

# FACTS for FEATURES



CB03-FF.06

April 25, 2003  
Quotes & radio sound bites

## Older Americans Month Celebrated in May

*Older Americans Month originated with a presidential proclamation in May 1963. It has been proclaimed by the president every year since then. Last year, President Bush stated, "Our seniors have cared for their families and communities, enhanced our economic prosperity, defended our nation and preserved and protected the Founders' vision. Their commitment to our future sets an inspiring example for all."*

### 35.3 million

The number of people 65 and over in the United States. That is 12 percent of the total population. In the first 15 months after Census 2000, 300,000 people moved into this age group.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/cb03-16.html>

### Income



**49**

The percentage of married-couple families with a householder age 65 and over who had an income of \$35,000 or more.

[http://ferret.bls.census.gov/macro/032002/hhinc/new02\\_000.htm](http://ferret.bls.census.gov/macro/032002/hhinc/new02_000.htm)

### 10.1

Poverty rate for people 65 and over, statistically unchanged from its all-time low.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/cb02-124.html>

### Coming to America



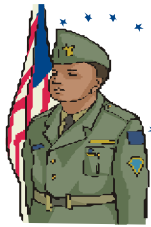
**3.1 million**

Number of people age 65 and over who are foreign-born.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/cb02-115a.html>

- Almost two-thirds of the older foreign-born population have lived in the United States for more than 30 years. <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/cb02-115a.html>>
- Seventy percent of the older foreign-born population are naturalized citizens, almost twice the proportion as the citizenship rate for the entire foreign-born population. <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/cb02-115a.html>>
- Europe is the primary source of older foreign-born residents — 39 percent began their lives there. <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/cb02-115a.html>>

## Serving Our Nation



**9.1 million**

Estimated number of people age 65 and over who are military veterans.  
<<http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>>

## Jobs



**18**

The percentage of men 65 and over in the civilian labor force. For women, the corresponding percentage is 10 percent.  
<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/cb03-32.html>>

## Education



**70**

The percentage of people 65 and over who have completed high school.  
<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/cb03-51.html>>

**17**

The percentage of people 65 and over who have a bachelor's degree or more education. <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/cb03-51.html>>

## Marital Status and Living Arrangements

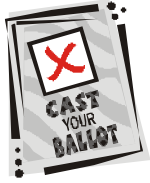


Among the population 65-to-74 years old, 77 percent of men and 53 percent of women live with their spouses.  
<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2001/cb01-113.html>>

Among the population 75 years and over, 67 percent of men and only 29 percent of women live with their spouses. Of the women, 49 percent live alone and 22 percent are not currently married but live with relatives or nonrelatives. Only 21 percent of men live alone at this age. <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2001/cb01-113.html>>

## Voting

**72**



Percentage of citizens ages 65 to 74 who voted in the last presidential election; that is the highest rate of any age group.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/cb02-31.html>

## Homeownership

**80**



Proportion of householders age 65 and over who own their homes. This compares with 68 percent for all householders.

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hvs.html>

## Population Distribution

### Nation

**More than 10X**



The size of the increase in the number of people age 65 and over during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The 85 and over population increased more than thirtyfold over the century. The entire population, in the meantime, more than tripled.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/cb02cn173.html>

**2011**

The year those born in the first year of the baby-boom generation reach age 65. Starting in 2011 and continuing through 2025, annual percentage increases in the older (age 65 and over) population will outstrip increases in the general population by three to four times. (During the first 15 months after Census 2000, the older population grew at a slower rate than the total population.)

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/cb02cn53.html>

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/cb03-16.html>

**2<sup>nd</sup>**

The United States' rank among nations of the world in number of people 80 and over. (China ranks first.) Although the United States contains less than 5 percent of the world's population, it has 13 percent of its people 80 and over.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/cb02cn53.html>

**70**

The number of men age 65 and over on July 1, 2001, for every 100 women in this age group. This ratio drops from 83 for those in the 65 to 74 age group to 42 for those 85 and over.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/cb03-16.html>

## 48,400

Estimated number of centenarians in the United States on July 1, 2001.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/cb03-16.html>>

### States, Counties and Cities

## 72

The percentage growth in Nevada's 65-and-over population between the 1990 and 2000 censuses. Nevada led the nation in the rate of growth of the older population, followed by Alaska (60 percent), Arizona (39 percent) and New Mexico (30 percent).

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2001/cb01cn184.html>>

## 18

The percentage of Florida's population that is 65 and over. Among states, Florida edged out Pennsylvania with the highest percentage of its population in this age group.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2001/cb01cn184.html>>

## 35

Percentage of residents of Charlotte County, Fla., who are 65 and over — the highest of any county in the nation. Similarly, among places with populations of 100,000 or more, Clearwater, Fla., has the highest percentage of older people: 21 percent.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2001/cb01cn184.html>>

### Recreation



The most popular form of recreation among people 65 and over is, by far, exercise walking: 15.8 million people in this age category, or close to 1-in-2, engage in this activity at least six times a year. The next most popular forms of exercise are swimming and exercising with equipment (3.8 million participants each) and playing golf (3.1 million).

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/cb03-32.html>>

Following is a list of observances typically covered by the Census Bureau's *Facts for Features* series:

African American History Month (February)  
Valentine's Day (Feb. 14)  
Women's History Month (March)  
St. Patrick's Day (March 17)  
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (May)  
Older Americans Month (May)  
Mother's Day (May 11)  
Father's Day (June 15)  
The Fourth of July (July 4)  
Anniversary of Americans With Disabilities Act (July 26)

Back to School (August)  
Labor Day (Sept. 1)  
Grandparents Day (Sept. 14)  
Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)  
Halloween (Oct. 31)  
American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month  
(November)  
Veterans Day (Nov. 11)  
Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 27)  
The Holiday Season (December)

**Editor's note:** Some of the preceding data were collected in surveys and, therefore, are subject to sampling error. Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau's Public Information Office: telephone: (301) 763-3030; fax: (301) 457-3670; or e-mail: <[pio@census.gov](mailto:pio@census.gov)>.