



Social Security: 2012 Tennessee Quick Facts

Tennessee's 65+ population is expanding.

In 2010, Tennessee's population was about 6.3 million, with 14% being age 65 and older (862,000 residents).¹ In 2015, the 65+ population will make up 15% of the state's population, and in 2030, it will be 19%.^{2,3}

Tennessee ranks 39th in income level among the states.

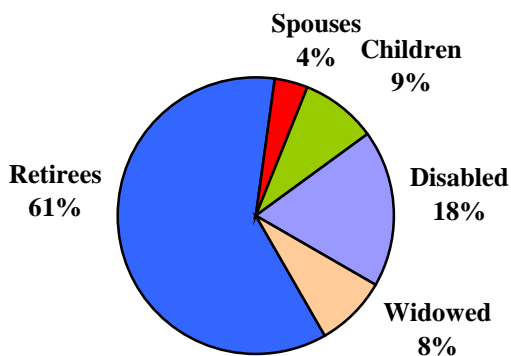
The average personal income in Tennessee was \$35,307 in 2010. Tennessee's per capita income (39th) ranks lower than Georgia (37th) and higher than Kentucky (44th).⁴

One in five Tennessee 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, 1,251,947 lived in Tennessee.⁵

In 2010, one in five Tennessee residents received Social Security.¹ While 61% of beneficiaries are retirees, 39% are not: 230,168 are people with disabilities; 104,318 are widows and widowers; 111,016 are children; and 49,737 are spouses.⁵

Tennessee Social Security Beneficiaries



Social Security pumps nearly 16 billion dollars into Tennessee's economy.

In 2010, Tennessee residents received 15.9 billion dollars from Social Security.⁶ The average yearly Social Security benefit for a Tennessee retiree in 2010 was \$13,655—or about \$1,138 a month.⁷

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

Over 17% of all people receive Social Security benefits; in Tennessee, 20% of residents do. However, older people are more likely to receive the benefit, with 92% of those ages 65 and over receiving it nationwide, and 93% of older Tennesseans receiving it.¹

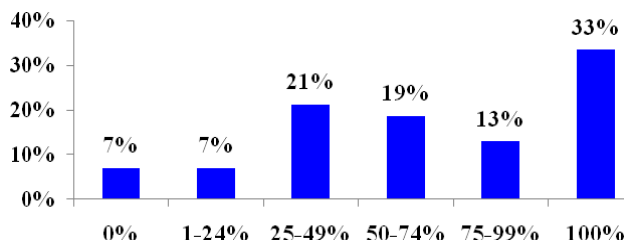
Social Security lifts more than one-third of retirees from poverty.

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 Tennessee, 43% of 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 a third of Tennesseans age 65+.

Social Security makes up 50 percent or more of the income for 60% of Tennesseans age 65 and older. A third of older Tennesseans rely on Social Security as their only source of income.^{9,10}

Income Percentage from Social Security for Tennesseans 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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