



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Fewer welfare recipients

According to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands, the number of people receiving welfare benefits has gone down substantially for the second year in a row. By the end of 1998 some 397 thousand people received welfare. This is 40 thousand less than at the end of 1997 and more than 80 thousand less than at the end of 1996.

Proportion of women on welfare increasing

By the end of 1998 the proportion of women among welfare recipients is 55%. By the end of 1996 it had been 52%. The women are primarily single mothers with children and single women over 40. Among the women receiving welfare 8 out of 10 belong to either of these two categories. They are not getting out of welfare to the same degree other people do.

The greying of the welfare population

The number of welfare recipients over 40 has increased from 41% by the end of 1996 to 49% by the end of 1998. In the years 1997 and 1998 there was a greater outflow than inflow of young people. Older people are less likely to belong to the in or outflowing populations, of whom 3 in 4 are under 40.

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