Educational attainment influences socioeconomic status, which in turn plays a role in well-being at older ages. Higher levels of education are usually associated with higher incomes, higher standards of living, and above-average health.

In 1965, 24 percent of the older population had graduated from high school, and only 5 percent had at least a bachelor's degree. By 2007, 76 percent were high school graduates, and 19 percent had a bachelor's degree or more.

In 2007, about 76 percent of both older men and older women had at least a high school diploma. Older men attained at least a bachelor's degree more often than older women (25 percent compared with 15 percent). The gender gap in completion of a college education will narrow in the future because men and women in younger cohorts are earning college degrees at roughly the same rate.
Educational attainment of the population age 65 and over, by race and Hispanic origin, 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High school graduate or more</th>
<th>Bachelor's degree or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White, non-Hispanic</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black, non-Hispanic</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian and Alaska Native American</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic, any race</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other, non-Hispanic</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent 100