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AGE, SEX, RESIDENCE AND OCCUPATION OF RURAL RELIEF POPULATION
IN SIX COUNTIES IN OREGON*

While this report deals only with the rural relief population of six counties, nevertheless it is significant that in respect to age, sex and place of residence the total rural population of the six counties was a fair sample of the rural population of the whole state, as indicated by the following data.

The total rural population of the sample counties, according to the United States Census of 1930, was 48,663, compared with 464,040 for the whole state. In respect to age, 7 per cent of all rural residents both in the six sample counties and in the whole state were 65 years or older, 9 per cent respectively 55 to 64, 13 per cent in the sample counties and 12 per cent in the whole state 45 to 54, 14 per cent respectively 25 to 34, 26 per cent respectively 10 to 24, and 17 per cent in the sample counties and 18 per cent in the whole state 9 years and under. In respect to sex, the census of 1930 gives 56 per cent male and 44 per cent female in the rural population of the six sample counties, compared with 55 per cent male and 45 per cent female in the rural population of the whole state. In regard to residence, 51 per cent of the rural population in the six counties lived on farms and 49 per cent in non-farm residences, compared with 48 per cent on farms and 52 per cent in non-farm residence for the total rural population of Oregon.

AGE OF RURAL RELIEF POPULATION

As will be observed from the data in TABLE NO. I on page 2, the percentage of the people in the rural relief population was much higher in the age groups under 25, and lower in the older age groups, than in the general rural population in the same counties as indicated by the census of 1930. This is probably somewhat at variance with common opinion.

*The information was prepared in connection with Project F-48 of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, by C. S. Hoffman, Assistant State Rural Research Supervisor, under the direction of L. R. Breithaupt, State Supervisor of Rural Research. The data used were obtained from the relief records of 50 per cent of the rural relief cases in Baker, Crook, Clatsop, Morrow, Josephine and Polk Counties.

It is to be particularly observed that the percentage of the rural relief population 9 years of age and under was fully one-half greater than the percentage of the general rural population in this age group; and that only 45 per cent of all of the relief population was over 24 years of age, against 57 per cent of the total rural population. The younger persons were relatively numerous in the relief rolls due partly to the comparatively large average size of relief families.*

TABLE NO. I AGE DISTRIBUTION - GENERAL RURAL POPULATION FOR SIX COUNTIES
AND 50 PER CENT SAMPLE OF RURAL RELIEF POPULATION IN THE SAME SIX
COUNTIES

	Total Rural Population, 1930		Rural Relief Population	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
TOTAL - (all ages)	48,653	100	3,774	100
65 or over	3,404	7	202	5
55 - 64	4,257	9	294	8
45 - 54	6,163	13	350	9
35 - 44	6,782	14	424	11
25 - 34	6,734	14	438	12
10 - 24	12,811	26	1,104**	29
9 - or under	8,498	17	954	26
Age unknown	6	less than 1%	8	less than 1%

* "On Relief," published May, 1935, by the Division of Social Research, Federal Emergency Relief Administration. Shows average family in general population to be composed of approximately 3.5 persons and relief family 4.25 persons.

** Data shows 514 persons in age group 16 - 24, 90 persons aged 15, and 500 persons in age group 10 - 14. Due to differences in age groupings, these data were combined in order to allow comparisons of similar groups.

Age of Heads of Relief Households.

The average age of 1013 heads of rural relief households was found to be approximately 46 years, not including any persons under the age of 16 years as heads of households. In TABLE 2 will be found data showing the number and percentage in various age groups. The average age of female heads of households was older than male heads of households. (see TABLE 4)

TABLE NO. 2 HEADS OF 1013 RURAL RELIEF HOUSEHOLDS CLASSIFIED IN AGE GROUPS

AGE	NUMBER	PER CENT
TOTAL - all ages	1013	100
Age 16 - 24	57	5.6
25 - 34	183	18.1
35 - 44	224	22.1
45 - 54	222	21.9
55 - 64	208	20.5
65 and over	116	11.5
Age Unknown	3	.3

SEX

Of the 3774 persons in the rural relief households classified as to age and sex, 1932 were males and 1842 females. As will be observed from the data in TABLE 3, the number of females was relatively large in age groups 10 to 24 and 25 to 34, while males were relatively more numerous in age groups over 45 years.

TABLE NO. 3 ALL PERSONS IN RURAL RELIEF HOUSEHOLDS
CLASSIFIED BY AGES AND SEX.

AGE	ALL PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD			
	Males		Females	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
TOTAL - (All Ages)	1932	100	1842	100
9 or under	489	25.3	465	25.2
10 - 24	520	27.0	584	31.7
25 - 34	198	10.2	240	13.1
35 - 44	215	11.1	209	11.4
45 - 54	202	10.5	148	8.0
55 - 64	178	9.2	116	6.3
65 years and over	128	6.6	74	4.0
Age Unknown	2	.1	6	.3

Sex of Heads of Relief Households.

Of the 1013 heads of rural relief households studied, 904 were males and 109 females. These are classified into age groups in Table 4. These data indicate that the average age of female household heads was considerably greater than of the male heads of households on relief.

TABLE NO. 4 HEADS OF RURAL RELIEF HOUSEHOLDS CLASSIFIED BY AGES AND SEX

AGE	HEADS OF ALL HOUSEHOLDS			
	Males		Females	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
TOTAL - all ages	904	100	109	100
16 - 24	49	5.4	8	7.3
25 - 34	168	18.6	15	13.8
35 - 44	208	23.1	16	14.7
45 - 54	198	21.9	24	22.0
55 - 64	175	19.4	33	30.3
65 years and over	104	11.5	12	11.0
Age Unknown	2	.1	1	.9

RESIDENCE OF RURAL RELIEF HOUSEHOLDS

The records of 240 rural relief households (October, 1935) showed that 102, or 42 per cent, resided in the open country, 101, or 42 per cent, in villages, and 37, or 16 per cent in towns. The proportion of households headed by females was relatively smaller in the open country and greater in the villages and towns, as indicated by the following data.

TABLE NO. 5. RESIDENCE OF 240 RURAL RELIEF HOUSEHOLDS,
CLASSIFIED BY SEX OF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD.

RESIDENCE	MALES		FEMALES	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Total	195	100	45	100
Open Country	94	48	8	18
Village	75	39	26	58
Town	26	13	11	24

OCCUPATION

Of 240 heads of rural relief households classified as to occupation as of October, 1935, only 45, or 19 per cent, were agricultural, 98, or 41 per cent were engaged in non-agricultural occupations, while 97, or 40 per cent could not be classified as engaged in any occupation. Table No. 6 gives detail of occupations, by sex. It is to be observed that the number of female heads of households (67 per cent) was relatively larger in the non-occupational group than male heads of households, a situation probably to be expected under usual circumstances.

TABLE NO. 6. OCCUPATION OF THE HEADS OF 240 RURAL RELIEF HOUSEHOLDS, OCTOBER, 1935, CLASSIFIED BY SEX

OCCUPATION	MALES		FEMALES	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Total	195	100	45	100
Agricultural	40	20	5	11
Non-agricultural	89	46	9	20
Head unemployed, no usual occupation or not a worker	62	32	30	67
Status Unknown	4	2	1	2