

Social Security Essentials

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District of Columbia

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 District of Columbia.

Social Security is Important to District of Columbia

- Number of people receiving Social Security benefits in District of Columbia: **72,209^a**
- Percentage of District of Columbia population receiving Social Security benefits: **13%^b**
- Annual federal Social Security payments into District of Columbia: **\$600 million^c**
- Percentage of District of Columbia personal income from Social Security: **2.4%^e**

Social Security Helps Retirees

- Number of people receiving Social Security retirement benefits in District of Columbia, including spouses and eligible children of retirees: **49,902^f**
- Percentage of those age 65 and over receiving Social Security benefits: **77%^g**
- Number of recipients age 65 and over in District of Columbia who rely on Social Security for half or more of their income: **25,000ⁱ**
- Percentage of recipients age 65 and over in District of Columbia who rely on Social Security for half or more of their income: **56%ⁱ**
- Number of recipients age 65 and over in District of Columbia who rely on Social Security for 90% or more of their income: **16,000ⁱ**
- Percentage of recipients age 65 and over in District of Columbia who rely on Social Security for 90% or more of their income: **36%ⁱ**
- Percentage of those age 65 and over in District of Columbia who would have incomes below the poverty line without Social Security: **42%^h**
- Percentage of District of Columbia Social Security beneficiaries that receive retirement benefits (the rest receive disability and survivors Social Security benefits): **69%^f**

Social Security Helps the Disabled and Their Families

- Number of people in District of Columbia receiving Social Security disability benefits, including spouses and children of disabled workers: **10,492^f**
- Percentage of District of Columbia Social Security beneficiaries that receive disability benefits (the rest receive retirement and survivors benefits): **15%^f**

Social Security Helps Widows, Widowers and Their Families

- Number of people in District of Columbia receiving Social Security survivors benefits, including spouses and children of deceased workers: **11,815^f**
- Percentage of District of Columbia Social Security beneficiaries that receive survivors benefits (the rest receive retirement and disability benefits): **16%^f**

Social Security Helps Children

- Number of District of Columbia children under age 18 receiving Social Security: **4,750^c**
- Percent of all District of Columbia beneficiaries that are children: **6%^d**

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

Notes and Sources:

- a. 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>.
- b. December 2003 beneficiares as a percentage of July 2003 population. Social Security Administration. 2003. *OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County*. US Bureau of the Census: 2004. *Annual Estimates of the Population for the United States and States, and for Puerto Rico: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2004* (NST-EST2004-01).
<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_sc/2003/index.html>,
<<http://www.census.gov/popest/states/tables/NST-EST2004-01.xls>>.
- c. For 2002. Social Security Administration. 2003. *Annual Statistical Supplement*.
<<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2003/index.html>>.
- d. As of December 2002. Social Security Administration. 2003. *Annual Statistical Supplement*. <<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2003/index.html>>.
- e. For 2002. Social Security Administration. 2003. *Annual Statistical Supplement*. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. 2004. *Annual State Personal Income*. <<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2003/index.html>>,
<<http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/spi/drill.cfm>>.
- f. As of December 2003. EPI summation of data from Social Security Administration. 2003. *OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County*.
<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_sc/2003/index.html>.
- g. December 2003 beneficiares as a percentage of July 2003 population. Social Security Administration. 2003. *OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County*. US Bureau of the Census. 2003. *Annual Estimates of the Civilian Population by Selected Age Groups for the United States and States: July 1, 2003 and April 1, 2000*.
<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_sc/2003/index.html>,
<<http://www.census.gov/popest/states/tables/ST-EST2003-01civ.xls>>.
- h. Arloc Sherman and Isaac Shapiro, "Social Security Lifts 13 Million Seniors Above the Poverty Line: A State-by-State Analysis," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, February 24, 2005.
- i. Ettliger, Michael and Jeff Chapman. 2005 *Social Security and the Income of the Elderly*. Washington, DC: Economic Policy Institute.