



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 <sup>a</sup>	68,018,112	1.17

<sup>a</sup>Total 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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