



Social Security: Nebraska Quick Facts



Nebraska's aged population is expanding.

In 2003, Nebraska's population was about 1.7 million, with 13% being age 65 and older (232,000 residents).¹ In 2015, the 65+ population will make up 14% of the state's population, and in 2020, it will be 16%.²

Nebraska ranks 24th in income level among the U.S. states.

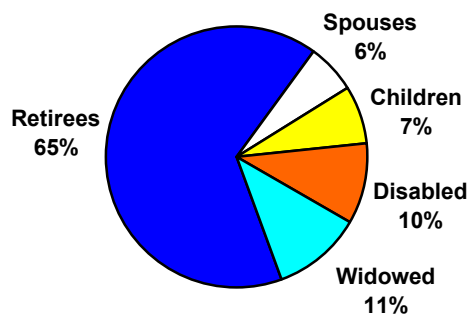
The average personal income in Nebraska was \$30,179 in 2003. Among the Midwest states, Nebraska's (24th) per capita income ranks higher than Iowa (37th), North Dakota (32nd) or South Dakota (33rd) but lower than Minnesota (10th).³

One in six Nebraska 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, 287,891 live in Nebraska.⁴

In 2003, one in six Nebraska residents received Social Security. While 65% of beneficiaries are retirees, 35% are not: 30,918 are widows and widowers; 29,642 are disabled workers; 18,553 are wives and husbands; and 20,436 are children.⁴

Nebraska Social Security Beneficiaries



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

In 1999, Nebraska residents received 2.01 billion dollars from Social Security.⁵ The average yearly Social Security benefit for a Nebraska retiree in 2003 was \$10,887—or about \$907 a month.⁴

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

Nationally, almost 16% of all people receive Social Security benefits; in Nebraska, 17% 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 94% of older Nebraskans receiving it.¹

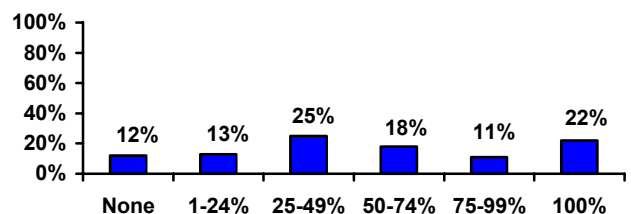
Social Security lifts nearly half of Nebraskan retirees from poverty.

Nearly half (47%) of the nation's older population would be living in poverty if they were not receiving Social Security. In Nebraska, 47% of the state's 65+ population (79,000 people) would have incomes below the poverty line if they did not have Social Security.⁶

Social Security is the only source of income for one in five Nebraskans age 65+.

Social Security makes up at least half of the income for over half of Nebraskans age 65 and older. A fifth of older Nebraskans rely on Social Security as their only source of income.⁷

Income Percentage from Social Security for Nebraskans 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 Bureau of Business Research Population Projections,
University of Nebraska-Lincoln:
<http://www.nuonramp.bbr.unl.edu:8080/PopProjections/Proj.jsp?fipscode=31000>

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

⁴ OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County, 2003.
Social Security Administration:
http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_sc/2003/

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, Household Aggregate Social Security Income in 1999, Nebraska:
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&-redoLog=false&-all_geo_types=N&-_caller=geoselect&-geo_id=01000US&-geo_id=04000US31&-search_results=01000US&-dataitem=DEC_2000_SF3_U_P071.P071001&-format=&-_lang=en

⁶ 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

⁷ AARP analysis using data from U.S. Census Bureau: 2000
