



Social Security: Vermont Quick Facts



Vermont's aged population is expanding.

In 2003, Vermont's population was about 619,000 with 13% being age 65 and older (80,000 residents).¹ In 2015, the 65+ population will make up 15% of the state's population, and in 2025, it will be 20%.^{2,3}

Vermont ranks 21st in income level among the U.S. states.

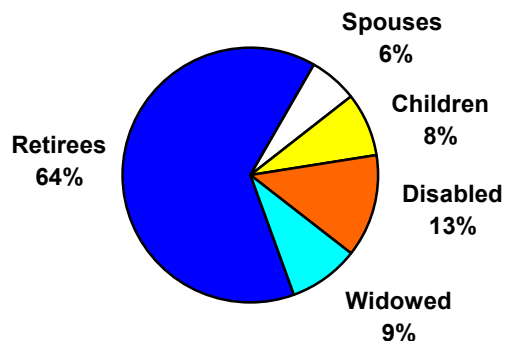
The average personal income in Vermont was \$30,888 in 2003. Vermont's per capita income ranks higher (21st) than Maine (29th), but lower than any other northeastern state.⁴

One in five Vermont 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, 108,900 lived in Vermont.⁵

In 2003, one in five Vermont residents received Social Security. While 64% of beneficiaries were retirees, 36% were not: 14,550 were disabled workers; 10,150 were widows and widowers; 9,060 were children; and 5,970 were wives and husbands.⁶

Vermont Social Security Beneficiaries



Social Security pumps over 1 billion dollars into Vermont's economy.

In 2003, Vermont residents received 1.1 billion dollars from Social Security.⁶ The average yearly Social Security benefit for a Vermont retiree in 2003 was \$10,946—or about \$912 a month.⁵

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

Nationally, almost 16% of all people receive Social Security benefits; in Vermont, 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 96% of older Vermonters receiving it.¹

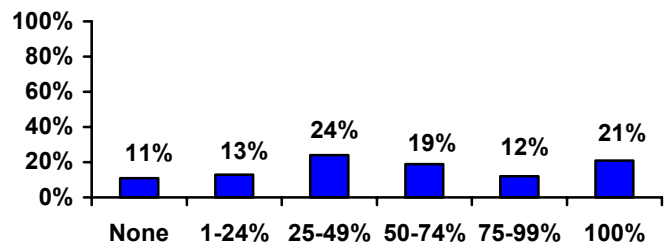
Social Security lifts over half of Vermont retirees from poverty.

Nearly half (47%) of the nation's older population would be living in poverty if they were not receiving Social Security. In Vermont, 55% of the state's 65+ population (35,000 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 one in five of Vermont residents age 65+.

Social Security makes up at least half of the income for more than 50% of Vermont residents age 65+. One in five older Vermont residents rely on Social Security as their only source of income.⁸

Income Percentage from Social Security for Vermont 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
