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Fact Book on AGING

Selected Charts and Tables
on the
Personal Characteristics
Income
Employment
Living Arrangements and
Health of Older Persons
in the Population



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The Social Security Administration
- Office of the Commissioner
- Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance
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INTRODUCTION

This Fact Book contains most of the basic information needed for an understanding of the size, distribution and characteristics of the aging population of the United States. As such it should fill a fundamental need for background knowledge on a subject of growing interest to all thoughtful citizens.

The Fact Book consists of 21 charts, followed by 35 tables. Facing each chart is a short statement summarizing its essential meaning and linking the data charted to facts of related significance. The tables contain the raw data for the charts plus additional information too detailed to be charted.

It has not been possible, within the brief scope of the present publication, to include all the significant data on aging. Selection of charts and tables has been guided by a desire to bring together the facts of widest interest and application. The sources cited for the tables offer a useful point of departure for persons wishing additional information on any of the subjects touched on.

The reader will note that the age groupings vary from table to table. Some of this is deliberate, since some age differences are more significant for some characteristics than others. Other age groupings reflect data limitations. The use of the age grouping "65 years and over" in a number of tables is not intended to suggest that aging begins at 65. In a number of tables the age classes begin with age 45, in recognition of the fact that many of the problems of aging have their onset in middle life.

The Fact Book was compiled and edited by a technical group of the Committee on Aging and Geriatrics representing the Office of Education, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Public Health Service, and the Social Security Administration, all of the Federal Security Agency. Charts were prepared by the Visual Aids Branch of the Division of Service Operations. Major responsibility for preparation of the Fact Book was borne by Jacob Fisher of the Social Security Administration.



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THE GIST OF IT

Number of Older Persons

Since 1900, the population of the United States has doubled, but the number of persons 45 to 64 years has tripled, while the number 65 years and older has quadrupled. There are now (early 1952) 13 million men and women 65 years of age and over. This number is increasing currently at the rate of about 400,000 a year.

Between 1940 and 1950 the country's population 65 years and over went up 36 percent. In California and Nevada the increase was 60 percent or more, in Arizona and Florida 80 percent or more.

One in every 12 persons in the country is 65 years and over. This ratio varies in the States from about 1 in 19 in South Carolina to 1 in 9 in New Hampshire.

Women outnumber men 10 to 9 in the 65 and over age group. More than half of the women in this age class are widows. The majority of the men 65 years and over are still married, on the other hand.

Living Arrangements

Of the 13 million persons 65 years and over in the United States at the end of 1951:

Nine million, or 7 in 10, lived in their own households, of whom all but nearly 2 million had a wife, husband or some other relative living with them.

About 2-3/4 million others, or about 2 in 10, were living in the homes of relatives; 3 out of 4 in this group were women.

A little over half a million were roomers or boarders in families not related to them.

A little over 700,000 were living in institutions, hotels or large rooming houses.

Financial Status

Government estimates of what it cost an elderly couple to maintain a "modest but adequate" level of living in an urban area in October 1950 ranged from $1,602 a year in New Orleans to $1,908 in Milwaukee.

In 1950 forty-three percent of the families headed by a person 65 years of age or over had a cash income of less than $1,500. Thirty percent had under $1,000. Fifteen percent had less than $500.

In the same year, more than three-fourths of all persons 65 years and over living alone or with nonrelatives had a cash income of less than $1,000. Nearly 40 percent had less than $500.

At the end of 1951, less than 1 in every 3 persons 65 years and over was receiving income from employment either as an earner or the wife of an earner. About 1 in 4 was in receipt of old-age and survivors insurance benefits; another 8 percent were getting benefits from the special retirement systems for railroad and government workers or from the veterans' program. One person in every 5 was on old-age assistance. Between 2 and 3 in every 10 aged persons were living solely on other types of income (investments, commercial annuities, industrial pensions, etc.) or were being supported completely by relatives.

Nearly 2 out of 3 families with a head 65 years and over own their own homes as against a little over half in the general population. Total indebtedness, including mortgage, tends to be smaller in families with an aged head, while total assets and net worth tend to be larger.

Employment

The proportion of men 65 years and over in the labor force declined from 68 percent in 1890 to 41 percent in 1952. Few changes have taken place, on the other hand, in the relative number of men 45-64 years in the labor force,

while the labor force participation rates of older women have gone up.

Coupled with a parallel increase in longevity, the drop in work opportunities for older workers has made for a larger span of years in retirement. Between 1900 and 1940 the expected years in retirement for a man of 40 increased from 3 to 6 years.

In March 1952, nearly 3 million men and women 65 years and over were working. Forty percent were self-employed, of whom one-half were farm owners.

Health

Life expectancy at birth increased from 49 to 68 years between 1901 and 1949. The biggest improvement has occurred in the early years of life and becomes progressively smaller in the later years.

On a given day, 14 in every 100 persons 65 years and over are unable to perform their regular duties because of disability, as compared with 5 per 100 in the general population.

The leading causes of death in the later years are heart disease, cancer, cerebral hemorrhages and arteriosclerosis.

Most elderly persons cannot finance adequate medical care without outside help. In 1950 only 1 out of 4 had hospitalization insurance.

214360 O - 52 - 2

During the past half century the population of the United States has doubled, but the number of persons past age 65 has quadrupled.

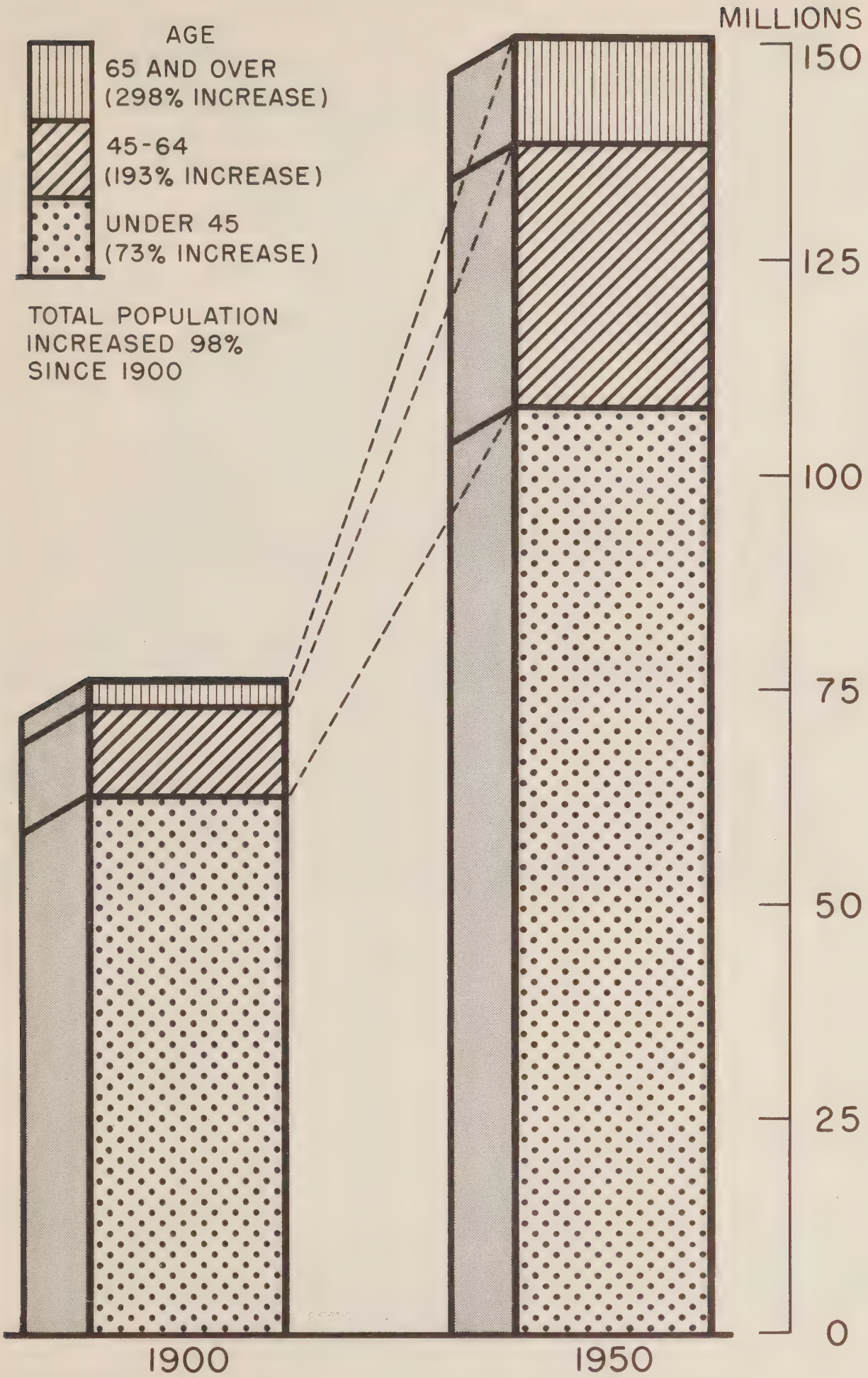
In 1900 the proportion of men and women 65 years of age and over in our total population was 1 in 25. Today it is around 1 in 12, and steadily increasing.

Equally significant is the increasing proportion of persons in middle age. In 1900, 1 person in 7 was 45 to 64 years of age. Today the ratio is 1 in 5.

The big increase in the relative number of older persons is the result largely of gains in the control of infectious diseases, other advances in the fields of prevention and medical care and of the general rise in the standard of living. Fewer people die in childhood or their early adult years; more live to reach their 60's and 70's.

OUR POPULATION IS AGING

Chart 1



SOURCE: TABLE I.

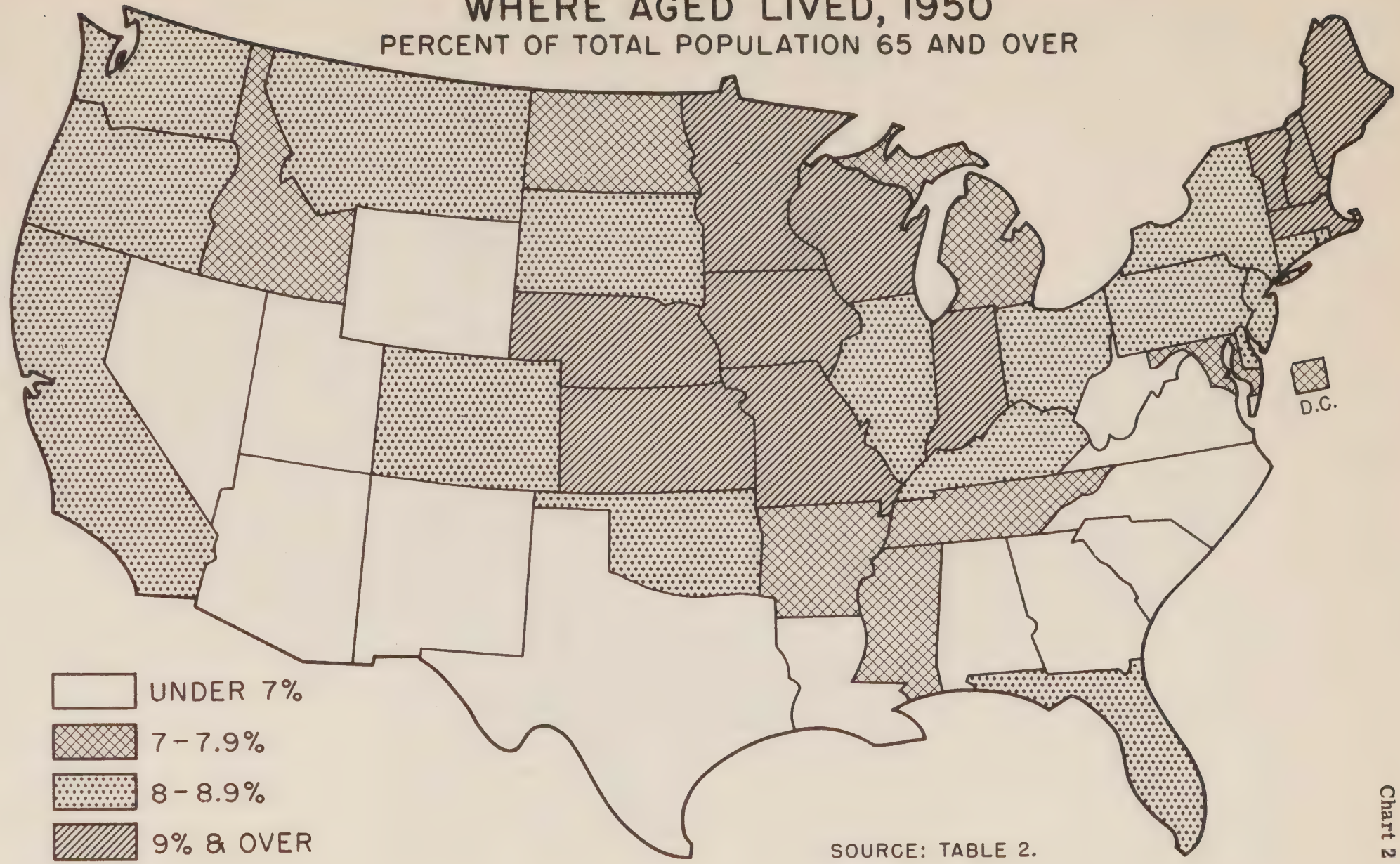
In 1950 the number of persons 65 years of age and over ranged from 5 per 100 in New Mexico to 11 per 100 in New Hampshire.

New England and the West North Central States tended to have the highest ratios in the country. The lowest ratios were to be found in the South and Southwest.

In States having high birth rates, and therefore more children, the proportion of old people is likely to be small. States with low birth rates, on the other hand, are likely to have a larger than average proportion of older persons.

WHERE AGED LIVED, 1950

PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION 65 AND OVER



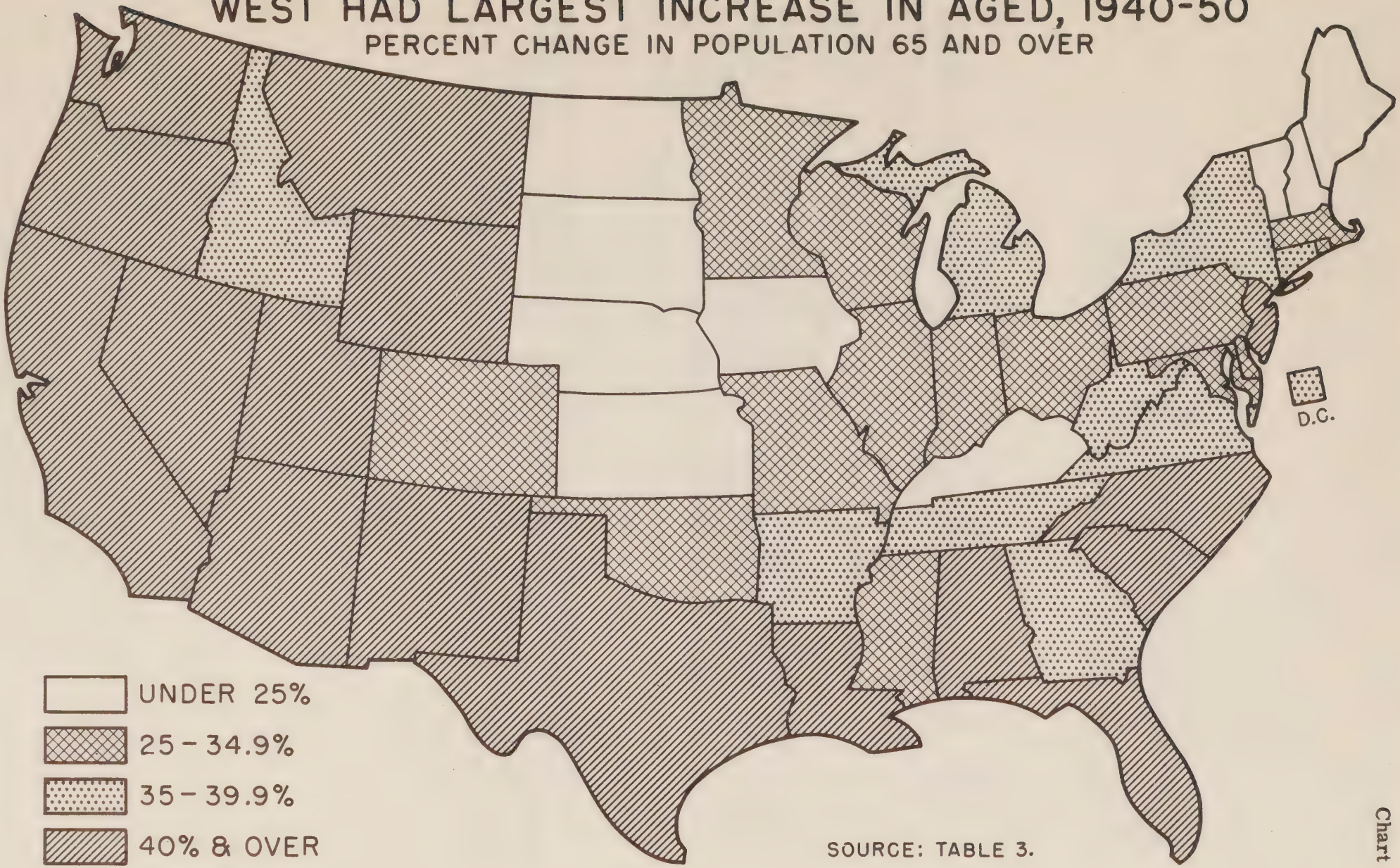
SOURCE: TABLE 2.

Chart 2

The rate of growth in aged population, State by State, tends to follow the rate of growth in the population as a whole. There are exceptions, of course, but by and large States growing more rapidly than others also tend to have the largest relative increase in aged population. During the 10 years 1940-50, the States with the largest percentage gains in population 65 years and over--Arizona, California, Florida, Nevada--were also the States with the largest relative increase in total population. In these States the greater part of the increase in both total number and number of aged was due to interstate migration. Conversely, States with the smallest relative increase in aged residents, such as Iowa, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, were among the States with a slow rate of growth in total population. Since large gains in the number of aged are generally associated with large gains in other age groups, States with the most rapid increase in aged population are not necessarily the States with the highest ratio of aged persons.

WEST HAD LARGEST INCREASE IN AGED, 1940-50

PERCENT CHANGE IN POPULATION 65 AND OVER



SOURCE: TABLE 3.

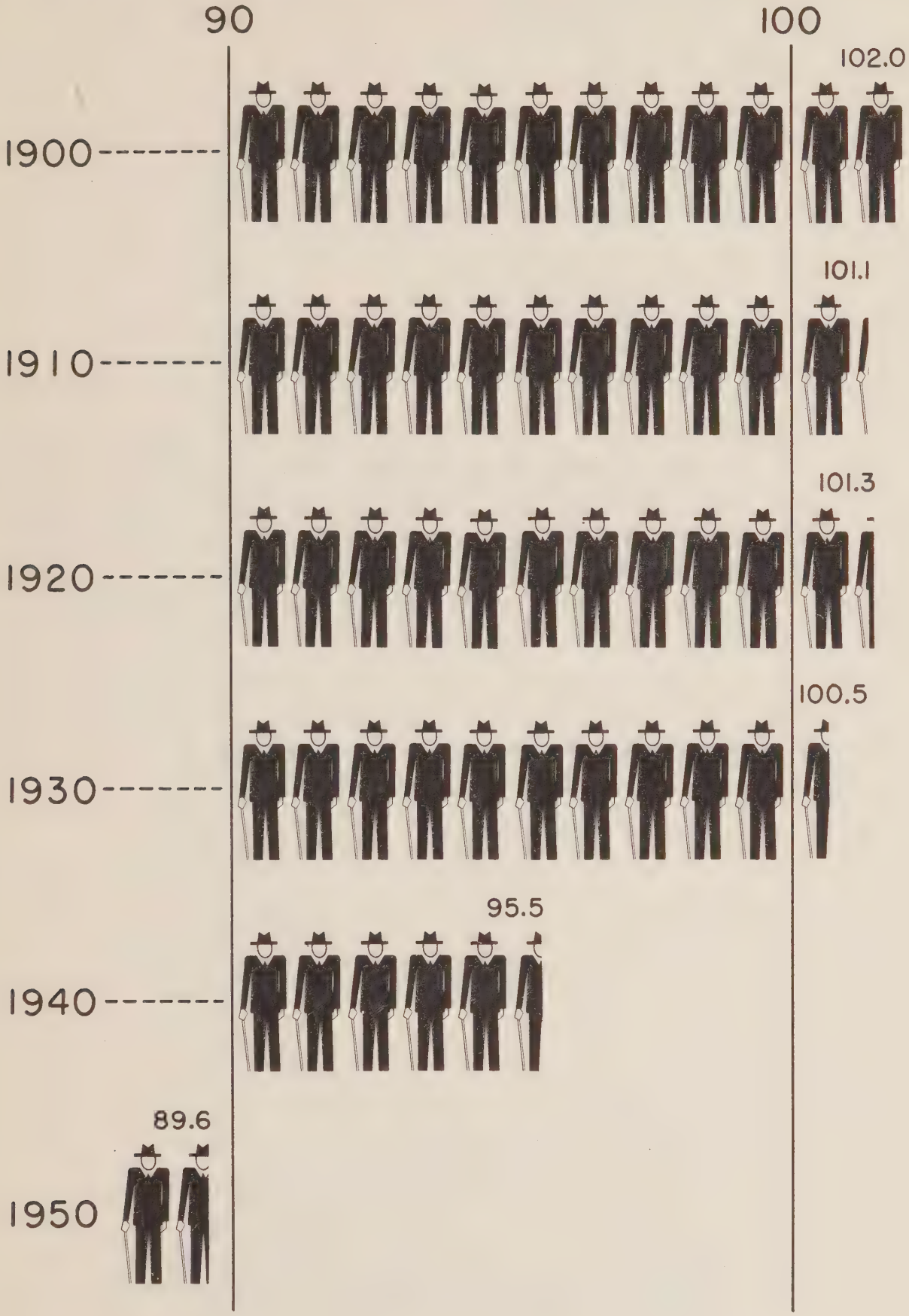
Chart 3

The observation that women are tougher than men seems to be borne out by the facts. In 1950 there were 90 men 65 years of age and over in the country for every 100 women in those ages. Fifty years earlier the advantage in numbers among older persons ran the other way--102 men for every 100 women. The trend toward more older women than men is the result primarily of a more rapid decline in female than in male mortality. More boy babies are born than girl babies, but since in every age class the male death rate is higher than the female death rate, the male superiority in numbers, in a given generation, doesn't last very long.

The fact that until 1930 there were more aged men than women is attributable in part to the relatively large number of men among the immigrants who came to this country in the heavy immigration of the decades prior to World War I.

AGED WOMEN OUTNUMBER AGED MEN

MEN PER 100 WOMEN (65 AND OVER)



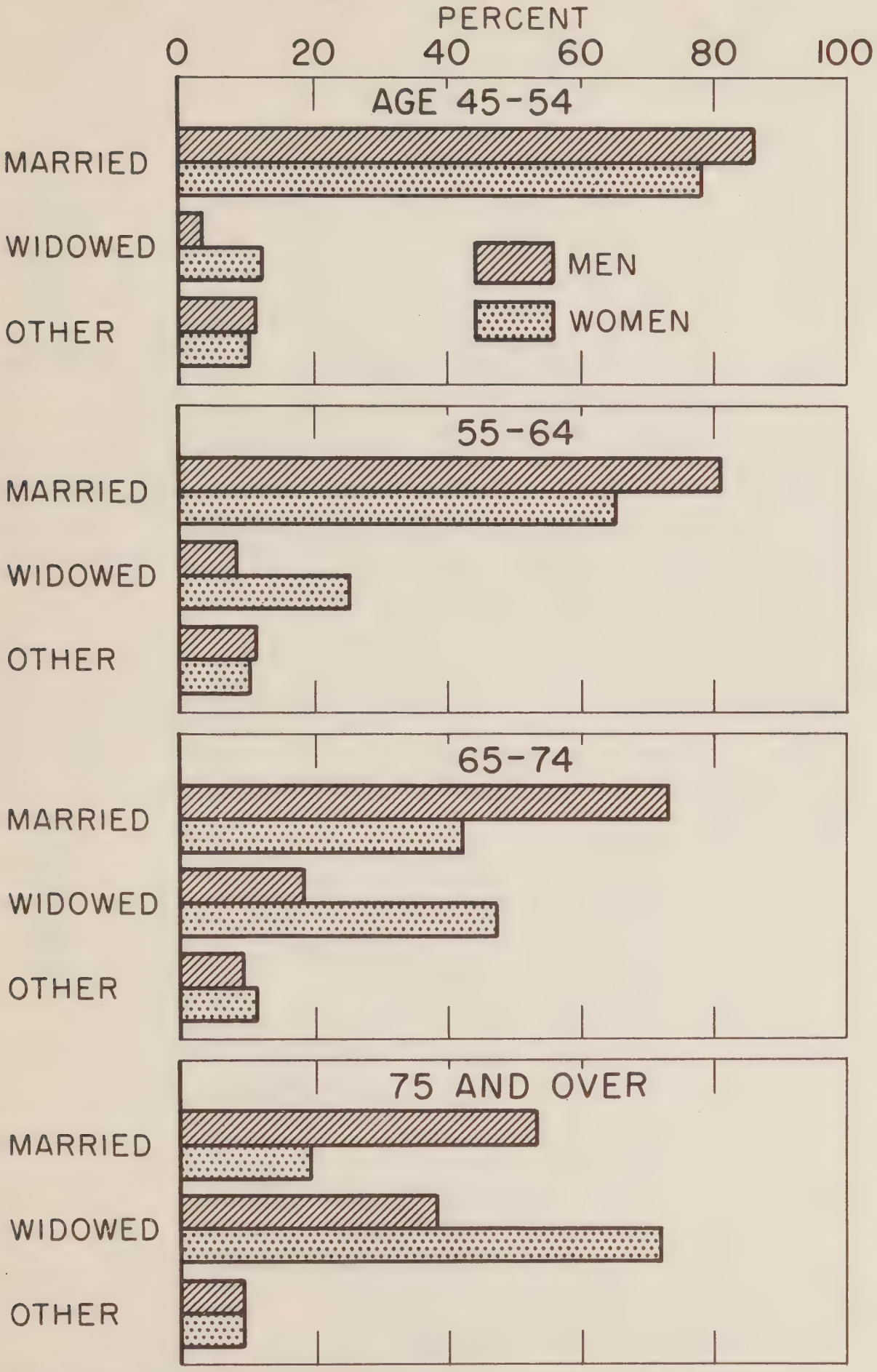
SOURCE: TABLE 4.

214360 O - 52 - 3

The typical older man is married, the typical older woman is a widow. Because women have a lower mortality rate than men, age for age, and tend to marry men older than themselves, relatively more women than men lose a spouse through death. Remarriage following death of spouse, furthermore, is more frequent among men than among women. By the time they reach 70, more than half of all women are widows. At that age, however, almost 3 in 4 men are still married. It is not until they are 85 years or so that a majority of men find themselves in a widowed state.

CHANGES IN MARITAL STATUS WITH AGE

PERCENT OF MEN AND WOMEN 45 AND OVER, 1947



SOURCE: TABLE 5.

Most older persons live in families; relatively few live alone; very few live in institutions.

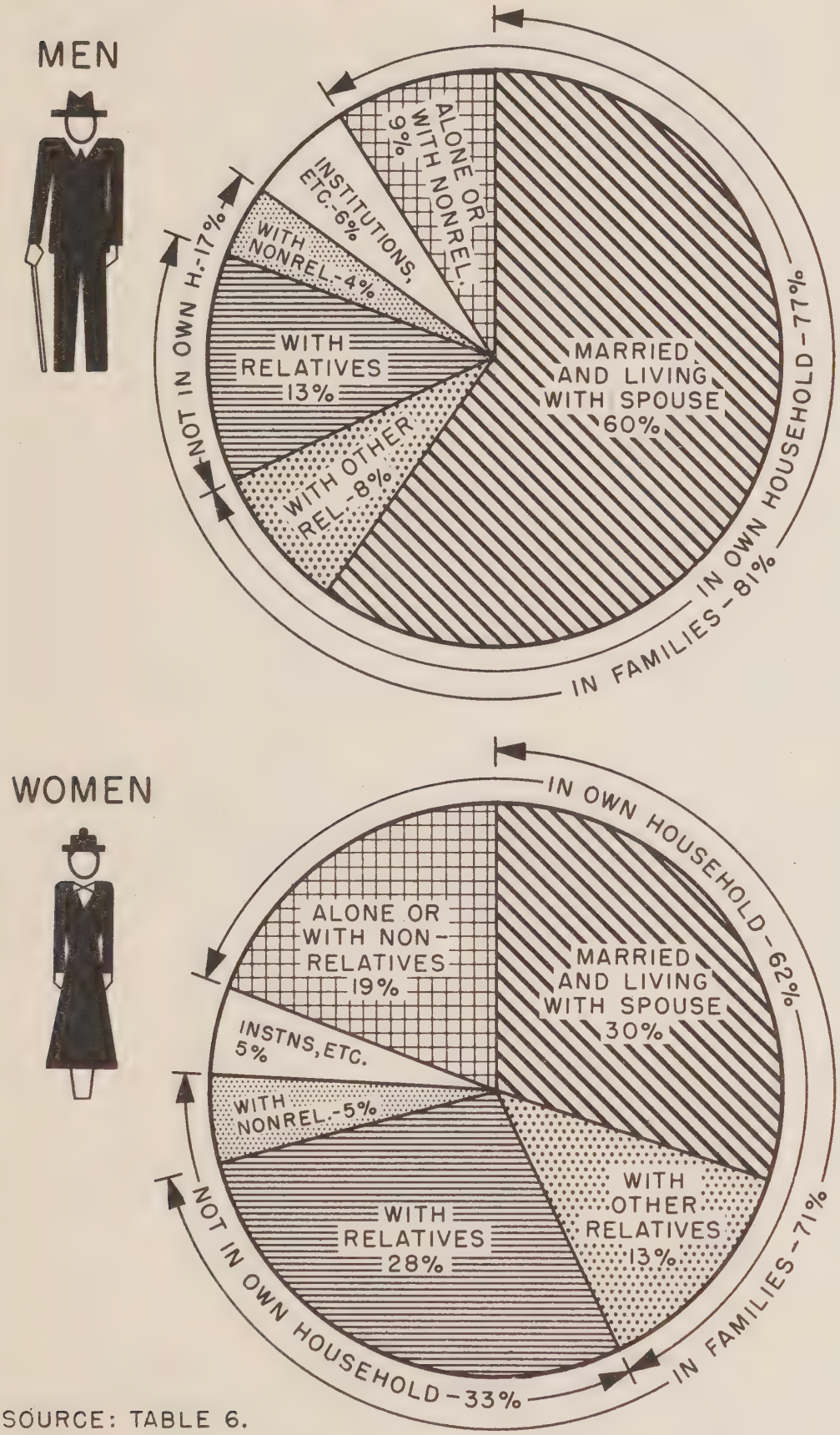
In 1950 almost 7 in 10 persons 65 years of age and over maintained households of their own. Such persons typically had a spouse or other relative living with them. Most of those who didn't have a household of their own were living in the homes of relatives.

Altogether a little less than one-fourth of the persons past 65 years were not living in a family setting. This group included about 14 percent with households of their own but no relative present, 4 percent living as roomers or boarders with nonrelatives, and 6 percent in hotels, large rooming houses, and institutions

MOST AGED LIVE IN FAMILIES

Chart 6

HOUSEHOLD RELATIONSHIPS OF MEN AND WOMEN 65 AND OVER, 1950



SOURCE: TABLE 6.

Families with an aged head are by and large low-income families. If he is still working, the family head is past his peak earning period. If he is retired, his retirement income tends to be low. A relatively large number of families with an aged head are dependent on old-age assistance.

In 1950 half the families with a head 65 years or over had a cash income below $2,000. Three in every 10 families with an aged head had less than $1,000 in income. In that year the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated that an aged retired couple living in a city would need from $1,600 to $1,900, depending upon the city of residence, to maintain an adequate level of living.

Older persons living alone tend to have smaller incomes than families with an older head. In 1950 half the persons aged 65 and over living alone or with nonrelatives had cash incomes below $650.

AGED HAVE LOW INCOMES

Chart 7

INCOME OF FAMILIES AND OF PERSONS LIVING ALONE, 1950

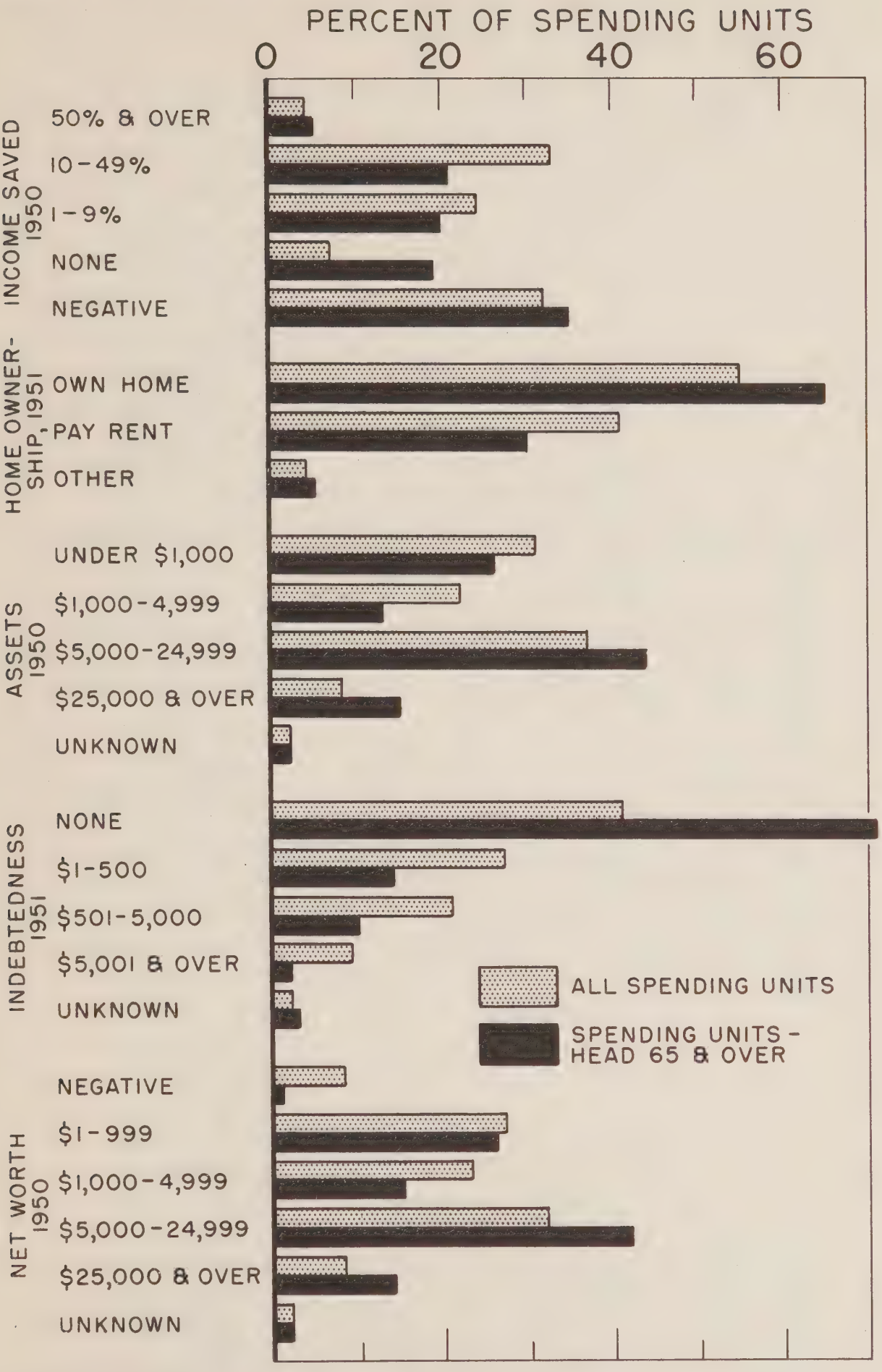


SOURCE: TABLES 7 AND 8.

Older persons save a smaller proportion of their income than persons in their early and middle adult years. On the other hand, their total indebtedness, including mortgages, tends to be smaller, while net worth, including the value of owned home, tends to be larger. These differences are related to changes in the spending-saving pattern with age. Older persons are past the period when relatively large debts are incurred as the result of the purchase of a home and the equipment and furnishings that go with it. They are no longer under the necessity to save a significant proportion of their income to amortize such debts, and to pay premiums on public or private insurance plans providing benefits in old age. Many have completed mortgage payments on their homes. Their household goods replacement needs are fewer because these get less wear with the children grown up and off on their own. Automobiles also seem to last longer. Income is smaller but less of it goes to pay off debts, more of it goes into food, fuel, and medical care.

AGED SAVE LESS - HAVE SMALLER DEBTS

Chart 8



SOURCE: TABLE II.

214360 O - 52 - 4

Among persons aged 65 years and over, as among other adults in the population, employment constitutes the most frequent source of income. Ranking second in frequency as a source of income is old-age and survivors insurance, followed by old-age assistance.

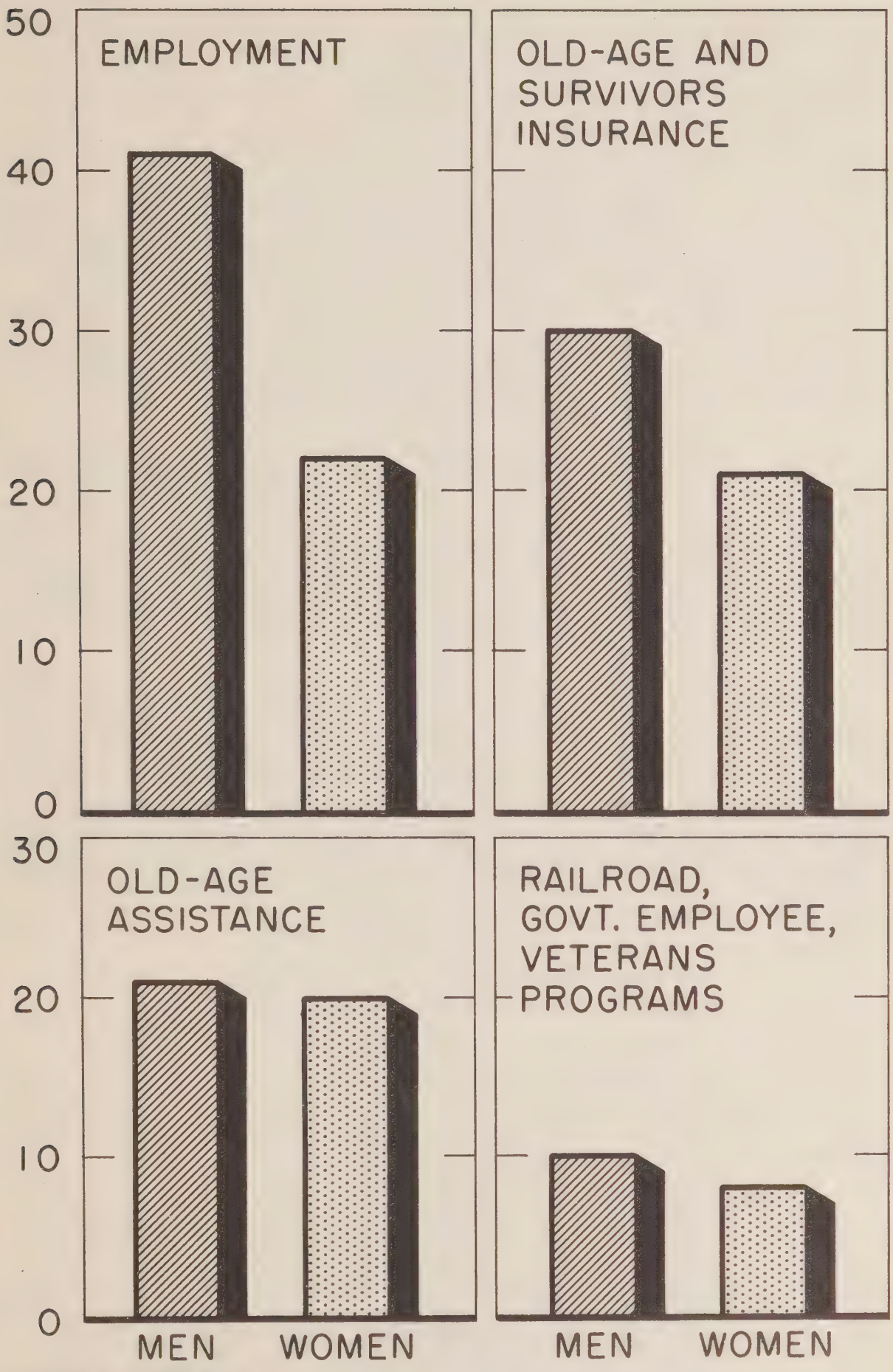
In December 1951 three in every 10 persons 65 years and over were in receipt of earnings either as earners or the wives of earners. Old-age and survivors insurance benefits were going to 25 percent, while 21 percent, including some insurance beneficiaries, were on old-age assistance. About 8 percent were benefiting from the special programs for retired railroad and government workers and for veterans. Perhaps 5 or 6 percent were receiving payments under private insurance and annuity contracts, and 3 percent under private retirement plans. Income from investments, and contributions from children and other relatives constituted sources of income for an unknown number of aged. A large group, primarily widowed women, had no cash income at all, and were living with and being supported by children and other relatives.

Some aged persons received income from two or more sources. Generally speaking the larger the aged person's income, the larger the number of sources from which it is derived.

The importance of these sources of income varied with age and size of income. By and large, persons past 75 years were more dependent upon social insurance benefits, annuities, public assistance and contributions from relatives, than persons in their late 60's or early 70's, more of whom depended on earnings. Earners tended to have higher incomes than retired persons with benefit or assistance income.

WHERE AGED GET THEIR INCOME

PERCENT OF PERSONS 65 AND OVER, DECEMBER 1951



SOURCE: TABLE 12.

About 7 out of 8 of the 60 million persons in paid civilian employment in the United States in December 1951 had coverage under a public program providing old-age benefits.

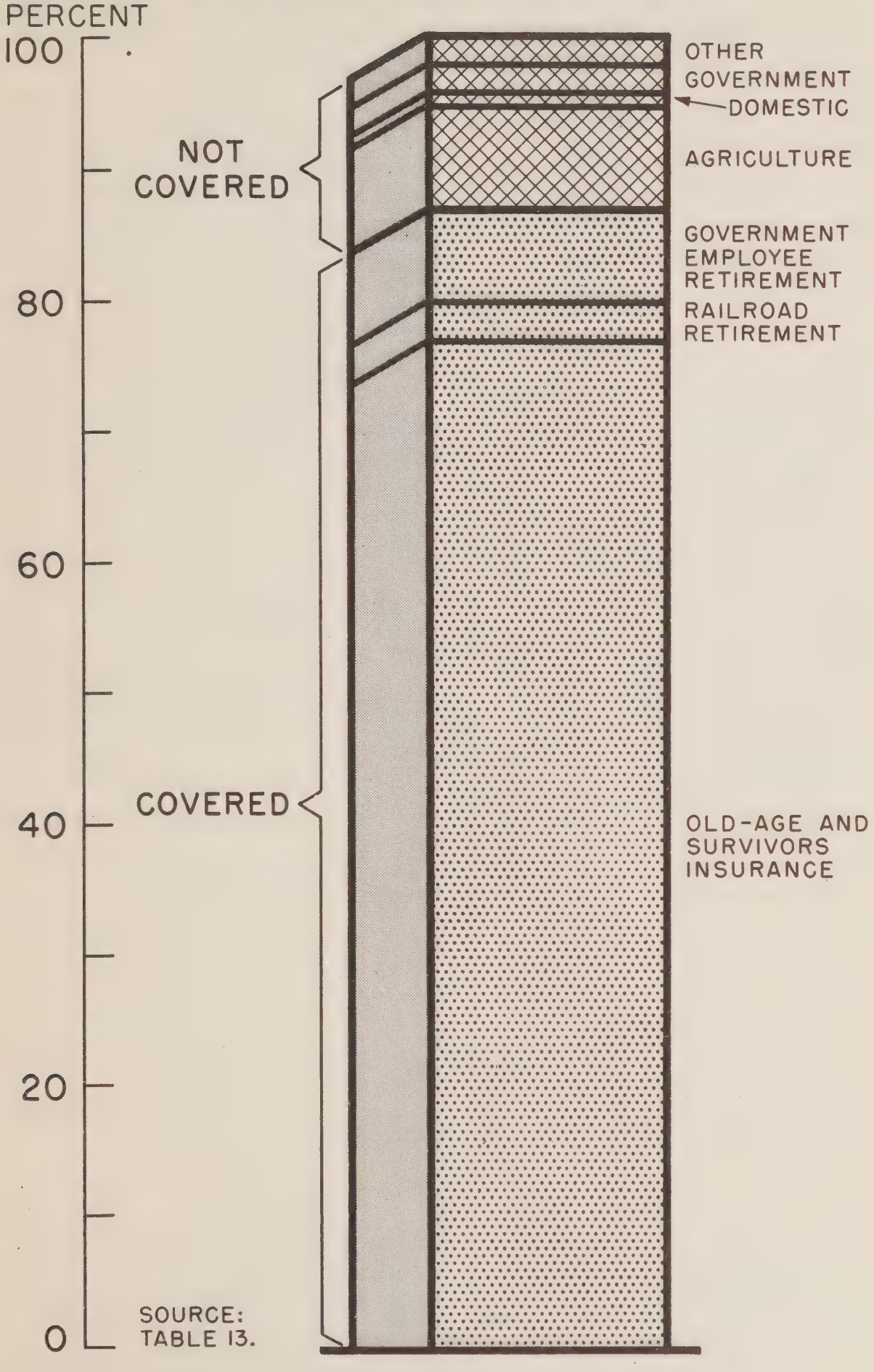
A little over 3 out of 4 were under old-age and survivors insurance. About 10 percent were under the special programs for railroad and government workers.

Eight million paid workers, or 1 in every 8, had no coverage under these programs. Nearly 5 million were farmers or irregularly employed farm wage workers not covered by OASI; another million worked for State and local governments with no retirement system, and still another million were irregularly employed domestic workers.

Around 10 million workers had jobs in concerns with private pension plans. Almost all were also covered by OASI or railroad retirement. Since nearly all private pension plans require from 10 to 25 years' service for benefits, it is difficult to say how many of these workers, in a mobile labor market, will draw benefits at the time of their retirement.

MOST WORKERS HAVE OLD-AGE PROTECTION

COVERAGE STATUS OF CIVILIAN WORKERS UNDER PUBLIC PROGRAMS, DECEMBER 1951



The long-time trend in the relative number of workers among older persons has been downward.

Between 1890 and 1940 the proportion of men 65 years of age and over in the labor force dropped from almost seven-tenths to a little over four-tenths. It rose somewhat during the tight labor market of the war and postwar years but at the end of 1951 was back to the 1940 level.

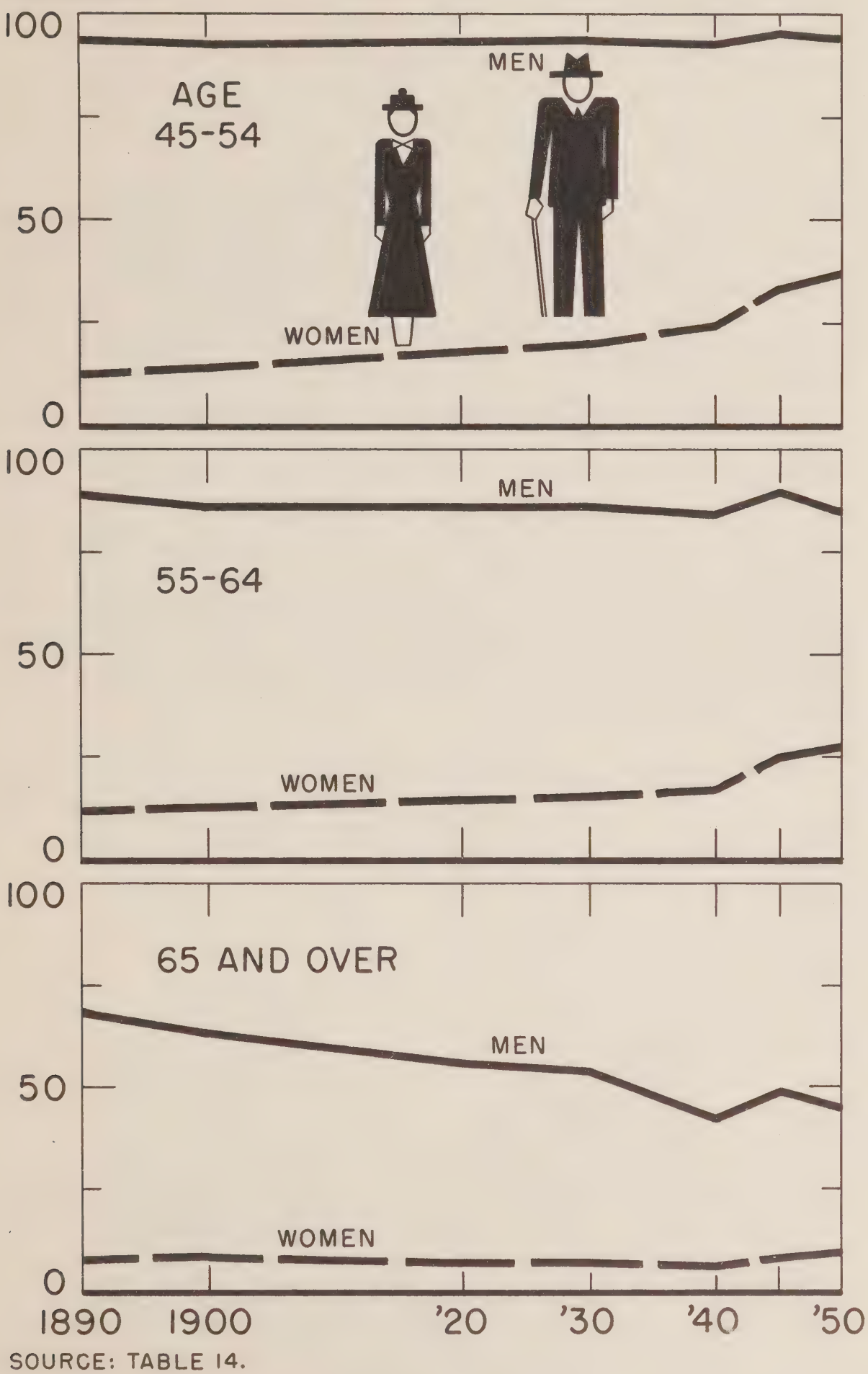
Responsible in large measure for the decline in the labor force participation rate has been the shrinking place of agriculture and self-employment generally in the national economy. Farmers and other self-employed persons are often able to continue working, at least on a part-time basis, well beyond the average retirement age. The increasing practice in industry and commerce, on the other hand, is to retire employees at a fixed age. With fewer farmers in the population, the opportunities for remaining at work in the older ages have steadily dwindled. The drop in the relative number of older workers reflects also, to some extent, increasing acceptance of the idea of voluntary retirement.

Labor force participation rates for men 45 to 64 years have changed little in the past 50 years. The rates for women of all ages have gone up, reflecting shifts in the kinds of jobs the economy has to offer, a reduction in the burden of housekeeping tasks as a result of the decrease in household size and the development of household appliances, and changing ideas concerning the propriety of married women working.

RELATIVE NUMBER OF AGED WORKERS IS SHRINKING

Chart 11

PERCENT OF MEN AND WOMEN IN LABOR FORCE



SOURCE: TABLE 14.

The decline over the past 50 years in opportunities for employment at the older ages has been paralleled by an increase in life expectancy. As a result the average number of years in retirement has lengthened.

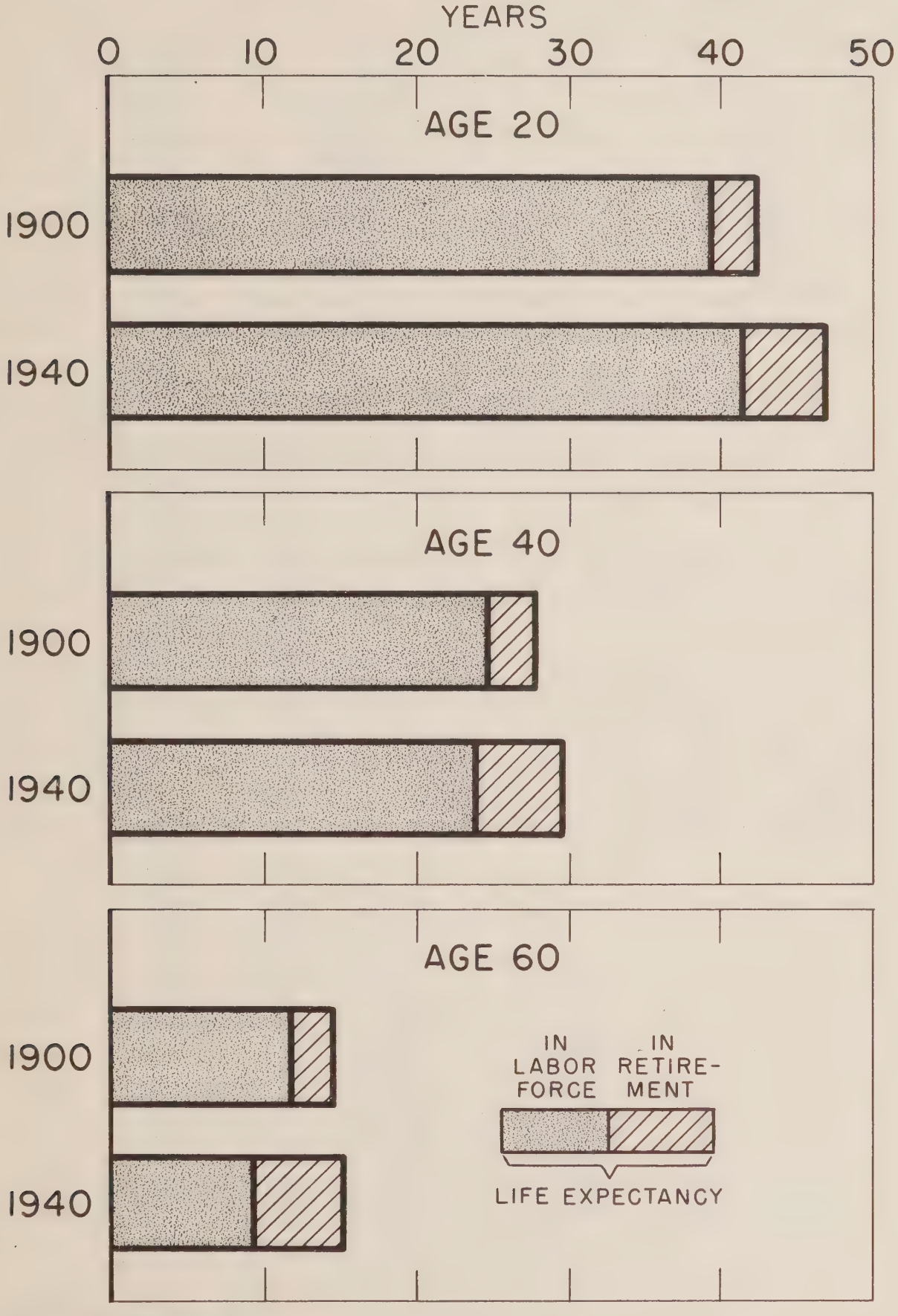
In 1900 the average white man of 40 could expect to live another 27.7 years, of which 24.5 would be spent in the labor force and 3.2 years in retirement. In 1940 the average white man of 40 could expect to live another 30.1 years, of which 24.2 would be spent in the labor force and 5.9 in retirement. Life expectancy had increased 2.4 years, but since working-life expectancy had declined three tenths of a year, the net gain in retirement expectancy was 2.7 years. The average retirement span for the man of 40, in other words, had nearly doubled.

The average man of 60, similarly, gained eight-tenths of a year in life expectancy between 1900 and 1940, against a decline of 2.3 years in working-life expectancy, resulting in a net increase in retirement expectancy of 3.1 years.

LONGER LIFE ADDS YEARS TO RETIREMENT

Chart 12

AVERAGE NUMBER OF REMAINING YEARS OF LIFE - MEN



SOURCE: TABLE 15.

214360 O - 52 - 5

Most employment past age 65 is concentrated in the 65 to 69 year old group.

More than half the men over 65 but under 70 were in the labor force in March 1952. This ratio drops to 4 in 10 among men 70 to 74 years and to less than 2 in 10 in the age group 75 years and over.

The proportion of aged women at work shrinks with advancing age, similarly, from 13 to 6 to 3 percent.

This decline with age in the relative number of workers is to be expected. What is remarkable is the fact that several hundred thousand men and women past 75 are still working. Most of them are able to do so because they are working for themselves (farmers, for instance) or, if employed by others, work part time.

SOME MEN AND WOMEN STILL WORK AT ADVANCED AGES

Chart 13

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES, MARCH 1952



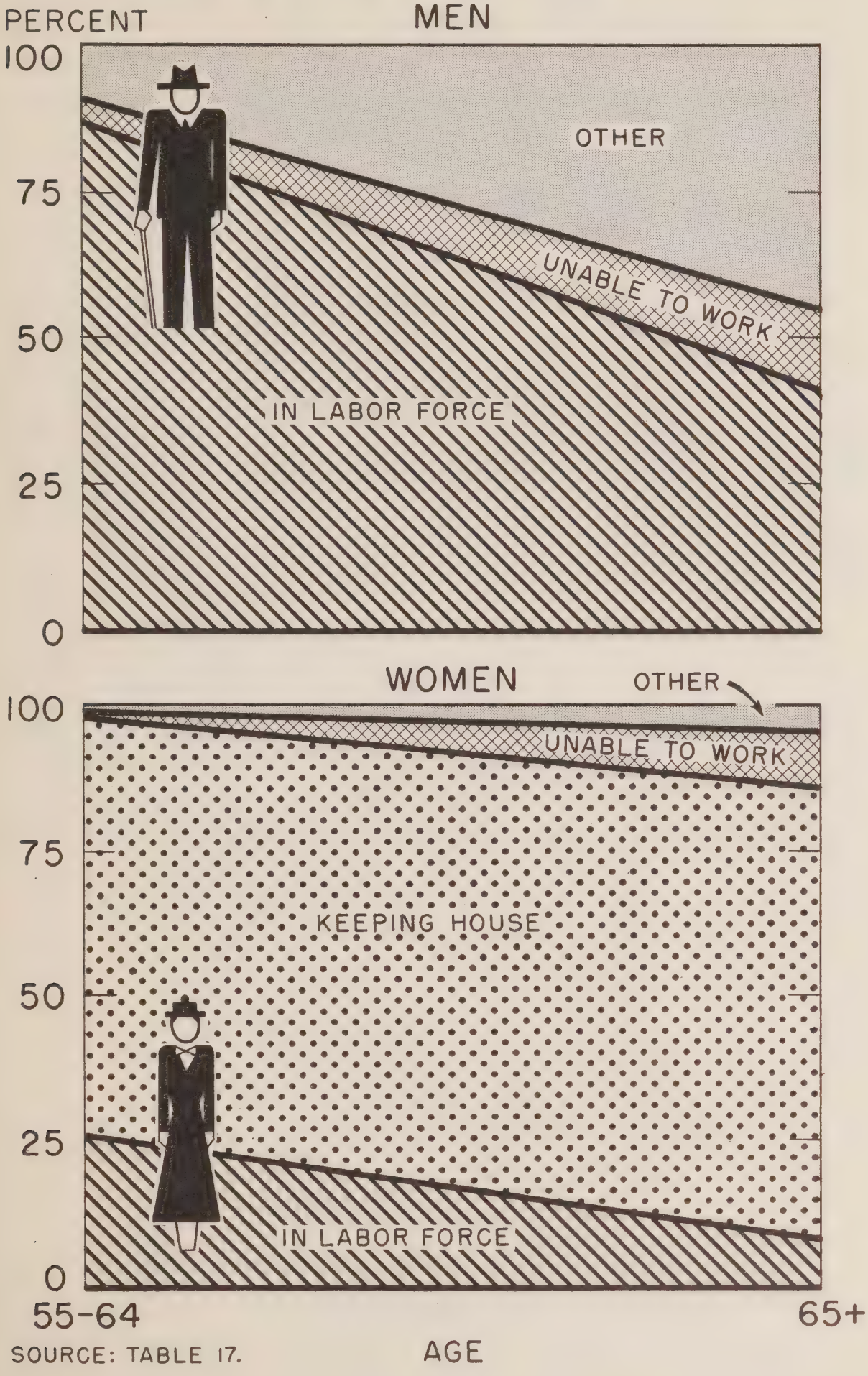
SOURCE: TABLE 16.

Among men disability is the most important reason for leaving the labor force. Since disability increases with age, it is not surprising that in March 1952 the proportion of men not in the labor force because they considered themselves unable to work increased from 4 percent among men 55 to 64 years to 14 percent among men 65 years and over. Special studies suggest that these proportions do not reflect the full extent to which illness and disability keep people from working. Men classified in the chart as not in the labor force for "other" reasons--9 percent in the group 55-64 years and 45 percent in the group 65 years and over--include persons who have been retired for age or disability, or who have chosen to retire for personal reasons. Not all of them are available for employment in the usual sense of that term.

Among older women, keeping house is the reason most frequently given for not working on a paid job.

NEARLY HALF OF ALL AGED MEN WORK

PERCENT OF MEN AND WOMEN BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS, MARCH 1952



SOURCE: TABLE 17.

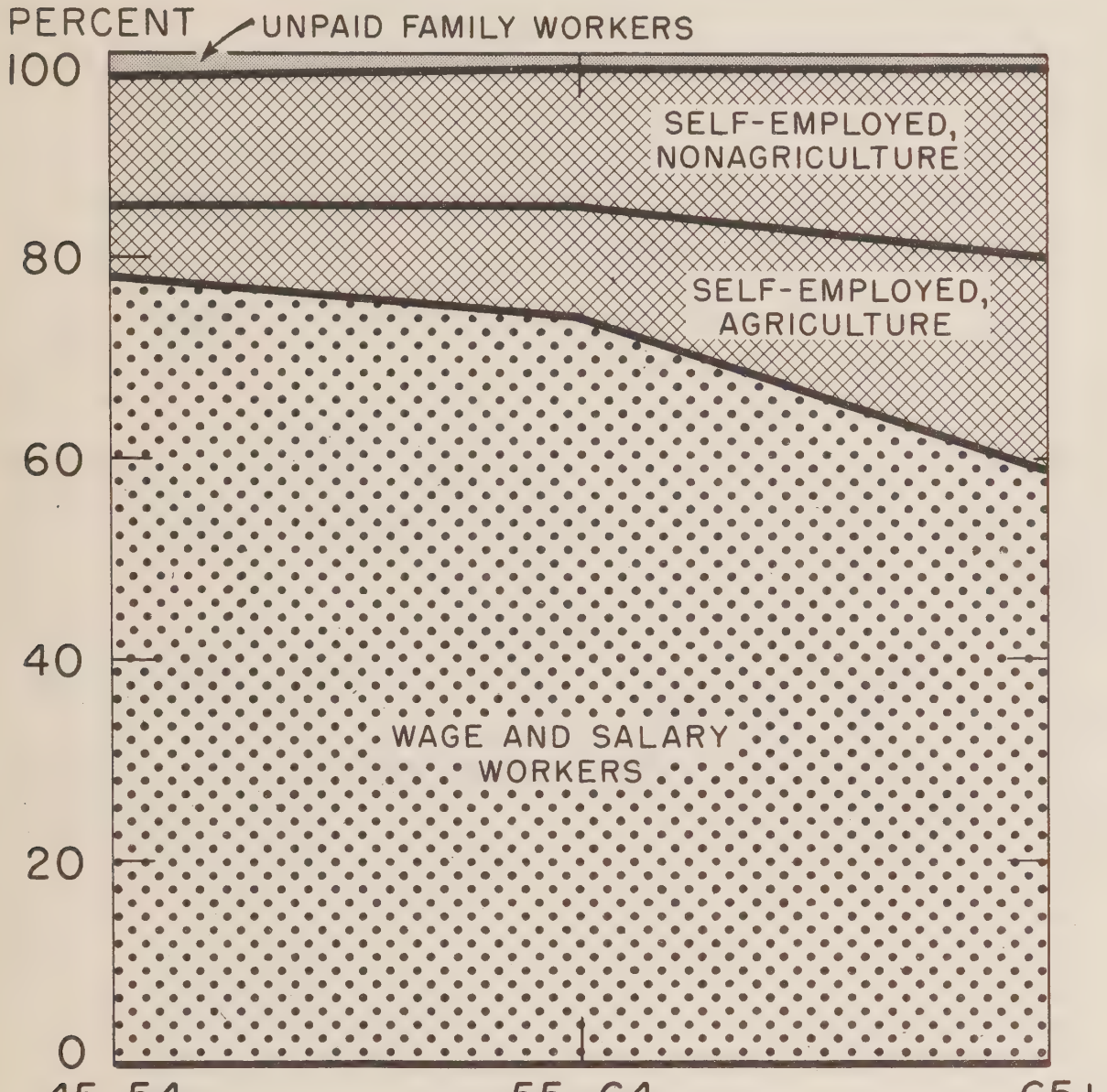
Older workers differ from younger workers, among other ways, in the relatively larger number who are self-employed. This is the product of two factors--some wage and salary workers go into business for themselves when they have accumulated sufficient capital, a process which may take years; and, secondly, self-employed persons, such as farmers, small businessmen, and members of the professions remain longer in gainful employment than wage and salary workers because they can control their own retirement.

In March 1952 more than half of all employed persons 65 years of age and over were wage and salary workers, but the self-employed group constituted 40 percent of the total as against 16 percent in the labor force as a whole. Data not illustrated in the chart indicate that the proportion of self-employed rises well over 50 percent among workers 75 years and over.

MANY AGED WORKERS ARE SELF-EMPLOYED

Chart 15

PERCENT EMPLOYED BY CLASS, MARCH 1952



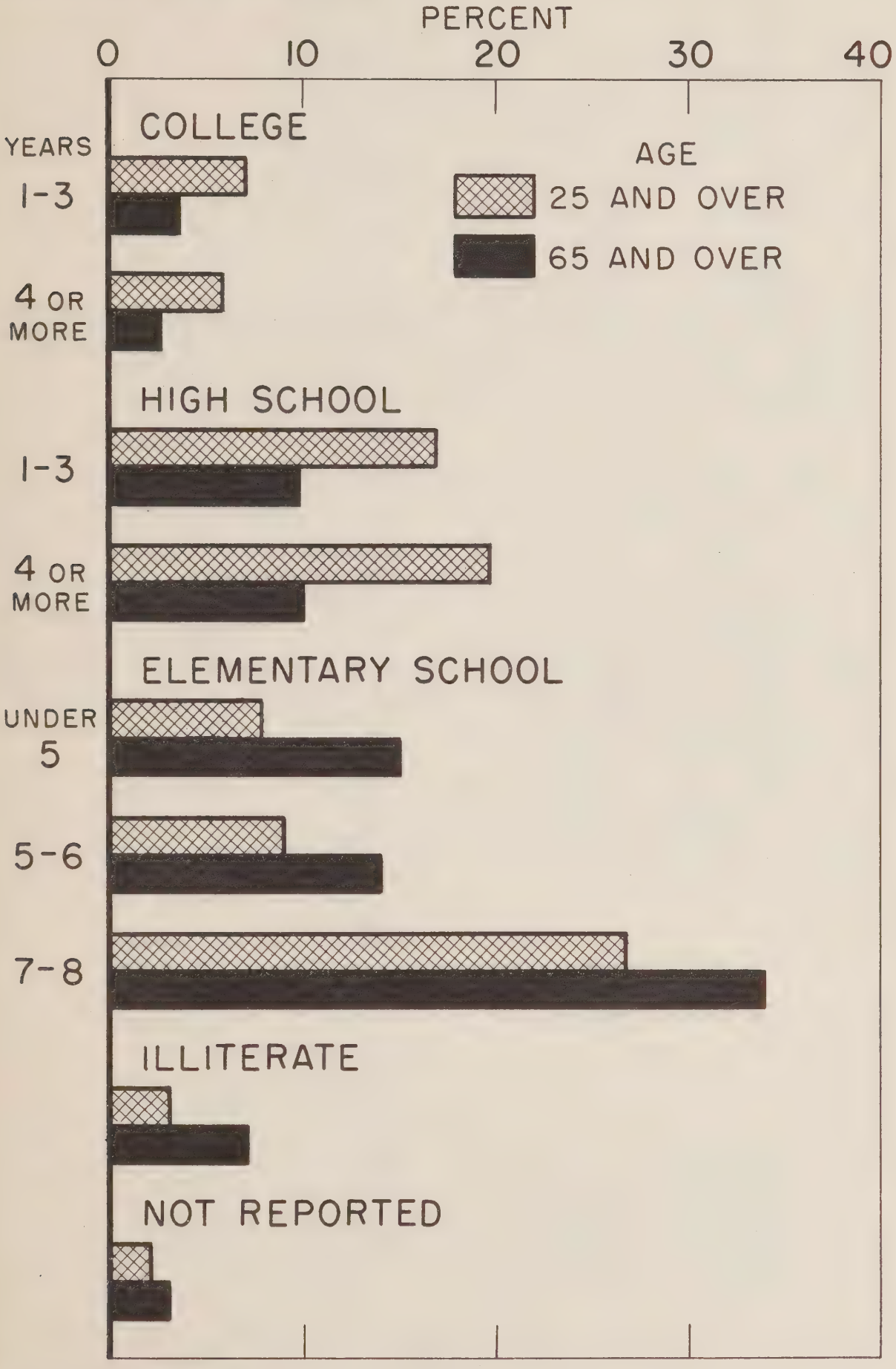
SOURCE: TABLE 18.

When grandfather was a boy, schooling did not have the importance it has since acquired. Not many boys and girls went on to high school, and higher education was for the select few.

About one in every five persons aged 65 years and over today has had less than 5 years of schooling; about half failed to complete 8 years of grade school. Only about a fourth have had any high school education; fewer than one in ten have ever gone to college.

AGED HAVE HAD LESS SCHOOLING

PERCENT OF PERSONS BY YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED, 1950



SOURCE: TABLE 21.

Over the past half century, the average life expectancy at birth has increased from slightly over 49 years to nearly 68 years--almost two decades. Here is the basic reason for the greater proportion of older people in our midst.

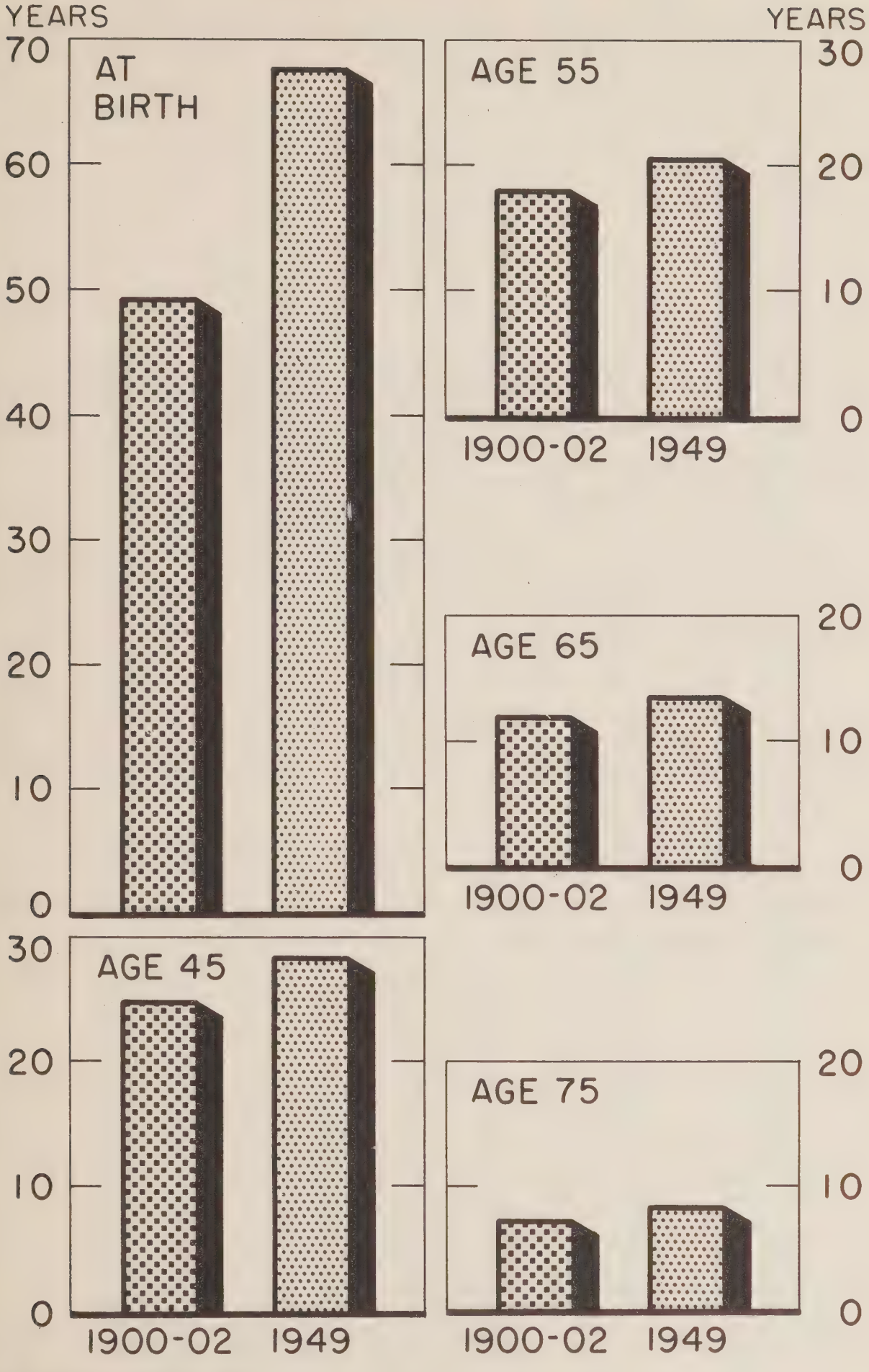
The improvement in life expectancy has been greatest at birth and decreases thereafter. While the individual, at age 45, may have a 3 1/2 years greater life expectancy than he had in 1900, by the time he reaches 60 only 2 years have been added and by 75 hardly more than one year. At 85 life expectancy today is no greater than it was 50 years ago. In other words, more people survive to older ages than did formerly, but having gotten there they do not live longer than did the older people of 1900.

At all ages, the life expectancy of women is greater than that of men. The difference is over 5 years at birth, and around 2 years at age 65.

WE LIVE LONGER

Chart 17

AVERAGE REMAINING YEARS OF LIFE



SOURCE: TABLE 22.

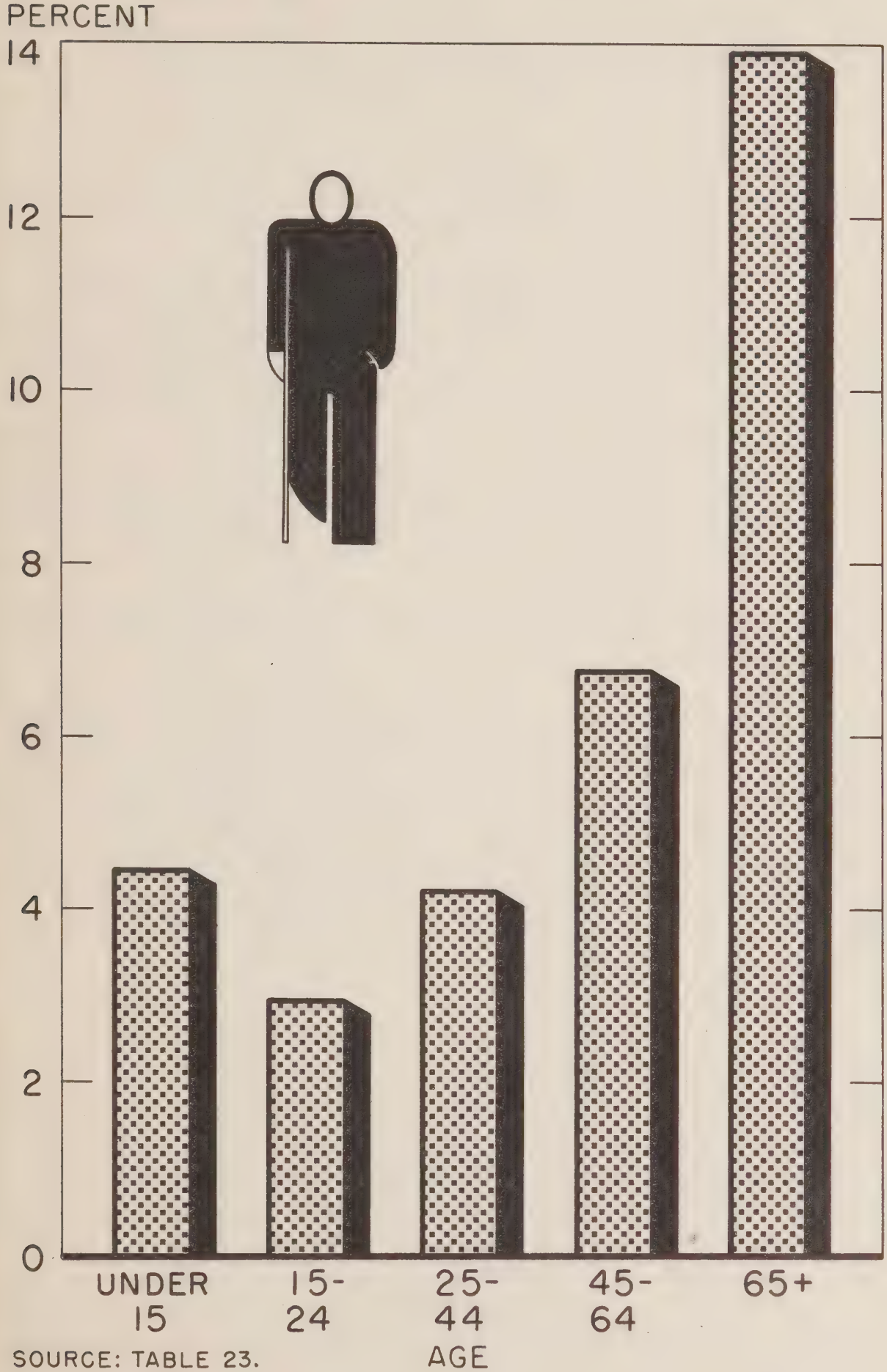
Illness is no respecter of age, but older persons are subject to more illness than others in the population. On any given day, one in every seven men and women aged 65 and over is disabled, and 4 out of 7 of these (8 percent of all aged persons) are disabled because of major chronic diseases or impairments. This disability rate is around two and a half times as large as that for the total population, while the relative number of persons with chronic conditions is about four times that for the population as a whole.

Such disability involved total incapacity to work at a job or to engage in normal household duties on the day of the interview. Disabilities of a less severe nature limit the activities of a very large proportion of other aged persons.

These figures are taken from the National Health Survey of 1935-36. Although some 17 years old, they are the most recent data we have on the subject, and are generally accepted as representative of the current situation.

DISABILITY INCREASES WITH AGE

PERCENT DISABLED ON DAY OF SURVEY,
8 CITIES, 1935-36



SOURCE: TABLE 23.

Among the more disabling conditions are blindness, deafness and loss of use of leg or arm.

According to the National Health Survey, the number of men with disabling orthopedic conditions increases from 6 per thousand in the ages 45 to 64 to 14 per thousand among men 65 to 74 years, and 21 per thousand among men 75 years and over.

The rate for these ages for total blindness rises similarly from 2 to 13 per thousand, and for total deafness from 1 to 9 per thousand.

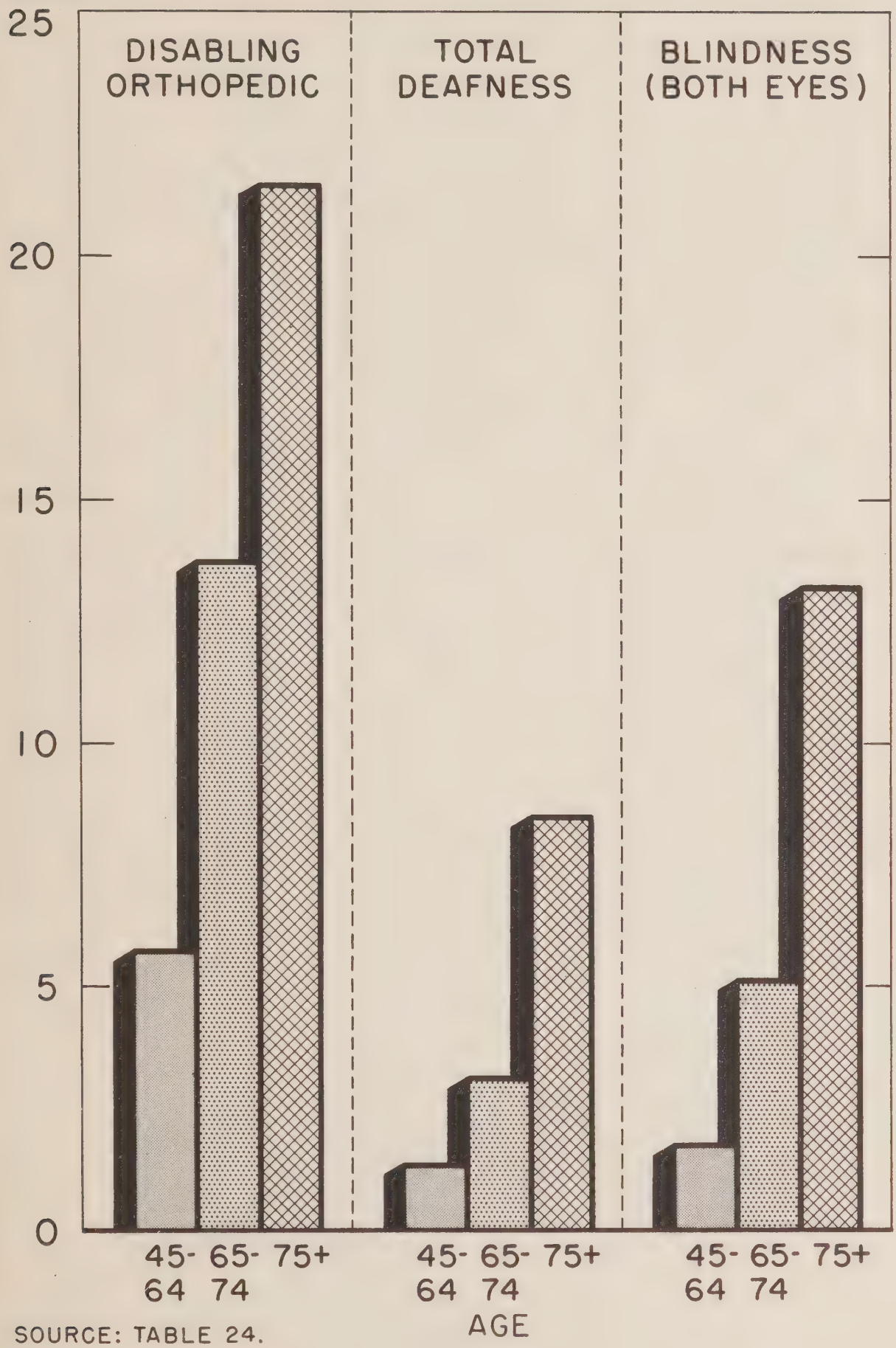
Impairments among women show the same progressive increase with age.

Nondisabling orthopedic conditions, partial deafness and blindness in one eye are more frequently encountered than the major impairments. Information from the National Health Survey suggests that about 33 in every thousand men 75 years and over are likely to be blind in one eye, 81 per thousand are likely to have a nondisabling orthopedic condition, while 175 per thousand are likely to be partially deaf.

MAJOR IMPAIRMENTS INCREASE WITH AGE

Chart 19

RATE PER 1,000 MEN



SOURCE: TABLE 24.

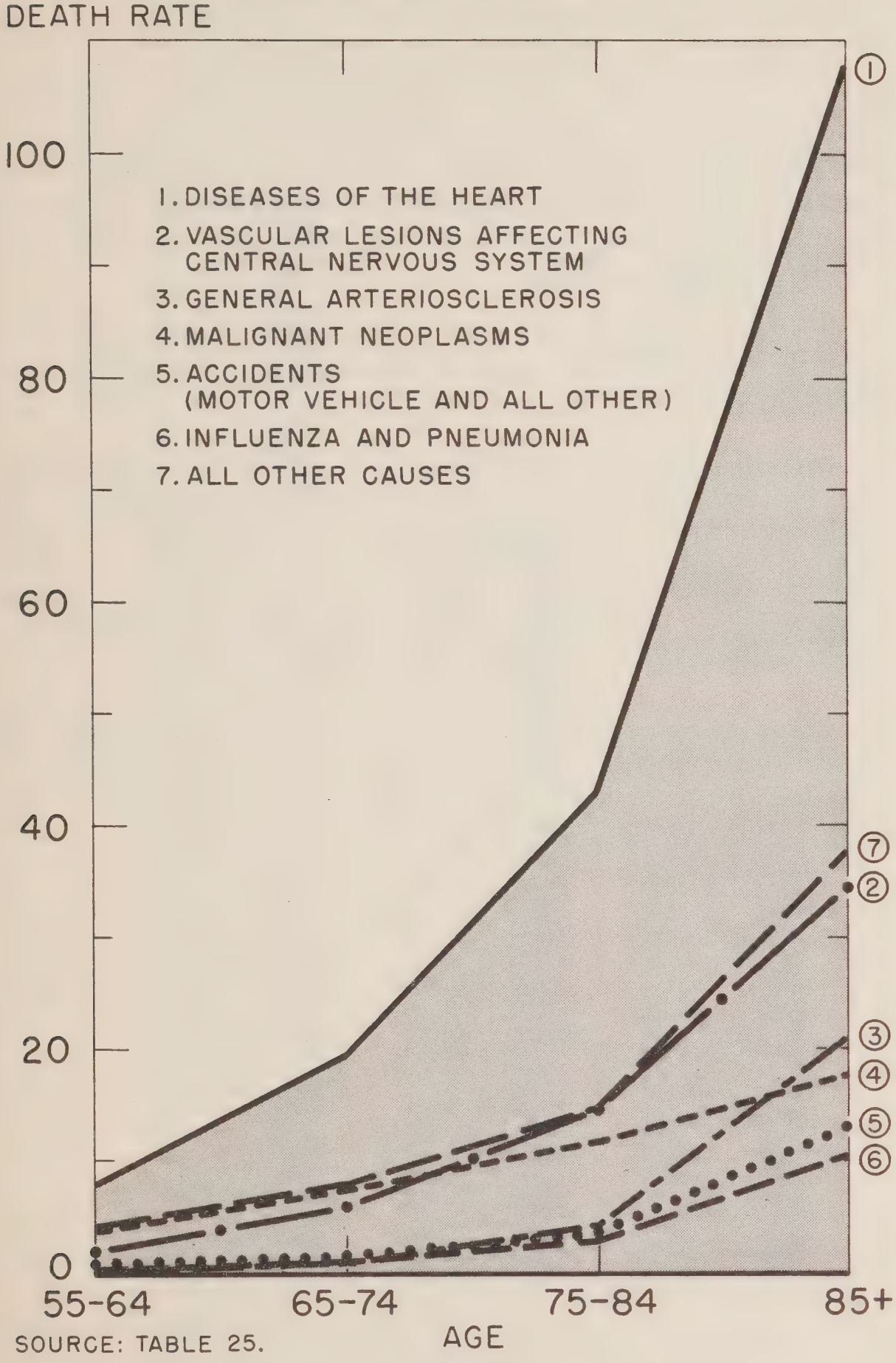
Chronic diseases are the leading causes of death in the older ages.

Heart disease is responsible for almost half the deaths among persons 65 years and over. Other important causes of death in this group are cancer (malignant neoplasms in chart), cerebral hemorrhages (vascular lesions, etc. in chart) and hardening of the arteries (general arteriosclerosis in chart).

CHRONIC DISEASE IS LEADING KILLER OF AGED

Chart 20

DEATH RATES PER 1,000 PERSONS, 1949



SOURCE: TABLE 25.

Although older persons are more frequently ill than others in the population, they have less money to buy medical care and fewer opportunities to obtain such care on a prepaid basis.

At the beginning of 1952 about 1 in 4 persons 65 years of age and over had some protection against the cost of hospital care through membership in a Blue Cross or independent plan or because he held a commercial accident and health policy. The corresponding ratio in the general population was a little over 1 in 2.

Similar information on the coverage of prepaid medical care or surgical care is not available, but the evidence suggests that it is smaller than that for hospital care plans.

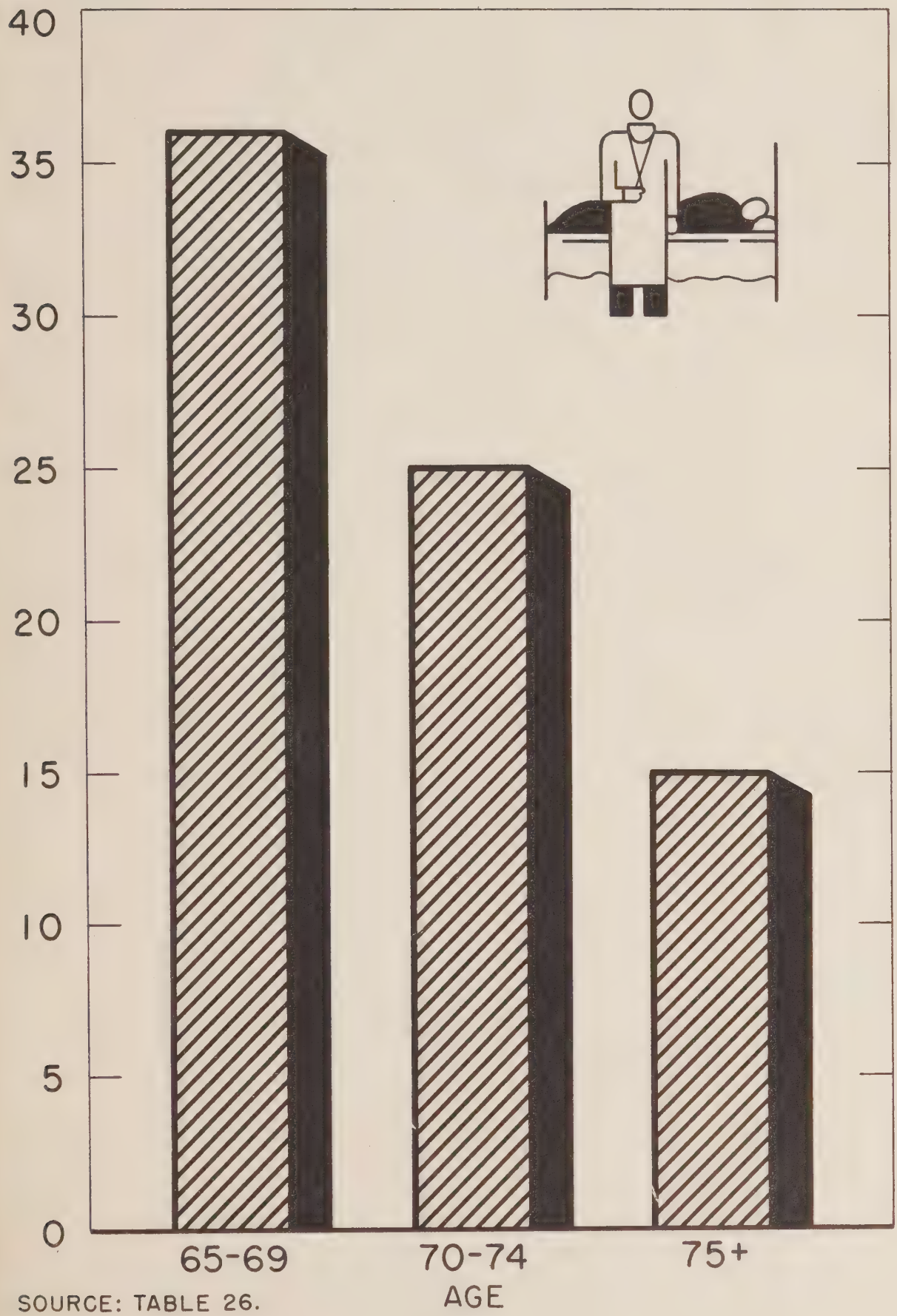
The infrequency of prepaid care among older persons is due to a variety of causes. Enrollment methods rely heavily on group enrollment, usually at place of employment. Most older persons, particularly women, are no longer at work and are therefore not reached by group enrollment. Some prepaid plans, furthermore, either limit the number of older persons enrolled, or exclude them altogether.

Older persons are also at a disadvantage in the purchase of individually written commercial policies. Some of these policies are cancellable at the older ages. Others require such high premiums that not many can afford them.

FEW AGED HAVE PROTECTION AGAINST MEDICAL CARE COSTS

Chart 21

PERCENT WITH HOSPITAL CARE INSURANCE, MARCH 1952



SOURCE: TABLE 26.

Table 1.--Total population, and population 45 years of age and over, by age, United States: 1900 - 1950

Year	Total population		Population 45 to 64 years		Population 65 years and over		
	Number	Percent increase since 1900	Number	Percent increase since 1900	Number	Percent increase since 1900	As percent of total population
1900.....	75,994,575	--	10,399,976	--	3,080,498	--	4.1
1910.....	91,972,266	21	13,424,089	29	3,949,524	28	4.3
1920.....	105,710,620	39	17,030,165	64	4,933,215	60	4.7
1930.....	122,775,046	61	21,414,981	106	6,633,805	115	5.4
1940.....	131,669,275	73	26,084,276	151	9,019,314	192	6.8
1950.....	150,697,361	98	30,515,900	193	12,271,178	298	8.1

Source: Bureau of the Census, 16th Census of the United States, *Population*, Vol. II, Part 1, table 8; 1950 *Census of Population, Advance Reports*, Series PC-9, No. 1; unpublished data. Figures on the number of persons 45 to 64 years and 65 years of age and over for 1950 are preliminary and subject to correction.

Table 2.--Population 65 years of age and over, as a percent of total population, by State: 1950

State	Percent	State	Percent	State	Percent
United States.....	8.1				
Alabama.....	6.5	Louisiana.....	6.6	North Dakota....	7.8
Arizona.....	5.9	Maine.....	10.2	Ohio.....	8.9
Arkansas.....	7.8	Maryland.....	7.0	Oklahoma.....	8.7
California.....	8.5	Massachusetts...	10.0	Oregon.....	8.7
Colorado.....	8.7	Michigan.....	7.2	Pennsylvania....	8.4
Connecticut.....	8.8	Minnesota.....	9.0	Rhode Island....	8.9
Delaware.....	8.3	Mississippi.....	7.0	South Carolina..	5.4
District of Columbia.....	7.1	Missouri.....	10.3	South Dakota....	8.5
Florida.....	8.6	Montana.....	8.6	Tennessee.....	7.1
Georgia.....	6.4	Nebraska.....	9.8	Texas.....	6.7
Idaho.....	7.4	Nevada.....	6.9	Utah.....	6.2
Illinois.....	8.7	New Hampshire...	10.9	Vermont.....	10.5
Indiana.....	9.2	New Jersey.....	8.1	Virginia.....	6.5
Iowa.....	10.4	New Mexico.....	4.9	Washington.....	8.9
Kansas.....	10.2	New York.....	8.5	West Virginia...	6.9
Kentucky.....	8.0	North Carolina..	5.5	Wisconsin.....	9.0
				Wyoming.....	6.3

Source: Bureau of the Census, 1950 Census of Population, Advance Reports, Series PC-9, No. 1 and unpublished data.

Table 3.--Percent change in total population and in population 65 years of age and over, by State: 1940-1950

State	Total population	Population 65 years of age and over	State	Total population	Population 65 years of age and over
United States...	14.5	36.1			
Alabama.....	8.1	45.8	Nebraska.....	0.7	23.4
Arizona.....	50.1	85.1	Nevada.....	45.2	61.6
Arkansas.....	-2.0	38.9	New Hampshire....	8.5	18.8
California.....	53.3	61.2	New Jersey.....	16.2	41.3
Colorado.....	18.0	33.7	New Mexico.....	28.1	42.0
Connecticut.....	17.4	37.6	New York.....	10.0	36.5
Delaware.....	19.4	28.0	North Carolina...	13.7	43.9
Dist. of Columbia....	21.0	37.9	North Dakota.....	-3.5	22.4
Florida.....	46.1	81.0	Ohio.....	15.0	31.4
Georgia.....	10.3	38.4	Oklahoma.....	-4.4	33.8
Idaho.....	12.1	37.3	Oregon.....	39.6	43.5
Illinois.....	10.3	32.8	Pennsylvania.....	6.0	30.9
Indiana.....	14.8	25.3	Rhode Island.....	11.0	29.7
Iowa.....	3.3	19.9	South Carolina...	11.4	41.4
Kansas.....	5.8	23.6	South Dakota.....	1.5	24.4
Kentucky.....	3.5	24.1	Tennessee.....	12.9	36.8
Louisiana.....	13.5	48.6	Texas.....	20.2	47.8
Maine.....	7.9	16.5	Utah.....	25.2	40.4
Maryland.....	28.6	32.4	Vermont.....	5.2	14.6
Massachusetts.....	8.7	27.0	Virginia.....	23.9	38.5
Michigan.....	21.2	39.5	Washington.....	37.0	46.5
Minnesota.....	6.8	26.7	West Virginia....	5.4	37.2
Mississippi.....	-0.2	32.5	Wisconsin.....	9.5	28.0
Missouri.....	4.5	25.1	Wyoming.....	15.9	44.6
Montana.....	5.6	40.3			

Source: Bureau of the Census, *1950 Census of Population, Advance Reports*, Series PC-9, No. 1; *Current Population Reports, Population Estimates*, Series P-25, No. 37, and unpublished data.

A minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

Table 4.--Number of persons 65 years of age and over, by sex, United States: 1900-1950

Year	Persons 65 years of age and over		
	Men	Women	Men per 100 women
1900.....	1,555,418	1,525,080	102.0
1910.....	1,985,976	1,963,548	101.1
1920.....	2,483,071	2,450,144	101.3
1930.....	3,325,211	3,308,594	100.5
1940.....	4,406,120	4,613,194	95.5
1950.....	5,797,404	6,473,774	89.6

Source: Same as Table 1.

Table 5.--Marital status of persons 45 years of age and over, by age and sex: 1947

Sex and marital status	Age group			
	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over
Men	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Married	85.7	81.3	73.4	53.1
Wife present	82.5	77.9	70.4	49.5
Wife absent	3.2	3.4	3.0	3.6
Widowed	3.2	7.8	17.7	37.7
Divorced	2.0	1.9	1.3	.8
Single	9.1	9.0	7.7	8.4
Women	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Married	77.5	65.3	42.2	19.3
Husband present	73.9	62.8	40.2	17.6
Husband absent	3.6	2.5	2.0	1.7
Widowed	12.2	25.3	47.1	71.9
Divorced	2.4	1.8	1.3	.5
Single	7.9	7.5	9.4	8.4

Source: Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Population Characteristics*, Series P-20, No. 10, Table 1.

Table 6.--Household relationships of persons 65 years of age and over, by sex: 1950

Type of household and household relationships	Total	Men	Women
Total	100	100	100
In households	94	94	95
Own household	69	77	62
Married and living with spouse	44	60	30
Living with relatives other than spouse	11	8	13
Living alone, or with nonrelatives	14	9	19
Not in own household	26	17	33
Living with relatives	21	13	28
Living with nonrelatives	4	4	4
In quasi-households	6	6	5
Total	100	100	100
In families (1 or more relatives present)	76	80	71
Not in families (no relative present)	24	20	29

Source: Estimated by Social Security Administration from unpublished data of the Bureau of the Census.

Definitions: The terms household, quasi-household and family are used in this table as defined in 1950 by the Bureau of the Census. A *household* includes all of the persons who occupy a house, an apartment or other group of rooms, or a room that constitutes a dwelling unit. It includes the related family members and also the unrelated persons, if any, such as lodgers, maids or hired hands who share the dwelling unit. A person living alone or a group of unrelated persons sharing the same living accommodations as partners is counted as a household. A *quasi-household* is a dwelling place occupied as an institution, transient hotel, a large rooming house, a school, a vessel or a military, labor or trailer camp. A *family* is a group of 2 or more persons related by blood, marriage or adoption and residing together. (*Current Population Reports, Population Characteristics*, Series P-20, No. 33.)

Table 7.--Income of all families and of families with heads 55 years of age and over, by age of head: 1950

Income	All families	Age of head of family	
		55-64	65 and over
Number.....	39,822,000	6,334,000	4,798,000
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under $500.....	5.8	6.6	14.7
$500 to $999.....	5.7	6.1	15.7
$1,000 to $1,499.....	6.2	7.1	12.6
$1,500 to $1,999.....	7.0	7.5	8.6
$2,000 to $2,499.....	8.9	9.3	8.8
$2,500 to $2,999.....	8.9	8.5	7.0
$3,000 to $3,499.....	11.7	9.7	7.4
$3,500 to $3,999.....	9.0	7.1	4.1
$4,000 to $4,499.....	7.9	7.2	3.8
$4,500 to $4,999.....	5.7	6.1	2.6
$5,000 to $5,999.....	9.0	7.1	4.4
$6,000 to $6,999.....	5.2	5.4	2.6
$7,000 to $9,999.....	5.8	7.7	4.5
$10,000 and over.....	3.3	4.8	3.2

Source: Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Consumer Income*, Series P-60, No. 9.

Definitions: A *family* is a group of 2 or more persons related by blood, marriage or adoption and residing together. The *income* referred to in this table is money income received by family members in 1950 from wages or salary, net earnings from self-employment, interest, dividends, rents, social insurance and related programs, public assistance, private assistance and contributions. Income as defined here excludes money receipts from the following sources: withdrawals from bank deposits, loans, tax refunds, gifts, lump-sum inheritances or insurance payments, and income derived from sale of assets. It excludes also income in kind, such as the value of home-grown food, free housing, and contributions of food or clothing.

Table 8.--Income of persons living alone or with nonrelatives, by age: 1950

Income	Age		
	14 and over	55-64	65 and over
Number.....	9,194,000	1,876,000	2,480,000
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under $500.....	27.8	26.7	39.1
$500 to $999.....	21.3	19.9	37.4
$1,000 to $1,499.....	10.4	11.9	9.4
$1,500 to $1,999.....	8.4	10.2	3.5
$2,000 to $2,499.....	9.3	9.4	3.4
$2,500 to $2,999.....	7.1	4.9	1.9
$3,000 to $3,499.....	6.4	8.1	1.5
$3,500 to $3,999.....	3.8	3.3	0.6
$4,000 to $4,499.....	1.9	1.1	0.5
$4,500 to $4,999.....	1.2	1.6	0.1
$5,000 to $5,999.....	1.2	1.4	0.7
$6,000 to $6,999.....	0.4	0.6	0.3
$7,000 to $9,999.....	0.6	0.5	1.1
$10,000 and over.....	0.4	0.4	0.5

Source: Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Consumer Income*, Series P-60, No. 9.

Definitions: The individuals included in this table are either living alone or are living in households with no relative present. Income is defined as in Table 7.

Table 9.--Median income of families, by age of head, and of unrelated individuals, by age: 1950

Age of family head or of unrelated individual	Median income	
	Of family	Of unrelated individual
Total.....	$3,319	$1,045
14-24.....	2,613	832
25-34.....	3,365	2,148
35-44.....	3,644	2,078
45-54.....	3,684	1,701
55-64.....	3,258	1,144
65 and over.....	1,903	646

Source: Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Consumer Income*, Series P-60, No. 9.

Definitions: The terms *family* and *income* are used here as defined in Table 7. *Unrelated individuals* are persons living alone or in households with no relative present. *Median income* is the amount of money received by the family or unrelated individual, as the case may be, to be found in the middle of a grouping of families or unrelated individuals by size of income. In other words, half the families received more than the median income, half received less than the median. Median income is not the same as mean (sometimes called "average") income, which is obtained by adding up all the income received and dividing by the number of families or unrelated individuals. In most income distributions, mean income tends to be larger than median income.

Table 10.--Dollar and relative costs of elderly couple's total budget, housing and other goods and services, 34 cities: October 1950

City and State	Dollar costs			Relative differences (Washington, D. C. = 100)		
	Total budget	Housing[1]	Other goods and services	Total budget	Housing[1]	Other goods and services
Atlanta, Ga.	$1,748	$582	$1,166	94	87	98
Baltimore, Md.	1,779	603	1,176	95	90	99
Birmingham, Ala.	1,772	607	1,165	95	90	98
Boston, Mass.	1,880	640	1,240	101	95	104
Buffalo, N. Y.	1,698	534	1,164	91	80	98
Chicago, Ill.	1,818	578	1,240	98	86	104
Cincinnati, Ohio	1,650	485	1,165	89	72	98
Cleveland, Ohio	1,805	590	1,215	97	88	102
Denver, Colo.	1,746	577	1,169	94	86	98
Detroit, Mich.	1,818	573	1,245	98	85	104
Houston, Tex.	1,855	670	1,185	100	100	99
Indianapolis, Ind.	1,746	569	1,177	94	85	99
Jacksonville, Fla.	1,795	621	1,174	96	93	98
Kansas City, Mo.	1,687	507	1,180	91	76	99
Los Angeles, Calif.	1,866	605	1,261	100	90	106
Manchester, N. H.	1,737	550	1,187	93	82	100
Memphis, Tenn.	1,726	563	1,163	93	84	98
Milwaukee, Wis.	1,908	705	1,203	102	105	101
Minneapolis, Minn.	1,765	577	1,188	95	86	100
Mobile, Ala.	1,620	475	1,145	87	71	96
New Orleans, La.	1,602	436	1,166	86	65	98
New York, N. Y.	1,782	543	1,239	96	81	104
Norfolk, Va.	1,774	612	1,162	95	91	97
Philadelphia, Pa.	1,783	587	1,196	96	87	100
Pittsburgh, Pa.	1,767	554	1,213	95	83	102
Portland, Maine	1,733	548	1,185	93	82	99
Portland, Oreg.	1,866	630	1,236	100	94	104
Richmond, Va.	1,712	581	1,131	92	87	95
St. Louis, Mo.	1,711	527	1,184	92	79	99
San Francisco, Calif.	1,833	567	1,266	98	85	106
Savannah, Ga.	1,658	532	1,126	89	79	94
Scranton, Pa.	1,614	463	1,151	87	69	97
Seattle, Wash.	1,852	583	1,269	99	87	106
Washington, D. C.	1,863	671	1,192	100	100	100

[1]Average rent paid in each city for tenant-occupied two- and three-room dwellings, built or converted before 1947, that conform to the housing standards specified for the budget, plus the cost of required amounts of heating fuel, gas, electricity and water.

Source: *Monthly Labor Review*, September 1951.

Definition: The *budget family* consists of a husband and wife approximately 65 years old, who maintain their own two- or three-room rented dwelling and who are able to get about and take care of themselves. The husband is retired or has only occasional employment. The family does not own an automobile. The elderly couple's budget was designed to represent a level of living which provides the goods and services necessary to maintain health and allow normal participation in community life, in accordance with current American standards. Social and conventional as well as physiological needs are taken into account. The level of living described is not luxurious but is sufficiently adequate to provide for more than the basic essentials of consumption.

Table 11.--Income saved, home ownership, assets, indebtedness and net worth of spending units, by age of head: 1950, 1951

Item	All spending units	Spending units with head 65 years of age and over
	Percent of units falling in specified group	
Percent 1950 income saved	100	100
50 or more	4	5
10 to 49	33	21
1 to 9	24	20
None	7	19
Negative savings	32	35
Home ownership, 1951	100	100
Own home	54	65
Pay rent	41	30
Other	4	5
Total assets, 1950	100	100
Under $1,000	31	26
1,000-4,999	22	13
5,000-24,999	37	44
25,000 and over	8	15
Not ascertained	2	2
Total indebtedness, 1951	100	100
None	41	71
$1-500	27	14
501-5,000	21	10
5,001 and over	9	2
Not ascertained	2	3
Net worth, 1950	100	100
Negative	8	1
$1-999	27	26
1,000-4,999	23	15
5,000-24,999	32	42
25,000 or more	8	14
Not ascertained	2	2

Source: Survey of Consumer Finances, Federal Reserve System, *Federal Reserve Bulletin*, December 1950, pp. 1588, 1591; July 1951, p. 772; September 1951, p. 1063; December 1951, p. 1517.

Definitions: A *spending unit* is a group of persons living in the same dwelling and related by blood, marriage or adoption, who pool their incomes for major items of expense. *Income saved* is the difference between current income and the sum of current expenditures for consumption and tax payments. Consumption expenditures include expenditures for nondurable goods and services and for automobiles and other consumer durable goods, but do not include expenditures for the purchase of houses, which are regarded as capital assets. Expenditures to reduce debt are counted as saving and increases in debt are deducted from saving. *Total assets* include liquid assets (savings accounts, checking accounts, government bonds, shares in savings and loan associations and credit unions), automobiles, owner-occupied home or farm, other real estate, business interest, corporate stock and livestock and crops on farms. *Total indebtedness* includes mortgages on homes, farms and other real estate, amounts owed on installment purchases and on charge accounts, as well as miscellaneous debts to financial institutions, businesses and individuals. *Net worth* is the difference between total selected reported assets and total reported debt.

Table 12.--Number of persons 65 years of age and over receiving income from specified sources: December 1951[1]

Source of income	Total	Men	Women
	Number (in millions)		
All persons 65 years and over	13.0	6.1	6.9
Number with income from specified sources:			
Employment	4.0	2.5	1.5
Earners	3.0	2.5	.5
Wives of earners	1.0	---	1.0
Social insurance and related programs:			
Old-age and survivors insurance	3.3	1.8	1.4
Railroad retirement	.3	.2	.1
Government employee retirement programs	.3	.2	.1
Veterans' compensation and pension program	.3	.2	.1
Other[2]	.1	---	.1
Old-age assistance	2.7	1.3	1.4
	Percent		
Percent receiving income from specified sources:			
Employment	30	41	22
Earners	23	41	7
Wives of earners	7	--	14
Social insurance and related programs:			
Old-age and survivors insurance	25	30	21
Railroad retirement	2	3	1
Government employee retirement programs	3	4	3
Veterans' compensation and pension program	2	3	2
Other	1	--	2
Old-age assistance	21	21	20

[1]Some persons received income from more than one of the sources listed.
[2]Wives of male beneficiaries of programs other than old-age and survivors insurance and railroad retirement.

Source: Estimated by Social Security Administration from Bureau of the Census data and reports of agencies administering social insurance and related programs and old-age assistance.
Estimates are preliminary.

Table 13.--Number of persons in paid civilian employment by coverage under a public program providing old-age benefits: December 1951

Coverage status	Number	Percent
Total paid civilian employment	59,600,000	100
Covered by a public program	51,600,000	87
Old-age and survivors insurance	45,700,000	77
Railroad retirement	1,500,000	3
Government employee retirement	4,400,000	7
Not covered by a public program	8,000,000	13
Agriculture	4,600,000	8
Wage workers	700,000	1
Self-employed	3,900,000	7
Domestic service	900,000	2
Government	1,200,000	2
All other	1,300,000	2

Source: Estimated by Social Security Administration from Census Bureau's *Monthly Report on the Labor Force*.

Table 14.--Percent of persons 45 years of age and over in the labor force, by age and sex: 1890-1950

Age and sex	1890	1900	1920	1930	1940	1945	1950
Men:							
45-54.....	93.9	92.8	93.5	93.8	92.7	95.4	94.6
55-64.....	89.0	86.1	86.3	86.5	84.6	89.9	85.1
65 and over.....	68.2	63.2	55.6	54.0	42.2	48.8	45.0
Women:							
45-54.....	12.5	14.2	17.9	19.7	22.4	33.3	36.9
55-64.....	11.5	12.6	14.3	15.3	16.6	24.3	27.3
65 and over.....	7.6	8.3	7.3	7.3	6.0	7.9	9.5

Sources: Data for 1890-1945 from John D. Durand, *The Labor Force in the United States, 1890-1960.*

Data for 1950 from Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Labor Force*, and unpublished data.

Data refer to April of given year, except for 1890 and 1900, which refer to June, and for 1920, which refer to January.

Table 15.--Average number of remaining years of life, in labor force and in retirement, men at selected ages: 1900, 1940, 1947

Year	Total	In labor force	In retirement
		At age 20	
1900[1].....	42.2	39.4	2.8
1940.....	46.8	41.3	5.5
1947.....	48.0	42.8	5.2
		At age 40	
1900[1].....	27.7	24.5	3.2
1940.....	29.6	23.8	5.8
1947.....	30.2	24.8	5.4
		At age 60	
1900[1].....	14.3	11.5	2.8
1940.....	15.1	9.2	5.9
1947.....	15.3	9.7	5.6

[1]Mortality data are for white men in 11 original death registration States.

Source: Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Tables of Working Life, Length of Working Life for Men*, Bulletin No. 1001, 1950, p. 42.

Table 16.--Labor force participation rates, persons 65 years of age and over, by age and sex: March 1952

Age and sex	Estimated civilian non-institutional population (in thousands)	In labor force	
		Number (in thousands)	Percent
Total	12,006	2,788	23
65-69 years	4,816	1,684	35
70-74 years	3,344	742	22
75 years and over	3,846	362	9
Men	5,620	2,296	41
65-69 years	2,340	1,360	58
70-74 years	1,572	634	40
75 years and over	1,708	302	18
Women	6,386	492	8
65-69 years	2,476	326	13
70-74 years	1,772	108	6
75 years and over	2,138	60	3

Source: Bureau of the Census, unpublished data.

Table 17.--Employment status of persons 55 years of age and over, by age and sex: March 1952

Employment status and sex	Age			
	55 to 64		65 and over	
	Number (in thousands)	Percent	Number (in thousands)	Percent
Men				
Total	6,782	100	5,620	100
In labor force	5,906	87	2,296	41
Employed	5,742	85	2,214	39
Unemployed	164	2	82	1
Not in labor force	876	13	3,324	59
Unable to work[1]	282	4	796	14
Other	594	9	2,528	45
Women				
Total	7,052	100	6,386	100
In labor force	1,868	26	492	8
Employed	1,826	26	484	8
Unemployed	42	1	8	(2)
Not in labor force	5,184	74	5,894	92
Keeping house	5,038	71	5,028	79
Unable to work[1]	72	1	622	10
Other	74	1	244	4

[1]As given in the source. The number of persons classified in the table as unable to work is an estimate of the number who had a long-standing condition which was sufficiently serious in their opinion to keep them out of the labor force. It is, of course, less than the number who on a given day are prevented by illness or disability from carrying on their usual work or other activity.
[2]Less than 0.5 percent.

Source: Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Labor Force*, Series P-57, No. 117.

Data refer to estimated civilian noninstitutional population.

Table 18.--Class of worker of employed persons, by age: March 1952

Class of worker	Age of Worker			
	14 and over	45-54	55-64	65 and over
Total employed	100	100	100	100
Wage and salary workers	82	78	74	59
Self-employed	16	20	25	40
Agriculture	7	7	11	21
Other	9	13	14	19
Unpaid family workers	2	2	1	1

Source: Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Labor Force*, Series P-57, No. 117, and unpublished data.

Table 19.--Major occupation group of employed persons, by age: January 1952

Major occupation group	Age of worker			
	14 and over	45-54	55-64	65 and over
Total employed	100	100	100	100
Professional, technical and kindred workers	9	10	7	8
Farmers and farm managers	6	7	11	18
Managers, officials and proprietors, except farm	10	14	13	14
Clerical and kindred workers	14	11	9	6
Sales workers	6	6	5	5
Craftsmen, foremen and kindred workers	14	15	16	10
Operatives and kindred workers	21	19	17	10
Private household workers	3	4	3	5
Service workers, except private household	8	8	10	13
Farm laborers and foremen	4	3	2	4
Laborers, except farm and mine	6	5	6	7

Source: Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Labor Force*, Series P-57, No. 115, and unpublished data.

Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 20.--Disabling injuries and absenteeism rates in manufacturing, by age: 1945

Age	Disabling injuries		Number of days lost per 100 workdays[1]
	Number per million hours worked	Average days of disability	
Total	9.7	14.7	3.4
Under 20	19.8	4.0	5.5
20-24	4.0	23.4	4.9
25-29	9.2	13.3	4.3
30-34	9.0	8.5	3.6
35-39	11.4	9.0	3.4
40-44	12.4	16.5	3.5
45-49	9.8	19.4	3.4
50-54	7.8	16.2	3.3
55-59	10.1	19.1	2.8
60-64	9.5	16.2	2.9
65-69	9.1	12.4	3.3
70-74	4.9	15.0	3.2

[1]For all reasons.

Source: *Monthly Labor Review*, July 1948.

Table 21.--Years of school completed among persons 25 years of age and over, by age: 1950

Years of school completed	Age		
	25 and over	25 to 29	65 and over
Median school years completed.....	(9.3)	(12.1)	(8.2)
Percent distribution, by years of school completed:			
Total.....	100	100	100
None.....	3	1	7
Elementary school:			
Less than 5 years.....	8	4	15
5 and 6 years.....	9	5	14
7 and 8 years.....	27	15	34
High school:			
1 to 3 years.....	17	22	10
4 years.....	20	34	10
College:			
1 to 3 years.....	7	10	4
4 years or more.....	6	8	3
Not reported.....	2	2	3

Source: Bureau of the Census, *1950 Census of Population, Preliminary Reports*, Series PC-7, No. 6.

Table 22.--Average remaining lifetime (in years) at specified ages: Death-Registration States, 1900-1902; and United States, 1949

Age	1900-1902	1949				
	Total	Total	White males	White females	Nonwhite males	Nonwhite females
At birth.....	49.2	67.6	65.9	71.5	58.6	62.9
45.....	24.8	28.3	26.7	30.8	23.6	26.8
50.....	21.3	24.2	22.6	26.4	20.5	23.5
55.....	17.9	20.4	18.9	22.3	17.7	20.4
60.....	14.8	16.8	15.5	18.3	15.3	17.7
65.....	11.9	13.5	12.4	14.6	13.1	15.5
70.....	9.3	10.7	9.8	11.3	11.8	14.4
75.....	7.1	8.2	7.5	8.5	10.5	13.2

Source: Public Health Service, National Office of Vital Statistics.

Table 23.--Prevalence of disability, by chronicity, age, sex and color, 8 cities; 1935-1936

Percent of persons of specified ages disabled on the day of the visit in 8 cities[1]

Chronicity, color and sex	Age					
	Total	Under 15	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over
Total.....	5.12	4.45	2.94	4.21	6.76	13.91
Major chronic diseases and impairments[2].....	1.78	.47	.78	1.29	3.27	8.06
All other diagnoses.....	3.34	3.98	2.16	2.92	3.49	5.85
Nonwhite.....	5.94	2.54	4.40	6.24	9.94	20.02
White.....	5.02	4.71	2.77	3.94	6.49	13.53
Males.....	4.54	4.54	2.29	2.98	6.18	14.14
Females.....	5.47	4.87	3.20	4.79	6.78	13.04

[1]Atlanta, Ga.; Cincinnati, Ohio; Dallas, Texas; Fall River, Mass.; Newark, N. J.; Oakland, Calif.; St. Paul, Minn.; and Seattle, Wash.

[2]Cancer, rheumatism, diabetes, nervous diseases, all circulatory diseases, tuberculosis, asthma and hay fever, hernia, nephritis, and major orthopedic impairments.

Source: National Health Survey 1935-36, unpublished data in files of Public Health Service.

Table 24.--Prevalence of specified impairments, by age and sex: 1935-1936
Rate per 1,000 persons in the general population

Type of impairment and sex	Age							
	Total	Under 15	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	65-74	75 and over
Males:								
Disabling orthopedic	3.2	0.8	1.1	1.3	2.3	5.7	13.7	21.4
Total deafness	1.2	.7	.8	.9	1.0	1.3	3.1	8.5
Blindness in both eyes	1.1	.1	.3	.4	.6	1.7	5.1	13.2
Nondisabling orthopedic	24.8	4.8	12.3	21.1	31.4	44.4	65.3	80.6
Partial deafness	13.4	1.4	3.1	4.1	8.9	19.4	71.4	174.7
Blindness in one eye	4.7	.9	2.0	2.7	4.7	7.7	18.1	33.4
Females:								
Disabling orthopedic	1.9	.5	.7	1.0	1.2	2.7	8.3	16.2
Total deafness	1.1	.4	.7	.8	.8	1.3	3.6	7.7
Blindness in both eyes	1.0	.1	.2	.3	.4	1.2	4.5	16.8
Nondisabling orthopedic	9.5	3.3	5.7	7.0	8.2	15.0	30.7	48.1
Partial deafness	11.6	1.2	2.4	4.5	8.5	18.6	51.0	132.8
Blindness in one eye	2.3	.5	.8	1.0	1.5	3.5	10.4	21.7

Source: National Health Survey 1935-36. Rates computed by Department of the Army, Office of the Surgeon General, Medical Statistics Division, from data in "The Physically Handicapped," by Bernard D. Karpinos, *Public Health Reports*, October 22, 1943, pp. 1589-1590, unpublished data from the National Health Survey, and population data from the 1940 census. Rates derived from quinquennial age specific rates, smoothed by means of 5-point moving least square averages, and applied to the corresponding 5-year age groups in the population in 1940.

Table 25.--Death rates[1] for selected causes, at specified ages, United States: 1949

Cause of death	Age				
	55-64	65 and over	65-74	74-84	85 and over
All causes	18.9	65.8	43.5	94.5	242.0
Tuberculosis, all forms (001-019)	.5	.7	.7	.7	.6
Malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and hematopoietic tissues (140-205)	3.8	9.0	7.4	11.7	17.6
Diabetes mellitus (260)	.5	1.3	1.1	1.7	1.8
Major cardiovascular renal diseases (330-334, 400-468, 592-594)	10.5	44.9	27.4	65.4	172.9
Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system (330-334)	1.9	9.4	5.8	14.7	34.5
Diseases of heart (410-443)	7.9	29.6	19.5	43.1	107.9
Hypertension without mention of heart (444-447)	.1	.7	.4	1.1	3.4
General arteriosclerosis (450)	.1	2.5	.8	4.1	20.9
Other diseases of circulatory system (400-402, 451-468)	.1	.3	.2	.4	.9
Chronic and unspecified nephritis and other renal sclerosis (592-594)	.3	1.3	.8	2.0	5.3
Influenza and pneumonia (480-493)	.4	1.8	.9	2.7	10.5
Hernia and intestinal obstruction (560, 561, 570)	.1	.4	.3	.6	1.4
Hyperplasia of prostate (610)	.1	.5	.3	.9	2.4
Symptoms, senility, and ill-defined conditions (780-795)	.2	1.1	.5	1.5	9.6
Accidents (E800-E962)	.7	2.4	1.3	3.4	12.9
Motor-vehicle accidents (E810-E835)	.3	.5	.4	.5	.6
All other accidents (E800-E802, E840-E962)	.4	1.9	.9	2.9	12.3
All other causes	2.2	4.6	3.7	5.9	12.4

[1]Rates are per 1,000 estimated midyear population, excluding armed forces overseas.

Numbers after causes of death are category numbers of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists, 1948.

Source: Public Health Service, National Office of Vital Statistics.

Table 26.--Percent of population insured against cost of hospitalization, all ages and persons aged 65 and over: March 1952

Age	Percent insured
All ages.....	[1]56
65 years and over.....	26
65-69.....	36
70-74.....	25
75 and over.....	15

[1]Estimate for December 1951.

Source: Estimate for all ages from Health Insurance Council, *A Survey of Accident and Health Coverage in the United States as of December 31, 1951.*

Estimate for persons 65 years and over from special survey made for Social Security Administration by the Bureau of the Census. Data are preliminary.

Data relate to persons insured through the Blue Cross, commercial group and individual accident and health policies, and independent plans.

The following 8 tables differ somewhat from the other tables in this publication. They deal with attitudes rather than with the more tangible characteristics of people. An attitude is of course just as much a characteristic as a person's age, sex or income, but it is unfortunately true that little has been developed in the field of attitudes of older persons that can be quantitatively expressed. For this reason the 8 tables reproduced here merit incorporation in the present publication.

One note of caution may be sounded. When age data are shown in the published results of public opinion polls, it is because age differences were found. Such tables unavoidably tend to emphasize differences rather than similarities in the attitudes of older and younger persons. The tables below comprise all that the editors were able to glean in a quick survey of the field.

With the exception of Tables 30 and 35, the data are taken from Hadley Cantril (editor) and Mildred Strunk (compiler), *Public Opinion, 1935-1946*, Princeton University Press, 1951. Table 30 comes from Paul F. Lazarsfeld and Harry Field, *The People Look at Radio*, University of North Carolina Press, 1946. The source for Table 35 is The New Jersey Poll, Princeton Research Service, Princeton, New Jersey, release dated November 4, 1948. With the last exception all data are based on a Nation-wide sample.

Table 27

Do you think the courts of this State should recognize divorces granted by Reno courts? (1945)

	Yes	No	No opinion
Total.....	34%	51%	15%
21-29 years.....	43%	44%	13%
30-49 years.....	36	50	14
50 years and over.....	26	56	18

Table 28

It has been suggested that a course in sex education be given to students in high schools. Do you approve or disapprove of this plan? (1943)

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
Total.....	68%	16%	16%
21-29 years.....	77%	13%	10%
30-49 years.....	69	15	16
50 years and over....	61	20	19

Table 29

Do you think the army should or should not let soldiers serving overseas marry girls who live in occupied countries in Europe? (1946)

	Should	Should not	Undecided
Total.....	44%	48%	8%
21-29 years.....	53%	40%	7%
30-49 years.....	46	46	8
50 years and over.....	37	54	9
World War II veterans.....	61	33	6

Table 30

Proportion Liking to Listen to Religious Radio Programs in the Evening According to Age and Education (1945-46)

	Grammar School	High School	College
Under 30 years.....	13%	11%	8%
30 to 39 years.....	19	15	12
40 to 49 years.....	22	16	9
50 years and over.....	33	28	16

Table 31

Do you believe there is a life after death? (1944)

	Yes	No	Undecided or no opinion
Total.....	76%	13%	11%
20-29 years.....	70%	17%	13%
30-49 years.....	76	13	11
50 years and over.....	79	10	11

Table 32

After the war would you like to see many changes or reforms made in the United States, or would you rather have the country remain pretty much the way it was before the war? (1943)

	Changes	Way it was before	Undecided
Total.....	32%	58%	10%
21-29 years.....	35%	55%	10%
30-49 years.....	32	58	10
50 years and over.....	30	60	10

Table 33

Would you be willing to go back to food rationing in order to send food to people in other nations? (1946)

	Yes	No	No opinion or undecided
Total.....	59%	36%	5%
21-29 years.....	56%	38%	6%
30-49 years.....	60	35	5
50 years and over.....	57	37	6

Table 34

Do you favor or oppose a law in this State which would require an employer to hire a person if he is qualified for the job, regardless of his race or color? (1945)

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
Total.....	43%	44%	13%
21-29 years.....	55%	34%	11%
30-49 years.....	42	45	13
50 years and over.....	38	48	14

Table 35

Would you like to attend classes and take special courses for adults in some school or college? (1948)

	Yes	No	No opinion
Total.....	45%	52%	3%
21-29 years.....	60%	38%	2%
30-44 years.....	50	49	1
45 years and over.....	33	62	5

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