

Table 40.
Poverty gap before and after SSI payments, by selected characteristics, 2001

Characteristic	Aggregate poverty gap (thousands of dollars)		Percentage reduction in poverty gap
	Before SSI	After SSI	
Total	10,423,016	3,367,341	67.7
Sex			
Male	4,211,772	1,352,452	67.9
Female	6,211,244	2,014,889	67.6
Age			
Under 18	1,667,352	670,326	59.8
18–64	6,392,095	2,083,051	67.4
65 or older	2,363,570	613,963	74.0
Race			
White	5,504,834	1,686,697	69.4
Black	3,945,563	1,408,965	64.3
American Indian, Alaska Native	329,572	137,258	58.4
Asian, Pacific Islander	643,048	134,421	79.1
Ethnicity			
Hispanic	1,621,332	432,816	73.3
Non-Hispanic	8,801,684	2,934,525	66.7

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, SSA administrative records, matched to U.S. Census Bureau, 2001 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), wave 2, reference month 4.

NOTES: When a beneficiary's family income is below the poverty threshold, the difference between the poverty threshold and family income is referred to as the poverty gap. The smallest individual poverty gap is zero if family income is equal to or greater than the poverty threshold. The largest poverty gap is equal to the poverty threshold for those with no family income at all. The aggregate poverty gap is the sum of the individual poverty gaps for all SSI beneficiaries.

Individuals receiving SSI benefits in reference month 4 of wave 2 of the 2001 SIPP are identified using SSA administrative data for those who provided a valid Social Security number and using self-reported SIPP data for those who did not provide a valid number. The unweighted sample size is 1,729 cases for all SSI recipients: 209 cases aged 17 or younger, 1,061 cases aged 18 to 64, and 459 cases aged 65 or older.

Family income data and poverty thresholds are based on the 4 months included in wave 2 of the 2001 SIPP. This represents a change from tables for previous years, in which annual income and poverty data were reported.

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