

**Population**

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Indicator 7  
**Racial and Ethnic Composition**

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As the older population grows larger, it will also grow more diverse, reflecting the demographic changes in the U.S. population as a whole over the last several decades. By 2050, programs and services for older people will require greater flexibility to meet the needs of a more diverse population.

### Population age 65 and over, by race and Hispanic origin, 2006 and projected

Race and Hispanic Origin	2006 (%)	2050 (projected) (%)
Non-Hispanic white alone	81	61
Black alone	9	12
Asian alone	3	8
All other races alone or in combination	1	3
Hispanic (of any race)	6	18

Note: The term "non-Hispanic white alone" is used to refer to people who reported being white and no other race and who are not Hispanic. The term "black alone" is used to refer to people who reported being black or African American and no other race, and the term "Asian alone" is used to refer to people who reported only Asian as their race. The use of single-race populations in this report does not imply that this is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The U.S. Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches. The race group "All other races alone or in combination" includes American Indian and Alaska Native, alone; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, alone; and all people who reported two or more races.

Reference population: These data refer to the resident population.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates and Projections.

- In 2006, non-Hispanic whites accounted for 81 percent of the U.S. older population. Blacks made up 9 percent, Asians made up 3 percent, and Hispanics (of any race) accounted for 6 percent of the older population.
- Projections indicate that by 2050 the composition of the older population will be 61 percent non-Hispanic white, 18 percent Hispanic, 12 percent black, and 8 percent Asian.
- The older population among all racial and ethnic groups will grow; however, the older Hispanic population is projected to grow the fastest, from just over 2 million in 2005 to 15 million in 2050, and to be larger than the older black population by 2028. The older Asian population is also projected to experience a large increase. In 2006, just over 1 million older Asians lived in the United States; by 2050 this population is projected to be almost 7 million.

Data for this indicator's chart and bullets can be found in Table 2.

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