



Social Security: 2012 Massachusetts Quick Facts

Massachusetts's 65+ population is expanding.

In 2010, Massachusetts's population was 6.6 million, with 14% being age 65 and older (910,000).¹ In 2015, the 65+ population will make up 18% of the state's population, and in 2030, it will make up 27%.^{2,3}

Massachusetts's per capita income ranks 2nd in the U.S.

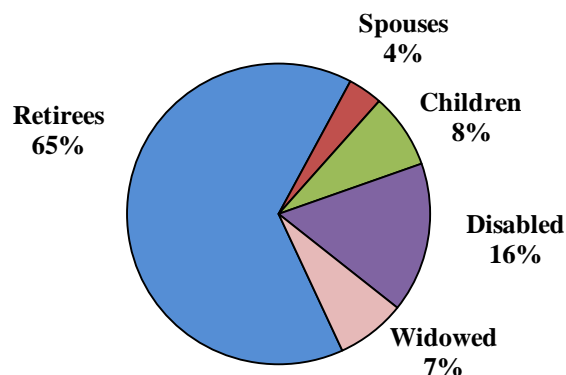
The average personal income in Massachusetts was \$51,552 in 2010. Massachusetts's per capita income ranks higher (2nd) than New York (5th) and New Hampshire (9th), but lower than Connecticut (1st).⁴

One in six Massachusetts 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, 1,140,830 lived in Massachusetts.⁵

In 2010, one in six Massachusetts residents received Social Security. While 65% of beneficiaries are retirees, 35% are not: 81,322 are widows and widowers; 91,762 are children; 40,602 are spouses; and 187,321 are people with disabilities.⁵

Massachusetts Social Security Beneficiaries



Social Security pumps 15 billion dollars into Massachusetts's economy.

In 2010, Massachusetts residents received 15.0 billion dollars from Social Security.⁶ The average yearly Social Security benefit for a Massachusetts retiree in 2010 was \$14,080—or about \$1,173 a month.⁷

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

Nationally, as well as in Massachusetts, about 17% of all residents receive Social Security benefits. However, older people are more likely to receive the benefit, with 92% of those ages 65 and over receiving it nationwide, and 89% of older Massachusetts residents receiving it.¹

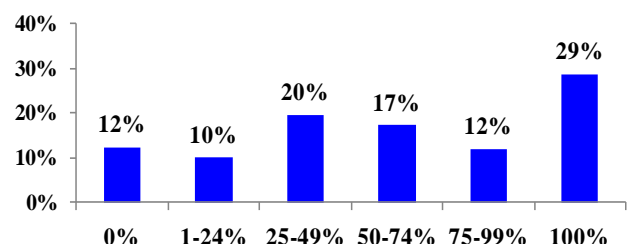
Social Security lifts more than one-third of retirees from poverty.

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 Massachusetts, 32% 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 three in ten Massachusetts residents age 65+.

Social Security makes up 50 percent or more of the income for six in ten Massachusetts residents age 65 and older. Three in ten of older Massachusetts residents rely on Social Security as their only source of income.^{9,10}

Income Percentage from Social Security for Massachusetts 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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