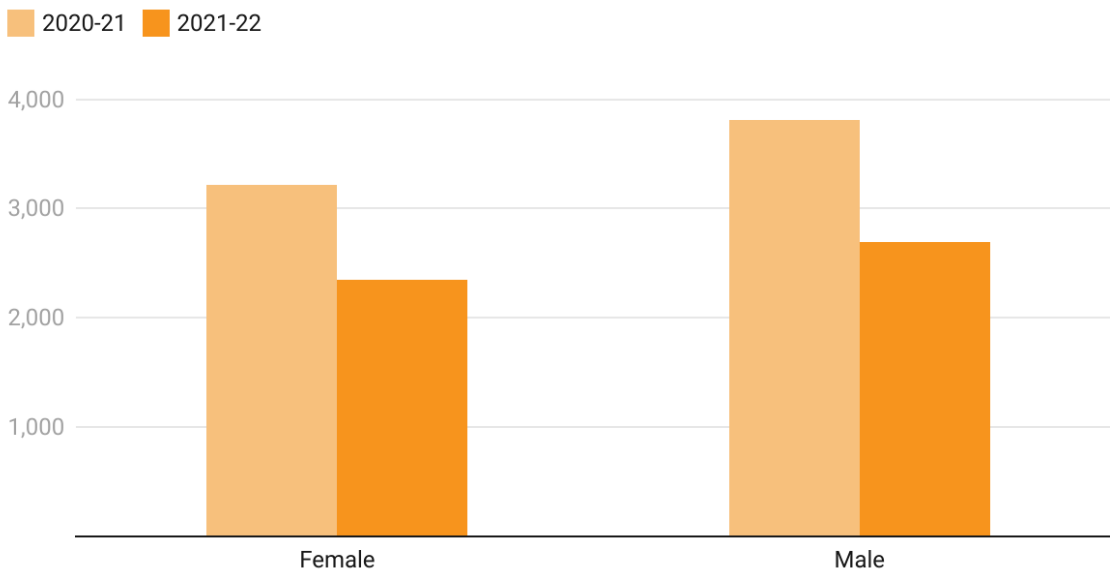


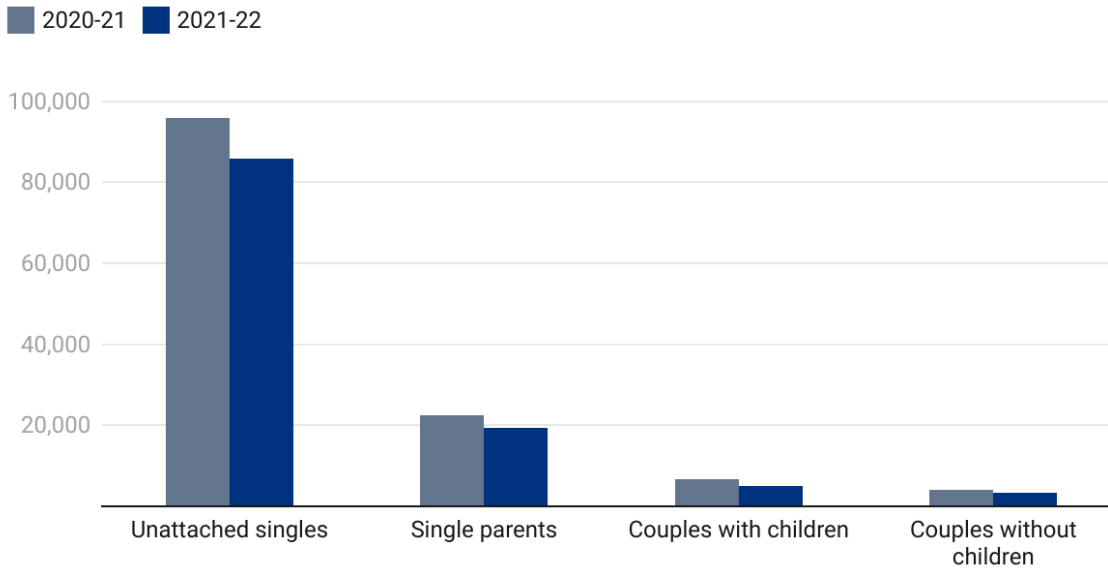
Figure 5QC – Beneficiaries of the Aim for Employment Program (*objectif emploi*) by sex in Quebec, 2020-21 and 2021-22



Social Assistance Program (aide sociale)

Figure 6QC – Cases and beneficiaries of the Social Assistance Program (aide sociale) by household in Quebec, 2020-21 and 2021-22

A. Cases



B. Beneficiaries

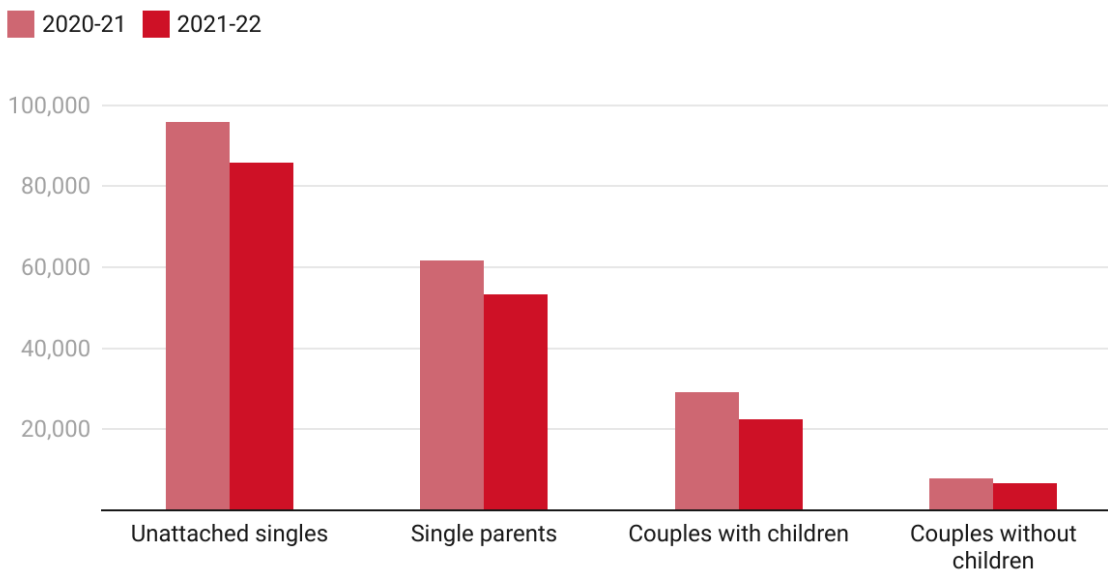
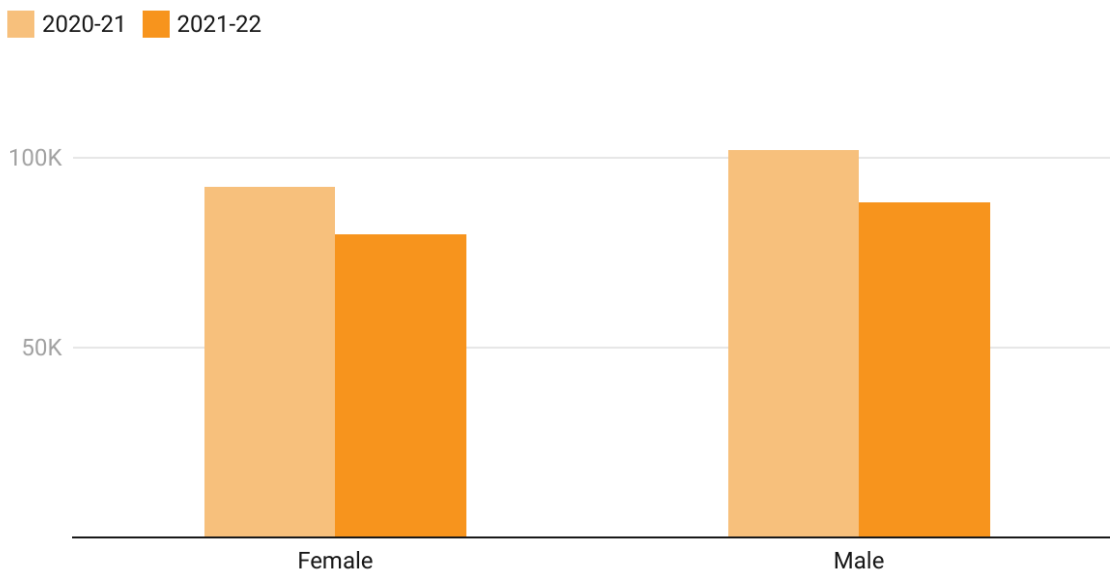




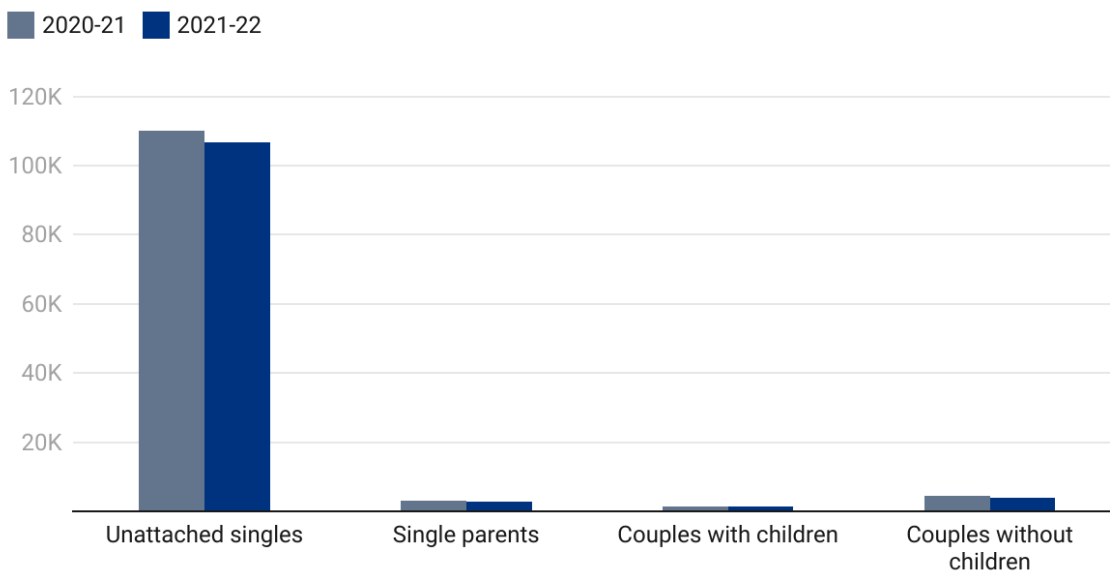
Figure 7QC – Beneficiaries of the Social Assistance Program (*aide sociale*) by sex in Quebec, 2020-21 and 2021-22



Social Solidarity Program (*solidarité sociale*)

Figure 8QC – Cases and beneficiaries of the Social Solidarity Program (*solidarité sociale*) by household in Quebec, 2020-21 and 2021-22

A. Cases



B. Beneficiaries

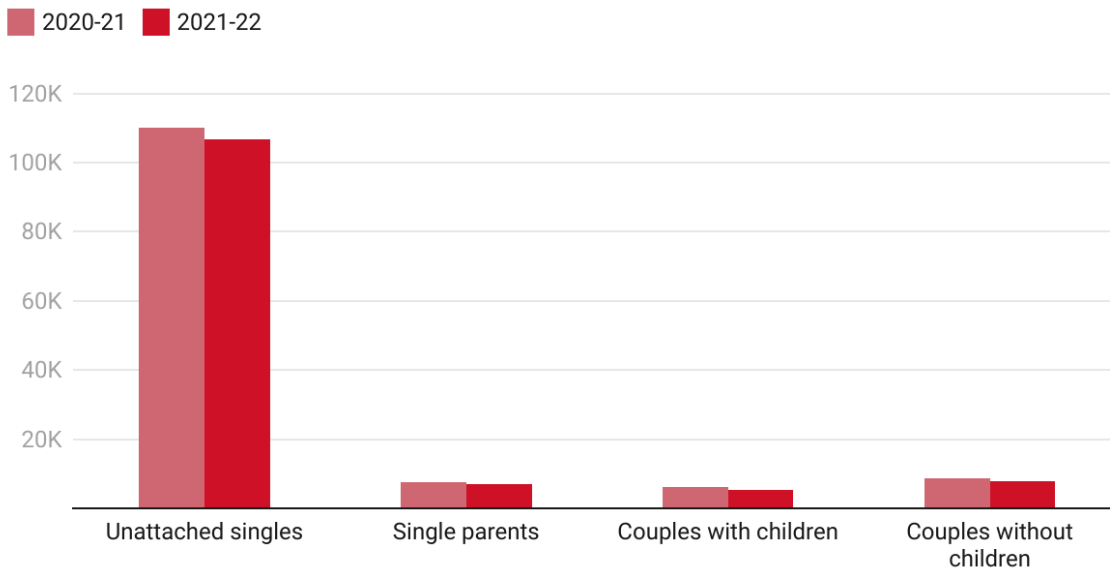
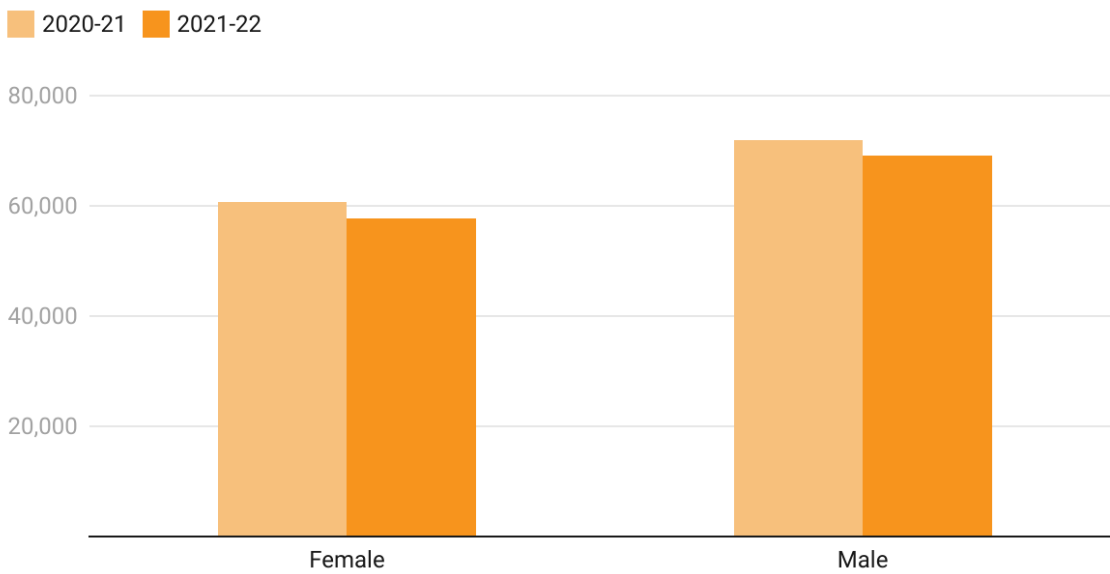


Figure 9QC – Beneficiaries of the Social Solidarity Program (solidarité sociale) by sex in Quebec, 2020-21 and 2021-22



Data

Figure 10QC – Yearly social assistance data for Quebec, 1997 to 2022

Year	Objectif Emploi		Aide Sociale		Solidarité Sociale	
	Cases	Benefi- ciaries	Cases	Benefi- ciaries	Cases	Benefi- ciaries
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
2021-22	3,482	4,779	113,673	166,998	114,918	127,019

Figure 11QC – Social assistance data by household for Quebec, 2020-21 and 2021-22

Household Type	Year	Objectif Emploi		Aide Sociale		Solidarité Sociale	
		Cases	Beneficiaries	Cases	Beneficiaries	Cases	Beneficiaries
Unattached singles	2020-21	3,617	3,617	95,815	95,815	110,194	110,194
	2021-22	2,803	2,803	85,876	85,876	106,708	106,708
Single parents	2020-21	384	1,061	22,486	61,576	3,204	7,524
	2021-22	330	900	19,314	53,263	2,938	6,886
Couples with children	2020-21	455	2,104	6,679	29,149	1,538	6,087
	2021-22	256	1,167	5,075	22,384	1,324	5,273
Couples without children	2020-21	139	202	4,062	7,940	4,358	8,695
	2021-22	93	157	3,409	6,703	3,948	7,877

Figure 12QC – Social assistance data by sex for Quebec, 2020-21 and 2021-22

Sex	Year	Objectif Emploi	Aide Sociale	Solidarité Sociale
		Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries
Female	2020-21	3,214	92,364	60,571
	2021-22	2,349	79,885	57,722
Male	2020-21	3,808	102,113	71,928
	2021-22	2,693	88,340	69,022



Data notes

- The data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).
- A fifth household category, “partner of a student,” is included in the “couples without children” category.
- 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 households 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 core income assistance programs:

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

The Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP) and Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA) ended August 31, 2021.

Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS)

SIS was introduced on July 15, 2019. The SIS program supports people by meeting their basic needs as they work to become more self-sufficient to the best of their abilities. Basic benefits include the Adult Basic Benefit and Shelter Benefit; additional benefits may be available in some situations to address specific needs or situations. SIS clients are nominated for Supplementary Health benefits administered by the Ministry of Health.

Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID)

SAID was designed in collaboration with members of the disability community. SAID is a needs-based income assistance program that gives Saskatchewan citizens with significant and enduring disabilities access to long-term income support, greater choice of services, and supports their participation in the community. 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 verification of financial eligibility, medical confirmation of an enduring disability and assessment of the impact of disability.

SAID benefits include a Living Income benefit for basic needs, a Disability needs benefit, and an Exceptional Needs benefit. As well, SAID recipients may also receive utility, laundry, and telephone benefits if applicable. SAID clients are also nominated for Supplementary Health Benefits through the Ministry of Health.

How many people claim social assistance?

On average, there were 33,025 cases (families and single adults) and 51,424 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in Saskatchewan's social assistance programs during 2021-22.

Among cases, about 39 per cent (12,906) received support through the Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS), over 53 per cent (17,632) received support through the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID), around six per cent (1,990) received support through the Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP), and the remaining less-than-two per cent (497) received support through the Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA).

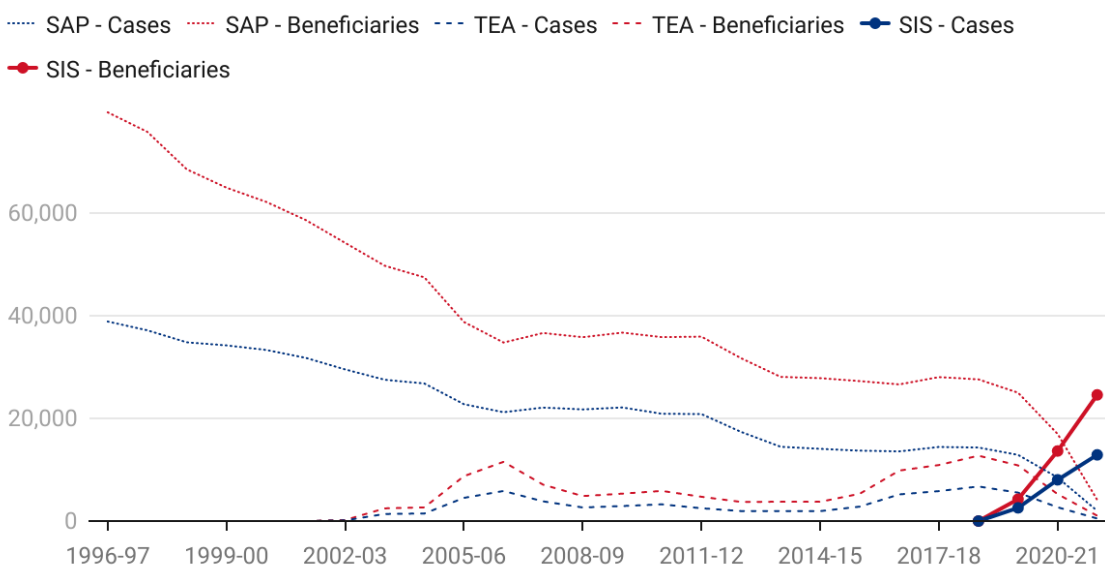
The total number of social assistance cases in Saskatchewan fell for a second year in a row in 2021-22, although it had previously been rising since 2011-12.

SAP and TEA ended in August of 2021, so their total numbers in 2021-22 were calculated as averages over the fiscal year (12 months) while the programs were operational for five months (April to August).

Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS)

SIS was launched on July 15, 2019, and has gradually replaced SAP and TEA as they ceased in August 2021. In 2021-22, there were 12,900 cases in the SIS program and 24,600 beneficiaries, an average increase of 61 per cent (4,900) for cases and 80 per cent (10,900) for beneficiaries.

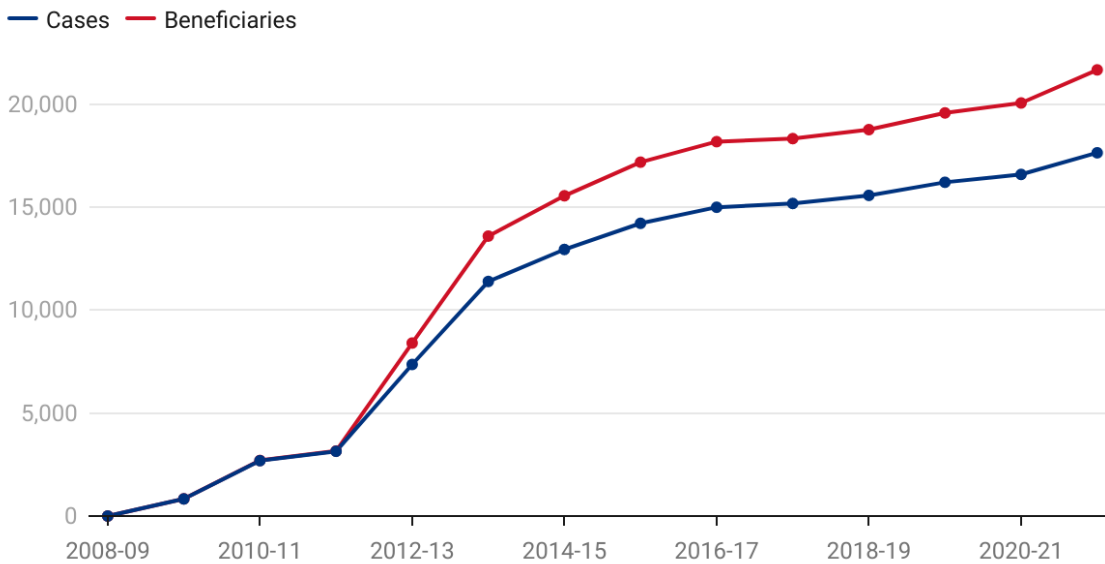
Figure 1SK – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS), the Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP) and Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA), 1996 to 2022



Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID)

During 2020-21, on average, there were over 17,600 cases in the SAID program and almost 21,700 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 2SK – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID), 2009 to 2022



What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

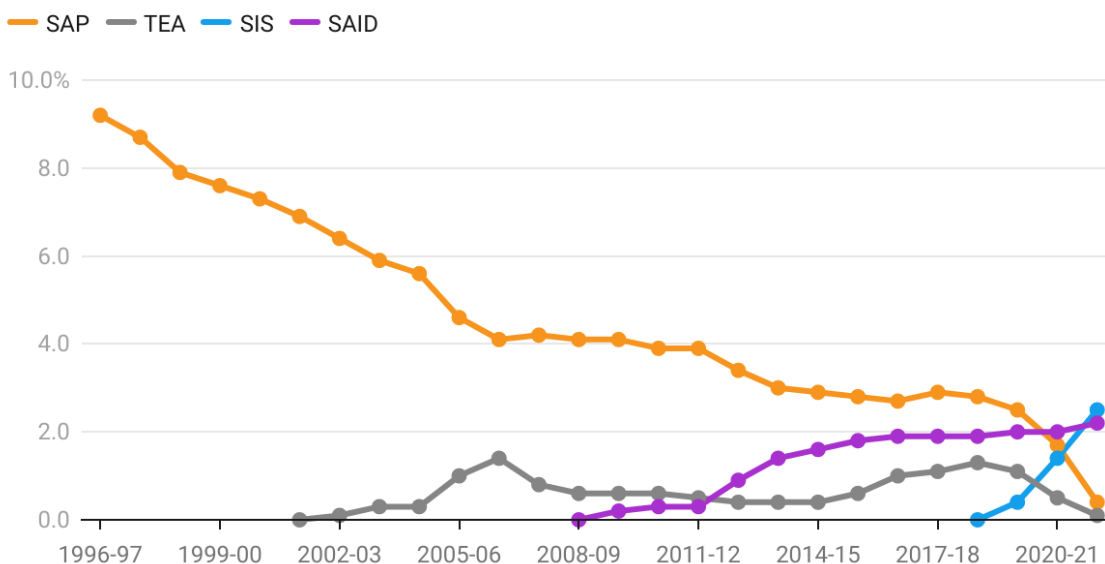
In 2021-22, on average, 5.2 per cent of people in Saskatchewan under 65 received one of Saskatchewan's social assistance programs, which is one in 19. The proportion of recipients receiving social assistance has followed a similar pattern as the total number of recipients.

Since it was introduced in 2019-20, the proportion of Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) beneficiaries has increased rapidly, reaching 2.5 per cent in 2021-22. The number of Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) recipients relative to the under 65 population has increased consistently since 2009-10, with a high of 2.2 per cent in 2021-22.

On the other hand, the proportion of Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP) and Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA) beneficiaries further decreased to lows of 0.4 and 0.1 per cent respectively in 2021-22.

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 3SK – Yearly beneficiaries of social assistance as a proportion of the under-65 population of Saskatchewan, 1996 to 2022



Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2022. 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 2021-22, on average, unattached singles were the majority household of social assistance cases for both Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) with about 61 per cent and Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) with almost 87 per cent. Single parents had the second largest percentages of cases in each program: over 32 per cent for SIS and over seven per cent for SAID.

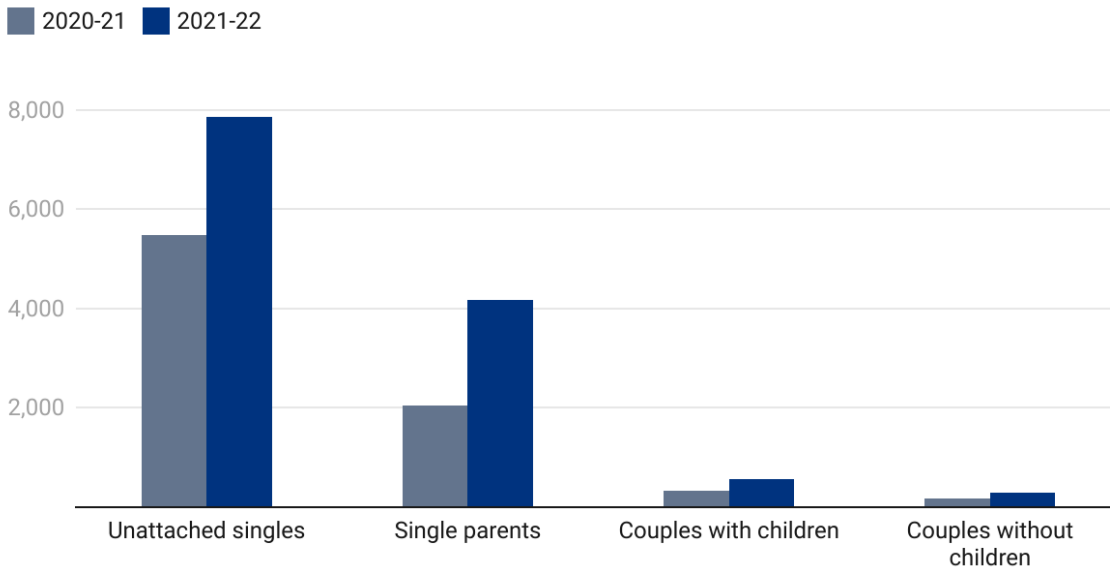
Single parent households were, on average, the majority of beneficiaries for SIS in 2021-22, with 54 per cent, followed by unattached singles, with 32 per cent. For SAID, unattached singles were the majority beneficiaries with over 71 per cent, followed by single parent households with 16 per cent.

In 2021-22, males, on average, made up the majority of the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability beneficiaries, with nearly 53 per cent. Female-led households made up the majority of Saskatchewan Income Support cases, with 58 per cent.

Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS)

Figure 4SK – Cases and beneficiaries of the Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) by household, 2020-21 and 2021-22

A. Cases



B. Beneficiaries

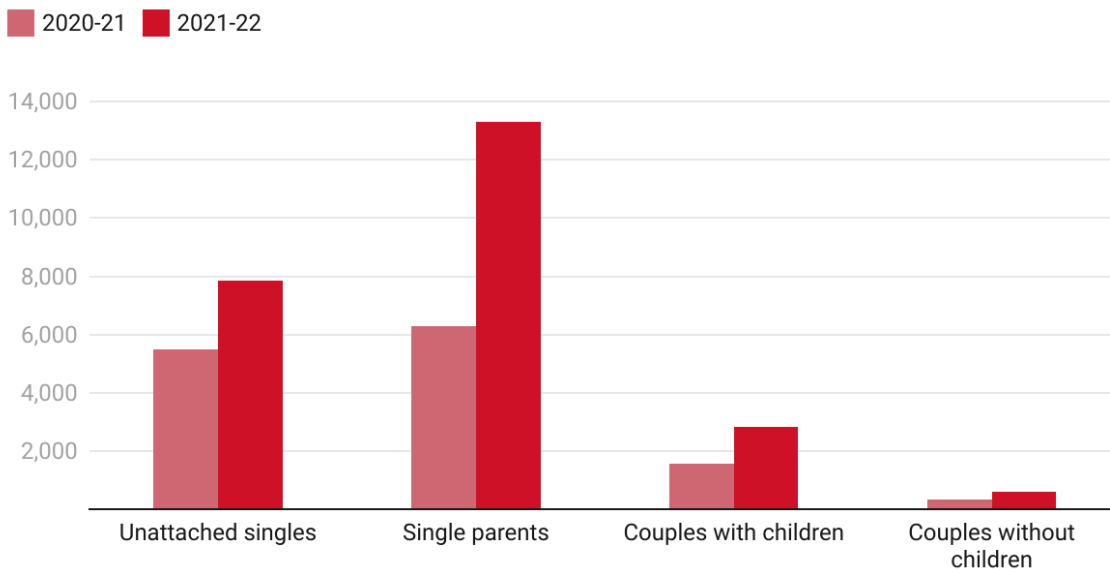
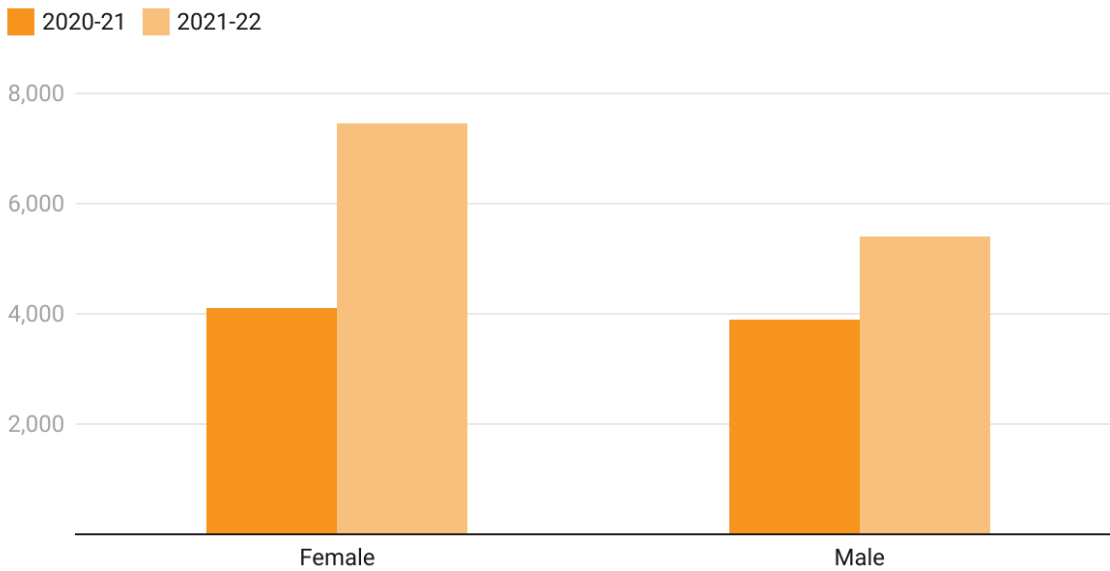




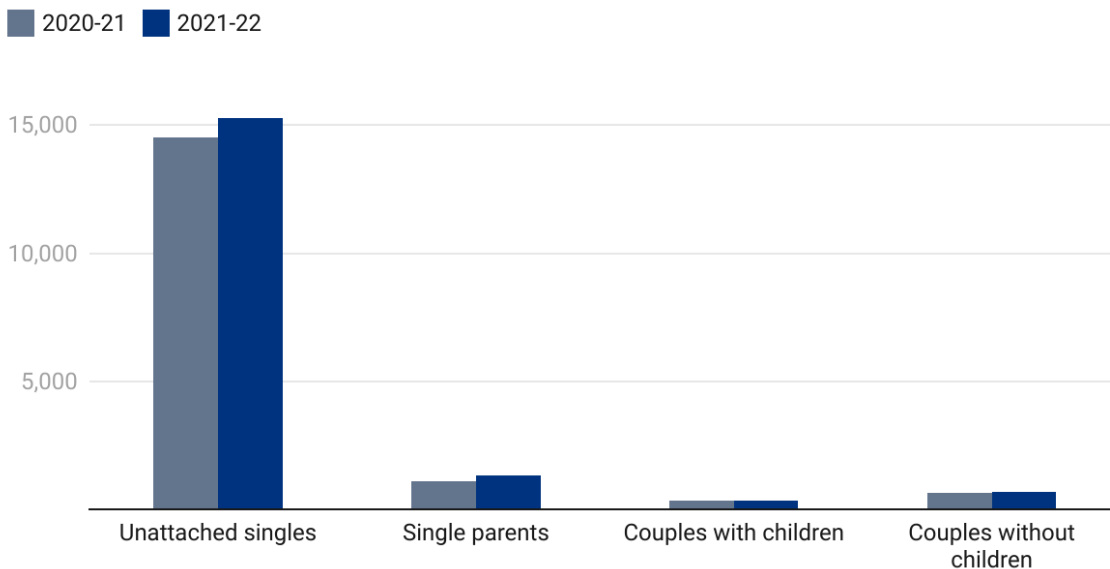
Figure 5SK – Cases of the Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) by gender of primary applicant, 2020-21 and 2021-22



Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID)

Figure 6SK – Cases and beneficiaries of the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) by household, 2020-21 and 2021-22

A. Cases



B. Beneficiaries

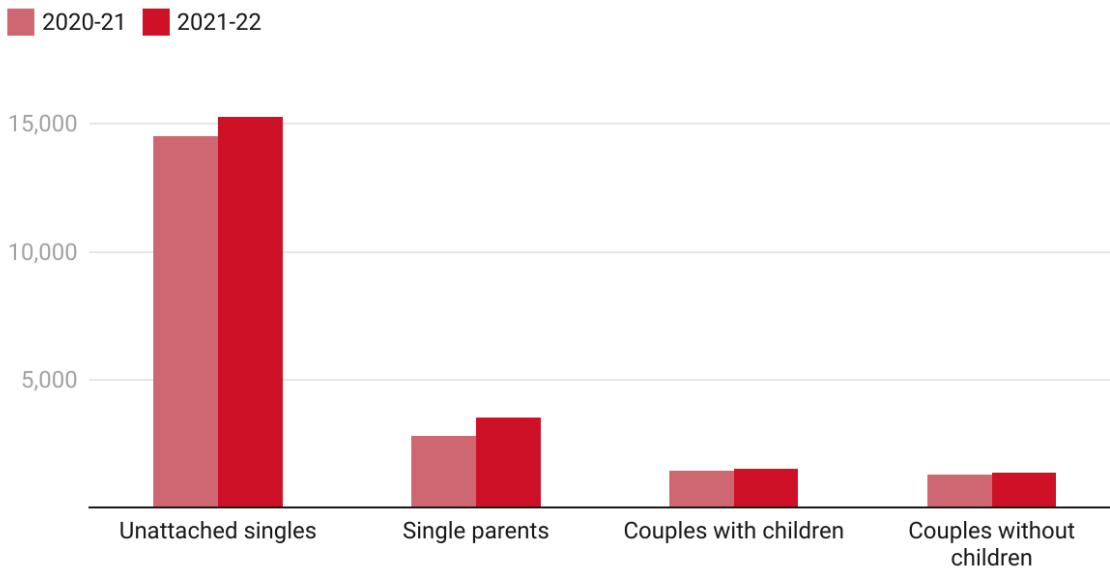
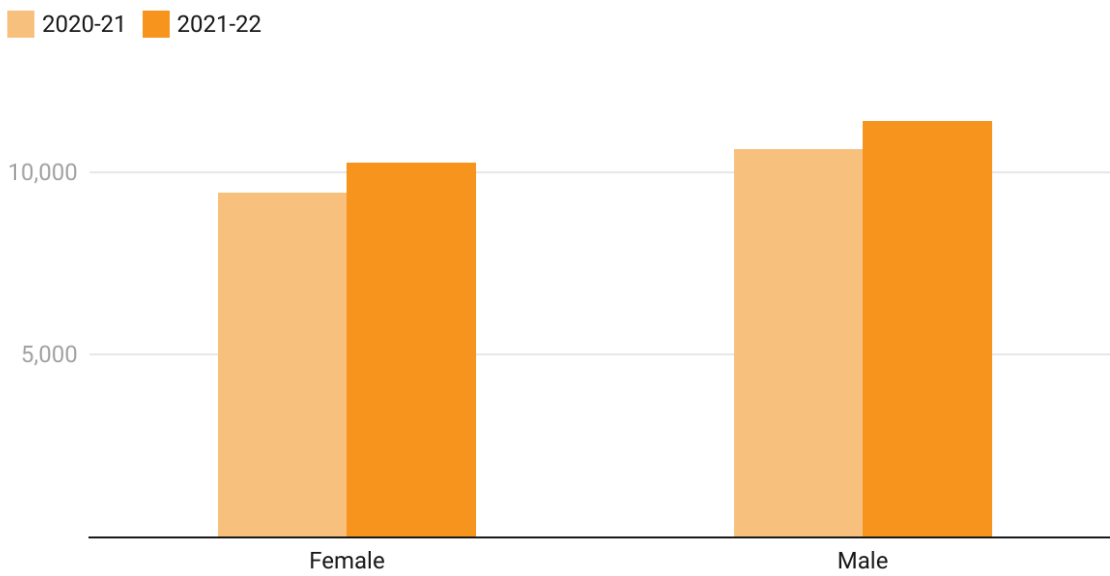


Figure 7SK – Beneficiaries of the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) by gender, 2020-21 and 2021-22



Data

Figure 8SK – Yearly social assistance data for Saskatchewan, 1996 to 2022

Year	SIS		SAID		SAP		TEA	
	Cases	Beneficiaries	Cases	Beneficiaries	Cases	Beneficiaries	Cases	Beneficiaries
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	129	205
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			831	835	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	2,575	4,261	16,200	19,567	12,901	25,020	5,541	10,849
2020-21	8,036	13,656	16,581	20,049	8,480	16,977	2,685	5,255
2021-22	12,906	24,599	17,632	21,656	1,990	4,132	497	1,037

Figure 9SK – Social assistance data by household for Saskatchewan, 2020-21 and 2021-22

Household Type	Year	SIS		SAID	
		Cases	Beneficia-ries	Cases	Beneficia-ries
Unattached singles	2020-21	5,474	5,474	14,513	14,513
	2021-22	7,853	7,853	15,292	15,292
Single parents	2020-21	2,055	6,275	1,079	2,816
	2021-22	4,183	13,314	1,305	3,499
Couples with children	2020-21	334	1,561	340	1,423
	2021-22	571	2,832	353	1,500
Couples without children	2020-21	172	345	649	1,298
	2021-22	300	600	683	1,365

Household Type	Year	SAP		TEA	
		Cases	Beneficia-ries	Cases	Beneficia-ries
Unattached singles	2020-21	4,948	4,948	1,425	1,425
	2021-22	1,121	1,121	240	240
Single parents	2020-21	2,729	8,821	1,126	3,349
	2021-22	676	2,211	232	705
Couples with children	2020-21	510	2,620	102	417
	2021-22	126	667	19	80
Couples without children	2020-21	294	587	32	64
	2021-22	66	132	6	11

Figure 10SK – Social assistance data by gender for Saskatchewan, 2020-21 and 2021-22

		SIS	SAID	SAP	TEA
Gender	Year	Cases	Beneficia- ries	Beneficia- ries	Beneficia- ries
Female	2020-21	4,109	9,428	9,251	2,795
	2021-22	7,445	10,269	2,288	557
Male	2020-21	3,888	10,621	7,726	2,460
	2021-22	5,392	11,387	1,844	480

Data notes

Acronyms


- SAP: Saskatchewan Assistance Program
- TEA: Transitional Employment Allowance
- SAID: Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability
- SIS: Saskatchewan Income Support

Key dates and timelines

- Transitional Employment Allowance was introduced in February 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.
- SAP and TEA were closed on August 31, 2021.

Notes on program data

- For 2002-03, the average cases and beneficiaries for TEA and the overall average (Totals) were calculated as average over the fiscal year (12 months) while the program was operational for two months.

- 
- For 2009-10, the average cases and beneficiaries for SAID and the overall average (Totals) were calculated as average over the fiscal year (12 months) while the program was operational for five months.
 - For 2019-20, the average cases and beneficiaries for SIS and the overall average (Totals) were calculated as average over the fiscal year (12 months) while the program was operational for nine months.
 - For 2021-22, the average cases and beneficiaries for SAP and TEA and the overall average (Totals) were calculated as average over the fiscal year (12 months) while the programs were operational for five months.

General data notes

- The data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).
- The subtotals may not add up to equal the total number of Cases and Beneficiaries due to rounding.
- The numbers do not include First Nations living on reserves.
- 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 and spouses/partners can choose not to specify gender, or select an option other than “male” or “female” as their preferred gender identity. On average, 38 cases of SIS in 2020-21 and 69 cases of SIS in 2021-22 chose this option.
- Data for cases by gender reflects the gender of the primary applicant.



Yukon

The Yukon's social assistance program

Social assistance is the income program of last resort. It is intended for households 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.

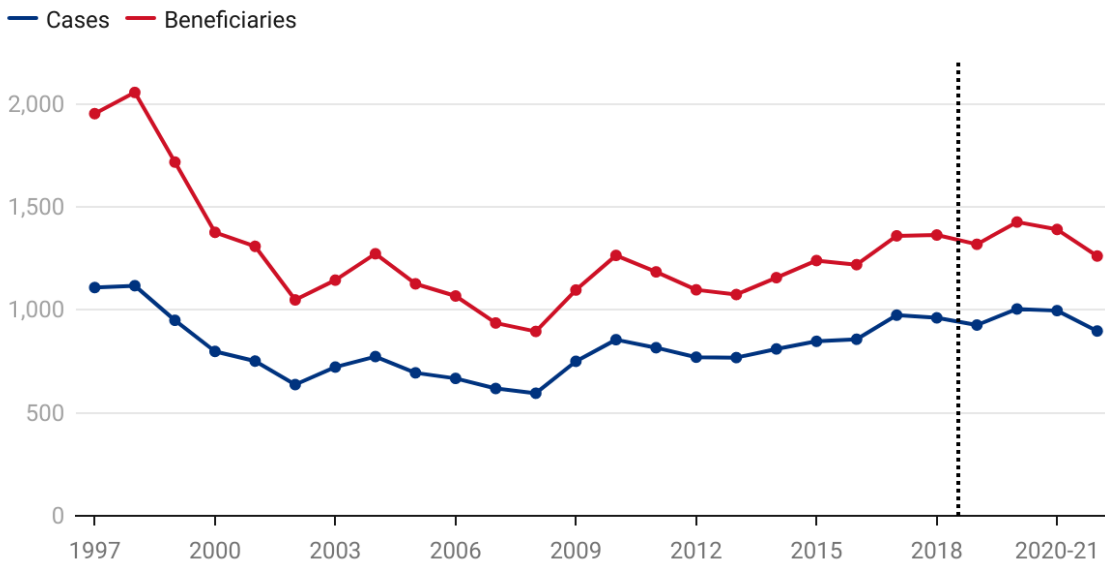
In the Yukon, the Social Assistance (SA) program provides benefits to eligible adults and children. General assistance includes amounts provided for items of basic maintenance and items of supplementary need. Discretionary aid over and above general assistance may be provided to SA recipients to meet unexpected, short-term or emergency needs, or to non-recipients to prevent or alleviate an immediate health or safety risk.

- Items of basic maintenance consist 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 utilities, up to a maximum allowance). The amount of support available is based on the size, composition, and geographical location of the household. Recipients may also qualify for the Yukon Supplementary Allowance (YSA) – a benefit for those excluded from the workforce due to disability or age.
- Items of supplementary need are available to recipients after six consecutive months on SA or immediately to children and YSA recipients. These items consist of allowances for needs such as transportation, telephone, laundry, winter clothing, furniture and a Christmas allowance, among others.
- Discretionary aid may be provided at the Director's discretion for needs such as necessary health care services (for example prescriptions, medical travel, dental services, optical services, medical equipment and supplies), shelter security deposits, moving expenses, storage, employment expenses or education expenses.

How many people claim social assistance?

In 2021-22, there were on average about 900 cases (families and single adults) and just over 1,260 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in the Yukon's social assistance program. These numbers fell from the previous year by on average 100 cases and 130 beneficiaries. This is the second year of decreases, after a previous period of generally increasing numbers going back to 2012.

Figure 1YT – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Social Assistance in the Yukon, 1997 to 2022

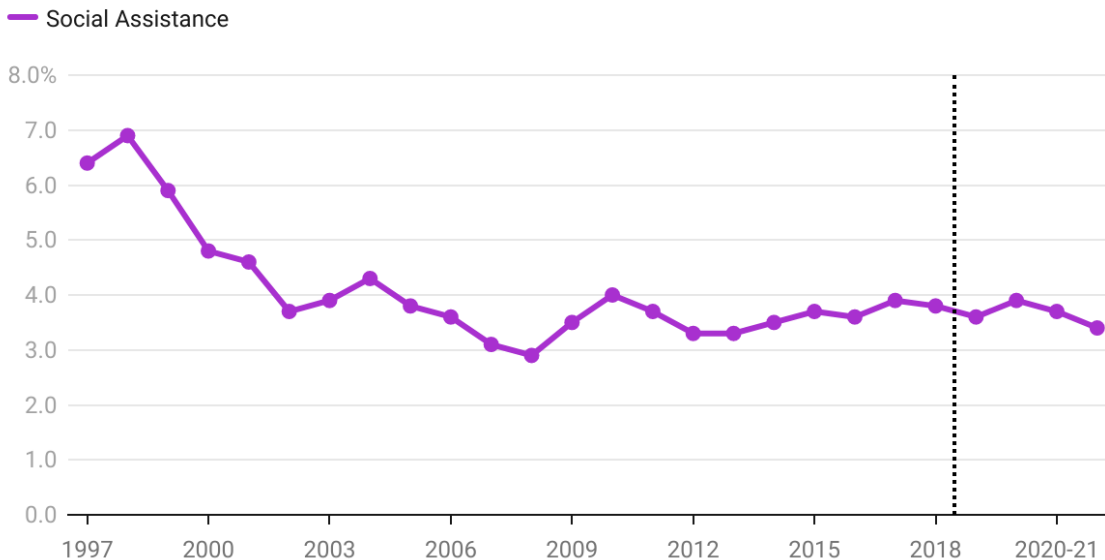


What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

On average, 3.4 per cent of people in the Yukon under 65 received Social Assistance in 2021-22, which is about one in 29. 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 fiscal year average from 2018-19 onward, and for March 31 of a given year from 1997 to 2018.

Figure 2YT – Yearly beneficiaries of Social Assistance as a proportion of the under-65 population of the Yukon, 1997 to 2022



Source of population data: Statistics Canada, 2022. 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?

On average, in 2021-22, unattached singles were the majority household of both cases and beneficiaries of the Yukon’s Social Assistance program, with about 79 per cent of cases and just under 57 per cent of beneficiaries. Single parents were second, with around 15 per cent of cases and just under 31 per cent of beneficiaries.

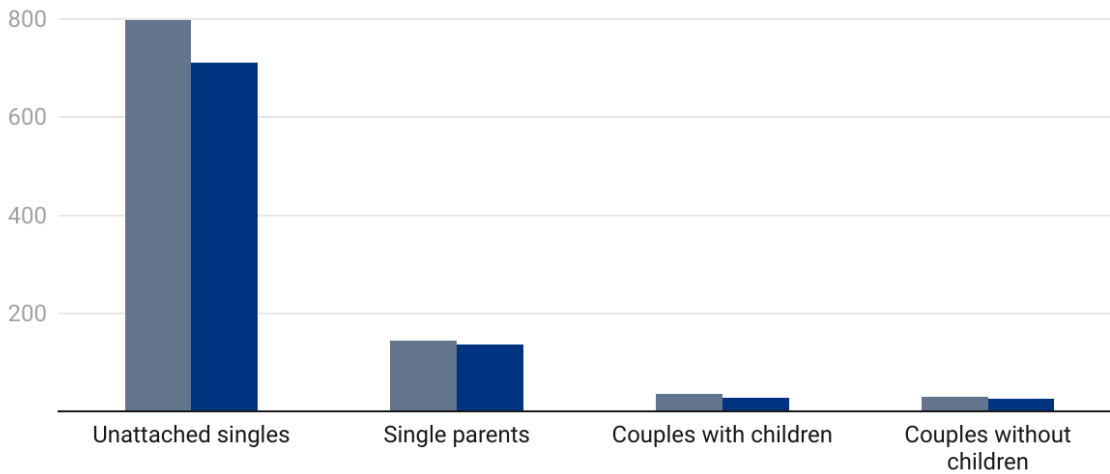
The majority of the Yukon’s Social Assistance heads of households were male, with on average 58 per cent in 2021-22.



Figure 3YT – Cases and beneficiaries of Social Assistance by household in the Yukon, 2020-21 and 2021-22

A. Cases

2020-21 2021-22



B. Beneficiaries

2020-21 2021-22

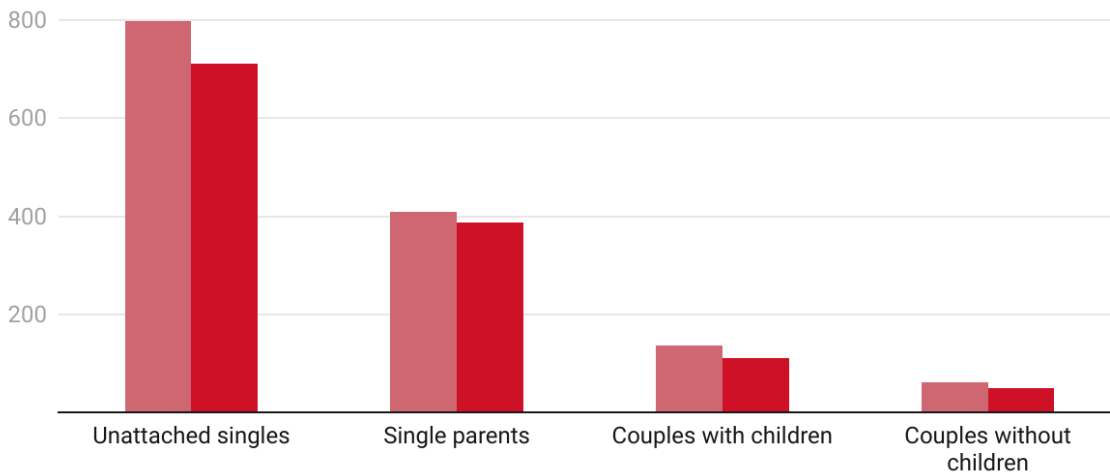
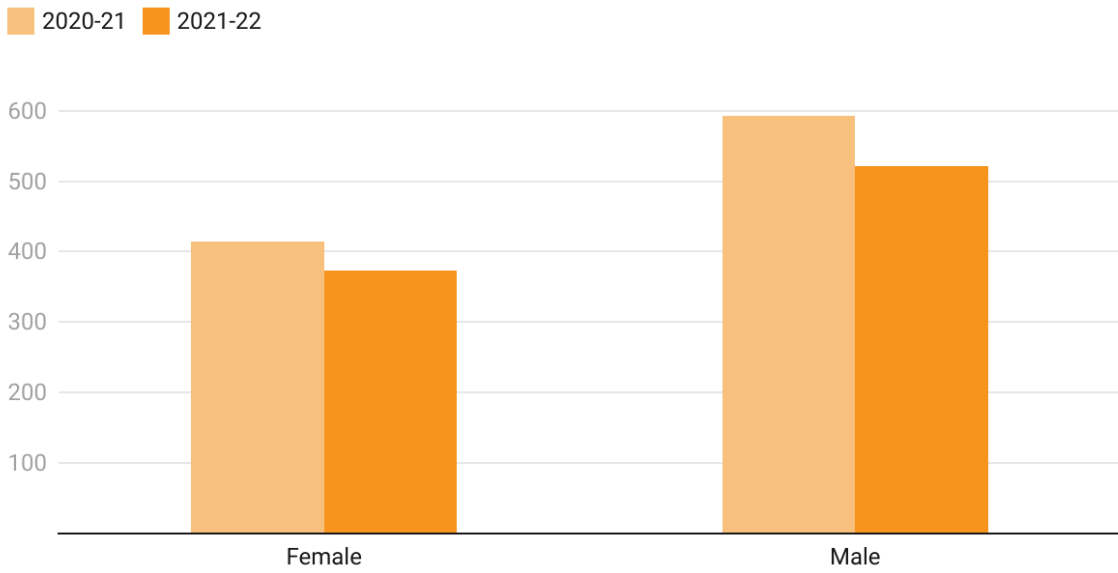




Figure 4YT – Beneficiaries of the Social Assistance by gender of primary applicant in the Yukon, 2020-21 and 2021-22



Data

Figure 5YT – Yearly social assistance data for the Yukon, 1997 to 2022

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
2018-19	926	1,318
2019-20	1,004	1,426
2020-21	996	1,390
2021-22	897	1,261

Figure 6YT – Social assistance data by household for the Yukon, 2020-21 and 2021-22

Household Type	Year	Social Assistance	
		Cases	Beneficiaries
Unattached singles	2020-21	799	799
	2021-22	712	712
Single parents	2020-21	144	410
	2021-22	137	387
Couples with children	2020-21	35	136
	2021-22	28	110
Couples without children	2020-21	30	61
	2021-22	25	49

Figure 7YT – Social assistance data by gender for the Yukon, 2020-21 and 2021-22

Gender	Year	Social Assistance
		Cases
Female	2020-21	415
	2021-22	373
Male	2020-21	593
	2021-22	521

Data notes

- These numbers represent only clients served by the Yukon Government. They do not include clients served by the Government of Canada (Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada) or the self-governing First Nations that administer their own social assistance programs.
- The data for 2018-19 to 2021-22 reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year. The data for 1997 to 2018 reflects the number of cases and beneficiaries on March 31st of each year.
- Household type for 2020-21 and 2021-22 is reported as an average for the fiscal year based on monthly data. However, data from August 2021 was not included in the calculations for household type due to data quality concerns.



- Sex data for 2020-21 and 2021-22 was only available at the level of head of household, not at the level of beneficiaries (individuals). It is reported as an average for the fiscal year. In addition to female and male, in 2020-21 there was one case on average and in 2021-22 there were five cases on average where the head of household’s sex was recorded as “other” or “prefer not to report.”



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