

Disability Trends in the United States: A National and Regional Perspective

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Between 1978 and 1993, the number of persons receiving disability benefits under either the Supplemental Security Income program or the Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance program increased more than 43 percent—from 4.7 million to 6.7 million. In 1993, 4.08 percent of the U.S. resident population aged 18–64 were receiving a disability benefit under one or both of the programs, compared with 3.37 percent in 1978. This ratio had declined to 2.93 percent in 1983. The article examines the change in growth since 1975 in each of the two disability programs and provides an overview of key legislative changes occurring during the period. The emphasis is on regional and State changes during the 1987–92 period, identifying those areas where growth has been the most dramatic.

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The Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) program, the largest income-maintenance program in the United States, and the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, a major cash assistance program, have experienced substantial growth in recent years. Administrative, legislative, and judicial decisions over the past decade, combined with the economic downturn of 1990–91, are all suggested as contributors to a rising number of applications for disability benefits, followed by expanding beneficiary rolls and increasing benefit expenditures.

This article examines the level of OASDI and SSI disability program participation among disabled persons since 1975 and relates that participation to the total population. Insured status is also used to examine the program participation of disabled-worker beneficiaries since 1957, the year benefits first became payable under the OASDI disability program. Brief reviews are included of legislative changes and the extent to which they have affected recent trends. This background information will provide a better understanding of the relationship of recent trends to those established during the early years of the program.

Recent attention has focused on changes in disability program participation rates during the past 5 years. This period will be examined using State-by-State data to identify areas experiencing the greatest changes between 1987 and 1992. These State data will provide comparisons of OASDI and SSI disability program participation.

The OASDI program provides monthly benefits on the basis of disability to disabled workers, widow(ers), and children. Disabled-worker benefits are paid, after a 5-month waiting period to those persons unable to “engage in any substantial gainful activity [SGA] by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months.”

Since the program provides work-based benefits, the individual must meet certain work requirements to be eligible for participation. Benefits are paid to a disabled widow(ers) or surviving divorced spouse at age 50–59, and to disabled children at age 18 or older who are sons or daughters of retired, disabled, or deceased workers.

In contrast, the SSI program is a means-tested program that provides a monthly benefit to aged, blind, and disabled persons having limited assets and income. There is no waiting period before such benefits are payable. The qualifying standards for disability payments to persons aged 18 or older are the same under both the OASDI and the SSI programs. For a child under age 18, eligibility is based on disability with severity comparable to that of an adult.

Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Program

Approximately 2.72 percent of the resident population in the United States aged 18–64 received disability benefits in 1993 under the OASDI program, compared with 2.28 percent in 1975 (table 1). This percentage had risen from a low of 2.09 percent in 1983 and 1984. The percentage of persons receiving disability benefits rose slowly through the remainder of the 1980's with 2.22 percent of the U.S. resident population aged 18–64 on the disability rolls by 1989. In 1990, the pace began to accelerate as an increase in the number of benefit applications was accompanied by an increase in the initial allowance rate (34 percent in 1988, 39 percent in 1992).¹ The initial allowance rate is expressed as the ratio of disability awards to total disability decisions at the initial determination level.

Disabled workers account for about five out of six disability beneficiaries, and the remainder received benefits as disabled children, widows, or widowers. Adults disabled before age 18 (or age 22, if attending school) who were children of retired, disabled, or deceased workers, became eligible for

benefits under the Social Security Amendments of 1956. Among disabled children aged 18 or older, the participation rate has increased slowly over the entire 1975–93 period, going from 0.27 percent to 0.33 percent.

The number of disabled widows and widowers has increased rapidly since 1990 (97,000 in 1990 to 141,000 in 1993), accompanied by a corresponding rise in the prevalence rate from 0.06 to 0.09 percent. The current rate is approximately the same as in the late 1970's. Disability benefits were extended to widows and widowers at age 50 following enactment of the 1967 amendments. This recent surge in the number of disabled widows and widowers has resulted largely from a change that was included in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990. This change, effective in 1991, required that the disabled person be unable to participate in any "substantial gainful activity." Before 1991, the individual was not permitted to engage in "any gainful activity." The result was that fewer widows or widowers were able to meet the more restrictive definition.

Coverage for disabled workers has expanded since the 1956 amendments first extended eligibility (after a 6-month waiting period) to those aged 50–64 who were severely disabled. The 1960 amendments extended benefits to disabled workers under age 50, and the 1972 amendments shortened the waiting period to 5 full months. To receive benefits, a disabled worker must meet the statutory definition of disability and must be fully and currently insured. Persons aged 31 or older must have at least 1 quarter of coverage for each year after age 21 and must have at least 20 quarters of coverage in the last 40 quarters.²

Because disabled workers so outnumber widow(ers) and children, trends in disability rates are controlled by changes in the number of disabled workers. In 1975, about 1.93 percent of the population received disabled-worker benefits under OASDI. This percentage rose to 2.11 in 1977, then edged downward to 2.02 percent in

1980. The decline continued in the early 1980's as legislation eased the transition of the disabled worker from the beneficiary rolls to the workplace and instituted stepped-up review of the disability rolls.

Revised administrative provisions affected the number of benefit terminations. Under these provisions, disability (or blindness) was determined to have ceased when current evidence showed that the individual did not meet the definition of disability (or blindness) under which his or her initial claim was allowed, irrespective of the standard under which the case was allowed. The Social Security Disability Benefits Reform Act of 1984 revised this provision by establishing new standards for continuing disability reviews. A beneficiary would need to have "medically improved" in order to be terminated from the program rolls. Also during this period, legislative changes in 1977, 1980, and 1981 reduced benefit amounts for many potential beneficiaries.

Following enactment of the 1980 legislation, the number of disabled-worker beneficiaries fell to less than 2.6 million in 1983 and 1984 from nearly 2.9 million in 1978. It was not until 1989 that the number of disabled-worker beneficiaries exceeded the 1978 level. This decline and subsequent rise in the number of beneficiaries failed to keep pace with population increases, thus resulting in a participation rate that gradually decreased during the period. Between 1989 and 1993, however, the number of disabled-worker beneficiaries jumped 29 percent while the resident population rose less than 4.0 percent. This resulted in an increase of nearly 25 percent in the participation rate from 1.84 percent in 1989 to 2.29 percent in 1993.

These results are consistent with those determined by using the Social Security Area population (table 1).³ About 2.69 percent of the Social Security Area population aged 18–64 received disability benefits under the OASDI program in 1993. Among disabled workers, the ratio was

2.27 percent, 0.33 percent among disabled children under age 18, and 0.09 percent among disabled widow(ers).

The trend in disability participation rates when using the total number of workers insured for disability is similar to that obtained by using U.S. population data. In 1957, about 0.4 percent of those insured for disability received disabled-worker benefits, a ratio that rose steadily to 3.25 percent in 1977 before declining to 2.46 percent in 1984 (table 2). After 5 years of relatively little change, the participation rate began to increase again, reaching 3.01 percent in 1993. This was approximately the same participation rate as in 1975 when there were 1.2 million fewer disabled-worker beneficiaries.

Supplemental Security Income Program

The SSI program went into effect in January 1974. It replaced the programs of Old-Age Assistance, Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled, and Aid to the Blind. In 1975, benefits were paid to 4.3 million persons, about 1.8 million of whom were blind or disabled and under age 65 (table 3). Those aged 65 or older were the largest group of recipients at 2.5 million, a figure that included about 200,000 disabled persons.⁴ By 1987, the number of blind or disabled persons aged 18–64 had reached 2.1 million, increasing at a rate of about 2 percent annually over the 12-year period.

Since 1987, however, the growth in the disability rolls has accelerated under SSI, much as it has under the OASDI program. The number of disabled persons under age 65 receiving SSI benefits has increased by more than 8.0 percent annually, fueled, in part, by the recent rise in the number of disabled children under age 18. By 1993, the number of children receiving SSI disability benefits had risen to 723,000, more than triple the number in 1986. The number continues to increase and was at 820,000 as of August 1994.

The total number of disabled SSI recipients increased from 4.3 million in 1975 to 6.0 million in 1993 after first falling to 3.9 million in 1982 and 1983. Because of the increase, about 2.32 percent of the U.S. resident population were receiving SSI disability benefits at the end of 1993, compared with a low of 1.66 percent at the end of 1982. As recently as 1990, this participation rate was 1.94 percent, less than the 2.00 percent rate experienced in the program's first year. Gains among children under age 18 and among persons aged 18–64 resulted in greater program growth as the participation rate among children increased nearly sevenfold from 1975 to 1993, while the rate among those aged 18–64 increased from 1.35 percent to 1.99 percent.

Much of the increase experienced among children under age 18 has occurred following implementation of new mental impairment criteria and the U.S. Supreme Court's *Sullivan v. Zebley* decision, both in 1990, and also as a result of improved outreach efforts. The new mental impairment listings emphasized functional criteria and included certain specific disorders that previously had been excluded. These listings were an outgrowth of court decisions in 1983 and 1984, and the resulting 1984 amendments regarding the use of functional criteria when evaluating mental impairments for adults.

The *Sullivan v. Zebley* decision resulted in the development of functional criteria to assess disability for children whose conditions did not meet the medical listings. For such children, a determination of disability was to be made when the impairment severely limited their ability to function independently in a manner appropriate to their age. The *Zebley* decision required that children be treated the same as adults in the determination process, thus easing the earlier standard. This decision expanded the eligibility criteria for children with disabilities, and, when new impairment listings for children, based on the ruling were promulgated, led to an

expected rapid increase in the number of children receiving benefits.

Persons aged 18–64 comprised the largest group of beneficiaries at 3.1 million in 1993. This number had remained stable at 1.7 million during the 1975–83 period, but since 1983 has increased at a rate of nearly 6.5 percent annually and about 8.0 percent annually since 1987.

Increases in participation rates among both children and adults are also reflected in the acceleration in award rates (the number of awards, expressed as a percentage of all residents in the population in the same age group) during the past 6 years. In 1988 for instance, the SSI program awarded benefits to about 343,000 disabled adults or approximately 0.23 percent of the resident population aged 18–64 in that year (table 4). By 1992, this rate had increased to 0.38 percent before slipping back to 0.36 percent in 1993. These rates were similar to those experienced under the DI program that moved from 0.28 percent in 1987 to 0.41 percent in 1992, before dropping to 0.40 percent in 1993.

The change in award rates was more pronounced among the smaller population of disabled children where the number of awards increased from 52,000 in 1987 to 226,000 in 1993. Over the 6-year period, the award rate moved from 0.08 percent to 0.34 percent. Although these awards to children included a small number made to those over age 18, the magnitude of change over this 6-year period reflects the change brought by the *Sullivan v. Zebley* decision.

Program Participation

At the end of 1993, more than 4 percent of the 164.4 million persons aged 18–64 in the Social Security Area population received benefits, based on disability, under the OASDI or SSI program (table 5). This participation rate has followed the pattern of the separate programs, decreasing slowly from 1978 to 1983 (3.37 percent to 2.93 percent) before changing direction and increasing annually to the present rate. Among those receiv-

ing SSI benefits only, the participation rate has increased from 0.81 percent to 1.36 percent since 1982.

Approximately 918,000 persons were concurrent beneficiaries, receiving both OASDI and SSI disability benefits at the end of 1993, about 0.56 percent of the Social Security Area population. This represents an increase from 0.35 percent at the end of 1978, reflecting the increases in each program as noted above.

State and Regional Variations in Program Participation

Disability program participation has followed a similar pattern under both OASDI and SSI—falling through the late 1970's and early 1980's, rising steadily through the late 1980's and accelerating during the past 4 years. There are striking differences, however, when regional patterns are considered during the recent period of rapid increases.

Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Program

Between 1987 and 1992, the participation rate for disabled workers under the OASDI program increased from 1.80 percent of persons aged 18–64 in 1987 to 2.16 percent of persons aged 18–64 in 1992, a rise of nearly 20 percent. Regionally, increases ranged from 12.4 percent in the Philadelphia region to 40.9 percent in the Denver region. Generally, increases were the smallest in regions such as New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, and San Francisco that are dominated by the more populous States (table 6).

Despite the relatively large participation rate increase in the Denver region between 1987 and 1992, the region has remained among those with the lowest participation rates (chart 1). The large increase occurred against the backdrop of a very low participation rate in 1987. In that year, only 1.39 percent of all persons aged 18–64 were disabled-worker beneficiaries, considerably below the national average of 1.80 percent. Thus, the increase

of 40.9 percent in the participation rate between 1987 and 1992 resulted in a participation rate of 1.96 percent, still below the national level of 2.16 percent.

The Atlanta region had 2.79 percent of its aged 18–64 population on the disabled-worker rolls in 1992, the highest of any of the 10 regions. Five years earlier, the Atlanta region was also the highest, at 2.32 percent. In both years, each of the eight States in the region had disabled-worker participation rates that were above the national average.

Prevalence of disability in 1992 was the lowest in the Denver, San Francisco, and Seattle regions. In 1987, these 3 regions were also the lowest among the 10 regions. The population in each of these regions is dominated by a State in which rates are below the national average—Colorado (Denver region), California (San Francisco region), and Washington (Seattle region).

In 1992, award rates in the Atlanta, Boston, and New York regions were above the national average of 40 per 10,000 or about 0.40 percent. Five years earlier, only the Atlanta and Kansas City regions were above the national level of 0.33 percent. From 1987 to 1992, the number of disabled-worker awards in the Atlanta region increased about 50 percent, higher than the national average of 45.5 percent and considerably higher than the 36.7 percent rise in the Kansas City region.

Between 1987 and 1992, the largest change in award rates occurred in the Boston region where the number of awards to disabled workers increased from 0.27 percent to 0.46 percent (chart 2). This increase of 71.3 percent exceeded gains in all other regions that varied from 35.3 percent in Chicago to 59.6 percent in New York and Dallas.

At the State level, differences in participation and award rates were even more pronounced (chart 3). The prevalence of disabled-worker awards ranged from a low in Alaska and Hawaii (0.94 and 1.13 percent, respec-

tively) to 3.77 percent in Arkansas. Those States with the highest participation rates among disabled workers in 1987—Mississippi and West Virginia (3.04 percent of all persons aged 18–64), Arkansas (2.99 percent), Kentucky (2.72 percent), and Alabama (2.55 percent)—also had the highest participation rates in 1992.

In each of the eight States in the Atlanta region, participation rates were higher than the national average of 2.16 percent, the same situation that had occurred in 1987. The lowest rates were in the Denver region where only Montana exceeded the national average in 1987. By 1992, the participation rate had increased more than twice as rapidly as the national average, with gains in each State ranging from 32.9 percent in North Dakota to 55.9 percent in Wyoming.

Generally, the rate of change was the greatest among States with small populations as 9 of the 10 States with the largest gains had populations in the lower half of all States. Massachusetts was the exception, ranking 13th in population with an increase of nearly 38 percent in the participation rate between 1987 and 1992.

Consequently, 30 of the 50 States showed increases above the national average with lower rates of change in the more heavily populated States offsetting these gains. Only 2 of the 10 most heavily populated States had participation-rate increases between 1987 and 1992 that were above the national average—Texas (30.0 percent) and North Carolina (23.8 percent).

Despite large increases in participation rates among States in the Denver region, these States did not show an unusual rise in disabled-worker award rates (number of awards/population) during the 1987–92 period. The award rate in 1987 for the six States in the Denver region ranged from 0.22 percent (Utah) to 0.34 percent (Montana) with the regional rate of 0.26 percent below the national rate of 0.28 percent. In 1992, the national level had increased to 0.40 percent but the Denver region was still lower, at 0.38 percent.

In the Boston region, however, the award rate jumped from a below average 0.27 percent in 1987 to an above average 0.46 percent in 1992. This gain was driven by increases in New Hampshire (64.8 percent), Maine (68.3 percent), and Vermont (80.7 percent).

Supplemental Security Income Program

Under the SSI program, about 1.86 percent of all persons aged 18–64 in 1992 were receiving disability benefits at the end of the year, compared with 1.41 percent⁵ at the end of 1987 (table 7). This increase of nearly 32 percent was twice the rate experienced under the OASDI program over the 5-year period.

Participation rates varied from one region to another, ranging from a low of 1.24 percent in the Denver region, to 2.20 percent in the San Francisco region. Denver experienced the greatest increase in participation rates while San Francisco experienced the smallest in the 1987–92 period, yet each region maintained its low/high position relative to the other eight regions in 1992.

The disability award rate in 1987 (expressed as the number of awards under SSI expressed as a percentage of the 1987 population) was 0.23 percent with only the Atlanta (0.30 percent) and San Francisco (0.25 percent) regions exceeding the national average. By 1992, the national award rate had increased nearly 62 percent to 0.38 percent. At that time, the Atlanta, Dallas, and New York regions had rates above the national average while San Francisco matched the national average.

Chart 4 shows that San Francisco was the only region where the disability award rate was higher under the SSI program (0.38 percent in 1992) than under the OASDI program (0.34 percent). This contributed to a disability participation rate that was also higher under the SSI disability program (2.20 percent) than the OASDI program (1.73 percent).

The greatest rise in SSI award rates because of disability (or blindness) occurred in the New York and Dallas regions as each increased more than 81 percent over the 5-year period. Increases at the regional level were driven by gains in large States such as New York (81.7 percent) and

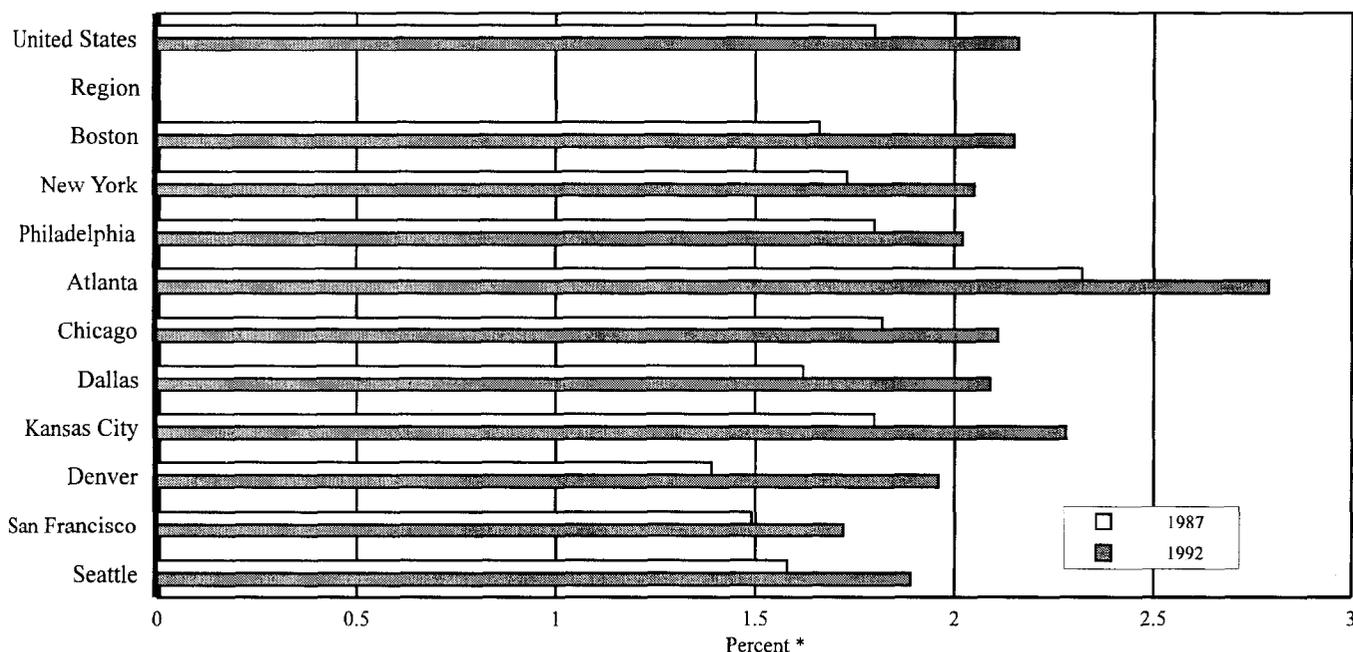
Texas (88.5 percent). Regions with low program participation rates in 1987—Denver, Seattle, and Kansas City—still had the lowest rates in 1992, as disability award rates remained below the national average during the period.

Despite the consistently high program participation rates in the Atlanta region, there was a wide range of differences at the State level. In 1992, for instance, participation rates ranged from 1.47 percent in Florida to 3.58 percent in Mississippi. Similarly, in the San Francisco region, the high SSI disability participation rates in California (2.39 percent) offset the very low levels in the remaining States of the region—Nevada (0.94 percent), Hawaii (1.00 percent), and Arizona (1.43 percent).

SSI disability participation rates in 1992 were lowest in New Hampshire and Alaska at 0.75 percent and 0.89 percent, respectively, the same situation as in 1987. The highest rates were in Mississippi (3.58 percent) and Kentucky (3.37 percent). These two States also had the highest rates 5 years earlier.

As under the OASDI program, participation rates increased dramati-

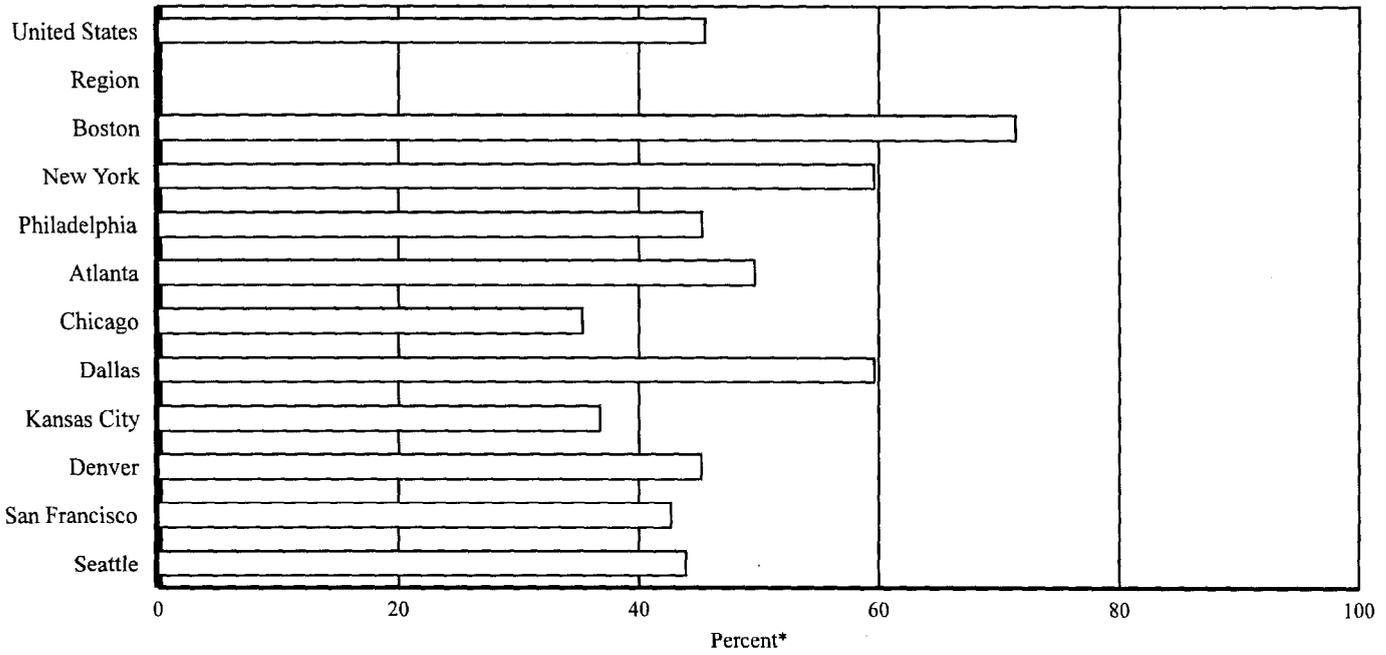
Chart 1.—Percent of disabled-worker beneficiaries by SSA administrative region, 1987 and 1992



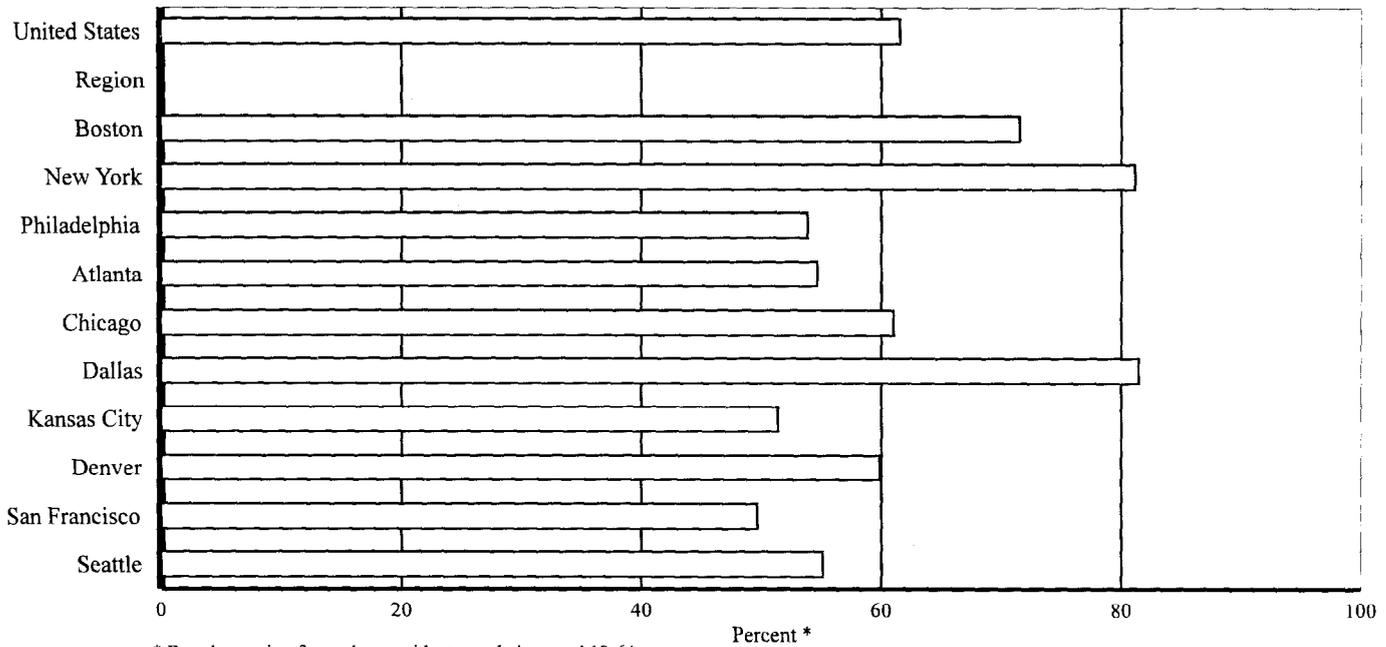
* Based on ratio of disabled-worker beneficiaries to the resident population aged 18–64.

Chart 2.—Percent change in OASDI and SSI disability awards, by SSA administrative region, 1987-92

OASDI disability awards



SSI disability awards



* Based on ratio of awards to resident population aged 18-64.

cally between 1987 and 1992. Among the 10 States with the greatest gain in disability program participation rates in the 5-year period, five were in the Denver region. The smallest percentage change among the Denver-region States was in North Dakota, with a 39.7 percent gain, which was still above the national average of 31.8 percent. Despite these gains in participation rates, the award rates that drove these increases were modest. In 1992, each State in the Denver region had award rates ranging from 0.20 to 0.31 percent, compared with the national average of 0.38 percent.

All 14 States in the Denver, Kansas City, and Seattle regions had program participation rates in 1987 below the national average of 1.41 percent of persons aged 18–64 in the population. By 1992, the program participation rate in these 3 regions was still lowest of the 10 regions, reflecting award rates that in 1992 were still the lowest in the country.

Seven States had a higher incidence of disability under the SSI program than under the OASDI program. These included States with relatively large urban populations (California, New York, and Illinois) and smaller

States with substantial rural populations (Kentucky, Arkansas, and Louisiana). The District of Columbia also had a higher incidence of disability under SSI (0.62 percent) than under OASDI (0.42 percent).

Conclusion

More than 4 percent of all persons aged 18–64 received disability benefits at the end of 1993 as a worker, child, or widow(er) under the OASDI program or as a disabled person with limited financial resources under the SSI program. A decade earlier, the comparable figure was less than 3.0 percent. The dramatic growth in both disability programs in recent years has been the most striking feature in disability trends.

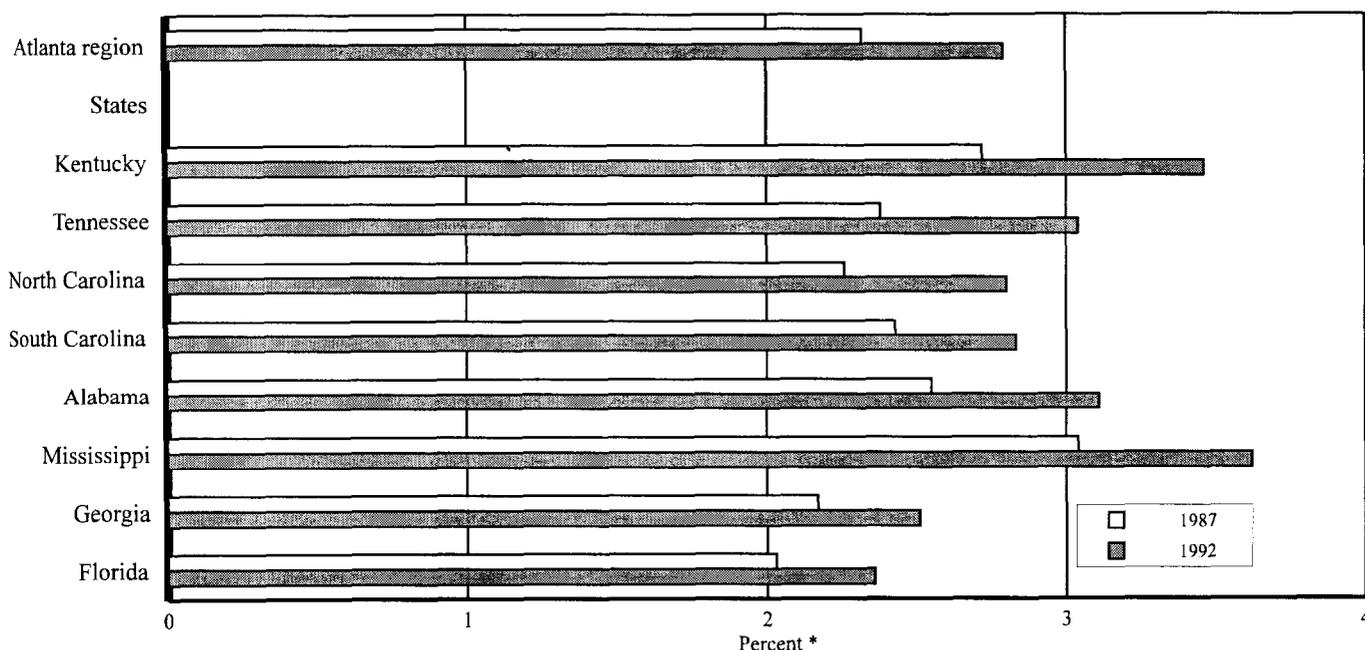
Although OASDI and SSI are different programs, they have experienced similar patterns of decline (1975–83), slow growth (1983–89), and accelerated growth (1989–93) in disability award and participation rates. These overall patterns can be observed, and linked, in part, to administrative, legislative, and judicial changes but we do not understand it very well. On the other hand, within

the overall pattern, there is a notable amount of variability at the regional and State levels.

Disability award rates under both the OASDI and SSI programs during this period have been the highest in the Atlanta region. As suggested by McCoy, Davis, and Hudson in *Geographic Patterns of Disability in the United States*,⁶ several factors contribute to high award rates including presence of hazardous or physically demanding occupations and long lasting poverty and chronic underemployment that characterize areas of Appalachia and the Mississippi Delta where many States in the Atlanta region are located.

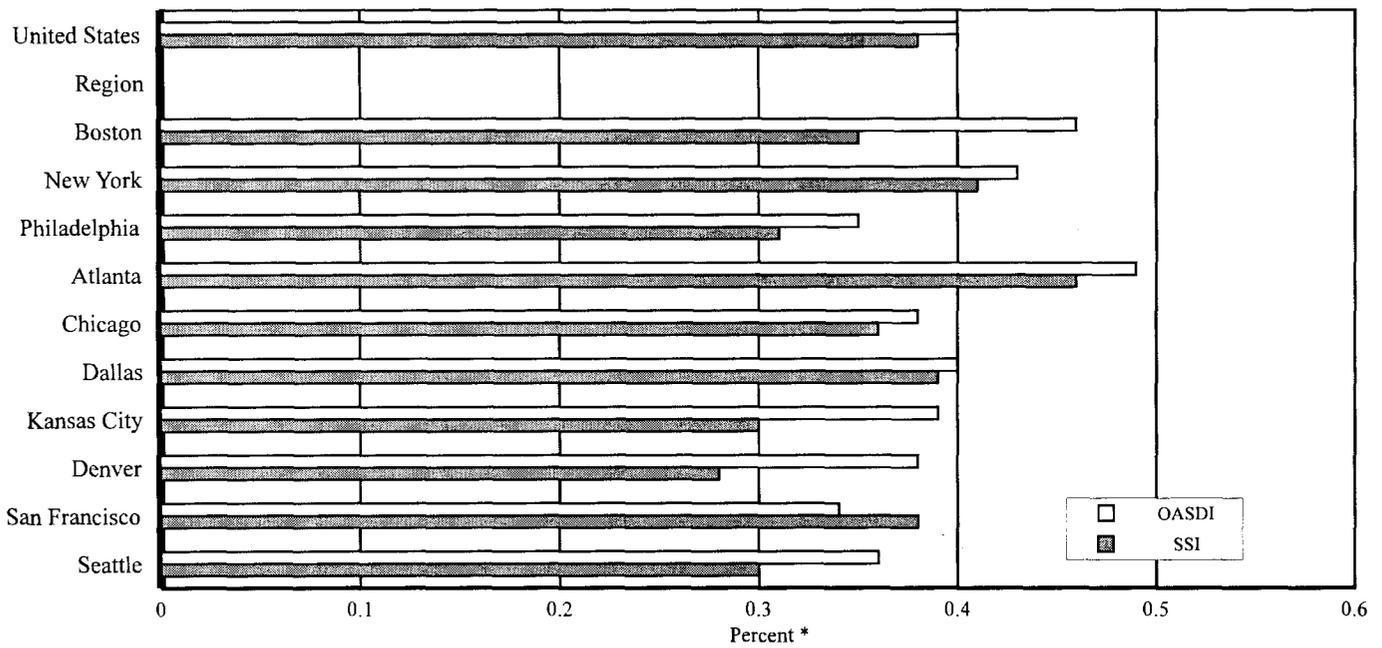
Low program participation rates in a particular region should not be dismissed without considering the change that has taken place over time. Sometimes, the high (or low) rates of change depends on the size of the population while in others it may reflect actual changes in patterns of disability. Therefore, it is often necessary to look beneath the national level data to understand changes that are taking place and the reasons for such changes.

Chart 3.—Percentage of OASDI disabled-worker beneficiaries, Atlanta region, 1987 and 1992



* Based on ratio of disability awards under OASDI to the resident population aged 18-64.

Chart 4.—OASDI and disability award rates, by SSA administrative region



* Based on ratio of disability awards under OASDI and SSI to the resident population aged 18-64.

Notes

¹ Preliminary Status Report of the Disability Policy Panel, Washington, DC, National Academy of Social Insurance, 1994, table V-1, p. 91.

² For those under age 31, the individual must have earned quarters of coverage in one-half the quarters elapsed after age 21 with a minimum of 6 quarters to be insured for disability. For those blind and under age 24, 6 quarters of coverage must have been earned in the preceding 12 quarters.

³ Social Security Area population: Residents of the 50 States and District of Columbia (adjusted for net Census undercount) and Armed Forces overseas; civilian residents of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa; Federal civilian employees overseas; dependents of Armed Forces and Federal employees overseas; crew members of merchant vessels; and other citizens overseas.

⁴ Disabled SSI recipients remain categorically disabled upon reaching age 65. Under the Disability Insurance program, beneficiaries are transferred to the retirement rolls at age 65.

⁵ Ratio differs from that shown in table 3 because it excludes records without State identifiers.

⁶ Social Security Bulletin, Vol. 57, No. 1 (Spring) 1994, pp. 25-36.

Table 1.—U.S. resident population and Social Security Area population aged 18–64: Number and percent receiving OASDI benefits based on disability, 1975–93

[Number in thousands]

Year	Population aged 18–64	OASDI beneficiaries aged 18–64 ¹				Percent participating in program			
		Total	Disabled workers	Disabled widow(er)s	Disabled children aged 18 or older	Total	Disabled workers	Disabled widow(er)s	Disabled children aged 18 or older
U.S. resident population ²									
1975.....	125,603	2,868	2,425	106	337	2.28	1.93	0.08	0.27
1976.....	128,034	3,068	2,599	115	354	2.40	2.03	.09	.28
1977.....	130,407	3,253	2,757	122	374	2.49	2.11	.09	.29
1978.....	132,819	3,291	2,794	124	373	2.48	2.10	.09	.28
1979.....	135,330	3,290	2,782	125	383	2.43	2.06	.09	.28
1980.....	137,241	3,283	2,766	123	394	2.39	2.02	.09	.29
1981.....	140,032	3,206	2,687	117	402	2.29	1.92	.08	.29
1982.....	142,065	3,036	2,519	111	406	2.14	1.77	.08	.29
1983.....	143,865	3,005	2,482	107	416	2.09	1.73	.07	.29
1984.....	145,467	3,043	2,510	104	429	2.09	1.73	.07	.29
1985.....	146,884	3,114	2,569	102	443	2.12	1.75	.07	.30
1986.....	148,261	3,201	2,642	103	456	2.16	1.78	.07	.31
1987.....	149,609	3,265	2,698	102	465	2.18	1.80	.07	.31
1988.....	151,129	3,315	2,744	99	472	2.19	1.82	.07	.31
1989.....	152,681	3,383	2,808	98	477	2.22	1.84	.06	.31
1990.....	153,707	3,506	2,923	97	486	2.28	1.90	.06	.32
1991.....	155,278	3,708	3,103	109	496	2.39	2.00	.07	.32
1992.....	156,630	4,007	3,371	125	511	2.56	2.15	.08	.33
1993.....	157,985	4,290	3,624	141	525	2.72	2.29	.09	.33
Social Security Area population ³									
1975.....	131,562	2,949	2,489	110	350	2.24	1.89	0.08	0.27
1976.....	133,887	3,157	2,670	119	368	2.36	1.99	.09	.27
1977.....	136,229	3,353	2,837	127	389	2.46	2.08	.09	.29
1978.....	138,627	3,398	2,880	129	389	2.45	2.08	.09	.28
1979.....	141,004	3,401	2,871	130	400	2.41	2.04	.09	.28
1980.....	143,215	3,399	2,859	128	412	2.37	2.00	.09	.29
1981.....	145,298	3,319	2,777	122	420	2.28	1.91	.08	.29
1982.....	147,295	3,144	2,604	116	424	2.13	1.77	.08	.29
1983.....	149,117	3,116	2,569	112	435	2.09	1.72	.08	.29
1984.....	150,758	3,155	2,597	109	449	2.09	1.72	.07	.30
1985.....	152,250	3,228	2,657	107	464	2.12	1.75	.07	.30
1986.....	153,666	3,313	2,729	107	477	2.16	1.78	.07	.31
1987.....	155,197	3,379	2,786	106	487	2.18	1.80	.07	.31
1988.....	156,890	3,429	2,831	103	495	2.19	1.80	.07	.32
1989.....	158,487	3,497	2,895	102	500	2.21	1.83	.06	.32
1990.....	160,023	3,622	3,011	101	510	2.26	1.88	.06	.32
1991.....	161,645	3,829	3,195	114	520	2.37	1.98	.07	.32
1992.....	163,092	4,135	3,468	131	536	2.54	2.13	.08	.33
1993.....	164,398	4,423	3,726	147	550	2.69	2.27	.09	.33

¹ Beneficiaries at end of year.

² Resident population as of July 1 (except for 1980 and 1990-April 1); includes 50 States and the District of Columbia.

³ Residents of the 50 States and District of Columbia (adjusted for net Census undercount) and Armed Forces overseas; civilian residents of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa; Federal civilian employees overseas; dependents of Armed Forces and Federal employees overseas; crew members of merchant vessels; and other citizens overseas.

Table 2.—Number of insured workers: Number and percent receiving OASDI disabled worker benefits, 1957–93

Year	Insured for disability (number in thousands)	Disabled-worker beneficiaries	Percent receiving benefits
1957.....	37,200	149,850	0.40
1958.....	38,400	237,719	.62
1959.....	43,400	334,443	.77
1960.....	46,400	455,371	.98
1961.....	48,500	618,075	1.27
1962.....	50,500	740,867	1.47
1963.....	51,500	827,014	1.61
1964.....	52,300	894,173	1.71
1965.....	53,300	988,074	1.85
1966.....	55,000	1,097,190	1.99
1967.....	55,720	1,193,120	2.14
1968.....	56,860	1,295,300	2.28
1969.....	70,130	1,394,291	1.99
1970.....	72,358	1,492,948	2.06
1971.....	74,270	1,647,684	2.22
1972.....	76,100	1,832,916	2.41
1973.....	77,800	2,016,626	2.59
1974.....	80,400	2,236,882	2.78
1975.....	83,273	2,488,774	2.99
1976.....	85,240	2,670,208	3.13
1977.....	87,310	2,837,432	3.25
1978.....	89,383	2,879,774	3.22
1979.....	93,833	2,870,590	3.06
1980.....	97,984	2,858,680	2.92
1981.....	100,329	2,776,519	2.77
1982.....	102,643	2,603,599	2.54
1983.....	104,469	2,569,029	2.46
1984.....	105,381	2,596,516	2.46
1985.....	107,076	2,656,638	2.48
1986.....	109,572	2,728,463	2.49
1987.....	111,647	2,785,859	2.50
1988.....	113,499	2,830,284	2.49
1989.....	115,678	2,895,364	2.50
1990.....	118,048	3,011,294	2.55
1991.....	120,130	3,194,938	2.66
1992.....	122,109	3,467,783	2.84
1993.....	123,925	3,725,966	3.01

¹ Insured status as of January 1.

² Beneficiaries at end of year.

Table 3.—U.S. resident population, and number and percent receiving federally administered SSI payments, by age 1975–93

[Number in thousands]

Year ¹	U.S. resident population ²			Recipients			Percent participating in program				
	Under age 18	18–64	65 or older	Total	Under age 18	18–64	65 or older	Total	Under age 18	18–64	65 or older
1975.....	67,165	125,603	22,696	4,314	107	1,700	2,507	2.00	0.16	1.35	11.05
1976.....	66,250	128,034	23,279	4,236	125	1,710	2,401	1.95	.22	1.34	10.31
1977.....	65,461	130,407	23,892	4,238	147	1,738	2,352	1.93	.22	1.33	9.84
1978.....	64,773	132,819	24,502	4,224	166	1,747	2,311	1.90	.26	1.32	9.43
1979.....	64,104	135,330	25,134	4,161	177	1,727	2,257	1.85	.28	1.28	8.98
1980.....	63,754	137,241	25,550	4,147	190	1,731	2,226	1.83	.30	1.26	8.71
1981.....	63,213	140,032	26,221	4,018	195	1,703	2,120	1.75	.31	1.22	8.09
1982.....	62,813	142,065	26,787	3,857	191	1,655	2,011	1.66	.30	1.16	7.51
1983.....	62,566	143,865	27,361	3,901	198	1,700	2,003	1.67	.32	1.18	7.32
1984.....	62,482	145,467	27,877	4,029	212	1,780	2,037	1.71	.34	1.22	7.31
1985.....	62,623	146,884	28,415	4,137	227	1,879	2,031	1.74	.36	1.28	7.15
1986.....	62,865	148,261	29,008	4,268	241	2,010	2,017	1.78	.38	1.36	6.95
1987.....	63,056	149,609	29,625	4,385	251	2,119	2,015	1.81	.40	1.42	6.80
1988.....	63,246	151,129	30,123	4,463	255	2,203	2,005	1.83	.40	1.46	6.66
1989.....	63,457	152,681	30,682	4,592	265	2,302	2,025	1.86	.42	1.51	6.60
1990.....	63,924	153,707	31,078	4,818	309	2,450	2,059	1.94	.48	1.59	6.63
1991.....	65,145	155,278	31,754	5,119	397	2,642	2,080	2.03	.61	1.70	6.55
1992.....	66,167	156,630	32,285	5,566	556	2,910	2,100	2.18	.84	1.86	6.50
1993.....	67,133	157,985	32,791	5,984	723	3,148	2,113	2.32	1.08	1.99	6.44

¹Population as of July 1 (except for 1980 and 1990, April 1); SSI recipients as of December.

²Includes 50 States and District of Columbia.

Table 4.—U.S. resident population, and number awarded federally administered SSI payment and number awarded OASDI disability benefits, by age 1975–93

Year	U.S. resident population (in thousands)			SSI disability awards ¹			OASDI awards to workers 18–64	Disability award rates (awards as percent of total population)			
	Total	Under age 18	18–64	Total	Children	Adults 18–64		SSI ¹			OASDI, workers 18–64
								Total	Under 18	18–64	
1975.....	215,465	67,165	125,603	442,317	59,206	383,111	592,049	0.21	0.09	0.47	0.00
1976.....	217,563	66,250	128,034	370,557	43,729	326,828	551,460	.17	.07	.26	.43
1977.....	219,760	65,461	130,407	367,820	48,017	319,803	568,874	.17	.07	.25	.44
1978.....	222,095	64,773	132,819	355,223	52,284	302,939	464,415	.16	.08	.23	.35
1979.....	224,567	64,104	135,330	324,066	50,855	273,211	416,713	.14	.08	.20	.31
1980.....	226,546	63,754	137,241	326,275	52,109	274,166	396,559	.14	.08	.20	.29
1981.....	229,466	63,213	140,032	271,218	45,107	226,111	351,847	.12	.07	.16	.25
1982.....	231,664	62,813	142,065	223,282	39,818	183,464	297,131	.10	.06	.13	.21
1983.....	233,792	62,566	143,865	284,408	48,847	235,561	311,549	.12	.08	.16	.22
1984.....	235,825	62,482	145,467	256,768	49,478	207,290	361,998	.11	.08	.14	.25
1985.....	237,924	62,623	146,884	363,464	50,791	312,673	377,371	.15	.08	.21	.26
1986.....	240,133	62,865	148,261	423,504	54,478	369,026	416,865	.18	.09	.25	.28
1987.....	242,289	63,056	149,609	400,346	51,825	348,521	415,848	.17	.08	.23	.28
1988.....	244,499	63,246	151,129	393,789	51,193	342,596	409,490	.16	.08	.23	.27
1989.....	246,819	63,457	152,681	423,212	54,497	368,715	425,582	.17	.09	.24	.28
1990.....	248,710	63,924	153,707	505,951	82,753	423,198	467,977	.20	.13	.28	.30
1991.....	252,177	65,145	155,278	602,275	125,821	476,454	536,434	.24	.19	.31	.35
1992.....	255,082	66,167	156,630	780,661	191,054	589,607	636,637	.31	.29	.38	.41
1993.....	257,908	67,133	157,985	801,475	225,611	575,864	635,238	.31	.34	.36	.40

¹ Includes awards based on blindness.

Table 5.—Social Security Area population aged 18–64: Number and percent receiving OASDI and/or SSI benefits based on blindness or disability, 1978–93

[Number in thousands]

Year ¹	Social Security Area population age 18–64 ²	Number of beneficiaries aged 18–64 receiving—			Percent participating in programs		
		OASDI, SSI or both ³	SSI only	OASDI and SSI	OASDI, SSI or both ³	SSI only	OASDI and SSI
1978.....	138,627	4,676	1,261	486	3.37	0.91	0.35
1979.....	141,004	4,663	1,243	484	3.31	.88	.34
1980.....	143,215	4,663	1,244	487	3.26	.87	.34
1981.....	145,298	4,570	1,229	474	3.15	.85	.33
1982.....	147,295	4,366	1,197	458	2.96	.81	.31
1983.....	149,117	4,367	1,224	476	2.93	.82	.32
1984.....	150,758	4,460	1,277	503	2.96	.85	.33
1985.....	152,250	4,591	1,333	546	3.02	.88	.36
1986.....	153,666	4,813	1,466	544	3.13	.95	.35
1987.....	155,197	4,905	1,488	631	3.16	.96	.41
1988.....	156,890	5,012	1,544	659	3.19	.98	.42
1989.....	158,487	5,091	1,615	687	3.21	1.02	.43
1990.....	160,023	5,395	1,728	722	3.37	1.08	.45
1991.....	161,645	5,744	1,866	776	3.55	1.15	.48
1992.....	163,092	6,249	2,064	846	3.83	1.27	.52
1993.....	164,398	6,707	2,230	918	4.08	1.36	.56

¹ Population as of July 1; beneficiaries as of December.

² See footnote 3, table 1 which defines Social Security Area population.

³ Unduplicated total; OASDI benefits based on disability includes disabled workers, disabled widow(er)s, and disabled children aged 18 or older.

Table 6.—Percent of population age 18–64 receiving and awarded disabled-worker benefits under the OASDI program and percentage change, by SSA administrative region and State, 1987 and 1992¹

[Based on 10-percent sample]

Region and State	Population rank, 1992	Percent receiving benefits		Percentage change 1987–92	Percent awarded benefits		Percentage change, 1987–92
		1987	1992		1987	1992	
		Total.....	...	1.80	2.16	19.86	0.28
Boston.....	...	1.66	2.15	29.49	.27	.46	71.32
Maine.....	39	2.17	2.69	24.16	.31	.52	68.34
New Hampshire.....	41	1.44	1.85	28.42	.24	.39	64.80
Vermont.....	50	1.80	2.36	31.10	.27	.50	80.69
Massachusetts.....	13	1.65	2.27	37.73	.28	.50	78.58
Connecticut.....	27	1.42	1.74	22.97	.22	.36	62.43
Rhode Island.....	42	2.14	2.38	10.95	.30	.46	55.75
New York.....	...	1.73	2.05	18.24	.27	.43	59.60
New York.....	2	1.78	2.12	19.37	.27	.44	58.79
New Jersey.....	9	1.63	1.88	15.31	.26	.42	61.52
Philadelphia.....	...	1.80	2.02	12.37	.24	.35	45.22
Pennsylvania.....	5	1.87	2.07	10.96	.24	.35	49.39
Delaware.....	45	1.84	2.03	10.07	.26	.37	41.54
Maryland.....	16	1.32	1.45	09.86	.21	.27	29.11
District of Columbia.....	47	1.44	1.71	18.52	.26	.42	60.72
Virginia.....	12	1.70	1.96	15.37	.24	.36	52.28
West Virginia.....	34	3.04	3.67	20.57	.37	.52	38.86
Atlanta.....	...	2.32	2.79	20.04	.33	.49	49.62
Kentucky.....	23	2.72	3.46	27.27	.38	.56	48.54
Tennessee.....	17	2.38	3.04	27.60	.34	.57	65.85
North Carolina.....	10	2.26	2.80	23.75	.35	.52	49.40
South Carolina.....	25	2.43	2.83	16.86	.35	.48	38.37
Alabama.....	22	2.55	3.11	22.20	.35	.53	50.05
Mississippi.....	31	3.04	3.62	18.76	.43	.56	31.79
Georgia.....	11	2.17	2.51	15.71	.30	.45	51.66
Florida.....	4	2.03	2.36	16.18	.28	.43	52.42
Chicago.....	...	1.82	2.11	15.73	.28	.38	35.30
Minnesota.....	20	1.36	1.70	24.81	.24	.35	48.81
Michigan.....	8	1.99	2.26	13.98	.28	.40	44.72
Indiana.....	14	1.97	2.28	15.52	.30	.43	46.00
Ohio.....	7	1.99	2.23	11.74	.30	.37	23.11
Wisconsin.....	19	1.89	2.18	15.26	.30	.35	16.69
Illinois.....	6	1.59	1.91	19.60	.26	.37	38.88
Dallas.....	...	1.62	2.09	29.09	.25	.40	59.61
New Mexico.....	36	1.72	2.29	33.41	.23	.41	76.17
Texas.....	3	1.28	1.67	29.97	.22	.36	64.83
Oklahoma.....	28	1.69	2.30	36.04	.25	.41	65.13
Arkansas.....	33	2.99	3.77	26.22	.40	.61	52.40
Louisiana.....	21	2.12	2.74	29.19	.31	.45	46.32
Kansas City.....	...	1.80	2.28	26.51	.29	.39	36.74
Nebraska.....	37	1.43	1.91	33.70	.23	.36	58.60
Iowa.....	30	1.69	2.14	26.84	.28	.35	25.42
Kansas.....	32	1.46	1.85	26.75	.27	.37	39.10
Missouri.....	18	2.14	2.66	24.59	.32	.44	36.07
Denver.....	...	1.39	1.96	40.94	.26	.38	45.18
Montana.....	44	1.97	2.80	42.49	.34	.42	22.63
North Dakota.....	49	1.44	1.91	32.95	.25	.32	26.27
South Dakota.....	46	1.68	2.27	35.42	.30	.37	24.21
Wyoming.....	51	1.23	1.92	55.91	.26	.36	38.79
Utah.....	35	1.08	1.52	41.28	.22	.31	41.51
Colorado.....	26	1.35	1.93	42.67	.25	.41	62.98
San Francisco.....	...	1.49	1.73	15.67	.24	.34	42.65
California.....	1	1.47	1.67	13.51	.24	.33	38.73
Nevada.....	38	1.64	1.98	20.74	.26	.42	59.87
Arizona.....	24	1.80	2.33	29.28	.27	.45	66.40
Hawaii.....	40	1.06	1.13	07.31	.16	.21	33.93
Seattle.....	...	1.58	1.89	19.70	.25	.36	43.89
Washington.....	15	1.59	1.87	17.82	.27	.37	38.15
Oregon.....	29	1.74	2.08	19.43	.24	.38	57.35
Idaho.....	43	1.56	2.01	28.76	.25	.36	42.25
Alaska.....	48	.73	.94	29.30	.16	.21	31.92

¹ Percentages based on State population aged 18–64 in 1987 and 1992.
 Note: Shaded areas represent the highest percentages for the indicated period.

Table 7.—Percent of population age 18–64 receiving and awarded benefits under the federally administered SSI program and percentage change, by SSA administrative region and State, 1987 and 1992 ¹

Region and State	Percent receiving benefits		Percentage change 1987–92	Percent awarded benefits		Percentage change 1987–92
	1987	1992		1987	1992	
Total.....	1.41	1.86	31.77	0.23	0.38	61.54
Boston.....	1.25	1.67	33.86	.21	.35	71.51
Maine.....	1.60	1.92	20.22	.23	.37	61.77
New Hampshire.....	.58	.75	27.62	.11	.17	47.23
Vermont.....	1.48	1.93	30.32	.23	.42	84.71
Massachusetts.....	1.47	2.05	39.68	.25	.46	82.77
Connecticut.....	.86	1.11	29.37	.15	.23	49.78
Rhode Island.....	1.33	1.72	29.68	.18	.29	60.66
New York.....	1.50	1.94	29.85	.23	.41	81.14
New York.....	1.70	2.21	29.89	.25	.45	81.65
New Jersey.....	1.03	1.32	29.10	.18	.32	79.05
Philadelphia.....	1.28	1.65	29.39	.20	.31	53.84
Pennsylvania.....	1.31	1.76	34.22	.19	.31	63.58
Delaware.....	1.08	1.17	08.71	.20	.24	21.98
Maryland.....	1.05	1.21	15.33	.18	.22	22.24
District of Columbia.....	2.26	2.62	16.34	.43	.62	44.85
Virginia.....	1.12	1.37	22.17	.19	.29	57.29
West Virginia.....	1.86	3.07	65.25	.28	.51	80.99
Atlanta.....	1.72	2.17	26.42	.30	.46	54.63
Kentucky.....	2.37	3.37	42.61	.37	.62	66.85
Tennessee.....	2.01	2.71	35.02	.34	.57	68.20
North Carolina.....	1.52	1.82	19.37	.27	.38	41.43
South Carolina.....	1.80	2.10	16.56	.30	.42	39.62
Alabama.....	2.07	2.67	28.87	.34	.52	52.43
Mississippi.....	2.83	3.58	26.74	.47	.65	39.12
Georgia.....	1.76	2.04	15.61	.28	.44	58.91
Florida.....	1.10	1.47	32.89	.23	.38	63.33
Chicago.....	1.26	1.74	38.20	.23	.36	61.02
Minnesota.....	.77	1.10	43.98	.15	.25	67.01
Michigan.....	1.38	1.87	35.20	.19	.39	107.67
Indiana.....	.96	1.35	40.71	.20	.32	62.37
Ohio.....	1.33	1.84	37.60	.24	.37	57.55
Wisconsin.....	1.52	1.89	24.13	.25	.28	15.30
Illinois.....	1.31	1.92	46.58	.28	.43	54.31
Dallas.....	1.31	1.77	35.66	.21	.39	81.44
New Mexico.....	1.41	1.95	38.74	.21	.40	93.13
Texas.....	1.00	1.38	38.14	.18	.34	88.52
Oklahoma.....	1.26	1.68	33.92	.19	.32	69.88
Arkansas.....	1.98	2.65	33.83	.33	.51	56.83
Louisiana.....	2.12	2.93	37.91	.29	.54	86.22
Kansas City.....	1.08	1.47	36.12	.20	.30	51.35
Nebraska.....	.83	1.15	37.74	.14	.25	73.94
Iowa.....	.99	1.35	36.86	.19	.24	26.07
Kansas.....	.85	1.19	40.77	.16	.29	77.26
Missouri.....	1.32	1.76	33.76	.24	.35	49.01
Denver.....	.83	1.24	50.25	.18	.28	59.86
Montana.....	1.04	1.53	46.50	.23	.30	29.94
North Dakota.....	.87	1.21	39.68	.17	.20	18.44
South Dakota.....	1.07	1.54	44.12	.20	.29	42.25
Wyoming.....	.49	1.01	105.15	.15	.27	81.00
Utah.....	.65	1.04	58.71	.15	.26	70.92
Colorado.....	.85	1.25	48.29	.18	.31	73.12
San Francisco.....	1.75	2.20	25.77	.25	.38	49.63
California.....	1.92	2.39	24.61	.27	.38	44.89
Nevada.....	.66	.94	41.69	.17	.32	85.20
Arizona.....	.94	1.43	51.22	.19	.38	98.56
Hawaii.....	.81	1.00	22.76	.14	.20	42.34
Seattle.....	1.03	1.41	37.50	.19	.30	55.08
Washington.....	1.13	1.54	37.50	.21	.32	48.21
Oregon.....	.98	1.35	37.39	.17	.29	71.11
Idaho.....	.88	1.26	43.35	.17	.28	65.90
Alaska.....	.63	.89	40.08	.14	.18	25.38

¹ Percentages based on State population in 1987 and 1992.

Note: Shaded areas represent the highest percentages for the indicated period.