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PAYEES FOR LUMP-SUM DEATH PAYMENTS AWARDED IN 1962

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The Social Security Act, as amended in 1960, permits a lump-sum death payment to be paid directly to a funeral home for unpaid expenses incurred through the funeral home if there is no surviving spouse who was living in the same household with the worker at the time of his death or if such a spouse dies before receiving payment. The payment to the funeral home must be requested by a person who assumes responsibility for payment of all or part of the expenses within 2 years after the worker's death. Where no person assumes responsibility for the burial expenses within 90 days after the worker's death, the lump-sum benefit may be paid directly to the funeral home upon application by its director.

If all of the burial expenses incurred through a funeral home have been paid, any part of the lump-sum that remains may be paid as a reimbursement to any person or persons who paid burial expenses, in the following order of priority:

- (1) Funeral home expenses.
- (2) Expenses of opening and closing the grave.
- (3) Expenses of providing the cemetery lot.

- (4) Any other expenses in connection with the burial.

About 865,000 deceased workers were represented in the lump-sum death payments awarded in 1962. In 60% of the cases the spouse of the deceased worker qualified for the lump-sum under the marital-relationship and living-in-the-same-household provision. The lump-sum was paid to a person or persons equitably entitled through payment of burial expenses in 21% of the cases, to a funeral home upon authorization by the person who assumed responsibility for the burial expenses in 19% of the cases, and to a funeral home upon its own application in 0.2% of the cases.

The lump-sum was paid to the spouse of the deceased worker in almost 2/3 of the cases with respect to men, but in only about 1/3 of the cases with respect to women. A funeral home was the payee for more than 1/4 of the lump-sums paid with respect to women workers, but for only about 1/6 of the lump-sums paid with respect to men. These percentages are set forth in the following tabulation:

Class of payee	Deceased workers		
	Total	Men	Women
Total number	865,217	692,172	173,045
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
Spouse of deceased worker	60.0	65.8	36.4
Person(s) who paid burial expenses	21.0	17.5	35.0
Funeral home upon authorization by person who assumed responsibility for burial expenses	18.9	16.5	28.4
Funeral home upon its own application2	.2	.1

The average lump-sum amount paid in 1962 was \$211.99 per worker. The average ranged from \$222.49 for lump-sums paid to spouses of deceased workers to \$172.86 for lump-sums paid

to funeral homes upon their own application. The accompanying table gives a distribution of the lump-sum awards in 1962 by class of payee and sex of worker.

Workers and payments represented in lump-sum benefits awarded in 1962 and average lump-sum per worker, by sex of worker and class of payee 1/

Sex of worker	Number of workers	Number of payments	Average lump-sum per worker
Total			
Total	865,217	892,261	\$211.99
Male	692,172	711,593	219.74
Female	173,045	180,668	181.00
Spouse of deceased worker			
Total	518,786	518,786	\$222.49
Male	455,724	455,724	228.17
Female	63,062	63,062	181.37
Person(s) who paid burial expenses			
Total	181,643	195,762	\$197.48
Male	120,996	130,573	204.55
Female	60,647	65,189	183.39
Funeral home upon authorization by person who assumed responsibility for burial expenses <u>2/</u>			
Total	163,352	176,224	\$195.14
Male	114,186	123,977	202.64
Female	49,166	52,247	177.72
Funeral home upon its own application <u>2/</u>			
Total	1,436	1,489	\$172.86
Male	1,266	1,319	176.68
Female	170	170	144.35

1/ The distribution by class of payee and sex of worker is based on a 10% sample.

2/ Includes a small number of cases where part of the lump-sum was paid to person(s) who paid part of the burial expenses.