

Supplemental Security Income (SSI): 2021

Survey of Income and Program Participation Snapshots

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8.6 million people received SSI benefits.

Working-age adults aged 18 to 64 accounted for the largest share of SSI recipients (62 percent), followed by adults aged 65 and over (25 percent) and children under the age of 18 (12 percent).

\$545 was the average monthly SSI payment received.

Adults aged 65 and over had lower average payments than working-aged adults: \$515 compared with \$557.

39% of SSI recipient households had income below their poverty threshold.

Another 28 percent of SSI recipient households had income above poverty but below 200 percent of their poverty threshold.

84% of SSI recipient households were also covered by Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Other common benefits received by SSI recipient households include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, 65 percent), rental subsidies (26 percent), and energy assistance (20 percent). Among SSI recipient households, nearly 9 in 10 received assistance from three or more programs.

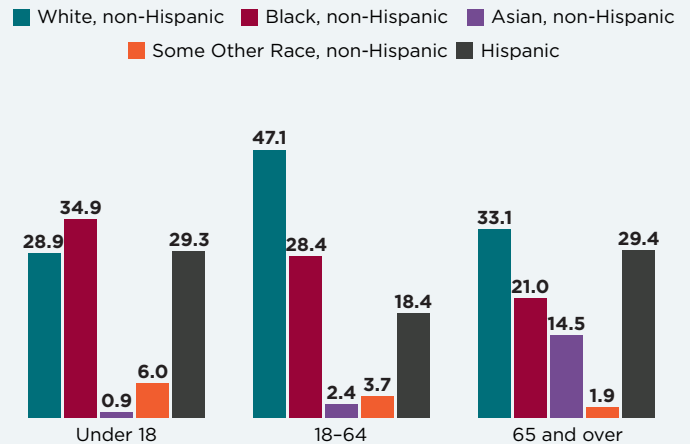
What is SSI?

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a means-tested, cash assistance program. To qualify for benefits, a person must have limited income and resources. Children under the age of 18 and working-age recipients aged 18 to 64 must also be either blind or disabled, as defined by the Social Security Administration's (SSA) eligibility guidelines. Individuals age 65 and over do not need to be blind or have a disability to qualify for SSI benefits.

More information on SSI and other social safety net programs is available in [fact sheets](#), [detailed program participation tables](#), [interactive data visualizations](#), and [reports](#).

Race and Ethnicity of SSI Recipients by Age: 2021

(In percent)



Characteristics of Adults Aged 18-64 by SSI Receipt: 2021

(In percent)

