



Social Security: 2012 California Quick Facts



California's 65+ population is expanding.

In 2010, California's population was 37,276,000, with 11% being age 65 and older (4,284,000 residents).¹ In 2015, the 65+ population will make up 13% of the state's population, and in 2030, it will be 18%.^{2,3}

California ranks 12th in income level among the states.

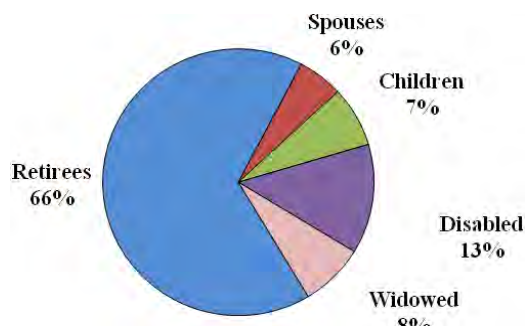
The average personal income in California was \$43,104 in 2010. California's per capita income is third highest in the Western states; Washington and Wyoming are ranked higher (6th and 10th).⁴

One in eight California 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 2010, over 54 million Americans received Social Security benefits; of these, 4,979,141 lived in California.⁵

In 2010, one in eight California residents received Social Security.¹ While 66% of beneficiaries are retirees, 34% are not: 382,138 are widows and widowers; 662,232 are people with disabilities; 269,363 are spouses; and 364,365 are children.⁵

California Social Security Beneficiaries



Social Security pumps over 64 billion dollars into California's economy.

In 2010, California residents received an estimated 64.4 billion dollars from Social Security.⁶ The average yearly Social Security benefit for a California retiree in 2010 was \$13,703—or about \$1,142 a month.⁷

Nearly all California residents age 65 or older receive Social Security.

Over 17% of all people receive Social Security benefits; in California, 13% of residents also receive benefits. However, older people are more likely to receive Social Security, with 92% of those ages 65 or older receiving it nationwide, and 84% of older Californians receiving it.¹

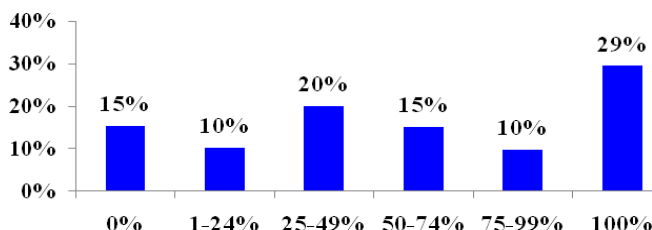
Social Security lifts over one-quarter of Californian retirees from poverty.

In 2009, more than one-third (35%) of the nation's older population would be living in poverty if they were not receiving Social Security. In California, 26% of the state's 65+ population would have incomes below the poverty line if they did not receive Social Security.⁸

Social Security is the only source of income for nearly three in ten Californians age 65+.

Social Security makes up 50 percent or more of the income for half of Californians age 65 and older. Nearly three in ten older Californians rely on Social Security as their only source of income.^{9,10}

Income Percentage from Social Security for California Residents 65+



End Notes

¹ OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County, 2010. Social Security Administration:
http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_sc/2010/table01.html

² Projections of the Population, By Age and Sex, of States: 1995 to 2025. United States Census Bureau:
<http://www.census.gov/population/projections/state/stpjage.txt>

³ Ranking of States by Projected Percent of Population age 65 and Over: 2000, 2010, and 2030. United States Census Bureau:
<http://www.census.gov/population/www/projections/projectionsagesex.html>

⁴ State Bureau of Economic Analysis Regional Factsheet, 2010. U.S. Dept. of Commerce:
<http://www.bea.gov/regional/bearfacts/statebf.cfm>

⁵ OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County, 2010. Social Security Administration:
http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_sc/2010/table02.html

⁶ OASDI Estimated Total Benefits Paid, 2010, Social Security Administration:
<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2011/5j.html#table5.j1>

⁷ OASDI Number and Total Monthly Benefits for Beneficiaries, age 65 or older, 2010:
<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2011/5j.html#table5.j3>

⁸ AARP analysis from The March 2009 Annual Social and Economic (ASEC) Supplement from the Current Population Survey (CPS).

⁹ AARP analysis using data from the 2009 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

¹⁰ For a three-year estimate refer to “Social Security is a Critical Income Source for Older Americans: State-Level Estimates, 2007–2009.” AARP Public Policy Institute:
<http://www.aarp.org/work/social-security/info-09-2011/fs236-ss.html>

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