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TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBOURHOODS COMMITTEE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2011
FROM:	CINDY HOWARD DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT:	ONTARIO WORKS PARTICIPANT PROFILE, JULY 2011

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Director of Social and Community Support Services with the concurrence of the Executive Director of Community Services, the following report **BE RECEIVED** for information purposes.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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- Profile of Ontario Works Participants (March 2004; September 2007; September 2008; September 2009; September 2010)

BACKGROUND

Annually, the Community Services Department provides the Community and Neighbourhoods Committee (CNC), formerly 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 2011 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 2011 caseload:

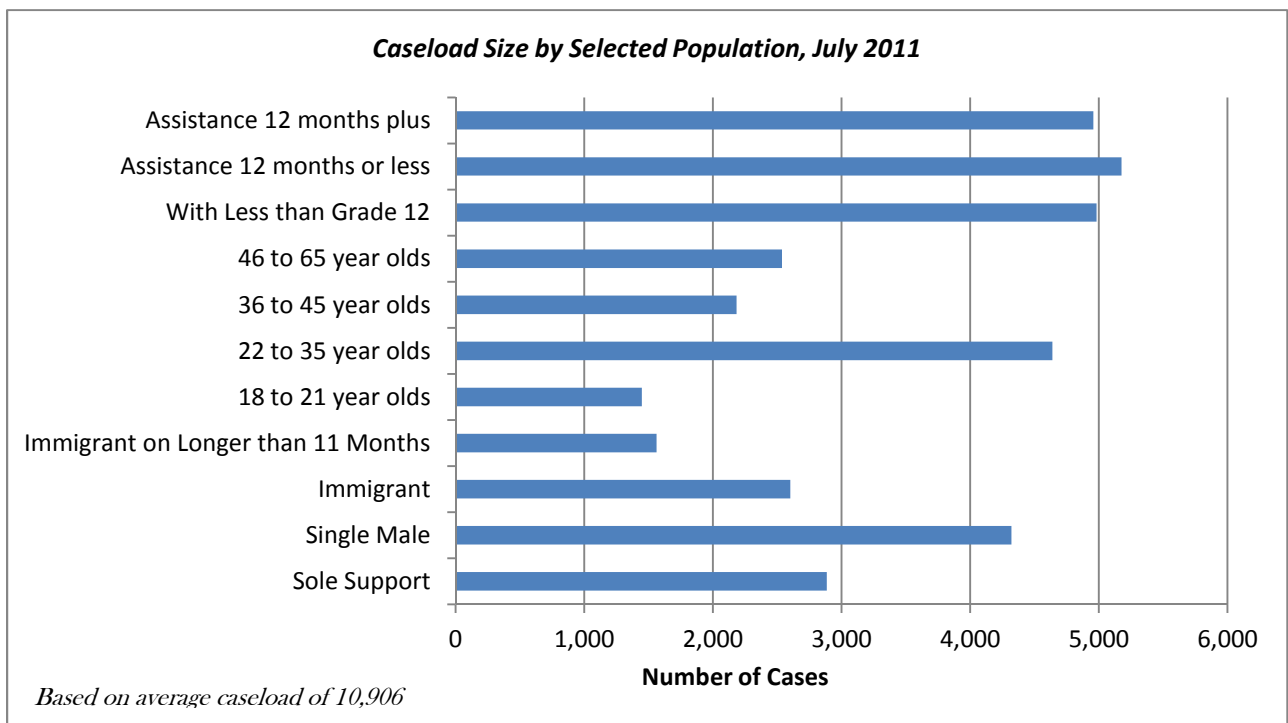
- In the first half of 2011:
 - Almost 11,000 households, representing approximately 24,000 people received Ontario Works assistance each month. This represents 6.6 per cent of London's population; and
 - 47 per cent of these households were single individuals.



- In July:
 - The majority of households participating in Ontario Works lived in the N5V, N5W, N5Y, and N5Z postal code areas which correspond to the Carling, Argyle, Glen Cairn and Huron Heights planning districts. Almost nine out of ten rent from the private market;
 - The age profile of female applicants on the caseload was younger than the age profile of male applicants;
 - About two thirds of all people receiving benefits were adults and one third were children under the age of 18 years;
 - Thirty-five per cent of households were families with children. Most families with children were single parent families;
 - Almost half of the approximately 7,000 children living in households that participated in Ontario Works were under the age of 7 years;
 - Over half of the applicants report achieving high school education or higher; and
 - Fifty five per cent of the households had been receiving assistance for over one year. Of these, 63 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 46 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:

- For the last two years, households on the caseload have been receiving assistance longer than in previous years;
- 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 19 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 14 per cent and 16 per cent of the caseload over the past five years.

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Data on employment outcomes have been available since 2005. Since 2009, employment outcomes have improved. For example, the number of people gaining employment and the number of cases leaving Ontario Works with employment since have increased.

Full Report

The full participant profile report “City of London Ontario Works 2011 Participant Profile” can also be found on the City of London Research & Community Building Launch Pad (www.london.ca/launchpad) in the Local Reports section.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

Acknowledgments

Prepared by Gerda Zonruiter, Community Planning and Research Associate with the support of Randy MacTaggart, Community Planning and Research Associate.

SUBMITTED BY:	
ELISABETH K. WHITE MANAGER, EMPLOYMENT & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES SOCIAL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT	
RECOMMENDED BY:	CONCURRED BY:
CINDY HOWARD DIRECTOR SOCIAL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT	ROSS L. FAIR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- C. Momodou Jeng, Manager, Social Research and Planning
- Lynne Livingstone, Director, Neighbourhood and Children’s Services
- Elaine Sauve, Program Supervisor, Ministry of Community and Social Services



APPENDIX A

PROFILE OF LONDON'S ONTARIO WORKS PARTICIPANTS

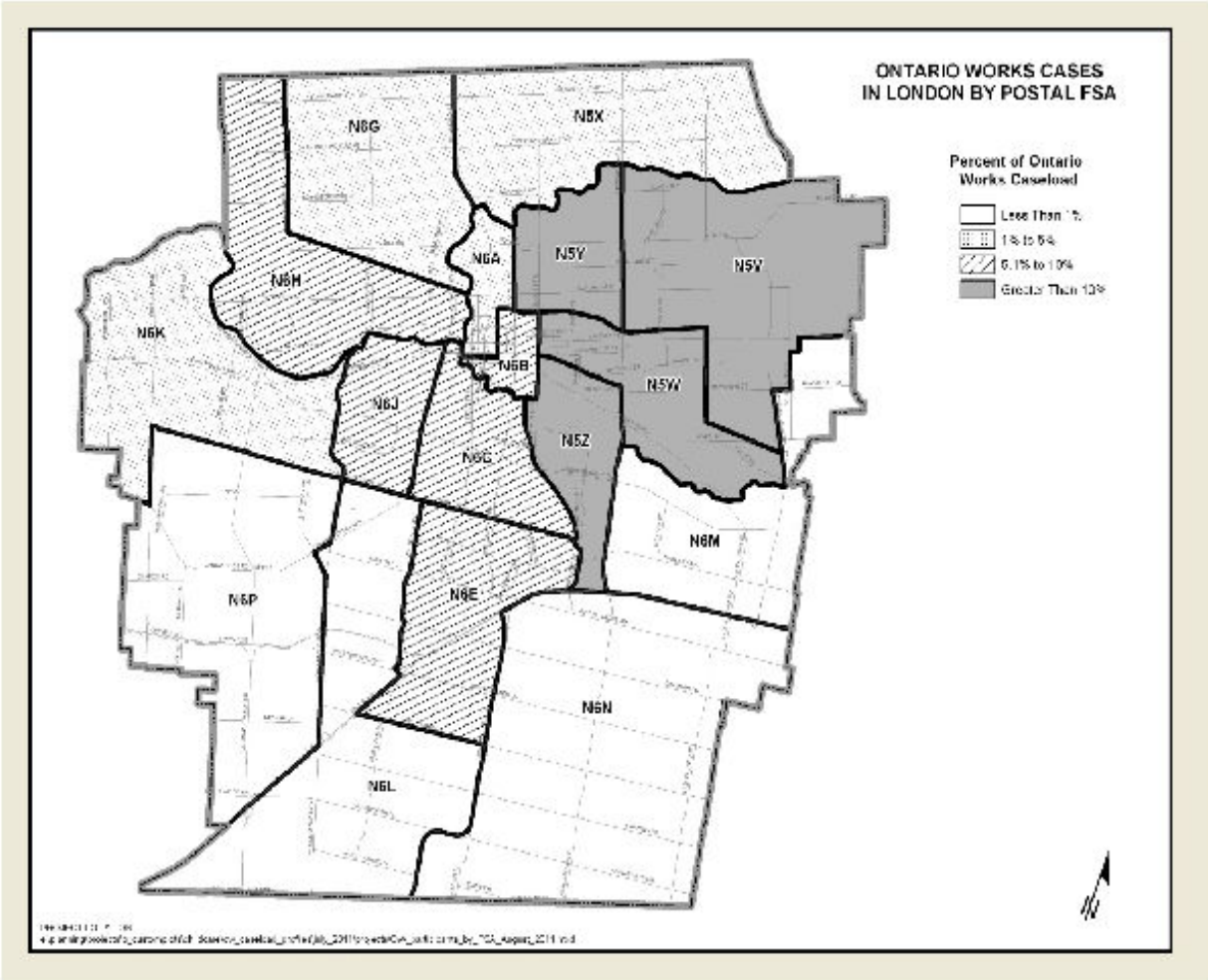
SECTION 1: INFORMATION ON THE TOTAL CASELOAD

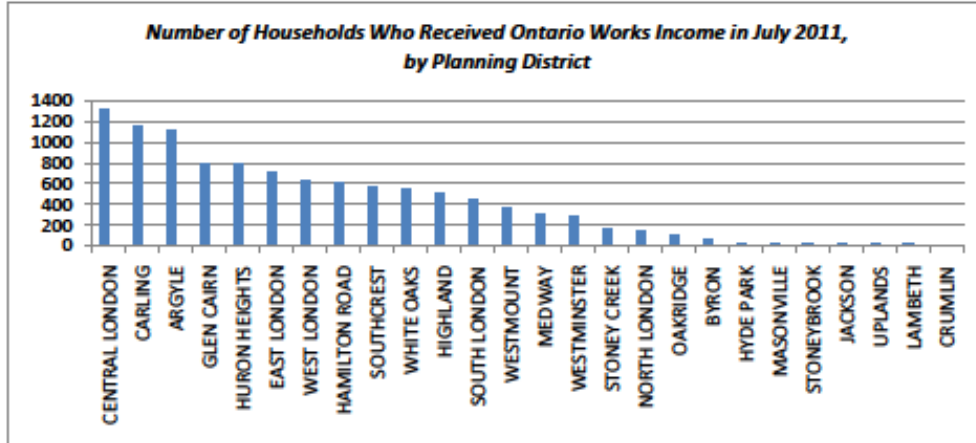
Data for this section of the report is from a variety of Service Delivery Management Technology reports and a local data extract. In some cases, data represents average monthly figures, in others, the data is a snapshot of July 18, 2011.

CaseLoad Size: Number of Individuals and Number of Households

Almost 11,000 households totalling an average of about 24,000 people including all adults and children received Ontario Works income each month in the first half of 2011. This represents approximately 6.6% of London's household and total population.

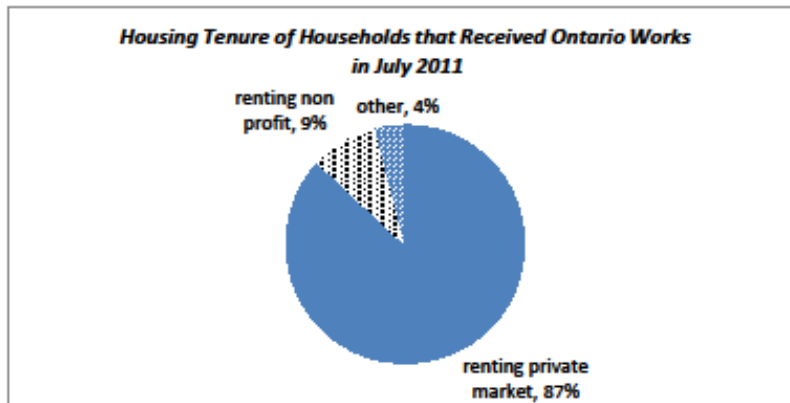
The majority of households participating in Ontario Works lived in the N5V, N5W, N5Y and N5Z postal code areas which correspond to the Carling, Argyle, Glen Cairn and Huron Heights Planning Districts. Central London had the highest number of households that received assistance.





Housing Tenure

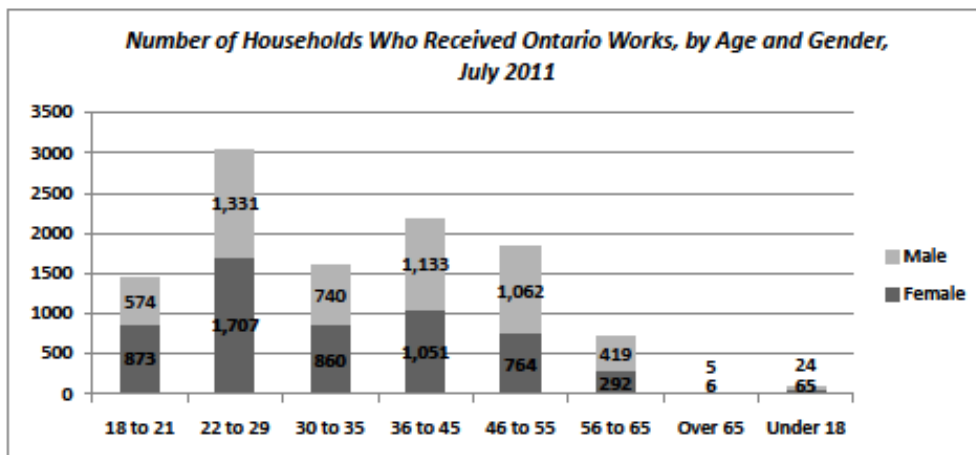
Almost nine out of 10 households that received assistance rented from the private market. Note that “other” housing tenure types include home ownership, boarding, homeless, addiction program, nursing home, addiction treatment.



Age and Gender

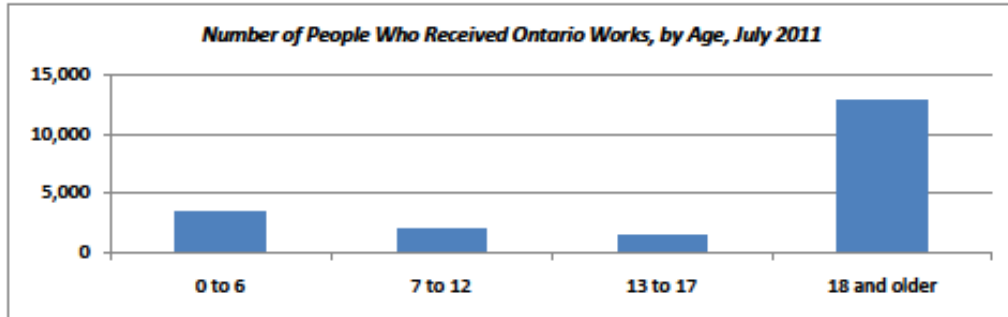
Just over half of the households receiving Ontario Works in July were headed by women (51.5%) and 48.5% were headed by men. Overall, the women on the caseload were younger than the men:

- Women accounted for 57 per cent of the Ontario Works population age 35 years and younger and men accounted for 43 per cent;
- Men accounted for 55 per cent of the Ontario Works population between the ages of 36 and 65 years, and women accounted for 45 per cent.





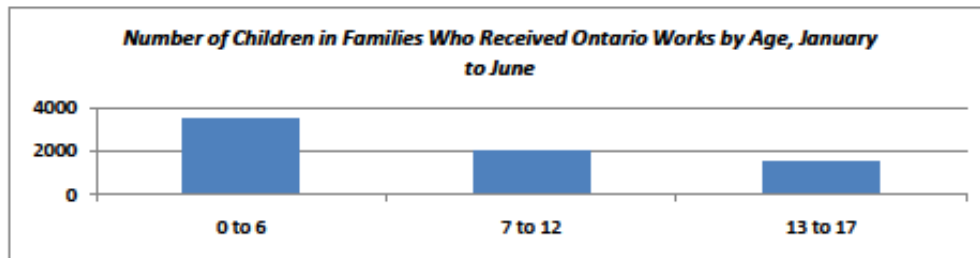
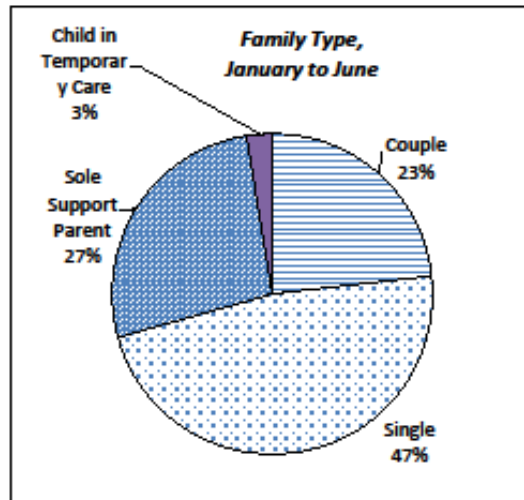
Of all the people who received benefits in July 2011, 64% were adults and 36% were children under the age of 18.



Family Type

On average each month from January to June, almost half of households were single individuals and just over one quarter were sole support parents. Of the couple households, almost 70 per cent were couples with children and 30 per cent were couples without children.

In July, just over one third of the caseload were families with children and 77 per cent of these families were sole support families. The average family had almost 2 children, for a total of almost 7,000 children. On average each month, half of all children were under the age of seven.



Education

In July, over half of households reported obtaining grade 12 education or higher.

Reported Education Level	Percent of Caseload
Unknown or less than grade 9	7%
Grade 9 to 11	39%
High school diploma	29%
Post secondary education	25%

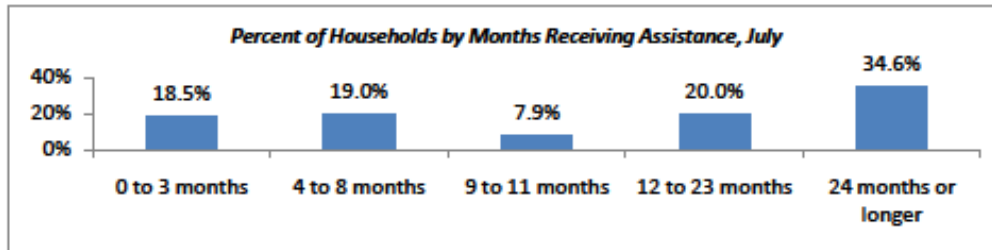


Caseload Dynamics

In the first half of 2011, a total of 4,312 households entered London's Ontario Works program and a total of 3,085 left.

The main reasons for needing assistance are: inability to obtain employment (68%), separated with dependents (10%), ill health (9%), and Employment Insurance exhausted (3.5%).

In July, 46 per cent of households had received assistance for less than one year, and 55 per cent had been receiving benefits for one year or longer.



Employment Outcomes

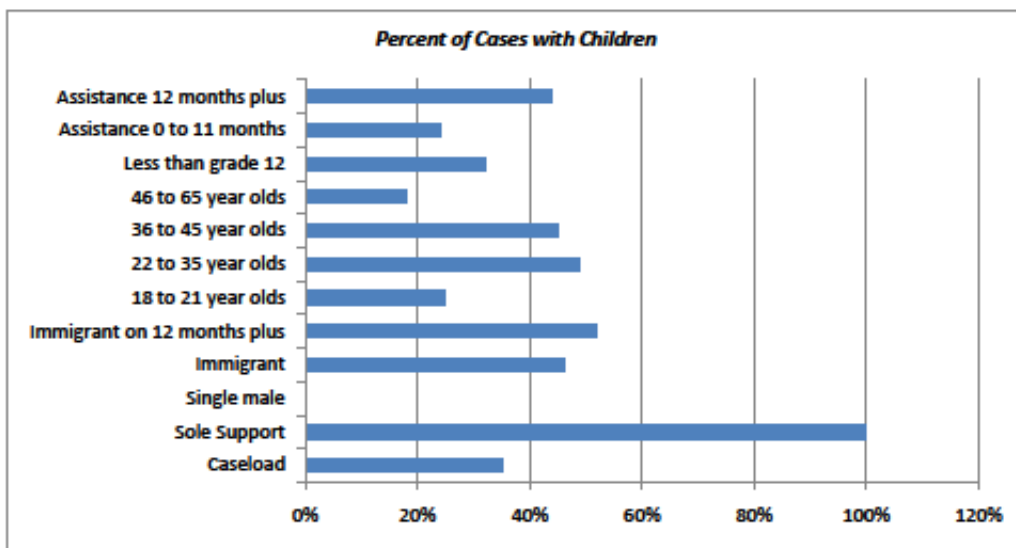
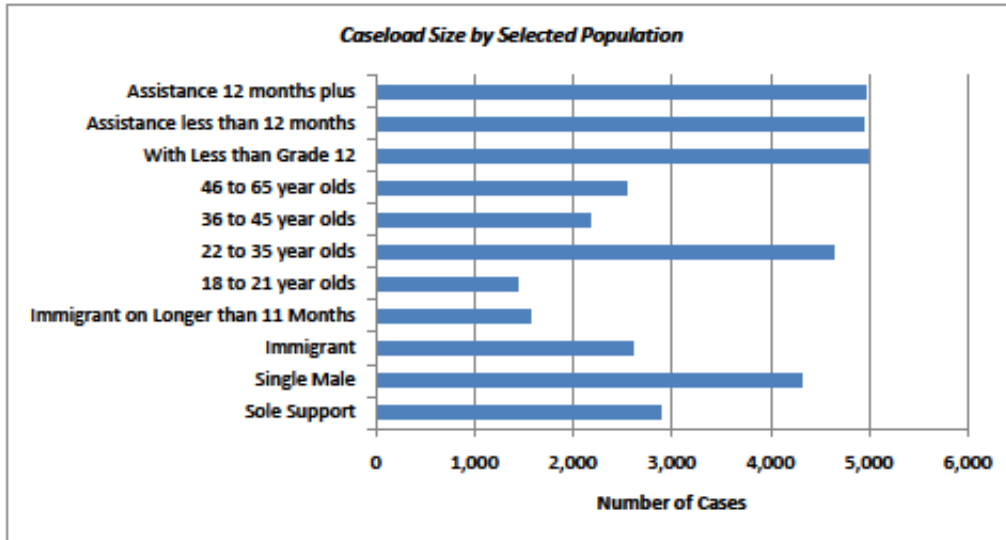
In the first half of 2011, 10 per cent of households earned employment income and a total of 1,741 people gained employment. Almost one quarter of households that exited Ontario Works left with employment income.

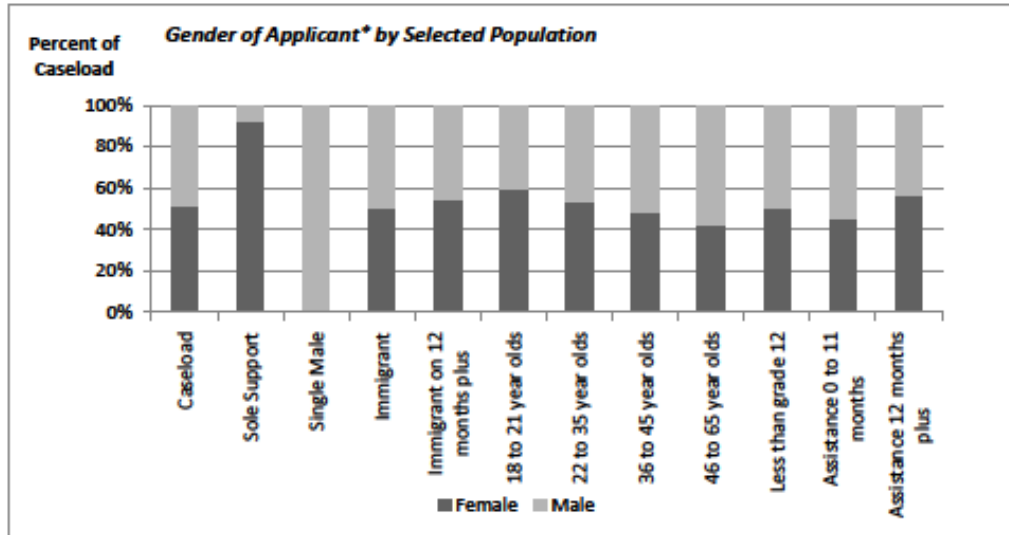


SECTION 2: INFORMATION ON SELECTED POPULATIONS

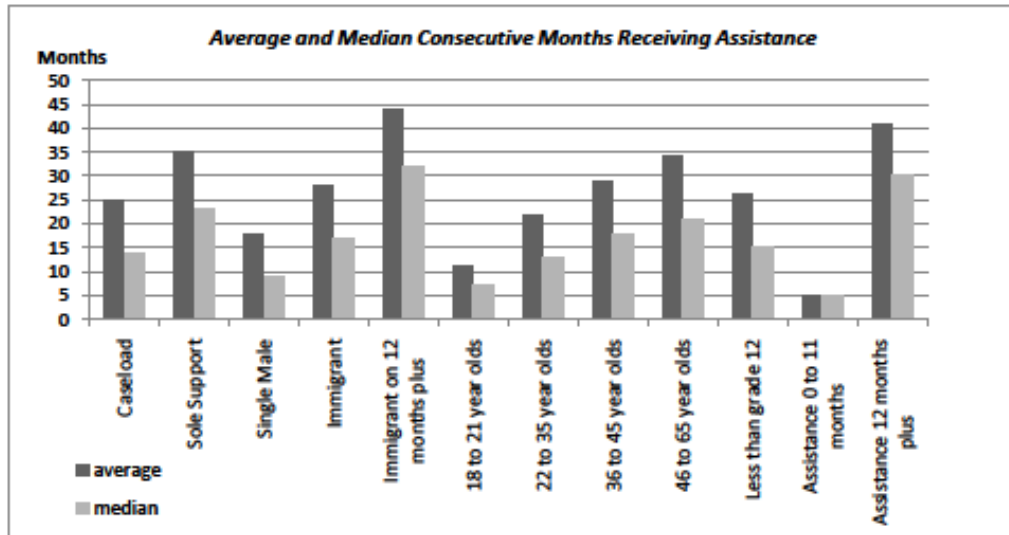
Data for this section of the report is a snapshot of the caseload on July 18, 2011. For this reason, data may not be consistent with what is cited earlier in this report.

The following charts provide a visual comparison of the attributes of selected populations on the caseload. For more detail on these, please consult the tables provided at the end of this report.

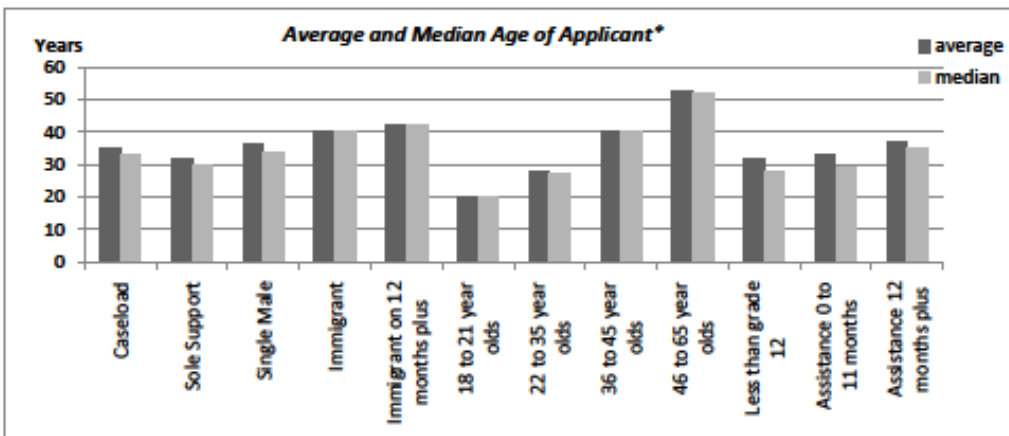




*Applicant refers to the head of the household for each case.



The average figure is the total cumulative number of months that all households on the caseload have received assistance divided by the number of cases. The median is the middle value. The difference between the months on assistance average and median figures for most of the populations signifies that the median figure is more representative of the population's time on assistance than is the average figure.



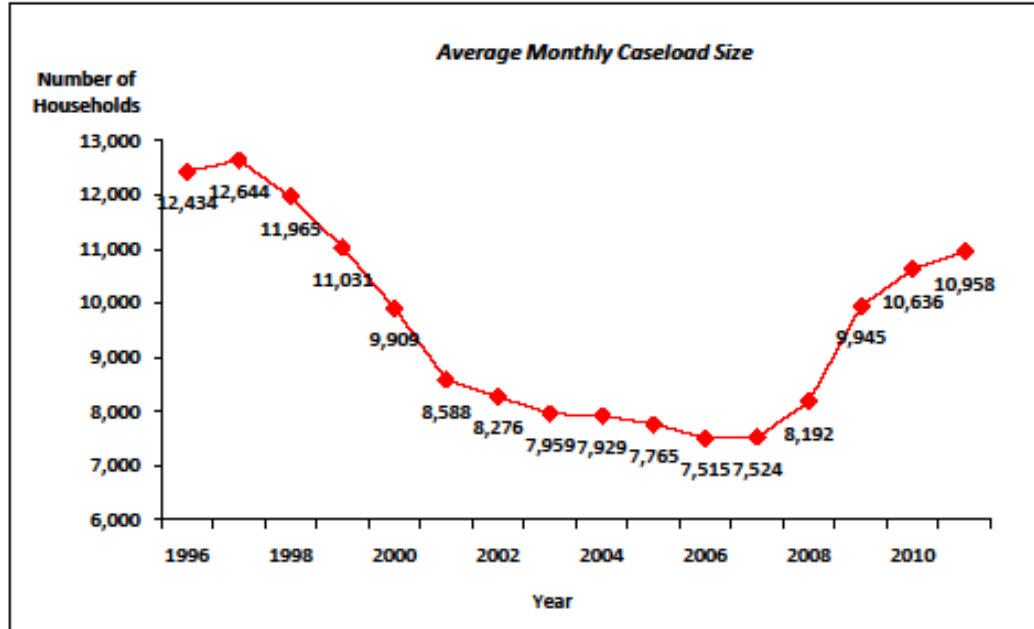
*Applicant refers to the head of the household for each population group.



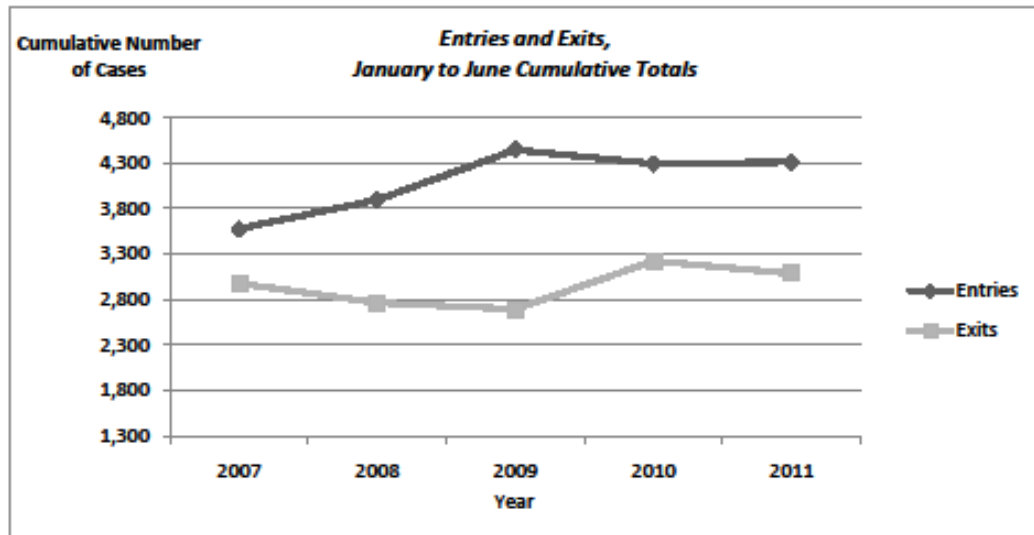
SECTION 3: TRENDS

Caseload Size and Dynamics

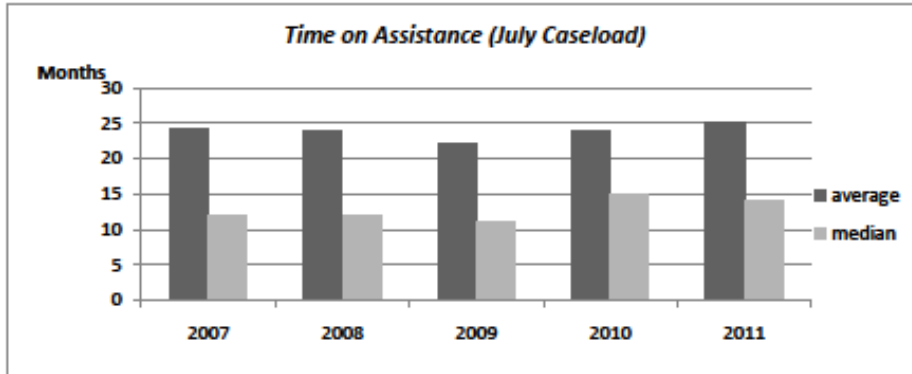
Since 2007, the year that sustained caseload growth began, the caseload has increased by 46 per cent.



From 2007 to 2009, caseload growth was been driven by an increase in the cumulative number of households entering the Ontario Works program, coupled with a reduction in the cumulative number exiting the program. Caseload growth in 2011 has been driven by a decline in the number of households leaving Ontario Works.

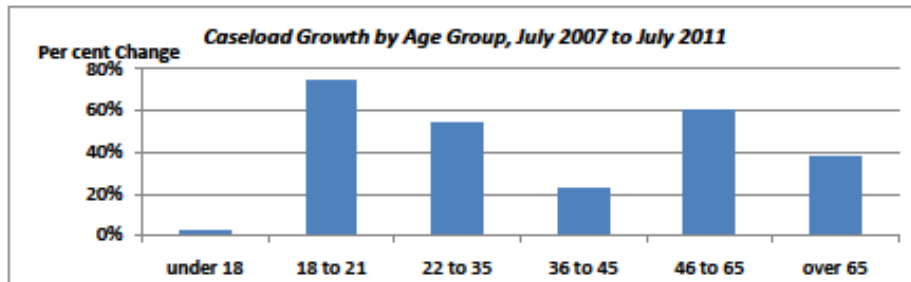


The average and median number of months on assistance was at its lowest in 2009. This was due to the high number of entries to Ontario Works and the low number of exits from the program. Since then, time on assistance figures have increased.



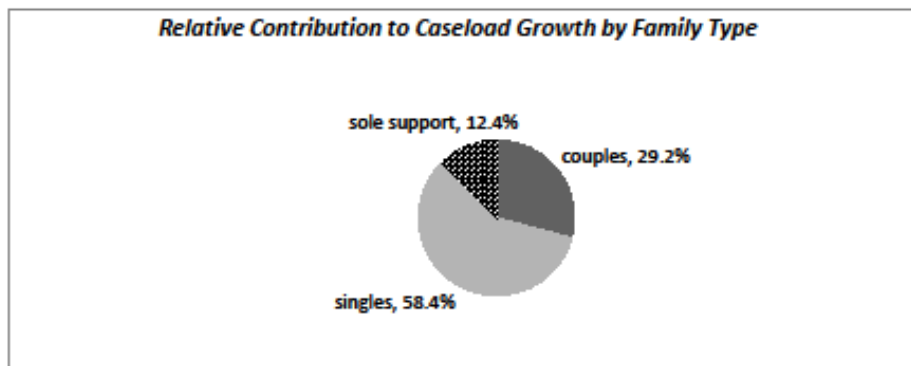
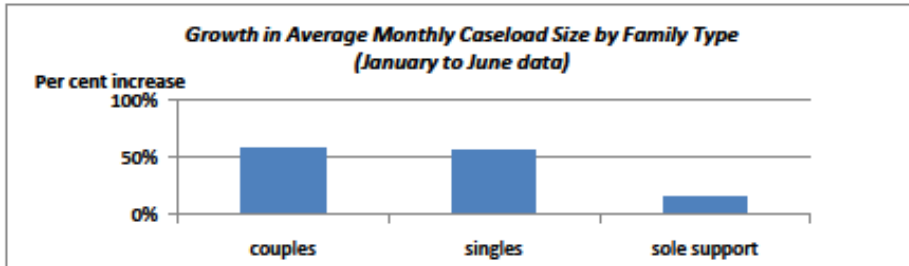
Age

Compared to 2007, the 18 to 21 year old age group has grown the most, increasing by almost 75 per cent. The 46 to 65 year old age group has grown by 60 per cent.



Family Type

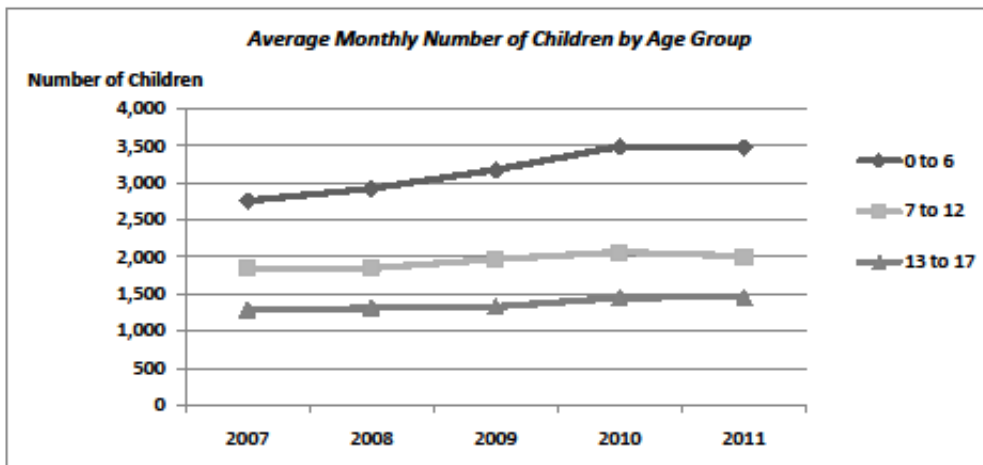
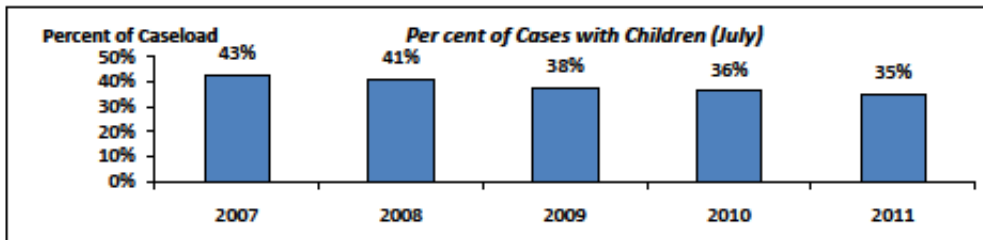
Since to 2007, the couples and singles caseloads have grown by more than 50 per cent. The singles caseload accounted for 58 per cent of total caseload growth while the couples caseload accounted for 29 per cent of total growth.





Children

The proportion of households with children has been decreasing. The increase in child benefits may contribute to this decline. From 2007 to 2010, the number of children living in families receiving assistance increased by 19 per cent. Most of this growth was due to an increase in the number of 0 to 6 year olds.



Interpreter Requests

Although the proportion of the caseload that are landed immigrants and refugee claimants has stayed between 14 per cent and 16 per cent since 2007, the top languages requested have changed. Spanish has consistently been the top requested language followed by Arabic. In 2011, Spanish accounted for 47 per cent of all interpreter requests while Arabic accounted for 19 per cent.

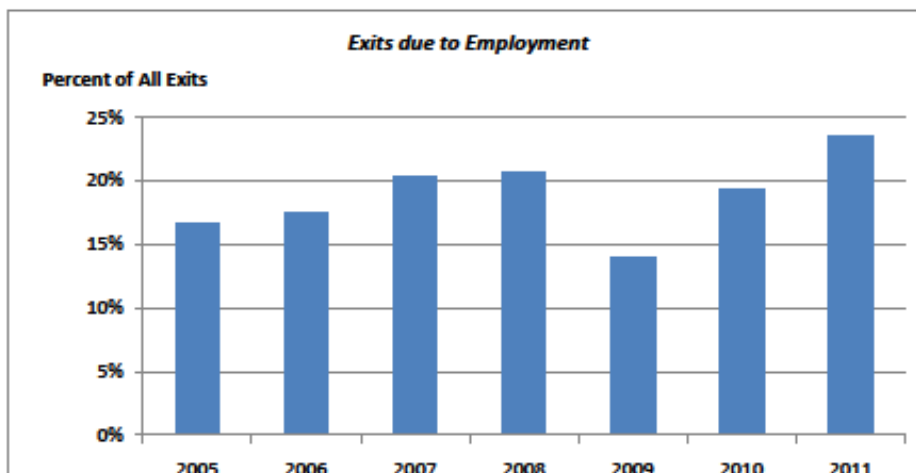
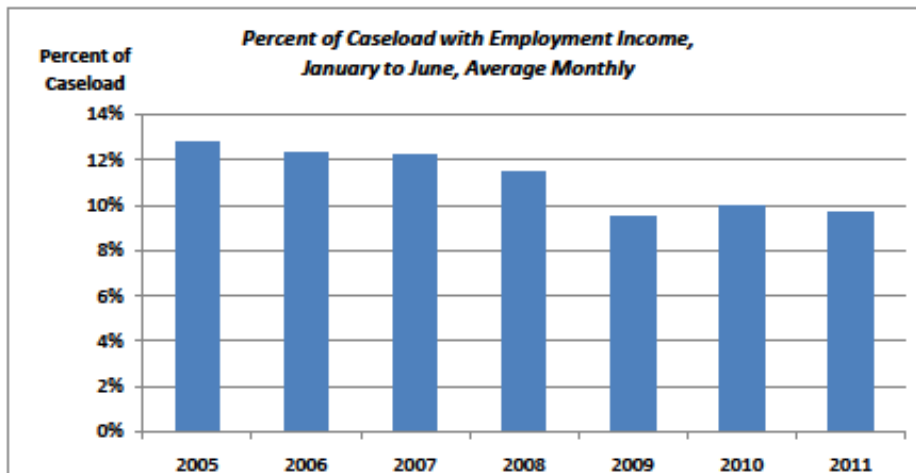
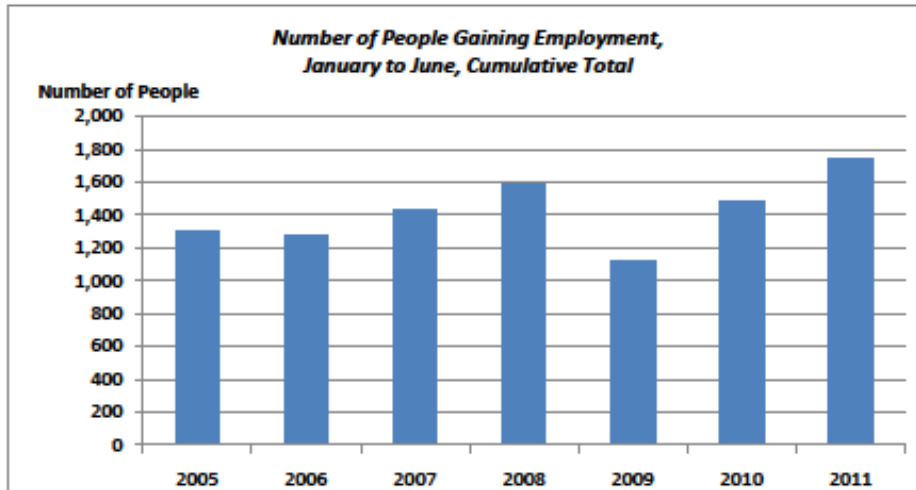
Immigrant Trends: Top Ten Interpreter Requests (January to June)

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
181 requests per month	207 requests per month	183 requests per month	222 requests per month	210 requests per month
SPANISH	SPANISH	SPANISH	SPANISH	SPANISH
ARABIC	ARABIC	ARABIC	ARABIC	ARABIC
PERSIAN	PERSIAN	PERSIAN	KAREN	FARSI
FRENCH	FRENCH	KAREN	PERSIAN	FRENCH
VIETNAMESE	VIETNAMESE	VIETNAMESE	VIETNAMESE	KAREN
ALBANIAN	OTHER	FRENCH	KHMER	VIETNAMESE
KURDISH	ALBANIAN	ALBANIAN	AMHARIC	KHMER
DARI	KURDISH	KURDISH	FRENCH	OTHER
KHMER	KHMER	KHMER	ALBANIAN	DARI
SOMALI	RUSSIAN	SOMALI	KURDISH	SOMALI



Employment Outcomes

Since 2009, the number of people gaining employment in the first half of the year has been increasing. The percent of the caseload with employment income has remained steady for the last three years, and remains lower than it was from 2005 to 2008. Exits due to employment have increased over the last three years, in both actual numbers and as a per cent of all cases leaving Ontario Works.





City of London Ontario Works Caseload, Snapshot of July 18, 2011 (Actual)															
	Total Caseload	Sole Support	Single Male	Immigrant	Immigrant on assistance longer than 11 months	18 to 21 yrs old	22 to 28 yrs old	30 to 35 yrs old	36 to 46 yrs old	48 to 66 yrs old	Less than grade 12	New grants: 0 to 3 months	New grants: 4 to 6 months	New grants: 7 to 11 months	On Assistance Longer than 11 months
Number of Cases	10,906	2,895	4,319	2,601	1,961	1,447	3,038	1,600	2,184	2,557	4,982	2,017	1,451	1,480	5,958
Beneficiaries (Number of Payroll)	22,052	7,894	4,348	7,484	3,918	2,143	5,768	3,925	5,440	4,622	8,541	2,889	2,254	2,387	13,894
Dependent Children	6,765	4,857	0	2,394	1,654	428	1,962	1,615	1,968	735	2,925	673	629	886	4,767
Dependent Adult	448	142	29	285	219	0	0	5	182	261	168	39	23	43	343
Adult (Not Dependent)	14,839	2,895	4,319	4,815	2,045	1,717	3,806	2,305	3,270	3,626	5,448	2,187	1,602	1,648	8,424
Gender															
Male	5,288	246	4,319	1,267	702	574	1,331	740	1,133	1,481	2,490	1,116	818	803	2,551
Female	5,618	2,640		1,334	869	873	1,707	860	1,051	1,095	2,482	901	633	677	3,407
Family Type															
Single	6,710		4,319	1,232	843	1,039	1,777	776	1,150	1,907	3,191	1,937	1,031	1,017	3,125
Sole Support	2,895	2,895		631	424	378	1,005	599	672	267	1,325	370	289	295	2,011
Couple - No Children	407			165	103	48	86	44	54	173	173	72	62	61	242
Couple - With Children	924			573	381	42	170	91	308	190	293	98	89	107	610
Time on Assistance															
0 to 3 Months	2,017	370	993	366		479	627	266	335	344	782	2,017			
4 to 11 months	2,931	564	1,377	674		518	855	424	528	553	1,374			1,480	1,187
12 to 17 Months	1,187	308	446	282		198	348	179	226	228	545				
18 + months	4,771	1,703	1,503	1,279		312	1,208	731	1,095	1,412	2,281			9	4,771
Avg Months on Assistance	25	35	18	28		11	20	26	29	34	28			9	41
Median Months on Assistance	14	23	9	17		7	12	15	18	21	15			9	30



Immigrant Status	Total Caseload	Sole Support	Single Male	Immigrant	Immigrant on assistance longer than 11 months	18 to 21 yrs old	22 to 28 yrs old	30 to 36 yrs old	38 to 46 yrs old	48 to 65 yrs old	Less than grade 12	New grants: 0 to 3 months	New grants: 4 to 6 months	New grants: 7 to 11 months	On Assistance Longer than 11 months
Canadian Citizen	2,601	631	716	2,601	1,561	141	469	362	707	904	800	396	321	353	1,561
Convention Refugee	1,093	314	367	1,093	625	51	216	126	276	421	355	196	136	166	625
Landed Immigrant	114	19	31	114	93	7	12	16	35	44	20	10	6	5	93
Refugee Claimant	974	244	237	974	575	58	173	137	267	332	396	145	128	126	575
	420	54	81	420	288	25	69	63	129	107	69	45	51	56	288
Age															
Under 18	89	34	24	10	4										
18 to 21	1,447	318	531	141	43	1,447									
22 to 29	3,038	1,005	1,200	469	217		3,038								
30 to 36	1,600	589	575	362	216			1,600							
38 to 46	2,184	672	820	707	440				2,184						
48 to 65	1,626	255	637	600	428					1,626					
66 to 69	711	12	330	304	211					711					
Over 65	11	0	2	8	2										
Subtotal, 46 to 65 Year Olds	2,537	267	1,167	904	639					2,537					
Average Age	35	32	36	40	42	20	25	32	40	53	32	32	32	34	37
Median Age	33	30	34	40	42	20	25	32	40	52	28	28	29	31	35
Reported Education															
Unknown or Less than Grade 9	727	193	0	305	218	53	170	67	147	277	727	71	90	104	462
Grade 9 to 11	4,255	1,132	1,894	495	281	965	1,386	565	585	698	4,255	711	596	594	2,364
Grade 12 to 13	3,154	773	1,377	758	438	333	870	488	702	755		632	403	415	1,704
Post-Secondary	2,770	787	804	1,043	604	95	612	490	740	837		603	372	367	1,428



City of London Ontario Works Caseload, Snapshot of July 18, 2011 (Per Cent)

	Total Caseload	Sole Support	Single Male	Immigrant	Immigrant on assistance longer than 11 months	18 to 21 yrs old	22 to 29 yrs old	30 to 35 yrs old	36 to 45 yrs old	46 to 65 yrs old	Less than grade 12	New grants: 0 to 3 months	New grants: 4 to 6 months	New grants: 7 to 12 months	On Assistance Longer than 11 months
Cases	100%	27%	40%	24%	14%	13%	28%	15%	20%	23%	46%	18%	13%	14%	55%
Beneficiaries															
Dependent Children	31%	62%	0%	32%	42%	20%	34%	41%	37%	16%	34%	23%	28%	29%	35%
Dependent Adult	2%	2%	1%	4%	6%	0%	0%	0%	3%	6%	2%	1%	1%	2%	3%
Adult (Not Dependent)	67%	37%	99%	64%	52%	80%	66%	59%	60%	78%	64%	75%	71%	69%	62%
Gender															
Male	49%	9%	100%	49%	45%	40%	44%	46%	52%	58%	50%	55%	56%	54%	43%
Female	52%	92%		51%	55%	60%	56%	54%	48%	42%	50%	45%	44%	46%	57%
Family Type															
Single	62%	N/A	100%	47%	41%	72%	59%	49%	53%	75%	64%	76%	71%	69%	53%
Sole Support	27%	100%		24%	28%	22%	33%	37%	31%	11%	27%	15%	19%	20%	34%
Couple - No Children	4%	N/A		6%	7%	3%	3%	3%	3%	7%	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Couple - With Children	8%	N/A		22%	24%	3%	6%	12%	14%	8%	6%	5%	6%	7%	10%
Time on Assistance															
0 to 3 Months	19%	11%	23%	14%		29%	21%	16%	15%	14%	16%				
4 to 11 months	27%	20%	32%	26%		36%	28%	27%	24%	22%	28%		0%	100%	
12 to 17 Months	11%	11%	10%	11%	18%	14%	12%	11%	10%	9%	11%				20%
18+ months	44%	59%	35%	49%	82%	22%	40%	46%	50%	56%	46%				80%



	Total Caseload	Bole Support	Single Male	Immigrant	Immigrant on assistance longer than 11 months	18 to 21 yrs old	22 to 28 yrs old	30 to 35 yrs old	36 to 45 yrs old	46 to 65 yrs old	Less than grade 12	New grants: 0 to 3 months	New grants: 4 to 6 months	New grants: 7 to 12 months	On Assistance Longer than 11 months
Immigrant Status	24%	22%	17%	100%	100%	10%	15%	23%	32%	36%	16%	16%	22%	24%	26%
Canadian Citizen	42%	50%	51%	42%	40%	36%	46%	35%	44%	47%	45%	45%	42%	47%	40%
Convention Refugee	4%	3%	4%	4%	6%	5%	3%	4%	5%	5%	3%	3%	2%	1%	6%
Landed Immigrant	37%	39%	33%	37%	37%	41%	37%	38%	35%	37%	45%	40%	40%	36%	37%
Refugee Claimant	16%	9%	11%	16%	17%	16%	15%	23%	16%	12%	9%	12%	16%	16%	17%
Age															
Under 18	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	N/A		N/A		N/A	2%	2%	2%	1%	0%
18 to 21	13%	11%	12%	5%	3%	100%		N/A		N/A	20%	21%	19%	17%	9%
22 to 29	26%	35%	26%	16%	14%	N/A	100%	N/A		N/A	31%	31%	31%	27%	26%
30 to 35	15%	20%	13%	14%	14%	N/A		100%		N/A	13%	13%	14%	15%	15%
36 to 45	20%	23%	19%	27%	28%	N/A		N/A	100%	N/A	15%	17%	17%	19%	22%
46 to 65	17%	9%	19%	22%	27%	N/A		N/A	100%	N/A	13%	13%	12%	15%	20%
66 to 69	7%	0%	8%	12%	14%	N/A		N/A		72%	5%	4%	5%	6%	8%
Over 69	0%	N/A	0%	0%	0%	N/A		N/A		N/A	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Subtotal: 46 to 65 year old	23%	9%	27%	35%	41%	N/A		N/A		100%	19%	17%	17%	21%	26%
Reported Education															
Unknown or less than grade 9	7%	7%	6%	12%	14%	4%	6%	4%	7%	11%	15%	4%	6%	7%	8%
Grade 9 to 11	39%	39%	44%	19%	16%	67%	46%	35%	27%	26%	65%	35%	40%	40%	40%
Grade 12 to 13	29%	27%	32%	29%	28%	23%	29%	31%	32%	30%	0%	31%	28%	28%	29%
Post Secondary	25%	27%	19%	40%	39%	7%	20%	30%	34%	33%	0%	30%	26%	25%	24%

1 Percentage of the caseload for the entire program
 2 Percentage of beneficiaries for the given group
 All other rows: percentage of the caseload for the given group