



Social Security: Tennessee Quick Facts



Tennessee's aged population is expanding.

In 2003, Tennessee's population was about 5,842,000, with 12% being age 65 and older (727,000 residents).¹ In 2015, the 65+ population will make up 16% of the state's population, and in 2025, it will be 20%.^{2,3}

Tennessee ranks 36th in income level among the U.S. states.

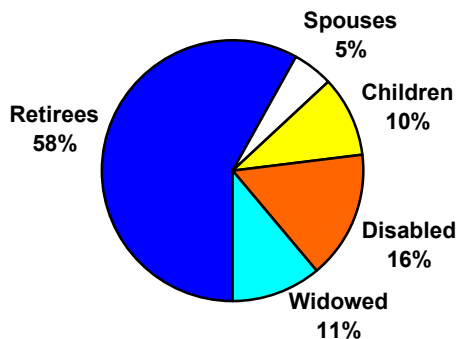
The average personal income in Tennessee was \$28,641 in 2003. Tennessee's per capita income (36th) ranks lower than Georgia (31st) but higher than Kentucky (41st).⁴

One in six Tennessee 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, 1,047,700 live in Tennessee.⁵

In 2003, one in six Tennessee residents received Social Security. While 58% of beneficiaries are retirees, 42% are not: 163,300 are disabled workers; 114,100 are widows and widowers; 101,180 are children; and 57,000 are wives and husbands.⁶

Tennessee Social Security Beneficiaries



Social Security pumps over 10 billion dollars into Tennessee's economy.

In 2003, Tennessee residents received 10.1 billion dollars from Social Security.⁶ The average yearly Social Security benefit for a Tennessee retiree in 2003 was \$10,733—or about \$894 a month.⁵

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

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

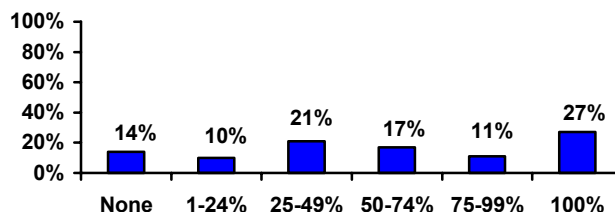
Social Security lifts nearly half of retirees from poverty.

Nearly half (47%) of the nation's older population would be living in poverty if they were not receiving Social Security. In Tennessee, 55% of state's 65+ population (265,000 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 Tennesseans age 65+.

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

Income Percentage from Social Security for Tennesseans 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
