

When Should I Take Social Security?

Achieving a Sustainable Retirement: Risks and Strategies

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The Academy's Social Security public education initiative

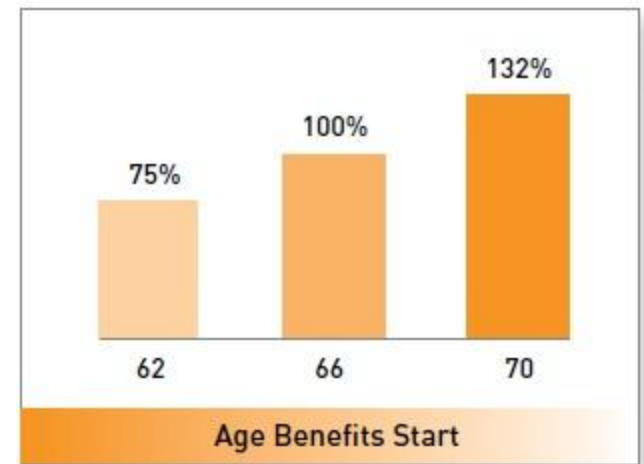
1. help older workers understand how they can enhance their long-term retirement security by delaying Social Security benefits, when feasible
2. strengthen workers' confidence that Social Security will be there for them if they do delay claiming benefits

Understanding the impact of and reasons for claiming decisions

- Advantages of working longer if you can and delaying Social Security benefits are large but not well understood, outside of the policy community
- Reliance on Social Security in retirement is overwhelming
- Framing of information is important

When to Take Social Security: It Pays to Wait

1. If you need Social Security early, take it. You earned it!
2. But if you can wait, your monthly benefit will be higher for the rest of your life.
3. If you earn more than your spouse, delaying Social Security means a higher survivor benefit for your spouse if she or he outlives you.



Source: *When Should I Take Social Security?* (NASI Fact Sheet)

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When to Take Social Security: It Pays to Wait

https://www.nasi.org/WhenToTakeSocialSecurity

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When To Take Social Security: It Pays to Wait


Welcome to NASI's toolkit on **When to Take Social Security: It Pays to Wait!** The materials in this toolkit are designed to educate workers approaching retirement about their options for taking Social Security benefits, and about why it can pay to wait.


Social Security benefits can be taken at any time between 62 and 70, but there are sound financial reasons to delay if you can. If you wait, your monthly benefits will be higher for the rest of your life.

- If you need Social Security to make ends meet, take it – you've earned it.
- But if you can wait, even a year or two, your monthly benefit will be higher – for the rest of your life.
- If you're married, you have two lives to plan for. If you are the higher earner, waiting to take Social Security means providing a higher survivor benefit for your spouse if she or he outlives you.


Resources include:

 A 3-minute video: *Social Security: It Pays to Wait*

 Also available in Spanish: *El Seguro Social: Vale la pena esperar*

 A 1-page fact sheet: *When Should I Take Social Security?*

 A 16-page brief: *When Should I Take Social Security? Questions to Consider*

 A 2-page fact sheet: *Will Social Security Still Be There?*

Additional resources:

- Press Release: Thinking about Retirement and When to Take Social Security? It Pays to Wait!
- Brochure (available in hard copy only): *Thinking about Retirement? Here's an important question: When Should I Take Social Security?*

Partner Resources

Medicare and Medicaid at 50

Throughout 2015, the Academy is commemorating the 50th anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid with a series of special activities, including a weekly live history blog, and by working with partners to provide a platform for educational dialogue around the history and future of these two vital programs. Learn more and join the celebration.

COVERED

A week-by-week look at the 1965 policies that created MEDICARE & MEDICAID

Part of the Academy's 50th Anniversary Series

COVERED: a week-by-week look at the political and legislative developments that led to the creation of Medicare and Medicaid 50 years ago. Bob Rosenblatt, NASI senior fellow and former *Los Angeles Times* Washington correspondent will report on the people and the maneuvers that led to this major expansion of social insurance.

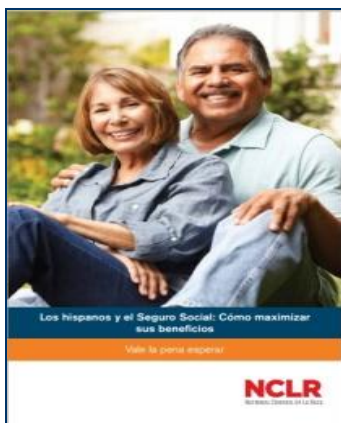
Social Security: It Pays to Wait

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When to Take Social Security: It Pays to Wait

- Shift how claiming choices are framed
- Highlight the importance of Social Security at older ages
- Improve confidence in SS overall, as it relates to personal claiming decisions
- Draw attention to impact on couples
- Acknowledge the personal nature of the decision!

Train-the-Trainer Model

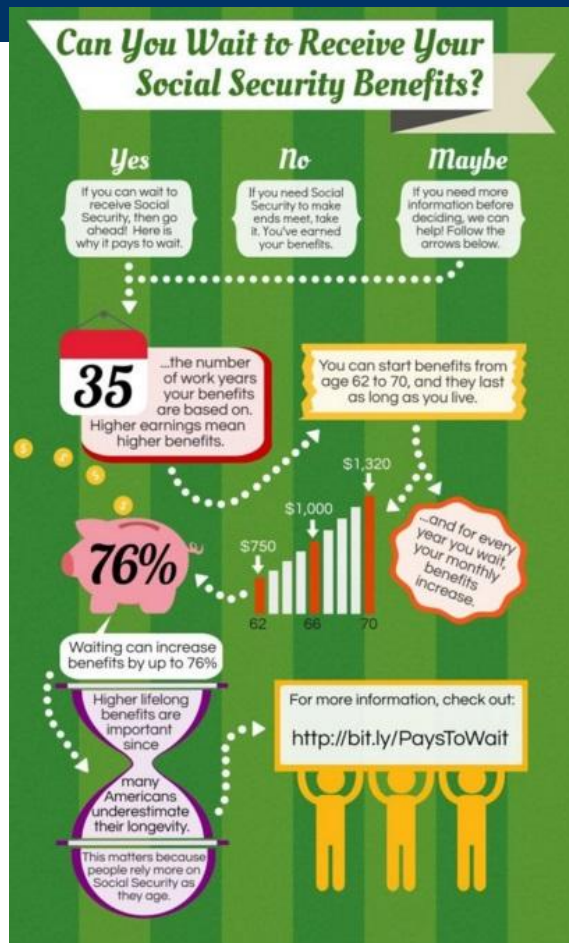


Participants in partners' educational outreach events indicated: the information encouraged them to think about delaying Social Security; they were not getting this critical information elsewhere; and key messages would need to be repeated and amplified to affect the public broadly.

Looking ahead

- New partners welcome!
- For more information:
 - toolkit: [When to Take Social Security: It Pays to Wait](#)
 - video: [Social Security: Americans Agree](#)
 - report: [Americans Make Hard Choices on Social Security](#)

Additional Resources from the National Academy of Social Insurance



- toolkit: [When to Take Social Security: It Pays to Wait](#)
- video: [Social Security: Americans Agree](#)
- video: [Social Security: Just the Facts](#)
- report: [Americans Make Hard Choices on Social Security](#)