Families headed by women had the lowest income in 1963, \$3,211, as contrasted with the median income of \$6,593 for husband-wife families, which was 105 percent greater. Median family income rose to a peak of \$7,415 in family groups where the head was aged 45 to 54, and dropped to \$3,352 in families headed by a person aged 65 years or over.

Lower income of families headed by women results partly from the lower wages paid to women, and also from their lower rate of full-time employment. In 1963, about 26 percent of women were full-time year-around workers, as compared with about 70 percent of males heading husband-wife families. The presence of young children in the home also affects women's rate of employment, particularly in the ages 25-44. A sizable proportion of families headed by women receive most of their income from social insurance or public assistance.

Although detailed information on the income of the population aged 65 and over is not yet available for 1963, earlier studies show significant differences between the income of aged couples (defined as one in which the male member is 65 years of age or older), and the unmarried aged.[25] A study of 1962 incomes among the aged group showed the medians to be:

\$2,875 for aged couples.
\$1,365 for nonmarried men.
\$1,015 for nonmarried women.

In contrast with the nearly 4 million California families in 1960 there were 1 1/2 million individuals living alone or in a household consisting of unrelated individuals. Almost half of these individuals subsisted in 1959 on an income of \$2,000 or less. The aged men in this category for the most part received an annual income of less than \$1,600, whereas more than half the aged women of comparable status sustained themselves on less than \$1,400 a year.

Table 26 dramatically illustrates the substandard financial position of this component of the California population.