

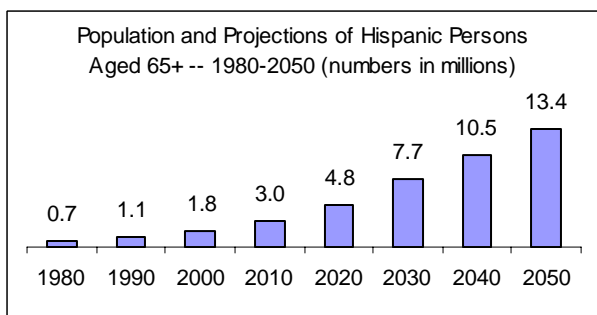


A Statistical Profile of Hispanic Older Americans Aged 65+

Introduction

Over 35.6 million Americans are aged 65 and over. Three in five people in this age group are women. Over the next forty years, the number of people aged 65 and older is expected to double and the number of people aged 85 and older is expected to triple. Along with general trends for America's population, Hispanic populations are living longer.

The Older Hispanic Population: Past, Present, and Future



The Hispanic older population was 2.0 million in 2002 and is projected to grow to over 13 million by 2050. In percentage terms, the 2002 Hispanic persons made up 5.5 percent of the older population. By 2050, the percentage of the older population that is Hispanic is projected to account for 16 percent of the older population. By 2028, the Hispanic population aged 65 and older is projected to be the largest racial/ethnic minority group in the 65+ age group.

Residence

In 2002, 72% of Hispanic persons aged 60 and over resided in four states: California (27%), Florida (16%), New York (9%), and Texas (20%).

Educational Level

Despite the overall increase in educational attainment among older Americans, there are still substantial educational differences among racial and ethnic groups. In 2002, about 35 percent of the Hispanic population aged 65 and older had finished high school, compared with 70 percent of the total older population. Also in 2002, 5.5 percent of Hispanic older Americans had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared with 16.7 percent of all older persons.

Living Arrangements

In 2000, 68 percent of Hispanic older men lived with their spouses, 16 percent lived with other relatives, 3 percent lived with non-relatives, and 14 percent lived alone. For older Hispanic older women, 38 percent lived with their spouses, 34 percent lived with other relatives, 3 percent lived with non-relatives, and 25 percent lived alone. Although older women are more likely to live alone than are older men for both populations, the percent of Hispanic elderly men and women living alone is lower than that of the general population. Also, the percent of Hispanic elderly living with other relatives is about twice that of the total population.

Poverty

The poverty rate in 2001 for Hispanic elderly (65 and older) was 22 percent, which was more than twice the percent for the total older population (10.1 percent).

Health

In 2003, only 28 % of Hispanic persons aged 65+ had received pneumococcal vaccination as compared to 58% of non-Hispanic Whites and 34% of non-Hispanic Blacks (Early Release, 2003 National Health Interview Survey)

In 2003, 7.4% of Hispanic persons aged 65+ needed help from other persons for personal care as compared to 5.1% for non-Hispanic Whites and 7.9% of non-Hispanic Blacks (Early Release, 2003 National Health Interview Survey)

In 2003, 15.8% of all persons aged 65+ (Hispanic and non-Hispanic) were diagnosed with diabetes. The rate among Hispanic persons is higher since the age-adjusted rate is among Hispanic persons is 44% higher than for non-Hispanic Whites (Early Release, 2003 National Health Interview Survey)

Self – Rated Health Status

During 1999, about 65 percent of Hispanic older men and 70 percent of Hispanic older women reported good or excellent health. Among the total 65+ population, this figure was 76 percent for men and 74 percent for women. Positive health evaluations decline with age. During 1994-1996, among Hispanic men ages 65-74, 69 percent reported good or excellent health, compared with 51 percent among those aged 85 or older. Similarly, among Hispanic women this rate declined from 65 percent at age 65-74 to 55 percent at age 85 or older.

Access to Medical Care

In 1998, about 2 percent of Hispanic older persons reported that they had difficulty in obtaining medical care; 5 percent reported delays in obtaining health care due to cost, and 5 percent reported that were unsatisfied with the health care which they received. The comparable figures for the total population aged 65 or older were 2 percent reported that they had difficulty in obtaining medical care, 4 percent reported delays in obtaining health care due to cost, and 3 percent reported that they were unsatisfied with the health care they which received.

Participation in Older Americans Act Programs
In 2002, State and Area Agencies on Aging provided services to a total of 7.5 million persons aged 60 and older. Consistent with the targeting requirements of the OAA, the “aging network” placed considerable emphasis on services to persons with the greatest social and economic need, including members of racial and ethnic minority groups, especially those who are poor. Among the OAA Title III service recipients, 6.1 percent were Hispanic elderly.

Data are from a variety of U.S. Government sources with differing sample sizes and designs. Much of this data is adapted from Older Americans 2000: Key Indicators of Well-Being, Appendix A: Detailed Tables including later updates. (See: <http://www.agingstats.gov>.) The last section, Participation in Older Americans Act Programs, reports data collected from State Agencies on Aging about persons served with Older Americans Act funds.

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) 619-0724; fax (202) 357-3560; Email: aoainfo@aoa.gov; or contact our website at: www.aoa.gov