

SOCIAL SECURITY in IOWA

Everyone seems to have an opinion in the raging debate over the future of Social Security. But what are the facts? How does this New Deal program from the 1930s affect Iowans today? Here is a look, with information compiled by the Economic Policy Institute and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities:

WHO RECEIVES SOCIAL SECURITY IN IOWA?

- Number of people receiving Social Security benefits in Iowa..... **546,065^a**
- Percentage of total Iowa population receiving Social Security benefits..... **19%^b**
- Percentage of those age 65 and over in Iowa receiving Social Security benefits..... **96%^c**
- Percentage of Iowa personal income from Social Security..... **6.5%^d**
- Number of Iowa children under age 18 receiving Social Security benefits..... **24,170^e**
- Percent of all Iowa beneficiaries who are children..... **4%^f**

WHY DO IOWANS RECEIVE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS?

RETIREMENT

- Number of people receiving Social Security retirement benefits in Iowa, including spouses and eligible children of retirees..... **398,970^g**
- Percentage of Iowa Social Security beneficiaries who receive retirement benefits (the rest receive disability and survivors Social Security benefits)..... **73%^g**

DISABILITY

- Number of people in Iowa receiving Social Security disability benefits, including spouses and children of disabled workers..... **68,755^g**
- Percentage of Iowa Social Security beneficiaries who receive disability benefits (the rest receive retirement and survivors benefits)..... **13%^g**

SURVIVORS

- Number of people in Iowa receiving Social Security survivors benefits, including spouses and children of deceased workers..... **78,340^g**
- Percentage of Iowa Social Security beneficiaries who receive survivors benefits (the rest receive retirement and disability benefits)..... **14%^g**

WHAT ARE ECONOMIC IMPACTS IN IOWA?

- Total federal government Social Security payments made into Iowa..... **\$5.3 billion^e**
- Net balance of Social Security benefits received and taxes paid..... **+\$250 million^h**
- Number of Iowa seniors lifted above federal poverty line by Social Security..... **179,000ⁱ**
- Percentage of Iowa seniors who would have income below the federal poverty level without Social Security..... **52.9%ⁱ**
- Percentage of Iowa seniors who have income below the federal poverty level even with Social Security..... **7.4%ⁱ**

HOW DOES IOWA COMPARE AMONG THE STATES?

- Rank among 50 states in percentage of population receiving benefits..... **8th**
- Rank among 50 states in percentage of state income from Social Security..... **7th**

For more information on Social Security and the debate over its future, go to

<http://www.epinet.org/socialsecurity>

and

<http://www.cbpp.org/2-24-05socsec.htm>

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 beneficiaries 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. December 2003 beneficiaries 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>>.
- d. 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>>.
- e. For 2002. Social Security Administration. 2003. Annual Statistical Supplement. <<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2003/index.html>>.
- f. As of December 2002. Social Security Administration. 2003. Annual Statistical Supplement. <<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2003/index.html>>.
- g. 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>.
- h. For 2002. Social Security Administration. 2003. Annual Statistical Supplement. Social Security Administration. 2002. Earnings and Employment Data for Workers Covered Under Social Security and Medicare, by State and County, 2002. <<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2003/index.html>>, <http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/eedata_sc/2002/index.html>.
- i. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities tabulations of the Current Population Survey for March 2001, 2002 and 2003.

The Iowa Policy Project

Founded in 2000, The Iowa Policy Project is a non-profit, non-partisan research organization based in Mount Vernon, with its principal office in Iowa City. IPP reports cover a wide range of topics of concern to the citizens of Iowa, and are made available to the public on the web at www.iowapolicyproject.org <<http://www.iowapolicyproject.org>>, and at the Iowa Fiscal Partnership website, www.iowafiscal.org <<http://www.iowafiscal.org>>.

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