

Living Arrangements of SSI Recipients

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This article updates one that appeared in the *Bulletin* in July 1990. It describes living arrangements of persons receiving payments under the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program from October 1994 through September 1995. The data were taken from the Quality Assurance review conducted by the Social Security Administration (SSA). This procedure is used by SSA to determine the frequency and causes of incorrect determinations of eligibility and payment amounts.

It is difficult to describe the living arrangement for the "typical" recipient. Nevertheless, some interesting patterns emerge in an analysis of the data. About 59 percent (owners and renters combined) of the 6.3 million SSI recipients lived in their own households. Approximately 32 percent of them shared a living arrangement with someone else and about 5 percent of the recipients lived in an institution.

Of those SSI recipients living in households, about 36 percent lived alone. Less than 13 percent lived with only their spouses or with only their spouses and minor children. Approximately 11 percent of those in households were child recipients living with parents. An additional 15 percent of the SSI recipients lived in households with only other related adults (other than a spouse or parents).

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The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program makes payments to aged, blind, and disabled individuals whose income and resources are below specified amounts.

The living arrangements of SSI recipients vary widely and could include an aged couple living in their own home, a child living in an apartment with his or her parents, or a young adult living in an institution. This article describes SSI recipients in terms of their living arrangements—that is, the type of residence in which they live, the number of persons in the household, and the relationship of the recipients to other persons in the household. The information on living arrangements in this article is derived from the Quality Assurance (QA) review, a process the Social Security Administration (SSA) uses to monitor payment and eligibility accuracy for the SSI program. The Technical Appendix describes the review process and provides tables of sampling errors for estimated counts and percents. A set of statistical tables containing all data referred to in the article also appears in this appendix. This article reports on data obtained for a sample of cases in the period from October 1994 through September 1995. During this period, approximately 5,000 SSI recipients (from a total caseload of 6.3 million) were included in this SSA review.

Variables for Analysis

The number of persons who received federally administered SSI payments averaged 6,347,800 during the 12-month study period. These recipients are described in terms of three analysis variables: age, sex, and geographic region. The age variable is divided into three groups.

- (1) *Aged recipients*: About 33 percent of the 6.3 million recipients were aged 65 or older at the time of the study (table 1). Of that number, 1.4 million were receiving payments based on their

Table 1.—SSI recipients, by age, sex, and region, October 1994-September 1995

Variable	Total		Aged 65 or older		Aged 18-64		Under age 18	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex								
Total.....	6,347,800	100.0	2,071,500	100.0	3,402,300	100.0	874,000	100.0
Male.....	2,702,300	42.6	647,100	31.2	1,489,000	43.8	566,200	64.8
Female.....	3,645,500	57.4	1,424,400	68.8	1,913,300	56.2	307,800	35.2
Region								
Total.....	6,347,800	100.0	2,071,500	100.0	3,402,300	100.0	874,000	100.0
Northeast.....	1,273,900	20.1	410,100	19.8	693,200	20.4	170,600	19.5
Midwest.....	1,178,700	18.6	207,000	10.0	756,300	22.2	215,400	24.6
South.....	2,515,400	39.6	912,600	44.1	1,213,500	35.7	389,300	44.5
West.....	1,379,800	21.7	541,800	26.2	739,300	21.7	98,700	11.3

Source: SSI Quality Assurance Stewardship File and Supplemental Security Record.

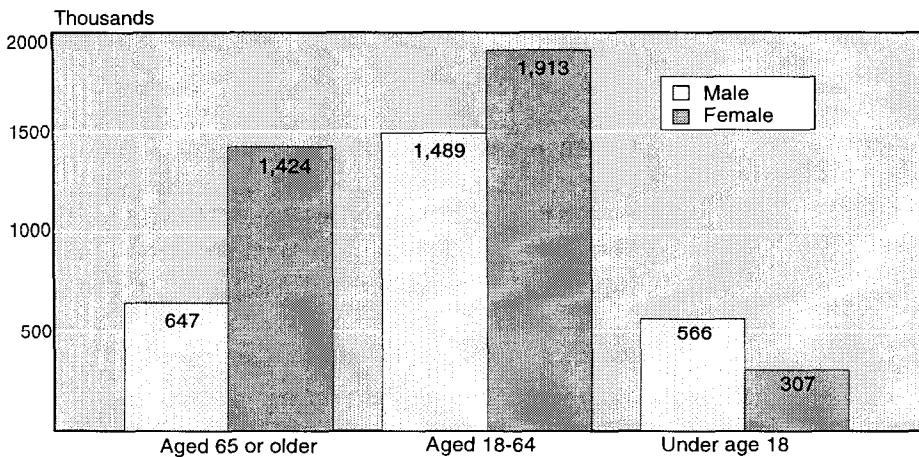
age, and 632,000 were receiving payments based on blindness or other disability.¹

- (2) *Blind or disabled adult recipients:* About 54 percent of the recipients (3.4 million) were blind or disabled adults aged 18-64. All of these recipients were receiving payments based on blindness or other disability. Because of the relatively small number (63,800) of blind adult recipients, this group is included in the disabled adult category.
- (3) *Disabled children:* About 14 percent of the recipients (874,000) were younger than age 18. All of these children were receiving payments based on blindness or disability.

Age and Sex

An analysis of the SSI recipient population shows that about 57 percent of the total are females. The percentage of female recipients varies substantially by age (chart 1).

Chart 1.—Number of SSI recipients, by age and sex



Although females represent only about 35 percent of all disabled recipients under age 18, they represent about 69 percent of all aged recipients. The primary reasons for the large percentage of females among aged recipients include the fact that females have a longer life expectancy than males, and they are less likely than males to have been employed sufficiently to qualify for Social Security benefits at a level in excess of the SSI limit.

To analyze the geographic dispersion of the SSI recipients, the regional composition used by the Bureau of the Census is used to define the makeup of the Northeast, Midwest, South, and West.²

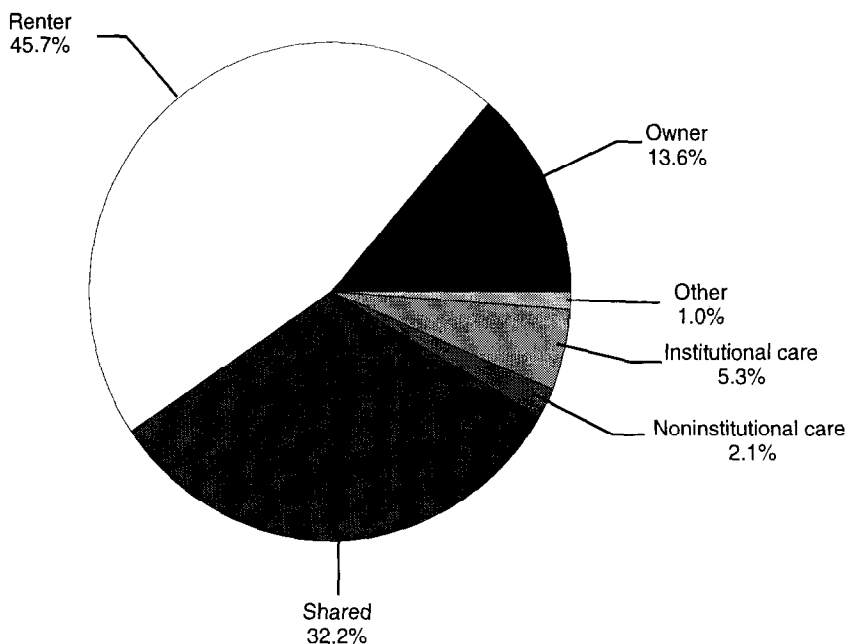
For each category of SSI recipients, the South has a larger group than any other area. Of the total SSI population (6.3 million recipients), about 40 percent live in the South. Among all U.S. residents, 35 percent are in the South.³ Nearly 44 percent of all aged SSI recipients live in the South, compared with 35 percent of the Nation's total aged population.⁴

In contrast with this overrepresentation of SSI recipients in the South, in the Midwest they are underrepresented. Almost 19 percent of the SSI recipient population live in the Midwest, compared with 24 percent of the total population. Among the aged, SSI recipients represent only 10 percent of the Midwest population; those aged 65 or older represent about 24 percent of the population in that area.⁵

Type of Residence

Although the type of residence varied, most SSI recipients (92 percent) resided in a household setting

Chart 2.—Percent of SSI recipients, by type of residence



(chart 2). For the more than 6.3 million persons in the SSI population, this setting was defined as common living quarters and facilities under domestic arrangements and circumstances that create a single economic unit or establishment. Members of a household need not be related by blood or marriage, but they must live together in a single residence and function as an economic unit.

About 14 percent of the 6.3 million SSI recipients had ownership interest in their home; 46 percent had rental liability.⁶ Approximately 32 percent lived in shared households where they were neither owners nor renters. These households included situations where SSI recipients shared expenses either for food, shelter, or for both; lived in rent-free shelters; lived in another person's household where one-third reduction was applied; or were children who lived in their parents' households.

A small proportion (2 percent) of the recipients were in noninstitutional care situations. They had been placed in foster care homes or in other private residences where the placing agency retained responsibility for the services provided.

About 5 percent of all SSI recipients were institutionalized. This group will be discussed later in some detail. About 1 percent of all SSI recipients (63,500) did not report their type of residence, were in some other type of residence, or were homeless.

Age.—Aged SSI recipients, as shown in table 2, were much more likely to own their homes (23 percent) than were disabled adults (11 percent). Disabled adults were more likely to be in shared households (24 percent) than were the aged (19 percent). About 93 percent of the disabled SSI recipient children

shared their parents' households. Forty-nine percent of the aged and 55 percent of the disabled adults were renters. The rate of institutionalization was 6 percent for both disabled adults and for the aged. For children, the institutionalized population was about 3 percent.

Sex.—The residence pattern for female SSI recipients differed from that for males. This pattern shows that females were more likely to own their homes (almost 16 percent) than were males (11 percent) and were more likely to rent (50 percent) than were males (40 percent). Males were more likely to share someone else's household (40 percent) than were females (27 percent). Rates for recipients in institutions were similar for both groups.

Geographic region.—Recipients in the South were much more likely to own their homes (22 percent) than were those in the Northeast (5 percent), Midwest (12 percent), or West (9 percent). As table 3 shows, recipients in the Northeast (53 percent), West (52 percent), and the Midwest (50 percent) were more likely to rent than were those in the South (36 percent).

Again, rates for recipients in institutions were fairly similar across regional lines.

Type of Home Owned

About 864,000 SSI recipients had an ownership interest in their homes. Homeowners included in the survey were classified by the type of home they owned. Most of these recipients (82 percent) lived in nonfarm homes (table 4). A few recipients owned trailers or mobile homes, and even fewer owned farms.

Household Size

The number of persons living in an SSI household tends to be small. Nearly 75 percent of SSI recipients lived in households with two or less persons. Of the 5.8 million SSI recipients living in households, about 36 percent were living alone (table 5). An additional 22 percent lived with only one other person; about 15 percent of the recipients lived with two; 10 percent lived with three; and the remaining 17 percent lived with four or more other persons (chart 3).

Age.—Aged recipients (45 percent) were more likely to live alone than were disabled adults (40 percent). Households with recipient children were somewhat larger than those of disabled adults and much larger than those with aged recipients.

Sex.—Females were much more likely (41 percent) to live alone than were males (28 percent). Many aged females (52 percent) lived alone in their households.

Relationship to Other Household Members

The wide variety of relationships between SSI recipients and members of their households is shown in table 6. The

number of different relationships underscores the difficulty in describing the "typical" SSI household.

Age.—The households of the 826,600 children who are SSI recipients lend themselves most easily to creating a stereotype. About 78 percent of these children either lived only with their parents or only with parents and siblings.

Aged recipients had a somewhat more complicated pattern of household relationships. About 45 percent of the aged recipients lived alone, and an additional 16 percent lived with either a spouse or with a spouse and minor children. About 26 percent of aged recipients lived with related adults⁷ other than their spouse or parents.

Disabled adults were the most difficult to categorize. About 40 percent lived alone. An additional 14 percent lived only with their spouse or with only their spouse and minor children. About 7 percent of these SSI recipients lived with

only parents or with parents and siblings, and nearly 12 percent lived with only related adults other than a spouse or their parents.

In many SSI households, members have such a wide range of the relationships that they seem to defy categorization. About 16 percent of the households did not fit into any of the categories provided on the data base.

Multiple Recipient Households

Unlike the situation under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program, where a household typically has multiple AFDC recipients, SSI households do not generally contain several SSI recipients. Of the 6.3 million SSI recipients in households, only 1,189,900 (19 percent) lived in a household with another SSI recipient. Most multirecipient situations in-

Table 2.—SSI recipients, by age, sex, and type of residence, October 1994-September 1995

Type of residence	Total		Aged 65 or older		Aged 18-64		Under age 18	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	Total							
Total.....	6,347,800	100.0	2,071,500	100.0	3,402,300	100.0	874,000	100.0
Household.....	5,809,400	91.5	1,897,400	91.6	3,085,400	90.7	826,600	94.6
Owner.....	864,000	13.6	481,100	23.2	381,300	11.2	...	...
Renter.....	2,899,000	45.7	1,014,100	49.0	1,874,100	55.1	10,800	1.2
Shared.....	2,046,400	32.2	402,200	19.4	830,000	24.4	814,200	93.2
Noninstitutional care.....	135,600	2.1	32,400	1.6	82,500	2.4	20,700	2.4
Institutional care.....	339,300	5.3	118,900	5.7	195,300	5.7	25,100	2.9
Other or unreported.....	63,500	1.0	22,800	1.1	39,100	1.2	...	...
	Male							
Total.....	2,702,300	100.0	647,100	100.0	1,489,000	100.0	566,200	100.0
Household.....	2,435,400	90.1	595,300	92.0	1,299,600	87.3	540,500	95.5
Owner.....	298,300	11.0	161,600	25.0	135,100	9.1	...	...
Renter.....	1,068,100	39.5	342,800	53.0	720,600	48.4	...	...
Shared.....	1,069,000	39.6	90,900	14.0	443,900	29.8	534,200	94.3
Noninstitutional care.....	70,300	2.6	9,500	1.5	49,200	3.3	11,600	2.0
Institutional care.....	154,400	5.7	32,400	5.0	109,500	7.4	12,500	2.2
Other or unreported.....	42,200	1.6	9,900	1.6	30,700	2.1	...	...
	Female							
Total.....	3,645,500	100.0	1,424,400	100.0	1,913,300	100.0	307,800	100.0
Household.....	3,374,000	92.6	1,302,100	91.4	1,785,800	93.3	286,100	92.9
Owner.....	565,700	15.5	319,500	22.4	246,200	12.9	...	...
Renter.....	1,830,900	50.2	671,300	47.1	1,153,500	60.3	...	...
Shared.....	977,400	26.8	311,300	21.9	386,100	20.2	280,000	91.0
Noninstitutional care.....	65,300	1.8	22,900	1.6	33,300	1.7	9,100	3.0
Institutional care.....	184,900	5.1	86,500	6.1	85,800	4.5	12,600	4.1
Other or unreported.....	21,300	.6	12,900	.9	8,400	.5	...	...

Note: (...) denotes sample error too large for presentation (less than 7,500).

Source: SSI Quality Assurance Stewardship File and Supplemental Security Record.

volved a married recipient couple. About 18 percent of SSI recipients who lived with other recipients lived with two or more recipients (table 7).

Age.—Of the 418,900 aged recipients in a multirecipient household, about 70 percent had their spouse as the only other SSI recipient in the household. An additional 17 percent of the aged recipients had a single relative (other than a spouse) as the only other SSI recipient in the household.

Among disabled adult SSI recipients, the pattern was quite different. Of the 528,200 disabled adults in a multirecipient household, roughly 26 percent had a spouse as the only other SSI recipient in the household. An additional 49 percent had a single relative (other than a spouse) as the only other SSI recipient in the household.

Slightly less than two-thirds of the children in a multirecipient SSI household lived with one relative who also received SSI payments. For more than one-third of the children, two or more of their relatives in the same household were also SSI recipients.

Recipients in Institutions

Institutionalization is a factor in determining both eligibility and the correct benefit payment rate. Generally, residents of public institutions are ineligible for SSI unless one of the following four exceptions applies:

- (1) the public institution is a medical treatment facility and Medicaid pays more than 50 percent of the cost of care;
- (2) the public institution is a publicly operated community residence that serves no more than 16 residents;
- (3) the public institution is a public emergency shelter for the homeless; or
- (4) the individual is in a public institution primarily to receive educational or vocational training.

The Federal SSI payment currently is limited to \$30 to any institutionalized individual in either a public or private

Table 3.—SSI recipients, by region and type of residence, October 1994-September 1995

Type of residence	Total		Northeast		Midwest		South		West	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	6,347,800	100.0	1,273,900	100.0	1,178,700	100.0	2,515,400	100.0	1,379,800	100.0
Household.....	5,809,400	91.5	1,156,300	90.8	1,073,100	91.0	2,348,100	93.3	1,231,900	89.3
Owner.....	864,000	13.6	62,300	4.9	135,000	11.5	548,400	21.8	118,300	8.6
Renter.....	2,899,000	45.7	675,600	53.0	594,300	50.4	912,300	36.3	716,800	51.9
Shared.....	2,046,400	32.2	418,400	32.8	343,800	29.2	887,400	35.3	396,800	28.8
Noninstitutional care.....	135,600	2.1	24,000	1.9	43,500	3.7	18,600	.7	49,500	3.6
Institutional care.....	339,300	5.3	83,800	6.6	55,500	4.7	127,400	5.1	72,600	5.3
Other.....	63,500	1.0	9,800	.8	...	...	21,300	.9	25,800	1.9

Source: SSI Quality Assurance Stewardship File and Supplemental Security Record.

Table 4.—SSI recipient homeowners, by age and type of home, October 1994-September 1995

Type of home owned	Total		Aged 65 or older		Under age 18	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	864,000	100.0	481,100	100.0	¹ 382,900	100.0
Nonfarm.....	711,700	82.4	422,200	87.8	289,500	69.8
Farm.....	17,600	2.0	11,600	2.4	...	...
Trailer/mobile.....	115,000	13.3	38,300	8.0	76,700	23.6
Other or unreported.....	19,700	2.3	9,000	1.9	10,700	5.5

¹ Includes 1,600 children who are homeowners.

Note: (...) denotes sample error too large for presentation (less than 7,500).

Source: SSI Quality Assurance Stewardship File and Supplemental Security Record.

Table 5.—SSI recipients in households, by age, sex, and size of household, October 94–September 1995

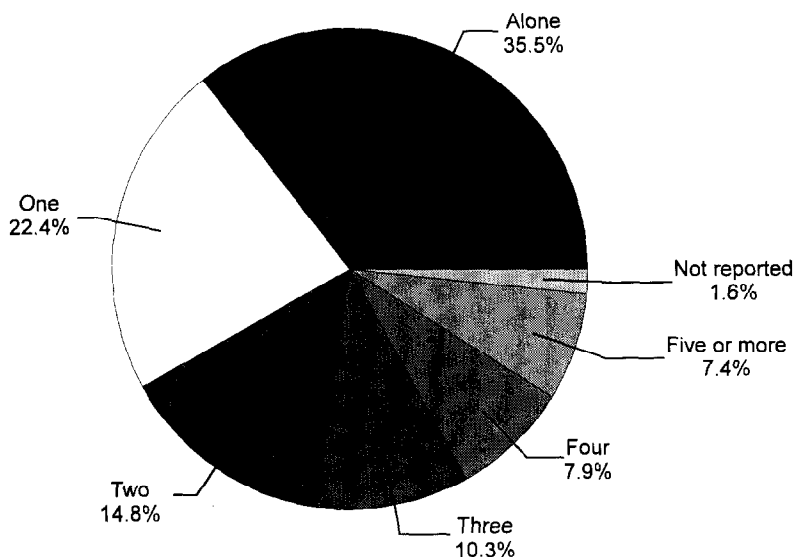
Size of household	Total		Aged 65 or older		Aged 18-64		Under age 18	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	5,809,400	100.0	1,897,400	100.0	3,085,400	100.0	826,600	100.0
Recipient lives alone.....	2,063,300	35.5	845,500	44.6	1,217,800	39.5	NA	NA
Recipient lives with—								
One person.....	1,299,500	22.4	509,500	26.9	695,300	22.5	94,700	11.5
Two persons.....	858,700	14.8	197,600	10.4	473,400	15.3	187,700	22.7
Three persons.....	597,800	10.3	100,100	5.3	285,200	9.2	212,500	25.7
Four persons.....	459,300	7.9	103,700	5.5	206,100	6.7	149,500	18.1
Five persons.....	211,200	3.6	52,600	2.8	74,800	2.4	83,800	10.1
Six persons.....	89,000	1.5	31,200	1.6	31,700	1.0	26,100	3.2
Seven persons or more.....	135,400	2.3	23,600	1.2	56,700	1.8	55,100	6.7
Not reported.....	95,200	1.6	33,600	1.8	44,400	1.4	17,200	2.1
	Male							
Total.....	2,435,400	100.0	595,300	100.0	1,299,600	100.0	540,500	100.0
Recipient lives alone.....	691,100	28.4	168,700	28.3	522,400	40.2	NA	NA
Recipient lives with—								
One person.....	561,500	23.1	232,500	39.1	260,900	20.1	68,100	12.6
Two persons.....	425,300	17.5	78,100	13.1	223,800	17.2	123,400	22.8
Three persons.....	267,500	11.0	26,300	4.4	102,100	7.9	139,100	25.7
Four persons.....	220,800	9.1	27,800	4.7	92,500	7.1	100,500	18.6
Five persons.....	107,300	4.4	26,300	4.4	32,200	2.5	48,800	9.0
Six persons.....	51,700	2.1	18,300	3.1	17,900	1.4	15,500	2.9
Seven persons or more.....	67,200	2.8	7,500	1.3	28,800	2.2	30,900	5.7
Not reported.....	43,000	1.8	9,800	1.6	19,000	1.5	14,200	2.6
	Female							
Total.....	3,374,000	100.0	1,302,100	100.0	1,785,800	100.0	286,100	100.0
Recipient lives alone.....	1,372,200	40.7	676,800	52.0	695,400	38.9	NA	NA
Recipient lives with—								
One person.....	738,000	21.9	277,000	21.3	434,400	24.3	26,600	9.3
Two persons.....	433,400	12.8	119,500	9.2	249,600	14.0	64,300	22.5
Three persons.....	330,300	9.8	73,800	5.7	183,100	10.3	73,400	25.7
Four persons.....	238,500	7.1	75,900	5.8	113,600	6.4	49,000	17.1
Five persons.....	103,900	3.1	26,300	2.0	42,600	2.4	35,000	12.2
Six persons.....	37,300	1.1	12,900	1.0	13,800	.8	10,600	3.7
Seven persons or more.....	68,200	2.0	16,100	1.2	27,900	1.6	24,200	8.5
Not reported.....	52,200	1.5	23,800	1.8	25,400	1.4	...	...

Note: NA denotes data not applicable.

(...) denotes sample error too large for presentation (less than 7,500).

Source: SSI Quality Assurance Stewardship File and Supplemental Security Record.

Chart 3.—Percent of SSI households, by number of individuals residing within them



medical treatment facility, if Medicaid is paying more than 50 percent of the cost of the individual's care.

About 5 percent (339,300) of the 6.3 million SSI recipients were in an institution (table 8). Institutions differ from households by the existence of a proprietor; the number of individuals cared for; and the established formal structure for food, shelter, and treatment or services to individuals not related to the proprietor. Institutions do not include hotels, motels, or boarding houses.

Of the 339,300 SSI recipients in institutions, 17 percent were in a public medical treatment facility (chart 4). A public medical treatment facility is an establishment that is the responsibility of a governmental unit and that provides medical or remedial care to some or all of its residents. Examples include Federal, State, and local hospitals, as well as skilled-nursing facilities,

Table 6.—SSI recipients in households, by age and household composition, October 1994-September 1995

Household composition	Total		Aged 65 or older		Aged 18-64		Under age 18	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	5,809,400	100.0	1,897,400	100.0	3,085,400	100.0	826,600	100.0
Adult recipient lives—								
Alone.....	2,075,700	35.7	854,900	45.1	1,220,800	39.6	NA	NA
With spouse or spouse and minor children only.....	744,100	12.8	302,900	16.0	441,200	14.3	NA	NA
With minor children only.....	178,800	3.1	4,000	.2	174,800	5.7	NA	NA
With parents only.....	225,300	3.9	4,700	.2	220,600	7.1	NA	NA
Child recipient lives—								
With parent(s) or with parent(s) and siblings only.....	644,000	11.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	644,000	77.9
Adult or child recipient lives—								
With related adults (other than spouse or parents), or these adults and their minor children only.....	878,600	15.1	484,300	25.5	363,200	11.8	31,100	3.8
With nonrelated adults only.....	141,000	2.4	21,900	1.2	117,900	3.8	...	...
With related or nonrelated adults and no other.....	17,600	.3	...	...	11,700	.4	...	...
Other household compositions.....	817,100	14.1	189,700	10.0	495,900	16.1	131,500	15.9
Not reported.....	87,200	1.5	29,100	1.5	39,300	1.3	18,800	2.3

Note: NA denotes data not applicable.

(...) denotes sample error too large for presentation (less than 7,500).

Source: SSI Quality Assurance Stewardship File and Supplemental Security Record.

nursing homes, and intermediate care facilities. Institutions are certified as medical facilities under State Medicaid plans. Among the institutionalized SSI population, disabled adults were more likely (22 percent) to be in a public medical facility than were aged recipients (10 percent).

An additional 33 percent of the institutionalized recipients were in a private medical treatment facility. The aged (43 percent) were more likely to be in a private facility than were disabled adults (26 percent).

About 12 percent of the institutionalized recipients were in private nonprofit residential care institutions. These institutions are tax exempt under the Internal Revenue Code, and they are not accredited by the State as medical treatment facilities. They do, however, offer some special programs including occupational therapy, entertainment, social activities, counseling, and protective services. Disabled adults (15 percent) were more likely than aged recipients (6 percent) to be in this type of facility.

Proprietary for-profit residential care and education or vocational training facilities housed 30 percent of institutionalized individuals. These facilities are not tax exempt and are not accredited by the State as medical treatment facilities. Like their tax-exempt counterparts, they offer a range of services. Aged recipients (39 percent) were more likely than disabled adults (27 percent) to reside in this type of facility.

A small group (8 percent) of the institutionalized recipients were either in some other kind of facility or the code was not reported. Other types of facilities include public or private educational institutions and publicly operated community residences serving no more than 16 residents.

Mobility of SSI Recipients

The SSI recipients in this study tended to be mobile in terms of their housing. As the data in table 9 show, 39 percent changed their address one or more times during the

Table 7.—SSI recipients in multirecipient households, by age, and relation of recipients, October 1994-September 1995

Household composition	Total		Aged 65 or older		Aged 18-64		Under age 18	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All recipients.....	6,347,800	100.0	2,071,500	100.0	3,402,300	100.0	847,000	100.0
Multirecipients households.....	1,189,900	100.0	418,900	100.0	528,200	100.0	242,800	100.0
Recipient and—								
Spouse only.....	433,400	36.4	294,900	70.4	138,500	26.2	NA	NA
One relative.....	478,700	40.2	71,400	17.0	258,500	48.9	148,800	61.3
Two relatives or more.....	208,400	17.5	39,200	9.4	87,900	16.6	81,300	33.5
One nonrelated person.....	48,400	4.1	8,800	2.1	33,300	6.3	...	...
Other.....	21,000	1.8	...	...	10,000	1.9	...	...

Note: NA denotes data not applicable.

(...) denotes sample error too large for presentation (less than 7,500).

Source: SSI Quality Assurance Stewardship File and Supplemental Security Record.

Table 8.—Institutionalized SSI recipients, by age and type of institution, October 1994-September 1995

Type of institution	Total		Aged 65 or older		Aged 18-64		Under age 18	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	339,300	100.0	118,900	100.0	195,300	100.0	25,100	100.0
Public medical.....	57,200	16.9	11,600	9.8	42,100	21.6	...	...
Private medical.....	111,800	33.0	51,600	43.4	51,800	26.5	8,400	33.5
Private nonprofit residential.....	39,900	11.8	...	...	28,600	14.6	...	...
Proprietary for-profit residential.....	101,800	30.0	45,800	38.5	51,800	26.5	...	...
Other or unreported.....	28,600	8.4	...	...	21,000	10.8	...	...

Note: (...) denotes sample error too large for presentation (less than 7,500).

Source: SSI Quality Assurance Stewardship File and Supplemental Security Record.

3-year period preceding the survey. Children were most likely to move, and aged recipients were the least likely to move.

Changes During 8-year period

During the 8-year period (fiscal years 1987-95) since the original article was written, there has been sharp increase in the SSI caseload. The caseload has increased from 4.2 million to 6.3 million (table 10). While the aged caseload rose by less than

7 percent, the disabled adult caseload increased by 68 percent, and the caseload for children rose by 268 percent.

Generally, the percentage of homeowners seems to be declining, while the percentage of renters is increasing for both the aged and disabled adults. It is also interesting to note that the proportion of both adult groups in institutional care is declining. This may reflect the fact that State Medicaid organizations are looking for alternatives to institutional care. For the aged, at least, some seem to find their way into noninstitutional care arrangements.

Chart 4.—Percent of SSI recipients residing in institutions, by type of institution

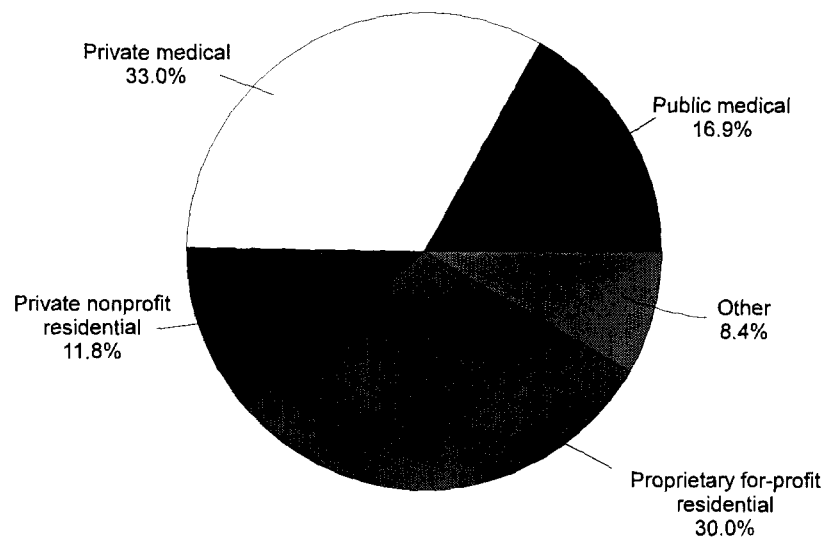


Table 9.—SSI recipients who changed residence during 3-year period preceding survey, by age, October 1994-September 1995

Number of residence changes	Total		Aged 65 or older		Aged 18-64		Under age 18	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	6,347,800	100.0	2,071,500	100.0	3,402,300	100.0	874,000	100.0
None.....	3,900,500	61.4	1,572,300	75.9	1,915,000	56.3	413,200	47.3
One.....	1,633,000	25.7	404,000	19.5	949,600	27.9	279,400	32.0
Two.....	561,600	8.8	79,300	3.8	353,100	10.4	129,200	14.8
Three.....	140,500	2.2	9,300	.4	106,900	3.1	24,300	2.8
Four or more.....	112,200	1.8	...	...	77,700	2.3	27,900	3.2

Note: (...) denotes sample error too large for presentation (less than 7,500).
 Source: SSI Quality Assurance Stewardship File and Supplemental Security Record.

Table 10.—Comparison of SSI recipients' living arrangements, by type of residence for FY 1987 and FY 1995

Type of residence	FY 1987		FY 1995	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total				
Total.....	4,199,400	100.0	6,347,800	100.0
Household.....	3,724,100	88.7	5,809,400	91.5
Owner.....	720,400	17.2	864,000	13.6
Renter.....	1,797,180	42.8	2,899,000	45.7
Shared.....	1,206,500	28.7	2,046,400	32.2
Noninstitutional care.....	79,000	1.9	135,600	2.1
Institutional care.....	373,500	8.9	339,300	5.3
Other.....	22,800	.5	63,500	1.0
Aged 65 or older				
Total.....	1,940,500	100.0	2,071,500	100.0
Household.....	1,766,500	91.0	1,897,400	91.6
Owner.....	502,800	25.9	481,100	23.2
Renter.....	895,400	46.1	1,014,100	49.0
Shared.....	368,300	19.0	402,200	19.4
Noninstitutional care.....	16,600	.9	32,400	1.6
Institutional care.....	151,400	7.8	118,900	5.7
Other.....	11,600	.6	22,800	1.1
Aged 18-64				
Total.....	2,021,300	100.0	3,402,300	100.0
Household.....	1,747,000	86.4	3,085,400	90.7
Owner.....	217,500	10.8	381,300	11.2
Renter.....	899,900	44.5	1,874,100	55.1
Shared.....	629,600	31.1	830,000	24.4
Noninstitutional care.....	52,800	2.6	82,500	2.4
Institutional care.....	205,400	10.2	195,300	5.7
Other.....	11,200	.6	39,100	1.1
Under age 18				
Total.....	237,600	100.0	874,000	100.0
Household.....	210,700	87.8	826,600	94.6
Owner.....	NA	NA	...	...
Renter.....	NA	NA	...	...
Shared.....	208,600	87.8	826,600	94.6
Noninstitutional care.....	9,600	4.0	20,700	2.4
Institutional care.....	16,800	7.1	25,100	2.9
Other.....	...	...	...	...

Note: NA denotes data not applicable.

(...) denotes sample error too large for presentation (less than 7,500).

Source: SSI Quality Assurance Stewardship File and Supplemental Security Record.

Notes

¹ When a person awarded payments on the basis of disability attains age 65, the program category is not changed on agency records.

² The Northeast States are Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The Midwest States include Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. The South is comprised of Delaware, Maryland, the District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. States in the West include Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska, and Hawaii.

³ Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1995 (115th edition), Washington, DC, 1995, p. 33.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ An oral or written agreement between the individual, spouse, or parent, and a landlord, that the landlord will provide shelter in return for rent.

⁷ "Adults" here refers to all persons aged 18 or older.

Technical Appendix

The cases in this study were identified during the Quality Assurance (QA) review process of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. The SSI-QA system is designed to provide statistically reliable information about how well the SSI program is operating. The Social Security Administration uses the SSI-QA data to determine the frequency and causes of incorrect determinations of eligibility and payment amounts. A monthly sample selection is performed to obtain approximately 400 cases nationally. This stratified random sample is selected from Metropolitan Statistical Areas within the agency's administrative regions. From October 1994 through September 1995, approximately 5,000 persons eligible for SSI payments were selected for this review.

Each recipient participates in an extensive interview that includes the review and verification of documentary proof. Collateral contacts verify the statements made during the interview. Discrep-

ancies in case information are identified and payment error determinations are made as required. The results of the review are then transmitted to the QA computer system to generate statistical data.

Estimates based on the QA sample may differ from the figures that would have been obtained had all, rather than a sample, of the records been used. These differences are termed sampling variability. The standard error is a measure of sampling variability—that is, the variation that occurs by chance because a sample is used. The standard error is used to describe confidence intervals. The confidence interval represents the extent to which the sample results can be relied on to describe the results that would occur if the entire population (universe) had been used for data compilation rather than the sample.

In about 68 percent of all possible probability samples with the same selection criteria, the universe value would be included in the interval from one standard error below to one standard error above the sample estimate. Similarly, about 95 percent of all possible samples will give estimates within two standard errors, and about 99 percent will give estimates within 2½ standard errors.

Tables I and II provide approximations of standard errors of estimates shown in the preceding article. Table I presents approximate standard errors for the estimated number of recipients from the QA sample file. Table II presents approximations of standard errors for the estimated percentage of persons from the QA sample file. The reliability of an estimated percentage depends on both the size of the percentage and the size of the number on which the percentage is based. The standard errors are expressed as percentage points and the bases are shown as inflated to the actual size of the universe from which the sample was drawn. In both tables, linear interpolation may be used to obtain values not specifically shown.

Table I.—Approximations of standard errors of estimated number of persons from the Quality Assurance file

Size of estimate (inflated)	Standard error
7,500.....	2,800
10,000.....	3,200
25,000.....	5,200
50,000.....	7,400
75,000.....	9,200
100,000.....	10,700
250,000.....	18,200
500,000.....	28,600
750,000.....	37,800
1,000,000.....	43,700
2,500,000.....	70,000
6,500,000.....	111,300

Table II.—Approximations of standard errors of estimated percentages of persons from the Quality Assurance file

Size of estimate (inflated)	2 or 98	5 or 95	10 or 90	25 or 75	50
7,500.....	5.8	9.1	12.5	18.0	20.8
10,000.....	5.0	7.9	10.8	15.6	18.0
25,000.....	3.2	5.0	6.8	9.9	11.4
50,000.....	2.3	3.5	4.8	7	8.1
75,000.....	1.8	2.9	3.9	5.7	6.6
100,000.....	1.6	2.5	3.4	4.9	5.7
250,000.....	1	1.6	2.2	3.1	3.6
500,000.....	.7	1.1	1.4	2.2	2.5
750,000.....	.6	.9	1.2	1.8	2.1
1,000,000.....	.5	.8	1.1	1.6	1.8
2,500,000.....	.3	.5	.7	1	1.1
5,000,000.....	.2	.4	.5	.7	.8
6,500,000.....	.2	.3	.4	.6	.7