



Fact Sheet

SOCIAL SECURITY

Social Security Is Important to Hispanics

Social Security is neutral with respect to race or ethnicity – individuals with identical earnings histories are treated the same in terms of benefits. This Fact Sheet is provided by the Social Security Administration to highlight how Hispanics benefit from the Social Security program and how certain demographic characteristics of Hispanics compare with the entire population.

Out of 37.8 million beneficiaries aged 65 and older in 2014, 2.6 million (or 6.8 percent) were Hispanics.¹

- The Social Security system is progressive in that lower-wage earners receive a higher percentage benefit than higher-wage earners do. The system returns a greater percentage of pre-retirement earnings to a lower-wage worker than to a higher-wage worker. Hispanics who are low-wage workers receive back more benefits in relation to past earnings than do high-wage earners.
 - In 2014, the median earnings of working-age Hispanics who worked full-time, year-round were about \$31,760 compared to \$44,000 for all working-age people.²
- Hispanics benefit from the guaranteed benefit that is annually adjusted for inflation. With longer life expectancies, elderly Hispanics will live more years in retirement and benefit from Social Security's [cost-of-living protections](#).
 - According to the Census Bureau, Hispanics tend to have higher life expectancies at age 65 than the majority of the population.³
- In 2014, the average annual Social Security income received by Hispanic men 65 years and older was \$14,626, and for women it was \$11,172.⁴
- In 2014, among Hispanics receiving Social Security, 42 percent of elderly married couples and 59 percent of elderly unmarried persons relied on Social Security for 90 percent or more of their income.⁵
- The Hispanic population in the U.S. is expected to grow. [Today](#), 17.6 percent of the population is of Hispanic origin.⁶ This proportion is expected to grow to 26.5 percent by 2050.⁷

This fact sheet is designed to provide general information and may not apply to all individuals within each segment of the Hispanic population.

¹ Calculations are based on the U.S. Census Bureau, public-use March 2015 Current Population Survey (CPS) (income year 2014), and are subject to nonsampling error (such as respondent error in reporting characteristics and amount and type of income).

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³ U.S. Census Bureau. Methodology and Assumptions for the 2014 National Projections. Table 2. Life Expectancy at Birth and Age 65 by Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin: 2014 to 2060. Note: Use life expectancy at age 65 - Hispanics for year 2014. See under Male and Female. page 19. December 2014. Access at: <https://www.census.gov/population/projections/files/methodology/methodstatement14.pdf>

⁴ Calculations are based on the U.S. Census Bureau, public-use March 2015 Current Population Survey (CPS) (income year 2014), and are subject to nonsampling error (such as respondent error in reporting characteristics and amount and type of income).

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, State and County QuickFacts, People QuickFacts Access at: <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/00>

⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 National Population Projections: Summary Tables. Table 11. Percent Distribution of the Projected Population by Hispanic Origin and Race for the United States: 2015 to 2060. (NP2014-T11). Uses 2050. Access at: <http://www.census.gov/population/projections/data/national/2014/summarytables.html>