

Notes and Brief Reports

Old-Age Benefits in Current-Payment Status, by Sex of Beneficiary and State, End of 1955

At the end of 1955, nearly 4½ million persons were receiving old-age benefits. Women made up more than a fourth of these beneficiaries, twice the proportion in the years 1940-49. The liberalized insured-status provision of the 1950 amendments resulted in an increasing proportion of female old-age beneficiaries, and the provision of the 1956 amendments that lowered the retirement age for women from 65 to 62 will bring a further increase.

The accompanying table shows the number and average monthly amount of old-age benefits in current-payment status at the end of 1955, by sex of beneficiary and State of residence. The table also shows, for each State as well as for the Nation, female old-age beneficiaries as a percent of all old-age beneficiaries at the end of 1952¹ and 1955—the only 2 years for which these data are available.

From 1952 to 1955 the proportion of old-age beneficiaries who were women increased from 22 percent to 27 percent. Gains ranging from 1 to 16 percentage points were registered in that period in all the States except Nevada. For beneficiaries living in Nevada, Alaska, or a foreign country, however, the percentage dropped from 1 to 3 points. At the end of 1955, the number of female old-age beneficiaries measured as a percentage of all old-age beneficiaries was highest in the District of Columbia (43 percent) and New Hampshire (39 percent) and was lowest in Nevada (8 percent) and foreign countries (10 percent).

The average old-age benefit in current-payment status has risen from \$22.60 at the end of 1940—the first

year monthly benefits were paid—to \$61.90 at the end of 1955. Average benefits paid to men exceeded those paid to women by 25-30 percent during the years 1940-49 and by 30-35

percent in recent years. At the end of 1955 the average old-age benefit was larger for men than for women in all States except North Dakota. The percentage by which the average for men exceeded that for women was highest in Alaska (118 percent), New Hampshire (54 percent), and Ohio

Estimated number and average monthly amount¹ of old-age benefits in current-payment status as of December 31, 1955, and percentage distribution by sex of beneficiary for 1952 and 1955, by State

[Distribution by sex based on 1-percent sample of female old-age beneficiaries; figures in italics may be unreliable because of the large probable sampling error]

Beneficiary's State of residence	Old-age beneficiaries, Dec. 31, 1955						Female old-age beneficiaries as percent of all old-age beneficiaries, Dec. 31, 1952	
	Total		Male		Female			
	Number	Average monthly amount	Number	Average monthly amount	Number	Average monthly amount		As percent of all old-age beneficiaries
Total.....	4,473,971	\$61.90	3,251,670	\$66.40	1,222,301	\$49.93	27	22
Alabama.....	51,609	53.73	42,939	55.54	8,670	44.77	17	10
Alaska.....	2,116	59.84	1,618	68.59	<i>498</i>	<i>31.43</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>27</i>
Arizona.....	19,019	60.83	14,136	65.08	4,883	48.54	26	19
Arkansas.....	37,828	50.67	30,554	51.69	7,274	46.37	19	11
California.....	389,864	61.56	263,508	67.46	126,356	49.26	32	28
Colorado.....	38,149	59.61	26,988	64.75	11,161	47.19	29	29
Connecticut.....	80,160	68.69	56,144	74.51	24,016	55.07	30	25
Delaware.....	10,500	62.41	7,611	67.14	2,889	50.54	28	22
District of Columbia.....	17,710	60.17	10,037	65.88	7,673	52.69	43	34
Florida.....	128,275	62.20	98,978	65.68	29,297	50.46	23	17
Georgia.....	54,133	53.04	39,485	55.92	14,648	45.28	27	22
Hawaii.....	9,355	58.73	7,960	59.39	1,395	54.94	15	7
Idaho.....	15,167	56.67	11,679	58.68	3,488	49.93	23	18
Illinois.....	276,930	65.11	192,726	71.26	84,204	51.04	30	25
Indiana.....	129,251	61.26	93,477	66.14	35,774	48.52	28	21
Iowa.....	74,656	57.00	54,726	60.66	19,930	48.81	27	26
Kansas.....	52,527	56.86	35,786	61.45	16,741	47.04	32	21
Kentucky.....	62,735	56.27	47,987	58.53	14,748	48.92	24	19
Louisiana.....	43,808	54.16	36,932	55.26	6,876	48.27	16	13
Maine.....	39,179	57.67	28,716	61.97	10,463	45.87	27	22
Maryland.....	60,837	60.67	40,907	66.24	19,930	49.24	33	25
Massachusetts.....	198,616	65.17	134,741	71.16	63,875	52.55	32	28
Michigan.....	185,743	67.18	145,086	72.06	40,657	49.76	22	18
Minnesota.....	85,315	60.13	62,595	64.22	22,720	48.85	27	23
Mississippi.....	28,496	49.27	21,022	50.68	7,474	45.32	26	22
Missouri.....	122,143	59.68	88,561	63.68	33,582	49.14	27	23
Montana.....	16,123	58.65	12,137	62.40	3,986	47.26	25	16
Nebraska.....	34,822	56.66	22,964	60.86	11,858	48.52	34	28
Nevada.....	4,920	60.29	4,521	60.64	<i>399</i>	<i>66.41</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>10</i>
New Hampshire.....	24,552	60.10	15,085	69.49	9,467	45.15	39	38
New Jersey.....	176,461	67.11	127,732	72.83	48,729	52.12	28	23
New Mexico.....	9,263	54.60	7,069	56.08	1,594	47.52	17	15
New York.....	538,179	64.45	368,775	69.87	169,404	52.63	31	27
North Carolina.....	58,878	54.41	42,834	57.57	16,044	45.95	27	19
North Dakota.....	9,173	52.90	6,184	52.17	2,989	54.41	33	17
Ohio.....	257,717	65.32	190,155	71.11	67,562	49.02	26	23
Oklahoma.....	47,461	55.38	37,795	57.80	9,666	45.92	20	14
Oregon.....	61,990	61.14	42,758	66.16	19,232	49.97	31	22
Pennsylvania.....	355,227	65.48	269,130	70.10	86,097	51.04	24	20
Puerto Rico.....	14,574	41.39	12,880	42.03	1,694	36.57	12	0
Rhode Island.....	33,342	64.14	22,181	70.48	11,161	51.54	33	31
South Carolina.....	27,630	54.24	20,854	57.72	6,776	43.54	25	14
South Dakota.....	13,480	54.87	10,690	58.13	2,790	42.35	21	17
Tennessee.....	57,957	53.44	41,714	55.74	16,243	47.54	28	18
Texas.....	136,397	55.40	109,292	57.88	27,105	45.36	20	13
Utah.....	14,804	61.46	11,815	65.07	2,989	47.21	20	14
Vermont.....	13,494	58.23	9,907	61.79	3,587	48.40	27	22
Virgin Islands.....	222	42.78	222	42.78	0	0	0
Virginia.....	66,151	56.86	50,406	59.29	15,745	49.06	24	17
Washington.....	89,006	62.18	62,798	67.52	26,208	49.38	29	25
West Virginia.....	49,781	60.94	40,613	64.18	9,168	46.62	18	13
Wisconsin.....	112,898	62.58	84,199	67.13	28,699	49.24	25	18
Wyoming.....	6,530	59.67	5,633	60.14	<i>897</i>	<i>56.74</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>11</i>
Foreign.....	28,818	63.61	25,928	64.56	2,890	55.15	10	11

¹ For persons receiving both an old-age benefit and a widow's, widower's, or parent's secondary benefit, the amount of the reduced secondary benefit is combined with the amount of the old-age benefit.

and Michigan (45 percent); it was lowest in Wyoming (6 percent), Nevada (7 percent), and Arkansas (11 percent). For men, average old-age benefits were highest in Connecticut (\$74.51), Michigan (\$72.06), and Illinois (\$71.26) and lowest in Puerto Rico (\$42.03), Mississippi (\$50.68), and Arkansas (\$51.69). For women, average benefits were highest in Wyoming (\$56.74), Nevada (\$56.41), and Connecticut (\$55.07) and lowest in Alaska (\$31.43), Puerto Rico (\$36.57), and South Dakota (\$42.35).

Expenditures for Hospital Care, 1953-55*

The civilian population of the United States is purchasing hospital care at a rate of about \$6 billion annually or about \$37.50 per capita. Hospital care is obtained in three ways—through the payment of taxes at all levels of government, through prepayment by the purchase of health insurance, and through direct payments at the time of receiving care. Articles and tables appearing in various issues of the BULLETIN present separately the public and the private components of the Nation's hospital bill. They do not, however, show the combined expenditures, nor do they show the extent of expenditures for the various types of hospitals so that the extent of public financing of nervous, mental, and tuberculosis institutions and of private financing of general hospital care is not evident. The following paragraphs describe the extent to which each form of financing of the three major types of hospital care was used for 1953-55.

During the calendar year 1955 public and private expenditures for hospital care in the United States amounted to \$6 billion—almost \$1 billion more than in 1953. When the net costs of purchasing insurance against hospital care¹ are added, the amount spent for hospital care

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¹ The term "net costs" is used to define the difference between the amounts paid as premiums and the amounts returned as hospital benefits.

Table 1.—Public and private expenditures for hospital care in the United States, 1953-55¹

[Amounts in millions]

Source of expenditure	1953	1954	1955	Percentage distribution		
				1953	1954	1955
Total.....	\$5,013	\$5,450	\$5,972	100.0	100.0	100.0
Public expenditures.....	2,187	2,401	2,613	43.6	44.1	43.8
Federal ²	736	778	822	14.7	14.3	13.8
State and local.....	1,451	1,623	1,791	28.9	29.8	30.0
In public hospitals.....	1,337	1,498	1,655	26.7	27.5	27.7
In private hospitals ³	114	125	136	2.3	2.3	2.3
Private expenditures.....	2,826	3,049	3,359	56.4	55.9	56.2
In publicly controlled hospitals.....	442	487	540	8.8	8.9	9.0
In private hospitals.....	2,385	2,562	2,819	47.6	47.0	47.2
Paid directly by consumers.....	1,537	1,606	1,680	30.7	29.5	28.1
Paid by hospitalization insurance.....	1,289	1,442	1,678	25.7	26.5	28.1

¹ Excludes the net cost of voluntary hospitalization insurance—\$284.3 million (1953), \$324.4 million (1954), and \$339.4 million (1955). Also excludes (because they cannot be identified) vendor payments for hospital care under the public assistance, vocational rehabilitation, and workmen's compensation programs.

² Estimated on calendar-year basis from fiscal-year

data; includes the following expenditures for Veterans Administration hospitals—\$667.6 million (1953), \$708.0 million (1954), and \$750.1 million (1955).

³ Includes payments of \$3.7 million (1953), \$5.7 million (1954), and \$6.3 million (1955) for hospital care under the California temporary disability insurance law.

equaled \$5.3 billion in 1953, \$5.8 billion in 1954, and \$6.3 billion in 1955 (table 1). Vendor payments for hospital care under the programs of public assistance, vocational rehabilitation, and workmen's compensation would make these totals slightly higher. The amounts spent for hospital care under these three programs cannot, however, be identified.

In each of the 3 years 1953-55, about 44 percent of the Nation's hospital bill was met through tax funds. Payments from State and local tax revenues met about 30 percent of the to-

tal, and Federal outlays accounted for about 14 percent. The percentage of the total hospital bill that was met by voluntary hospitalization insurance benefits rose from 26 percent in 1953 to 28 percent in 1955.

Care in publicly controlled institutions—whether it was financed from taxes or privately financed—accounted for about half the total expenditures each year. Privately controlled institutions—for the most part general hospitals—received the other half of the aggregate, amounting to nearly \$3 billion in 1955.

Table 2.—Public and private expenditures for general and special short- and long-term hospitals and for care in tuberculosis sanatoriums and in nervous and mental institutions, 1953-55¹

[Amounts in millions]

Type of hospital and source of payment	1953	1954	1955	Percentage distribution		
				1953	1954	1955
Total.....	\$5,013	\$5,450	\$5,972	100.0	100.0	100.0
General and special short- and long-term hospitals.....	3,688	3,954	4,308	73.6	72.6	72.1
Public expenditures.....	1,028	1,083	1,144	20.5	19.9	19.2
Federal.....	496	509	531	9.9	9.3	8.9
State and local.....	532	574	613	10.6	10.5	10.3
Private expenditures.....	2,660	2,871	3,164	53.1	52.7	53.0
Nervous and mental institutions.....	1,062	1,213	1,386	21.2	22.3	23.2
Public expenditures.....	932	1,072	1,228	18.6	19.7	20.6
Federal.....	188	212	238	3.8	3.9	4.0
State and local.....	744	860	990	14.8	15.8	16.6
Private expenditures.....	130	141	158	2.6	2.6	2.6
Tuberculosis sanatoriums.....	263	283	278	5.2	5.2	4.7
Public expenditures.....	227	246	241	4.5	4.5	4.0
Federal.....	52	57	52	1.0	1.0	.9
State and local.....	175	189	189	3.5	3.5	3.2
Private expenditures.....	36	37	37	.7	.7	.6

¹ See table 1 for exclusions and other details.