

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON OCTOBER 28, 2013
FROM:	SANDRA DATARS BERE MANAGING DIRECTOR HOUSING, SOCIAL SERVICES AND DEARNESS HOME
SUBJECT:	ONTARIO WORKS PARTICIPANT PROFILE, JULY 2013

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Manager Employment and Strategic Initiatives, with the concurrence of the Managing Director Housing, Social Services and Dearness Home, the following report **BE RECEIVED** for information purposes.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

- Profile of Ontario Works Participants (March, 2004; September 2007; September 2008; September 2009; September 2010; September 2011 and October 2012)

BACKGROUND

Annually, the Housing, Social Services and Dearness Home Service Area provides the Community and Protective Services Committee (CPSC) with a profile report of the Ontario Works caseload (Appendix A). This profile provides the City of London, Municipal Council, and the broader community with Ontario Works caseload information needed to allow for good planning and trend analysis.

The data for this profile report is provided by Ministry Reports as well as by a local extract of information captured in Ontario Works Service Delivery Model Technology (SDMT). Local extract data for this report is consistently pulled on the third Monday in July.

There are four sections to the 2013 Participant Profile Report:

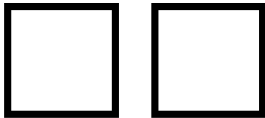
- Section 1: Information on the total caseload
- Section 2: Information on selected populations
- Section 3: Trends
- Section 4: Detailed data tables

PARTICIPANT PROFILE REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

General Caseload Description

The following summary profile provides a general picture of the 2013 caseload:

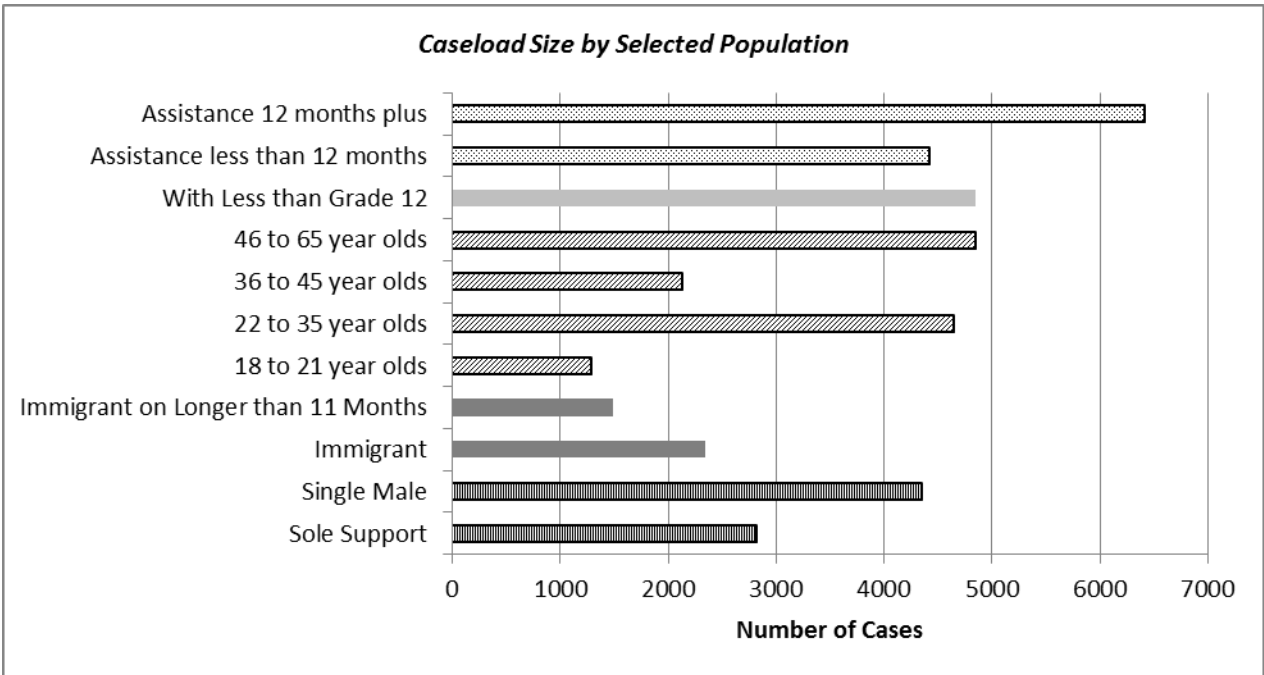
- In the first half of 2013:
 - Almost 11,000 households, representing approximately 24,000 people received Ontario Works assistance each month. This represents 6.6 per cent of London’s population; and
 - 62 per cent of these households were single individuals.



- In July:
 - The Argyle, Carling Glen Cairn and Huron Heights planning districts had the highest percentages of households participating in Ontario Works. The Central London planning district had the highest number of households that received assistance.
 - Almost nine out of ten households rent from the private market;
 - The age profile of female applicants on the caseload was younger than the age profile of male applicants;
 - Seventy-three per cent of all people receiving benefits were adults and 27 per cent were children under the age of 18 years;
 - One third of households were families with children. Most families with children were single parent families;
 - Almost half of the approximately 6,500 children living in households that participated in Ontario Works were 6 years of age or younger;
 - Over half of the applicants report achieving high school education or higher; and
 - Fifty-nine per cent of the households had been receiving assistance for over one year. Of these, 66 per cent had been receiving assistance for a period of 2 years or longer.

Breakdown of Caseload by Selected Populations

While a general description of London's Ontario Works caseload is provided, in reality the caseload is heterogeneous in a number of ways. The chart below provides an overview of some of the populations that may have distinct and unique characteristics and needs.



Trends

Since 2006, the year that caseload was at its lowest size since the late 1980's, the caseload has increased by 47 per cent. Most of this growth is due to growth in the number of single individuals receiving Ontario Works. Growth was driven more by the increase in the number of people entering the caseload than by a change in the number of people exiting the caseload.

Highlights of data available since 2007, the first year that much of the local profile data could be extracted and the first year of caseload growth include:

- The average time households are on assistance has been increasing year over year since a low in 2009;
- The number of 18 to 21 year olds and the number of 46 to 65 year olds has increased more than other age groups on the caseload;
- The number of children living in families receiving assistance increased by 13 per cent, with the number of 0 to 6 year olds growing more than other age groups; and
- Landed immigrants and refugee claimants have comprised between 11 per cent and 16 per cent of the caseload over the past seven years.

Data on employment outcomes have been available since 2005. Since a low point in 2009, employment outcomes have improved and have remained above prerecession levels. In the first six months of 2013 the number of people gaining employment declined, the percentage of the caseload with employment income increased and the percentage of exits from the caseload to employment was similar to the same period in 2012.

Full Report

The full participant profile report “City of London Ontario Works 2013 Participant Profile” can also be found on the City of London website on the Statistics and Community Research page (www.london.ca/About-London/community-statistics).

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

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