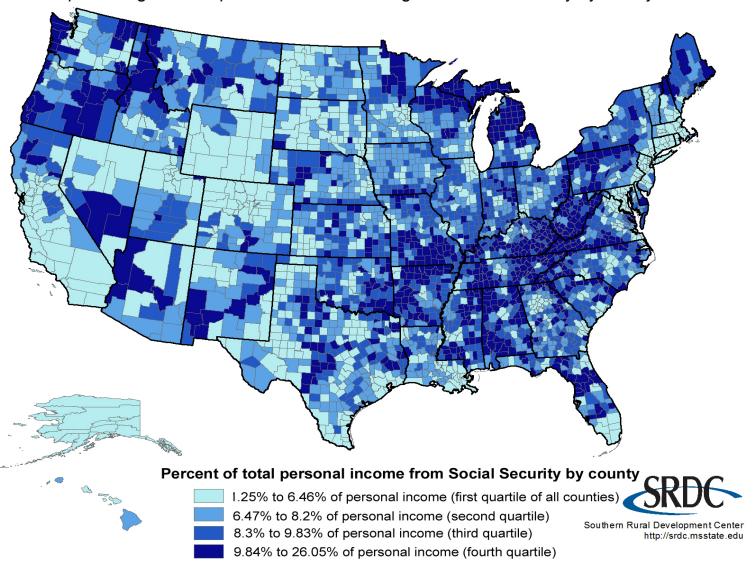
Social Security in Rural America

Bill Bishop

The Daily Yonder

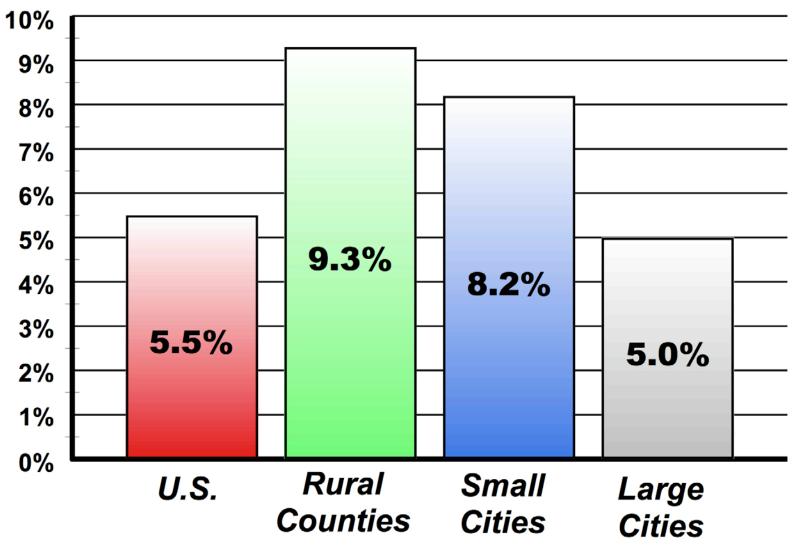
Social Security and Local Economies

The percentage of total personal income coming from Social Security by county in 2009



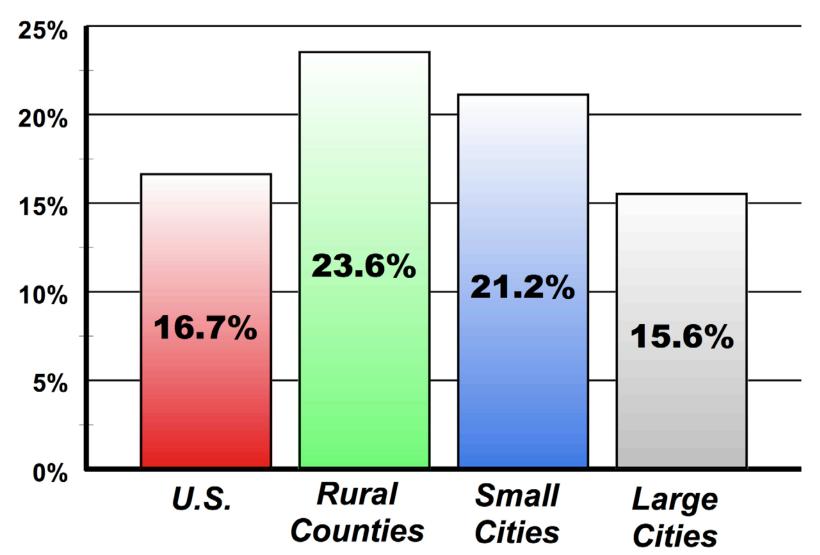
Data: Social Security Administration and Bureau for Economic Analysis

Social Security Payments Percent of Total Income in 2009



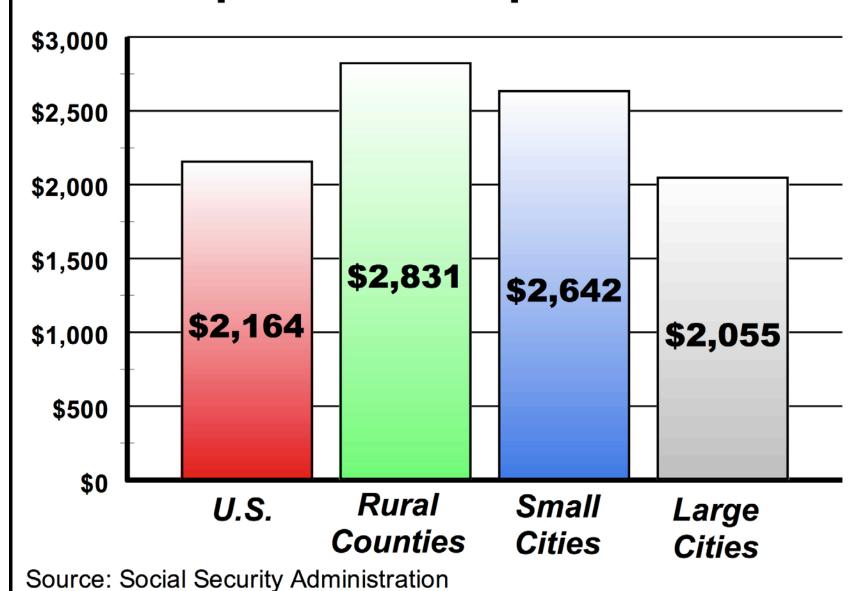
Source: Social Security Administration

Percent of Total Population Receiving Social Security in 2009



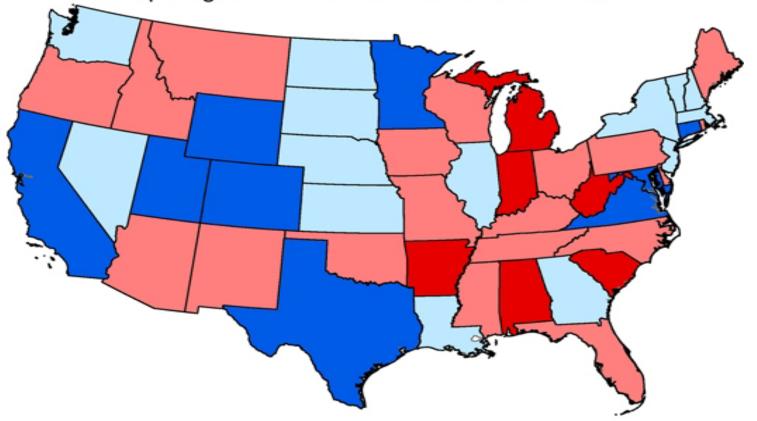
Source: Social Security Administration

Average Social Security Payments Per Capita Total Population in 2009



Social Security in Urban America

Comparing benefits across states in urban counties



Percent personal income coming from Social Security (Urban counties only)

6.5% to 8.6% of personal income from Social Security

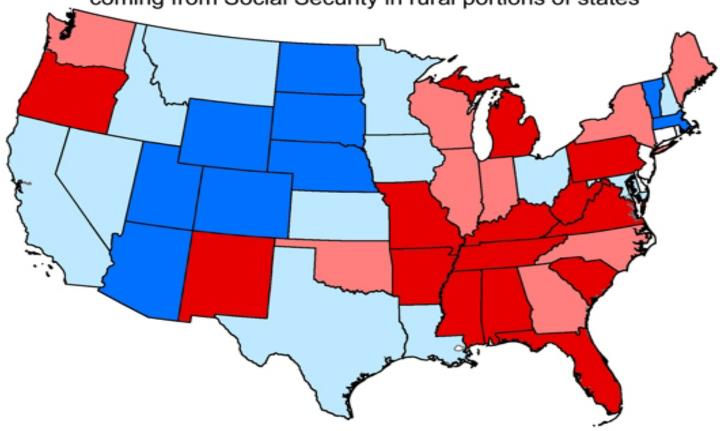
5.5% to 6.4%

4.5% to 5.3%

2.8% to 4.4% (Alaska, 2.8%, not shown)

Social Security in Rural America

Comparing the percentage of total personal income coming from Social Security in rural portions of states



Social Security as a percent of total personal income (rural counties only)

- 4.2% to 7.8% of total personal income
- 8% to 8.9%
- 9.3% to 9.8%
- 10.1% to 12.7%
- State with no rural counties

"The seniors who get these payments are primarily going to spend their money locally. And they are a key reason why some communities are sill viable."

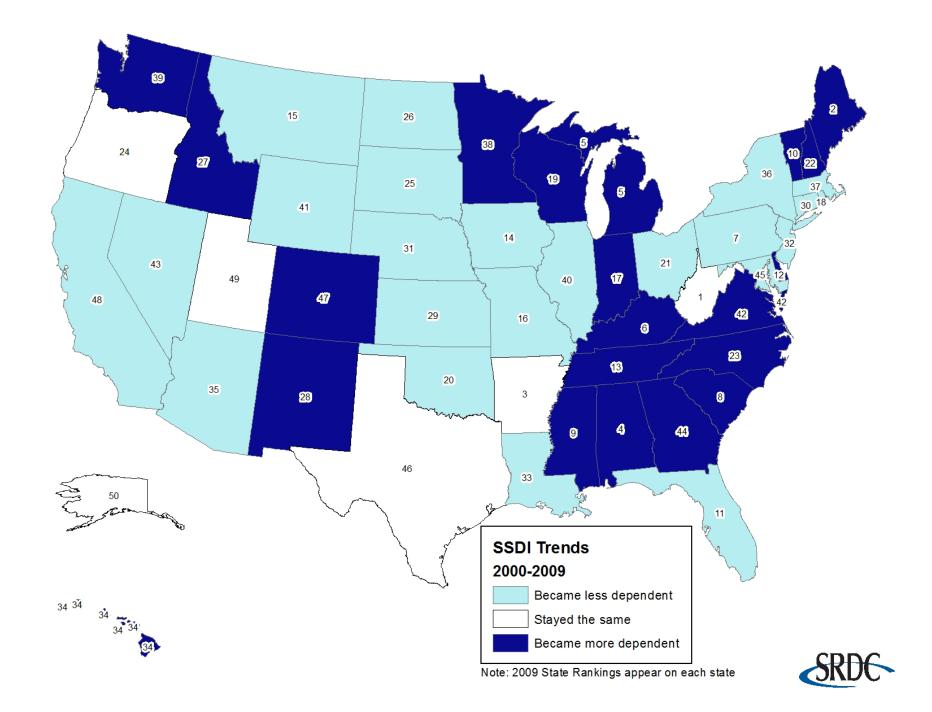
Mark Partridge, economist, Ohio State University

"In many rural places, Social Security is a very critical element of the local economy...Cuts would have a bigger negative impact on rural places, absolutely."

Peter Nelson, geographer, Middlebury College

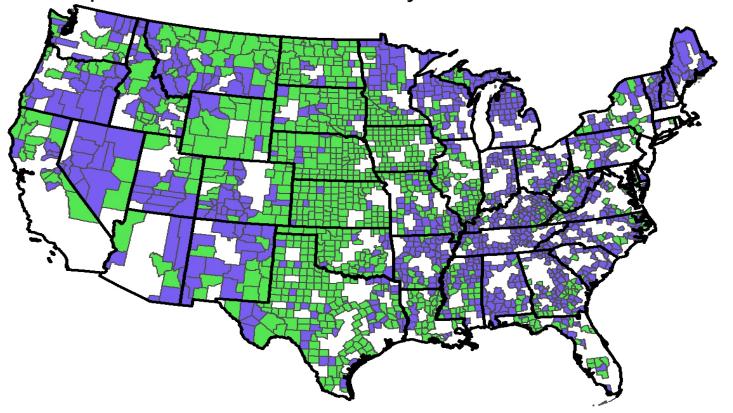
"We find that Social Security income can be the difference between success and failure for some local businesses."

Judith Stallman, economist, University of Missouri



Social Security Dependency

Which counties in rural America became more (or less) dependent* on Social Security from 2000 to 2009?



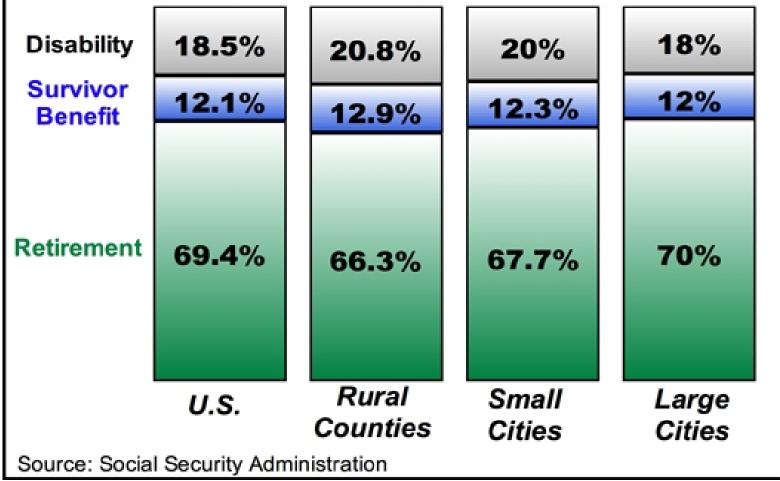
Changes in dependency* on Social Security in rural counties 2000-2009





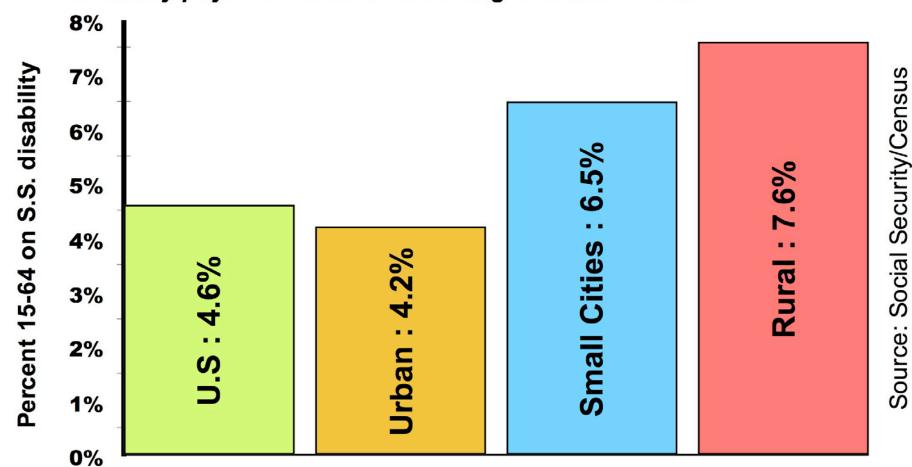
*Dependency is measured by the percent of total county population receiving Social Security payments; the percent of total personal income in a county coming from Social Security; and all Social Security payments divided by all county residents.

Social Security Recipients by Type of Payment, 2009

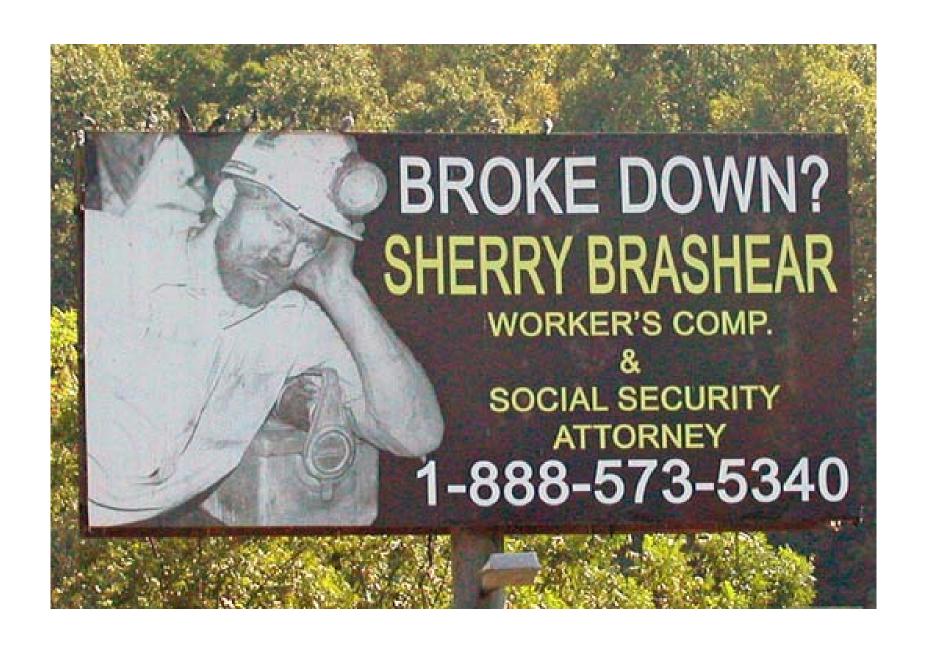


Working Age, But Disabled

Rural and small town residents are much more likely to receive Social Security disability payments than those living in urban counties.

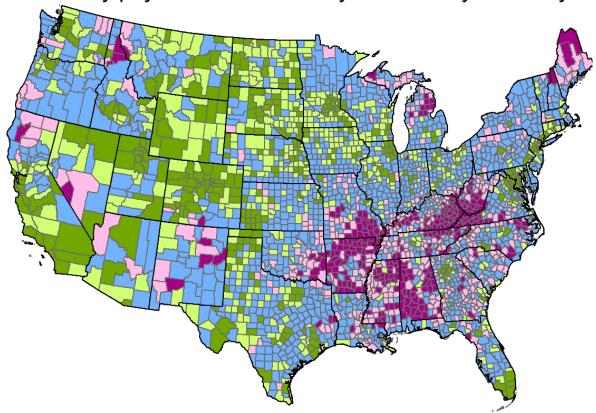


Counties designated urban, with small cities or rural by OMB.



Americans Receiving Disability

The percentage of people 15-64 receiving Social Security disability payments varies widely from county to county



In U.S., 4.6% of those 15 to 64 qualify for Social Security disability payments



Low: Below 3.5% of adults receiving disability

All the data and charts can be found here:

http://srdc.msstate.edu/socialsecurity/

And: www.dailyyonder.com