

dimension to the protection the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program provides. The early administration of these provisions required that the Bureau establish an effective working basis for a new and unique governmental relationship

with the States; that it bring into being an administrative framework and assemble the technical skills needed to handle the complex problem of disability evaluation; and that it establish policies and procedures that would lead to uniform treat-

ment of all applicants regardless of where they filed their claims. The period ahead will be one of refinement of basic policies and processes, of operational improvements, and of continuing evaluation of the program.

Notes and Brief Reports

Selected Sources of Money Income for Aged Persons*

The slow downward trend in the labor-force participation rate of aged men appears to be continuing. In June 1957, it is estimated, fewer than 4.2 million persons aged 65 and over received cash income from employment either as earners or as wives of earners. A large proportion of the earners worked part time or intermittently, and consequently many of them were also drawing retirement benefits.

The year ending June 30, 1957, saw a net increase of more than 1.2 million in the number of persons aged 65 and over receiving old-age and survivors insurance benefits. Since the total number of aged persons in the United States is estimated to have increased during the year by only about 350,000, the proportion of the aged benefiting under the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program increased almost one-sixth to 52 percent. In addition to the 7.8 million persons aged 65 and over with benefits in current-payment status in mid-1957, 1.8 million were eligible for but not receiving benefits. Thus, the number protected represented almost two-thirds of the entire population aged 65 and over—more than three-fourths of the men and more than half of the women.

More than 2.2 million aged persons were receiving benefits in June 1957 under the retirement programs for railroad workers and government employees, the pension and compensa-

tion programs for veterans, or the unemployment insurance programs. Certainly more than one-fifth but possibly a much larger proportion of these persons were also old-age and survivors insurance beneficiaries.

Despite the phenomenal growth in the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program, public assistance in mid-1957 still provided the main support for nearly 2 million aged persons—two-thirds of them women—and supplemented old-age and survivors insurance benefits for about 570,000 persons whose needs, as measured by State public assistance standards, exceeded their income.

Taken together, persons receiving income under one or both of the income-maintenance programs for the aged under the Social Security Act made up almost two-thirds of all the aged. The proportion was only slightly higher for men than for women, although men were much more likely than women to receive insurance benefits.

In previous *Notes* in this series, the number of persons receiving income

concurrently from both employment and social insurance programs and the number receiving benefits under more than one of the social insurance programs have been estimated. The data used were from various sources, but the primary reliance was on the findings of the 1951 nationwide sample survey of old-age and survivors insurance beneficiaries on the rolls in December 1950. Several factors relating to the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program make it no longer feasible to make even a rough estimate of these overlaps: the total number of aged persons receiving benefits under the program has tripled since 1951; today beneficiaries include persons from almost all types of employment, whereas in December 1950 only wage and salary workers in industry and commerce were eligible; and the retirement test has been substantially modified. Consequently, it is not possible to estimate the number of aged persons supported entirely from sources other than employment or a public income-maintenance program.

Field work has just been started on a cross-section sample survey of the resources of old-age and survivors insurance beneficiaries on the

Table 1.—Number of persons aged 65 and over receiving money income under one of the Social Security Administration programs and estimated number with income from employment, June 1957¹

[In thousands]

Selected sources of money income	Total	Male	Female
Total population aged 65 and over.....	14,870	6,830	8,040
Old-age, survivors, and disability insurance.....	7,810	3,980	3,830
Public assistance: ²			
Public assistance, no old-age, survivors, and disability insurance.....	1,980	650	1,330
Public assistance and old-age, survivors, and disability insurance.....	570	320	250
Employment ³	4,180	2,500	1,680
Earners.....	3,260	2,500	760
Earners' wives not themselves employed.....	920		920

¹ Continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

² Old-age assistance recipients and persons aged 65 and over receiving aid to the blind. Includes 16,600 persons receiving vendor payments for medical care but no direct cash payment.

³ Estimated in the Division of Program Research on the basis of published and unpublished data from the Bureau of the Census.

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