

are counted only once in table 1. It is relatively uncommon for men to receive two benefits because a secondary benefit based on a woman's earnings would rarely exceed an old-age benefit based on a man's earnings.¹

Practically all the 2.7 million married women living with their husbands had some income from employment or one of the public income maintenance programs—either in their own right or through their husbands. Of the 4 million aged widows, however, scarcely 8 percent had income from employment, and at most about a third had benefits under old-age and survivors insurance or a related program. Many widows were supported in whole or in part by old-age assistance, but even more of them had no income from the sources under consideration.

¹ See *Annual Statistical Supplement, 1953*, tables 41-43 (*Social Security Bulletin*, September 1954), for information on dual entitlements at the end of 1953.

Economic Status of Widows and Paternal Orphans, June 1954 *

Although the 2.1 million paternal orphans¹ in the United States comprise less than 4 percent of the Nation's children under age 18, they are of special interest from a social and economic point of view because of problems of support.

Old-age and survivors insurance, the programs administered by the Veterans Administration, and related programs provided income in June 1954 for about 60 percent of the children under age 18 with father dead. While the proportion of paternal orphans receiving payments under the veterans' pension and compensation programs has remained constant at about 15 percent since 1950, the proportion receiving old-age and survivors insurance benefits has increased from less than one-third to about one-half of all paternal orphans in

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¹ The term paternal orphan, as used here, relates to all children with father dead, including those who have lost both parents.

Table 1.—Estimated number of children under age 18 with father dead and of widows under age 65 receiving money income from specified sources, June 1954

[In millions]

Source of income	Children under age 18 with father dead	Widows under age 65 ²		
		Total	With 1 or more children under age 18	Other
Total in population ³	2.1	3.6	0.7	2.8
Employment ⁴2	1.9	.4	1.6
Social insurance and related programs ⁵	1.2	.8	.4	.5
Old-age and survivors insurance.....	1.0	.3	.3	0
Veterans' compensation and pension programs.....	.3	.5	.1	.4
Railroad and government employees' retirement programs.....	.1	.1	(6)	.1
Aid to dependent children.....	.2	.1	.1	0

¹ Continental United States.

² Excludes widows who have remarried.

³ Includes persons with no income and income solely from sources other than those specified. Some persons received income from more than one of the specified sources; some with income from sources specified also received income from other sources.

⁴ Includes only persons working for pay or profit and not those supported by the earnings of a relative.

⁵ Persons with income from more than one program are counted only once.

⁶ Fewer than 50,000.

Source: Number of children and of widows in the population and number with employment and with children under age 18 estimated from published and unpublished data of the Bureau of the Census. Number of children under age 18 with father dead based on estimate for July 1953 prepared by the Division of the Actuary, Social Security Administration. Number of persons receiving payments under social insurance and related programs and from aid to dependent children reported by administrative agencies (partly estimated).

the United States. As shown in chart 1, there was considerable overlap between the programs, with about 7 percent of all the paternal orphans receiving benefits under both. Other social insurance programs were of slight importance as a source of income for these children.

More than half the children receiving old-age and survivors insurance benefits in December 1953 lived with a mother who also received benefits. Some lived with a widowed mother who was not entitled because of employment or remarriage. A child's eligibility for benefits is not affected by the mother's employment or her remarriage unless he is adopted by a stepfather before the death of his natural father.

The rapid increase during the past 5 years in the number of survivor children under age 18 receiving old-age and survivors insurance benefits has resulted in a continuous decline in the importance of aid to dependent children as an income source for paternal orphans. The proportion receiving such aid was down to 11 percent in June 1954. A considerable number of the paternal orphans receiving aid to dependent children were beneficiaries under the old-age and survivors insurance program whose benefits needed supplementation. This overlap, which is not shown on chart 1, is difficult to measure pre-

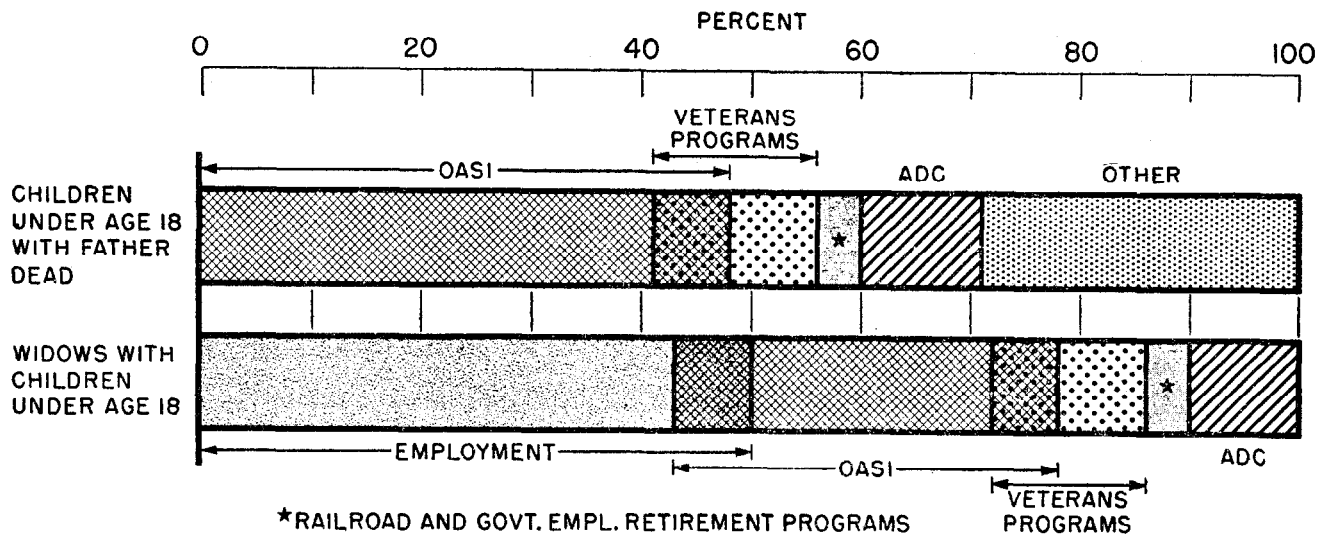
cisely because available information concerning recipients of aid to dependent children on the reasons for lack of support relates to the "most recent" father rather than the natural father.²

According to a study conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Social Security Administration in October 1949,³ about three-fifths of the paternal orphans live in the household of a relative who is employed. With respect to the employment of the orphans themselves, the 1949 study showed about 5 percent with some earnings. It appears probable, however, that in June 1954 the number of paternal orphans under age 18 with some income from their own employment was roughly 200,000,

² In November 1953 only about 6 percent of all children receiving aid to dependent children were old-age and survivors insurance beneficiaries. The proportion receiving both old-age and survivors insurance benefits and aid to dependent children payments was much larger among paternal orphans, who comprised only 15-16 percent of all children in the continental United States receiving aid to dependent children. See Ruth White, "Concurrent Receipt of Public Assistance and Old-Age and Survivors Insurance," *Social Security Bulletin*, August 1954, pages 12-15.

³ See Jacob Fisher, "Orphans in the United States," *Social Security Bulletin*, August 1950, for a summary of data from this survey.

Chart 1.—Sources of income of widows and paternal orphans in the United States, June 1954



or about 10 percent of all children under age 18 with father dead, including some of those living with a mother or other relative who was employed.⁴

Thus, many of the children shown in table 1 as having no income from social insurance and related programs or from aid to dependent children had some income from employment directly or indirectly, or both. Some of these children undoubtedly received payments under the settlement options of life insurance contracts or income from the deceased parent's property. Others were supported by relatives. Still others were in tax-supported institutions, but their number is not known. In 1950 there were 93,000 children under age 18 in homes for neglected and dependent children (18,000 of them in public homes), and probably most of these children were paternal orphans. An unknown proportion of the 112,000 children under age 18 in other types of institutions were also paternal orphans. It seems unlikely that more than 6-8 percent of all paternal orphans were in institutions in June 1954, and presumably a considerable number of these children were re-

ceiving benefits under old-age and survivors insurance, the veterans' programs, or related programs.

Of the 700,000 widows under age 65 with one or more children under age 18, half had income from employment in June 1954 and about half received benefits under old-age and survivors insurance or the veterans' or related programs (chart 1). As in the case of the paternal orphans, it is estimated that about 15 percent of those receiving mother's benefits under old-age and survivors insurance were also receiving benefits from the Veterans Administration. An estimated 20 percent of the social insurance beneficiaries were among those with some income from employment. About 5 percent of them were receiving aid to dependent children (not shown on the chart). Other widowed mothers had children receiving old-age and survivors insurance benefits but were not themselves eligible because their earnings exceeded the maximum allowable without benefit suspension. About 1 in 10 widowed mothers with children received public assistance through aid to dependent children. Few of the latter were employed.

The labor-force participation rate is well over twice as high for widows with one or more children under age 18 as for married women with husband present and one or more children under age 18. It is notable, therefore, that the proportion of such

widows who are in the labor force has remained more or less constant at about 50 percent during the past 5 years, while the proportion receiving mother's benefits under old-age and survivors insurance has gone up steadily from 22 percent in June 1950 to 36 percent in June 1954. Undoubtedly, widows who could obtain employment and could leave their children believed that the difference between the income they could earn and the benefit amount more than offset the advantages of staying at home. It remains to be seen whether some will leave the labor market, at least temporarily, as a result of the rise in benefit amounts under the 1954 amendments.

Among widows under age 65 without children under age 18, employment is the most common and important source of income. Such widows are not eligible for old-age and survivors insurance benefits, aid to dependent children, or—unless they are widows of veterans whose deaths were service-connected—benefits under the veterans' programs. In June 1954 about 400,000 widows, or almost 1 in 7, received compensation from the Veterans Administration. About 1.6 million had some income from employment.

It may be assumed that a number of widows receive periodic payments under private insurance and annuity contracts—whether they have some income from employment and/or so-

⁴ Estimates of employment rates for children (based on Bureau of the Census data on the labor force for June 1954), applied under varying assumptions to the estimated number of orphans of working age, yield estimates of the number with earnings that vary from a low of 110,000 to a high of 280,000.

cial insurance or a related program or whether they have no income from any of the sources listed. Some probably have income from investments. Some of the widows without children under age 18 have to rely on general assistance for support, and some on the support of their adult children, as do older widows.

Age of the Population and Per Capita Income, by State, 1953 *

For every 100 persons aged 18-64 years in the continental United States in 1953, there were 72 persons dependent or potentially dependent—

* Prepared in the Division of Research and Statistics, Office of the Commissioner.

about four-fifths of them children under age 18, and the others aged 65 and over. In the 12 States with the lowest per capita incomes in 1953 there were 83 children and aged persons to every 100 adults of working age, or 25 percent more than in the 12 highest income States, where the ratio was 66 to 100.¹

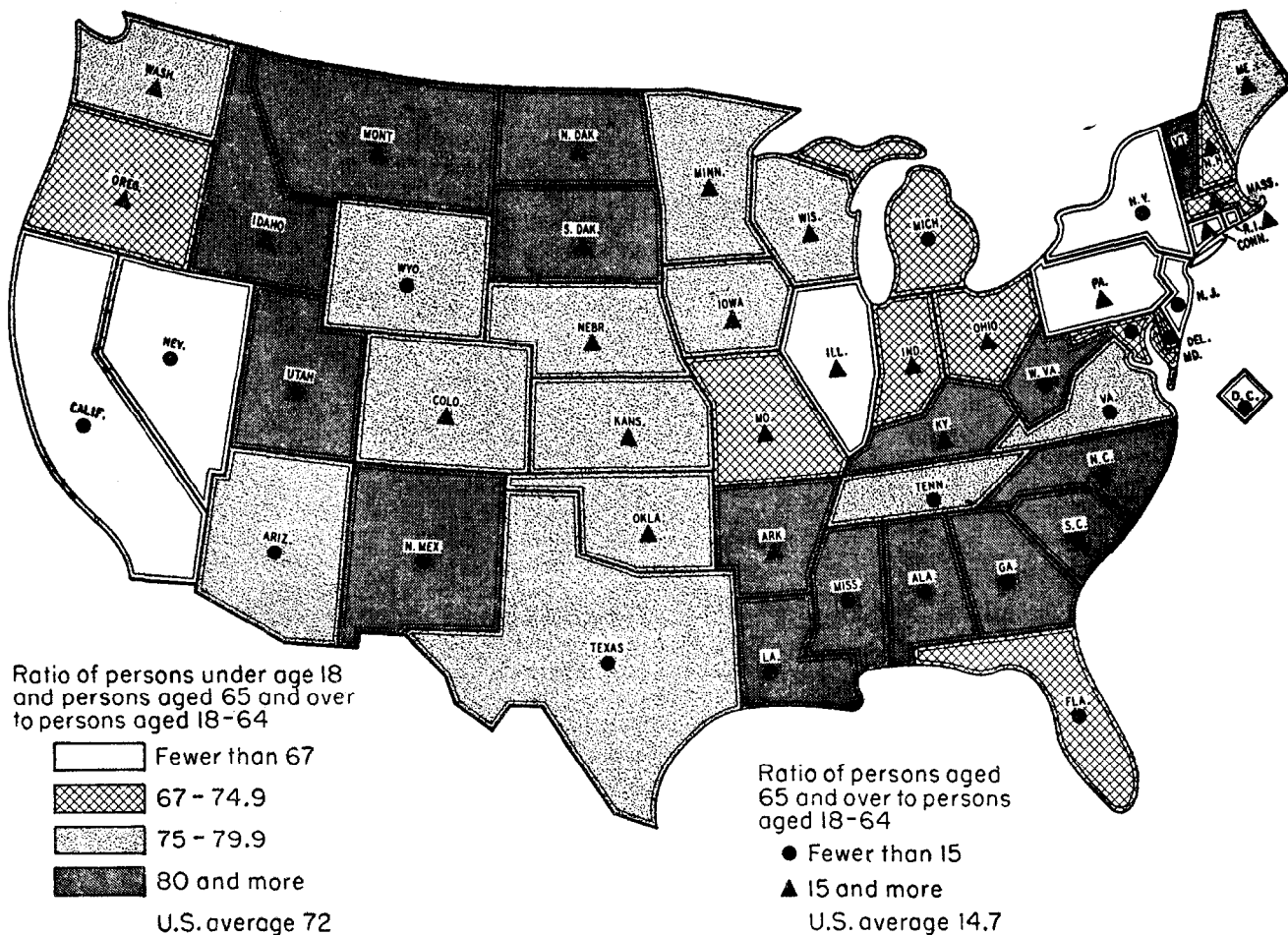
Proportion of children and aged in the population.—Children under age 18 were most numerous (41-43 percent) in relation to the total popu-

¹ Population estimates relate to July 1, 1953. They exclude persons in the Armed Forces, since State population estimates by age group are available only for the civilian population. Estimates of income payments by State are for the calendar year 1953 (*Survey of Current Business*, August 1954).

lation in the Southern agricultural States and the sparsely populated Mountain States, and they were relatively least numerous (28-30 percent) in the District of Columbia and in the densely populated, industrial States of New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Connecticut (table 1).

The proportion of the population aged 65 and over was largest (10-11 percent) in New England and the West North Central States, and smallest (5-6 percent) in those States where the child population was relatively large. As shown in chart 1, in the majority of the Northern and Middle Western States, the ratio of the population aged 65 and over to persons aged 18-64 exceeded the United States average.

Chart 1.—Ratio of young and old to persons aged 18-64, by State, 1953 ¹



¹ Number of persons under age 18 and number of persons aged 65 and over per 100 persons in the population aged 18-64.