

Social Security Benefits for Post-Secondary School Students: Implications for Youth of Color



Presentation by
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Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies
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Youth of Color Would Be More Likely to Receive Post-Secondary Education Benefits

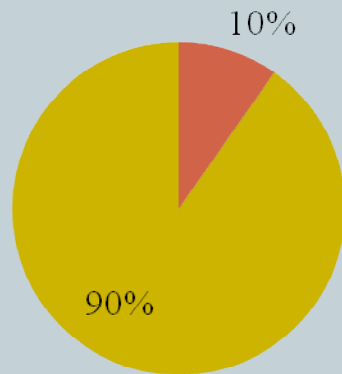
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- Why?
- Youth of color are more likely than white youth to receive Social Security benefits due to either worker disability or death.

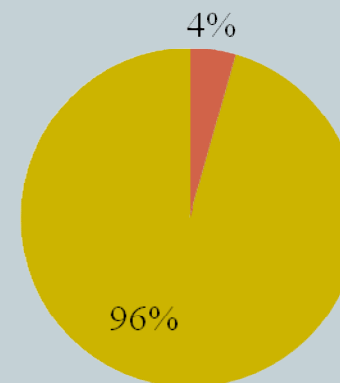
Social Security Disability Beneficiaries, by Race, 2009

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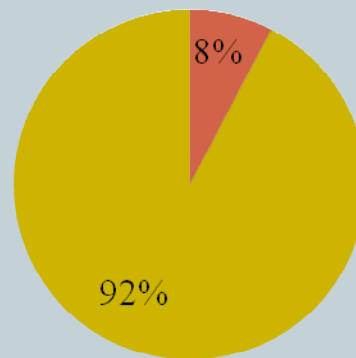
White Beneficiaries



Black Beneficiaries



Beneficiaries of Other Races*



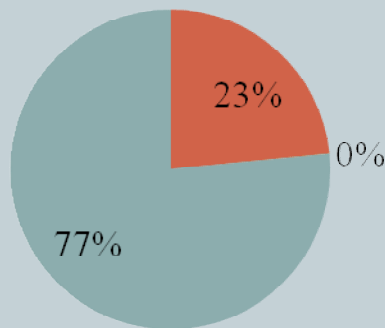
*Asians and Pacific Islanders, American Indians and Alaska Natives, and a subset of the total number of Hispanic beneficiaries

- Spouses of Disabled Workers
- Children of Disabled Workers

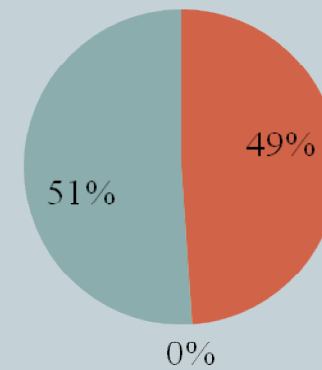
Social Security Survivor Beneficiaries, by Race, 2009

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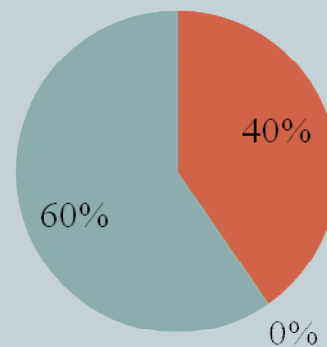
White Beneficiaries



Black Beneficiaries



Beneficiaries of Other Races*



- Children of Deceased Workers
- Dependent Parents of Deceased Workers
- Widow(er)s

*Asians and Pacific Islanders, American Indians and Alaska Natives, and a subset of the total number of Hispanic beneficiaries

Youth of Color Would Be More Likely to Receive Post-Secondary Education Benefits (cont'd)

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- Why?
- When eligibility for this Social Security benefit extended to age 22, black youth were overrepresented among the student beneficiary population (relative to the black share of the general student population).

Youth of Color Would Be More Likely to Receive Post-Secondary Education Benefits (cont'd)

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- Given the increase in the cost of post-secondary education since the 1980s, one would expect this same pattern to be evident today.
 - Post-secondary education is required more often for employment today than it was in the 1980s.
 - Many youth of color are from low-income families and would be unable to afford post-secondary education without the support provided by the Social Security benefit.

College Completion Gap

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- Most youth of color are less likely than white youth to complete college.

Bachelor's Degree Holders by Race and Age (Percents)	18-24 Years of Age (2009)	25 Years and Older (2009)
Asians	15.7	31.6
Blacks	5.6	12.7
Hispanics	4.5	9.6
Whites	9.7	19.3

Impact of Narrowing College Completion Gap

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- Enabling more youth of color to complete college would enable more youth of color to pursue post-baccalaureate studies.
- Enabling more young adults of color to obtain post-baccalaureate degrees would increase their lifetime earnings and, thereby, create more higher-wage earners to pay FICA taxes to support the Social Security system.

Conclusion

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- If eligibility for receipt of Social Security payments due to worker disability or death were extended to age 22 for youth pursuing post-secondary education, youth of color would be more likely than white youth to receive this benefit.
 - Most youth of color are disproportionately likely to receive benefits due to disability or death of a worker.
 - Youth of color are more likely to undertake post-secondary studies as a result of having these benefits.

Contact Information

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