

RACE, NATIVITY, CITIZENSHIP, AGE, AND RESIDENCE OF 1,000,000 RECIPIENTS OF OLD-AGE ASSISTANCE*

FROM AN analysis of the data¹ on more than 1 million persons accepted for old-age assistance by States² in selected periods of 1936-37 and in 1937-38, it is possible to present a picture of this group in terms of race, nativity, citizenship, age, and residence, and to place these findings in perspective by relating them to similar characteristics of the general aged population in the United States as shown by the 1930 census. All comparisons with census data must, of course, be considered approximate because of the lapse of time since the last enumeration and the lack of exact information on changes which have occurred since 1930. The salient findings for this group of aged recipients are shown in chart I.

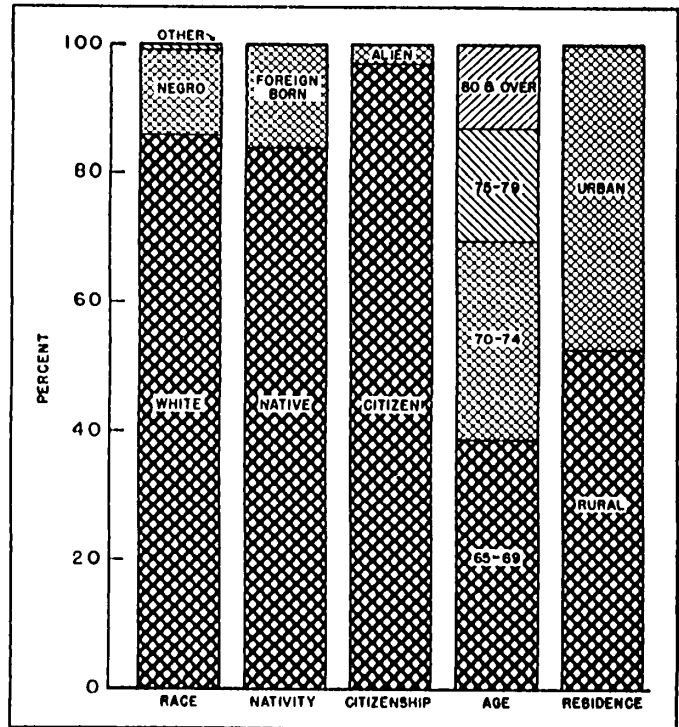
Race

The representation of major racial groups among recipients of old-age assistance does not correspond closely to the proportions these groups comprised of the total population 65 years of age and over in 1930. Among recipients accepted in both 1936-37 and 1937-38, the proportion of Negroes was large in relation to the total number of Negroes 65 and over, as shown in table 1. Of the 586,000 aged persons accepted for assistance in 1937-38, 78,900 or 14 percent were Negro, whereas that racial group accounted for only about 5 percent of the total population aged 65 and over in 1930. On the other hand, the 502,800 white persons approved for old-age assistance in 1937-38 represented somewhat less than 86 percent of the total number accepted, although white persons comprised almost 94 percent of the total aged group.

Although the proportion of Negro recipients appears large in relation to the proportion in

the aged population, it must not be inferred that the incidence of old-age assistance for this group is high in relation to need. Negroes as a group constitute a less privileged portion of the population, and it is extremely unlikely that the number

Chart I.—Old-age assistance: Characteristics of recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38 in all States¹



¹ Exclusive of Virginia which had no plan for old-age assistance in 1937-38; age distribution does not show recipients 60-64 years of age, 0.5 percent of total; residence distribution is exclusive of New England States, where definitions of urban and rural are not applicable.

aided is disproportionate to the number of aged Negroes requiring public assistance to maintain a minimum standard of living.

As shown in table 1, the proportion of Negroes accepted was more than 2 percent higher in 1937-38 than in 1936-37. This rise is attributable primarily to the inauguration of old-age assistance programs in 1937-38 in several States with large Negro populations—Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Table 2 shows the percentage of Negroes among recipients in the 20 States in which Negroes constitute 2 percent or more of the total population 65 years and over. In these 20 States Negroes comprised

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¹ From annual reports made to the Social Security Board by States administering old-age assistance programs under plans approved by the Board. In 1936-37, 43 States administered old-age assistance programs under plans approved by the Social Security Board, but only 42 States reported information on this subject. For the period covered in the different States see *Second Annual Report of the Social Security Board, 1937*, p. 142. In 1937-38, 60 States administered approved plans.

² The term "State" is used to include the District of Columbia and the Territories of Alaska and Hawaii.

Table 1.—Old-age assistance: Race of recipients accepted during selected periods of the fiscal year 1936-37 and during the fiscal year 1937-38, and of the population 65 years and over in 1930, in all States with plans approved by the Social Security Board

Race	Total recipients accepted		Population 65 years and over (1930 census)
	1936-37	1937-38	
	Number		
Total.....	477, 132	585, 877	6, 527, 700
White.....	418, 720	502, 798	6, 121, 896
Negro.....	53, 357	78, 891	347, 215
Other.....	¹ 5, 055	¹ 4, 188	65, 589
	Percent		
Total.....	100. 0	100. 0	100. 0
White.....	87. 7	85. 8	93. 8
Negro.....	11. 2	13. 5	5. 3
Other.....	1. 1	. 7	. 9

¹ Includes 132 recipients for whom information concerning race was unknown.
² Includes 26 recipients for whom information concerning race was unknown.

25 percent of the persons approved in 1937-38 as compared with 20 percent in 1936-37. Negroes comprised about 12 percent of the total aged population in this group of States in 1930. It is unlikely that a marked shift in the racial distribution of the aged population in the country as a whole has occurred since 1930, but for particular States migration during the past decade may have altered considerably the racial distribution, even though younger persons have probably accounted for a large share of the migration. For this reason, comparisons with the census have not been made for individual States.

Persons of races other than white and Negro who were granted old-age assistance in 1937-38 numbered only 4,200 or 0.7 percent, whereas 1.1 percent fell within this classification in the previous year. These figures are not strictly comparable to the 1930 census inasmuch as Mexican recipients are included with the white group in the social data whereas the census includes Mexicans with other races.

Over three-fourths of the recipients of other races were Indians, one-eighth were Chinese, and the remaining eighth included Japanese, Hawaiians, Koreans, Filipinos, Hindus, Malaysians, Siamese, and Samoans. The proportion of other races varied considerably among the individual States, inasmuch as Indians, who constitute the majority group, are concentrated in certain States. Any

person of mixed white and Indian blood has been considered Indian unless the percentage of Indian blood is very small or unless he is regarded as a white person in the community in which he lives.

In Hawaii, Alaska, Nevada, Montana, and South Dakota the proportions of other races to the total recipients accepted during the year were 93, 48, 19, 14, and 7 percent, respectively. As shown in table 3, in all of the 11 States, except Hawaii, approving more than 100 recipients of other races, the great majority were Indians. In Washington and California more than 5 percent were Chinese and in Hawaii 49 percent were Chinese, 20 percent Japanese, 12 percent Hawaiian, and 11 percent Korean.

Nativity and Citizenship

Of the 6.5 million persons aged 65 or over who resided in the United States in 1930, 1.7 million, or about one-fourth, had been born in foreign countries. Among recipients approved for old-age assistance in 1936-37 and 1937-38, however, foreign-born persons were under-represented in relation to their proportion in the population aged 65 and over in 1930. In 1936-37, 16 percent

Table 2.—Old-age assistance: Percent of Negroes among recipients accepted during selected periods of the fiscal year 1936-37 and during the fiscal year 1937-38, in all States and in States in which Negroes constituted 2 percent or more of the population 65 years and over in 1930

State	Percent of Negroes among recipients accepted	
	1936-37	1937-38
All States.....	11. 2	13. 5
Total, 20 States.....	20. 0	25. 1
Alabama.....	45. 2	42. 6
Arkansas.....	16. 9	27. 9
Delaware.....	25. 9	23. 8
District of Columbia.....	61. 5	69. 2
Florida.....	29. 3	30. 3
Georgia.....	(¹)	35. 2
Kansas.....	(¹)	7. 4
Kentucky.....	13. 0	13. 6
Louisiana.....	40. 4	39. 7
Maryland.....	28. 0	30. 2
Mississippi.....	41. 4	40. 6
Missouri.....	6. 6	5. 9
New Jersey.....	11. 8	12. 6
North Carolina.....	(¹)	33. 8
Ohio.....	5. 9	7. 1
Oklahoma.....	7. 4	9. 1
South Carolina.....	(¹)	54. 2
Tennessee.....	(¹)	21. 2
Texas.....	27. 3	20. 4
West Virginia.....	5. 0	6. 0

¹ No approved plan for old-age assistance in 1936-37.

Table 3.—Old-age assistance: Race of recipients, other than white or Negro, accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38, in all States¹ and in States with more than 100 recipients of "other races"

State	Total recipients accepted	Recipients, other than white or Negro		Percent of recipients, other than white or Negro, of specified race		
		Number	Percent	Indian	Chinese	Other
All States.....	685,877	4,162	0.7	75.5	12.5	12.0
Alaska.....	554	268	48.4	100.0	-----	-----
Arizona.....	6,540	169	2.4	90.6	3.8	5.6
California.....	47,954	345	.7	92.4	6.4	1.2
Hawaii.....	945	880	93.1	-----	48.9	51.1
Michigan.....	41,323	113	.3	100.0	-----	-----
Montana.....	3,216	434	13.5	99.3	.5	.2
North Carolina.....	33,060	133	.4	100.0	-----	-----
Nevada.....	2,145	409	19.1	99.8	.2	-----
Oklahoma.....	7,432	152	2.0	100.0	-----	-----
South Dakota.....	8,988	628	7.0	99.8	.2	-----
Washington.....	9,858	142	1.4	80.3	19.0	.7

¹ Exclusive of Virginia, which had no plan for old-age assistance in 1937-38.
² Includes 499 recipients in 30 States where number was too small for significant percentage distribution; 9 other States had no recipients other than white or Negro.
³ Includes Japanese, 20.0 percent; Hawaiian, 11.7 percent; Korean, 10.8 percent; other, 8.6 percent.

of the persons approved were born in foreign countries. As shown in table 4, the same proportion of the recipients accepted in 1937-38 were of foreign birth, while 25 percent of the aged population were foreign-born.³ It is a matter of conjecture as to whether the proportion of foreign-born in the population 65 or over has declined since 1930. The total foreign-born population is probably smaller than in 1930. There has been practically no immigration in recent years to offset deaths in this portion of the population. This group, however, is much older, on the average, than the native population. In 1930 more than 14 percent of the total foreign-born population were between 55 and 64 years of age, whereas only 6 percent of the native population were persons who, if they survived, would attain age 65 within the present decade. Even though the proportion of foreign-born in the aged population may be substantially the same as in 1930, the movement of the population in the past decade may have altered significantly this proportion in particular States.

The requirement by a majority of the States of citizenship as a condition of eligibility limits the number of foreign-born persons accepted for old-age assistance, but the fact that under-representation is found in most States which do not require citizenship, as well as in all States having such a

¹ Percentages based on number of white persons of foreign birth. For the age group 65 years and over, the census does not contain data on nativity of other than white persons. The number of such persons is very small.

requirement, indicates that other limiting influences, such as the difficulty of proving age or residence, may also be operative. In table 5 the States with approved plans in 1937-38 have been grouped according to citizenship requirement as a condition of eligibility.⁴ In 27 of the 28 States requiring citizenship, 15 percent of the recipients approved were of foreign birth as compared with 26 percent of the population aged 65 and over. On the other hand, in 19 of the 20 States not requiring citizenship, 17 percent of the persons accepted for old-age assistance were foreign-born, whereas 23 percent of the aged population in these States were of foreign birth. In general, therefore, the extent of under-representation is substantially larger in States requiring citizenship.

The proportion of foreign-born recipients accepted during 1937-38 was smaller than their proportion in the population 65 years and over in all States except Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Washington. The over-representation of foreign-born persons approved in 1937-38 in Pennsylvania and Washington probably resulted from the re-

Table 4.—Old-age assistance: Nativity of recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38 and of the population 65 years and over in 1930, in all States¹

Nativity	Recipients accepted		Population 65 years and over (1930 census)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	684,378	100.0	6,517,127	100.0
Native ²	491,403	84.1	4,862,821	74.6
Foreign-born ³	92,823	15.9	1,654,306	25.4

¹ Exclusive of Alaska and Hawaii, and of Virginia, which had no plan for old-age assistance in 1937-38.
² Includes 152 recipients for whom information concerning nativity was unknown; these cases were omitted in computing percentages.
³ Includes foreign-born of Negro and other races. For the age group 65 years and over, census data on nativity are available only for white persons.
⁴ Foreign-born white only.

moval of the citizenship requirements in these States in July 1937 and June 1937, respectively. In Rhode Island, which has a very high proportion of foreign-born in the aged population, 20 years continuous residence in the United States is permitted in lieu of citizenship.

The range in the proportion which persons of foreign birth comprised of the total number of

¹ Comparisons with census data cannot be made for Alaska and Hawaii because the territorial census does not include data on nativity for persons 65 years and over. Iowa and South Dakota are listed separately. Iowa grants assistance to any person otherwise eligible who has resided in the United States 25 years and believes himself to be a citizen, while South Dakota approves grants to applicants who have taken out their first papers.

recipients approved during 1937-38 was wide. In North Dakota 57 percent of the persons approved were born in foreign countries, and in Rhode Island, Minnesota, Massachusetts, and Washing-

Table 5.—Old-age assistance: Foreign-born white among recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38 and in the population 65 years and over in 1930, according to citizenship requirement in each State¹

States with specified citizenship requirements	Total recipients accepted	Foreign-born white		Percent of foreign-born white in population 65 years and over (1930 census)
		Number	Percent	
All States ¹	584,378	92,823	15.9	25.4
Not requiring citizenship ²	259,484	42,867	10.5	23.3
Arkansas.....	6,066	82	1.2	3.3
Florida.....	21,082	1,280	6.1	12.1
Georgia.....	36,700	118	.3	1.6
Kansas.....	21,516	1,899	8.8	17.2
Louisiana.....	8,479	214	2.5	8.0
Maine.....	10,356	1,655	16.0	18.1
Michigan.....	41,323	14,925	36.1	38.6
Minnesota ³	8,855	4,286	48.4	59.6
Mississippi.....	1,092	6	.3	1.4
Missouri.....	29,012	1,922	6.6	12.3
Montana.....	3,216	953	29.6	37.3
Nebraska.....	3,510	881	25.2	36.8
New Mexico.....	1,002	44	4.4	6.4
Pennsylvania.....	20,266	6,337	31.3	23.3
Rhode Island ⁴	2,588	1,417	54.8	46.4
Tennessee.....	21,617	106	.4	2.0
Utah.....	7,885	2,668	35.2	43.0
Washington.....	9,858	3,919	40.1	34.8
Wyoming ⁵	531	122	23.0	26.5
Requiring citizenship or first papers.....	23,304	5,314	22.8	30.0
Iowa ⁶	14,316	2,158	15.1	27.1
South Dakota.....	8,988	3,156	35.1	44.3
Requiring citizenship ⁷	301,590	41,612	11.8	26.3
Alabama.....	6,470	40	.6	2.6
Arizona.....	6,510	643	9.8	11.2
California.....	47,554	8,581	17.9	29.4
Colorado.....	11,833	1,940	16.4	25.6
Connecticut.....	2,797	816	29.2	30.0
Delaware.....	147	11	7.5	11.1
District of Columbia.....	987	21	2.1	12.8
Idaho.....	1,546	232	15.0	25.2
Illinois.....	25,133	6,493	25.8	35.7
Indiana.....	9,166	386	4.2	9.1
Kentucky.....	5,757	31	.6	4.0
Maryland.....	4,952	268	5.4	13.6
Massachusetts.....	19,550	7,863	40.2	41.5
Nevada.....	2,145	269	14.0	28.7
New Hampshire.....	997	214	21.7	26.1
New Jersey.....	6,928	1,713	24.7	37.5
New York.....	23,423	7,244	30.9	40.1
North Carolina.....	33,060	37	.1	.8
North Dakota.....	1,486	849	57.1	66.4
Ohio.....	19,020	1,803	9.5	17.6
Oklahoma.....	7,432	187	2.6	6.3
Oregon.....	7,169	1,014	14.1	26.7
South Carolina.....	24,415	35	.1	1.1
Texas.....	16,934	552	3.3	9.0
Vermont.....	2,052	277	13.5	18.0
West Virginia.....	4,498	60	1.3	4.5
Wisconsin.....	9,209	3,030	32.9	47.9

¹ Exclusive of Alaska and Hawaii, and of Virginia, which had no plan for old-age assistance in 1937-38.

² Exclusive of Hawaii for which data are not available on percent of foreign-born white in population 65 years and over.

³ Noncitizens must have resided in the United States 25 years.

⁴ Noncitizens must have resided in the United States 20 years.

⁵ Noncitizens must have resided in the United States 15 years.

⁶ Grants aid to a person, resident in the United States 25 years, who in good faith believes self to be a citizen.

⁷ Exclusive of Alaska for which data are not available on percent of foreign-born white in population 65 years and over.

Table 6.—Old-age assistance: Place of birth of foreign-born recipients accepted during selected periods of the fiscal year 1936-37 and during the fiscal year 1937-38, in all States with plans approved by the Social Security Board

Place of birth	Foreign-born recipients			
	1936-37		1937-38	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	176,699	100.0	194,243	100.0
Europe.....	68,650	89.6	77,049	81.8
Northwestern.....	31,189	40.7	38,278	40.6
Central.....	25,576	33.4	25,219	26.8
Eastern.....	6,901	9.0	7,419	7.9
Southern.....	4,952	6.5	5,847	6.2
Other.....	32	(1)	286	.3
Asia.....	652	.8	1,092	1.2
North America.....	7,042	9.2	15,696	16.6
Canada.....	6,460	8.4	14,484	15.4
Newfoundland.....	62	.1	171	.2
Mexico.....	251	.3	382	.4
Cuba.....	50	.1	142	.2
West Indies ⁴	219	.3	417	.4
All other.....	286	.4	405	.4

¹ Includes 69 foreign-born recipients for whom information concerning country of birth was unknown; these cases were omitted in computing percentages.

² Includes 101 foreign-born recipients for whom information concerning country of birth was unknown; these cases were omitted in computing percentages.

³ Less than 0.1 percent.

⁴ Exclusive of possessions of the United States.

ton more than 40 percent were foreign-born. In 7 southern States which have very small foreign-born populations—Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee—less than 1 percent of the recipients approved in 1937-38 were of foreign birth. Chart II shows the percentage of foreign-born among recipients accepted in 1937-38 and among the population 65 years and over for States in which foreign-born white persons constitute 5 percent or more of the aged population.

Almost 90 percent of those approved in 1936-37 were born in Europe, and 82 percent of those approved in 1937-38. As shown in table 6, almost half the European-born accepted in 1937-38 originated in the northwestern part. Northwestern Europe is composed of England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, and France; central Europe consists of Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, and Yugoslavia; eastern Europe comprises Russia, Lithuania, Finland, Rumania, and Turkey in Europe; and southern Europe includes Greece, Italy, Spain, and Portugal.

Seventeen percent of the foreign-born persons approved in 1937-38 were from other North American countries, with over 15 percent from Canada; in 1936-37 only 9 percent were from other North American countries. The small proportion from Asia—about 1 percent in 1937-38—may be accounted for by the fact that California, the State with the greatest number of persons of Asiatic birth, requires citizenship for eligibility and such persons are not eligible for citizenship.

The location of foreign-born recipients parallels the geographic distribution of different nationalities in the total population. Recipients born in northwestern and central Europe are widely distributed throughout the United States, while those from southern Europe have remained in the northeastern States. Although recipients from Canada are found in considerable numbers in many States, they have for the most part become residents of the northern New England States and of Michigan.

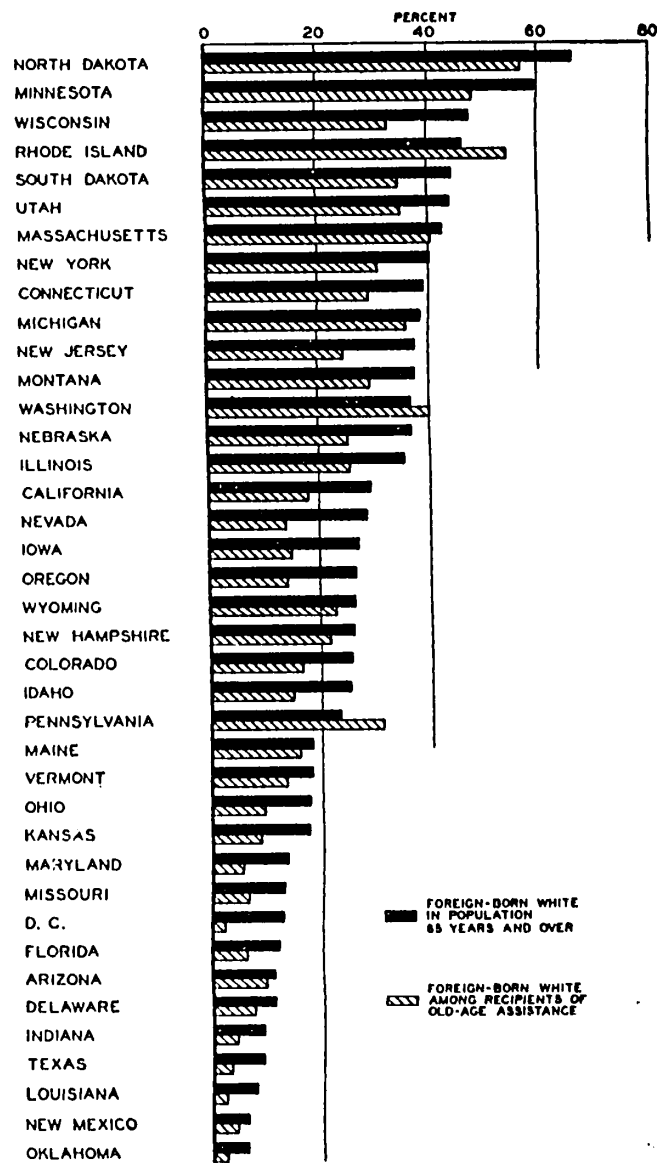
The distribution by citizenship status of persons accepted for old-age assistance is, of course, influenced by the requirement in a majority of States of citizenship as a condition of eligibility. Furthermore, the States requiring citizenship include five of the six States with the highest percentage of aliens in the total white foreign-born

Table 7.—Old-age assistance: Citizenship of all recipients and of foreign-born recipients in all States,¹ and of foreign-born recipients in States not requiring citizenship, among recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38

Citizenship status	Total recipients accepted	Total foreign-born recipients accepted	Foreign-born recipients in 20 States not requiring citizenship for eligibility
			Number
Total	585,877	94,243	43,090
Citizen	568,690	77,208	27,518
With first papers	3,394	3,394	2,985
Alien	13,623	13,623	13,469
	Percent		
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Citizen	97.1	81.9	62.6
With first papers6	3.6	6.8
Alien	2.3	14.5	30.6

¹ Exclusive of Virginia, which had no plan for old-age assistance in 1937-38.
² Includes 170 recipients for whom information concerning citizenship was unknown; these cases were omitted in computing percentages.
³ Includes 18 foreign-born recipients for whom information concerning citizenship status was unknown; these cases were omitted in computing percentages.

Chart II.—Old-age assistance: Foreign-born white in population 65 years and over in 1930 and among recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38, in selected States¹



¹ Includes States in which foreign-born white constitute more than 5 percent of the population 65 years and over, omitting Alaska and Hawaii.

population 21 years and over.⁵ According to the 1930 census about 50 percent of the aliens in the United States aged 21 and over lived in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island, all of which except Rhode Island have citizenship requirements.

As shown in table 7, over 97 percent, or about 568,700, of the total number of recipients accepted during 1937-38 were citizens; only 2 percent, or

⁵ The census does not contain data on the number of aliens 65 or more years of age.

approximately 13,600, were aliens; and less than 1 percent, or 3,400, had received their first papers. Almost 82 percent of the recipients of foreign birth had become citizens, 4 percent had taken out their first papers, and 15 percent had remained aliens.

Recipients who had their first papers or who were aliens were concentrated in the 20 States not requiring citizenship. Even in these States, however, the overwhelming majority of the persons accepted were citizens. Table 8 shows that almost 94 percent of the recipients approved in this group of States were citizens, 1 percent had their first papers, and 5 percent were aliens. Of the foreign-born persons accepted in these 20 States, about 62 percent had become citizens, 7 percent had obtained their first papers, and 31 percent were aliens.

As is indicated in table 8, Pennsylvania is the only State, with the exception of Hawaii, in which aliens and persons who had their first papers comprised more than half the foreign-born recipients approved in 1937-38. Aged persons lacking citizenship first became eligible for old-age assistance in Pennsylvania in July 1937. In Rhode Island, Michigan, Washington, Maine, and Louisiana more than one-third of the foreign-born recipients

approved in 1937-38 were either persons who had obtained their first papers or aliens. Citizenship was required in Washington until June 1937, and in Michigan this requirement had been eliminated in July 1937.

Age

Under the Social Security Act Federal funds may be used for old-age assistance to persons 65 or more years of age, although the States are free to adopt lower age limits for recipients whose payments are met wholly from State or State and local funds. Most States have established a minimum age requirement of 65 years. Colorado is the only State which has set a lower age limit; assistance is granted to persons between 60 and 65 years of age if they have resided continuously in the State for 35 years and are otherwise eligible. Because a number of the State laws which were in effect prior to the passage of the Social Security Act specified an age requirement of 70 years, the act provided that plans might prescribe a minimum age of as much as 70 years until January 1, 1940. After that time Federal grants may be made only to States which provide for a minimum

Table 8.—Old-age assistance: Citizenship of all recipients and of foreign-born recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38, in all States¹ and in States with no citizenship requirements

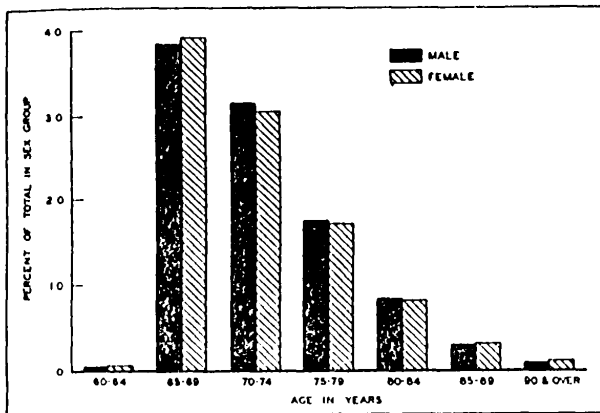
State	Total recipients accepted				Foreign-born recipients accepted			
	Number	Percent having specified citizenship status			Number	Percent having specified citizenship status		
		Citizen	With first papers	Alien		Citizen	With first papers	Alien
All States.....	1 585, 877	97.1	0.6	2.3	1 94, 243	81.0	3.6	14.5
Total, 20 States.....	1 260, 420	93.7	1.1	5.2	1 43, 990	62.6	6.8	30.6
Arkansas.....	6, 969	90.0	.1	(²)	1 83			
Florida.....	21, 082	98.0	.6	1.4	1, 433	71.1	8.8	20.1
Georgia.....	36, 700	99.0	(²)	.1	123	78.0	5.7	16.4
Hawaii.....	945	21.7	.4	77.9	756	2.1	.5	97.4
Kansas.....	21, 516	97.8	1.0	1.2	1, 002	74.8	11.2	14.0
Louisiana.....	8, 470	99.1	.1	.8	220	63.6	4.1	32.3
Maine.....	10, 356	93.7	.2	6.1	1, 660	60.8	1.2	38.0
Michigan.....	41, 323	81.4	3.4	12.2	15, 002	57.1	9.4	33.5
Minnesota.....	8, 855	90.6	1.0	7.6	4, 289	80.5	4.0	16.6
Mississippi.....	1, 992	100.0			1 6			
Missouri.....	20, 012	99.0	.3	.7	1, 029	85.3	4.6	10.1
Montana.....	3, 216	95.0	2.3	2.7	978	83.4	7.7	8.9
Nebraska.....	3, 510	95.7	1.0	2.4	886	83.0	7.6	9.4
New Mexico.....	1, 002	98.7	.1	1.2	1 41			
Pennsylvania.....	20, 266	83.8	1.4	14.8	6, 358	48.3	4.6	47.2
Rhode Island.....	2, 588	75.3	1.2	23.5	1, 428	55.3	2.1	42.6
Tennessee.....	24, 647	99.0	(²)	.1	107	85.9	.9	13.2
Utah.....	7, 585	92.3	1.0	6.8	2, 682	78.3	5.4	16.3
Washington.....	9, 858	83.6	3.2	13.2	3, 978	59.2	8.0	32.8
Wyoming.....	631	93.1	2.6	4.3	126	70.6	11.1	18.3

¹ Exclusive of Virginia, which had no plan for old-age assistance in 1937-38.
² Includes 170 recipients whose citizenship status was unknown; these cases were omitted in computing percentages.
³ Includes 18 recipients whose citizenship status was unknown; these cases were omitted in computing percentages.

⁴ Includes 156 recipients whose citizenship status was unknown; these cases were omitted in computing percentages.
⁵ Less than 0.1 percent.
⁶ Number too small for significant percentage distribution.

age requirement of not more than 65 years. In 1937-38, Indiana, Missouri, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania required a minimum age of 70 years.

Chart III.—Old-age assistance: Age, according to sex, of recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38 in all States¹



¹ Exclusive of Virginia which had no plan for old-age assistance in 1937-38.

Although the majority of all recipients accepted during 1937-38 were 70 or more years of age, the 5-year age group containing the largest number of persons was that from 65-69 years. This age group represents a larger proportion of the potentially eligible population than any higher 5-year group. As shown in table 9, about 227,200 or 39 percent of the 586,000 persons added to the old-age assistance rolls in 1937-38 were between 65 and 69 years of age. Approximately 354,200 or 60 percent were 70 years of age or over; of these 31 percent were between 70 and 74, 17 percent between 75 and 79, and 12 percent from 80 to over 100. The remaining 1 percent consisted of persons between 60 and 64 in Colorado and persons who were at least 65 but whose exact age was unknown. The age distribution of the total number of recipients accepted in 1937-38 does not differ markedly from the distribution for the previous year. A somewhat higher proportion are between 65 and 69 years of age—39 percent as compared with 37 percent in 1936-37.

Among all recipients approved in 1937-38 the age groups beginning at 70 years are weighted upward by the distributions in Indiana, Missouri, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania—States in which the minimum age for eligibility was 70 years. These 4 States accounted for 10 percent of the total number of persons accepted during the

year. In the 45 States with an age requirement of 65 years, more than 43 percent were between 65 and 69, and about 57 percent were aged 70 or more.

The length of time a State program for old-age assistance has been in operation influences directly the age distribution of the persons currently approved for assistance. After a program is established the persons added will, to a considerable extent, be those becoming eligible upon reaching the minimum age required. In 31 States in which the number of persons accepted during 1937-38 comprised less than 50 percent of the total case load as of June 30, 1938, 51 percent were 65-69 years of age, while in 8 States which acquired their entire case loads in 1937-38 only 31 percent were in this age group.

The age distributions of white and Negro recipients approved in 1937-38 differ markedly. As shown in table 10, in the 45 States with a 65-year age requirement, 45 percent of the white persons accepted were between 65 and 69, while only 33 percent of the Negroes were in this age group. This disparity did not obtain for the total aged population in 1930. According to the census of that year, 42 percent of the members of each race who were 65 years and over were in the age group 65-69. The relatively small proportion of Negro recipients aged 65-69 may be explained partly by

Table 9.—Old-age assistance: Age of recipients accepted in selected periods of the fiscal year 1936-37, and age and sex of recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38, in all States with plans approved by the Social Security Board

Age	Recipients accepted					
	1936-37		1937-38			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Total				Male	Female	
Total.....	477, 132	100. 0	585, 877	100. 0	100. 0	100. 0
60-64 years.....	10	(*)	2, 054	. 5	. 4	. 6
65-69 years.....	175, 426	36. 8	227, 178	38. 8	38. 4	39. 2
70-74 years.....	154, 455	32. 4	181, 700	31. 0	31. 5	30. 5
75-79 years.....	88, 251	18. 5	100, 533	17. 1	17. 3	17. 0
80-84 years.....	40, 089	8. 4	48, 260	8. 2	8. 3	8. 2
85-89 years.....	14, 074	2. 9	18, 106	3. 1	3. 0	3. 2
90-94 years.....	2, 808	. 6	3, 083	. 5	. 5	. 6
95-99 years.....	605	. 1	920	. 2	. 1	. 2
100 years and over.....	472	. 1	687	. 1	. 1	. 1
65 years and over, exact age unknown.....	946	. 2	1, 566	. 3	. 3	. 2

¹ No State had a minimum age of less than 65 years in 1936-37; those cases were accepted in error.
² Less than 0.1 percent.

the fact that most of these Negroes are in southern States where it is more difficult to establish age since the generally accepted proofs—birth certificates and school and other public records are often not available.

Table 10.—Old-age assistance: Age and race of recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38 in 45 States with an age requirement of 65 years and over, and of the population 65 years and over in 1930 in these States

Age	Percent of specified age in 45 States having age requirement of 65 years and over ¹					
	Total recipients accepted			Population 65 years and over (1930 census)		
	Total	White	Negro	Total	White	Negro
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
65-69 years.....	43.3	45.1	32.8	41.8	41.8	41.6
70-74 years.....	27.7	27.1	31.7	20.4	20.6	20.5
75-79 years.....	16.6	16.4	17.0	10.6	10.8	15.8
80-84 years.....	8.1	7.9	9.7	8.0	8.0	9.0
85-89 years.....	3.1	2.7	5.2	3.1	3.0	4.0
90-94 years.....	.7	.5	1.7	.8	.7	1.7
95-99 years.....	.2	.1	.6	.2	.1	.7
100 years and over.....	.1	.1	.5	.1	(*)	.7
65 years and over, exact age unknown.....	.2	.1	.8			

¹ Exclusive of Colorado, Indiana, Missouri, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania, where the minimum age is other than 65 years, and also of Virginia, which had no plan for old-age assistance in 1937-38.

² Less than 0.1 percent.

As shown in table 9 and chart III, there are only small differences in the age distributions of men and women accepted in 1937-38. The proportion of women was slightly higher in the age group 65-69 and in all age groups from 85 to 99 years.

Residence

One of the conditions upon which Federal grants to the States for old-age assistance are contingent is that aid must be made available in all political subdivisions. This requirement was intended to assure the availability of assistance to needy aged persons on a State-wide basis. Experience under State laws prior to the passage of the Social Security Act indicated that laws which were optional with the political subdivisions generally resulted in uneven development of the program within States. The data on residence of recipients accepted in 1936-37 and 1937-38 would seem to show that State programs under the Social Security Act have reached the needy aged in rural as well as in urban areas.

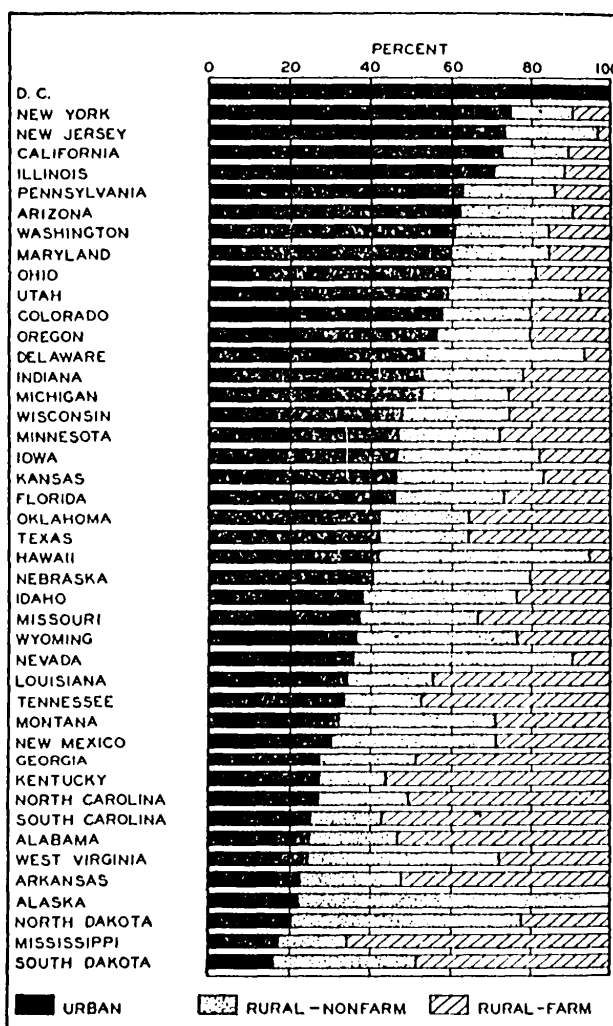
The definitions of urban and rural areas employed by the Bureau of the Census have been

used to record the residence of recipients. Cities and other incorporated places of 2,500 or more inhabitants are urban areas, and rural areas include all incorporated places of less than 2,500 inhabitants and all unincorporated areas.

As shown in table 11, in 1936-37 about 52 percent of the persons approved in all States except the six which comprise New England⁶ lived in urban communities and approximately 48 percent in rural areas. In 1937-38 these proportions were reversed, and a majority of the recipients ac-

⁶ The New England States are omitted in this discussion because the definitions of urban and rural residence are not applicable to those States.

Chart IV.—Old-age assistance: Residence of recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38 in selected States¹



¹ Exclusive of New England States, where definitions of urban and rural are not applicable, and of Virginia, which had no plan for old-age assistance in 1937-38.

Table 11.—Old-age assistance: Residence of recipients accepted during selected periods of the fiscal year 1936-37 and during the fiscal year 1937-38, in all States¹ with plans approved by the Social Security Board

Residence	Recipients accepted			
	1936-37		1937-38	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	460,211	100.0	547,547	100.0
Urban.....	238,089	51.7	260,184	47.5
Rural.....	222,132	48.3	287,363	52.5
Farm.....	(1)	(1)	156,004	28.5
Nonfarm.....	(1)	(1)	131,299	24.0

¹ Exclusive of New England States, where definitions of urban and rural are not applicable.

² Data not available.

cepted lived in rural areas. This increase for the rural areas is attributable to the initiation of programs for old-age assistance under the Social Security Act in a number of predominantly rural States—Georgia, Kansas, Nevada, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. In the group of 36 States which administered approved plans in both 1936-37 and 1937-38, exclusive of the New England States, the percentage of recipients in urban areas increased from 52 to 53 percent.

Comparisons of the residence of persons accepted for old-age assistance with the 1930 census data on residence have not been made because it is believed that the extensive shifts in population brought about by the readjustments of the depression years would seriously limit their validity.

Somewhat more than half the rural recipients accepted during 1937-38 were living on farms. The Bureau of the Census defines a farm as any tract of land on which agricultural operations are carried on if it has three acres or more of land or has produced during the year agricultural commodities worth \$250. One out of every four recipients accepted during the year was living on such a farm.

Among the States the proportion of recipients who live in rural areas varies greatly. With the exception of the District of Columbia, which is entirely urban, New York had the lowest per-

Table 12.—Old-age assistance: Residence of recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38, in each State with a plan approved by the Social Security Board¹

State	Total recipients accepted	Percent of recipients having specified residence			
		Urban	Rural		
			Total	Farm	Nonfarm
Total ¹	547,547	47.5	52.5	28.5	24.0
Alabama.....	6,470	24.8	75.2	53.2	22.0
Alaska.....	554	22.0	78.0	78.0
Arizona.....	6,540	62.0	38.0	9.4	28.6
Arkansas.....	6,066	22.6	77.4	52.2	25.2
California.....	47,984	72.6	27.4	10.5	16.9
Colorado.....	11,833	57.9	42.1	20.2	21.9
Delaware.....	147	53.1	46.9	6.8	40.1
District of Columbia.....	987	100.0
Florida.....	21,082	46.0	54.0	26.7	27.3
Georgia.....	30,700	27.4	72.6	48.6	24.0
Hawaii.....	645	41.7	58.3	5.6	52.7
Idaho.....	1,516	37.9	62.1	23.0	38.5
Illinois.....	25,133	70.5	29.5	11.6	18.0
Indiana.....	9,166	52.9	47.1	22.2	24.9
Iowa.....	14,316	46.6	53.4	17.9	35.5
Kansas.....	21,516	46.4	53.6	16.8	36.8
Kentucky.....	5,757	27.3	72.7	55.9	16.8
Louisiana.....	8,479	34.1	65.9	44.4	21.5
Maryland.....	4,952	59.8	40.2	15.6	24.0
Michigan.....	41,323	52.7	47.3	25.9	21.4
Minnesota.....	8,855	47.0	53.0	27.9	25.1
Mississippi.....	1,092	17.2	82.8	65.6	17.2
Missouri.....	20,012	37.2	62.8	33.3	20.5
Montana.....	3,216	32.1	67.9	20.0	38.9
Nebraska.....	3,510	40.3	59.7	20.7	39.0
Nevada.....	2,145	35.8	64.2	9.6	54.6
New Jersey.....	6,028	73.2	26.8	2.9	23.9
New Mexico.....	1,002	30.2	69.8	28.9	40.9
New York.....	23,423	74.6	25.4	9.5	15.9
North Carolina.....	33,060	27.3	72.7	60.2	22.5
North Dakota.....	1,486	20.3	79.7	22.1	57.0
Ohio.....	19,020	59.5	40.5	19.1	21.4
Oklahoma.....	7,432	42.3	57.7	35.4	22.3
Oregon.....	7,169	60.5	39.5	20.3	23.2
Pennsylvania.....	20,296	62.5	37.5	14.3	23.2
South Carolina.....	24,415	25.0	75.0	57.1	17.9
South Dakota.....	8,988	15.9	84.1	45.5	35.6
Tennessee.....	21,647	33.5	66.5	47.2	19.3
Texas.....	16,031	42.0	58.0	35.9	22.1
Utah.....	7,555	59.1	40.9	7.9	33.0
Washington.....	9,858	60.6	39.4	15.9	23.5
West Virginia.....	4,498	24.4	75.6	25.0	47.6
Wisconsin.....	9,269	48.0	52.0	25.3	26.7
Wyoming.....	531	36.5	63.5	23.5	40.0

¹ Exclusive of New England States where definitions of urban and rural are not applicable.

centage of rural recipients—25 percent—and South Dakota the highest—84 percent. As shown in table 12 and chart IV, other States with more than three-fourths of their recipients living in rural areas are Mississippi, North Dakota, Alaska, Arkansas, West Virginia, and Alabama. More than half the recipients accepted in Mississippi, South Carolina, Kentucky, Alabama, Arkansas, and North Carolina were reported as living on farms.