Why Social Security Matters to You

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Social Security Matters Because...

You’re Already Participating
Social Security Covers Nearly All Americans

Percentage of workers contributing to Social Security

- Covered workers: 94%
- Uncovered workers: 6%
Social Security Matters Because...

You May Have Already Received Benefits
Nearly 3 Million Children Receive Social Security Benefits

In thousands

- Children of disabled workers: 1,418
- Children of deceased workers: 1,182
- Children of retired workers: 337

Source: SSA, 2017 data
Number of Children Lifted Out of Poverty by...

In thousands

- Refundable tax credits (EITC, CTC): 4,384
- SNAP (Food Stamps): 1,514
- Social Security: 1,500
- Housing subsidies: 1,046
- SSI: 494
- TANF (welfare): 305

Source: Census Supplemental Poverty Report, 2016
Social Security Matters Because...

You’re Going to Need It

(Maybe Sooner Than You Think)
One Fifth of Social Security Beneficiaries Receive Disability or Young Survivors Benefits

Disabled workers and dependents: 16%
Young survivors: 3%
Retired workers, dependents, and aged widows (receiving retirement or survivors benefits): 81%

Source: Social Security Administration, June 2019 data
Young Workers Have 1 in 3 Chance of Death or Disability Before Retirement

Probability of disability or death before reaching Social Security’s full retirement age

Note: Projections are for workers reaching age 20 in 2017, for whom the full retirement age is 67.
Source: Social Security Administration
Social Security Disability Insurance Protects Millions of Workers of All Ages

Workers, by age group, 2019

Source: Office of the Chief Actuary, Social Security Administration.
Social Security Matters Because…

You’ll Definitely Need It When You’re Older

(Even If You Think You Won’t)
Nearly All Elderly Americans Receive or Will Receive Social Security

Source: Office of Retirement Policy, SSA, 2015
Social Security Dramatically Cuts Poverty Among Seniors

Percentage of seniors in poverty, 2017

39% Excluding Social Security
9% Including Social Security

Elderly People of Color Face Higher Poverty Rates

Poverty rate for those aged 65+, by race/ethnicity, 2017

- White: 7%
- Other*: 11%
- Latino: 17%
- Black: 19%

Defined-Benefit Pension Plans Are on the Wane

Percentage of full-time workers covered by defined-benefit pension plans

Source: Employee Benefits Research Institute, EBRI Database on Employee Benefits, Chapter 5 (www.ebri.org).
Most families have little or no retirement savings

Median retirement account savings by age, 1989-2013 (2013 dollars)

Note: Scale changed for visibility. Retirement account savings include 401(k)s, IRAs, and Keogh plans.

Social Security Matters Because…

You Don’t Need to Support Your Parents

(or Grandparents, Siblings, etc.)
Social Security Matters Because...

Your Generation Is Going to Shape It
Social Security Faces a Real but Manageable Long-Term Shortfall

OASDI costs and tax revenues as a percent of taxable payroll

Source: Social Security Administration, 2018 OASDI Trustees Report