



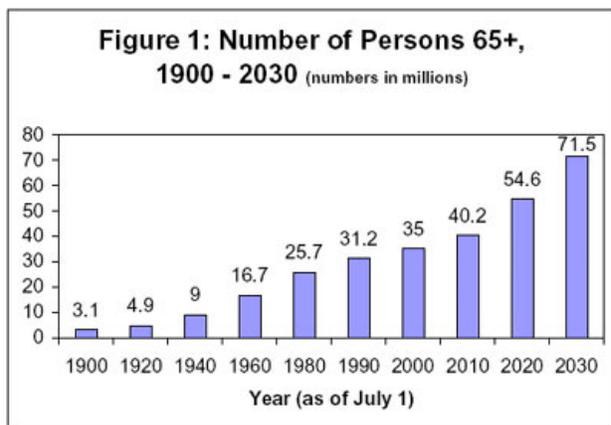
# A Statistical Profile of Older Americans Aged 65+

## DID YOU KNOW?

The older population (65+) numbered 35.6 million in 2002, an increase of 3.3 million or 10.2% since 1992.

By the year 2030, the older population will more than double to about 71.5 million.

Members of minority groups are projected to represent 26.4% of the older population in 2030, up from 16.4% in 2000.



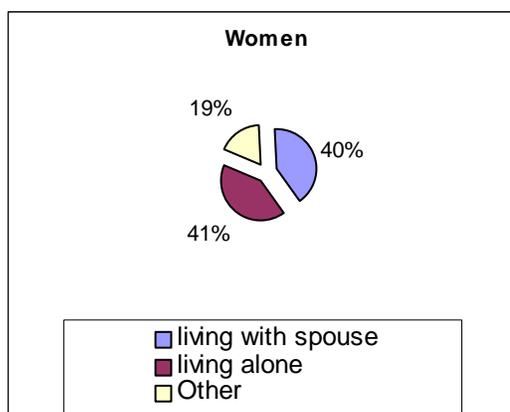
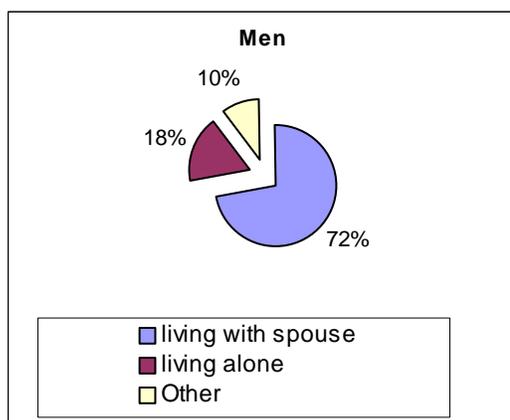
## CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Most older persons have at least one chronic condition and many have multiple conditions. Among the most frequently occurring conditions of the elderly in 2000-2001 were:

- Hypertension 49.2%
- Arthritic Symptoms 36.1%
- All types of heart disease 31.1%
- Any cancer 20%
- Sinusitis 15.1%
- Diabetes 15%

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The number of Americans aged 45-64 – who will reach 65 over the next two decades – increased by 38% during this decade.
- About one in every eight, or 12.3% of the population is an older American.
- Over 2.0 million persons celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2002.
- Older men were much more likely to be married than older women – 72% of men vs. 40% of women. Almost half of older women in 2002 were widows (46%).

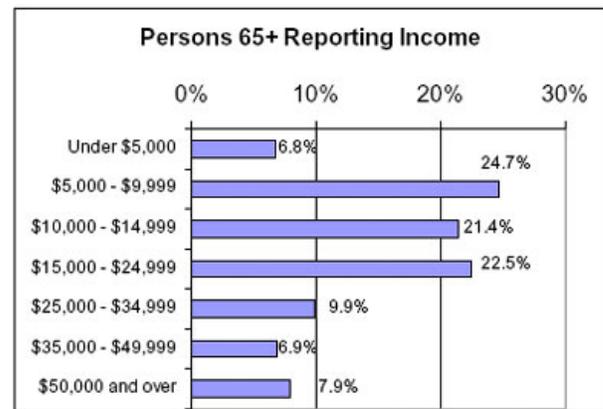


## MORE HIGHLIGHTS

- Older women outnumber older men at 20.8 million older women to 14.8 million older men.
- Half of older women age 75+ live alone.
- About 31% (10.5 million) of non-institutionalized older persons live alone (7.9 million women, 2.6 million men).
- Persons reaching age 65 have an average life expectancy of an additional 18.1 years (19.4 years for females and 16 years for males)
- Almost 400,000 grandparents aged 65 or more had the primary responsibility for their grandchildren who lived with them.
- The 85+ population is projected to increase from 4.6 million in 2002 to 9.6 million in 2030.

## INCOME

- The median income of older persons in 2002 was \$19,436 for males and \$11,406 for females. Median money income of all households headed by older people (after adjusting for inflation) fell by -1.4% from 2001 to 2002; however, this difference was not statistically significant.



*\$14,251 median for 33.3 million persons 65+ reporting income*

The Social Security Administration reported that the major sources of income for older people was:

- Social Security (reported by 91% of older persons),
- Income from assets (reported by 58%),
- Public and private pensions (reported by 40%), and
- Earnings (reported by 22%).

About 3.6 million older persons lived below the poverty level in 2002. The poverty rate for older persons was 10.4% in 2002 which is not statistically different from the rate in 2001. Another 2.2 million or 6.4% of the elderly were classified as “near-poor” (income between the poverty level and the 125% of this level.

*For a detailed report, please go to <http://www.aoa.gov/prof/Statistics/profile/profiles.asp> on the AoA website for the “Profile of Older Americans: 2003”*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

AoA recognizes the importance of making information readily available to consumers, professionals, researchers, and students. Our website provides information for and about older persons, their families, and professionals involved in aging programs and services. For more information about AoA, please contact: US Dept of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging, Washington, DC 20201; phone: (202) 401-4541; fax (202) 357-3560; Email: [aoainfo@aoa.gov](mailto:aoainfo@aoa.gov); or contact our website at: [www.aoa.gov](http://www.aoa.gov)