

# Adult OASDI Beneficiaries and SSI Recipients Who Need Representative Payees: Projections for 2025 and 2035

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Representative Payee Forum

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# Purpose of Paper

- Examine how demographic changes may influence the need for representative payees in the future
- Focus on adults, as parent serves as a representative payee for the vast majority of children, students, and disabled adult children
- Examine the share of beneficiaries with non-family member serving as a representative payee
- Identify some of the challenges to projecting the need for representative payees

# Methodology

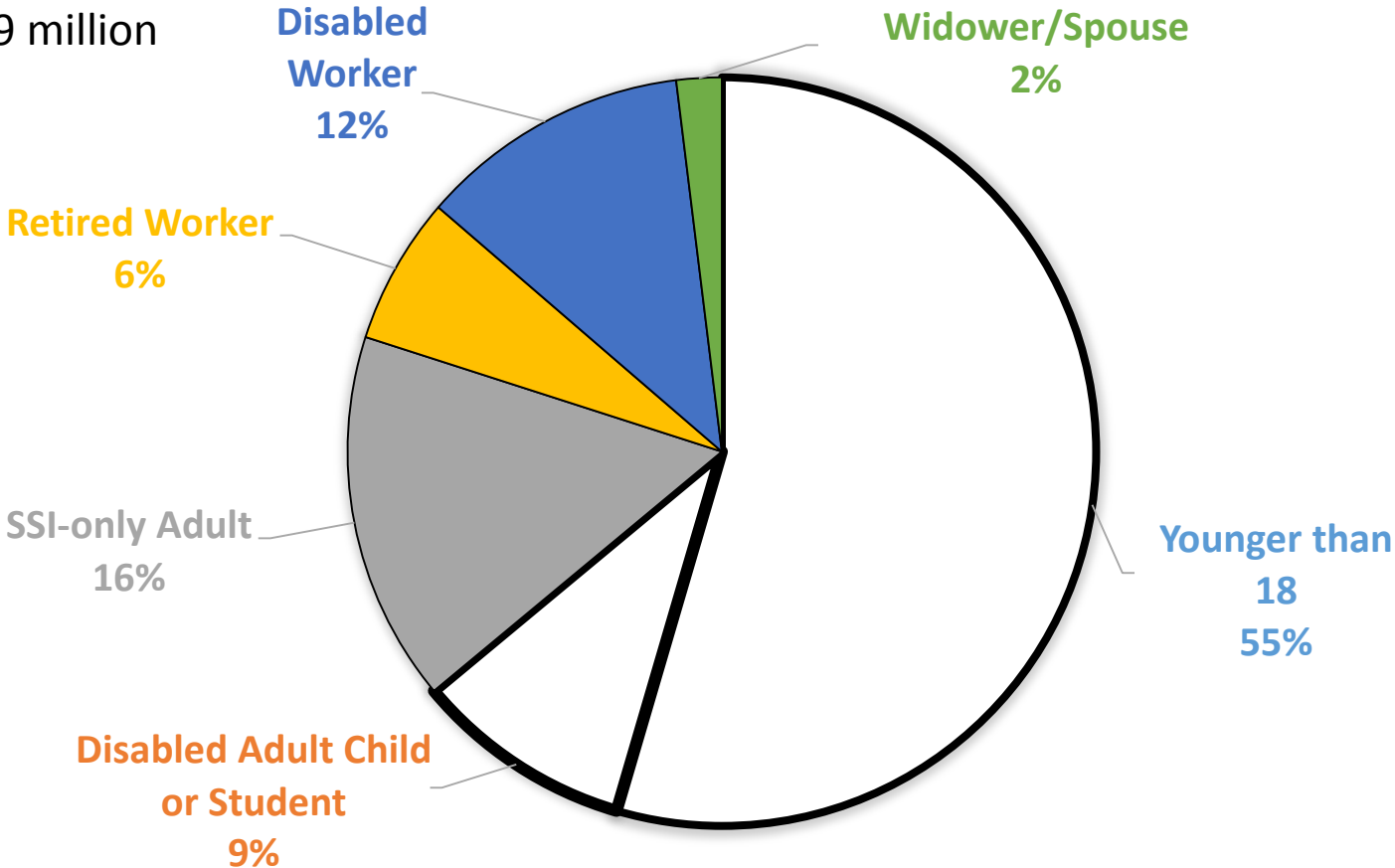
- Disaggregate data on OASDI beneficiaries and SSI recipients in CY 2013 by age and program
- Compute the proportion with a representative payee within each disaggregated group in CY 2013
- Use Modeling Income in the Near Term (MINT) to project beneficiary population for 2025 and 2035, disaggregated by age and program
- Multiply CY 2013 proportions for each disaggregated group by the 2025 (and 2035) MINT projections, then sum disaggregated groups to obtain overall number of beneficiaries who will need a representative payee
- Perform separate projections for the subset with a non-family member serving as a representative payee, using the same approach

# Sources of Projection Uncertainty

- Will the proportion of beneficiaries with a representative payee remain the same as CY 2013?
  - Improvements in mortality might be accompanied by increases in disabling health conditions and the need for representative payees
  - Reductions in the prevalence of some conditions (e.g., recent JAMA study on dementia trends) might reduce the need for rep. payees
- Are there more beneficiaries who need a representative payee than reported in the data?
  - Changes in the capacity to manage benefits might not be reported to SSA
  - OIG report suggests more beneficiaries may need a rep. payee
  - Many identified by OIG have a family member who manages finances, but...
  - Changes in family composition are likely to increase financial vulnerability
- Monitoring both of these issues is important for assessing and updating our projections, and for agency strategic planning on the rep payee program

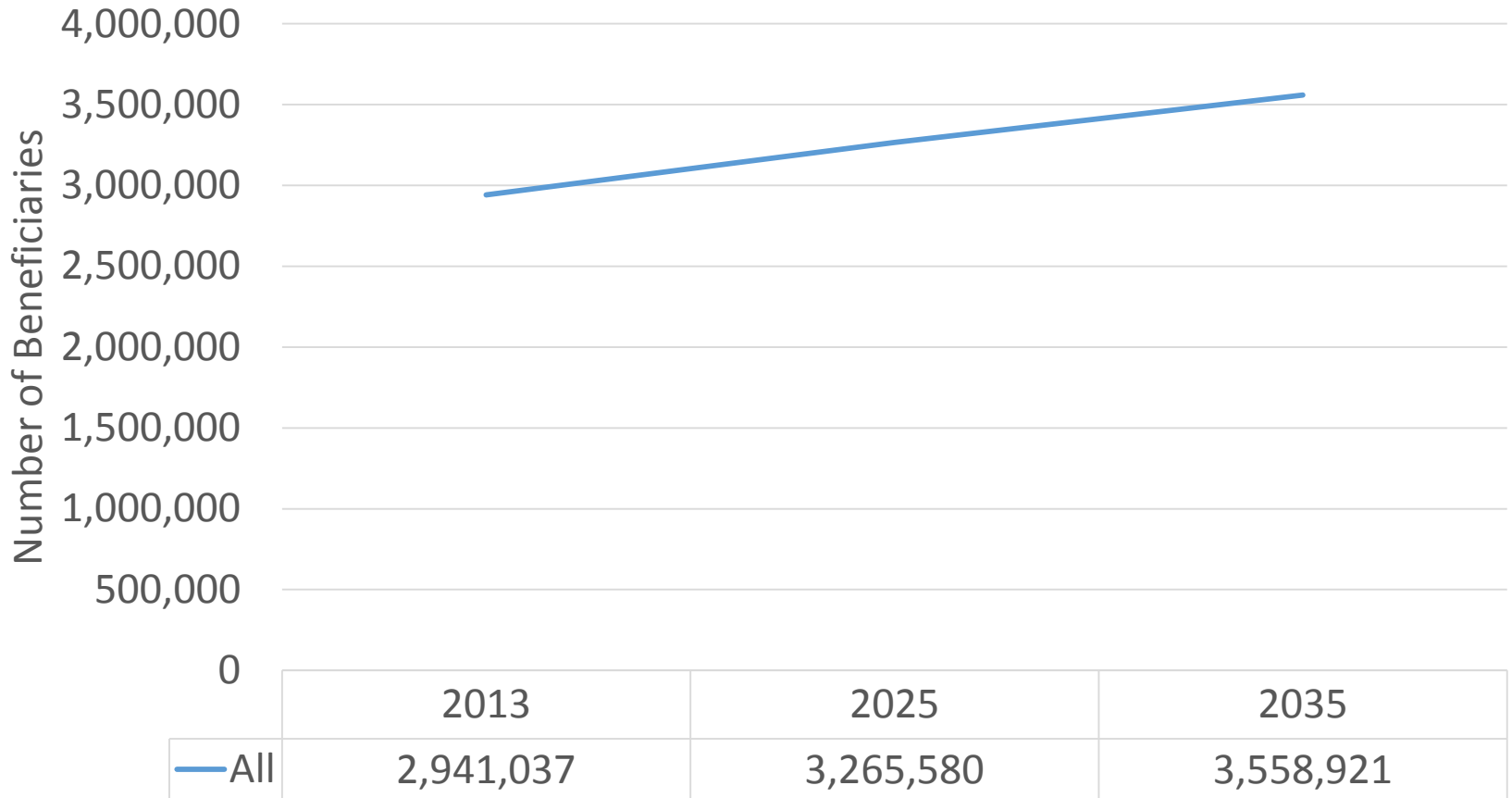
# Data on All 8.1 Million Beneficiaries with a Representative Payee in CY 2013

About 2.9 million Adults

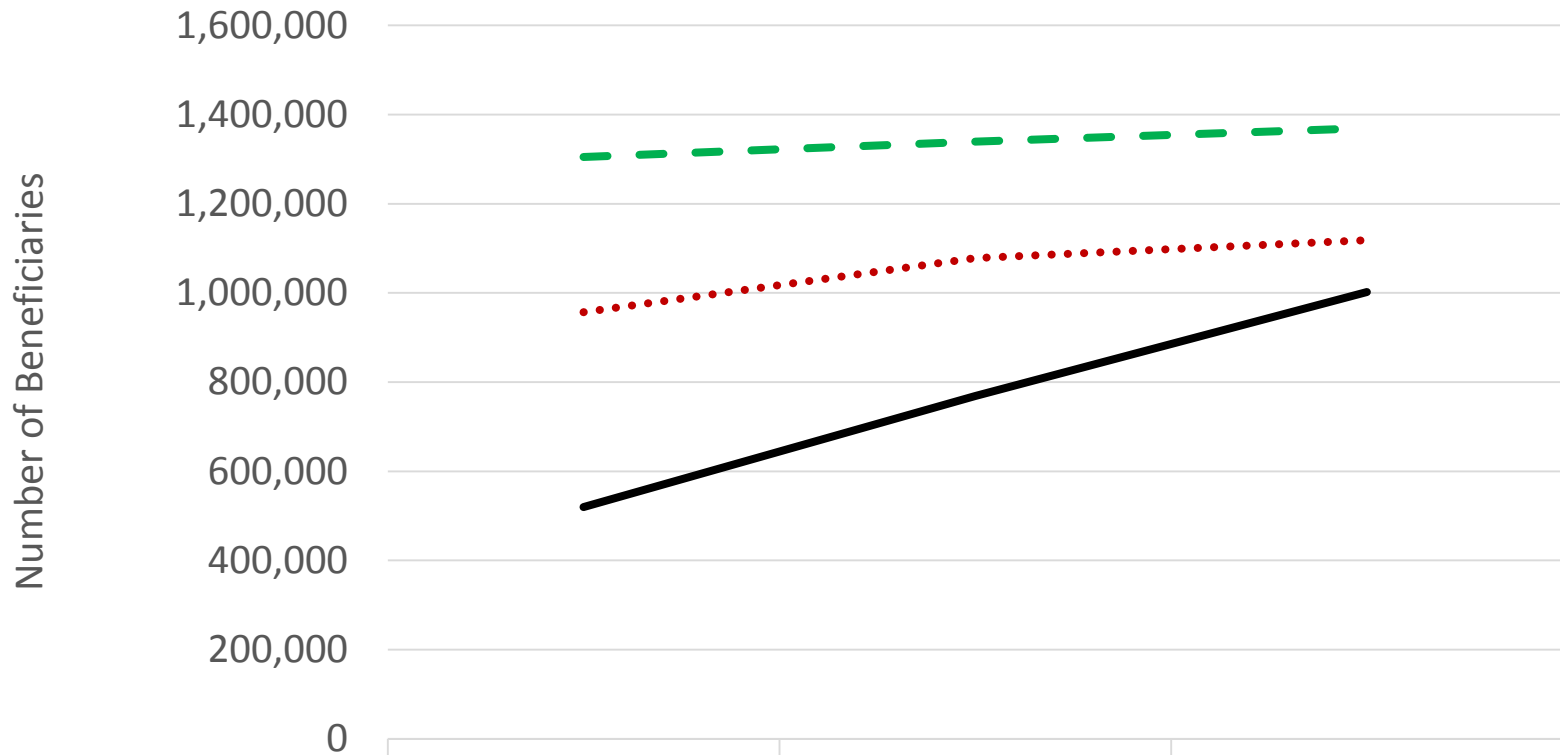


About 5.2 million Younger than 18 or Disabled Adult Child or Student, Not Included in the Study

# Projected Growth in the Need for Representative Payees



# Projected Growth In Beneficiaries with a Representative Payee, By Program



	2013	2025	2035
— SSI	1,304,931	1,339,576	1,369,479
•••• Disabled worker	957,040	1,077,868	1,118,278
— Retired worker	519,780	768,474	1,001,985

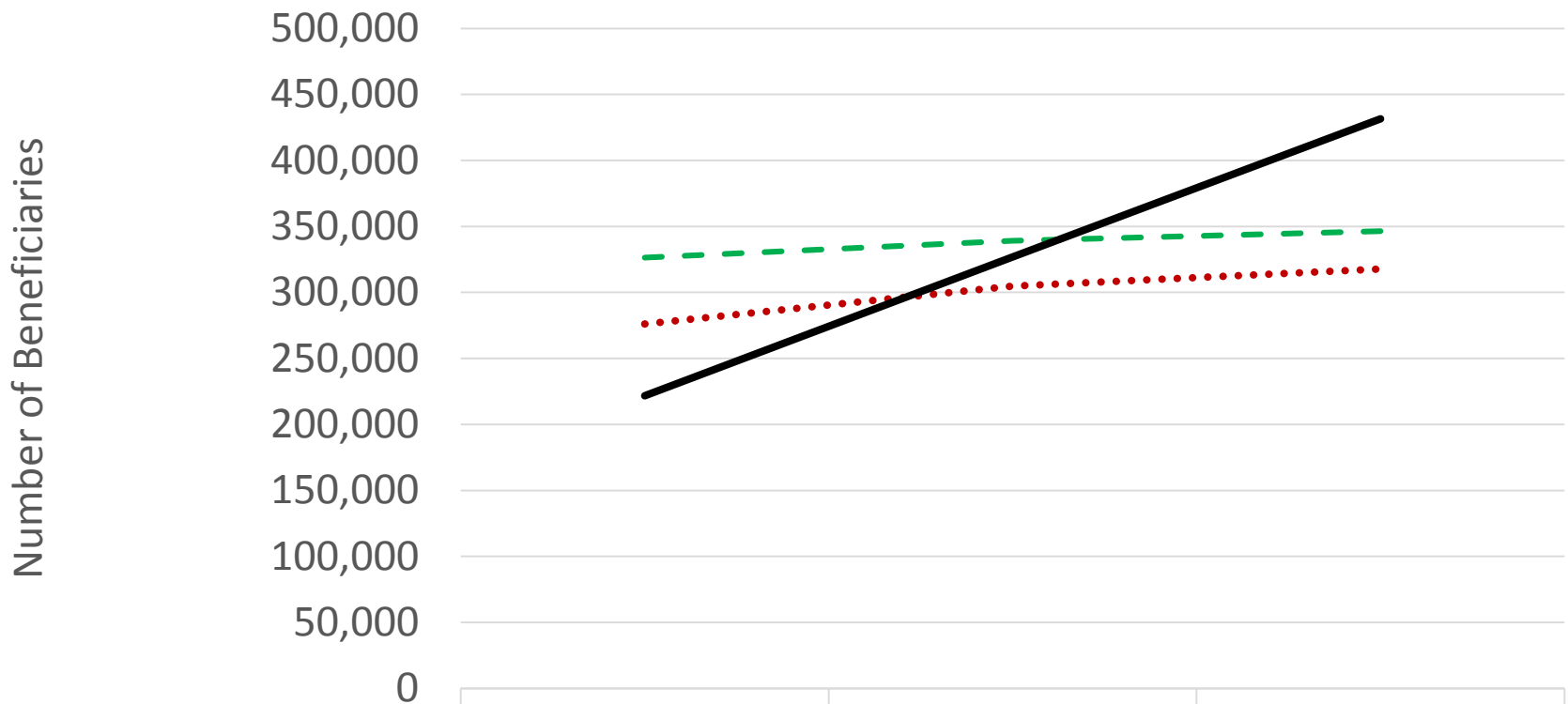
# Projected Growth in Beneficiaries with a Non-Family Member Representative Payee



	2013	2025	2035
— Non-Family Rep Payee	886,217	1,000,553	1,121,201



# Projected Growth In Beneficiaries with a Non-Family Member Representative Payee, By Program



	2013	2025	2035
--- SSI	326,310	339,177	346,346
..... Disabled worker	276,127	304,732	317,635
— Retired worker	221,784	326,769	431,498

# Conclusions

- The number of adults who need a rep payee may increase from:
  - 2.94 million in 2013,
  - to 3.27 million by 2025, and
  - to 3.56 million by 2035.
- The increase is driven by growth in the retired-worker beneficiary pop. from 2013 to 2025, and 85-or-older age group from 2025 to 2035
- Growth in the number of adults with a non-family member representative payee is somewhat more dramatic, only 57.3 percent of retired-worker beneficiaries had a family member serve as rep payee, compared to 71.1 percent of disabled-workers.
- The change in the size and composition of the beneficiary population may pose significant challenges, planning for these changes critical
- Projections are subject to uncertainty, updating and improving the projections as new data become available will be important for strategic planning purposes

# More Information

Our Paper: “Adult OASDI Beneficiaries and SSI Recipients Who Need Representative Payees: Projections for 2025 and 2035” Social Security Bulletin, 2015, 75(2):1-17.

<https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/ssb/v75n2/v75n2p1.pdf>

JAMA Paper: “A Comparison of the Prevalence of Dementia in the United States in 2000 and 2012” JAMA Internal Medicine, 2017, 177(1):51-58.

<http://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/article-abstract/2587084>