

Food Assistance Program

Food Assistance


This section summarizes data on households and persons participating in food assistance programs:

1. The federally-funded food assistance caseloads are broken out into three program types:


- A. SSI – all recipients that also received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security (SSA) benefits;
 - B. Public Assistance Food Stamps (PAFS) – all recipients that received a cash assistance grant or SSI;
 - C. Non-Assistance Food Stamp (NAFS) - at least one recipient who did not receive a cash assistance grant or SSI.
2. The **state**-funded Food Assistance Program (FAP) is for individuals who meet federal income requirements, but not certain categorical requirements (e.g., their immigrant status).


Food assistance caseload information in this section includes the federal Food Stamp Program, the state-funded FAP program, and mixed caseloads, unless otherwise noted.


Highlights:

 **The average monthly food assistance caseload increased to 144,647 cases in SFY 2001**, from 139,340 cases in SFY 2000.

 **The average payment per case in SFY 2001 was \$149.08**

 **The proportion of the population who received food assistance in SFY 2001 remained comparable to SFY 2000.** 5.3% of Washington residents participated in food stamp programs in SFY 2001, compared to 5.2% for SFY 2000.

 **Preliminary findings indicate Washington's federal Food Stamp Program error rate will be low enough to avoid federal sanctions.** The estimated state-only error rate is 8.2% for FFY 2001 (October 2000 – September 2001), which is approximately 1% below the sanction threshold.

 **Most food assistance recipients in SFY 2001 were female (57.3%), white (63.2%), and never married (35.2%). The median age of adults was 39.2 years.**

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Selected Food Assistance Program Characteristics SFY 2000 and SFY 2001

Source: Cases, Persons, and Expenditures Report (October 2001 Load)

| | SFY00 (July 99 – June00) | SFY01 (July 00 – June 01) |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Average Number of Cases Per Month (Range) | 139,340 (136,404 – 143,583) | 144,647 (138,506 – 150,618) |
| Average Number of Persons Per Month (Range) | 311,266 (305,528 – 319,990) | 317,231 (305,875 – 327,056) |
| Average Number of Adults Per Month (Range) | 163,093 (159,460 – 168,264) | 163,058 (161,356 – 174,668) |
| Average Number of Children Per Month (Range) | 148,173 (145,671 – 151,942) | 149,173 (144,519 – 152,428) |
| Recipients as a Percent of State's Total Population | 5.2% | 5.3% |
| State Population¹ | 5,894,121 | 5,974,900 |
| Children as a Percent of Recipients | 47.6% | 47.0% |
| Average Persons Per Case | 2.2 | 2.2 |
| Average Children Per Case | 1.1 | 1.0 |
| Average Children Per Adult | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Average Monthly Payment Per Case (Range)² | \$149.16 (\$144.94 - \$151.76) | \$149.08 (\$143.04 - \$152.82) |

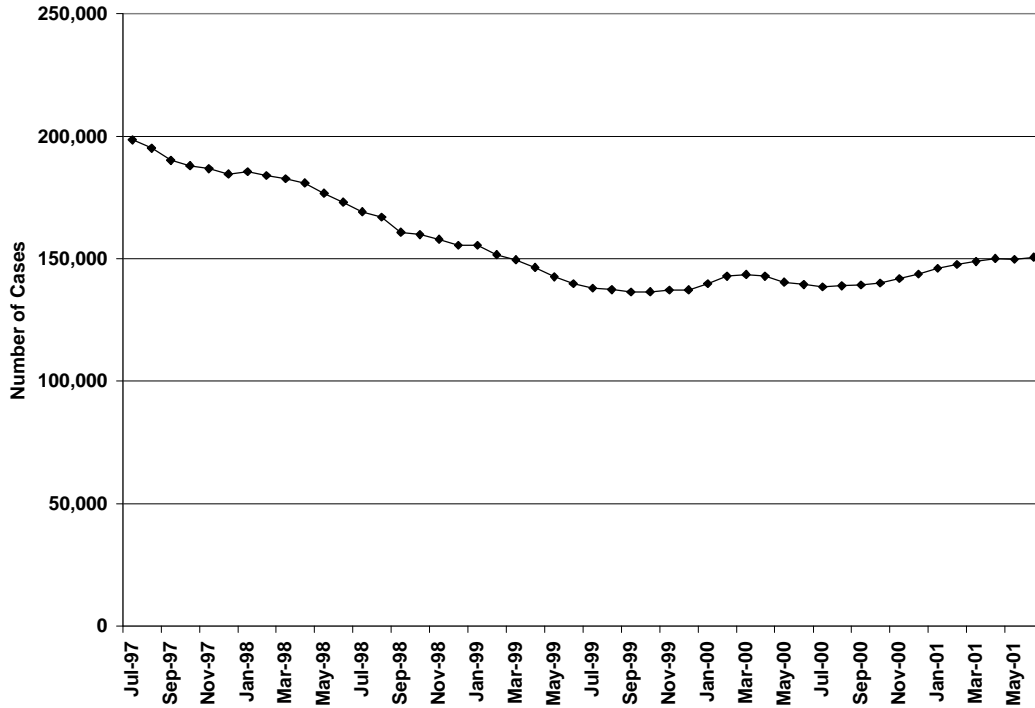
¹ OFM, 2001 Population Trends for Washington State

² Payments are not adjusted for refunds.

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Food Assistance Caseload SFY 2001

Source: Cases, Persons, and Expenditures Report (October 2001 Load)

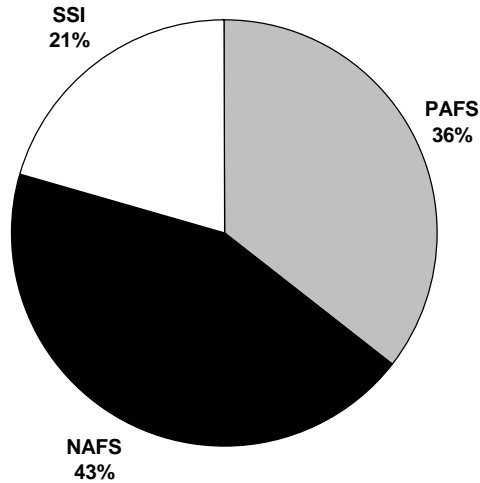


| | Cases | Persons | Gross Expenditures | Payment Per Case |
|------------------|---------|---------|--------------------|------------------|
| Jul-97 | 198,487 | 445,066 | \$30,650,548.91 | \$154.42 |
| July | 138,506 | 305,875 | \$19,990,604.51 | \$144.33 |
| August | 138,984 | 307,073 | \$20,099,109.16 | \$144.61 |
| September | 139,282 | 306,824 | \$19,923,065.74 | \$143.04 |
| October | 140,132 | 308,282 | \$20,638,238.15 | \$147.28 |
| November | 141,909 | 312,210 | \$21,504,322.84 | \$151.54 |
| December | 143,713 | 316,342 | \$21,962,513.10 | \$152.82 |
| January | 146,163 | 321,999 | \$21,956,634.63 | \$150.22 |
| February | 147,698 | 323,527 | \$22,411,203.52 | \$151.74 |
| March | 148,862 | 324,864 | \$22,472,004.41 | \$150.96 |
| April | 150,142 | 327,056 | \$22,711,811.14 | \$151.27 |
| May | 149,758 | 325,968 | \$22,613,902.78 | \$151.00 |
| June | 150,618 | 326,747 | \$22,477,647.75 | \$149.24 |

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Food Assistance Caseload By Type, SFY 2001

Source: Cases, Persons, and Expenditures Report (October 2001 Load)

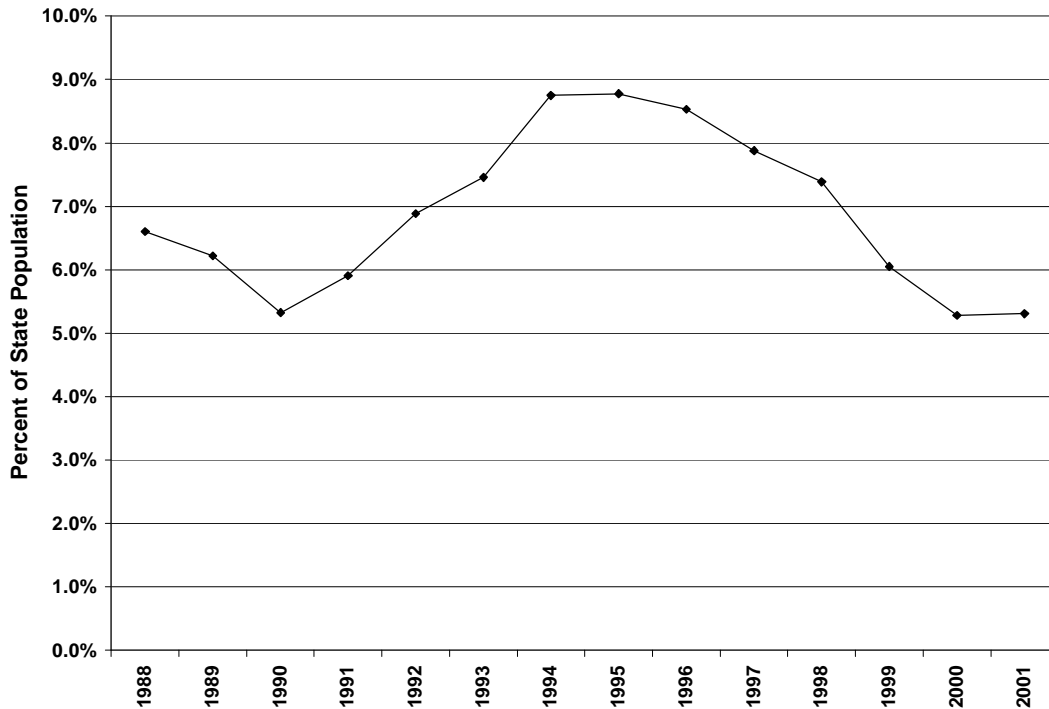


| | Caseload | PAFS | | NAFS | | SSI | |
|------------------|----------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| | | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Jul-97 | 198,487 | 82,851 | 41.7% | 83,481 | 42.1% | 32,155 | 16.2% |
| July | 138,506 | 50,295 | 36.3% | 58,380 | 42.1% | 29,831 | 21.5% |
| August | 138,984 | 50,253 | 36.2% | 58,832 | 42.3% | 29,899 | 21.5% |
| September | 139,282 | 50,412 | 36.2% | 58,952 | 42.3% | 29,918 | 21.5% |
| October | 140,132 | 50,327 | 35.9% | 59,772 | 42.7% | 30,033 | 21.4% |
| November | 141,909 | 50,654 | 35.7% | 61,121 | 43.1% | 30,134 | 21.2% |
| December | 143,713 | 51,240 | 35.7% | 62,322 | 43.4% | 30,151 | 21.0% |
| January | 146,163 | 52,418 | 35.9% | 63,493 | 43.4% | 30,252 | 20.7% |
| February | 147,698 | 53,845 | 36.5% | 63,509 | 43.0% | 30,344 | 20.5% |
| March | 148,862 | 54,345 | 36.5% | 64,192 | 43.1% | 30,325 | 20.4% |
| April | 150,142 | 54,566 | 36.3% | 64,963 | 43.3% | 30,613 | 20.4% |
| May | 149,758 | 53,998 | 36.1% | 65,064 | 43.4% | 30,696 | 20.5% |
| June | 150,618 | 53,664 | 35.6% | 65,947 | 43.8% | 31,007 | 20.6% |

Note: NAFS stands for Non-Assistance Food Stamps, PAFS stands for Public Assistance Food Stamps, SSI stands for Supplemental Security Income.

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Average Monthly Food Assistance Caseload As a Percent of State Population, SFY 1988 to SFY 2001



| State Fiscal Year | Average Monthly Participating Cases | State Population ¹ | Percent of State Population |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1990 | 111,274 | 4,866,692 | 2.3% |
| 1991 | 127,110 | 5,000,400 | 2.5% |
| 1992 | 151,462 | 5,116,700 | 3.0% |
| 1993 | 168,111 | 5,240,900 | 3.2% |
| 1994 | 195,422 | 5,334,400 | 3.7% |
| 1995 | 202,869 | 5,429,900 | 3.7% |
| 1996 | 203,274 | 5,516,800 | 3.7% |
| 1997 | 190,966 | 5,606,800 | 3.4% |
| 1998 | 185,527 | 5,685,300 | 3.3% |
| 1999 | 154,662 | 5,757,400 | 2.7% |
| 2000 | 139,340 | 5,894,121 | 2.4% |
| 2001 | 144,647 | 5,974,900 | 2.4% |

Source: SFY1988 – SFY1997, Blue Books. SFY1998 Forward, Cases, Persons, and Expenditures Report (October 2001 Load)

¹ Source: OFM 2001 Population Trends.

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Food Assistance Caseload By DSHS Region and CSO, June 2001

Source: MRDA Tracking Using the CARD Database (October 2001 Load)

| | Number of Cases | Percent of Cases |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Region 1 | | |
| Clarkston | 924 | 0.6% |
| Colfax | 579 | 0.4% |
| Colville HCS | 196 | 0.1% |
| Davenport | 222 | 0.1% |
| Moses Lake | 2,246 | 1.5% |
| Moses Lake HCS | 171 | 0.1% |
| Newport | 548 | 0.4% |
| Okanogan | 1,789 | 1.2% |
| Okanogan HCS | 58 | 0.0% |
| Othello | 499 | 0.3% |
| Pomeroy | 32 | 0.0% |
| Republic | 365 | 0.2% |
| Spokane Central | 598 | 0.4% |
| Spokane HCS | 1,046 | 0.7% |
| Spokane North | 5,335 | 3.5% |
| Spokane Southwest | 3,764 | 2.5% |
| Spokane Valley | 4,058 | 2.7% |
| Tri County - Colville | 1,359 | 0.9% |
| Wenatchee - Chelan | 2,024 | 1.3% |
| Wenatchee - Douglas | 509 | 0.3% |
| Wenatchee HCS | 120 | 0.1% |
| Region 1 Total | 26,442 | 17.6% |
| Region 2 | | |
| Clarkston HCS | 40 | 0.0% |
| Ellensburg | 655 | 0.4% |
| Grandview | 725 | 0.5% |
| Kennewick | 3,428 | 2.3% |
| Pasco | 1,998 | 1.3% |
| Pasco HCS | 191 | 0.1% |
| Sunnyside | 1,224 | 0.8% |
| Sunnyside HCS | 103 | 0.1% |
| Toppenish | 1,321 | 0.9% |
| Walla Walla | 1,518 | 1.0% |
| Walla Walla HCS | 106 | 0.1% |
| Walla Walla - Columbia | 62 | 0.0% |
| Wapato | 867 | 0.6% |
| Yakima | 3,411 | 2.3% |
| Yakima-Ellensburg HCS | 212 | 0.1% |
| Yakima – Kittitas | 2,392 | 1.6% |
| Region 2 Total | 18,253 | 12.1% |

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Food Assistance Caseload By DSHS Region and CSO, June 2001

Source: MRDA Tracking Using the CARD Database (October 2001 Load)

| | Number of Cases | Percent of Cases |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Region 3 | | |
| Alderwood | 2,323 | 1.5% |
| Alderwood HCS | 134 | 0.1% |
| Bellingham | 4,489 | 3.0% |
| Bellingham HCS | 185 | 0.1% |
| Everett | 4,520 | 3.0% |
| Everett HCS | 314 | 0.2% |
| Friday Harbor | 118 | 0.1% |
| Mt. Vernon | 2,994 | 2.0% |
| Mt. Vernon HCS | 157 | 0.1% |
| Oak Harbor | 880 | 0.6% |
| Skykomish HCS | 45 | 0.0% |
| Skykomish Valley | 1,174 | 0.8% |
| Smokey Point | 1,913 | 1.3% |
| Smokey Point HCS | 92 | 0.1% |
| Region 3 Total | 19,338 | 12.9% |
| Region 4 | | |
| Auburn | 790 | 0.5% |
| Belltown | 3,422 | 2.3% |
| Burien | 3,510 | 2.3% |
| Capitol Hill | 2,565 | 1.7% |
| Federal Way | 2,320 | 1.5% |
| Holgate | 1,989 | 1.3% |
| King Eastside | 2,381 | 1.6% |
| King North/Ballard | 2,843 | 1.9% |
| King South | 3,891 | 2.6% |
| Lake City | 1,606 | 1.1% |
| Rainier | 3,817 | 2.5% |
| Renton | 2,461 | 1.6% |
| West Seattle | 2,091 | 1.4% |
| Region 4 Total | 33,686 | 22.4% |
| Region 5 | | |
| Bremerton | 4,308 | 2.9% |
| Bremerton HCS | 262 | 0.2% |
| Pierce North | 4,037 | 2.7% |
| Pierce South | 5,256 | 3.5% |
| Pierce West | 5,009 | 3.3% |
| Puyallup HCS | 180 | 0.1% |
| Puyallup | 2,793 | 1.9% |
| Tacoma HCS | 746 | 0.5% |
| Region 5 Total | 22,591 | 15.0% |

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Food Assistance Caseload By DSHS Region and CSO, June 2001

Source: MRDA Tracking Using the CARD Database (October 2001 Load)

| | Number of Cases | Percent of Cases |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Region 6 | | |
| Aberdeen | 2,723 | 1.8% |
| Aberdeen HCS | 246 | 0.2% |
| Chehalis | 2,499 | 1.7% |
| Chehalis HCS | 155 | 0.1% |
| Forks | 550 | 0.4% |
| Home and Community Service | 437 | 0.3% |
| Goldendale | 140 | 0.1% |
| Kelso | 3,879 | 2.6% |
| Kelso – Long Beach HCS | 127 | 0.1% |
| Long Beach | 485 | 0.3% |
| Medical Eligibility Det. Service | 3 | 0.0% |
| Olympia | 4,140 | 2.8% |
| Orchards | 3,971 | 2.6% |
| Port Angeles | 1,542 | 1.0% |
| Port Townsend | 576 | 0.4% |
| Shelton | 1,612 | 1.1% |
| South Bend | 380 | 0.3% |
| Stevenson | 273 | 0.2% |
| Tumwater HCS | 334 | 0.2% |
| Vancouver | 5,441 | 3.6% |
| Vancouver HCS | 368 | 0.2% |
| White Salmon | 288 | 0.2% |
| Region 6 Total | 30,169 | 20.0% |
| State Total | 150,479 | 100.0% |

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Food Assistance Caseload By County, June 2001

Source: MRDA tracking System using the CARD database (October 2001 Load)

| | Number of Cases | Percent of Cases |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Adams | 499 | 0.3% |
| Asotin | 964 | 0.6% |
| Benton | 3,428 | 2.3% |
| Chelan | 2,144 | 1.4% |
| Clallam | 2,232 | 1.5% |
| Clark | 9,780 | 6.5% |
| Columbia | 62 | 0.0% |
| Cowlitz | 4,006 | 2.7% |
| Douglas | 509 | 0.3% |
| Ferry | 365 | 0.2% |
| Franklin | 2,189 | 1.5% |
| Garfield | 32 | 0.0% |
| Grant | 2,417 | 1.6% |
| Grays Harbor | 2,969 | 2.0% |
| Island | 880 | 0.6% |
| Jefferson | 576 | 0.4% |
| King | 33,686 | 22.4% |
| Kitsap | 4,570 | 3.0% |
| Kittitas | 655 | 0.4% |
| Klickitat | 725 | 0.5% |
| Lewis | 2,654 | 1.8% |
| Lincoln | 222 | 0.1% |
| Mason | 1,612 | 1.1% |
| Okanogan | 1,847 | 1.2% |
| Pacific | 865 | 0.6% |
| Pend Oreille | 548 | 0.4% |
| Pierce | 18,021 | 12.0% |
| San Juan | 118 | 0.1% |
| Skagit | 3,151 | 2.1% |
| Skamania | 273 | 0.2% |
| Snohomish | 10,515 | 7.0% |
| Spokane | 14,801 | 9.8% |
| Stevens | 1,555 | 1.0% |
| Thurston | 4,474 | 3.0% |
| Wahkiakum | 3 | 0.0% |
| Walla Walla | 1,624 | 1.1% |
| Whatcom | 4,674 | 3.1% |
| Whitman | 579 | 0.4% |
| Yakima | 10,255 | 6.8% |
| State Total | 150,479 | 100.0% |

Note: Cases are assigned to counties based on the location of the Community Service Office (CSO) where they are served. Some service areas overlap county boundaries, so counts here may not reflect counts based on county of residence.

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Food Assistance Program Error Rate FFY 1982 to FFY 2001

Source: Food Stamp Quality Assurance

| Federal FY | Error Rate | Tolerance¹ | Difference |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1982 | 9.0 | 13.1 | 4.1 |
| 1983 | 9.5 | 9.0 | -0.5 |
| 1984 | 9.2 | 7.0 | -2.2 |
| 1985 | 8.7 | 5.0 | -3.7 |
| 1986 | 9.6 | 11.4 | 1.8 |
| 1987 | 9.5 | 11.3 | 1.8 |
| 1988 | 8.4 | 11.0 | 2.6 |
| 1989 | 8.6 | 10.8 | 2.2 |
| 1990 | 9.7 | 10.8 | 1.1 |
| 1991 | 10.8 | 10.3 | -0.5 |
| 1992 | 10.9 | 10.7 | -0.2 |
| 1993 | 8.2 | 10.8 | 2.6 |
| 1994 | 8.9 | 10.3 | 1.4 |
| 1995 | 8.3 | 9.7 | 1.4 |
| 1996 | 10.4 | 9.2 | -1.2 |
| 1997 | 14.0 | 9.9 | -4.1 |
| 1998 | 14.1 | 10.7 | -3.4 |
| 1999 | 7.6 | 9.9 | 2.3 |
| 2000 | 7.2 | 8.9 | 1.7 |
| 2001 ² | 8.1 | 8.9 | 0.8 |

Note: Error rate represents State findings.

¹ The tolerance level is a federally determined threshold which States may be sanctioned for exceeding.

² Preliminary: Based on findings for benefits issued from October 2000 through September 2001. Tolerance level is estimated based on prior year's performance. Final figures are not available for several months.

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Food Assistance Client Demographics, June 2001

Source: MRDA Tracking Using the CARD Database (October 2001 Load)

| Characteristic | All Clients (N = 327,063) | Percent | All Adults (N = 170,447) | Percent |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Gender | | | | |
| Female | 187,388 | 57.3% | 110,223 | 64.7% |
| Male | 139,666 | 42.7% | 60,216 | 35.3% |
| Unknown | 9 | 0.0% | 8 | 0.0% |
| Race | | | | |
| White | 206,786 | 63.2% | 118,114 | 69.3% |
| Hispanic | 42,249 | 12.9% | 13,686 | 8.0% |
| Black | 31,299 | 9.6% | 14,278 | 8.4% |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 16,577 | 5.1% | 10,223 | 6.0% |
| Native American | 11,804 | 3.6% | 6,134 | 3.6% |
| Unknown | 18,348 | 5.6% | 8,012 | 4.7% |
| Marital Status (Adults Only) | | | | |
| Separated | 19,707 | 11.6% | 19,707 | 11.6% |
| Married | 41,942 | 24.6% | 41,942 | 24.6% |
| Never Married | 59,913 | 35.2% | 59,913 | 35.2% |
| Divorced | 35,865 | 21.0% | 35,865 | 21.0% |
| Widow | 9,177 | 5.4% | 9,177 | 5.4% |
| Unknown | 3,843 | 2.3% | 3,843 | 2.3% |
| Citizenship | | | | |
| U.S. Citizen | 291,357 | 89.1% | 147,563 | 86.6% |
| Resident Alien | 34,666 | 10.6% | 22,498 | 13.2% |
| U.S. National | 494 | 0.2% | 349 | 0.2% |
| U.S. Born Child Refugee | 517 | 0.2% | 14 | 0.0% |
| Undocumented Alien | 29 | 0.0% | 23 | 0.0% |
| Unknown | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Age | | | | |
| < 17 Years Old | 147,335 | 45.0% | 171 | 0.1% |
| 17 – 18 Years Old | 9,148 | 2.8% | 2,087 | 1.2% |
| 19 – 20 Years Old | 7,497 | 2.3% | 6,020 | 3.5% |
| 21 – 30 Years Old | 42,392 | 13.0% | 41,681 | 24.5% |
| 31 – 40 Years Old | 43,131 | 13.2% | 43,012 | 25.2% |
| 41 – 50 Years Old | 18,778 | 5.7% | 18,744 | 11.0% |
| 51 – 55 Years Old | 10,847 | 3.3% | 10,830 | 6.4% |
| 56 + Years Old | 33,198 | 10.2% | 33,184 | 19.5% |
| Unknown | 14,737 | 4.5% | 14,718 | 8.6% |
| Mean Age of Children | 8.2 Years Old | | N/A | |
| Median Age of Children | 7.7 Years Old | | N/A | |
| Mean Age of Adults | 42.0 Years Old | | 42.0 Years Old | |
| Median Age of Adults | 39.2 Years Old | | 39.2 Years Old | |

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Food Assistance Client Demographics, June 2001

Source: MRDA Tracking Using the CARD Database (October 2001 Load)

| Characteristic | All Clients (N = 327,063) | Percent | All Adults (N = 170,447) | Percent |
|---|------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Client Type | | | | |
| Adult | 170,447 | 52.1% | 170,447 | 100.0% |
| Child | 156,616 | 47.9% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Limited in Life Activity¹ | 76,016 | 23.2% | 72,333 | 42.4% |
| Limited in Work¹ | 75,487 | 23.1% | 71,914 | 42.2% |
| Limited in English² | 53,273 | 16.3% | 22,913 | 13.4% |
| DSHS Region | | | | |
| Region 1 | 56,836 | 17.4% | 28,780 | 16.9% |
| Region 2 | 44,732 | 13.7% | 18,687 | 11.0% |
| Region 3 | 39,290 | 12.0% | 20,908 | 12.3% |
| Region 4 | 63,609 | 19.4% | 35,724 | 21.0% |
| Region 5 | 47,980 | 14.7% | 24,224 | 14.2% |
| Region 6 | 65,605 | 20.1% | 33,427 | 19.6% |
| Other | 9,011 | 2.8% | 8,697 | 5.1% |
| CSO Type | | | | |
| Urban | 233,018 | 71.2% | 123,915 | 72.7% |
| Rural | 94,045 | 28.8% | 46,532 | 27.3% |

¹ Caseworkers ask whether a client is limited in a life activity (e.g., dressing or bathing) or limited in their ability to work. The questions are used to identify disabled clients.

² Limited in English is defined as a client whose primary language is not either English, Sign Language, Braille, or Large Print.