

CENSUS



CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS
Household Economic Studies

Series P-70, No. 19

by
Cynthia J. Harpine
John M. McNeil
Enrique J. Lamas

The Need for Personal Assistance with Everyday Activities: Recipients and Caregivers

SIPP

Survey of Income and Program Participation

U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Acknowledgments

This report was prepared in the Poverty and Wealth Statistics Branch, under the general direction of **Gordon W. Green, Jr.**, Assistant Division Chief (Economic Characteristics), Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division. Statistical assistance was provided by **Eleanor Baugher** and **Anna Podany**. Word processing assistance was provided by **Zana Colevas** and **Viola Hughes**. Survey design and data operations were coordinated by **Chester Bowie**, Chief, Income Surveys Branch, Demographic Surveys Division. Data processing activities were directed by **Donna Riccini**, Chief, Income Surveys Programming Branch, Demographic Surveys Division.

Data collection was conducted by the Bureau of the Census interviewers under the overall direction of **Stanley D. Machett**, Chief, Field Division. Sampling review was conducted by **Rajendra Singh**, Chief, and **Vicki Huggins** and **Andrea Meier**, Survey of Income and Program Participation Branch, Statistical Methods Division.

The staff of Administrative and Publications Services Division, **Walter C. Odom**, Chief, provided publication planning, editorial review, design, composition, and printing planning and procurement.

CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS
Household Economic Studies

Series P-70, No. 19

Issued June 1990

by
Cynthia J. Harpine
John M. McNeil
Enrique J. Lamas

**The Need
for Personal
Assistance
with Everyday
Activities:
Recipients and
Caregivers**



U.S. Department of Commerce
Robert A. Mosbacher, Secretary
Thomas J. Murrin, Deputy Secretary
Michael R. Darby, Under Secretary
for Economic Affairs

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
Barbara Everitt Bryant, Director



BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Barbara Everitt Bryant, Director
C.L. Kincannon, Deputy Director

William P. Butz, Associate Director for
Demographic Programs
Roger A. Herriot, Senior Demographic and
Housing Analyst

HOUSING AND HOUSEHOLD ECONOMIC
STATISTICS DIVISION

Daniel H. Weinberg, Chief

SUGGESTED CITATION

U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-70, No. 19, *The Need for Personal Assistance With Everyday Activities: Recipients and Caregivers*, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1990.

For sale by Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

Contents

TEXT

Introduction.....	1
Highlights.....	1
Need for personal assistance.....	2
Age and sex	5
Race and Hispanic origin	6
Living arrangements	7
Income level and low-income status	7
Participation in major assistance programs	8
Health status, hospitalization, and health insurance coverage status	9
Payment for assistance	9
Caregivers	10
Age, sex, and labor force status	13
Race and Hispanic origin	13
Relationship	15
User Comments.....	15

TEXT TABLES

A. Number of persons 15 years old and over, by need for assistance, age, and selected characteristics: 1986	3
B. Percent of persons 15 years old and over who needed assistance with activities, by age and selected characteristics: 1986	4
C. Need for assistance with specific activities among persons 15 years old and over who needed assistance with any activity, by age and sex: 1986.....	5
D. Need for assistance status, by age, income, and program participation status: 1986.	8
E. Distribution of persons 15 years old and over, by type of assistance needed, age, and health characteristics: 1986.....	9
F. Distribution of persons 15 years old and over, by need for assistance status and health insurance coverage status: 1986	10
G. Cost of assistance as a proportion of income for persons who paid for assistance: 1986	11
H. Distribution by selected characteristics of persons who provided assistance to a household member, by type of assistance provided: 1986	11
I. Distribution by selected characteristics of persons who provided assistance to persons outside their household, by type of assistance provided: 1986.....	14
J. Percent of persons 15 years old and over who provided assistance, by race and Hispanic origin and type of recipient: 1986	14

CHARTS

1. Distribution of persons who required personal assistance, by number of activities....	2
2. Percent of persons 15 years and over who needed assistance, by age and sex	6
3. Percent of caregivers who provided specified type of assistance to household members	12
4. Number of activities for which assistance was given: caregivers who provided assistance to household members	12

5.	Percent of caregivers who provided specified type of assistance to persons outside their household	13
6.	Numbers of activities for which assistance was given: caregivers who provided assistance to persons outside their household	15

DETAILED TABLES

1.	Number of persons 15 years old and over by need for assistance status, by detailed characteristics: 1986	17
2.	Percent of persons 15 years old and over who needed assistance, by selected characteristics: 1986	21
3.	Distribution of persons 15 years old and over by need for assistance status, by selected characteristics: 1986	23
4.	Persons 15 years old and over by need for assistance status, by sex and selected characteristics: 1986	26
5.	Percent of persons 15 years old and over who needed assistance, by sex, by selected characteristics: 1986	28
6.	Distribution of persons 15 years old and over who needed assistance by sex, by selected characteristics: 1986	30
7.	Number of persons who provided assistance to one or more household members by selected characteristics: 1986	32
8.	Distribution of persons who provided assistance to one or more household members by selected characteristics: 1986	34
9.	Number of persons 15 years old and over who provided assistance to a person outside their household, by selected characteristics: 1986	36
10.	Distribution of persons 15 years old and over who provided assistance to a person outside their household, by selected characteristics: 1986	38

APPENDIXES

A.	Overview of the SIPP Program	39
	Background	39
	Survey content	39
	Sample design	40
	Survey operations	40
B.	Definitions and Explanations	43
C.	Source and Accuracy of Estimates	45
	Source of data	45
	Estimation	46
	Accuracy of estimates	46
	Uses and computation of standard errors	47
D.	Data Quality and Related Data	51
	Data quality	51
	Related data	51
E.	Facsimiles of Questionnaires	53

APPENDIX TABLES

A-1.	Design of the 1985 SIPP panel	40
A-2.	Design of the 1986 SIPP panel	41
C-1.	Combined 1985, 1986 household sample size, by month and interview status	46
C-2.	Standard errors of estimated numbers of persons	48
C-3.	Standard errors of estimated percentages of persons	49
C-4.	SIPP generalized variance parameters for 1985, 1986 combined panel	49
D-1.	Imputation rates for items on need for assistance	51
D-2.	Percent of persons 65 years old and over needing assistance with selected activities	52

The Need for Personal Assistance With Everyday Activities: Recipients and Caregivers

INTRODUCTION

A series of questions on the need for personal assistance was included in the sixth interview of the 1985 panel of the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) and the third interview of the 1986 SIPP panel, which were both conducted in September through December of 1986. These questions collected information on whether persons 15 years of age or older required the help of another person to (1) take care of personal needs such as dressing, eating, or personal hygiene, (2) get around outside the household, (3) do light housework such as washing dishes, straightening up, or light cleaning, (4) prepare meals, and (5) keep track of bills and/or money. The universe for SIPP is the noninstitutional population. This survey does not include persons living in nursing homes or other institutions. Persons were identified as needing assistance if they reported that they received personal assistance with one or more of the five activities listed above because of a health condition that had lasted or was expected to last three months or longer.¹ The same survey also collected information on persons who provided care services to others. The questions on the need for care and on the provision of care are reproduced in appendix E. This report examines the characteristics of both persons who needed assistance and persons who provided care.

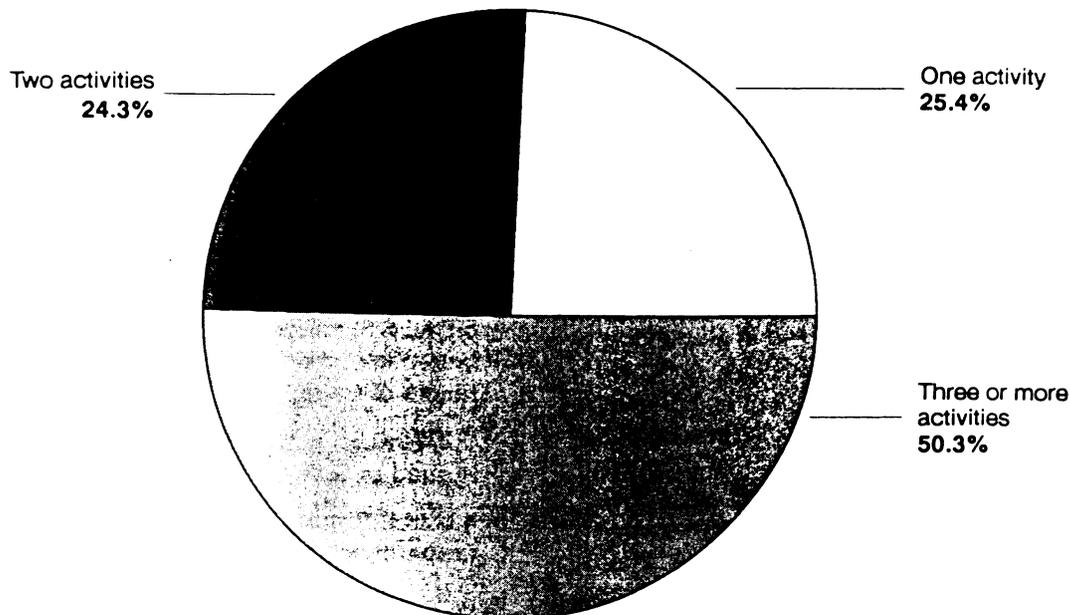
HIGHLIGHTS

(Figures in parentheses denote 90-percent confidence intervals.)

- The number of noninstitutionalized persons 15 years of age and older who needed personal assistance with one or more of five major categories of everyday activities was 8.2 (± 0.4) million. This is 4.4 (± 0.2) percent of the U.S. population 15 years old and over.
- 5.9 (± 0.3) million persons needed help for ordinary household chores such as washing dishes or light house cleaning.
- 5.2 (± 0.3) million persons needed help to get around outside the home.
- 4.8 (± 0.3) million persons needed help with meal preparation.
- 3.2 (± 0.3) million persons needed help with personal care activities such as dressing, eating, or personal hygiene.
- 3.0 (± 0.2) million persons needed help keeping track of money and bills.
- There is a strong relationship between age and the need for assistance. Among persons under 65 years of age, 2.4 (± 0.2) percent needed help with one or more everyday activities. Among persons 65 to 69 years old, 70 to 74 years old, 75 to 79 years old, 80 to 84 years old, and 85 years old and over, the comparable figures were 9.3 (± 1.3) percent, 10.9 (± 1.6) percent, 18.9 (± 2.4) percent, 23.6 (± 3.4) percent, and 45.4 (± 5.0) percent, respectively.
- Although persons under 65 years were relatively unlikely to need assistance, they make up such a large share of the total population that they accounted for 46.2 (± 2.5) percent of the population in need of assistance.
- An examination of data within age categories suggests that responses to questions about the need for assistance are influenced by perceptions of traditional roles. For example, among persons 65 to 74 years old, males were about as likely as females to require personal care assistance, but were less likely to need assistance with meal preparation or house-keeping activities.
- Blacks were more likely to require assistance than Whites or persons of Hispanic origin. Overall, 5.7 (± 0.7) percent of Blacks, 4.3 (± 0.2) percent of Whites, and 3.4 (± 0.7) percent of persons of Hispanics origin needed help with one or more activities.

¹This report is an addition to a body of literature concerning the need for assistance. The data presented here show the number and characteristics of persons needing assistance with one or more of the five areas of activity listed above. For the sake of convenience, we have described these as "everyday activities." Other studies have used somewhat different lists of activities. Two measures that have been used extensively are the Activity of Daily Living (ADL) scale and the Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) scale. The ADL scale includes the activities of bathing, dressing, transferring, using the toilet, continence, and eating (Sidney Katz, Amasa B. Ford, Roland Moskowitz, Beverly A. Jackson, and Majorie W. Jaffe, "Studies of Illness in the Aged," *Journal of the American Medical Association*, September 21, 1963). The IADL scale includes the activities of handling personal finances, meal preparation, shopping, travelling, doing housework, using the telephone, and taking medications (M. Powell Lawton and Elaine Brody, "Assessment of Older People: Self-Maintaining and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living," *Gerontologist*, Vol. 9, Autumn 1969).

Figure 1.
**Distribution of Persons Who Required Personal Assistance,
 by Number of Activities**



- Of the 8.2 million persons who needed assistance, 5.6 (± 0.3) million lived with a family and 2.6 (± 0.2) million lived alone or with nonrelatives. Of this 2.6 million, 2.3 (± 0.2) million lived alone and 0.3 (± 0.1) million lived with nonrelatives.
- Persons who needed assistance were about twice as likely to have incomes below a low-income threshold as persons who did not need assistance.
- Among persons under 65 years of age, those in need of assistance were about five times as likely to receive means-tested cash benefits as those who did not need assistance (23.8 ± 3.1 versus 4.1 ± 0.2 percent).
- Persons 65 years old and over in need of assistance were about three times as likely as those not in need of assistance to receive means-tested cash transfers (16.2 ± 2.5 percent versus 5.8 ± 0.7 percent).
- Only 18.6 (± 1.9) percent of persons who received help reported that they or their families paid for their assistance.
- Approximately 5.8 (± 0.3) million persons provided care to a household member who was unable to perform an activity due to a health problem.
- Approximately 15.1 (± 0.5) million persons provided assistance to one or more persons who lived outside their household.
- Approximately one-fourth (26.2 ± 2.6 percent) of all persons who provided assistance to a household member were 65 years old and over, and more than half (55.8 ± 2.9 percent) of all caregivers were women.

- Persons who provided care to someone outside their household tended to be somewhat younger and were more likely to be female than those who provided care to a member of their own household.

NEED FOR PERSONAL ASSISTANCE

Tables A and B show the number and percent of persons who needed personal assistance with everyday activities by selected demographic characteristics. Approximately 8.2 million or 4.4 percent of persons 15 years old and over required assistance with one or more activities because of a health condition which had lasted 3 months or longer. For the detailed categories, 3.2 million (1.7 percent) needed help with personal care activities (such as dressing, eating, or personal hygiene), 5.2 million (2.8 percent) needed help with getting around outside the home, 4.8 million (2.6 percent) needed help with meal preparation, 5.9 million (3.2 percent) needed help with housework, such as washing dishes or light cleaning and 3.0 million (1.6 percent) needed help with keeping track of bills and/or money.² Seventy-five percent of persons who needed assistance required help with more than one activity (figure 1). Approximately 50 percent needed help with three or more activities.

²The estimates of the number and percent of persons who needed assistance with personal care (3.2 million or 1.7 percent) and keeping track of bills and money (3.0 million or 1.6 percent) were not statistically different. The estimates of the number and percent of persons who needed assistance with meal preparation (4.8 million or 2.6 percent) and getting around (5.2 million or 2.8 percent) were also not statistically different.

Table A. Number of Persons 15 Years Old and Over, by Need for Assistance, Age, and Selected Characteristics: 1986

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total	Needed assistance with—						Keeping track of bills and/or money	Did not need assistance
		One or more activities	Personal care	Getting around outside	Preparing meals	Doing housework			
Total	186,022	8,206	3,211	5,213	4,830	5,927	3,039	177,816	
Age									
Under 65 years	158,359	3,794	1,383	2,077	2,315	2,821	1,050	154,564	
65 years and over	27,663	4,412	1,827	3,136	2,515	3,106	1,990	23,252	
65 to 69 years	9,615	890	285	546	484	635	274	8,724	
70 to 74 years	7,391	806	336	525	472	566	299	6,586	
75 to 79 years	5,434	1,026	408	678	554	710	408	4,408	
80 to 84 years	3,126	738	311	595	365	473	334	2,388	
85 years and over	2,097	952	487	791	639	722	674	1,145	
Sex									
Male	88,958	2,551	1,258	1,606	1,413	1,418	1,123	86,407	
Under 65 years	77,547	1,300	642	753	739	759	555	76,247	
65 years and over	11,411	1,251	616	853	673	660	569	10,160	
65 to 69 years	4,316	301	143	205	166	159	123	4,015	
70 to 74 years	3,208	281	115	167	157	132	117	2,927	
75 years and over	3,886	669	359	482	350	369	329	3,217	
Female	97,064	5,655	1,953	3,607	3,417	4,508	1,916	91,409	
Under 65 years	80,812	2,495	741	1,324	1,576	2,062	495	78,317	
65 years and over	16,252	3,160	1,211	2,283	1,841	2,446	1,421	13,092	
65 to 69 years	5,298	589	142	341	318	476	151	4,709	
70 to 74 years	4,183	525	220	358	315	435	182	3,659	
75 years and over	6,771	2,046	849	1,583	1,208	1,536	1,087	4,725	
Race and Hispanic Origin¹									
White	160,194	6,880	2,608	4,448	3,913	4,936	2,454	153,316	
Under 65 years	135,172	3,032	1,058	1,691	1,806	2,301	778	132,141	
65 years and over	25,022	3,848	1,550	2,757	2,107	2,635	1,676	21,175	
Black	20,845	1,187	555	690	852	921	548	19,658	
Under 65 years	18,572	670	281	335	475	479	251	17,902	
65 years and over	2,273	517	274	355	377	442	297	1,756	
Hispanic origin ¹	12,823	439	183	243	301	298	136	12,384	
Under 65 years	12,020	285	131	150	207	203	84	11,735	
65 years and over	803	154	52	93	94	95	52	649	
Living Arrangement									
15 years and over:									
Family member	154,866	5,601	2,426	3,553	3,610	4,034	2,026	149,264	
Lives with spouse	104,636	3,439	1,389	2,085	2,115	2,474	916	101,198	
Not a family member	31,156	2,605	785	1,660	1,220	1,893	1,013	28,552	
Lives alone	21,907	2,269	631	1,426	1,000	1,632	834	19,638	
15 to 64 years:									
Family member	136,340	3,044	1,147	1,667	1,940	2,257	808	133,295	
Lives with spouse	89,505	1,904	653	1,022	1,210	1,492	333	87,601	
Not a family member	22,019	750	236	410	375	564	242	21,269	
Lives alone	13,267	515	135	258	235	390	143	12,753	
65 years and over:									
Family member	18,526	2,557	1,277	1,887	1,670	1,777	1,219	15,969	
Lives with spouse	15,132	1,535	736	1,063	905	982	583	13,596	
Not a family member	9,137	1,855	550	1,249	845	1,329	771	7,283	
Lives alone	8,639	1,754	496	1,168	765	1,242	692	6,885	

¹Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Table B. Percent of Persons 15 Years Old and Over Who Needed Assistance With Activities, by Age and Selected Characteristics: 1986

Characteristic	Needed assistance with—					
	One or more activities	Personal care	Getting around outside	Preparing meals	Doing housework	Keeping track of bills and/or money
Total	4.4	1.7	2.8	2.6	3.2	1.6
Age						
Under 65 years	2.4	0.9	1.3	1.5	1.8	0.7
65 years and over	16.0	6.6	11.3	9.1	11.2	7.2
65 to 69 years	9.3	3.0	5.7	5.0	6.6	2.8
70 to 74 years	10.9	4.5	7.1	6.4	7.7	4.0
75 to 79 years	18.9	7.5	12.5	10.2	13.1	7.5
80 to 84 years	23.6	10.0	19.0	11.7	15.1	10.7
85 years and over	45.4	23.2	37.7	30.5	34.4	32.1
Sex						
Male	2.9	1.4	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.3
Under 65 years	1.7	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.7
65 years and over	11.0	5.4	7.5	5.9	5.8	5.0
65 to 69 years	7.0	3.3	4.7	3.8	3.7	2.8
70 to 74 years	8.8	3.6	5.2	4.9	4.1	3.6
75 years and over	17.2	9.2	12.4	9.0	9.5	8.4
Female	5.8	2.0	3.7	3.5	4.6	2.0
Under 65 years	3.1	0.9	1.6	2.0	2.6	0.6
65 years and over	19.4	7.5	14.0	11.3	15.1	8.7
65 to 69 years	11.1	2.7	6.4	6.0	9.0	2.9
70 to 74 years	12.6	5.3	8.6	7.5	10.4	4.4
75 years and over	30.2	12.5	23.4	17.8	22.7	16.1
Race and Hispanic Origin¹						
White	4.3	1.6	2.8	2.4	3.1	1.5
Under 65 years	2.2	0.8	1.3	1.3	1.7	0.6
65 years and over	15.4	6.2	11.0	8.4	10.5	6.7
Black	5.7	2.7	3.3	4.1	4.4	2.6
Under 65 years	3.6	1.5	1.8	2.6	2.6	1.4
65 years and over	22.7	12.0	15.6	16.6	19.5	13.1
Hispanic origin ¹	3.4	1.4	1.9	2.4	2.3	1.1
Under 65 years	2.4	1.1	1.3	1.7	1.7	0.7
65 years and over	19.2	6.5	11.6	11.7	11.8	6.5
Living Arrangement						
15 years and over:						
Family member	3.6	1.6	2.3	2.3	2.6	1.3
Lives with spouse	3.2	1.3	2.0	2.0	2.4	0.9
Not a family member	8.4	2.5	5.3	3.9	6.1	3.3
Lives alone	10.4	2.9	6.5	4.6	7.4	3.8
15 to 64 years:						
Family member	2.2	0.8	1.2	1.4	1.7	0.6
Lives with spouse	2.1	0.7	1.1	1.4	1.7	0.4
Not a family member	3.4	1.1	1.9	1.7	2.6	1.1
Lives alone	3.9	1.0	1.9	1.8	2.9	1.1
65 years and over:						
Family member	13.8	6.9	10.2	9.0	9.6	6.6
Lives with spouse	10.1	4.9	7.0	6.0	6.5	3.9
Not a family member	20.3	6.0	13.7	9.3	14.5	8.4
Lives alone	20.3	5.7	13.5	8.9	14.4	8.0

¹Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Table C. Need for Assistance With Specific Activities Among Persons 15 Years Old and Over Who Needed Assistance With Any Activity, by Age and Sex: 1986

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total needing assistance	Percent	Personal care	Getting around outside	Preparing meals	Doing house-work	Keeping track of bills and/or money
Total.....	8,206	100.0	39.1	63.5	58.9	72.2	37.0
Age							
Under 65 years.....	3,794	100.0	36.5	54.7	61.0	74.4	27.7
65 years and over.....	4,412	100.0	41.4	71.1	57.0	70.4	45.1
65 to 69 years.....	890	100.0	32.0	61.3	54.4	71.3	30.8
70 to 74 years.....	806	100.0	41.7	65.1	58.6	70.2	37.1
75 to 79 years.....	1,026	100.0	39.8	66.1	54.0	69.2	39.8
80 to 84 years.....	738	100.0	42.1	80.6	49.5	64.1	45.3
85 years and over.....	952	100.0	51.2	83.1	67.1	75.8	70.8
Sex							
Male.....	2,551	100.0	49.3	63.0	55.4	55.6	44.0
Under 65 years.....	1,300	100.0	49.4	57.9	56.8	58.4	42.7
65 to 74 years.....	582	100.0	44.3	63.9	55.5	50.0	41.2
75 years and over.....	669	100.0	53.7	72.0	52.3	55.2	49.2
Female.....	5,655	100.0	34.5	63.8	60.4	79.7	33.9
Under 65 years.....	2,495	100.0	29.7	53.1	63.2	82.6	19.8
65 to 74 years.....	1,114	100.0	32.5	62.7	56.8	81.7	29.9
75 years and over.....	2,046	100.0	41.5	77.4	59.0	75.1	53.1

Note: Individual categories add to a number greater than 100 because persons can need assistance with more than one category of activity.

Age and Sex

The proportion of persons who required assistance increased with age as shown in table B. Of persons 15 to 64 years of age, 2.4 percent needed assistance with one or more activities, compared to 16.0 percent of persons 65 years and older. Within the 65 years and over age group, the percent who needed assistance increased sharply with age; 9.3 percent among persons 65 to 69 years old, 10.9 percent for persons 70 to 74 years old, 18.9 percent for persons 75 to 79 years old, 23.6 percent for persons 80 to 84 years old, and 45.4 percent for persons 85 years old and over.³

While persons under 65 years of age were relatively unlikely to need assistance, they make up such a large share of the total population that they accounted for a large proportion of persons who needed assistance. Of the 8.2 million persons who required assistance, 46.2 percent (3.8 million) were under 65 years of age, 53.8 percent (4.4 million) were 65 years and over. Of persons 65 years and over who needed personal assistance, 1.7 million were 65 to 74 years old, 1.8 million were 75 to 84 years, and 1.0 million were 85 years and over.⁴

Among persons who needed assistance, 72.2 percent needed help with housework, 63.5 percent needed help getting around outside the home, 58.9 percent

needed help preparing meals, 39.1 percent needed personal care help, and 37.0 percent needed help keeping track of money and bills (table C).⁵

These patterns differed somewhat for persons under 65 years old and persons 65 years old and over. Persons 65 years and over who needed help with one or more activities were more likely than persons under 65 years to need help with getting around outside the house and with keeping track of money and bills. Among persons 65 years old and over who needed assistance, 71.1 percent needed help getting around outside the house and 45.1 percent needed help keeping track of money and bills. Among persons under 65 years who needed assistance, the comparable figures were 54.7 percent and 27.7 percent.

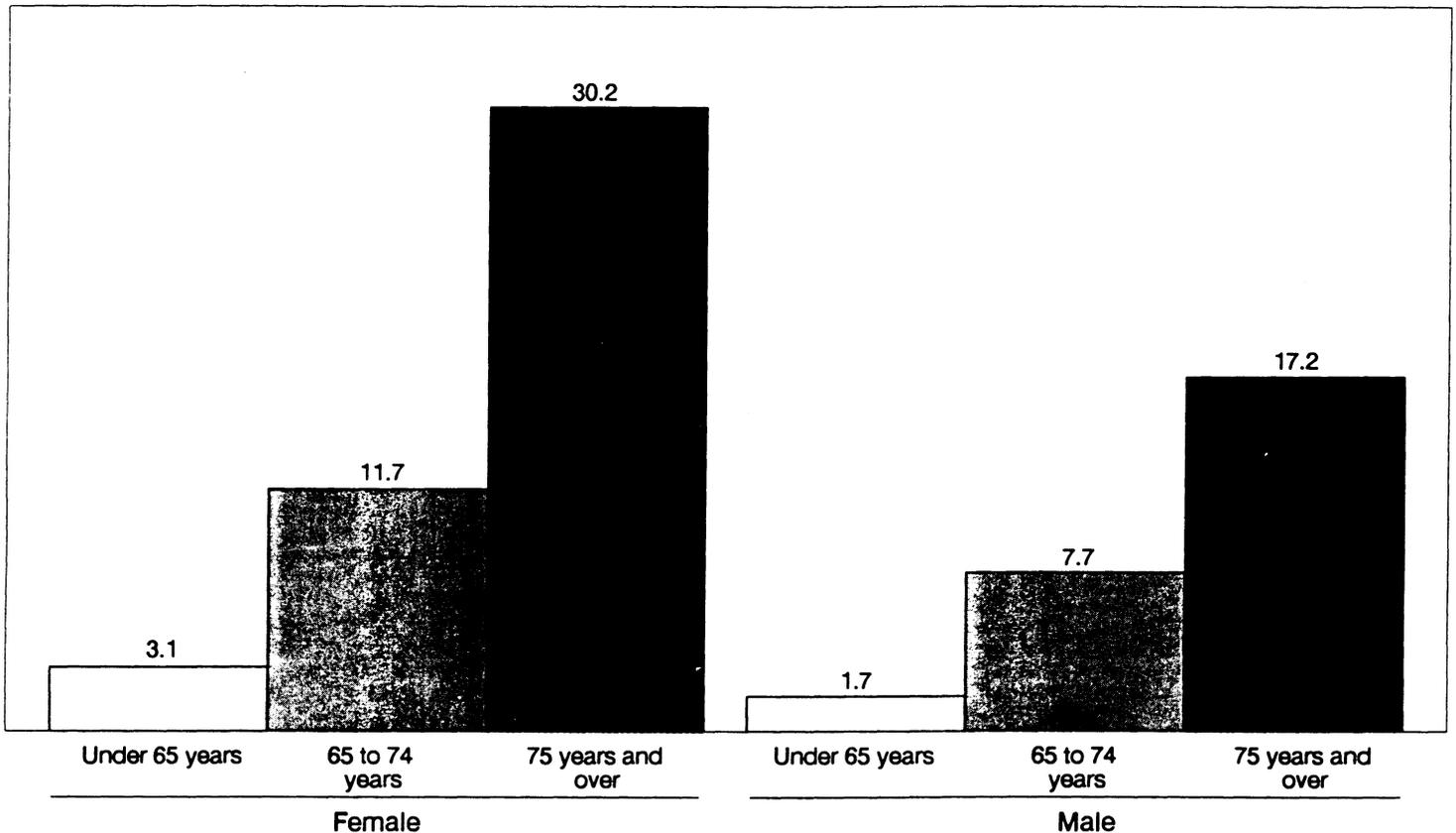
Within each age category, a larger percentage of females required assistance than males. As shown in table B and figure 2, the percentage of females requiring assistance was 3.1 percent for persons under 65 years of age, 11.7 percent for persons 65 to 74 years old, and 30.2 percent for persons 75 years and over. The comparable percentages for males were 1.7 percent, 7.7 percent, and 17.2 percent, respectively. Females also comprised a higher proportion of persons who needed assistance. Females made up 51.0 percent of the total population between the ages of 15 to 64 years, and 65.8 percent of the population who required assistance. Females made up 58.7 percent of the total population 65 years and over, and 71.6 percent of those who required assistance (table A).

³The percentage of persons 65 to 69 years of age (9.3 percent) who needed assistance and the percentage of persons 70 to 74 years of age (10.9 percent) who required assistance were not statistically different.

⁴The estimates of the number of persons 65 to 74 years of age (1.7 million) and 75 to 84 years of age (1.8 million) who needed assistance were not statistically different.

⁵The percent of persons who needed assistance with personal care activities (39.1 percent) was not statistically different from the percent who needed assistance with keeping track of bills and money (37.0 percent)

Figure 2.
Percent of Persons 15 Years and Over Who Needed Assistance,
by Age and Sex



Information on specific activities suggests that responses to questions about the need for assistance are influenced by perceptions of traditional roles. For example, among persons 65 to 74 years old, males were about as likely as females to require personal care assistance, but were less likely to need assistance with meal preparation and housekeeping activities. Among males in the 65 to 74 age group, 3.4 percent needed personal care assistance, 4.3 percent needed help with meal preparation, and 3.9 percent needed help with housework. The comparable figures for females in the same age group were 3.8 percent (personal care), 6.7 percent (meal preparation), and 9.6 percent (housework).⁶

Race and Hispanic Origin

Blacks were more likely to require assistance than Whites or persons of Hispanic origin (persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race). Overall, 5.7 percent of

Blacks, 4.3 percent of Whites, and 3.4 percent of persons of Hispanic origin needed help with one or more activities.

Whites made up the majority of persons who needed assistance. Of the 8.2 million persons who needed help, 6.9 million (83.8 percent) were White and 1.2 million (14.5 percent) were Black. Persons of Hispanic origin, who can be of any race, accounted for 0.4 million (5.3 percent) of the total needing assistance.

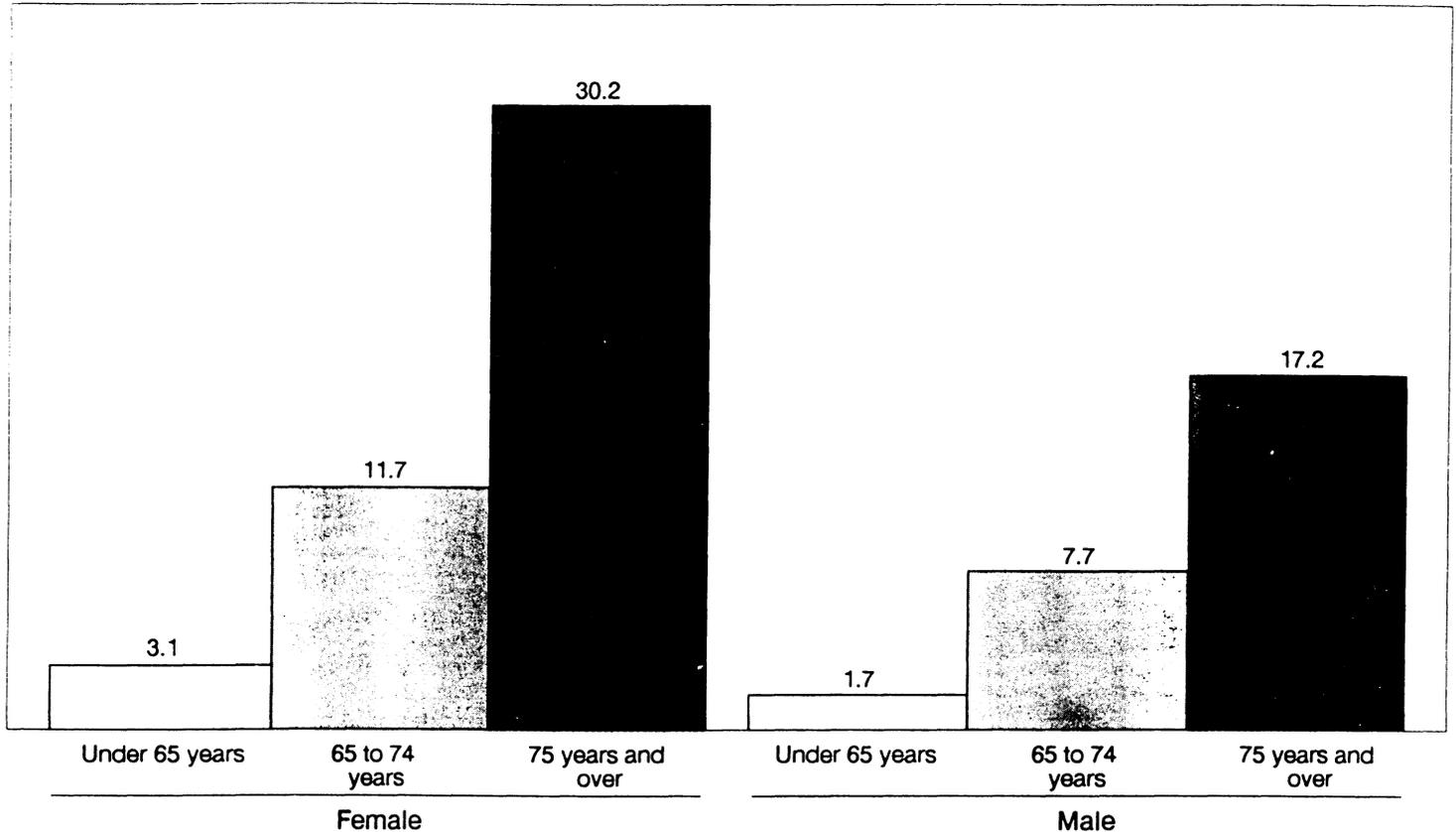
Within each race category, the percentage of persons who required assistance increased with age. In addition, the difference between Blacks and Whites in the need for assistance was also present within the two major age categories. Among persons under 65 years old, 3.6 percent of Blacks, 2.4 percent of persons of Hispanic origin and 2.2 percent of Whites required assistance⁷. Among persons 65 years old and over, the

⁶Among males between the ages of 65 to 74 years of age, the percent who needed assistance with personal care activities (3.4 percent), meal preparation (4.3 percent), and housework (3.9 percent) were not statistically different.

Among persons 65 to 74 years of age, the percent of females who needed assistance with personal care activities (3.8 percent) was not statistically different from the percent of males who needed assistance with housework (3.9 percent) or meal preparation (4.3 percent), or personal care activities (3.4 percent).

⁷Among persons under 65 years of age, the percentages of Whites (2.2 percent) and the percentage of persons of Hispanic origin (2.4 percent) who needed assistance were not statistically different.

Figure 2.
Percent of Persons 15 Years and Over Who Needed Assistance,
by Age and Sex



Information on specific activities suggests that responses to questions about the need for assistance are influenced by perceptions of traditional roles. For example, among persons 65 to 74 years old, males were about as likely as females to require personal care assistance, but were less likely to need assistance with meal preparation and housekeeping activities. Among males in the 65 to 74 age group, 3.4 percent needed personal care assistance, 4.3 percent needed help with meal preparation, and 3.9 percent needed help with housework. The comparable figures for females in the same age group were 3.8 percent (personal care), 6.7 percent (meal preparation), and 9.6 percent (housework).⁶

Race and Hispanic Origin

Blacks were more likely to require assistance than Whites or persons of Hispanic origin (persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race). Overall, 5.7 percent of

Blacks, 4.3 percent of Whites, and 3.4 percent of persons of Hispanic origin needed help with one or more activities.

Whites made up the majority of persons who needed assistance. Of the 8.2 million persons who needed help, 6.9 million (83.8 percent) were White and 1.2 million (14.5 percent) were Black. Persons of Hispanic origin, who can be of any race, accounted for 0.4 million (5.3 percent) of the total needing assistance.

Within each race category, the percentage of persons who required assistance increased with age. In addition, the difference between Blacks and Whites in the need for assistance was also present within the two major age categories. Among persons under 65 years old, 3.6 percent of Blacks, 2.4 percent of persons of Hispanic origin and 2.2 percent of Whites required assistance⁷. Among persons 65 years old and over, the

⁶Among males between the ages of 65 to 74 years of age, the percent who needed assistance with personal care activities (3.4 percent), meal preparation (4.3 percent), and housework (3.9 percent) were not statistically different.

Among persons 65 to 74 years of age, the percent of females who needed assistance with personal care activities (3.8 percent) was not statistically different from the percent of males who needed assistance with housework (3.9 percent) or meal preparation (4.3 percent), or personal care activities (3.4 percent).

⁷Among persons under 65 years of age, the percentages of Whites (2.2 percent) and the percentage of persons of Hispanic origin (2.4 percent) who needed assistance were not statistically different.

proportion requiring assistance was 22.7 percent among Blacks, 19.2 percent among persons of Hispanic origin and 15.4 percent among Whites.⁸

There were substantial differences between Black elderly persons and White elderly persons in the proportions needing assistance with personal care (12.0 percent versus 6.2 percent), getting around outside the house (15.6 percent versus 11.0 percent), meal preparation (16.6 percent versus 8.4 percent), housework (19.5 percent versus 10.5 percent), and keeping track of money and bills (13.1 percent versus 6.7 percent). The proportions of elderly persons of Hispanic origin who needed help with specific activities were similar to the rates among the White elderly.⁹

Living Arrangements

Of the 8.2 million persons requiring assistance, 5.6 million lived with family members and 2.6 million lived alone or with nonrelatives. Of this 2.6 million, 2.3 million lived alone and 0.3 million had other living arrangements.

Persons who needed help with activities were more likely to live alone than were persons who needed no assistance. Overall, 27.7 percent of those who needed help and 11.0 percent of those who did not need help lived alone.

The association between needing help and living alone was observable within the two major age groups. For persons under 65 years of age, the percentage

⁸Among persons 65 years of age and older, the percentage of persons of Hispanic origin (19.2 percent) who needed assistance was not statistically different from the percentages of Whites (15.4 percent) or of Blacks (22.7 percent) who needed assistance.

⁹Among Whites 65 years of age and older, the percentage who needed assistance with personal care activities (6.2 percent) and keeping track of bills and money (6.7 percent) were not statistically different. Similarly, the percentage of persons in this category who needed assistance with housework (10.5 percent) and getting around outside the house (11.0 percent) were also not statistically different.

Among Blacks 65 years of age and older, the percentages who needed assistance with getting around outside the house (15.6 percent), meal preparation (16.6 percent), and housework (19.5 percent) were not statistically different. Similarly, the percentage who needed assistance with keeping track of bills and money (13.1 percent) was not statistically different from that for those who needed assistance with personal care activities (12.0 percent), getting around outside the house (15.6 percent), or meal preparation (16.6 percent). Also, the percentage of Blacks in this age category who needed assistance with personal care activities (12.0 percent) was not statistically different from the percentage who needed assistance with getting around outside the house (15.6 percent) or with meal preparation (16.6 percent).

The percentage of Blacks who needed assistance with personal care (12.0 percent) was not statistically different from the percentage of Whites who needed assistance with getting around outside the house (11.0 percent) or housework (10.5 percent). The percentage of Blacks who needed assistance with keeping track of bills and money (13.1 percent) was not statistically different from the percentage of Whites who needed assistance with housework (10.5 percent) or the percentage of Whites who needed assistance getting around outside the house (11.0 percent).

living alone was 13.6 among those who needed assistance, and 8.3 among those who did not need assistance. The comparable percentages for persons 65 years old and over were 39.8 (persons needing help) and 29.6 (persons not in need of help).

Of the 2.3 million persons who lived alone and needed assistance, 0.6 million (27.8 percent) needed personal care assistance, 1.4 million (62.8 percent) needed help getting around outside the house, 1.0 million (44.1 percent) needed help preparing meals, 1.6 million (71.9 percent) needed help with housework, and 0.8 million (36.8 percent) needed help keeping track of money and bills.¹⁰

Income Level and Low-Income Status

Table D presents selected economic characteristics of persons who needed assistance. Persons who needed assistance were more likely to live in households with lower income levels than persons who did not require assistance. Among persons who required assistance, approximately 18 percent of persons 15 to 64 years old and 27.8 percent of persons 65 years and over lived in households with monthly household income under \$600. Among those who did not require assistance, 7.1 percent of persons 15 to 64 years old and 14.2 percent of persons 65 years old and over had monthly household incomes below \$600.

Table D also shows the proportion of persons with low-income. A family member was considered to have low-income if the total income received by his or her family in the 4 months prior to the interview fell below one-third of the annual poverty threshold for the appropriate family size.¹¹ For unrelated individuals, low-income status was determined by comparing the income of the person against the appropriate threshold.

Persons with low-income were more likely to require assistance than persons with higher incomes. Among persons with low-income, 5.0 percent of those 15 to 64 years of age and 27.1 percent of those 65 years of age and older required assistance. The comparable percentages for persons above the low-income cutoff were 2.1 percent (15 to 64 years old) and 14.6 percent (65 years of age and older).

In addition, persons who needed assistance were about twice as likely to have low-incomes than persons who did not need assistance. Among persons under 65 years, 21.6 percent of those who needed assistance and 10.2 percent of those who did not need assistance

¹⁰The estimates of the number of persons who lived alone and needed assistance with getting around outside the house (1.4 million) and with housework (1.6 million) were not statistically different. Similarly, the number of persons who needed assistance with meal preparation (1.0 million) was not statistically different from those who needed help with keeping track of bills and money (0.8 million).

¹¹The person's low income status was determined by comparing the family's total income over the 4-month reference period to the sum of the family's monthly poverty threshold for that period. Only persons who were in sample for all 4 months were included in this universe.

Table D. Need for Assistance Status, by Age, Income, and Program Participation Status: 1986

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	15 to 64 years				65 years and over			
	Total	Proportion needing assistance	Percent distribution		Total	Proportion needing assistance	Percent distribution	
			Did not need assistance	Needed assistance			Did not need assistance	Needed assistance
Total	158,359	2.4	100.0	100.0	27,663	16.0	100.0	100.0
Monthly Household Income								
Under \$600	11,708	5.9	7.1	18.2	4,519	27.2	14.2	27.8
\$600 to \$1,199	17,240	4.5	10.7	20.3	7,827	16.5	28.1	29.2
\$1,200 to \$1,999	30,164	2.4	19.0	19.3	7,320	13.6	27.2	22.6
\$2,000 to \$2,999	35,911	2.2	22.7	20.5	3,826	11.2	14.6	9.7
\$3,000 and over	63,337	1.3	40.4	21.8	4,172	11.2	15.9	10.6
Low-Income Status¹								
Below low-income cutoff	16,190	5.0	10.2	21.6	2,656	27.1	8.4	16.5
Above low-income cutoff	138,580	2.1	89.8	78.4	24,842	14.6	91.6	83.5
Program Participation								
Received:								
Means-tested cash assistance ²	7,259	12.5	4.1	23.8	2,073	34.4	5.8	16.2
SSI	1,954	32.9	0.8	16.9	1,672	36.8	4.5	13.9
Cash assistance other than SSI	5,550	6.1	3.4	7.0	462	24.2	1.5	2.5
Food stamps	8,548	7.0	5.1	15.8	1,029	32.7	2.9	7.6
Public or subsidized housing	4,578	5.8	2.8	7.0	1,417	29.3	4.3	9.4
Medicaid coverage	8,296	12.4	4.7	27.1	2,103	37.0	5.7	17.6
Social Security	7,692	16.2	4.2	32.8	26,022	16.1	93.9	94.7
Veteran's payments	1,975	10.2	1.1	5.3	1,261	17.8	4.4	5.1

¹ Low income status was determined by comparing the family's income over the 4-month reference period to the sum of the family's monthly poverty threshold for that period. Only persons who were in sample all 4 months were included in this universe.

² Means-tested cash assistance programs include: Federal and State Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's pensions, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), General Assistance, Indian, Cuban, or Refugee Assistance, and other welfare.

had low-incomes. The comparable figures for persons 65 years and over were 16.5 percent (persons needing assistance) and 8.4 percent (persons not needing assistance).

Participation in Major Assistance Programs

Persons who needed personal assistance were more likely than persons not in need of assistance to receive benefits from means-tested programs (programs that require beneficiaries to demonstrate economic need).

Among persons under 65 years of age, those in need of assistance were about five times as likely as those not in need of assistance to receive means-tested cash benefits (23.8 versus 4.1 percent).¹² Most of this difference was in Supplemental Security Income (SSI) reciprocity (16.9 percent versus 0.8 percent). Persons under 65 years of age in need of assistance were also three times as likely to receive food stamps (15.8 versus 5.1 percent), and five times as likely to be covered by Medicaid (27.1 versus 4.7 percent).¹³

¹² Means-tested cash assistance programs include: Federal or State Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's pensions, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), General Assistance, Indian, Cuban, or Refugee Assistance and other welfare.

¹³ Among persons under 65 years of age who needed assistance, the percentage who received food stamps (15.8 percent) was not statistically different from the percentage who received Supplemental

Persons under 65 years who needed assistance were also much more likely than those not in need of assistance to receive Social Security benefits (not a means-tested program). Approximately one-third (32.8 percent) of those with a need for assistance received Social Security benefits, compared with 4.2 percent of those who did not need assistance.

The relationship between the need for assistance and the likelihood of receiving means-tested benefits was also present for persons 65 years old and over. Persons in need of assistance were about three times as likely as those not in need of assistance to receive means-tested cash transfers (16.2 versus 5.8 percent), about twice as likely to receive food stamps (7.6 versus 2.9 percent), and three times as likely to be covered by Medicaid (17.6 versus 5.7 percent).¹⁴

Security Income (16.9 percent). Similarly, the percentage who received means-tested cash benefits (23.8 percent) was not statistically different from the percentage who received Medicaid (27.1 percent).

¹⁴ Among persons 65 years and older who did not need assistance, the percentage who received means-tested cash benefits (5.8 percent) was not statistically different from the percentage who received Medicaid (5.7 percent). Similarly, among those 65 years and older who needed assistance, the percentage who received means-tested cash benefits (16.2 percent) and those persons who received Medicaid (17.6 percent) were also not statistically different. In addition, the percentage of persons who needed assistance and received food stamps (7.6 percent) was not statistically different from the percentage of persons who did not need assistance and were covered by Medicaid (5.7 percent).

Table E. Distribution of Persons 15 Years Old and Over, by Type of Assistance Needed, Age, and Health Characteristics: 1986

Characteristic	Total	Needed assistance with—						Did not need assistance
		One or more activities	Personal care	Getting around outside	Preparing meals	Doing housework	Keeping track of bills and/or money	
Persons 15 to 64 years	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Perception of Health Status								
Excellent	33.2	4.8	6.1	5.1	5.4	4.2	6.8	33.9
Good	56.2	26.4	24.7	26.6	23.2	23.4	28.5	56.9
Fair	7.8	30.3	26.5	27.8	28.5	30.0	22.1	7.2
Poor	2.9	38.6	42.8	40.5	43.1	42.4	42.8	2.0
Number of Hospital Visits Last 12 Months								
None	91.2	60.7	57.3	56.0	59.3	58.7	68.9	92.0
1	7.0	21.0	20.2	24.6	21.3	21.8	14.6	6.6
2 or more	1.8	18.3	22.4	19.5	19.4	19.5	16.6	1.4
Number of Days in Hospital Last 12 Months								
None	91.2	60.7	57.3	56.0	59.3	58.7	68.9	92.0
1 to 3	3.8	6.9	4.7	6.4	7.0	8.0	2.5	3.7
4 to 7	2.7	9.9	11.2	10.2	10.9	9.8	7.6	2.6
8 or more	2.2	22.6	26.8	27.5	22.9	23.4	21.0	1.7
Persons 65 years and over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Perception of Health Status								
Excellent	8.3	1.3	1.4	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.3	9.7
Good	48.8	16.1	11.3	15.8	13.0	14.0	17.7	55.0
Fair	28.1	33.3	29.1	32.8	31.6	31.6	29.4	27.1
Poor	14.8	49.3	58.2	49.6	53.9	53.1	51.6	8.3
Number of Hospital Visits Last 12 Months								
None	81.0	54.8	44.9	51.8	48.7	52.5	52.4	86.0
1	13.1	25.0	26.5	25.7	26.2	25.1	24.3	10.9
2 or more	5.9	20.2	28.6	22.5	25.0	22.4	23.3	3.2
Number of Days in Hospital Last 12 Months								
None	81.0	54.8	44.9	51.8	48.7	52.5	52.4	86.0
1 to 3	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.9	3.6	3.8	5.3	3.9
4 to 7	5.7	10.2	9.7	10.6	11.5	10.9	9.7	4.8
8 or more	9.3	30.7	40.8	32.7	36.1	32.7	32.6	5.3

Health Status, Hospitalization, and Health Insurance Coverage Status

Persons in need of assistance were much less likely to have a perceived health status of "Excellent" or "Good" than persons not in need of assistance (table E). The proportion with "Excellent" or "Good" health was 90.8 percent among persons under 65 years who did not need assistance versus 31.2 percent among persons under 65 years who did need assistance; 64.7 percent among persons 65 years and over who did not need assistance versus 17.4 percent among persons 65 years and over who did need assistance.

Persons in need of assistance were much more likely to spend significant amounts of time in the hospital than persons not in need of assistance. Among persons in need of assistance, 22.6 percent of persons under 65 years and 30.7 percent of persons 65 years and over spent eight or more days in a hospital during the 12 months prior to the interview. The comparable rates for persons not in need of assistance were 1.7 percent (persons under 65 years) and 5.3 percent (persons 65 years and over).

Among persons under 65 years of age, persons in need of assistance were much more likely to be covered

by government health insurance and much less likely to be covered by private health insurance than persons who did not need assistance (table F). Among those persons under 65 years of age in need of assistance, 43.9 percent were covered by some form of government health insurance and 56.1 percent were covered by some form of private health insurance (some were covered by both government and private plans). The comparable figures for those not in need of assistance were 8.0 percent and 78.3 percent, respectively. Approximately the same percent of the nonelderly who needed assistance and of those not needing assistance (15 percent) were not covered by any form of health insurance. Because of the Medicare program, most persons 65 years old and over were covered by some form of health insurance regardless of need for assistance status.

Payment for Assistance

The majority of persons who received personal assistance did not pay for the help they received. Only 18.6 percent of all persons who received help reported that they or their families paid for their assistance.

Table F. Distribution of Persons 15 Years Old and Over, by Need for Assistance Status and Health Insurance Coverage Status: 1986

(Numbers in thousands)

Coverage status	15 to 64 years			65 years and over		
	Total	Did not need assistance	Needed assistance	Total	Did not need assistance	Needed assistance
Total	158,359	154,564	3,794	27,663	23,252	4,412
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Covered by health insurance	84.0	83.9	86.0	99.5	99.5	99.6
Private only	75.2	76.0	42.2	1.2	1.4	0.3
Government only ¹	6.3	5.7	30.0	24.1	21.8	36.1
Government and private	2.5	2.3	13.9	74.2	76.3	63.2
Not covered by health insurance	16.0	16.1	14.0	0.5	0.5	0.4

¹Government health insurance includes Medicare, Medicaid, CHAMPUS, VA or military health care.

Table G presents the mean amount and the proportion of family income paid for assistance in the month prior to the interview by selected characteristics. On average, persons who paid for assistance spent \$234 a month for this care. Of the 1.5 million persons who paid for some or all of the assistance they received, 54.5 percent spent less than 5 percent of their family income on such assistance. Approximately one-fifth (21.4 percent) spent at least 15 percent of their family income on paid assistance.

The burden of paid assistance was positively associated with the number of categories of assistance needed and negatively associated with the level of family income. Among persons who needed only one category of assistance, the proportion spending 15 percent or more of their family income on paid assistance was 9.0 percent. Among those who needed assistance in three or more categories, 31.7 percent spent 15 percent or more of their family income on paid assistance.

Data by income levels show that 30.3 percent of persons with relatively low family incomes (less than \$1,250 per month) and 4.8 percent of persons with relatively high family incomes (\$2,500 and over per month) spent 15 percent or more of their family income on paid assistance. A larger percent of persons 65 years old and over spent at least 15 percent of their family income on paid assistance, compared with persons under 65 years of age. Among persons 65 years of age and older, approximately one-quarter (25.1 percent) spent 15 percent or more of their family income on paid assistance. The corresponding percentage for persons under 65 years of age was 13.5 percent.¹⁵

CAREGIVERS

The same set of Survey of Income and Program Participation interviews also provided data on persons who provided assistance (caregivers). Information was

¹⁵The percentage of persons with a monthly family income of less than \$1,250 who spent at least 15 percent of their family income on paid assistance (30.3 percent) was not significantly different from the percentage of persons 65 years of age and over who spent at least 15 percent of their family income on paid assistance (25.1 percent).

provided on two types of care: care given to household members and care given to persons outside the household. The two types of care are analyzed separately in this report.

Approximately 5.8 million persons provided care to a household member who, because of a health problem or condition, was unable to perform an activity by himself or herself (table H). Figure 3 shows the percentage of caregivers who provided specific types of care. The most frequent types of care were assistance with preparing meals and doing housework. Approximately 3.8 million or two-thirds of in-home caregivers helped another household member with housework or with preparing meals.¹⁶

Approximately 2.9 million (50.0 percent) persons helped another household member with getting around outside the house, and 2.5 million (42.6 percent) provided assistance with personal care activities. About 1.8 million (31.3 percent) persons helped someone in the household with keeping track of money and bills. Figure 4 shows that caregivers frequently provided more than one type of assistance. Approximately 73 percent of all caregivers provided assistance with two or more activities and 47.3 percent provided assistance with three or more activities.¹⁷

Approximately 15.1 million persons 15 years old and over provided assistance to one or more persons who lived outside their household (table I). Figure 5 presents the percentage of caregivers who provided specific types of assistance. Nearly 11.7 million or 77.2 percent of those caregivers provided assistance by helping someone get around outside the house. Approximately 7.5 million (49.5 percent) assisted an outside person with housework, 6.8 million (45.0 percent) helped with meal preparation, 3.8 million (25.1 percent) helped with

¹⁶Among persons who provided personal assistance to a household member, the estimates of the number and percent who helped with housework (3.9 million or 67.8 percent) and meal preparation (3.7 million or 64.5 percent) were not statistically different.

¹⁷The percentage of persons who provided assistance with three or more activities (47.3 percent) was not statistically different from the percent of in-home caregivers who helped with getting around outside the house (50.0 percent).

Table G. Cost of Assistance as a Proportion of Income for Persons Who Paid for Assistance: 1986

Characteristic	Total (thous.)	Percent with expense-to-income ratios within specified interval			Mean monthly amount paid for assistance		Mean monthly family income	
		Less than .05	.05 to .14	.15 and over	Value	Standard error	Value	Standard error
Received paid assistance	1,525	54.5	24.1	21.4	\$234	\$41	\$1,853	\$143
Age								
Under 65 years	489	64.2	22.3	13.5	237	94	2,353	285
65 years and over	1,036	49.8	25.1	25.1	233	42	1,617	158
Type of Assistance Needed								
Personal care	580	39.9	25.2	34.9	453	101	2,014	199
Getting around outside	926	49.7	25.7	24.7	309	66	1,920	207
Preparing meals	803	46.0	23.9	30.1	324	67	2,074	204
Doing housework	1,344	52.0	25.1	22.8	257	47	1,930	159
Keeping track of bills and/or money	529	32.7	31.6	35.7	405	97	1,852	221
Number of Categories of Assistance Needed								
One	431	72.2	18.8	9.0	85	22	1,671	218
Two	315	59.0	28.3	12.7	91	25	1,687	344
Three or more	778	42.8	25.4	31.7	375	77	2,021	211
Monthly Family Income								
Under \$1,250	778	43.2	26.5	30.3	207	46	700	29
\$1,250 to \$2,499	410	61.2	20.9	18.0	323	122	1,831	52
\$2,500 and over	337	72.6	22.6	4.8	192	38	4,544	417

Table H. Distribution by Selected Characteristics of Persons Who Provided Assistance to a Household Member, by Type of Assistance Provided: 1986

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Assisted with—					
	One or more activities	Personal care	Getting around outside	Preparing meals	Doing housework	Keeping track of bills and/ or money
Total	5,791	2,469	2,894	3,734	3,927	1,815
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Age						
Under 18 years	9.6	6.0	4.3	8.0	11.5	0.3
18 to 64 years	64.2	62.9	68.2	63.5	62.5	62.0
65 years and over	26.2	31.1	27.5	28.5	26.0	37.7
Sex						
Male	44.2	32.2	46.1	42.9	47.7	29.4
Female	55.8	67.8	53.9	57.1	52.3	70.6
Race and Hispanic Origin ¹						
White	83.1	80.6	83.8	81.3	82.0	80.7
Black	15.3	17.8	14.1	17.5	16.9	18.3
Hispanic origin ¹	8.1	7.7	7.9	7.9	8.0	6.3
Relationship to Recipient						
Son	11.9	7.4	10.7	10.6	11.6	7.3
Daughter	18.4	18.3	15.2	20.2	22.0	21.6
Spouse	44.0	45.0	49.0	44.6	42.3	38.2
Other relative	19.9	22.9	19.2	18.4	17.9	25.8
Nonrelative	5.8	6.3	5.8	6.3	6.2	7.1
Labor Force Participation Status of Persons 15 to 64 Years						
Male						
In labor force	72.7	67.4	75.4	71.5	69.7	67.7
Not in labor force	27.3	32.6	24.6	28.5	30.3	32.3
Female						
In labor force	55.8	57.6	57.7	55.5	57.2	50.4
Not in labor force	44.2	42.4	42.3	44.5	42.8	49.6

¹Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Figure 3.
Percent of Caregivers Who Provided Specified Type of Assistance to Household Members

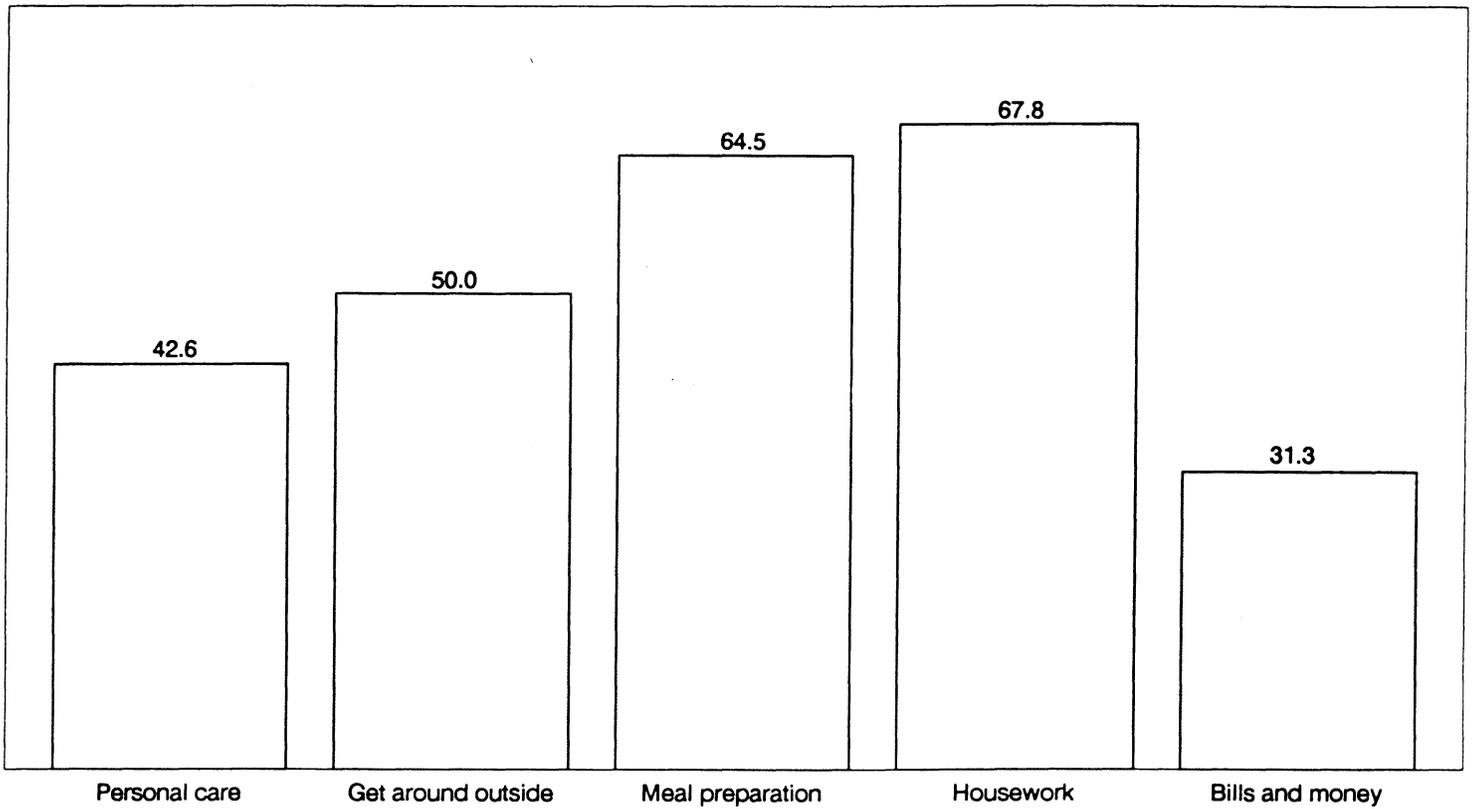


Figure 4.
Number of Activities For Which Assistance Was Given: Caregivers Who Provided Assistance to Household Members

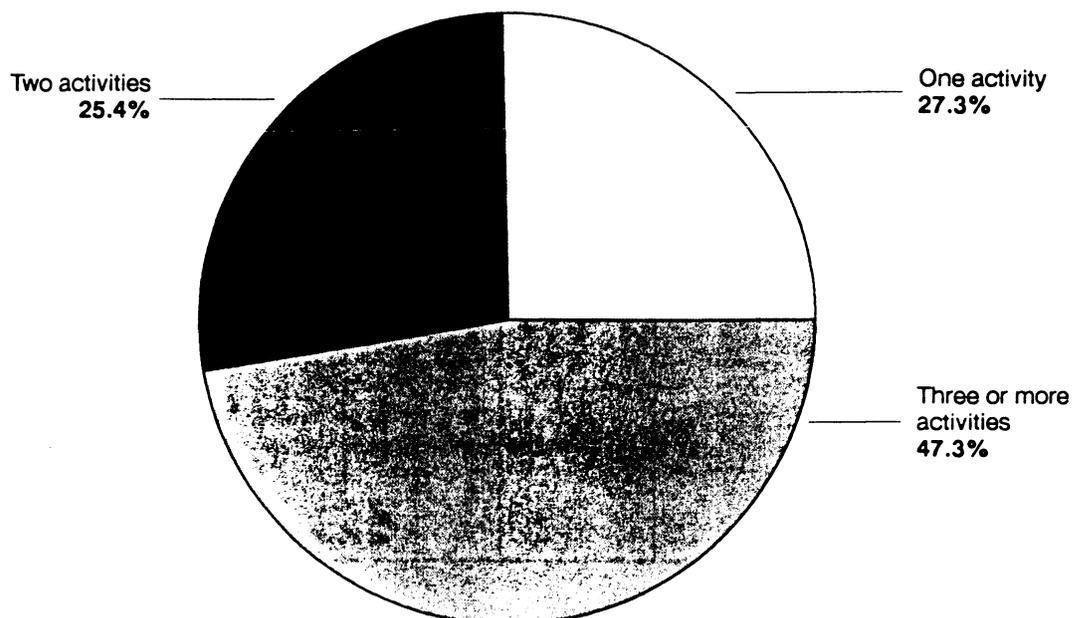
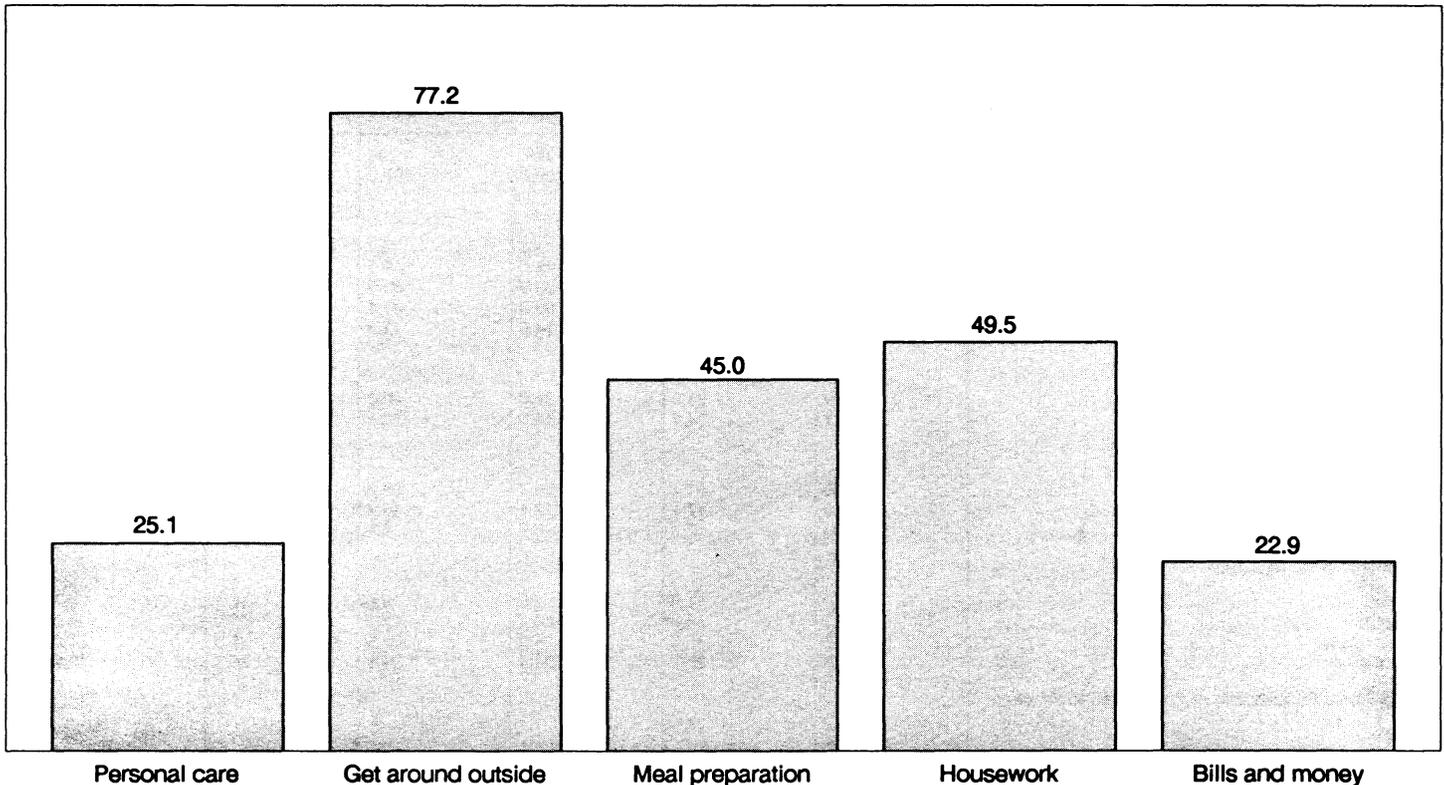


Figure 5.
Percent of Caregivers Who Provided Specified Type
of Assistance to Persons Outside Their Household



personal care activities, and 3.5 million (22.9 percent) helped one or more persons with keeping track of money and bills.¹⁸ Figure 6 shows the distribution of caregivers by the number of tasks for which they provided assistance. About 62 percent of all caregivers who provided help to a non-household member assisted with more than one activity.

Age, Sex, and Labor Force Status

Approximately one-fourth (26.2 percent) of all persons who provided assistance to a household member were 65 years old and over. More than half (55.8 percent) of caregivers were women.

Persons who provided care to someone outside their household tended to be somewhat younger (14.6 percent were 65 years old and over) and were even more likely to be female. Two-thirds (67.1 percent) of those persons who provided assistance to non-household members were women.

¹⁸Among persons who provided personal assistance to a non-household member, the estimates of the number who helped with personal care activities (3.8 million) and keeping track of bills and money (3.5 million) were not statistically different.

Most caregivers under 65 years of age were in the labor force. Among female caregivers, 55.8 percent who helped someone inside their household (table H) and 66.8 percent who helped someone outside their household (table I) were in the labor force. Among male caregivers, 72.7 percent of those who helped someone in the household and 85.1 percent of those who helped someone outside the household were in the labor force.¹⁹

Race and Hispanic Origin

Black persons were more likely to provide assistance to a household member than Whites. The proportion of Blacks who provided assistance to a household member was 3.9 percent (table J). The comparable figure for Whites was 2.9 percent. The proportion of persons who provided assistance to a non-household member was

¹⁹The percentage of female caregivers who helped someone outside their household who were in the labor force (66.8 percent) was not statistically different from the percentage of male caregivers who helped a household member who was in the labor force (72.7 percent).

Table I. Distribution by Selected Characteristics of Persons Who Provided Assistance to Persons Outside Their Household, by Type of Assistance Provided: 1986

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Assisted with—					
	One or more activities	Personal care	Getting around outside	Preparing meals	Doing housework	Keeping track of bills and/or money
Total	15,099	3,790	11,656	6,794	7,475	3,456
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Age						
15 to 17 years	2.4	2.8	1.2	2.4	3.9	1.3
18 to 29 years	18.9	18.1	18.0	19.3	21.8	11.7
30 to 44 years	31.9	33.7	32.9	33.6	34.3	31.0
45 to 64 years	32.2	34.0	33.3	31.6	30.5	44.0
65 years and over	14.6	11.4	14.6	13.1	9.5	12.0
Sex						
Male	32.9	26.0	34.0	20.6	25.1	35.2
Female	67.1	74.0	66.0	79.4	74.9	64.8
Race and Hispanic Origin¹						
White	86.6	81.4	86.7	85.0	85.0	83.8
Black	12.0	17.1	12.1	13.4	13.5	14.7
Hispanic origin ¹	5.6	7.7	5.7	6.1	6.6	6.6
Relationship to Recipient						
Son	12.0	11.8	12.9	8.0	10.1	19.7
Daughter	22.2	26.9	24.2	27.7	29.3	35.2
Other relative	32.6	35.6	31.8	34.5	35.2	31.5
Nonrelative	33.2	25.7	31.1	29.8	25.5	13.6
Labor Force Participation of Persons 15 to 64 Years						
Male						
In labor force	85.1	85.7	86.4	82.9	84.2	84.2
Not in labor force	14.9	14.3	13.6	17.1	15.8	15.8
Female						
In labor force	66.8	65.6	66.6	67.4	67.2	63.2
Not in labor force	33.2	34.4	33.4	32.6	32.8	36.8

¹Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

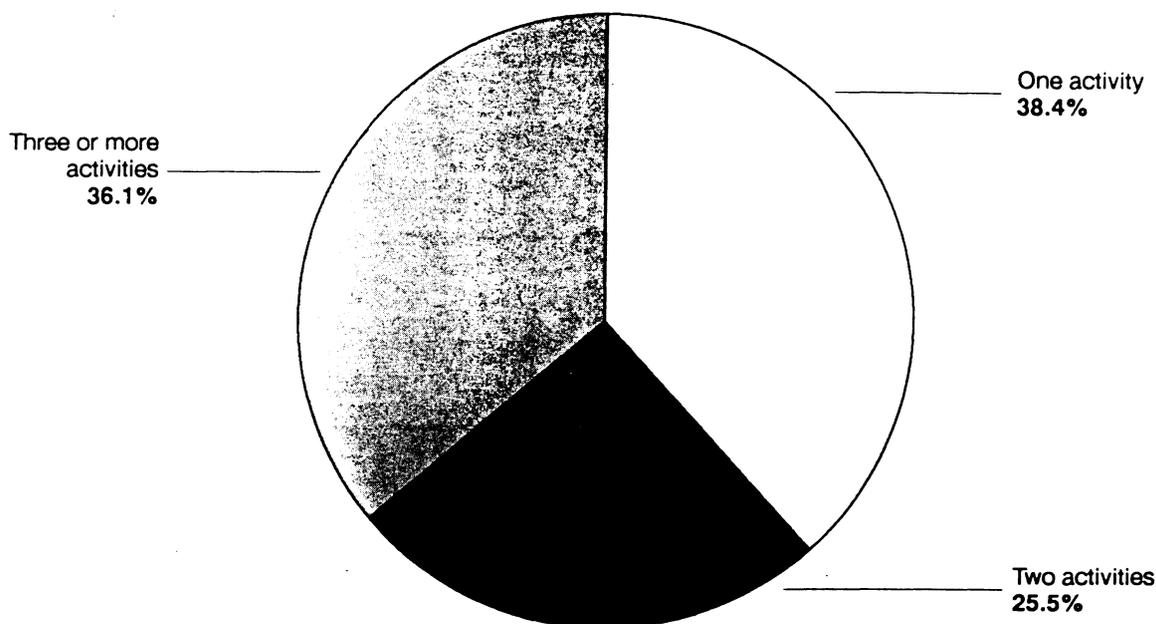
Table J. Percent of Persons 15 Years Old and Over Who Provided Assistance, by Race and Hispanic Origin and Type of Recipient: 1986

Characteristic	Assisted with—					
	One or more activities	Personal care	Getting around outside	Preparing meals	Doing housework	Keeping track of bills and/or money
Provided Care to a Nonhousehold Member						
White	8.2	1.9	6.3	3.6	4.0	1.8
Black	8.7	3.1	6.7	4.4	4.9	2.4
Hispanic origin ¹	6.6	2.3	5.1	3.2	3.9	1.8
Provided Care to a Household Member						
White	2.9	1.2	1.5	1.8	1.9	0.9
Black	3.9	2.0	1.9	2.9	2.9	1.6
Hispanic origin ¹	3.4	1.4	1.8	2.1	2.3	0.9

¹Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Note: Table universe (in thousands): White = 160,194, Black = 20,845, persons of Hispanic origin = 12,823.

Figure 6.
**Number of Activities For Which Assistance Was Given: Caregivers
 Who Provided Assistance to Persons Outside Their Household**



similar for Blacks (8.7 percent) and Whites (8.2 percent). The proportion of persons of Hispanic origin who gave assistance to a household member was 3.4 percent, and 6.6 percent gave assistance to someone outside of the household.²⁰

Relationship

The majority (94.2 percent) of persons who provided assistance to a household member were related to the recipient (table H). Forty-four percent were the wife or husband of the person who required assistance, 18.4 percent were daughters, and 11.9 percent were sons. Only 5.8 percent of this group of caregivers were not related to the recipient.

²⁰The proportion of persons of Hispanic origin who provided assistance to a household member (3.4 percent) was not significantly different from the proportion of Whites (2.9 percent) or the proportion of Blacks (3.9 percent) who provided assistance to a household member.

Of those caregivers who gave assistance to someone outside the household, 22.2 percent were daughters of the recipient, and 12.0 percent were sons of the recipient (table I). Approximately one-third of all persons who gave help to someone outside the household were other relatives and one-third were not related to the recipient.

USER COMMENTS

We are interested in your reaction to the usefulness and content of this report. We welcome your recommendations. If you have any suggestions or comments, please send them to:

Dr. Daniel H. Weinberg
 Chief, Housing and Household Economic
 Statistics Division
 U.S. Bureau of the Census
 Washington, DC 20233