

ability of medical acts and the price tag they should carry. Nor are we simply concerned with the technical quality of the services rendered by teams of professionals. We are concerned with equity in the distribution of health resources, with their deployment in the promotion of health,

and with the integration of health and social care. Value for money in this last sense cannot be achieved by fragmented providers or pluralistic financing agencies. Somehow a socially responsive organization is needed that can mobilize the resources needed to promote these values.

Notes and Brief Reports

Disability Beneficiaries Eligible for Medicare*

On July 1, 1973, an estimated 1.7 million disability beneficiaries became eligible for Medicare. The Social Security Amendments of 1972¹ extended Medicare coverage, effective July 1, 1973, to persons under age 65 entitled to cash disability benefits under the social security or railroad retirement programs because they were disabled. Coverage was limited to beneficiaries who were entitled to disability benefits for at least 24 consecutive months. (The amendments also extended coverage to persons under age 65 with chronic renal disease if they are insured or entitled to benefits or are the dependents of such insured person or beneficiary.)

This report presents preliminary data on disability beneficiaries who were eligible for Medicare as of July 1, 1973. Data for disabled persons entitled to hospital insurance (HI) are reported by age, race, sex, and State of residence. Future reports will carry complete data on these beneficiaries as of July 1 of each year.

SOURCE AND LIMITATIONS OF DATA

The data reported here on disability beneficiaries eligible for Medicare on July 1, 1973, were drawn from the master beneficiary record of the Social Security Administration's central office. In April 1973, 1.7 million persons were identified

in the master beneficiary record file as eligible for Medicare on July 1. Excluded from this number were 27,188 railroad retirement disability beneficiaries because they have Medicare coverage under the railroad retirement program. An estimated 6,000 beneficiaries with foreign addresses were excluded because detailed information was not available. Also excluded were about 9,300 beneficiaries under age 65 who were eligible for Medicare on July 1, 1973, solely because of chronic renal disease.

This report discusses only those eligible beneficiaries entitled for at least 24 consecutive months to cash disability benefits. It is estimated that disability beneficiaries covered under Medicare represent 73 percent of all persons currently receiving disability benefits.

Like beneficiaries aged 65 and over, the disabled beneficiaries who are eligible for hospital insurance may elect coverage under supplementary medical insurance (SMI). The eligible disabled beneficiaries were therefore automatically enrolled for both programs (except for those living in Puerto Rico, other outlying areas, and foreign areas). Since supplementary medical insurance is a voluntary program for which beneficiaries pay a monthly premium, the person coming on the hospital insurance rolls may indicate that he does not wish to be enrolled under the medical insurance part of Medicare.

In April 1973 the Social Security Administration notified 1,662,000 disability beneficiaries living in the United States that they were entitled to HI and were being automatically enrolled for SMI as of July 1, 1973 (table 1). They were sent enrollment information about Medicare and a form to be returned no later than June 30, if they did not wish to be enrolled for SMI. By the last week in June, 143,000 eligibles indicated that they did not want SMI. About 35,000 eligibles living in Puerto Rico, where the refusal rate was ex-

* Prepared by Martin Ruther, Program Statistics, Division of Health Insurance Studies, Office of Research and Statistics.

¹ For a complete description, see Robert M. Ball, "Social Security Amendments of 1972," *Social Security Bulletin*, March 1973.

TABLE 1.—Number of disability beneficiaries eligible for hospital insurance, and number and percent who refused SMI, by type of entitlement, sex, race, and age, United States, July 1, 1973

Sex, race, and age	Type of entitlement			
	Total	Workers	Children	Widows (ers)
Number eligible for hospital insurance				
Total ¹	1,661,556	1,331,890	267,230	62,436
Sex:				
Men.....	1,063,209	928,710	134,337	162
Women.....	598,347	403,180	132,893	62,274
Race:				
White.....	1,410,689	1,118,651	239,391	52,647
All other races.....	241,617	206,814	28,109	8,604
Unknown.....	9,250	6,425	1,730	1,095
Age:				
Under 25.....	43,592	10,433	33,159	-----
25-29.....	66,532	28,623	37,929	-----
30-34.....	70,272	34,930	35,942	-----
35-39.....	87,026	51,443	35,583	-----
40-44.....	120,104	83,819	36,285	-----
45-49.....	175,323	141,070	34,253	-----
50-54.....	247,616	214,406	27,243	5,907
55-59.....	356,811	315,102	17,661	24,048
60-64.....	494,260	452,604	9,176	32,481
Number who refused SMI				
Total.....	143,131	131,881	7,910	3,340
Sex:				
Men.....	99,877	95,937	3,933	7
Women.....	43,254	35,944	3,977	3,333
Race:				
White.....	122,114	111,829	7,376	2,909
All other races.....	20,828	19,909	494	425
Unknown.....	189	143	40	6
Age:				
Under 25.....	1,907	1,164	743	-----
25-29.....	3,965	3,273	692	-----
30-34.....	3,902	3,369	533	-----
35-39.....	6,132	5,349	783	-----
40-44.....	11,318	9,888	1,430	-----
45-49.....	17,811	16,516	1,295	-----
50-54.....	26,058	24,867	964	227
55-59.....	34,956	32,468	973	1,515
60-64.....	37,082	34,987	497	1,698
SMI refusals as percent of HI enrollment				
Total.....	8 6	9 9	3 0	5 3
Sex:				
Men.....	9 4	10 3	2 9	4 3
Women.....	7 2	8 9	3 0	5 4
Race:				
White.....	8 7	10 0	3 1	5 5
All other races.....	8 6	9 6	1 9	4 9
Unknown.....	2 0	2 2	2 3	5
Age:				
Under 25.....	4 4	11 2	2 2	-----
25-29.....	6 0	11 4	1 8	-----
30-34.....	5 6	9 8	1 5	-----
35-39.....	7 0	10 4	2 2	-----
40-44.....	9 4	11 8	3 9	-----
45-49.....	10 2	11 7	3 8	-----
50-54.....	10 5	11 6	3 5	3 3
55-59.....	9 8	10 3	5 6	6 3
60-64.....	7 5	7 7	5 4	4 9

¹ The 50 States, District of Columbia, and residence unknown.

pected to be high because of such factors as low income and the availability of less costly medical care, were sent informational material written in Spanish. No "refusal" form was sent to these beneficiaries; instead they were requested to contact their district office to enroll in SMI or to get more information.

Characteristics of Beneficiaries

To be considered disabled for social security purposes, a person must be unable to engage in any substantial gainful work due to a medically determinable physical or mental impairment that can be expected to result in death or that has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of at least 12 months. Disability beneficiaries include three types: (1) disabled workers with sufficient quarters of coverage under the social security program; (2) persons disabled in childhood (before age 22) who are dependent sons and daughters of retired-worker or disabled-worker beneficiaries or of deceased insured workers; and (3) disabled widows or widowers of deceased insured workers.

The largest group of disability beneficiaries eligible for hospital insurance were 1.4 million disabled workers who accounted for 80 percent of all eligibles. The remainder were 274,000 adults disabled as children, 63,000 disabled widows, and only 165 widowers. The sex distribution of the three groups differed markedly (table 2). Because of their greater participation in the labor force men represented nearly 70 percent of all the disabled workers; about half of those disabled in childhood were men. These proportions held re-

TABLE 2.—Number and percentage distribution of disability beneficiaries eligible for hospital insurance, by type of entitlement, race, and sex, July 1, 1973

Race and sex	Type of entitlement			
	Total	Workers	Children	Widows (ers)
Number				
All persons.....	1,696,537	1,359,630	273,911	62,996
Men.....	1,088,989	950,800	138,024	165
Women.....	607,548	408,830	135,887	62,831
White.....	1,439,421	1,141,278	245,029	53,114
Men.....	919,045	795,835	123,068	142
Women.....	520,376	345,443	121,961	52,972
All other races.....	245,034	209,609	26,599	8,736
Men.....	162,182	148,373	13,700	19
Women.....	82,852	61,236	12,809	8,717
Percentage distribution				
All persons.....	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0
Men.....	64 2	69 9	50 4	3
Women.....	35 8	30 1	49 6	99 7
White.....	84 8	83 9	89 5	84 3
Men.....	54 2	58 5	44 9	2
Women.....	30 7	25 4	44 5	84 1
All other races.....	14 4	15 4	9 7	13 9
Men.....	9 6	10 9	5 0	(¹)
Women.....	4 9	4 5	4 7	13 8

¹ Less than 0.05 percent.

TABLE 3.—Percentage distribution of disability beneficiaries eligible for hospital insurance, by age, race, and sex, July 1, 1973

Race and sex	Age of beneficiaries									
	Under 65	Under 25	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64
All persons.....	100 0	2 7	4 1	4 3	5 3	7 3	10 6	14 9	21 4	29 5
Men.....	100 0	2 5	4 1	4 3	5 5	7 7	11 1	15 3	20 6	29 0
Women.....	100 0	3 0	4 0	4 3	5 0	6 6	9 6	14 2	22 8	30 5
White.....	100 0	2 6	4 0	4 3	5 3	7 3	10 5	14 8	21 4	29 8
Men.....	100 0	2 4	4 0	4 2	5 4	7 5	11 0	15 1	20 8	29 5
Women.....	100 0	2 9	4 0	4 4	5 2	6 7	9 7	14 1	22 6	30 4
All other races.....	100 0	3 1	4 2	4 2	5 4	7 6	10 9	15 8	21 2	27 6
Men.....	100 0	2 8	4 4	4 6	6 0	8 5	11 8	16 1	19 9	26 0
Women.....	100 0	3 6	3 9	3 5	4 2	5 8	9 1	15 1	23 9	30 8

ardless of race. Among all the disabled, men outnumbered women by about 2 to 1 for both whites and persons of all other races. About 85 percent of both disabled workers and widows were white, compared with 90 percent for childhood disability beneficiaries. The proportion of disability beneficiaries that were members of other races was slightly higher than the proportion in these races in the general population aged 20-64. The ratios were 14 percent and 12 percent, respectively.²

The beneficiary groups differed considerably by age (under Medicare, all groups, on attainment of age 65, are no longer considered as disability beneficiaries and automatically become aged beneficiaries). The median age of disabled widows, as shown below, was highest—60.2, or 3.6 years more than that of disabled workers. This difference reflects the fact that Medicare coverage is limited to disabled widows aged 52-64. The median age of those disabled in childhood was 38.6.

The median age of all disabled men was almost 1 year less than that of women. Former workingmen averaged 1.1 years less than workingwomen. For those disabled as children the median age of men was 2.1 years less than that of women. The median age for whites disabled in childhood was 6.1 years greater than the median for their counterparts among all other races; disabled white workers were only 1.1 years older than those of all other races. In general, however, disability beneficiaries covered by Medicare were older than persons in their age group in the total population. Thus, the median age of the U.S. population aged 20-64 was 39, compared with 55

for all disability beneficiaries.³ The median age of disability beneficiaries, by type of entitlement, race, and sex, is shown below.

Race and sex	Median age of—			
	Total	Workers	Children	Widows (ers)
All persons.....	55 2	56 6	38 6	60 2
Men.....	54 9	56 2	37 0	61 1
Women.....	55 7	57 3	39 7	60 2
White.....	55 3	56 7	39 2	60 3
Men.....	55 1	58 4	38 1	61 1
Women.....	55 7	57 3	40 4	60 3
All other races.....	54 6	55 6	33 1	59 7
Men.....	53 7	54 9	32 8	61 0
Women.....	56 0	57 0	33 3	59 7

The proportion of all disability beneficiaries increased in each successive age group. This was generally true for both sexes and both racial groups (table 3). Among all disabled persons men outnumbered women in every age group—a reflection of the higher participation of men in the labor force.⁴

For both men and women and for all races, nearly half the beneficiaries were aged 55-64—ages at which the prevalence of chronic diseases increases sharply.⁵ This has important implications for the Medicare program—both in terms of quantity of medical services used and reimbursement.

Geographic Distribution

The distribution of beneficiaries eligible for HI ranged from 37 percent in the South to 16

² Bureau of the Census, "Estimates of the Population of the United States, by Age, Sex, and Race: April 1, 1970 to July 1, 1973 (Advance Report)," *Current Population Reports*, P-25, No. 511, January 1974.

³ See Bureau of the Census, *ibid.*

⁴ Bureau of the Census, *Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1973*, page 220.

⁵ Philip R. Lerner, *Social Security Disability Applicant Statistics, 1969*, Office of Research and Statistics, 1973.

TABLE 4.—Percentage distribution of disability beneficiaries eligible for hospital insurance, by region, division, race, and sex, July 1, 1973

Region and division	All persons			White			All other races		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
United States, total ¹	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0
Northeast.....	22.3	20 6	25 5	23 5	21 6	26 7	15 8	14 7	17 8
New England.....	5 0	4 6	5 8	5 7	5 2	6 5	1 3	1 3	1 3
Middle Atlantic.....	17 3	15 9	19.7	17 8	16 4	20 3	14 4	13 4	16 5
North Central.....	24 0	23 5	24 8	25 0	24 5	25 8	18 4	18 1	18 8
East North Central.....	17 2	16 7	18 1	17 5	16 9	18 5	15 4	15 3	15 6
West North Central.....	6 8	6 9	6 8	7 5	7 6	7 3	3 0	2 9	3 2
South.....	37 4	39 4	33 8	34 6	36 7	31 0	53 3	54 4	51 0
South Atlantic.....	18 3	18 7	17 6	16 7	17 1	16 0	27 8	27 9	27 5
East South Central.....	8 8	9 5	7 7	8 3	9 0	7 1	11 6	11 8	11 2
West South Central.....	10 3	11 2	8 5	9 6	10 6	7 9	13 9	14 7	12 3
West.....	16 2	16 4	15 8	16 9	17 1	16 4	12 6	12 7	12 4
Mountain.....	3 6	3 8	3 2	4 0	4 2	3 6	1 4	1 5	1 1
Pacific.....	12 6	12 7	12 6	12 9	12 9	12 8	11 2	11 2	11 3

¹ The 50 States, District of Columbia, and residence unknown

percent in the West (table 4). In contrast, only 31 percent of the total U.S. population aged 20-64 lived in the South.⁶ More than half of all eligibles lived in the South Atlantic, Middle Atlantic, and East North Central States. About the same proportion of disability beneficiaries were living in each of these areas.

The geographic distribution of the disability beneficiaries for men and women was similar, but relatively more men than women lived in the South—39 percent and 34 percent, respectively. In contrast, the proportion of women living in the Northeast was higher than that for men—26 percent compared with 21 percent. The largest proportion of beneficiaries of all races other than white lived in the South (53 percent), while only 13 percent lived in the West.

⁶ Bureau of the Census, *Census of Population: 1970, General Population Characteristics*, final report, United States summary, PC (1)-B1, 1972, table 57.

SMI Refusals

As of June 22, 1973, automatic SMI enrollment was refused by 143,000 of the disability beneficiaries, or 8.6 percent of all eligibles living in the United States. Excluded from this count were 15,000 potential refusals from persons who had not clearly indicated that they did not want SMI. These eligibles were subsequently reached directly by their district office. Information on the number of refusals after the second contact was not available at the time of this report.

The number of refusals who later enrolled as of July 1, 1973, for SMI through State "buy-in" programs is also not available. These programs enable States to enroll and pay the SMI premium for Medicare eligibles receiving public assistance. In 1973, 44 States and the District of Columbia signed agreements to enroll disability beneficiaries. Enrollments under buy-in programs will

TABLE 5.—Percent of disability beneficiaries eligible for hospital insurance who refused SMI, by region, division, sex, and race, July 1, 1973

Region and division	All persons			White			All other races		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
United States, total ¹	8 6	9 4	7 2	8 7	9 5	7 1	8 6	8 9	8 1
Northeast.....	10 0	10 4	9 4	10 1	10 6	9 3	10 0	9 5	10 8
New England.....	10 6	11 5	9 3	10 7	11 6	9 3	10 7	11 3	9 4
Middle Atlantic.....	9 9	10 1	9 5	9 9	10 3	9 3	10 0	9 4	10 9
North Central.....	8 7	9 6	7 4	8 6	9 6	7 1	9 8	9 8	9 6
East North Central.....	9 0	9 6	8 0	8 9	9 7	7 8	9 7	9 6	9 8
West North Central.....	8 1	9 3	5 7	7 9	9 2	5 6	10 2	11 2	8 6
South.....	7 8	8 7	5 7	7 8	8 9	5 5	7 8	8 4	6 7
South Atlantic.....	7 8	8 8	7 9	8 0	9 1	5 9	7 5	7 8	6 8
East South Central.....	7 3	8 2	5 4	7 3	8 1	5 3	7 7	8 6	5 8
West South Central.....	8 0	9 2	5 4	7 9	9 2	4 9	8 8	9 4	7 4
West.....	8 5	9 4	6 7	8 5	9 5	6 6	8 5	9 0	7 6
Mountain.....	8 9	10 1	6 6	8 8	10 0	6 5	10 4	11 1	8 2
Pacific.....	8 3	9 2	6 7	8 4	9 4	6 7	8 3	8 7	7 5

¹ The 50 States, District of Columbia, and residence unknown.

undoubtedly reduce the total number of eligibles who refused SMI. Data on the 4,274 disabled railroad retirement beneficiaries who refused SMI are excluded because the Railroad Retirement Board conducts its own enrollment program.

When Medicare operations began on July 1, 1966, 6.4 percent of the 18.8 million aged living in the United States did not enroll for SMI.⁷ Since that time, familiarity of the aged with the Medicare program and its benefits has increased as has the proportion of the aged electing SMI enrollment. As of July 1, 1972, all but 3.5 percent of the aged entitled to hospital insurance benefits were enrolled under SMI. Even among aged persons just becoming eligible for Medicare benefits (those aged 65 and 66 on July 1, 1972) all except 5.7 percent also elected to enroll for SMI.

An important factor that may have contributed to the relatively high proportion of disability beneficiaries who refused SMI enrollment was the number of veterans of World War II and the Korean conflict in the group. Unpublished data from the Social Security Administration's 1966 Survey of the Disabled show that 26 percent of disabled-worker beneficiaries were veterans. For the most part, veterans and especially those with severe disabilities may not think they need to pay for SMI benefits under Medicare because they are frequently entitled to receive free medical care from the Veterans Administration.⁸

The greatest variation in the SMI refusal rate for disability beneficiaries was by type of entitlement (table 1). Disabled workers had the highest rate, 9.9 percent; widows, 5.3 percent; and childhood beneficiaries, 3.0 percent. Disabled workers aged 40-54 had the highest refusal rate (11.7 percent); the rate for the older age groups fell and was lowest (7.7 percent) for those aged 60-64. Among childhood disability beneficiaries the refusal rate generally increased with advancing age. The lowest rate was 1.5 percent for those aged 30-34, while the highest was 5.5 percent for those aged 55-59. Among disabled workers, men had a higher refusal rate than women, while

those disabled in childhood had nearly the same rate for both sexes.

TABLE 6.—Number of disability beneficiaries eligible for hospital insurance and number and percent who refused SMI, by region, division, and State of residence, July 1, 1973.

Region, division, and State of residence	Number eligible for hospital insurance	SMI refusals	
		Number	As percent of HI enrollment
Total ¹	1,661,556	143,131	8.6
Northeast.....	371,335	37,234	10.0
North Central.....	398,984	34,869	8.7
South.....	621,766	48,189	7.8
West.....	269,405	22,832	8.5
New England.....	83,833	8,910	10.6
Middle Atlantic.....	287,502	28,324	9.9
East North Central.....	285,583	25,727	9.0
West North Central.....	113,401	9,142	8.1
South Atlantic.....	304,582	23,797	7.8
East South Central.....	146,809	10,710	7.3
West South Central.....	170,375	13,682	8.0
Mountain.....	59,410	5,301	8.9
Pacific.....	209,995	17,631	8.3
New England			
Maine.....	9,255	1,014	11.0
New Hampshire.....	5,140	541	10.5
Vermont.....	3,596	365	10.2
Massachusetts.....	38,696	4,077	10.5
Rhode Island.....	8,275	1,145	13.8
Connecticut.....	18,871	1,768	9.4
Middle Atlantic:			
New York.....	137,910	15,510	11.2
New Jersey.....	49,825	3,951	7.9
Pennsylvania.....	99,767	8,863	8.9
East North Central			
Ohio.....	78,263	7,519	9.6
Indiana.....	36,148	2,977	8.2
Illinois.....	70,471	5,858	8.3
Michigan.....	69,742	6,225	9.8
Wisconsin.....	30,959	2,548	8.2
West North Central			
Minnesota.....	21,444	1,605	7.0
Iowa.....	13,886	1,522	8.1
Missouri.....	40,960	3,439	8.4
North Dakota.....	4,248	323	7.6
South Dakota.....	4,775	395	8.3
Nebraska.....	9,169	768	8.4
Kansas.....	13,919	1,190	8.5
South Atlantic:			
Delaware.....	3,963	377	9.5
Maryland.....	23,059	2,447	10.6
District of Columbia.....	5,786	651	11.3
Virginia.....	41,500	3,668	8.9
West Virginia.....	29,891	2,102	7.0
North Carolina.....	53,022	3,601	6.8
South Carolina.....	30,382	2,143	7.1
Georgia.....	49,142	3,562	7.2
Florida.....	68,137	5,246	7.7
East South Central:			
Kentucky.....	37,254	2,871	7.7
Tennessee.....	42,269	3,191	7.5
Alabama.....	39,779	2,602	6.5
Mississippi.....	27,607	2,046	7.4
West South Central:			
Arkansas.....	26,925	2,114	7.9
Louisiana.....	37,386	3,379	9.0
Oklahoma.....	26,093	2,105	8.1
Texas.....	79,971	6,084	7.6
Mountain:			
Montana.....	5,492	418	7.6
Idaho.....	5,698	460	8.1
Wyoming.....	2,008	175	8.7
Colorado.....	13,086	1,278	9.8
New Mexico.....	8,414	747	8.9
Arizona.....	15,753	1,406	8.9
Utah.....	5,579	529	9.5
Nevada.....	3,380	288	8.5
Pacific:			
Washington.....	23,794	2,029	8.5
Oregon.....	18,788	1,667	8.9
California.....	162,441	13,419	8.3
Alaska.....	799	75	9.4
Hawaii.....	4,173	341	8.2
Residence unknown.....	66	7	10.6

¹ The 50 States, District of Columbia, and residence unknown.

⁷ Medicare: Health Insurance for the Aged, 1966, Section 2: Enrollment, Office of Research and Statistics, 1969.

⁸ See Lawrence D. Haber, "Identifying the Disabled: Concepts and Methods in the Measurement of Disability," *Social Security Bulletin*, December 1967.

Possible reasons for the higher SMI refusal rate for disabled workers than that for childhood disability beneficiaries were found in the 1966 Social Security Survey of the Disabled. According to the study, only 23 percent of those disabled in childhood had any type of health insurance coverage, compared with 46 percent for disabled workers.⁹ This finding was to be expected since disabled workers were able to avail themselves of health insurance policies provided or paid for by an employer, while 85 percent of childhood disability beneficiaries had never worked. In addition, disabled workers also obtained coverage through their spouses. Among disabled workers 71 percent were married. Ninety-eight percent of childhood disability beneficiaries had never married.¹⁰

The SMI refusal rate for men was 9.4 percent, compared with 7.2 percent for women. Higher rates for men were found in every age group with especially large differences in the age groups where relatively large numbers of veterans would be expected. The percentage of disability beneficiaries enrolled in HI who refused SMI are shown in the following tabulation.

Age	SMI refusals as percent of HI enrollment	
	Men	Women
Under 65.....	9.4	7.2
Under 25.....	5.3	3.0
25-29.....	6.9	4.2
30-34.....	6.3	4.3
35-39.....	7.8	5.6
40-44.....	10.3	7.5
45-49.....	10.9	8.5
50-54.....	11.6	8.5
55-59.....	10.5	8.6
60-64.....	8.0	6.6

In every geographic division the SMI refusal rate for white men exceeded that of white women (table 5). This difference was also true for men and women of all other races in all divisions except the Middle Atlantic and East North Central States.

The difference in the refusal rate by race and

⁹ Mildred E. Cinsky, "Health Insurance Coverage of the Disabled," *Social Security Survey of the Disabled: 1966*, Report No. 4 (Office of Research and Statistics), August 1968, table 3.

¹⁰ Lawrence D. Haber, "The Disabled Beneficiary—A Comparison of Factors Related to Benefit Entitlement," *Social Security Survey of the Disabled: 1966*, Report No. 7 (Office of Research and Statistics), June 1969, tables 1 and 2.

geographic division was small. The greatest disparity was in the West North Central States where the refusal rate for persons of all other races was 2.3 percentage points higher than that of whites.

The rate of HI eligibles who refused SMI was highest in New England (10.6 percent) and lowest in the East South Central States (7.3 percent). The greatest variation in refusal rates among the States ranged from 13.8 percent in Rhode Island to 6.5 percent in Alabama (table 6).

Social Security Abroad

Adjustment of Old-Age Pensions in Foreign Programs*

Since World War II, rapid increases in prices and wages have led a growing number of countries—particularly the industrialized nations—to implement provisions for the adjustment of long-term social security (old-age, survivors, and disability insurance) benefits.¹

Currently, 30 countries raise pensions periodically on the basis of increases in some national index. In theory, of course, this procedure provides for corresponding decreases when indexes decline. In practice, as far as can be determined, this is not the case. The indexes are related to price or cost-of-living changes, wage changes, or a combination of the two. The 30 countries are listed below according to the index used.²

General Wage Index:

Argentina	France
Austria	Germany (Federal Republic of)
Bolivia	Israel
Chile (blue-collar)	Netherlands
Finland ³	

* Prepared by Max Horlick and Martin B. Tracy, Comparative Studies Branch, International Staff, Office of Research and Statistics.

¹ This article updates the previously published study by Max Horlick and Doris E. Lewis, "Adjustment of Old-Age Pensions in Foreign Programs," *Social Security Bulletin*, May 1970. A more detailed analysis is in preparation.

² Spain is omitted from the list because the type of adjustment has not yet been spelled out.

³ Earnings-related program.