

RECIPIENTS ACCEPTED FOR AID TO THE BLIND IN 1937-38

Analysis of Grants, Assistance and Employment Status, and Arrangements for Education

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ANNUAL REPORTS submitted to the Social Security Board by States with approved plans for aid to the blind supply information concerning the grants initially approved for recipients accepted during the year and the social and economic characteristics of the individuals granted aid. Analysis of the data reported by 39 States¹ for the fiscal year 1937-38 provides a picture of 18,600 recipients in terms of the amount and distribution of the grants they were to receive, their previous assistance status, other assistance to be received simultaneously in the same household, employment status, and arrangements for education.

In addition to the 39 States with approved plans at the end of 1937-38, Pennsylvania also submitted data for the year. In view of the fact that Pennsylvania administered its program for aid to the blind under an approved plan only for the first half of the period, data for that State are excluded from all aggregates but are shown in tables and charts presenting information for the individual States.

Representativeness of Data

The 18,600 recipients accepted during 1937-38 represent less than half the total number of persons aided during the year in the 39 States. As of June 30, 1938, there were 39,500 persons receiving aid in this group of States. The total number assisted during the year is somewhat higher than the number on the rolls on June 30, because of the fact that some persons received aid during only part of the period.

In the aggregate data for recipients accepted during 1937-38 for all States combined, the several States are not represented in the same proportions as in the total case load at the close of the year. For the 39 States as a group the ratio of blind persons accepted during the year

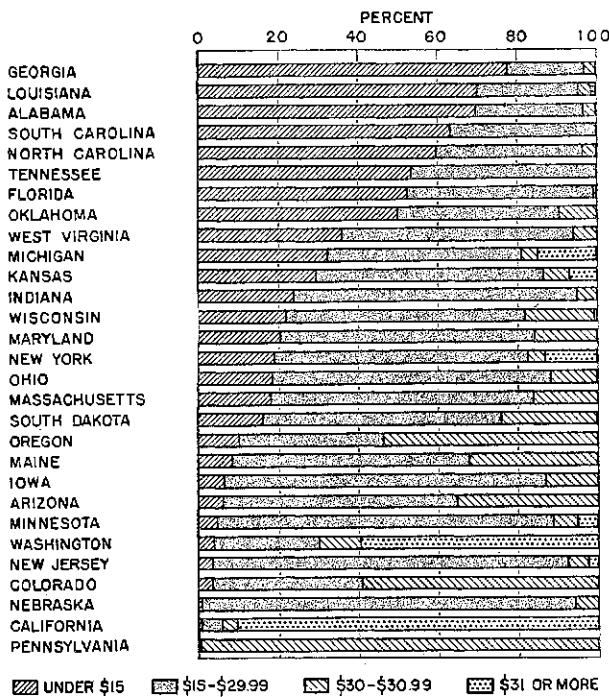
to the number on the rolls on June 30, 1938, was about 1 to 2. The State ratios varied from 1 to 11 persons accepted during the year for every 10 on the rolls at the end of the year. More than a third of all recipients accepted during the year in the 39 States were approved in 5 States which accounted for only a seventh of the total case load on June 30, 1938. Data on grants for all States as a group have been adjusted to give the States representation in proportion to their shares of the total case load at the end of the year.² Aggregates other than those pertaining to grants are unadjusted and consequently are descriptive only of recipients approved for aid during the year. Data for the individual States are unadjusted in all instances. Only the 29 States accepting more than 100 persons during the year are shown in the tables and charts presenting data for individual States. In the remaining States the number approved was too small to permit significant analysis.

Inferences concerning the entire case load in a particular State should be made only after the data about recipients accepted during the year have been tested for representativeness. The characteristics of blind persons accepted within a specified period may reflect the influence of eligibility requirements or administrative policies which have since been changed. For example, a State may have established the policy of first considering applicants currently receiving other types of assistance. Under these circumstances the proportion of recipients receiving assistance at the time of investigation would tend to be relatively high in the initial stages of operation and to decline as the program developed. Another

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¹"State" is used to include the District of Columbia and Hawaii.

² For each State the number of grants in each dollar interval was computed as a percentage of the total number of grants approved. These percentages were applied to the total number of persons receiving assistance as of June 30, 1938. The resulting data for the several States were then added together to obtain the distribution of grants by dollar intervals for the 39 States as a group.

Chart I.—Aid to the blind: Distribution of monthly grants initially approved for recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38, in selected States with plans approved by the Social Security Board



possible source of bias is found in the method of compiling social data about recipients of aid to the blind. Information is recorded at the time of investigation and is not revised on the statistical record to take into account subsequent changes. Nevertheless this information supplies a true picture of recipients at the time they were approved for assistance.

Determination of Grants

Grants for aid are determined by the States, or by their local subdivisions with State supervision, under the provisions of their approved plans. In some States the amount of assistance is intended to supply the budget deficit of the recipient. Under this method of grant determination a standard budget is used to compute the cost of essential items such as food, clothing, rent, and fuel. From the total thus obtained is deducted any income the individual may have; the remainder represents his budget deficit. Even in States using this method, however, the budget deficit may not generally be met because of a shortage of available funds or statutory limitations on the

amount of grant. In a few States the monthly amount of assistance is determined by subtracting other income available to the recipient from a flat amount rather than from the sum required to satisfy his individual needs.

Distribution of Grants

On the basis of the data on grants approved in 1937-38, it is estimated that 27 percent of the persons on the rolls at the end of this period in the 39 States with approved plans were receiving monthly payments of less than \$15; 47 percent were receiving between \$15 and \$29, 10 percent were receiving \$30, and 16 percent more than \$30. Most of the grants of more than \$30 were concentrated in California, where unusually high payments are made to a large number of recipients. A distribution for all States except California indicated that only 4 percent of the grants were in excess of \$30.

Striking differences in State patterns underlie the grant distribution for all States combined. In chart I the 29 States approving more than 100 persons for aid in 1937-38 are ranked according to the proportion of grants approved for less than \$15. More detailed distributions for these States are shown in table 1. In Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee at least half the grants were less than \$15, and all States had some payments of less than this amount. For a majority of the States, however, one-half or more of the grants fell between \$15 and \$29. All States except South Carolina and Tennessee approved some grants for \$30; assistance is limited to \$25 a month in Tennessee and \$300 a year in South Carolina. The proportion of \$30 grants is especially significant because Federal contributions are limited by the Social Security Act to one-half of individual assistance payments up to \$30 a month.³

In Pennsylvania practically all grants were approved for this amount. In Arizona, Colorado, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Oregon, South Dakota, and Wisconsin the proportion of \$30 grants ranged from 16 to 59 percent; all these States limit monthly payments by law to the \$30 maximum in which the Federal Government participates. It seems likely that a considerable number of the grants in this group of States would

³ The Social Security Act was amended on Aug. 10, 1939, to increase Federal participation to one-half of individual payments up to a limit of \$40, effective Jan. 1, 1940.

have been higher in the absence of statutory limitations on the amount of grant.

Nine of the States shown in table 1 approved grants of \$31 or more, but the proportion of such grants exceeded 10 percent only in California, Michigan, New York, and Washington. In California 91 percent of the recipients accepted during the year were approved for grants of \$31 or more, and in Washington 60 percent were to receive payments of this level. In California grants are determined by subtracting available income from a flat amount of \$50, and in Washington income, resources, and assistance must total not less than \$40.

The marked contrast between different types of State distributions is revealed most clearly by

chart II, which presents distributions by dollar intervals for all States combined and for 6 selected States. The distributions for New York and Michigan resemble a normal curve; they are characterized by a gradual increase in the number of grants until the modal classes are reached, and a gradual decline in the higher brackets. Neither of these States had a statutory limitation on the amount of grant allowable. On the other hand, the heavy concentration of grants at \$30 in Arizona is illustrative of the distributions in a number of States limiting monthly payments to this amount. In Georgia almost four-fifths of the grants were between \$5 and \$14, while in California 73 percent of the recipients accepted were to receive the \$50 maximum specified in

Table 1.—Aid to the blind: Percentage distribution of monthly grants initially approved for recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38, in all States with plans approved by the Social Security Board and in selected States

Region and State	Number	Percentage distribution							\$30.00-34.99			\$35.00 or more
		Less than \$5.00	\$5.00-9.99	\$10.00-14.99	\$15.00-19.99	\$20.00-24.99	\$25.00-29.99	Total	\$30.00-34.99	\$30.00-34.99	\$30.00-34.99	
									Total	\$30.00-34.99	\$31.00-34.99	
All States ¹	18,580	0.1	7.8	18.7	19.4	16.9	11.0	11.2	9.7	1.5	14.8	
Region I:												
Maine	252		1.6	6.7	21.8	20.6	17.1	32.2	32.2			
Massachusetts	307		.3	17.6	20.2	31.0	14.3	10.6	16.6			
Region II:												
New York	1,070		5.6	13.2	20.6	26.2	16.9	13.1	3.7	9.4	4.4	
Region III:												
New Jersey	142			3.6	21.8	24.7	42.3	4.9	4.9		2.8	
Pennsylvania ²	2,460	(*)						99.6	99.6			
Region IV:												
Maryland	144		4.2	16.0	21.5	22.6	9.7	16.0	16.0			
North Carolina	2,234		.2	16.1	43.5	23.6	9.8	3.2	3.6			
West Virginia	215			7.9	27.9	34.0	17.7	6.5	6.0			
Region V:												
Michigan	267		.4	11.2	20.6	22.8	15.0	10.9	6.4	4.1	2.3	12.7
Ohio	747			2.0	16.1	28.6	29.5	11.9	11.9	11.9		
Region VI:												
Indiana	744		.1	3.1	20.4	30.1	24.9	15.3	6.1	6.1		
Wisconsin	264			3.0	18.6	26.5	20.4	12.9	18.2	17.8	.4	.4
Region VII:												
Alabama	310		.3	31.0	38.4	15.5	8.7	2.6	3.5	3.5		
Florida	1,523			9.6	42.4	31.3	11.8	3.8	1.1	1.1		
Georgia	1,183		1.0	44.5	32.2	11.7	5.2	2.4	3.0	3.0		
South Carolina	947			23.7	39.5	19.8	8.8	8.7				
Tennessee	1,255			9.6	43.7	27.5	12.7	6.5				
Region VIII:												
Iowa	1,219		.1	2.0	4.2	18.0	27.5	24.9	13.3	13.3		
Minnesota	200			1.9	2.9	22.6	22.9	38.3	8.6	8.2	2.4	2.9
Nebraska	142			.7		58.5	20.4	14.1	6.3	6.3		
South Dakota	167			1.8	14.4	28.7	22.2	8.4	24.5	24.5		
Region IX:												
Kansas	834		.1	8.4	20.9	22.8	19.2	14.5	9.0	8.7	2.3	5.1
Oklahoma	820		.4	15.5	33.0	18.6	12.6	9.3	9.7	9.7		
Region X:												
Louisiana	690		2.2	31.3	36.5	14.0	8.6	3.0	3.8	2.6	1.0	.8
Region XI:												
Arizona	166				6.0	13.9	24.7	18.9	35.5	35.5		
Colorado	120			.8	2.5	6.7	12.5	18.3	59.2	59.2		
Region XII:												
California	1,523		.1	.1	.3	.4	1.9	2.9	5.1	3.5	1.6	89.2
Oregon	110			3.6	6.4	10.0	19.1	7.3	58.6	53.6		
Washington	388			.3	3.4	3.1	11.4	11.9	24.6	10.4	14.2	45.3

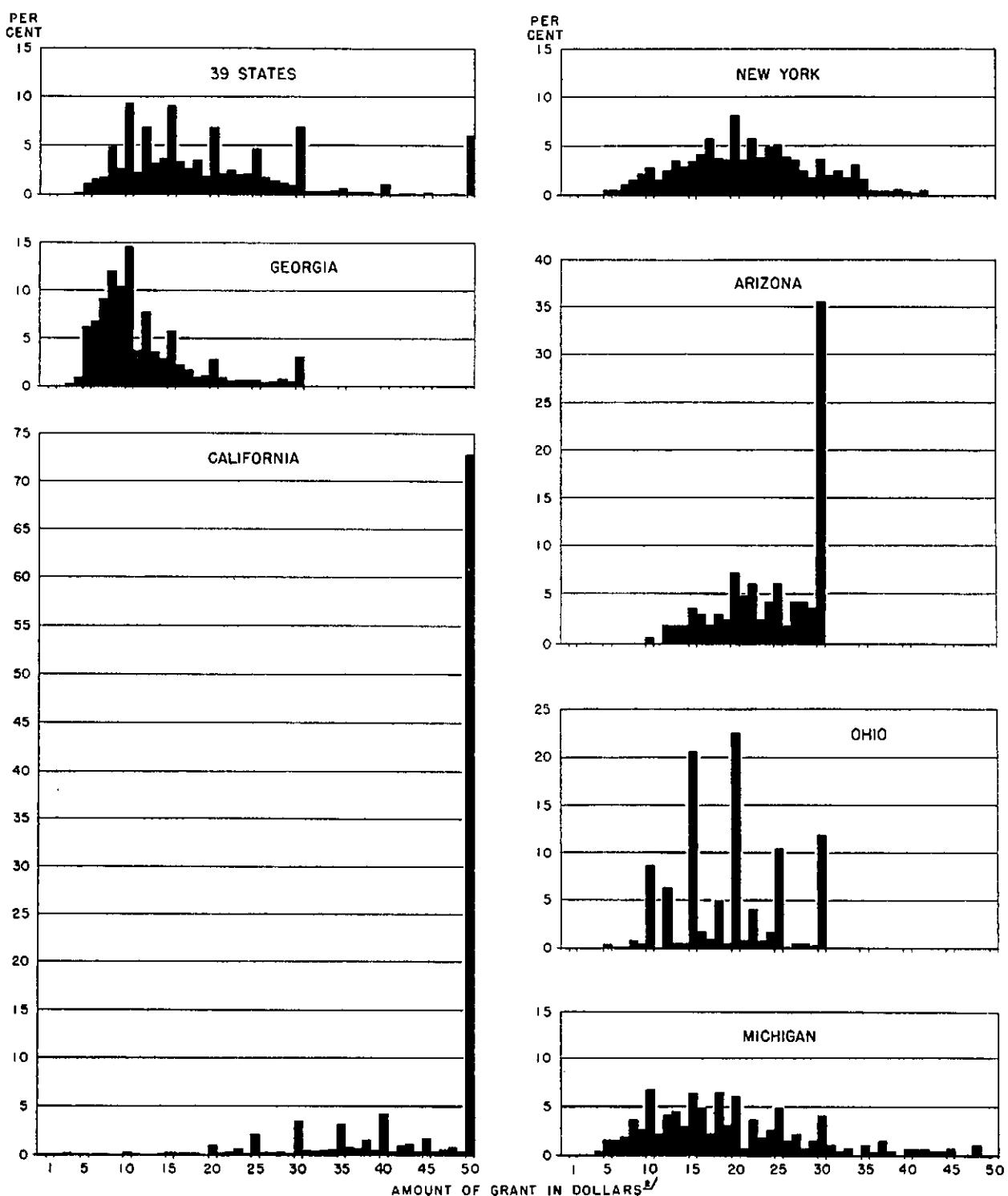
¹ Includes 580 recipients in 11 States (New Hampshire 34, Vermont 20, District of Columbia 85, North Dakota 85, Arkansas 73, New Mexico 56, Idaho 48, Montana 59, Utah 56, Wyoming 26, and Hawaii 68); detail for these States is not shown because base figure is too small. Pennsylvania, which operated under an approved plan for only first half of fiscal year, is not included. Computations based on distribution which has been adjusted so

that each State has same proportionate representation as in total case load of June 30, 1938.

² Data for entire year are shown, although Pennsylvania operated under an approved plan for only first half of year.

³ Less than 0.1 percent.

Chart II.—Aid to the blind: Distribution of monthly grants initially approved for recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38, in all States with plans approved by the Social Security Board¹ and in 6 selected States



¹ Exclusive of Pennsylvania which operated under an approved plan for only first half of year.

² Grants above \$50 are not shown. Such grants represented 0.1 percent of total grants in 39 States and 4.5 percent in Michigan. The other 5 States made no such grants.

the plan of that State. The distribution in Ohio illustrates the tendency to grant assistance in multiples of \$5. This tendency to concentrate on certain amounts is apparent in the distributions for a number of States and suggests that the budget-deficit method of grant determination may not be followed closely in these States.

Average Level of Assistance

From the data on grants approved in 1937-38, it is possible to indicate the average level of payments for aid to the blind in each State and to observe the influence on the average grant of differences among recipients in type of living arrangement, in the existence of supplementary income, and in employment status. In considering the general level of assistance payments in the various States, it should be remembered that the level in each State is influenced by a number of variable factors, such as the extent of financial support from State and local funds, the cost and standard of living, the degree of urbanization, provisions in the State law governing the amount of grant, and administrative policies and practices of the public-assistance agency. Unless it is possible to evaluate in detail the effect of these factors, average payments obviously cannot be considered precise measures of State differences.

It is estimated from the distribution of grants approved in 1937-38 that the median monthly payment to recipients on the rolls at the end of this period in the 39 States with approved plans was \$20. Marked differences appear in the data for individual States. Table 2 shows the values of the median and first and third quartiles as well as the lowest and highest grants approved in each of the 29 States which accepted more than 100 recipients during the year. In 5 of these States the median grant was the same as that for all States combined—\$20; in 13 it was less, and in 11 it was more.

Type of living arrangement.—For all States combined the median grant for recipients living alone was \$24, for those living in household groups it was \$20, and for persons living in institutions,⁴

⁴ Under the Social Security Act Federal funds may not be used to assist blind persons residing in public institutions, and the plans of all States except Ohio and South Carolina prohibit assistance to such persons. State plans, however, may provide that a person living in an institution who is accepted for aid to the blind may remain in the institution until after he receives his first assistance payment. Some recipients, therefore, are reported as living in institutions because the data on living arrangement apply to the time of first payment. Most of the recipients in this group were in private institutions.

Table 2.—*Aid to the blind: Extreme, quartile, and median monthly grants initially approved for recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38, in all States with plans approved by the Social Security Board and in selected States*

Region and State	Lowest amount	First quartile ¹	Median ¹	Third quartile ¹	Highest amount
All States ²	\$2	\$14	\$20	\$30	\$89
Region I:					
Maine.....	7	17	24	30	30
Massachusetts.....	5	16	20	26	30
Region II:					
New York.....	5	16	21	27	42
Region III:					
New Jersey.....	10	19	25	25	40
Pennsylvania ³	4	30	30	30	30
Region IV:					
Maryland.....	5	15	20	25	30
North Carolina.....	4	10	13	16	30
West Virginia.....	6	12	15	20	30
Region V:					
Michigan.....	4	13	18	26	30
Ohio.....	5	15	20	24	30
Region VI:					
Indiana.....	4	15	19	23	30
Wisconsin.....	5	15	20	25	40
Region VII:					
Alabama.....	4	8	12	15	30
Florida.....	5	12	14	18	30
Georgia.....	3	8	10	14	30
South Carolina.....	5	10	12	15	25
Tennessee.....	5	12	14	17	25
Region VIII:					
Iowa.....	4	20	23	26	30
Minnesota.....	7	19	24	27	40
Nebraska.....	7	15	18	23	30
South Dakota.....	5	15	20	29	30
Region IX:					
Kansas.....	4	13	18	25	62
Oklahoma.....	3	11	15	22	30
Region X:					
Louisiana.....	2	8	10	15	40
Region XI:					
Arizona.....	10	20	25	30	30
Colorado.....	8	25	30	30	30
Region XII:					
California.....	3	45	60	50	50
Oregon.....	5	20	30	30	30
Washington.....	7	27	33	40	40

¹ Figure given is lower limit of dollar interval in which measure falls.

² See footnote 1 on table 1.

³ Based on data for entire year, although Pennsylvania operated under an approved plan for only first half of year.

\$34. State data on the median amount of assistance to these groups of recipients are shown in table 3. These data indicate that there is no predominant pattern among the 19 States in which the number of recipients living alone was large enough to compute a significant median. In 6 of these States persons living alone were to receive larger grants than individuals in household groups, while in 4 States the median grant was higher for those in household groups. On the other hand, in the remaining 9 States there was no difference in the median grant for these two groups of recipients.

A number of States did not accept any blind persons who were living in institutions, and in all but a few of the remaining States such persons comprised an extremely small share of the total number accepted. Although the median grant for

recipients living in institutions reflects to some extent the high payments and relatively large number of persons in institutions in California, presumably many of the recipients in this group may require medical and nursing care and consequently need larger amounts of assistance.

Other income.—Although quantitative data are not available, the amount of other income received by persons approved for aid to the blind evidently is not large. In all States as a group the median grant for recipients deriving income from such sources as regular contributions from relatives or friends, earnings, the sale of farm produce, rent, investments, and private pensions was \$18, as compared with a median of \$20 for recipients without other income. Table 3 shows the median amounts approved for recipients with and without

other income in the 25 States for which significant medians could be computed. In 20 of these States the median monthly payment was larger for recipients without other income; in Colorado, California, New York, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin the difference was between \$5 and \$10. The median grant was the same for both groups in 3 States, and it was slightly larger for recipients with other income in 2 States.

Gainful employment.—Apparently earnings from gainful employment were not large enough to influence appreciably the amount of the grant. In the aggregate data for all States the median payment was \$20 for recipients who were gainfully employed as well as for those without gainful employment. Of the 15 States for which medians are shown for both groups in table 3, only 5 had a

Table 3.—*Aid to the blind: Median amount¹ of monthly grants initially approved for recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38, according to living arrangement, other income, and employment status, in all States with plans approved by the Social Security Board and in selected States*

Region and State	All recipients	Living arrangement			Other income		Employment status	
		Living alone	Living in household group	Living in institution	With other income	Without other income	Gainfully employed	Not gainfully employed
All States ²	\$20	\$24	\$20	\$34	\$18	\$20	\$20	\$20
Region I:								
Maine	24	(*)	24	(*)	24	25	(*)	24
Massachusetts	20	20	20	(*)	19	23	(*)	20
Region II:								
New York	21	31	20	28	18	22	20	21
Region III:								
New Jersey	25	(*)	24	(*)	24	(*)	24	24
Pennsylvania ³	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Region IV:								
Maryland	20	(*)	20	(*)	20	(*)	20	20
North Carolina	13	13	13	(*)	12	13	14	12
West Virginia	15	(*)	15	(*)	15	(*)	15	15
Region V:								
Michigan	18	16	18	(*)	16	19	(*)	18
Ohio	20	20	20	(*)	18	20	19	20
Region VI:								
Indiana	19	19	19	(*)	16	19	16	19
Wisconsin	20	(*)	20	(*)	15	20	(*)	20
Region VII:								
Alabama	12	(*)	12	(*)	14	12	14	11
Florida	14	15	14	(*)	12	15	15	14
Georgia	10	10	10	(*)	9	10	10	10
South Carolina	12	11	12	(*)	10	12	13	12
Tennessee	14	14	14	(*)	14	14	20	14
Region VIII:								
Iowa	23	26	22	(*)	21	23	22	23
Minnesota	24	27	22	(*)	22	25	21	25
Nebraska	18	(*)	17	(*)	16	20	(*)	18
South Dakota	20	(*)	20	(*)	19	20	(*)	20
Region IX:								
Kansas	18	16	20	(*)	17	20	23	18
Oklahoma	15	16	14	(*)	15	14	18	14
Region X:								
Louisiana	10	10	10	(*)	10	10	(*)	10
Region XI:								
Arizona	25	28	27	(*)	(*)	26	(*)	25
Colorado	30	(*)	30	(*)	23	30	(*)	30
Region XII:								
California	50	50	50	50	40	50	50	50
Oregon	30	(*)	30	(*)	25	30	(*)	30
Washington	33	35	32	(*)	26	35	(*)	33

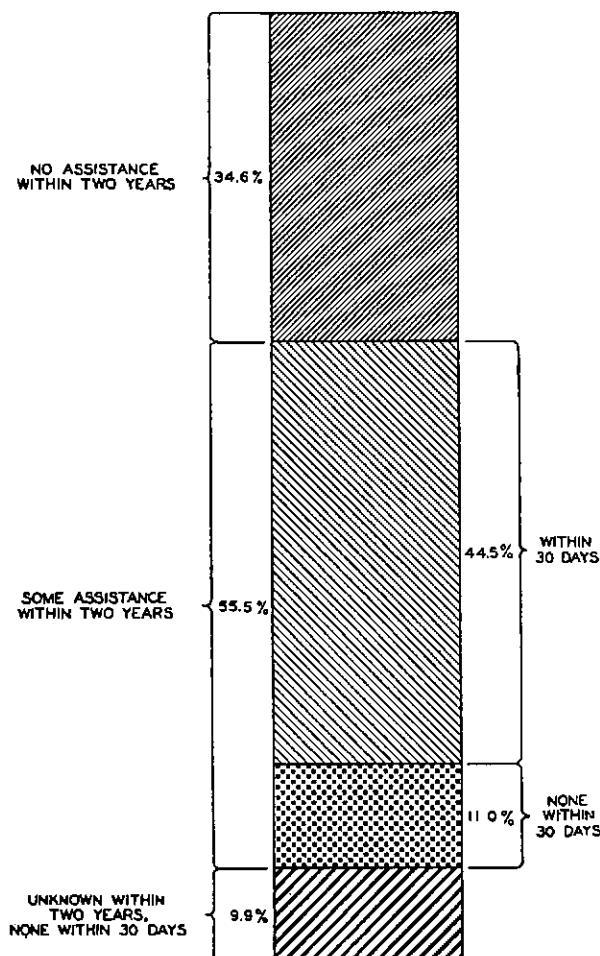
¹ Figure given is lower limit of dollar interval in which median falls.

² See footnote 1 on table 1.

³ Not computed, because base figure is too small.

⁴ Based on data for entire year, although Pennsylvania operated under an approved plan for only first half of year.

Chart III.—Aid to the blind: Relief status within 30 days and within 2 years prior to investigation of recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38, in all States with plans approved by the Social Security Board¹



¹ Exclusive of Pennsylvania which operated under an approved plan for only first half of year.

higher median grant for recipients who were not gainfully employed. Seven States approved higher grants on the average for recipients with gainful employment, and 3 States had the same median for both groups.

Previous Assistance Status

A majority of the persons accepted during 1937-38 were not benefiting from other types of assistance, either directly or by sharing in a grant to some other member of the household, at the time their applications were being investigated. This fact indicates that State programs for aid to the

blind under the Social Security Act have reached previously unmet levels of need among this group of dependents. Chart III summarizes the distribution of the individuals approved in 1937-38 according to their assistance status at the time of investigation and within 2 years prior to investigation. The time of investigation has been taken to mean any time within 30 days of the date of investigation.

Of the 18,600 blind persons placed on the rolls during the year, 56 percent had not received any type of public or private aid within 30 days prior to investigation. As shown in table 4, 35 percent of the total number accepted had not benefited from assistance of any other type within 2 years. Eleven percent of all recipients were not receiving assistance at the time of investigation but had benefited from some form of aid within 2 years. For about 10 percent who were not aided within 30 days of the time of investigation, the assistance status within 2 years was unknown; most of these recipients were in North Carolina.

Table 4.—Aid to the blind: Relief status and type of assistance received within 30 days and within 2 years prior to investigation, for recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38, in all States with plans approved by the Social Security Board¹

Relief status and type of assistance	Recipients accepted		
	Number	Percent of total	Percent of those receiving assistance within 30 days
Total recipients accepted.....	18,550	100.0	-----
No assistance within 30 days.....	10,089	55.5	-----
None within 2 years.....	6,287	34.6	-----
Some within 2 years.....	2,908	11.0	-----
Unknown whether received within 2 years.....	1,796	9.9	-----
Some assistance within 30 days.....	8,097	44.5	100.0
Public.....	7,952	43.7	98.2
General relief.....	5,646	31.0	69.7
Other public assistance.....	1,498	8.2	18.4
Works Program earnings.....	560	3.1	6.0
Care in institution.....	258	1.4	3.2
Private.....	240	1.9	4.2
Assistance from a private agency.....	231	1.3	2.9
Care in institution.....	109	.6	1.3

¹ Exclusive of Pennsylvania which operated under an approved plan for only first half of year.

² Includes 364 recipients for whom information concerning assistance received within 30 days was unknown; these cases were omitted in computing percentages.

³ Number and percent receiving some assistance does not equal sum of those receiving each specified type of assistance, since some recipients received more than 1 type. Distribution according to type of assistance was reported only for individuals receiving 1 type. It was assumed that same distribution applied to data for 2 or more types of assistance.

For all States combined, recipients with assistance status at the time of investigation comprised 45 percent of the total number accepted, as shown in table 4. Among the individual States, however, there was wide variation in this proportion. In chart IV the 29 States in which more than 100 blind persons were accepted during the year are arrayed according to the proportion of recipients receiving some other type of assistance at the time of investigation. The proportion of recipients with assistance status is undoubtedly influenced by administrative policies of the public-assistance agency and by the stage of development of other assistance programs, particularly that for general

relief. Some States may have adopted the policy of giving prior consideration to blind persons cared for under other programs, while other States may have followed the opposite procedure. In certain States it may be the practice to grant general relief to an applicant who is obviously in need, pending the determination of eligibility for aid to the blind.

Iowa had the highest proportion of recipients with assistance status at the time of investigation—78 percent, and South Carolina the lowest—14 percent. Other States in which this proportion was less than 25 percent were Alabama, North Carolina, and West Virginia.

Table 5.—Aid to the blind: Type of assistance received within 30 days prior to investigation, for recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38, in all States with plans approved by the Social Security Board and in selected States

Region and State	Number of recipients accepted	Percent of recipients who within 30 days prior to investigation received—		Percent of recipients who within 30 days prior to investigation received specified type of assistance					
				Public				Private	
		No assistance	Some assistance ¹	General relief	Other public assistance	Works Program earnings	Institutional care	Assistance from an agency	Institutional care
All States ²	18,550	55.5	44.5	31.0	8.2	3.1	1.4	1.3	0.8
Region I:									
Maine	252	63.1	36.9	20.2	2.0	1.8		11.9	1.2
Massachusetts	307	50.8	49.2	41.1	2.6	2.9	1.0	.7	1.3
Region II:									
New York	1,070	35.0	65.0	44.0	13.0	2.7	1.3	2.3	2.3
Region III:									
New Jersey	142	38.0	62.0	53.5		11.3			
Pennsylvania ³	2,480	59.5	40.5	19.4	15.9	2.6	3.1	1.5	1.0
Region IV:									
Maryland	144	88.1	31.9	22.2	5.6	1.4	2.1	.7	
North Carolina	2,234	76.1	23.9	22.5	(?)	.8	.3	.4	
West Virginia	215	77.7	22.3	19.0	1.9	.5	.9		
Region V:									
Michigan	267	46.4	53.6	46.5	3.7	1.5	.7	1.1	.4
Ohio	747	61.8	38.2	31.3	3.4	2.5	1.1	.7	
Region VI:									
Indiana	744	61.8	38.2	24.9	5.0	4.8	2.9	.5	2.2
Wisconsin	264	71.2	28.8	25.0	2.7	1.1	.4		
Region VII:									
Alabama	310	83.4	16.6	2.7	11.6	1.0	1.0		.3
Florida	1,523	51.1	48.9	41.9	2.0	7.8	.4	2.5	.1
Georgia	1,163	45.9	54.1	46.4	2.0	3.0	2.0	1.2	
South Carolina	947	85.9	14.1	6.8	.5	.9	3.7	1.9	.4
Tennessee	1,255	67.0	33.0	19.6	6.4	2.8	1.8	2.4	
Region VIII:									
Iowa	1,219	21.7	78.3	44.5	30.8	1.5	.7	.8	.3
Minnesota	209	57.4	42.6	30.6	6.2	2.4	2.4		
Nebraska	142	50.0	50.0	21.6	24.0	1.4	.7	2.1	
South Dakota	167	47.3	52.7	25.1	19.8	6.0		1.2	
Region IX:									
Kansas	834	30.9	69.1	53.3	12.1	4.0	.7	.1	.1
Oklahoma	820	54.6	46.0	23.4	17.1	4.9	.7	.5	
Region X:									
Louisiana	600	57.0	43.0	24.9	16.7	.4	.2		.0
Region XI:									
Arizona	168	49.0	51.0	34.0	10.2	4.7	1.4	1.3	.7
Colorado	120	59.7	40.3	20.2	14.3	4.2	.8	.8	
Region XII:									
California	1,523	64.1	35.9	25.4	3.9	2.4	3.1	1.1	.7
Oregon	110	47.3	52.7	44.6	.9	2.7	4.5		
Washington	386	33.4	66.6	30.5	29.6	2.1	2.1	.2	2.1

¹ Percent receiving some assistance may not equal sum of those receiving each specified type of assistance, since some recipients received more than 1 type. Distribution according to type of assistance was reported only for individuals receiving 1 type. It was assumed that same distribution applied to data for 2 or more types of assistance.

² Includes 680 recipients in 11 States (New Hampshire 34, Vermont 20, District of Columbia 65, North Dakota 55, Arkansas 73, New Mexico 58, Idaho 48, Montana 69, Utah 56, Wyoming 26, and Hawaii 68); detail for these

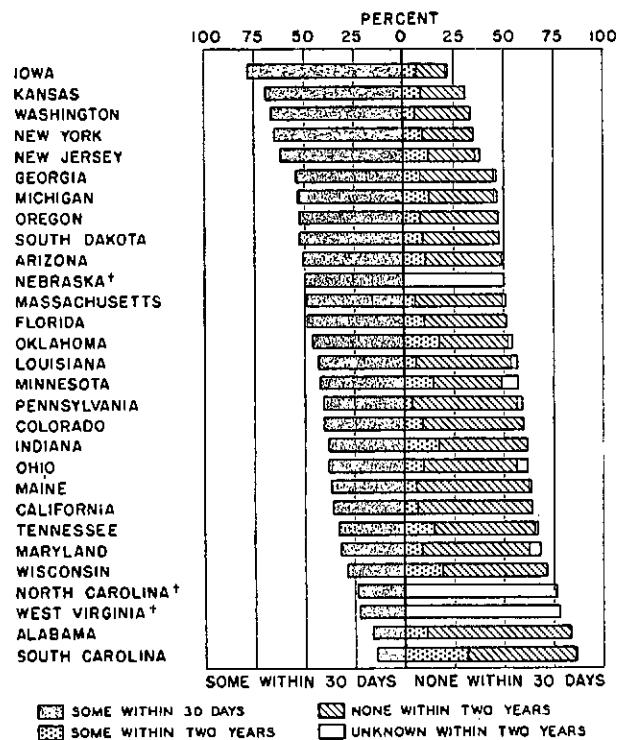
States is not shown because base figure is too small. Pennsylvania, which operated under an approved plan for only first half of year, is not included.

³ Includes 364 recipients for whom information concerning assistance received within 30 days was unknown; these cases were omitted in computing percentages.

⁴ Data for entire year are shown, although Pennsylvania operated under an approved plan for only first half of year.

⁵ Less than 0.1 percent.

Chart IV.—Aid to the blind: Relief status within 30 days and within 2 years prior to investigation for recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38, in selected States with plans approved by the Social Security Board



[†]Relief within 2 years is not shown because of high proportion of cases for which information is unknown.

Source of Previous Assistance

Of the 8,100 blind individuals with assistance status, 98 percent had benefited from some type of public aid. Only 4 percent had received assistance from a private agency or private institutional care. (A few recipients benefited directly or indirectly by more than one type of assistance.) The large majority—70 percent—of recipients with assistance status were aided under State and local general relief programs. Other types of public assistance, including old-age assistance, aid to dependent children, statutory aid to service or ex-service men, and subsistence payments by the Farm Security Administration, benefited 18 percent of those receiving assistance. Works Program earnings contributed to the support of 7 percent of the recipients with assistance status; most of these benefited as members of households in which other persons were employed on work projects. Only 3 percent of the individuals

receiving assistance were cared for in public institutions.

State data on the percentage of blind persons accepted during the year who were benefiting from different types of aid are shown in table 5. In all these States, except Alabama and Nebraska, more recipients had been receiving general relief than any other type of assistance. Although 31 percent of all recipients accepted during the year in the 39 States had been receiving general relief, the proportion in Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, and Oregon ranged between 41 and 54 percent. Less than 20 percent of the recipients accepted in Alabama, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and West Virginia had received assistance under the general relief program; in Alabama and South Carolina only 3 and 7 percent, respectively, were benefited by this type of aid.

Other types of public assistance benefited only 8 percent of the total number of recipients, but in some States the proportion was much higher. It was at least twice as large in Iowa, Louisiana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Washington. Of these States Iowa had the highest proportion—31 percent. Although

Table 6.—Aid to the blind: Recipients who were living in households receiving each type of assistance simultaneously with aid to the blind, for recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38, in all States with plans approved by the Social Security Board¹

Other assistance in household	Recipients accepted		
	Number	Percent of total	Percent of those receiving other assistance simultaneously
Total recipients accepted.....	18,650	100.0	-----
No other assistance in household.....	14,157	76.6	-----
Some other assistance in household.....	4,824	23.4	100.0
General relief.....	1,459	7.9	33.7
Old-age assistance.....	1,223	6.6	28.3
Aid to dependent children.....	337	1.8	7.8
Another grant of aid to the blind.....	407	2.2	9.4
Works Program earnings.....	776	4.2	17.9
Other public assistance.....	244	1.3	5.6
Assistance from a private agency.....	72	.4	1.7

¹ Exclusive of Pennsylvania which operated under an approved plan for only first half of year.

¹ Includes 69 recipients for whom information concerning other assistance received simultaneously was unknown; these cases were omitted in computing percentages.

² Number and percent receiving some other assistance does not equal sum of those receiving each specified type of assistance, since some recipients lived in households receiving more than 1 other type.

separate data are not available for the different types of aid included under "other public assistance," it is possible that in certain States old-age assistance may have been received previously by a substantial number of persons accepted for aid to the blind. This situation is most likely to have been true for States in which approved plans for old-age assistance were put into effect prior to the time aid to the blind was administered under the Social Security Act.

Relatively few of the blind persons accepted in 1937-38 were receiving earnings under the Works Program or sharing in the earnings of some other member of the same household. For all States combined the proportion was 3 percent, and such earnings benefited 5 percent or more of all persons

accepted in only 6 of the 29 States included in table 5. The highest proportion—11 percent—was reported by New Jersey.

Recipients who were receiving care in public institutions at the time of investigation comprised extremely small percentages of the total number added in practically all States. This was also true for persons assisted by private agencies or institutions. In Maine, however, 13 percent of those accepted had been cared for by private agencies or private institutions.

Other Assistance Received Simultaneously

About one-fourth the individuals accepted in 1937-38 were living in households in which one or more other types of assistance were to be re-

Table 7.—Aid to the blind: Recipients who were living in households receiving each type of assistance simultaneously with aid to the blind, for recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38, in all States with plans approved by the Social Security Board and in selected States

Region and State	Number of recipients accepted	Percent of recipients in households receiving—		Percent of recipients in households receiving specified type of assistance						
		No other assistance	Some other assistance ¹	General relief	Old-age assistance	Works Program earnings	Another grant of aid to the blind	Aid to dependent children	Other public assistance	Assistance from a private agency
All States ²	18,550	76.6	23.4	7.9	6.6	4.2	2.2	1.8	1.3	0.4
Region I:										
Maine	252	85.7	14.3	6.0	2.8	2.8	.4	2.0	.8	
Massachusetts	307	61.3	48.7	35.3	3.6	4.0	1.0	1.6	2.6	1.0
Region II:										
New York	1,070	54.6	45.4	29.1	7.6	4.2	5.1	1.8	.7	1.1
Region III:										
New Jersey	142	82.5	47.5	27.7	7.1	12.8	1.4	0.9	.7	.7
Pennsylvania ³	2,460	77.2	22.8	8.1	7.1	6.0	1.4	.5	.2	.2
Region IV:										
Maryland	144	85.4	14.6	2.1	4.8	1.4	1.4	4.9	.4	
North Carolina	2,234	85.1	14.9	5.8	1.8	4.2	1.4	1.0	1.0	.1
West Virginia	215	88.4	11.6	4.2	1.4	2.8	.5	1.8	.9	
Region V:										
Michigan	267	84.2	15.8	3.7	6.0	3.0	.8	1.5	.4	.4
Ohio	747	65.4	34.6	16.0	6.1	7.5	2.6	1.9	.9	.4
Region VI:										
Indiana	744	64.1	35.9	11.6	9.7	8.1	1.7	5.6	1.3	.8
Wisconsin	204	71.2	28.8	7.6	9.1	3.8	2.3	6.4	.4	.4
Region VII:										
Alabama	310	97.7	2.3	—	.7	.7	.3	.6	.5	
Florida	1,523	78.0	24.0	1.7	11.1	8.2	2.8	.5	.3	
Georgia	1,163	81.3	18.7	1.7	7.7	2.7	3.6	1.6	.2	
South Carolina	947	94.4	5.0	.2	1.7	1.0	1.7	.7	.2	.1
Tennessee	1,255	93.5	6.5	.5	1.1	1.7	.8	.4	1.1	1.0
Region VIII:										
Iowa	1,219	65.9	34.1	12.3	10.9	3.9	4.7	.8	1.5	.5
Minnesota	209	64.3	35.7	14.0	6.8	7.7	3.4	3.9	.6	1.4
Nebraska	142	59.2	40.8	7.7	18.3	6.3	4.9	4.9	4.9	
South Dakota	167	50.9	40.1	4.8	18.0	7.2	7.2	.6	15.0	.6
Region IX:										
Kansas	834	73.2	26.8	13.0	5.3	4.0	1.1	2.4	1.8	.2
Oklahoma	820	73.1	26.9	5.1	11.2	6.5	1.3	2.7	.9	
Region X:										
Louisiana	690	84.1	15.9	1.0	5.4	.7	4.1	3.1	1.6	
Region XI:										
Arizona	166	85.5	14.5	2.4	6.4	1.2	1.2	3.0	1.8	
Colorado	120	81.5	18.5	1.7	9.3	4.2	.8	1.7	.8	
Region XII:										
California	1,523	78.1	21.9	8.4	7.2	3.2	.8	1.2	1.6	
Oregon	110	77.3	22.7	5.5	8.2	4.5	3.6	.0		
Washington	386	69.2	30.8	5.7	17.6	2.8	1.8	2.8	1.3	.8

¹ Percent receiving some other assistance may not equal sum of those receiving each specified type of assistance, since some recipients lived in households receiving more than 1 other type.

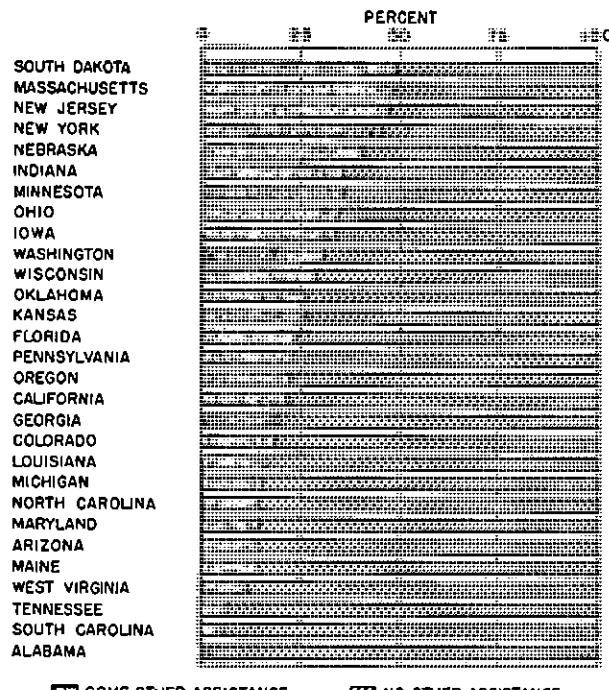
² See footnote 2 on table 5.

³ Includes 69 recipients for whom information concerning other assistance

received simultaneously was unknown; these cases were omitted in computing percentages.

⁴ Data for entire year are shown, although Pennsylvania operated under an approved plan for only first half of year.

Chart V.—Aid to the blind: Recipients who were living in households receiving simultaneously some other type of assistance, or no other assistance, for recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38, in selected States with plans approved by the Social Security Board



ceived concurrently with aid to the blind. In contrast with the data on previous assistance status, which are limited to aid received directly or indirectly by the blind person, information on other assistance received simultaneously relates to all assistance received in the household of which the recipient of aid to the blind is a member, even though he may not benefit. Summary data for all States are shown in table 6.

Of the 4,300 recipients in households receiving other types of aid, 34 percent were in households benefiting from general relief. Old-age assistance was to be received in households in which 28 percent of this group of recipients were living, aid to dependent children in 8 percent, and another grant for aid to the blind in 9 percent. Earnings under the Works Program were to supply assistance simultaneously with aid to the blind in 18 percent of these 4,300 cases. Six percent were in households which were also to receive other types of public assistance and 2 percent in households to be aided concurrently by private agencies.

Chart V and table 7 show that the States differed

markedly in the proportion of the total number of recipients accepted during the year who were in households which were to receive other assistance in addition to aid to the blind. In the 29 States included in table 7 this proportion ranged from 2 percent in Alabama to 49 percent in South Dakota.

Although only 8 percent of all blind persons added during the year were in households represented on the general relief rolls, more than 25 percent of those accepted in Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York were in households benefiting from this type of aid. In Alabama none of the persons approved for aid to the blind was in a general relief household, and in a number of other States the proportion was negligible. In Nebraska, South Dakota, and Washington 18 percent of the individuals accepted were in households which were also to receive old-age assistance, as compared with 7 percent of the recipients added in all States.

The highest percentage of recipients in households receiving Works Program earnings simultaneously with aid to the blind—13 percent—was reported by New Jersey. This State also had the

Table 8.—Aid to the blind: Employment status at time of investigation according to age, for recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38, in all States with plans approved by the Social Security Board¹

Age group ² (years)	Total recipients accepted	Recipients with specified employment status				
		Gainfully employed				Not gainfully employed
		Total	Sheltered employment	Self-employment	Other employment	
Number						
Total	18,550	1,247	202	618	367	17,303
Under 16	64	-----	4	2	4	64
16-20	275	10	4	2	4	265
21-44	4,675	513	133	235	145	4,182
45-64	7,940	581	102	286	173	7,379
65 and over	5,494	160	22	95	43	5,334
Unknown	102	3	1	-----	2	99
Percent						
Total	100.0	6.7	1.4	3.3	2.0	93.3
Under 16	(*)	-----	-----	-----	-----	(*)
16-20	100.0	3.0	1.5	.7	1.4	98.4
21-44	100.0	11.0	2.9	5.0	3.1	89.0
45-64	100.0	7.1	1.3	3.6	2.2	92.9
65 and over	100.0	2.9	.4	1.7	.8	97.1
Unknown	100.0	2.9	1.0	-----	1.9	97.1

¹ Exclusive of Pennsylvania which operated under an approved plan for only first half of year.

² As of June 30, 1938.

³ Not computed, because base figure is too small.

largest proportion—10 percent—in households benefiting under the program for aid to dependent children. In South Dakota blind persons who were in households receiving other types of public assistance accounted for 16 percent of the total number accepted, three times the proportion in any other State. South Dakota likewise had the largest proportion—7 percent—in households where another member also was to receive aid to the blind.

Employment Status

Only 7 percent of the individuals accepted during 1937-38 were gainfully employed at the time of investigation. Nine percent of the men accepted were employed as compared with only 3 percent of the women. Employment opportunities for the blind are necessarily limited at any time, and in periods of widespread unemployment persons handicapped by blindness are at an even greater disadvantage. Table 8 presents summary data on the employment status of recipients in specified age groups.

Of the 1,200 blind persons who were employed at the time their applications were investigated,

about half were self-employed in handicraft enterprises or small businesses of their own, excepting vending stands. Approximately one-fifth had sheltered employment in workshops operated on a nonprofit basis for the benefit of handicapped persons. The remainder were engaged in operating vending stands in public and private buildings or in other types of employment.

As shown in table 8, the proportion of recipients who were employed was larger in the age group 21-44 than in any other. For this group the proportion was 11 percent, as compared with 7 percent for the age group 45-64 and 3 percent for those aged 65 and over. In each of these age groups, self-employment was the predominant type of employment.

Arrangement for Education

Some type of educational arrangement which was to be effective at the time the first assistance check was received had been made for less than 3 percent of the persons added to the rolls in 1937-38. Recipients of aid to the blind are almost entirely an adult group; only 2 percent of the individuals accepted in 1937-38 were under

Table 9.—*Aid to the blind: Arrangement for education according to age, for recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38, in all States with plans approved by the Social Security Board*¹

Age group ² (years)	Total recipients accepted	Recipients having specified arrangement for education						Not receiving instruction	
		Total	In school			At home			
			Living in school for the blind	Attending special school for the blind	Attending other school	Under public auspices	Under auspices of voluntary agency		
Number									
Total.....	18,550	477	51	489	84	185	68	17,223	
Under 16.....	64	26	17	4	4	1	-----	37	
16-20.....	275	45	15	11	11	8	2	216	
21-44.....	4,676	221	8	40	63	78	32	4,185	
45-64.....	7,940	137	7	25	5	72	28	7,433	
65 and over.....	5,494	43	4	8	1	24	6	5,257	
Unknown.....	102	5	-----	1	-----	4	-----	85	
Percent									
Total.....	100.0	2.7	0.3	0.5	0.5	1.0	0.4	97.3	
Under 16.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	
16-20.....	100.0	17.2	5.7	4.2	4.2	2.3	.8	82.8	
21-44.....	100.0	5.0	.2	.9	1.4	1.8	.7	96.0	
45-64.....	100.0	1.8	.1	.3	.1	.9	.4	98.2	
65 and over.....	100.0	.8	.1	.1	(*)	.5	.1	99.2	
Unknown.....	100.0	5.0	-----	1.0	-----	4.0	-----	85.0	

¹ Exclusive of Pennsylvania which operated under an approved plan for only first half of year.

² As of June 30, 1938.

³ Includes 850 recipients for whom information concerning education was unknown; these cases were omitted in computing percentages.

⁴ 1 recipient was attending "other school" as well as special school for blind.

⁵ Not computed, because base figure is too small.

⁶ Less than 0.1 percent.

Table 10.—Aid to the blind: Type of education according to arrangement for education, for recipients accepted during the fiscal year 1937-38, in all States with plans approved by the Social Security Board¹

Arrangement for education	Recipients receiving instruction			
	Total ²	With specified type of education		
		Academic	Vocational	Both academic and vocational
Number				
Total receiving instruction.....	477	166	203	106
Living in school for blind.....	51	9	9	33
Attending special school for blind.....	89	18	46	25
Attending other school.....	84	50	20	14
Receiving instruction at home.....	253	89	128	34
Under public auspices.....	185	64	98	25
Under auspices of voluntary agency.....	368	25	32	9
Percent				
Total receiving instruction.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Living in school for blind.....	10.7	5.4	4.4	31.1
Attending special school for blind.....	18.7	10.9	22.7	23.6
Attending other school.....	17.6	30.1	9.9	13.2
Receiving instruction at home.....	53.0	53.8	03.0	32.1
Under public auspices.....	38.8	38.5	47.3	23.6
Under auspices of voluntary agency.....	14.2	15.1	15.7	8.5

¹ Exclusive of Pennsylvania which operated under an approved plan for only first half of year.

² Of total recipients accepted, 17,223 were receiving no instruction; for 850 information concerning education was unknown.

³ Includes 2 recipients for whom information concerning type of education was unknown.

⁴ 1 recipient was attending "other school" as well as special school for blind.

21 years of age. Summary data on the types of educational arrangement for recipients of different age groups are shown in table 9.

Somewhat more than half the recipients for

whom some type of education had been planned were to receive instruction at home, while the rest were to attend school. Most of the home instruction was to be given under public auspices. Of the recipients who were to receive instruction in schools, 39 percent were to attend schools conducted solely for the blind or with special classes for such persons, 38 percent were to attend regular schools in which the blind are permitted to attend classes, and 23 percent were to live in schools for the blind. A majority of those living in schools were under 21 years of age.

Seventeen percent of the individuals from 16 to 20 years of age were to receive some type of education, but the total number in this age group was extremely small. Some educational arrangement had been made for 5 percent of those in the age group 21-44, for 2 percent in the age group 45-64, and for 1 percent of those 65 and over. More of the recipients who were under 21 years of age were to receive instruction in schools than at home. The group between 21 and 44 years of age was evenly divided into those to be instructed in schools and at home, while instruction at home predominated for persons aged 45 or more.

Vocational training was to be given to a larger proportion than was academic education, as shown in table 10. Of the persons for whom education was to be provided, 203 were to receive vocational training, 166 academic education, and 106 were to receive both vocational and academic instruction.