

reason for the closing of an AB case was the death of the recipient, accounting for about a third of all closings. Other important reasons for closing were: recipient no longer eligible with respect to need—25 percent (10 percent because of receipt of or increase in OASDI benefit); and recipient's transfer to another assistance program (usually OAA)—22 percent.

4. Average assistance payment, including vendor payments for medical care, December 1964: \$85.80.

5. Total assistance payments, including vendor payments for medical care, fiscal year 1964: \$97 million.

From Federal funds, 48.4 percent.

From State and local funds, 51.6 percent.

6. Recipients also receiving OASDI benefits: Number of recipient-beneficiaries, late 1962 (excludes most cases receiving assistance or State pension payments without Federal participation), 15,800.

Proportion of total AB caseload, 18.5 percent.

Well over half—56 percent—of recipient-beneficiaries are 65 or over and are receiving retirement benefits based on their own wage records or are receiving benefits as dependents of retired or deceased workers. Thirty percent of the recipient-beneficiaries are 50 to 64 years of age, and 15 percent are under 50. Most of these persons under 65 years of age are assumed to receive benefits based on their own wage records, but a small proportion consists of persons who were disabled prior to their 18th birthday and are eligible for benefits as adult disabled children of retired, disabled, or deceased beneficiaries.

Average OASDI benefit: Average benefit to beneficiaries on AB rolls is about 30 percent lower than average benefit to all aged beneficiaries.

Average AB payment: About 22 percent lower than average payment to recipients who do not receive OASDI benefits. But the average income from AB and OASDI combined, for recipients with both types of income, is 61.5 percent higher than the average income of nonbeneficiaries from AB alone.

7. Recipient characteristics (based on study in late 1962 of the more than 85,000 recipients of payments with Federal participation): To be eligible under Federal policy a recipient must have vision of 20/200 or poorer, or must have peripheral field limitation of 20° or less. Eighteen percent were found to be totally blind; 44 percent had slight vision but poorer than 5/200.

Most frequent eye affections reported were cataract (15 percent of all recipients), optic nerve atrophy (13 percent), glaucoma (12 percent), and retinal degeneration (9 percent).

Cause of blindness was not determined or not reported for 29 percent of all recipients and reported as unknown to science for 19 percent. Causes most frequently given were senile degeneration—9 percent of all recipients, congenital origin other than hereditary—8 percent, trauma and poisoning—7 percent, hereditary origin—5 percent, syphilis—5 percent, and other infectious diseases—7 percent.

Median age at loss of sight for the AB recipients was 39 years. Of all recipients for whom age at loss of sight was reported, 16 percent were blind at birth, and 7 percent lost their sight during the first 6 years of life. Fifty-five percent lost their sight at some time after their 35th birthday, including 17 percent who were 65 or over when they lost it.

Sixteen percent of all AB recipients were confined to the home at the time of the study because of their physical or mental condition. At the other extreme, 36 percent were not only not confined to the home, but they could get around outside of the home without assistance.

At least one chronic physical or mental condition was reported as known to the agency for 45 percent of the recipients. Most common conditions: heart or artery disease—13 percent of all recipients; diabetes—6 percent; arthritis or rheumatism—6 percent; mental deficiency or retardation—5 percent.

In addition to blindness, 9 percent of the recipients were reported to be deaf or have a serious hearing impairment, 1 percent had a serious speech defect, and 8 percent had a defect or deformity of limbs, back, spine, or trunk.

The median age of all recipients was 61.3 years. Forty percent were 65 or over, and only 14 percent were under 40 years of age.

Recipients are almost equally divided between males and females.

The racial breakdown of recipients was reported as follows: 69 percent white, 28 percent Negro, 2 percent other races, and 2 percent unknown.

The average (median) recipient had completed only 5.8 years of school. Only 10 percent of all recipients with schooling reported had graduated from high school; nearly two-thirds of the recipients had failed to complete as many as 8 grades of school, and 44 percent had fewer than 5 years of schooling.