

A Profile of Older Americans: 2004



Administration on Aging
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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Highlights *

- The older population (65+) numbered 35.9 million in 2003, an increase of 3.1 million or 9.5% since 1993.
- The number of Americans aged 45-64 – who will reach 65 over the next two decades – increased by 39% during this decade.
- About one in every eight, or 12.4 percent, of the population is an older American.
- Over 2.0 million persons celebrated their 65th birthday in 2003.
- Persons reaching age 65 have an average life expectancy of an additional 18.2 years (19.5 years for females and 16.6 years for males).
- Older women outnumber older men at 21.0 million older women to 14.9 million older men.
- In 2003, 17.6% of persons 65+ were minorities--8.2% were African-Americans,** 2.8% were Asian or Pacific Islander,** and less than 1% were American Indian or Native Alaskan.** Persons of Hispanic origin (who may be of any race) represented 5.7% of the older population. In addition, 0.5% of persons 65+ identified themselves as being of two or more races.
- Older men were much more likely to be married than older women--71% of men vs. 41% of women (Figure 2). Almost half of all older women in 2003 were widows (43%).
- About 31 percent (10.5 million) of noninstitutionalized older persons live alone (7.8 million women, 2.7 million men).
- Half of older women age 75+ live alone.
- About 416,000 grandparents aged 65 or more had the primary responsibility for their grandchildren who lived with them.
- By the year 2030, the older population will more than double to 71.5 million.
- The 85+ population is projected to increase from 4.7 million in 2003 to 9.6 million in 2030.
- Members of minority groups are projected to represent 26.4 percent of the older population in 2030, up from 16.4 percent in 2000.
- The median income of older persons in 2003 was \$20,363 for males and \$11,845 for females. Median money income of all households headed by older people (after adjusting for inflation) rose by 0.4% from 2002 to 2003; however, this difference was not statistically significant.
- For one-third of Americans over 65, Social Security benefits constitute 90% of their income.
- About 3.6 million elderly persons (10.2%) were below the poverty level in 2003. This poverty rate was not statistically different from the poverty rate in 2002. Another 2.3 million or 6.7% of the elderly were classified as "near-poor" (income between the poverty level and 125% of this level).
- About 11% (3.7 million) of older Medicare enrollees received personal care from a paid or unpaid source in 1999.

*Principal sources of data for the Profile are the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the National Center on Health Statistics, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Profile incorporates the latest data available but not all items are updated on an annual basis.

The Older Population

The older population--persons 65 years or older--numbered 35.9 million in 2003 (the most recent year for which data are available). They represented 12.4% of the U.S. population, about one in every eight Americans. The number of older Americans increased by 3.1 million or 9.5% since 1993, compared to an increase of 13.3% for the under-65 population. However, the number of Americans aged 45-64 – who will reach 65 over the next two decades – increased by 39% during this period.

In 2003, there were 21.0 million older women and 14.9 million older men, or a sex ratio of 140 women for every 100 men. The female to male sex ratio increases with age, ranging from 115 for the 65-69 age group to a high of 226 for persons 85 and over.

Since 1900, the percentage of Americans 65+ has tripled (from 4.1% in 1900 to 12.4% in 2004), and the number has increased eleven times (from 3.1 million to 35.9 million). The older population itself is getting older. In 2003, the 65-74 age group (18.3 million) was eight times larger than in 1900, but the 75-84 group (12.9 million) was 17 times larger and the 85+ group (4.7 million) was 38.5 times larger.

In 2002, persons reaching age 65 had an average life expectancy of an additional 18.2 years (19.5 years for females and 16.6 years for males).

A child born in 2002 could expect to live 77.3 years, about 30 years longer than a child born in 1900. Much of this increase occurred because of reduced death rates for children and young adults. However, the period of 1980-2002 also has seen reduced death rates for the population aged 65-84, especially for men – by 30.4% for men aged 65-74 and by 23.3% for men aged 75-84. Life expectancy at age 65 increased by only 2.5 years between 1900 and 1960, but has increased by 3.9 years from 1960 to 2002.

Over 2.0 million persons celebrated their 65th birthday in 2003. In the same year, about 1.8 million persons 65 or older died. Census estimates showed an annual net increase of over 317,000 in the number of persons 65 and over.

There were 50,639 persons aged 100 or more in 2003 (0.17% of the total population). This is a 36% increase from the 1990 figure of 37,306.

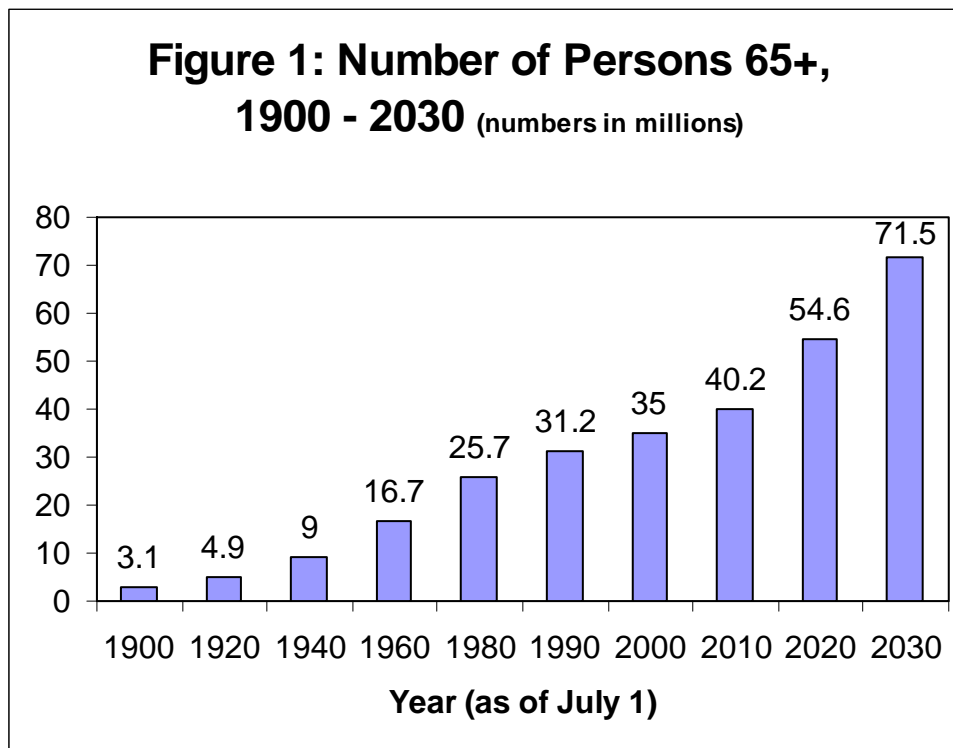
(Data for this section were compiled primarily from Internet releases of the U.S. Bureau of the Census and the National Center for Health Statistics).

Future Growth

The older population will continue to grow significantly in the future (see Figure 1). This growth slowed somewhat during the 1990's because of the relatively small number of babies born during the Great Depression of the 1930's. But the older population will burgeon between the years 2010 and 2030 when the "baby boom" generation reaches age 65.

By 2030, there will be about 71.5 million older persons, more than twice their number in 2000. People 65+ represented 12.4% of the population in the year 2000 but are expected to grow to be 20% of the population by 2030. The 85+ population is projected to increase from 4.6 million in 2002 to 9.6 million in 2030.

Minority populations are projected to represent 26.4% of the elderly population in 2030, up from 17.6% in 2003. Between 2000 and 2030, the white** population 65+ is projected to increase by 77% compared with 223% for older minorities, including Hispanics (342%), African-Americans** (164%), American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts** (207%), and Asians and Pacific Islanders** (302%).



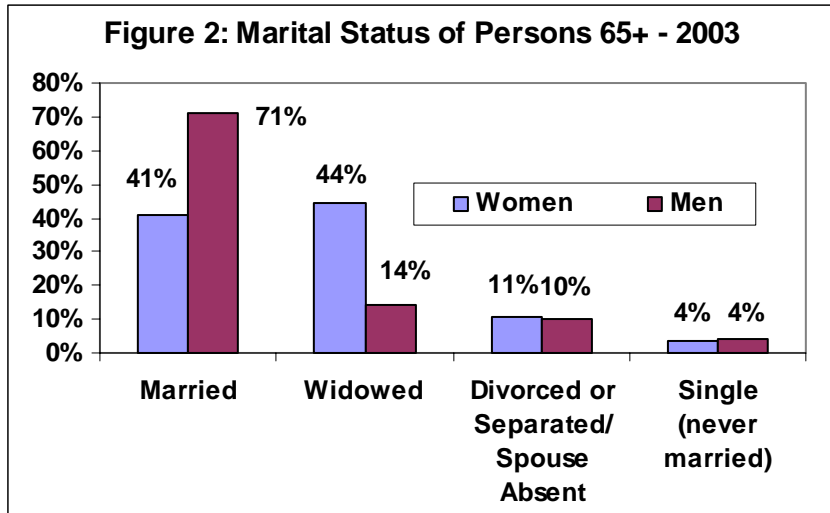
Note: Increments in years are uneven.

(Sources: Projections of the Population by Age are taken from the January 2004 Census Internet Release. Historical data are taken from "65+ in the United States," Current Population Reports, Special Studies, P23-190 Data for 2000 are from the 2000 Census and 2003 data are taken from the Census estimates for 2003.)

Marital Status

In 2003, older men were much more likely to be married than older women--71% of men, 41% of women (Figure 2). Almost half of all older women in 2003 were widows (43%). There were over four times as many widows (8.2 million) as widowers (2.0 million).

Divorced and separated (including married/spouse absent) older persons represented only 10.7% of all older persons in 2003. However, this percentage has increased since 1980, when approximately 5.3% of the older population were divorced or separated/spouse absent.



(Based on Internet releases of data from the 2003 Current Population Survey of the U.S. Bureau of the Census)

Living Arrangements

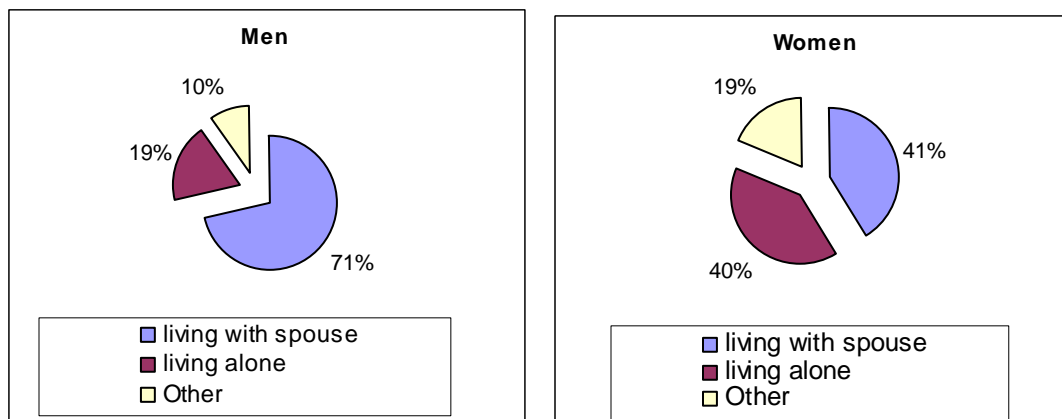
Over half (53.9%) the older noninstitutionalized persons lived with their spouse in 2003. Approximately 10.3 million or 71.2% of older men, and 8.1 million or 41.1% of older women, lived with their spouse (Figure 3). The proportion living with their spouse decreased with age, especially for women. Only 28.7% of women 75+ years old lived with a spouse.

About 30.8% (10.5 million) of all noninstitutionalized older persons in 2003 lived alone (7.8 million women, 2.7 million men). They represented 39.7% of older women and 18.8% of older men. The proportion living alone increases with advanced age. Among women aged 75 and over, for example, half (49.8%) lived alone.

About 643,000 grandparents aged 65 or over maintained households in which grandchildren were present in 2003. (Another 215,000 elderly were spouses of such people.) In addition, 453,000 grandparents over 65 years lived in parent-maintained households in which their grandchildren were present. About 416,000 grandparents over 65 years old were the persons with primary responsibility for their grandchildren who lived with them.

While a relatively small number (1.56 million) and percentage (4.5%) of the 65+ population lived in nursing homes in 2000, the percentage increases dramatically with age, ranging from 1.1% for persons 65-74 years to 4.7% for persons 75-84 years and 18.2% for persons 85+. In addition, approximately 5% of the elderly lived in self-described senior housing of various types, many of which have supportive services available to their residents.

Figure 3: Living Arrangements of Persons 65+: 2003



(Based on data from U.S. Bureau of the Census including the 2003 Current Population Survey and the 2003 American Community Survey. See: March 2003 Current Population Survey Internet releases. See also: "America's Families and Living Arrangements; Population Characteristics: June, 2001, Current Population Reports, P20-537" and "The 65 Years and Over Population: 2000, Census 2000 Brief, October, 2001" as well as other Census 2000 data and unpublished data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.)

Racial and Ethnic Composition

In 2003, 17.6% of persons 65+ were minorities--8.2% were African-Americans,** 2.8% were Asian or Pacific Islander,** and less than 1% were American Indian or Native Alaskan.** Persons of Hispanic origin (who may be of any race) represented 5.7% of the older population. In addition, 0.5% of persons 65+ identified themselves as being of two or more races.

Only 6.8% of minority race and Hispanic populations were 65+ in 2003 (8.3% of African-Americans,** 8.4% of Asians and Pacific Islanders,** 6.9% of American Indians and Native Alaskans,** 5.2% of Hispanics), compared with 15.1% of whites.**

(Data for this section were compiled from Internet releases of the Census 2003 Estimates).

Geographic Distribution

The proportion of the older persons in the population varies considerably by state with some states experiencing much greater growth in their older populations (Figures 4 and 5). In 2003, about half (52%) of persons 65+ lived in nine states. California had over 3.8 million; Florida 2.9 million; New York 2.5 million; Texas 2.2 million; and Pennsylvania 1.9 million. Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, and New Jersey each had well over 1 million (Figure 6).

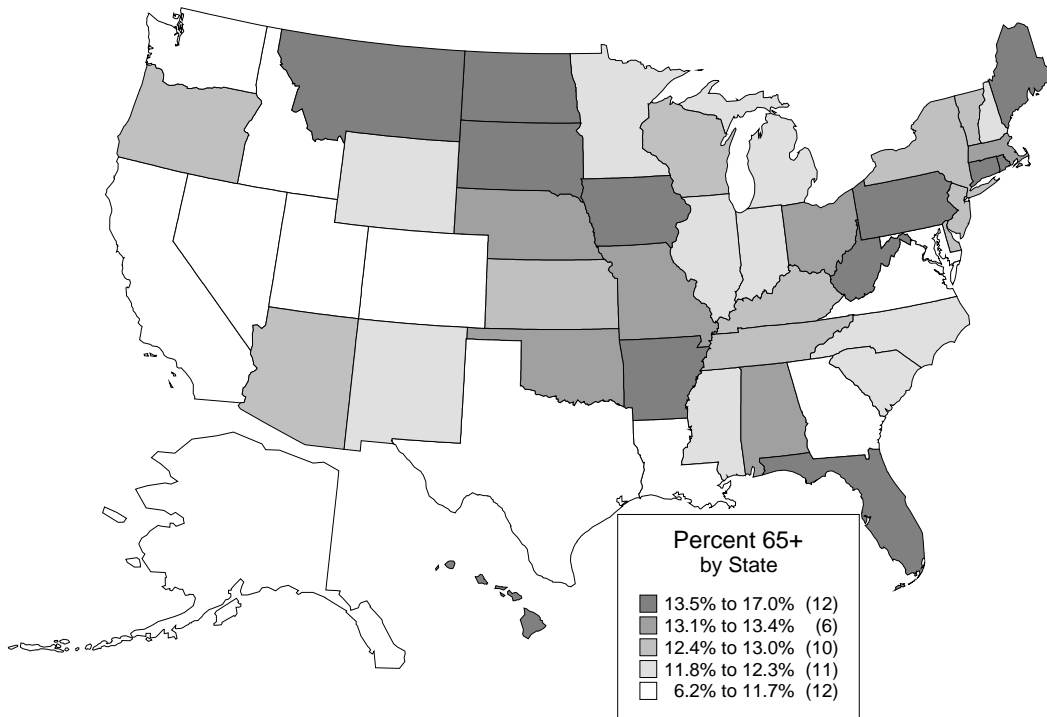
Person 65+ constituted approximately 14% or more of the total population in 9 states in 2003 (Figure 6): Florida (17.0%); Pennsylvania (15.4%); West Virginia (15.3%); North Dakota (14.8%); Iowa (14.7%); Maine (14.4); South Dakota (14.3); Rhode Island (14.0%); and Arkansas (13.9%). In nine states, the 65+ population increased by 20% or more between 1993 and 2003 (Figure 6): Nevada (60.5%); Alaska (50.3%); Arizona (32.4%); New Mexico (27.1%); Colorado (22.8%); Utah (22.5%); Delaware (22.4%); Hawaii (20.9%); and Idaho (20.6%). The ten jurisdictions with the highest poverty rates for elderly over the period 2001-2003 were Mississippi (17.1%); the District of Columbia (16.0%); Arkansas (15.7%); Texas (15.1%); South Carolina (14.6%); North Carolina (13.7%); Massachusetts (13.0%); Tennessee (12.8%); Alabama (12.6%); and New York (12.6%).

Most persons 65+ lived in metropolitan areas in 2003 (77.4%). About 50% of older persons lived in the suburbs, 27.2% lived in central cities, and 22.6% lived in nonmetropolitan areas.

The elderly are less likely to change residence than other age groups. In the five year period from 1995 to 2000, 22.8% of older persons had moved (compared to 47.7% of persons under 65). Most older movers (59.7%) stayed in the same county while only 18.8% (of the movers) moved to another state. The 85+ segment of the older population had a much high rate of moving. During this period, 32.3% of the 85+ population moved, 61.1% of them within the same county.

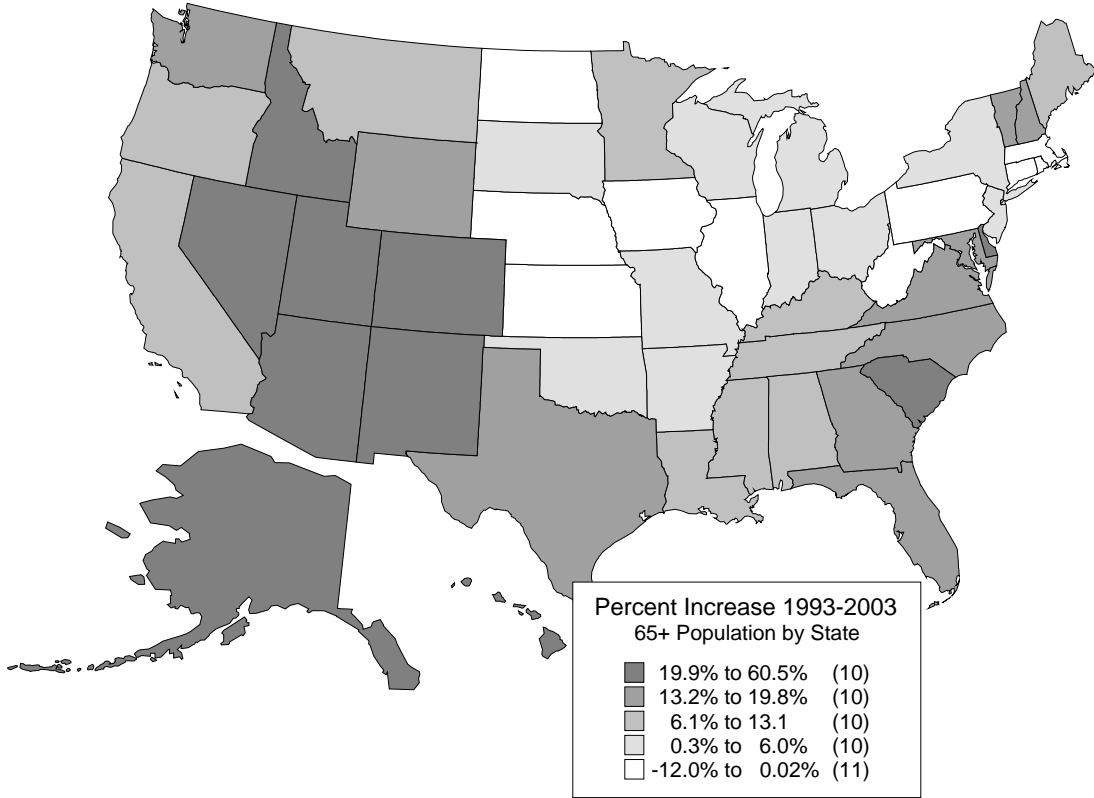
(Data for this section and for Figure 4 were compiled primarily from the Census Population Estimates for 2003 as well as other Internet releases of the U.S. Bureau of the Census including tables from the March 2003 Current Population Survey and "Internal Migration of the Older Population: 1995 to 2000," Census 2000 Special Report, CENSR-10, August 2003).

Figure 4: Persons 65+ as a Percentage of Total Population - 2003



Based on Census 2003 Population Estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census

Figure 5: Percentage Increase in Population 65+ -- 1993 to 2003



Based on Census 1993 and 2003 Population Estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census

Figure 6: The 65+ Population by State 2003

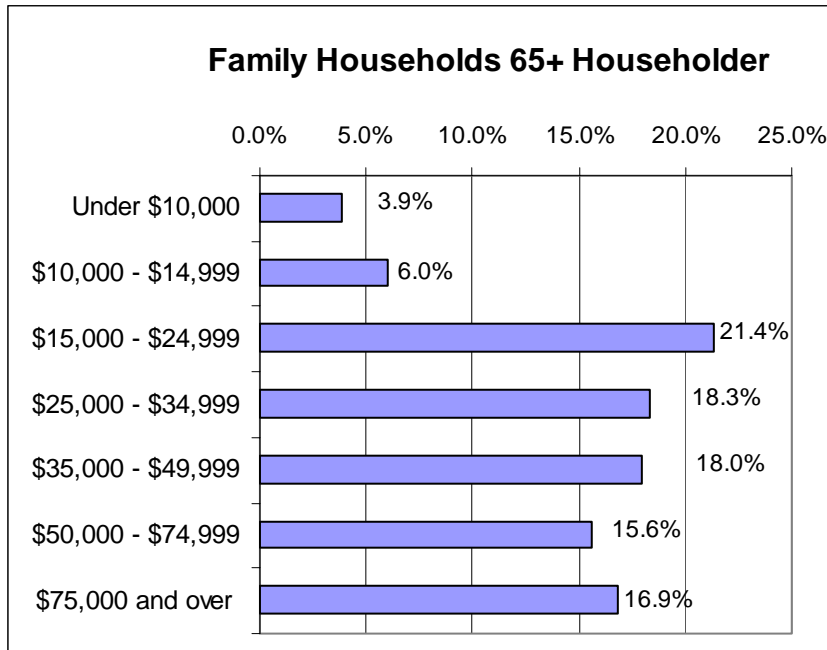
Numbers	Number of Persons	Percent of All Ages	Increase from 1993 to 2003	Percent Below Poverty 2001-2003
US Total (50 States + DC)	35,919,174	12.4%	9.5%	10.3%
Alabama	592,181	13.2%	8.6%	12.6%
Alaska	40,598	6.3%	50.3%	7.9%
Arizona	714,467	12.8%	32.4%	6.5%
Arkansas	377,682	13.9%	5.4%	15.7%
California	3,764,870	10.6%	12.8%	8.6%
Colorado	441,371	9.7%	22.8%	9.0%
Connecticut	470,689	13.5%	2.2%	6.2%
Delaware	106,896	13.1%	22.4%	5.6%
District of Columbia	67,845	12.0%	-11.9%	16.0%
Florida	2,897,383	17.0%	14.3%	10.2%
Georgia	826,506	9.5%	18.7%	12.4%
Hawaii	169,346	13.5%	20.9%	8.8%
Idaho	155,652	11.4%	20.6%	5.4%
Illinois	1,507,377	11.9%	1.8%	8.2%
Indiana	763,059	12.3%	5.3%	8.0%
Iowa	433,618	14.7%	0.1%	8.7%
Kansas	353,585	13.0%	0.5%	8.6%
Kentucky	512,381	12.4%	6.4%	10.3%
Louisiana	524,348	11.7%	7.8%	12.4%
Maine	188,385	14.4%	10.6%	10.5%
Maryland	624,980	11.3%	13.2%	9.9%
Massachusetts	856,982	13.3%	0.9%	13.0%
Michigan	1,236,501	12.3%	5.4%	9.0%
Minnesota	609,396	12.0%	7.6%	9.1%
Mississippi	349,407	12.1%	6.1%	17.1%
Missouri	759,980	13.3%	3.0%	8.0%
Montana	125,160	13.6%	12.2%	10.8%
Nebraska	232,387	13.4%	2.3%	10.0%
Nevada	250,787	11.2%	60.5%	8.2%
New Hampshire	154,174	12.0%	15.9%	7.0%
New Jersey	1,123,842	13.0%	4.8%	9.3%
New Mexico	225,266	12.0%	27.1%	12.2%
New York	2,488,959	13.0%	3.9%	12.6%
North Carolina	1,016,214	12.1%	17.0%	13.7%
North Dakota	93,837	14.8%	0.8%	10.5%
Ohio	1,516,771	13.3%	3.0%	7.7%
Oklahoma	461,133	13.1%	5.3%	11.8%
Oregon	453,568	12.7%	9.0%	6.4%
Pennsylvania	1,901,764	15.4%	0.4%	9.0%
Rhode Island	150,797	14.0%	-2.3%	11.4%
South Carolina	511,732	12.3%	19.9%	14.6%
South Dakota	109,040	14.3%	4.3%	10.9%
Tennessee	726,683	12.4%	12.3%	12.8%
Texas	2,175,256	9.8%	18.3%	15.1%
Utah	203,007	8.6%	22.5%	8.4%
Vermont	80,132	12.9%	16.1%	8.9%
Virginia	833,427	11.3%	17.2%	10.0%
Washington	690,583	11.3%	13.3%	8.3%
West Virginia	277,220	15.3%	0.4%	10.1%
Wisconsin	711,987	13.0%	5.5%	7.8%
Wyoming	59,963	12.0%	17.7%	7.7%

Population data is from the Census Bureau Population Estimates and poverty data is from the Current Population Survey, 2001, 2002, and 2003 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

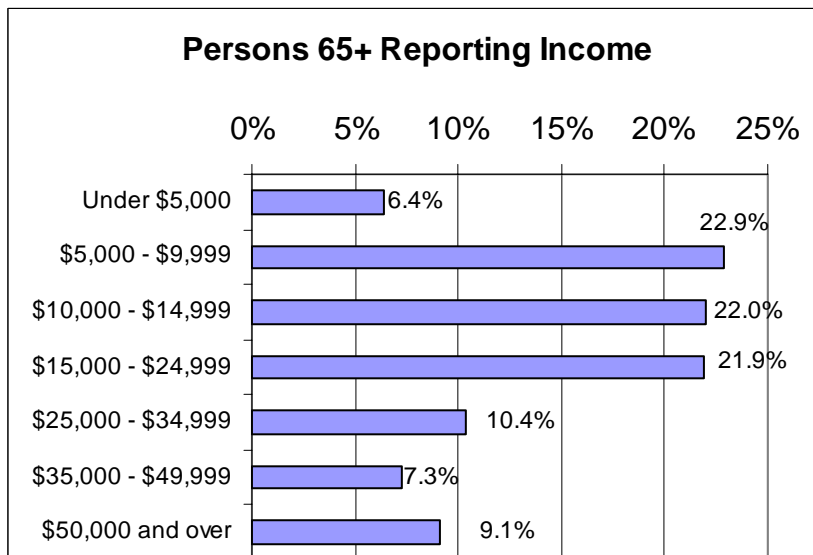
Income

The median income of older persons in 2003 was \$20,363 for males and \$11,845 for females. Median money income of all households headed by older people rose by 0.4% from 2002 to 2003; however, this difference was not statistically significant. Households containing families headed by persons 65+ reported a median income in 2003 of \$35,310 (\$36,797 for non-Hispanic Whites, \$28,407 for African-Americans, \$34,872 for Asians, and \$25,355 for Hispanics). About one of every ten (9.9%) family households with an elderly householder had incomes less than \$15,000 and 50.4% had incomes of \$35,000 or more (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Percent Distribution by Income: 2003*



\$35,310 median for 12.0 million family households 65+



\$14,664 median for 33.8 million persons 65+ reporting income

For all older persons reporting income in 2002 (33.8 million), 29.3% reported less than \$10,000. Only 26.8% reported \$25,000 or more. The median income reported was \$14,664.

For one-third of Americans over 65, Social Security benefits constitute 90% of their income. The major other sources of income as reported by the Social Security Administration for older persons in 2002 were income from assets (reported by 55%), private pensions (reported by 29%), government employee pensions (reported by 14%), and earnings (reported by 22%).

(Based on data from Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, "Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2003," P60-226, issued August, 2003, by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, related Census detailed tables on the Census Bureau web site, and from Fast Facts and Figures About Social Security, 2004, Social Security Administration)

Poverty

About 3.6 million elderly persons (10.2%) were below the poverty level in 2003. This poverty rate was not statistically different from the poverty rate in 2002. The historic lowest level of 9.7% was reached in 1999. Another 2.3 million or 6.7% of the elderly were classified as "near-poor" (income between the poverty level and 125% of this level).

One of every twelve (8.8%) elderly Whites** was poor in 2003, compared to 23.7% of elderly African-Americans,** 14.3% of Asians,** and 19.5% of elderly Hispanics. Higher than average poverty rates for older persons were found among those who lived in central cities (13.1%), outside metropolitan areas (i.e. rural areas) (11.0%), and in the South (11.9%).

Older women had a higher poverty rate (12.5%) than older men (7.3%) in 2003. Older persons living alone were much more likely to be poor (18.6%) than were older persons living with families (5.8%). The highest poverty rates (40.8%) were experienced by older Hispanic women who lived alone.

Based on data from Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, "Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2003," P60-226, issued August, 2004, by the U.S. Bureau of the Census and related Census detailed tables on the Census Bureau web site

Housing

Of the 21.6 million households headed by older persons in 2003, 80% were owners and 20% were renters. The median family income of older homeowners was \$25,353. The median family income of older renters was \$13,540. In 2003, 42% of older householders spent more than one-fourth of their income on housing costs - 35% for owners and 76% for renters - as compared to 41% of all householders.

For homes occupied by older householders in 2003, the median year of construction was 1965 (it was 1971 for all householders) and 5.2% had physical problems. In 2003, the median value of homes owned by older persons was \$122,790 (with a median purchase price of \$32,905) compared to a median home value of \$140,201 for all homeowners. About 72% of older homeowners in 2003 owned their homes free and clear.

(Source: "American Housing Survey for the United States in 2003, Current Housing Reports" H150/03)

Employment

In 2003, 5.0 million (14.4 %) Americans age 65 and over were in the labor force (working or actively seeking work), including 3.3 million men (18.3%) and 2.1 million women (10.7%). They constituted 3.4% of the U.S. labor force. About 3.6% were unemployed. Labor force participation of men 65+ decreased steadily from 2 of 3 in 1900 to 15.8% in 1985, and has stayed at 16%-18% since then. The participation rate for women 65+ rose slightly from 1 of 12 in 1900 to 10.8% in 1956, fell to 7.3% in 1985, and has been around 8%-10% since 1988.

(Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics web-site: <http://www.bls.gov/cps/home.htm>)

Education

The educational level of the older population is increasing. Between 1970 and 2003, the percentage who had completed high school rose from 28% to 71%. Over 17% in 2003 had a bachelor's degree or more. The percentage who had completed high school varied considerably by race and ethnic origin in 2003: 76% of Whites**, 70% of Asians and Pacific Islanders, 52% of African-Americans, and 36% of Hispanics. The increase in educational levels is also evident within these groups. In 1970, only 30% of older Whites and 9% of older African-Americans were high school graduates.

(Source: Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2003 and related tables on the Census Bureau web site)

Health and Health Care

In 2004 (January-June), 37.4% of noninstitutionalized older persons assessed their health as excellent or very good (compared to 65.8% for persons aged 18-64). There was little difference between the sexes on this measure, but older African-Americans (57.7%)** and older Hispanics (60.1%) were less likely to rate their health as excellent or good than were older Whites (76.9%).***** Most older persons have at least one chronic condition and many have multiple conditions. Among the most frequently occurring conditions of elderly in 2000-2001 were: hypertension (49.2%), arthritic symptoms (36.1%), all types of heart disease (31.1%), any cancer (20.0), sinusitis (15.1%), and diabetes (15.0).

Almost 70% reported in 2004 that they received an influenza vaccination during the past 12 months and 57% reported that they had ever received a pneumococcal vaccination. About 24% (of persons 60+) report height/weight combinations that place them among the obese. Over 26% of persons aged 65-74 and 16% of persons 75+ report that they engage in regular leisure-time physical activity. Only 8% reported that they are current smokers and only 4% reported excessive alcohol consumption. Only 2.4% reported that they had experienced psychological distress during the past 30 days.

In 2002, over 12.7 million persons aged 65 and older were discharged from short stay hospitals. This is a rate of 3,575 for every 10,000 persons aged 65+ which is more than three times the comparable rate for persons aged 45-64 (which was 1,159 per 10,000). The average length of stay for persons aged 65+ was 5.8 days; the comparable rate for persons aged 45-64 was 5.0 days. The average length of stay for older people has decreased almost 5 days since 1980. Older persons averaged more office visits with doctors in 2002 – 6.6 for those aged 65-74 and 7.2 for persons over 75 while persons aged 45-65 averaged only 3.7 office visits during that year. Almost 96% of older persons reported that they did have a usual place to go

for medical care and only 2.5% said that they failed to obtain needed medical care during the previous 12 months due to financial barriers.

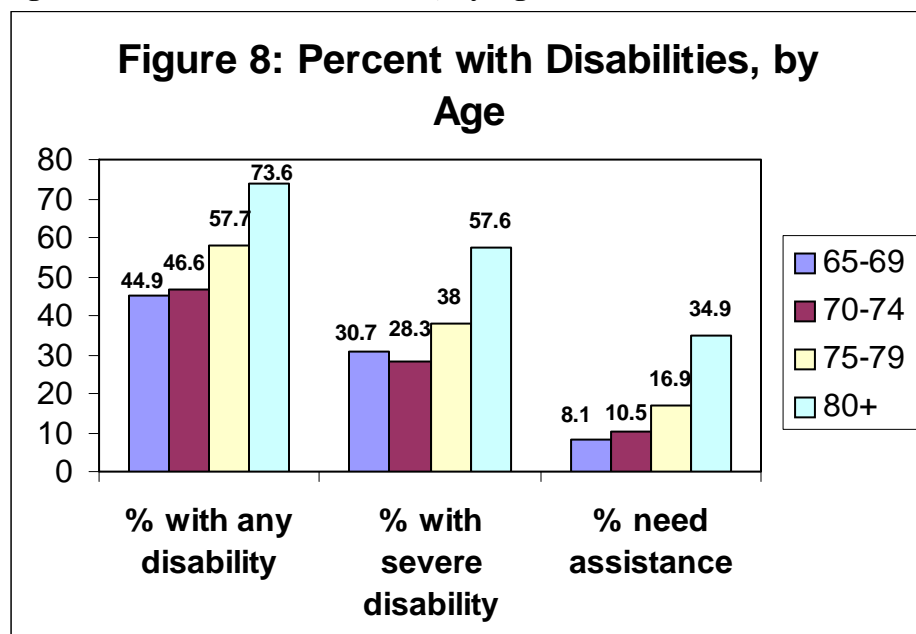
In 2002, older consumers averaged \$3,741 in out-of-pocket health care expenditures, an increase of 45% since 1992. In contrast, the total population spent considerably less, averaging \$2,416 in out-of-pocket costs. Older Americans spent 12.7% of their total expenditures on health, more than twice the proportion spent by all consumers (5.9%). Health costs incurred on average by older consumers in 2002 consisted of \$2,002 (53%) for insurance, \$905 (24%) for drugs, \$688 (18%) for medical services, and \$146 (4%) for medical supplies.

(Sources: Advanced Data From Vital and Health Statistics and other data releases from the National Center for Health Statistics web site; and the Bureau of Labor Statistics web site)

Disability and Activity Limitations

In 1997, more than half of the older population (54.5%) reported having at least one disability of some type (physical or nonphysical). Some of these disabilities may be relatively minor but others cause people to require assistance to meet important personal needs. Over a third (37.7%) reported at least one severe disability. The percentages with disabilities increase sharply with age (Figure 8). Disability takes a much heavier toll on the very old. Almost three-fourths (73.6%) of those aged 80+ report at least one disability. Over half (57.6%) of those aged 80+ had one or more severe disabilities and 34.9% of the 80+ population reported needing assistance as a result of disability. There is a strong relationship between disability status and reported health status. Among those 65+ with a severe disability, 68.0% reported their health as fair or poor. Among the 65+ persons who reported no disability, only 10.5% reported their health as fair or poor. Presence of a severe disability is also associated with lower income levels and educational attainment.

Figure 8: Percent With Disabilities, By Age: 1997



In another study which focused on the ability to perform specific activities of daily living (ADLs), over 27.3% of community-resident Medicare beneficiaries over age 65 in 1999 had difficulty in performing one or more ADLs and an additional 13.0% reported difficulties with instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs). By contrast, 93.3% of institutionalized Medicare beneficiaries had difficulties with one or more ADLs and 76.3% of them had difficulty with three or more ADLs. [ADLs include bathing, dressing, eating, and getting around the house. IADLs include preparing meals, shopping, managing money, using the telephone, doing housework, and taking medication]. Limitations on activities because of chronic conditions increase with age. Among those 65-74 years old, 19.9 percent had difficulties with ADLs. In contrast, over half (52.5%) of these 85 years and older had difficulties with ADLs.

It should be noted that (except where noted) the figures above are taken from surveys of the noninstitutionalized elderly. Although nursing homes are being increasingly used for short-stay post-acute care, about 1.6 million elderly are in nursing homes (about half are age 85 and over). These individuals often have high needs for care with their ADLs and/or have severe cognitive impairment, due to Alzheimer's disease or other dementias.

(Sources: Current Population Reports, "Americans with Disabilities, 1997" P70-73, February 2001 and related Internet data; Internet releases of the Census Bureau and the National Center on Health Statistics)

Caregiving

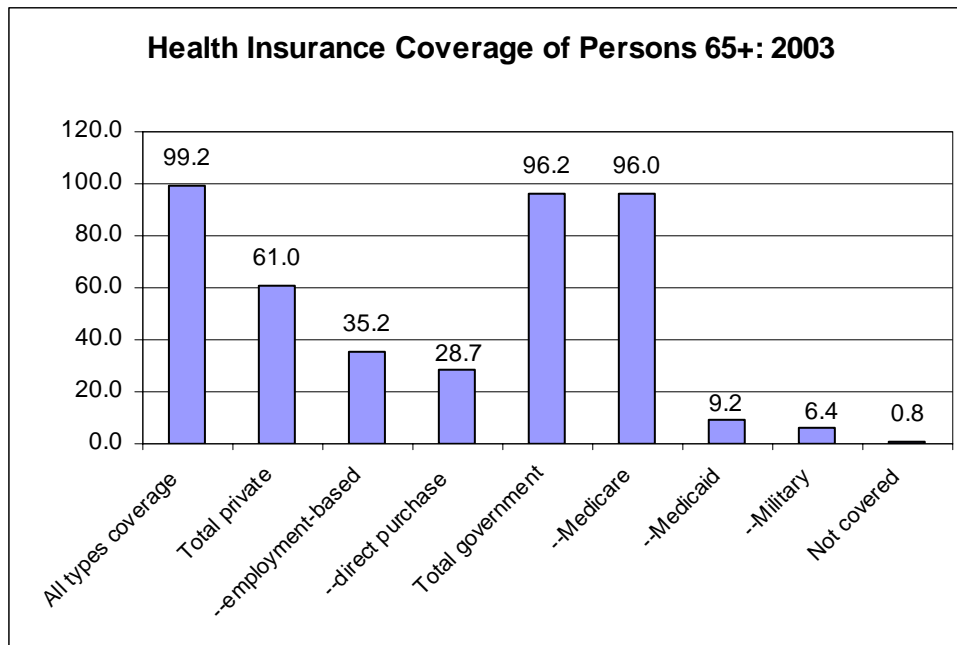
About 11% (3.7 million) of older Medicare enrollees received personal care from a paid or unpaid source in 1999. Almost all community resident older persons with chronic disabilities receive either informal care (from family or friends) or formal care (from service provider agencies). Over 90% of all these older persons with chronic disabilities received informal care and/or formal care; and about two thirds received only informal care. About 9 % of this chronically disabled group received only formal services.

(Source: National Long Term Care Survey)

Special Topic: Health Insurance Coverage

In 2003, almost all (96%) non-institutionalized persons 65+ were covered by Medicare. Medicare covers mostly acute care services and requires beneficiaries to pay part of the cost, leaving about half of health spending to be covered by other sources. About 61% had some type of private health insurance. Over 6.4% had military-based health insurance and 9% of the non-institutionalized elderly were covered by Medicaid. Less than 1% did not have coverage of some kind. Over 87% of non-institutionalized Medicare beneficiaries in 2002 had some type of supplementary coverage. However, among Medicare beneficiaries residing in nursing homes, almost 58% were covered by Medicaid in 2001.

Figure 9:



Note: Figure 9 data is for the non-institutionalized elderly. A person can be represented in more than one category.

(Source: "Income, Poverty, and health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2003," P60-226, issued August, 2003, based on data from Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, Bureau of the Census. Medicare beneficiary data is from the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey)

Notes:

*Principal sources of data for the Profile are the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the National Center on Health Statistics, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Profile incorporates the latest data available but not all items are updated on an annual basis.

**Excludes persons of Hispanic origin.

***Calculated on the basis of the official poverty definitions for the years 2000-2002

**** Census 2000 figure

***** 2001 figure

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AoA serves as an advocate for the elderly within the federal government and is working to encourage and coordinate a responsive system of family and community based services throughout the nation. AoA helps states develop comprehensive service systems which are administered by 56 State and Territorial Units on Aging, 655 Area Agencies on Aging, 226 Native American and Hawaiian organizations, and more than 29,000 local service providers.