



## Social Security: Montana Quick Facts



**Montana is the 10<sup>th</sup> oldest state in the nation.**

Montana has a population of 926,865, with 126,549 residents age 65 and older- or 13.6% of the total population.<sup>1</sup>

**Montana is one of the poorest states.**

The average personal income in Montana was \$25,775 in 2003, giving it the 45<sup>th</sup> lowest per capita income in the country.<sup>2</sup>

**Social Security lifts about half of retirees from poverty.**

Nearly half (46%) of the nation's older population would be living in poverty if they were not receiving Social Security. In Montana, the rate is even higher: 50.6 percent of Montana's 65+ population (55,000 people) would have incomes below the poverty line if they did not have Social Security.<sup>3</sup>

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

Nationally, almost 16 percent of all people receive Social Security benefits; in Montana, one in six people do. However, older people are more likely to receive the benefit, with 91 percent of those over age 65 receiving it nationwide, compared to 93.5 percent of older Montanans.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Population Estimates 2000-2003: [http://mainegov-images.informe.org/spo/economics/economics/pdf/ageprojects12\\_03b.pdf](http://mainegov-images.informe.org/spo/economics/economics/pdf/ageprojects12_03b.pdf)

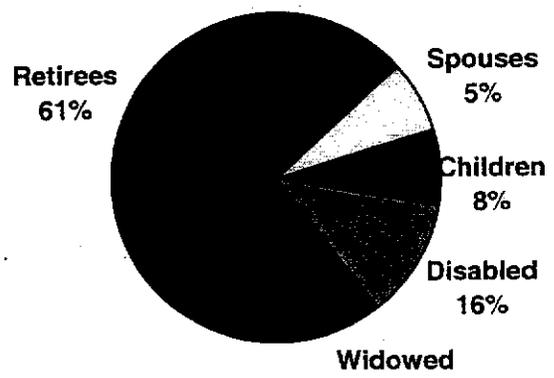
<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Dept. of Commerce: <http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/bearfacts/statebf.cfm>

**One in six 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 2003, over 47 million Americans received Social Security benefits; of these, 163,659 live in Montana.<sup>4</sup>

In 2003, over one in six Montana residents received Social Security. While 63.3 percent of beneficiaries are retirees, 36.7 percent are not: 17,398 are widows and widowers; 18,996 are disabled workers; 11,109 are wives and husbands; and 12,477 are children.<sup>4</sup>

**Montana Social Security Beneficiaries**



<sup>3</sup> 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](http://www.cbpp.org/2-24-05socsec.htm)

<sup>4</sup> OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County, 2003. Social Security Administration: [www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi\\_sc/2003/index.html](http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_sc/2003/index.html)