



**Annual Report
of the
Supplemental
Security
Income Program**

**Social Security Administration
2011**



SOCIAL SECURITY

The Commissioner

May 27, 2011

President Barack H. Obama
The White House
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Biden:

It is my pleasure to submit to you the 2011 Annual Report of the Supplemental Security Income Program (the fifteenth such report), in compliance with section 231 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

Sincerely,

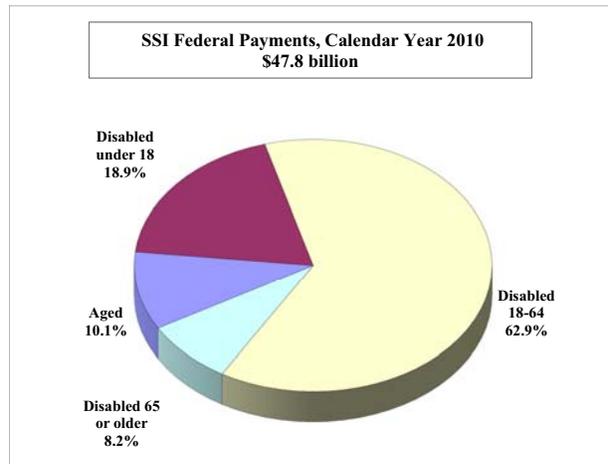
Michael J. Astrue

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-193) directs the Social Security Administration (SSA) to report annually to the President and to the Congress on the status of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. Projections of program recipients and costs through at least 25 years are a required element of these reports. This report is the fifteenth of such reports.

Highlights of the SSI Program

- The SSI program is a nationwide Federal assistance program administered by SSA that guarantees a minimum level of income for needy aged, blind, or disabled individuals. It acts as a safety net for individuals who have limited resources and little or no Social Security or other income.
- In January 2011, 7.7 million individuals received monthly Federal SSI payments averaging \$478, up from 7.5 million recipients with an average payment of \$476 in January 2010.
- Federal expenditures for cash payments under the SSI program during calendar year 2010 increased 4.1 percent to \$47.8 billion, while the funds made available to administer the SSI program in fiscal year 2010 increased 9.2 percent to \$3.7 billion. In 2009 the corresponding program and administrative expenditures were \$45.9 billion and \$3.4 billion, respectively.



Major Findings of the Report

- By 2035, the end of the 25-year projection period, we estimate that the Federal SSI recipient population will reach 9.9 million. The projected growth in the SSI program over the 25-year period is largely due to the overall growth in the U.S. population, although we expect the current economic slowdown to temporarily generate additional growth beyond what we might expect from historical trends. We project that the percentage of the population receiving SSI will vary somewhat by age group, with the percentage for those age 65 or older declining throughout the projection period and the percentage for those under 65 continuing to increase over the next 4 years, but declining thereafter to a level slightly higher than the current percentage.
- As a percentage of the total U.S. population, the number of Federal SSI recipients increased slightly from 2.37 percent in 2009 to 2.42 percent in 2010. We project this percentage to increase gradually to 2.60 percent of the population by 2035 due largely to the changing age distribution of the population.
- We estimate that Federal expenditures for SSI payments in calendar year 2011 will increase by \$1.5 billion to \$49.3 billion, an increase of 3.2 percent from 2010 levels.
- In constant 2011 dollars, we project that Federal expenditures for SSI payments will increase to \$60.9 billion in 2035, a real increase of 0.9 percent per year.
- Federal SSI expenditures expressed as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) were 0.293 in 2008 and increased to 0.325 percent of GDP in 2009 due to the economic recession. After increasing slightly to 0.326 percent of GDP in 2010, we project that expenditures as a percentage of GDP will decrease slightly to 0.324 percent of GDP in 2011, and continue to decline thereafter to 0.244 percent of GDP by 2035.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Congress established the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program in 1972, with payments beginning in January 1974. The Social Security Administration (SSA) administers the program. SSI replaced the former Federal-State programs of Old-Age Assistance, Aid to the Blind, and Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Residents of the Northern Mariana Islands became eligible for SSI in January 1978.

Under the SSI program, the monthly Federal cash payment in 2011 for an eligible person living in his or her own household and having no other countable income is \$674 (\$1,011 for a couple if both members are eligible). Since 1975, these Federal SSI benefit rates have increased with the same cost-of-living adjustment that has been applied to benefits under the Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) program.¹ In addition to setting a Federal benefit standard, the legislation establishing SSI also permitted individual States to supplement the Federal payment with an additional monthly amount. As described in section III, these State supplementary payments can be either voluntary at the option of the individual States or, in certain cases, mandatory under requirements in effect when the SSI program began.

Under section 231 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, SSA must submit a report on the SSI program to the President and Congress no later than May 30 of each year. This is the fifteenth annual report on the SSI program. The legislative mandate requires that the report include:

- A comprehensive description of the SSI program;
- Historical and current data relating to: (1) claims intake and dispositions at all levels of decision making; (2) demographic information about recipients, including program cost and prior enrollment in other public benefit programs; (3) redeterminations, continuing disability reviews, and utilization of work incentives; (4) administrative costs; and (5) State supplementation program operations;
- 25-year projections of future recipients and program costs;
- A historical summary of statutory changes to title XVI of the Social Security Act; and
- Summaries of any relevant research on the SSI program by SSA or others.

In addition, the legislation specified that the report may include views of the SSI program by the Social Security Advisory Board.

Much of the required information is the subject of extensive ongoing research. In responding to each of the specific requests for information, every effort has been made to provide the best information available at this time. SSA will continue to make improvements upon such information, in order to provide the President and Congress with the input necessary to effectively manage this important part of our society's social safety net.

¹ The Federal SSI benefit rates for 2011 are unchanged from 2010 because there was no cost-of-living increase for 2011.

II. HIGHLIGHTS

The SSI program is a nationwide Federal assistance program administered by SSA that guarantees a minimum level of income for needy aged, blind, or disabled individuals. This section presents highlights of recent SSI program experience, a summary of important changes to the program in the last year, a discussion of current issues facing the SSI program, and a summary of the key results from the 25-year projections.

A. RECENT PROGRAM EXPERIENCE

SSI program experience during the past year included the following:

- During calendar year 2010, 2.4 million individuals applied for SSI benefits based on blindness or disability, an increase of 3 percent over 2009. Additionally, 148 thousand applied for SSI benefits based on age, an increase of less than 1 percent over 2009. In 2010, 1.1 million applicants were awarded SSI benefits, an increase of 5 percent as compared to the 1.0 million awarded benefits in 2009.
- Each month on average during calendar year 2010, 7.6 million individuals received Federal SSI benefits. This group was composed of 1.1 million aged recipients, 6.4 million disabled recipients, and 65 thousand blind recipients. Of the 6.5 million blind or disabled recipients, 1.2 million were under age 18, and 0.8 million were aged 65 or older. During the year, 8.6 million aged, blind, or disabled individuals received at least 1 month's Federal SSI benefit.
- Federal expenditures for payments under the SSI program in calendar year 2010 totaled \$47.8 billion, up from \$45.9 billion in 2009.
- Each month on average during calendar year 2010, 2.4 million individuals received Federally-administered State supplementary payments. This group was composed of 0.6 million aged recipients, 1.8 million disabled recipients, and fewer than 50 thousand blind recipients. During calendar year 2010, 2.6 million individuals received at least 1 month's Federally-administered State supplementary payment.
- State expenditures for Federally-administered supplements, excluding fees for Federal administration, totaled \$3.6 billion in calendar year 2010, down from \$4.0 billion in 2009.
- The percentage of SSI recipients participating in direct deposit reached 65 percent in fiscal year 2010. SSI recipient participation in direct deposit has increased gradually in recent years after experiencing a period of sharp growth when it more than doubled from 24 percent in 1995 to 49 percent in 2000. We expect participation in direct deposit to increase significantly in the next few years as SSI recipients must choose to receive their benefit payments by either direct deposit or the Direct Express® debit card by March 2013.
- The cost of administering the SSI program in fiscal year 2010 was \$3.7 billion, which was roughly 7 percent of total Federally-administered SSI expenditures.
- In January 2011, 8.0 million individuals received Federally-administered monthly SSI benefits averaging \$500. Of these, 7.7 million received monthly Federal SSI payments averaging \$478, and 2.4 million received monthly State supplementation payments averaging \$125.

B. SSI LEGISLATION SINCE THE 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Since the 2010 SSI Annual Report was transmitted to the President and Congress on August 19, 2010, the following legislative changes were made to the SSI program:

Public Law 111-255, enacted October 5, 2010

Provides for income and resource exclusion of compensation received by SSI beneficiaries or spouses for participating in clinical trials researching treatment of rare diseases or conditions. Excludes the first \$2,000 of compensation received per calendar year. The exclusion is effective for a 5-year period from date of enactment.

Public Law 111-291, enacted December 8, 2010

Ratifies a class-action lawsuit settlement (*Cobell et al. v. Salazar et al.*) that determined the United States had mismanaged American Indian assets for generations. Under the terms of the settlement, Indian land-owners who had monies held in mismanaged trust accounts are eligible for settlement payments. These payments are excluded from consideration as income (in the month received) or as a resource (for a period of one year beginning with the month of receipt) for SSI purposes.

Public Law 111-312, enacted December 17, 2010

Excludes Federal tax refunds or advance payments (with respect to refundable tax credits) from income (in the month received) or as a resource (for a period of 12 months from receipt) for Federal or Federally-assisted program purposes, including SSI. The exclusion applies to refunds or advance payments received after December 31, 2009 but before January 1, 2013.

C. CURRENT ISSUES FACING THE SSI PROGRAM

Within the past year, nearly 8 million aged, blind, and disabled individuals received SSI payments to meet their basic needs. In this respect, the program continues to provide a vital lifeline to those in our society who have the least. However, as with any Federal program of this magnitude and complexity, sound administration requires us to critically evaluate program performance and results. In this section, we examine two areas of interest stemming from this critical evaluation:

- Reducing the occurrence of improper payments
- Ensuring that program results are consistent with program intent

REDUCING IMPROPER PAYMENTS

During the past year, we have continued our progress on initiatives that reduce the occurrence of improper payments caused by inaccurate or untimely income and resource verification. However, SSI overpayments still present our greatest payment accuracy challenge. During fiscal years (FYs) 2010-2012, we project an overpayment accuracy rate of 91.6 percent, 92 percent, and 92.5 percent, respectively.¹ Although we still work toward additional improvements in this accuracy rate, these projections show progress when compared with accuracy rates of the recent past. As recently as FY 2008, overpayment accuracy had dropped to 89.7 percent, a reflection of reduced program integrity funding. With the additional resources provided for this work in recent years, we have invested in the strategies described in this section.

¹ We determine payment accuracy rates by reviewing and redeveloping a sample of cases where a payment was made within the fiscal year under review. We conduct interviews and redevelop nonmedical factors of eligibility to determine whether the payment was correct. Overpayment and underpayment errors are reported separately. For the FY 2009 accuracy review (the most recent year for which we have finalized data), we reviewed 4,310 cases.

Access to Financial Institutions

Unreported financial accounts are one of the major causes of improper payments in the SSI program. As we described in our 2010 report, the Access to Financial Institutions (AFI) is an initiative to verify bank account balances for purposes of determining SSI eligibility. Through the AFI initiative, we verify bank accounts at the SSI recipient's alleged financial institutions and search other financial institutions for accounts in his or her name. The AFI system improves efficiency by automating our current paper-based verification process and allowing us to verify electronically financial account balances alleged during the claims and redetermination processes. As a result, SSI records are more likely to be correct, and overpayment occurrence reduced. AFI is currently operating in 36 states, and we plan to complete AFI expansion nationwide during FY 2011. Once we fully implement AFI, we project roughly \$900 million in lifetime program savings for each year we use the process.

Telephone Wage Reporting

In another effort to reduce improper payments, we continue to use the SSI Telephone Wage Reporting System (SSITWR). The SSITWR system automates monthly wage reporting by recipients, deemors, and representative payees. In the past, recipients needed to mail, fax, or hand-deliver their monthly wage reports to one of our field offices. This manual process required a field office employee to key in wages; thus a delay in the report of wages or a delay in entering this information to our SSI system could create overpayments. Through the SSITWR program, individuals can call a designated agency telephone number to report their monthly wages via a voice-recognition system or touch tone software. Once we have the report, the information automatically updates our SSI claims system. The SSITWR program is available nationwide. The accuracy rate of SSITWR reported wages is 92.2 percent. In contrast, the accuracy rate of initial wage estimates on the SSI record based on a projection of likely earnings is only 75.5 percent.

Program Integrity Funding

Funding for program integrity workloads is critical to maintain and improve SSI payment accuracy. These workloads, Continuing Disability Reviews (CDRs) and SSI redeterminations, are the most important tools we use in completing program integrity work. Medical CDRs are periodic reevaluations of all medical factors to determine if beneficiaries are still disabled. SSI redeterminations are periodic reviews of nonmedical criteria for eligibility, including verification of living arrangements, income, and resources. With timely and adequate funding, we will increase the number of medical CDRs and SSI redeterminations we perform, allowing us to detect and prevent improper payments. With full FY 2012 President's Budget funding, we plan to conduct 592,000 medical CDRs and 2,622,000 SSI redeterminations. We project that meeting our FY 2012 program integrity goals for CDRs and redeterminations will yield program savings over the 10-year period (through FY 2021) of about \$9 billion, including OASDI, Medicare, and Medicaid savings.

ENSURING PROGRAM RESULTS

We critically evaluate program results just as we do with program performance. To what extent is the SSI program reaching those who are in the greatest need of assistance? Beyond the immediate concern of meeting basic needs, to what extent do federal programs assist those with limited means to become more self sufficient? We addressed these questions in two of the President's FY 2012 budget proposals.

SSI Extension for Refugees (FY 2012 Budget Proposal)

The SSI Extension for Elderly and Disabled Refugees Act (P.L. 110-328), signed into law on September 30, 2008, temporarily extended the seven-year SSI eligibility period for refugees, asylees, and certain other humanitarian immigrants from seven to nine years during the period October 1, 2008, through Sep-

tember 30, 2011. The extension was only applicable in situations where the recipient signed a statement of intent to pursue citizenship. Recipients who had filed for citizenship were exempt from time-limitations, and could receive up to three additional years of SSI during the effective period of the law. With this legislation, Congress acknowledged that humanitarian immigrants may be unable to attain citizenship within the 7-year period of SSI eligibility, even if they apply as soon as they are eligible.

The Administration's FY 2012 budget contains a proposal that would continue the current extension of SSI eligibility from seven to nine years for refugees, asylees, and other non-citizens in refugee-like immigration statuses. As long as these immigrants show intent to pursue citizenship, they could receive SSI benefits for up to 9 years, through the end date of the effective period (September 30, 2013). During this same period, the exemption from time limits for recipients who had filed for citizenship would also apply. After September 30, 2013, the eligibility period would revert to seven years. In short, the proposal would continue the current policy for an additional 2 years. As with the initial eligibility extension, the proposal underscores the nation's commitment to refugees, asylees, and other humanitarian immigrants who come to America with very little, and who frequently have nowhere else to go.

PROMISE Grants (FY 2012 Budget Proposal)

The President's FY 2012 budget also contains a proposal for a study tentatively called PROMISE (Promoting Readiness of Minors in SSI). PROMISE seeks to improve the outcomes of SSI child recipients and their families by focusing on situational concerns such as health status, physical and emotional development, and completion of education and training. This study would be a joint project with the Departments of Health and Human Services, Education, and Labor. PROMISE would consist of incentives to States and coordination of existing programs to improve the educational and economic well-being of children receiving SSI, and their families. The program would use competitive grants to test and evaluate interventions that may improve outcomes for these recipients. The Department of Education would administer the initial set of grants and we would be responsible for evaluating and providing data to states. PROMISE would provide SSI child recipients with expanded opportunities and a greater chance of leaving the SSI rolls.

CONCLUSION

The SSI program continues to provide a safety net for millions of people with limited means. We remain focused on improving automated tools to help reduce improper payments and to ensure we pay the right person the right payment at the right time. We must also continue to ask hard questions about the outcomes for people relying on this assistance of last resort. During the next year, we will continue this effort to be effective stewards of taxpayer funds, even as we also support the SSI program's mission to provide for those in society who have the least.

D. KEY RESULTS FROM THE 25-YEAR PROJECTIONS

The major findings in the 25-year projections prepared for this report are:

- Following small declines in the SSI recipient population in the late 1990s due to the combined impact of Public Law 104-121 (the Contract With America Advancement Act of 1996) and Public Law 104-193 (the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996), modest growth in the SSI rolls resumed in 2000, and we expect it to continue throughout the projection period largely due to the growth in the U.S. population, although we expect the current economic slowdown to temporarily generate additional growth beyond what we might expect from recent historical trends. By 2035, we estimate that the Federal SSI recipient population will reach 9.9 million. As a percentage of the total U.S. population, we project the number of Federal SSI recipients to increase slightly from 2.42 percent of the population in 2010 to 2.60 percent by 2035 due largely to the changing age distribution of the population.

- We estimate that Federal expenditures for SSI payments in calendar year 2011 will increase by \$1.5 billion to \$49.3 billion, an increase of 3.2 percent from 2010 levels. In constant 2011 dollars, we project that SSI program outlays will increase to \$60.9 billion in 2035, a real increase of 0.9 percent per year.
- Federal SSI expenditures were 0.293 percent of GDP in 2008 and increased to 0.325 percent of GDP in 2009 due to the economic recession. After increasing slightly to 0.326 percent of GDP in 2010, we project that such expenditures will decrease slightly to 0.324 percent of GDP in 2011, and continue to decline thereafter to 0.244 percent of GDP by 2035.

III. THE SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME PROGRAM

This section presents a brief history and comprehensive description of the SSI program. This section also includes information on the administration of the program and coordination with other programs.

A. BACKGROUND

Federal entitlement programs for the aged, blind, or disabled have their roots in the original Social Security Act of 1935. The Act established an old-age social insurance program administered by the Federal Government and an old-age means-tested assistance program administered by the States. Congress added similar programs for the blind or disabled to the Act in later years. Means-tested assistance provided a safety net for individuals who were either ineligible for Social Security or whose benefits could not provide a basic level of income.

This means-tested assistance comprised three separate programs—Old-Age Assistance, Aid to the Blind, and Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled. Despite substantial Federal financing, these programs were essentially State programs. Federal law established only broad guidelines for assistance. The Federal Government provided matching funds to support whatever payment levels the States established, with no maximum or minimum standards. Consequently, each State was responsible for setting its own standards for determining who would get assistance and how much they would receive.

Beginning in the early 1960s, this State-operated, Federally-assisted welfare system drew criticism that was directed at the “crazy quilt” eligibility requirements and payment levels. Other criticism centered on specific requirements, such as lien laws and provisions that required certain relatives to bear responsibility for the maintenance of needy family members.

Responding to these concerns, Congress passed and the President approved the SSI program in 1972, reversing the Federal and State roles with regard to adult assistance. Under the new arrangement, SSI would provide a uniform Federal income floor while optional State programs supplemented that floor. The new program was historic in that it shifted from the States to the Federal Government the responsibility for determining who would receive assistance and how much assistance they would receive.

B. THE BASIC PLAN

The main objective of the SSI program is to provide the basic financial support of needy aged, blind, or disabled individuals. Congress designed the SSI program based on the following principles:

- Eligibility requirements and benefit standards that are nationally uniform and eligibility determinations based on objective criteria;
- An assistance source of last resort for the aged, blind, or disabled whose income and resources are below specified levels;
- Incentives and opportunities for those recipients able to work or to be rehabilitated that would enable them to reduce their dependency on public assistance;
- An efficient and economical method of providing assistance;
- Inducements to encourage States to provide supplementation of the basic Federal benefit and protection for former recipients of State adult assistance programs who were converted to the SSI program; and

- Appropriate coordination of the SSI program with the food stamp, medical assistance, and other programs.¹

C. UNIFORM STANDARDS AND OBJECTIVE CRITERIA

Prior to the SSI program, the eligibility of aged, blind, or disabled individuals for Federally-funded adult assistance depended on the State in which they lived. Benefit amounts varied from State to State. The SSI program replaced the State-run programs with a national program with uniform standards and objective eligibility criteria. These standards include:

- A uniform limitation on the dollar amount or value of income and resources that an individual can have and still qualify for SSI assistance. The countable income limits for individuals and couples are equal to their respective Federal benefit rates² and hence are increased annually according to changes in the cost of living. For 2011, the Federal benefit rate is \$674 a month for individuals and \$1,011 a month for couples. The resource limit is \$2,000 in countable resources for individuals and \$3,000 for couples.
- A uniform standard of 65 as the minimum age requirement for assistance based on age.
- A uniform definition of disability and blindness. The definitions for individuals age 18 or older are the same as those used for the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program. In order to be considered disabled, an individual must have a medically determinable physical or mental impairment which is expected to last or has lasted at least 12 continuous months or is expected to result in death and (1) if age 18 or older, prevents him/her from doing any substantial gainful activity³ or (2) if under age 18, results in marked and severe functional limitations. However, individuals for whom addiction to drugs or alcoholism is a contributing factor material to the determination of their disabilities are not eligible for benefits. In order to be considered blind, an individual must have central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with the use of a correcting lens or have tunnel vision of 20 degrees or less.
- Uniform standards for citizenship and residency. In order to be eligible for SSI, an individual must be a citizen or national of the United States, an American Indian born in Canada who is admitted to the United States under section 289 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), an American Indian born outside the United States who is a member of a Federally recognized Indian tribe under section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, a noncitizen who was receiving SSI benefits on August 22, 1996, or be a qualified alien in one of the following categories⁴:

— Certain noncitizens who are blind or disabled and were lawfully residing in the United States on August 22, 1996;

¹ For example, as explained in section III.H, SSI recipients in most States are also automatically eligible for Medicaid, which generally provides for their medical needs.

² See table IV.A2 for historical and estimated future Federal benefit rates.

³ “Substantial gainful activity” (SGA) is used to describe a level of work activity that is both substantial—i.e., involves the performance of significant physical and/or mental duties which are productive—and gainful—i.e., performed for remuneration or profit. SGA rules do not apply to the SSI blind. Generally earnings from work activity of over \$1,000 a month is evidence of ability to engage in SGA. If an SSI *applicant* is earning over \$1,000 a month, he/she generally would not be considered disabled. However, if an SSI *recipient* is earning over \$1,000 a month, he/she could continue to be eligible for SSI. (See “Incentives for Work and Opportunities for Rehabilitation” section III.E.) The SGA level of \$1,000 remains unchanged for 2011 (75 FR 74123). Yearly increases in the SGA amount usually occur, but not in years when the national average wage index (upon which the adjustment is based) is lower than it was in a prior year.

⁴ Generally, SSI eligibility for humanitarian immigrants is limited to 7 years. However, under the “SSI Extension for Elderly and Disabled Refugees Act,” which became law on September 30, 2008, the 7-year period was extended to 9 years during the window of October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2011. Afterwards, the SSI eligibility period reverts back to 7 years. Noncitizens who have naturalization applications pending during this same 3-year window are exempt from the 7-year limitation.

- Refugees (eligibility generally limited to the 7-year period after their arrival in the United States);
- Asylees (eligibility generally limited to the 7-year period after the date they are granted asylum);
- Noncitizens who have had their deportations withheld under section 243(h) of the INA as in effect prior to April 1, 1997, or who have had their removals withheld under section 241(b)(3) of the INA (eligibility generally limited to the 7-year period after the date that deportation or removal is withheld);
- Cuban and Haitian entrants as defined by Federal statute, including: 1) section 501(e) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980; 2) former parolees and other aliens who became residents under the Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966; 3) aliens who became permanent residents under the Nicaraguan and Central American Relief Act; 4) aliens who adjusted status as Cuban/Haitian entrants under the provisions of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986; and 5) aliens who became permanent residents under the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act (eligibility for these categories is generally limited to the 7-year period after the date that entrant status is granted);
- Amerasian immigrants admitted pursuant to section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1988, and subsequent amendments (eligibility generally limited to the 7-year period after their arrival in the United States);
- Noncitizen active duty Armed Forces personnel, honorably discharged veterans, and their spouses and dependent children; or
- Lawful permanent residents who have earned, or can be credited (from their spouses or parents) with, 40 qualifying quarters of earnings.

Qualified alien status includes noncitizens (or their parents or children) who have been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty in the United States by a spouse or parent (or a member of the spouse's or parent's family) with whom they live, and who have an approved petition, or have a petition pending, setting forth a *prima facie* case for adjustment of their immigration status. A complete list of noncitizens who are considered qualified aliens can be found in the Glossary under "Qualified Alien." However, to be eligible to receive SSI benefits, these noncitizens also must be in one of the categories listed above.

In addition, certain noncitizens are treated as refugees for SSI purposes:

- Noncitizens who have been certified by the Department of Health and Human Services to be victims of trafficking in persons in the United States,¹ with eligibility for SSI generally limited to the 7 years after a determination is made that they are trafficking victims; and
- Iraqi or Afghan noncitizens granted special immigrant status under emergency conditions (i.e., Iraqis or Afghans who have provided service to the U.S. government and, as a result, may be in danger within their country of origin), with eligibility for SSI generally limited to the 7 years after the special immigrant status is granted.

¹ Generally defined as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

In addition to having to be a U.S. citizen (or national) or in one of the potentially eligible noncitizen categories, an individual must reside in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, or the Northern Mariana Islands. An individual also must be physically present in the United States¹ for 30 consecutive days, if he/she had been outside of the United States for 30 or more consecutive days. There are two exceptions to the residency and physical presence requirements:

- Blind or disabled children who are citizens of the United States may continue to be eligible for payments if they are living outside the United States with a parent who is on duty as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces. This exception also applies to blind and disabled children of military personnel who: (1) are born overseas; (2) become blind or disabled overseas; or (3) applied for SSI benefits while overseas.
- Students studying abroad for not more than 1 year also may continue to be eligible for payments if the studies are sponsored by a U.S. educational institution but could not be conducted in the United States.

D. ASSISTANCE OF LAST RESORT

As a means-tested program, SSI takes into account all income and resources that an individual has or can access. The amount of an individual's countable income and resources are the measure of his/her need for assistance.

1. Income

The amount of an individual's income is used to determine both eligibility for, and the amount of, his/her SSI benefit. As countable income increases, an individual's SSI benefit amount decreases. Generally, ineligibility for SSI occurs when countable income equals the Federal benefit rate plus the amount of applicable Federally-administered State supplementary payment (State supplementation is discussed later).

The monthly Federal benefit rate² is reduced dollar-for-dollar by the amount of the individual's "countable" income—i.e., income less all applicable exclusions. Countable income is determined on a calendar month basis. The result of this computation determines SSI eligibility and the amount of the benefit payable. These benefit rates are adjusted annually in January to reflect changes in the cost of living.

When an individual lives in the household of another and receives support and maintenance in kind (i.e., generally room and board) from the householder, the Federal SSI benefit rate is reduced by one-third in lieu of counting the actual value of the support and maintenance as unearned income. The value of food or shelter-related items the individual receives in kind from persons other than the householder (including in-kind assistance from outside the household in which he/she lives) is counted as unearned income. However, the amount that is countable is limited to an amount equal to one-third of the applicable Federal benefit rate plus \$20.

SSI law defines two kinds of income—earned and unearned. Earned income is wages, net earnings from self-employment, remuneration for work in a sheltered workshop, royalties on published work, and honoraria for services. All other income is unearned including, for example, Social Security benefits, other pensions, and unemployment compensation. The distinction between earned and unearned income is significant because different exclusions apply to each type of income.

¹ Fifty States, the District of Columbia or the Northern Mariana Islands.

² See table IV.A2 for historical and estimated future Federal benefit rates.

However, not everything an individual receives is considered to be income. Generally, if the item received is not food or shelter or cannot be used to obtain food or shelter, it will not be considered as income. For example, if someone pays an individual's medical bills, or offers free medical care, or if the individual receives money from a social services agency that is a repayment of an amount he/she previously spent, that value is not considered income to the individual. In addition, some items that are considered to be income are excluded when determining the amount of an individual's benefit.

Income Exclusions¹

The principal *earned* income exclusions are:

- The first \$65 per month plus one-half of the remainder;
- Impairment-related work expenses of the disabled and work expenses of the blind;
- Income set aside or being used to pursue a plan to achieve self-support (PASS) by a disabled or blind individual; and
- The first \$30 of infrequent or irregularly received income in a quarter.

The principal *unearned* income exclusions are:

- The first \$20 per month;²
- Income set aside or being used to pursue a PASS by a disabled or blind individual;
- State or locally funded assistance based on need;
- Rent subsidies under the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs;
- The value of food stamps; and
- The first \$60 of infrequent or irregularly received income in a quarter.

2. Resources

The value of an individual's resources is used to determine whether he/she is eligible for SSI in any given month. SSI law states that eligibility is restricted to individuals who have countable resources, determined monthly, that do not exceed \$2,000 (\$3,000 for a couple). Although the law does not define "resources", the law lists those items that are not considered resources.

Regulations define a resource to be a liquid asset, such as cash, or any real or personal property that individuals (or their spouses) own and could convert to cash to be used for their support and maintenance. This definition is consistent with the general philosophy of the SSI program that only items that can be used for an individual's food or shelter should be used in determining his/her eligibility and benefit amount. Not all resources an individual owns are counted. The value of an item may be totally excluded or counted only to the extent that its value exceeds specified limits.

If an applicant disposes of resources at less than fair market value within the 36-month period prior to his/her application for SSI or at any time thereafter, he/she may be penalized. The penalty is a loss of SSI ben-

¹ A complete list of the SSI income exclusions can be found in section V.B.

² Any portion of this \$20 amount not used to exclude unearned income may be used to exclude earned income.

efits for a number of months (up to a 36-month maximum).¹ The penalty does not apply if, among other things, the applicant can show that the resources were disposed of exclusively for a purpose other than establishing SSI eligibility.

Resource Exclusions²

The principal resource exclusions are:

- The home and land appertaining to it, regardless of value;
- Life insurance policies whose total face value does not exceed \$1,500;
- Burial funds not in excess of \$1,500 each for an individual and spouse (plus accrued interest);
- Household goods, if needed for maintenance, use and occupancy of the home, and personal effects;
- An automobile, if used to provide necessary transportation;
- Property essential to self-support;
- Resources set aside to fulfill a PASS; and
- Amounts deposited into either a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or “Assets for Independence Act” individual development account (IDA), including matching funds, and interest earned on such amounts.

3. Filing for Other Benefits

As the “program of last resort,” eligible individuals receive SSI benefits only to the extent other income and resources do not satisfy their needs. After evaluating all other income and resources, SSI pays what is necessary to bring an individual to the statutorily prescribed income “floor.” In keeping with this principle, SSI law requires that SSI applicants and recipients file for other payments for which they may be eligible, such as annuities, pensions, retirement or disability benefits, workers’ compensation, and unemployment insurance benefits.

SSA must provide an individual with written notice of potential eligibility for other benefits and of the requirement to take all appropriate steps to pursue these benefits. The individual has 30 days from receipt of the notice to file for the benefits involved.

4. Eligibility Issues for Residents of Public Institutions or Medical Treatment Facilities

State and local governments—rather than the Federal Government—traditionally have taken the financial responsibility for residents of their public institutions. The SSI program continues this long-standing public assistance policy. Residents of public institutions for a full calendar month are generally ineligible for SSI unless one of the following exceptions applies:

- The public institution is a medical treatment facility and Medicaid pays more than 50 percent of the cost of care, or in the case of a child under age 18, Medicaid or private health insurance pays more than 50 percent of the cost of care—in these situations, the SSI payment is limited to \$30;

¹ The number of months of penalty is obtained by dividing the uncompensated value of disposed-of-resources by the Federal benefit rate plus the maximum Federally-administered State supplementary payment, if any, applicable to the individual’s living arrangement.

² A complete and more detailed list of the SSI resource exclusions can be found in section V.B.

- The public institution is a publicly-operated community residence which serves no more than 16 residents;
- The public institution is an emergency shelter for the homeless (payments are limited to no more than 6 months in any 9-month period);
- The recipient was eligible under section 1619(a) or (b)¹ for the month preceding the first full month in the public institution and is permitted by the institution to retain any benefits (payable for up to 2 months); or
- A physician certifies that the recipient's stay in a medical treatment facility is likely not to exceed 3 months and continued SSI eligibility is needed to maintain and provide for the expenses of the home to which the individual will return. In these situations, the recipient may continue to receive the full benefit for any of the first 3 full months of medical confinement if all other conditions for payment are met.

5. Personal Needs Allowance

When individuals enter medical treatment facilities in which Medicaid pays more than half of the bill, their monthly Federal benefit rate is generally reduced to \$30, beginning with the first full calendar month they are in the facility. In the case of an individual under age 18, the \$30 payment amount is also applicable if more than half of the bill is paid by private insurance or a combination of Medicaid and private insurance. The theory behind this provision is that the individual's basic needs are being met by the medical treatment facility. In these cases, the SSI program provides up to \$30 a month, which is intended to take care of small comfort items not provided by the facility.

6. Deeming

In certain situations the income and resources of others are counted in determining whether an individual's income and resources fall below the levels established by law. This process is called "deeming" and is applied in cases where an eligible individual lives with an ineligible spouse, an eligible child lives with an ineligible parent, or an eligible noncitizen has a sponsor.² In concept, the practice takes into account the responsibility of the spouse, parent, or sponsor to provide for the basic needs of the eligible individual.

a. Spouse-to-Spouse Deeming

When an eligible individual lives in the same household with a spouse who is not eligible for SSI, the ineligible spouse's income and resources are deemed to be available to the eligible individual. In determining the amount of income and resources available to the eligible individual, all applicable exclusions are used. In addition, a living allowance is provided for the ineligible spouse, as well as any ineligible children under age 18 (or under age 22 and a student) living in the household. The allowance reduces the amount of income to be deemed. Spouse-to-spouse deeming is intended to result in the same amount of income available to the couple as would be available if both members of the couple were aged, blind, or disabled and eligible for SSI.

Deeming does not apply when the eligible individual is not living in the same household as the ineligible spouse. However, if the ineligible spouse's absence is temporary, or is due solely to an active duty assignment as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, deeming continues to apply.

¹ See section III.E.6 of this report for a description of the special section 1619 provisions for disabled individuals who work.

² Deeming also applies to an individual who lives with an essential person (a concept carried over from the former State assistance plans). However, there are fewer than 50 of these cases remaining.

b. Parent-to-Child Deeming

A child under age 18 is subject to deeming from an ineligible natural or adoptive parent (and that parent's spouse, if any) living in the same household. Deeming does not apply if a child lives in a household with only the spouse of a parent (i.e., a stepparent) and the natural or adoptive parent has permanently left the household. Certain amounts of the parent's income are excluded, living allowances are provided for the parent(s) and an allocation is set aside for each ineligible child under age 18 (or under age 22 and a student) who is living in the household. Deeming to a child would continue if the parent is absent from the household but the absence is temporary or is due solely to active duty assignment as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces. If a child lives in a household in which all members are receiving public assistance benefits, that child is not considered to be receiving any support and deeming would not apply.

c. Sponsor-to-Alien Deeming

The income and resources of noncitizens are deemed to include those of their sponsors. The way the income and resources are deemed and the length of the deeming period depend on whether the sponsor signed a legally enforceable affidavit of support¹ or the previous version of the affidavit. Generally, noncitizens who entered the country before 1998 did so under the old version of the affidavit.²

Under the old version of the affidavit, deeming of the sponsor's income and resources lasts until the noncitizen has been in the United States for 3 years.³ Living allowances equal to the Federal benefit rate are provided for the sponsor, and allowances equal to one-half of the Federal benefit rate are provided for each of the sponsor's dependents. Allowances are also provided for the sponsor and his/her family members in determining deemed resources. These allowances reduce the amount of the sponsor's income and resources deemed to the noncitizen.

For noncitizens admitted into the United States under a legally enforceable affidavit of support, deeming generally applies until the noncitizen becomes a U.S. citizen. Deeming ends before citizenship if the noncitizen has earned, or can be credited with, 40 qualifying quarters of earnings. Children and spouses of workers may be credited with quarters earned by the worker. A quarter otherwise earned after 1996 does not count as one of the required 40 if the noncitizen or worker received Federal means-tested public benefits during the relevant period.

Also for this group of noncitizens, deeming does not apply for specified periods if the noncitizens or their children or parents have been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty while in the United States or if sponsors leave the noncitizens indigent by not providing them with sufficient support.

E. INCENTIVES FOR WORK AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR REHABILITATION

SSI benefits provide a basic level of assistance for individuals who are blind or disabled with limited earnings capacity due to their impairments. Nonetheless, for recipients who want to work, the SSI program is designed to encourage and support their work attempts in order to help them achieve greater degrees of independence. The SSI program includes a number of work incentives that enable recipients who are blind or disabled to work and retain benefits or to increase their levels of work activity without the loss of SSI disability status or Medicaid. These incentives provide higher amounts of income or resource exclusions

¹ Legally enforceable affidavits of support are required by Public Law 104-208.

² The Immigration and Naturalization Service now known as the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) began using the new, legally enforceable affidavits on December 19, 1997. However, if a potential immigrant had a visa issued before that date, the sponsor would sign an old version of the affidavit even if the affidavit was signed after December 19, 1997.

³ For a temporary period—January 1994 through September 1996—the deeming period was 5 years.

as recognition of the expenses associated with working or as inducements to seek rehabilitation services and support for work efforts.

The SSI program also includes provisions to help disabled recipients obtain vocational rehabilitation and employment support services. These provisions were revised by legislation establishing the Ticket to Work program, which is described in section III.E.7.

1. Earned Income Exclusion

The first \$65 (\$85 if the individual has no income other than earnings) of any monthly earned income plus one-half of remaining earnings are excluded for SSI benefit computation purposes. This general earned income exclusion is intended to help offset expenses incurred when working. It ensures that SSI recipients who are working will be rewarded for their efforts.

2. Impairment-Related Work Expense Exclusion

The costs of certain impairment-related services and items that a disabled (but not blind) individual needs in order to work are excluded from earned income in determining SSI eligibility and benefit amounts.

In calculating these expenses, amounts equal to the costs of certain attendant care services, medical devices, equipment, prostheses, vehicle modifications, residential modifications to accommodate wheelchairs, and similar items and services are deductible from earnings. The costs of routine drugs and routine medical services are not deductible unless these drugs and services are necessary to control the disabling condition.

3. Work Expenses of the Blind Exclusion

Any earned income by a blind individual that is used to meet expenses needed to earn that income is excluded from earned income in determining SSI eligibility and benefit amounts. A deductible expense need not be directly related to the worker's blindness; it need only be an ordinary and necessary work expense of the worker.

Some frequently excluded work expenses include transportation to and from work, meals consumed during work hours, job equipment, licenses, income or FICA taxes, and costs of job training.

4. Student Earned Income Exclusion

The student earned income exclusion is an additional exclusion for an individual who is under age 22 and regularly attending school. It is intended to help defray the cost of educational training. Under current regulations, up to \$1,640 of earned income per month but no more than \$6,600 per year may be excluded.¹

5. Plan to Achieve Self-Support

A plan to achieve self-support (PASS) allows a disabled or blind individual to set aside income and resources to get a specific type of job or to start a business. A PASS may involve setting aside funds for education or vocational training. A recipient can also set aside funds to purchase work-related equipment or pay for transportation related to the work goal. The income and resources that are set aside are excluded under the SSI income and resources tests.

¹ Effective January 1, 2011 (75 FR 74123). Under current regulations this exclusion is increased yearly based on changes in the cost of living. Since there was no cost-of-living increase for 2011, the excluded amounts remain at 2010 levels.

The individual must have a feasible work goal, must have a specific savings or spending plan, and must provide for a clearly identifiable accounting for the funds which are set aside. The PASS must be approved by SSA. The individual must then follow the plan and negotiate revisions as needed. SSA monitors the plans by reviewing them periodically to evaluate the individual's progress towards attaining the work goal.

6. Special Provisions for Disabled Recipients Who Work

This work incentive generally is referred to by its section number in the Social Security Act, section 1619. Under section 1619(a), disabled individuals who would cease to be eligible because of earnings over the substantial gainful activity level may receive special cash benefits so long as they:

- Continue to have the disabling condition;
- Have income under the amount which would cause ineligibility for any payment under SSI income counting rules; and
- Meet all other nondisability requirements for SSI payment.

In many States, being a recipient of the special benefit permits the individual to be eligible for Medicaid benefits.

Under section 1619(b), "SSI recipient" status for Medicaid eligibility purposes also is provided to individuals:

- Whose earnings preclude any SSI payment but are not sufficient to provide a reasonable equivalent of SSI benefits, social services, and Medicaid benefits that an individual would have in the absence of earnings; and
- Whose ability to continue working would be seriously inhibited by the loss of social services and Medicaid benefits.

To qualify for extended Medicaid coverage under section 1619(b) an individual must:

- Have a disabling condition;
- Need Medicaid in order to work;
- Not be able to afford equivalent medical coverage and publicly funded personal or attendant care without assistance;
- Meet all nondisability requirements for SSI payment other than earnings; and
- Have received a regular SSI cash payment in a previous month within the current period of eligibility. (In some States, the individual must have qualified for Medicaid the month preceding the first month of 1619 eligibility.)

In determining whether individuals' earnings are not sufficient to provide them with the equivalent benefits they would be eligible for if they stopped working, their earnings are compared to a threshold amount for their State of residence. Section 1619(b) status continues if the earnings are at or below the threshold. If earnings exceed the State threshold, we make an individualized assessment of the need for Medicaid and 1619(b) status may continue.

7. Vocational Rehabilitation/Ticket to Work Program

Since the beginning of the SSI program, State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies have provided services to those blind or disabled SSI recipients whom they have accepted as clients. SSA has traditionally reimbursed the VR agency for services provided in situations where the services result in the individual's working at the substantial gainful activity level for a continuous period of 9 months and in certain other limited situations.

The Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 established a Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency program under which a blind or disabled beneficiary may obtain vocational rehabilitation, employment, and other support services from a qualified private or public provider, referred to as an "employment network" (EN), or from a State VR agency. In addition, the Ticket legislation provided that ENs would be compensated under an outcome or outcome-milestone payment system.¹ By expanding the pool of providers and giving the providers incentives for achieving success, this program seeks to expand a disabled beneficiary's access to these services in order to assist the beneficiary in finding, entering, and retaining employment and reducing his/her dependence on cash benefits.

The Ticket to Work program has been in operation nationwide since September 2004. Under this program SSA provides eligible individuals who receive SSI benefits due to blindness or disability with a ticket. These individuals may use the ticket to obtain the vocational rehabilitation services, employment services, and other support services needed to return to work or go to work for the first time. The Ticket to Work program provides that as long as the beneficiary is "using a ticket" SSA will not initiate a continuing disability review to determine whether the beneficiary has medically improved.

ENs and State VR agencies are the only providers of VR services to disabled SSI recipients that can be compensated for those services by SSA. All ENs are compensated through the Ticket to Work program's milestone and/or outcome-based payment system. State VR agencies are compensated under the traditional VR reimbursement system unless they have elected to participate as an EN for specific cases. Any services provided by the State VR agencies to SSI recipients who are not yet eligible for a ticket will be compensated under the traditional VR reimbursement system.

Individuals who improve medically and, therefore, are no longer considered disabled or blind may continue to receive SSI benefits if they are actively participating in the Ticket to Work program or another approved program of VR services, employment services, or other support services. For benefits to continue, SSA must determine that continuing or completing the program will increase the likelihood that they will be permanently removed from the SSI rolls. SSI benefits and Medicaid generally continue until the recipient completes the approved program or the individual ceases to participate in the program.

In 2008, SSA revised the Ticket to Work regulations to enhance beneficiary choice and improve the effectiveness of the program. The revisions extended the program to all adult SSDI and SSI blind or disabled beneficiaries, removed disincentives for ENs to participate in the program, provided incentives for ENs to support beneficiaries through a more gradual return to work and positioned ENs to better support ongoing retention of employment. The regulations also encourage partnership between State VR agencies and ENs to provide long-term services to a beneficiary by allowing the beneficiary to assign a ticket to an EN after receiving VR services.

¹ State VR agencies generally have the option on a case-by-case basis of electing to be paid under an EN payment system or under the traditional cost reimbursement payment system. Effective July 21, 2008, a State VR agency under the traditional cost reimbursement option and an EN under the EN payment system may be compensated for providing successive services to a beneficiary.

8. Expedited Reinstatement

A disabled or blind individual whose eligibility for SSI payments ended because of earnings can request expedited reinstatement of SSI benefits without filing a new application. To qualify for expedited reinstatement, the individual must make the request within 60 months after his/her eligibility ended and must have a disabling medical condition that: (1) is the same as (or related to) the disabling medical condition that led to the previous period of eligibility and (2) prevents the performance of substantial gainful activity. In determining whether the individual is disabled or blind, the medical improvement review standard is applied. Normal nonmedical requirements for SSI eligibility still apply.

An individual requesting expedited reinstatement may receive up to 6 months of provisional benefits while his/her request is pending. These benefits generally are not considered an overpayment if the request is denied. Provisional benefits may include Medicaid but do not include any State supplementary payments.

F. ADMINISTRATION OF THE SSI PROGRAM

The framers of the SSI program chose SSA to administer the SSI program because the basic system for paying monthly benefits to a large number of individuals was already in place in the form of the Social Security program, and SSA had a long-standing favorable reputation for thoughtfully and respectfully serving the public.

1. Application Process

Individuals can apply for SSI benefits at any one of the approximately 1,300 SSA field offices around the country or through SSA teleservice centers. Although many of the eligibility requirements for the Social Security program and the SSI program are different, the application process is very similar. Many times, individuals file for benefits under both programs at the same time.

SSA corroborates information provided by applicants for SSI through independent or collateral sources. Generally, the basic responsibility for obtaining evidence lies with the claimant, although SSA often gives advice and assistance on ways to obtain the needed information. Due to the special circumstances of the SSI population (for example, financial need, old age, or illness), SSA makes special efforts to assist claimants in obtaining this information.

With regard to disability and blindness claims, SSA determines the nonmedical eligibility factors and each State's disability determination services (DDS) determines the medical eligibility factors.¹

2. Determination of Eligibility for Benefits

SSI applications have no retroactivity and become effective in the month after the month of filing or the month after all eligibility requirements are met, whichever is later. Eligibility for benefits in a month is based on income received in that month. We generally calculate the amount of the monthly benefit using income in the second month preceding the month for which the benefit is paid.² However, at the start of a period of eligibility or re-eligibility, we determine the amount of benefits for both the first and second months using the income received in the first month.

¹ The applicant can appeal unfavorable determinations of either the nonmedical or medical eligibility factors. The administrative review process consists of several steps, which must be requested within certain time periods.

² This method of calculating the benefit is called retrospective monthly accounting.

3. Payment of Benefits

In general we pay SSI benefits on the first day of each month. If the first of the month falls on a weekend or legal public holiday, we deliver benefit payments on the first working day preceding such Saturday, Sunday, or holiday. While SSA strongly encourages all SSI beneficiaries to receive their monthly benefits by direct deposit, we also make benefit payments by check if individuals do not wish to use direct deposit.¹ Monthly benefit payments include both the Federal SSI and State amounts if the recipient lives in a State in which SSA administers the State supplementary payment. (See section III.G.)

4. Ensuring Continued Eligibility for Benefits

SSI recipients have their nonmedical eligibility factors redetermined periodically, depending on their specific situation.

In addition to these nonmedical reviews, medical reviews are conducted on disabled or blind recipients in order to determine if they continue to be disabled or blind. For administrative efficiency we conduct the medical reviews most often on those disabled or blind recipients whose medical conditions are most likely to improve. The Act generally requires that we conduct medical reviews for disabled or blind recipients under the following circumstances:

- When earnings of recipients exceed the substantial gainful activity level;²
- At least once every 3 years for recipients under age 18 whose medical conditions are likely to improve;
- Not later than 12 months after birth for recipients whose low birth weight is a contributing factor material to the determination of their disability, unless SSA determines that the impairment is not likely to improve within 12 months of the child's birth; and
- Within 1 year after attaining age 18 for those recipients whose eligibility we established under the disabled child eligibility criteria. We conduct the required review using the adult eligibility criteria.

The Social Security Act requires applicants and recipients to report events and changes of circumstances that may affect their SSI eligibility and benefit amounts. The Act requires such reports, for example, when an individual has a change in the amount of his/her income or resources, changes living arrangements, or leaves the United States. Failure or delay in reporting such a change can result in monetary penalties or ineligibility for SSI benefits.

The basic "failure to report" penalty is \$25 for the first such failure or delay, \$50 for the second such failure or delay, and \$100 for each subsequent failure or delay. However, in cases of fraud or false representation of material facts, SSA's Inspector General can assess civil monetary penalties in amounts as large as \$5,000. SSA also has the authority to suspend eligibility to SSI benefits for periods of 6, 12, or 24 months.

Additionally, SSA may use an accelerated rate of overpayment recovery to encourage accurate reporting. Overpayments to SSI recipients are generally recovered by withholding from the monthly benefit an amount equal to 10 percent of the individual's countable monthly income. For many recipients whose only income is SSI, this withheld amount is 10 percent of their monthly SSI payment. However, if SSA deter-

¹ Effective May 1, 2011, applicants filing for SSI benefit payments must choose either direct deposit or the Direct Express® debit card, a prepaid debit card available to any individual receiving SSI benefit payments. Individuals currently receiving payment by check will have until March 1, 2013 to switch to direct deposit or the Direct Express® debit card. Through the first 6 months of fiscal year 2011, 68 percent of SSI recipients received their benefits by direct deposit.

² A medical review cannot be initiated while the SSI recipient is "using a ticket" under the Ticket to Work program.

mines that the recipient misrepresented or concealed material information, 100 percent of the monthly SSI benefit may be subject to recovery.

5. Representative Payees

When SSI recipients are incapable of managing their benefits or are declared legally incompetent, we appoint representative payees for them, and we send their SSI benefits to the representative payees. In many cases the representative payee is a spouse, a parent, or other close relative who will act in the recipient's best interest. In some cases, SSA approves an organization to serve as a payee. SSA authorizes certain types of organizations to collect a fee from the benefit for acting as payee. The fee cannot exceed the lesser of 10 percent of the benefit amount or a specified amount (\$37 a month in 2011¹).

Representative payees may use an SSI recipient's benefit only for the use and benefit of the recipient and must account for all benefits received. The Act requires representative payees to report any changes that may affect SSI recipients' eligibility and payment amount and holds them liable for certain overpayments that occur. In cases in which a child is due a retroactive payment that exceeds six times the Federal benefit rate, we require the representative payee to establish a dedicated account at a financial institution to maintain the retroactive payment. Expenditures from the account must be used primarily for certain expenses related to the child's impairment.

6. Appeal Rights

SSI applicants may disagree and file an appeal if SSA determines they are not eligible for SSI. There are four levels of appeal: reconsideration, hearings, Appeals Council review, and Federal court. If applicants do not receive the benefits they seek at one level, they may appeal to the next. A reconsideration is a complete review of the application by SSA (or by the DDS if applicants are appealing a disability decision). A hearing gives applicants the opportunity to appear in person before an administrative law judge (ALJ) who had no part in the original decision or the reconsideration. The Social Security Appeals Council may deny a request for review if it believes the hearing decision was correct, or it may decide the case itself or remand the case to the ALJ for further action. A Federal district court looks at cases when applicants disagree with the Appeal Council's decision or denial of the request for review.²

SSI recipients must receive advance notice of any adverse action SSA plans to take against them and may continue to receive monthly benefits if they appeal the adverse action. For nondisability appeals, recipients qualify for benefit continuation at the reconsideration level if they file the appeal within 10 days of receipt of the notice of adverse action. For appeals of medical cessations or determinations reopened and revised due to medical reasons, recipients qualify for benefit continuation at the reconsideration and hearing levels if they file the appeal and elect benefit continuation within 10 days of receipt of the initial or reconsideration determination.

7. Fees for Attorneys and Non-attorney Representatives

At any time, an individual may appoint a representative in any dealings with SSA. If such a representative is an attorney, he/she must be in good standing, have the right to practice law before a court, not be disqualified or suspended from acting as a representative in dealings with SSA, and not be prohibited by any law from acting as a representative. If the individual is not an attorney, he/she must meet qualifications specified by SSA (e.g., be of good character and able to provide valuable service to claimants).

¹ For disabled recipients who also have a drug addiction or alcoholism condition, the maximum permitted fee in 2011 is \$72 a month (75 FR 74123).

² SSA introduced a modification of this process in 10 States for disability applications filed October 1, 1999 and later. Under this revised process, applicants appeal initial disability denial decisions directly to the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review (ODAR), thereby eliminating the reconsideration step. The options for appeal beyond the ODAR level are unchanged.

Representatives must file a written request with SSA before they can charge or receive a fee for services they provide. SSA decides the amount of the fee, if any, a representative may charge or receive. The representative may request authorization to charge and receive a fee under either a fee agreement or fee petition. The fee authorized under a fee agreement is the lesser of 25 percent of the past-due benefits or \$6,000. There is no limit on the amount of the fee under a fee petition; a reasonable fee is authorized for specific services provided by the representative. If SSA is required to approve the fee, the representative may not charge or receive more than the amount authorized.

The SSI program has traditionally differed from the Social Security program in that we did not withhold amounts from an individual's SSI benefits to pay for representative fees. SSI claimants were responsible for paying such fees directly to their representatives. However, beginning February 28, 2005, Congress extended direct payment of both attorney and non-attorney representative fees to the SSI program.¹ As in the fee process for the Social Security program, we now charge representatives an assessment of the smaller of 6.3 percent of each authorized fee withheld or the flat-rate cap of \$83. We adjust the flat-rate cap based on annual cost-of-living adjustments that we round down to the next lower dollar.

Non-attorney representatives must meet specified prerequisites in order to be paid directly by SSA out of SSI applicants' past-due benefits. These prerequisites include having a bachelors' degree or equivalent qualifications from training or work experience; maintaining adequate liability insurance; passing a criminal background check; passing an examination given by SSA that tests relevant knowledge of the Social Security Act and recent court decisions; and completing ongoing courses of continuing education.

8. Advance Payments

The SSI program has procedures which help to respond to the immediate needs of new claimants. These procedures are in addition to State and local programs designed to help those in need as they await decisions on their SSI status.

a. Emergency Advance Payments

A new claimant who faces a financial emergency, and for whom there is a strong likelihood of being found eligible, may receive up to 1 month of SSI benefits; i.e., the Federal payment amount plus any applicable State supplement. We recover the amount paid from later SSI payments (in full from the first payment or in increments over no more than a 6-month period, depending upon the circumstances). However, if we subsequently deny the claim because the claimant is not disabled or blind, we waive repayment. If we deny the claim for other reasons, we treat the amount paid as an overpayment.

b. Presumptive Disability or Blindness

A claimant applying for benefits based on disability or blindness may be paid up to 6 months' benefits when the available evidence reflects a high degree of probability that his/her impairment will meet the definition of disability or blindness and he/she is otherwise eligible. We do not treat these payments as overpayments if the individual is later determined not to be disabled or blind. If we disallow the claim for other reasons, the amount paid would be an overpayment.

¹ Public Law 108-203, enacted March 2, 2004, granted temporary extension of the attorney fee payment system to title XVI claims for a period of 5 years. Public Law 111-142, enacted February 27, 2010, made this extension permanent.

G. STATE SUPPLEMENTATION

In designing the SSI program, Congress recognized that States,¹ in many instances, may want to provide a higher level of income maintenance than that provided by the Federal program. At the same time States were given the option either to provide no supplementation to the Federal assistance payments or to supplement those payments based on their views of the needs of their citizens. Congress also mandated that States not provide lower benefits under the Federal program than they had under the former State program. The following paragraphs describe the various forms of State supplementation that currently exist. Table III.H1 summarizes State-specific participation in these programs as well as other programs requiring State and Federal coordination as discussed in section III.H.

1. Optional State Supplementary Payment Programs

For individuals who first became eligible for SSI in 1974 or later, each State could supplement Federal payments to whatever extent it found appropriate with respect to the needs of its citizens and resources of the State. Currently, 44 States have optional State supplementary payment programs.

Some States provide supplementary payments to all individuals eligible for SSI benefits, while others limit them to certain SSI recipients, such as the blind or residents of domiciliary-care facilities, or may extend them to persons ineligible for SSI because of excess income. Congress significantly restricted States' flexibility in setting supplementary payments, however, by the passalong provisions (see Passalong Provisions section below).

2. Mandatory State Supplementary Payment Programs

Congress requires² States to maintain the December 1973 income levels of individuals who were transferred in 1974 from the former State adult assistance programs to the SSI program, except for Texas which has a constitutional bar against mandatory State supplementation. Over the years, many individuals who were converted to SSI from the State benefit rolls have died and others have had their incomes increase above the December 1973 level. As a result, few individuals continue to receive mandatory State supplementary payments.

3. Administration of State Supplementary Payments

A State may administer its supplementary program or enter into an agreement under which SSA will make eligibility determinations and payments on behalf of the State. Under State administration, the State pays its own program benefits and absorbs the full administrative costs. Under Federal administration, States are required to pay SSA a fee for each supplementary payment issued. In fiscal year 2011, the fee is \$10.56 per payment issued. Fees are subject to change in succeeding fiscal years, based on increases in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers.

States that administer their own supplementary payment programs to title XVI recipients establish their own eligibility criteria for the supplementary payments. States with Federally-administered programs may supplement the Federal benefit among a limited number of geographical and living arrangement variations for title XVI recipients.³

¹ References to State include, in addition to the 50 States, the District of Columbia. The applicable State supplementation provisions would also apply to the Northern Mariana Islands if it began making State supplementary payments.

² Requirement does not affect West Virginia, since, in 1973, SSI Federal benefit rates exceeded the applicable income standards under the State's adult assistance programs.

³ Includes, for this purpose, those eligible for title XVI benefits but for income.

4. Passalong Provisions

When the SSI program began in 1974, Congress did not require States to maintain their efforts with regard to levels of State supplementary payments. However, in 1976 in reaction to States reducing their supplementary payment amounts when SSI payments were increased, Congress mandated that States pass along SSI benefit increases resulting from cost-of-living adjustments.

To meet the passalong requirement, a State may either maintain each State payment level from year-to-year—the “payment levels” method—or it may spend the same amount of money, in the aggregate, that it spent for supplementary benefits in the 12-month period preceding the increase in the SSI benefit rate—the “total expenditures” method. Currently, 42 States use the levels method and 8 use the expenditure method. West Virginia has no optional supplementary plan and was not required to establish a mandatory plan because Federal SSI income standards exceeded all payments made under the State’s adult assistance programs in 1973.

H. COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

SSI benefits are not the only form of assistance available to needy aged, blind, or disabled individuals. Medicaid, food stamps, and temporary State assistance also are important in keeping individuals from sliding further into poverty. SSA plays a limited but important role in helping States with regard to administration of Medicaid and Food Stamp programs, and provisions in the SSI statute ensure that payments made by States or under the Social Security program are not duplicated by SSI benefits.

1. Windfall Offset

If a person receives SSI payments and we later determine that person is entitled to retroactive Social Security benefits, we reduce such retroactive Social Security benefits by the amount of SSI payments the person would not have been eligible for had the Social Security benefits been paid in the month they were due. Congress enacted this “windfall offset” to prevent windfall payments to individuals entitled to receive Social Security and SSI payments for the same period.

2. Medicaid Determinations

Most SSI recipients are categorically eligible for Medicaid. A State may either use SSI eligibility criteria for determining Medicaid eligibility or use its own criteria as long as the criteria are no more restrictive than the State’s January 1972 medical assistance standards. Forty States use SSI criteria and 11 States use eligibility criteria more restrictive than those of the SSI program.

States also may enter into agreements with SSA for SSA to make Medicaid eligibility determinations on their behalf for as long as the eligibility requirements of the State’s Medicaid plans match those for the SSI program. Under these agreements, SSA determines only when an individual is eligible for Medicaid; SSA does not determine Medicaid ineligibility. SSA has Medicaid determination agreements with 33 States.

The Act provides continued Medicaid eligibility for certain Social Security beneficiaries who lose SSI eligibility due to (1) entitlement to Social Security benefits or (2) a change in Social Security benefits resulting from:

- Cost-of-living adjustments;
- Actuarial increases in disabled widow(er)s benefits before age 60;
- Changes in the definition of disability for widow(er)s benefits; or

- Increases in or entitlement to childhood disability benefits.

3. Food Stamp Applications

SSI recipients in all States, except California,¹ may be eligible for food stamps. Under agreements entered into by the Department of Agriculture and SSA, Social Security offices notify Social Security and SSI applicants and recipients of their potential benefits under the Food Stamp Program and make food stamp applications available to them.

The law also provides for Social Security offices to take food stamp applications from eligible or potentially eligible SSI households that are not already receiving food stamps and do not have a food stamp application pending. Social Security offices forward the food stamp applications and any supporting documents to the local food stamp offices within one day of taking the application. The food stamp office determines eligibility for food stamps.

4. Interim Assistance Reimbursement

SSA may enter into agreements under which States or local governments are reimbursed for basic needs assistance provided during the period that either an eligible individual's SSI application for benefits was pending or we suspended and subsequently reinstated the individual's SSI benefits.

Under these interim assistance reimbursement agreements, if the individual has given SSA written authorization, SSA first reimburses the State, then pays the authorized representative's fee, and pays the remainder in installments to the recipient or his/her representative payee. In certain disabled children cases, SSA pays the remainder in installments into special dedicated financial institution accounts for the children. Thirty-eight States have interim assistance agreements with SSA.

¹ California "cashes out" food stamps and SSI recipients there receive a cash payment in their State supplementary payment in lieu of food stamps.

Table III.H1.—SSI State Supplementation^a and Coordination with Other Programs

United States and District of Columbia	Optional State program— Administered by:			Method of mandatory passalong of benefit increases from cost-of-living adjustments		Medicaid eligibility determination—			Interim assistance reimbursement agreement with SSA
	State	Federal (SSA)	Federal & State	“Payment levels”	“Total expenditures”	Based on:		Agreement with SSA to determine eligibility	
						Federal criteria	State criteria		
Alabama ^b	*			*		*		*	
Alaska	*				*	*			*
Arizona				*		*		*	*
Arkansas ^c				*		*		*	
California ^d		*		*		*		*	*
Colorado	*				*	*		*	*
Connecticut ^b	*			*			*		*
Delaware ^d			*	*		*		*	*
District of Columbia ^d			*		*	*		*	*
Florida ^b	*			*		*		*	*
Georgia ^d	*			*		*		*	*
Hawaii ^b		*		*			*		*
Idaho	*			*		*			
Illinois	*			*			*		*
Indiana ^b	*			*			*		*
Iowa ^d			*	*		*		*	*
Kansas ^c				*		*			*
Kentucky ^b	*			*		*		*	*
Louisiana ^d	*			*		*		*	
Maine	*			*		*		*	*
Maryland ^d	*			*		*		*	*
Massachusetts ^d		*		*		*		*	*
Michigan ^d			*	*		*		*	* e
Minnesota ^b	*			*			*		*
Mississippi ^c				*		*		*	
Missouri	*			*			*		*
Montana ^d		*		*		*		*	*
Nebraska	*				*	*			*
Nevada ^b		*		*		*			*
New Hampshire	*			*			*		* e
New Jersey ^d		*		*		*		*	*
New Mexico	*			*		*		*	* e
New York ^d			*	*		*		*	*
North Carolina	*			*		*		*	*
North Dakota ^b				*			*		
Ohio ^d	*			*			*		*
Oklahoma	*				*		*		
Oregon	*				*	*			*
Pennsylvania ^d			*	*		*		*	*
Rhode Island ^b			*	*		*		*	* e
South Carolina ^b	*			*		*		*	
South Dakota ^d	*			*		*		*	
Tennessee ^c				*		*		*	
Texas ^f	*			*		*		*	
Utah ^b		*		*		*			*
Vermont ^b		*		*		*		*	*
Virginia ^b	*			*			*		*
Washington	*				*	*		*	*
West Virginia ^f						*		*	
Wisconsin	*				*	*		*	*
Wyoming	*			*		*		*	
Total number of States ^g	29	8	7	42	8	40	11	33	38

^a See body of text for description of the various forms of State supplementation.

^b State has no recipients receiving mandatory minimum State supplementation.

^c Mandatory minimum State supplementation program is Federally-administered. No optional program.

^d Mandatory minimum State supplementation program is Federally-administered.

^e State provides assistance only in initial application cases. No assistance provided during periods that SSI benefits are suspended or terminated.

^f State does not have a mandatory minimum State supplementation program.

^g Includes the District of Columbia.

IV. ESTIMATES OF PROGRAM RECIPIENTS AND FEDERAL EXPENDITURES UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME PROGRAM, 2011-35

As section III explains, an individual must meet certain requirements related to his or her income and resources to be eligible for SSI payments. In addition, all persons under age 65, and certain individuals age 65 or older, must be blind or disabled. Consequently, future SSI program expenditures will depend on a variety of difficult-to-predict factors including the performance of national and local economies, distribution of personal income, the prevalence of disability in the general population, and the determination of disability according to the definition in the Social Security Act. Nonetheless, for planning purposes we must develop the best possible projections of future SSI program recipients and expenditures.

This section presents projections of program recipients and expenditures under the SSI program for a period of 25 years. The projections are based on the intermediate demographic and economic assumptions developed for 2011 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Federal Disability Insurance (OASDI) Trust Funds,¹ and assume that the present statutory provisions and regulations under which the SSI program operates will not change during the projection period. The current projection model starts with estimates of the general population by single year of age and gender. We project transitions into SSI payment status separately for: (1) new recipients resulting from an application for program benefits and (2) returns to payment status from suspended status. We project movements out of payment status separately for: (1) terminations due to death and (2) suspensions of payment for all other reasons.² We reexamine the assumptions and methods the model uses each year in light of recent experience and new information about future conditions and revise them if warranted.

A. DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC ASSUMPTIONS

We first present select demographic and economic projections from the 2011 Trustees Report that we used for the SSI projections in this SSI Annual Report. The single economic parameter that has the most direct effect on the level of SSI benefits is the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (hereafter denoted as CPI),³ which is used for indexing the SSI Federal benefit rate. Sections V.A and V.B of the Trustees Report present a detailed discussion of these demographic and economic projections.⁴ An important feature of the intermediate assumptions for the 2011 Trustees Report is a continuation of the recent economic downturn, with a return to a sustainable path for the economy over the following several years. The economic downturn appears to have generated a temporary large increase in applications for SSI disability benefits and a consequent increase in projected SSI expenditures, although we expect the level of applications to decline as the economy recovers.

The following two tables summarize the key parameters underlying the estimates in this report. Table IV.A1 presents population projections by selected age subgroups which are consistent with the presentation of SSI recipient projections in the next section. Table IV.A2 presents a complete history of the cost-of-living adjustment factors and Federal benefit rates since the inception of the program, along with projections of such amounts consistent with the economic assumptions underlying the SSI expenditure estimates in section IV.C.

¹ House Document 112-23, published May 13, 2011.

² The two main reasons other than death for termination of SSI payments are: (1) failure to satisfy income and resource limitations of the SSI program; and (2) recovery from a qualifying disability.

³ Historical values of the CPI are developed and published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

⁴ *Ibid*, Section V.A, *Demographic Assumptions and Methods* and Section V.B, *Economic Assumptions and Methods*.

Table IV.A1.—Historical and Projected Social Security Area Population based on the Intermediate Assumptions of the 2011 OASDI Trustees Report, as of July 1, 1974-2035

[In thousands]

Year	Age groups ^a						Total all ages
	0-17	18-34	35-49	50-64	65-74	75 or older	
Historical data:							
1974	70,933	59,817	36,397	32,754	13,793	8,875	222,568
1975	69,957	61,794	36,373	33,113	14,089	9,087	224,414
1976	68,953	63,718	36,489	33,395	14,390	9,351	226,295
1977	68,061	65,441	36,819	33,675	14,703	9,604	228,303
1978	67,280	67,022	37,356	33,925	15,036	9,844	230,464
1979	66,574	68,612	37,975	34,111	15,398	10,137	232,808
1980	66,060	70,179	38,540	34,257	15,747	10,449	235,231
1981	65,683	71,442	39,357	34,337	16,034	10,751	237,605
1982	65,411	72,196	40,739	34,307	16,324	11,075	240,052
1983	65,269	72,696	42,303	34,229	16,579	11,404	242,480
1984	65,284	73,095	43,810	34,151	16,813	11,717	244,870
1985	65,475	73,355	45,333	34,032	17,092	12,028	247,315
1986	65,757	73,510	46,915	33,881	17,409	12,337	249,809
1987	66,024	73,611	48,570	33,777	17,701	12,641	252,324
1988	66,292	73,696	50,261	33,759	17,942	12,946	254,897
1989	66,707	73,643	52,020	33,828	18,141	13,275	257,612
1990	67,545	73,281	53,807	33,939	18,367	13,622	260,562
1991	68,715	72,629	55,585	34,126	18,632	13,957	263,644
1992	69,874	71,848	57,288	34,532	18,859	14,291	266,692
1993	70,929	71,097	58,842	35,137	19,024	14,615	269,645
1994	71,853	70,360	60,418	35,777	19,127	14,938	272,472
1995	72,606	69,661	62,094	36,365	19,164	15,286	275,176
1996	73,195	69,102	63,521	37,198	19,136	15,649	277,800
1997	73,611	68,730	64,470	38,524	19,054	16,012	280,401
1998	73,858	68,550	65,263	40,027	18,932	16,348	282,977
1999	74,067	68,485	66,050	41,502	18,799	16,651	285,554
2000	74,354	68,510	66,634	42,991	18,720	16,930	288,139
2001	74,698	68,692	66,975	44,491	18,693	17,182	290,731
2002	74,986	69,006	67,114	46,053	18,712	17,405	293,276
2003	75,230	69,411	67,116	47,667	18,797	17,612	295,832
2004	75,451	69,793	67,089	49,338	18,954	17,834	298,460
2005	75,658	70,118	67,091	51,054	19,184	18,046	301,152
2006	75,886	70,545	67,026	52,758	19,524	18,242	303,980
2007	76,094	71,237	66,730	54,395	20,053	18,434	306,943
2008	76,202	72,185	66,232	55,943	20,731	18,590	309,882
2009	76,217	73,068	65,627	57,508	21,405	18,725	312,551
2010	76,292	73,761	64,945	59,138	22,023	18,873	315,032
Projected:							
2011	76,515	74,400	64,276	60,538	22,821	19,042	317,592
2012	76,831	74,982	63,701	61,502	23,969	19,237	320,222
2013	77,230	75,494	63,244	62,313	25,183	19,474	322,937
2014	77,711	75,912	62,952	63,113	26,310	19,752	325,751
2015	78,257	76,238	62,922	63,744	27,431	20,067	328,659
2016	78,824	76,530	63,140	64,136	28,526	20,450	331,607
2017	79,372	76,834	63,493	64,327	29,561	20,953	334,540
2018	79,887	77,183	63,860	64,399	30,576	21,552	337,457
2019	80,402	77,539	64,155	64,433	31,668	22,157	340,354
2020	80,941	77,841	64,390	64,474	32,850	22,732	343,228
2021	81,467	78,129	64,678	64,427	33,906	23,469	346,075
2022	81,962	78,433	65,148	64,139	34,701	24,508	348,891
2023	82,436	78,712	65,839	63,634	35,431	25,620	351,672
2024	82,860	78,947	66,689	63,039	36,202	26,676	354,412
2025	83,220	79,155	67,624	62,410	36,963	27,737	357,110
2026	83,580	79,354	68,557	61,802	37,658	28,812	359,762
2027	84,002	79,533	69,391	61,287	38,237	29,914	362,364
2028	84,409	79,780	70,087	60,881	38,701	31,055	364,914
2029	84,754	80,137	70,623	60,627	39,028	32,240	367,410
2030	85,086	80,545	70,997	60,613	39,163	33,446	369,850
2031	85,404	81,004	71,271	60,827	39,075	34,653	372,233
2032	85,709	81,499	71,504	61,171	38,812	35,866	374,561
2033	86,002	82,008	71,741	61,533	38,495	37,054	376,834
2034	86,284	82,503	72,009	61,833	38,220	38,204	379,052
2035	86,556	82,970	72,283	62,086	38,001	39,323	381,219

^a Age as of last birthday.

Notes: 1. Totals do not necessarily equal the sums of rounded components.

2. Historical data are estimated and subject to revision.

Table IV.A2.—SSI Federal Benefit Rate Increases and Levels: Historical and Projected on the Basis of the Intermediate Assumptions of the 2011 OASDI Trustees Report, 1974-2035

Year	Benefit rate increase ^a	Federal benefit rate		
		Individual	Couple	Essential person ^b
Historical data:				
Initial benefit paid January 1, 1974 ^c	—	\$140.00	\$210.00	\$70.00
1974.....	^d 4.3%	146.00	219.00	73.00
1975.....	8.0	157.70	236.60	78.90
1976.....	6.4	167.80	251.80	84.00
1977.....	5.9	177.80	266.70	89.00
1978.....	6.5	189.40	284.10	94.80
1979.....	9.9	208.20	312.30	104.20
1980.....	14.3	238.00	357.00	119.20
1981.....	11.2	264.70	397.00	132.60
1982.....	7.4	284.30	426.40	142.50
1983.....	^d 7.0	304.30	456.40	152.50
1984.....	3.5	314.00	472.00	157.00
1985.....	3.5	325.00	488.00	163.00
1986.....	3.1	336.00	504.00	168.00
1987.....	1.3	340.00	510.00	170.00
1988.....	4.2	354.00	532.00	177.00
1989.....	4.0	368.00	553.00	184.00
1990.....	4.7	386.00	579.00	193.00
1991.....	5.4	407.00	610.00	204.00
1992.....	3.7	422.00	633.00	211.00
1993.....	3.0	434.00	652.00	217.00
1994.....	2.6	446.00	669.00	223.00
1995.....	2.8	458.00	687.00	229.00
1996.....	2.6	470.00	705.00	235.00
1997.....	2.9	484.00	726.00	242.00
1998.....	2.1	494.00	741.00	247.00
1999.....	1.3	500.00	751.00	250.00
2000.....	^e 2.5	^f 513.00	769.00	257.00
2001.....	3.5	^f 531.00	796.00	266.00
2002.....	2.6	545.00	817.00	273.00
2003.....	1.4	552.00	829.00	277.00
2004.....	2.1	564.00	846.00	282.00
2005.....	2.7	579.00	869.00	290.00
2006.....	4.1	603.00	904.00	302.00
2007.....	3.3	623.00	934.00	312.00
2008.....	2.3	637.00	956.00	319.00
2009.....	5.8	674.00	1,011.00	338.00
2010.....	0.0	674.00	1,011.00	338.00
2011.....	0.0	674.00	1,011.00	338.00
Projected:				
2012.....	0.7	679.00	1,018.00	340.00
2013.....	1.7	690.00	1,036.00	346.00
2014.....	1.9	704.00	1,055.00	352.00
2015.....	2.0	718.00	1,077.00	359.00
2016.....	2.0	732.00	1,098.00	367.00
2017.....	2.0	747.00	1,120.00	374.00
2018.....	2.2	763.00	1,145.00	382.00
2019.....	2.7	784.00	1,176.00	392.00
2020.....	2.8	806.00	1,209.00	403.00
2021.....	2.8	828.00	1,242.00	415.00
2022.....	2.8	851.00	1,277.00	426.00
2023.....	2.8	875.00	1,313.00	438.00
2024.....	2.8	900.00	1,350.00	451.00
2025.....	2.8	925.00	1,388.00	463.00
2026.....	2.8	951.00	1,426.00	476.00
2027.....	2.8	978.00	1,466.00	490.00
2028.....	2.8	1,005.00	1,507.00	503.00
2029.....	2.8	1,033.00	1,550.00	517.00
2030.....	2.8	1,062.00	1,593.00	532.00
2031.....	2.8	1,092.00	1,638.00	547.00
2032.....	2.8	1,122.00	1,684.00	562.00
2033.....	2.8	1,154.00	1,731.00	578.00
2034.....	2.8	1,186.00	1,779.00	594.00
2035.....	2.8	1,219.00	1,829.00	611.00

^a Increases prior to 1984 were effective for the payment due on July 1 of the year. Increases shown for 1984 and later are effective for the payment due on January 1 of the year.

^b A concept carried over from the former State assistance plans. Fewer than 50 of those cases currently remain.

^c SSA paid benefits in January 1974 using the Federal benefit rates established by Public Law 92-603, enacted October 30, 1972: \$130.00 for individuals; \$195.00 for couples; and \$65.00 for essential persons. SSA subsequently made retroactive payments to adjust initial payments to the higher Federal benefit rates established by Public Law 93-233, enacted December 31, 1973.

^d Ad hoc increases as specified in the law.

^e Originally determined as 2.4 percent, but pursuant to Public Law 106-554, enacted December 21, 2000, is effectively now 2.5 percent.

^f SSA originally paid benefits in 2000 and through July 2001 based on Federal benefit rates of \$512.00 and \$530.00, respectively. Pursuant to Public Law 106-554, beginning in August 2001 SSA made monthly payments based on the higher \$531 amount. SSA made lump-sum compensation payments based on an adjusted benefit rate for months prior to August 2001.

The adjustment to the monthly Federal benefit rate in January of each year reflects the increase in the CPI, generally from the third quarter of the second prior calendar year to the third quarter of the prior calendar year. This cost-of-living adjustment is identical to the adjustment applied to Social Security benefits under the OASDI program after initial benefit eligibility. In previous years, the Federal benefit rate was subject to occasional ad hoc increases, either in place of or in addition to the automatic adjustments. Table V.A1 presents a history of legislation affecting the Federal benefit rate. It is worth noting that the Federal benefit rate did not increase in 2010 or 2011; table IV.A2 shows the increases for January 1, 2010 and January 1, 2011 as 0.0 percent. This unusual situation occurred because the CPI in both the third quarter of 2009 and the third quarter of 2010 was below the actual level achieved in the third quarter of 2008. We assume that the CPI in the third quarter of 2011 will be 0.7 percent higher than the CPI in the third quarter of 2008, yielding an assumed Federal benefit rate increase of 0.7 percent for January 1, 2012.

B. NUMBERS OF SSI PROGRAM RECIPIENTS

This section presents projections of the numbers of persons receiving Federal SSI payments by category and age group.¹ The SSI recipient categories of (1) aged or (2) blind or disabled identify the criteria under which the recipient established eligibility for SSI benefits. The following paragraphs discuss the recipient categories in more detail.

- *Aged* recipients establish their eligibility for SSI benefits by meeting the age-65-or-older requirement² and other SSI eligibility requirements. In December 2010, 1.2 million aged individuals received Federally-administered SSI payments.
- *Blind or disabled* recipients establish their eligibility for SSI benefits by meeting the definition of blindness or disability and the applicable income and resource limits as well as any other SSI eligibility requirements. In December 2010, there were 6.7 million blind or disabled recipients of Federally-administered SSI payments. These recipients can fall into two subcategories based on age: *blind or disabled adults* (age 18 or older) and *blind or disabled children* (under age 18).
 - *Blind or disabled adults* meet the definition of blindness or disability for individuals age 18 or older and SSI income and resource limits. Students age 18 to 21 must meet the adult definition of disability; they differ from other adults only in that they qualify for a special student earned income exclusion. When blind or disabled adult recipients reach age 65, we generally continue to classify them as blind or disabled adults (rather than aged). In December 2010, 5.5 million blind or disabled individuals age 18 or older received Federally-administered SSI payments, including 858 thousand disabled or blind recipients age 65 or older.
 - *Blind or disabled children* meet the definition of blindness or disability for individuals under age 18. These children are subject to parent-to-child deeming until they reach the age of 18. At age 18 these individuals continue to be eligible for SSI if they meet the definition of blindness or disability for individuals age 18 or older as well as other eligibility criteria. We reclassify those who continue to be eligible after age 18 as blind or disabled adults. In December 2010, 1.2 million blind or disabled individuals under age 18 received Federally-administered SSI payments.

Table IV.B1 presents historical and projected numbers of persons applying for SSI benefits, by calendar year. Figure IV.B1 presents the same information in graphical form. Experience within the past decade shows the number of applications growing fairly rapidly beginning in calendar year 2002, with the growth continuing through calendar year 2005. The rate of growth in applications slowed significantly from 2005 to 2007, but started increasing again in 2008, with a noteworthy 14 percent increase in 2009, largely due to the economic recession. The level of applications remained high in 2010 with a further 2 percent increase over 2009. Two main factors contributed to the fairly rapid growth in applications from 2002 to 2004: (1) the downturn in the economy that began early in 2001 and (2) implementation of the signature proxy process³ that SSA introduced in June 2004. We presume that the current downturn caused the recent

¹ We project recipient flows on a calendar-year-age basis, with activity throughout a given year tabulated according to age at the end of the calendar year. Tabulations of recipients in current-payment status are provided as of December of each calendar year at which time calendar year of age and age last birthday are the same. However, the tabulations that reflect activity throughout the calendar year are summarized according to calendar year of age and will not correspond precisely to tabulations summarized according to age last birthday. For example, applications for the 0-17 age group for a given calendar year include applications only for those individuals who are under 18 at the end of the calendar year.

² Individuals may apply for SSI benefits based on age as of the day preceding their 65th birthday.

³ The signature proxy process eases the application process by eliminating the requirement for a signed paper application from SSI applicants filing claims via the telephone. Previously, some portion of those telephone applicants never followed through with a signed paper application and as a result were not counted as received applications. Under the signature proxy process, most of those previously uncounted applications are now reported in SSA workload totals. However, many of these “new” applications are never completed with the required financial or medical evidence resulting in an increase in the number of recorded denials, but not a corresponding increase in the numbers of new SSI recipients.

Table IV.B1.—SSI Federally-Administered Applications,^a Calendar Years 1974-2035
[In thousands]

Calendar year	Blind or disabled, by age group					Aged, by age group			Totals		
	0-17	18-34	35-49	50-64	65-74	75 or older	65-74	75 or older	Blind or disabled	Aged	All
Historical data:											
1974 ^{b, c} ...	125	590	626	1,303	158	20	1,434	1,496	2,822	2,931	5,752
1975 ^b	94	276	258	443	15	^d	238	145	1,086	382	1,468
1976	82	260	250	384	8	^d	175	80	984	254	1,239
1977	100	286	246	401	7	1	174	84	1,040	259	1,298
1978	94	276	256	413	7	^d	170	88	1,046	258	1,304
1979	106	282	268	426	7	^d	178	84	1,090	262	1,352
1980	122	310	272	438	8	1	187	89	1,151	276	1,427
1981	78	206	173	271	5	^d	88	42	733	130	864
1982	88	246	206	278	11	1	93	48	830	141	971
1983	102	258	225	311	5	1	122	68	902	190	1,092
1984	103	267	247	321	7	^d	178	108	944	286	1,230
1985	114	294	297	409	7	^d	151	73	1,122	223	1,345
1986	122	316	334	426	7	1	150	81	1,205	231	1,437
1987	108	287	299	331	7	1	134	66	1,033	200	1,233
1988	114	282	301	317	7	1	131	69	1,021	200	1,221
1989	116	297	323	329	7	^d	146	76	1,072	222	1,294
1990	149	335	380	356	6	^d	156	71	1,226	227	1,454
1991	237	391	453	391	7	^d	159	68	1,479	227	1,706
1992	339	453	522	407	8	^d	163	64	1,728	226	1,955
1993	473	506	570	416	7	^d	158	61	1,973	218	2,191
1994	517	492	571	402	6	^d	136	52	1,989	188	2,177
1995	473	435	524	363	6	^d	121	44	1,801	165	1,966
1996	431	393	500	345	9	1	108	44	1,678	153	1,831
1997	306	317	438	307	8	1	82	35	1,377	117	1,494
1998	318	317	453	331	9	1	96	39	1,428	136	1,563
1999	338	317	470	336	6	^d	107	39	1,468	145	1,614
2000	337	321	486	341	6	^d	102	39	1,493	140	1,633
2001	351	346	502	354	4	^d	98	35	1,558	134	1,691
2002	385	388	550	384	4	^d	105	38	1,711	142	1,853
2003	400	404	565	408	4	^d	100	36	1,781	135	1,916
2004	420	438	604	452	4	^d	101	37	1,919	138	2,057
2005	429	439	604	477	5	^d	112	44	1,954	156	2,110
2006	415	437	584	484	4	^d	109	41	1,925	150	2,075
2007	421	442	578	502	5	^d	105	39	1,948	143	2,091
2008	434	482	593	535	5	^d	109	38	2,048	147	2,195
2009	497	578	666	612	5	^d	110	37	2,359	147	2,506
2010	503	599	666	645	5	1	110	38	2,419	148	2,567
Projected:											
2011	497	566	658	659	7	^d	115	38	2,388	152	2,541
2012	507	561	649	658	7	^d	124	38	2,381	162	2,543
2013	478	521	595	615	6	^d	130	38	2,216	169	2,385
2014	451	494	561	588	6	^d	136	39	2,099	175	2,274
2015	439	482	549	578	6	^d	142	40	2,054	181	2,235
2016	430	469	539	565	6	^d	148	41	2,009	188	2,198
2017	427	462	536	557	6	^d	153	42	1,989	196	2,185
2018	431	464	539	556	7	^d	159	44	1,996	203	2,199
2019	442	475	550	566	7	^d	164	45	2,040	209	2,249
2020	445	476	551	566	7	^d	170	46	2,045	216	2,261
2021	447	478	554	564	7	^d	174	48	2,050	222	2,272
2022	450	480	558	559	7	^d	177	50	2,055	228	2,283
2023	452	482	565	553	8	^d	181	52	2,060	233	2,293
2024	454	483	573	547	8	^d	184	55	2,065	238	2,304
2025	456	484	581	541	8	^d	187	57	2,071	244	2,314
2026	458	485	589	536	8	^d	189	59	2,076	248	2,324
2027	460	486	596	533	8	^d	191	61	2,082	251	2,334
2028	462	488	601	531	8	^d	192	63	2,090	254	2,344
2029	464	490	605	531	8	^d	192	65	2,098	257	2,355
2030	465	493	608	534	7	^d	190	67	2,107	258	2,365
2031	467	496	611	537	7	^d	187	70	2,117	257	2,374
2032	468	499	613	540	7	^d	185	72	2,127	257	2,384
2033	470	502	615	543	7	^d	183	74	2,137	257	2,394
2034	471	505	618	546	7	^d	183	76	2,147	259	2,406
2035	472	508	620	550	7	^d	184	78	2,157	261	2,419

^a Based on data reported in the Integrated Workload Management System (formerly known as the District Office Workload Report).

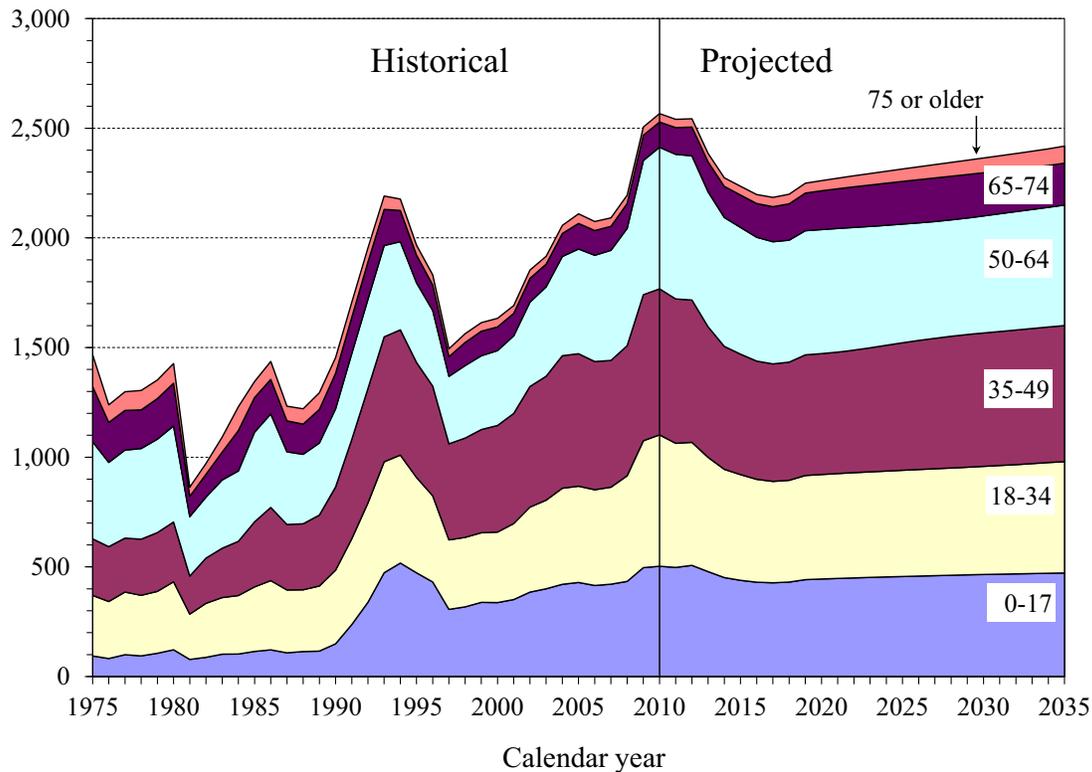
^b "All" column estimated by the Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics using a 10-percent sample and published in the SSI Annual Statistical Report.

^c Includes conversions from State programs and applications received in 1973.

^d Fewer than 500.

Note: Totals do not necessarily equal the sums of rounded components. Historical split among age groups is estimated on a calendar year of age basis.

Figure IV.B1.—SSI Federally-Administered Applications by Age Group, Calendar Years 1975-2035
[In thousands]



large increase in applications. During the continued economic slowdown, we project higher levels of unemployment, resulting in substantially more applications than the general trend suggests. We expect fewer applications as the economy recovers. Some of the earlier additional applications will be cases that would have applied in a later year, so, for a brief period, we expect fewer applications than the general trend suggests. In the longer term, we estimate that applications will grow roughly in line with overall population growth.

As part of our adjudication of these applications, we evaluate levels of income and resources available to the applicants, as well as other eligibility factors including marital and citizenship status and living arrangements. In addition, well over 90 percent of the applications are for disability benefits which require the appropriate State DDS to evaluate the alleged impairment. Applicants may appeal an unfavorable disability determination through several administrative levels of appeal. If an applicant exhausts all administrative levels of appeal, he or she may carry the appeal to the Federal courts.¹

Table IV.B2 and figure IV.B2 present historical and projected numbers of persons who start receiving SSI payments as a result of this decision process. We count individuals as of the first month that they move into SSI payment status. For this reason, we refer to these individuals as “new recipients” rather than “awards.”² From 2002 to 2004, growth in new recipients did not keep pace with the growth in applications, and from 2005 to 2007, the numbers of new recipients declined, even though the numbers of appli-

¹ See section V.C for data on recent experience in the disability decision process.

² In addition, these counts differ slightly from other similar totals identified as “awards” and published by the Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics (ORES) in the *Annual Statistical Supplement to the Social Security Bulletin*. The ORES totals are similar in concept to those used in this report, but differ slightly due to the timing of the action being tabulated. For example, ORES does not count a disability benefit as being awarded until the disability decision is made. In contrast, under the procedures used in this report, individuals first coming on the SSI rolls through a finding of presumptive disability would be counted as a “new recipient” in the first month of presumptive disability payment.

cations increased. Two main factors contributed to the slower growth for new recipients as compared to applications. First, since 2001 the number of claims pending adjudication significantly increased. This

Table IV.B2.—SSI Federally-Administered New Recipients, Calendar Years 1974-2035
[In thousands]

Calendar year ^a	Blind or disabled, by age group					Aged, by age group			Totals ^b		
	0-17	18-34	35-49	50-64	65-74	75 or older	65-74	75 or older	Blind or disabled	Aged	All
Historical data:											
1974 ^c	63	390	381	925	141	18	1,211	1,268	1,919	2,479	4,398
1975.....	58	133	105	272	16	d	216	131	584	347	931
1976.....	43	105	88	207	9	d	147	70	452	218	669
1977.....	48	104	84	184	8	1	140	69	429	209	637
1978.....	43	92	76	154	6	d	127	66	370	193	563
1979.....	44	87	62	133	4	d	116	53	330	169	499
1980.....	41	92	61	142	4	d	125	59	341	184	524
1981.....	37	77	49	106	3	d	80	37	272	117	389
1982.....	38	63	51	90	4	d	72	31	245	103	348
1983.....	47	88	62	117	3	d	95	51	317	146	463
1984.....	47	109	78	142	4	d	131	78	380	209	589
1985.....	48	104	80	148	4	d	106	46	384	152	536
1986.....	55	127	109	153	5	d	110	51	449	161	610
1987.....	48	119	106	157	5	d	116	52	435	167	602
1988.....	50	101	108	146	5	1	112	56	412	167	579
1989.....	48	113	115	155	5	d	127	62	436	189	625
1990.....	76	136	134	182	5	d	149	66	533	215	748
1991.....	126	146	172	200	6	d	139	54	650	193	844
1992.....	221	199	221	233	6	d	133	48	881	181	1,062
1993.....	235	194	221	225	6	d	136	49	881	185	1,066
1994.....	204	164	207	215	6	d	116	42	796	157	953
1995.....	177	147	207	218	5	d	105	36	755	141	895
1996.....	145	134	193	203	6	1	93	35	681	128	809
1997.....	116	111	171	178	4	d	68	25	580	93	673
1998.....	135	117	181	194	7	1	78	30	634	108	742
1999.....	140	114	186	195	5	d	88	33	640	120	760
2000.....	145	112	180	191	5	d	84	31	633	115	748
2001.....	157	121	185	198	4	d	79	28	665	107	772
2002.....	171	128	195	212	4	d	82	29	710	111	821
2003.....	180	132	194	214	4	d	77	27	724	104	828
2004.....	183	138	202	231	4	d	78	27	757	105	862
2005.....	178	131	192	238	4	d	81	29	744	111	854
2006.....	175	128	190	243	3	d	81	28	739	109	849
2007.....	172	128	186	252	3	d	75	27	741	103	844
2008.....	183	146	204	289	4	d	79	26	825	105	930
2009.....	198	161	214	322	4	d	80	26	900	106	1,006
2010.....	205	173	221	346	4	d	80	26	949	106	1,055
Projected:											
2011.....	207	171	227	372	6	d	86	26	983	112	1,095
2012.....	209	163	217	360	6	d	92	26	956	118	1,074
2013.....	201	154	202	341	6	d	98	27	903	125	1,029
2014.....	187	143	185	317	6	d	100	27	837	127	964
2015.....	181	139	181	308	6	d	104	28	814	132	946
2016.....	178	137	178	299	6	d	109	28	798	137	935
2017.....	177	137	177	293	6	d	113	30	790	143	933
2018.....	178	138	178	292	7	d	118	31	794	148	942
2019.....	186	143	185	303	7	d	124	32	824	156	981
2020.....	184	141	182	296	7	d	125	32	810	158	968
2021.....	185	142	182	295	7	d	128	34	811	162	973
2022.....	186	142	184	293	7	d	131	35	812	166	978
2023.....	186	143	186	290	7	d	133	37	813	170	982
2024.....	191	146	192	292	8	d	138	39	830	177	1,006
2025.....	189	144	192	284	8	d	138	40	816	178	993
2026.....	189	144	194	281	8	d	139	41	815	180	995
2027.....	190	144	196	279	7	d	139	43	816	182	998
2028.....	190	145	198	277	7	d	140	44	818	184	1,002
2029.....	191	146	199	277	7	d	140	46	820	186	1,006
2030.....	195	149	204	283	7	d	141	48	839	189	1,029
2031.....	193	147	202	279	7	d	137	49	828	185	1,013
2032.....	193	148	202	280	7	d	134	50	830	185	1,014
2033.....	193	149	203	281	7	d	133	52	833	185	1,018
2034.....	194	150	204	283	7	d	133	53	837	186	1,023
2035.....	194	151	204	284	7	d	133	54	841	187	1,028

^a Represents period in which first payment was made, not date of first eligibility for payments.

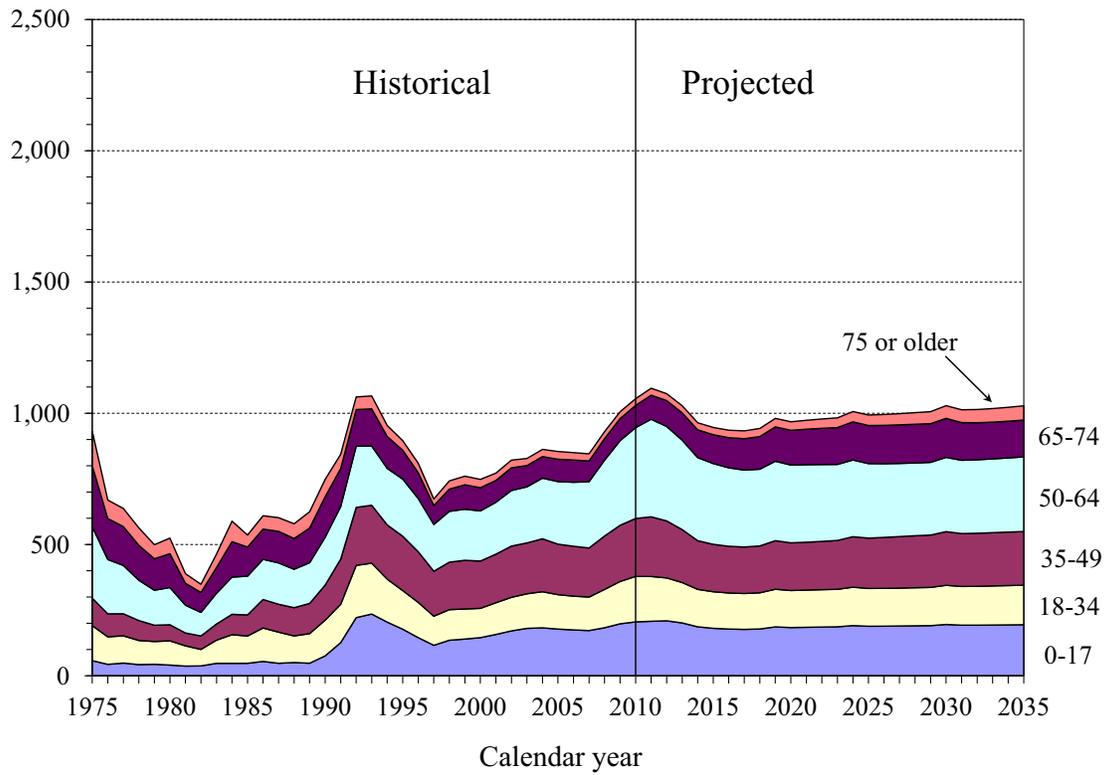
^b Historical totals estimated based on 1-percent or 10-percent sample data.

^c Totals for 1974 include recipients converted from previous State programs as well as new recipients to the SSI program during 1974.

^d Fewer than 500.

Note: Totals do not necessarily equal the sums of rounded components. Historical split among age groups is estimated on a calendar year of age basis.

Figure IV.B2.—SSI Federally-Administered New Recipients by Age Group, Calendar Years 1975-2035
[In thousands]



growth was consistent with a longer lag time between application and the allowance decision. Second, after the introduction of the signature proxy process, the number of denials for applications not meeting the nonmedical criteria increased significantly, causing a permanent downward shift in the allowance rate. Starting in 2008, however, the numbers of new recipients increased substantially. This increase was likely attributable to: (1) the sharp increase in applications; (2) improvements in claims processing; and (3) an initiative to accelerate the processing of cases pending adjudication. Consistent with the projected applications, we project the total number of new recipients to peak in 2011 and decline thereafter to a relative low point by 2017. Over the longer term, we project the number of new recipients to increase gradually in line with the projected growth in applications.

Some persons receiving SSI benefits in a year will stop receiving payments during the year because of death or the loss of SSI eligibility. A recipient can lose eligibility in two ways: (1) a nonmedical redetermination; or (2) a continuing disability review (CDR).¹ In a redetermination, we reexamine the recipient's nonmedical factors of eligibility, including income and resources. In a CDR, we determine whether the recipient continues to meet the Social Security Act's definition of disability. For example, disabled children, upon attainment of age 18, lose eligibility if they do not qualify for benefits under the disabled adult eligibility criteria. We refer to the net reduction in the number of SSI recipients in current-payment status during a period as the number of SSI terminations for that period.

In the following tables, we have separated the numbers of persons moving out of payment status into terminations due to death (table IV.B3), and terminations for all other reasons (table IV.B4). Table IV.B5 and figure IV.B3 present historical and projected numbers of total terminations by calendar year. The actual number of terminations in 2010 continued at a fairly high level despite declining more than 3 percent from 2009 levels. The reduction in the number of terminations is due to a decline in the number of terminations

¹ Some historical details on income and resource redeterminations and the results of continuing disability reviews are presented in section V.D. Section V.E presents information on certain incentive programs intended to encourage disabled SSI recipients to return to work.

Table IV.B3.—SSI Federally-Administered Terminations Due to Death^a, Calendar Years 1974-2035

[In thousands]

Calendar year	Blind or disabled, by age group					Aged, by age group			Totals ^b		
	0-17	18-34	35-49	50-64	65-74	75 or older	65-74	75 or older	Blind or disabled	Aged	All
Historical data:											
1974	^c	3	8	34	7	2	40	97	55	137	192
1975	1	5	12	35	10	2	39	108	65	147	212
1976	2	5	9	36	12	1	34	103	64	137	201
1977	1	5	12	30	15	1	36	101	65	137	203
1978	2	5	8	34	16	2	31	95	67	126	193
1979	2	6	9	32	18	2	29	92	67	121	189
1980	3	5	9	31	22	1	27	100	71	127	198
1981	3	5	8	31	24	2	21	92	73	112	186
1982	3	4	8	28	21	2	16	80	65	96	161
1983	3	6	8	25	21	3	15	79	65	94	158
1984	3	4	9	29	18	5	13	83	67	96	163
1985	2	6	10	29	24	6	17	84	77	101	178
1986	2	8	12	28	22	8	15	83	80	98	178
1987	3	8	13	30	23	10	15	82	87	97	184
1988	5	8	14	31	25	12	16	81	95	97	191
1989	3	8	16	33	23	12	15	78	95	93	187
1990	4	9	18	36	22	14	16	75	103	92	194
1991	4	9	20	39	23	17	17	74	112	91	203
1992	4	11	22	38	22	15	16	69	111	84	195
1993	6	13	27	41	23	17	16	72	127	88	215
1994	6	14	27	41	23	17	16	69	127	85	212
1995	6	13	30	43	24	18	16	65	135	81	216
1996	7	12	30	44	24	18	16	67	135	83	218
1997	5	10	24	43	24	19	15	64	127	79	206
1998	5	9	24	43	25	20	14	64	127	78	205
1999	5	9	25	45	25	21	13	63	131	76	207
2000	5	8	27	46	25	21	12	61	132	73	205
2001	5	8	28	47	25	22	11	60	135	71	207
2002	5	8	28	49	24	21	11	58	135	70	205
2003	5	9	28	51	26	21	10	56	138	66	204
2004	5	8	27	52	25	22	10	56	140	65	205
2005	5	8	28	54	25	22	9	54	141	63	204
2006	5	8	27	55	25	22	9	54	143	62	205
2007	5	8	26	57	25	23	8	54	145	62	207
2008	5	8	25	60	25	21	8	53	144	62	206
2009	5	9	25	64	26	22	8	52	150	60	210
2010	4	8	22	63	26	22	8	50	146	58	204
Projected:											
2011	5	9	22	68	26	23	7	50	153	57	210
2012	5	10	23	73	26	24	7	50	161	57	218
2013	5	10	23	76	27	25	7	50	165	57	223
2014	5	10	22	78	28	25	8	50	168	57	225
2015	5	10	22	79	29	26	8	50	170	58	227
2016	4	10	22	79	30	26	8	50	171	58	229
2017	4	10	22	78	31	26	8	50	172	58	230
2018	4	10	21	77	33	27	8	50	172	58	230
2019	4	10	21	76	34	27	9	50	173	58	231
2020	4	10	21	76	35	27	9	50	174	59	232
2021	4	10	21	75	37	28	9	50	174	59	234
2022	4	10	21	74	37	29	9	50	175	60	235
2023	4	10	21	72	38	30	10	51	175	61	236
2024	4	10	22	71	39	31	10	52	176	61	237
2025	4	10	22	70	39	32	10	52	177	62	239
2026	4	10	22	69	40	33	10	53	177	63	240
2027	4	10	22	68	40	34	10	54	178	64	242
2028	4	10	22	67	40	35	10	55	178	65	243
2029	4	10	22	66	40	37	10	56	179	66	245
2030	4	10	22	66	39	38	10	58	179	68	247
2031	4	10	22	66	39	40	10	59	180	69	249
2032	4	10	22	66	38	41	10	61	181	71	251
2033	4	10	22	66	37	42	10	62	181	72	253
2034	4	10	22	66	37	44	10	64	182	74	255
2035	3	10	22	66	36	45	9	66	182	75	257

^a Terminations where the death of the SSI recipient was recorded in SSA administrative systems as of the first month of nonpayment of SSI benefits.^b Historical totals estimated based on 1-percent or 10-percent sample data.^c Fewer than 500.

Note: Totals do not necessarily equal the sums of rounded components. Historical split among age groups is estimated on a calendar year of age basis.

Table IV.B4.—SSI Federally-Administered Terminations Due to Reasons Other Than Death, Calendar Years 1974-2035
[In thousands]

Calendar year	Blind or disabled, by age group					Aged, by age group			Totals ^a		
	0-17	18-34	35-49	50-64	65-74	75 or older	65-74	75 or older	Blind or disabled	Aged	All
Historical data:											
1974	5	33	34	69	12	2	27	29	154	56	210
1975	7	50	44	104	15	2	88	91	221	180	401
1976	11	70	61	139	24	1	107	133	306	240	546
1977	13	65	56	110	19	1	76	92	265	168	433
1978	11	64	49	97	18	1	64	86	241	150	391
1979	12	59	43	96	23	1	58	85	234	144	378
1980	19	48	43	80	23	1	44	77	214	121	334
1981	17	43	39	72	21	1	49	86	192	134	326
1982	19	48	43	79	23	1	50	87	212	137	348
1983	18	43	36	63	14	1	25	61	175	86	261
1984	13	51	37	77	21	1	37	60	200	98	298
1985	11	42	37	68	13	2	23	54	172	77	249
1986	18	49	47	73	16	3	34	60	206	94	300
1987	19	51	48	75	17	3	32	57	214	89	302
1988	19	52	51	74	15	5	33	59	216	93	309
1989	19	55	52	72	16	4	33	58	218	91	308
1990	14	52	57	73	17	8	40	68	221	108	330
1991	20	50	70	84	18	5	33	58	248	91	339
1992	39	68	94	103	19	8	34	56	329	90	419
1993	34	73	97	106	22	8	37	55	340	92	433
1994	41	73	101	107	18	8	32	49	348	81	429
1995	47	81	111	115	20	7	32	48	382	80	461
1996	47	89	128	119	21	8	29	49	413	78	491
1997	128	105	147	115	18	8	24	40	522	64	586
1998	67	89	112	110	19	8	22	38	406	61	466
1999	119	111	120	116	20	9	24	43	495	68	563
2000	84	99	111	112	22	9	22	38	437	61	498
2001	65	95	111	118	20	9	22	38	418	60	478
2002	78	100	122	133	20	9	20	35	463	55	517
2003	72	95	122	135	20	9	20	36	453	56	509
2004	85	101	136	156	23	9	24	38	510	62	572
2005	64	101	129	157	20	8	15	30	479	45	524
2006	56	96	131	162	21	8	19	30	473	50	522
2007	46	108	124	160	20	8	18	29	466	48	513
2008	63	112	131	185	20	8	18	27	518	45	563
2009	61	124	141	214	27	10	25	37	576	63	639
2010	76	122	131	209	21	8	22	28	565	50	615
Projected:											
2011	63	122	132	220	22	8	21	31	568	51	619
2012	60	120	120	206	21	9	22	28	535	50	585
2013	62	128	118	206	22	9	23	29	544	52	596
2014	68	132	120	214	24	9	23	29	568	53	621
2015	72	134	118	215	25	10	24	30	574	54	628
2016	88	135	116	212	26	11	24	31	588	56	644
2017	93	140	117	212	28	12	25	33	602	58	660
2018	86	143	118	211	29	12	26	34	600	60	660
2019	83	143	119	210	31	12	27	34	598	62	659
2020	80	146	120	209	32	12	28	34	600	62	662
2021	78	144	121	207	34	13	29	35	595	64	659
2022	76	144	122	204	35	13	30	36	593	66	659
2023	77	145	124	201	35	14	30	37	595	67	662
2024	77	146	126	198	36	14	31	38	598	69	667
2025	77	147	128	196	37	15	32	39	600	71	671
2026	77	148	130	194	37	15	32	40	602	73	674
2027	77	148	132	192	38	16	33	42	603	74	677
2028	78	148	133	190	38	17	33	43	604	76	680
2029	78	148	134	190	38	18	33	45	606	78	683
2030	78	149	135	190	38	18	33	46	609	79	688
2031	79	150	136	191	37	19	33	48	612	81	693
2032	79	150	137	192	37	20	33	49	614	82	697
2033	79	151	137	193	36	20	33	51	617	83	700
2034	80	152	138	194	36	21	32	53	620	85	704
2035	80	152	138	194	36	22	32	54	623	86	709

^a Historical totals estimated based on 1-percent or 10-percent sample data.

Note: Totals do not necessarily equal the sums of rounded components. Historical split among age groups is estimated on a calendar year of age basis.

for State recipients not receiving Federal benefits. The number of new SSI recipients concurrently eligible for OASDI disability benefits who received SSI benefits only temporarily during the 5-month DI waiting period contributed to the continuation in 2010 of the relatively high level of terminations. Our projected terminations reflect the assumption that over time more resources will be available to SSA for processing CDRs and nonmedical redeterminations.

Table IV.B5.—SSI Federally-Administered Terminations for All Reasons, Calendar Years 1974-2035
[In thousands]

Calendar year	Blind or disabled, by age group					Aged, by age group			Totals ^a		
	0-17	18-34	35-49	50-64	65-74	75 or older	65-74	75 or older	Blind or disabled	Aged	All
Historical data:											
1974	5	36	42	103	19	4	67	126	209	193	402
1975	8	55	56	140	25	3	127	199	287	326	613
1976	13	75	71	174	35	3	141	236	371	377	748
1977	14	71	68	140	34	3	112	194	330	305	636
1978	14	70	58	130	34	3	94	181	308	276	584
1979	13	65	52	128	41	2	88	177	301	265	566
1980	22	53	52	111	45	2	70	177	284	248	532
1981	20	48	47	103	45	3	69	177	266	246	512
1982	21	52	51	107	43	2	65	168	277	233	510
1983	21	49	44	87	34	4	39	140	240	180	419
1984	16	55	46	106	39	6	50	144	267	194	461
1985	13	47	47	97	37	8	40	138	249	178	427
1986	21	58	59	101	38	11	48	143	287	192	478
1987	22	59	61	106	40	13	47	138	301	185	486
1988	24	60	65	105	39	18	49	140	311	189	500
1989	22	63	69	105	39	15	47	136	312	183	496
1990	18	61	75	109	39	22	56	144	324	200	524
1991	25	60	90	123	40	22	50	132	360	182	542
1992	42	78	115	140	41	23	50	125	440	175	614
1993	40	86	124	148	45	24	54	127	467	181	648
1994	47	87	128	148	41	24	48	118	475	166	642
1995	54	94	142	158	44	25	47	113	517	160	677
1996	54	101	158	163	45	27	45	116	548	161	710
1997	133	116	172	159	43	26	39	105	648	143	792
1998	73	98	136	153	44	29	36	102	533	138	671
1999	124	120	146	161	45	31	38	106	626	144	770
2000	89	107	138	159	46	29	35	99	569	134	703
2001	70	103	139	166	45	31	34	98	554	132	685
2002	83	108	150	182	44	30	31	93	598	124	722
2003	76	104	149	186	46	30	31	92	591	122	713
2004	90	109	163	208	48	31	34	93	650	127	777
2005	69	109	157	211	45	30	24	84	621	107	728
2006	61	104	158	217	46	31	28	84	615	112	727
2007	51	116	150	218	46	31	27	83	610	110	720
2008	68	120	155	245	45	29	26	80	663	106	769
2009	66	133	166	278	52	32	33	90	726	123	849
2010	80	130	153	272	46	30	29	79	712	108	820
Projected:											
2011	68	131	154	288	48	31	28	80	721	108	829
2012	65	129	142	279	48	33	29	78	696	107	803
2013	67	137	141	282	49	34	30	79	710	109	819
2014	73	142	142	292	52	35	31	79	736	110	846
2015	77	144	140	293	54	36	32	80	744	112	855
2016	92	145	137	291	57	37	32	81	759	113	872
2017	98	150	139	290	59	38	33	83	774	116	889
2018	90	153	140	288	62	39	34	84	772	118	890
2019	87	153	141	286	65	39	36	84	770	120	891
2020	84	156	141	285	68	40	37	84	773	121	895
2021	82	154	142	281	70	40	38	85	769	123	893
2022	80	154	143	277	72	42	39	86	768	126	893
2023	81	155	145	273	74	43	40	88	770	128	898
2024	81	156	147	270	75	45	41	90	774	130	905
2025	81	157	150	266	76	46	42	91	777	133	910
2026	81	158	152	263	77	48	42	93	779	136	914
2027	81	157	154	260	78	50	43	96	780	138	919
2028	81	157	156	257	78	52	43	98	782	141	923
2029	82	158	157	256	78	54	43	101	784	144	928
2030	82	158	158	256	77	56	44	104	788	147	935
2031	83	159	158	257	76	59	43	107	792	150	942
2032	83	160	159	258	74	61	43	110	795	153	948
2033	83	161	160	259	73	63	42	113	798	155	954
2034	83	161	160	260	73	65	42	116	802	158	960
2035	83	162	161	260	72	67	41	120	805	161	966

^a Historical totals estimated based on 1-percent or 10-percent sample data.

Note: Totals do not necessarily equal the sums of rounded components. Historical split among age groups is estimated on a calendar year of age basis.

Combining the number of persons coming on the SSI payment rolls during a year with the number of those already receiving benefits at the beginning of the year, and subtracting the number leaving the rolls during the year, yields the number of persons receiving Federally-administered SSI payments at the end of the year. Table IV.B6 and figure IV.B4 present the number of individuals receiving Federal SSI payments, who comprise the great majority of Federally-administered recipients. The number of Federal SSI recipients at the end of 2010 increased by about 3.1 percent over the corresponding number at the end of 2009 but is relatively close to what we projected in last year's report.

Figure IV.B3.—SSI Federally-Administered Terminations by Age Group, Calendar Years 1975-2035
[In thousands]

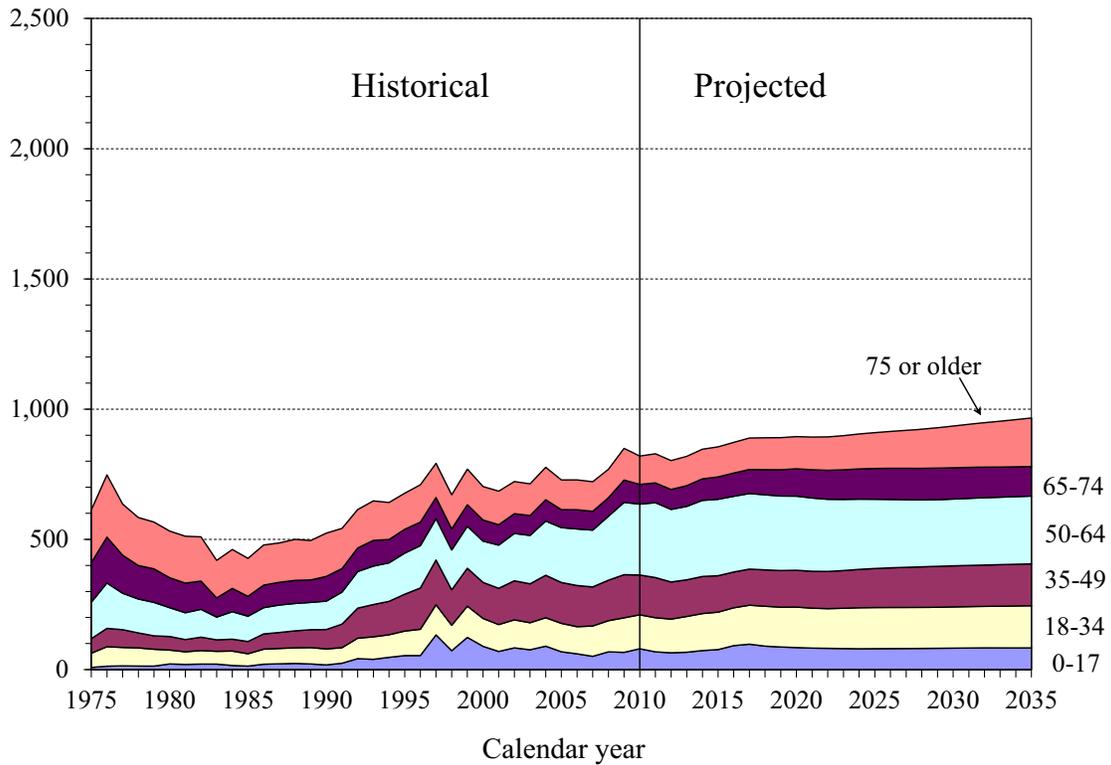


Table IV.B6.—SSI Recipients with Federal Benefits in Current-Payment Status as of December, 1974-2035
[In thousands]

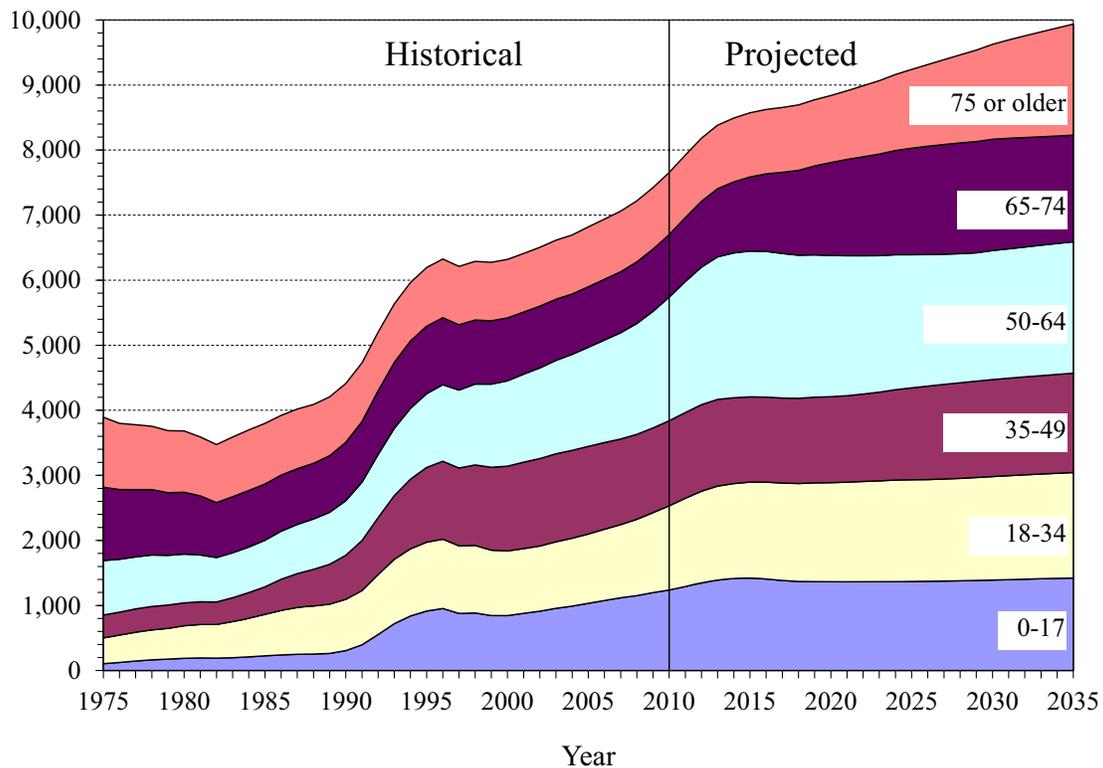
Year	Blind or disabled, by age group					Aged, by age group		Totals			
	0-17	18-34	35-49	50-64	65-74	75 or older	65-74	75 or older	Blind or disabled	Aged	All
Historical data:											
1974	70	338	321	756	109	13	1,010	1,019	1,606	2,029	3,635
1975	106	395	352	838	164	14	963	1,062	1,869	2,025	3,893
1976	124	420	352	813	208	14	864	1,003	1,932	1,867	3,799
1977	147	442	358	800	249	16	785	980	2,013	1,765	3,778
1978	165	460	361	791	277	16	728	958	2,069	1,686	3,755
1979	176	472	359	764	307	16	656	938	2,094	1,593	3,687
1980	188	500	351	750	342	17	609	925	2,149	1,533	3,682
1981	194	514	349	720	366	17	541	888	2,160	1,430	3,590
1982	191	517	346	683	386	21	459	871	2,144	1,329	3,473
1983	198	555	366	692	412	28	449	890	2,250	1,339	3,590
1984	210	595	393	700	406	48	463	884	2,352	1,347	3,699
1985	226	634	426	717	402	72	462	860	2,477	1,322	3,799
1986	240	688	475	739	397	91	465	827	2,630	1,291	3,922
1987	249	717	524	756	392	113	464	804	2,751	1,268	4,019
1988	254	738	564	774	387	127	468	777	2,844	1,245	4,089
1989	263	757	613	799	382	145	488	760	2,959	1,247	4,206
1990	306	788	677	840	389	156	508	749	3,156	1,257	4,412
1991	395	833	769	897	390	166	542	736	3,451	1,279	4,730
1992	555	920	877	970	402	173	577	727	3,898	1,304	5,202
1993	721	990	979	1,034	410	179	604	720	4,312	1,324	5,636
1994	839	1,032	1,071	1,089	425	182	610	716	4,638	1,326	5,965
1995	915	1,058	1,150	1,134	435	188	601	713	4,880	1,315	6,194
1996	954	1,066	1,198	1,176	444	192	586	711	5,029	1,296	6,326
1997	878	1,039	1,196	1,198	457	193	547	704	4,960	1,251	6,212
1998	885	1,038	1,238	1,243	464	197	521	705	5,063	1,226	6,289
1999	845	1,005	1,274	1,278	474	195	499	704	5,072	1,203	6,275
2000	844	994	1,303	1,313	484	196	483	703	5,134	1,186	6,320
2001	879	995	1,329	1,353	493	196	461	703	5,245	1,165	6,410
2002	912	1,002	1,344	1,394	502	200	447	705	5,354	1,152	6,505
2003	956	1,023	1,353	1,436	511	204	430	703	5,482	1,133	6,614
2004	990	1,044	1,350	1,476	515	208	412	699	5,584	1,111	6,695
2005	1,034	1,065	1,347	1,523	522	215	408	705	5,706	1,113	6,819
2006	1,076	1,095	1,334	1,575	529	220	405	704	5,830	1,109	6,939

Table IV.B6.—SSI Recipients with Federal Benefits in Current-Payment Status as of December, 1974-2035 (Cont.)
[In thousands]

Year	Blind or disabled, by age group					Aged, by age group			Totals		
	0-17	18-34	35-49	50-64	65-74	75 or older	65-74	75 or older	Blind or disabled	Aged	All
Historical data: (Cont.)											
2007	1,119	1,124	1,316	1,634	540	228	397	704	5,960	1,101	7,061
2008	1,151	1,173	1,306	1,704	550	234	396	704	6,119	1,100	7,219
2009	1,198	1,229	1,302	1,793	559	241	396	704	6,322	1,101	7,423
2010	1,238	1,294	1,307	1,900	566	251	394	704	6,557	1,099	7,656
Projected:											
2011	1,291	1,357	1,317	2,014	582	259	400	703	6,819	1,103	7,923
2012	1,347	1,410	1,330	2,115	603	267	409	703	7,071	1,111	8,183
2013	1,391	1,444	1,333	2,191	625	274	422	702	7,259	1,124	8,383
2014	1,413	1,461	1,319	2,227	654	280	437	701	7,354	1,138	8,492
2015	1,421	1,475	1,310	2,241	684	286	454	701	7,418	1,155	8,573
2016	1,407	1,489	1,307	2,240	717	290	475	700	7,449	1,175	8,624
2017	1,384	1,497	1,307	2,222	750	295	496	702	7,456	1,198	8,655
2018	1,369	1,506	1,309	2,200	786	300	518	706	7,470	1,224	8,694
2019	1,367	1,518	1,317	2,187	824	305	543	712	7,518	1,255	8,774
2020	1,365	1,522	1,321	2,171	862	310	567	720	7,551	1,288	8,838
2021	1,365	1,530	1,329	2,152	894	319	585	737	7,589	1,322	8,911
2022	1,367	1,539	1,344	2,126	923	331	597	761	7,631	1,358	8,989
2023	1,367	1,549	1,363	2,099	950	344	612	785	7,671	1,396	9,067
2024	1,368	1,559	1,389	2,075	973	359	628	810	7,723	1,438	9,162
2025	1,367	1,566	1,413	2,047	994	375	642	836	7,760	1,479	9,239
2026	1,368	1,569	1,435	2,021	1,010	391	655	865	7,795	1,519	9,314
2027	1,374	1,570	1,455	2,001	1,022	409	665	894	7,830	1,559	9,389
2028	1,379	1,574	1,470	1,985	1,029	428	672	926	7,865	1,598	9,463
2029	1,384	1,580	1,482	1,976	1,032	447	677	959	7,900	1,636	9,536
2030	1,393	1,589	1,493	1,981	1,028	466	682	993	7,950	1,675	9,625
2031	1,400	1,596	1,499	1,988	1,019	484	680	1,027	7,985	1,708	9,693
2032	1,406	1,602	1,505	1,997	1,007	502	676	1,062	8,018	1,737	9,756
2033	1,412	1,609	1,512	2,006	996	518	670	1,095	8,052	1,764	9,817
2034	1,417	1,615	1,519	2,013	988	534	663	1,127	8,087	1,790	9,877
2035	1,421	1,622	1,526	2,021	983	548	656	1,159	8,121	1,814	9,936

Note: Totals do not necessarily equal the sums of rounded components. Historical split among age groups is estimated on a calendar year of age basis.

Figure IV.B4.—SSI Recipients with Federal Benefits in Current-Payment Status, by Age Group, as of December, 1975-2035
[In thousands]



As figure IV.B4 illustrates, the implementation of Public Law 104-121 and Public Law 104-193 resulted in a decline in the Federal recipient population from 1996 to 1997. From the end of 1997 through the end of 2000, the Federal SSI recipient population grew at an annual rate of less than 1 percent. From the end of 2000 to the end of 2009, the Federal SSI recipient population grew an average of 1.8 percent per year. However, as noted above, the Federal recipient population grew 3.1 percent during 2010, and we project the economic slowdown to result in continued rapid growth with year-to-year increases from the end of 2010 through the end of 2013 averaging approximately 3.1 percent. Beginning in 2014, the growth in the projected numbers of Federal SSI recipients returns to a rate of about 1 percent per year over the remainder of the 25-year projection period. In order to place this projected growth in the context of overall population growth, table IV.B7 and figure IV.B5 present Federal SSI recipients as percentages of selected Social Security Area population totals.

Table IV.B7.—SSI Recipients with Federal Benefits in Current-Payment Status as a Percentage of Selected Social Security Area Population Totals, as of December, 1974-2035

Year	Blind or disabled, by age group					Aged, by age group			Totals		
	0-17	18-34	35-49	50-64	65-74	75 or older	65-74	75 or older	Blind or disabled ^a	Aged ^b	All ^c
Historical data:											
1974	0.10	0.56	0.88	2.29	0.78	0.15	7.23	11.29	0.72	8.82	1.63
1975 .....	.15	.63	.97	2.52	1.15	.15	6.74	11.46	.83	8.60	1.73
1976 .....	.18	.65	.96	2.42	1.42	.14	5.93	10.51	.85	7.74	1.67
1977 .....	.22	.67	.97	2.36	1.67	.17	5.26	10.03	.88	7.15	1.65
1978 .....	.25	.68	.96	2.32	1.82	.16	4.77	9.55	.89	6.67	1.62
1979 .....	.27	.68	.94	2.23	1.97	.15	4.20	9.05	.90	6.13	1.58
1980 .....	.29	.71	.91	2.18	2.14	.16	3.82	8.68	.91	5.77	1.56
1981 .....	.30	.72	.87	2.09	2.26	.16	3.34	8.09	.91	5.26	1.50
1982 .....	.29	.71	.83	1.99	2.34	.19	2.78	7.70	.89	4.78	1.44
1983 .....	.30	.76	.85	2.02	2.46	.24	2.68	7.65	.92	4.72	1.47
1984 .....	.32	.81	.88	2.05	2.39	.40	2.73	7.40	.96	4.66	1.50
1985 .....	.35	.86	.92	2.11	2.32	.58	2.67	7.01	1.00	4.47	1.53
1986 .....	.37	.93	1.00	2.18	2.26	.73	2.64	6.58	1.05	4.28	1.56
1987 .....	.38	.97	1.06	2.24	2.20	.87	2.59	6.25	1.09	4.12	1.59
1988 .....	.38	1.00	1.10	2.29	2.14	.97	2.59	5.89	1.11	3.98	1.60
1989 .....	.40	1.03	1.16	2.36	2.09	1.07	2.67	5.61	1.14	3.92	1.63
1990 .....	.45	1.08	1.24	2.47	2.09	1.12	2.74	5.40	1.21	3.88	1.68
1991 .....	.57	1.15	1.36	2.61	2.08	1.17	2.88	5.18	1.30	3.87	1.79
1992 .....	.79	1.29	1.51	2.79	2.12	1.19	3.04	5.00	1.45	3.89	1.94
1993	1.01	1.40	1.64	2.91	2.14	1.20	3.16	4.84	1.59	3.89	2.08
1994	1.17	1.48	1.75	3.02	2.21	1.20	3.18	4.71	1.70	3.86	2.18
1995	1.26	1.53	1.83	3.09	2.27	1.21	3.13	4.59	1.77	3.78	2.24
1996	1.30	1.55	1.87	3.11	2.32	1.21	3.06	4.46	1.80	3.70	2.27
1997	1.20	1.52	1.85	3.05	2.40	1.18	2.87	4.32	1.76	3.54	2.21
1998	1.20	1.52	1.88	3.05	2.45	1.18	2.75	4.24	1.78	3.45	2.21
1999	1.14	1.47	1.92	3.02	2.53	1.15	2.66	4.16	1.77	3.37	2.19
2000	1.14	1.45	1.95	3.00	2.58	1.14	2.58	4.10	1.77	3.30	2.19
2001	1.18	1.45	1.98	2.99	2.63	1.13	2.46	4.04	1.80	3.22	2.20
2002	1.22	1.45	2.00	2.97	2.67	1.13	2.38	4.00	1.82	3.16	2.21
2003	1.28	1.47	2.02	2.96	2.70	1.14	2.27	3.95	1.85	3.09	2.23
2004	1.32	1.49	2.01	2.94	2.70	1.15	2.16	3.87	1.86	2.99	2.23
2005	1.37	1.52	2.01	2.93	2.70	1.18	2.11	3.86	1.89	2.96	2.26
2006	1.42	1.55	1.99	2.94	2.68	1.19	2.05	3.82	1.91	2.90	2.27
2007	1.48	1.57	1.98	2.96	2.65	1.22	1.95	3.78	1.93	2.82	2.29
2008	1.52	1.61	1.98	3.00	2.61	1.25	1.88	3.75	1.97	2.76	2.32
2009	1.58	1.67	1.99	3.07	2.57	1.28	1.82	3.72	2.02	2.71	2.37
2010	1.63	1.75	2.02	3.17	2.53	1.32	1.76	3.69	2.07	2.65	2.42
Projected:											
2011	1.69	1.82	2.06	3.29	2.49	1.34	1.71	3.65	2.14	2.59	2.49
2012	1.76	1.87	2.10	3.41	2.45	1.37	1.66	3.61	2.20	2.52	2.55
2013	1.81	1.91	2.11	3.49	2.42	1.39	1.64	3.56	2.24	2.47	2.59
2014	1.82	1.92	2.10	3.51	2.43	1.40	1.62	3.50	2.25	2.43	2.60
2015	1.82	1.93	2.08	3.50	2.44	1.40	1.62	3.44	2.25	2.39	2.60
2016	1.79	1.94	2.06	3.48	2.46	1.39	1.63	3.37	2.24	2.36	2.59
2017	1.75	1.95	2.05	3.45	2.49	1.38	1.65	3.29	2.22	2.33	2.58
2018	1.72	1.95	2.04	3.41	2.52	1.36	1.66	3.21	2.21	2.30	2.57
2019	1.70	1.95	2.05	3.39	2.55	1.35	1.68	3.16	2.20	2.29	2.57
2020	1.69	1.95	2.05	3.36	2.57	1.34	1.69	3.11	2.19	2.27	2.57

Table IV.B7.—SSI Recipients with Federal Benefits in Current-Payment Status as a Percentage of Selected Social Security Area Population Totals, as of December, 1974-2035 (Cont.)

Year	Blind or disabled, by age group					Aged, by age group			Totals		
	0-17	18-34	35-49	50-64	65-74	75 or older	65-74	75 or older	Blind or disabled ^a	Aged ^b	All ^c
Projected data: (Cont.)											
2021	1.68	1.96	2.05	3.34	2.60	1.32	1.70	3.06	2.19	2.26	2.57
2022	1.67	1.96	2.05	3.32	2.63	1.31	1.70	3.02	2.18	2.25	2.57
2023	1.66	1.97	2.06	3.31	2.65	1.31	1.71	2.98	2.17	2.25	2.57
2024	1.66	1.97	2.07	3.31	2.66	1.31	1.71	2.96	2.17	2.25	2.58
2025	1.65	1.98	2.07	3.29	2.66	1.32	1.72	2.94	2.17	2.25	2.58
2026	1.64	1.98	2.08	3.28	2.66	1.33	1.72	2.93	2.16	2.25	2.58
2027	1.64	1.97	2.08	3.28	2.65	1.34	1.72	2.92	2.15	2.25	2.58
2028	1.64	1.97	2.09	3.27	2.64	1.34	1.73	2.91	2.15	2.26	2.59
2029	1.64	1.97	2.09	3.26	2.63	1.35	1.73	2.91	2.14	2.27	2.59
2030	1.64	1.97	2.10	3.26	2.62	1.36	1.74	2.90	2.14	2.28	2.60
2031	1.64	1.97	2.10	3.26	2.61	1.37	1.74	2.90	2.14	2.29	2.60
2032	1.65	1.96	2.10	3.25	2.60	1.37	1.75	2.90	2.14	2.31	2.60
2033	1.65	1.96	2.10	3.25	2.59	1.37	1.74	2.89	2.13	2.31	2.60
2034	1.65	1.95	2.11	3.25	2.59	1.37	1.74	2.89	2.13	2.32	2.60
2035	1.65	1.95	2.11	3.25	2.59	1.37	1.73	2.89	2.13	2.33	2.60

^a Blind or disabled recipients as a percentage of the total Social Security Area population.

^b Aged recipients as a percentage of the 65 or older Social Security Area population.

^c Total recipients as a percentage of the total Social Security Area population. Totals do not equal sums of components due to overlapping populations.

In table IV.B7, we calculated the age group percentages using the corresponding population age group totals. We computed the ratios for the separate recipient categories—*total blind or disabled* and *total aged*—as percentages of differing base populations, the total Social Security Area population and the 65 and older Social Security population, respectively. As a result of this method of calculation, the percentage for the total SSI recipient population is not the arithmetic sum of the percentages for the respective recipient categories. The percentage of the total Social Security Area population who were receiving Federal SSI payments declined from 1975 through the early 1980s. In 1983, this percentage started increasing and continued to increase through 1996. The percentage of the total population receiving Federal SSI payments declined in 1997, due to the implementation of Public Law 104-121 and Public Law 104-193, but leveled out over the next few years. It has increased slightly over the past few years, and we expect it to continue to increase through 2015 and then remain essentially level through the rest of the projection period. Almost 80 percent of the increase in the percentage of the population receiving Federal SSI payments, from 2.42 in 2010 to 2.60 in 2035, is attributable to the changing age distribution in the population.

The various subcategories of Federal SSI recipients, however, follow significantly different growth patterns in relation to their respective population totals. The aged Federal SSI recipient population declines steadily as a percentage of the 65 or older population throughout the historical period and most of the projection period, with the decline leveling off near the end of the projection period. In contrast, except for decreases in the late 1990s due to the eligibility redeterminations and continuing disability reviews mandated by Public Law 104-193, the number of blind or disabled children receiving Federal SSI payments increased steadily throughout the historical period as a percentage of the under age 18 population, with the increase being quite steep in the early 1990s. The total blind or disabled Federal SSI recipient population as a percentage of the total population remained fairly level until the early 1980s when it started increasing and continued to increase through 1996. The proportion of the population receiving SSI blind or disabled benefits declined slightly in the late 1990s due to the effects of welfare reform legislation, but resumed its upward trend in 2000. That upward trend has continued through 2010, and we estimate it will continue through 2014, reaching more than 2.2 percent of the total population. In the later years of the projection period, the estimated proportion of the population receiving SSI blind or disabled benefits will gradually decline due to: (1) a smaller proportion of the population becoming new recipients than during the current economic slowdown; (2) the changing age distribution in the population; and (3) our assumption that SSA will receive the resources necessary to process normal CDR and nonmedical redetermination workloads.

Figure IV.B5.—SSI Recipients with Federal Benefits in Current-Payment Status as a Percentage of Selected Social Security Area Population Age Groups, as of December, 1975-2035

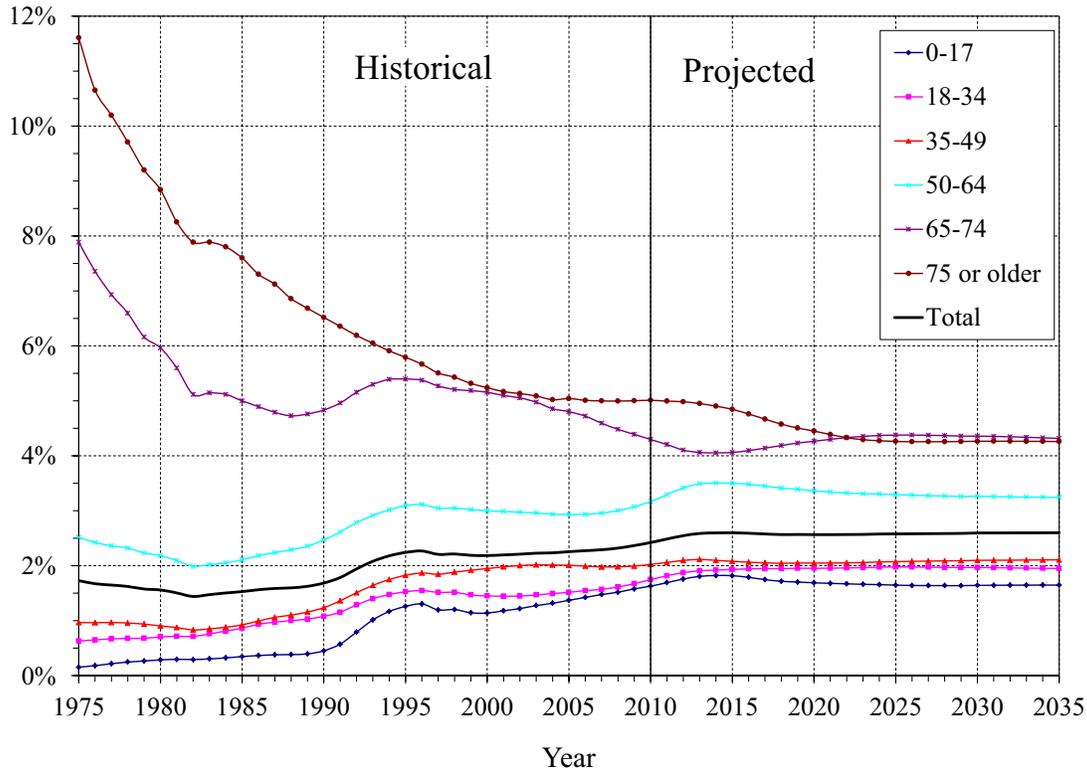


Table IV.B8 presents historical and projected numbers of individuals who receive only a Federally-administered State supplement.

Table IV.B8.—SSI Recipients with Federally-Administered State Supplementary Benefits Only, in Current-Payment Status as of December, 1974-2035
[In thousands]

Year	Blind or disabled, by age group						Aged, by age group		Totals		
	0-17	18-34	35-49	50-64	65-74	75 or older	65-74	75 or older	Blind or disabled	Aged	All
Historical data:											
1974	1	12	20	57	13	1	138	120	104	257	361
1975	1	15	25	74	21	2	144	138	139	282	421
1976	1	14	27	87	26	2	134	146	156	280	437
1977	1	16	27	94	35	2	136	150	174	286	460
1978	1	16	26	93	41	2	127	155	180	282	462
1979	1	18	25	89	49	2	121	157	184	278	462
1980	2	20	26	82	52	2	112	162	185	274	460
1981	1	19	26	75	58	2	94	155	181	248	429
1982	1	18	23	68	53	2	82	137	165	219	384
1983	1	17	19	50	44	4	65	111	136	176	312
1984	1	18	23	50	47	7	68	116	147	184	331
1985	1	21	28	53	45	8	67	115	157	182	339
1986	1	23	31	55	45	11	66	116	166	182	348
1987	1	26	36	60	43	12	72	115	178	187	366
1988	1	26	42	59	44	14	74	114	187	188	375
1989	2	28	45	60	45	16	76	115	195	192	387
1990	2	31	54	60	44	17	82	116	208	197	405
1991	2	29	54	59	42	17	78	108	203	186	389
1992	2	29	55	59	37	16	70	97	197	167	364
1993	2	29	58	59	34	15	64	88	197	151	348
1994	2	28	59	56	32	14	59	81	192	139	331
1995	3	25	59	56	32	14	54	77	188	131	320
1996	2	21	54	53	29	13	49	68	172	116	288
1997	2	20	55	53	29	13	46	65	172	111	283
1998	2	18	54	55	28	13	43	63	171	106	277
1999	2	18	57	58	28	13	43	62	177	105	282
2000	2	17	57	60	29	13	42	61	179	103	282
2001	2	17	56	62	29	12	41	59	179	100	278
2002	3	17	57	64	30	12	42	58	183	100	283

Table IV.B8.—SSI Recipients with Federally-Administered State Supplementary Benefits Only, in Current-Payment Status as of December, 1974-2035 (Cont.)
[In thousands]

Year	Blind or disabled, by age group					Aged, by age group			Totals		
	0-17	18-34	35-49	50-64	65-74	75 or older	65-74	75 or older	Blind or disabled	Aged	All
Historical data: (Cont.)											
2003	3	18	58	67	30	12	42	58	188	100	288
2004	3	18	58	70	31	12	43	58	193	100	293
2005	3	18	56	73	31	12	44	58	193	102	295
2006	3	18	55	76	32	12	45	58	194	103	297
2007	2	18	53	77	32	12	46	57	195	103	298
2008	3	18	52	80	34	12	46	57	198	103	301
2009	2	16	43	69	29	11	38	48	168	85	254
2010	2	16	42	71	29	11	37	48	171	85	257
Projected:											
2011	2	16	41	73	29	11	38	47	172	84	256
2012	2	18	42	77	31	11	40	48	180	88	268
2013	2	19	42	80	33	11	42	48	187	91	277
2014	2	19	42	83	35	12	45	49	192	94	286
2015	2	20	43	85	37	12	47	50	199	97	296
2016	2	21	44	88	39	12	50	51	207	101	307
2017	3	22	45	91	41	13	52	53	215	105	321
2018	3	23	47	93	44	13	55	55	224	110	333
2019	3	24	48	95	47	14	58	56	229	114	344
2020	3	24	48	95	49	14	60	58	233	119	352
2021	3	24	49	95	51	15	62	60	237	123	359
2022	3	24	50	94	53	15	64	63	239	127	366
2023	3	24	50	93	55	16	65	66	241	131	373
2024	3	24	51	92	57	17	67	69	244	136	379
2025	3	24	52	91	58	18	68	71	246	140	385
2026	3	24	53	90	59	18	70	74	247	144	391
2027	3	24	54	89	60	19	71	77	249	147	396
2028	3	24	54	88	60	20	71	80	250	151	401
2029	3	25	55	87	60	21	72	82	251	154	406
2030	3	25	55	87	60	22	72	86	252	158	410
2031	3	25	56	88	59	23	72	89	253	161	414
2032	3	25	56	88	59	24	72	91	254	163	418
2033	3	25	56	89	58	25	71	94	256	165	421
2034	3	25	56	89	57	26	70	97	257	167	424
2035	3	25	57	89	57	26	70	100	257	169	427

Note: Totals do not necessarily equal the sums of rounded components. Historical split among age groups is estimated on a calendar year of age basis.

Table IV.B9 displays the combined numbers of persons receiving either a Federal SSI payment or a Federally-administered State supplement.

Certain noteworthy patterns appear in the numbers of SSI recipients in the recent past and projections of such numbers for the near future. The total number of SSI recipients increased rapidly in the early 1990s due to the growth in the numbers of disabled adults and children. The growth in the numbers of children receiving SSI resulted in large part from the Supreme Court decision in the case of *Sullivan v. Zebley*, which greatly expanded the criteria used for determining disability for children. The growth in the numbers of disabled adults is a more complicated phenomenon. Extensive research conducted under contract to SSA and the Department of Health and Human Services suggests that this growth was the result of a combination of factors including: (1) demographic trends; (2) a downturn in the economy in the late 1980s and early 1990s; (3) long-term structural changes in the economy; and (4) changes in other support programs (in particular, the reduction or elimination of general assistance programs in certain States). The current economic downturn, the economic downturn in the early 2000s, and welfare reform legislation have contributed to the more recent, relatively modest changes in program participation.

Table IV.B9.—SSI Recipients with Federally-Administered Benefits in Current-Payment Status as of December, 1974-2035

Year	Blind or disabled, by age group					Aged, by age group			Totals		
	0-17	18-34	35-49	50-64	65-74	75 or older	65-74	75 or older	Blind or disabled	Aged	All
Historical data:											
1974	71	349	341	813	122	14	1,148	1,138	1,710	2,286	3,996
1975	107	410	378	911	185	16	1,107	1,200	2,007	2,307	4,314
1976	125	434	379	900	234	15	999	1,149	2,088	2,148	4,236
1977	147	458	385	893	284	18	921	1,130	2,187	2,051	4,238
1978	166	476	387	884	319	17	855	1,113	2,249	1,968	4,217
1979	177	490	384	852	357	17	777	1,095	2,278	1,872	4,150
1980	190	521	377	833	393	20	721	1,086	2,334	1,808	4,142
1981	195	533	375	795	424	19	635	1,043	2,341	1,678	4,019
1982	192	535	369	751	439	23	541	1,008	2,309	1,549	3,858
1983	198	572	386	742	456	32	514	1,001	2,386	1,515	3,901
1984	212	613	417	751	453	54	531	999	2,499	1,530	4,029
1985	227	655	454	769	447	80	530	975	2,634	1,504	4,138
1986	241	711	506	794	442	102	531	942	2,796	1,473	4,269
1987	251	743	560	816	436	124	536	920	2,930	1,455	4,385
1988	255	764	606	833	431	142	543	891	3,030	1,433	4,464
1989	265	785	658	859	427	160	564	875	3,154	1,439	4,593
1990	309	819	731	900	432	172	589	865	3,363	1,454	4,817
1991	397	863	823	956	432	183	620	845	3,654	1,465	5,118
1992	556	949	932	1,029	440	189	647	824	4,095	1,471	5,566
1993	723	1,019	1,036	1,093	445	194	667	808	4,509	1,475	5,984
1994	841	1,060	1,130	1,146	457	196	669	797	4,830	1,466	6,296
1995	917	1,083	1,209	1,190	467	202	656	790	5,068	1,446	6,514
1996	955	1,087	1,252	1,229	472	205	634	778	5,201	1,413	6,614
1997	880	1,059	1,251	1,252	486	205	593	770	5,133	1,362	6,495
1998	887	1,056	1,292	1,298	492	209	564	768	5,234	1,332	6,566
1999	847	1,024	1,331	1,336	503	208	543	765	5,249	1,308	6,557
2000	847	1,011	1,360	1,373	513	209	525	764	5,312	1,289	6,602
2001	882	1,012	1,385	1,415	522	209	502	762	5,424	1,264	6,688
2002	915	1,019	1,401	1,458	532	212	489	763	5,536	1,252	6,788
2003	959	1,040	1,410	1,503	541	216	471	761	5,670	1,233	6,902
2004	993	1,062	1,408	1,546	546	221	455	756	5,777	1,211	6,988
2005	1,036	1,083	1,404	1,596	553	228	452	763	5,900	1,214	7,114
2006	1,079	1,113	1,388	1,651	560	232	450	762	6,024	1,212	7,236
2007	1,121	1,142	1,369	1,711	572	240	443	761	6,155	1,205	7,360
2008	1,154	1,191	1,358	1,784	584	246	442	761	6,317	1,203	7,521
2009	1,200	1,244	1,345	1,862	588	252	434	752	6,491	1,186	7,677
2010	1,239	1,311	1,350	1,971	595	262	432	752	6,728	1,184	7,912
Projected:											
2011	1,292	1,373	1,358	2,087	611	269	438	750	6,991	1,188	8,179
2012	1,348	1,427	1,372	2,191	634	278	449	750	7,252	1,199	8,451
2013	1,393	1,462	1,375	2,271	658	286	465	751	7,445	1,215	8,661
2014	1,415	1,480	1,361	2,309	689	292	482	751	7,546	1,232	8,778
2015	1,423	1,495	1,353	2,327	721	298	501	751	7,617	1,252	8,869
2016	1,409	1,510	1,351	2,328	756	302	525	751	7,656	1,276	8,932
2017	1,387	1,520	1,352	2,313	792	308	549	755	7,672	1,303	8,975
2018	1,372	1,529	1,356	2,293	830	313	573	761	7,694	1,334	9,027
2019	1,370	1,542	1,365	2,282	870	319	601	769	7,747	1,370	9,117
2020	1,368	1,546	1,370	2,266	911	324	628	779	7,784	1,406	9,190
2021	1,368	1,554	1,378	2,247	946	333	648	797	7,826	1,445	9,271
2022	1,369	1,564	1,393	2,220	977	347	661	825	7,870	1,485	9,355
2023	1,369	1,573	1,413	2,192	1,005	360	677	851	7,912	1,527	9,439
2024	1,371	1,584	1,440	2,167	1,030	376	695	879	7,967	1,574	9,541
2025	1,369	1,590	1,465	2,138	1,052	392	711	908	8,006	1,618	9,625
2026	1,371	1,594	1,488	2,111	1,069	410	724	938	8,043	1,663	9,705
2027	1,377	1,594	1,508	2,090	1,081	429	735	971	8,079	1,706	9,785
2028	1,381	1,599	1,525	2,073	1,089	448	744	1,005	8,115	1,749	9,864
2029	1,387	1,604	1,536	2,063	1,092	468	749	1,042	8,151	1,791	9,942
2030	1,396	1,614	1,548	2,068	1,088	488	754	1,079	8,202	1,833	10,036
2031	1,403	1,621	1,555	2,075	1,078	507	753	1,116	8,238	1,869	10,107
2032	1,409	1,627	1,561	2,085	1,065	526	747	1,153	8,273	1,900	10,173
2033	1,415	1,634	1,568	2,095	1,054	543	741	1,189	8,308	1,930	10,237
2034	1,420	1,641	1,576	2,102	1,046	559	733	1,224	8,343	1,957	10,300
2035	1,424	1,647	1,583	2,110	1,040	574	725	1,258	8,379	1,984	10,362

Note: Totals do not necessarily equal the sums of rounded components. Historical split among age groups is estimated on a calendar year of age basis.

C. FEDERAL PAYMENTS UNDER SSI

To estimate future amounts of Federal expenditures under SSI, we first modify the projected Federal benefit rates (table IV.A2) to reflect actual payment levels, taking into account historical and projected levels of adjustments for other actual or deemed income. We combine these actual payment levels with the projected numbers of persons receiving Federal SSI payments to generate estimates of the amounts of Federal SSI payments. Table IV.C1 shows historical amounts of such payments by calendar year. We compute these payment amounts on a cash-flow basis, which is consistent with the concepts used to define SSI obligations for the Federal Budget. As a result, for months after January 1978, when SSI payments are due on the first of the month and the first of the month falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, we tabulate these payments in the previous month.¹

Table IV.C1.—SSI Federal Payments in Current Dollars,^a Calendar Years 1974-2011
[In millions]

Calendar year	Blind or disabled, by age group					Aged, by age group			Totals		
	0-17	18-34	35-49	50-64	65-74	75 or older	65-74	75 or older	Blind or disabled	Aged	All
1974.....	\$40	\$438	\$452	\$968	\$135	\$17	\$825	\$958	\$2,050	\$1,783	\$3,833
1975.....	128	537	499	1,099	190	17	812	1,031	2,471	1,843	4,314
1976.....	176	605	541	1,147	241	17	762	1,023	2,727	1,785	4,512
1977.....	227	671	579	1,174	298	17	721	1,016	2,966	1,737	4,703
1978 ^b	302	781	655	1,312	381	18	736	1,111	3,449	1,847	5,296
1979.....	340	809	650	1,296	429	21	667	1,093	3,546	1,760	5,306
1980.....	397	931	731	1,420	544	28	642	1,230	4,051	1,872	5,923
1981.....	458	1,079	821	1,542	654	32	643	1,320	4,586	1,963	6,549
1982.....	512	1,211	883	1,590	704	38	630	1,364	4,937	1,994	6,931
1983.....	574	1,372	985	1,704	774	58	624	1,440	5,466	2,064	7,530
1984.....	659	1,576	1,128	1,835	836	102	670	1,512	6,136	2,182	8,318
1985.....	736	1,709	1,250	1,924	833	160	699	1,499	6,611	2,198	8,809
1986.....	831	1,929	1,452	2,043	848	209	731	1,479	7,312	2,210	9,522
1987.....	900	2,081	1,618	2,157	846	259	765	1,444	7,860	2,210	10,069
1988.....	955	2,228	1,818	2,303	874	304	814	1,449	8,481	2,263	10,744
1989.....	1,025	2,431	2,048	2,481	936	366	881	1,479	9,286	2,361	11,647
1990.....	1,201	2,660	2,395	2,792	969	407	987	1,532	10,423	2,519	12,943
1991.....	1,678	3,129	2,966	3,305	1,060	463	1,169	1,637	12,601	2,806	15,407
1992.....	3,154	3,900	3,577	3,790	1,124	487	1,303	1,690	16,033	2,993	19,026
1993.....	3,909	4,465	4,164	4,188	1,208	513	1,471	1,759	18,447	3,230	21,677
1994.....	4,167	4,504	4,666	4,533	1,274	538	1,566	1,814	19,682	3,380	23,063
1995.....	4,657	4,777	5,155	4,896	1,357	565	1,599	1,900	21,407	3,499	24,906
1996.....	4,947	5,004	5,614	5,298	1,427	590	1,643	1,977	22,880	3,621	26,501
1997.....	4,920	5,031	5,564	5,410	1,505	614	1,586	2,046	23,044	3,632	26,675
1998.....	4,965	5,150	5,901	5,777	1,588	635	1,542	2,136	24,017	3,678	27,695
1999.....	4,835	5,132	6,185	6,037	1,660	654	1,503	2,206	24,503	3,709	28,212
2000.....	4,789	5,121	6,404	6,293	1,717	675	1,470	2,309	24,999	3,779	28,778
2001.....	5,104	5,354	6,817	6,783	1,838	713	1,470	2,454	26,608	3,924	30,532
2002.....	5,353	5,484	7,048	7,131	1,909	738	1,433	2,520	27,663	3,953	31,616
2003.....	5,686	5,715	7,243	7,532	1,984	771	1,408	2,601	28,932	4,009	32,941
2004.....	6,036	5,954	7,384	7,943	2,054	809	1,366	2,657	30,179	4,023	34,202
2005.....	6,488	6,291	7,624	8,437	2,148	871	1,358	2,778	31,859	4,136	35,995
2006.....	6,948	6,656	7,760	8,943	2,235	924	1,413	2,895	33,467	4,308	37,775
2007.....	7,346	7,067	7,871	9,539	2,333	981	1,406	2,970	35,137	4,376	39,514
2008 ^c	7,831	7,623	8,172	10,387	2,459	1,051	1,438	3,078	37,523	4,516	42,040
2009 ^c	8,635	8,493	8,618	11,556	2,644	1,153	1,528	3,277	41,099	4,805	45,904
2010.....	9,020	9,013	8,735	12,283	2,689	1,213	1,521	3,294	42,953	4,815	47,767
2011 ^d	9,338	9,422	8,739	12,990	2,763	1,259	1,516	3,284	44,510	4,800	49,311

^a Total historical payments for 1974-77 agree with those presented in the *Annual Statistical Supplement to the Social Security Bulletin*. Total historical payments for 1978-83 are estimated.

^b Includes 13 months of payments since payments due on January 1, 1978 and January 1, 1979 were both paid in calendar year 1978.

^c Payments for 2008 include \$1.4 billion for SSI checks mailed in late December 2008, but reported by the Department of the Treasury in January 2009. These checks are normally reported in December.

^d Partially estimated.

Note: Totals do not necessarily equal the sums of rounded components. Historical split among age groups is estimated on a calendar year of age basis.

Since we use this cash-flow concept, payments in table IV.C1 differ from similar amounts in other Social Security Administration publications, such as the *Annual Statistical Supplement to the Social Security Bulletin*, in two main ways. First, tabulations of payments in the *Annual Statistical Supplement* group pay-

¹ Public Law 95-216, the Social Security Amendments of 1977, enacted December 20, 1977, requires that SSI payments, which are normally due on the first of the month, be delivered early when the normal delivery date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or Federal holiday.

ments by the month the payment is due, while table IV.C1 groups payments by the month in which we actually make the payments. In particular, since January 1 of each year is a Federal holiday, SSI payments due on January 1 of years 1979 and later are actually paid in December of the previous year. For example, the calendar year 2010 payment amounts shown in table IV.C1 reflect payments made in January-December, 2010, and include the payments due on January 1, 2011 (which were actually paid in December 2010), but not the payments due on January 1, 2010 (which were actually paid in December 2009). Second, beginning in 1991, SSA remitted overpayment recoveries directly to the Department of the Treasury and did not use them to reduce SSI obligations as accounted for in the Federal Budget. Tabulations in the *Annual Statistical Supplement* continue to report benefit payment amounts which are reduced by such overpayment recoveries.

Table IV.C2.—SSI Federal Payments in Current Dollars, Fiscal Years 1978-2011
[In millions]

Fiscal year	Blind or disabled, by age group					Aged, by age group			Totals		
	0-17	18-34	35-49	50-64	65-74	75 or older	65-74	75 or older	Blind or disabled	Aged	All
1978.....	\$206	\$740	\$668	\$1,438	\$312	\$22	\$772	\$1,076	\$3,386	\$1,848	\$5,234
1979 ^a	226	711	620	1,265	331	20	656	954	3,172	1,610	4,782
1980.....	372	877	698	1,360	506	26	629	1,184	3,840	1,813	5,653
1981.....	442	1,039	797	1,508	625	31	647	1,307	4,442	1,954	6,396
1982.....	499	1,181	861	1,570	693	36	640	1,356	4,840	1,996	6,836
1983.....	596	1,416	1,024	1,783	806	56	660	1,510	5,680	2,170	7,850
1984 ^a	588	1,411	1,005	1,665	760	85	613	1,391	5,514	2,004	7,517
1985.....	713	1,662	1,215	1,895	828	145	691	1,502	6,459	2,193	8,652
1986.....	800	1,864	1,386	1,995	840	196	723	1,487	7,080	2,209	9,290
1987.....	880	2,030	1,565	2,119	845	242	755	1,448	7,681	2,203	9,884
1988.....	1,009	2,356	1,898	2,425	932	316	860	1,559	8,935	2,419	11,354
1989 ^a	1,012	2,378	1,997	2,452	910	345	862	1,473	9,094	2,335	11,430
1990 ^a	1,039	2,378	2,115	2,479	876	362	879	1,394	9,247	2,273	11,521
1991.....	1,519	2,975	2,772	3,141	1,032	447	1,120	1,608	11,886	2,728	14,614
1992.....	2,684	3,621	3,398	3,653	1,099	476	1,269	1,680	14,932	2,949	17,881
1993.....	3,817	4,377	3,977	4,033	1,175	502	1,420	1,730	17,880	3,150	21,029
1994.....	4,328	4,771	4,866	4,756	1,344	569	1,659	1,930	20,635	3,588	24,223
1995 ^a	4,554	4,719	5,031	4,822	1,341	560	1,596	1,884	21,027	3,480	24,507
1996 ^a	4,543	4,595	5,123	4,830	1,305	540	1,510	1,808	20,936	3,317	24,254
1997.....	4,933	5,004	5,529	5,340	1,478	606	1,602	2,027	22,890	3,629	26,519
1998.....	4,915	5,114	5,816	5,688	1,567	630	1,548	2,110	23,729	3,658	27,387
1999.....	4,901	5,152	6,123	5,975	1,638	648	1,506	2,180	24,438	3,685	28,123
2000.....	5,152	5,500	6,827	6,692	1,822	718	1,599	2,453	26,710	4,052	30,763
2001 ^a	4,597	4,869	6,170	6,125	1,670	652	1,352	2,236	24,083	3,588	27,671
2002.....	5,290	5,456	6,998	7,041	1,889	731	1,444	2,500	27,405	3,944	31,349
2003.....	5,558	5,623	7,170	7,390	1,957	759	1,417	2,572	28,456	3,989	32,445
2004.....	5,910	5,868	7,327	7,797	2,031	796	1,380	2,638	29,729	4,018	33,748
2005.....	6,856	6,669	8,150	8,928	2,282	916	1,463	2,945	33,800	4,409	38,208
2006 ^a	6,832	6,560	7,739	8,813	2,207	908	1,404	2,863	33,060	4,267	37,327
2007 ^a	6,659	6,427	7,207	8,630	2,135	895	1,297	2,731	31,952	4,028	35,981
2008.....	7,651	7,411	8,063	10,106	2,416	1,027	1,419	3,035	36,673	4,454	41,127
2009.....	8,389	8,241	8,493	11,208	2,598	1,126	1,505	3,233	40,056	4,737	44,793
2010.....	8,899	8,846	8,710	12,057	2,674	1,194	1,524	3,289	42,379	4,813	47,192
2011 ^b	9,923	9,982	9,373	13,694	2,930	1,334	1,630	3,520	47,236	5,150	52,386

^a Payment due on October 1 of fiscal year paid in previous fiscal year.

^b Partially estimated.

Note: Totals do not necessarily equal the sums of rounded components. Historical split among age groups is estimated on a calendar year of age basis.

Table IV.C2 presents corresponding amounts of SSI outlays on a fiscal year basis for fiscal years¹ 1978-2010. We omit fiscal years prior to 1978 since SSI payment amounts are not readily available on a fiscal year basis for these years. As with the calendar year figures, we show these fiscal year amounts on a cash-flow basis. Consequently, fiscal years 1979 and later may contain 11, 12, or 13 months of payments, depending on whether October 1 of the current and succeeding fiscal years falls on a weekend.² Fiscal year 1978 contains 13 months of payments.

¹ Fiscal years 1977 and later cover the 12-month period ending September 30. For example, fiscal year 2010 payments include payments made from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010.

² Generally, for fiscal years 1979 and later, the number of months of payments included in the fiscal year is:

11 months if October 1 of the current, but not the succeeding fiscal year falls on a weekend;

12 months if October 1 of both the current and succeeding fiscal years falls during the week (all payments made in the fiscal year due);

12 months if October 1 of both the current and succeeding fiscal years falls on a weekend (both payments due on October 1 paid in preceding fiscal year); and

13 months if October 1 of the succeeding, but not current, fiscal year falls on a weekend.

The declining value of the dollar due to inflation can make it difficult to make meaningful comparisons of dollar amounts over longer periods of time. For this reason, it is desirable to have some means of removing inflation from the 25-year projections of SSI expenditures. The CPI, which we discuss in section IV.A, is an appropriate means of standardizing projected SSI costs over time. Table IV.C3 presents constant-dollar values of Federal SSI benefit payments (those adjusted by the CPI) for both the historical period, calendar years 1974-2010, and the full 25-year projection period, 2011-35. We present this same information in graphical form in figure IV.C1. We base the projections of the CPI used for this standardization on the intermediate economic assumptions of the 2011 OASDI Trustees Report.

The future growth in the “constant dollar” estimates is primarily attributable to the underlying growth in the U.S. population (table IV.A1). However, the projected growth in the number of SSI recipients as a percent of the population (table IV.B7) also contributes to the growth. A notable aspect of this time series of constant dollar estimates is the rather sharp level increase from 2008 to 2009 in these amounts. This level shift is the result of the combination of the spike in the CPI for the third quarter of calendar year 2008, which caused the large 5.8 percent benefit rate increase for 2009, and the subsequent drop in the CPI for 2009.

Figure IV.C1.—SSI Federal Payments, by Age Group, in Constant 2011 Dollars, Calendar Years 1975-2035
[In billions]

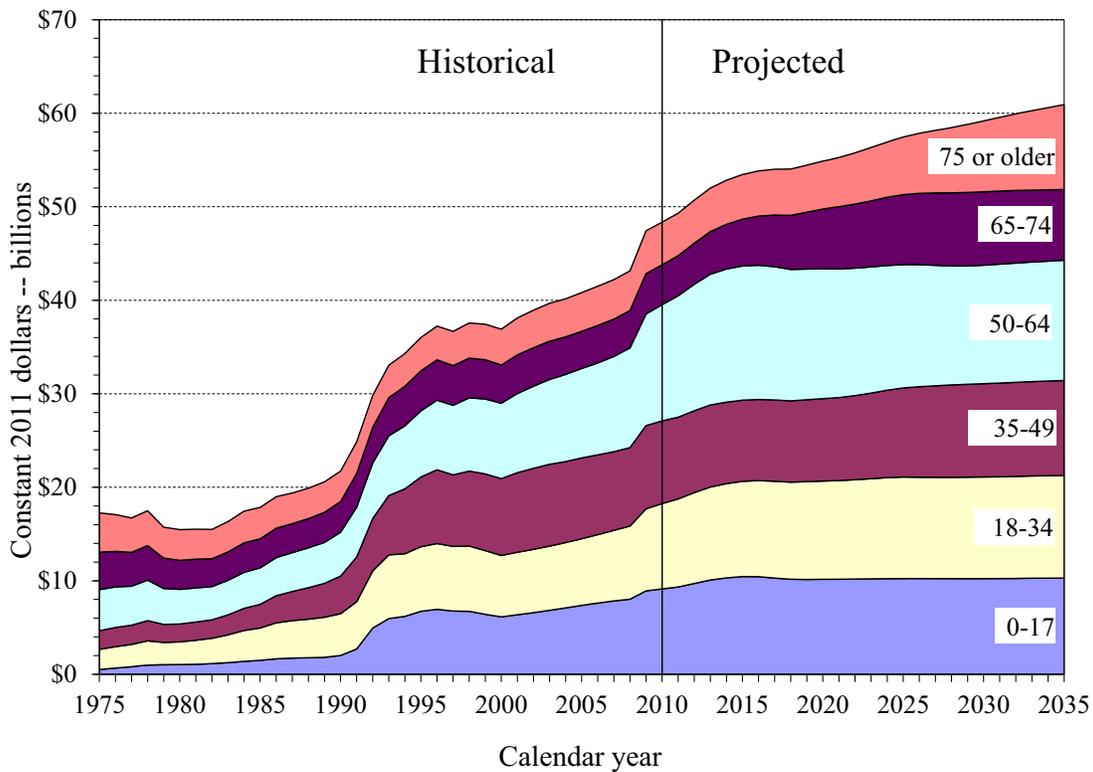


Table IV.C3.—SSI Federal Payments in Constant 2011 Dollars, Calendar Years 1974-2035
 [Payment amounts in millions]

Calendar year	Adjusted CPI ^a	Blind or disabled, by age group					Aged, by age group		Totals			
		0-17	18-34	35-49	50-64	65-74	75 or older	65-74	75 or older	Blind or disabled	Aged	All
Historical data:												
1974.....	22.90	\$176	\$1,911	\$1,973	\$4,229	\$591	\$76	\$3,603	\$4,183	\$8,955	\$7,786	\$16,741
1975.....	24.99	514	2,149	1,996	4,396	760	70	3,250	4,124	9,885	7,374	17,259
1976.....	26.42	665	2,291	2,048	4,341	913	64	2,883	3,873	10,322	6,756	17,078
1977.....	28.14	809	2,384	2,057	4,174	1,058	62	2,564	3,609	10,543	6,173	16,716
1978 ^b	30.28	999	2,579	2,162	4,333	1,260	60	2,430	3,670	11,392	6,100	17,492
1979.....	33.73	1,008	2,399	1,928	3,842	1,273	62	1,976	3,241	10,512	5,217	15,729
1980.....	38.29	1,037	2,431	1,910	3,708	1,421	73	1,677	3,212	10,581	4,889	15,470
1981.....	42.21	1,086	2,556	1,945	3,654	1,550	75	1,523	3,128	10,865	4,651	15,516
1982.....	44.74	1,145	2,706	1,973	3,553	1,573	85	1,408	3,049	11,036	4,457	15,493
1983.....	46.10	1,244	2,976	2,137	3,696	1,679	125	1,354	3,123	11,858	4,477	16,334
1984.....	47.67	1,383	3,306	2,366	3,849	1,753	213	1,406	3,172	12,871	4,577	17,448
1985.....	49.36	1,490	3,461	2,532	3,898	1,688	324	1,416	3,036	13,393	4,452	17,845
1986.....	50.13	1,658	3,849	2,897	4,075	1,691	417	1,458	2,950	14,587	4,408	18,995
1987.....	51.93	1,732	4,006	3,115	4,153	1,629	499	1,474	2,781	15,135	4,255	19,389
1988.....	54.00	1,769	4,126	3,366	4,264	1,619	563	1,508	2,683	15,708	4,191	19,899
1989.....	56.60	1,812	4,295	3,618	4,383	1,654	646	1,557	2,614	16,408	4,171	20,578
1990.....	59.58	2,015	4,465	4,020	4,687	1,626	682	1,657	2,571	17,496	4,229	21,724
1991.....	61.98	2,207	5,048	4,785	5,332	1,711	746	1,886	2,642	20,330	4,527	24,857
1992.....	63.79	4,944	6,115	5,608	5,942	1,762	764	2,043	2,650	25,135	4,692	29,827
1993.....	65.59	5,960	6,807	6,349	6,385	1,842	782	2,243	2,681	28,126	4,924	33,051
1994.....	67.24	6,197	6,698	6,939	6,742	1,895	801	2,329	2,697	29,271	5,027	34,298
1995.....	69.14	6,736	6,908	7,456	7,081	1,962	818	2,313	2,748	30,961	5,061	36,022
1996.....	71.17	6,951	7,032	7,889	7,444	2,006	829	2,309	2,778	32,150	5,088	37,238
1997.....	72.74	6,763	6,915	7,649	7,437	2,068	844	2,180	2,812	31,678	4,992	36,670
1998.....	73.71	6,735	6,987	8,006	7,837	2,154	862	2,092	2,897	32,581	4,990	37,571
1999.....	75.36	6,416	6,809	8,206	8,011	2,203	867	1,994	2,928	32,512	4,922	37,434
2000.....	77.98	6,142	6,567	8,213	8,070	2,202	866	1,885	2,961	32,060	4,847	36,906
2001.....	80.11	6,371	6,683	8,509	8,467	2,294	890	1,835	3,063	33,213	4,898	38,112
2002.....	81.20	6,593	6,754	8,680	8,782	2,351	908	1,765	3,103	34,067	4,868	38,935
2003.....	83.02	6,849	6,884	8,725	9,073	2,390	929	1,696	3,133	34,851	4,829	39,680
2004.....	85.18	7,087	6,990	8,669	9,325	2,411	950	1,604	3,119	35,432	4,724	40,155
2005.....	88.17	7,358	7,135	8,647	9,568	2,436	988	1,540	3,151	36,133	4,691	40,824
2006.....	91.02	7,632	7,313	8,526	9,826	2,456	1,015	1,552	3,181	36,769	4,733	41,502
2007.....	93.62	7,847	7,549	8,408	10,190	2,492	1,048	1,502	3,173	37,533	4,675	42,208
2008.....	97.44	8,030	7,824	8,386	10,662	2,526	1,080	1,474	3,162	38,507	4,636	43,143
2009.....	96.79	8,922	8,775	8,904	11,940	2,731	1,192	1,579	3,386	42,465	4,964	47,429
2010.....	98.78	9,131	9,124	8,843	12,435	2,722	1,228	1,539	3,335	43,483	4,874	48,357
Projected:												
2011.....	100.00	9,338	9,422	8,739	12,990	2,763	1,259	1,516	3,284	44,510	4,800	49,311
2012.....	101.66	9,712	9,718	8,756	13,521	2,864	1,306	1,537	3,288	45,876	4,825	50,701
2013.....	103.59	10,083	9,947	8,773	13,988	2,977	1,350	1,583	3,299	47,117	4,882	51,999
2014.....	105.62	10,311	10,080	8,711	14,243	3,131	1,390	1,644	3,319	47,867	4,963	52,830
2015.....	107.73	10,454	10,182	8,679	14,357	3,291	1,430	1,714	3,342	48,393	5,056	53,449
2016.....	109.89	10,435	10,282	8,673	14,353	3,464	1,464	1,797	3,360	48,672	5,157	53,830
2017.....	112.26	10,291	10,354	8,693	14,255	3,645	1,505	1,879	3,390	48,742	5,269	54,011
2018.....	115.18	10,166	10,382	8,692	14,062	3,820	1,537	1,960	3,413	48,659	5,373	54,033
2019.....	118.40	10,141	10,460	8,761	13,978	4,023	1,574	2,056	3,457	48,937	5,513	54,449
2020.....	121.72	10,160	10,507	8,813	13,893	4,229	1,611	2,159	3,512	49,213	5,671	54,884
2021.....	125.13	10,165	10,553	8,877	13,778	4,408	1,670	2,231	3,601	49,453	5,832	55,284
2022.....	128.63	10,189	10,621	8,994	13,629	4,574	1,750	2,279	3,729	49,758	6,008	55,766
2023.....	132.23	10,212	10,708	9,153	13,482	4,734	1,833	2,340	3,855	50,121	6,195	56,317
2024.....	135.93	10,235	10,798	9,349	13,352	4,882	1,930	2,406	3,991	50,546	6,397	56,943
2025.....	139.74	10,244	10,854	9,526	13,191	5,010	2,029	2,467	4,134	50,855	6,601	57,456
2026.....	143.65	10,239	10,867	9,679	13,025	5,107	2,132	2,522	4,288	51,047	6,810	57,857
2027.....	147.67	10,235	10,840	9,793	12,873	5,170	2,239	2,568	4,455	51,150	7,022	58,173
2028.....	151.81	10,220	10,833	9,879	12,745	5,211	2,348	2,602	4,627	51,235	7,230	58,465
2029.....	156.06	10,214	10,839	9,937	12,664	5,230	2,464	2,626	4,811	51,349	7,437	58,786
2030.....	160.43	10,231	10,867	9,992	12,667	5,214	2,579	2,647	4,999	51,550	7,645	59,196
2031.....	164.92	10,252	10,892	10,027	12,700	5,172	2,691	2,652	5,194	51,734	7,846	59,580
2032.....	169.54	10,264	10,908	10,050	12,742	5,112	2,801	2,640	5,392	51,876	8,032	59,908
2033.....	174.29	10,279	10,933	10,090	12,791	5,064	2,906	2,622	5,588	52,062	8,211	60,273
2034.....	179.17	10,283	10,954	10,126	12,821	5,026	3,007	2,596	5,781	52,217	8,377	60,594
2035.....	184.18	10,287	10,976	10,161	12,857	5,001	3,103	2,567	5,970	52,385	8,538	60,922

^a The adjusted CPI is the CPI-W indexed to calendar year 2011. Projections of the adjusted CPI are based on the intermediate economic assumptions of the 2011 OASDI Trustees Report.

^b Payment amounts include 13 months of payments since payments due on January 1, 1978 and January 1, 1979 were both paid in calendar year 1978.

Note: Totals do not necessarily equal the sums of rounded components. Historical split among age groups is estimated on a calendar year of age basis.

Although we do not prepare detailed projections of the SSI State supplementary payments that SSA administers, we present historical information on the amounts of such supplements in Table IV.C4 for two broad recipient categories. These amounts are consistent with tabulations in the *Annual Statistical Supplement to the Social Security Bulletin*.

**Table IV.C4.—SSI Federally-Administered State Supplementary Payments
in Current Dollars, Calendar Years 1974-2010**

[In millions]

Calendar year	Aged	Blind or disabled	Total
1974	\$631	\$632	\$1,264
1975	674	729	1,403
1976	635	753	1,388
1977	627	804	1,431
1978	636	855	1,491
1979	661	928	1,590
1980	757	1,091	1,848
1981	731	1,108	1,839
1982	694	1,104	1,798
1983	645	1,066	1,711
1984	645	1,148	1,792
1985	694	1,278	1,973
1986	759	1,484	2,243
1987	849	1,714	2,563
1988	873	1,798	2,671
1989	954	2,001	2,955
1990	1,038	2,201	3,239
1991	999	2,232	3,231
1992	1,023	2,412	3,435
1993	934	2,336	3,270
1994	876	2,240	3,116
1995	864	2,253	3,118
1996	833	2,155	2,988
1997	824	2,090	2,913
1998	838	2,165	3,003
1999	921	2,380	3,301
2000	943	2,439	3,381
2001	956	2,505	3,460
2002	1,051	2,768	3,820
2003	1,098	2,906	4,005
2004	1,133	3,045	4,178
2005	1,128	3,050	4,178
2006	1,147	3,006	4,153
2007	1,187	3,133	4,320
2008	1,198	3,187	4,385
2009	1,070	2,894	3,964
2010	924	2,665	3,589

Note: Totals do not necessarily equal the sums of rounded components.

Previously, this report included historical information on State-administered State supplementary payments, but complete data for all States is now generally not available. The Social Security Administration publication, *State Assistance Programs for SSI Recipients*¹ provides information on selected characteristics of State assistance programs for SSI recipients.

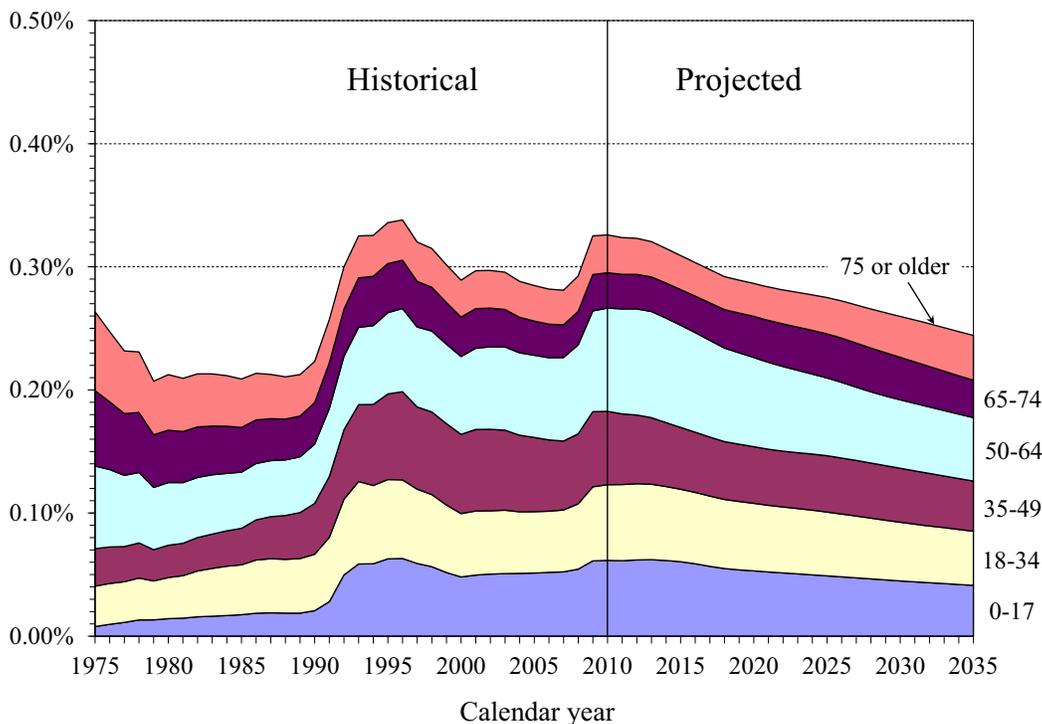
¹ Publication No. 13-11975, prepared by the Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics, is available on the internet at http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/progdesc/ssi_st_asst/.

D. FEDERAL SSI PAYMENTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

A comparison of estimated annual SSI program costs to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)¹ is an appropriate relative measure of program costs that produces an inflation-independent measure of the cost of the SSI program. Displaying Federal SSI payments as a percentage of GDP provides a useful perspective on the proportion of the total output of the U.S. economy needed to provide Federal SSI benefits. As table IV.D1 and figure IV.D1 show, we project the total cost of the SSI program relative to GDP to be relatively constant through 2013 and decline thereafter.

Table IV.D1 and figure IV.D1 present historical and projected Federal expenditures under the SSI program as a percentage of GDP. Although SSI program costs were comparatively higher in the first few years of the program, total Federal SSI payments during the 1980s were relatively constant as a percentage of GDP (0.21 percent). During the early 1990s, SSI grew rather rapidly (to 0.34 percent of GDP in 1996) due to a combination of factors (see section IV.B). Following legislation enacted in 1996², the cost of SSI decreased as a percentage of GDP beginning in 1997 and continuing through 2000. The share of GDP devoted to Federal SSI expenditures increased slightly after 2000, partly because of a slowdown in economic growth over that period, but resumed its very gradual downward trend from 2002 to 2007 due to relatively slower growth in the number of SSI recipients. Beginning in 2008, however, this trend reversed due to an increase in program recipients and a temporary decline in nominal GDP during the economic recession. As the economy recovers, we project the gradual downward trend to resume. This ultimate trend is the net effect of two factors. First, we project that Federal SSI expenditures, after adjusting for growth in prices, will show slightly higher growth than the population. This follows from our estimate that the SSI recipient population will grow as a percentage of the overall U.S. population (see section IV.C). Second, using the 2011 Trustees Report intermediate assumptions, we project that the effect of the real growth in GDP following the current economic downturn will be greater than the effect of projected increases in SSI recipients. Accordingly, we project that Federal SSI payments will decline as a percentage of GDP over the remainder of the projection period, reaching 0.24 percent of GDP by 2035.

Figure IV.D1.—SSI Federal Payments, by Age Group, as a Percentage of GDP, Calendar Years 1975-2035



¹ The total value of goods and services produced in the United States.

² Public Law 104-121 and Public Law 104-193.

Table IV.D1.—SSI Federal Payments as a Percentage of GDP, Calendar Years 1974-2035

Calendar year	GDP ^a (In billions)	Blind or disabled, by age group					Aged, by age group			Totals		
		0-17	18-34	35-49	50-64	65-74	75 or older	65-74	75 or older	Blind or disabled	Aged	All
Historical data:												
1974	\$1,499	0.003	0.029	0.030	0.065	0.009	0.001	0.055	0.064	0.137	0.119	0.256
1975	1,638	.008	.033	.030	.067	.012	.001	.050	.063	.151	.113	.263
1976	1,825	.010	.033	.030	.063	.013	.001	.042	.056	.149	.098	.247
1977	2,030	.011	.033	.029	.058	.015	.001	.036	.050	.146	.086	.232
1978	2,294	.013	.034	.029	.057	.017	.001	.032	.048	.150	.081	.231
1979	2,562	.013	.032	.025	.051	.017	.001	.026	.043	.138	.069	.207
1980	2,788	.014	.033	.026	.051	.020	.001	.023	.044	.145	.067	.212
1981	3,127	.015	.035	.026	.049	.021	.001	.021	.042	.147	.063	.209
1982	3,253	.016	.037	.027	.049	.022	.001	.019	.042	.152	.061	.213
1983	3,535	.016	.039	.028	.048	.022	.002	.018	.041	.155	.058	.213
1984	3,931	.017	.040	.029	.047	.021	.003	.017	.038	.156	.056	.212
1985	4,217	.017	.041	.030	.046	.020	.004	.017	.036	.157	.052	.209
1986	4,460	.019	.043	.033	.046	.019	.005	.016	.033	.164	.050	.213
1987	4,736	.019	.044	.034	.046	.018	.005	.016	.030	.166	.047	.213
1988	5,100	.019	.044	.036	.045	.017	.006	.016	.028	.166	.044	.211
1989	5,482	.019	.044	.037	.045	.017	.007	.016	.027	.169	.043	.212
1990	5,801	.021	.046	.041	.048	.017	.007	.017	.026	.180	.043	.223
1991	5,992	.028	.052	.050	.055	.018	.008	.020	.027	.210	.047	.257
1992	6,342	.050	.061	.056	.060	.018	.008	.021	.027	.253	.047	.300
1993	6,667	.059	.067	.062	.063	.018	.008	.022	.026	.277	.048	.325
1994	7,085	.059	.064	.066	.064	.018	.008	.022	.026	.278	.048	.326
1995	7,415	.063	.064	.070	.066	.018	.008	.022	.026	.289	.047	.336
1996	7,838	.063	.064	.072	.068	.018	.008	.021	.025	.292	.046	.338
1997	8,332	.059	.060	.067	.065	.018	.007	.019	.025	.277	.044	.320
1998	8,793	.056	.059	.067	.066	.018	.007	.018	.024	.273	.042	.315
1999	9,354	.052	.055	.066	.065	.018	.007	.016	.024	.262	.040	.302
2000	9,951	.048	.051	.064	.063	.017	.007	.015	.023	.251	.038	.289
2001	10,286	.050	.052	.066	.066	.018	.007	.014	.024	.259	.038	.297
2002	10,642	.050	.052	.066	.067	.018	.007	.013	.024	.260	.037	.297
2003	11,142	.051	.051	.065	.068	.018	.007	.013	.023	.260	.036	.296
2004	11,868	.051	.050	.062	.067	.017	.007	.012	.022	.254	.034	.288
2005	12,638	.051	.050	.060	.067	.017	.007	.011	.022	.252	.033	.285
2006	13,399	.052	.050	.058	.067	.017	.007	.011	.022	.250	.032	.282
2007	14,062	.052	.050	.056	.068	.017	.007	.010	.021	.250	.031	.281
2008	14,369	.054	.053	.057	.072	.017	.007	.010	.021	.261	.031	.293
2009	14,119	.061	.060	.061	.082	.019	.008	.011	.023	.291	.034	.325
2010	14,654	.062	.062	.060	.084	.018	.008	.010	.022	.293	.033	.326
Projected:												
2011	15,231	.061	.062	.057	.085	.018	.008	.010	.022	.292	.032	.324
2012	15,949	.062	.062	.056	.086	.018	.008	.010	.021	.292	.031	.323
2013	16,807	.062	.061	.054	.086	.018	.008	.010	.020	.290	.030	.320
2014	17,719	.061	.060	.052	.085	.019	.008	.010	.020	.285	.030	.315
2015	18,626	.060	.059	.050	.083	.019	.008	.010	.019	.280	.029	.309
2016	19,496	.059	.058	.049	.081	.020	.008	.010	.019	.274	.029	.303
2017	20,366	.057	.057	.048	.079	.020	.008	.010	.019	.269	.029	.298
2018	21,312	.055	.056	.047	.076	.021	.008	.011	.018	.263	.029	.292
2019	22,297	.054	.056	.047	.074	.021	.008	.011	.018	.260	.029	.289
2020	23,315	.053	.055	.046	.073	.022	.008	.011	.018	.257	.030	.287
2021	24,388	.052	.054	.046	.071	.023	.009	.011	.018	.254	.030	.284
2022	25,509	.051	.054	.045	.069	.023	.009	.011	.019	.251	.030	.281
2023	26,683	.051	.053	.045	.067	.023	.009	.012	.019	.248	.031	.279
2024	27,915	.050	.053	.046	.065	.024	.009	.012	.019	.246	.031	.277
2025	29,190	.049	.052	.046	.063	.024	.010	.012	.020	.243	.032	.275
2026	30,523	.048	.051	.046	.061	.024	.010	.012	.020	.240	.032	.272
2027	31,933	.047	.050	.045	.060	.024	.010	.012	.021	.237	.032	.269
2028	33,406	.046	.049	.045	.058	.024	.011	.012	.021	.233	.033	.266
2029	34,937	.046	.048	.044	.057	.023	.011	.012	.021	.229	.033	.263
2030	36,547	.045	.048	.044	.056	.023	.011	.012	.022	.226	.034	.260
2031	38,259	.044	.047	.043	.055	.022	.012	.011	.022	.223	.034	.257
2032	40,053	.043	.046	.043	.054	.022	.012	.011	.023	.220	.034	.254
2033	41,926	.043	.045	.042	.053	.021	.012	.011	.023	.216	.034	.251
2034	43,888	.042	.045	.041	.052	.021	.012	.011	.024	.213	.034	.247
2035	45,934	.041	.044	.041	.052	.020	.012	.010	.024	.210	.034	.244

^a Projected values based on the intermediate economic assumptions of the 2011 OASDI Trustees Report.

Note: Totals do not necessarily equal the sums of rounded components. Historical GDP amounts subject to revision.

**E. THE SSI PROGRAM'S SHARE OF SSA'S ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS
AND BENEFICIARY SERVICES COSTS**

The Social Security Administration administers the SSI program, but unlike the OASDI program, general revenues fund the SSI program. When the SSI program began in 1972, the agency's existing field office network and its automated data processing capabilities made it uniquely qualified to administer the program. Since the administration of the SSI and OASDI programs is integrated, it is more practical to fund them from a single source. The trust funds and the general fund pay their appropriate share of administrative expenses into SSA's Limitation on Administrative Expenses (LAE) account, which funds the total operating expenses of the agency. A Government Accountability Office approved method of cost analysis determines the appropriate share of administrative expenses borne by each funding source, and a final settlement of costs occurs by the end of the subsequent fiscal year. If necessary, section 201(g)(1) of the Social Security Act provides that the Social Security trust funds may finance SSI administrative expenses, including Federal administration of State supplementation payments. General revenues subsequently reimburse the trust funds, including any interest lost.

The SSI program also provides beneficiary services to recipients through State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies and Employment Networks for VR services and payments under the Ticket to Work program. VR strives to help individuals with disabilities achieve and sustain productive, self-supporting work activity.

Table IV.E1.—Selected SSI Costs, Fiscal Years 1978-2011
[Outlays in millions]

Fiscal year	SSI Administrative expenses ^a	Beneficiary services ^b
1978.....	\$539	\$31.6
1979.....	611	57.0
1980.....	668	33.1
1981.....	717	37.3
1982.....	780	12.0
1983.....	846	8.0
1984.....	864	^c 84.0
1985.....	956	3.0
1986.....	1,023	7.2
1987.....	977	9.5
1988.....	976	12.9
1989.....	1,052	20.0
1990.....	1,075	28.3
1991.....	1,230	33.1
1992.....	1,426	36.0
1993.....	1,468	32.3
1994.....	1,780	33.8
1995.....	1,978	48.2
1996.....	1,953	71.8
1997.....	2,055	77.3
1998.....	2,304	46.0
1999.....	2,493	52.0
2000.....	2,321	53.7
2001.....	2,397	43.9
2002.....	2,522	54.0
2003.....	2,656	37.0
2004.....	2,806	38.6
2005.....	2,795	30.4
2006.....	2,916	38.9
2007.....	2,857	36.1
2008.....	2,820	45.1
2009.....	3,316	48.6
2010.....	3,629	46.1
2011 (estimated).....	3,713	40.0

^a Includes user fees charged to participating States to reimburse SSA for the costs of administering their SSI State Supplementation program.

^b Payments for referral and monitoring services for Drug Addicts and Alcoholics are included through December 1996; these payments were terminated effective January 1997.

^c Reflects a one-time payment to State VR agencies for prior year expenses.

V. APPENDICES

A. HISTORY OF PROVISIONS

Act

1. Basic Eligibility Requirements

1972

*Public Law 92-603,
enacted October 30*

An individual may qualify for payments on the basis of age, blindness, or disability.

Aged: Any person aged 65 or older.

Blind: Any person with 20/200 or less vision in the better eye with the use of a correcting lens, or with tunnel vision of 20 degrees or less. An individual transferred from a State Aid to the Blind (AB) program to SSI is eligible if he/she received such State aid in December 1973 and continues to meet the October 1972 State definition of blindness.

Disabled: Any person unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment expected to result in death or that has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of at least 12 months. For a child under age 18, eligibility is based on disability of severity comparable with that of an adult. An individual transferred from a State Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled (APTD) program to SSI is also eligible if he/she received such State aid in December 1973 and continues to meet the October 1972 State definition of disability.

1973

*Public Law 93-233,
enacted December 31*

Only persons who had received APTD before July 1973 and were on the rolls in December 1973 may receive SSI on the basis of the State definition of disability; those who became eligible for State aid from July to December 1973 must meet the Federal definition of disability.

1980

*Public Law 96-265,
enacted June 9*

A disabled recipient who loses Federal SSI eligibility because of earnings at the substantial gainful activity level may continue to receive a special benefit under section 1619 and retain eligibility for Medicaid under title XIX of the Social Security Act. This special benefit status may continue as long as the recipient has the disabling impairment and meets all nondisability SSI eligibility criteria. States have the option of supplementing this special benefit.

This provision of the law was in effect from January 1, 1981, through December 31, 1983. Beginning in January 1984, under a 1-year demonstration project, this provision was continued for persons already eligible for either regular SSI payments or special monthly benefits.

1984

*Public Law 98-460,
enacted October 9*

The special benefit and Medicaid provisions of the 1980 legislation were extended through June 30, 1987 (retroactive to January 1, 1984).

1986

*Public Law 99-643,
enacted November 10*

The special benefit and Medicaid provisions of the 1980 amendments are made permanent. The provisions were amended effective July 1, 1987, with significant modifications to simplify administration and to allow free movement between regular SSI disability payments and either the special cash benefit or Medicaid eligibility under section 1619. The distinction between a disabled person eligible for regular SSI payments and one eligible for 1619(a) is that the latter has several months with gross earnings above the SGA level. Previously, section 1619(a) status required completion of a trial work period and the determination that the work was SGA.

Act

1996

*Public Law 104-193,
enacted August 22*

For individuals under age 18, the “comparable severity” standard is eliminated and replaced with a requirement that a child be considered disabled if he/she has a medically determinable impairment that results in “marked and severe functional limitations,” and meets the existing statutory duration requirement. The law also eliminates references to “maladaptive behaviors” from the personal/behavioral domain of the mental disorders in the Listing of Impairments for children, and discontinues the use of individualized functional assessments for children.

SSI eligibility is prohibited for an individual in any month during which such an individual is a fugitive felon, fleeing prosecution for a felony, or violating State or Federal conditions of probation or parole.¹ In addition, SSI eligibility is prohibited for 10 years for those convicted of fraudulently claiming residence to obtain benefits simultaneously in two or more States.²

2006

*Public Law 109-171,
enacted February 8*

Requires the Commissioner to conduct reviews of a specific percentage of SSI initial disability and blindness cases involving individuals aged 18 or older that are allowed by the State DDS. The provision is phased in as follows—for fiscal year 2006, the Commissioner is required to review 20 percent of DDS allowances; in fiscal year 2007, the requirement is 40 percent; and, for fiscal years 2008 and thereafter, 50 percent of all DDS allowances are required to be reviewed. These reviews are to be made before the allowance decision is implemented.

2. Other Eligibility Provisions

a. Citizenship and U.S. Residency

1972

*Public Law 92-603,
enacted October 30*

The individual must reside within one of the 50 States or the District of Columbia and be a citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence or permanently residing in the United States under color of law. Persons living outside the United States for an entire calendar month lose their eligibility for such a month.

1976

*Public Law 94-241,
enacted March 24*

Eligibility for SSI is extended to residents of the Northern Mariana Islands, effective January 9, 1978.

1980

*Public Law 96-265,
enacted June 9*

The income and resources of the immigration sponsors of aliens applying for SSI are considered in determining eligibility for and the amount of payment. After allowances for the needs of the sponsor and his/her family, the remainder is deemed available for the support of the alien applicant for a 3-year period after admission to the United States for permanent residence. This provision does not apply to those who become blind or disabled after admission, to refu-

¹ In 2009, the agency entered into a nationwide class action settlement that limits the felony crime offense codes upon which fugitive felon non-payments may be based under this statute. In 2010, the agency stopped parole and probation violator non-payments for residents of New York, Connecticut, and Vermont pursuant to a Second Circuit Court of Appeals decision in a pending proposed nationwide class action suit.

² This last provision was repealed in 1999 by Public Law 106-169 and replaced with a provision providing for non-payment of benefits for up to 24 months for knowingly making false or misleading statements regarding material facts.

Act

1989

*Public Law 101-239,
enacted December 19*

gees, or to persons granted political asylum. (See section 2.g. for subsequent changes to sponsor-to-alien deeming provisions.)

SSI eligibility is continued for a disabled or blind child who was receiving SSI benefits while living in the United States and is now living with a parent who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces assigned to permanent duty ashore outside the United States, but not where the parent is stationed in Puerto Rico or the territories and possessions of the United States.

1993

*Public Law 103-66,
enacted August 10*

Above provision made applicable where the parent is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and stationed in Puerto Rico or the territories and possessions of the United States.

1996

*Public Law 104-193,
enacted August 22*

Prohibits SSI eligibility for anyone who is not a U.S. citizen or national unless they are in a “qualified alien” category and meet one of certain exceptions such as lawful permanent residents who earn or can be credited with 40 qualifying quarters of earnings, certain refugee type categories eligible for up to 5 years of time limited eligibility, or active duty U.S. military or veterans and their spouses and children. Extends eligibility for aliens receiving SSI as of August 22, 1996 (the enactment date of the law) for 1 year after the enactment date for those aliens found ineligible under the new standards.

*Public Law 104-208,
enacted September 30*

Amends Public Law 104-193 to add to the list of “qualified aliens” certain non-citizens (and their children) who have been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty by a spouse or parent or a member of the spouse’s or parent’s family living in the same household.

1997

*Public Law 105-18,
enacted June 12*

Extends eligibility for aliens receiving SSI as of August 22, 1996, until September 30, 1997, for those found ineligible under the new alien standards of Public Law 104-193.

*Public Law 105-33,
enacted August 5*

Further amends Public Law 104-193 to add Cuban and Haitian entrants, and the child of a parent who has been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty, to the list of qualified aliens. Provides that Cuban and Haitian entrants and Amerasian immigrants qualify for time limited eligibility, and increases the time limit from 5 to 7 years for all time-limited categories. Additional exceptions are added for qualified aliens: (1) lawfully residing in the United States and receiving SSI benefits on August 22, 1996; and (2) lawfully residing in the United States on August 22, 1996 and meeting the definition of blind or disabled in the Social Security Act.

Certain noncitizen American Indians are excepted from the alien nonpayment provisions of Public Law 104-193. Extends eligibility for “nonqualified aliens” receiving SSI as of August 22, 1996, until September 30, 1998.

1998

*Public Law 105-306,
enacted October 28*

Permanently extends eligibility of all remaining “nonqualified aliens” who were receiving SSI benefits when Public Law 104-193 was enacted on August 22, 1996.

Act

2000

*Public Law 106-386,
enacted October 28*

Noncitizens may be eligible for SSI to the same extent as refugees, if they have been certified by the Department of Health and Human Services to be victims of “severe forms of trafficking in persons.”

2004

*Public Law 108-203,
enacted March 2*

Extends SSI eligibility to blind or disabled children who are U.S. citizens living with a parent assigned to permanent U.S. military duty outside of the United States, and who were not receiving SSI benefits while in the United States. Previously, only blind or disabled children who received an SSI benefit for the month before the parent reported for permanent duty abroad were eligible. Effective April 2004 for applications filed after enactment.

2007

*Public Law 110-161,
enacted December 26*

Provides certain Iraqi and Afghan aliens with special immigrant status, as described in section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. As special immigrants, these Iraqi and Afghan aliens are eligible for resettlement assistance, entitlement programs, and other benefits available to refugees admitted under section 207 of such Act (admission of refugees in emergency situations) for a period not to exceed 6 months.

2008

*Public Law 110-181,
enacted January 28*

Provides certain Iraqi aliens who have provided service to the United States with special immigrant status, as described in section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. As special immigrants, these Iraqis are eligible for resettlement assistance, entitlement programs, and other benefits available to refugees admitted under section 207 of such Act (admission of refugees in emergency situations) for a period not to exceed 8 months.

*Public Law 110-328,
enacted September 30*

Extends the 7-year SSI eligibility period for certain refugees, asylees, and other humanitarian immigrants (including victims of human trafficking) to 9 years for the period October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2011. Those with naturalization applications pending or awaiting the swearing-in-ceremony are exempt from time limitations through September 30, 2011. Also applies to the noncitizens whose SSI had previously ceased due to the expiration of the 7-year period. For these noncitizens, SSI benefits will be paid for months in the period October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2011, for the duration of the noncitizen’s reestablished eligibility.

2009

*Public Law 111-118,
enacted December 19*

Eliminates the 8-month time limit on SSI eligibility for certain Iraqi and Afghan refugees who have provided service to the United States. The time-limited eligibility for these individuals is now the same period applicable to other humanitarian refugees.

b. Other Benefits

1980

*Public Law 96-272,
enacted June 17*

SSI applicants and recipients are not required as a condition of eligibility to elect to receive Veterans Administration pensions under the Veterans and Survivors’ Pension Improvement Act of 1978 if the State of residence lacks a medically-needy program under title XIX.

c. Drug Addiction and Alcoholism (DA&A)

1972

*Public Law 92-603,
enacted October 30*

Any disabled individual who has been medically determined to be an alcoholic or drug addict must accept appropriate treatment, if available, in an approved

Act

facility and demonstrate compliance with conditions and requirements for treatment.

SSI payments are required to be made through a representative payee—another person or public or private agency designated by SSA to manage the recipient's benefit on his/her behalf.

1994

*Public Law 103-296,
enacted August 15*

Any individual who is receiving SSI based on a disability where drug addiction or alcoholism is a contributing factor material to the finding of disability must comply with the DA&A treatment requirements. The individual must accept appropriate treatment when it is available and comply with the conditions and terms of treatment. Instances of noncompliance with the requirements result in progressively longer payment suspensions. Before payments can resume, the individual must demonstrate compliance for specific periods; 2 months, 3 months, and 6 months, respectively, for the first, second, third and subsequent instances of noncompliance. An individual who is not in compliance with the DA&A treatment requirements for 12 consecutive months shall not be eligible for payments; however, this does not prevent such individuals from reapplying and again becoming eligible for payments.

SSI disability payments based on DA&A are also limited to a total of 36 benefit months (beginning March 1995) regardless of whether appropriate treatment is available. Months for which benefits are not due and received do not count towards the 36-month limit.

Payments based on DA&A must be made to a representative payee. Preference is required to be given to community based nonprofit social service agencies and Federal, State, or local government agencies in representative payee selection. These agencies when serving as payees for individuals receiving payments based on DA&A may retain the lesser of 10 percent of the monthly benefit or \$50 (adjusted annually after 1995 by the Automatic Cost-of-Living Increase) as compensation for their services.

Establishment of one or more referral and monitoring agencies for each State is required.

1996

*Public Law 104-121,
enacted March 29*

An individual is not considered disabled if DA&A is a contributing factor material to a finding of disability.

Applies DA&A representative payee requirements enacted under Public Law 103-296 to disabled SSI recipients who have a DA&A condition and are incapable of managing their benefits. In addition, these recipients shall be referred to the appropriate State agency administering the State plan for substance abuse treatment.

d. Institutionalization**1972**

*Public Law 92-603,
enacted October 30*

An individual who is an inmate of a public institution is ineligible for SSI payments unless the institution is a facility approved for Medicaid payments and is receiving such payments on behalf of the person. Under *regulations*, the Medicaid payment must represent more than 50 percent of the cost of services provided by the facility to the individual.

1976

*Public Law 94-566,
enacted October 20*

An inmate of a publicly operated community residence serving no more than 16 persons may, if otherwise eligible, receive SSI.

Act

1983

*Public Law 98-21,
enacted April 20*

Payments may be made to persons who are residents of public emergency shelters for the homeless for a period of up to 3 months in any 12-month period.

1986

*Public Law 99-643,
enacted November 10*

Effective July 1, 1987, disabled or blind recipients who were receiving special SSI payments or had special SSI recipient status under section 1619 in the month preceding the first full month of institutionalization, may receive payments based on the full Federal benefit rate for the initial 2 full months of institutionalization, if they reside in certain public medical, psychiatric or Medicaid facilities, or in private Medicaid facilities.

1987

*Public Law 100-203,
enacted December 22*

Effective January 1, 1988, payments may be made to persons who are residents of public emergency shelters for the homeless, for up to 6 months in a 9-month period.

Effective July 1, 1988, continued payment of SSI benefits for up to 3 months is permitted, at the rate that was applicable in the month prior to the first full month of institutionalization, for individuals whose expected institutional stay on admission is not likely to exceed 3 months, as certified by a physician, and for whom the receipt of benefits is necessary to maintain living arrangements to which they may return.

1996

*Public Law 104-193,
enacted August 22*

Effective December 1996, institutionalized children under age 18 whose private health insurance is making payments to the institution may receive no more than \$30 per month in Federal SSI.

e. Vocational Rehabilitation and Treatment

1972

*Public Law 92-603,
enacted October 30*

Blind or disabled individuals receiving Federal SSI benefits who are under age 65, must be referred to the State agency providing services under the Vocational Rehabilitation Act and must accept the services offered. States are reimbursed for the cost of services.

1976

*Public Law 94-566,
enacted October 20*

Blind or disabled children under age 16 must be referred to the State agency administering crippled children's services or to another agency designated by the State. States are reimbursed for the cost of services.

Of funds provided for these services, at least 90 percent must be used for children under age 6 or for those who have never attended public schools.

1980

*Public Law 96-265,
enacted June 9*

Disabled SSI recipients who medically recover while enrolled in approved vocational rehabilitation programs of State VR agencies, may continue to receive benefits during their participation in such programs if the Commissioner of Social Security determines that continuation in the program will increase the probability that they leave the rolls permanently.

1981

*Public Law 97-35,
enacted August 13*

Funding no longer provided under title XVI for medical, social, developmental and rehabilitative services to disabled or blind children.

Act

Reimbursement for the cost of rehabilitation services will be made only if the services result in the recipient's return to work for a continuous period of 9 months. The work must be at the substantial gainful activity earnings level.

1984

*Public Law 98-460,
enacted October 9*

Authorizes the reimbursement of States for the cost of VR services provided to individuals who (1) continue to receive benefits after medical recovery because they are participating in a State VR program or (2) refuse, without good cause, to continue in or cooperate with the VR program in which they had been participating.

1987

*Public Law 100-203,
enacted December 22*

Extends the provision for continuation of payments to disabled SSI recipients who have medically recovered while enrolled in an approved vocational rehabilitation program to include blind SSI recipients.

1990

*Public Law 101-508,
enacted November 5*

Reimbursement authorized for the cost of vocational rehabilitation services provided in months in which the individual was not receiving Federal SSI payments, if:

- SSI recipient status for Medicaid eligibility purposes was retained under work incentive provisions; or
- Benefits were in suspense¹ status (for a reason other than cessation of disability or blindness); or
- Federally-administered State supplementation was received.

Extends benefit continuation provision to disabled SSI recipients who medically recover while participating in a non-State VR program.

1999

*Public Law 106-170,
enacted December 17*

Establishes a Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency program which will provide SSI (and OASDI) disability beneficiaries with a ticket that can be used to obtain vocational rehabilitation services, employment services, or other support services, from an employment network (EN) of their choice. An EN chooses one of the two EN payment options at the time it submits an application to SSA to become an EN. The chosen payment system will apply to all beneficiaries served. An EN can elect to receive payment under the:

- Outcome payment system, under which it can receive payment for up to 60 outcome payment months, which are defined as months in which SSA does not pay any Federal disability cash benefits to a beneficiary because of work or earnings; or
- Outcome-milestone payment system, under which it can receive payment for one or more milestones in addition to reduced outcome payments, but will receive less in total than under the outcome payment system.

The Commissioner of Social Security will initially establish and periodically review the amount and duration of the outcome payments and the number and amounts of the outcome-milestone payments.

¹ Recipients who have lost eligibility for SSI benefits for fewer than 13 consecutive months are in suspended payment status.

Act

Also eliminates the requirement that blind or disabled SSI recipients age 16 through 64 be referred to the State VR agency and accept the services offered.

Under the initial regulation, effective January 28, 2002:

- The outcome payment system provided that ENs could receive payment for up to 60 outcome payment months for both SSDI and SSI beneficiaries based on earnings exceeding the substantial gainful activity level and the beneficiary no longer receiving Federal disability cash benefits because of work or earnings; and
- The outcome-milestone payment system provided that ENs could receive up to four milestone payments in addition to reduced outcome payments. The four milestones were based on gross earnings exceeding the substantial gainful activity level for specified months. Milestone payments were made only for milestones achieved prior to the first outcome payment month, and outcome payments were reduced by the amount of milestone payments received. Four milestone payments plus 60 months of reduced outcome payments equaled 85 percent of the total that would be available if the EN chose the outcome payment system.

Under the revised regulation, effective July 21, 2008:

- The outcome payment system provides that ENs can receive payment for up to 60 outcome payment months for an SSI beneficiary and up to 36 outcome payment months for an SSDI beneficiary (including a concurrent title II/title XVI disability beneficiary), with the reduction in available number of outcome months for SSDI beneficiaries offset by an increased outcome payment; and
- The outcome-milestone payment system provides that ENs can receive the following milestone payments in addition to outcome payments:
 - Up to four Phase 1 milestones achieved by either an SSDI or SSI beneficiary (including a concurrent title II/title XVI disability beneficiary); and
 - Up to 11 Phase 2 milestones achieved by an SSDI or concurrent beneficiary or up to 18 Phase 2 milestones achieved by an SSI beneficiary.

Phase 1 milestones are based on gross earnings at or above trial work level for specified months, and Phase 2 milestones are based on gross earnings exceeding the substantial gainful activity level for specified months. These milestones must occur before the EN enters the first month for which it is eligible for an outcome payment. If an available milestone payment is not paid prior to the outcome period, it is payable in a reconciliation payment when the beneficiary reaches the 12th outcome month. This payment amount is equal to the total amount of unpaid Phase 1 and Phase 2 milestones that were available when the ticket was first assigned. The Phase 1 and Phase 2 milestone payments and outcome payments equal 90 percent of the total that would be available if the EN chose the outcome payment system.

Act

f. Continuing Disability Reviews and Eligibility Redeterminations**1994***Public Law 103-296,
enacted August 15*

During each of fiscal years 1996, 1997, and 1998, requires SSA to conduct continuing disability reviews (CDRs) on a minimum of 100,000 SSI recipients. In addition, during the same period, requires SSA to redetermine the SSI eligibility of at least one-third of all child SSI recipients who reach age 18 after April 1995 during the 1-year period following attainment of age 18. Redeterminations for persons turning age 18 could count toward the 100,000 CDR requirement.

1996*Public Law 104-193,
enacted August 22*

Repeals the requirement that SSA redetermine the eligibility of at least one-third of all child SSI recipients who reach age 18 after April 1995 during the 1-year period following attainment of age 18.

Requires a CDR:

- At least once every 3 years for SSI recipients under age 18 who are eligible by reason of an impairment which is likely to improve, and
- Not later than 12 months after birth for recipients whose low birth weight is a contributing factor material to the determination of their disability.

Requires eligibility redetermination under the adult disability standard for all child SSI recipients eligible for the month before the month in which they attain age 18.

Requires redetermination of eligibility for children considered disabled based on an individualized functional assessment or consideration of maladaptive behavior.

Requires the representative payee of a child SSI recipient whose continuing eligibility is being reviewed to present evidence that the recipient is receiving treatment which is considered medically necessary and available for the condition which was the basis for providing SSI benefits.

1997*Public Law 105-33,
enacted August 5*

Modifies provision of Public Law 104-193 to extend from 12 to 18 months the period for redetermining the disability of children under age 18 under the new childhood disability standard.

Modifies provision of Public Law 104-193 to permit SSA to schedule a CDR for a disabled child for whom low birth weight is a contributing factor material to the determination of disability, at a date after the child's first birthday if the Commissioner determines the impairment is not expected to improve within 12 months of the child's birth.

Modifies provision of Public Law 104-193 to provide SSA the authority to make redeterminations of disabled childhood recipients who attain age 18, more than 1 year after the date such recipient attains age 18.

1999*Public Law 106-170,
enacted December 17*

Prohibits the initiation of a CDR during the period that a recipient is "using a ticket" under the Ticket to Work program.

Act

g. Deeming of Income and Resources

1972

*Public Law 92-603,
enacted October 30*

Deeming occurs when the income and resources of certain family members living in the same household with the SSI recipient are considered in determining the amount of the SSI payment. These family members are the ineligible spouse of an adult recipient and the ineligible parents of a child recipient under age 21. After deduction of personal allocations for the spouse (or parents) and for ineligible children in the home, and after application of income exclusions, any remaining income of the spouse (or parents) is added to the income of the eligible person.

1980

*Public Law 96-265,
enacted June 9*

Children aged 18 or older are not subject to parental deeming.

Sponsor's income and resources deemed to an alien for 3 years.

1989

*Public Law 101-239,
enacted December 19*

Disabled children receiving home care services under State Medicaid programs, who are ineligible for SSI because of deeming of parental income, and who received SSI benefits limited to \$30 while in a medical treatment facility, may receive the \$30 monthly allowance that would be payable if the recipient were institutionalized.

1993

*Public Law 103-66,
enacted August 10*

Considers an ineligible spouse or parent who is absent from the household due to active military service to be a member of the household for deeming purposes.

*Public Law 103-152,
enacted November 24*

Sponsor-to-alien deeming period extended from 3 years to 5 years, effective January 1, 1994, through September 30, 1996.

1996

*Public Law 104-193,
enacted August 22*

Deeming of income and resources from an immigration sponsor to a noncitizen continues until citizenship, with exceptions for those who earn, or can be credited with, 40 qualifying quarters of earnings. Effective for those whose sponsor signs a new legally enforceable affidavit of support.

*Public Law 104-208,
enacted September 30*

Amends Public Law 104-193 to add two exceptions to the sponsor-to-alien deeming:

- Provides that if the noncitizen is indigent and would be unable to obtain food and shelter without SSI benefits even after receiving support from the sponsor, then only the amount of income and resources actually provided by the sponsor will be counted for a 12-month period after a determination of indigence; and
- Provides that in certain cases, deeming would not apply for a 12-month period (with some options for extension) if the noncitizen (or his/her children) has been battered, or subjected to extreme cruelty by family members.

1997

*Public Law 105-33,
enacted August 5*

Amends Public Law 104-208 to add an additional exception to sponsor-to-alien deeming when the parent of a noncitizen has been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty by family members.

Act

2006

*Public Law 109-163,
enacted January 6*

Provides that individuals who were made ineligible for SSI because of their spouses or parents being called to active military duty would not have to file a new application for SSI benefits if they again could be eligible for benefits before the end of 24 consecutive months of ineligibility.

3. Federal Benefit Payments

a. Windfall Offset

1980

*Public Law 96-265,
enacted June 9*

Offset (by reduction of retroactive Social Security benefits) to prevent persons whose initial OASDI payment is retroactive from receiving more in total benefits than if they were paid the benefits when regularly due.

1984

*Public Law 98-617,
enacted November 8*

Offset provision expanded to allow for reduction of retroactive SSI benefits and to apply in cases of OASDI benefit reinstatement.

b. Proration of Benefit

1982

*Public Law 97-248,
enacted September 3*

Benefit for first month of eligibility to be prorated by the number of days in the month for which an application has been filed and there is eligibility.

1996

*Public Law 104-193,
enacted August 22*

Changes the effective date of an SSI application to the first day of the month following the date on which the application was filed or on which the individual first becomes eligible, whichever is later. This, in effect, eliminates prorated payments in initial claims.

c. Retrospective Monthly Accounting

1981

*Public Law 97-35,
enacted August 13*

Changes the method of computing the SSI benefit to one under which the benefit amount is computed on a monthly basis and is based on income and other characteristics in the previous (or second previous) month.

1984

*Public Law 98-369,
enacted July 18*

Changes the method of computing the SSI benefit to persons receiving title II payments. The effect of the increased title II income at the time of the cost-of-living increase is not delayed as it otherwise would be.

1987

*Public Law 100-203,
enacted December 22*

Provides an exception to retrospective monthly accounting so that amounts received under Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), foster care, refugee cash assistance, Cuban-Haitian entrant assistance, or general and child welfare assistance provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs are counted only in the month received.

1993

*Public Law 103-66,
enacted August 10*

Changes the method of computing the SSI benefit to persons receiving the value of the one-third reduction. The effect of the increased value at the time of the cost-of-living increase is not delayed as it otherwise would be. Effective January 1995.

Act

2004

*Public Law 108-203,
enacted March 2*

Eliminates triple counting of one-time, nonrecurring income by providing that this income will be counted only for the month that the income is received, and not for any other month during the transition to retrospective monthly accounting, which occurs during the first 3 months of an individual's SSI eligibility. Effective April 2005.

d. *Uncashed Checks*

1981

*Public Law 97-35,
enacted August 13*

States that have Federally-administered supplements to be credited their share of SSI checks that remain unnegotiated for 180 days.

1987

*Public Law 100-86,
enacted August 10*

SSI checks now unnegotiable after 1 year. States are credited their share of SSI checks after 1 year rather than 180 days.

e. *Rounding of Payment Amounts*

1982

*Public Law 97-248,
enacted September 3*

Cost-of-living adjustments in the Federal SSI benefit and income eligibility levels are to be rounded to the next lower whole dollar, after the adjustment is calculated. Subsequent cost-of-living adjustments will be calculated on the previous year's benefit standard before rounding.

f. *Penalties for False or Misleading Statements or Withholding of Information*

1999

*Public Law 106-169,
enacted December 14*

Provides for the nonpayment of OASDI and SSI benefits (6, 12 and 24 months, respectively, for the first, second, and third or subsequent violations) for individuals found to have knowingly made a false or misleading statement of material fact for use in determining eligibility for benefits.

2004

*Public Law 108-203,
enacted March 2*

Expands the administrative sanction of nonpayment of benefits to situations where an individual has failed to disclose material information, if the person knew or should have known that such failure was misleading.

Authorizes Federal courts to order a defendant convicted of defrauding Social Security, Special Veterans' Benefits, or SSI to make restitution to SSA. Restitution funds would be deposited to the trust funds or General Fund of the Treasury, as appropriate. Effective with respect to violations occurring on or after the date of enactment.

g. *Installment Payments*

1996

*Public Law 104-193,
enacted August 22*

Establishes a schedule for paying retroactive SSI benefit amounts that exceed 12 times the FBR plus the State supplement level. Payments would be made at 6-month intervals:

- The first installment would be 12 times the FBR plus any Federally administered State supplement.
- Any remaining retroactive benefits would be paid in a second installment (not to exceed the first payment amount).
- All remaining retroactive benefits would be paid in the third installment.

Act

Provides that where an underpaid individual has incurred debts to provide for food, clothing or shelter, has expenses for disability-related items and services that exceed the installment amount, or has entered into a contract to purchase a home, the installment payment would be increased by the amount needed to cover those debts, expenses and obligations.

Provides that full retroactive payments be paid to an individual who is terminally ill or, if currently ineligible, is likely to remain so for the next 12 months.

2006

*Public Law 109-171,
enacted February 8*

Requires that past-due monthly SSI benefits that exceed three times the maximum monthly benefit (Federal benefit rate plus State supplementary payment amount, if any) payable to the individual be paid in up to three installment payments, 6 months apart. Also, limits the amount of the first two installment payment to three times the maximum monthly benefit. All remaining benefits due are to be paid in the third installment. As under current law, the amounts of the installment payments may be increased in certain cases, such as those in which the individual has outstanding debt relating to food, clothing, or shelter, or has necessary medical needs.

Effective 3 months after February 8, 2006.

h. Retroactive Payments to Prisoners, Fugitive Felons, and Probation or Parole Violators

2009

*Public Law 111-115,
enacted December 15*

Prohibits the payment of any retroactive SSI benefits to individuals while they are in prison; in violation of conditions of their parole or probation; or fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody, or confinement for a felony or a crime punishable by sentence of more than one year.

4. Federal Benefit Rates

Basic benefit standards are used in computing the amount of Federal SSI payments. Benefit levels differ for individuals and couples living in households and for persons in medical treatment facilities where Medicaid pays more than 50 percent of the cost of care. Individuals or couples living in their own households are eligible for the full Federal benefit. If an individual or couple is living in another person's household and receiving support and maintenance there, the Federal benefit is reduced by one-third. The Federal benefit rates for persons in households are increased annually to reflect increases in the cost of living. Legislation affecting the level of Federal benefit rates since the inception of the SSI program are summarized in table V.A1.

Act

Table V.A1.—Federal Benefit Rates Set by Legislation

Act	Living arrangements ^a	Amount ^b		Conditions
		Individual	Couple	
1972 ^c	Own household ^d	\$130.00	\$195.00	Was to be effective January 1, 1974; superseded by Public Law 93-233.
1973 ^e	—	140.00	210.00	Was to be effective January 1, 1974; superseded by Public Law 93-233.
1973 ^f	—	140.00	210.00	Effective January 1, 1974.
1973 ^f	—	146.00	219.00	Effective July 1, 1974.
1974 ^g	—	—	—	Mechanism established for providing cost-of-living adjustments coordinated with earlier legislation applying to OASDI cash benefits. SSI payments to be increased by the same percentage as OASDI benefits and at the same time.
	—	^h 157.70	^h 236.60	Effective July 1, 1975.
1983 ⁱ	—	304.30	456.40	Effective July 1, 1983 (general benefit increase).
	—	^h 314.00	^h 472.00	Effective January 1, 1984.
1973 ^e	Increment for “essential person” in household	65.00	—	Was to be effective January 1, 1974. For persons transferred from OAA, AB, or APTD programs who were receiving payments in December 1973 under a State plan that took account of “essential persons” in the household.
	—	70.00	—	Was to be effective July 1, 1974.
1973 ^f	—	70.00	—	Effective January 1, 1974.
	—	73.00	—	Effective July 1, 1974.
1974 ^g	—	—	—	Mechanism established for providing cost-of-living adjustments.
	—	^h 78.90	—	Effective July 1, 1975.
1983 ⁱ	—	152.50	—	Effective July 1, 1983 (general benefit increase).
	—	^h 157.00	—	Effective January 1, 1984.
1972 ^c	Receiving institutional care covered by Medicaid	25.00	50.00	Effective January 1, 1974. Must be receiving more than 50 percent of the cost of the care from Medicaid (title XIX of the Social Security Act).
1987 ^j	—	30.00	60.00	Effective July 1, 1988. Must be receiving more than 50 percent of the cost of the care from Medicaid (title XIX of the Social Security Act).

^a For those in another person’s household receiving support and maintenance there, the Federal benefit rate is reduced by one-third.

^b For those without countable income. These payments are reduced by the amount of countable income of the individual or couple.

^c Public Law 92-603, enacted October 30, 1972.

^d Includes persons in private institutions whose care is not provided by Medicaid.

^e Public Law 93-66, enacted July 9, 1973.

^f Public Law 93-233, enacted December 31, 1973.

^g Public Law 93-368, enacted August 7, 1974.

^h Subject to automatic provisions, see table IV.A2.

ⁱ Public Law 98-21, enacted April 20, 1983.

^j Public Law 100-203, enacted December 22, 1987.

Act

5. Exclusions from Income

a. General Exclusions

1972

*Public Law 92-603,
enacted October 30*

The first \$60 of earned or unearned income per calendar quarter for an individual or couple; the next \$195 and one-half the remainder of quarterly earned income. Unearned income includes Social Security benefits, other government or private pensions, veterans' benefits, and workers' compensation.

1981

*Public Law 97-35,
enacted August 13*

The first \$20 of earned or unearned income per month for an individual or couple; the next \$65 and one-half the remainder of monthly earned income. Unearned income includes Social Security benefits, other government or private pensions, veterans' benefits, and workers' compensation.

2000

*Public Law 106-554,
enacted December 21*

Earnings of persons defined as Social Security statutory employees are treated as self-employment income for SSI purposes.

b. Special Exclusions

1972

*Public Law 92-603,
enacted October 30*

Any amount of tax rebate issued to an individual by any public agency that is based on either real property or food purchase taxes.

Grants, scholarships, and fellowships used to pay tuition and fees at an educational institution.

Income required for achieving an approved self-support plan for blind or disabled persons.

Work expenses of blind persons.

For blind persons transferred from State programs to SSI, income exclusions equal to the maximum amount permitted as of October 1972 under the State programs.

Irregularly or infrequently received income totaling \$60 or less of unearned income and \$30 of earned income in a calendar quarter.

Payment for foster care of ineligible child residing in recipient's home through placement by a public or private nonprofit child care agency.

One-third of any payment received from an absent parent for the support of a child eligible for SSI.

Certain earnings of a blind or disabled child under age 22 regularly attending an educational institution.

State or local government cash payments based on need and designed to supplement SSI payments.

1976

*Public Law 94-331,
enacted June 30*

Disaster assistance from income for 9 months and application of one-third reduction for 6 months for certain victims of disasters occurring between January 1, 1976 and December 31, 1976.

*Public Law 94-566,
enacted October 20*

Any assistance based on need (including vendor payments) made to or on behalf of SSI recipients, which is paid and wholly funded by State or local governments.

Act

1977

*Public Law 95-113,
enacted September 29*

The value of assistance provided under certain Federal housing programs.

Food stamps, Federally donated food, and the value of free or reduced price food for women and children under the Child Nutrition Act and National School Lunch Act.

*Public Law 95-171,
enacted November 12*

Provisions for exclusions for support and maintenance under the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 extended on a permanent basis. Effective January 1, 1978.

1980

*Public Law 96-222,
enacted April 1*

Earned income tax credit treated as earned income (temporarily excluded from 1975 through 1980).

*Public Law 96-265,
enacted June 9*

Remunerations received in sheltered workshops and work activity centers are considered earned income and qualify for earned income exclusions.

Impairment-related work expenses paid by the individual (including cost for attendant care, medical equipment, drugs, and services necessary to control an impairment) are deducted from earnings when determining if an individual is engaging in substantial gainful activity. Impairment-related work expenses are excluded in calculating income for benefit purposes if initial eligibility for benefits exists on the basis of countable income without applying this exclusion.

1981

*Public Law 97-35,
enacted August 13*

Modifies provision under which irregularly or infrequently received income is excluded to conform to change from quarterly to monthly accounting; amounts excludable: \$20 or less of unearned income and \$10 of earned income in a month.

1982

*Public Law 97-377,
enacted December 21*

From December 18, 1982, to September 30, 1983, certain home energy assistance payments are excluded if a State agency certified that they are based on need.

1983

*Public Law 97-424,
enacted January 6*

Support or maintenance assistance (including home energy assistance) provided in kind by a nonprofit organization or in cash or in kind by certain providers of home energy is excluded if the State determines that the assistance is based on need. Provision is applicable through September 1984.

Certain home energy assistance payments are excluded if a State agency certified that the assistance is based on need. Provision is applicable through June 1985.

1984

*Public Law 98-369,
enacted July 18*

The 1983 provisions for support and maintenance and home energy assistance continue to October 1, 1987.

1986

*Public Law 99-498,
enacted October 17*

Educational assistance used for educational expenses under the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended.

1987

*Public Law 100-203,
enacted December 22*

The 1983 provisions for support and maintenance and home energy assistance made permanent.

Act

	Excludes death payments (for example, proceeds from life insurance) from SSI income determinations to the extent they were spent on last illness and burial.
	Modifies the 1982 resource exclusion for burial funds to extend the exclusion to any burial fund of \$1,500 or less maintained separately from all other assets, thereby allowing interest to be excluded from income if retained in the fund.
1988 <i>Public Law 100-383, enacted August 10</i>	Restitution payments made to Japanese internees and relocated Aleutians.
1989 <i>Public Law 101-239, enacted December 19</i>	Interest on agreements representing the purchase of an excluded burial space. Payments from the Agent Orange Settlement. Value of a ticket for domestic travel received as a gift and not cashed.
1990 <i>Public Law 101-508, enacted November 5</i>	Earned income tax credit (including the child health insurance portion). Payments received from a State-administered fund established to aid victims of crime. Impairment-related work expenses excluded from income in determining initial eligibility for benefits. Payments received as State or local government relocation assistance. Payments received under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act. Redefines as earned income, royalties earned in connection with any publication of the individual's work, and honoraria received for services rendered (previously defined as unearned income).
1993 <i>Public Law 103-66, enacted August 10</i>	Hostile fire pay to members of the uniformed services. Payments received as State or local government relocation assistance made permanent.
1994 <i>Public Law 103-286, enacted August 1</i>	Payments to victims of Nazi persecution.
1998 <i>Public Law 105-285, enacted October 27</i>	Funds made available to an SSI recipient by a State or local government or a nonprofit organization as part of the Individual Development Account demonstration project.
<i>Public Law 105-306, enacted October 28</i>	In-kind gifts to children with life-threatening conditions by tax-exempt organizations not converted to cash. The first \$2,000 annually of cash gifts by tax-exempt organizations to, or for the benefit of, individuals under age 18 with life-threatening conditions.
<i>Public Law 105-369, enacted November 12</i>	Payments made under the Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund Act of 1998.

Act

2000

*Public Law 106-554,
enacted December 21*

Interest on funds deposited in an individual development account.

Any adjustments made to prior payments from other Federal programs to account for the error in the computation of the Consumer Price Index during 1999.

2001

*Public Law 107-16,
enacted June 7*

The refundable child tax credit is excluded in determining eligibility for means-tested programs, including SSI.

2004

*Public Law 108-203,
enacted March 2*

Changes the calculation of infrequent or irregular income from a monthly to a quarterly basis. Excludes from the determination of an individual's income all interest and dividend income earned on countable resources. Effective July 2004.

Permits the student earned income exclusion to apply to any individual under age 22 who is a student. Thus, students under age 22 who are married or heads of households would be eligible for the exclusion. Effective April 2005.

Excludes from the determination of income any gift to an individual for use in paying tuition or educational fees, just as grants, scholarships, and fellowships for such use are currently excluded from the determination of income. Effective June 2004.

2005

*Public Law 109-64,
enacted September 20*

Amends the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to specify that assistance provided under a program for flood mitigation activities with respect to a property would not be considered income or a resource of the owner of the property when determining eligibility for or benefit levels under any income assistance or resource-tested program (including SSI) that is funded in whole or in part by a Federal agency or by appropriated Federal funds.

2006

*Public-Law 109-432,
enacted December 20*

Extends the present law that allows combat pay to be considered for Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) purposes for one additional year (for taxable years ending before January 1, 2008). For SSI purposes, EITC payments are excluded from income, and are not a countable resource for 9 calendar months following the month of receipt.

2008

*Public Law 110-185,
enacted February 13*

A rebate payment received under the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, and any other credit or refund under section 6428 of the Internal Revenue Code, would not be taken into account as income for purposes of SSI.

*Public Law 110-245,
enacted June 17*

Privatized military housing allowances withdrawn directly from a service member's pay by military payroll and paid to the landlord will be considered in-kind income, and the SSI benefit reduction attributable to the housing allowance will be capped at one-third of the Federal benefit rate. In other cases, housing allowances will be considered earned income.

Excludes any cash or in-kind benefits provided under an AmeriCorps program from income consideration. Effective for benefits payable for months beginning 60 days after enactment.

Excludes annuity payments paid by a State to a person or his/her spouse because the State has determined the person is a veteran and blind, disabled, or aged.

Act

2009

*Public Law 111-5,
enacted February 17*

A one-time economic recovery payment of \$250 to SSI recipients will not be taken into account as income for purposes of SSI.

The Making Work Pay tax credit, which provides a tax credit in the form of decreased withholding by employers, will not be counted as income.

A one-time payment of \$15,000 for eligible Filipino veterans who are citizens of the United States and \$9,000 for eligible veterans who are noncitizens will not be taken into account as income for SSI purposes.

2010

*Public Law 111-148,
enacted March 23*

Excludes incentives an SSI recipient with Medicaid receives for participating in an “Incentives for Prevention of Chronic Diseases in Medicaid” (IPCDM) program from consideration as income.

*Public Law 111-255,
enacted October 5*

Excludes the first \$2,000 received during a calendar year by an SSI recipient or spouse as compensation for participation in a clinical trial for rare diseases or conditions from consideration as income. The exclusion is effective for a 5-year period from date of enactment.

*Public Law 111-291,
enacted December 8*

Excludes any settlement payments to American Indians under the Claims Resettlement Act of 2010 from consideration as income.

*Public Law 111-312,
enacted December 17*

Excludes Federal tax refunds and advance payment of refundable tax credits received after December 31, 2009, but before January 1, 2013, from consideration as income.

6. Resources

1972

*Public Law 92-603,
enacted October 30*

Countable resources limited to \$1,500 or less for an individual and to \$2,250 or less for a couple.

1984

*Public Law 98-369,
enacted July 18*

Limit on countable resources raised by \$100 a year for individuals and \$150 a year for couples, beginning in calendar year 1985 through 1989. The respective limits would become \$2,000 for an individual and \$3,000 for a couple in 1989 and thereafter.

1999

*Public Law 106-169,
enacted December 14*

Includes generally in the countable resources of an individual the assets of a trust which could be used for the benefit of the individual or spouse.

a. General Exclusions

1972

*Public Law 92-603,
enacted October 30*

A home of reasonable value—established *by regulation* as not exceeding a fair-market value of \$25,000 (\$35,000 in Alaska and Hawaii).

Personal effects and household goods of reasonable value established *by regulation* as not exceeding a total market value of \$1,500.

An automobile of reasonable value—established *by regulation* as not exceeding a market value of \$1,200.

An automobile may be excluded, regardless of value, if the individual’s household uses it for employment or medical treatment, or if it is modified to be operated by or for transportation of a person with a disability.

Life insurance with face value of \$1,500 or less.

Act

1976

*Public Law 94-569,
enacted October 20*

The recipient's home, regardless of value, is excluded from consideration in determining resources.

1977

*Public Law 95-171,
enacted November 12*

Assistance received under the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 for 9 months following receipt.

1979

Reasonable value for an automobile increased *by regulation* to \$4,500 of current-market value; personal goods and household effects increased to \$2,000 of equity value.

1982

*Public Law 97-248,
enacted September 3*

The value, within prescribed limits, of a burial space for the recipient, spouse, and immediate family is excluded. In addition, \$1,500 each (less the value of already excluded life insurance and any amount in an irrevocable burial arrangement) may be set aside for the burial of the recipient and spouse.

1984

*Public Law 98-369,
enacted July 18*

The unspent portion of any retroactive title II or title XVI payment is excluded for 6 months following its receipt, and the individual must be given written notice of the time limit on the exclusion.

1985

Regulations permit exclusion, regardless of value, of an automobile needed for essential transportation or modified for a person with a disability. The \$4,500 current market value limit applies only if no automobile could be excluded based on the nature of its use.

1987

*Public Law 100-203,
enacted December 22*

Provides for suspension of the 1980 transfer of assets provision, in any month that it is determined that undue hardship would result.

Real property that cannot be sold for the following reasons: it is jointly owned; its sale would cause the other owner(s) undue hardship due to loss of housing; its sale is barred by a legal impediment; or, the owner's reasonable efforts to sell have been unsuccessful.

Temporarily extends the 1984 exclusion of retroactive title II and title XVI benefits from 6 months to 9 months (the longer exclusion applies to benefits paid in fiscal years 1988 and 1989).

1988

*Public Law 100-707,
enacted November 23*

Removes the time limit for exclusion of disaster assistance.

2004

*Public Law 108-203,
enacted March 2*

Increases to 9 months and makes uniform the time period for excluding from resources amounts attributable to payments of past-due Social Security and SSI benefits and earned income and child tax credits. Effective for such payments received on or after the date of enactment.

2005

Regulations permit exclusion, regardless of value, of:

- One automobile if used for transportation for the beneficiary or a member of the beneficiary's household; and
- Personal goods and household effects.

Act

b. Special Exclusions

1972

*Public Law 92-603,
enacted October 30*

Assets of a blind or disabled individual that are necessary to an approved plan of self-support.

Tools and other property essential to self-support (PESS), within reasonable limits. Shares of nonnegotiable stock in regional or village corporations held by natives of Alaska.

For persons transferred from State programs to SSI, resource exclusions equal to the maximum amount permitted as of October 1972 under the State program.

1988

*Public Law 100-383,
enacted August 10*

Restitution payments made to Japanese internees and relocated Aleutians.

1989

*Public Law 101-239,
enacted December 19*

Specifies that no limitation can be placed on property essential to self-support used in a trade or business, or by an individual as an employee (including the tools of a tradesperson and the machinery and livestock of a farmer).

Payments from the Agent Orange Settlement.

1990

*Public Law 101-508,
enacted November 5*

Earned income tax credit excluded for the month following the month the credit is received.

Payments received from a State-administered fund established to aid victims of crime excluded for a 9-month period. Individual not required to file for such benefits.

Payments received as State or local government relocation assistance excluded for a 9-month period. (The provision expired 3 years after its effective date.)

Payments received under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act.

1993

*Public Law 103-66,
enacted August 10*

Makes permanent the 9-month exclusion of payments received as State or local government relocation assistance.

1994

*Public Law 103-286,
enacted August 1*

Payments to victims of Nazi persecution.

1996

*Public Law 104-193,
enacted August 22*

Dedicated financial institution accounts required to be established for large past-due benefits for disabled individuals under age 18 with a representative payee.

1998

*Public Law 105-285,
enacted October 27*

Funds made available to an SSI recipient by a State or local government or a nonprofit organization as part of the Individual Development Account demonstration project.

*Public Law 105-306,
enacted October 28*

In-kind gifts to children with life-threatening conditions by tax-exempt organizations not converted to cash.

The first \$2,000 annually of cash gifts by tax-exempt organizations to, or for the benefit of, individuals under age 18 with life-threatening conditions.

Act

*Public Law 105-369,
enacted November 12*

Payments made under the Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund Act of 1998.

2000

*Public Law 106-554,
enacted December 21*

Funds deposited by an individual in an individual development account and the interest on those funds.

2001

*Public Law 107-16,
enacted June 7*

The refundable child tax credit in the month of receipt and in the following month.

2004

*Public Law 108-203,
enacted March 2*

Excludes grants, scholarships, fellowships, or gifts to be used for tuition or educational fees from an individual's countable resources for 9 months after the month of receipt.

2005

*Public Law 109-64,
enacted September 20*

Amends the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to specify that assistance provided under a program for flood mitigation activities with respect to a property would not be considered income or a resource for SSI purposes.

2008

*Public Law 110-185,
enacted February 13*

A rebate payment received under the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, and any other credit or refund under section 6428 of the Internal Revenue Code, would not be included as a resource during the month of receipt or the following 2 months.

*Public Law 110-245,
enacted June 17*

Excludes State-provided pensions for aged, blind, or disabled veterans (or their spouses) from resources consideration. Effective for benefits payable for months beginning 60 days after enactment.

2009

*Public Law 111-5,
enacted February 17*

A one-time economic recovery payment of \$250 to SSI recipients will not be taken into account as a resource for the month of receipt and the following 9 months.

The Making Work Pay tax credit, which provides a tax credit in the form of decreased withholding by employers, will not be taken into account as a resource for the month of receipt and the following 2 months.

A one-time payment of \$15,000 for eligible Filipino veterans who are citizens of the United States and \$9,000 for eligible veterans who are noncitizens will not be taken into account as a resource for SSI purposes, although interest earned on any such payment may be considered a resource.

2010

*Public Law 111-148,
enacted March 23*

Excludes incentives an SSI recipient with Medicaid receives for participating in an "Incentives for Prevention of Chronic Diseases in Medicaid" (IPCDM) program from consideration as a resource.

*Public Law 111-255,
enacted October 5*

Excludes the first \$2,000 received during a calendar year by an SSI recipient or spouse as compensation for participation in a clinical trial for rare diseases or conditions from consideration as a resource. The exclusion is effective for a 5-year period from date of enactment.

*Public Law 111-291,
enacted December 8*

Excludes any settlement payments to American Indians under the Claims Resettlement Act of 2010 from consideration as a resource (for a period of 12 months from receipt).

Act

*Public Law 111-312,
enacted December 17*

Excludes Federal tax refunds and advance payment of refundable tax credits received after December 31, 2009, but before January 1, 2013, from consideration as a resource (for a period of 12 months from receipt).

c. Transfer-of-Resources Penalties

1980

*Public Law 96-611,
enacted December 28*

Assets transferred for less than fair market value for the purpose of establishing eligibility for benefits under the Social Security Act are counted as resources for 24 months after transfer.

1988

*Public Law 100-360,
enacted July 1*

Removes the transfer-of-assets penalty for transfers made July 1, 1988, or later.

1999

*Public Law 106-169,
enacted December 14*

Provides a penalty under the SSI program for the disposal of resources at less than fair market value. The penalty is a loss of benefits for up to 36 months. A formula is provided to determine the number of months.

7. Presumptive and Emergency Payments and Interim Assistance Reimbursement

a. Presumptive Payments

1972

*Public Law 92-603,
enacted October 30*

A person applying on the basis of disability who meets all other criteria of eligibility, and is likely to be disabled, may receive payments for 3 months pending the disability determination.

1976

*Public Law 94-569,
enacted October 20*

Presumptive payment provision was extended to persons applying on the basis of blindness.

1990

*Public Law 101-508,
enacted November 5*

Extends the period for receipt of payments to 6 months.

b. Emergency Advance Payments

1972

*Public Law 92-603,
enacted October 30*

Any applicant who can be presumed to meet the criteria of eligibility, but has not yet been determined eligible, and who is faced with a financial emergency may receive an immediate cash advance of up to \$100.

1987

*Public Law 100-203,
enacted December 22*

Increases the maximum emergency advance payment amount to the maximum amount of the regular Federal SSI monthly benefit rate, plus, if any, the Federally-administered State supplementary payment.

1996

*Public Law 104-193,
enacted August 22*

Applicants who have a financial emergency may receive an emergency advance payment in the month of application, which, effective with this law, is always prior to the first month of eligibility. These advance payments are recouped by proportional reductions in the recipient's first 6 months of SSI benefits.

Act

1974

*Public Law 93-368,
enacted August 7*

c. Interim Assistance Reimbursement

SSA may enter into agreements with the States to repay them directly for assistance payments made to an SSI applicant while his/her claim is being adjudicated. The repayment is made from the first check due to the individual. This legislation expires June 30, 1976.

1976

*Public Law 94-365,
enacted July 14*

The authority to repay the State for interim assistance is made permanent.

1987

*Public Law 100-203,
enacted December 22*

Extends interim assistance reimbursement to situations in which payments are made by States or political subdivisions to persons whose SSI payments were suspended or terminated and who subsequently are found to be eligible for such benefits. Also clarifies that the payment from which the interim assistance reimbursement is paid must be the first payment of benefits relating to the interim period.

1972

*Public Law 92-603,
enacted October 30*

States can provide Medicaid coverage to all recipients of SSI payments. Alternatively, they can limit coverage by applying more restrictive criteria from the State Medicaid plan in effect on January 1, 1972.

States can accept SSA determination of eligibility, or make their own determination.

1976

*Public Law 94-566,
enacted October 20*

Preserves the Medicaid eligibility of recipients who become ineligible for cash SSI payments due to the cost-of-living increases in Social Security benefits.

1980

*Public Law 96-265,
enacted June 9*

Blind or disabled recipients under age 65 no longer eligible for either regular or special SSI payments because of their earnings may retain SSI recipient status for Medicaid eligibility purposes under the following conditions: (1) they continue to have the disabling impairment, (2) they meet all nondisability eligibility criteria except for earned income, (3) they would be seriously inhibited from continuing employment without Medicaid services, and (4) their earnings are insufficient to provide a reasonable equivalent of SSI payments and Medicaid.

In States that do not provide Medicaid coverage categorically to all SSI recipients, qualification for Medicaid benefits depends on the State's specific eligibility and program requirements.

The Medicaid provision of the 1980 legislation was in effect from January 1, 1981, through December 31, 1983. Under a 1-year demonstration project, beginning January 1, 1984, this provision was continued for persons already eligible for regular or special SSI payments or for retention of Medicaid eligibility.

1984

*Public Law 98-460,
enacted October 9*

Medicaid provision of 1980 legislation extended through June 30, 1987 (retroactive to January 1, 1984).

Act

1986

*Public Law 99-272,
enacted April 7*

Restores Medicaid eligibility for some disabled widow(er)s who became ineligible for SSI when their title II benefits increased in 1984 because of a change in the Social Security disabled widow(er)s benefits reduction factor.

*Public Law 99-643,
enacted November 10*

The SSI recipient status for Medicaid eligibility provision of the 1980 amendments is made permanent.

Effective July 1, 1987, certain expenses are excluded from earnings when determining sufficiency of earnings to establish SSI recipient status eligibility for Medicaid purposes:

- Impairment-related work expenses of disabled persons;
- Work expenses of blind persons;
- Income required for achieving an approved self-support plan; and
- The value of publicly funded attendant care services.

Effective July 1, 1987, preserves the Medicaid eligibility of recipients who become ineligible for SSI payments because of entitlement to, or an increase in, Social Security disabled adult child benefits on or after the effective date.

Effective July 1, 1987, requires all States to provide Medicaid coverage for recipients in special SSI status (either receiving special SSI payments or in the special recipient status described for 1980) if they received Medicaid coverage the month before special SSI status.

1987

*Public Law 100-203,
enacted December 22*

Effective July 1, 1988, restores or preserves the Medicaid eligibility of persons aged 60 or older who are eligible for Social Security benefits as widows or widowers (but not eligible for Medicare) and who become ineligible for SSI payments or State supplementation because of the receipt of old-age or survivors insurance benefits under Social Security.

1990

*Public Law 101-508,
enacted November 5*

Age limit for retention of SSI recipient status for Medicaid eligibility purposes (1980 and subsequent work incentive provisions, above) is eliminated.

Preserves the Medicaid eligibility of SSI recipients who become ineligible for payments when they become entitled to Social Security disabled widow(er)s benefits following the revised definition used for their disability.

1997

*Public Law 105-33,
enacted August 5*

Requires States to continue Medicaid coverage for disabled children who were receiving SSI payments as of August 22, 1996 and would have continued to be eligible for such payments except that their eligibility terminated because they did not meet the revised SSI childhood disability standard established under Public Law 104-193.

2006

*Public Law 109-171,
enacted February 8*

Begins Medicaid coverage for children who are eligible for SSI effective the month the SSI application is filed or the first month of SSI eligibility, whichever is later. (Under prior law, Medicaid eligibility for such children began the month following the month of the SSI application or first eligibility.)

Act

9. State Supplementation

1972

*Public Law 92-603,
enacted October 30*

States are given the option of providing supplementary payments both to recipients transferred from the State program and to those newly eligible for SSI.

States may either administer the payments themselves or have the Social Security Administration make payments on their behalf. When State supplementary payments are Federally-administered, the Social Security Administration makes eligibility and payment determinations for the State and assumes administrative costs.

“Hold harmless” protection, which limits a State’s fiscal liability to its share of OAA, AB, and APTD expenditures for calendar year 1972, is provided to States electing Federal administration of their supplementary plans. This provision applies only to supplementary payments that do not, on average, exceed a State’s “adjusted payment level.” (The adjusted payment level is the average of the payments that individuals with no other income received in January 1972; it may include the bonus value of food stamps. Adjustments are provided for payments that had been below State standards.)

1973

*Public Law 93-66,
enacted July 9*

Provides for mandatory State supplementation as assurance against reduction of income for persons who received State assistance in December 1973 and were transferred to SSI. These supplementary payments must equal the difference between (1) the amount of the State assistance payment that the individual received in December 1973 plus other income and (2) his/her Federal SSI payment plus other income.

1976

*Public Law 94-585,
enacted October 21*

After June 30, 1977, when the Federal SSI payment level is increased by a cost-of-living increase, such an increase will be excluded in calculating the “hold harmless” amount.

Requires States to maintain State supplementation payments at the level of December 1976 (“maintenance of payments”) or to continue to pay in supplements the same total annual amounts (“maintenance of expenditures”) when the Federal SSI payment level is increased and thereby pass through any increases in Federal benefits without reducing State supplements.

1982

*Public Law 97-248,
enacted September 3*

Begins a 3-year phase out of “hold harmless” protection. Effective with fiscal year 1985, Wisconsin and Hawaii (the only remaining “hold harmless” States) assumed the full cost of their supplementary payments.

1983

*Public Law 98-21,
enacted April 20*

Federal pass-through law is adjusted (1) by substituting the State supplementary payment levels in effect in March 1983 for those in effect in December 1976 as the levels that States must maintain in complying with the pass-through requirements, and (2) with regard to the \$20 (individual) and \$30 (couple) increase in the Federal SSI standard in July 1983, by requiring States to pass through only as much as would have been required if the SSI cost-of-living adjustment had been made in July 1983.

Act

1987

*Public Law 100-203,
enacted December 22*

Provides for Federal administration of State supplements to residents of medical institutions.

Provides for required pass through of \$5 increase in Federal rate for persons whose care in institutions is paid in substantial part by Medicaid.

1993

*Public Law 103-66,
enacted August 10*

Requires States to pay fees for Federal administration of their State supplementation payments. The fees are \$1.67 for each monthly supplementary payment in fiscal year 1994, \$3.33 in fiscal year 1995, and \$5.00 in fiscal year 1996. Fees for subsequent fiscal years will be \$5.00 or another amount determined by the Commissioner to be appropriate. The Commissioner may charge the States additional fees for services they request that are beyond the level customarily provided in administering State supplementary payments.

1997

*Public Law 105-33,
enacted August 5*

Revises the schedule of per-payment fees for Federal administration of State supplementation for fiscal years 1998 (\$6.20) through 2002 (\$8.50) and provides a formula for determining the fee beyond fiscal year 2002.

1999

*Public Law 106-170,
enacted December 17*

A State which has an agreement with SSA to administer its supplementation payments, must remit both payments and fees prior to the SSI payment date.

2000

*Public Law 106-554,
enacted December 21*

Changes the effective date of above provision from 2009 to 2001.

10. Overpayment Recovery

1984

*Public Law 98-369,
enacted July 18*

Limits the rate of recovering overpayments from monthly payments to the lesser of: (1) the monthly payment, or (2) 10 percent of a recipient's monthly income. Permits a higher or lower adjustment at the request of the recipient subject to the agreement of the Commissioner. The limit does not apply if fraud, willful misrepresentation, or concealment of material information was involved on the part of the recipient or spouse in connection with the overpayment.

Waives recovery of certain overpayments due to amount of excess resources of \$50 or less.

Provides authority for the recovery of overpayments from tax refunds.

1998

*Public Law 105-306,
enacted October 28*

Authorizes SSA to collect SSI overpayments for individuals not currently eligible for SSI cash benefits by offsetting Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) benefits, with a maximum monthly offset of no more than 10 percent of the Social Security benefit. The limit does not apply if fraud, willful misrepresentation, or concealment of material information was involved on the part of the recipient or spouse in connection with the overpayment.

1999

*Public Law 106-169,
enacted December 14*

Makes a representative payee liable for an SSI overpayment caused by a payment made to the representative payee on behalf of a recipient, after the recipient's death and requires SSA to establish an overpayment control record under the representative payee's Social Security number.

Act

Requires SSA to recover SSI overpayments from SSI lump-sum amounts by withholding at least 50 percent of the lump-sum payment or the amount of the overpayment, whichever is less.

Extends all of the debt collection authorities currently available for the collection of overpayments under the OASDI program to the SSI program.

2004

*Public Law 108-203,
enacted March 2*

Provides for recovery of overpayment of SSI benefits by withholding from OASDI and Special Veterans' benefits up to 100 percent of any underpayment of benefits and 10 percent of ongoing monthly benefits. The 10 percent limit does not apply if fraud, willful misrepresentation, or concealment of material information was involved on the part of the recipient or spouse in connection with the overpayment.

Also provides for recovery of overpayment of OASDI or Special Veterans' benefits by withholding from SSI up to 100 percent of any underpayment of benefits, but limits any recovery from SSI benefits to the lesser of 100 percent of the monthly benefit or 10 percent of the individual's total monthly income.

Effective with respect to overpayments that are outstanding at the time of enactment.

11. Attorney Fees

2004

*Public Law 108-203,
enacted March 2*

Extends the current OASDI attorney fee withholding process to SSI for a period of 5 years.

Authorizes a 5-year demonstration project that extends attorney fee withholding and direct pay procedures to non-attorney representatives who meet certain prerequisites.

2010

*Public Law 111-142,
enacted February 27*

Permanently extends the OASDI attorney fee withholding and direct pay procedures to SSI. The prior authority expired February 28, 2010.

Permanently extends fee withholding and direct pay procedures to qualified non-attorney representatives.

B. INCOME AND RESOURCE EXCLUSIONS

1. Earned Income Exclusions

- Any refund of Federal income taxes received under section 32 of the Internal Revenue Code (relating to earned income tax credit) and any payment received under section 3507 of the Internal Revenue Code (relating to advance payment of earned income tax credit);
- Amounts received pursuant to the Making Work Pay tax credit set forth in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009;
- Any refundable child tax credit;
- The first \$30 of earned income in a quarter if it is infrequent or irregular, that is: (1) if it is received only once in a calendar quarter from a single source and is not also received in the month immediately preceding or the month immediately following the month of receipt regardless of whether or not these payments occur in different calendar quarters; or (2) if its receipt cannot reasonably be expected;
- Up to \$1,640¹ per month but not more than \$6,600 in a calendar year received by a blind or disabled recipient who is a working student under age 22 and regularly attending school;
- Any portion of the monthly \$20 exclusion for unearned income that has not been used;
- \$65 of earned income in a month;
- Amounts used to pay impairment-related work expenses if a recipient is disabled (but not blind) and under age 65 or is disabled (but not blind) and receiving SSI (or disability payments under a former State plan) before age 65²;
- One-half of remaining earned income in a month;
- Earned income used to meet any expenses reasonably attributable to the earning of the income if the recipient is blind and under age 65 or if he/she received SSI as a blind person prior to age 65²;
- Any earned income received and used to fulfill an approved plan to achieve self-support if the recipient is blind or disabled and under age 65 or is blind or disabled and received SSI as a blind or disabled individual in the month before he/she attained age 65;
- Cash or in-kind income provided under an AmeriCorps program;
- Any earned income deposited into either a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Assets for Independence Act individual development account (IDA); and
- Some Federal laws other than the Social Security Act provide for the exclusion of earned income for SSI purposes. For the most part, the income received under these laws relates to assistance received in the form of food, housing and utilities, educational and employment benefits or benefits derived from being a member of a Native American tribe. A complete list of laws which exclude earned income under SSI can be found in the Federal Regulations Appendix to Subpart K 20 CFR 416.

¹ Effective January 1, 2011 (75 FR 74123). The student earned income exclusion is increased yearly based on changes in the cost of living. However, because there was no cost-of-living increase for 2011, the excluded amounts remain at 2010 levels.

² Amounts used to pay impairment-related work expenses are deducted before the one-half of earned income deduction, whereas amounts used to pay the work expenses of the blind are deducted after the one-half of earned income deduction. As a result, amounts of blind work expenses reduce SSI earned income to a greater degree than impairment-related work expenses.

2. Unearned Income Exclusions

- Any public agency's refund of taxes on real property or food;
- Assistance based on need which is wholly funded by a State or one of its political subdivisions. This includes State supplementation of Federal SSI benefits but does not include payments under a Federal/State grant program such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF);
- Any portion of a grant, scholarship, fellowship, or gift to an individual used for paying tuition, fees or other necessary educational expenses. Portions set aside for food or shelter are counted;
- Food raised by a household if it is consumed by that household;
- Assistance received under the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and assistance provided under any Federal statute because of a catastrophe which the President of the United States declares to be a major disaster;
- Assistance received under a program for flood mitigation activities;
- The first \$60 of unearned income in a quarter if it is infrequent or irregular, that is: (1) if it is received only once in a calendar quarter from a single source and is not also received in the month immediately preceding or the month immediately following the month of receipt regardless of whether or not these payments occur in different calendar quarters; or (2) if its receipt cannot reasonably be expected;
- Any unearned income received and used to fulfill an approved plan to achieve self-support if the recipient is blind or disabled and under age 65 or is blind or disabled and received SSI as a blind or disabled individual in the month before he/she attained age 65;
- Periodic payments made by a State under a program established before July 1, 1973, and based solely on the recipient's length of residence and attainment of age 65;
- Payments for providing foster care to an ineligible child who was placed in the recipient's home by a public or private nonprofit child placement or child care agency;
- Any interest earned on excluded burial funds and any appreciation in the value of an excluded burial arrangement which are left to accumulate and become part of the separately identifiable burial fund;
- Certain support and maintenance assistance provided in the form of home energy assistance;
- One-third of support payments made by an absent parent if the recipient is a child;
- The first \$20 of unearned income in a month other than income in the form of in-kind support and maintenance received in the household of another and income based on need;
- The value of any assistance paid with respect to a dwelling unit under the United States Housing Act of 1937, the National Housing Act, section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965, title V of the Housing Act of 1949, or section 202(h) of the Housing Act of 1959;
- Any interest accrued on and left to accumulate as part of the value of an excluded burial space purchase agreement (effective April 1, 1990) and any interest earned on the value of nonexcludable burial funds and burial space purchase agreements is excluded from income (effective July 1, 2004);
- The value of any commercial transportation ticket, for travel by a recipient or his/her spouse among the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands, which is received as a gift and is not converted to cash;

- Payments received from a fund established by a State to aid victims of crime;
- Payments received from State-provided pensions to aged, blind, or disabled veterans (or their spouses);
- Relocation assistance provided by a State or local government that is comparable to assistance provided under title II of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970;
- Hostile fire pay received from one of the uniformed services pursuant to 37 U.S.C. 310 and other kinds of additional pay received by military personnel in a combat zone;
- Interest or other earnings on a dedicated account excluded from resources;
- In-kind gifts not converted to cash and the first \$2,000 annually of cash gifts made by tax-exempt organizations, such as the Make-A-Wish Foundation, to, or for the benefit of, individuals under age 18 with life-threatening conditions;
- Payments made under the Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund Act of 1998;
- Up to \$2,000 per calendar year in compensation for participating in clinical trials researching treatment of rare diseases and conditions¹;
- TANF funds made available to an SSI recipient as part of an individual development account (IDA);
- One-time economic recovery payment received under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009;
- Amounts received from the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund set forth in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009;
- Amounts received by Medicaid beneficiaries from the “Incentives for Prevention of Chronic Diseases in Medicaid” program established by the Affordable Care Act of 2010;
- Payments to Indian landowners made in accordance with the *Cobell et al. v. Salazar et al.* lawsuit settlement, as ratified by the Claims Resettlement Act of 2010;
- Refundable tax credits (or advance payment of such credits) received between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2012;
- Deposits made by a participating individual or a sponsoring nonprofit organization or State or local government into an IDA under the Assets for Independence Act IDA demonstration project and interest earned on these deposits;
- Unearned income excluded by other Federal laws. See Federal Regulations Appendix to Subpart K 20 CFR 416; and
- Generally, all interest and dividend income earned on countable resources.

¹ This unearned income exclusion was authorized by the Improving Access to Clinical Trials Act of 2010. The exclusion sunsets five years after the date of enactment (in October 2015).

3. Resource Exclusions

- The home in which an individual has ownership interest and which serves as the individual's principal place of residence (including the land appertaining thereto);
- Household goods and personal effects;
- One automobile if used for transportation for the beneficiary or a member of the beneficiary's household;
- Property used in a trade or business which is essential to self-support;
- Up to \$6,000 of nonbusiness property which is essential to self-support;
- Resources of a blind or disabled individual which are necessary to fulfill an approved plan to achieve self-support;
- Stock in regional or village corporations held by natives of Alaska during the 20-year period in which the stock is inalienable pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act;
- Life insurance owned by an individual (and spouse, if any) provided that all life insurance on any person does not exceed a face value of \$1,500;
- Restricted allotted Indian lands;
- Disaster relief assistance;
- Assistance received under a program for flood mitigation activities;
- Burial spaces and certain funds up to \$1,500 for burial expenses;
- Title XVI or title II retroactive payments (for 9 months following the month of receipt);
- Housing assistance;
- Refunds of Federal income taxes and advances made by an employer relating to an earned income tax credit (for 12 months following the month of receipt)¹;
- One-time economic recovery payment received under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, for the month of receipt and the following 9 months;
- Amounts received pursuant to the Making Work Pay tax credit set forth in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, for the month of receipt and the following 12 months²;
- Amounts received from the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund set forth in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009;
- Refundable child tax credit (for 12 months following the month of receipt)¹;

¹ The exclusion period was extended from 9 to 12 months by the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010, for refunds or credits received between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2012. On January 1, 2013, the period reverts to 9 months.

² The exclusion period was extended from 2 to 12 months by the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010, for refunds or credits received between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2012.

- Refundable tax credits (or advance payment of such credits) received between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2012 (for 12 months following the month of receipt), in accordance with the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010;
- Grants, scholarships, fellowships or gifts to be used for tuition or educational fees (for 9 months following the month of receipt);
- Payments received as compensation for expenses incurred or losses suffered as a result of a crime (for 9 months following the month of receipt);
- Relocation assistance from a State or local government (for 9 months following the month of receipt);
- Payments made from State-provided pensions to aged, blind, or disabled veterans (or their spouses);
- Dedicated financial institution accounts for disabled children;
- In-kind gifts not converted to cash and the first \$2,000 annually of cash gifts made by tax-exempt organizations, such as the Make-A-Wish Foundation, to, or for the benefit of, individuals under age 18 with life-threatening conditions;
- Up to \$2,000 per calendar year in compensation for participating in clinical trials researching treatment of rare diseases and conditions;
- Amounts received by Medicaid beneficiaries from the “Incentives for Prevention of Chronic Diseases in Medicaid” program established by the Affordable Care Act of 2010;
- Payments to Indian landowners made in accordance with the *Cobell et al. v. Salazar et al.* lawsuit settlement, as ratified by the Claims Resettlement Act of 2010 (for 12 months following the month of receipt);
- Payments made under the Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund Act of 1998;
- Amounts deposited into either a TANF or Assets for Independence Act IDA, including matching funds and interest earned on such amounts;
- Certain trusts (e.g., those established by will or certain Medicaid trusts that will repay the State, upon the death of the beneficiary, for the costs of medical assistance provided to that individual); and
- Payments or benefits provided under a Federal statute other than title XVI of the Social Security Act where exclusion is provided by such statute.

C. HISTORICAL ALLOWANCE DATA

At the end of 2010, 85 percent of SSI recipients were receiving benefits based on disability or blindness. Individuals file claims at a local Social Security office, and we send claims requiring an evaluation of disability to the State DDS for a disability determination. Applicants may appeal initial DDS decisions that are unfavorable. Historically, the State DDS conducted the first level of appeal—the reconsideration appeal step. Persons denied at the reconsideration level could then request a hearing before an administrative law judge (ALJ) and, if dissatisfied with the hearing decision, could request a review by the Appeals Council. Those dissatisfied with the Appeals Council’s action could seek further relief via the Federal court system. This appeals process is still in effect for the majority of new applicants.¹ However, since the mid-1990s SSA has conducted small pilots testing revisions to this process and introduced a modification of this process that 10 States utilize for applications filed on or after October 1, 1999. The revised process eliminates the reconsideration step, so the first level of appeal of an initial determination is a request for hearing before an ALJ.

This process of application and appeal can span several years. However, before 1993, the only data available on the disability determination process resided in files compiled at each separate stage of the process and only captured various point-in-time snapshots. Only a longitudinal database of administrative records at all stages of appeal can provide a complete picture of the disability determination process. Beginning in 1993, SSA’s Office of Disability Programs constructed such a longitudinal database (the “Disability Research File”) to assist the agency in understanding and managing this process. However, we did encounter some problems in the construction of this database due to inconsistencies in the data collected from all the respective levels of appeal. The following sections present some additional details and qualifications essential to a complete understanding of the resulting data. Following these technical notes, tables V.C1 and V.C2 present the latest available summary of results on disability determinations under title XVI.

1. Technical Notes on the Disability Research File

Methods used to build the title XVI Disability Research File—The “base” file for the title XVI research file is the Supplemental Security Record (SSR). We match the “base” file against records from various other administrative sources, including transactions from the disability determination (SSA-831) files, Social Security number identification records and earnings data, and Office of Disability Adjudication and Review (ODAR) appeals data.

Creating the Disability Research file is a cumbersome process; it involves about 200 steps and generally requires 2 to 4 months to complete. The process is complex because we assemble the file based on filing date cohorts, and many of the source files do not contain a filing date. The basic data sources provide information for the three most recent calendar year cohorts. Older calendar year cohorts reflect updated activity since the last time we built the file. Since the process is so time consuming, we update the research file only annually (usually beginning in July). Therefore, research file data are not yet available for claims filed in 2010.

¹ SSA first implemented the Disability Service Improvement (DSI) process in the Boston region in August 2006. The DSI process eliminated reconsideration as the first level of appeal of an initial disability determination and introduced review by the Office of the Federal Reviewing Official (OFedRO) in its place. By final rule published in the Federal Register (73 FR 2411) SSA suspended new claims to the OFedRO level; this change was effective March 23, 2008 (73 FR 10381). For those initial disability appeals that had not been transferred to OFedRO on or before the effective date, the procedure for the first level of appeal reverted to that which was in place prior to August 2006, i.e., reconsideration. The DSI regulations also modified administrative appeal of an ALJ’s decision or dismissal by: (1) setting requirements on the timeliness for submission of evidence for consideration by the ALJ; and (2) eliminating the Appeals Council as a separate appeals step. By final rule (76 FR 24802), we restored the Appeals Council appeal step, although the other modifications concerning which evidence can be considered remain in effect in the Boston region. It is SSA’s intention to eventually return the Boston region completely to the national appeal system.

Methods used for estimating results (through February 2011) for claims filed in 2010—Although decision counts are available for 2010 filers (from many of the “source” files), those counts do not translate directly into the claims/appeals counts in the following tables, since we consolidate multiple transactions and apply claims-based tolerance rules when we build the research file.

To prepare preliminary estimates of results (through February 2011) for 2010 filers, we started from the latest available transaction data, such as the SSA-831 data, and took into account recent years’ experience of the relationship between corresponding earlier transaction data and the resulting claims/appeals data in completed research files. We estimate ODAR appeals activity from a file that tracks individual claimants, rather than individual claims, which may result in a slight undercount of ODAR activity.

While we believe that these methods are reasonable, we emphasize that the resulting estimates may not be completely reliable, especially because the estimates give results only through *February 2011*, whereas the final research files will reflect information through June 2011. Actual data for 2010 will replace these estimates in the 2012 Annual Report.

2. General Considerations

Some general points that apply to tables V.C1 and V.C2 are as follows:

- Data for 1988-2009 filers are as of June 2010 for decisions at the DDS and OFedRO levels. Results for those years’ filers include results at the hearing and Appeals Council levels and Federal courts through October 2010.
- Data for 2010 filers are preliminary estimates as of *February 2011*, and reflect larger numbers of claims still pending. *February 2011* data on number of appeals may be too low because larger numbers of claimants are still within the period allowed for filing an appeal (i.e., larger numbers of recently denied claimants who have not yet filed an appeal may appeal before the time limit runs out).
- Remaining appeals will affect the results. Since allowances are generally processed more quickly than denials, we expect that the percent allowed will ultimately be lower when the processing of all cases is complete.
- In certain pilot activities and under the revised process introduced October 1, 1999 in 10 States, individuals can appeal initial denials directly to ODAR without a separate reconsideration step. As a result, the appeals of initial denials in these tables include cases that will not receive a decision at the reconsideration level.
- The tables do not show the cases appealed to the OFedRO level under the DSI process separately, but the cases are included in the reconsideration counts.
- In previous reports, we counted allowances at the highest adjudicative level a filer reached. Beginning with data in this report for claims filed in 2000 and later, we now count allowances at the earliest adjudicative level of allowance. For claims filed prior to 2000, we continue to count allowances at the highest adjudicative level reached.

Table V.C1.—Disabled Adult Claims: Disposition of Applications for SSI Disability Benefits by Year of Filing^a and Level of Decision^b

Calendar year of filing	Total claims filed	Initial decisions						
		Pending	Allowances		Denials		Appeals of initial denials	
			Number	Percent ^c	Number	Percent ^c	Number ^d	Percent ^e
1988	946,603	—	272,204	28.8	674,399	71.2	265,151	39.3
1989	969,218	—	292,044	30.1	677,174	69.9	274,823	40.6
1990	1,099,805	—	347,823	31.6	751,982	68.4	320,207	42.6
1991	1,288,331	—	415,336	32.2	872,995	67.8	383,669	43.9
1992	1,415,624	—	436,888	30.9	978,736	69.1	433,244	44.3
1993	1,503,278	—	416,300	27.7	1,086,978	72.3	485,166	44.6
1994	1,436,958	—	353,995	24.6	1,082,963	75.4	482,533	44.6
1995	1,318,416	—	323,084	24.5	995,332	75.5	439,166	44.1
1996	1,247,926	—	305,351	24.5	942,575	75.5	406,425	43.1
1997	1,110,898	—	292,839	26.4	818,059	73.6	357,973	43.8
1998	1,108,957	—	322,734	29.1	786,223	70.9	339,288	43.2
1999	1,105,109	—	326,734	29.6	778,375	70.4	340,114	43.7
2000	1,139,623	—	347,024	30.5	792,599	69.5	338,664	42.7
2001	1,216,040	—	368,981	30.3	847,059	69.7	360,790	42.6
2002	1,322,451	—	374,373	28.3	948,078	71.7	405,322	42.8
2003	1,403,003	—	382,013	27.2	1,020,990	72.8	431,556	42.3
2004	1,475,149	—	387,857	26.3	1,087,292	73.7	434,305	39.9
2005	1,470,300	—	373,582	25.4	1,096,718	74.6	420,489	38.3
2006	1,499,551	—	367,972	24.5	1,131,579	75.5	428,287	37.8
2007	1,506,654	—	376,631	25.0	1,130,023	75.0	436,673	38.6
2008	1,603,832	—	414,505	25.8	1,189,327	74.2	488,482	41.1
2009	1,834,501	25,780	449,054	24.8	1,359,667	75.2	553,736	40.7
2010	1,928,461	326,107	457,404	28.5	1,144,950	71.5	376,458	32.9

Calendar year of filing	Reconsiderations ^f					Appeals beyond reconsideration ^g				
	Pending	Allowances		Denials	Appeals of reconsideration denials		Pending ⁱ	Allowances		Denials ^k
		Number	Percent ^c		Number ^h	Percent ^e		Number	Percent ^j	
1988	—	38,385	14.5	226,766	140,663	62.0	—	82,414	58.6	58,249
1989	—	43,505	15.8	231,318	146,082	63.2	—	90,169	61.7	55,913
1990	—	52,055	16.3	268,152	175,520	65.5	—	109,098	62.2	66,422
1991	—	59,157	15.4	324,512	221,816	68.4	—	139,698	63.0	82,118
1992	—	58,819	13.6	374,425	260,554	69.6	—	159,084	61.1	101,470
1993	—	57,938	11.9	427,228	294,801	69.0	—	170,402	57.8	124,399
1994	—	55,822	11.6	426,711	293,448	68.8	—	164,537	56.1	128,911
1995	—	51,697	11.8	387,469	264,270	68.2	—	143,582	54.3	120,688
1996	—	49,263	12.1	357,162	242,407	67.9	—	133,323	55.0	109,084
1997	—	47,573	13.4	306,561	213,969	69.8	—	121,619	55.8	96,189
1998	—	46,507	13.7	292,272	203,767	69.7	—	115,323	56.5	88,953
1999	—	40,375	12.5	283,475	199,371	70.3	—	117,431	54.5	98,204
2000	—	37,768	13.4	243,790	173,465	71.2	—	122,829	53.3	107,742
2001	—	37,388	13.2	246,613	174,271	70.7	—	133,008	53.0	118,052
2002	—	38,617	12.2	277,567	195,597	70.5	—	150,199	52.8	134,536
2003	—	39,086	11.5	300,283	210,263	70.0	220	159,369	52.7	142,861
2004	—	37,197	10.9	302,649	211,696	69.9	904	163,377	53.5	141,874
2005	—	34,753	10.6	293,829	205,932	70.1	2,689	162,018	54.9	133,132
2006	—	34,146	10.2	299,568	211,317	70.5	8,169	166,762	56.0	130,959
2007	—	35,894	10.5	305,822	217,266	71.0	29,516	161,815	57.2	120,892
2008	—	40,057	10.1	355,636	257,062	72.3	98,082	148,333	58.9	103,436
2009	41,750	27,905	7.0	368,835	271,489	73.6	284,424	60,840	59.5	41,471
2010	90,140	22,130	9.8	202,703	72,717	35.9	121,781	8,426	67.8	3,995

Table V.C1.—Disabled Adult Claims: Disposition of Applications for SSI Disability Benefits by Year of Filing^a and Level of Decision^b (Cont.)

Selected summary case information by decision status: *Numbers of cases*

Calendar year of filing	Total claims filed	Initial decisions pending	Total initial decisions	Allowances	Denials	
					Appeal decision pending	No appeal pending
1988	946,603	—	946,603	393,003	—	553,600
1989	969,218	—	969,218	425,718	—	543,500
1990	1,099,805	—	1,099,805	508,976	—	590,829
1991	1,288,331	—	1,288,331	614,191	—	674,140
1992	1,415,624	—	1,415,624	654,791	—	760,833
1993	1,503,278	—	1,503,278	644,640	—	858,638
1994	1,436,958	—	1,436,958	574,354	—	862,604
1995	1,318,416	—	1,318,416	518,363	—	800,053
1996	1,247,926	—	1,247,926	487,937	—	759,989
1997	1,110,898	—	1,110,898	462,031	—	648,867
1998	1,108,957	—	1,108,957	484,564	—	624,393
1999	1,105,109	—	1,105,109	484,540	—	620,569
2000	1,139,623	—	1,139,623	507,621	—	632,002
2001	1,216,040	—	1,216,040	539,377	—	676,663
2002	1,322,451	—	1,322,451	563,189	—	759,262
2003	1,403,003	—	1,403,003	580,468	220	822,315
2004	1,475,149	—	1,475,149	588,431	904	885,814
2005	1,470,300	—	1,470,300	570,353	2,689	897,258
2006	1,499,551	—	1,499,551	568,880	8,169	922,502
2007	1,506,654	—	1,506,654	574,340	29,516	902,798
2008	1,603,832	—	1,603,832	602,895	98,082	902,855
2009	1,834,501	25,780	1,808,721	537,799	326,174	944,748
2010	1,928,461	326,107	1,602,354	487,960	211,921	902,473

Selected summary case information by decision status

Calendar year of filing	Numbers as a percentage of total claims filed				Numbers as a percentage of total initial decisions		
	Initial decision pending	Allowances	Denials		Allowances	Denials	
			Appeal decision pending	No appeal pending		Appeal decision pending	No appeal pending
1988	—	41.5	—	58.5	41.5	—	58.5
1989	—	43.9	—	56.1	43.9	—	56.1
1990	—	46.3	—	53.7	46.3	—	53.7
1991	—	47.7	—	52.3	47.7	—	52.3
1992	—	46.3	—	53.7	46.3	—	53.7
1993	—	42.9	—	57.1	42.9	—	57.1
1994	—	40.0	—	60.0	40.0	—	60.0
1995	—	39.3	—	60.7	39.3	—	60.7
1996	—	39.1	—	60.9	39.1	—	60.9
1997	—	41.6	—	58.4	41.6	—	58.4
1998	—	43.7	—	56.3	43.7	—	56.3
1999	—	43.8	—	56.2	43.8	—	56.2
2000	—	44.5	—	55.5	44.5	—	55.5
2001	—	44.4	—	55.6	44.4	—	55.6
2002	—	42.6	—	57.4	42.6	—	57.4
2003	—	41.4	1	58.6	41.4	1	58.6
2004	—	39.9	0.1	60.0	39.9	0.1	60.0
2005	—	38.8	.2	61.0	38.8	.2	61.0
2006	—	37.9	.5	61.5	37.9	.5	61.5
2007	—	38.1	2.0	59.9	38.1	2.0	59.9
2008	—	37.6	6.1	56.3	37.6	6.1	56.3
2009	1.4	29.3	17.8	51.5	29.7	18.0	52.2
2010	16.9	25.3	11.0	46.8	30.5	13.2	56.3

^a Data for claims filed in 1988-2009 reflect results as of June 2010 at the DDS level and as of October 2010 at the ODAR level. The numbers of total claims filed for 2007-2009 are subject to change. Data for claims filed in 2010 are preliminary estimates as of February 2011. The ultimate numbers of allowances and denials are subject to change until all initial decisions have been completed and all appeals are final.

^b For claims filed in 2000 or later, we count allowances at the earliest adjudicative level of allowance. We count allowances for claims filed prior to 2000 at the highest adjudicative level reached.

^c Percentage of decisions at this level

^d Includes certain cases which can be appealed directly to the hearing level.

^e Percentage of denials at this level appealed to next level.

^f Includes cases reviewed by a Federal Reviewing Official (FedRO) as part of the DSI process.

^g Includes cases appealed to the hearing and Appeals Council levels and to the Federal courts.

^h Number of persons appealing beyond the reconsideration level.

ⁱ Includes cases remanded to SSA from the Federal courts.

^j Percentage of decisions at this level. For years in which decisions are still pending, the preliminary percentage shown is expected to ultimately be lower as all cases are processed. This occurs because allowances are generally processed more quickly than denials.

^k Includes denied claims where the final administrative action was a dismissal of an appeal request (e.g., the appeal was not filed timely or the applicant failed to appear at the scheduled hearing).

^l Less than 0.05 percent

Table V.C2.—Disabled Child Claims: Disposition of Applications for SSI Disability Benefits by Year of Filing^a and Level of Decision^b

Calendar year of filing	Total claims filed	Initial decisions						
		Pending	Allowances		Denials		Appeals of initial denials	
			Number	Percent ^c	Number	Percent ^c	Number ^d	Percent ^e
1991	250,962	—	148,220	59.1	102,742	40.9	24,702	24.0
1992	372,971	—	189,079	50.7	183,892	49.3	49,297	26.8
1993	496,131	—	212,268	42.8	283,863	57.2	75,967	26.8
1994	525,013	—	172,219	32.8	352,794	67.2	92,093	26.1
1995	487,730	—	144,231	29.6	343,499	70.4	86,841	25.3
1996	453,473	—	127,416	28.1	326,057	71.9	75,013	23.0
1997	332,032	—	106,528	32.1	225,504	67.9	51,493	22.8
1998	335,732	—	123,249	36.7	212,483	63.3	50,110	23.6
1999	342,162	—	129,375	37.8	212,787	62.2	49,996	23.5
2000	349,285	—	138,262	39.6	211,023	60.4	48,156	22.8
2001	367,726	—	152,651	41.5	215,075	58.5	49,013	22.8
2002	402,116	—	165,220	41.1	236,896	58.9	55,863	23.6
2003	425,336	—	172,655	40.6	252,681	59.4	59,701	23.6
2004	435,562	—	174,514	40.1	261,048	59.9	58,539	22.4
2005	424,876	—	163,705	38.5	261,171	61.5	55,367	21.2
2006	432,747	—	160,959	37.2	271,788	62.8	58,620	21.6
2007	433,941	—	160,261	36.9	273,680	63.1	60,048	21.9
2008	449,823	—	171,941	38.2	277,882	61.8	66,101	23.8
2009	516,900	6,111	192,757	37.7	318,032	62.3	76,776	24.1
2010	526,100	74,915	187,693	41.6	263,492	58.4	53,917	20.5

Calendar year of filing	Reconsiderations ^f						Appeals beyond reconsideration ^g			
	Pending	Allowances		Denials	Appeals of reconsideration denials		Pending ⁱ	Allowances		Denials ^k
		Number	Percent ^c		Number ^h	Percent ^e		Number	Percent ^j	
1991	—	5,605	22.7	19,097	9,196	48.2	—	3,884	42.2	5,312
1992	—	9,463	19.2	39,834	19,770	49.6	—	7,523	38.1	12,247
1993	—	11,338	14.9	64,629	31,193	48.3	—	10,638	34.1	20,555
1994	—	11,332	12.3	80,761	38,433	47.6	—	12,954	33.7	25,479
1995	—	10,287	11.8	76,554	35,592	46.5	—	10,924	30.7	24,668
1996	—	9,355	12.5	65,658	27,920	42.5	—	8,853	31.7	19,067
1997	—	8,266	16.2	42,705	18,916	44.3	—	7,027	36.2	12,411
1998	—	7,799	15.6	42,237	18,762	44.4	—	7,034	37.3	11,802
1999	—	6,475	13.8	40,423	18,164	44.9	—	7,558	35.5	13,704
2000	—	6,043	16.0	31,741	14,366	45.3	—	8,451	34.2	16,287
2001	—	5,839	16.1	30,318	13,448	44.4	—	8,825	33.6	17,479
2002	—	6,360	15.4	34,842	15,215	43.7	—	9,909	33.2	19,967
2003	—	6,644	14.8	38,275	16,208	42.3	7	10,233	33.0	20,750
2004	—	6,209	14.1	37,948	15,764	41.5	46	10,008	33.2	20,092
2005	—	6,020	14.2	36,306	15,196	41.9	171	9,513	33.9	18,553
2006	—	6,158	13.6	39,096	16,488	42.2	659	10,645	36.5	18,550
2007	—	6,016	12.9	40,777	17,384	42.6	2,830	10,632	38.2	17,177
2008	—	6,831	12.7	46,920	21,184	45.1	10,237	8,805	37.8	14,492
2009	7,085	5,797	10.9	47,317	22,573	47.7	29,938	3,222	35.0	5,990
2010	11,001	3,868	12.3	27,510	8,057	29.3	18,361	352	28.5	882

Table V.C2.—Disabled Child Claims: Disposition of Applications for SSI Disability Benefits by Year of Filing^a and Level of Decision^b (Cont.)

Selected summary case information by decision status: *Numbers of cases*

Calendar year of filing	Total claims filed	Initial decisions pending	Total initial decisions	Allowances	Denials	
					Appeal decision pending	No appeal pending
1991	250,962	—	250,962	157,709	—	93,253
1992	372,971	—	372,971	206,065	—	166,906
1993	496,131	—	496,131	234,244	—	261,887
1994	525,013	—	525,013	196,505	—	328,508
1995	487,730	—	487,730	165,442	—	322,288
1996	453,473	—	453,473	145,624	—	307,849
1997	332,032	—	332,032	121,821	—	210,211
1998	335,732	—	335,732	138,082	—	197,650
1999	342,162	—	342,162	143,408	—	198,754
2000	349,285	—	349,285	152,756	—	196,529
2001	367,726	—	367,726	167,315	—	200,411
2002	402,116	—	402,116	181,489	—	220,627
2003	425,336	—	425,336	189,532	7	235,797
2004	435,562	—	435,562	190,731	46	244,785
2005	424,876	—	424,876	179,238	171	245,467
2006	432,747	—	432,747	177,762	659	254,326
2007	433,941	—	433,941	176,909	2,830	254,202
2008	449,823	—	449,823	187,577	10,237	252,009
2009	516,900	6,111	510,789	201,776	37,023	271,990
2010	526,100	74,915	451,185	191,913	29,362	229,910

Selected summary case information by decision status

Calendar year of filing	Numbers as a percentage of total claims filed			Numbers as a percentage of total initial decisions			
	Initial decision pending	Allowances	Denials		Allowances	Denials	
			Appeal decision pending	No appeal pending		Appeal decision pending	No appeal pending
1991	—	62.8	—	37.2	62.8	—	37.2
1992	—	55.2	—	44.8	55.2	—	44.8
1993	—	47.2	—	52.8	47.2	—	52.8
1994	—	37.4	—	62.6	37.4	—	62.6
1995	—	33.9	—	66.1	33.9	—	66.1
1996	—	32.1	—	67.9	32.1	—	67.9
1997	—	36.7	—	63.3	36.7	—	63.3
1998	—	41.1	—	58.9	41.1	—	58.9
1999	—	41.9	—	58.1	41.9	—	58.1
2000	—	43.7	—	56.3	43.7	—	56.3
2001	—	45.5	—	54.5	45.5	—	54.5
2002	—	45.1	—	54.9	45.1	—	54.9
2003	—	44.6	1	55.4	44.6	1	55.4
2004	—	43.8	1	56.2	43.8	1	56.2
2005	—	42.2	1	57.8	42.2	1	57.8
2006	—	41.1	0.2	58.8	41.1	0.2	58.8
2007	—	40.8	.7	58.6	40.8	.7	58.6
2008	—	41.7	2.3	56.0	41.7	2.3	56.0
2009	1.2	39.0	7.2	52.6	39.5	7.2	53.2
2010	14.2	36.5	5.6	43.7	42.5	6.5	51.0

^a Data for claims filed in 1988-2009 reflect results as of June 2010 at the DDS level and as of October 2010 at the ODAR level. The numbers of total claims filed for 2007-2009 are subject to change. Data for claims filed in 2010 are preliminary estimates as of February 2011. The ultimate numbers of allowances and denials are subject to change until all initial decisions have been completed and all appeals are final.

^b For claims filed in 2000 or later, we count allowances at the earliest adjudicative level of allowance. We count allowances for claims filed prior to 2000 at the highest adjudicative level reached.

^c Percentage of decisions at this level

^d Includes certain cases which can be appealed directly to the hearing level.

^e Percentage of denials at this level appealed to next level.

^f Includes cases reviewed by a Federal Reviewing Official (FedRO) as part of the DSI process.

^g Includes cases appealed to the hearing and Appeals Council levels and to the Federal courts.

^h Number of persons appealing beyond the reconsideration level.

ⁱ Includes cases remanded to SSA from the Federal courts.

^j Percentage of decisions at this level. For years in which decisions are still pending, the preliminary percentage shown is expected to ultimately be lower as all cases are processed. This occurs because allowances are generally processed more quickly than denials.

^k Includes denied claims where the final administrative action was a dismissal of an appeal request (e.g., the appeal was not filed timely or the applicant failed to appear at the scheduled hearing).

^l Less than 0.05 percent.

D. HISTORICAL REDETERMINATION AND CONTINUING DISABILITY REVIEW DATA**1. Redeterminations**

Redeterminations are reviews of all of the nonmedical factors of eligibility to determine whether a recipient is still eligible for SSI and still receiving the correct payment amount. There are two types of redeterminations: scheduled and unscheduled. All recipients are subject to periodic scheduling for a redetermination. Every year SSA schedules redeterminations for the cases most likely to have payment error, but the agency can also schedule reviews for cases unlikely to have payment error. SSA completes unscheduled redeterminations on an as-needed basis when recipients report, or we discover, certain changes in circumstances that could affect the continuing SSI payment amount. The numbers of redeterminations completed fluctuate from year to year due to variation in: (1) the numbers of unscheduled redeterminations completed; and (2) the numbers of scheduled redeterminations that we are able to complete during the fiscal year because of limitations on administrative resources and the impact of other workload requirements on the field offices. Redeterminations that we cannot complete in the scheduled fiscal year carry over into the next fiscal year.

Between scheduled redeterminations, SSA uses the limited issue process to detect situations that have the potential to affect the continuing eligibility of SSI recipients and SSI payment amounts. SSA conducts periodic computer matches between its own systems and the systems of other Federal and State agencies to determine if the income and resources information on SSI recipients' records is in conflict with data that we obtain from the other systems. We post an indicator to the individual's Supplemental Security Record when a match detects conflicting information. We select these limited issue cases for field office review of the issues for which we posted indicators. Beginning in fiscal year 2007, SSA included limited issue completions with redetermination completions.

Table V.D1 provides historical data on numbers of redeterminations and limited issues by fiscal year.

Table V.D1.—SSI Redeterminations^a and Limited Issues Completed, Fiscal Years 1986-2010
[In thousands]

Fiscal year	Numbers of completions		
	Redeterminations	Limited issues	Total
1986.....	2,278	b	b
1987.....	2,244	b	b
1988.....	1,997	b	b
1989.....	2,226	b	b
1990.....	2,103	b	b
1991.....	2,138	b	b
1992.....	2,321	b	b
1993.....	2,223	b	b
1994.....	^c 1,900	b	b
1995.....	^d 1,597	b	b
1996.....	1,763	b	b
1997.....	1,773	b	b
1998.....	1,853	b	b
1999.....	2,122	751	2,873
2000.....	2,182	582	2,764
2001.....	2,316	589	2,905
2002.....	2,311	582	2,894
2003.....	2,450	472	2,921
2004.....	2,279	248	2,527
2005.....	^e 1,725	737	2,462
2006.....	^e 1,071	348	1,418
2007.....	^e 692	346	1,039
2008.....	^e 900	321	1,221
2009.....	^e 1,390	341	1,731
2010.....	2,248	218	2,466

^aEffective fiscal year 2007, total redeterminations reported by SSA include limited issues.

^bData not available.

^cDecrease in number of redeterminations completed in fiscal year 1994 due to low-error profile redeterminations not being completed from January through September 1994.

^dEffective fiscal year 1995, approximately 200,000 fewer redeterminations were selected annually due to a change from a 3-year to a 6-year redetermination cycle for low-error profile cases.

^eFewer redeterminations were selected in fiscal years 2005-09 due to limitations on administrative funding.

2. Continuing Disability Reviews

Following enactment of the Social Security Disability Amendments of 1980, section 221(i) of the Social Security Act generally requires SSA to review the continuing eligibility of title II disabled beneficiaries at least every 3 years. No legislation required the same review process for disabled title XVI recipients at that time. Although the Committee on Finance of the Senate stated in its report on this legislation that the same continuing disability review (CDR) procedures should apply to both the title II and title XVI programs, no new legislation amended title XVI to accomplish this. Section 1614(a)(4) of the Act gives SSA discretionary authority to conduct periodic CDRs on SSI recipients. On September 28, 1994, SSA issued a Federal Register notice that periodic SSI CDRs would begin on October 1, 1994. In 1994 and again in 1996 Congress enacted new legislation adding some mandates for CDRs under the SSI program.

Public Law 103-296 required SSA to conduct CDRs on a minimum of 100,000 SSI recipients during each of fiscal years 1996, 1997, and 1998. In addition, during the same period, the law required SSA to redetermine the eligibility of at least one-third of all SSI child recipients who reached age 18 after April 1995 within one year of attainment of age 18. Such redeterminations for persons turning age 18 could count toward the 100,000 CDRs required by the law.

Public Law 104-193 required SSA to redetermine the eligibility of all SSI child recipients who attain age 18 based on the adult initial eligibility criteria. This law also required that SSA perform a CDR:

- At least once every 3 years for SSI recipients under age 18 who are eligible by reason of an impairment which is likely to improve; and
- Not later than 12 months after birth for recipients whose low birth weight is a contributing factor material to the determination of their disability.

Public Law 105-33 provided SSA some additional flexibility in the scheduling of these categories of CDRs:

Beginning in 1993, SSA developed a screening process for title II cases scheduled for a CDR in order to handle the large CDR workload mandated by these various provisions. The screening process included a mailer questionnaire for selected cases. In 1996, SSA extended the profiling process to title XVI adults who were scheduled for a CDR. In fiscal year 2010, we deferred full medical reviews for 251,436 title XVI recipients scheduled for a CDR as a result of the screening process.

In 2007, SSA implemented a streamlined failure to cooperate (FTC) process for medical CDRs. Under this process, recipients who fail to comply with the field office requests for information necessary for processing their medical CDRs have their benefits suspended. After 12 consecutive months of suspension for non-compliance, SSA terminates their eligibility for disability benefits. SSA initially terminated 1,365 centrally-initiated medical CDRs involving title XVI recipients in fiscal year 2010 as a result of the streamlined FTC process.

For individuals who receive both title II and title XVI benefits, SSA initiates CDRs as title II CDRs, and the results of the review affect eligibility for benefits under both programs. Tables V.D2 and V.D3 present the latest available summary of results¹ on CDRs of title XVI recipients we performed under titles II and XVI since 1993. These tables include only cases for which we conducted a full medical review. In particular, they do not include:

- Cases for which the individual completed a mailer but for which we deferred a full medical review;

¹ The numbers of SSI recipients whose benefits are ceased as a result of CDRs are included in these tables. Estimates of Federal SSI program savings resulting from the cessation of benefits are reported to Congress in the Annual Report of Continuing Disability Reviews. The most recent such report was issued February 15, 2011, +0presenting estimates of the effects of CDRs conducted in fiscal year 2009.

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- Administrative closures—cases for which we curtail development for technical reasons;
- Streamlined FTC terminations;
- CDRs initiated as the result of work activity on the part of the beneficiary/recipient; and
- Miscellaneous other CDRs processed by the State DDS but not as part of the normal CDR scheduling process (such as voluntary and third-party reports of medical improvement, post-transplant end-stage renal disease cases, and rehabilitation reports).

In contrast with the allowance data presented in section V.C, we tabulate the CDR data on a cohort basis by the date of initial decision.

Table V.D2.—SSI Disabled Adult Reviews: Disposition^a of Continuing Disability Medical Reviews by Fiscal Year of Initial Decision and Level of Decision

Fiscal year of initial DDS decision	Initial decisions						
	Total initial DDS decisions	Continuations		Cessations		Appeals to reconsideration	
		Number	Percent ^b	Number	Percent ^b	Number	Percent ^c
Reviews of concurrent title II/XVI cases initiated under title II							
1993	1,143	1,083	94.8	60	5.2	52	86.7
1994	10,945	9,127	83.4	1,818	16.6	1,253	68.9
1995	16,736	12,484	74.6	4,252	25.4	2,905	68.3
1996	26,884	20,636	76.8	6,248	23.2	4,119	65.9
1997	51,466	40,741	79.2	10,725	20.8	7,344	68.5
1998	81,185	68,533	84.4	12,652	15.6	8,723	68.9
1999	80,816	70,353	87.1	10,463	12.9	6,201	59.3
2000	105,787	93,962	88.8	11,825	11.2	6,851	57.9
2001	110,341	99,666	90.3	10,675	9.7	6,291	58.9
2002	103,947	92,069	88.6	11,878	11.4	7,087	59.7
2003	72,175	63,021	87.3	9,154	12.7	5,445	59.5
2004	84,622	75,047	88.7	9,575	11.3	5,905	61.7
2005	80,597	70,687	87.7	9,910	12.3	5,950	60.0
2006	71,825	63,789	88.8	8,036	11.2	4,808	59.8
2007	26,469	22,893	86.5	3,576	13.5	2,157	60.3
2008	40,045	35,891	89.6	4,154	10.4	2,667	64.2
2009	41,609	38,238	91.9	3,371	8.1	2,181	64.7
2010	39,908	35,879	89.9	4,029	10.1	2,199	54.6
Title XVI initiated reviews							
1993	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1994	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1995	4,287	3,277	76.4	1,010	23.6	665	65.8
1996	55,025	46,273	84.1	8,752	15.9	6,146	70.2
1997	69,557	57,662	82.9	11,895	17.1	8,722	73.3
1998	75,071	64,829	86.4	10,242	13.6	7,239	70.7
1999	140,429	125,079	89.1	15,350	10.9	10,292	67.0
2000	173,470	156,065	90.0	17,405	10.0	10,923	62.8
2001	143,902	126,610	88.0	17,292	12.0	10,262	59.3
2002	172,527	150,837	87.4	21,690	12.6	13,314	61.4
2003	213,212	191,061	89.6	22,151	10.4	14,667	66.2
2004	221,129	199,938	90.4	21,191	9.6	14,627	69.0
2005	110,072	97,330	88.4	12,742	11.6	8,126	63.8
2006	40,605	35,957	88.6	4,648	11.4	2,853	61.4
2007	18,172	16,006	88.1	2,166	11.9	1,426	65.8
2008	18,933	17,049	90.0	1,884	10.0	1,266	67.2
2009	29,137	27,233	93.5	1,904	6.5	1,349	70.9
2010	34,575	31,766	91.9	2,809	8.1	1,772	63.1
Total reviews, SSI disabled adults							
1993	1,143	1,083	94.8	60	5.2	52	86.7
1994	10,945	9,127	83.4	1,818	16.6	1,253	68.9
1995	21,023	15,761	75.0	5,262	25.0	3,570	67.8
1996	81,909	66,909	81.7	15,000	18.3	10,265	68.4
1997	121,023	98,403	81.3	22,620	18.7	16,066	71.0
1998	156,256	133,362	85.3	22,894	14.7	15,962	69.7
1999	221,245	195,432	88.3	25,813	11.7	16,493	63.9
2000	279,257	250,027	89.5	29,230	10.5	17,774	60.8
2001	254,243	226,276	89.0	27,967	11.0	16,553	59.2
2002	276,474	242,906	87.9	33,568	12.1	20,401	60.8
2003	285,387	254,082	89.0	31,305	11.0	20,112	64.2
2004	305,751	274,985	89.9	30,766	10.1	20,532	66.7
2005	190,669	168,017	88.1	22,652	11.9	14,076	62.1
2006	112,430	99,746	88.7	12,684	11.3	7,661	60.4
2007	44,641	38,899	87.1	5,742	12.9	3,583	62.4
2008	58,978	52,940	89.8	6,038	10.2	3,933	65.1
2009	70,746	65,471	92.5	5,275	7.5	3,530	66.9
2010	74,483	67,645	90.8	6,838	9.2	3,971	58.1

Table V.D2.—SSI Disabled Adult Reviews: Disposition^a of Continuing Disability Medical Reviews by Fiscal Year of Initial Decision and Level of Decision (Cont.)

Fiscal year of initial DDS decision	Reconsiderations						Appeals beyond reconsideration ^d			
	Pending	Continuations		Cessations	Appeals to beyond reconsideration		Pending	Continuations		
		Number	Percent ^b		Number ^e	Percent ^c		Number	Percent	Cessations
Reviews of concurrent title II/XVI cases initiated under title II										
1993	—	22	42.3	30	14	46.7	—	9	64.3	5
1994	—	541	43.2	712	399	56.0	—	177	44.4	222
1995	—	1,245	42.9	1,660	1,007	60.7	—	382	37.9	625
1996	—	1,875	45.5	2,244	1,313	58.5	—	427	32.5	886
1997	—	4,297	58.5	3,047	2,257	74.1	—	973	43.1	1,284
1998	—	5,503	63.1	3,220	2,466	76.6	—	1,158	47.0	1,308
1999	—	3,974	64.1	2,227	1,542	69.2	—	679	44.0	863
2000	—	4,427	64.6	2,424	1,556	64.2	—	659	42.4	897
2001	—	4,177	66.4	2,114	1,240	58.7	—	496	40.0	744
2002	7	4,787	67.6	2,293	1,451	63.3	1	594	41.0	856
2003	2	3,575	65.7	1,868	1,179	63.1	—	480	40.7	699
2004	14	3,781	64.2	2,110	1,412	66.9	1	592	42.0	819
2005	27	3,829	64.6	2,094	1,487	71.0	—	641	43.1	846
2006	32	3,041	63.7	1,735	1,277	73.6	4	561	44.1	712
2007	9	1,463	68.1	685	521	76.1	5	215	41.7	301
2008	51	1,790	68.4	826	630	76.3	41	238	40.4	351
2009	54	1,486	69.9	641	470	73.3	218	95	37.7	157
2010	449	1,305	74.6	445	229	51.5	208	6	28.6	15
Title XVI initiated reviews										
1993	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1994	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1995	—	241	36.2	424	267	63.0	—	87	32.6	180
1996	—	3,289	53.5	2,857	1,946	68.1	—	623	32.0	1,323
1997	—	5,271	60.4	3,451	2,575	74.6	—	986	38.3	1,589
1998	—	4,527	62.5	2,712	1,987	73.3	—	781	39.3	1,206
1999	—	6,610	64.2	3,682	2,508	68.1	—	973	38.8	1,535
2000	—	6,823	62.5	4,100	2,778	67.8	—	1,057	38.0	1,721
2001	—	6,224	60.7	4,038	2,618	64.8	—	934	35.7	1,684
2002	1	8,160	61.3	5,153	3,323	64.5	—	1,110	33.4	2,213
2003	2	9,656	65.8	5,009	3,335	66.6	—	1,232	36.9	2,103
2004	—	9,404	64.3	5,223	3,743	71.7	—	1,454	38.8	2,289
2005	2	5,235	64.4	2,889	2,050	71.0	—	767	37.4	1,283
2006	—	1,805	63.3	1,048	746	71.2	—	279	37.4	467
2007	—	963	67.5	463	343	74.1	7	144	42.9	192
2008	2	866	68.5	398	299	75.1	24	101	36.7	174
2009	10	984	73.5	355	250	70.4	118	49	37.1	83
2010	395	1,098	79.7	279	164	58.8	143	6	28.6	15
Total reviews, SSI disabled adults										
1993	—	22	42.3	30	14	46.7	—	9	64.3	5
1994	—	541	43.2	712	399	56.0	—	177	44.4	222
1995	—	1,486	41.6	2,084	1,274	61.1	—	469	36.8	805
1996	—	5,164	50.3	5,101	3,259	63.9	—	1,050	32.2	2,209
1997	—	9,568	59.6	6,498	4,832	74.4	—	1,959	40.5	2,873
1998	—	10,030	62.8	5,932	4,453	75.1	—	1,939	43.5	2,514
1999	—	10,584	64.2	5,909	4,050	68.5	—	1,652	40.8	2,398
2000	—	11,250	63.3	6,524	4,334	66.4	—	1,716	39.6	2,618
2001	—	10,401	62.8	6,152	3,858	62.7	—	1,430	37.1	2,428
2002	8	12,947	63.5	7,446	4,774	64.1	1	1,704	35.7	3,069
2003	4	13,231	65.8	6,877	4,514	65.6	—	1,712	37.9	2,802
2004	14	13,185	64.3	7,333	5,155	70.3	1	2,046	39.7	3,108
2005	29	9,064	64.5	4,983	3,537	71.0	—	1,408	39.8	2,129
2006	32	4,846	63.5	2,783	2,023	72.7	4	840	41.6	1,179
2007	9	2,426	67.9	1,148	864	75.3	12	359	42.1	493
2008	53	2,656	68.5	1,224	929	75.9	65	339	39.2	525
2009	64	2,470	71.3	996	720	72.3	336	144	37.5	240
2010	844	2,403	76.8	724	393	54.3	351	12	28.6	30

Table V.D2.—SSI Disabled Adult Reviews: Disposition ^a of Continuing Disability Medical Reviews by Fiscal Year of Initial Decision and Level of Decision (Cont.)

Fiscal year of initial DDS decision	Selected summary case information by decision status as of February 2011						
	Total initial decisions	Numbers of cases			Numbers as a percentage of total initial decisions		
		Continuations	Cessations pending an appeal decision	Cessations with no appeal pending	Continuations	Cessations pending an appeal decision	Cessations with no appeal pending
Reviews of concurrent title II/XVI cases initiated under title II							
1993	1,143	1,114	—	29	97.5	—	2.5
1994	10,945	9,845	—	1,100	89.9	—	10.1
1995	16,736	14,111	—	2,625	84.3	—	15.7
1996	26,884	22,938	—	3,946	85.3	—	14.7
1997	51,466	46,011	—	5,455	89.4	—	10.6
1998	81,185	75,194	—	5,991	92.6	—	7.4
1999	80,816	75,006	—	5,810	92.8	—	7.2
2000	105,787	99,048	—	6,739	93.6	—	6.4
2001	110,341	104,339	—	6,002	94.6	—	5.4
2002	103,947	97,450	8	6,489	93.7	f	6.2
2003	72,175	67,076	2	5,097	92.9	f	7.1
2004	84,622	79,420	15	5,187	93.9	f	6.1
2005	80,597	75,157	27	5,413	93.3	f	6.7
2006	71,825	67,391	36	4,398	93.8	0.1	6.1
2007	26,469	24,571	14	1,884	92.8	.1	7.1
2008	40,045	37,919	92	2,034	94.7	.2	5.1
2009	41,609	39,819	272	1,518	95.7	.7	3.6
2010	39,908	37,190	657	2,061	93.2	1.6	5.2
Title XVI initiated reviews							
1993	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1994	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1995	4,287	3,605	—	682	84.1	—	15.9
1996	55,025	50,185	—	4,840	91.2	—	8.8
1997	69,557	63,919	—	5,638	91.9	—	8.1
1998	75,071	70,137	—	4,934	93.4	—	6.6
1999	140,429	132,662	—	7,767	94.5	—	5.5
2000	173,470	163,945	—	9,525	94.5	—	5.5
2001	143,902	133,768	—	10,134	93.0	—	7.0
2002	172,527	160,107	1	12,419	92.8	f	7.2
2003	213,212	201,949	2	11,261	94.7	f	5.3
2004	221,129	210,796	—	10,333	95.3	—	4.7
2005	110,072	103,332	2	6,738	93.9	f	6.1
2006	40,605	38,041	—	2,564	93.7	—	6.3
2007	18,172	17,113	7	1,052	94.2	f	5.8
2008	18,933	18,016	26	891	95.2	.1	4.7
2009	29,137	28,266	128	743	97.0	.4	2.6
2010	34,575	32,870	538	1,167	95.1	1.6	3.4
Total reviews, SSI disabled adults							
1993	1,143	1,114	—	29	97.5	—	2.5
1994	10,945	9,845	—	1,100	89.9	—	10.1
1995	21,023	17,716	—	3,307	84.3	—	15.7
1996	81,909	73,123	—	8,786	89.3	—	10.7
1997	121,023	109,930	—	11,093	90.8	—	9.2
1998	156,256	145,331	—	10,925	93.0	—	7.0
1999	221,245	207,668	—	13,577	93.9	—	6.1
2000	279,257	262,993	—	16,264	94.2	—	5.8
2001	254,243	238,107	—	16,136	93.7	—	6.3
2002	276,474	257,557	9	18,908	93.2	f	6.8
2003	285,387	269,025	4	16,358	94.3	f	5.7
2004	305,751	290,216	15	15,520	94.9	f	5.1
2005	190,669	178,489	29	12,151	93.6	f	6.4
2006	112,430	105,432	36	6,962	93.8	f	6.2
2007	44,641	41,684	21	2,936	93.4	f	6.6
2008	58,978	55,935	118	2,925	94.8	.2	5.0
2009	70,746	68,085	400	2,261	96.2	.6	3.2
2010	74,483	70,060	1,195	3,228	94.1	1.6	4.3

^a Data reflect results as of February 2011. The ultimate numbers of continuations and cessations are subject to change until all appeals are final.

^b Percentage of decisions at this level.

^c Percentage of cessations at this level appealed to next level.

^d We do not reflect the status and disposition of cases in the Federal courts here. However, we have included information on the status and disposition at the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review (ODAR) for cases remanded to us by the courts. The excluded experience in the Federal courts has a minimal impact on the number of continuations.

^e Number of persons appealing beyond the reconsideration level.

^f Less than 0.05 percent.

Table V.D3.—SSI Disabled Child Reviews: Disposition^a of Continuing Disability Medical Reviews by Fiscal Year of Initial Decision and Level of Decision

Fiscal year of initial DDS decision	Initial decisions						
	Total initial DDS decisions	Continuations		Cessations		Appeals to reconsideration	
		Number	Percent ^b	Number	Percent ^b	Number	Percent ^c
Reviews of low-birth-weight children							
1994	1,225	771	62.9	454	37.1	159	35.0
1995	4,231	2,083	49.2	2,148	50.8	665	31.0
1996	5,709	2,491	43.6	3,218	56.4	904	28.1
1997	7,091	4,482	63.2	2,609	36.8	821	31.5
1998	17,620	6,092	34.6	11,528	65.4	3,640	31.6
1999	9,773	4,114	42.1	5,659	57.9	1,639	29.0
2000	10,178	4,566	44.9	5,612	55.1	1,561	27.8
2001	9,086	4,152	45.7	4,934	54.3	1,403	28.4
2002	12,732	5,869	46.1	6,863	53.9	1,953	28.5
2003	7,283	3,516	48.3	3,767	51.7	1,026	27.2
2004	12,060	6,075	50.4	5,985	49.6	1,782	29.8
2005	13,710	6,540	47.7	7,170	52.3	1,995	27.8
2006	8,303	4,030	48.5	4,273	51.5	1,229	28.8
2007	3,175	1,368	43.1	1,807	56.9	512	28.3
2008	5,272	2,231	42.3	3,041	57.7	937	30.8
2009	12,511	5,741	45.9	6,770	54.1	2,203	32.5
2010	22,396	9,048	40.4	13,348	59.6	4,407	33.0
Redeterminations at age 18							
1994	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1995	71	64	90.1	7	9.9	5	71.4
1996	12,640	8,158	64.5	4,482	35.5	2,055	45.9
1997	48,834	22,431	45.9	26,403	54.1	16,741	63.4
1998	40,945	21,453	52.4	19,492	47.6	10,915	56.0
1999	49,557	27,413	55.3	22,144	44.7	10,879	49.1
2000	51,713	28,863	55.8	22,850	44.2	11,021	48.2
2001	48,944	28,167	57.5	20,777	42.5	10,049	48.4
2002	54,947	32,388	58.9	22,559	41.1	11,549	51.2
2003	53,905	31,862	59.1	22,043	40.9	11,742	53.3
2004	53,232	31,890	59.9	21,342	40.1	11,584	54.3
2005	55,331	31,434	56.8	23,897	43.2	12,403	51.9
2006	40,640	21,796	53.6	18,844	46.4	9,341	49.6
2007	71,359	36,339	50.9	35,020	49.1	18,013	51.4
2008	69,430	34,547	49.8	34,883	50.2	18,095	51.9
2009	100,986	51,712	51.2	49,274	48.8	27,912	56.6
2010	87,310	41,545	47.6	45,765	52.4	24,211	52.9
All other reviews of SSI disabled children							
1994	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1995	3,535	2,501	70.7	1,034	29.3	541	52.3
1996	789	399	50.6	390	49.4	210	53.8
1997	14	8	57.1	6	42.9	3	50.0
1998	91,157	67,203	73.7	23,954	26.3	13,267	55.4
1999	183,211	129,420	70.6	53,791	29.4	28,410	52.8
2000	140,699	106,583	75.8	34,116	24.2	17,014	49.9
2001	95,835	72,896	76.1	22,939	23.9	11,808	51.5
2002	163,768	130,434	79.6	33,334	20.4	17,888	53.7
2003	127,444	100,522	78.9	26,922	21.1	14,876	55.3
2004	103,437	80,748	78.1	22,689	21.9	12,852	56.6
2005	61,387	45,597	74.3	15,790	25.7	8,400	53.2
2006	19,384	14,428	74.4	4,956	25.6	2,591	52.3
2007	4,440	3,161	71.2	1,279	28.8	671	52.5
2008	4,707	3,473	73.8	1,234	26.2	668	54.1
2009	10,637	8,355	78.5	2,282	21.5	1,242	54.4
2010	16,677	12,501	75.0	4,176	25.0	2,166	51.9
Total reviews, SSI disabled children							
1994	1,225	771	62.9	454	37.1	159	35.0
1995	7,837	4,648	59.3	3,189	40.7	1,211	38.0
1996	19,138	11,048	57.7	8,090	42.3	3,169	39.2
1997	55,939	26,921	48.1	29,018	51.9	17,565	60.5
1998	149,722	94,748	63.3	54,974	36.7	27,822	50.6
1999	242,541	160,947	66.4	81,594	33.6	40,928	50.2
2000	202,590	140,012	69.1	62,578	30.9	29,596	47.3
2001	153,865	105,215	68.4	48,650	31.6	23,260	47.8
2002	231,447	168,691	72.9	62,756	27.1	31,390	50.0
2003	188,632	135,900	72.0	52,732	28.0	27,644	52.4
2004	168,729	118,713	70.4	50,016	29.6	26,218	52.4
2005	130,428	83,571	64.1	46,857	35.9	22,798	48.7
2006	68,327	40,254	58.9	28,073	41.1	13,161	46.9
2007	78,974	40,868	51.7	38,106	48.3	19,196	50.4
2008	79,409	40,251	50.7	39,158	49.3	19,700	50.3
2009	124,134	65,808	53.0	58,326	47.0	31,357	53.8
2010	126,383	63,094	49.9	63,289	50.1	30,784	48.6

Table V.D3.—SSI Disabled Child Reviews: Disposition^a of Continuing Disability Medical Reviews by Fiscal Year of Initial Decision and Level of Decision (Cont.)

Fiscal year of initial DDS decision	Reconsiderations						Appeals beyond reconsideration ^d			
	Pending	Continuations		Cessations	Appeals to beyond reconsideration		Pending	Continuations		Cessations
		Number	Percent ^b		Number ^e	Percent ^c		Number	Percent	
Reviews of low-birth-weight children										
1994	—	44	27.7	115	51	44.3	—	15	29.4	36
1995	—	184	27.7	481	219	45.5	—	53	24.2	166
1996	—	329	36.4	575	232	40.3	—	44	19.0	188
1997	—	292	35.6	529	235	44.4	—	50	21.3	185
1998	—	1,231	33.8	2,409	1,142	47.4	—	244	21.4	898
1999	—	607	37.0	1,032	488	47.3	—	83	17.0	405
2000	—	609	39.0	952	452	47.5	—	99	21.9	353
2001	—	504	35.9	899	405	45.1	—	61	15.1	344
2002	—	698	35.7	1,255	549	43.7	—	112	20.4	437
2003	—	364	35.5	662	301	45.5	—	60	19.9	241
2004	—	643	36.1	1,139	554	48.6	—	83	15.0	471
2005	—	703	35.2	1,292	625	48.4	—	104	16.6	521
2006	—	421	34.3	808	415	51.4	1	78	18.8	336
2007	5	173	34.1	334	186	55.7	5	34	18.8	147
2008	31	265	29.2	641	339	52.9	26	52	16.6	261
2009	287	588	30.7	1,328	670	50.5	324	59	17.1	287
2010	2,312	780	37.2	1,315	470	35.7	415	6	10.9	49
Redeterminations at age 18										
1994	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1995	—	2	40.0	3	2	66.7	—	1	50.0	1
1996	—	707	34.4	1,348	584	43.3	—	119	20.4	465
1997	—	4,591	27.4	12,150	6,429	52.9	—	1,517	23.6	4,912
1998	—	3,070	28.1	7,845	4,388	55.9	—	1,026	23.4	3,362
1999	—	3,356	30.8	7,523	4,304	57.2	—	1,059	24.6	3,245
2000	—	3,575	32.4	7,446	4,034	54.2	—	1,017	25.2	3,017
2001	—	3,256	32.4	6,793	3,723	54.8	—	969	26.0	2,754
2002	—	3,819	33.1	7,730	4,125	53.4	—	1,100	26.7	3,025
2003	—	3,818	32.5	7,924	4,295	54.2	—	1,144	26.6	3,151
2004	—	3,531	30.5	8,053	4,645	57.7	—	1,293	27.8	3,352
2005	—	3,767	30.4	8,636	5,124	59.3	1	1,428	27.9	3,695
2006	1	2,587	27.7	6,753	4,124	61.1	8	1,190	28.9	2,926
2007	301	4,804	27.1	12,908	8,190	63.4	185	2,250	28.1	5,755
2008	798	5,096	29.5	12,201	7,896	64.7	497	1,830	24.7	5,569
2009	2,599	6,982	27.6	18,331	10,645	58.1	4,679	1,410	23.6	4,556
2010	10,358	4,229	30.5	9,624	4,129	42.9	3,528	152	25.3	449
All other reviews of SSI disabled children										
1994	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1995	—	177	32.7	364	202	55.5	—	52	25.7	150
1996	—	69	32.9	141	55	39.0	—	17	30.9	38
1997	—	1	33.3	2	1	50.0	—	—	—	1
1998	—	4,456	33.6	8,811	5,511	62.5	—	1,305	23.7	4,206
1999	—	9,324	32.8	19,086	11,711	61.4	—	2,615	22.3	9,096
2000	—	6,434	37.8	10,580	6,237	59.0	—	1,427	22.9	4,810
2001	—	4,619	39.1	7,189	4,257	59.2	—	955	22.4	3,302
2002	—	7,238	40.5	10,650	6,155	57.8	—	1,372	22.3	4,783
2003	—	6,248	42.0	8,628	4,996	57.9	—	1,148	23.0	3,848
2004	—	4,871	37.9	7,981	4,943	61.9	—	1,179	23.9	3,764
2005	1	3,121	37.2	5,278	3,326	63.0	—	763	22.9	2,563
2006	—	943	36.4	1,648	1,089	66.1	2	265	24.4	822
2007	3	269	40.3	399	261	65.4	4	78	30.4	179
2008	11	253	38.5	404	243	60.1	21	48	21.6	174
2009	119	499	44.4	624	356	57.1	207	25	16.8	124
2010	939	556	45.3	671	342	51.0	302	8	20.0	32
Total reviews, SSI disabled children										
1994	—	44	27.7	115	51	44.3	—	15	29.4	36
1995	—	363	30.0	848	423	49.9	—	106	25.1	317
1996	—	1,105	34.9	2,064	871	42.2	—	180	20.7	691
1997	—	4,884	27.8	12,681	6,665	52.6	—	1,567	23.5	5,098
1998	—	8,757	31.5	19,065	11,041	57.9	—	2,575	23.3	8,466
1999	—	13,287	32.5	27,641	16,503	59.7	—	3,757	22.8	12,746
2000	—	10,618	35.9	18,978	10,723	56.5	—	2,543	23.7	8,180
2001	—	8,379	36.0	14,881	8,385	56.3	—	1,985	23.7	6,400
2002	—	11,755	37.4	19,635	10,829	55.2	—	2,584	23.9	8,245
2003	—	10,430	37.7	17,214	9,592	55.7	—	2,352	24.5	7,240
2004	—	9,045	34.5	17,173	10,142	59.1	—	2,555	25.2	7,587
2005	1	7,591	33.3	15,206	9,075	59.7	1	2,295	25.3	6,779
2006	1	3,951	30.0	9,209	5,628	61.1	11	1,533	27.3	4,084
2007	309	5,246	27.8	13,641	8,637	63.3	194	2,362	28.0	6,081
2008	840	5,614	29.8	13,246	8,478	64.0	544	1,930	24.3	6,004
2009	3,005	8,069	28.5	20,283	11,671	57.5	5,210	1,494	23.1	4,967
2010	13,609	5,565	32.4	11,610	4,941	42.6	4,245	166	23.9	530

Table V.D3.—SSI Disabled Child Reviews: Disposition^a of Continuing Disability Medical Reviews by Fiscal Year of Initial Decision and Level of Decision (Cont.)

Fiscal year of initial DDS decision	Total initial decisions	Selected summary case information by decision status as of February 2011					
		Numbers of cases			Numbers as a percentage of total initial decisions		
		Continuations	Cessations pending an appeal decision	Cessations with no appeal pending	Continuations	Cessations pending an appeal decision	Cessations with no appeal pending
Reviews of low-birth-weight children							
1994	1,225	830	—	395	67.8	—	32.2
1995	4,231	2,320	—	1,911	54.8	—	45.2
1996	5,709	2,864	—	2,845	50.2	—	49.8
1997	7,091	4,824	—	2,267	68.0	—	32.0
1998	17,620	7,567	—	10,053	42.9	—	57.1
1999	9,773	4,804	—	4,969	49.2	—	50.8
2000	10,178	5,274	—	4,904	51.8	—	48.2
2001	9,086	4,717	—	4,369	51.9	—	48.1
2002	12,732	6,679	—	6,053	52.5	—	47.5
2003	7,283	3,940	—	3,343	54.1	—	45.9
2004	12,060	6,801	—	5,259	56.4	—	43.6
2005	13,710	7,347	—	6,363	53.6	—	46.4
2006	8,303	4,529	1	3,773	54.5	f	45.4
2007	3,175	1,575	10	1,590	49.6	0.3	50.1
2008	5,272	2,548	57	2,667	48.3	1.1	50.6
2009	12,511	6,388	611	5,512	51.1	4.9	44.1
2010	22,396	9,834	2,727	9,835	43.9	12.2	43.9
Redeterminations at age 18							
1994	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1995	71	67	—	4	94.4	—	5.6
1996	12,640	8,984	—	3,656	71.1	—	28.9
1997	48,834	28,539	—	20,295	58.4	—	41.6
1998	40,945	25,549	—	15,396	62.4	—	37.6
1999	49,557	31,828	—	17,729	64.2	—	35.8
2000	51,713	33,455	—	18,258	64.7	—	35.3
2001	48,944	32,392	—	16,552	66.2	—	33.8
2002	54,947	37,307	—	17,640	67.9	—	32.1
2003	53,905	36,824	—	17,081	68.3	—	31.7
2004	53,232	36,714	—	16,518	69.0	—	31.0
2005	55,331	36,629	1	18,701	66.2	f	33.8
2006	40,640	25,573	9	15,058	62.9	f	37.1
2007	71,359	43,393	486	27,480	60.8	.7	38.5
2008	69,430	41,473	1,295	26,662	59.7	1.9	38.4
2009	100,986	60,104	7,278	33,604	59.5	7.2	33.3
2010	87,310	45,926	13,886	27,498	52.6	15.9	31.5
All other reviews of SSI disabled children							
1994	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1995	3,535	2,730	—	805	77.2	—	22.8
1996	789	485	—	304	61.5	—	38.5
1997	14	9	—	5	64.3	—	35.7
1998	91,157	72,964	—	18,193	80.0	—	20.0
1999	183,211	141,359	—	41,852	77.2	—	22.8
2000	140,699	114,444	—	26,255	81.3	—	18.7
2001	95,835	78,470	—	17,365	81.9	—	18.1
2002	163,768	139,044	—	24,724	84.9	—	15.1
2003	127,444	107,918	—	19,526	84.7	—	15.3
2004	103,437	86,798	—	16,639	83.9	—	16.1
2005	61,387	49,481	1	11,905	80.6	f	19.4
2006	19,384	15,636	2	3,746	80.7	f	19.3
2007	4,440	3,508	7	925	79.0	.2	20.8
2008	4,707	3,774	32	901	80.2	.7	19.1
2009	10,637	8,879	326	1,432	83.5	3.1	13.5
2010	16,677	13,065	1,241	2,371	78.3	7.4	14.2
Total reviews, SSI disabled children							
1994	1,225	830	—	395	67.8	—	32.2
1995	7,837	5,117	—	2,720	65.3	—	34.7
1996	19,138	12,333	—	6,805	64.4	—	35.6
1997	55,939	33,372	—	22,567	59.7	—	40.3
1998	149,722	106,080	—	43,642	70.9	—	29.1
1999	242,541	177,991	—	64,550	73.4	—	26.6
2000	202,590	153,173	—	49,417	75.6	—	24.4
2001	153,865	115,579	—	38,286	75.1	—	24.9
2002	231,447	183,030	—	48,417	79.1	—	20.9
2003	188,632	148,682	—	39,950	78.8	—	21.2
2004	168,729	130,313	—	38,416	77.2	—	22.8
2005	130,428	93,457	2	36,969	71.7	f	28.3
2006	68,327	45,738	12	22,577	66.9	f	33.0
2007	78,974	48,476	503	29,995	61.4	.6	38.0
2008	79,409	47,795	1,384	30,230	60.2	1.7	38.1
2009	124,134	75,371	8,215	40,548	60.7	6.6	32.7
2010	126,383	68,825	17,854	39,704	54.5	14.1	31.4

^a Data reflect results as of February 2011. The ultimate numbers of continuations and cessations are subject to change until all appeals are final.

^b Percentage of decisions at this level.

^c Percentage of cessations at this level appealed to next level.

^d We do not reflect the status and disposition of cases in the Federal courts here. However, we have included information on the status and disposition at the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review (ODAR) for cases remanded to us by the courts. The excluded experience in the Federal courts has a minimal impact on the number of continuations.

^e Number of persons appealing beyond the reconsideration level.

^f Less than 0.05 percent.

E. INCENTIVES FOR WORK AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR REHABILITATION

1. Work Incentives

Since the beginning of the SSI program, a number of disabled or blind recipients have worked and received SSI payments. Initially, the program contained a basic earned income exclusion that recognized the additional costs associated with employment. In addition, the law contained a number of special income exclusions designed to encourage work. The income exclusion for blind work expenses (BWE), plan to achieve self-support (PASS), and student earned income exclusion (SEIE) were among these provisions.

In the 1980 amendments to the Social Security Act, Congress provided additional incentives to help SSI disabled recipients become self-supporting. These incentives included:

- Providing for an earned income exclusion for impairment-related work expenses (IRWE);
- Changing the treatment of sheltered workshop earnings from unearned income to earned income, thereby qualifying sheltered workshop earnings for the earned income exclusion;
- Providing for the continuation of SSI payments for certain disabled individuals enrolled in vocational rehabilitation programs whose disability ceased due to medical recovery (extended to SSI blind recipients, effective April 1988);
- Establishing section 1619, which provided:
 - In subsection 1619(a), special SSI cash benefits to disabled individuals who lose eligibility for SSI payments because they have earnings exceeding the level that is ordinarily considered to represent substantial gainful activity (SGA), and
 - In subsection 1619(b), special SSI recipient status for Medicaid purposes to working disabled or blind individuals when their earnings make them ineligible for cash payments.

We discuss the incentives for work and opportunities for rehabilitation in more detail in section III.E. In the following tables we provide historical information on participation by SSI recipients in work incentive programs.¹

a. Numbers of Participants in Work Incentive Programs

In this section, we present historical data on participation by SSI recipients in work incentive programs. Table V.E1 presents historical numbers of SSI recipients categorized according to their section 1619 status. Figure V.E1 presents this information in graphical form.

¹ More detailed information on participation by SSI recipients in work incentive programs is provided in the *SSI Annual Statistical Report, Pub. No. 13-11827*, prepared by the Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics, Social Security Administration.

Table V.E1.—SSI Federally-Administered Blind or Disabled Working Recipients as of December, 1987-2010

Year	SGA level ^a	In current-payment status		1619(b) workers ^d	Total workers
		1619(a) workers ^b	Other workers ^c		
1987.....	\$300	14,559	142,664	15,632	172,855
1988.....	300	19,920	153,599	15,625	189,144
1989.....	300	25,655	161,928	18,254	205,837
1990.....	500	13,994	182,421	23,517	219,932
1991.....	500	15,531	186,824	27,264	229,619
1992.....	500	17,603	199,665	31,649	248,917
1993.....	500	20,028	210,322	35,299	265,649
1994.....	500	24,315	217,478	40,683	282,476
1995.....	500	28,060	223,573	47,002	298,635
1996.....	500	31,085	225,310	51,905	308,300
1997.....	500	34,673	228,093	57,089	319,855
1998.....	500	37,271	229,662	59,542	326,475
1999.....	^e 700	25,528	245,825	69,265	340,618
2000.....	700	27,542	249,313	83,572	360,427
2001.....	740	22,100	247,555	76,455	346,110
2002.....	780	17,271	241,462	82,177	340,910
2003.....	800	17,132	235,453	71,097	323,682
2004.....	810	17,114	237,409	73,681	328,204
2005.....	830	17,621	240,744	78,205	336,570
2006.....	860	17,394	242,676	89,350	349,420
2007.....	900	16,939	242,854	97,551	357,344
2008.....	940	16,142	240,138	99,482	355,762
2009.....	980	11,900	236,741	91,534	340,175
2010.....	1,000	11,305	234,481	72,751	318,537

- ^a Increases in 2001 and subsequent years are based on increases in the national average wage index.
- ^b Workers' earnings are above SGA level.
- ^c Workers' earnings are at or below SGA level.
- ^d 1619(b) recipients are not in current-payment status but retain SSI recipient status for Medicaid purposes.
- ^e Increased to \$700 in July 1999.

Figure V.E1.—SSI Federally-Administered Blind or Disabled Working Recipients as of December, 1987-2010

[In thousands]

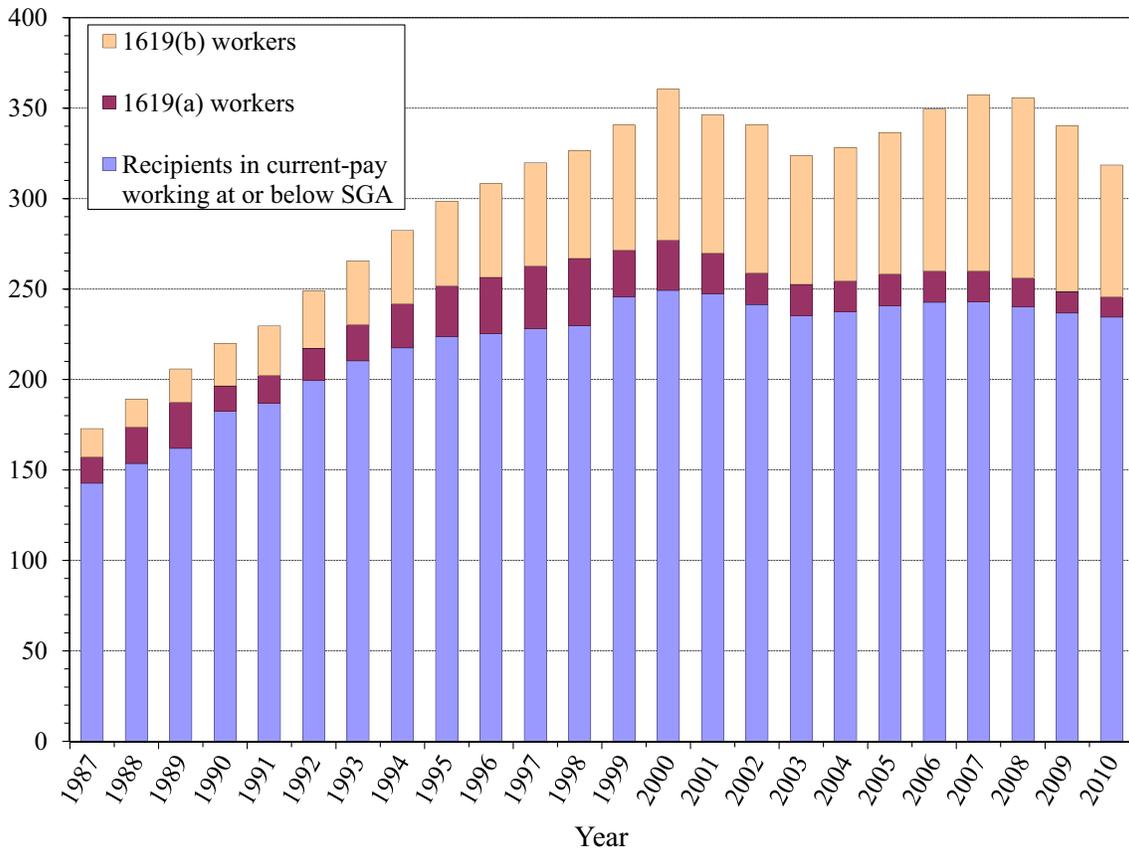


Table V.E2 presents historical numbers of SSI recipients who benefit from other selected work incentive provisions: (1) plan to achieve self-support (PASS); (2) impairment-related work expense exclusion (IRWE); and (3) blind work expense exclusion (BWE). These recipients may be benefiting from more than one of these selected work incentive provisions. This information is available only for calendar years 1990 and later.

Table V.E2.—SSI Federally-Administered Blind or Disabled Individuals with SSI Recipient Status Participating in Other Work Incentives as of December, 1990-2010

Year	PASS ^a			IRWE	BWE
	Non-workers	Workers	Total		
1990.....	1,215	1,040	2,255	5,384	4,385
1991.....	1,969	1,601	3,570	6,546	4,330
1992.....	3,189	2,658	5,847	7,813	4,454
1993.....	4,528	3,602	8,130	8,629	4,406
1994.....	5,842	4,487	10,329	9,484	4,380
1995.....	5,719	4,603	10,322	9,940	4,433
1996.....	2,760	1,944	4,704	9,799	4,230
1997.....	1,290	708	1,998	9,637	4,116
1998.....	712	362	1,074	9,301	3,802
1999.....	698	347	1,045	9,520	3,971
2000.....	862	520	1,382	9,422	3,895
2001.....	1,024	576	1,600	8,798	3,642
2002.....	1,150	571	1,721	8,047	3,386
2003.....	1,181	524	1,705	7,604	3,074
2004.....	1,112	486	1,598	6,874	2,827
2005.....	1,089	493	1,582	6,310	2,552
2006.....	1,098	485	1,583	5,650	2,370
2007.....	1,003	512	1,515	5,161	2,142
2008.....	1,074	485	1,559	4,572	1,925
2009.....	1,037	420	1,457	3,862	1,643
2010.....	1,001	392	1,393	3,491	1,847

^a For years 1990 through 1996, data do not include PASS plans which exclude only resources.

Note: Working recipients participating in these other work incentives may be 1619(a) recipients, 1619(b) recipients or working recipients whose earnings are at or below the SGA level.

b. Average Earnings of Participants in Work Incentive Programs

In this section, we present historical data on average earnings of SSI working recipients. Table V.E3 presents average earnings of SSI recipients categorized according to their section 1619 status.

Table V.E3.—Average Monthly Earnings of SSI Federally-Administered Blind or Disabled Working Recipients, as of December, 1987-2010

Year	Blind or disabled workers with SSI recipient status			
	In current-payment status		1619(b) workers ^c	Total workers
	1619(a) workers ^a	Other workers ^b		
1987.....	\$494	^d \$124	\$739	^d \$211
1988.....	522	^d 127	721	^d 218
1989.....	518	^d 131	712	^d 231
1990.....	712	145	746	245
1991.....	724	148	780	262
1992.....	726	150	781	271
1993.....	728	153	784	280
1994.....	746	157	803	301
1995.....	754	160	834	322
1996.....	764	162	881	344
1997.....	772	164	932	367
1998.....	772	182	954	390
1999.....	926	207	980	418
2000.....	945	239	1,048	481
2001.....	1,004	252	1,043	475
2002.....	1,043	253	1,094	495
2003.....	1,059	241	1,081	469
2004.....	1,076	246	1,070	474
2005.....	1,111	255	1,118	500
2006.....	1,166	258	1,193	542
2007.....	1,193	262	1,267	581
2008.....	1,235	259	1,340	605
2009.....	1,262	252	1,327	577
2010.....	1,260	244	1,266	513

^a In January 1990, the SGA level was raised from \$300 to \$500 and section 1619(a) participants with earnings at or below \$500 became eligible for regular SSI benefits rather than the special cash payments under section 1619(a). The SGA level was further increased to \$700 in July 1999, with increases in 2001 and subsequent years based on increases in the national average wage index. The 2010 SGA level of \$1,000 remains unchanged for 2011.

^b Workers' earnings are at or below the SGA level.

^c 1619(b) recipients are not in current-payment status but retain SSI recipient status for Medicaid purposes.

^d Estimated.

2. Vocational Rehabilitation/Ticket to Work Program

Provisions designed to make vocational rehabilitation (VR) services available to SSI blind or disabled recipients have been part of the SSI program since its inception. From the beginning, SSA referred SSI recipients to State VR agencies, which provided services to those recipients they accepted as clients. Prior to 1981, SSA made block grants to VR agencies to fund services to disabled beneficiaries. The 1981 amendments changed this and established a “cost” reimbursement provision. Under this provision, we reimburse VR agencies for the cost of VR services furnished to blind or disabled SSI recipients only if the services result in the recipient returning to work. For reimbursement purposes, we consider recipients to have returned to work if they have had earnings exceeding the SGA level for 9 continuous months.

The 1984 amendments authorized reimbursement for cases¹ where the recipient medically recovers while engaged in a program of rehabilitation services approved by SSA and SSA determines that continuation or completion of such a program would increase the likelihood the individual will permanently leave the rolls. The 1990 amendments authorized reimbursement for the cost of services the VR agencies provide in months in which the individual is not receiving Federal SSI benefits if the individual:

- Has special SSI recipient status for Medicaid purposes under section 1619(b) of the Social Security Act;
- Receives a Federally-administered State supplementary payment; or
- Temporarily loses eligibility for SSI benefits for fewer than 13 consecutive months for a reason other than cessation of disability or blindness.

In 1994, SSA amended the regulations to include reimbursement to alternate private and non-State public VR providers (“alternate participants”) that provided VR services to recipients that a State VR agency had not accepted as clients. The Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 subsequently replaced the alternate provider program with the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency program (Ticket to Work program).

Under the Ticket to Work program, a disabled beneficiary may obtain vocational rehabilitation, employment and other support services from qualified private or public providers—“Employment Networks” (ENs). The Ticket to Work program authorized the Commissioner to provide payments to ENs under either an outcome payment system or an outcome-milestone payment system. (State VR agencies may elect on a case-by-case basis to receive payment under the traditional VR reimbursement system, or as an EN under the outcome or outcome-milestone payment system.) By expanding the pool of providers and giving the providers incentives for achieving success, this program expands access to these services for persons with disabilities to assist them in finding, entering, and retaining employment as well as reducing their dependence on cash benefits.

Beginning in February 2002, SSA implemented the Ticket to Work program on a State-by-State basis, completing the implementation nationwide in September 2004. As we implemented the Ticket to Work program in a State, we eliminated the alternate provider and the traditional VR referral process described earlier. SSA provided eligible individuals who received SSI benefits due to blindness or disability in such a State with a Ticket to Work document (“ticket”). Beneficiaries who receive a ticket may use it to obtain from ENs or their State VR agencies vocational rehabilitation services, employment services and other support services needed to return to work or go to work for the first time. Individuals not eligible for a

¹ The 1980 amendments provided for benefit continuation for such SSI recipients who were continuing in a VR program after their disability had ceased. The provision was extended to blind recipients effective April 1988.

ticket may still request services from a State VR agency; the VR agency continues to decide whether each beneficiary is eligible for services under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The Ticket legislation required that SSA establish a corps of work incentives specialists to disseminate accurate information about work incentives. In addition, the Social Security Protection Act of 2004 mandated that SSA provide a work report receipt to the beneficiary. SSA responded to these mandates with the following actions:

- In fiscal year 2003, SSA established the Area Work Incentives Coordinator (AWIC) position and trained a total of 58 AWICs, assigning at least one AWIC to each Area Office. We created the AWIC position to improve the quality of employment support services provided to beneficiaries through training, outreach, and better coordination of support services. As of fiscal year 2011, there are 55 AWICs on duty.
- In fiscal year 2004, SSA released eWork, a web-based design application that provides a uniform electronic system to process and control title II return to work cases. Since eWork does not communicate with any title XVI systems, SSA developed a web-based application, the SSI Monthly Wage Verification (SSIMWV), to process and control SSI work reports. The SSIMWV allows SSA employees to issue the mandated work report receipt in addition to processing the wage report. We released SSIMWV nationally in November 2006.
- In fiscal year 2006, SSA awarded cooperative agreements in all States, the District of Columbia, and Territories under the new Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) program, which replaced and enhanced the former Benefits Planning, Assistance, and Outreach (BPAO) program. The WIPA program continues to provide accurate information about work incentive programs and other employment support services, as well as planning and assistance services, to beneficiaries with disabilities to support and facilitate their transition into the workforce.

In fiscal year 2003, AWIC employees provided refresher training on employment supports to the local Work Incentive Liaisons (WIL) located in each of the 1,335 local field offices. Beginning in fiscal year 2004, SSA updated the systems application phase of this training with the release of eWork. We provided training to all direct service employees in field offices, teleservice centers and the payment processing centers. We completed this training initiative in November 2004.

AWICs have also been very active in participating in outreach activities in their local areas and continue to be the primary point of contact for public information outreach in the communities. They have strengthened the relationship with our Ticket to Work partners: the ENs; WIPAs; Protection and Advocacy (P&A) agencies and Disability Program Navigators. AWICs also work closely with the regional plan to achieve self-support (PASS) cadres in SSA to make joint educational presentations to the community about our employment support programs. The partnership has strengthened support of one of the objectives of the Ticket to Work program, which is to educate the public about the benefits of returning to work and becoming self-sufficient. We have made presentations directly to persons with disabilities and/or entities that provide services to this target group, including presentations at:

- Work Incentives Seminar Events (WISE)
- Disability Employment Fairs
- Disability Forums and Expos
- Technical Colleges
- Universities

- Disability Resource Centers
- One-Stop Career Centers
- Small Business Administration Groups
- Workforce Investment Fairs
- Independent Living Councils' Conferences
- United Way Agencies
- State Advocacy Groups

In 2008, SSA revised the Ticket to Work regulations to enhance beneficiary choice and improve the effectiveness of the program. The revisions extended the program to all adult SSDI and SSI blind or disabled beneficiaries, removed disincentives for Employment Networks to participate in the program, provided incentives for them to support beneficiaries through a more gradual return to work, and positioned them to better support ongoing retention of employment. Since we published the new regulations, SSA has noted promising trends:

- The number of beneficiaries initiating return to work programs increased 43 percent, from 203,664 on May 1, 2008 to 291,881 on March 1, 2011; and
- In 2009, the number of beneficiaries receiving services under the Ticket to Work Program who worked increased 9 percent (from 96,993 to 105,843) over calendar year 2008.

See section V.G.1.d for information on the evaluation of the Ticket to Work program.

Table V.E4 provides historical data on the number of VR agency reimbursement claims allowed and the amount of such awards for SSI recipients.

In a somewhat broader context of providing work incentives for disabled beneficiaries of both the OASDI and SSI programs, the President's FY 2012 Budget contains a proposal to test a framework for simplifying the rather complicated array of work incentives available under the OASDI program. Under the proposed Work Incentives Simplification Program (WISP), we would treat earnings of OASDI disabled beneficiaries more like the treatment of earnings for SSI disabled adults under SSI.

Table V.E4.—Vocational Rehabilitation Reimbursement Claims Allowed, Fiscal Years 1987-2010

Fiscal year	Concurrent title II/XVI claims		Title XVI only claims		Total claims	
	Number	Amount ^a (in thousands)	Number	Amount (in thousands)	Number	Amount ^a (in thousands)
1987.....	b	b	1,493	\$10,010	b	b
1988.....	b	b	1,720	14,831	b	b
1989.....	b	b	1,871	18,366	b	b
1990.....	1,267	\$3,290	2,819	22,832	4,086	\$26,122
1991.....	1,445	4,325	2,171	20,615	3,616	24,940
1992.....	1,634	5,312	2,834	28,276	4,468	33,588
1993.....	1,928	6,670	2,158	22,264	4,086	28,934
1994.....	1,880	7,057	2,074	23,400	3,954	30,457
1995.....	2,140	7,761	2,229	26,402	4,369	34,162
1996.....	2,033	6,518	2,138	24,334	4,171	30,852
1997.....	2,735	8,541	2,914	31,532	5,649	40,073
1998.....	3,329	10,089	3,446	36,313	6,775	46,402
1999.....	3,572	11,403	4,046	42,281	7,618	53,684
2000.....	3,260	11,357	3,589	40,793	6,849	52,150
2001.....	2,388	9,590	2,763	34,842	5,151	44,432
2002.....	3,241	12,201	3,474	43,244	6,715	55,445
2003.....	2,139	8,110	1,993	25,238	4,132	33,348
2004.....	1,999	7,759	2,150	26,390	4,149	34,149
2005.....	1,883	7,420	1,692	21,866	3,575	29,286
2006.....	2,581	10,382	2,257	28,597	4,838	38,979
2007.....	2,037	8,407	1,871	26,468	3,908	34,875
2008.....	2,743	11,229	2,515	35,732	5,258	46,961
2009.....	2,567	11,046	2,373	34,801	4,940	45,847
2010.....	2,337	9,431	2,109	32,511	4,446	41,942

^a For concurrent title II/XVI claims, amounts shown represent title XVI portion of claim.

^b For fiscal years 1987-89, data on title II reimbursement claims involving concurrent title XVI reimbursement claims are not available.

Note: Totals do not necessarily equal the sums of rounded components.

Table V.E5 provides historical data on the number of Employment Network payments allowed and the amount of such payments for SSI recipients.

Table V.E5.—Employment Network Payments Allowed, Fiscal Years 2002-10^a

Fiscal year	Concurrent title II/XVI payments		Title XVI only payments		Total payments	
	Number	Amount ^b (in thousands)	Number	Amount (in thousands)	Number	Amount ^b (in thousands)
2002.....	7	\$1	1	^c	8	\$1
2003.....	138	19	260	\$47	398	66
2004.....	245	35	674	127	919	162
2005.....	692	105	1,292	251	1,984	356
2006.....	975	137	1,648	317	2,623	454
2007.....	1,259	181	1,713	334	2,972	515
2008.....	1,827	274	2,524	520	4,351	794
2009.....	2,575	594	3,282	1,310	5,857	1,904
2010.....	3,461	864	3,819	1,704	7,280	2,568

^a Does not include reimbursements to State VR agencies for tickets assigned under the VR cost reimbursement option.

^b For concurrent title II/XVI payments, amounts shown represent title XVI portion of the payments.

^c Less than \$500.

Note: Totals do not necessarily equal the sums of rounded components.

F. INVOLVEMENT OF SSI RECIPIENTS IN OTHER PROGRAMS

In this appendix, we present statistics on participation by SSI recipients in other programs using data from the Supplemental Security Record (SSR), the main administrative file for the SSI program. We develop summary data on (1) current participation by SSI recipients in other programs from a 100-percent extract of the SSR and (2) previous participation by SSI recipients in other programs from a 10-percent extract of the SSR. Both sets of summary data are representative of the overall SSI recipient population.

Since the amount of an individual's income affects both the eligibility for, and the amount of, his or her SSI benefit, the SSR must contain information on participation by SSI recipients in certain other programs, which may provide countable income to the SSI recipient. A significant number of SSI recipients are Social Security beneficiaries whose total countable income, including OASDI benefits, is less than the Federal benefit rate plus the amount of applicable Federally-administered State supplementary payment. A smaller number of SSI recipients participate in other programs and receive income such as Workers' Compensation benefits or disability cash benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SSA does not maintain complete information in its administrative files concerning the involvement of SSI recipients in other assistance programs, because under the law payments from such programs are not countable income attributable to the individual. We do, however, have some data with regard to entitlement to benefits under two other programs—Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (which replaced Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)) and State Interim Assistance Reimbursement—at the point that the individual applied for SSI benefits. TANF (and AFDC previously) is a State program funded under Part A of title IV of the Social Security Act. Interim assistance is assistance a State gives to SSI applicants in cash or vendor payments for meeting basic needs while they are awaiting the outcome of the SSI eligibility determination process.

Table V.F1 presents percentages of SSI recipients who (1) concurrently receive payments from certain other selected programs or (2) have previously received TANF/AFDC benefits or Interim Assistance Reimbursement.

Table V.F1.—Percentage of SSI Federally-Administered Recipients in Current-Payment Status with Participation^a in Selected Programs Based on SSA Administrative Records, December 2010

	Age groups			All
	0-17	18-64	65 or older	
Number of Federally-administered recipients, December 2010 (in thousands).....	1,239	4,632	2,041	7,912
Program	(In percent)			
Program participation by SSI recipients, December 2010				
Federal SSI.....	99.9	97.2	93.9	96.8
Federally-administered State SSI supplementation	20.1	26.6	47.4	30.2
OASDI	7.4	31.5	56.2	34.1
Black Lung.....	^b	^b	^b	^b
Railroad Retirement.....	^b	^b	0.1	^b
Veterans Affairs disability cash benefits.....	0.1	0.3	1.3	0.5
Workers' Compensation.....	^b	0.1	^b	0.1
Previous program participation by SSI recipients, December 2010				
TANF/AFDC.....	28.5	26.4	10.3	22.6
Interim Assistance Reimbursement	0.7	13.9	10.9	11.1

^a SSI recipients or households of SSI recipients may participate in more than one of these programs.

^b Less than 0.05 percent of SSI recipients in this gender/age grouping participate in the program.

Note: Total numbers of recipients do not necessarily equal the sums of rounded components.

There are other potential sources for information on SSI recipients when that information is not available on the SSI administrative files. These sources include the following:

- The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), a U.S. Census Bureau sample survey, is comprised of a continuous series of national panels that collect information such as the source and amount of income, asset holdings, program participation and general demographic characteristics for the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population.
- The Current Population Survey (CPS), a U.S. Census Bureau sample survey conducted monthly by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics is the primary source of information on the labor force characteristics of the U.S. population. The CPS March Supplement (the Annual Social and Economic Supplement), collects, in addition to the usual monthly labor force data, information on income, noncash benefits, program participation and general demographic characteristics for the U.S. resident noninstitutionalized population.
- The Health and Retirement Study, a survey sponsored by the National Institute on Aging and conducted by the University of Michigan, is a biennial survey that collects information such as health status, health care utilization, income, asset holdings, program participation and general demographic characteristics for the U. S. population over age 50.

G RESEARCH ON RELATED TOPICS

The legislative mandate for this report requires inclusion of information about “relevant research on the SSI program by the Social Security Administration (SSA) and others.” Section 1 of this appendix describes major ongoing projects. Section 2 presents a bibliography of studies regarding SSI payment levels, recipients, and reform proposals that were published in the past 10 years by both public and private entities.

1. Ongoing Research

a. SSI Policy Simulations

Using Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) data matched to administrative records, SSA researchers have developed a model of financial eligibility for SSI to estimate the rate of participation among the eligible elderly and the effects of various options to modify the SSI program (see Davies et al. 2001/2002). The model suggests that the rate of participation among the eligible elderly was about 62 percent in 1991. The comparable participation rate estimate at the end of 1996 was also 62 percent. An updated version of the model uses the 2004 SIPP matched to administrative records. We are developing a participation rate estimate for the elderly based on the 2004 model and examining patterns of differences from previous estimates in the literature.

We used the model to simulate the potential effects of several approaches to expand the SSI program to fight poverty among the elderly. Approaches focusing on incremental changes in the Federal benefit rate, the general income exclusion, and the resources test appear roughly equally effective in reducing the poverty gap among the elderly on a cost-equivalent basis, while two approaches focusing on relaxing the earned income exclusion are less effective (Davies, Rupp, and Strand, 2004). More recently, we expanded the model to address SSI participation and financial eligibility among the working-age disabled, and to assess SSI benefit restructuring options for the entire SSI population. The working-aged model allows for the identification of working-aged persons by their SSI financial eligibility status, DI insured status, and participation in both programs. We used the expanded model to assess SSI’s role in complementing DI and enhancing the safety net for the working-aged population (Rupp, Davies, and Strand, 2008). We simulated the effects of several approaches to changing in-kind support and maintenance rules and options for altering the calculation of the Federal benefit rate for certain living arrangement categories (Balkus et al. 2009). Simulation results for current elderly, working-age, and child SSI populations provide up-to-date estimates for potential program changes. We also studied eligibility for Medicare buy-in programs with the financial eligibility model (see Rupp and Sears 2000; Sears 2001/2002). In unpublished internal research, we used the model to estimate the size of the population potentially eligible for the Medicare Part D low income subsidy.

b. National Survey of SSI Children and Families

The National Survey of SSI Children and Families (NSCF) addressed a number of SSA policy and program objectives. One objective was to address issues specifically pertaining to the effects of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (welfare reform). However, the survey as designed is useful for the study of a broader range of issues of current interest to policy makers. Most importantly, it allows for the analysis of a nationally representative cross-section of SSI beneficiary children aged 0-17 and young adults aged 18-23. Among the questions the survey answers are the following:

- What are the characteristics of SSI children?
- What alternative sources of care are available to disabled children who lose SSI benefits?
- How is quality of life and utilization of medical services impacted by gaining or losing SSI benefits?
- What is the cost of caring for a child with disabilities?
- What are the uses of SSI benefits?
- What is the impact of the nature and severity of the child's disabilities on parental labor force participation?

The NSCF data collection began July 2001 and concluded June 2002. The NSCF sample size was considerably larger for SSI children and young adults than the sample size available in other surveys. Altogether, the NSCF includes 8,535 completed interviews, including 5,006 who received SSI benefits in December 2000 and 5,033 who received SSI benefits in December 1996. NSCF documentation is available on the SSA website at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityresearch/nscf.htm>. Davies and Rupp (2005/2006) provides an overview of the survey and describes some key features. Other analyses using these data are discussed in section c below. Although it was a cross-sectional data collection effort, we continue to update the match between NSCF and SSI administrative records with longitudinal data on SSI program participation.

c. Analytic Studies

A number of studies by SSA researchers provide a better understanding of the SSI program, the elderly and disabled target populations, program interactions, and the role of the SSI program in the United States social safety net. Koenig and Rupp (2003/2004) estimates the prevalence of households and families with multiple SSI recipients and provided an assessment of the poverty status of multirecipient households. Rupp and Davies (2004) tracks survey respondents from the 1984 SIPP for 14 years using administrative records on SSI and DI participation and death events to assess the relationship between self-reported health status, disabilities, mortality, and participation in the SSI and DI programs. Weathers et al. (2007) uses a unique longitudinal dataset based on administrative data from the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) linked to SSA administrative records to conduct a case study of SSI children who applied for postsecondary education at NTID. Another study uses SSA administrative records from August 2005 through August 2007 to analyze SSI recipients who lived in counties and parishes affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (Davies and Hemmeter 2010). Hemmeter (2009) examines the occupational distribution of SSI disability recipients aged 18-61 who work. Hemmeter and Gilby (2009) analyzes age-18 redetermination outcomes for SSI youth, including appeals of initial cessations and subsequent reapplications for benefits after a period of ineligibility.

Several studies focus on the distributional effects of the SSI program through its interactions with other Federal and State programs. One on-going study is utilizing longitudinal data from the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) to assess the role of SSI and related social safety net programs in providing a buffer against the potentially adverse effects of disability shocks in the near-elderly population on financial well-being. Rupp et al. (2008) provides an empirical analysis of the SSI Federal benefit rate for assessing benefit adequacy among elderly Social Security beneficiaries and the effectiveness of the SSI benefit eligibility screens for targeting economically vulnerable elderly beneficiaries. Balkus et al. (2009) examines the distributional effects of replacing current policies on living arrangements and in-kind support with a simpler, cost neutral alternative. Rupp and Strand (2007) highlights the distributional implications of Social Security reform scenarios involving a potential shift from wage indexing to price indexing or longevity indexing in the establishment of initial benefits. Strand (2010) uses matched SIPP records to examine potential eligibility for three major means-tested programs (SSI, Medicaid, and Food Stamp) among near retirees

aged 55 to 64 and eventual SSI participation upon reaching age 65. Rupp, Davies, and Strand (2008) finds that over one-third of the working-age population is covered by SSI in the event of a severe disability, providing disability benefit coverage to many who are not DI-insured and enhancing the potential bundle of disability cash benefits among a substantial segment of those who are DI-insured. Rupp and Riley (forthcoming) analyzes longitudinal patterns of interaction between DI and SSI and finds that a quarter of the year 2000 cohort of first-ever working age disability awardees were involved with both programs over a 60 month period. On-going research by Rupp and Riley analyzes interactions between SSI, DI, Medicaid and Medicare on a cohort of SSI and DI awardees utilizing matched administrative data from SSA and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Wamhoff and Wiseman (2005/2006) examines the financial consequences of TANF-to-SSI transfers and develops new estimates of both the prevalence of receipt of SSI benefits among families receiving cash assistance from TANF and the proportion of new SSI awards that go to adults and children residing in families receiving TANF-related benefits. Trenkamp and Wiseman (2007) addresses the connections between the SSI and Food Stamp programs. Meijer, Karoly, and Michaud (2009, 2010) analyzes eligibility for the Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy, which is based on a simplified SSI methodology. Kemp (2010) conducts a descriptive analysis of the SSI Student Earned Income Exclusion.

In 2003 and again in 2005 SSA provided funding for interviewing supplemental samples of SSI and DI beneficiaries to increase the SIPP sample size available for analyses of these target groups. DeCesaro and Hemmeter (2008) examines the characteristics of DI and SSI program participants using the 2003 supplemental sample combined with the 2001 SIPP, both matched to administrative records. Using data from the Current Population Survey matched to SSA administrative records, Nicholas and Wiseman (2009) assesses the impact of using administrative records on poverty estimation among elderly SSI recipients using the official and alternative definitions of poverty. Wiseman and Ycas (2008) compares the Canadian social assistance program for the elderly with the SSI program, looking at program structure, cost and consequences for elderly poverty rates.

A number of studies utilize the NSCF to focus on children and young adults receiving SSI. Rupp et al. (2005/2006) presents highlights from the survey characterizing SSI children with disabilities and their families. Additional research studies employment and caregiving patterns of parents of SSI children (Rupp and Ressler 2009), examines employment and program outcomes among young adults after their eligibility redetermination at age 18 (Hemmeter, Kauff, and Wittenburg 2009), and analyzes factors affecting out-of-pocket medical expenses and unmet health care needs of disabled children (DeCesaro and Hemmeter 2009). These papers appear in a special issue of the *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation* (volume 30, number 3) devoted to SSI children and young adults and the transition to adulthood. The special issue also includes a paper that introduces the issue and examines the life-cycle human capital development and longer-term SSI and earnings outcomes of SSI youth as they transition to adulthood (Davies, Rupp, and Wittenburg 2009), as well as two papers that focus on SSA's Youth Transition Demonstration (Fraker and Rangarajan 2009; Luecking and Wittenburg 2009). The articles from the special issue are available on SSA's web site at <http://socialsecurity.gov/policy/JVR.html>.

d. Evaluation of the Ticket to Work Program

The Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 requires the Commissioner of Social Security to provide for independent evaluations to assess the effectiveness of the Ticket to Work program and to submit three separate evaluation reports to Congress. The evaluation includes a survey of beneficiaries with disabilities and participants in the Ticket to Work program that collects information on the health and well-being of beneficiaries and on how beneficiaries use the Ticket to Work program.

Rounds one, two, and three of the National Beneficiary Survey have concluded with an overall response rate of 78 percent, with responses from more than 20,000 beneficiaries with disabilities. We delayed

Round Four of the survey because of the Ticket to Work program changes implemented in 2008. We completed Round Four in 2010.

We submitted the first evaluation report to Congress in 2004 (Thornton et al. 2004)¹, and also published the first interim evaluation report early in 2006 (Thornton et al. 2006)¹. We submitted the third, post-FY 2005, evaluation report to Congress in October 2007 and the post-FY 2006 report in October of 2008.

The reports indicate low but growing participation rates with the vast majority of ticket assignments going to State vocational rehabilitation agencies. The findings thus far indicate that the Ticket to Work program has significant potential, but the program needs improvements in beneficiary awareness and Employment Network (EN) incentives. Survey findings show that many more beneficiaries are interested in joining the workforce than is reflected in Ticket to Work participation. Most beneficiaries remain unaware of the Ticket to Work program despite various efforts to publicize the program. Among those who are aware, a small but significant number who have tried to use their ticket have been unable to find an EN to accept it.

Many beneficiaries who are participating in the Ticket to Work program are reaching employment success, and those who leave the disability rolls appear to be not receiving benefits for sustained periods. The evaluation has also found that employment success may take longer to achieve than previously anticipated. Among the earliest participants in Ticket to Work, a small but steady stream of new exits from disability benefits continued to occur more than four years after Ticket to Work participation began. Participation by ENs had been anemic, and the evaluation indicated that the initial payment rules were insufficient for ENs to cover their costs. Our initiatives to reduce EN costs helped but were not enough to help ENs reach financial viability. In July 2008, we implemented new regulations for the Ticket to Work program. In the evaluation, we reviewed these new rules and found that they are likely to increase the early payments to ENs significantly, thereby making the program more financially attractive to a broader range of service providers. This development, in turn, holds promise for expanding EN availability and reinvigorating the program.

The fifth evaluation report is a series of short papers focused on the employment efforts of working-age SSI recipients and SSDI beneficiaries and on our work incentives and supports designed to encourage their employment. Each paper explores a specific aspect of the ticket evaluation. These papers improve our understanding of beneficiary employment experiences and the factors that both enhance and inhibit successful employment outcomes. This report does not discuss the effects of the new regulations the agency implemented in July 2008. The sixth evaluation report will include preliminary effects of the new regulations.

Highlights from the fifth report include a study using our National Beneficiary Survey to identify and analyze working-age beneficiaries with disabilities who had work goals or expectations. These “work-oriented” beneficiaries are a key target population for the Ticket to Work program. They make up 40 percent of working-age disability beneficiaries and are about 9 times more likely to participate in employment-related activities. The findings show that significant numbers of beneficiaries are attempting work and many are leaving cash benefits, at least temporarily. At any given point in time, about 21 percent of these work-oriented beneficiaries had jobs, while 45 percent had jobs at some point during the four-year period after we interviewed them. Ten percent of work-oriented beneficiaries left cash benefits due to work in at least one month during this four-year period.

This report also includes a long-term analysis of beneficiaries who first received SSDI benefits in 1996, followed over ten years. This analysis found that by 2006, 6.5 percent of these beneficiaries had their cash benefits suspended due to work for a least one month, and 3.7 percent had completely terminated their SSI

¹ Available at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityresearch/research.htm>.

or SSDI cash benefits due to work. At the end of ten years, 2.7 percent of the 1996 cohort had exited due to work, remained alive and of working age, and remained off the SSDI rolls. Most of these beneficiaries who exit cash benefits do so without participating in Ticket to Work or the state vocational rehabilitation programs, but those who exit after Ticket to Work program participation tend to have better long-term employment outcomes.

Another study shows that while benefit suspensions and terminations for work are usually not permanent, they do tend to continue for many months. Among those who leave cash benefits for at least one month, SSDI beneficiaries will typically spend about half of the next four years in zero benefit status, and SSI recipients will spend about one-third of the next four years in zero benefit status.

We modified the Ticket evaluation contracts to extend the analysis to cover beneficiary and service provider response to the new Ticket to Work regulations. The evaluation contractor will produce two additional reports in 2011 and 2012 under this modification.

e. Homeless Outreach Projects and Evaluation (HOPE)

In 2004, we awarded funds to 41 service providers nationwide to provide outreach services to the homeless population. We trained these service providers and gave them training materials so they could assist homeless individuals with our disability application process. In October 2007, Westat, the evaluation contractor, released the final evaluation report. We are currently conducting a longitudinal evaluation of HOPE. Findings from this analysis will be available later in 2011.

f. Youth Transition Demonstration (YTD)

The YTD establishes partnerships to improve employment outcomes for youth ages 14-25 who receive (or could receive) SSI or SSDI payments on the basis of their own disability. The YTD projects include service delivery systems and a broad array of services and supports to assist youth with disabilities in their transition from school to employment and to help them gain economic self-sufficiency.

YTD began in 2003, with seven projects in six States. In 2007, we piloted new projects in five States, choosing three new projects in Florida, Maryland, and West Virginia. These three projects joined three (Colorado and two New York) of the original seven projects in a random assignment study. This study will produce the first evaluation of the empirical evidence of the effects of youth transition programs and modified SSI work incentives.

The modified SSI program rules that we are testing under the YTD include five elements.

- Despite the finding of a continuing disability review or an age-18 medical redetermination that an individual is no longer eligible for benefits, we will continue paying benefits for as long as the individual continues to be a YTD participant.
- The student earned income exclusion (section 1612(b)(1) of the Act), which normally applies only to students who are age 21 or younger, will apply to all participants who meet school attendance requirements.
- The general earned-income exclusions (section 1612(b)(4) of the Act) permit the exclusion of \$65 plus half of what an individual earns in excess of \$65. For the YTD, we will exclude the first \$65 plus three-fourths of any additional earnings.
- We will extend the SSI program's treatment of federally supported Individual Development Accounts (IDA) to IDAs that do not involve federal funds.

- Ordinarily, a plan to achieve self-support (PASS) must specify an employment goal that refers to getting a particular kind of job or starting a particular business. For the YTD, we will approve an otherwise satisfactory PASS that has either career exploration or postsecondary education as its goal. Income and assets that an individual uses for PASS expenses do not count when we determine SSI eligibility and payment amount.

The research findings will help to assess the implications of any such impacts for the Social Security trust funds and Federal income tax revenues.

The YTD projects in Colorado and New York have ended. The Florida, Maryland, and West Virginia projects are implementing the interventions and services and will end in 2012. A comprehensive final report of the six random assignment projects is due in August 2014.

g. Disability Program Navigators (DPNs)

The Department of Labor (DOL) and SSA jointly established the Disability Program Navigator (DPN) position. DPNs are located in DOL's One-Stop Career Centers and help disabled individuals navigate the confusing and often conflicting sets of rules that prevent many disabled persons from working. The rules surrounding entitlement programs and a fear of losing cash assistance and health benefits often discourage people with disabilities from working. DOL and SSA established the DPN initiative to better inform beneficiaries and other people with disabilities about the work support programs available at DOL-funded One-Stop Career Centers. This initiative developed new/ongoing partnerships to achieve seamless, comprehensive, and integrated access to services, creating systemic change, and expanding the workforce development system's capacity to serve customers with disabilities and employers. The contractor, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., completed the final DPN evaluation in May 2010. See <http://www.doleta.gov/disability/>.

h. TANF/SSI Disability Transition Project (TSDTP)

Both welfare agencies and the federal disability system seek to support people with disabilities and help them become more independent. However, the two systems often have differing missions and organization, definitions of disability, operational and financial issues, and work rules and incentives, making it challenging for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs to work together. TANF clients who apply for SSI may also confront conflicting messages from TANF agencies regarding work requirements and benefit eligibility.

To improve our understanding of the relationship between the TANF and SSI populations and programs, our Office of Program Development and Research and the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) launched the TSDTP in October 2008. Working with ACF, TANF agencies in California, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, and New York, select counties in these States, and the evaluation firm MDRC, we will analyze program data and pilot-test program interventions for TANF clients with disabilities. SSA, ACF, TANF agencies, and low-income individuals with disabilities and their families benefit from effective and efficient services - moving toward employment when possible, making informed decisions about applying for SSI, receiving SSI as quickly as possible, and reducing administrative costs. The project will conclude in September 2012 with our recommendations regarding a larger demonstration project on coordinating TANF and SSI.

i. Occupational Information System (OIS)

We are conducting research to create an occupational information system (OIS) for the agency's disability program adjudicative needs. The OIS will be a long-term replacement for the occupational information

contained in the Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT) and other companion volumes such as the Selected Characteristics of Occupations and the Revised Handbook for Analyzing Jobs. The Department of Labor has not updated the DOT since 1991 and has no plans to conduct further updates. The new OIS will serve as the primary source of information about jobs and job requirements critical to evaluating disability including information not contained in the DOT.

For FY 2011, research and development activities include review and analysis of baseline information from a sample of approximately 3,800 initial claims and 1,300 appellate level cases. The study will tell us which jobs occur most frequently in claimant vocational profiles and which jobs we most commonly cite in Step 5 framework denials. This information will help us identify the occupations with the highest prevalence in disability decisions, and consequently, which to analyze first for the new OIS. We are also conducting an investigation of international and domestic OISs, including review of prior agency work, literature reviews, and interviews with officials to inform our selection of methods and techniques. To establish a rigorous basis for developing and evaluating the OIS, we are also identifying criteria for OIS legal defensibility, scientific research, and operational feasibility. This activity involves consultation with internal and external experts and reviews of relevant legal, regulatory, professional, and scientific precedents.

In addition, we are developing a content model incorporating internal workgroup expertise, public comments, user needs analyses, and Occupational Information Development Advisory Panel recommendations to identify common themes and data elements that will inform the development of a work analysis instrument. We are also investigating various strategies used across industries to train, certify, and recruit job analysts. From that work, in FY 2012 we will develop and test a work analysis instrument and an agency strategy to recruit, train, and certify job analysts for conducting job analyses that will serve as the basis of the OIS content. We project that, by FY 2013, we will use the results from the testing to revise our content model and to inform a national data collection effort.

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H. GLOSSARY

Administrative Expenses (or Costs). Expenses incurred by the Social Security Administration (SSA) in administering the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. Such administrative expenses are initially paid from the OASI and DI Trust Funds as provided for in section 201(g)(1) of the Social Security Act. The trust funds are subsequently reimbursed for such expenditures, including any interest lost, from the General Fund of the Treasury.

Affidavit of Support. A contract under which a United States citizen or legal resident agrees to provide support to maintain (i.e., to sponsor) an immigrant as a condition of the immigrant's admission into the United States.

Aged. Individuals aged 65 or older.

Aid—Old-Age Assistance (OAA), Aid to the Blind (AB), and Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled (APTD). The former Federal-State programs of adult cash assistance under titles I, X, and XVI respectively, that were replaced in the 50 States and the District of Columbia by the SSI program in 1974. These programs still operate in Guam, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico and are administered at the Federal level by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Alien Lawfully Admitted for Permanent Residence. A noncitizen lawfully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States. Such individuals may be issued immigrant visas overseas by the Department of State, or adjusted to permanent resident status while living in the United States by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

Appeal Rights Process. Includes administrative appeals and judicial review. The administrative review process followed by SSA in determining an individual's rights under the Social Security Act consists of several steps: reconsideration, hearings, and Appeals Council review. Individuals dissatisfied with the outcome of the administrative review process may request judicial review by filing a complaint in the U.S. District Court. Each step in the process must be requested within certain time periods after an unfavorable determination. SSA introduced a modification of this process in 10 States for disability applications filed October 1, 1999 and later. Under this revised process appeals of initial disability denials are made directly to the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review (ODAR), thereby eliminating the reconsideration step. The options for appeal beyond the ODAR level are unchanged.

Assistance Based on Need. Assistance that is provided by certain programs which use income as a factor of eligibility. The assistance must be funded wholly by a State, a political subdivision of a State, or a combination of such jurisdictions.

Assumptions. Values relating to future trends in certain key factors which affect the eligibility for SSI benefits and the level of such SSI payments. Demographic assumptions include fertility, mortality, net immigration, marriage, and divorce. Economic assumptions include unemployment rates, average earnings, inflation, interest rates, and productivity. Program-specific assumptions include rates of application for and new receipt of various SSI benefits and rates of termination of SSI benefits. The assumptions underlying the projections presented in this report are consistent with the intermediate assumptions of the 2011 OASDI Trustees Report.

Asylee. A noncitizen already in the United States or at a port-of-entry who is granted asylum in the United States. Asylum may be granted to an individual who is unable or unwilling to return to his/her country of nationality, or to seek the protection of that country, because of persecution (or a well-founded fear of persecution) based on the noncitizen's race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.

Attendant Care Services. Services (including personal care assistance) that are paid for from Federal, State or local funds and which are provided by a paid attendant required to assist with work related and/or personal functions.

Automatic Cost-of-Living Increase. The annual increase in SSI Federal benefit rates, effective for January of the current year, reflecting the change in the cost of living. In general, the benefit increase equals the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) measured from the third quarter of the previous year to the third quarter of the current year. If there is no increase in the CPI-W, there is no cost-of-living benefit increase.

Award. An administrative determination that an individual is eligible for an SSI benefit.

Blind. For purposes of the SSI program, an individual is considered to be blind if he/she has 20/200 or less vision in the better eye with the use of a correcting lens, has tunnel vision of 20 degrees or less, or met the October 1972 State definition of blindness and received benefits under the State's former program of Aid to the Blind in December 1973.

Blind Work Expenses (BWE). Any expenses incurred by a blind individual that are reasonably attributable to earning income. The BWE provision permits the exclusion of these expenses from the earned income of a blind individual. (See "Impairment-Related Work Expenses (IRWE)" for the related exclusions for disabled individuals.)

Burial Funds. A comprehensive term that for SSI purposes includes revocable burial contracts, trusts and other burial arrangements (including amounts paid on installment sales contracts for burial spaces), cash, accounts, or other financial instruments with a definite cash value clearly designated for the individual's burial expenses.

Child. A blind or disabled individual who is neither married nor the head of household and who is: (1) under age 18; or (2) under the age of 22 and a student regularly attending a school, college or university, or a course of vocational or technical training designed to prepare him/her for gainful employment. A child 18 or older is subject to the adult definition of disability and is not subject to parental deeming.

Comparable Severity. The phrase in the Social Security Act that defined disability for children prior to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-193). Under prior law, an individual under age 18 would have been considered disabled if he/she had an impairment of comparable severity to that required for individuals 18 or older.

Constant Dollars. Dollar amounts adjusted by the CPI to the value of the dollar in a particular year.

Consumer Price Index (CPI). An official measure of inflation in consumer prices. In this report, all references to the CPI relate to the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). Historical values for the CPI-W are published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor.

Continuing Disability Review (CDR). An evaluation of an individual's impairment(s) to determine whether the person is still disabled within the meaning of the law for purposes of eligibility for SSI and OASDI benefits.

Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA). See "Automatic Cost-of-Living Increase."

Countable Income. An individual's income less all applicable exclusions. This amount is used to determine SSI eligibility and benefit amount.

Countable Resources. The amount of resources after all exclusions. This amount is used in determining an individual's or couple's SSI eligibility. A resource may be cash or other liquid assets or any real or per-

sonal property that an individual (or his/her spouse) owns and could convert to cash to be used for support and maintenance. SSI law stipulates what items are to be excluded from resources.

Current Dollars. Amounts expressed in nominal dollars with no adjustment for inflationary changes in the value of the dollar over time.

Current-Payment Status. Status of an SSI recipient to whom a benefit is being paid for a given month. SSI benefits for a month are usually payable on the first day of that month.

Dedicated Account. An account in a financial institution established for a disabled or blind child to contain retroactive SSI payments that exceed six times the Federal benefit rate (FBR) plus State supplementation (certain smaller retroactive payments may be placed in the account once it is established). Representative payees may only use dedicated account funds for the following allowable expenses:

- Education or job skills training;
- Personal needs assistance;
- Special equipment or housing modifications;
- Medical treatment;
- Therapy or rehabilitation; or
- Other items or services that the Commissioner deems appropriate—

provided that the expense benefits the child and, in the case of the last five items, is related to the child's impairment. Money from a dedicated account which is knowingly misapplied must be repaid. These accounts are excluded from resources and the interest earned is excluded from income.

Deeming. The process by which the income and resources of an ineligible individual are considered to be available to a recipient when determining eligibility or payment amount. Deeming applies only between:

- The living-with ineligible spouse and the eligible spouse;
- The living-with ineligible parent(s) and eligible child(ren) under age 18; and
- The immigration sponsors of some noncitizens and the noncitizen(s).

Demographic Assumptions. See "Assumptions."

Disability. For individuals aged 18 or older, the inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity (SGA) by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment that can be expected to result in death or that has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of at least 12 months. An individual under age 18 must have a medically determinable physical or mental impairment, which results in marked and severe functional limitations and that can be expected to result in death or that has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of at least 12 months.

Disability Determination Services (DDS). Federally funded State agencies that make disability determinations for SSA.

Disaster Assistance. Assistance from Federal programs and agencies, joint Federal and State programs, State or local government programs, and private organizations (e.g., the Red Cross) provided to victims of a Presidentially declared disaster.

Disposal of Resources for Less Than Fair Market Value. Transferring resources, either liquid, real, or personal property, for less than the resources are worth.

Earned Income. For SSI purposes, wages, net earnings from self-employment, remuneration for work in a sheltered workshop, royalties on published work, and honoraria for services rendered are considered earned income. The distinction between earned and unearned income is significant because more liberal exclusions are applied to earned income.

Earned Income Exclusion. The first \$65 of a recipient's monthly earnings and one-half of the earnings in excess of \$65 are excluded in computing the SSI benefit payable.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). A special tax credit that reduces the Federal tax liability of certain low-income working taxpayers. This tax credit may or may not result in a payment to the taxpayer.

Economic Assumptions. See "Assumptions."

Effective Date of Application. An application for SSI benefits is effective on the first day of the month following the date on which the application is filed, or on which the individual first becomes eligible, whichever is later.

Eligible Couple. Two persons married and living together in the same household or living together as married, both being aged, blind, or disabled and meeting all qualifications, including filing an application for SSI.

Eligible Individual. An aged, blind or disabled person who meets all the requirements for eligibility under the SSI program, including filing an application.

Emergency Advance Payments (EAP). Special SSI payments that are available only at the time of initial application for eligible individuals who face financial emergencies and need assistance before their first benefits would otherwise be received. The amount of the EAP an individual receives is recovered from subsequent benefit payments.

Essential Person. An individual whose presence in the home of an SSI recipient who was transferred from a State assistance program to SSI in January 1974 results in an increase in the FBR of the SSI recipient. The essential person must have been: (1) living in the household of the SSI recipient in December 1973 and continuously thereafter; (2) never eligible for SSI; (3) not eligible for State assistance in December 1973; and (4) taken into account when the SSI recipient's need for State assistance was determined in December 1973.

Federal Benefit Rate (FBR). The basic standard used in computing the amount of Federal SSI benefits for individuals and couples. The FBRs are increased annually to reflect increases in the cost of living. (See table IV.A2.)

Fiscal Year (FY). The accounting year of the United States Government. Since 1976, a fiscal year is the 12-month period ending September 30. For example, fiscal year 2011 began October 1, 2010 and will end September 30, 2011.

Food Stamps. See "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)."

General Fund of the Treasury. Funds held by the Treasury of the United States, other than receipts collected for a specific purpose (such as Social Security) and maintained in a separate account for that purpose.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The total dollar value of all goods and services produced by labor and property located in the United States, regardless of who supplies the labor or property.

Holding-Out Marriage. A situation in which a man and woman who are not legally married to each other are living together in the same household and holding out to the community that they are husband

and wife and, as such, are treated as a couple for purposes of determining eligibility and payment amount under SSI.

Home Energy Assistance. A Federal Government block grant program that provides funds to States for energy assistance (including weatherization) to low-income households. This assistance may be provided by a variety of agencies (e.g., State or local welfare offices, community action agencies, special energy offices, etc.) and may be known by a variety of names (e.g., Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Project Safe, etc.).

Household. A group of two or more individuals who use a single dwelling unit as primary quarters for living and eating separate from other individuals' living units.

Household of Another. An individual is considered to be living in the household of another when the individual lives with others, does not own or rent the shelter, and does not pay a pro rata share of the household's food and shelter expenses. An individual who provides all of his/her own food, or lives in a public assistance household or in noninstitutional care, is not considered to be living in the household of another. An individual who is determined to be living in the household of another is considered to be receiving in-kind support and maintenance from that household, and his/her SSI benefit is reduced by one-third of the FBR.

Impairment-Related Work Expenses (IRWE). The provision that permits the exclusion from earnings of the costs of items and services which are needed in order for a disabled individual to work, which are paid for by the individual, and which are necessarily incurred by that individual because of a physical or mental impairment. These IRWEs are excluded from earnings when determining substantial gainful activity (SGA) or computing eligibility and ongoing SSI monthly payments. (See "Blind Work Expenses (BWE)" for the related exclusions for blind individuals.)

Income. See—"Earned Income," "In-Kind Income" and "Unearned Income."

Individual Development Account (IDA). A savings account which low-income individuals, including SSI recipients, may establish in order to save for purchasing a first home, meeting the costs of post-secondary education, or capitalizing a business. An individual's deposits into an IDA are matched by a sponsoring nonprofit organization, or State or local government participating in the program.

Ineligible Spouse. The husband or wife of an eligible individual who is not eligible for SSI benefits.

Inflation. An increase in the volume of money and credit relative to available goods, resulting in an increase in the general price level.

Infrequent or Irregular Income. Income that is received either infrequently or irregularly that can be excluded from the determination of an individual's income. "Infrequent" means that it is not received more than once in a calendar quarter from a single source and is not also received in the month immediately preceding or the month immediately following the month of receipt, regardless of whether or not these payments occur in different calendar quarters.¹ "Irregular" means that an individual could not reasonably expect to receive the income. In any given quarter up to \$30 of earned and \$60 of unearned infrequent or irregular income is excluded.

Initial Determination. A determination SSA makes about an individual's eligibility for benefits or about any other matter that gives that person a right to further administrative and/or judicial review.

In-Kind Income. Income that is not cash, but is food or shelter or something an individual can use to obtain food or shelter.

¹ The definition of infrequent income was modified in final rules published on August 9, 2006 (71 FR 45375). Previously, infrequent income was defined as income not received more than once a quarter from a single source.

In-Kind Support and Maintenance (ISM). Unearned income in the form of food or shelter.

Interim Assistance Reimbursement (IAR). The process used for reimbursing for basic assistance provided by a State to an individual either while the individual's application for SSI was pending or during the period in which an individual's SSI benefits were suspended. SSA may reimburse a State that has provided this assistance. The individual's retroactive SSI payment is sent to the State as reimbursement if: (1) the State has an agreement with SSA to participate in IAR, (2) the individual has given SSA written authorization to have his/her retroactive payment sent to the State as reimbursement, and (3) the individual is found eligible for SSI benefits or has had his/her benefits reinstated for the same period of suspense.

Under IAR, after States reimburse themselves from an individual's retroactive benefit, they must forward any remainder to the individual within 10 days.

Living With. A required condition for parent-to-child and spouse-to-spouse deeming. Deeming of income and resources occurs if an eligible child lives with his/her ineligible parent(s) or an eligible individual lives with his/her ineligible spouse.

Maintenance-of-Effort. See "Passalong."

Mandatory State Supplementation. See "State Supplementation."

Means-Testing. The measuring of income and resources against specified amounts as eligibility factors for certain assistance benefits. SSI is a means-tested benefit program.

Medicaid. The program authorized under title XIX of the Social Security Act, which provides medical assistance to certain low-income individuals and families and certain disabled and medically needy individuals. Medicaid is administered by the States with support from the Federal Government in the form of matching grants. The Federal Government provides guidelines to the States for formulating their programs. Because these guidelines afford great leeway, Medicaid programs vary widely among the States.

Medicaid Facility. A medical treatment facility such as a hospital, extended care facility, nursing home, or intermediate care facility, where Medicaid pays more than 50 percent of the cost of a person's care.

Medical Treatment Facility. An institution or that part of an institution that is licensed or otherwise approved by a Federal, State, or local government to provide inpatient medical care and services.

Medicare. A nationwide, Federally-administered health insurance program authorized in 1965 to cover the cost of hospitalization, medical care, and some related services for most people age 65 and over. In 1972, coverage was extended to people receiving Social Security Disability Insurance payments for 2 years and people with End-Stage Renal Disease. In 2010, people exposed to environmental health hazards within areas under a corresponding emergency declaration became Medicare-eligible. Traditional Medicare consists of two separate but coordinated programs—Hospital Insurance (HI, also known as Part A) and Supplementary Medical Insurance (SMI, also known as Part B). Part A helps pay for inpatient hospital care, inpatient skilled nursing care, and hospice care. Part B helps pay for doctors' services and other medical expenses, and supplies not covered by Part A. In 2006, prescription drug coverage (also known as Part D) was added. Almost all persons who are aged 65 and over or disabled and who are entitled to Part A are eligible to enroll in Part B and Part D on a voluntary basis by paying monthly premiums. Health insurance protection is available to Medicare beneficiaries without regard to income.

New Recipient. An SSI recipient in the first month of SSI payment receipt.

Noncitizen. An individual who is not a United States citizen. Also referred to in welfare and immigration law as an alien. (See "Alien Lawfully Admitted for Permanent Residence," "Asylee," "Parolee" and "Refugee.")

Nonqualified Alien. A noncitizen who is not in a qualified alien category for SSI eligibility purposes.

OASDI. The Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance programs established under title II of the Social Security Act.

One-Third Reduction. The reduction of an individual's SSI payment that occurs when an individual is living in the household of another. Instead of determining the actual dollar value of in-kind support and maintenance, one-third of the Federal benefit rate is counted as additional income to an individual living in another person's household for a full calendar month and receiving both food and shelter from the household.

Optional State Supplementation. See "State Supplementation."

Overpayment. The payment of more than the amount due for any period, including any amounts of Federally-administered State supplementary payments.

Parent. For SSI purposes, the natural mother or father of the child, or the person who legally adopted the child, or the stepparent who lives in the same household as the child.

Parolee. A noncitizen who appears to be inadmissible to the inspecting USCIS officer but is allowed to enter the United States under emergency humanitarian conditions or when the noncitizen's entry is determined to be in the public interest. Parole does not constitute a formal admission to the United States and confers temporary admission status only, requiring parolees to leave when the conditions supporting their parole cease to exist.

Passalong. A requirement that States must meet in order to be eligible for Medicaid reimbursement. Any State making supplementary payments (see "State Supplementation") after June 30, 1977, must continue making such payments and must pass along any cost-of-living increase to the Federal benefit rate. Two methods are available to ensure that cost-of-living increases are passed on to the recipients.

- *Payment Levels Method*—States may not lower their supplementary payment for any of the living arrangement categories below their adjusted March 1983 levels. The adjusted level is the State's March 1983 payment level minus that portion of the July 1983 increase in the Federal benefit rate that was not attributable to the increase in the cost of living (i.e., \$10.30 per individual and \$15.40 per couple).
- *Total Expenditures Method*—State expenditures for supplementary payments in the current calendar year must at least equal expenditures in the preceding calendar year. If expenditures are less in the current year (shortfall), the State must increase expenditures in the next calendar year by an amount at least equal to the shortfall.

Past-Due Benefits. The total amount of SSI payments accumulated because of a favorable administrative or judicial determination, up to but not including the month the determination is made, and excluding any corresponding windfall offset amounts.

Personal Needs Allowance. The amount allowed for an institutionalized recipient's personal needs (currently \$30). If an SSI recipient is in a Medicaid facility, the law requires that the SSI benefit be used only for the recipient's personal needs (i.e., that the institution cannot retain the benefit in repayment of the cost of the individual's care).

Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS). A plan that permits a disabled or blind SSI recipient to set aside income (earned and/or unearned) and/or resources for a work goal. The income and resources set aside under a PASS are used to pay for goods or services needed to reach that goal, such as education, vocational training, starting a business, or purchasing work-related equipment. Income and resources set aside under a PASS are excluded from SSI income and resources. SSA must approve an individual's PASS.

Presumptive Disability or Blindness. A finding that SSI payments may be made before SSA makes a formal determination as to whether or not the individual is disabled or blind. The individual's impairment must be apparent and meet specified criteria. In addition, the individual must meet all other requirements for eligibility. These payments may be made for no more than 6 months. The presumptive payments will not be considered overpayments if SSA later finds that the individual is not blind or disabled.

Property Essential to Self-Support (PESS). The real and personal property used in a trade or business, nonbusiness income-producing property and property used to produce goods or services essential to the individual's daily activities. PESS may be excluded from resources under certain conditions.

Proration of Benefits. The method of computing benefit amounts in months in which the individual reacquires eligibility after a month or more of ineligibility. In such months, an individual's SSI benefit will be paid according to the number of days in the month that he/she is eligible, beginning with the first day in the month on which all eligibility requirements are met. In order to determine the benefit payable in a prorated month SSA counts the number of days an individual is eligible in the month. The amount of the individual's regular monthly payment is multiplied by the number of days for which he/she is eligible for benefits. That figure is divided by the number of days in the month for which the benefit is being determined. The resulting amount is the amount due for the prorated month. Effective with claims filed August 22, 1996, proration for months of initial eligibility was eliminated.

Public Educational Institution. An institution that is operated by or controlled by the Federal Government, a State, or a political subdivision of a State such as a city or county for the primary purpose of providing educational or vocational training.

Public Emergency Shelter for the Homeless. A shelter for individuals whose homelessness poses a threat to their life or health.

Public Institution. An institution that is operated by or controlled by the Federal Government, a State, or a political subdivision of a State such as a city or county.

Publicly Operated Community Residence. A facility that provides food and shelter and some other service such as social services, help with personal living activities, training in socialization and life skills, or occasional or incidental medical or remedial care. In order to be publicly operated it must be operated or controlled by the Federal Government, a State, or a political subdivision of a State such as a city or county. The facility must serve no more than 16 residents and must be located in a community setting.

Qualified Alien. An individual who is:

- Lawfully admitted for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA);
- A refugee under section 207 of the INA;
- An asylee under section 208 of the INA;
- A person whose deportation is withheld under section 243(h) of the INA as in effect prior to April 1, 1997, or whose removal has been withheld under section 241(b)(3) of the INA;
- A parolee under section 212(d)(5) of the INA for at least 1 year;
- A person granted conditional entry under section 203(a)(7) of the INA as in effect prior to April 1, 1980;
- A Cuban or Haitian entrant as defined by Federal statute, including Section 501(e) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980;

- Former parolees and other aliens who became permanent residents under the Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966;
 - Aliens who became permanent residents under the provisions of the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986;
 - Aliens who became permanent residents under the Nicaraguan and Central American Relief Act; or
 - Aliens who became permanent residents under the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act.
- A certain alien, or an alien parent of a child, or an alien child of a parent who:
 - Has been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty in the United States by a spouse, parent, or certain other family members the alien, parent and/or child lived with;
 - Is not living in the same household with the abusive individual;
 - Has been determined to need SSI because of this abuse; and
 - Has a determination from the USCIS for a certain change in status.

Qualifying Quarter of Earnings. Credit for a requisite amount of earnings assigned to a calendar quarter for the purpose of determining the SSI eligibility of a lawfully admitted permanent resident.

Quarter of Coverage. The crediting of coverage needed for insured status under the Social Security program. In 2011, a worker receives one quarter of coverage (up to four a year) for each \$1,120 of annual earnings reported from employment or self-employment. The amount of earnings required for a quarter of coverage is subject to annual automatic increases in proportion to increases in average wages.

Recipient. A person who is receiving SSI payments based on an evaluation of his/her own countable income and resources, age, and disability status.

Reconsideration. The first step in the administrative review process if an individual is dissatisfied with SSA's initial determination.

Redetermination. A periodic review of eligibility for SSI recipients to ensure that requirements for eligibility continue to be met and that payment levels are in the proper amount. Income, resources, living arrangements and other factors are reviewed. The redetermination process does not review the determination of disability.

Refugee. A noncitizen outside of his/her country of nationality who is unable or unwilling to return to his/her country of nationality or to seek the protection of that country because of persecution (or a well-founded fear of persecution) based on the noncitizen's race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion. Unlike asylees, refugees apply for and receive this status prior to entry into the United States.

Relocation Assistance. A type of assistance provided to persons displaced by projects that acquire real property. Examples of types of reimbursement, allowances, and help provided are:

- Moving expenses;
- Reimbursement for losses of tangible property;
- Displacement allowances;

- Amounts required to replace a dwelling which exceed the agency's acquisition cost for the prior dwelling;
- Rental expenses for displaced tenants;
- Amounts for down payments on replacement housing for tenants who decide to buy;
- Mortgage insurance through Federal programs with waiver of requirements that borrowers must usually meet; and
- Replacement housing.

Representative Payee. A person who receives SSI payments on behalf of an SSI recipient. SSA will pay benefits to a representative payee on behalf of an individual 18 years old or older when it appears that such method of payment will be in the interest of the individual. A representative payee will be appointed if the individual is legally incompetent or mentally or physically incapable of managing or directing the management of his/her benefits. Also, in general, if the individual is under the age of 18, a representative payee will be appointed. The law and regulations generally require that a beneficiary under age 15 have a representative payee.

Resident of a Public Institution. An individual who can receive substantially all of his/her food and shelter while living in a public institution is considered a resident of the public institution. Generally, an individual who is a resident of a public institution throughout a month is ineligible for SSI.

Resident of the United States. A person who has established an actual dwelling place within the geographical limits of the United States with the intent to continue to live in the United States. (See "United States.")

Resource. The cash or other liquid assets or any real or personal property of an individual (or his/her spouse, if any) that he/she could use or could convert to cash to be used for his/her support and maintenance.

Retroactive Payments. The SSI payments made in a month later than the month or months in which they were due.

Retrospective Monthly Accounting (RMA). The calculation method used in the SSI program to determine an individual's eligibility for each month. RMA has two parts: an eligibility determination and a payment computation. If the individual is ineligible based on the current month's factors (including the current month's countable income), no payment is due and none is paid. If the individual is eligible based on the current month's factors, payment is computed. The benefit for a month is generally based on the countable income from the second month before the current month. The basic formula is to subtract the countable income from 2 months previous from the current month's Federal benefit rate. However, at the start of a period of eligibility or re-eligibility, the amount of benefits for the first and second months are both determined using the income received in the first month.

Section 1619(a) Status. The special SSI cash benefits provided to disabled individuals who lose eligibility for SSI benefits under the regular rules because they have earnings at the level that is ordinarily considered to represent substantial gainful activity.

Section 1619(b) Status. The special SSI recipient status for Medicaid purposes provided to working disabled or blind individuals when their earnings make them ineligible for regular or special cash payments.

SNAP. See "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)."

Social Security Area Population. The population comprised of (i) residents of the 50 States and the District of Columbia (adjusted for net census undercount); (ii) civilian residents of Puerto Rico, the Virgin

Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands; (iii) Federal civilian employees and persons in the Armed Forces abroad and their dependents; (iv) crew members of merchant vessels; and (v) all other U.S. citizens abroad.

Sponsor. An individual who has signed an affidavit of support for a noncitizen entering the country.

State Supplementation. The payments made by a State or one of its political subdivisions to aged, blind, or disabled individuals.

- *Administration*—The governmental unit responsible for administering State supplementary payments may be either a State or local agency or SSA. Under State administration, the State must absorb both program benefits and administrative costs. Under Federal administration, the State is responsible for the program benefits and, for 2011, pays a \$10.56 administrative fee for each benefit paid.
- *Mandatory Supplementation*—The supplementary payments that are made only to beneficiaries who were converted to the SSI program from former State assistance programs at the inception of the SSI program. Mandatory minimum State supplementary payments are required to maintain the December 1972 payment levels that these beneficiaries received under the former State assistance programs. States are required to provide the supplementation to maintain their Federal matching funds for Medicaid.
- *Optional Supplementation*—The payments made by States to help persons meet needs not fully covered by Federal SSI benefits. The State determines whether it will make a payment, to whom, and in what amount. These supplements, paid on a regular basis, are intended to cover such items as food, shelter, clothing, utilities, and other daily necessities. Some States provide optional supplementary payments to all persons eligible for SSI benefits, while others may limit them to certain SSI recipients such as the blind or residents of domiciliary-care facilities, or they may extend payments to persons ineligible for SSI because of SSI income.

Statutory Blindness. See “Blind.”

Student. An individual who is regularly attending a school, college or university, or a course of vocational or technical training designed to prepare him/her for gainful employment.

Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE). An earned income exclusion for a student under age 22 with certain limitations established by regulations. For 2011, up to \$1,640 earned income in a month, but no more than \$6,600 per year, may be excluded.

Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA). The level of work activity used to establish disability. A finding of disability requires that a person be unable to engage in SGA. For 2011, a person who is not statutorily blind and is earning more than \$1,000 a month (net of impairment-related work expenses) is ordinarily considered to be engaging in substantial gainful activity.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), under cooperative Federal-State agreements, issues Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in the form of paper food coupons (commonly known as food stamps) and through electronic benefit transfer, to provide nutrition for low-income families. Food stamps can be used only to buy food at stores authorized by USDA to accept them. Prior to October 1, 2008, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program was known as the Federal Food Stamp Program.

Supplemental Security Record (SSR). The computerized database maintained by SSA and containing identifying information, income, resources and other eligibility factors, for all SSI recipients. The SSR includes the history of SSI payments made to an individual.

Suspension. An ineligibility status which causes the nonpayment of benefits for a period of anywhere from 1 to 12 months for any of a number of reasons such as income or resources over allowable levels,

absence from the United States, residence in a public institution, etc. Benefits can resume without reapplication, when all requirements for entitlement are again met. Suspense that lasts more than 12 months (24 months for individuals who were made ineligible because of their spouses or parent being called to active military duty) results in a termination of the SSI record. (Once a record is terminated, reapplication is necessary.)

TANF. See “Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).”

Temporary Absence. An individual’s physical move from his/her permanent place of residence that does not constitute a change in living arrangement. In general, a temporary absence is an absence from a permanent residence which is not intended to, and does not, exceed a full calendar month.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). The State grant program of assistance for needy families established by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-193). TANF replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program.

Termination. For an individual, cessation of benefits, which can occur for a number of reasons, including death, medical improvement, or a period of suspension lasting longer than 12 months.

Terminations. As used in section IV, the net reduction (after accounting for new entrants) in the number of SSI recipients in current-payment status during a period.

Ticket to Work Program. The Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 established a voluntary Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency program (Ticket to Work program) under which a blind or disabled beneficiary may obtain vocational rehabilitation (VR), employment and other support services from a qualified private or public provider referred to as an “employment network,” or from a State VR agency.

Trusts. A legal arrangement involving property and ownership interests. Generally, property held in a trust will be considered a resource for SSI purposes if the assets of the trust could be used for the benefit of the individual or spouse.

Unearned Income. The income that is not earned income. Unearned income may be in cash or in-kind. Some examples of unearned income are:

- Annuities, pensions, and other periodic payments;
- Retirement and disability benefits;
- Veterans’, workers’ and unemployment compensation;
- Alimony and support payments;
- Dividends, interest and certain royalties; and
- Rents.

United States. For purposes of the SSI program, the United States consists of the 50 States, District of Columbia and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). The process of restoring individuals with disabilities to full capabilities. VR services are designed to provide an individual with the training or other services that are needed to return to work, begin working or to enter a new line of work.

Windfall Offset. A provision to prevent a person from receiving monthly SSI and OASDI benefits in excess of the total amount which would have been paid if the OASDI benefits had been paid when they were due rather than retroactively.

Work Incentives. Provisions in the SSI program that are intended to act as incentives for disabled or blind individuals to work. Examples of work incentives under the SSI program are:

- Earned income exclusions;
- Impairment related work expenses;
- Blind work expenses;
- PASS;
- Section 1619 benefits; and
- Ticket to Work program.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD

STATEMENT ON THE SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME PROGRAM

Public Law 104-193 requires that members of the Social Security Advisory Board be given an opportunity, either individually or jointly, to include their views in the Social Security Administration's annual report to the President and Congress on the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. We have asked the Social Security Administration to include in this year's annual report the following statement of our views on the resource limit in the SSI program.¹

SSI is a federal public assistance program for low-income people who are age 65 or older, blind, or disabled. The program provides assistance based on need, and it defines need in terms of income and resources. The definition of need draws a line that combined with age, blindness or disability, determines who is and who is not eligible for income assistance from the SSI program. Where that line should be drawn is a public policy question that must be answered by the American people's representatives in Congress. The answer to that policy question, however, should be based to the extent possible on an empirical base. In this issue brief, we will provide a brief overview of the SSI resource limit, and consider the empirical questions that need to be answered in order to make a sound assessment of whether the rules that govern the resource limit policy are meeting the purpose Congress intended.

What are resources and how are they counted?

The 1972 federal law that established the SSI program included a resource limit as an eligibility factor for SSI benefits. Resources include any of the following owned by an SSI applicant or beneficiary or a spouse: cash, liquid assets, and real or personal property that can be converted to cash to obtain food and shelter.² Some resources are counted toward the limit and others are not. Examples of such non-countable (or in SSI terms, excluded) resources are an individual's principal place of residence; one vehicle, if the beneficiary or a member of the household uses it for transportation; household goods and personal effects; and burial spaces.³ Resource limits are

¹ Board member Mark J. Warshawsky declined to sign this statement because he feels that the discussion therein is insufficient to understand the impact on the generosity of SSI of existing resource exclusions such as property essential for self-support, and the many other allowable exemptions from the resources limits which have either increased in value (e.g. homes) or been added to the rules over the years.

² The SSI program distinguishes between the terms "assets" and "resources." The dollar value of the resource limit is set by statute. Regulation defines resources as "cash or other liquid assets or any real or personal property that an individual (or spouse, if any) owns and could convert to cash to be used for his or her support and maintenance." (20 CFR 416.1201) We will use the term resources when this program-specific definition applies. When discussing other programs or broader questions of saving, we will use the term assets.

³ 20 CFR 416.1210 and following.

useful to ensure that public dollars go only to those who really need them. If income alone was used as a marker of need, then it would be possible for individuals and couples to receive SSI benefits as long as their income was below a certain level, regardless of the amount of their savings or other resources.

The SSI program replaced a system of federal financial assistance to state programs that provided aid to the aged, blind, and permanently and totally disabled. Those state systems had asset limits, but there was no uniformity across programs. For example, one state required applicants to use all their liquid assets before becoming eligible; another allowed a cash reserve equal to one month's cost of living. Six had limits of \$300 to \$350 in cash reserves. Twenty-five states required an applicant to give the welfare department a lien against his or her house or a claim against his or her estate.⁴

The federalization of the former state programs established a needs-based program that had standardized eligibility rules and provided a uniform level of income support no matter where an individual lived throughout the nation. The new program also established national eligibility criteria for resources. Individuals had to have less than \$1,500 in countable resources, and couples had to have less than \$2,250. Those amounts were increased gradually between 1985 and 1989 to \$2,000 for an individual and \$3,000 for a couple and have not changed since 1989. Applicants whose resources exceeded the limit, by any amount, are generally not eligible for benefits at all.⁵

In some cases, other people's resources can affect the eligibility of a claimant or a beneficiary through a process known as deeming. The term deeming means considering another person's resources to be available for meeting a claimant or beneficiary's needs. This happens most often with children and spouses:⁶

- If a child is living in a household with a parent or parents who are not receiving SSI, the countable resources of the parents in excess of \$2,000 for one parent or \$3,000 for two parents are deemed available to the child. For example, if a child is living with one parent who has countable resources of \$4,500, the child would be over the resource limit (\$2,000 countable for the parent, \$2,000 countable for the child).

⁴ Vincent J. Burke and Vee Burke, *Nixon's Good Deed: Welfare Reform*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1974

⁵ An exception can occur when an applicant receives conditional benefits based on an agreement with SSA to dispose of excess resources. 20 CFR 416.1240 and following

⁶ The deeming rules and the exceptions to the rules are in 20 CFR 416.1202. Deeming also applies from sponsors to aliens (20 CFR 416.1204) and in certain cases in which an individual receiving benefits under one of the state programs replaced by SSI had his payments increased because of another person in the household (20 CFR 416.1203).

- If an aged, blind, or disabled individual is living with a spouse who is ineligible for SSI, the resources of the spouse are considered in the determination of eligibility. An individual is considered eligible only if his countable resources, together with the spouse's countable resources, do not exceed the resource limit for a couple. For example, if an applicant is 65 years old and his spouse is not yet 65 and is not blind or disabled, the combined resources of both spouses would have to be under \$3,000 in order for the applicant to be eligible.

There are about one million SSI child beneficiaries living with parents and about 300 thousand SSI beneficiaries living with ineligible spouses.⁷

Once they are on the rolls, beneficiaries whose resources exceed the limit on the first day of any month after they begin receiving payments will likely also lose their eligibility for payments until their resources are again brought down below the resource limit.

As discussed previously in this Statement, Congress has established some exceptions to the limits placed on owning resources.⁸ In addition, Congress created three provisions that allow recipients to accumulate resources over \$2,000 so they can become more self-sufficient and less reliant on federal assistance. These are:

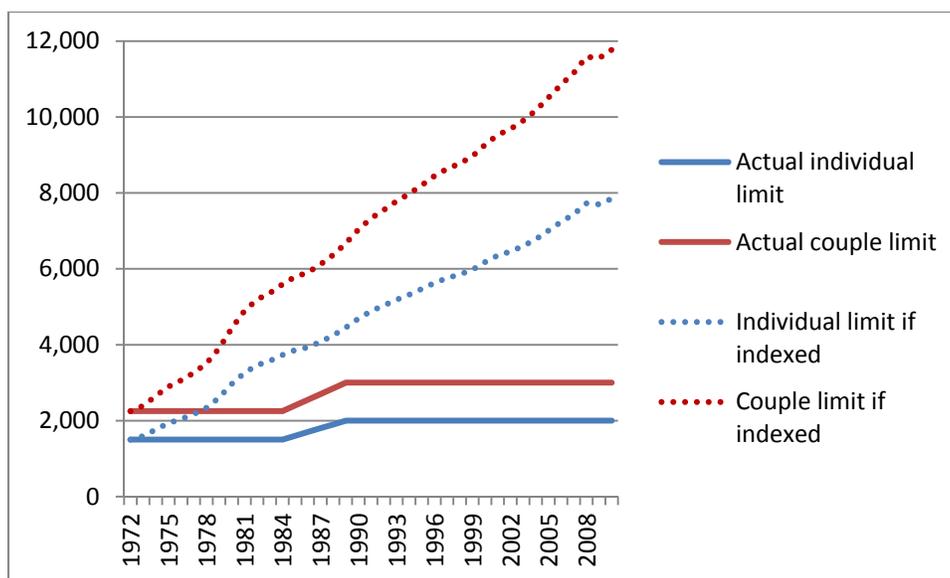
- SSI applicants are allowed to retain *Property Essential for Self-Support* that generates income, which is then counted in determining the appropriate amount of the monthly SSI check. An example would be a self-employed person's business account or equipment; or a rancher's acreage in addition to a homestead, which is rented out to others for grazing land.
- SSI recipients (and applicants) may set aside otherwise countable income and/or resources to be used to reach a specific vocational goal under a *Plan for Achieving Self-Support* (PASS). At the end of a PASS plan, when the goal has been achieved, it is expected that the recipient will have a reduced reliance on federal benefits.
- Low-income individuals and families, including SSI recipients, are able to save for education, purchasing a home, or starting a business by establishing an *Individual Development Account* (IDA). State variations may expand what an IDA can purchase. IDA savings are matched by other government funds, and are specifically not counted by the various means-tested programs because the intent is to assist low-income individuals and families to build assets.

⁷ SSA, *SSI Annual Statistical Report, 2009*, tables 12 and 28.

⁸ See 20 CFR 416.1210 and following for a detailed discussion of resource exclusions

Are current resource rules fulfilling Congressional intent?

The conference report on the 1984 legislation that raised the resource limit stated that a major purpose of allowing SSI recipients to have a certain amount of resources was to help them cover major costs of an urgent nature that could not be met from their monthly benefit payments, such as to replace a furnace or make essential household repairs.⁹ Research into congressional intent in 1984 does not show any plan for future increases, nor was there any discussion of indexing at that time. As the following chart shows, if the 1972 amounts had been adjusted for inflation, they would now be nearly \$8,000 for an individual and \$12,000 for a couple.¹⁰



If it was intended as a minimal fund for emergencies, the resource limit of 1989 can no longer cover the type of emergencies Congress envisioned more than 20 years ago. The questions that arise are should this limit be revisited, and if so, what should be the policy relative to resource accumulation? This is a difficult issue to address particularly at this time given the current state of the economy. One of the objectives of the SSI program is to support the efforts of recipients to (re)gain self-sufficiency. The ability to acquire resources and build assets can be instrumental in achieving this objective. However, raising the resource limits comes at some cost to the taxpayer. If Congress considers this issue, it must be mindful of the need to balance the interests of beneficiaries with the interests of the taxpayers who fund the program.

⁹ House of Representatives Report 98-861, Deficit Reduction Act of 1984, Conference Report, June 23, 1984, p. 1388.

¹⁰ Figures derived from the Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI calculator: http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm.

Policy considerations

For SSI recipients, the ability to save more under a higher resource limit would provide added protection against hardships resulting from a drop in income or an increase in expenses. Low-income individuals and families are especially vulnerable to unexpected changes in income or expenses. Because such families are already operating near a subsistence level, with little discretionary spending, unexpected events can result in material deprivation if they do not have savings or other resources to draw on. A recent study looked at the impact of income shocks (for example, loss of a job or reduction of hours, loss of child support, or loss of financial support from extended family) and expense shocks (for example, sudden illness or injury, entry of a non-working dependent into the household, or home or automobile repairs). The study found that, among households with non-elderly heads, with incomes in the lowest fifth, 24 percent experienced two or more material hardships (for example, a utility or phone shutoff or a missed housing payment) over a 12-month period. Having liquid assets up to \$2,000 reduced the incidence of material hardship by 5 percentage points, and having liquid assets between \$2,000 and \$10,000 reduced the incidence by 11 percentage points.¹¹

Increasing the resource limit would change the incentives for participation in the program, and analysis is needed to estimate the effects of a change in the resource limit on two groups: those made newly eligible by raising the resource limit and those near the limit who might respond to the incentive to become eligible for the program:

- Wherever a higher resource limit may be set, there would, by definition, be a somewhat larger group of people with countable resources above the current limit but below the new higher limit, so there is a need to estimate the effect of expanding the group of potential beneficiaries. The cost of the program to taxpayers would tend to increase depending on how many people are made newly eligible, the proportion of those newly eligible who actually apply for SSI, and the proportion of those new applicants who meet the criteria necessary to receive benefits.
- Wherever the resource limit may be set, it has the potential to induce people near the limit to change their behavior. Raising the resource limit could motivate some people to change their work and savings behavior in such a way as to make them eligible for the program. Knowing that they would need to meet the specified resource limit, they might choose to reduce their accumulation of assets directly and/or choose to reduce their work effort that can lead to resource accumulation. Since changing the resource limit would

¹¹ Signe-Mary McKernan, Caroline Ratcliffe, and Katie Vinopal, "Do Assets Help Families Cope with Adverse Events?" *Perspectives on Low-Income Working Families*, Urban Institute, November 2009; Gregory Mills and Joe Amick, "Can Savings Help Overcome Income Instability?" *Perspectives on Low-Income Working Families*, Urban Institute, December 2010.

mean that a different group of people would be near the resource limit, there would be a need to estimate the change in the behavior of that group of people.¹²

Deliberation on SSI resource limits should consider the natural tension among these considerations: the interests of SSI beneficiaries in increased protection against hardships, the cost to taxpayers, and whether the change in the rules would encourage potential beneficiaries to reduce their work and savings. Empirical research is needed to provide a basis for a sound policy decision and should address such subsidiary questions as:

- What is the frequency of material hardships among current SSI beneficiaries?
- To what extent do the current resource limits constrain SSI beneficiaries? That is, how many beneficiaries are close to the current resource limit?
- What would be the effect of an increased resource limit on the work and saving behavior of those potentially eligible? The research should distinguish among the various populations who might seek SSI benefits. The existing research on the impact of raising resource limits on labor supply focused only on those potentially eligible for SSI because they are age 65 or older, only a quarter of current SSI beneficiaries. The work and savings behavior of those potentially qualifying because of serious health related limitations may well be very different from those who qualify based on age. In addition, the work and savings behavior of the parents of potentially eligible disabled children might well be different from the response of working age adults who would potentially be claiming benefits based on their own disability.

SSA should conduct or fund evidence-based research to determine an appropriate resource limit for SSI that would improve the welfare of all concerned.

Barbara B. Kennelly, Chair (A)

Jagadeesh Gokhale

Dorcas R. Hardy

Marsha Rose Katz

¹² Empirical study has found some reduction in work among people approaching the eligibility age for SSI aged benefits. (David Neumark and Elizabeth T. Powers, “The Effect of the SSI Program on Labor Supply: Improved Evidence from Social Security Administrative Files,” *Social Security Bulletin*, 2003/2004.) There have been no comparable studies of changes in behavior to meet eligibility criteria among the population potentially applying for SSI disability benefits