

of less than \$400 but more likely to have such care provided free or paid for by a person or agency, with the amount unknown to the beneficiary. Because the costs of nursing-home care are relatively high, it is of interest to note that much of the costs of such care, particularly for nonmarried beneficiaries, was assumed by public assistance agencies.

Medical costs and income.—There was apparently little direct relationship between the amount of medical costs incurred by aged insurance beneficiaries and the amount of their cash income.⁶ Although there appears to be some relationship between incurred medical costs and the total cash income of beneficiary-recipients, it has limited meaning because expensive medical care provided through public assistance funds would in itself raise their total computed money income. In this analysis, total computed money income of beneficiary-recipients included total medical expenses paid by the assistance agency—those paid directly to the vendor and those included in the money payment to the recipient.

Means of meeting total medical costs.—Almost all the beneficiaries with medical expenses assumed some of the responsibility for such expenses incurred by them during the year. Of those who incurred medical costs, 9 out of every 10 beneficiary-recipients, a similar proportion of all nonmarried beneficiaries, and virtually all the beneficiary couples (97 percent) assumed some responsibility for meeting these costs. Since beneficiaries who also received public assist-

ance had very little in the way of income or assets other than their insurance benefit and assistance payment, any payments for medical care that they themselves made had to come from either their benefit or assistance check. Other beneficiaries, as shown above, were more likely to have other sources of income to draw on—assets, earnings, and contributions from relatives. Some of the beneficiaries who shared a household with relatives were able to pay their own medical bills only because the relative contributed to the household expense. Information to determine the extent to which relatives shared in the household expense was not analyzed.

Relatively few of the beneficiaries incurring medical costs—6 percent of the beneficiary-recipients, 14 percent of all beneficiary couples, and 9 percent of all nonmarried beneficiaries—had some of their medical expenses covered by health insurance. As would be expected, since health insurance usually provides protection against hospitalization costs, many of the beneficiaries who had some of their medical expenses covered by insurance had at least one period of hospitalization during the survey year.

Relatives paid all or part of the medical bills for 6 percent of the beneficiary couples and for almost twice that proportion of the nonmarried beneficiaries, compared with 10 percent of the beneficiary-recipients.

Medical care for all old-age assistance recipients is provided in two ways. The State welfare agency may include an amount for medical care in the requirements on which the recipient's money payment is based, or it may make payments directly to the suppliers of medical care (vendor

payments), or it may do both. Because the type and amount of medical care to be provided are decided by each State agency, there are wide differences among the States in both the quality and quantity of medical care provided. Most States provide medical care services under the assistance programs only if a person receives a money payment to meet basic maintenance needs; in a few States a person may be provided medical care even though he does not receive a money payment. Medical expenses for such individuals are paid directly to the medical supplier by the agency. An aged person receives medical care under the old-age assistance program only if he is in need, has inadequate resources to meet that need, and the needed type of medical service is one of those provided by the agency.

Information on the number of aged recipients with medical care included in their requirements or on the amount of such medical care is generally not collected. Reports from 24 States obtained as the result of a special inquiry made by the Bureau of Public Assistance in early 1957 showed, however, that only 1 recipient in 5 had medical care needs taken into account in determining his requirements. State by State, the proportions ranged from zero to 72 percent. Payments made directly to the suppliers of medical care (vendor payments) for 1957 represented about 9 percent of the total payments to recipients of old-age assistance. The largest proportion of the vendor payments in old-age assistance went for hospitalization (37 percent). Nursing- and convalescent-home care represented 34 percent of the vendor payments, drugs and supplies 13 percent, and practitioner's services 12 percent.

⁶See "Medical Care Costs of Aged OASI Beneficiaries: Highlights From Preliminary Data, 1957 Survey," *Social Security Bulletin*, April 1959.

Notes and Brief Reports

Applicants for Account Numbers, 1958*

The 2.9 million social security account numbers issued in 1958 brought

* Prepared in the Division of Program Analysis, Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance.

to 128.3 million the total number of accounts established since the beginning of the program (table 1). The number issued in 1958 was, however, 20 percent less than the total in 1957. It was also the smallest number issued since the recession year 1954, when only 2.7 million new accounts

were established. The decline in 1958 reflected in part the scarcity of job opportunities during the first half of the year. It also reflected the fact that the number of applications in 1957 had been increased by the 1956 amendments to the Social Security Act, which extended the protection of the program to several additional occupational groups.

The rate of decline from 1957 to

1958 in the number of new accounts established was greater for men than it was for women. The 1.4 million account numbers issued to men were 23 percent less than the number in 1957. Women applicants were also fewer than in 1957. The number declined from 1.8 million to 1.5 million, or 17 percent. In 1957 accounts estab-

lished for men formed 49 percent of the total. This proportion dropped 2 percentage points in 1958, with men representing only 47 percent of all new accounts.

Accounts established during 1958 for younger persons—under age 20—declined 11 percent from the 1957 level to 2.1 million, as shown in table

Table 1.—Number of applicants for account numbers and cumulative number at the end of each period, by sex and by year, 1950-58

[In thousands]

Period	Total		Male		Female	
	Total during period	Cumulative total at end of period	Total during period	Cumulative total at end of period	Total during period	Cumulative total at end of period
1950.....	2,891	97,526	1,405	57,382	1,485	40,142
1951.....	4,927	102,453	2,420	59,802	2,507	42,649
1952.....	4,363	106,816	2,292	62,094	2,071	44,720
1953.....	3,464	110,280	1,664	63,758	1,800	46,520
1954.....	2,743	113,023	1,299	65,057	1,444	47,964
1955.....	4,323	117,346	2,304	67,361	2,019	49,983
1956.....	4,376	121,722	2,391	69,752	1,985	51,968
1957.....	3,639	125,361	1,793	71,545	1,845	53,813
1958.....	2,920	128,281	1,384	72,929	1,536	55,349

Table 2.—Applicants for account numbers, by sex and age, 1958 and 1957

Age group	Total			Male			Female		
	1958	1957	Per-centage decrease from 1957	1958	1957	Per-centage decrease from 1957	1958	1957	Per-centage decrease from 1957
Total ¹	2,919,513	3,638,596	20	1,383,840	1,793,198	23	1,535,673	1,845,398	17
Under 20.....	2,143,509	2,397,300	11	1,125,374	1,279,973	12	1,018,135	1,117,327	9
20-24.....	167,690	231,251	27	64,985	107,763	40	102,705	123,488	17
25-29.....	80,432	117,039	31	34,466	57,820	40	45,966	59,219	22
30-34.....	59,721	87,724	32	23,082	38,394	40	36,639	49,330	26
35-39.....	57,900	88,725	35	16,875	31,167	46	41,025	57,558	29
40-44.....	62,080	98,629	37	13,264	29,368	55	48,816	69,261	30
45-49.....	70,882	118,237	40	13,923	35,215	60	56,959	83,022	31
50-54.....	66,965	115,505	42	14,318	38,150	62	52,647	77,355	32
55-59.....	58,848	102,001	43	15,097	37,914	60	43,751	64,687	32
60 and over.....	150,383	280,621	46	61,684	136,850	55	88,699	143,771	38
60-64.....	55,440	98,159	44	17,789	39,616	55	37,651	58,543	37
65-69.....	38,803	74,897	48	15,653	34,762	55	23,150	40,135	42
70 and over.....	56,140	107,565	48	28,242	62,472	55	27,898	45,093	38

¹ Includes 1,103 applicants in 1958 (772 men and 331 women) and 964 applicants in 1957 (584 men and 380 women) whose ages were not reported.

Table 3.—Applicants for account numbers, by sex, race, and age group, 1958

Age group	Total			Male			Female		
	Total	White ¹	Negro	Total	White ¹	Negro	Total	White ¹	Negro
Total.....	2,919,513	2,571,341	348,172	1,383,840	1,222,962	160,878	1,535,673	1,348,379	187,294
Under 15.....	191,485	169,159	22,326	127,759	111,718	16,041	63,726	57,441	6,285
15-19.....	1,952,024	1,744,258	207,766	997,615	887,436	110,179	954,409	856,822	97,587
20-39.....	365,743	294,502	71,241	139,408	120,011	19,397	226,335	174,491	51,844
40-59.....	258,775	231,160	27,615	56,602	50,368	6,234	202,173	180,792	21,381
60-64.....	55,440	49,562	5,878	17,789	15,834	1,955	37,651	33,728	3,923
65-69.....	38,803	32,817	5,986	15,653	12,824	2,829	23,150	19,993	3,157
70 and over.....	56,140	48,986	7,154	28,242	24,136	4,106	27,898	24,850	3,048
Age not reported.....	1,103	897	206	772	635	137	331	262	69

¹ Represents all races other than Negro.

2. An even greater decline—37 percent—developed in the number of older persons applying for account numbers. There were fewer applicants during 1958 than during the preceding year for each 5-year age group over age 20; the decrease ranged from 27 percent for persons in the 20-24 age group to 48 percent for persons who were aged 65 or over.

During 1958, accounts were established for 348,000 Negroes. More women than men applied for account numbers—187,000 compared with 161,000 (table 3). The total represented a decrease of 18 percent from the number of Negro applicants in the preceding year. In 1958 as in 1957, Negroes formed 12 percent of all applicants.

Recent Publications*

Social Security Administration

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE. *Money Payments to Recipients under State-Federal Assistance Programs, September 1958*. Washington: The Bureau, 1959. 15 pp. Processed.

An annual release. Limited free distribution; apply to the Bureau of Public Assistance, Social Security Administration, Washington 25, D. C.

CHILDREN'S BUREAU. *Clinical Programs for Mentally Retarded Children: A Listing*, by Rudolf P. Hor-muth. Washington: The Bureau, 1959. 25 pp. Processed. Limited free distribution; apply to the Children's Bureau, Social Security Administration, Washington 25, D. C.

CHILDREN'S BUREAU. *Selected Films on Child Life*, compiled by Inez D. Lohr. (Children's Bureau Publication No. 376-1959.) Washington: U. S. Govt. Print. Off., 1959. 79 pp. 30 cents.

A list of 300 films, designed primarily for the use of adults.

CHILDREN'S BUREAU. *Selected References on Services for Unmarried Mothers*. Washington: The Bureau, 1959. 7 pp. Processed. Limited free distribution; apply to the Children's Bureau, Social Security

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