



Social Security: South Carolina Quick Facts



South Carolina's aged population is expanding.

In 2003, South Carolina's population was about 4,147,000, with 12% being age 65 and older (512,000 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}

South Carolina is one of the poorest U.S. states.

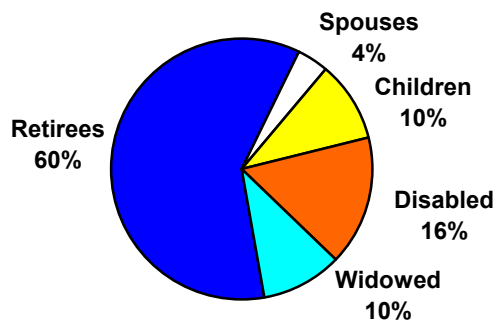
The average personal income in South Carolina was \$26,144 in 2003, giving it one of the lowest per capita incomes in the country (44th).⁴

One in six South 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, 733,250 live in South Carolina.⁵

In 2003, one in six South Carolina residents received Social Security. While 60% of beneficiaries are retirees, 40% are not: 70,020 are widows and widowers; 117,630 are disabled workers; 31,250 are wives and husbands; and 73,260 are children.⁶

South Carolina Social Security Beneficiaries



Social Security pumps \$7.1 billion into South Carolina's economy.

In 2003, South Carolina residents received \$7.1 billion from Social Security.⁶ The average yearly Social Security benefit for a South Carolina retiree in 2003 was \$10,757—or about \$896 a month.⁵

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

Nationally, almost 16% of all people receive Social Security benefits; in South Carolina, 18% 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 South Carolina residents receiving it.¹

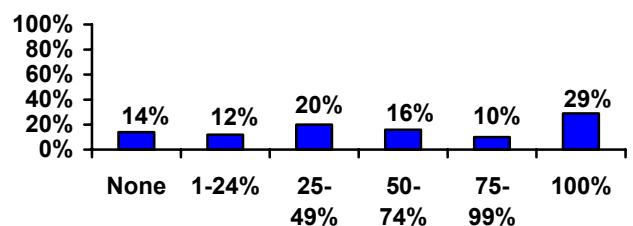
Social Security lifts nearly half of retirees from poverty.

Nearly half (47%) of the nation's older population would be living in poverty if they were not receiving Social Security. In South Carolina, 49% of the state's 65+ population (194,000 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 three in ten South Carolina residents age 65+.

Social Security makes up at least half of the income for over half of South Carolina residents age 65 and older. Three in ten older South Carolina residents rely on Social Security as their only source of income.⁸

Income Percentage from Social Security for South Carolina Residents 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
