

Comparison of transfer programs

Public assistance benefits are sharply progressive; social security, and government employee-railroad worker benefits are progressive throughout the welfare scale; those for veterans and military personnel are progressive from zero to 2-2.49 and irregular above 2; and those paid under private pensions are progressive from zero to 1.50-1.99 and irregular above 1.50. Benefits range from most to least progressive in the following order: (1) public assistance; (2) and (3) social security and payments to government civilian workers and railroad employees; (4) benefits for veterans and the military; and (5) private pensions.

TABLE 3.—CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTIONS OF BENEFITS, BY PROGRAM, WELFARE RATIO INTERVAL, AND AGE OF HEAD, 1960-61 AVERAGES

[In percent]						
Welfare ratio interval and age of head	Public assistance	Veterans and military programs	Social security	Government civilian, and railroad pensions	Private pensions	Combined programs
All families:						
Under 0.....	0.7	0.6	1.0	2.3	0	1.0
Under 0.49.....	82.8	36.8	50.1	54.0	15.0	50.0
Under 0.74.....	88.5	45.9	61.6	63.3	24.7	59.9
Under 0.99.....	93.3	52.1	69.8	67.5	35.2	66.9
Under 1.49.....	97.2	67.4	80.6	75.3	50.2	77.6
Under 1.99.....	98.2	80.0	87.6	84.6	58.7	85.2
Under 2.49.....	99.5	85.4	92.6	90.5	70.8	90.4
Under 3.49.....	100.0	94.4	97.1	96.0	78.7	95.6
Total.....	100.0	100.1	99.9	100.0	99.9	100.0
Head under age 65:						
Under 0.....	.1	.2	.7	.5	0	.5
Under 0.49.....	78.4	22.4	34.4	33.0	4.8	39.7
Under 0.74.....	84.7	30.8	44.5	42.5	9.4	48.0
Under 0.99.....	91.1	37.5	54.5	50.4	16.0	55.7
Under 1.49.....	96.6	56.6	69.3	59.7	33.7	69.3
Under 1.99.....	98.0	71.5	81.5	72.9	49.7	80.0
Under 2.49.....	99.5	78.8	90.2	81.2	76.4	87.3
Under 3.49.....	100.0	91.7	96.2	94.4	91.1	95.3
Total.....	100.0	99.9	100.0	99.9	100.0	100.0
Head aged 65 or over:						
Under 0.....	0	1.4	1.2	3.0	0	1.3
Under 0.49.....	93.3	67.0	55.2	62.6	18.4	56.7
Under 0.74.....	97.7	77.5	67.2	71.8	29.9	67.6
Under 0.99.....	98.6	82.7	74.8	74.5	41.8	74.2
Under 1.49.....	98.6	90.0	84.4	81.7	55.9	83.0
Under 1.99.....	98.6	97.7	89.8	89.4	61.9	88.6
Under 2.49.....	99.7	98.8	93.6	94.3	69.0	92.4
Under 3.49.....	100.0	99.5	97.6	96.6	74.6	95.7
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.1	100.0	100.0	100.0