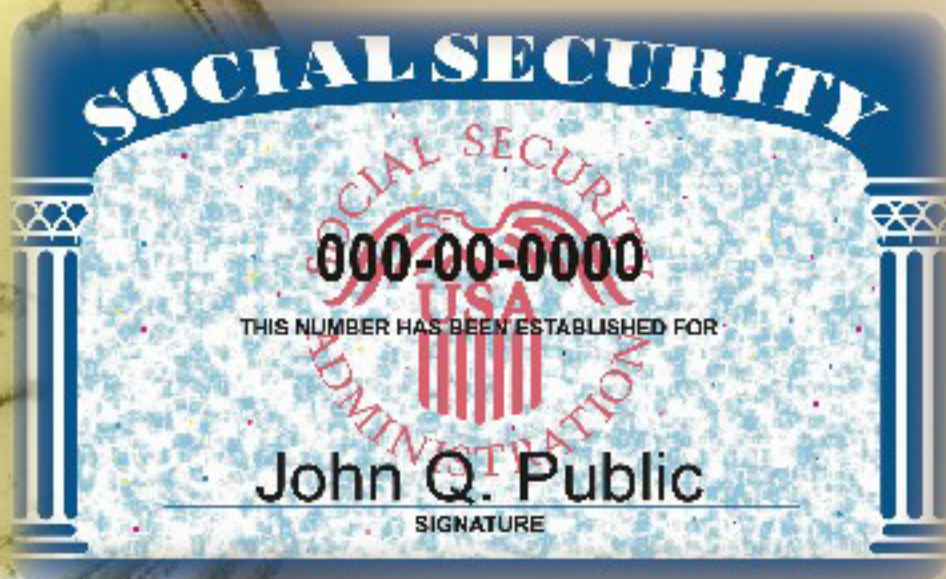




Social Security 70th Anniversary Survey Report

Trends over Time





**Social Security
70th Anniversary Survey Report
Trends Over Time
August 11, 2005**

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Executive Summary

The latest assessment of Social Security by the American public continues to reflect the strong support that has also characterized assessments in 1985 and 1995. Comparisons between the 70th anniversary survey findings and the 50th and 60th anniversary surveys suggest a greater appreciation for Social Security. The public's positive attitudes toward the program have continued strong in the results of the 70th anniversary survey, even as the public debate has focused on the future of the program.

The current survey report addresses the overall importance of Social Security over time, the public's perception of the program, as well as public expectations of the Social Security program. A total of 1,200 adults age 18 and older were surveyed via telephone, nationally. Comparisons between the 50th anniversary survey (1985), 60th anniversary survey (1995), and 70th anniversary survey (current-2005), are made throughout the report with data permitting.

Key Findings

- 2005 Social Security Anniversary Survey data demonstrate that the primary focus on personal or private accounts during 2005 has *broadened and strengthened* positive attitudes towards Social Security rather than *weakened* them.
- When asked which sources of retirement income on which they plan to rely, Social Security is rated a very close second to money accumulated through savings and investments. Furthermore, Social Security is ranked as the most important source of income respondents expect to rely or actually do rely upon, in retirement.
- Over the past 20 years, Social Security continues to be regarded as an important governmental program by most adult Americans.
- A substantial majority of non-retired adults reject the notion of getting out of the Social Security system.
- Most non-retired Americans agree that “Maybe I won’t need Social Security when I retire, but I definitely want to know it’s there just in case I do.”
- Americans would pay more now to maintain and ensure that Social Security will be there for them when they retire.
- More Americans now, compared to a decade ago, agree their families would be hard hit if Social Security were cut. Furthermore, fewer Americans think people who receive Social Security benefits would do very well without their benefits.
- The erosion of confidence in the future of Social Security between 1985 and 1995 has been partially reversed in 2005.

The Context of the Survey

The latest assessment of Social Security by the American public continues to reflect the strong support that has also characterized assessments in 1985 and 1995. Previous surveys that AARP conducted to celebrate the 50th (1985) and 60th (1995) anniversaries of Social Security's founding have demonstrated the high regard that the American public has for Social Security as an important American institution, not only for America's retired citizens, but for the entire American adult population. Positive basic values have grown up around this program; these have been documented in the 50th and 60th anniversary surveys and have continued strong in the results of the 70th Social Security anniversary survey, even as the public debate has focused on the future of the program.

Given the prominence of Social Security reform as the leading domestic political issue in 2005 – primarily in the form of President Bush's proposal to institute voluntary personal or private accounts financed out of Social Security funds – the question arises as to how much change this has made in Americans' basic attitudes about Social Security. Certainly, critics of private accounts proposals financed out of the Social Security Trust fund have argued that such proposals represent a significant departure in philosophy from the traditional Social Security program.

These developments surrounding the current Social Security reform debate furnished the backdrop of AARP's 70th Social Security anniversary survey.

This survey replicates questions asked in two earlier Social Security anniversary surveys. Since all three surveys concentrate on basic attitudes about Social Security and how these attitudes have or have not changed over the last 20 years, no specific policy questions were asked in any of the surveys. The purpose of this research is not to test policy options; rather, it is an exploration of values and attitudes that will shape how the public reacts when presented with policy options. Thus, the findings of the present survey may shed some light on the present Social Security policy discussion.

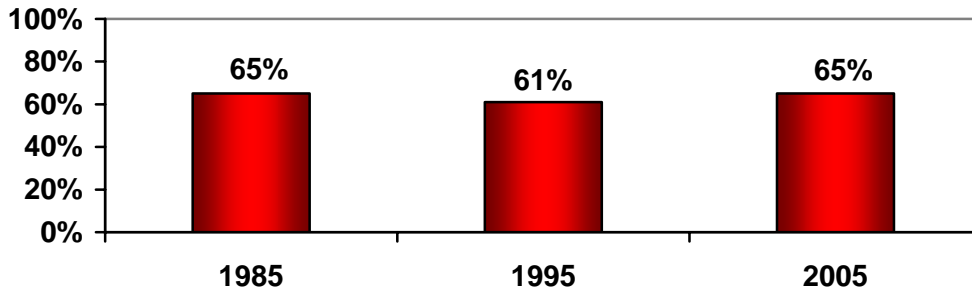
The policy discussion surrounding the Social Security reform debate in 2005 may have been at least partially responsible for one of the biggest changes directly concerning Social Security that is documented in the 2005 survey. This has to do with how informed people considered themselves to be about the way Social Security works. There is a gain of 8 percentage points among those who consider themselves to be at least *fairly well informed* between 1995 (70%) and 2005 (78%). (This question was not asked in the 1985 survey.) The percentage of those who consider themselves to be *very well informed* nearly doubled between 1995 (14%) and 2005 (24%).

Basic Values and Attitudes about Social Security

Results of all of the questions about the value of the Social Security program are highly positive and have remained so since 1985.

Social Security continues to be regarded as an important governmental program by more than 9 in 10 adult Americans over the past 20 years. It was regarded as one of the *most important* programs of government by nearly two-thirds of adult Americans in the 1985 survey (65%) (see Figure 1). This percentage dropped slightly to 61 percent in the 1995 survey, but increased once again to 65 percent in the 2005 survey.

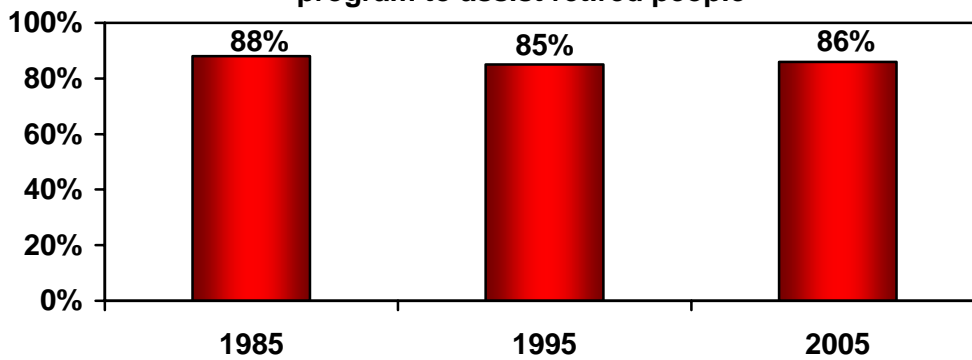
Figure 1
Rated Social Security most important government program



Source: Social Security 70th Anniversary Survey Report: Trends over Time 2005

Moreover, nearly nine in 10 non-retired Americans *think Social Security should continue as a government program to assist retired people* (88% in 1985, 85% in 1995, and 86% in 2005) (see Figure 2). Nine percent in 1985, 13 percent in 1995, and 12 percent in 2005 *think it would be better to phase out Social Security and require people to rely on private retirement plans.*

Figure 2
Think Social Security should continue as a government program to assist retired people



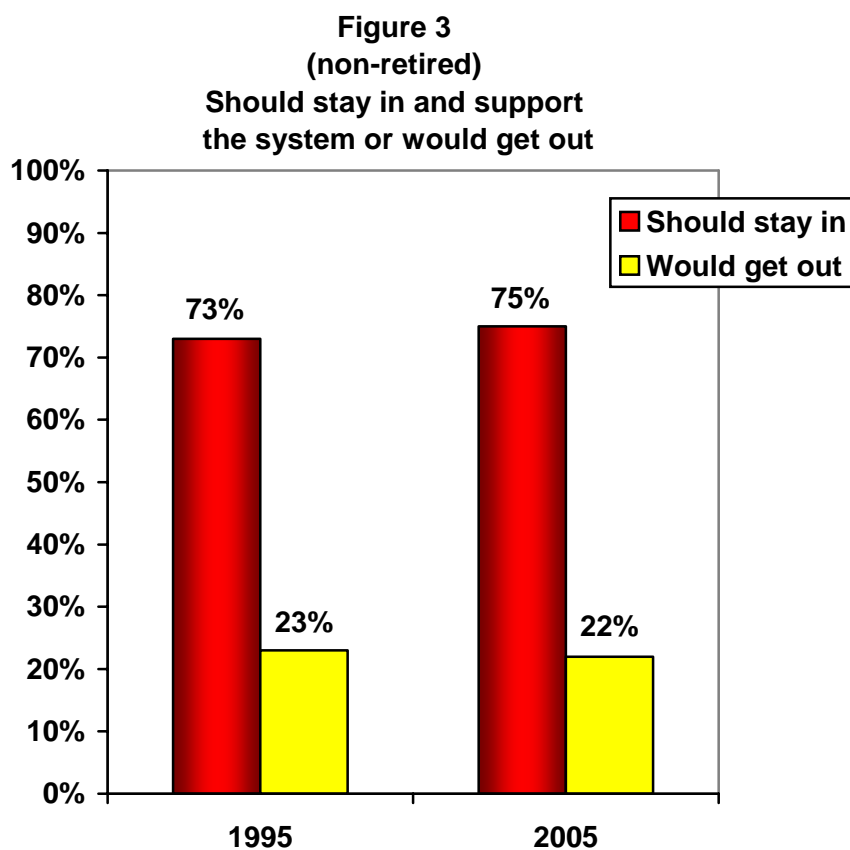
Source: Social Security 70th Anniversary Survey Report: Trends over Time 2005

There is strong and increased belief in the universality of the Social Security program.

In 1995, 75 percent of Americans agreed that *everyone who pays into Social Security should receive it no matter what other income they have*. Agreement with the statement increased by 6 percentage points, to 81 percent in 2005, with almost two-thirds *agreeing completely*.

Although a majority of non-retired respondents (58% in 1995 and 55% in 2005) continue to feel confident that they could do a lot better on their own investing the money they pay into Social Security, there is a five-percentage increase in *lack of confidence* that they could do a lot better on their own investing the money they put into Social Security – from 39 percent lacking confidence in 1995 to 44 percent in 2005. (This question was not asked in the 1985 survey.)

Nearly three-quarters (73%) of non-retired respondents in the 1995 survey and three-quarters (75%) in the 2005 survey *reject* the option of getting out of the Social Security system if offered the choice and say they *should stay in and support the system* (see Figure 3). Nearly one-quarter in 1995 (23%) and 2005 (22%) say they *would get out*. (This question was not asked in the 1985 survey.)



Source: Social Security 70th Anniversary Survey Report: Trends over Time 2005

A majority report: “Maybe I won’t need Social Security when I retire, but I definitely want to know it’s there just in case I do.”

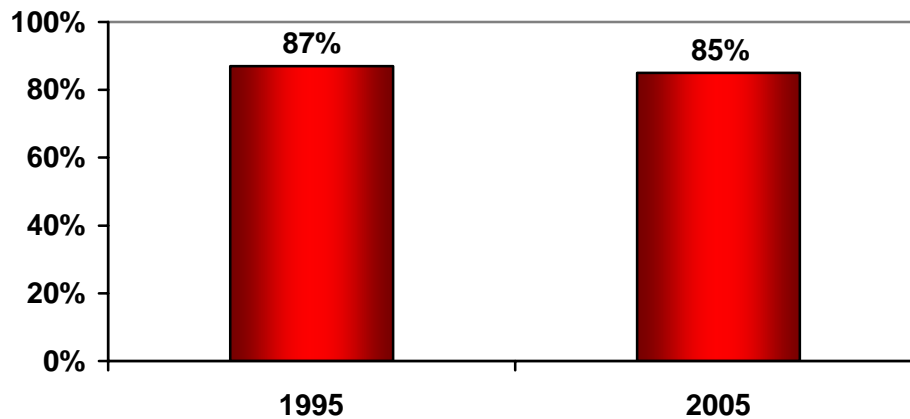
Approximately 9 in 10 non-retired Americans agree (91% in 1995 and 88% in 2005) that “Maybe I won’t need Social Security when I retire, but I definitely want to know it’s there just in case I do.”

Even if they feel they could do better investing on their own, nearly 9 in 10 of the non-retired (87% in 1995 and 85% in 2005) believe that it is *important to continue to contribute to Social Security for the common good* (see Figure 4).

Eight in 10 Americans (82% in 1995 and 80% in 2005) *agree* with the statement, “*The government made a commitment to people a long time ago about Social Security being there for them when they retire; the government can’t break that commitment.*”

There is also growing recognition among the non-retired of the role that Social Security plays for people who are retired. This may be due in part to increased information about Social Security that appears to result from the greater media attention to this topic in 2005.

Figure 4
(non-retired)
Could do better on their own
but believe it is important to contribute to
Social Security for the common good



Source: Social Security 70th Anniversary Survey Report: Trends over Time 2005

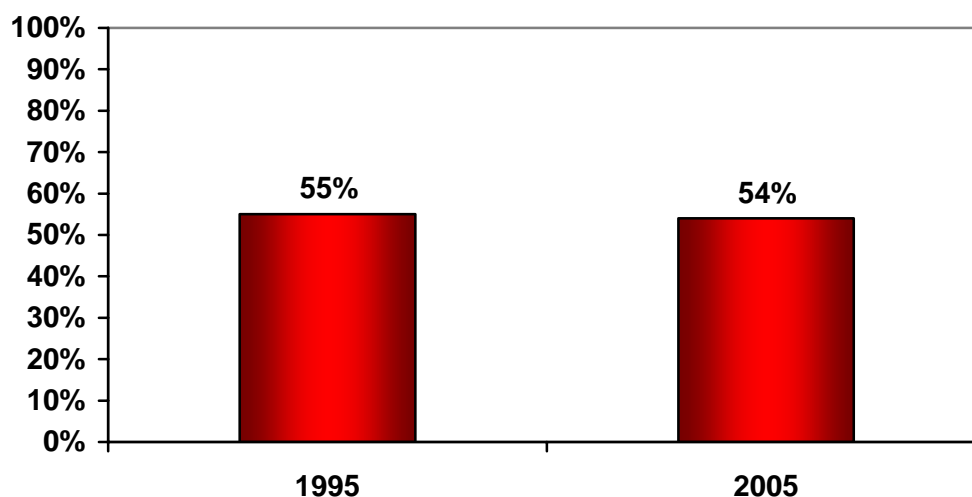
Social Security makes it possible for many older Americans to remain independent.

Approximately 9 in 10 of non-retired Americans (90% in 1995 and 87% in 2005) agree that Social Security *makes it possible for many older Americans to remain independent and not have to depend on their children or family.* (An equally large number of retired Americans agree.)

Also, nearly 9 in 10 non-retired Americans (87% in 1995 and 85% in 2005) agree that it *would not be fair to people who are retired or near retirement to make major changes to Social Security that would affect them.*

A majority of non-retired respondents in both 1995 (55%) and 2005 (54%) indicated that they were willing *to pay more now in Social Security taxes to ensure that Social Security would be there for them.* The only difference between 1995 and 2005 is a slight increase in *complete agreement* from 21 percent to 24 percent. Similar percentages were found regarding willingness *to pay more now in payroll taxes to ensure that Social Security will be there for today's older people.* The only difference in this regard between 1995 and 2005 is an increase in *complete agreement* from 20 percent to 25 percent (see Figure 5).

Figure 5
(non-retired)
Willing to pay more now in payroll taxes to ensure
Social Security will be there for them



Source: Social Security 70th Anniversary Survey Report: Trends over Time 2005

In 1995 and 2005, non-retired survey respondents were also asked if they thought Social Security payroll taxes were too high, too low, or about right. In both years, only about one-quarter (25% in 1995 and 23% in 2005) thought Social Security payroll taxes were *too high*. In 1995, almost two-thirds (65%) thought they were about right; this percentage *decreased* to 56 percent in 2005; the difference is that, whereas in 1995 only 4 percent thought the Social Security payroll tax was too low, four times as many (17%) in 2005 felt this way.

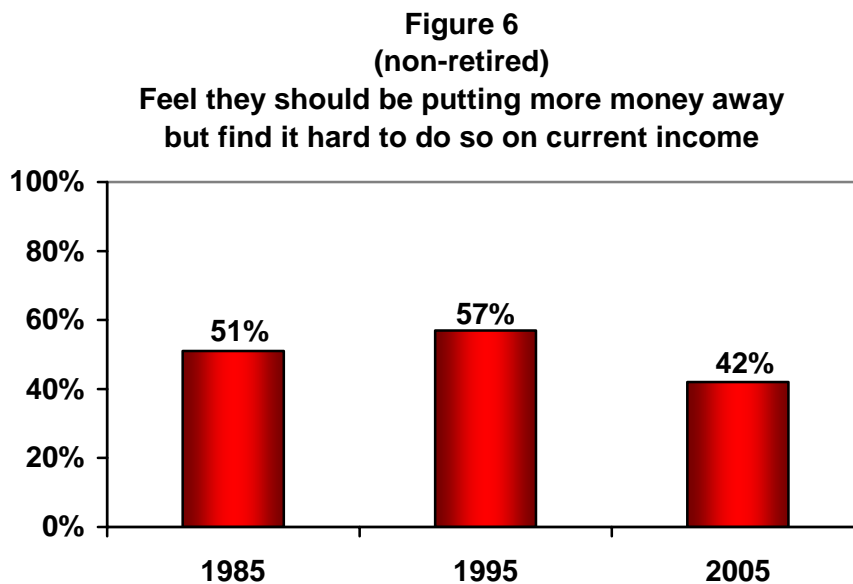
There is increased *disagreement* between 1995 and 2005 (from 71% to 77%) among the non-retired with the statement, “*Most of the people I know on Social Security could do very well without it.*” There is also increased *agreement* between 1995 and 2005 (from 78% to 83%) with the statement, *Social Security provides financial security for the people I know who receive it; without Social Security they would really suffer.*” The percentage of those who *agreed completely* increased from 53 percent in 1995 to 60 percent in 2005.

There is also a slight increase in agreement between 1995 (63%) and 2005 (65%) with the statement, “*Our entire family would be hard hit if Social Security were cut off.*”

Preparation for Retirement and the Role of Social Security in Retirement Income

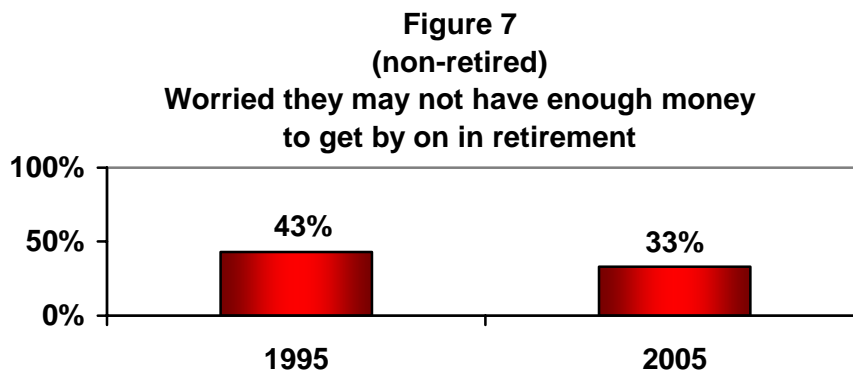
All indications are that non-retirees in 2005 are better preparing themselves for retirement than did their predecessors in earlier years.

Some of the largest differences between the 1995 and 2005 anniversary surveys are found in the context of concerns about financial security in retirement. In 1995, 57 percent of non-retirees said that the statement, “*I feel that I should be putting money away from retirement, but I find that hard to do on my current income,*” very much described themselves, whereas in the 2005 survey, only 42 percent agreed with this self-characterization (see Figure 6). The 1985 survey found that 51 percent of adults felt they should be putting more money away for retirement, but found it hard to do so on their income at the time.



Source: Social Security 70th Anniversary Survey Report: Trends over Time 2005

In 1995, 43 percent of non-retirees said that the statement, “*I’m worried that I may not have enough money to get by on when I retire,*” very much described themselves, whereas in the 2005 survey, only 33 percent agreed with this self-characterization (see Figure 7).

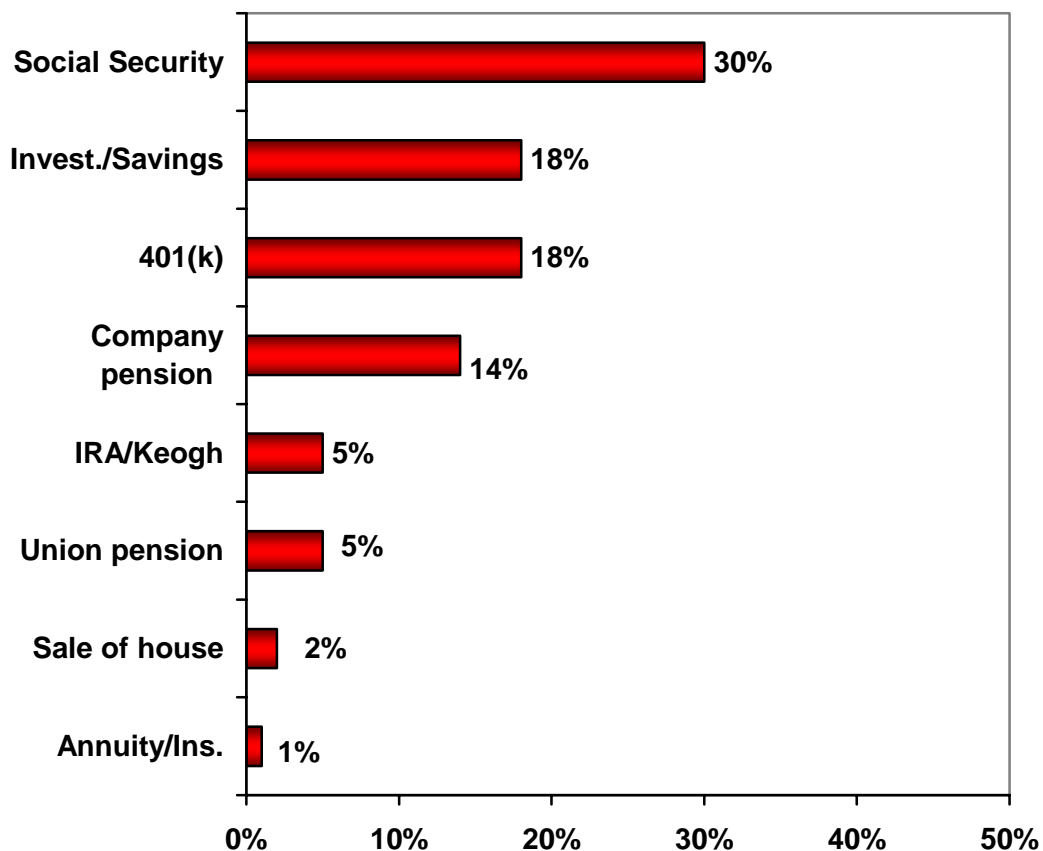


Source: Social Security 70th Anniversary Survey Report: Trends over Time 2005

In the 2005 survey, respondents were asked separately about reliance or planned reliance on various sources of income in retirement, as well as which source of retirement income they rely on or plan to *rely on most*. When asked separately about various sources of income, Social Security was named second only to money accumulated through savings and investments as a source of retirement income, *relied on/plan to rely on* by nearly three-quarters (74%) of the respondents (compared to 78 percent for savings/investments).

As far as the single *most relied upon* source of income is concerned, payments from Social Security came in first at 30 percent, with savings/investments and 401(k) tying for second place at 18 percent each (see Figure 8). Pension payments came next at 14 percent.

Figure 8
Single most relied upon or plan to rely on source of retirement income



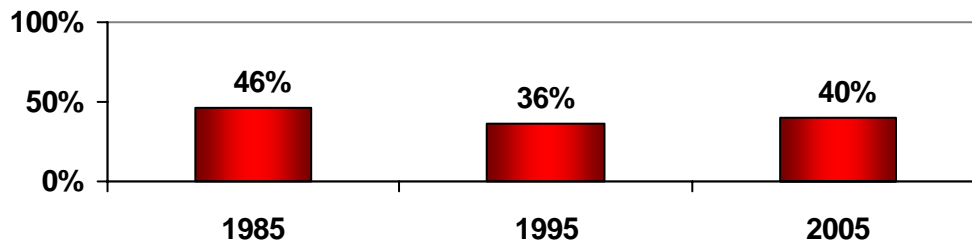
Source: Social Security 70th Anniversary Survey Report: Trends over Time 2005

Concerns about Social Security

Despite expectations the current Social Security debate has not decreased confidence in Social Security.

Confidence in the future of the Social Security program *dropped* from 46 percent in 1985 to 36 percent in 1995 (see Figure 9). Between 1995 and 2005, however, confidence *increased* by four percentage points to 40 percent. The percentage of those *not at all confident* increased from 17 percent in 1985 to 27 percent in 1995 and *decreased* to 22 percent in 2005. Despite expectations that the Social Security debate in 2005 might have had the effect of decreasing confidence in Social Security, the AARP 70th Social Security anniversary survey shows that confidence in Social Security actually *increased* over 1995. The erosion of confidence in the future of Social Security between 1995 and 2005 has been partially reversed in 2005.

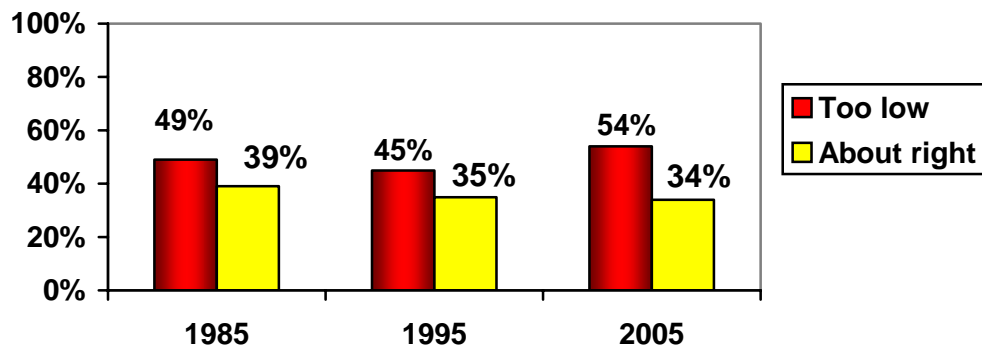
Figure 9
Confidence in the future of the Social Security system



Source: Social Security 70th Anniversary Survey Report: Trends over Time 2005

There is a decided increase in the percentage of non-retired persons with the belief that current Social Security payments are *too low*: 49 percent in 1985, 45 percent in 1995, and 54 percent in 2005 (see Figure 10). Whereas nearly 4 in 10 (39%) in 1985 felt that Social Security payments are *about right*, only 35 percent in 1995 and 34 percent in 2005 felt this way. (Very few – only about 3 percent --in any year believed that Social Security payments were *too high*.)

Figure 10
(non-retired)
Social Security payments are...?



Source: Social Security 70th Anniversary Survey Report: Trends over Time 2005

There was a sharp *decline* between 1995 and 2005 among respondents who agreed with the statement, “*Paying into Social Security is a way to build financial independence in retirement.*” The percentage *agreeing at least somewhat* with this statement dropped from 72 percent to 61 percent, and the percentage *agreeing completely* dropped 15 percentage points, from 42 percent in 1995 to 27 percent in 2005. *Disagreement* with this statement increased from 27 percent in 1995 to 38 percent in 2005.

The hypothesis is that non-retired people have become more sophisticated about planning for retirement between 1995 and 2005, have increased their savings and investment behavior, and have achieved a more realistic view of the role Social Security will play in their retirement, realizing increasingly that it is not enough by itself for a comfortable standard of living. On the other hand, they remain supportive of the Social Security program, not only for people currently retired, but for themselves. They want and hope that Social Security will be there for them when they reach retirement age.

Possible Implications for the Current Social Security Reform Debate

The data from the 70th Social Security Anniversary Survey imply that the focus on Social Security reform in 2005 has resulted in greater information about Social Security and has generally strengthened positive attitudes and values about Social Security, reversing some of the “slippage” that is evident in the 1985 and 1995 anniversary surveys. The 2005 data further imply that the primary focus on personal or private accounts during 2005 has *broadened and strengthened* positive attitudes towards Social Security rather than *weakened* them. The focus on personal or private accounts in the 2005 Social Security reform debate *may* have played a part in the *increased* belief that Social Security payments are too low and that Social Security does not promote independence in retirement. The alternative hypothesis is that the latter findings are the result of greater sophistication among Americans about retirement income.

Methodology

AARP commissioned GFK-NOP, a national survey research firm, to conduct a national random digit dial (RDD) telephone survey of 1,200 adults, age 18+. A total of 929 respondents were not retired and 271 were retired. Interviews were conducted between July 18th and July 26th of 2005. This national survey has a sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. This means that in 95 out of 100 samples of this size, the results obtained in the sample would fall in a range of 3 percentage points of what would have been obtained if every adult in the United States had been surveyed.

This report contains data from the AARP 50th and 60th anniversary surveys. Data presented from the 50th Social Security Anniversary survey were collected in 1985 by Yankelovich, Skelly and White Inc. In 1985, AARP commissioned Yankelovich, Skelly and White Inc. to conduct a national random digit dial (RDD) telephone survey of 2,000 adults, age 25+. This national survey has a sampling error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

Data presented from the 60th Social Security Anniversary survey were collected in 1995 by DYG, Inc. In 1995, AARP commissioned DYG, Inc. to conduct a national random digit dial (RDD) telephone survey of 2,000 adults, age 18+. This national survey has a sampling error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

For presentation purposes, percentage points have been rounded off to the nearest whole number. As a result, percentages in a given table column may total slightly higher or lower than 100%. For questions that permit multiple responses, columns may total to significantly more than 100%, depending on the number of different responses offered by each respondent. Similarly, when only selected responses are shown, percentages may total less than 100%.

Roper Public Affairs & Media
GfK NOP Research & Consulting
AARP Social Security Anniversary Survey July 2005

ANNOTATED QUESTIONNAIRE
(Total Base—n=1,200)

Hello, my name is _____. I'm calling from Roper Public Affairs, a public opinion research company. We're conducting a survey about life in America today and we'd very much like to include the opinions from someone in your household.

AS NECESSARY:

- Your answers to this survey are completely confidential.
- We are a research company and we don't sell anything. No one will ever try to sell you something as a result of this survey.
- The survey should take about 20 minutes.

(ASK OF EVERYONE; n=1200)

S1. First, just to make sure our survey is representative of all US households, would you tell me please how many adults age 18 or older live in your household? Mean: 2.2

IF ONE ADULT AGE 18+ IN HOUSEHOLD GO TO Q1a
 IF TWO OR MORE ADULTS AGE 18+ IN HOUSEHOLD, GO TO S2

S5. Record gender of selected respondent:	%
Male	48
Female	52

S6. Before we begin, are you retired or receiving Social Security benefits?

	%
Yes, retired	12
Yes, receiving Social Security	9
No, neither	73
Retired And Receiving Social Security (vol.)	5
Refused (vol.)	*

* - less than .05%

(ASK OF EVERYONE; n=1200)

S7. Do you happen to be married to someone who is retired or receiving Social Security benefits?

	%
Yes	8
No	92
Refused (vol.)	*

S8. And, what is your age?

	%
18-29	18
30-49	42
50-64	23
65+	16
Refused	2
<i>Mean:</i>	46

MAIN QUESTIONNAIRE RETIREMENT ISSUES

(Q1 – Q3 ASK OF NON-RETIRED ONLY; n=929)

1. Next, some questions about retirement and your thoughts about your retirement. How important do you feel it is at your age to be planning for retirement-very important, fairly important, only somewhat important, or not important at all?

	%
Very important	75
Fairly important	15
Only somewhat important	6
Not important at all	5
Don't know (vol.)	*
Refused (vol.)	*

2. As I read each of the following statements, please tell me whether it describes you very much, it describes you somewhat, or does not describe you at all.

	Describes Very Much	Describes Somewhat	Does Not Describe at All	Don't know (vol.)	Refused (vol.)
	%	%	%	%	%
a. I feel that I should be putting money away for retirement, but I find that hard to do on my current income.	42	31	26	1	*
b. I'm worried that I may not have enough money to get by when I retire.	33	41	26	*	-

* - less than .05%

3. Do you personally know anyone who is on Social Security?

	%
Yes	72
No	28
Don't know (vol.)	1
Refused (vol.)	-

(ASK OF EVERYONE; n=1200)

4. People rely on different sources of income for their retirement years. I'm going to read you a list of sources. For each source, please tell me whether this is something you rely on or plan to rely on in a substantial way for retirement income, rely on somewhat, or do not rely on at all.

	Rely on/Plan to rely on in a substantial way	Rely on/plan to rely on somewhat	Do not/do not plan to rely on at all	Don't know (vol.)	Refused (vol.)
	%	%	%	%	%
a. Payments from Social Security	28	46	24	1	-
b. Pension payments from a company pension plan of your own/your spouse	29	31	38	2	*
c. Pension payments from a union pension plan of your own/your spouse	13	18	67	2	*
d. Money accumulated through savings/investments	34	44	21	1	*
e. Money from an IRA/Keogh plan	18	35	44	3	*
f. Money from an annuity policy with an insurance company	6	22	69	2	*
g. Money you can get from selling your house	7	25	66	2	*
h. 401(k)	25	33	40	2	*

* - less than .05%

4a. Which of these sources of income do you rely on or plan to rely on most for your retirement income? (REPEAT LIST, IF NECESSARY)

	%
Payments from Social Security	30
Money accumulated through savings or investments	18
401(k)	18
Pension payments from a company pension plan of your own/your spouse	14
Money from an IRA/Keogh plan	5
Pension payments from a union pension plan of your own/your spouse	5
Money you get from selling your house	2
Money from an annuity policy with an insurance company	1
Something else (vol.)	3
Not sure (vol.)	4

ATTITUDES TOWARD SOCIAL SECURITY

(ASK OF EVERYONE; n=1200)

5. Compared with other government programs, how important a program do you think Social Security is? Would you say the Social Security system is:

	%
One of the very most important programs of government	65
An important program but not one of the very most important	28
Or, not a very important program	6
Don't know (vol.)	1
Refused (vol.)	*

* - less than .05%

(ASK OF EVERYONE; n=1200)

6. Here are some statements that are sometimes made about Social Security. Please tell me whether you agree completely, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, or disagree completely with each statement.

	Agree completely	Agree somewhat	Disagree somewhat	Disagree completely	Don't know (vol.)	Refused (vol.)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
a. Everyone should be expected to finance their retirement on their own	15	27	25	31	1	*
b. In theory, Social Security is still a good idea, but I doubt that this country can afford it anymore	20	30	17	29	3	*
c. I'm glad we have Social Security because taking care of parents financially is too much of a burden without it	48	30	11	8	2	*

(ASK OF EVERYONE; n=1200)

7. What do you think about the payments that people on Social Security receive now? Do you think they are too high, too low, or about right?

	%
Too high	3
Too low	54
About right	34
Don't know (vol.)	8
Refused (vol.)	1

(ASK OF NON-RETIRED ONLY; n=929)

8. Do you think the payroll taxes paid to Social Security are too high, too low or about right?

	%
Too high	23
Too low	17
About right	56
Don't know (vol.)	5
Refused (vol.)	*

* - less than .05%

(ASK OF EVERYONE; n=1200)

9. How much confidence do you have in the future of the Social Security system?

Would you say you are...? (READ LIST)

	%
Very confident	10
Somewhat confident	30
Not too confident	37
Or, not at all confident	22
Don't know (vol.)	1
Refused (vol.)	*

(ASK OF NON-RETIRED ONLY; n=929)

10. All in all, do you think it would be better to phase out Social Security and require people to rely on private retirement plans, or do you think Social Security should continue as a government program to assist retired people?

	%
Better to phase out	12
Should continue	86
Don't know (vol.)	1
Refused (vol.)	*

(ASK OF NON-RETIRED ONLY; n=929)

11. Right now most people are required to be members of the Social Security System. Some people feel that it would be better for them to get out of the Social Security System, if they could, and use the money they pay in taxes for other purposes. Other people feel that—whether or not it might be better for them personally to get out of the Social Security System—they should stay in and support it. Which of these views comes closest to your own? If you could get out of Social Security, would you do it? Or do you think you should stay in and support the system?

	%
Would get out	22
Should stay in	75
Don't know (vol.)	2
Refused (vol.)	*

* - less than .05%

12. I'm going to read you some statements about Social Security. Please tell me whether you agree completely, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, or disagree completely with each statement.

(ASK OF EVERYONE; n=1200)	Agree completely	Agree somewhat	Disagree somewhat	Disagree completely	Don't know (vol.)	Refused (vol.)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
a. Our entire family would be hard hit if Social Security were cut.	46	19	16	18	2	-
b. The government made a commitment to people a long time ago about Social Security being there for them when they retire; the government can't break that commitment.	62	18	10	9	2	*
c. It would not be fair to people who are retired or near retirement to make major changes to Social Security that would affect them.	68	17	6	6	2	*
d. Everyone who pays into Social Security should receive it no matter what other income they have.	63	18	11	7	1	-
e. Most of the people I know on Social Security could do very well without it.	6	13	23	54	4	*
f. Paying into Social Security is a way to build financial independence in retirement.	27	34	18	20	1	*

	Agree completely	Agree somewhat	Disagree somewhat	Disagree completely	Don't know (vol.)	Refused (vol.)
(ASK OF NON-RETIREEES; n=929)	%	%	%	%	%	%
g. To insure that Social Security will be there for me when I retire, I would be willing to pay more now in payroll taxes.	24	30	15	28	3	1
h. To insure that Social Security will be there for today's older people, I would be willing to pay more in payroll taxes.	25	29	17	27	2	1

	Agree completely	Agree somewhat	Disagree somewhat	Disagree completely	Don't know (vol.)	Refused (vol.)
(ASK OF NON-RETIRES; n=929)	%	%	%	%	%	%
i. I am very confident that I could do a lot better on my own investing the money I pay into Social Security.	27	28	22	22	1	*
j. Even though I think I might be able to do better on my own, I think it's important to continue to contribute to Social Security for the common good.	55	30	8	7	1	1
k. Maybe I won't need Social Security when I retire, but I definitely want to know it's there just in case I do.	71	17	6	5	1	1
l. For many older Americans, Social Security makes it possible for them to remain independent and not have to depend on their children or family	57	30	7	5	1	*
m. Social Security provides financial security for the people I know who receive it; without Social Security they would really suffer.	60	23	10	4	3	*
(ASK OF RETIRED ONLY; n=271)						
n. Social Security makes it possible for me to remain independent and not have to depend on my children or family	55	23	8	12	2	*
o. Social Security provides financial security for me; without Social Security I would really suffer.	54	20	11	14	1	1

(ASK OF EVERYONE; n=1200)

13. How informed would you say you are about the way Social Security works?

	%
Very well informed	24
Fairly well informed	54
Not too well informed	19
Or, not at all informed	3
Don't know (vol.)	*
Refused (vol.)	-

DEMOGRAPHICS

(ASK OF EVERYONE; n=1200)

These final few questions are for classification purposes only. Please be assured that your answers will be kept confidential.

D1. Are you:

	%
Married	63
Single/Never married	17
Single, but living with a “significant” other	5
Divorced/Separated	8
Widowed	6
Refused (vol.)	*

D2. What is the last grade of school you completed?

	%
Less than a high school graduate	8
High school graduate	39
Technical/Vocational/Business School	9
Some college	19
College graduate	16
Post graduate study	9
Refused (vol.)	1

* - less than .05%

D3. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as:

	%
Republican	32
Democrat	31
Independent	33
Other	1
None	1
Don't know (vol.)	1
Refused/No Response(vol.)	2

D4. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be politically:

	%
Conservative	35
Liberal	15
Moderate	44
Don't know (vol.)	4
Refused (vol.)	1

D5. Are you :?

	%
Employed full-time	53
Employed part-time	9
Homemaker	10
Retired	17
Student	4
Temporarily unemployed	6
Refused (vol.)	1

D6/D6a/D6b. Is your total family income before taxes: (READ)

	%
Less than \$10,000	4
\$10,000 - <\$15,000	5
\$15,000 - <\$20,000	5
\$20,000 - <\$25,000	5
\$25,000 - <\$30,000	7
\$30,000 - <\$35,000	6
\$35,000 - <\$40,000	7
\$40,000 - <\$45,000	5
\$45,000 - < \$50,000	8
\$50,000 - <\$75,000	17
\$75,000 - <\$100,000	11
\$100,000 or more	10
Median HHI:	\$45,000

(ASK EVERYONE)

D7 Are you of Hispanic origin or not?

	%
Yes, Hispanic origin	7
No, not Hispanic origin	92
Don't know (vol.)	*
Refused (vol.)	1

D8. Are you White, Black, Asian, or American Indian?

	%
White	81
Black	7
Hispanic	4
Asian	2
American Indian	4
Other	1
Refused/No Answer	2

D9. Do you or any member of your household belong to AARP (American Association for Retired Persons)?

	%
Yes	27
No	72
Don't know (vol.)	1
Refused (vol.)	1

Region :

	%
Northeast	19
Midwest	23
South	36
West	22

* - less than .05%