

CENTER FOR  
RETIREMENT  
RESEARCH  
AT BOSTON COLLEGE

## **The National Retirement Risk Index in a Nutshell**

### **WHAT IS THE NATIONAL RETIREMENT RISK INDEX?**

- The National Retirement Risk Index (NRRI) measures the percentage of working-age households who are at risk of being unable to maintain their pre-retirement standard of living in retirement.

### **WHAT ARE THE KEY FINDINGS OF THE NRRI?**

- Almost 45 percent of U.S. households are “at risk.”
- Younger households are more likely to be at risk.
- Other vulnerable groups are those with low incomes or no pension coverage.

### **WHY ARE SO MANY HOUSEHOLDS AT RISK?**

- Social Security will replace less pre-retirement income in the future.
- Traditional pensions are disappearing, and 401(k)s have only modest balances.
- Outside of 401(k)s, households save nothing.
- People are living longer.

### **WHAT CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE PICTURE?**

- Save more – even 3 percent of income makes a big difference over time.
- Work longer – staying in the labor force even two extra years has a big payoff.

**For more information about the National Retirement Risk Index,  
please visit:**

**[www.bc.edu/crr/nrri.shtml](http://www.bc.edu/crr/nrri.shtml)**