

Monthly



VOL. 19, NO. 10  
SUPPLEMENT  
JANUARY 7, 1971

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
Health Services and Mental Health Administration  
Rockville, Md. 20852

# VITAL STATISTICS REPORT

## Health Interview Survey Data

FROM THE  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

### Persons 55 Years and Over Receiving Care at Home, July 1966-June 1968

During the period July 1966-June 1968 an estimated 1,747,000 persons 55 years and over reported in the Health Interview Survey that they were receiving health related home care. Care received at home is defined as any personal assistance or personal services received at home as a result of illness, injury, impairment, or advanced age. The person providing the care may have received a fee for his service or the service may have been free, such as that provided by related household members. Care provided by a physician is excluded from this definition of home care. Care by all other persons, however, is included whether or not the latter are professional health workers. Data on all types of medical care provided by physicians are collected in another form

Figure 1. PERCENT OF PERSONS RECEIVING HOME CARE, BY AGE

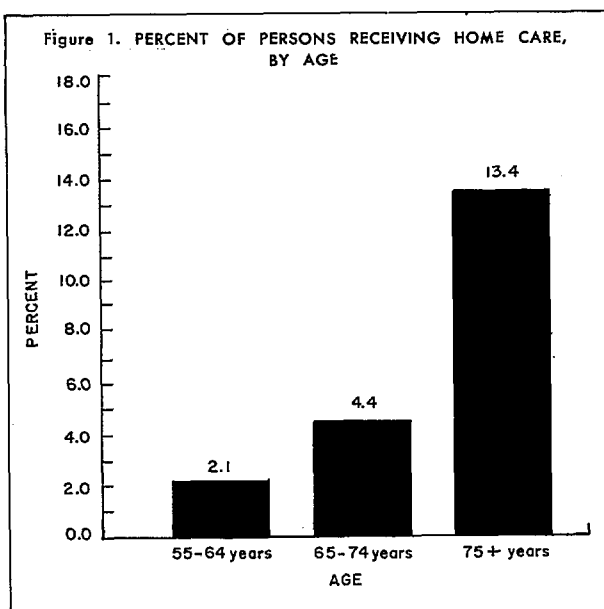
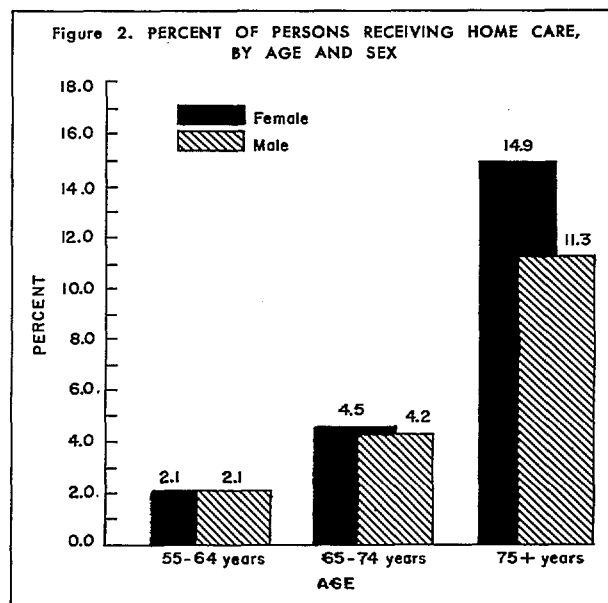
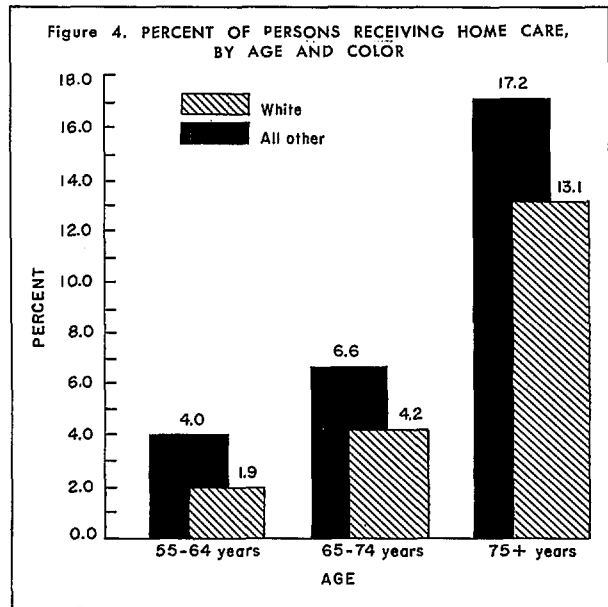


Figure 2. PERCENT OF PERSONS RECEIVING HOME CARE, BY AGE AND SEX

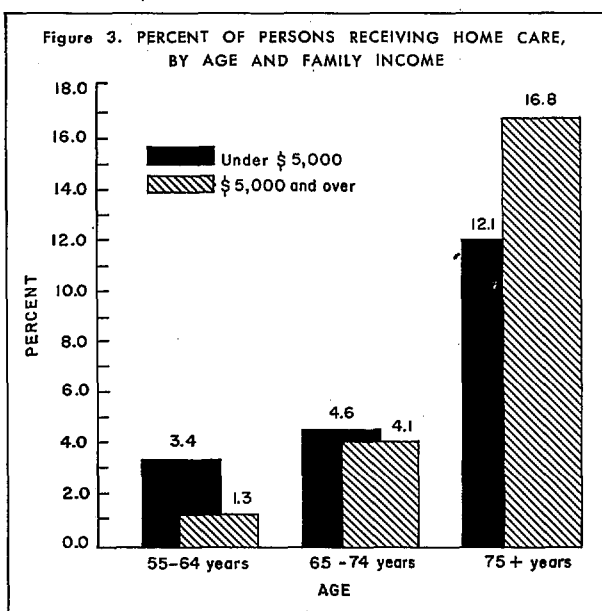


for all ages in the Health Interview Survey and are published in Series 10 of the *Vital and Health Statistics* reports. The amount of home care received by the persons discussed varied from partial or intermittent care to full-time care for those who are bedridden. Types of care received are classified as personal, medically related, and other. Personal care includes walking up stairs, getting from one room to another, eating or having meals served in bed, and receiving hygienic care such as a bath. Medically related care includes changing bandages, receiving injections, and other related treatments. Any types of health related home care not included in the two general categories were classified as other care.

The persons receiving care in these categories represent 4.9 percent of the civilian, noninstitutional population who were 55 years or over during the interview period. Proportionately twice as many persons in this age group received care at home during this period than when home care data were first collected for the Health Interview Survey. ("Persons Receiving Care at Home, United States, July 1958-June 1959," *Health Statistics*, Series B, No. 28.) The first report primarily compared the amount of home care received by all age groups for related demographic and health characteristics. Since it was indicated in the previous report that less than one-tenth of the home care was received by persons in the younger age group, it was not feasible to collect data for those persons under 55 years of age who received care at home. A report of home care data collected during July 1966-June 1968 to be published will be restricted to the population 55 years and over. Demographic characteristics will be compared for those persons receiving care. Topics that will be discussed in that report are specific types of care, types of persons providing the care, interval of care, amount of care, and source of payment for the care provided. Preliminary data from the report show that the percentage of the population 55 years and over receiving home care is a function of the aging process, ranging from 2.1 percent of persons 55-64 years of age to 13.4 percent of those who are 75 years and over (fig. 1). Proportionately more females (5.5 percent) received health related care at home than did males (4.3 percent). This difference becomes more pronounced with the aging process (fig. 2).



Home care received by persons with an annual family income of less than \$5,000 was proportionately higher (6.0 percent) than those persons with an annual family income of \$5,000 or more (3.8 percent). Although the proportion of the population 55 years and over who received home care in July 1966-June 1968 increased with age for the two income groups shown in figure 3, among persons over 74 years of age the relationship is reversed between income and the receipt of home care.



Comparison of the proportion of the white population and all other population groups receiving home care is shown in figure 4. Proportionately more persons in other groups received home care than did white persons. About 4.7 percent of the white population 55 years and over reported receiving home care during the interview period compared to 7.2 percent of all other persons in the same age group. Residence in nursing home and other institutions for the aged and chronically ill remove a proportion of the people requiring care from the noninstitutional population. About 96 percent of the people in those institutions are white. ("Characteristics of Residents in Institutions for the Aged and Chronically Ill, United States, April-June 1963," *Vital and Health Statistics*, Series 12, No. 2.) The ability to finance personal care of this type is a prerequisite demonstrated by the racial comparison. The white population with higher median incomes are more likely to be inpatients in institutions where care for the elderly is provided.

Proportionately more persons living outside standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSAs) had home care for health related reasons than did persons living in the metropolitan areas. Approximately 5.9

percent of the population 55 years and over with residence outside SMSAs received care compared to 4.4 percent of the same age group residing in SMSAs. Figure 5 shows the trend noted previously of the aging process on the increase in proportion of persons with home care for both residential groups.

The majority of persons 55 years and over requiring home care received personal care (86.1 percent). About one-quarter of the same age group with care had medically related home care (table 1). Other types of health related home care were received by 65.4 percent.

The majority of the health related home care was provided by family members living in the household (table 2). Family household members provided the care for four-fifths of the persons with personal care while about 7.0 percent received care from registered nurses. Approximately 34.2 percent of the persons had care provided by other sources.

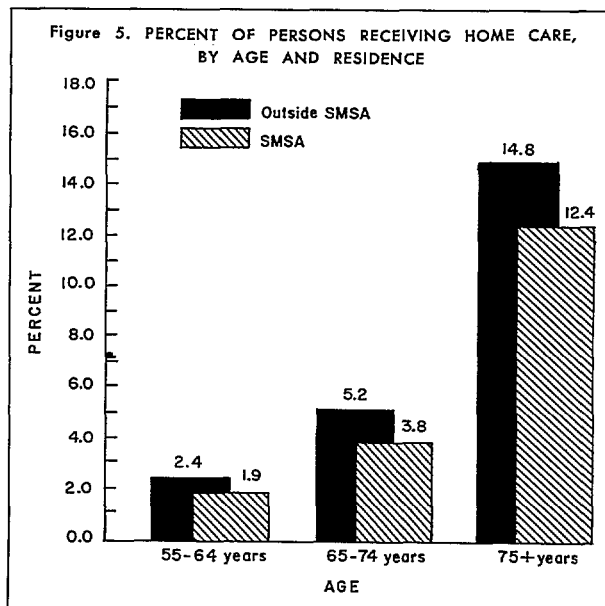


Table 1. Number of persons 55 years and over receiving care at home and percent by type of care received, according to age: United States, July 1966-June 1968

Age	Number of persons in thousands	Type of care received		
		Personal care	Medically related care	Other care
All ages, 55+ years--	1,747	86.1	26.6	65.4
55-64 years-----	363	84.8	27.5	58.4
65-74 years-----	499	82.6	30.7	62.9
75+ years-----	886	88.6	23.9	69.6

Table 2. Number of persons 55 years and over receiving care at home and percent by provider of care, according to age: United States, July 1966-June 1968

Age	Number of persons in thousands	Care provided by--		
		Household member	Registered nurse	Other
All ages, 55+ years--	1,747	79.8	7.0	34.2
55-64 years-----	363	85.4	*	30.3
65-74 years-----	499	78.6	6.6	33.5
75+ years-----	886	78.2	8.0	36.1

EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS USED IN TABLES

- Data not available-----
- Category not applicable-----
- Quantity zero-----
- Quantity more than 0 but less than 0.05----- 0.0
- Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision-- \*

**Technical Notes**

**SOURCE OF DATA.** During the period July 1966-June 1968 detailed information on persons receiving health related home care was obtained through household interviews of the Health Interview Survey. The probability sample of the civilian, noninstitutional population of the United States included approximately 84,000 households representing about 268,000 persons.

**SAMPLE.** Since the estimates shown are based on a sample of the population rather than on the entire population, they are subject to sampling error. The standard errors appropriate for the estimates of the number of persons with health related home care are shown in table I. Table II shows the standard errors appropriate for the percent of persons with health related home care.

Table I. STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES OF AGGREGATES FOR NARROW-RANGE STATISTICS

Size of estimate	Standard error
50,000-----	29,000
1,000,000-----	42,000
5,000,000-----	95,000
10,000,000-----	130,000
20,000,000-----	170,000
50,000,000-----	230,000

Table II. STANDARD ERRORS FOR ESTIMATED PERCENTAGES FOR NARROW-RANGE STATISTICS EXPRESSED IN PERCENTAGE POINTS

Base of percentage	Estimated percentage				
	2 or 98	5 or 95	10 or 90	25 or 75	50
500-----	0.8	1.3	1.8	2.5	2.9
1,000-----	0.6	0.9	1.3	1.8	2.0
5,000-----	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.9
10,000-----	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.7
20,000-----	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5
50,000 or more-----	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3

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