



Social Security: Alabama Quick Facts



Alabama's aged population is expanding.

In 2003, Alabama's population was about 4.5 million, with 13% being age 65 and older (592,000 residents).¹ In 2015, the 65+ population will make up 15% of the state's population, and in 2025, it will be 19%.²

Alabama is one of the poorest U.S. states.

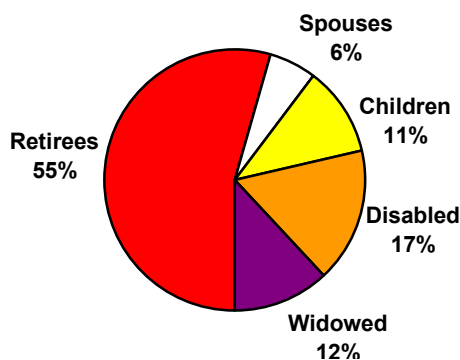
The average personal income in Alabama was \$26,276 in 2003, giving it one of the lowest per capita incomes in the South, and one of lowest in the country (42nd).³

One in five Alabama 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, 867,601 live in Alabama.¹

In 2003, one in five Alabama residents received Social Security. While 55% of beneficiaries are retirees, 45% are not: 148,770 are disabled workers; 100,917 are widows and widowers; 95,157 are children; and 47,892 are wives and husbands.¹

Alabama Social Security Beneficiaries



Social Security pumps over 5 billion dollars into Alabama's economy.

In 1999, Alabama residents received 5.04 billion dollars from Social Security.⁴ The average yearly Social Security benefit for an Alabama retiree in 2003 was \$10,544—or about \$879 a month.¹

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

Nationally, almost 16% of all people receive Social Security benefits; in Alabama, 19% of residents do. However, older people are more likely to receive the benefit, with 91% of those over age 65 receiving it nationwide, and 93% of older Alabamians receiving it.¹

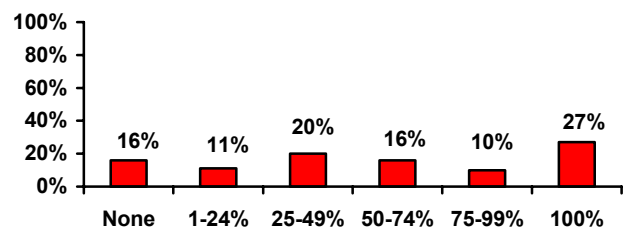
Social Security lifts about half of retirees from poverty.

Nearly half (47%) of the nation's older population would be living in poverty if they were not receiving Social Security. In Alabama, the rate is even higher: 53% of state's 65+ population (222,000 people) would have incomes below the poverty line if they did not have Social Security.⁵

Social Security is the only source of income for almost three in ten Alabamians age 65+.

Social Security makes up at least half of the income for just over half of Alabamians age 65 and older. Just over a quarter of older Alabamians rely on Social Security as their only source of income.⁶

Income Percentage from Social Security for Alabamians 65+



End Notes

¹ OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County, 2003.
Social Security Administration:
www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_sc/2003/index.html

² Population Estimates and Projections, Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Alabama: http://cber.cba.ua.edu/edata/est_prj.html

³ Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Dept. of Commerce:
<http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/bearfacts/statebf.cfm>

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, Household Aggregate Social Security Income in 1999, Alabama:
http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/CTTable?_bm=y&-context=ct&-ds_name=DEC_2000_SF3_U&-mt_name=DEC_2000_SF3_U_P071&-tree_id=403&-all_geo_types=N&-geo_id=04000US01&-search_results=01000US&-dataitem=DEC_2000_SF3_U_P071.P071001&-format=&-_lang=en

⁵ 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

⁶ AARP analysis using data from U.S. Census Bureau: 2000
