



Social Security: 2012 West Virginia Quick Facts

West Virginia's 65+ population is expanding.

In 2010, West Virginia's population was about 1.8 million, with 16% being age 65 and older (290,000 residents).¹ In 2015, the 65+ population will make up 18% of the state's population, and in 2030, it will be 25%.^{2,3}

West Virginia ranks 47th in per capita income level among the states.

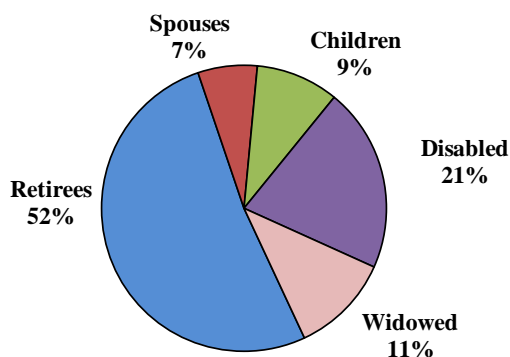
The average personal income in West Virginia was \$32,641 in 2010, giving it one of the lowest per capita incomes in the country (47th), next to Utah (48th), and Idaho (49th).⁴

One in four West Virginia 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, 443,911 lived in West Virginia.⁵

In 2010, one in four West Virginia residents received Social Security.¹ While 52% of beneficiaries are retirees, 48% are not: 48,485 are widows and widowers; 93,663 are people with disabilities; 28,922 are spouses; and 41,030 are children.⁵

West Virginia Social Security Beneficiaries



Social Security pumps over five billion dollars into West Virginia's economy.

In 2010, West Virginia residents received 5.7 billion from Social Security.⁶ The average yearly Social Security benefit for a West Virginia retiree in 2010 was \$13,381—or about \$1,115 a month.⁷

Nearly all West Virginia residents age 65 or older receive Social Security.

Over 17% of all people receive Social Security benefits; in West Virginia, 24% of residents do. However, older people are more likely to receive the benefit, with 92% of those over age 65 receiving it nationwide, and 94% of older West Virginians receiving it.¹

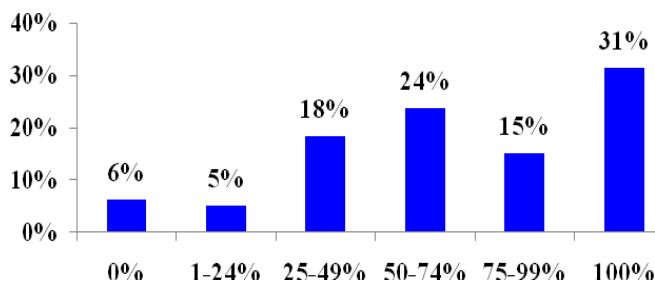
Social Security lifts more than one-third of retirees from poverty.

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 West Virginia, the rate is even higher: 53% 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 West Virginians age 65+.

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

Income Percentage from Social Security for West Virginians 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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