



# Social Security: Utah Quick Facts



## Utah's aged population is expanding.

In 2003, Utah's population was about 2,351,000, with 9% being age 65 and older (203,000 residents).<sup>1</sup> In 2015, the 65+ population will make up 13% of the state's population, and in 2025, it will be 17%.<sup>2,3</sup>

## Utah is one of the poorest U.S. states.

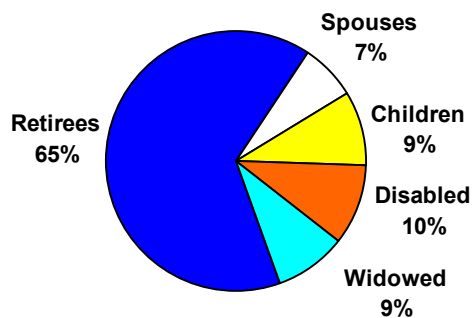
The average personal income in Utah was \$25,407 in 2003. Among the Western states, Utah's (46<sup>th</sup>) per capita income ranks lower than neighboring Nevada (19<sup>th</sup>), and California (12<sup>th</sup>).

## One in ten Utah 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, 256,610 live in Utah.<sup>5</sup>

In 2003, one in ten Utah residents received Social Security. While 65% of beneficiaries are retirees, 35% are not: 22,720 are widows and widowers; 25,670 are disabled workers; 17,550 are wives and husbands; and 24,240 are children.<sup>6</sup>

Utah Social Security Beneficiaries



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

In 2003, Utah residents received \$2.6 billion from Social Security.<sup>6</sup> The average yearly Social Security benefit for a Utah retiree in 2003 was \$11,113—or about \$926 a month.<sup>5</sup>

## Nearly all Utah residents age 65 or older receive Social Security.

Nationally, almost 16% of all people receive Social Security benefits; 11% of Utah residents also receive benefits. However, older people are more likely to receive the benefit, with 91% of those over age 65 receiving it nationwide, and the same number of older Utah residents (91%) receiving it.<sup>1</sup>

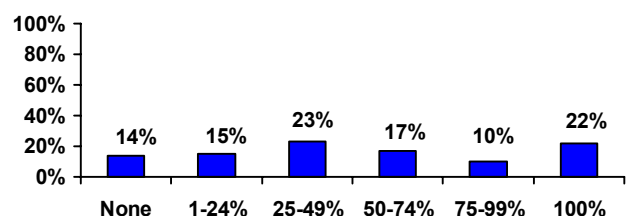
## Social Security lifts nearly half of retirees from poverty.

Nearly half (47%) of the nation's older population would be living in poverty if they were not receiving Social Security. In Utah, 38% of state's 65+ population (51,000 people) would have incomes below the poverty line if they did not have Social Security.<sup>7</sup>

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

Social Security makes up 50 percent or more of the income for almost half of Utah residents age 65 and older. One in five older Utah residents rely on Social Security as their only source of income.<sup>8</sup>

Income Percentage from Social Security for Utah Residents 65+



## End Notes

<sup>1</sup> OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County, 2003. Social Security Administration:  
[http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi\\_sc/2003/table1.html](http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_sc/2003/table1.html)

<sup>2</sup> 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>

<sup>3</sup> Projections of the Total Population of States: 1995 to 2025. United States Census Bureau:  
<http://www.census.gov/population/projections/state/stpjpop.txt>

<sup>4</sup> Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Dept. of Commerce:  
<http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/bearfacts/statebf.cfm>

<sup>5</sup> OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County, 2003. Social Security Administration:  
<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2004/5j.html#table5.j4>

<sup>6</sup> OASDI Estimated Total Benefits Paid, 2003, Social Security Administration:  
<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2004/5j.html#table5.j1>

<sup>7</sup> 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](http://www.cbpp.org/2-24-05socsec.htm)

<sup>8</sup> AARP analysis using data from U.S. Census Bureau: 2000

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