



Social Security: Alaska Quick Facts



Alaska's aged population is expanding.

In 2003, Alaska's population was about 649,000 with 6% being age 65 and older (41,000 residents).¹ In 2015, the 65+ population will make up 8% of the state's population, and in 2025, it will be 10%.^{2,3}

Alaska ranks 14th in income level among the U.S. states.

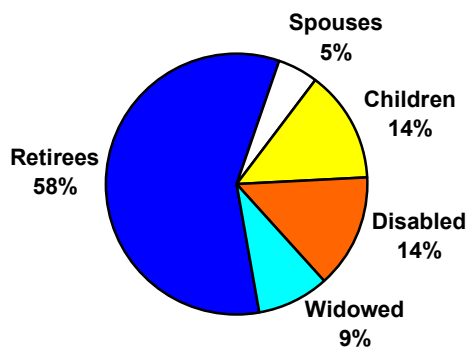
The average personal income in Alaska was \$33,213 in 2003. Alaska's per capita income (14th) ranks just below California (12th).⁴

One in eleven Alaska 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 2003, over 47 million Americans received Social Security benefits; of these, 61,070 live in Alaska.⁵

In 2003, one in eleven Alaska residents received Social Security. While 58% of beneficiaries are retirees, 42% are not: 8,810 are disabled workers; 8,510 are children; 5,250 are widows and widowers; and 2,850 are wives and husbands.⁶

Alaska Social Security Beneficiaries



Social Security pumps over 570 million dollars into Alaska's economy.

In 2003, Alaska residents received 574 million dollars from Social Security.⁶ The average yearly Social Security benefit for an Alaska retiree in 2003 was \$10,706—or about \$892 a month.⁵

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

Nationally, almost 16% of all people receive Social Security benefits; in Alaska, 9% of residents do. However, older people are more likely to receive the benefit, with 91% of those over age 65 receiving it nationwide, and 92% of older Alaskans receiving it.¹

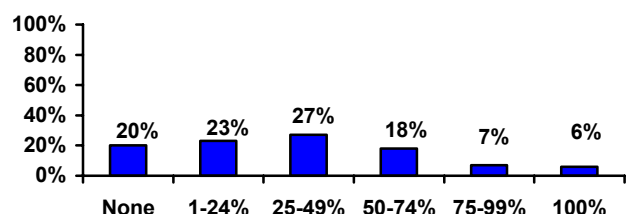
Social Security lifts nearly half of retirees from poverty.

Nearly half (47%) of the nation's older population would be living in poverty if they were not receiving Social Security. In Alaska, 32% of the state's 65+ population (11,000 people) would have incomes below the poverty line if they did not have Social Security.⁷

Social Security is the only source of income for less than one tenth of Alaskans age 65+.

Social Security makes up 50 percent or more of the income for one third of Alaskans age 65 and older. One sixth of older Alaskans rely on Social Security as their only source of income.⁸

Income Percentage from Social Security for Alaskans 65+



End Notes

¹ OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County, 2003. Social Security Administration:
http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_sc/2003/table1.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 Projections of the Total Population of States: 1995 to 2025. United States Census Bureau:
<http://www.census.gov/population/projections/state/stpjpop.txt>

⁴ Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Dept. of Commerce:
<http://www.bea.gov/region/bearfacts/statebf.cfm>

⁵ OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County, 2003. Social Security Administration:
<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2004/5j.html#table5.j4>

⁶ OASDI Estimated Total Benefits Paid, 2003, Social Security Administration:
<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2004/5j.html#table5.j1>

⁷ Sherman, A. and Shapiro, I. (2005) *Social Security Lifts 13 Million Seniors Above the Poverty Line: A State by State Analysis*. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities:
www.cbpp.org/2-24-05socsec.htm

⁸ AARP analysis using data from U.S. Census Bureau: 2000
