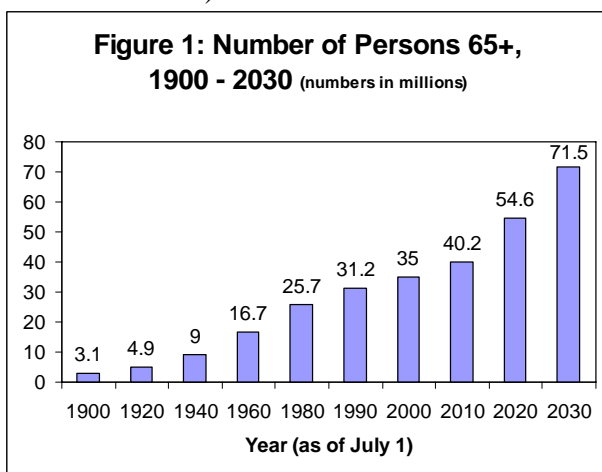


## A Statistical Profile of Older Americans Aged 65+

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### Did You Know?

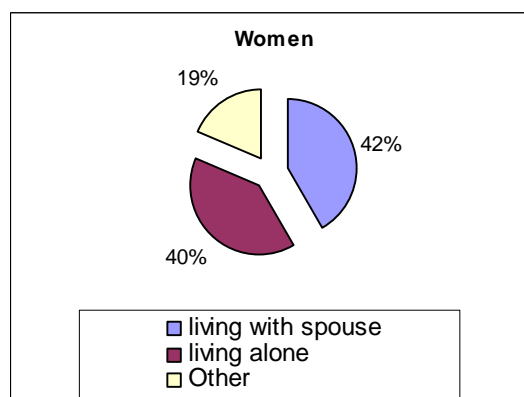
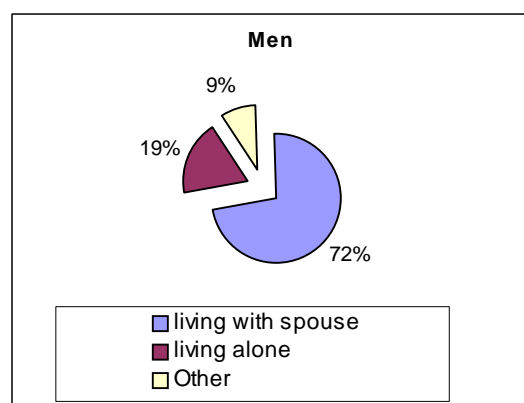
- The older population (65+) numbered 37.3 million in 2006, an increase of 3.4 million or 10% since 1996.
- The number of Americans aged 45-64 – who will reach 65 over the next two decades – increased by 39% during this decade.
- Since 1900, the percentage of Americans 65+ has tripled (from 4.1% in 1900 to 12.4% in 2006), and the number has increased twelve times (from 3.1 million to 37.3 million).



- About one in every eight, or 12.4 percent, of the population is an older American.
- Over 2.2 million persons celebrated their 65th birthday in 2006.
- Older women outnumber older men at 21.6 million older women to 15.7 million older men.
- The 85+ population numbered 5.3 million in 2006 and is projected to increase to 8.9 million in 2030.
- In 2004, persons reaching age 65 had an average life expectancy of an additional 18.7 years (20.0 years for females and 17.1 years for males).
- In 2006, 19.0% of persons 65+ were minorities--8.3% were African-Americans.\* Persons of Hispanic origin (who may be of any race) represented 6.4% of the older population. About 3.1% were Asian or Pacific Islander,\* and less than 1% were American Indian or Native Alaskan.\*

### Living Arrangements

- Older men were much more likely to be married than older women--72% of men, 42% of women in 2006. 43% of all older women in 2006 were widows.
- About 30 percent (10.7 million) noninstitutionalized older persons live alone (7.8 million women, 2.9 million men).
- Half of older women age 75+ live alone.

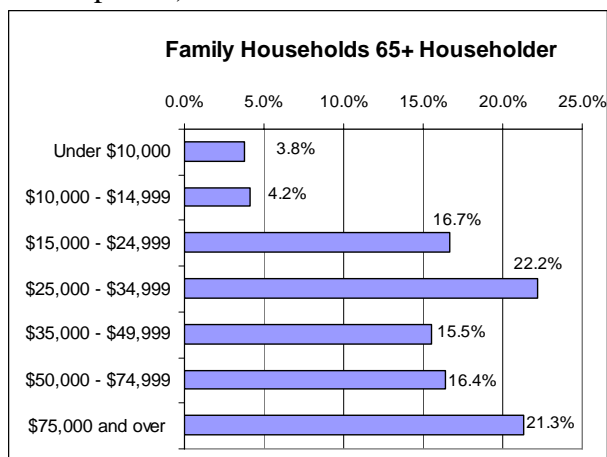


- Over 670,000 grandparents aged 65 or over in 2006 maintained households in which grandchildren were present and had primary responsibility for these grandchildren.
- A relatively small number (1.62 million) and percentage (4.4%) of the 65+ population lived in nursing homes in 2006, the percentage increased dramatically with age, ranging from 1.3% for persons 65-74 years to 4.4% for persons 75-84 years and 15.4% for persons 85+.



## Income and Poverty

- The median income of older persons in 2006 was \$23,500 for males and \$13,603 for females. From 2005 to 2006, median income of all households headed by older people rose by 3.4%.
- Households containing families headed by persons 65+ reported a median income in 2006 of \$39,649 (\$41,091 for non-Hispanic Whites, \$30,775 for African-Americans, \$43,035 for Asians, and \$29,385 for Hispanics).



**\$39,649 median for 12.4 million family households 65+**

- The major sources of income as reported by the Social Security Administration for older persons in 2005 were:
  - Social Security (reported by 89% of older persons),
  - income from assets (reported by 55%),
  - private pensions (reported by 29%),
  - government employee pensions (reported by 14%), and
  - earnings (reported by 24%).
- In 2005, Social Security benefits accounted for 37% of the aggregate income of the older population. The bulk of the remainder

consisted of earnings (28%), asset income (13%), and pensions (19%).

- About 3.4 million elderly persons (9.4%) were below the poverty level in 2006. This change in the poverty rate was a statistically significant decrease from the poverty rate in 2005 (10.1%). Another 2.2 million or 6.2% of the elderly were classified as "near-poor" (income between the poverty level and 125% of this level).
- Older women had a higher poverty rate (11.5%) than older men (6.6%) in 2006. Older persons living alone were much more likely to be poor (16.9%) than were older persons living with families (5.6%).

## Health and Chronic Conditions

- In 2006, 39% of noninstitutionalized older persons assessed their health as excellent or very good (compared to 65.1% for persons aged 18-64). There was little difference between the sexes on this measure, but African-Americans\* (22.8%), older American Indians/Alaska Natives (24.2%) and older Hispanics (28.4%) were less likely to rate their health as excellent or good than were older Whites\* (40.9%) or older Asians (34.9%).
- Most older persons have at least one chronic condition and many have multiple conditions. Among the most frequently occurring conditions of elderly in 2004-2005 were:
  - hypertension (48%),
  - diagnosed arthritis (47%),
  - all types of heart disease (29%),
  - any cancer (20%),
  - diabetes (16%), and
  - sinusitis (14%).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

AoA recognizes the importance of making information readily available to consumers, professionals, researchers, and students. Our website provides information for and about older persons, their families, and professionals involved in aging programs and services. For more information about AoA, please contact: U.S. Administration on Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201; phone: (202) 401-4541; fax (202) 357-3560; Email: [aoainfo@aoa.gov](mailto:aoainfo@aoa.gov); or contact our website at: [www.aoa.gov](http://www.aoa.gov)