



Social Security: North Carolina Quick Facts



North Carolina's aged population is expanding.

In 2003, North Carolina's population was about 8,407,000 with 12% being age 65 and older (1,016,000 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}

North Carolina ranks 38th in income level in the U.S.

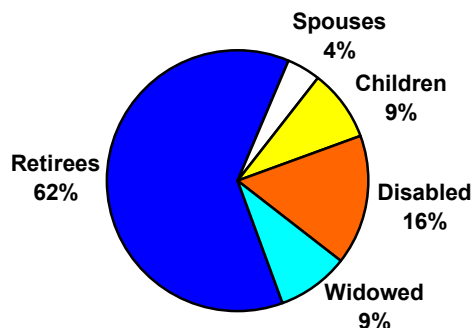
The average personal income in North Carolina was \$28,071 in 2003. North Carolina's per capita income (38th) ranks lower than Virginia (11th) but higher than South Carolina (44th).⁴

One in six North Carolina 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, 1,435,850 live in North Carolina.⁵

In 2003, one in six North Carolina residents received Social Security. While 62% of beneficiaries are retirees, 38% are not: 225,420 are disabled workers; 132,720 are widows and widowers; 128,340 are children; and 59,590 are wives and husbands.⁶

North Carolina Social Security Beneficiaries



Social Security pumps almost 14 billion dollars into North Carolina's economy.

In 2003, North Carolina residents received 13.9 billion dollars from Social Security.⁶ The average yearly Social Security benefit for a North Carolina retiree in 2003 was \$10,786—or about \$899 a month.⁵

Nearly all North Carolina residents age 65 or older receive Social Security.

Nationally, almost 16% of all people receive Social Security benefits; in North Carolina, 17% 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 North Carolinians receiving it.¹

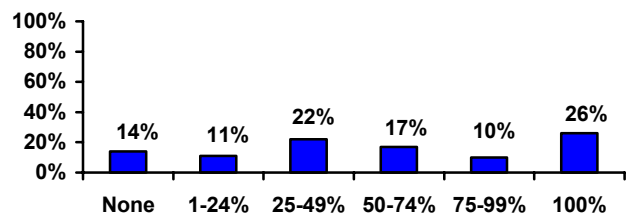
Social Security lifts half of North Carolina retirees from poverty.

Nearly half (47%) of the nation's older population would be living in poverty if they were not receiving Social Security. In North Carolina, 50% of the state's 65+ population (370,000 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 North Carolinians age 65+.

Social Security makes up 50 percent or more of the income for over half of North Carolinians age 65 and older. Over a quarter of older North Carolinians rely on Social Security as their only source of income.⁸

Income Percentage from Social Security for North Carolinians 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
