

# Notes and Brief Reports

## Assistance Expenditures Per Inhabitant, 1949

For the Nation as a whole, expenditures from Federal, State, and local funds in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1949, for payments under the four assistance programs—old-age assistance, aid to dependent children, aid to the blind, and general assistance—amounted to \$1,950 million. Per inhabitant, this amount represented \$13.06, or about a fifth more than the \$10.80 expended per inhabitant in 1948.<sup>1</sup> Somewhat fewer than half the States (22) spent between \$10 and \$15 in 1949; all sections of the country

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Alaska, for which population estimates are not available.

except the southeast are represented in this group (chart 1).

Of the 18 States spending less than \$10 per inhabitant, nine are located in the southeast and five in the middle east. Half the States spending less than \$10 are among the 12 States with lowest per capita income. In these nine States the number of recipients of old-age assistance in relation to the aged population generally is high, but recipient rates in general assistance are less than half the national average, and average payments are low under all programs.

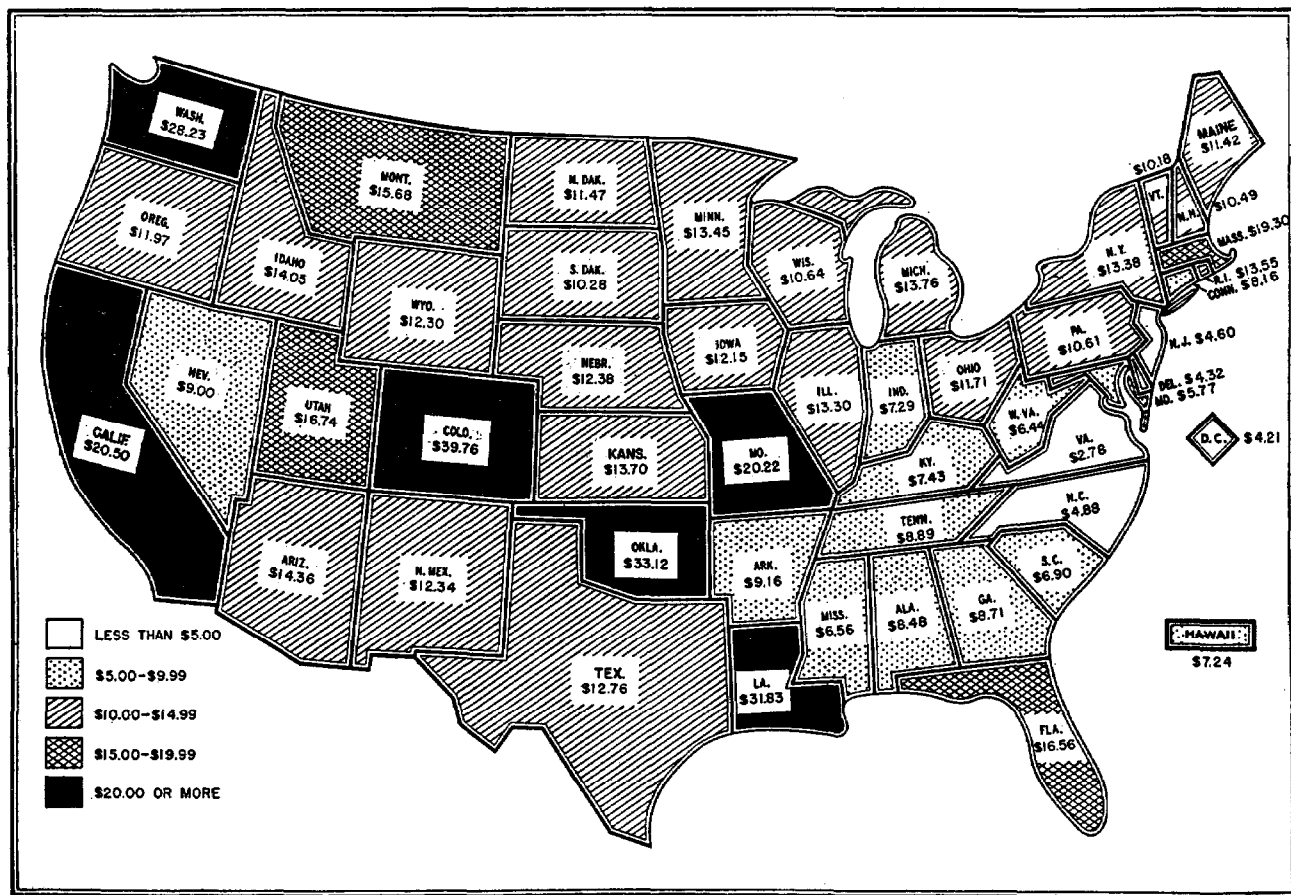
Of the 10 States spending \$15 or more per inhabitant, only two—Massachusetts and Florida—lie east of the Mississippi River. In many of these States the recipient rates, particu-

larly in old-age assistance and aid to dependent children, are among the highest in the country, and average monthly payments also are relatively high.

As shown in the tabulation below, expenditures per inhabitant rose from 1943 to 1949 under each program, with the proportionate rise being greatest in general assistance and aid to dependent children.

Program	Expenditures per inhabitant		
	Amount		Percentage increase
	1949	1948	
All programs.....	\$13.06	\$10.80	20.9
Old-age assistance.....	8.43	7.07	19.2
Aid to dependent children.....	2.77	2.22	24.8
Aid to the blind.....	.30	.26	15.4
General assistance.....	1.56	1.25	24.8

Chart 1.—Total amount expended per inhabitant for assistance payments, fiscal year ended June 30, 1949<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Based on population excluding armed forces overseas as of July 1, 1949, estimated by the Bureau of the Census. Population data for Alaska not available.

This upward shift is accounted for by a rise both in the number of recipients and in the average monthly payment per recipient. Thus the average monthly number of recipients of aid to dependent children and general assistance increased by about 15 percent; recipients of old-age assistance, by about 8 percent, and persons receiving aid to the blind, by 6 percent. Increases in the average monthly payment per recipient varied among the four programs from about 10 to 12 percent.

All States reported a larger expenditure per inhabitant for 1949 than for 1948 for the four programs combined, and, with a few exceptions, also for each individual program. The upward shift that occurred for the four programs combined is shown in the following tabulation.

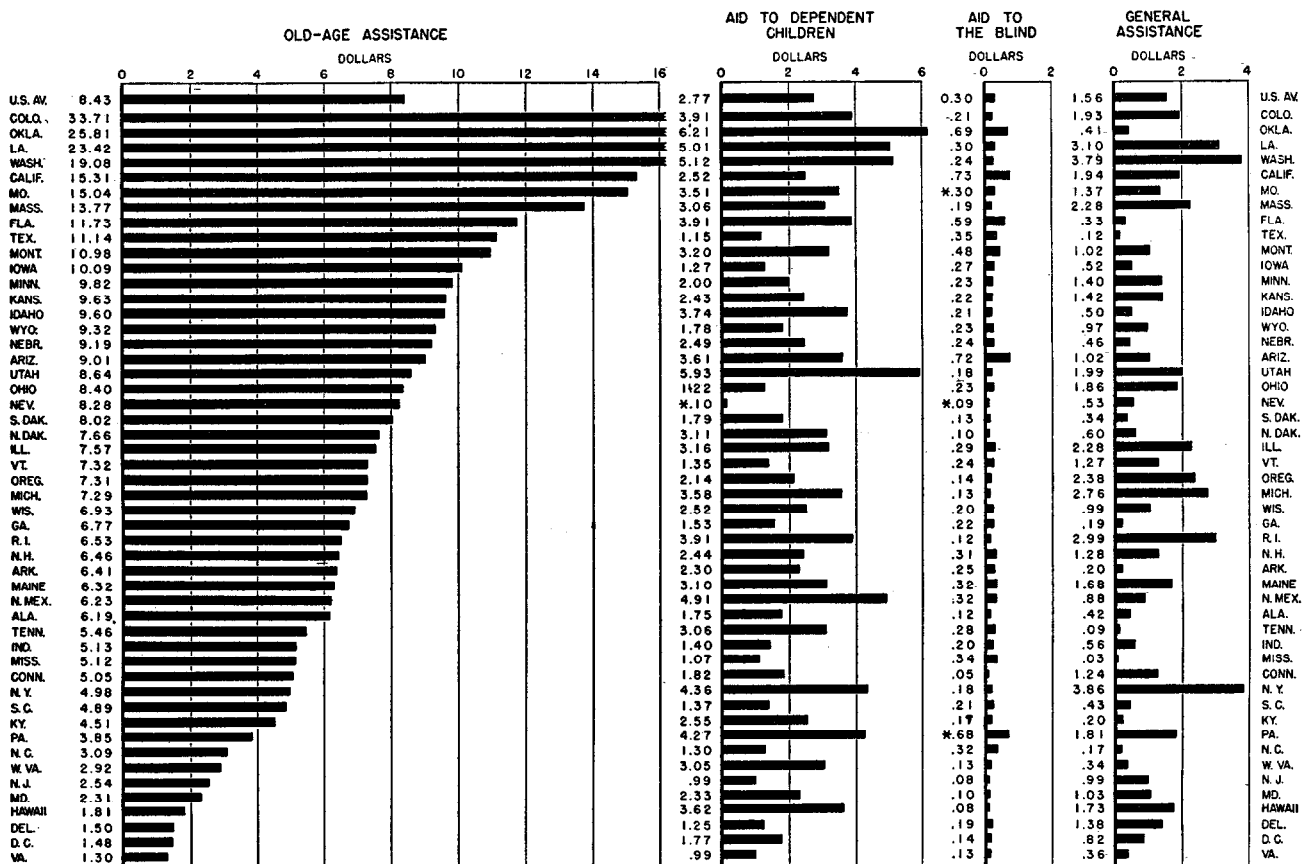
Per inhabitant* expenditure for four programs	Number of States	
	1949	1948
Less than \$5.....	5	6
5-9.99.....	13	18
10-14.99.....	22	19
15-19.99.....	4	4
20 or more.....	6	3

Despite variation among the States in the amount of change from 1948 to 1949, a ranking of States by the amount of their per inhabitant expenditures for each year indicates that only four States changed in rank by five or more places between the 2 years. Making up this group of four were Louisiana, which rose in rank from thirtieth place to third; and three States that shifted downward—Indiana from a rank of 35 in 1948 to 40 in 1949; Minnesota, from 10 to 16; and

New Mexico, from 15 to 21. Five of the six States that spent less than \$5 in 1948 continued in this group in 1949; similarly, the 10 States that spent \$15 or more in 1949 included seven that fell in this group in 1948, two States that had spent \$14 in 1948, and Louisiana, which had spent only \$9.04 in 1948. Louisiana greatly expanded the four public assistance programs during the fiscal year 1949, as a result of legislative action that liberalized eligibility requirements, raised standards of assistance, and made additional State funds available. Though the changes were greatest in old-age assistance, the other three programs also were affected.

As shown in table 1, a relatively greater upward move occurred in expenditures per inhabitant for aid to dependent children than in those for

Chart 2.—Amount expended per inhabitant for assistance payments, fiscal year ended June 30, 1949<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Based on population excluding armed forces overseas as of July 1, 1949, estimated by the Bureau of the Census. Population data for Alaska not available.

\*Program administered under State law without Federal participation.

old-age assistance or general assistance. Thus in aid to dependent children the number of States spending \$3 or more per inhabitant rose from 10 in 1948 to 22 in 1949. In old-age assistance, however, the number spending \$5 or more per inhabitant was 32 in 1948 and 38 in 1949. Similarly, in general assistance the number spending \$1 or more per inhabitant increased from 19 in 1948 to 25 in 1949.

Shifts from 1948 to 1949 in the ranking of the States also were more common in aid to dependent children than in old-age assistance and general assistance. Thus, in aid to dependent children, seven States shifted upward and seven moved downward by five or more places; of those that ranked lower in 1949, only Iowa spent less per inhabitant than in the preceding year. In old-age assistance, Louisiana moved to third place in 1949 from thirty-first in 1948; and

**Table 1.—Distribution of States by assistance expenditures per inhabitant and by specified program, 1949 and 1948**

Expenditures per inhabitant	Old-age assistance		Aid to dependent children		General assistance	
	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948
Less than \$1.....	0	0	3	8	25	31
1-1.99.....	4	4	15	15	17	14
2-2.99.....	3	4	10	17	5	4
3-3.99.....	2	5	15	7	3	1
4-4.99.....	3	5	3	2	0	0
5-7.49.....	15	13	4	1	0	0
7.50-9.99.....	12	12	0	0	0	0
10 or more.....	11	7	0	0	0	0

New Mexico and Utah, which had a decline in expenditures per inhabitant for old-age assistance, moved down six places. In general assistance, Vermont moved up, and Arizona and West Virginia, where the amount expended declined, moved down by five or more places.

As shown in chart 2, the range in expenditures per inhabitant among the States continues to be wide, particularly in general assistance, for which financial support among the States is most uneven. In old-age assistance, Colorado, at the top with an expenditure of \$33.71, spent 26 times as much as Virginia, which ranked lowest with an expenditure of \$1.30 per inhabitant. In aid to dependent children, Oklahoma, which was the high State, spent 60 times as much as Nevada, the low State (which does not request Federal funds for this program), but only 6 times as much as the next two lowest States—New Jersey and Virginia. In aid to the blind, California, which ranked highest, spent 15 times as much as Connecticut. Finally, in general assistance, New York spent \$3.53—more than 100 times the 3 cents expended in Mississippi and 50 times the 7 cents spent in Tennessee.

## Recent Publications in the Field of Social Security\*

### Social Security Administration

**BUREAU OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.** *Assistance Payments Under State-Federal Programs, September-December 1948 (Effect of 1948 Amendments)*. Washington: The Bureau, Dec. 1949. 25 pp. and tables. Processed.

Compares selected statistical data for September and December 1948 to show the effect of the 1948 amendments to the Social Security Act on the average monthly payments. Limited free distribution; apply to the Bureau of Public Assistance, Social Security Administration, Washington 25, D. C.

**CHILDREN'S BUREAU.** *Moving Ahead for Children and Youth: Program*

\*Prepared in the Library, Federal Security Agency. The inclusion of prices of publications in this list is intended as a service to the reader, but orders must be directed to publishers or booksellers and not to the Social Security Administration or the Federal Security Agency. Federal publications for which prices are listed should be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

*of the National Commission on Children and Youth.* (Children's Bureau Publication No. 329.) Washington: U. S. Govt. Print. Off., 1949. 40 pp. 15 cents.

**CHILDREN'S BUREAU and NATIONAL OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS.** *The Confidential Nature of Birth Records.* (Children's Bureau Publication No. 332.) Washington: U. S. Govt. Print. Off., 1950. 11 pp. 10 cents. Advocates a Nation-wide policy on the confidential nature of birth records. Gives special attention to the problems involved in the registration and certification of birth out of wedlock, birth to unknown parents, legitimation, and adoption.

**FAEGRE, MARION L.** *Children Are Our Teachers.* (Children's Bureau Publication No. 333.) Washington: U. S. Govt. Print. Off., 1950. 27 pp. 15 cents.

Suggestions for study groups, to be used with Bureau Publication No. 324, *Your Child From Six to Twelve.*

### General

**AUSTRALIA. DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.** *Commonwealth Social*

*Services: A Handbook of Information.* Canberra: The Department, May 1949. 29 pp.

**CASSELMAN, P. H.** *Labor Dictionary: A Concise Encyclopaedia of Labor Information.* New York: Philosophical Library, 1949. 554 pp. \$7.50.

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES. COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC POLICY.** *Socialism in America.* Washington: The Chamber, 1950. 74 pp. 50 cents.

**COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS.** *Book of the States, 1950-51.* (Vol. 8.) Chicago: The Council, 1950. 839 pp. \$7.50.

Information on State activities; covers interstate, State-Federal, and State-local relations, as well as State legislation, administration, taxation and finance, and major services. Includes a directory of the States and Territories and a selected bibliography on the problems of State government.

*County Business Patterns: Business Establishments, Employment and Taxable Pay Rolls, by Industry Groups Under Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Program, First Quarter, 1948.* (Compiled by the Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance of the Social Security Administration; published by the Office of Domestic Commerce, U. S. Department of Commerce.) Washington: U. S. Govt. Print. Off.,