The Older Population: Past, Present and Future

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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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>65-74</th>
<th>75-84</th>
<th>85-94</th>
<th>95+</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>52.6</td>
<td>35.3</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>53.9</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>56.4</td>
<td>30.1</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>58.6</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2030</td>
<td>52.9</td>
<td>34.8</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2040</td>
<td>44.5</td>
<td>37.7</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population by Age and Sex: 1990

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census 1990.
Population by Age and Sex: 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

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

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
INTRODUCTION
Focus 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 median age over 40 years. As a result, changes 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 first 2010 Census data products to be released.

SEX AND AGE QUESTIONS
Data on the sex and age composition of the United States and year 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 data of birth. The question is:

3. What is this person's next birthday? [1790, 1890, or 2000]
   4. What is this person's age and what is this person's date of birth?

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

**The Older Population: 2010**

INTRODUCTION
The older population is an important and growing segment of the United States population. In fact, more people were 65 years and older in 2010 than in any previous census. Between 2000 and 2010, the population 65 years and older increased at a faster rate (15.1 percent) than the total U.S. population (0.7 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 also led to a narrowing of the gap between males and females at the older ages. Along with numbers of males and females reaching age 85 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.

U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

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*In this report, the term "older" population refers to the population 65 years and older. The 2000 Census also asked questions about age on some data series. The data for the 2010 Census are based on the 2010 Census Summary File 1, which is among the first 2010 Census data products to be released.*

American Community Survey Briefs

By Brian Kinnel
Issued April 2014

INTRODUCTION

This brief provides an overview of the centenarian population living in the United States as of the 2007-2011 American Community Survey (ACS), which focuses on the centenarian population, their sex, race, and Hispanic-origin characteristics, and their geographic distribution. This brief highlights the social and economic characteristics collected annually in the ACS to provide information on the social structure, 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 (8.62 percent). By comparison, the 65 years and older 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 older population (57 percent). This is 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.

AGE QUESTION

Since the inception of the ACS in 1990, age has been asked of all persons living in households. When group quarters were included in the survey universe in 2000, age was asked of all persons in group quarters as well. 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. Birth year 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 child-bearing age, or the older population. For more information on age, see the American Community Survey 2011 Subject Definitions.1

REFERENCE

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