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VITAL STATISTICS REPORT

Health Interview Survey—Provisional Data

FROM THE

NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

Use of Special Aids: United States, 1969

During 1969 a question in the Health Interview Survey asked about the use by anyone in the family of a selected list of orthopedic aids. The list included: artificial arm or leg; brace of any kind; crutches, cane, or walking stick; special shoes; wheelchair; walker; and any other kind of aid for getting around. The question was phrased to obtain data only on aids presently used.

Instructions to interviewers included qualifying definitions of several of the aids. Artificial hands and arms were combined in one category, and similarly, artificial feet and legs were combined. Special shoes were limited to those of special construction or de-

signed: oversized shoes of normal construction were excluded.

Since the list was restricted to orthopedic aids, braces for teeth, trusses for hernias, corrective lenses for sight, and aids for hearing were not included in this survey. Data collected earlier on the use of corrective lenses and hearing aids can be found

Figure 1. PERCENT OF POPULATION WITH ONE SPECIAL AID OR MORE, BY SEX

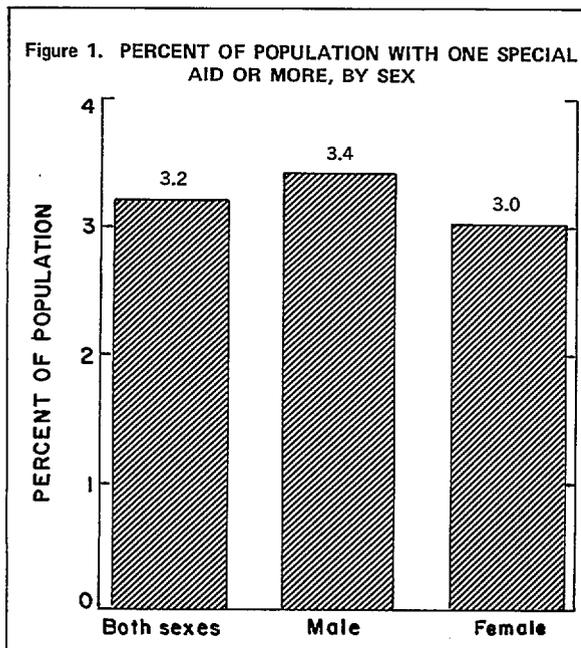
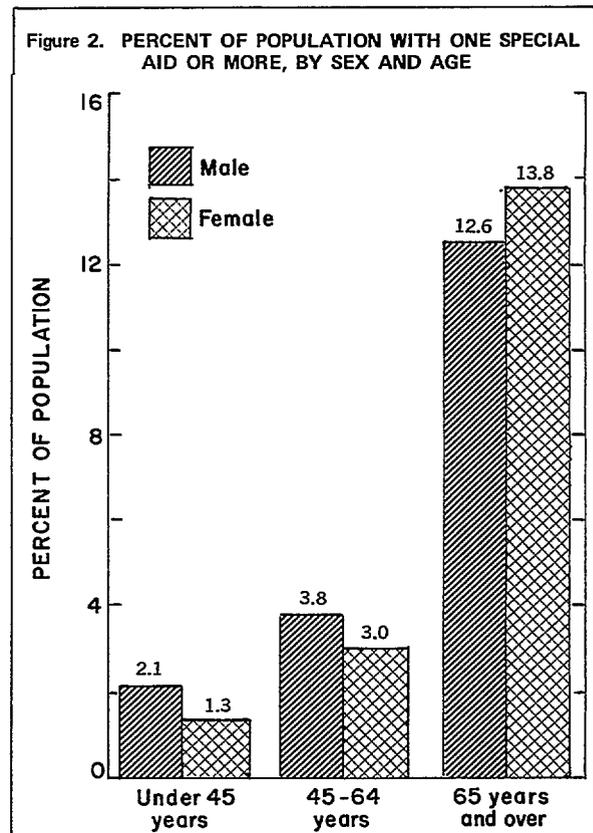


Figure 2. PERCENT OF POPULATION WITH ONE SPECIAL AID OR MORE, BY SEX AND AGE



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Table A. Population and number of persons with selected special aids and percent distribution of persons by number of aids used, according to sex and age: United States, 1969

Sex and age	Population	Persons not using aids	Persons using special aids		
			1 type	2 types	3 types or more
BOTH SEXES					
Number of persons in thousands					
All ages-----	197,422	191,196	5,466	587	173
Under 45 years-----	138,022	135,661	2,169	150	*
45-64 years-----	40,742	39,363	1,165	151	62
65 years and over-----	18,658	16,172	2,132	285	69
MALE					
All ages-----	95,002	91,814	2,819	286	82
Under 45 years-----	67,609	66,161	1,324	94	*
45-64 years-----	19,402	18,674	621	81	*
65 years and over-----	7,990	6,980	875	112	*
FEMALE					
All ages-----	102,420	99,382	2,647	301	91
Under 45 years-----	70,413	69,500	845	56	*
45-64 years-----	21,339	20,689	545	71	*
65 years and over-----	10,667	9,192	1,257	174	*
BOTH SEXES					
Percent distribution					
All ages-----	100.0	96.8	2.8	0.3	0.1
Under 45 years-----	100.0	98.3	1.6	0.1	*
45-64 years-----	100.0	96.6	2.9	0.4	0.2
65 years and over-----	100.0	86.7	11.4	1.5	0.4
MALE					
All ages-----	100.0	96.6	3.0	0.3	0.1
Under 45 years-----	100.0	97.9	2.0	0.1	*
45-64 years-----	100.0	96.2	3.2	0.4	*
65 years and over-----	100.0	87.4	11.0	1.4	*
FEMALE					
All ages-----	100.0	97.0	2.6	0.3	0.1
Under 45 years-----	100.0	98.7	1.2	0.1	*
45-64 years-----	100.0	97.0	2.6	0.3	*
65 years and over-----	100.0	86.2	11.8	1.6	*

in *Vital and Health Statistics*, Series 10, Nos., 35 and 53. Data from the 1971 questionnaire will include current data on the use of corrective lenses and hearing aids.

An estimated 6,226,000 persons in the civilian, noninstitutional population of the United States were

reported to have one or more of the special aids listed above. This figure represents 3.2 percent of the population (fig. 1). Proportionally more males used a special aid than did females—3.4 percent for males and 3.0 percent for females. The use of special aids

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Table B. Number of persons using special aids and percent of population using an aid by type of aid, according to sex and age: United States, 1969

Sex and age	Special shoes	Cane or walking stick	Brace	Crutches	Wheel-chair	Walker	Artificial		Other
							Leg or foot	Arm or hand	
Number of aids in thousands									
BOTH SEXES									
All ages-----	2,377	2,156	1,102	443	409	404	126	46	140
Under 45 years-----	1,620	94	518	147	100	*	*	*	51
45-64 years-----	444	444	363	158	94	57	57	*	*
65 years and over----	313	1,618	221	137	215	329	*	*	*
MALE									
All ages-----	1,282	1,025	618	240	179	93	104	*	80
Under 45 years-----	994	67	306	94	71	*	*	*	*
45-64 years-----	194	233	219	79	*	*	49	*	*
65 years and over----	94	725	94	67	65	73	*	*	*
FEMALE									
All ages-----	1,095	1,131	483	202	230	311	*	*	60
Under 45 years-----	625	*	212	54	*	*	*	*	*
45-64 years-----	250	211	144	79	51	*	*	*	*
65 years and over----	220	893	128	70	150	257	*	*	*
Percent of population using an aid									
BOTH SEXES									
All ages-----	1.2	1.1	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1
Under 45 years-----	1.2	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.1	*	*	*	0.0
45-64 years-----	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	*	*
65 years and over----	1.7	8.7	1.2	0.7	1.2	1.8	*	*	*
MALE									
All ages-----	1.3	1.1	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	*	0.1
Under 45 years-----	1.5	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.1	*	*	*	*
45-64 years-----	1.0	1.2	1.1	0.4	*	*	0.3	*	*
65 years and over----	1.2	9.1	1.2	0.8	0.8	0.9	*	*	*
FEMALE									
All ages-----	1.1	1.1	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.3	*	*	0.1
Under 45 years-----	0.9	*	0.3	0.1	*	*	*	*	*
45-64 years-----	1.2	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.2	*	*	*	*
65 years and over----	2.1	8.4	1.2	0.7	1.4	2.4	*	*	*

increased with age (fig. 2). Table A shows that of those persons requiring the use of special aids, the greatest percentage did not require the use of multiple aids but were able to meet their needs with the use of a single aid.

Special shoes were the most frequently used aid of any listed in table B. A cane or walking stick was the next most frequently used aid. In general, the highest percentage of use of special aids occurred among persons aged 65 years and over.

Technical Notes

SOURCE OF DATA. The information presented in this report was derived from household interviews in the Health Interview Survey. These interviews were conducted in a probability sample of the civilian, non-institutional population of the United States. During 1969 approximately 134,000 person living in about 42,000 households were included in the sample. For a more detailed description of the sample design and a copy of the questionnaire, see *Vital and Health Statistics*, Series 10-No. 63, "Current Estimates from the Health Interview Survey, United States, 1969.

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 numbers of persons with special aids are shown in table I. Table II shows the standard errors appropriate for the percent of persons with special aids.

DEFINITION OF SPECIAL AIDS. A special aid is a device used to compensate for defects resulting from disease, injury, impairment, or congenital malformation.

SYMBOLS USED IN TABLES

Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision----- *

Quantity more than 0 but less than 0.05-- 0.0

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

Size of estimate	Standard error
50,000-----	11,000
100,000-----	15,000
250,000-----	25,000
500,000-----	36,000
1,000,000-----	52,000
5,000,000-----	115,000

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

Base of	Estimated percentage				
	2 or 98	5 or 95	10 or 90	25 or 75	50
500,000-----	1.0	1.6	2.2	3.1	3.6
1,000,000-----	0.8	1.2	1.6	2.3	2.6
5,000,000-----	0.3	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.2
10,000,000-----	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8
20,000,000-----	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.6
50,000,000-----	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
100,000,000 or more-	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2

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