



# Social Security: 2008 California Quick Facts



## California's 65+ population is expanding.

In 2006, California's population was 36,458,000, with 11% being age 65 and older (3,932,000 residents).<sup>1</sup> In 2015, the 65+ population will make up 11% of the state's population, and in 2030, it will be 18%.<sup>2,3</sup>

## California ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in income level among the states.

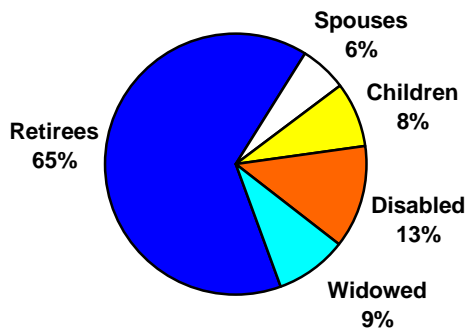
The average personal income in California was \$39,626 in 2006. California's per capita income is second highest in the Western states, only Wyoming is ranked higher (6<sup>th</sup>).<sup>4</sup>

## One in eight California 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 2006, over 49 million Americans received Social Security benefits; of these, 4,504,672 live in California.<sup>5</sup>

In 2006, one in eight California residents received Social Security. While 65% of beneficiaries are retirees, 35% are not: 394,166 are widows and widowers; 570,084 are people with disabilities; 272,968 are spouses; and 354,601 are children.<sup>5</sup>

California Social Security Beneficiaries



## Social Security pumps over 50 billion dollars into California's economy.

In 2006, California residents received an estimated 50.8 billion dollars from Social Security.<sup>6</sup> The average yearly Social Security benefit for a California retiree in 2006 was \$12,184—or about \$1,015 a month.<sup>7</sup>

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

Over 16% of all people receive Social Security benefits; in California, 13% 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 84% of older Californians receiving it.<sup>1</sup>

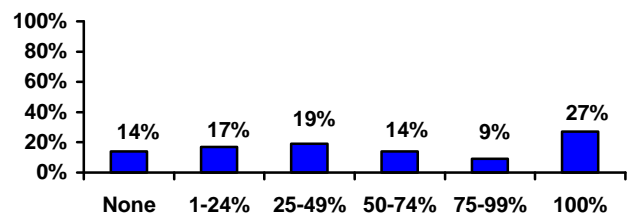
## Social Security lifts nearly half of Californian retirees from poverty.

In 2005, nearly half (47%) of the nation's older population would be living in poverty if they were not receiving Social Security. In California, 40% of the state's 65+ population would have incomes below the poverty line if they did not receive Social Security.<sup>8</sup>

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

Social Security makes up at least half of the income for exactly half of Californians age 65 and older. More than a quarter of older Californians rely on Social Security as their only source of income.<sup>9</sup>

Income Percentage from Social Security for Californians 65+



## End Notes

<sup>1</sup> OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County, 2006. Social Security Administration:  
[http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi\\_sc/2006/table01.html](http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_sc/2006/table01.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> Ranking of States by Projected Percent of Population age 65 and Over: 2000, 2010, and 2030. United States Census Bureau:  
<http://www.census.gov/population/www/projections/projectionsagesex.html>

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

<sup>5</sup> OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County, 2006. Social Security Administration:  
[http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi\\_sc/2006/table02.html](http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_sc/2006/table02.html)

<sup>6</sup> OASDI Estimated Total Benefits Paid, 2006, Social Security Administration:  
<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2007/5j.html#table5.j1>

<sup>7</sup> OASDI Number and Total Monthly Benefits for Beneficiaries, age 65 or older, 2006:  
<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2007/5j.html#table5.j3>

<sup>8</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>9</sup> AARP analysis using data from U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey: 2006.

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