



United States
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

Health, Education and Human Services Division

B-272007

May 15, 1996

The Honorable William V. Roth, Jr.
Chairman, Committee on Finance
United States Senate

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, which is administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA), provides cash benefits to disabled children who live in families with low incomes and limited resources. Because SSA does not publish information on the proportion of children in each state who receive SSI, we are providing this information to you in response to your request.

To develop this information, we obtained the SSI enrollment data from SSA and the general population data for mid-1994 from the Bureau of the Census, which has the most recent data available on state population by age. Our work was done in May 1996 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

In summary, the states with the largest populations also have the highest numbers of children on SSI--New York, California, Texas, Florida, and Illinois. However, the highest proportions of children on SSI are found in less populated states--Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Alabama, Kentucky, the District of Columbia, and West Virginia. The enclosure ranks the states according to the proportion of their population under 18 that received SSI in mid-1994.

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We provided SSA a draft of this letter and incorporated technical comments where appropriate.

B-272007

If you have any questions about the information, please contact me on (202)512-7215. Other major contributors are Cynthia Bascetta and Ellen Habenicht.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane L. Ross".

Jane L. Ross
Director, Income Security Issues

Enclosure

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION UNDER 18 RECEIVING
FEDERALLY ADMINISTERED SSI AS OF JUNE 30, 1994

| State | Number of SSI recipients | State population under 18 | Percentage receiving SSI |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mississippi | 22,871 | 756,027 | 3.03 |
| Louisiana | 36,930 | 1,235,162 | 2.99 |
| Arkansas | 17,551 | 640,397 | 2.74 |
| Alabama | 24,861 | 1,079,717 | 2.30 |
| Kentucky | 18,084 | 969,540 | 1.87 |
| District of Columbia | 2,157 | 118,489 | 1.82 |
| West Virginia | 7,376 | 429,418 | 1.72 |
| South Carolina | 14,889 | 952,276 | 1.56 |
| Tennessee | 19,954 | 1,296,340 | 1.54 |
| New York | 67,369 | 4,511,091 | 1.49 |
| Ohio | 40,997 | 2,854,212 | 1.44 |
| Wisconsin | 19,157 | 1,346,444 | 1.42 |
| Florida | 45,810 | 3,262,759 | 1.40 |
| Illinois | 41,910 | 3,083,294 | 1.36 |
| North Carolina | 23,499 | 1,755,959 | 1.34 |
| Michigan | 32,333 | 2,524,796 | 1.28 |
| Missouri | 17,410 | 1,379,124 | 1.26 |
| Georgia | 23,531 | 1,892,250 | 1.24 |
| Pennsylvania | 34,617 | 2,897,557 | 1.19 |
| Indiana | 16,758 | 1,473,407 | 1.14 |
| Oklahoma | 9,914 | 879,918 | 1.13 |
| New Mexico | 5,543 | 497,296 | 1.11 |
| Virginia | 17,124 | 1,602,992 | 1.07 |
| South Dakota | 2,206 | 208,400 | 1.06 |
| Kansas | 6,649 | 690,905 | 0.96 |
| Delaware | 1,664 | 174,800 | 0.95 |

| State | Number of SSI recipients | State population under 18 | Percentage receiving SSI |
|---------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Idaho | 3,178 | 339,303 | 0.94 |
| Rhode Island | 2,221 | 239,818 | 0.93 |
| New Jersey | 17,878 | 1,930,491 | 0.93 |
| Massachusetts | 13,128 | 1,423,765 | 0.92 |
| Iowa | 6,595 | 728,983 | 0.90 |
| Texas | 47,707 | 5,301,421 | 0.90 |
| Vermont | 1,212 | 145,562 | 0.83 |
| Colorado | 7,895 | 970,049 | 0.81 |
| Montana | 1,918 | 237,448 | 0.81 |
| Arizona | 9,124 | 1,138,831 | 0.80 |
| Nebraska | 3,464 | 441,624 | 0.78 |
| Maryland | 9,456 | 1,262,932 | 0.75 |
| Oregon | 5,689 | 782,456 | 0.73 |
| Maine | 2,172 | 305,687 | 0.71 |
| Washington | 9,986 | 1,407,649 | 0.71 |
| California | 60,879 | 8,677,370 | 0.70 |
| Wyoming | 950 | 137,417 | 0.69 |
| Minnesota | 8,303 | 1,240,342 | 0.67 |
| Nevada | 2,206 | 375,748 | 0.59 |
| Utah | 3,905 | 671,946 | 0.58 |
| North Dakota | 987 | 171,560 | 0.58 |
| Connecticut | 4,212 | 788,120 | 0.53 |
| New Hampshire | 1,313 | 291,581 | 0.45 |
| Alaska | 748 | 191,325 | 0.39 |
| Hawaii | 739 | 304,114 | 0.24 |
| United States | 797,034 ^a | 68,018,112 | 1.17 |

^aTotal includes 5 children whose state of residence is unknown.

Sources: GAO analysis of data from SSA's Office of Research and Statistics and the Bureau of the Census.

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