

mate depends on the sample design elements such as the method of sampling, the sample size, and on the estimation process.

The reliability of an estimated percentage depends on both the size of the percentage and on the size of the total base population. Table I shows the approximate standard errors for percentages of persons with a given characteristic. The standard errors in the body of the table are expressed in percentage points. Standard errors for percentages and bases not shown in the table can be obtained by linear interpolation.

TABLE I.—Approximation of standard errors of estimated percentages

Size of base	Estimated percentages						
	2 or 98	5 or 95	10 or 90	20 or 80	30 or 70	40 or 60	50
2,500.....	2 9	4 5	6 2	8 3	9 5	10 2	10 4
5,000.....	2 1	3 2	4 4	5 9	6 8	7 2	7 4
7,500.....	1 7	2 6	3 6	4 8	5 5	5 9	6 0
10,000.....	1 5	2 3	3 1	4 2	4 8	5 1	5 2
25,000.....	9	1 4	2 0	2 6	3 0	3 2	3 3
50,000.....	7	1 0	1 4	1 9	2 1	2 3	2 3
75,000.....	6	8	1 1	1 5	1 8	1 9	1 9
100,000.....	5	7	1 0	1 3	1 5	1 6	1 7
250,000.....	3	5	6	8	1 0	1 0	1 1
500,000.....	2	3	5	6	7	7	8
750,000.....	2	3	4	5	6	6	6
1,000,000.....	2	2	3	4	5	5	5

## Notes and Brief Reports

### Benefits for Grandchildren and Certain Blind Persons Under 1972 Amendments\*

The 1972 amendments to the Social Security Act made entitlement to child's benefits under the old-age, survivors, disability, and health insurance program possible for the dependent grandchildren of insured workers in certain circumstances. The amendments also modified the disability insured-status requirement for blind persons.<sup>1</sup> Both provisions became effective January 1973. Information on the early experience under these amendments has been compiled from the master beneficiary record of the Social Security Administration.

#### DEPENDENT GRANDCHILDREN

Beginning January 1973, children may become entitled to benefits on the basis of the earnings records of their grandparents, if the child's parents are either deceased or disabled and the child

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<sup>1</sup> See Robert M. Ball, "Social Security Amendments of 1972: Summary and Legislative History," *Social Security Bulletin*, March 1973.

was living with the grandparent and was dependent on the grandparent for at least one-half his support for the year before the grandparent became entitled to benefits or died.

Relatively few persons have qualified for benefits under this provision so far. At the end of December 1973, only 137 children were entitled to benefits on the basis of their grandparents' earnings record (table 1).

Many more children who would be eligible for benefits as the grandchildren of entitled workers may not have filed for such benefits because they were not aware of the new provision in the law. The Social Security Administration is unable to identify potential grandchildren beneficiaries for those grandparents who were on the rolls when the provision became effective. (Currently, when applicants file for benefits they are asked if they

TABLE 1.—Benefits in current-payment status for all children and for those entitled to benefits on the earnings records of grandparents, end of 1973

Basis of entitlement	Number of children	Average primary insurance amount	Average monthly amount
Entitled on grandparents' record, total.....	137	\$164 39	\$80 10
Retirement.....	58	153 37	57 58
Disability.....	22	171 32	52 58
Death.....	57	172 93	113 63
All entitled children, total.....	4,689,620	187 31	89 88
Retirement.....	620,600	176 41	61 40
Disability.....	1,162,489	194 23	50 33
Death.....	2,906,451	186 87	111 78

or the deceased wage earner had any dependent grandchildren.)

Many other children may be living with their grandparents and may be dependent on them, but they are entitled to benefits on the basis of the earnings records of their disabled or deceased parents. It is estimated that 95 out of 100 children would be eligible on the death of their parents for survivor benefits based on the earnings record of a parent.

### REVISED DISABILITY INSURED-STATUS REQUIREMENT FOR THE BLIND

To be insured for disability benefits, a blind person now needs to have only fully insured status—that is, as many quarters of coverage as the number of calendar years that have elapsed since 1950 (or the year he attained age 21, if later) up to the year he became disabled. The blind individual no longer has to meet the requirements of substantial recent covered work (generally 20 quarters of coverage within the 40 calendar quarters preceding disablement). This change in the law makes it easier for many blind persons to qualify for disability benefits.

At the end of December 1973, nearly 1,800 blind workers and 65 of their dependents were

TABLE 2.—Benefits in current-payment status for blind disabled workers entitled on the basis of fully insured-status provision of the 1972 amendments and their dependents and for all disabled workers, end of 1973

Type of beneficiary and age	With entitlement based on fully insured status for blind			All entitled disabled workers		
	Number	Average primary insurance amount	Average monthly amount	Number	Average primary insurance amount	Average monthly amount
Disabled workers, total.....	1,759	\$123 78	\$123 52	2,016,884	\$184 07	\$183 03
Under age 62.....	1,606	123 90	123 83	1,596,835	183 45	182 41
Aged 62 and over..	153	122 45	120 30	420,049	186 42	185 37
Men.....	839	140 57	140 30	1,418,034	197 04	195 82
Under age 62.....	756	141 11	140 99	1,123,662	196 27	195 05
Aged 62 and over..	83	135 61	133 95	294,372	200 02	198 79
Women.....	920	108 47	108 23	598,850	153 34	152 73
Under age 62.....	850	108 60	108 56	73,173	153 02	152 42
Aged 62 and over..	70	106 84	104 10	125,677	154 68	153 93
Wives and husbands..	11	159 16	47 84	381,326	204 18	55 50
Under age 62.....	6	166 78	35 18	324,524	203 06	53 50
Aged 62 and over..	5	150 02	63 02	56,802	210 60	66 89
Children.....	54	157.07	35 06	1,162,469	194 23	50 33

receiving benefits as a result of the new provision (table 2). The average disabled-worker benefit payable to this group of blind persons was relatively low (\$123.52)—only about two-thirds as much as the average benefit amount for all disabled workers. For these blind persons, the low amount of their benefit reflects the employment and earnings difficulties attending many of the blind.