

## Note

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### SSI Work Incentive Participants, September 1991

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Blind and disabled Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients may work and continue to receive benefits under certain provisions of the program. For those persons the basic earned income exclusions of the program apply,<sup>1</sup> which recognize the costs associated with employment and assures that they will have a higher gross income when they work than if they do not. The law also contains special exclusions that are intended as work incentives. For example:

- Blind work expenses (BWE) permits the exclusion of any earned income of a person who is blind that is used to meet any expenses reasonably attributable to earning the income.
- Plans for achieving self-support (PASS) permits a recipient who is blind or disabled who has an approved plan for achieving self-support to set aside earned or unearned income and/or resources for a work goal. The income/resources set aside are used to pay for things needed to reach the goal. Income and resources set aside under PASS are excluded from SSI income and resources tests but do not influence the determination of ability to engage in substantial gainful activity (SGA).<sup>2</sup>

- Student earned income (SEI) provides for the exclusion of certain earnings of a blind or disabled child under age 22 who is regularly attending an educational institution.

Additional provisions relating to income exclusions were added by the Social Security amendments of 1980. They include:

- Impairment-related work expenses (IRWE). This provision excludes from earnings the costs of items and services needed to work because of the person's disability and are paid for by the individual. These expenses are excluded from earnings used in calculating the ongoing SSI monthly payment. Beginning December 1, 1990, the IRWE exclusions are also applied in the determination of income for purposes of initial SSI eligibility. The IRWE's are also used to offset earnings for SGA purposes.
- A change in the treatment of sheltered workshop earnings. The remuneration for services performed in a sheltered workshop or work activities centers are treated as earned income. This change makes it possible to apply the earned income exclusions to earnings that previously have been subject to a dollar-for-dollar offset under the unearned income exclusion.

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The 1980 amendments also established section 1619 as additional incentives to assist SSI recipients enter the workforce without losing their benefits before they could establish their capability of continued self-support. Section 1619 attempts to reduce work disincentives by continuing cash payments and/or Medicaid coverage regardless of the individual's ability to perform SGA or having income that exceeds the Federal (or State) income standard. Disabled persons retain their disability status under the SSI program until they medically recover.

Section 1619(a) provides special SSI cash benefits to disabled individuals who lose their eligibility for regular SSI payments because they have earnings at the level that is ordinarily considered to represent SGA. The distinction between a disabled person eligible for regular SSI benefits and a disabled person eligible for 1619(a) benefits is that the latter has gross earnings above \$500.

Section 1619(b) provides special SSI recipient status for Medicaid purposes to working disabled or blind individuals when their earnings make them ineligible for further cash payments. The Social Security Administration (SSA) assesses the individual's dependence on Medicaid to determine whether its loss would inhibit his or her ability to continue working. Recipient status for Medicaid purposes continues until earnings reach a "threshold"<sup>3</sup> that takes into account the person's ability to afford medical care as well as his or her normal living expenses. The median threshold level for 1991 is \$16,731 (table 1).

This note provides information on the number of SSI recipients who have benefited from section 1619 and from other work incentive provisions. It describes some general characteristics of the participants who were utilizing these work

**Table 1.—Section 1619 threshold amounts, by State, 1991**

State	Threshold	State	Threshold
Alabama	\$13,235.00	Montana	\$16,432.00
Alaska	28,649.00	Nebraska	16,756.00
Arizona	10,788.00	Nevada <sup>1</sup>	17,575.00
Arkansas	14,455.00	New Hampshire	19,905.00
California <sup>1</sup>	21,903.00	New Jersey	19,394.00
Colorado	18,923.00	New Mexico	15,177.00
Connecticut	24,097.00	New York	21,975.00
Delaware	16,685.00	North Carolina	16,518.00
District of Columbia	20,471.00	North Dakota	22,909.00
Florida	15,096.00	Ohio	16,639.00
Georgia	15,050.00	Oklahoma	15,281.00
Hawaii	14,591.60	Oregon <sup>1</sup>	14,685.80
Idaho	17,633.00	Pennsylvania	15,802.60
Illinois	17,141.00	Rhode Island	17,678.40
Indiana	19,125.00	South Carolina	14,253.00
Iowa <sup>1</sup>	16,731.00	South Dakota	17,773.00
Kansas	17,407.00	Tennessee	14,043.00
Kentucky	14,746.00	Texas	15,516.00
Louisiana	15,622.00	Utah	18,686.00
Maine	15,926.00	Vermont	19,548.76
Maryland	16,834.00	Virginia	15,550.00
Massachusetts <sup>1</sup>	21,549.36	Washington	18,444.00
Michigan	16,314.20	West Virginia	13,273.00
Minnesota	27,258.00	Wisconsin	17,360.28
Mississippi	13,054.00	Wyoming	16,142.00
Missouri	13,098.00	Northern Mariana Islands	10,788.00

<sup>1</sup> State has different threshold for blind participants as follows: California—\$21,004.00 Iowa—\$16,454.00, Massachusetts—\$21,262.76, Nevada—\$19,193.20, and Oregon—\$14,602.60.

incentive provisions in September 1991. Readers should keep in mind that these statistics are point-in-time data and do not reflect the number of recipients who have benefited from these provisions over time.

## Section 1619

### Trends

Since December 1982, the number of section 1619 participants has continued to grow—from 5,802 in December 1982 to 40,443 in September 1991 (table 2). Not all of this increase was due to changes in the work activities of the SSI disabled population. The significant increase in the number of section 1619(a) disabled workers reported in

June 1987 resulted from a change in the definition for participants rather than from any change in their work activity. Under the previous law, 1619(a) status did not begin until after the completion of a trial work period and a determination was made that subsequent work was SGA. Under the new law, the trial work period was eliminated and recipients obtained section 1619(a) status if their gross earnings were above the SGA level.

Similarly, the decline in the number of 1619(a) participants in March 1990 resulted from the change in the SGA level in January 1990 from \$300 to \$500. Section 1619(a) participants with earnings below \$500 became eligible for regular SSI benefits rather than the special cash payments under section 1619(a).

**Table 2.—Number of section 1619 participants for selected months, 1982-91**

Month/year	1619(a) participants		1619(b) participants <sup>1</sup>	
	Number	Percentage changes over prior report period	Number	Percentage changes over prior report period
December 1982	287	...	5,515	...
December 1983	392	36.6	5,165	-6.3
August 1984	406	3.6	6,804	31.7
August 1985	816	101.0	7,954	16.9
January 1986	992	21.6	8,106	1.9
March 1987	1,381	39.2	10,500	29.5
June 1987	1,436	4.0	12,470	18.8
September 1987	12,752	788.0	15,096	21.1
December 1987	14,559	14.2	15,632	3.6
March 1988	14,649	.6	15,704	.5
June 1988	16,241	10.9	16,319	3.9
September 1988	17,813	9.7	15,641	-4.2
December 1988	19,920	11.8	15,625	-.1
March 1989	20,400	2.4	15,768	.9
June 1989	22,212	8.9	16,736	6.1
September 1989	24,208	9.0	17,857	6.7
December 1989	25,655	6.0	18,254	2.2
March 1990	11,643	-54.6	18,776	2.9
June 1990	12,780	9.8	20,832	11.0
September 1990	13,295	4.0	22,775	9.3
December 1990	13,994	5.3	23,517	3.3
March 1991	13,330	-4.7	22,221	-5.5
June 1991	14,379	7.9	24,091	8.4
September 1991	14,573	1.3	25,870	7.4

<sup>1</sup>Includes blind participants. For September 1991, of the 25,870 participants, 680 were blind. Note: In January 1990, the SGA level was raised from \$300 to \$500 and section 1619(a) participants with earnings below \$500 became eligible for regular SSI benefits rather than the special cash payments under section 1619(a).

### Recipient Characteristics

**Age, race, and sex.**—As shown in table 3, persons aged 22-29 comprised the largest age group for both section 1619(a) participants (41.5 percent) and section 1619(b) participants (34.4 percent). As a group, 1619(b) participants were somewhat older (60 percent were aged 30 or older), compared with section 1619(a) participants (47.8 percent were aged 30 or older).

By race, the majority of participants in both section 1619(a) and (b) were white—65.3 and 69.5 percent, respectively. A somewhat smaller percentage of the total SSI disabled population was

white—54 percent. And by sex, the majority of the participants were men: Section 1619(a), 60.7 percent; section 1619(b), 57.9 percent. Men constituted only 42 percent of the total SSI disabled population.

**Diagnosis.**—The primary impairments diagnosed for the majority of participants in both groups were mental disorders—70.4 percent for section 1619(a) participants and 64.5 percent for section 1619(b) participants (table 4). More than one-half of these participants with a mental disorder were diagnosed as being mentally retarded. Among all SSI disabled recipients, 54.4 percent were

diagnosed as having a mental disorder including 28.2 percent who were mentally retarded. Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs was the second largest diagnosis recorded for both section 1619(a) participants (14.8 percent) and for section 1619(b) participants (15.1 percent). This category was also the second largest for all disabled recipients but represented by a smaller percentage (12.3 percent).

**Income.**—The source of earned income for almost all of section 1619 participants was from wages—98.5 percent and 97.9 percent for 1619(a) and 1619(b) participants, respectively (table 3). A small percentage of wage earners (less than 2 percent) also received income from self-employment and even a smaller percentage (less than 1 percent) had income from self-employment only.

Their monthly mean average earned income amount was \$714 for 1619(a) participants and \$764 for 1619(b) participants. The dollar distribution of the earned income between section 1619(a) and (b) participants were markedly different primarily due to the provisions of the program. While 41.6 percent of section 1619(b) participants had incomes below \$500, none of section 1619(a) participants had earned incomes below that amount. This difference is caused by the definition for 1619(a) participants that requires earned income above \$500 to be eligible for 1619(a) participation. However, over one-third (34.0 percent) of section 1619(b) participants had earned income amounts of \$900 or more, compared with 12.1 percent of the section 1619(a) participants. This difference results from the fact that the 1619(a) participants who have earned income above \$900 in most States are transferred to section 1619(b) of the

program because their incomes are above the "breakeven" point and they become ineligible for 1619(a) participation.

More than 80 percent of section 1619(a) participants had no unearned income, compared with 32.3 percent for section 1619(b) participants. In addition to earnings, the majority (61.6 percent) of section 1619(b) participants received a Social Security benefit.

**State of residence.**—The majority of the section 1619 participants were located in nine States (California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin) accounting for 51.6 percent of all participants (table 5). These same States accounted for 50.3 percent of all SSI blind and disabled recipients.

### Other Work Incentive Provisions

Data on trends are somewhat limited for the PASS, IRWE, and BWE work incentive provisions because statistics were not kept regularly on these activities before March 1990. Table 6 shows the change in participation under these provisions between March 1990 and September 1991. Some modest growth in the utilization of these work incentive provisions has occurred also.

Only small percentages of section 1619 participants had income excluded under the PASS, IRWE, or BWE income exclusions. A large percentage of the individuals with PASS have no earned income. In addition, a large percentage of the recipients utilizing the IRWE and BWE income exclusions have earnings below \$500 and are ineligible for section 1619(a) participation. Less than 5 percent of section 1619(a) and (b) participants utilize these provisions.

**Table 3.**—Number and percentage distribution of section 1619 participants, by selected characteristics, September 1991

Selected characteristic	1619(a) participants		1619(b) participants	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total .....	14,573	100.0	25,870	100.0
Age				
Under 18 .....	90	.6	130	.5
18–21 .....	1,456	10.0	1,306	5.0
22–29 .....	6,052	41.5	8,891	34.4
30–39 .....	4,010	27.5	8,462	32.7
40–49 .....	1,812	12.4	4,022	15.5
50–59 .....	884	6.1	1,946	7.5
60 or older .....	211	1.4	745	2.9
65 or older .....	58	.4	368	1.4
Race				
White .....	9,510	65.3	17,975	69.5
Black .....	2,756	18.9	3,865	14.9
Other .....	865	5.9	1,168	4.5
Unknown .....	1,442	9.9	2,862	11.1
Sex				
Male .....	8,840	60.7	14,990	57.9
Female .....	5,733	39.3	10,880	42.1
Earned income				
Wages only .....	14,352	98.5	25,334	97.9
Wages and self-employment .....	160	1.1	360	1.4
Self-employment only .....	61	.4	176	.7
Earnings level				
Less than \$400 .....	...	...	7,778	30.1
\$400–\$499 .....	...	...	2,987	11.5
\$500–\$599 .....	4,044	27.7	1,993	7.7
\$600–\$699 .....	3,998	27.4	1,813	7.0
\$700–\$899 .....	4,761	32.7	2,513	9.7
\$900–\$1,199 .....	1,386	9.5	4,238	16.4
\$1,200 or more .....	384	2.6	4,548	17.6
Unearned income <sup>1</sup>				
None .....	11,926	81.8	8,362	32.3
Social Security .....	1,184	8.1	15,944	61.6
Other pensions .....	53	.4	365	1.4
Assistance based on need .....	2	.0	13	.1
Interest, dividends .....	1,106	7.6	1,953	7.5
Other .....	444	3.0	1,273	4.9
Other work incentives <sup>1</sup>				
PASS <sup>2</sup> .....	512	3.5	54	.2
IRWE .....	707	4.9	750	2.9
BWE .....	11	.1	470	1.8

<sup>1</sup> Persons with more than one type are shown under each type.

<sup>2</sup> Data not available on PASS plans, which exclude only resources.

**Table 4.**—Percent of SSI disabled recipients under age 65, and section 1619(a) and 1619(b) participants, by diagnosis, September 1991<sup>1</sup>

Diagnosis	SSI disabled recipients	1619(a) participants	1619(b) participants
Total percent .....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Infectious and parasitic diseases .....	1.5	1.2	1.2
Neoplasms .....	1.8	1.3	1.8
Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic .....	3.9	1.9	2.2
Mental disorders			
Psychoses and neuroses .....	26.2	26.6	28.7
Mental retardation .....	28.2	43.8	35.8
Diseases of—			
Nervous system and sense organs <sup>2</sup> .....	12.3	14.8	15.1
Circulatory system .....	6.8	1.7	2.6
Respiratory system .....	2.9	.6	.9
Digestive system .....	.7	.3	.4
Musculoskeletal and connective tissues .....	7.7	2.6	4.0
Congenital anomalies .....	1.8	1.0	.8
Injury and poisoning .....	3.5	2.2	3.8
Other .....	2.7	2.0	2.7

<sup>1</sup> Information on diagnosis of SSI disabled recipients under age 65 is from the December 1990 SSI 10-percent disability file. Information on diagnosis for section 1619 recipients is available from SSI source files. Percentages shown are based on section 1619(a) participants, and 13,324 section 1619(b) participants.

### Plans for Achieving Self-Support

Most of the recipients with PASS were under 40 years old. The group aged 30-39—the largest age group—accounted for 35.2 percent of all PASS cases (table 7). By race, nearly three-fourths (74.7 percent) of PASS recipients were white and, by sex, the majority (57.5 percent) were men.

The majority (57.1 percent) of these recipients had no earned income. They set aside unearned income, primarily Social Security benefit payments, to meet their objective to obtain a college degree or vocational training. Nearly two-fifths (39.3 percent) had only wages, 3.2 percent had earnings from self-employment, and 0.4 percent had earnings from both wages and self-employment.

A little more than 80 percent of the recipients with PASS either had no earned income or monthly earned

income amounts below \$500. They were not eligible for section 1619(a) participation. Of those with earned incomes, the majority of them had monthly amounts ranging from \$300-\$499.

Although nearly one-fourth (24.6 percent) of these recipients had no unearned income, 69.6 percent were receiving a Social Security benefit; 8.0 percent were receiving interest or dividend payments.

Of these recipients with a diagnosis indicated on their case record, nearly one-half (48.6 percent) were identified as having a mental disorder (table 8). The majority of these cases were diagnosed as having a mental illness other than mental retardation. A large percentage (22 percent) were diagnosed as having a disease of the nervous system and sense organs.

### Impairment-Related Work Expenses

Most recipients with income exclusions because of IRWE were—like those with PASS—under age 40, white, and male (table 7). The group aged 22-29 contained the largest number of recipients and accounted for 40.3 percent of the total. Over three-fourths (76.3 percent) of the recipients were white; 13.1 percent were black; and 2.8 percent were members of other races. Nearly 8 percent were of unknown races. More than one-half (54.7 percent) of IRWE recipients were males.

Almost all IRWE recipients received their earnings from wages (98.9 percent from wages and only 0.2 from wages and self-employment). Only 0.9 percent received their earnings from self-employment only.

One-fourth (25.0 percent) had monthly earnings of less than \$100 and the majority (86.3 percent) had earnings of less than \$500. It would appear from the low monthly earned income amounts reported for the IRWE recipients that most of them work less than full time or work in a sheltered workshop or work activity center environment.

Most (52.8 percent) of the recipients benefiting from the IRWE income exclusion had no unearned income. Of the remainder, 40.9 percent received Social Security benefits. Only a small number received such income from pensions, interest, dividends or from other sources.

A majority of the recipients with a diagnosis coded on their case record were identified as mentally retarded (70.5 percent). Recipients with some form of psychoses or neuroses accounted for 11.3 percent, while recipients with a disease of the nervous system and sense organs accounted for 11.2 percent. These three diagnostic classifications

**Table 5.—Number of SSI disabled recipients utilizing specific work incentive provisions, by State, September 1991**

State	Section 1619(a)	Section 1619(b)	PASS	IRWE	BWE
Total .....	14,573	25,870	3,126	5,566	3,926
Alabama .....	154	283	21	72	45
Alaska .....	20	74	4	8	2
Arizona .....	123	213	10	44	31
Arkansas .....	113	236	73	39	47
California .....	2,825	2,239	940	550	459
Colorado .....	143	452	205	35	31
Connecticut .....	164	419	15	41	21
Delaware .....	45	93	3	24	10
District of Columbia .....	48	131	9	8	5
Florida .....	525	826	53	240	128
Georgia .....	278	419	14	129	93
Hawaii .....	68	107	18	21	24
Idaho .....	52	157	25	3	11
Illinois .....	585	1,053	95	228	87
Indiana .....	251	573	19	143	67
Iowa .....	210	758	30	15	94
Kansas .....	130	371	12	170	29
Kentucky .....	141	262	26	38	53
Louisiana .....	173	342	9	37	46
Maine .....	109	192	29	34	26
Maryland .....	296	499	49	216	43
Massachusetts .....	558	1,189	106	91	295
Michigan .....	617	1,164	198	240	136
Minnesota .....	218	978	45	91	59
Mississippi .....	137	185	10	21	115
Missouri .....	225	500	22	207	64
Montana .....	52	167	25	8	4
Nebraska .....	95	190	17	31	17
Nevada .....	42	99	21	25	11
New Hampshire .....	42	101	12	12	3
New Jersey .....	275	757	21	95	67
New Mexico .....	63	137	5	102	33
New York .....	1,419	2,271	166	391	372
North Carolina .....	246	423	26	155	212
North Dakota .....	32	113	23	7	4
Ohio .....	688	1,186	168	99	160
Oklahoma .....	81	186	5	44	22
Oregon .....	174	467	56	34	38
Pennsylvania .....	648	1,136	29	355	219
Rhode Island .....	52	120	19	70	14
South Carolina .....	137	256	39	43	39
South Dakota .....	55	204	13	26	15
Tennessee .....	190	324	25	149	94
Texas .....	515	1,046	44	211	247
Utah .....	51	139	2	14	21
Vermont .....	68	98	76	31	10
Virginia .....	247	456	72	490	79
Washington .....	504	975	62	77	76
West Virginia .....	59	96	3	14	15
Wisconsin .....	600	1,118	153	335	126
Wyoming .....	25	86	4	3	7
Northern Mariana Islands .....	5	4	0	0	0

accounted for 93 percent of all IRWE recipients with a diagnosis identified (table 8).

### Blind Work Expenses

Recipients with income exclusions for blind work expenses tended to be slightly older than persons utilizing the PASS and IRWE income exclusions. Almost 29.6 percent of the BWE recipients were age 40 or older, compared with 26.2 percent and 21.7 percent for the recipients utilizing PASS and IRWE, respectively (table 7).

The majority (64.0 percent) of these recipients were white. A somewhat higher percentage (19.7 percent) of the BWE recipients were black, compared with 9.9 percent and 13.1 percent for the recipients utilizing PASS and IRWE, respectively.

Most (95.2 percent) of these recipients also received their earnings from wages only. Recipients with earnings from self-employment only accounted for 4.1 percent and those with earnings from both wages and self-employment accounted for 0.6 percent.

The majority (55.4 percent) of BWE recipients had earnings of \$500 or more. A much higher percentage of these recipients (25.6 percent) had earnings of \$1,000 or more than did either the recipients with a PASS (5.5 percent) or IRWE (1.3 percent).

Similar to the recipient with IRWE exclusions, most of these recipients (57.4 percent) had no unearned income. Recipients with income from pensions accounted for less than 1 percent; recipients with income from interest, dividends, for example, accounted for 9.9 percent.

Nearly all of the recipients (89.1 percent) were reported in the category of diseases of the nervous

**Table 6.**—Number of SSI recipients benefiting from specified work incentive provisions, selected months, 1990–91

Month/year	PASS	IRWE	BWE
March 1990	1,546	4,571	4,298
June	1,761	4,978	4,367
September	2,011	5,193	4,383
December	2,255	5,384	4,385
March 1991	2,467	5,033	4,007
June	2,736	5,266	3,979
September	3,126	5,566	3,926

system or sense organs, which covers diseases of the eye. One would expect all of the blind participants to be reported in this category; however, a few blind participants have a primary impairment other than diseases of the eye and are coded in other categories.

**Table 7.**—Number and percentage of SSI disabled recipients utilizing specific work incentive provisions, by selected characteristics, September 1991

Selected characteristic	PASS <sup>1</sup>		IRWE		BWE	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	3,126	100.0	5,566	100.0	3,926	100.0
<b>Age</b>						
Under age 18	1	.0	10	.2	8	.2
18–21	213	6.8	344	6.2	227	5.8
22–29	992	31.7	2,241	40.3	1,246	31.7
30–39	1,100	35.2	1,766	31.7	1,282	32.7
40–49	584	18.7	710	12.8	645	16.4
50–59	197	6.3	330	5.9	350	8.9
60 or older	39	1.2	165	3.0	168	4.3
<b>Race</b>						
White	2,334	74.7	4,247	76.3	2,514	64.0
Black	311	9.9	728	13.1	773	19.7
Other	134	4.3	158	2.8	195	5.0
Unknown	347	11.1	433	7.8	444	11.3
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	1,798	57.5	3,045	54.7	2,247	57.2
Female	1,328	42.5	2,521	45.3	1,679	42.8
<b>Earned income</b>						
Wages only	1,228	39.3	5,504	98.9	3,739	95.2
Wages and self-employment	12	.4	11	.2	25	.6
Self-employment only	101	3.2	51	.9	162	4.1
None	1,785	57.1	...	...	...	...
<b>Earnings level</b>						
No earnings	1,785	57.1	...	...	...	...
\$1–\$99	106	3.4	1,394	25.0	388	9.9
\$100–\$299	258	8.3	2,398	43.1	766	19.5
\$300–\$499	400	12.8	1,012	18.2	599	15.3
\$500–\$699	226	7.2	454	8.2	525	13.4
\$700–\$999	190	6.1	236	4.2	642	16.4
\$1,000 or more	161	5.2	72	1.3	1,006	25.6
<b>Unearned income<sup>2</sup></b>						
None	768	24.6	2,939	52.8	2,253	57.4
Social Security	2,175	69.6	2,277	40.9	1,201	30.6
Other pensions	57	1.8	66	1.2	15	.4
Assistance based on need	3	.1	...	...	1	(3)
Interest, dividends	251	8.0	366	6.6	389	9.9
Other	159	5.1	161	2.9	294	7.5

<sup>1</sup>Data not available on PASS plans, which exclude only resources.

<sup>2</sup>Persons with more than one type are shown under each type.

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

**Table 8.**—Number and percentage distribution of SSI disabled recipients utilizing specific work incentive provisions, by diagnosis, September 1991

Diagnosis	PASS	IRWE	BWE
Total .....	3,126	5,566	3,926
Without diagnosis .....	1,390	2,979	2,469
With diagnosis			
Total number .....	1,736	2,587	1,457
Total percent .....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Infectious and parasitic diseases .....	1.3	.5	.4
Neoplasms .....	.8	.3	.6
Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic .....	3.1	.7	2.7
Mental disorders:			
Psychoses and neuroses .....	33.9	11.3	.3
Mental retardation .....	14.7	70.5	1.3
Diseases of—			
Nervous system and sense organs .....	22.0	11.2	89.1
Circulatory system .....	2.4	.6	.7
Respiratory system .....	.7	.2	...
Digestive system .....			
Musculoskeletal and connective tissues .....	4.2	.8	...
Congenital anomalies .....	1.4	1.3	3.6
Injury and poisoning .....	12.2	2.1	.6
Other .....	3.1	.6	.6

## Notes

<sup>1</sup>Benefits are partially offset because of earned income. The first \$65 of a recipient's monthly earnings and one-half of the earnings in excess of \$65 are excluded in computing the SSI benefit payable. An additional \$20 general income exclusion can be used to offset earnings if not already used to offset any other income the recipient may have.

<sup>2</sup>SGA is the performance of significant physical and/or mental activity in work for pay or profit, or in work of a type generally performed for pay or profit. Because earnings provide an objective and feasible measure of work, an employee's earnings and a self-employed individual's earnings and/or activity are used as a measure of SGA. The current SGA level is \$500.

<sup>3</sup>SSA uses the "threshold" concept to measure whether an individual has sufficient earnings to provide the equivalent of SSI and State supplementary benefits, Medicaid, and publicly funded attendant care. The threshold is calculated for each State by starting with the annualized gross earnings amount which would reduce the SSI cash payments to zero for an individual with no other income (taking into account that State's supplementary payment level and all applicable earned income exclusions) and adding the State's average annual per capita Medicaid expenditures for SSI recipients who are blind and disabled. The 1991 threshold amounts for each State are shown in table 1.