

Section 1: Demographic Characteristics

Key Terms and Concepts for Section 1¹

Age. Age classification is based on the age of the person at his or her last birthday as of March 2007. A married couple's age is defined as the age of the husband—unless he is under age 55 and the wife is 55 or older, in which case it is the age of the wife.

Aged unit. With age 55 as the cutoff, aged units are defined as married couples living together—at least one of whom is 55 or older—and non-married persons 55 or older.

Marital status. Married persons are married and living with their spouse. Nonmarried persons may be divorced, widowed, never married, separated, or married but living apart from their spouse.

Race. The categories White alone, Black alone, and Asian alone reflect respondents who reported only one race. Because of changes to the race category, data on race are not directly comparable to editions prior to 2002. A person's race is his or her reported race. A married couple's race is defined as the race of the husband.

Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. A married couple is of Hispanic origin if the husband is of Hispanic origin.

Family. A family is a group of two or more people (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such people (including related sub-family members) are considered as members of one family.

Social Security beneficiary. A beneficiary may be receiving retired-worker benefits, dependents' or survivor benefits, disability benefits, or transitionally insured benefits.

¹ For more information, consult the Glossary at the front of this publication.

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2006

Characteristic	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older				
			Total	65–69	70–74	75–79	80 or older
<i>All persons</i>							
Sex							
Men	48.5	46.9	42.9	47.2	44.5	43.2	36.2
Women	51.5	53.1	57.1	52.8	55.5	56.8	63.8
Race							
White alone	84.1	85.0	86.8	85.4	85.2	87.7	89.0
Black alone	10.0	9.8	8.6	9.3	10.1	7.7	7.0
Asian alone	4.0	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.4	2.9
Hispanic origin	8.3	7.8	6.7	7.8	7.3	6.5	5.2
Marital status							
Married	68.4	67.3	55.3	66.0	61.7	55.9	37.0
Nonmarried	31.6	32.7	44.7	34.0	38.3	44.1	63.0
Widowed	4.7	9.0	29.7	14.0	22.4	30.7	53.1
Divorced	16.4	15.6	8.7	12.8	9.7	7.5	4.3
Never married	7.1	5.4	3.9	4.6	3.5	3.5	3.6
Living with nonspouse family	34.2	23.6	20.7	21.8	20.1	18.7	21.8
Persons in family							
1	21.0	23.7	32.8	24.4	28.2	33.2	46.1
2	50.8	57.6	52.7	59.2	56.7	53.8	41.0
3 or more	28.2	18.7	14.5	16.4	15.1	13.1	12.9
Social Security beneficiary	9.0	42.5	86.4	79.6	87.6	89.6	90.4
Number (thousands)	24,314	7,877	36,035	10,629	8,369	7,567	9,471

(Continued)

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2006—Continued

Characteristic	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older				
			Total	65–69	70–74	75–79	80 or older
<i>Men</i>							
Race							
White alone	85.4	85.8	87.5	86.5	85.6	89.1	89.5
Black alone	9.0	9.2	7.8	8.4	9.8	6.7	5.9
Asian alone	3.8	3.6	3.2	3.3	2.9	3.0	3.6
Hispanic origin	8.3	7.7	6.7	7.0	7.2	6.5	5.9
Marital status							
Married	73.4	75.8	72.7	76.6	74.2	74.4	63.8
Nonmarried	26.6	24.2	27.3	23.4	25.8	25.6	36.2
Widowed	1.8	3.4	13.1	6.1	10.0	12.2	27.6
Divorced	14.3	12.6	7.5	10.3	8.6	7.0	2.8
Never married	7.2	5.7	4.0	4.6	3.9	3.8	3.6
Living with nonspouse family	35.9	23.4	17.4	19.4	16.7	16.3	16.3
Persons in family							
1	19.6	20.0	22.2	19.1	21.6	20.6	28.6
2	48.8	58.8	63.3	64.2	64.1	65.7	58.7
3 or more	31.6	21.1	14.6	16.7	14.2	13.8	12.7
Social Security beneficiary	8.5	39.7	85.6	79.4	87.5	89.0	89.4
Number (thousands)	11,781	3,697	15,443	5,013	3,726	3,271	3,433

(Continued)

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2006—Continued

Characteristic	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older				
			Total	65–69	70–74	75–79	80 or older
<i>Women</i>							
Race							
White alone	83.0	84.4	86.2	84.5	84.9	86.6	88.6
Black alone	11.0	10.3	9.1	10.1	10.3	8.5	7.7
Asian alone	4.2	3.5	3.3	3.7	3.6	3.7	2.5
Hispanic origin	8.4	7.8	6.8	8.6	7.4	6.6	4.7
Marital status							
Married	63.7	59.8	42.2	56.5	51.7	41.8	21.7
Nonmarried	36.3	40.2	57.8	43.5	48.3	58.2	78.3
Widowed	7.5	13.9	42.2	21.0	32.3	44.8	67.6
Divorced	18.4	18.3	9.6	14.9	10.6	7.9	5.1
Never married	7.1	5.2	3.7	4.7	3.2	3.3	3.5
Living with nonspouse family	32.7	23.8	23.3	23.9	22.8	20.5	25.0
Persons in family							
1	22.3	26.9	40.8	29.1	33.5	42.7	56.0
2	52.7	56.5	44.8	54.8	50.7	44.7	31.0
3 or more	24.9	16.6	14.4	16.1	15.8	12.5	13.0
Social Security beneficiary	9.4	45.0	86.9	79.7	87.7	90.0	91.0
Number (thousands)	12,534	4,180	20,593	5,616	4,643	4,296	6,038

(Continued)

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2006—Continued

Characteristic	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older				
			Total	65–69	70–74	75–79	80 or older
<i>White alone</i>							
Sex							
Men	49.2	47.4	43.2	47.7	44.7	43.9	36.5
Women	50.8	52.6	56.8	52.3	55.3	56.1	63.5
Hispanic origin	9.2	8.5	7.3	8.4	8.1	7.1	5.6
Marital status							
Married	70.8	69.3	56.8	68.3	63.9	57.5	37.7
Nonmarried	29.2	30.7	43.2	31.7	36.1	42.5	62.3
Widowed	4.3	8.1	29.2	12.9	21.3	29.7	53.0
Divorced	16.0	15.8	8.4	12.6	9.4	7.3	4.1
Never married	6.2	4.9	3.6	4.1	3.3	3.4	3.5
Living with nonspouse family	31.6	21.5	18.3	19.2	17.5	16.1	19.8
Persons in family							
1	20.4	23.0	32.8	23.9	27.5	33.1	46.8
2	53.4	59.8	54.6	61.5	59.4	56.1	42.0
3 or more	26.3	17.2	12.5	14.6	13.1	10.8	11.2
Social Security beneficiary	8.5	42.2	87.8	80.7	89.2	90.8	91.9
Number (thousands)	20,456	6,699	31,270	9,082	7,130	6,633	8,425

(Continued)

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2006—Continued

Characteristic	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older				
			Total	65–69	70–74	75–79	80 or older
<i>Black alone</i>							
Sex							
Men	43.6	44.0	39.2	42.7	43.3	37.6	30.3
Women	56.4	56.0	60.8	57.3	56.7	62.4	69.7
Hispanic origin	2.8	1.4	2.9	3.8	2.4	2.8	2.2
Marital status							
Married	46.2	48.5	37.8	43.5	43.8	37.7	21.7
Nonmarried	53.8	51.5	62.2	56.5	56.2	62.3	78.3
Widowed	8.6	15.4	36.9	22.8	30.7	41.2	61.9
Divorced	22.2	16.2	12.9	16.3	14.0	10.6	8.4
Never married	15.6	10.1	6.7	10.3	5.0	5.7	4.2
Living with nonspouse family	46.1	34.6	34.8	37.3	32.4	33.3	35.6
Persons in family							
1	29.4	33.0	39.0	33.3	37.1	39.6	49.6
2	37.3	42.9	37.5	40.6	40.6	37.7	29.0
3 or more	33.3	24.1	23.4	26.1	22.3	22.7	21.5
Social Security beneficiary	14.0	48.6	80.3	75.3	81.2	83.6	83.6
Number (thousands)	2,443	769	3,085	992	845	584	665

(Continued)

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2006—Continued

Characteristic	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older				
			Total	65–69	70–74	75–79	80 or older
<i>Asian alone</i>							
Sex							
Men	46.4	47.4	41.9	43.7	39.1	38.6	45.3
Women	53.6	52.6	58.1	56.3	60.9	61.4	54.7
Hispanic origin	2.2	0	0.8	1.2	1.6	0.1	0
Marital status							
Married	78.0	76.1	62.3	69.9	63.2	58.5	54.5
Nonmarried	22.0	23.9	37.7	30.1	36.8	41.5	45.5
Widowed	3.9	9.2	25.5	14.9	21.6	32.9	37.1
Divorced	8.2	6.7	4.6	7.9	4.0	3.1	2.2
Never married	5.8	5.3	3.4	3.7	4.7	1.7	3.4
Living with nonspouse family	56.2	40.2	44.7	42.8	44.3	45.1	47.5
Persons in family							
1	11.4	11.4	18.0	13.3	18.8	23.1	19.0
2	36.4	49.9	42.4	51.8	39.9	32.9	41.2
3 or more	52.3	38.7	39.5	34.9	41.2	44.1	39.8
Social Security beneficiary	4.7	30.5	64.8	59.8	65.0	74.5	62.5
Number (thousands)	971	278	1,182	373	275	258	275

(Continued)

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2006—Continued

Characteristic	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older				
			Total	65–69	70–74	75–79	80 or older
<i>Hispanic origin</i>							
Sex							
Men	48.3	46.8	42.6	42.2	43.7	42.8	41.6
Women	51.7	53.2	57.4	57.8	56.3	57.2	58.4
Race							
White alone	92.8	93.1	93.9	92.3	94.0	94.9	95.6
Black alone	3.4	1.8	3.6	4.5	3.2	3.3	3.0
Asian alone	1.0	0	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.1	0
Marital status							
Married	59.9	57.2	50.1	56.1	55.3	53.1	30.3
Nonmarried	40.1	42.8	49.9	43.9	44.7	46.9	69.7
Widowed	5.3	10.8	28.2	15.4	23.8	31.6	52.0
Divorced	16.6	15.6	9.9	14.4	9.2	6.2	7.0
Never married	8.3	8.7	6.6	7.8	6.2	4.5	7.1
Living with nonspouse family	56.5	49.0	43.3	42.1	40.0	40.7	52.1
Persons in family							
1	18.9	21.3	24.5	24.4	22.2	23.9	28.0
2	33.6	38.9	41.1	41.6	43.9	43.6	34.1
3 or more	47.5	39.8	34.4	34.0	33.8	32.4	37.9
Social Security beneficiary	8.5	38.5	72.4	66.2	74.6	76.3	76.4
Number (thousands)	2,028	611	2,428	831	613	494	490

(Continued)

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2006—Continued

Characteristic	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older				
			Total	65–69	70–74	75–79	80 or older
<i>Beneficiary</i>							
Sex							
Men	45.9	43.8	42.5	47.1	44.5	43.0	35.8
Women	54.1	56.2	57.5	52.9	55.5	57.0	64.2
Race							
White alone	79.7	84.5	88.2	86.7	86.8	88.9	90.4
Black alone	15.7	11.2	8.0	8.8	9.4	7.2	6.5
Asian alone	2.1	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.8	2.0
Hispanic origin	7.9	7.0	5.6	6.5	6.2	5.6	4.4
Marital status							
Married	55.5	64.6	54.5	65.9	61.4	55.2	36.6
Nonmarried	44.5	35.4	45.5	34.1	38.6	44.8	63.4
Widowed	11.2	12.3	31.2	14.8	23.0	31.7	54.2
Divorced	21.7	15.6	8.6	12.8	10.0	7.6	4.1
Never married	7.4	4.7	3.4	4.1	3.0	3.2	3.0
Living with nonspouse family	32.1	19.6	18.7	19.4	18.0	17.2	19.9
Persons in family							
1	29.5	26.3	34.5	25.6	29.4	34.6	47.5
2	46.3	59.3	52.9	60.1	57.6	53.6	41.4
3 or more	24.2	14.3	12.6	14.4	12.9	11.9	11.1
Number (thousands)	2,179	3,346	31,126	8,458	7,332	6,777	8,560

(Continued)

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2006—Continued

Characteristic	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older				
			Total	65–69	70–74	75–79	80 or older
<i>Nonbeneficiary</i>							
Sex							
Men	48.7	49.2	45.2	47.6	44.8	45.5	40.0
Women	51.3	50.8	54.8	52.4	55.2	54.5	60.0
Race							
White alone	84.6	85.5	77.7	80.6	74.1	77.3	75.1
Black alone	9.5	8.7	12.4	11.3	15.3	12.1	12.0
Asian alone	4.2	4.3	8.5	6.9	9.3	8.4	11.3
Hispanic origin	8.4	8.3	13.7	13.0	15.0	14.8	12.7
Marital status							
Married	69.7	69.2	60.3	66.1	64.3	62.3	40.4
Nonmarried	30.3	30.8	39.7	33.9	35.7	37.7	59.6
Widowed	4.1	6.5	20.1	10.9	17.7	22.5	42.9
Divorced	15.9	15.6	9.3	12.6	7.7	6.2	6.0
Never married	7.1	5.9	7.0	6.6	6.8	6.4	8.4
Living with nonspouse family	34.4	26.6	33.6	31.1	34.6	31.4	40.2
Persons in family							
1	20.2	21.7	22.2	19.7	19.7	21.0	32.1
2	51.2	56.4	51.4	56.0	50.2	55.6	38.2
3 or more	28.6	22.0	26.4	24.3	30.1	23.4	29.7
Number (thousands)	22,135	4,531	4,909	2,171	1,037	790	910

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.2
Percentage of wives with characteristic, by husband's race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2006

Wife characteristic	Aged 55-61	Aged 62-64	Aged 65 or older				
			Total	65-69	70-74	75-79	80 or older
<i>All husbands</i>							
Wife age							
Under 55	43.4	15.5	3.7	8.0	2.4	1.4	0.4
55-61	51.3	49.5	10.7	21.9	8.7	3.6	1.4
62-64	3.6	27.5	12.2	25.9	9.2	3.2	1.7
65 or older	1.8	7.6	73.5	44.2	79.7	91.7	96.5
65-69	1.3	6.9	25.2	33.6	39.2	14.2	5.2
70-74	0.4	0.6	20.9	9.1	31.4	35.9	11.5
75-79	0.1	0.1	15.8	1.3	7.8	35.3	29.9
80 or older	0	0	11.5	0.3	1.4	6.3	49.9
Wife race							
White alone	86.7	86.7	88.7	87.9	87.8	89.5	90.2
Black alone	6.7	6.9	6.0	6.2	7.3	5.7	4.2
Asian alone	5.0	5.0	4.1	4.3	3.8	3.7	4.7
Wife Hispanic origin	7.6	7.4	6.4	7.0	6.8	6.5	5.0
Wife Social Security beneficiary	7.1	21.6	70.1	50.4	73.3	82.4	87.1
Number (thousands)	8,653	2,801	11,231	3,839	2,767	2,434	2,191
<i>White alone husbands</i>							
Wife race							
White alone	98.0	97.7	98.7	98.2	99.0	99.0	99.0
Black alone	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0
Asian alone	0.9	1.2	0.5	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.4
Wife Hispanic origin	8.4	8.2	6.9	7.6	7.1	7.0	5.3
Number (thousands)	7,525	2,443	9,968	3,383	2,424	2,182	1,979

(Continued)

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.2
Percentage of wives with characteristic, by husband's race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2006—Continued

Wife characteristic	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older				
			Total	65–69	70–74	75–79	80 or older
Black alone husbands							
Wife race							
White alone	4.6	6.1	3.4	5.3	2.2	3.3	1.5
Black alone	93.8	91.6	95.4	92.7	96.2	96.7	98.5
Asian alone	1.1	1.4	0.7	1.1	1.0	0	0
Wife Hispanic origin	1.2	1.7	3.7	2.9	3.5	4.4	5.0
Number (thousands)	599	208	693	249	209	141	94
Asian alone husbands							
Wife race							
White alone	7.8	6.3	2.6	3.4	0.2	5.0	1.6
Black alone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian alone	91.8	92.6	97.2	96.6	99.6	95.0	97.9
Wife Hispanic origin	0.8	0	1.2	0.2	5.0	0	0
Number (thousands)	379	116	415	140	92	86	97
Hispanic origin husbands							
Wife race							
White alone	95.3	95.5	95.3	96.8	90.9	96.7	97.4
Black alone	1.3	1.7	2.8	1.4	4.6	3.1	2.4
Asian alone	1.0	0.7	0.4	0	1.6	0	0
Wife Hispanic origin	85.2	91.9	90.7	88.6	89.8	92.1	95.4
Number (thousands)	649	193	676	247	176	155	98
Beneficiary husbands							
Wife Social Security beneficiary	23.3	35.6	77.3	58.4	79.1	88.4	92.1
Number (thousands)	656	1,053	9,609	3,041	2,432	2,160	1,976
Nonbeneficiary husbands							
Wife Social Security beneficiary	5.8	13.2	27.4	19.6	31.0	34.9	41.5
Number (thousands)	7,997	1,748	1,622	798	335	274	215

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.3
Percentage of husbands with characteristic, by wife's race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2006

Husband characteristic	Aged 55-61	Aged 62-64	Aged 65 or older				
			Total	65-69	70-74	75-79	80 or older
<i>All wives</i>							
Husband age							
Under 55	12.0	2.1	0.8	1.1	0.5	0.4	1.0
55-61	55.6	12.4	1.8	3.4	1.4	0.5	0.2
62-64	17.4	30.8	2.4	6.1	0.6	0.2	0
65 or older	15.0	54.7	95.0	89.3	97.5	98.9	98.8
65-69	10.5	39.9	19.6	40.7	14.5	2.7	0.8
70-74	3.0	10.2	25.4	34.2	36.2	12.0	2.9
75-79	1.1	3.2	25.7	10.9	36.4	47.8	11.8
80 or older	0.4	1.5	24.4	3.6	10.5	36.4	83.4
Husband race							
White alone	87.3	87.8	89.9	89.1	89.2	91.0	91.4
Black alone	7.0	6.8	5.5	6.0	6.6	4.4	3.9
Asian alone	4.1	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.0	3.4	4.0
Husband Hispanic origin	7.0	5.7	5.9	6.5	6.7	5.5	3.7
Husband Social Security beneficiary	23.5	59.2	85.2	80.9	86.7	88.8	88.2
Number (thousands)	7,982	2,498	8,682	3,172	2,401	1,797	1,312
<i>White alone wives</i>							
Husband race							
White alone	98.4	98.1	99.2	98.8	99.3	99.3	99.7
Black alone	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Asian alone	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.3	0	0	0
Husband Hispanic origin	7.7	6.1	6.2	6.7	7.4	5.6	3.7
Number (thousands)	6,952	2,200	7,784	2,822	2,134	1,633	1,195

(Continued)

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.3
Percentage of husbands with characteristic, by wife's race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2006—Continued

Husband characteristic	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older				
			Total	65–69	70–74	75–79	80 or older
Black alone wives							
Husband race							
White alone	1.7	1.9	0.9	0	2.8	0	a
Black alone	97.8	98.1	98.1	99.2	96.3	98.3	a
Asian alone	0	0	0	0	0	0	a
Husband Hispanic origin	2.0	1.0	2.7	3.9	0	4.3	a
Number (thousands)	531	165	473	182	161	79	50
Asian alone wives							
Husband race							
White alone	14.8	15.8	8.2	11.4	10.6	a	a
Black alone	2.8	0	0.6	1.7	0	a	a
Asian alone	82.1	83.8	90.0	86.6	86.4	a	a
Husband Hispanic origin	0.8	0	0.9	2.3	0	a	a
Number (thousands)	379	95	321	121	83	65	52
Hispanic origin wives							
Husband race							
White alone	96.2	95.6	93.3	92.0	97.2	90.6	a
Black alone	1.5	1.1	3.7	4.2	1.8	5.4	a
Asian alone	0.3	0.2	0.9	2.1	0	0	a
Husband Hispanic origin	84.9	86.6	85.8	83.0	88.2	85.8	a
Number (thousands)	566	157	540	219	163	108	50
Beneficiary wives							
Husband Social Security beneficiary	48.7	77.1	92.3	89.2	92.7	94.8	95.1
Number (thousands)	555	1,108	7,342	2,535	2,068	1,579	1,159
Nonbeneficiary wives							
Husband Social Security beneficiary	21.6	44.8	46.4	47.9	49.5	45.3	35.4
Number (thousands)	7,428	1,389	1,340	637	333	218	153

a. Fewer than 75,000 weighted cases.