SECTION 11

Poverty Status of Aged Persons Based on Family Income



Key Terms and Concepts for Section 11 ¹

Age. Age classification is based on the age of the person at his or her last birthday as of March 2009. A married couple's age is defined as the age of the husband—unless he is under age 55 and the wife is 55 or older, in which case it is the age of the wife.

Aged unit. With age 55 as the cutoff, aged units are defined as married couples living together—at least one of whom is 55 or older—and non-married persons 55 or older.

Marital status. Married persons are married and living with their spouse. Nonmarried persons may be divorced, widowed, never married, separated, or married but living apart from their spouse.

Race. The categories White alone, Black alone, and Asian alone reflect respondents who reported only one race. Because of changes to the race category, data on race are not directly

comparable to editions prior to 2002. A person's race is his or her reported race. A married couple's race is defined as the race of the husband.

Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. A married couple is of Hispanic origin if the husband is of Hispanic origin.

Family. A family is a group of two or more people (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such people (including related subfamily members) are considered as members of one family.

Social Security beneficiary. A beneficiary may be receiving retired-worker benefits, dependents' or survivor benefits, disability benefits, or transitionally insured benefits.

Per capita income. Per capita income is total family income divided by the number of persons in the family.

Poverty. The Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to detect who is poor. If a family's total income is less than that family's threshold, then that family, and every individual in it, is considered poor. The poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated annually for inflation with the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). The official poverty definition counts money income before taxes and excludes capital gains and noncash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps).

The ratio of Social Security income to total income. This ratio is defined as Social Security income divided by total income. Units and persons in families with less than \$1 of total income or negative earnings or asset income are excluded from these tables.

¹ For more information, consult the Glossary at the front of this publication.

Table 11.1 By Social Security beneficiary status, marital status, race, Hispanic origin, sex, and age, 2008

•	-	*					
		Percentage	Percentage	i		Percentage	Percent
	Number	below	below 125%	1	Number	below	below 1
x and age	(thousands)	poverty line	of poverty line	Sex and age	(thousands)	poverty line	of poverty
		All persons			By ben	eficiary status (c	ont.)
						Nonbeneficiary	
II persons				All persons			
55-61	25,796	8.9	11.9	55–61	23,527	8.1	
62-64	8,493	9.9	13.3	62–64	5,175	9.4	
65 or older	37,788	9.7	15.9	65 or older	5,382	21.2	
en				ı Men			
55-61	12,489	8.6	11.4	55–61	11,393	8.1	
62-64	4,017	9.4	12.3	62-64	2,617	8.6	
65 or older	16,308	6.7	11.3	65 or older	2,369	17.4	
Vomen				ı Women			
55-61	13,307	9.2	12.4	55–61	12,134	8.1	
62-64	4,476	10.5	14.3	62–64	2,558	10.3	
65 or older	21,480	11.9	19.5	65 or older	3,012	24.2	
	By	v beneficiary statu	ıs	İ	В	ly marital status	
	•	Beneficiary				Married	
II persons		20.10110101.		. All persons			
55–61	2,270	17.6	26.8	55-61	17,499	4.5	
62-64	3,318	10.7	15.6	62–64	5,856	5.1	
65 or older	32,406	7.8	14.3	65 or older	20,711	4.9	
len				I Men			
55-61	1,096	13.6	22.1	55–61	8,907	4.9	
62–64	1,400	10.9	14.9	62–64	3,071	5.0	
65 or older	13,939	4.9	9.5	65 or older	11,742	4.8	
/omen				Women			
55–61	1,174	21.2	31.3	55–61	8,591	4.2	
62–64	1,918	10.6	16.1	62–64	2,785	5.3	
65 or older	18,467	9.9	17.9	65 or older	8,969	5.0	
			(Continued)				 (Cont
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Table 11.1 By Social Security beneficiary status, marital status, race, Hispanic origin, sex, and age, 2008—Continued

Sex and age	Number (thousands)	Percentage below poverty line	Percentage below 125% of poverty line	Sex and age	Number (thousands)	Percentage below poverty line	Percentage below 125% of poverty line
	By m	arital status (con	t.)		By m	arital status (con	ot.)
		Nonmarried		1		Divorced	
All persons				All persons			
55–61	8,297	18.2	24.0	55-61	4,138	16.5	21.9
62-64	2,637	20.6	26.6	62-64	1,223	17.3	21.9
65 or older	17,077	15.5	25.8	65 or older	3,646	16.4	25.7
Men				Men			
55-61	3,581	17.9	23.5	55-61	1,792	16.2	21.5
62-64	947	23.5	29.3	62-64	473	20.5	23.9
65 or older	4,566	11.6	20.6	65 or older	1,359	11.0	20.5
Women				Women			
55-61	4,716	18.4	24.5	55-61	2,346	16.8	22.3
62-64	1,690	19.0	25.0	62–64	750	15.3	20.6
65 or older	12,511	16.9	27.7	65 or older	2,287	19.5	28.7
		Widowed		1		Never married	
All persons				All persons			
55-61	1,208	22.1	28.3	55-61	2,047	18.1	24.6
62-64	636	22.1	27.1	62–64	514	20.9	30.0
65 or older	10,972	14.4	25.0	65 or older	1,574	17.6	28.3
Men				! Men			
55-61	268	19.8	25.0	55-61	1,066	19.5	26.2
62-64	116	29.6	35.2	62–64	232	22.1	32.7
65 or older	2,104	10.2	18.0	65 or older	710	16.8	28.0
Women				Women			
55-61	939	22.7	29.2	55-61	982	16.7	22.9
62–64	520	20.5	25.3	62-64	282	19.9	27.9
65 or older	8,868	15.4	26.7	65 or older	864	18.1	28.6
			(Continued)				Continued

Table 11.1

By Social Security beneficiary status, marital status, race, Hispanic origin, sex, and age, 2008—*Continued*

Sex and age	Number (thousands)	Percentage below poverty line	Percentage below 125% of poverty line	Sex and age	Number (thousands)	Percentage below poverty line	Percentage below 125% of poverty line
		By race			ı	By race (cont.)	
		White alone				Asian alone	
All persons				All persons			
55–61	21,505	7.5	10.2	55–61	1,078	11.1	12.0
62-64	7,226	8.4	11.5	62-64	295	13.3	14.3
65 or older	32,714	8.5	14.3	65 or older	1,296	12.1	18.9
Men				Men			
55-61	10,533	7.1	9.7	55–61	507	10.8	11.0
62-64	3,472	8.3	10.9	62-64	125	12.7	13.4
65 or older	14,259	5.8	9.9	65 or older	540	11.1	16.7
Women				Women			
55-61	10,972	7.8	10.5	55–61	571	11.4	12.9
62-64	3,753	8.6	12.0	62-64	169	13.7	14.9
65 or older	18,456	10.5	17.7	65 or older	756	12.8	20.4
		Black alone		Ī	ı	Hispanic origin	
All persons				All persons		, 0	
55-61	2,715	18.0	24.1	55-61	2,311	14.8	21.0
62-64	817	20.6	27.6	62–64	650	18.1	24.4
65 or older	3,229	20.0	29.9	65 or older	2,717	19.3	31.3
Men				! Men			
55-61	1,215	18.7	23.7	55–61	1,120	14.3	20.1
62-64	342	18.4	25.5	62-64	² 310	16.0	20.5
65 or older	1,261	14.0	23.0	65 or older	1,168	15.8	26.8
Women				Women			
55-61	1,500	17.5	24.4	55–61	1,191	15.3	21.8
62-64	475	22.1	29.2	62–64	340	19.9	28.0
65 or older	1,969	23.8	34.3	65 or older	1,549	22.0	34.7

NOTE: The family money income of aged persons is compared with the official poverty lines of families in 2008.

Table 11.2 By Social Security beneficiary status, marital status, race, Hispanic origin, sex, and age, 2008

Sex and age	Number (thousands)	Percentage below poverty line	Percentage below 125% of poverty line	Sex and age	Number (thousands)	Percentage below poverty line	Percentage below 125% of poverty line
		All persons			By ben	eficiary status (cor	nt.)
				l I		Nonbeneficiary	
All persons				All persons		,	
65-69	11,825	7.5	11.8	65-69	2,583	12.6	15.3
70-74	8,579	9.7	16.0	70–74	1,057	25.6	32.3
75–79	7,329	10.8	17.4	75–79	772	32.0	39.1
80 or older	10,054	11.5	19.6	80 or older	969	30.6	36.0
Men				Men			
65-69	5,632	5.2	8.8	65–69	1,247	10.3	12.4
70-74	3,769	6.5	11.4	70–74	424	21.6	27.4
75–79	3,167	8.7	14.1	75–79	327	30.1	37.9
80 or older	3,740	7.4	12.5	80 or older	371	25.2	30.7
Women				Women			
65-69	6,193	9.5	14.5	65–69	1,336	14.7	18.0
70-74	4,810	12.1	19.7	70–74	633	28.3	35.7
75–79	4,162	12.3	20.0	75–79	445	33.4	40.0
80 or older	6,314	13.9	23.8	80 or older	598	34.0	39.2
	Ву	beneficiary status			В	y marital status	
		Beneficiary		Married			
All persons		,		All persons			
65–69	9,242	6.0	10.8	65–69	7,873	3.6	5.9
70-74	7,522	7.4	13.8	70–74	5,289	5.2	8.2
75–79	6,557	8.3	14.9	¹ 75–79	3,859	6.4	9.6
80 or older	9,085	9.4	17.9	80 or older	3,690	5.6	9.1
Men				Men			
65-69	4,385	3.8	7.8	65-69	4,338	3.5	5.7
70-74	3,345	4.6	9.3	70–74	2,897	4.8	7.4
75–79	2,840	6.3	11.4	75–79	2,211	6.5	10.0
80 or older	3,369	5.4	10.5	80 or older	2,296	5.4	9.2
Women				Women			
65-69	4,858	8.0	13.5	65–69	3,535	3.6	6.1
70-74	4,176	9.7	17.3	70–74	2,393	5.7	9.3
75–79	3,717	9.8	17.6	75–79	1,647	6.3	9.1
80 or older	5,716	11.8	22.2	80 or older	1,394	5.8	9.1
			(Continued)				(Continued

Table 11.2

By Social Security beneficiary status, marital status, race, Hispanic origin, sex, and age, 2008—*Continued*

Sex and age	Number (thousands)	Percentage below poverty line	Percentage below 125% of poverty line	Sex and age	Number (thousands)	Percentage below poverty line	Percentage below 125% of poverty line
	By m	narital status (cont.)		I	Ву т	arital status (cont.))
		Nonmarried		i		Divorced	
All persons				All persons			
65–69	3,952	15.2	23.5	65–69	1,640	14.0	21.8
70-74	3,290	16.9	28.6	70–74	947	15.8	26.2
75–79	3,471	15.6	26.1	75–79	565	19.6	29.3
80 or older	6,364	14.9	25.7	80 or older	494	21.7	33.6
Men				Men			
65-69	1,294	10.9	19.1	65–69	610	8.6	16.1
70-74	873	12.3	24.5	70-74	349	11.5	23.9
75–79	956	13.9	23.6	75–79	257	11.2	20.7
80 or older	1,444	10.4	17.8	80 or older	142	20.0	31.2
Women				Women			
65-69	2,659	17.3	25.6	65–69	1,030	17.2	25.1
70-74	2,417	18.5	30.1	70–74	598	18.3	27.5
75–79	2,515	16.3	27.0	75–79	307	26.6	36.6
80 or older	4,920	16.2	28.0	80 or older	352	22.4	34.6
		Widowed		! 		Never married	
All persons		Macwea		I All persons		Trever mamea	
65–69	1,452	15.6	23.6	65–69	541	15.8	24.1
70-74	1,786	16.5	28.6	70–74	365	21.4	35.4
75–79	2,446	13.5	24.0	75–79	299	20.2	31.3
80 or older	5,288	13.9	24.7	80 or older	369	14.1	25.0
Men				I Men			
65-69	257	10.8	21.3	65–69	292	15.9	21.7
70–74	292	10.0	20.9	70-74	156	22.4	38.3
75–79	477	12.9	20.6	75–79	140	19.6	35.4
80 or older	1,078	8.9	15.2	80 or older	122	8.9	21.4
Women				Women			
65-69	1,195	16.6	24.0	65–69	249	15.8	26.9
70-74	1,494	17.7	30.1	70–74	209	20.6	33.3
75–79	1,968	13.6	24.8	75–79	159	20.7	27.7
80 or older	4,210	15.2	27.1	80 or older	247	16.7	26.8
. – – – – – –			Continued)				Continued

Table 11.2

By Social Security beneficiary status, marital status, race, Hispanic origin, sex, and age, 2008—*Continued*

Sex and age	Number (thousands)	Percentage below poverty line	Percentage below 125% of poverty line	Sex and age	Number (thousands)	Percentage below poverty line	Percentage below 125% of poverty line
		By race		İ		By race (cont.)	
		White alone		1		Asian alone	
All persons				. All persons			
65–69	10,093	6.3	10.1	65–69	467	10.8	17.4
70–74	7,327	8.3	14.2	70-74	286	10.4	17.6
75–79	6,336	9.9	16.4	1 75–79	260	11.2	14.4
80 or older	8,958	10.0	17.7	80 or older	284	16.8	26.9
Men				Men			
65-69	4,873	4.5	7.6	65-69	220	8.5	13.9
70-74	3,249	5.6	9.9	70–74	111	7.0	10.9
75–79	2,757	8.2	13.1	75–79	112	12.3	16.6
80 or older	3,380	6.0	10.8	80 or older	97	20.1	30.0
Women				Women			
65-69	5,220	8.0	12.5	65-69	247	12.9	20.5
70-74	4,078	10.6	17.7	70–74	175	12.5	21.7
75–79	3,579	11.3	18.9	I 75–79	148	10.3	12.7
80 or older	5,578	12.4	21.9	80 or older	187	15.1	25.2
				1	1	Hispanic origin	
		Black alone		i			
All persons				All persons			
65-69	1,051	15.6	23.8	65-69	950	15.4	25.2
70-74	803	20.2	30.4	70–74	677	20.9	35.0
75–79	652	18.3	28.2	75–79	511	21.8	32.6
80 or older	722	27.6	39.8	80 or older	580	21.8	35.8
Men				! Men			
65-69	443	10.5	18.1	65–69	436	13.0	22.3
70-74	333	15.2	24.8	70–74	280	16.5	31.4
75–79	262	11.3	21.7	75–79	214	20.9	31.1
80 or older	222	22.5	31.8	80 or older	239	15.6	25.7
Women				l Women			
65-69	608	19.4	28.0	65–69	514	17.4	27.6
70–74	470	23.8	34.4	70-74	397	23.9	37.6
75–79	391	23.0	32.6	75–79	296	22.4	33.7
80 or older	500	29.9	43.3	80 or older	341	26.2	42.9

NOTE: The family money income of aged persons is compared with the official poverty lines of families in 2008.

Table 11.3 Social Security beneficiaries, by marital status, race, Hispanic origin, sex and age, 2008

Sex and age	Number (thousands)	Percentage below poverty line	Percentage below 125% of poverty line	Sex and age	Number (thousands)	Percentage below poverty line	Percentage below 125% of poverty line
	В	/ marital status			By mar	ital status (cor	nt.)
		Married		1 		Widowed	
All persons 65 or older	17,671	2.9	5.7	All persons 65 or older	9,836	12.4	23.4
65-69	6,195	2.2	4.6	65–69	1,176	14.0	23.0
70–74	4,655	2.7	5.6	70–74	1,585	14.8	26.7
75–79	3,491	3.7	6.7	75–79	2,225	11.3	22.2
80 or older	3,330	3.6	7.0	l 80 or older	4,850	11.8	23.0
Men 65 or older	10,050	2.8	5.6	Men 65 or older	1,902	8.5	16.4
65-69	3,382	2.2	4.5	i 65–69	208	7.8	20.2
70–74	2,574	2.6	5.0	I 70–74	270	9.1	18.1
75–79	2,005	3.5	6.6	¹ 75–79	438	11.9	20.3
80 or older	2,089	3.5	7.0	l 80 or older	985	7.0	13.3
Women 65 or older	7,621	3.0	5.9	Women 65 or older	7,934	13.4	25.1
65-69	2,813	2.1	4.7	65–69	968	15.4	23.6
70–74	2,081	2.8	6.3	I 70–74	1,314	16.0	28.4
75–79	1,486	4.0	6.8	¹ 75–79	1,786	11.2	22.7
80 or older	1,241	3.8	7.1	l 80 or older	3,865	13.1	25.5
		Nonmarried		 		Divorced	
All persons 65 or older	14,735	13.6	24.6	All persons 65 or older	3,037	14.8	24.8
65-69	3,047	13.8	23.3	65–69	1,294	13.2	21.8
70–74	2,867	15.1	27.1	70–74	846	14.9	25.4
75–79	3,066	13.5	24.2	75–79	483	16.6	26.2
80 or older	5,755	12.8	24.1	l 80 or older	415	17.4	31.1
Men 65 or older	3,888	10.2	19.8	Men 65 or older	1,177	9.7	20.3
65-69	1,002	9.0	18.7	65–69	511	8.1	16.4
70–74	771	11.4	23.9	I 70–74	316	11.7	25.0
75–79	835	13.0	22.9	¹ 75–79	229	8.3	18.9
80 or older	1,280	8.5	16.3	l 80 or older	120	14.0	27.3
Nomen 65 or older	10,847	14.9	26.3	Women 65 or older	1,860	18.0	27.6
65-69	2,045	16.2	25.6	I 65–69	783	16.5	25.4
70–74	2,096	16.5	28.3	70-74	530	16.8	25.7
75–79	2,231	13.7	24.7	75–79	253	24.1	32.8
80 or older	4,475	14.1	26.4	80 or older	294	18.8	32.7
			(Continued)				(Continued

Table 11.3 Social Security beneficiaries, by marital status, race, Hispanic origin, sex and age, 2008—*Continued*

Sex and age	Number (thousands)	Percentage below poverty line	Percentage below 125% of poverty line	Sex and age	Number (thousands)	Percentage below poverty line	Percentage below 125% of poverty line
	By ma	arital status (con	nt.)			By race (cont.)	
		Never married				Black alone	
All persons 65 or older	1,197	16.1	28.6	All persons 65 or older	2,564	18.2	29.4
65-69	375	13.7	24.1	65–69	764	14.6	24.4
70–74	286	17.2	34.1	70–74	643	17.6	28.8
75–79	233	22.2	31.3	75–79	546	15.1	25.7
80 or older	304	13.6	26.8	80 or older	612	26.1	39.7
Men 65 or older	511	16.0	29.3	Men 65 or older	1,013	11.6	22.0
65-69	199	11.7	19.7	65–69	324	8.7	18.9
70–74	125	19.6	39.4	70–74	265	11.5	21.7
75–79	99	25.4	37.2	75–79	229	9.0	19.7
80 or older	87	10.0	27.6	80 or older	195	19.8	30.4
Women 65 or older	687	16.2	28.1	Women 65 or older	1,551	22.5	34.2
65-69	176	15.9	29.2	65–69	439	18.9	28.4
70–74	161	15.4	30.0	70–74	378	21.9	33.8
75–79	133	19.8	26.9	75–79	318	19.5	29.9
80 or older	217	15.0	26.5	80 or older	416	29.1	44.0
		By race		i			
		White alone				Asian alone	
All persons 65 or older	28,552	6.7	12.8	All persons 65 or older	852	9.6	16.7
65–69	8,036	5.0	9.3	65–69	288	8.8	15.5
70–74	6,535	6.3	12.1	70–74	202	9.2	15.1
75–79	5,759	7.6	13.9	75–79	183	8.5	11.0
80 or older	8,222	8.1	16.0	80 or older	179	12.5	26.5
Men 65 or older	12,350	4.1	8.3	Men 65 or older	377	10.0	15.4
65-69	3,849	3.1	6.6	l 65–69	141	8.4	12.6
70–74	2,928	3.9	8.1	70-74	85	8.6	11.5
75–79	2,497	5.8	10.3	75–79	84	11.1	16.2
80 or older	3,077	4.3	9.0	80 or older	66	а	a
Women 65 or older	16,202	8.7	16.2	Women 65 or older	475	9.3	17.8
65–69	4,187	6.7	11.7	65–69	147	9.1	18.2
70–74	3,607	8.3	15.4	1 70–74	117	9.5	17.7
75–79	3,262	8.9	16.7	75–79	99	6.3	6.6
80 or older	5,146	10.4	20.2	80 or older	113	11.9	27.0
			(Continued)				(Continue

Table 11.3 Social Security beneficiaries, by marital status, race, Hispanic origin, sex and age, 2008—*Continued*

Sex and age	Number (thousands)	Percentage below poverty line	Percentage below 125% of poverty line
		Hispanic origin	
All persons 65 or older	1,996	16.0	30.3
65-69	664	14.2	26.1
70–74	509	16.1	32.5
75–79	395	18.1	31.1
80 or older	428	16.8	33.4
Men 65 or older	889	12.9	25.8
65-69	314	10.6	21.7
70–74	232	12.5	28.2
75–79	166	18.2	31.1
80 or older	176	12.6	24.8
Women 65 or older	1,107	18.5	33.9
65-69	350	17.5	30.1
70–74	277	19.1	36.1
75–79	229	18.0	31.0
80 or older	251	19.8	39.5

NOTE: The family money income of aged persons is compared with the official poverty lines of families in 2008.

a. Fewer than 75,000 weighted cases.

Table 11.4
Persons in Social Security beneficiary families, by proportion of family income from Social Security, sex, and age, 2008

Sex and age	Number (thousands)	Percentage below poverty line	Percentage below 125% of poverty line	Sex and age	Number (thousands)	Percentage below poverty line	Percentage below 125% of poverty line
	Persons in familie of income	es receiving less t ne from Social Se				ilies receiving 90 ne from Social Se	
All persons 65 or older	15,028	1.1	2.1	All persons 65 or older	3,427	13.3	28.4
65-69	5,460	1.0	1.9	65–69	737	11.0	26.8
70–74	3,557	0.9	1.8	70–74	735	14.7	26.5
75–79	2,715	1.2	2.3	75–79	761	13.1	26.4
80 or older	3,296	1.4	2.7	80 or older	1,195	14.1	31.9
Men 65 or older	7,093	0.6	1.3	Men 65 or older	1,283	10.3	21.5
65-69	2,751	0.7	1.3	65-69	325	6.2	22.9
70–74	1,729	0.5	1.0	70–74	284	10.8	18.6
75–79	1,236	0.5	1.4	75–79	316	14.4	22.5
80 or older	1,376	0.7	1.2	80 or older	357	9.8	21.7
Women 65 or older	7,935	1.5	2.9	Women 65 or older	2,144	15.2	32.6
65-69	2,708	1.4	2.6	65-69	412	14.7	29.8
70–74	1,828	1.2	2.5	70–74	450	17.1	31.5
75–79	1,479	1.7	3.1	75–79	445	12.2	29.2
80 or older	1,920	1.9	3.8	80 or older	837	16.0	36.3
	Persons in fam	ilies receiving 50	to 89 percent	1 1	Persons in fa	milies receiving 1	00 percent
	of incom	ne from Social Se	curity	1	of incon	ne from Social Se	curity
All persons 65 or older	9,708	5.3	10.3	All persons 65 or older	5,120	28.4	48.1
65–69	2,426	5.0	9.2	65–69	1,119	27.5	43.9
70–74	2,295	6.7	12.6	70–74	1,096	27.0	49.0
75–79	2,115	5.3	10.0	75–79	1,064	29.5	49.7
80 or older	2,872	4.3	9.7	80 or older	1,841	29.2	49.1
Men 65 or older	4,126	3.1	7.2	Men 65 or older	1,775	23.4	41.6
65-69	1,044	2.9	5.7	65–69	459	22.2	39.7
70–74	957	4.2	10.3	70–74	424	21.9	39.7
75–79	919	3.0	7.1	75–79	406	25.4	44.8
80 or older	1,207	2.5	6.1	80 or older	486	24.2	42.3
Women 65 or older	5,582	6.9	12.6	Women 65 or older	3,345	31.0	51.5
65-69	1,382	6.6	11.8	65–69	661	31.2	46.8
70–74	1,338	8.6	14.2	70–74	673	30.3	54.8
75–79	1,196	7.1	12.2	75–79	658	32.0	52.7
80 or older	1,665	5.6	12.3	80 or older	1,354	30.9	51.5

NOTES: The family money income of aged persons is compared with the official poverty lines of families in 2008.

Persons in families with zero total income or with negative total income, earnings, or income from assets are excluded.