Indeed, this latter group of impoverished former wives and husbands under 65 includes about 43 percent of all former wives and husbands, of all income levels. This low income level for those moving from family to single status is a characteristic of the oncoming aged group of 65 and over.

	Total population		Poor population		
	Millions	Percent of total below	Millions	Percent of total below	Percent of total population
Unrelated individuals	2.5	10.5	0.9	23.7	36.0
Previously married, now without spouse [1]	1.4	5.9	.6	15.8	42.9
Not previously married [1]	1.1	4.6	.3	7.9	27.3
Family heads this age, total	7.4	31.1	.9	23.7	12.2
Male	6.6	27.7	.8	21.1	12.1
Female	.8	3.4	.1	2.6	12.5
Wives (any age) of male heads	6.4	26.9	.7	18.5	10.9
Children under 6	.5	2.1	.2	5.2	40.0
Children 6-15	1.9	8.0	.5	13.1	26.3
Youth 16-21 (never married)	2.2	9.2	.3	7.9	13.6
Other adult relatives (including married youth)	2.9	12.2	.3	7.9	10.3
Total	23.8	100.0	3.8	100.0	16.0

[1] Estimated by OEO staff.

THE AGED, 65 AND OVER

Over 20 percent of the poor are accounted for by aged family heads and their wives, children, and other relatives, and by aged unrelated men and women not living in families. Children and youth are about one-ninth of the total poor in these households, as compared with one-quarter of those in households having heads aged 55 to 64 and almost two-thirds in those of heads aged 22 to 54. Programs directed toward the aged poor will therefore have small effect on the young, and those benefiting the young will have a correspondingly small effect, on the average, on the old.

In 1963, the lowest third of married couples receiving Federal old age and survivor benefits averaged only about $1,600 in total income from all sources. The lowest third of those not getting such benefits averaged $1,250 per couple. Both figures are well below the poverty line of about $1,850 per aged couple, and both go far to sustain the 1965 determination that 38 percent of all households headed by the aged were poor in 1964.

Housing is a major worry of the aged, even though a heavy majority are homeowners, since to continue to enjoy the lower cash outlay available to homeowners, taxes must be paid and some maintenance must be done. In view of the large poor fraction of the aged, their housing might well be expected to be inferior.

In 1960, 69 percent of aged household heads were homeowners; 30 percent of these aged homeowners were in dilapidated or deteriorating homes; 39 percent of aged tenants, too, were in dilapidated or deteriorating homes.