



# Social Security: Wisconsin Quick Facts



## Wisconsin's aged population is expanding.

In 2003, Wisconsin's population was about 5,472,200 with 13% being age 65 and older (712,000 residents).<sup>1</sup> In 2015, the 65+ population will make up 15% of the state's population, and in 2020, it will be 17%.<sup>2</sup>

## Wisconsin ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in income level among the U.S. states.

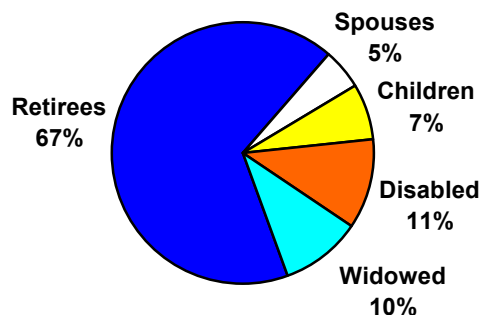
The average personal income in Wisconsin was \$30,723 in 2003. Among the Midwest states, Wisconsin's (21<sup>st</sup>) per capita income ranks higher than Iowa (37<sup>th</sup>) or Ohio (25<sup>th</sup>) but lower than Michigan (20<sup>th</sup>) and Minnesota (10<sup>th</sup>).<sup>3</sup>

## One in six Wisconsin 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, 928,505 live in Wisconsin.<sup>4</sup>

In 2003, one in six Wisconsin residents received Social Security. While 67% of beneficiaries are retirees, 33% are not: 92,498 are widows and widowers; 98,289 are disabled workers; 50,361 are wives and husbands; and 65,249 are children.<sup>4</sup>

Wisconsin Social Security Beneficiaries



## Social Security pumps over 6 billion dollars into Wisconsin's economy.

In 1999, Wisconsin residents received 6.5 billion dollars from Social Security.<sup>5</sup> The average yearly Social Security benefit for a Wisconsin retiree in 2003 was \$11,352—or about \$946 a month.<sup>4</sup>

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

Nationally, almost 16% of all people receive Social Security benefits; in Wisconsin, 16% 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 the same amount of Wisconsinites (91%) receive it.<sup>1</sup>

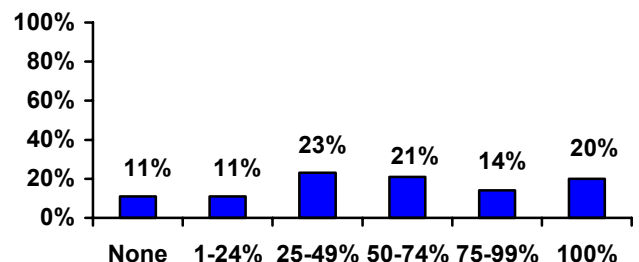
## Social Security lifts nearly half of retirees from poverty.

Nearly half (47%) of the nation's older population would be living in poverty if they were not receiving Social Security. In Wisconsin, 45% of state's 65+ population (253,000 people) would have incomes below the poverty line if they did not have Social Security.<sup>6</sup>

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

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

Income Percentage from Social Security for Wisconsinites 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> Wisconsin Population Projection Tables 2000- 2030,  
State of Wisconsin Department of Administration:  
[http://www.doa.state.wi.us/pagesubtext\\_detail.asp?linksu\\_bcatid=105](http://www.doa.state.wi.us/pagesubtext_detail.asp?linksu_bcatid=105)

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

<sup>4</sup> OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County, 2003.  
Social Security Administration:  
[http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi\\_sc/2003/wi.html](http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_sc/2003/wi.html)

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Household Aggregate Social Security Income in 1999, Wisconsin:  
[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&-all\\_geo\\_types=N&-redoLog=true&-\\_caller=geoselect&-geo\\_id=01000US&-geo\\_id=04000US55&-search\\_results=01000US&-dataitem=DEC\\_2000\\_SF3\\_U\\_P071.P071001&-format=&-\\_lang=en](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&-all_geo_types=N&-redoLog=true&-_caller=geoselect&-geo_id=01000US&-geo_id=04000US55&-search_results=01000US&-dataitem=DEC_2000_SF3_U_P071.P071001&-format=&-_lang=en)

<sup>6</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>7</sup> AARP analysis using data from U.S. Census Bureau: 2000

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