

# Concurrent Receipt of Public Assistance and Old-Age and Survivors Insurance

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*With the expansion of old-age and survivors insurance, that program has become more important than old-age assistance as a source of income for aged persons. This shift in the relative magnitude of the insurance and assistance programs stimulates interest in and concern with the relationships between them.*

**T**ODAY old-age and survivors insurance benefits are the most common source of income of aged persons and a source of support for nearly half the Nation's paternal orphans. The growing importance of old-age and survivors insurance during the past few years has been accompanied by declines in the numbers of aged persons and of paternal orphans who receive public assistance. Among the aged there were in 1950 more recipients of old-age assistance than beneficiaries of old-age and survivors insurance. In 1954 aged insurance beneficiaries are almost twice as numerous as aged recipients of assistance. Among children whose fathers have died there has been an increase of more than 50 percent from 1950 to 1954 in the number of children receiving insurance benefits, while the number of such children receiving public assistance has declined.

One of the important interprogram relationships is the use of public assistance payments to supplement the wage-related insurance benefits when those benefits, with other resources, fail to meet the needs of beneficiaries. The number of aged and child beneficiaries of old-age and survivors insurance who also receive public assistance payments, together with the amounts of benefits and assistance received, is determined once each year on the basis of a sample of the assistance recipients in each State. These data for aged recipients in February 1954 and for recipients of aid to dependent children in Novem-

ber 1953 are presented in the following pages.<sup>1</sup>

## Aged Persons Receiving OASI and OAA

In February 1954, more than 460,000 aged persons were receiving both old-age assistance and benefits under the old-age and survivors insurance program. Beneficiaries under the insurance program frequently need supplementary assistance if they receive minimum insurance benefits or benefits near the minimum and have few resources to supplement them. (The minimum benefit paid to a retired worker was \$25; minimums for aged wives and for widows of insured workers were \$12.50 and \$18.75, respectively.) Early in 1953, more than one-fourth of the aged individuals who received payments under both programs had insurance benefits of \$25, while 14 percent re-

ceived benefits of less than \$25. Altogether, about half the recipients of old-age assistance who received payments under the insurance program had benefits of less than \$30. Some individuals with relatively high benefits, however, may need assistance if they require costly medical care or have other unusual expenses. The recipients with benefit payments of more than \$30—half the total number with benefits—included 14 percent whose benefits exceeded \$50.

The number of aged persons getting both assistance payments and insurance benefits increased sharply immediately after the 1950 amendments to the Social Security Act became effective. Because, on the average, the benefits paid to the newly eligible beneficiaries were low, many of the recipients of old-age assistance then on the rolls who received benefits for the first time continued to need assistance. Aged applicants for assistance in the 12 months after September 1950 also included beneficiaries under the insurance program who needed assistance to supplement their benefits. As a result, the net increase from September 1950 to August 1951 in the number of aged persons receiving both types of payment was 100,000 (table 1).

<sup>1</sup> The data exclude Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Averages and totals include money payments to recipients and vendor payments for medical care.

Table 1.—Aged persons and families with children receiving both OASI benefits and assistance payments, 1948-54

Month and year	Aged persons receiving both OASI and OAA		Families with children receiving both OASI and ADC			
	Number	Percent of—		Number	Percent of—	
		Aged OASI beneficiaries	OAA recipients		OASI beneficiary families with children	ADC families
June 1948.....	146,000	10.0	6.1	21,600	6.7	4.8
September 1950.....	276,200	12.6	9.8	32,300	8.3	4.9
August 1951.....	376,500	11.9	13.8	30,700	6.7	5.0
February 1952.....	406,000	12.0	15.1	30,000	6.1	5.0
February 1953.....	426,500	10.7	16.3	30,600	5.7	5.3
February 1954.....	463,000	9.7	18.0	31,900	5.4	5.9

<sup>1</sup> Data on ADC-OASI families are for November 1953; OASI families for February 1954.

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Since then the number of persons getting both types of payments has continued to rise but at a more gradual rate. The increase was expected because, with the insurance program's expansion, relatively more beneficiaries are found in the group potentially eligible for old-age assistance. By February 1954, 4.8 million aged persons were receiving insurance benefits. Of these, less than 10 percent were receiving payments under the old-age assistance program, compared with 12 percent in 1952.

With declining caseloads in old-age assistance and increasing numbers of recipients with both assistance and insurance payments, the proportion of recipients with benefits has risen. In September 1950, 9.8 percent of the aged persons receiving assistance were also beneficiaries under the insurance program; by February 1954 the proportion had risen to 18 percent and is expected to increase further.

The present caseload in old-age assistance consists largely of individuals who never had an opportunity to obtain coverage under the insurance program. Half the recipients of old-age assistance are aged 75 or over, and many of these individuals had retired before the Social Security Act was passed. The recipient load also includes needy persons who worked in employments not covered, or only recently covered, by the insurance program. Also among the present recipients are the wives and widows of uninsured workers. Women account for about three-fifths of the recipients of old-age assistance, and probably most of them have had no recent attachment to the labor force.

Individuals newly accepted for old-age assistance are more likely to be eligible for insurance benefits than those who have been on the rolls for some time. Among recipients accepted for assistance early in 1952, more than one-fourth were receiving insurance benefits. As the older recipients leave the rolls, usually because of death, and as new cases are added, the proportion of old-age assistance cases receiving both types of payments obviously will tend to increase. Any extension of coverage

Table 2.—Number of aged OASI beneficiaries per 1,000 population aged 65 and over and percent of OAA cases receiving OASI benefits, February 1954<sup>1</sup>

OASI beneficiaries per 1,000 persons aged 65 and over, by State	Percent of OAA cases receiving OASI benefits				
	Less than 10	10-14	15-19	20-24	25 or more
Less than 200:					
Miss. (163).....	4.9				
N. Da k. (165).....		10.4			
200-249:					
S. Dak. (203).....		12.9			
S. C. (223).....	5.7				
Okla. (228).....		14.5			
Ga. (229).....	7.6				
Ark. (231).....	6.1				
Tenn. (233).....	6.4				
La. (234).....			17.8		
Tex. (236).....		11.5			
Nebr. (241).....			15.4		
N. C. (244).....	6.7				
N. Mex. (244).....		10.4			
Ala. (249).....	3.2				
250-299:					
Iowa (258).....			16.5		
Kans. (258).....			16.1		
Ky. (260).....	9.5				
D. C. (283).....				20.6	
Va. (285).....	5.6				
Mo. (290).....			19.8		
Mont. (296).....			18.7		
300-349:					
Minn. (303).....			16.9		
Wyo. (310).....				24.2	
Colo. (312).....					25.0
Idaho (314).....				21.4	
Utah (334).....			16.0		
Ariz. (346).....				21.4	
350-399:					
Vt. (351).....				23.5	
Wis. (359).....				21.1	
Nev. (361).....					37.9
Md. (362).....		14.6			
Ind. (362).....			16.3		
Ill. (365).....			17.2		
W. Va. (377).....	6.1				
Ohio (383).....			19.0		
Del. (390).....		14.0			
400-449:					
Calif. (401).....					33.4
Hawaii (402).....		14.9			
Alaska (405).....					29.3
Mich. (406).....				23.6	
Wash. (416).....					28.4
N. Y. (421).....				24.8	
Pa. (423).....			16.6		
Fla. (440).....				21.8	
Maine (440).....					25.2
Oreg. (441).....					29.3
N. H. (444).....				23.7	
450 or more:					
Mass. (450).....					33.5
N. J. (452).....				22.2	
Conn. (457).....					31.1
R. I. (505).....					29.5

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands; no cases receiving both assistance payments and insurance benefits reported.

to employments not now included under the old-age and survivors insurance program would reduce the size of the old-age assistance program as the newly covered workers acquired insured status, but it would also tend to increase the proportion of assistance recipients with insurance benefits.

*State changes, February 1954 from February 1953.*—Although in most States old-age assistance caseloads were smaller in February 1954 than they had been a year earlier, the number of recipients who also had insurance benefits was larger in all

but 12 States and represented a somewhat higher proportion of all recipients in all but four States. The States that had fewer beneficiary-recipients had percentage decreases in their total assistance caseloads during the 12 months that exceeded the national average. Although, in most States, the changes in the number of recipients who also received benefits were small, they were sizable in a few States. California reported 10,000 more beneficiary-recipients, Missouri 4,600, and Florida, Louisiana, New York, and Texas about 3,000 each. These changes represent

increases during the 12 months of 12-25 percent in the number of recipients of old-age assistance who also received insurance benefits. The greatest relative increases were reported by Mississippi (77 percent) and New Mexico (46 percent).

The largest decrease occurred in Alabama, where the number of aged persons receiving both types of payment dropped from 3,000 in the previous February to 2,000 in February 1954. Under a policy adopted in Alabama in 1953, individuals with budget deficits of less than \$10 are no longer eligible for assistance. This policy tends to reduce the number of insurance beneficiaries on the assistance rolls, since many of them need relatively small payments to supplement their benefits.

*State-to-State differences.*—The proportion of recipients of old-age assistance who also received insurance benefits ranged from 38 percent in Nevada to 3 percent in Alabama. In States with relatively small proportions of beneficiaries among the aged population, the number of recipients of old-age assistance who also receive benefits tends to be small. In addition, aged persons receiving benefits are less likely to be eligible for assistance in States where limited funds in relation to the number of needy people result in low assistance payments.

This combination of circumstances accounts for the fact that in nine of the Southern States fewer than 10 percent of the recipients of old-age assistance also receive insurance benefits (table 2). In these States the number of aged individuals receiving such benefits was well below the national rate of 351 per 1,000 aged persons in the population. Possibly more important in accounting for the relatively small numbers of recipients with benefits in these States is the fact that assistance standards and payments are low and few beneficiaries are likely to have resources less than the minimum standards established by the agencies to measure need. This factor is also the reason for the small proportion of beneficiaries in the old-age assistance case load in West Virginia—a

State in which a high proportion of the aged receive insurance benefits.

Most of the 21 States in which as many as one-fifth of the recipients of old-age assistance also receive insurance benefits are located in the Northeast and West, although a few States scattered throughout other regions—Florida, Michigan, and Wisconsin—are included in the list. These 21 States are highly industri-

**Table 3.—Number of OAA recipients per 1,000 population aged 65 and over and percent of aged OASI beneficiaries receiving OAA, February 1954<sup>1</sup>**

OAA recipients per 1,000 population aged 65 and over, by State	Percent of aged OASI beneficiaries receiving OAA			
	Less than 5	5-9	10-19	20 or more
Less than 100:				
D. C. (46).....	3.3			
N. J. (48).....	2.3			
Del. (57).....	2.0			
Md. (60).....	2.4			
Pa. (63).....	2.5			
Va. (73).....	1.4			
N. Y. (77).....	4.6			
Hawaii (83).....	3.1	5.7		
Conn. (84).....				
Ind. (99).....	4.5			
100-149:				
N. H. (111).....		5.9		
R. I. (115).....		6.7		
Ill. (123).....		5.8		
Maine (132).....		7.5		
Nebr. (133).....		8.5		
Ohio (138).....		6.8		
Oreg. (140).....		9.3		
Wis. (141).....		8.3		
150-199:				
Iowa (151).....		9.7		
Mich. (155).....		9.0		
N. Dak. (163).....			10.3	
Vt. (166).....			11.0	
Kans. (169).....			10.5	
W. Va. (171).....	2.8			
Mont. (174).....			11.0	
Minn. (182).....			10.1	
Mass. (186).....			13.9	
Idaho (187).....			12.7	
S. Dak. (188).....			11.9	
200-299:				
N. C. (202).....		5.5		
Utah (202).....		9.8		
Wyo. (205).....			16.0	
Nev. (213).....				22.4
Ky. (220).....		8.0		
Fla. (244).....			12.1	
Tenn. (254).....		7.0		
Wash. (255).....			18.1	
Ariz. (266).....			16.2	
Calif. (267).....				22.2
Ala. (287).....	3.7			
300-399:				
Mo. (304).....				28.8
N. Mex. (318).....			13.5	
Ark. (319).....		8.4		
S. C. (331).....		8.4		
Alaska (333).....				24.1
Miss. (380).....			11.4	
Tex. (383).....			18.7	
Colo. (388).....				31.1
Ga. (395).....			13.1	
400 or more:				
Okla. (450).....				28.7
La. (508).....				45.3

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands; no cases receiving both assistance payments and insurance benefits reported.

alized or have considerable industrial development and, with a few exceptions, have beneficiary rates above the national average. Moreover, among the States included in this group are those ranking at the top in the amount of the average assistance payment; only three of them have payments below the national average. These various circumstances account for the relatively high proportion of the recipients who received assistance to supplement their benefits.

Between the two extremes are 20 States in which insurance beneficiaries comprise from 10 to 20 percent of the old-age assistance caseload. In most of these States the beneficiary rates are below the national average, although seven of them—including Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and Pennsylvania—have rates higher than the rate for the Nation. Assistance standards and payments vary widely among the States in this group, but none of them are among the States with the highest or lowest average payments per recipient.

As the number of beneficiaries under the insurance program has increased, the proportion receiving assistance has decreased. Only four States showed a higher percentage of beneficiaries on the assistance rolls in February 1954 than in the previous February. There is extreme variation among the States, however, in the proportion of aged beneficiaries who receive assistance to supplement their incomes. In 28 States, less than 10 percent of the beneficiaries received assistance; the proportion was lowest (1.4 percent) in Virginia (table 3). In seven States, more than one-fifth of the aged persons with insurance benefits received supplementary assistance. In Colorado almost one-third of the beneficiaries received assistance, and in Louisiana, more than two-fifths.

A fairly direct relationship exists between the number of persons receiving old-age assistance per 1,000 aged persons in the population and the percent of insurance beneficiaries on the assistance rolls. For the country as a whole, in February 1954, there were 189 recipients of old-age assistance per 1,000 persons aged 65

and over. In nine of the 10 States with recipient rates below 100, less than 5 percent of the aged insurance beneficiaries received assistance. In these States, therefore, relatively few aged persons in either the beneficiary or nonbeneficiary group were on the assistance rolls. The proportion of insurance beneficiaries who received old-age assistance generally increased as States approached the national recipient rate for old-age assistance of 189 per 1,000 aged persons. A mixed picture is presented by the 22 States in which the pro-

portion of the aged population getting assistance exceeded the national rate. Included in this group are a number of low-income States where relatively few insurance beneficiaries (less than 1 in 10) are on the assistance rolls. At the other end of the scale there are seven States that provide assistance to more than one-fifth of the aged beneficiaries.

### Families With Children Receiving OASI and ADC

The program of aid to dependent children and the insurance program

impinge upon each other to only a limited extent. The assistance program provides financial aid to children deprived of care or support because of the death, absence, or incapacity of a parent. In November 1953, absence of the father accounted for the dependency of about three-fifths of the families receiving aid; in more than one-fifth of the families the father was incapacitated. Death of the father was the cause of dependency for only 1 family in 6. Twenty-three thousand families, or more than one-fourth of the families with the father dead, received both survivor benefits under the insurance program and aid to dependent children.

Families in which the father is reported as absent or incapacitated may still have children who are eligible for insurance benefits. Information on fathers in families receiving aid to dependent children is reported in terms of the "most recent" father in the family. Some families in which the most recent father is incapacitated or absent include children who are eligible for benefits on the basis of the wage record of a father who has died. In other families an aged, retired father or grandparent is an insurance beneficiary. These situations account for 8,800 families in which both aid to dependent children payments and insurance benefits were being received.

Altogether, about 32,000 families received payments under both programs in November. As the total number of families with insurance benefits has increased, the proportion of such families receiving both benefits and assistance payments has declined. In September 1950 more than 8 percent of the beneficiary families with children received aid to dependent children. By November 1953 the proportion was 5.4 percent. The expansion of the beneficiary rolls has brought only a slight and gradual increase in the proportion of assistance families receiving survivor benefits; from less than 5 percent in September 1950, this proportion had risen to about 6 percent in November 1953.

Table 4.—Concurrent receipt of OASI benefits and assistance payments by OAA recipients, February 1954, and ADC cases, November 1953

State	Persons receiving OAA and OASI as percent of—		Cases receiving ADC and OASI—	
	OAA recipients	OASI beneficiaries	Families as percent of ADC families	Children as percent of OASI child beneficiaries <sup>1</sup>
Total <sup>2</sup> .....	18.0	9.7	5.9	8.2
Alabama.....	3.2	3.7	4.2	7.8
Alaska.....	29.3	24.1	6.6	16.5
Arizona.....	21.4	16.2	4.9	7.4
Arkansas.....	6.1	8.4	3.8	5.8
California.....	33.4	22.2	8.0	12.9
Colorado.....	25.0	31.1	7.2	10.5
Connecticut.....	31.1	5.7	7.3	6.2
Delaware.....	14.0	2.0	5.8	5.4
District of Columbia.....	20.6	3.3	4.4	8.5
Florida.....	21.8	12.1	7.6	14.9
Georgia.....	7.6	13.1	6.5	7.4
Hawaii.....	14.9	3.1	2.9	7.0
Idaho.....	21.4	12.7	8.0	10.0
Illinois.....	17.2	5.8	4.7	4.9
Indiana.....	16.3	4.5	9.7	7.3
Iowa.....	16.5	9.7	10.3	11.3
Kansas.....	16.1	10.5	7.1	6.7
Kentucky.....	9.5	8.0	7.4	15.1
Louisiana.....	17.8	45.3	3.5	8.6
Maine.....	25.2	7.5	13.5	16.8
Maryland.....	14.6	2.4	3.9	3.9
Massachusetts.....	33.5	13.9	10.6	11.0
Michigan.....	23.6	9.0	10.3	10.4
Minnesota.....	16.9	10.1	9.1	10.8
Mississippi.....	4.9	11.4	3.2	10.6
Missouri.....	19.8	20.8	6.4	14.1
Montana.....	18.7	11.0	5.4	7.0
Nebraska.....	15.4	8.5	6.1	6.4
Nevada.....	37.9	22.4	.....	.....
New Hampshire.....	23.7	5.9	12.2	8.0
New Jersey.....	22.2	2.3	9.8	4.8
New Mexico.....	10.4	13.5	4.3	15.0
New York.....	24.8	4.6	3.9	4.9
North Carolina.....	6.7	5.5	5.0	8.0
North Dakota.....	10.4	10.3	6.6	12.6
Ohio.....	19.0	6.8	11.8	7.6
Oklahoma.....	14.5	28.7	4.6	12.3
Oregon.....	29.3	9.3	9.6	6.3
Pennsylvania.....	16.6	2.5	4.8	4.6
Rhode Island.....	29.5	6.7	4.6	8.0
South Carolina.....	5.7	8.4	4.5	5.1
South Dakota.....	12.9	11.9	5.4	13.6
Tennessee.....	6.4	7.0	5.7	12.5
Texas.....	11.5	18.7	3.3	5.0
Utah.....	16.0	9.8	8.0	10.5
Vermont.....	23.5	11.0	13.5	14.5
Virginia.....	5.6	1.4	5.0	4.3
Washington.....	28.4	18.1	7.5	8.6
West Virginia.....	6.1	2.8	2.6	6.2
Wisconsin.....	21.1	8.3	11.6	11.1
Wyoming.....	24.2	16.0	9.8	7.5

<sup>1</sup> Data given in terms of children because OASI data on beneficiary families are not available by State.

<sup>2</sup> For OAA, 53 States, and for ADC, 52 States;

totals include Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands, for which no cases receiving both assistance payments and insurance benefits were reported.

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Table 4.—Status of the unemployment trust fund, by specified period, 1936-54

[In thousands]

Period	Total assets at end of period	Net total of U. S. Government securities acquired <sup>1</sup>	Unexpended balance at end of period	State accounts				Railroad unemployment insurance account <sup>4</sup>			
				Deposits	Interest credited	Withdrawals <sup>2,3</sup>	Balance at end of period	Deposits	Interest credited	Benefit payments	Balance at end of period <sup>2,5</sup>
Cumulative, January 1936-May 1954	\$9,080,001	\$9,068,986	\$11,015	\$19,047,387	\$1,799,842	\$12,364,062	\$8,483,167	\$944,078	\$182,454	\$718,920	\$596,834
Fiscal year:											
1951-52	8,673,936	582,885	26,855	1,438,987	167,441	1,000,278	7,919,742	15,442	17,054	48,312	754,195
1952-53	9,257,893	580,961	20,850	1,371,105	184,242	912,581	8,562,537	15,042	18,526	97,272	695,355
11 months ended:											
May 1952	8,663,592	581,949	17,446	1,428,541	90,390	915,366	7,917,157	11,908	9,243	44,728	746,435
May 1953	9,230,141	566,979	16,081	1,360,456	100,408	839,354	8,541,251	11,928	10,130	92,227	688,890
May 1954	9,080,001	-168,056	11,015	1,228,967	115,070	1,423,407	8,483,167	12,010	11,379	126,184	596,834
1953											
May	9,230,141	253,000	16,081	331,501	350	69,891	8,541,251	488	36	5,772	688,890
June	9,257,893	22,982	20,850	10,649	83,534	73,197	8,562,537	3,114	8,397	5,045	695,355
July	9,247,751	-3,000	13,709	60,428	23	69,930	8,553,059	61	2	4,971	694,692
August	9,500,297	245,000	21,255	319,975		62,430	8,810,605	1,238		6,237	689,693
September	9,442,015	-54,019	16,992	10,317		64,719	8,756,519	2,539	32	6,707	685,496
October	9,418,221	-17,000	10,197	39,148	9,554	66,098	8,739,132	10	945	7,394	679,089
November	9,566,878	139,000	19,854	253,477		97,777	8,894,832	410		7,453	682,046
December	9,560,887	-2,019	15,882	15,854	93,526	116,746	8,887,466	3,408	9,261	11,294	673,420
1954											
January	9,411,362	-150,000	16,357	28,443	134	164,049	8,751,994	24	13	14,090	659,368
February	9,386,702	-20,000	11,697	106,304	38	177,216	8,741,120	700	4	14,490	645,582
March	9,161,390	-225,019	11,403	15,738	1,064	225,740	8,532,182	2,959	105	19,439	629,207
April	9,000,450	-160,000	10,463	46,904	10,326	201,850	8,389,563	36	1,008	19,364	610,887
May	9,080,001	79,000	11,015	270,378	88	176,861	8,483,167	624	8	14,686	596,834

<sup>1</sup> Includes accrued interest and repayments on account of interest on bonds at time of purchase; minus figures represent primarily net total of securities redeemed.

<sup>2</sup> Includes transfers from State accounts to railroad unemployment insurance account amounting to \$107,161,000.

<sup>3</sup> Includes withdrawals of \$79,169,000 for disability insurance benefits.

<sup>4</sup> Beginning July 1947, includes temporary disability program.

<sup>5</sup> Includes transfers to the account from railroad unemployment insurance administration fund amounting to \$85,290,000 and transfers of \$12,338,000 out of the account to adjust funds available for administrative expenses on account of retroactive credits taken by contributors under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act Amendments of 1948.

Source: Daily Statement of the U. S. Treasury.

CONCURRENT RECEIPT  
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The families getting both types of payments were somewhat larger than other families receiving either assistance or survivor benefits. Although only 5.4 percent of the beneficiary families were receiving assistance, these families included 8.2 percent of all children in the families with benefits. The children in beneficiary families, including children with benefits in current-payment status and those not getting benefits, accounted for 6.6 percent of all children receiving aid to dependent children but made up only 5.9 percent of the families on the rolls. Under the insurance program, benefits to families with children cannot exceed 80 percent of the average monthly wage on which the payment is based. Those families receiving benefits based on the earnings of a worker who had received a low average wage would be most likely to need assistance, and the need of the family would tend to increase in proportion to the number of children in the family.

State data showing the extent of concurrent receipt of payments under the two programs are presented in table 4. As in old-age assistance, the variations among the States reflect the extent of insurance coverage, differences in numbers of needy families, and variations in assistance policies.

Effect of OASI on Assistance Costs

Old-age and survivors insurance, by providing income to large numbers of aged persons, has reduced case-loads and costs in old-age assistance. In February 1954, almost half the aged who did not have social insurance benefits or earnings from employment received assistance, while less than 10 percent of the old-age and survivors insurance beneficiaries were on the assistance rolls—an indication that a substantially larger number would have needed assistance if they had not received benefits. Although some beneficiaries do need assistance, average payments to the aged individuals getting both types of payments are lower than payments to

recipients without insurance benefits; the charge to assistance funds is thus further reduced.

The average old-age assistance payment for recipients not getting insurance benefits was \$53.94 in February 1954; the average amount of assistance for recipients getting both insurance benefits and assistance payments was \$43.00. The \$20 million going as assistance payments to aged persons who also received insurance benefits in that month represented 15 percent of total payments to recipients of old-age assistance.

The average insurance benefit received by aged persons getting both assistance and benefits was \$33.91 in February 1954. This amount was only about three-fourths of the average benefit of \$45.55 for all aged beneficiaries of old-age and survivors insurance.

Savings have also resulted in the program for aid to dependent children. As an increasing number of orphans have received benefits under the old-age and survivors insurance program, fewer families with children

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**Table 8.—Public assistance in the United States, by month, May 1953–May 1954<sup>1</sup>**

[Except for general assistance, includes vendor payments for medical care and cases receiving only such payments]

Year and month	Total <sup>2</sup>	Old-age assistance	Aid to dependent children			Aid to the blind	Aid to the permanently and totally disabled	General assistance <sup>4</sup>	Total	Old-age assistance	Aid to dependent children (families)	Aid to the blind	Aid to the permanently and totally disabled	General assistance <sup>5</sup>	
			Families		Recipients										
			Total <sup>3</sup>	Children											
Number of recipients													Percentage change from previous month		
1953															
May.....	2,612,868	570,023	2,005,325	1,508,498	98,888	175,672	261,000	-0.1	-0.5	+0.1	+1.5	-5.0			
June.....	2,608,898	564,308	1,983,498	1,493,670	99,032	179,395	255,000	-0.2	-1.0	+1.1	+2.1	-2.4			
July.....	2,603,173	554,691	1,952,060	1,469,388	99,103	181,620	248,000	-0.2	-1.7	+1.1	+1.2	-2.7			
August.....	2,599,716	550,405	1,940,941	1,461,748	99,286	184,743	243,000	-0.1	-0.8	+1.1	+1.7	-2.0			
September.....	2,596,451	547,588	1,933,948	1,457,713	99,417	187,411	239,000	-0.1	-0.5	+1.2	+1.4	-1.7			
October.....	2,595,364	543,872	1,923,697	1,448,888	99,633	190,327	240,000	( <sup>6</sup> )	-0.7	+1.2	+1.6	+1.3			
November.....	2,591,370	542,119	1,918,160	1,445,173	99,658	192,940	246,000	-0.2	-0.3	( <sup>6</sup> )	+1.4	+2.4			
December.....	2,591,016	548,122	1,942,383	1,464,454	99,828	195,109	270,000	( <sup>6</sup> )	+1.1	+1.2	+1.1	+9.9			
1954															
January.....	2,585,146	552,852	1,964,661	1,479,158	99,732	198,247	297,000	-0.2	+0.9	-1.1	+1.6	+9.4			
February.....	2,578,293	560,556	1,995,596	1,503,677	99,695	200,030	312,000	-0.3	+1.4	-1.1	+0.9	+5.0			
March.....	2,592,057	569,537	2,030,505	1,530,070	99,934	202,758	326,000	+1.1	+1.6	+1.3	+1.4	+4.5			
April.....	2,583,228	575,531	2,053,979	1,547,852	100,296	205,500	318,000	( <sup>6</sup> )	+1.1	+1.4	+1.4	-2.4			
May.....	2,583,005	580,039	2,071,187	1,561,085	100,647	208,459	304,000	( <sup>6</sup> )	+1.8	+1.3	+1.4	-4.6			
Amount of assistance													Percentage change from previous month		
1953															
May.....	\$213,787,900	\$133,491,069	\$48,212,598	\$5,499,296	\$9,466,677	\$12,442,000	-0.4	-0.1	+0.3	+1.0	+2.3	-6.4			
June.....	212,516,000	133,271,522	47,392,149	5,499,070	9,636,900	12,034,000	-0.6	-0.2	-1.7	( <sup>6</sup> )	+1.8	-3.3			
July.....	210,033,000	132,637,753	45,947,547	5,482,047	9,711,863	11,694,000	-1.2	-0.5	-3.0	-0.3	+1.8	-2.8			
August.....	208,079,000	131,798,519	45,355,681	5,471,478	9,790,782	11,370,000	-0.9	-0.6	-1.2	-0.2	+1.8	-2.8			
September.....	208,347,000	131,523,577	45,463,591	5,485,775	9,865,528	11,378,000	+1.1	-0.2	+1.2	+0.3	+1.8	+1.1			
October.....	209,129,000	131,935,869	45,422,778	5,518,353	10,086,901	11,608,000	+0.4	+0.3	-0.1	+0.6	+2.2	+2.0			
November.....	209,856,000	132,339,340	45,239,457	5,517,338	10,213,434	11,874,000	+0.3	+0.3	-0.4	( <sup>6</sup> )	+1.3	+2.3			
December.....	214,219,000	133,425,769	46,163,903	5,555,289	10,425,762	13,638,000	+2.1	+1.8	+2.0	+1.7	+2.1	+14.8			
1954															
January.....	215,227,000	132,715,335	46,622,721	5,542,140	10,541,919	14,939,000	+0.5	-0.5	+1.0	-0.2	+1.1	+9.0			
February.....	216,536,000	132,135,293	47,420,169	5,550,681	10,699,610	15,871,000	+0.6	-0.4	+1.7	+0.2	+1.5	+6.2			
March.....	219,801,000	132,619,452	48,392,469	5,574,943	10,850,504	17,101,000	+1.5	+0.4	+2.1	+0.4	+1.4	+7.8			
April.....	219,995,000	132,610,310	48,868,058	5,598,305	11,043,452	16,599,000	+1.1	( <sup>6</sup> )	+1.0	+0.4	+1.8	-2.9			
May.....	219,901,000	132,747,769	49,305,079	5,621,392	11,164,991	15,520,000	( <sup>6</sup> )	+1.1	+0.9	+0.4	+1.1	-6.5			

<sup>1</sup> For definition of terms see the *Bulletin*, January 1953, p. 16. All data subject to revision.  
<sup>2</sup> Total exceeds sum of columns because of inclusion of vendor payments for medical care from general assistance funds, from special medical funds, and, for one State, from funds for the special types of public assistance; data for such expenditures partly estimated for some States.  
<sup>3</sup> Includes as recipients the children and 1 parent or other adult relative in families in which the requirements of at least 1 such adult were considered in determining the amount of assistance.

<sup>4</sup> Through December 1953 excludes Nebraska; data not available. Percentage changes through January 1954 based on data for 52 States.  
<sup>5</sup> Decrease of less than 0.05 percent.  
<sup>6</sup> Increase of less than 0.05 percent.  
<sup>7</sup> For Illinois includes premiums paid into pooled fund for medical care but excludes vendor payments made for medical services provided before the pooled fund plan began in August.

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dependent because of the death of a father are receiving aid to dependent children, and relatively less assistance goes to families receiving insurance benefits than to other families.

In November 1953 the average assistance payment to families not receiving insurance benefits was \$90.07;

for families receiving insurance benefits and assistance payments the average assistance payment was \$71.35. Assistance payments to families receiving both insurance benefits and assistance totaled \$2.3 million and accounted for 4.8 percent of all payments to families receiving aid to dependent children.

The average insurance benefit re-

ceived in November by families getting both aid to dependent children and a benefit under the insurance program was \$59.02. In June 1953, the latest month for which data are available, the average benefit for a widowed mother with two or more children receiving survivor benefits under the insurance program was \$107.