

# SECTION 9

## Importance of Social Security Relative to Total Income (Beneficiary Aged Units and Aged Persons in Beneficiary Families Only)





## Key Terms and Concepts for Section 9 <sup>1</sup>

**Age.** Age classification is based on the age of the person at his or her last birthday as of March 2009. A married couple's age is defined as the age of the husband—unless he is under age 55 and the wife is 55 or older, in which case it is the age of the wife.

**Aged unit.** With age 55 as the cutoff, aged units are defined as married couples living together—at least one of whom is 55 or older—and non-married persons 55 or older.

**Marital status.** Married persons are married and living with their spouse. Nonmarried persons may be divorced, widowed, never married, separated, or married but living apart from their spouse.

**Race.** The categories White alone, Black alone, and Asian alone reflect respondents who reported only one race. Because of changes to the race category, data on race are not directly

comparable to editions prior to 2002. A person's race is his or her reported race. A married couple's race is defined as the race of the husband.

**Hispanic origin.** Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. A married couple is of Hispanic origin if the husband is of Hispanic origin.

**Family.** A family is a group of two or more people (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such people (including related sub-family members) are considered as members of one family.

**Social Security beneficiary.** A beneficiary may be receiving retired-worker benefits, dependents' or survivor benefits, disability benefits, or transitionally insured benefits.

**Per capita income.** Per capita income is total family income divided by the number of persons in the family.

**Relative Importance of Income Source.** The relative importance of a source is the ratio of the amount of income from a given source to total income for an aged unit or family. These tables are distributions of persons or aged units by the importance of a given source at the individual unit level.

**Poverty.** The Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to detect who is poor. If a family's total income is less than that family's threshold, then that family, and every individual in it, is considered poor. The poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated annually for inflation with the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). The official poverty definition counts money income before taxes and excludes capital gains and noncash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps).

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, consult the Glossary at the front of this publication.

## Relative Importance of Social Security for Beneficiary Aged Units

**Table 9.A1**  
**Percentage distribution of beneficiary units, by age, 2008**

Proportion of income	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older					
			Total	65–69	70–74	75–79	80 or older	
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1–19	19.7	25.2	10.2	17.5	10.0	7.7	6.0	
20–39	17.8	22.2	16.7	22.7	18.6	14.8	11.7	
40–59	13.8	13.5	17.0	17.6	18.4	16.8	15.7	
60–79	10.1	9.6	15.1	12.1	15.1	16.9	16.5	
80 or more	38.6	29.7	40.9	30.2	37.9	43.8	50.1	
50 or more	55.9	44.9	63.9	50.3	61.4	68.4	74.0	
90 or more	35.2	26.3	34.2	25.3	31.5	36.5	42.1	
100	28.4	17.8	22.2	16.3	20.9	23.5	27.0	
Mean proportion	59.4	51.2	64.8	55.0	63.2	67.9	72.2	
Number (thousands)	2,225	2,460	25,053	6,595	5,481	5,104	7,873	

NOTES: Units with zero total income or with negative total income, earnings, or income from assets are excluded.

The relative importance of a source of income may not accurately reflect the resources available to elderly persons or elderly aged units. The survey on which these data are based does not include some potentially important resources as income, including lump-sum pension payments and capital gains. In addition, these statistics do not take into consideration noncash benefits that supplement money income (housing and energy subsidies or food stamps) or the amount of savings available to supplement monthly income. Consult the Frequently Asked Questions for further information.

Relative Importance of Social Security for Beneficiary Aged Units

**Table 9.A2**  
**Percentage distribution of beneficiary units, by marital status and age, 2008**

Proportion of income	Married couples							Nonmarried persons						
	55-61	62-64	65 or older					55-61	62-64	65 or older				
			Total	65-69	70-74	75-79	80 or older			Total	65-69	70-74	75-79	80 or older
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1-19	31.0	37.4	15.4	23.7	13.2	10.4	8.9	7.5	11.1	6.6	10.1	7.2	5.8	4.9
20-39	28.2	29.7	22.7	27.7	24.4	19.9	15.1	6.7	13.4	12.5	16.7	13.1	11.4	10.4
40-59	15.5	11.1	19.2	18.3	20.6	18.6	19.4	11.8	16.2	15.5	16.7	16.4	15.6	14.4
60-79	7.7	7.9	15.8	11.4	15.1	18.0	21.9	12.7	11.4	14.7	13.0	15.2	16.2	14.5
80 or more	17.5	13.8	26.9	18.9	26.7	33.1	34.6	61.3	47.8	50.8	43.5	48.1	50.9	55.8
50 or more	33.2	26.1	51.6	38.5	51.2	59.8	66.0	80.3	66.5	72.6	64.1	70.9	74.1	77.1
90 or more	14.7	11.7	21.3	15.0	22.1	26.2	26.3	57.1	43.0	43.4	37.3	40.2	43.5	48.0
100	10.7	6.9	11.6	8.4	12.0	13.4	14.5	47.4	30.4	29.7	25.7	29.0	30.4	31.7
Mean proportion	41.9	36.7	54.9	45.8	55.5	60.5	63.9	78.3	67.9	71.8	65.8	70.2	72.9	75.3
Number (thousands)	1,152	1,315	10,385	3,567	2,627	2,050	2,141	1,073	1,145	14,667	3,028	2,854	3,054	5,732

NOTES: Units with zero total income or with negative total income, earnings, or income from assets are excluded.

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## Relative Importance of Social Security for Beneficiary Units 65 or Older

**Table 9.A3**

**Percentage distribution of beneficiary units, by race, Hispanic origin, and marital status, 2008**

Proportion of income	White alone			Black alone			Asian alone			Hispanic origin		
	All units	Married couples	Nonmarried persons	All units	Married couples	Nonmarried persons	All units	Married couples	Nonmarried persons	All units	Married couples	Nonmarried persons
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1–19	10.6	15.5	7.0	7.2	13.9	4.7	9.2	14.0	4.6	6.0	11.6	2.4
20–39	17.1	22.8	12.9	12.8	21.3	9.7	17.2	26.9	7.9	12.9	19.1	8.9
40–59	17.4	19.3	15.9	15.3	18.8	14.0	11.8	13.4	10.1	12.3	15.1	10.5
60–79	15.5	16.1	15.1	11.9	12.4	11.7	13.2	13.2	13.2	10.3	10.6	10.2
80 or more	39.4	26.3	49.2	53.0	33.7	59.9	48.6	32.4	64.2	58.6	43.6	68.1
50 or more	63.0	51.3	71.7	71.0	53.9	77.1	67.8	52.9	82.1	74.1	61.4	82.2
90 or more	32.5	20.6	41.5	47.2	28.2	54.1	44.1	28.5	59.1	52.8	37.7	62.5
100	20.1	10.6	27.1	39.5	22.8	45.6	29.3	17.0	41.1	44.2	29.0	54.0
Mean proportion	63.9	54.5	70.9	72.4	58.4	77.5	68.9	57.3	80.0	75.4	64.6	82.3
Number (thousands)	21,832	9,349	12,483	2,237	594	1,643	636	312	324	1,573	615	958

NOTES: Units with zero total income or with negative total income, earnings, or income from assets are excluded.

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Relative Importance of Social Security for Beneficiary Units 65 or Older

**Table 9.A4**  
**Percentage distribution of beneficiary units, by marital status and quintile of total money income, 2008**

Proportion of income	All units					Married couples					Nonmarried persons				
	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1-19	0.7	0.9	2.5	7.8	40.3	0.9	1.5	4.6	17.6	55.4	1.1	0.4	1.2	4.3	26.8
20-39	1.4	2.7	8.1	28.0	43.2	2.9	6.5	19.5	46.9	38.7	1.6	1.6	3.1	11.8	44.8
40-59	3.0	6.8	25.0	35.2	12.5	5.3	15.1	40.2	28.5	3.9	3.1	3.1	8.7	38.9	21.4
60-79	7.2	16.9	26.1	20.6	2.0	12.0	30.1	28.8	4.3	0.8	6.7	9.2	23.5	27.2	3.3
80 or more	87.7	72.7	38.3	8.4	2.0	78.8	46.8	6.9	2.7	1.2	87.6	85.7	63.4	17.8	3.7
50 or more	96.5	93.8	78.3	43.6	7.5	94.5	85.9	56.8	15.2	2.9	95.8	96.8	92.3	65.3	12.0
90 or more	80.7	61.7	28.1	4.9	1.1	71.4	31.7	3.8	1.6	0.9	80.3	77.8	50.5	10.6	2.8
100	62.7	37.7	13.9	1.8	0.4	43.6	14.1	1.3	0.6	0.3	63.3	55.3	28.3	5.9	1.6
Mean proportion	93.4	86.9	69.9	49.0	26.3	89.2	75.2	53.0	35.7	20.3	92.9	92.7	83.2	59.0	32.5
Number (thousands)	4,202	5,466	5,357	5,190	4,839	1,920	2,250	2,175	2,100	1,940	2,255	3,229	3,221	3,130	2,833

NOTES: Units with zero total income or with negative total income, earnings, or income from assets are excluded.

Quintile limits are \$12,082, \$19,877, \$31,303, and \$55,889 for all units; \$23,637, \$35,794, \$53,180, and \$86,988 for married couples; and \$9,929, \$14,265, \$20,187, and \$32,937 for nonmarried persons.

The relative importance of a source of income may not accurately reflect the resources available to elderly persons or elderly aged units. The survey on which these data are based does not include some potentially important resources as income, including lump-sum pension payments and capital gains. In addition, these statistics do not take into consideration noncash benefits that supplement money income (housing and energy subsidies or food stamps) or the amount of savings available to supplement monthly income. Consult the Frequently Asked Questions for further information.

## Relative Importance of Social Security for Persons in Beneficiary Families

**Table 9.B1**  
**Percentage distribution of persons in beneficiary families, by sex and age, 2008**

Proportion of family income	All persons			Men			Women		
	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older	55–61	62–64	65 or older	55–61	62–64	65 or older
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1–19	32.1	30.4	15.1	32.8	35.3	17.0	31.7	27.2	13.7
20–39	27.3	26.1	20.4	24.6	25.7	22.7	29.0	26.4	18.6
40–59	14.3	14.2	17.8	13.7	12.3	18.4	14.7	15.5	17.4
60–79	7.7	9.3	14.9	8.4	7.9	14.7	7.2	10.1	15.0
80 or more	18.5	20.0	31.8	20.5	18.8	27.2	17.3	20.8	35.3
50 or more	33.1	35.6	54.8	36.0	32.1	50.3	31.4	37.9	58.3
90 or more	15.8	16.8	25.7	17.3	16.3	21.4	14.9	17.1	28.9
100	11.2	10.8	15.4	13.6	11.1	12.4	9.7	10.7	17.6
Mean proportion	42.0	43.5	57.7	43.4	40.8	54.2	41.1	45.3	60.3
Number (thousands)	5,240	4,343	33,283	1,980	1,721	14,276	3,260	2,622	19,007

NOTES: Persons in families with zero total income or with negative total income, earnings, or income from assets are excluded.

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**Relative Importance of Social Security for Persons 65 or Older in Beneficiary Families**

**Table 9.B2**  
**Percentage distribution of persons in beneficiary families, by sex and age, 2008**

Proportion of family income	All persons				Men				Women			
	65-69	70-74	75-79	80 or older	65-69	70-74	75-79	80 or older	65-69	70-74	75-79	80 or older
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1-19	21.4	13.9	12.0	11.6	23.8	15.5	12.4	13.4	19.3	12.6	11.8	10.6
20-39	24.4	22.2	18.9	15.6	26.5	24.5	20.6	17.5	22.5	20.4	17.7	14.4
40-59	18.2	19.0	17.9	16.3	17.3	19.9	18.3	18.3	18.9	18.4	17.5	15.2
60-79	12.4	15.3	16.8	15.8	10.7	14.6	16.8	18.6	13.9	15.9	16.8	14.2
80 or more	23.6	29.5	34.3	40.6	21.7	25.5	31.9	32.3	25.4	32.7	36.1	45.5
50 or more	44.0	53.7	59.2	64.2	39.9	49.1	57.0	59.8	47.5	57.4	60.9	66.8
90 or more	19.1	23.8	27.4	33.0	17.1	20.9	25.1	24.6	20.8	26.2	29.2	37.9
100	11.5	14.3	16.0	20.0	10.0	12.5	14.1	14.2	12.8	15.7	17.4	23.4
Mean proportion	49.9	56.8	60.7	64.5	47.2	53.8	59.0	59.8	52.4	59.2	61.9	67.2
Number (thousands)	9,742	7,683	6,655	9,203	4,580	3,394	2,876	3,427	5,163	4,289	3,779	5,776

NOTES: Persons in families with zero total income or with negative total income, earnings, or income from assets are excluded.

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## Relative Importance of Social Security for Persons 65 or Older in Beneficiary Families

**Table 9.B3**

**Percentage distribution of persons in beneficiary families, by sex and marital status, 2008**

Proportion of family income	All persons					Men					Women				
	Married	Nonmarried				Married	Nonmarried				Married	Nonmarried			
		Total	Widowed	Divorced	Never married		Total	Widowed	Divorced	Never married		Total	Widowed	Divorced	Never married
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1-19	16.1	13.8	13.0	15.1	13.3	17.3	16.2	17.1	14.3	14.1	14.6	13.0	12.0	15.6	12.7
20-39	23.2	16.9	15.7	19.8	18.7	24.3	18.4	18.5	17.9	18.6	21.7	16.4	15.0	21.0	18.8
40-59	19.6	15.5	15.4	16.4	15.0	19.3	15.7	17.2	15.5	13.0	20.0	15.5	15.0	17.0	16.6
60-79	15.9	13.7	13.6	13.4	16.0	15.1	13.7	14.5	11.7	14.5	16.9	13.7	13.4	14.4	17.2
80 or more	25.2	40.1	42.3	35.3	36.9	23.9	36.0	32.6	40.5	39.9	26.9	41.5	44.6	32.0	34.7
50 or more	49.9	61.1	63.3	56.8	58.9	47.8	57.0	55.5	60.1	58.3	52.5	62.6	65.1	54.7	59.4
90 or more	19.6	33.2	35.0	28.8	31.6	18.6	28.9	26.1	32.1	33.3	20.9	34.8	37.1	26.8	30.4
100	10.3	21.7	22.7	18.1	22.0	9.8	19.3	18.2	20.6	20.3	11.0	22.5	23.8	16.6	23.2
Mean proportion	53.6	62.7	64.4	59.3	61.5	52.2	59.5	58.0	62.1	61.8	55.5	63.9	65.9	57.5	61.2
Number (thousands)	18,484	14,799	9,852	3,052	1,220	10,379	3,897	1,890	1,184	520	8,106	10,901	7,962	1,868	700

NOTES: Persons in families with zero total income or with negative total income, earnings, or income from assets are excluded.

The relative importance of a source of income may not accurately reflect the resources available to elderly persons or elderly aged units. The survey on which these data are based does not include some potentially important resources as income, including lump-sum pension payments and capital gains. In addition, these statistics do not take into consideration noncash benefits that supplement money income (housing and energy subsidies or food stamps) or the amount of savings available to supplement monthly income. Consult the Frequently Asked Questions for further information.

**Relative Importance of Social Security for Persons 65 or Older in Beneficiary Families**

**Table 9.B4**  
**Percentage distribution of persons in beneficiary families, by race, Hispanic origin, and sex, 2008**

Proportion of family income	White alone			Black alone			Asian alone			Hispanic origin		
	All persons	Men	Women	All persons	Men	Women	All persons	Men	Women	All persons	Men	Women
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1-19	14.9	17.2	13.1	13.9	12.5	14.8	26.5	23.8	28.5	17.0	17.3	16.7
20-39	20.3	22.8	18.4	18.5	19.1	18.2	28.2	30.1	26.7	20.2	22.1	18.8
40-59	18.1	18.5	17.8	16.1	18.4	14.7	12.0	12.0	12.0	14.6	15.4	13.9
60-79	15.2	14.8	15.5	12.6	14.2	11.6	10.2	11.3	9.4	11.1	10.2	11.9
80 or more	31.5	26.6	35.2	38.8	35.9	40.7	23.1	22.7	23.4	37.1	35.0	38.7
50 or more	55.0	50.1	58.8	58.2	57.2	58.8	38.8	38.8	38.8	55.1	51.8	57.6
90 or more	25.1	20.8	28.4	34.0	30.1	36.5	20.0	18.7	21.0	32.8	30.9	34.3
100	14.3	11.3	16.6	27.7	25.5	29.2	13.0	12.9	13.0	26.0	23.5	28.0
Mean proportion	57.6	53.8	60.6	62.0	61.0	62.6	46.5	47.3	46.0	59.2	57.4	60.6
Number (thousands)	29,240	12,624	16,616	2,694	1,058	1,635	896	390	506	2,097	917	1,179

NOTES: Persons in families with zero total income or with negative total income, earnings, or income from assets are excluded.

The relative importance of a source of income may not accurately reflect the resources available to elderly persons or elderly aged units. The survey on which these data are based does not include some potentially important resources as income, including lump-sum pension payments and capital gains. In addition, these statistics do not take into consideration noncash benefits that supplement money income (housing and energy subsidies or food stamps) or the amount of savings available to supplement monthly income. Consult the Frequently Asked Questions for further information.

## Relative Importance of Social Security for Persons 65 or Older in Beneficiary Families

**Table 9.B5**

**Percentage distribution of persons in beneficiary families, by race, Hispanic origin, sex, and marital status, 2008**

Proportion of family income	White alone				Black alone				Asian alone				Hispanic origin			
	Men		Women		Men		Women		Men		Women		Men		Women	
	Married	Non-married	Married	Non-married	Married	Non-married	Married	Non-married	Married	Non-married	Married	Non-married	Married	Non-married	Married	Non-married
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1-19	17.1	17.6	14.4	12.0	17.5	6.2	12.9	15.5	23.9	23.4	20.8	36.0	18.3	15.5	14.9	18.0
20-39	24.2	18.9	21.3	16.2	22.9	14.2	22.6	16.6	34.5	13.5	33.5	20.1	21.4	23.4	18.2	19.2
40-59	19.4	15.9	20.1	16.0	20.5	15.7	19.6	13.0	12.3	10.8	15.2	8.8	16.8	12.6	17.0	11.7
60-79	15.4	13.2	17.3	14.1	12.9	15.8	11.2	11.7	10.0	16.6	11.0	7.8	10.6	9.4	13.3	10.9
80 or more	23.9	34.4	26.8	41.8	26.3	48.1	33.8	43.1	19.3	35.8	19.5	27.3	33.0	39.1	36.5	40.2
50 or more	48.3	55.2	52.9	63.5	47.1	70.2	53.2	60.8	34.5	55.3	37.9	39.6	52.0	51.2	58.0	57.4
90 or more	18.4	27.4	20.6	34.6	22.4	39.9	29.4	38.9	17.0	25.1	17.3	24.7	28.9	34.8	32.2	35.9
100	9.3	16.9	10.3	21.6	18.4	34.6	23.9	31.1	10.5	22.2	9.5	16.4	22.0	26.4	25.1	30.1
Mean proportion	52.3	58.0	55.7	64.4	53.5	70.5	59.0	63.8	44.5	57.9	45.9	46.1	56.3	59.7	60.3	60.7
Number (thousands)	9,346	3,278	7,331	9,285	594	465	425	1,211	309	81	250	256	609	309	497	682

NOTES: Persons in families with zero total income or with negative total income, earnings, or income from assets are excluded.

The relative importance of a source of income may not accurately reflect the resources available to elderly persons or elderly aged units. The survey on which these data are based does not include some potentially important resources as income, including lump-sum pension payments and capital gains. In addition, these statistics do not take into consideration noncash benefits that supplement money income (housing and energy subsidies or food stamps) or the amount of savings available to supplement monthly income. Consult the Frequently Asked Questions for further information.

**Relative Importance of Social Security for Persons 65 or Older in Beneficiary Families**

**Table 9.B6**

**Percentage distribution of persons in beneficiary families, by quintile of per-capita total family money income, 2008**

Proportion of family income	Total	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1–19	15.1	2.7	3.3	7.2	16.5	46.7
20–39	20.4	5.9	7.2	15.2	31.3	42.4
40–59	17.8	8.3	10.6	23.9	36.9	7.7
60–79	14.9	11.5	18.8	30.7	10.3	1.4
80 or more	31.8	71.7	60.1	22.9	4.9	1.7
50 or more	54.8	88.3	85.1	65.5	30.2	4.9
90 or more	25.7	64.1	49.1	13.8	3.0	1.2
100	15.4	44.4	27.3	5.8	1.4	0.6
Mean proportion	57.7	84.5	79.2	60.1	41.3	23.7
Number (thousands)	33,283	5,965	7,074	7,040	6,774	6,430

NOTES: Persons in families with zero total income or with negative total income, earnings, or income from assets are excluded.

Per-capita family total money income quintile limits are \$11,057, \$16,072, \$23,357, and \$37,605.

The relative importance of a source of income may not accurately reflect the resources available to elderly persons or elderly aged units. The survey on which these data are based does not include some potentially important resources as income, including lump-sum pension payments and capital gains. In addition, these statistics do not take into consideration noncash benefits that supplement money income (housing and energy subsidies or food stamps) or the amount of savings available to supplement monthly income. Consult the Frequently Asked Questions for further information.

## Relative Importance of Social Security for Persons 65 or Older in Beneficiary Families

**Table 9.B7**

**Percentage distribution of persons in beneficiary families, by number of persons in family and quintile of per-capita family total money income, 2008**

Proportion of family income	Total	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth
<i>Persons in 1-person families</i>						
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1–19	7.3	0.7	0.7	1.9	6.0	32.9
20–39	13.2	1.7	2.1	3.9	17.4	49.8
40–59	16.3	3.9	4.5	16.4	46.7	12.7
60–79	15.2	8.5	11.7	32.5	19.2	1.6
80 or more	48.0	85.3	81.0	45.3	10.7	3.1
50 or more	70.8	95.8	96.1	86.8	51.5	6.9
90 or more	40.1	77.4	70.9	31.3	6.3	2.3
100	26.0	58.6	45.1	14.8	3.1	1.6
Mean proportion	70.1	92.2	90.4	75.3	52.4	28.6
Number (thousands)	10,997	2,072	2,692	2,307	2,107	1,819
<i>Persons in 2-person families</i>						
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1–19	14.8	1.2	1.0	3.1	12.5	48.7
20–39	22.8	2.7	6.5	16.8	38.4	42.0
40–59	18.8	6.4	11.4	29.2	38.7	6.4
60–79	16.2	12.3	24.8	36.2	7.4	1.5
80 or more	27.4	77.4	56.2	14.7	2.9	1.4
50 or more	52.2	93.9	87.7	66.7	24.8	4.5
90 or more	21.3	69.4	42.3	6.6	1.9	0.8
100	11.5	44.5	19.3	1.7	0.9	0.3
Mean proportion	55.4	88.5	78.9	58.6	40.1	22.8
Number (thousands)	17,918	2,825	3,580	3,684	3,738	4,092

(Continued)

**Relative Importance of Social Security for Persons 65 or Older in Beneficiary Families**

**Table 9.B7**

**Percentage distribution of persons in beneficiary families, by number of persons in family and quintile of per-capita family total money income, 2008—*Continued***

Proportion of family income	Total	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth
<i>Persons in families of 3 or more</i>						
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1–19	36.2	10.4	22.4	33.6	56.3	79.5
20–39	28.4	22.3	27.3	34.6	34.5	19.4
40–59	17.3	21.9	27.0	22.0	7.6	1.1
60–79	8.7	15.1	15.7	7.4	1.5	0
80 or more	9.4	30.4	7.6	2.4	0.1	0
50 or more	25.4	59.0	36.3	14.5	3.7	0.2
90 or more	7.2	24.2	6.2	0.6	0.1	0
100	4.7	16.4	3.2	0.4	0	0
Mean proportion	35.9	59.0	42.6	31.7	20.9	13.4
Number (thousands)	4,368	1,068	802	1,049	929	519

NOTES: Persons in families with zero total income or with negative total income, earnings, or income from assets are excluded.

Per-capita family total money income quintile limits are \$11,057, \$16,072, \$23,357, and \$37,605.

The relative importance of a source of income may not accurately reflect the resources available to elderly persons or elderly aged units. The survey on which these data are based does not include some potentially important resources as income, including lump-sum pension payments and capital gains. In addition, these statistics do not take into consideration noncash benefits that supplement money income (housing and energy subsidies or food stamps) or the amount of savings available to supplement monthly income. Consult the Frequently Asked Questions for further information.

## Relative Importance of Social Security for Persons 65 or Older in Beneficiary Families

**Table 9.B8**

**Percentage distribution of persons in beneficiary families, by sex and ratio of family total money income to the poverty threshold, 2008**

Proportion of family income	All persons					Men					Women				
	Under 1.00	1.00–1.24	1.25–1.49	1.50–1.99	2.00 or more	Under 1.00	1.00–1.24	1.25–1.49	1.50–1.99	2.00 or more	Under 1.00	1.00–1.24	1.25–1.49	1.50–1.99	2.00 or more
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1–19	0.9	1.6	1.2	2.1	22.6	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.9	23.1	0.7	1.8	1.1	2.3	22.1
20–39	3.1	3.3	4.6	5.7	29.2	3.2	3.0	4.5	5.8	29.8	3.1	3.4	4.7	5.7	28.6
40–59	5.9	6.0	7.5	10.1	23.3	5.1	7.0	6.7	9.5	22.5	6.2	5.6	7.9	10.4	24.0
60–79	8.9	11.0	12.8	21.0	14.9	7.7	13.0	13.0	18.3	14.8	9.3	10.2	12.7	22.8	15.0
80 or more	81.1	78.1	73.9	61.1	10.1	82.5	75.9	74.4	64.5	9.8	80.6	79.1	73.7	58.9	10.3
50 or more	93.6	92.9	92.1	88.1	34.9	93.7	93.6	92.4	88.8	34.3	93.5	92.5	91.9	87.6	35.4
90 or more	73.8	70.3	63.8	49.2	5.9	76.0	68.7	67.1	51.3	5.6	73.0	71.0	62.2	47.8	6.3
100	56.2	46.4	40.9	23.9	2.6	57.7	47.5	45.2	24.2	2.3	55.6	46.0	38.8	23.7	2.9
Mean proportion	89.9	88.6	86.5	80.5	42.4	90.4	88.5	87.4	81.5	41.9	89.8	88.6	86.1	79.9	42.9
Number (thousands)	2,589	2,167	2,391	4,701	21,435	720	680	776	1,845	10,254	1,870	1,487	1,615	2,856	11,180

NOTES: Persons in families with zero total income or with negative total income, earnings, or income from assets are excluded.

The family money income of aged persons is compared with the official poverty lines of families in 2008.

The relative importance of a source of income may not accurately reflect the resources available to elderly persons or elderly aged units. The survey on which these data are based does not include some potentially important resources as income, including lump-sum pension payments and capital gains. In addition, these statistics do not take into consideration noncash benefits that supplement money income (housing and energy subsidies or food stamps) or the amount of savings available to supplement monthly income. Consult the Frequently Asked Questions for further information.