



Social Security: 2008 Montana Quick Facts

Montana's 65+ population is expanding.

In 2006, Montana's population was about 945,000 with 14% being age 65 and older (131,000 residents).¹ In 2015, the 65+ population will make up 19% of the state's population, and in 2030, it will be 26%.^{2,3}

Montana is one of the poorest states.

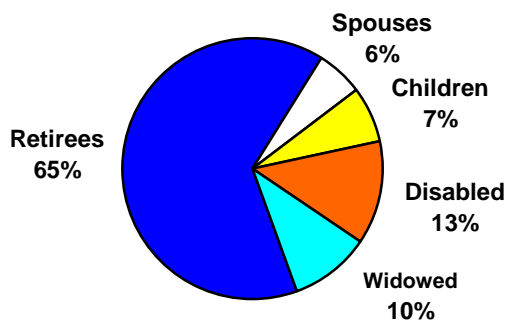
The average personal income in Montana was \$30,790 in 2006, giving it one of the lowest per capita incomes in the country (42nd).⁴

One in five Montana 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, 172,920 live in Montana.⁵

In 2006, one in five Montana residents received Social Security.¹ While 65% of beneficiaries are retirees, 35% are not: 16,752 are widows and widowers; 21,611 people with disabilities; 10,138 are spouses; and 12,429 are children.⁵

Montana Social Security Beneficiaries



Social Security pumps almost two billion dollars into Montana's economy.

In 2006, Montana residents received \$1.9 billion from Social Security.⁶ The average yearly Social Security benefit for a Montana retiree in 2006 was \$11,672—or about \$973 a month.⁷

Nearly all Montana residents age 65 or older receive Social Security.

Sixteen percent of all people receive Social Security benefits; in Montana, 19% of residents do. However, older people are more likely to receive the benefit, with 91% of those over age 65 receiving it nationwide, and 96% of older Montanans receiving it.¹

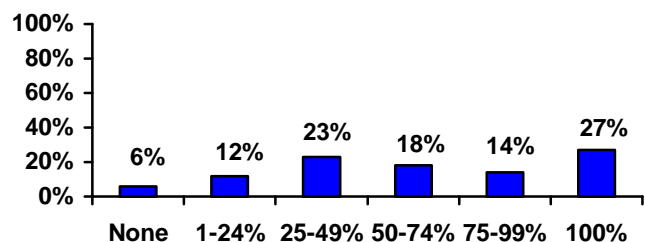
Social Security lifts half of Montana retirees from poverty.

In 2005, nearly half (47%) of the nation's older population would be living in poverty if they were not receiving Social Security. In Montana, 51% of the state's 65+ population would have incomes below the poverty line if they did not receive Social Security.⁸

Social Security is the only source of income for a quarter of Montanans age 65+.

Social Security makes up at least half of the income for almost six in ten of Montanans age 65 and older. A quarter of older Montanans rely on Social Security as their only source of income.⁹

Income Percentage from Social Security for Montanans 65+



End Notes

¹ OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County, 2006. Social Security Administration:
http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_sc/2006/table01.html

² 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>

³ 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>

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

⁵ OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County, 2006. Social Security Administration:
http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_sc/2006/table02.html

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

⁷ 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>

⁸ 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

⁹ AARP analysis using data from U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey: 2006.

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