
Aid to Families With Dependent Children: Characteristics of Recipients in 1979

by Henrietta J. Duvall, Karen W. Goudreau, and Robert E. Marsh*

In March 1979, 10.4 million persons were receiving Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC). Nearly 70 percent of these recipients were children and most of the remainder were mothers. At that time, most AFDC families had only one or two children, were headed by women, and lived in a metropolitan area. Comparison with earlier surveys reveals that the number of children and other recipients per household has been declining in recent years, that the proportion of blacks on the rolls has diminished slightly, and that AFDC parents are younger and better educated than they used to be.

In the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program, Federal grants help defray State expenses incurred in providing financial assistance to needy children living in the home of a parent or specified relative, and deprived of parental support or care because of the death, continued absence from the home, or physical or mental incapacity of a parent. In about half the States, the program also covers children deprived of support because of their father's unemployment.

Under the AFDC program, States are responsible for defining need or establishing need standards. All States now provide payments for eligible children, and all States except Mississippi provide payments for one parent or other caretaker relative with whom a child is living. Virtually all the States include the second parent in the home if one parent of at least one of the children is incapacitated. About half the States assist families where the primary wage earner is unemployed. The amount of the payments is left to the discretion of the States.

In March 1979, about 10,358,000 persons were receiving AFDC. As chart 1 shows, the number of families assisted by this program doubled between 1959 and 1969—from 773,000 to 1,630,000—then doubled again in just 8 years, to 3,523,000 in 1977. From 1977 to 1979 the number of recipient families dropped by nearly 100,000, to 3,428,000, but after 1979, the number of recipients increased again. By September 1981, there were 11.1 million recipients in 3.8 million families receiving

more than \$1.1 billion in monthly payments. Another decline in the number of recipients is likely in the future because of provisions incorporated in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981. That legislation reduced the number of families potentially eligible for AFDC by eliminating coverage for children over age 17 (age 18 under certain circumstances), families in which the parent or caretaker relative is involved in a labor strike, and unborn children until 3 months before birth. Program changes also reduced the amount of earned income that can be disregarded in determining the amount of assistance, called for retrospective accounting of income, and standardized deductions for employment expenses and child care.

From time to time, detailed surveys are made of the characteristics of AFDC recipients. This article reports some of the findings of the most recent of these, conducted in March 1979. The data were derived from a sample survey that included all States and United States jurisdictions except Guam. The sample required from each State was 0.4 percent, but smaller States had the option of selecting a sample of about 400 cases so that reliable data could be presented for them. The sample data are inflated to represent all families receiving money payments during the survey month. Therefore, the data are subject to sampling variability and, as in all surveys, the figures are subject to errors of response.

In general, the article follows the outline of, and draws much of its data from, **Aid to Families with Dependent Children: 1979 Recipient Characteristics Study**, a two-part report to be released soon by the Office of Research and Statistics. The larger report contains detailed tables and distributions by State and region.

Highlights of this article include:

* Duvall is with the Division of Family Assistance Studies (FAS), Office of Research and Statistics, Office of Policy, Social Security Administration; Goudreau, formerly with FAS, is now a member of the ORS Division of Supplemental Security Studies; and Marsh is a member of the ORS Publications Staff.

—The average size of AFDC families has been decreasing for a decade. In 1979, the average number of children in AFDC families was not much different from that for families with children in the population as a whole.

—In 1979, more than half of all AFDC families were white, including Hispanics. The proportion of blacks on the rolls fell between 1973 and 1979.

—The median age of parents living in the home has fallen sharply in recent years. At the same time, their educational level has risen substantially.

—The vast majority of AFDC parents are native-born Americans.

Demographic and Program Characteristics

AFDC Families

Child recipients. In 1979 the average AFDC family received aid for 2.1 children, compared with 2.2 in 1977 and 3.0 in 1969. In the most recent year, more than two-thirds of the families had either one or two child recipients and less than one-seventh had more than three. As table 1 shows, the proportion of families with only one child recipient rose from 34 percent to 42 percent in the period 1973–79. In 55 percent of the AFDC families, at least one of the child recipients was under age 6 in 1979.

Eighty-three percent of the families had at least one child under age 12.

Other recipients. The total number of recipients in the average AFDC family fell from 4.1 in 1969 to 3.2 in 1977 and to 3.0 in 1979. This steady decline reflects a substantial decrease in the number of children per family and a slight decrease in the number of adult recipients. Only one adult—usually the mother—received assistance in about 80 percent of the families, a proportion that remained virtually constant during the period 1969–79. In that span the proportion of families with two adult recipients was halved, falling from 12 percent to 6 percent, while the proportion receiving aid only for children rose by nearly half, from about 10 percent to 15 percent. Families with two adult recipients included unemployed and incapacitated parents. Families without any adult recipients often included a stepfather who was supporting the children's mother.

Other household members. The overall composition of AFDC households remained virtually the same in 1979 as it was in 1975. In addition to parents, about 15 percent of the AFDC families contained a grandparent, 9 percent had nonrecipient brothers and sisters (including half and step) of recipient children, and 15 percent contained other relatives.

Sex of household head. In 1979, as in 1977, women headed four-fifths of all AFDC households. Most of

Chart 1.—Number of AFDC families during March of selected years

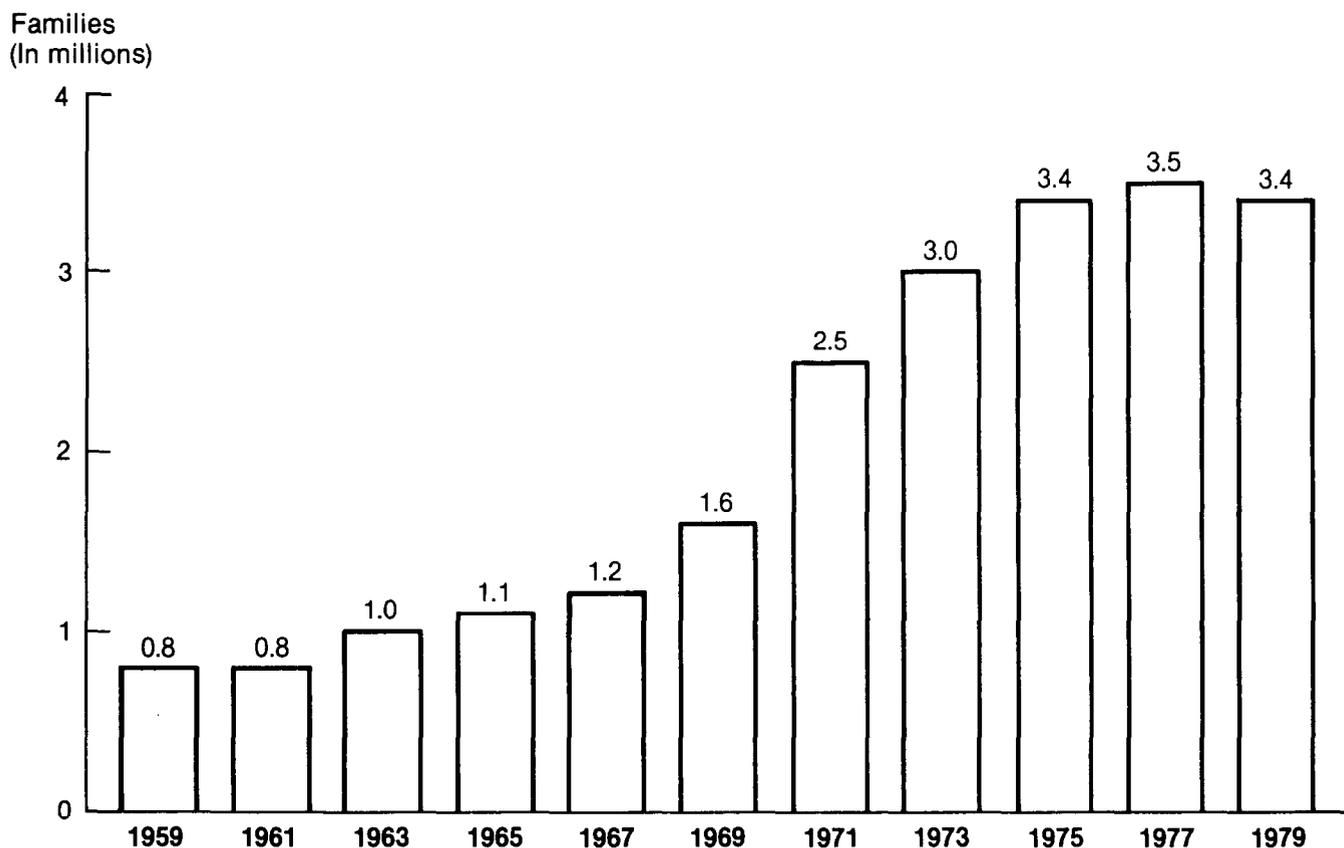


Table 1.—AFDC families: Percentage distribution, by selected demographic and program characteristics, 1973–79

Characteristic	1973	1977	1979
Total families	2,989,891	3,523,294	3,428,078
Total recipients	10,692,081	11,115,977	10,358,028
Average family size	3.58	3.15	3.02
Youngest child age group			
Under age 6	59.9	56.6	55.5
6-14	33.5	35.2	35.9
15 and over	6.6	6.3	6.8
Unknown	0	1.9	1.7
Sex of head			
Female	75.8	78.9	81.1
Male	23.8	21.0	18.1
Unknown .....	.4	.2	.6
Race and ethnicity			
Hispanic	13.4	12.2	13.6
White, not Hispanic	38.0	41.4	40.4
Black, not Hispanic	45.8	43.0	43.1
American Indian	1.1	1.1	1.4
Asian .....		.4	1.0
Other and unknown	1.7	1.9	.4
Place of residence			
SMSA, central city	57.7	56.3	56.2
SMSA, outside central city	20.4	20.9	21.7
Outside SMSA	21.8	22.2	20.4
Out of State and unknown .....	.3	.7	1.7
Persons in household (percent) ¹			
Mother	93.6	91.7	91.7
Father	17.3	15.4	14.2
Siblings not in AFDC group	9.8	8.2	8.8
Grandparents	14.2	15.5	15.4
Other relatives	13.3	15.4	14.6
Other nonrelatives	2.7	3.4	3.5
Number of child recipients			
1	33.8	40.3	42.5
2	25.5	27.3	28.0
3	16.3	16.1	15.5
4	11.0	8.2	7.9
5 or more	13.4	8.1	6.0

¹ Includes steprelatives related to youngest child.

these women were the natural or adoptive mothers. By contrast, the Bureau of the Census reports that less than 15 percent of all families in the United States were headed by women in March 1979.

Place of residence. The urban character of the AFDC program is reflected in the fact that nearly 80 percent of the families receiving aid in 1979 lived within a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA)—about the same proportion as in 1977. As the tabulation at the right shows, 46 percent of the families resided within a central city with a population of 100,000 or more. The six largest cities in the United States—Chicago, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, and Philadelphia—contained nearly 20 percent of all AFDC families.

Race and ethnicity. In 1979, just over half of all AFDC families were classified as white. About 14 percent of the families receiving aid were Hispanic, 40 per-

Place of residence and population	Percent
In SMSA county:	
In central city with population of—	
1,000,000 or more	18.3
250,000–999,999	18.0
100,000–249,999	9.6
Less than 100,000	10.3
Outside central city	21.7
Not in SMSA county	20.4
Other .....	.1
Unknown	1.6

cent were white (not Hispanic), and 43 percent were black (not Hispanic). Although the racial and ethnic composition of AFDC families did not change much from 1977 to 1979, table 1 reveals a slight reduction (2.7 percentage points) in the proportion of black recipient families from 1973 to 1979 and a corresponding increase (2.6 percentage points) in the combined “White, not Hispanic” and “Hispanic” categories.

Duration on the rolls. Families receiving assistance in March 1979 had been on the rolls for a median period of 29 continuous months. The duration of reciprocity was measured from the date of the most recent case opening through March 1979 and was based only on cases on the rolls during that month.

AFDC Parents

Public assistance status. In 1979, 91 percent of all AFDC families had a natural or adoptive mother in the home and 9 percent had a natural or adoptive father. Because adults may receive AFDC payments if they are caring for eligible children and meet other criteria, most of these parents—9 in 10 of the mothers and 3 in 4 of the fathers—were also included in the AFDC money grant. Table 2 shows that, of those not receiving AFDC, most of the fathers received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments for disability and most of the mothers

had a nonassistance source of support, usually the children's stepfather. The most recent survey reveals an increase, from 16.9 percent in 1977 to 17.7 percent in 1979, in the importance of SSI for fathers living at home and not receiving AFDC payments.

Employment status. Parents in an AFDC household are required to seek and accept employment if they are able-bodied and not providing full-time care for a child under age 6. In 1979, 1 in every 4 mothers and 2 in every 5 fathers were either working or seeking employment. Of those not in the labor force, 3 in 4 of the fathers and 3 in 5 of the mothers were either incapacitated or caring for a child under age 6. Changes in the program in 1981 provide each State the option to develop work alternatives, including community work experience, to provide jobs instead of welfare, and to demonstrate its own work incentive (WIN) program. The community work experience program (CWEP) provides on-the-job train-

Table 2.—Parents in AFDC households: Percentage distribution, by sex and selected demographic and program characteristics, 1973-79

Characteristic	1973		1977		1979	
	Mother	Father	Mother	Father	Mother	Father
Total parents in households.....	2,793,547	379,048	3,219,343	360,220	3,122,346	299,144
Money payment status						
Received AFDC	93.2	80.8	90.3	75.4	89.7	75.1
Received SSI	1.1	14.5	2.6	16.9	2.7	17.7
Received general assistance only .....	.1	.1	.1	.5	.1	.2
Not a recipient	5.5	3.3	6.6	6.4	7.2	6.4
Status unknown	0	.5	.4	.8	.3	.7
Employment status						
Employed full time	9.8	5.3	8.4	4.9	8.8	8.5
Employed part time	6.3	6.4	5.4	3.3	5.4	3.0
Seeking work or recall	11.5	27.6	11.2	36.9	10.5	34.7
Not employed—						
Incapacitated	8.1	53.8	6.3	39.1	6.6	40.0
Homemaker	46.9	1.5	41.6	1.8	39.8	2.4
In school			3.2	2.2	2.8	1.5
Other	17.4	4.8	21.3	8.8	23.3	8.1
Unknown	0	.7	2.6	2.9	2.7	1.8
Age						
Under 20	8.1	1.3	8.1	2.1	7.4	1.5
20-29	41.4	20.8	44.5	25.6	46.1	28.1
30-39	28.5	23.5	26.6	24.6	27.1	27.5
40 and over	20.6	50.8	15.2	36.3	15.1	36.2
Unknown	1.4	3.5	3.2	11.4	4.3	6.7
Median	29.8	41.0	28.4	36.7	28.7	35.9
Education						
Less than 8th grade	12.6	31.6	6.8	16.7	5.1	12.5
8th-11th grade	41.5	34.3	29.9	26.2	25.2	19.6
High school graduate	26.2	16.7	23.9	17.3	21.9	15.4
Unknown	19.7	17.5	39.4	39.8	47.8	52.5
Citizenship						
Born in State					59.1	53.5
Born in other State					35.2	34.4
Naturalized citizen					1.0	1.2
Alien					3.4	8.7
Unknown					1.3	2.2

ing and work experience for recipients in order to assist them in moving into regular employment.

Age. The median age of AFDC parents dropped sharply from 1969 to 1979—from 33.1 to 28.7 for the mothers and from 44.2 to 35.9 for the fathers. In 1979, more than half the mothers in the home and 3 in 10 of the fathers were under age 30. Seven percent of the mothers and 1.5 percent of the fathers were teenagers—proportions that were almost double those found in the survey conducted 10 years earlier.

Educational attainment. Although the majority of parents in AFDC households were not high school graduates in 1979, about twice as many mothers and three times as many fathers held diplomas than did a decade earlier. Of those for whom the educational level was known (about half for both sexes), 18.2 percent of the mothers and 36.5 percent of the fathers had less than a 9th-grade education, 39.9 percent of the mothers and 30.9 percent of the fathers had completed 1–3 years of high school, 36.0 percent of the mothers and 26.7 percent of the fathers were high school graduates, and 5.2 percent of the mothers and 4.2 percent of the fathers had some college training short of a degree. Just under 1 percent of the mothers and 1.5 percent of the fathers were college graduates.

Nativity and citizenship. In 1979, 94 percent of the mothers and 88 percent of the fathers in AFDC households were native-born Americans. One percent of the mothers and 1.2 percent of the fathers were naturalized citizens and 3.4 percent of the mothers and 8.7 percent of the fathers were aliens. Only 59 percent of the AFDC mothers and 54 percent of the fathers, however, were born in the State in which they lived in 1979.

AFDC Children

Reason for eligibility. In 1979, 89 percent of the AFDC children received aid because their fathers did not live with them and provided little or no support (chart 2). Table 3 compares the situation in 1979 with that 2 and 6 years earlier. It shows that marital breakup remained the most common basis for eligibility, although lack of a marriage tie between parents gained in importance. Only a small proportion of the children were eligible for AFDC because their fathers were incapacitated or deceased. These categories decreased by about half.

Age and sex. The average AFDC child in 1979 was 8 years and 4 months old, compared with an age of 8 years and 11 months in 1969. The tabulation in the next column shows that more than a third of the children in 1979 were under age 6. About 85 percent of the AFDC children were under age 15.

Employment experience. From 1977 to 1979, an increasing proportion of AFDC children worked. In 1979, 4.7 percent of the children aged 16–17 and 8.4 percent

Age group	Percent in—	
	1969	1979
Unborn	0.6	0.5
Under 3	14.3	18.4
3–5	17.6	17.6
6–8	18.4	17.2
9–11	18.1	15.8
12–14	16.4	14.8
15–17	12.0	12.3
18–20	2.6	2.7
Unknown	0	.9

of those aged 18–20 were employed, compared with 3.6 percent and 4.6 percent, respectively, in 1977.

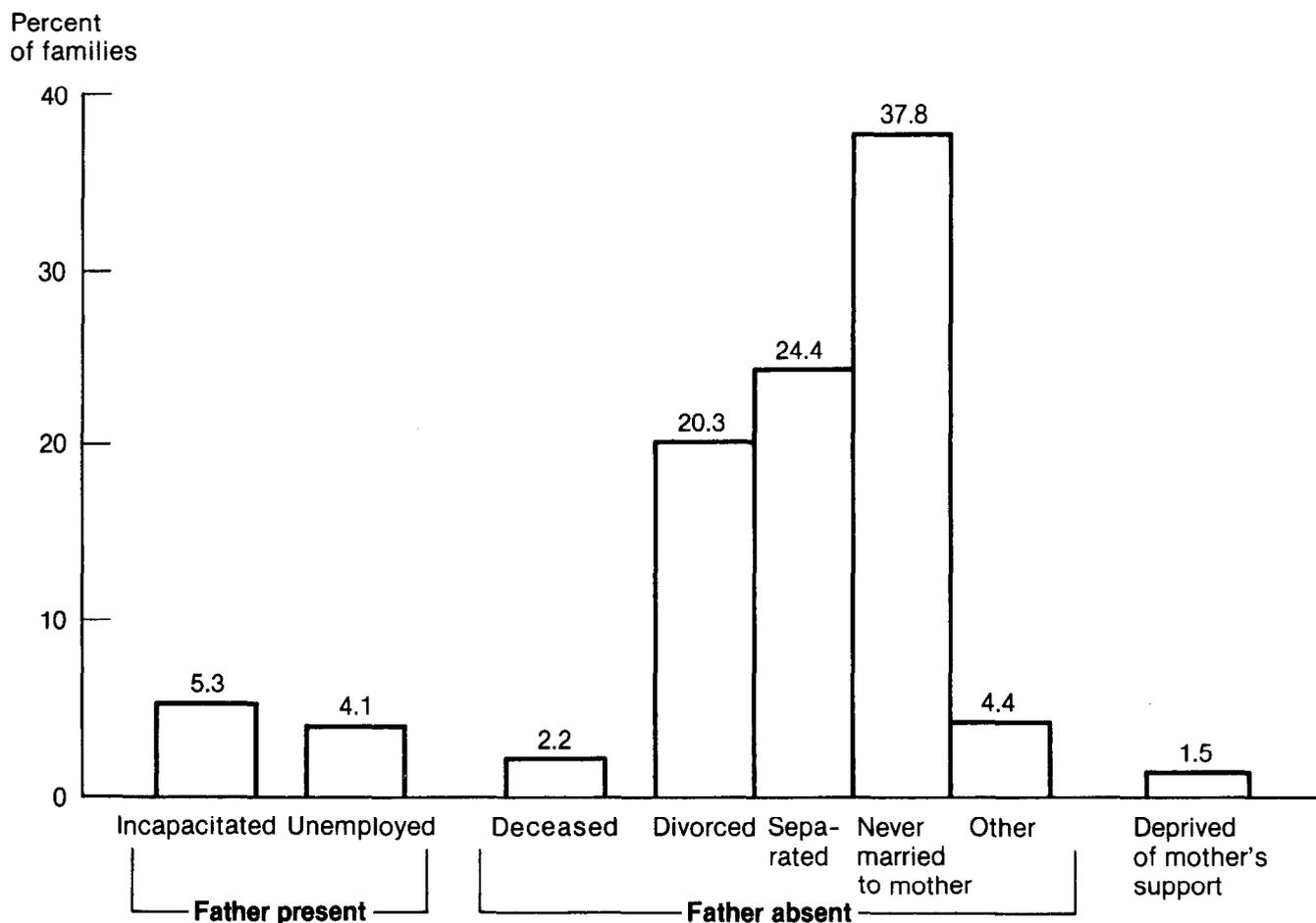
Financial Circumstances of AFDC Families

When a family applies for AFDC, the local welfare agency takes into account all of the income and assets of the adult persons requesting assistance. The income considered includes earnings, a variety of cash income from other sources, noncash income to which the State can assign a monetary value, and certain nontaxable income such as Social Security, Veterans Administration, and workers' compensation benefits. Some of the income is disregarded, or not considered, when calculating the amount of the payment. Each State specifies the types and value of liquid assets and property that the family may hold for current and future needs. All States permit the retention of real property used as a home, though some limit its value. Household goods and clothing usually may be retained, and quite often an automobile of moderate value. The value of other items of real property and liquid assets such as shares of

Table 3.—AFDC children: Percentage distribution, by age and reason for eligibility, 1973–79

Characteristic	1973	1977	1979
Total children	7,717,665	7,835,803	7,230,304
Average per family	2.58	2.22	2.11
Age distribution			
Under age 6	34.8	35.1	36.5
6–14	50.5	49.2	47.8
15 and over	14.7	14.8	15.0
Unknown	0	.9	.9
Reason for eligibility			
Father was—			
Dead	4.0	2.6	2.2
Incapacitated	10.2	5.9	5.3
Unemployed	4.1	5.0	4.1
Absent due to—			
Divorce	17.7	21.4	20.3
Separation	28.8	25.5	24.4
No marriage tie	31.5	33.8	37.8
Other reason	2.4	4.1	4.4
Mother did not provide support	1.2	1.6	1.5

Chart 2.—Percentage distribution of AFDC recipient children, by reason for eligibility, 1979



stock, bonds, and the face value and cash reserves of life insurance are always limited. If holdings of such items exceed the State limitation, the family is not eligible for assistance.

The Benefit Determination Process

Each State establishes in dollar terms the amount of money a given family needs to meet a minimal standard of living in the State. The major elements of this process are (1) the need requirements established by the State, (2) the amount of nonassistance income received by the family, (3) the amount of nonassistance income that can be disregarded, and (4) the AFDC payment. The amount of the payment is determined by subtracting net nonassistance income (after income disregards) from the requirement.

Need requirements. The need standard—which covers such items as housing, food, clothing, personal and household items, and utilities—varies by the size and composition of the family. Some States budget a single amount to cover all items, while others budget separate amounts for items such as housing.

In March 1979, monthly requirements averaged \$247

for one adult and one child (33 percent of the caseload) and \$308 for one adult with two children (23 percent of the caseload). Table 4 shows the need requirements for families of various sizes.

Nonassistance income. A lower proportion of AFDC families had nonassistance income in 1979 (19 percent) than in 1977 (22 percent), but the average amount of income increased from \$248 to \$300 in the period. Table 5 shows that the main source of this income was earnings, primarily those of mothers, which averaged \$383 a month. Declines were apparent in the proportion of

Table 4.—Average monthly AFDC standard of need in 1979, by number of adult recipients and child recipients

Child recipients	Adult recipients		
	None	One	Two
One	\$135.82	\$246.71	\$324.30
Two	219.82	*308.00	396.30
Three	264.75	365.00	454.03
Four	353.00	417.90	501.93
Five	379.77	471.86	514.10
Six	400.82	516.08	581.04
Seven or more	631.54	532.98	616.76

Table 5.—Percent of AFDC families with nonassistance income and average amount for families with each type, 1979

Type of nonassistance income	Percent	Average amount
Total, one or more sources.....	19.3	\$299.91
Earnings of one or more persons.....	12.8	381.11
Mother.....	12.2	383.00
Father.....	.5	335.45
Children aged 14 and over.....	.1	205.71
Other adults.....	.1	268.52
Public service employment earnings.....	.1	239.50
OASDI and Railroad Retirement benefits.....	3.1	132.61
Veterans' benefits.....	.4	130.18
Other pensions or benefits.....	.4	143.47
Unemployment compensation.....	.6	236.68
Workers' compensation.....	.1	234.84
Contributions from stepparent in home.....	.2	62.53
Contributions from other persons in home.....	.6	71.66
Other cash income.....	1.9	80.40
Other income in-kind with money value.....	.4	70.66

families receiving other types of nonassistance income. Social Security benefits were the second most important source of nonassistance income, although they were received by only 3 percent of AFDC families.

Disregarded income. Disregarded income under AFDC is of two types—mandatory and optional. Examples of the first type are the earnings of AFDC children if they are in school and not employed full time, the first \$30 of monthly earnings plus one-third of the remaining gross earned income of other persons in the assistance group, and reasonable work expenses. Optional income that may be disregarded includes up to \$5 per month for each AFDC recipient, and amounts set aside for future identifiable needs of AFDC children.

Seventy-one percent of the families with nonassistance income in 1979 had some of it disregarded. The average amount was \$255 a month per family. As table 6 shows, most of the disregarded income was related to the \$30 + 1/3 work incentive and employment expense provisions. Recently enacted Federal legislation limits to 4 months duration the \$30 + 1/3 disregard and sets a standard amount for work expenses and a maximum amount for child care expenses.

Amount of AFDC and budget summary. The AFDC families were paid an average of \$253 under the program and received an additional \$58 in nonassistance income in March 1979. The average need requirement and AFDC payment were considerably higher for families living in metropolitan (\$312 and \$265) than nonmetropolitan (\$258 and \$192) areas. Table 7 shows the average AFDC payment for families of various sizes. A family with one adult and one child averaged \$209 a month. The average payment to a family with one adult and two children was \$257.

Nationally, assistance payments totaled \$869 million for March 1979 and nonassistance income amounted to \$199 million. More than half (\$121 million) of the non-

Table 6.—Percent of families with nonassistance income, by type of income disregarded and average amount of such income for families with each type, 1979

Type of disregarded income	Percent of families	Amount
Total.....	71.4	\$255.37
\$5 or less per person.....	5.9	6.11
First \$30 plus 1/3 of remaining earned income.....	64.9	147.20
Allowed employment expenses.....	60.5	129.03
Differentiated:		
Child care.....	20.2	101.32
Other.....	44.3	95.29
Undifferentiated.....	15.5	99.97
For support of dependents outside assistance group.....	.7	90.35
Additional disregarded income.....	9.5	80.23

Table 7.—Average AFDC payment amounts, by number of adult recipients and child recipients, 1979

Child recipients	Adult recipients		
	None	One	Two
One.....	\$115.81	\$208.81	\$272.53
Two.....	186.88	257.08	327.08
Three.....	221.44	298.86	366.23
Four.....	286.84	345.30	413.06
Five.....	284.57	389.66	358.05
Six.....	354.23	414.93	429.40
Seven or more.....	455.72	412.03	419.27

assistance income was not counted in determining the AFDC payments.

The AFDC grant therefore made up the bulk of the cash income available to most families. When assistance and nonassistance cash income were combined, the average amount available for the families of the most common sizes were \$229 for one adult and one child and \$284 for one adult with two children.

In March 1979, 3 in 4 of the AFDC families also received a supplemental income benefit in the form of food stamps. To participate in this program, low-income households must meet standards set by the Department of Agriculture that consider household size and the income of all family members. The average food stamp benefit per participating AFDC family was \$106. A very small proportion of the AFDC families also received general or emergency assistance in addition to AFDC in March 1979. Families that are eligible for AFDC often receive other benefits such as Medicaid, housing assistance, energy assistance, and social services.

Child Support Enforcement

When the Child Support Enforcement program was established in 1975, the States were directed to locate
(Continued on page 19)

Table M-9.—OASDI cash benefits: Monthly benefits in current-payment status, by program, 1940-81

[Data contain some duplication arising from dual entitlement; see the 1977-79 Annual Statistical Supplement, p. 11]

At end of selected month	Number			Amount (in thousands)		
	Total ¹	OASI ²	DI ³	Total	OASI ²	DI ³
December:						
1940	222,488	222,488	.....	\$4,070	\$4,070	.....
1945	1,288,107	1,288,107	.....	23,801	23,801	.....
1950	3,477,243	3,477,243	.....	126,856	126,856	.....
1955	7,960,616	7,960,616	.....	411,613	411,613	.....
1960	14,844,589	14,157,138	687,451	936,321	888,320	\$48,000
1965	20,866,767	19,127,716	1,739,051	1,516,802	1,395,817	120,986
1970	26,228,629	23,563,634	2,664,995	2,628,326	2,385,926	242,400
1971	27,291,508	24,361,500	2,930,008	3,058,957	2,763,022	295,934
1972	28,476,028	25,204,542	3,271,486	3,916,203	3,514,741	401,462
1973	29,868,145	26,309,163	3,558,982	4,269,863	3,821,165	448,698
1974	30,852,817	26,941,483	3,911,334	5,001,918	4,445,170	556,748
1975	32,084,511	27,732,311	4,352,200	5,727,758	5,047,656	680,102
1976	33,023,552	28,399,725	4,623,827	6,415,103	5,624,858	790,246
1977	34,082,556	29,228,350	4,854,206	7,175,513	6,270,000	905,513
1978	34,586,771	29,718,195	4,868,576	7,930,576	6,933,292	997,284
1979	35,125,066	30,347,848	4,777,218	9,056,622	7,950,300	1,106,322
1980	35,618,840	30,936,668	4,682,172	10,694,022	9,432,299	1,261,723
1981	36,006,371	31,550,097	4,456,274	12,255,310	10,901,677	1,353,632
1980						
December	35,618,840	30,936,668	4,682,172	10,694,022	9,432,299	1,261,723
1981						
January	35,748,776	31,065,433	4,683,343	10,756,026	9,494,549	1,261,477
February	35,790,741	31,099,663	4,691,078	10,781,855	9,519,240	1,262,615
March	35,846,079	31,152,581	4,693,498	10,812,618	9,549,992	1,262,626
April	35,880,038	31,192,498	4,687,540	10,830,253	9,568,962	1,261,291
May	35,898,198	31,223,676	4,674,522	10,843,984	9,585,794	1,258,190
June	35,793,226	31,157,395	4,635,831	12,053,391	10,658,796	1,394,595
July	35,698,351	31,117,671	4,580,680	12,054,448	10,669,839	1,384,608
August	35,791,980	31,235,163	4,556,817	12,103,073	10,724,638	1,378,435
September	35,833,358	31,298,618	4,534,740	12,139,006	10,765,798	1,373,208
October	35,904,374	31,391,504	4,512,870	12,182,866	10,815,165	1,367,701
November	35,967,914	31,483,497	4,484,417	12,223,246	10,862,462	1,360,784
December	36,006,371	31,550,097	4,456,274	12,255,310	10,901,677	1,353,632

¹ At the end of 1980 an estimated 40,000 Railroad Retirement beneficiaries would have been eligible for Social Security benefits had they applied. These persons receive their Social Security benefits as part of their Railroad Retirement annuity and are not included in the above tabulations. Of these 40,000 beneficiaries, 19,000 were retired workers, 5,500 were disabled workers, and 15,500 were spouses and children.

² Benefits paid from the OASI trust fund to retired workers and their spouses and children and to all survivors. Includes special benefits authorized by 1966 legislation for persons aged 72 and over not insured under the regular or transitional provisions of the Social Security Act.

³ Benefits paid from the DI trust fund to disabled workers and their spouses and children.

AFDC—Continued from page 9

absent parents, establish paternity, enforce obligations, and collect child support payments. By 1979, efforts were underway to establish paternity for 44 percent of the children (with success in three-fourths of the cases) and to locate absent parents for 54 percent of the children (with success in about half the cases). Court orders or other obligations for child support had been obtained on behalf of 31 percent of the AFDC families, which contained about one-third of the children whose parents

were divorced, separated, or not married to each other. The average monthly amount of child support ordered per family was \$116. Child support payments were actually made for about 35 percent of the families with orders or obligations. Under the Child Support Enforcement program, AFDC applicants are required to assign any support rights they have to the State. Thus, collections under that program serve to offset partially the costs of the AFDC program.