

SSI Disabled Recipients Who Work, December 2003

Social Security Administration

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Preface

Since its implementation in 1974, the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program has included certain provisions to encourage blind and disabled recipients to work while allowing them to retain their eligibility and exclude a portion of their income from counting against their SSI payment. This report provides data on all SSI blind and disabled recipients who work; those who retain eligibility for special cash benefits when their earnings exceed the substantial gainful activity level; those who retain Medicaid eligibility when their earnings make them ineligible for any cash payments; and those who participate under work incentive provisions.

This edition of the report has been substantially reorganized. Charts and tables on like topics have been placed together in sections. Some appear in a different order and have been renumbered. However, the data covered in these charts and tables remain the same as in previous editions of the report.

Clark D. Pickett of the Division of SSI Statistics and Analysis programmed and compiled the data. Staff of the Division of Information Resources edited the report and prepared the print and electronic versions for publication. This and other reports on the SSI program are available on the Web at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy>.

For questions pertaining to the data, please call Clark Pickett at 410-965-9016 or e-mail ssi.workers@ssa.gov. For additional copies, please call 202-358-6274 or e-mail op.publications@ssa.gov.

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February 2005

Introduction

This report provides information about Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disabled and blind recipients who work and receive earnings. The report presents data on all SSI disabled recipients who work, section 1619 participants, and recipients who benefit from other work incentive provisions. Unless specifically excluded or listed separately, all references to SSI disabled recipients and workers include persons whose eligibility is based on blindness.

Since the beginning of the SSI program, a number of SSI disabled recipients have worked and received SSI payments. Initially, the program contained basic general and earned income exclusions that recognized the additional costs associated with employment. In computing the SSI payment, the first \$20 of income is not counted. In addition, the first \$65 of monthly earnings and one-half of the earnings in excess of \$65 are also excluded.

The law also contained a number of special income exclusions that were intended as work incentives:

- Blind work expenses (BWE) permit the exclusion of any earned income of a blind person that is used to meet any expenses reasonably attributable to earning the income.
 - Plans for achieving self-support (PASS) permit a recipient with an approved PASS to set aside earned or unearned income and resources for a work goal. The income or resources set aside are used to pay for goods or services needed to reach the goal, such as education, vocational training, starting a business, or purchasing work-related equipment. The income and resources that are set aside under a PASS are excluded from SSI income and resource tests, but they do not influence the determination of ability to engage in substantial gainful activity (SGA).
 - Student child earned income exclusions allow for the exclusion of certain earnings of child recipients under age 22 who are students regularly attending school.
- The 1980 amendments to the Social Security Act established section 1619 and provided additional work incentive provisions to assist SSI recipients in entering the workforce. These provisions included income exclusions for impairment-related work expenses, a change in the treatment of sheltered workshop earnings, and the continuation of SSI payments for some individuals whose disability ceased because of a medical recovery.
- Impairment-related work expenses (IRWE) exclude from earnings the costs of items and services needed to work because of the person's disability and are paid for by the individual. These expenses are excluded from earned income used to compute ongoing SSI monthly payments. Beginning December 1990, the IRWE exclusions are also applied in the determination of income for purposes of initial SSI eligibility. IRWE may also be deducted from earned income when determining SGA.
 - A change in the treatment of sheltered workshop earnings provides that remuneration for services performed in sheltered workshops or activity centers is treated as earned income. This change makes it possible to apply the earned income exclusion to earnings that previously were subject to the general income exclusion; that is, the first \$20 and a dollar-for-dollar offset thereafter.
 - The provision for continuation of payments allows for SSI (and also Social Security Disability Insurance) payments to disabled individuals to continue after the disability ceases because of a medical recovery, if they are participating in approved vocational rehabilitation plans and SSA determines that completion of the program will increase the chances of permanent removal from the disability rolls. The provision assists individuals whose medical improvement occurs before completion of vocational training. This provision was extended to SSI recipients whose eligibility is based on blindness effective April 1988.
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Congress enacted these provisions because it concluded that additional incentives were required to help SSI disabled recipients to become self-supporting. They believed that individuals who could work outside of sheltered workshops might have been discouraged from doing so by the fear of losing their benefits before they had established for themselves the capability for continued self-support.

Section 1619(a) provides special SSI cash benefits to disabled individuals who lose eligibility for SSI payments because they have earnings at the level that is ordinarily considered to represent SGA. Section 1619(b) provides special SSI recipient status for Medicaid purposes to working disabled or blind individuals when their earnings make them ineligible for cash payments.

Under P.L. 99-643, which made section 1619 permanent, disabled individuals on the SSI rolls retain disability status until their medical condition improves. The distinction between a disabled person eligible for regular SSI benefits and a disabled person eligible for 1619(a) benefits is that the latter has several months with gross earnings above the SGA level.

Under previous law, 1619(a) status did not begin until a trial work period had been completed and a determination had been made that subsequent work

was SGA. A number of cases were defined as 1619(a) after June 1987 as a result of this change in the definition, rather than from any change in their work activity.

SSA regulations set the amount of earnings used to determine SGA. This amount is periodically adjusted to reflect increases in the national average wage index. When these increases occur, the status of a number of recipients changes from 1619(a) to regular eligibility status. The SGA level was increased from \$300 to \$500 in 1990. It was further increased to \$700 in 1999, \$740 in 2001, \$780 in 2002, \$800 in 2003, and \$810 in 2004.

Under section 1619(b), cash payments are not made. However, recipient status for Medicaid purposes continues until earnings reach a plateau that takes into account the person's ability to afford medical care as well as his or her normal living expenses.

An individual may benefit from more than one of the work incentive provisions. For example, he or she may receive special cash payments under section 1619 and have income excluded under a PASS. Other combinations are also possible, but it is not possible to have both IRWE and BWE.

The data in this report are based on the SSI caseload at the end of December 2003.

Highlights, December 2003

In December 2003, there were 323,682 SSI disabled beneficiaries who were working—5.6 percent of the total SSI disabled caseload. Included in this count were 71,097 section 1619(b) participants who do not receive an SSI payment but have special SSI recipient status for Medicaid purposes. Over four-fifths (82.3 percent) of the workers had amounts of earned income below the substantial gainful activity (SGA) level of \$810 per month; 25.0 percent earned \$65 or less.

Geographic Distribution

Among the states, the percentage of disabled workers varied from a low of 2.6 percent in Alabama to a high of 18.5 percent in South Dakota. In general, the percentage of disabled workers was higher in the northern states than in the southern states.

Demographic Characteristics

The majority of these disabled workers were male (53.1 percent). Half (50.2 percent) had unearned income; 43.6 percent were receiving Social Security benefits. Comparable figures for all disabled recipients in December 2003 were 45.0 percent male, 37.7 percent with unearned income, and 30.2 percent receiving Social Security benefits.

Diagnosis

Disabled workers are more likely to have certain impairments than other disabled recipients. Almost two-thirds (65.0 percent) of the workers had a mental disorder, including 42.5 percent who were diagnosed with mental retardation. By comparison, 56.3 percent of all disabled recipients were diagnosed with a mental disorder, including 22.0 percent with mental retardation.

Section 1619

The greatest use of work incentive provisions was by participants under section 1619—27.3 percent of disabled workers. This included 5.3 percent under section 1619(a) and 22.0 percent under section 1619(b).

Other Work Incentives

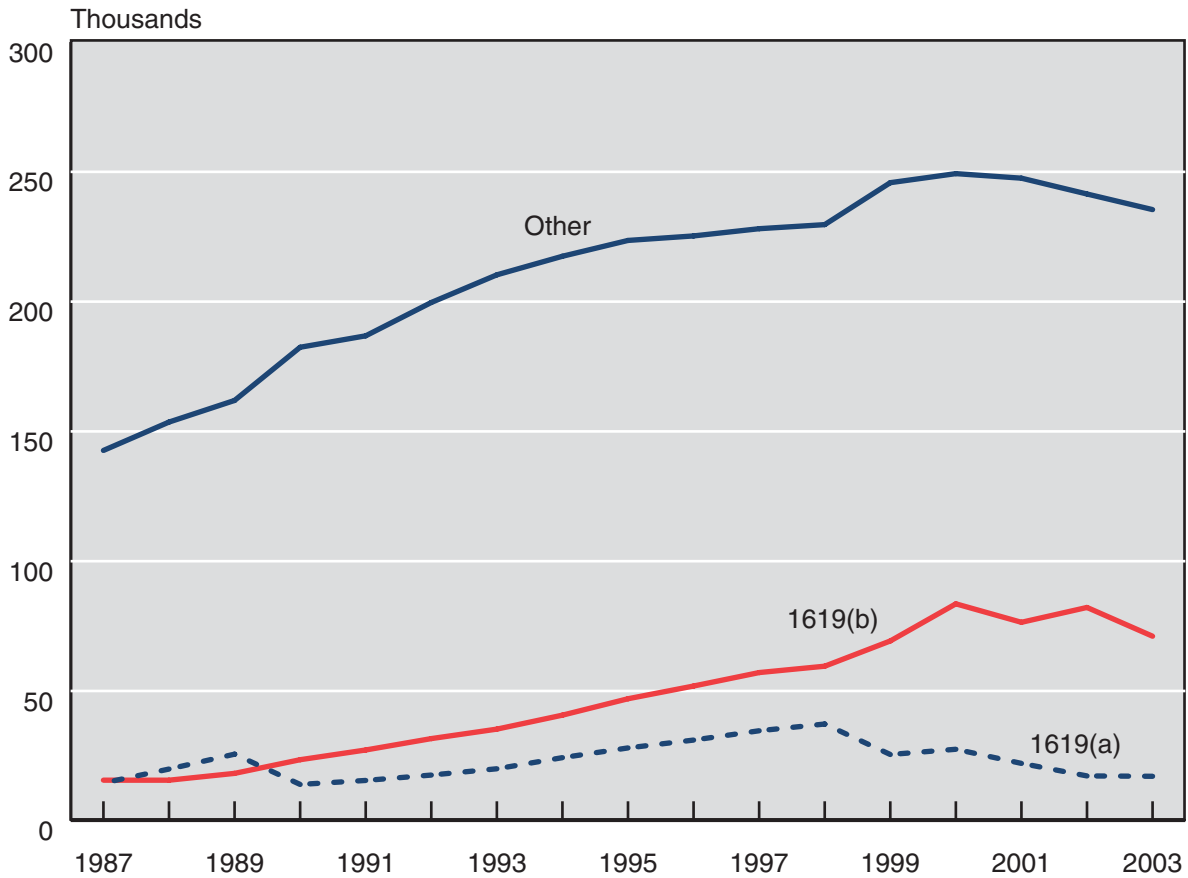
Use of other work incentive provisions continued to have a smaller, but measurable, impact. In December 2003, 3.8 percent of the SSI disabled workers had some of their income excluded under one of these provisions—plans for achieving self-support (PASS), 0.5 percent; impairment-related work expenses, 2.3 percent; or blind work expenses, 0.9 percent.

Plans for achieving self-support permit an SSI recipient to set aside income and resources to help obtain the training or education necessary for certain specified occupational goals. In December 2003, 438 PASS participants had earnings, which averaged \$720 per month. However, exclusions under a PASS are not limited to earnings. Of the 1,705 disabled recipients with a PASS, 69.3 percent did not have any earnings reported for December 2003. For this group, the PASS excluded unearned income such as Social Security benefits. Out of all PASS participants, 448 had a PASS that excluded only resources.

Blind and Disabled Recipients

Chart 1.
Number who work, December 1987–2003

The number of blind and disabled recipients who work almost doubled between 1987 and 2003, from 173,000 to 324,000. Initially, the number of participants under sections 1619(a) and 1619(b) were approximately equal. However, participation under section 1619(b) gradually increased to five times the initial total, and it now exceeds participation under section 1619(a) by more than four to one. The number of working recipients not participating under either of these provisions has increased by almost 65 percent.



SOURCE: Tables 1 and 9.

Table 1.
Number and percentage who work, selected months, 1976–2003

Month	All blind and disabled recipients ^a	Recipients who work			Total as a percentage of all blind and disabled recipients
		Total	Receiving SSI ^b	Section 1619(b) participants	
December					
1976	2,088,242	70,719	70,719	...	3.4
1977	2,186,771	83,697	83,697	...	3.8
1978	2,249,025	87,697	87,697	...	3.9
1979	2,277,859	92,270	92,270	...	4.1
1980	2,334,241	99,276	99,276	...	4.3
1981	2,340,785	102,632	102,632	...	4.4
1982	2,314,364	107,803	102,288	5,515	4.7
1983	2,391,262	113,899	108,734	5,165	4.8
1984	2,499,046	--	--	--	--
1985	2,633,552	--	--	--	--
1986	2,795,756	--	--	--	--
1987	2,945,244	172,855	157,223	15,632	5.9
1988	3,046,074	189,144	173,519	15,625	6.2
1989	3,172,270	205,837	187,583	18,254	6.5
1990	3,386,603	219,932	196,415	23,517	6.5
1991	3,681,050	229,619	202,355	27,264	6.2
1992	4,126,816	248,917	217,268	31,649	6.0
1993	4,544,777	265,649	230,350	35,299	5.8
1994	4,870,564	282,476	241,793	40,683	5.8
1995	5,115,014	298,635	251,633	47,002	5.8
1996	5,252,991	308,300	256,395	51,905	5.9
1997	5,189,724	319,855	262,766	57,089	6.2
1998	5,293,829	326,475	266,933	59,542	6.2
1999	5,317,861	340,618	271,353	69,265	6.4
2000	5,395,935	360,427	276,855	83,572	6.7
2001	5,500,481	346,110	269,655	76,455	6.3
2002	5,618,506	340,910	258,733	82,177	6.1
2003	5,740,683	323,682	252,585	71,097	5.6
2001					
March	5,423,974	352,940	274,283	78,657	6.5
June	5,448,865	353,336	275,435	77,901	6.5
September	5,493,302	353,207	274,664	78,543	6.4
December	5,500,481	346,110	269,655	76,455	6.3
2002					
March	5,538,532	339,430	266,835	72,595	6.1
June	5,573,711	342,946	265,597	77,349	6.2
September	5,620,838	348,244	265,871	82,373	6.2
December	5,618,506	340,910	258,733	82,177	6.1

(Continued)

Table 1.
Number and percentage who work, selected months, 1976–2003—Continued

Month	All blind and disabled recipients ^a	Recipients who work			Total as a percentage of all blind and disabled recipients
		Total	Receiving SSI ^b	Section 1619(b) participants	
2003					
March	5,657,353	334,378	259,820	74,558	5.9
June	5,705,871	329,740	257,724	72,016	5.8
September	5,749,384	329,195	255,619	73,576	5.7
December	5,740,683	323,682	252,585	71,097	5.6

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Extract Record format), 100 percent data.

NOTES: . . . = not applicable; -- = not available.

a. Includes section 1619(b) participants.

b. Includes section 1619(a) participants and SSI recipients earning less than the substantial gainful activity level (\$810 effective January 2004).

CONTACT: Clark Pickett (410) 965-9016 or ssi.workers@ssa.gov.

Table 2.
Number and percentage who work, by state or other area, December 2003

State or area	All blind and disabled recipients	Recipients who work	
		Number	Percentage of all blind and disabled recipients
All areas	5,740,683	323,682	5.6
Alabama	143,652	3,714	2.6
Alaska	8,563	574	6.7
Arizona	79,323	3,423	4.3
Arkansas	76,104	3,405	4.5
California	823,311	42,178	5.1
Colorado	46,258	3,931	8.5
Connecticut	45,272	3,842	8.5
Delaware	11,868	804	6.8
District of Columbia	18,468	663	3.6
Florida	317,008	11,080	3.5
Georgia	171,498	6,990	4.1
Hawaii	15,371	746	4.9
Idaho	18,965	1,674	8.8
Illinois	227,261	12,999	5.7
Indiana	89,079	5,713	6.4
Iowa	39,519	6,567	16.6
Kansas	35,265	3,920	11.1
Kentucky	164,292	4,593	2.8
Louisiana	148,516	5,454	3.7
Maine	29,300	2,206	7.5
Maryland	76,649	5,602	7.3
Massachusetts	126,234	9,671	7.7
Michigan	202,241	13,947	6.9
Minnesota	61,211	9,222	15.1
Mississippi	109,546	3,054	2.8
Missouri	106,172	7,163	6.7
Montana	13,520	1,694	12.5
Nebraska	20,276	2,934	14.5
Nevada	23,234	1,329	5.7
New Hampshire	12,113	1,248	10.3
New Jersey	117,604	7,605	6.5
New Mexico	42,045	2,142	5.1
New York	496,449	29,742	6.0
North Carolina	167,763	7,674	4.6
North Dakota	7,234	1,332	18.4
Ohio	230,708	16,582	7.2
Oklahoma	66,830	3,579	5.4
Oregon	50,785	3,826	7.5
Pennsylvania	281,345	15,481	5.5
Rhode Island	25,409	1,668	6.6
South Carolina	92,588	4,786	5.2
South Dakota	11,272	2,089	18.5
Tennessee	143,580	5,242	3.7
Texas	346,934	13,594	3.9
Utah	19,648	2,112	10.7

(Continued)

Table 2.
Number and percentage who work, by state or other area, December 2003—Continued

State or area	All blind and disabled recipients	Recipients who work	
		Number	Percentage of all blind and disabled recipients
Vermont	11,884	1,071	9.0
Virginia	112,893	6,260	5.5
Washington	96,425	5,594	5.8
West Virginia	70,987	1,976	2.8
Wisconsin	82,278	10,211	12.4
Wyoming	5,359	760	14.2
Outlying area			
Northern Mariana Islands	574	16	2.8

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Extract Record format), 100 percent data.

NOTE: Includes section 1619(b) participants.

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Table 3.
Percentage distribution of recipients and those who work aged 18–64, by diagnostic group,
December 2003

Diagnostic group	All blind and disabled recipients	Recipients who work ^a
Total		
Number	3,953,224	308,347
Percent	100.0	100.0
Congenital anomalies	0.6	1.2
Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases	3.9	1.3
Infectious and parasitic diseases	1.7	0.9
Injuries	2.6	1.3
Mental disorders		
Retardation	22.0	42.5
Schizophrenia	10.0	7.3
Other	24.3	15.2
Neoplasms	1.1	0.6
Diseases of the—		
Blood and blood-forming organs	0.4	0.3
Circulatory system	4.7	1.2
Digestive system	0.9	0.3
Genitourinary system	1.1	0.6
Musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	9.7	3.0
Nervous system and sense organs ^b	7.8	8.6
Respiratory system	2.1	0.7
Skin and subcutaneous tissue	0.2	0.1
Other	0.2	0.3
Unknown	6.9	14.6

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Extract Record format), 100 percent data.

NOTE: Effective with the December 2002 edition, all recipients in each recipient category are included when computing percentages for each diagnostic category. Previously, only recipients with identified diagnoses were included in this computation.

a. Includes section 1619(b) participants.

b. Most disabled recipients classified as blind are included in this category. A few blind recipients with a primary impairment other than diseases of the eye are coded in other categories. Also, a few recipients are classified with diseases of the eye, but their impairment does not meet the definition of blindness.

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Table 4.
Number and percentage of recipients, those who work, and section 1619(b) participants aged 18–64,
by age, December 2003

Age	All blind and disabled recipients ^a		Recipients who work		Section 1619(b) participants	
			Number	Percentage of all blind and disabled recipients	Number	Percentage of all blind and disabled recipients
Total	4,021,956	100.0	308,347	7.7	68,708	1.7
18–21	259,361	6.4	29,137	11.2	2,842	1.1
22–29	489,209	12.2	72,943	14.9	17,222	3.5
30–39	717,099	17.8	80,117	11.2	20,243	2.8
40–49	1,042,586	25.9	71,128	6.8	17,261	1.7
50–59	1,035,216	25.7	42,504	4.1	8,702	0.8
60–64	478,485	11.9	12,518	2.6	2,438	0.5

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Extract Record format), 100 percent data.

a. Includes section 1619(b) participants.

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Table 5.
Number in September 2003, by program status and earnings in December 2003

Program status in September 2003	Total	Receiving payments in December 2003			Not receiving payments in December 2003						
					Section 1619(a) Have earnings No earnings			Ineligible because of earned income			Other excess income	Other non-pay
		Section 1619(b)	Reasons no longer eligible								
			Does not need or use Medicaid	Can pay for equivalent coverage	Both						
All blind and disabled recipients	5,672,313	16,639	230,521	5,126,143	69,285	510	59	187	57,695	171,274	
Receiving payments											
Section 1619(a)	16,949	9,782	2,316	1,935	1,916	27	1	9	216	747	
Have earnings	243,068	2,608	209,506	16,484	4,491	47	4	9	2,121	7,798	
No earnings	5,337,724	1,901	15,460	5,102,321	6,481	65	7	22	51,776	159,691	
Not receiving payments											
Section 1619(b)	74,572	2,348	3,239	5,403	56,397	371	47	147	3,582	3,038	

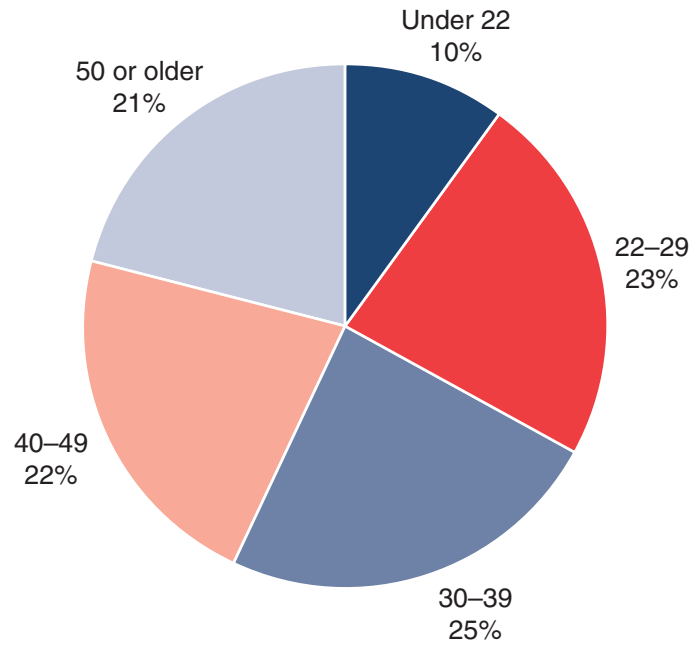
SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Extract Record format), 100 percent data.

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**Blind and Disabled
Recipients Who
Work**

Chart 3.
Percentage distribution, by age, December 2003

One-third of the working recipients in December 2003 were under age 30, and 25 percent were aged 30–39. Only 21 percent were aged 50 or older.

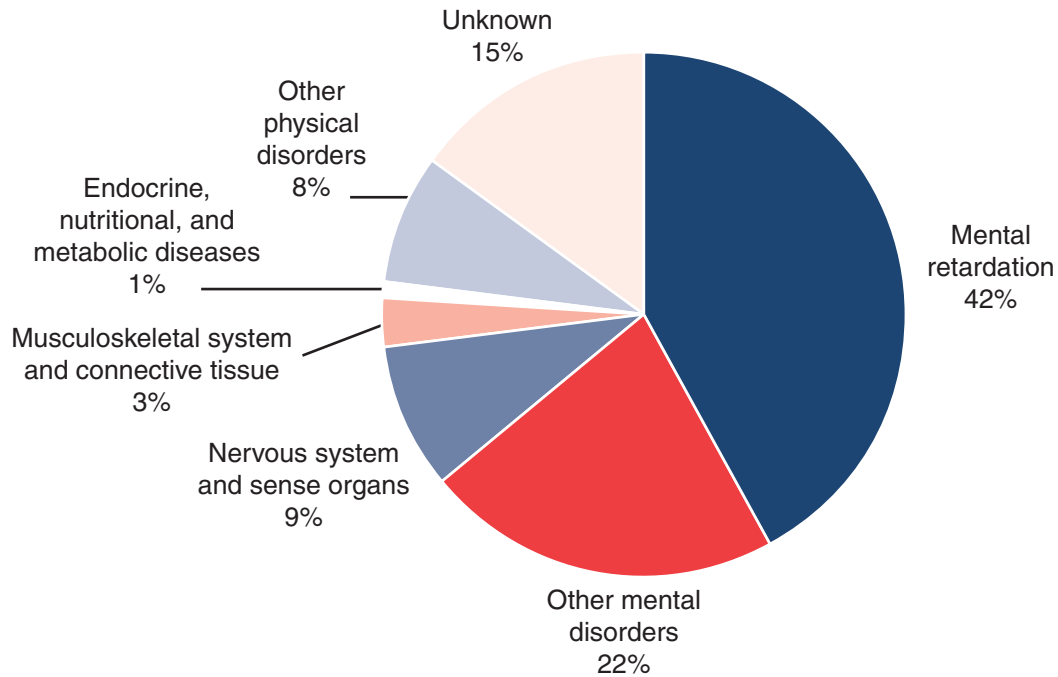


SOURCE: Table 7.

NOTE: Data include section 1619(b) participants.

Chart 4.
Percentage distribution, by diagnostic group, December 2003

A large majority of working SSI recipients aged 18–64 in December 2003 were disabled because of a mental impairment. Forty-two percent were diagnosed with mental retardation and 22 percent with other mental disorders. Nine percent had diseases of the nervous system and sense organs, mostly blindness. Nine percent had diseases of the nervous system and sense organs, mostly blindness.

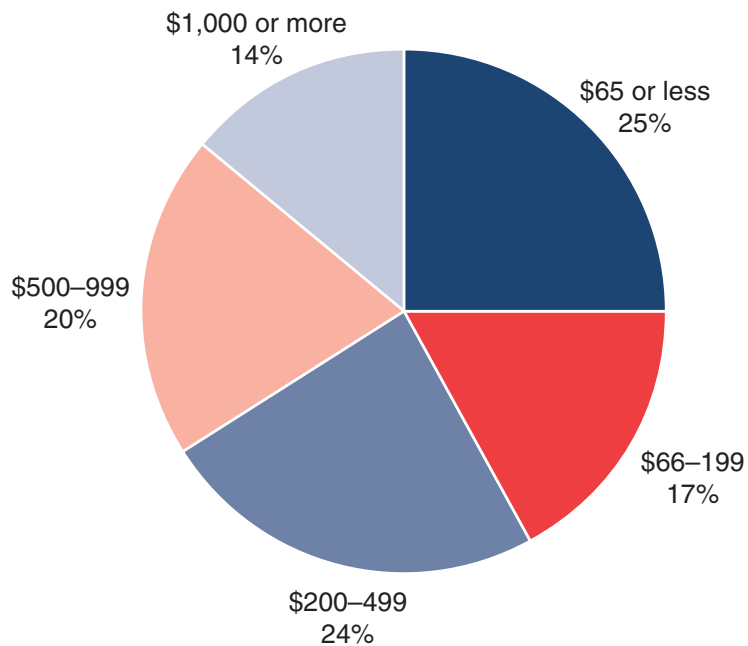


SOURCE: Table 3.

NOTE: Data include section 1619(b) participants.

Chart 5.
Percentage distribution, by monthly earnings, December 2003

Two out of three working recipients earned less than \$500 in December 2003. This amount would not affect their status as disabled, since it is less than the substantial gainful activity level of \$800 for 2003. One out of seven earned \$1,000 or more. This proportion includes those receiving special cash benefits, or special Medicaid status, under section 1619.



SOURCE: Table 7.

NOTE: Data include section 1619(b) participants.

Table 6.
Number participating in section 1619(a) or 1619(b) and others who work, by state or other area,
December 2003

State or area	Total	Section 1619(a) participants	Section 1619(b) participants	Other recipients who work
All areas a	323,682	17,130	71,089	235,447
Alabama	3,714	219	902	2,593
Alaska	574	29	154	391
Arizona	3,423	209	879	2,335
Arkansas	3,405	149	739	2,517
California	42,178	3,568	6,497	32,113
Colorado	3,931	143	807	2,981
Connecticut	3,842	166	1,058	2,618
Delaware	804	36	242	526
District of Columbia	663	57	219	387
Florida	11,080	690	3,174	7,216
Georgia	6,990	319	1,454	5,217
Hawaii	746	41	150	555
Idaho	1,674	69	423	1,182
Illinois	12,999	738	2,711	9,550
Indiana	5,713	244	1,427	4,042
Iowa	6,567	197	1,487	4,883
Kansas	3,920	142	935	2,843
Kentucky	4,593	210	1,125	3,258
Louisiana	5,454	375	1,424	3,655
Maine	2,206	100	643	1,463
Maryland	5,602	274	1,219	4,109
Massachusetts	9,671	618	2,876	6,177
Michigan	13,947	598	3,143	10,206
Minnesota	9,222	278	2,044	6,900
Mississippi	3,054	203	783	2,068
Missouri	7,163	263	1,709	5,191
Montana	1,694	50	373	1,271
Nebraska	2,934	98	587	2,249
Nevada	1,329	66	302	961
New Hampshire	1,248	50	330	868
New Jersey	7,605	327	1,694	5,584
New Mexico	2,142	105	586	1,451
New York	29,742	1,665	5,979	22,098
North Carolina	7,674	284	1,576	5,814
North Dakota	1,332	26	286	1,020
Ohio	16,582	722	3,058	12,802
Oklahoma	3,579	139	566	2,874
Oregon	3,826	123	919	2,784
Pennsylvania	15,481	914	3,623	10,944
Rhode Island	1,668	85	368	1,215
South Carolina	4,786	162	831	3,793
South Dakota	2,089	54	472	1,563
Tennessee	5,242	255	1,177	3,810
Texas	13,594	713	3,302	9,579
Utah	2,112	81	422	1,609

(Continued)

Table 6.
Number participating in section 1619(a) or 1619(b) and others who work, by state or other area,
December 2003—Continued

State or area	Total	Section 1619(a) participants	Section 1619(b) participants	Other recipients who work
Vermont	1,071	52	351	668
Virginia	6,260	315	1,441	4,504
Washington	5,594	407	1,627	3,560
West Virginia	1,976	124	454	1,398
Wisconsin	10,211	349	2,360	7,502
Wyoming	760	29	181	550
Outlying area				
Northern Mariana Islands	16	b	b	b

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Extract Record format), 100 percent data.

a. Includes data not distributed by category.

b. Data are not shown to avoid disclosure of information for particular individuals.

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Table 7.
Number and percentage who work and their average earnings, by selected characteristics,
December 2003

Characteristic	Number	Percent	Average earnings (dollars)
Total	323,682	100.0	469
Age			
Under 18	3,194	1.0	382
18–21	29,137	9.0	436
22–29	72,943	22.5	529
30–39	80,117	24.8	497
40–49	71,128	22.0	471
50–59	42,504	13.1	421
60–64	12,518	3.9	366
65 or older	12,141	3.8	280
Sex			
Male	171,840	53.1	468
Female	151,842	46.9	469
Earned income ^a			
Wages	306,073	94.6	482
Self-employment	18,812	5.8	281
Earnings (dollars)			
65 or less	80,874	25.0	52
66–99	15,037	4.6	82
100–199	40,792	12.6	137
200–299	31,774	9.8	234
300–399	25,386	7.8	333
400–499	21,156	6.5	432
500–599	19,849	6.1	527
600–699	15,843	4.9	630
700–799	11,769	3.6	734
800–899	9,322	2.9	829
900–999	6,900	2.1	931
1,000 or more	44,980	13.9	1,611
Unearned income ^a			
None	161,282	49.8	548
Social Security	141,139	43.6	367
Other pensions	2,623	0.8	303
Income based on need	90	0	713
Asset income	23,254	7.2	421
Other	12,262	3.8	559
Work incentives ^a			
Section 1619(a)	17,132	5.3	1,059
Section 1619(b)	71,097	22.0	1,081
Plans for achieving self-support ^b	438	0.1	720
Impairment-related work expenses	7,604	2.3	521
Blind work expenses	3,074	0.9	945

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Extract Record format), 100 percent data.

NOTE: Includes section 1619(b) participants.

a. The sum of the entries may be greater than the total because some recipients may receive more than one type of earned or unearned income, or both earned and unearned income, or benefit from more than one work incentive provision.

b. Number of working recipients with a plan for achieving self-support (PASS). See Tables 14–17 for data on all recipients with a PASS.

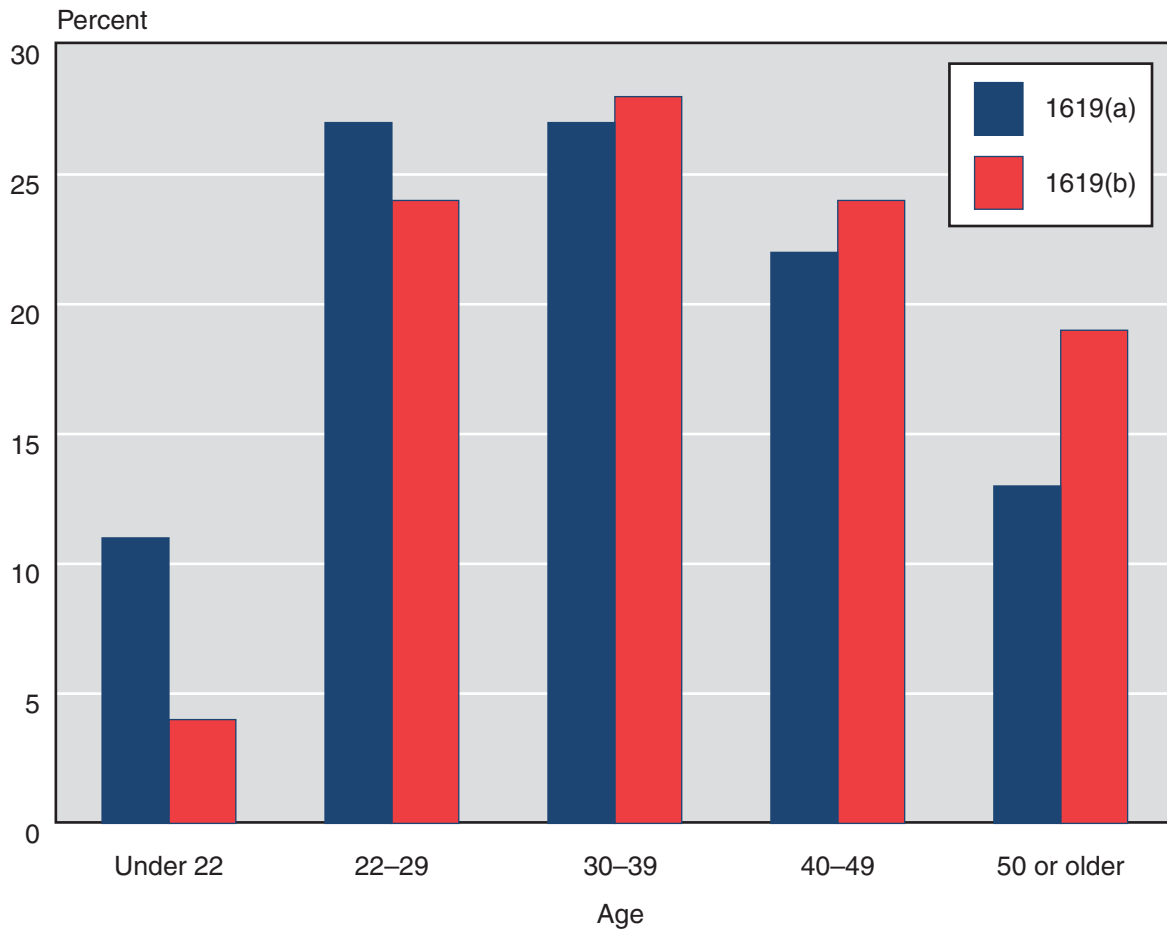
CONTACT: Clark Pickett (410) 965-9016 or ssi.workers@ssa.gov.

Section 1619

Participants

Chart 7.
Percentage distribution, by age, December 2003

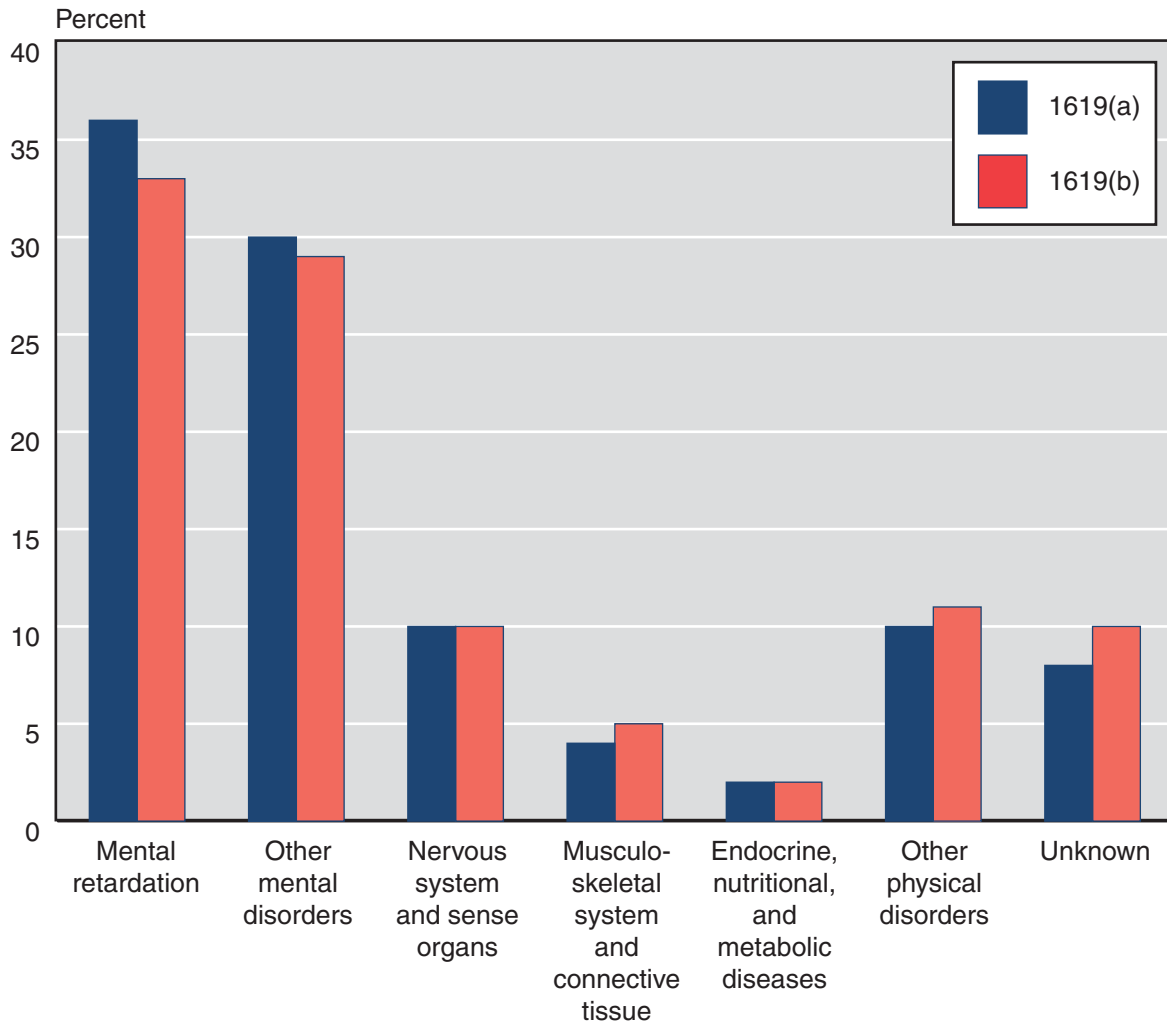
Recipients who benefit from section 1619(a) are younger than those who benefit from 1619(b).



SOURCE: Table 12.

Chart 8.
Percentage distribution, by diagnostic group, December 2003

As with all working recipients, the majority of the section 1619 participants were diagnosed with a mental disorder. Two-thirds of participants under section 1619(a) and three-fifths of participants under section 1619(b) had either mental retardation or other mental disorders.



SOURCE: Table 13.

Table 8.
Number and percentage change from prior period, selected months, 1982–2003

Month	Section 1619(a) participants		Section 1619(b) participants a	
	Number	Percentage change from prior period	Number	Percentage change from prior period
December				
1982	287	...	5,515	...
1983	392	36.6	5,165	-6.3
1984	--	--	--	--
1985	--	--	--	--
1986	--	--	--	--
1987	14,559	...	15,632	...
1988	19,920	36.8	15,625	0
1989	25,655	28.8	18,254	16.8
1990	13,994	-45.5	23,517	28.8
1991	15,531	11.0	27,264	15.9
1992	17,603	13.3	31,649	16.1
1993	20,028	13.8	35,299	11.5
1994	24,315	21.4	40,683	15.3
1995	28,060	15.4	47,002	15.5
1996	31,085	10.8	51,905	10.4
1997	34,673	11.5	57,089	10.0
1998	37,271	7.5	59,542	4.3
1999	25,528	-31.5	69,265	16.3
2000	27,542	7.9	83,572	20.7
2001	22,100	-19.8	76,455	-8.5
2002	17,271	-21.9	82,177	7.5
2003	17,132	-0.8	71,097	-13.5
2001				
March	26,775	-2.8	78,657	-5.9
June	25,394	-5.2	77,901	-1.0
September	25,194	-0.8	78,543	0.8
December	22,100	-12.3	76,455	-2.7
2002				
March	21,417	-3.1	72,595	-5.0
June	20,922	-2.3	77,349	6.5
September	20,275	-3.1	82,373	6.5
December	17,271	-14.8	82,177	-0.2
2003				
March	16,771	-2.9	74,558	-9.3
June	16,539	-1.4	72,016	-3.4
September	16,562	0.1	73,576	2.2
December	17,132	3.4	71,097	-3.4

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Extract Record format), 100 percent data.

NOTES: When the substantial gainful activity (SGA) level is periodically raised, SSI recipients with earnings below the increased SGA level become eligible for regular SSI benefits rather than the special cash payments under section 1619(a). This change in status is reflected in decreases in 1619(a) participants in December 1990, June 2001, December 2001, and December 2002.

... = not applicable; -- = not available.

a. Includes blind participants. Of the 71,097 participants in December 2003, 1,183 were blind.

CONTACT: Clark Pickett (410) 965-9016 or ssi.workers@ssa.gov.

Table 9.
Ranking of state or other area, by section 1619 participants as a percentage of all blind and disabled recipients in state aged 18–64, December 2003

State or area	Ranking	All blind and disabled recipients a	Section 1619 participants	
			Number	Percent
All areas		4,021,956	85,609	2.13
South Dakota	1	7,956	510	6.41
North Dakota	2	5,442	307	5.64
Iowa	3	29,835	1,660	5.56
Wyoming	4	4,102	205	5.00
Minnesota	5	45,750	2,266	4.95
Wisconsin	6	59,393	2,654	4.47
Nebraska	7	15,093	673	4.46
Vermont	8	8,991	392	4.36
Kansas	9	25,482	1,039	4.08
Montana	10	10,441	412	3.95
New Hampshire	11	9,485	372	3.92
Connecticut	12	33,493	1,205	3.60
Delaware	13	7,783	274	3.52
Utah	14	14,225	491	3.45
Idaho	15	14,128	483	3.42
Massachusetts	16	106,130	3,371	3.18
Maine	17	23,185	731	3.15
Northern Mariana Islands	18	367	10	2.72
Maryland	19	53,301	1,450	2.72
Washington	20	72,529	1,973	2.72
Colorado	21	34,556	933	2.70
Alaska	22	6,693	180	2.69
Oregon	23	38,450	1,017	2.64
Indiana	24	63,718	1,638	2.57
Missouri	25	77,499	1,925	2.48
Michigan	26	147,818	3,622	2.45
New Jersey	27	79,997	1,955	2.44
Rhode Island	28	18,459	443	2.40
New Mexico	29	29,030	665	2.29
Pennsylvania	30	199,325	4,427	2.22
Virginia	31	77,967	1,729	2.22
New York	32	339,521	7,432	2.19
Ohio	33	168,891	3,681	2.18
Illinois	34	158,048	3,349	2.12
District of Columbia	35	12,247	258	2.11
Nevada	36	17,559	352	2.00
Arizona	37	54,291	1,059	1.95
Florida	38	198,462	3,736	1.88
Louisiana	39	100,311	1,755	1.75
Texas	40	231,657	3,883	1.68
Arkansas	41	51,019	854	1.67
California	42	573,533	9,587	1.67
North Carolina	43	110,686	1,806	1.63
South Carolina	44	61,845	961	1.55
Hawaii	45	12,018	185	1.54

(Continued)

Table 9.
Ranking of state or other area, by section 1619 participants as a percentage of all blind and disabled recipients in state aged 18–64, December 2003—Continued

State or area	Ranking	All blind and disabled recipients a	Section 1619 participants	
			Number	Percent
Georgia	46	116,454	1,723	1.48
Oklahoma	47	47,519	680	1.43
Tennessee	48	102,287	1,380	1.35
Mississippi	49	72,141	959	1.33
Alabama	50	98,596	1,088	1.10
Kentucky	51	119,370	1,299	1.09
West Virginia	52	54,878	570	1.04

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Extract Record format), 100 percent data.

a. Includes section 1619(b) participants.

CONTACT: Clark Pickett (410) 965-9016 or ssi.workers@ssa.gov.

Table 10.
Section 1619(a) participants and their average earnings, by state or other area, selected months,
2002–2003

State or area	December 2002		September 2003		December 2003	
	Number	Average earnings (dollars)	Number	Average earnings (dollars)	Number	Average earnings (dollars)
All areas	17,269	1,043	16,561	1,041	17,130	1,059
Alabama	231	1,013	217	979	219	1,000
Alaska	27	1,014	26	1,023	29	1,076
Arizona	186	1,007	174	991	209	1,018
Arkansas	147	1,003	150	987	149	1,008
California	3,687	1,145	3,625	1,153	3,568	1,169
Colorado	171	997	149	997	143	1,000
Connecticut	167	983	157	990	166	1,001
Delaware	44	1,030	35	1,006	36	991
District of Columbia	64	997	49	987	57	1,053
Florida	636	997	660	1,001	690	1,024
Georgia	345	998	317	991	319	1,005
Hawaii	41	1,021	42	1,021	41	1,017
Idaho	76	995	74	1,008	69	1,024
Illinois	669	996	691	984	738	1,017
Indiana	229	994	218	988	244	1,006
Iowa	158	990	163	1,002	197	1,027
Kansas	120	1,004	115	1,026	142	1,046
Kentucky	233	1,007	216	993	210	1,018
Louisiana	354	991	354	993	375	1,008
Maine	92	1,004	104	1,020	100	1,060
Maryland	285	1,000	255	1,005	274	1,018
Massachusetts	673	1,066	611	1,052	618	1,054
Michigan	618	997	540	999	598	1,024
Minnesota	311	1,029	228	1,015	278	1,042
Mississippi	202	1,003	183	1,002	203	1,017
Missouri	227	1,016	235	980	263	1,005
Montana	57	995	42	999	50	986
Nebraska	101	980	79	978	98	1,027
Nevada	58	1,035	56	1,018	66	1,029
New Hampshire	42	969	35	1,012	50	1,016
New Jersey	382	1,027	358	1,025	327	1,035
New Mexico	113	1,020	108	1,001	105	1,004
New York	1,639	1,060	1,624	1,044	1,665	1,070
North Carolina	281	1,004	289	1,008	284	1,024
North Dakota	35	1,007	28	965	26	1,014
Ohio	790	998	703	1,002	722	1,028
Oklahoma	171	990	136	998	139	1,025
Oregon	127	1,022	122	1,022	123	1,040
Pennsylvania	888	1,023	934	1,025	914	1,033
Rhode Island	79	1,045	90	1,036	85	1,064
South Carolina	181	1,006	177	990	162	1,016
South Dakota	57	979	61	1,031	54	1,052
Tennessee	260	1,006	242	989	255	1,024
Texas	670	1,006	660	997	713	1,023
Utah	71	975	67	997	81	1,023

(Continued)

Table 10.
Section 1619(a) participants and their average earnings, by state or other area, selected months,
2002–2003—Continued

State or area	December 2002		September 2003		December 2003	
	Number	Average earnings (dollars)	Number	Average earnings (dollars)	Number	Average earnings (dollars)
Vermont	72	1,089	56	1,046	52	1,062
Virginia	303	980	284	995	315	1,029
Washington	399	991	377	1,012	407	1,039
West Virginia	125	1,016	109	1,012	124	1,033
Wisconsin	344	1,041	307	1,015	349	1,026
Wyoming	31	1,011	29	955	29	1,021
Outlying area						
Northern Mariana Islands	a	a	a	a	a	a

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Extract Record format), 100 percent data.

a. Data are not shown to avoid disclosure of information for particular individuals.

CONTACT: Clark Pickett (410) 965-9016 or ssi.workers@ssa.gov.

Table 11.
Section 1619(b) participants and their average earnings, by state or other area, selected months,
2002–2003

State or area	December 2002		September 2003		December 2003	
	Number	Average earnings (dollars)	Number	Average earnings (dollars)	Number	Average earnings (dollars)
All areas	82,177	1,094	73,576	1,085	71,097	1,081
Alabama	984	1,202	896	1,154	902	1,204
Alaska ^a	192	1,103	194	1,218	154	1,175
Arizona	979	1,135	913	1,173	879	1,165
Arkansas	872	1,029	739	1,071	739	1,027
California	7,593	1,348	6,349	1,402	6,497	1,390
Colorado	987	1,046	836	1,099	807	1,074
Connecticut ^a	1,169	959	1,102	947	1,058	954
Delaware	304	1,113	249	1,098	242	1,159
District of Columbia	265	1,366	232	1,475	219	1,432
Florida	3,692	1,100	3,339	1,121	3,174	1,099
Georgia	1,750	1,087	1,515	1,072	1,454	1,070
Hawaii ^a	172	1,007	155	1,041	150	1,065
Idaho ^a	487	936	458	979	423	987
Illinois ^a	3,173	1,056	2,773	1,076	2,711	1,051
Indiana ^a	1,670	1,008	1,492	948	1,427	957
Iowa	1,586	798	1,558	814	1,487	794
Kansas ^a	1,088	973	971	904	935	927
Kentucky	1,332	1,180	1,124	1,159	1,125	1,106
Louisiana	1,531	1,014	1,451	1,063	1,424	1,040
Maine	729	1,017	706	989	643	988
Maryland	1,411	1,206	1,303	1,189	1,219	1,164
Massachusetts	3,348	1,194	2,908	1,174	2,876	1,171
Michigan	3,826	1,050	3,434	1,036	3,143	1,028
Minnesota ^a	2,303	933	2,225	917	2,044	914
Mississippi	871	1,172	828	1,128	783	1,138
Missouri ^a	1,884	906	1,719	921	1,709	914
Montana	415	874	384	854	373	846
Nebraska ^a	660	937	653	917	587	885
Nevada ^a	369	1,154	337	1,163	302	1,172
New Hampshire ^a	439	995	359	954	330	911
New Jersey	1,961	1,244	1,711	1,222	1,694	1,230
New Mexico	592	1,127	596	1,088	586	1,084
New York	6,723	1,305	6,084	1,262	5,979	1,270
North Carolina	1,859	1,053	1,594	1,032	1,576	1,010
North Dakota ^a	319	755	310	770	286	797
Ohio ^a	3,743	1,002	3,248	976	3,058	960
Oklahoma ^a	712	890	586	857	566	853
Oregon ^a	1,007	855	959	844	919	855
Pennsylvania	4,051	1,072	3,704	1,049	3,623	1,044
Rhode Island	416	1,101	348	1,111	368	1,064
South Carolina	1,008	1,008	897	1,018	831	994
South Dakota	529	887	493	808	472	827
Tennessee	1,480	1,155	1,248	1,119	1,177	1,108
Texas	3,795	1,016	3,485	1,026	3,302	1,024
Utah ^a	503	950	469	935	422	946

(Continued)

Table 11.
Section 1619(b) participants and their average earnings, by state or other area, selected months,
2002–2003—Continued

State or area	December 2002		September 2003		December 2003	
	Number	Average earnings (dollars)	Number	Average earnings (dollars)	Number	Average earnings (dollars)
Vermont	391	923	355	931	351	919
Virginia ^a	1,646	1,014	1,483	1,010	1,441	1,021
Washington	1,955	1,110	1,720	1,124	1,627	1,117
West Virginia	519	1,177	467	1,096	454	1,112
Wisconsin	2,652	929	2,407	910	2,360	899
Wyoming	224	814	201	825	181	812
Outlying area						
Northern Mariana Islands	11	1,113	9	1,313	8	1,220

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Extract Record format), 100 percent data.

a. The Social Security Administration identifies persons as potential participants; final Medicaid determinations are made by the state.

CONTACT: Clark Pickett (410) 965-9016 or ssi.workers@ssa.gov.

Table 12.
Number and average earnings, by selected characteristics, December 2003

Characteristic	Section 1619(a) participants		Section 1619(b) participants	
	Number	Average earnings (dollars)	Number	Average earnings (dollars)
All participants	17,132	1,059	71,097	1,081
Age				
Under 18	114	1,027	157	--
18–21	1,825	1,036	2,842	1,133
22–29	4,585	1,046	17,222	1,145
30–39	4,635	1,067	20,243	1,076
40–49	3,695	1,072	17,261	1,055
50–59	1,805	1,075	8,702	1,068
60–64	356	1,047	2,438	975
65 or older	117	1,098	2,232	900
Sex				
Male	9,237	1,071	37,133	1,090
Female	7,895	1,045	33,964	1,070
Earned income ^a				
Wages	16,702	1,062	69,310	1,087
Self-employment	517	987	2,300	940
Earnings (dollars)				
Less than 400	...	...	9,573	268
400–499	...	...	5,504	435
500–599	...	...	6,742	528
600–699	...	...	6,217	630
700–899	2,934	852	8,868	774
900–1,199	10,536	1,018	7,062	1,014
1,200 or more	3,662	1,346	27,131	1,857
Unearned income ^a				
None	15,118	1,061	22,363	1,704
Social Security	571	1,001	45,540	738
Other pensions	28	1,041	483	924
Income based on need	3	993	18	1,465
Asset income	1,068	1,067	4,755	984
Other	442	1,039	3,061	1,204
Work incentives ^a				
Plans for achieving self-support ^b	153	1,356	0	0
Impairment-related work expenses	601	1,130	1,752	1,003
Blind work expenses	3	2,386	659	1,503

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Extract Record format), 100 percent data.

NOTE: -- = not available; . . . = not applicable.

a. The sum of the entries may be greater than the total because some recipients may receive more than one type of earned or unearned income, or both earned and unearned income, or benefit from more than one work incentive provision.

b. Includes 23 persons with a PASS that excludes only resources.

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Table 13.
Percentage distribution of participants aged 18–64, by diagnostic group, December 2003

Diagnostic group	All blind and disabled recipients	Section 1619(a) participants	Section 1619(b) participants
Total			
Number	3,953,224	16,901	68,708
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
Congenital anomalies	0.6	0.9	0.7
Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases	3.9	2.0	2.1
Infectious and parasitic diseases	1.7	1.4	1.8
Injuries	2.6	1.9	2.3
Mental disorders			
Retardation	22.0	35.7	32.9
Schizophrenia	10.0	8.4	8.7
Other	24.3	21.4	20.2
Neoplasms	1.1	0.9	1.0
Diseases of the—			
Blood and blood-forming organs	0.4	0.7	0.6
Circulatory system	4.7	1.4	1.7
Digestive system	0.9	0.4	0.5
Genitourinary system	1.1	1.0	1.3
Musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	9.7	3.8	4.7
Nervous system and sense organs ^a	7.8	10.4	10.0
Respiratory system	2.1	0.9	1.0
Skin and subcutaneous tissue	0.2	0.1	0.1
Other	0.2	0.3	0.2
Unknown	6.9	8.4	10.2

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Extract Record format), 100 percent data.

NOTE: Effective with the December 2002 edition, all recipients in each recipient category are included when computing percentages for each diagnostic category. Previously, only recipients with identified diagnoses were included in this computation.

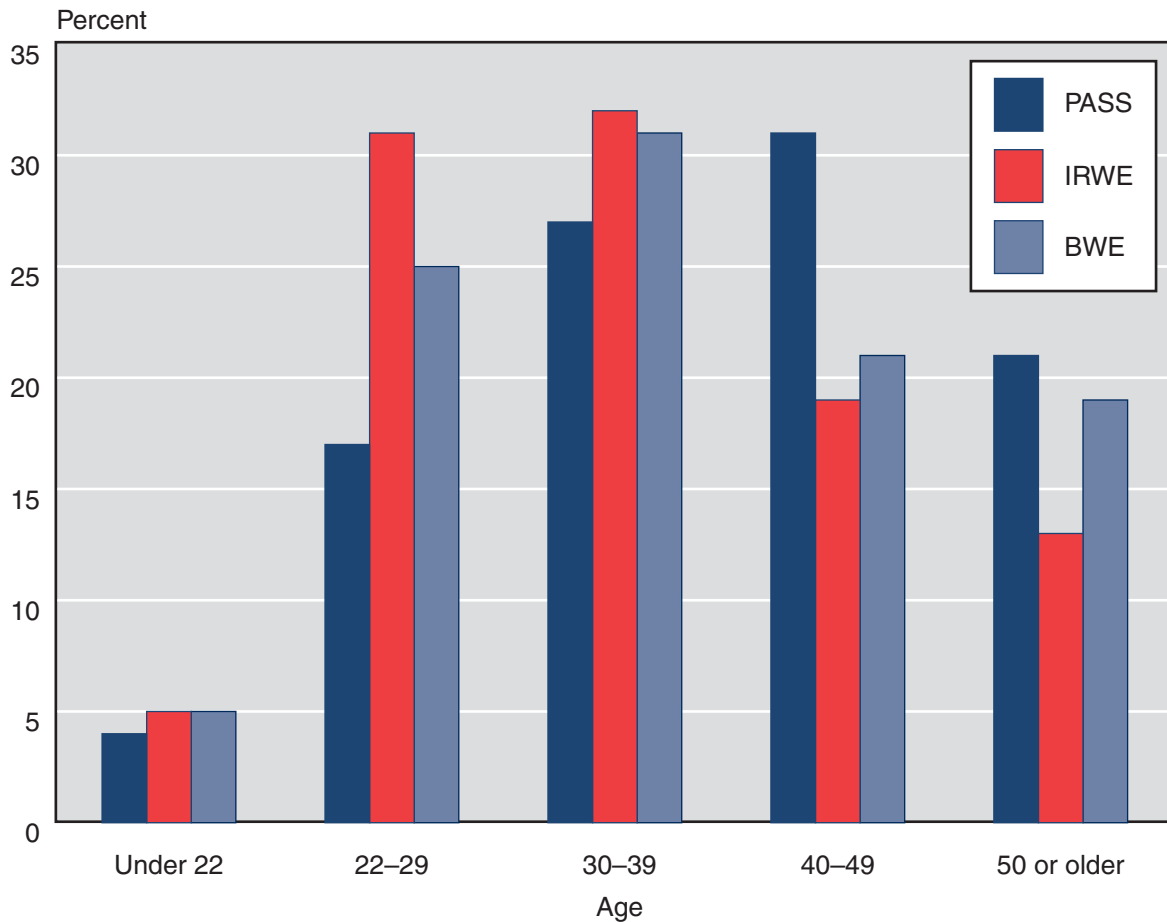
- a. Most disabled recipients classified as blind are included in this category. A few blind recipients with a primary impairment other than diseases of the eye are coded in other categories. Also, a few recipients are classified with diseases of the eye, but their impairment does not meet the definition of blindness.

CONTACT: Clark Pickett (410) 965-9016 or ssi.workers@ssa.gov.

**Other Work
Incentive Participants**

Chart 9.
Percentage distribution, by age and provision, December 2003

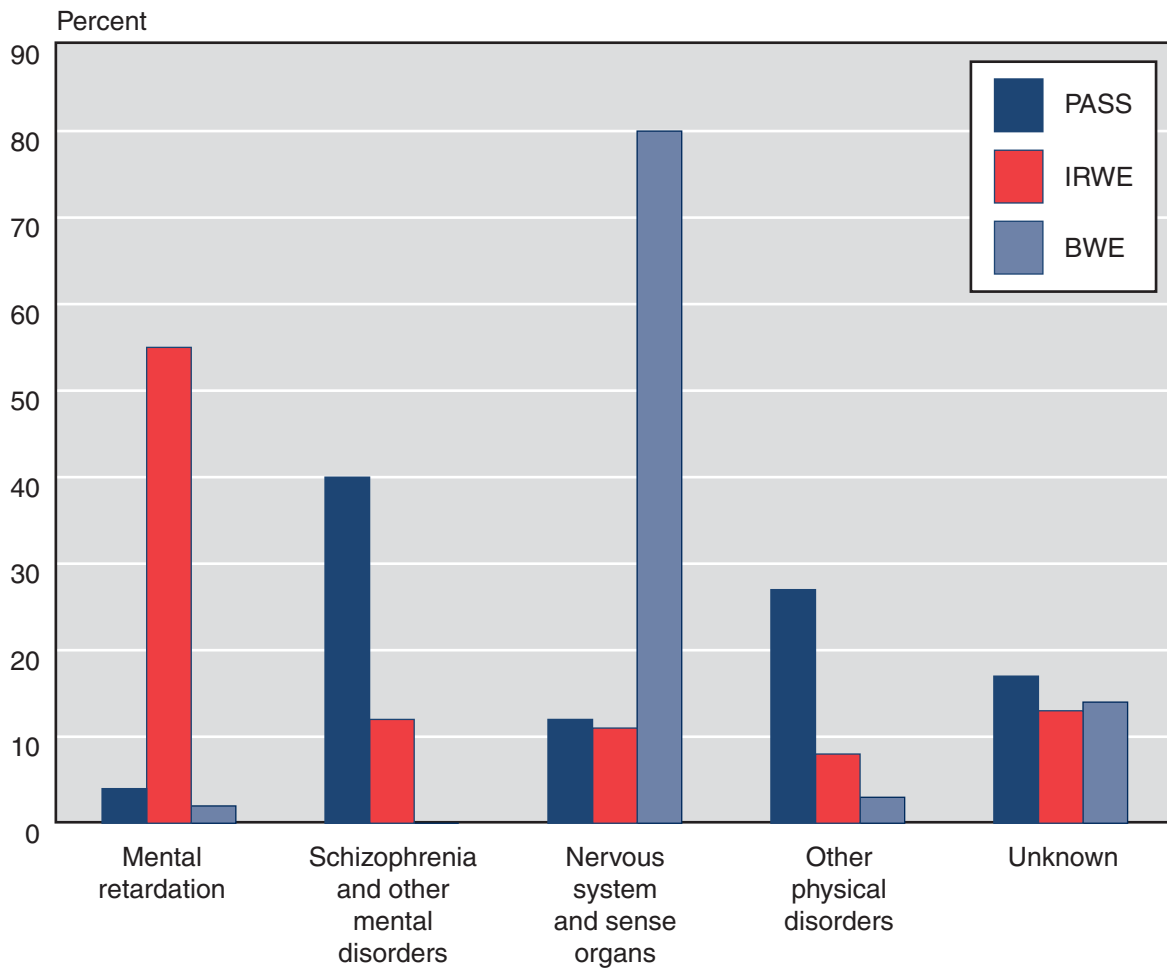
Recipients with income excluded under plans for achieving self-support (PASS), impairment-related work expenses (IRWE), or blind work expenses (BWE) were similar in age to all working recipients (Chart 3). PASS participants were somewhat older—52 percent were aged 40 or older, compared with 32 percent of those with IRWE and 40 percent of those with BWE.



SOURCE: Table 15.

Chart 10.
Percentage distribution, by diagnostic group and provision, December 2003

The most frequently identified diagnosis varied among recipients who had income excluded under plans for achieving self-support (PASS), impairment-related work expenses (IRWE), or blind work expenses (BWE). Over half of the recipients who had some income excluded under IRWE were mentally retarded, and 40 percent of those with a PASS had other mental disorders. Four-fifths of those with BWE had a nervous system disorder.



SOURCE: Table 16.

Table 14.
Number, by state or other area and provision, December 2003

State or area	Plans for achieving self-support (PASS) ^a	Impairment-related work expenses (IRWE)	Blind work expenses (BWE)
All areas	1,705	7,604	3,074
Alabama	26	167	29
Alaska	4	6	3
Arizona	19	92	32
Arkansas	19	84	31
California	511	719	447
Colorado	11	35	36
Connecticut	9	171	23
Delaware	0	41	9
District of Columbia	b	b	4
Florida	61	357	99
Georgia	28	256	60
Hawaii	9	7	9
Idaho	17	20	9
Illinois	21	283	71
Indiana	6	134	42
Iowa	26	49	73
Kansas	23	308	34
Kentucky	49	108	48
Louisiana	3	136	53
Maine	34	38	16
Maryland	16	200	49
Massachusetts	86	210	260
Michigan	57	191	90
Minnesota	40	162	66
Mississippi	7	40	50
Missouri	17	157	57
Montana	32	10	10
Nebraska	12	31	22
Nevada	9	19	13
New Hampshire	7	30	11
New Jersey	16	205	42
New Mexico	b	80	19
New York	111	609	227
North Carolina	110	361	117
North Dakota	7	11	3
Ohio	38	131	110
Oklahoma	5	80	23
Oregon	24	42	35
Pennsylvania	18	370	145
Rhode Island	8	9	17
South Carolina	11	80	38
South Dakota	14	16	6
Tennessee	15	158	54
Texas	31	333	200
Utah	4	59	21

(Continued)

Table 14.
Number, by state or other area and provision, December 2003—Continued

State or area	Plans for achieving self-support (PASS) ^a	Impairment-related work expenses (IRWE)	Blind work expenses (BWE)
Vermont	18	7	6
Virginia	15	555	78
Washington	36	109	58
West Virginia	6	33	22
Wisconsin	54	288	93
Wyoming	b	5	b
Outlying area			
Northern Mariana Islands	0	b	b

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Extract Record format), 100 percent data.

- a. Includes 448 persons with a PASS that excludes only resources.
- b. Data are not shown to avoid disclosure of information for particular individuals.
- CONTACT: Clark Pickett (410) 965-9016 or ssi.workers@ssa.gov.

Table 15.
Number, by selected characteristics and provision, December 2003

Characteristic	Plans for achieving self-support (PASS) ^a	Impairment-related work expenses (IRWE)	Blind work expenses (BWE)
Total	1,705	7,604	3,074
Age			
Under 18	7	4	3
18–21	66	392	143
22–29	284	2,357	761
30–39	455	2,399	953
40–49	535	1,477	633
50–59	296	688	436
60–64	45	163	90
65 or older	17	124	55
Sex			
Male	720	4,130	1,665
Female	985	3,474	1,409
Earned income ^b			
Wages	444	7,539	2,973
Self-employment	86	82	124
Earnings (dollars)			
None	1,181	0	0
65 or less	29	638	213
66–99	11	311	106
100–199	35	1,126	285
200–299	59	1,024	212
300–399	37	874	202
400–499	52	726	174
500–599	42	635	182
600–699	51	463	162
700–799	29	391	116
800–899	35	252	120
900–999	21	208	117
1,000 or more	123	956	1,185
Unearned income ^b			
None	309	3,210	1,570
Social Security	1,333	3,930	1,251
Other pensions	19	59	9
Income based on need	0	1	0
Asset income	121	684	286
Other	81	217	128

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Extract Record format), 100 percent data.

a. Includes 448 persons with a PASS that excludes only resources.

b. The sum of the entries may be greater than the total because some recipients may receive more than one type of earned or unearned income or both earned and unearned income.

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Table 16.
Percentage distribution, by diagnostic group and provision, December 2003

Diagnostic group	All blind and disabled recipients	Plans for achieving self-support (PASS) ^a	Impairment-related work expenses (IRWE)	Blind work expenses (BWE)
Total				
Number	3,953,224	1,705	7,604	3,074
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Congenital anomalies	0.6	0.8	1.7	1.1
Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases	3.9	2.6	0.4	0.4
Infectious and parasitic diseases	1.7	2.4	0.6	0.1
Injuries	2.6	7.7	2.2	0.1
Mental disorders				
Retardation	22.0	4.2	55.1	2.0
Schizophrenia	10.0	10.0	3.9	0
Other	24.3	29.6	8.5	0.3
Neoplasms	1.1	0.9	0.3	0.1
Diseases of the—				
Blood and blood-forming organs	0.4	0.3	0.1	0
Circulatory system	4.7	1.3	0.7	1.2
Digestive system	0.9	0.8	0.1	0
Genitourinary system	1.1	1.0	0.2	0.1
Musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	9.7	7.6	1.0	0.1
Nervous system and sense organs ^b	7.8	12.1	11.4	80.3
Respiratory system	2.1	1.2	0.2	0
Skin and subcutaneous tissue	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Unknown	6.9	17.4	13.4	14.1

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Extract Record format), 100 percent data.

NOTE: Effective with the December 2002 edition, all recipients in each recipient category are included when computing percentages for each diagnostic category. Previously, only recipients with identified diagnoses were included in this computation.

- a. Includes 448 persons with a PASS that excludes only resources.
- b. Most disabled recipients classified as blind are included in this category. A few blind recipients with a primary impairment other than diseases of the eye are coded in other categories. Also, a few recipients are classified with diseases of the eye, but their impairment does not meet the definition of blindness.

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Table 17.
Percentage distribution of persons with income excluded, by amount excluded and provision,
December 2003

Amount excluded (dollars)	Plans for achieving self-support (PASS) ^a	Impairment-related work expenses (IRWE)	Blind work expenses (BWE)
Total			
Number	1,257	7,604	3,074
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 25	2.7	18.9	17.9
25–49	1.0	25.4	10.2
50–99	2.3	32.2	14.3
100–199	5.6	15.6	18.4
200–299	9.6	3.9	11.8
300–499	23.5	2.5	14.1
500–999	47.7	1.2	10.1
1,000 or more	7.6	0.3	3.2

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Extract Record format), 100 percent data.

a. Data do not include plans for achieving self-support that exclude only resources.

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