

Old age
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ESTIMATES OF THE SIZE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OLDER POPULATION
IN 1974 AND PROJECTIONS TO THE YEAR 2000*

The Bureau of the Census recently released two reports containing estimates of the population in 1974 by age, sex, and race, and projections of the population to the year 2000 by age and sex. Projections to 2000 by race will be published in a later report.

As of July 1, 1974, the resident population of the United States was estimated to be 211 million, an increase of 4 percent since 1970 (Table A). Over this period, the elderly population continued to grow more rapidly than the population as a whole. The number of persons 60 years old and over was estimated at 31 million, an increase of 9 percent since 1970, and the number of persons 65 years old and over increased at roughly the same rate to 22 million. During this 4-year period, the proportion of the population that was 60 years old and over increased from 14.1 to 14.7 percent. For persons 65 years old and over, this proportion increased from 9.8 to 10.3 percent.

The elderly are becoming an increasing proportion of our nation's population because of major changes in the three primary components of population change--fertility, mortality, and immigration. Birth rates have declined drastically since the peak of the "baby boom" in the mid-1950's. For example, the total population of the United States grew 17 percent between 1960 and 1974, but the number of preschool children actually declined by 20 percent. In addition, death rates have decreased markedly since the turn of the century, when the average length of life was only 47.3 years. By 1973, the average length of life had increased by about one-half to 71.3 years. Finally, the number of immigrants has increased slowly since the low point reached during the Depression and World War II, but is still less than half the level that arrived during the decade and a half preceding World War I.^{1/} Thus, the decreasing influence of immigrants (the majority of whom are young and in their primary child-bearing years) in our country's population growth serves to increase the proportion that is over 60 years old.

*Prepared by Donald G. Fowles, Data Analysis and Dissemination Division. The figures presented in this memorandum supersede those in Statistical Memorandum No. 25.

^{1/} Also, because the total population of the U.S. during 1900 to 1914 was less than half of what it is today, the proportion of immigrants to the total population was several times higher. It should also be noted that the survivors of the pre-World War I peak years of immigration are now over 60 years old.

U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

Office of Human Development

Administration on Aging

National Clearinghouse on Aging



Table A.--ESTIMATES OF THE RESIDENT POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES BY
AGE: 1974 AND 1970

(Numbers in thousands)

| Age | 1974 | 1970 | Percent change 1970-74 |
|--|---------|---------|---------------------------|
| Total, all ages.. | 211,390 | 203,235 | 4.0 |
| 60 years and over.... | 31,020 | 28,595 | 8.5 |
| 65 years and over.... | 21,815 | 19,972 | 9.2 |
| 60 years and over as % of all ages..... | 14.7 | 14.1 | (X) |
| 65 years and over as % of all ages..... | 10.3 | 9.8 | (X) |

(X) Not applicable.

Source: See Table 1.

Age and Sex Composition

The age and sex composition of the elderly has changed dramatically since 1900. High mortality among females during childbearing and a preponderance of males among the immigrants who arrived in this country during the 19th century actually produced a surplus of males in the older ages (97 females per 100 males) and this relationship reversed itself only in the very oldest age groups--75 years and over (Table B).

However, females have benefited from the trend toward greater life expectancy more than males during the 20th century. For females, the average length of life increased from 48 years in 1900 to 75 years in 1973, an increase of 56 percent; for males, the increase was from 46 to 68 years, only 46 percent. As a result, the elderly population contained a higher proportion of females than males in 1974 and this disparity increased with age. Slightly more than one-fourth of the female population 60 years old and over was in the younger age group, 60 to 64 years. For males, this proportion was higher, about one-third. At the older end of the age distribution, about 7 percent of elderly females had reached the age of 85 or more, as compared to only 4 percent for males. Stated somewhat differently, there were 134 females for every 100 males within the elderly population. This ratio was only 114 for the 60 to 64 age group and rose steadily to over 200 females per 100 males for the group 85 years old and over.

Table B.--AGE DISTRIBUTION BY SEX RATIOS FOR PERSONS 60 YEARS OLD AND OVER IN THE UNITED STATES: 1974 AND 1900

| Age | 1974 | | | 1900 * | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| | Percent distribution | | Females per 100 males | Percent distribution | | Females per 100 males |
| | Male | Female | | Male | Female | |
| Total..... | 100.0 | 100.0 | 133.8 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 97.0 |
| 60 to 64 years... | 32.4 | 27.6 | 114.1 | 37.1 | 36.4 | 95.3 |
| 65 to 74 years... | 44.4 | 43.1 | 130.1 | 45.2 | 44.6 | 95.7 |
| 75 to 84 years... | 18.9 | 22.7 | 160.9 | 15.5 | 16.2 | 101.0 |
| 85 years and over | 4.3 | 6.6 | 202.1 | 2.2 | 2.8 | 125.4 |
| Median age..years | 68.4 | 69.6 | (X) | 67.4 | 67.6 | (X) |

* Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

(X) Not applicable.

Source: See Table 3.

The Black Elderly

During the 19th and early part of the 20th centuries, the black population was becoming a smaller proportion of the total population, declining from one of every 5 Americans in the early 1800's to one of every 10 during the 1920's and 30's (Table C). Several factors contributed to this trend, including the end of the slave trade, the high level of immigration of whites from Europe, and high fertility levels for white females. In the past few decades, however, the lower level of immigration and the considerable drop in white fertility have brought about a slow reversal of this trend. In addition, the many improvements in health, sanitation, and nutrition that have occurred during this century have added proportionately more years to the life expectancy of blacks than to whites. The average life expectancy of blacks has doubled since 1900, while the increase for whites has been only half as great.^{2/}

^{2/} Nevertheless, it should not be overlooked that the average life expectancy at birth in 1973 for whites (72.2 years) was over 6 years higher than for nonwhites (65.9 years).

The reversal of this trend has altered the racial composition of the elderly as well as the younger population. By 1930, blacks constituted only 6 percent of the population 60 years old and over, but by 1974 this figure had risen to 8.2 percent.

Table C.--BLACKS AS A PROPORTION OF THE ELDERLY POPULATION
IN THE UNITED STATES: 1900 TO 1974

| Year | Blacks as a percent of the population: | | |
|--------|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| | All ages | 60 years and over | 65 years and over |
| 1974.. | 11.4 | 8.2 | 7.9 |
| 1970.. | 11.1 | 8.0 | 7.7 |
| 1960.* | 10.6 | 7.4 | 7.2 |
| 1950.. | 9.9 | 6.8 | 7.0 |
| 1940.. | 9.7 | 6.6 | 6.8 |
| 1930.. | 9.7 | 5.9 | 5.6 |
| 1920.. | 9.9 | 6.7 | 6.7 |
| 1910.. | 10.7 | 7.7 | 7.4 |
| 1900.. | 11.6 | 8.7 | 8.5 |

*Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

Sources: For 1974 and 1970, see Table 1. For 1960, see 1960 Census of Population, Volume I, "Characteristics of the Population," Part I, United States Summary, Table 158. For 60 and 65 years old and over for 1900 to 1950, see Bureau of the Census, Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1957, Series A 71-85, page 10. For all ages, 1900 to 1950, see 1970 Census of Population, Vol. 1, "Characteristics of the Population," Part 1, United States Summary, Table 48.

Projections to the Year 2000

Any projection into the future is based on assumptions which seem reasonable at the time the projection is made but which may or may not turn out to be accurate as the future becomes the present. Population projections are no exception and, in fact, are based on many assumptions. These include assumptions primarily about fertility rates, death rates, and immigration, each of which can be broken down by age, sex, and race. Because of this complexity, the Bureau of the Census generally issues a range of population projections from which the user can select the projection which is based on the set of assumptions the user considers most reasonable.

As in the past, the current population projections recently issued by the Bureau of the Census differ from one another primarily in their underlying assumptions about fertility, the most volatile component of population change and the most difficult to predict. A brief discussion of the assumptions regarding the three major components of change--fertility, mortality, and immigration--follows:

- A. Fertility - Three different levels of fertility, defined here as the average number of children born to a woman during her childbearing years, were used in making the current projections. These levels, projected to be reached by the year 2000, are:

| <u>Series I</u> | <u>Series II</u> | <u>Series III</u> |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 2.7 | 2.1 | 1.7 |

The figure of 2.1 (Series II) represents a slight increase from current fertility levels^{3/} and also represents the replacement level, the fertility level "required for a population to replace itself indefinitely, given projected mortality rates and in the absence of net immigration".^{4/} The 2.7 level (Series I) represents a considerable increase from current levels, although not quite a return to the 3.2 average for women who participated in the "baby boom" of the mid-1950's. The 1.7 figure (Series III) represents a continuation of the recent decrease in fertility levels. An average of less than two children per woman runs counter to the social norm of at least two children per family but the current downturn in the fertility rate indicates that the strength of this norm may be faltering.^{5/}

- B. Mortality - All three series use the same mortality assumptions, which project a continuation of the slight decreases in death rates which have been experienced in the recent past. Obviously, major breakthroughs in the treatment or prevention of cancer or heart disease, or major calamities such as wars, epidemics, or famine, would greatly undermine these mortality assumptions. However, such occurrences cannot be predicted with any certainty. Life expectancy at birth is projected to increase from 67.9 for males and 75.7 for females in 1972 to 69.9 and 78.0, respectively, in 2020.^{6/}

^{3/}Recent data collected by the Bureau of the Census indicate that young women now entering their primary childbearing years expect to have an average of 2.0 children.

^{4/}Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 541, "Projections of the Population of the United States, by Age and Sex, 1975 to 2000, With Extensions of Total Population to 2025 (Advance Report)," page 2.

^{5/} Ibid., page 3.

^{6/} The life expectancy estimates for 1972 are roughly one half year higher than those previously published by the National Center for Health Statistics for the same year. The Bureau of the Census recomputed the 1972 rates using slightly higher population estimates (and therefore slightly lower death rates).

- C. Immigration - All three series assume a net immigration (immigrants minus emigrants) of 400,000 a year. This level is relatively close to the levels of the recent past. Based on previous experience, only a small number of these immigrants are expected to be in the higher age groups.

As mentioned earlier, fertility is the most volatile of the components of population change and the component which has the greatest influence on the size of the projected population over the next 25 to 50 years. However, the population that will be considered elderly (60 years and over) in the year 2000 has already been born. Because all three projections use the same mortality and immigration assumptions, the size of the elderly population in all three projections is the same. For the purposes of this discussion, the only significance of the different fertility assumptions is to determine the proportion of the total population which falls in the elderly category.

As shown in Table D, the population 60 years and over in 2000 is projected to reach 41 million, an increase of 31 percent over its 1974 level. Depending on the fertility assumptions used, the projected total population will range in size from 245 to 287 million. The high fertility assumption is the only one sufficient to cause the growth of the total population to be greater than that of the elderly population and thus cause the elderly to comprise a smaller proportion of the total than in 1974. Persons 60 and over, who represented 15 percent of the population in 1974, would represent from 14 percent (Series I) to 17 percent (Series III) of the population in 2000.^{7/}

The population 65 and over, which will increase at a greater rate (40%) than the 60 and over group, constitutes a larger proportion of the total population regardless of which fertility assumption is used. The proportion, which was 10 percent in 1974, ranges from 11 percent (Series I) to 13 percent (Series III) in 2000.

^{7/} A reasonable upper limit to this proportion can be derived from a demographic concept called "The ultimate stationary population." Such a population, characterized by no growth and a constant age-sex distribution, would be the result of about a century of replacement level fertility and no immigration. In such a population, persons 60 and over would constitute about 22 percent of the population. For persons 65 and over, this proportion would be 16 percent. Obviously, the United States is many years away from achieving an "ultimate stationary population." For further information, see page 2 and Table 7 of Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 480, "Illustrative Population Projections for the United States: The Demographic Effects of Alternate Paths to Zero Growth," April 1972.

Table D.-- PROJECTED TOTAL AND ELDERLY POPULATION IN THE
YEAR 2000

(Numbers in thousands. Total population includes Armed
Forces overseas)

| Age | Series (fertility assumption) | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | I (high) | II (replacement level) | III (low) |
| All ages..... | 287,007 | 262,494 | 245,098 |
| 60 years and over..... | 40,590 | 40,590 | 40,590 |
| % of all ages..... | 14.1 | 15.5 | 16.6 |
| 65 years and over..... | 30,600 | 30,600 | 30,600 |
| % of all ages..... | 10.7 | 11.7 | 12.5 |
| <u>Percent increase over 1974</u> | | | |
| All ages..... | 35.4 | 23.9 | 15.7 |
| 60 years and over..... | 30.9 | 30.9 | 30.9 |
| 65 years and over..... | 40.3 | 40.3 | 40.3 |

Source: See Table 2.

Although the obvious result of decreasing death rates is that the population, including the elderly, will live longer, only one-tenth of the 31 million elderly persons who were born before World War I and were alive in 1974 will still be alive in the year 2000 (Table E). The increase of almost two years in the median age^{8/} of the elderly, from 68.0 years in 1974 to 69.8 years in 2000, results almost entirely from the very low birth rates prevalent during the late 1920's and 1930's - the "Great Depression." Table E shows that the age groups in 2000 which include persons born prior to the Depression era are projected to grow by 50 percent or more, while those age groups that include Depression-era babies will grow at less than half that rate.

^{8/}The median age is the age which divides the elderly into two groups of equal size, one half of the cases falling below the median value and half exceeding this value.

Thus, as a consequence of family planning decisions made during the Depression and aided by declining death rates, the age distribution of the elderly will continue to shift toward the higher ages. At the beginning of this century, fewer than one of every five elderly persons was 75 years old and over. By 1974, this figure had risen to more than one out of four, and by 2000 is projected to be one out of three (Table 3). The disparity in growth rates for elderly females as compared to males will also continue. The sex ratio, which actually showed a slight preponderance of males at the turn of this century, now indicates 134 elderly females for every 100 males and will grow to 143 by the end of the century. Looking at the higher growth rates for elderly females and for the oldest of the elderly together, we can see from Table 3 that females 75 years old and over, who constituted only one-tenth of the elderly population in 1900 and one-sixth in 1974, will represent over one-fifth of the elderly in 2000.

Table E.--GROWTH RATES OF THE ELDERLY POPULATION BY AGE: 1974 TO 2000

| (Numbers in thousands) | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|---------------------------------|
| Age as of July 1 of specified year | 2000 | | 1974 | | % change, 1974 to 2000 |
| | Year of birth* | Number | Year of birth* | Number | |
| 60 years and over.. | Before 1940 | 40,590 | Before 1914 | 31,020 | 30.9 |
| 60 to 64 years..... | 1935 to 1940 | 9,990 | 1909 to 1914 | 9,205 | 8.5 |
| 65 to 69 years..... | 1930 to 1935 | 9,023 | 1904 to 1909 | 7,835 | 15.2 |
| 70 to 74 years..... | 1925 to 1930 | 8,056 | 1899 to 1904 | 5,702 | 41.3 |
| 75 to 79 years..... | 1920 to 1925 | 6,224 | 1894 to 1899 | 3,929 | 58.4 |
| 80 to 84 years..... | 1915 to 1920 | 4,080 | 1889 to 1894 | 2,606 | 56.6 |
| 85 years and over..... | Before 1915 | 3,217 | Before 1889 | 1,744 | 84.5 |
| Median age..(years)... | (X) | 69.8 | (X) | 68.0 | (X) |

* From July 2 of earlier year to July 1 of later year.

(X) Not applicable.

Source: See Table 2.

Summary

As of the middle of 1974, there were approximately 31 million persons 60 years old and over living in the United States. This number is projected to increase to 41 million by the year 2000. Because of increases in longevity in the past several decades and generally low fertility since the 1920's (except for the post-war "baby boom" era), the elderly are becoming an increasing proportion of our Nation's population. The demographic characteristics of the elderly, such as age, sex, and race, have been undergoing marked shifts for many years and current projections indicate that these trends will most likely continue to the end of this century. Those segments of the elderly population, such as females (who are often widowed and likely to live alone), blacks, and the very oldest--who suffer most from the commonly cited problems of the aged such as poor health, low income, and social isolation--are the segments which are projected to become an even larger proportion of the elderly than they are today.

Table 1.--ESTIMATES OF THE RESIDENT POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
BY AGE, SEX, AND RACE: JULY 1, 1974 AND APRIL 1, 1970

(Numbers in thousands. Estimates for 1970 are 1970 census data
adjusted for inconsistencies in the count of persons 100 years
old and over)

| Sex and age | All races ^{1/} | | | White | | | Negro | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|---------|-----------------------|--------|--------|-----------------------|
| | 1974 | 1970 | % change '70-74 | 1974 | 1970 | % change '70-74 | 1974 | 1970 | % change '70-74 |
| BOTH SEXES | | | | | | | | | |
| Total, all ages.. | 211,390 | 203,235 | 4.0 | 184,109 | 178,098 | 3.4 | 24,126 | 22,581 | 6.8 |
| 60 years and over... | 31,020 | 28,595 | 8.5 | 28,187 | 26,090 | 8.0 | 2,554 | 2,278 | 12.1 |
| % of all ages..... | 14.7 | 14.1 | (X) | 15.3 | 14.6 | (X) | 10.6 | 10.1 | (X) |
| 65 years and over... | 21,815 | 19,972 | 9.2 | 19,883 | 18,272 | 8.8 | 1,732 | 1,544 | 12.2 |
| % of all ages..... | 10.3 | 9.8 | (X) | 10.8 | 10.3 | (X) | 7.2 | 6.8 | (X) |
| MALE | | | | | | | | | |
| Total, all ages.. | 102,945 | 98,926 | 4.1 | 89,919 | 86,906 | 3.5 | 11,490 | 10,749 | 6.9 |
| 60 years and over... | 13,265 | 12,397 | 7.0 | 12,012 | 11,270 | 6.6 | 1,106 | 1,004 | 10.2 |
| % of all ages..... | 12.9 | 12.5 | (X) | 13.4 | 13.0 | (X) | 9.6 | 9.3 | (X) |
| 65 years and over... | 8,966 | 8,367 | 7.2 | 8,129 | 7,615 | 6.7 | 733 | 669 | 9.6 |
| % of all ages..... | 8.7 | 8.5 | (X) | 9.0 | 8.8 | (X) | 6.4 | 6.2 | (X) |
| FEMALE | | | | | | | | | |
| Total, all ages.. | 108,446 | 104,309 | 4.0 | 94,190 | 91,192 | 3.3 | 12,635 | 11,832 | 6.8 |
| 60 years and over... | 17,755 | 16,198 | 9.6 | 16,176 | 14,820 | 9.1 | 1,448 | 1,276 | 13.5 |
| % of all ages..... | 16.4 | 15.5 | (X) | 17.2 | 16.3 | (X) | 11.5 | 10.8 | (X) |
| 65 years and over... | 12,849 | 11,605 | 10.7 | 11,755 | 10,657 | 10.3 | 999 | 876 | 14.0 |
| % of all ages..... | 11.8 | 11.1 | (X) | 12.5 | 11.7 | (X) | 7.9 | 7.4 | (X) |
| FEMALES PER 100 MALES | | | | | | | | | |
| Total, all ages.. | 105.3 | 105.4 | (X) | 104.7 | 104.9 | (X) | 110.0 | 110.1 | (X) |
| 60 years and over... | 133.8 | 130.7 | (X) | 134.7 | 131.5 | (X) | 130.9 | 127.1 | (X) |
| 65 years and over... | 143.3 | 138.7 | (X) | 144.6 | 139.9 | (X) | 136.3 | 130.9 | (X) |

(X) Not applicable.

^{1/} Includes races other than white and Negro which are not shown separately.

Source: Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, P-25, No. 529, "Estimates of the Population of the United States, by Age, Sex, and Race: July 1, 1974 and April 1, 1970," Table 2.

Table 2.--PROJECTIONS OF THE TOTAL AND ELDERLY POPULATION
BY SEX TO THE YEAR 2000, FOR THE UNITED STATES

(Numbers in thousands as of July 1. All ages includes Armed
Forces overseas)

| Year | All ages ^{1/} | 60 years and over | | | | 65 years and over | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|------|--------|--------|-------------------|------|--------|--------|
| | | Total | | Male | Female | Total | | Male | Female |
| | | Number | % | | | Number | % | | |
| 1974.... | 211,909 | 31,020 | 14.6 | 13,265 | 17,755 | 21,815 | 10.3 | 8,966 | 12,849 |
| 1975.... | 213,450 | 31,568 | 14.8 | 13,463 | 18,105 | 22,330 | 10.5 | 9,147 | 13,182 |
| 1976.... | 215,074 | 32,075 | 14.9 | 13,643 | 18,433 | 22,775 | 10.6 | 9,298 | 13,478 |
| 1977.... | 216,814 | 32,546 | 15.0 | 13,808 | 18,739 | 23,204 | 10.7 | 9,445 | 13,760 |
| 1978.... | 218,678 | 33,052 | 15.1 | 13,990 | 19,061 | 23,652 | 10.8 | 9,601 | 14,051 |
| 1979.... | 220,663 | 33,614 | 15.2 | 14,199 | 19,414 | 24,085 | 10.9 | 9,756 | 14,328 |
| 1980.... | 222,769 | 34,267 | 15.4 | 14,457 | 19,810 | 24,523 | 11.0 | 9,914 | 14,609 |
| 1981.... | 224,963 | 34,849 | 15.5 | 14,684 | 20,165 | 24,913 | 11.1 | 10,050 | 14,863 |
| 1982.... | 227,207 | 35,470 | 15.6 | 14,929 | 20,542 | 25,281 | 11.1 | 10,177 | 15,104 |
| 1983.... | 229,484 | 36,039 | 15.7 | 15,144 | 20,895 | 25,674 | 11.2 | 10,316 | 15,358 |
| 1984.... | 231,776 | 36,591 | 15.8 | 15,353 | 21,239 | 26,124 | 11.3 | 10,478 | 15,646 |
| 1985.... | 234,068 | 37,136 | 15.9 | 15,560 | 21,575 | 26,659 | 11.4 | 10,684 | 15,975 |
| 1986.... | 236,345 | 37,607 | 15.9 | 15,735 | 21,872 | 27,132 | 11.5 | 10,863 | 16,269 |
| 1987.... | 238,596 | 38,026 | 15.9 | 15,888 | 22,138 | 27,638 | 11.6 | 11,054 | 16,584 |
| 1988.... | 240,809 | 38,420 | 16.0 | 16,033 | 22,387 | 28,086 | 11.7 | 11,215 | 16,871 |
| 1989.... | 242,973 | 38,759 | 16.0 | 16,153 | 22,605 | 28,514 | 11.7 | 11,368 | 17,146 |
| 1990.... | 245,075 | 39,127 | 16.0 | 16,290 | 22,836 | 28,933 | 11.8 | 11,518 | 17,415 |
| 1992.... | 249,068 | 39,531 | 15.9 | 16,420 | 23,112 | 29,573 | 11.9 | 11,739 | 17,834 |
| 1995.... | 254,495 | 39,858 | 15.7 | 16,492 | 23,365 | 30,307 | 11.9 | 11,995 | 18,311 |
| 2000.... | 262,494 | 40,590 | 15.5 | 16,729 | 23,860 | 30,600 | 11.7 | 12,041 | 18,558 |
| PERCENT INCREASE | | | | | | | | | |
| 1974 to 1980 | 5.1 | 10.5 | (X) | 9.0 | 11.6 | 12.4 | (X) | 10.6 | 13.7 |
| 1974 to 1990 | 15.7 | 26.1 | (X) | 22.8 | 28.6 | 32.6 | (X) | 28.5 | 35.5 |
| 1974 to 2000 | 23.9 | 30.9 | (X) | 26.1 | 34.4 | 40.3 | (X) | 34.3 | 44.4 |

(X) Not applicable

^{1/} Series II (replacement level fertility by 2000).

Source: Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 541, "Projections of the Population of the United States, by Age and Sex, 1975 to 2000, With Extensions of Total Population to 2025 (Advance Report)," Table 2.

Table 3.--AGE DISTRIBUTION AND SEX RATIOS OF PERSONS 60 YEARS
OLD AND OVER IN THE UNITED STATES: 1900 to 2000

| Subject | Year | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------|--------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | 2000 (projected) | 1980 (projected) | 1974 | 1960 | 1930 ^{1/} | 1900 ^{1/} |
| 60 years and over (thousands).... | 40,590 | 34,267 | 31,020 | 23,702 | 10,385 | 4,872 |
| As % of all ages | <u>2/15.5</u> | <u>2/15.4</u> | 14.7 | 13.2 | 8.5 | 6.4 |
| PERCENT DISTRIBUTION | | | | | | |
| Total..... | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Male..... | 41.2 | 42.2 | 42.8 | 46.0 | 50.7 | 50.8 |
| 60 to 64 years.... | 11.5 | 13.3 | 13.9 | 14.4 | 18.7 | 18.8 |
| 65 to 74 years.... | 18.2 | 19.4 | 19.0 | 21.6 | 23.2 | 22.9 |
| 75 to 84 years.... | 9.3 | 7.7 | 8.1 | 8.5 | 7.7 | 7.9 |
| 85 years and over. | 2.2 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Female..... | 58.8 | 57.8 | 57.2 | 54.0 | 49.3 | 49.2 |
| 60 to 64 years.... | 13.1 | 15.2 | 15.8 | 15.8 | 17.4 | 17.9 |
| 65 to 74 years.... | 23.9 | 25.6 | 24.7 | 24.8 | 22.3 | 22.0 |
| 75 to 84 years.... | 16.1 | 12.9 | 13.0 | 11.0 | 8.1 | 8.0 |
| 85 years and over. | 5.7 | 4.2 | 3.8 | 2.4 | 1.5 | 1.4 |
| FEMALES PER 100 MALES | | | | | | |
| Total..... | 142.6 | 137.0 | 133.8 | 117.2 | 97.2 | 97.0 |
| 60 to 64 years..... | 113.1 | 114.5 | 114.1 | 109.5 | 93.2 | 95.3 |
| 65 to 74 years..... | 131.1 | 131.9 | 130.1 | 114.9 | 95.9 | 95.7 |
| 75 to 84 years..... | 174.2 | 167.1 | 160.9 | 128.9 | 105.5 | 101.0 |
| 85 years and over.... | 259.8 | 227.0 | 202.1 | 156.5 | 132.6 | 125.4 |
| PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY SEX | | | | | | |
| Both sexes | | | | | | |
| Total..... | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| 60 to 64 years..... | 24.6 | 28.4 | 29.7 | 30.1 | 36.1 | 36.8 |
| 65 to 74 years..... | 42.1 | 45.0 | 43.6 | 46.4 | 45.5 | 44.9 |
| 75 to 84 years..... | 25.4 | 20.5 | 21.1 | 19.5 | 15.8 | 15.8 |
| 85 years and over.... | 7.9 | 6.0 | 5.6 | 3.9 | 2.6 | 2.5 |
| Male | | | | | | |
| Total..... | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| 60 to 64 years..... | 28.0 | 31.4 | 32.4 | 31.2 | 36.9 | 37.1 |
| 65 to 74 years..... | 44.2 | 46.0 | 44.4 | 46.9 | 45.7 | 45.2 |
| 75 to 84 years..... | 22.5 | 18.2 | 18.9 | 18.6 | 15.2 | 15.5 |
| 85 years and over.... | 5.3 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 3.3 | 2.2 | 2.2 |

(more)

Table 3.--Continued

| Subject | Year | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------|-------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | 2000 (projected) | 1980 (projected) | 1974 | 1960 | 1930 ^{1/} | 1900 ^{1/} |
| Female | | | | | | |
| Total..... | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| 60 to 64 years..... | 22.2 | 26.3 | 27.6 | 29.2 | 35.4 | 36.4 |
| 65 to 74 years..... | 40.6 | 44.3 | 43.1 | 46.0 | 45.2 | 44.6 |
| 75 to 84 years..... | 27.4 | 22.2 | 22.7 | 20.4 | 16.5 | 16.2 |
| 85 years and over.... | 9.7 | 7.3 | 6.6 | 4.4 | 3.0 | 2.8 |

^{1/}Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

^{2/}(Based on the series II projection of the total population (including Armed Forces overseas).

Sources: 2000, 1980, and 1974 - Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 541, "Projections of the Population of the United States, by Age and Sex, 1975 to 2000, With Extensions of Total Population to 2025 (Advance Report)," Feb. 1975, Table 2.

1960-Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, Volume I, "Characteristics of the Population," United States Summary, Table 52.

1930 and 1900-Bureau of the Census, 1930 Census of Population, Volume II, "General Report, Statistics by Subject," Table 7.