



# Social Security: Kentucky Quick Facts



## Kentucky's aged population is expanding.

In 2003, Kentucky's population was about 4,118,000 with 12% being age 65 and older (512,000 residents).<sup>1</sup> In 2015, the 65+ population will make up 16% of the state's population, and in 2025, it will be 21%.<sup>2,3</sup>

## Kentucky ranks 41<sup>st</sup> in income level among the U.S. states.

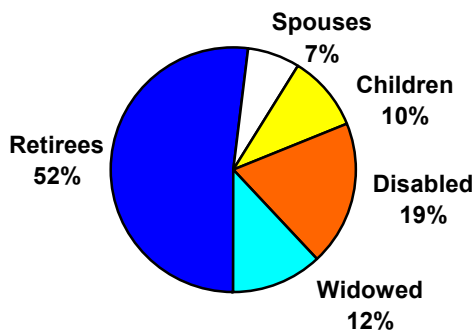
The average personal income in Kentucky was \$26,575 in 2003. Kentucky's per capita income (41<sup>th</sup>) ranks the lowest in the Midwest region.<sup>4</sup>

## One in five Kentucky 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, 769,060 live in Kentucky.<sup>5</sup>

In 2003, one in five Kentucky residents received Social Security. While 52% of beneficiaries are retirees, 48% are not: 144,060 are disabled workers; 94,060 are widows and widowers; 79,750 are children; and 50,900 are wives and husbands.<sup>6</sup>

**Kentucky Social Security Beneficiaries**



## Social Security pumps over 7 billion dollars into Kentucky's economy.

In 2003, Kentucky residents received 7.2 billion dollars from Social Security.<sup>6</sup> The average yearly Social Security benefit for a Kentucky retiree in 2003 was \$10,441—or about \$870 a month.<sup>5</sup>

## Nearly all Kentucky residents age 65 or older receive Social Security.

Nationally, almost 16% of all people receive Social Security benefits; in Kentucky, 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 Kentucky residents receiving it.<sup>1</sup>

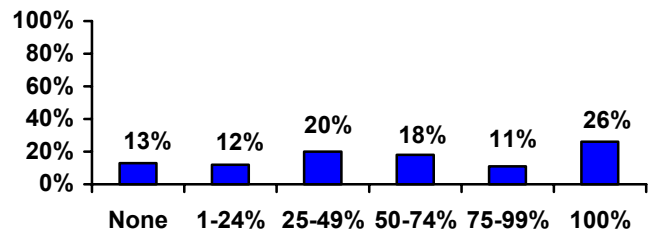
## Social Security lifts nearly half of retirees from poverty.

Nearly half (47%) of the nation's older population would be living in poverty if they were not receiving Social Security. In Kentucky, 55% of state's 65+ population (216,000 people) would have incomes below the poverty line if they did not have Social Security.<sup>7</sup>

## Social Security is the only source of income for a quarter of Kentucky residents age 65+.

Social Security makes up 50 percent or more of the income for over half of Kentucky residents age 65 and older. A quarter of older Kentucky residents rely on Social Security as their only source of income.<sup>8</sup>

**Income Percentage from Social Security for Kentucky Residents 65+**



## End Notes

<sup>1</sup> OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County, 2003. Social Security Administration:  
[http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi\\_sc/2003/table1.html](http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_sc/2003/table1.html)

<sup>2</sup> 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>

<sup>3</sup> Projections of the Total Population of States: 1995 to 2025. United States Census Bureau:  
<http://www.census.gov/population/projections/state/stpjpop.txt>

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

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

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

<sup>7</sup> 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](http://www.cbpp.org/2-24-05socsec.htm)

<sup>8</sup> AARP analysis using data from U.S. Census Bureau: 2000

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