



Where Do Older Americans Live? Geographic Distribution of the Older Population

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Summary

The U.S. population age 65 and older grew steadily through most of the last century. U.S. Census Bureau population projections to 2030 indicate that further and more dramatic growth is still to come. This increase is, in part, due to longer life expectancies and the aging of the baby boom generation. As the older population continues to increase in size and proportion, and as individuals continue to live longer post-retirement, changes in where older Americans live, or the “geographic distribution” of the older population, will likely have broad policy implications for federal, state, and local governments.

Older Americans are not unlike the rest of the U.S. population in that they live in the most populous states (California, Florida, New York, and Texas). The majority of the population age 65 and older lives within major metropolitan areas. However, the older population accounts for a larger proportion of the total U.S. population living in non-metropolitan or rural areas. Some experts have expressed concern over the level of access older rural residents have to affordable housing and transportation options, health and social services, and medical providers and specialists.

Older Americans are less likely to move than the younger population, and of those who do move, most move within the same county or state. Among those moving to different states, the pattern has been to relocate from colder to warmer climates, from larger metropolitan areas to smaller cities and towns, and from higher to lower cost of living areas. Over the past few decades, migration patterns among the older population have led to an increase in the 65-and-older population in some states in the Southern and Western regions of the country. Other states in the Midwest and Northeast have relatively high proportions of their resident population age 65 and older, which is likely due to younger workers having left these regions combined with a pattern of many older individuals remaining in these communities.

Population shifts affect important aging policy issues that concern both the government and private sector, including social services, housing, health care, and transportation. At the federal level, funds for federal programs, such as nutrition and supportive services under the Older Americans Act (OAA) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 202 housing program for the elderly, are disbursed according to state population estimates. At the state and local levels, understanding geographic patterns and changes in population distribution can assist policy makers in targeting public funds for needed services, improve service delivery, and aid in community planning efforts.

In order to inform Congress about important patterns and changes in the older U.S. population, this report presents estimates of the geographic distribution of the older population and population growth rates by state, region, and selected major metropolitan statistical areas and counties. The report also provides a brief discussion of the policy implications of population growth as it relates to the federal government.

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Introduction

The U.S. population age 65 and older grew steadily through most of the 20th century. U.S. Census Bureau population projections to 2030 indicate that further and more dramatic growth is still to come. This increase is, in part, due to longer life expectancies and the aging of the baby boom generation (those born between 1946 and 1964).¹ In 2005, the “older population,” defined as those individuals age 65 and older, was estimated at 37 million, marking a 5% increase from the 2000 decennial Census estimate of 35 million. Between 2005 and 2010, the older population is expected to increase by another 10%, to 40 million, and then by an additional 36%, to 55 million, by 2020. This dramatic growth in the older population is expected to begin in 2011, when the first of the baby boomers turn 65 years of age, and to continue beyond 2029, when the youngest of the boomers reach age 65. The Census projects that in 2030 the U.S. population will have an estimated 72 million older Americans, more than twice as many as the number estimated in 2000.²

In 2003, those who reached age 65 could expect to live an additional 18.5 years, on average (19.8 for women and 16.8 for men), or until 83.5 years of age.³ And while the population age 85 and older represents a small segment of the older population, the “oldest-old,” defined as those individuals age 85 and older, are in fact the fastest-growing segment of the older population. Between 2000 and 2005, the population age 85 and older increased by 20%, and is projected to increase by another 20%, to 6.1 million, by 2010. Between 2010 and 2020 the population age 85 and older is expected to increase an additional 20% to 7.3 million (see **Figure 1**).⁴

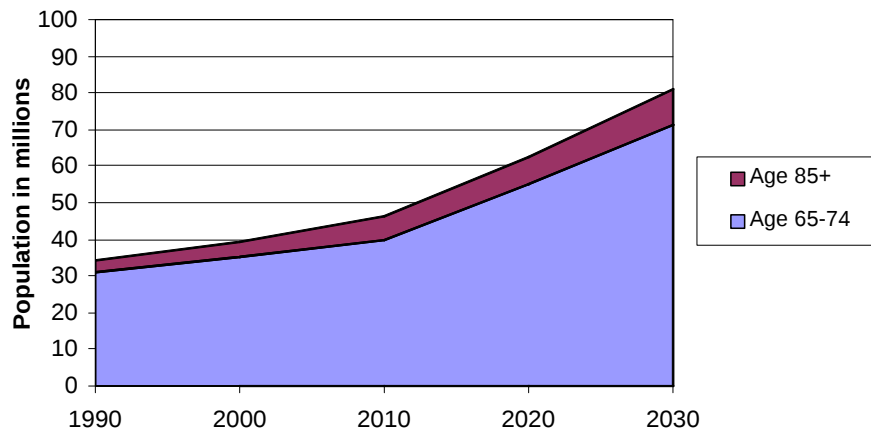
¹ For further information on U.S. demographic trends, see CRS Report RL32701, *The Changing Demographic Profile of the United States*, by Laura B. Shrestha.

² Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics, *Older Americans 2004: Key-Indicators of Well-Being*, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2004. (Hereafter cited as: Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics, *Older Americans 2004*).

³ Administration on Aging (AOA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *A Profile of Older Americans: 2005*. (Hereafter cited as: AOA, *A Profile of Older Americans: 2005*). For further information, see CRS Report RL32792, *Life Expectancy in the United States*, by Laura B. Shrestha.

⁴ Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics, *Older Americans 2004*.

Figure 1. U.S. Population Age 65 and Older and 85 and Older, 1990 to 2030 (projected)



Source: Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics, *Older Americans 2004*.

Note: Data for 1990 and 2000 are Census estimates of the population 65 and older and 85 and older. Data for 2010, 2020, and 2030 are Census population projections.

Today, the older population represents just over 12% of the U.S. population; about one in every eight Americans is age 65 or older. By 2030, the Census projects that one in every five, or 20% of the U.S. population, will be age 65 or older.⁵ As the older population continues to increase in size and proportion, and as individuals continue to live longer post-retirement, changes in where older Americans live, or the “geographic distribution” of the older population, will likely have broad policy implications for federal, state, and local governments.

Population shifts affect important aging policy issues that concern both the government and private sector, including social services, housing, health care, and transportation. At the federal level, funds for federal programs, such as nutrition and supportive services under the Older Americans Act (OAA) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 202 housing program for the elderly, are disbursed according to state population estimates.⁶ Furthermore, understanding geographic patterns and changes in population distribution at the state and local levels can assist policymakers in targeting public funds for needed services, help improve service delivery, and aid in community planning efforts.

In order to inform Congress about important patterns and changes in the older U.S. population, this report presents estimates of the geographic distribution of the older population and population growth rates by state, region, and selected major metropolitan statistical areas and counties. This report also provides a brief discussion of the policy implications of population growth as it relates to the federal government.

⁵ He, Wan, et al., U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, P23-209, *65+ in the United States: 2005*, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2005. (Hereafter referred to as: He, *65+ in the United States: 2005*).

⁶ For further information on Older Americans Act funding formulas, see CRS Report RS22549, *Older Americans Act: Funding Formulas*, by Kirsten J. Colello. For further information on HUD Section 202 funding formula, see CRS Report RL33508, *Section 202 and Other HUD Rental Housing Programs for Low-Income Elderly Residents*, by Libby Perl.

Geographic Distribution of the Older Population

Older Americans are not unlike the rest of the U.S. population in that they live in the most populous states and within major metropolitan areas. While older Americans are less likely to move than the younger population, of those who do move, most move within the same county or state.⁷ Among those moving to a different state, their pattern has been to relocate from colder to warmer climates, from larger metropolitan areas to smaller cities and towns, and from higher to lower cost of living areas.⁸ Over the past few decades, this has led to increases in the older population in some states in the South and West, and in major metropolitan areas and counties within these states.

Changes in the geographic distribution of the older population affect not only the states on the receiving end of retirement migration, but states experiencing population change due to older and younger residents leaving the state, often referred to as “out-migration.” For example, out-migration has had a large impact on the age distribution of the population in some states in the Midwest and Northeast, particularly as young workers have left work in the farming and mining industries. In some of these states, a greater share of the state’s resident population is growing older, but not moving, a concept often referred to as “aging in place.”⁹ In addition to migration patterns among older and younger residents, differences in the proportion of a state’s older resident population are determined by patterns of fertility. Generally, states with high fertility rates have a higher proportion of younger residents and a lower proportion of older residents.

According to some researchers, the changing geographic distribution of the older population may result in disparities between resources and needs, including medical services, social services, housing, and long-term care.¹⁰ This section of the report presents estimates of the older population by state and region, as well as data on population change by region and selected metropolitan statistical areas and counties.

State Distribution of Population

In general, the most populous states account for the largest number of older Americans; conversely, the least populous states have the fewest number of older Americans. In 2005, just over half of the total U.S. population age 65 and older (54%) lived in 10 states—California, Florida, New York, Texas, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, and North Carolina (see **Table 1**). With the exception of North Carolina, these 10 states also happen to be the ten most populous states. The top four states with respect to total population size (California, Florida, New York, and Texas) each had over 2 million older Americans and accounted for almost

⁷ He, 65+ in the United States: 2005.

⁸ Longino, Charles F. and Don E. Bradley, *A First Look at Retirement Migration Trends in 2000*, The Gerontologist, vol. 43, no. 6, pp. 904-907, 2003. (Hereafter referred to as: Longino, *A First Look at Retirement Migration Trends*, 2003).

⁹ Himes, Christine L., *Population Bulletin: Elderly Americans*, vol. 56, no. 4, Population Reference Bureau, December 2001. (Hereafter referred to as Himes, *Elderly Americans*, 2001).

¹⁰ Rogers, Carolyn C., *Changes in the Older Population and Implications for Rural Areas*, Food and Rural Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Research Report, no. 90, Washington, DC, December 1999. (Hereafter referred to as Rogers, *Changes in the Older Population*, 1999). This report defines the older population as 60 and older.

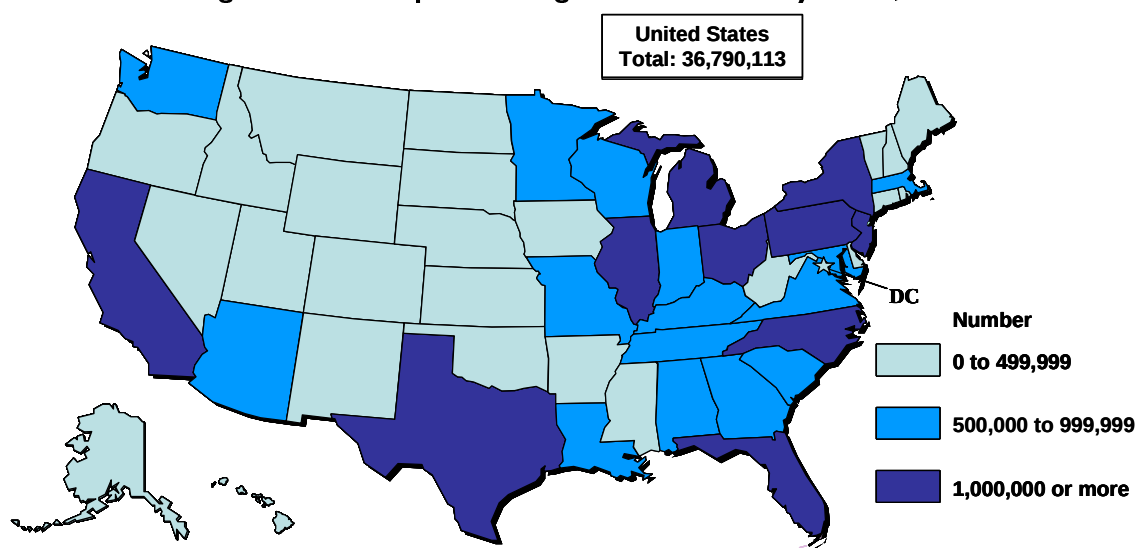
one-third of the entire U.S. older population (31%). The remaining six states each had more than 1 million older Americans.

Table 1. Top Ten States Ranked by Population and Percent of U.S. Population Age 65 and Older, 2005

Rank	State	Number	Percent of U.S. population 65 and older
1.	California	3,868,574	10.52
2.	Florida	2,993,160	8.14
3.	New York	2,515,064	6.84
4.	Texas	2,271,845	6.18
5.	Pennsylvania	1,892,847	5.14
6.	Ohio	1,530,074	4.16
7.	Illinois	1,529,430	4.16
8.	Michigan	1,258,494	3.42
9.	New Jersey	1,129,356	3.07
10.	North Carolina	1,054,098	2.87
	Total	20,042,942	54.50

Source: CRS compilation based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

States with small populations, such as South Dakota, North Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming, and Alaska and the District of Columbia had fewer older Americans. In 2005, just 1% of the older population lived in these five states and the District of Columbia. The size of the older population in these states ranged between 44,000 in Alaska and 110,000 in South Dakota. **Figure 2** shows a map of the U.S. population age 65 and older by state. A complete list of states ranked by the number of older residents and percent of the U.S. population age 65 and older is presented in **Appendix Table A-1**.

Figure 2. U.S. Population Age 65 and Older by State, 2005

Source: CRS compilation based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Generally, the states that had the largest number of older Americans in 2005 were not the same states with the largest proportion of older residents (with the exception of Florida and Pennsylvania). The first population statistic refers to the distribution of the total U.S. population age 65 and older by state, the second statistic refers to the distribution of the population age 65 and older *within* a state, that is, the proportion of the state's older residents relative to the state's total resident population.¹¹ **Table 2** shows the top 10 states ranked by percent of the state's resident population age 65 and older, and the bottom 10 states with the smallest proportion of older residents.

Table 2. Top 10 and Bottom 10 States Ranked by Percent of State Resident Population Age 65 and Older, 2005

Rank	Top 10 states with percent of resident population 65 and over		Rank	Bottom 10 states with percent of resident population 65 and over	
	State	Percent		State	Percent
1.	Florida	16.83	42.	Idaho	11.47
2.	West Virginia	15.32	43.	Washington	11.46
3.	Pennsylvania	15.23	44.	Virginia	11.43
4.	North Dakota	14.71	45.	Nevada	11.31
5.	Iowa	14.67	46.	California	10.71
6.	Maine	14.58	47.	Colorado	9.97
7.	South Dakota	14.24	48.	Texas	9.94

¹¹ This report refers to the proportion of the state's population age 65 and older relative to the total U.S. population age 65 and older as the *percent of the U.S. population 65 and older by state*. The proportion of the state's population age 65 and older relative to the total state population, in this report, is referred to as the *percent of the state's resident population age 65 and older*.

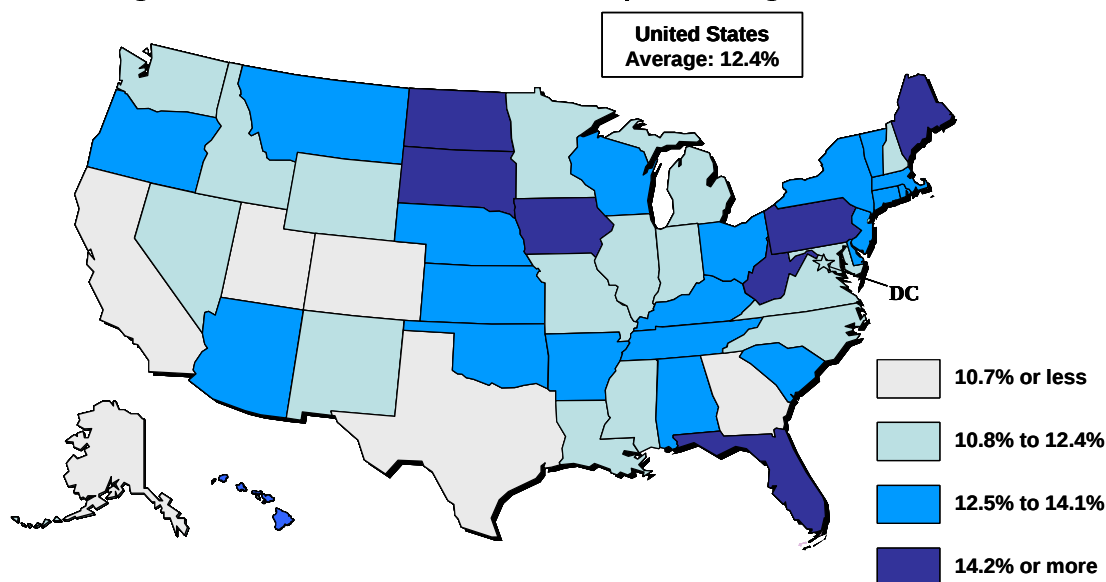
Rank	Top 10 states with percent of resident population 65 and over		Rank	Bottom 10 states with percent of resident population 65 and over	
	State	Percent		State	Percent
8.	Rhode Island	13.92	49.	Georgia	9.59
9.	Arkansas	13.83	50.	Utah	8.75
10.	Montana	13.77	51.	Alaska	6.63

Source: CRS compilation based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Note: Percent of the U.S. population age 65 and older is 12.4%.

States such as California and Texas have relatively lower shares of older residents due to increases in fertility and in-migration of younger residents. While California has the largest number of older people, at 3.8 million, it is among the states with the lowest proportion of older residents, with 10.7% of the resident population age 65 and older. In contrast, North Dakota and South Dakota are two of the bottom 10 states with the lowest number of older people, but among the states with the highest proportion of older residents (14.7% and 14.2%, respectively, well above the national average of 12.4%). **Figure 3** shows a map of the United States with the percent of each state's resident population age 65 and older in 2005. A complete list of state rankings by percent of the state resident population age 65 and older is seen in **Appendix Table A-2**.

Figure 3. Percent of State Resident Population Age 65 and Older, 2005



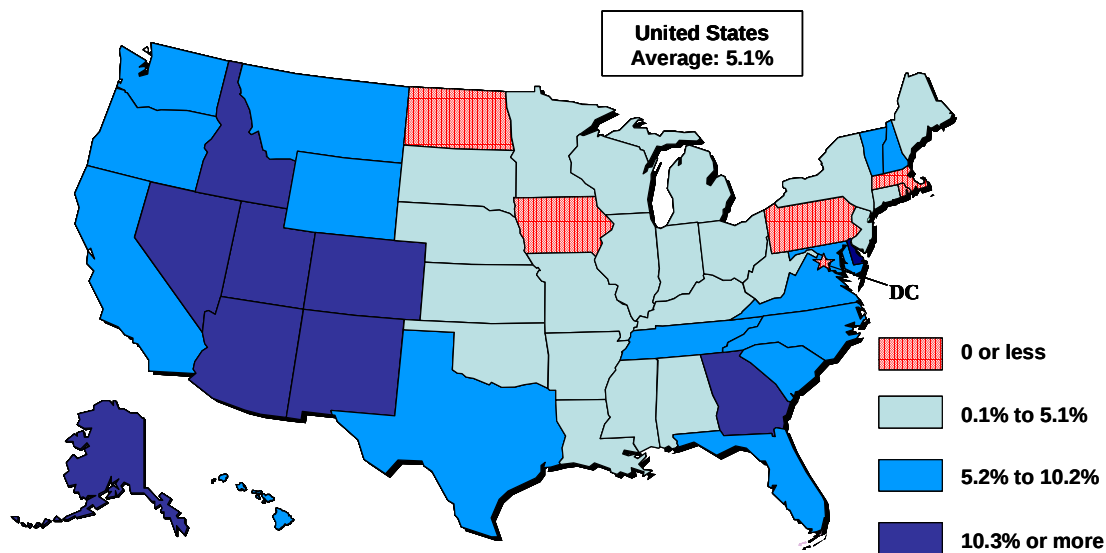
Source: CRS compilation based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

More than 5 million U.S. residents were age 85 and older in 2005, representing 1.7% of the total U.S. population. North Dakota has the highest proportion of a resident population age 85 and older, with 2.7% of its resident population among the oldest-old. Several New England and Midwestern states were among those with the highest proportion of oldest-old residents, including Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts in the Northeastern region of the country, and Iowa, Kansas, and the Dakotas in the Midwest. A complete list of state rankings by percent of the state resident population age 85 and older is seen in **Appendix Table A-3**.

State Population Growth

Several states have experienced dramatic growth in their older population over the past five years. States such as Nevada and Alaska have experienced more than four times the average growth rate, with population increases of 24.8% and 23.3%, respectively. Another seven states have more than two times the average growth: Utah, Arizona, Idaho, Colorado, Georgia, New Mexico, and Delaware. All of these states are in the South and West regions. Another group of states and the District of Columbia have experienced overall declines in their older populations: Iowa, Massachusetts, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. These states were either in the Midwest or Northeast regions of the country. **Figure 4** shows a map of the United States with five-year growth of the population age 65 and older by state. A detailed table with the percent changes in the population age 65 and older for all the states is provided in **Appendix Table A-4**.

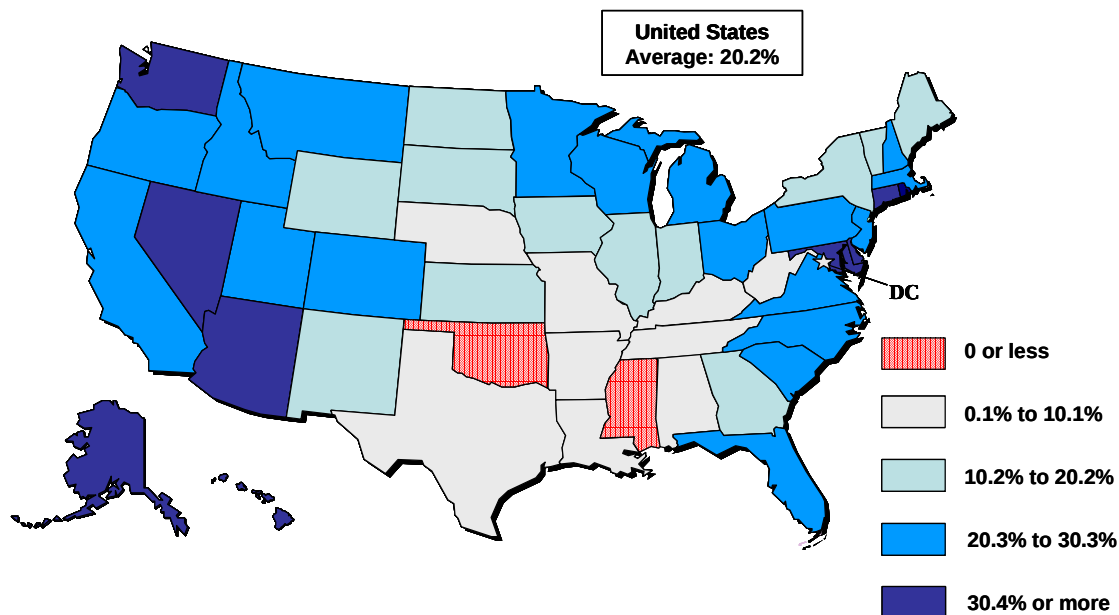
Figure 4. Growth Rate of the Population Age 65 and Older by State, 2000 to 2005



Source: CRS compilation based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Dramatic growth of the oldest-old population occurred in several states between 2000 and 2005. Nine states experienced increases in their population age 85 and older of about one-third or more: Hawaii, Nevada, Alaska, Delaware, Connecticut, Maryland, Arizona, Rhode Island, and Washington. However, five of these states have less than 30,000 individuals age 85 and older (Hawaii, Nevada, Alaska, Delaware, and Rhode Island). The remaining four states had more than 80,000 oldest-old residents.

The same states that experienced overall declines in their population age 65 and older had increases in their oldest-old population during the same five-year time period. This further suggests that retirement migration of a “younger” senior population, that is, those age 65 to 74, may leave some states with an increasing oldest-old population that is aging in place and more likely to be frail or in need of health and supportive services. Two states, Oklahoma and Mississippi, experienced declines in their oldest-old population over the same five-year period. **Figure 5** shows a map of the United States with the five-year growth of the population age 85 and older by state. A detailed table with the percent changes in the population age 85 and older for all the states is provided in **Appendix Table A-5**.

Figure 5. Growth Rate of the Population Age 85 and Older by State, 2000 to 2005

Source: CRS compilation based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

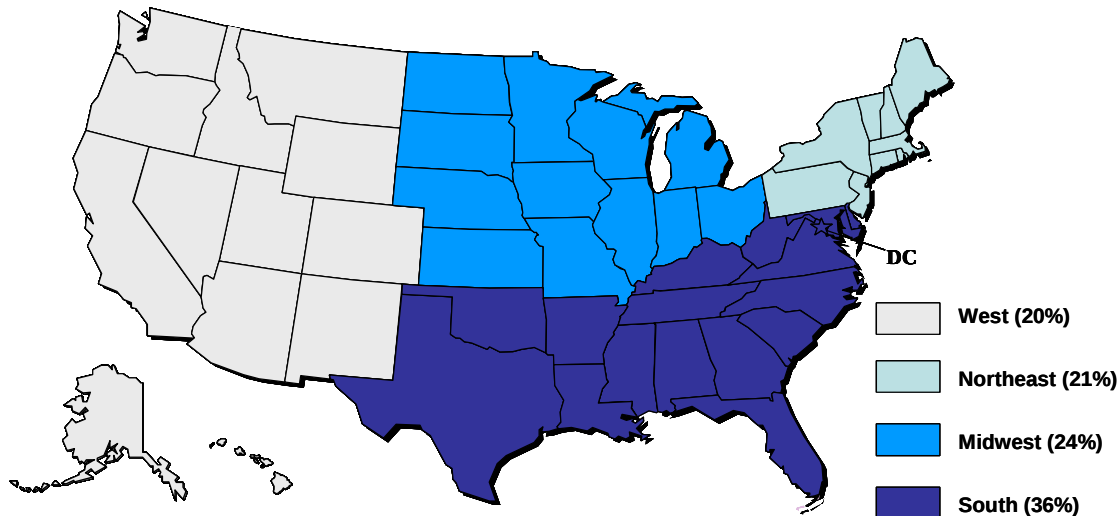
There are several reasons why some states may be experiencing higher-than-average growth among the older population. Historically, migration of the older population has been concentrated geographically in a few states, such as Florida, Arizona, California, and Texas. While recent trends suggest a wider variation in retirement destinations among older interstate migrants, states experiencing high growth, such as Arizona, Nevada, and Georgia, were among the leading destination states in 2000.¹² Other states are experiencing higher-than-average growth of their older populations due to increasing longevity among the older residents who have remained in these states and aged in place.

Regional Distribution of Population

The Census divides the United States into four geographic regions: the Northeast, Midwest, South, and West.¹³ In 2005, the largest number of older Americans lived in the South, followed by the Midwest, Northeast, and West regions. More than 13.3 million older Americans, or one-third (36%) of the total U.S. population age 65 and older, lived in the Southern region. Almost one-quarter of the older population lived in the Midwest (24%), and about one-fifth each lived in the Northeast and the West (21% and 20%, respectively) (see **Figure 6**).

¹² Longino, *A First Look at Retirement Migration Trends*, 2003.

¹³ States in the *Northeast* region include Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania; states in the *Midwest* region include: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas; states in the *Southern* region include Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma; states in the *Western* region include Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska, and Hawaii.

Figure 6. Percent of U.S. Population Age 65 and Older by Region, 2005

Source: CRS compilation based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Note: Due to rounding, percentages in **Figure 6** total to more than 100%.

Regional Population Growth

Between 2000 and 2005, growth of the U.S. population age 65 and older has largely occurred in the Southern and Western regions (see **Table 3**). Compared to the national average of 5.1%, these regions have experienced higher-than-average growth, with a 7.0% increase in the population age 65 and older in the South, and a 9.5% increase in the West.

Table 3. Growth Rate of the Population Age 65 and Older by Region, 2000 to 2005

Region	Population 65+ in 2000	Population 65+ in 2005	Growth Rate (%)
Northeast	7,372,282	7,451,769	1.1
Midwest	8,259,075	8,443,504	2.2
South	12,438,267	13,314,798	7.0
West	6,922,129	7,580,042	9.5
Total	34,991,753	36,790,113	5.1

Source: CRS compilation based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Growth of the oldest-old population between 2000 and 2005 has largely occurred in the West (29%) and Northeast (24%) (see **Table 4**). The average growth rate for the United States is 20%. Higher-than-average growth of the population age 85 and older in the Northeast and West is likely due to increases in longevity and the pattern of many older individuals to age-in-place.¹⁴ Increases in the oldest-old population in the Northeast region may also be affected by “counterstream” migration patterns, where older individuals who retired to Southern states when

¹⁴ Himes, *Elderly Americans*, 2001.

economic and health conditions were more favorable return to their state of origin or locations closer in proximity to family and friends.¹⁵ Many Western states, such as Arizona, California, and Nevada, were among the leading retirement destination states in 2000, attributing to growth among the older population in the West.

Table 4. Growth Rate of the Population Age 85 and Older by Region, 2000 to 2005

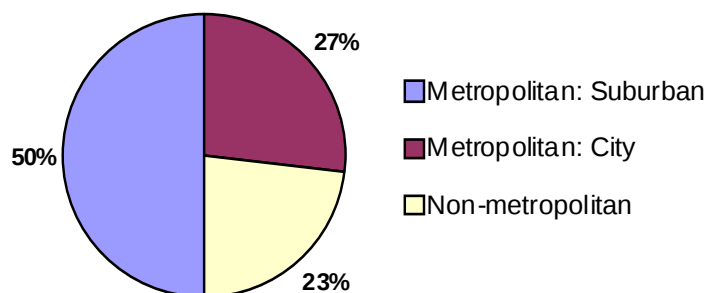
Region	Population 85+ 2000	Population 85+ 2005	Growth Rate (%)
Northeast	938,459	1,163,838	24.0
Midwest	1,064,295	1,265,765	18.9
South	1,430,546	1,624,958	13.6
West	806,287	1,041,377	29.2
United States	4,239,587	5,095,938	20.2

Source: CRS compilation based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Population in Metropolitan Areas

Similar to other age groups, most individuals age 65 and older live inside metropolitan areas. In 2004, more than three-fourths (77%) of the U.S. population age 65 and older lived inside metropolitan area, an increase from 74% in 1990 (see **Figure 7**). Of the older population living inside metropolitan areas, half (50%) lived in the suburbs, while 27% lived in central cities.

Figure 7. Percent of the Population Age 65 and Older in Metropolitan Regions, 2003



Source: AOA, *A Profile of Older Americans: 2005*.

However, the older population accounted for a larger proportion of the total U.S. population living in non-metropolitan or rural areas (14.7%) than inside metropolitan areas (11.9%). This pattern holds true for the population age 85 and older, who also represented a slightly larger

¹⁵ Stoller, Eleanor P. and Charles F. Longino Jr., "Going Home" or "Leaving Home"? *The Impact of Person and Place Ties on Anticipated Counterstream Migration*, *The Gerontologist*, vol. 41, no. 1, 2001, pp. 96-102. (Hereafter referred to as: Stoller, "Going Home" or "Leaving Home"?, 2001).

proportion of the total U.S. population living outside of metropolitan areas (1.8% versus 1.4%, respectively) in 2000.¹⁶

While the older population tends to be concentrated in both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas in the South, a large proportion of non-metropolitan elderly reside in the Midwest and Northeast. Compared to other regions, the non-metropolitan Midwest has the largest proportion of its population age 85 and older. This reflects both out-migration of young adults and aging in place of older residents in the Midwest. In general, non-metropolitan areas have a greater proportion of older individuals that have lower educational attainment, lower incomes and fewer sources of retirement income, and less adequate housing and transportation, compared to older individuals living in metropolitan areas.¹⁷

Population Growth in Metropolitan Areas

Several large metropolitan areas experienced high growth of the older population between 1990 and 2000. For example, the over-65 population in Las Vegas, NV, grew by 86% during the 1990s. Major metropolitan areas such as Phoenix, AZ, and Austin, TX, each experienced an increase of more than one-third in their older resident population (see **Table 5**). Smaller metropolitan areas such as Naples, FL, and Anchorage, AK, also experienced high growth. Much of the growth of the older population in metropolitan areas is due to population increases in suburban areas, particularly in expanding metropolitan areas such as Dallas and Atlanta.

Table 5. Growth Rate of the Population Age 65 and Older in Major and Small Metropolitan Areas, 1990 to 2000

Rank	Metropolitan Area ^a	Growth Rate (%)
Major Metropolitan Area		
1.	Las Vegas, NV-AZ	86.2
2.	Phoenix-Mesa, AZ	38.0
3.	Austin-San Marcos, TX	37.3
4.	Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX	31.8
5.	Atlanta, GA	30.8
6.	Orlando, FL	28.8
7.	Sacramento-Yolo, CA	27.8
8.	Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC	25.8
9.	Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO	25.8
10.	Dallas-Forth Worth, TX	25.1

¹⁶ The metropolitan areas were defined by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as of June 30, 1999. All metropolitan areas are either metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) or consolidated metropolitan statistical areas (CMSAs). For further information, see He, 65+ in the United States: 2005.

¹⁷ Rogers, *Changes in the Older Population*, 1999. This report defines the older population as 60 and older.

Rank	Metropolitan Area ^a	Growth Rate (%)
Small Metropolitan Area		
1.	Naples, FL	77.9
2.	Anchorage, AK	72.5
3.	Myrtle Beach, SC	61.7
4.	Las Cruces, NM	55.7
5.	Fort Walton Beach, FL	55.1
6.	Ocala, FL	47.0
7.	Flagstaff, AZ-UT	46.3
8.	Wilmington, NC	45.7
9.	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX	43.8
10.	Melbourne-Titusville-Palm Bay, FL	42.6

Source: Frey, William H., *Seniors in Suburbia*, American Demographics, Nov. 2001, p. 19.

- a. Metropolitan areas are CMSAs, MSAs, and (in New England) NECMAs, as defined by OMB in June 2000. Major metropolitan areas have total populations exceeding 1 million in the year 2000; small metropolitan areas have total populations of less than 1 million in the year 2000.

The “graying of the suburbs” has occurred as once young adults who first moved to the suburbs in the 1950s to start families have aged in place into their retirement years. In the 1990s, senior growth in suburban areas was 20%, compared to just over 2% in central cities.¹⁸ Suburbs with the fastest-growing population age 65 and older were located in “sunbelt” states such as Arizona and Texas. Suburbs with the largest proportion of their resident population age 65 and older were located in popular retirement states such as Florida. These suburbs tend to have “younger” senior populations, members of which are more likely to live with a spouse, have fewer disabilities, and higher incomes. Suburbs with the largest share of older residents were also located in “rustbelt” states such as Pennsylvania and Ohio and upstate New York. Members of the older population in these suburbs were, in general, more likely to be “older” seniors, more likely to be female, and more likely to be living alone.¹⁹

County Population

In 2000, 11 of the 3,141 counties in the United States had more than 250,000 residents age 65 and older: Los Angeles (CA), Cook (IL), Maricopa (AZ), San Diego (CA), Miami-Dade (FL), Queens (NY), Kings (NY), Orange (CA), Palm Beach (FL), Broward (FL), and Harris (TX). Counties with the largest population sizes had from approximately 250,000 to more than 900,000 older individuals. Not surprisingly, many of these counties are located in states with large numbers of older residents (California, Florida, Illinois, New York, Texas) and include major metropolitan areas such as Phoenix, Los Angeles, San Diego, Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, Chicago, New York City,

¹⁸ Frey, William H., *Seniors in Suburbia*, American Demographics, vol. 23, no.11, November 2001, pp. 18-21.

¹⁹ Frey, William H., *Boomers and Seniors in the Suburbs: Aging Patterns in Census 2000*, The Brookings Institution, Washington, DC, January 2003, p. 13. Hereafter cited as: Frey, *Boomers and Seniors in the Suburbs*, 2003.

and Houston. In 2000, 331 counties had 20% or more of their population age 65 and older, a decline from 393 counties in 1990.²⁰

None of the 11 counties that were largest in size of the population age 65 and older were among the counties with the greatest proportion of older residents (see **Table 6**). Counties with the largest proportion of residents age 65 and older were concentrated in the Midwest and the South, with six in Florida. None were in the Northeast. In these counties almost one-third or more of county residents were age 65 and older.

Table 6. Counties Ranked by Resident Population Age 65 and Older, 2000

Percent of resident population 65 and older			
Rank	County	State	Percent
1.	Charlotte	FL	34.7
2.	McIntosh	ND	34.2
3.	Highlands	FL	33.0
4.	Citrus	FL	32.2
5.	Kalawao	HI	32.0
6.	Sarasota	FL	31.5
7.	Hernando	FL	30.9
8.	Llano	TX	30.7
9.	McPherson	SD	29.6
10.	Divide	ND	29.5
11.	Indian River	FL	29.2
United States			12.4

Source: CRS compilation based on data from He, *65+ in the United States: 2005*.

The number of counties with at least 25,000 residents age 85 and older more than doubled between 1990 and 2000, from 8 counties to 18. These counties include all of the 11 counties with more than 250,000 residents age 65 and older, as well as Pinellas (FL), Allegheny (PA), Cuyahoga (OH), Philadelphia (PA), Wayne (MI), New York City (NY), and Middlesex (MA).²¹ The size of the oldest-old population in the top counties ranged from just over 25,000 in Middlesex (MA) to 109,000 in Los Angeles (CA). Three states—New York, California, and Florida—each had 3 counties that were among the largest in terms of size of the oldest-old population.²²

However, as shown in **Table 7**, none of the 18 counties with the largest population age 85 and older were among the top 18 counties with the largest proportion of their resident population age

²⁰ He, *65+ in the United States: 2005*.

²¹ Philadelphia County, PA, consolidated with the City of Philadelphia in 1854. New York County, NY, consolidated with the City of New York in 1874. For further information see, National Association of Counties, at <http://www.naco.org>.

²² Ibid.

85 and older. With the exception of two Texas counties (Foard and Stonewall), all counties with the highest proportion of the oldest-old were in the Midwest, specifically Kansas (7), North Dakota (4), South Dakota (2), Nebraska (2), and Minnesota (1). Between 1990 and 2000, 121 counties experienced 100% or more growth of the oldest-old population. Counties that experienced high growth among the oldest-old were primarily concentrated in the South and West, none of these counties were in the Northeast.

Table 7. Counties Ranked by Resident Population Age 85 and Older, 2000

Percent of resident population age 85 and older			
Rank	County	State	Percent
1.	McIntosh	ND	6.64
2.	Hooker	NE	6.26
3.	Divide	ND	5.69
4.	Smith	KS	5.47
5.	Osborne	KS	5.28
6.	Cloud	KS	5.27
7.	Traverse	MN	5.20
8.	Foard	TX	5.18
9.	Elk	KS	5.15
10.	Garfield	NE	5.10
11.	Hutchinson	SD	5.08
12.	Gregory	SD	4.99
13.	Nemaha	KS	4.98
14.	Washington	KS	4.97
15.	Wells	ND	4.86
16.	Stonewall	TX	4.84
17.	Comanche	KS	4.78
18.	Griggs	ND	4.76
Unites States			1.72

Source: CRS compilation based on data from He, *65+ in the United States: 2005*.

Of all 3,141 counties in the United States, 72% had a proportion of their resident population age 65 and older that exceeded the national average of 12.4% in 2000 (see **Table 8**). The Midwest had the highest percentage of counties (82%) with an above-average older resident population, followed by the Northeast (78%), South (69%), and West (55%). This further suggests that the trends of out-migration of young workers and aging in place in the Midwest and Northeast have had a disproportionate effect on these regions. While most states (43) have a majority of counties with a proportion of residents age 65 and older that is greater than the national value of 12.4%, in seven states more than 90% of the counties had proportions greater than this value. Not surprisingly, these states were in either the Midwest or Northeast and include: Rhode Island, Maine, Nebraska, Iowa, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and North Dakota.

Table 8. Counties Exceeding the U.S. Proportion Age 65 Years and Older by Region, 2000

Region	Total counties	Counties exceeding U.S. proportion	
		Number	Percent
Northeast	217	170	78.3
Midwest	1,055	869	82.4
South	1,424	980	68.8
West	445	244	54.8
United States	3,141	2,263	72.0

Source: Hetzel, Lisa and Annetta Smith, *The 65 Years and Over Population: 2000*, Census 2000 Brief, C2KBR/01-10, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, Oct. 2001.

Note: Proportion of the U.S. population age 65 years and over was 12.4%.

Policy Implications

The geographic distribution of older Americans and changes in population distribution over the past few decades have implications for federal policy directly and for state and local policy that could, in turn, affect federal policy decisions. The following section describes some implications for federal, state, and local policy.

Federal Government

The federal government relies on population data from the U.S. Census Bureau to distribute almost \$200 billion in federal, state, local, and tribal funds.²³ Targeting federal funds to areas of the country with large numbers of older Americans depends on accurate data collection (see **Appendix**). For example, allotments to states for OAA Title III supportive services and senior centers, congregate nutrition and home-delivered nutrition services, and disease prevention and health promotion services are based on a population formula factor that is defined as each state's relative share of the total U.S. population age 60 years and older. Funds for the family caregiver support program are allotted to states based on each state's relative share of the population age 70 years and older. States in turn distribute their federal allotment to local area agencies on aging using an intrastate funding formula. In addition, the HUD Section 202 program distributes funds for rental housing for those age 62 and older based, in part, on Census population estimates.²⁴

The federal government can also assist state and local governments in preparing and planning for resources in anticipation of the aging baby boom generation. The OAA Amendments of 2006 (P.L. 109-365) recognized the importance of state and local efforts to plan for these coming demographic changes. P.L. 109-365 requires each state agency on aging, at the election of the

²³ U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Basics*, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2002.

²⁴ For comparability with published estimates from the U.S. Census and other sources, the older population in this report is defined as age 65 and older.

state, to include in state plans on aging an assessment of how prepared the state is for changes in the elderly population. The assessment may include

- an analysis of how demographic changes may affect older individuals, including those with low incomes, those with greatest economic need, minority older individuals, those residing in rural areas, and those with limited English proficiency;
- an analysis of how the programs, policies, and services provided by states and area agencies can be improved, and how resource levels can be adjusted to meet the needs of the changing population of older individuals in the state; and
- an analysis of how the change in the number of persons age 85 years and older is expected to affect the need for supportive services.

The law also authorizes area agencies on aging to conduct similar activities and to make recommendations to government officials on actions to build their capacity to respond to the needs of the growing aging population, including health and human services, land use, housing, transportation, public safety, workforce and economic development, and emergency preparedness, among others.²⁵

State and Local Government

Many state and local communities face increases both in the size and proportion of their older resident population, due in part to longer life expectancy and the aging of the baby boom generation. Additionally, some states and communities have been identified as retirement “magnets,” that is, they are popular retirement destination spots. These retirement hot spots, many in sunbelt states such as Florida, Arizona, and Nevada, are popular typically because they have warmer climates, a lower cost of living, and lower population density, relative to the retiree’s state of origin. Popular destination states have experienced an influx of older migrants who are typically in their immediate post-retirement years, between the ages of 65 and 74, with considerable disposable income, married, and in favorable health. Some experts believe that areas experiencing growth from a “younger” senior population are likely to benefit from increases in consumption of local goods and services, a net increase in the state and local tax base, and greater community involvement, including volunteerism, from an active retirement population.²⁶

Other states and local communities may face increases in the share of their older resident population due to younger working-age residents leaving for jobs in other states, leaving an ever-increasing older population. As the economic and health status of older individuals declines with advanced age, states and local communities with higher concentrations of older Americans, particularly those age 85 and older, may face increased demands for public support for resources such as medical and health services, social services, housing, transportation, and long-term care. The ability of state and local governments to pay for these services may be difficult. Communities with a greater proportion of older individuals aging in place may face greater financial responsibilities than communities with a higher proportion of young retirees both because those

²⁵ For further information, see CRS Report RL31336, *The Older Americans Act: Programs, Funding, and 2006 Reauthorization (P.L. 109-365)*, by Carol O’Shaughnessy and Angela Napili.

²⁶ Frey, *Seniors in Suburbia*, 2001.

who are among the oldest-old generally have lower incomes and greater health and social service needs, and because they have fewer young people to count on for support.²⁷

A related concern involves older persons who return from popular retirement destination states to their state of origin possibly due to changes in their economic, social, or health status, such as widowhood or onset of chronic disease or disability. These so-called counterstream migrants have been found to be, on average, somewhat older, and more often widowed and living dependently with relatives and others than other migrants.²⁸

Non-Metropolitan Areas

The proportion of the older population in non-metropolitan or rural areas has increased over the past two decades due to several factors: older individuals aging in place; out-migration of younger workers leaving behind an older resident population; and, the movement of older individuals from metropolitan areas to smaller communities or, “in-migration” of retirees. According to researchers, the older population, particularly the oldest-old, in rural or non-metropolitan areas are more likely to be poor than those living in urban or metropolitan areas.²⁹

Many observers believe that rural health services can be more costly to deliver and are less accessible, either due to the recipients lack of close proximity to services or to fewer providers and less specialized services. Furthermore, the range of health care services may be limited with few alternatives for patients. Given that the older population accounts for a larger proportion of the total population in non-metropolitan areas, some experts have expressed concern about ongoing problems with the delivery of medical and social services to rural residents.³⁰

As a result, Congress has passed legislation that specifically includes provisions focusing on the special needs of the rural elderly. For example, under the OAA, Title III services are available to all persons age 60 and over, but are targeted to those with the greatest economic or social need, particularly low-income and minority persons and older persons residing in rural areas. The law also requires that states, in developing their intrastate funding formulas, take into account the distribution of people with those characteristics. The law further requires that the agencies set specific objectives for serving target groups and that program development, advocacy, and outreach efforts be focused on these groups. Service providers are required to meet specific objectives set by area agencies for providing services to target groups, including the rural elderly, and area agencies are required to describe in their area plans how they have met these objectives.

²⁷ Frey, *Boomers and Seniors in the Suburbs*, 2003.

²⁸ Stoller, “Going Home” or “Leaving Home”?, 2001.

²⁹ Rogers, *Changes in the Older Population*, 1999. This report defines the older population as 60 and older.

³⁰ Ibid.

Appendix. Data Collection and Rankings of the Older Population by State

Data Collection

The primary source of data for this report is the U.S. Census Bureau.³¹ Data used in this report are from Census population estimates for 2005 and published data from the 2000 Decennial census. Another source of population data cited in this report is the Current Population Survey (CPS), a nationally representative sample survey of households conducted monthly by the U.S. Census Bureau. Monthly CPS supplements provide demographic and social data. Given that a large amount of federal spending for programs and services to vulnerable older populations is distributed based on Census population data, the accuracy of data collection methods is important. However, some individuals, including older individuals, may be counted incorrectly or not captured in the Census at all.

The Census may not accurately capture older individuals who travel frequently or have multiple residences in one year. For example, this may affect the so-called “snow-bird” population, who choose to spend part of the year, typically the winter months, in a state with a warmer climate. These older individuals would be identified in the state where they were residing on April 1, regardless of their permanent address. Alternatively, some older Americans choose to have no permanent residence and instead travel continuously in the United States and/or abroad, live in a vacation home, or live and travel in recreational vehicles. While it is difficult to quantify the number of older individuals who choose these lifestyles, some observers indicate this population is increasing.³² According to experts, reliable data at the state and local levels are needed to help governments accurately assess the well-being of their older populations.³³

Information on the older population may also be difficult to obtain due to lack of data collection or specification by residential setting. Like many large national household-based surveys that rely on Census population data, the CPS does not sample the institutionalized population, including those in nursing homes. This exclusion can be an issue for researchers and policymakers who are interested in information on the entire older population, particularly among the oldest-old age group. And, as the use of assisted-living facilities and other types of residential settings as alternatives to institutional care has increased over the past 15 years, data collection efforts that distinguish these types of non-institutional community residences from institutional facilities will be important for state and local long-term care planning and service delivery.³⁴

³¹ The federal government is mandated by the U.S. Constitution to conduct a census, or count, of the entire U.S. population every 10 years. In 2000 the census occurred on April 1.

³² Longino, Charles F. Jr., “Geographic Mobility and the Baby Boom,” *Generations*, Spring 1998, vol. 22, no. 1, pg. 50.

³³ Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics, *Older Americans 2004*.

³⁴ *Ibid.*

Table A-1. States Ranked by the Number and Percent of U.S. Population Age 65 and Older, 2005

Rank	State	Number of people 65 and older	Percent of U.S. population 65 and older
1.	California	3,868,574	10.52
2.	Florida	2,993,160	8.14
3.	New York	2,515,064	6.84
4.	Texas	2,271,845	6.18
5.	Pennsylvania	1,892,847	5.14
6.	Illinois	1,530,074	4.16
7.	Ohio	1,529,430	4.16
8.	Michigan	1,258,494	3.42
9.	New Jersey	1,129,356	3.07
10.	North Carolina	1,054,098	2.87
11.	Georgia	870,422	2.37
12.	Virginia	865,103	2.35
13.	Massachusetts	852,826	2.32
14.	Indiana	777,506	2.11
15.	Missouri	773,171	2.10
16.	Arizona	758,181	2.06
17.	Tennessee	749,951	2.04
18.	Wisconsin	721,633	1.96
19.	Washington	720,874	1.96
20.	Maryland	644,560	1.75
21.	Minnesota	623,241	1.69
22.	Alabama	603,733	1.64
23.	South Carolina	534,980	1.45
24.	Louisiana	531,581	1.44
25.	Kentucky	525,764	1.43
26.	Connecticut	474,150	1.29
27.	Oregon	469,906	1.28
28.	Oklahoma	468,968	1.27
29.	Colorado	465,096	1.26
30.	Iowa	435,220	1.18
31.	Arkansas	384,450	1.04
32.	Mississippi	358,393	0.97
33.	Kansas	357,005	0.97
34.	West Virginia	278,368	0.76

Rank	State	Number of people 65 and older	Percent of U.S. population 65 and older
35.	Nevada	273,136	0.74
36.	New Mexico	234,902	0.64
37.	Nebraska	233,550	0.63
38.	Utah	216,021	0.59
39.	Maine	192,664	0.52
40.	Hawaii	174,538	0.47
41.	Idaho	163,917	0.45
42.	New Hampshire	163,105	0.44
43.	Rhode Island	149,775	0.41
44.	Montana	128,834	0.35
45.	Delaware	112,214	0.31
46.	South Dakota	110,530	0.30
47.	North Dakota	93,650	0.25
48.	Vermont	81,982	0.22
49.	District of Columbia	67,208	0.18
50.	Wyoming	62,037	0.17
51.	Alaska	44,026	0.12
United States		36,790,113	100.00

Source: CRS compilation based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Table A-2. States Ranked by the Percent of Their Resident Population Age 65 and Older, 2005

Rank	State	Percent of residents 65 and older	Rank	State	Percent of residents 65 and older
1.	Florida	16.83	27.	Kentucky	12.60
2.	West Virginia	15.32	28.	Tennessee	12.58
3.	Pennsylvania	15.23	29.	South Carolina	12.57
4.	North Dakota	14.71	30.	New Hampshire	12.45
5.	Iowa	14.67	31.	Michigan	12.43
6.	Maine	14.58	32.	Indiana	12.40
7.	South Dakota	14.24	33.	Mississippi	12.27
8.	Rhode Island	13.92	34.	District of Columbia	12.21
9.	Arkansas	13.83	35.	New Mexico	12.18
10.	Montana	13.77	36.	Wyoming	12.18
11.	Hawaii	13.69	37.	Minnesota	12.14
12.	Connecticut	13.51	38.	North Carolina	12.14

Rank	State	Percent of residents 65 and older	Rank	State	Percent of residents 65 and older
13.	Ohio	13.34	39.	Illinois	11.99
14.	Missouri	13.33	40.	Louisiana	11.75
15.	Massachusetts	13.33	41.	Maryland	11.51
16.	Delaware	13.30	42.	Idaho	11.47
17.	Nebraska	13.28	43.	Washington	11.46
18.	Alabama	13.25	44.	Virginia	11.43
19.	Oklahoma	13.22	45.	Nevada	11.31
20.	Vermont	13.16	46.	California	10.71
21.	New York	13.06	47.	Colorado	9.97
22.	Wisconsin	13.03	48.	Texas	9.94
23.	Kansas	13.01	49.	Georgia	9.59
24.	New Jersey	12.95	50.	Utah	8.75
25.	Oregon	12.91	51.	Alaska	6.63
26.	Arizona	12.77		United States	12.41

Source: CRS compilation based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Table A-3. States Ranked by the Percent of Their Resident Population Age 85 and Older, 2005

Rank	State	Percent of residents 85 and older	Rank	State	Percent of residents 85 and older
1.	North Dakota	2.69	27.	Washington	1.76
2.	Rhode Island	2.56	28.	Arkansas	1.75
3.	Iowa	2.54	29.	Indiana	1.73
4.	Connecticut	2.46	30.	Delaware	1.70
5.	Pennsylvania	2.46	31.	Idaho	1.64
6.	South Dakota	2.41	32.	Maryland	1.59
7.	Florida	2.25	33.	Oklahoma	1.56
8.	Massachusetts	2.22	34.	Arizona	1.54
9.	Hawaii	2.17	35.	California	1.50
10.	Kansas	2.10	36.	South Carolina	1.49
11.	Nebraska	2.10	37.	Alabama	1.49
12.	Wisconsin	2.08	38.	Wyoming	1.48
13.	Montana	2.05	39.	North Carolina	1.47
14.	Oregon	2.05	40.	Kentucky	1.45
15.	Minnesota	2.01	41.	Tennessee	1.45
16.	Maine	1.98	42.	Virginia	1.44

Rank	State	Percent of residents 85 and older	Rank	State	Percent of residents 85 and older
17.	New Jersey	1.96	43.	New Mexico	1.43
18.	New York	1.92	44.	Mississippi	1.39
19.	Vermont	1.91	45.	Louisiana	1.38
20.	Ohio	1.90	46.	Colorado	1.28
21.	Michigan	1.82	47.	Texas	1.13
22.	West Virginia	1.81	48.	Utah	1.11
23.	New Hampshire	1.79	49.	Georgia	1.11
24.	Missouri	1.79	50.	Nevada	1.06
25.	Illinois	1.78	51.	Alaska	0.59
26.	District of Columbia	1.76	United States		1.72

Source: CRS compilation based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Table A-4. States Ranked by Growth Rate of Population Age 65 and Older, 2005

Rank	State	Number of people 65 and older, 2000	Number of people 65 and older, 2005	Change in number of people 65 and older, 2000 to 2005	Percent change in number of people 65 and older, 2000 to 2005
1.	Nevada	218,929	273,136	54,207	24.76
2.	Alaska	35,699	44,026	8,327	23.33
3.	Utah	190,222	216,021	25,799	13.56
4.	Arizona	667,839	758,181	90,342	13.53
5.	Idaho	145,916	163,917	18,001	12.34
6.	Colorado	416,073	465,096	49,023	11.78
7.	Georgia	785,275	870,422	85,147	10.84
8.	New Mexico	212,225	234,902	22,677	10.69
9.	Delaware	101,726	112,214	10,488	10.31
10.	South Carolina	485,333	534,980	49,647	10.23
11.	New Hampshire	147,970	163,105	15,135	10.23
12.	Texas	2,072,532	2,271,845	199,313	9.62
13.	Virginia	792,333	865,103	72,770	9.18
14.	Washington	662,148	720,874	58,726	8.87
15.	North Carolina	969,048	1,054,098	85,050	8.78
16.	Hawaii	160,601	174,538	13,937	8.68
17.	California	3,595,658	3,868,574	272,916	7.59
18.	Maryland	599,307	644,560	45,253	7.55
19.	Wyoming	57,693	62,037	4,344	7.53

Rank	State	Number of people 65 and older, 2000	Number of people 65 and older, 2005	Change in number of people 65 and older, 2000 to 2005	Percent change in number of people 65 and older, 2000 to 2005
20.	Oregon	438,177	469,906	31,729	7.24
21.	Tennessee	703,311	749,951	46,640	6.63
22.	Florida	2,807,597	2,993,160	185,563	6.61
23.	Montana	120,949	128,834	7,885	6.52
24.	Vermont	77,510	81,982	4,472	5.77
25.	Maine	183,402	192,664	9,262	5.05
26.	Minnesota	594,266	623,241	28,975	4.88
27.	Mississippi	343,523	358,393	14,870	4.33
28.	Kentucky	504,793	525,764	20,971	4.15
29.	Alabama	579,798	603,733	23,935	4.13
30.	Indiana	752,831	777,506	24,675	3.28
31.	Michigan	1,219,018	1,258,494	39,476	3.24
32.	Oklahoma	455,950	468,968	13,018	2.86
33.	Louisiana	516,929	531,581	14,652	2.83
34.	Arkansas	374,019	384,450	10,431	2.79
35.	New York	2,448,352	2,515,064	66,712	2.72
36.	Wisconsin	702,553	721,633	19,080	2.72
37.	Missouri	755,379	773,171	17,792	2.36
38.	South Dakota	108,131	110,530	2,399	2.22
39.	Illinois	1,500,025	1,530,074	30,049	2.00
40.	New Jersey	1,113,136	1,129,356	16,220	1.46
41.	Ohio	1,507,757	1,529,430	21,673	1.44
42.	Connecticut	470,183	474,150	3,967	0.84
43.	Nebraska	232,195	233,550	1,355	0.58
44.	West Virginia	276,895	278,368	1,473	0.53
45.	Kansas	356,229	357,005	776	0.22
46.	Iowa	436,213	435,220	(993)	-0.23
47.	Massachusetts	860,162	852,826	(7,336)	-0.85
48.	North Dakota	94,478	93,650	(828)	-0.88
49.	Pennsylvania	1,919,165	1,892,847	(26,318)	-1.37
50.	Rhode Island	152,402	149,775	(2,627)	-1.72
51.	District of	69,898	67,208	(2,690)	-3.85
	United States	34,991,753	36,790,113	1,798,360	5.14

Source: CRS compilation based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Table A-5. States Ranked by Growth Rate of Population Age 85 and Older, 2005

Rank	State	Number of people 85 and older, 2000	Number of people 85 and older, 2005	Change in number of people 85 and older, 2000 to 2005	Percent change in number of people 85 and older, 2000 to 2005
1.	Hawaii	17,564	27,653	10,089	57.44
2.	Nevada	16,989	25,700	8,711	51.27
3.	Alaska	2,634	3,907	1,273	48.33
4.	Delaware	10,549	14,338	3,789	35.92
5.	Connecticut	64,273	86,310	22,037	34.29
6.	Maryland	66,902	89,325	22,423	33.52
7.	Arizona	68,525	91,207	22,682	33.10
8.	Rhode Island	20,897	27,554	6,657	31.86
9.	Washington	84,085	110,519	26,434	31.44
10.	Oregon	57,431	74,529	17,098	29.77
11.	Idaho	18,057	23,420	5,363	29.70
12.	Michigan	142,460	184,074	41,614	29.21
13.	New Hampshire	18,231	23,503	5,272	28.92
14.	Pennsylvania	237,567	305,404	67,837	28.55
15.	California	425,657	543,323	117,666	27.64
16.	South Carolina	50,269	63,570	13,301	26.46
17.	Utah	21,751	27,337	5,586	25.68
18.	New Jersey	135,999	170,896	34,897	25.66
19.	Montana	15,337	19,187	3,850	25.10
20.	Virginia	87,266	109,003	21,737	24.91
21.	Colorado	48,216	59,564	11,348	23.54
22.	Ohio	176,796	217,462	40,666	23.00
23.	Massachusetts	116,692	142,336	25,644	21.98
24.	North Carolina	105,461	127,415	21,954	20.82
25.	Florida	331,287	399,410	68,123	20.56
26.	Wisconsin	95,625	115,269	19,644	20.54
27.	Minnesota	85,601	103,012	17,411	20.34
28.	Vermont	9,996	11,917	1,921	19.22
29.	New York	311,488	369,722	58,234	18.70
30.	Indiana	91,558	108,635	17,077	18.65
31.	Illinois	192,031	227,797	35,766	18.63
32.	New Mexico	23,306	27,516	4,210	18.06
33.	North Dakota	14,726	17,139	2,413	16.39

Rank	State	Number of people 85 and older, 2000	Number of people 85 and older, 2005	Change in number of people 85 and older, 2000 to 2005	Percent change in number of people 85 and older, 2000 to 2005
34.	South Dakota	16,086	18,663	2,577	16.02
35.	Iowa	65,118	75,357	10,239	15.72
36.	Georgia	87,857	100,395	12,538	14.27
37.	Maine	23,316	26,196	2,880	12.35
38.	Wyoming	6,735	7,515	780	11.58
39.	Kansas	51,770	57,665	5,895	11.39
40.	Nebraska	33,953	36,940	2,987	8.80
41.	Texas	237,940	257,368	19,428	8.17
42.	District of Columbia	8,975	9,677	702	7.82
43.	Louisiana	58,676	62,274	3,598	6.13
44.	Tennessee	81,465	86,286	4,821	5.92
45.	Missouri	98,571	103,752	5,181	5.26
46.	Arkansas	46,492	48,548	2,056	4.42
47.	Kentucky	58,261	60,584	2,323	3.99
48.	West Virginia	31,779	32,827	1,048	3.30
49.	Alabama	67,301	67,975	674	1.00
50.	Oklahoma	57,175	55,298	-1,877	-3.28
51.	Mississippi	42,891	40,665	-2,226	-5.19
	United States	4,239,587	5,095,938	856,351	20.20

Source: CRS compilation based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

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