The Older Population: 2010

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INTRODUCTION

The older population is an important and growing segment of the United States population.[1] In fact, more people were 65 years and over in 2010 than in any previous census.[2] Between 2000 and 2010, the population 65 years and over increased at a faster rate (15.1 percent) than the total U.S population (9.7 percent). In addition to growth in the older population, pronounced growth in the male population 65 years and over occurred during the decade. The disproportionate increase in the older male population has not only contributed to the growth of the overall population 65 years and over, but has also led to a narrowing of the gap between males and females at the older ages. As larger numbers of males and females reach age 65 years and over, it becomes increasingly important to understand this population as well as the implications population aging has for various family, social, and economic aspects of society.

Figure 1.
Reproduction of the Question on Age and Date of Birth From the 2010 Census

4. What is this person's age and what is this person's date of birth?
Please report babies as age 0 when the child is less than 1 year old.
Print numbers in boxes.

Age on April 1, 2010	Month	Day	Year of birth

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census questionnaire.

This report describes the older population of the United States in 2010. It is part of a series that provides an overview of the population and housing data collected from the 2010 Census. It also provides information on the age and sex structure and geographic distribution of the population 65 years and over at the national and subnational levels.[3] The data for this report are based on the *2010 Census Summary File 1*, which is among the first data products released from the 2010 Census.[4]

AGE QUESTION

Data on the age composition of the United States and your community are derived from the 2010 Census question on age and date of birth (Figure 1).

Information on age has been collected from respondents since the first census in 1790. The 2010 Census data on age were

[1] In this report, the term "older" population refers to the population 65 years and over.

[2] Although the decennial censuses collected data on age since 1790, the specific age of a person in complete years (as of last birthday) was not collected until 1850, and data on the population 65 years and over was not published until 1870. Prior to 1850, enumerators marked people as being in a particular age group. Thus, comparisons of the population 65 years and over using historical census data are made with years in which the 65 years and over population was specifically published. In 1870, the population 65 years and over totaled 1.2 million and represented 3.0 percent of the total U.S. population. Source: <www.census.gov /prod/www/abs/decennial/1870.html>.

[3] This report discusses data for the 50 states and the District of Columbia as well as lower levels of geography within the states. Data for Puerto Rico are not discussed in this report.

[4] The *2010 Census Summary File 1* (SF1) contains data on age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, group quarters, relationship, tenure, and households at a variety of geographic levels down to the block level. For a detailed schedule of 2010 Census data products and release dates, visit <www.census.gov/population /www/cen2010/glance/index.html>.

United States Census Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Table 1.

Population 65 Years and Older by Age and Sex: 2000 and 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf*)

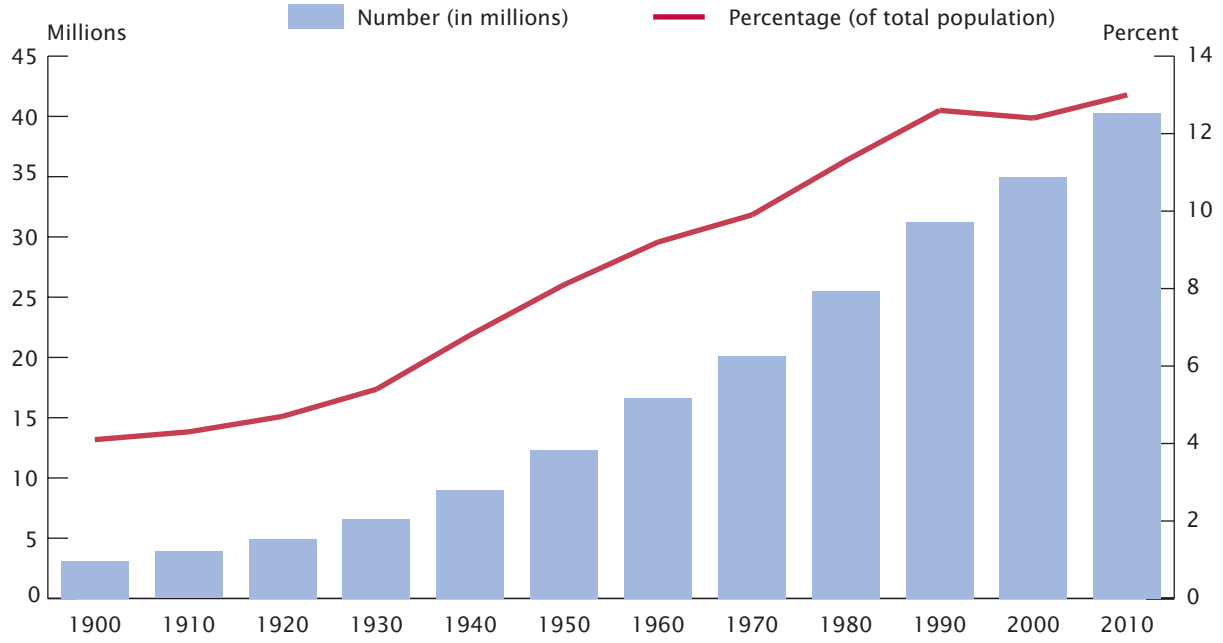
Sex and age	2000			2010			Change, 2000 to 2010	
	Number	Percentage of 65 years and over population	Percentage of U.S. total population	Number	Percentage of 65 years and over population	Percentage of U.S. total population	Number	Percentage
Both sexes, all ages	**281,421,906**	**(X)**	**100.0**	**308,745,538**	**(X)**	**100.0**	**27,323,632**	**9.7**
65 years and over	34,991,753	100.0	12.4	40,267,984	100.0	13.0	5,276,231	15.1
65 to 74 years	18,390,986	52.6	6.5	21,713,429	53.9	7.0	3,322,443	18.1
65 to 69 years	9,533,545	27.2	3.4	12,435,263	30.9	4.0	2,901,718	30.4
70 to 74 years	8,857,441	25.3	3.1	9,278,166	23.0	3.0	420,725	4.7
75 to 84 years	12,361,180	35.3	4.4	13,061,122	32.4	4.2	699,942	5.7
75 to 79 years	7,415,813	21.2	2.6	7,317,795	18.2	2.4	–98,018	–1.3
80 to 84 years	4,945,367	14.1	1.8	5,743,327	14.3	1.9	797,960	16.1
85 to 94 years	3,902,349	11.2	1.4	5,068,825	12.6	1.6	1,166,476	29.9
85 to 89 years	2,789,818	8.0	1.0	3,620,459	9.0	1.2	830,641	29.8
90 to 94 years	1,112,531	3.2	0.4	1,448,366	3.6	0.5	335,835	30.2
95 years and over	337,238	1.0	0.1	424,608	1.1	0.1	87,370	25.9
95 to 99 years	286,784	0.8	0.1	371,244	0.9	0.1	84,460	29.5
100 years and over	50,454	0.1	–	53,364	0.1	–	2,910	5.8
Median age, 65 years and over	74.5	(X)	(X)	74.1	(X)	(X)	–0.4	(X)
Male, all ages	**138,053,563**	**(X)**	**49.1**	**151,781,326**	**(X)**	**49.2**	**13,727,763**	**9.9**
65 years and over	14,409,625	41.2	5.1	17,362,960	43.1	5.6	2,953,335	20.5
65 to 74 years	8,303,274	23.7	3.0	10,096,519	25.1	3.3	1,793,245	21.6
65 to 69 years	4,400,362	12.6	1.6	5,852,547	14.5	1.9	1,452,185	33.0
70 to 74 years	3,902,912	11.2	1.4	4,243,972	10.5	1.4	341,060	8.7
75 to 84 years	4,879,353	13.9	1.7	5,476,762	13.6	1.8	597,409	12.2
75 to 79 years	3,044,456	8.7	1.1	3,182,388	7.9	1.0	137,932	4.5
80 to 84 years	1,834,897	5.2	0.7	2,294,374	5.7	0.7	459,477	25.0
85 to 94 years	1,158,826	3.3	0.4	1,698,254	4.2	0.6	539,428	46.5
85 to 89 years	876,501	2.5	0.3	1,273,867	3.2	0.4	397,366	45.3
90 to 94 years	282,325	0.8	0.1	424,387	1.1	0.1	142,062	50.3
95 years and over	68,172	0.2	–	91,425	0.2	–	23,253	34.1
95 to 99 years	58,115	0.2	–	82,263	0.2	–	24,148	41.6
100 years and over	10,057	–	–	9,162	–	–	–895	–8.9
Median age, 65 years and over	73.5	(X)	(X)	73.2	(X)	(X)	–0.3	(X)
Female, all ages	**143,368,343**	**(X)**	**50.9**	**156,964,212**	**(X)**	**50.8**	**13,595,869**	**9.5**
65 years and over	20,582,128	58.8	7.3	22,905,024	56.9	7.4	2,322,896	11.3
65 to 74 years	10,087,712	28.8	3.6	11,616,910	28.8	3.8	1,529,198	15.2
65 to 69 years	5,133,183	14.7	1.8	6,582,716	16.3	2.1	1,449,533	28.2
70 to 74 years	4,954,529	14.2	1.8	5,034,194	12.5	1.6	79,665	1.6
75 to 84 years	7,481,827	21.4	2.7	7,584,360	18.8	2.5	102,533	1.4
75 to 79 years	4,371,357	12.5	1.6	4,135,407	10.3	1.3	–235,950	–5.4
80 to 84 years	3,110,470	8.9	1.1	3,448,953	8.6	1.1	338,483	10.9
85 to 94 years	2,743,523	7.8	1.0	3,370,571	8.4	1.1	627,048	22.9
85 to 89 years	1,913,317	5.5	0.7	2,346,592	5.8	0.8	433,275	22.6
90 to 94 years	830,206	2.4	0.3	1,023,979	2.5	0.3	193,773	23.3
95 years and over	269,066	0.8	0.1	333,183	0.8	0.1	64,117	23.8
95 to 99 years	228,669	0.7	0.1	288,981	0.7	0.1	60,312	26.4
100 years and over	40,397	0.1	–	44,202	0.1	–	3,805	9.4
Median age, 65 years and over	75.2	(X)	(X)	74.8	(X)	(X)	–0.4	(X)

(X) Not applicable

– Percentage rounds to 0.0

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Summary File 1* and *2010 Census Summary File 1*.

Figure 2.
Population 65 Years and Older by Size and Percent of Total Population: 1900 to 2010
(For more information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov /prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf*)



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census of population, 1900 to 2000; *2010 Census Summary File 1*.

derived from a two-part age question in which both age and date of birth were asked of all people. Similar to Census 2000, the age question in the 2010 Census asked for age in complete years as well as month, day, and year of birth. In 2010, however, an instruction was added to the age question that guided respondents to report babies less than one year old as age 0.

THE 65 YEARS AND OLDER POPULATION: A SNAPSHOT

Data from the 2010 Census provide detailed age statistics on the total population as well as the population 65 years and over.[5] According to the 2010 Census, there were 40.3 million people who were 65 years and over on April 1, 2010 (Table 1). This is an increase of 5.3 million over Census 2000, when this population numbered 35.0 million. The percentage of the population 65 years and over also increased from 2000 to 2010. In 2010, the older population represented 13.0 percent of the total population, an increase from 12.4 percent found in 2000.

When compared with the number of older people in the past, the population 65 years and over has notably increased over time. In 1900, there were 3.1 million people aged 65 and over in the United States (Figure 2). As the population 65 years and over steadily increased throughout the twentieth century, the older population reached its highest level at 40.3 million in 2010—up from 31.2 million in 1990 and 35.0 million in 2000.

The older population's share of the total population has also been trending upward. The population 65 years and over made up just 4.1 percent of the total population in 1900, and since then steadily increased except for the period between 1990 and 2000. The population aged 65 and over grew slower than that of younger ages during the 1990 to 2000 decade and resulted in a smaller share of the older population in 2000 than 1990. In 1990, the older population represented 12.6 percent of the total population compared with 12.4 percent in 2000. However, in 2010, the population 65 years and over was larger than in any other decennial census at 13.0 percent.

[5] For additional 2010 Census age and sex information, see U.S. Census Bureau, 2011, *Age and Sex Composition: 2010*, by Lindsay M. Howden and Julie A. Meyer, 2010 Census Briefs, C2010BR-03, available at <www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs /c2010br-03.pdf>.

The 65 years and over population grew at a faster rate than the total population.

Between 2000 and 2010, the total population increased by 9.7 percent, from 281.4 million to 308.7 million. Growth over the decade was even faster for the population 65 years and over, which grew 15.1 percent. This is the opposite of what happened between 1990 and 2000 when the growth of the older population was slower than the growth of the total population. From 1990 to 2000, the total population grew by 13.2 percent and the population 65 years and over grew by only 12.0 percent.

Population size and growth varied among the older age groups.

Table 1 presents data on the distribution of the population for selected older age groups. In 2010, the number of people aged 65 to 74 was 21.7 million and represented 53.9 percent of the total population 65 years and over. The number of people 75 to 84 years old totaled 13.1 million and made up 32.4 percent of the total population 65 years and over. The population 85 to 94 years old contained 5.1 million people and made up 12.6 percent of the total population 65 years and over. Finally, the population 95 years and over was roughly 425,000 persons and represented 1.1 percent of the older population.

An examination of the growth of ten-year age groups among the older population shows that the 85 to 94 year old group experienced the fastest growth between 2000 and 2010. This group grew by 29.9 percent, increasing from 3.9 million to 5.1 million. Within this age group, 85 to 89 year olds increased by 29.8 percent and 90 to 94 year olds increased by 30.2 percent. The population 95 years and over experienced a similar rate of growth (25.9 percent), and increased from 337,000 to 425,000 between 2000 and 2010.

As shown in Table 1, the population 65 to 74 years experienced slower growth (18.1 percent) than the oldest ten-year age groups. However, within the 65 to 74 year old age group, 65 to 69 year olds experienced faster growth than any other five-year age group within the older population. The 65 to 69 year old age group grew by 30.4 percent and increased from 9.5 million to 12.4 million. This age group represents the leading edge of the Baby Boom and is expected to grow more rapidly over the next decade as the first Baby Boomers start turning 65 in 2011.[6]

The ten-year age group with the slowest growth between 2000 and 2010 was the group 75 to 84 years (5.7 percent), which increased from 12.4 million to 13.1 million. Growth in this age group was mainly due to those aged 80 to 84, which grew by 16.1 percent. During the decade, a decrease was noted in the number of people aged 75 to 79 from 7.4 million to 7.3 million, resulting in a decline of 1.3 percent.[7]

Evidence of varied growth in the older ages can also be seen in the median age of the population 65 years and over, which decreased from 74.5 in 2000 to 74.1 in 2010. Median age indicates the age at which half of the population is above and half of the population is below a certain age. While the rapid rate of growth has been occurring in the oldest ages, growth in the 65 to 69 year old age group has contributed to lowering the median age of the population 65 years and over.

Males experienced more rapid growth than females in the older ages.

Males show more rapid growth in the older population than females over the decade. While females continue to outnumber males in the older ages, males continued to close the gap over the decade by increasing at a faster rate than females. The largest growth rate for a ten-year age group was for males 85 to 94 years old (46.5 percent). Females in this age group also increased but to a smaller degree (22.9 percent). When five-year age groups are compared, males 90 to 94 years old had the largest growth rate (50.3 percent) while females in this age group grew by 23.3 percent.

The age group that experienced the largest growth for females was 65 to 69 year olds (28.2 percent). When ten-year age groups are compared, the age group that experienced the largest growth rate for females was for those 95 years and over (23.8 percent). The only five-year age group in which females experienced larger growth than males was the age group 100 years and older. This age group grew by 9.4 percent for females and declined by 8.9 percent for males.

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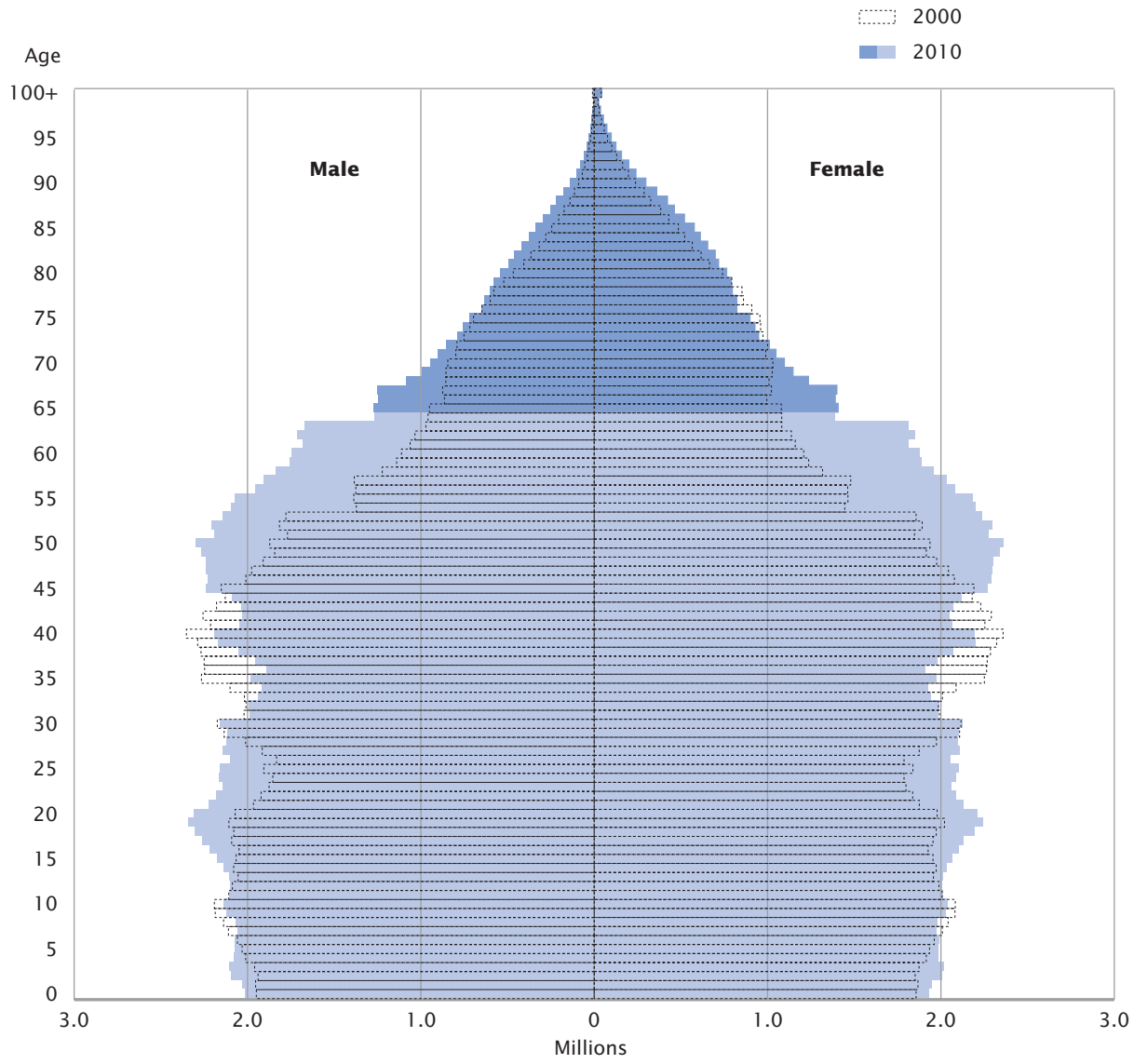
[6] The Baby Boom includes people born from mid-1946 to 1964. The Baby Boom is distinguished by a dramatic increase in birth rates following World War II, and is one of the largest generations in U.S. history. For more information, see: Hogan, Perez, and Bell, 2008, *Who (Really) Are the First Baby Boomers?* In Joint Statistical Meetings Proceedings, Social Statistics Section, Alexandria, VA: American Statistical Association, pp. 1009–1016.

[7] The changes in the 75 to 79 year old age group mainly reflect the relatively low number of births during the late 1920s and early 1930s. The relatively low number of births during that period has resulted in fewer numbers of people entering these older ages during the previous decade. Between 1990 and 2000, decreases were noted in the 65 to 69 year old age group, and this population has aged forward to now show decreases in the 75 to 79 year old population.

Figure 3.

Population by Age and Sex: 2000 and 2010

(For more information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf*)



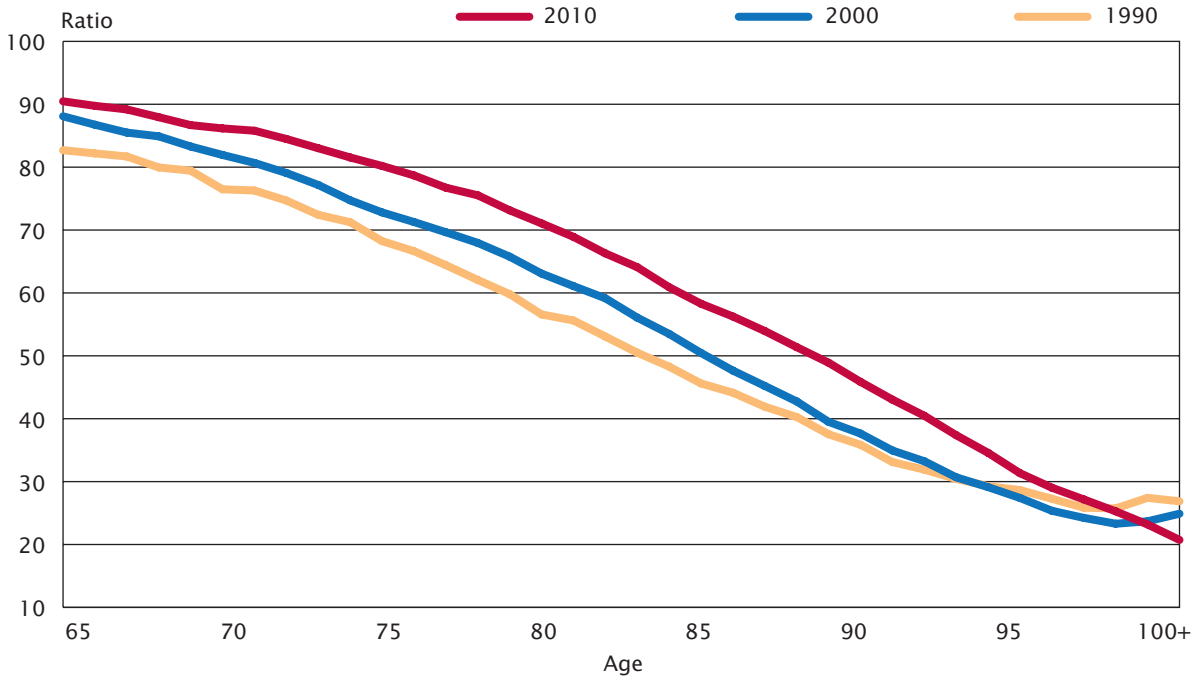
Note: The lighter shade of blue represents ages 0 to 64 in the 2010 Census. The darker shade of blue represents ages 65 years and over in the 2010 Census.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Summary File 1* and *2010 Census Summary File 1*.

In addition to examining the number, percent, and growth rate of certain age groups, the age-sex pyramid is another key tool for assessing a population's age and sex composition (Figure 3). The age-sex pyramid shows the numeric distribution of males (on the left) and females (on the right) by single years of age. Both the 2000 and 2010 pyramids are shown together so that population shifts in the shape of the pyramid can be more easily assessed. The older population is also shaded darker for easier identification.

As the pyramid shows, there was notable growth in the older ages between 2000 and 2010 for both males and females. The population pyramid also gives some context

Figure 4.
Sex Ratio by Age: 1990, 2000, and 2010
(For more information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf)



Note: Sex ratio is calculated as the number of males per 100 females.
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *1990 Census Summary File 2C, Census 2000 Summary File 1*, and *2010 Census Summary File 1*.

to how the population distribution will likely shift in the near future. The Baby Boom population in 2010 appears as a bulge in the middle of the pyramid (at ages 46 to 64). This bulge will begin aging into the 65 and older ages in coming years, and indicates that future growth of the older population is both highly probable and unprecedented in the United States.

Females continue to outnumber males at older ages, but the gap is narrowing.

The lines at the topmost part of the age-sex pyramid display the differences that exist between the number of males and the number of females at the older ages. In both 2000 and 2010, women outnumbered men in the older population at every single year of age (i.e., 65 to 100 years and over). This is apparent by the longer lines at the top of the pyramid for females when compared with males. While this gender-gap has been narrowing, females continue to outpace males with longer life expectancy and lower mortality rates at older ages.[8] The disparity between males and females at the older ages is also apparent in the sex ratio at older ages.

The sex ratio is a common measure used to indicate the balance of males and females in a population. It is derived by taking the number of males divided by the number of females and multiplying by 100. Simply stated, the sex ratio is the number of males per 100 females. For example, a sex ratio of exactly 100 would indicate equal numbers of males and females. A sex ratio higher than 100 shows more males in a population, and a sex ratio under 100 shows more females. Typically, the sex ratio at birth is about 105 males to every 100 females. Then, as males experience higher rates of mortality than females at almost every age, the sex ratio declines as age increases. This results in more women than men in the older populations.

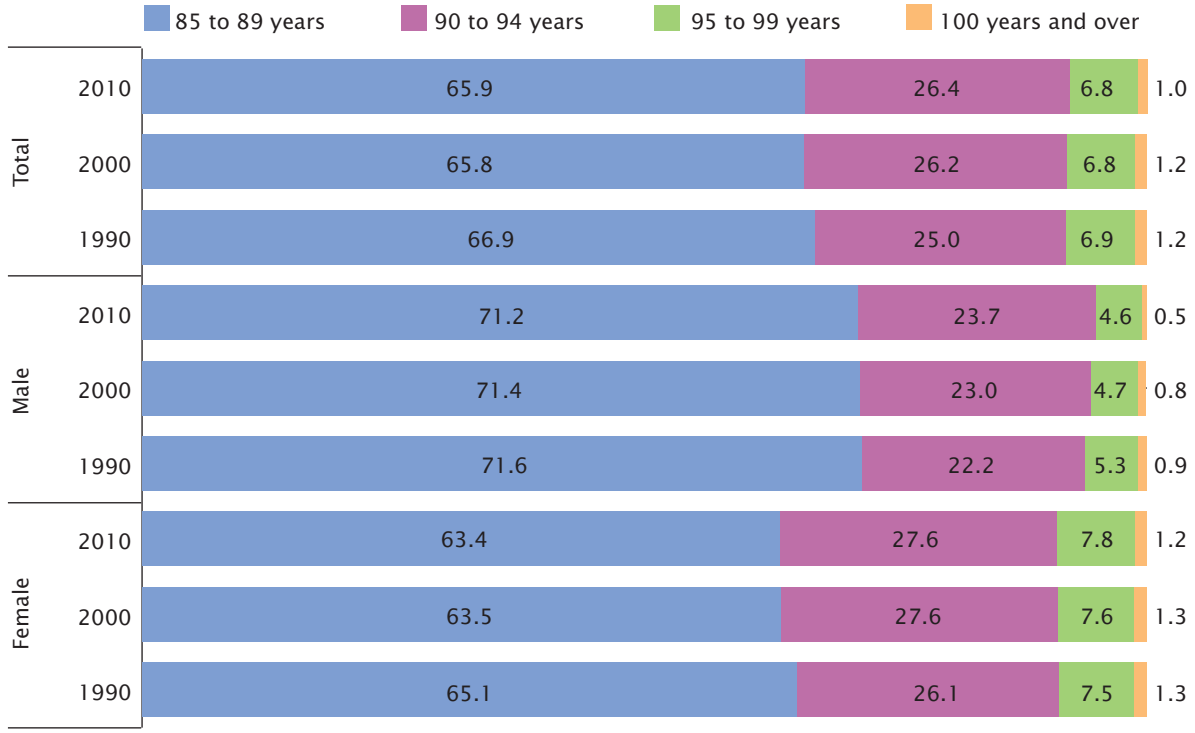
As the results in Figure 4 illustrate, there have been more females than

[8] Kochanek, Kenneth, et al., 2011, *Deaths: Preliminary Data for 2009,* National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 59, No. 4.

Figure 5.

Percent Distribution of the Oldest-Old Population by Age and Sex: 1990, 2000, and 2010

(For more information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf*)



Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *1990 Census Summary File 2C*, *Census 2000 Summary File 1*, and *2010 Census Summary File 1*.

males in the older population across the last three censuses. This is evidenced by the lines on the graph being below the 100 mark for all data points. The graph also reveals a noteworthy increase in the sex ratio over time as male and female mortality differentials continue to narrow and more males enter and age into the older population. For single years of age above age 65, the sex ratios were higher in 2010 than in 2000 and 1990.[9] This means that there are increasing numbers of males per females in the older ages.

In 2010, there were 90.5 males per 100 females in the 65 year old population, an increase from 2000 and 1990 when the sex ratios were 88.1 and 82.7, respectively (Figure 4). Increases are also apparent in the older ages where the sex ratio for the population at age 75 was 80.2 in 2010, up from 72.8 in 2000 and 68.2 in 1990. The population 85 years old also experienced increases in the sex ratio over the past three censuses. The population at the age of 85 had 58.3 males per 100 females in 2010, 50.5 males per 100 females in 2000, and 45.6 males per 100 females in 1990.

Of the oldest-old, 90 to 94 year olds had the greatest increase in percentage.

In addition to examining the sex ratio, the percent distribution of the population aged 85 and over (the oldest-old) by sex can provide additional findings about differences that exist in the oldest ages of the population (Figure 5).[10] Among the oldest-old, the age group 85 to 89 years made up the greatest share of the distribution in 1990, 2000, and 2010. The largest percentage point increase for the oldest-old population over the previous two decades was concentrated in the 90 to 94 year old age group, which increased from 25.0 percent

[9] The sex ratio at age 99 and above is lower in 2010 than it was in 2000 or 1990. This could be due to a variety of factors associated with the centenarian population, including data quality. For additional information on the centenarian population, see U.S. Census Bureau, 1999, *Centenarians in the United States: 1990* by Constance Krach and Victoria Velkoff, Current Population Reports, Series P23-199RV, available at <www.census.gov/prod/99pubs/p23-199.pdf>.

[10] In this report, the term "oldest-old" population refers to the population 85 years and over.

in 1990 to 26.2 percent in 2000, and 26.4 percent in 2010. The age group 95 to 99 years, while showing numeric increase and positive percent change, maintained the same share of the oldest-old age distribution in 2010 as it did in 2000. Similarly, the population 100 years and over increased in number from 1990 to 2000 to 2010. However, due to larger growth in the other "oldest-old" ages, the share of the oldest-old population that was 100 years and over in the 2010 Census has decreased since Census 2000.

For both males and females 85 years and over, the majority of the oldest-old population was concentrated in the 85 to 89 year old age group. However, differences emerge between the sexes when the distribution of the male population 85 years and over is compared with the distribution of the female population 85 years and over. For males, a greater portion of the population 85 years and over was concentrated in the 85 to 89 year old age group than the female population. In 2010, 71.2 percent of the oldest-old male population was in the 85 to 89 year old age group, compared with 63.4 percent of the oldest-old female population in the 85 to 89 year old age group. These differences in percentages between males and females were due to larger shares of the female population living longer and experiencing lower mortality in the older ages than males.

The proportion of males 90 to 94 years old increased more than females within the oldest-old distribution between 2000 and 2010.

Even though females still outnumber males in the oldest-old ages, the gap between males and females in the oldest ages is narrowing. Males 90 to 94 years have been increasing so that in 2010, 23.7 percent of males who were 85 years and over were in the 90 to 94 year old age group. This is up from 23.0 percent in 2000 and 22.2 percent in 1990. Females, while still increasing in number for this age group, did not have as large a gain between 2000 and 2010. Females 85 years and over that were ages 90 to 94 maintained a share of 27.6 percent in both 2010 and 2000. This is an increase from 26.1 percent in 1990.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

In addition to providing national level population statistics, the census also provides data for lower levels of geography. The following section contains information on the older population by regions, states, inside or outside metropolitan/micropolitan areas, counties, and places with a total population of at least 100,000.

REGION AND STATE

The South had the largest number of people in the older ages, while the Northeast had the largest percentage of people in the older ages.

Comparisons across the four census regions in 2010 show that the South contained the greatest number of people 65 years and over and 85 years and over (Table 2).[11] The Midwest contained the second largest number of people 65 years and over and 85 years and over while the West contained the third largest number of people 65 years and over and the smallest number of people 85 years and over. The Northeast, on the other hand, contained the smallest number of people 65 years and over and the third largest number of people 85 years and over.

In addition to comparing the older population by number in each region, a comparison of the older population by percentage yields a different ranking. The Northeast had the largest percentage of people 65 years and over (14.1 percent), followed by the Midwest (13.5 percent), the South (13.0 percent), and the West (11.9 percent). The Northeast also contained the largest percentage of people 85 years and over (2.2 percent), followed by the Midwest (2.0 percent), and the West and South (each with 1.6 percent).

The West had the fastest growth in the population 65 years and over and the population 85 years and over.

When compared with Census 2000, all regions show positive growth in both the 65 years and over and 85 years and over population. The region with the most rapid growth in the population 65 years and

[11] The Northeast region includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Midwest includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The South includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. The West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Table 2.

Population 65 Years and Older and Population 85 Years and Older for the United States, Regions, and States, and for Puerto Rico: 2000 and 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf*)

Area	2000					2010					Percent change, 2000 to 2010		
		65 years and over		85 years and over			65 years and over		85 years and over				
	Total population	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Total population	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Total population	65 years and over	85 years and over
United States	**281,421,906**	**34,991,753**	**12.4**	**4,239,587**	**1.5**	**308,745,538**	**40,267,984**	**13.0**	**5,493,433**	**1.8**	**9.7**	**15.1**	**29.6**
REGION													
Northeast	53,594,378	7,372,282	13.8	938,459	1.8	55,317,240	7,804,833	14.1	1,199,702	2.2	3.2	5.9	27.8
Midwest	64,392,776	8,259,075	12.8	1,064,295	1.7	66,927,001	9,022,334	13.5	1,320,640	2.0	3.9	9.2	24.1
South	100,236,820	12,438,267	12.4	1,430,546	1.4	114,555,744	14,893,985	13.0	1,821,982	1.6	14.3	19.7	27.4
West	63,197,932	6,922,129	11.0	806,287	1.3	71,945,553	8,546,832	11.9	1,151,109	1.6	13.8	23.5	42.8
STATE													
Alabama	4,447,100	579,798	13.0	67,301	1.5	4,779,736	657,792	13.8	75,684	1.6	7.5	13.5	12.5
Alaska	626,932	35,699	5.7	2,634	0.4	710,231	54,938	7.7	4,711	0.7	13.3	53.9	78.9
Arizona	5,130,632	667,839	13.0	68,525	1.3	6,392,017	881,831	13.8	103,400	1.6	24.6	32.0	50.9
Arkansas	2,673,400	374,019	14.0	46,492	1.7	2,915,918	419,981	14.4	51,402	1.8	9.1	12.3	10.6
California	33,871,648	3,595,658	10.6	425,657	1.3	37,253,956	4,246,514	11.4	600,968	1.6	10.0	18.1	41.2
Colorado	4,301,261	416,073	9.7	48,216	1.1	5,029,196	549,625	10.9	69,613	1.4	16.9	32.1	44.4
Connecticut	3,405,565	470,183	13.8	64,273	1.9	3,574,097	506,559	14.2	84,898	2.4	4.9	7.7	32.1
Delaware	783,600	101,726	13.0	10,549	1.3	897,934	129,277	14.4	15,744	1.8	14.6	27.1	49.2
District of Columbia	572,059	69,898	12.2	8,975	1.6	601,723	68,809	11.4	10,315	1.7	5.2	–1.6	14.9
Florida	15,982,378	2,807,597	17.6	331,287	2.1	18,801,310	3,259,602	17.3	434,125	2.3	17.6	16.1	31.0
Georgia	8,186,453	785,275	9.6	87,857	1.1	9,687,653	1,032,035	10.7	113,823	1.2	18.3	31.4	29.6
Hawaii	1,211,537	160,601	13.3	17,564	1.4	1,360,301	195,138	14.3	30,238	2.2	12.3	21.5	72.2
Idaho	1,293,953	145,916	11.3	18,057	1.4	1,567,582	194,668	12.4	25,242	1.6	21.1	33.4	39.8
Illinois	12,419,293	1,500,025	12.1	192,031	1.5	12,830,632	1,609,213	12.5	234,912	1.8	3.3	7.3	22.3
Indiana	6,080,485	752,831	12.4	91,558	1.5	6,483,802	841,108	13.0	115,272	1.8	6.6	11.7	25.9
Iowa	2,926,324	436,213	14.9	65,118	2.2	3,046,355	452,888	14.9	74,658	2.5	4.1	3.8	14.7
Kansas	2,688,418	356,229	13.3	51,770	1.9	2,853,118	376,116	13.2	59,318	2.1	6.1	5.6	14.6
Kentucky	4,041,769	504,793	12.5	58,261	1.4	4,339,367	578,227	13.3	69,208	1.6	7.4	14.5	18.8
Louisiana	4,468,976	516,929	11.6	58,676	1.3	4,533,372	557,857	12.3	65,686	1.4	1.4	7.9	11.9
Maine	1,274,923	183,402	14.4	23,316	1.8	1,328,361	211,080	15.9	29,136	2.2	4.2	15.1	25.0
Maryland	5,296,486	599,307	11.3	66,902	1.3	5,773,552	707,642	12.3	98,126	1.7	9.0	18.1	46.7
Massachusetts	6,349,097	860,162	13.5	116,692	1.8	6,547,629	902,724	13.8	145,199	2.2	3.1	4.9	24.4
Michigan	9,938,444	1,219,018	12.3	142,460	1.4	9,883,640	1,361,530	13.8	191,881	1.9	–0.6	11.7	34.7
Minnesota	4,919,479	594,266	12.1	85,601	1.7	5,303,925	683,121	12.9	106,664	2.0	7.8	15.0	24.6
Mississippi	2,844,658	343,523	12.1	42,891	1.5	2,967,297	380,407	12.8	44,359	1.5	4.3	10.7	3.4
Missouri	5,595,211	755,379	13.5	98,571	1.8	5,988,927	838,294	14.0	113,779	1.9	7.0	11.0	15.4
Montana	902,195	120,949	13.4	15,337	1.7	989,415	146,742	14.8	20,021	2.0	9.7	21.3	30.5
Nebraska	1,711,263	232,195	13.6	33,953	2.0	1,826,341	246,677	13.5	39,308	2.2	6.7	6.2	15.8
Nevada	1,998,257	218,929	11.0	16,989	0.9	2,700,551	324,359	12.0	30,187	1.1	35.1	48.2	77.7
New Hampshire	1,235,786	147,970	12.0	18,231	1.5	1,316,470	178,268	13.5	24,761	1.9	6.5	20.5	35.8
New Jersey	8,414,350	1,113,136	13.2	135,999	1.6	8,791,894	1,185,993	13.5	179,611	2.0	4.5	6.5	32.1
New Mexico	1,819,046	212,225	11.7	23,306	1.3	2,059,179	272,255	13.2	31,993	1.6	13.2	28.3	37.3
New York	18,976,457	2,448,352	12.9	311,488	1.6	19,378,102	2,617,943	13.5	390,874	2.0	2.1	6.9	25.5
North Carolina	8,049,313	969,048	12.0	105,461	1.3	9,535,483	1,234,079	12.9	147,461	1.5	18.5	27.3	39.8
North Dakota	642,200	94,478	14.7	14,726	2.3	672,591	97,477	14.5	16,688	2.5	4.7	3.2	13.3
Ohio	11,353,140	1,507,757	13.3	176,796	1.6	11,536,504	1,622,015	14.1	230,429	2.0	1.6	7.6	30.3
Oklahoma	3,450,654	455,950	13.2	57,175	1.7	3,751,351	506,714	13.5	61,912	1.7	8.7	11.1	8.3
Oregon	3,421,399	438,177	12.8	57,431	1.7	3,831,074	533,533	13.9	77,872	2.0	12.0	21.8	35.6
Pennsylvania	12,281,054	1,919,165	15.6	237,567	1.9	12,702,379	1,959,307	15.4	305,676	2.4	3.4	2.1	28.7
Rhode Island	1,048,319	152,402	14.5	20,897	2.0	1,052,567	151,881	14.4	26,750	2.5	0.4	–0.3	28.0
South Carolina	4,012,012	485,333	12.1	50,269	1.3	4,625,364	631,874	13.7	70,717	1.5	15.3	30.2	40.7
South Dakota	754,844	108,131	14.3	16,086	2.1	814,180	116,581	14.3	19,226	2.4	7.9	7.8	19.5
Tennessee	5,689,283	703,311	12.4	81,465	1.4	6,346,105	853,462	13.4	99,917	1.6	11.5	21.3	22.7
Texas	20,851,820	2,072,532	9.9	237,940	1.1	25,145,561	2,601,886	10.3	305,179	1.2	20.6	25.5	28.3
Utah	2,233,169	190,222	8.5	21,751	1.0	2,763,885	249,462	9.0	30,991	1.1	23.8	31.1	42.5
Vermont	608,827	77,510	12.7	9,996	1.6	625,741	91,078	14.6	12,797	2.0	2.8	17.5	28.0
Virginia	7,078,515	792,333	11.2	87,266	1.2	8,001,024	976,937	12.2	122,403	1.5	13.0	23.3	40.3
Washington	5,894,121	662,148	11.2	84,085	1.4	6,724,540	827,677	12.3	117,271	1.7	14.1	25.0	39.5
West Virginia	1,808,344	276,895	15.3	31,779	1.8	1,852,994	297,404	16.0	35,921	1.9	2.5	7.4	13.0
Wisconsin	5,363,675	702,553	13.1	95,625	1.8	5,686,986	777,314	13.7	118,505	2.1	6.0	10.6	23.9
Wyoming	493,782	57,693	11.7	6,735	1.4	563,626	70,090	12.4	8,602	1.5	14.1	21.5	27.7
Puerto Rico	**3,808,610**	**425,137**	**11.2**	**47,706**	**1.3**	**3,725,789**	**541,998**	**14.5**	**62,596**	**1.7**	**–2.2**	**27.5**	**31.2**

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Summary File 1* and *2010 Census Summary File 1*.

Table 3.
Residence in Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Areas by Age and by Region: 2010
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf*)

Area of residence and age	Total population		Northeast		Midwest		South		West	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total population										
All ages[1]	308,745,538	100.0	55,317,240	17.9	66,927,001	21.7	114,555,744	37.1	71,945,553	23.3
65 years and over	40,267,984	13.0	7,804,833	2.5	9,022,334	2.9	14,893,985	4.8	8,546,832	2.8
85 years and over	5,493,433	1.8	1,199,702	0.4	1,320,640	0.4	1,821,982	0.6	1,151,109	0.4
Inside metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area										
All ages[1]	289,261,315	100.0	53,868,425	18.6	60,443,283	20.9	105,279,729	36.4	69,669,878	24.1
65 years and over	36,917,778	12.8	7,554,783	2.6	7,831,177	2.7	13,358,307	4.6	8,173,511	2.8
85 years and over	5,065,675	1.8	1,167,488	0.4	1,142,622	0.4	1,646,940	0.6	1,108,625	0.4
Outside metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area										
All ages[1]	19,484,223	100.0	1,448,815	7.4	6,483,718	33.3	9,276,015	47.6	2,275,675	11.7
65 years and over	3,350,206	17.2	250,050	1.3	1,191,157	6.1	1,535,678	7.9	373,321	1.9
85 years and over	427,758	2.2	32,214	0.2	178,018	0.9	175,042	0.9	42,484	0.2

[1] Percentage shown for "all ages" is the regional distribution.

Note: Metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas defined by the Office of Management and Budget as of December 2009 <www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/bulletins/b10-02.pdf>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *2010 Census Summary File 1*.

over was the West (23.5 percent), increasing from 6.9 million in 2000 to 8.5 million in 2010. The region with the fastest growth in the population 85 years and over was also the West (42.8 percent), increasing from 806,000 in 2000 to 1.2 million in 2010. To note, the South had the fastest total population growth between 2000 and 2010 followed by the West (14.3 percent and 13.8 percent, respectively).

Rhode Island was the only state to exhibit numeric decline in the population 65 years and over.

Among the 50 states, Rhode Island was the only one to exhibit a decrease in the number of people 65 years and over, declining from 152,402 in 2000 to 151,881 in 2010 (–0.3 percent). The decrease in the older population in Rhode Island was largely driven by decreases in the 70 to 74 and 75 to 79 year old age groups.[12]

Compared with other states, Florida had the greatest share of the population that was 65 years and over in both 2000 and 2010 (17.6 percent and 17.3 percent, respectively). In 2010, it was followed by West Virginia (16.0 percent), Maine (15.9 percent), Pennsylvania (15.4 percent), and Iowa (14.9 percent).

The state with the lowest share of the population 65 years and over was Alaska in both 2000 and 2010 (5.7 percent and 7.7 percent, respectively). Alaska is also notable as the state with the largest growth rate for the population 65 years and over. The state's older population grew from 35,699 in 2000 to 54,938 in 2010, resulting in a percent change of 53.9 percent.

The District of Columbia's older population declined from 69,898 in 2000 to 68,809 in 2010, resulting in a decrease of 1.6 percent. The percentage of the population that was 65 years and over also decreased from 12.2 percent in 2000 to 11.4 percent in 2010.

The population 85 years and over increased in all states. Between 2000 and 2010, all states experienced increases in the number of people that were 85 years and over. However, the magnitude of growth varied among the states for the oldest-old population.

Alaska had the largest percent change between 2000 and 2010 for the population 85 years and over, which grew 78.9 percent by increasing from 2,634 in 2000 to 4,711 in 2010. Mississippi had the slowest growth (3.4 percent) and increased from 42,891 in 2000 to 44,359 in 2010. Alaska was also

[12] The decreases noted in the 70 to 74 and 75 to 79 year old age groups in Rhode Island between 2000 and 2010 could be due to several factors. Changes could reflect the relatively low number of births during the late 1920s and early 1930s. The lower fertility rates for that time period resulted in a smaller generation of people who are now aging into the 70 to 74 and 75 to 79 year old age groups. Out-migration of older adults from the state may also be contributing to decreases noted in selected older population age groups.

the state with the lowest number and percentage of the population 85 years and over when compared with other states.

The state containing the largest percentage of the population 85 years and over in 2010 was Rhode Island. In 2010, people 85 years and over made up 2.5 percent of the total state population compared with 2.0 percent in 2000. This increase in the share of total state population in the oldest-old ages moved Rhode Island from being ranked fifth in 2000 to first in 2010 among states ranked by percentage of the population in the age group 85 years and over. North Dakota, which had been ranked first in 2000, was ranked second in 2010.

Only two states, Mississippi and Oklahoma, maintained the same share of the total state population that was 85 years and over in 2010 as in 2000 (1.5 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively). However, as noted earlier, the size of the oldest-old population still grew between 2000 and 2010 in these states.

METROPOLITAN AND MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS

The older population was more likely to live inside a metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area than outside a metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area.

In 2010, 36.9 million people aged 65 and over lived inside a metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area and 3.4 million lived outside of a metropolitan or micropolitan area (Table 3).[13] However, the older population, which made up 13.0 percent of the total population in 2010, accounted for a disproportionally larger share of the population that lived outside metro or micro areas. Of the 19.5 million people that lived outside metro or micro areas, 17.2 percent were aged 65 and older. Of the 289.3 million people that lived inside metro or micro areas, 12.8 percent were 65 years and over.

The population 85 years and over follows a similar pattern as the population 65 years and over. They were most likely to live inside a metropolitan or micropolitan area. In 2010, 427,758 people aged 85 and over lived outside of a metro or micro statistical area while 5.1 million people aged 85 and over lived inside these areas. Although a larger number of people 85 years and over lived inside metro or micro areas, people in these ages made up a greater share of the population that lived outside a metro or micro area. The oldest-old population made up 2.2 percent of the population that lived outside a metro or micro area and 1.8 percent of the population that lived inside a metro or micro area.

The older population was more likely to live inside a metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area in the South when compared with other regions.

The metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area distribution of the older population further varies by region. Of the total population that lived inside a metro or micro area, 36.4 percent were located in the South, 24.1 percent in the West, 20.9 percent in the Midwest, and 18.6 percent in the Northeast.

The population 65 years and over that lived inside metro or micro areas was 4.6 percent in the South, 2.8 percent in the West, 2.7 percent in the Midwest, and 2.6 percent in the Northeast.

In contrast to the regional patterns for the total population and older population that lived inside a metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area, the population 85 years and over maintained the same share of the population across three of the four census regions. In the Northeast, the Midwest, and the West, the population 85 years and over made up 0.4 percent of the total population that lived inside a metro or micro area. In the South, the population 85 years and over made up 0.6 percent.

When the population living outside a metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area is examined, different findings emerge. Of the total population living outside a metro or micro area, 47.6 percent were located in the South, 33.3 percent in the Midwest, 11.7 percent in the West, and 7.4 percent in the Northeast. Of the U.S. population that lived outside metro or micro

[13] There were 942 metropolitan or micropolitan statistical areas defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as of December 2009. Metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas—metro and micro areas—are geographic entities defined by the OMB for use by federal statistical agencies in collecting, tabulating, and publishing federal statistics. Metro and micro areas are collectively known as core based statistical areas (CBSAs). A metro area contains a core urban area population of 50,000 or more. A micro area contains a core urban area population of at least 10,000 (but less than 50,000). Each metro or micro area consists of one or more counties and includes the counties containing the core urban area, as well as any adjacent counties that have a high degree of social and economic integration (as measured by commuting to work) with the urban core. A metro or micro area's geographic delineation, or list of geographic components at a particular point in time, is referred to as its definition. This report uses metro and micro area definitions published by OMB as of December 2009. For additional information see <www.census.gov/geo/www/2010census/GTC_10.pdf>.

areas, 7.9 percent were 65 years and over and in the South, 6.1 percent in the Midwest, 1.9 percent in the West, and 1.3 percent in the Northeast. The population 85 years and over that lived outside metro or micro areas was 0.9 percent in the Midwest, 0.9 percent in the South, 0.2 percent in the West, and 0.2 percent in the Northeast.

COUNTIES AND PLACES

Three of the top five counties with the greatest percentage of the population in the 65 years and over age group are found in Florida.

When the older population is viewed at the county-level, patterns of distribution of people 65 years and over generally follow the state and regional trends noted earlier.[14] Higher shares of the older population can be seen in counties across the Midwest, particularly the Great Plains and Northern Rocky Mountain area as well as the Northeastern Appalachia areas and clustered in states such as Florida and Arizona (Figure 6). The relatively high percentages of the population 65 years and over in much of the Great Plains and Appalachia areas is largely due to continued out-migration of the younger population and population aging of the older residents, known as "aging in place." Clusters of counties with high percentages of the population 65 years and over in states such as Florida and Arizona reflect a growing in-migration of retirees as these states also have notable growth in the size of the older population between 2000 and 2010.

In 2010, three of the top five counties with the highest percentages of the population in the age group 65 years and over were in Florida. The county with the highest share of the population 65 years and over was Sumter County, Florida (43.4 percent), followed by Charlotte County, Florida (34.1 percent), McIntosh County, North Dakota (34.0 percent), La Paz County, Arizona (32.6 percent), and Highlands County, Florida (32.2 percent).

In Sumter County, Florida, Charlotte County, Florida, La Paz County, Arizona, and Highlands County, Florida the population 65 years and over increased between 2000 and 2010. The high percentage of residents in these counties that were 65 years and over thus largely reflects the fact that these areas were popular retiree destinations. Conversely, in McIntosh County, North Dakota, the older population decreased between 2000 and 2010. Although still maintaining a large share of the older population, the population decline in this county likely indicates that a degree of out-migration is occurring for younger ages and the remaining older adults are "aging in place."

Similar to patterns noted with the population 65 years and over, the percentage of the population in the oldest-old ages also clusters in the Great Plains area as well as areas in Southern Florida (Figure 6). Reflective of the "aging in place" of the older population in the Midwest, the county with the highest percentage of the population 85 years and over was Hooker County, Nebraska (8.3 percent), followed by McIntosh County, North Dakota (7.5 percent), Divide County, North Dakota (6.5 percent), Traverse County, Minnesota (6.2 percent) and Jerauld County, South Dakota (6.1 percent).

The number of people 65 years and over more than doubled in 21 counties in the United States.

Growth in the number of people 65 years and over was primarily in the Sierra Nevada and Rocky Mountain areas of the nation (Figure 7). Counties in Texas, Georgia, Alaska, and Virginia also experienced notable growth in the older population. Of the 21 counties that experienced at least a doubling of their population 65 years and over, five were located in Colorado, five in Georgia, five in Texas, three in Alaska, two in Virginia, and one in Florida. More specifically, three of the five counties that were ranked as having the largest growth were located in Colorado. The five counties with the greatest percent change between 2000 and 2010 are as follows: Summit County, Colorado, (180.3 percent), Douglas County, Colorado (177.8 percent), Sumter County, Florida (177.3 percent), Denali Borough, Alaska (136.2 percent), and Eagle County, Colorado (135.2 percent).

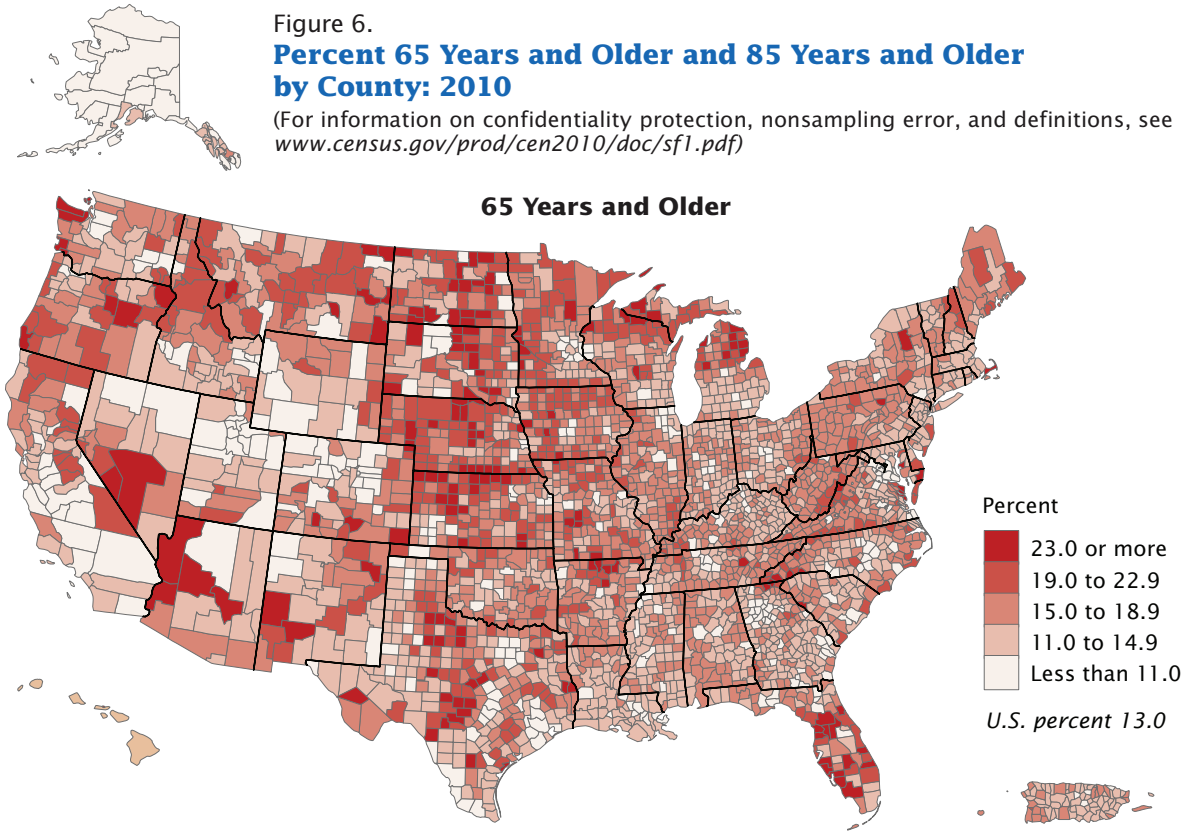
As shown in Figure 7, many counties in the Great Plains experienced population decline in the older ages as the number of people 65 years and over decreased over the decade. Contributing to this decline in the Great Plains area was cohort

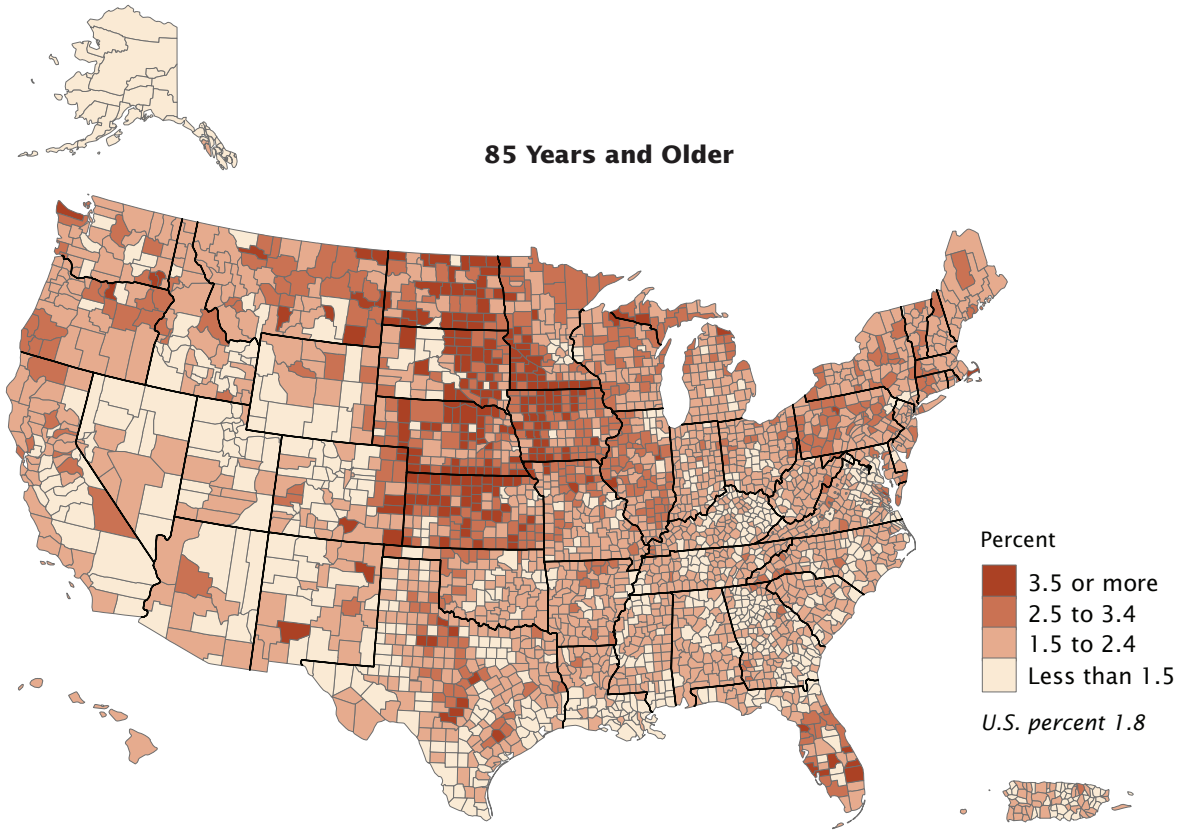
[14] The primary legal divisions of most states are termed "counties." In Louisiana, these divisions are known as parishes. In Alaska, which has no counties, the statistically equivalent entities are census areas, city and boroughs (as in Juneau City and Borough), a municipality (Anchorage), and organized boroughs. Census areas are delineated cooperatively for data presentation purposes by the state of Alaska and the U.S. Census Bureau. In four states (Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, and Virginia), there are one or more incorporated places that are independent of any county organization and thus constitute primary divisions of their states; these incorporated places are known as "independent cities" and are treated as equivalent to counties for data presentation purposes. The District of Columbia has no primary divisions, and the entire area is considered equivalent to a county and a state for data presentation purposes.

Figure 6.

Percent 65 Years and Older and 85 Years and Older by County: 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf*)



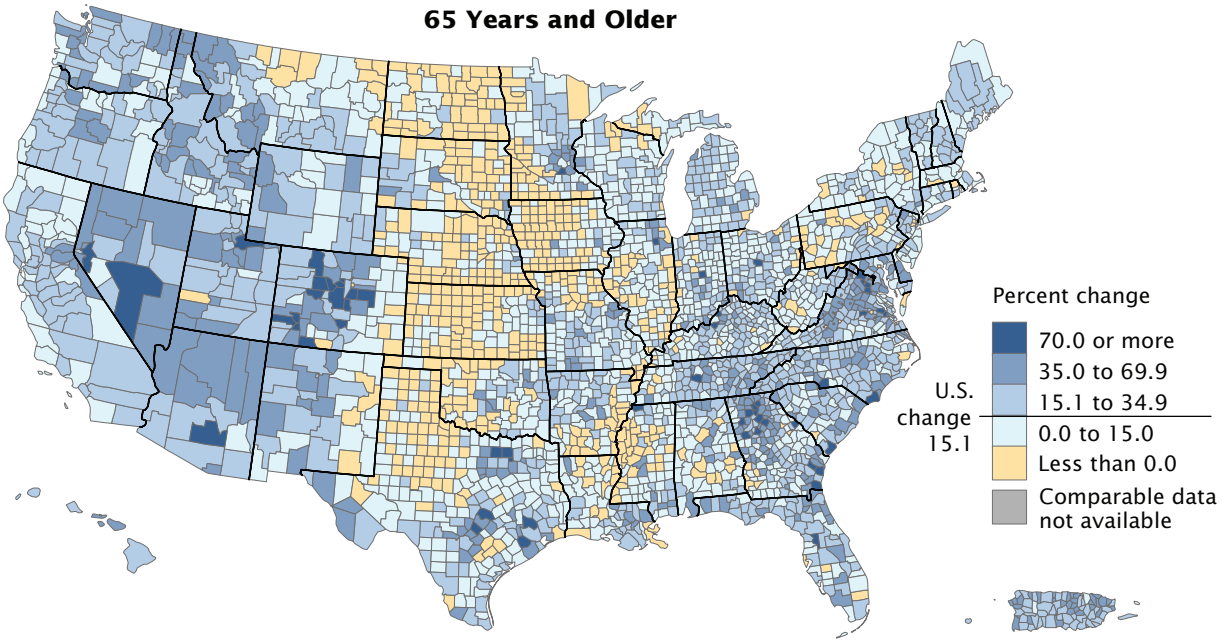


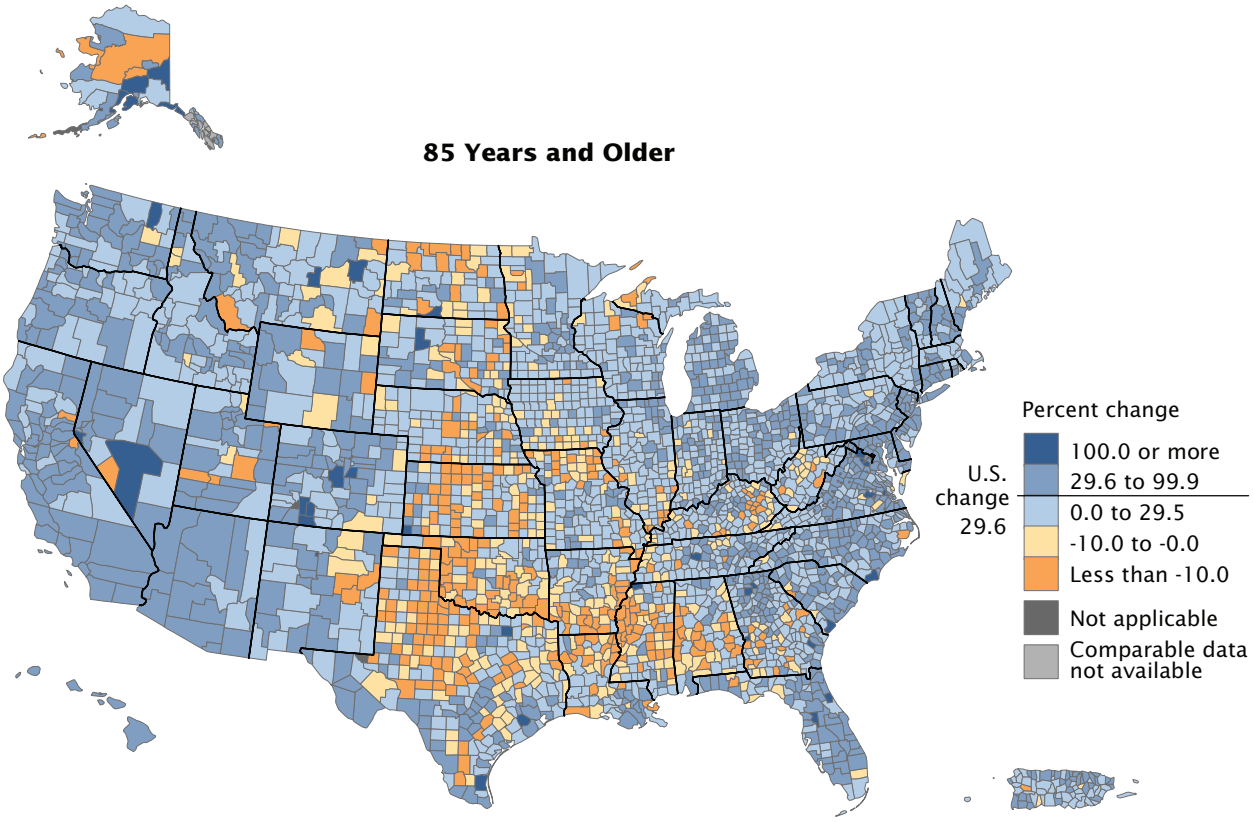
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *2010 Census Summary File 1*.

Figure 7.

Percent Change in Population 65 Years and Older and 85 Years and Older by County: 2000 to 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf)*





Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Summary File 1* and *2010 Census Summary File 1*.

aging, older age mortality, and out-migration.[15]

Patterns of growth for the oldest-old population also follow patterns noted with the population 65 years and over (Figure 7). Counties in the Sierra Nevada and Rocky Mountain areas experienced the most pronounced growth while counties in the Great Plains to Central Texas areas and counties extending into areas of Louisiana, southern Arkansas, Mississippi, and Alabama display the most pronounced population decline in ages 85 years and over. The top five counties that exhibited the most growth in the population 85 years and over are: Yakutat City and Borough, Alaska (400.0 percent), Petroleum County, Montana (400.0 percent), Douglas County, Colorado (271.2 percent), Chattahoochee County, Georgia (222.2 percent), and Manassas Park city, Virginia (191.3 percent).[16]

All counties in Rhode Island and Maine contained higher percentages of the 65 years and older population than the nation.

Following similar regional level analyses earlier in the report, the Northeast and the Midwest contained large percentages of counties where the percentage of the population 65 years and over exceeded that of the nation. However, while the Northeast region of the United States showed the largest overall percentage of the population 65 years and over, there were higher percentages

[15] A cohort is a group of people born during a specified period of time. For example, the relatively low number of births during the 1930s resulted in a small generation of people who aged into the 70 to 74 and 75 to 79 year old age groups in 2010.

[16] Manassas Park city, Virginia is considered an incorporated place in Virginia and is independent of any county organization; though it is bordered by the city of Manassas and Prince William County, it is known as an "independent city" and is treated as equivalent to counties for data presentation purposes.

Table 4.
Counties Exceeding the U.S. Percent 65 Years and Older and 85 Years and Older by Region and State: 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf*)

Area	Total counties	Counties exceeding U.S. percent 65 years and over[1]		Counties exceeding U.S. percent 85 years and over[2]	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
United States	**3,143**	**2,378**	**75.7**	**1,871**	**59.5**
Northeast	**217**	**181**	**83.4**	**183**	**84.3**
Connecticut	8	6	75.0	7	87.5
Maine	16	16	100.0	16	100.0
Massachusetts	14	10	71.4	12	85.7
New Hampshire	10	7	70.0	7	70.0
New Jersey	21	9	42.9	16	76.2
New York	62	53	85.5	50	80.6
Pennsylvania	67	63	94.0	61	91.0
Rhode Island	5	5	100.0	5	100.0
Vermont	14	12	85.7	9	64.3
Midwest	**1,055**	**904**	**85.7**	**854**	**80.9**
Illinois	102	87	85.3	88	86.3
Indiana	92	75	81.5	55	59.8
Iowa	99	93	93.9	95	96.0
Kansas	105	89	84.8	92	87.6
Michigan	83	72	86.7	60	72.3
Minnesota	87	67	77.0	75	86.2
Missouri	115	100	87.0	86	74.8
Nebraska	93	87	93.5	82	88.2
North Dakota	53	47	88.7	48	90.6
Ohio	88	73	83.0	58	65.9
South Dakota	66	54	81.8	51	77.3
Wisconsin	72	60	83.3	64	88.9
South	**1,423**	**1,026**	**72.1**	**618**	**43.4**
Alabama	67	55	82.1	29	43.3
Arkansas	75	64	85.3	47	62.7
Delaware	3	2	66.7	1	33.3
District of Columbia	1	–	–	–	–
Florida	67	51	76.1	31	46.3
Georgia	159	91	57.2	39	24.5
Kentucky	120	87	72.5	38	31.7
Louisiana	64	30	46.9	12	18.8
Maryland	24	12	50.0	11	45.8
Mississippi	82	48	58.5	30	36.6
North Carolina	100	78	78.0	51	51.0
Oklahoma	77	65	84.4	46	59.7
South Carolina	46	36	78.3	10	21.7
Tennessee	95	82	86.3	38	40.0
Texas	254	175	68.9	128	50.4
Virginia	134	98	73.1	70	52.2
West Virginia	55	52	94.5	37	67.3
West	**448**	**267**	**59.6**	**216**	**48.2**
Alaska	29	3	10.3	–	–
Arizona	15	10	66.7	5	33.3
California	58	28	48.3	27	46.6
Colorado	64	34	53.1	28	43.8
Hawaii	5	4	80.0	3	60.0
Idaho	44	28	63.6	21	47.7
Montana	56	49	87.5	43	76.8
Nevada	17	10	58.8	3	17.6
New Mexico	33	23	69.7	14	42.4
Oregon	36	29	80.6	30	83.3
Utah	29	11	37.9	7	24.1
Washington	39	26	66.7	25	64.1
Wyoming	23	12	52.2	10	43.5

– Represents zero or rounds to 0.0

[1]U.S. percent 65 years and older was 13.0 percent.

[2]U.S. percent 85 years and older was 1.8 percent.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *2010 Census Summary File 1*.

of counties in the Midwest that had shares of the population in the older age group (Table 4). Specifically, 83.4 percent of the counties in the Northeast and 85.7 percent of the counties in the Midwest exceeded the U.S. percentage of the population 65 years and over.[17]

There were also two states, both located in the Northeast, where the percentage of the population that was 65 years and over exceeded the U.S. percent in all counties. In both Maine and Rhode Island, 100 percent of the counties within the states had shares of the population in the older ages that were greater than the national percentage of 13.0 percent.

In addition to containing the greatest percentage of counties that had shares of the population 65 years and over that were higher than the nation, the Northeast and the Midwest also contained the greatest share of counties with percentages of the population 85 years and over that exceeded the national percentage.[18] In the Northeast, 84.3 percent of counties exceeded the U.S. percentage 85 years and over. In the Midwest, 80.9 percent of counties exceeded the U.S. percentage 85 years and over.

While more than half of the counties in the West and the South did exceed the national proportion of the population 65 years and over, the share of counties in the West and the South that exceeded the national percentage for both the 65 years and older and 85 years and older population was lower than the share of counties in the Northeast and the Midwest. Higher rates of in-migration and fertility patterns in the West and the South for many counties contribute to the lower share of counties having proportions of the population 65 years and over that exceeded the national figure.

Table 5.
Ten Places With the Highest and Lowest Percentage of Their Population 65 Years and Older: 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf*)

Place[1]	Total population	Population 65 years and over	
		Number	Percent
Highest percent 65 years and over			
Scottsdale city, AZ	217,385	43,471	20.0
Clearwater city, FL	107,685	21,330	19.8
Hialeah city, FL	224,669	42,864	19.1
Surprise city, AZ	117,517	22,327	19.0
Urban Honolulu CDP, HI	337,256	60,162	17.8
Metairie CDP, LA	138,481	23,716	17.1
Cape Coral city, FL	154,305	26,180	17.0
Warren city, MI	134,056	21,644	16.1
Independence city, MO	116,830	18,769	16.1
Miami city, FL	399,457	63,987	16.0
Lowest percent 65 years and over			
West Jordan city, UT	103,712	4,817	4.6
Killeen city, TX	127,921	6,618	5.2
Frisco city, TX	116,989	6,298	5.4
Fontana city, CA	196,069	11,084	5.7
Provo city, UT	112,488	6,570	5.8
Gilbert town, AZ	208,453	12,628	6.1
Enterprise CDP, NV	108,481	6,734	6.2
Moreno Valley city, CA	193,365	12,134	6.3
Aurora city, IL	197,899	12,789	6.5
Thornton city, CO	118,772	7,726	6.5

[1] Places of 100,000 or more total population. The 2010 Census showed 282 places in the United States with 100,000 or more population. They included 273 incorporated places (including 5 consolidated cities) and 9 census designated places (CDPs) that were not legally incorporated.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *2010 Census Summary File 1*.

Among places with a population of 100,000 or more, four of the ten places with the highest percentage of the population 65 years and over were located in Florida.

Table 5 lists the ten places (among places with a population of 100,000 or more) with the highest and lowest percentage of the population 65 years and over in 2010.[19] Of the ten places with the highest percentage of the population 65 years and over, five places were located in the South (four of which were in Florida), three in the West, and two in the Midwest. All ten places had percentages of the population in the age group 65 years and over that were higher than the national percentage of 13.0 percent.

Scottsdale city, Arizona contained the highest percentage of people 65 years and over among places with 100,000 or more people in 2010 (20.0 percent). Reflective of

[17] In 2010, the percentage of the population in the age group 65 years and over was 13.0 percent for the nation. Of the 3,143 total counties in the United States, 2,378 counties (75.7 percent) exceeded the national percentage.

[18] In 2010, the percentage of the population in the age group 85 years and over was 1.8 percent. Of the 3,143 total counties in the United States, 1,871 counties (59.5 percent) exceeded the national percentage.

[19] The 2010 Census showed 282 places in the United States with 100,000 or more population. They included 273 incorporated places (including 5 city/county consolidations) and 9 census designated places (CDPs) that were not legally incorporated.

Table 6.
Ten Places With the Highest and Lowest Percentage of Their Population 85 Years and Older: 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf*)

Place[1]	Total population	Population 85 years and over	
		Number	Percent
Highest percent 85 years and over			
Urban Honolulu CDP, HI	337,256	11,781	3.5
Clearwater city, FL	107,685	3,725	3.5
Santa Rosa city, CA	167,815	4,654	2.8
Warren city, MI	134,056	3,636	2.7
Scottsdale city, AZ	217,385	5,821	2.7
Metairie CDP, LA	138,481	3,665	2.6
Pueblo city, CO	106,595	2,818	2.6
Billings city, MT	104,170	2,749	2.6
Springfield city, MO	159,498	4,209	2.6
Rockford city, IL	152,871	3,970	2.6
Lowest percent 85 years and over			
West Jordan city, UT	103,712	390	0.4
Enterprise CDP, NV	108,481	423	0.4
Frisco city, TX	116,989	470	0.4
Killeen city, TX	127,921	524	0.4
Gilbert town, AZ	208,453	999	0.5
North Las Vegas city, NV	216,961	1,068	0.5
Fontana city, CA	196,069	1,020	0.5
West Valley City city, UT	129,480	689	0.5
Moreno Valley city, CA	193,365	1,083	0.6
Miramar city, FL	122,041	725	0.6

[1] Places of 100,000 or more total population. The 2010 Census showed 282 places in the United States with 100,000 or more population. They included 273 incorporated places (including 5 consolidated cities) and 9 census designated places (CDPs) that were not legally incorporated.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *2010 Census Summary File 1*.

the growth in the older population between 2000 and 2010, the share of the population in the 65 and over age group increased from 2000, when the city was ranked ninth among places with the highest proportion of their population 65 years and over.

Of the ten places with the lowest percentage of the population 65 years and over, seven places were located in the West, two in the South, and one in the Midwest. Utah, Texas, and California each contained two places where the percentage of the population in the 65 years and over age group ranked in the bottom ten.

West Jordan city, Utah, contained the lowest percentage of people 65 years and over among places with 100,000 or more people in 2010 (4.6 percent), followed by Killeen city, Texas (5.2 percent) and Frisco city, Texas (5.4 percent). In these places, as well as other places listed as having the lowest percentage of people 65 years and older, higher concentrations of people in the younger ages resulted in a smaller relative share of older adults in 2010. Many of the places listed in the lower panel of Table 5 were suburbs of large metropolitan areas where residents aged 18 to 64 (working ages) and under 18 years made up greater shares of the total population. To note, Killeen city, Texas was associated with the Fort Hood military base, which contributed to the lower percentage of people 65 years and over. Provo city, Utah is home to a large university that contributes to the lower share of older adults.

Among places with a population of 100,000 or more, the places with the highest and lowest proportion of their population in the 85 and over age group were located in the West.

Of the ten places with a population of 100,000 or more with the highest percentage of their population 85 years and over, five were located in the West, three in the Midwest, and two in the South (Table 6). Four of the places appearing among the top ten in Table 6 for having a high percentage of their population in the 85 years and over age group are also listed among the top ten places for percentage of the population in the 65 years and over age group. This includes Urban Honolulu CDP, Hawaii; Clearwater city, Florida; Warren city, Michigan; and Metairie CDP, Louisiana.

The place with the highest percentage of its population in the 85 and over age group was Urban Honolulu CDP, located in Hawaii (3.5 percent), followed by Clearwater city, Florida (3.5 percent) and Santa Rosa city, California (2.8 percent).[20] Interestingly, Florida, which contained more places among the top ten places with the highest proportion of their population in the 65 years and over age group than other states, contains only one place on the list of the top ten places for the highest percentage of their population in the 85 years and over age group.

[20] Urban Honolulu CDP, Hawaii, has a higher percentage of its population in the 85 years and over age group than Clearwater city, Florida, when the percent is rounded to two decimal places. However, for data presentation purposes, only one decimal place appears in the table.

While the West contained the most places among the top ten places with the highest proportion of their population 85 years and over, the West also had seven cities listed among the top ten places with the lowest percentage of their population 85 years and over (Table 6). Specifically, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and California were states in the West that contained places with low percentages of their population 85 years and over. The place with the lowest percentage of its population in the 85 and over age group, West Jordan city, Utah (0.4 percent), was also the place with the lowest percentage of its population in the 65 years and over age group.

The South had three places appearing on the list of the ten places with the lowest proportion of their population in the oldest-old age group. Two of the southern places were located in Texas while one was located in Florida.

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS ON THE OLDER POPULATION

At what age were there almost twice as many women as men?[21]

In the 2010 Census, there were approximately twice as many women as men at age 89 (361,309 compared with 176,689, respectively). This point occurred about 4 years older than it did in 2000, and 6 years older than it did in 1990. This increase is further evidence of the narrowing gap in mortality between men and women occurring at the older ages.

[21] This finding originally appeared in the U.S. Census Bureau brief on age and sex, issued May 2011. See U.S. Census Bureau, 2011, *Age and Sex Composition: 2010,* by Lindsay M. Howden and Julie A. Meyer, 2010 Census Briefs, C2010BR-03, available at <www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-03.pdf>.

Table 7.
Population 65 Years and Older in Skilled-Nursing Facilities by Selected Age Groups and Sex: 2010
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf*)

Sex and age	Total population	In skilled-nursing facilities	
		Number	Percent
Both sexes, all ages	**308,745,538**	**1,502,264**	**0.5**
Total 65 years and over	**40,267,984**	**1,252,635**	**3.1**
65 to 74 years	21,713,429	197,310	0.9
75 to 84 years	13,061,122	420,790	3.2
85 to 94 years	5,068,825	529,689	10.4
95 years and over	424,608	104,846	24.7
95 to 99 years	371,244	87,621	23.6
100 years and over	53,364	17,225	32.3
Male, all ages	**151,781,326**	**500,185**	**0.3**
Total 65 years and over	**17,362,960**	**360,762**	**2.1**
65 to 74 years	10,096,519	88,814	0.9
75 to 84 years	5,476,762	137,850	2.5
85 to 94 years	1,698,254	120,089	7.1
95 years and over	91,425	14,009	15.3
95 to 99 years	82,263	12,345	15.0
100 years and over	9,162	1,664	18.2
Female, all ages	**156,964,212**	**1,002,079**	**0.6**
Total 65 years and over	**22,905,024**	**891,873**	**3.9**
65 to 74 years	11,616,910	108,496	0.9
75 to 84 years	7,584,360	282,940	3.7
85 to 94 years	3,370,571	409,600	12.2
95 years and over	333,183	90,837	27.3
95 to 99 years	288,981	75,276	26.0
100 years and over	44,202	15,561	35.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *2010 Census Summary File 1.*

How many people 65 years and over lived in skilled-nursing facilities in 2010?

Approximately 1.3 million people 65 years and over were in skilled-nursing facilities in 2010 (Table 7).[22] This represents 3.1 percent of the total population 65 years and over.

Of the population 65 years and over in skilled-nursing facilities in 2010, there were about 2.5 times the number of women 65 years and over than men 65 years and over (891,873 and 360,762, respectively). Males were most likely to be concentrated in the 75 to 84 year old age group in skilled-nursing facilities (137,850) followed by the 85 to 94 year old age group (120,089) and then the 65 to 74 year old group (88,814). Women, on the other hand, were more concentrated in the 85 to 94 year old age group (409,600), followed by the 75 to 84 year old group (282,940) and the 65 to 74 year old age group (108,496).

As age increases, the share of the older population in a skilled-nursing facility also increases. In 2010, 0.9 percent of the total population 65 to 74 years old resided in a nursing home compared with 24.7 percent of the population 95 and over, and 32.3 percent of the population 100 and above. Females were more likely to be in a nursing home as they aged compared with males. In 2010, 3.9 percent of females 65 years and over were in skilled-nursing facilities compared with 2.1 percent of males 65 years and over.

[22] Skilled-nursing facilities are considered group quarters. The 2010 Census definition for group quarters can be found at <www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf>.

For both males and females, 0.9 percent of people 65 to 74 years old were in a nursing home. However, only 15.3 percent of males 95 years and over were in a nursing home compared with 27.3 percent of females 95 years and over.

How many centenarians were there in the 2010 Census?[23]

In the 2010 Census, there were 53,364 centenarians, defined as people 100 years and over. This is a 5.8 percent increase from 2000 when there were 50,454 people who were at least 100 years old. Of the total population in 2010, 1 out of every 5,786 people was a centenarian.

Females outnumbered males in the centenarian population. In 2010, there were 9,162 males and 44,202 females who were 100 years and over. Females made up 82.8 percent of the total centenarian population while males made up 17.2 percent. Of the total U.S. female population, 1 out of every 3,551 females was a centenarian. Of the total U.S. male population, 1 out of every 16,566 males was a centenarian.

ABOUT THE 2010 CENSUS

Why was the 2010 Census conducted?

The U.S. Constitution mandates that a census be taken in the United States every 10 years. This is required in order to determine the number of seats each state is to receive in the U.S. House of Representatives. Age data are used to determine the voting age population (age 18 and older) for use in the legislative redistricting process.

[23] The centenarian population can potentially be affected by data quality issues, such as age misreporting by respondents. For more information about data quality at the extreme older ages, please see U.S. Census Bureau, 1999, *Centenarians in the United States: 1990* by Constance Krach and Victoria Velkoff, Current Population Reports, Series P23-199RV, available at <www.census.gov /prod/99pubs/p23-199.pdf>.

Why did the 2010 Census ask the question on age?

The Census Bureau collects data on age to support a variety of legislative and program requirements. These data are also used to aid in the allocation of funds from federal programs, in particular to programs targeting the older population. This includes planning for hospitals, roads, and housing assistance. For example, the Department of Veterans Affairs uses census data to plan for nursing homes, hospitals, cemeteries, domiciliary services, and veterans benefits; the Department of Health and Human Services uses age data as part of the formula used to allocate funds for services to seniors with low incomes under the Older Americans Act; and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission uses age data to enforce equal employment opportunities. These data are also used to forecast the number of people eligible for Social Security and Medicare benefits.

How are data on age beneficial?

Federal, state and local governments need information on age to implement, evaluate, and aid programs that plan and develop services for older adults. This includes, but is not limited to, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, the Older Americans Act, the Nutrition Education Program, the Rehabilitation Act, the Long Term Care Ombudsman Services for Older Americans Program, and the Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program.

Other important uses for census data on age are in the planning and funding of services for the older population, such as health service centers, retirement homes, assisted living or skilled-nursing facilities, transportation availability, Social Security, and Medicare benefits.

Census data can also be used by the private sector to determine business locations and advertising for goods and services targeting older adults, investment planning, employment opportunities, and specialized consumer needs. Researchers can use age data to project future population trends, assess mortality patterns, evaluate shifts in the geographic distribution of the older population, and plan ways to better serve the needs of a given community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on age in the United States, visit the U.S. Census Bureau's Internet site at <www.census.gov/population /www/socdemo/age/>.

Data on age and sex from the 2010 Census Summary File 1 provide information at the state level and below and are available on the Internet at <factfinder2 .census.gov/main.html> and on DVD. Information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions is available on the Census Bureau's Internet site at <www.census.gov/prod/cen2010 /doc/sf1.pdf>.

Information on other population and housing topics is presented in the 2010 Census Briefs series, located on the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site at <www.census.gov /prod/cen2010/>. This series presents information about race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, household type, housing tenure, and people who reside in group quarters.

For more information about the 2010 Census, including data products, call the Customer Services Center at 1-800-923-8282. You can also visit the Census Bureau's Question and Answer Center at <ask.census.gov> to submit your questions online.