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# SSI: Characteristics of Persons Receiving Federally Administered State Supplementation Only

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This article summarizes the demographic and economic characteristics of the half million persons on the rolls of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program in January 1981 whose only payment was a federally administered State supplement. All of these persons were ineligible for a Federal SSI payment because their countable income from other sources exceeded \$258 (the Federal benefit rate plus the \$20 Federal income disregard). The data indicate that 62 percent of these persons resided in California; nearly 75 percent were aged 65 or older; 81 percent were white; and 65 percent were women. Almost all of these persons received a monthly Social Security benefit, which averaged \$286. The average monthly State supplementary payment for the members of this group was \$84.

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More than 4.1 million persons received payments under the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program through the Social Security Administration's federally administered payment system in January 1981 (table 1). Of this number, approximately 2.5 million received a Federal SSI payment only; the remaining 1.7 million persons received either a State supplementary payment in combination with a Federal SSI payment (1.2 million persons) or a State supplementary payment only (0.5 million). Persons in this latter group reside in States that have assistance payments higher than the Federal SSI payment level and are ineligible for a Federal SSI payment because their countable income equals or exceeds the Federal SSI payment levels.

The 0.5 million persons who received federally administered supplementation only represented 11 percent of the total number receiving assistance under the SSI program through the Social Security Administration's federally administered payment system. Although the total number of persons receiving federally administered payments has declined over recent years, the number receiving federally administered supplementation only has remained relatively constant.

Although substantial data are available concerning persons receiving both the Federal SSI payment and

State supplementation, very little information has been published about the population receiving State supplementation only. This article provides a general summary of the demographic and economic characteristics of the half million persons who were eligible for a federally administered State supplementary payment in January 1981 but were ineligible for a Federal SSI payment. Although 27 jurisdictions have federally administered State supplementation programs, 92 percent of the recipients lived in five States.

Data from this study of persons who received a State supplement only indicate that the majority (62 percent) were California residents; almost 75 percent were aged 65 or older; 81 percent were white; 65 percent were women; and nearly all the income they received from other sources came from Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) benefits.

## Background

The 1972 Amendments to the Social Security Act (Public Law 92-603) created the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program to replace the Federal grants-in-aid programs for needy aged, blind, and disabled persons with inadequate income or means of support.<sup>1</sup> The new Federal program established uniform national elig-

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<sup>1</sup> Except in Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, where the former Federal/State programs continue.

**Table 1.—Number of persons receiving federally administered payments, by reason for eligibility and type of payment, January 1981**

Type of payment	Total	Aged	Blind	Disabled
Total.....	4,147,776	1,804,252	<sup>1</sup> 78,623	<sup>2</sup> 2,264,901
Federal SSI payments only.....	2,466,505	1,107,294	42,330	1,316,881
Federally administered State supplementation.....	1,681,271	696,958	36,293	948,020
State supplementation and Federal SSI payments.....	1,225,230	425,700	26,840	772,690
State supplementation only.....	456,041	271,258	9,453	175,330

<sup>1</sup> Includes approximately 25,000 persons aged 65 or older.

<sup>2</sup> Includes approximately 388,000 persons aged 65 or older.

ibility requirements and minimum payment levels for all needy aged, blind, and disabled persons. From the outset, Congress was aware that the initial Federal payment levels<sup>2</sup> were lower than payments formerly made to recipients in some States. Congress therefore included in the original legislation a provision (section 1616) for optional State supplementation. As its name implies, the provision gave States the option of electing to make a State payment in addition to the Federal payment.

Following passage of Public Law 92-603, Senate hearings, and communications with States, it became apparent that a number of States would not provide optional State supplementation. Thus, large numbers of former public assistance recipients would have received less income after being converted to SSI than they had before.

To assure that these persons would not have reduced incomes, Congress, in July 1973 (6 months before the SSI program was to be implemented), passed Public Law 93-66, which contained a requirement (section 212) for mandatory State supplementation. This provision required States to supplement the benefits of those recipients who were transferred to the new program and whose Federal SSI payment level was below their December 1973 income level. States that did not comply were to lose Federal funds for their title XIX (Medicaid) programs.

Subsequent Federal legislation also had a substantial impact on State supplementation. In an effort to have the Federal SSI income level keep pace with inflation, Congress enacted Public Law 93-368 in August 1974. This law provided that SSI payments would automatically increase by the same percentage as OASDI benefits, beginning in July 1975. Since such cost-of-living adjustments resulted in higher income for some SSI recipients, the State's obligation to provide mandatory supplementation was either reduced or eliminated. In addition, some States elected to maintain prior combined Federal-State payment levels and did not pass along the Federal cost-of-living adjustments. The State

optional supplementary payment amount was reduced by the amount of the Federal SSI increase.

Public Law 94-585 was enacted in October 1976 to force States to maintain their supplementary payment levels and thereby enable recipients to benefit from the Federal cost-of-living adjustments. States' compliance with this legislation could be met by either of the following two methods: (1) States could maintain the supplementary payment levels in effect when the Federal SSI levels were increased after June 1977, or (2) States could expend the same or higher amounts for State payments in the 12-month period beginning on the effective date of any increase in the Federal SSI payment levels as they had spent for such payments in the preceding 12-month period. If States failed to comply with this legislation, they would be ineligible for Federal funds under title XIX.

The original legislation (Public Law 92-603) and a subsequent amendment (Public Law 93-66) permitted States to determine who would administer the supplementary payments program. States could elect to have mandatory and optional supplements administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA), to administer both the mandatory and optional supplements themselves, or to administer the optional supplements themselves and have the SSA administer the mandatory supplements. If a State elected Federal administration of its optional supplements, however, the mandatory supplements had to be federally administered also unless the State could provide adequate reasons for an exemption. The administrative costs of providing supplements would be financed by the Federal Government if they were federally administered; in contrast, the State would be responsible for administrative costs if it elected to administer the supplements itself. On the other hand, if a State elected Federal administration, it had to conform to certain limitations on the special needs and circumstances for which payments could be made.

Currently, the Social Security Administration is making both the Federal SSI payment and the State supplementary payment for 22 States and the District of Columbia (federally administered supplementation); 22 States are making the State supplementary payment

<sup>2</sup> Initial levels were \$130 for an individual and \$195 for a couple in an independent living arrangement.

themselves (State-administered supplementation).<sup>3</sup> Excluded from these two groups are four States—Florida, Iowa, Maryland, and South Dakota—that have federally administered mandatory supplementation and State-administered optional supplementation. Also excluded are Texas and West Virginia. The State constitution prohibits provision of the supplements in Texas; in West Virginia, no such payments were made.

## Study File

The data for this study were derived from an extract of the Supplemental Security Record (SSR) of all cases receiving federally administered supplementary payments during January 1981 that were also eligible to receive a payment in February.

## Conversion Status

Among both the total SSI population and the federally administered supplementation only population, the majority of cases were new awards and the minority were conversions from superceded State programs (table 2). The proportions for these two populations were significantly different, however. Persons with new awards accounted for 64 percent of the total SSI population and for 73 percent of the population receiving federally administered State supplementation only.

<sup>3</sup> Jurisdictions with federally administered supplementation are: Arkansas, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin. States with State-administered supplementation are: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, and Wyoming.

This difference results from the greater proportion of new awardees with incomes higher than Federal SSI payment levels (mainly Social Security benefits) as well as the number of recipients residing in States with high payment standards.

Nearly all the children whose only SSI payment was a federally administered supplement were newly eligible. The former Federal grants-in-aid programs had included age restrictions that limited children's eligibility. Under the previous program of Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled, children under age 18 were ineligible for assistance. Although no age restriction existed under the program for Aid to the Blind, few States provided such assistance to children under age 18.

## Demographic Characteristics

### Age

Of the total number of persons receiving federally administered State supplementation only, nearly three-fourths were aged 65 or older and almost one-fourth were aged 30–64 (table 3). The smallest number were under age 30. Compared with the total SSI population, those receiving federally administered State supplementation only were somewhat older. The median ages for the members of these two groups were 66 and 71, respectively.

Among State supplementation only recipients, children represented a small proportion (2 percent each) of the blind and disabled. The majority of the blind (61 percent) were aged 65 or older but, among the disabled, only 28 percent were in this age group. Among the total SSI group, the comparable proportions were 34 percent for the blind and 19 percent for the disabled. In both populations (State supplementation only and all SSI re-

**Table 2.—Number and percentage distribution of persons receiving federally administered payments, by reason for eligibility and conversion status, January 1981<sup>1</sup>**

Conversion status	Total	Adults			Children	
		Aged	Blind	Disabled	Blind	Disabled
All federally administered payments						
Total number .....	4,147,776	1,804,252	72,028	2,047,789	6,595	217,112
Total percent .....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Converted .....	36.3	41.7	59.0	34.4	7.7	.1
Not converted .....	63.7	58.3	41.0	65.6	92.3	99.9
Federally administered State supplementation only						
Total number .....	442,677	264,748	8,923	167,633	107	1,266
Total percent .....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Converted .....	26.9	26.6	43.9	26.7	.9	2.7
Not converted .....	73.1	73.4	56.1	73.3	99.1	97.3

<sup>1</sup> Partly estimated.

**Table 3.—Number and percentage distribution of persons receiving federally administered payments and with federally administered State supplementation only, by reason for eligibility and age, January 1981**

Age	Total		Aged		Blind		Disabled	
	All federally administered payments <sup>1</sup>	With federally administered supplementation only	All federally administered payments	With federally administered supplementation only	All federally administered payments	With federally administered supplementation only	All federally administered payments	With federally administered supplementation only
Median age.....	66	71	76	76	53	70	54	59
Total percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
29 or younger.....	9.0	2.1	...	...	18.1	7.1	16.1	8.1
30 to 64.....	35.1	23.8	...	...	46.8	32.1	65.0	63.8
65 or older.....	55.9	74.1	100.0	100.0	34.1	60.8	18.9	28.1

<sup>1</sup> Partly estimated.

ipients), most of these aged recipients established their eligibility under the blind or disabled criteria before they reached age 65 and continued to be so classified at age 65 for program related reasons. In California, Massachusetts, and Nevada, however, blind individuals aged 65 or older are entitled to the highest State payment for which they qualify. The State supplement for the blind in these States is higher than that for the other eligibility categories. (Nevada does not have a supplementation program for the disabled.)

### Race and Sex

Eighty-one percent of the recipients of federally administered supplementation only were white; 13 percent were black; and 6 percent were of other races (table 4). These proportions are about the same as the national population distribution by race for 1980.<sup>4</sup> Among the total SSI population, the corresponding proportions were 64 percent, 28 percent, and 4 percent, respectively (race and sex were not reported for 4 percent of this population). Women accounted for almost two-thirds of both the SSI population and the population receiving federally administered supplementation only.

### Marital Status

Approximately 3 out of every 4 persons whose only SSI payment was federally administered supplementation were single, widowed, separated, or divorced; about 1 in every 4 was married (table 5). The blind were somewhat less likely to be married than either the aged or the disabled. These proportions approximate the marital status distribution of the total SSI population.

### Income Characteristics

For those receiving federally administered State supplementation only, monthly Social Security benefits

<sup>4</sup> Bureau of the Census, 1980 Census of Population, Supplementary Report (PC 80-S1-1), May 1981.

averaged \$286 and State supplements, \$84 (table 6). As would be expected, non-SSI income for this population was considerably higher than that for the total SSI population. On the average, income from Social Security benefits for those receiving the supplement exceeded that for the total group by \$90; other unearned income averaged \$16 more; and wages averaged \$47 more. But Social Security benefits represented the largest source of non-SSI income for both groups.

## Income of Adults

### Social Security Benefits

In January 1981, nearly all (95 percent) of the adults receiving federally administered supplementation only were also receiving Social Security benefits. The blind received a slightly higher monthly benefit amount than did the aged or the disabled (table 6).

The proportion of persons receiving concurrent OASDI benefits and federally administered State supplementation did not differ significantly by race and sex, but variations existed in OASDI benefit levels for these two subgroups. On the average, white recipients received slightly higher monthly OASDI benefits than did nonwhites. Furthermore, the monthly OASDI benefits for men were substantially larger than those for women.

The monthly State payment amount for adult recipients averaged \$84. Significantly larger State payments were made to the blind than to the aged or disabled. Contributing to the higher State supplements for blind persons with concurrent OASDI benefits were allowances for special needs to cover the expense of guide dogs for those individuals who required them.

### Other Unearned Income

In January 1981, about one-fourth of the adults receiving federally administered supplementation only had unearned income other than Social Security benefits

**Table 4.—Number and percentage distribution of persons receiving federally administered payments and with federally administered State supplementation only, by reason for eligibility, race, and sex, January 1981**

Race and sex	Total		Aged		Blind		Disabled	
	All federally administered payments <sup>1</sup>	With federally administered supplementation only	All federally administered payments	With federally administered supplementation only	All federally administered payments	With federally administered supplementation only	All federally administered payments	With federally administered supplementation only
Total number . . . . .	4,147,776	442,677	1,804,252	264,748	78,623	9,030	2,264,901	168,899
Total percent . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White . . . . .	64.0	81.0	63.6	83.2	62.9	80.2	63.7	77.6
Black . . . . .	28.0	13.1	24.7	10.3	28.4	13.8	29.6	17.6
Other . . . . .	4.0	5.8	4.0	6.4	3.6	6.0	3.0	4.7
Not reported . . . . .	4.0	.1	7.7	.1	5.1	(2)	3.6	.1
Men . . . . .	34.4	35.3	27.3	29.9	42.9	39.6	39.7	43.6
White . . . . .	22.1	27.3	17.4	23.6	27.6	30.1	25.7	33.0
Black . . . . .	9.1	5.3	6.8	3.4	11.6	6.9	10.9	8.1
Other . . . . .	1.5	2.7	1.6	2.8	1.7	2.6	1.4	2.5
Women . . . . .	65.5	64.6	72.6	70.1	57.0	60.3	60.2	56.3
White . . . . .	41.5	53.7	46.2	59.6	35.2	50.1	37.9	44.6
Black . . . . .	18.3	7.9	17.9	6.9	16.8	6.9	18.7	9.5
Other . . . . .	2.0	3.1	2.4	3.6	1.9	3.3	1.7	2.2

<sup>1</sup> Partly estimated.

<sup>2</sup> Less than 0.05 percent.

**Table 5.—Number and percentage distribution of persons receiving federally administered payments and with federally administered State supplementation only, by reason for eligibility and marital status, January 1981**

Marital status	Total		Aged		Blind		Disabled	
	All federally administered payments <sup>1</sup>	With federally administered supplementation only	All federally administered payments	With federally administered supplementation only	All federally administered payments	With federally administered supplementation only	All federally administered payments	With federally administered supplementation only
Total number . . . . .	4,147,776	442,677	1,804,252	264,748	78,623	9,030	2,264,901	168,899
Total percent . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Married . . . . .	25.1	25.9	24.3	25.8	20.9	21.3	24.9	26.2
Single, widowed, separated, or divorced . . . . .	74.9	74.1	75.7	74.2	79.1	77.7	75.1	73.8

<sup>1</sup> Partly estimated.

(table 7). The proportion was larger for the aged and blind (27 percent) than for disabled (20 percent). However, the disabled had the highest average amount of such other unearned income (\$129), and the aged had the lowest (\$75).

In a pattern similar to that of Social Security beneficiaries, men tended to have higher amounts of other unearned income than did women. The average monthly amount of unearned income other than Social Security benefits was \$120 for men; for women, the average monthly amount was \$84.

State supplementary payments for these adult recipients with other unearned income were about the same as those for adults receiving concurrent Social Security benefits—supplements for blind recipients were much higher than those for the aged and the disabled. Among these recipients, however, supplements for

women with other unearned income were about the same as those for men.

Veterans' benefits (including both veterans' pensions and veterans' compensation) accounted for the unearned income received more often than any other source except OASDI benefits (table 8). The disabled made up the largest group receiving these benefits and also had the highest average monthly payment level. Although the blind constituted the smallest group receiving veterans' benefits, their monthly payment amounts were higher than those for the aged.

About 4 percent of those persons whose only SSI payment was a federally administered State supplement had pensions, based on previous employment, which averaged \$81 monthly. Four percent also had income from assets, but this category provided the lowest amount of all unearned income sources, averaging \$15.

**Table 6.**—Number of adults and children receiving federally administered State supplementation only, percent receiving concurrent Social Security benefits, average monthly benefit amount, and average State payment, by reason for eligibility, race, and sex, January 1981<sup>1</sup>

Race and sex	Total	Adults			Blind and disabled children
		Aged	Blind	Disabled	
Number of recipients					
Total .....	442,348	264,625	8,920	167,430	1,373
Race:					
White .....	358,709	220,378	7,170	130,430	917
Black .....	58,193	27,278	1,238	29,496	181
Other .....	25,446	16,969	512	7,690	275
Sex:					
Men .....	156,255	79,092	3,513	72,850	800
Women .....	286,093	185,533	5,407	94,580	573
Percent with Social Security benefits					
Total .....	95	98	93	91	52
Race:					
White .....	96	99	93	92	56
Black .....	94	98	93	90	57
Other .....	91	92	86	91	34
Sex:					
Men .....	96	99	95	94	52
Women .....	95	98	92	89	51
Average monthly Social Security benefit					
Total .....	\$285.95	\$286.98	\$302.96	\$287.52	\$247.90
Race:					
White .....	289.32	289.45	304.77	288.38	252.61
Black .....	281.21	276.24	294.72	285.79	237.57
Other .....	280.05	280.21	296.89	279.25	233.24
Sex:					
Men .....	309.55	309.59	317.24	309.49	248.19
Women .....	275.70	278.08	293.36	269.59	247.48
Average State payment					
Total .....	\$83.94	\$81.03	\$117.00	\$87.11	\$79.06
Race:					
White .....	83.90	80.55	115.89	88.24	82.34
Black .....	78.20	75.16	120.70	79.49	61.70
Other .....	98.02	97.84	124.25	96.99	80.11
Sex:					
Men .....	87.21	85.35	112.97	88.15	75.43
Women .....	82.13	79.18	119.71	86.27	84.27

<sup>1</sup> Excludes 329 cases not classified by race and sex.

## Earned Income

About 2 percent of the adults with federally administered State supplementation only had earned income (table 9). For these persons, the average amount of earnings was \$154 during January 1981. Although few blind persons worked, their earnings were substantially greater than those for the corresponding groups of aged and disabled individuals. This disparity in earnings, which was evident for both the total SSI population and this supplementation population, was attributable, in part, to the application of special income disregards for the blind; such income exclusions permitted these recipients to remain on the rolls with higher amounts of earned income than persons in the other categories.

For supplementation recipients with earnings, average monthly wages for blacks and members of other minority races were significantly greater than those for whites. In addition, the average monthly earnings of men were higher than those of women.

## Income of Children

### Social Security Benefits

About 1 out of every 2 children receiving federally administered State supplementation only also received concurrent Social Security benefits (table 6). This proportion (52 percent) was substantially lower than that

**Table 7.**—Number of adults and children receiving federally administered State supplementation only, percent receiving concurrent unearned income, average monthly unearned income amount, and average State payment, by reason for eligibility, race, and sex, January 1981<sup>1</sup>

Race and sex	Total	Adults			Blind and disabled children
		Aged	Blind	Disabled	
Number of recipients					
Total .....	442,348	264,625	8,920	167,430	1,373
Race:					
White .....	358,709	220,378	7,170	130,244	917
Black .....	58,193	27,278	1,238	29,496	181
Other .....	25,446	16,969	512	7,690	275
Sex:					
Men .....	156,255	79,092	3,513	72,850	800
Women .....	286,093	185,533	5,407	94,580	573
Percent with other unearned income					
Total .....	24	27	27	20	20
Race:					
White .....	24	27	27	20	21
Black .....	23	24	22	22	22
Other .....	26	29	30	20	16
Sex:					
Men .....	25	27	22	23	19
Women .....	24	27	29	18	21
Average monthly amount of other unearned income					
Total .....	\$89.62	\$74.68	\$95.93	\$129.29	\$117.33
Race:					
White .....	90.02	76.03	88.56	121.71	107.19
Black .....	127.66	101.57	129.40	154.79	136.90
Other .....	127.72	126.79	130.23	130.01	144.18
Sex:					
Men .....	119.97	102.17	105.95	142.70	115.87
Women .....	83.84	73.34	90.96	113.72	119.25
Average State payment					
Total .....	\$81.91	\$80.35	\$116.39	\$82.71	\$89.70
Race:					
White .....	81.44	79.39	115.16	83.56	84.83
Black .....	78.33	78.07	120.83	76.76	85.45
Other .....	95.28	94.89	124.03	93.10	115.32
Sex:					
Men .....	80.28	78.24	103.63	81.58	97.45
Women .....	82.85	81.25	122.73	83.85	79.62

<sup>1</sup> Excludes 329 cases not classified by race and sex.

for adults. In addition, the average monthly Social Security benefit (\$248) was about 15 percent less than the amount received by adults. The lower amount for children is probably explained by the fact that entitlement to Social Security benefits virtually always is based solely upon the retirement, death, or disability of a parent who was a wage earner covered by the OASDI program. Consequently, the child's Social Security benefit is less than the parent's primary insurance amount.

### Other Unearned Income

One-fifth of the children receiving federally adminis-

tered State supplementation only received concurrent unearned income from a source other than the Social Security program (table 8). This proportion was not significantly different from that of adults receiving such income, but the average monthly amount of income (\$117) was about one-fifth higher than the corresponding income for adults (\$96).

More than two-thirds of the children with other types of unearned income received payments from the Veterans' Administration, absent parents, or other assistance programs based on need. The needs-related payments came from other government assistance programs.

**Table 8.**—Total number and percent of adults and children receiving concurrent unearned income other than Social Security benefits and average monthly unearned income amount, by type of income, January 1981

Type of income	Total	Adults			Blind and disabled children
		Aged	Blind	Disabled	
Total number of recipients . . . . .	108,456	71,749	2,440	33,988	279
Percent with other unearned income					
Total . . . . .	24.5	27.1	26.6	20.3	20.3
Railroad Retirement benefits . . . . .	.8	.9	1.4	.6	...
Veterans' benefits <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	12.4	12.1	10.9	13.2	5.2
Civil Service retirement . . . . .	.6	.6	1.1	.5	.2
Black lung benefits . . . . .	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	...
Workers' compensation . . . . .	.1	.1	.1	.2	.1
Employment pension . . . . .	3.8	5.3	3.5	1.5	.1
Support and maintenance in-kind . . . . .	2.9	3.3	3.1	2.1	3.0
Support and maintenance from absent parent . . . . .	(2)	...	...	...	5.2
Asset income . . . . .	4.0	5.4	7.3	1.7	1.7
Assistance based on need . . . . .	.1	(2)	.1	.2	3.3
All other . . . . .	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.4	2.4
Average monthly amount of other unearned income					
Total . . . . .	\$89.62	\$74.68	\$95.93	\$128.29	\$117.33
Railroad Retirement benefits . . . . .	246.62	235.27	277.88	269.50	...
Veterans' benefits <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	103.66	82.68	94.81	134.62	50.87
Civil Service retirement . . . . .	220.10	209.91	199.56	244.53	176.00
Black lung benefits . . . . .	229.03	240.04	263.33	213.55	...
Workers' compensation . . . . .	164.92	100.52	167.81	198.02	200.00
Employment pension . . . . .	80.55	77.38	96.98	95.58	166.50
Support and maintenance in-kind . . . . .	74.55	74.61	80.63	73.74	90.53
Support and maintenance from absent parent . . . . .	128.29	...	...	...	128.29
Asset income . . . . .	14.77	13.74	13.62	20.26	2.08
Assistance based on need . . . . .	97.96	120.38	77.12	81.55	187.40
All other . . . . .	84.80	65.34	102.94	120.09	181.66

<sup>1</sup> Includes pensions and compensation.

<sup>2</sup> Less than 0.05 percent.

## Earned Income

Although very few children whose only SSI payment was federally administered State supplementation had earned income, the average monthly amount of their earnings was substantial. These blind and disabled children, primarily students, were able to remain eligible for State supplements despite their relatively high wages because special earned income disregards were permitted in addition to the regular earned income exclusion. This special income exclusion (\$1,620 per calendar year) is allowed to cover education expenses and thereby encourage these children to attend school.

For children under age 18 who are living with their parents, the income of the parents may be considered in determining the amount payable to such children under the SSI program. Such deemed income is excluded from the data presented here.

## State Distribution

### Recipients

Of the 27 jurisdictions with federally administered supplementation programs, five States—California, New York, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania—accounted for 92 percent of the State supplementation-only cases (table 10). Sixty-two percent of these recipients lived in one State—California. The States containing the next highest proportions of supplementation only recipients were Massachusetts and New York, with 11 percent each. Wisconsin and Pennsylvania had 5 percent and 3 percent, respectively.

Payment standards in these five States were well above the Federal SSI payment level. In addition, the optional supplementation programs in these States were



**Table 9.**—Number of adults and children receiving federally administered State supplementation only, percent receiving concurrent earned income, average monthly earned income amount, and average State payment, by reason for eligibility, race, and sex, January 1981<sup>1</sup>

Race and sex	Total	Adults			Blind and disabled children
		Aged	Blind	Disabled	
Number of recipients					
Total .....	442,348	264,625	8,920	167,430	1,373
Race:					
White .....	358,709	220,378	7,170	130,244	917
Black .....	58,193	27,278	1,238	29,496	181
Other .....	25,446	16,969	512	7,690	275
Sex:					
Men .....	156,255	79,092	3,513	72,850	800
Women .....	286,093	185,533	5,407	94,580	573
Percent with earned income					
Total .....	2	1	3	4	3
Race:					
White .....	2	1	4	4	3
Black .....	2	3	3	2	2
Other .....	3	2	3	6	3
Sex:					
Men .....	4	2	6	5	4
Women .....	2	1	2	3	2
Average monthly earned income					
Total .....	\$153.99	\$152.39	\$470.84	\$139.30	\$351.30
Race:					
White .....	142.79	133.95	465.63	131.69	349.48
Black .....	188.68	151.76	473.96	221.45	363.00
Other .....	226.55	314.17	552.40	149.47	353.50
Sex:					
Men .....	164.95	170.19	527.14	140.76	405.33
Women .....	142.79	138.40	370.62	137.59	189.20
Average State payment					
Total .....	\$94.76	\$81.04	\$109.86	\$102.24	\$60.32
Race:					
White .....	95.94	79.97	106.23	103.57	61.34
Black .....	81.85	76.25	131.06	86.95	24.66
Other .....	101.12	100.47	124.93	101.34	70.00
Sex:					
Men .....	98.58	85.94	106.79	104.49	54.36
Women .....	90.83	77.17	115.33	99.61	78.20

<sup>1</sup> Excludes 329 cases not classified by race and sex.

comprehensive—that is, supplements were provided to nearly all SSI recipients either in combination with a Federal SSI payment or as a State payment only for those persons who would have been eligible for the Federal payment if their income had not exceeded the established Federal limit. Unlike many States that limited their optional supplementation payments to persons in certain group-like living arrangements (adult foster homes, homes for the aged, and so forth), these five States also provided such supplementation to persons with independent living arrangements. Consequently, a large number of persons who would have been ineligible for supplements in other States that impose such limitations were eligible for such payments in California, New

York, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania.

## Expenditures

In January 1981, expenditures for federally administered State supplementation only totaled \$37.2 million. This amount represented 21 percent of the \$176.2 million expended for State supplementation during that month. As expected, California accounted for the largest proportion (76 percent) of the expenditures for federally administered State supplementation only. The average payment for such cases in that State (\$103) was substantially above the individual averages for the other States.

**Table 10.**—Number and percentage distribution of persons receiving federally administered State supplementation only, total amount, and average payment, by State, January 1981<sup>1</sup>

State	Recipients		Total amount (in thousands)	Average payment
	Number	Percent		
Total .....	442,677	100.0	<sup>2</sup> \$37,175	\$83.97
California .....	275,833	62.3	28,292	102.56
New York .....	50,560	11.4	2,952	58.37
Massachusetts .....	46,901	10.6	2,307	65.47
Wisconsin .....	21,085	4.8	<sup>2</sup> 1,149	54.49
Pennsylvania .....	14,435	3.3	269	18.65
Michigan .....	11,668	2.6	776	66.53
New Jersey .....	6,973	1.6	243	34.83
Maine .....	4,323	1.0	58	13.48
Washington .....	4,289	1.0	131	30.49
Rhode Island .....	2,531	.6	56	22.10
Vermont .....	1,438	.3	45	31.07
Nevada .....	1,005	.2	48	47.60
Hawaii .....	577	.1	243	74.11
District of Columbia .....	355	.1	14	40.19
Iowa .....	220	(3)	11	47.76
Delaware .....	96	(3)	5	54.57
Montana .....	93	(3)	5	57.44
Louisiana <sup>4</sup> .....	92	(3)	(5)	(6)
Georgia <sup>4</sup> .....	82	(3)	2	20.86
Ohio <sup>4</sup> .....	42	(3)	1	32.21
Arkansas <sup>4</sup> .....	26	(3)	1	22.00
Maryland <sup>7</sup> .....	24	(3)	1	35.37
Mississippi <sup>4</sup> .....	18	(3)	(5)	(6)
Kansas <sup>4</sup> .....	8	(3)	(5)	(6)
South Dakota <sup>7</sup> .....	3	(3)	(5)	(6)

<sup>1</sup> Excludes data for Florida and Tennessee, which are not available.

<sup>2</sup> Includes Federal contribution to three States under the hold-harmless provision; in fiscal year 1981, this Federal contribution totaled \$35,100,000; Hawaii, \$79,300; Massachusetts, \$139,000; and Wisconsin, \$34,900,000.

<sup>3</sup> Less than 0.05 percent.

<sup>4</sup> Represents data for mandatory supplementation only; State does not have

an optional supplementation program.

<sup>5</sup> Less than \$500.

<sup>6</sup> Not computed on base of less than \$500.

<sup>7</sup> Represents data for mandatory supplementation only; optional supplementation is State administered.