



Social Security: California Quick Facts



California's aged population is expanding.

In 2003, California's population was about 35.5 million, with 11% being age 65 and older (3.8 million residents).¹ In 2015, the 65+ population will make up 11% of the state's population, and in 2025, it will be 13%.^{2,3}

California ranks 12th in income level among the U.S. states.

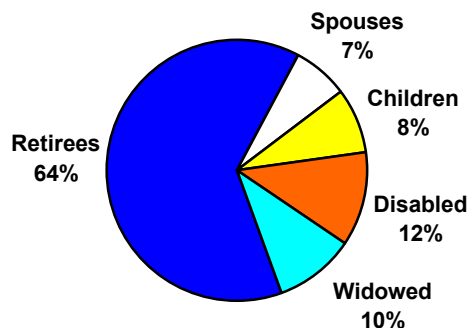
The average personal income in California was \$33,415 in 2003. California's per capita income ranks higher than any other Western state.⁴

One in eight California 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, 4,358,850 live in California.⁵

In 2003, one in eight California residents received Social Security. While 64% of beneficiaries are retirees, 36% are not: 413,310 are widows and widowers; 504,560 are disabled workers; 286,340 are wives and husbands; and 348,050 are children.⁵

California Social Security Beneficiaries



Social Security pumps over 43 billion dollars into California's economy.

In 2003, California residents received an estimated 43.9 billion dollars from Social Security.⁶ The average yearly Social Security benefit for a California retiree in 2003 was \$11,113—or about \$926 a month.⁵

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

Nationally, almost 16% of all people receive Social Security benefits; in California, 12% of residents also receive benefits. However, older people are more likely to receive Social Security, with 91% of those over age 65 receiving it nationwide, and 85% of older Californians receiving it.¹

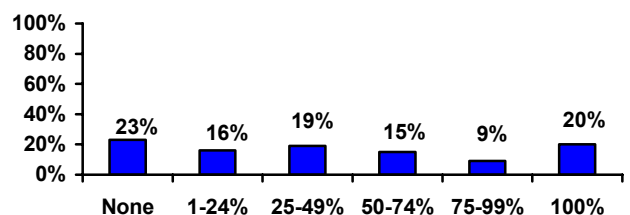
Social Security lifts nearly half of Californian retirees from poverty.

Nearly half (47%) of the nation's older population would be living in poverty if they were not receiving Social Security. In California, 40% of the state's 65+ population (1,065,000 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 one in five Californians age 65+.

Social Security makes up at least half of the income for almost half of Californians age 65 and older. A fifth of older Californians rely on Social Security as their only source of income.⁸

Income Percentage from Social Security for Californians 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, Projections of the Total Population of States: 1995 to 2025, . United States Census Bureau:

<http://www.census.gov/population/projections/state/stpja/ge.txt>

³ Projections of the Total Population of States: 1995 to 2025. United States Census Bureau:

<http://www.census.gov/population/projections/state/stppop.txt>

⁴ Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Dept. of Commerce:

<http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/bearfacts/statebf.cfm>

⁵ OASDI Current-Pay Benefits Geographic Data, 2003.

Social Security Administration:

<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/>

⁶ OASDI Estimated Total Benefits Paid, 2003, Social Security Administration:

<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2004/5j.html>

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
