



Social Security: 2012 Puerto Rico Quick Facts

Puerto Rico's 65+ population is expanding.

In 2010, Puerto Rico's population was 3,725,789 with about 15% being age 65 and older (541,998 residents).¹ In 2015, the 65+ population will make up 17% of the Island's population, and by 2030, it will rise to 24%.²

Puerto Rico's per capita income is less than \$11,000.

The average personal income in Puerto Rico was \$10,762 in 2010.³ Puerto Rico's per capita income is one-fourth as much as the average per capita income of the mainland United States.⁴

One in five Puerto Rico 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, 800,269 live in Puerto Rico.⁵

In 2010, one in five Puerto Rico residents received Social Security.^{1,7} While 49% of beneficiaries are retirees, 51% are not: 169,369 are people with disabilities; 92,198 are children; 80,344 are widows and widowers; and 68,793 are spouses.⁵

Social Security pumps more than 7 billion dollars into Puerto Rico's economy.

In 2010, Puerto Rico residents received an estimated 7.2 billion dollars from Social Security.⁶ The average yearly Social Security benefit for a Puerto Rico retiree in 2010 was \$8,874—or about \$740 a month.⁷

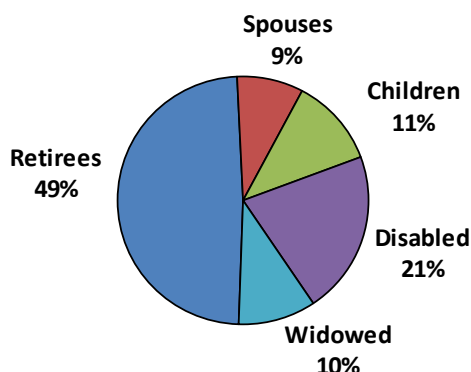
About nine in ten Puerto Rico residents age 65 or older receive Social Security.

Nationally, over 17% of all people in the U.S. receive Social Security benefits; in Puerto Rico, 21% of residents do. However, older people are more likely to receive the benefit nationally, with 92% of those ages 65 and over receiving it and 87% of older Puerto Rico residents receiving it.^{1,7,8}

Social Security lifts three in ten seniors 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 Puerto Rico, 40% of adults age 65 and over, or more than 200,000 seniors, currently live in poverty on the Island. In Puerto Rico, it is unknown how many older adults are lifted from poverty due to Social Security.^{9,3}

Puerto Rico Social Security Beneficiaries



End Notes

- ¹ Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics, Puerto Rico. U.S. Census Bureau, 2010: http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/DEC/10_DP/DPDP1/0400000US72
- ² International Data Base, Puerto Rico, Updated June 2010, U.S. Census Bureau: <http://www.census.gov/population/international/data/idb/informationGateway.php>
- ³ Selected Economic Characteristics, Puerto Rico, U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey: http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_10_1YR_DP03&prodType=table
- 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/2010/5j.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/2010/5j.html#table5.j3>
- ⁸ OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County, 2010. Social Security Administration: http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_sc/2010/table01.html
- ⁹ AARP analysis from The March 2009 Annual Social and Economic (ASEC) Supplement from the Current Population Survey (CPS).

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with a membership that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to either political campaigns or candidates. We produce AARP The Magazine, the definitive voice for 50+ Americans and the world's largest-circulation magazine with over 35.1 million readers; AARP Bulletin, the go-to news source for AARP's millions of members and Americans 50+; AARP VIVA, the only bilingual U.S. publication dedicated exclusively to the 50+ Hispanic community; and our website, AARP.org. AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. We have staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the