Ontario Works Caseload Overview

Presentation for
Community Services Committee
March 5, 2012

London
CANADA

Purpose of this Presentation

Gain a high level understanding of Ontario Works:

- Ontario Works Program: Overview

- Caseload Trends

- Caseload Description

- Employment Outcomes Achieved

- The Economic Landscape

- Employment Service Delivery Context

- Economic/Workforce Development Landscape

- Stakeholders for Ontario Works to Achieve Employment Outcomes

- Challenges

- The Policy Landscape

The Ontario Works Program: Overview

- Provincially mandated program

- An employment and an income program

- Both the first stop for people who lose work and the last stop

  - Lose work and waiting for EI – come to Ontario Works

  - Fall ill/disabled, lose work and waiting for disability – come to Ontario Works

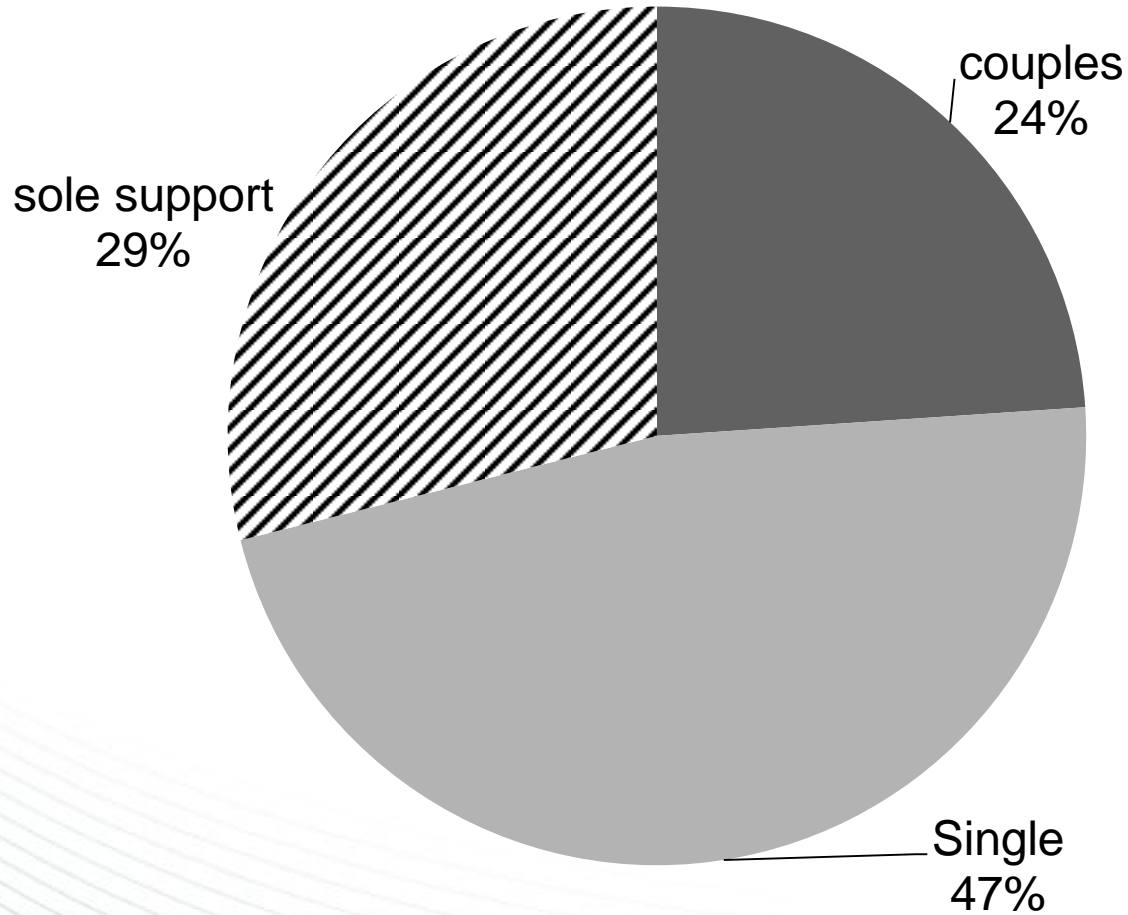- To be eligible, need to divest most assets including life insurance, RRSP's, et cetera

Caseload Trends:
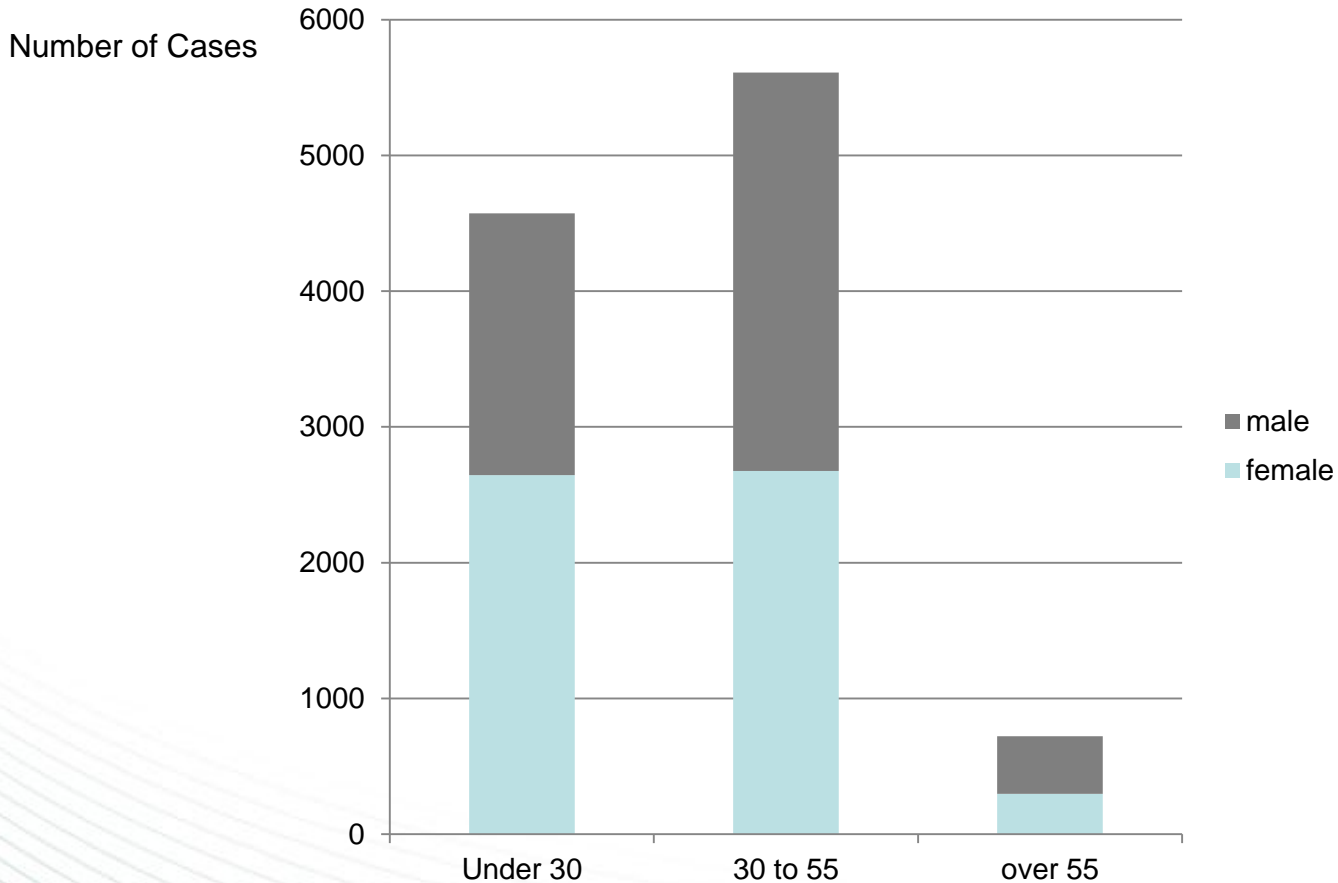# Number of Households (Cases) and People (Individuals) Served
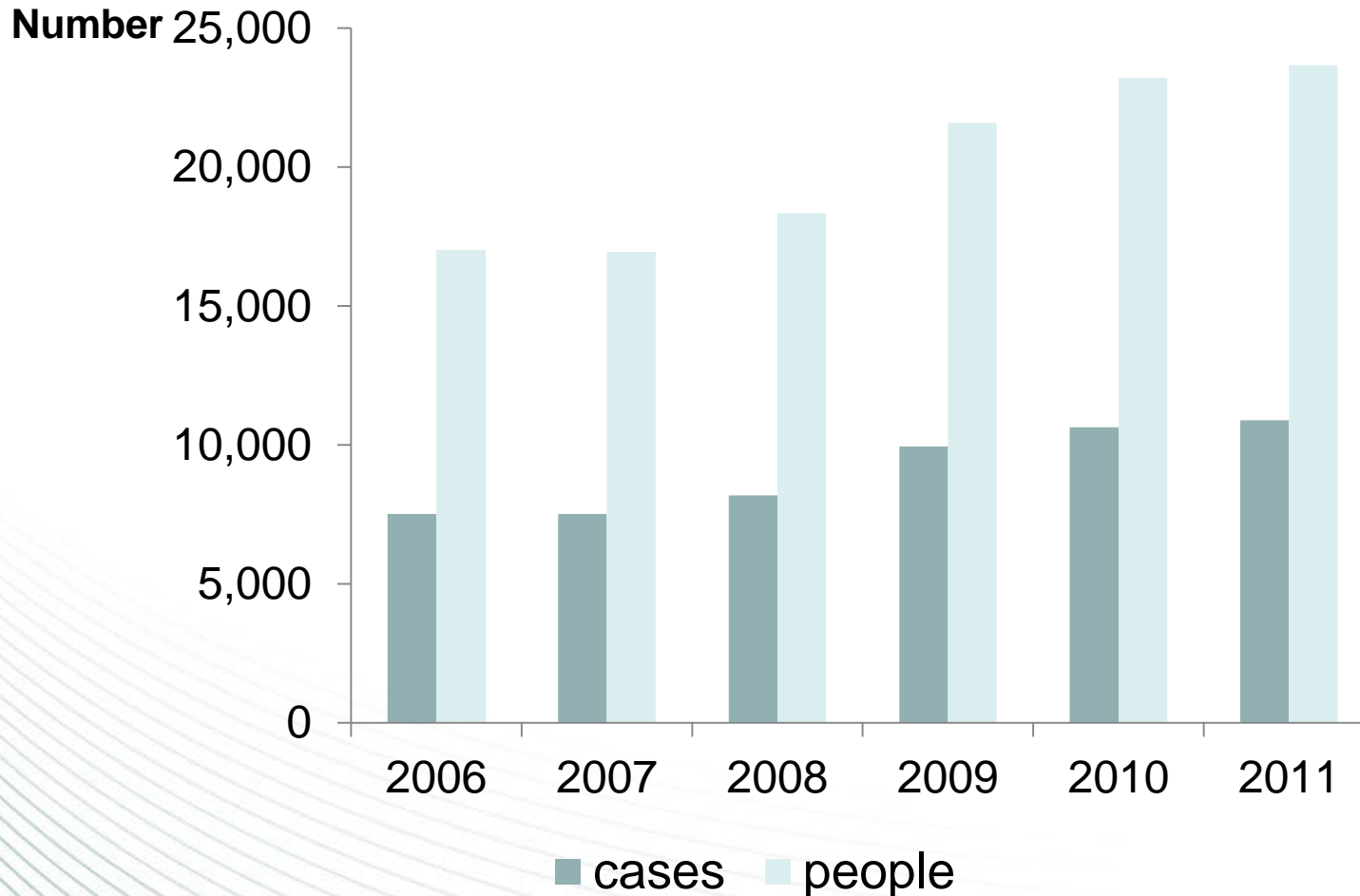
Caseload Description: Caseload by Family Type

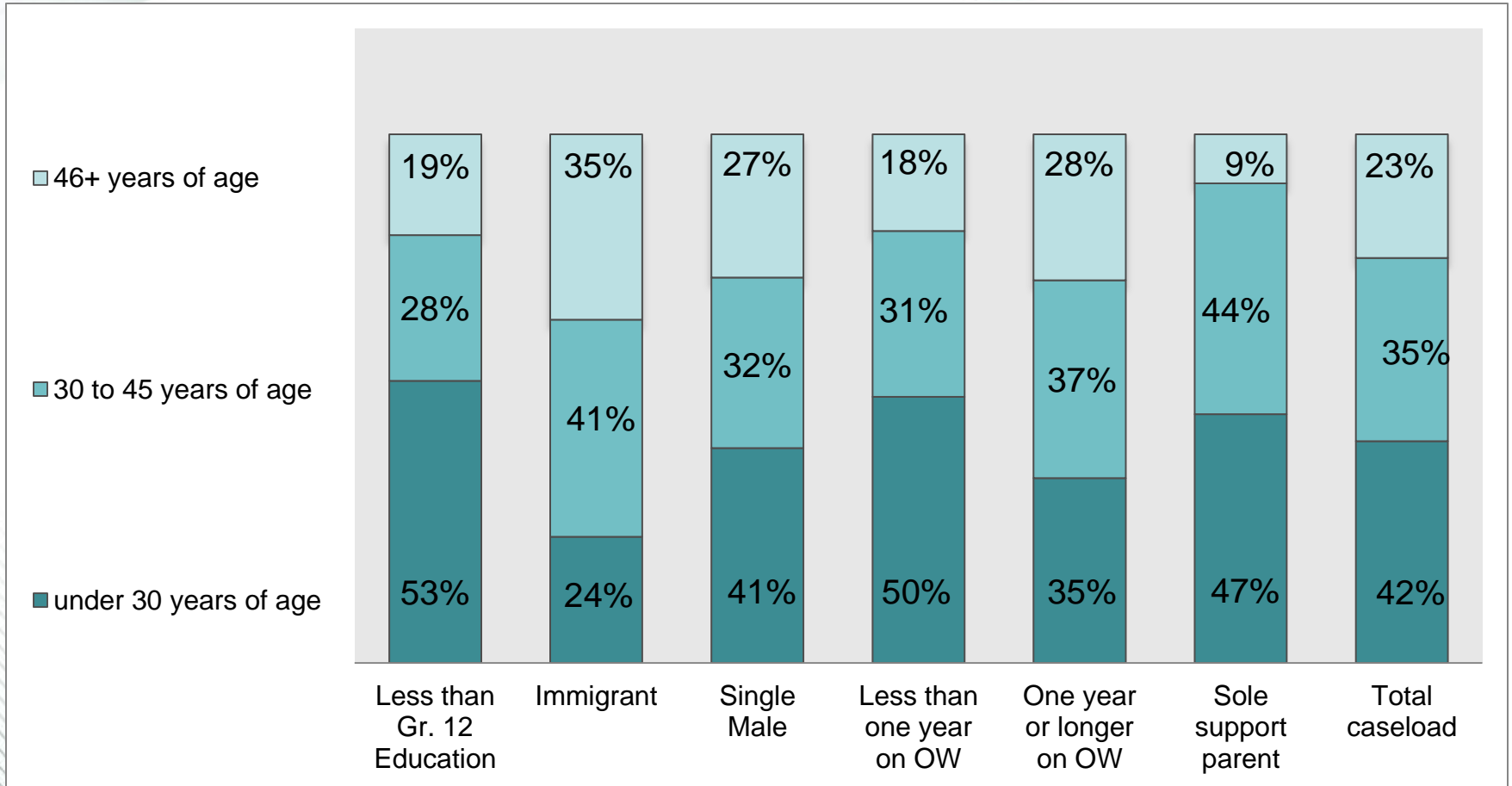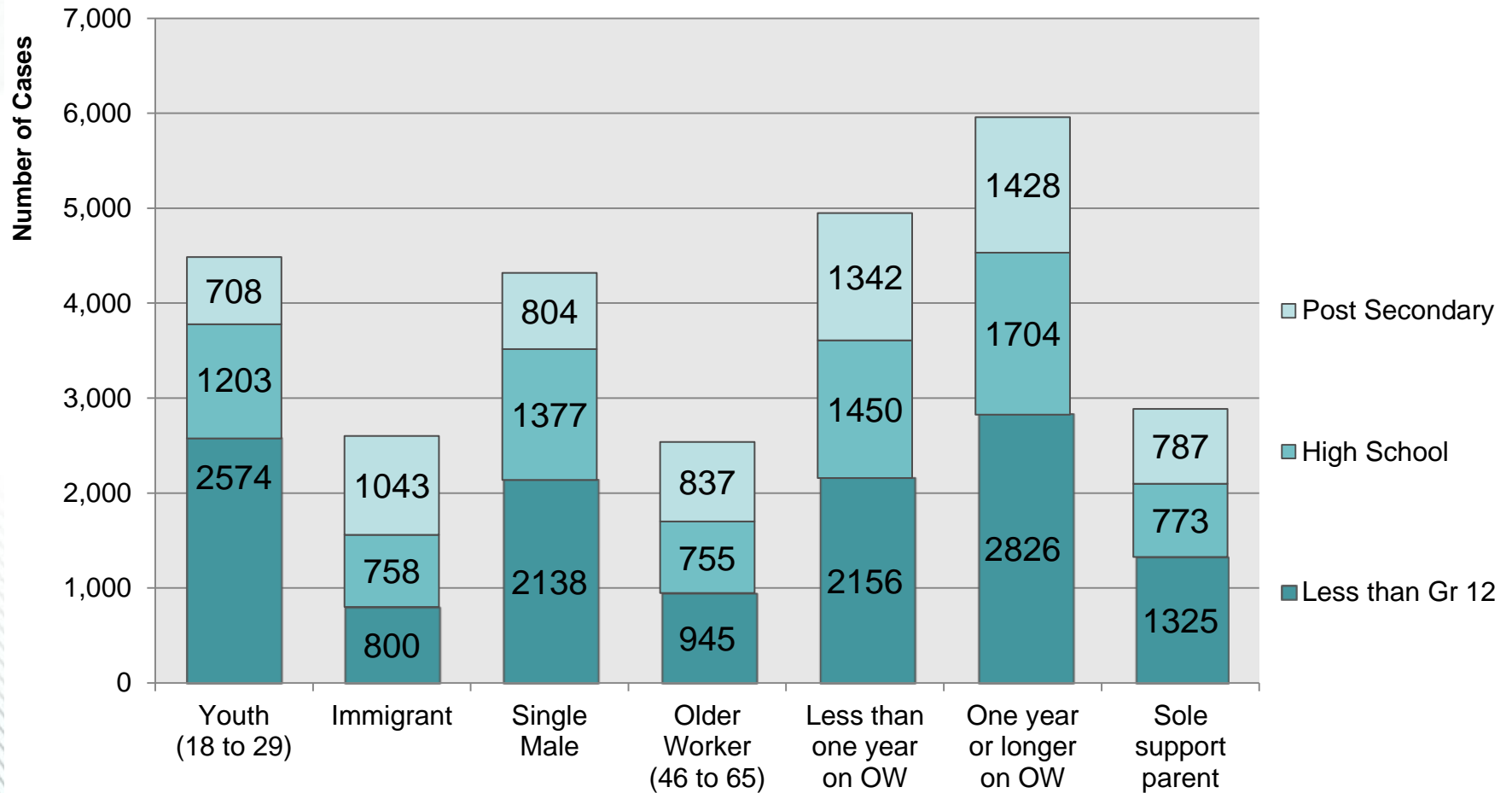couples
24%

sole support
29%

Single
47%

Caseload Description:
Households by Age and Gender

Caseload Description: Household Age by Selected Population

Caseload Description: Education by Selected Population

54% of the total caseload reports having received a high school diploma or higher

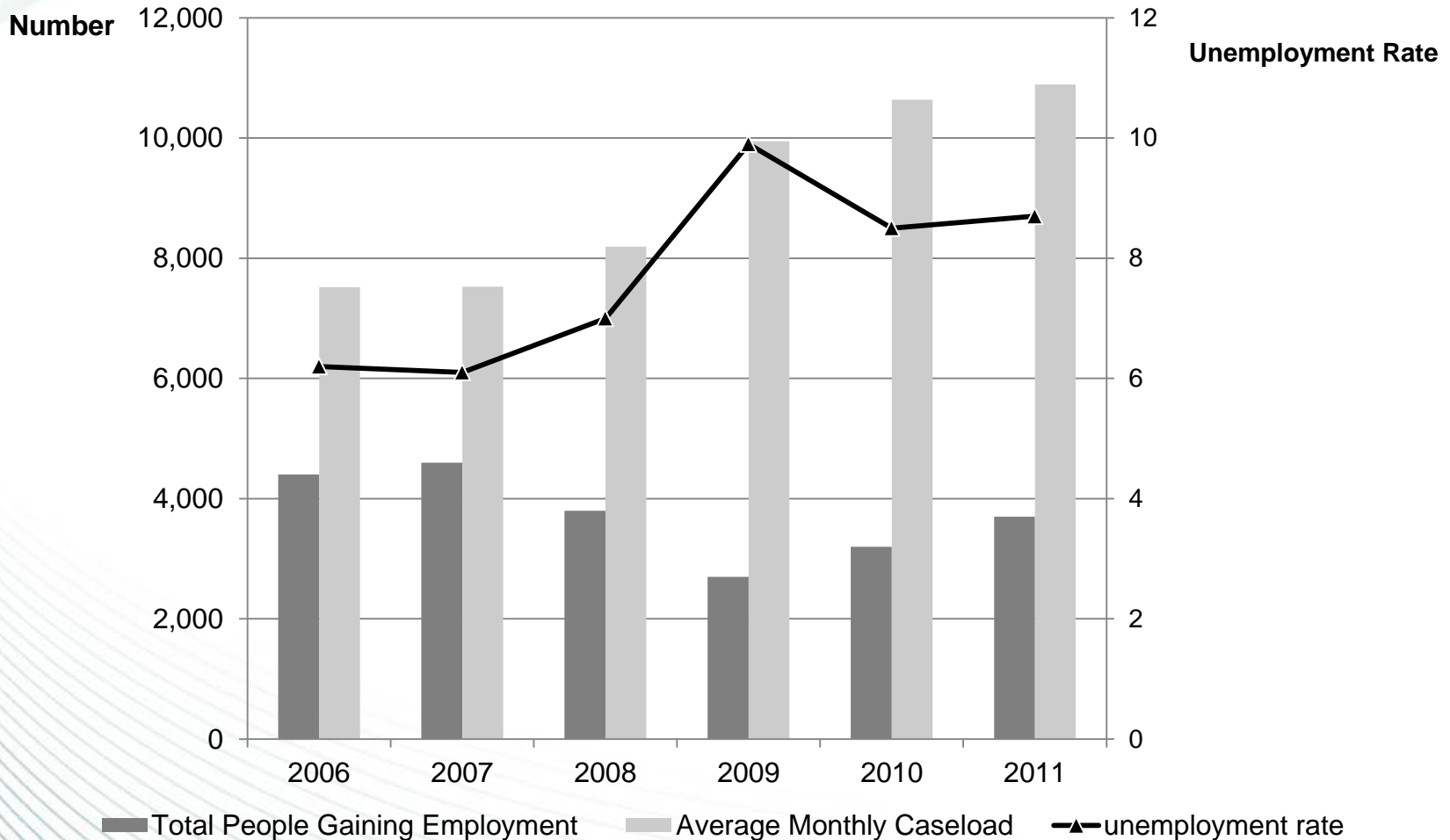# Caseload Description: Diverse Needs

Challenges

- Increasingly we will serve people with profound challenges
  - Mental health and addiction strategy
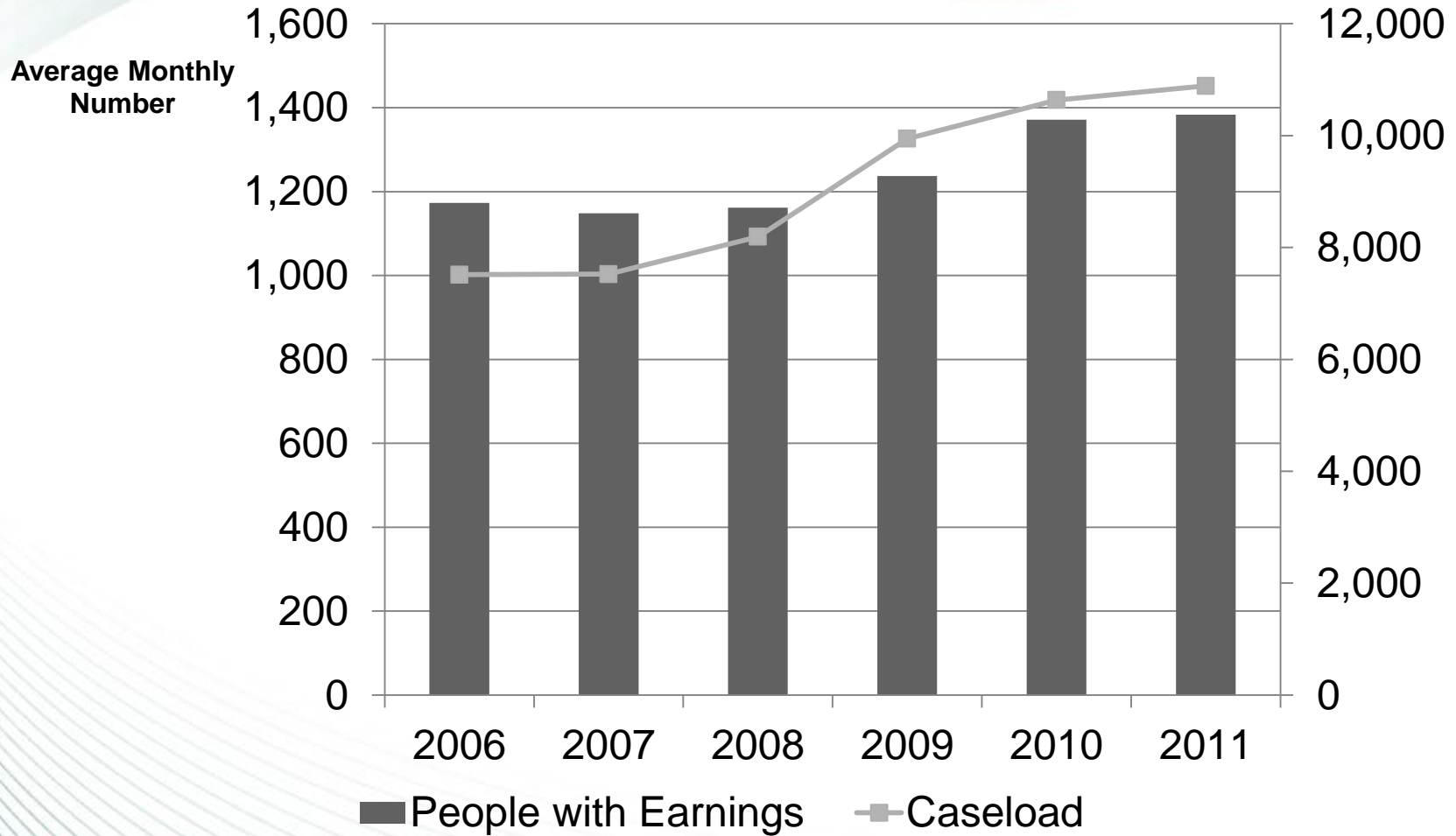 - Mental health bed divestiture

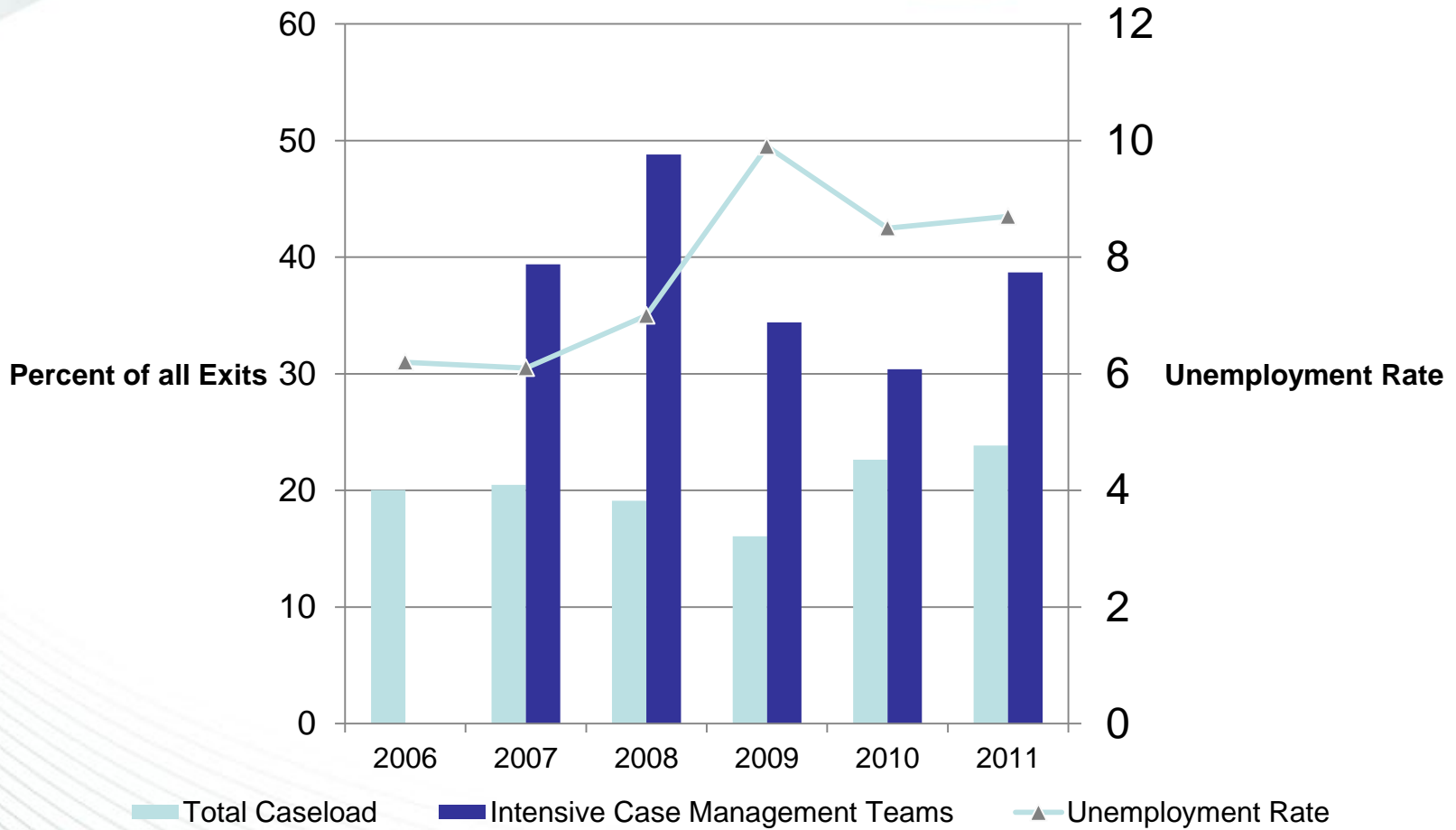# Employment Outcomes Achieved: People Gaining Employment

Employment Outcomes Achieved: People with Earnings

Employment Outcomes Achieved:
% of All Exits due to Employment

The Economic Landscape

Since the late 1980's, strong correlation between unemployment rate and social assistance recipiency as a percent of population (Stapleton, J.)

Historically, social assistance caseloads have been indicator of economic slowdown and have lagged economic recovery

Percent

Unemployment rate

Beneficiaries as % of population

Black solid line is a 2 period moving average trend line

2006   2007   2008   2009   2010   2011   2012 (f)
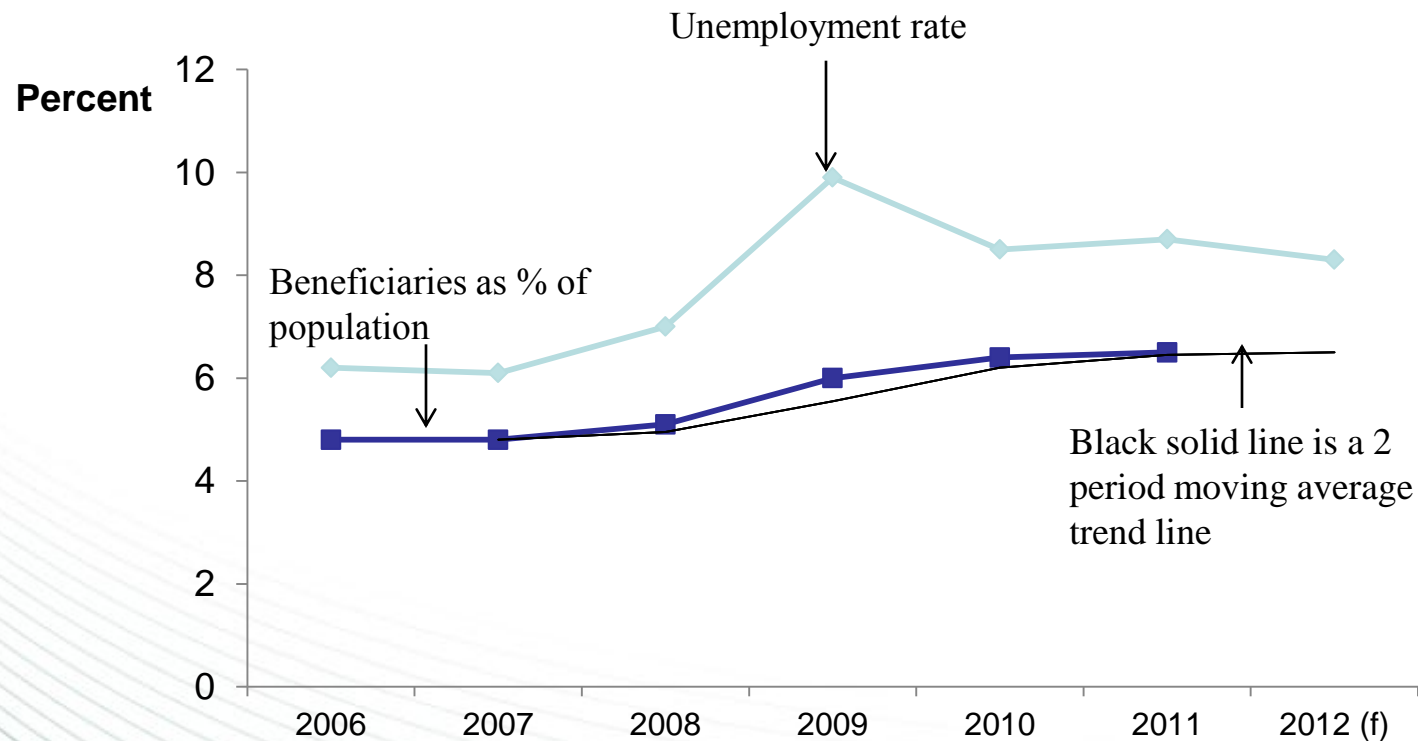
Employment Service Delivery Context

- Maximize resources by partnering
- Split internal/external model
  - OW staff provide case management and referrals
  - Employment agencies lead on employment service training and development, linkages with employers
  - employment services also include pre-employment, literacy and education

The Economic/Workforce Development Landscape

- Key Components that support effective economic development and strong employment outcomes include:

    – Workforce Development

    – Employment Planning

    – Integrated Employment Service Planning & Management

Stakeholders for Ontario Works to Achieve Employment Outcomes

- Employment Ontario organizations funded by MTCU
- Organizations funded by other government Ministries/departments to provide employment services
- LEDC
- Chamber of Commerce
- Workforce Planning & Development Board
- Ontario Works Staff
- Employers

The Policy Landscape

Provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy

- December 2008
- Commitment to review social assistance with a focus on removing barriers and increasing opportunities for people to work

Social Assistance Review Advisory Council

- December 2009
- Appointed to provide advice on scope of the review

Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario

- November 2010
- Tasked with carrying out a comprehensive review, and providing the government with specific recommendations and a concrete action plan for reform
- Final Report Due June 2012

Commitment to deficit reduction by 2018

Appointed Commission on the Reform of Ontario Public Services (Drummond Report)

Recommends social program spending limited to 0.5% per year. Recommendations for social assistance focus on efficiencies.

Questions?