

Reinventing SSI Statistics: SSA's New Longitudinal File

*by Clark D. Pickett and Charles G. Scott**

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) statistics have been published in the *Social Security Bulletin* since the program began in 1974. For the most part, these statistics have been snapshots of current caseloads. Now, a new SSI longitudinal file permits a retrospective look at past program data. It also permits us to redefine key program indicators and to produce new distributions for these data. In this article, we take a look back in time at SSI applications, caseloads, and awards, and describe how these data were obtained from the SSI administrative computer files.

*Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics, Social Security Administration.

Since the beginning of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, the Social Security Administration (SSA) has produced accurate and timely data on basic program indicators—caseloads, applications, and awards. Caseload data have been published in the *Annual Statistical Supplement* to the *Social Security Bulletin* since 1974. These data represent a point-in-time (typically, December of each year) look at the number of persons receiving benefits. Applications include persons applying for benefits over a period of time, typically 1 month or 1 year. These data have never been published by the Social Security Administration, but the agency has always maintained counts. Awards refer to persons whose applications have been successful during a period of time, also, typically, 1 month or 1 year. These data have appeared regularly in individual issues of the *Bulletin* and more recently in the *Supplement*. In all cases, the data have been obtained by looking at current year SSI records. After a few years pass, the opportunity for showing that year's data passes as well. No attempt has been made to look back through past periods on the SSI files to duplicate the old counts or to derive new distributions. Nor has the attempt been made to define awards, caseloads, and applications in different ways or to produce new tables based on these new definitions. The main reason for the difficulties in looking back at SSI historical data has to do with the complexities of the Supplemental Security Record (SSR), the main administrative file for the SSI program.

In the last couple of years, however, SSA has been able to grapple with some of the SSR's complexities and produce a statistical file that captures histories for a sample of all persons who ever filed an application for benefits. This article explains some of the complexities associated with capturing data from the SSR, introduces SSA's new SSI Longitudinal Sample, and provides an array of variations on those recurring program themes—caseloads, applications, and awards.

The Formidable SSR

As with many computer-based files used to administer large social programs, the SSR was designed to permit the payment of benefits to recipients. It was not designed to facilitate the production of statistics or to permit researchers to follow the program experience of recipients over time. Current point-in-time statistics can be obtained relatively easily from the SSR, because one can readily identify the records of persons currently eligible for payment. But re-creating data for earlier time periods, or following recipients through time, has been difficult to do because:

- A recipient may be located in different places on the SSR at different times. For example, a married woman's records could be located under her husband's account number, and, after he dies or becomes ineligible, a new record may be created under her own account number.¹
- A recipient may be represented by several different records over a period of time, even under his/her own account number. Sometimes new records are created when a person files a new application after leaving the rolls. And sometimes new records are created simply because the computer system is not flexible enough to correct the original record. An example of this situation would be the creation of a new record when an ineligible spouse of a current recipient becomes eligible for benefits.
- The benefit histories of two records may contain a certain amount of overlap, raising the issue of what information to keep from each record.
- Until recently, the SSR was housed in two separate files. The regular file contained mainly data concerning currently paid recipients and those owing money to SSA, while the STALE file contained older records. Since May 1995, all records are now housed on a single file.

Despite these complications in updating the SSR, historical benefit information is seldom lost. The problem has been to find all the data and combine the information into one file.

Creating the SSI Longitudinal Sample

In September 1992, SSA produced its first Longitudinal Sample File. The sample file is currently being produced twice yearly, in June and December. The file is an extract from the SSR of all records for persons with account numbers falling within a 1-percent sample framework.² The size of the file was approximately 420,000 records in December 1995. Each record contains about 7,000 characters. There are 200 characters of general descriptive data at the beginning of the record and about 20 characters of benefit data for each month since the beginning of the program in January 1974.³

Although the file has been available for several years, it has taken us a considerable amount of time to learn how to work with it. In particular, we needed to learn how to combine the multiple records into a single person record while maintaining all the pertinent information.⁴ Then, when we were able to obtain counts from the file, we needed to find out why the results were somewhat different from the numbers we were already publishing. The process has taken some time, but there have already been some results. The file was used for two *Social Security Bulletin* articles about length of stay in the SSI and disability programs (Rupp and Scott, 1995; Rupp and Scott, 1996) and for the *SSI Annual Statistical Report*, prepared by SSA's Office of Program Benefits Policy.

Recently, the file has been used to match to several surveys. It is particularly useful for this purpose because it is the only source of payment and eligibility data that can be associated with specific survey interview time frames.⁵

Results and Comparisons to Existing Data

One of our first goals with the new file was to produce data on historical caseloads and to compare our results with similar totals published over the years.

Caseloads—Payment vs. Eligibility

Published data on caseloads reflect actual payments made during a specific month. The monthly tapes containing the raw data are retained for a few years and then erased. Since the tapes contain all SSI recipients, it has always been considered impractical to retain them indefinitely.⁶ The longitudinal file, by comparison, is drawn for a 1-percent sample every 6 months, and contains historical data in each file. This renders each preceding file obsolete. The historical data captured, however, are not for payments received, but for program eligibility for a given month.⁷ In the SSI program, the difference is that applicants are usually eligible for payment beginning in the month they apply, although actual payment is not made until all eligibility factors are met and an award is made. Therefore, eligibility occurs before actual payment, and this fact could make counts based on eligibility larger or smaller than corresponding counts based on actual payments received in any given year.⁸ This situation would affect disability cases more than aged cases because establishing disability is a longer process.

Just as eligibility may begin months before payments begin, it may also end before payments stop. This happens because of delays in reporting income or other factors bearing on eligibility. If a report of increased income is received late, the person may be paid for several months during which he/she is ineligible. When the report is eventually received, the person's payment eligibility will be changed to reflect the amounts that should have been paid, or the months for which payments should not have been made. The difference between the paid amount and the eligible amount is called an overpayment, and SSA will attempt to collect the overpayment from

the recipient.⁹ When eligibility ends before actual payments, counts based on eligibility will be smaller than those based on payments.

If payments and eligibility are examined for past years for a stable caseload, there should be very little difference in the overall totals for any given year. However, for the most recent months, eligibility counts can be somewhat different since recent months are subject to change. Table 1 shows the difference in the two concepts. Distributions are shown by year of receipt and age grouping.

The published aged (age 65 or older) recipient counts are fairly similar to the longitudinal counts. This is because of the relatively short period of eligibility between the point of filing and the point of award for aged cases, and because of a relatively stable caseload. Published adult disability (age 18-64) counts, however, are consistently lower than the longitudinal counts because of the lengthy wait between application and award, and because of the rising nature of the caseload.

The published counts of children (under age 18) cannot be so easily explained. They are higher than longitudinal counts

before 1989 and after 1992, and lower during the 1989-92 period. The changeover can be attributed largely to the 1990 *Zebley* court decision. That decision was responsible for reinstating or awarding benefits to thousands of children retroactively during the 1990-93 period. Therefore, longitudinal counts based on eligibility will capture those retroactive months, but the point-in-time published counts did not include those children until their rights to payments were reestablished. Most had reestablished their eligibilities by 1993.

Determining which concept to be more useful—eligibility or actual payment—depends on the results one is trying to obtain. The Social Security (OASDI) program has always based its caseload counts on the eligibility concept, but, since OASDI benefits are not based on reporting of current income, there is seldom much difference in that program between eligibility and actual payment. On the other hand, there are often differences between eligibility and actual payment in SSI cases. Depending on the program, both concepts are useful. The eligibility concept was chosen for the longitudinal file because the monthly eligibility data were more easily captured

Table 1.—SSI: Total number of persons receiving SSI, by age group and year, 1974-95

Period	Published data (paid), by age				Longitudinal (eligible), by age			
	Total	65 or older	18-64	Under 18	Total	65 or older	18-64	Under 18
December:								
1974.....	3,996,064	2,422,009	1,503,155	70,900	3,921,000	2,286,000	1,560,500	74,500
1975.....	4,314,275	2,507,855	1,678,245	128,175	4,160,900	2,354,100	1,699,000	107,800
1976.....	4,235,939	2,396,933	1,685,878	153,128	4,206,900	2,318,000	1,762,400	126,500
1977.....	4,237,692	2,353,458	1,709,020	175,214	4,217,700	2,285,800	1,779,100	152,800
1978.....	4,216,925	2,303,900	1,715,526	197,499	4,216,700	2,255,000	1,794,200	167,500
1979.....	4,149,575	2,245,716	1,691,771	212,088	4,156,200	2,210,900	1,764,400	180,900
1980.....	4,142,017	2,220,776	1,692,677	228,564	4,121,600	2,161,700	1,769,300	190,600
1981.....	4,018,875	2,121,090	1,667,691	230,094	3,989,100	2,065,400	1,730,000	193,700
1982.....	3,857,590	2,010,741	1,617,698	229,151	3,903,400	1,978,700	1,725,700	199,000
1983.....	3,901,497	2,003,400	1,661,717	236,380	3,969,600	1,958,900	1,802,900	207,800
1984.....	4,029,333	2,037,287	1,743,413	248,633	4,075,000	1,978,000	1,873,000	224,000
1985.....	4,138,021	2,031,469	1,841,227	265,325	4,224,700	1,974,800	2,007,600	242,300
1986.....	4,269,184	2,017,528	1,971,519	280,137	4,348,800	1,968,900	2,123,600	256,300
1987.....	4,384,999	2,015,387	2,080,887	288,725	4,462,200	1,968,200	2,233,900	260,100
1988.....	4,463,869	2,006,020	2,167,593	290,256	4,552,700	1,957,900	2,331,700	263,100
1989.....	4,593,059	2,026,243	2,270,518	296,298	4,781,200	1,987,800	2,465,200	328,200
1990.....	4,817,127	2,058,641	2,418,256	340,230	5,096,100	2,031,700	2,668,200	396,200
1991.....	5,118,470	2,079,784	2,599,833	438,853	5,485,300	2,056,600	2,933,500	495,200
1992.....	5,566,189	2,099,703	2,842,641	623,845	5,913,000	2,072,900	3,201,200	638,900
1993.....	5,984,330	2,113,239	3,100,590	770,501	6,299,000	2,099,100	3,418,600	781,300
1994.....	6,295,786	2,119,057	3,284,186	892,543	6,509,600	2,116,400	3,512,000	881,200
1995.....	6,514,134	2,114,830	3,425,115	974,189	6,479,800	2,126,700	3,444,300	908,800

than were the monthly payment data.¹⁰ Eventually, we would like to have both sets of numbers on the file.

Using the eligibility concept, the longitudinal file can be used to produce the normally published distributions of demographic caseload variables (see Appendix A, tables A-C). Data shown are for December of the last 6 years, to facilitate comparisons with previously published data. The file can be used to produce tables for any month since January 1974.

One statistic that we have not previously been able to readily quantify is the number of recipients eligible in one or more months during a year. This statistic is sometimes requested by persons who want a recipient count to be coupled with annual expenditures as a measure of program reach. The longitudinal file permits a direct measurement of this concept (table 2).¹¹

In 1994, nearly 7.4 million persons were eligible at some point during the year, compared with 6.5 million paid in December of that year. The difference represents recipients who had been paid at some point in the year, but who were suspended from eligibility by December. Overall, the number of persons ever eligible during the year is usually between 13

and 17 percent higher than the year-ending caseloads shown in table 1.

Awards—Adjusting the Definition

Once the caseload data were examined, we turned our attention to producing counts of awards and comparing them to previously published totals. Published data on awards are universe counts and are limited to a single table in the periodic *Social Security Bulletin* issues and in the *Annual Statistical Supplement to the Social Security Bulletin*. The awards counts come from the same monthly data extract records as did the previously described caseload counts. The definition used for these data has remained consistent over the years—an award was tallied whenever the first payment was made for a given application.

As described above, the longitudinal file uses the eligibility concept instead of the payment concept. The rule, then, for awards is that an award is tallied as of the first month of eligibility for a given application. Since it can take a person several months to establish disability or even several years to appeal a denied decision, the month of first eligibility is often well

Table 2.—SSI: Total number of persons eligible for SSI, by age group and year, 1974-95

Year	Eligible in December, by age				Eligible during the year, by age			
	Total	65 or older	18-64	Under 18	Total	65 or older	18-64	Under 18
1974.....	3,921,000	2,286,000	1,560,500	74,500	4,538,700	2,654,900	1,802,600	81,200
1975.....	4,160,900	2,354,100	1,699,000	107,800	4,857,200	2,749,600	1,989,000	118,600
1976.....	4,206,900	2,318,000	1,762,400	126,500	4,944,200	2,723,900	2,075,600	144,700
1977.....	4,217,700	2,285,800	1,779,100	152,800	4,904,600	2,644,400	2,086,400	173,800
1978.....	4,216,700	2,255,000	1,794,200	167,500	4,867,900	2,595,000	2,082,100	190,800
1979.....	4,156,200	2,210,900	1,764,400	180,900	4,797,400	2,551,600	2,041,800	204,000
1980.....	4,121,600	2,161,700	1,769,300	190,600	4,738,400	2,495,700	2,027,900	214,800
1981.....	3,989,100	2,065,400	1,730,000	193,700	4,577,300	2,377,500	1,978,100	221,700
1982.....	3,903,400	1,978,700	1,725,700	199,000	4,482,300	2,279,400	1,974,100	228,800
1983.....	3,969,600	1,958,900	1,802,900	207,800	4,549,900	2,244,500	2,061,400	244,000
1984.....	4,075,000	1,978,000	1,873,000	224,000	4,701,800	2,274,500	2,166,300	261,000
1985.....	4,224,700	1,974,800	2,007,600	242,300	4,817,400	2,241,100	2,298,000	278,300
1986.....	4,348,800	1,968,900	2,123,600	256,300	4,961,300	2,231,800	2,432,600	296,900
1987.....	4,462,200	1,968,200	2,233,900	260,100	5,098,400	2,228,400	2,562,400	307,600
1988.....	4,552,700	1,957,900	2,331,700	263,100	5,216,800	2,223,200	2,675,500	318,100
1989.....	4,781,200	1,987,800	2,465,200	328,200	5,453,000	2,241,500	2,831,400	380,100
1990.....	5,096,100	2,031,700	2,668,200	396,200	5,805,300	2,300,000	3,056,400	448,900
1991.....	5,485,300	2,056,600	2,933,500	495,200	6,219,800	2,316,200	3,350,600	553,000
1992.....	5,913,000	2,072,900	3,201,200	638,900	6,707,800	2,339,500	3,667,300	701,000
1993.....	6,299,000	2,099,100	3,418,600	781,300	7,165,400	2,366,200	3,929,600	869,600
1994.....	6,509,600	2,116,400	3,512,000	881,200	7,357,400	2,366,100	4,009,300	982,000
1995.....	6,479,800	2,126,700	3,444,300	908,800	7,261,300	2,352,000	3,903,700	1,005,600

before the month of first payment. This lapse produces different timing for awards than that obtained previously for published data, but it should not cause higher or lower numbers overall.¹²

A comparison of the two sources shows that the award counts from the longitudinal file are consistently higher than those previously published, by about 13 percent overall (table 3). In recent years, the difference has been closer to 10 percent. Some of the difference certainly relates to a limitation in the way published data are obtained. Published counts rely on each individual's most recent SSR record to determine whether payments have been newly awarded. Since the SSR may contain several records for each application, it is not always clear whether the current record contains the first payment, or if it is contained in an older record. For published

counts, a very conservative approach was adopted to avoid overcounting the number of awards. As a result, there is an undercount in the published totals.¹³ We estimate that this problem accounts for about half the difference. Once we have conducted our analysis, we will take steps to correct the published data.

In addition to counting awards, the longitudinal file is useful for producing an unduplicated count of persons ever awarded. We are sometimes asked for the number of persons who have ever benefited from the SSI program, and the answer comes from such an unduplicated count (table 4). The year cited in table 4 represents the year of first award.

As of December 1995, more than 16 million persons had been awarded SSI benefits. This figure includes about 3.4 million persons who were converted from the former State pro-

Table 3.—SSI: Total number of SSI awards, by category and year, 1974-95

Year	Published data (paid)				Longitudinal (eligible)			
	Total	Aged	Blind and disabled		Total	Aged	Blind and disabled	
			Adults	Children			Adults	Children
Total.....	13,792,724	3,936,167	8,047,208	1,809,349	18,825,900	6,369,100	10,540,200	1,916,600
State conversions.....	...	...	...	...	3,214,800	1,765,200	1,444,700	4,900
Federal applications:								
1974.....	965,134	533,836	362,457	48,841	1,356,000	783,000	506,900	66,100
1975.....	702,139	259,822	383,111	59,206	909,600	335,200	511,000	63,400
1976.....	542,355	171,798	326,828	43,729	681,900	222,600	411,900	47,400
1977.....	557,570	189,750	319,803	48,017	650,000	213,000	383,600	53,400
1978.....	532,447	177,224	302,939	52,284	579,100	196,300	335,500	47,300
1979.....	483,993	159,927	273,211	50,855	510,400	171,200	290,900	48,300
1980.....	496,137	169,862	274,166	52,109	532,700	184,400	304,100	44,200
1981.....	378,515	107,297	226,111	45,107	396,900	118,000	238,200	40,700
1982.....	306,325	83,039	183,468	39,818	349,100	104,200	205,400	39,500
1983.....	419,648	135,240	235,561	48,847	466,900	147,600	270,500	48,800
1984.....	554,251	201,432	303,341	49,478	589,400	209,900	330,200	49,300
1985.....	506,170	142,706	312,673	50,791	533,300	154,000	330,800	48,500
1986.....	572,122	148,618	369,026	54,478	609,500	160,900	392,200	56,400
1987.....	554,490	154,144	348,521	51,825	607,400	167,800	388,500	51,100
1988.....	548,598	154,809	342,596	51,193	582,300	167,200	361,800	53,300
1989.....	598,238	175,026	368,715	54,497	625,800	190,000	386,800	49,000
1990.....	685,398	179,447	423,198	82,753	748,500	215,500	455,800	77,200
1991.....	776,931	174,656	476,454	125,821	843,500	194,400	519,000	130,100
1992.....	956,053	175,392	589,607	191,054	1,060,800	179,900	639,100	241,800
1993.....	971,186	169,711	575,864	225,611	1,082,400	186,600	638,400	257,400
1994.....	883,130	144,023	533,481	205,626	965,900	160,200	595,800	209,900
1995.....	821,894	128,408	516,077	177,409	929,700	142,000	599,100	188,600

grams. This unduplicated count permits us to measure turnover in the rolls. By comparing the total number of awards in a given year to the number of persons awarded, one can see that many of the gross awardees must have had a previous award. In fact, nearly 10 percent of all persons in the "all awards" category in recent years had been previously awarded. This is not entirely surprising, since SSI rules require an individual to file a new application if benefits have been suspended for 12 consecutive months. Overall, the 16 million persons had received nearly 19 million awards.

The longitudinal file also permits us to revisit the number of persons awarded during 1973, when the State rolls were being turned over to the Federal program. Work performed at the time examined the awards process from the standpoint of the information coming from the States (Kennedy 1975) and the paid caseload in January 1974 (Social Security Administration 1976). The range of those estimates was about 2.8 million to 3.2 million converted cases. With the benefit of consider-

able hindsight, we can confirm the 3.2 million estimate using the new file.

Since very little data have been published on awards, the longitudinal file has provided new data for this group. These distributions have been provided in Appendix A (tables D-I) for the years 1990-95 for both awards and persons awarded. Distributions for other years are also available on awards data.

Applications—What's in a Name?

Finally, we tried to replicate agency data on applications and to match them to historical agency totals. The number of applications is a statistic that is often more useful as a measure of agency workload activity than as an indicator of program usage. A person may file many applications over the years and never receive benefits. Nevertheless, it often serves researchers as a useful substitute for awards data to measure changes in program activity. SSA has never published this statistic, but

Table 4.—SSI: Number of awards and persons awarded SSI for the first time, by category and year, 1974-95

Year	All awards				Persons awarded			
	Total	Aged	Blind and disabled		Total	Aged	Blind and disabled	
			Adults	Children			Adults	Children
Total.....	18,825,900	6,369,100	10,540,200	1,916,600	16,338,700	5,222,800	9,398,800	1,717,100
State conversions.....	3,214,800	1,765,200	1,444,700	4,900	3,177,200	1,744,000	1,428,400	4,800
Federal applications:								
1974.....	1,356,000	783,000	506,900	66,100	1,349,800	778,900	504,400	66,500
1975.....	909,600	335,200	511,000	63,400	895,900	322,300	509,300	64,300
1976.....	681,900	222,600	411,900	47,400	644,800	197,700	399,500	47,600
1977.....	650,000	213,000	383,600	53,400	583,700	171,400	359,900	52,400
1978.....	579,100	196,300	335,500	47,300	507,800	154,500	306,200	47,100
1979.....	510,400	171,200	290,900	48,300	440,600	125,900	267,800	46,900
1980.....	532,700	184,400	304,100	44,200	451,500	134,700	272,900	43,900
1981.....	396,900	118,000	238,200	40,700	337,800	81,400	215,900	40,500
1982.....	349,100	104,200	205,400	39,500	289,900	64,500	188,200	37,200
1983.....	466,900	147,600	270,500	48,800	366,700	83,900	235,600	47,200
1984.....	589,400	209,900	330,200	49,300	486,100	135,800	300,800	49,500
1985.....	533,300	154,000	330,800	48,500	449,000	99,600	299,300	50,100
1986.....	609,500	160,900	392,200	56,400	528,200	105,200	365,400	57,600
1987.....	607,400	167,800	388,500	51,100	520,100	109,700	359,800	50,600
1988.....	582,300	167,200	361,800	53,300	508,100	116,600	338,700	52,800
1989.....	625,800	190,000	386,800	49,000	544,700	131,900	361,500	51,300
1990.....	748,500	215,500	455,800	77,200	655,700	147,600	430,000	78,100
1991.....	843,500	194,400	519,000	130,100	760,800	138,500	492,200	130,100
1992.....	1,060,800	179,900	639,100	241,800	969,000	132,200	598,800	238,000
1993.....	1,082,400	186,600	638,400	257,400	991,800	134,900	604,400	252,500
1994.....	965,900	160,200	595,800	209,900	879,500	111,600	559,800	208,100
1995.....	929,700	142,000	599,100	188,600	836,800	99,100	549,500	188,200

has always maintained its own counts. The concept is much more difficult to define than caseloads and awards. What is an application? Certainly, any decision to award or deny an SSI payment is preceded by an application. But there may be several records generated each time a person wants to receive benefits, and it is not always clear if all of these records should be termed "applications." For example, a new application must be filed if the individual does not appeal an initial disallowance or previous appeal decision within 2 months of receipt of notification. No new application is needed if the appeal is filed within the 2-month timeframe. Also, as noted previously, SSA rules require a new application if payments have been suspended for the preceding 12 months. If payments are reinstated before 12 months elapse, the person does not need to file a new application, and no new record is generated on the administrative file.

In another example, field staff may want to change an application date because an earlier date, reflecting a prior contact, will be advantageous to the applicant. This change will result in closing out the old record and beginning a new record. Since the date has been changed, a new record will be created and will look like a second application on the SSR.

Another problem with the concept of applications is that not all field offices take applications when the person is obviously ineligible. In some of these situations, no application will be taken. This is called an informal denial. In other instances, a formal application is taken, and a formal written notice is generated. Because this formal process protects the applicant's appeal rights, it is SSA's policy to take a formal application whenever possible. An advantage to using formal applications is that they are an important component of the formula that determines the level of staffing in each field office.¹⁴ In recent years, particularly in urban areas, SSA field offices have lost staff, and size of workloads have become a problem. In order to get the work done, some managers may choose to use informal denials in obvious denial situations. Where size of workloads do not pose a problem, other managers may choose to take a formal application.

Despite these shortcomings, applications can be a useful concept as long as the reader understands the complexities involved. Prior to 1981, hand tallies were sent in by the field offices as part of the District Office Workload Report (DOWR). Since the size of the workload was an important component of field office staffing, it was in the interest of the offices to make sure the numbers of applications were high. Since 1981, the application counts have been derived from automated inputs to the SSR, but not from the SSR itself. The date obtained is the date of the input into the computer system and not the official "application date," the effective date for purposes of back payment.¹⁵ DOWR counts are for the entire universe, are limited to simple crosses by program category and field office, and are not kept in machine readable form for more than a couple of years.

Table 5 shows the comparison between the DOWR counts and longitudinal counts. For the period prior to 1981, the

DOWR numbers are consistently higher than the longitudinal counts. This discrepancy is likely caused by the bias in the manual DOWR counts, explained earlier. Since 1981, the longitudinal numbers are higher than DOWR counts because they include several situations involving application date changes, appeals, and spouses who become eligible. In fact, the longitudinal file can come much closer to duplicating the DOWR concepts, but we wanted to provide the broadest definition of "applications" as possible for purposes of comparison.¹⁶

It is also possible to define an application very narrowly as the "number of persons who applied" (table 6). When an unduplicated statistic such as that for the number of persons who applied is counted in the year in which he/she first applied, there is a large difference between that and the complete count of applications. In 1993, for example, only 1.6 million persons applied for the first time, but there were more than 2.3 million "applications" of all types. Obviously, SSI is a program where many persons "apply" repeatedly. Using the longitudinal file, the definition could easily be changed to some midpoint between the two concepts; for example, counting only applications preceding separate periods of eligibility.

Since there is little detail normally provided with the DOWR counts, demographic distributions represent new information on the topic. These distributions have been provided in Appendix A (tables J-O), both for applications and for persons applying.

Conclusion

Caseloads, awards, and applications are the main statistics that help policymakers evaluate the size, nature, and direction of the SSI program. Policymakers keep a sharp eye on small changes in these indicators. Through the years, SSA has provided these data in a consistent manner and has published these data in the *Social Security Bulletin*. The historical data, unfortunately, cannot be revisited to look at new variables, match to other data sources, or test for new hypotheses explaining program growth. The microdata files are so large that it is simply not practical to keep them for many years.

The new SSI Longitudinal Sample offers an opportunity to revisit program history and redefine basic program concepts. The file has already been used for work on SSI lengths-of-stay, work that helps to explain recent caseload growth. To understand the way this sample file works, we chose to put it through an exercise to recreate basic program statistics, and, where these statistics differed from agency statistics, to understand the reasons for the differences.

Possible future improvements to the file include matching to other data sources, adding actual payments in addition to eligibility, and expanding beyond the current 1-percent confines to be useful for finer analyses such as State differences. But the first results are promising, and we are very hopeful that it can be put to good use for many years to come.

Table 5.—SSI: Total number of SSI applications, by category and year, 1973-95

Year	DOWR			Longitudinal			
	Total	Aged	Blind and disabled	Total	Aged	Blind and disabled	
						Adults	Children
Total.....	...	...	...	35,400,300	7,815,700	23,847,800	3,736,800
State conversions.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	3,446,000	1,902,200	1,532,900	10,900
Federal applications:							
1973.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	500,800	310,300	162,100	28,400
1974.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	2,058,400	805,300	1,122,100	131,000
1975.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	1,336,400	317,500	922,000	96,900
1976.....	1,238,606	254,414	984,192	1,198,400	256,300	852,800	89,300
1977.....	1,298,424	258,549	1,039,875	1,211,100	248,200	860,200	102,700
1978.....	1,304,320	257,942	1,046,378	1,254,700	256,600	897,100	101,000
1979.....	1,351,918	262,312	1,089,606	1,295,000	260,500	923,200	111,300
1980.....	1,427,070	276,403	1,150,667	1,363,300	268,900	979,900	114,500
1981.....	863,542	130,107	733,435	1,130,300	185,900	844,400	100,000
1982.....	971,289	141,234	830,055	1,013,900	142,400	768,800	102,700
1983.....	1,091,646	190,024	901,622	1,134,700	188,100	833,200	113,400
1984.....	1,230,042	285,747	944,295	1,258,000	281,000	861,800	115,200
1985.....	1,345,142	223,416	1,121,726	1,392,800	224,000	1,041,800	127,000
1986.....	1,436,719	231,275	1,205,444	1,481,100	242,100	1,109,400	129,600
1987.....	1,320,968	227,872	1,093,096	1,454,100	239,500	1,088,600	126,000
1988.....	1,297,747	219,021	1,078,726	1,361,000	222,800	1,006,700	131,500
1989.....	1,354,874	237,546	1,117,328	1,387,400	237,200	1,019,200	131,000
1990.....	1,507,064	239,960	1,267,104	1,647,500	316,600	1,159,800	171,100
1991.....	1,755,742	236,759	1,518,983	1,834,900	239,800	1,329,900	265,200
1992.....	2,005,333	234,746	1,770,587	2,086,100	231,900	1,470,600	383,600
1993.....	2,248,347	227,735	2,020,612	2,328,600	238,800	1,573,400	516,400
1994.....	2,199,214	196,113	2,003,101	2,225,800	199,800	1,487,900	538,100
1995.....	2,015,774	173,865	1,841,909	1,899,900	167,200	1,261,500	471,200

¹ Calendar year data not available before 1976.

Table 6.—SSI: Number of applications and persons applying for SSI, by category and year, 1973-95

Year	All applications				Persons applying			
	Total	Aged	Blind and disabled		Total	Aged	Blind and disabled	
			Adults	Children			Adults	Children
Total.....	35,400,300	7,815,700	23,847,800	3,736,800	25,649,800	6,128,000	16,387,900	3,133,900
State conversions.....	3,446,000	1,902,200	1,532,900	10,900	3,397,900	1,872,500	1,514,800	10,600
Federal applications:								
1973.....	500,800	310,300	162,100	28,400	498,800	309,600	161,000	28,200
1974.....	2,058,400	805,300	1,122,100	131,000	1,980,300	773,800	1,080,800	125,700
1975.....	1,336,400	317,500	922,000	96,900	1,179,900	282,900	807,400	89,600
1976.....	1,198,400	256,300	852,800	89,300	966,500	212,000	676,400	78,100
1977.....	1,211,100	248,200	860,200	102,700	897,600	182,200	625,500	89,900
1978.....	1,254,700	256,600	897,100	101,000	896,900	182,800	632,000	82,100
1979.....	1,295,000	260,500	923,200	111,300	902,700	180,700	628,400	93,600
1980.....	1,363,300	268,900	979,900	114,500	904,800	182,700	629,300	92,800
1981.....	1,130,300	185,900	844,400	100,000	723,200	118,200	525,200	79,800
1982.....	1,013,900	142,400	768,800	102,700	609,500	80,100	450,200	79,200
1983.....	1,134,700	188,100	833,200	113,400	651,900	94,900	468,500	88,500
1984.....	1,258,000	281,000	861,800	115,200	731,700	161,200	480,500	90,000
1985.....	1,392,800	224,000	1,041,800	127,000	855,100	134,400	624,400	96,300
1986.....	1,481,100	242,100	1,109,400	129,600	941,700	145,400	695,000	101,300
1987.....	1,454,100	239,500	1,088,600	126,000	899,700	140,300	663,100	96,300
1988.....	1,361,000	222,800	1,006,700	131,500	843,600	140,300	602,100	101,200
1989.....	1,387,400	237,200	1,019,200	131,000	848,800	144,800	606,700	97,300
1990.....	1,647,500	316,600	1,159,800	171,100	1,047,100	199,700	713,800	133,600
1991.....	1,834,900	239,800	1,329,900	265,200	1,225,300	150,300	851,300	223,700
1992.....	2,086,100	231,900	1,470,600	383,600	1,462,200	157,100	963,100	342,000
1993.....	2,328,600	238,800	1,573,400	516,400	1,631,900	154,200	1,023,500	454,200
1994.....	2,225,800	199,800	1,487,900	538,100	1,552,700	127,900	964,900	459,900
1995.....	1,899,900	167,200	1,261,500	471,200	1,283,100	106,900	795,400	380,800

Notes

¹ This is more of a problem with older records. Within the past few years, the system has become capable of continuing to update the original record.

² The sample is based on the 6th, 8th, and 9th digits of the recipient's Social Security number. This is the same sampling scheme used in other SSA files (for example, Continuous Work History Sample, SSI 1-Percent) and facilitates matches to those files.

³ The descriptive information includes demographic variables and also extensive program data on the timing of the application and award. The monthly historical data consist of data on monthly eligibility and benefit amounts. The benefit amounts relate to eligibility (payments due) rather than to payment data (payments actually sent).

⁴ Since the SSR may contain several records for each person, a technique was devised to create a summary record by combining the benefit histories. In general, monthly benefit amounts of older records are replaced by those for more recent records, unless the older record contains a payment for that month. The technique also varies depending on whether the summary record is meant to represent a person or a specific application.

⁵ In these cases, a longitudinal file was obtained from the SSR for specific account numbers and not from a 1-percent sample file framework.

⁶ The current system is called the Revised Management Information Counts System (REMICS). It is the third system used to produce published SSI caseload data. The first began in 1974, the second began in 1976, and the current system began in 1989. In the current

system, the extract tape is used to create a partially summarized set of tabular data, and subsequent programming is used to further summarize the tables for publication. Original extract tapes are retained for 4 years.

⁷ “Eligibility” in this paper refers only to the application status of persons who have filed for benefits. It does not refer to those who meet the SSI program criteria but have not yet filed for benefits.

⁸ This would be particularly true in periods where caseloads were rising or falling.

⁹ If the paid amount is less than the eligible amount, an underpayment occurs. This happens typically in the period between application and award.

¹⁰ One reason the eligibility concept is difficult to work with is that, because prior year counts can always be changed, old counts must be continually adjusted.

¹¹ This can also be done indirectly. December caseloads can be added to annual awards for a good approximation, but there will still be some duplication.

¹² Exceptions to this situation are, for example, if the number of new awardees rises consistently over a long period, the eligible award count would tend to be higher than the paid award count during that period; also, since eligibility predates actual award, the eligibility counts for the most recent months will tend to lag behind the payment totals; and since eligibility status can change, those counts will vary for the most recent months.

¹³ The most common example of this occurs when an ineligible spouse of an SSI recipient becomes eligible for payments. Current published award counts do not include the first payment for the spouse. It is also possible that some of the difference may be caused by sampling error.

¹⁴ There are two types of formal applications—full and abbreviated. Abbreviated applications take about 12 minutes to complete, using SSA’s new computerized process. Full applications take about 22 minutes. Work credit is given to the field office only for full applications. Data in this report include both abbreviated and full applications.

¹⁵ Typically, a person will contact a field office by telephone of the intention to file for payments. Although the person may not get into the office for several weeks to complete the application process, he/she will be paid back to the “protective” filing date, the date of the original phone call. More rare is the situation where the person files in advance of eligibility, for example, a person files for aged benefits a month or two before becoming age 65.

¹⁶ There is also a very minor difference. The DOWR counts the case as of the time it reaches the SSR. The longitudinal file counts it at a slightly earlier point—the effective date of the application. This should have a small effect on differences between the two sets of numbers.

References

- Kennedy, Lenna, Dorothea Thomas, and Jack Schmulowitz. 1975. “Conversions to Supplemental Security Income From State Assistance: A Program Records Study.” *Social Security Bulletin*. Vol. 38, No. 6 (June), pp. 17-32.
- Social Security Administration, Office of Program Benefits Policy. 1995. *SSI Annual Statistical Report: 1994*
- Rupp, Kalman, and Charles G. Scott. 1995. “Length of Stay on the Supplementary Security Income Disability Program.” *Social Security Bulletin*. Vol. 58, No. 1 (Spring), pp. 29-47.
- Social Security Administration. 1976-94. *Annual Statistical Supplement to the Social Security Bulletin*. Washington DC.: U.S. Government Printing Office.
- Social Security Administration. 1976-94. *Social Security Bulletin*. Washington DC.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Technical Note

Estimates based on sample data 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 upon 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 two and one-half standard errors.

Tables I and II provide approximations of standard errors of estimates shown in this report. Table I presents approximate standard errors for the estimated number of recipients from the 1-percent sample file. Table II presents approximations of standard errors for the estimated percentage of persons from the 1-percent file. Linear interpolation may be used to obtain values not specifically shown.

Table II.—Approximations of standard errors of estimated percentages of persons from a 1-percent file

Size of base (inflated)	Estimated percentage				
	2 or 98	5 or 95	10 or 90	25 or 75	50
1,000.....	4.7	7.3	10.1	14.5	16.8
10,000.....	1.5	2.3	3.2	4.6	5.3
50,000.....	.7	1.0	1.4	2.1	2.4
100,000.....	.5	.7	1.0	1.5	1.7
500,000.....	.2	.3	.4	.7	.8
1,000,000.....	.1	.2	.3	.5	.5
5,000,000.....	.1	.1	.1	.2	.2

Table I.—Approximations of standard errors of estimated numbers of persons from a 1-percent file

Size of estimate (inflated)	Standard error
500.....	250
1,000.....	300
2,500.....	500
5,000.....	800
7,500.....	900
10,000.....	1,100
25,000.....	1,700
50,000.....	2,400
75,000.....	3,000
100,000.....	3,400
250,000.....	5,400
500,000.....	9,600
1,000,000.....	11,100
5,000,000.....	25,800

Appendix A

Table A.—SSI: Number of persons aged 65 or older eligible for SSI, by selected characteristics and year, 1990-95

Selected characteristics	December 1990	December 1991	December 1992	December 1993	December 1994	December 1995
Total.....	2,031,700	2,056,600	2,072,900	2,099,100	2,116,400	2,126,700
Age:						
65-69.....	551,300	566,800	575,600	589,900	597,900	600,200
70-74.....	459,800	477,500	495,600	524,200	540,600	545,400
75 or older.....	1,020,600	1,012,300	1,001,700	985,000	977,900	981,100
Sex:						
Male.....	514,800	522,400	532,200	548,500	558,000	562,400
Female.....	1,516,900	1,534,200	1,540,700	1,550,600	1,558,400	1,564,300
Race:						
White.....	947,000	940,800	933,300	925,800	927,300	919,000
Black.....	441,000	437,800	434,200	428,600	429,600	429,500
Other.....	231,100	270,400	308,000	353,100	378,100	403,600
Unknown.....	412,600	407,600	397,400	391,600	381,400	374,600
Alien status:						
Alien.....	314,900	368,200	417,200	476,200	511,700	543,600
Citizen.....	1,716,800	1,688,400	1,655,700	1,622,900	1,604,700	1,583,100
Region:						
Boston.....	79,700	80,900	83,100	83,100	84,400	85,600
New York.....	215,300	224,000	235,300	250,300	259,600	266,000
Philadelphia.....	158,000	156,800	157,600	161,300	163,400	162,700
Atlanta.....	525,400	528,100	524,300	517,600	512,800	508,700
Chicago.....	192,600	194,200	195,500	194,800	197,100	197,900
Dallas.....	286,800	289,900	291,600	293,300	296,700	295,300
Kansas City.....	57,800	56,200	54,200	53,200	53,300	51,300
Denver.....	25,300	26,600	25,400	25,600	26,200	26,700
San Francisco.....	458,000	466,800	472,400	484,800	487,500	497,300
Seattle.....	32,800	33,100	33,500	35,100	35,400	35,200

Table B.—SSI: Number of persons aged 18-64 eligible for SSI, by selected characteristics and year, 1990-95

Selected characteristics	December 1990	December 1991	December 1992	December 1993	December 1994	December 1995
Total.....	2,668,200	2,933,500	3,201,200	3,418,600	3,512,000	3,444,300
Age:						
18-21.....	166,500	177,000	196,500	211,900	216,200	220,500
22-29.....	424,500	447,900	471,500	494,800	494,000	470,600
30-39.....	585,000	656,600	729,600	787,600	814,300	784,800
40-49.....	526,700	604,200	677,000	731,900	766,100	775,000
50-59.....	603,900	665,200	725,200	787,800	811,300	788,500
60-64.....	361,600	382,600	401,400	404,600	410,100	404,900
Sex:						
Male.....	1,193,000	1,325,200	1,455,500	1,548,900	1,581,600	1,548,100
Female.....	1,475,200	1,608,300	1,745,700	1,869,700	1,930,400	1,896,200
Race:						
White.....	1,423,500	1,546,600	1,651,700	1,752,300	1,789,100	1,744,500
Black.....	687,500	753,700	836,200	896,900	924,900	914,800
Other.....	205,200	248,000	296,200	336,500	360,300	360,800
Unknown.....	352,000	385,200	417,100	432,900	437,700	424,200
Alien status:						
Alien.....	138,100	166,400	197,300	223,500	238,700	236,600
Citizen.....	2,530,100	2,767,100	3,003,900	3,195,100	3,273,300	3,207,700
Region:						
Boston.....	124,000	137,100	150,000	162,900	169,300	166,200
New York.....	269,500	294,300	329,500	351,600	365,400	355,100
Philadelphia.....	258,400	282,900	303,200	327,100	336,700	327,700
Atlanta.....	567,800	630,500	689,000	740,000	760,100	749,700
Chicago.....	453,300	494,500	554,100	599,300	619,600	606,900
Dallas.....	298,400	334,000	365,000	385,300	389,400	383,400
Kansas City.....	98,000	105,400	116,300	123,600	126,400	126,200
Denver.....	53,900	59,200	64,000	69,200	71,600	72,100
San Francisco.....	467,700	507,600	537,500	561,800	569,400	556,400
Seattle.....	77,200	88,000	92,600	97,800	104,100	100,600

Table C.—SSI: Number of persons under age 18 eligible for SSI, by selected characteristics and year, 1990-95

Selected characteristics	December 1990	December 1991	December 1992	December 1993	December 1994	December 1995
Total.....	396,200	495,200	638,900	781,300	881,200	908,800
Age:						
Under 5.....	75,300	96,500	118,200	144,500	154,200	141,200
5-12.....	198,600	248,800	331,200	400,300	445,700	460,600
13-17.....	122,300	149,900	189,500	236,500	281,300	307,000
Sex:						
Male.....	240,700	302,000	397,900	493,500	561,700	580,300
Female.....	155,500	193,200	241,000	287,800	319,500	328,500
Race:						
White.....	177,600	210,200	255,100	291,800	317,400	316,600
Black.....	132,700	167,900	225,600	281,000	309,900	310,600
Other.....	50,900	65,100	79,700	93,400	104,700	110,700
Unknown.....	35,000	52,000	78,500	115,100	149,200	170,900
Alien status:						
Alien.....	5,200	5,800	6,400	6,900	7,800	7,000
Citizen.....	391,000	489,400	632,500	774,400	873,400	901,800
Region:						
Boston.....	12,400	14,600	17,700	20,400	24,000	25,400
New York.....	39,500	51,200	64,900	79,300	90,300	96,700
Philadelphia.....	38,200	46,500	57,500	68,300	82,500	85,100
Atlanta.....	96,600	116,800	153,300	190,800	219,500	225,100
Chicago.....	71,100	93,200	129,100	162,500	179,200	185,800
Dallas.....	65,000	81,300	101,000	120,400	128,100	126,800
Kansas City.....	15,800	21,300	28,000	33,600	36,500	38,400
Denver.....	11,000	12,200	15,400	18,900	21,900	21,000
San Francisco.....	38,100	46,000	56,500	68,500	78,800	85,500
Seattle.....	8,500	12,100	15,500	18,600	20,400	19,000

Table D.—SSI: Number of SSI awards for aged adults, by selected characteristics and year, 1990-95

Selected characteristics	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Total.....	215,500	194,400	179,900	186,600	160,200	142,000
Age:						
60-64.....	300	200	100	100	300	400
65.....	54,500	54,600	54,000	57,400	55,900	50,400
66-69.....	56,300	53,000	47,400	47,500	38,500	33,000
70-74.....	41,300	33,300	32,300	36,300	26,200	23,300
75-79.....	25,700	25,600	19,900	18,000	14,800	14,200
80 or older.....	37,400	27,700	26,200	27,300	24,500	20,700
Sex:						
Male.....	67,100	62,400	59,000	63,900	55,200	47,900
Female.....	148,400	132,000	120,900	122,700	105,000	94,100
Race:						
White.....	79,900	73,800	69,000	70,500	65,800	52,000
Black.....	31,900	27,700	21,900	20,500	24,100	19,800
Other.....	38,800	47,200	49,000	57,400	37,900	40,800
Unknown.....	64,900	45,700	40,000	38,200	32,400	29,400
Alien status:						
Alien.....	52,800	64,500	61,600	72,800	52,200	46,100
Citizen.....	162,700	129,900	118,300	113,800	108,000	95,900
Region:						
Boston.....	9,200	7,700	6,900	7,800	5,200	5,300
New York.....	28,300	24,200	27,000	29,300	24,300	19,400
Philadelphia.....	15,300	13,400	13,500	12,900	12,600	9,700
Atlanta.....	43,200	39,800	34,300	33,600	33,500	32,500
Chicago.....	22,800	18,300	15,800	15,700	12,400	13,100
Dallas.....	26,700	25,700	22,900	23,000	22,700	16,200
Kansas City.....	5,100	4,000	4,000	5,200	3,100	3,300
Denver.....	2,300	3,100	2,900	2,100	2,500	1,800
San Francisco.....	59,100	55,100	49,700	53,400	40,500	37,400
Seattle.....	3,500	3,100	2,900	3,600	3,400	3,300
Not recorded.....	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table E.—SSI: Number of SSI awards for blind and disabled adults, by selected characteristics and year, 1990-95

Selected characteristics	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Total.....	455,800	519,000	639,100	638,400	595,800	599,100
Age:						
18-21.....	31,100	32,700	44,600	38,800	31,400	35,400
22-29.....	58,600	58,200	70,900	74,000	68,200	58,800
30-39.....	91,800	112,400	148,000	148,700	137,300	132,500
40-49.....	90,600	112,700	141,600	146,700	135,300	140,700
50-59.....	126,600	139,400	161,700	164,300	163,100	168,400
60-64.....	54,300	60,400	70,000	61,900	57,800	59,800
65 or older.....	2,700	3,200	2,200	3,700	2,600	3,400
Sex:						
Male.....	231,000	262,100	329,700	331,500	299,300	295,000
Female.....	224,800	256,900	309,400	306,900	296,500	304,100
Race:						
White.....	236,900	266,900	322,400	320,000	309,100	312,900
Black.....	106,300	120,100	162,400	162,700	148,700	147,400
Other.....	45,700	56,200	70,200	74,400	64,900	68,200
Unknown.....	66,900	75,800	84,100	81,300	73,100	70,600
Alien Status:						
Alien.....	36,700	42,100	52,000	50,500	48,000	47,200
Citizen.....	419,100	476,900	587,100	587,900	547,800	551,900
Diagnostic group:						
Infectious and parasitic diseases.....	23,600	26,600	46,000	38,400	36,500	30,600
Neoplasms.....	26,100	27,900	31,400	32,200	32,300	32,000
Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic.....	24,300	29,500	36,300	38,100	34,200	36,700
Mental disorders:						
Schizophrenia.....	36,200	37,800	42,200	35,700	31,400	33,900
Other psychiatric.....	84,800	107,700	136,800	148,300	137,100	139,200
Mental retardation.....	44,700	51,500	69,200	69,900	56,200	47,100
Diseases of the—						
Nervous system and sense organs.....	30,200	34,700	40,600	39,300	36,000	38,300
Circulatory system.....	51,700	53,300	62,400	62,000	56,900	60,700
Respiratory system.....	18,300	20,500	26,400	22,200	23,400	22,800
Digestive system.....	5,900	7,500	9,000	8,800	9,800	11,600
Genito-urinary system.....	10,700	7,500	10,200	9,900	7,900	11,400
Musculoskeletal system and connective tissues.....	59,500	70,300	79,100	84,000	77,400	80,000
Congenital anomalies.....	900	1,200	1,300	1,300	1,800	1,200
Injury and poisoning.....	20,400	23,200	25,000	24,700	28,600	25,000
Other.....	4,700	6,800	6,400	6,300	7,000	5,200
Missing.....	13,800	13,000	16,800	17,300	19,300	23,400
Region:						
Boston.....	20,100	24,800	30,200	34,200	31,000	29,500
New York.....	46,900	52,600	68,600	67,700	59,900	61,300
Philadelphia.....	39,100	45,500	54,700	55,300	58,600	60,700
Atlanta.....	104,900	119,000	142,800	153,800	142,900	150,400
Chicago.....	78,600	78,200	110,600	116,800	100,800	98,100
Dallas.....	48,500	64,000	76,900	70,800	65,600	68,200
Kansas City.....	18,200	20,400	22,100	21,900	21,700	24,300
Denver.....	9,100	12,900	16,500	13,400	12,200	13,600
San Francisco.....	75,000	82,500	95,400	87,700	80,600	74,900
Seattle.....	14,000	17,900	18,500	15,100	20,200	16,400
Not recorded.....	1,400	1,200	2,800	1,700	2,300	1,700

Table F.—SSI: Number of SSI awards for blind and disabled children, by selected characteristics and year, 1990-95

Selected characteristics	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Total.....	77,200	130,100	241,800	257,400	209,900	188,600
Age:						
Under 5.....	27,400	45,600	58,900	66,800	71,500	71,400
5-12.....	31,400	53,000	110,500	115,200	87,500	74,500
13-17.....	16,700	27,800	57,000	62,000	45,600	38,800
18 or older.....	1,700	3,700	15,300	13,300	5,200	3,700
Sex:						
Male.....	45,400	82,900	152,800	164,100	135,600	121,600
Female.....	31,800	47,200	89,000	93,300	74,300	67,000
Race:						
White.....	33,700	53,000	93,600	93,200	73,400	63,700
Black.....	22,800	40,900	88,700	90,000	66,400	50,200
Other.....	10,800	17,200	26,500	26,600	20,800	21,100
Unknown.....	9,900	19,000	33,000	47,600	49,300	53,600
Alien status:						
Alien.....	1,600	1,600	2,400	2,300	1,600	1,500
Citizen.....	75,600	128,500	239,400	255,100	208,300	187,100
Diagnostic group:						
Infectious and parasitic diseases.....	500	400	1,200	800	800	300
Neoplasms.....	2,200	2,600	3,100	3,400	3,200	2,900
Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic.....	1,100	1,700	3,100	2,300	2,600	1,400
Mental disorders:						
Schizophrenia.....	500	1,500	2,000	1,600	900	700
Other psychiatric.....	10,000	25,000	51,900	67,800	64,600	58,600
Mental retardation.....	30,200	48,200	100,300	98,300	69,100	56,300
Diseases of the—						
Nervous system and sense organs.....	13,900	16,000	24,500	22,800	16,500	13,100
Circulatory system.....	800	1,200	1,400	1,000	1,100	1,300
Respiratory system.....	2,200	2,200	7,000	5,600	5,700	5,400
Digestive system.....	400	800	600	700	700	800
Genito-urinary system.....	900	1,000	1,200	1,300	900	700
Musculoskeletal system and connective tissues.....	1,800	2,600	2,500	2,300	1,300	2,000
Congenital anomalies.....	4,000	9,600	8,400	8,100	7,100	8,800
Injury and poisoning.....	1,100	1,300	2,000	2,400	1,400	1,600
Other.....	5,100	8,500	15,100	17,600	20,000	22,600
Missing.....	2,500	7,500	17,500	21,400	14,000	12,100
Region:						
Boston.....	2,900	3,600	7,000	5,100	6,400	6,700
New York.....	6,800	13,400	25,600	29,400	21,400	20,700
Philadelphia.....	8,400	12,100	19,700	19,500	23,100	21,800
Atlanta.....	18,400	32,300	57,600	64,300	49,100	45,100
Chicago.....	14,300	23,400	51,500	57,000	45,500	36,400
Dallas.....	11,800	17,600	38,900	36,300	24,200	22,000
Kansas City.....	3,000	7,300	11,400	10,100	9,300	8,100
Denver.....	2,500	3,700	4,300	6,900	4,300	4,600
San Francisco.....	7,200	12,900	18,000	19,700	20,500	18,400
Seattle.....	1,900	3,300	6,200	8,000	5,400	4,800
Not recorded.....	0	500	1,600	1,100	700	0

Table G.—SSI: Number of persons awarded as aged adults, by selected characteristics and year, 1990-95

Selected characteristics	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Total.....	147,600	138,500	132,200	134,900	111,600	99,100
Age:						
60-64.....	100	0	100	0	100	300
65.....	34,900	35,400	35,800	38,400	38,100	33,800
66-69.....	38,300	38,400	37,300	36,100	26,700	24,600
70-74.....	30,000	24,600	25,600	27,100	19,300	16,800
75-79.....	17,900	18,900	14,300	13,000	9,900	8,600
80 or older.....	26,400	21,200	19,100	20,300	17,500	15,000
Sex:						
Male.....	47,000	44,900	45,700	49,200	40,900	34,800
Female.....	100,600	93,600	86,500	85,700	70,700	64,300
Race:						
White.....	57,500	53,600	52,200	51,000	46,500	36,600
Black.....	18,600	17,400	13,200	11,600	14,400	12,600
Other.....	30,900	38,100	40,900	47,400	29,900	31,100
Unknown.....	40,600	29,400	25,900	24,900	20,800	18,800
Alien status:						
Alien.....	43,900	55,400	55,000	61,800	43,300	36,800
Citizen.....	103,700	83,100	77,200	73,100	68,300	62,300
Region:						
Boston.....	6,500	5,700	4,500	5,300	4,300	3,500
New York.....	19,500	17,500	20,600	23,300	17,800	14,600
Philadelphia.....	10,400	8,700	9,500	7,900	8,100	6,800
Atlanta.....	26,800	27,600	23,600	22,700	22,300	21,900
Chicago.....	14,500	12,300	11,400	11,100	9,100	8,400
Dallas.....	18,200	17,700	15,500	15,400	15,200	10,800
Kansas City.....	3,800	2,100	2,300	3,600	1,800	2,500
Denver.....	1,100	1,500	2,100	1,700	1,700	1,400
San Francisco.....	44,500	43,000	40,200	41,700	29,100	26,500
Seattle.....	2,300	2,400	2,400	2,200	2,200	2,700
Not recorded.....	0	0	100	0	0	0

Table H.—SSI: Number of persons awarded as blind and disabled adults, by selected characteristics and year, 1990-95

Selected characteristics	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Total.....	430,000	492,200	598,800	604,400	559,800	549,500
Age:						
18-21.....	24,000	24,400	35,400	32,200	23,700	24,900
22-29.....	49,200	48,300	60,900	64,800	59,900	50,000
30-39.....	78,900	99,300	132,600	133,900	121,700	114,700
40-49.....	81,500	103,200	127,000	134,400	123,500	126,600
50-59.....	115,000	128,500	149,900	152,300	151,800	155,400
60-64.....	49,600	55,700	65,300	57,700	53,200	55,500
65 or older.....	31,800	32,800	27,700	29,100	26,000	22,400
Sex:						
Male.....	208,000	240,600	299,400	303,500	273,100	263,800
Female.....	222,000	251,600	299,400	300,900	286,700	285,700
Race:						
White.....	219,400	248,900	296,300	296,500	286,600	283,000
Black.....	100,200	114,100	152,700	154,600	140,400	134,000
Other.....	46,600	57,500	71,500	74,800	63,200	67,500
Unknown.....	63,800	71,700	78,300	78,500	69,600	65,000
Alien status:						
Alien.....	40,900	44,800	54,700	56,100	50,300	50,900
Citizen.....	389,100	447,400	544,100	548,300	509,500	498,600
Region:						
Boston.....	17,900	22,400	27,700	30,000	27,100	26,500
New York.....	44,500	50,200	64,600	65,800	57,200	57,900
Philadelphia.....	35,700	42,800	51,100	52,000	52,500	54,900
Atlanta.....	97,000	111,800	130,700	142,400	133,900	137,900
Chicago.....	72,700	71,300	103,000	108,700	92,900	84,400
Dallas.....	47,200	61,200	73,500	67,700	63,700	61,500
Kansas City.....	16,400	17,900	19,900	20,300	19,800	21,600
Denver.....	8,200	12,600	14,700	11,600	10,700	12,000
San Francisco.....	73,300	80,400	89,200	85,600	77,300	71,800
Seattle.....	12,300	15,600	16,300	13,200	18,000	14,900
Not recorded.....	4,800	6,000	8,100	7,100	6,700	6,100

Table I—SSI: Number of persons awarded as blind and disabled children, by selected characteristics and year, 1990-95

Selected characteristics	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Total.....	78,100	130,100	238,000	252,500	208,100	188,200
Age:						
Under 5.....	27,100	45,100	58,000	66,500	70,500	70,500
5-12.....	28,800	49,500	104,400	111,200	84,400	71,600
13-17.....	14,600	25,200	53,200	57,200	42,600	35,300
18 or older.....	7,600	10,300	22,400	17,600	10,600	10,800
Sex:						
Male.....	46,500	83,900	150,600	162,500	133,800	119,900
Female.....	31,600	46,200	87,400	90,000	74,300	68,300
Race:						
White.....	34,500	53,000	92,000	91,100	72,300	63,900
Black.....	23,200	41,200	87,900	89,200	66,100	50,600
Other.....	10,300	16,500	25,700	25,300	20,600	20,800
Unknown.....	10,100	19,400	32,400	46,900	49,100	52,900
Alien status:						
Alien.....	1,500	1,600	2,700	2,300	1,700	1,500
Citizen.....	76,600	128,500	235,300	250,200	206,400	186,700
Region:						
Boston.....	2,800	3,500	6,900	5,000	6,700	6,400
New York.....	8,200	14,600	25,300	28,600	21,300	20,900
Philadelphia.....	8,500	11,700	19,300	19,600	22,900	22,300
Atlanta.....	16,900	32,400	56,300	62,600	47,900	44,100
Chicago.....	14,300	23,300	50,800	55,900	44,600	36,100
Dallas.....	12,400	17,100	38,000	34,900	23,700	22,100
Kansas City.....	3,100	7,300	11,100	9,800	9,500	8,400
Denver.....	2,000	3,700	4,600	6,800	4,400	4,400
San Francisco.....	7,200	12,500	18,000	19,700	20,700	18,400
Seattle.....	2,000	3,000	5,700	7,600	5,000	4,800
Not recorded.....	700	1,000	2,000	2,000	1,400	300

Table J.—SSI: Number of SSI applications for aged adults, by selected characteristics and year, 1990-95

Selected characteristics	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Total.....	316,600	239,800	231,900	238,800	199,800	167,200
Age:						
60-64.....	1,900	900	1,800	1,000	1,600	1,300
65-69.....	157,900	128,200	124,800	127,800	114,000	98,000
70-74.....	62,900	44,100	44,100	48,700	35,300	27,700
75 or older.....	93,900	66,600	61,200	61,300	48,900	40,200
Sex:						
Male.....	107,300	80,500	79,900	86,900	71,000	59,000
Female.....	209,300	159,300	152,000	151,900	128,800	108,200
Race:						
White.....	116,800	90,400	88,900	91,400	80,200	60,700
Black.....	52,600	35,200	28,600	29,100	30,900	25,500
Other.....	49,500	54,900	61,200	66,400	47,200	46,100
Unknown.....	97,700	59,300	53,200	51,900	41,500	34,900
Alien status:						
Alien.....	60,200	69,400	70,200	80,000	62,100	51,100
Citizen.....	256,400	170,400	161,700	158,800	137,700	116,100
Region:						
Boston.....	12,200	9,000	8,900	10,000	6,000	6,400
New York.....	36,800	27,500	32,600	34,800	30,200	21,900
Philadelphia.....	20,800	16,100	17,000	18,800	14,000	10,600
Atlanta.....	80,200	56,000	47,100	46,800	45,300	43,200
Chicago.....	32,100	21,500	20,500	19,400	17,200	14,600
Dallas.....	43,100	31,900	29,500	28,900	28,800	18,700
Kansas City.....	7,500	5,400	6,100	8,000	4,900	3,600
Denver.....	3,600	4,300	3,500	3,700	3,100	2,200
San Francisco.....	75,500	63,400	62,500	62,900	46,800	42,400
Seattle.....	4,700	4,300	4,200	5,500	3,500	3,500
Not recorded.....	100	400	0	0	0	100

Table K.—SSI: Number of SSI applications for blind and disabled adults, by selected characteristics and year, 1990-95

Selected characteristics	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Total.....	1,159,800	1,329,900	1,470,600	1,573,400	1,487,900	1,261,500
Age:						
18-21.....	70,200	82,300	96,400	103,600	93,100	89,600
22-29.....	153,800	184,100	213,200	226,200	207,200	175,800
30-39.....	277,500	330,100	375,600	429,300	400,900	329,600
40-49.....	272,600	314,500	355,000	369,000	368,700	319,300
50-59.....	271,700	306,200	316,000	332,500	322,800	264,600
60-64.....	113,200	112,200	114,100	112,300	94,300	80,300
65 or older.....	800	500	300	500	900	2,300
Sex:						
Male.....	600,800	687,100	769,800	812,300	754,800	629,800
Female.....	559,000	642,800	700,800	761,100	733,100	631,700
Race:						
White.....	588,600	666,000	706,500	761,900	730,200	619,200
Black.....	281,100	343,800	403,500	446,800	414,500	352,900
Other.....	117,600	134,700	164,200	177,900	163,800	147,400
Unknown.....	172,500	185,400	196,400	186,800	179,400	142,000
Alien status:						
Alien.....	71,200	79,700	96,500	96,900	90,900	80,500
Citizen.....	1,088,600	1,250,200	1,374,100	1,476,500	1,397,000	1,181,000
Region:						
Boston.....	48,800	56,300	64,700	71,000	66,800	61,000
New York.....	104,600	118,200	132,400	138,300	138,300	127,800
Philadelphia.....	97,100	124,700	129,400	145,700	138,000	113,500
Atlanta.....	262,800	308,500	337,900	367,700	352,000	310,000
Chicago.....	187,700	217,000	252,300	264,300	250,000	209,200
Dallas.....	146,600	168,400	180,200	192,100	187,100	154,800
Kansas City.....	46,200	54,200	62,600	68,400	66,100	55,300
Denver.....	27,000	30,700	31,200	35,900	32,800	27,400
San Francisco.....	178,500	183,800	208,400	221,400	210,000	164,800
Seattle.....	34,200	36,600	33,100	43,900	43,900	35,800
Not recorded.....	26,300	31,500	38,400	24,700	2,900	1,900

Table L.—SSI: Number of SSI applications for blind and disabled children, by selected characteristics and year, 1990-95

Selected characteristics	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Total.....	171,100	265,200	383,600	516,400	538,100	471,200
Age:						
Under 5.....	57,100	83,200	114,100	158,100	169,400	150,600
5-12.....	70,800	117,400	179,700	242,900	255,800	229,900
13-17.....	38,000	59,800	83,000	110,700	106,200	87,400
18-21.....	5,200	4,800	6,800	4,700	6,700	3,300
Sex:						
Male.....	105,600	163,300	240,300	317,100	342,800	300,300
Female.....	65,500	101,900	143,300	199,300	195,300	170,900
Race:						
White.....	69,400	106,000	133,600	168,300	178,800	146,700
Black.....	58,200	86,400	144,900	185,500	179,000	145,800
Other.....	21,500	31,300	39,800	50,500	55,600	47,700
Unknown.....	22,000	41,500	65,300	112,100	124,700	131,000
Alien status:						
Alien.....	1,900	2,400	3,300	3,700	3,300	2,800
Citizen.....	169,200	262,800	380,300	512,700	534,800	468,400
Region:						
Boston.....	4,300	6,900	9,800	11,900	16,100	16,500
New York.....	18,000	27,300	38,600	53,800	59,600	53,400
Philadelphia.....	15,000	23,300	30,700	39,300	46,300	41,600
Atlanta.....	38,900	61,900	95,400	129,000	139,400	123,900
Chicago.....	32,200	47,400	76,900	108,700	103,900	88,000
Dallas.....	28,800	43,900	59,800	80,400	83,300	69,300
Kansas City.....	7,100	18,000	19,300	25,000	28,200	23,600
Denver.....	4,100	4,900	8,000	10,300	10,300	7,600
San Francisco.....	15,300	20,500	28,100	38,400	39,800	36,600
Seattle.....	3,300	6,500	9,100	11,500	10,300	10,100
Not recorded.....	4,100	4,600	7,900	8,100	900	600

Table M.—SSI: Number of persons applying for SSI as aged adults, by selected characteristics and year, 1990-95

Selected characteristics	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Total.....	199,700	150,300	157,100	154,200	127,900	106,900
Age:						
60-64.....	1,300	400	1,300	900	900	1,000
65-69.....	102,900	82,800	87,500	84,900	75,800	66,100
70-74.....	40,800	27,200	29,200	30,700	22,000	16,800
75 or older.....	54,700	39,900	39,100	37,700	29,200	23,000
Sex:						
Male.....	68,500	51,100	55,600	59,200	47,600	39,200
Female.....	131,200	99,200	101,500	95,000	80,300	67,700
Race:						
White.....	80,000	59,800	60,200	60,500	52,500	39,400
Black.....	29,500	18,000	16,400	15,900	16,700	14,500
Other.....	36,800	39,600	48,200	48,200	34,500	33,000
Unknown.....	53,400	32,900	32,300	29,600	24,200	20,000
Alien status:						
Alien.....	47,600	55,400	60,500	61,900	47,600	38,000
Citizen.....	152,100	94,900	96,600	92,300	80,300	68,900
Region:						
Boston.....	8,400	5,900	5,700	6,400	4,500	4,100
New York.....	22,700	18,600	24,100	25,500	21,200	15,300
Philadelphia.....	13,000	9,100	11,300	10,900	8,600	7,000
Atlanta.....	46,200	31,600	28,200	27,600	25,800	25,800
Chicago.....	20,900	12,600	13,100	11,800	10,500	9,600
Dallas.....	26,100	18,400	17,900	17,300	18,300	10,700
Kansas City.....	4,500	3,100	3,300	5,200	3,000	2,200
Denver.....	2,000	2,600	2,500	2,600	1,900	1,200
San Francisco.....	53,000	45,100	47,500	43,200	32,100	28,400
Seattle.....	2,900	3,000	3,500	3,700	2,000	2,500
Not recorded.....	0	300	0	0	0	100

Table N.—SSI: Number of persons applying for SSI as blind and disabled adults, by selected characteristics and year, 1990-95

Selected characteristics	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Total.....	713,800	851,300	963,100	1,023,500	964,900	795,400
Age:						
18-21.....	53,100	58,800	74,100	80,900	67,500	62,900
22-29.....	103,100	126,600	151,000	156,600	144,700	115,500
30-39.....	167,800	211,400	250,300	283,300	259,200	208,800
40-49.....	162,200	194,900	218,300	224,900	224,200	190,600
50-59.....	159,200	188,000	196,500	209,800	210,600	162,600
60-64.....	67,900	71,200	72,800	67,600	58,100	53,300
65 or older.....	500	400	100	400	600	1,700
Sex:						
Male.....	382,300	442,600	507,400	528,700	493,400	391,500
Female.....	331,500	408,700	455,700	494,800	471,500	403,900
Race:						
White.....	379,800	443,900	478,400	510,600	496,900	412,900
Black.....	163,300	204,100	249,700	273,600	252,200	203,300
Other.....	77,500	92,300	115,500	121,800	108,100	94,800
Unknown.....	93,200	111,000	119,500	117,500	107,700	84,400
Alien status:						
Alien.....	55,400	63,900	81,300	73,500	68,900	60,600
Citizen.....	658,400	787,400	881,800	950,000	896,000	734,800
Region:						
Boston.....	32,300	36,700	42,500	46,100	43,900	40,000
New York.....	61,700	72,200	85,800	88,800	90,500	81,500
Philadelphia.....	59,800	79,400	83,700	90,700	88,800	71,000
Atlanta.....	156,100	195,200	210,500	233,900	229,300	197,800
Chicago.....	117,700	139,300	165,800	175,900	161,100	129,500
Dallas.....	86,300	104,600	117,300	124,100	119,700	93,800
Kansas City.....	27,300	34,700	41,000	43,800	42,200	34,100
Denver.....	16,800	19,400	22,400	23,700	22,100	17,000
San Francisco.....	116,800	124,600	146,800	150,600	134,800	104,700
Seattle.....	22,000	23,800	20,900	29,400	30,500	25,100
Not recorded.....	17,000	21,400	26,400	16,500	2,000	900

Table O.—SSI: Number of persons applying for SSI as blind and disabled children, by selected characteristics and year, 1990-95

Selected characteristics	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Total.....	133,600	223,700	342,000	454,200	459,900	380,800
Age:						
Under 5.....	49,700	78,200	107,300	145,900	155,900	132,800
5-12.....	52,500	95,800	159,100	211,600	214,600	178,200
13-17.....	27,400	46,200	70,700	92,800	83,500	67,500
18-21.....	4,000	3,500	4,900	3,900	5,900	2,300
Sex:						
Male.....	82,400	137,500	215,400	282,200	292,800	244,000
Female.....	51,200	86,200	126,600	172,000	167,100	136,800
Race:						
White.....	52,200	87,900	116,000	147,600	153,300	122,100
Black.....	45,300	73,100	130,900	160,200	145,700	110,000
Other.....	17,700	26,900	35,200	45,400	47,400	38,100
Unknown.....	18,400	35,800	59,900	101,000	113,500	110,600
Alien status:						
Alien.....	1,600	2,100	3,000	3,400	3,000	2,300
Citizen.....	132,000	221,600	339,000	450,800	456,900	378,500
Region:						
Boston.....	3,800	5,300	8,400	11,100	14,000	13,800
New York.....	15,300	23,500	35,100	47,800	52,000	44,400
Philadelphia.....	12,200	20,100	27,600	35,700	40,900	36,200
Atlanta.....	29,000	51,100	82,900	109,500	116,300	95,600
Chicago.....	26,100	40,200	70,100	98,400	90,900	72,500
Dallas.....	19,700	35,700	54,300	67,500	68,000	52,300
Kansas City.....	5,300	15,600	17,300	22,100	24,200	19,400
Denver.....	3,300	4,600	7,500	9,200	8,800	6,100
San Francisco.....	13,100	18,100	24,400	35,500	34,700	30,900
Seattle.....	2,700	5,500	7,700	9,900	9,300	9,000
Not recorded.....	3,100	4,000	6,700	7,500	800	600