

Older Americans *Update 2006*

Key Indicators of Well-Being

About This Report

Introduction

Older Americans Update 2006: Key Indicators of Well-Being is the third in a series of reports produced by the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics (Forum). This series of reports provides data on the overall status of the U.S. population age 65 and over, presents a broad summary of national indicators of well-being for this population, and monitors changes in these indicators over time. By following these data trends, more accessible information will be available to target efforts to improve the lives of older Americans.

Older Americans Update 2006 provides readers with the most recent data available in a timely manner. It differs from the full, more detailed versions, *Older Americans 2000* and *Older Americans 2004*, in the following ways:

- ◆ Indicators are updated based on data availability. Out of a total of 37 indicators, 30 are updated in this report. The remaining 7 indicators are shown as they appeared in *Older Americans 2004*.
- ◆ The descriptive text that appears below the charts in the full versions of *Older Americans 2000* and *2004* has been replaced with the data tables used to create the charts. In most cases, the tables have been updated and show the new or corrected data in bolded color. Tables updated and adjusted for inflation show only the newly added years of data in color. Tables that did not fit under the chart are included in Appendix A.
- ◆ Supporting data for each indicator, including complete tables, PowerPoint slides, and data source descriptions, are available at: www.agingstats.gov.

Considerations When Examining the Indicators

Indicators in *Older Americans Update 2006* are not always comparable to the original indicators in *Older Americans 2000* or *2004*. Updating certain indicators is sometimes difficult because of changes in data sources,

definitions, questionnaires, or reporting categories. A comparability table is available at www.agingstats.gov to help readers understand the changes that have occurred.

The source of data for each indicator is noted below the chart. Descriptions of the data sources are available at: www.agingstats.gov. In the charts, tick marks along the *x* axis indicate years for which data are available. The range of years presented in each chart varies because data availability is not uniform across the data sources. To standardize the time frames across the indicators, a timeline has been placed at the bottom of each indicator that reports data for more than 1 year.

Finally, the data in some indicators may not sum to totals because of rounding.

About the Forum

The Forum's mission is to encourage cooperation and collaboration among Federal agencies to improve the quality and utility of data on the aging population. To accomplish this mission, the Forum provides agencies with a venue to discuss data issues and concerns that cut across agency boundaries, facilitates the development of new databases, improves mechanisms currently used to disseminate information on aging-related data, invites researchers to report on cutting-edge analyses of data, and encourages international collaboration.

Forum members provide funds and valuable staff time to support the activities of the Forum.

More Information

For more information about *Older Americans Update 2006* or other Forum activities, contact:

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Older Americans on the Internet

Supporting material for this report can be found at www.agingstats.gov. The Web site contains:

- ◆ Complete data for all of the indicators in Excel spreadsheets (some with standard errors, when available).
- ◆ Data source descriptions.
- ◆ Glossary.
- ◆ Updated PowerPoint slides of the charts.
- ◆ A comparability table explaining the changes to the indicators that have taken place between *Older Americans 2000*, *2004*, and *Update 2006*.

The Forum's Web site also provides:

- ◆ Ongoing Federal data resources relevant to the study of the aging.
- ◆ Links to aging-related statistical information on Forum member Web sites.
- ◆ Past products of the Forum (including *Older Americans 2000* and *2004*).
- ◆ Agency contacts.
- ◆ Subject area contact list for Federal statistics.
- ◆ Information about the Forum.

Additional Online Resources

Administration on Aging

A Profile of Older Americans

www.aoa.gov/prof/Statistics/profile/profiles.asp

Online Statistical Data on the Aging

www.aoa.gov/prof/Statistics/online_stat_data/online_stat_data.asp

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

AHRQ Data & Surveys

www.ahrq.gov/data

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Bureau of Labor Statistics Data

www.stats.bls.gov/data

U.S. Census Bureau

Statistical Abstract of the United States

www.census.gov/statab/www/

Age Data

www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/age.html

Longitudinal Employer - Household Dynamics

lehd.dsd.census.gov/led/index.html

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Research, Statistics, Data and Systems

www.cms.hhs.gov/home/rsds.asp

Department of Veterans Affairs

Veteran Data and Information

www.va.gov/vetdata

Environmental Protection Agency

Aging Initiative

www.epa.gov/aging/index.htm

National Center for Health Statistics

Data Warehouse on Trends in Health and Aging

www.cdc.gov/nchs/agingact.htm

Longitudinal Studies of Aging

www.cdc.gov/nchs/lsoa.htm

Health, United States

www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm

National Institute on Aging

Behavioral and Social Research

www.nia.nih.gov/bsr/resources/

NIA Centers on the Demography of Aging

agingmeta.psc.isr.umich.edu

National Archive of Computerized Data on Aging

www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACDA

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, HHS

Gateway to HHS Data and Statistics

www.hhs-stat.net

HHS Data Council

aspe.hhs.gov/datacncl/index.shtml

Office of Disability, Aging, and Long-Term Care Policy

aspe.hhs.gov/_/office_specific/daltcp.cfm

Office of Management and Budget

FedStats (Gateway to Federal Statistics)

www.fedstats.gov

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

www.samhsa.gov/Matrix/matrix_older.aspx

Social Security Administration

SSA Statistical Information

www.ssa.gov/policy

Table of Contents

Members of the Forum	inside cover	Health Care	41
About This Report	II	Indicator 28: Use of Health Care Services <i>(updated)</i>	42
Population	1	Indicator 29: Health Care Expenditures <i>(updated)</i>	44
Indicator 1: Number of Older Americans <i>(partially updated)</i>	2	Indicator 30: Prescription Drugs <i>(updated)</i>	46
Indicator 2: Racial and Ethnic Composition <i>(updated)</i>	4	Indicator 31: Sources of Health Insurance <i>(updated)</i>	48
Indicator 3: Marital Status <i>(updated)</i>	5	Indicator 32: Out-of-Pocket Health Care Expenditures <i>(updated)</i>	49
Indicator 4: Educational Attainment <i>(updated)</i>	6	Indicator 33: Sources of Payment for Health Care Services <i>(updated)</i>	50
Indicator 5: Living Arrangements <i>(updated)</i>	8	Indicator 34: Veterans' Health Care <i>(updated)</i>	51
Indicator 6: Older Veterans	10	Indicator 35: Nursing Home Utilization	52
Economics	11	Indicator 36: Residential Services <i>(updated)</i>	54
Indicator 7: Poverty <i>(updated)</i>	12	Indicator 37: Caregiving and Assistive Device Use	56
Indicator 8: Income <i>(updated)</i>	13	References	58
Indicator 9: Sources of Income <i>(updated)</i>	14	Appendix A: Selected Detailed Tables	60
Indicator 10: Net Worth <i>(updated)</i>	16		
Indicator 11: Participation in the Labor Force <i>(updated)</i>	18		
Indicator 12: Housing Expenditures	20		
Health Status	21		
Indicator 13: Life Expectancy <i>(updated)</i>	22		
Indicator 14: Mortality <i>(updated)</i>	23		
Indicator 15: Chronic Health Conditions <i>(updated)</i>	24		
Indicator 16: Sensory Impairments and Oral Health <i>(updated)</i>	25		
Indicator 17: Memory Impairment	26		
Indicator 18: Depressive Symptoms	27		
Indicator 19: Disability <i>(partially updated)</i>	28		
Indicator 20: Respondent-Assessed Health Status <i>(updated)</i>	30		
Health Risks and Behaviors	31		
Indicator 21: Vaccinations <i>(updated)</i>	32		
Indicator 22: Mammography <i>(updated)</i>	33		
Indicator 23: Dietary Quality	34		
Indicator 24: Physical Activity <i>(updated)</i>	35		
Indicator 25: Obesity <i>(updated)</i>	36		
Indicator 26: Cigarette Smoking <i>(updated)</i>	37		
Indicator 27: Air Quality <i>(updated)</i>	38		