

ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS INCLUDED IN PART II: *The Aged Population and Retirement Income Programs* of OLD AGE INCOME ASSURANCE

LENORE EPSTEIN BIXBY, THE AGED POPULATION: ECO-
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The major purpose of the 1963 Survey of the Aged was to measure the economic and social situation of a representative sample of all persons aged 62 and over in the United States in order to serve the detailed information needs of the Social Security Administration and of the Advisory Council on Social Security appointed in 1963. In considering adequacy of benefit levels and the retirement-test provisions, such information was needed not only for beneficiaries under the Old-Age, Survivors, Disability, and Health Insurance (OASDHI)¹ program, but also, on a comparable basis, for other aged persons.

The survey collection took place in early 1963, with most of the information relating to the year 1962. The Bureau of the Census was responsible for the sample design and the collection and tabulation of the data. The universe was composed of the civilian population aged 62 and over residing in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Institutional residents were included. The basic interview unit for the survey was an "aged unit," defined as "a married couple, either member of which was aged 62 or older, or a nonmarried² person who was aged 62 or older." About 8,500 aged units consisting of about 11,000 aged persons was the expected sample size; altogether, useful questionnaires were completed for 7,515 aged units, a completion rate of about 88 percent.

Results from the survey were released through presentation of major findings to the Advisory Council in late 1963 and early 1964, a series of articles in the Social Security Bulletin, research notes, and papers given at meetings of professional societies by members of the staff of the Social Security Administration. Data from the 1963 survey were among those utilized in the congressional hearings that preceded passage of the 1965 Amendments to the Social Security Act, establishing health insurance for the aged as well as providing certain improvements in social security-insured status and benefit provisions.

Within the relatively homogeneous group of the aged, there is considerable diversity. Even in the one thing that elderly people have in common—their "age"—there is an extensive range. Of the 22 million persons aged 62 and over who were covered in the 1963 survey of the aged, 4 million were in the "youngest" group, the 62 to 64 age range,

¹ In this report, the current terminology "OASDHI," has been adopted, although the health insurance provisions were not enacted until 1965.

² Divorced, separated, widowed, or never married.