

3 in 4 adults aged 62 and over received Social Security.

The most common reason for receiving Social Security benefits was retirement. Individuals may be eligible to begin receiving Social Security retirement benefits as early as age 62.

10% of households receiving Social Security included at least one child under the age of 18.

An adult may receive Social Security on behalf of an eligible child based on survivor or dependent status. A child may also live in a household with an adult who is eligible for Social Security themselves.

28% of adult Social Security recipients received all of their income from Social Security.

About 45 percent of adult Social Security recipients received at least three-quarters of their income from Social Security. A further 18 percent received 50 to 74 percent of their income from Social Security.

17.3 million adults receiving Social Security lived alone.

About 41 percent of all one-person households received Social Security income.

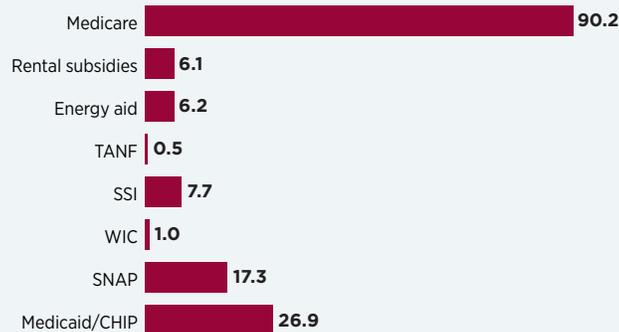
What is Social Security?

Social Security is an income transfer program that is officially known as [Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance](#) (OASDI). Social Security provides monthly benefits to retired and disabled workers as well as their dependents and survivors. Benefit amounts are determined by an individual's contributions to Social Security while they worked.

More information on Social Security and other social safety net programs is available in [fact sheets](#), [detailed program participation tables](#), [interactive data visualizations](#), and [reports](#).

Participation in Other Select Government Programs by Households Receiving Social Security: 2021

(In percent)



Note: TANF refers to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; SSI refers to Supplemental Security Income; WIC refers to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children; SNAP refers to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; and CHIP refers to the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Characteristics of Adults Aged 18 and Over Receiving Social Security: 2021

(In percent)

