

ber of families in each classification, by the amount of the monthly benefit they receive, shows concentration at amounts corresponding to primary benefit amounts of \$20-30 and at the minimum benefit amounts (table 2). There is also some concentration at the maximum amounts.

The maximum benefit of \$85 went to about 1,000 families. This number is low because of the necessary combination of conditions governing the primary benefit amount and family classification of beneficiaries. The maximum benefit can now be paid only to families consisting of a retired worker and two or more dependents, or of four or more children, or of a widowed mother and three or more children. Before 1943 it was impossible for a family to receive the \$85 maximum because a family benefit is limited to twice the primary benefit amount, and the maximum primary benefit possible in 1942 was \$42.40. At the end of 1944, only about 300 families were receiving benefits totaling \$85; by the end of 1946, the number had increased to almost 700 families.

In families in which only the re-

tired worker was receiving benefits, 6 percent of the men and almost 15 percent of the women were receiving the minimum of \$10. Less than 6 percent of the families consisting of a retired worker and wife and 5 percent of those with a retired worker and one child receiving benefits were receiving the minimum family benefit of \$15.

The distribution of all retired workers receiving benefits, by amount of primary benefit, is as follows:

Primary benefit	Total	Men	Women
Total number.....	1,047,985	899,632	148,353
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
\$10.00.....	7.4	6.2	14.6
10.01-14.99.....	8.2	7.0	15.3
15.00-19.99.....	9.0	8.0	14.9
20.00-24.99.....	25.6	24.6	32.2
25.00-29.99.....	20.8	21.7	15.4
30.00-34.99.....	14.2	15.7	4.7
35.00-39.99.....	8.4	9.5	1.7
40.00-44.80.....	6.4	7.3	1.1

The proportion of primary beneficiaries receiving the \$10 minimum has shown a downward trend during the past 4 years, dropping from 8.4 percent at the end of 1944 to 7.4 percent at the close of 1948. Almost 46 percent of the men and 77 percent of the

women were receiving benefits of less than \$25 at the end of 1948. Less than 3 percent of the women were receiving benefits of \$35 or more, as compared with 17 percent of the men.

Applicants for Account Numbers, 1948

The year-to-year decline in the number of social security account-number applicants that began in 1943 came to a virtual halt in 1948. Though fewer account numbers (2,720,000) were issued than in any previous year, the year's decline was only 0.3 percent, as compared with declines of 9 percent and 10 percent, respectively, in 1946 and 1947 (table 1). The relatively small drop in the number of applicants in 1948 is attributable chiefly to the unusually large seasonal expansion of job opportunities in April-June and July-September and the consequent extraordinary rise in the number of account-number applicants during those 2 quarters. Applicants

Table 2.—Percentage distribution of beneficiary families by monthly amount of family benefit in current-payment status at end of 1948, for each specified family group in receipt of benefits

[Based on 20-percent sample; average benefits shown to the nearest 10 cents; data corrected to June 6, 1949]

Monthly family benefit amount	Retired worker only		Retired worker and wife	Retired worker and 1 child	Aged widow	Widowed mother and children			Children only			
	Male	Female				1 child	2 children	3 or more children	1 child	2 children	3 children	4 or more children
Total number ¹	560,100	148,400	320,700	12,100	210,100	72,600	41,200	23,900	95,900	43,400	17,500	22,500
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
Less than \$10.00.....					² 0.9				³ 4.5	³ 0.1		³ 0.1
10.00-14.99.....	⁴ 13.9	⁵ 29.9			16.2	4.2			65.9	10.7		⁴ 2
15.00-19.99.....	8.4	14.9	⁶ 9.8	⁷ 8.8	31.4	3.6	4.3		25.1	8.0		10.2
20.00-24.99.....	25.3	32.2	4.7	4.6	27.0	4.5	2.6		⁸ 4.4	24.5		5.0
25.00-29.99.....	21.9	15.4	4.9	5.6	14.1	15.7	2.9			24.7		6.5
30.00-34.99.....	15.2	4.7	14.6	17.1	⁹ 10.5	18.3	3.8			19.8		18.4
35.00-39.99.....	8.9	1.7	16.0	19.9		18.2	9.8			8.1		18.6
40.00-44.99.....	¹⁰ 6.4	¹⁰ 1.1	13.9	14.2		16.6	12.7			¹⁰ 4.1		15.5
45.00-49.99.....			11.8	11.2		9.8	13.4					12.8
50.00-54.99.....			9.1	7.8		8.6	11.9					7.4
55.00-59.99.....			6.4	5.4		¹¹ 2.4	14.0					2.8
60.00-64.99.....			5.7	3.3			9.7					1.6
65.00-69.99.....			¹² 3.2	¹² 2.0			6.3					¹² 3
70.00-74.99.....							5.4					4.3
75.00-79.99.....							¹³ 3.2					2.3
80.00-84.99.....												1.2
85.00.....												.9
Average monthly amount per family.....	\$25.80	\$20.10	\$40.40	\$39.10	\$20.60	\$36.00	\$49.80	\$53.00	\$13.40	\$26.20	\$37.10	\$48.60

¹ Families with retired worker, wife, and child, or retired worker and 2 or more children, or widowed mother only, or 1 or 2 aged parents not shown because too few cases in sample.

² Widow's benefit reduced to less than \$10 by primary benefit to which widow was concurrently entitled.

³ Family benefit is less than minimum amount because 1 or more additional family members were entitled to benefits which were being withheld at end of 1948.

⁴ 6.5 percent at \$10 minimum.

⁵ 14.6 percent at \$10 minimum.

⁶ 5.6 percent at \$15 minimum.

⁷ 4.8 percent at \$15 minimum.

⁸ \$22.40 maximum possible in 1948.

⁹ \$33.60 maximum possible in 1948.

¹⁰ \$44.80 maximum possible in 1948.

¹¹ \$56.00 maximum possible in 1948.

¹² \$67.20 maximum possible in 1948.

¹³ \$78.40 maximum possible in 1948.

Table 1.—Distribution of applicants for account numbers by race, age group, and sex, by year, 1940-48¹

Year	Total			Negro			Under 20 years			20 years and over ²		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1940.....	5,226,688	3,080,032	2,146,656	630,337	413,984	216,353	2,137,542	1,264,299	873,243	3,089,146	1,815,733	1,273,413
1941.....	6,677,584	3,701,467	2,976,117	786,668	508,979	277,689	3,174,241	1,885,858	1,288,383	3,503,343	1,815,609	1,687,734
1942.....	7,637,416	3,547,376	4,090,040	905,238	457,145	448,093	3,720,663	2,013,325	1,707,338	3,916,753	1,534,051	2,382,702
1943.....	7,415,294	2,901,273	4,514,021	1,058,178	355,341	702,837	3,649,172	1,835,939	1,813,233	3,766,122	1,065,334	2,700,788
1944.....	4,528,578	1,826,179	2,702,399	738,739	253,197	485,542	2,444,995	1,213,002	1,231,993	2,083,583	613,177	1,470,406
1945.....	3,321,384	1,505,839	1,815,545	504,321	195,313	309,008	1,851,854	922,562	929,292	1,469,630	583,277	886,253
1946.....	3,022,057	1,431,760	1,590,297	388,489	185,709	202,780	1,600,260	746,796	853,464	1,421,797	684,964	736,833
1947.....	2,727,810	1,299,092	1,428,718	314,788	154,975	159,813	1,620,237	801,092	819,145	1,107,573	498,000	609,573
1948.....	2,719,642	1,304,625	1,415,017	309,790	150,628	159,162	1,770,613	912,189	858,424	949,029	392,436	556,593

¹ Excludes applicants whose sex and/or race is unknown.

² Includes a small number of applicants of unknown age.

in April-September exceeded by more than 3 percent the number in the corresponding 6 months of 1947.

While the total number of accounts established was slightly smaller in 1948 than in 1947, the number of male applicants was larger. The 1,305,000 account numbers issued to men in 1948 represented a rise of 0.4 percent from the 1947 figure—the first increase since 1941. Accounts established for women in 1948, on the other hand, declined for the fifth successive year and were smaller than in any year since 1940; their number dropped 1 percent from the 1947 level and was only a third of the wartime peak reached in 1943. Despite the small increase in the number of accounts issued to men, however, their relative number remained about the same in 1948 as in 1947.

Because of the long-term decrease in the number of adults who do not already have account numbers, the age group under 20 has formed an increasing proportion of all applicants in almost every year since 1940. This rising trend was interrupted only once, in 1946, when a large number of applications were received from veterans. Applications received in 1948 from boys and girls under 20 years of age constituted 65 percent of all applications received, the largest proportion on record; in 1947 the corresponding percentage was 59 percent.

The increase in the number of applicants under 20 years of age in 1948 over 1947 was considerably more marked for men than for women. In 1948, for the first time since 1943, accounts established for boys under age 20 outnumbered those for girls of that age. The 912,000 male applicants under 20 years of age in 1948 repre-

sented an increase of 14 percent from the number a year earlier, compared with an increase of only 5 percent for young women (table 2). The proportion that men in this age group formed of all male applicants increased from 62 percent in 1947 to 70 percent in 1948, while the corresponding ratios for women were 57 and 61 percent.

The proportion of elderly applicants, which has followed a downward course since 1943, declined still further in 1948. The 65,000 applications received from persons aged 60 and over

in 1948 represented a decline of 13 percent from the 1947 level; they formed only 2.4 percent of all applications, the smallest proportion on record. As in previous years, more men than women aged 60 and over applied for account numbers; the relative number of women among applicants in this older age group (39 percent) was about the same as in each of the years 1944-47.

During 1948, accounts were issued to 310,000 Negroes—151,000 men and 159,000 women (tables 1 and 3).

(Continued on page 23)

Table 2.—Distribution of account-number applicants under 20 years of age, by sex and age, 1948 and 1947

Age	Total			Male			Female		
	1948	1947	Percent-age change	1948	1947	Percent-age change	1948	1947	Percent-age change
	Under 20, total.....	1,770,613	1,620,237	+9.3	912,189	801,092	+13.9	858,424	819,145
Under 14.....	62,526	63,607	-1.7	48,117	49,139	-2.1	14,409	14,468	-0.4
14.....	127,299	125,096	+1.8	80,040	76,346	+4.8	47,259	48,749	-3.1
15.....	254,110	254,142	(¹)	142,775	138,948	+2.8	111,335	115,194	-3.4
16.....	503,697	452,775	+11.2	250,130	200,282	+24.9	253,567	252,493	+0.4
17.....	390,606	349,678	+11.7	192,237	166,859	+15.2	198,369	182,819	+8.5
18.....	289,970	244,502	+18.6	132,674	110,199	+20.4	157,296	134,303	+17.1
19.....	142,405	130,458	+9.2	66,216	59,319	+11.6	76,189	71,119	+7.1

¹ Percentage change less than 0.05 percent.

Table 3.—Distribution of applicants for account numbers by sex, race, and age group, 1948

Age group	Total			Male			Female		
	Total	White ¹	Negro	Total	White ¹	Negro	Total	White ¹	Negro
Total.....	2,719,642	2,409,852	309,790	1,304,625	1,153,997	150,628	1,415,017	1,255,855	159,162
Under 15.....	189,825	169,881	19,944	128,157	112,303	15,854	61,688	57,578	4,090
15-19.....	1,580,788	1,419,647	161,141	784,032	693,621	90,411	796,756	726,026	70,730
20-39.....	577,197	480,355	96,842	246,014	214,154	31,860	331,183	266,201	64,982
40-59.....	306,313	278,713	27,600	106,211	96,485	9,726	200,102	182,228	17,874
60-64.....	34,763	32,733	2,030	18,313	17,147	1,166	16,450	15,586	864
65-69.....	18,351	16,965	1,386	12,012	11,065	947	6,339	5,900	439
70 and over.....	11,943	11,197	746	9,500	8,893	607	2,443	2,304	139
Unknown.....	462	361	101	386	329	57	76	32	44

¹ Represents all races other than Negro.

Table 6.—Old-age and survivors insurance: Monthly benefits in current-payment status¹ at the end of the month, by type of benefit and by month, May 1948–May 1949, and monthly benefit actions, by type of benefit, May 1949

[Amounts in thousands; data corrected to June 14, 1949]

Item	Total		Primary		Wife's		Child's		Widow's		Widow's current		Parent's	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
Monthly benefits in current-payment status at end of month:														
1948														
May.....	2,139,746	\$41,867.5	957,070	\$24,041.9	293,274	\$3,895.5	553,430	\$7,123.7	184,382	\$3,775.9	139,847	\$2,883.9	10,843	\$146.6
June.....	2,162,693	42,391.3	968,682	24,344.5	296,711	3,948.2	556,834	7,175.1	188,612	3,865.5	140,807	2,908.6	11,047	149.5
July.....	2,182,043	42,882.0	981,085	24,697.5	300,530	4,006.1	555,934	7,164.9	192,067	3,939.4	141,224	2,922.3	11,203	151.9
August.....	2,202,290	43,370.4	992,724	25,027.0	303,978	4,059.0	557,390	7,188.8	195,351	4,010.6	141,503	2,931.0	11,344	154.0
September.....	2,227,587	43,928.6	1,003,451	25,334.9	307,274	4,108.4	564,652	7,300.1	199,033	4,089.7	141,713	2,939.6	11,464	155.9
October.....	2,253,858	44,515.5	1,016,303	25,696.8	311,319	4,168.4	570,592	7,389.5	202,876	4,172.8	141,155	2,930.1	11,613	157.9
November.....	2,279,992	45,105.0	1,029,835	26,073.0	315,391	4,227.3	575,473	7,463.6	206,309	4,246.2	141,248	2,935.1	11,736	159.8
December.....	2,314,557	45,872.5	1,047,965	26,564.2	320,928	4,307.3	581,265	7,549.0	210,253	4,331.0	142,223	2,958.6	11,903	162.2
1949														
January.....	2,351,824	46,754.7	1,069,674	27,179.1	327,098	4,398.9	585,916	7,619.6	214,110	4,414.6	143,038	2,978.9	11,988	163.5
February.....	2,393,462	47,737.1	1,093,636	27,857.9	333,853	4,501.8	591,709	7,705.2	217,897	4,498.3	144,291	3,008.8	12,076	164.9
March.....	2,441,959	48,852.9	1,120,238	28,601.0	341,834	4,620.7	598,589	7,805.2	223,413	4,617.4	145,656	3,041.5	12,229	167.2
April.....	2,480,350	49,750.5	1,140,969	29,195.5	347,861	4,711.6	604,375	7,890.5	227,811	4,711.9	146,958	3,071.7	12,376	169.3
May.....	2,517,142	50,631.0	1,161,046	29,782.3	353,700	4,801.8	609,528	7,968.1	232,170	4,806.1	148,184	3,101.3	12,514	171.3
Monthly benefit actions, May 1949:														
In force ² at beginning of month.....	2,786,781	56,857.0	1,315,975	34,076.4	393,559	5,374.8	633,735	8,271.3	231,380	4,781.1	199,631	4,182.4	12,501	171.0
Benefits awarded in month.....	58,327	1,304.3	29,086	818.8	9,865	143.7	10,186	143.4	5,288	112.8	3,664	82.0	238	3.4
Entitlements terminated ³	18,969	361.5	6,688	170.4	3,310	43.9	5,367	72.3	939	18.9	2,562	54.5	103	1.4
Net adjustments ⁴	49	19.9	25	13.9	—10	2.0	9	2.7	3	(5)	24	1.5	—2	(5)
In force at end of month.....	2,826,188	57,819.8	1,338,398	34,738.8	400,104	5,476.5	638,563	8,345.1	235,732	4,875.0	200,757	4,211.4	12,634	172.9

¹ Benefit in current-payment status is subject to no deduction or only to deduction of fixed amount that is less than the current month's benefit.

² Represents total benefits awarded (including benefits in current, deferred, and conditional-payment status) after adjustment for subsequent changes in number and amount of benefits (see footnote 4) and terminations (see footnote 3) cumulative from January 1940.

³ Benefit is terminated when a beneficiary dies or loses entitlement to a benefit for some other reason.

⁴ Adjustments result from operation of maximum and minimum provisions and from recomputations and administrative actions.

⁵ Less than \$50.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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Public Health in the World Today.
Edited by James Stevens Simmons.
Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1949. 332 pp. \$5.

Includes *The Evolution of Public Health and Its Objectives*, by C. E. A. Winslow; *The Statistical Evaluation of Medical-Care Needs*, by Lowell J. Reed; *The History and Functions of the United States Public Health Service*, by Joseph W. Mountin; *The Research Program of the United States Public Health Service*, by Rolla Eugene Dyer; *The Voluntary Health Agency and the Nation's Health Program*, by Basil O'Connor; *The Child in World Health and Social Welfare*, by Martha M. Eliot; and *Public Health*

and the Diseases of Old Age, by Louis I. Dublin.

SEEGAL, DAVID; COLCHER, HENRY; DUANE, RICHARD B.; and WERTHEIM, ARTHUR R. "Progress in the Control of Chronic Illness," *Hygeia*, Chicago Vol. 27, Jan. 1949, pp. 48–52. 35 cents.

"Two New Cash Sickness Laws." *Accident and Health Review*, Chicago, Apr. 1949, pp. 1–2. 20 cents. Describes the laws recently enacted in the States of New York and Washington.

WARTHEN, WILLIAM H. F. "A Health Officer Survey of a Medical Care Program." *American Journal of Public Health and the Nation's Health*, New York, Vol. 39, May 1949, pp. 614–618. 70 cents.

ACCOUNT-NUMBER APPLICANTS

(Continued from page 17)

While this total was the smallest number on record, it represented a drop of less than 2 percent from the level in 1947, as against a corresponding decrease of 19 percent from 1946 to 1947. Negroes formed 11 percent of all account-number applicants in 1948—a proportion slightly smaller than in the preceding year and smaller than in any year since 1940. The decrease in 1948 resulted mainly from a decline in the absolute and relative number of accounts established for Negro men; the number of Negro women applicants remained practically unchanged.