

# What Role Does Social Security Play in Financial Planning?

Social Security Administration

- >Social Security Statement
- >Web Site

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### It's More Than Just Retirement

50 million beneficiaries

Beneficiary categories

>Retirement and Dependents: 69%

>Survivors: 14%

>Disability and Dependents: 17%

One in three is not a retiree

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# Benefits are being cut more than most people realize

Policy Change	Size of Cut
Raise retirement age to 67	13.3%
Tax part of benefits with revenues to OASDI and HI trust funds	8.8%

### **Survivor Protection**

Over 6.5 million survivors (widows, widowers, children) receive benefits

Social Security is the main source of life insurance for most families with children

For 27-year old worker with two children, Social Security provides equivalent of



### Disability Insurance

- >For average worker: equivalent of a \$230,000+ insurance policy
  - For 27-year old with 2 children: \$350,000+

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### Retirement: Snapshot

### Today's retirees and income sources

>Social Security: 40% (90% receiving)

>Assets: 21% (56%)

>Pensions: 19% (30% private, 14%

public)

>Earnings: 17% (23%)

>Other (including

public assistance): 3%

Source: "A Profile of Older Americans," AARP and U.S. Administration on Aging (2005)

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### Retirement: Snapshot (cont'd)

Over 3 out 10 beneficiaries receive 90% of their total income from Social Security

6 out of 10: More than half of their total income comes from Social Security

Social Security keeps more than 13 million elderly out of poverty

>Without Social Security, elderly poverty rate would be 48%

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### **Retirement: Motion Picture**

Tomorrow's retirees

>97% of boomer families will receive Social Security

- Up from 90% of today's retirees

>Average Social Security income for boomers will be higher

- Greater rates of labor force participation by women
- Rising real wage growth

Source: Pension & Retirement Income Simulation Model, Employee Benefit Research Institute (1988)

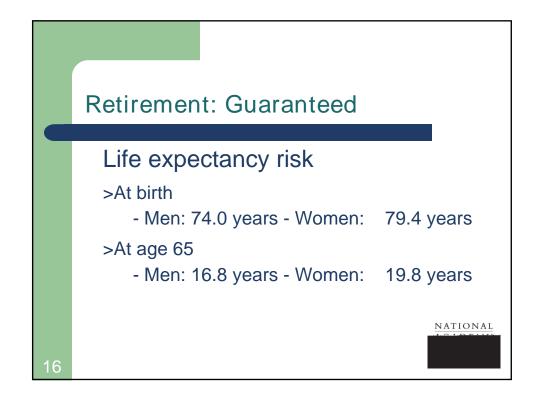
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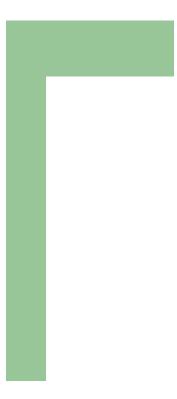
## Retirement: Negative

3.6 million (9.8%) still below poverty level



# Retirement: Guaranteed Government obligation Generational compact Defined benefit





### Social Security Administration

Social Security Benefit Statement >Not-as-good News

- Earnings errors
- How zero years count
  - --78% of baby boom women will have fewer than 35 years of earnings
- Today's dollars
- Missing lump sum values for survivor and disability protection

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### Social Security Administration

Web site (www.ssa.gov)

- >Superb Retirement Planner
- Quick Calculator for rough benefit estimates
- Online Calculator for projecting future earnings
- Detailed Calculator for comprehensive what-if planning

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# **Key Planning Question**

"When Should I Begin Collecting My Benefit?"

