

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SOCIAL INSURANCE  
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EDWARD FERRIGNO

VICE PRESIDENT, WASHINGTON AFFAIRS  
PLAN SPONSOR COUNCIL OF AMERICA

ferrigno@401k.org  
202 641 7671

“We conclude that the Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey (CPS), one of the primary sources of income data , greatly underreports distributions from DC plans and IRAs, posing in increasing problem for measuring retirement income in the future. ... The major nationally representative surveys of household income must accurately measure annual distributions from retirement accounts in order to provide a complete picture of the economic well-being of the aged and general US population.”

*Shifting Income Sources of the Aged  
Chris Anguelov, Howard Iams, and Patrick Purcell  
Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics*

“For filers receiving Social Security benefits, the 2008 tax files show \$110.9 billion in IRA distributions while the CPS shows only \$5.6 billion.”

“The CPS has done a better job of capturing pension and annuity income but still comes up short by around half, with the underreporting becoming more pronounced in recent years.”

*Employer Plans, IRAs and Retirement Income Provision:  
Making a Molehill Out of a Mountain  
Billie Jean Miller and Sylvester J. Schieber*

“The Census Bureau only includes “regular payments” from retirement, survivor, and disability income in its definition of total money income. Many people do not choose to annuitize their pension accounts and instead make withdrawals from their pension accounts on their own. These withdrawals are not part of total money income, and data are not collected on withdrawals from pension accounts in the March Supplement to the Current Population Survey.”

*Income of the Population 55 or Older, 2010, SSA, pg. 14*

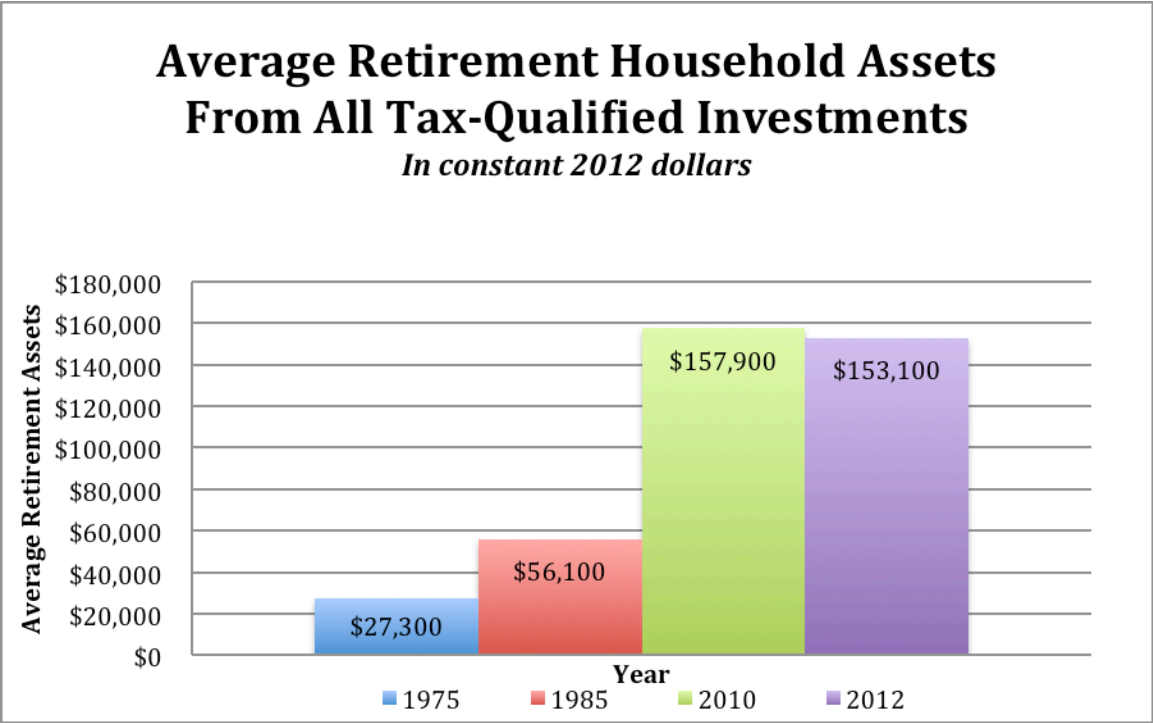
“Most surveys that provide data on the family income of the aged either collect no data on nonannuity retirement account distributions, or exclude such distributions from their summary measures of family income. ... We find that about one-fifth of aged families received distributions from retirement accounts in 2009. Measured mean income for those families would be about 15 percent higher and median income would be 18 percent higher if those distributions were included in the SIPP summary measure of family income.

*The Impact of Retirement Account Distributions on Measures of Family Income, Howard Iams and Patrick Purcell, ORES*

“Previous research has focused on pension coverage by marital status, but has not examined couples as a unit. Because couples usually share income, viewing them as a unit provides a better picture of potential access to income from retirement plans. ... We find that in 20 percent of couples, neither spouse participated in a pension plan [80 percent did participate]; in 10 percent, the wife was the only participant; and in 37 percent, the husband was the only participant.”

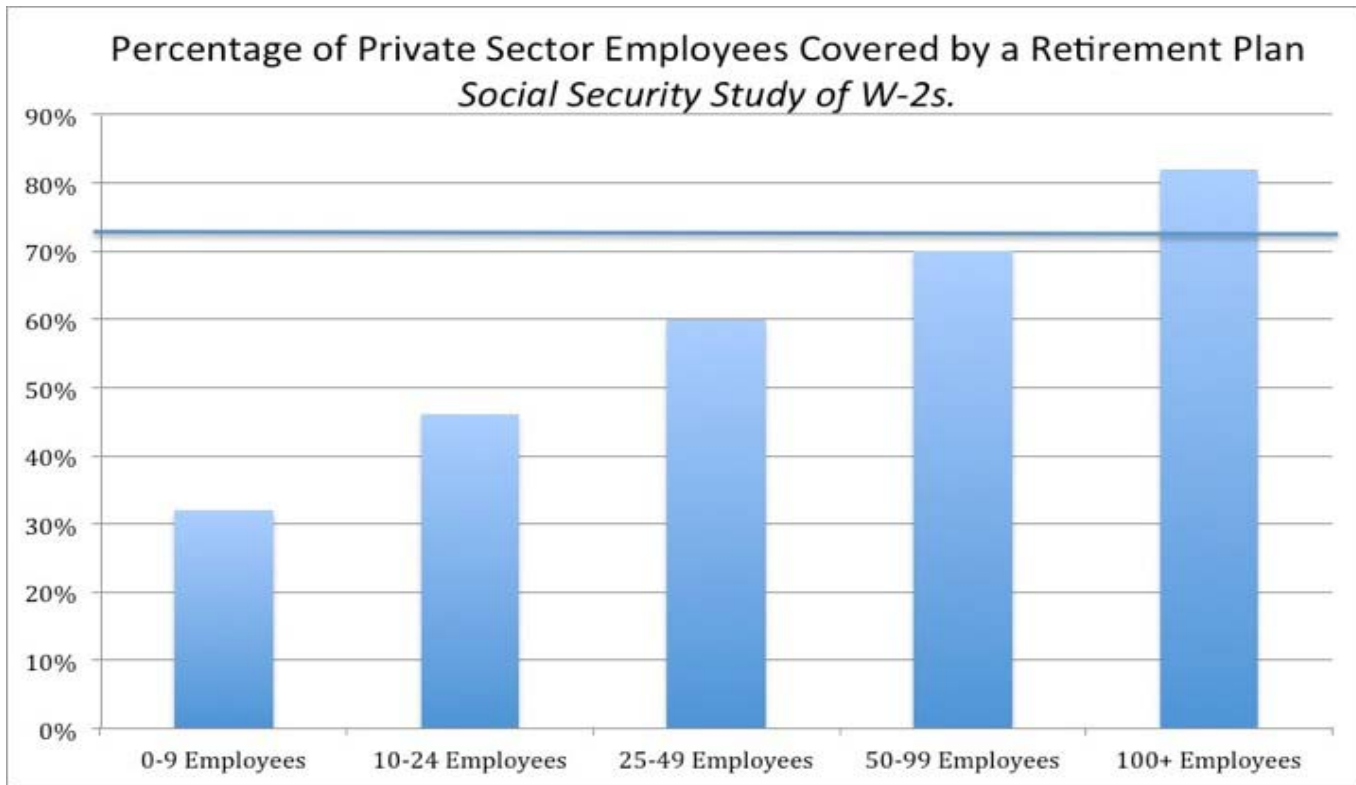
*Pension Plan Participation Among Married Couples  
Irena Dushi and Howard Iams, ORES*

# A LOOMING CRISIS?



Source: Peter Brady, Kimberly Burham, and Sarah Holden, *The Success of the U.S. Retirement System*, Investment Company Institute, December 2012.

# A LOOMING CRISIS?



*Social Security Bulletin, Volume 71, No. 2, 2001, Assessment of Retirement Plan Coverage by Plan Size, Using W-2 Tax Records, Irena Dushi, Howard M. Iams, and Jules Lichtenstein, 2011*

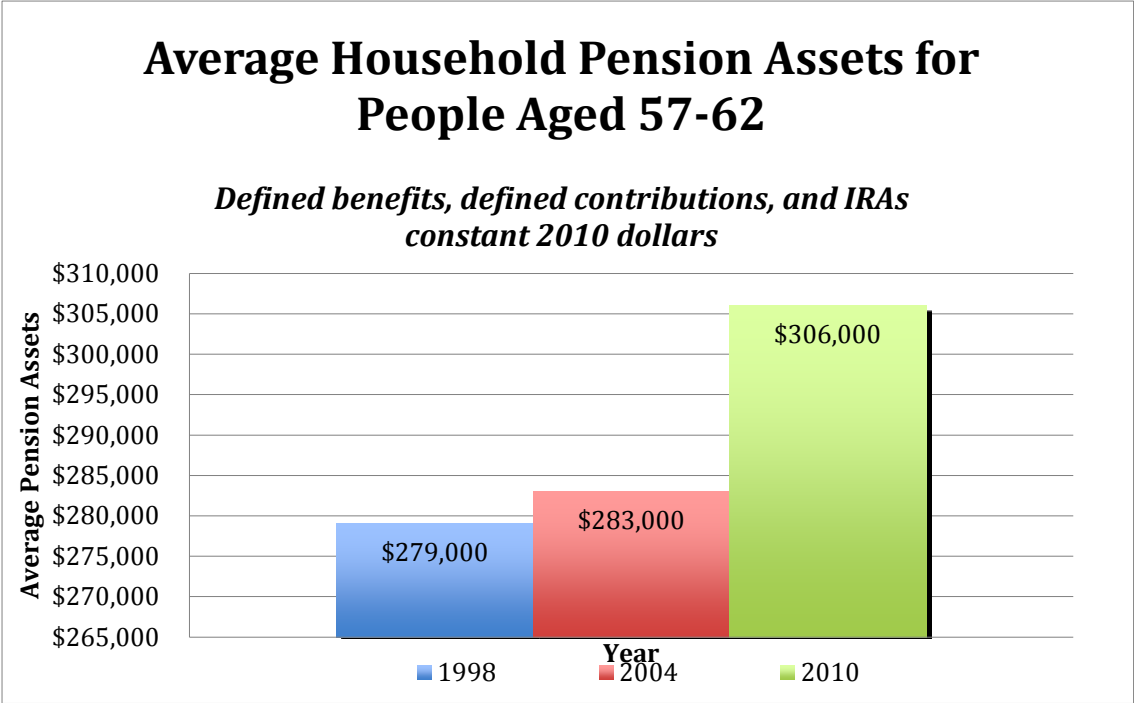
**\*72% of all employees are covered and 77% of employees in firms of 10 or more are covered.**

**\*Coverage for year-round full time employees age 25-64 will be higher than these figures.**

**\*Coverage data is a snapshot that does not reflect household coverage over a working career.**



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Alan L. Gustman, Thomas L. Steinmeier, and Nahid Tabatabai, *How Did the Recession of 2007-2009 Affect the Wealth and Retirement of the Near Retirement Age Population in the Health and Retirement Study?*, Social Security Bulletin, Vol. 72, No. 4, 2012