



Social Security: Maine Quick Facts



Maine is the oldest state in New England.

In 2003, Maine's population was about 1,306,000, with 14% being age 65 and older (188,000 residents).¹ In 2015, the 65+ population will make up 16% of the state's population, and in 2025, it will be 21%.^{2,3}

Maine is the poorest state in New England.

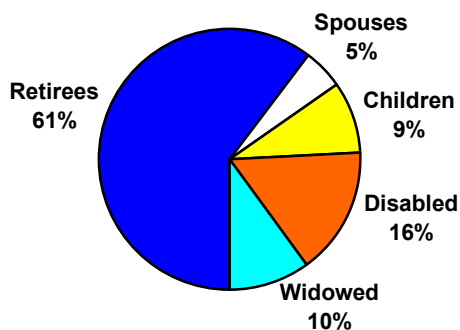
The average personal income in Maine was \$29,164 in 2003, giving it the lowest per capita income in New England (34).⁴

One in five Maine 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, 262,600 live in Maine.⁵

In 2003, one in five Maine residents received Social Security. While 61% of beneficiaries are retirees, 40% are not: 41,390 are disabled workers; 25,540 are widows and widowers; 22,650 are children; and 14,030 are wives and husbands.⁶

Maine Social Security Beneficiaries



Social Security pumps over 2 billion dollars into Maine's economy.

In 2003, Maine residents received 2.4 billion dollars from Social Security.⁶ The average yearly Social Security benefit for a Maine retiree in 2003 was \$10,210—or about \$851 a month.⁵

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

Nationally, almost 16% of all people receive Social Security benefits; in Maine, 20% of residents do. However, older people are more likely to receive the benefit, with 91% of those over age 65 receiving it nationwide, and 95% of older Mainers receiving it.¹

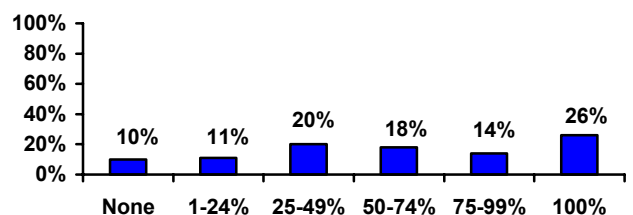
Social Security lifts nearly half of retirees from poverty.

Nearly half (47%) of the nation's older population would be living in poverty if they were not receiving Social Security. In Maine, 56% of the state's 65+ population (97,000 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 over a quarter of Mainers age 65+.

Social Security makes up 50 percent or more of the income half of three in five Mainers age 65 and older. More than a quarter of older Mainers rely on Social Security as their only source of income.⁸

Income Percentage from Social Security for Mainers 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/bea/regional/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
