

The Population 65 Years and Older: Aging in America

By Karen Humes

The growth of the 65-and-older population in the United States impacts many facets of our society, challenging policy-makers to meet the needs of aging Americans. There are many basic characteristics of the 65-and-older population that are important components for understanding how to best meet their needs. This article describes the growth of this segment of the U.S. population, as well as discusses its geographic distribution and selected characteristics.

The growth of the older population, defined here as those 65 and older, greatly influences many aspects of our society, challenging national and state policy-makers, among others, to meet the needs of aging Americans.¹ The demographic, social, health and economic characteristics of the 65-and-older population are important components for understanding how to best meet their needs. This article will describe the past and projected growth of this segment of the U.S. population, as well as discuss its geographic distribution and selected characteristics.

Growth of the Older Population in the United States

Throughout the 20th century, the older population has increased dramatically (Figure A). Decennial census data show that the older population grew tenfold between 1900 and 2000, increasing from 3.1 million to 35 million, respectively. To put this increase in perspective, the U.S. population under age 65 grew threefold between 1900 and 2000 (rising from 76 million to 281.4 million). The older population also increased its proportion of the total U.S. population, growing from 4.1 percent in 1900 to 12.4 percent in 2000. The oldest-old population, those 85 and older, grew over thirty fold, from 122,000 in 1900 (representing 0.2 percent of the total U.S. population) to 4.2 million in 2000 (representing 1.5 percent of the total U.S. population).

The increase in the proportion of older people reflects sustained low fertility levels and relatively larger declines in mortality at older ages, especially in the latter third of the 20th century.² The U.S. began the 20th century experiencing relatively high levels of fertility and mortality, which resulted in a young population with a median age of 22.9 years in 1900.³ In general, as fertility and mortality rates declined, the U.S. population aged, evident in a median age of 35.3 years in 2000.

Beyond 2000, the older population is projected to increase dramatically, particularly between 2010 and

2030. By 2030, the older population is expected to be twice as large as it was in 2000, growing from 35 million to 71.5 million, while the total U.S. population growth is projected to be slower (281.4 million in 2000 to 363.8 million in 2030). In 2030, the older population is projected to account for 19.6 percent (about 1 in 5) of the population.

The dramatic growth of the older population between 2010 and 2030 represents the effect of the “baby boom” generation. The baby boomers are the post-World War II generation born from 1946 to 1964, which will begin turning age 65 in 2011, creating a sharp rise in the older population. The magnitude of the baby boomers is reflected in the fact that 70 percent more people were born from 1946 to 1964 than during the preceding two decades.⁴

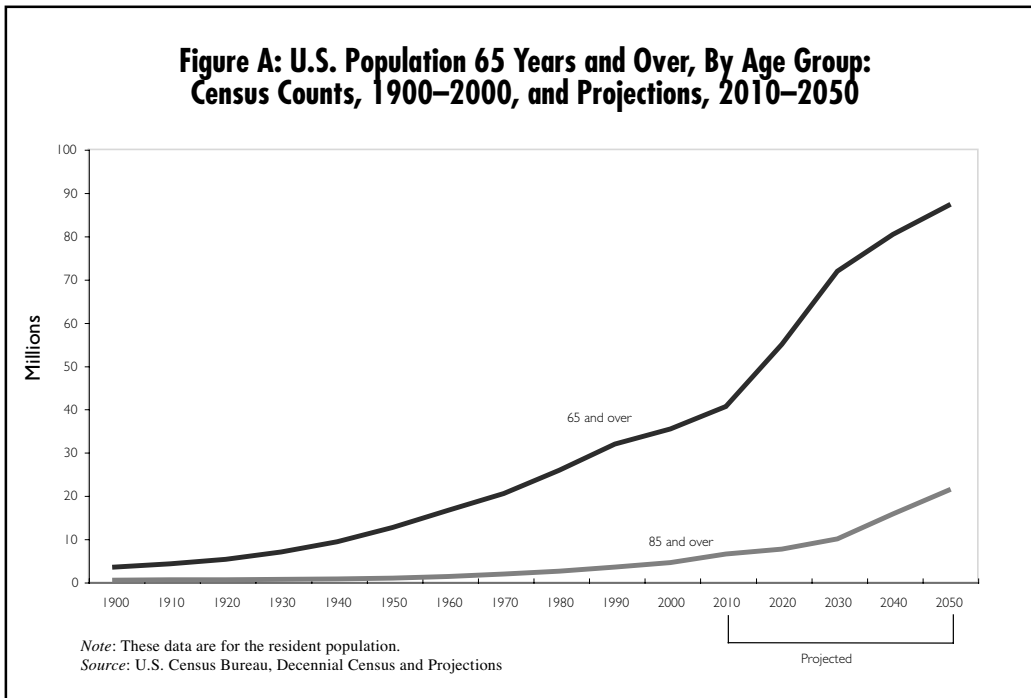
After 2030, the growth of the older population is expected to slow. At that time, the proportion of older people is projected to become fairly stable, even though the absolute number of older people is projected to continue to grow. The oldest-old population, however, is projected to increase rapidly after 2030, when the baby boomers start to move into this age group.⁵

Geographic Distribution of the Older Population in the United States

Figure B shows the proportion of older people in each state’s population, as well as several prevalent patterns in 2003.⁶ High proportions of older people are located in a band of states stretching from Montana and North Dakota southward to Oklahoma and Arkansas. Another band of high proportions of older people stretches from Maine and Rhode Island (except New Hampshire) southward to Tennessee and Alabama. Additionally, many of the states in the West have lower proportions of older people.⁷ Age patterns are affected by a state’s fertility and mortality levels, as well as by the migration of younger and older people to and from the state.⁸

Overall, 32 states had a proportion of older people

Figure A: U.S. Population 65 Years and Over, By Age Group: Census Counts, 1900–2000, and Projections, 2010–2050



that equaled or exceeded the national proportion of 12 percent. Florida had the highest proportion of older people (16.7 percent), followed by West Virginia and Pennsylvania (14.9 percent and 14.8 percent, respectively). Alaska had the lowest proportion of older people (6.3 percent).

Numerically, California had the largest older population (3.6 million). Florida and New York ranked second and third with 2.8 million and 2.3 million, respectively. Alaska had the smallest older population (39,600).

Demographic Composition

The sex ratio (the number of males per 100 females) is a basic indicator of sex composition. For the total U.S. population, there were 95.8 males for every 100 females in 2003. For the older population, there were 73.7 men for every 100 women. The lower sex ratio for the older population is generally driven by the fact that average life expectancy is greater for females than for males.

At the state level, 28 states had older-population sex ratios that equaled or exceeded the national sex ratio of 73.7. Of the 10 states with the highest older-population sex ratios in 2003, eight are in the West (Alaska, 97.8; Nevada, 87.2; Idaho, 84.1; Wyoming,

82.8; Montana, 82.6; Arizona, 82.5; Utah, 82.3; and New Mexico, 80.9), one is in the South (Florida, 79.1), and one is in the Northeast (New Hampshire, 78.8). The District of Columbia had the lowest older-population sex ratio (60.7).⁹ Policy-makers in government and private-sector organizations face the challenge of planning for the needs of a fast-growing, older population where women outnumber men.

In 2003, the proportion of the older population that was minority was lower than the total U.S. proportion minority (18.0 percent compared with 32.2 percent).¹⁰ Sixteen states had proportions of older people that were minority that equaled or exceeded the national proportion of 18 percent. Of the 10 states with the highest proportions minority among the older population, most are in the West (Hawaii, 78.1 percent; New Mexico, 39 percent; California, 33.1 percent; and Alaska, 27.5 percent) or South (the District of Columbia, 74.3 percent; Texas, 31.6 percent; Mississippi, 26.6 percent; Louisiana, 26.4 percent; and Maryland, 24.5 percent), and one is in the Northeast (New York, 23.8 percent). Maine had the lowest proportion minority among its older population (1.2 percent). As the older population grows larger in the coming decades, it is projected that the proportion minority will increase, particularly the proportion

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Hispanic. Greater flexibility may be required in future programs and services to meet the needs of a more diverse older population.¹¹

Social Characteristics

In 2003, being widowed was much more common among the older population than among the population 15 and older (31.1 percent compared with 6.2 percent). This was particularly true for older women, as they were three times as likely as older men to be widowed.¹² In 25 states, the proportions of older people who were widowed equaled or exceeded the national proportion of 31.1 percent. Rhode Island had the highest proportion (36.4 percent). The states ranking second through 10th are located in the South (Mississippi, 35.8 percent; Louisiana, 34.2 percent; Alabama, 34.1 percent; Kentucky and the District of Columbia, each with 33.6 percent; North Carolina, 33.5 percent; and Arkansas, 33.2 percent) and in the Northeast (Pennsylvania, 35 percent, and Massachusetts, 33.2 percent). Alaska had the lowest proportion of older people who were widowed (24.9 percent).

The older population was about three times as likely as the total U.S. population to live alone (29.8 percent compared with 10.3 percent) in 2003. Thirty-three states had proportions of older people who lived alone that equaled or exceeded the national proportion of 29.8 percent. All the U.S. regions were represented among the 10 states with the highest proportions of older people who lived alone (the District of Columbia, 42.9 percent; Nebraska, 35.3 percent; Rhode Island 34.7 percent; North Dakota, 34.6 percent; Montana, 33.1 percent; South Dakota and Massachusetts, each with 33 percent; Maine, 32.9 percent; Pennsylvania 32.8 percent; and Oklahoma, 32.7 percent). Among the states, Hawaii had the lowest proportion of older people who lived alone (21.9 percent). Being widowed and/or living alone are important indicators of the well-being of the older population because they are typically linked to income, health status and the availability of caregivers. For example, older people who lived alone were more likely than older people who lived with their spouses to be in poverty.¹³ Thus, in the present and the future, these indicators can provide additional information for efforts to assess potential physical and social needs of the older population.

In 2003, a lower proportion of the older population (70.7 percent) than of the population 25 and older (83.6 percent) were high school graduates or had more education. In 29 states, the proportions of older people with a high school diploma or more educa-

tion equaled or exceeded the national proportion of 70.7 percent. Eight of the 10 states with the highest proportions of older people with a high school diploma or more education are located in the West (Utah, 84 percent; Wyoming, 82 percent; Washington, 82 percent; Montana, 80.5 percent; Colorado, 80.3 percent; Idaho, 79.9 percent; Oregon, 78.9 percent; and Nevada, 78.7 percent), and two are in the Midwest (Nebraska, 80.3 percent, and Iowa, 78.5 percent). The lowest proportion of older people with a high school diploma or more education was in Kentucky (55.8 percent). Educational attainment is another important indicator of the well-being of the older population. In general, higher levels of education are associated with higher incomes, higher standards of living, and above-average health.¹⁴ Thus, educational attainment is a factor that policy-makers can monitor when planning specialized services and programs for the growing older population.

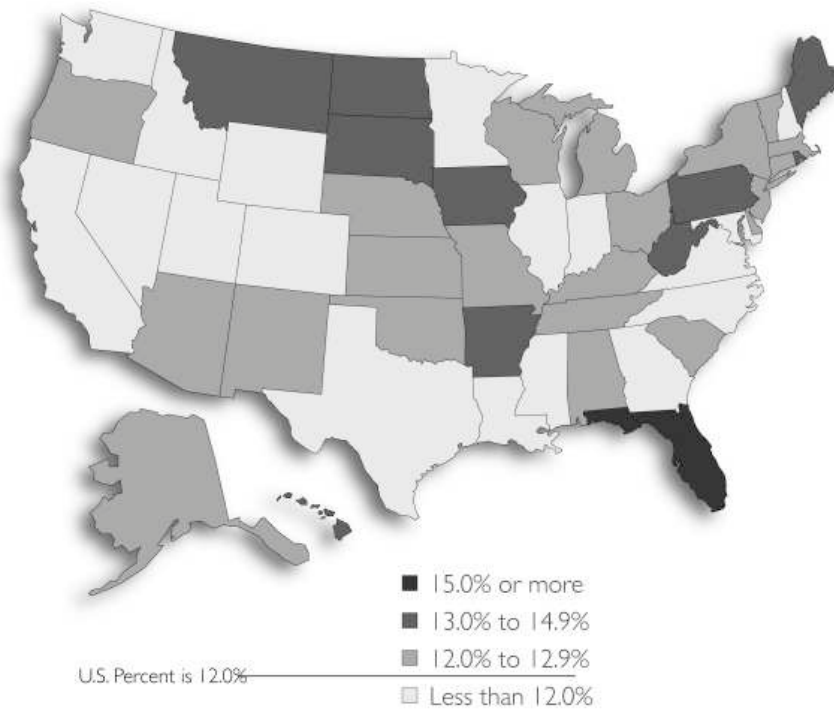
Disability

In 2003, the proportion of the older population reporting a disability (one or more) was 39.9 percent, compared with 14.3 percent of the population 5 and older.¹⁵ Twenty-three states had proportions of older people who reported a disability that equaled or exceeded the national proportion of 39.9 percent. Eight of the 10 states with the highest proportions of older people who reported a disability are located in the South (Mississippi, 54.2 percent; Arkansas, 50.5 percent; West Virginia, 49.9 percent; Kentucky, 47.7 percent; Alabama, 47 percent; Louisiana, 46.7 percent; Georgia, 45.6 percent; and Tennessee, 44.6 percent), and two are in the West (New Mexico, 45.8 percent, and Alaska, 45.3 percent). Hawaii had the lowest proportion of older people who reported a disability (34.4 percent).

Income and Poverty

In 2003, the median income for all households was \$43,564.¹⁶ Households with an older householder had a much lower median income (\$26,736), in part reflecting the fact that the vast majority of the older population was retired from full-time work. Nineteen states had median incomes for households with an older householder that equaled or exceeded the national level of \$26,736. The 10 states with the highest median incomes for households with an older householder represent all U.S. regions except the Midwest (Hawaii, \$39,378; Alaska, \$37,540; Maryland, \$33,203; Delaware, \$32,850; Utah, \$32,754; Connecticut, \$32,306; New Jersey, \$31,931; Washington, \$31,882; Virginia, \$31,863; and California,

Figure B: Percent of State Population 65 Years and Over: 2003



Note: These data are for the household population.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 American Community Survey.

\$31,705). Among the states, Mississippi had the lowest median income for households with an older householder (\$20,973).

The older population was less likely than the total U.S. population to be in poverty in 2003 (9.8 percent compared with 12.7 percent). Nineteen states had proportions of older people in poverty that equaled or exceeded the national proportion of 9.8 percent. Nine of the 10 states with the highest proportions of older people in poverty are located in the South (Mississippi, 16.4 percent; Louisiana, 14.8 percent; the District of Columbia, 14.4 percent; Kentucky, 14.2 percent; Alabama, 13.7 percent; Georgia, 13.3 percent; Texas, 13 percent; and Arkansas and North Carolina, each with 12.9 percent) and one is in the West (New Mexico, 13.1 percent). The lowest proportion of older people in poverty was in Alaska (4.8 percent). The proportion of older people in poverty and the median income of households with an older householder

provide some insight into the economic situation of older Americans. Policy-makers can use these indicators when assessing the segments of the older population at the greatest risk of having inadequate basic needs such as food and housing.

Conclusion

The size of the older population will increase dramatically in the coming decades, far faster than the rest of the U.S. population. Policy-makers need current and relevant data to aid them in addressing the needs of this rapidly growing older population. These needs often reflect characteristics of the older population, including being predominantly female, commonly living alone, and typically reporting a disability.

Author’s Note

This article is released to inform interested parties of ongoing research and to encourage discussion of work in progress. The views expressed on technical

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issues are those of the author and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Notes

¹In this article, the older population (or older people or older householders) is defined as people 65 years and over. Except where noted, age classification is based on the age of the person in complete years at the time of interview for the American Community Survey in 2003. Both age and date of birth are used in combination to calculate the most accurate age at the time of interview.

²Frank Hobbs and Nicole Stoops, U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Special Reports, Series CENSR-4, *Demographic Trends in the 20th Century*, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2002).

³U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census of population, 1900 and 2000. Median age splits the population into halves. One half of the population is older than the median age and the other half is younger.

⁴Frank Hobbs and Bonnie Damon, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, Special Studies, P23-190, *65+ in the United States*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1996).

⁵Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics, *Older Americans 2004: Key Indicators of Well-Being*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2004).

⁶The data presented in the remainder of this paper are from the 2003 American Community Survey. The universe for this survey is the household population. Those in group quarters (e.g. nursing facilities, etc.) are not included in the universe.

⁷The West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. The South includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Washington, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. The Midwest includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The Northeast includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont.

⁸For Census 2000 information about the older populations of counties, places, and cities, see Lisa Hetzel and Annetta Smith, 2001, *The 65 Years and Over Population: 2000*, Washington, DC, Census 2000 Brief, C2KBR/01-

10, U.S. Census Bureau. This report is available on the U.S. Census Bureau's Internet site at www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/C2KBR01-10.pdf.

⁹The District of Columbia is treated as a state equivalent in this paper.

¹⁰The category "minority" includes people who identified themselves as Black, Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Some other race, Two or more races, or Hispanic (who may be any race). People who identified themselves as non-Hispanic White only are not included in the minority population.

¹¹Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics, *Older Americans 2004: Key Indicators of Well-Being*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2004).

¹²Yvonne J. Gist and Lisa I. Hetzel, 2004, *We the People: Aging in the United States*, Washington, DC, Census 2000 Special Report, CENSR-19, U.S. Census Bureau.

¹³Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics, *Older Americans 2004: Key Indicators of Well-Being*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2004).

¹⁴Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics, *Older Americans 2004: Key Indicators of Well-Being*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2004).

¹⁵People aged 65 and over were classified as having a disability if they reported one or more of the following disabilities: 1) sensory disability; 2) physical disability; 3) mental disability; 4) self-care disability; 5) go-outside-home disability.

¹⁶Median household income in the last 12 months (2003 inflation-adjusted dollars) for households with a householder 65 years and over. Poverty status was determined for everyone except those in institutions, military group quarters, and college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old. These groups were excluded from the denominator when calculating poverty rates.

About the Author

Karen Humes is a statistician with the U.S. Census Bureau. She received a B.A. in sociology from Eastern Michigan University and an M.A. degree in sociology from Western Michigan University. She began her career at the U.S. Census Bureau in 1998 in the Population Division where she focused on racial and ethnic group statistics. She currently manages the development and analysis of statistics related to age and gender.

**TABLE A
DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION
65 YEARS AND OVER FOR THE UNITED STATES AND STATES: 2003**

State of jurisdiction	Population		Sex ratio (a)	Minority (b)		Widowed (c)		H.S. diploma or more (d)		Living alone		With a disability (e)		Median household income (f)		In poverty (g)	
	Number	% of pop.		Number	% of pop.	Number	% of pop.	Number	% of pop.	Number	% of pop.	Number	% of pop.	Number	% of pop.	Number	% of pop.
Total U.S. Population (all ages) ...	282,909,885	100.0	95.8	91,141,238	32.2	13,824,645	6.2	154,181,509	83.6	29,090,016	10.3	37,458,292	14.3	43,564	35,846,289	12.7	
65 Years and Over																	
United States	33,896,172	12.0	73.7	6,097,304	18.0	10,548,288	31.1	23,979,708	70.7	10,091,911	29.8	13,526,817	39.9	26,736	3,319,167	9.8	
Alabama	562,766	12.8	69.5	114,768	20.4	192,152	34.1	339,838	60.4	176,242	31.3	264,686	47.0	21,831	76,889	13.7	
Alaska	39,600	6.3	97.8	10,904	27.5	9,862	24.9	30,692	77.5	10,906	27.5	17,934	45.3	37,540	1,896	4.8	
Arizona	694,372	12.7	82.5	105,840	15.2	181,368	26.1	543,815	78.3	173,040	24.9	255,679	36.8	30,228	54,653	7.9	
Arkansas	359,150	13.6	76.6	45,433	12.7	119,221	33.2	230,295	64.1	110,232	30.7	181,316	50.5	23,754	46,209	12.9	
California	3,583,268	10.3	75.2	1,184,456	33.1	1,036,146	28.9	2,626,079	73.3	955,218	26.7	1,440,126	40.2	31,705	272,030	7.6	
Colorado	420,597	9.5	78.0	62,126	14.8	111,808	26.6	337,636	80.3	127,909	30.4	160,706	38.2	27,258	40,135	9.5	
Connecticut	432,715	12.8	71.3	37,339	8.6	129,219	29.9	321,326	74.3	126,998	29.3	149,327	34.5	32,306	23,241	5.4	
Delaware	102,472	12.9	78.2	15,239	14.9	31,036	30.3	76,119	74.3	29,743	29.0	39,005	38.1	32,850	6,358	6.2	
Florida	2,782,086	16.7	79.1	529,688	19.0	773,562	27.8	2,123,992	76.3	756,756	27.2	992,613	35.7	27,798	267,859	9.6	
Georgia	774,936	9.2	70.6	166,697	21.5	249,566	32.2	474,330	61.2	226,317	29.2	353,424	45.6	24,774	103,269	13.3	
Hawaii	163,517	13.4	78.6	127,701	78.1	47,134	28.8	117,686	72.0	35,805	21.9	56,213	34.4	39,378	12,200	7.5	
Idaho	147,584	11.1	84.1	5,345	3.6	43,588	29.5	117,974	79.9	39,923	27.1	64,694	43.8	26,377	11,830	8.0	
Illinois	1,411,495	11.4	70.8	251,927	17.8	464,877	32.9	998,261	70.7	446,838	31.7	549,012	38.9	27,311	132,054	9.4	
Indiana	713,375	11.9	71.6	58,694	8.2	231,792	32.5	501,833	70.3	224,701	31.5	297,100	41.6	25,570	55,577	7.5	
Iowa	397,122	14.0	73.7	8,729	2.2	115,164	29.0	311,722	78.5	126,812	31.9	146,734	36.9	25,032	30,376	7.6	
Kansas	324,146	12.3	73.4	22,704	7.0	102,197	31.5	253,093	78.1	104,014	32.1	132,384	40.8	25,737	25,511	7.9	
Kentucky	483,599	12.1	72.0	31,849	6.6	162,617	33.6	269,647	55.8	153,982	31.8	230,553	47.7	21,243	68,445	14.2	
Louisiana	492,713	11.3	69.9	129,875	26.4	168,630	34.2	309,736	62.9	154,896	31.4	230,319	46.7	21,236	72,917	14.8	
Maine	176,627	13.9	75.5	2,117	1.2	57,019	32.3	134,547	76.2	58,159	32.9	71,210	40.3	25,056	16,671	9.4	
Maryland	594,609	11.1	71.5	145,684	24.5	189,957	31.9	420,506	70.7	166,513	28.0	231,065	38.9	33,203	51,954	8.7	
Massachusetts	797,623	12.8	69.5	62,351	7.8	264,904	33.2	589,764	73.9	262,979	33.0	280,149	35.1	26,207	74,632	9.4	
Michigan	1,177,082	12.0	73.1	155,342	13.2	366,192	31.1	831,524	70.6	362,541	30.8	474,500	40.3	26,501	98,727	8.4	
Minnesota	563,090	11.4	75.6	20,906	3.7	166,119	29.5	427,568	75.9	179,016	31.8	195,997	34.8	27,990	47,302	8.4	
Mississippi	328,868	11.8	69.5	87,454	26.6	117,736	35.8	200,786	61.1	105,367	32.0	178,321	54.2	20,973	53,920	16.4	
Missouri	703,473	12.7	73.8	63,875	9.1	210,686	29.9	495,091	70.4	216,088	30.7	303,777	43.2	24,854	72,912	10.4	
Montana	117,058	13.1	82.6	4,851	4.1	33,352	28.5	94,229	80.5	38,690	33.1	46,445	39.7	26,303	9,790	8.4	
Nebraska	213,121	12.6	74.9	8,357	3.9	64,566	30.3	171,195	80.3	75,285	35.3	81,040	38.0	23,849	19,423	9.1	
Nevada	245,844	11.1	87.2	43,260	17.6	70,380	28.6	193,379	78.7	67,856	27.6	88,450	36.0	29,418	19,659	8.0	
New Hampshire	143,022	11.4	78.8	2,445	1.7	38,360	26.8	110,235	77.1	42,229	29.5	53,423	37.4	26,372	12,717	8.9	
New Jersey	1,060,288	12.6	70.0	199,174	18.8	347,168	32.7	738,330	69.6	302,980	28.6	389,478	36.7	31,931	76,622	7.2	
New Mexico	219,718	12.0	80.9	85,585	39.0	64,622	29.4	148,392	67.5	61,543	28.0	100,553	45.8	24,755	28,693	13.1	
New York	2,343,263	12.6	69.4	558,662	23.8	767,424	32.8	1,614,154	68.9	727,434	31.0	886,578	37.8	26,908	280,128	12.0	
North Carolina	953,129	11.7	70.9	170,573	17.9	319,104	33.5	584,158	61.3	286,936	30.1	418,899	43.9	24,425	122,492	12.9	
North Dakota	85,646	14.1	76.3	1,698	2.0	26,023	30.4	58,443	68.2	29,673	34.6	33,400	39.0	21,683	10,834	12.6	
Ohio	1,425,707	12.8	71.7	149,210	10.5	448,194	31.4	1,002,841	70.3	437,591	30.7	564,251	39.6	25,361	116,087	8.1	

See footnotes at end of table

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**TABLE A
DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION
65 YEARS AND OVER FOR THE UNITED STATES AND STATES: 2003 – CONTINUED**

State of jurisdiction	Population		Minority (b)		Widowed (c)		H.S. diploma or more (d)		Living alone		With a disability (e)		In poverty (g)	
	Number	% of pop.	Number	% of pop.	Number	% of pop.	Number	% of pop.	Number	% of pop.	Number	% of pop.	Number	% of pop.
Oklahoma	428,874	12.6	56,455	13.2	130,847	30.5	305,937	71.3	140,278	32.7	186,894	43.6	48,269	11.3
Oregon	433,381	12.4	27,033	6.2	130,168	30.0	342,153	78.9	129,672	29.9	167,587	38.7	35,949	8.3
Pennsylvania	1,760,778	14.8	150,240	8.5	616,213	35.0	1,248,243	70.9	576,773	32.8	664,860	37.8	153,438	8.7
Rhode Island	141,420	13.6	10,137	7.2	51,543	36.4	88,621	62.7	49,096	34.7	56,994	40.3	14,978	10.6
South Carolina	488,162	12.2	115,259	23.6	153,572	31.5	320,044	65.6	132,989	27.2	195,707	40.1	59,273	12.1
South Dakota	99,781	13.6	1,688	1.7	30,255	30.3	72,499	72.7	32,952	33.0	37,693	37.8	10,729	10.8
Tennessee	683,271	12.0	81,009	11.9	226,794	33.2	430,501	63.0	209,696	30.7	304,920	44.6	84,659	12.4
Texas	2,062,327	9.6	651,641	31.6	646,663	31.4	1,352,673	65.6	581,419	28.2	875,493	42.5	267,633	13.0
Utah	196,568	8.5	14,581	7.4	53,073	27.0	165,108	84.0	48,708	24.8	75,869	38.6	15,007	7.6
Vermont	75,961	12.7	2,623	3.5	22,370	29.4	55,679	73.3	23,811	31.3	29,080	38.3	6,766	8.9
Virginia	788,419	11.0	155,154	19.7	250,330	31.8	538,141	68.3	224,700	28.5	302,056	38.3	71,190	9.0
Washington	656,630	11.0	67,822	10.3	194,665	29.6	538,467	82.0	204,912	31.2	253,253	38.6	44,934	6.8
West Virginia	263,926	14.9	9,396	3.6	85,660	32.5	156,614	59.3	83,365	31.6	131,573	49.9	33,581	12.7
Wisconsin	662,878	12.5	32,995	5.0	197,194	29.7	475,051	71.7	207,315	31.3	239,975	36.2	48,132	7.3
Wyoming	56,768	11.6	3,383	6.0	15,905	28.0	46,559	82.0	17,099	30.1	22,796	40.2	3,503	6.2
District of Columbia	63,347	12.0	47,090	74.3	21,291	33.6	44,202	69.8	27,194	42.9	22,706	35.8	9,114	14.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 American Community Survey.
 Note: The universe for the 2003 American Community Survey is the household population. Those in group quarters (e.g. nursing facilities, etc.) are not included in the universe. Age classification is based on the age of the person in complete years at the time of interview for the American Community Survey in 2003. Both age and date of birth are used in combination to calculate the most accurate age at the time of interview.
 (a) The sex ratio is the number of males per 100 females.
 (b) The category minority includes people who identified themselves as Black, Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Some other race, Two or more races, or Hispanic when calculating poverty rates.
 (c) Poverty status was determined for everyone except those in institutions, military group quarters, college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old. These groups were excluded from the denominator when calculating poverty rates.
 (d) Median household income in the last 12 months (2003 inflation-adjusted dollars) for households with a householder 65 years and over.
 (e) Median household income in the last 12 months (2003 inflation-adjusted dollars) for households with a householder 65 years and over.
 (f) Median household income in the last 12 months (2003 inflation-adjusted dollars) for households with a householder 65 years and over.
 (g) Poverty status was determined for everyone except those in institutions, military group quarters, college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old. These groups were excluded from the denominator when calculating poverty rates.