

The trend of payments under the old-age assistance program has been similar to that for retired workers in current pay status under Social Security over the twenty-two year period.

2. Family and Marital Status

In 1960, there were 4.8 million husband-wife families in the United States in which the husband was aged 65 or older.²⁴ But, almost half the aged, or some 7.7 million persons, were widowed, single, or divorced. The number of aged women in these categories increased 32 percent between 1950 and 1960, while the number of unmarried men gained only 8 percent. Women without a husband constitute about 34 percent of the entire aged population, and only one-fifth of all the aged are married women.

In California about 65.8 percent of the men aged 65 and over, but only one-third of the women, shared a household with a spouse in 1960.

Table 23 summarizes the marital status of the 65-plus California population in 1960:

Table 23

Marital Status of California Population Aged 65 and Over 1960

Marital Status	Total	Male	Female
Total	100.0%	43.9%	56.1%
Married (spouse present)	47.6	28.9	18.7
Single, widowed, divorced, married (spouse absent)	52.4	15.0	37.4

Source: U.S. Census of Population
Calif., 1960, PC(1)60. Table 105.

The financial position of the aged individual depends to a large degree on his family status. The following chart shows income trends for U.S. families from 1950 to 1962. Median income for all families almost doubled during the period, rising from about \$3,000 to more than \$6,000.