

# Fast Facts and Figures about Social Security

Staff of the Office of Research, Statistics, and International Policy (ORSIP) respond to more than 100 calls per month for data about old-age, survivors, and disability insurance (OASDI) program beneficiaries and supplemental security income (SSI) program recipients. The calls come from Social Security staff — both from headquarters and the field — as well as from State agencies, congressional staff, and private organizations.

The data in this compilation are designed to answer the most frequently asked questions, not only about OASDI beneficiaries and SSI recipients, but also about the Medicare, Medicaid, and the AFDC programs.

Most of the data are from the **Annual Statistical Supplement** to the **Social Security Bulletin**, which includes more than 200 detailed statistical tables. Other data are from **Monthly Benefit Statistics** and other ORSIP publications. Finally, some data have not been previously published; where a source is not identified, the data are from ORSIP. Reprints of this feature will be available shortly.

Compiled by Melinda Upp, Special Assistant to the Director, Office of Research, Statistics, and International Policy (ORSIP), Office of Policy, Social Security Administration. Additional information is available from Miss Upp at 202-673-5627. Assistance was provided by Herman Grundmann of ORSIP's Division of Statistics Analysis.

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# General Information, 1986

## OASDI tax rate:

	Total	OASDI	HI
Employee and employer, each..	7.15%	5.7%	1.45%
Self-employed* .....	14.30	11.40	2.90

\*In 1986-89, the law provides the self-employed with a credit against their tax liability equal to 2.0 percent of self-employment income.

**Maximum earnings subject to social security taxes:**  
\$42,000

## Taxes payable:

Average earner.....	\$1,250.64
Maximum earner.....	3,003.00
Self-employed maximum earner*.....	5,166.00

\*Effective amount after tax credit.

## Quarter of coverage:

\$440 in earnings equals one quarter of coverage

## Earnings test:

Age 65-69.....	\$7,800 annually, \$650 monthly
Under age 65.....	\$5,760 annually, \$480 monthly

## SSI payment standard:

\$336 individual
\$504 couple

## Substantial gainful activity:

Earnings of \$300 per month

## Benefit formula bend points (for workers who reach age 62, become disabled, or die in 1986):

Primary insurance amount equals
90% of the first \$297 of AIME, plus
32% of AIME over \$297 through \$1,790, plus
15% of AIME over \$1,790

## Maximum family benefit:

150% of the first \$379 of PIA, plus
272% of PIA over \$379 through \$548, plus
134% of PIA over \$548 through \$714, plus
175% of PIA over \$714

## Average earnings level:

1984 .....	\$16,135
1985 (est.)* .....	16,747
1986 (est.)* .....	17,493

\*1986 OASDI Trustees Report, alternative II-B assumptions.

## Full-time Federal minimum wage level:

1985 .....	\$6,968
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## Poverty thresholds:

	1983 (actual)	1984 (actual)	1985 (preliminary)
Aged individual.....	\$4,775	\$4,979	\$5,160
Couple, aged head of household.....	6,023	6,282	6,510
Family of four.....	10,178	10,609	10,990

## Trust fund operations (in billions):

Calendar year	Income	Outgo	Fund at end of year
1985 (actual):			
OASI .....	\$184.2	\$171.1	\$35.8
DI .....	19.3	19.5	6.3
HI .....	51.4	48.4	20.5
SMI .....	25.1	23.9	10.9
1986 (est.):*			
OASI .....	196.1	181.8	37.0
DI .....	19.2	20.6	7.5
HI .....	59.6	50.1	40.6
SMI .....	24.3	27.5	7.7

\*1986 Trustees Reports, alternative II-B assumptions.

## OASDI administrative costs as a percent of contributions, fiscal year 1985:\*

1.1%

\*1986 OASDI Trustees Report, alternative II-B assumptions.

## Medicare:

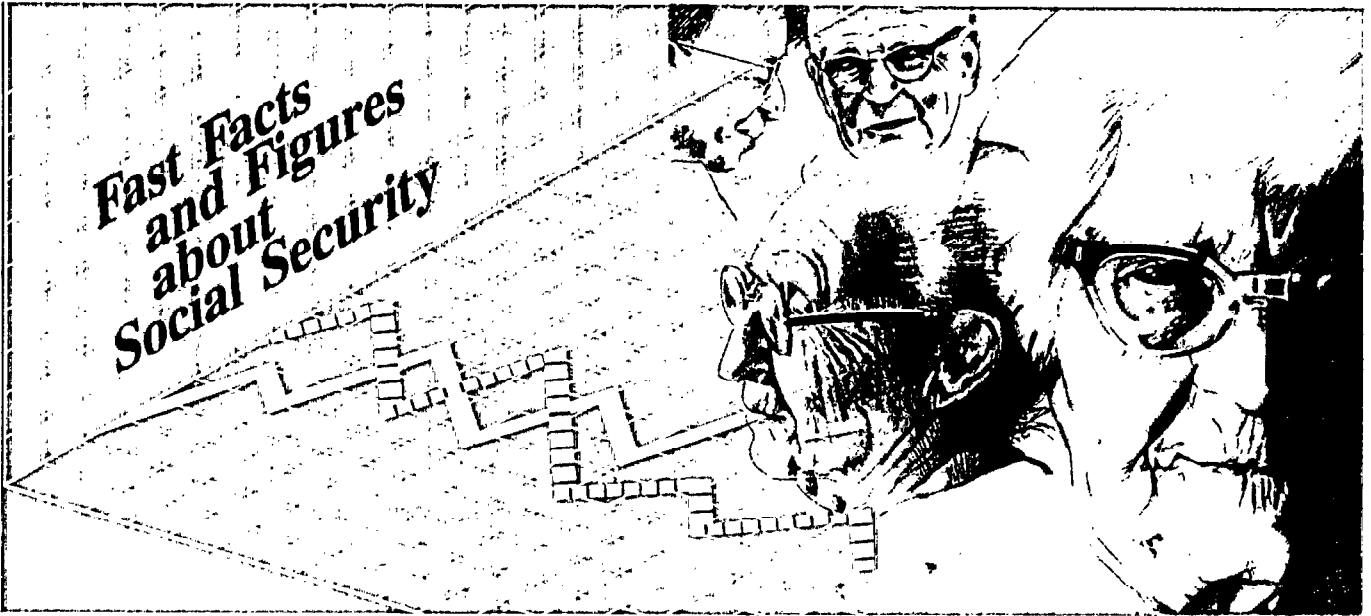
	1985	1986
Part A deductible.....	\$400	\$492
Part A coinsurance (61st to 90th day).....	100	123
Part B annual deductible.....	75	75
Part B premium.....	15.50	15.50

## OASDI and SSI claims filed in fiscal year 1985:

OASI.....	3.3 million
DI .....	1.1 million
SSI .....	1.3 million

## Social Security numbers:

Cards in active use (children, workers, and beneficiaries)....	205 million
Cards issued since 1936.....	301 million
Cards issued in fiscal year 1985.....	6.6 million



## Income of the Aged Population

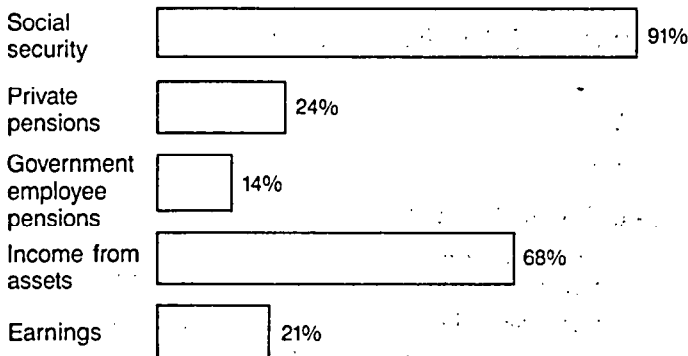
### Receipt of income by the aged, 1962 and 1984

A smaller proportion of couples and nonmarried persons aged 65 or older received earnings in 1984 than in 1962. Social security, which was the most common source of income in 1962, became almost universal by 1984, with 91 percent receiving it. The proportion of aged units with asset income, the next most common source, grew from one-half to two-thirds. In 1962, private pensions and government pensions were each received by less than 10 percent of the aged. By 1984, receipt rates for these sources had nearly tripled.

Income source	1962	1984
Social security	69%	91%
Private pensions	9	24
Government employee pensions	5	14
Income from assets	54	68
Earnings	36	21

Source: Income of the Population 55 and Over, 1984, table 1.

### Percent of aged receiving income from various sources, 1984



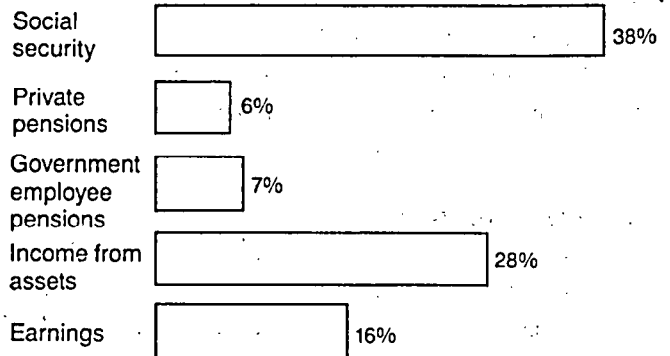
### Shares of aggregate income of the aged, 1962 and 1984

In 1962, social security, other pensions, and income from assets and earnings comprised only 84 percent of the total income for the aged, compared with 95 percent in 1984. Although they accounted for only a small proportion of total income in 1984, private pensions doubled their share in the period. The share from assets increased by three-fourths and from social security by almost a fourth. The share from government pensions changed little and the share from earnings was less than three-fifths as great in 1984 as it was in 1962.

Source	1962	1984
Social security	31%	38%
Private pensions	3	6
Government employee pensions	6	7
Income from assets	16	28
Earnings	28	16

Source: Income of the Population 55 and Over, 1984, table 46.

### Percent of aggregate income of the aged from various sources, 1984



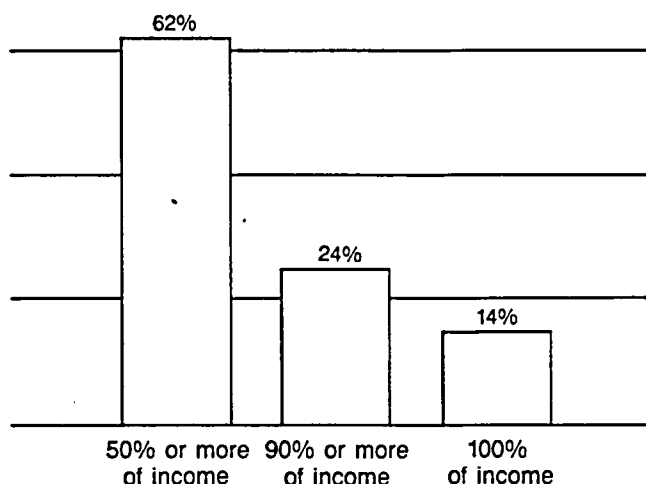
## Reliance on social security, 1984

Social security pays benefits to more than 90 percent of those aged 65 or older. It is the major source of income (providing at least 50 percent of total income) for 62 percent of the beneficiary units, contributes most of the income (90 percent or more) for 24 percent of the units, and is the only income for 14 percent of them.

Proportion of income from social security	Percent
50 percent or more .....	62%
90 percent or more .....	24
100 percent .....	14

Source: Income of the Population 55 and Over, 1984, table 41.

## Percent of beneficiary units with social security as a major source of income



## OASDI Program Workers and Insured Status

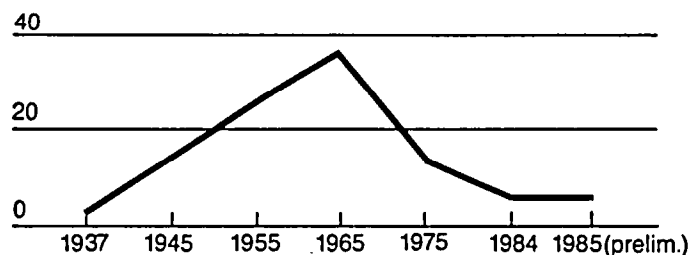
### Workers with taxable earnings, 1937-85

In 1985, 122 million workers had earnings in employment covered by the social security program. Of those workers, 6 percent had earnings that equaled or exceeded the maximum amount subject to social security taxes, compared with 3 percent when the program began and a peak of 36 percent in 1965. About 91 percent of the earnings of workers in covered employment was taxable in 1985, about the same as in 1937.

Year	Total number (in millions)	Percent with maximum earnings	Percent of covered earnings taxable
1937 .....	32.9	3	92
1945 .....	46.4	14	88
1955 .....	65.2	26	80
1965 .....	80.7	36	71
1975 .....	100.2	15	84
1984 .....	118.9	6	91
1985 (preliminary)	121.6	6	91

Source: Annual Statistical Supplement, 1984-85, table 20.

### Percent of covered workers with maximum earnings



### Insured workers, 1985

Of the 170.2 million living persons who had ever worked in employment covered by the social security program, 81 percent were fully insured in 1985 for retirement and survivors benefits; that is, they had at least one quarter of coverage for each year elapsing since 1950 or, if they were older than 62, between 1950 and the year in which they turned 62. Some 64 percent were insured in the event of disability; that is, they were fully insured and had at least 20 quarters of coverage during the last 40 quarters.\*

\*The disability insured status requirements are somewhat different for persons younger than 32.

Total population (in millions) .....	246.3
Total number of living workers (in millions) ..	170.2
Percent fully insured .....	81
Percent insured for disability benefits .....	64

Source: Annual Statistical Supplement, 1984-85, table 30, 31 and 34.

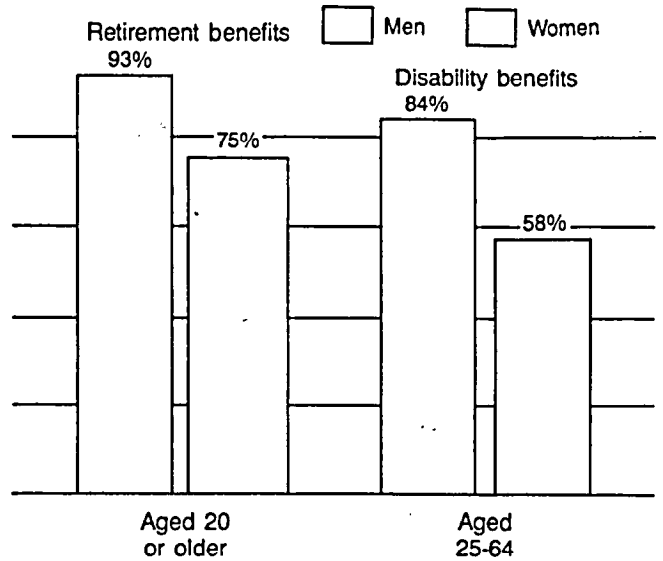
## Insured status by sex, 1985

Men are more likely to be insured for old-age and disability insurance benefits than are women. Among men aged 20 or older in 1985, 93 percent were fully insured, compared with 75 percent of women. Some 84 percent of men aged 25-64 and 58 percent of the women met the insured status requirements for disability insurance benefits.

Insured status	Men	Women
Population aged 20 or older (in thousands).....	83,540	89,927
Percent insured for retirement benefits .....	93	75
Population aged 25-64 (in thousands).....	60,743	61,908
Percent insured for disability insurance benefits.....	84	58

Source: Annual Statistical Supplement, 1984-85, tables 31, and 34, and Actuarial Study No. 94, table 1E.

## Percent insured for benefits, by sex



## Benefit Awards

### Benefits awarded, 1985

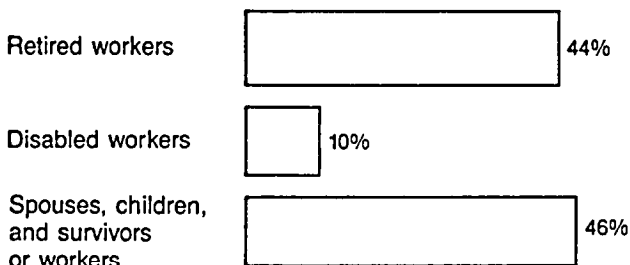
Benefits were awarded to almost 4 million persons in 1985. Almost half (44 percent) were retired workers and 10 percent were disabled workers. The remaining 46 percent were spouses, children, or survivors of workers.

Beneficiary	Total number (in thousands)	Total percent
New awards.....	3,796	100
Retired workers and auxiliaries..	2,175	57
Workers .....	1,690	44
Spouses and children.....	485	13
Disabled workers and auxiliaries..	714	19
Workers .....	377	10
Spouses and children.....	337	9
Survivors of deceased workers...	907	24
Special age-72 beneficiaries.....	1	*

\*Less than 0.5 percent.

Source: Monthly Benefit Statistics, Calendar Year 1985, 1986, table 1.

### Percent of benefits awarded



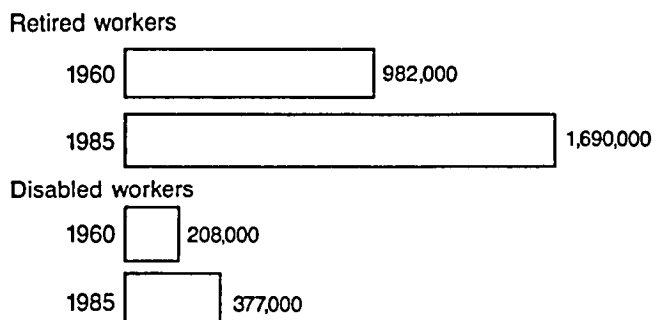
### Benefits awarded to workers, 1960-85

The 1.7 million awards to new retired-worker beneficiaries in 1985 represented a continuation of the general trend toward an increase in these awards that has prevailed since the program began. The 377,000 new disabled-worker awards were the largest number since 1980, but far fewer than the peak in the mid-1970's.

Year	New awards [Numbers in thousands]	
	Retired workers	Disabled workers
1960 .....	982	208
1965 .....	1,183	253
1970 .....	1,338	350
1975 .....	1,506	592
1980 .....	1,613	396
1981 .....	1,600	345
1982 .....	1,618	297
1983 .....	1,670	311
1984 .....	1,612	357
1985 .....	1,690	377

Source: Annual Statistical Supplement, 1984-85, table 35, and Monthly Benefit Statistics, Calendar Year 1985, 1986, table 1.

### New awards



## Hypothetical benefit amounts, 1986

A covered worker who had always earned the Federal minimum wage and who claimed benefits at age 62 in January 1986 would have received a monthly benefit of \$320. One who had always had earnings at or above the maximum amount subject to social security taxes and who claimed benefits at age 65 would have received \$760.

Wage status	Claimed benefits in	
	January 1986 at — Age 62	Age 65
Worker who had always earned the — Federal minimum wage.....	\$320	\$380
Amount equal to average earnings in covered employment.....	482	576
Maximum subject to social security taxes.....	630	760

Source: Office of Legislative and Regulatory Policy,  
Social Security Administration.

## Average amount of newly awarded benefits, 1985

In 1985, the average monthly benefit amount for a person newly awarded benefits as a retired worker was \$445, compared with \$474 for newly entitled disabled workers. The amount was \$438 for widows and widowers. Children of retired and disabled workers received substantially lower benefits than did children of deceased workers.

Beneficiary	Average monthly benefit amount
Retired workers and auxiliaries:	
Workers .....	\$445
Spouses .....	221
Children .....	197
Disabled workers and auxiliaries:	
Workers .....	474
Spouses .....	127
Children .....	130
Widows and widowers (nondisabled)....	438
Disabled widows and widowers.....	306
Widowed mothers and fathers.....	316
Surviving children.....	319

Source: Monthly Benefit Statistics, Calendar Year 1985, 1986,  
table 1.

## Benefits in Current-Payment Status

### Persons receiving monthly benefits, December 1985

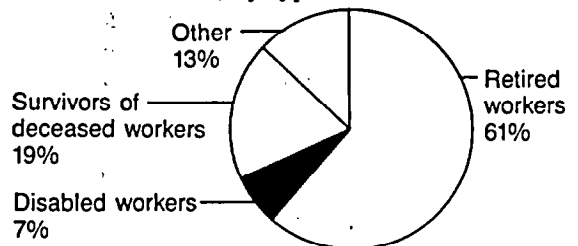
About 37 million persons were receiving monthly social security benefits in December 1985. Of these, the majority (61 percent) were retired workers and 7 percent were disabled workers. Some 32 percent were spouses or children of retired, disabled, or deceased workers.

Beneficiary	Total number (in thousands)	Total percent
Total with benefits in current-payment status.....	37,058	100
Retired workers and auxiliaries...	25,959	70
Workers .....	22,432	61
Spouses and children.....	3,526	10
Disabled workers and auxiliaries:	3,907	11
Workers .....	2,656	7
Spouses and children.....	1,251	3
Survivors of deceased workers...	7,161	19
Special age-72 beneficiaries.....	32	*

\* Less than 0.5 percent.

Source: Monthly Benefit Statistics, No. 12, 1986, table 1.

### Percent of beneficiaries, by type



### Average benefit amounts for persons receiving benefits, December 1985

At the end of 1985, the average monthly benefit amount was \$479 for retired-worker beneficiaries and \$484 for disabled-worker beneficiaries. The average amount for survivor beneficiaries aged 60 or older was \$433.

Beneficiary	Average monthly benefit amount
Retired workers.....	\$479
Spouses .....	246
Children .....	198
Disabled Workers.....	484
Spouses .....	133
Children .....	142
Survivors:	
Widows and widowers (nondisabled)...	433
Disabled widows and widowers.....	315
Mothers and fathers.....	332
Children .....	330

Source: Monthly Benefit Statistics, No. 12, 1986, table 1.

## Family benefit amounts, December 1985

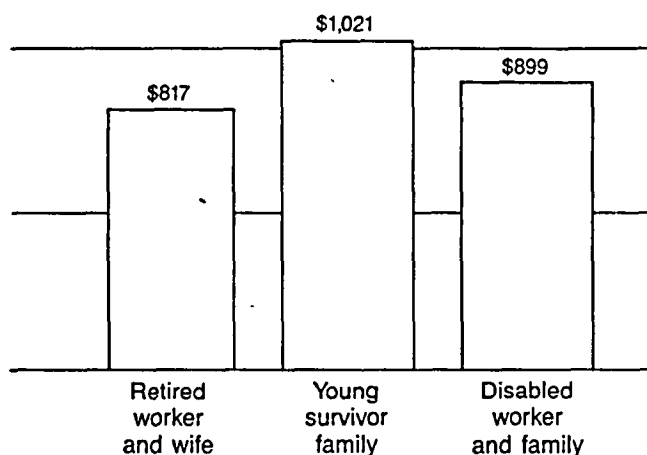
The December 1985 average monthly benefit amount for a retired worker and his wife receiving benefits based on his earnings record was \$817. A disabled worker and his or her family received an average of \$899.

Beneficiary	Average monthly benefit amount*
Retired worker, alone.....	\$468
Retired worker and wife.....	817
Aged widow or widower.....	433
Young survivor family.....	1,021
Disabled worker, alone.....	469
Disabled worker and family.....	899

\* Estimates.

Source: Office of the Actuary, Social Security Administration.

## Average monthly benefit amount



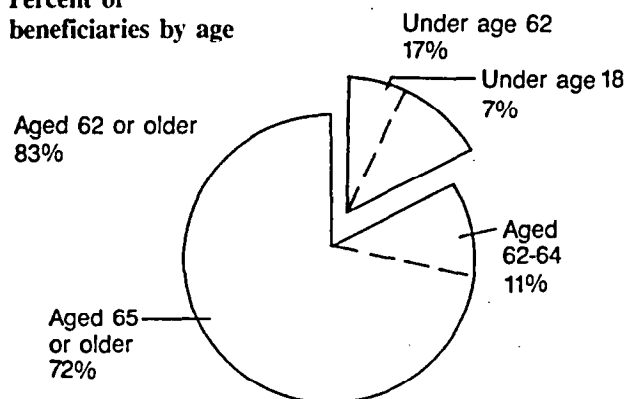
## Beneficiaries by Age

### Age of persons receiving benefits, December 1985

Some 83 percent of all those with benefits in current-payment status were aged 62 or older in December 1985 — 91 percent of those receiving old-age and survivors benefits and 16 percent of those receiving disability insurance benefits. About 7 percent were under age 18 — 5 percent of the old-age and survivors program beneficiaries and 23 percent of the disability insurance program beneficiaries.

Age	Total	OASI	DI
Total number with benefits in current-payment status (in thousands).....	37,058	33,151	3,907
Total percent.....	100	100	100
Under age 18.....	7	5	23
Under age 62.....	17	9	84
Aged 62 or older.....	83	91	16
62-64.....	11	10	16
65 or older.....	72	80	—

### Percent of beneficiaries by age



## Benefit amounts by age, 1984

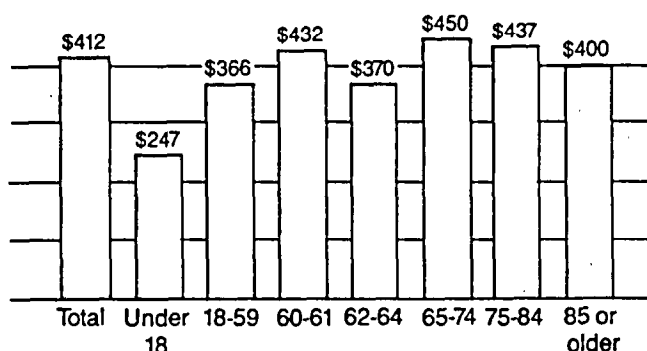
In 1984, retired workers aged 65-74 received the highest benefits — \$484 per month. Among adult survivors, benefits were highest — \$425 a month — for those aged 75-84.

Beneficiary	Average monthly benefit amount of those aged —							
	Total*	Under 18	18-59	60-61	62-64	65-74	75-84	85 or older
Number (in millions).....	36.5	2.7	3.1	0.6	4.0	15.2	8.4	2.4
Average amount.....	\$412	\$247	\$366	\$432	\$370	\$450	\$437	\$400
Retired workers.....	461	—	—	—	372	484	463	410
Widows, widowers, mothers and fathers.....	406	—	319	377	391	422	425	398
Spouses.....	227	—	129	186	219	242	238	227
Disabled workers.....	471	—	465	476	484	—	—	—
Children**.....	249	247	257	—	—	—	—	—

\* Excludes parent and special age-72 beneficiaries.

\*\* Includes disabled adult children.

## Average monthly benefit amounts



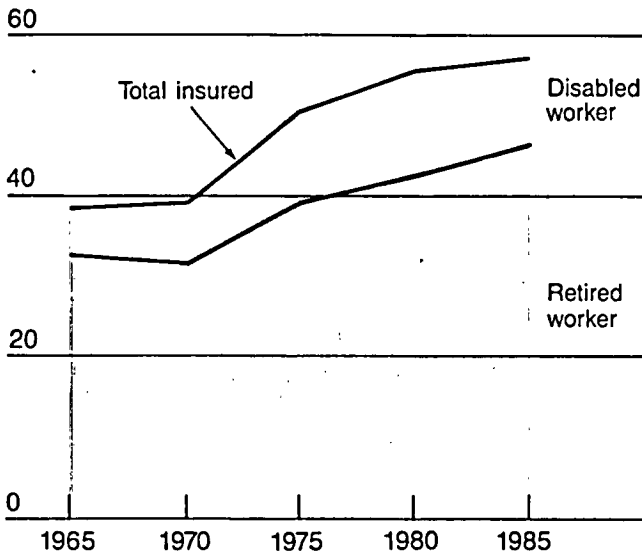
## Percent of insured persons 62 or older receiving benefits by age, 1960-85

The proportion of insured persons receiving benefits at ages 62 to 64 has been increasing, with women more likely to claim benefits at these ages than men. In 1985, more than half of those who were insured for retired- or disabled-worker benefits were receiving them at ages 62 to 64. By age 72, virtually all persons who were insured for benefits were receiving them.

Year and sex	Percent insured with benefits in current-payment status at age —				
	Total	62-64		65-71	72 or older
		Retired worker	Disabled worker		
1965	38	32	6	80	100
1970	39	31	8	80	100
1975	50	39	11	85	99
1980	55	42	13	89	99
1985	57	46	11	88	99
Men	56	43	13	90	100
Women	58	50	8	85	99

Source: Annual Statistical Supplement, 1984-85, table 33.

### Percent of insured persons receiving benefits at age 62-64



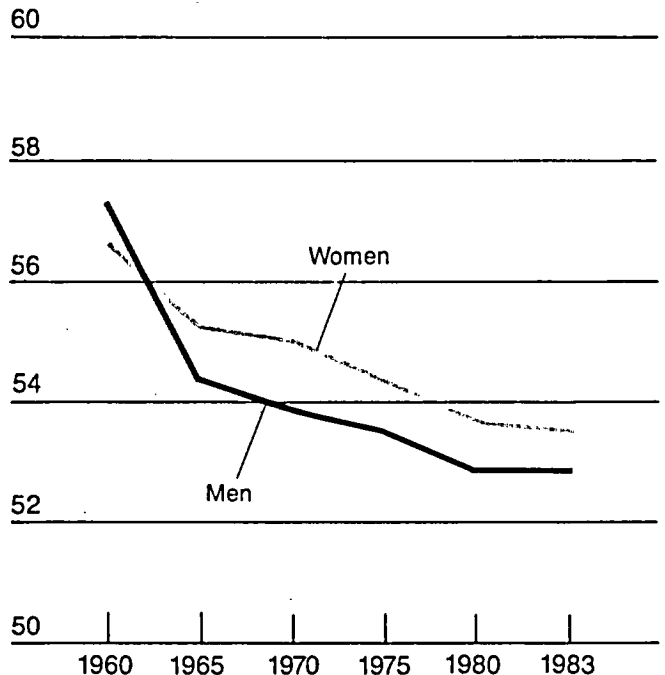
## Age of disabled-worker beneficiaries, 1960-83

The average age of disabled-worker beneficiaries has declined somewhat since disability insurance benefits became available to persons younger than 50 in 1960. In that year, the average age of a male disabled worker was 57.3 years. By 1983, the average age had declined to 52.9 years. Among female disabled workers, the average age was 56.7 years in 1960 and 53.6 years in 1983.

Year	Men	Women
1960	57.3	56.7
1965	54.4	55.2
1970	53.9	55.0
1975	53.5	54.4
1980	52.9	53.7
1983	52.9	53.6

Source: Annual Statistical Supplement, 1984-85, table 90.

### Average age of disabled-worker beneficiaries





## Beneficiaries by Sex

### Sex of persons receiving monthly benefits, December 1985

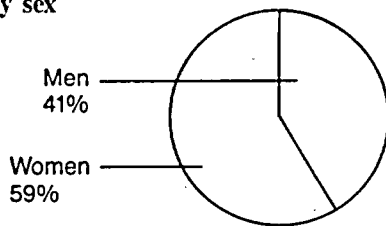
Of all adults receiving social security benefits at the end of 1985, 41 percent were men and 59 percent were women. Fifty-three percent of the retired workers and 67 percent of the disabled workers were men. Among spouses of workers and adult survivor beneficiaries, 99 percent were women.

Beneficiary	Total number (in thousands)	Total percent	Men	Women
Total*	34,265	100	41	59
Retired workers.....	22,432	100	53	47
Disabled workers....	2,656	100	67	33
Spouses of workers..	3,375	100	1	99
Adult survivors**....	5,234	100	1	99

\*Also includes disabled adult children, parents, and special age-72 beneficiaries.

\*\*Includes aged and disabled widows and widowers and mothers and fathers.

### Percent of beneficiaries by sex

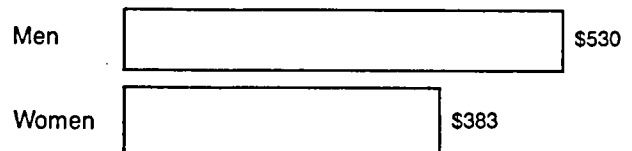


### Average monthly benefit amounts for those receiving benefits, December 1985

Monthly benefits for retired workers averaged \$538 for men and \$412 for women in December 1985. Among disabled-worker beneficiaries, men received an average of \$534 and women, \$381.

Beneficiary	Men	Women
Adults .....	\$530	\$383
Retired workers.....	538	412
Spouses.....	169	247
Disabled workers.....	534	381
Spouses.....	84	133
Survivors:		
Widows and widowers (non-disabled)..	318	434
Disabled widows and widowers.....	191	317
Mothers and fathers.....	195	339

### Average monthly benefit amounts for adult men and women

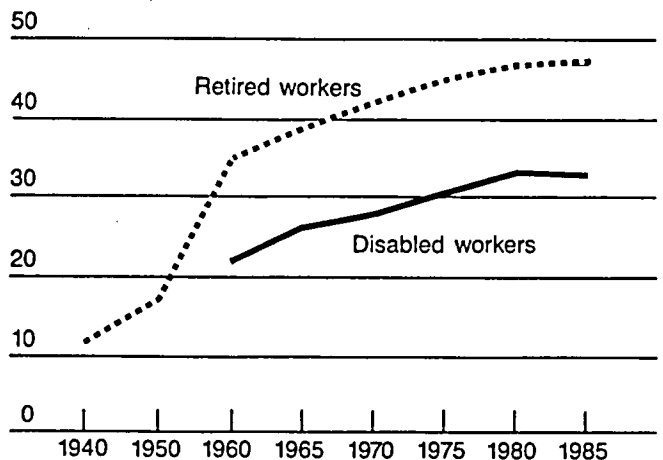


### Female-worker beneficiaries, 1940-85

The proportion of women among disabled- and retired-worker beneficiaries has increased substantially. The proportion of disabled-worker beneficiaries who are women increased from 22 percent in 1960 to 33 percent in 1985, and the proportion of retired-worker beneficiaries who are women has increased from 12 percent to 47 percent since 1940.

Year	Retired workers		Disabled workers	
	Total number (in thousands)	Percent female	Total number (in thousands)	Percent female
1940 .....	112	12	—	—
1950 .....	1,771	17	—	—
1960 .....	8,061	35	455	22
1965 .....	11,101	39	998	26
1970.....	13,349	42	1,493	28
1975.....	16,588	45	2,489	31
1980 .....	19,562	47	2,859	33
1985 .....	22,432	47	2,656	33

### Percent female-worker beneficiaries



Source: Annual Statistical Supplement, 1984-85, tables 69, 79, 89, and Office of Research, Statistics, and International Policy, Office of Policy, Social Security Administration.

## Dual entitlement, 1960-84

The proportion of women aged 62 or older who are receiving benefits based on their husband's or deceased husband's earnings has been declining — from 57 percent in 1960 to 42 percent in 1984. At the same time, the proportion entitled on the basis of their own record and that of their husband has been increasing — from 5 percent in 1960 to 19 percent in 1984. The proportion entitled only on the basis of their own record has been fairly constant since 1960.

## Receipt of benefits by women aged 62 or older, 1960-84

Type of entitlement	1960	1970	1980	1984
Number of beneficiaries (in millions).....	6.6	11.4	16.4	18.0
Total percent.....	100	100	100	100
Entitled as worker.....	43	51	57	58
Worker only.....	38	42	41	39
Dually entitled.....	5	9	16	19
Auxiliary only.....	57	49	43	42

## Beneficiaries by Race

### Race of those receiving benefits, 1983

Among those receiving monthly benefits at the end of 1983, 89 percent were white and 9 percent were black. Disability and child beneficiaries included greater proportions of blacks than did retirement and adult survivor beneficiaries.

Beneficiary	Total number (in thousands)	Total percent <sup>1</sup>	Total		
			White	Black	Other
Total with benefits in current-payment status <sup>2</sup> .	36,085	100	89	9	2
Retired workers and spouses....	24,458	100	91	7	1
Disabled workers and spouses....	2,877	100	83	15	2
Adult survivors <sup>3</sup> ..	5,094	100	90	8	1
Children <sup>4</sup> .....	3,593	100	76	20	4

<sup>1</sup> Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

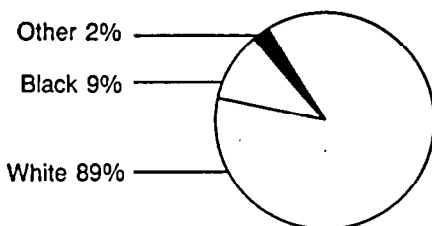
<sup>2</sup> Includes parents and special age-72 beneficiaries.

<sup>3</sup> Includes surviving mothers and fathers and disabled and nondisabled widows and widowers.

<sup>4</sup> Includes disabled adult children.

Source: Annual Statistical Supplement, 1984-85, table 60.

### Percent of beneficiaries by race



### Benefit amounts by race, 1983

White beneficiaries receive higher benefits, on average, than do black beneficiaries. The average monthly benefit amount for white retired workers was \$448 a month in December 1983. For black workers it was \$365.

Beneficiary	Total	White	Black	Other
Total number with benefits in current-payment status (in thousands).....	36,085	32,022	3,438	625
Benefit amounts for —				
Retired workers.....	\$441	\$448	\$365	\$403
Disabled workers.....	456	468	402	413
Widowed mothers and fathers.....	309	327	256	241
Widows and widowers (nondisabled).....	397	404	312	332
Surviving children.....	298	314	251	237

Source: Annual Statistical Supplement, 1984-85, table 71.

### Average monthly benefit amounts

Total	\$441
White	\$448
Black	\$365
Other	\$403

# Medicare

## Aged and disabled persons enrolled in Medicare, 1983

Of 27.6 million aged persons enrolled in Medicare hospital insurance (HI) and/or supplementary medical insurance (SMI) in 1983, 65 percent received services that were reimbursed by the program. HI served 25 percent of those enrolled and SMI served 66 percent of those enrolled. About 3 million disabled persons were enrolled in the Medicare program in 1983. Disabled persons were about as likely to receive services as were aged persons: 63 percent of the disabled beneficiaries who were enrolled received services, compared with 65 percent of the aged.

Medicare program	[In thousands]		
	Persons enrolled	Persons served	Percent served
<b>Aged</b>			
Total .....	27,571	17,897	65
Hospital insurance .....	27,112	6,691	25
Supplementary medical insurance .....	26,764	17,675	66
<b>Disabled</b>			
Total .....	2,918	1,835	63
Hospital insurance .....	2,918	752	26
Supplementary medical insurance .....	2,682	1,797	67

Source: Health Care Financing Administration.

## Medicare reimbursement amounts, 1983

Medicare reimbursements per person served were higher for disabled beneficiaries (\$3,658) than for aged beneficiaries (\$2,611).

Medicare program	Amounts reimbursed per person served	
	Aged enrollees	Disabled enrollees
Total .....	\$2,611	\$3,658
Hospital insurance .....	4,804	5,550
Supplementary medical insurance .....	825	1,412

Source: Health Care Financing Administration.

# Medicaid

## Medicaid recipients, 1984

Close to half of the 21.6 million Medicaid recipients in 1984 were dependent children under age 21. A fourth were adults in the families of these children. The remainder were primarily aged, blind, or disabled adults.

Total number (in thousands).....	21,604
Total percent.....	*
Aged .....	15
Blind .....	**
Disabled .....	13
Dependent child under age 21 .....	46
Adults in families with dependent child .....	26
Other .....	5

\* Percents sum to more than 100 because some recipients were in more than one category.

\*\* Less than 0.5 percent.

Source: Health Care Financing Administration.

## Medicaid payments, 1984

Although they accounted for only 28 percent of the Medicaid recipients, the aged, blind, and disabled received 74 percent of the payments in 1984. Dependent children accounted for 12 percent of the payments and adults in their families for 13 percent.

Total amount (in millions).....	\$33,895
Total percent.....	100
Aged .....	38
Blind .....	1
Disabled .....	35
Dependent child under age 21 .....	12
Adults in families with dependent child .....	13
Other .....	2

Source: Health Care Financing Administration.

# Supplemental Security Income

## Federally administered SSI payments, 1985

About 4.1 million persons received federally administered supplemental security income payments in 1985. Sixty percent received Federal payments only, 32 percent received both Federal payments and State supplementation, and 8 percent received State supplementation only.

Type of payment	Total number (in thousands)	Total percent
Total recipients.....	4,138	100
Federal SSI payments.....	3,799	92
Federal SSI payment only.....	2,477	60
Federal SSI and State supplement.....	1,322	32
State supplementation.....	1,661	40
State supplementaton only.....	339	8

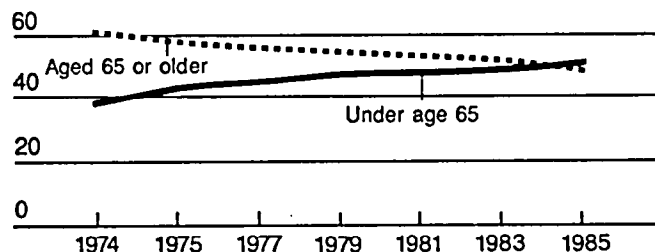
## SSI recipients by age, 1974-85

Shortly after the supplemental security income program began in 1974, the number of persons receiving federally administered payments quickly rose to 4 million. It has remained at about that level throughout the succeeding years. However, the proportion of SSI recipients aged 65 or older has declined from 61 percent in January 1974 to 49 percent in December 1985.

Year*	Total number (in thousands)	Total percent	Aged 65 or older	Under age 65
1974.....	3,216	100	61	39
1975.....	4,314	100	58	42
1977.....	4,238	100	56	44
1979.....	4,150	100	54	46
1981.....	4,019	100	53	47
1983.....	3,901	100	51	49
1985.....	4,138	100	49	51

\* Numbers are for January in 1974 and for December in all other years.

### SSI recipients by age

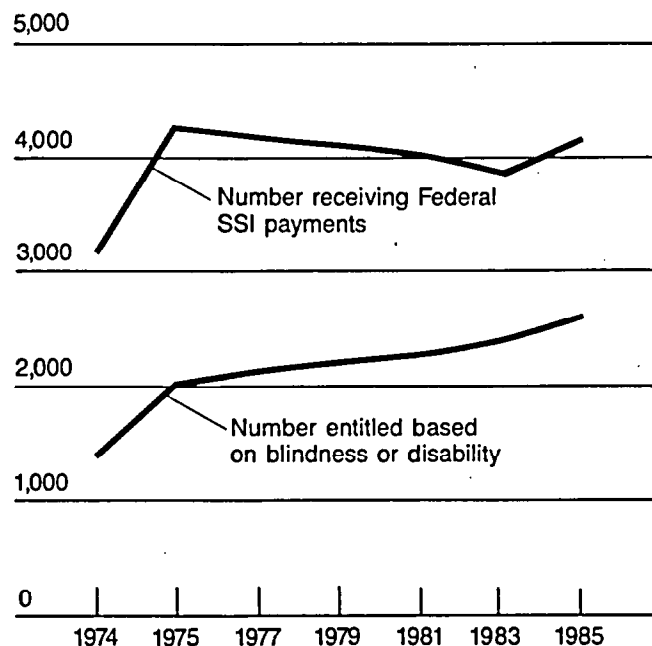


## Blind and disabled SSI recipients, 1974-85

The proportion of those receiving federally administered SSI payments on the basis of blindness or disability has increased from 42 percent to 64 percent since the program began in 1974. At the same time, the proportion of those receiving benefits on this basis who are younger than 65 has declined — from 94 percent in 1974 to 80 percent in 1985.

Year	Number receiving Federal SSI payments	Persons entitled on basis of blindness or disability		
		As a percent of total SSI population	Total number	Percent younger than 65
1974.....	3,216	42	1,350	94
1975.....	4,314	47	2,007	90
1977.....	4,238	52	2,186	86
1979.....	4,150	55	2,278	83
1981.....	4,019	58	2,341	81
1983.....	3,901	61	2,386	80
1985.....	4,138	64	2,633	80

### Federal SSI recipients



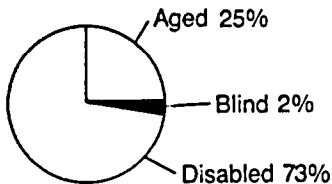
## Distribution of SSI payments, 1984

Although persons entitled on the basis of disability accounted for 60 percent of all supplemental security income recipients, they received 71 percent of the \$10.8 billion in federally administered payments in 1984. They received a smaller share (62 percent) of federally administered State supplements than of Federal payments (73 percent).

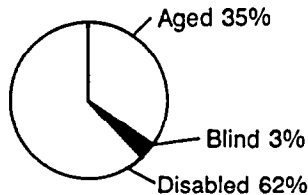
Type of payment	Total amount (in millions)	Total percent	Basis for eligibility		
			Aged	Blind	Disabled
Total	\$10,750	100	27	2	71
Federal SSI payments	8,777	100	25	2	73
Federally administered State supplements	1,973	100	35	3	62

Source: Annual Statistical Supplement, 1984-85, table 172.

Federal SSI payments



Federally administered State supplements



## Average SSI payment amounts, 1985

The disabled received a disproportionately large share of supplemental security income payments because their average payment was higher than that of the aged. Disabled recipients receive somewhat higher payments because they are less likely to receive social security benefits or other unearned income. The average federally administered payment for a disabled individual was \$263 a month in 1985, compared with \$168 for an aged individual.

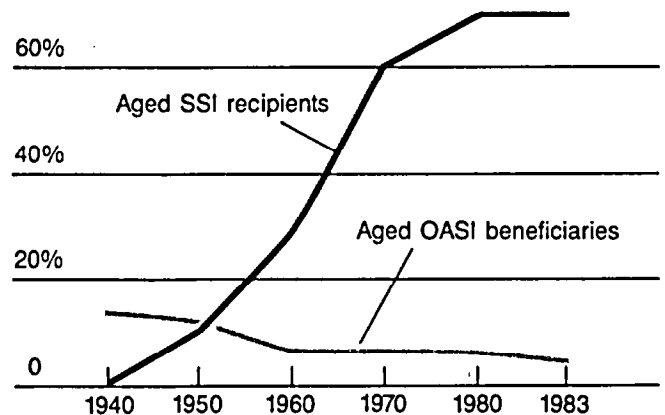
Reason for eligibility	Total	Federal payment	State supplement
<b>Aged:</b>			
Individual	\$168	\$146	\$87
Couple	293	232	219
<b>Blind:</b>			
Individual	274	228	130
Couple	421	320	317
<b>Disabled:</b>			
Individual	263	232	99
Couple	342	281	249

## Aged persons receiving both SSI and social security, 1940-83

As an increasing proportion of aged persons receives OASI benefits, a declining proportion receives means-tested old-age payments. In 1940, only 7 in 1,000 persons who were aged 65 or older received OASI benefits, while 217 received old-age assistance. In 1983, 918 out of every 1,000 aged persons received OASI benefits, while only 73 received supplemental security income payments. The proportion of aged recipients of means-tested payments who also receive OASI has increased from less than 1 percent in 1940 to 70 percent.

Year	Number per 1,000 receiving—		Receiving both SSI and OASI as a percent of—	
	OASI	SSI*	OASI beneficiaries	SSI recipients
1940	7	217	14	**
1950	164	224	13	10
1960	616	141	7	28
1970	855	104	7	60
1980	914	87	7	70
1983	918	73	6	70

Those receiving both as a percent of—



\* Data for 1940-74 refer to the old-age assistance program.

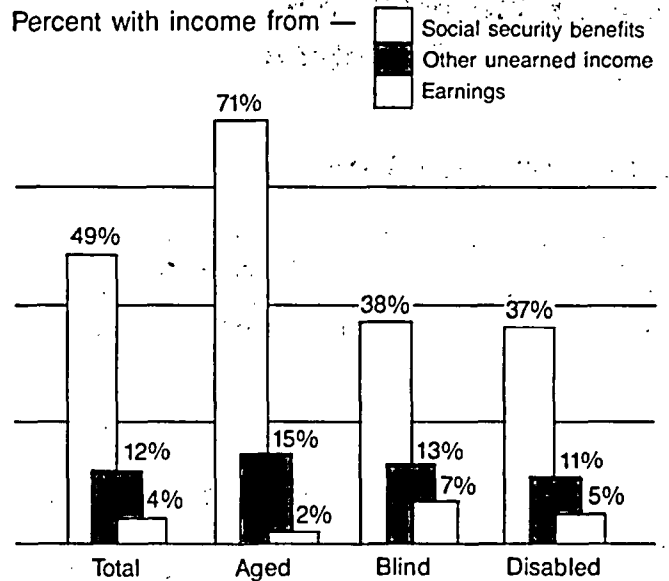
\*\* Less than 1 percent.

Source: Annual Statistical Supplement, 1984-85, table 168.

## Receipt of other income by SSI recipients, 1985

Although almost half of supplemental security income recipients also received social security benefits, most did not have any other income in 1985. Some 4 percent had earnings and 12 percent had income from other sources, such as veterans' pensions or assets.

Income source	Basis for eligibility			
	Total	Aged	Blind	Disabled
Percent with income from —				
Social security benefits . . . . .	49	71	38	37
Other unearned income . . . . .	12	15	13	11
Earnings . . . . .	4	2	7	5

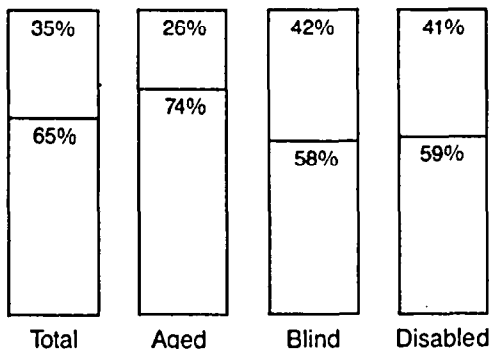


## SSI recipients by sex, 1985

In 1985, the majority of those receiving federally administered supplemental security income payments were women (three-fourths of those entitled on the basis of age and three-fifths of those entitled on the basis of disability).

Sex	Basis for eligibility			
	Total	Aged	Blind	Disabled
Total number (in thousands) . . . . .	4,138	1,504	82	2,551
Total percent . . . . .	100	100	100	100
Men . . . . .	35	26	42	41
Women . . . . .	65	74	58	59

### Percent of SSI recipients —



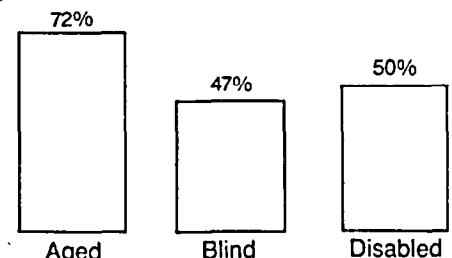
## SSI recipients by marital status, 1985

Only 5 percent of supplemental security income recipient units are couples where both spouses receive a payment. The majority — 58 percent — are single women.

Unit and marital status	Basis for eligibility			
	Total	Aged	Blind	Disabled
Total*				
Number (in thousands) . . . . .	3,987	1,371	79	2,447
Percent . . . . .	100	100	100	100
Adults				
Men not living with spouse	25	16	29	30
Women not living with spouse . . . . .	58	72	47	50
Individuals living with ineligible spouse . . . . .	5	3	9	7
Couples . . . . .	5	9	5	3
Children . . . . .	7	—	10	11

\* Excluded are persons with recent adult unit classification changes.

### Percent of adult SSI recipients who are women not living with spouse



# Aid to Families with Dependent Children

## AFDC recipients, 1936-85

The number of families receiving aid to families with dependent children grew from 147,000 in 1936 to 3.7 million in December 1985. The total number of recipients rose from 534,000 to 10.9 million during the same period.

Year	[Numbers in thousands]		
	Families	Total	Children
1936	147	534	361
1940	349	1,182	840
1950	644	2,205	1,637
1960	787	3,005	2,314
1970	2,208	8,466	6,214
1980	3,712	10,774	7,419
December 1985	3,718	10,901	*

\* Not available.

Source: Annual Statistical Supplement, 1984-85, table 195, and Monthly Benefit Statistics, No. 2, 1986, table 12.

## AFDC payment amounts, 1936-85

Payments under the aid to families with dependent children program grew from \$386 million to \$14.5 billion between 1936 and 1984. In constant 1985 dollars, the average monthly payment amount per recipient was \$60 in 1936 and \$119 in December 1985.

Year	[Amount of payments in 1985 dollars]		
	Total (in millions)	Family	Recipient
1936	\$386	\$219	\$60
1940	1,026	245	72
1950	2,465	319	79
1960	3,635	384	101
1970	13,445	507	132
1980	16,287	366	126
1984	14,508	325	116
1985	*	348	119

\* Not available.

Source: Derived from Annual Statistical Supplement, 1984-85, table 195, and Monthly Benefit Statistics, No. 2, 1986, table 12.

