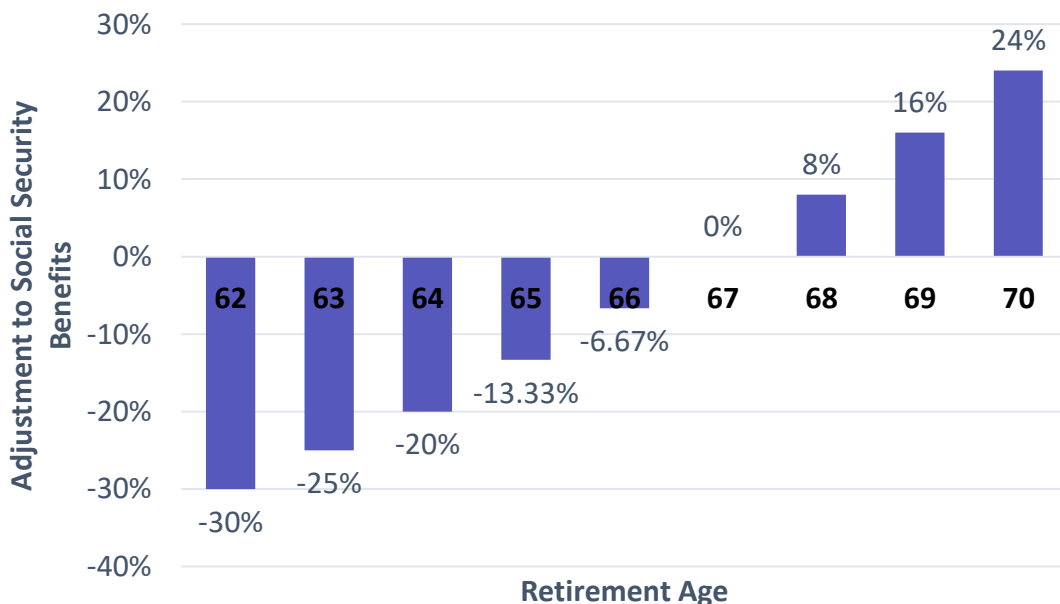


## Retirement Planning

- Social security will only cover a percentage of your retirement needs. Retirement pension (if you have one) and your own savings must cover the difference.
- Estimate your social security here:  
<https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/estimator.html>
- Your estimate is in today's dollars, to provide a rough guide of how much of your current monthly expenses it might cover

## Retirement Age

- If born 1960 or later “full retirement” is age 67
- However, you may start taking benefits as early as age 62, but benefits are reduced, by as much as 30%<sup>2</sup>



## Case for taking benefits Early

- Less draw-down of other savings during early years of retirement
- You don't expect to live long

## Case for taking benefits Late

- Larger payment available during later retirement years
- If you live longer than expected, (and start running out of savings) a larger monthly payment is more critical

## Or does it matter?

- Reductions (or increases) to benefits based on starting age are actuarially calculated. If you live an "average" lifespan<sup>3</sup>, you should receive the same amount over your life regardless of what age you start
- Most of us plan to live longer than "average"<sup>4</sup>
- Financial planners are more likely to recommend starting late



## Married?



- Both spouses do not need to take social security at the same time
- Spouse with the largest benefit should delay taking benefits. (Other spouse may take benefits early.)<sup>4</sup>
- Once one passes away, the remaining spouse gets 100% of the largest benefit (either their own or their spouse's)

## References

1. Your retirement benefit: How it's figured. Available at: <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10070.pdf> Accessed April, 2019
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4. When to start receiving retirement benefits. Available at: <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10147.pdf> Accessed April, 2019