

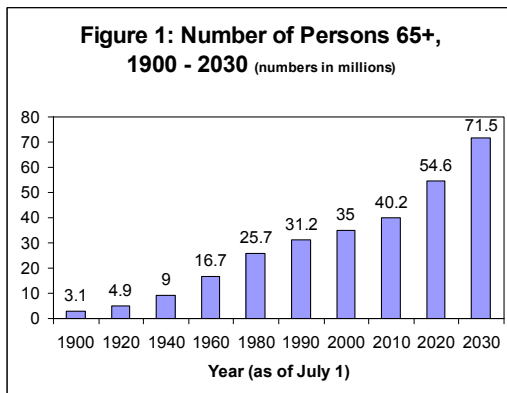


# A Statistical Profile Older Americans Aged 65+

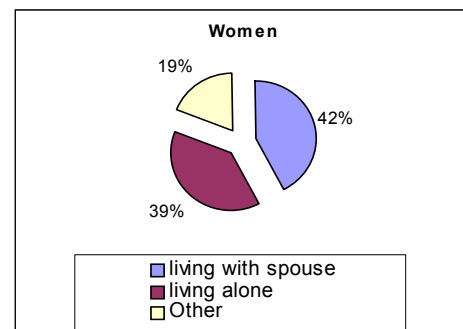
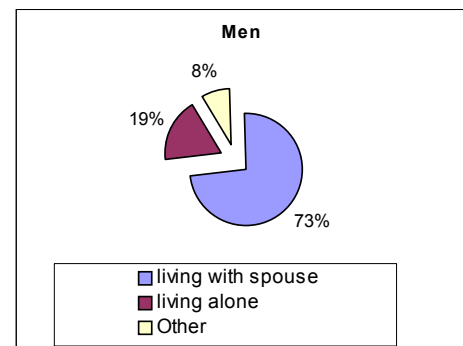
## DID YOU KNOW?

- The older population (65+) numbered 38.9 million in 2008, an increase of 4.5 million or 13.0% since 1998.
- The number of Americans aged 45-64 – who will reach 65 over the next two decades – increased by 30.6% during this decade.
- Since 1900, the percentage of Americans 65+ has tripled (from 4.1% in 1900 to 12.8% in 2008), and the number has increased almost 13 times (from 3.1 million to 38.9 million).

- In 2007, persons reaching age 65 had an average life expectancy of an additional 18.6 years (19.8 years for females and 17.1 years for males).
- In 2008, 19.6% of persons 65+ were minorities-- 8.3% were African-Americans.\* Persons of Hispanic origin (who may be of any race) represented 6.8% of the older population. About 3.4% were Asian or Pacific Islander,\* and less than 1% were American Indian or Native Alaskan.



- More than one in every eight, or 12.8%, of the population is an older American.
- 2.4 million persons celebrated their 65th birthday in 2008.
- Older women outnumber older men at 22.4 million older women to 16.5 million older men.
- The 85+ population numbered 5.7 million in 2008 and is projected to increase to 8.9 million in 2030.



Over 670,000 grandparents (and 234,000 spouses) aged 65 or over in 2007 maintained households with grandchildren present and had primary responsibility for these grandchildren.



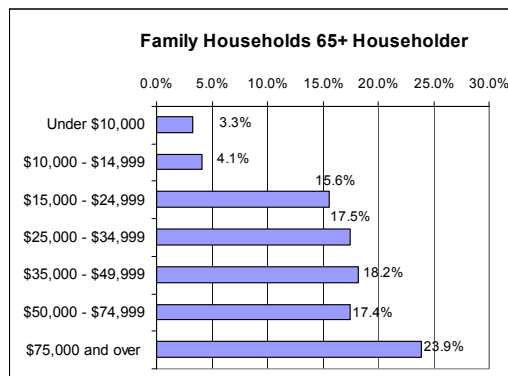
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AOA

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- About 1.62 million (4.4%) of the 65+ population lived in nursing homes and other institutions in 2007. The percentage increased dramatically with age, ranging from 1.3% for persons 65-74 years to 4.4% for persons 75-84 years and 15.4% for persons 85+.

## INCOME AND POVERTY

- The median income of older persons in 2007 was \$24,323 for males and \$14,021 for females. From 2006 to 2007, median income of all households headed by older people did not change in a statistically significant way.
- Households containing families headed by persons 65+ reported a median income in 2007 of \$41,851 (\$43,654 for non-Hispanic Whites, \$32,025 for African-Americans, \$47,135 for Asians, and \$31,544 for Hispanics).



**\$41,851 median for 12.5 million family households 65+**

- The major sources of income as reported by the Social Security Administration for older persons in 2006 were:
  - Social Security (reported by 89% of older persons),
  - Income from assets (reported by 55%),
  - Private pensions (reported by 29%),
  - Government employee pensions (reported by 14%), and
  - Earnings (reported by 25%).

- In 2006, Social Security benefits accounted for 37% of the aggregate income of the older population. The bulk of the remainder consisted of earnings (28%), asset income (15%), and pensions (18%).
- About 3.4 million elderly persons (9.7%) were below the poverty level in 2007. This change in the poverty rate was a statistically significant increase from the poverty rate in 2006 (9.4%). Another 2.4 million or 6.4% of the elderly were classified as "near-poor" (income between the poverty level and 125% of this level).
- Older women had a higher poverty rate (12.0%) than older men (6.6%) in 2007. Older persons living alone were much more likely to be poor (17.8%) than were older persons living with families (5.6%).

## HEALTH AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

In 2007, 39% of non-institutionalized older persons assessed their health as excellent or very good (compared to 64.8% for persons aged 18-64). There was little difference between the sexes on this measure, but African-Americans\* (23.7%), older American Indians/Alaska Natives (24.3%) and older Hispanics (28.9%) were less likely to rate their health as excellent or good than were older Whites\* (40.4%) or older Asians (34.1%).

- Most older persons have at least one chronic condition and many have multiple conditions. Among the most frequently occurring conditions of elderly in 2004-2005 were:
  - hypertension (48%),
  - diagnosed arthritis (47%),
  - all types of heart disease (29%),
  - any cancer (20%),
  - diabetes (16%), and
  - sinusitis (14%)



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