



# Challenges of Global Aging

## THE ADMINISTRATION ON AGING

The Administration on Aging (AoA), part of the Administration for Community Living (ACL), an agency in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is one of the nation's largest providers of home- and community-based care for older persons and their caregivers. Our mission is to promote the dignity and independence of older people, and to help society prepare for an aging population.

## GLOBAL AGING

Global aging is a success story. People today are living longer and generally healthier lives. This represents the triumph of public health, medical advancement, and economic development over disease and injury, which have constrained human life expectancy for thousands of years.

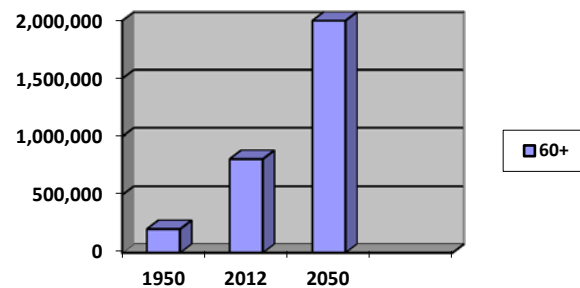
The world's population is now aging at an unprecedented rate. The United Nations estimates that by 2050, more than 20 percent of the world's population will be 60 years old or older. Eighty per cent of this population will live in developing countries. By 2050, older persons will outnumber children (persons aged 0 to 14 years).

Globally, the population aged 80 years or over is growing faster than any younger age group within the older population. The population of centenarians, those aged 100 years or more, is growing fastest.

Population aging will affect every man, woman and child anywhere in the world. The steady increase of older age groups will have a direct

bearing on relationships within families, equity across generations, lifestyles, and the family solidarity that is the foundation of society.

## GLOBAL POPULATION 60+ IN MILLIONS



## AOA'S GLOBAL ACTIVITIES

As the federal focal point for older Americans and their caregivers, AoA plays a vital role in information exchange with other nations concerning aging issues. AoA collaborates with foreign governments, international governmental (United Nations) and non-governmental organizations to enhance aging programs and policies worldwide. We respond to requests for information from international organizations, foreign governments, and non-profit agencies. We host international scholars, government officials and practitioners who come to the United States to learn first-hand about America's response to population aging.

## AOA AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MADRID INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON AGEING

On April 12, 2002, the World Assembly on Ageing adopted the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002 (MIPAA). The

MIPAA seeks to ensure that people everywhere age with security and dignity, and continue to participate in their societies as citizens with full rights. The top priorities include involving older persons in the development process; advancing health and well being into old age; and ensuring supportive environments that enable older persons to have choices.

Core themes include the recognition of the needs of older women; the desire of older people to stay active and engaged; and the need to create intergenerational solidarity. These themes demonstrate how the international community shares a common vision of a better future for older persons.

The Assistant Secretary for Aging led the U.S. delegation to the Second World Assembly on Ageing and affirmed the U.S. commitment to these themes. Working in concert with other nations and international bodies, AoA continues to play a key role in implementing the MIPAA.

### **AGING WITH DISABILITIES**

The first ever *World Report on Disability*, produced by the WHO and the World Bank, suggests that more than a billion people in the world today experience disability. The likelihood that people age with disabilities or become disabled increases as they age. Whether through intellectual or developmental disabilities, chronic illness, declining vision, decreased physical fitness and flexibility, aging is a factor.

The Administration for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD/ACL) supports international disability programs through its University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service.

### **SOURCES**

*Ageing in the Twenty-first Century: A Celebration and a Challenge*  
UN Department of Public Affairs  
<http://unfpa.org/ageingreport/>

*Current Status and the Social Situation, Wellbeing, participation in Development and Rights of Older Persons Worldwide*  
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/document/s/publications/current-status-older-persons.pdf>

*An Aging World: 2008*  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Commerce  
<http://www.census.gov/prod/2009pubs/p95-09-1.pdf>

AoA's Global Aging Webpage  
[http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA\\_Programs/Special\\_Projects/Global\\_Aging/index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/Special_Projects/Global_Aging/index.aspx)

National Network of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research & Service  
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/aidd/programs/ucedd>

*World Report on Disability, 2011*  
[http://www.who.int/disabilities/world\\_report/2011/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/en/index.html)

### **For more information about ACL**

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