



Social Assistance Summaries, 2024

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March 2025

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

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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, Anne Makhoul, and Mohy-Dean Tabbara, 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.

This year's publication is dedicated to the memory of Ken Battle, honouring his legacy and contributions.

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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);
 - Single 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 2024 report?

In this year's report, several adjustments have been made to improve clarity and streamline the presentation of data.

Firstly, the category previously labeled "Heads of Household by Gender for Single Households" has been renamed to "Single Households by Gender or Sex." This change was implemented to provide greater clarity. The new label more accurately reflects the data being presented.



Additionally, the format of the disaggregated data graphs has been revised from bar charts to line graphs. This change was made in response to the increased availability of multi-year data, and the line graph format is now better suited for tracking trends over time.

Finally, to enhance the focus and readability of the report, we have removed the descriptive analysis for the following variables: beneficiaries by gender, single households by gender or sex, and adult beneficiaries by age category. Please note that the underlying data for these variables remains accessible in the downloadable spreadsheet for those seeking more detailed information.

This year's report continues to include 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 continues to be included for two provinces that also have a disability-specific social assistance program: Barriers to Full Employment under Income Support in Alberta, and Medical Barriers to Full Employment under Employment and Income Assistance in Manitoba.

The 13 jurisdictions now provide their data as an average over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31). This year, Quebec converted 2022-23 data that was previously based on a point-in-time in March 2023 into fiscal year average 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.

Sometimes they vary in the way they calculate the number of social assistance cases and beneficiaries. 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). For this year's report, however, all 13 jurisdictions provide their data as a fiscal year monthly average (April 1 to March 31).



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 125,120 cases (family units and unattached single adults) receiving social assistance in Alberta during the 2023-24 fiscal year. Forty per cent (49,752) received Income Support and 60 per cent (75,371) received Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH).

Income Support had 87,125 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children).

The total number of social assistance cases increased, on average, by about 6,200 in 2023-24. This increase came from both programs.

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

Income Support

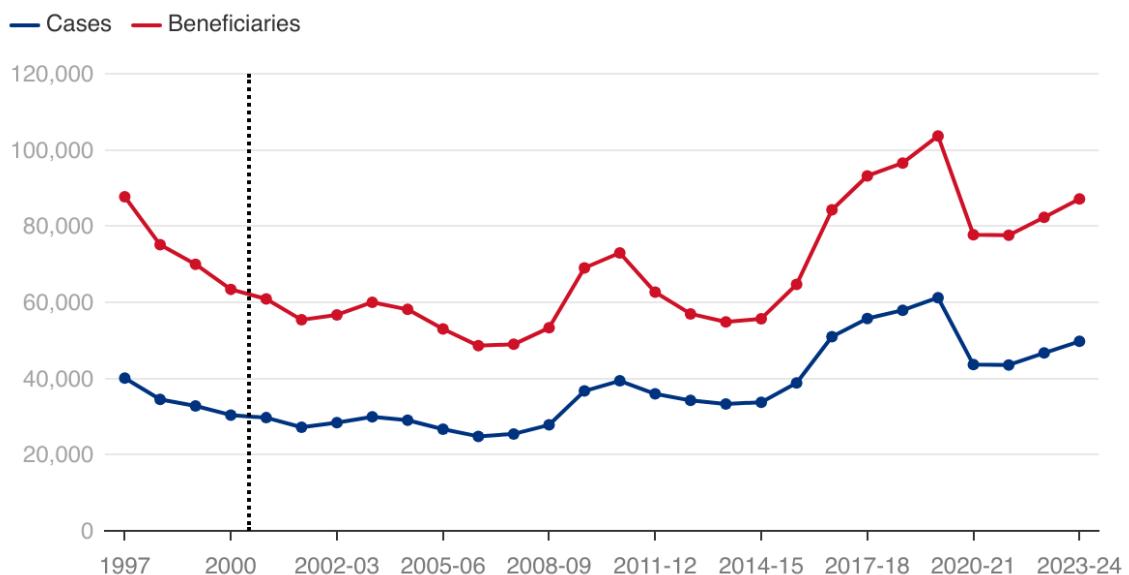
On average, there were 49,752 cases of Income Support in 2023-24, an increase of 3,055, or about 7 per cent. The number of beneficiaries increased by about 4,835, or 6 per cent, to 87,125.

These increases to both cases and beneficiaries are the second in a row, after two years of significant decreases. Both numbers peaked in 2019-20.

Within the Income Support program, on average, 17,303 cases, or 35 per cent, and 25,512 beneficiaries, or 29 per cent, received benefits through the Barriers to Full Employment (BFE) stream in 2023-24.

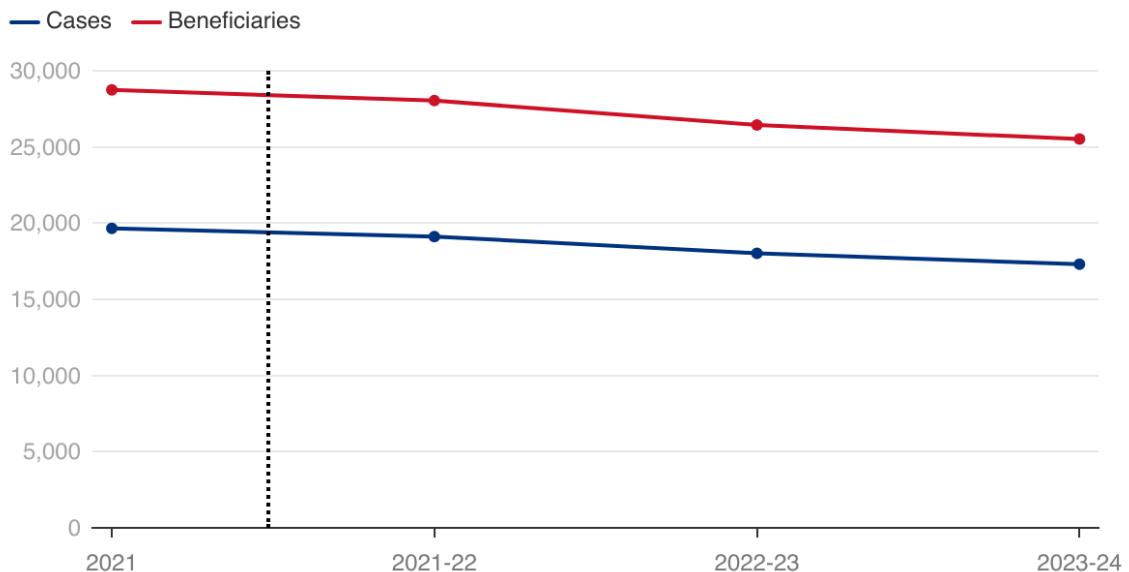
While Income Support cases and beneficiaries increased overall in 2023-24, the BFE numbers decreased from the previous year. On average, BFE cases decreased by 750, or about 4 per cent, and BFE beneficiaries decreased by 936, or 3.5 per cent.

Figure 1AB: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Income Support in Alberta, 1997 to 2023-24



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 1 to March 31) from 2000-01 onward.

Figure 2AB: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of BFE under Income Support in Alberta, 2021 to 2023-24



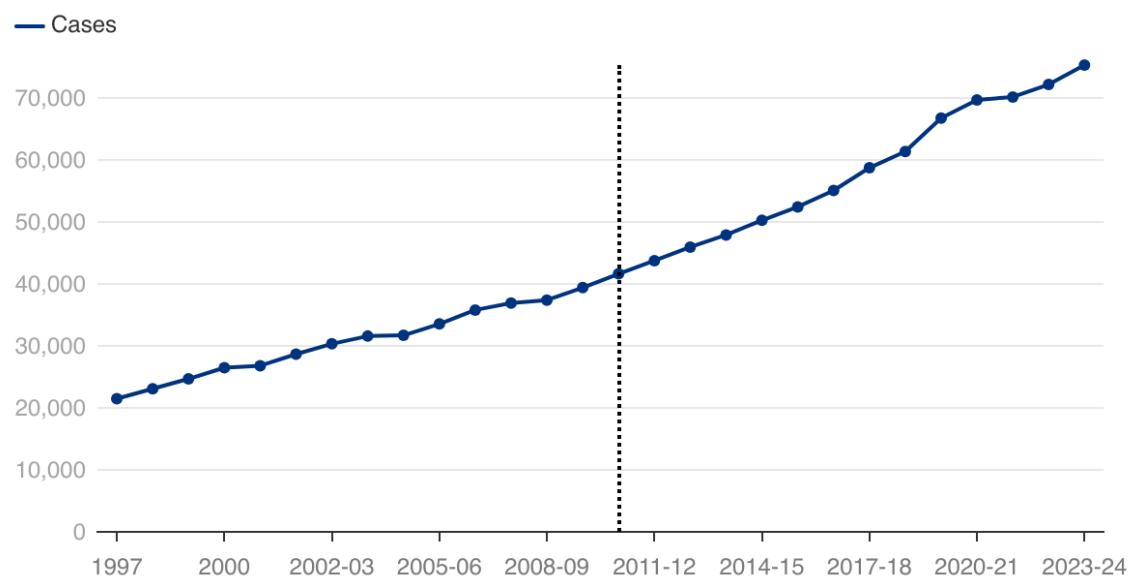
Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 onward are fiscal year averages.



Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH)

During the 2023-24 fiscal year, there were, on average, 75,371 cases in Alberta's AISH program. The number of cases has been rising steadily over the last two decades, with an increase of 3,141 cases on average, or 4.3 per cent, between 2022-23 and 2023-24.

Figure 3AB: Yearly cases of AISH in Alberta, 1997 to 2023-24



Note: The data reflects the number of cases on March 31 of each year from 1997 to 2010, and the average over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31) from 2010-11 onward.

What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

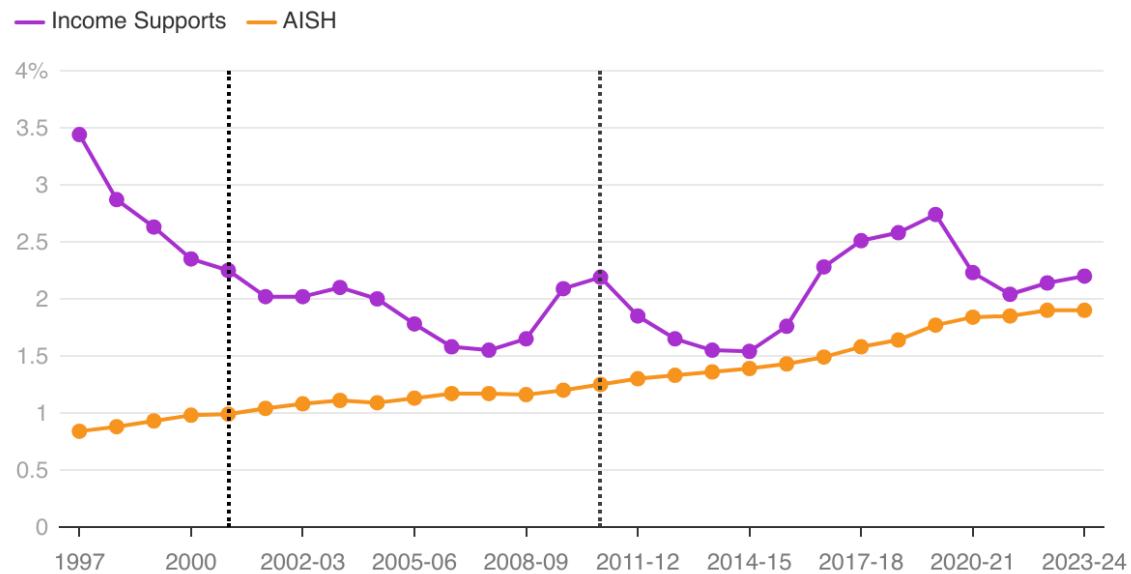
In 2023-24, 4.1 per cent of people in Alberta under 65 received Income Support or AISH, which is about one in 24.

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 2.2 per cent of people in 2023-24 in Alberta under 65.

The proportion of individuals under 65 receiving AISH has steadily increased since 1997, reaching 1.9% in 2021-22 and remaining at that level through the present.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of the fiscal year (e.g., July 1, 2023, for 2023-24), whereas social assistance beneficiary data reflects the number of cases and beneficiaries on March 31 of each year from 1997 to 2000 for Income Support and 1997 to 2010 for AISH; and the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31) from 2000-01 onward for Income Support and from 2010-11 onward for AISH.

Figure 4AB: Yearly beneficiaries of Income Support and cases of AISH as a proportion of the under-65 Alberta population, 1997 to 2023-24



Note: The data reflects the number of cases and beneficiaries on March 31 of each year from 1997 to 2000 for Income Support and 1997 to 2010 for AISH. The data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31) from 2000-01 onward for Income Support and from 2010-11 onward for AISH.

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 disaggregated data on cases and beneficiaries by household type, and cases receiving employment income.

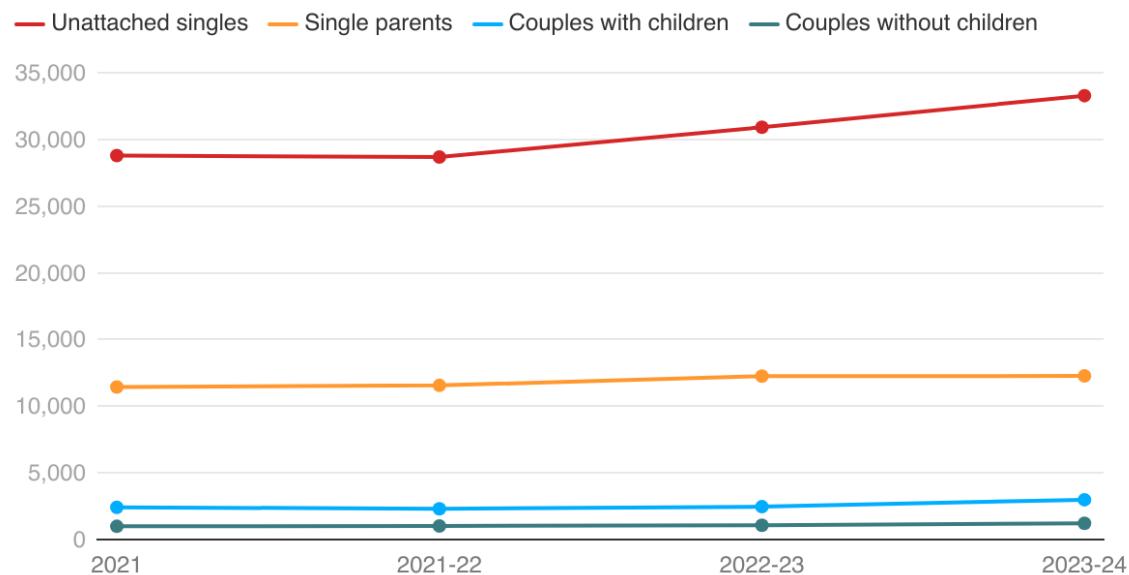
Household type

In 2023-24, on average, the majority of cases among households were unattached singles for both Income Support and AISH, representing 33,282 (67 per cent) and 64,809 (86 per cent), respectively. For Income Support, single parent households comprised the highest proportion of beneficiaries, representing 36,571 (42 per cent), followed by unattached singles, representing 33,282 (38 per cent).

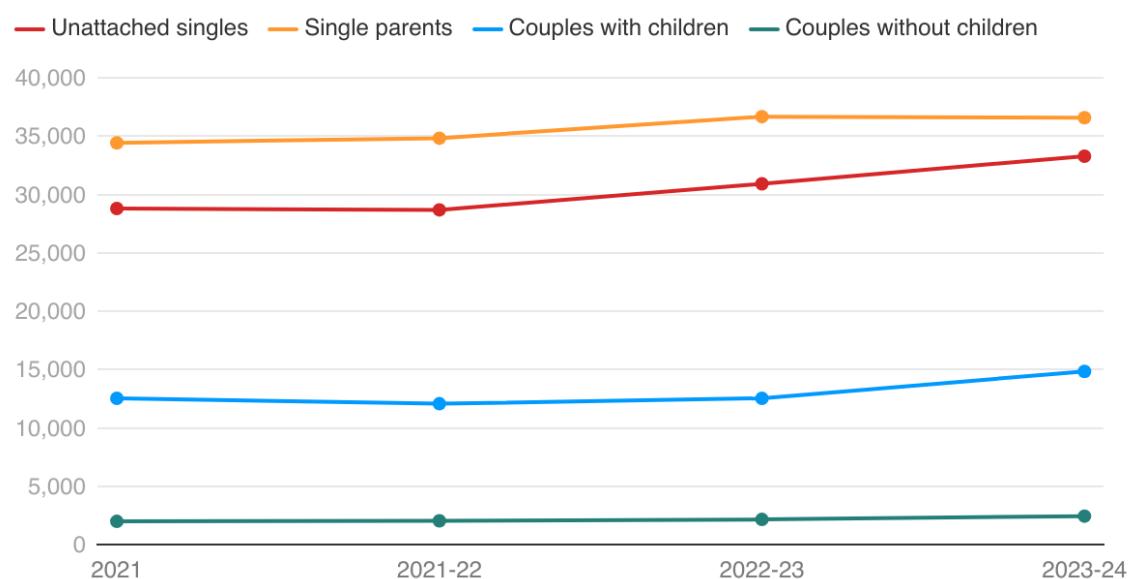
Among those who received BFE under Social Assistance, on average, 13,387 (77 per cent of cases and 52 per cent of beneficiaries) were unattached singles in 2023-24. Single parents were second, representing 2,746 (16 per cent of cases) and 7,985 (about 31 per cent of beneficiaries).

Figure 5AB: Cases and beneficiaries of Income Support by household in Alberta, 2021 to 2023-24

Cases



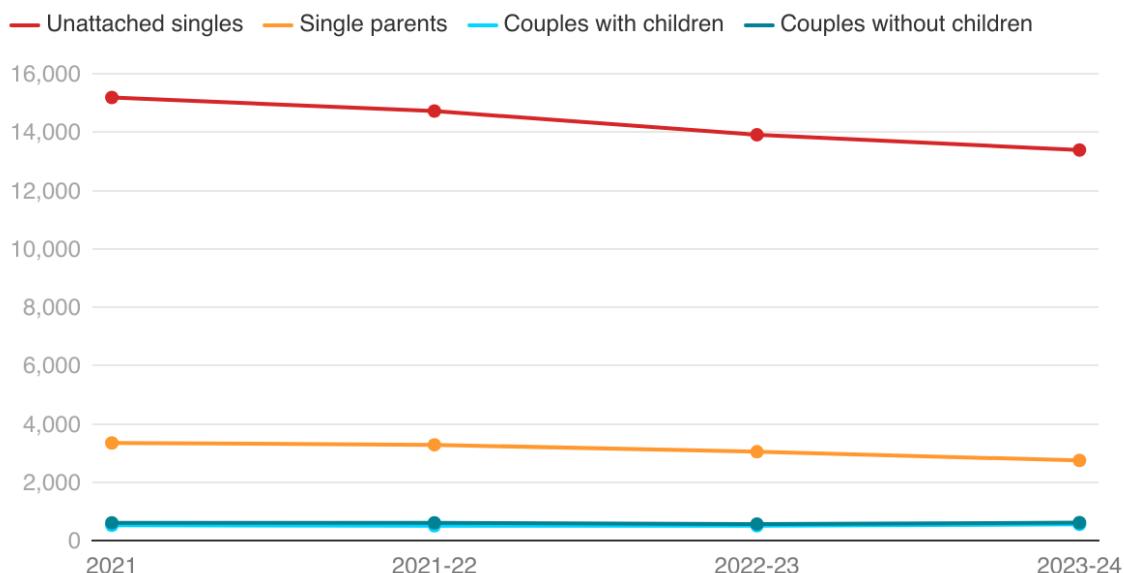
Beneficiaries



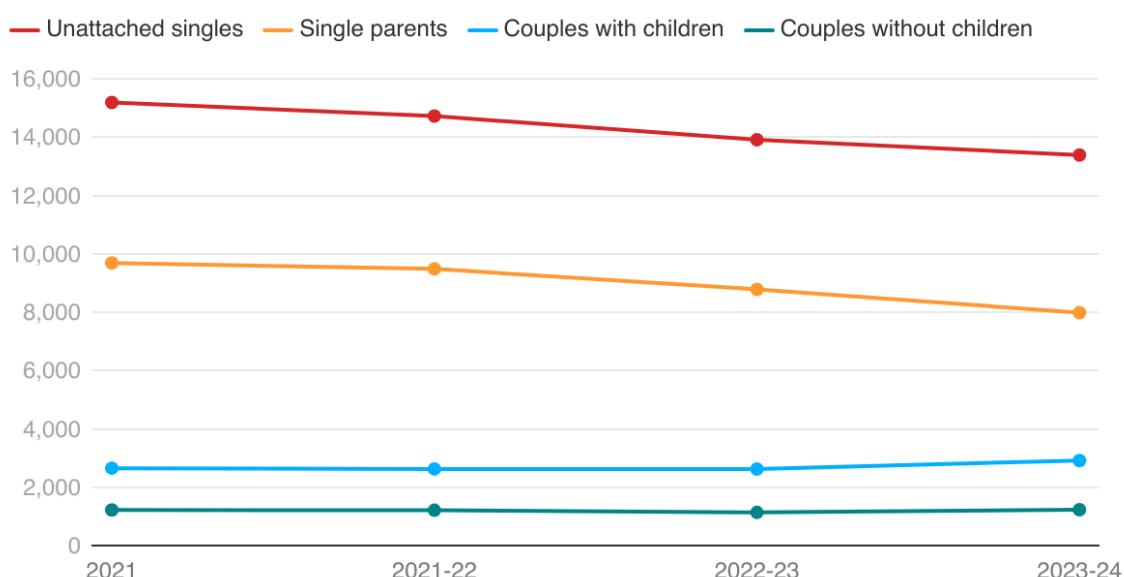
Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 onward are fiscal year averages.

Figure 6AB: Cases and beneficiaries of BFE under Income Support by household in Alberta, 2021 to 2023-24

Cases

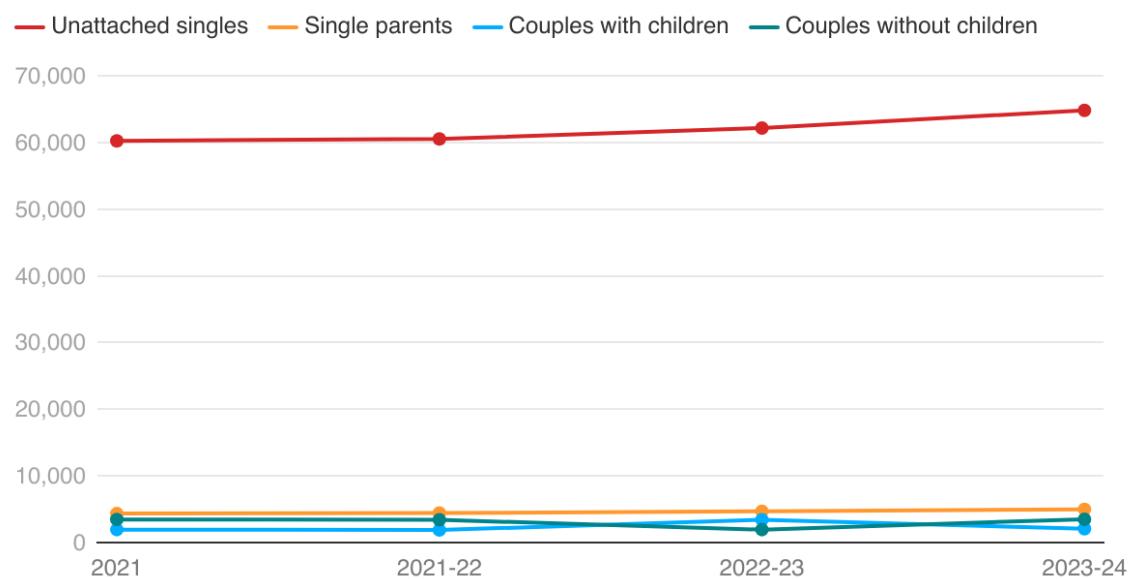


Beneficiaries



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

Figure 7AB: Cases of AISH by household in Alberta, 2021 to 2023-24



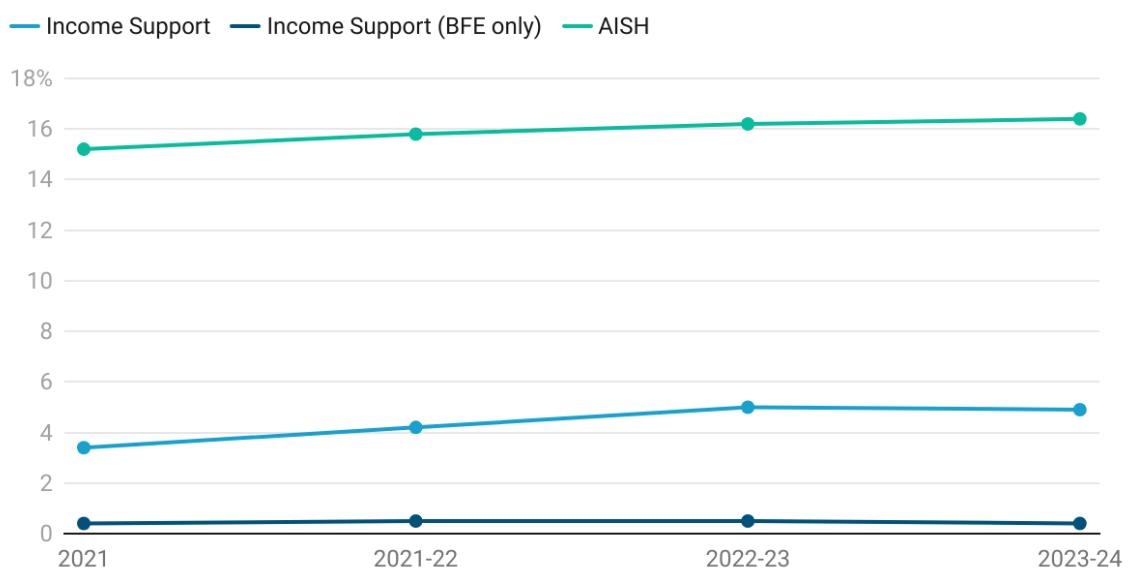
Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. 2021-22 onward are fiscal year averages.

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 2023-24, on average, about 5 per cent of Income Support cases had employment income. Among those that received BFE under Income Support, under 0.5 per cent had employment income. Cases receiving AISH were more likely to have employment income at over 16.4 per cent. These numbers have steadily increased since 2021.

Figure 8AB: Percentage of Income Support cases, BFE cases under Income Support, and AISH cases with employment income in Alberta, 2021 to 2023-24



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

Additional disaggregated data on gender and age is available for download below.

It's important to note that while the gender distribution of Income Support, BFE, and AISH is typically balanced between males and females, the gender of single households reveals a more pronounced gender pattern. Typically, unattached singles are predominantly male, while single parents are primarily female.

Access to data

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

1. Total number of 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. Single households by gender;
6. Head of household by age category; and
7. Percentage of cases receiving employment income.

Access the [downloadable spreadsheet here](#).



Data notes

- The Income Support program (formerly Alberta Works) was implemented in 2004. The data for 2003 and earlier is for its predecessor, the Supports for Independence program.
- The data reflects the number of cases and beneficiaries on March 31 of each year from 1997 to 2000 for Income Support and 1997 to 2010 for AISH.
- The data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31) from 2000-01 onward for Income Support and from 2010-11 onward for AISH.
- For all five disaggregated variables, 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year; 2021-22 onward 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 for Income Support and 1997 to 2007 for AISH are drawn from the 2008 and 2009-13 Social Assistance Statistical Reports with figures rounded to 100s.
- Figures for 2008 onwards are the actual numbers supplied by Alberta Seniors, 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.
- Click here for [more information about how the data is gathered](#)



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 one of the main streams of 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 allowance available varies by family size.

To be eligible for Income Assistance, individuals must meet eligibility requirements and fit the criteria of one of four groups:

1. Recipients with Employability-Related Obligations;



2. Recipients with Employability-Related Obligations: Recipients with short-term medical issues;
3. No Employability-Related Obligations: numerous categories (e.g., single parents with a child under three and seniors); and
4. Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers: individuals with long-term 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 179,780 cases (family units and unattached single adults) and about 238,270 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in British Columbia's social assistance programs during 2023-24.

Among cases, 32 per cent (58,200) received Income Assistance (also known as Temporary Assistance) and 68 per cent (121,578) received Disability Assistance. And among beneficiaries, around 38 per cent (90,212) received Income Assistance and just over 62 per cent (148,059) received Disability Assistance.

The total number of social assistance cases increased by 9,626 in 2023-24. Both programs saw increases, but Income Assistance accounted for over 64 per cent of new cases. Similarly, the total number of beneficiaries increased by 13,892 in 2023-24, and Income Assistance accounted for slightly over 70 per cent of new beneficiaries.

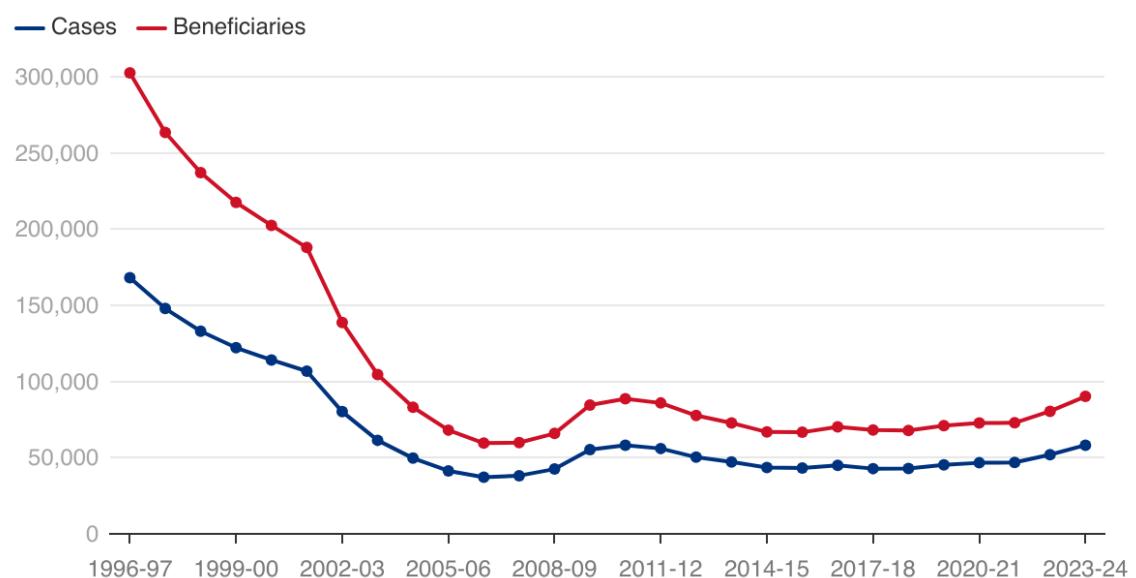
To access data on cases and beneficiaries of social assistance in British Columbia, including disaggregated data, [download the spreadsheet here](#).

Income Assistance

The average number of Income Assistance cases and beneficiaries in British Columbia were up significantly in 2023-24. The number of Income Assistance cases rose by about 6,240 to reach 58,200, and the number of beneficiaries rose by about 9,778 to 90,212.

The number of Income Assistance cases and beneficiaries fell substantially in the late-1990s and early-2000s. They rose somewhat in the late-2000s following the recession, dropped slightly and plateaued in the 2010s, and are now rising again. However, recent caseloads have remained much lower than in the 90s and early 2000s.

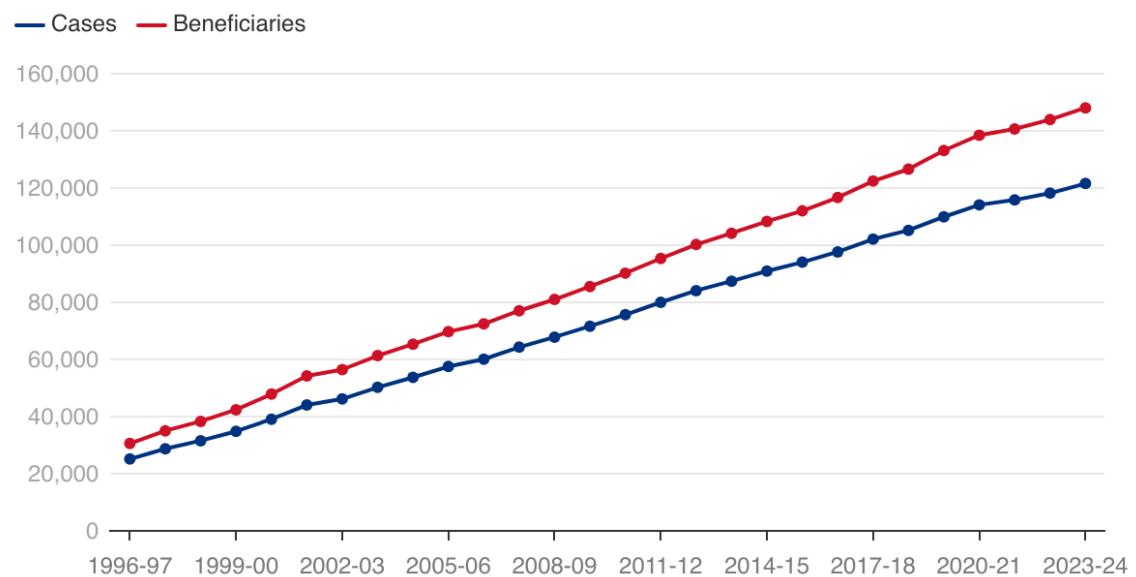
Figure 1BC: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Income Assistance in British Columbia, 1996-97 to 2023-24



Disability Assistance

In 2023-24, there was an average of about 121,580 cases in British Columbia's Disability Assistance program, and nearly 148,060 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 2023-24



What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

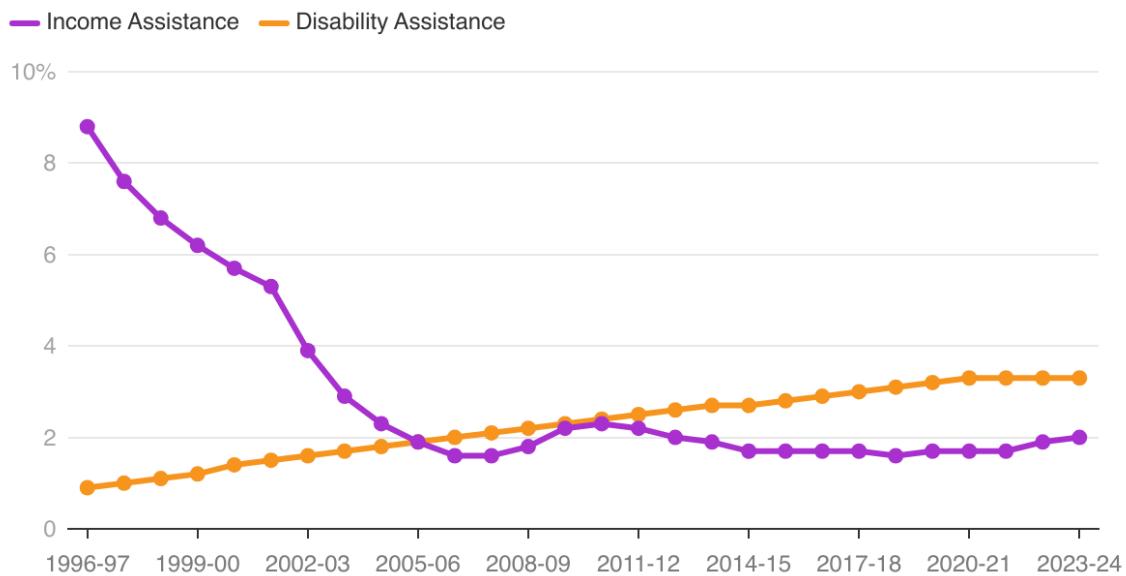
In 2023-24, on average, 5.4 per cent of people in British Columbia under 65 received Income Assistance or Disability Assistance.

The proportion of people under 65 receiving Disability Assistance has increased consistently since 1996-97, reaching 3.3 per cent in 2020-21 and maintaining that level for four consecutive years until 2023-24.

The proportion of Income Assistance beneficiaries decreased steeply from 1996-97 to 2006-07, going from 8.9 per cent to 1.6 per cent. The proportion increased slightly to 2.3 per cent following the recession of the 2010s, and in 2023-24 stood at 2.0 per cent.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of the fiscal year (e.g. July 1, 2023, for 2023-24), whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April 1 to March 31).

Figure 3BC: Yearly beneficiaries of Income Assistance and Disability Assistance as a proportion of the under-65 population of British Columbia, 1996-97 to 2023-24



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 disaggregated data on cases and beneficiaries by household type, and cases receiving employment income.

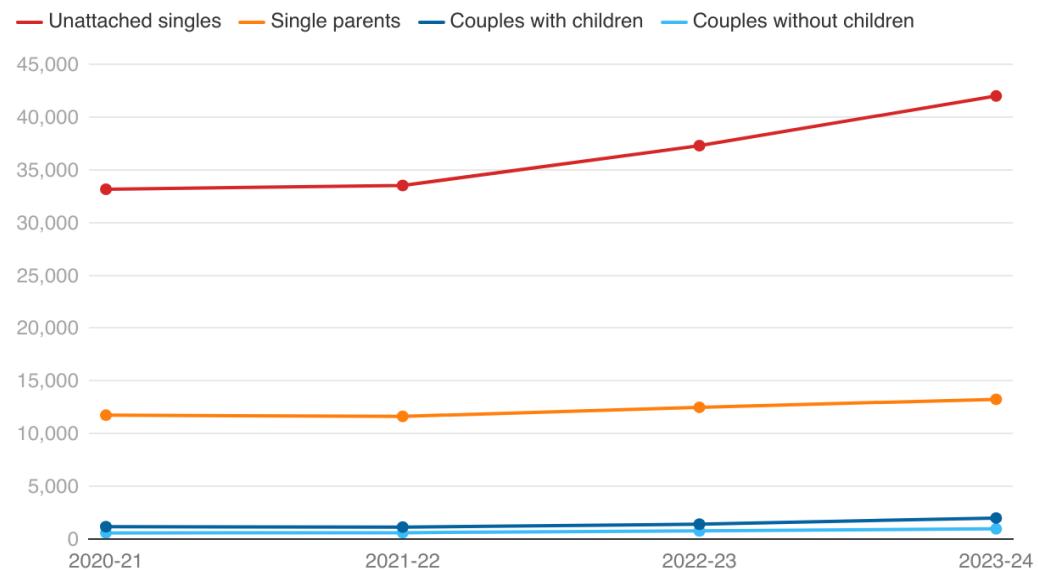
Household type

In 2023-24, unattached singles comprised the majority of households for both Income Assistance and Disability Assistance, both in terms of cases and beneficiaries. For Income Assistance, unattached singles accounted for 41,991 cases, representing over 72 per cent (of cases), and 47 per cent of beneficiaries. In the case of Disability Assistance, unattached singles represented 106,272 (87 per cent of cases and 72 per cent of beneficiaries, respectively).

For both programs, single parents were the second largest number of cases and beneficiaries. With 13,247 cases (23 per cent), and 37,237 beneficiaries (41 per cent) for Income Assistance; and 8,950 cases (7 per cent), and 23,008 beneficiaries (16 per cent) for Disability Assistance.

Figure 4BC: Cases and beneficiaries of Income Assistance by household in British Columbia, 2020-21 to 2023-24

Cases



Beneficiaries

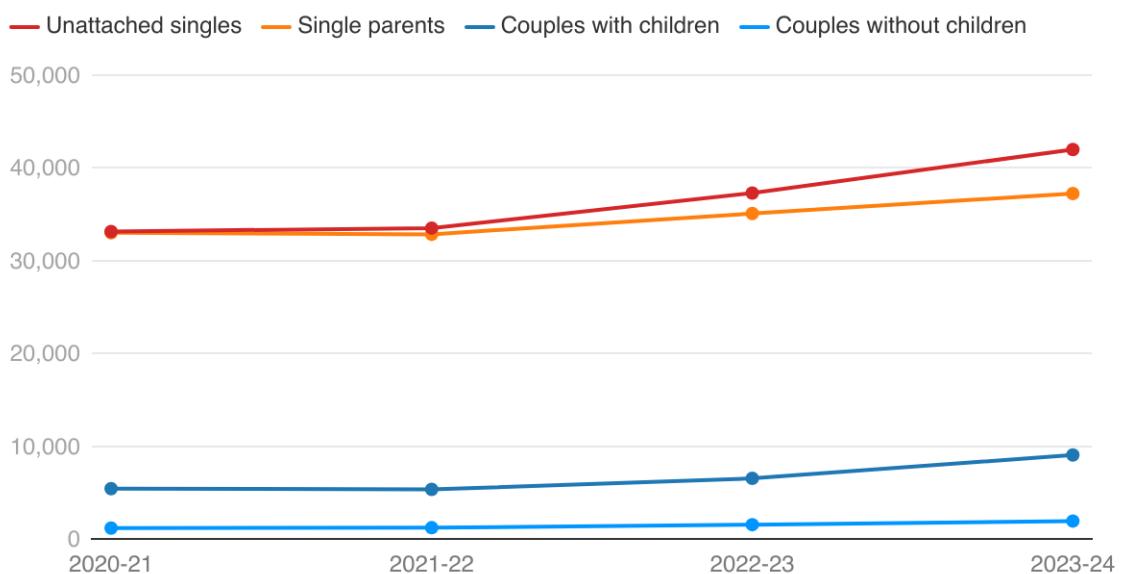
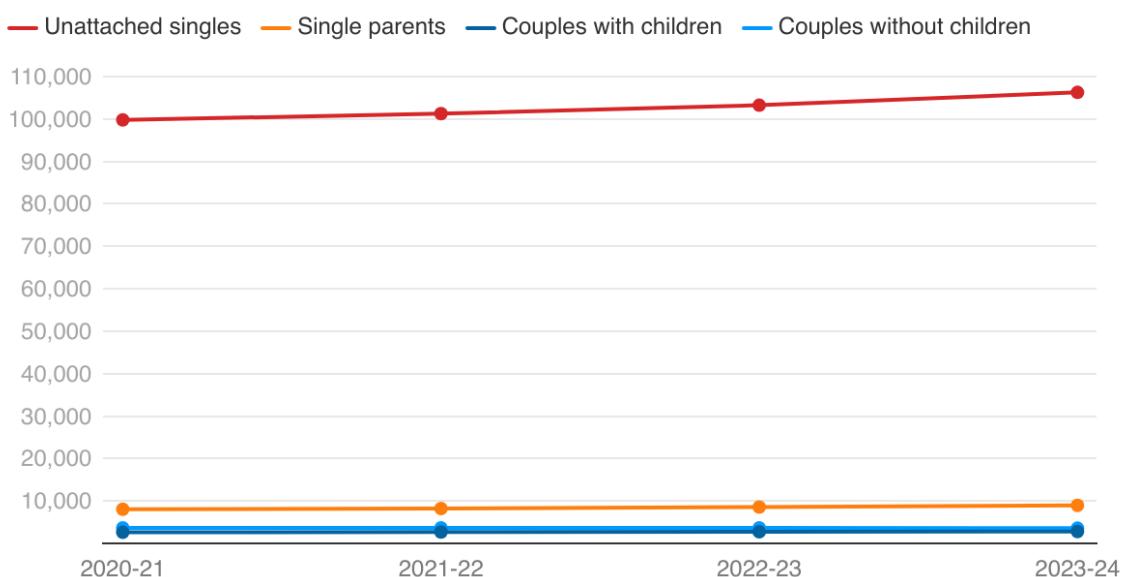
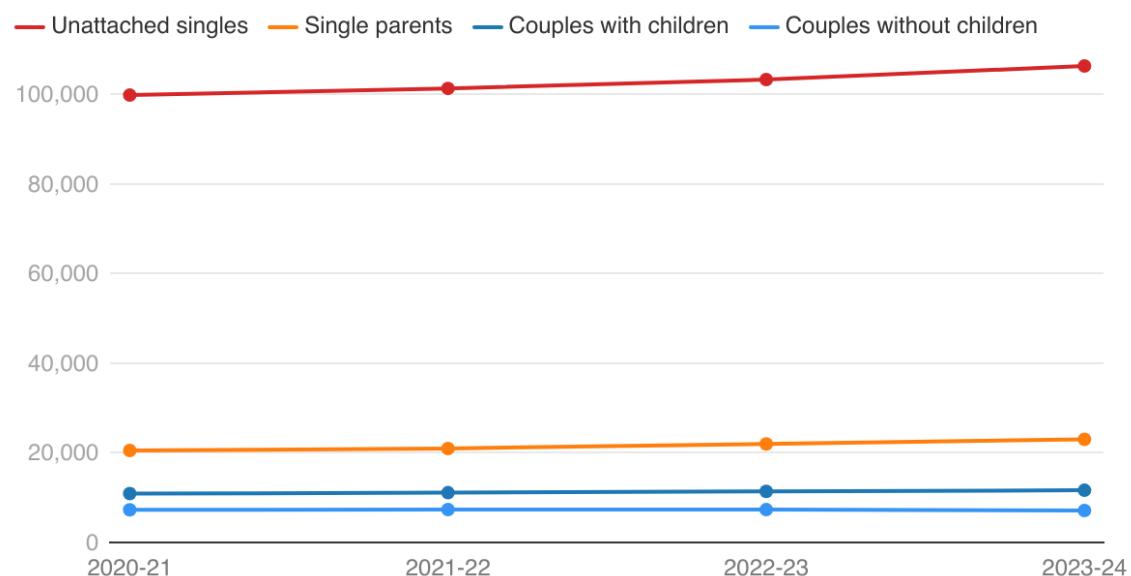


Figure 5BC: Cases and beneficiaries of Disability Assistance by household in British Columbia, 2020-21 to 2023-24

Cases



Beneficiaries

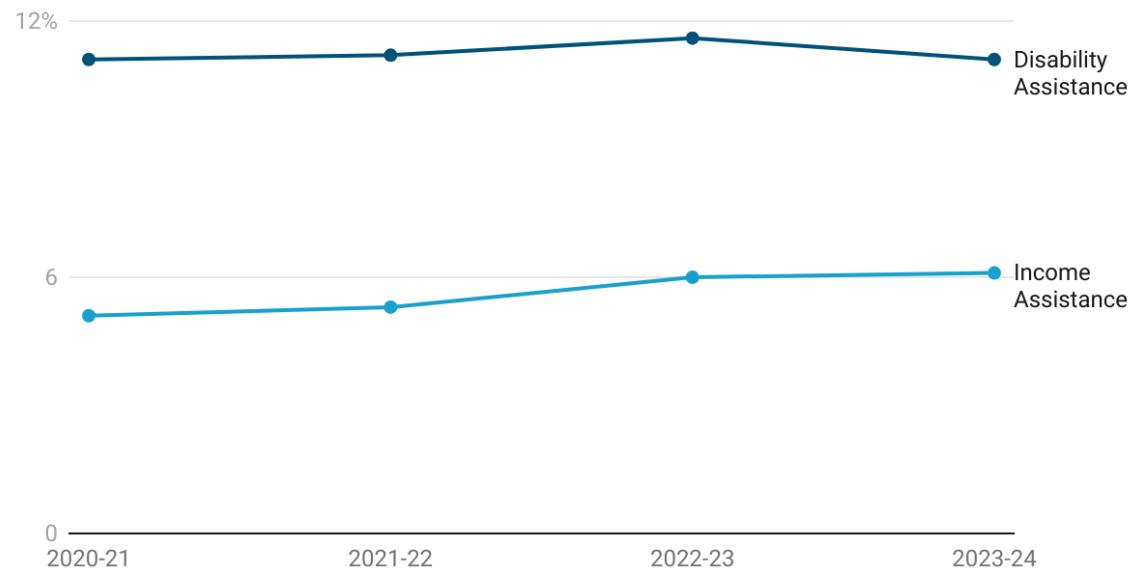


Employment income

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

In 2023-24, on average, 6.1 per cent of Income Assistance cases had employment income. Cases receiving Disability Assistance are more likely to have employment income at 11.1 per cent.

Figure 6BC: Percentage of Income Assistance and Disability Assistance cases with employment income in British Columbia, 2020-21 to 2023-24





Additional disaggregated data on gender and age is available for download below.

It's important to note that while the gender distribution of Income Assistance or Disability Assistance is typically balanced between males and females, the gender of single households reveals a more pronounced gender pattern. Typically, unattached singles are predominantly male, while single parents are primarily female.

Access to data

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

1. Total number of 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. Single households by gender;
6. Adults 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.
- Click here for [more information about how the data is gathered](#).



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

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 32,100 cases (family units and unattached single adults) and 57,000 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in Manitoba's Employment and Income Assistance program in 2023-24. After consistent increases in EIA cases and beneficiaries from 2007-08 to 2018-19, both began to decline for three years until 2021-22. In 2022-23, there was a slight increase, 1 per cent in both cases and beneficiaries. However, in 2023-24, the trend reversed again, with cases dropping by 13 per cent and beneficiaries by 9 per cent.

Within EIA, on average, 13,500 cases, or 42 per cent, and 17,200 beneficiaries, or 30 per cent, received benefits through the Medical Barriers to Full Employment (MBFE) category in 2023-24.

MBFE numbers also decreased from the previous year. On average, MBFE cases decreased by 6,300, or 32 per cent, and MBFE beneficiaries decreased by 6,900, or 29 per cent. This decrease can be partly explained by the introduction of the new Manitoba Supports program in January 2023.

Figure 1MB: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of EIA in Manitoba, 1996-97 to 2023-24

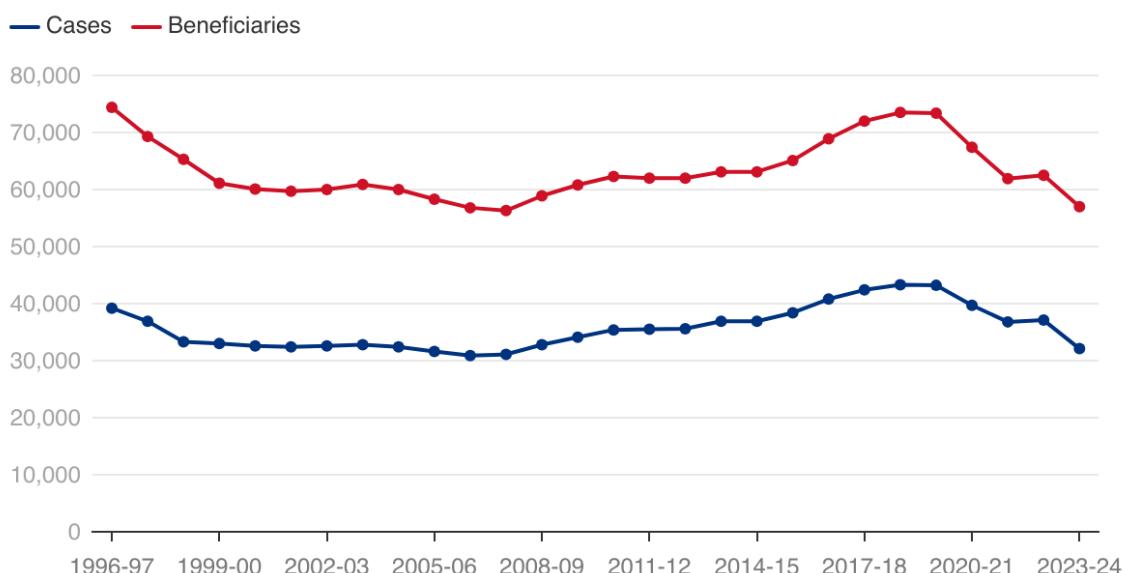
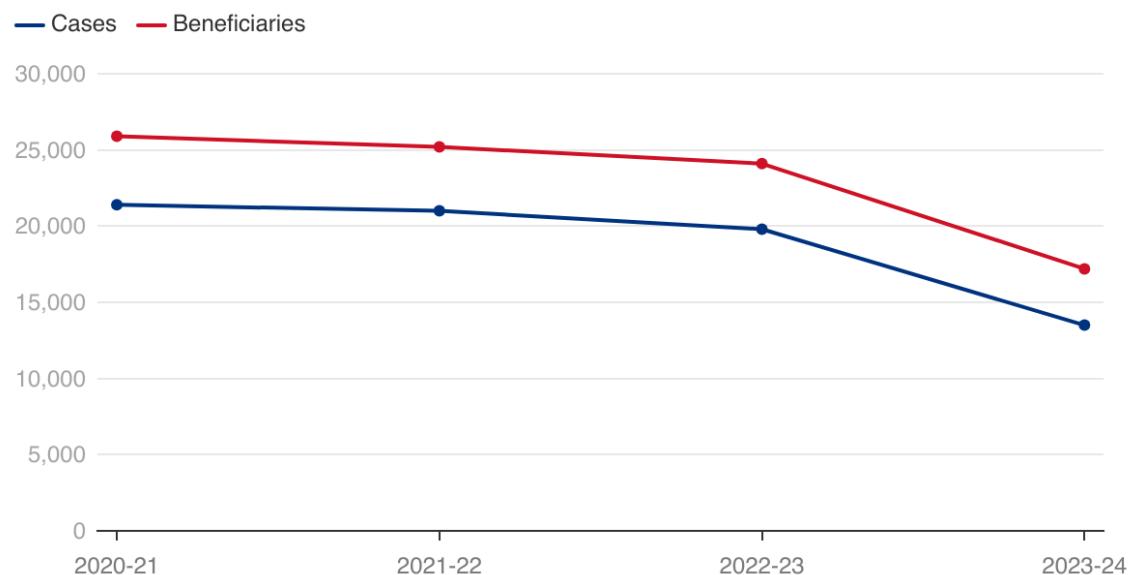


Figure 2MB: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of MBFE under EIA in Manitoba, 2020-21 to 2023-24

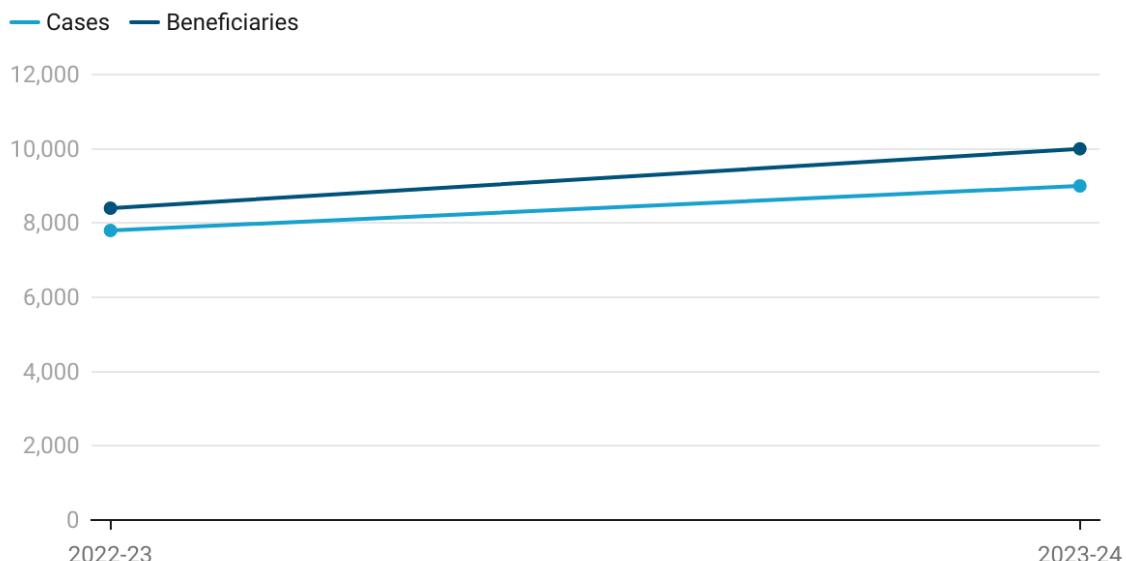


Manitoba Supports

Manitoba Supports was introduced in January 2023. In 2023-24, both cases and beneficiaries increased to 9,000 and 10,000, respectively.

Note that numbers for Manitoba Supports in 2022-23 are the average of the first three months of 2023, while for 2023-24 the numbers are averaged over the full fiscal year. The difference in the way data is reported limits comparability.

Figure 3MB: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Manitoba Supports, 2022-23 to 2023-24



Note: Numbers for Manitoba Supports in 2022-23 are the average of the first three months of 2023, while for 2023-24 are averaged over the full fiscal year.

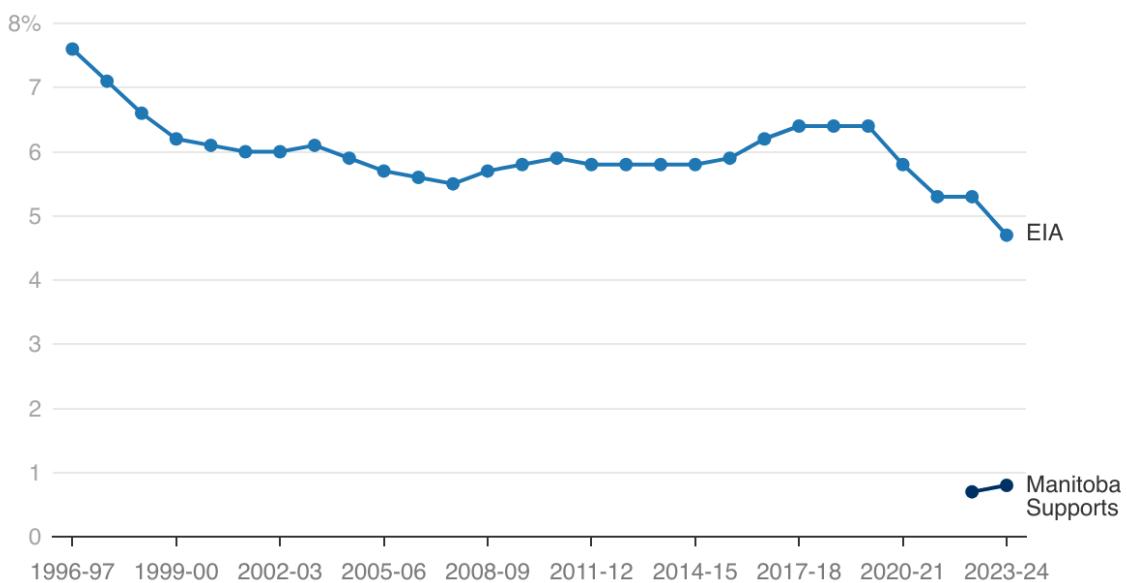
What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2023-24, on average, 4.7 per cent of people in Manitoba under 65 received EIA, which is one in 21. This year's proportion is the lowest in the timeline and down from 5.3 per cent in 2022-23 and 2021-22, the previous lowest point. In prior years, on average, the proportion had been at around six per cent since 1999-2000.

For Manitoba Supports, on average, this proportion was 0.8 per cent in 2023-24, which is 1 in 125 people.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of the fiscal year (e.g., July 1, 2023, for 2023-24), whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April 1 to March 31).

Figure 4MB: Yearly beneficiaries of EIA and Manitoba Supports as a proportion of the under-65 Manitoba population, 1996-97 to 2023-24



Note: Numbers for Manitoba Supports in 2022-23 are the average of the first three months of 2023, while for 2023-24 are averaged over the full fiscal year.

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 disaggregated data on cases and beneficiaries by household type, and cases receiving employment income.

Household type

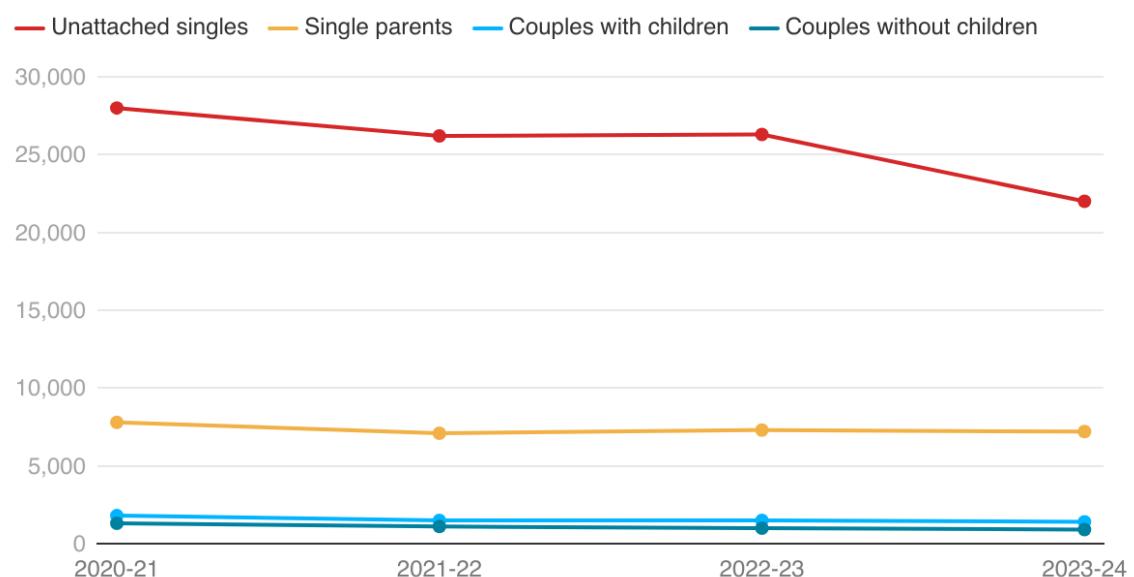
In 2023-24, on average, unattached singles were the majority household among EIA cases in Manitoba, representing 22,000 cases (about 70 per cent), followed by single parents, representing 7,200 (23 per cent). Single parent households made up the highest proportion of beneficiaries, representing 23,000 beneficiaries (about 43 per cent), followed by unattached singles, representing 22,000 (41 per cent).

Among those who received MBFE under EIA, unattached single households were the majority of both cases and beneficiaries, representing 11,600 (around 86 and 68 per cent, respectively), followed by single parents, representing 1,100 cases and 3,000 beneficiaries (over 8 and under 17 per cent, respectively).

Similar to MBFE, in 2023-24, unattached singles were the majority of both cases and beneficiaries of Manitoba Supports, representing 8,200 (94 and over 85 per cent, respectively). The second largest household type for cases was tied between single parents and couples without children representing 200 cases (just over 2 per cent). Single parents were the second largest household type for beneficiaries representing 600 (6.3 per cent).

Figure 5MB: Cases of EIA by household in Manitoba, 2020-21 to 2023-24

Cases



Beneficiaries

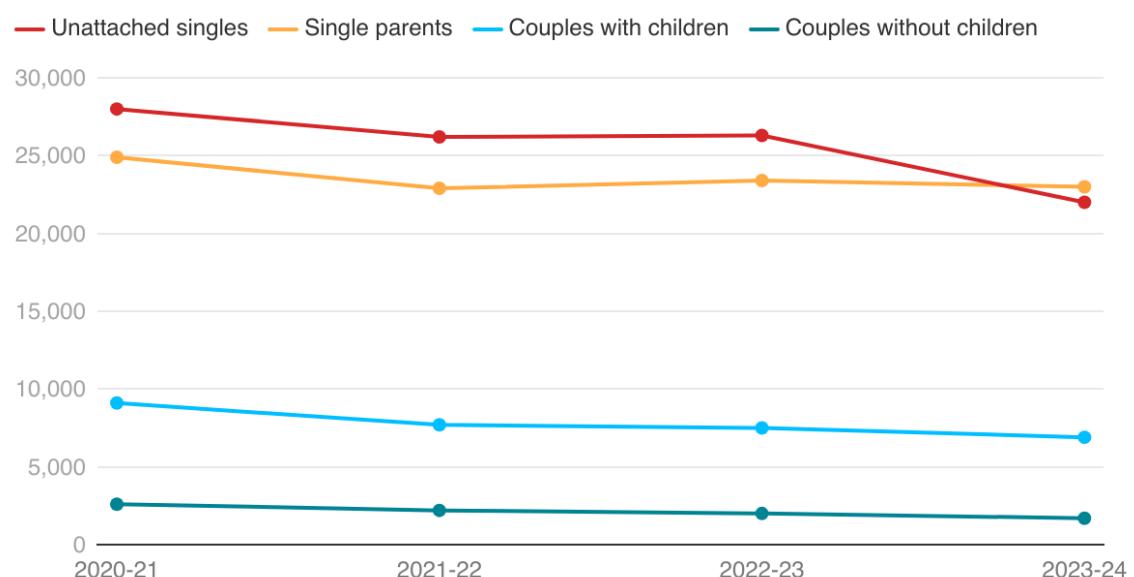
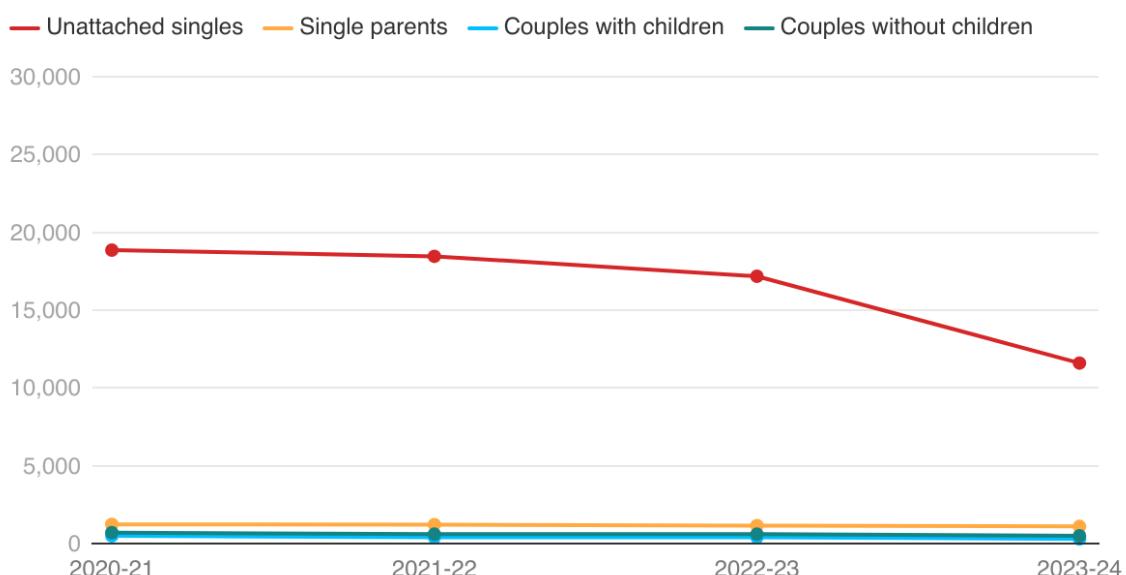


Figure 6MB: Cases of MBFE under EIA by household in Manitoba, 2020-21 to 2023-24

Cases



Beneficiaries

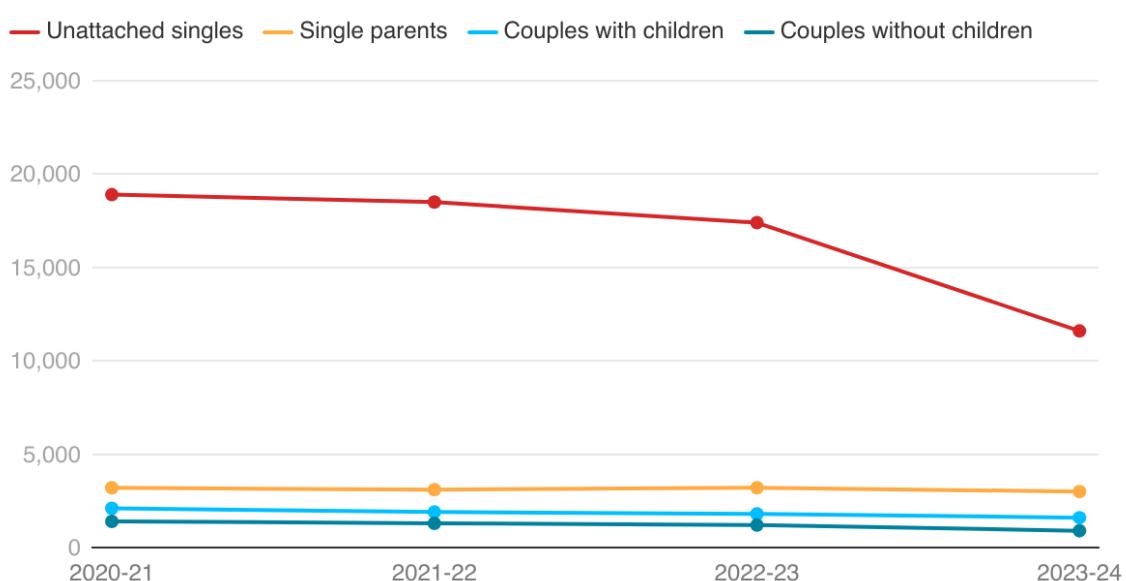
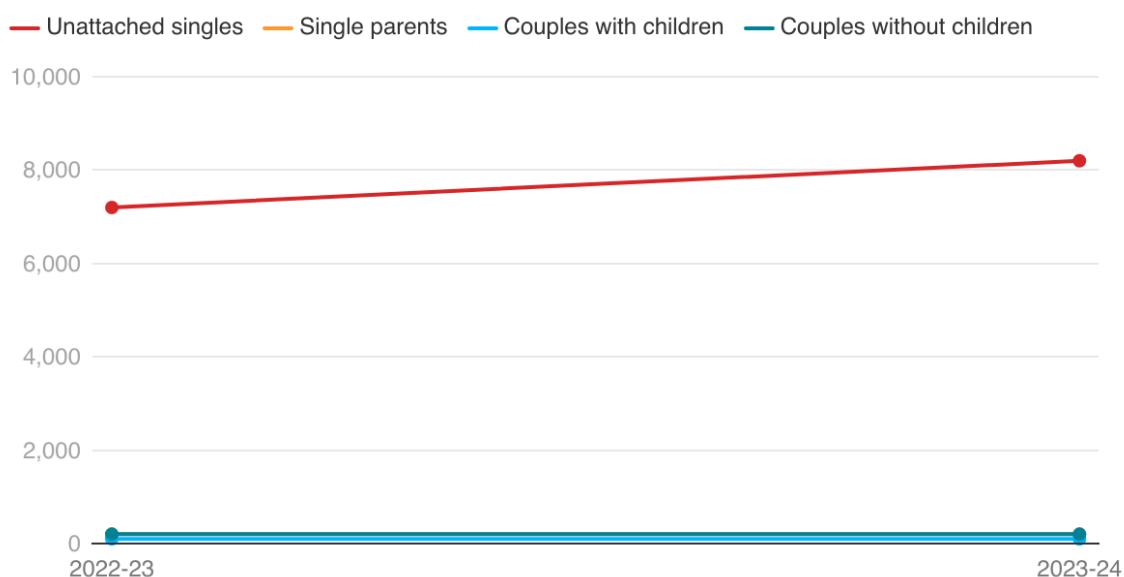


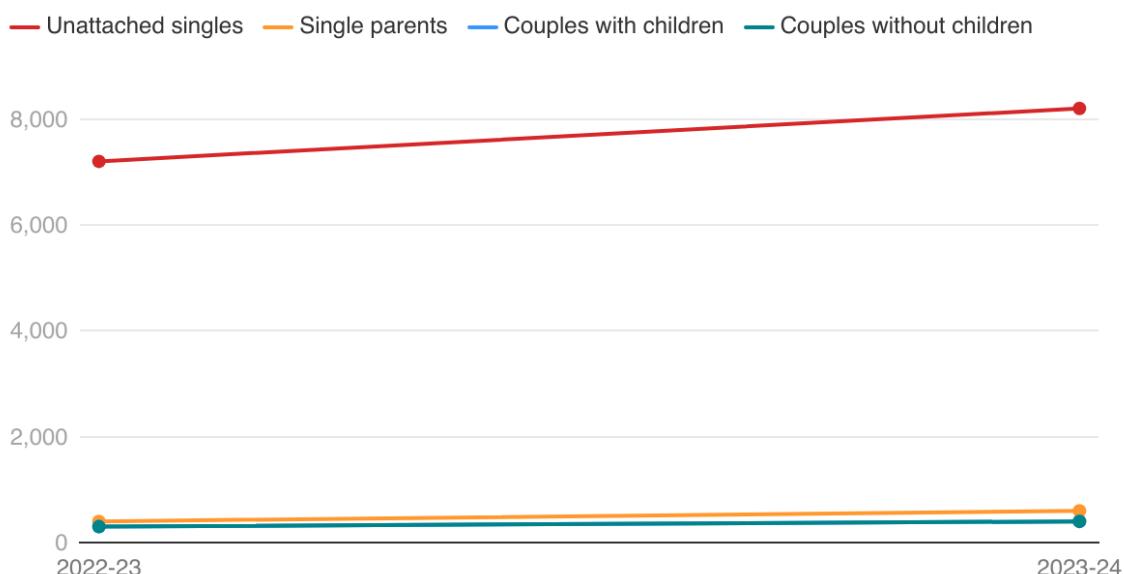
Figure 7MB: Cases and beneficiaries of Manitoba Supports by household, 2022-23 to 2023-24

Cases



Note: Numbers for Manitoba Supports in 2022-23 are the average of the first three months of 2023, while for 2023-24 are averaged over the full fiscal year. The lines for the variables “Single Parents” and “Couples Without Children” overlap, as they have the same values across the data points.

Beneficiaries



Note: Numbers for Manitoba Supports in 2022-23 are the average of the first three months of 2023, while for 2023-24 are averaged over the full fiscal year. The lines for the variables “Couples with children” and “Couples Without Children” overlap, as they have the same values across the data points.

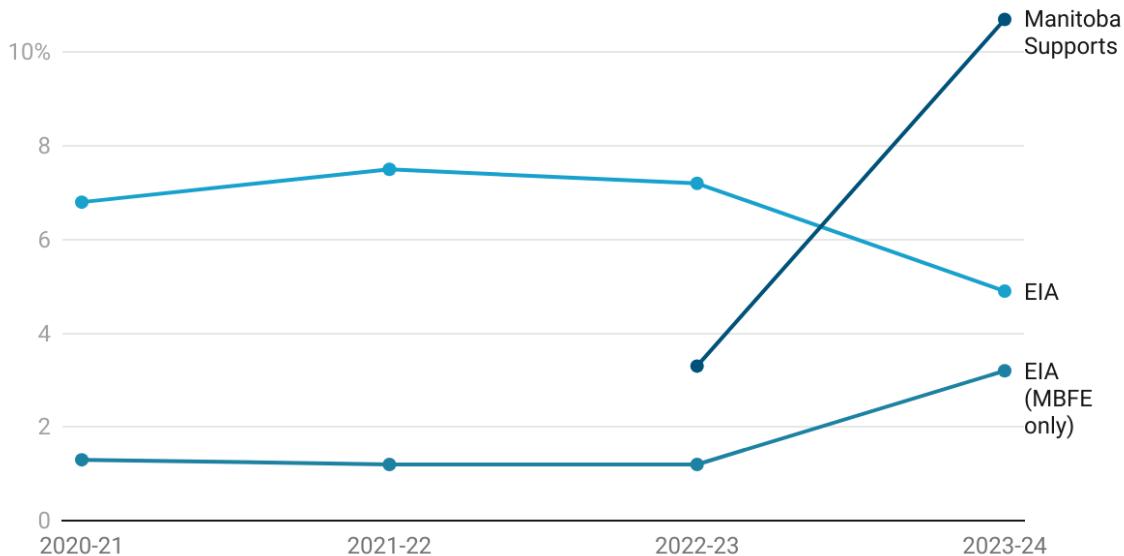
Employment income

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 2023-24, on average, about 5 per cent of EIA cases had employment income, a significant decrease from the previous year. Those receiving MBFE under EIA were less likely to have employment income at just over 3 per cent, which is a substantial increase from last year.

Those receiving Manitoba Supports, on average, around 1 per cent had employment income in 2022-23, while 10.7 per cent had employment income in 2023-24.

Figure 8MB: Percentage of EIA cases, MBFE cases under EIA, and Manitoba Supports cases with employment income in Manitoba, 2020-21 to 2023-24



Note: Numbers for Manitoba Supports in 2022-23 are the average of the first three months of 2023, while for 2023-24 are averaged over the full fiscal year.

Additional disaggregated data on gender and age is available for download below.

It's important to note that while the sex distribution of EIA, MBFE under EIA, and Manitoba Supports is typically balanced between males and females, the sex of single households reveals a more pronounced gender pattern. Typically, unattached singles are predominantly male, while single parents are primarily female.



Access to data

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

1. Total number of 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. Single households by sex;
6. Adults 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).
- Numbers for Manitoba Supports in 2022-23 are the average of the first three months of 2023, while for 2023-24 the numbers are averaged over the full fiscal year and will be presented in this format moving forward. The difference in the way data is reported limits comparability.
- 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.
- Click here for [more information about how the data is gathered](#).



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.

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 22,586 cases (family units and unattached single adults) and about 34,417 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in New Brunswick's social assistance programs during 2023-24.

Among cases, on average, about 73 per cent (16,578) of cases received the Transitional Assistance Program (TAP), and about 27 per cent (6,008) received the Extended Benefits Program (EBP) in 2023-24. And among beneficiaries, on average, 81 per cent (27,902) received TAP and 19 per cent (6,569) received EBP.

The total number of social assistance cases increased by 1,821 in 2023-24. The increase came from TAP and EBP cases representing 12.2 per cent and 0.4 per cent, respectively. Similarly, the total number of beneficiaries increased by 2,819 in 2023-24, and TAP accounted for almost all new beneficiaries (11.4 per cent) while the number of beneficiaries of EBP increased by 0.4 per cent.

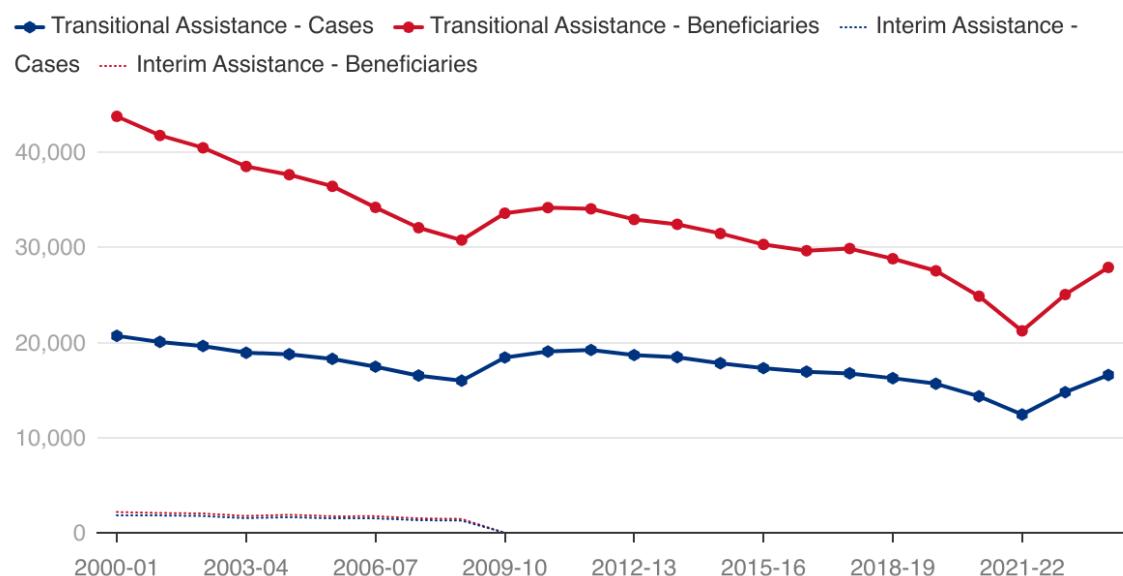
To access data on cases and beneficiaries of social assistance in New Brunswick, including disaggregated data, [download the spreadsheet here](#).

Transitional Assistance Program (TAP)

On average, there were 16,578 cases and just over 27,900 beneficiaries receiving TAP in 2023-24.

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

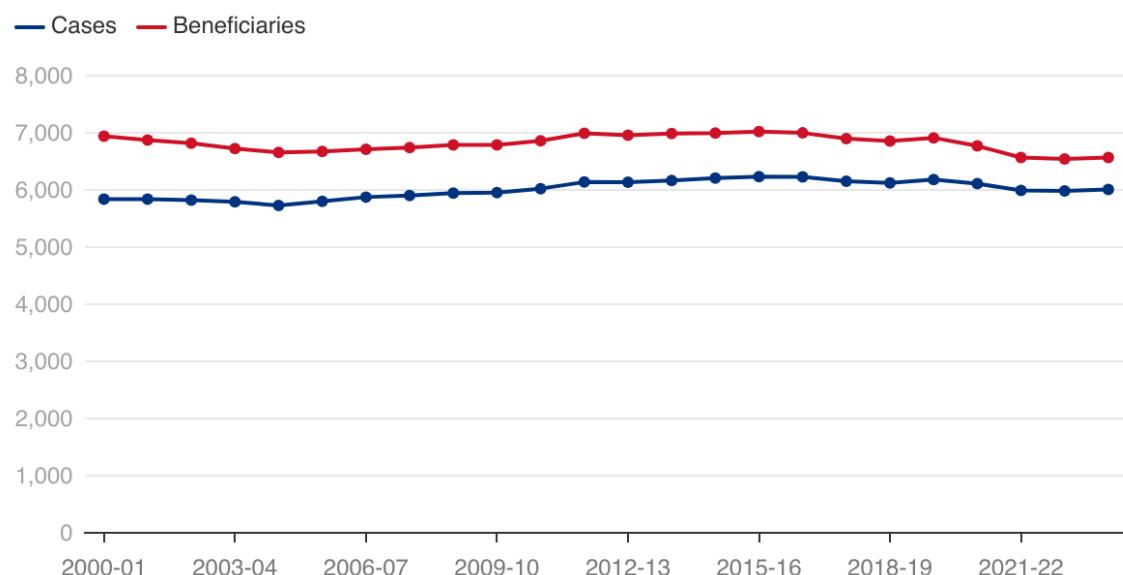
Figure 1NB: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of TAP and the IAP in New Brunswick, 2000-01 to 2023-24



Extended Benefits Program (EBP)

In 2023-24, there were an average of 6,008 cases and 6,569 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 2023-24



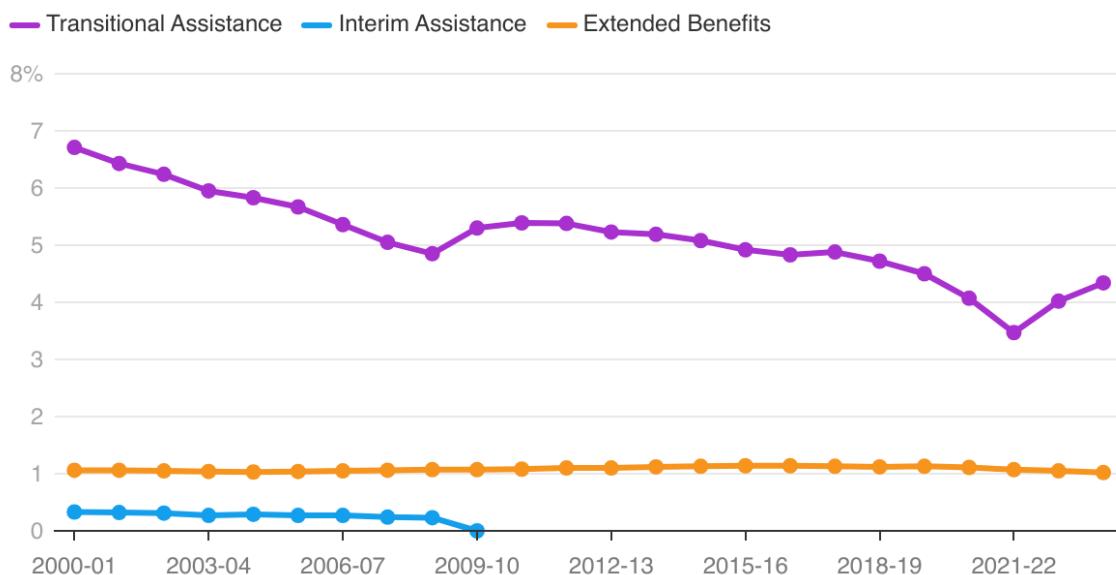
What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2023-24, on average, 5.4 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 generally declined, from an average of 6.7 per cent in 2000-01 to 3.5 per cent in 2021-22. However, in 2022-23, the proportion rose to 4 per cent, marking the first increase since 2010-11. This upward trend continued in 2023-24, with the proportion increasing further to 4.3 per cent. The proportion of people under 65 receiving the EBP was 1 per cent in 2023-24. 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, 2023, for 2023-24), whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April 1 to March 31).

Figure 3NB: Yearly beneficiaries of TAP and EBP as a proportion of the under-65 population of New Brunswick, 2000-01 to 2023-24



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 disaggregated data on cases and beneficiaries by household type, and cases receiving employment income.

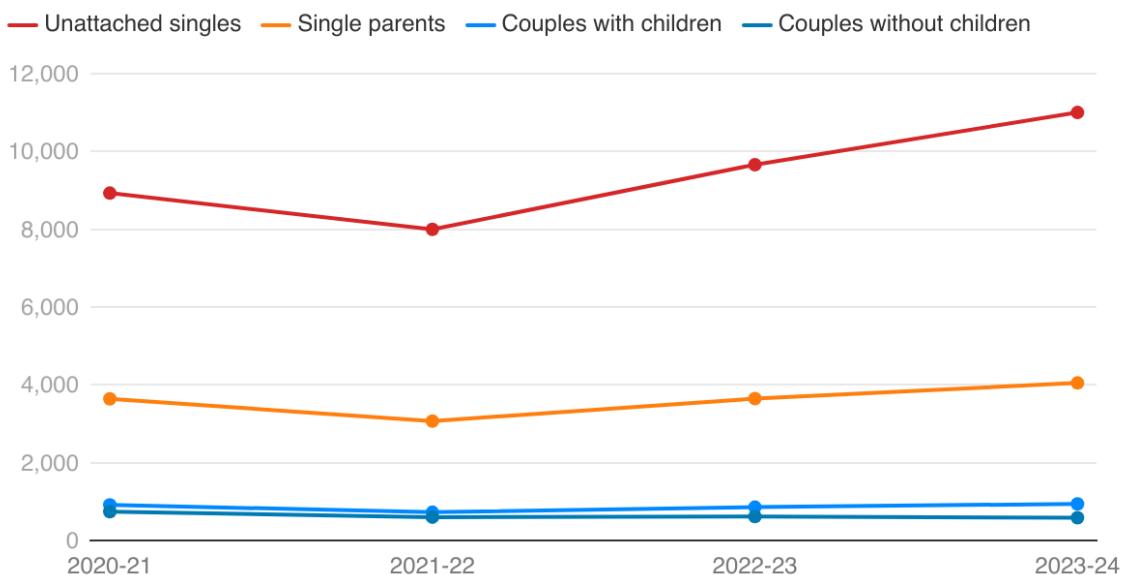
Household type

In 2023-24, on average, unattached singles were the majority of social assistance cases among households for both programs, comprising over 66 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 over 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: Cases and beneficiaries of TAP by household in New Brunswick, 2020-21 to 2023-24

Cases



Beneficiaries

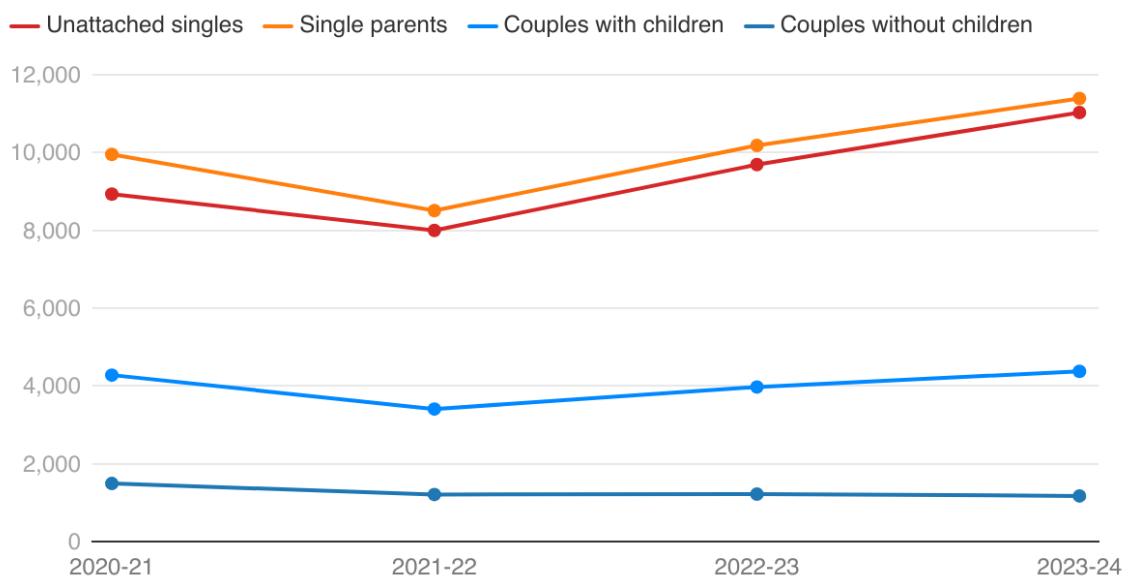
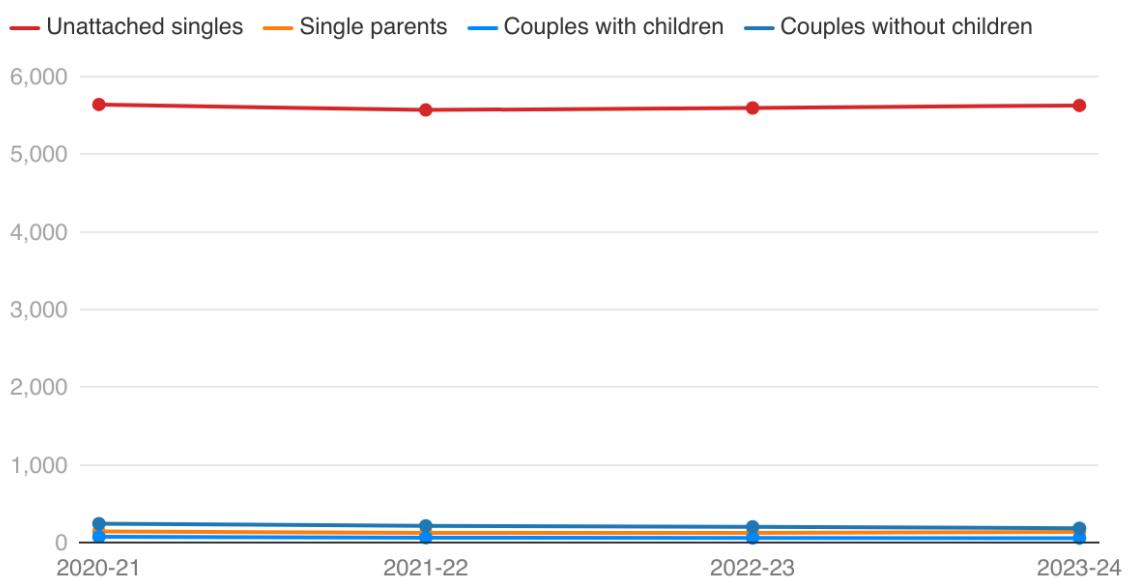
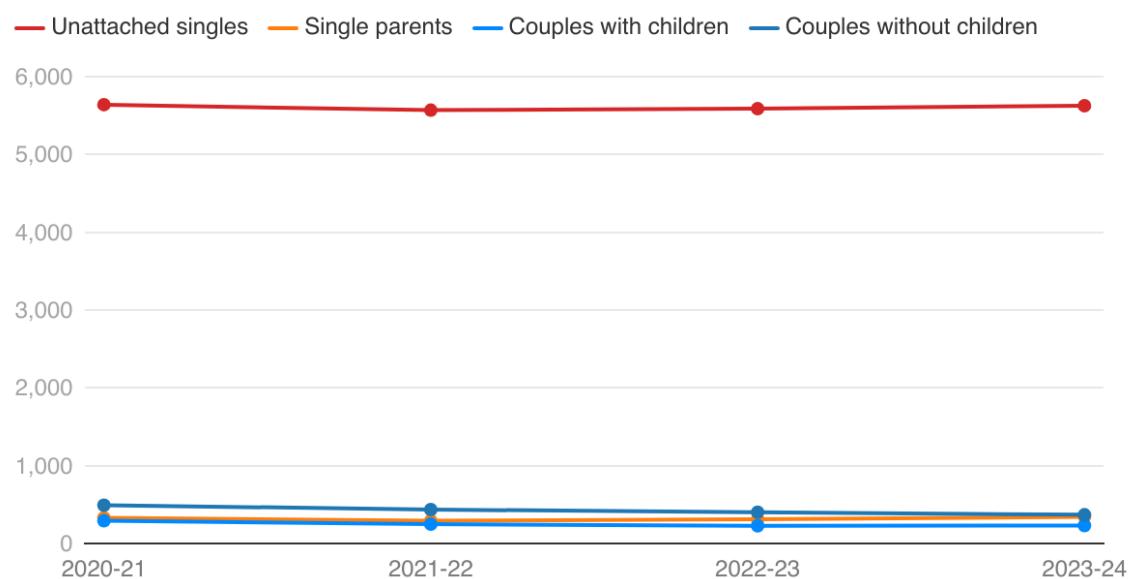


Figure 5NB: Cases and beneficiaries of EBP by household in New Brunswick, 2020-21 to 2023-24

Cases



Beneficiaries

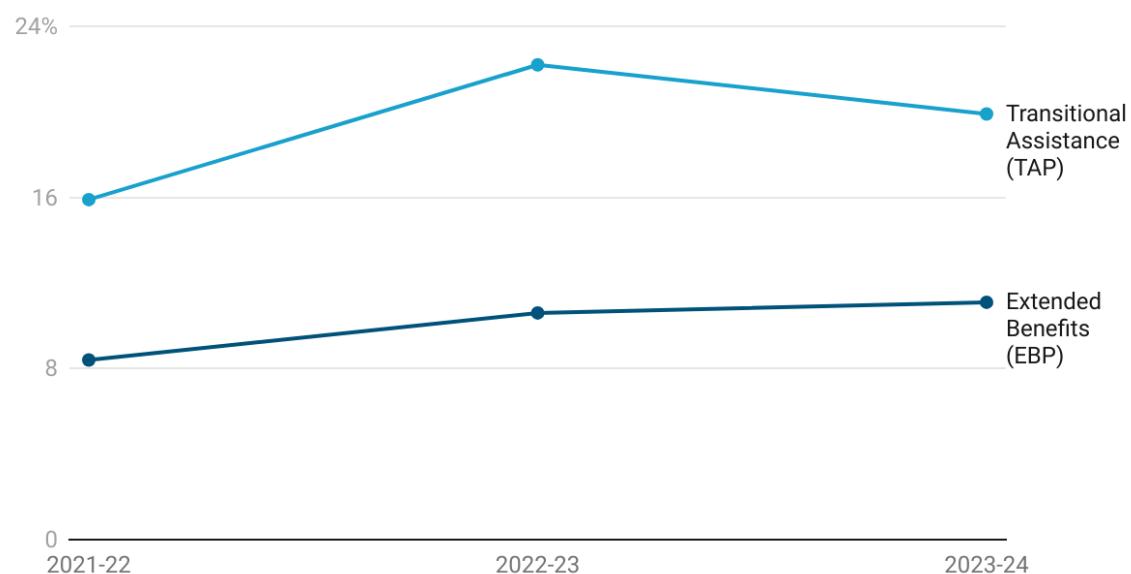


Employment income

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

In 2023-24, on average, about 20 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.

Figure 6NB: Percentage of TAP and EBP cases with employment income in New Brunswick, 2021-22 and 2023-24





Additional disaggregated data on gender and age is available for download below.

It's important to note that while the gender distribution of TAP and EBP are typically balanced between males and females, the gender of single households reveals a more pronounced gender pattern. Typically, unattached singles are predominantly male, while single parents are primarily female.

Access to data

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

1. Total number of 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. Single households by gender;
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 it was terminated in 2010.
- Data on employment income for 2020-21 is not included.
- The subtotals on 2023-24 may not match the total number of cases and beneficiaries due to the timing of the reports. The data may fluctuate over different time periods as the reports are updated.
- Click here for more [information about how the data is gathered](#).



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 the benefits are provided by NL Health 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.

How many people claim social assistance?

In 2023-24, there were on average about 20,700 cases (family units and unattached single adults) and just over 29,100 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in Newfoundland and Labrador's Income Support (IS) program.

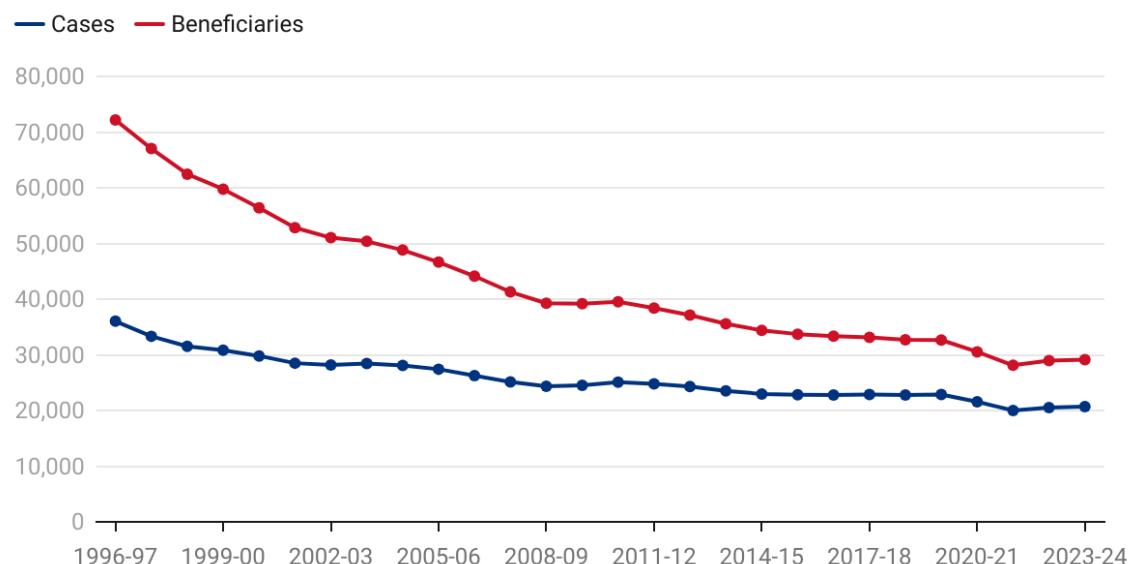
The number of cases and beneficiaries fell consistently from the mid-1990s through to the mid-2010s, followed by a period of stability up until the COVID-19



pandemic in 2020. After two years of decreases in 2020-21 and 2021-22, cases and beneficiaries of IS began to increase in 2022-23. This continued in 2023-24, when cases and beneficiaries increased by just under 1 and 0.6 per cent, respectively.

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 2023-24

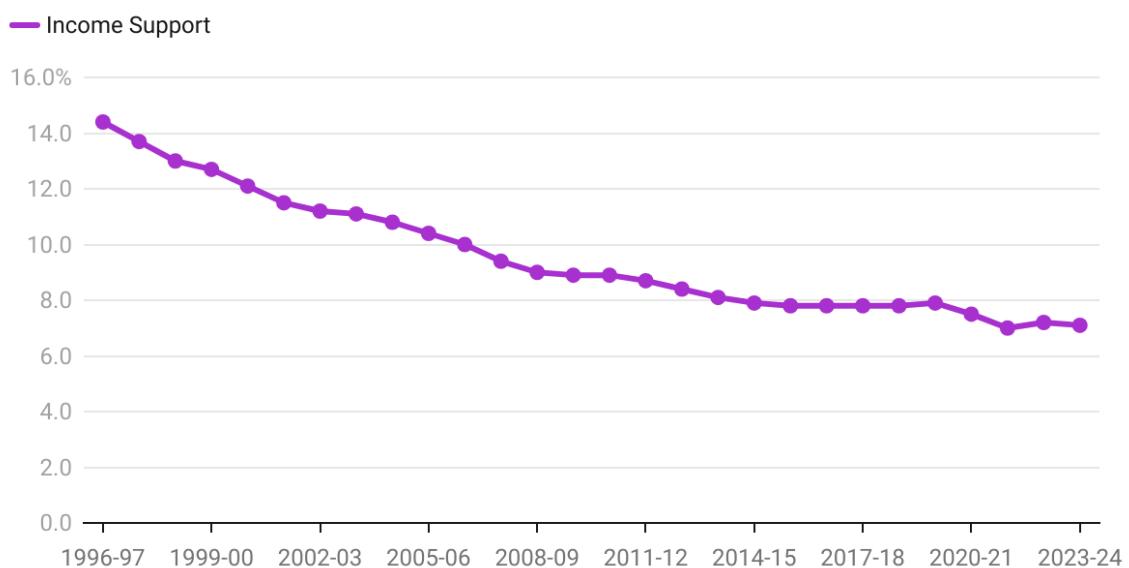


What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2023-24, on average, 7.1 per cent of people in Newfoundland and Labrador under 65 received Income Support (IS), which is approximately one in 14. On average, the proportion has consistently fallen. From a high of 14.7 per cent in 1996-97, the proportion has decreased by more than half since.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of the fiscal year (e.g., July 1, 2023, for 2023-24), whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April 1 to March 31).

Figure 2NL: Yearly beneficiaries of IS as a proportion of the under-65 population in Newfoundland and Labrador, 1996-97 to 2023-24



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?

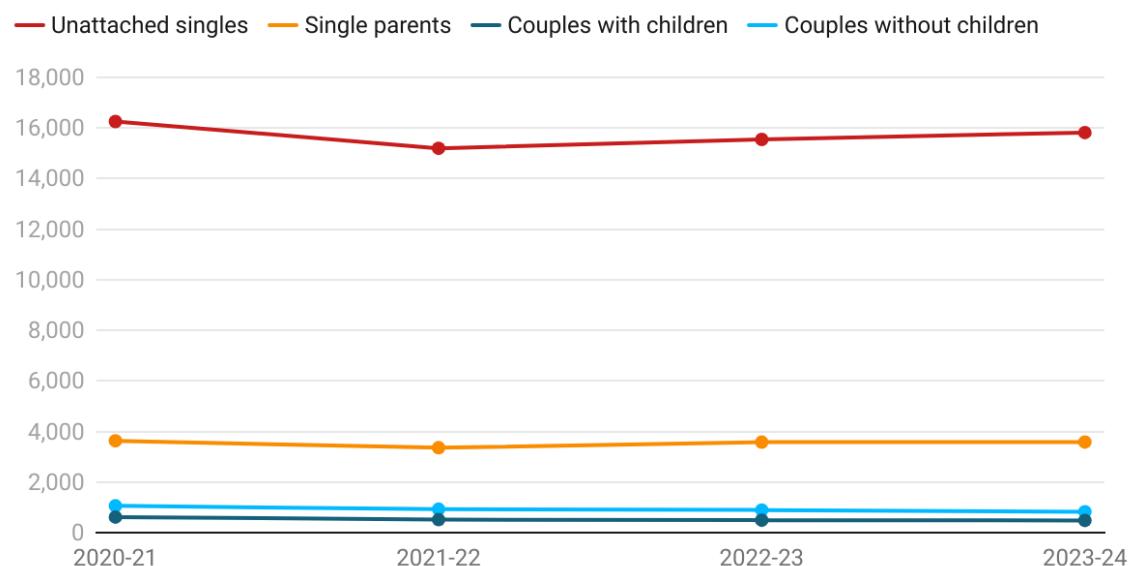
This section examines disaggregated data on cases and beneficiaries by household type, and cases receiving employment income.

Household type

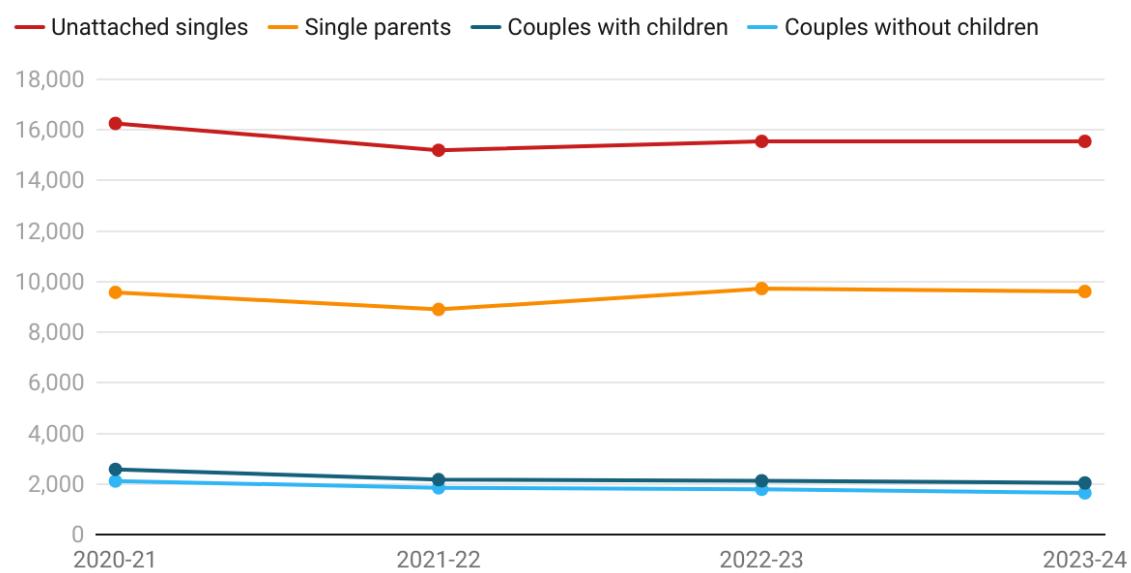
In 2023-24, unattached singles were the majority household of both cases and beneficiaries of IS representing, on average, 15,820 cases (approximately 77 per cent of cases) and about 15,550 beneficiaries (54 per cent of beneficiaries). Single parents were second with more than 3,500 cases (17 per cent) and 9,600 beneficiaries (just over 33 per cent).

Figure 3NL: Cases and beneficiaries of IS by household in Newfoundland and Labrador, 2020-21 to 2023-24

Cases



Beneficiaries

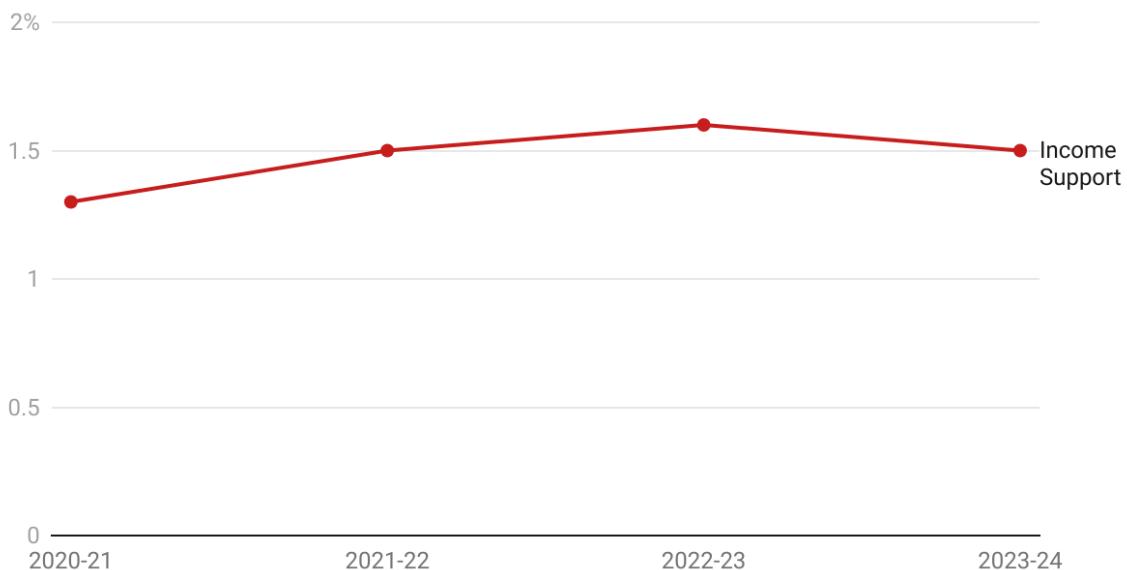


Employment income

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

In 2023-24, on average, 1.5 per cent of IS cases had employment income, with small increases in the previous two years.

Figure 4NL: Percentage of IS cases with employment income in Newfoundland and Labrador, 2020-21 to 2023-24



Additional disaggregated data on gender and age is available for download below.

It's important to note that while the gender distribution of Income Support is typically balanced between males and females, the gender of single households reveals a more pronounced gender pattern. Typically, unattached singles are predominantly male, while single parents are primarily female.

Access to data

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

1. Total number of 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. Single households by gender;
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).
- Beneficiaries whose gender option is neither male nor female are labeled as “X.”
- Data on disability-specific benefits to IS recipients, such as the Personal Care Allowance, was not available because the benefits are provided by NL Health 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.
- Click here for [more information about how the data is gathered](#).



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 2023-24 fiscal year, on average, there were 1,922 cases (families and single adults) and 2,670 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in the Northwest Territories' Income Assistance Program. While the number of cases increased modestly by 1.7 per cent, the number of beneficiaries decreased by 0.7 per cent.

From 2001-02 to 2005-06, both the number of cases and beneficiaries declined. This was followed by 15 years of gradual increases, until a sharp decline in 2020-21 and 2021-22. In 2022-23, both cases and beneficiaries saw a significant increase. However, in 2023-24, cases rose while the number of beneficiaries decreased.

On average, 626 cases, or 33 per cent, accessed the disabled allowance under the Income Assistance Program in 2023-24. The number of cases increased modestly by 0.3 per cent 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 2023-24

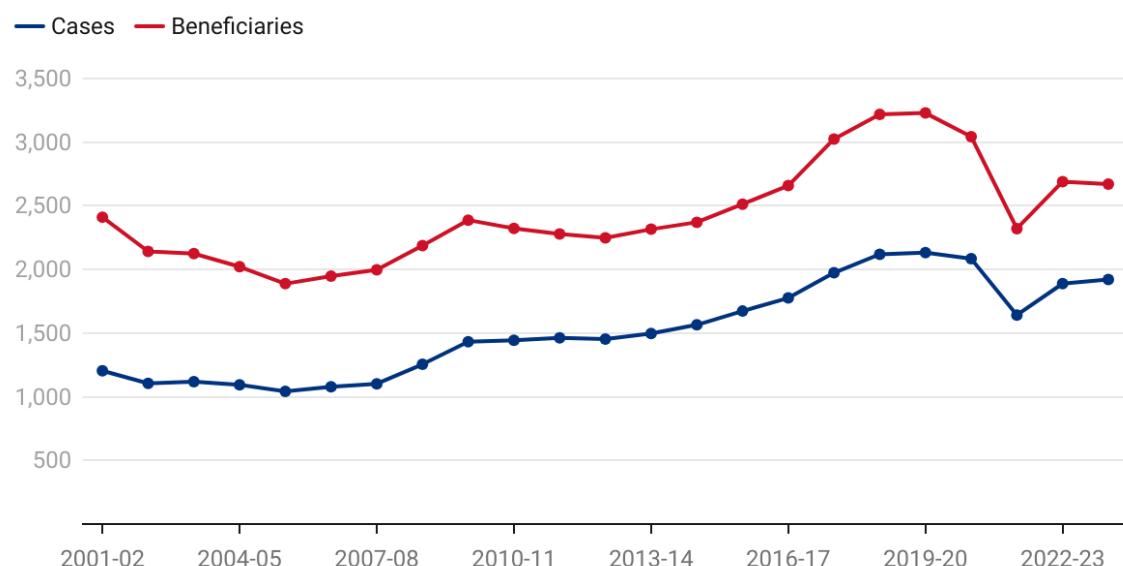
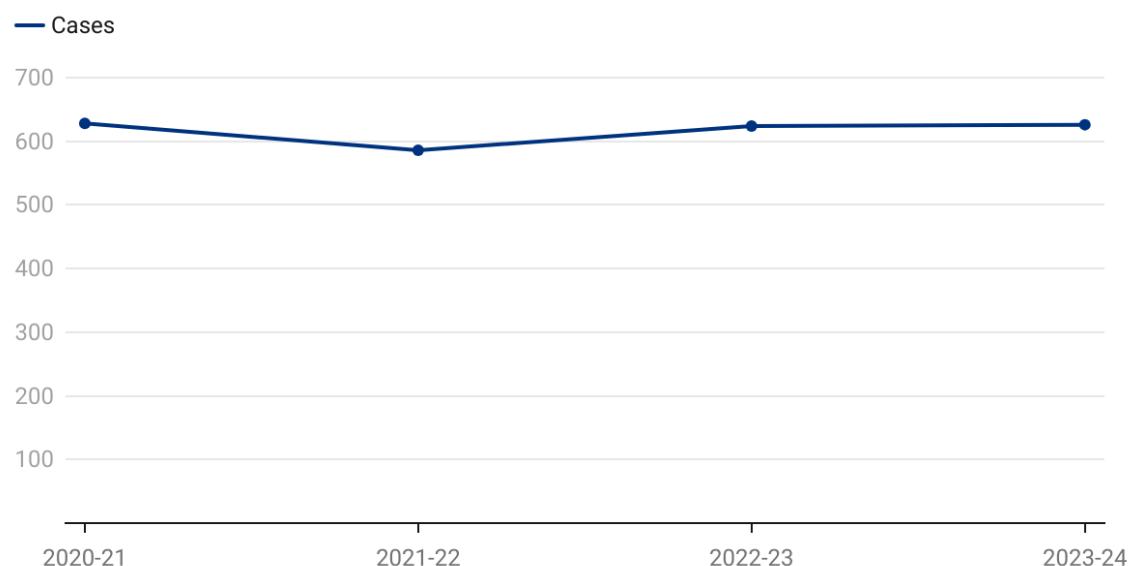


Figure 2NT: Yearly cases of the disabled allowance under Income Assistance in the Northwest Territories, 2020-21 to 2023-24



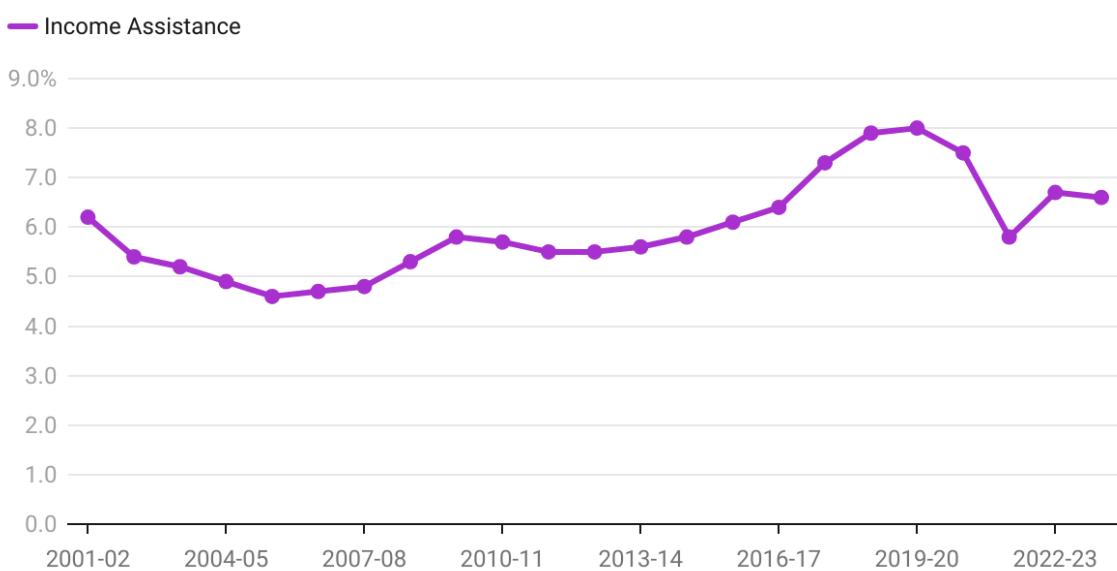
What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2023-24, on average, 6.6 per cent of people in Northwest Territories under 65 received Income Assistance, which is about one in 15.

After reaching a low of 4.6 per cent in 2005-06, the proportion of recipients gradually increased to a peak of 8 per cent in 2019-20. It then declined to 5.8 per cent in 2020-21 and 2021-22, before rising again to 6.7 per cent in 2022-23. In 2023-24, the proportion experienced a slight decline.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of the fiscal year (e.g., July 1, 2023, for 2023-24), 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 2023-24



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 disaggregated data on cases and beneficiaries by household type, and cases receiving employment income.

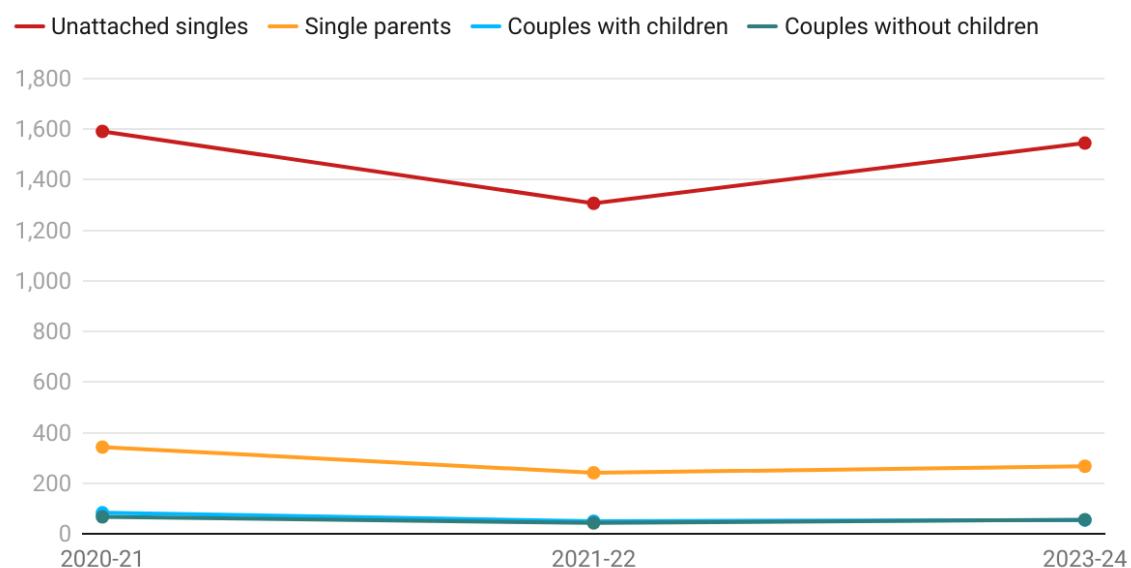
Household type

In 2023-24, on average, unattached single households were the majority among both cases and beneficiaries of Income Assistance in the Northwest Territories, representing 1,545 (80 per cent of cases and 58 per cent of beneficiaries). Single parents had the second highest percentages, with 267 cases (almost 14 per cent) and 767 beneficiaries (almost 30 per cent).

Data on cases by household type was not available for the disabled allowance under Income Assistance for the year 2023-24.

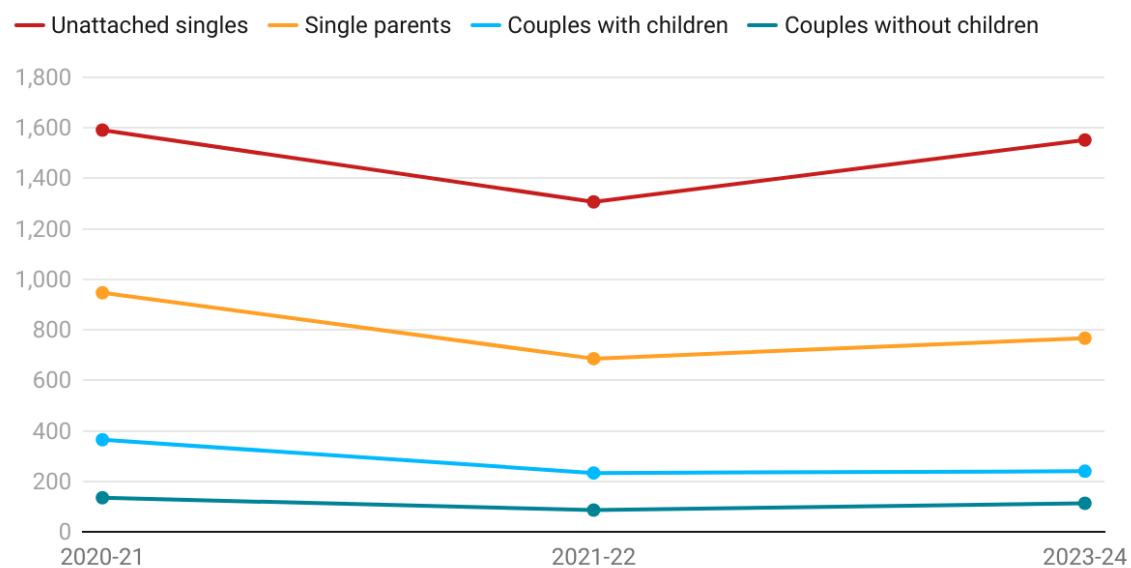
Figure 4NT: Cases and beneficiaries of Income Assistance by household in the Northwest Territories, 2020-21 and 2023-24

Cases



Note: Data on cases and beneficiaries of Income Assistance by household type was not available for the year 2022-23.

Beneficiaries



Note: Data on cases and beneficiaries of Income Assistance by household type was not available for the year 2022-23.

Employment income

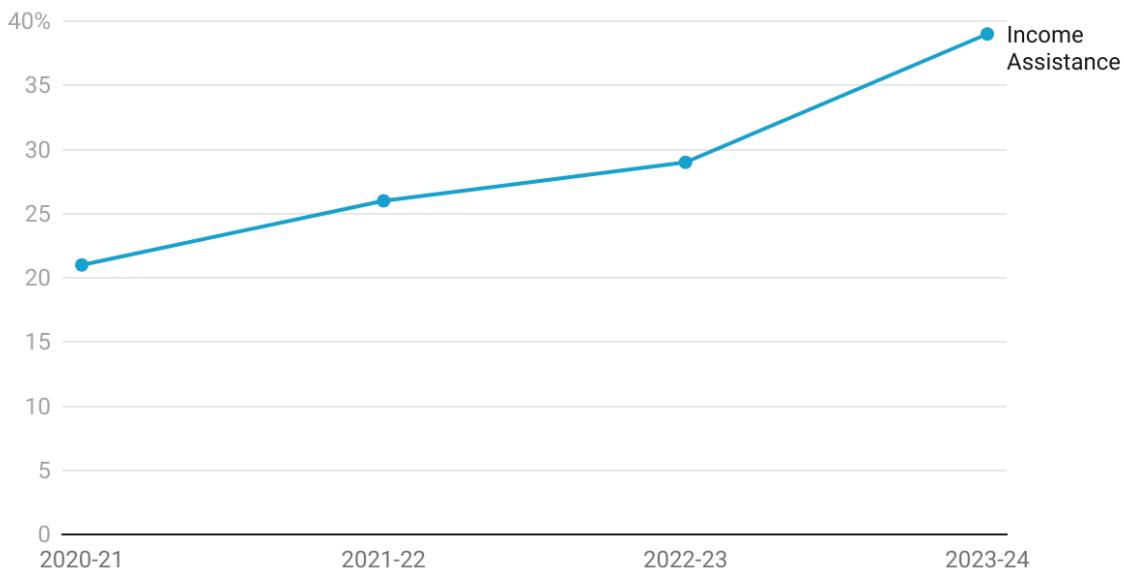
In the Northwest Territories, employment income is referred to as “earned income,” and includes any income coming from:

- 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 2023-24, on average, 39 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 5NT: Percentage of Income Assistance cases with employment income in the Northwest Territories, 2020-21 to 2023-24



Additional disaggregated data on gender and age is available for download below.

It's important to note that while the gender distribution of Income Assistance is typically balanced between males and females, the gender of single households reveals a more pronounced gender pattern. Typically, unattached singles are predominantly male, while single parents are primarily female.



Access to data

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

1. Total number of 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. Single households by gender;
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 of Income Assistance 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 2023-24 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.

A recipient may be eligible for additional supports if they have a disability or a chronic health condition that prevents their participation in employment. Eligibility is determined through an ESIA Medical Assessment form or by providing other related documentation from a health care professional. Medical documentation



is not required in situations where an applicant or recipient is in receipt of and/or eligible for:

- CPP Disability Benefits
- Long-term Disability benefits from an employer
- Disability Tax Credit
- Workers' Compensation Disability Benefits
- Canada Workers Benefit disability supplement

How many people claim social assistance?

In 2023-24, there were, on average, more than 24,140 cases (families and single adults) and almost 35,260 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) receiving Nova Scotia's Employment Support and Income Assistance (ESIA) program.

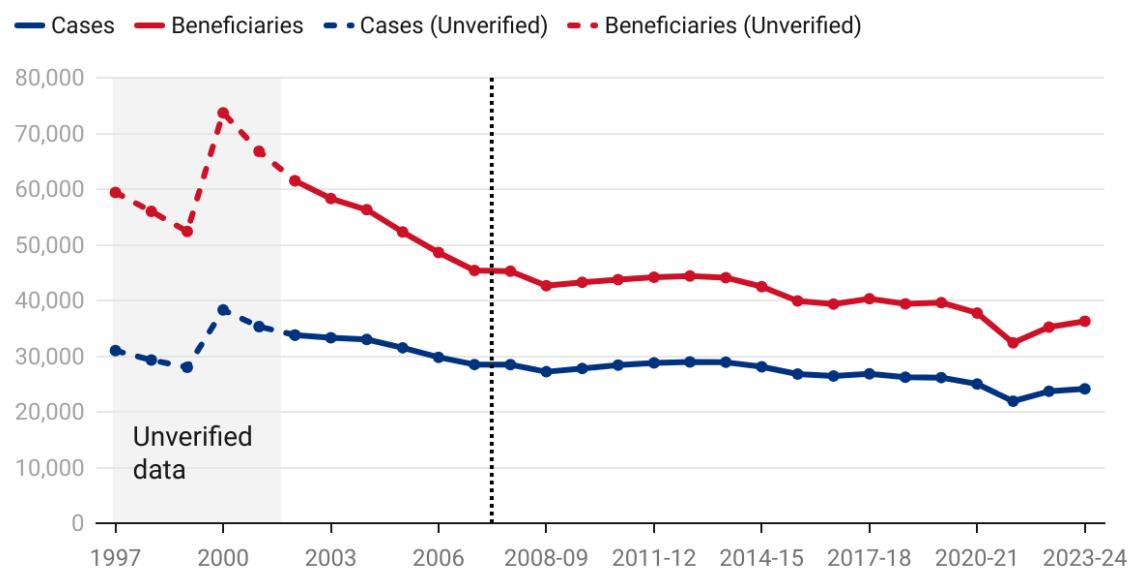
From the previous year, both cases and beneficiaries saw slight increases of about 2 and 3 per cent, respectively. Previously, these numbers fell rapidly during the mid-2000s, then increased slightly after the 2008 financial crisis. After a gradual decline between 2011-12 and 2021-22, 2022-23 saw the first increase in about a decade, and 2023-24 followed the trend with a modest increase from the previous year.

Among ESIA recipients, almost 48 per cent of cases (11,572) and about 39 per cent of beneficiaries (14,002) were in the "Disability" case category. Like ESIA overall, cases and beneficiaries in the "Disability" case category also slightly increased in 2023-24, at under 1 per cent for cases and at 1.5 per cent for 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.

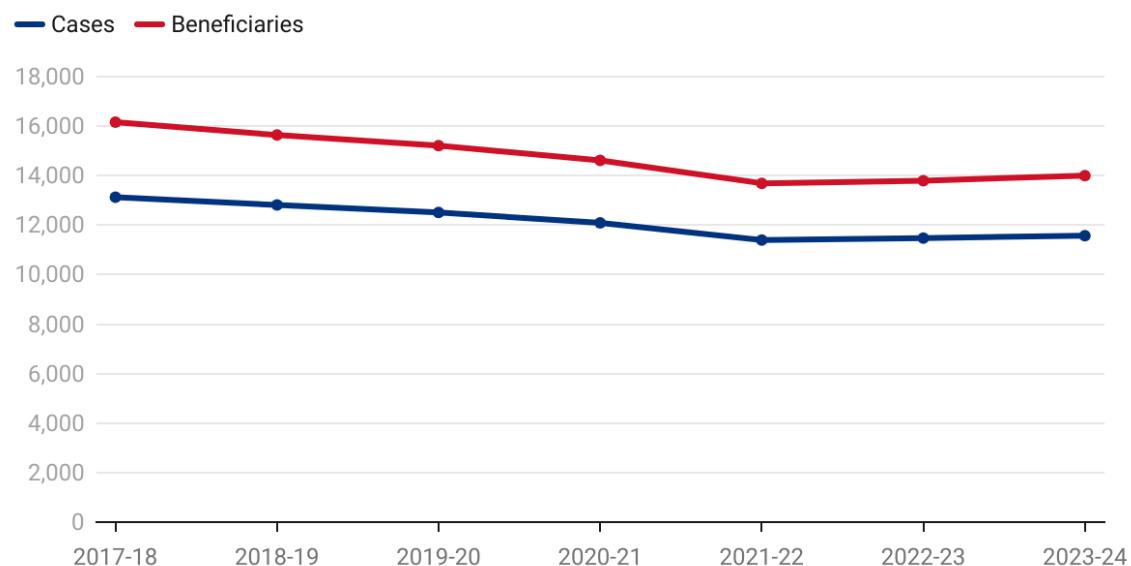
To access data on cases and beneficiaries of social assistance in Nova Scotia, including disaggregated data, [download the spreadsheet here](#).

Figure 1NS – Yearly cases and beneficiaries of ESIA in Nova Scotia, 1997 to 2023-24



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 2023-24

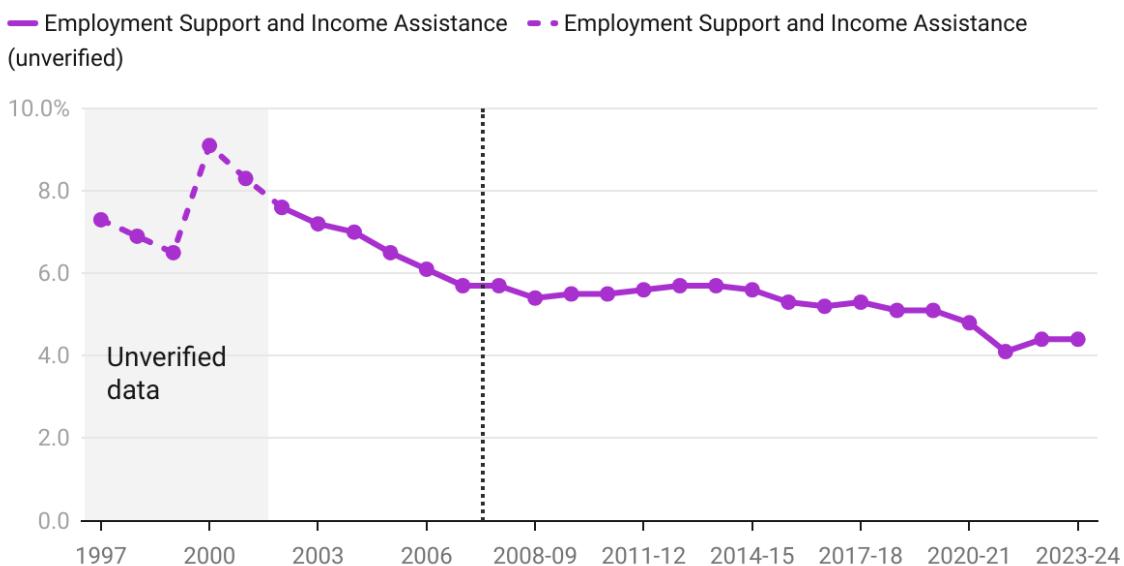


What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2023-24, on average, 4.4 per cent of people in Nova Scotia under 65 received ESIA, which is 1 in 23. The proportion decreased gradually from 2002, 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, it rose to 4.4 per cent in 2022-23 and remained at that level in 2023-24.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of the fiscal year (e.g., July 1, 2023, for 2023-24), 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 2023-24



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 disaggregated data on cases and beneficiaries by household type, and cases receiving employment income.

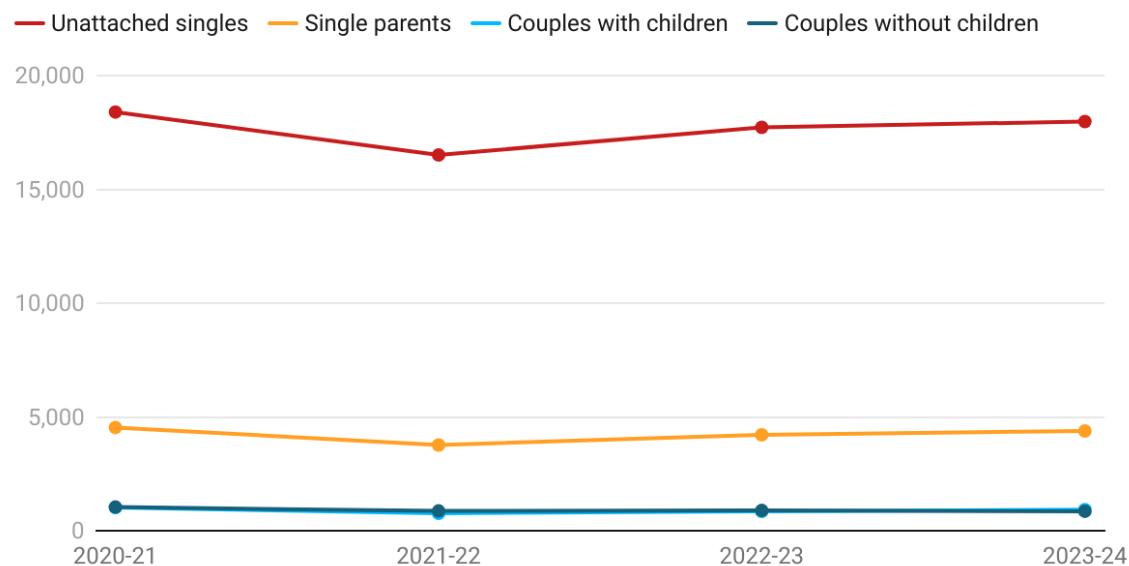
Household type

In 2023-24, on average, the majority of both cases and beneficiaries of ESIA were unattached single households representing 17,978 (about 75 per cent and almost 50 per cent, respectively). Single parent households were second for both representing 4,382 cases (almost 18 per cent of cases) and 12,371 beneficiaries (34 per cent of beneficiaries).

Similarly, on average in 2023-24, the majority of both cases and beneficiaries of ESIA in the “Disability” case category were unattached single households representing 10,025 (almost 87 per cent and about 72 per cent, respectively). Single parent households were second for both representing 864 (7.5 per cent of cases) and 2,203 (about 16 per cent of beneficiaries).

Figure 4NS – Cases and beneficiaries of ESIA by household in Nova Scotia, 2020-21 to 2023-24

Cases



Note: The lines for the variables “Couples with children” and “Couples without Children” overlap, as they have similar values across the data points.

Beneficiaries

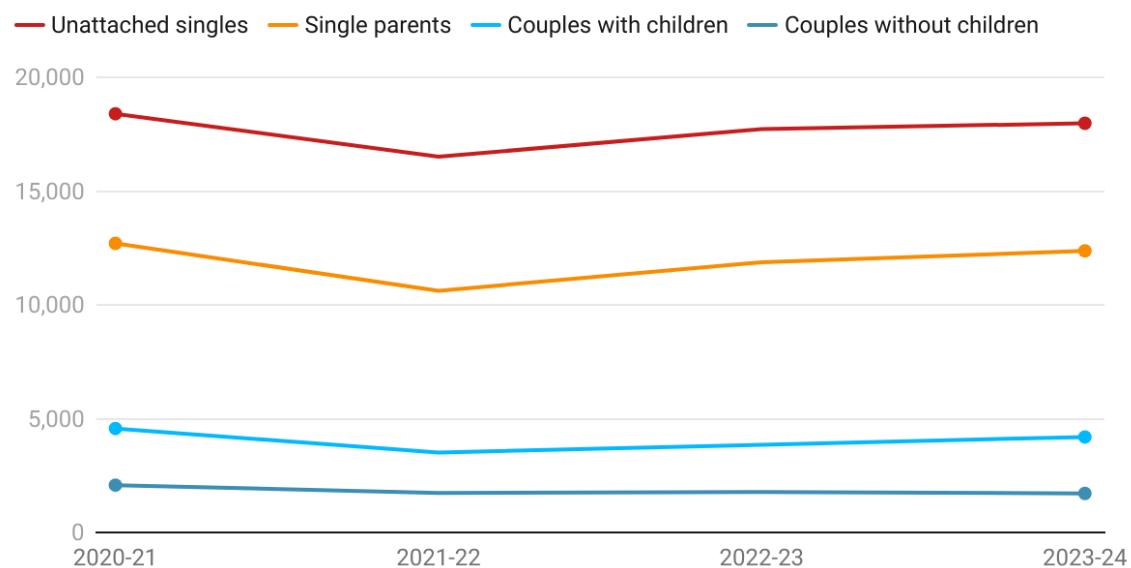
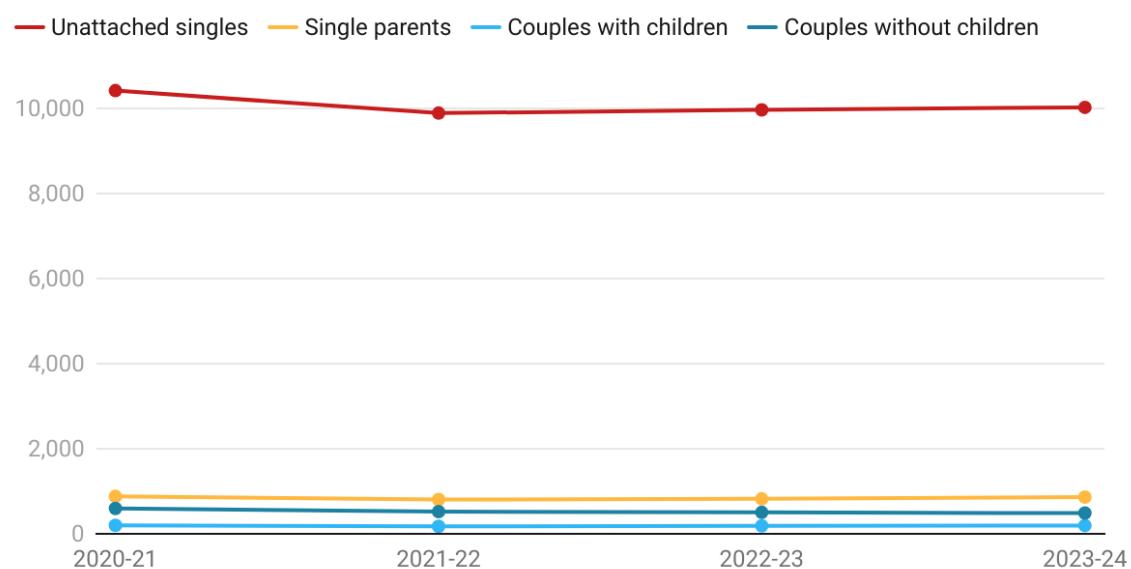
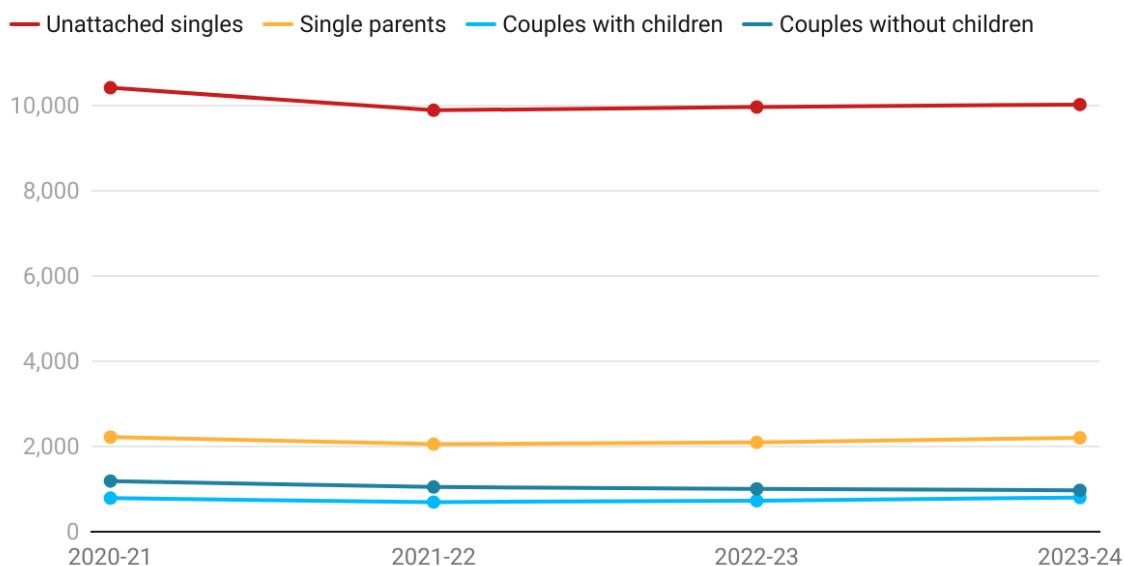


Figure 5NS – Cases and beneficiaries of ESIA in the “Disability” case category by household in Nova Scotia, 2020-21 to 2023-24

Cases



Beneficiaries

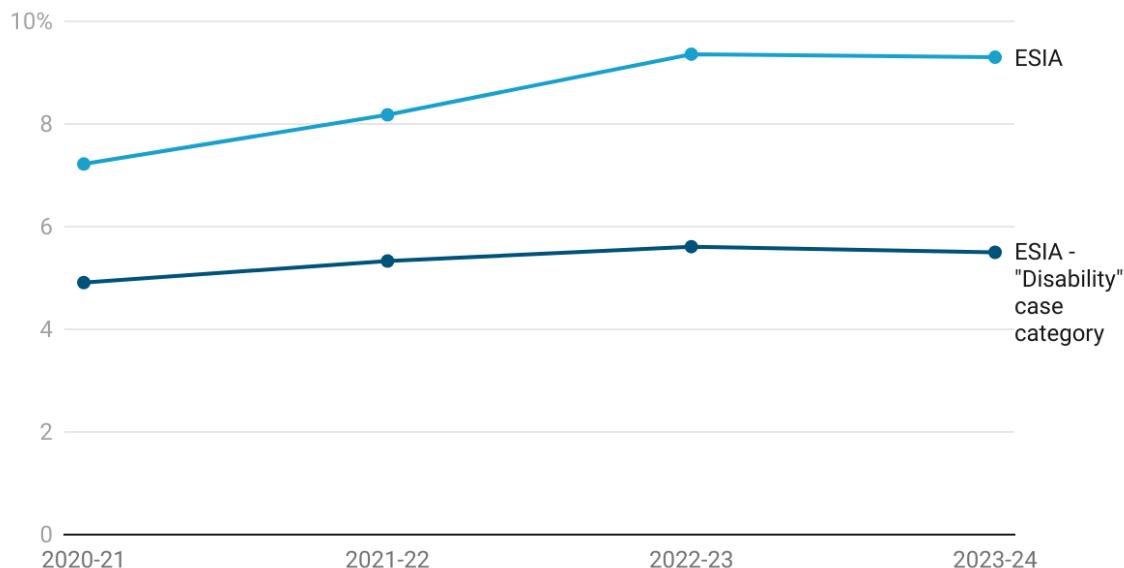


Employment income

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 2023-24, on average, 9.3 per cent of ESIA cases had employment income. ESIA cases in the “Disability” case category were less likely to have employment income at 5.5 per cent. Both numbers had a slight drop from the previous year.

Figure 6NS: Percentage of ESIA and ESIA “Disability” case category cases with employment income in Nova Scotia, 2020-21 to 2023-24





Additional disaggregated data on gender and age is available for download below.

It's important to note that while the gender distribution of ESIA and ESIA "Disability" is typically balanced between males and females, the gender of single households reveals a more pronounced gender pattern. Typically, unattached singles are predominantly male, while single parents are primarily female.

Access to data

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

1. Total number of 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. Single households by gender;
6. Adults 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.
- Click here for [more information about how the data is gathered](#).



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?

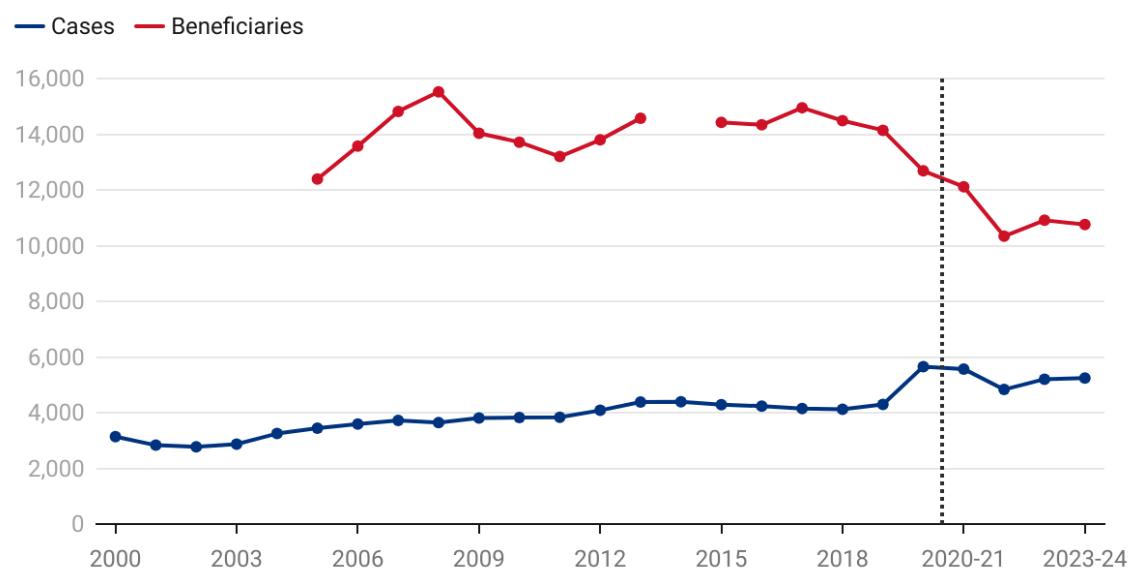
In the 2023-24 fiscal year, on average, there were 5,244 cases (family units and unattached single adults) and 10,757 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in Nunavut's Income Assistance program. The number of cases had a small increase of 41 cases (0.8 per cent) while beneficiaries decreased by 152 (1.4 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, 684 cases were persons with a disability who also received incidental allowance. This number increased by 20, or 3 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.

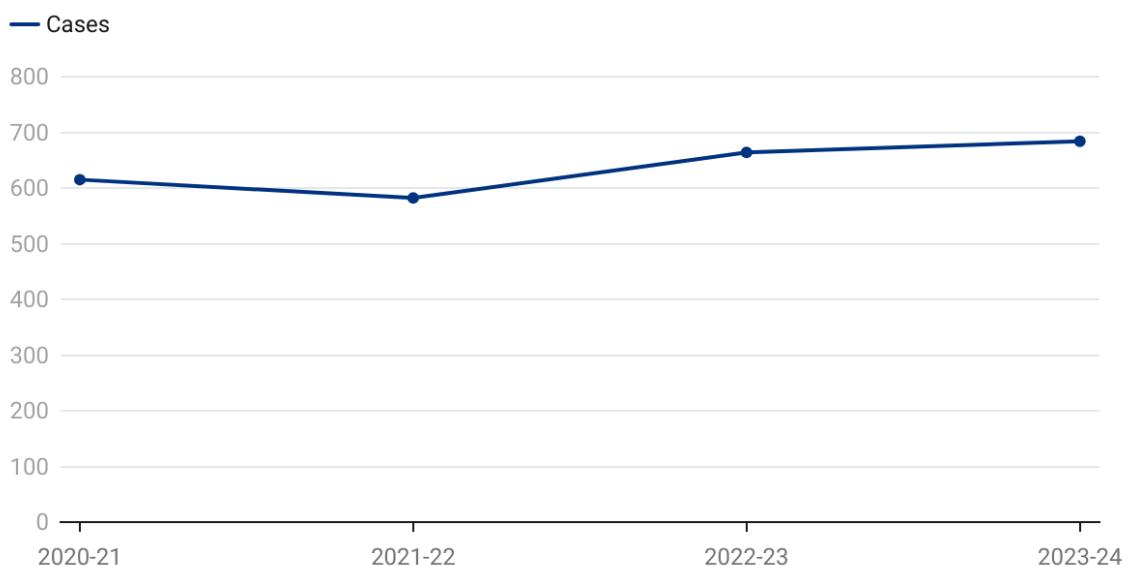
Figure 1NU: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Income Assistance in Nunavut, 2000 to 2023-24



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 of disability-related incidental allowance under Income Assistance in Nunavut, 2020-21 to 2023-24

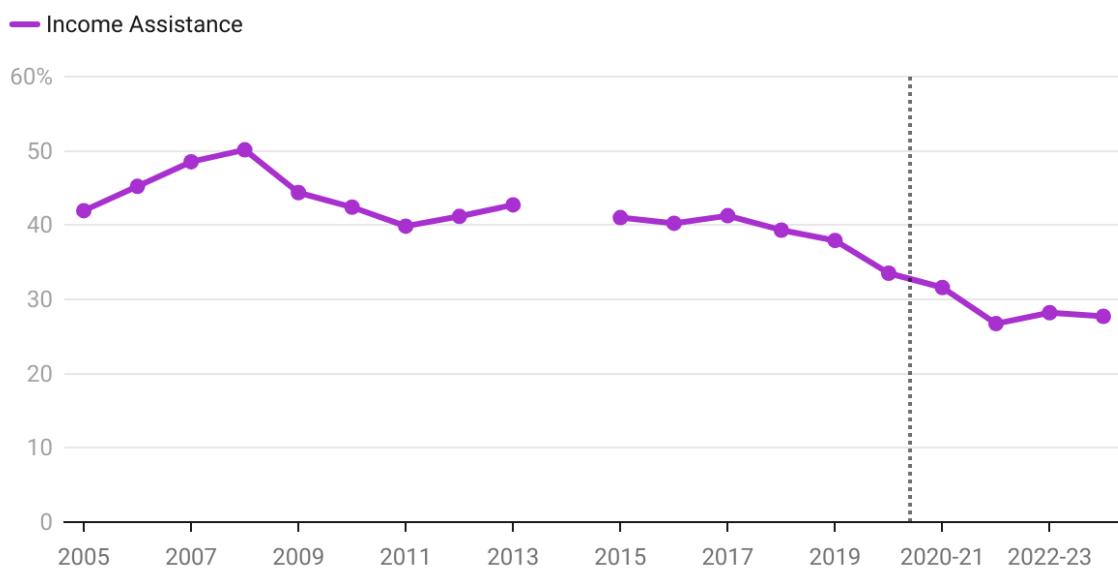


What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2023-24, on average, 27.7 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. After increasing for the first time in six years in 2022-23, it decreased by 1.7 per cent this year.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of the fiscal year (e.g., July 1, 2023, for 2023-24), whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April 1 to March 31) from 2020-21 onward, and a calendar year average (January 1 to December 31) from 2005 to 2020.

Figure 3NU: Yearly beneficiaries of Income Assistance as a proportion of the under-65 population in Nunavut, 2005 to 2023-24



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 disaggregated data on cases and beneficiaries by household type, and cases receiving employment income.

Household type

In 2023-24, on average, the majority of Income Assistance cases in Nunavut were unattached singles, representing about 59 per cent. Single parents were the second largest household with about 24 per cent of cases.

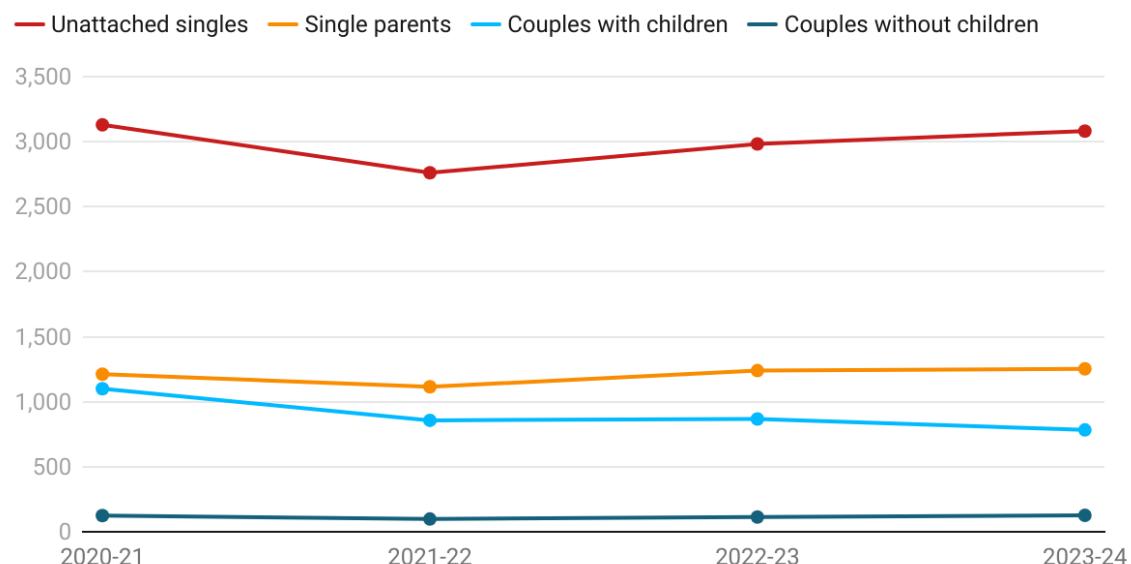
Single parent households were on average the highest proportion of Income Assistance beneficiaries in 2023-24 with 35 per cent, followed by couples with children with 34.5 per cent, then unattached singles with 28 per cent.

Among those who received disability-related incidental allowance under Income Assistance in 2023-24, on average, the largest number of cases were unattached

singles representing over 73 per cent, followed by single parents, representing 11 per cent of cases.

Figure 4NU: Cases and beneficiaries of Income Assistance by household in Nunavut, 2020-21 to 2023-24

Cases



Beneficiaries

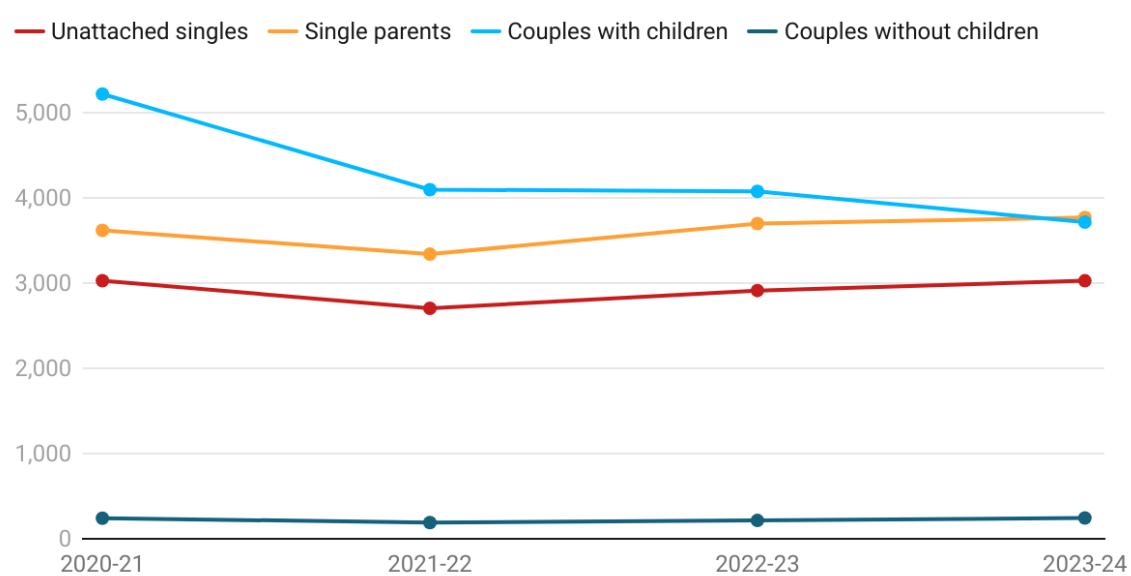
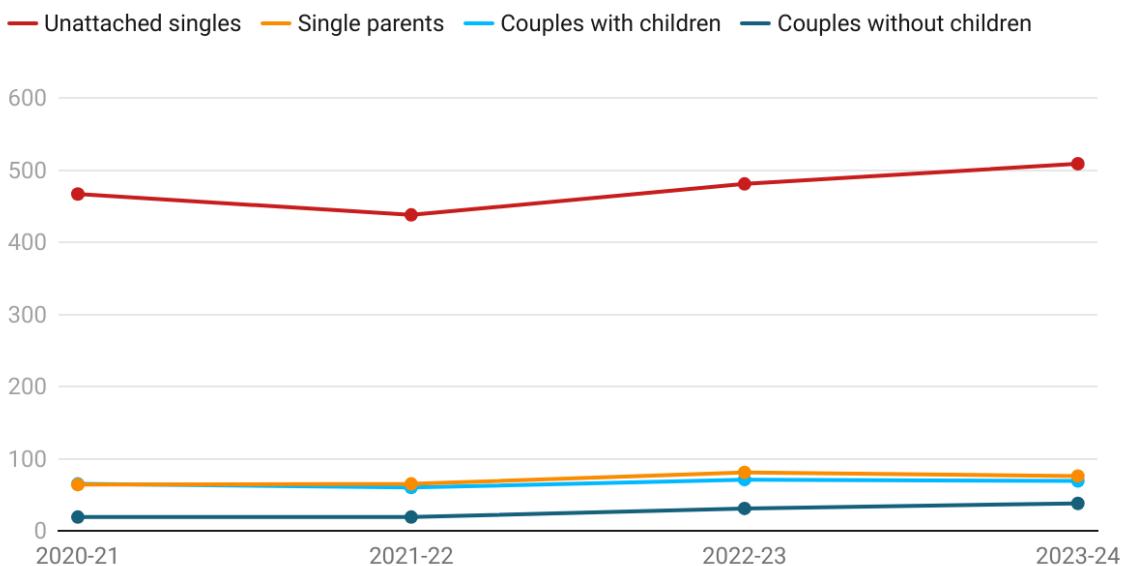


Figure 5NU: Cases of disability-related incidental allowance under Income Assistance by household in Nunavut, 2020-21 to 2023-24

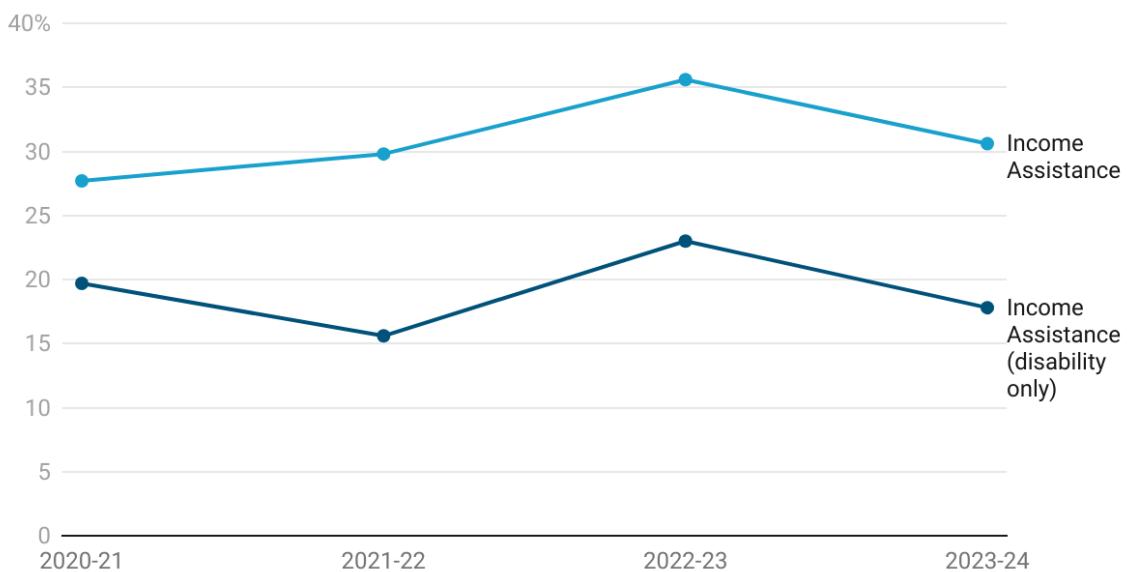


Employment income

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 2023-24, on average, just over 30 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 17.8 per cent, representing a decrease from last year.

Figure 6NU: Percentage of Income Assistance cases and Income Assistance cases receiving disability-related incidental allowance with employment income in Nunavut, 2020-21 to 2023-24



Additional disaggregated data on gender and age is available for download below.

It's important to note that while the gender distribution of Income Assistance and disability-related incidental allowance under Income Assistance are typically balanced between males and females, the gender of single households reveals a more pronounced gender pattern. Typically, unattached singles are predominantly male, while single parents are primarily female.

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. Single households by gender;
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).
- Income Assistance (disability only) refers to Income Assistance recipients with a disability who also receive the incidental allowance. Note that incidental allowance is delivered to individuals not households, thus only cases are included.
- 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.
- Click here for [more information about how the data is gathered](#).



Ontario

Ontario'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 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 2023-24, there were, on average, 613,298 cases (families and single adults) and 916,947 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in Ontario's social assistance programs.

Among the cases, 40 per cent (245,246) were recipients of Ontario Works and 60 per cent (368,052) were recipients of ODSP. And among the beneficiaries, 46 per cent (420,592) were recipients of Ontario Works and 54 per cent (496,355) were recipients of ODSP.

The total number of social assistance cases increased by 27,831 and the beneficiaries increased by 34,617 in 2023-24. These increases in recipients came from Ontario Works (cases and beneficiaries) and from ODSP cases.

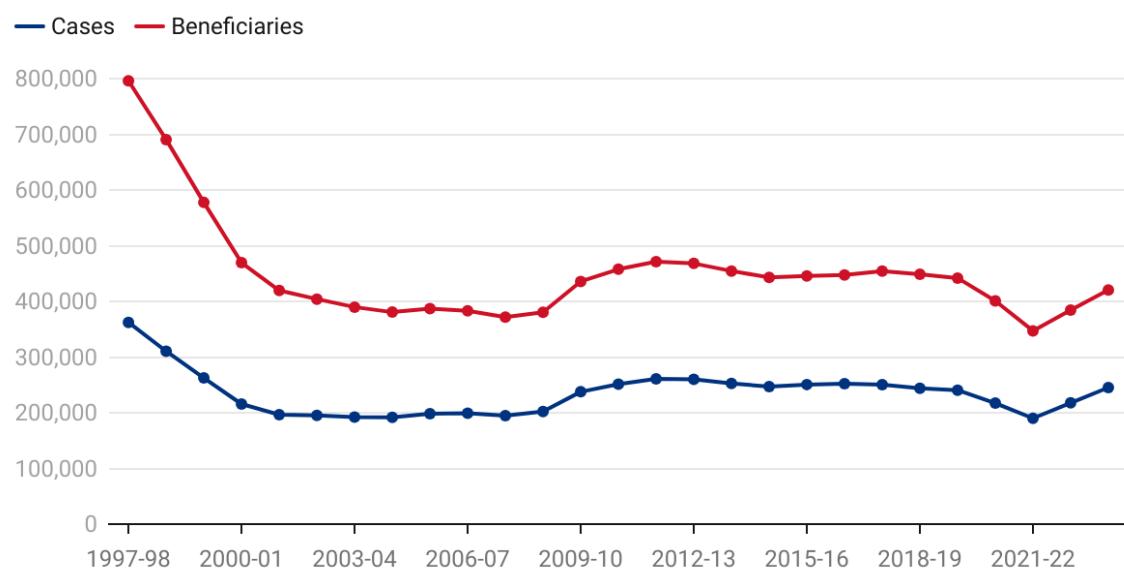
To access data on cases and beneficiaries of social assistance in Ontario, including disaggregated data, [download the spreadsheet here](#).

Ontario Works

On average, there were 245,246 cases receiving Ontario Works in 2023-24, a sharp increase of almost 28,000 from 2022-23. The number of beneficiaries also increased to about 420,600 in 2023-24, over 36,000 more than in the previous year.

The number of cases and beneficiaries, on average, increased by 12.7 and 9.5 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.

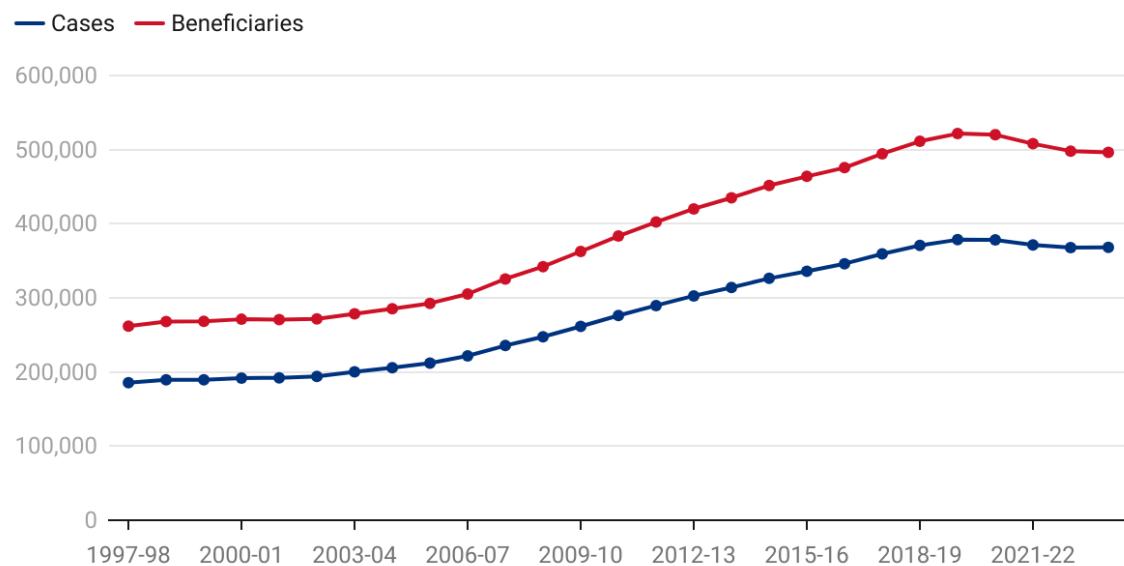
Figure 1ON: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Ontario Works, 1997-98 to 2023-24



Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

In 2023-24, there were, on average, 368,052 cases and 496,355 beneficiaries receiving ODSP. After steadily rising since the early 2000s, both numbers decreased between 2020-21 and 2022-23. From the previous year, the number of cases increased 0.1 per cent by 224 while beneficiaries, on average, decreased 0.3 per cent by about 1,700.

Figure 2ON: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of ODSP, 1997-98 to 2023-24



What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

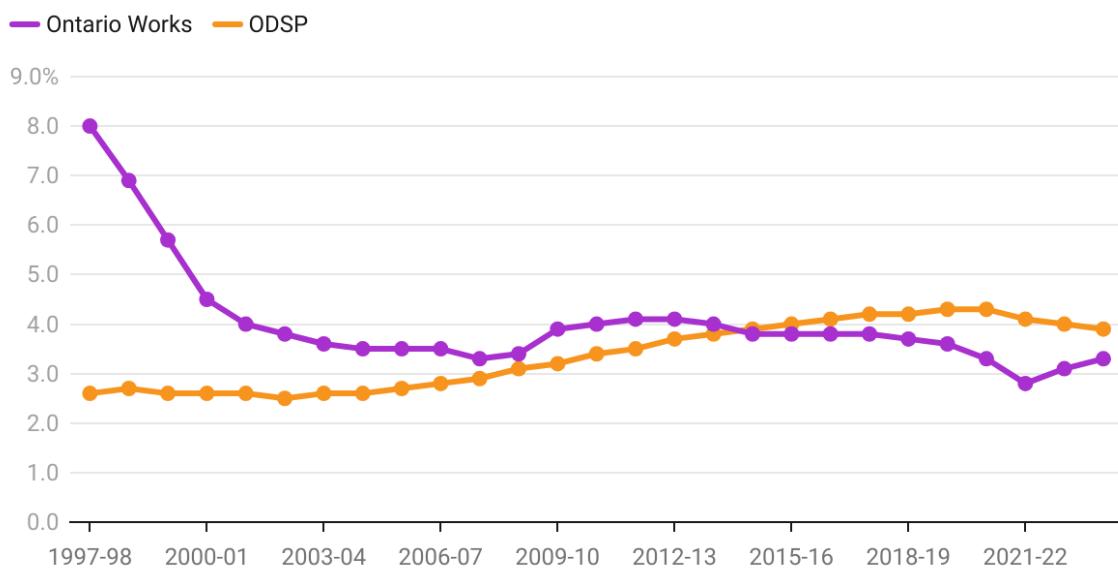
In 2023-24, on average, 7.2 per cent of people in Ontario under 65 received Ontario Works or ODSP, which is about 1 in 14.

The proportion of people under 65 receiving ODSP decreased to 3.9 per cent in 2023-24, the fourth year in a row the number decreased. 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 declined sharply from 8 per cent in 1997-98 to 4 per cent in 2001-02. Since then, it has remained within a range of 2.9 to 4.1 per cent. In 2021-22, the proportion reached its lowest point at 2.9 per cent, but it increased in both 2022-23 and 2023-24, rising to 3.3 per cent.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of the fiscal year (e.g., July 1, 2023, for 2023-24), whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April 1 to March 31).

Figure 3ON: Yearly beneficiaries of Ontario Works and ODSP as a proportion of the under-65 population of Ontario, 1997-98 to 2023-24



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 disaggregated data on cases and beneficiaries by household type, and cases receiving employment income.

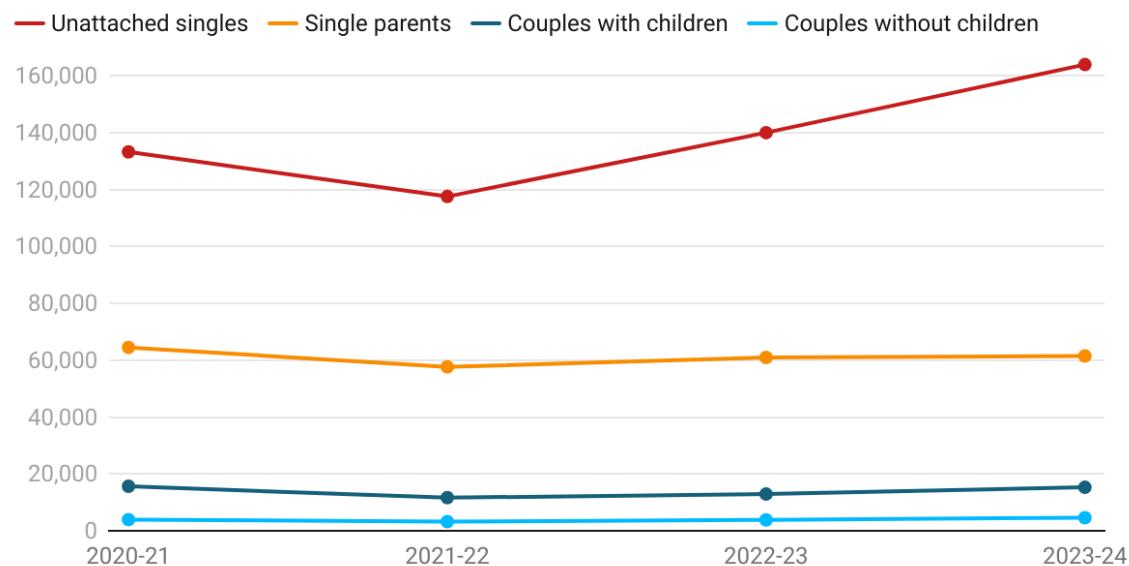
Household type

In 2023-24, on average, unattached singles comprised the majority of social assistance cases among households for both programs, representing 163,878 (67 per cent) of Ontario Works and 296,780 (81 per cent) of ODSP. For both programs, single parents were the second largest percentage of cases, representing 61,464 (25 per cent) for Ontario Works and 32,918 (9 per cent) for ODSP.

For Ontario Works, single parent households had the highest proportion of beneficiaries, on average, representing 178,794 (about 43 per cent) followed by unattached singles, representing 39 per cent. Unattached singles comprised the majority of ODSP beneficiaries, representing 296,780 (60 per cent), followed by single parent households, representing 85,946 (over 17 per cent).

Figure 4ON: Cases and beneficiaries of Ontario Works by household, 2020-21 to 2023-24

Cases



Beneficiaries

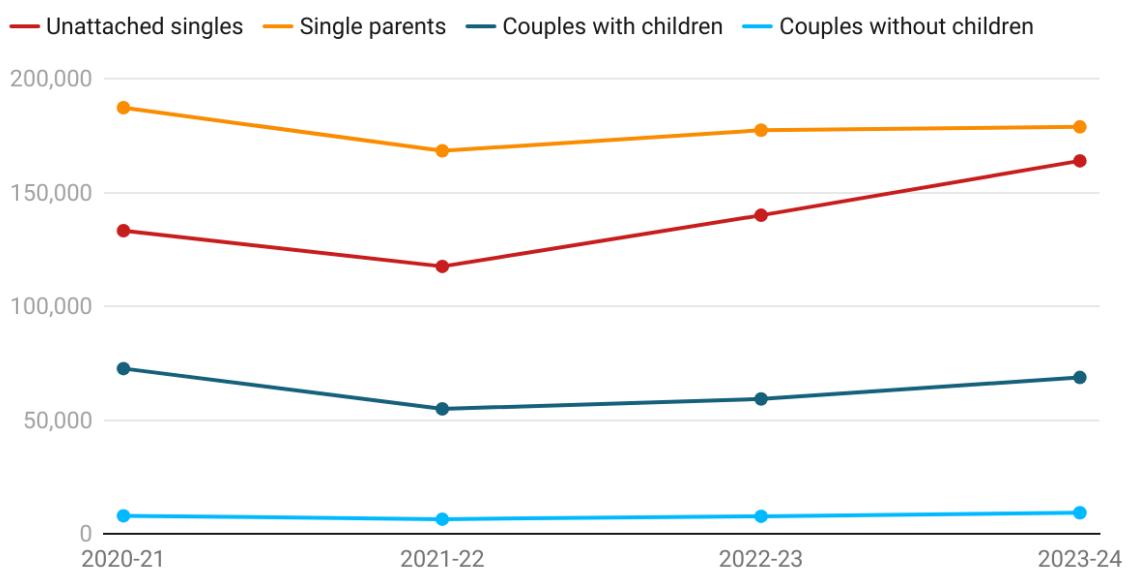
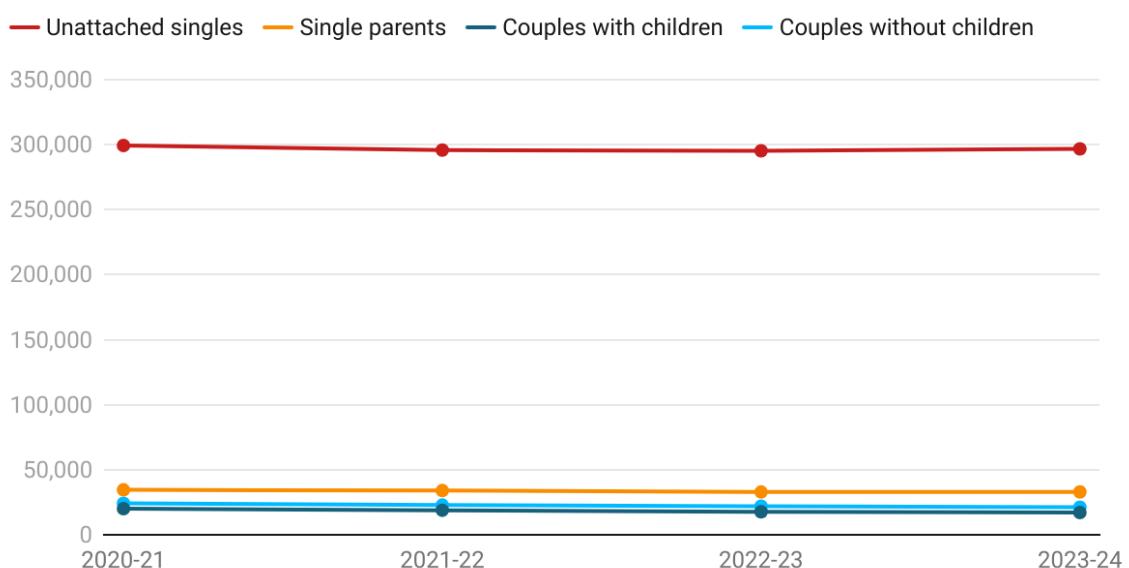
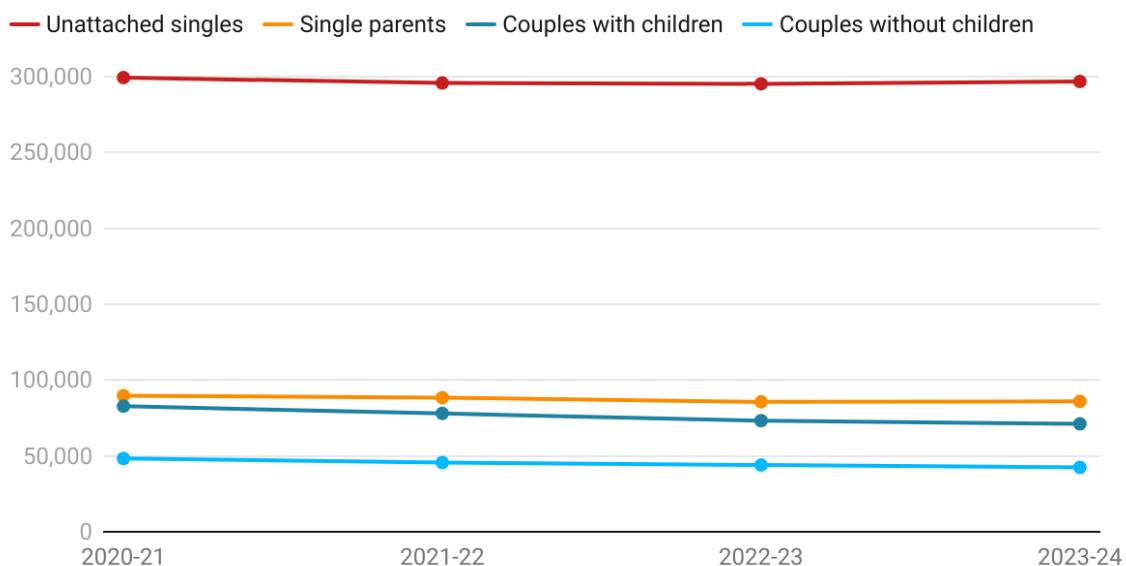


Figure 5ON: Cases and beneficiaries of ODSP by household, 2020-21 to 2023-24

Cases



Beneficiaries



Employment income

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

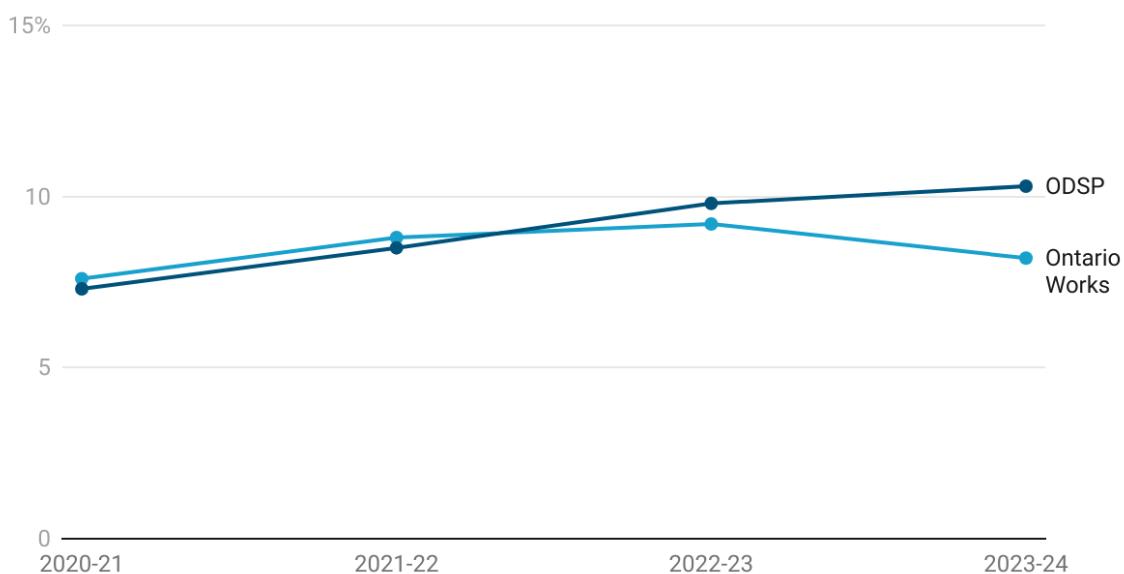
For individuals receiving assistance from Ontario Works and ODSP, recipients are required to report any earnings they or their family members receive during a specific reporting period. The reported income can impact the amount of financial assistance they receive in the following month.

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 2023-24, on average, 8.2 per cent of Ontario Works cases had employment income. Cases receiving ODSP are more likely to have employment income at 10.3 per cent. ODSP numbers have steadily increased since 2020-21, while OW numbers dropped in 2023-24 compared to last year.

Figure 6ON: Percentage of Ontario Works and ODSP cases with employment income, 2020-21 to 2023-24



Additional disaggregated data on gender and age is available for download below.

It's important to note that while the sex distribution of Ontario Works and ODSP are typically balanced between males and females, the sex of single households reveals a more pronounced gender pattern. Typically, unattached singles are predominantly male, while single parents are primarily female.

Access to data

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

1. Total number of cases and beneficiaries;
2. Percentage of beneficiaries relative to the total under-65 population;
3. Cases and beneficiaries by household type;
4. Cases and beneficiaries by sex;
5. Single households by sex;
6. Adults 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.
- Click here for [more information about how the data is gathered](#).



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 accommodation type. Assistance may include help with food and shelter costs, personal expenses, medical, optical care, and funeral costs.

Legislation mandates an annual review of social assistance rates. Since 2019, over \$40 million has been invested in social assistance and other social programs. The Social Programs Division has a number of policies focused on supporting clients in their transition to employment.

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 help to better understand how disability affects activities of daily living to ensure appropriate support is provided.



A review of the AAS Program is underway to determine if it is supporting Islanders living with disabilities to access the supports they need to reach their full potential.

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.

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 5,685 cases (family units and unattached single adults) receiving social assistance in Prince Edward Island during the 2023-24 fiscal

year. Among the cases, 57 per cent (3,228) received Social Assistance and 43 per cent (2,457) received AccessAbility Supports (AAS).

Social Assistance had just over 5,300 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children).

The total number of cases increased, on average, by 371 in 2023-24. This increase came from both programs, with 51 per cent (191) coming from Social Assistance and 49 per cent (180) coming from AAS.

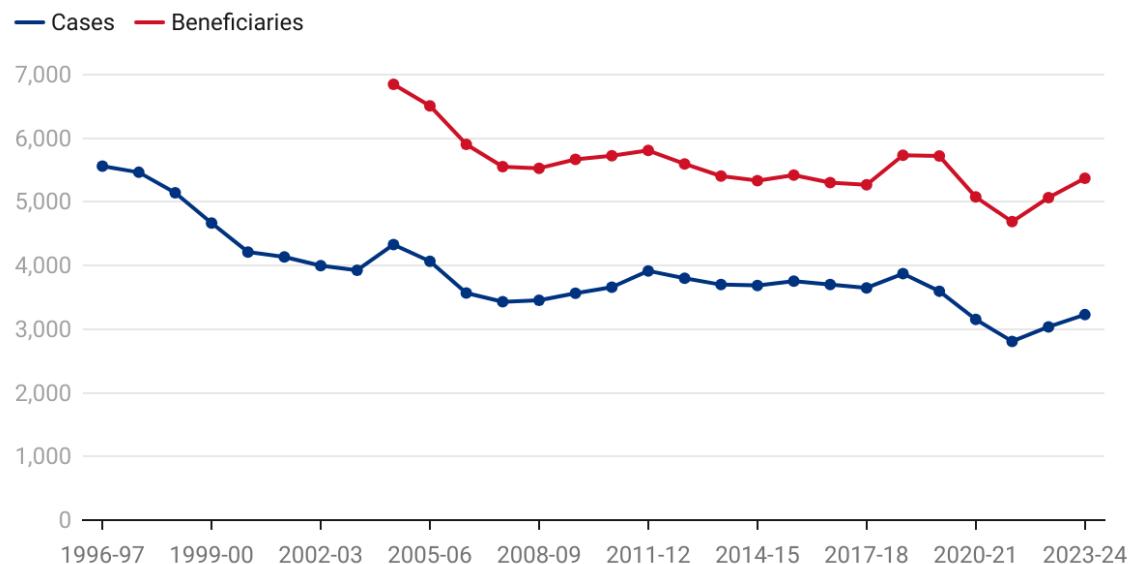
To access data on cases and beneficiaries of social assistance in Prince Edward Island, including disaggregated data, [download the spreadsheet here](#).

Social Assistance Program

On average, there were over 3,200 cases and 5,300 beneficiaries in Prince Edward Island's Social Assistance Program during 2023-24. Both numbers increased by about 6 per cent from the previous year.

Over the long term, these numbers fell in the late 1990s and early 2000s and have since stabilized, apart from a brief dip during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 1PE: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Social Assistance in Prince Edward Island, 1996-97 to 2023-24



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

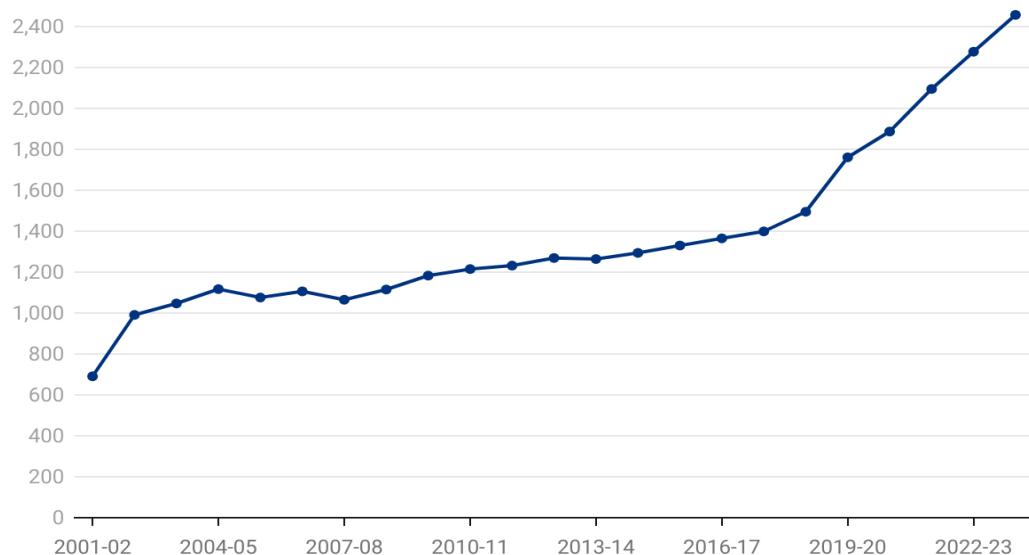
Note 2: For the year 2019-20, beneficiary figures are for March 2020 and not the fiscal year average.

AccessAbility Supports

In 2023-24, on average, over 2,400 cases received support through AAS.

The number of cases has risen gradually since its introduction in 2001-02, with on average nearly 8 per cent (180) more cases in 2023-24 compared to the previous year.

Figure 2PE: Yearly cases of AAS in Prince Edward Island, 2001-02 to 2023-24



What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

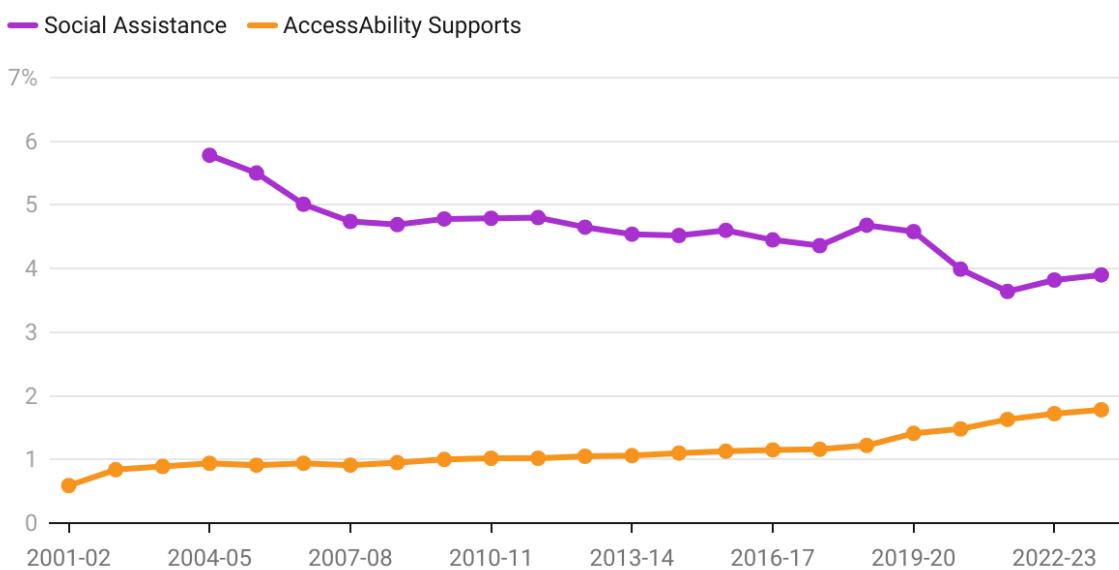
In 2023-24, on average, 5.7 per cent of people in Prince Edward Island under 65 received the Social Assistance Program or AccessAbility Supports, which is 1 in 18.

The proportion of Social Assistance beneficiaries has decreased over time from a high of 5.8 per cent to a low of 3.6 per cent in 2021-22. Since then, it has increased marginally to 3.9 percent in 2023-24.

The proportion of cases under 65 receiving AAS, on average, has increased slowly over time to 1.8 per cent in 2023-24.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of the fiscal year (e.g., July 1, 2023, for 2023-24), whereas beneficiary (for the Social Assistance Program) and case (for AAS) data is a fiscal year average (April 1 to March 31).

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 2023-24



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 disaggregated data on cases and beneficiaries by household type, and cases receiving employment income.

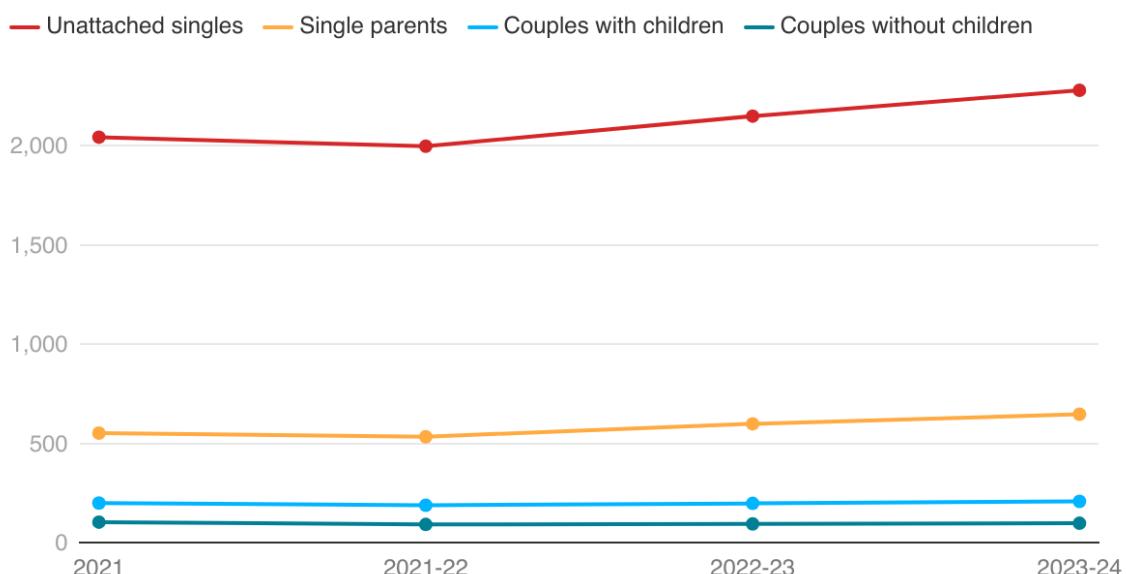
Household type

In 2023-24, 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 2,280 for the Social Assistance Program and over 2,220 for AccessAbility Supports, respectively. On average, single parents had the second largest number of Social Assistance cases, representing just under 650 cases, and couples without children had the second largest number of AccessAbility Supports cases, representing 136 cases.

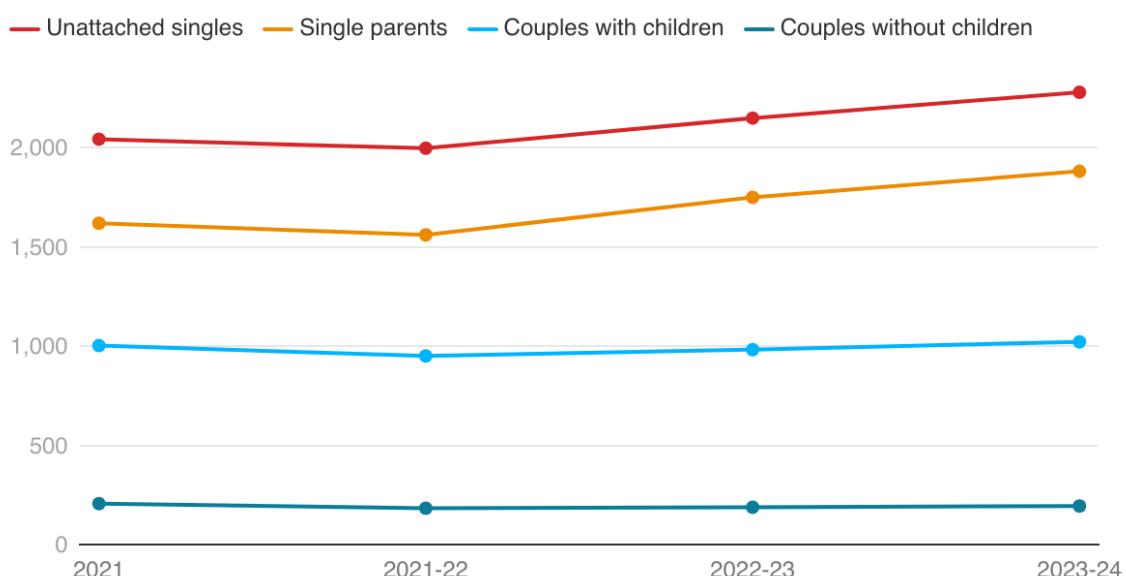
Unattached singles also had, on average, the largest percentage of Social Assistance beneficiaries in 2023-24 (nearly 2,280 beneficiaries), followed by single parent households, representing 1,880 beneficiaries.

Figure 4PE: Cases and beneficiaries of Social Assistance by household in Prince Edward Island, 2021 to 2023-24

Cases

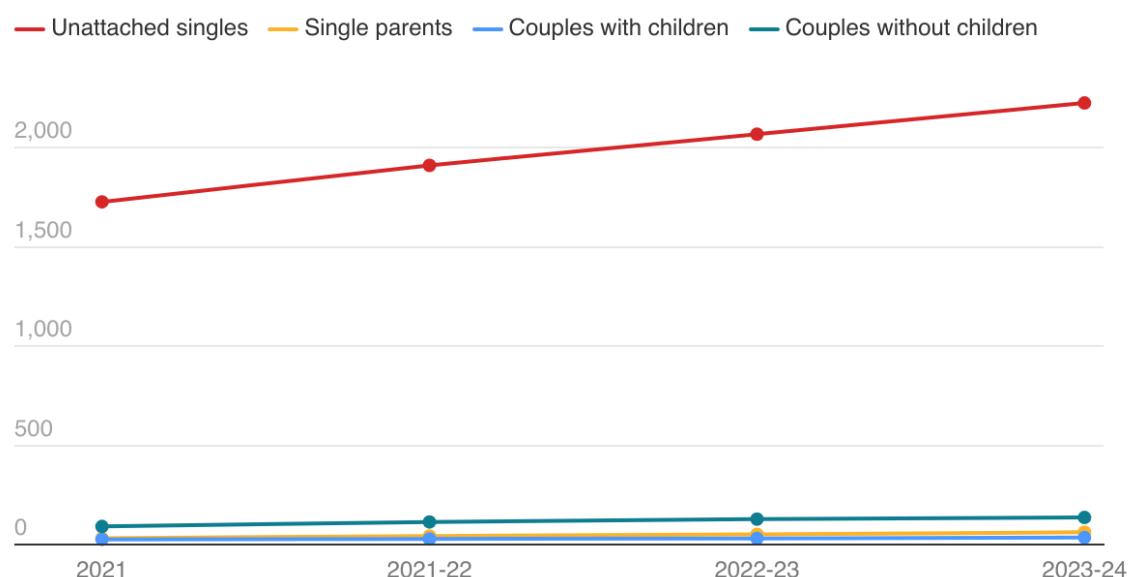


Beneficiaries



Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. All other years are fiscal year averages.

Figure 5PE: Cases of AAS by household in Prince Edward Island, 2021 to 2023-24



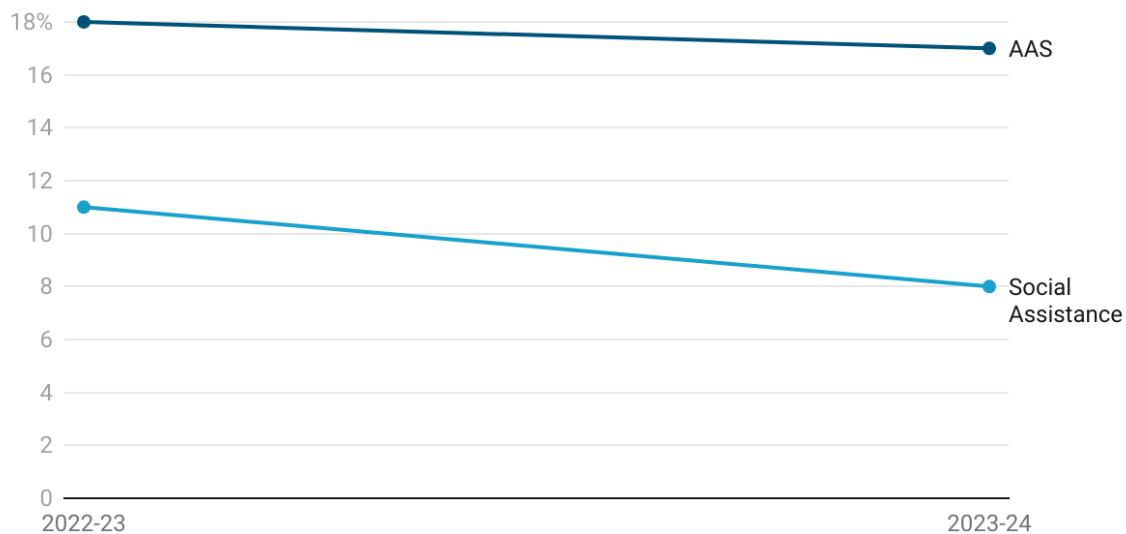
Note: 2021 numbers are for March 31 of that year. All other years are fiscal year averages.

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.

Between 2022-23, approximately 11% of Social Assistance cases reported employment income. This percentage decreased to 8% in 2023-24. The methodology for reporting employment income within the AAS Program has been revised (see Data Notes section) to focus solely on clients receiving Assured Income (AI) supports, rather than including all AAS clients. The 2022-23 figure was revised to account for the new methodology. For AAS Program clients receiving AI supports, the percentage reporting employment income decreased to 17% in 2023-24 from a comparable 18% in 2022-23. Employment income data is unavailable for the 2020-21 and 2021-22.

6PE: Percentage of Social Assistance and AAS cases* with employment income in Prince Edward Island, 2023-24



Note: For this calculation, only AAS Program clients receiving Assured Income (AI) supports were included.

Additional disaggregated data on gender and age is available for download below.

It's important to note that while the gender distribution of Social Assistance and AAS beneficiaries and cases is typically balanced between males and females, the gender of single households reveals a more pronounced gender pattern. Typically, unattached singles are predominantly male, while single parents are primarily female.

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. Single households by gender;
6. Heads of households 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 (by household and gender) for 2020-21 reflects the number of cases and beneficiaries on March 31, 2021. Data from 2021-22 onwards 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 include 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 methodology for reporting employment income within the AccessAbility Supports Program has been revised. In previous years, the percentage of clients with employment income was calculated by dividing the number of clients reporting employment income by the total number of clients on the program. For the 2023-24 period, however, the calculation will now focus solely on clients receiving Assured Income (AI) supports, rather than including all AAS clients. The 2022-23 figure was revised to account for the updated calculation methodology. The AAS program includes child files and files for clients receiving only disability-related supports, where eligibility is determined using line 236. Employment income is recorded exclusively for clients receiving Assured Income.
- The numbers do not include First Nations living on reserves.
- Click here for [more information about how the data is gathered](#).



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

Social Assistance Program (aide sociale)

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

Social Solidarity Program (solidarité sociale)

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



adult must prove their severely limited capacity for employment in order for the family to be eligible for the program.

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?

Before analyzing the data, it’s important to note the following: For the entire dataset, the 2022-23 data was converted from a point-in-time snapshot (March 2023) to a fiscal year average (April 1 to March 31). The only exception to this conversion is the Basic Income Program, where the data reflects an average over the first three months of 2023.

Starting with the 2023-24 data, it reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries for the full fiscal year (April 1 to March 31), with no exceptions. In 2023-24, there were 257,835 cases (family units and unattached single adults) and about 334,676 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in Quebec’s social assistance programs.

Among cases, 2 per cent (5,260) received Aim for Employment, 57 per cent (146,439) received the Social Assistance Program, 10 per cent (24,939) received Social Solidarity, and just under 33 per cent (84,100) received Basic Income.

Among beneficiaries, slightly over 2 per cent (7,440) received Aim for Employment, 63 per cent (211,383) received the Social Assistance Program, slightly over 8 per cent (28,178) received Social Solidarity, and just over 26 per cent (87,675) received Basic Income.

Between 2022-23 and 2023-24, the total number of social assistance cases increased by 12,917, or slightly more than 5 per cent, and the total number of social assistance beneficiaries increased by 14,438, or 4.5 per cent. Among the programs, Aim for Employment and the Social Assistance Program caseloads saw notable increases, while the caseloads of Social Solidarity saw a substantial decrease. Comparisons between the two years for the Basic Income program are limited as 2022-23 numbers are the average of the first three months of 2023, while for 2023-24 the numbers are averaged over the full fiscal year.

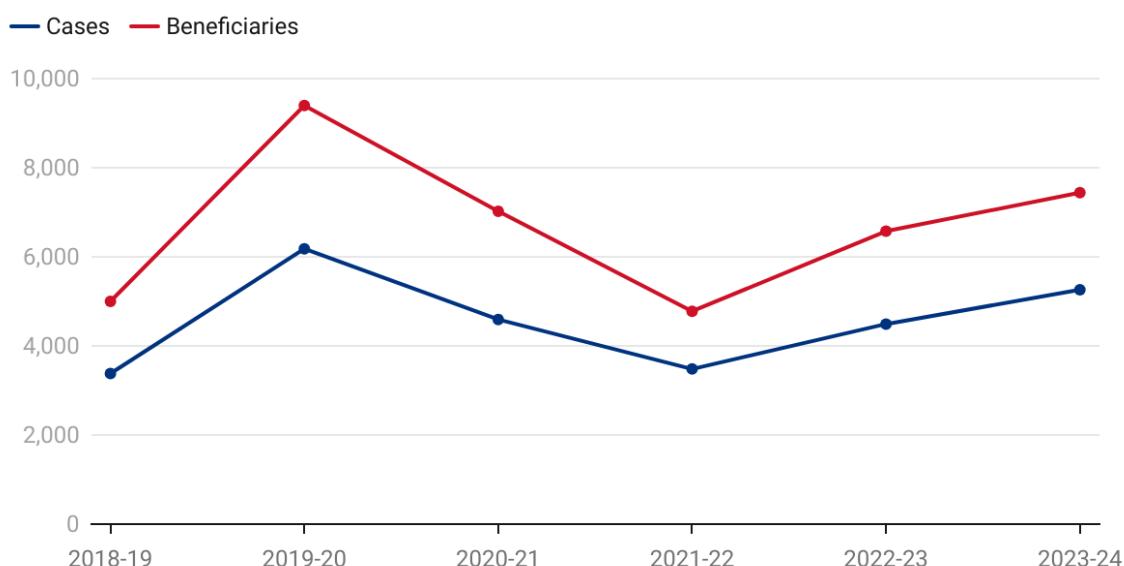
To access data on cases and beneficiaries of social assistance in Quebec, including disaggregated data, [download the spreadsheet here](#).

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 and beneficiaries increased in 2022-23, and followed the trend in 2023-24, when cases increased by 17 per cent to 5,260, and beneficiaries increased by 13 per cent to 7,440.

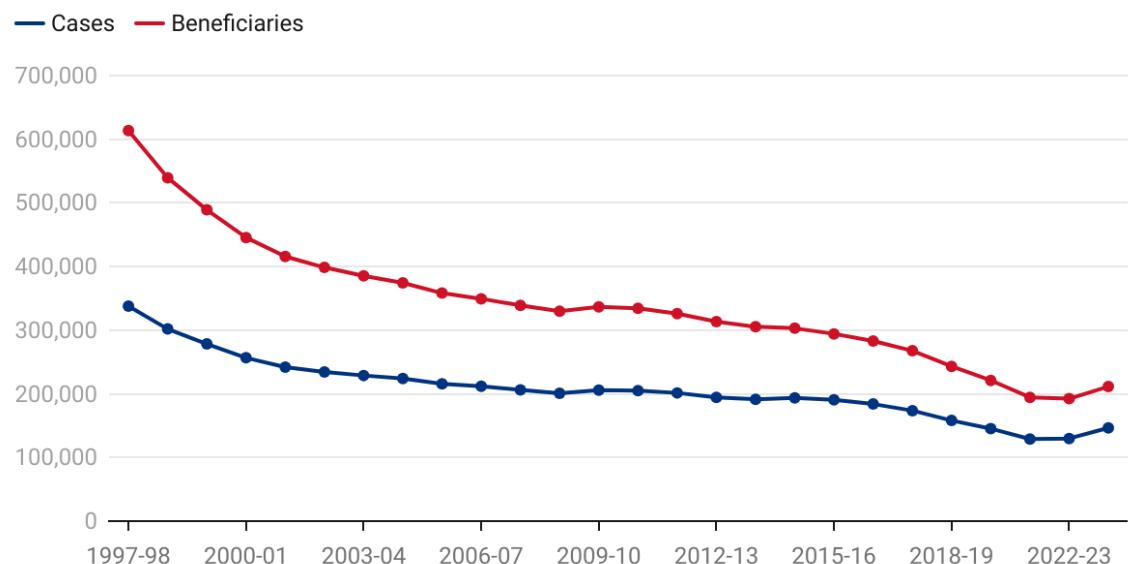
Figure 1QC: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of the Aim for Employment Program in Quebec, 2018-19 to 2023-24



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 2023-24. The number of cases increased by 13 per cent to 146,439, and the number of beneficiaries increased by 10 per cent to 211,383.

Figure 2QC: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of the Social Assistance Program in Quebec, 1997-98 to 2023-24

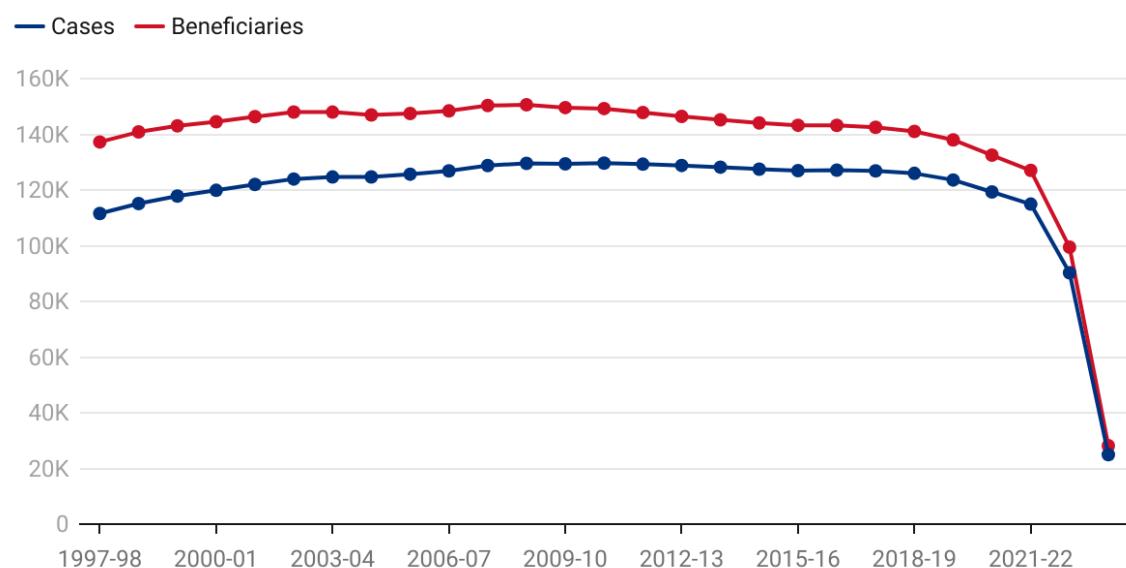


Social Solidarity Program (solidarité sociale)

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. In 2022-23, Social Solidarity cases and beneficiaries dropped significantly as beneficiaries transitioned to the newly introduced Basic Income Program.

In 2023-24, the trend continued as the number of cases and beneficiaries declined for both by about 72 per cent to 24,939 cases and to 28,178 beneficiaries.

Figure 3QC: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Social Solidarity in Quebec, 1997-98 to 2023-24

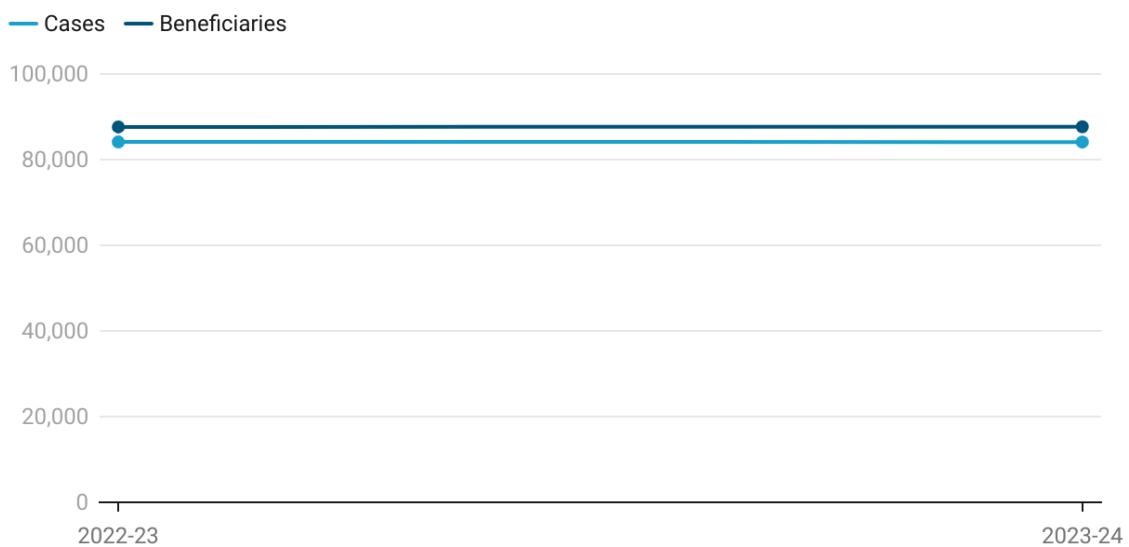


Basic Income Program (revenu de base)

Currently, comparing the 2022-23 and 2023-24 figures for the Basic Income program is limited because the 2022-23 data is based on an average of just the first three months of 2023, while the 2023-24 data reflects an average for the full fiscal year. In the future, as data continues to be reported in this full-year format, comparisons will become more feasible.

In 2023-24, Basic Income had 84,100 cases and 87,626 beneficiaries.

Figure 4QC: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Basic Income in Quebec, 2022-23 to 2023-24



What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2023-24, around 4.8 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 roughly one in 20.

The proportion of people under 65 receiving the Aim for Employment Program has remained around 0.1 per cent since its introduction in 2018-19.

After consistent decreases since 1997-98 reaching a low of 2.4 per cent in 2021-22, the proportion of people under 65 receiving the Social Assistance Program increased to 3.0 per cent in 2023-24.

The proportion of people under 65 receiving the Social Solidarity Program has remained relatively stable, with a slow decline starting in 2008-09. In 2022-23, the proportion dropped to 1.4 per cent, and in 2023-24, it dropped further to 0.4 per cent.

The proportion of people under 65 receiving the Basic Income Program was around 1.3 per cent in 2022-23 and 1.2 per cent in 2023-24.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of the fiscal year (e.g., July 1, 2023, for 2023-24), whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April 1 to March 31) from 1997-1998 to 2023-24. Except for the Basic

Income program, where the data for 2022-23 reflects an average over the first three months of 2023.

Figure 5QC – Yearly beneficiaries of social assistance as a proportion of the under 65 population of Quebec, 1997-98 to 2023-24



Note: The data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April to March), with the exception of the Basic Income Program in 2022-23 where the data reflects the average for the first three months of 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 disaggregated data on cases and beneficiaries by household type, and cases receiving employment income.

Household type

In 2023-24, unattached singles comprised the majority of social assistance cases among households for each program, representing about 81 per cent for Aim for Employment, over 75 per cent for the Social Assistance Program, just over 80 per cent for Social Solidarity, and around 90 per cent for Basic Income.

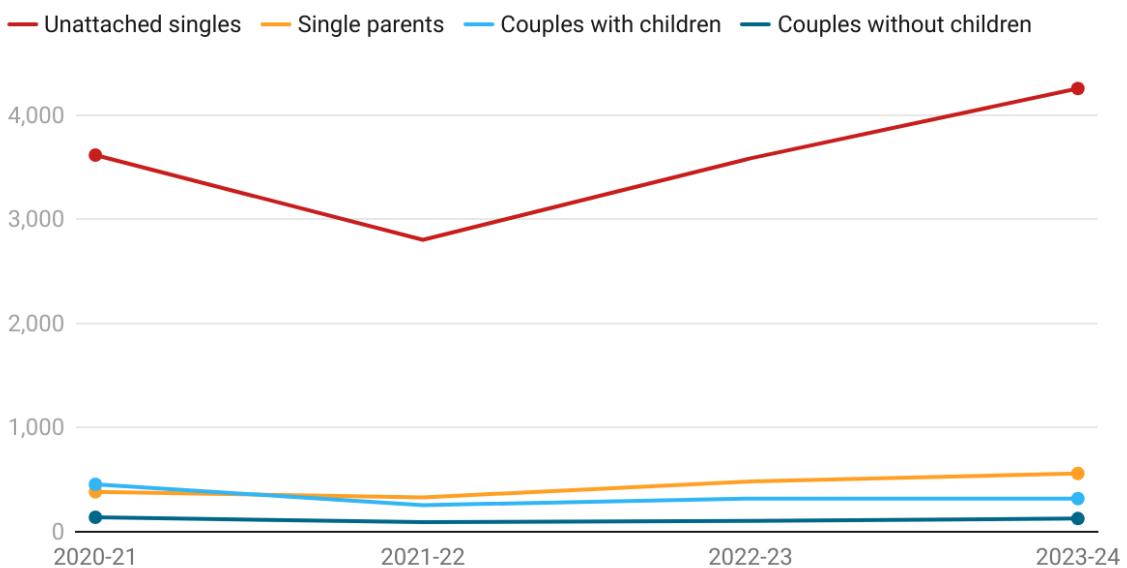
Unattached singles also comprised the majority of beneficiaries among households for each program in 2023-24, representing more than 57 per cent Aim for Employment households, just over 52 per cent of the Social Assistance Program

households, around 81 per cent for Social Solidarity household, and close to 90 per cent of Basic Income households.

Single parents were the second largest household type among cases and beneficiaries of the Social Assistance Program, Social Solidarity, Aim for Employment, and Basic Income.

Figure 6QC: Cases and beneficiaries of Aim for Employment by household in Quebec, 2020-21 to 2023-24

Cases



Beneficiaries

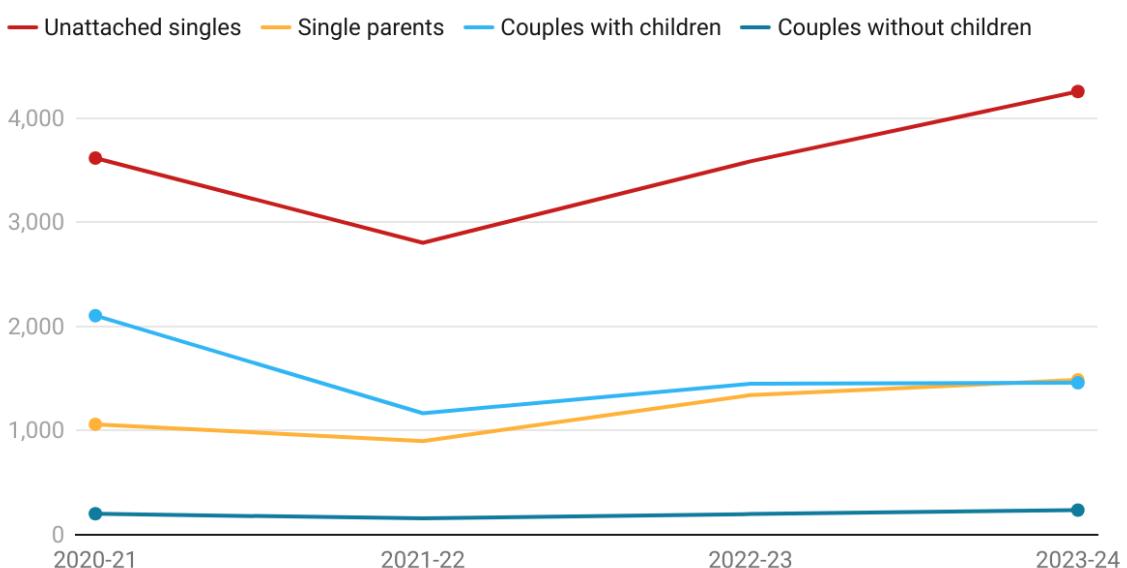
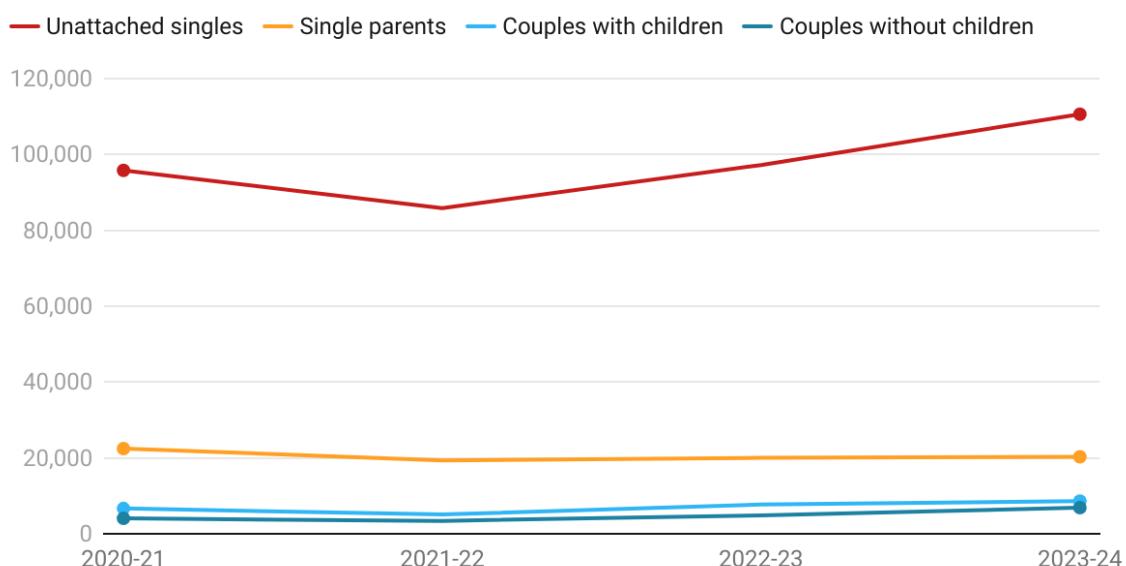


Figure 7QC: Cases and beneficiaries of the Social Assistance Program by household in Quebec, 2020-21 to 2023-24

Cases



Beneficiaries

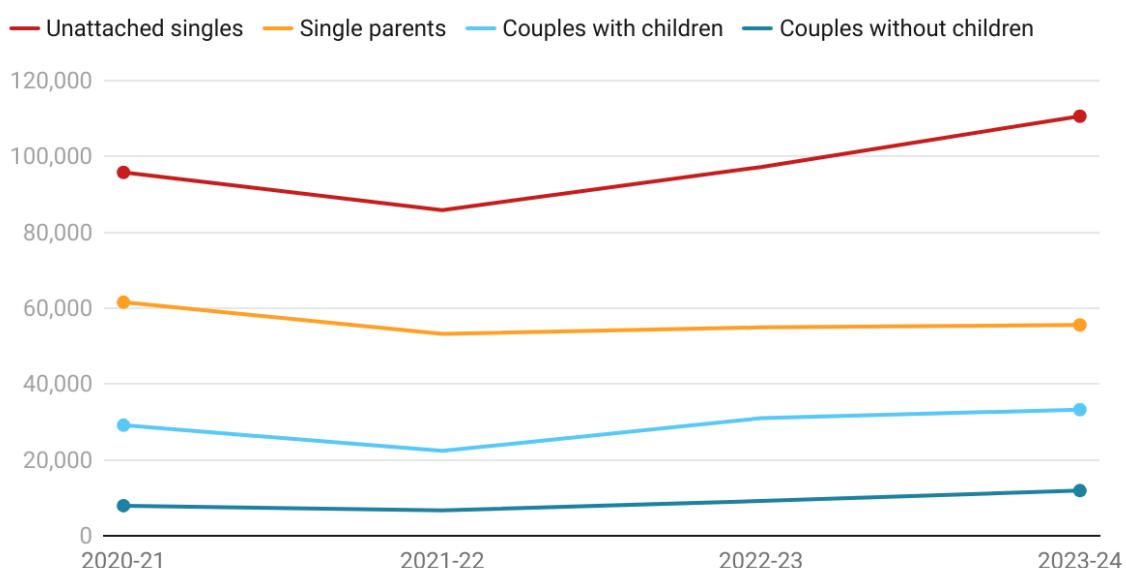
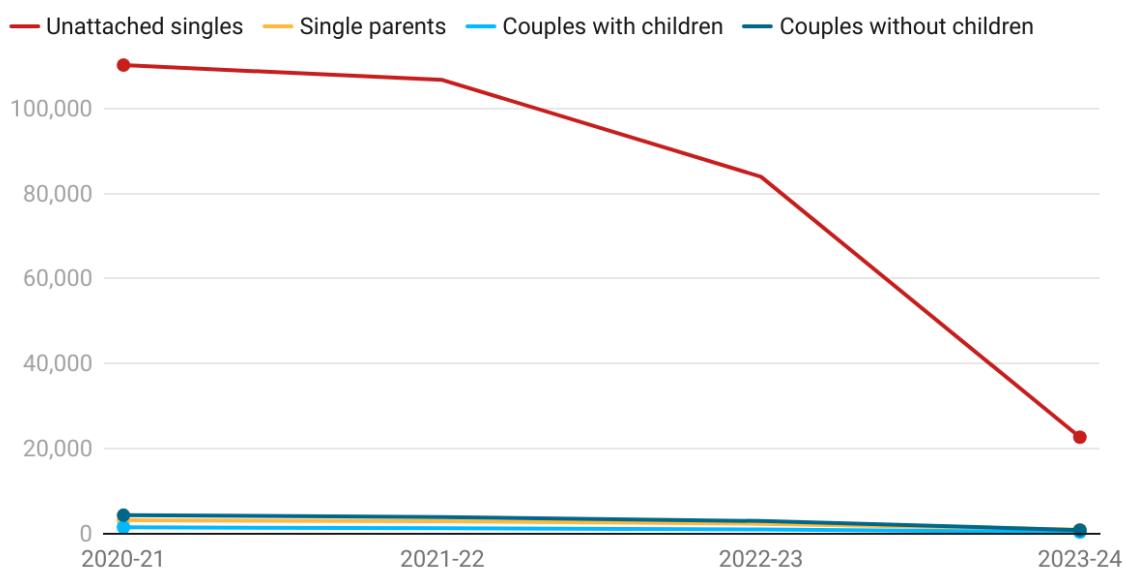


Figure 8QC: Cases and beneficiaries of Social Solidarity by household in Quebec, 2020-21 to 2023-24

Cases



Beneficiaries

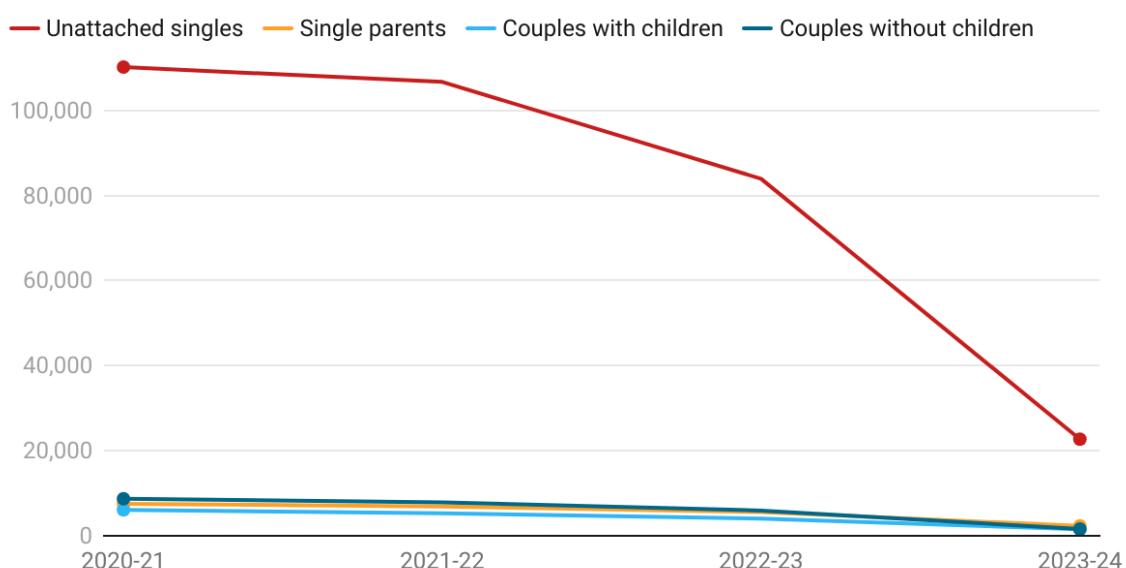
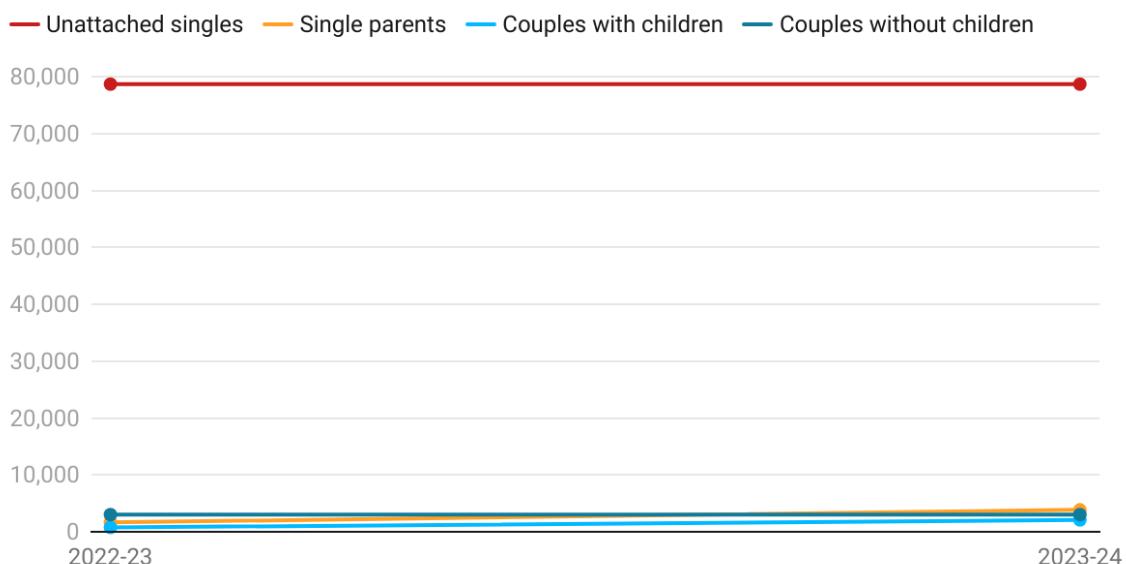
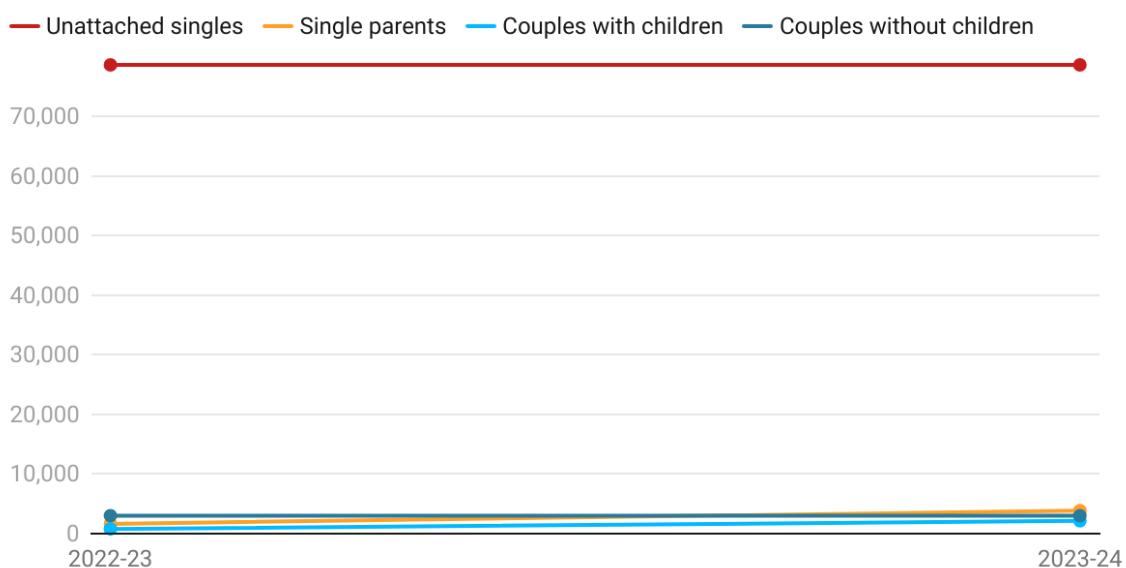


Figure 9QC: Cases and beneficiaries of Basic Income by household in Quebec, 2022-23 to 2023-24

Cases



Beneficiaries



Note: Numbers for Basic Income in 2022-23 are the average of the first three months of 2023. From 2023-24 onward, numbers are fiscal year average.

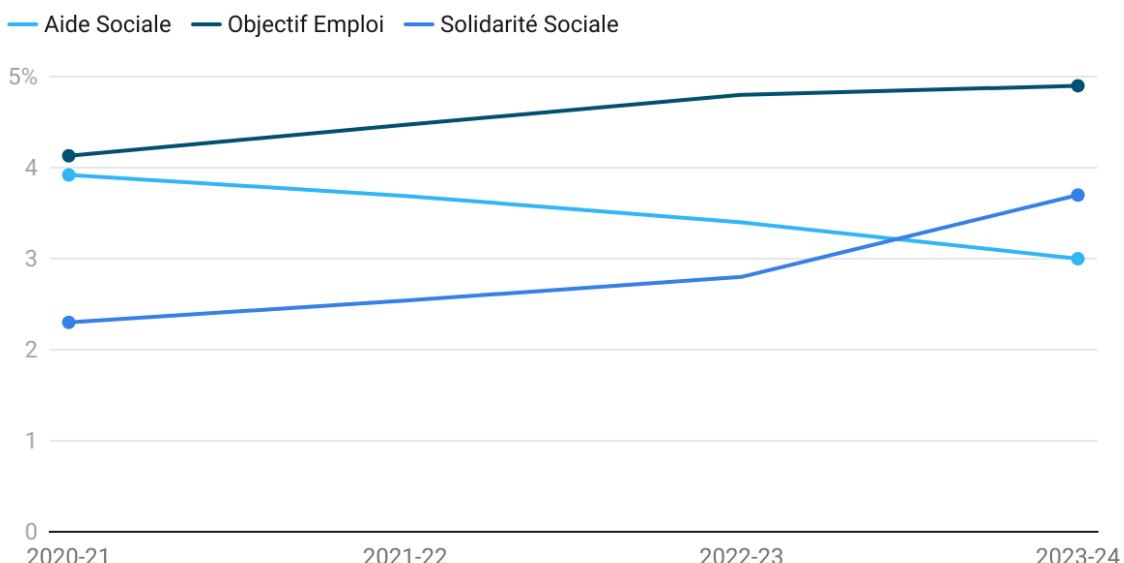
Employment income

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 2023-24, about 5 per cent of Aim for Employment cases, 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 most 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 10QC: Percentage of Aim for Employment, the Social Assistance Program, and Social Solidarity cases with employment income in Quebec, 2020-21 to 2023-24



Additional disaggregated data on gender and age is available for download below.

It's important to note that while the gender distribution of Aim for Employment, the Social Assistance Program, Social Solidarity, and Basic Income Program is typically balanced between males and females, the gender of single households reveals a more pronounced gender pattern. Typically, unattached singles are predominantly male, while single parents are primarily female.



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. Single households by sex;
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 single households by sex, adults by age category and employment income): 2021-22 and prior, reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries over the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).
- For single households by sex, adults by age category, and employment income, data reflects the number of cases and beneficiaries in March of 2021 and 2022. From 2022-23 onward, data is from fiscal year average.
- For the entire dataset, the 2022-23 data was converted from a point-in-time snapshot (March 2023) to a fiscal year average (April 1 to March 31). The exception to this conversion is the Basic Income Program, where the data was averaged over the first three months of 2023.
- Starting from 2023-24 onward, the data for the Basic Income Program reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries for the entire fiscal year (April 1 to March 31), with no exceptions.
- The Aim for Employment Program was introduced in April 2018.
- The Basic Income Program was introduced in January 2023.
- The sum of the average caseloads and beneficiaries within each program will not equal the total average across all social assistance programs if a program only operated for part of the year. For example, the Basic Income Program was implemented in January 2023, part way through the 2022-23



fiscal year. Averages over the entire fiscal year will be lower than the sum of the averages for each individual program, as the latter adjusts for how many months each program operated.

- The Basic Income Program operates on a per-beneficiary basis. As a result, the Quebec government reconstructed the data to create a count of cases. Caution is needed when comparing the number of cases between the Basic Income Program and other programs. Additionally, because the data is aggregated differently, the sum of the averages within each program may not always equal the total average across all social assistance programs.
- Data for single households by sex was not available for single parent households. Data for beneficiaries by sex is included for this household instead.
- For household type, a fifth household category, “partner of a student,” is included in the “couples without children” category.
- The sex of some child beneficiaries is unknown.
- The numbers do not include First Nations living on reserves.
- Click here for [more information about how the data is gathered](#).



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).

Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS)

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

Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID)

SAID is a needs-based income assistance program that supports Saskatchewan citizens with significant and enduring disabilities access to income support, greater choice of services, and supports their participation in the community. It was introduced in 2009 for individuals in residential care settings and expanded in June 2012 to include people who live independently.

Eligibility for SAID is determined by verification of financial eligibility, medical confirmation of an enduring disability and assessment of the impact of disability on their daily living.

SAID benefits include a Living Income benefit for basic needs, a Disability Income benefit, and Exceptional Need benefit(s). As well, SAID clients may also receive utility, laundry, and telephone benefits if applicable.

How many people claim social assistance?

On average, there were 36,659 cases (family units and unattached single adults) and 56,750 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) receiving Saskatchewan's social assistance programs during 2023-24.

Among cases, on average, about 50 per cent (18,321) received support through the Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS), while the remaining 50 per cent (18,338) received support through the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID). Among beneficiaries, about 60 per cent (34,019) received support through SIS, and 40 per cent (22,731) received support through SAID.

The total number of social assistance cases in Saskatchewan increased slightly by 2.2 per cent (784) and beneficiaries increased by about 2 per cent (1,168). SIS accounted for the overall increase in both cases and beneficiaries, while SAID saw a moderate decrease in both numbers.

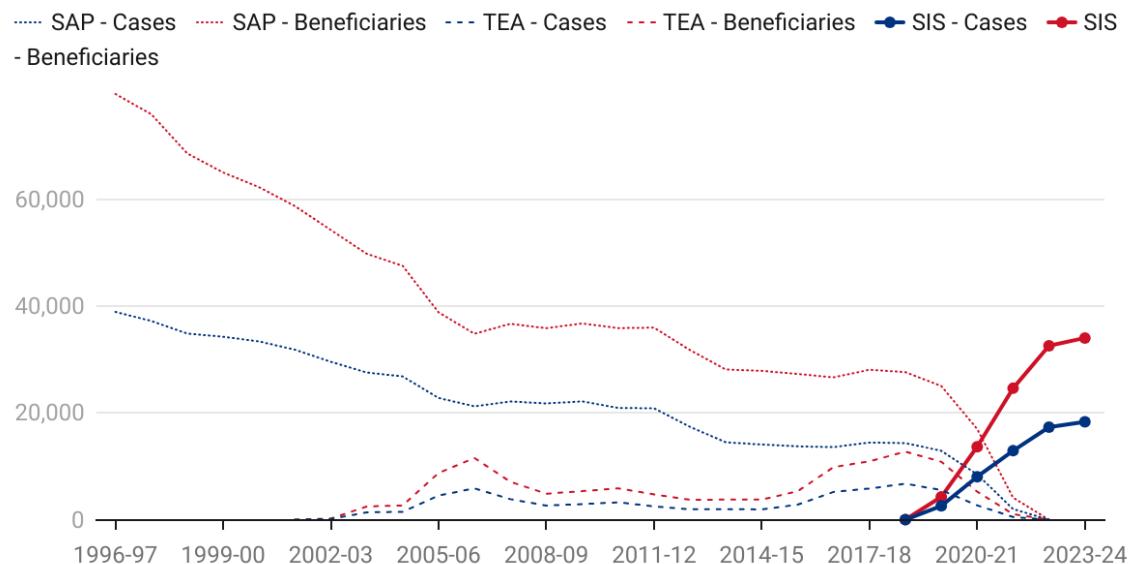
To access data on cases and beneficiaries of social assistance in Saskatchewan, including Saskatchewan Assistance Program and Transitional Employment Allowance data, and disaggregated data, [download the spreadsheet here](#).

Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS)

In 2023-24, on average, there were 18,321 cases and 34,019 beneficiaries of SIS, an increase of almost 6 per cent (1,005) for cases and 4.5 per cent (1,472) 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.

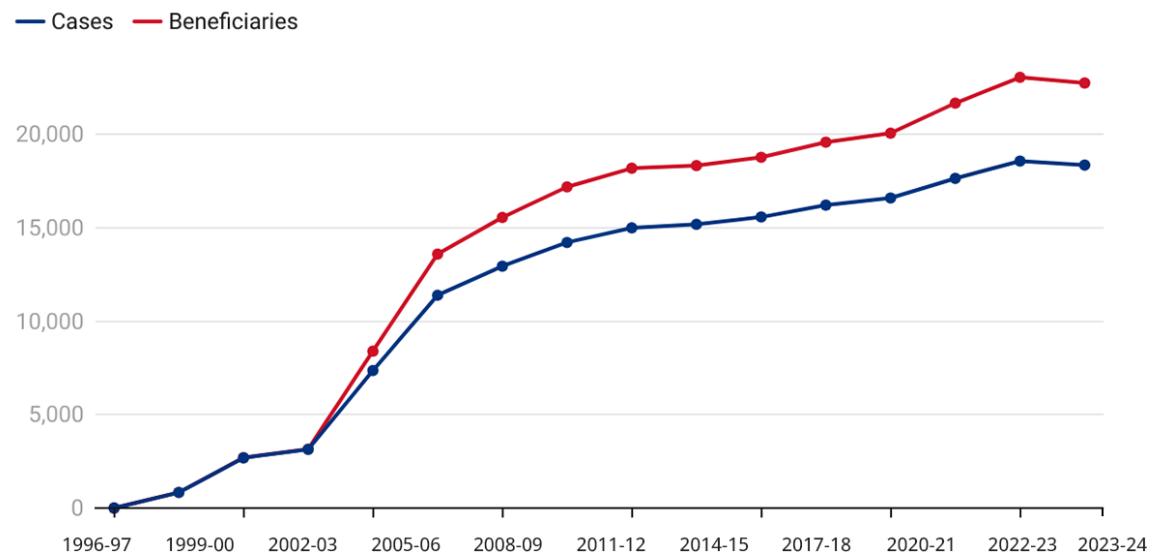
Figure 1SK: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of SIS, SAP, and TEA, 1996-97 to 2023-24



Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID)

In 2023-24, on average, there were 18,338 cases and 22,731 beneficiaries receiving SAID, with both figures experiencing a modest decline. These numbers rose sharply in the two years after eligibility was expanded in 2012 and have risen at a slower pace since then until 2022-23.

Figure 2SK: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of SAID, 2009-10 to 2023-24



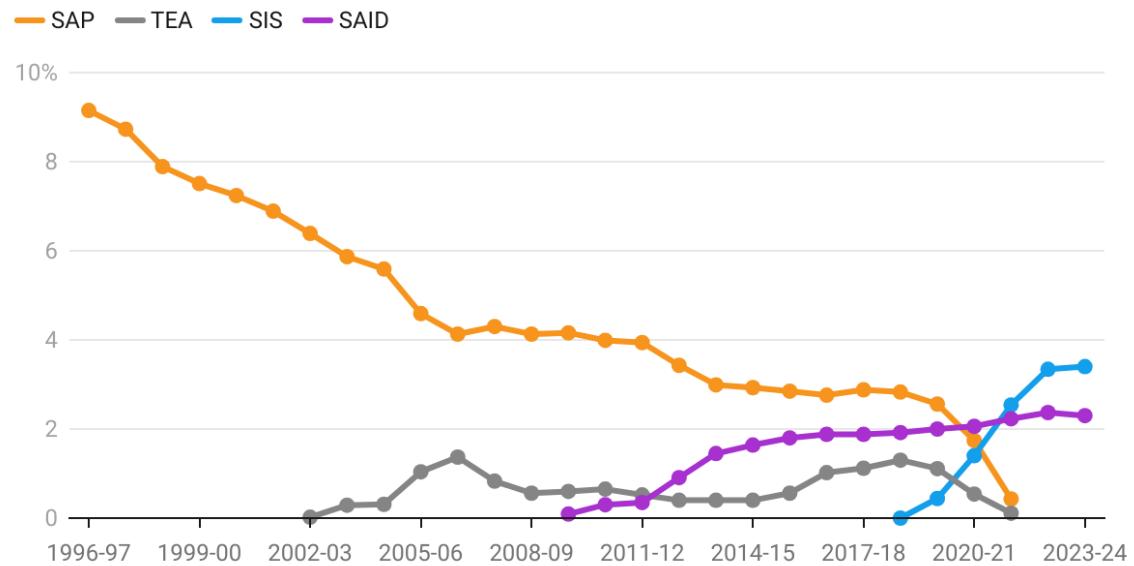
What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

In 2023-24, 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. This was the same as in the previous year.

Since it was introduced in 2019-20, the proportion of SIS beneficiaries has increased rapidly, reaching 3.4 per cent on average in 2023-24. The proportion of SAID beneficiaries increased consistently until 2022-23. In 2023-24, it slightly dropped to 2.3.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of the fiscal year (e.g., July 1, 2023, for 2023-24), whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April 1 to March 31).

Figure 3SK: Yearly beneficiaries of SIS, SAID, SAP, and TEA as a proportion of the under-65 population of Saskatchewan, 1996-97 to 2023-24



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 disaggregated data on cases and beneficiaries by household type, and cases receiving employment income.

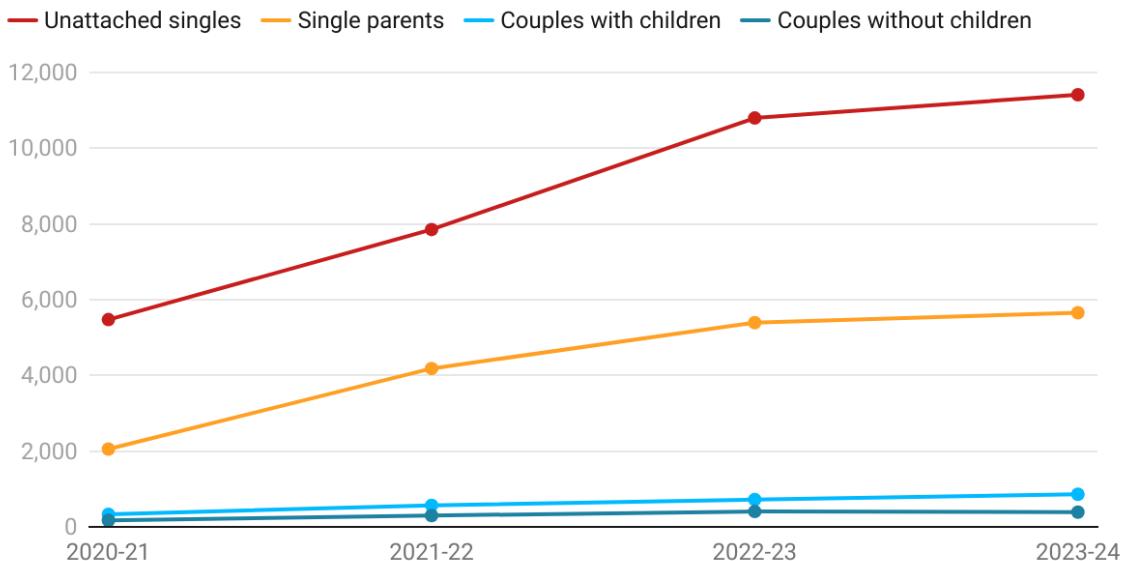
Household type

In 2023-24, on average, unattached singles were the majority household of social assistance cases for both SIS, representing 11,414 (62 per cent), and SAID, representing 15,883 (over 86 per cent). Single parents had the second largest percentage of cases in each program, representing 5,655 cases (31 per cent) for SIS cases and 1,460 (8 per cent) for SAID.

Single parent households were, on average, the majority of beneficiaries for SIS in 2023-24, representing 17,740 (52 per cent), followed by unattached singles, with 11,414 (33 per cent). For SAID, unattached singles were the majority beneficiaries with 15,883 (almost 70 per cent), followed by single parent households with 4,028 (more than 17 per cent).

Figure 4SK: Cases and beneficiaries of SIS by household, 2020-21 to 2023-24

Cases



Beneficiaries

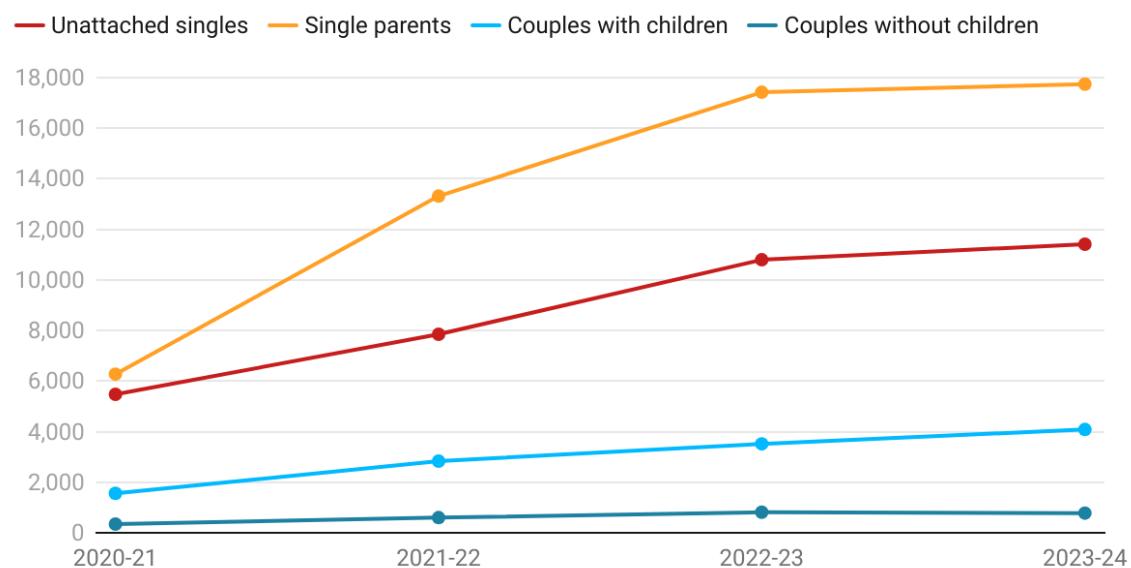
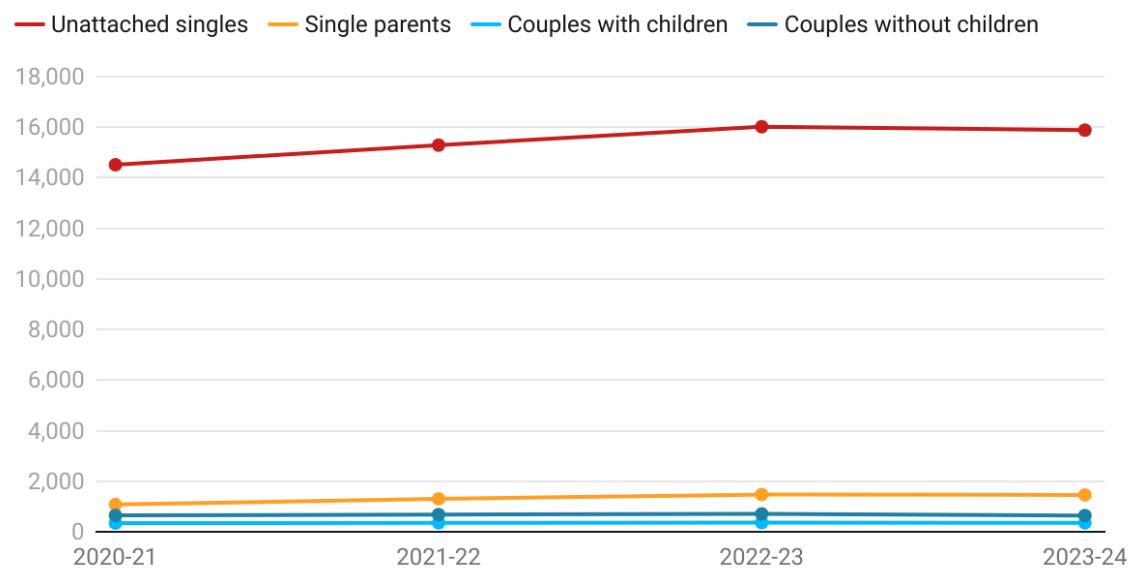
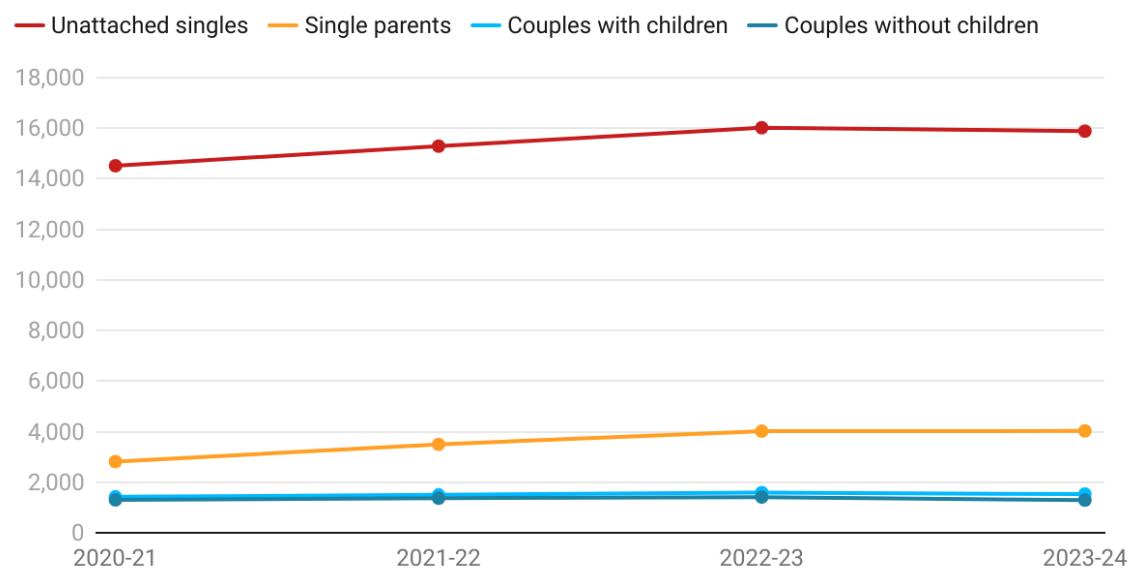


Figure 5SK: Cases and beneficiaries of SAID by household, 2020-21 to 2023-24

Cases



Beneficiaries

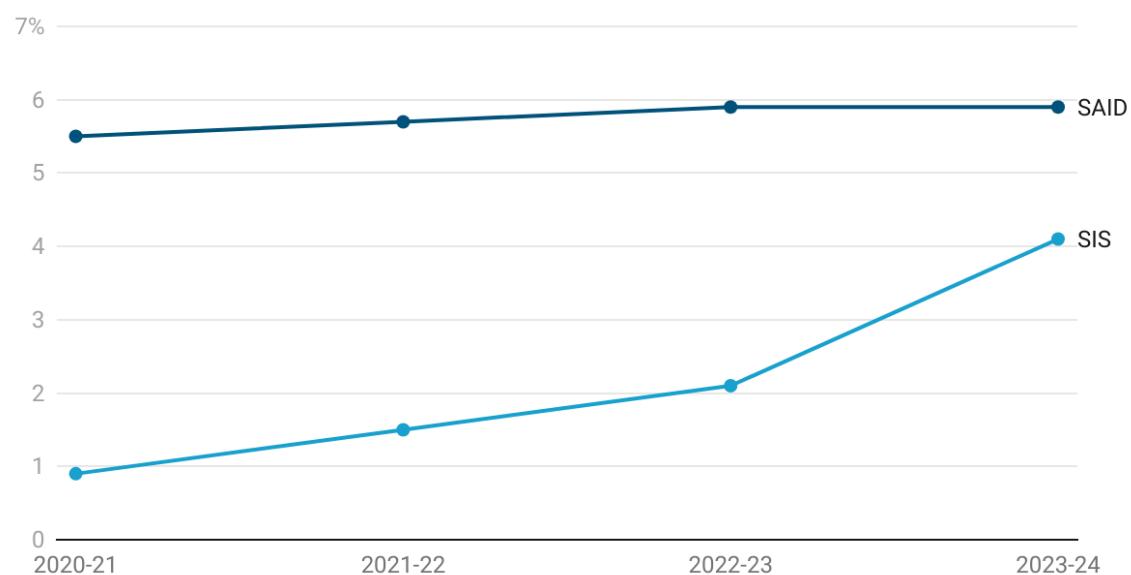


Employment income

Note that program regulations and policies do not define “employment income.” We base these terms on the eligibility criteria and the types of employment income considered in the calculations.

In 2023-24, on average, 4.1 per cent of SIS cases had employment income, marking a steady increase since 2020-21. Cases receiving SAID were more likely to have employment income at 5.9 per cent, consistent with the figures from 2022-23.

Figure 6SK: Percentage of SIS and SAID cases with employment income in Saskatchewan, 2020-21 to 2023-24





Additional disaggregated data on gender and age is available for download below.

It's important to note that while the gender distribution of SAID and SIS are typically balanced between males and females, the gender of single households reveals a more pronounced gender pattern. Typically, unattached singles are predominantly male, while single parents are primarily female.

Access to data

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

1. Total number of 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. Single households by gender;
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 and replaced the SAP and TEA programs.
- SAP and TEA ended August 31, 2021.

General data notes

- The data reflects the average number of cases and beneficiaries for the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31). While these figures are averaged over the full fiscal year, some programs were operational for only a portion of the year. The following programs had shorter operational periods during the years specified:
 - In 2002-03, TEA operated for two months.
 - In 2009-10, SAID operated for five months.
 - In 2019-20, SIS operated for nine months.
 - In 2021-22, SAP and TEA operated for five months.
- The subtotals may not add up to equal the total number of cases (households), adults, and beneficiaries due to rounding errors or missing data.
- The numbers do not include First Nations living on reserves.
- SIS data disaggregated by gender is only available for cases, not beneficiaries as 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.
- Click here for [more information about how the data is gathered](#).

Yukon

The Yukon's social assistance program

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

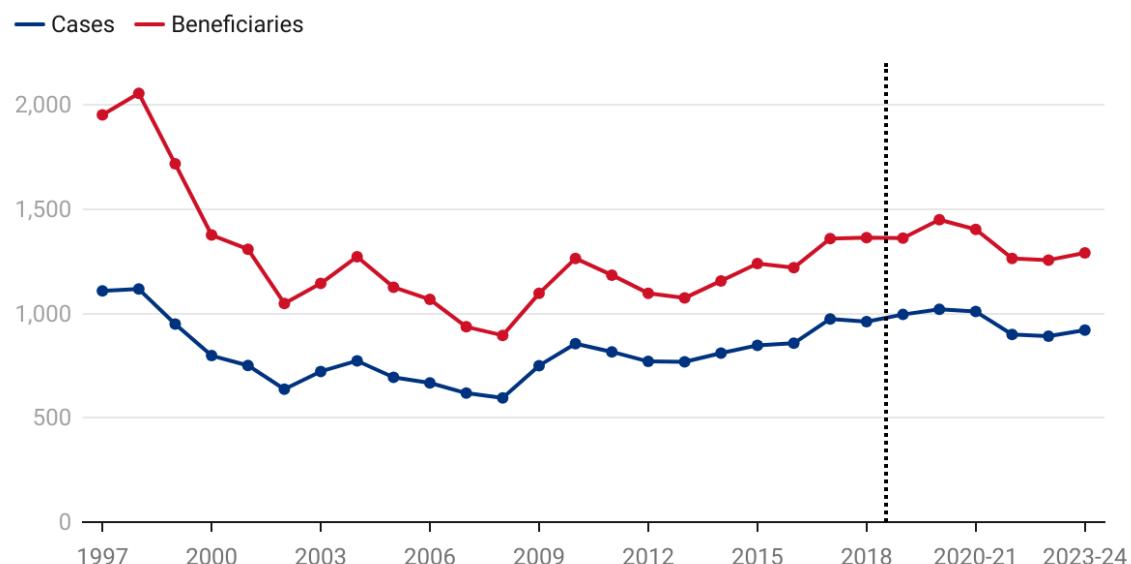
How many people claim social assistance?

In 2023-24, there were on average 920 cases (families and single adults) and 1,290 beneficiaries (individual claimants, their partners, and dependent children) in the Yukon's Social Assistance program. Both numbers slightly increased from the previous year. This is the first year of growth after three consecutive years of decline.

Within the Social Assistance program, about 530 cases and 630 beneficiaries received the Yukon Supplementary Allowance (YSA) in 2023-24. This means about 58 per cent of cases and 49 per cent of beneficiaries of Social Assistance received the YSA in 2023-24.

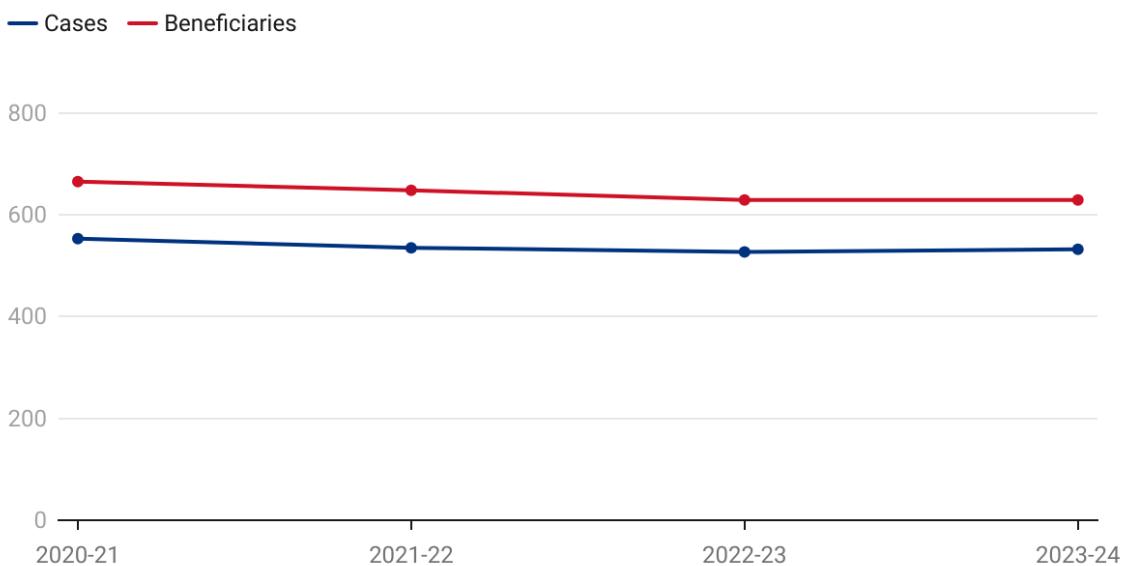
To access data on cases and beneficiaries of social assistance in the Yukon, including disaggregated data, [download the spreadsheet here](#).

Figure 1YT: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of Social Assistance in the Yukon, 1997 to 2023-24



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 1 to March 31) from 2018-19 onward.

Figure 2YT: Yearly cases and beneficiaries of the Yukon Supplementary Allowance (YSA) under Social Assistance, 2020-21 to 2023-24

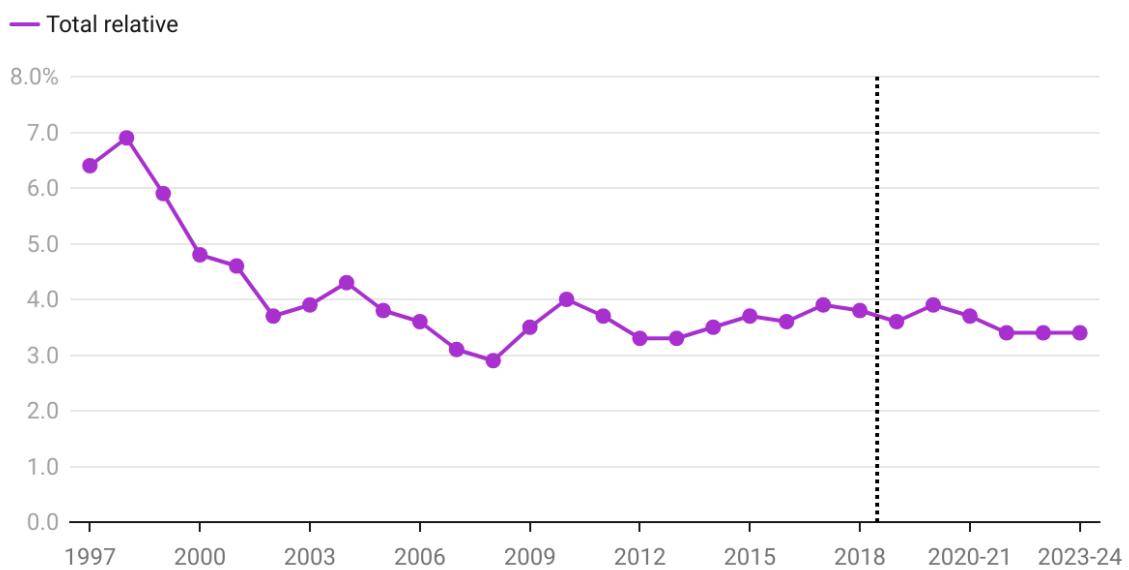


What proportion of the population receives social assistance?

On average, 3.4 per cent of people in the Yukon under 65 received Social Assistance in 2023-24, which is about 1 in 29.

Note: The total population under 65 is estimated on July 1 of the fiscal year (e.g., July 1, 2023, for 2023-24), whereas social assistance beneficiary data is a fiscal year average (April 1 to March 31) 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 2023-24



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 disaggregated data on cases and beneficiaries by household type, and cases receiving employment income.

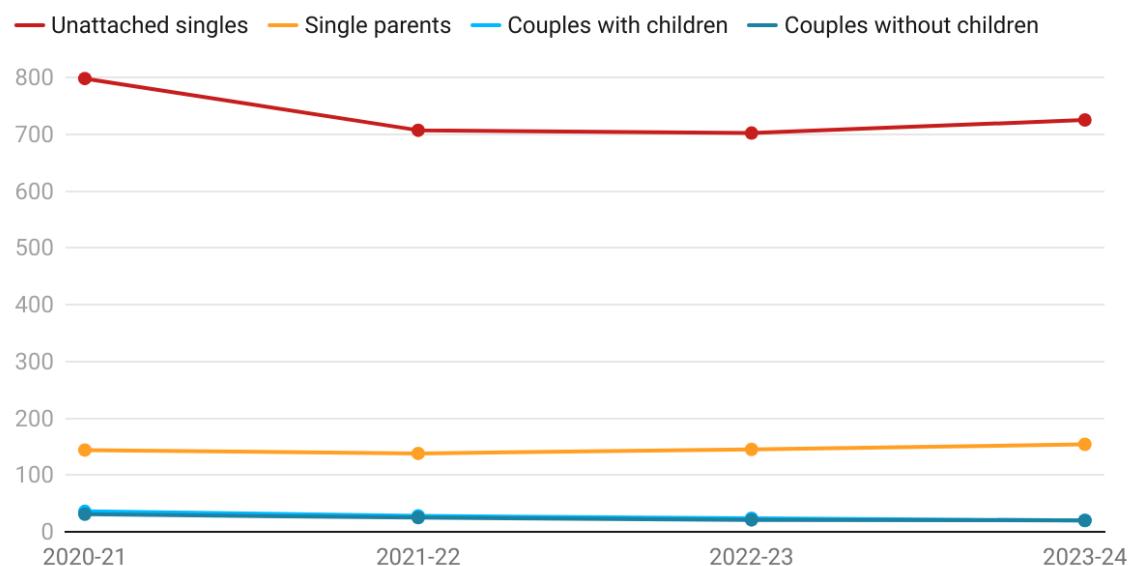
Household type

On average, in 2023-24, unattached singles were the majority household of both cases and beneficiaries of the Yukon's Social Assistance program, representing 725 (about 79 per cent of cases and 56 per cent of beneficiaries). Single parents were second, representing 154 cases (about 17 per cent) and 435 beneficiaries (38 per cent).

Among those who received YSA under Social Assistance, on average, 474 (just over 89 per cent of cases and 75 per cent of beneficiaries) were unattached singles in 2023-24. Single parents were second, representing 39 cases (just over 7 per cent) and 103 beneficiaries (just over 16 per cent).

Figure 4YT: Cases and beneficiaries of Social Assistance by household in the Yukon, 2020-21 to 2023-24

Cases



Note: The lines for the variables “Couples with children” and “Couples Without Children” overlap, as they have similar values across the data points.

Beneficiaries

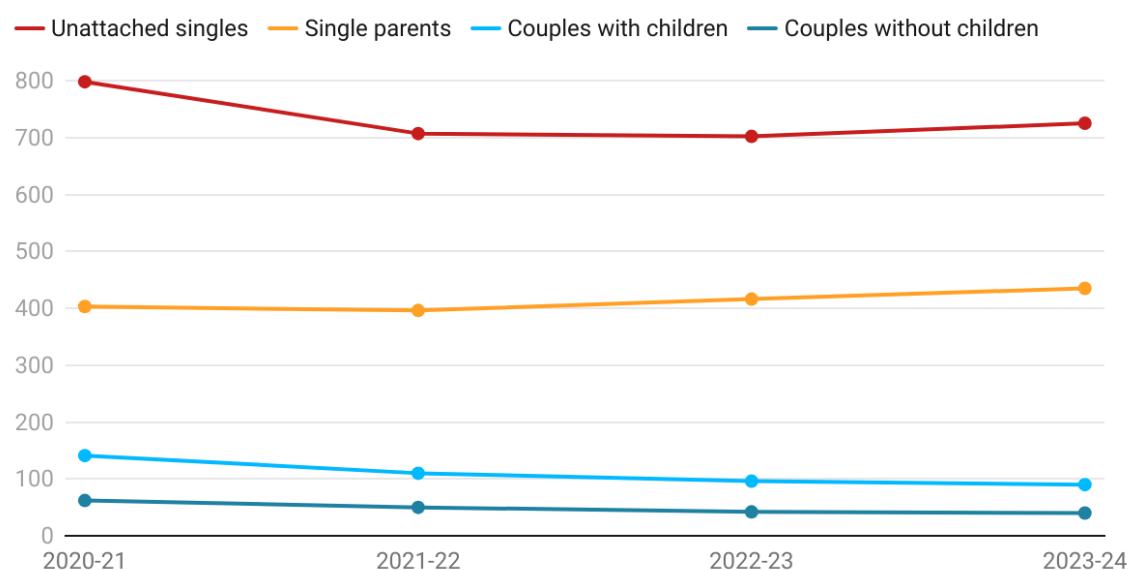
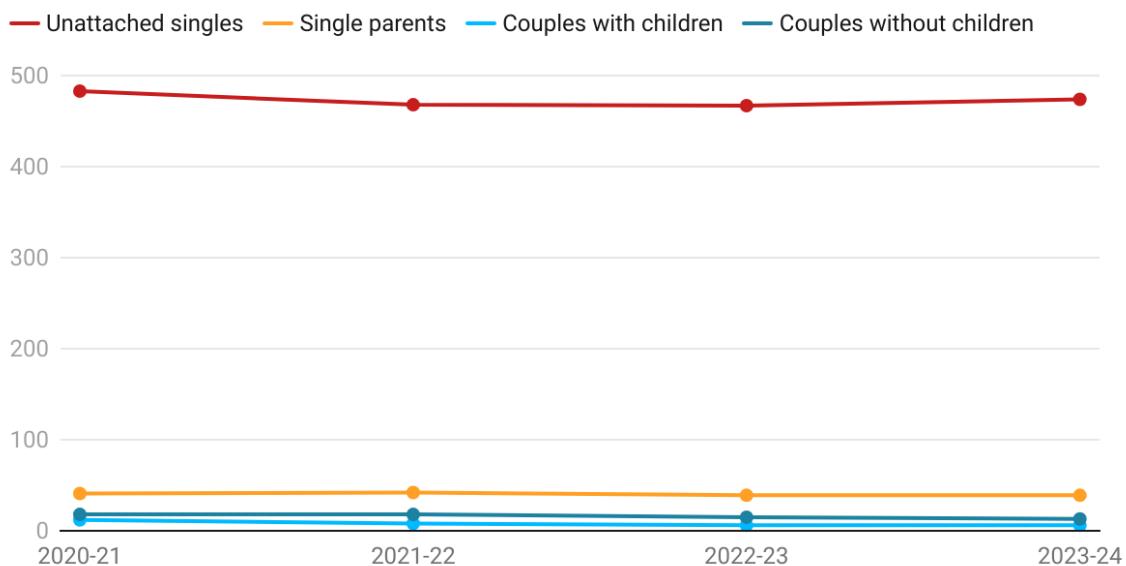
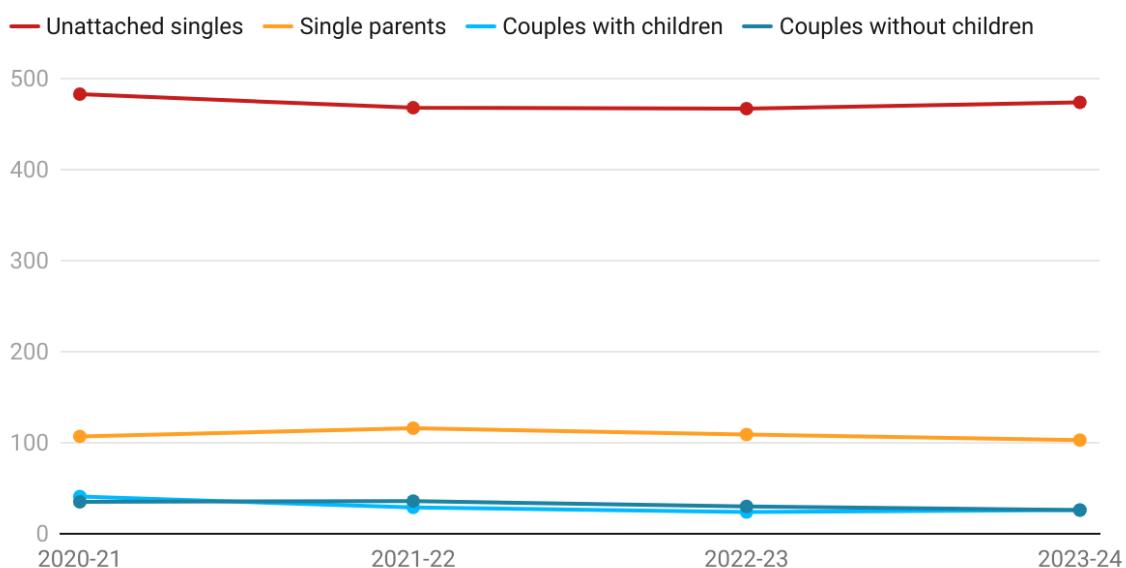


Figure 5YT: Cases and beneficiaries of the Yukon Supplementary Allowance (YSA) under Social Assistance by household, 2020-21 to 2023-24

Cases



Beneficiaries



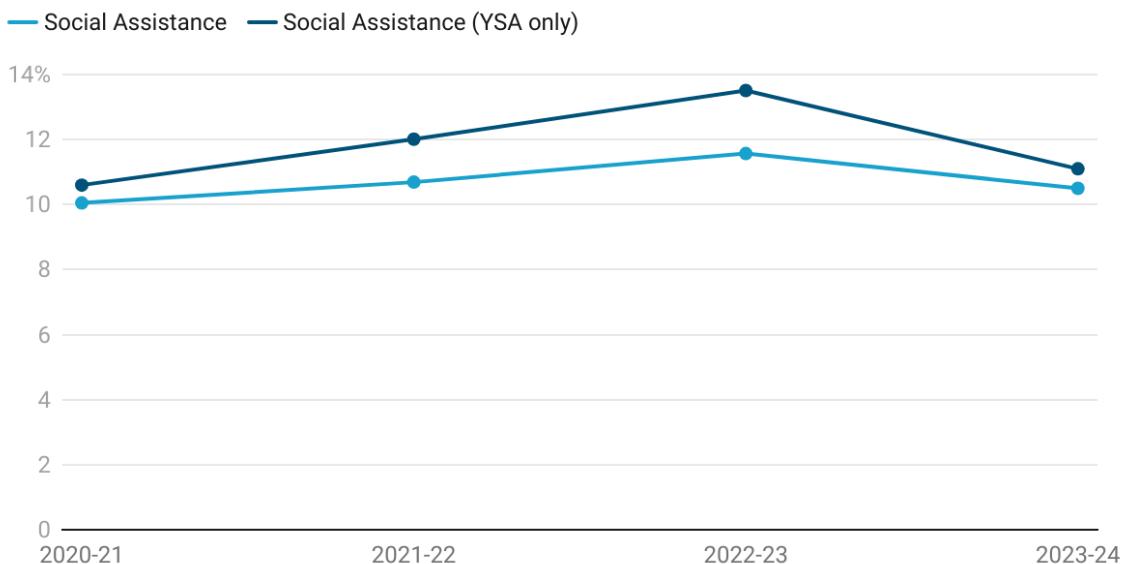
Employment Income

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 2023-24, on average, 10.5 per cent of Social Assistance cases had employment income. Cases receiving the YSA under Social Assistance are more likely to have employment income at 11.1 per cent. This is the first time since including employment income in 2020-21 that the numbers declined.

Figure 6YT: Percentage of Social Assistance cases and Social Assistance cases who receive the Yukon Supplementary Allowance (YSA) with employment income, 2020-21 to 2023-24



Additional disaggregated data on gender and age is available for download below.

It's important to note that while the gender distribution of Social Assistance and the Yukon Supplementary Allowance is typically balanced between males and females, the gender of single households reveals a more pronounced gender pattern. Typically, unattached singles are predominantly male, while single parents are primarily female.



Access to data

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

1. Total number of 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. Single households by gender;
6. Adults 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 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 1 to March 31) from 2018-19 onward.
- The breakdown by gender (which has been included from 2020-21 onward) only captures beneficiaries identifying as female or male and does not capture beneficiaries where gender is 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.
- Click here for [more information about how the data is gathered](#).



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