



SNAPSHOT

SUPPLEMENTAL

TRANSPORTATION

PROGRAMS for

SENIORS

Prepared by the Beverly Foundation

DEMOGRAPHIC FACT SHEET

Older Population

- About one in every eight, or 12.4% of the population, is an older American (age 65+, numbering 35 million). More people are growing older in America, a trend that will continue. Baby boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964) began to turn 50 in 1996, and will begin turning 60 in the year 2006. By conservative estimates, about 2.2 million baby boomers still will be living in 2030, when all will be past age 65.
- According to the US Census, the 65 and over population could increase by nearly 80% by 2025, but there will be just 15% more working age adults and 15% more children younger than 15.
- The fastest growing states for older people are Nevada, Alaska, Arizona and New Mexico. (Florida still has the most.)

Gender

- There are 70 men age 65 and older for every 100 women.

The Old Old

- The US ranks second in the number among countries of people age 80 and over. (China ranks first.)
- There were 50,454 centenarians counted in Census 2000-about one in every 5578 people.
- Among the older population, those 85 years and over showed the highest percentage increase since the last census (representing a 387% increase, from 3.1 million to 4.2 million). In 2000, there were 18.4 million people in the US between 65-74 years of age (representing 53% of the older population). The 75-84 age group numbered 12.4 million (35% of the population) and those 85 years of age and over numbered 4.2 million (12% of the population).

Life Expectancy

- Life expectancy continues to climb as more people embrace healthy lifestyles and medical advances are made. Life expectancy has recently reached an all time high of nearly 77 years, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. Life expectancy is 79.5 years for women and 74.1 years for men.

Alzheimer's Disease

- The Alzheimer's Association estimates that one in ten persons over 65 and nearly half of those over 85 are afflicted with the disease.

Living Arrangements

- About 30%, or 9.7 million older Americans live alone (7.4 million women and 2.4 million men).
- The percentage of Americans age 65 and older who live in nursing homes is 4.5%, down from 5.1% in 1990. The decline was sharpest among those age 85 and over: 18.2% lived in nursing homes in 2000; 24.5% did so in 1990.

Home Ownership

- The proportion of US householders age 65-74 who own the home in which they live is 81%. This is the highest home ownership rate of any age group.

Socioeconomic Status

- Fourteen percent of Americans age 65 and older are employed.
- The median household income for US householders age 65 and older is \$23,047.

Education

- The number of Americans age 65 and older who are enrolled in college is 49,000.

Voter Turnout

- The percent of US citizens 65-74 who voted in the 2000 presidential election was 72% -- the highest on any age group.

Caregivers

- A caregiver can be anyone. Caregiving cuts across age, income, education, gender, distance, class and ethnicity. The typical family caregiver is a 46-year-old woman who is employed and also spends about 18 hours a week caring for her mother who lives nearby.
- The federal government estimates that caregivers provide unpaid help to 5.2 million older people with impairments. If the work of family caregivers had to be replaced by paid home care, the cost would be between \$45-\$95 billion per year.
- 2.4 million grandparents are primary caregivers to their grandchildren. Roughly one in five (18.9%) live in poverty. The majority of grandparents raising grandchildren have been responsible for their grandchildren for a year or more, and 35% have been raising them for at least five years.

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