



AARP FINANCIAL SECURITY DATA, INSIGHT, AND RESOURCES TO INFORM REPORTING

Ensuring the financial security of older Americans is a top priority for AARP, particularly as so many feel economic pressures of providing for multigenerational families and moving from full-time work into retirement. AARP is advocating for new retirement savings programs, so that the 57 million working Americans that don't have access to a retirement savings program can have the same opportunities as those who do. AARP is fighting to protect and strengthen the Social Security benefits that Americans have worked hard for. And AARP provides free tools and resources to help Americans everywhere plan, work and save for retirement.

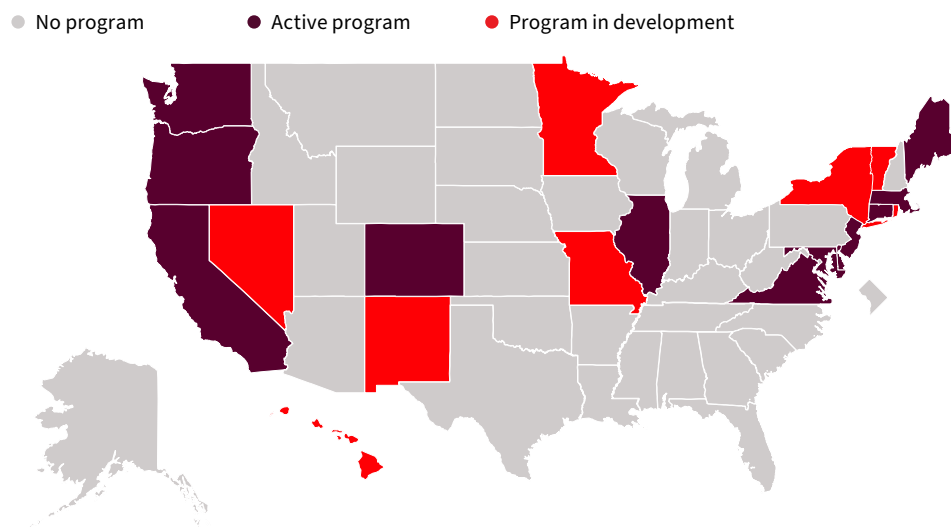
1. Advocacy at the state and federal levels for public policy solutions for the tens of millions of working Americans who lack access to a retirement plan through their employer.
2. AARP's annual Financial Security Trends Survey, which aims to quantify how current and future retirees feel about their financial situation.
3. AARP's fierce advocacy for the protection of Social Security benefits for current and future retirees and work to ensure its long-term solvency.
4. Free AARP tools and resources for financial planning, from retirement and Social Security calculators to our [*This is Pretirement*](#) campaign.
5. Research on the financial security and income sources of older Americans, focused on ensuring that Americans can thrive in retirement.
6. Member benefits that help older Americans with their finances, from money tools to loan repayment calculators and tips for assessing a financial advisor.
7. Analysis of the major milestones for financial security policy, including the annual Trustees' reports on Social Security and Medicare, and the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to Social Security payments.
8. Stories from current and future retirees nationwide feeling financially stressed even when doing all the right things to save for retirement.

Key AARP Financial Security Resources

1. Advocacy at the state and federal levels for public policy solutions for the tens of millions of working Americans who lack access to a retirement plan.

About 57 million people – nearly half of the U.S. private-sector workforce – lack access to an employer-sponsored retirement plan, according to a 2022 AARP study. But AARP has worked at the state and federal level to implement retirement solutions, including auto-IRA and voluntary multiple-employer plans (MEPs). To date, twenty states have passed legislation to this effect to increase access to retirement plans, for millions of workers.

20 states have enacted work-and-save programs



Source: AARP Research

At the federal level, there are multiple legislative solutions, including versions of a federal auto-IRA bill, that would do the same for workers across the country. AARP advocates for these kinds of solutions that will enable Americans everywhere to thrive in retirement.

- [State Retirement Resource Center](#)
- [State Maps](#)
- News Releases:
 - [State Legislatures Pass AARP-Supported Retirement Savings Bills](#)
 - [How Auto IRAs Are Helping More Workers Save for Retirement](#)

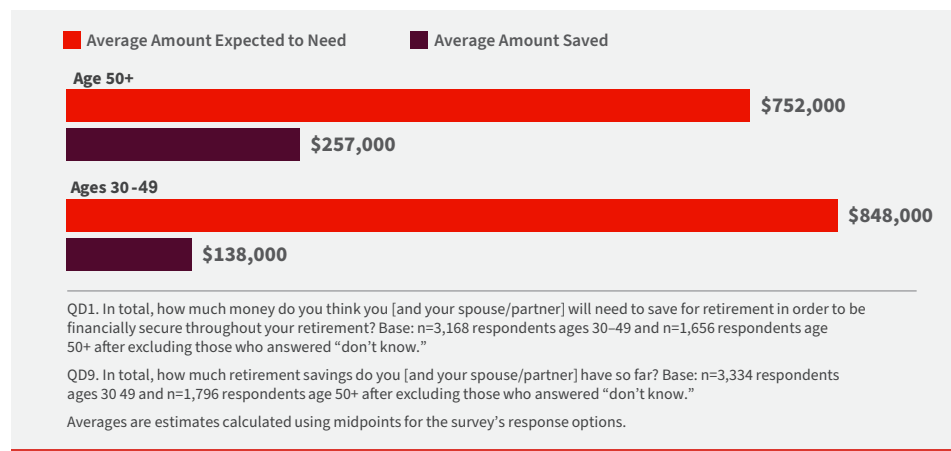
2. AARP’s Financial Security Trends Survey, which aims to quantify how current and future retirees feel about their financial situation.

AARP conducts an annual survey of all adults over 30 years old on their financial experiences, behaviors, and attitudes. The survey is designed to measure, over time, financial well-being, debt, emergency savings, retirement savings, and more.

Because it is conducted annually (previously biannually), the Financial Security Trends Survey is a good barometer for how these things change on a year-to-year basis. AARP uses this research to highlight how Americans are planning for retirement, and what they can do to make sure they are setting themselves up in a secure financial position.

Average amount saved vs. expected need in retirement

Among adults who are not yet retired (excluding those who answered “don’t know”)



3. AARP’s fierce advocacy for the protection of Social Security for current and future seniors and work to ensure its long-term solvency and efficient administration.

AARP’s government affairs team, led by Nancy LeaMond and Bill Sweeney, work with top policymakers in Washington, D.C. to make sure that those who rely on Social Security for their livelihoods are not threatened by cuts to Social Security.

- AARP has facilitated recent discussions with Social Security Chief Martin O’Malley, U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy, Congressman John Larson, among others, to bring AARP members’ concerns about Social Security to the forefront of Washington policy talks.
- AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins urged Congress to keep Social Security out of any fiscal or debt commission, because the national debt should be addressed at the same time that key programs for seniors are protected.
- AARP Executive Vice President and Chief Advocacy and Engagement Officer Nancy LeaMond reiterated AARP’s position that “AARP and the 100 million older Americans we advocate for will not stand by and watch their hard-earned benefits cut.”

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AARP is leading the fight in Washington to make sure that seniors everywhere receive the Social Security that they have worked hard for and paid into, and that Social Security is protected now and for future generations. AARP runs many campaigns with its membership to urge policymakers to protect Social Security.

4. Free AARP tools and resources for retirement planning, from retirement calculators to AARP's This Is Pretirement initiative.

AARP's resources on planning and retirement offer tools for both members and nonmembers to work toward a secure retirement. AARP has a Social Security calculator, an "ask an expert" feature for help, a breakdown of 401(k) vs. IRA plans, and more. AARP runs This Is Pretirement, where people looking to retire can set out goals and plans to ensure their secure retirement future.

These are a few of all of the offerings that AARP has for future retirement planning.

5. Research on the financial security and income sources of older Americans, focused on ensuring that Americans can thrive in retirement.

AARP's Public Policy Institute produces research and analysis on the state of retirement for older Americans and data on what personal finance looks like for Americans of all ages. AARP experts have assisted members of the media in research and analysis in stories like:

- The Income Gap Jeopardizing Retirement for Millions
– *The New York Times*
- Why Americans worry changes to the U.S. retirement system could upend their plans
– *CNBC*
- America is not ready for retirement
– *Axios*

AARP's Public Policy Institute is a go-to source to help translate some of America's most difficult retirement questions into common language that anyone can understand.

6. Member benefits that help older Americans with their finances, from financial tools to loan repayment calculators and tips for assessing a financial advisor.

AARP offers a range of tools to assist with retirement and personal finance planning. These include calculators for mortgage payoff, household budgeting, debt consolidation and more. AARP also offers our Interview an Advisor tool to help with guidance from financial professionals. These resources aim to help users make informed decisions for a secure financial future.

7. Analysis on the major milestones for financial security policy, including the annual Trustees' reports on Social Security and Medicare, and the cost-of-living adjustment to Social Security payments.

- For the annual Medicare and Social Security Trustees Reports, AARP's CEO issues a statement with analysis when it comes to how the programs are administrated and what AARP member priorities for the programs. ([2024](#), [2023](#), [2022](#))
 - AARP also provides analysis of what the Trustees' report means for retirees, both in terms of explaining the mechanisms of the program and what the [financial outlook says](#).
- Every year in October, updated numbers from the Bureau of Labor Statistics are used to calculate the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for Social Security payments.
 - AARP's CEO issues a [statement](#) on what this means for retirees.
 - AARP research and analysis analyzes the COLA for AARP and its members, including what the payment increase for the average retiree is, and how the COLA is calculated.
 - AARP maintains a [database of historical COLA numbers](#).

8. Stories from current and future retirees nationwide feeling financially stressed even when doing all the right things to save for retirement.

AARP can draw upon its extensive membership database to connect journalists with current and future retirees for their experiences living on Social Security, planning for retirement, their financial security and other topics.

Some examples:

- [America's 60-Year-Olds Are Staring at Financial Peril](#)
– *The Wall Street Journal*

Barbara Tarallo, 62, lost her job with a software company during the 2007-09 recession. She was able to find other work, with a job she still has now doing marketing work for another software company, but at roughly half her prior salary. She still makes about \$45,000 a year today while working from her Pelham, N.H., home.

Today, living in a 55-and-up community filled with older retirees, she finds it hard to envision leaving work herself.

"I think I've just resigned myself to the fact that I can do this as long as I can do it and when I can't do it anymore, I'll cross that bridge when I get there," Tarallo said.

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- **We watched the State of the Union with one undecided voter. She wasn't that impressed**
– NPR

If President Biden's State of the Union address was the opening speech of the general election, we thought it might be useful to try to understand how voters heard it. So NPR senior White House correspondent Tamara Keith spent the evening with an independent voter in a state that Biden hopes to win in November. And Tam joins us now from Charlotte, N.C. Good morning, Tam.

KEITH: Karen Seagraves is a 52-year-old nurse by training who now works as a consultant for hospitals and tech companies. And she is the kind of voter that the Biden campaign is trying to persuade. Obviously, she is one person. She is not a representative sample of the electorate.

SEAGRAVES: Being a caregiver, having aging parents, you know, having a daughter, having a son who's in the military, having, you know, all the things I have to worry about going forward for myself in my future and retirement – it just – there's a lot on the table.

- **Cost of Living Is Forcing Older Americans Back Into the Workforce**
– WNKY NBC News40

This is not what 74-year-old Jeannette Campbell pictured doing when she retired from teaching 12 years ago.

"I thought I would be taking care of my grandchildren, traveling the world."

Instead she's checking e-mails, making calls, and putting together promotional material for United Homecare, a nonprofit where she has a part-time job. Campbell realized she had to go back to work when she couldn't make ends meet.

- **Retirement in America is a disaster for many. Is there hope?**
Yahoo! Finance

For 72-year-old Jacqueline Withers, retirement has been rocky. And she's not alone, as it turns out.

Eight years ago, the Jacksonville, N.C. resident stepped away from her job as a home healthcare aide because of a heart condition. She tapped into her Social Security. But it was not – then or now – enough to make ends meet. Her \$1,700 monthly check only covers 90% of her very basic living costs. The remaining 10%? A measly pension takes care of that.

The trouble is, she said, "I don't have enough income to pay my medical bills and buy decent food to live on."