



# Social Assistance Summaries, 2023

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May 2024



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[www.maytree.com/social-assistance-summaries](http://www.maytree.com/social-assistance-summaries)

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ISBN: 978-1-928003-67-0

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# Acknowledgements

*Social Assistance Summaries* builds on 20 years of research and analysis. The publication of this report would not be possible without the continued dedication, hard work, and passion of many contributors.

My colleagues at Maytree, Markus Stadelmann-Elder, Sarah Craig, and Yukon Damov, thank you for your commitment to quality and excellence. Elizabeth McIsaac and Alexi White, thank you for your guidance and support.

To the government officials in all thirteen provinces and territories, thank you for your enduring collaboration. This report would not have been possible without your contributions.

Thank you to Hannah Aldridge and Anne Makhoul, the previous authors of *Social Assistance Summaries*, as well as other authors and contributors from Maytree, the Caledon Institute of Social Policy, and the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Directors of Income Support whose work this report is built on.

I would like to express my most sincere appreciation to all of you. Thank you.



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# About Social Assistance Summaries

## What is Social Assistance Summaries?

*Social Assistance Summaries* is an annual report that compiles and publishes 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; and
- Analysis of disaggregated social assistance data (since 2021) by program for:
  - Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
  - Beneficiaries by gender or sex (depending on provincial or territorial nomenclature);
  - Heads of households by gender or sex for unattached singles and single parents;
  - Adult beneficiaries by age category; and
  - Percentage of cases receiving employment income.

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 2023 report?

*Social Assistance Summaries* now includes data for five disaggregated variables, three of which were introduced in this year's report: Heads of households by gender or sex for unattached singles and single parents, adult beneficiaries by age category, and percentage of cases receiving employment income.

Two new social assistance programs were introduced in 2022-23: the Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities and the Basic Income Program in Quebec.



Data for the former is presented as an average over the first three months of 2023; data for the latter is presented as point-in-time in March 2023.

Furthermore, this year's report now includes disability data, including disaggregated data, for jurisdictions that do not have disability-specific social assistance programs: Nova Scotia, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and the Yukon. Note that disability data was not available for Newfoundland and Labrador because it is collected by a different department.

Similarly, data for two disability supplements was included for two provinces that also have a disability-specific social assistance programs: Barriers to Full Employment under Income Support in Alberta, and Medical Barriers to Full Employment under Employment and Income Assistance in Manitoba.

Twelve of 13 jurisdictions now provide their data as an average over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31). This year, Nunavut converted 2020-21 to 2022-23 data from calendar year averages to fiscal averages. Conversely, Quebec provided this year's data as point-in-time in March 2023, as opposed to fiscal year averages as they have done historically.

Descriptions were updated with definitions of disability where relevant, and definitions of employment income were added for each jurisdiction.


Lastly, downloadable spreadsheets with data for each province and territory have been redesigned. They include total caseload data, relative caseload data, and disaggregated 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 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).

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: For this year's report, 12 of 13 jurisdictions provide their data as a fiscal year monthly average (April 1 to March 31), and one (Quebec) provided it as point-in-time in March 2023 (although all previous Quebec data was fiscal year averages).

Three jurisdictions have historically provided point-in-time data (March 31 of a given year): Alberta (2000 and prior), Nova Scotia (2007 and prior), and Yukon (2018 and prior). Nunavut has historically provided data as calendar year monthly averages (2020 and prior).



## **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, demographic, and/or 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 programs

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. For modelling of total incomes available to social assistance recipients, visit the [Welfare in Canada](#) report.

In Alberta, there are two social assistance programs:

- Income Support; and
- Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped.

### Income Support

The Income Support program provides financial benefits to individuals and families in Alberta who do not have the resources to meet their basic needs, including food, clothing, and shelter.


The caseload and beneficiary data below refers to those receiving Income Support. There are three channels through which Albertans can qualify for Income Support:

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

For a person with a disability to be eligible to Barriers to Full Employment under Income Support, they must have a long-term inability to participate in full employment due to multiple barriers beyond their control, or a persistent mental or physical health problem of more than six months' duration.

### Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH)

The AISH program provides financial and health-related assistance to eligible adult Albertans with a disability.



For a person with a disability to be eligible for AISH, they 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 over 118,900 cases (family units and unattached single adults) receiving social assistance in Alberta during the 2022-23 fiscal year. Thirty-nine per cent (46,697) received Income Support and 61 per cent (72,230) received Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH).

Income Support had about 82,300 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children).

The total number of social assistance cases increased, on average, by over 5,100 in 2022-23. This increase came from both programs, though the majority was from Income Support.

To access data on cases and beneficiaries of social assistance in Alberta, including disaggregated data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

### Income Support

On average, there were about 46,700 cases of Income Support in 2022-23, an increase of 3,100, or over 7 per cent. The number of beneficiaries increased by about 4,700, or 6 per cent, to about 82,300.

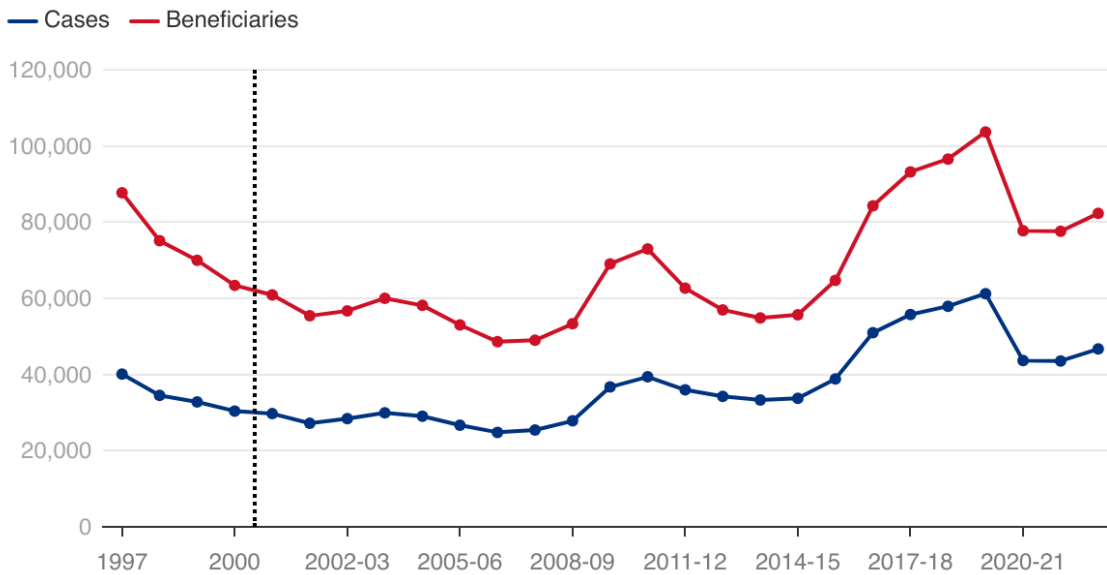
These increases to both cases and beneficiaries followed two years of significant decreases. Both numbers had peaked in 2019-20 after six years of increases.

Within the Income Support program, on average, about 18,000 cases, or 39 per cent, and over 26,400 beneficiaries, or 32 per cent, received benefits through the Barriers to Full Employment (BFE) stream in 2022-23.

While Income Support cases and beneficiaries increased overall in 2022-23, the BFE numbers decreased from the previous year. On average, BFE cases decreased by 1,100, or 6.1 per cent, and BFE beneficiaries decreased by 1,600, or 6 per cent.

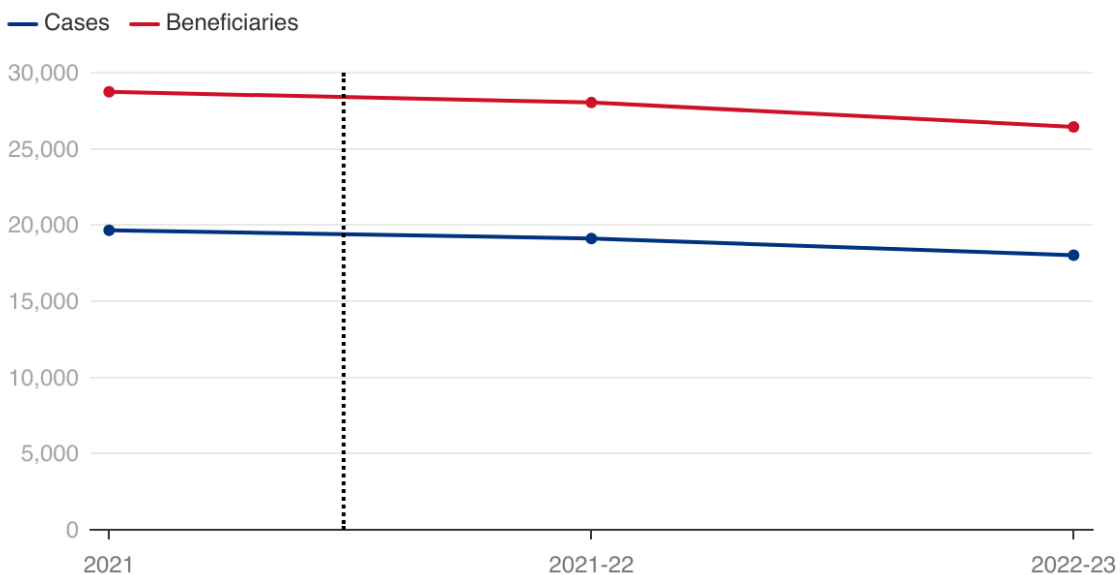


**Figure 1AB: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Income Support in Alberta, 1997 to 2022-23**



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.

**Figure 2AB: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of BFE under Income Support in Alberta, 2021 to 2022-23**

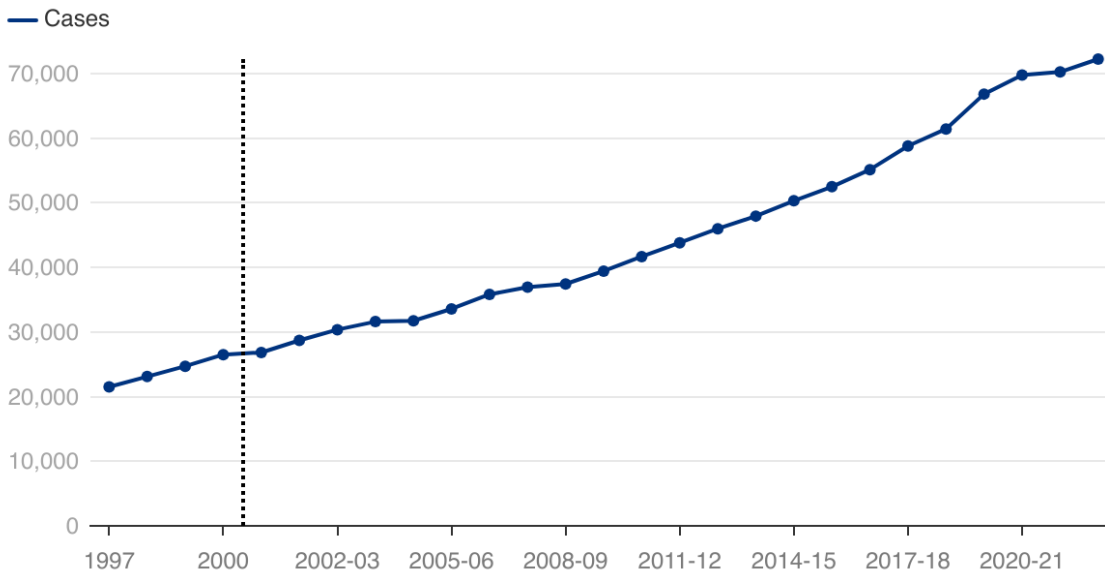


Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 and 2022-23 numbers are fiscal year averages.

## Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH)

During the 2022-23 fiscal year, there were, on average, just over 72,200 cases in Alberta's AISH program. The number of cases has been rising steadily over the last two decades, with an increase of 2,000 cases on average, or just under 3 per cent, between 2021-22 and 2022-23.

Figure 3AB: Yearly cases of AISH in Alberta, 1997 to 2022-23



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

## What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

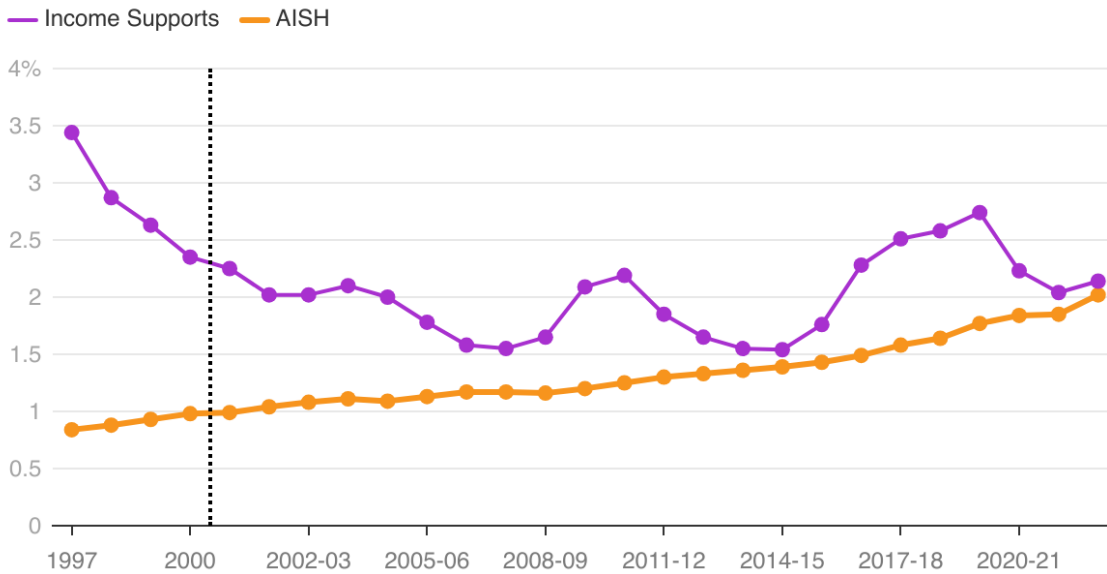
In 2022-23, just under 4.2 per cent of people in Alberta under 65 received Income Support or AISH, which is about one in 24.

The proportion of Income Support 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 and 2021-22, the proportion of Income Support recipients declined, followed by an increase in 2022-23 to reach 2.1 per cent of people in Alberta under 65.

The proportion of people under 65 receiving AISH has increased consistently since 1997, crossing 2 per cent for the first time in 2022-23.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of the fiscal year (e.g., July 1, 2022, for 2022-23), 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 4AB: Yearly beneficiaries of Income Support and cases of AISH as a proportion of the under-65 Alberta population, 1997 to 2022-23**



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. (2024). Population estimates on July 1, by age and sex. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>

## Who is receiving social assistance?

This section examines the following disaggregated data:

- Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
- Beneficiaries (Income Support) and cases (AISH) by gender;
- Heads of household by gender for unattached singles and single parents;
- Heads of household by age category; and
- Cases receiving employment income

Note that the figures below represent percentages but total numbers are available. To access this data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

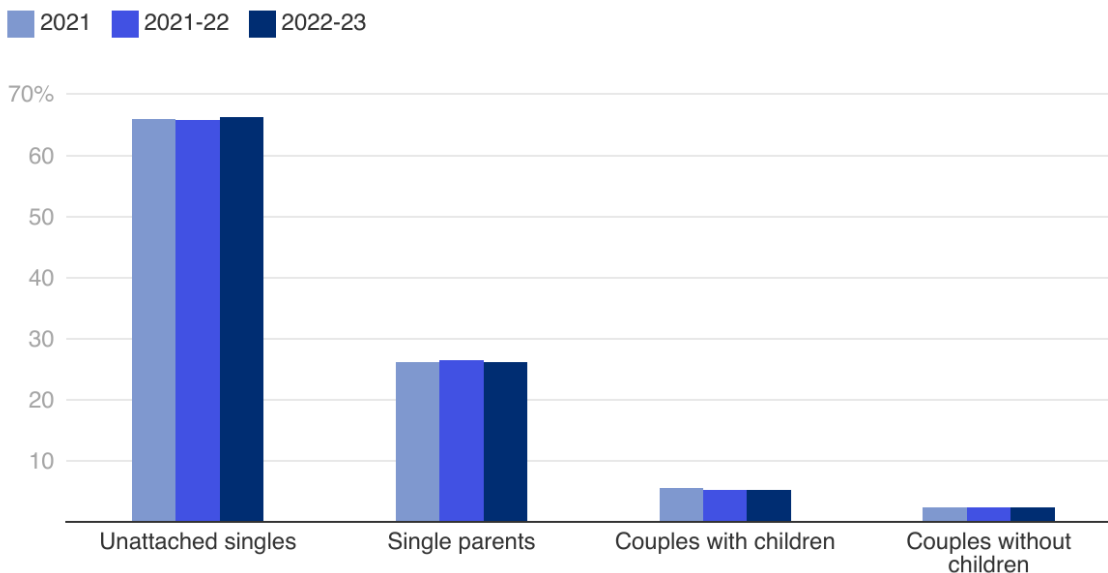
## Household type

In 2022-23, on average, the majority of cases among households were unattached singles for both Income Support and AISH, representing 66 per cent and 86 per cent, respectively. For Income Support, single parent households comprised the highest proportion of beneficiaries, representing just under 45 per cent, followed by unattached singles, representing about 38 per cent.

Among those who received BFE under Social Assistance, on average, 77 per cent of cases and just under 53 per cent of beneficiaries were unattached singles in 2022-23. Single parents were second, representing 17 per cent of cases and about 33 per cent of beneficiaries.

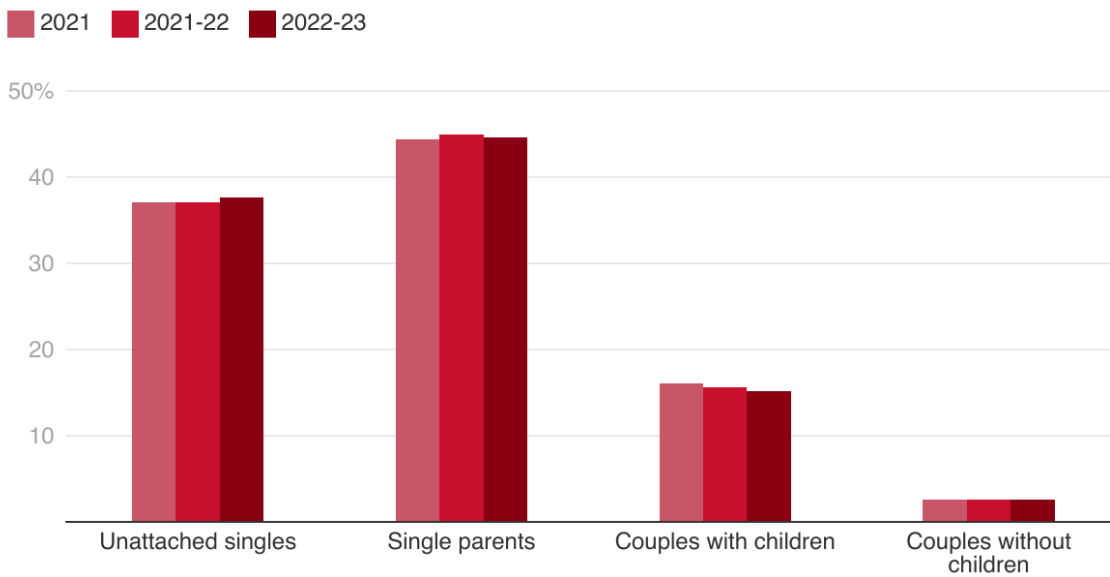
**Figure 5AB: Percentage of cases and beneficiaries of Income Support by household in Alberta, 2021 to 22-2023**

### Cases





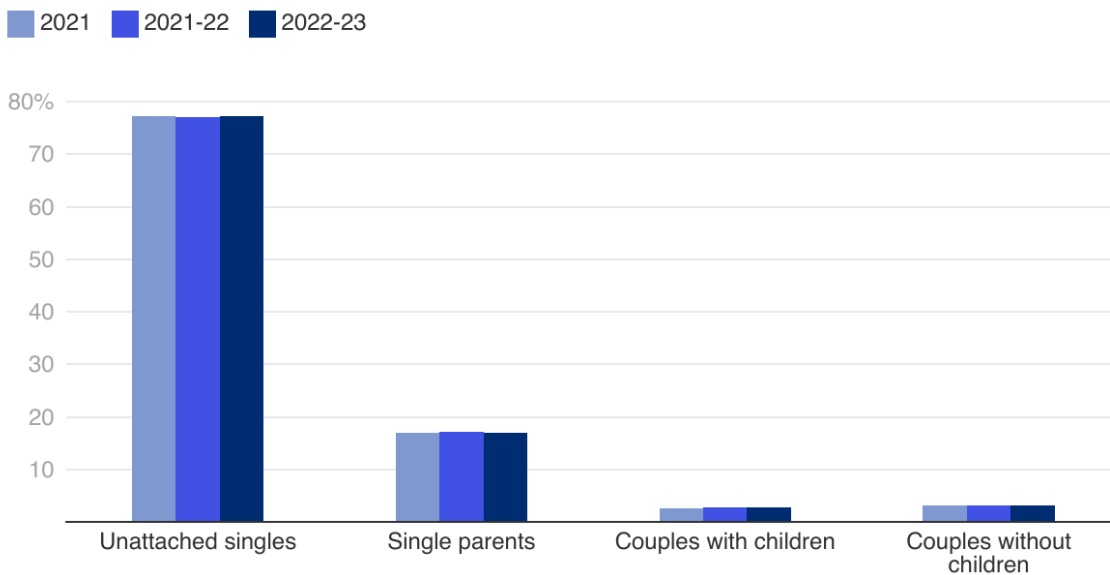
## Beneficiaries



Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 and 2022-23 numbers are fiscal year averages.

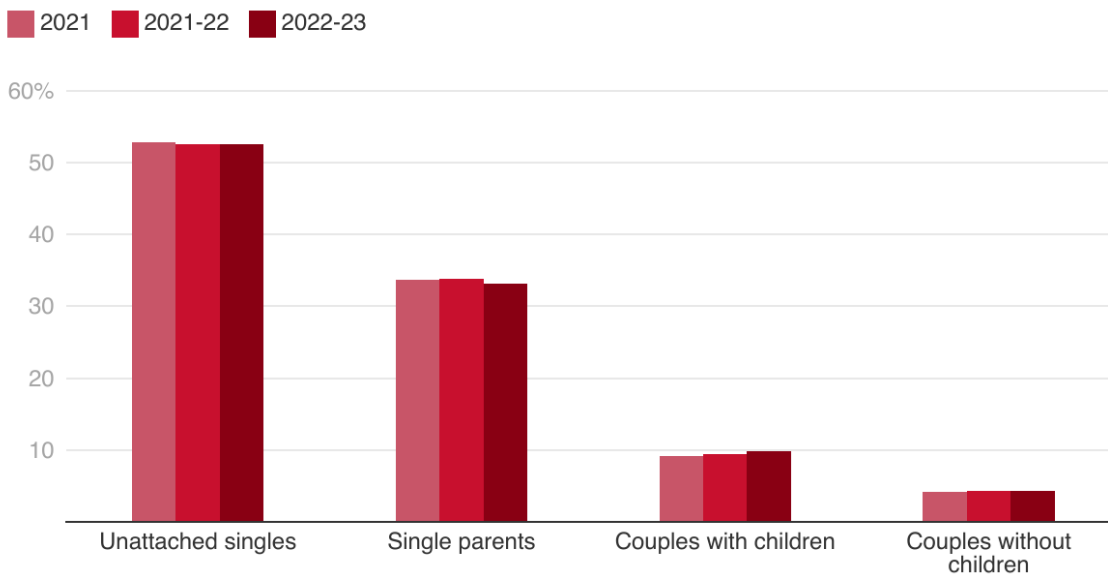
**Figure 6AB: Percentage of cases and beneficiaries of BFE under Income Support by household in Alberta, 2021 to 2022-23**

## Cases



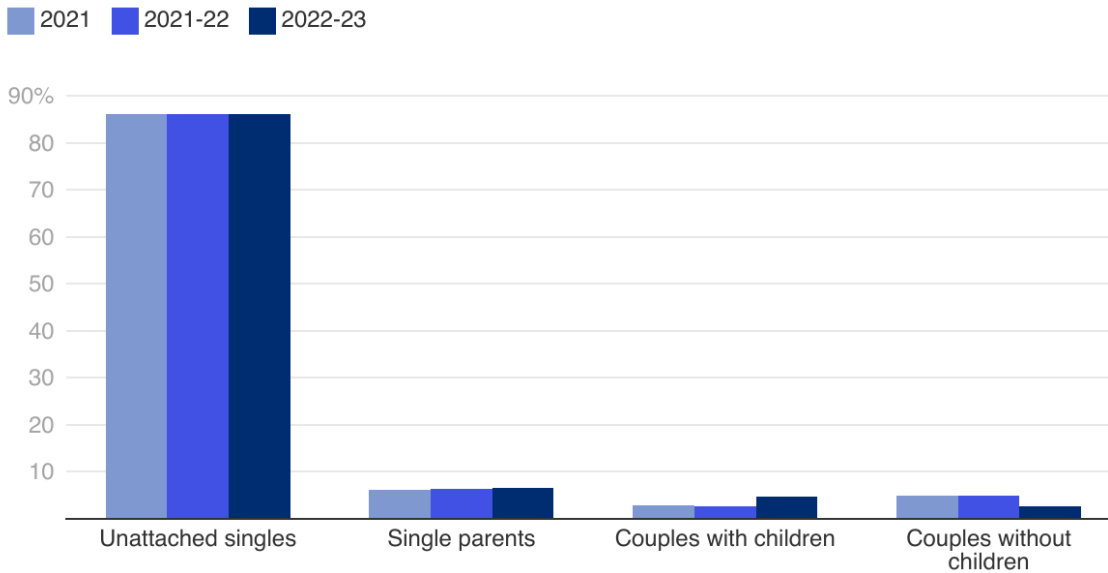


## Beneficiaries



Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 and 2022-23 numbers are fiscal year averages.

**Figure 7AB: Percentage of cases of AISH by household in Alberta, 2021 to 2022-23**



Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 and 2022-23 numbers are fiscal year averages.

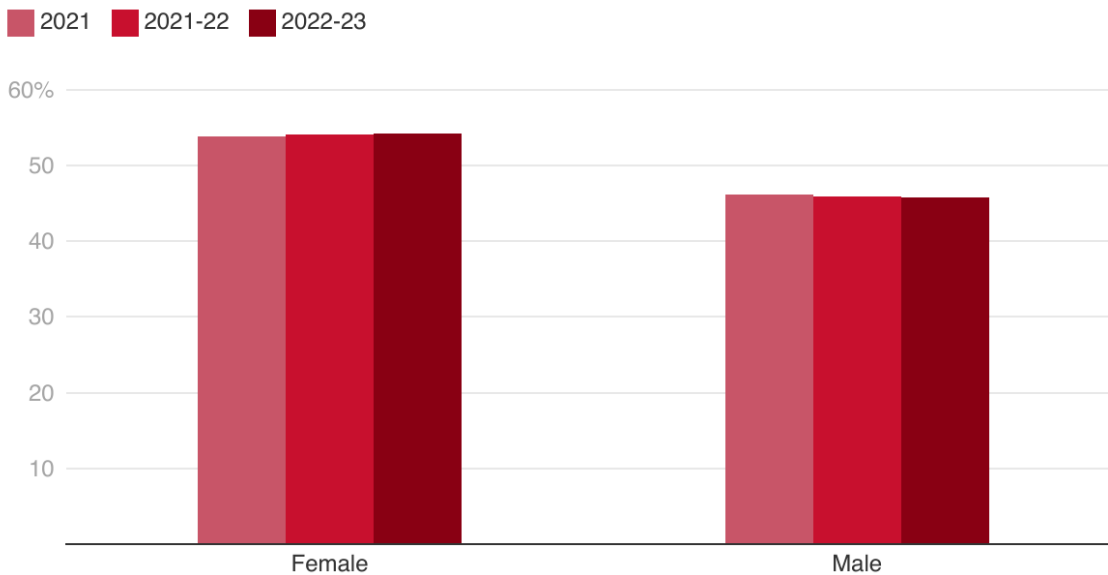


## Beneficiaries (Income Support) and cases (AISH) by gender

Females were the majority of Income Support beneficiaries in 2022-23, representing 54 per cent on average. Similarly, the majority of BFE beneficiaries under Income support were female, also representing 54 per cent.

Males were the majority of AISH cases in 2022-23, representing 53 per cent on average.

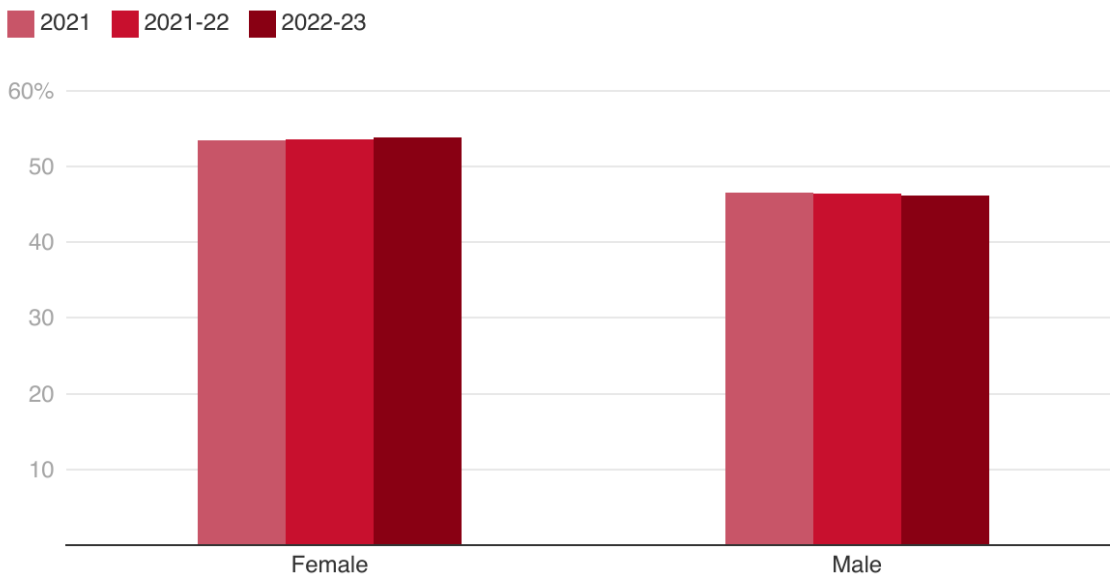
**Figure 8AB: Percentage of beneficiaries of Income Support by gender in Alberta, 2021 to 2022-23**



Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 and 2022-23 numbers are fiscal year averages.

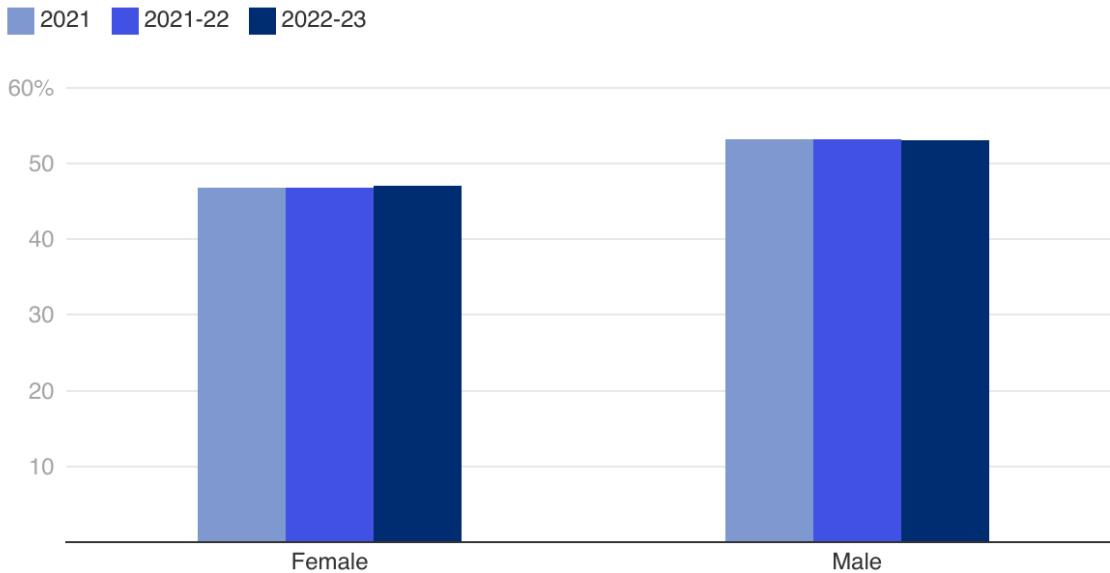


**Figure 9AB: Percentage of beneficiaries of BFE under Income Support by gender in Alberta, 2021 to 2022-23**



Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 and 2022-23 numbers are fiscal year averages.

**Figure 10AB: Percentage of cases of AISH by gender in Alberta, 2021 to 2022-23**



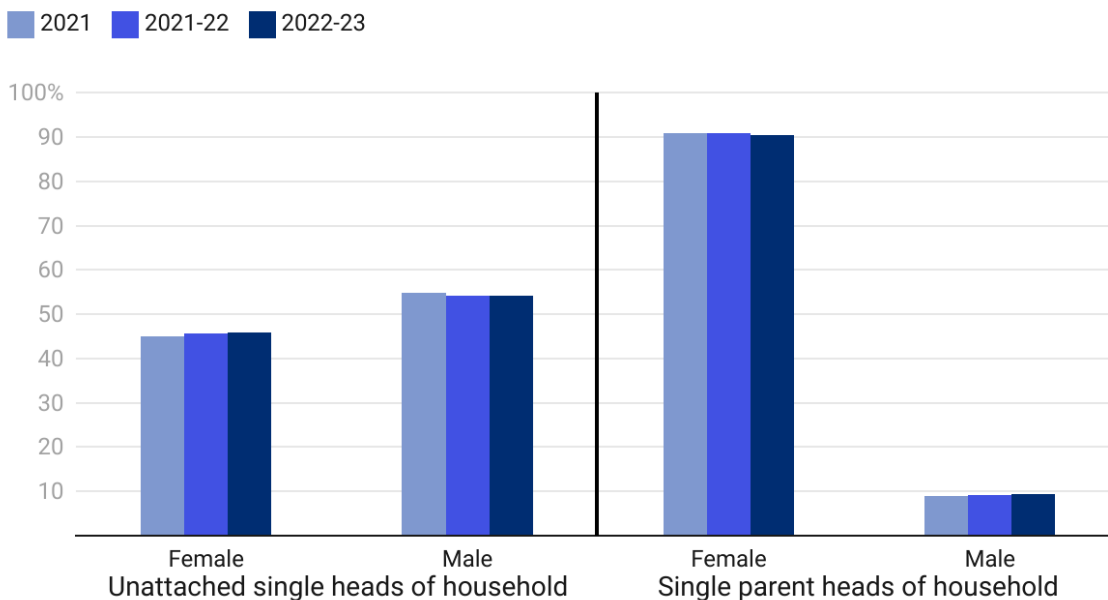
Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 and 2022-23 numbers are fiscal year averages.

## Gender of heads of household

In 2022-23, on average, the majority of unattached singles receiving Income Support were male, representing 54 per cent. In contrast, the majority of heads of single parent households were female, representing about 91 per cent. For households receiving BFE under Income Support, on average, 51 per cent of unattached singles were male and about 90 per cent of heads of single parent households were female.

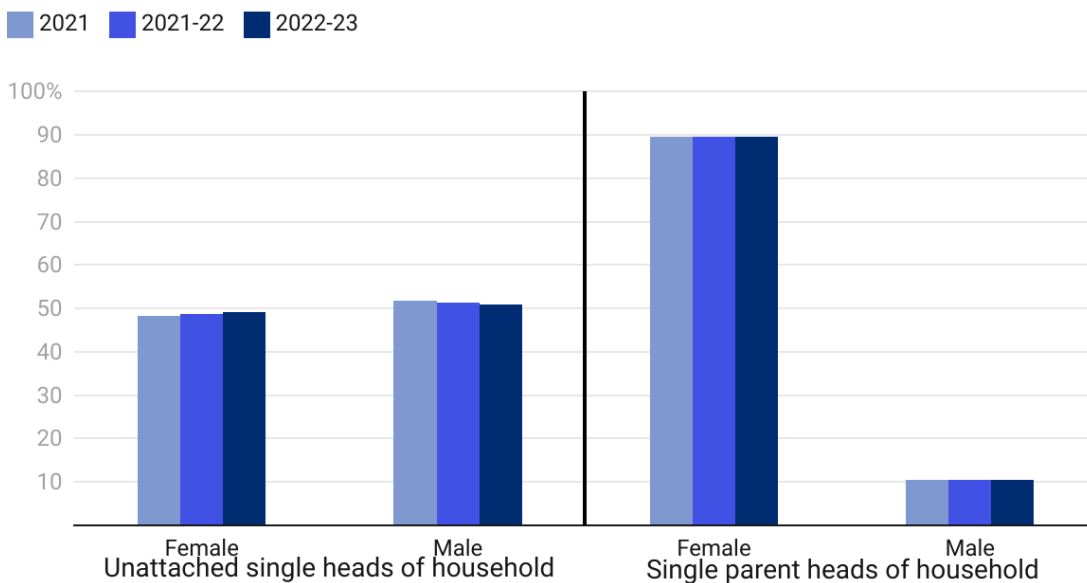
The gender distribution was similar for heads of household receiving AISH. In 2022-23, on average, 56 per cent of unattached singles were male and just over 85 per cent of heads of single parent households were female.

**Figure 11AB: Percentage of heads of unattached single and single parent households receiving Income Support by gender in Alberta, 2021 to 2022-23**



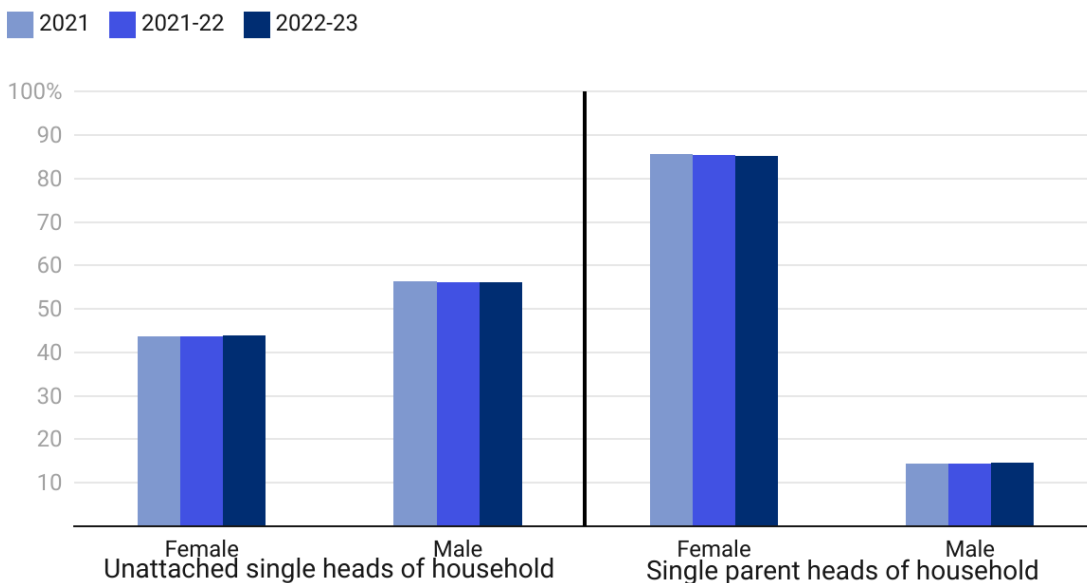
Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 and 2022-23 numbers are fiscal year averages.

**Figure 12AB: Percentage of heads of unattached single and single parent households receiving BFE under Income Support by gender in Alberta, 2021 to 2022-23**



Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 and 2022-23 numbers are fiscal year averages.

**Figure 13AB: Percentage of heads of unattached single and single parent households receiving AISH by gender in Alberta, 2021 to 2022-23**



Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 and 2022-23 numbers are fiscal year averages.

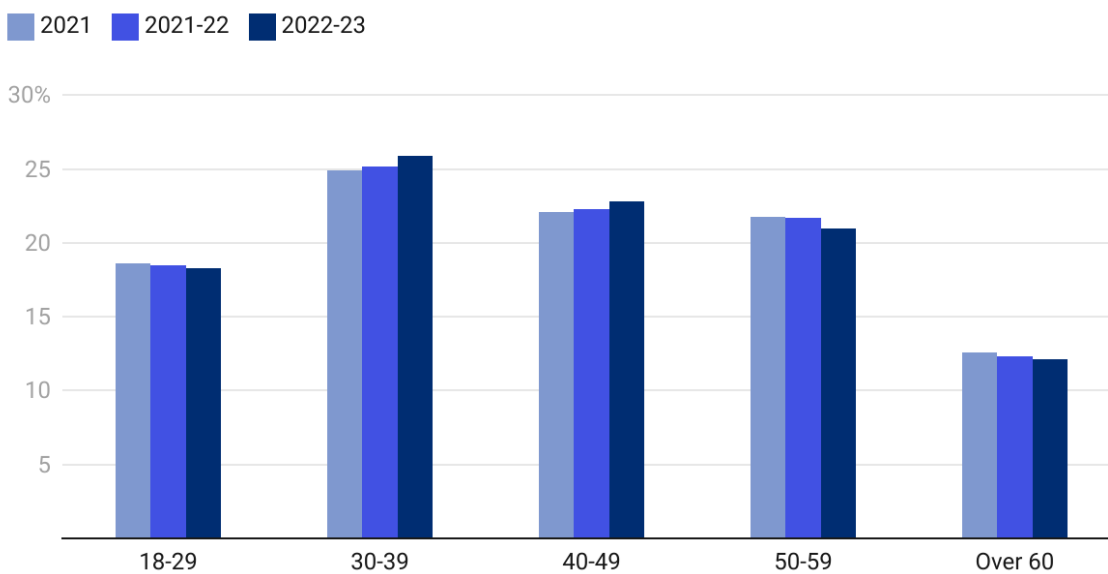
## Age of heads of household

In 2022-23, on average, the most common age group of heads of household receiving Income Support was 30-39, representing 26 per cent. The least common was people over 60, representing 12 per cent. For heads of household receiving BFE under Income Support, the most common age group was 50-59, representing over 27 per cent, and the least common was 18-29, representing 11 per cent.

For heads of household receiving AISH, on average, the most common age group in 2022-23 was 50-59, representing 25 per cent. The least common age group was over 60 with 17 per cent.

Note: The age category data for Alberta is only for heads of household, unlike other jurisdictions, which provided data for all adult beneficiaries.

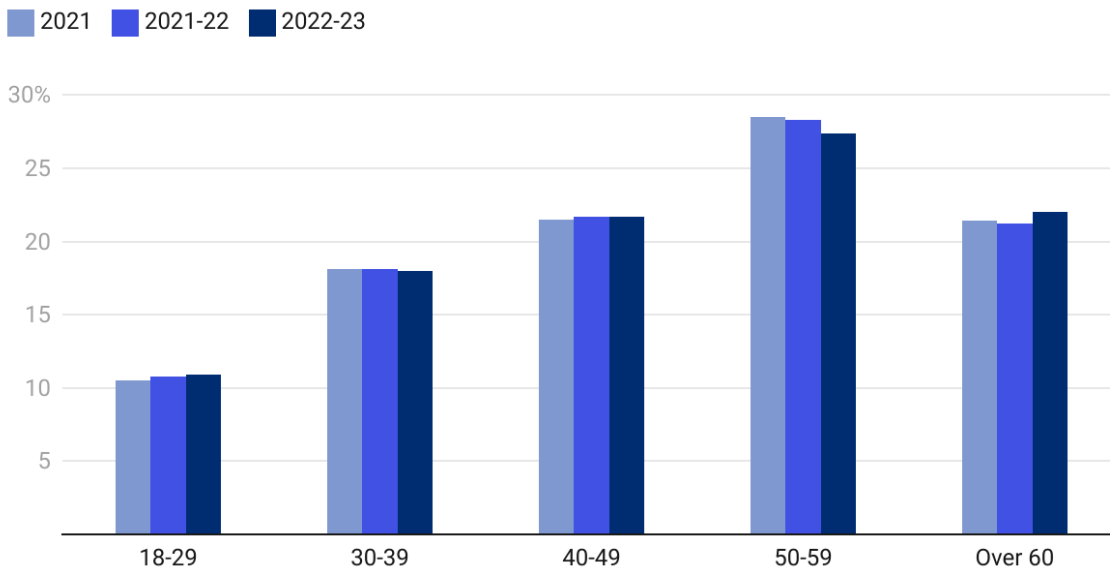
**Figure 14AB: Percentage of heads of household receiving Income Support by age category in Alberta, 2021 to 2022-23**



Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 and 2022-23 numbers are fiscal year averages.

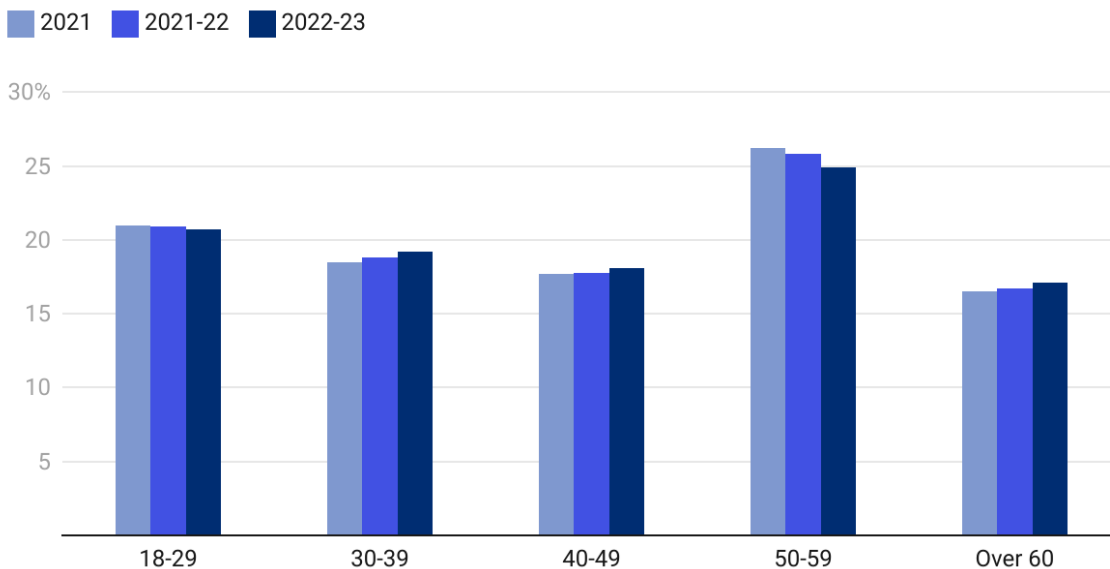


**Figure 15AB: Percentage of heads of household receiving BFE under Income Support by age category in Alberta, 2021 to 2022-23**



Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 and 2022-23 numbers are fiscal year averages.

**Figure 16AB: Percentage of heads of household receiving AISH by age category in Alberta, 2021 to 2022-23**



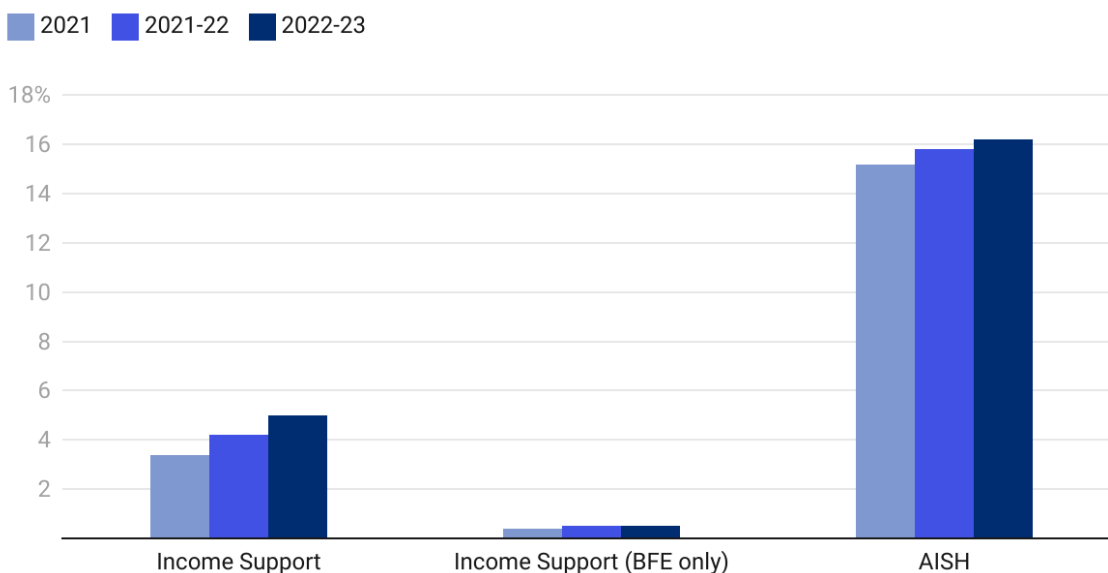
Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 and 2022-23 numbers are fiscal year averages.

## Employment income

In Alberta, employment income includes money earned for an applicant or recipient from a range of sources, such as salary, wages, certain commissions, bonuses, tips, gratuities,, and honoraria. Income from other sources may also be considered as employment income.

In 2022-23, on average, 5 per cent of Income Support cases had employment income. Among those that received BFE under Income Support, under 1 per cent had employment income. Cases receiving AISH were more likely to have employment income at over 16 per cent. These numbers have steadily increased since 2021.

**Figure 17AB: Percentage of Income Support cases, BFE cases under Income Support, and AISH cases with employment income in Alberta, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 and 2022-23 numbers are fiscal year averages.



## Access to data

The data on social assistance recipients in Alberta is available for download, including:

1. Total cases and beneficiaries;
2. Percentage of beneficiaries relative to the total under-65 population;
3. Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
4. Beneficiaries (Income Support) and cases (AISH) by gender;
5. Heads of household by gender for unattached single and single parent households;
6. Heads of household by age category; and
7. Percentage of cases receiving employment income.

Access the downloadable [spreadsheet here](#).

## Data notes

- Income Support 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.
- The data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April to March) from 2000-01 onward.
- For all five disaggregated variables, 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year; 2021-22 and 2022-23 numbers are fiscal year averages.
- Income Support figures do not include First Nations living on reserves. AISH figures include First Nations living on reserves.
- Figures for 1997 to 2000 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.
- Income Support cases receiving employment income were identified by the following client types, all of which are required to provide proof of earnings: Self-employed, employed full-time, employed part-time. A complete list of client types and their descriptions can be found in the policy manual.





# British Columbia

## British Columbia's social assistance programs

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. For the total incomes available to those relying on social assistance, visit the [Welfare in Canada](#) report.

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 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 170,200 cases (family units and unattached single adults) and about 224,400 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in British Columbia's social assistance programs during 2022-23.

Among cases, 31 per cent (51,960) received Income Assistance (also known as Temporary Assistance) and 69 per cent (118,192) received Disability Assistance. And among beneficiaries, just under 36 per cent (80,434) received Income Assistance and just over 64 per cent (143,945) received Disability Assistance.

The total number of social assistance cases increased by 7,460 in 2022-23. Both programs saw increases, but Income Assistance accounted for over 68 per cent of new cases. Similarly, the total number of beneficiaries increased by 10,806 in 2022-23, and Income Assistance accounted for almost 70 per cent of new beneficiaries.

To access data on cases and beneficiaries of social assistance in British Columbia, including disaggregated data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

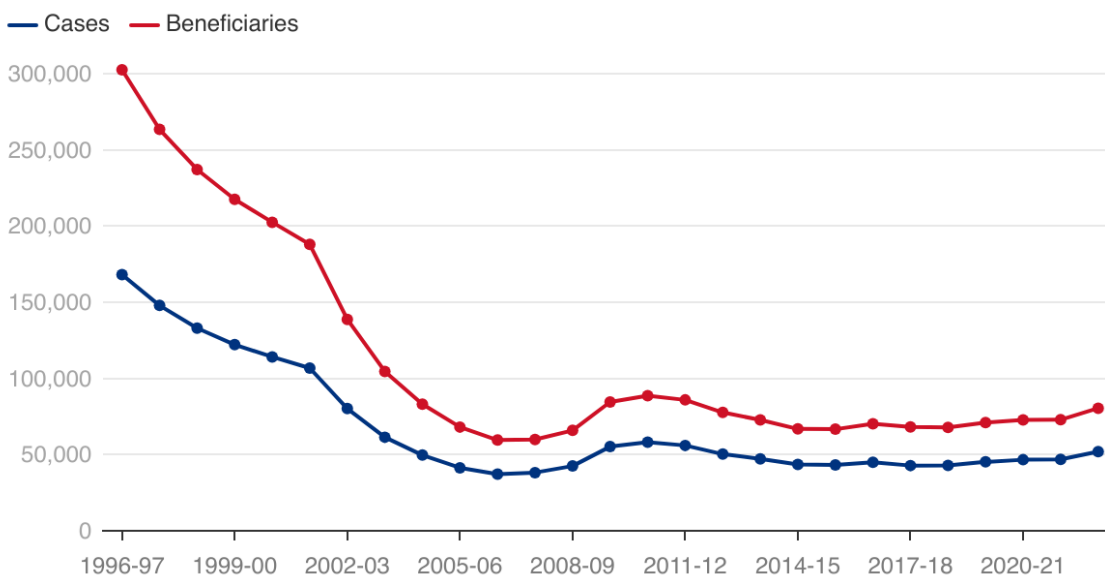
### Income Assistance

The average number of Income Assistance cases and beneficiaries in British Columbia saw a marked increase in 2022-23, the largest since 2009-10. The number of Income Assistance cases rose by about 5,100 to reach nearly 52,000, and the number of beneficiaries rose by about 7,532 to over 80,400.

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, dropping slightly in the early 2010s, and rising gradually since. However, the recent caseloads have remained much lower than in the 90s and early 2000s.



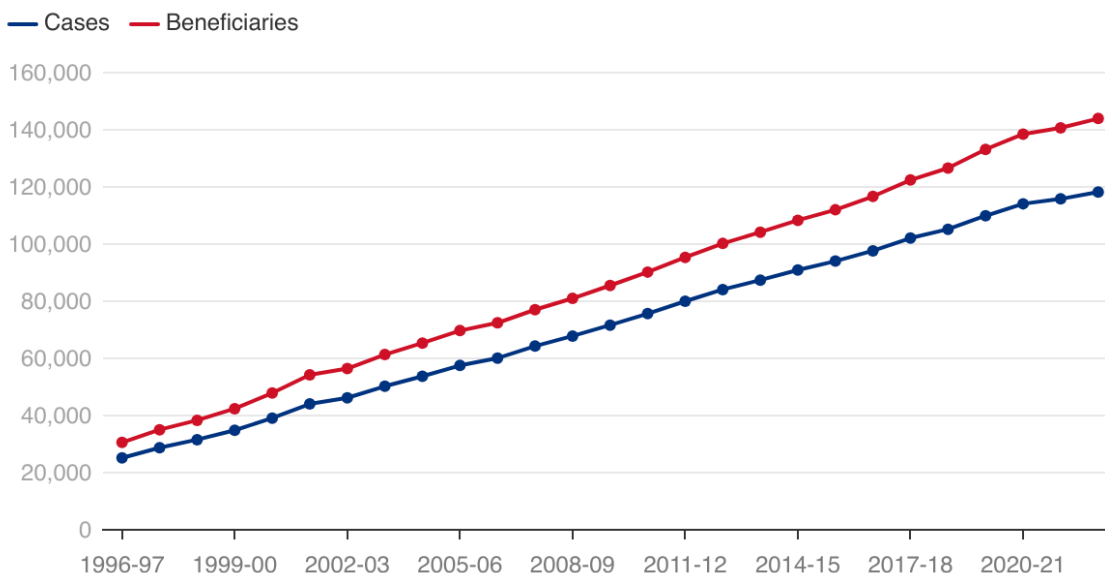
**Figure 1BC: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Income Assistance in British Columbia, 1996-97 to 2022-23**



## Disability Assistance

In 2022-23, there was an average of about 118,200 cases in British Columbia's Disability Assistance program, and nearly 144,000 beneficiaries. Both numbers have been steadily rising over the last 26 years.

**Figure 2BC: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Disability Assistance in British Columbia, 1996-97 to 2022-23**



# What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

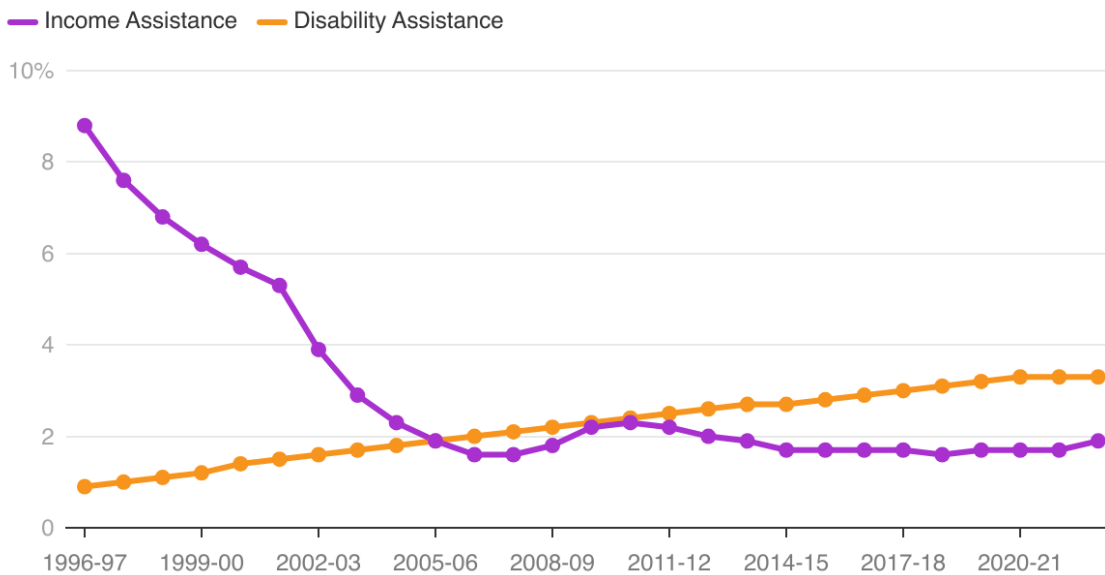
In 2022-23, on average, 5.2 per cent of people in British Columbia under 65 received Income Assistance or Disability Assistance, which is 1 in 19.

The proportion of people under 65 receiving Disability Assistance has increased consistently since 1996-97, reaching 3.3 per cent in 2022-23.

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 2.4 per cent in 2010-11, and then decreased to reach a plateau of about 1.7 per cent. In 2022-23, the average proportion of Income Assistance beneficiaries relative to the under-65 population saw an increase to 1.9 per cent.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of the fiscal year (e.g. July 1, 2022, for 2022-23), 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, 1996-97 to 2022-23**



Source of population data: Statistics Canada. (2024). Population estimates on July 1, by age and sex. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>



# Who is receiving social assistance?

This section examines the following disaggregated data:

- Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
- Beneficiaries by gender;
- Heads of household by gender for unattached singles and single parents;
- Adult beneficiaries by age category; and
- Cases receiving employment income.

Note that the figures below represent percentages but total numbers are available. To access this data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

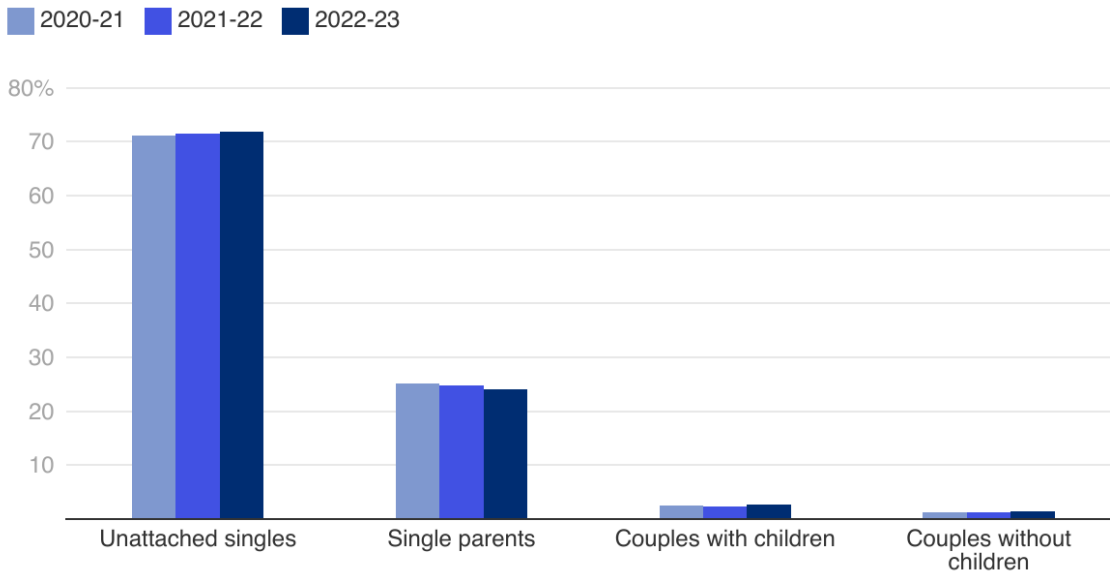
## Household type

In 2022-23, unattached singles comprised the majority of social assistance cases among households for both Income Assistance and Disability Assistance, representing 72 per cent and over 87 per cent, respectively. For both programs, single parents were the second largest number of cases, representing 24 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively.

For Income Assistance, unattached singles households had the highest proportion of beneficiaries, with over 46 per cent, followed by single parent households, with under 44 per cent. Unattached singles were the significant majority of Disability Assistance beneficiaries, with about 72 per cent, followed by single parent households with just over 15 per cent.

Figure 4BC: Percentage of cases and beneficiaries of Income Assistance by household in British Columbia, 2020-21 to 2022-23

### Cases



### Beneficiaries

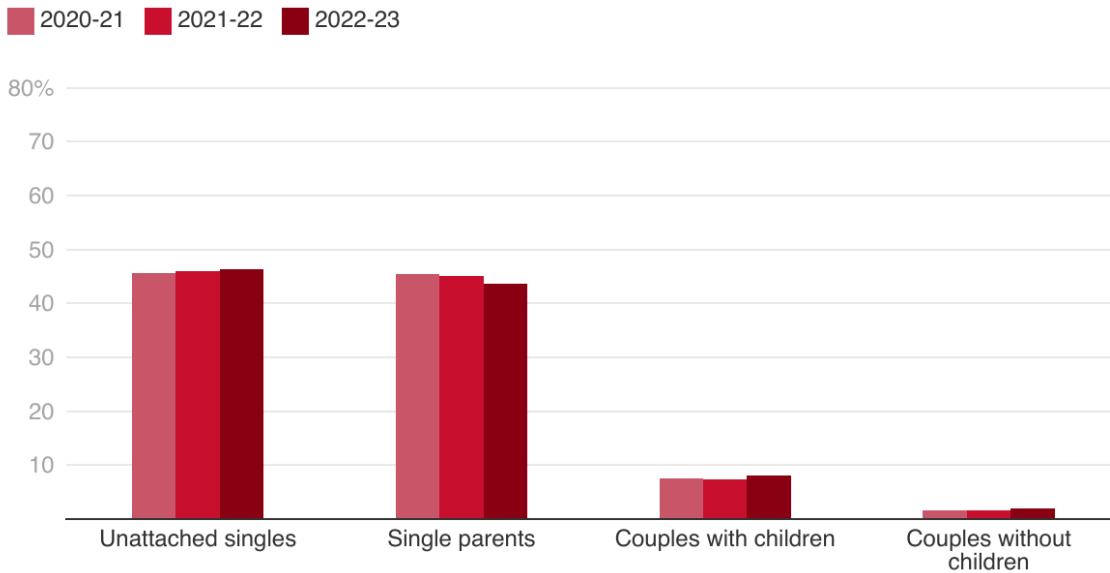
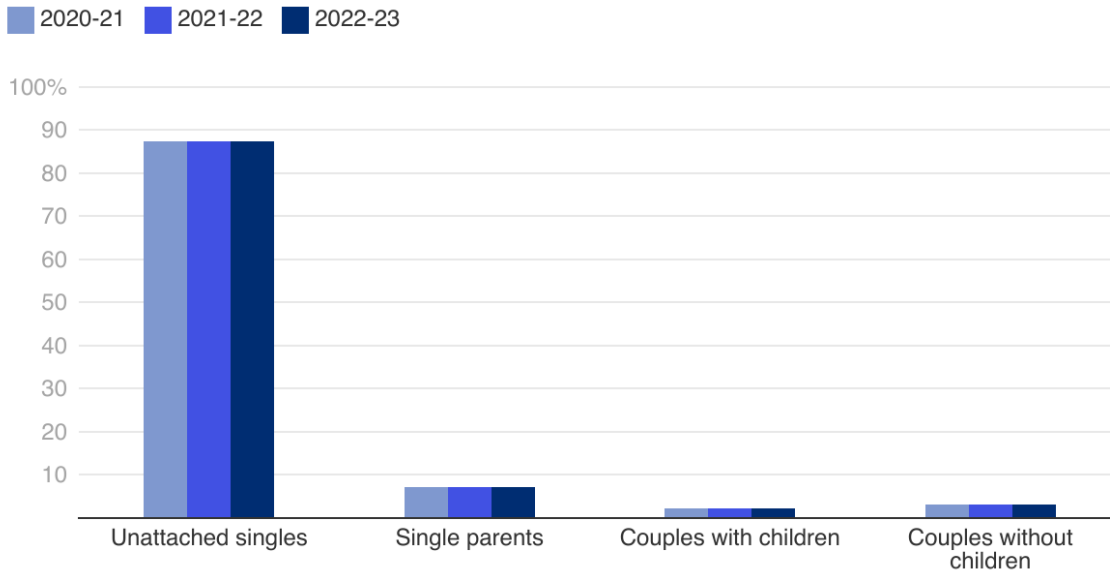
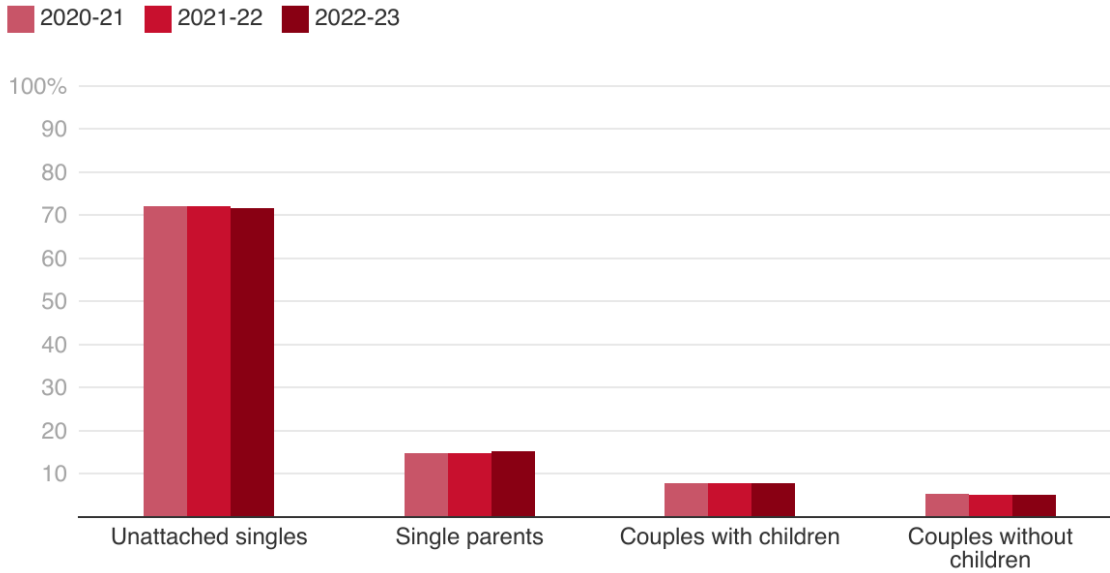


Figure 5BC: Percentage of cases and beneficiaries of Disability Assistance by household in British Columbia, 2020-21 to 2022-23

### Cases



### Beneficiaries



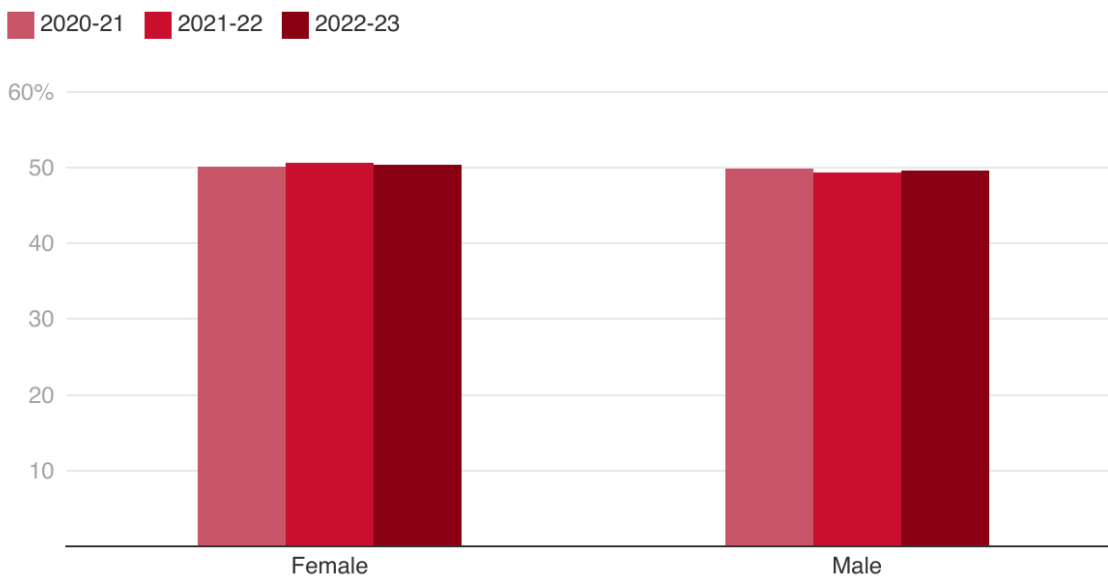


## Beneficiaries by gender

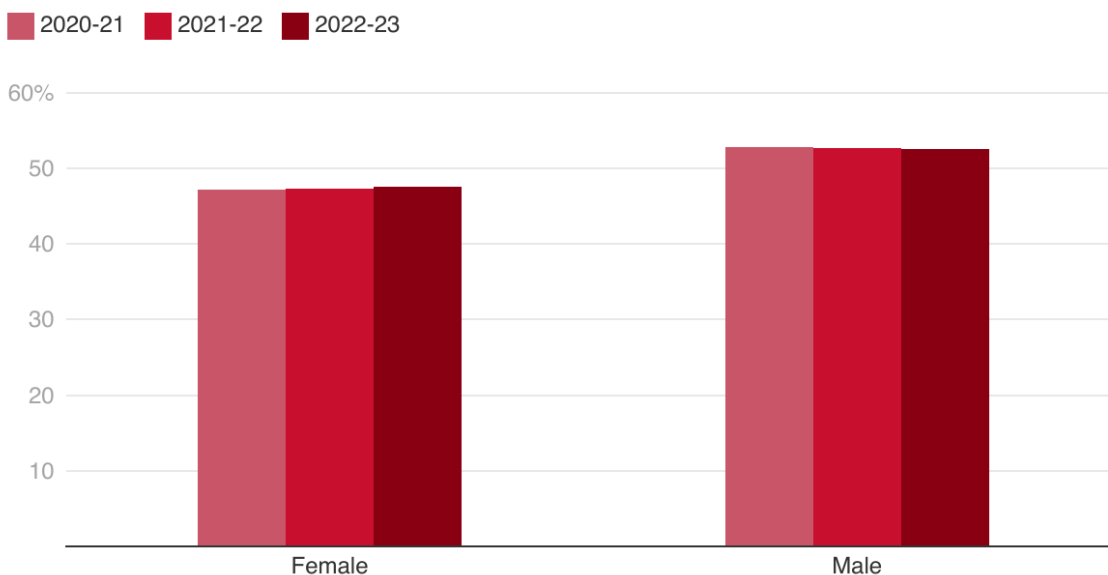
Income Assistance beneficiaries were almost equally split between female and male recipients. However, Disability Assistance had more male beneficiaries, with over 52 per cent.

Note that the “other” gender category is not included in the figures below because fewer than 0.1 per cent of Income Assistance and Disability Assistance beneficiaries identified as such.

**Figure 6BC: Percentage of beneficiaries of Income Assistance by gender in British Columbia, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



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

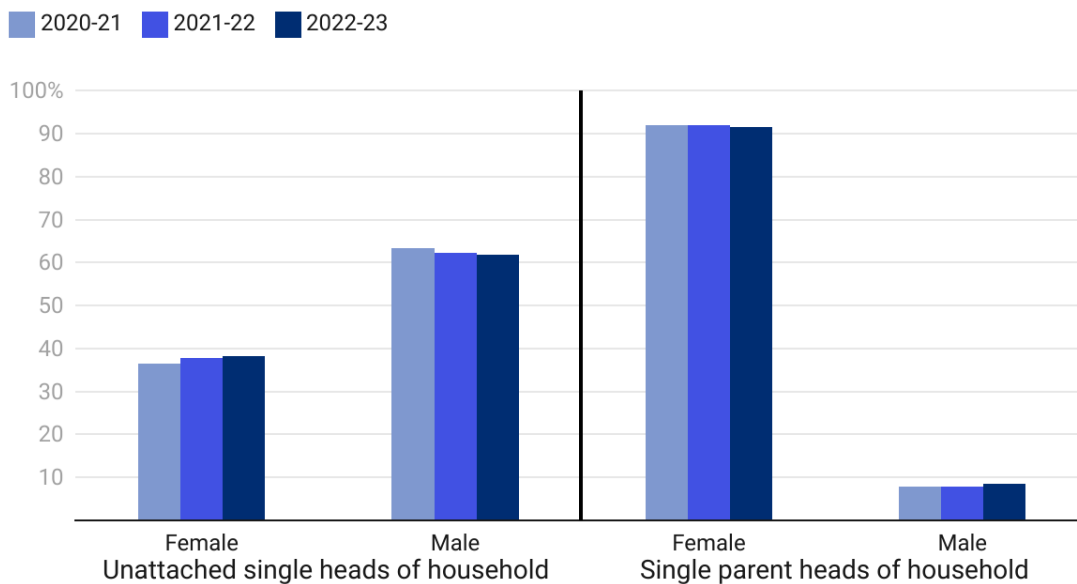


## Gender of head of household

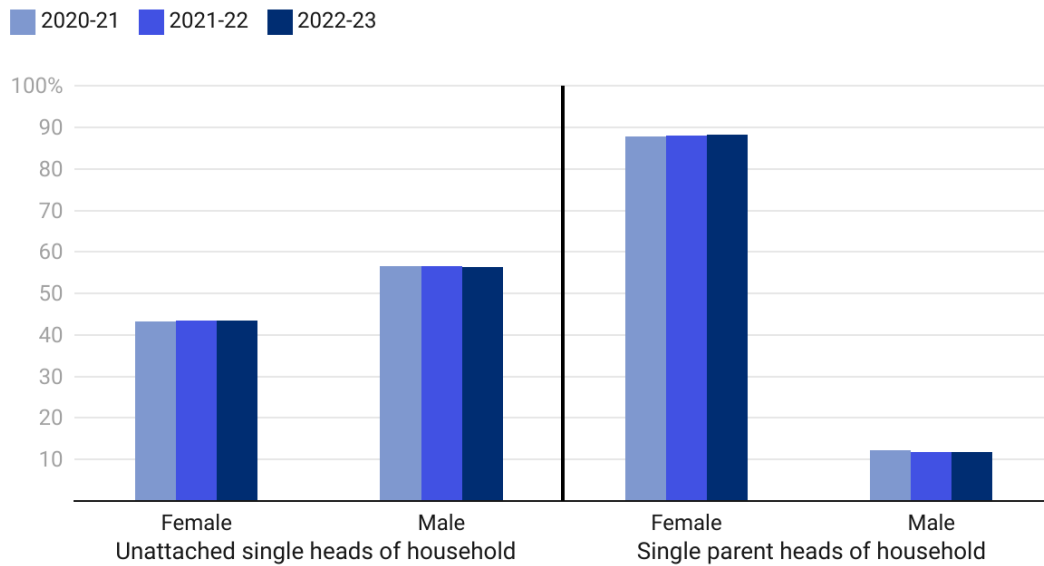
In 2022-23, on average, the majority of unattached singles receiving Income Assistance were male, representing almost 62 per cent. In contrast, the majority of heads of single parent households were female, representing over 91 per cent.

The gender distribution is similar for Disability Assistance in 2022-23. On average, over 56 per cent of unattached singles were male and 88 per cent of heads of single parent households were female.

**Figure 8BC: Percentage of head of unattached single and single parent households receiving Income Assistance by gender in British Columbia, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 9BC: Percentage of head of unattached single and single parent households receiving Disability Assistance by gender in British Columbia, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



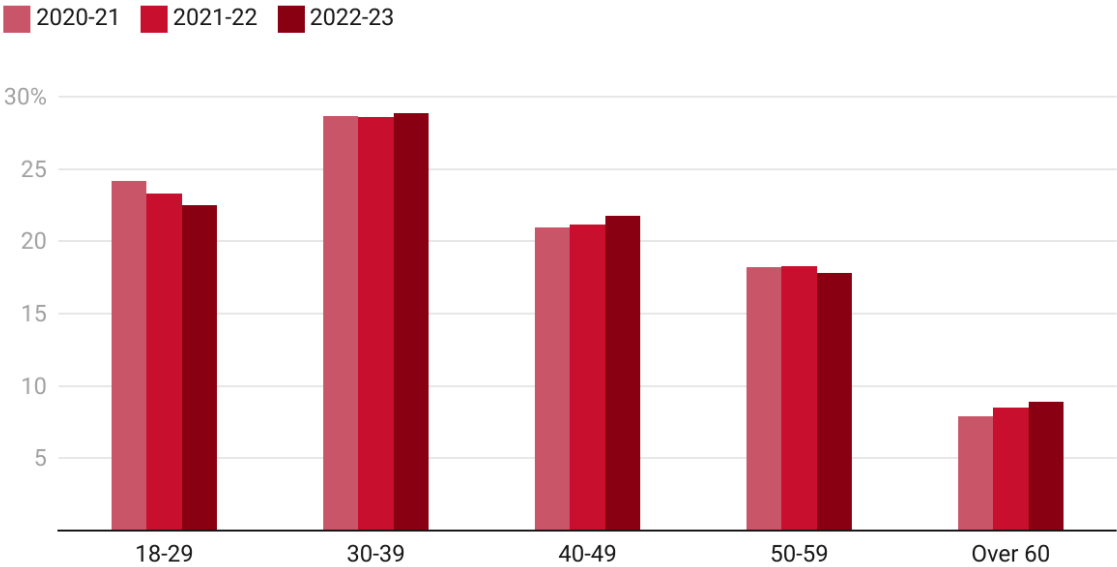
## Age of adult beneficiaries

In 2022-23, on average, the most common age group of adult beneficiaries receiving Income Assistance in British Columbia was 30-39, representing 29 per cent. The least common was people over 60, representing 9 per cent.

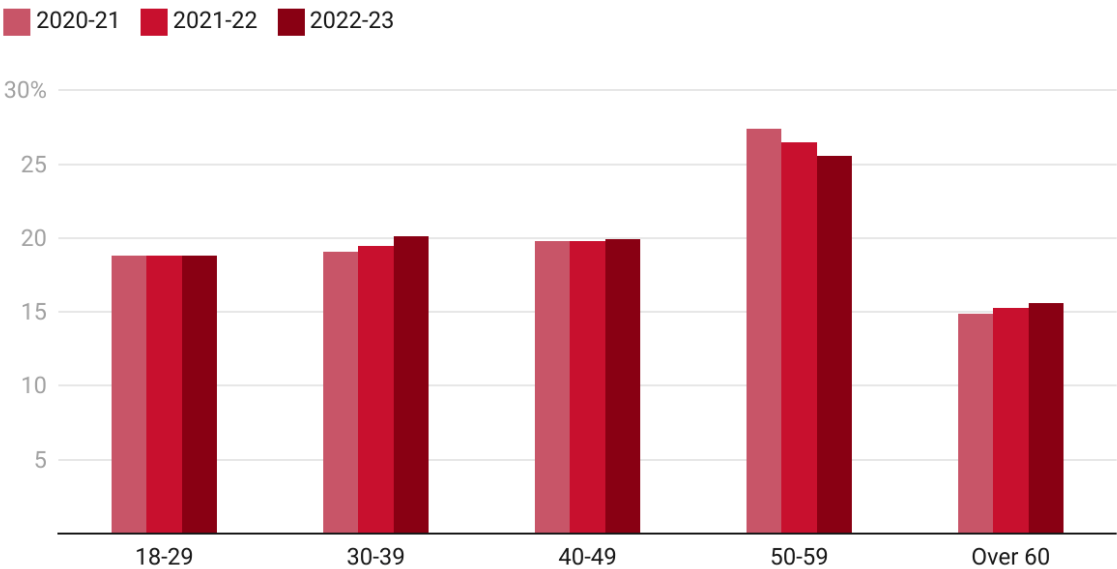
For adult beneficiaries receiving Disability Assistance, on average, the most common age group in 2022-23 was 50-59, representing just under 26 per cent. The least common age was over 60 with less than 16 per cent.



**Figure 10BC: Percentage of adult beneficiaries of Income Assistance by age category in British Columbia, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 11BC: Percentage of adult beneficiaries of Disability Assistance by age category in British Columbia, 2020-21 to 2022-23**

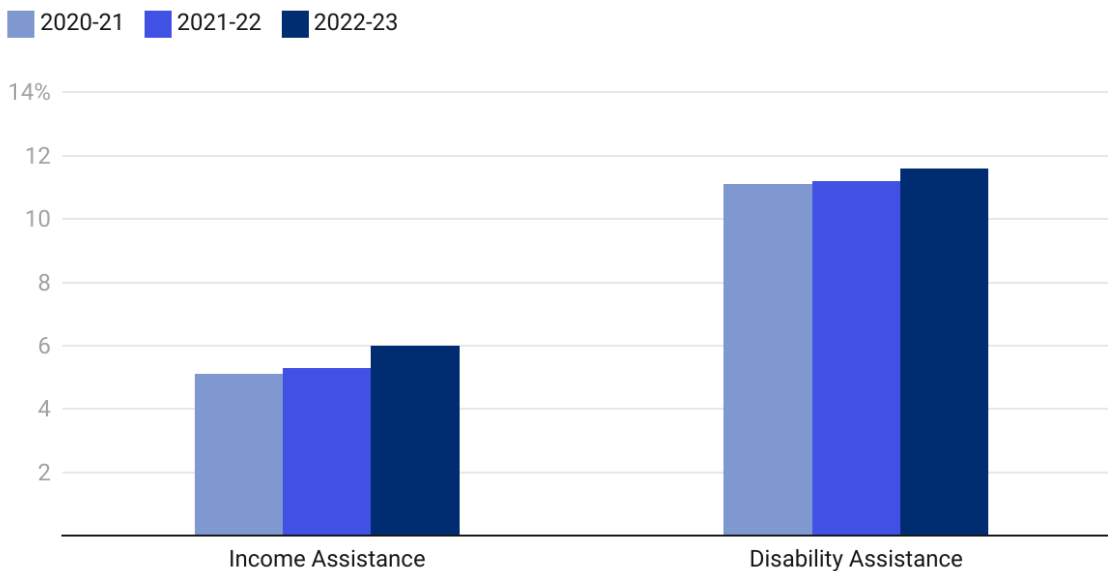


## Employment income

In British Columbia, employment income is defined as any money or value received in exchange for work or the provision of a service.

In 2022-23, on average, 6 per cent of Income Assistance cases had employment income. Cases receiving Disability Assistance are more likely to have employment income at 11.6 per cent. Both numbers have steadily increased since 2020-21.

Figure 12BC: Percentage of Income Assistance and Disability Assistance cases with employment income in British Columbia, 2020-21 to 2022-23



## Access to data

The data on social assistance recipients in British Columbia is available for download, including:

1. Total cases and beneficiaries;
2. Percentage of beneficiaries relative to the total under-65 population;
3. Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
4. Beneficiaries by gender;
5. Heads of household by gender for unattached single and single parent households;
6. Adult beneficiaries by age category; and
7. Percentage of cases receiving employment income.

Access the downloadable [spreadsheet here](#).

## 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 programs

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. For modelling of total incomes available to social assistance recipients, visit the [Welfare in Canada](#) report.

In Manitoba, social assistance is delivered through two programs:

- Employment and Income Assistance (EIA); and
- Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities (Manitoba Supports).

### Employment and Income Assistance (EIA)

EIA provides income assistance to Manitobans in need. Recipients receive financial assistance to cover basic needs, shelter costs, and other special needs. They also receive employment supports like employability assessments, personal job planning, and work incentives to assist them to move towards increased financial independence.

Within EIA, some may receive benefits under the Medical Barriers to Full Employment (MBFE) category. An individual is eligible for MBFE if they are unable to earn an income sufficient to meet the basic necessities for themselves and their dependents, due to physical or mental ill health, incapacity, or disorder for a period of more than one year.

### Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities (Manitoba Supports).

Manitoba Supports is a new income assistance program separate and distinct from EIA that was introduced in January 2023. It provides income support to Manitobans with severe and prolonged disabilities. Recipients receive financial assistance for basic needs, shelter, and other special needs. Recipients may also choose to access available navigation services that are tailored to the needs of persons with disabilities.

To be eligible for Manitoba Supports, an applicant must have a severe and prolonged disability. This is defined in the Disability Support Act as a “significant impairment or condition of the body or mind that is permanent or likely to be permanent.”

# How many people claim social assistance?

To access data on cases and beneficiaries of social assistance in Manitoba, including disaggregated data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

## Employment and Income Assistance (EIA)

On average, there were 37,100 cases (family units and unattached single adults) and 62,500 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in Manitoba’s Employment and Income Assistance program in 2022-23. After steady increases from 2007-08 to 2018-19, EIA cases and beneficiaries decreased for three consecutive years until 2021-22. This changed in 2022-23 with both cases and beneficiaries seeing a modest increase of about 1 per cent.

Within EIA, on average, 19,800 cases, or 53 per cent, and 24,100 beneficiaries, or 39 per cent, received benefits through the Medical Barriers to Full Employment (MBFE) category in 2022-23.

While EIA cases and beneficiaries increased overall in 2022-23, the MBFE numbers decreased from the previous year. On average, MBFE cases decreased by 1,200, or 6.1 per cent, and MBFE beneficiaries decreased by 1,100, or 4.6 per cent. This decrease can be partly explained by the introduction of the new Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities program in January 2023.

**Figure 1MB: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of EIA in Manitoba, 1996-97 to 2022-23**

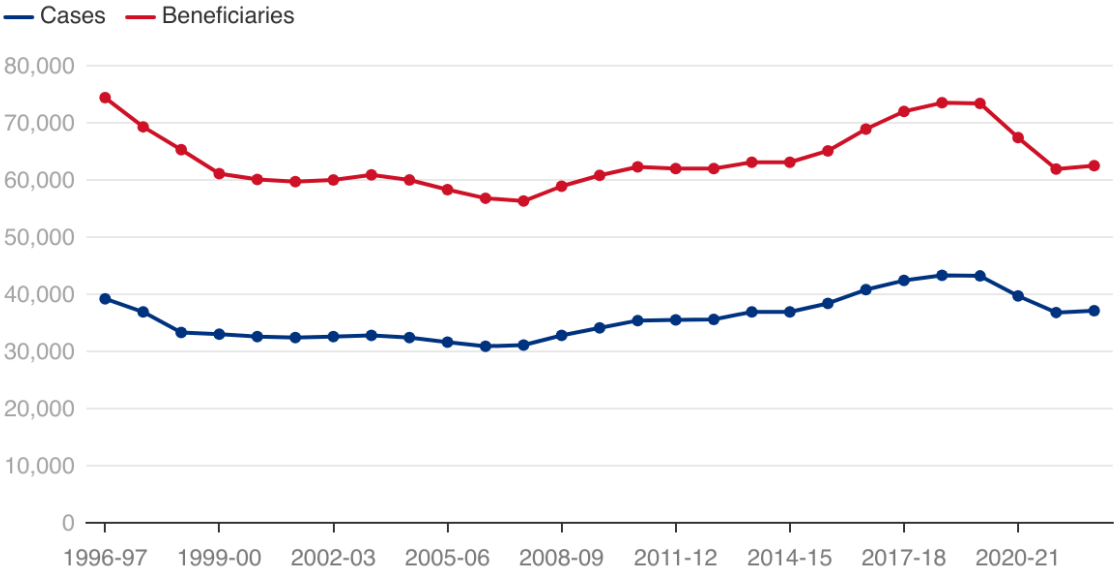
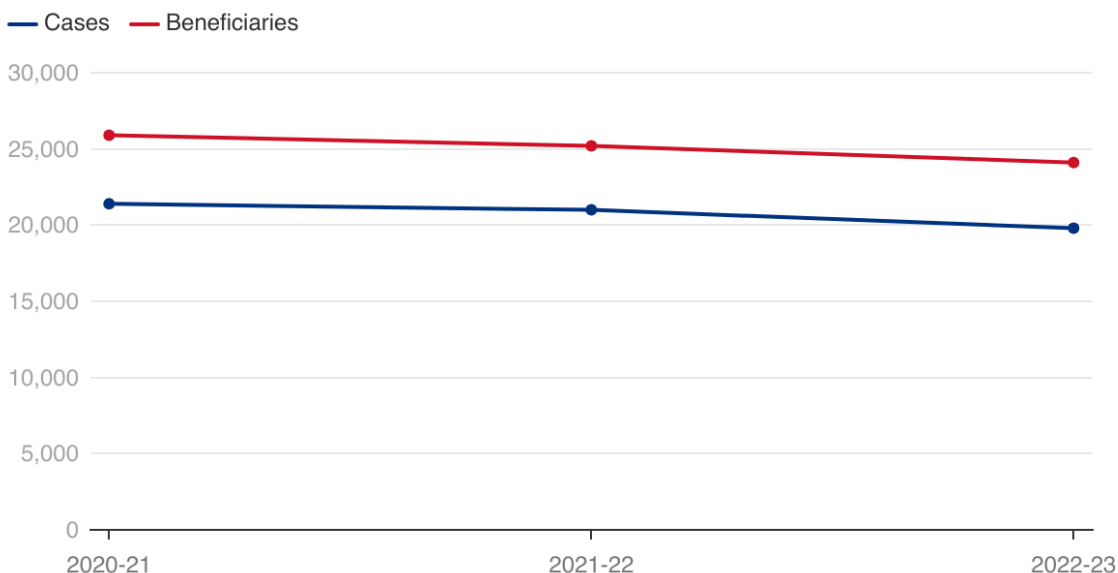


Figure 2MB: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of MBFE under EIA in Manitoba, 2020-21 to 2022-23



## Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities (Manitoba Supports).

Manitoba Supports was introduced in January 2023, and data is only available for the last quarter of the 2022-23 fiscal year (January 1 to March 31). As such, data for Manitoba Supports is presented as an average of the first three months of 2023.

From January to March 2023, there were on average 7,800 cases and 8,400 beneficiaries of Manitoba Supports.

## What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

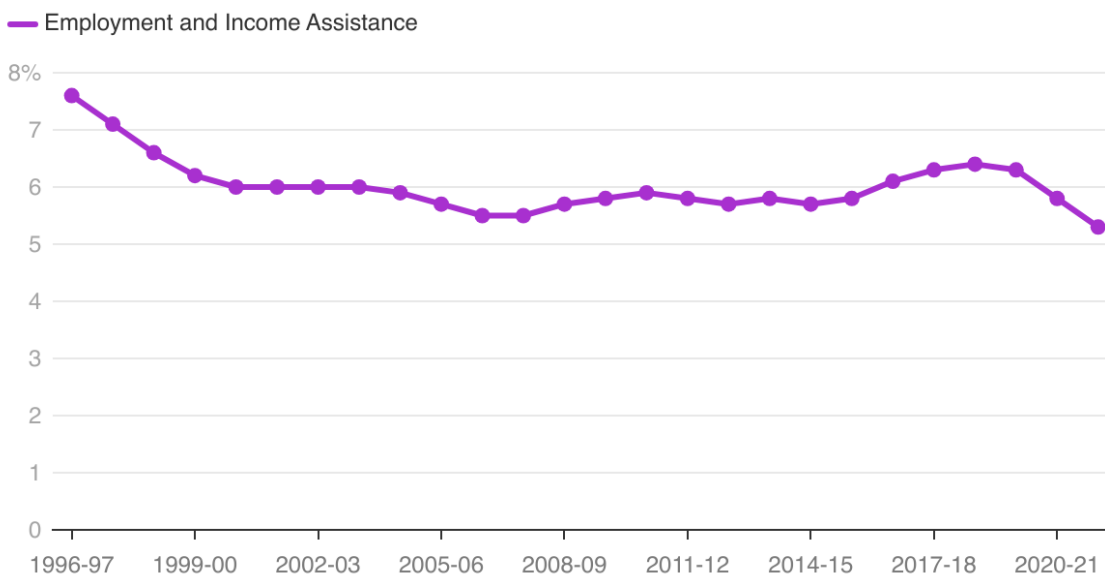
In 2022-23, on average, 5.3 per cent of people in Manitoba under 65 received EIA, which is one in 19. 2021-22 and 2022-23 had the lowest proportion of people receiving EIA to date. In prior years, on average, the proportion had been at around 6 per cent since 1999-2000.

From January to March 2023, on average, 0.7 per cent of people in Manitoba under 65 received Manitoba Supports, which is 1 in 142. Manitoba Supports data is not represented in Figure 3MB because it is not comparable to EIA, which is averaged over the full fiscal year.



Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of the fiscal year (e.g., July 1, 2022, for 2022-23), whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April to March).

**Figure 3MB: Yearly beneficiaries of EIA as a proportion of the under-65 Manitoba population, 1996-97 to 2022-23**



Source of population data: Statistics Canada. (2024). Population estimates on July 1, by age and sex. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>

## Who is receiving social assistance?

This section examines the following disaggregated data:

- Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
- Beneficiaries by sex;
- Heads of household by sex for unattached singles and single parents;
- Adult beneficiaries by age category; and
- Cases receiving employment income

Note that the figures below represent percentages but total numbers are available. To access this data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

### Household type

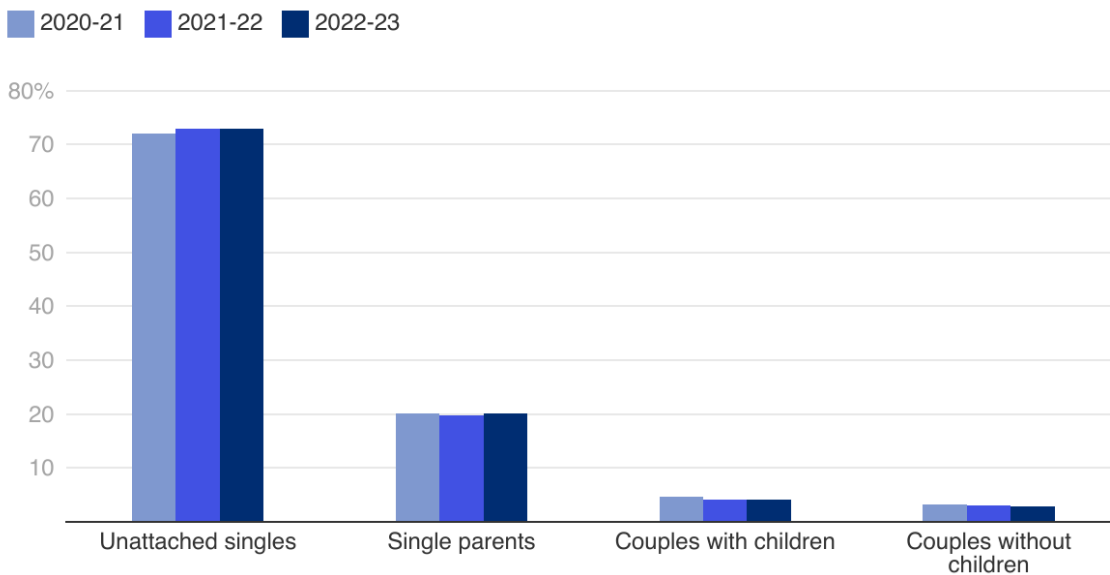
In 2022-23, on average, unattached singles were the majority household among EIA cases in Manitoba, representing 73 per cent, followed by single parents,

representing 20 per cent. Unattached singles also made up the highest proportion of beneficiaries, representing over 44 per cent, followed by single parent households, representing just under 40 per cent. Among those who received MBFE under EIA, unattached single households were the majority of both cases and beneficiaries, representing 89 and 74 per cent, respectively, followed by single parents, representing 6 and under 14 per cent, respectively.

Similar to MBFE, in the first quarter of 2023, unattached singles were the majority of both cases and beneficiaries of Manitoba Supports, representing almost 94 and 88 per cent, respectively. The second largest household type for cases was tied between single parents and couples without children representing less than 3 per cent. Single parents were the second largest household type for beneficiaries representing 5 per cent.

**Figure 4MB: Percentage of cases and beneficiaries of EIA by household in Manitoba, 2020-21 to 2022-23**

**Cases**





## Beneficiaries

2020-21 2021-22 2022-23

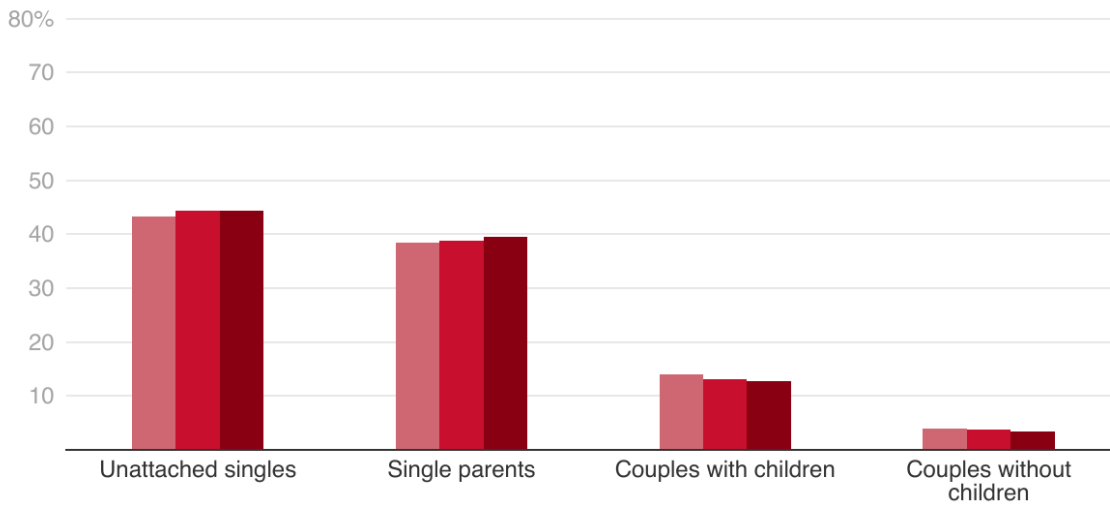
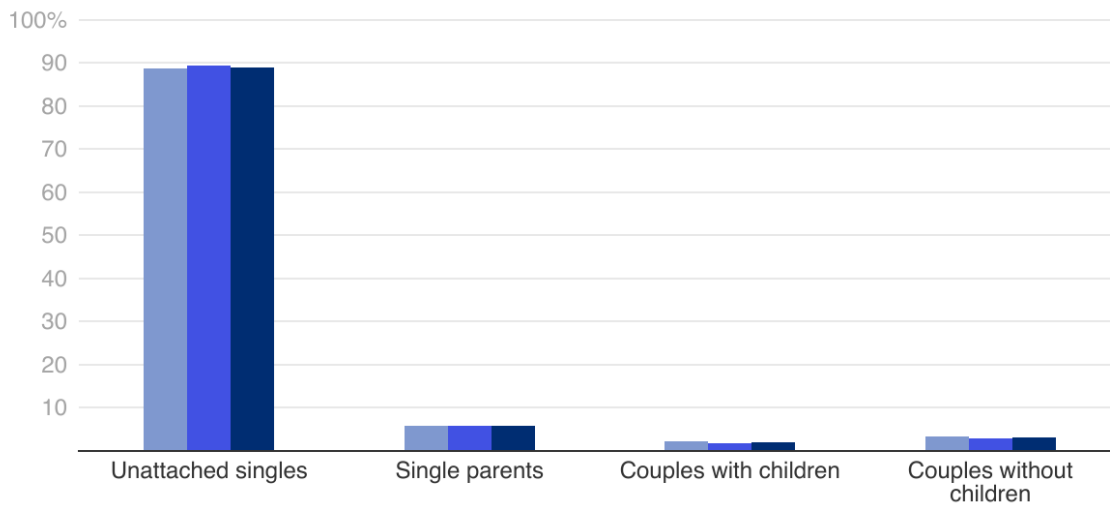


Figure 5MB: Percentage of cases and beneficiaries of MBFE under EIA by household in Manitoba, 2020-21 to 2022-23

## Cases

2020-21 2021-22 2022-23





## Beneficiaries

2020-21 2021-22 2022-23

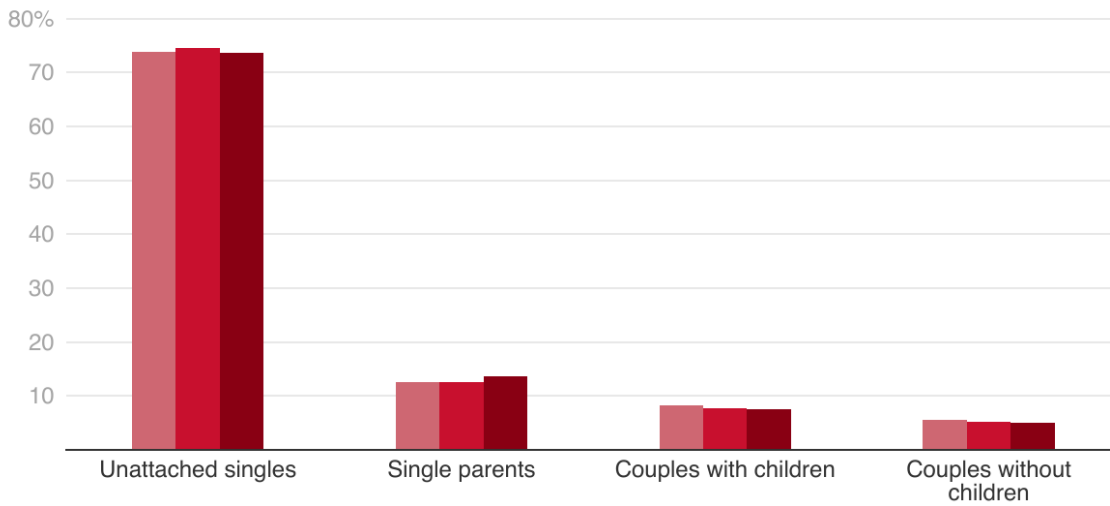
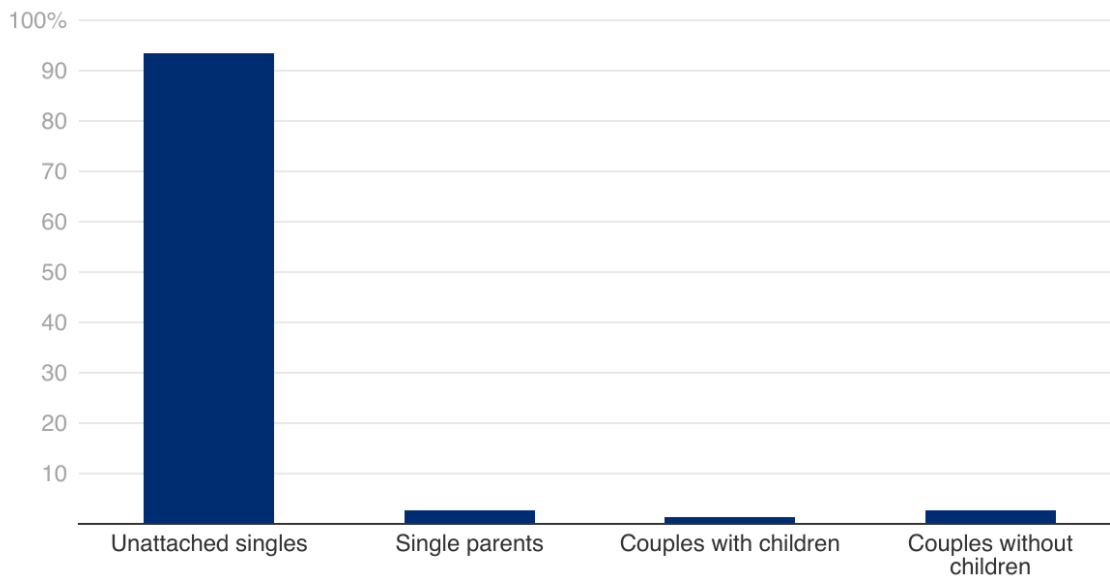


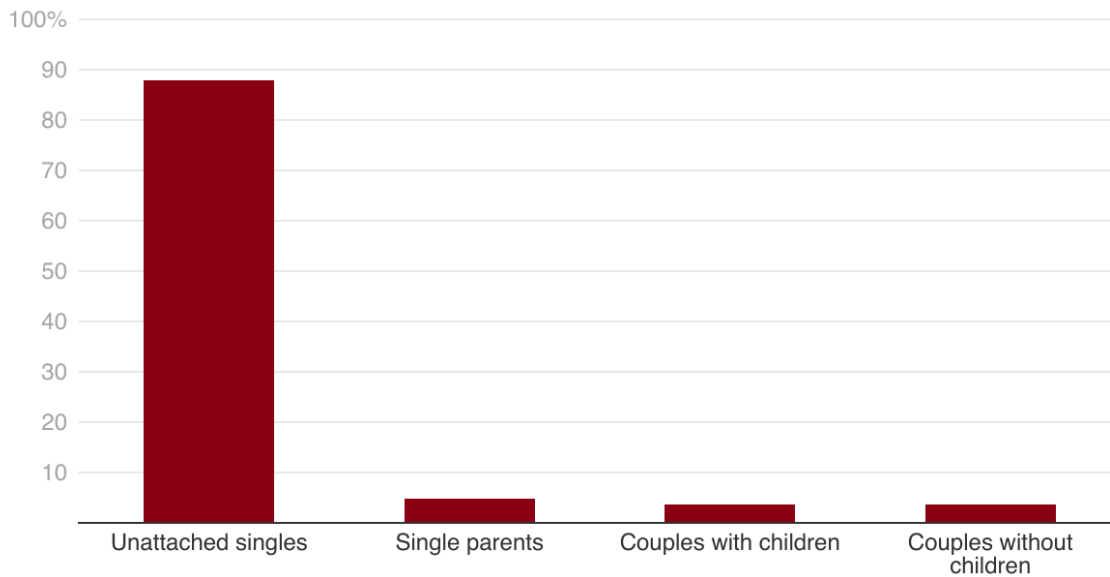
Figure 6MB: Percentage of cases and beneficiaries of Manitoba Supports by household, 2023

## Cases





## Beneficiaries



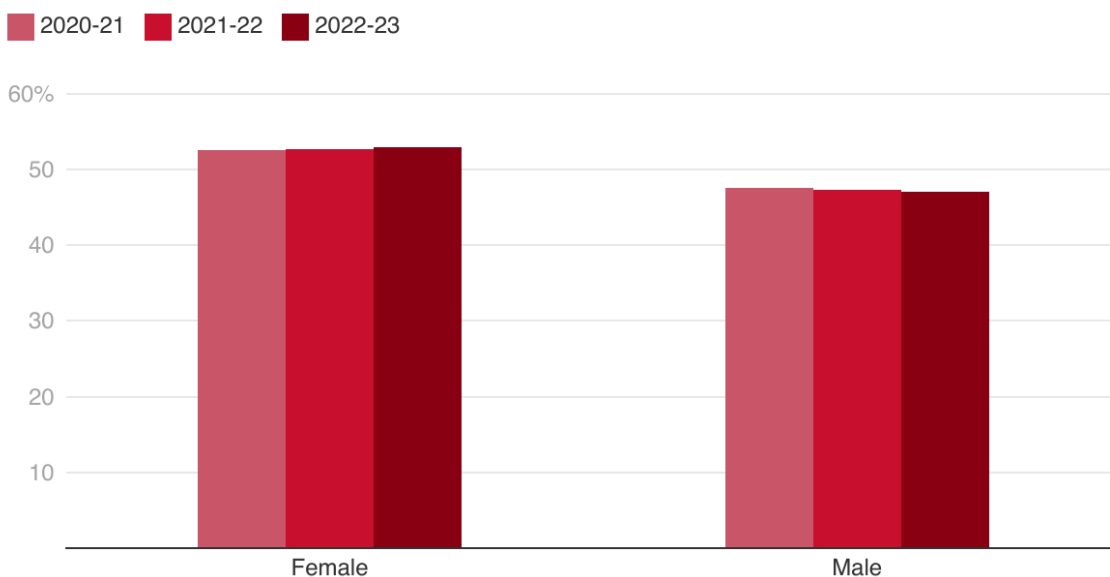
Note: Numbers are the average of the first three months of 2023, and not the fiscal year average.

## Beneficiaries by sex

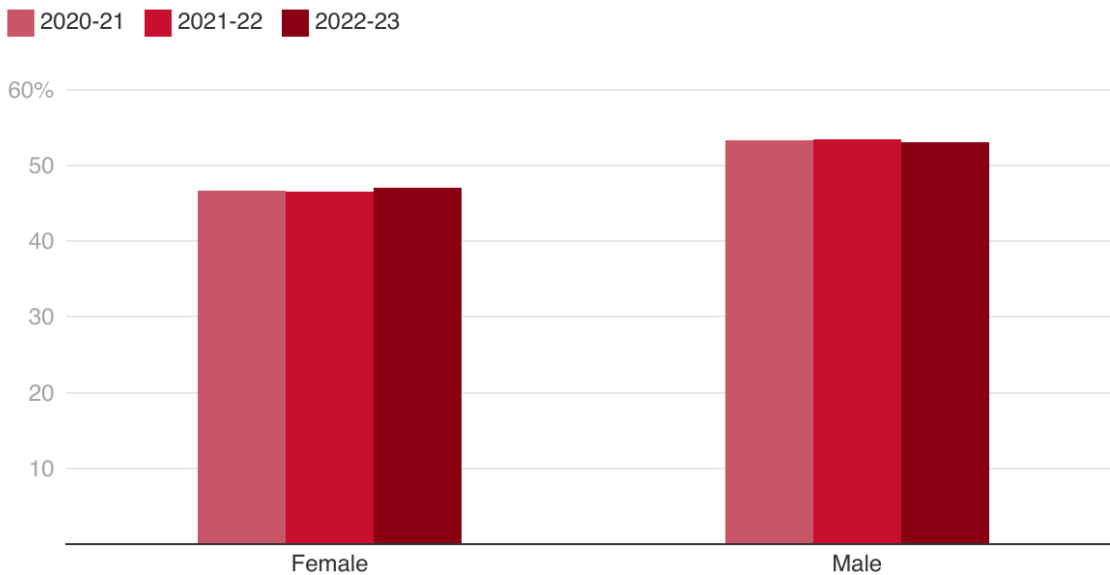
Females made up the majority of EIA beneficiaries in 2022-23, representing about 53 per cent of recipients on average. However, for MBFE beneficiaries under EIA, the majority were male, representing 53 per cent on average.

In the first quarter of 2023, the majority of Manitoba Supports recipients were male, representing 56 per cent on average.

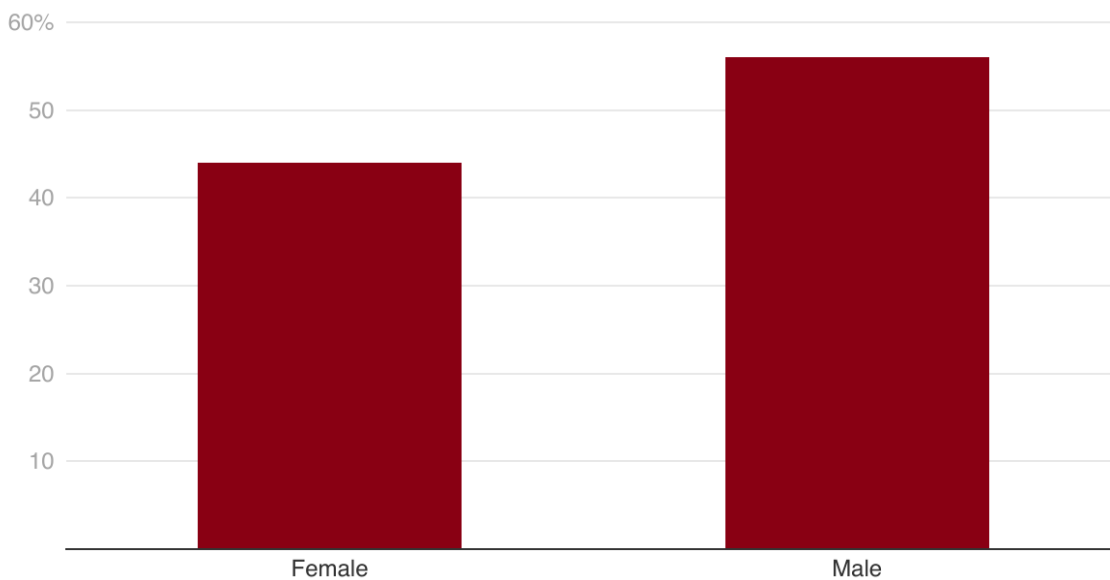
**Figure 7MB: Percentage of beneficiaries of EIA by sex in Manitoba, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 8MB: Percentage of beneficiaries of MBFE under EIA by sex in Manitoba, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 9MB: Percentage of beneficiaries of Manitoba Supports by sex, 2023**



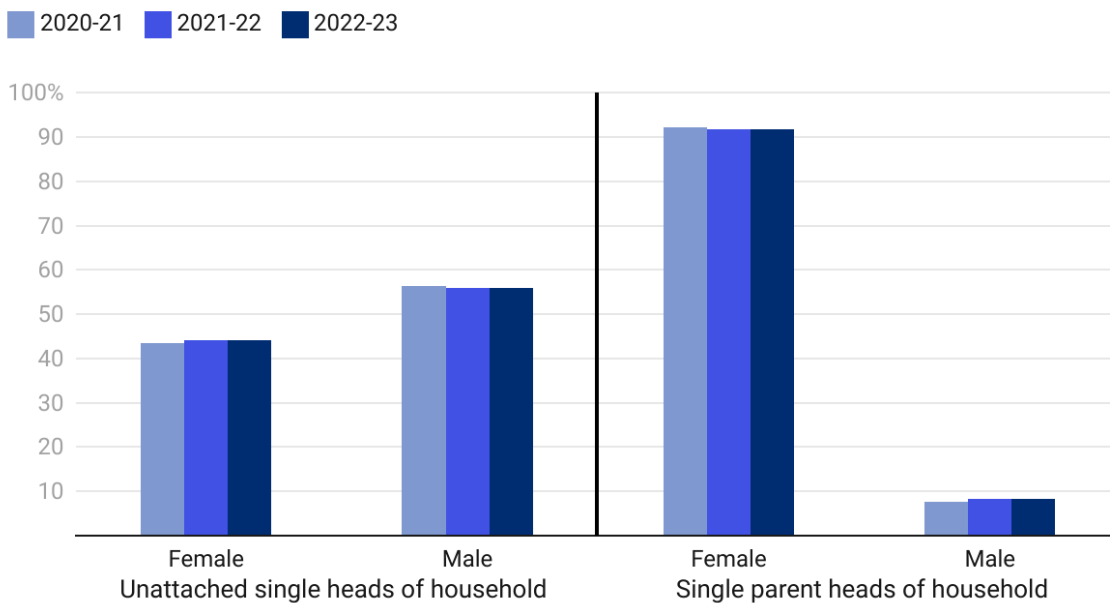
Note: Numbers are the average of the first three months of 2023, and not the fiscal year average.

## Sex of heads of household

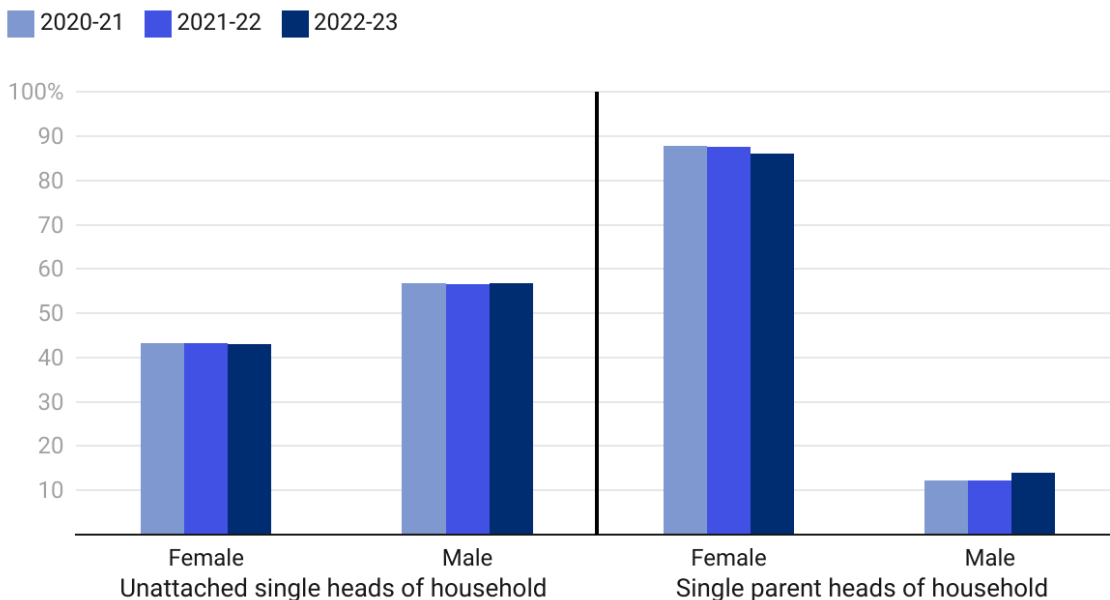
In 2022-23, on average, the majority of unattached singles receiving EIA were male, representing just under 56 per cent. In contrast, the majority of heads of single parent households were female, representing 92 per cent.

The sex distribution is similar for MBFE under EIA in 2022-23 and Manitoba Supports in the first quarter of 2023. For MBFE, on average, 57 per cent of unattached singles were male and 86 per cent of heads of single parent households were female. For Manitoba Supports, on average, over 58 per cent of unattached singles were male and just over 88 per cent of heads of single parent households were female.

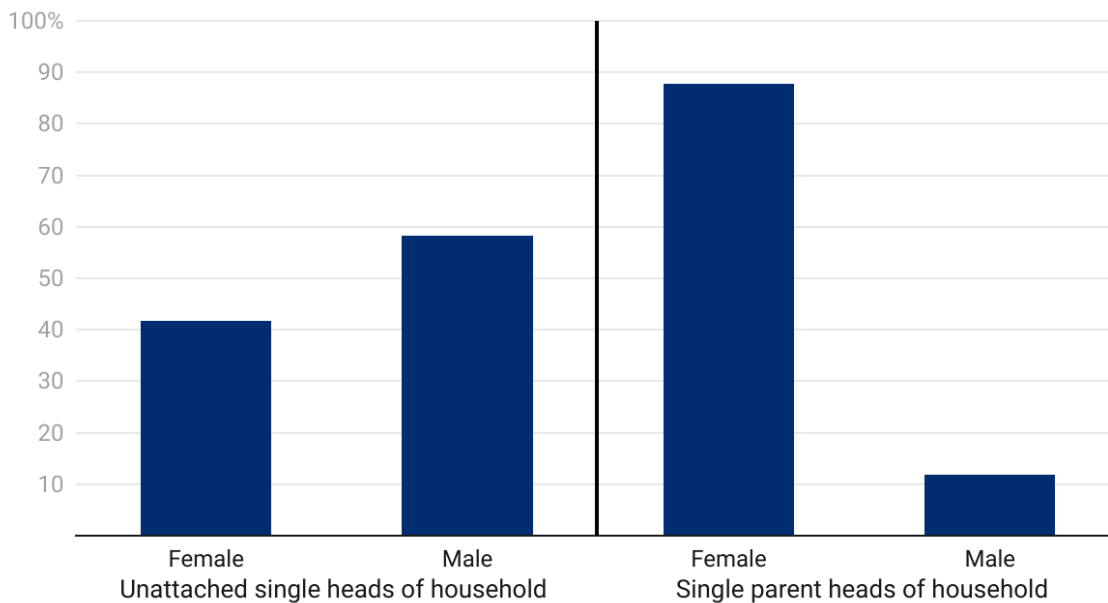
**Figure 10MB: Percentage of heads of unattached single and single parent households receiving EIA by sex in Manitoba, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 11MB: Percentage of heads of unattached single and single parent households receiving MBFE under EIA by sex in Manitoba, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 12MB: Percentage of heads of unattached single and single parent households receiving Manitoba Supports by sex, 2023**



Note: Numbers are the average of the first three months of 2023, and not the fiscal year average.

## Age of adult beneficiaries

In 2022-23, on average, the most common age group of adult beneficiaries receiving EIA was 18-29, representing over 27 per cent. The least common was people over 60, representing 10 per cent.

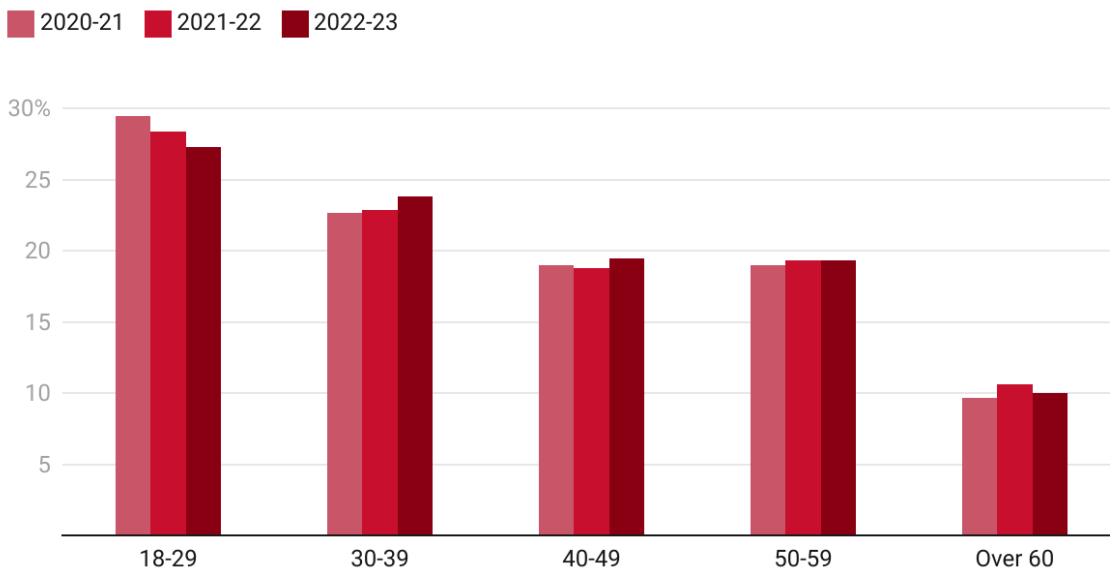
For adult beneficiaries receiving MBFE under EIA, on average, the most common age group in 2022-23 was 50-59, representing just over 24 per cent, closely followed by 18-29, representing just under 24 per cent. The least common age group was over 60 with 14 per cent.

In the first quarter of 2023, on average, the most common age group of adult beneficiaries receiving Manitoba Supports was 18-29, representing almost 41 per cent. The least common was people over 60, representing 10 per cent.





**Figure 13MB: Percentage of adult beneficiaries of EIA by age category in Manitoba, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 14MB: Percentage of adult beneficiaries of MBFE under EIA by age category in Manitoba, 2020-21 to 2022-23**

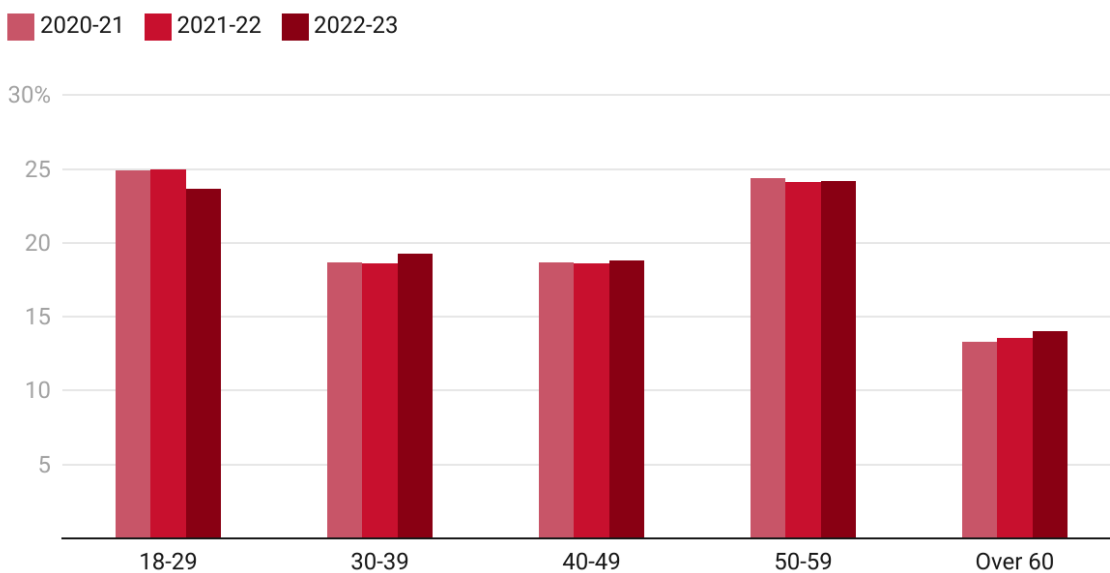
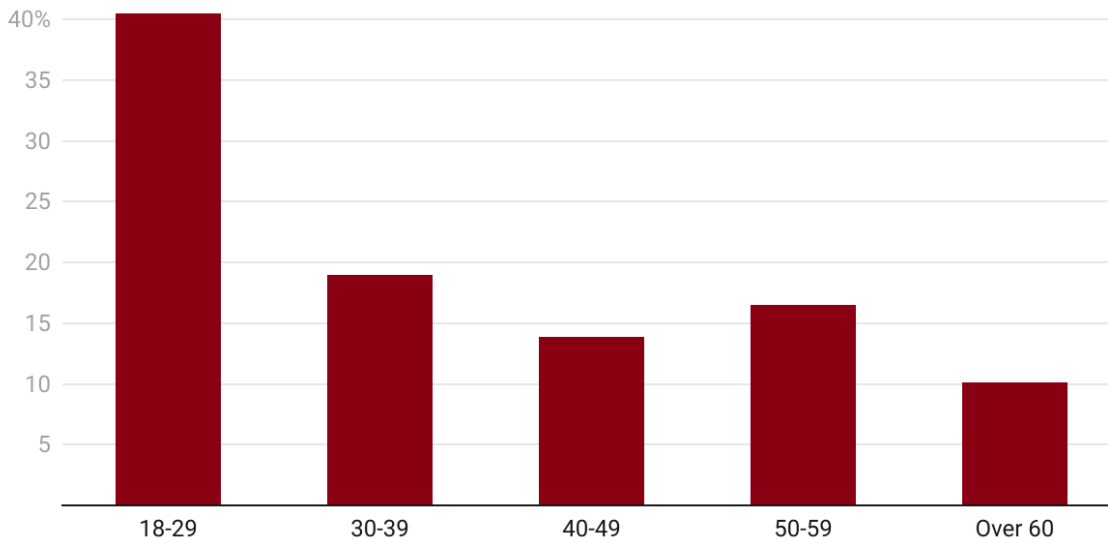


Figure 15MB: Percentage of adult beneficiaries of Manitoba Supports by age category, 2023



Note: Numbers are the average of the first three months of 2023, and not the fiscal year average.

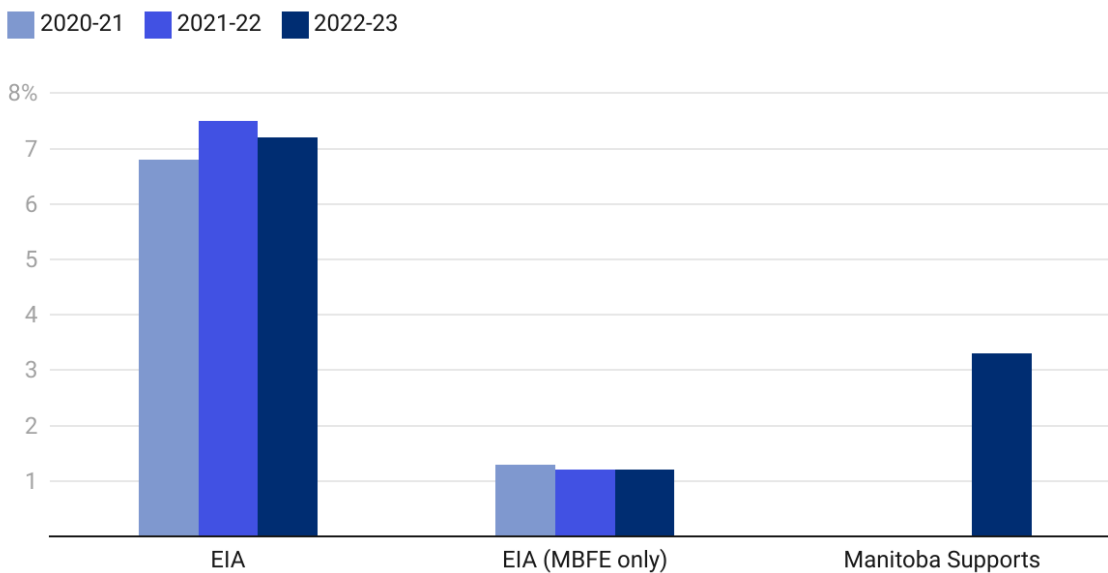
## Employment income

In Manitoba, employment income is defined as work employment and self-employment earnings by participants. Work employment earnings are earned income derived from salaried employment or wages rather than from self-employment. Self-employment earnings are earned income from independent livelihoods such as farmers, fishers, trappers, and small business operators and independent contractors.

In 2022-23, on average, just over 7 per cent of EIA cases had employment income, a slight decrease from the previous year. Cases receiving MBFE under EIA were less likely to have employment income at just over 1 per cent, which has remained relatively stable over the past three fiscal years.

In the first quarter of 2023, on average, just over 3 per cent of Manitoba Supports cases had employment income.

Figure 16MB: Percentage of EIA cases, MBFE cases under EIA, and Manitoba Supports cases with employment income in Manitoba, 2020-21 to 2022-23



Note: The percentage of Manitoba Supports cases with employment income is an average of the first three months of 2023, and not a fiscal year average.

## Access to data

The data on social assistance recipients in Manitoba is available for download, including:

1. Total cases and beneficiaries;
2. Percentage of beneficiaries relative to the total under-65 population;
3. Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
4. Beneficiaries by sex;
5. Heads of household by sex for unattached single and single parent households;
6. Adult beneficiaries by age category; and
7. Percentage of cases receiving employment income.

Access the downloadable [spreadsheet here](#).



## Data notes

- Employment and Income Assistance data, including Medical Barriers to Full Employment, reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).
- The Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities (Manitoba Supports) program was introduced in January 2023. Manitoba Supports data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the first three months of 2023 (January 1 to March 31).
- Figures are rounded to the nearest 100, with some exceptions where they are rounded to the nearest 10.
- 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 programs

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. For modelling of total incomes available to social assistance recipients, visit the [Welfare in Canada](#) report.

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.

To be eligible for EBP as a person with a disability, the Medical Advisory Board considers for certification an individual who suffers from a major physiological, anatomical, or psychological impairment, which severely limits the individual in normal living activities, and which is likely to continue indefinitely without substantial improvement (i.e., totally and permanently disabled).



## How many people claim social assistance?

On average, there were 20,765 cases (family units and unattached single adults) and about 31,598 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in New Brunswick's social assistance programs during 2022-23.

Among cases, on average, about 71 per cent (14,781) of cases received the Transitional Assistance Program (TAP), and about 29 per cent (5,984) received the Extended Benefits Program (EBP) in 2022-23. And among beneficiaries, on average, over 79 per cent (25,055) received TAP and fewer than 21 per cent (6,543) received EBP.

The total number of social assistance cases increased by 2,339 in 2022-23. The increase came solely from TAP as EBP cases saw a very small decrease. Similarly, the total number of beneficiaries increased by 3,815 in 2022-23, and TAP accounted for the increase because the number of beneficiaries of EBP decreased.

To access data on cases and beneficiaries of social assistance in New Brunswick, including disaggregated data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

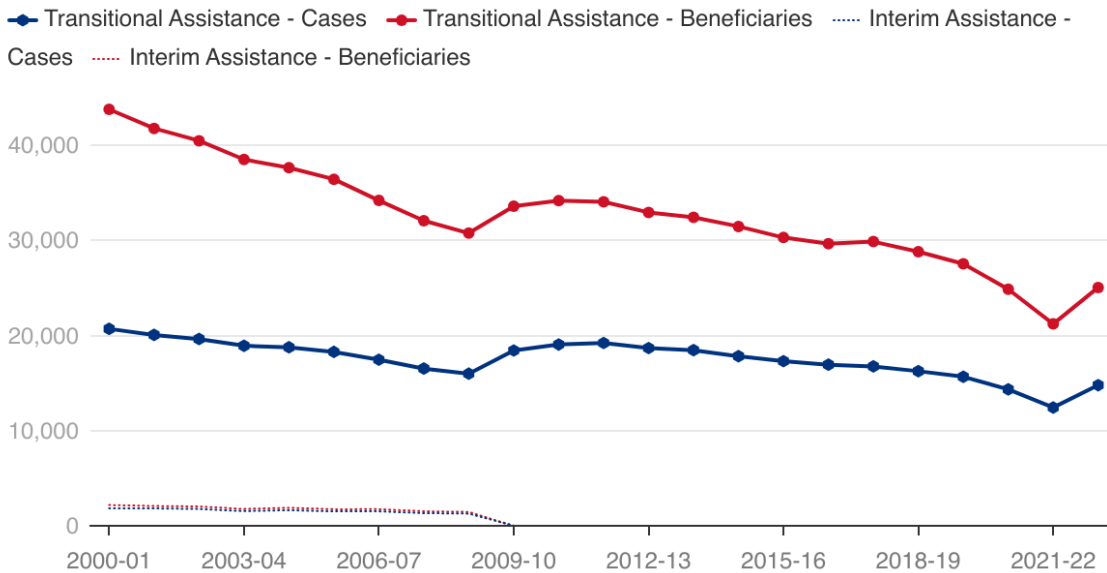
### Transitional Assistance Program (TAP)

On average, there were about 14,800 cases and just under 25,100 beneficiaries receiving TAP in 2022-23. Both numbers increased for the first time since 2011-12.

In the 2000s, TAP operated alongside the Interim Assistance Program (IAP), which had between 1,300 and 1,800 cases and between 1,400 and 2,200 beneficiaries until it was terminated in 2010.



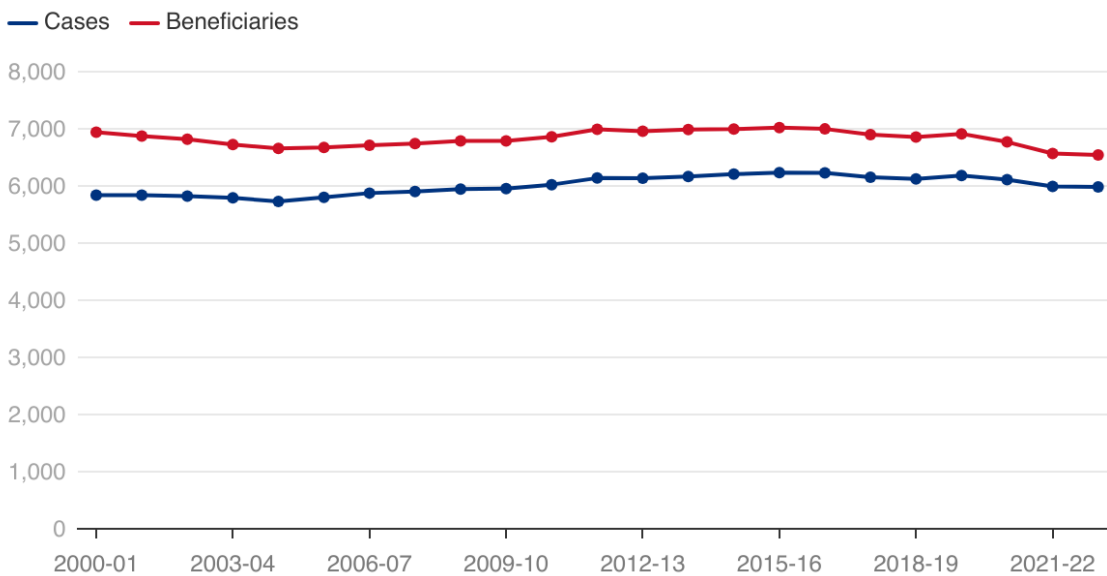
**Figure 1NB: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of TAP and the IAP in New Brunswick, 2000-01 to 2022-23**



## Extended Benefits Program (EBP)

In 2022-23, there were an average of about 6,000 cases and just over 6,500 beneficiaries receiving EBP in New Brunswick. These numbers have remained steady over the last 16 years.

**Figure 2NB: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of EBP in New Brunswick, 2000-01 to 2022-23**



## What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

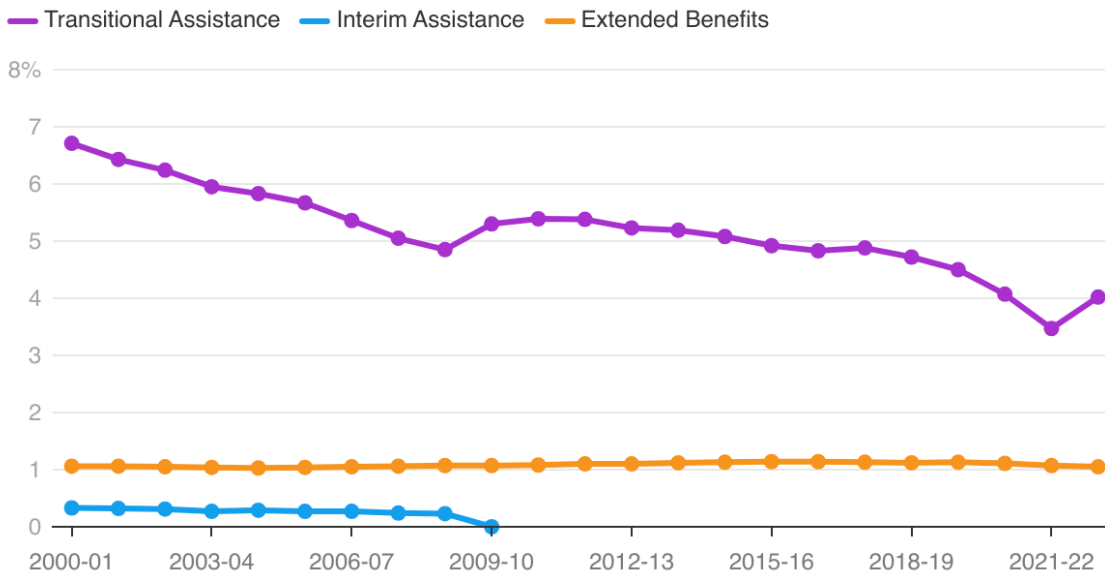
In 2022-23, on average, 5.1 per cent of people in New Brunswick under 65 received TAP or EBP, which is one in 20.

In previous years, the proportion of people under 65 receiving TAP had generally decreased, from, on average, 6.7 per cent in 2000-01 to 3.5 per cent in 2021-22. However, in 2022-23, the proportion increased to 4 per cent, the first increase since 2017-18.

The proportion of people under 65 receiving the EBP was 1 per cent in 2022-23. It has remained stable at between 1 and 1.1 per cent since 2000-01.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of the fiscal year (e.g., July 1, 2022, for 2022-23), whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April to March).

**Figure 3NB: Yearly beneficiaries of TAP and EBP as a proportion of the under-65 population of New Brunswick, 2000-01 to 2022-23**



Source of population data: Statistics Canada. (2024). Population estimates on July 1, by age and sex. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>





# Who is receiving social assistance?

This section examines the following disaggregated data:

- Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
- Beneficiaries by gender;
- Heads of household by gender for unattached singles and single parents;
- Adult beneficiaries by age category; and
- Cases receiving employment income

Note that the figures below represent percentages but total numbers are available. To access this data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

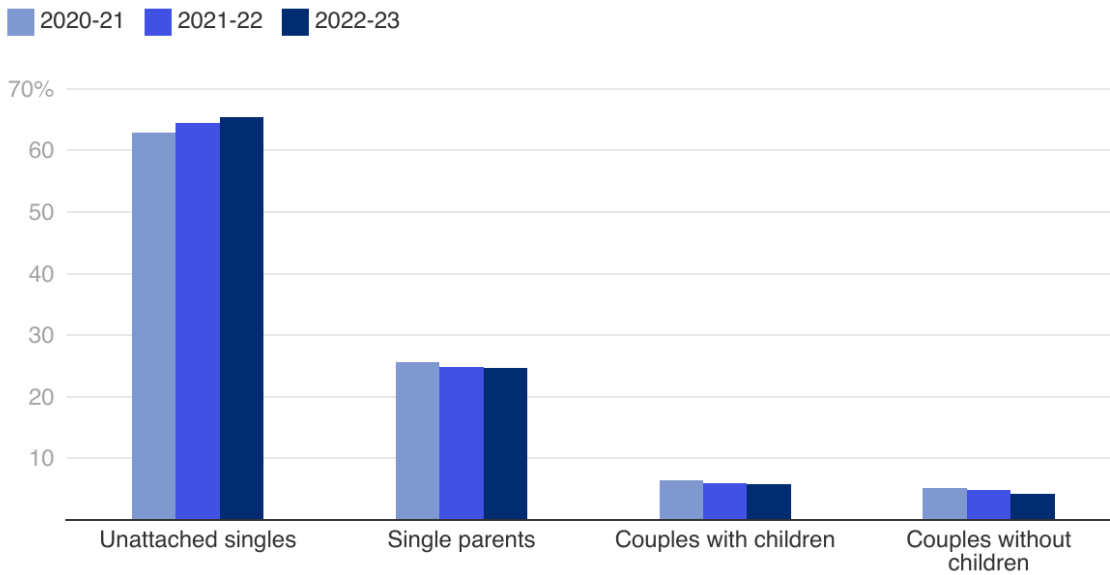
## Household type

In 2022-23, on average, unattached singles were the majority of social assistance cases among households for both programs, comprising over 65 per cent of TAP cases and just under 94 per cent of EBP cases. For TAP, single parents had the second highest percentage of cases, representing just under 25 per cent. Couples without children had the second highest percentage of EBP cases, representing just over 3 per cent.

For TAP, on average, single-parent households had the highest proportion of beneficiaries, representing close to 41 per cent, followed by unattached singles, representing about 39 per cent. Unattached singles were the significant majority of EBP beneficiaries representing almost 86 per cent, followed by couples without children, with about 6 per cent.

Figure 4NB: Percentage of cases and beneficiaries of TAP by household in New Brunswick, 2020-21 to 2022-23

### Cases



### Beneficiaries

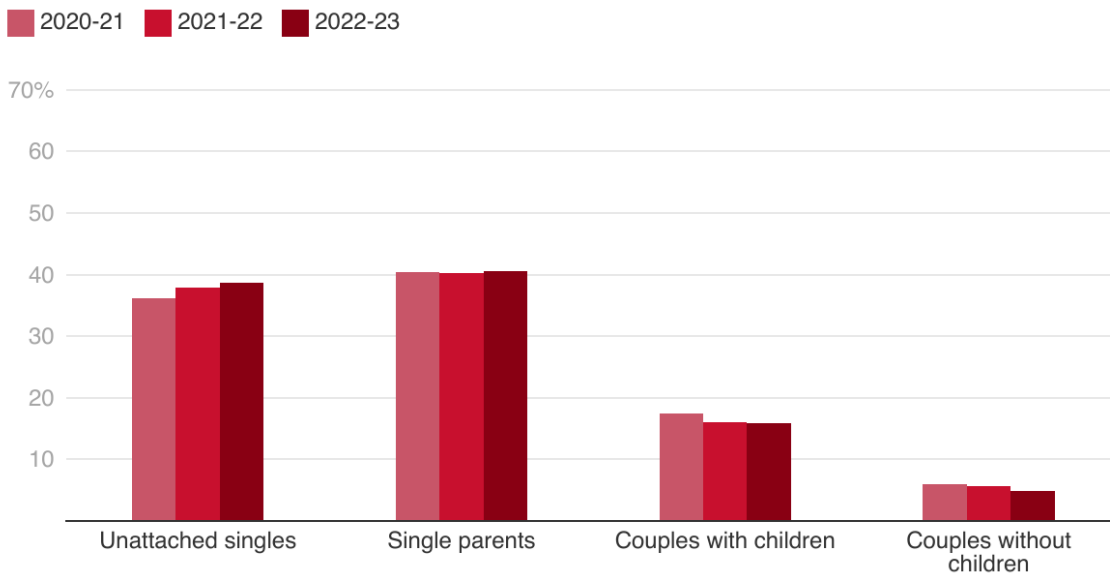
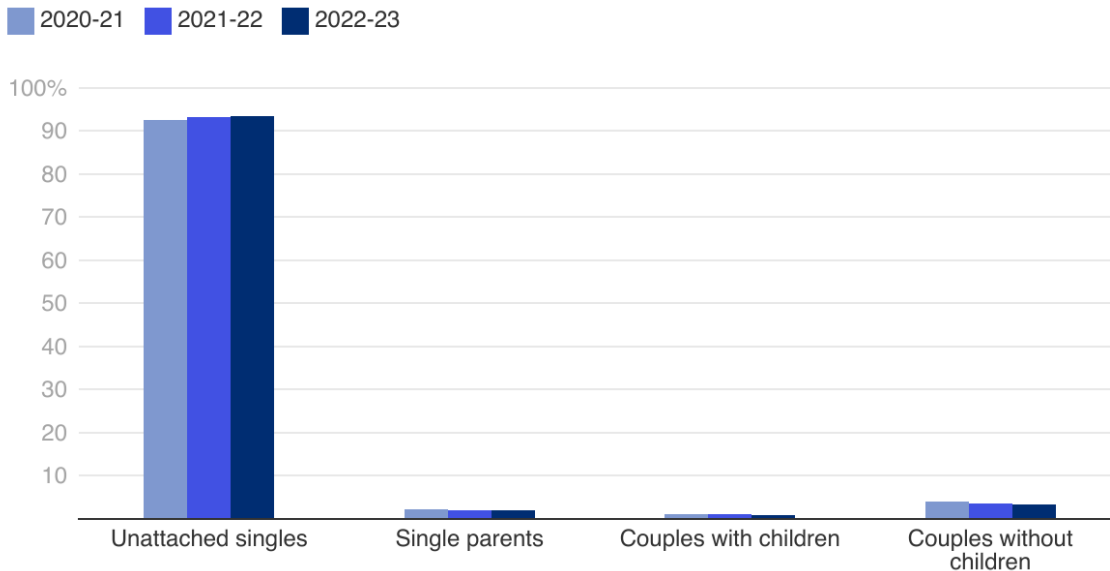
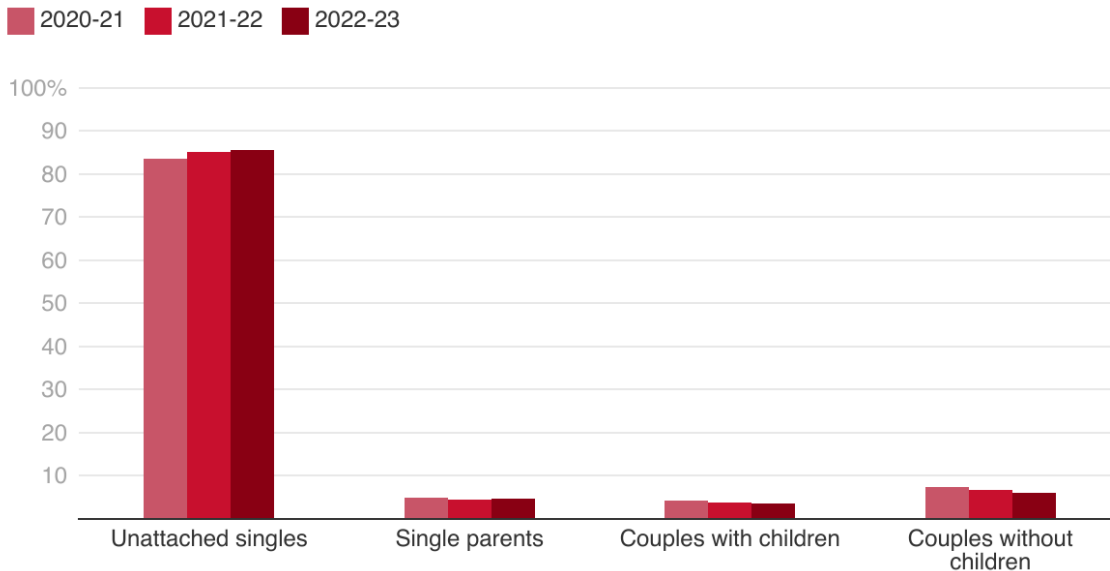


Figure 5NB: Percentage of cases and beneficiaries of EBP by household in New Brunswick, 2020-21 to 2022-23

### Cases



### Beneficiaries

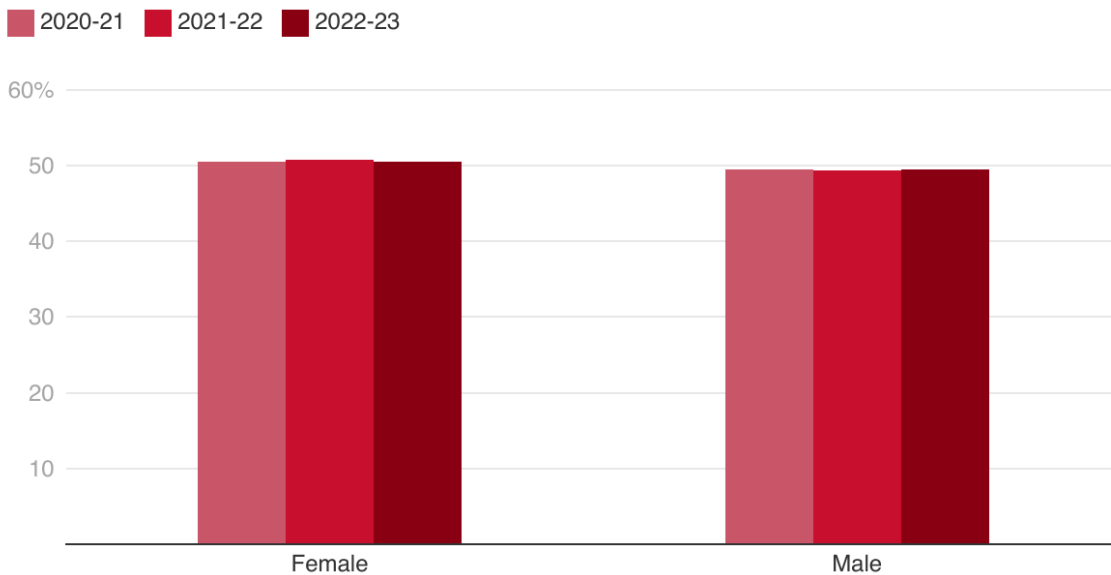


### Beneficiaries by gender

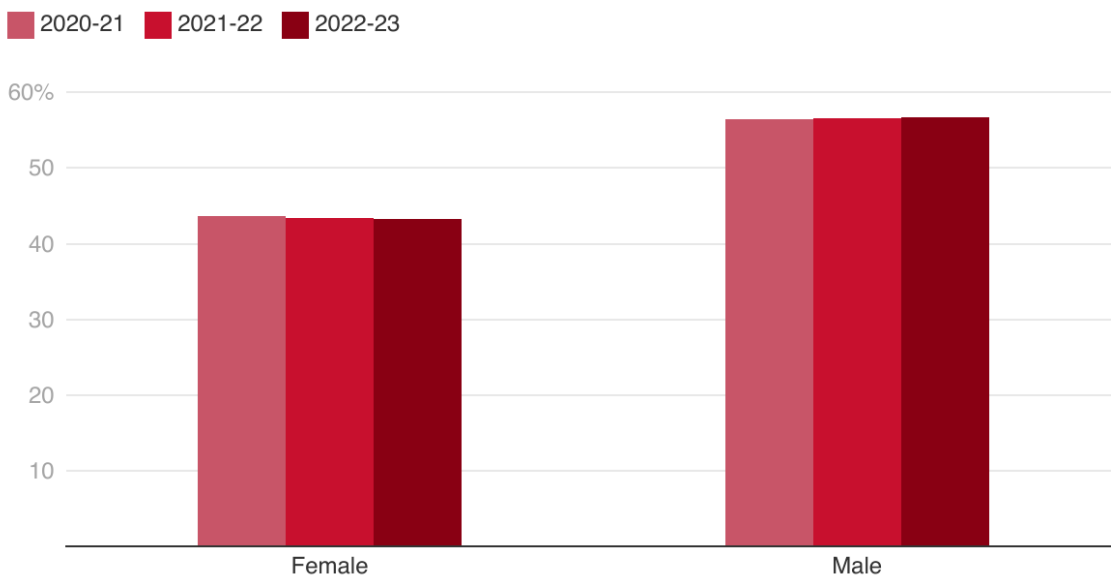
On average, in 2022-23, TAP beneficiaries were almost equally split between genders, with slightly more female recipients. EBP had more male beneficiaries with almost 57 per cent.



**Figure 6NB: Percentage of beneficiaries of TAP by gender in New Brunswick, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 7NB: Percentage of beneficiaries of EBP by gender in New Brunswick, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



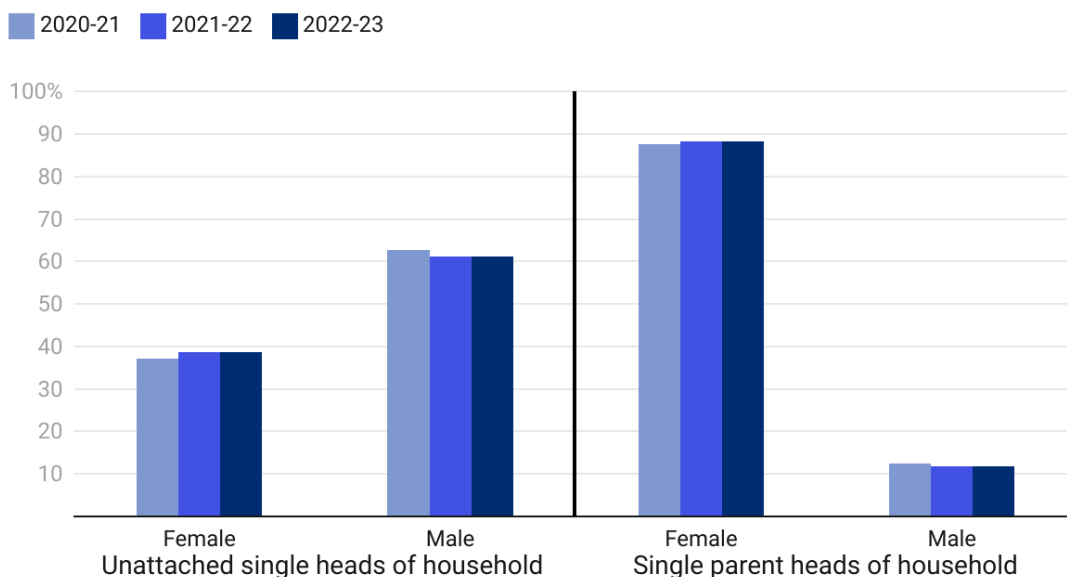
## Gender of heads of household

In 2022-23, on average, the majority of unattached singles receiving TAP were male, representing over 61 per cent. In contrast, the majority of heads of single parent households were female, representing over 88 per cent.

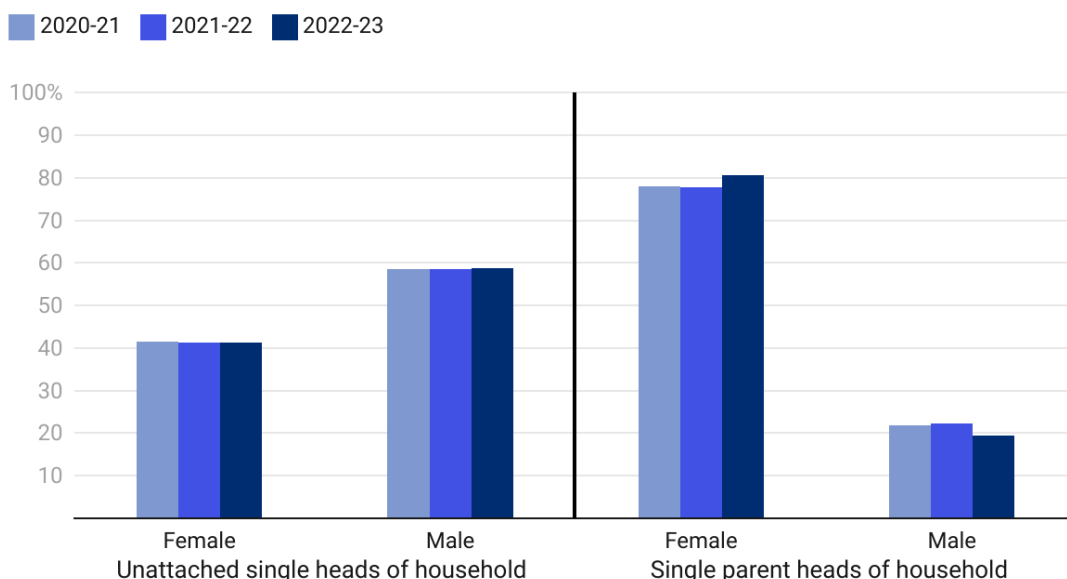


The gender distribution is similar for EBP in 2022-23. On average, just under 59 per cent of unattached singles were male and almost 81 per cent of heads of single parent households were female.

**Figure 8NB: Percentage of heads of unattached single and single parent households receiving TAP by gender in New Brunswick, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 9NB: Percentage of heads of unattached single and single parent households receiving EBP by gender in New Brunswick, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



## Age of adult beneficiaries

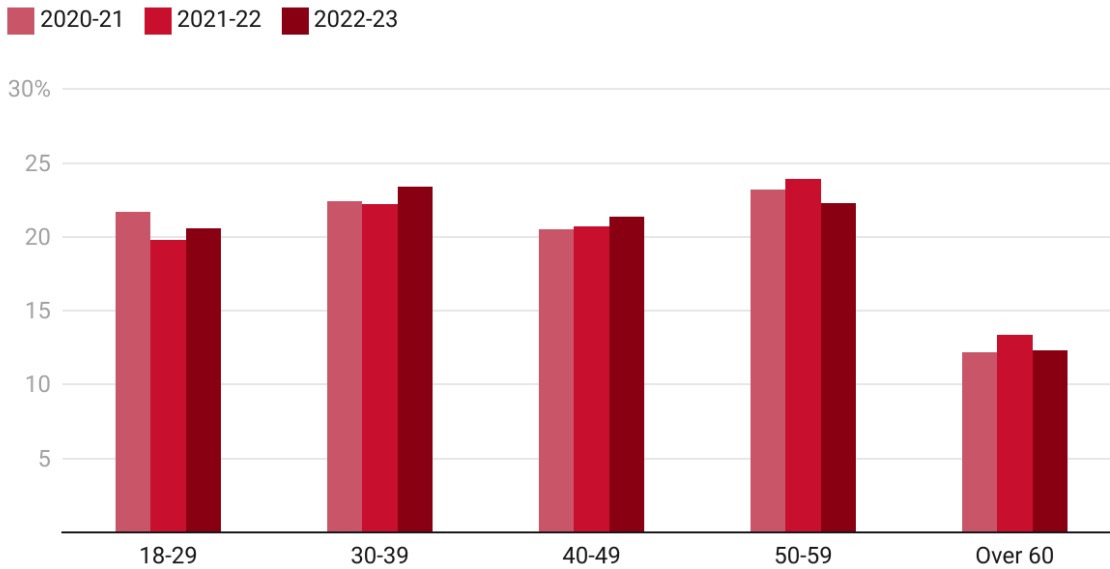
In 2022-23, on average, the most common age group of adult beneficiaries receiving TAP was 30-39, representing over 23 per cent, closely followed by 50-59,



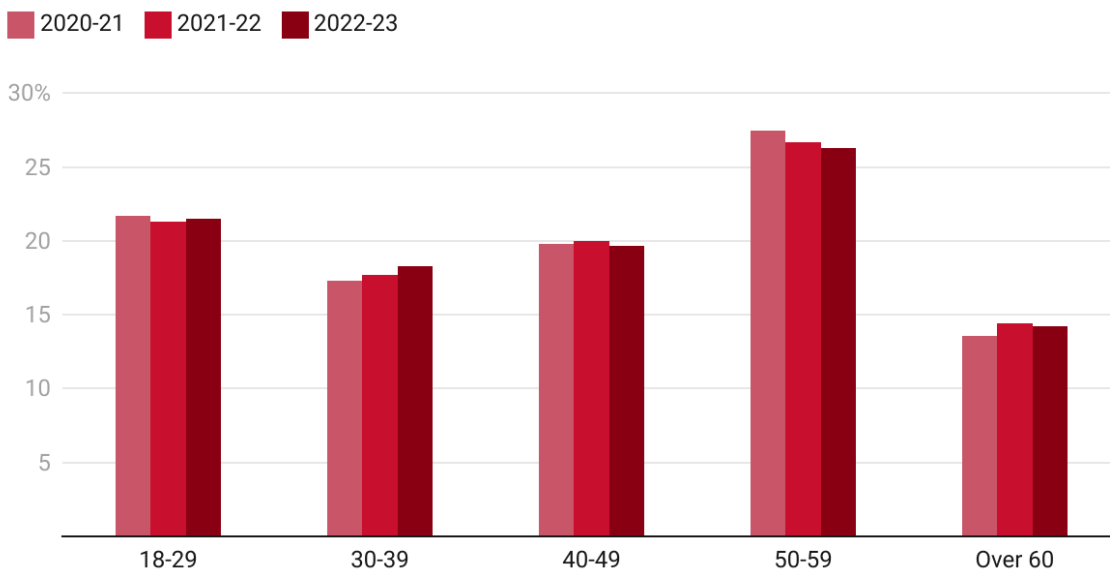
representing over 22 per cent. The least common was people over 60, representing just over 12 per cent.

For adult beneficiaries receiving EBP, on average, the most common age group in 2022-23 was 50-59, representing 26 per cent, followed by 18-19, representing under 22 per cent. The least common age group was over 60 with just over 14 per cent.

**Figure 10NB: Percentage of adult beneficiaries of TAP by age category in New Brunswick, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 11NB: Percentage of adult beneficiaries of EBP by age category in New Brunswick, 2020-21 to 2022-23**

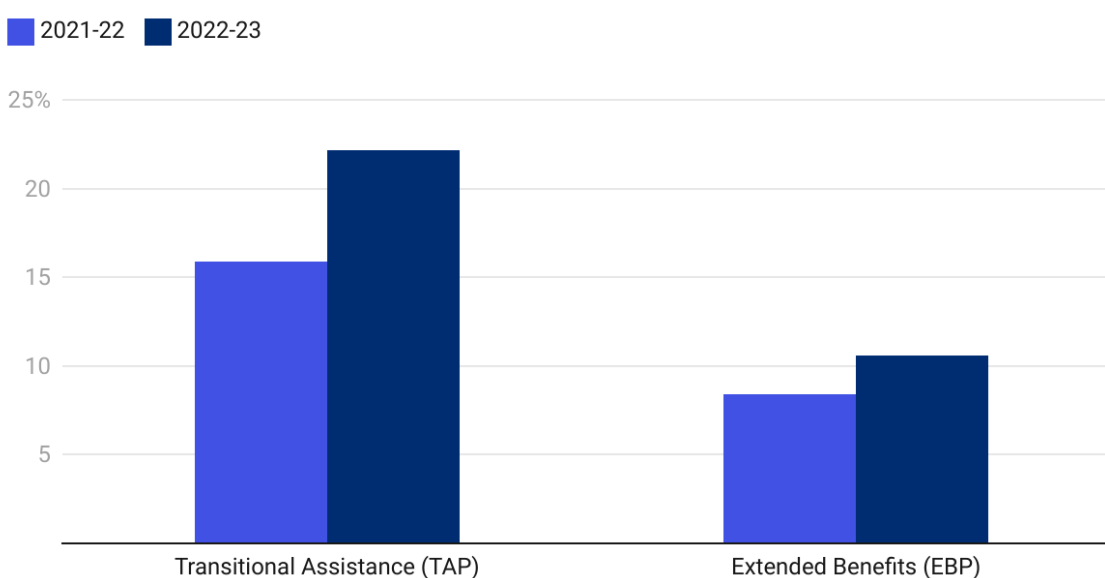


## Employment income

In New Brunswick, employment income is defined as wages earned from part-time and full-time employment and/or self-employment.

In 2022-23, on average, 22 per cent of TAP cases had employment income. Cases receiving EBP were less likely to have employment income at 11 per cent. Both numbers increased from the previous year. Data on cases with employment income was not available for 2020-21.

**Figure 12NB: Percentage of TAP and EBP cases with employment income in New Brunswick, 2021-22 and 2022-23**



## Access to data

The data on social assistance recipients in New Brunswick is available for download, including:

1. Total cases and beneficiaries;
2. Percentage of beneficiaries relative to the total under-65 population;
3. Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
4. Beneficiaries by gender;
5. Heads of household by gender for unattached single and single parent households;
6. Adult beneficiaries by age category; and
7. Percentage of cases receiving employment income.



Access the downloadable [spreadsheet here](#).

## 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 the Interim Assistance Program was terminated in 2010.
- Data on employment income for 2020-21 is not included.





# 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. For modelling of total incomes available to social assistance recipients, visit the [Welfare in Canada](#) report.

**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.

Data on disability-specific benefits to IS recipients, such as the Personal Care Allowance, was not available because it is collected by the department of Health and Community Services. The Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development, which collects data on IS cases and beneficiaries, does not have reliable data on the cases and beneficiaries of IS who have disabilities.

## How many people claim social assistance?

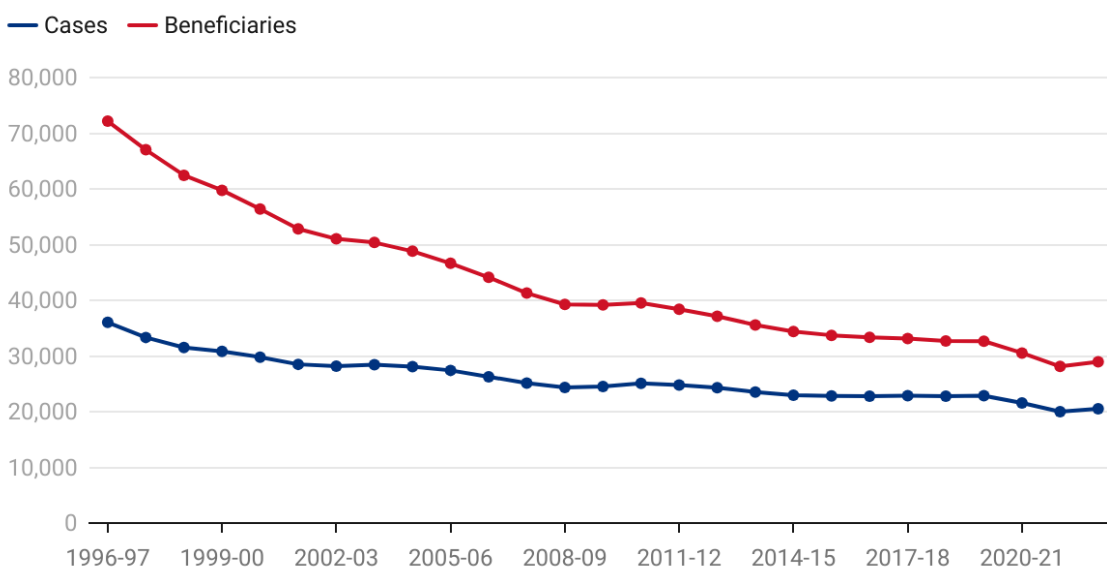
In 2022-23, there were on average about 20,500 cases (family units and unattached single adults) and just under 29,000 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in Newfoundland and Labrador's Income Support (IS) program.



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 COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. After two years of decreases in 2020-2021 and 2021-22, cases and beneficiaries of IS increased in 2022-23 by just under 3 per cent each.

To access data on cases and beneficiaries of social assistance in Newfoundland and Labrador, including disaggregated data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

**Figure 1NL: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of IS in Newfoundland and Labrador, 1996-97 to 2022-23**

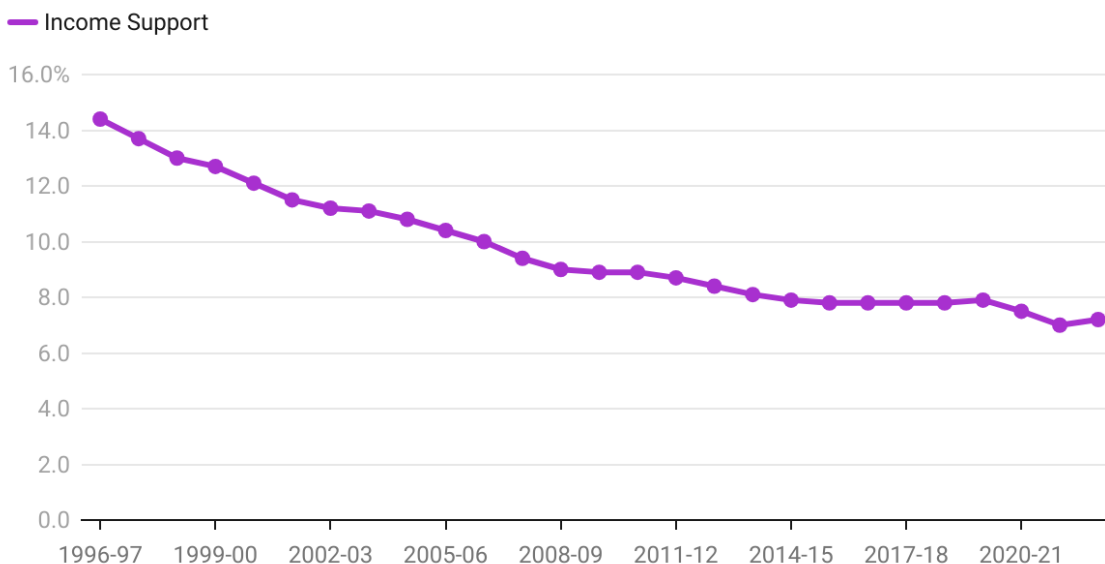


## What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2022-23, on average, 7.2 per cent of people in Newfoundland and Labrador under 65 received Income Support (IS), which is one in 14. This is a slight increase from 2021-22. On average, however, the proportion has consistently fallen. From a high of 14.4 per cent in 1996-97, the proportion has decreased by around half since.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of the fiscal year (e.g., July 1, 2022, for 2022-23), whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April to March).

Figure 2NL: Yearly beneficiaries of IS as a proportion of the under-65 population in Newfoundland and Labrador, 1996-97 to 2022-23



Source of population data: Statistics Canada. (2024). Population estimates on July 1, by age and sex. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>

## Who is receiving social assistance?

This section examines the following disaggregated data:

- Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
- Beneficiaries by gender;
- Heads of household by gender for unattached singles and single parents;
- Adult beneficiaries by age category; and
- Cases receiving employment income

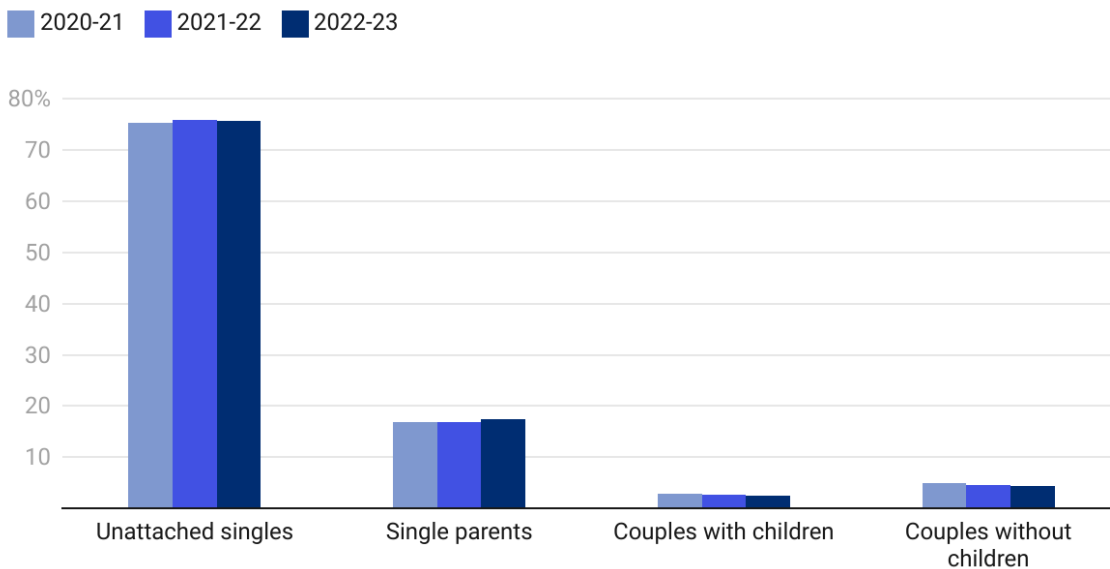
Note that the figures below represent percentages but total numbers are available. To access this data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

### Household type

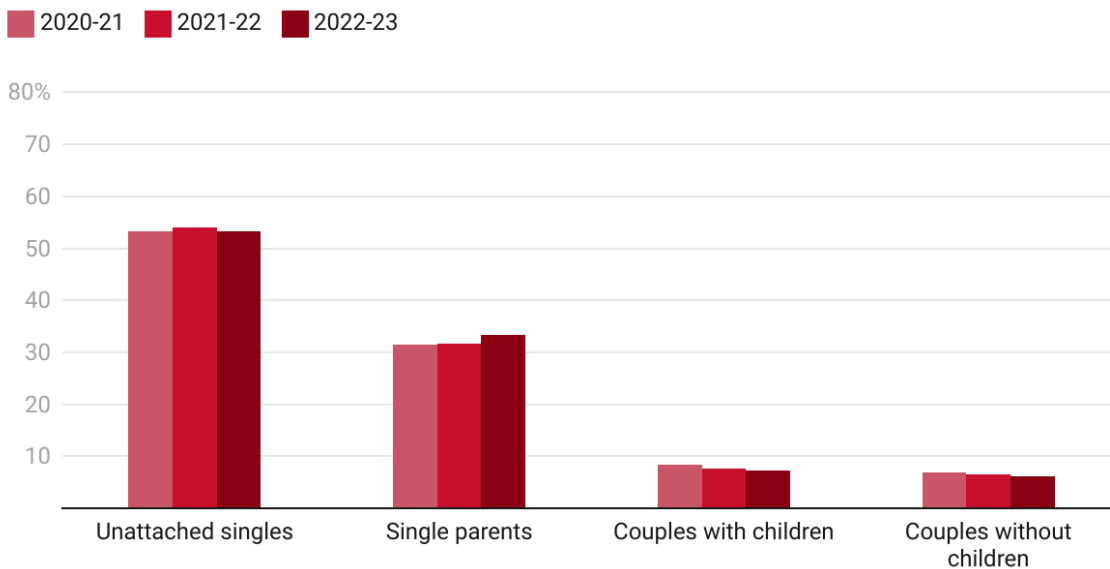
In 2022-23, unattached singles were the majority household of both cases and beneficiaries of IS representing, on average, about 76 per cent of cases and over 53 per cent of beneficiaries. Single parents were second with more than 17 per cent of cases and just over 33 per cent of beneficiaries.

Figure 3NL: Percentage of cases and beneficiaries of IS by household in Newfoundland and Labrador, 2020-21 to 2022-23

### Cases



### Beneficiaries

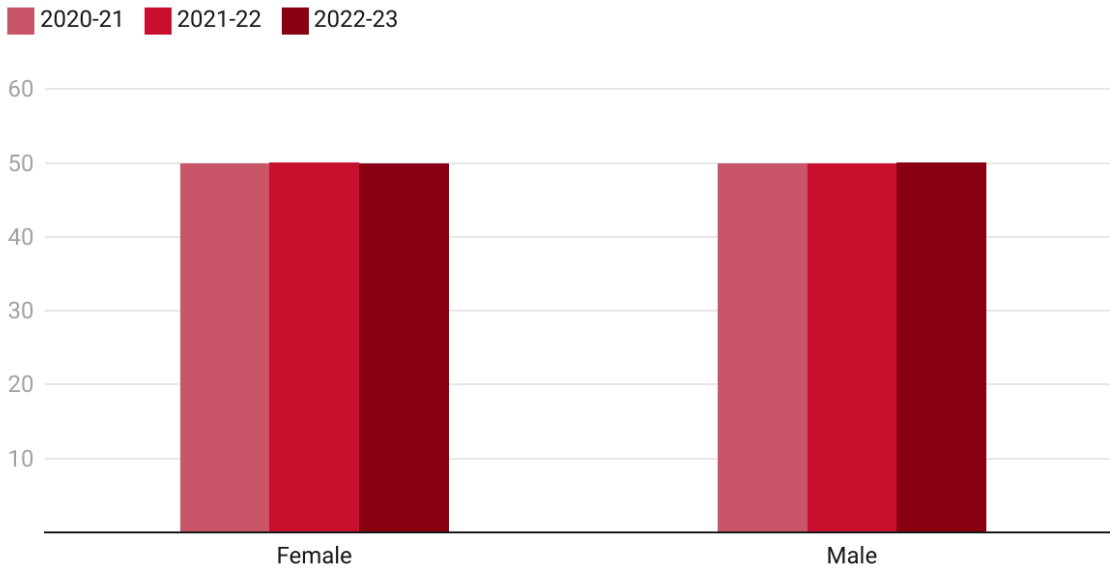


### Beneficiaries by gender

In 2022-23, on average, IS beneficiaries were almost equally split between female and male recipients, with slightly more males.

Note that the “X” gender category (gender option is neither male nor female) is not included in the figure below because fewer than 0.1 per cent of IS beneficiaries identified as such.

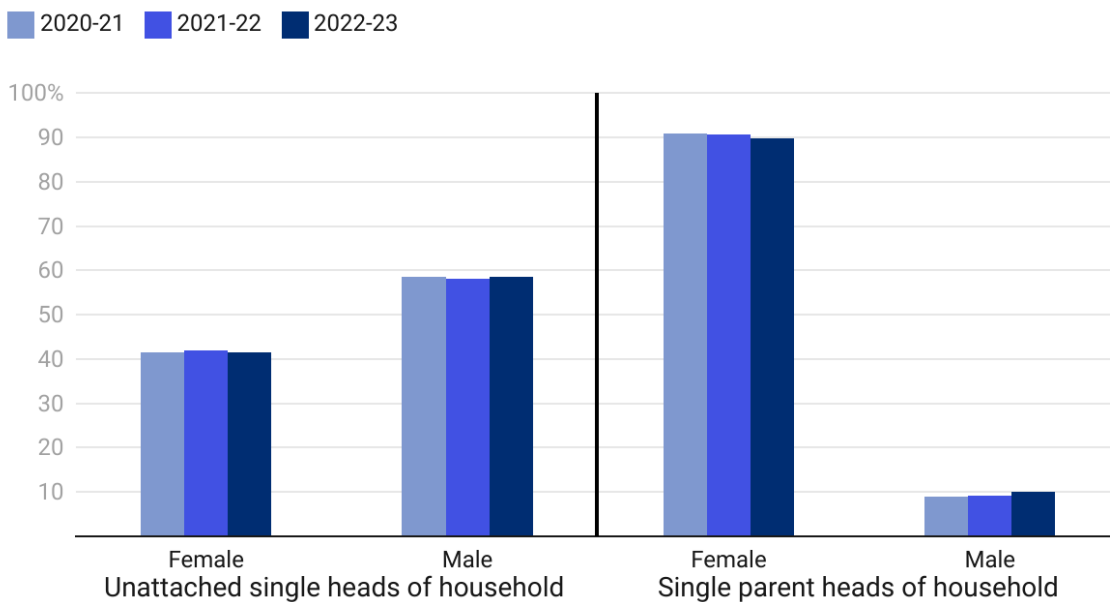
**Figure 4NL: Percentage of beneficiaries of IS by gender in Newfoundland and Labrador, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



## Gender of heads of household

In 2022-23, on average, the majority of unattached singles receiving IS were male, representing almost 59 per cent. In contrast, the majority of heads of single parent households were female, representing 90 per cent.

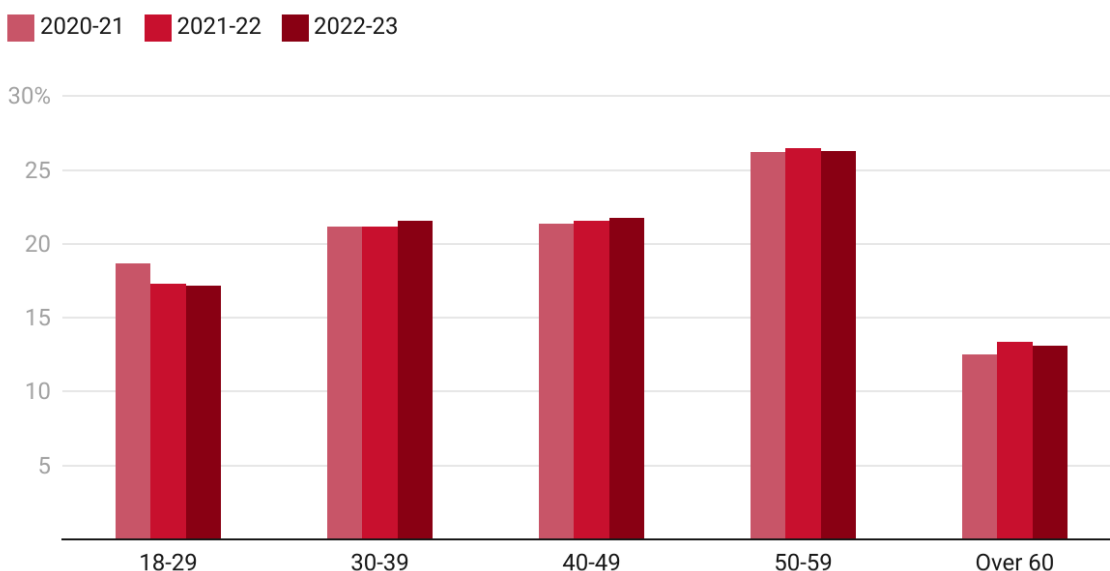
**Figure 5NL: Percentage of heads of unattached single and single parent households receiving IS by gender in Newfoundland and Labrador, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



## Age of adult beneficiaries

In 2022-23, on average, the most common age group of adult beneficiaries receiving IS was 50-59, representing over 26 per cent, followed by 30-39 and 40-49, each representing under 22 per cent. The least common was people over 60, representing 13 per cent.

**Figure 6NL: Percentage of adult beneficiaries of IS by age category in Newfoundland and Labrador, 2020-21 to 2022-23**

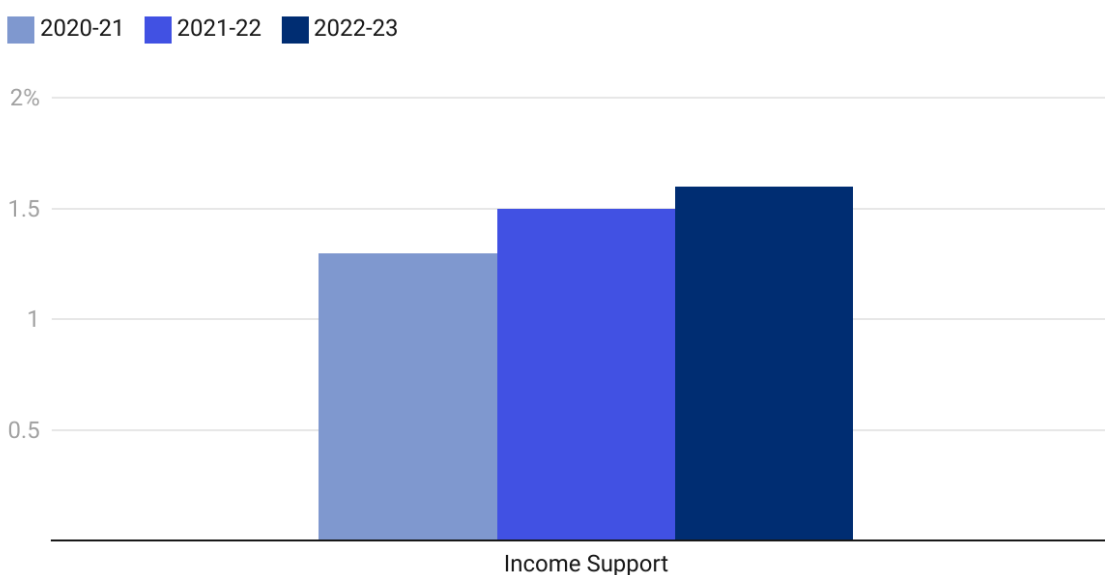


## Employment income

In Newfoundland and Labrador, employment income is defined as salary and wages, including income obtained from self-employment.

In 2022-23, on average, 1.6 per cent of IS cases had employment income, with small increases in the previous two years.

**Figure 7NL: Percentage of IS cases with employment income in Newfoundland and Labrador, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



## Access to data

The data on social assistance recipients in Newfoundland and Labrador is available for download, including:

1. Total cases and beneficiaries;
2. Percentage of beneficiaries relative to the total under-65 population;
3. Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
4. Beneficiaries by gender;
5. Heads of household by gender for unattached single and single parent households;
6. Adult beneficiaries by age category; and
7. Percentage of cases receiving employment income.

Access the downloadable [spreadsheet here](#).



## Data notes

- The data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).
- In the 2022 edition of *Social Assistance Summaries*, social assistance data for Newfoundland and Labrador was converted from calendar-year average to fiscal year average for the whole time series.
- Beneficiaries whose gender option is neither male nor female are labeled as “X.”
- Data on disability-specific benefits, like the Personal Care Allowance, was not available because it is collected by the department of Health and Community Services. The Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development, which collects data on Income Support cases and beneficiaries, does not have reliable data on the cases and beneficiaries of Income Support who have disabilities.
- 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. For modelling of total incomes available to social assistance recipients, visit the [Welfare in Canada](#) report.

**In the Northwest Territories, social assistance is delivered under the Income Assistance Program**, which 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).

To determine eligibility for the “disabled allowance” under the Income Assistance Program, a person is considered to have a disability if they have either physical or mental impairments that significantly restrict their ability to perform daily living activities, either permanently or periodically for extended periods, and medical treatment would not remove or heal their disability, and because of these restrictions require assistance with daily living activities.

## How many people claim social assistance?

In the 2022-23 fiscal year, on average, there were almost 1,900 cases (families and single adults) and about 2,700 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in the Northwest Territories' Income Assistance Program. Both numbers saw significant increases from the previous year, with 15 per cent more cases (247) and almost 16 per cent more beneficiaries (369)



From 2001-02 to 2005-06, the number of cases and beneficiaries declined. This was followed by 15 years of gradual increases until a sharp decrease in 2020-21 and 2021-22. Cases and beneficiaries then saw a marked increase in 2022-23.

On average, just over 620 cases, or 33 per cent, accessed the disabled allowance under the Income Assistance Program in 2022-23. The number of cases increased by over 6 per cent (38) from the previous year.

Note that the disabled allowance is delivered to individuals not households, which means that the cases and beneficiaries are the same. As such, this report focuses on cases of disabled allowance.

To access data on cases and beneficiaries of social assistance in the Northwest Territories, including disaggregated data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

**Figure 1NT: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of the Income Assistance in the Northwest Territories, 2001-02 to 2022-23**

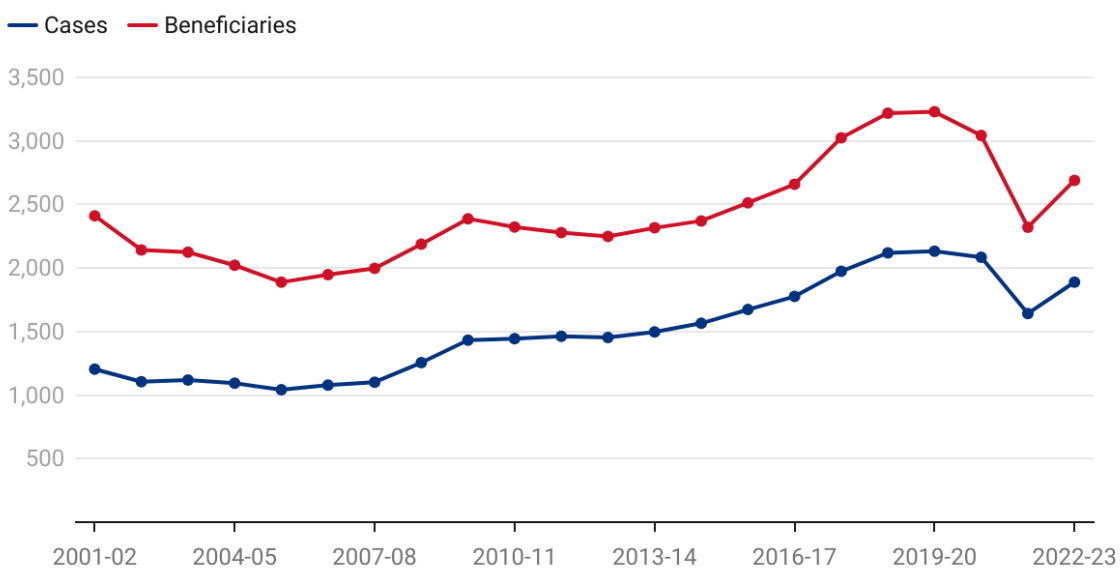
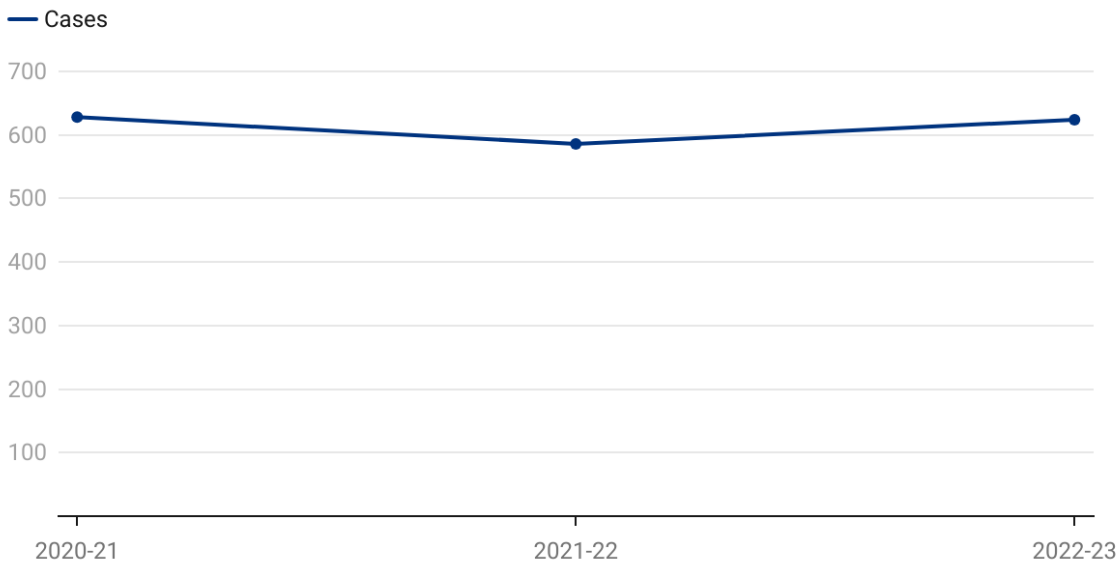


Figure 2NT: Yearly cases of disability-related incidental allowance under Income Assistance in the Northwest Territories, 2020-21 to 2022-23



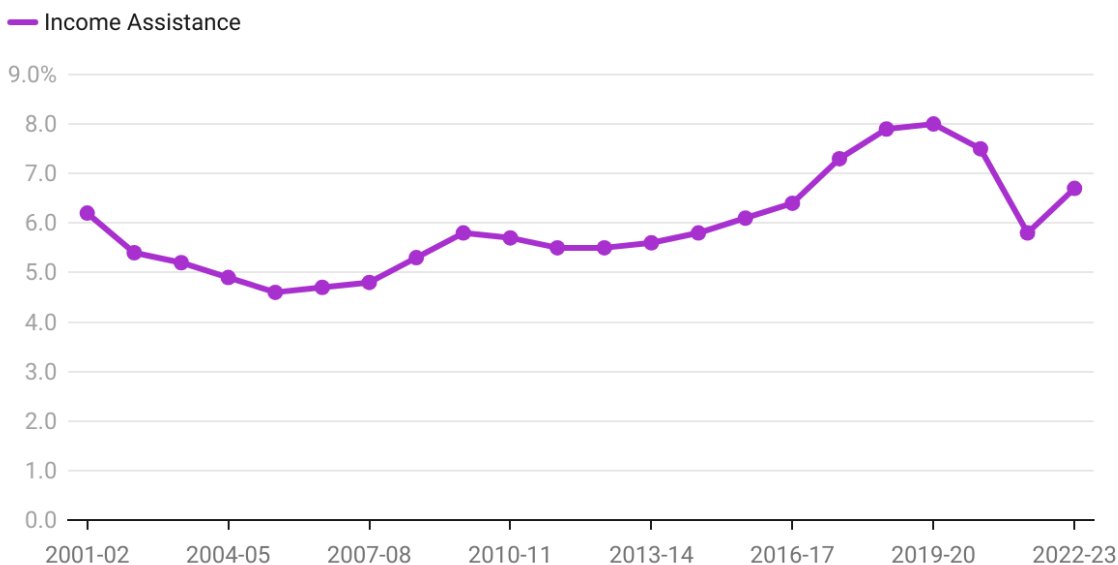
## What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2022-23, on average, 6.7 per cent of people in the Northwest Territories under 65 received Income Assistance, which is about one in 15.

After a decline to a low of 4.6 per cent in 2005-06, the proportion of recipients rose gradually to a peak of 8 per cent in 2019-20. There were decreases in 2020-21 and 2021-22 to 5.8 per cent, followed by a rise to 6.7 per cent in 2022-23.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of the fiscal year (e.g., July 1, 2022, for 2022-23), whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April 1 to March 31).

Figure 3NT: Yearly beneficiaries of the Income Assistance Program as a proportion of the under-65 Northwest Territories population, 2001-02 to 2022-23



Source of population data: Statistics Canada. (2024). Source of population data: Statistics Canada. (2024). Population estimates on July 1, by age and sex. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>

## Who is receiving social assistance?

This section examines the following disaggregated data:

- Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
- Beneficiaries (Income Assistance) and cases (disabled allowance) by gender;
- Heads of household by gender for unattached singles and single parents;
- Adult beneficiaries by age category; and
- Cases receiving employment income

Note that some disaggregated data was not made available. This is indicated where applicable in the text below.

Also note that the figures below represent percentages but total numbers are available. To access this data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

### Household type

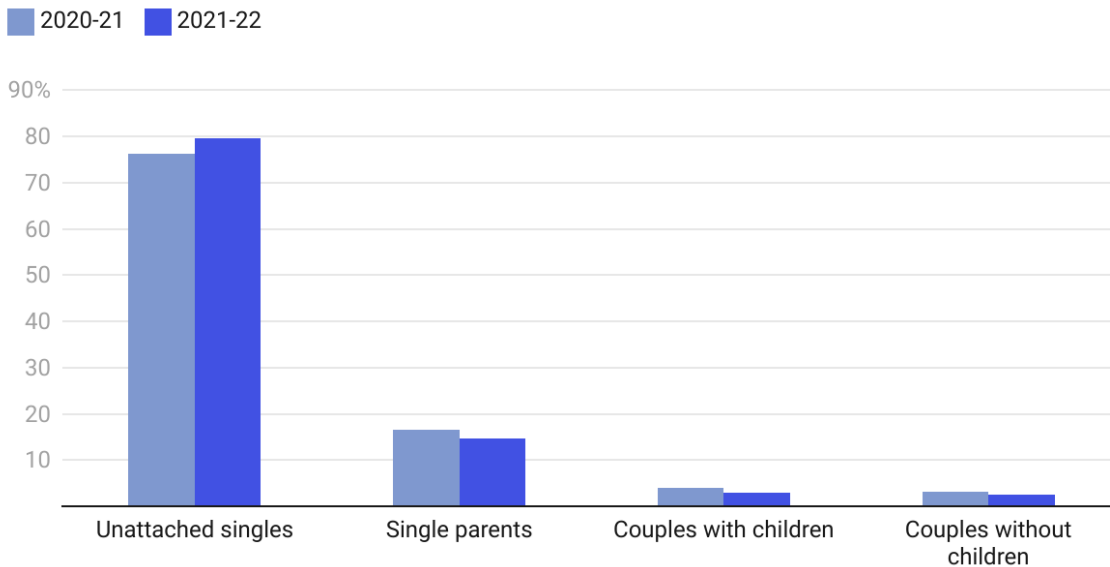
Data on cases and beneficiaries by household type was not available for the year 2022-23. Further, no household type data was available for cases of the disabled allowance under Income Assistance.



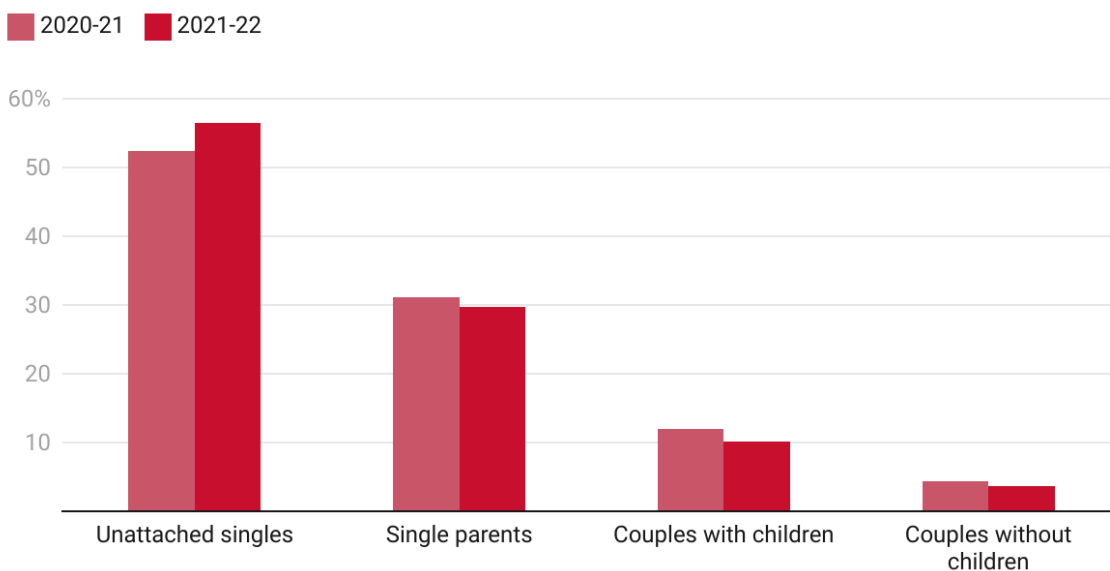
In 2021-22, on average, unattached single households were the majority among both cases and beneficiaries of Income Assistance in the Northwest Territories, representing nearly 80 per cent of cases and just under 57 per cent of beneficiaries. Single parents had the second highest percentages, with under 15 per cent of cases and almost 30 per cent of beneficiaries. Couples had the lowest percentages, with under 10 per cent of cases and almost 10 per cent of beneficiaries.

**Figure 4NT: Percentage of cases and beneficiaries of Income Assistance by household in the Northwest Territories, 2020-21 and 2021-23**

### Cases



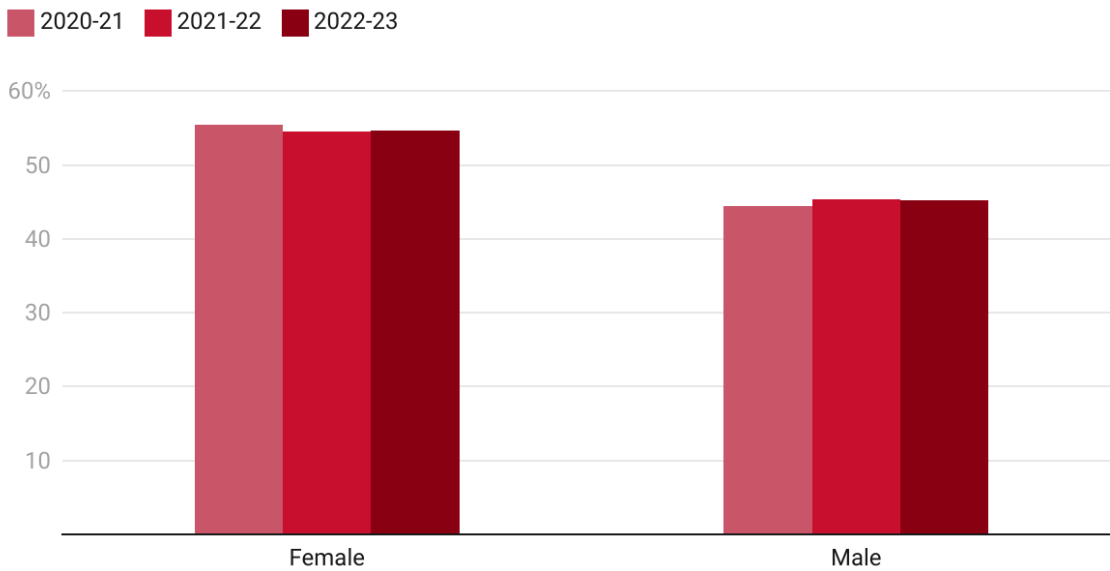
### Beneficiaries



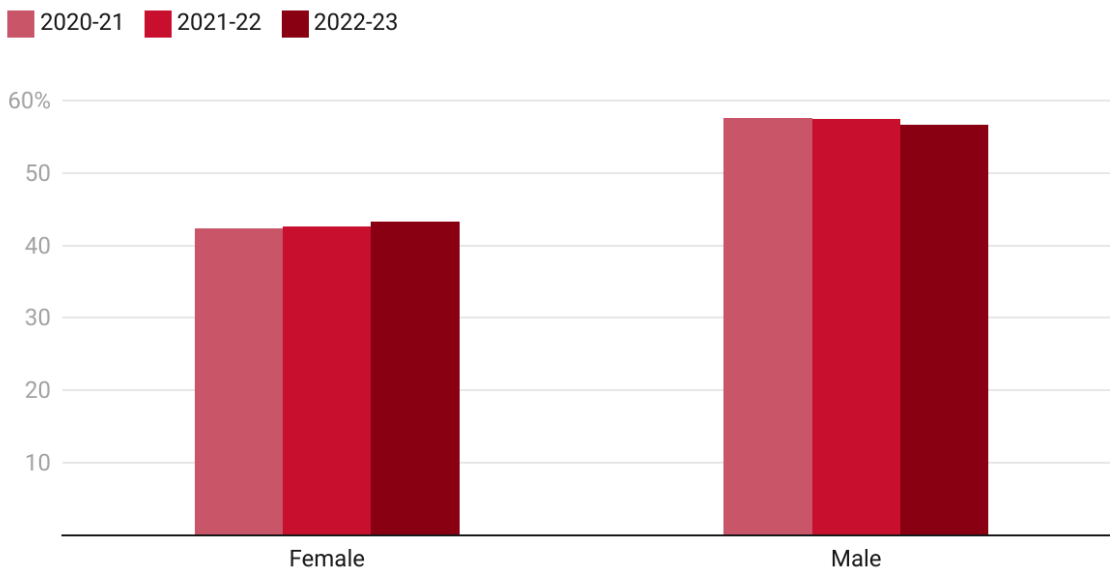
## Beneficiaries (Income Assistance) and cases (disabled allowance) by gender

In 2022-23, on average, females made up the majority of beneficiaries, representing just under 55 per cent. For cases of the disabled allowance under Income Assistance, males were the majority, representing almost 57 per cent.

**Figure 5NT: Percentage of beneficiaries of Income Assistance by gender in the Northwest Territories, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 6NT: Percentage of cases of the disabled allowance under Income Assistance by gender in the Northwest Territories, 2020-21 to 2022-23**

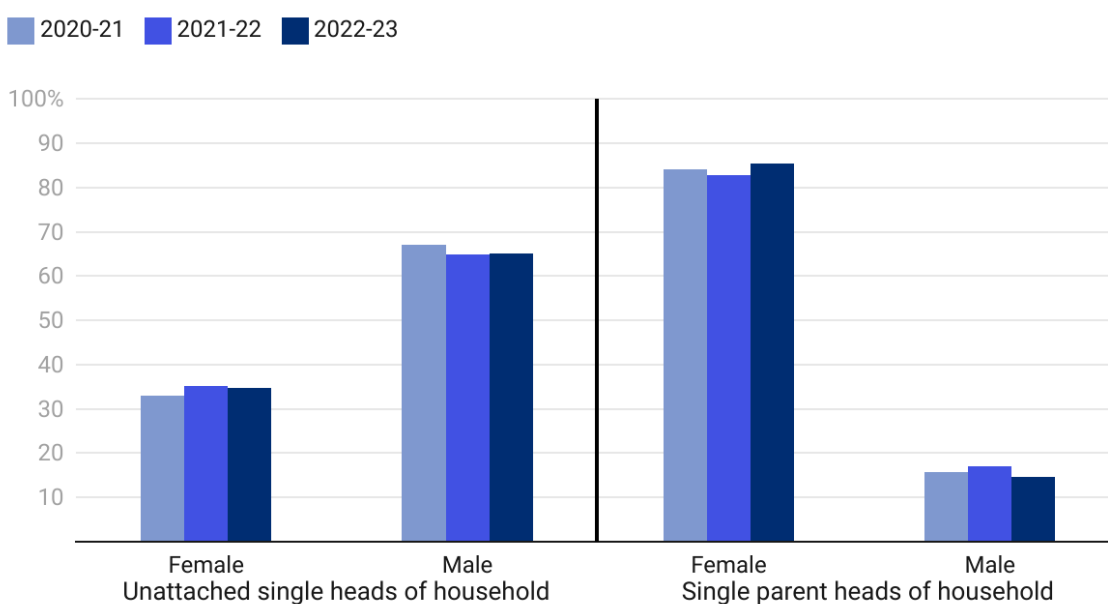


## Gender of heads of household

In 2022-23, on average, the majority of unattached singles receiving Income Assistance were male, representing just over 65 per cent. In contrast, the majority of heads of single parent households were female, representing over 85 per cent.

Data on gender of heads of unattached single and single parent households was not available for those receiving the disabled allowance under Income Assistance.

**Figure 7NT: Percentage of heads of unattached single and single parent households receiving Income Assistance by gender in the Northwest Territories, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



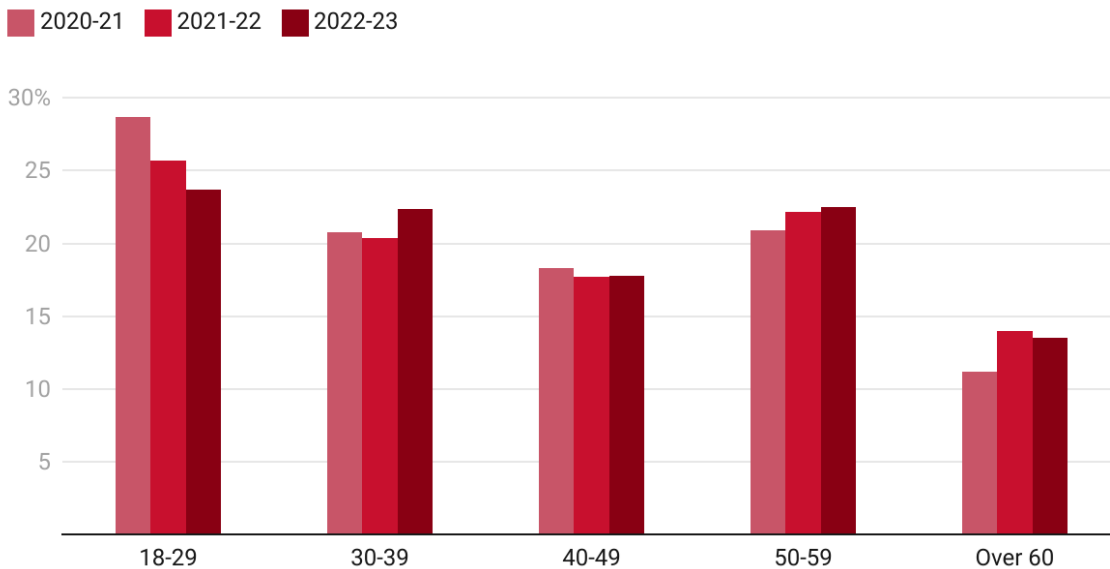
## Age of adult beneficiaries

In 2022-23, on average, the most common age group of adult beneficiaries receiving Income Assistance was 18-29, representing just under 24 per cent. The least common was people over 60, representing under 14 per cent.

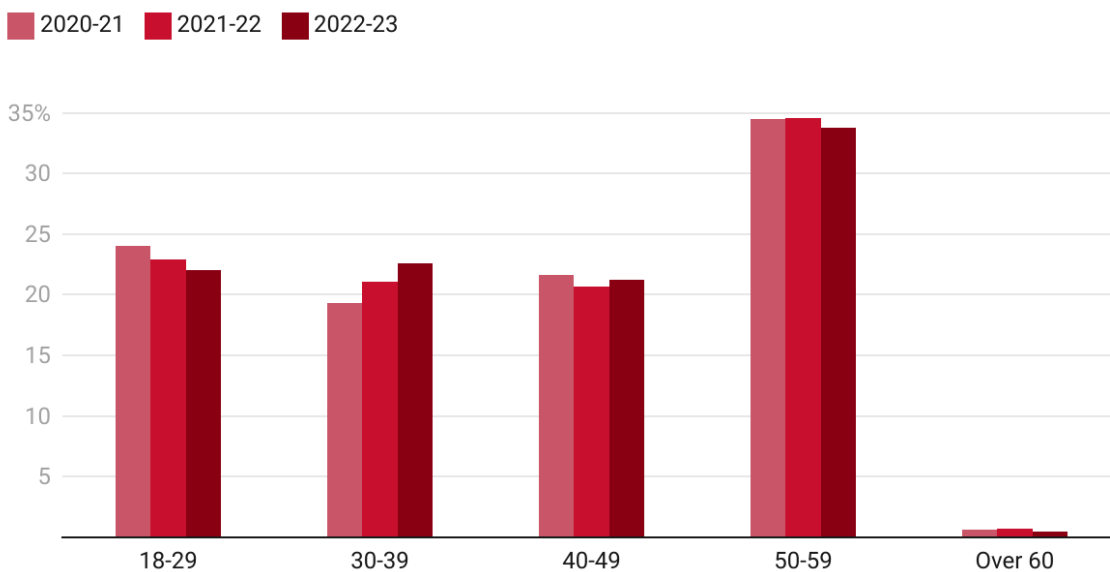
For adults receiving the disabled allowance under Income Assistance, on average, the most common age group in 2022-23 was 50-59, representing close to 34 per cent. The least common age group was over 60 with under 1 per cent. This is in part because a separate “aged allowance” is available to those 60 and over.



**Figure 8NT: Percentage of adult beneficiaries of Income Assistance by age category in the Northwest Territories, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 9NT: Percentage of adults receiving the disabled allowance under Income Assistance by age category in the Northwest Territories, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



## Employment income

In the Northwest Territories, employment income is referred to as “earned income,” and includes any income coming from:

- Salary and wages including voluntary deductions but excluding mandatory deductions;

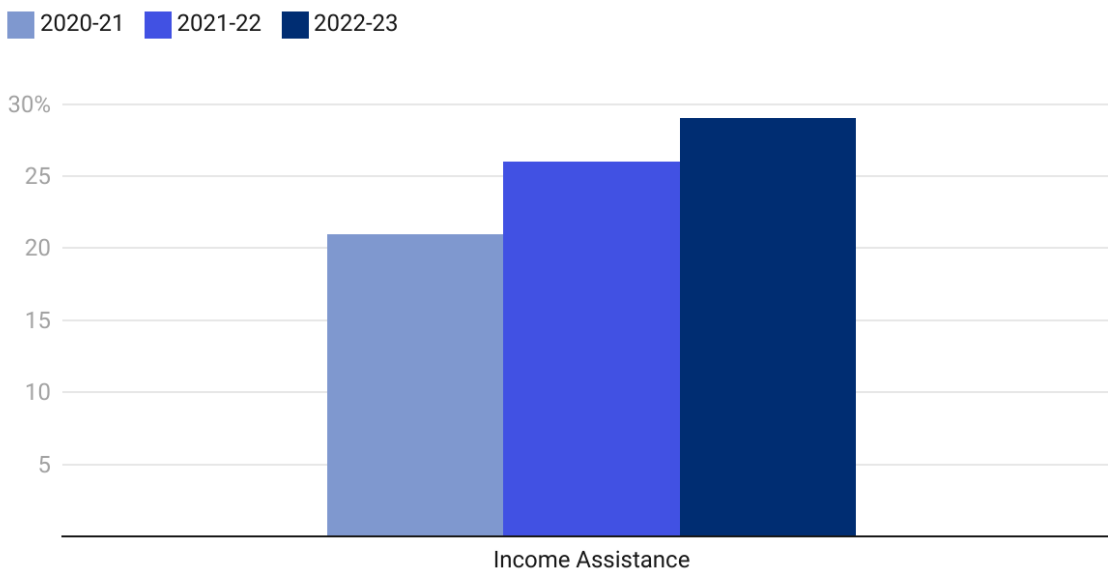


- Net income, determined in accordance with the direction of the Director, from hunting, trapping, and fishing;
- Net income, determined in accordance with the direction of the Director, from business operations;
- Fellowships, bursaries, and scholarships; and
- Honoraria received from benevolent or other organizations or agencies.

In 2022-23, on average, 29 per cent of Income Assistance cases had employment income. This number has steadily increased since 2020-21.

Data on cases with employment income was not available for those receiving the disabled allowance under Income Assistance.


**Figure 10NT: Percentage of Income Assistance cases with employment income in the Northwest Territories, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



## Access to data

The data on social assistance recipients in the Northwest Territories is available for download, including:

1. Total cases and beneficiaries;
2. Percentage of beneficiaries relative to the total under-65 population;
3. Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
4. Beneficiaries (Income Assistance) and cases (disabled allowance) by gender;

- 
5. Heads of household by gender for unattached single and single parent households;
  6. Adult beneficiaries by age category; and
  7. Percentage of cases receiving employment income.

Access the downloadable [spreadsheet here](#).

## 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.
- Data on cases and beneficiaries by household type was not available for the year 2022-23.
- No data on cases by household type, gender of heads of household, and cases with employment income was available for those receiving the disabled allowance under Income Assistance.
- “Non-binary” is a third option for gender. None chose it in 2020-21, and one beneficiary chose it in 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- 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. For modelling of total incomes available to social assistance recipients, visit the [Welfare in Canada](#) report.

**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.

Some basic needs, special needs, and employment support services are available to persons with a disability or medical condition. To determine eligibility, a “Medical Assessment” form must be completed and signed by a qualified medical practitioner or nurse practitioner, as well as the applicant/recipient.

In this section, a case that is assessed to include a person with a disability is described as being in the “Disability” case category. In the 2022-23 fiscal year, there was no disability-specific social assistance benefit in Nova Scotia that was available to all persons with disabilities. The ESIA enhanced benefit is available to unattached singles with disabilities, but persons with disabilities in other household types were not eligible to receive it.

# How many people claim social assistance?

In 2022-23, there were, on average, almost 22,700 cases (families and single adults) and more than 35,200 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) receiving Nova Scotia’s Employment Support and Income Assistance (ESIA) program.

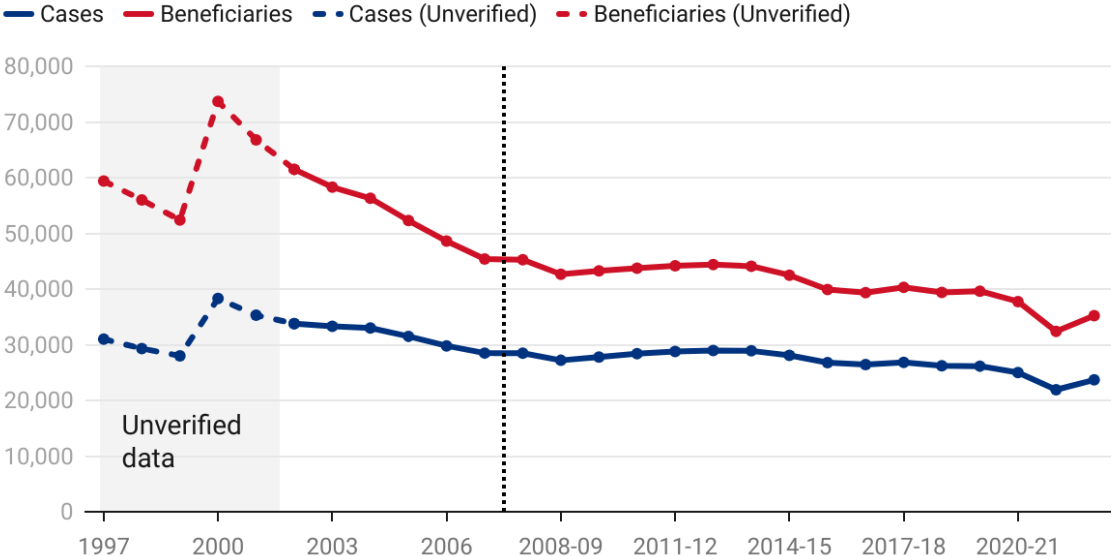
From the previous year, both cases and beneficiaries saw notable increases of about 8 and 9 per cent, respectively. Previously, these numbers fell rapidly during the mid-2000s, then increased slightly after the 2008 financial crisis. After a gradual decline between 2011-12 and 2021-22, 2022-23 saw the first increase in about a decade.

Among ESIA recipients, over 48 per cent of cases (11,477) and about 39 per cent of beneficiaries (13,795) were in the “Disability” case category. Like ESIA overall, cases and beneficiaries in the “Disability” case category also increased in 2022-23 after a period of gradual decline. However, increases were more modest at under 1 per cent for both cases and beneficiaries.

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.

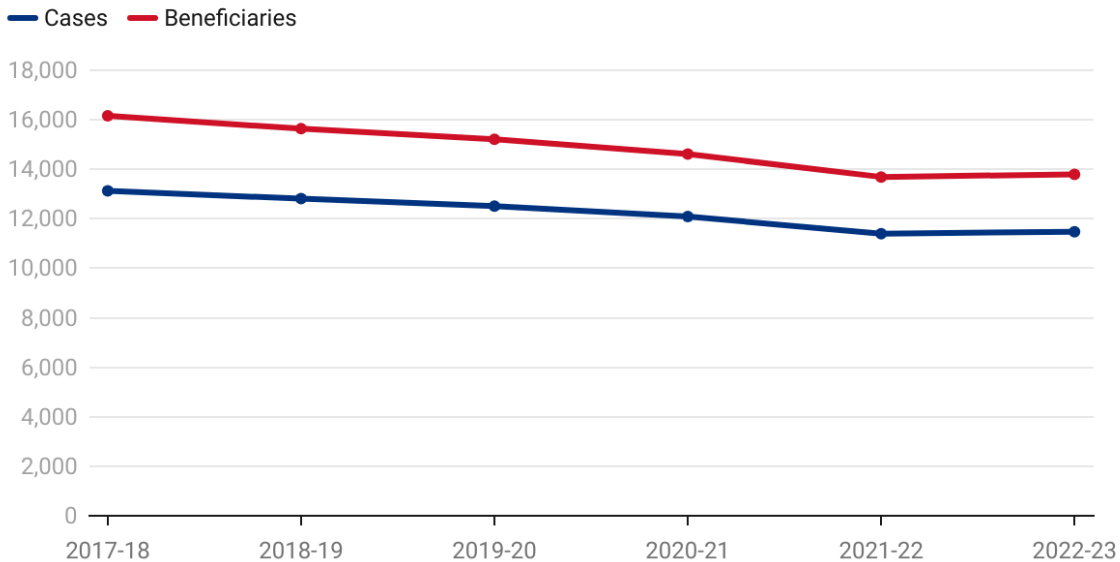
To access data on cases and beneficiaries of social assistance in Nova Scotia, including disaggregated data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

**Figure 1NS: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of ESIA in Nova Scotia, 1997 to 2022-23**



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).

**Figure 2NS: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of ESIA in the “Disability” case category in Nova Scotia, 2017-18 to 2022-23**

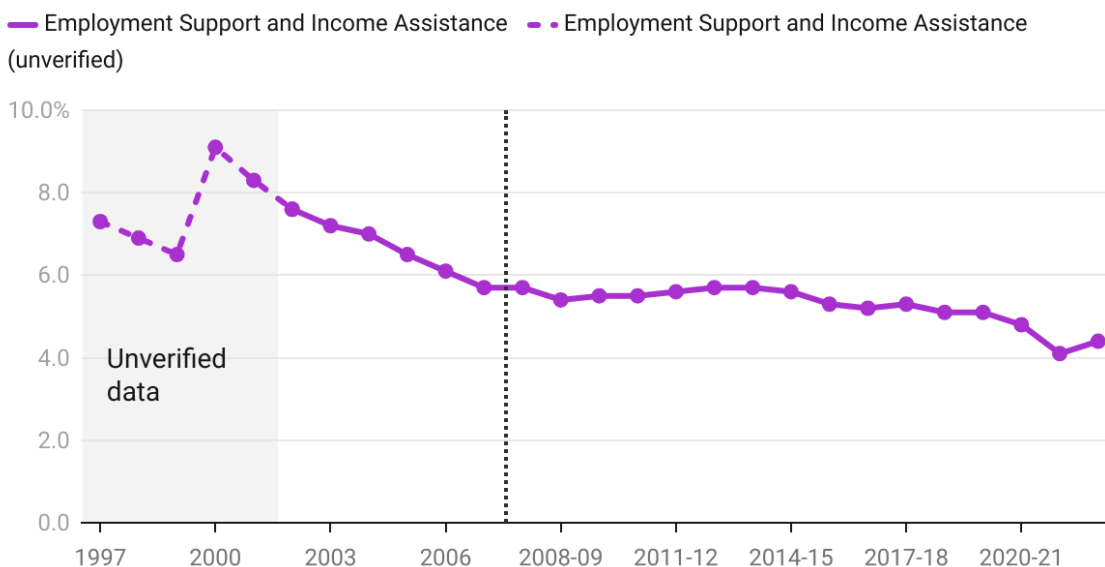


## What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2022-23, on average, 4.4 per cent of people in Nova Scotia under 65 received ESIA, which is 1 in 23. The proportion gradually decreased starting in 2002 until reaching 5.4 per cent in 2008-09, then slightly increased up to 5.7 per cent in 2013-14. After a decade of gradual decline, reaching a low point of 4.1 per cent in 2021-22, the proportion increased in 2022-23 to 4.4 per cent.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of the fiscal year (e.g., July 1, 2022, for 2022-23), whereas social assistance beneficiary data is for March 31 of a given year until 2007, and a fiscal year average (April 1 to March 31) afterwards.

**Figure 3NS: Yearly beneficiaries of ESIA as a proportion of the under-65 population in Nova Scotia, 1997 to 2022-23**



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. (2024). Population estimates on July 1, by age and sex. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>

## Who is receiving social assistance?

This section examines the following disaggregated data:

- Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
- Beneficiaries by gender;
- Heads of household by gender for unattached singles and single parents;
- Adult beneficiaries by age category; and
- Cases receiving employment income

Note that the figures below represent percentages but total numbers are available. To access this data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

### Household type

In 2022-23, on average, the majority of both cases and beneficiaries of ESIA were unattached single households representing about 75 per cent and over 50 per cent,

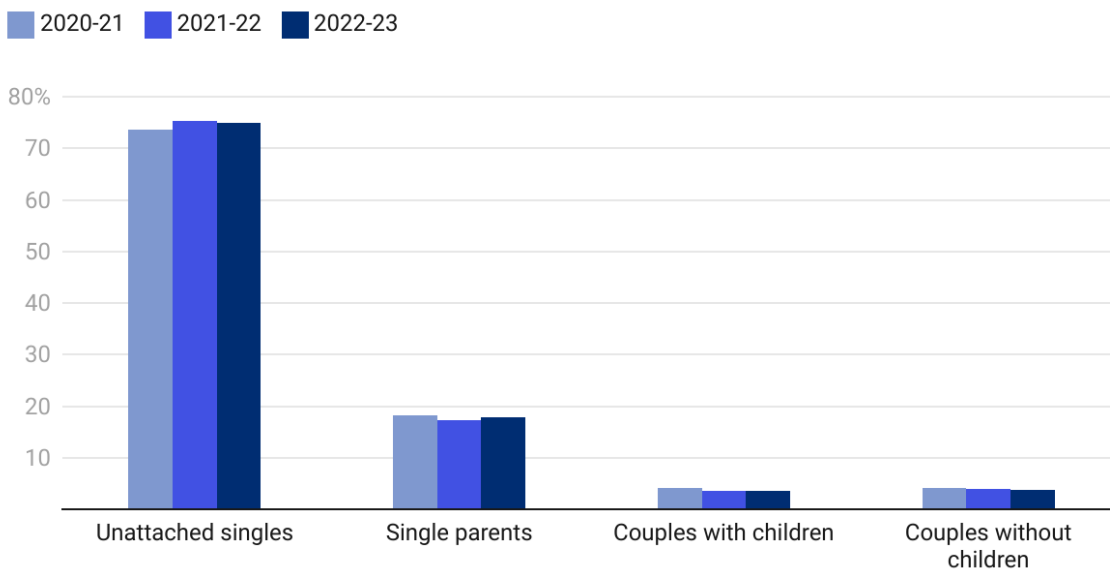


respectively. Single parent households were second for both representing almost 18 per cent of cases and just under 34 per cent of beneficiaries.

Similarly, on average in 2022-23, the majority of both cases and beneficiaries of ESIA in the “Disability” case category were unattached single households representing almost 87 per cent and about 72 per cent, respectively. Single parent households were second for both representing about 7 per cent of cases and about 15 per cent of beneficiaries.

**Figure 4NS: Percentage of cases and beneficiaries of ESIA by household in Nova Scotia, 2020-21 to 2022-23**

**Cases**





## Beneficiaries

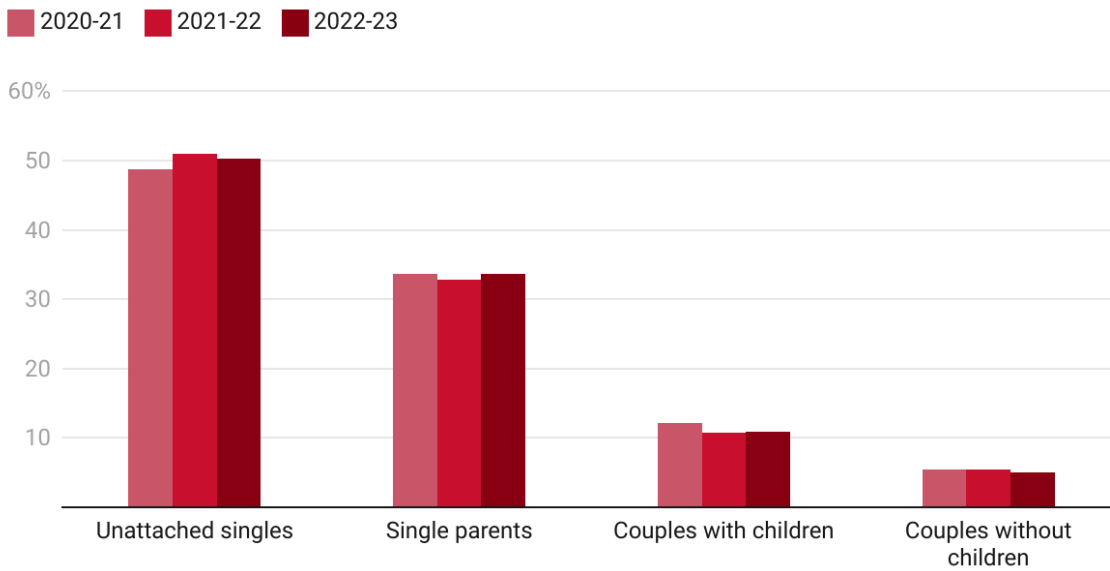
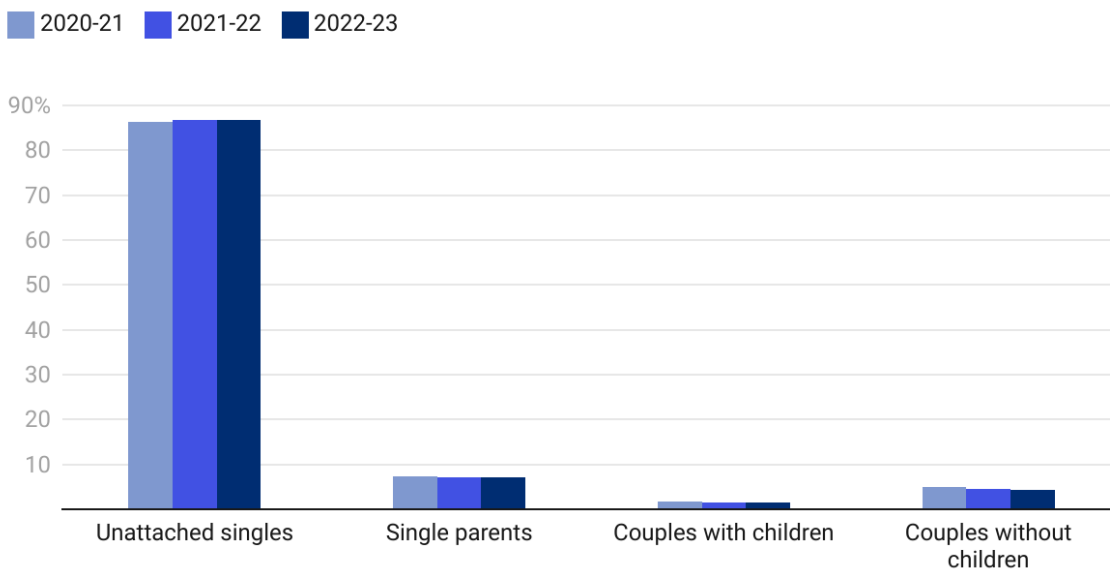


Figure 5NS: Percentage of cases and beneficiaries of ESIA in the “Disability” case category by household in Nova Scotia, 2020-21 to 2022-23

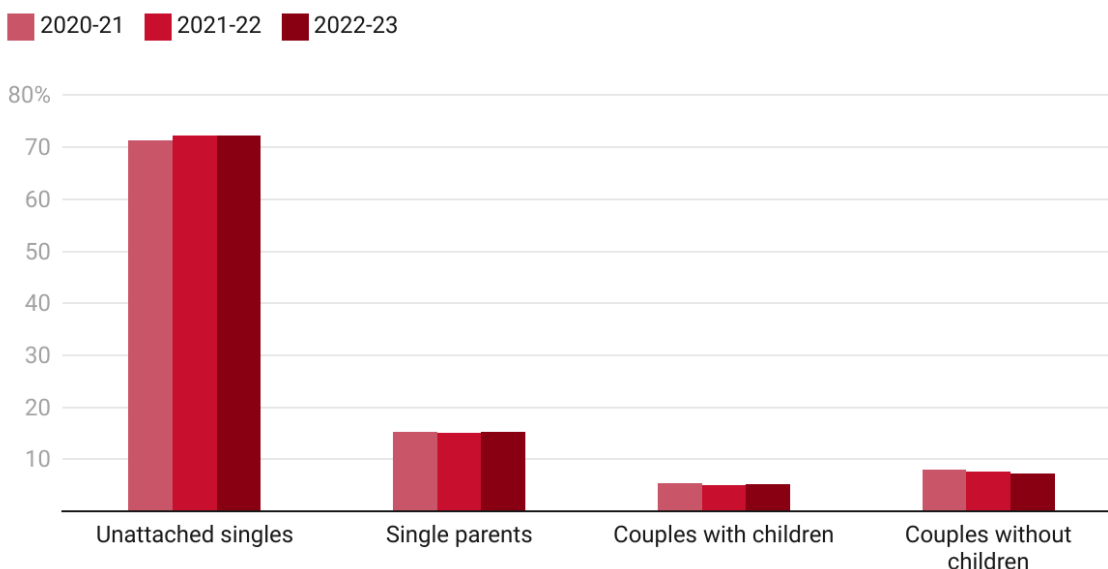
## Cases







## Beneficiaries

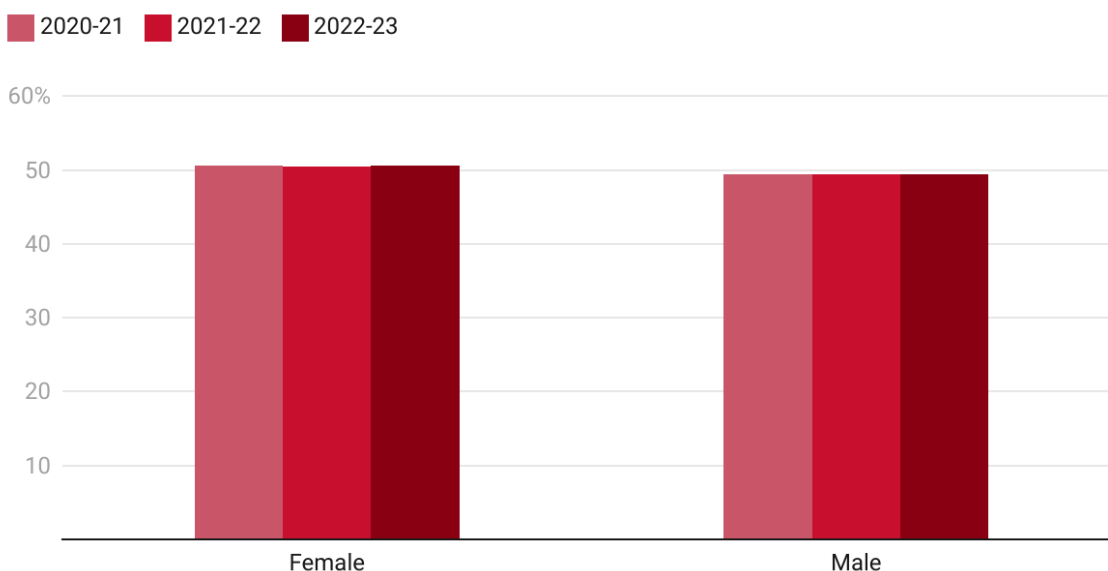


## Beneficiaries by gender

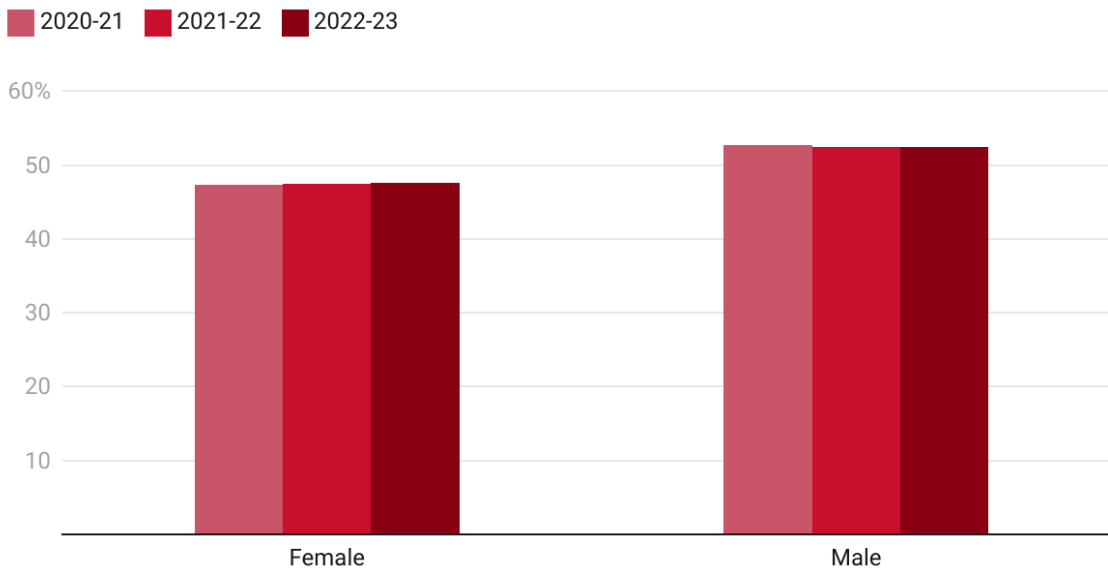
On average, ESIA beneficiaries were about evenly split between females and males in 2022-23, with slightly more females. For ESIA beneficiaries in the “Disability” case category, males were the majority representing about 52 per cent in 2022-23.

Note that the gender is unknown for about 2.5 to 3 per cent of ESIA beneficiaries and around 1 per cent of ESIA beneficiaries in the “Disability” case category. Data for beneficiaries with unknown gender is not included in figures 6NS and 7NS.

**Figure 6NS: Percentage of beneficiaries of ESIA by gender in Nova Scotia, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 7NS: Percentage of beneficiaries of ESIA in the “Disability” case category by gender in Nova Scotia, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



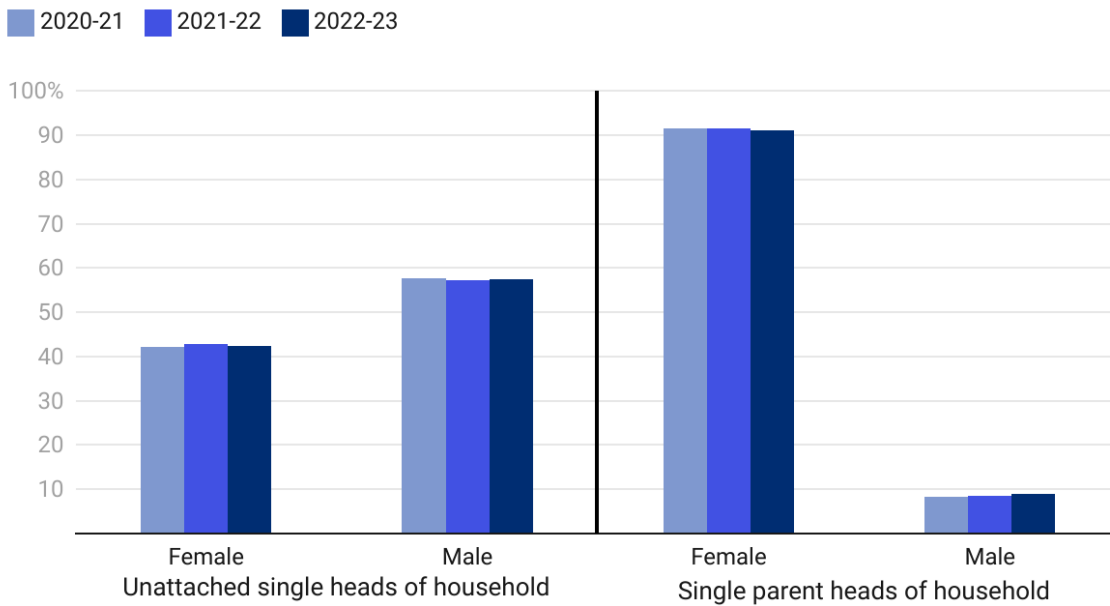
## Gender of heads of household

In 2022-23, on average, the majority of unattached singles receiving ESIA were male, representing just under 58 per cent. In contrast, the majority of heads of single parent households were female, representing 91 per cent.

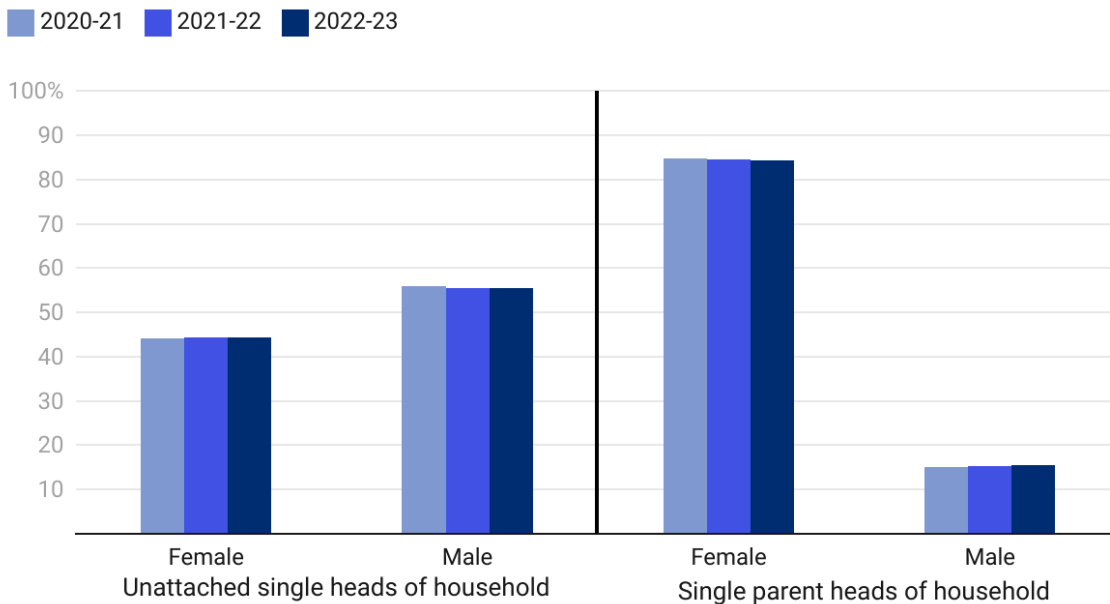
The gender distribution is similar for those receiving ESIA who are in the “Disability” case category in 2022-23. On average, just under 56 per cent of unattached singles were male and more than 84 per cent of heads of single parent households were female.

Note that data for heads of household with unknown gender, which represent under 1 per cent, is not included in 8NS and 9NS.

**Figure 8NS: Percentage of heads of unattached single and single parent households receiving ESIA by gender in Nova Scotia, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 9NS: Percentage of heads of unattached single and single parent households receiving ESIA in the "Disability" case category by gender in Nova Scotia, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



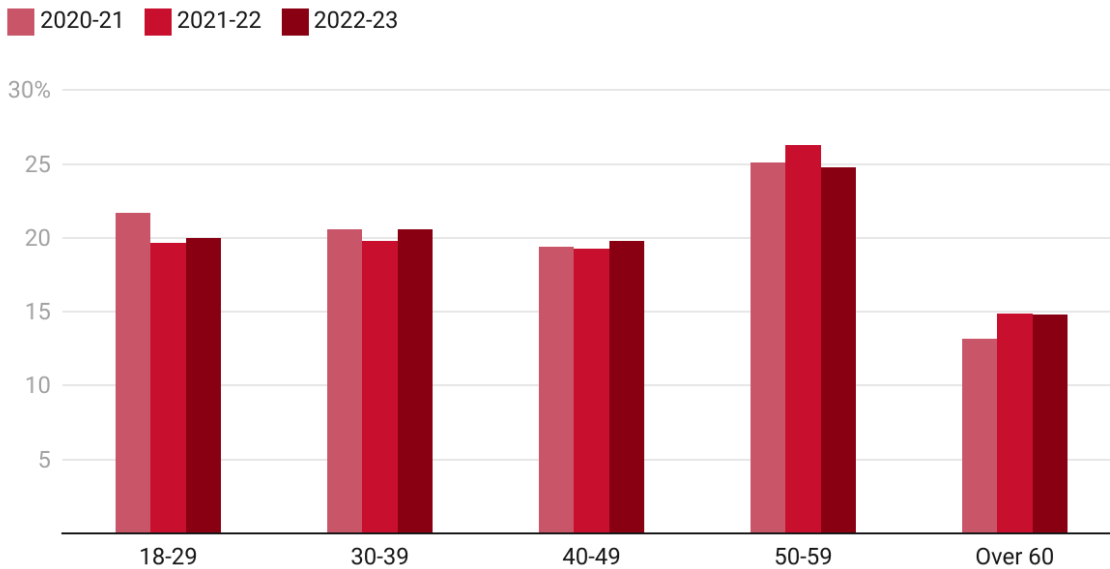
## Age of adult beneficiaries

In 2022-23, on average, the most common age group of adult beneficiaries receiving ESIA was 50-59, representing about 25 per cent. The least common was people over 60, representing less than 15 per cent.

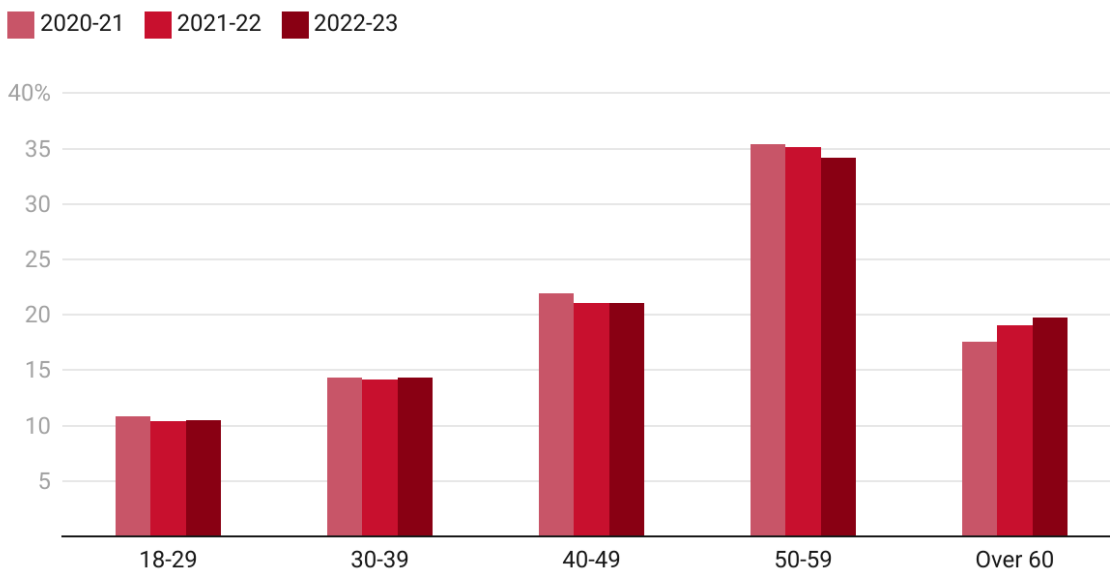


For adult beneficiaries receiving ESIA who are in the “Disability” case category, on average, the most common age group in 2022-23 was also 50-59, representing around 34 per cent. The least common age group was 18-29 with less than 11 per cent.

**Figure 10NS: Percentage of adult beneficiaries of ESIA by age category in Nova Scotia, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 11NS: Percentage of adult beneficiaries of ESIA in the “Disability” case category by age category in Nova Scotia, 2020-21 to 2022-23**

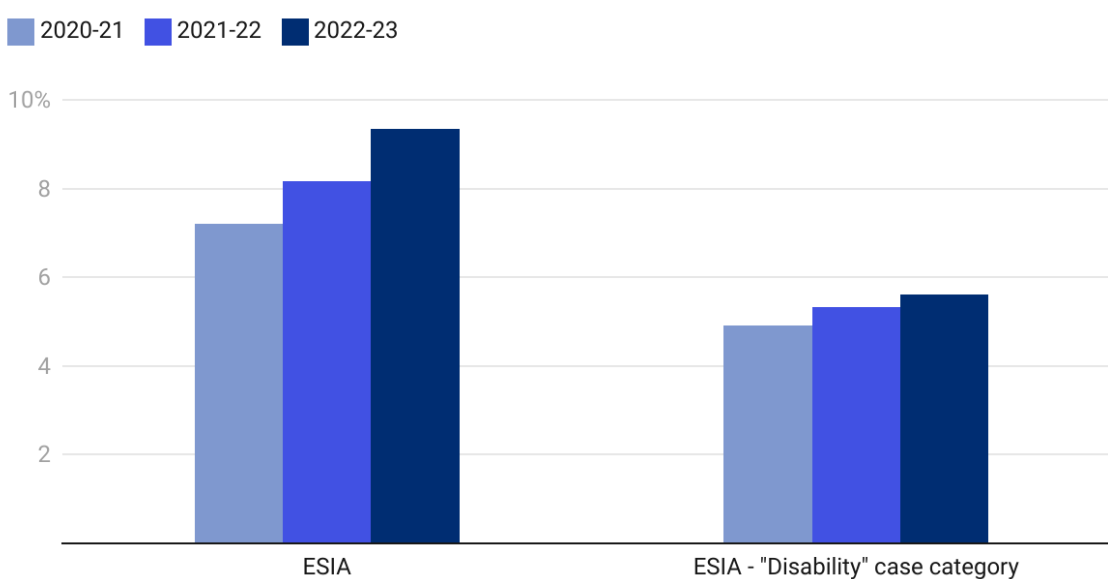


## Employment income

In Nova Scotia, employment income is referred to as “earned income,” which is defined as the income generated from employment activities including net wages from an employer, tips, gratuities, net commissions, and net business income.

In 2022-23, on average, 9.4 per cent of ESIA cases had employment income. ESIA cases in the “Disability” case category were less likely to have employment income at 5.6 per cent. Both numbers have steadily increased since 2020-21.

**Figure 12NS: Percentage of ESIA and ESIA (“Disability” case category) cases with employment income in Nova Scotia, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



## Access to data

The data on social assistance recipients in Nova Scotia is available for download, including:

1. Total cases and beneficiaries;
2. Percentage of beneficiaries relative to the total under-65 population;
3. Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
4. Beneficiaries by gender;
5. Heads of household by gender for unattached single and single parent households;
6. Adult beneficiaries by age category; and
7. Percentage of cases receiving employment income.



Access the downloadable [spreadsheet here](#).

## 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).
- 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. For modelling of total incomes available to social assistance recipients, visit the [Welfare in Canada](#) report.

**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 incidental allowance (for seniors and persons with a disability), clothing, household furniture, security/damage deposits, emergency, and education are also paid to eligible individuals.

For a person with a disability to be eligible for incidental allowance under Income Assistance, they must have physical or mental impairments that significantly restrict the ability to perform daily living activities permanently or temporarily for at least six months, that result in requiring assistance with daily living activities, and that medical treatment would not heal.

## How many people claim social assistance?

In the 2022-23 fiscal year, on average, there were 5,200 cases (family units and unattached single adults) and about 10,900 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in Nunavut's Income Assistance program. Both numbers saw small increases in 2022-23, by 370 cases (8 per cent) and 570 beneficiaries (6 per cent).

Over the longer term, the number of cases rose during the 2000s and early 2010s but was 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 2021-22, and then increases to both cases and beneficiaries in 2022-23.

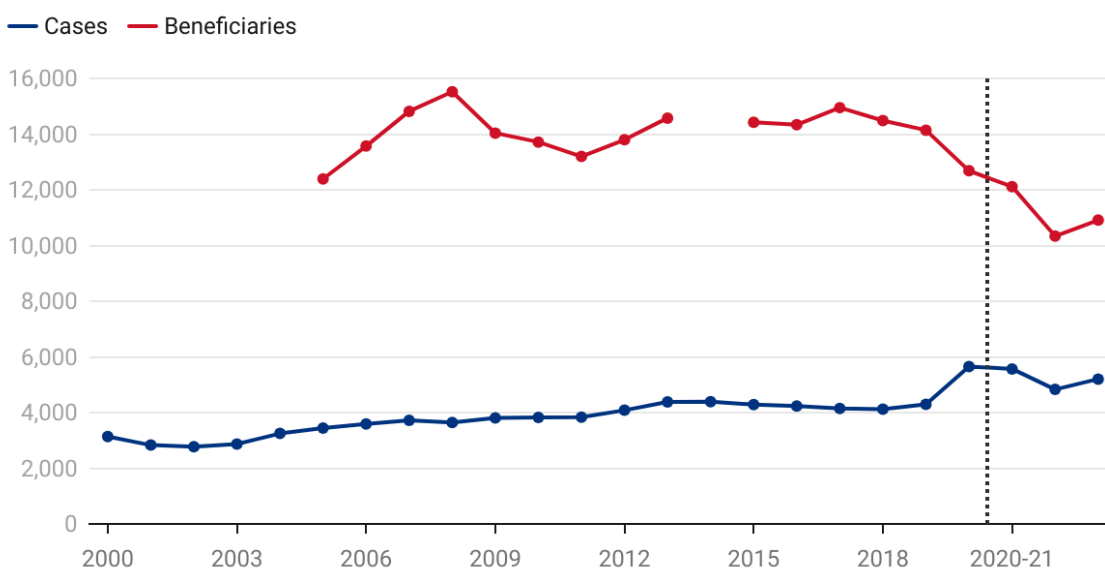


Within the Income Assistance program, on average, about 664 cases, or 13 per cent, were persons with a disability who also received incidental allowance. This number increased by 82, or 14 per cent from the previous year.

Note that incidental allowance is delivered to individuals not households, which means that the cases and beneficiaries are the same. As such, this report focuses on cases of incidental allowance for persons with a disability.

To access data on cases and beneficiaries of social assistance in Nunavut, including disaggregated data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

**Figure 1NU: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Income Assistance in Nunavut, 2000 to 2022-23**

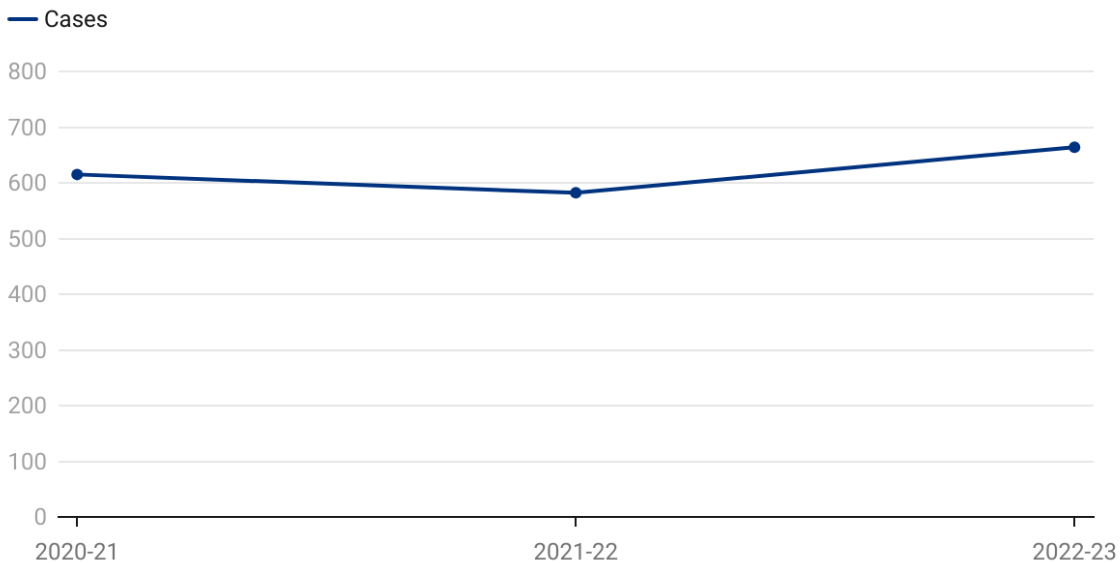


Note 1: Beneficiary statistics are not available for 2000 to 2004 and for 2014.

Note 2: 2020 and prior, the data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the calendar year (January 1 to December 31). 2020-21 onward, the data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).



Figure 2NU: Yearly cases disability-related incidental allowance under Income Assistance in Nunavut, 2020-21 to 2022-23

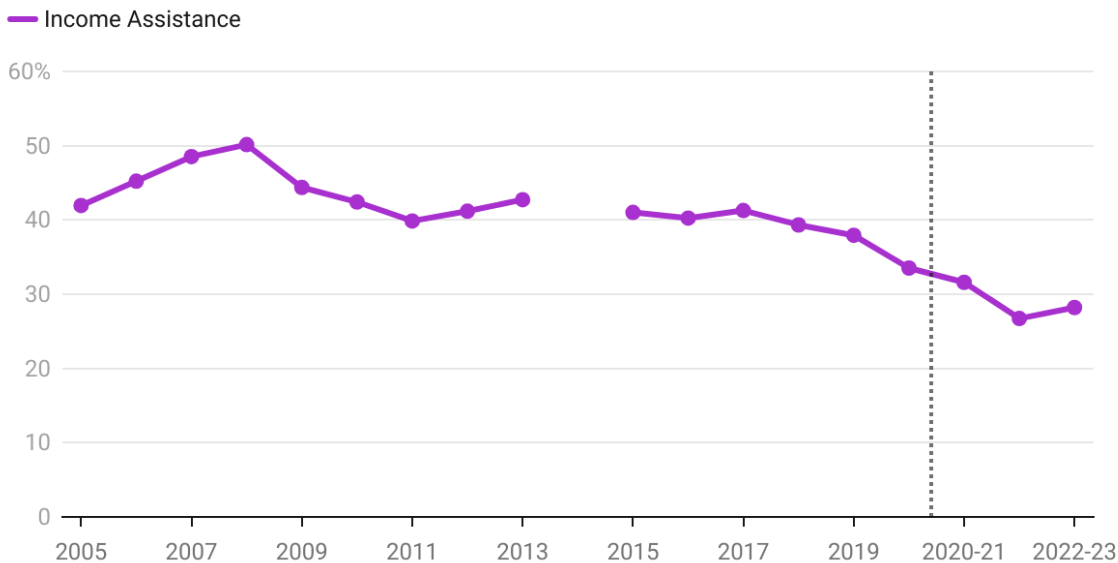


## What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2022-23, on average, 28.2 per cent of people in Nunavut under 65 received the Income Assistance program, which is about 2 in 7. On average, the proportion fluctuated between 40 and 50 per cent until 2017, after which it began to decline, reaching its lowest point in 2021-22. The increase in 2022-23 was the first in 6 years.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of the fiscal year (e.g., July 1, 2022, for 2022-23), whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April to March) from 2020-21 onward, and a calendar year average (January to December) from 2005 to 2020.

**Figure 3NU: Yearly beneficiaries of Income Assistance as a proportion of the under-65 population in Nunavut, 2005 to 2022**



Note 1: Beneficiary statistics are not available for 2000 to 2004 and 2014.

Note 2: 2020 and prior, the data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the calendar year (January 1 to December 31). 2020-21 onward, the data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).

Source of population data: Statistics Canada. (2024). Population estimates on July 1, by age and sex. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>

## Who is receiving social assistance?

This section examines the following disaggregated data:

- Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
- Beneficiaries/cases by gender;
- Heads of household by gender for unattached singles and single parents;
- Adult beneficiaries by age category; and
- Cases receiving employment income.

Note that the figures below represent percentages but total numbers are available. To access this data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

## Household type

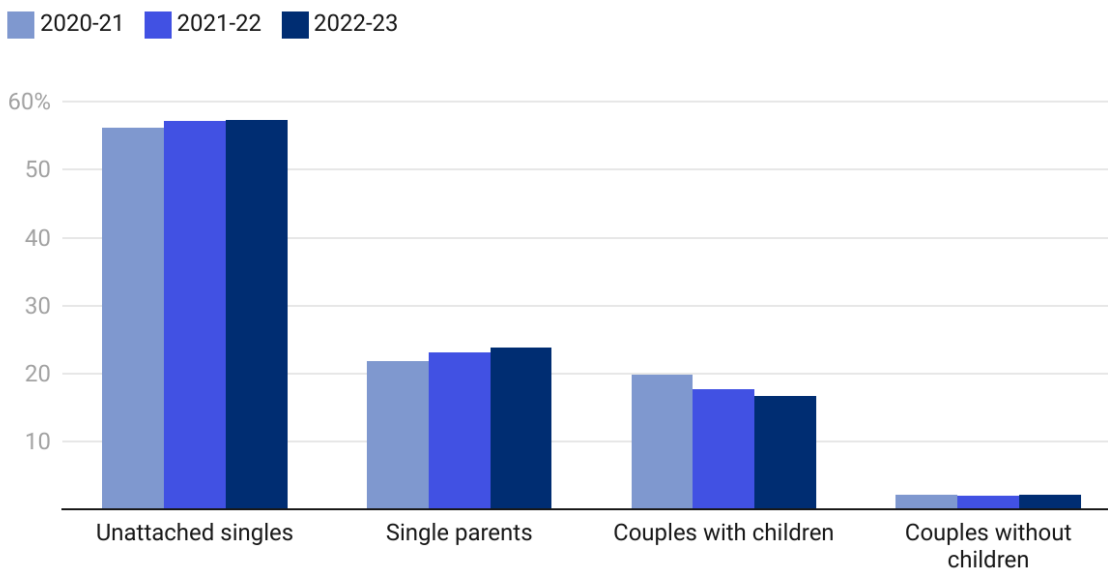
In 2022-23, on average, the majority of Income Assistance cases in Nunavut were unattached singles, representing over 57 per cent. Single parents were the second largest household with just under 24 per cent of cases.

Couples with children were on average the highest proportion of Income Assistance beneficiaries in 2022-23 with over 37 per cent, followed by single parent households with 34 per cent, then unattached singles with less than 27 per cent.

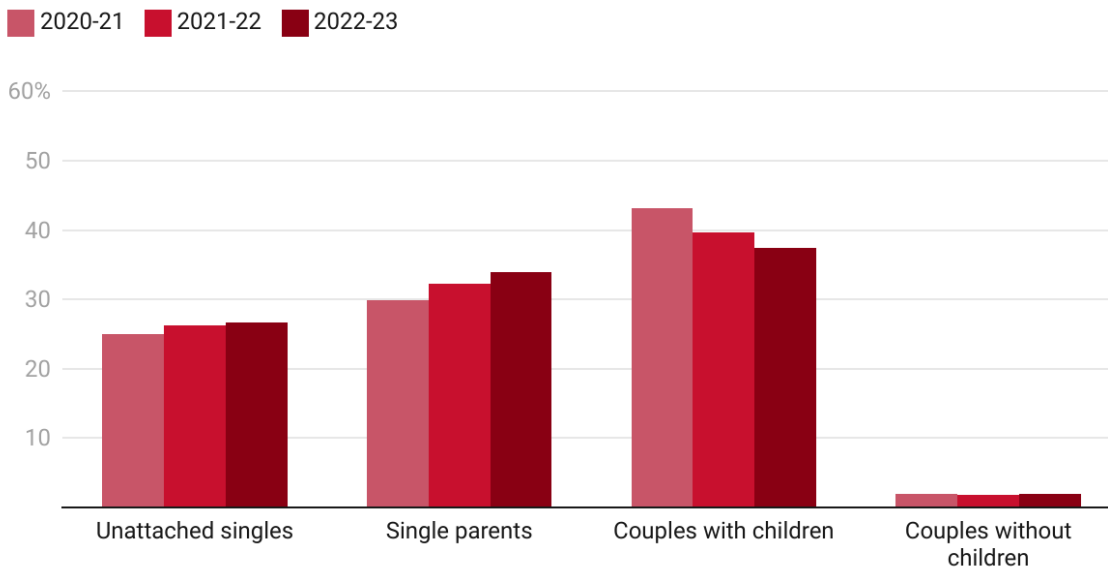
Among those who received disability-related incidental allowance under Income Assistance in 2022-23, on average, the largest number of cases were unattached singles representing over 72 per cent, followed by single parents, representing just over 12 per cent of cases.

**Figure 4NU: Percentage of cases and beneficiaries of Income Assistance by household in Nunavut, 2022**

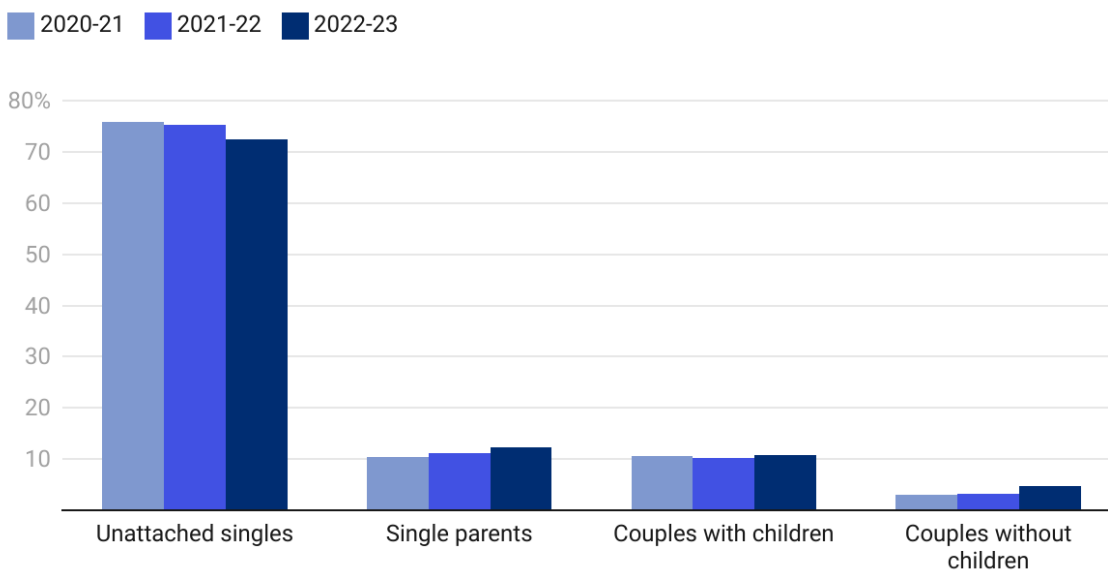
### Cases



## Beneficiaries



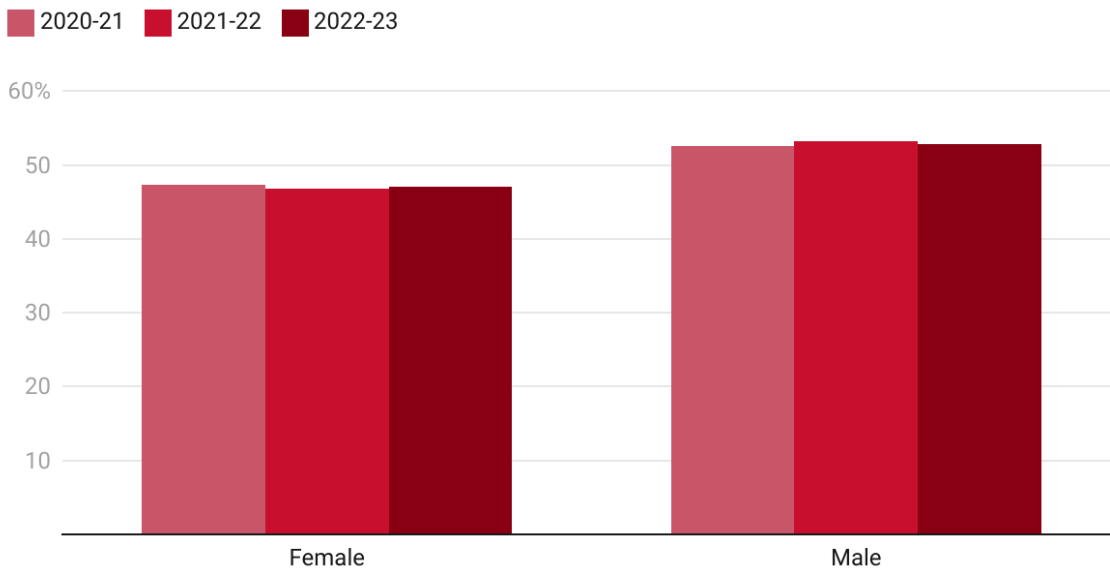
**Figure 5NU: Percentage of cases of disability-related incidental allowance under Income Assistance by household in Nunavut, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



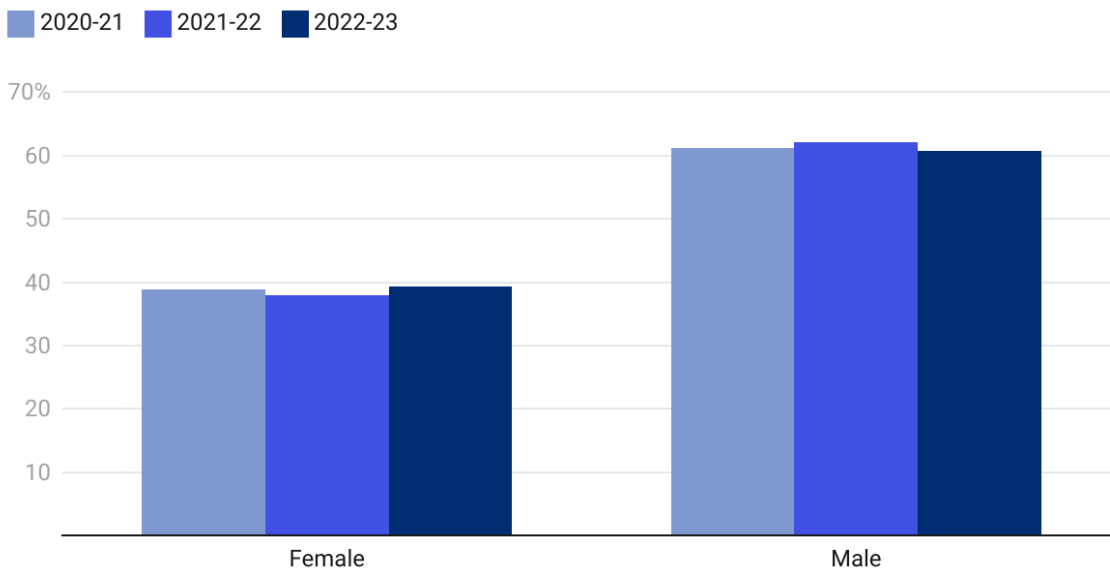
## Beneficiaries/cases by gender

On average, males were the majority of Income Assistance beneficiaries in 2022-23, representing close to 53 per cent. Males were the majority of cases of disability-related incidental allowance under Income Assistance, representing almost 61 per cent.

**Figure 6NU: Percentage of beneficiaries of Income Assistance by gender in Nunavut, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 7NU: Percentage of cases of disability-related incidental allowance under Income Assistance by gender in Nunavut, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



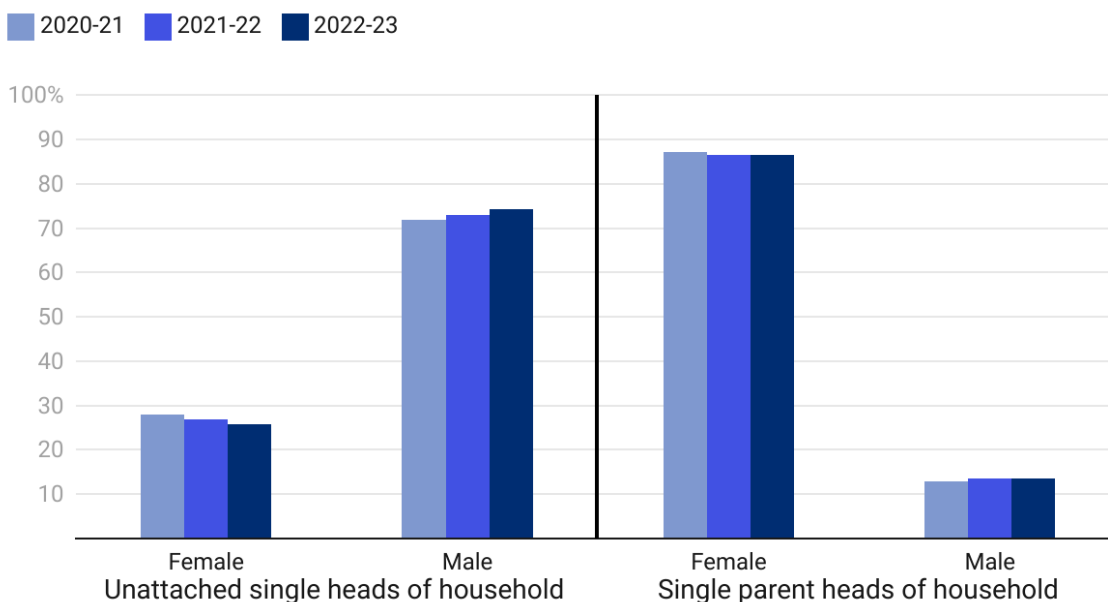
## Gender of heads of household

In 2022-23, on average, the majority of unattached singles receiving Income Assistance were male, representing over 74 per cent. In contrast, the majority of heads of single parent households were female, representing almost 87 per cent.

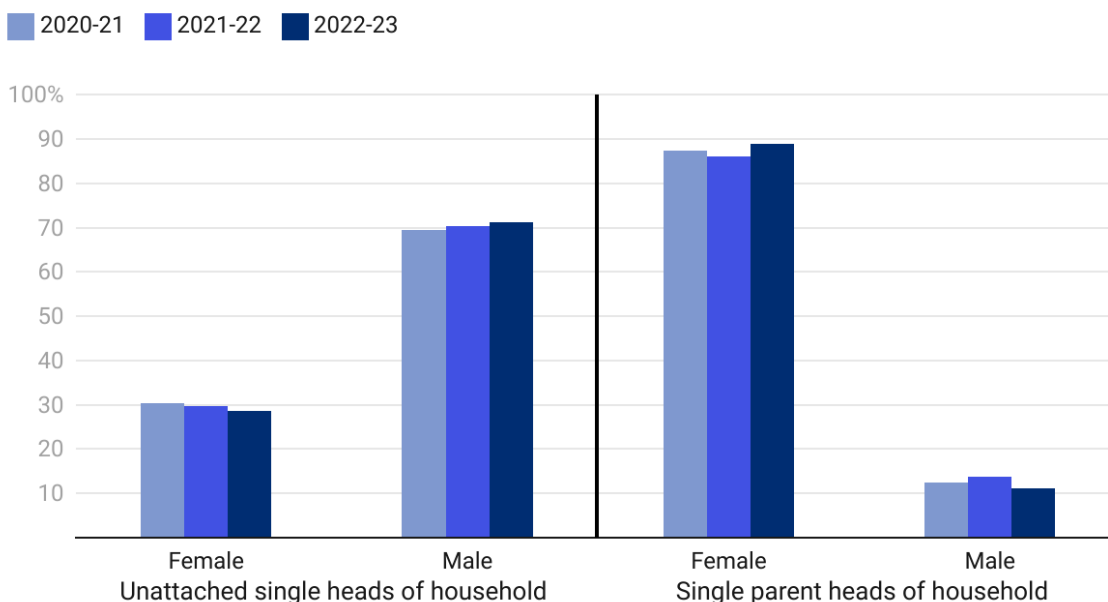


The gender distribution is similar for disability-related incidental allowance under Income Assistance in 2022-23. On average, over 71 per cent of unattached singles were male and 89 per cent of heads of single parent households were female.

**Figure 8NU: Percentage of heads of unattached single and single parent households receiving Income Assistance by gender in Nunavut, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 9NU: Percentage of heads of unattached single and single parent households receiving disability-related incidental allowance under Income Assistance by gender in Nunavut, 2020-21 to 2022-23**

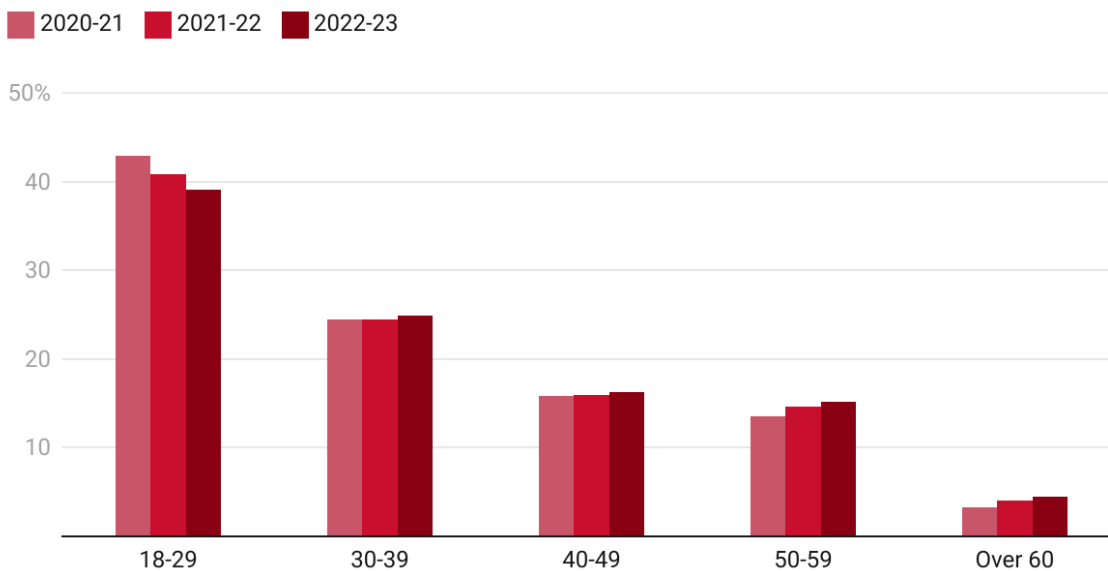


## Age of adult beneficiaries

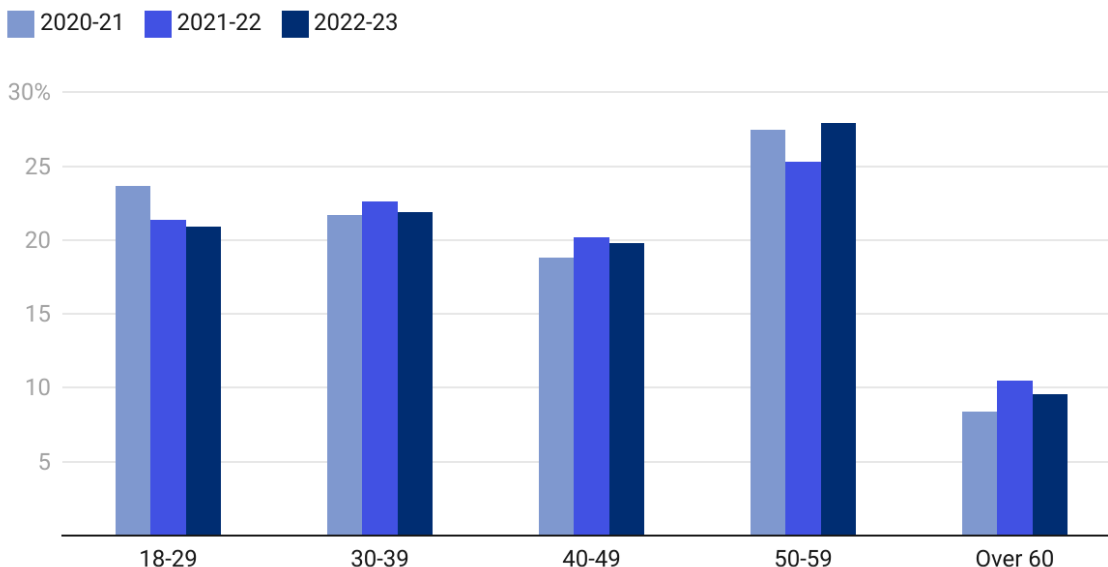
In 2022-23, on average, the most common age group of adult beneficiaries receiving Income Assistance was 18-29, representing 39 per cent. The least common age group was people over 60, representing under 5 per cent.

For adults receiving disability-related incidental allowance under Income Assistance, on average, the most common age group in 2022-23 was 50-59, representing 28 per cent. The least common age group was over 60 with less than 10 per cent.

**Figure 10NU: Percentage of adult beneficiaries of Income Assistance by age category in Nunavut, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 11NU: Percentage of adults receiving disability-related incidental allowance under Income Assistance by age category in Nunavut, 2020-21 to 2022-23**

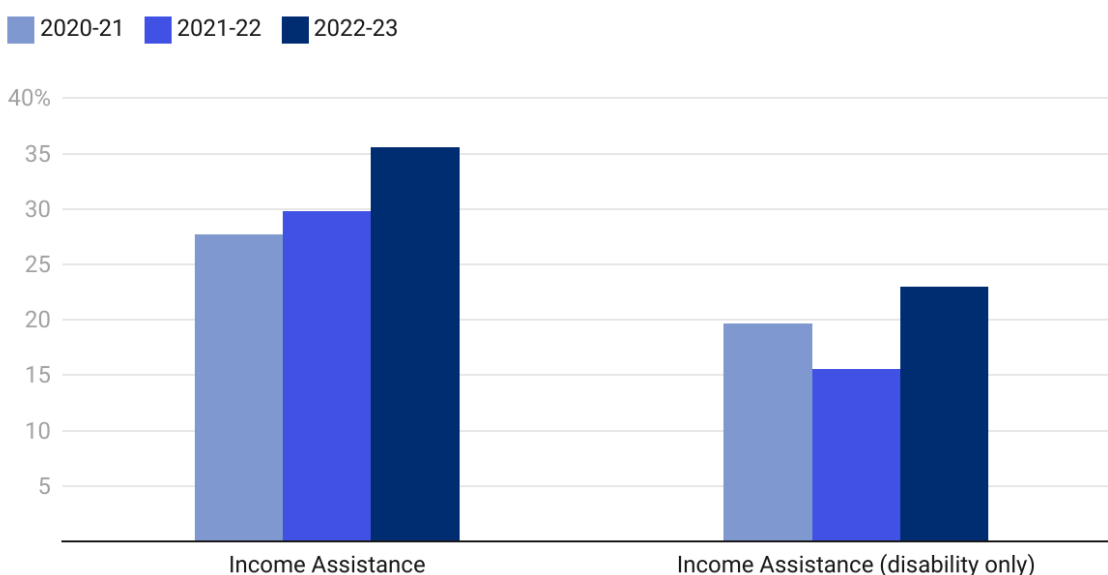


## Employment income

In Nunavut, employment income is defined as net salary and wages including voluntary deductions, as well as net income from hunting, trapping, fishing, business operations, and other self-employment.

In 2022-23, on average, almost 36 per cent of Income Assistance cases had employment income. The percentage has steadily increased since 2020-21. Cases receiving disability-related incidental allowance under Income Assistance were less likely to have employment income at 23 per cent, an increase following a decrease in 2021-22.

**Figure 12NU: Percentage of Income Assistance cases and Income Assistance cases receiving disability-related incidental allowance with employment income in Nunavut, 2020-21 to 2022-23**




## Access to data

The data on social assistance recipients in Nunavut is available for download, including:

1. Total cases and beneficiaries;
2. Percentage of beneficiaries relative to the total under-65 population;
3. Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
4. Beneficiaries/cases by gender;
5. Heads of household by gender for unattached single and single parent households;



- 
6. Adult beneficiaries by age category; and
  7. Percentage of cases receiving employment income.

Access the downloadable [spreadsheet here](#).

## Data notes

- From 2020-21 onwards, data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).
- From 2005 to 2020, 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 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.



# 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. For modelling of total incomes available to social assistance recipients, visit the [Welfare in Canada](#) report.

In Ontario, social assistance is composed of two programs:

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

Both Ontario Works and ODSP provide a range of allowances and benefits.

### Ontario Works

Ontario Works 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)

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.

Under the Ontario Disability Support Program Act, being a person with a disability means:

- The recipient has a substantial mental or physical impairment that is continuous or recurrent and is expected to last one year or more.

- 
- The direct and cumulative effect of the recipient's impairment results in a substantial restriction in their ability to work, care for themselves, or take part in community life.
  - The recipient's impairment and its likely duration and restrictions have been verified by an approved healthcare professional.

## How many people claim social assistance?

In 2022-23, there were, on average, over 585,000 cases (families and single adults) and 882,000 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in Ontario's social assistance programs.

Among the cases, 37 per cent (217,639) were recipients of Ontario Works and 63 per cent (367,828) were recipients of ODSP. And among the beneficiaries, almost 44 per cent (384,274) were recipients of Ontario Works and over 66 per cent (498,057) were recipients of ODSP.

The total number of social assistance cases increased by 24,024 and the beneficiaries increased by 27,332 in 2022-23. These increases in recipients came solely from Ontario Works as both cases and beneficiaries of ODSP decreased.

To access data on cases and beneficiaries of social assistance in Ontario, including disaggregated data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

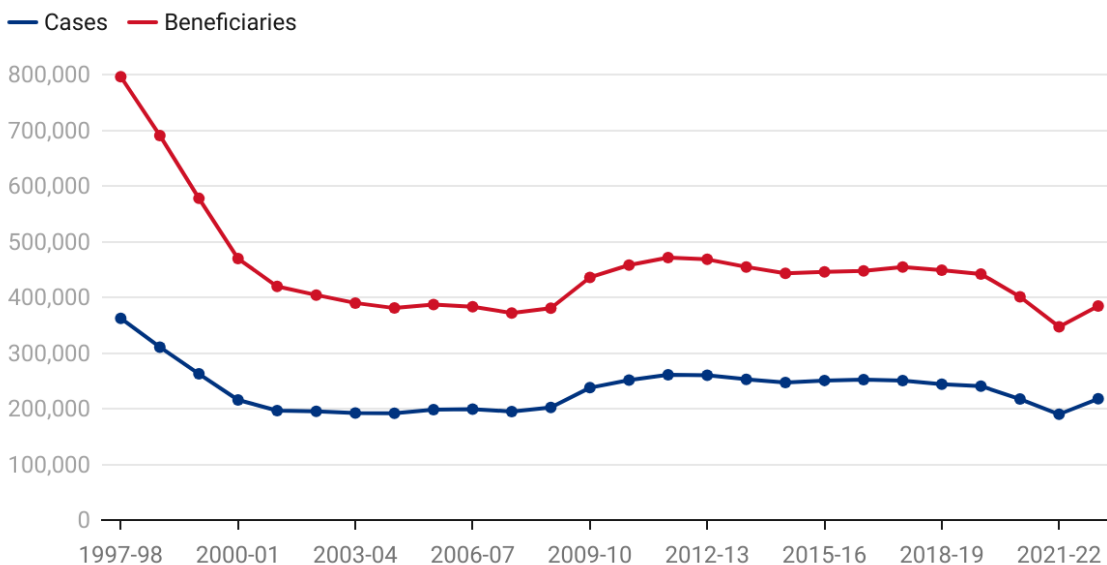
### Ontario Works

On average, there were just under 218,000 cases receiving Ontario Works in 2022-23, a sharp increase of almost 28,000 from 2021-22. The number of beneficiaries also increased to about 384,000 in 2022-23, over 37,000 more than the previous year.

The number of cases and beneficiaries, on average, increased by 12.7 and 9.8 per cent, respectively. Since 2016-17, both cases and beneficiaries had been decreasing, and, in 2021-22, reached their lowest since we began tracking social assistance numbers in 1996-97.



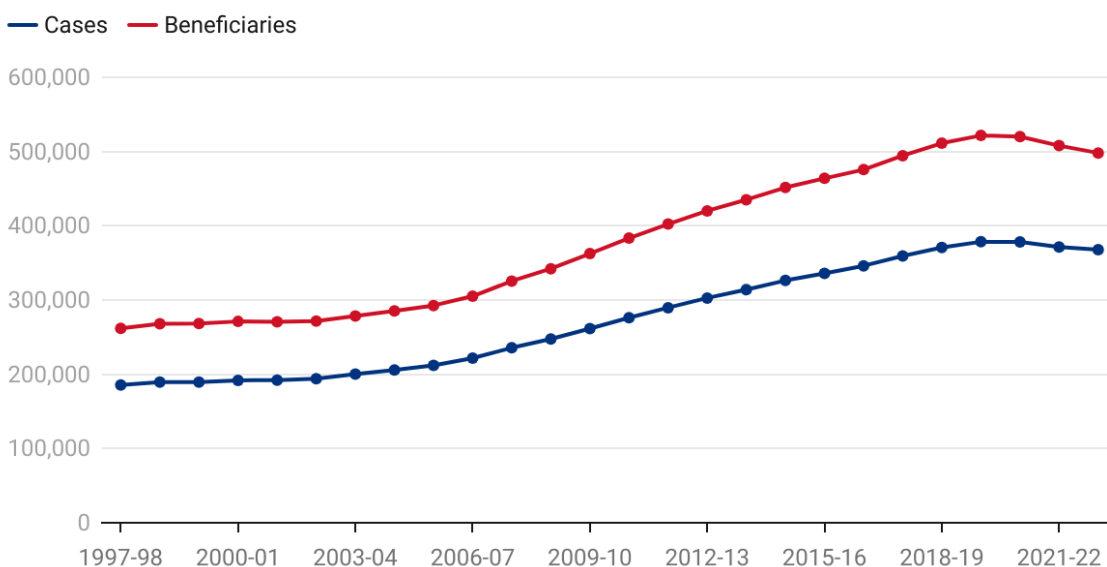
Figure 10N: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Ontario Works, 1997-98 to 2022-23



## Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

In 2022-23, there was an average of almost 368,000 cases and 498,000 beneficiaries receiving ODSP. After steadily rising since the early 2000s, both numbers have been decreasing since 2020-21. From the previous year, the number of cases and beneficiaries, on average, decreased by about 3,600 and almost 9,800, respectively.

Figure 20N: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of ODSP, 1997-98 to 2022-23



# What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

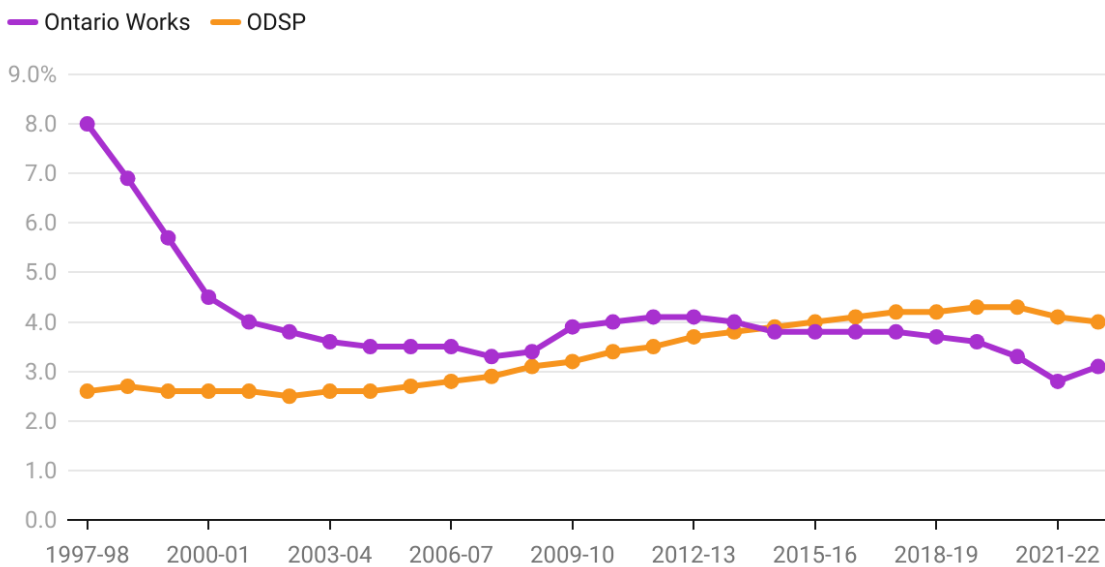
In 2022-23, on average, 7.1 per cent of people in Ontario under 65 received Ontario Works or ODSP, which is about 1 in 14.

The proportion of people under 65 receiving ODSP decreased in 2022-23, which is the third year in a row. Previously, the proportion had increased consistently since 2005-06, reaching a high of 4.3 per cent in 2019-20.

The proportion of Ontario Works beneficiaries decreased steeply from 1997-98 to 2001-02, going from 8 per cent to 4 per cent. Since then, the proportion has stayed in a range between 2.9 per cent and 4.1 per cent. In 2021-22, the average proportion of Ontario Works relative to the under-65 population reached its lowest value of 2.9 per cent, but increased in 2022-23 to 3.1 per cent.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of the fiscal year (e.g., July 1, 2022, for 2022-23), whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April to March).

**Figure 3ON: Yearly beneficiaries of Ontario Works and ODSP as a proportion of the under-65 population of Ontario, 1997-98 to 2022-23**



Source of population data: Statistics Canada. (2024). Population estimates on July 1, by age and sex. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>



# Who is receiving social assistance?

This section examines the following disaggregated data:

- Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
- Beneficiaries by sex;
- Heads of household by sex for unattached singles and single parents;
- Adult beneficiaries by age category; and
- Cases receiving employment income

Note that the figures below represent percentages but total numbers are available. To access this data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

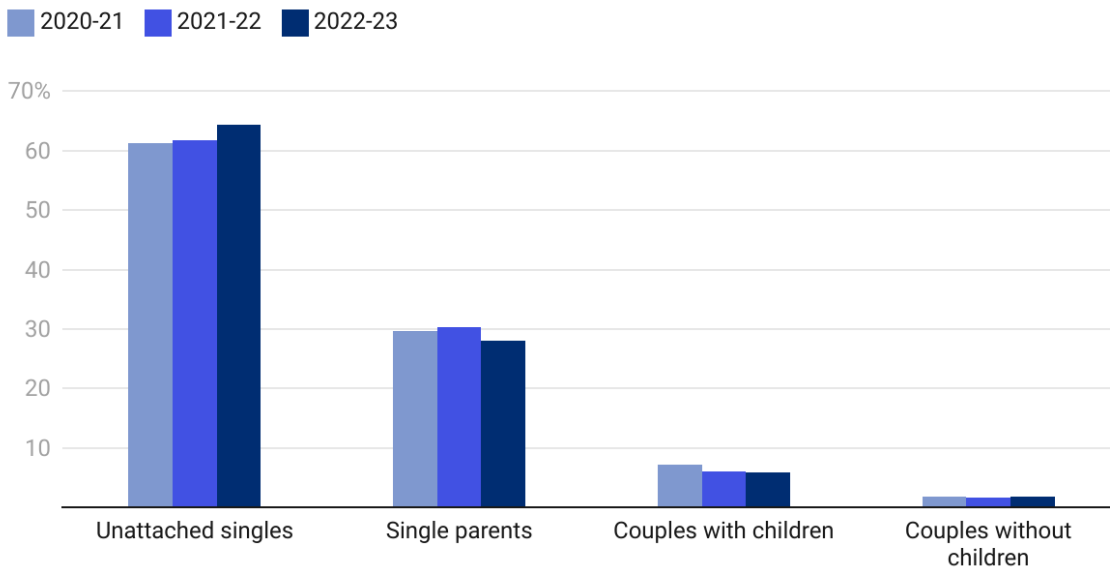
## Household type

In 2022-23, on average, unattached singles comprised the majority of social assistance cases among households for both programs, representing over 64 per cent of Ontario Works and over 80 per cent of ODSP. For both programs, single parents were the second largest percentage of cases, representing 28 per cent for Ontario Works and 9 per cent for ODSP.

For Ontario Works, single parent households had the highest proportion of beneficiaries, on average, representing about 46 per cent, followed by unattached singles, representing over 36 per cent. Unattached singles comprised the majority of ODSP beneficiaries, representing more than 59 per cent, followed by single parent households, representing over 17 per cent.

Figure 4ON: Percentage of cases and beneficiaries of Ontario Works by household, 2020-21 to 2022-23

### Cases



### Beneficiaries

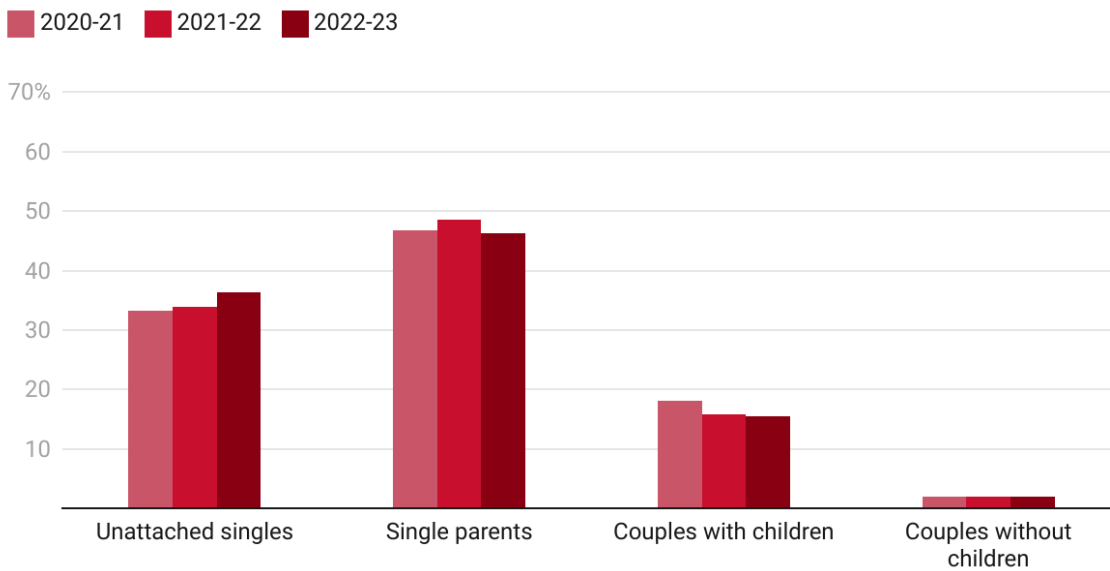
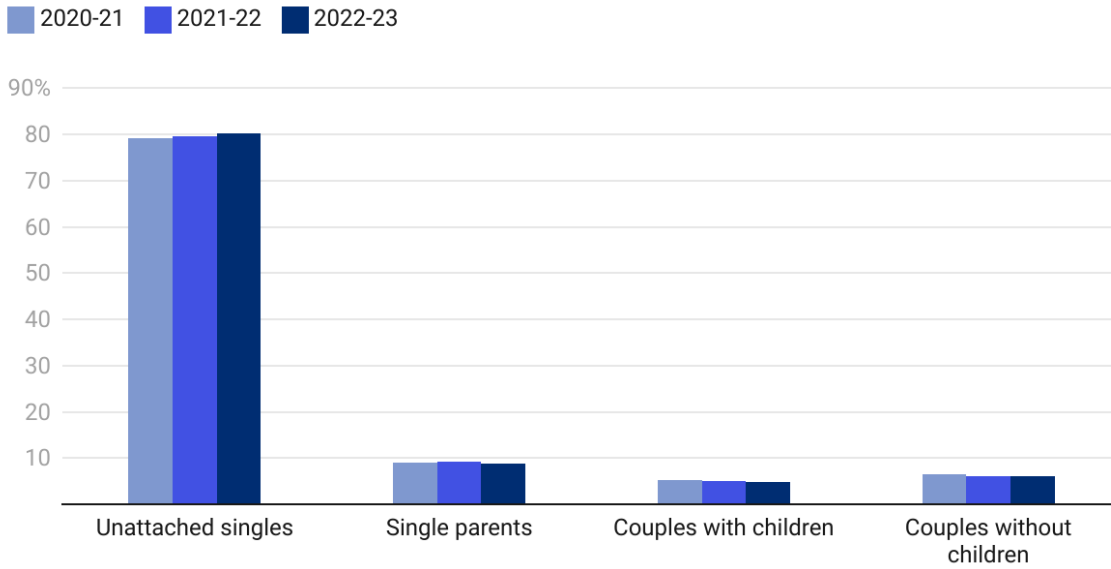


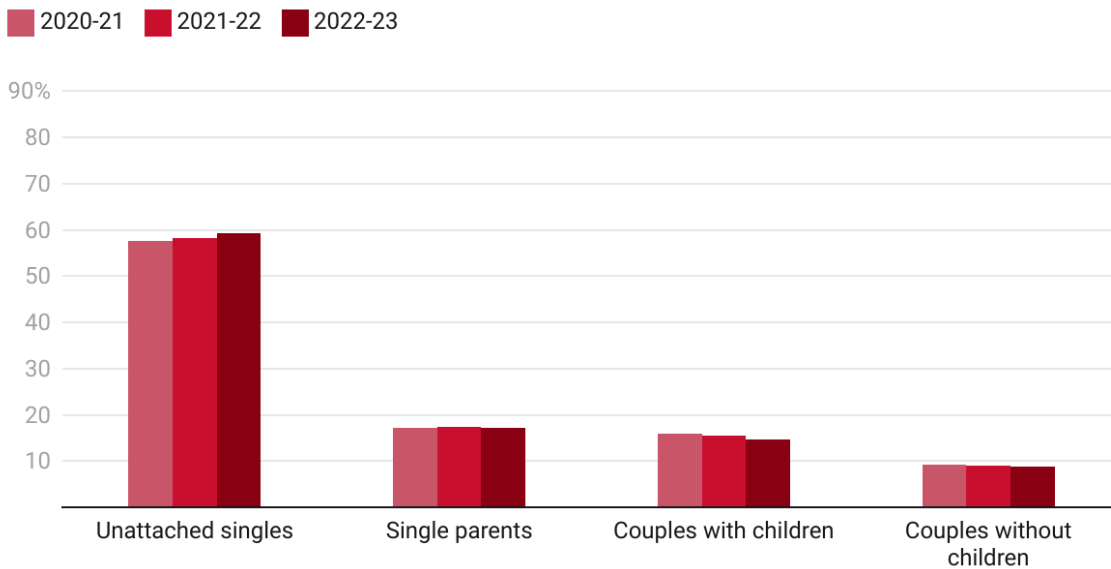


Figure 5ON: Percentage of cases and beneficiaries of ODSP by household, 2020-21 to 2022-23

### Cases



### Beneficiaries

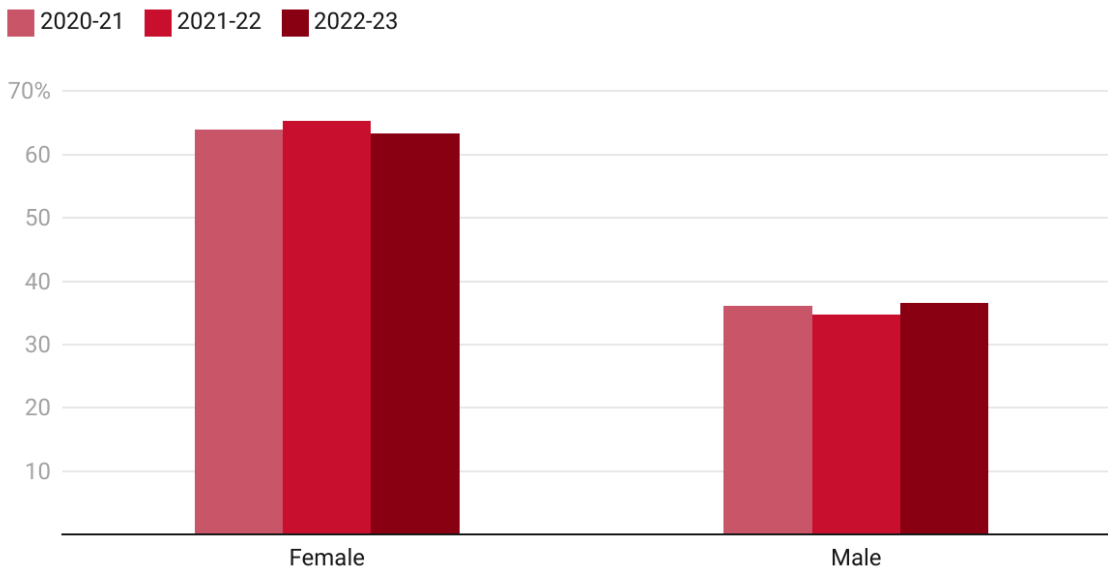




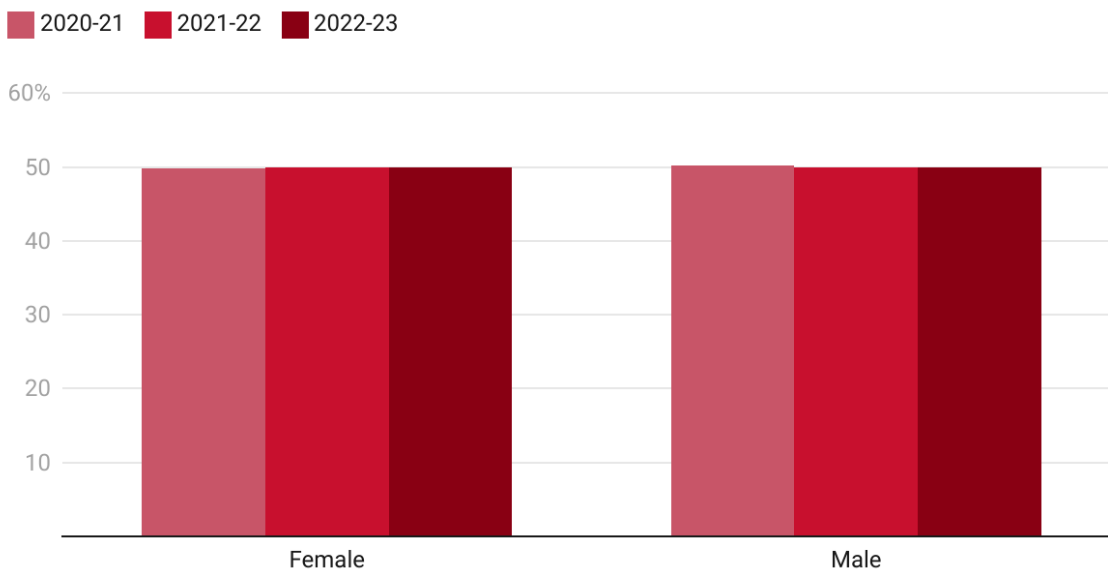
## Beneficiaries by sex

Females made up the majority of Ontario Works beneficiaries, on average, in 2022-23, with over 63 per cent. For ODSP, beneficiaries were almost equally split between males and females.

**Figure 6ON: Percentage of beneficiaries of Ontario Works by sex, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 7ON: Percentage of beneficiaries of ODSP by sex, 2020-21 to 2022-23**

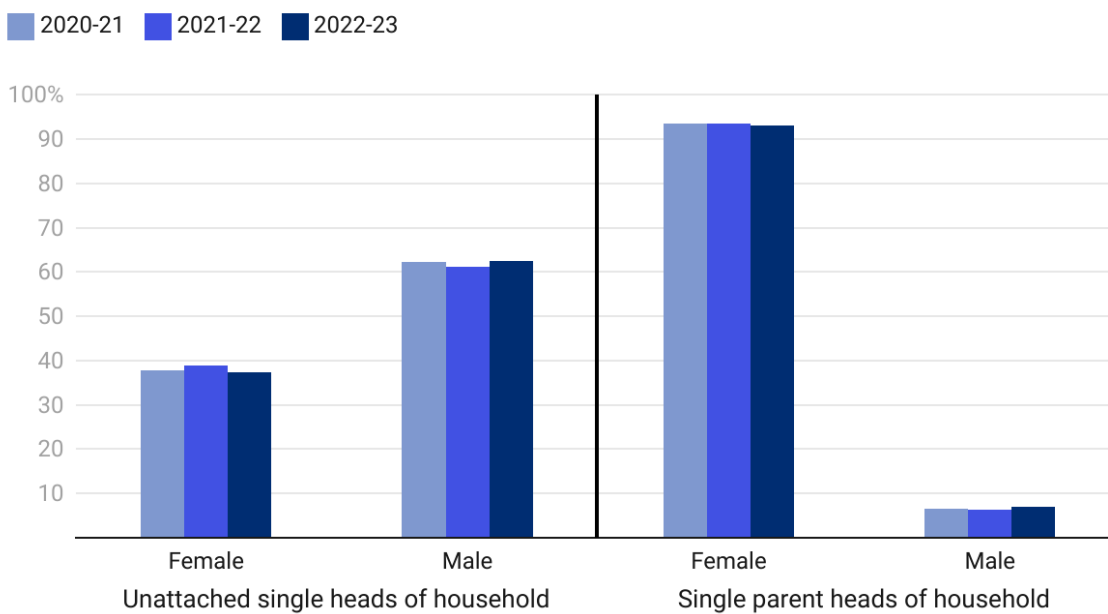


## Sex of heads of household

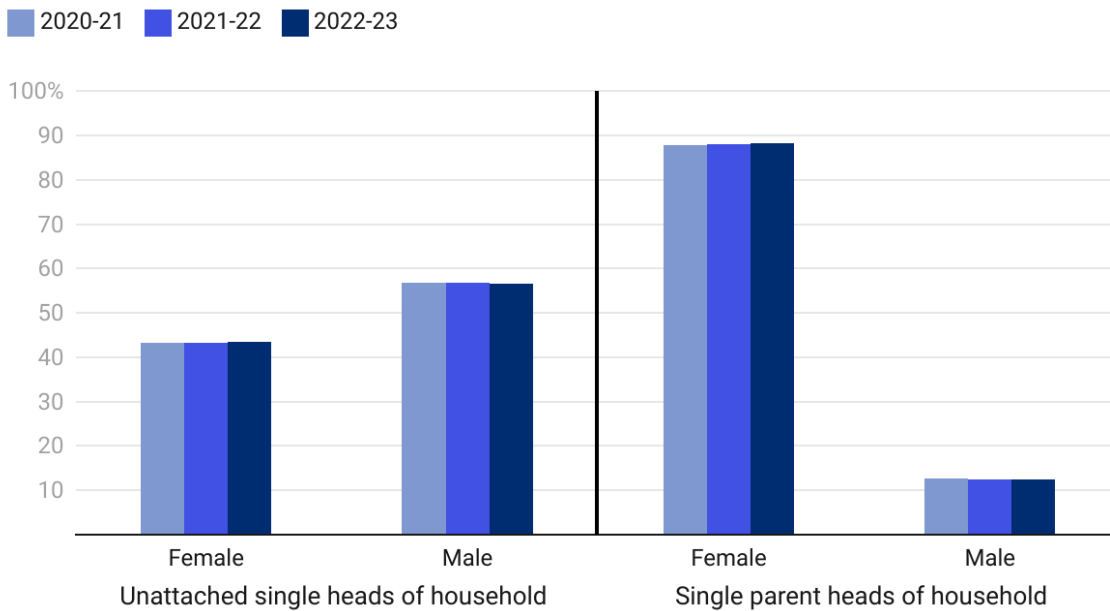
In 2022-23, on average, the majority of unattached singles receiving Ontario Works were male, representing just under 63 per cent. In contrast, the majority of heads of single parent households were female, representing 93 per cent.

The sex distribution is similar for ODSP in 2022-23. On average, just under 57 per cent of unattached singles were male and almost 88 per cent of heads of single parent households were female.

**Figure 8ON: Percentage of heads of unattached single and single parent households receiving Ontario Works by sex, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 9ON: Percentage of heads of unattached single and single parent households receiving ODSP by sex, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



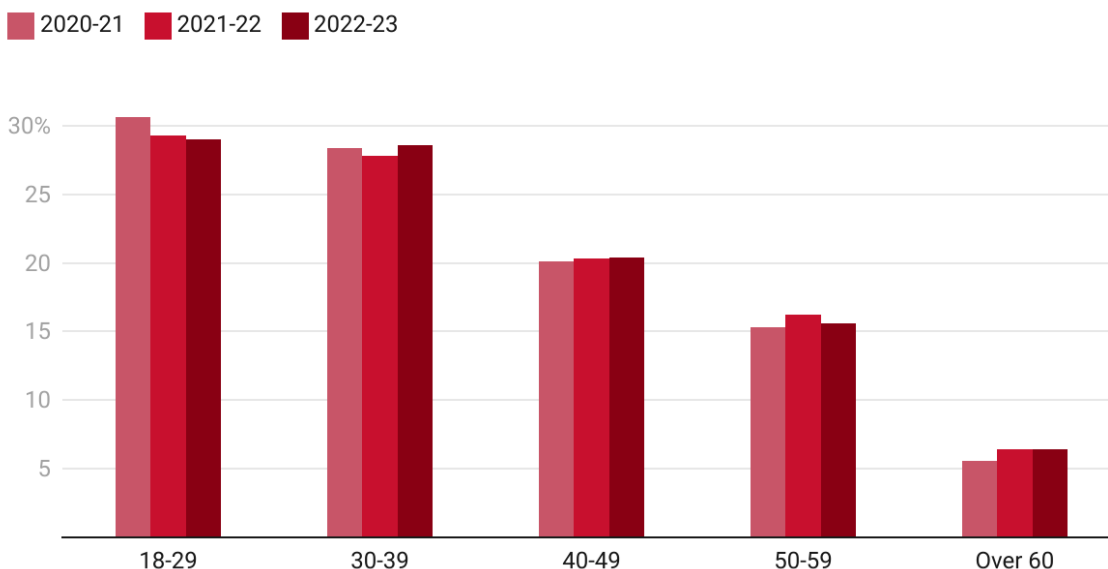
## Age of adult beneficiaries

In 2022-23, on average, the most common age group of adult beneficiaries receiving Ontario Works was 18-29, closely followed by 30-39, each representing about 29 per cent. The least common was people over 60, representing just over 6 per cent.

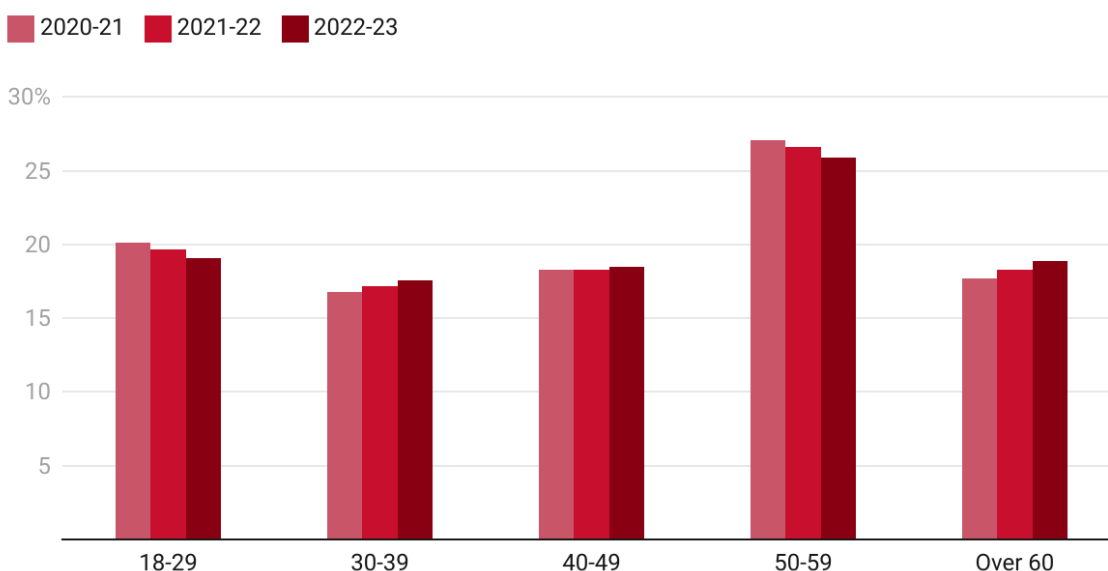
For adult beneficiaries receiving ODSP, on average, the most common age group in 2022-23 was 50-59, representing 26 per cent. The least common age was 30-39 with less than 18 per cent.



**Figure 10ON: Percentage of adult beneficiaries of Ontario Works by age category, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 11ON: Percentage of adult beneficiaries of ODSP by age category, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



## Employment income

In Ontario, employment income refers to any employment earnings reported in the most recent income reporting period.

For individuals receiving assistance from Ontario Works and ODSP, recipients are required to report any earnings they or their family members receive during a

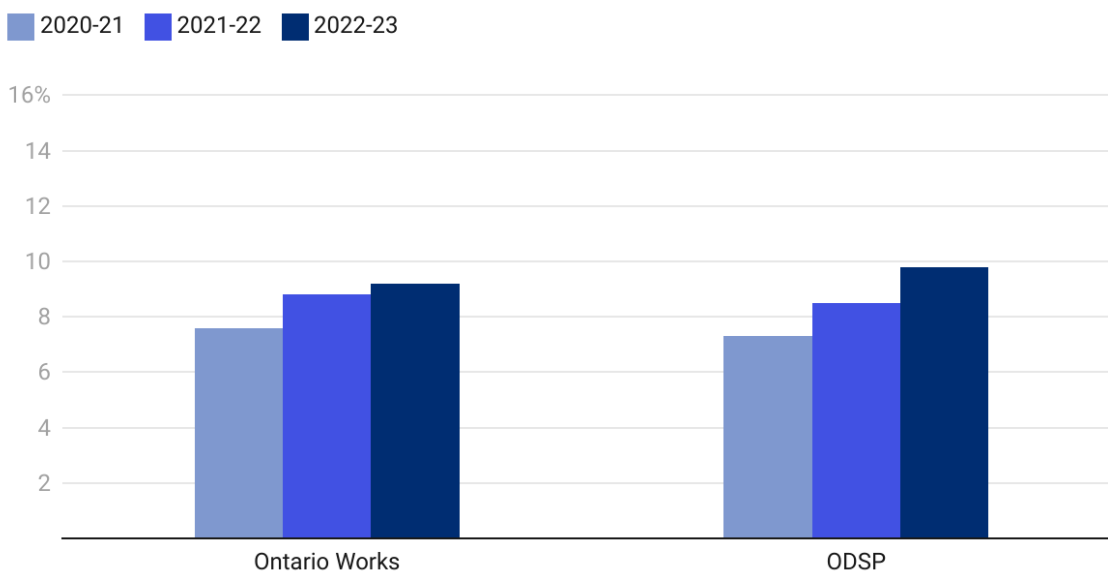
specific reporting period. The reported income can impact the amount of financial assistance they receive in the following month.

There are two exceptions:

1. Earnings of children under 18 years of age are fully exempt.
2. If the primary applicant or their family member is enrolled full-time in high school or postsecondary education, exemptions may apply to their earnings or the family member's earnings.

In 2022-23, on average, 9 per cent of Ontario Works cases had employment income. Cases receiving ODSP are more likely to have employment income at 10 per cent. Both numbers have steadily increased since 2020-21.


**Figure 12ON: Percentage of Ontario Works and ODSP cases with employment income, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



## Access to data

The data on social assistance recipients in Ontario is available for download, including:

1. Total cases and beneficiaries;
2. Percentage of beneficiaries relative to the total under-65 population;
3. Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
4. Beneficiaries by sex;

- 
5. Heads of household by sex for unattached single and single parent households;
  6. Adult beneficiaries by age category; and
  7. Percentage of cases receiving employment income.

Access the downloadable [spreadsheet here](#).

## 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 programs

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. For modelling of total incomes available to social assistance recipients, visit the [Welfare in Canada](#) report.

Prince Edward Island delivers two programs: The Social Assistance Program and AccessAbility Supports (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 homeowner. 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**

These supports provide 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.

For the purposes of AAS, “person with a disability” means a person who has a substantial physical, intellectual, sensory, neurological, or mental impairment that (i) is continuous or recurrent, (ii) is expected to last for at least one year, and (iii) has a direct and cumulative effect on, and results in a substantial restriction in, the person’s ability to function in his or her home, the community, or a workplace.

## How many people claim social assistance?

On average, there were just over 5,300 cases (family units and unattached single adults) receiving social assistance in Prince Edward Island during the 2022-23 fiscal





year. Among the cases, 57 per cent (3,307) received Social Assistance and 43 per cent (2,277) received AccessAbility Supports (AAS).

Social Assistance had almost 5,100 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children).

The total number of cases increased, on average, by 410 in 2022-23. This increase came from both programs, with 56 per cent (228) coming from Social Assistance and 44 per cent (182) coming from AAS.

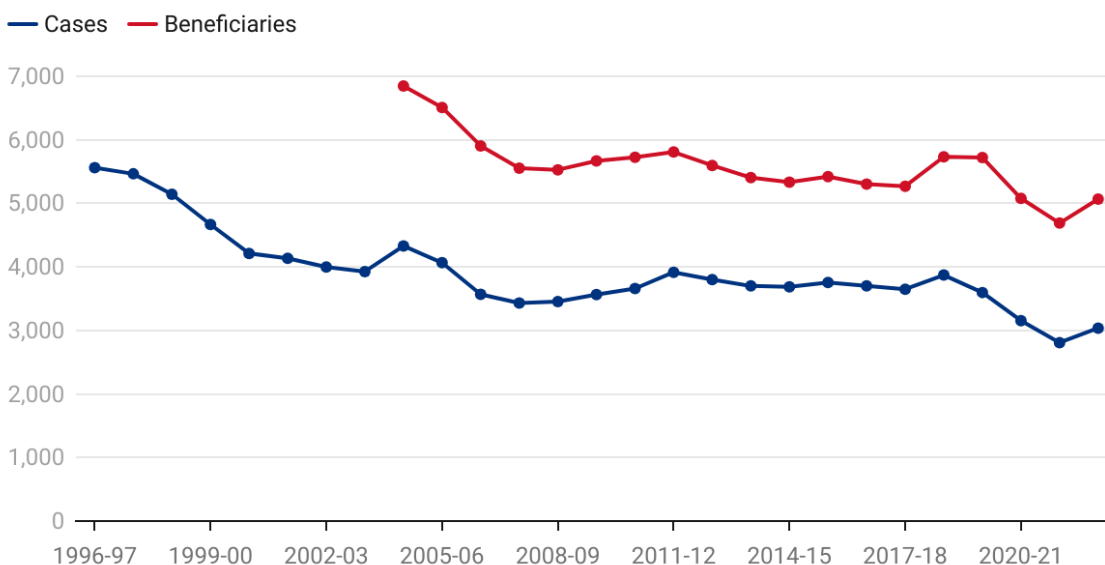
To access data on cases and beneficiaries of social assistance in Prince Edward Island, including disaggregated data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

## Social Assistance Program

On average, there were over 3,000 cases and nearly 5,100 beneficiaries in Prince Edward Island’s Social Assistance Program during 2022-23. Both numbers increased by about 7.5 per cent from the previous year.

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

**Figure 1PE: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Social Assistance in Prince Edward Island, 1996-97 to 2022-23**



Note 1: Social Assistance Program beneficiary figures for the years 1996-97 to 2003-04 are not available.

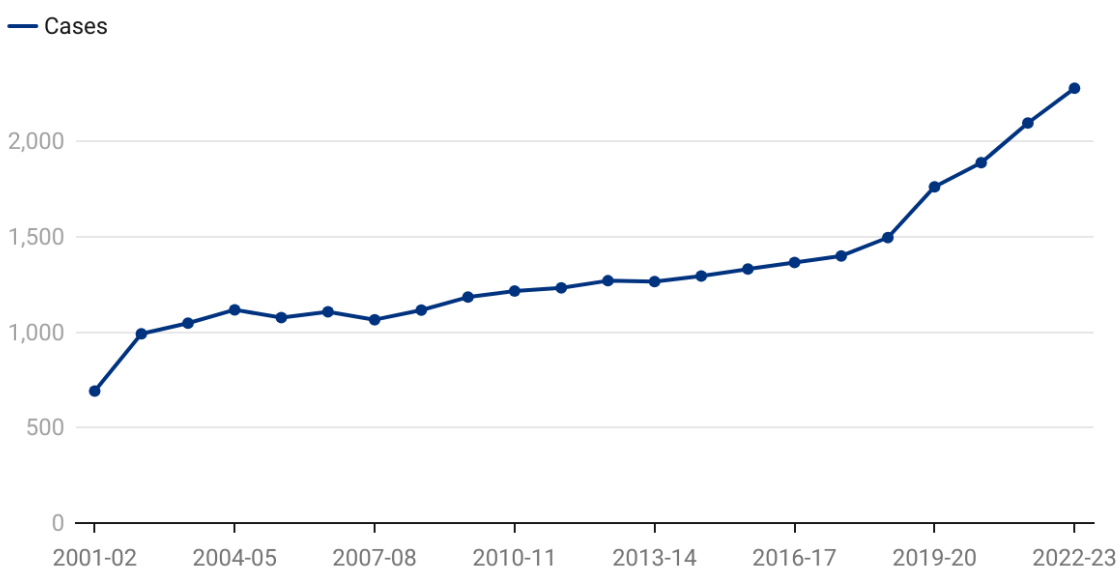
Note 2: For the year 2019-20, beneficiary figures are for March 2020 and not the fiscal year average.

## AccessAbility Supports

In 2022-23, on average, almost 2,300 cases received support through AAS.

The number of cases has risen gradually since its introduction in 2001-02, with on average nearly 9 per cent (182) more cases in 2022-23 compared to the previous year.

Figure 2PE: Yearly cases of AAS in Prince Edward Island, 2001-02 to 2022-23



## What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

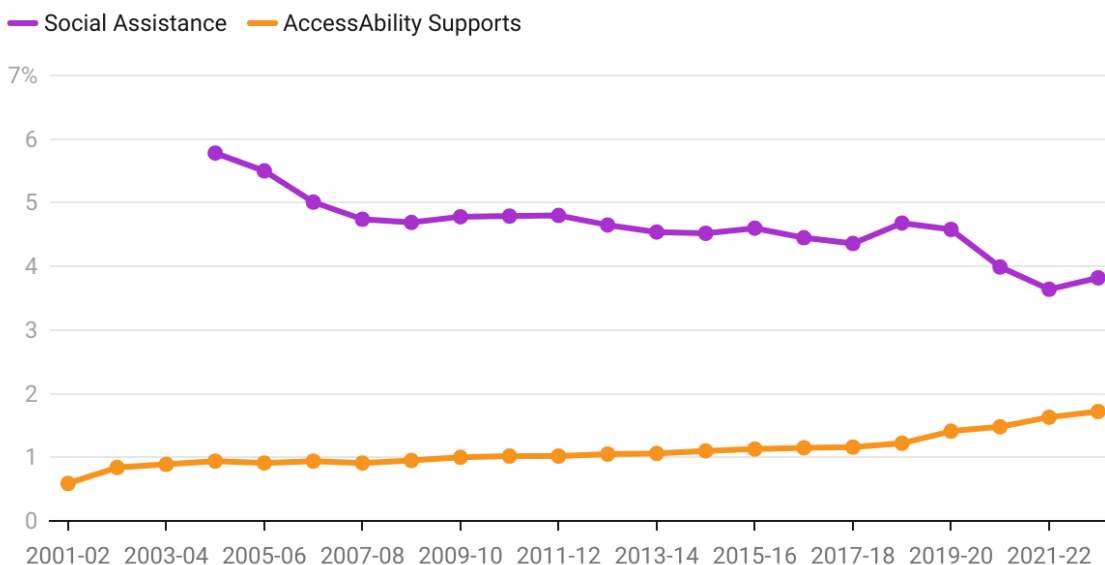
In 2022-23, on average, 5.5 per cent of people in Prince Edward Island under 65 received the Social Assistance Program or AccessAbility Supports, which is 1 in 18.

The proportion of Social Assistance beneficiaries decreased until 2007-08, declining from 5.8 to 4.7 per cent. From 2007-08 to 2019-20, on average, the proportion hovered around 4.5 per cent. The average proportion of Social Assistance then fell, reaching its lowest point of 3.6 per cent in 2021-22. In 2022-23, the proportion increased for the first time in three years, reaching 3.8 per cent.

The proportion of cases under 65 receiving AAS, on average, has slowly increased from 0.6 in 2001-02 to a high of 1.7 per cent in 2022-23.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of the fiscal year (e.g., July 1, 2022, for 2022-23), whereas beneficiary (for the Social Assistance Program) and case (for AAS) data is a fiscal year average (April to March).

Figure 3PE: Yearly beneficiaries of Social Assistance and cases of AAS as a proportion of the under-65 population of Prince Edward Island, 2001-02 to 2022-23



Note 1: Social Assistance beneficiary figures for the years 1996-97 to 2003-04 are not available.

Note 2: For the year 2019-20, Social Assistance beneficiary figures are for March 2020 and not the fiscal year average.

Source of population data: Statistics Canada. (2024). Population estimates on July 1, by age and sex. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>

## Who is receiving social assistance?

This section examines the following disaggregated data:

- Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
- Beneficiaries (Social Assistance) and cases (AAS) by gender;
- Heads of household by gender for unattached singles and single parents;
- Adult beneficiaries by age category; and
- Cases receiving employment income

Note that the figures below represent percentages but total numbers are available. To access this data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

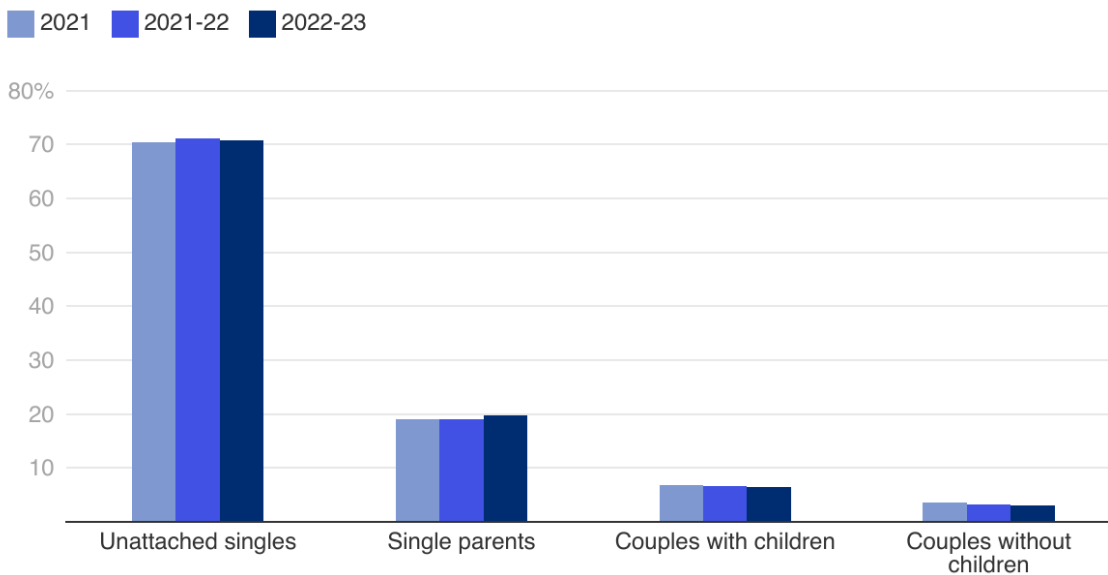
## Household type

In 2022-23, on average, the majority of cases of social assistance among households were unattached singles for both the Social Assistance Program and AccessAbility Supports, representing nearly 71 per cent and nearly 91 per cent, respectively. On average, single parents had the second largest number of Social Assistance cases, representing just under 20 per cent, and couples without children had the second largest number of AccessAbility Supports cases, representing less than 6 per cent.

Unattached singles also had, on average, the largest percentage of Social Assistance beneficiaries in 2022-23, representing more than 42 per cent, followed by single parent households, representing under 35 per cent.

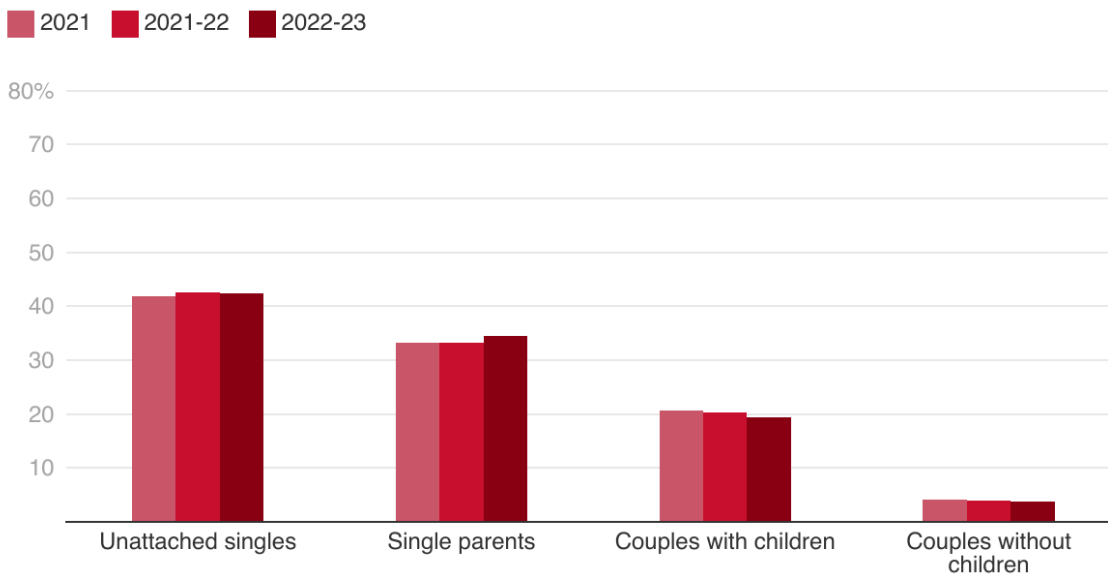
**Figure 4PE: Percentage of cases and beneficiaries of Social Assistance by household in Prince Edward Island, 2021 to 2022-23**

### Cases



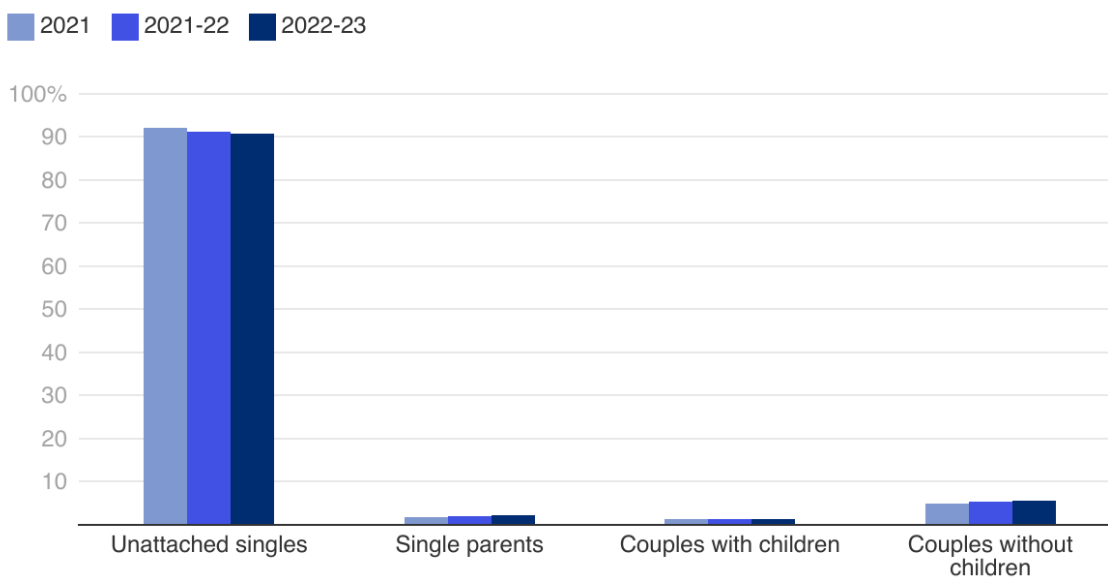


## Beneficiaries



Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 and 2022-23 numbers are fiscal year averages.

**Figure 5PE: Percentage of cases of AAS by household in Prince Edward Island, 2021 to 2022-23**

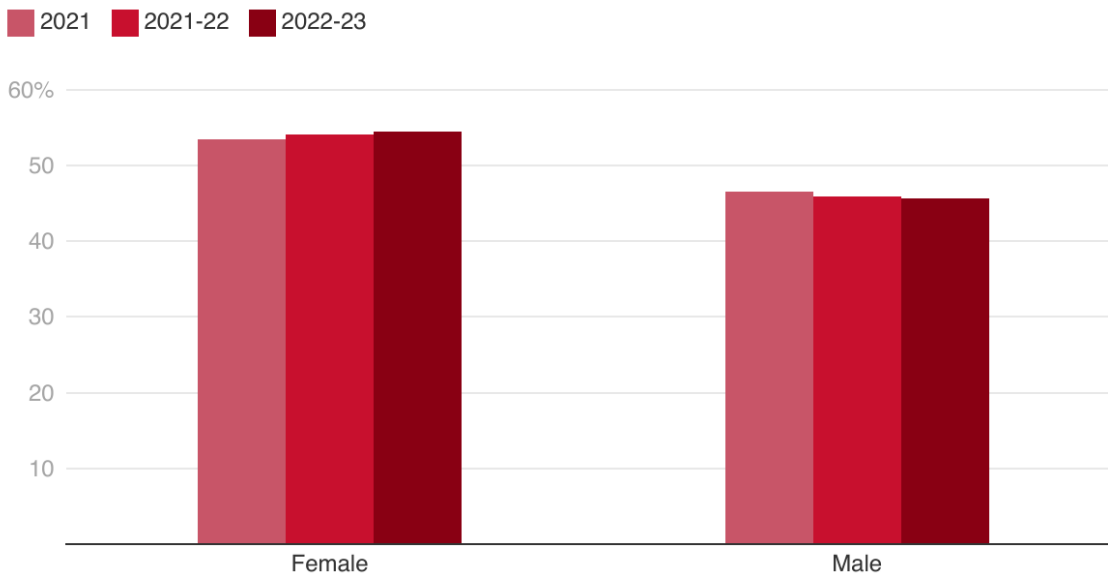


Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 and 2022-23 numbers are fiscal year averages.

## Beneficiaries (Social Assistance) and cases (AAS) by gender

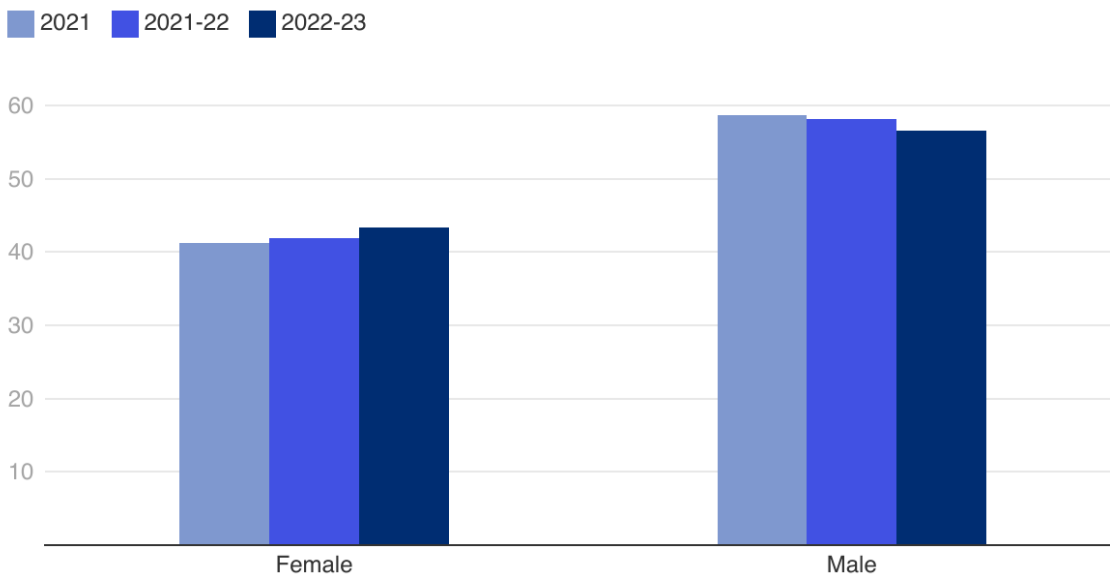
In 2022-23, the majority of Social Assistance beneficiaries were female representing, on average, over 54 per cent, and the majority of AAS cases were male representing, on average, almost 57 per cent.

**Figure 6PE: Percentage of beneficiaries of Social Assistance by gender in Prince Edward Island, 2021 to 2022-23**



Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 and 2022-23 numbers are fiscal year averages.

Figure 7PE: Percentage of cases of AAS by gender in Prince Edward Island, 2021 to 2022-23



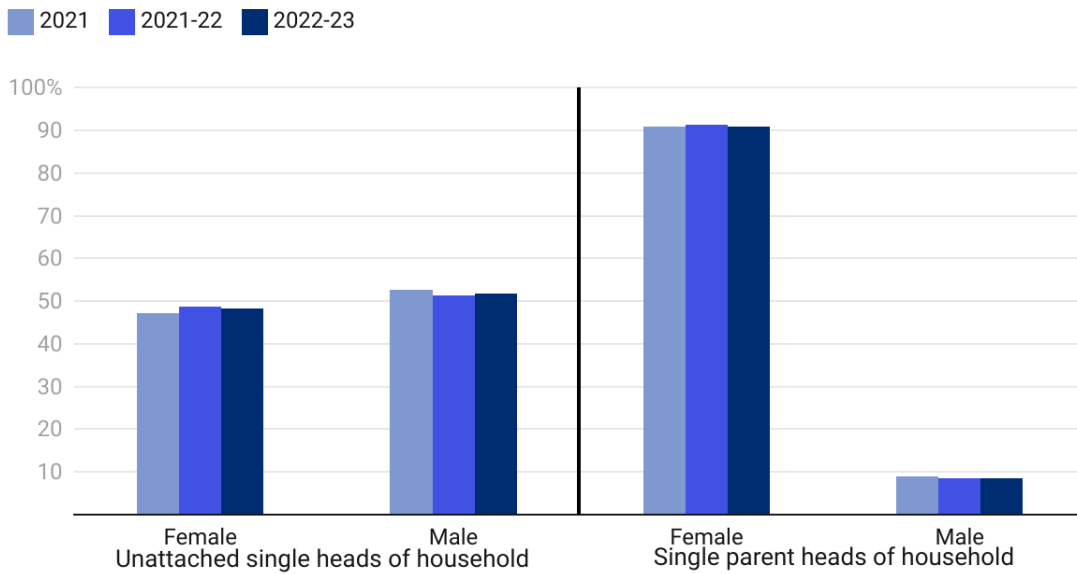
Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 and 2022-23 numbers are fiscal year averages.

## Gender of heads of household

In 2022-23, on average, the majority of unattached singles receiving Social Assistance were male, representing just under 52 per cent. In contrast, the majority of heads of single parent households were female, representing over 91 per cent.

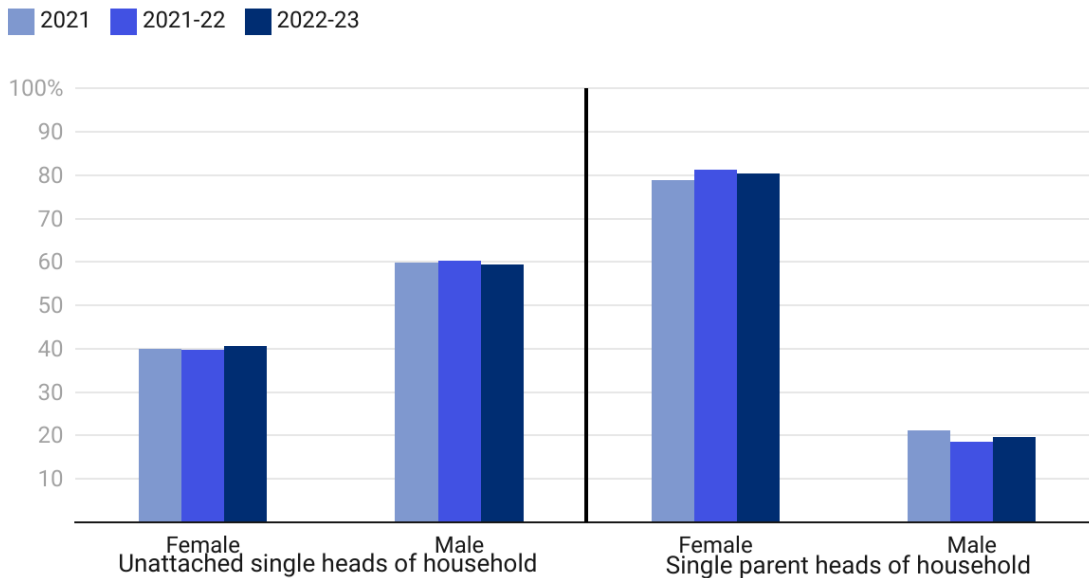
The gender distribution was similar for AAS in 2022-23. On average, more than 59 per cent of unattached singles were male and over 80 per cent of heads of single parent households were female.

**Figure 8PE: Percentage of heads of unattached single and single parent households receiving Social Assistance by gender in Prince Edward Island, 2021 to 2022-23**



Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 and 2022-23 numbers are fiscal year averages.

**Figure 9PE: Heads of unattached single and single parent households receiving AAS by gender in Prince Edward Island, 2021 to 2022-23**



Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 and 2022-23 numbers are fiscal year averages.

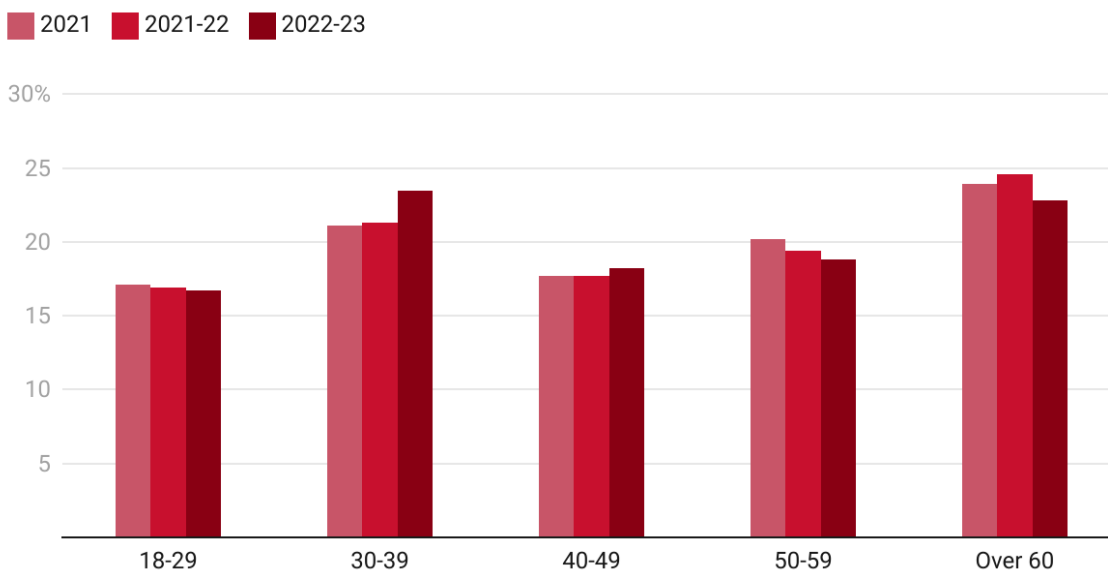


## Age of adult beneficiaries

In 2022-23, on average, the most common age group of adult beneficiaries receiving Social Assistance was 30-39, representing under 24 per cent, closely followed by those over 60, representing almost 23 per cent. The least common age group was 18-29, representing less than 17 per cent.

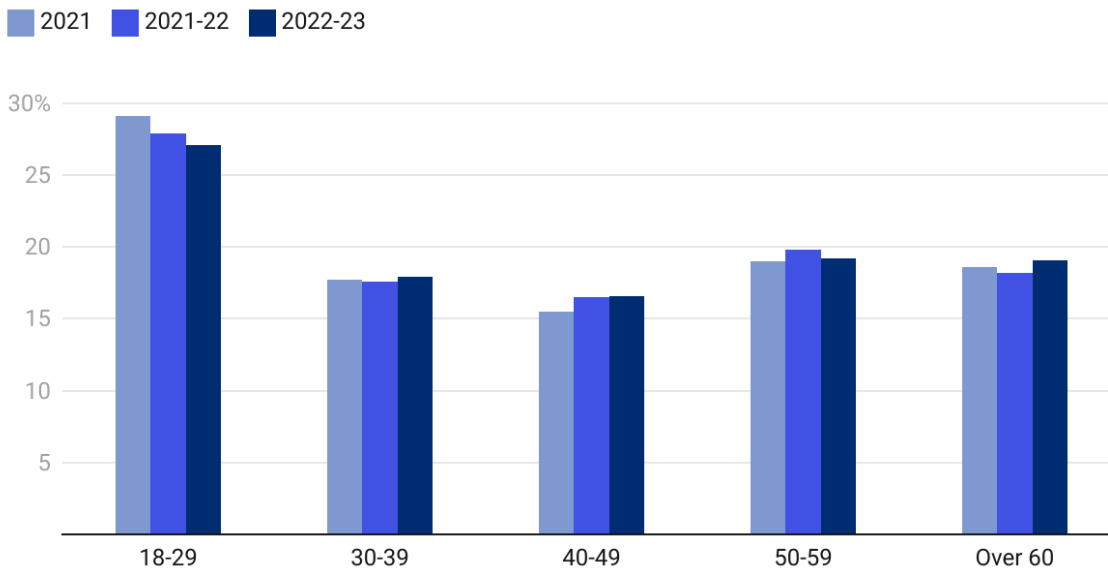
For adults receiving AAS, on average, the most common age group in 2022-23 was 18-29, representing around 27 per cent. The least common age group was 40-49 with less than 17 per cent.

**Figure 10PE: Percentage of adult beneficiaries of Social Assistance by age category in Prince Edward Island, 2021 to 2022-23**



Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 and 2022-23 numbers are fiscal year averages.

**Figure 11PE: Percentage of adults receiving AAS by age category in Prince Edward Island, 2021 to 2022-23**



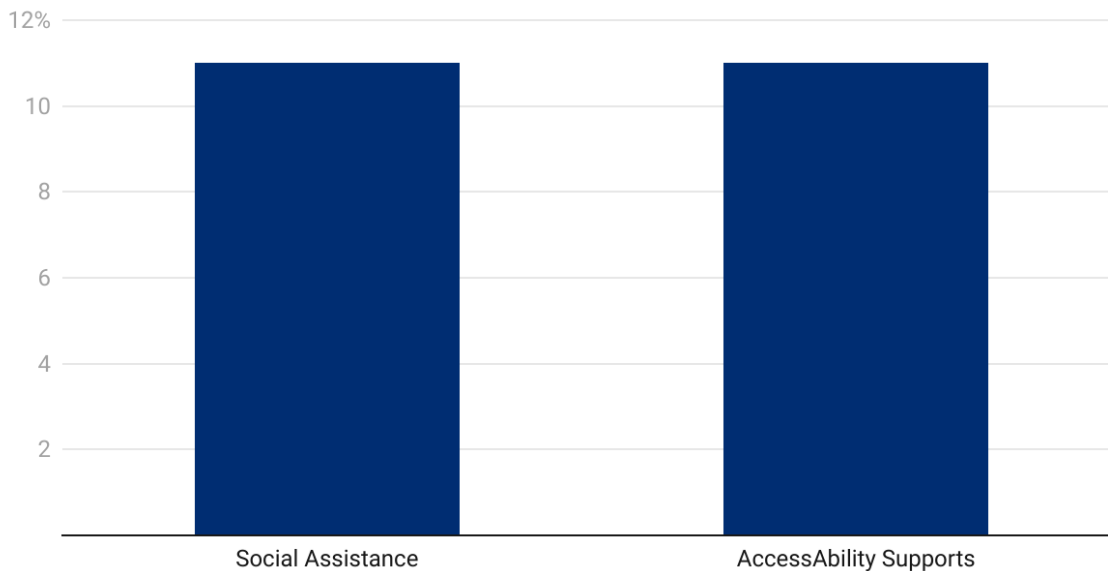
Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 and 2022-23 numbers are fiscal year averages.

## Employment income

In the context of Prince Edward Island, employment income means income from employment and self-employment, including wages, commission, tips, training allowances, and employment bonuses.

In 2022-23, on average, 11 per cent of both Social Assistance and AAS cases had employment income. Data on employment income was not available for 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Figure 12PE: Percentage of Social Assistance and AAS cases with employment income in Prince Edward Island, 2022-23



## Access to data

The data on social assistance recipients in Prince Edward Island is available for download, including:

1. Total cases and beneficiaries;
2. Percentage of beneficiaries relative to the total under-65 population;
3. Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
4. Beneficiaries (Social Assistance) and cases (AAS) by gender;
5. Heads of household by gender for unattached single and single parent households;
6. Adult beneficiaries by age category; and
7. Percentage of cases receiving employment income.

Access the downloadable [spreadsheet here](#).



## Data notes

- The yearly social assistance data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).
- The Disability Support Program was introduced in 2001-02. In July 2018, it was expanded and became AccessAbility Supports.
- Social Assistance Program beneficiary figures for the years 1996-97 to 2003-04 are not available.
- The disaggregated Social Assistance Program and AccessAbility Supports data for 2020-21 reflects the number of cases and beneficiaries on March 31, 2021. Data for 2021-22 and 2022-23 are fiscal year averages.
- For 2019-20, the number of Social Assistance Program beneficiaries is for March 2020 and is not a yearly fiscal average as previously reported.
- The unattached singles cases of AccessAbility Supports includes the following child cases (0-17 year-olds): 402 in 2020-21, 436 in 2021-22, and 484 in 2022-23.
- 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 variable “adult by age category” does not include child cases due to age range as it does not include those who are 17 or younger.
- 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. For the total incomes available to those relying on social assistance, visit the [Welfare in Canada](#) report.

In Quebec, social assistance is known as Last Resort Financial Assistance, which includes the Aim for Employment Program (objectif emploi), the Social Assistance Program (aide sociale), the Social Solidarity Program (solidarité sociale), and the Basic Income Program (revenu de base).

### **Aim for Employment Program (objectif emploi)**


The Aim for Employment Program was introduced in April 2018 and 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.

## Basic Income Program (revenu de base)

The Basic Income Program was introduced in January 2023 and is intended for individuals with a persistent severely limited capacity for employment. Access to this program is automatic for individuals who are receiving Social Solidarity and who have had severely limited capacity for employment for at least 66 of the previous 72 months. Basic Income provides a higher benefit amount than Social Solidarity, as well as a greater asset limit and a higher employment income exemption.

In Quebec, for a person to be eligible for Social Solidarity or Basic Income, the term “disability” is not used. Instead, they need to have a “severe limited capacity to employment,” which is defined as serious health problems that limit an adult’s opportunities to work. These health problems may relate to an adult’s physical or mental condition and must be noted by a doctor in a medical report.

## How many people claim social assistance?

In March 2023, there were about 255,600 cases (family units and unattached single adults) and about 335,700 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in Quebec’s social assistance programs.

Among cases, 2 per cent (4,968) received Aim for Employment, 56 per cent (142,884) received the Social Assistance Program, over 10 per cent (26,516) received Social Solidarity, and just under 32 per cent (81,242) received Basic Income.

Among beneficiaries, slightly over 2 per cent (7,276) received Aim for Employment, almost 63 per cent (210,499) received the Social Assistance Program, 9 per cent (30,117) received Social Solidarity, and about 26 per cent (87,797) received Basic Income.

Note that for 2022-23, caseload data for Quebec was made available for the month of March 2023 only rather than as an average over the 2022-23 fiscal year (April to March). The difference in the way data is reported limits comparability.

Between the 2021-22 fiscal year and March 2023, the total number of social assistance cases increased by 23,537, or slightly more than 10 per cent, and the total number of social assistance beneficiaries increased by 36,893, or over 12

per cent. Among the programs, Aim for Employment and the Social Assistance Program caseloads saw notable increases, while the combination of Social Solidarity and Basic Income caseloads in March 2023 decreased relative to the Social Solidarity caseload in 2021-22.

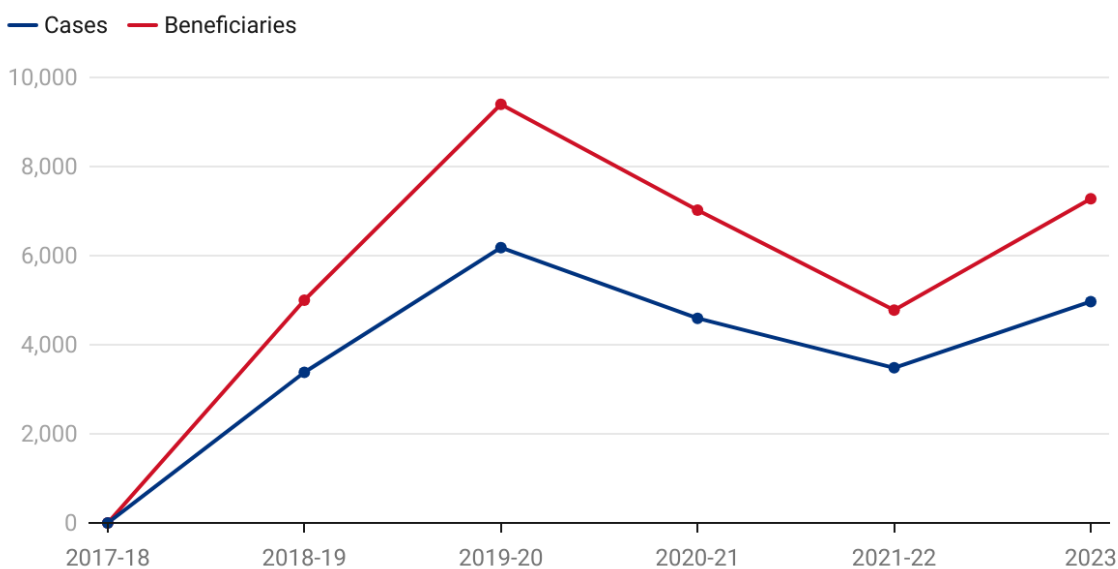
To access data on cases and beneficiaries of social assistance in Quebec, including disaggregated data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

## Aim for Employment Program (objectif emploi)

The Aim for Employment Program was introduced in April 2018. Most individuals and families seeking income assistance in Quebec receive support through this program for between 12 and 24 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.

The number of Aim for Employment Program cases and beneficiaries increased in its first two years, reaching a peak of about 6,200 cases and 9,400 beneficiaries in 2019-20. After two years of decreases, cases increased by almost 43 per cent to around 5,000, and beneficiaries increased by over 52 per cent to just under 7,300.

**Figure 1QC: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Aim for Employment Program in Quebec, 2017-18 to 2023**

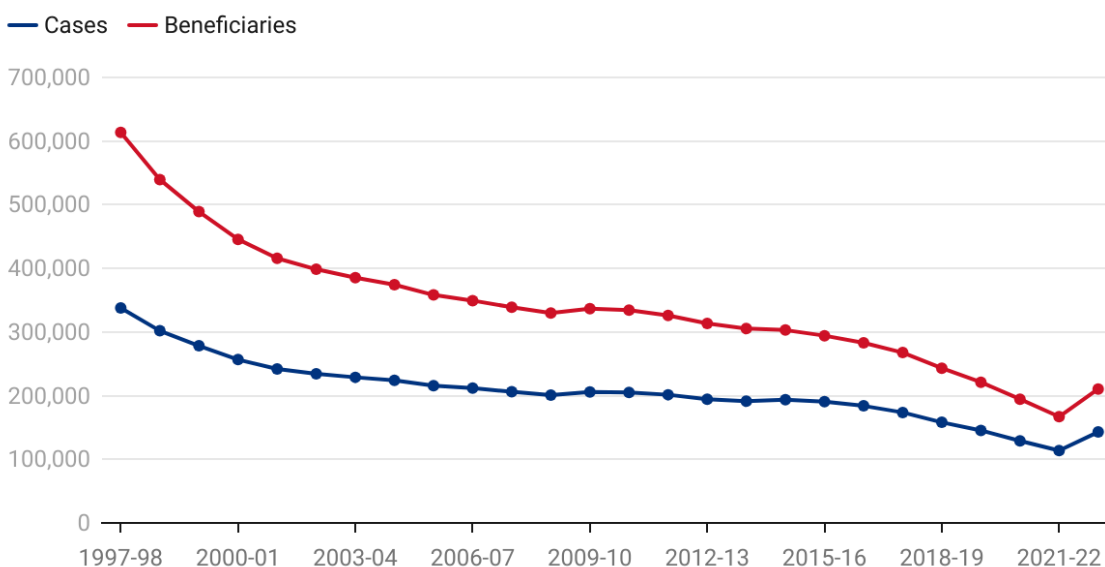


Note: The data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April to March) from 1997-98 to 2021-22, and the number of cases and beneficiaries in March 2023.

## Social Assistance Program (aide sociale)

After a gradual decline in the number of the Social Assistance Program cases and beneficiaries since the mid-1990s, both saw notable increases in March 2023. The number of cases increased by just under 26 per cent to 142,900, and the number of beneficiaries increased by 26 per cent to 210,500. Note that the number of cases and beneficiaries remained below those in 2019-20.

Figure 2QC: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of the Social Assistance Program in Quebec, 1997-98 to 2023



Note: The data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April to March) from 1997-98 to 2021-22, and the number of cases and beneficiaries in March 2023.

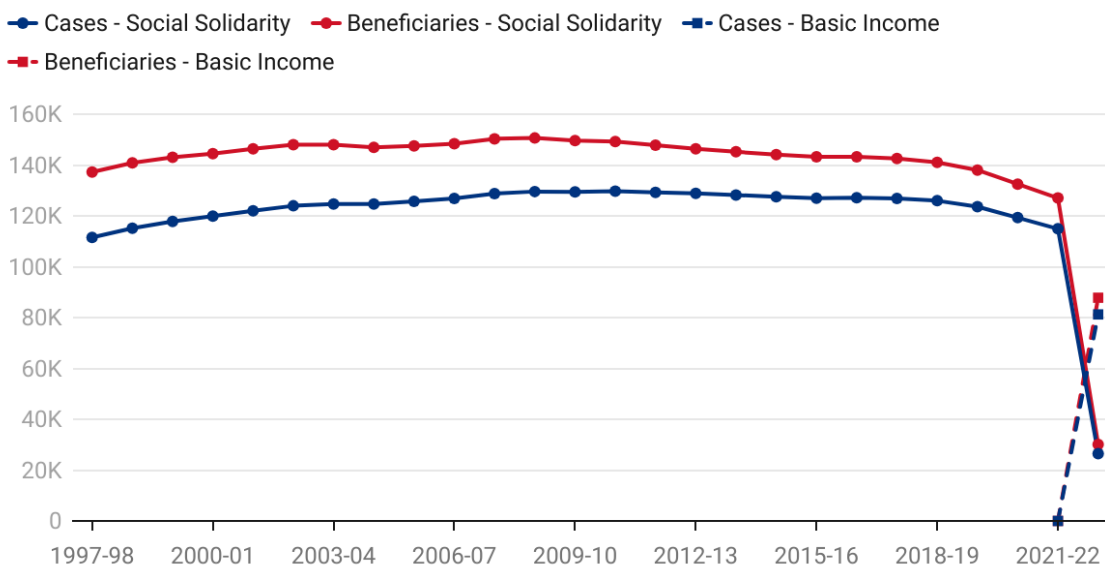
## Social Solidarity Program (solidarité sociale) and Basic Income Program (revenu de base)

The cases and beneficiaries of Social Solidarity increased gradually from 1997-98 to 2003-04, after which they remained stable until 2019-20 at between 124,000 and 130,000 cases and between 141,000 and 151,000 beneficiaries. Starting in 2019-20, cases and beneficiaries gradually decreased. March 2023 marked a shift: Social Solidarity cases and beneficiaries dropped significantly as about three quarters transitioned to the newly introduced Basic Income Program.

In March 2023, the number of Social Solidarity cases declined by about 77 per cent to 26,500, and the number of beneficiaries declined by over 76 per cent to 30,100. Basic Income had over 81,200 cases and 87,800 beneficiaries.



Figure 3QC: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Social Solidarity and Basic Income in Quebec, 1997-98 to 2023



Note: The data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April to March) from 1997-98 to 2021-22, and the number of cases and beneficiaries in March 2023.

## What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In March 2023, 4.9 per cent of people in Quebec under 65 received the Aim for Employment Program, the Social Assistance Program, the Social Solidarity Program, or the Basic Income Program, which is one in 20.

The proportion of people under 65 receiving Aim for Employment Program has remained around 0.1 per cent since its introduction in 2018-19. The proportion did increase from 0.07 per cent in 2021-22 to 0.11 per cent in March 2023.

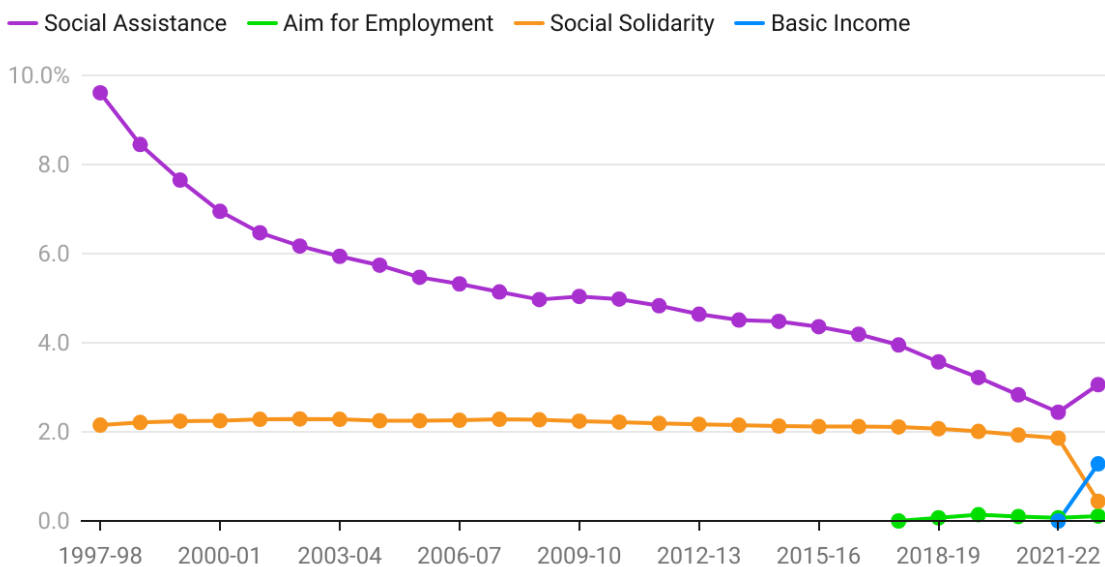
After consistent decreases since 1997-98 and reaching a low of 2.4 per cent in 2021-22, the proportion of people under 65 receiving the Social Assistance Program increased to just under 3.1 per cent in March 2023.

The proportion of people under 65 receiving the Social Solidarity Program has remained relatively stable, with a slow decline starting in 2008-09. March 2023 marked a significant shift as the proportion dropped from 1.9 per cent to just over 0.4 per cent.

The proportion of people under 65 receiving the Basic Income Program in March 2023 was 1.3 per cent.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of the fiscal year (e.g., July 1, 2022, for 2022-23), whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April to March) from 1997-98 to 2021-22 and for March in 2023.

**Figure 4QC: Yearly beneficiaries of social assistance as a proportion of the under 65 population of Quebec, 1997-98 to 2023**



Note: The data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April to March) from 1997-98 to 2021-22, and the number of cases and beneficiaries in March 2023.

Source of population data: Statistics Canada. (2024). Population estimates on July 1, by age and sex. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>

## Who is receiving social assistance?

This section examines the following disaggregated data:

- Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
- Beneficiaries by sex;
- Heads of household by sex for unattached single households and beneficiaries by sex for single parent households;
- Adult beneficiaries by age category; and
- Cases receiving employment income.

Note that for 2022-23, disaggregated data was made available for the month of March 2023 only rather than as an average over the 2022-23 fiscal year. The difference in the way data is reported limits comparability. Also, data for the latter three disaggregated variables was made available for only the month of March of a

given year, so the data for March 2021, March 2022, and March 2023 is included for those variables.

Also note that the figures below represent percentages but total numbers are available. To access this data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

## Household type

In March 2023, unattached singles comprised the majority of social assistance cases among households for each program, representing about 80 per cent for Aim for Employment, 74 per cent for the Social Assistance Program, and just under 91 per cent for Social Solidarity. Note that data on household type by case was not made available for the Basic Income Program.

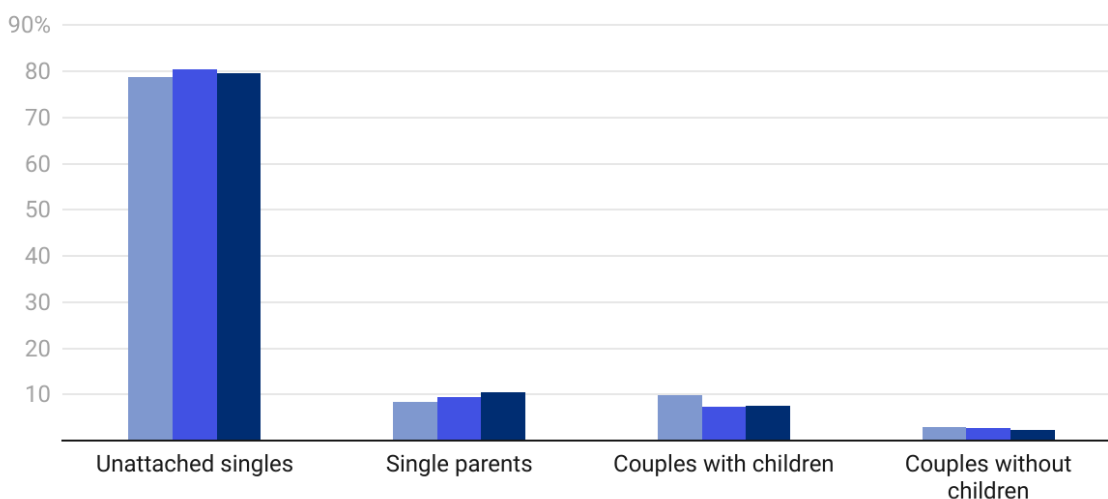
Unattached singles also comprised the majority of beneficiaries among households for each program in March 2023, representing more than 54 per cent Aim for Employment households, just over 50 per cent of the Social Assistance Program households, 80 per cent for Social Solidarity household, and close to 90 per cent of Basic Income households.

The second largest household type among cases and beneficiaries of the Social Assistance Program and Social Solidarity, as well as beneficiaries of Basic Income, was single parents. For cases and beneficiaries of Aim for Employment, the second largest household type was couples with children.

**Figure 5QC: Percentage of cases and beneficiaries of Aim for Employment by household in Quebec, 2020-21 to 2023**

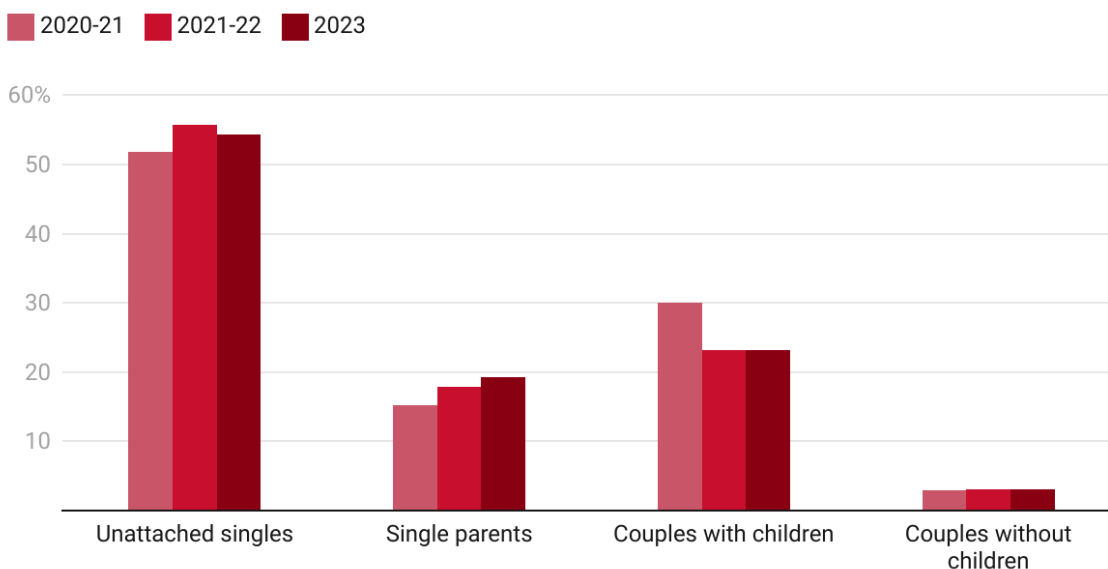
### Cases

■ 2020-21 ■ 2021-22 ■ 2023





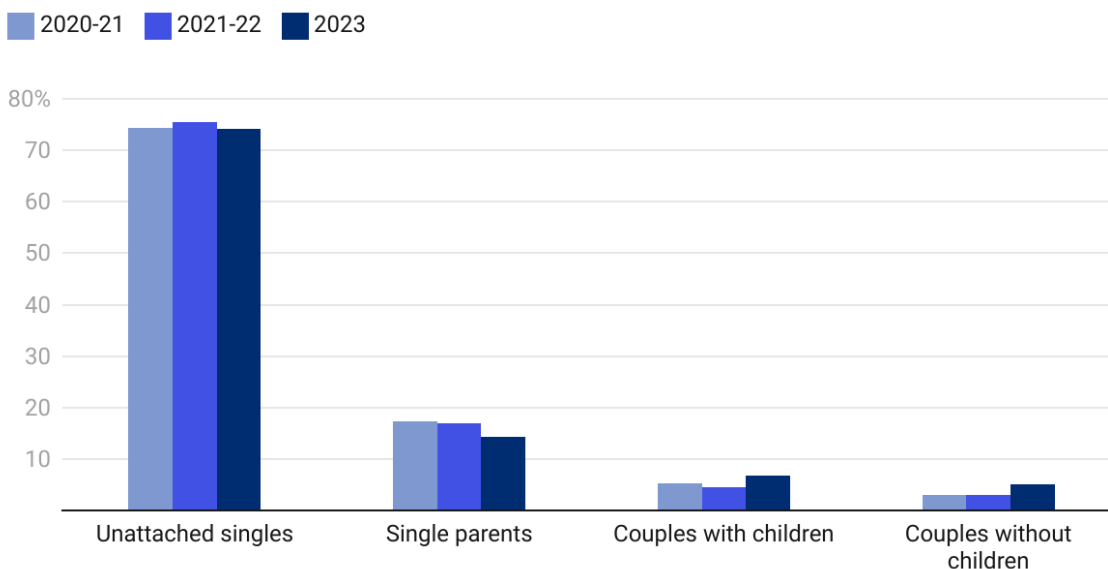
## Beneficiaries



Note: 2020-21 and 2021-22 numbers are fiscal year averages. 2023 numbers are for March of that year.

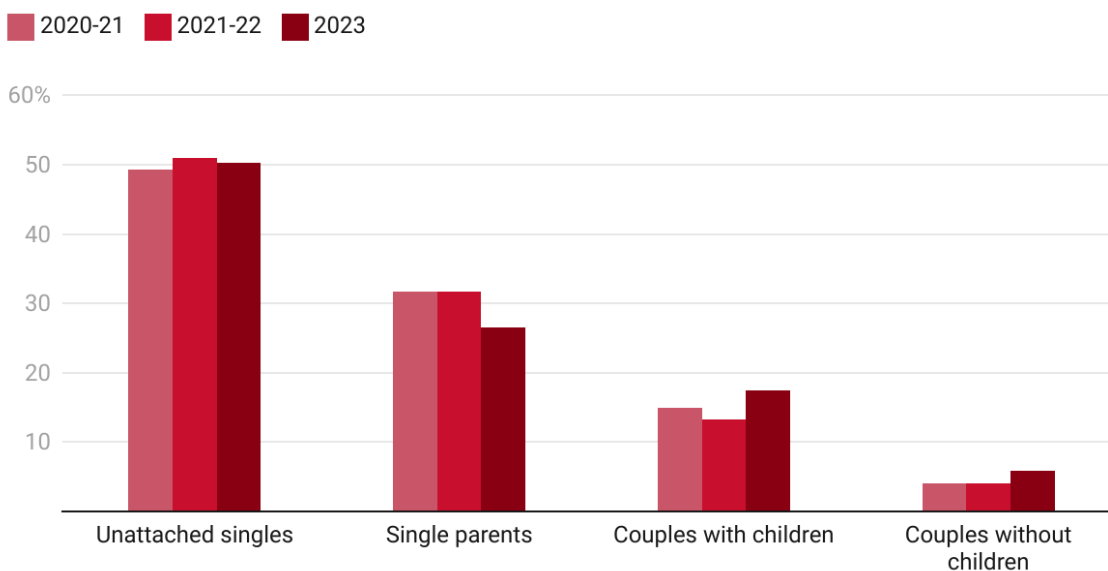
**Figure 6QC: Percentage of cases and beneficiaries of the Social Assistance Program by household in Quebec, 2020-21 to 2023**

## Cases





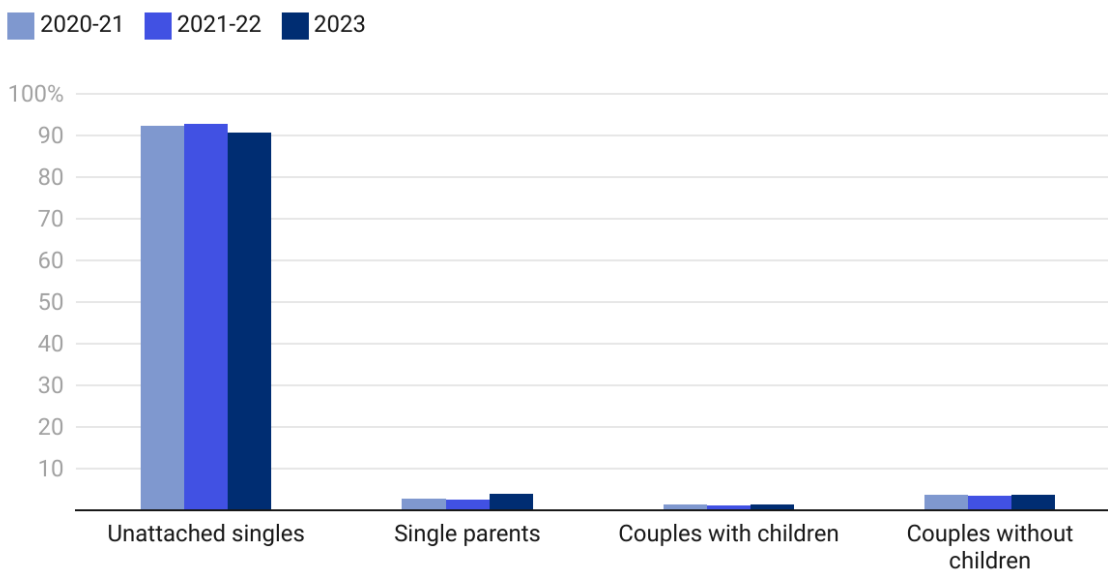
## Beneficiaries



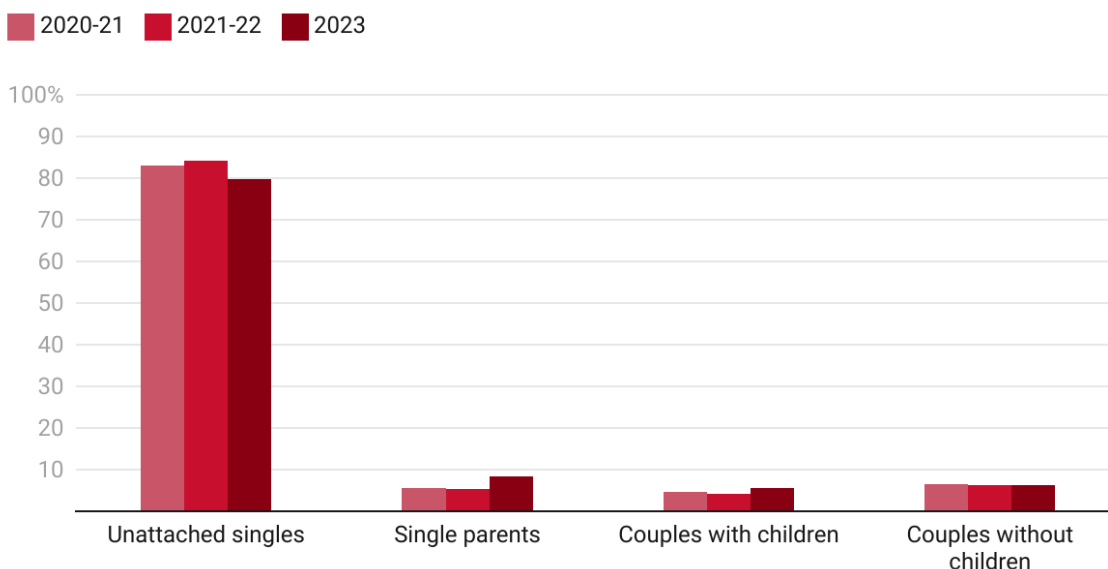
Note: 2020-21 and 2021-22 numbers are fiscal year averages. 2023 numbers are for March of that year.

**Figure 7QC: Percentage of cases and beneficiaries of Social Solidarity by household in Quebec, 2020-21 to 2023**

## Cases

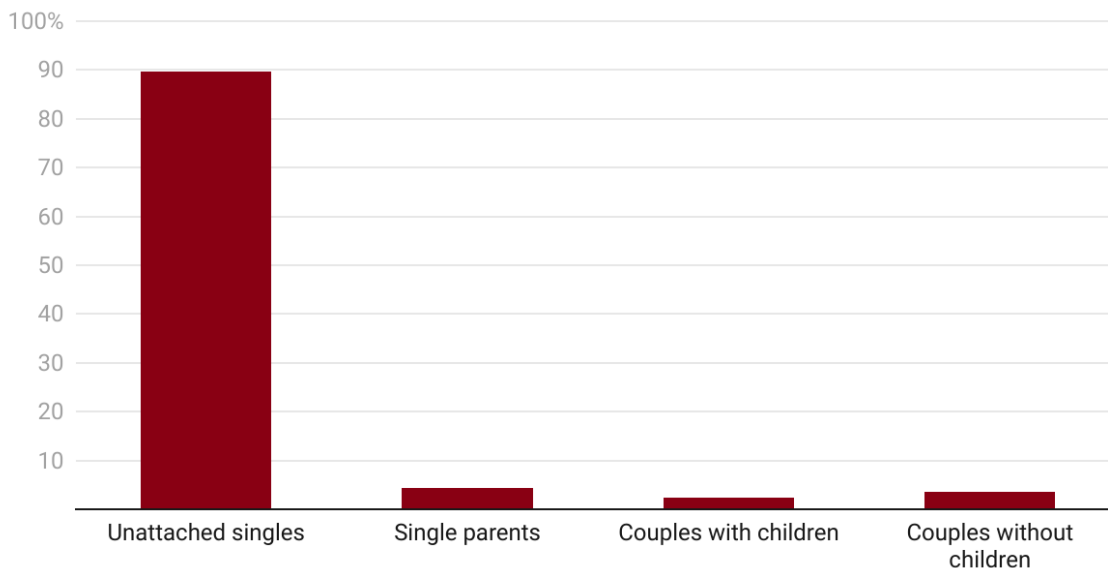


## Beneficiaries



Note: 2020-21 and 2021-22 numbers are fiscal year averages. 2023 numbers are for March of that year.

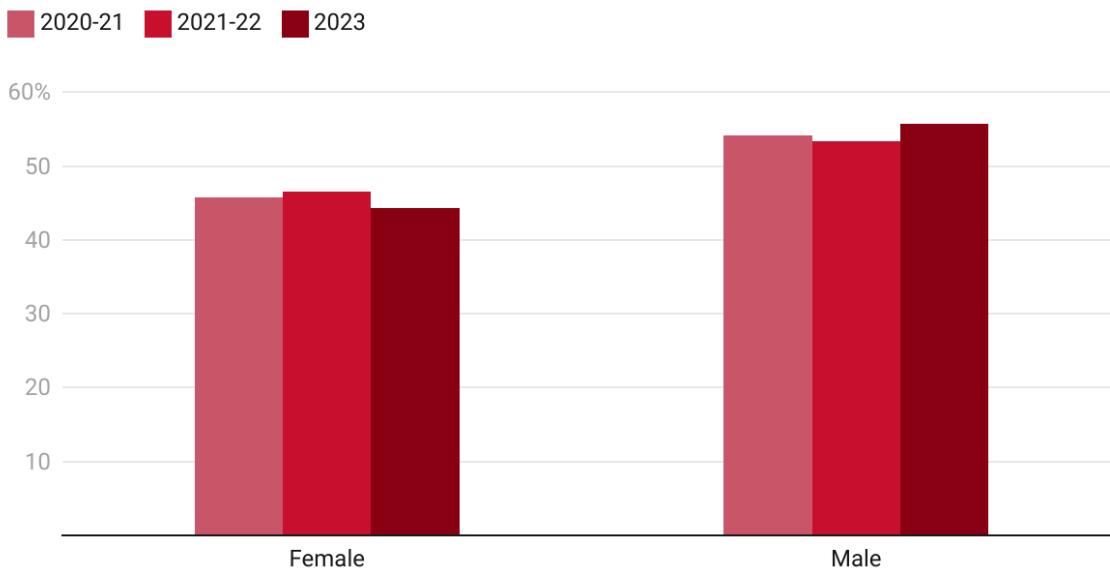
**Figure 8QC: Percentage of beneficiaries of Basic Income by household in Quebec, March 2023**



## Beneficiaries by sex

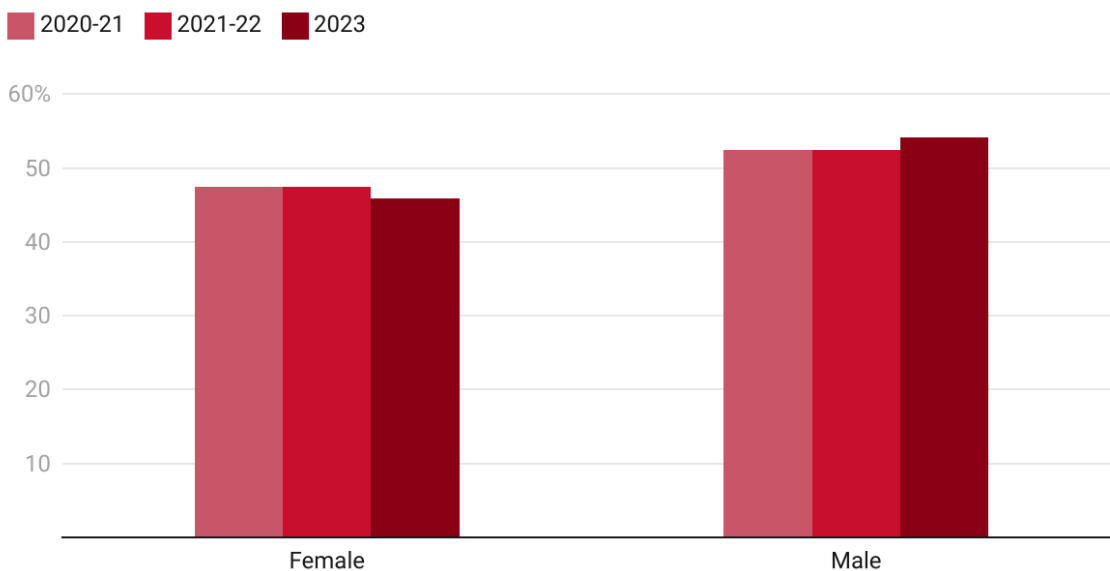
In March 2023, the majority of beneficiaries of all four programs were male, representing just under 56 per cent for Aim for Employment, about 54 per cent for the Social Assistance Program, 56 per cent for Social Solidarity, and close to 55 per cent for Basic Income.

**Figure 9QC: Percentage of beneficiaries of Aim for Employment by sex in Quebec, 2020-21 to 2023**



Note: 2020-21 and 2021-22 numbers are fiscal year averages. 2023 numbers are for March of that year.

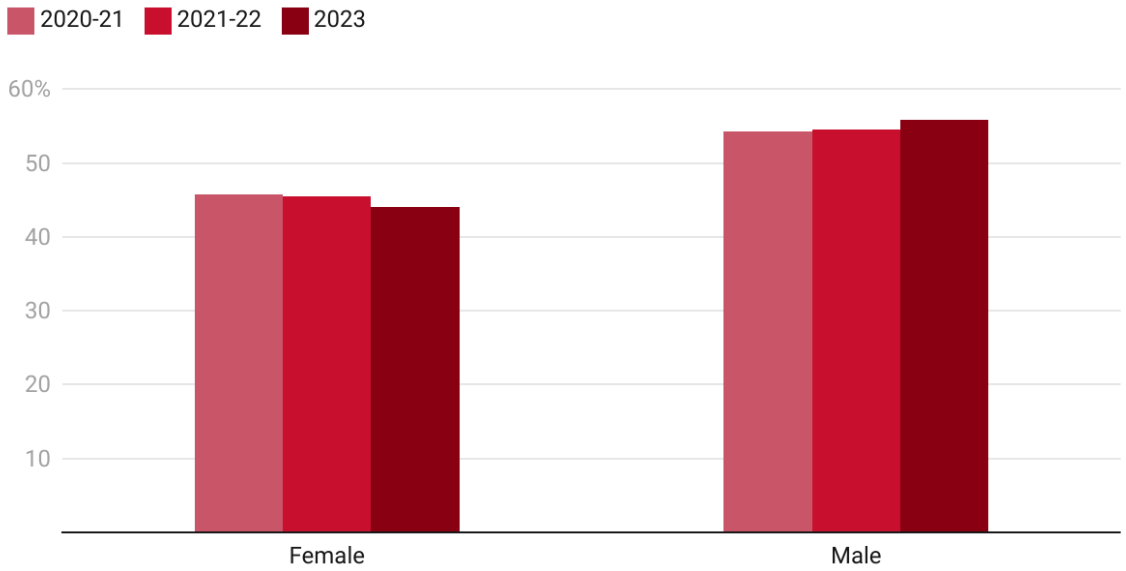
**Figure 10QC: Percentage of beneficiaries of the Social Assistance Program by sex in Quebec, 2020-21 to 2023**



Note: 2020-21 and 2021-22 numbers are fiscal year averages. 2023 numbers are for March of that year.

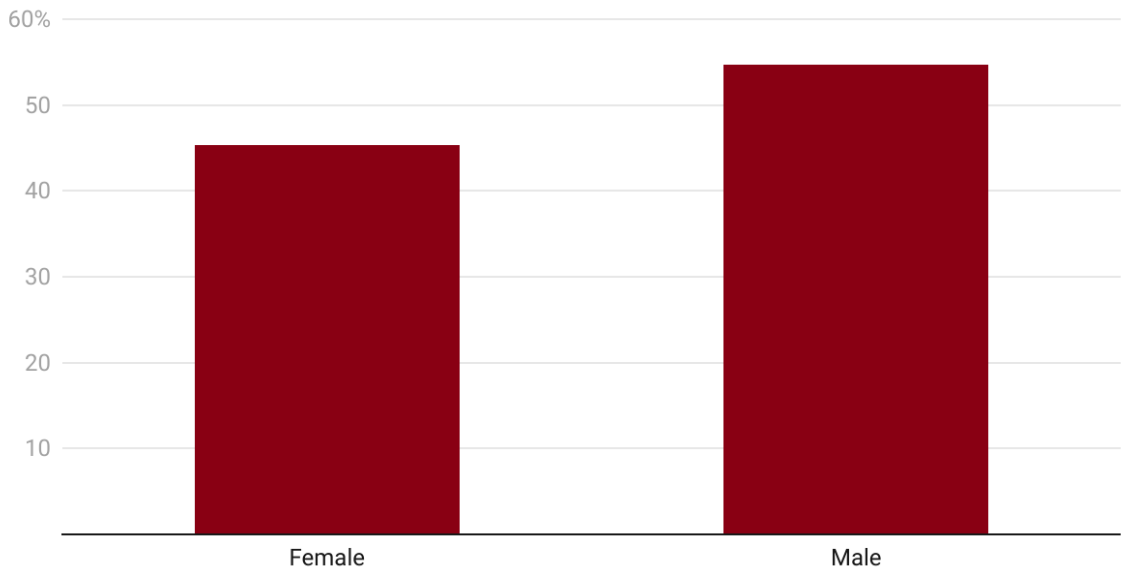


**Figure 11QC: Percentage of beneficiaries of Social Solidarity by sex in Quebec, 2020-21 to 2023**



Note: 2020-21 and 2021-22 numbers are fiscal year averages. 2023 numbers are for March of that year.

**Figure 12QC: Percentage of beneficiaries of Basic Income by sex in Quebec, March 2023**





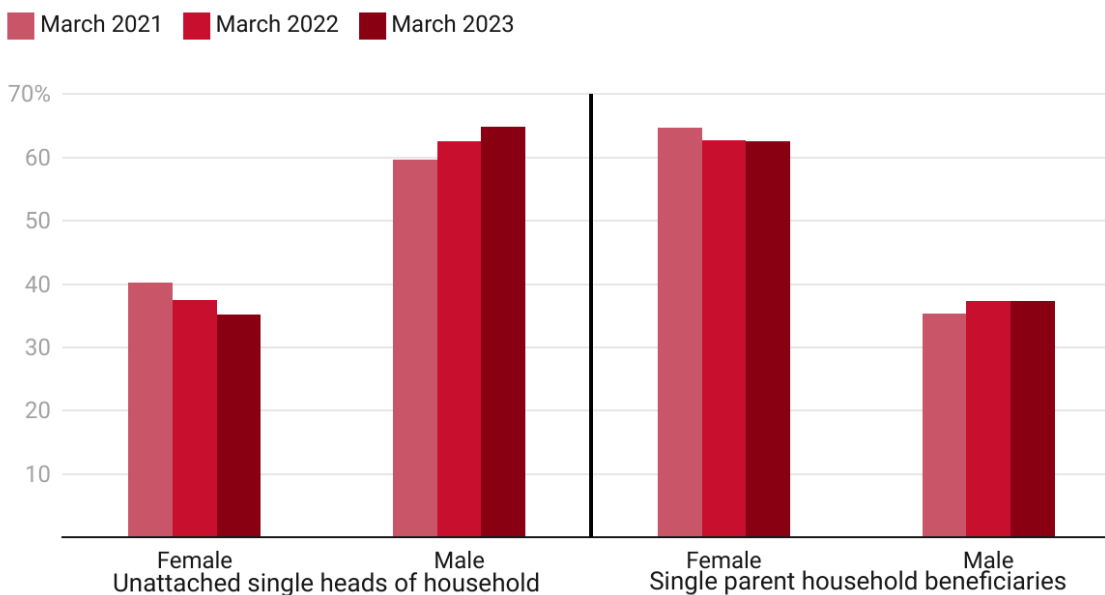
## Sex of heads of household (unattached singles) or beneficiaries (single parents)

In March 2023, in all four Quebec programs, the majority of unattached singles were male, representing just under 65 per cent for Aim for Employment, 65 per cent for the Social Assistance Program, close to 59 per cent for Social Solidarity, and 56 per cent for Basic Income.

In contrast, the majority of beneficiaries in single parent households were female, representing under 63 per cent for Aim for Employment, over 63 per cent for the Social Assistance Program, 63 per cent for Social Solidarity, and almost 66 per cent for Basic Income.

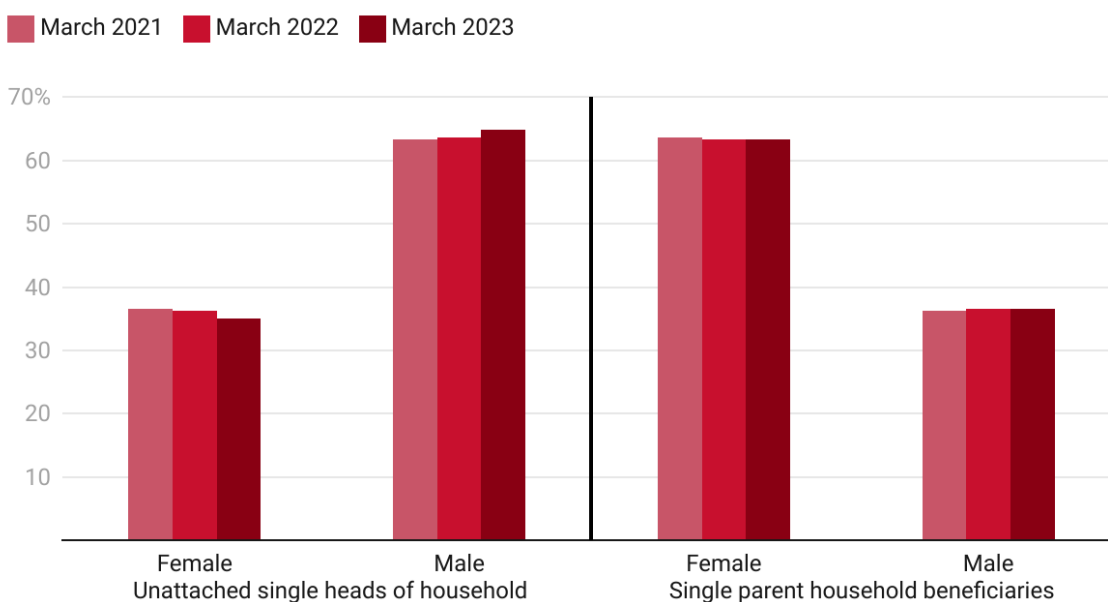
Note: For single parent households, data on sex was only made available for beneficiaries, unlike other jurisdictions, which provided data for the heads of household.

**Figure 13QC: Percentage of heads of unattached single households and beneficiaries in single parent households receiving Aim for Employment by sex in Quebec, 2021 to 2023**

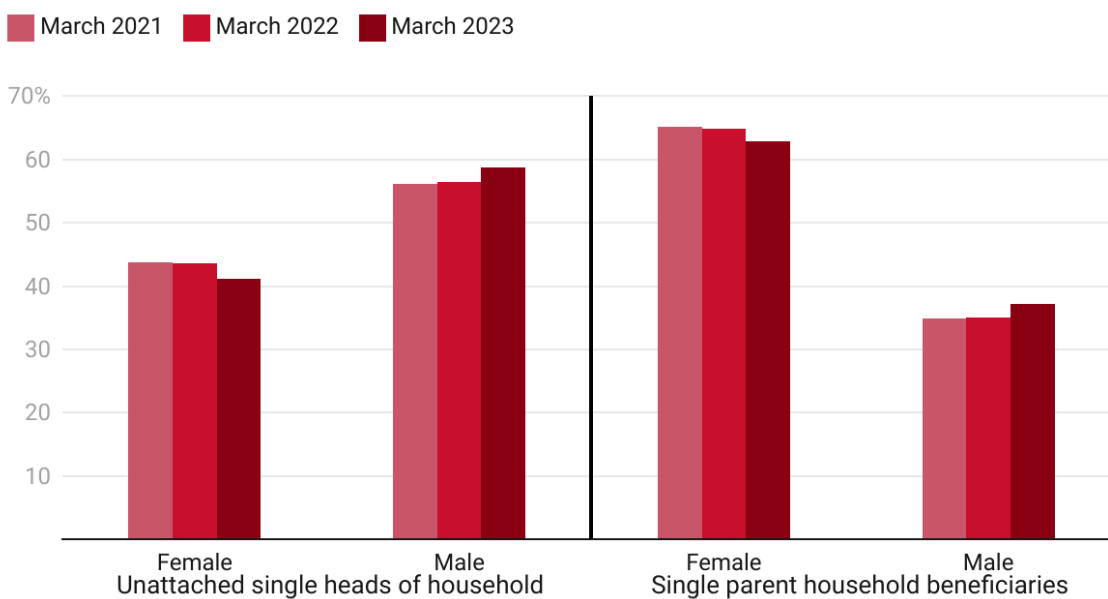




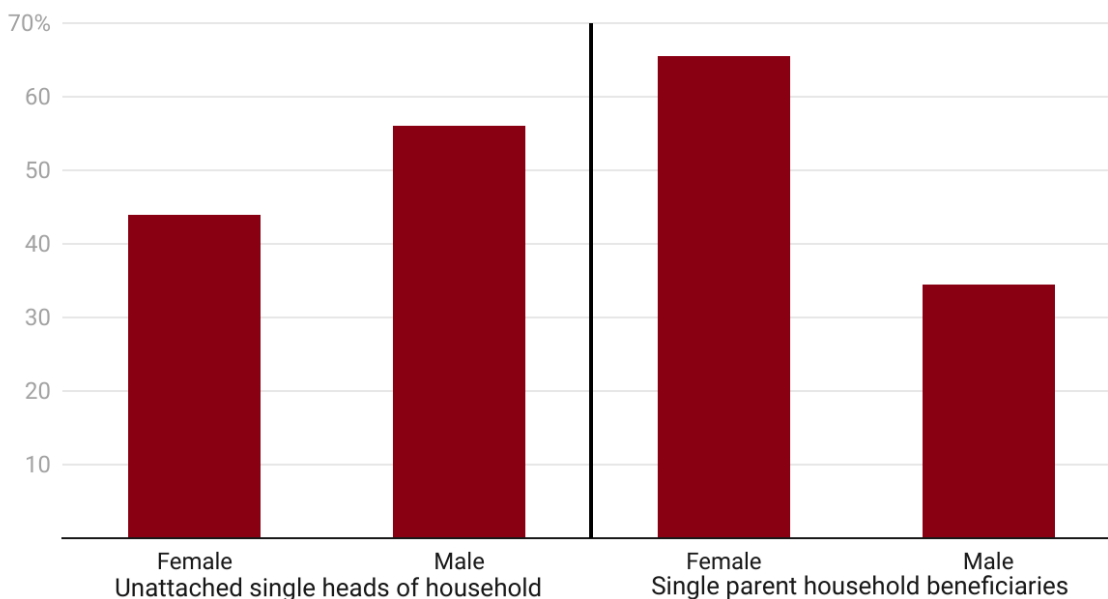
**Figure 14QC: Percentage of heads of unattached single households and beneficiaries in single parent households receiving the Social Assistance Program by sex in Quebec, 2021 to 2023**



**Figure 15QC: Percentage of heads of unattached single households and beneficiaries in single parent households receiving Social Solidarity by sex in Quebec, 2021 to 2023**



**Figure 16QC: Percentage of heads of unattached single households and beneficiaries in single parent households receiving Basic Income by sex in Quebec, March 2023**



## Age of adult beneficiaries

In March 2023, the majority of adult beneficiaries receiving Aim for Employment were 18-29, representing about 51 per cent. The least common was people over 60, representing under 2 per cent.

For adult beneficiaries receiving the Social Assistance Program, the most common age group in March 2023 was 30-39, representing 24 per cent. The least common age group was people over 60 with under 15 per cent.

For adult beneficiaries receiving Social Solidarity, the most common age group in March 2023 was 18-29, representing over 28 per cent. The least common age group was 30-39 with under 11 per cent. In previous years, adults receiving Social Solidarity tended to be older, but many transferred to the Basic Income Program when it was introduced in 2023, which notably requires recipients to have received Social Solidarity for at least 72 months.

For adult beneficiaries receiving Basic Income, the most common age group in March 2023 was 50-59, representing 31 per cent. The least common age group was 18-29 with under 10 per cent.



Figure 17QC: Percentage of adult beneficiaries of Aim for Employment by age category in Quebec, 2021 to 2023

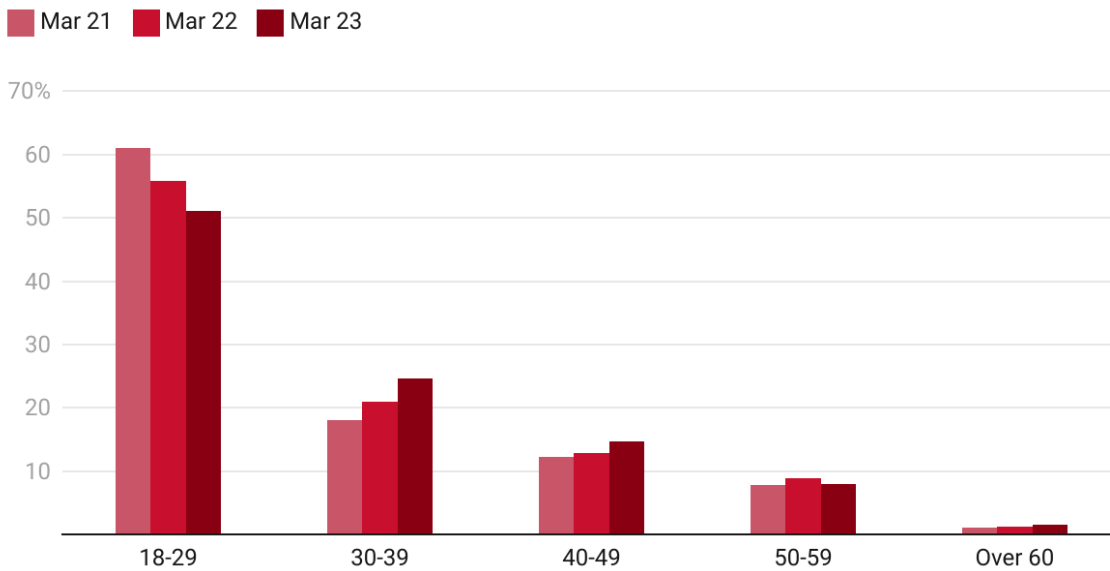


Figure 18QC: Percentage of adult beneficiaries of the Social Assistance Program by age category in Quebec, 2021 to 2023

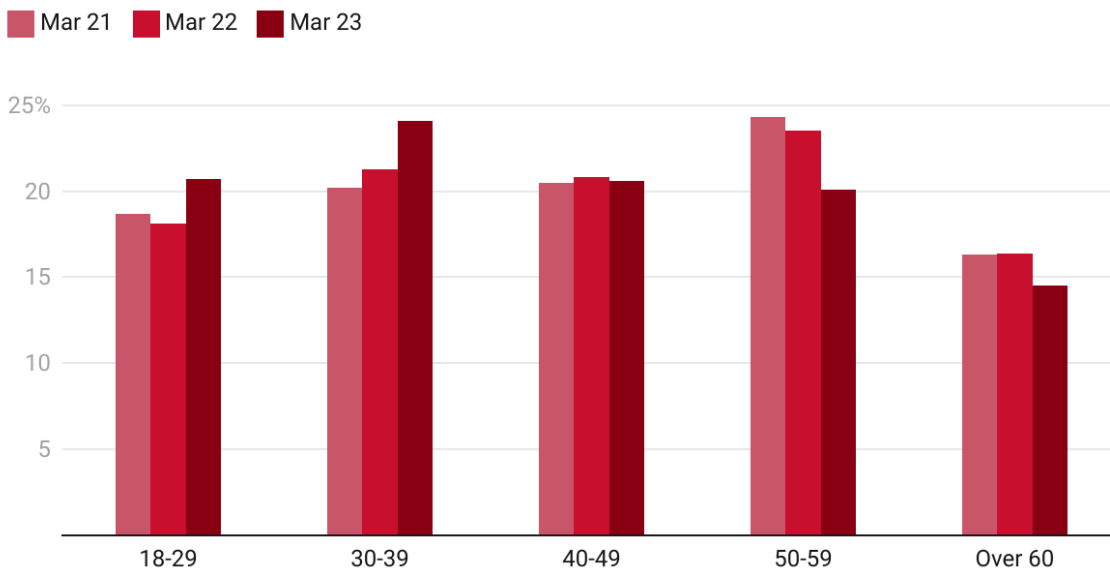


Figure 19QC: Percentage of adult beneficiaries of Social Solidarity by age category in Quebec, 2021 to 2023

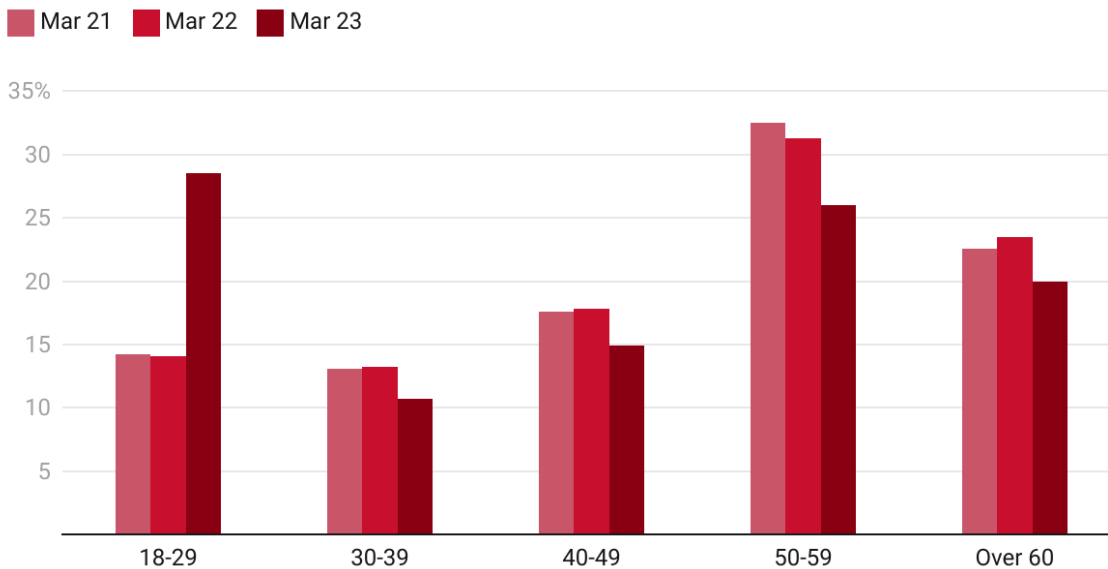
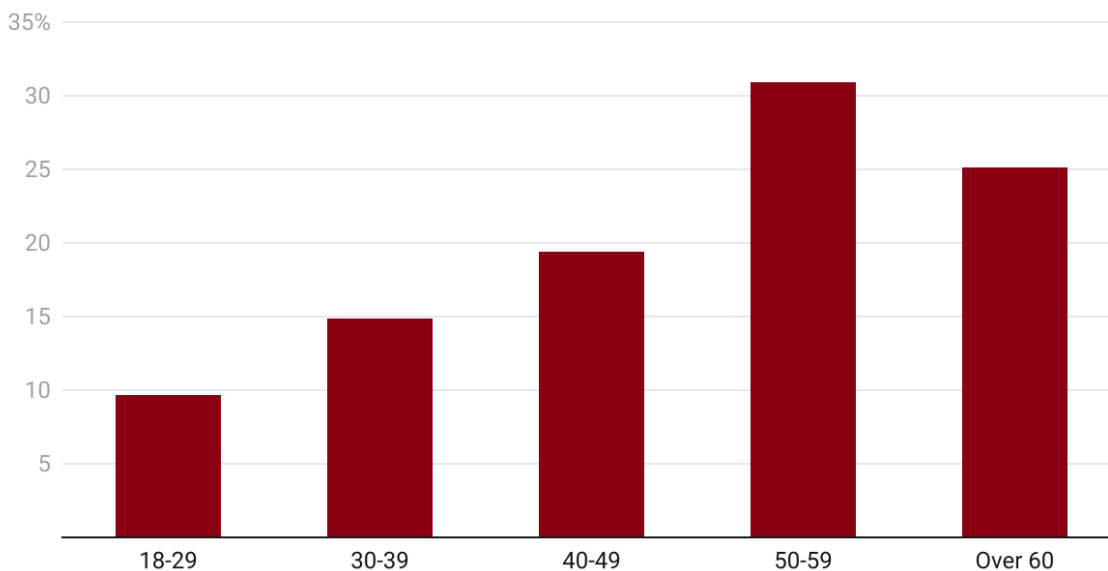


Figure 20QC: Percentage of adult beneficiaries of Basic Income by age category in Quebec, March 2023



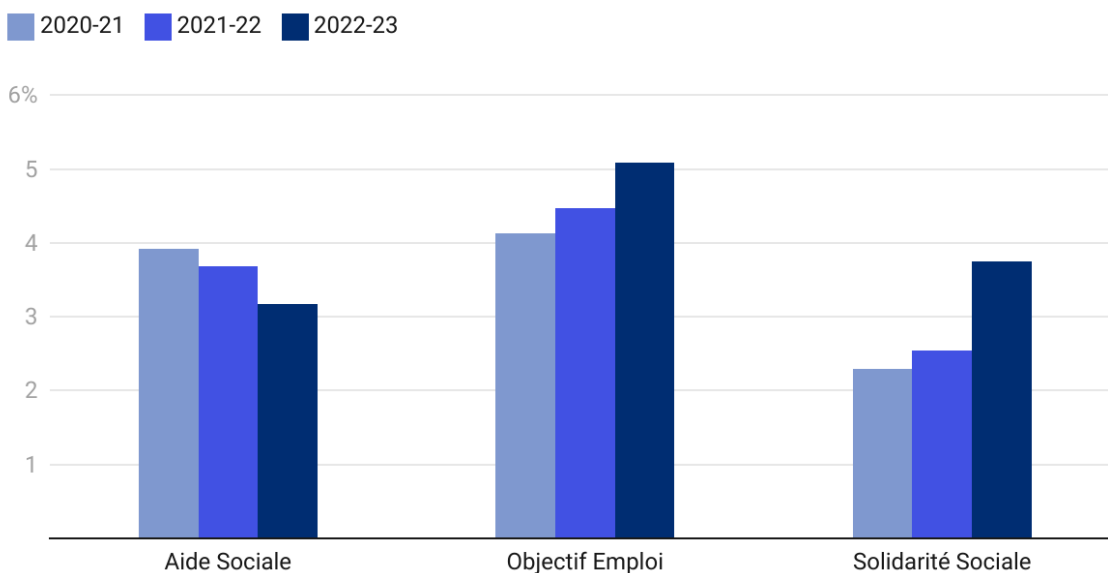
## Employment income

In Quebec, employment income is defined as any remuneration paid for the performance of work. Benefits, indemnities, or pensions granted to compensate the loss of such income because of, among other things, a disability or retirement do not constitute work income.

In March 2023, about 5 per cent of Aim for Employment cases, just over 3 per cent of the Social Assistance Program cases, and almost 4 per cent of Social Solidarity cases had employment income. Cases receiving Aim for Employment were the more likely to have employment income. Since March 2021, numbers for Aim for Employment and Social Solidarity have increased, while those for the Social Assistance Program have fallen.

Data on the percentage of Basic Income cases with employment income was not made available.

**Figure 21QC: Percentage of Aim for Employment, the Social Assistance Program, and Social Solidarity cases with employment income in Quebec, 2021 to 2023**



## Access to data

The data on social assistance recipients in Quebec is available for download, including:

1. Total cases and beneficiaries;
2. Percentage of beneficiaries relative to the total under-65 population;
3. Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
4. Beneficiaries by sex;
5. Heads of household by sex for unattached single households and beneficiaries by sex for single parent households;
6. Adult beneficiaries by age category; and



7. Percentage of cases receiving employment income.

Access the downloadable [spreadsheet here](#).

## Data notes

- For total data, household type data, and total sex data (except for sex by head of household):
  - 2021-22 and prior reflects the average number of cases and/or beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31)
  - 2023 data reflects the number of cases and/or beneficiaries in March.
- For sex by heads of household, adults by age category, and employment income, data reflects the number of cases and/or beneficiaries in March of a given year.
- The Aim for Employment Program was introduced in April 2018.
- The Basic Income Program was introduced in January 2023.
- Data for heads of household by sex was not available for single parent households. Data for beneficiaries by sex is included for this household instead.
- A fifth household category, “partner of a student,” is included in the “couples without children” category. In March 2023, 90 cases and beneficiaries were partners of students, 14 in the Aim for Employment Program, 70 in the Social Assistance Program, and 6 in the Social Solidarity Program.
- The sex of some child beneficiaries is unknown. In March 2023, the sex of three beneficiaries was unknown.
- The numbers do not include First Nations living on reserves.



# Saskatchewan

## Saskatchewan's social assistance programs

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. For modelling of total incomes available to social assistance recipients, visit the [Welfare in Canada](#) report.

In Saskatchewan, there are two core income assistance programs:

- Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS); and
- 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. SIS clients are nominated for Supplementary Health benefits administered by the Ministry of Health.

### Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID)

Designed in collaboration with the disability community, the SAID program was established on October 1, 2009, for individuals in residential care settings. In June 2012, SAID was expanded to include people who live independently. SAID is a needs-based income assistance program that gives Saskatchewan citizens with significant and enduring disabilities access to long-term income support and greater choice of services, and supports their participation in the community.

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 receive additional ongoing or one-time benefits to address a variety of needs, such as utilities, laundry, travel, and special diets as applicable. SAID clients are also nominated for Supplementary Health benefits through the Ministry of Health.

For a person with a disability to be eligible for SAID, their disability must be assessed to be permanent, assessed as either periodically or continuously having a substantial impact on the individual's daily living activities, and causing the individual to require support in the form of an assistive device, the assistance of another individual, a service animal, a modified environment, or other accommodation.

## How many people claim social assistance?

On average, there were 35,875 cases (family units and unattached single adults) and 55,582 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) receiving Saskatchewan's social assistance programs during 2022-23.

Among cases, on average, about 48 per cent (17,316) received support through the Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) and about 52 per cent (18,559) received support through the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID). Among beneficiaries, just under 59 per cent (32,547) received support through SIS, and just over 41 per cent (23,035) received support through SAID.

The total number of social assistance cases in Saskatchewan increased by almost 9 per cent (2,850) and beneficiaries increased by about 8 per cent (4,158). While both programs saw increases, SIS accounted for over two thirds of the increases to both cases and beneficiaries.

To access data on cases and beneficiaries of social assistance in Saskatchewan, including Saskatchewan Assistance Program and Transitional Employment Allowance data, and disaggregated data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

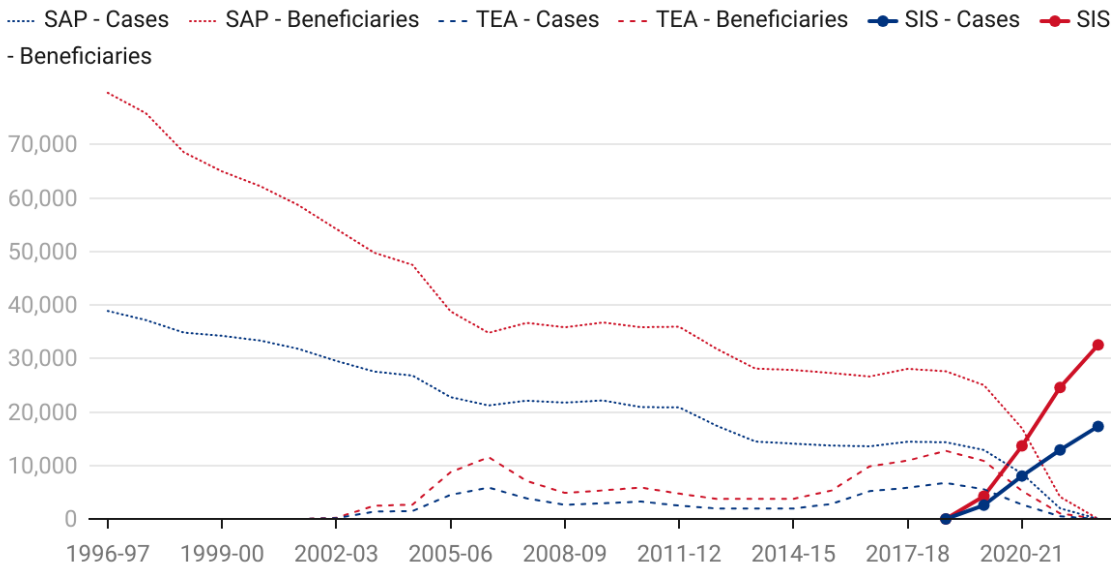
### Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS)

In 2022-23, on average, there were 17,300 cases and more than 32,500 beneficiaries of SIS, an increase of over 34 per cent (4,400) for cases and 32 per cent (7,900) for beneficiaries.

SIS was launched on July 15, 2019, and has seen increases in the number of cases and beneficiaries every year since. This is in part because it has gradually replaced

the Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP) and the Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA) as they ceased in August 2021. These programs' historical numbers of cases and recipients are represented in figure 1SK below.

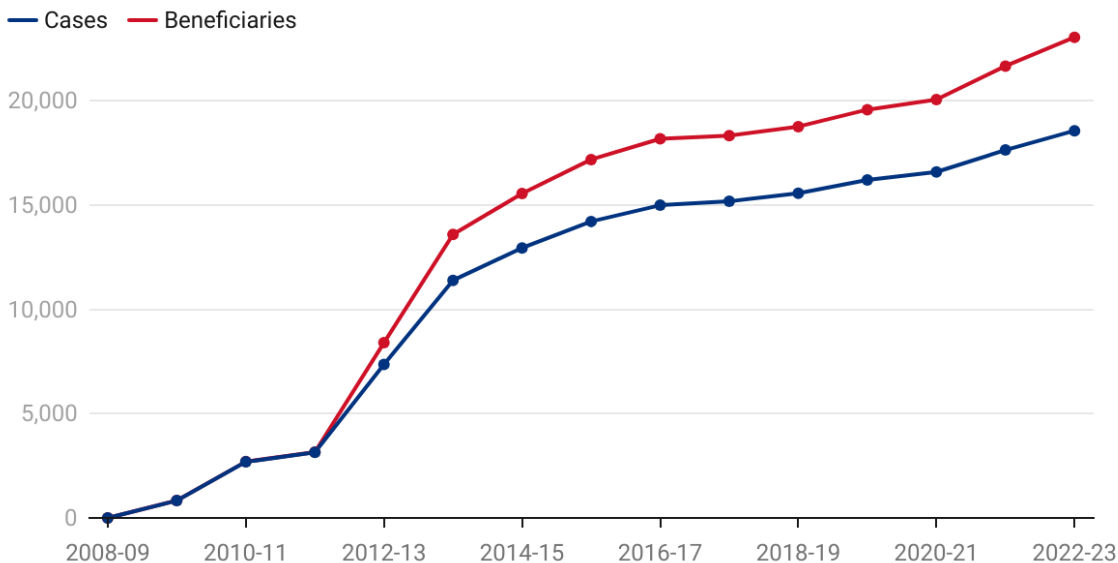
**Figure 1SK: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of SIS, SAP, and TEA, 1996-97 to 2022-23**



## Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID)

In 2022-23, on average, there were almost 18,600 cases and about 23,000 beneficiaries receiving SAID. 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 SAID, 2009-10 to 2022-23**



# What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

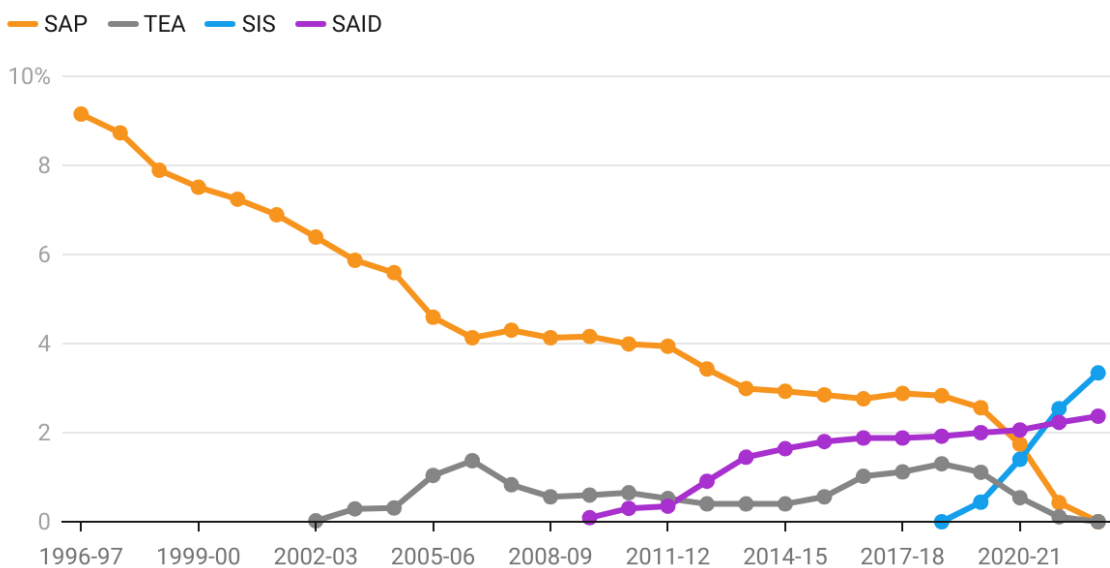
In 2022-23, on average, 5.7 per cent of people in Saskatchewan under 65 received one of Saskatchewan’s social assistance programs, which is 1 in 18.

Since it was introduced in 2019-20, the proportion of SIS beneficiaries has increased rapidly, reaching 3.3 per cent on average in 2022-23. The proportion of SAID beneficiaries increased consistently since 2009-10, with a high of 2.4 per cent in 2022-23.

The proportion of SAP and TEA beneficiaries decreased to 0 in 2022-23 after the programs ended in August 2021.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of the fiscal year (e.g., July 1, 2022, for 2022-23), whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April to March).

**Figure 35K: Yearly beneficiaries of SIS, SAID, SAP, and TEA as a proportion of the under-65 population of Saskatchewan, 1996-97 to 2022-23**



Source of population data: Statistics Canada. (2024). Population estimates on July 1, by age and sex. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>

## Who is receiving social assistance?

This section examines the following disaggregated data:

- Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
- Beneficiaries (SAID) and cases (SIS) by gender;
- Heads of household by gender for unattached singles and single parents;
- Adult beneficiaries by age category; and
- Cases reporting employment income

Note that the figures below represent percentages but total numbers are available. Disaggregated data for SAP and TEA for 2020-21 and 2021-22 is also available. To access this data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

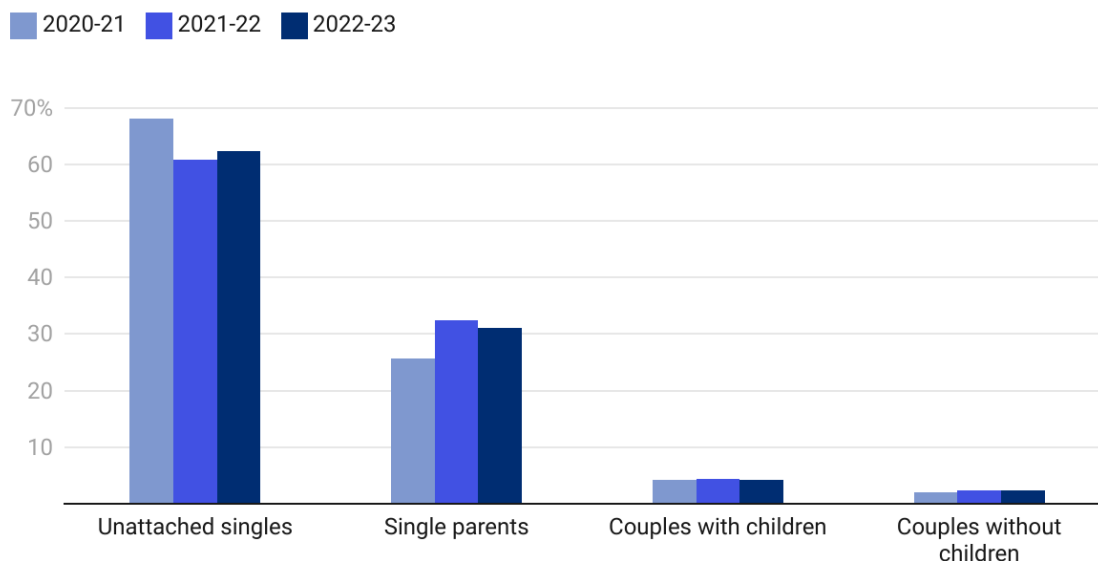
## Household type

In 2022-23, on average, unattached singles were the majority household of social assistance cases for both SIS, representing over 62 per cent, and SAID, representing over 86 per cent. Single parents had the second largest percentages of cases in each program, representing 31 per cent for SIS cases and 8 per cent for SAID.

Single parent households were, on average, the majority of beneficiaries for SIS in 2022-23, representing just under 54 per cent, followed by unattached singles with about 33 per cent. For SAID, unattached singles were the majority beneficiaries with almost 70 per cent, followed by single parent households with more than 17 per cent.

**Figure 4SK: Percentage of cases and beneficiaries of SIS by household, 2020-21 to 2022-23**

### Cases





## Beneficiaries

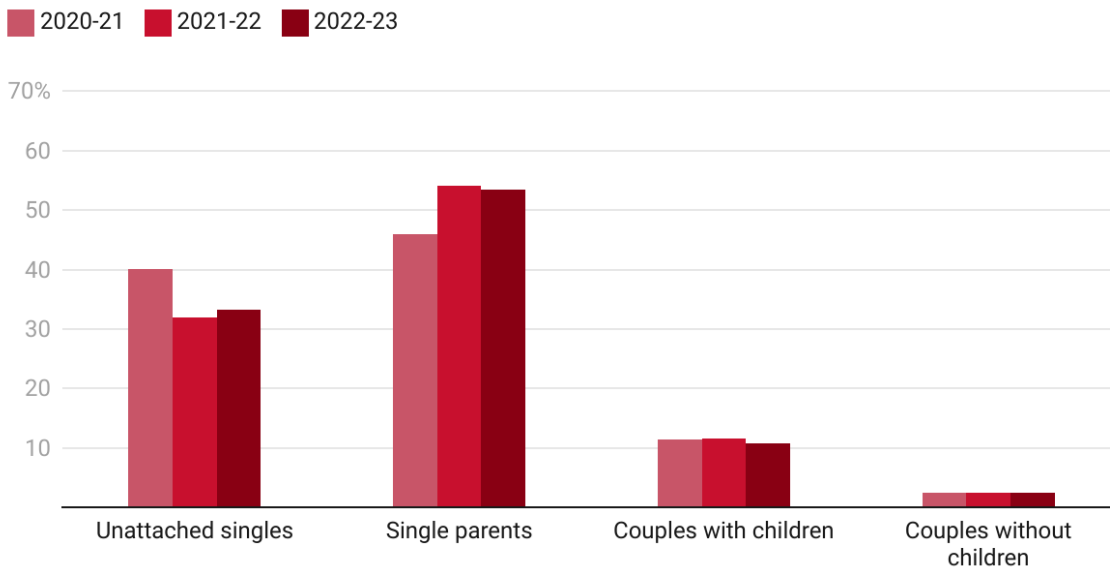
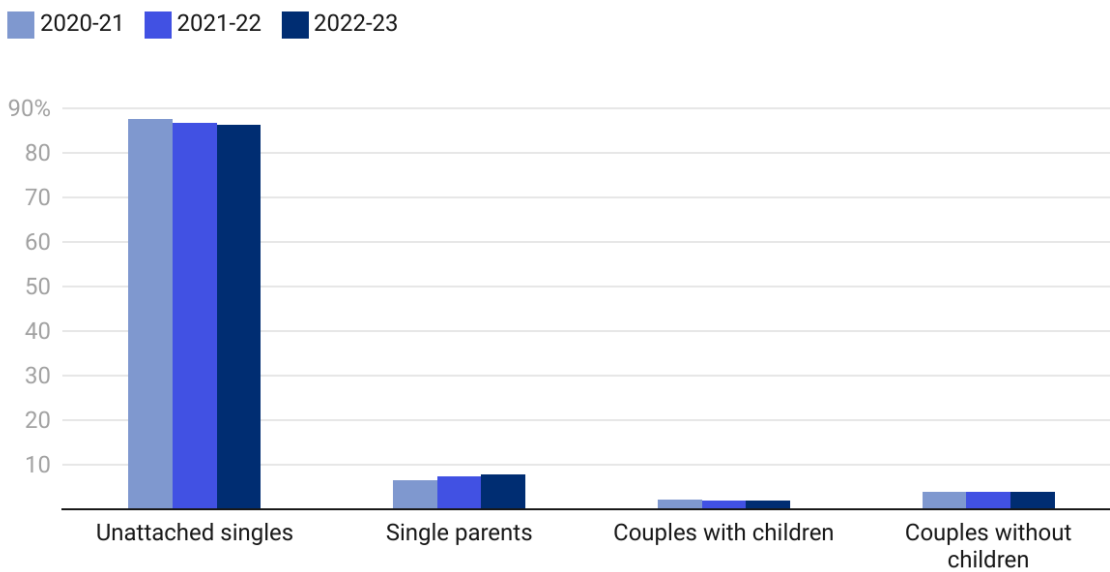
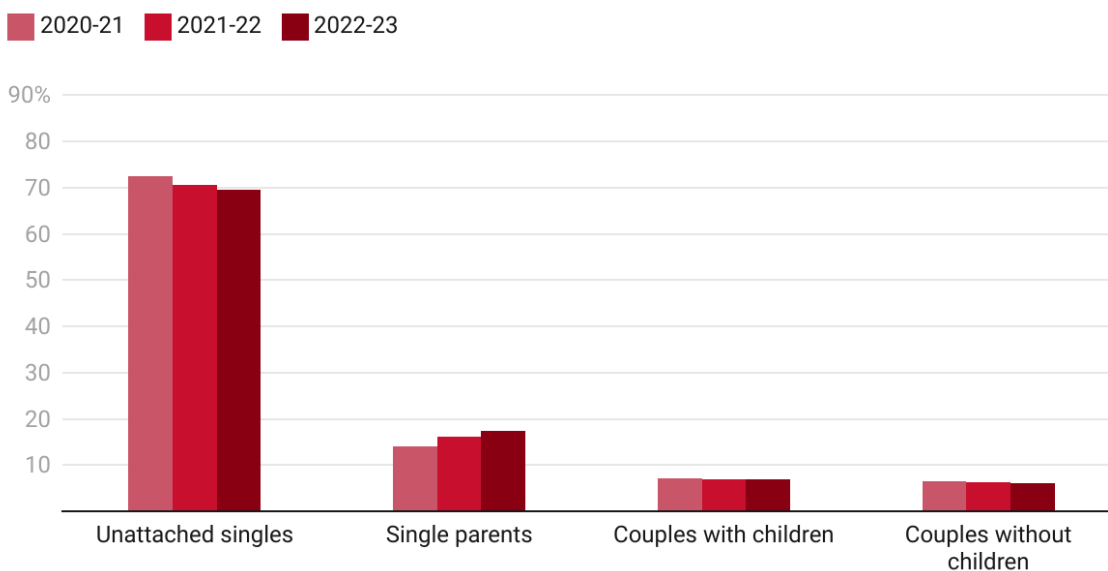


Figure 5SK: Percentage of cases and beneficiaries of SAID by household, 2020-21 to 2022-23

## Cases



## Beneficiaries



## Beneficiaries (SAID) and cases (SIS) by gender

In 2022-23, females, on average, made up the majority of the SAID beneficiaries with about 52 per cent. Female-led households made up the majority of SIS cases with 57 per cent.

Note that the “undeclared/other” gender category is not included in the figures below because fewer than 1 per cent of SIS heads of household identified as such.

**Figure 6SK: Percentage of cases of SIS by gender of primary applicant, 2020-21 to 2022-23**

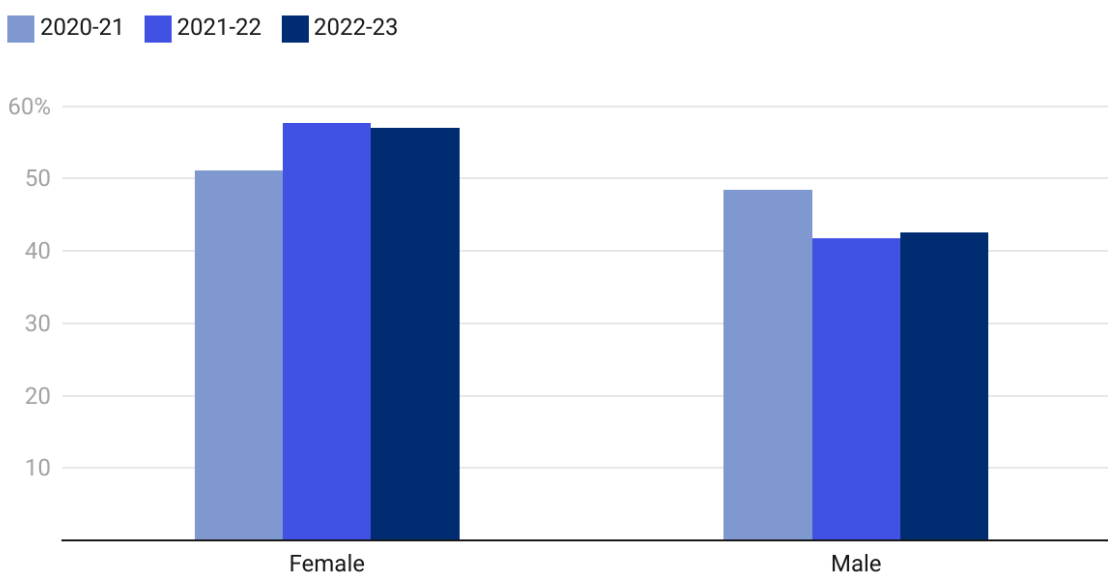
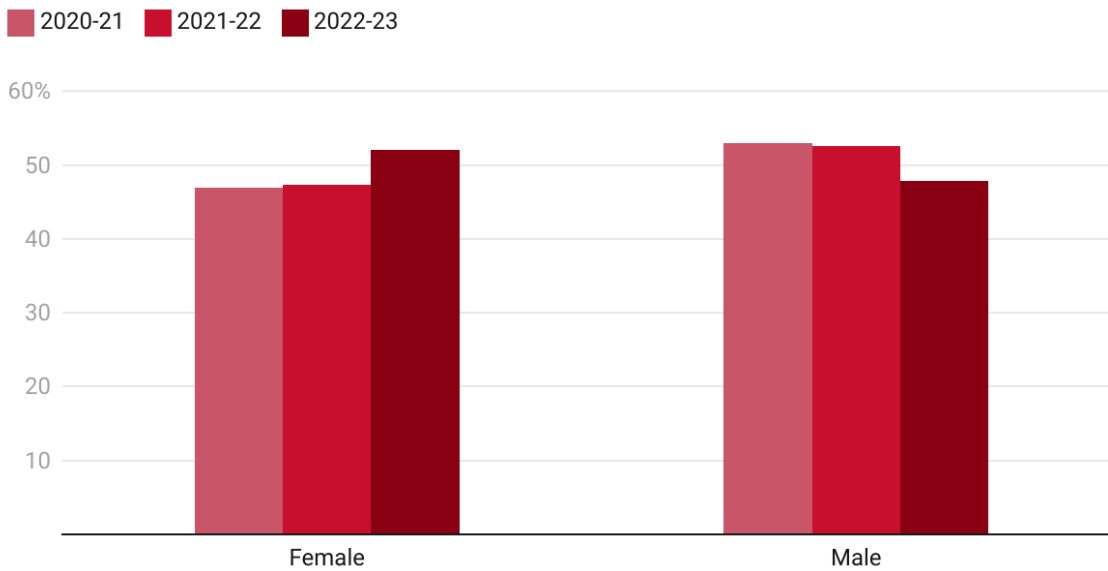


Figure 7SK: Percentage of beneficiaries of SAID by gender, 2020-21 to 2022-23



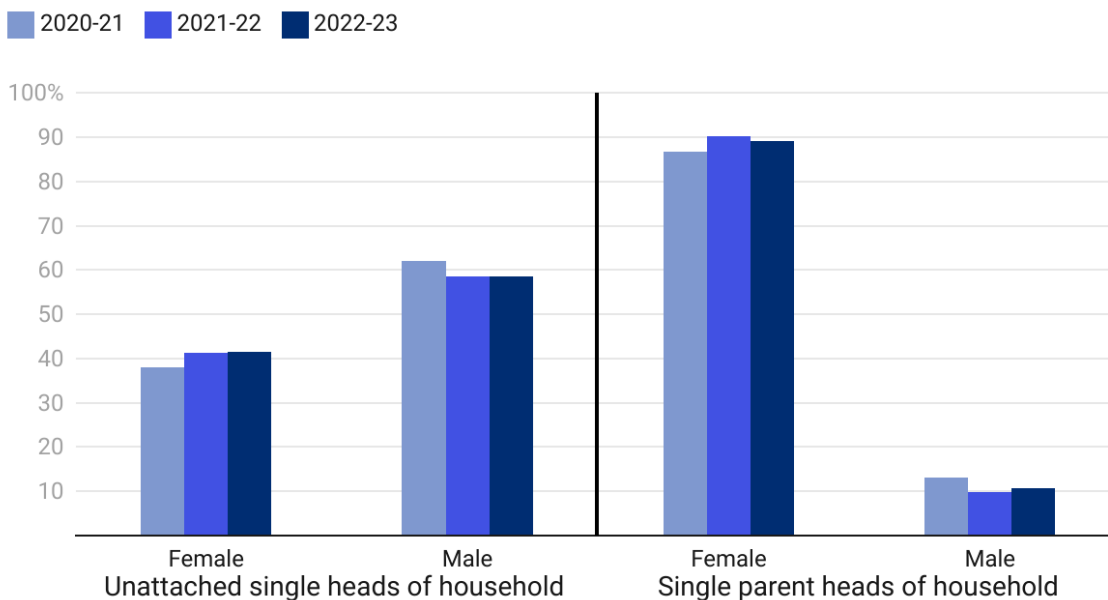
## Gender of heads of household

In 2022-23, on average, the majority of unattached singles receiving SIS were male, representing just under 59 per cent. In contrast, the majority of heads of single parent households were female, representing over 89 per cent.

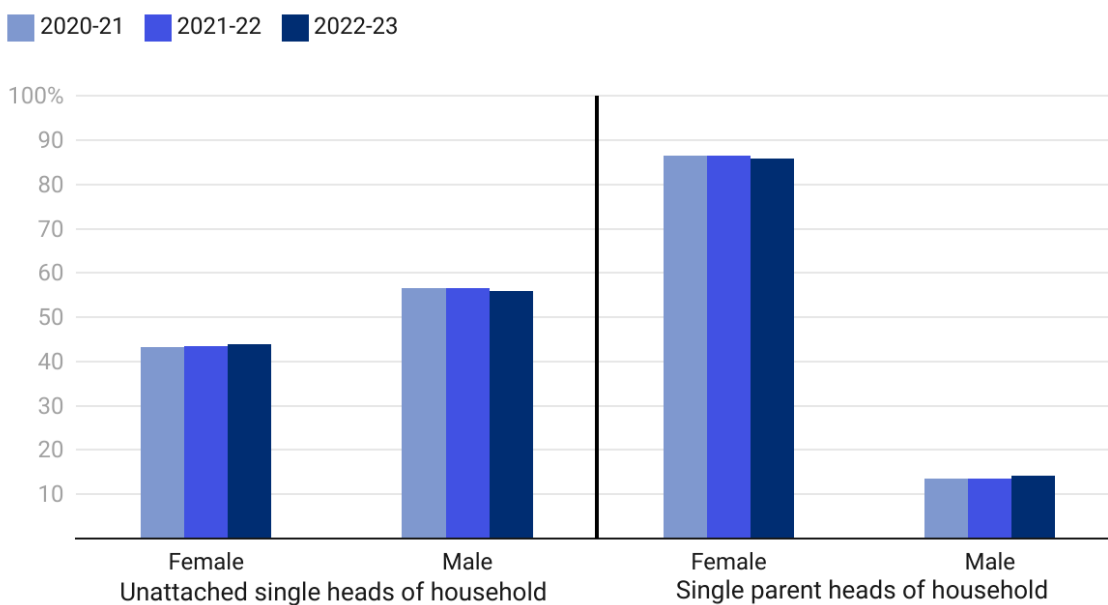
The gender distribution is similar for SAID in 2022-23. On average, 56 per cent of unattached singles were male and almost 86 per cent of heads of single parent households were female.

Note that the “undeclared/other” gender category is not included in the figures below because fewer than 1 per cent of SIS heads of household identified as such.

**Figure 8SK: Percentage of heads of unattached single and single parent households receiving SIS by gender in Saskatchewan, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 9SK: Percentage of heads of unattached single and single parent households receiving SAID by gender in Saskatchewan, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



## Age of adult beneficiaries

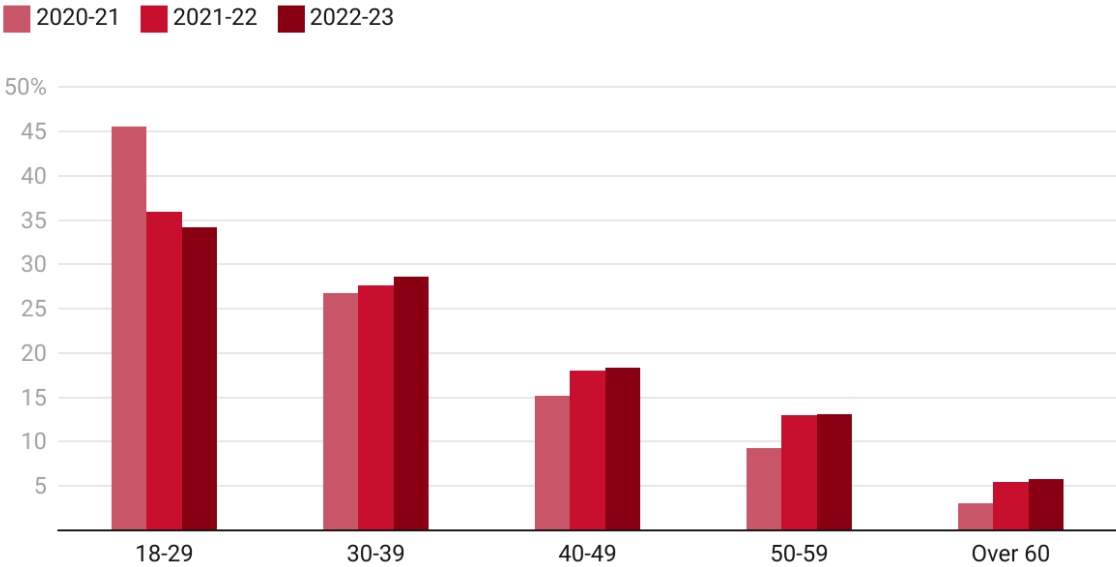
In 2022-23, on average, the most common age group of adult beneficiaries receiving SIS was 18-29, representing over 34 per cent, followed by 30-39, representing almost 29 per cent. The least common age group was people over 60, representing under 6 per cent.



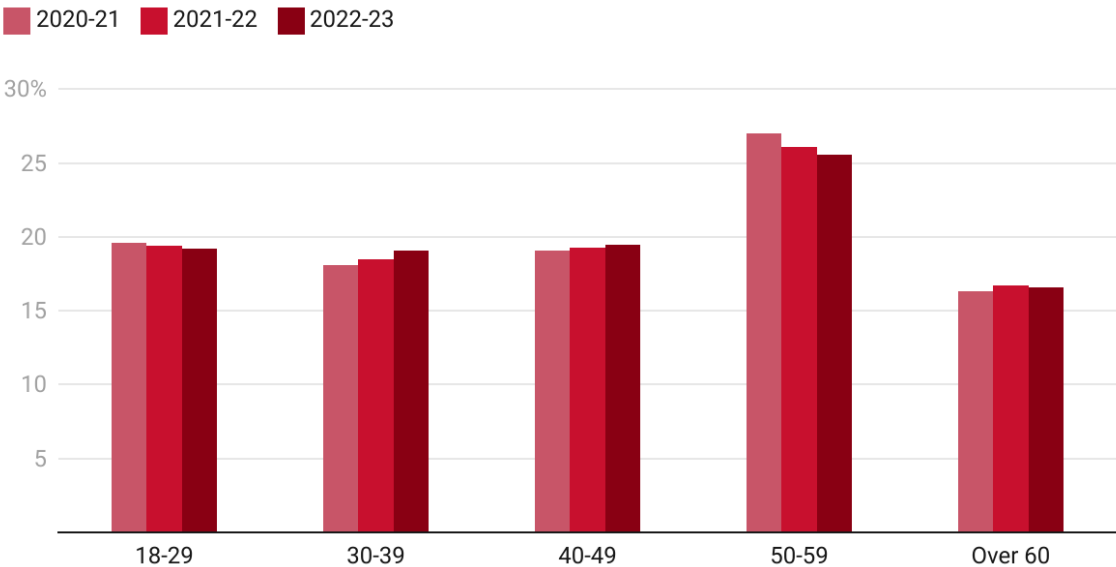


For adult beneficiaries receiving SAID, on average, the most common age group in 2022-23 was 50-59, representing almost 26 per cent. The least common age group was people over 60 with under 17 per cent.

**Figure 10SK: Percentage of adult beneficiaries of SIS by age category in Saskatchewan, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 11SK: Percentage of adult beneficiaries of SAID by age category in Saskatchewan, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



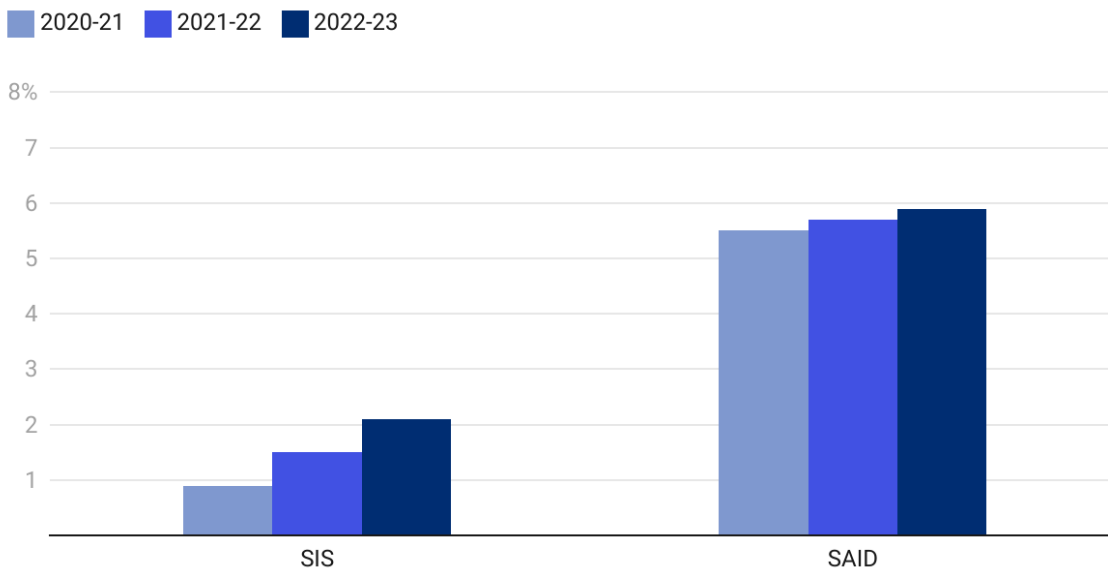
## Employment income

In Saskatchewan, employment income is defined as all self-declared net incomes from employment and self-employment, after mandatory deductions and, in the

case of self-employment, subtracting allowable business expenses, received during the reference periods.

In 2022-23, on average, 2.1 per cent of SIS cases had employment income. Cases receiving SAID were more likely to have employment income at 5.9 per cent. Both numbers have steadily increased since 2020-21.

**Figure 12SK: Percentage of SIS and SAID cases with employment income in Saskatchewan, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



## Access to data

The data on social assistance recipients in Saskatchewan is available for download, including:

1. Total cases and beneficiaries;
2. Percentage of beneficiaries relative to the total under-65 population;
3. Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
4. Beneficiaries (SAID) and cases (SIS) by gender;
5. Heads of household by gender for unattached single and single parent households;
6. Adult beneficiaries by age category; and
7. Percentage of cases reporting employment income.

Access the downloadable [spreadsheet here](#).



# 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. Both were closed on August 31, 2021.

## Notes on program data

- For 2002-03, the averages for TEA were calculated as average over the fiscal year (12 months) while the program was operational for two months.
- For 2009-10, the averages for SAID were calculated as average over the fiscal year (12 months) while the program was operational for five months.
- For 2019-20, the averages for SIS were calculated as average over the fiscal year (12 months) while the program was operational for nine months.
- For 2021-22, the averages for SAP and TEA 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 (households), adults, and beneficiaries due to rounding errors, missing and/or incorrect data.
- 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.
- Data for cases by gender reflects the gender of the primary applicant.
- Adults by age is calculated as the average monthly number of adults falling within the specified age groups.
- The percentage of cases reporting employment income is calculated as the distinct (unique) count of households within each quarter reporting incomes (self-declared) from employment, farming and/or self-employment divided by the total distinct (unique) count of households within each quarter.



# Yukon

## The Yukon's social assistance programs

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. For modelling of total incomes available to social assistance recipients, visit the [Welfare in Canada](#) report.

**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 (towards the cost of food, clothing, and personal and household items) and a shelter allowance (towards the cost of shelter and utilities). 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, and 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, and medical equipment and supplies), shelter security deposits, moving expenses, storage, employment expenses, or education expenses.

The Yukon Supplementary Allowance (YSA) is an additional \$250 monthly benefit for adult recipients who are excluded from the labour force due to either being age 65 and older or a severe and prolonged disability—defined as a significant functional impairment that is expected to persist for an extended duration. Eligibility is based on the Social Assistance social worker's determination and may require an additional self-report and/or a health practitioner's assessment.

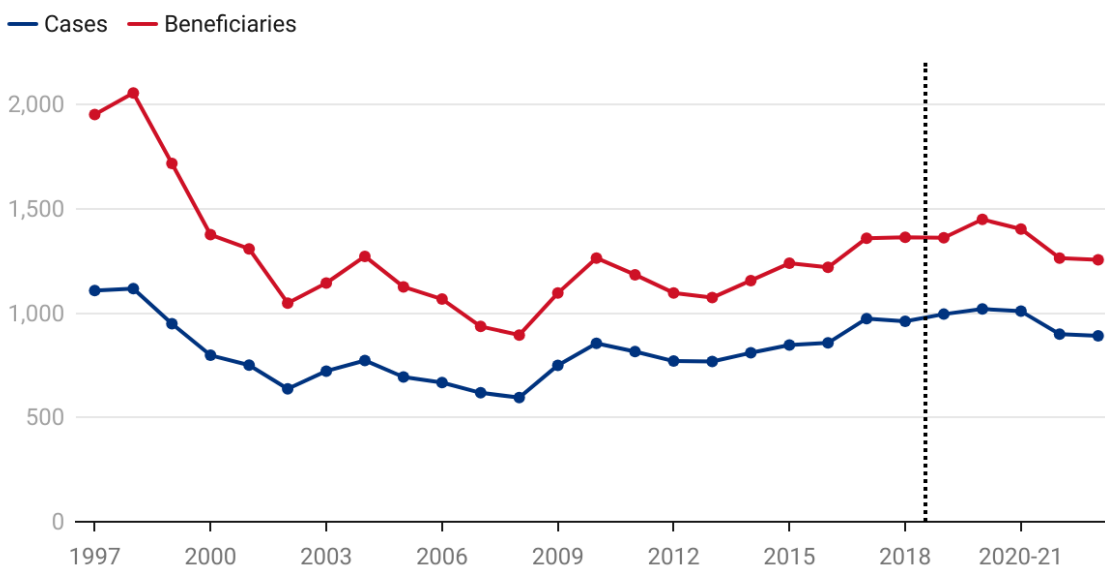
# How many people claim social assistance?

In 2022-23, there were on average about 900 cases (families and single adults) and just under 1,260 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in the Yukon's Social Assistance program. These numbers are similar to the previous year, with a slight decrease. This is the third year of decreases, after a previous period of generally increasing numbers going back to 2012.

Within the Social Assistance program, about 530 cases and 630 beneficiaries received the Yukon Supplementary Allowance (YSA) in 2022-23. This means about 59 per cent of cases and 50 per cent of beneficiaries of Social Assistance received the YSA in 2022-23.

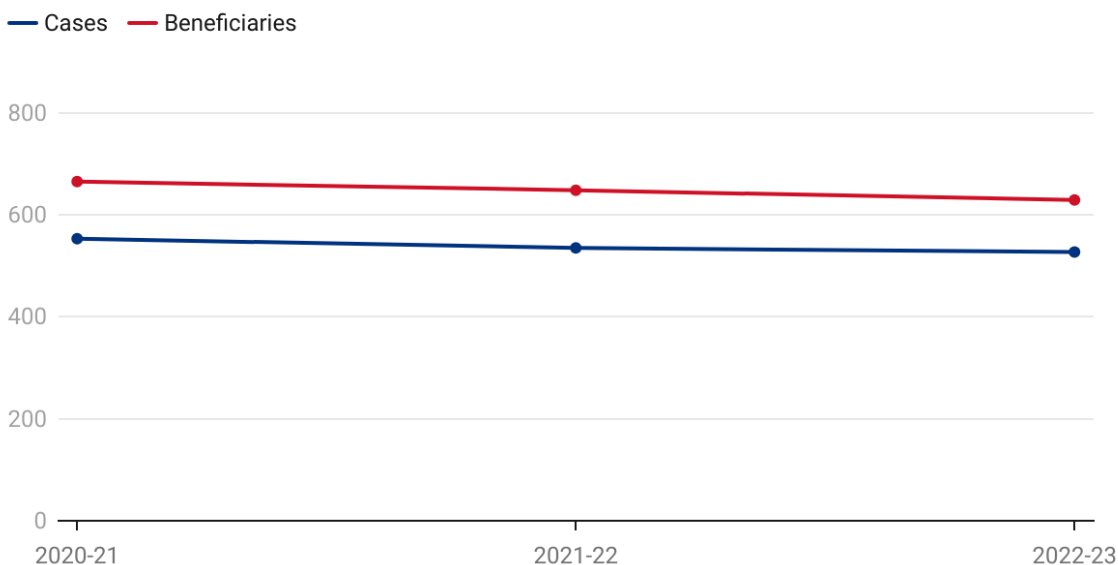
To access data on cases and beneficiaries of social assistance in the Yukon, including disaggregated data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

**Figure 1YT: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Social Assistance in the Yukon, 1997 to 2022-23**



Note: The data reflects the number of cases and beneficiaries on March 31 of each year from 1997 to 2018, and the average over the fiscal year (April to March) from 2018-19 onward.

Figure 2YT: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of the Yukon Supplementary Allowance (YSA) under Social Assistance, 2020-21 to 2022-23



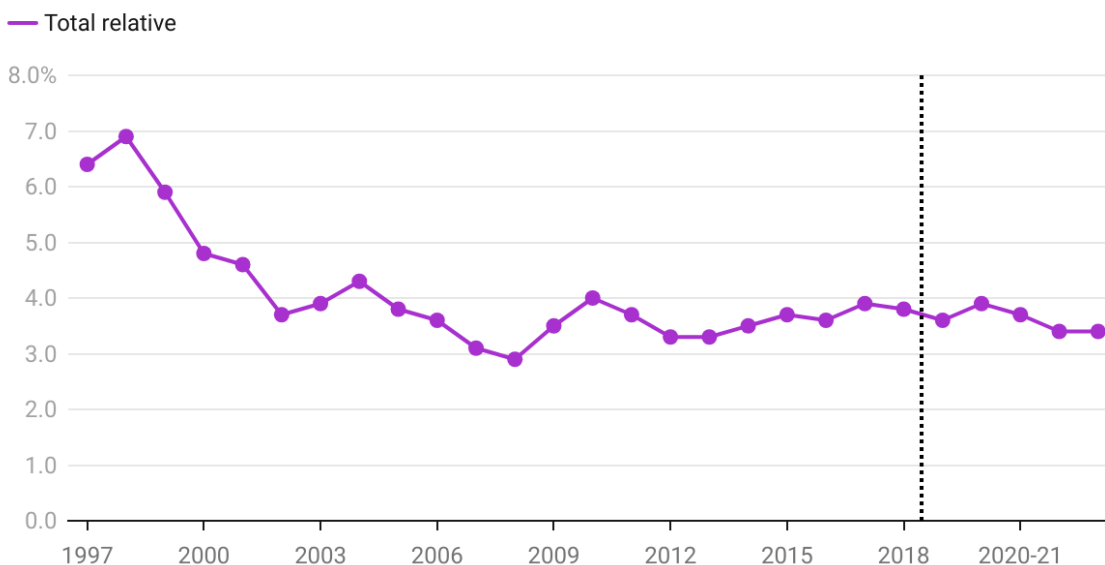
## What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

On average, 3.4 per cent of people in the Yukon under 65 received Social Assistance in 2022-23, which is about 1 in 29. Since March 2002, the proportion of recipients receiving the program has generally fluctuated between 2.9 and 4.3 per cent.

Note that this data captures Social Assistance recipients of the Yukon government program and does not account for all social assistance recipients in the territory as other providers also administer social assistance, including the federal government (through Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada) and self-governing Yukon First Nations governments.

Also, note that the total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of the fiscal year (e.g., July 1, 2022, for 2022-23), whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April to March) from 2018-19 onward, and a point-in-time count on March 31 of a given year from 1997 to 2018.

**Figure 3YT: Yearly beneficiaries of Social Assistance as a proportion of the under-65 population of the Yukon, 1997 to 2022-23**



Note: The data reflects the number of beneficiaries on March 31 of each year from 1997 to 2018, and the average over the fiscal year (April to March) from 2018-19 onward.

Source of population data: Statistics Canada. (2024). *Population estimates on July 1, by age and sex*. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>

## Who is receiving social assistance?

This section examines the following disaggregated data:

- Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
- Beneficiaries by gender;
- Heads of household by gender for unattached singles and single parents;
- Adult beneficiaries by age category; and
- Cases receiving employment income.

Note that the figures below represent percentages but total numbers are available. To access this data, download the [spreadsheet here](#).

### Household type

On average, in 2022-23, unattached singles were the majority household of both cases and beneficiaries of the Yukon’s Social Assistance program, representing about 79 per cent of cases and 56 per cent of beneficiaries. Single parents were second, representing about 16 per cent of cases and 33 per cent of beneficiaries.

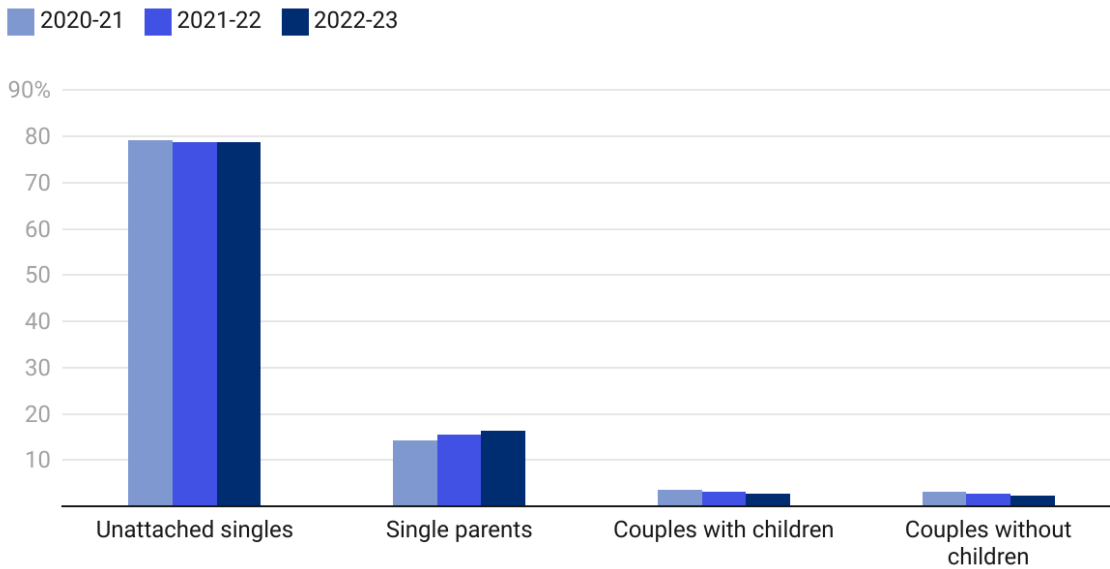




Among those who received YSA under Social Assistance, on average, almost 89 per cent of cases and 74 per cent of beneficiaries were unattached singles in 2022-23. Single parents were second, representing just over 7 per cent of cases and 17 per cent of beneficiaries.

**Figure 4YT: Percentage of cases and beneficiaries of Social Assistance by household in the Yukon, 2020-21 to 2022-23**

### Cases



### Beneficiaries

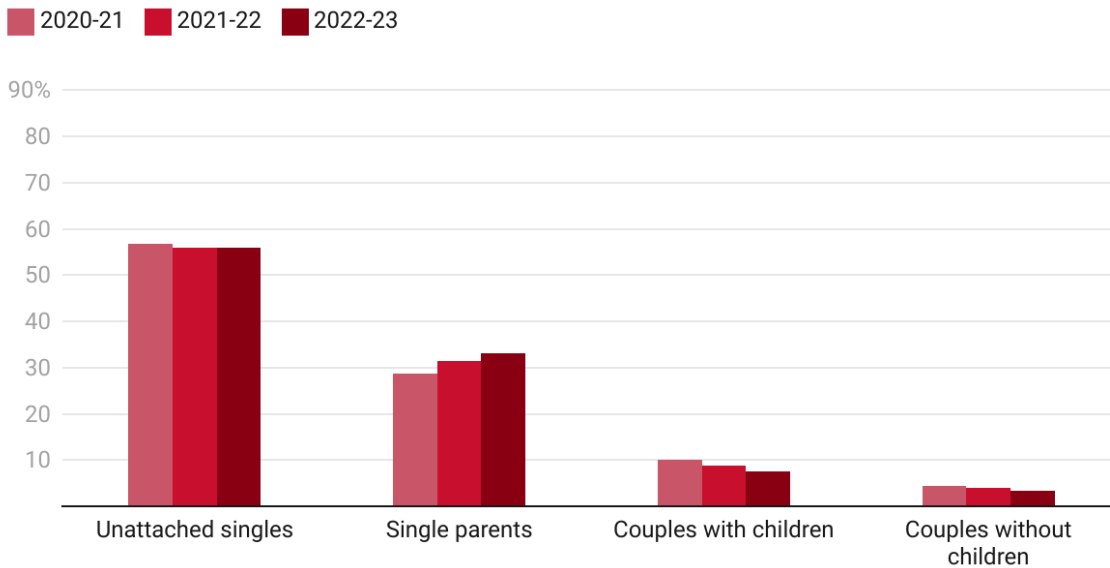
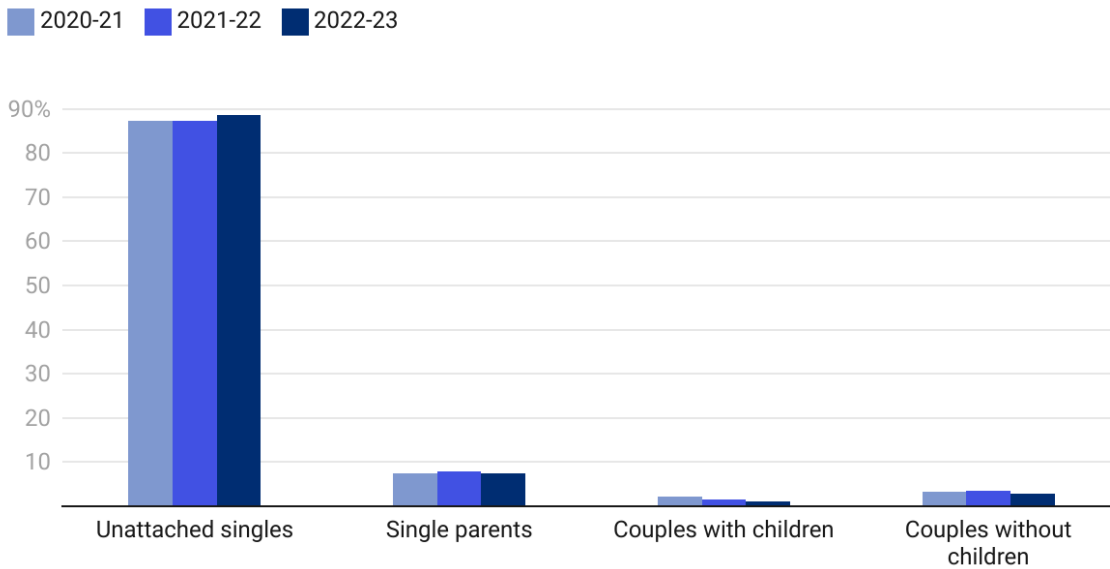


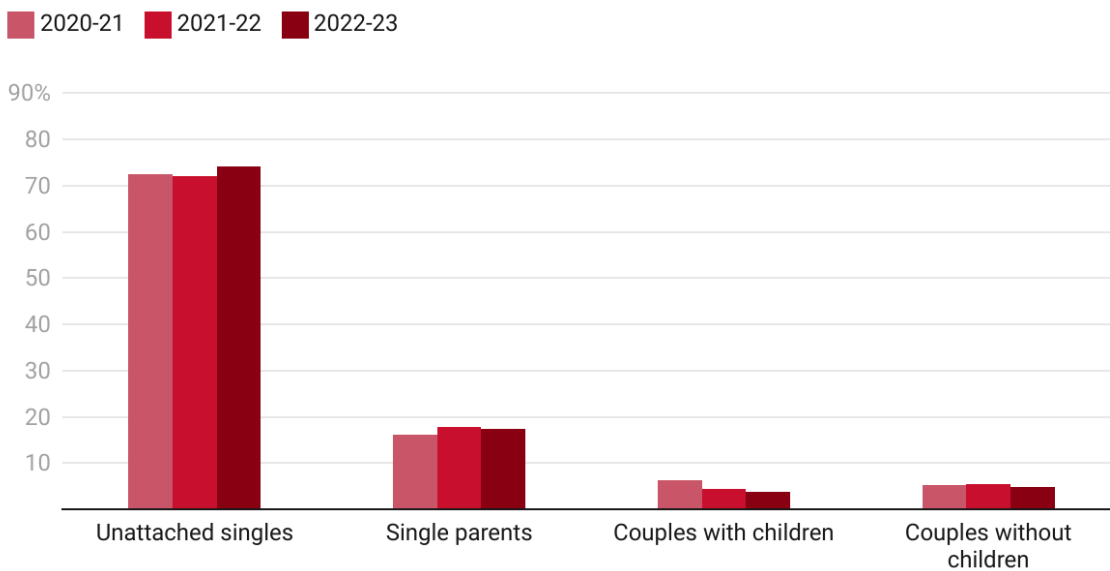


Figure 5YT: Percentage of cases and beneficiaries of the Yukon Supplementary Allowance (YSA) under Social Assistance by household, 2020-21 to 2022-23

### Cases



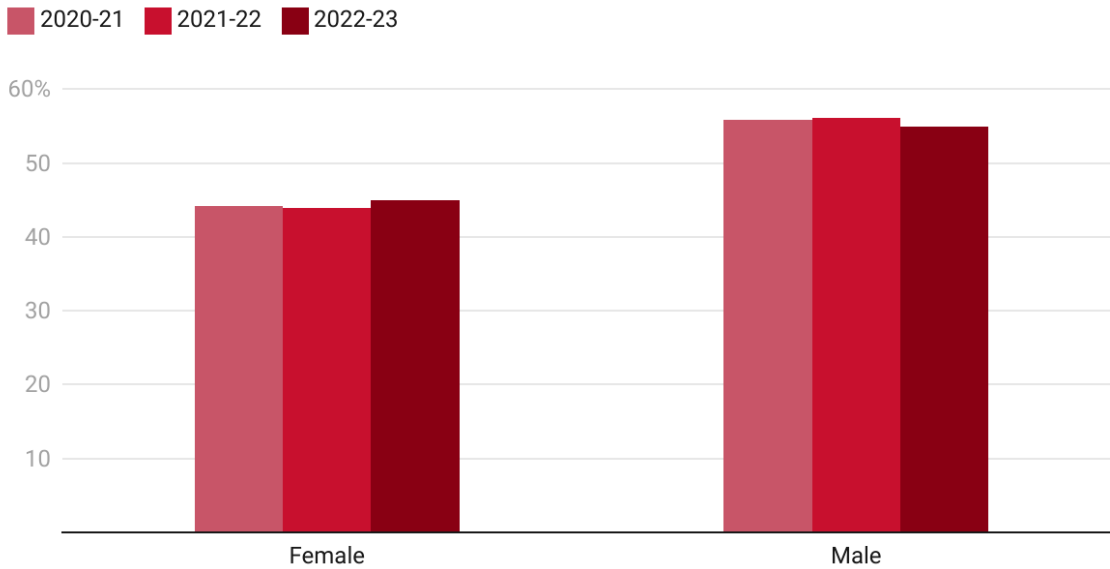
### Beneficiaries



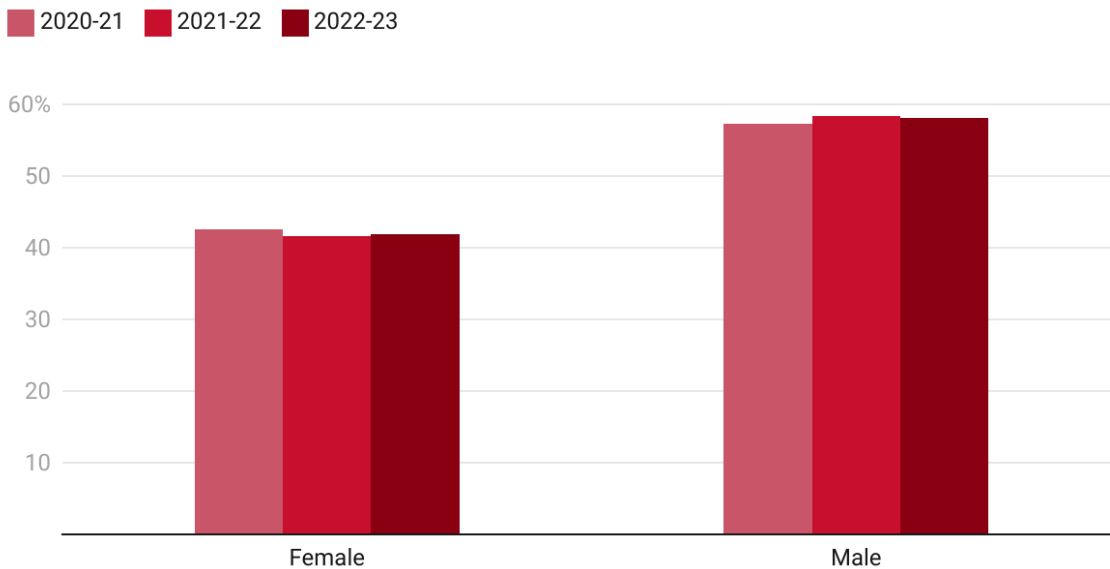
## Beneficiaries by gender

The majority of the Yukon's Social Assistance beneficiaries were male representing, on average, 55 per cent in 2022-23. Similarly, the majority of YSA beneficiaries under Social Assistance were male, representing, on average, over 58 per cent in 2022-23.

**Figure 6YT: Percentage of beneficiaries of Social Assistance by gender in the Yukon, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 7YT: Percentage of beneficiaries of the Yukon Supplementary Allowance (YSA) under Social Assistance by gender, 2020-21 to 2022-23**

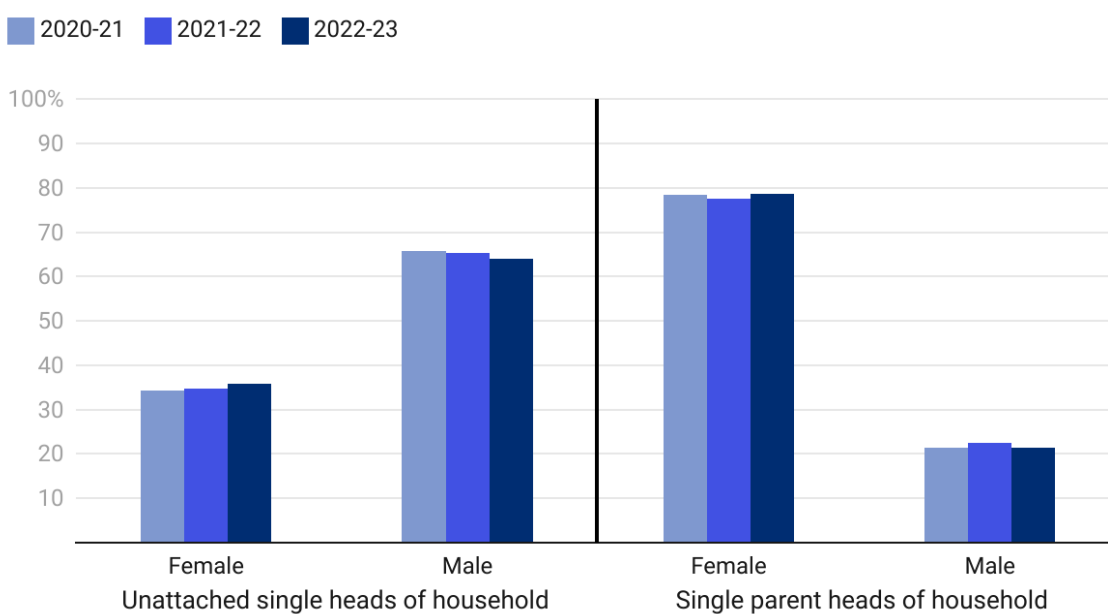


## Gender of heads of household

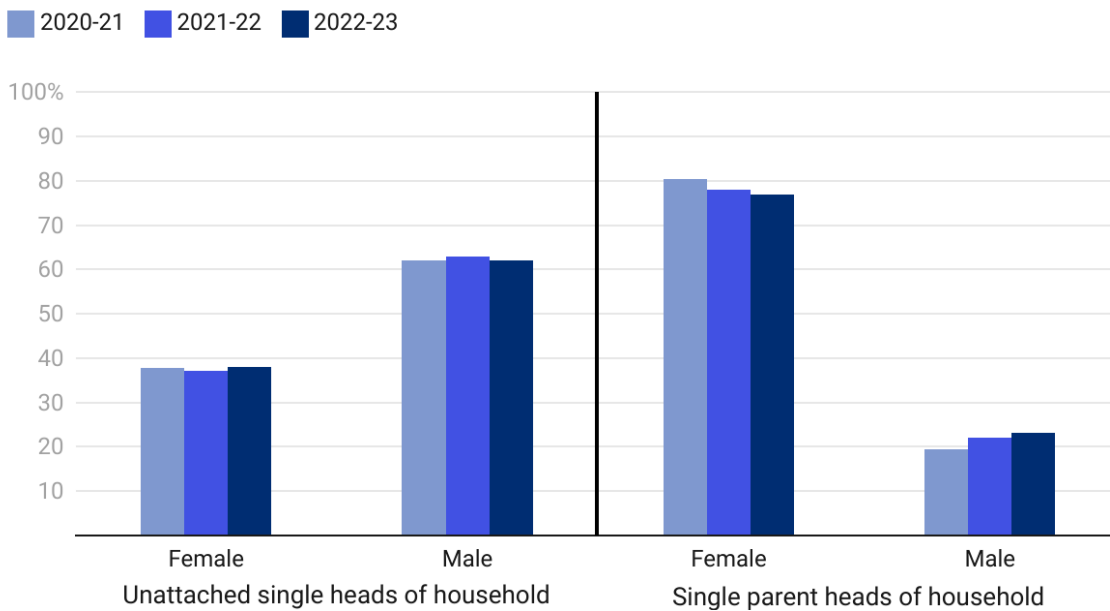
In 2022-23, on average, the majority of unattached singles receiving Social Assistance were male, representing over 64 per cent. In contrast, the majority of heads of single parent households were female, representing almost 79 per cent.

The gender distribution was similar for YSA in 2022-23. On average, 62 per cent of unattached singles were male and 77 per cent of heads of single parent households were female.

**Figure 8YT: Percentage of heads of unattached single and single parent households receiving Social Assistance by gender in the Yukon, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 9YT: Percentage of heads of unattached single and single parent households receiving the Yukon Supplementary Allowance (YSA) under Social Assistance by gender, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



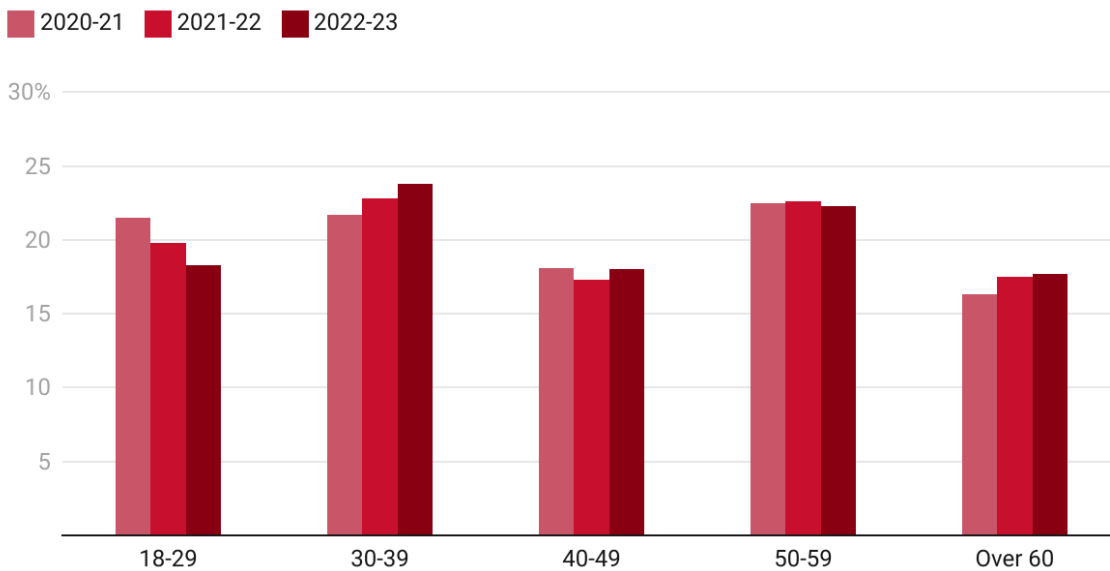
## Age of adult beneficiaries

In 2022-23, on average, the most common age group of adult beneficiaries in the Yukon was 30-39, representing almost 24 per cent. The least common was people over 60, representing less than 18 per cent.

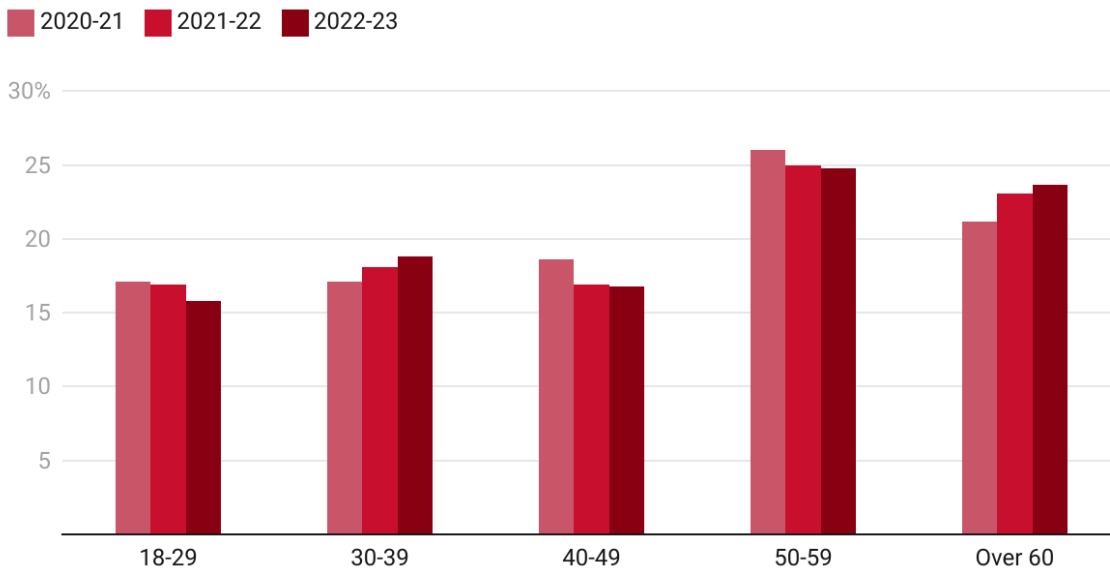
For adult beneficiaries receiving the YSA under Social Assistance, on average, the most common age group in 2022-23 was 50-59, representing close to 25 per cent, followed by people over 60, representing close to 24 per cent. The latter is partly because YSA is provided to both people with disabilities and recipients over 65. The least common age was 18-29 with less than 16 per cent.



**Figure 10YT: Percentage of adult beneficiaries of Social Assistance by age category in the Yukon, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



**Figure 11YT: Percentage of adult beneficiaries of the Yukon Supplementary Allowance (YSA) under Social Assistance by age category, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



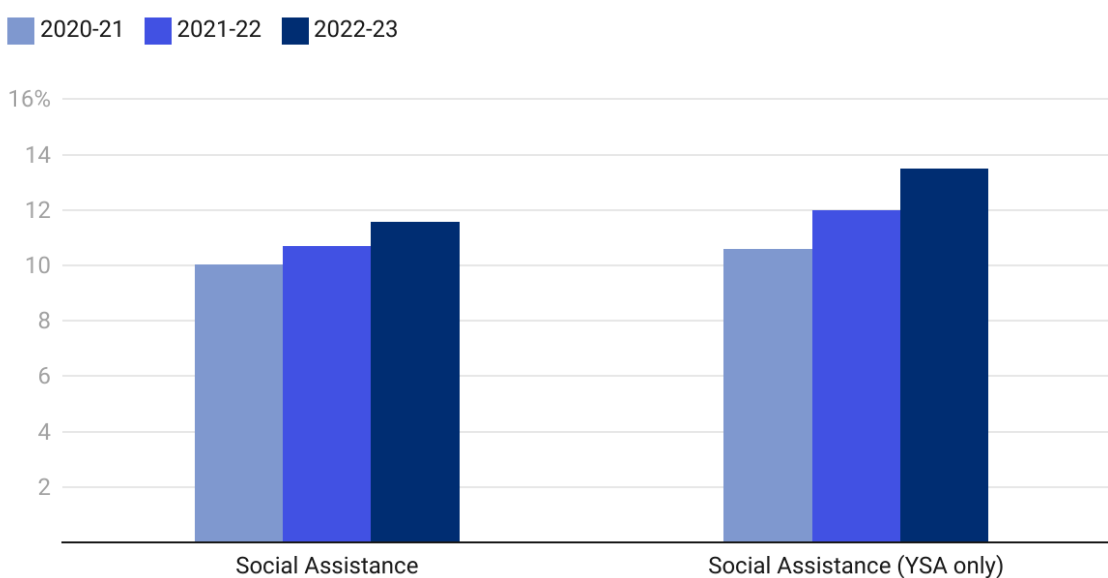
## Employment Income

In the Yukon, employment income is defined as earned income obtained through employment, and includes:

- gratuities (tips);
- income from any business carried out by the recipient;
- salary, wages, and other remuneration; and
- stipends (for example, an allowance for attending a program).

In 2022-23, on average, about 11.6 per cent of Social Assistance cases had employment income. Cases receiving the YSA under Social Assistance are more likely to have employment income at 13.5 per cent. Both numbers have steadily increased since 2020-21.


**Figure 12YT: Percentage of Social Assistance cases and Social Assistance cases who receive the Yukon Supplementary Allowance (YSA) with employment income, 2020-21 to 2022-23**



## Access to data

The data on social assistance recipients in the Yukon is available for download, including:

1. Total cases and beneficiaries;
2. Percentage of beneficiaries relative to the total under-65 population;
3. Cases and beneficiaries by household type;

- 
4. Beneficiaries by gender;
  5. Heads of household by gender for unattached single and single parent households;
  6. Adult beneficiaries by age category; and
  7. Percentage of cases receiving employment income.

Access the downloadable [spreadsheet here](#).

## 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 2022-23 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 31 of each year.
- In addition to female and male, in 2020-21 there were an average of 7 beneficiaries, in 2021-22 there were an average of 11 beneficiaries, and in 2022-23 there were an average of 15 beneficiaries where gender was recorded as “another gender,” “not provided,” or “prefer not to report.”
- Yukon Supplementary Allowance (YSA) data represents all cases where at least one household member is receiving the YSA benefit due to a disability or age 65+. Beneficiaries include other household members who may not be in receipt of the YSA themselves.





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