

**Population**

Indicator 1
Indicator 4
Indicator 5

**Indicator 2**  
**Number of Older Americans**

**Indicator 3**  
The growth of the population age 65 and over affects many aspects of our society, challenging policymakers, families, businesses, and health care providers, among others, to meet the needs of aging individuals.

**Indicator 4**

### Number of people age 65 and over, by age group, selected years 1900–2006 and projected 2010–2050

Year	65 and over	85 and over
1900	3	0.1
1910	4	0.1
1920	6	0.1
1930	9	0.1
1940	13	0.1
1950	18	0.1
1960	24	0.2
1970	30	0.3
1980	35	0.4
1990	38	0.5
2000	40	0.6
2006	37	5.3
2010	40	6.0
2020	55	7.0
2030	71.5	9.0
2040	78	15.0
2050	85	21.0

Note: Data for 2010–2050 are projections of the population.  
Reference population: These data refer to the resident population.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, Population Estimates and Projections.

- In 2006, 37 million people age 65 and over lived in the United States, accounting for just over 12 percent of the total population. Over the 20th century, the older population grew from 3 million to 37 million. The oldest-old population (those age 85 and over) grew from just over 100,000 in 1900 to 5.3 million in 2006.
- The Baby Boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964) will start turning 65 in 2011, and the number of older people will increase dramatically during the 2010–2030 period. The older population in 2030 is projected to be twice as large as in 2000, growing from 35 million to 71.5 million and representing nearly 20 percent of the total U.S. population.
- The growth rate of the older population is projected to slow after 2030, when the last Baby Boomers enter the ranks of the older population. From 2030 onward, the proportion age 65 and over will be relatively stable, at around 20 percent, even though the absolute number of people age 65 and over is projected to continue to grow. The oldest-old population is projected to grow rapidly after 2030, when the Baby Boomers move into this age group.
- The U.S. Census Bureau projects that the population age 85 and over could grow from 5.3 million in 2006 to nearly 21 million by 2050. Some researchers predict that death rates at older ages will decline more rapidly than is reflected in the U.S. Census Bureau’s projections, which could lead to faster growth of this population. 1–3

[Back to Menu](#)

Last Modified: 12/31/1600 7:00:00 PM

Text Size: [T](#) [T](#) [T](#) [T](#)

[Accessibility](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [FOIA](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Site Map](#)



