Social Security: 2014 United States Quick Facts

United States’ 65+ population is 43.1 million.

In 2012, the national population was about 313 million, with 43.1 million residents age 65 and older.¹

Social Security generates $1.4 trillion dollars in economic output for the United States.

In 2012, Americans received $774.6 billion dollars total from Social Security.⁴ Every $1 dollar of Social Security received nationally generates $2.00 of economic output. Spending related to Social Security by beneficiaries, businesses and workers on goods and services generates $1.4 trillion in economic output for the United States.²

One in six United States residents receives Social Security.

The Social Security program not only provides monthly benefits to retired workers, but also to families when the worker retires, dies, or becomes disabled. In 2012, over 56.7 million Americans received Social Security benefits.³

In 2012, one in six US residents received Social Security.¹ While 65% of beneficiaries are retirees, 35% are not: 8.82 million are people with disabilities; 4.41 million are children; 4.34 million are widows and widowers; and 2.44 million are spouses.³

Nearly all Americans age 65 or older receive Social Security.

Nationally, over 18% of all Americans receive Social Security benefits. Older people are more likely to receive the benefit, with 92% of those ages 65 and over receiving it nationwide.¹

On average, United States retirees receive about $1,239 a month from Social Security.

The average yearly Social Security benefit for an American retiree in 2012 was $14,869.⁵

Social Security lifts 14.4 million American retirees from poverty.

About 44% of the nation’s older population would be living in poverty if they were not receiving Social Security.⁶

Social Security is the only source of income for one in three Americans age 65+.

Social Security makes up 50 percent or more of the income for 62 percent of Americans age 65 and older. One in three older Americans rely on Social Security as their only source of income.⁷

### Income Percentage from Social Security for Americans age 65+

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>1-24%</th>
<th>25-49%</th>
<th>50-74%</th>
<th>75-99%</th>
<th>100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retirees</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spouses</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disabled</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>8%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
End Notes

1 OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County, 2012. Social Security Administration:
http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_sc/2012/table01.html

2 Social Security’s Impact on the National Economy, AARP Public Policy Institute, 2013:
http://www.aarp.org/work/social-security/info-09-2013/social-security-impact-on-the-national-economy-
AARP-ppi-econ-sec.html

3 OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County, 2012. Social Security Administration:
http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_sc/2012/table02.html

4 OASDI Estimated Total Benefits Paid, 2013, Social Security Administration:
http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2013/5j.html#table5.j1

5 OASDI Number and Total Monthly Benefits for Beneficiaries, age 65 or older, 2013:
http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2013/5j.html#table5.j3

6 Effect of Social Security on Poverty Among the Elderly by State, 2009-2011:
http://www.cbpp.org/cms/?fa=view&id=3851

7 2011 ACS Percent of Income from SS- SPSS calculation by AARP Research:
http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/data_main/