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PAYEES FOR LUMP-SUM DEATH PAYMENTS AWARDED IN 1963

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The Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance program permits a lump-sum death payment to be paid directly to a funeral home for unpaid expenses incurred through it 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 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. Where no person assumes responsibility for the burial expenses within 90 days after the worker's death, the lump-sum may be paid directly to the funeral home upon application by its director.

After all 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 969,000 deceased workers were represented in the lump-sum death payments awarded in 1963. In 59% 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 almost 20% of the cases, to a funeral home upon authorization by the person who assumed responsibility for the burial expenses in nearly 22% 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 almost 1/3 of the lump-sums paid with respect to women workers, but for less than 1/5 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.....	968,651	768,086	200,565
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
Spouse of deceased worker	58.8	64.8	35.7
Person(s) who paid burial expenses.....	19.5	16.1	32.4
Funeral home upon authorization by person who assumed responsibility for burial expenses	21.5	18.8	31.8
Funeral home upon its own application.....	.2	.2	.1

Workers and payments represented in lump-sum benefits awarded in 1963 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	968,651	1,015,536	\$212.60
Male.....	768,086	801,109	220.76
Female	200,565	214,427	181.35
Spouse of deceased worker			
Total	569,620	569,620	\$223.80
Male.....	498,047	498,047	229.75
Female	71,573	71,573	182.34
Persons who paid burial expenses			
Total	188,523	210,445	\$197.42
Male.....	123,567	138,813	204.59
Female	64,956	71,632	183.78
Funeral home upon authorization by person who assumed responsibility for burial expenses ^{2/}			
Total	208,494	233,338	\$196.02
Male.....	144,696	162,365	204.03
Female	63,798	70,973	177.87
Funeral home upon its own application ^{2/}			
Total	2,014	2,133	\$183.37
Male.....	1,776	1,884	186.94
Female	238	249	156.73

^{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 persons who paid part of the burial expenses.

The proportion of cases in which the lump-sum was paid, upon authorization, directly to a funeral home increased 2.6 percentage points—from 18.9% in 1962 to 21.5% in 1963. For cases in which the lump-sum was paid (1) to an equitably entitled person and (2) to the spouse of the

deceased worker, the proportions declined about 1½ and 1 percentage points, respectively, from the percentages in 1962. The percentages for July-December 1961, the first period for which these data were tabulated, and for calendar years 1962 and 1963 are as follows:

Class of Payee	Deceased workers represented in lump-sum payments during:		
	1963	1962	July-Dec. 1961
Total number.....	968,651	865,217	386,144
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
Spouse of deceased worker	58.8	60.0	59.7
Person(s) who paid burial expenses.....	19.5	21.0	23.6
Funeral home upon authorization by person who assumed responsibility for burial expenses	21.5	18.9	16.5
Funeral home upon its own application.....	.2	.2	.2

The average lump-sum amount paid in 1963 was \$212.60 per worker, 61 cents higher than the average in 1962. The average ranged from \$223.80 for lump-sums paid to spouses of deceased workers to \$183.37 for lump-sums paid

to funeral homes upon their own application. The accompanying table gives a distribution of the lump-sum awards in 1963 by class of payee and sex of worker.