

The Older Population: Past, Present and Future

Amy Smith

U.S. Census Bureau

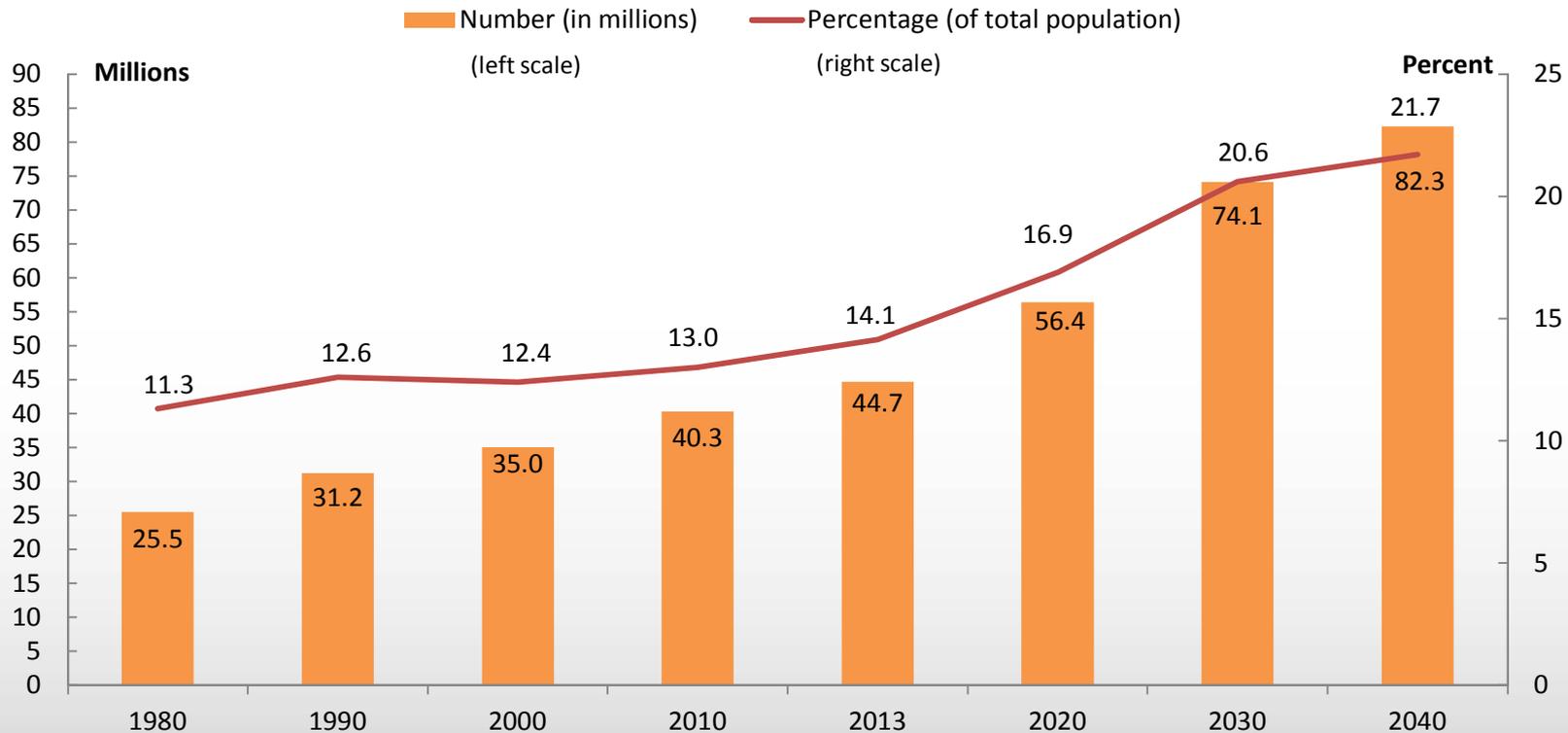
Presentation at the Enhancing Safety for
Aging Road Users Conference 11/3/16

Topics Presented on the Older Population

- Population size and growth
- Demographic characteristics
- Geographic distribution

Population Size and Growth

Population 65 Years and Older by Size and Percent of Total Population: 1980-2040

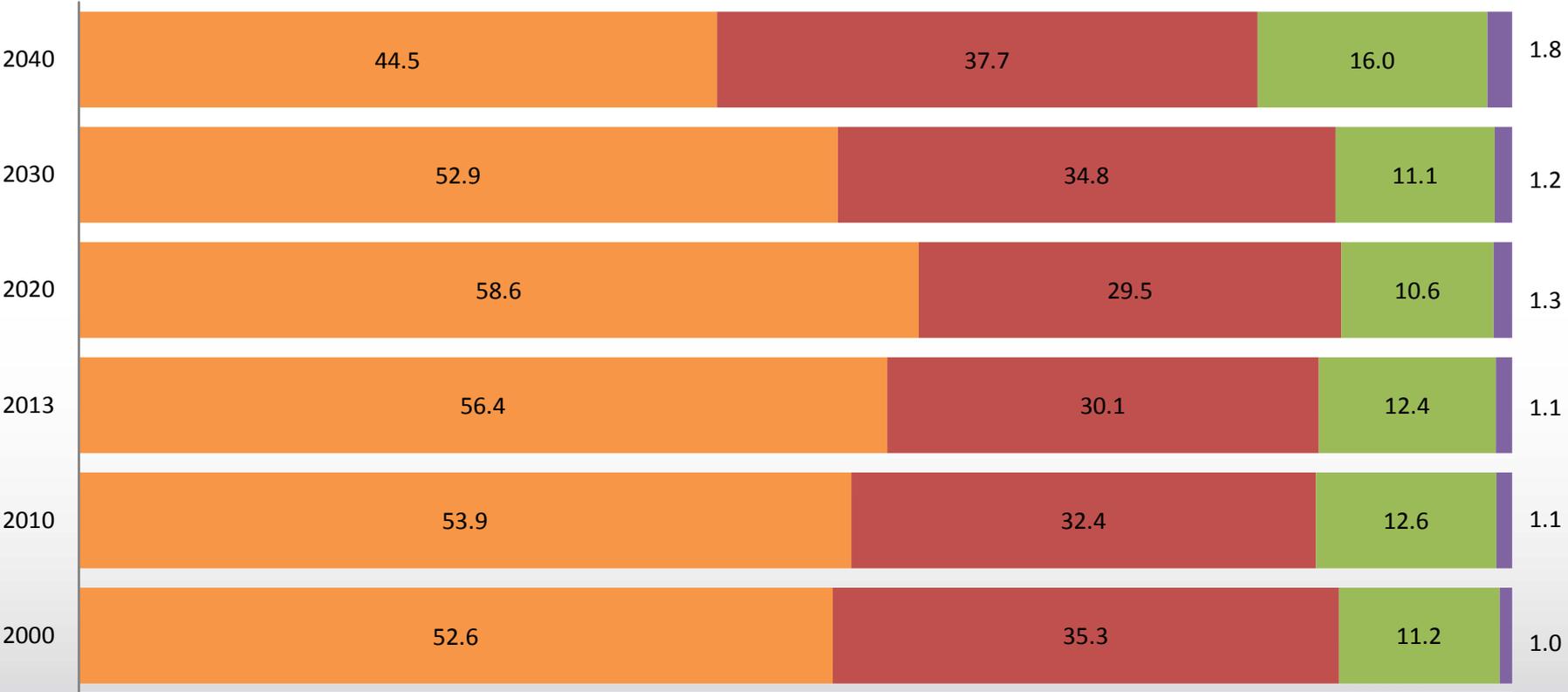


Source: U.S. Census Bureau: Decennial Census 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010. Population Estimates as of July 1, 2013. Population Projections as of July 1, 2020; July 1, 2030; July 1, 2040.

Demographic Characteristics

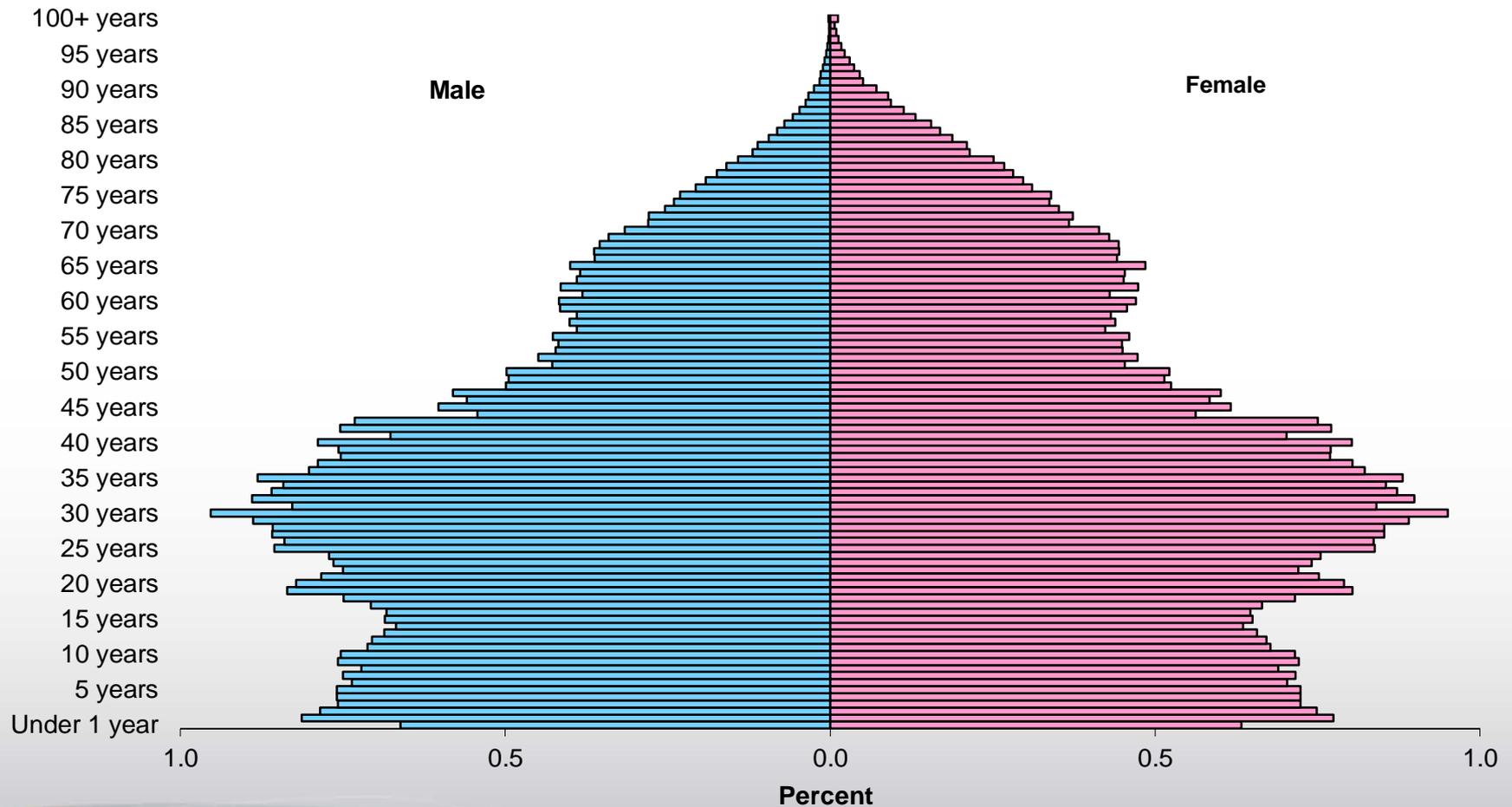
Percent Distribution of the Older Population by Age: 2000-2040

65-74 75-84 85-94 95+



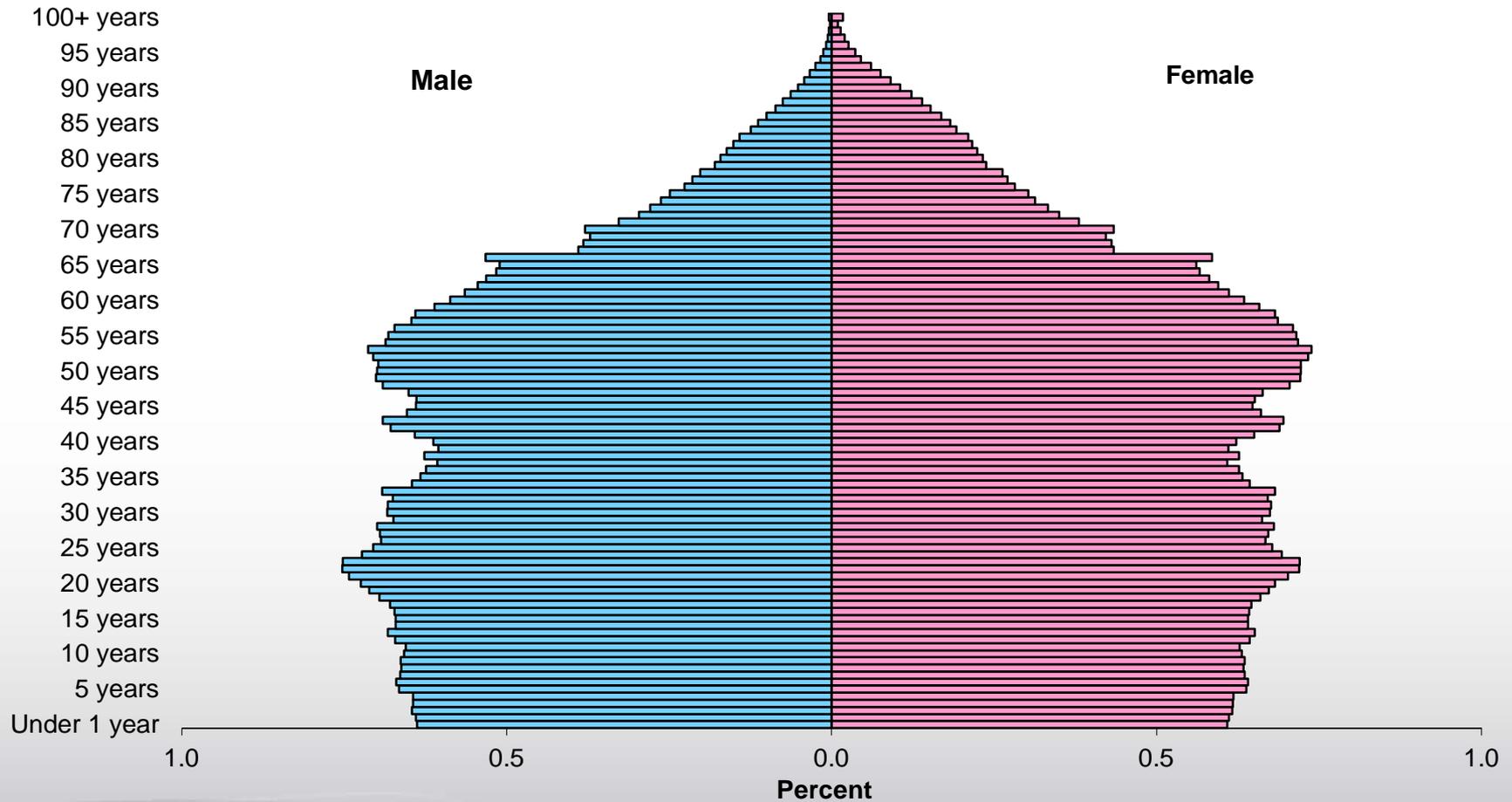
Source: U.S. Census Bureau: Decennial Census 2000 and 2010. U.S. Population Estimates as of July 1, 2013. U.S. Population Projections as of July 1, 2020; July 1, 2030; July 1, 2040.

Population by Age and Sex: 1990



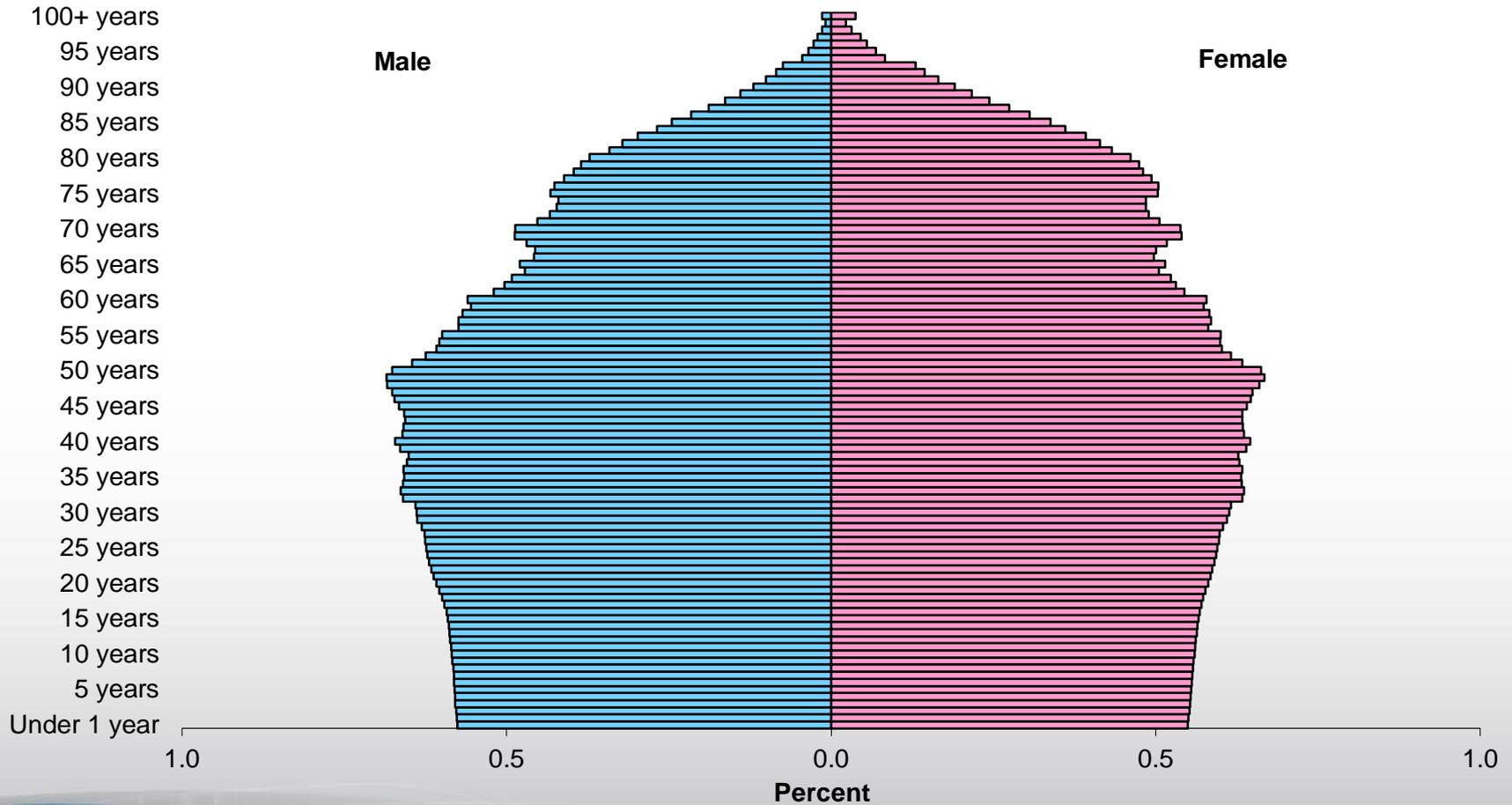
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census 1990.

Population by Age and Sex: 2013



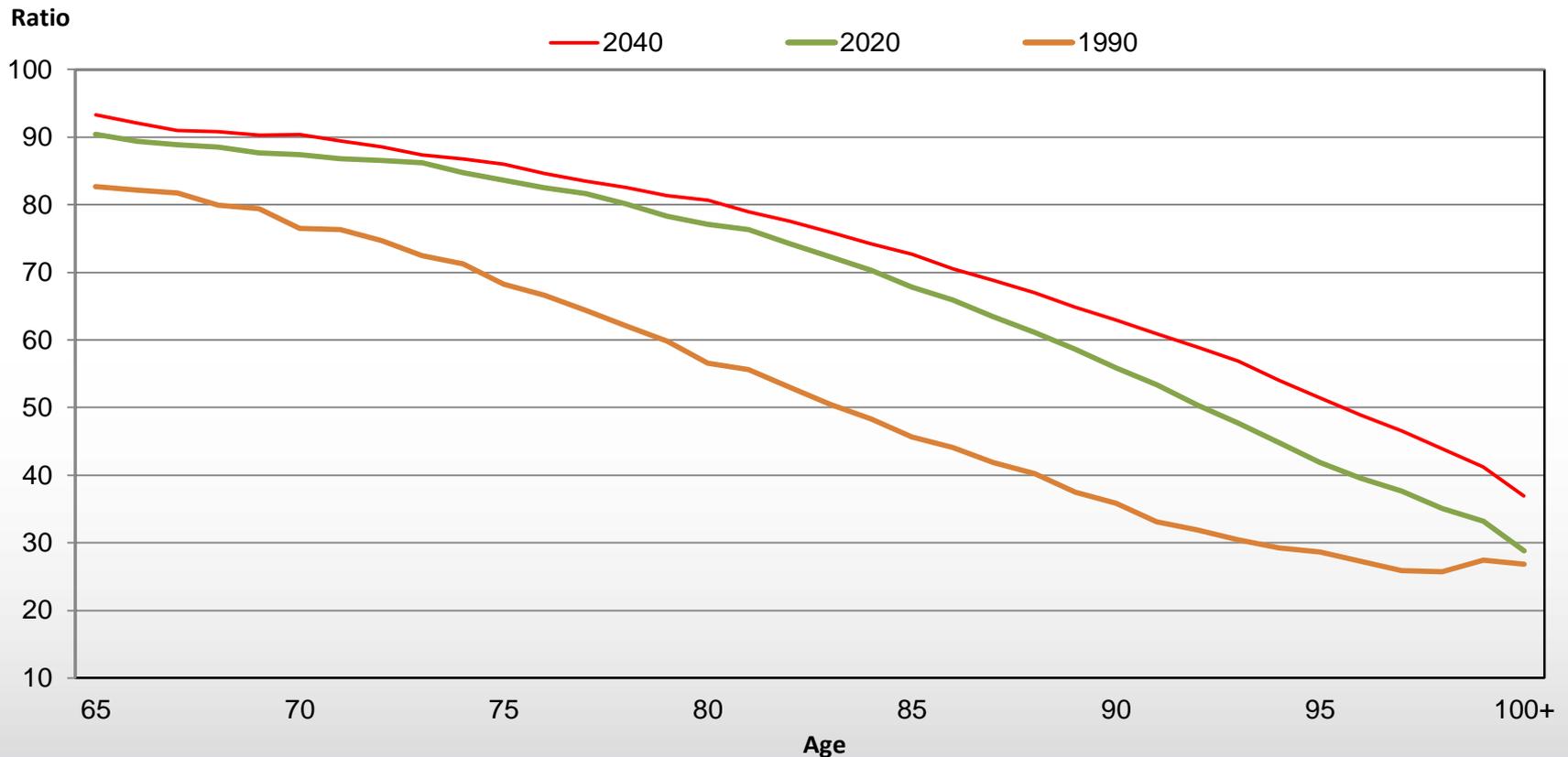
Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Population Estimates as of July 1, 2013.

Population by Age and Sex: 2040



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Population Projections as of July 1, 2040.

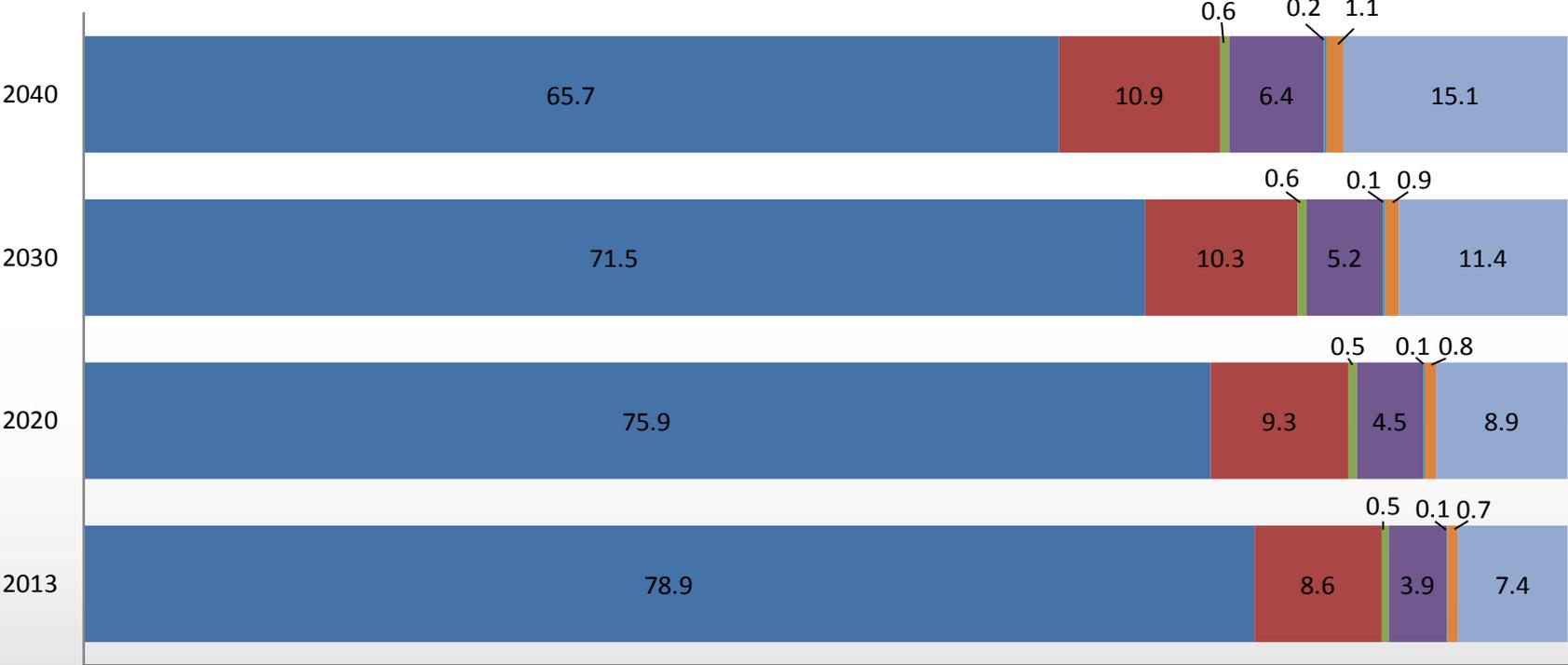
Sex Ratios for the 65 Years and Older Population: 1990-2040



Source: U.S. Census Bureau: Decennial Census 1990, 2000 and 2010. Population Estimates as of July 1, 2013. U.S. Population Projections as of July 1, 2020; July 1, 2030; July 1, 2040.

Percent Distribution of the Older Population by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2013-2040

■ White alone, NH
 ■ Black alone, NH
 ■ AIAN alone, NH
 ■ Asian alone, NH
 ■ NHPI alone, NH
 ■ Two or More Races, NH
 ■ Hispanic

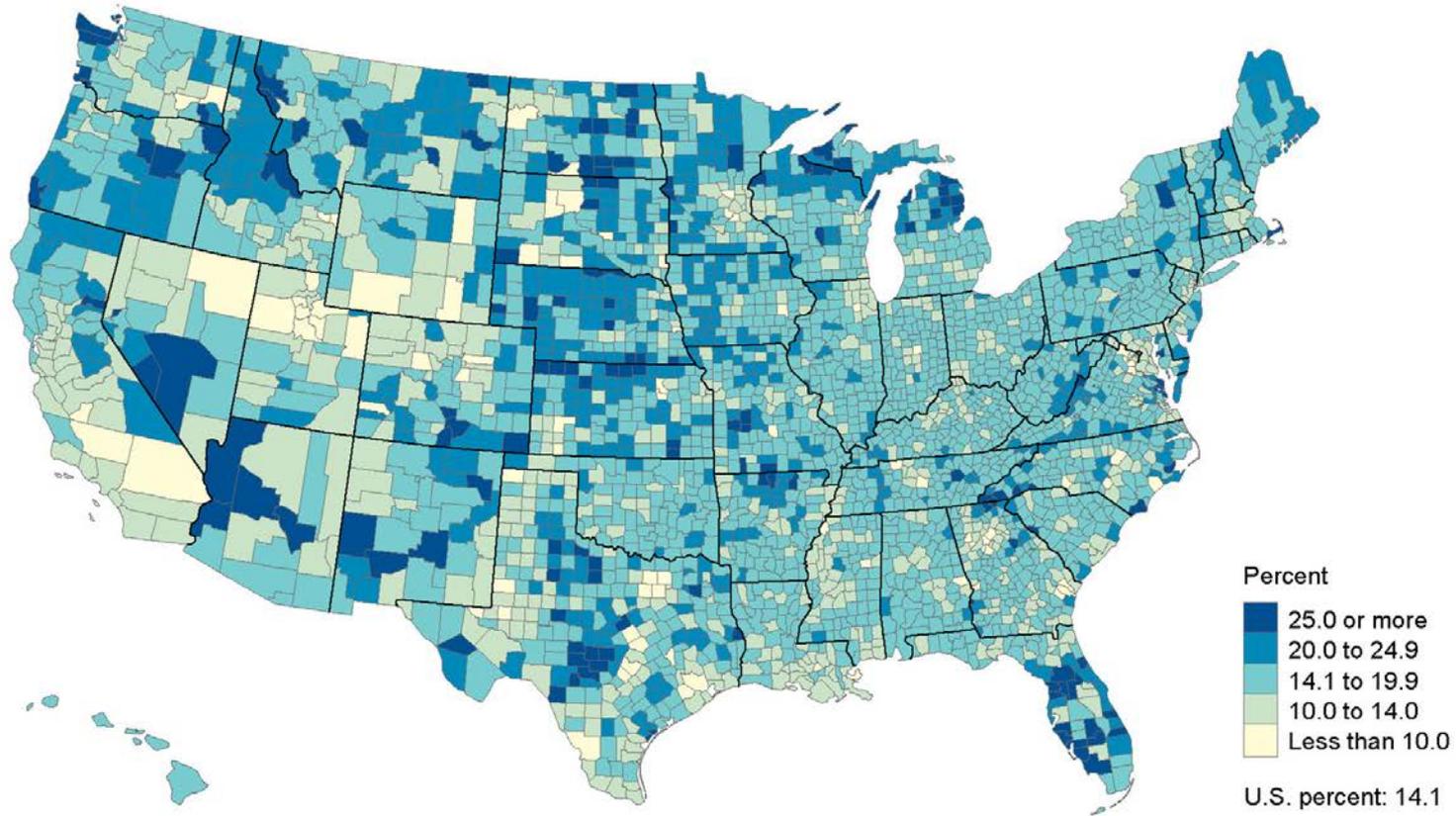


Note: Black alone refers to Black or African American alone; AIAN alone refers to American Indian and Alaska Native alone; NHPI alone refers to Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone; NH refers to Non-Hispanic.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau: Population Estimates as of July 1, 2013. Population Projections as of July 1, 2020; July 1, 2030; July 1, 2040.

Geographic Distribution

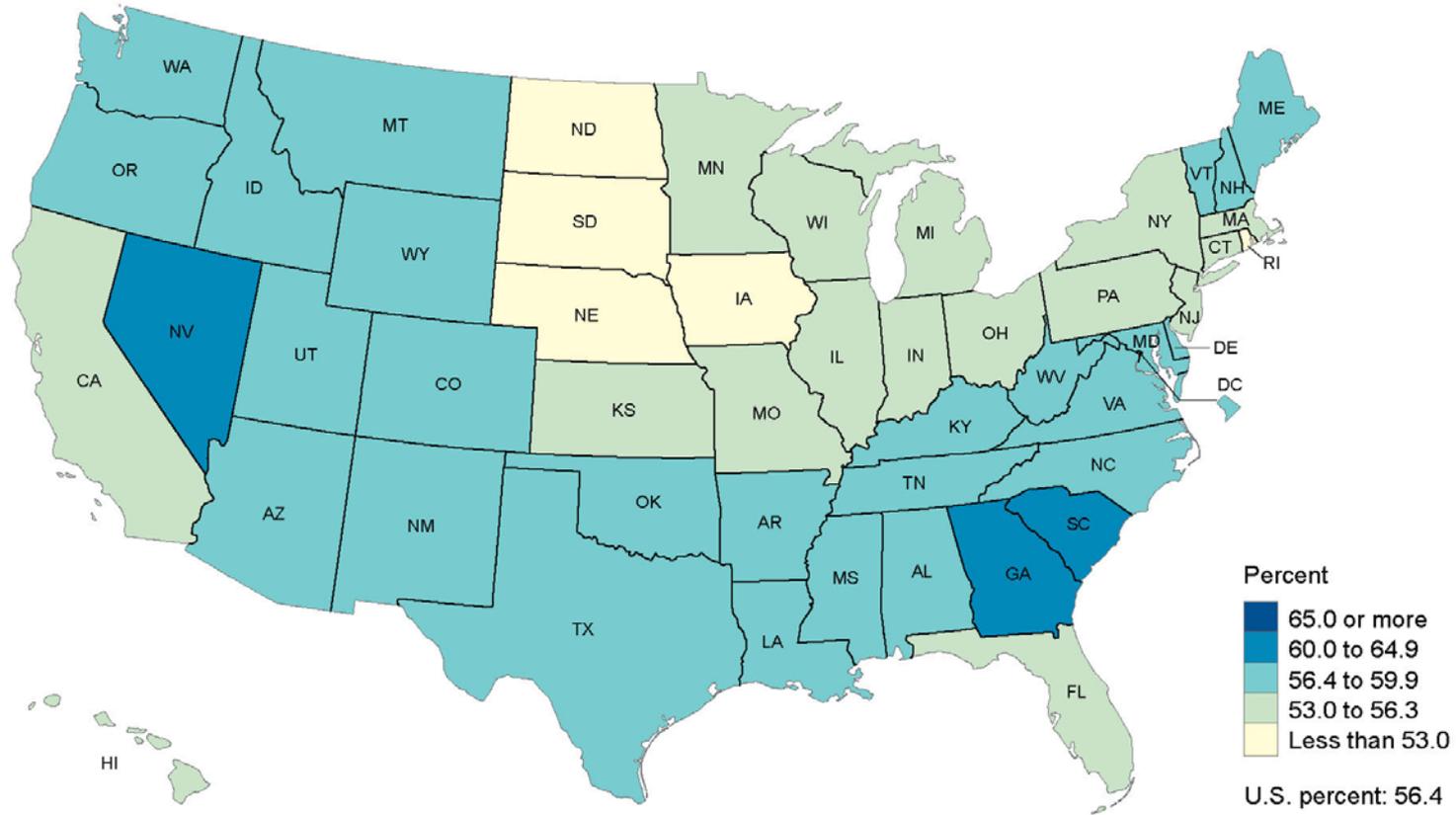
Percent 65 Years and Older by County: 2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates as of July 1, 2013.

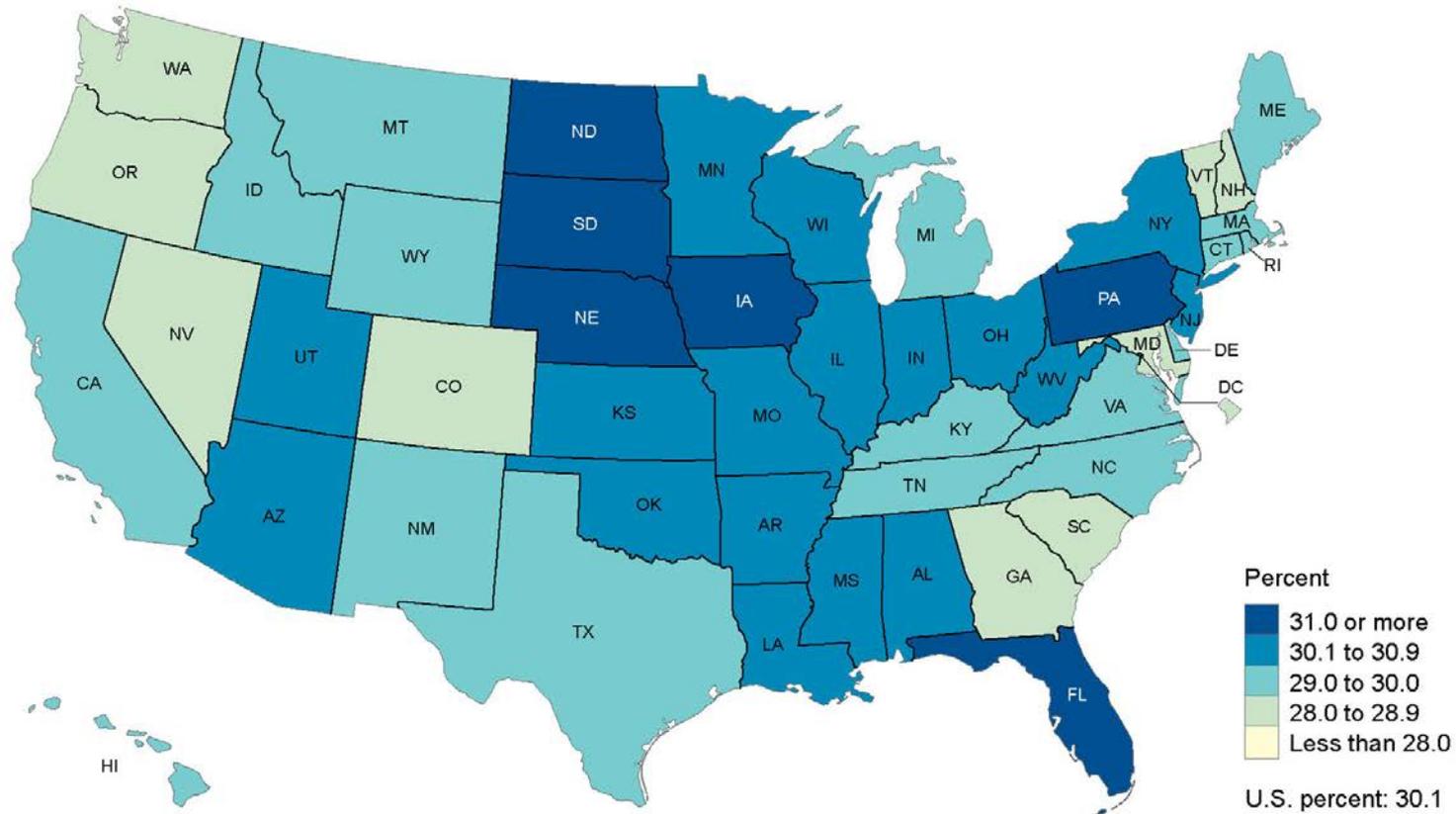


Percent Age 65-74 of the Older Population by State: 2013



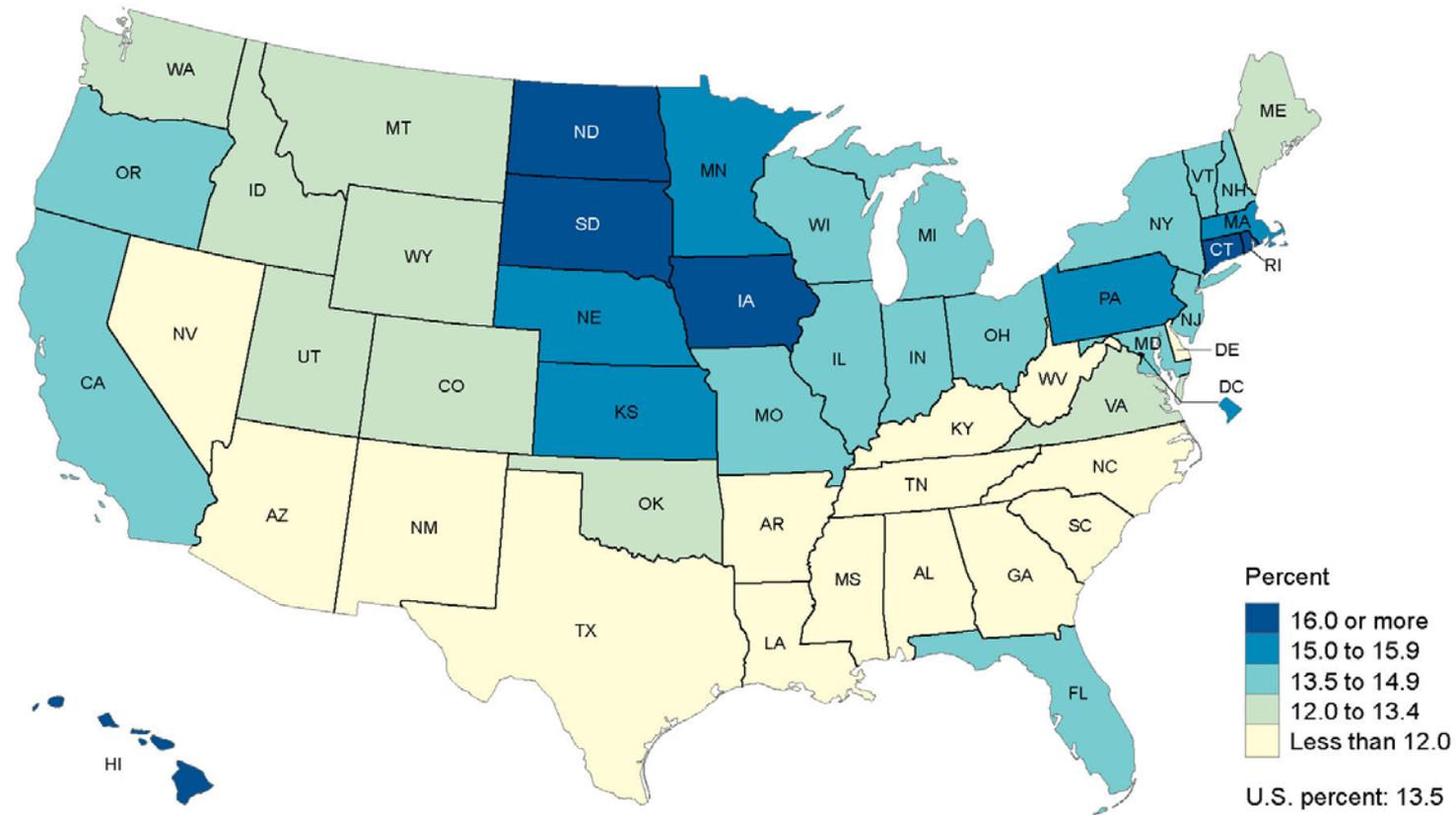
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates as of July 1, 2013.

Percent Age 75-84 of the Older Population by State: 2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates as of July 1, 2013.

Percent Age 85 and Over of the Older Population by State: 2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates as of July 1, 2013.

Summary

- Population size and growth: older population growing faster than the total population
- Demographic characteristics: increasing diversity
- Geographic distribution: Midwest largest concentrations, South lower concentrations

Age and Sex Composition: 2010

2010 Census Briefs

Issued May 2011

C 2010 BR 03

INTRODUCTION

Focusing on a population's age and sex composition is one of the most basic ways to understand population change over time. Since Census 2000, the population has continued to grow older, with many states reaching a median age over 40 years. At the same time, increases in the number of men at older ages are apparent. Understanding a population's age and sex composition yields insights into changing phenomena and highlights future social and economic challenges.

This report describes the age and sex composition of the United States in 2010. It is part of a series that provides an overview of the population and housing data collected from the 2010 Census. It highlights analysis of age and sex at the national level, as well as for regions, states, and counties and for places with populations of 100,000 or more. A comparison with Census 2000 data is also provided, showing the changes in age and sex composition that have taken place over the last 10 years.

This report also provides information about how age and sex data were collected in the 2010 Census. The data for this report are based on the *2010 Census Summary File 1*, which is among the

Figure 1.
Reproduction of the Questions on Sex, Age, and Date of Birth From the 2010 Census

3. What is this person's sex? Mark *X* ONE box.
 Male Female

4. What is this person's age and what is this person's date of birth?
Please report babies as age 0 when the child is less than 1 year old.
Print numbers in boxes.

Age on April 1, 2010	Month	Day	Year of birth
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census questionnaire.

first 2010 Census data products to be released.¹

SEX AND AGE QUESTIONS

Data on the sex and age composition of the United States and your community are derived from the 2010 Census questions on sex, age, and date of birth (Figure 1).

The sex question remains unchanged from the previous census. Information on the sex of individuals is one of the few items obtained in the original 1790 Census and in every census since.

As with sex, information on age has been collected since 1790. The 2010 Census age data were derived from a two-part question. The first part asked for the age of the person, and the second part asked for the date of birth. The question is

¹ The *2010 Census Summary File 1* (SF1) contains data on age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, group quarters, relationship, tenure, and household at a variety of geographic levels down to the block level. For a detailed schedule of 2010 Census products and release dates, visit www.census.gov/population/www/cen2010/glance/index.html.

By
Lindsay M. Howden
and
Julia A. Mayer

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Census
Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economic and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

The Older Population: 2010

2010 Census Briefs

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INTRODUCTION

The older population is an important and growing segment of the United States population.¹ In fact, more people were 65 years and over in 2010 than in any previous census.² Between 2000 and 2010, the population 65 years and over increased at a faster rate (15.1 percent) than the total U.S. population (9.7 percent). In addition to growth in the older population, pronounced growth in the male population 65 years and over occurred during the decade. The disproportionate increase in the older male population has not only contributed to the growth of the overall population 65 years and over, but has also led to a narrowing of the gap between males and females at the older ages. As larger numbers of males and females reach age 65 years and over, it becomes increasingly important to understand this population as well as the implications population aging has for various family, social, and economic aspects of society.

¹ In this report, the term "older" population refers to the population 65 years and over.

² Although the decennial censuses collected data on age since 1790, the specific age of a person in complete years (as of last birthday) was not collected until 1850, and data on the population 65 years and over was not published until 1870. Prior to 1850, enumerators marked people as being in a particular age group. Thus, comparisons of the population 65 years and over using historical census data are made with years in which the 65 years and over population was specifically published. In 1870, the population 65 years and over totaled 1.2 million and represented 3.0 percent of the total U.S. population. Source: www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/decennial/1870.html.

Figure 1.
Reproduction of the Question on Age and Date of Birth From the 2010 Census

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Please report babies as age 0 when the child is less than 1 year old.
Print numbers in boxes.

Age on April 1, 2010	Month	Day	Year of birth
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census questionnaire.

This report describes the older population of the United States in 2010. It is part of a series that provides an overview of the population and housing data collected from the 2010 Census. It also provides information on the age and sex structure and geographic distribution of the population 65 years and over at the national and subnational levels.³ The data for this report are based on the *2010 Census Summary File 1*, which is among the first data products released from the 2010 Census.⁴

AGE QUESTION

Data on the age composition of the United States and your community are derived from the 2010 Census question on age and date of birth (Figure 1).

Information on age has been collected from respondents since the first census in 1790. The 2010 Census data on age were

³ This report discusses data for the 50 states and the District of Columbia as well as lower levels of geography within the states. Data for Puerto Rico are not discussed in this report.

⁴ The *2010 Census Summary File 1* (SF1) contains data on age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, group quarters, relationship, tenure, and households at a variety of geographic levels down to the block level. For a detailed schedule of 2010 Census data products and release dates, visit www.census.gov/population/www/cen2010/glance/index.html.

By
Carrie A. Warner

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Centenarians: 2010

2010 Census Special Reports

By Julie Meyer
Issued December 2012
C2010SR03

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The Centenarian Population: 2007–2011

American Community Survey Briefs

By Brian Kincel
Issued April 2014
ACSBR/12-18

INTRODUCTION

This brief provides an overview of the centenarian population living in the United States based on the 2007–2011 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year data. It is a companion to the 2010 Census Special Report *Centenarians: 2010*, which focused on the count of centenarians, their sex, race, and Hispanic-origin characteristics, and their geographic distribution.¹ This brief explores the social and economic characteristics collected annually in the ACS to provide information on the marital status, educational attainment, veteran status, income, and poverty levels of centenarians. Since centenarians represent a rare population, distinct from the rest of the older population in many ways, they are compared to the 65 years and older population.

Centenarians, people 100 years or older, made up a very small portion of the total population in the 2007–2011 ACS, accounting for 55,000 people (0.02 percent). By comparison, the 65 years and over population accounted for 40 million people or 13 percent of the total population. The majority of centenarians were female (81 percent). Women were also the majority of the 65 years and over population (57 percent). This disproportionately female representation in both the 65 years and over and centenarian populations was expected, since sex differences in mortality over time contribute to higher percentages of females than males at older ages.

¹ See the 2010 Census Special Report *Centenarians: 2010*, at <www.census.gov/prod/ce2010/reports/c2010sr03.pdf>.

AGE QUESTION

Since the inception of the ACS in 1996, age has been asked of all persons living in a household. When group quarters were included in the survey universe in 2006, age was asked of all persons in group quarters as well.² The data on age were derived from answers to a two-part question in which respondents were asked to give an age in whole, completed years as of the interview date as well as the month, day, and year of birth. Both age and date of birth were used in combination to determine the most accurate age at the time of the interview.

Data on age are used to determine the applicability of other questions for a particular individual (e.g., education and income) and to classify characteristics in tabulations. Age data are needed to interpret most social and economic characteristics used to plan and analyze programs and policies. Age is central for many federal programs that target funds or services to children, working-age adults, women of childbearing age, or the older population. For more information on age, see the *American Community Survey 2011 Subject Definitions*.³

² Group Quarters are places where people live or stay in a group living arrangement that is owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents. Nursing facilities/skilled nursing facilities are one type of group quarters. For more information on group quarters, see <www.census.gov/acs/www/Download/data_documentation/GroupDefinitions/2011GQ_Definitions.pdf>.

³ See "Age" on pages 46–48 of the *American Community Survey 2011 Subject Definitions*, available at <www.census.gov/acs/www/Download/data_documentation/SubjectDefinitions/2011_ACSSubjectDefinitions.pdf>.

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2016

Older Americans

Key Indicators of Well-Being



Contact Information

Amy Smith

Amy.Symens.Smith@census.gov

U. S. Census Bureau
Population Division