

2022 MassMutual Near Retiree Pulse Check: Social Security

An online poll commissioned by MassMutual was conducted by PSB Research from April 4 to 7, 2022 among 1,500 Americans nearing retirement (age 55-65) who have not filed for Social Security retirement benefits.

Graded Scores – Social Security

Blue box indicates statistical significance at 95%

	Score	Grade	Percentage of Respondents		
			TOTAL (n = 1,500)	55-59 (n = 794)	60-65 (n = 706)
Answered 0 incorrect	100%	A	1%	1%	1%
Answered 1 incorrect	92%	A	5%	4%	5%
Answered 2 incorrect	85%	B	12%	11%	14%
Answered 3 incorrect	77%	C	18%	17%	19%
Answered 4 incorrect	69%	D	18%	19%	18%
Answered 5 incorrect	62%	D	18%	19%	17%
Answered 6 or more incorrect	54% or lower	F	29%	30%	27%

Percentage of Respondents Who Answered Social Security TRUE/FALSE Statements Correctly

	TOTAL		55-59	60-65
	2022 (n=1,500)	2021 (n=1500)	2022 (n=794)	2022 (n=706)
In most cases, if I take benefits before my full retirement age, they will be reduced for early filing. (TRUE)	89%	94%	88%	90%
If I am receiving benefits before my full retirement age and continue to work, my benefits might be reduced based on how much I make. (TRUE)	82%	86%	81%	83%
If I have a spouse, he or she can receive benefits from my record even if he or she has no individual earnings history. (TRUE)	72%	78%	70%	75%
If I have a spouse and he or she passes away, I will receive both my full benefit and my deceased spouse's full benefit. (FALSE)	68%	75%	65%	71%
Generally, if I am in a same-sex marriage, there are different eligibility requirements when it comes to Social Security retirement benefits. (FALSE)	65%	--	63%	67%
The money that comes out of my paycheck for Social Security goes into a specific account for me and remains there, earning interest, until I begin to receive Social Security benefits. (FALSE)	62%	73%	61%	64%
Under current law, Social Security benefits could be reduced by 20% or more for everyone by 2035. (TRUE)	60%	64%	64%	56%
If I file for retirement benefits and have dependent children aged 18 or younger, they also may qualify for Social Security benefits. (TRUE)	58%	56%	56%	60%
If I get divorced, I might be able to collect Social Security benefits based on my ex-spouse's Social Security earnings history. (TRUE)	57%	--	54%	61%
Under current Social Security law, full retirement age is 65 no matter when you were born. (FALSE)	56%	67%	51%	62%
If I delay taking Social Security benefits past the age of 70, I will continue to get delayed retirement credit increases each year I wait. (FALSE)	49%	54%	50%	49%
Social Security retirement benefits are subject to income tax just like withdrawals from a traditional IRA account. (FALSE)	42%	--	45%	39%
I must be a U.S. citizen to collect Social Security retirement benefits. (FALSE)	24%	31%	21%	28%