

## SPOTLIGHT: CHILDREN & SOCIAL SECURITY

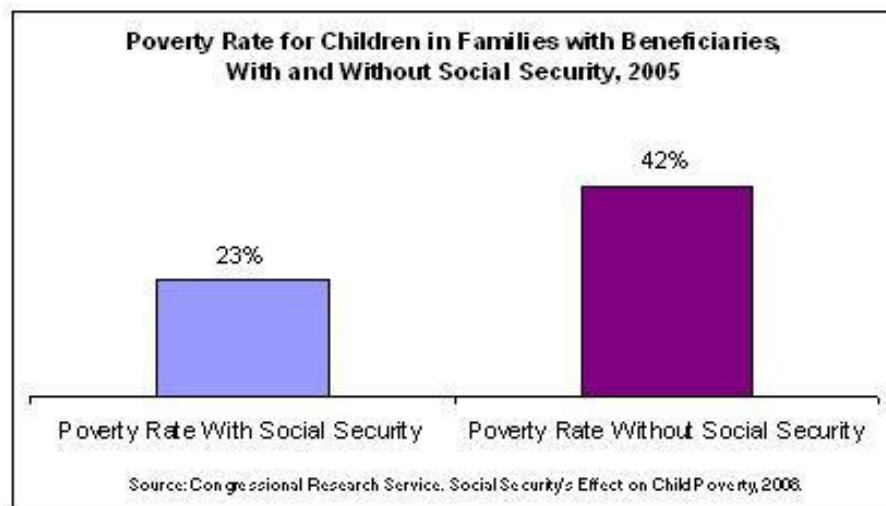
For 75 years, Social Security has operated as a family insurance program that serves Americans of all ages. In addition to being a retirement program, Social Security provides a safety net for more than 53 million Americans, including retirees, the disabled, children and families.

Social Security provides vital life and disability insurance protection for millions of citizens, especially children and their families. About **6 million children under age 18, or nearly 9% of all children in the United States, benefit from Social Security** as dependants of workers who have died or become disabled or as family members in households where an adult relies on Social Security.

Of the 6 million children in families that received Social Security, 1.1 million were lifted out of poverty by Social Security income. Children may receive Social Security benefits until they reach age 18, and if a full-time student, until they reach age 19. Disabled children may receive benefits indefinitely as long as the disability was incurred before reaching age 22.

### The Best Anti-Poverty Program for Children

Social Security lifts over 1.1 million children in the United States out of poverty.





## Did you know?



Over 4 million youth under 18 received an average Social Security benefit of \$549 at the end of 2010.



Roughly 580,000 children of retirees received an average monthly benefit of \$577.



Over 1.9 million children of deceased workers received an average monthly survivor benefit of \$752.



Over 1.8 million children of disabled workers received an average monthly benefit of \$318.

## A Comprehensive Family Insurance Program

Over 2.4 million grandparents are now raising their grandchildren in the United States.<sup>1</sup> In such cases, Social Security ensures that America's children are safe and secure by providing a source of income for older Americans who are raising grandchildren. While the children themselves are not directly receiving Social Security, they directly benefit from the program because of the higher family income. In fact, about 44% of older Americans, including such grandparents, would be considered poor by federal standards if they did not receive their Social Security benefits.



## Did you know?



Social Security provides for children of those who have died in military service to our country. As of September 2006, an estimated 12,290 children were receiving payments as dependants of deceased service members who had been on active duty in the Gulf War period (extending from August 2, 1990 to date). These children are eligible to receive Social Security in addition to veterans' compensation.



Less than three weeks after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, most of the children who lost a parent, as well as the surviving parents, received their survivor benefit check from the Social Security Administration. Also receiving benefits were 642 individuals disabled during the attacks and 99 of their dependent spouses or children.

