

TABLE 5.—Percentage distributions of 34,300,000 persons in poverty by age and sex of family head

Unrelated individuals are included as individual heads]

Age of head	Both sexes	Male head	Female head
Percentages who are poor, of corresponding categories of persons, by age and sex of household head, at all income levels:			
All ages of head.....	18.1	14.0	46.2
Under 22.....	37.5	26.9	71.4
22 to 54.....	15.8	12.5	49.2
55 to 64.....	16.7	14.0	30.0
65 and older.....	31.3	24.8	46.9
Percentages of total 34,300,000 poor persons:			
All ages.....	100.0	67.9	32.1
Under 22.....	3.5	2.0	1.5
22 to 54.....	65.0	46.6	18.4
55 to 64.....	11.7	8.2	3.5
65 and older.....	19.8	11.1	8.7

CHILDREN, PRESCHOOL, UNDER 6

Of the 5.8 million poor children under 6, 88 percent were in families having heads in the ages of 22 through 54; less than 1 percent were in families having more youthful heads. These figures are very close to corresponding 94 percent and 3 percent concentrations for children of this age not in poor families. The significant concentration among the poor children is the 25-percent portion in female-headed families; only 3 percent of children under 6 not in poverty were in such families.

Nonwhite families contained 40 percent of all children under 6 in poverty, and these nonwhite poor children were 60 percent of all nonwhite children of this age group. Again, 91 percent were in poor families having heads in the ages 22 through 54 and only 3 percent were in families having younger heads. And here, too, the 31 percent found in families having female heads was the significant concentration, in contrast to only 8 percent of those under 6 not in poverty, in such nonwhite families.

The important characteristic of children under 6 is their need of parental care. This limits directly a family solution to poverty through gainful employment by the mother. It is not surprising, therefore, that over 40 percent of all the families in poverty contain children under 6—and that the proportions of all families found in poverty diminishes as age removes the hindrance of such children to increased family earnings, up to the point at which age itself becomes a stricture on earnings.

	By age of head			
	Under 22	22 to 54	55 to 64	65 plus
Percent of all poor families having children under 6.....	63	60	11	6
Percent of all nonpoor families having children under 6.....	59	39	4	2
Percent, all poor families of all families, regardless of presence of children under 6.....	26	13	12	22