Adult OASDI Beneficiaries and SSI Recipients
Who Need Representative Payees:
Projections for 2025 and 2035

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Representative Payee Forum
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Purpose of Paper

• Examine how demographic changes may influence the need for representative payees in the future

• Focus on adults, as parent serves as a representative payee for the vast majority of children, students, and disabled adult children

• Examine the share of beneficiaries with non-family member serving as a representative payee

• Identify some of the challenges to projecting the need for representative payees
Methodology

• Disaggregate data on OASDI beneficiaries and SSI recipients in CY 2013 by age and program

• Compute the proportion with a representative payee within each disaggregated group in CY 2013

• Use Modeling Income in the Near Term (MINT) to project beneficiary population for 2025 and 2035, disaggregated by age and program

• Multiply CY 2013 proportions for each disaggregated group by the 2025 (and 2035) MINT projections, then sum disaggregated groups to obtain overall number of beneficiaries who will need a representative payee

• Perform separate projections for the subset with a non-family member serving as a representative payee, using the same approach
Sources of Projection Uncertainty

• Will the proportion of beneficiaries with a representative payee remain the same as CY 2013?
  • Improvements in mortality might be accompanied by increases in disabling health conditions and the need for representative payees
  • Reductions in the prevalence of some conditions (e.g., recent JAMA study on dementia trends) might reduce the need for rep. payees

• Are there more beneficiaries who need a representative payee than reported in the data?
  • Changes in the capacity to manage benefits might not be reported to SSA
  • OIG report suggests more beneficiaries may need a rep. payee
  • Many identified by OIG have a family member who manages finances, but...
  • Changes in family composition are likely to increase financial vulnerability

• Monitoring both of these issues is important for assessing and updating our projections, and for agency strategic planning on the rep payee program
Data on All 8.1 Million Beneficiaries with a Representative Payee in CY 2013

About 2.9 million Adults

- Disabled Worker: 12%
- Retired Worker: 6%
- SSI-only Adult: 16%
- Widower/Spouse: 2%

Younger than 18: 55%

- Disabled Adult Child or Student: 9%

About 5.2 million Younger than 18 or Disabled Adult Child or Student, Not Included in the Study
Projected Growth in the Need for Representative Payees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2025</th>
<th>2035</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>2,941,037</td>
<td>3,265,580</td>
<td>3,558,921</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Projected Growth In Beneficiaries with a Representative Payee, By Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2025</th>
<th>2035</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSI</td>
<td>1,304,931</td>
<td>1,339,576</td>
<td>1,369,479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled worker</td>
<td>957,040</td>
<td>1,077,868</td>
<td>1,118,278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired worker</td>
<td>519,780</td>
<td>768,474</td>
<td>1,001,985</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Beneficiaries
Projected Growth in Beneficiaries with a **Non-Family Member Representative Payee**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Beneficiaries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>886,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>1,000,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2035</td>
<td>1,121,201</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Projected Growth In Beneficiaries with a **Non-Family Member Representative Payee**, By Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>SSI</th>
<th>Disabled worker</th>
<th>Retired worker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>326,310</td>
<td>276,127</td>
<td>221,784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>339,177</td>
<td>304,732</td>
<td>326,769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2035</td>
<td>346,346</td>
<td>317,635</td>
<td>431,498</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusions

• The number of adults who need a rep payee may increase from:
  • 2.94 million in 2013,
  • to 3.27 million by 2025, and
  • to 3.56 million by 2035.

• The increase is driven by growth in the retired-worker beneficiary pop. from 2013 to 2025, and 85-or-older age group from 2025 to 2035.

• Growth in the number of adults with a non-family member representative payee is somewhat more dramatic, only 57.3 percent of retired-worker beneficiaries had a family member serve as rep payee, compared to 71.1 percent of disabled-workers.

• The change in the size and composition of the beneficiary population may pose significant challenges, planning for these changes critical.

• Projections are subject to uncertainty, updating and improving the projections as new data become available will be important for strategic planning purposes.
More Information


https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/ssb/v75n2/v75n2p1.pdf


http://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/article-abstract/2587084