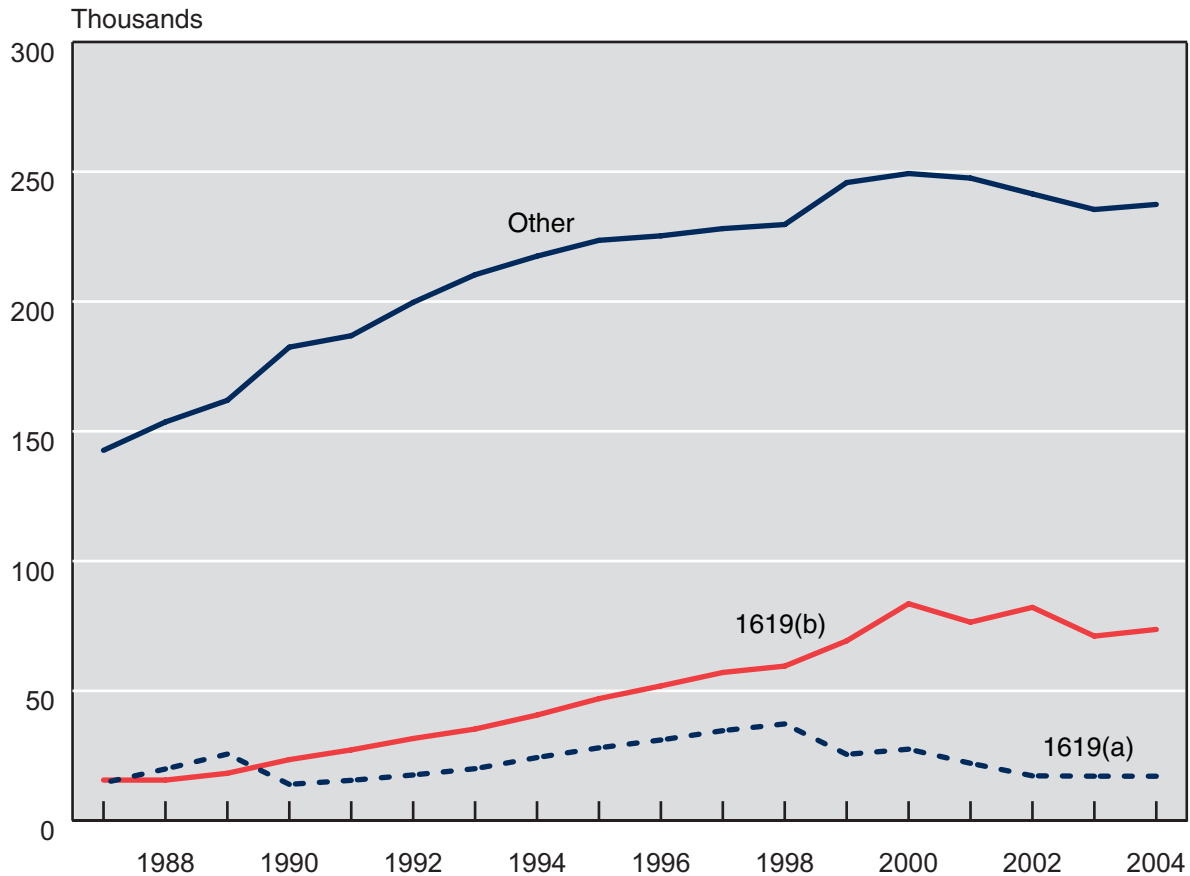


Chart 1.
Number who work, December 1987–2004

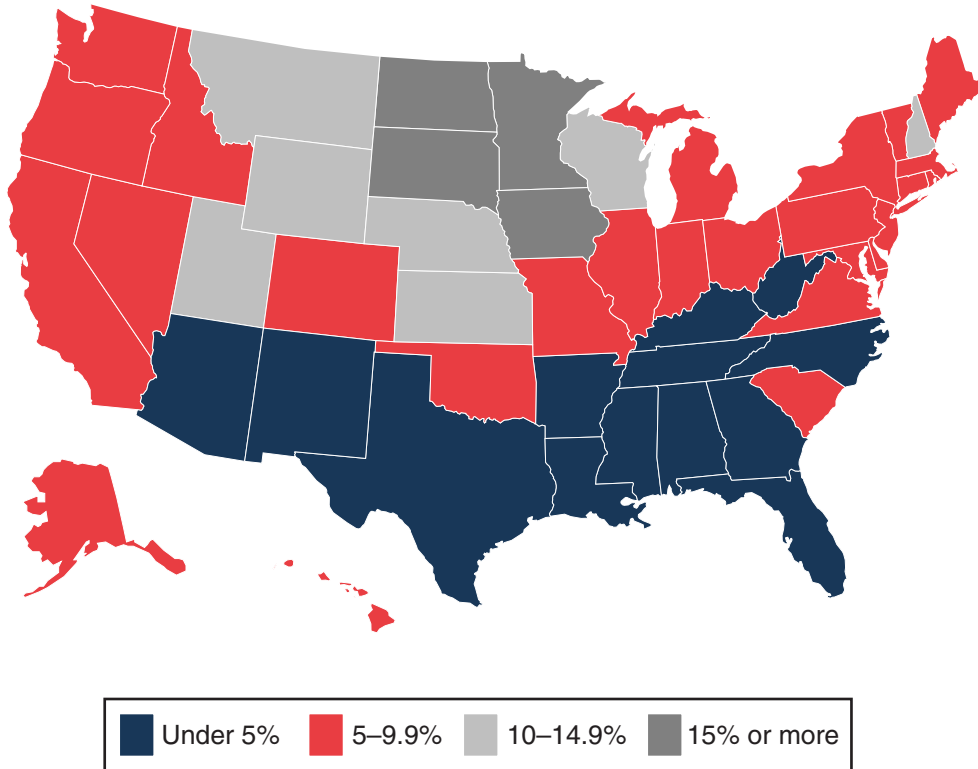
The number of blind and disabled recipients who work almost doubled between 1987 and 2004, from 173,000 to 328,000. Initially, the number of participants under sections 1619(a) and 1619(b) were approximately equal. However, participation under section 1619(b) gradually increased to five times the initial total, and it now exceeds participation under section 1619(a) by more than four to one. The number of working recipients not participating under either of these provisions has increased by more than 65 percent.



SOURCE: Tables 1 and 9.

Chart 2.
Percentage who work, by state, December 2004

In 13 states, mostly in the South and Southeast, less than 5 percent of blind and disabled recipients were working in December 2004. The highest employment rates, 15 percent or more, were in the upper Midwest: Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.



SOURCE: Table 2.

Table 1.
Number and percentage who work, selected months, 1976–2004

| Month | All blind and disabled recipients ^a | Recipients who work | | | Total as a percentage of all blind and disabled recipients |
|-----------|--|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | | Total | Receiving SSI ^b | Section 1619(b) participants | |
| December | | | | | |
| 1976 | 2,088,242 | 70,719 | 70,719 | ... | 3.4 |
| 1977 | 2,186,771 | 83,697 | 83,697 | ... | 3.8 |
| 1978 | 2,249,025 | 87,697 | 87,697 | ... | 3.9 |
| 1979 | 2,277,859 | 92,270 | 92,270 | ... | 4.1 |
| 1980 | 2,334,241 | 99,276 | 99,276 | ... | 4.3 |
| 1981 | 2,340,785 | 102,632 | 102,632 | ... | 4.4 |
| 1982 | 2,314,364 | 107,803 | 102,288 | 5,515 | 4.7 |
| 1983 | 2,391,262 | 113,899 | 108,734 | 5,165 | 4.8 |
| 1984 | 2,499,046 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 1985 | 2,633,552 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 1986 | 2,795,756 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 1987 | 2,945,244 | 172,855 | 157,223 | 15,632 | 5.9 |
| 1988 | 3,046,074 | 189,144 | 173,519 | 15,625 | 6.2 |
| 1989 | 3,172,270 | 205,837 | 187,583 | 18,254 | 6.5 |
| 1990 | 3,386,603 | 219,932 | 196,415 | 23,517 | 6.5 |
| 1991 | 3,681,050 | 229,619 | 202,355 | 27,264 | 6.2 |
| 1992 | 4,126,816 | 248,917 | 217,268 | 31,649 | 6.0 |
| 1993 | 4,544,777 | 265,649 | 230,350 | 35,299 | 5.8 |
| 1994 | 4,870,564 | 282,476 | 241,793 | 40,683 | 5.8 |
| 1995 | 5,115,014 | 298,635 | 251,633 | 47,002 | 5.8 |
| 1996 | 5,252,991 | 308,300 | 256,395 | 51,905 | 5.9 |
| 1997 | 5,189,724 | 319,855 | 262,766 | 57,089 | 6.2 |
| 1998 | 5,293,829 | 326,475 | 266,933 | 59,542 | 6.2 |
| 1999 | 5,317,861 | 340,618 | 271,353 | 69,265 | 6.4 |
| 2000 | 5,395,935 | 360,427 | 276,855 | 83,572 | 6.7 |
| 2001 | 5,500,481 | 346,110 | 269,655 | 76,455 | 6.3 |
| 2002 | 5,618,506 | 340,910 | 258,733 | 82,177 | 6.1 |
| 2003 | 5,740,683 | 323,682 | 252,585 | 71,097 | 5.6 |
| 2004 | 5,850,359 | 328,204 | 254,523 | 73,681 | 5.6 |
| 2002 | | | | | |
| March | 5,538,532 | 339,430 | 266,835 | 72,595 | 6.1 |
| June | 5,573,711 | 342,946 | 265,597 | 77,349 | 6.2 |
| September | 5,620,838 | 348,244 | 265,871 | 82,373 | 6.2 |
| December | 5,618,506 | 340,910 | 258,733 | 82,177 | 6.1 |
| 2003 | | | | | |
| March | 5,657,353 | 334,378 | 259,820 | 74,558 | 5.9 |
| June | 5,705,871 | 329,740 | 257,724 | 72,016 | 5.8 |
| September | 5,749,384 | 329,195 | 255,619 | 73,576 | 5.7 |
| December | 5,740,683 | 323,682 | 252,585 | 71,097 | 5.6 |

(Continued)

Table 1.
Number and percentage who work, selected months, 1976–2004—Continued

| Month | All blind and disabled recipients ^a | Recipients who work | | | Total as a percentage of all blind and disabled recipients |
|-----------|--|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | | Total | Receiving SSI ^b | Section 1619(b) participants | |
| 2004 | | | | | |
| March | 5,796,837 | 321,030 | 251,498 | 69,532 | 5.5 |
| June | 5,834,265 | 323,624 | 250,726 | 72,898 | 5.5 |
| September | 5,869,004 | 328,831 | 253,174 | 75,657 | 5.6 |
| December | 5,850,359 | 328,204 | 254,523 | 73,681 | 5.6 |

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Extract Record format), 100 percent data.

NOTES: . . . = not applicable; -- = not available.

a. Includes section 1619(b) participants.

b. Includes section 1619(a) participants and SSI recipients earning less than the substantial gainful activity level (\$830 effective January 2005).

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Table 2.
Number and percentage who work, by state or other area, December 2004

| State or area | All blind and disabled recipients | Recipients who work | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| | | Number | Percentage of all blind and disabled recipients |
| All areas | 5,850,359 | 328,204 | 5.6 |
| Alabama | 144,687 | 3,850 | 2.7 |
| Alaska | 8,789 | 601 | 6.8 |
| Arizona | 82,175 | 3,555 | 4.3 |
| Arkansas | 78,316 | 3,611 | 4.6 |
| California | 841,885 | 43,491 | 5.2 |
| Colorado | 46,569 | 3,875 | 8.3 |
| Connecticut | 45,825 | 3,828 | 8.4 |
| Delaware | 12,405 | 834 | 6.7 |
| District of Columbia | 19,047 | 653 | 3.4 |
| Florida | 321,530 | 11,435 | 3.6 |
| Georgia | 173,247 | 7,010 | 4.0 |
| Hawaii | 15,944 | 799 | 5.0 |
| Idaho | 19,740 | 1,715 | 8.7 |
| Illinois | 227,977 | 13,370 | 5.9 |
| Indiana | 91,519 | 5,721 | 6.3 |
| Iowa | 40,343 | 6,614 | 16.4 |
| Kansas | 36,013 | 4,017 | 11.2 |
| Kentucky | 165,707 | 4,681 | 2.8 |
| Louisiana | 151,409 | 5,505 | 3.6 |
| Maine | 29,714 | 2,210 | 7.4 |
| Maryland | 78,638 | 5,689 | 7.2 |
| Massachusetts | 127,912 | 9,610 | 7.5 |
| Michigan | 205,330 | 13,992 | 6.8 |
| Minnesota | 63,030 | 9,679 | 15.4 |
| Mississippi | 109,624 | 3,081 | 2.8 |
| Missouri | 107,842 | 7,157 | 6.6 |
| Montana | 13,768 | 1,738 | 12.6 |
| Nebraska | 20,589 | 2,981 | 14.5 |
| Nevada | 24,362 | 1,498 | 6.1 |
| New Hampshire | 12,465 | 1,257 | 10.1 |
| New Jersey | 118,456 | 7,594 | 6.4 |
| New Mexico | 43,619 | 2,110 | 4.8 |
| New York | 501,231 | 30,114 | 6.0 |
| North Carolina | 170,726 | 7,772 | 4.6 |
| North Dakota | 7,237 | 1,358 | 18.8 |
| Ohio | 233,052 | 16,741 | 7.2 |
| Oklahoma | 69,345 | 3,731 | 5.4 |
| Oregon | 52,222 | 3,885 | 7.4 |
| Pennsylvania | 288,759 | 15,083 | 5.2 |
| Rhode Island | 26,055 | 1,623 | 6.2 |
| South Carolina | 93,201 | 4,734 | 5.1 |
| South Dakota | 11,200 | 2,096 | 18.7 |
| Tennessee | 144,217 | 5,216 | 3.6 |
| Texas | 366,570 | 13,583 | 3.7 |
| Utah | 19,970 | 2,137 | 10.7 |

(Continued)

Table 2.
Number and percentage who work, by state or other area, December 2004—Continued

| State or area | All blind and disabled recipients | Recipients who work | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| | | Number | Percentage of all blind and disabled recipients |
| Vermont | 12,074 | 1,183 | 9.8 |
| Virginia | 114,810 | 6,451 | 5.6 |
| Washington | 99,341 | 5,721 | 5.8 |
| West Virginia | 72,026 | 2,069 | 2.9 |
| Wisconsin | 83,813 | 10,167 | 12.1 |
| Wyoming | 5,428 | 763 | 14.1 |
| Outlying area | | | |
| Northern Mariana Islands | 606 | 16 | 2.6 |

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Extract Record format), 100 percent data.

NOTE: Includes section 1619(b) participants.

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Table 3.
Percentage distribution of recipients and those who work aged 18–64, by diagnostic group,
December 2004

| Diagnostic group | All blind and disabled recipients | Recipients who work ^a |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Total | | |
| Number | 4,017,108 | 313,004 |
| Percent | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Congenital anomalies | 0.6 | 1.3 |
| Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases | 3.7 | 1.3 |
| Infectious and parasitic diseases | 1.7 | 1.0 |
| Injuries | 2.6 | 1.4 |
| Mental disorders | | |
| Retardation | 21.9 | 42.0 |
| Schizophrenia | 9.9 | 7.2 |
| Other | 25.3 | 16.3 |
| Neoplasms | 1.1 | 0.6 |
| Diseases of the— | | |
| Blood and blood-forming organs | 0.4 | 0.3 |
| Circulatory system | 4.5 | 1.2 |
| Digestive system | 0.9 | 0.3 |
| Genitourinary system | 1.0 | 0.6 |
| Musculoskeletal system and connective tissue | 9.9 | 3.3 |
| Nervous system and sense organs ^b | 7.8 | 8.8 |
| Respiratory system | 2.1 | 0.7 |
| Skin and subcutaneous tissue | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Other | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| Unknown | 6.2 | 13.4 |

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Extract Record format), 100 percent data.

NOTE: Effective with the December 2002 edition, all recipients in each recipient category are included when computing percentages for each diagnostic category. Previously, only recipients with identified diagnoses were included in this computation.

a. Includes section 1619(b) participants.

b. Most disabled recipients classified as blind are included in this category. A few blind recipients with a primary impairment other than diseases of the eye are coded in other categories. Also, a few recipients are classified with diseases of the eye, but their impairment does not meet the definition of blindness.

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Table 4.
Number and percentage of recipients, those who work, and section 1619(b) participants aged 18–64,
by age, December 2004

| Age | All blind and disabled recipients ^a | | Recipients who work | | Section 1619(b) participants | |
|-------|--|-------|---------------------|---|------------------------------|---|
| | | | Number | Percentage of all blind and disabled recipients | Number | Percentage of all blind and disabled recipients |
| Total | 4,088,304 | 100.0 | 313,005 | 7.7 | 71,195 | 1.7 |
| 18–21 | 272,114 | 6.7 | 30,392 | 11.2 | 2,867 | 1.1 |
| 22–29 | 504,572 | 12.3 | 75,465 | 15.0 | 17,801 | 3.5 |
| 30–39 | 696,602 | 17.0 | 77,329 | 11.1 | 20,246 | 2.9 |
| 40–49 | 1,056,428 | 25.8 | 72,536 | 6.9 | 18,175 | 1.7 |
| 50–59 | 1,074,642 | 26.3 | 44,483 | 4.1 | 9,431 | 0.9 |
| 60–64 | 483,946 | 11.8 | 12,800 | 2.6 | 2,675 | 0.6 |

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Extract Record format), 100 percent data.

a. Includes section 1619(b) participants.

CONTACT: Clark Pickett (410) 965-9016 or ssi.workers@ssa.gov.

Table 5.
Number in December 2003, by program status and earnings in December 2004

| Program status in December 2003 | Total | Receiving payments in December 2004 | | | Not receiving payments in December 2004 | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|--|------------------|----------------|--|--|------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------|---------------------------|
| | | | | | | | | Ineligible because of earned income | | | Other excess income |
| | | Section 1619(a) | Have earnings | No earnings | | | | Section 1619(b) | Reasons no longer eligible | | |
| | | | | | Does not need or use Medicaid | Can pay for equivalent coverage | Both | | | | |
| All blind and disabled recipients | 5,676,848 | 16,242 | 223,887 | 4,909,518 | 69,256 | 683 | 161 | 340 | 119,846 | 336,915 | |
| Receiving payments | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Section 1619(a) | 17,643 | 6,216 | 3,017 | 3,842 | 2,260 | 40 | 10 | 13 | 626 | 1,619 | |
| Have earnings | 237,204 | 2,694 | 171,618 | 38,214 | 7,787 | 74 | 5 | 25 | 6,224 | 10,563 | |
| No earnings | 5,350,729 | 5,294 | 44,669 | 4,856,578 | 17,591 | 198 | 32 | 92 | 107,121 | 319,154 | |
| Not receiving payments | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Section 1619(b) | 71,272 | 2,038 | 4,583 | 10,884 | 41,618 | 371 | 114 | 210 | 5,875 | 5,579 | |

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Extract Record format), 100 percent data.

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