Social Security Essentials

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Nebraska

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 Nebraska.

Social Security is Important to Nebraska

- Number of people receiving Social Security benefits in Nebraska: **287,891**[a]
- Percentage of Nebraska population receiving Social Security benefits: **17%**[b]
- Annual federal Social Security payments into Nebraska: **$2.8 billion**[c]
- Percentage of Nebraska personal income from Social Security: **5.6%**[e]

Social Security Helps Retirees

- Number of people receiving Social Security retirement benefits in Nebraska, including spouses and eligible children of retirees: **208,582**[f]
- Percentage of those age 65 and over receiving Social Security benefits: **94%**[g]
- Number of recipients age 65 and over in Nebraska who rely on Social Security for half or more of their income: **89,000**[i]
- Percentage of recipients age 65 and over in Nebraska who rely on Social Security for half or more of their income: **63%**[i]
- Number of recipients age 65 and over in Nebraska who rely on Social Security for 90% or more of their income: **37,000**[i]
- Percentage of recipients age 65 and over in Nebraska who rely on Social Security for 90% or more of their income: **26%**[i]
- Percentage of those age 65 and over in Nebraska who would have incomes below the poverty line without Social Security: **47%**[h]
- Percentage of Nebraska Social Security beneficiaries that receive retirement benefits (the rest receive disability and survivors Social Security benefits): **72%**[f]

Social Security Helps the Disabled and Their Families

- Number of people in Nebraska receiving Social Security disability benefits, including spouses and children of disabled workers: **38,358**[f]
- Percentage of Nebraska Social Security beneficiaries that receive disability benefits (the rest receive retirement and survivors benefits): **13%**[f]

Social Security Helps Widows, Widowers and Their Families

- Number of people in Nebraska receiving Social Security survivors benefits, including spouses and children of deceased workers: **40,951**[f]
- Percentage of Nebraska Social Security beneficiaries that receive survivors benefits (the rest receive retirement and disability benefits): **14%** [f]

Social Security Helps Children

- Number of Nebraska children under age 18 receiving Social Security: **15,150**[c]
- Percent of all Nebraska beneficiaries that are children: **5%**[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. Ettlinger, Michael and Jeff Chapman. 2005 Social Security and the Income of the Elderly. Washington, DC: Economic Policy Institute.