

Canada Social Report

Social Assistance Combined Summaries, 2014

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CANADA SOCIAL REPORT



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The *Social Assistance Summaries* series was developed to maintain the record of social assistance caseload information (number of cases, number of recipients) from Canada's 13 provinces and territories.

Caledon used the *2008 Social Assistance Statistical Report* to establish a baseline of caseload statistics.

Though a 2009 version of that report is forthcoming,

Caledon has extended this data to 2012 or 2013, depending on the information released and approved by jurisdictional representatives.

A summary was prepared for each province and territory with input and feedback from government representatives in every jurisdiction. All reports include program descriptions and data on the number of social assistance cases and recipients dating, in most jurisdictions, from 1997 to the present. The summaries will be updated annually.

Each jurisdiction was consulted regarding the format they preferred for presenting case and recipient numbers – calendar year average, fiscal year average or point-in-time (March 31) statistics. March 31 figures were used in the Social Assistance Statistics Report. Three provinces/territories chose to continue with this format; the remaining nine opted to submit fiscal year averages. Representatives of the second group preferred the average figure as a reflection of the overall economic and employment variances experienced over the course of a year.

The provincial and territorial profiles make clear that each jurisdiction employs its own methodology for tracking and reporting social assistance caseloads. Some provinces include in their caseloads, for example, households that receive a partial benefit or top-up from social assistance. Their overall numbers will be higher than jurisdictions that count only households in receipt of full benefits. Because of these differences in assumptions and methods, the figures presented here should not be used to make inter-jurisdictional comparisons on a pan-Canadian basis.

The broader social and economic context also has a significant impact upon social assistance caseloads. In some regions, a higher take-up of related income security programs, such as Employment Insurance, workers' compensation or disability benefits, typically reduces social assistance caseloads in a given province or territory. The range of federal and provincial/territorial benefits and their interactions, rather than the sole program itself, must be taken into consideration. Again, the unique socioeconomic circumstances of each jurisdiction make the caseload information presented here unsuitable for comparative purposes.



Newfoundland and Labrador

Program Descriptions

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME ASSISTANCE (EIA)

The province's Income Support program is operated by the Advanced Education and Skills Department and governed by the Income and Employment Support Act (2002). The Department provides financial benefits and other services to eligible low-income people to assist in meeting daily living expenses. Basic benefits include:

- family and individual benefit – to assist with expenses such as food, clothing, personal care, household maintenance and utilities
- shelter – including rent and mortgage.

Depending on personal circumstances, individuals may also qualify for non-basic benefits including:

- municipal tax payments
- eye exams and prescription glasses
- medical transportation
- private child care (related to employment or training)
- expenses for burials.

Ancillary benefits may be provided to individuals upon assessment by other departments and agencies. These might include a prescription drug card, which can be applied for through the Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program. Medical supplies and equipment are also available through the Special Assistance Program of the Department of Health and Community Services.



"Cases" are equivalent to households; they include the person who applied for benefits and any dependent household members. "Recipients" are the total number of people who benefit as a result of receiving EIA.

Newfoundland, fiscal year averages.

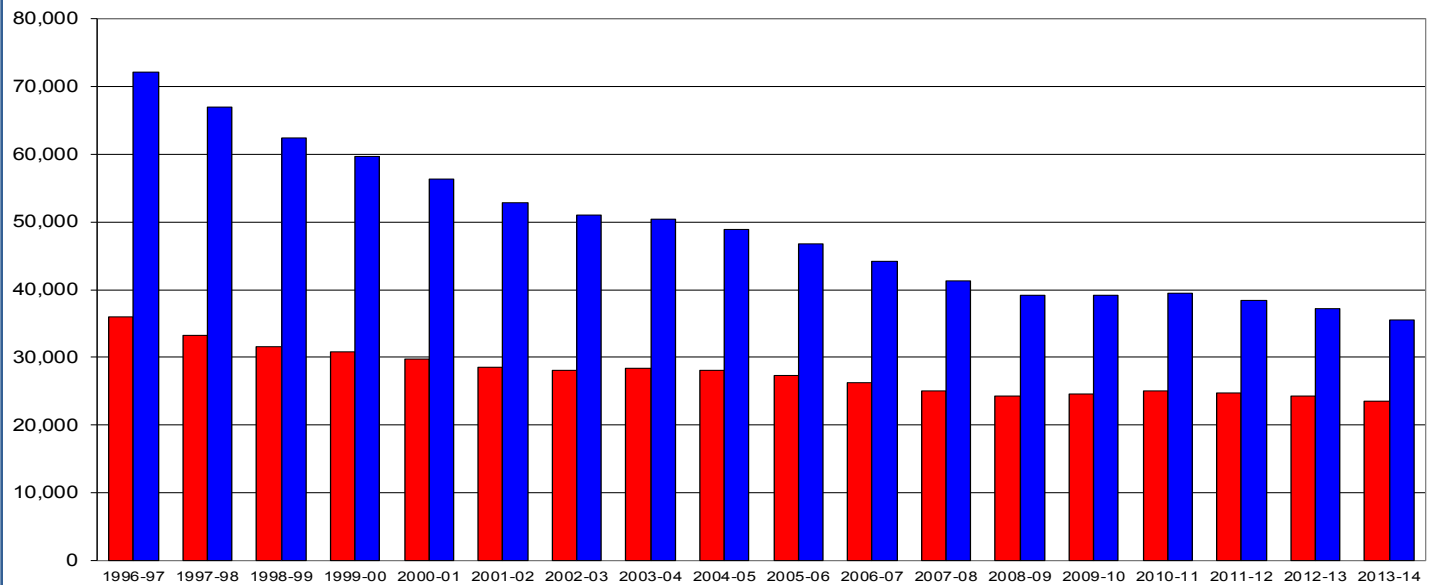
year	cases	recipients
1996-97	36,029	72,215
1997-98	33,325	67,045
1998-99	31,528	62,448
1999-00	30,830	59,755
2000-01	29,802	56,398
2001-02	28,500	52,887
2002-03	28,174	51,083
2003-04	28,421	50,483
2004-05	28,112	48,905
2005-06	27,412	46,711
2006-07	26,274	44,184
2007-08	25,125	41,305
2008-09	24,333	39,265
2009-10	24,530	39,167
2010-11	25,092	39,507
2011-12	24,802	38,383
2012-13	24,320	37,143
2013-14	23,528	35,576

Note: Each fiscal year start on April 1 and ends March 31.



Figure 1
Total social assistance cases and recipients,
Newfoundland and Labrador, 1996-97 to 2013-14

■ cases ■ recipients





Prince Edward Island

Program Descriptions

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

The province's Social Assistance Program is operated by the Department of Community Services and Seniors, and governed by the Social Assistance Act.

Social Assistance helps Islanders meet their basic needs when they are unable to provide for themselves. The program delivers benefits on a case-by-case basis to residents who meet the program eligibility requirements according to the Social Assistance Act, Social Assistance Regulations and Social Assistance Policy Manual.

Islanders can apply for assistance to meet their basic needs. These may include food and shelter; personal expenses; home rehabilitation; medical, dental and optical care; and assistance with funeral costs.

Social Assistance rates vary depending on specific circumstances, such as the number of dependants in the household and whether the social assistance applicant owns his or her own home.

DISABILITY SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Disability Support Program (DSP) is the first program in Canada to distinguish disability-specific support from income support. The purpose of the DSP is to assist with personal planning and to help meet the needs related to an individual's disability. These supports are needs-based and are not intended to provide income.

Supports are provided in three main areas: child disability supports, adult disability supports, and employment and vocational supports.

Supports can take a number of different forms, including funding for respite care, intensive behavioural intervention for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, community living and community participation programs, technical aids and other devices, and family support programs.



"Case" refers to a household receiving assistance. A family household of eight represents one case, as does a single person living alone. "Recipients" are the total number of people who benefit as a result of receiving Social Assistance. Disability Support Program benefits are provided to the individual in need, so each case represents a recipient.

Recipient figures for the years 1996-97 to 2003-04 are not available.

SA - Social Assistance

DSP - Disability Support Program, established in 2001-02

Prince Edward Island, SA fiscal year averages. DSP figures are the total number of people that received benefits in a given year.

year	SA	DSP	
	cases	recipients	cases
1996-97	5,562		
1997-98	5,465		
1998-99	5,143		
1999-00	4,668		
2000-01	4,213		
2001-02	4,135		691
2002-03	3,999		991
2003-04	3,927		1,047
2004-05	4,330	6,848	1,117
2005-06	4,066	6,510	1,076
2006-07	3,568	5,905	1,106
2007-08	3,431	5,554	1,065
2008-09	3,455	5,529	1,115
2009-10	3,566	5,668	1,183
2010-11	3,666	5,724	1,215
2011-12	3,916	5,809	1,232
2012-13	3,800	5,597	1,269
2013-14	3,700	5,406	1,264



Figure 2
Average social assistance cases and recipients,
Prince Edward Island, 1996-97 to 2013-14

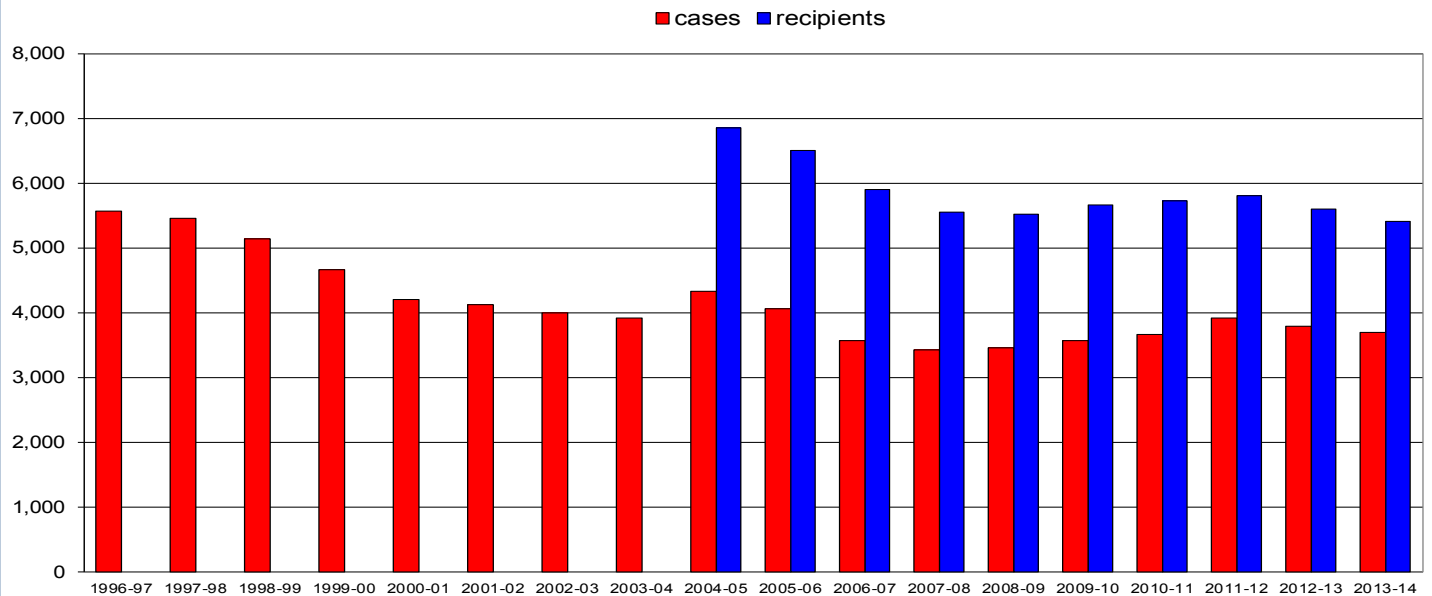
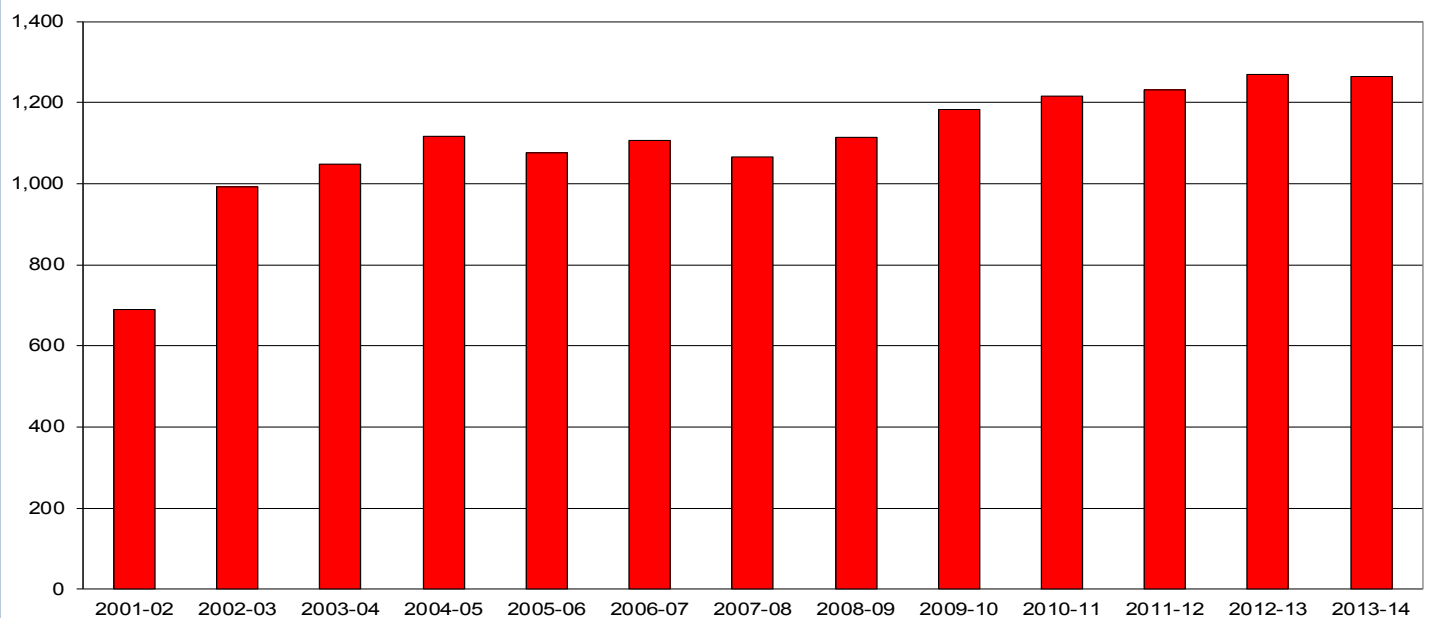


Figure 3
Disability Support Program cases,
Prince Edward Island, 2001-02 to 2013-14





Nova Scotia

Program Descriptions

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT AND INCOME ASSISTANCE (ESIA)

In Nova Scotia, the provincial social assistance program is known as Employment Support and Income Assistance (ESIA). The Employment Support and Income Assistance Act and the Employment Support and Income Assistance Regulations govern the program. ESIA replaced the Family Benefits Program and Municipal Social Assistance in 2001.

ESIA provides financial assistance and employment supports to help people maximize their self-sufficiency by increasing their employability and independence.

The Canada Child Tax Benefit is considered exempt as income for the purposes of assessing social assistance initial or continued eligibility.

Basic assistance consists of a personal allowance and a shelter allowance. The personal allowance covers the cost of food, clothing and miscellaneous essentials for adults in the family. The shelter allowance includes the actual amount for rent/mortgage, fuel and utilities, up to the allowed maximum. Maximum shelter allowance rates are based on the number of persons in the household (including children) and the type of accommodation.

Since 2005, Nova Scotia has provided transitional pharmacare for 12 months to clients who leave social assistance for employment.



“Cases” are equivalent to households; they include the person who applied for benefits and any dependents within the household. “Beneficiaries” are the total number of people who benefit as a result of receiving ESIA. (In other jurisdictions, the term “recipients” is used.)

Nova Scotia, point-in-time data (March 31).

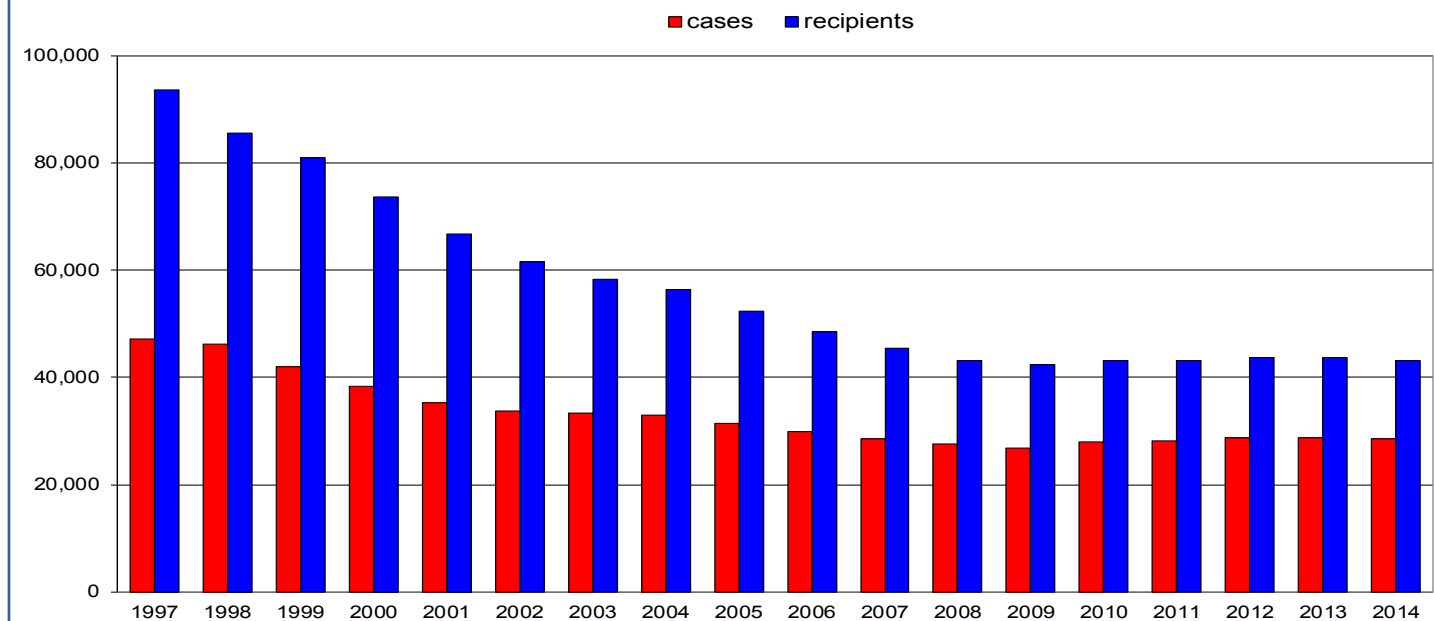
year	cases	beneficiaries
1997	47,100	93,700
1998	46,200	85,500
1999	42,000	80,900
2000	38,300	73,700
2001	35,300	66,800
2002	33,800	61,500
2003	33,300	58,300
2004	33,000	56,300
2005	31,500	52,300
2006	29,800	48,600
2007	28,500	45,400
2008	27,500	43,200
2009	26,800	42,300
2010	28,000	43,200
2011	28,200	43,100
2012	28,700	43,700
2013	28,700	43,800
2014	28,500	43,100

Note: Figures for 2007 were captured in January.

Note: Figures for 1997 to 2001 may include municipal assistance caseload and beneficiaries 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.



Figure 4
Total social assistance cases and recipients,
Nova Scotia, 1997-2014





New Brunswick

Program Descriptions

Social assistance is provided to individuals on the basis of the number of members of their household and a determination of their employability. Administered by the Department of Social Development and governed by the Family Income Security Act, social assistance in New Brunswick is distributed under two programs, the Transitional Assistance Program (TAP) and the Extended Benefits Program (EBP). A third program, Interim Assistance Program, was terminated in 2010.

Within the two programs, three rate categories exist:

TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE

Transitional assistance is intended for individuals who are employable as well as those requiring support and intervention to become employable. This generally means:

- Parental units
- Two-person units
- Single clients who have one of the following designations:
 - Designated Needs
 - Long-Term Needs
 - Long-Term Needs - Regional.

TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE SINGLE EMPLOYABLE

This designation indicates that the case is eligible for the Transitional Assistance –Single Employable (TA-SE) rate of assistance. It is automatically calculated based on the information entered into the system. Single person units who do not have a designation and are not certified blind, deaf or having a disability will receive this rate of assistance, including those who meet the following criteria:

- single clients living in the parental home who:
 - have a Social Development Medical Report completed by a physician stating that they are unable to work for six months or more or that they are seven months pregnant. Social Development assesses the impact of the medical condition on the individual's ability to work
- they are 55 years of age or older.

EXTENDED BENEFITS PROGRAM

This category of benefits is intended for individuals who are certified by the Medical Advisory Board as blind, deaf or having a disability. It also includes some clients who have been on assistance for many years and who have a Special Designation.



"Cases" refer to the individuals who receive benefits (social assistance). "Recipients" are the total number of people in the household including the head and, where applicable, spouse – who benefit as a result of receiving TAP, EBP and IAP.

TAP – Transitional Assistance Program

EBP – Extended Benefits Program

IAP – Interim Assistance Program (ended 2010)

New Brunswick, fiscal year averages.

year	TAP		EBP		IAP		total	
	cases	recipients	cases	recipients	cases	recipients	cases	recipients
1996-97	25,308	55,984	6,600	8,343	3,643	4,051	35,551	68,378
1997-98	25,523	56,934	6,178	7,637	3,225	3,819	34,926	68,390
1998-99	24,186	53,008	5,971	7,253	2,495	2,934	32,652	63,195
1999-00	22,557	48,521	5,893	7,081	2,069	2,428	30,519	58,030
2000-01	21,189	45,062	5,856	6,988	1,794	2,130	28,839	54,180
2001-02	20,063	42,052	5,850	6,912	1,693	1,986	27,606	50,950
2002-03	19,682	40,802	5,851	6,854	1,727	1,985	27,260	49,641
2003-04	19,188	39,220	5,814	6,772	1,603	1,851	26,605	47,843
2004-05	18,562	37,453	5,756	6,674	1,457	1,670	25,775	45,797
2005-06	18,177	36,324	5,774	6,660	1,420	1,632	25,371	44,616
2006-07	17,470	34,043	5,842	6,687	1,346	1,538	24,658	42,268
2007-08	16,644	32,488	5,876	6,702	1,287	1,467	23,807	40,657
2008-09	16,033	30,925	5,929	6,751	1,175	1,349	23,137	39,025
2009-10	16,471	31,,291	5,954	6,782	1,151	1,295	23,576	39,368
2010-11	18,590	33,669	5,991	6,815	0	0	24,581	40,484
2011-12	19,022	34,016	6,099	6,938	0	0	25,121	40,954
2012-13	18,608	33,086	6,157	7,000	0	0	24,765	40,086
2013-14	18,289	32,249	6,132	6,950	0	0	24,421	39,199

Note: Each fiscal year starts on April 1 and ends March 31.



Figure 5
Total social assistance cases and recipients,
New Brunswick, 1996-97 to 2013-14

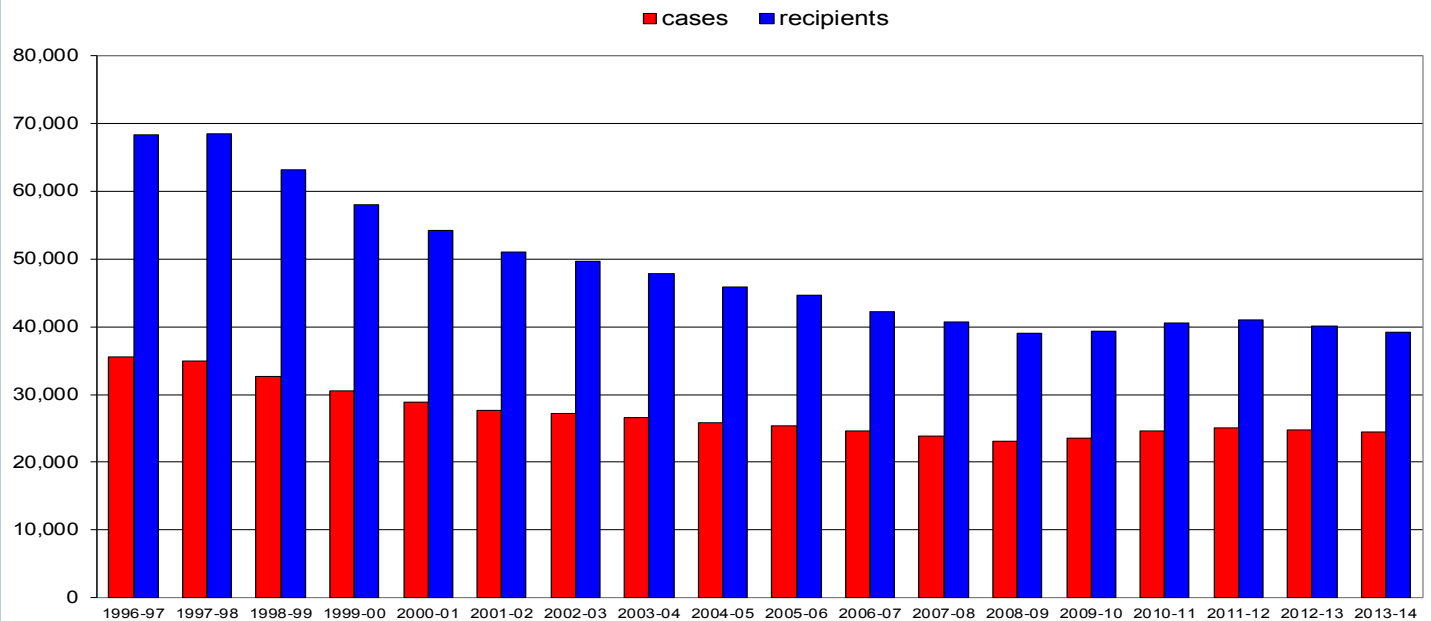


Figure 6
Transitional Assistance Program, cases and recipients,
New Brunswick, 1996-97 to 2012-13

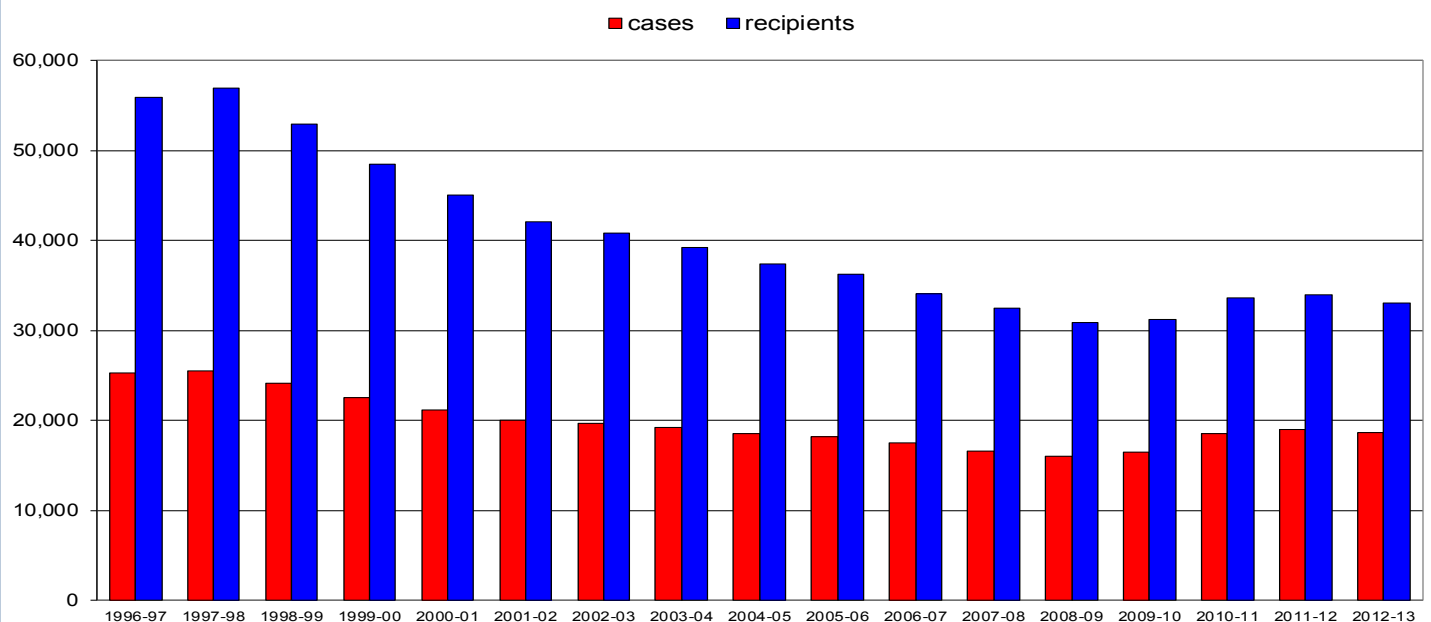




Figure 7
Extended Benefits Program, cases and recipients,
New Brunswick, 1996-97 to 2012-13

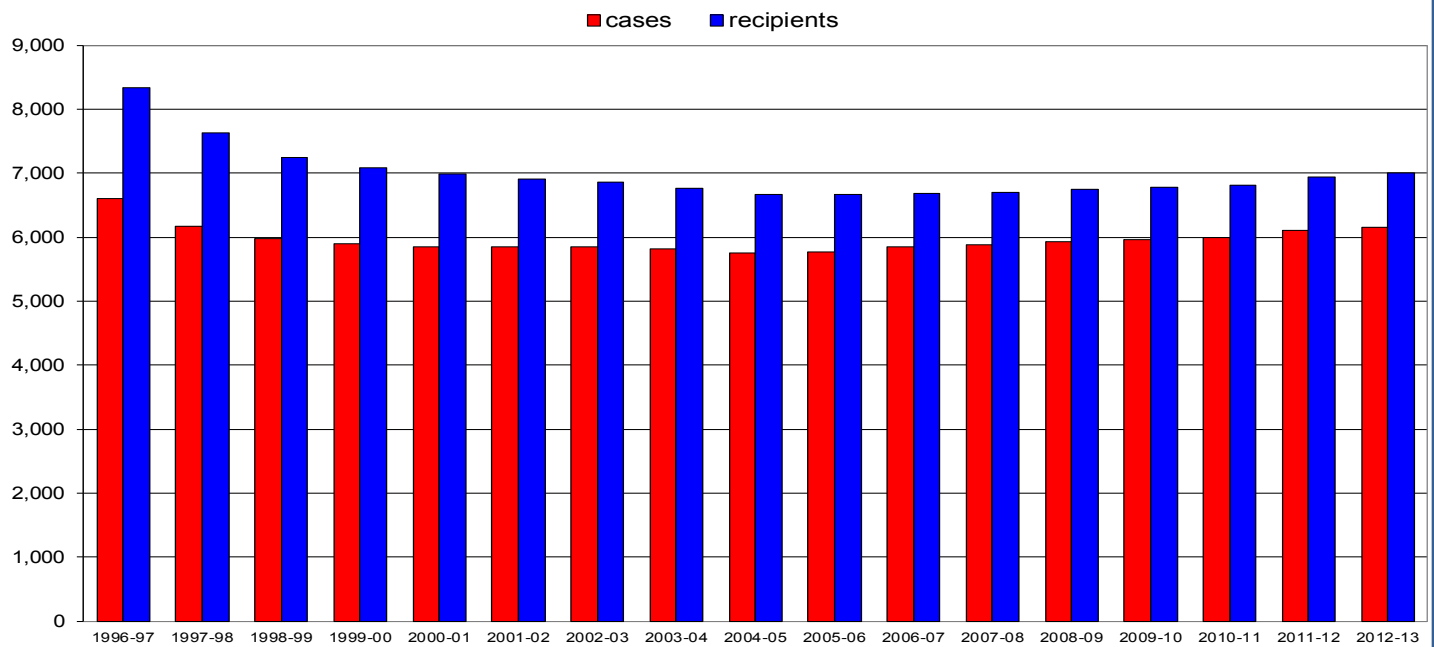
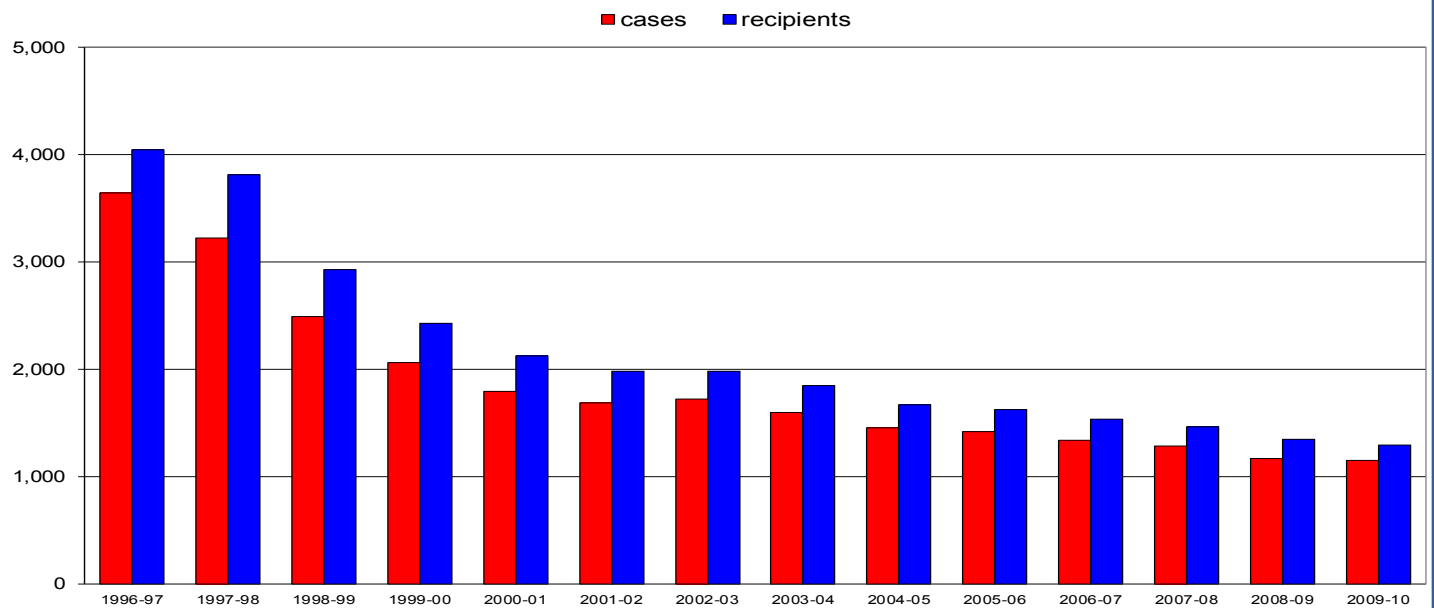


Figure 8
Interim Assistance Program, cases and recipients,
New Brunswick, 1996-97 to 2009-10





Québec

Program Descriptions

In Québec, the provincial social assistance program is known as Last-Resort Financial Assistance which includes the Social Assistance Program (aide sociale) and the Social Solidarity Program (solidarité sociale). The Individual and Family Assistance Act 14 and the Individual and Family Assistance Regulation govern Québec's Last-Resort Financial Assistance program.

LAST-RESORT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Last-Resort Financial Assistance provides basic benefits to adults only. Between September 1997 and January 2005, children's basic benefits were delivered through the Québec Family Allowance. Since January 2005, children's basic benefits have been made available through the Child Assistance Measure.

SOCIAL SOLIDARITY PROGRAM

Social Solidarity Program (solidarité sociale) is for those with severely limited capacity for employment.

It grants last-resort financial assistance to people with severely limited capacity for employment. In the case of a family composed of two adults, only one adult must prove his or her severely limited capacity for employment in order for the family to be eligible for the program.

To obtain a social solidarity allowance, a medical report must be produced attesting to the fact that the applicant's physical or psychological condition is significantly impaired and will be permanently or for an indeterminate time and, therefore, in combination with the socio-occupational profile (little schooling, no work experience), the applicant or spouse has severely limited capacity for employment.



"Cases" refer to the individuals who receive social assistance. "Recipients" are the total number of people – cases and dependent family members – who benefit as a result of receiving social assistance.

aide soc - aide sociale
solid soc - solidarité sociale

Québec, fiscal year averages.

year	aide soc		solid soc		total	
	cases	recipients	cases	recipients	cases	recipients
1997-98	337,681	613,626	111,548	137,244	449,229	750,870
1998-99	301,896	539,593	115,115	140,847	417,011	680,439
1999-00	278,326	489,087	117,815	143,023	396,141	632,110
2000-01	256,641	445,626	119,883	144,517	376,523	590,142
2001-02	241,984	415,886	122,011	146,349	363,995	562,235
2002-03	234,209	398,614	123,954	147,987	358,164	546,600
2003-04	228,822	385,299	124,663	147,969	353,485	533,268
2004-05	224,006	374,278	124,681	146,961	348,687	521,239
2005-06	215,623	358,242	125,691	147,503	341,314	505,745
2006-07	211,823	349,398	126,872	148,402	338,695	497,800
2007-08	206,149	339,002	128,785	150,327	334,934	489,329
2008-09	200,830	329,809	129,571	150,621	330,401	480,430
2009-10	205,698	336,554	129,407	149,593	335,105	486,148
2010-11	205,116	334,482	129,675	149,251	334,791	483,733
2011-12	201,438	326,070	129,269	147,852	330,707	473,922
2012-13	194,313	313,379	128,814	146,420	323,127	459,799
2013-14	191,392	305,388	128,209	145,196	319,601	450,584



Figure 9
Total social assistance cases and recipients,
Québec, 1997-98 to 2013-14

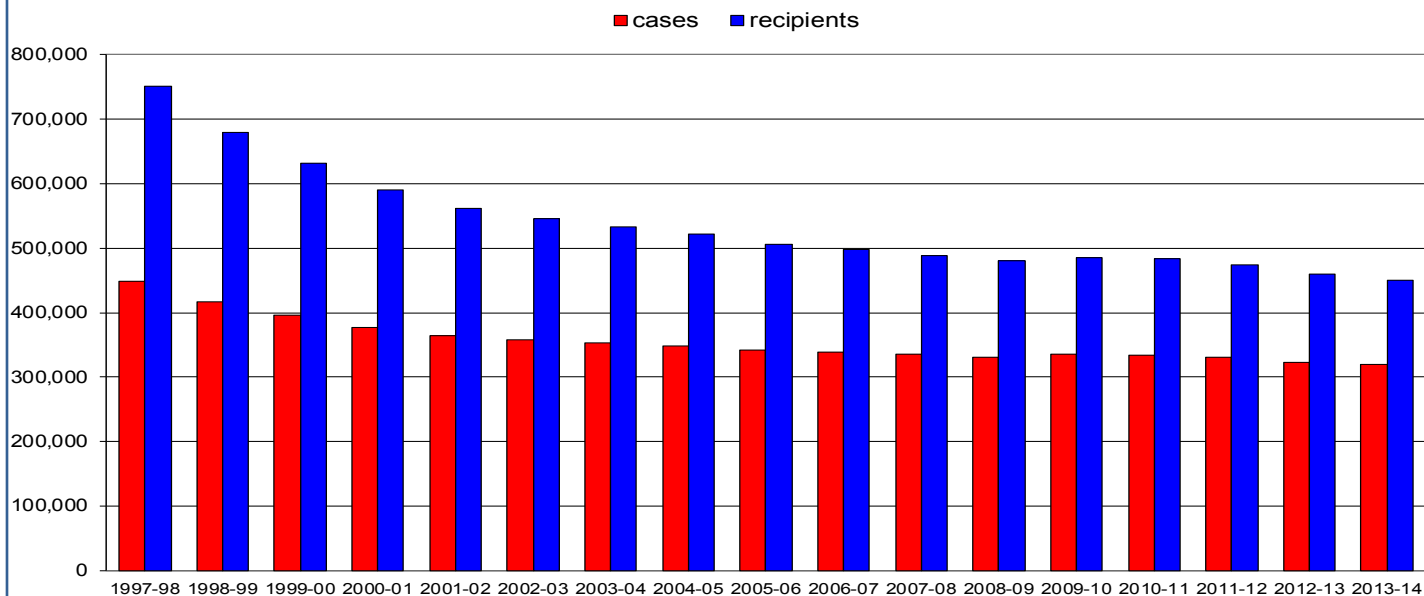


Figure 10
Aide sociale, cases and recipients,
Québec, 1997-98 to 2013-14

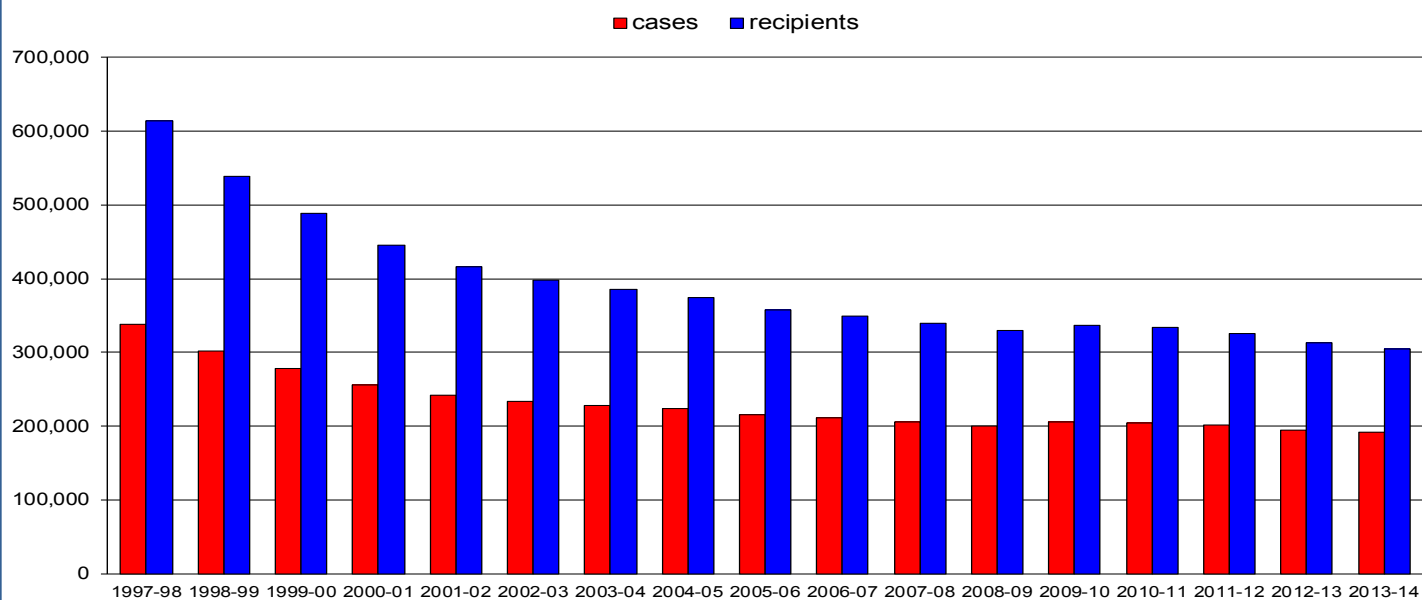
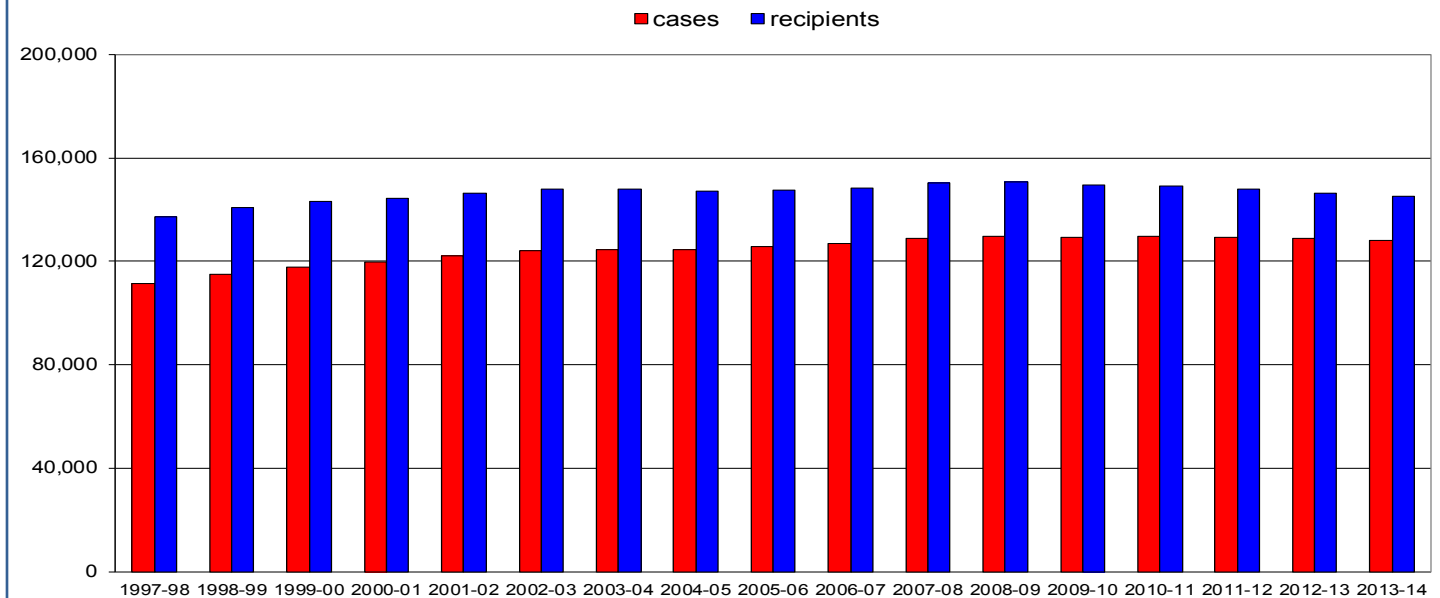




Figure 11
Solidarite sociale, cases and recipients,
Québec, 1997-98 to 2013-14





Ontario

Program Descriptions

Ontario's social assistance system is composed of two programs: Ontario Works for people in temporary financial need, and the 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.

ONTARIO WORKS

The Ontario Works program is delivered on behalf of the Ministry of Community and Social Services by 47 Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards as well as 101 First Nations, all referred to as service managers. A service manager is typically either a large municipality or a grouping of smaller ones, and each is accountable to one of the Ministry's nine regional offices. The Ministry and the service managers share the total financial and employment assistance costs of the Ontario Works program.

ONTARIO DISABILITY SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Ministry of Community and Social Services administers the Ontario Disability Support Program Act, which provides income and employment support to individuals with eligible disabilities as defined by the Act, and their families. ODSP income support assists with basic living expenses such as food, shelter, clothing and personal needs items, as well as certain health-related and employment-related costs.

"Cases" refer to the individuals and families who receive social assistance benefits. "Recipients" are the total number of people – cases and dependent family members – who benefit as a result of receiving social assistance.

OW - Ontario Works

ODSP - Ontario Disability Support Program

Ontario, fiscal year averages.

year	OW		ODSP		total	
	cases	recipients	cases	recipients	cases	recipients
1997-98	362,334	796,109	185,479	261,737	547,813	1,057,846
1998-99	310,493	690,608	189,392	268,159	49,885	958,767
1999-00	262,439	577,620	189,536	268,286	45,975	845,906
2000-01	215,618	469,494	191,885	271,144	40,503	740,638
2001-02	196,596	419,493	192,048	270,558	38,644	690,051
2002-03	195,137	404,067	194,140	271,740	38,277	675,807
2003-04	192,096	389,754	200,087	278,393	39,183	668,147
2004-05	191,723	380,670	205,880	285,231	39,603	665,901
2005-06	198,377	386,801	212,058	292,622	410,435	679,423
2006-07	199,242	383,068	221,718	305,202	420,960	688,270
2007-08	194,920	371,876	235,672	325,552	430,592	697,428
2008-09	202,181	380,442	247,476	342,149	449,657	722,591
2009-10	237,634	435,721	261,509	362,594	499,143	798,315
2010-11	251,280	457,774	276,191	383,341	527,471	841,115
2011-12	260,766	471,154	289,676	402,307	550,442	873,461
2012-13	259,819	468,074	302,733	420,128	562,552	888,202
2013-14	252,767	454,520	314,033	435,052	566,800	889,572

Note: Each fiscal year starts on April 1 and ends March 31.



Figure 12
Total social assistance cases and recipients,
Ontario, 1996-97 to 2011-12

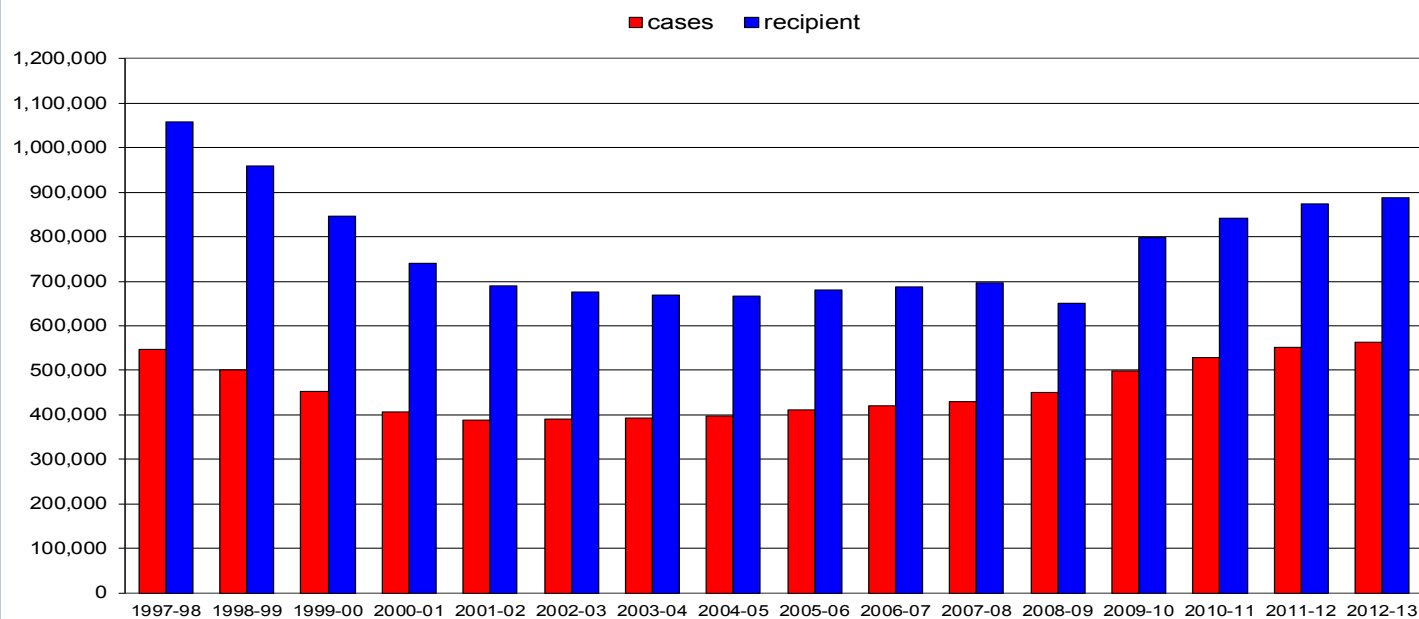


Figure 13
Ontario Works,
cases and recipients, 1996-97 to 2011-12

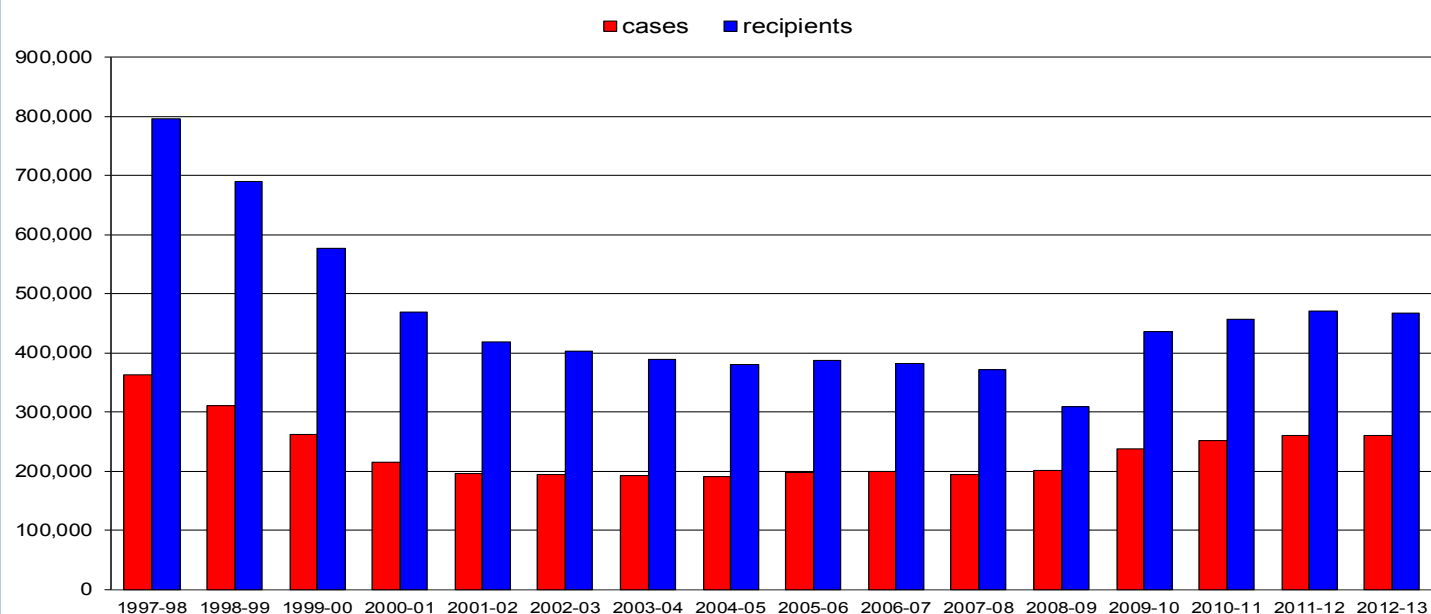
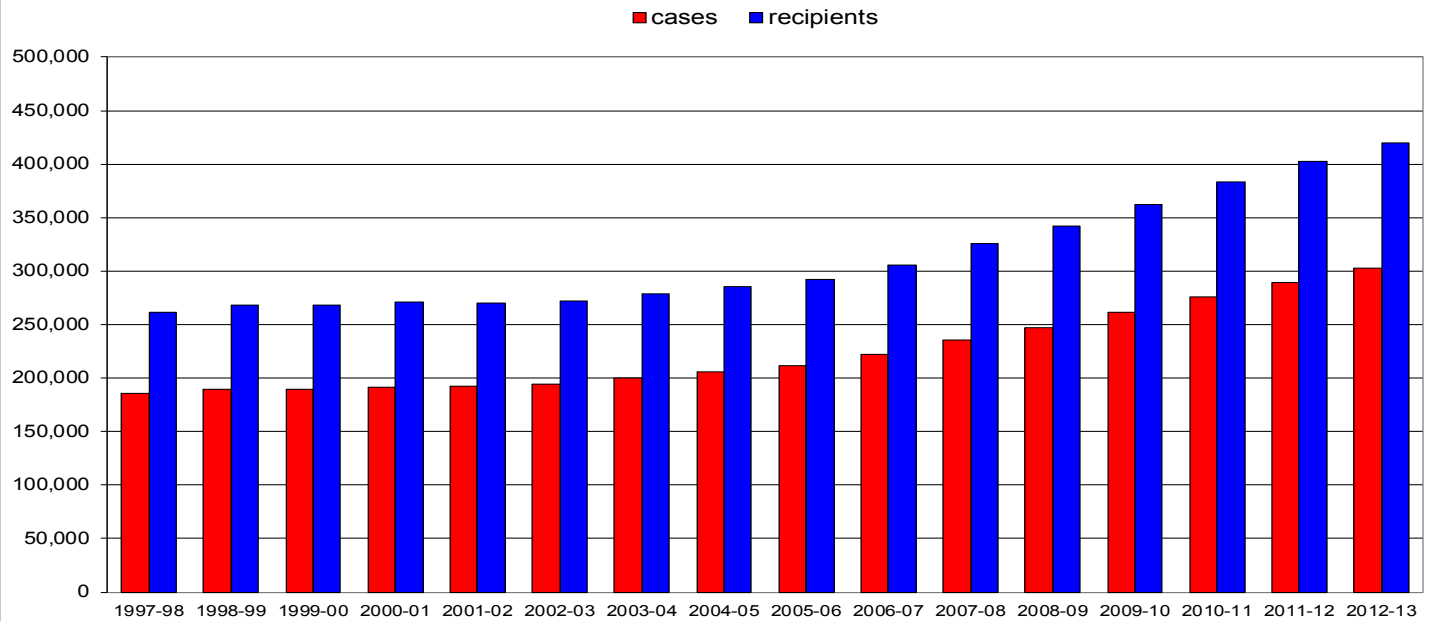




Figure 14
Ontario Disability Support Program,
cases and recipients, 1996-97 to 2011-12





Manitoba

Program Descriptions

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME ASSISTANCE (EIA)

The major objectives of the Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) program are to:

- assist Manitobans in regaining their financial independence by helping them to make the transition from income assistance to work
- provide income assistance to Manitobans in need.

Financial assistance is provided to persons in need who are eligible for assistance under the Manitoba Assistance Act (the Act), including single parents, seniors, single persons, couples without children, two-parent families, persons with disabilities, persons requiring the protection of a crisis intervention facility and children whose parents are unable to support them.

Eligibility may also be granted under special case consideration at the discretion of the Minister.

Eligibility for assistance is determined by a needs test, in which the amount of a household's financial resources is compared to the total costs of its basic necessities as defined in the Act and Regulations. Certain items and income are not included in the calculation of financial resources.

EIA provides employability assessments, personal job planning, work incentives and other supports to assist Manitobans in entering, re-entering or remaining in the labour force.



"Cases" refer to the individuals who receive EIA benefits (social assistance). "Recipients" are the total number of people – cases and dependent family members – who benefit as a result of receiving EIA.

Manitoba, fiscal year averages.

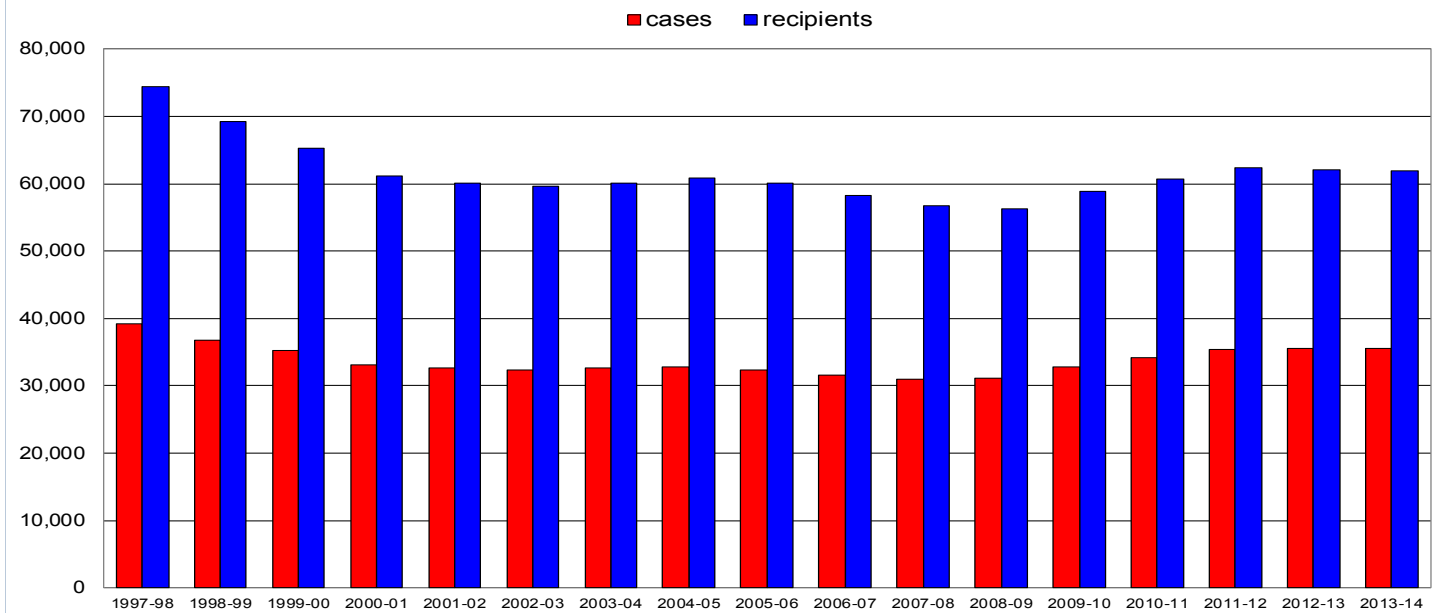
EIA		
year	cases	recipients
1997-98	39,235	74,373
1998-99	36,850	69,302
1999-00	35,277	65,259
2000-01	33,048	61,089
2001-02	32,591	60,098
2002-03	32,414	59,691
2003-04	32,596	60,040
2004-05	32,787	60,866
2005-06	32,406	60,035
2006-07	31,639	58,278
2007-08	30,943	56,769
2008-09	31,096	56,282
2009-10	32,829	58,874
2010-11	34,147	60,754
2011-12	35,427	62,332
2012-13	35,523	62,028
2013-14	35,611	61,919

Note: Statistics represent all welfare clients in Manitoba and combine municipal and provincial income assistance statistics where appropriate.

Note: Each fiscal year starts on April 1 and ends March 31.



Figure 15
Total social assistance cases and recipients,
Manitoba, 1996-97 to 2012-13





Saskatchewan

Program Descriptions

SASKATCHEWAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SAP)

Governed by The Saskatchewan Assistance Act (1978) and administered by the Ministry of Social Services, the Saskatchewan Assistance Program is a basic income support program for families and individuals who live in Saskatchewan and who, for various reasons, including disability, illness, low income or unemployment, cannot meet basic living costs. Any person in financial need may apply for assistance. Financial need is determined by balancing allowable needs against available resources. When needs exceed resources, financial assistance may be available.

The program has an adult allowance which includes food, clothing, travel, personal and household items. In addition, there is a shelter allowance which varies depending on the community, whether accommodations are shared, employability, and family size. A variety of other financial benefits as well as Supplementary Health Program coverage are provided.

TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE (TEA)

Introduced in 2003, TEA is an income support program designed to assist applicants participating in pre-employment programs and services or those who are "job ready" and seeking employment. TEA recipients are given a fixed allowance to provide for basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing and utilities. Recipients are expected to budget the benefits to meet their monthly needs. TEA recipients also receive coverage from the Supplementary Health Program.

SASKATCHEWAN ASSURED INCOME FOR DISABILITY (SAID)

Designed in collaboration with members of the disability community, SAID provides an income for persons with significant and enduring disabilities separate from the Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP). Initially introduced in 2009 for individuals in residential care settings, SAID was expanded in June 2012 to include people who live independently. Over the course of 2011-12 and 2012-13, approximately 6,500 former SAP clients with disabilities were enrolled in SAID. Eligibility for the SAID program is determined by financial criteria as well as a disability impact assessment. SAID provides a Living Income benefit for basic needs, a disability needs benefit and Supplementary Health Program coverage.



"Cases" are equivalent to households; they include the person who applied for benefits and any dependent household members. "Recipients" are the total number of people who benefit as a result of receiving SAP, TEA and SAID.

SAP - Saskatchewan Assistance Program

TEA - Transitional Employment Allowance

SAID - Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability

Saskatchewan, fiscal year averages.

year	SAP		TEA		SAID		total	
	cases	recipients	cases	recipients	cases	recipients	cases	recipients
1996-97	37,190	75,886					37,190	75,886
1997-98	34,842	68,560					34,842	68,560
1998-99	34,249	64,993					34,249	64,993
1999-00	33,363	62,241					33,363	62,241
2000-01	31,821	58,699					31,821	58,699
2001-02	29,554	54,225	129	205			29,683	54,430
2002-03	27,549	49,770	1,382	2,469			28,931	52,239
2003-04	26,818	47,513	1,470	2,670			28,288	50,183
2004-05	22,780	38,810	4,518	8,750			27,298	47,560
2005-06	21,218	34,804	5,861	11,542			27,079	46,346
2006-07	22,123	36,665	3,839	7,094			25,962	43,759
2007-08	21,766	35,843	2,646	4,870			24,412	40,713
2008-09	22,149	36,738	2,921	5,338	831	834	25,901	42,910
2009-10	20,915	35,858	3,255	5,875	2,687	2,698	26,857	44,431
2010-11	20,859	35,953	2,493	4,733	3,142	3,156	26,494	43,842
2011-12	17,382	31,757	1,948	3,730	7,357	8,397	26,687	43,884
2012-13	14,485	28,111	1,950	3,761	11,386	13,587	27,821	45,459

Note: Each fiscal year starts on April 1 and ends March 31.



Figure 16
Total social assistance cases and recipients,
Saskatchewan, 1996-67 to 2012-13

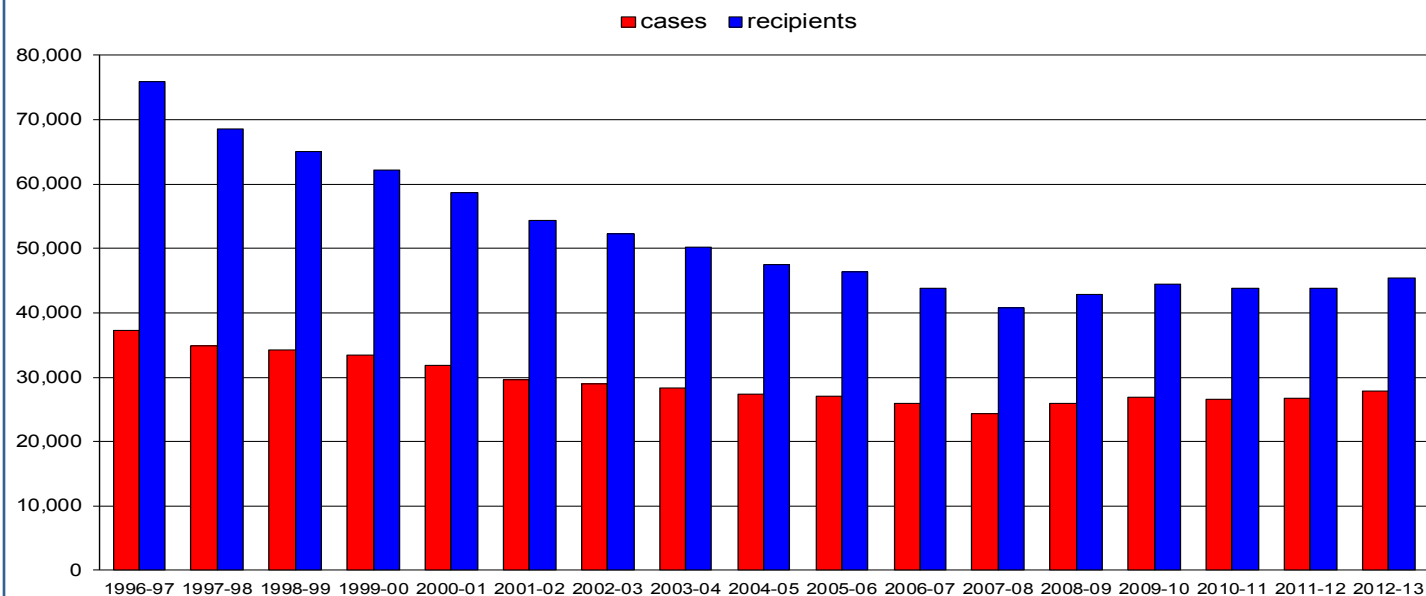


Figure 17
Saskatchewan Assistance Program,
cases and recipients, 1996-97 to 2012-13

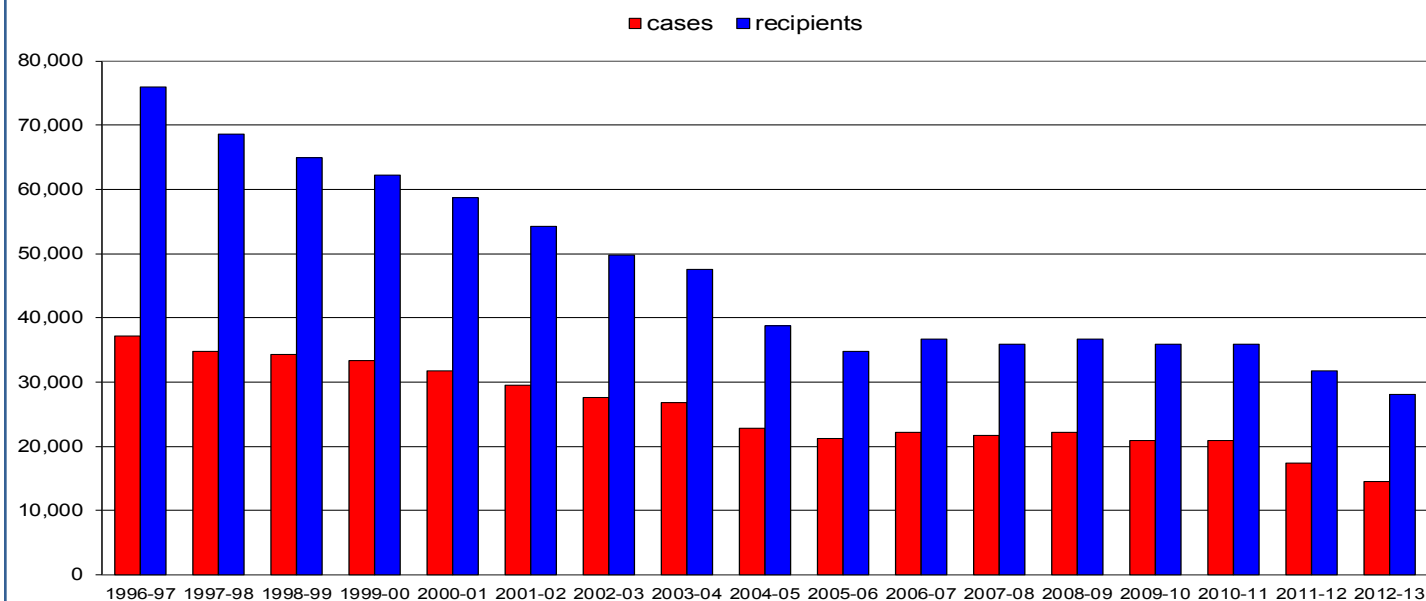




Figure 18
Transitional Employment Allowance, cases and recipients,
Saskatchewan, 2001-02 to 2012-13

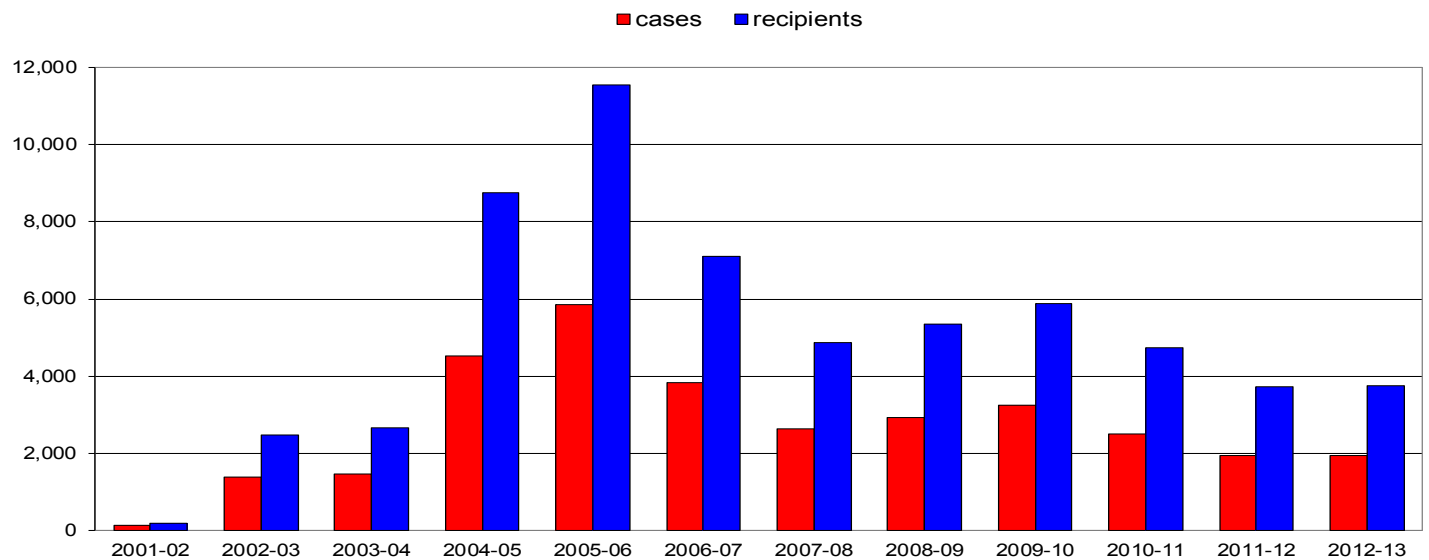
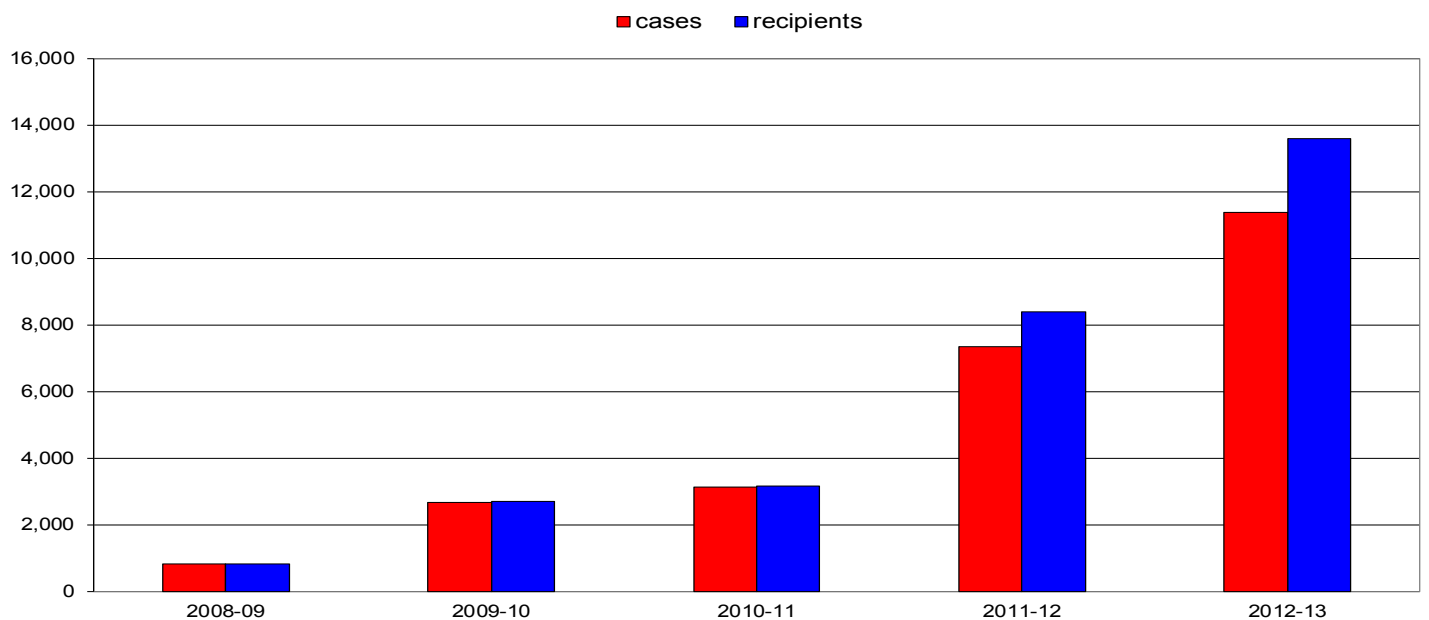


Figure 19
Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability,
cases and recipients, 2008-09 to 2012-13





Alberta

Program Descriptions

INCOME SUPPORT (ALBERTA WORKS)

Implemented in April 2004, Alberta Works is administered by Alberta Human Services and helps unemployed people to find and keep jobs, employers to meet their need for skilled workers and Albertans with low income to cover their basic costs of living.

There are four different components of Alberta Works:

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

This report focuses on the Income Support component. Four distinct streams have been established that define general situations by which Albertans may qualify for Income Support:

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

The rules around who qualifies for financial assistance through the Income Support program and how much money a person receives are governed by the Income and Employment Supports Act and are subject to change.

ASSURED INCOME FOR THE SEVERELY HANDICAPPED (AISH)

The AISH program, established in 1979, provides financial and health-related assistance to eligible adult Albertans with a disability. To meet the program's medical eligibility criteria, a person must have a mental or physical impairment that causes substantial limitation in the person's ability to earn a livelihood and is likely to continue to affect the person permanently. To assess whether an applicant meets the medical eligibility criteria, consideration is given to whether remedial therapy, including rehabilitation or employment training, is available that would materially improve the applicant's ability to earn a livelihood. Criteria for income, assets, age and residency must also be met in order to qualify and maintain eligibility for the AISH program.



"Cases" refer to a household, which could be a single person or a family of five, that receives Alberta Works or AISH benefits (social assistance). "Recipients" are the total number of people in the household, including the head and, where applicable, spouse and any children who benefit as a result of receiving AW or AISH.

Figures for 1997 to 2007 are drawn from the 2008 Federal/Provincial-Territorial report, March 31 data, figures rounded to 100s.

Figures for 2008 to 2013 were supplied by Alberta Human Services, March 31 data.

Alberta, point-in-time data (March 31).

year	Alberta Works		AISH
	cases	recipients	cases
1997	40,100	87,700	21,500
1998	34,500	75,100	23,100
1999	32,800	70,000	24,700
2000	30,400	63,400	26,500
2001	27,600	56,800	28,200
2002	27,200	53,800	29,800
2003	29,600	57,500	30,900
2004	30,300	59,900	31,500
2005	28,500	56,400	32,000
2006	25,100	49,000	34,800
2007	25,200	48,100	36,100
2008	25,961	49,379	36,747
2009	31,615	59,176	38,065
2010	40,146	73,350	40,439
2011	38,955	71,137	42,820
2012	34,852	62,426	44,901
2013	34,068	59,356	46,805

Note: Data prior to 2004 should not be attributed to the Alberta Works program. The program in place for this period was Supports For Independence.



Figure 20
Alberta Works, cases and recipients,
1996-67 to 2012-13

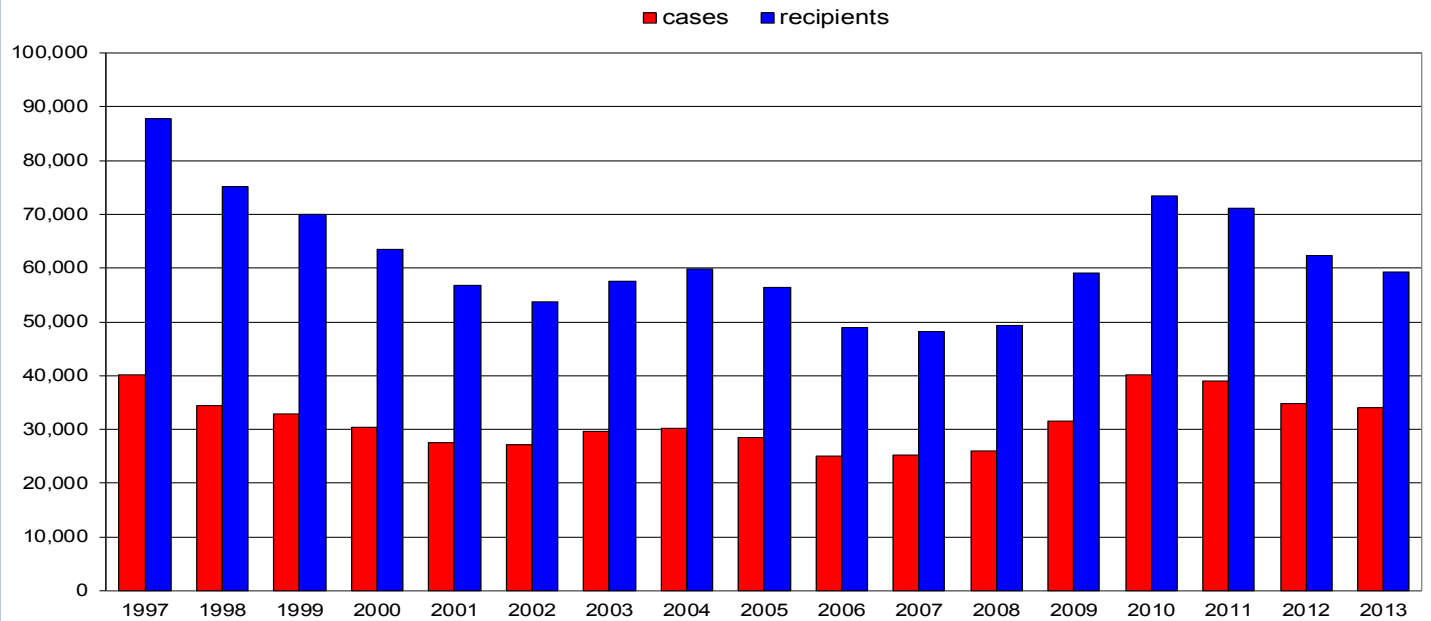
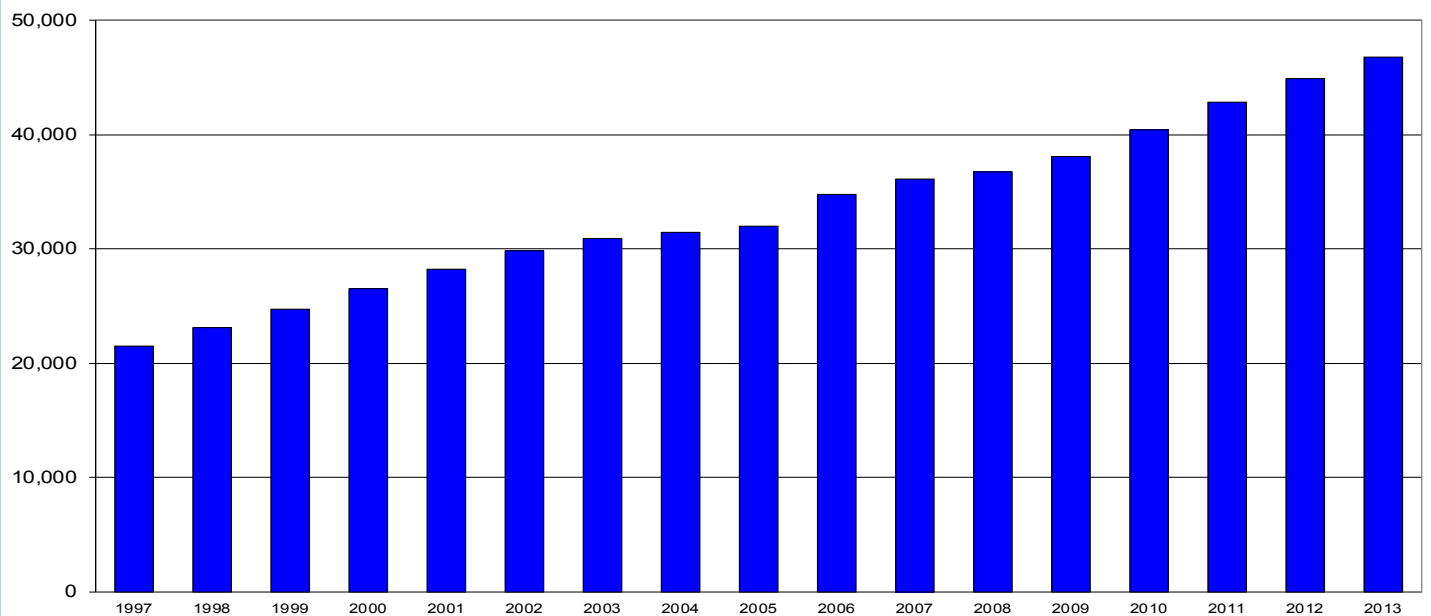


Figure 21
Number of AISH recipients,
Alberta, 1996-97 to 2012-13





British Columbia

Program Descriptions

BC EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

In British Columbia, the social assistance program is known as Employment and Assistance (BCEA). The program operates under the authority of the Employment and Assistance Act (2002) and the Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act (2002).

Employment and Assistance provides basic support and shelter benefits to family units. Children's basic support benefits are provided through federal child benefits.

In order to be eligible for BCEA, applicants must meet the general eligibility requirements, including an income and asset test, which can be found in the program's Online Policy Manual (http://www.gov.bc.ca/meia/online_resource/)

BCEA clients are divided into two main streams of assistance:

- Income Assistance – also called Temporary Assistance, which includes:
 - Expected to Work (employable individuals)
 - Expected to Work Medical Condition (employable but with short-term medical issue)
 - Temporarily Excused (single parents with a child under 3, seniors)
 - Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers (medical condition precludes or impedes employment)
- Disability Assistance – Persons with Disabilities.

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE

Basic assistance consists of a support allowance and a shelter allowance. The support allowance covers the cost of food, clothing, personal and household items. Maximum support allowance rates are based on the composition of the family unit and the age or marital/common law status of the applicant. The shelter allowance pays actual shelter costs to a maximum amount. Maximum shelter allowance rates are based on the number of persons in the family unit.

DISABILITY ASSISTANCE – PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

BCEA promotes greater independence for people with disabilities, including income security. The program recognizes that people with disabilities may require additional supports, such as a higher assistance rate, supplementary assistance and specialized employment supports in

order to meet the challenges of daily living and move towards greater independence.

Individuals who leave assistance for employment or other income support programs keep their Persons with Disabilities designation and may maintain their medical assistance. They are not required to reapply for the designation if they reapply for disability assistance in the future.

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

- is significantly restricted in his or her ability to perform daily living activities
- requires assistance with daily living activities from another person, an assistive device or an assistance animal.

The criteria specifically include:

- individuals with mental health disorders
- individuals with episodic illnesses that restrict daily living activities continuously or periodically for extended periods.

In addition, BCEA offers Hardship Assistance to meet the essential needs of persons who are not eligible for income or disability assistance. Hardship Assistance is provided on a temporary basis for one month at a time, and eligibility must be re-established for each month that it is requested. Hardship Assistance may be issued if:

- an applicant is awaiting other income or benefits like Employment Insurance
- an applicant has an immediate need but has not provided the required identification to receive regular assistance
- an applicant has an immediate need but is completing the work search required to receive regular assistance; or
- additional circumstances outlined in BCEA policy.

BCEA SUPPLEMENTS

General supplements and health supplements are administered under the BCEA to offset additional costs to clients over and above basic needs.

General supplements can include:

- School Start-up – to cover the extra costs associated with a dependent child's schooling



- Prenatal Shelter Supplement – to assist single pregnant recipients in meeting extra costs related to securing or maintaining stable accommodation prior to the birth of their child
- Crisis Supplement – to provide recipients who face unexpected emergency needs with a one-time payment.

Health supplements can include:

- Medical equipment and devices – appropriate medical equipment and devices assist with a medically-essential need
- Diet Supplements – to help meet costs associated with an unusually expensive therapeutic diet that is required as a result of a specific medical condition or a special dietary need
- Medical Transportation – intended to meet extraordinary transportation costs associated with essential medical treatment.

Detailed information and criteria for general and health supplements available to clients of BCEA can be found in the program's Online Policy Manual: http://www.gov.bc.ca/meia/online_resource/



Cases” refer to a household, which could be a single person or a family, who receive Temporary Assistance or Disability Assistance. “Recipients” are the total number of people in the household, including the head and, where applicable, spouse and any children who benefit as a result of receiving BCEA benefits.

TA - Temporary Assistance

DA - Disability Assistance, Persons With Disabilities

British Columbia, fiscal year averages.

year	TA		DA		total	
	cases	recipients	cases	recipients	cases	recipients
1996-97	168,113	302,551	25,153	30,578	193,266	333,129
1997-98	147,872	263,438	28,741	35,027	176,613	298,465
1998-99	133,005	237,100	31,556	38,339	164,562	275,439
1999-00	122,154	217,561	34,838	42,411	156,992	259,972
2000-01	114,121	202,503	39,094	47,857	153,215	250,359
2001-02	106,785	187,924	44,060	54,234	150,845	242,158
2002-03	80,178	138,789	46,175	56,439	126,354	195,229
2003-04	61,412	104,592	50,235	61,331	111,647	165,923
2004-05	49,663	83,101	53,730	65,374	103,393	148,475
2005-06	41,343	68,087	57,524	69,708	98,867	137,795
2006-07	37,236	59,555	60,087	72,441	97,323	131,996
2007-08	38,203	59,872	64,300	77,036	102,503	136,908
2008-09	42,517	65,893	67,836	81,010	110,353	146,902
2009-10	55,231	84,518	71,647	85,514	126,878	170,032
2010-11	58,151	88,712	75,652	90,210	133,803	178,921
2011-12	56,009	85,885	79,996	95,344	136,005	181,229
2012-13	50,307	77,684	84,104	100,214	134,410	177,898
2013-14	47,189	72,773	87,402	104,172	134,591	176,944

Note: Each fiscal year starts on April 1 and ends March 31.



Figure 22
Total social assistance cases and recipients,
British Columbia, 1996-97 to 2013-14

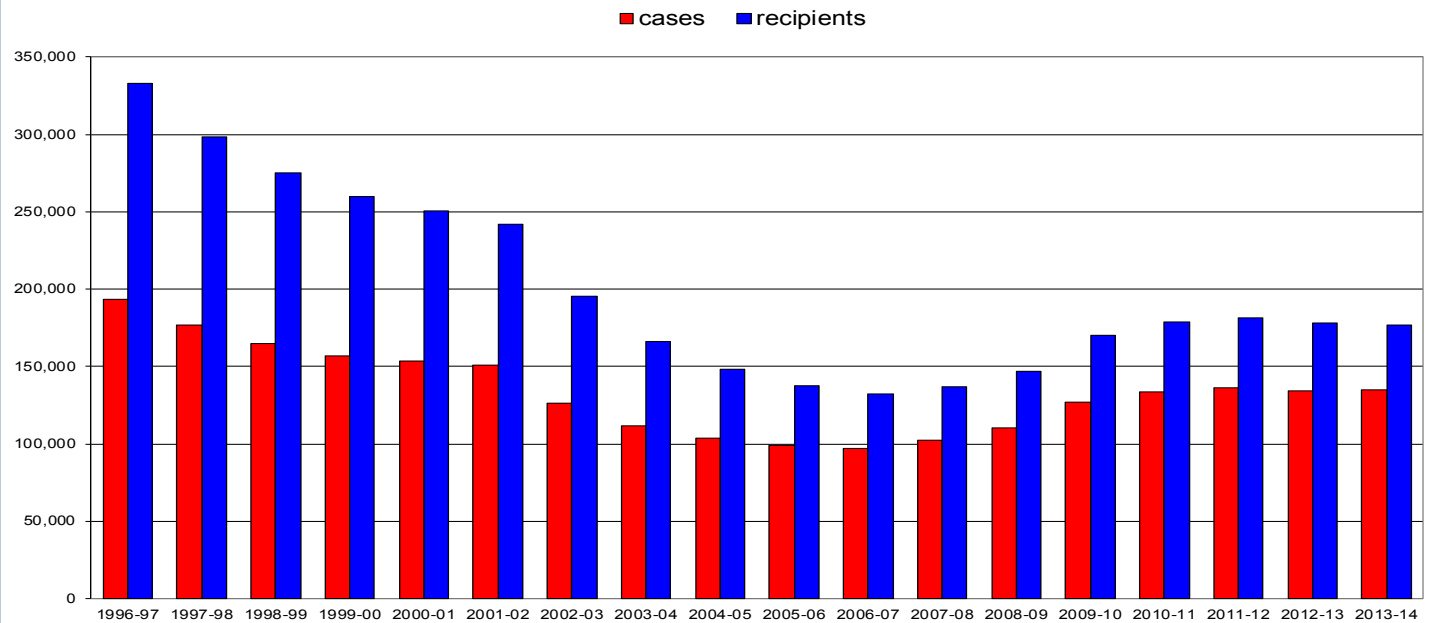


Figure 23
Temporary Assistance, cases and recipients,
British Columbia, 1996-97 to 2013-14

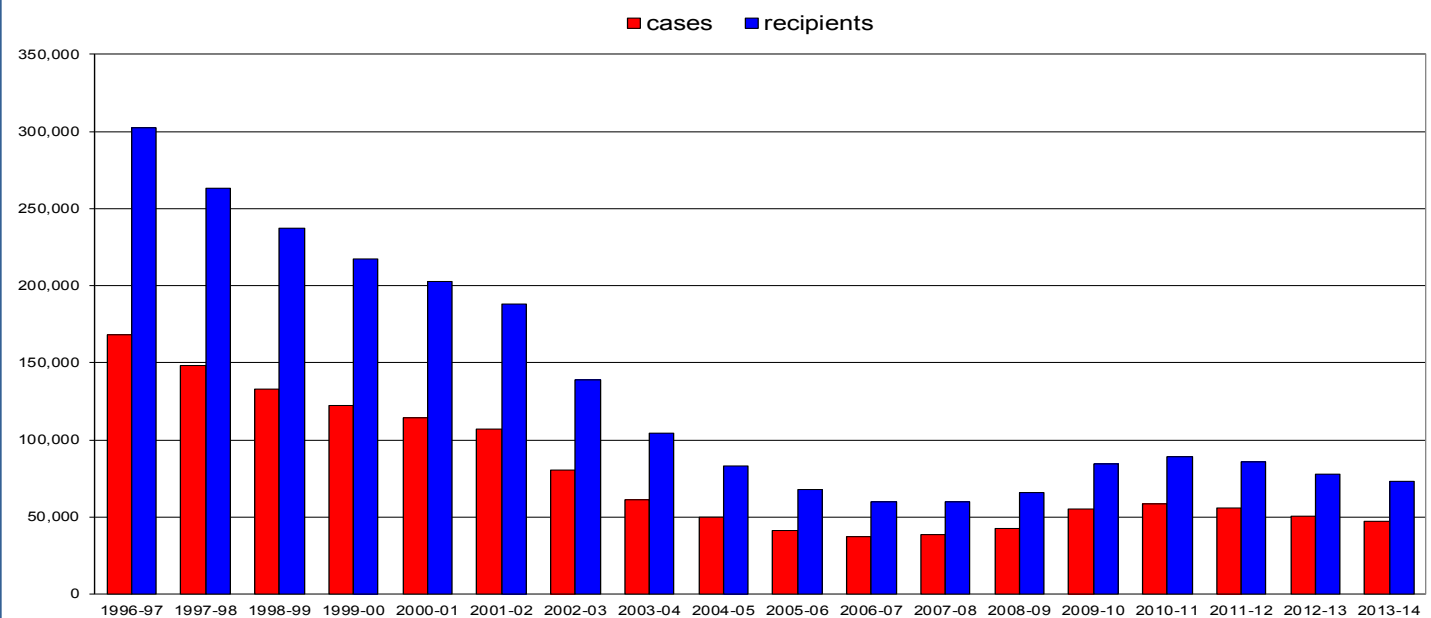
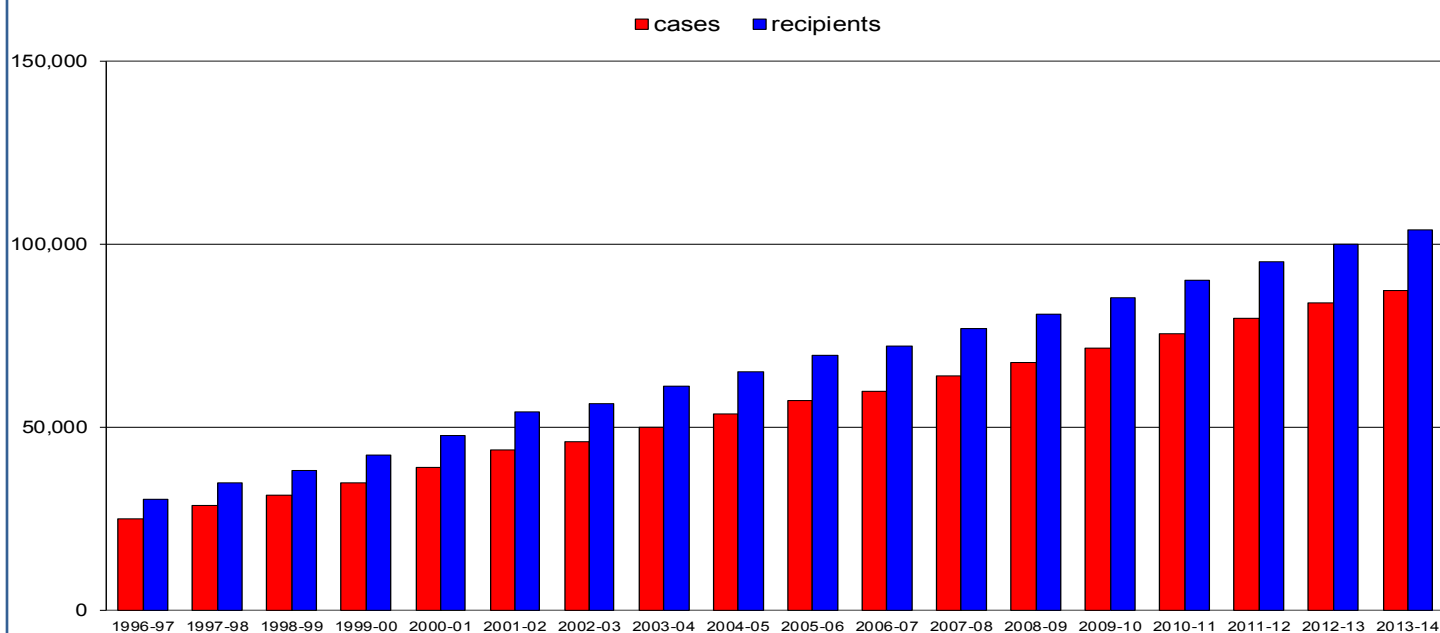




Figure 24
Disability Assistance, cases and recipients,
British Columbia, 1996-97 to 2013-14





Yukon

Program Descriptions

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

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

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

Basic assistance consists of a basic allowance and a shelter allowance. The basic allowance covers the cost of food, clothing, and personal and household items. The shelter allowance can be combined with a utility allowance and applied towards shelter that is inclusive of one or more utility costs. The maximum basic assistance rates are based on the household's size, composition and geographical location.

The Yukon Supplementary Allowance is a disability benefit provided to all income assistance recipients who qualify for it as defined in the Regulation.

The Department of Health and Social Services is responsible for the delivery of the Social Assistance program to adults and children within the territory.



“Cases” refer to a household, which could be a single person or a family of five, who receive Social Assistance (SA).
“Recipients” are the total number of people in the household, including the head and, where applicable, spouse and any children who benefit as a result of receiving SA.

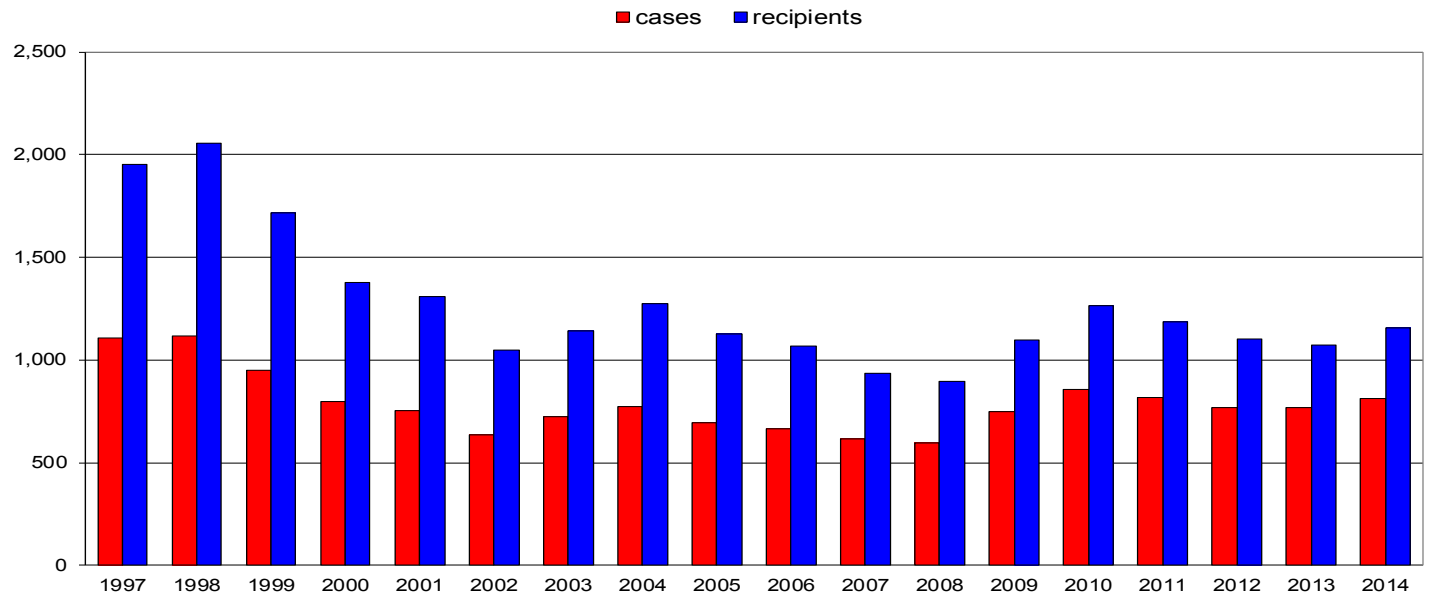
Yukon Territory, point-in-time data (March 31).

year	cases	recipients
1997	1,108	1,952
1998	1,117	2,055
1999	949	1,717
2000	798	1,376
2001	751	1,308
2002	637	1,048
2003	722	1,144
2004	773	1,272
2005	694	1,126
2006	667	1,067
2007	618	936
2008	595	895
2009	750	1,096
2010	855	1,264
2011	816	1,184
2012	770	1,097
2013	768	1,074
2014	810	1,156

Note: These numbers only represent clients served by the Yukon Government. They do not include clients served by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada or the self-governing First Nations that administer their own social assistance programs.



Figure 25
Total social assistance cases and recipients,
Yukon, 1997-2014





Northwest Territories

Program Descriptions

INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (IAP)

Income Security Programs, in combination with developmental opportunities, help Northerners to become self-reliant as individual capacity allows, to participate fully in community life and to share in the opportunities available to them.

The Income Assistance Program provides a set amount for food, shelter and utilities, and enhanced needs such as incidentals, clothing, allowances for seniors and persons with disabilities, child care, furniture and educational assistance, depending on household income, size of family and community.

The program is for residents who:

- are 19 years of age or older
- have a need greater than their income
- participate in a productive choice, unless they are exempt.



“Cases” are equivalent to households; they include the person who applied for benefits and any dependent household members. “Recipients” are the total number of people who benefit as a result of receiving IAP.

Northwest Territories, fiscal year averages.

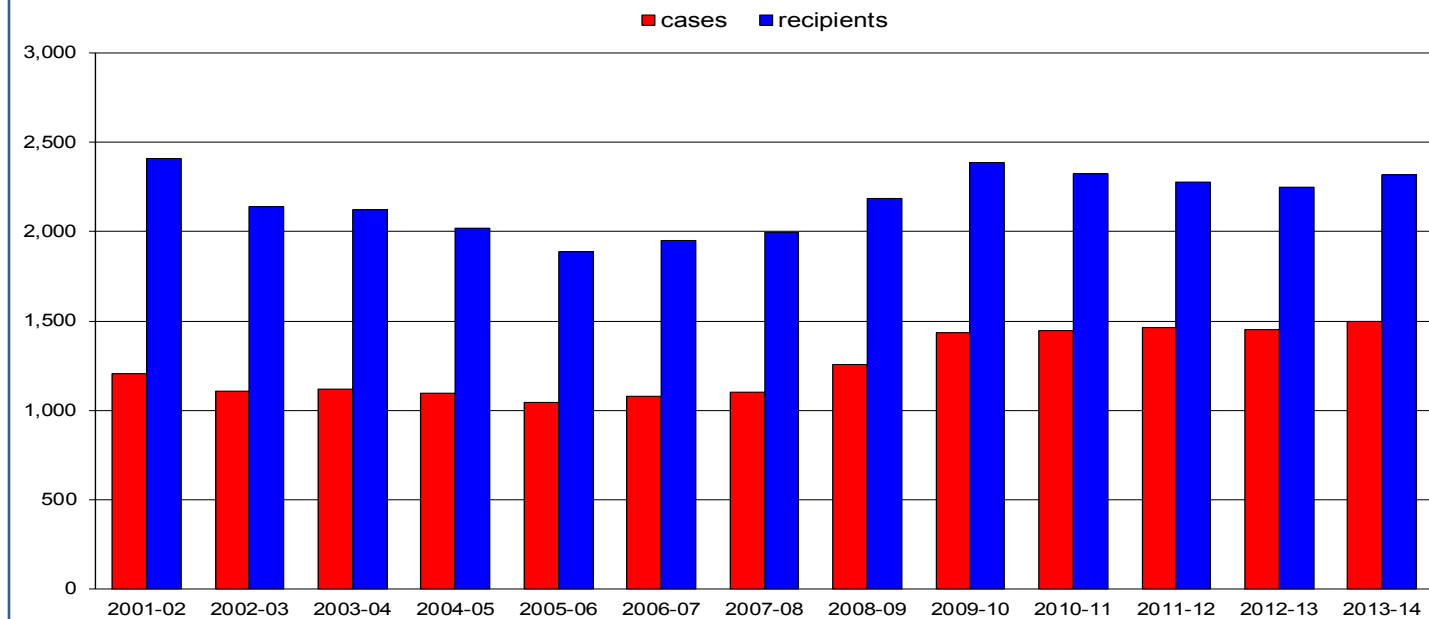
	cases	recipients
2001-02	1,204	2,411
2002-03	1,105	2,142
2003-04	1,118	2,125
2004-05	1,093	2,022
2005-06	1,042	1,888
2006-07	1,079	1,948
2007-08	1,102	1,997
2008-09	1,255	2,188
2009-10	1,432	2,388
2010-11	1,443	2,323
2011-12	1,462	2,279
2012-13	1,453	2,249
2013-14	1,497	2,316

Note: Fiscal year averages prior to 2001 are not available due to changes in the gathering and reporting of case and recipient data.

These income assistance numbers only represent clients served by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment of the Government of the Northwest Territories.



Figure 26
Total social assistance cases and recipients,
Northwest Territories, 2001-02 to 2013-04





Nunavut

Program Descriptions

Income Assistance administers a broad variety of programs of financial support to satisfy basic needs for shelter, food and clothing and to assist in the transition towards employment. Income Assistance includes benefit programs for people 18 and over, and their dependents.

The Income Assistance Program is a program of last resort intended to help Nunavut families and individuals meet their basic needs when for various reasons, including disability, illness, low-income or periods of unemployment, when they are unable to provide for themselves.

Applicants are required to develop a Productive Choice plan - a statement of participation in career or wellness activities that will enable the individual to gain and maintain a greater degree of financial independence. Applicants with disabilities or those over the age of 60 are exempt from having to submit such a plan.



"Cases" refer to a household, which could be a single person or a family of five, who receive Social Assistance (SA).
"Recipients" are the total number of people in the household, including the head and, where applicable, spouse and any children who benefit as a result of receiving SA.

Nunavut, March 31, point-in-time statistics

	cases	recipients
1997		
1998		
1999		
2000		
2001		
2002		
2003		
2004	3,249	13,830
2005	3,440	12,392
2006	3,594	13,570
2007	3,725	14,820
2008	3,646	15,523
2009	3,806	14,037
2010	3,822	13,716
2011	3,838	13,197
2012		
2013		
2014		