

Attachment H: *Profile of Today's Food Assistance Recipient*

Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services

May 2007

The demographics of food assistance recipients have not changed markedly over time.

Age. The average age of the head of the food assistance household is 41 years.

Type of Household. 32 percent of our food assistance cases are composed of 1 adult with children. 11 percent are two parent households with children. 5 percent are other family situations with children. The elderly and disabled make up 32 percent of the caseload and other kinds of cases with no children make up 20 percent. The average household size of a food assistance case is 2 persons.

Children. Of the food assistance cases with children, most have only two children. The average number of children per household is 2.2. 48 percent of all food assistance cases have children on the case. 47 percent of all food stamp recipients are children.

Education. About 57 percent of food assistance adults have a high school diploma or GED. 9 percent have more than a high school diploma or GED and 34 percent have less than a high school diploma or GED. (Note: this is based on information supplied for 80 percent of the total food stamp population.)

Income. 31 percent of all food assistance cases have earned income. 11 percent have income from child support. 27 percent have Social Security income and 23.5 percent have SSI income. 14 percent of all food assistance recipients report no income. Of the food assistance recipients who lose eligibility each month, 10.5 percent lose eligibility due to earnings from employment. (Note: Cases can be counted in multiple income categories.)

Time on Assistance. The average time on assistance for a food assistance recipient is 17 months. 27 percent receive for 6 months or less. 41.5 percent receive for one year or less.

Other Assistance. Of families receiving food assistance, 57.5 percent also receive other assistance from the agency. 15.5 percent receive TAF, 8.6 percent receive child care assistance, 5 percent receive general assistance and 28 percent also receive low income energy assistance. 81 percent of the children receiving food stamps also receive medical assistance.

Caseload Growth. The food assistance caseload in Kansas has increased 31.2 percent over the last 5 years to 183,689 recipients in December 2006. Over the last year, the caseload has stabilized and even decreased slightly. The percent change from December 2005 to December 2006 was -0.5%.