

# 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<sup>a</sup>**
- Percentage of District of Columbia population receiving Social Security benefits: **13%<sup>b</sup>**
- Annual federal Social Security payments into District of Columbia: **\$600 million<sup>c</sup>**
- Percentage of District of Columbia personal income from Social Security: **2.4%<sup>e</sup>**

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

## 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<sup>f</sup>**
- Percentage of District of Columbia Social Security beneficiaries that receive disability benefits (the rest receive retirement and survivors benefits): **15%<sup>f</sup>**

## 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<sup>f</sup>**
- Percentage of District of Columbia Social Security beneficiaries that receive survivors benefits (the rest receive retirement and disability benefits): **16%<sup>f</sup>**

## Social Security Helps Children

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

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

## Notes and Sources:

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<<http://www.census.gov/popest/states/tables/NST-EST2004-01.xls>>.
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- d. As of December 2002. Social Security Administration. 2003. *Annual Statistical Supplement*. <<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2003/index.html>>.
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- 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](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.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.