

Social Security Essentials

Compiled April 2005

Colorado

With a debate raging over the future of Social Security, it's time to look at some of the facts about what it means for counties in Colorado.

Who Gets Social Security Benefits in Colorado by County

| County | Total Number of Recipients | Recipients as % of Population | Percentage of Beneficiaries by Program: | | | Percentage Beneficiaries that are Children* |
|--------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-----------|----------|---|
| | | | Retired Workers | Survivors | Disabled | |
| State | 557,253 | 12% | 71% | 14% | 15% | 8% |
| Adams | 40,225 | 11% | 67% | 14% | 19% | 9% |
| Alamosa | 2,090 | 14% | 61% | 18% | 22% | 13% |
| Arapahoe | 54,675 | 11% | 73% | 13% | 13% | 8% |
| Archuleta | 1,995 | 18% | 76% | 11% | 13% | 7% |
| Baca | 1,150 | 26% | 70% | 20% | 10% | 7% |
| Bent | 925 | 16% | 66% | 16% | 18% | 9% |
| Boulder | 27,590 | 10% | 75% | 13% | 12% | 7% |
| Broomfield | 3,970 | 10% | 71% | 14% | 15% | 9% |
| Chaffee | 3,640 | 22% | 77% | 12% | 11% | 5% |
| Cheyenne | 380 | 18% | 72% | 20% | 8% | 7% |
| Clear Creek | 970 | 10% | 75% | 10% | 15% | 6% |
| Conejos | 1,660 | 20% | 63% | 17% | 20% | 11% |
| Costilla | 1,050 | 29% | 61% | 14% | 25% | 12% |
| Crowley | 725 | 13% | 61% | 16% | 23% | 9% |
| Custer | 840 | 23% | 78% | 9% | 13% | 5% |
| Delta | 7,010 | 24% | 74% | 13% | 13% | 6% |
| Denver | 72,250 | 13% | 70% | 13% | 17% | 7% |
| Dolores | 440 | 24% | 67% | 15% | 18% | 5% |
| Douglas | 13,670 | 6% | 75% | 13% | 12% | 9% |
| Eagle | 2,145 | 5% | 74% | 14% | 11% | 10% |
| Elbert | 2,030 | 9% | 70% | 14% | 16% | 10% |
| El Paso | 64,350 | 12% | 70% | 14% | 16% | 8% |
| Fremont | 9,055 | 19% | 69% | 14% | 17% | 8% |
| Garfield | 5,080 | 11% | 72% | 14% | 14% | 8% |
| Gilpin | 425 | 9% | 67% | 11% | 22% | 7% |
| Grand | 1,380 | 11% | 80% | 9% | 11% | 6% |
| Gunnison | 1,320 | 9% | 75% | 13% | 12% | 8% |
| Hinsdale | 135 | 17% | 81% | 11% | 7% | 4% |
| Huerfano | 1,785 | 23% | 68% | 13% | 19% | 7% |
| Jackson | 280 | 18% | 75% | 16% | 9% | 5% |
| Jefferson | 65,735 | 12% | 75% | 13% | 12% | 7% |

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|------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-----------|----------|---|
| | | | Retired Workers | Survivors | Disabled | |
| Kiowa | 335 | 22% | 75% | 18% | 7% | 3% |
| Kit Carson | 1,475 | 19% | 72% | 18% | 11% | 6% |
| Lake | 715 | 9% | 68% | 17% | 15% | 7% |
| La Plata | 5,920 | 13% | 74% | 14% | 12% | 8% |
| Larimer | 32,770 | 12% | 74% | 13% | 13% | 6% |
| Las Animas | 3,280 | 21% | 64% | 17% | 18% | 9% |
| Lincoln | 960 | 16% | 70% | 15% | 15% | 6% |
| Logan | 3,755 | 18% | 70% | 16% | 14% | 7% |
| Mesa | 24,020 | 20% | 72% | 13% | 14% | 7% |
| Mineral | 205 | 24% | 71% | 20% | 10% | 7% |
| Moffat | 1,735 | 13% | 66% | 17% | 18% | 9% |
| Montezuma | 4,705 | 20% | 69% | 16% | 15% | 8% |
| Montrose | 7,095 | 20% | 75% | 14% | 12% | 6% |
| Morgan | 4,370 | 16% | 70% | 16% | 14% | 7% |
| Otero | 4,145 | 21% | 66% | 17% | 18% | 8% |
| Ouray | 665 | 17% | 80% | 10% | 10% | 4% |
| Park | 1,690 | 11% | 71% | 10% | 19% | 8% |
| Phillips | 975 | 22% | 73% | 15% | 12% | 5% |
| Pitkin | 1,390 | 9% | 87% | 8% | 5% | 6% |
| Prowers | 2,220 | 16% | 68% | 17% | 15% | 7% |
| Pueblo | 28,160 | 19% | 64% | 16% | 21% | 10% |
| Rio Blanco | 1,015 | 17% | 68% | 17% | 15% | 9% |
| Rio Grande | 2,655 | 22% | 67% | 15% | 18% | 9% |
| Routt | 1,620 | 8% | 74% | 13% | 13% | 9% |
| Saguache | 685 | 11% | 72% | 15% | 12% | 7% |
| San Juan | 85 | 15% | 65% | 18% | 18% | 6% |
| San Miguel | 385 | 5% | 71% | 17% | 12% | 10% |
| Sedgwick | 720 | 27% | 75% | 14% | 11% | 4% |
| Summit | 1,490 | 6% | 82% | 9% | 10% | 6% |
| Teller | 2,880 | 13% | 71% | 11% | 18% | 8% |
| Washington | 990 | 20% | 72% | 20% | 8% | 6% |
| Weld | 23,325 | 11% | 68% | 15% | 18% | 9% |
| Yuma | 1,835 | 19% | 75% | 17% | 8% | 5% |

* This includes minor children and a relatively small number of adult children of beneficiaries who receive benefits. The number and percentage of minor children receiving Social Security is not available on a county basis.

For more information on the Social Security program and the debate over its future, go to <http://www.epinet.org/socialsecurity>

Notes and Sources:

As of December 2003. Social Security Administration. 2003. *OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County*.
< http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_sc/2003/index.html>

December 2003 beneficiaries as a percentage of County Population. Social Security Administration. 2003. US Census Bureau. *Population Estimates by County*.
< <http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/CO-EST2003-01.html>>