

searchers and educators; others call for economic analysis and comparisons. Even tentative judgments on the specific issues would contribute to better informed public decisions on broad questions involving the extent and direction of support to be given to health-related research activities.

There is a popular expectation—indeed, a national hope, as evidenced in a long history of favorable congressional actions on the subject—that medical research is a major highway that can lead to outstanding opportunities for beneficial national investment in people. Comparative assessments, developed in detail, might enlighten the many choices that must be made by the Congress, the Executive, and program administrators—choices among the many attractive avenues of inquiry that compete for exploration.

INCOME MAINTENANCE AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Most Federal Government expenditures for income maintenance and family support take the form of cash disbursements—benefit payments to individuals, such as old-age, survivors, and disability insurance benefits; or grants to State and local governments for redistribution by them to individuals and families, as in the case of public assistance benefits.

The payments made directly to persons are classified in national income accounts as Federal Government transfer payments. Those made by State and local governments, with the help of Federal financing, are considered State and local government transfer payments. Unemployment insurance benefits, though financed largely by State-imposed payroll taxes, are counted among Federal Government transfer payments. The concept of transfer payments is defined in an earlier section.

Some of the Federal payments in the income maintenance and family support programs are for the purchase of commodities or redemption of food coupons made available to needy families and individuals.

Under the medicare hospital and health insurance programs, the Federal Government either directly or through intermediary contracting agencies reimburses hospitals and other suppliers of health care and services to insured persons. These Federal Government expenditures are transfer payments in national income accounts.

The public assistance grants to State and local governments similarly are applied in part to pay insurers and suppliers of health care and services for public assistance beneficiaries and for other eligible persons who are medically indigent. The final outlays appear in national income accounts among State and local government purchases of goods and services.

Low-rent housing programs, housing for the elderly and handicapped, and rent subsidies for low- and moderate-income families also are named as programs for income maintenance and family support in the list that follows.

For income maintenance and family support programs, as with each of the other broad categories by purpose, it has not been possible to recapitulate Federal expenditures for the designated programs from the questionnaire responses. Each program named below is, however, described in part III of this report. Several are listed for other broad categories of purpose, as well as for income maintenance and family support.