



Social Security: 2012 South Carolina Quick Facts

South Carolina's 65+ population is expanding.

In 2010, South Carolina's population was about 4.6 million, with 14% being age 65 and older (644,000 residents).¹ In 2015, the 65+ population will make up 16% of the state's population, and in 2030, it will be 22%.^{2,3}

South Carolina ranks 45th among all states in income level.

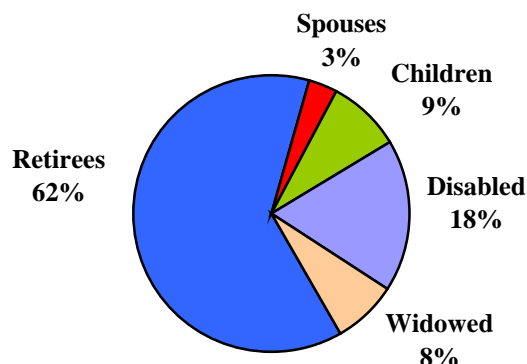
The average personal income in South Carolina was \$33,163 in 2010, giving it one of the lowest per capita incomes in the country (45th).⁴

One in five South Carolina 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 924,726 live in South Carolina.⁵

In 2010, one in five South Carolina residents received Social Security.¹ While 62% of beneficiaries are retirees, 38% are not: 69,992 are widows and widowers; 164,930 are people with disabilities; 29,481 are spouses; and 78,818 are children.⁵

South Carolina Social Security Beneficiaries



Social Security pumps almost twelve billion into South Carolina's economy.

In 2010, South Carolina residents received 11.9 billion dollars from Social Security.⁶ The average yearly Social Security benefit for a South Carolina retiree in 2010 was \$13,846—or about \$1,154 a month.⁷

Nearly all South Carolina residents age 65 or older receive Social Security.

Over 17% of all people receive Social Security benefits; in South Carolina, 20% of residents do. However, older people are more likely to receive the benefit, with 91% of those ages 65 and over receiving it nationwide, and 93% of older South Carolina residents receiving it.¹

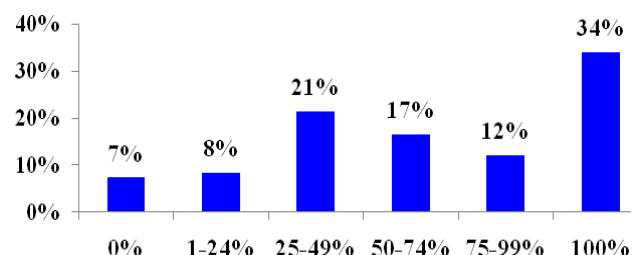
Social Security lifts more than one-third of retirees from poverty.

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 South Carolina, 40% 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 more than a third of South Carolina residents age 65+.

Social Security makes up 50 percent or more of the income for three in five South Carolina residents age 65 and older. More than a third of older South Carolina residents rely on Social Security as their only source of income.^{9,10}

Income Percentage from Social Security for South Carolina 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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