

Old age
(1966 folder)

Facts About

Older Americans

(AoA Publication No. 410)

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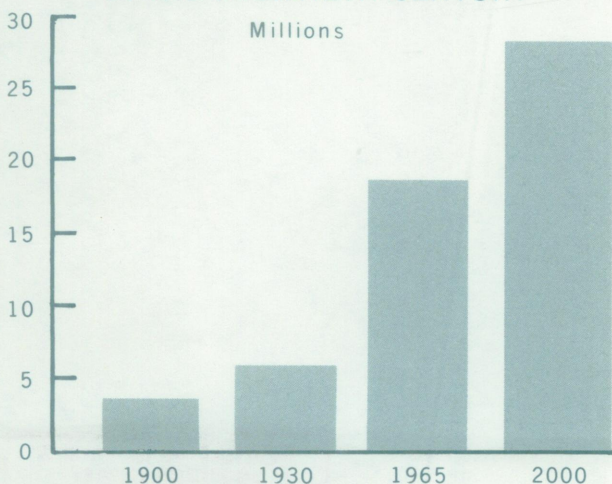
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
Administration on Aging
May 1966

How many older Americans are there?

- One in every 11 persons in the U.S. is aged 65 or over—a total of 18½ million men and women.
- This number exceeds the total population of the 20 smallest States.
- In this century, the *percentage* of the U.S. population aged 65 and over more than doubled (from 4.1% in 1900 to 9.4% in 1965), while the *number* increased six fold (from 3 million to more than 18 million).
- Women outlive men. There are about 129 older women per 100 older men. Life expectancy at birth is 73.7 years for females and 66.9 for males. Life expectancy for women is still increasing faster than for men.

GROWTH OF THE OLDER POPULATION IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY



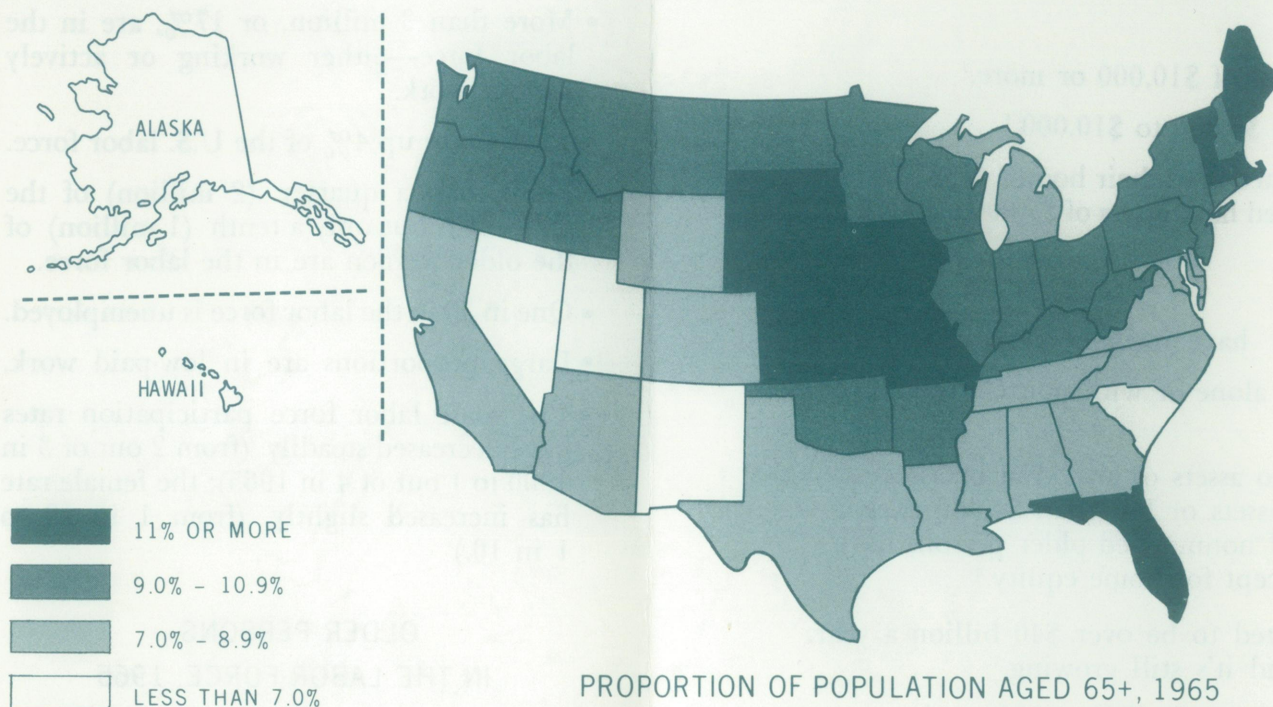
The Older Population in
the Twentieth Century

Year	Total	Men	Women	Ratio: Women/Men
1900	3,080,000	1,555,000	1,525,000	98/100
1930	6,634,000	3,325,000	3,309,000	99/100
1965 (est.)	18,156,000	7,931,000	10,225,000	129/100
2000 (proj.)	28,199,000	11,353,000	16,845,000	148/100

Source: Bureau of the Census

Where do older Americans live in the United States?

- Three out of every 10 persons 65 or over live in the four most populous States—New York, California, Pennsylvania, and Illinois—each of which has more than one million.
- Nine States have an unusually high proportion of older persons (11% or more) in their total populations—Iowa (12.5), Florida (12.3), Nebraska (11.7), Missouri (11.6), Kansas (11.4), Massachusetts (11.3), Maine (11.2), Vermont (11.1), and South Dakota (11.0).
- During the next 20 years, the older population of the U.S. is expected to increase almost 40 percent to 25 million. It will grow to over 2 million in two States (California and New York) and will number over 1 million in five other States (Florida, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas).



ESTIMATED POPULATION AGED 65+, BY STATE, 1965 AND 1985

State	Mid-1965		Mid-1985	
	Number	Percent ¹	Rank ²	Projection
Total, 51 "States"	18,156,000	9.4	—	25,006,000
Alabama	284,000	8.2	37	398,000
Alaska	6,000	2.4	51	11,000
Arizona	118,000	7.3	41	248,000
Arkansas	208,000	10.6	15	253,000
California	1,577,000	8.5	34	2,651,000
Colorado	170,000	8.6	32	242,000
Connecticut	265,000	9.4	26	383,000
Delaware	39,000	7.7	39	62,000
Dist. of Col.	72,000	9.0	30	92,000
Florida	713,000	12.3	2	1,381,000
Georgia	320,000	7.3	42	486,000
Hawaii	36,000	5.1	49	60,000
Idaho	63,000	9.1	29	81,000
Illinois	1,048,000	9.8	21	1,309,000
Indiana	467,000	9.6	23	588,000
Iowa	344,000	12.5	1	350,000

State	Mid-1965		Mid-1985	
	Number	Percent ¹	Rank ²	Projection
Kansas	254,000	11.4	5	279,000
Kentucky	310,000	9.8	22	378,000
Louisiana	264,000	7.5	40	396,000
Maine	111,000	11.2	7	130,000
Maryland	255,000	7.2	43	439,000
Massachusetts	605,000	11.3	6	720,000
Michigan	701,000	8.5	35	941,000
Minnesota	388,000	10.9	10	434,000
Mississippi	201,000	8.6	33	249,000
Missouri	524,000	11.6	4	590,000
Montana	67,000	9.5	24	82,000
Nebraska	173,000	11.7	3	178,000
Nevada	22,000	5.0	50	50,000
New Hampshire	72,000	10.8	11	92,000
New Jersey	629,000	9.3	27	942,000
New Mexico	60,000	5.8	48	103,000
New York	1,859,000	10.3	17	2,397,000

State	Mid-1965		Mid-1985	
	Number	Percent ¹	Rank ²	Projection
North Carolina	353,000	7.2	44	550,000
North Dakota	62,000	9.5	25	69,000
Ohio	948,000	9.2	28	1,225,000
Oklahoma	267,000	10.8	12	321,000
Oregon	203,000	10.7	13	263,000
Pennsylvania	1,190,000	10.3	18	1,565,000
Rhode Island	95,000	10.7	14	119,000
South Carolina	169,000	6.6	47	266,000
South Dakota	77,000	11.0	9	81,000
Tennessee	335,000	8.7	31	470,000
Texas	852,000	8.1	38	1,233,000
Utah	68,000	6.9	46	102,000
Vermont	44,000	11.1	8	54,000
Virginia	319,000	7.2	45	510,000
Washington	298,000	10.0	19	398,000
West Virginia	182,000	10.0	20	218,000
Wisconsin	439,000	10.6	16	530,000
Wyoming	29,000	8.5	36	38,000

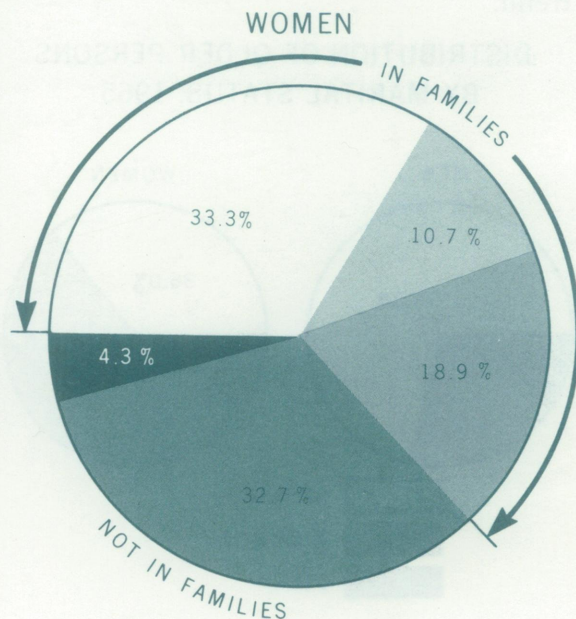
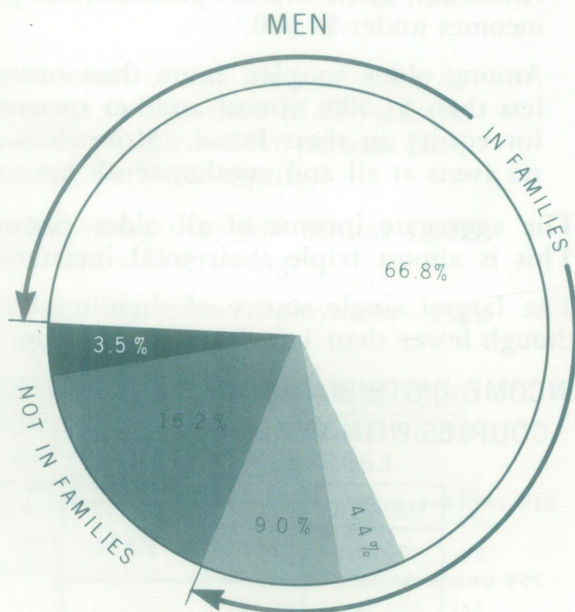
¹ Proportion of State's population which is aged 65+.

² States are ranked in order of decreasing percentages (highest percentage is rank 1, lowest is 51).

What are the living arrangements of older persons?

- The big majority of older men and women live in families. Only 1 in 25 lives in an institution.
- Two-thirds of the men, but only one-third of the women, live in families with their spouse.
- About one-third of the women, but only one-sixth of the men, live alone or with nonrelatives.

DISTRIBUTION OF OLDER PERSONS BY FAMILY STATUS, 1965

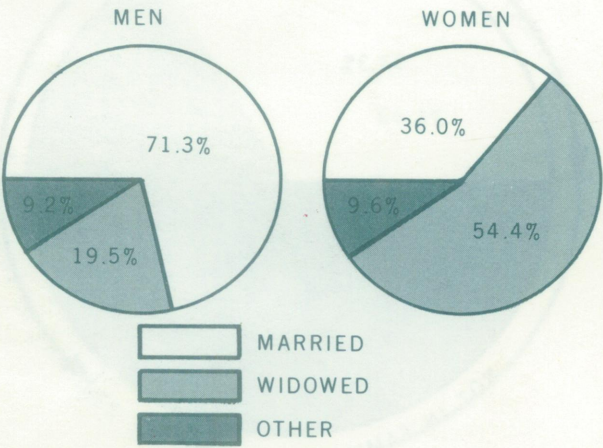


	MEN	WOMEN
	NUMBER	NUMBER
IN HUSBAND-WIFE FAMILIES	5,287,000	3,389,000
FAMILY HEAD, NO SPOUSE PRESENT	351,000	1,091,000
FAMILY MEMBER RELATED TO HEAD	712,000	1,918,000
LIVING ALONE OR WITH NONRELATIVES	1,283,000	3,329,000
LIVING IN AN INSTITUTION	277,000	440,000

What is the marital status of older persons?

- Most older men are married; most older women are widows. There are almost four times as many widows as widowers.
- About two-fifths of the older married men have wives *under* 65 years of age.
- There are at least 35,000 marriages a year in which the groom, the bride, or both are 65 or over. This number has been increasing for some time even though the number of all marriages has shown a downward trend.

DISTRIBUTION OF OLDER PERSONS
BY MARITAL STATUS, 1965



Distribution of Older Persons by
Marital Status, 1900 and 1965

Status	1965		1900	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Married	71.3	36.0	67.1	34.2
Widowed	19.5	54.4	26.4	59.3
Other				
Divorced	2.6	1.9	0.5	0.3
Never married	6.6	7.7	5.7	6.0

Source: Marital Status—Bureau of the Census.
Marriages—Estimated by Administration on Aging from Public Health Service data.

What is the situation of older persons on income* and assets?

• Some are well off . . .

About 350,000 couples with head 65+ have incomes of \$10,000 or more.¹

Close to 940,000 older couples have incomes from \$5,000 to \$10,000.¹

Among older couples, about a third have assets (other than their home) of \$10,000 or more. A little less than a third of the nonmarried have assets of \$5,000 or more.²

• Many are not well off . . .

Some 2.6 million older couples (more than half) have incomes under \$3,000.¹

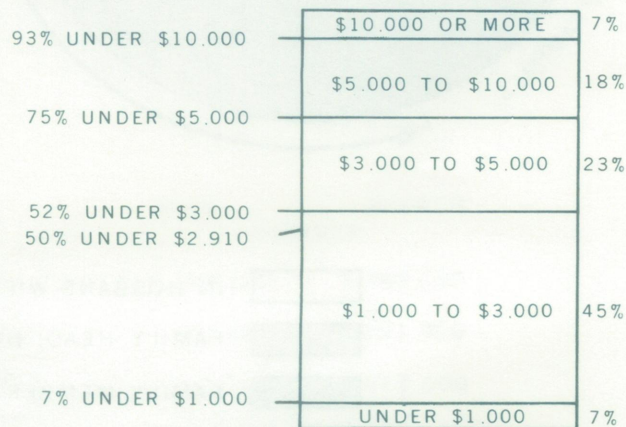
Almost 2.7 million older persons (3 out of 5) living alone or with nonrelatives have incomes under \$1,500.¹

Among older couples, more than one-sixth have no assets of any kind or assets of less than \$1,000; almost another quarter have no assets or less than \$1,000 except for equity in their home. More than a quarter of nonmarried older persons have no assets at all and another tenth have no assets except for home equity.²

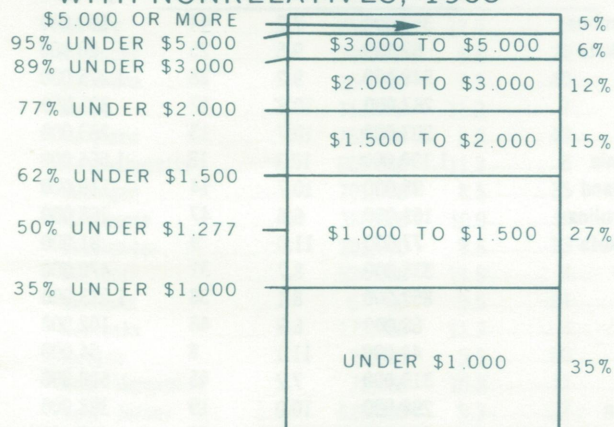
• The aggregate income of all older persons is estimated to be over \$40 billion a year. This is almost triple their total income in 1950—and it's still growing.³

• The largest single source of their total income is still earnings from employment—even though fewer than 1 in 5 are in the labor force.³

INCOME DISTRIBUTION OF 5,000,000
COUPLES WITH HEADS 65+, 1963



INCOME DISTRIBUTION OF 4,300,000
PERSONS AGED 65+ LIVING ALONE OR
WITH NONRELATIVES, 1963



* Income data is tabulated by age of head of family for families and by age of individual for persons living alone or with nonrelatives. Data presented here represent only two-person families and persons living alone or with nonrelatives to avoid factors introduced by presence of family members of other ages.

Source: 1 Estimated money income in 1963, Bureau of the Census.

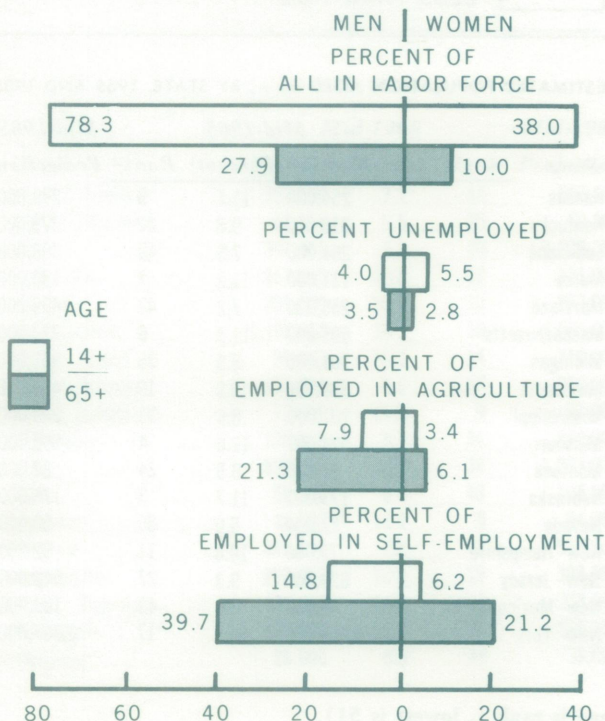
2 Social Security Administration 1963 Survey of the Aged.

3 Estimates from hearings of Senate Special Committee on Aging revised by Administration on Aging.

How many older persons work?

- More than 3 million, or 17%, are in the labor force—either working or actively seeking work.
- They make up 4% of the U.S. labor force.
- More than a quarter (2 million) of the older men but only a tenth (1 million) of the older women are in the labor force.
- One in 30 in the labor force is unemployed.
- Large proportions are in low-paid work.
- The male labor force participation rates have decreased steadily (from 2 out of 3 in 1900 to 1 out of 4 in 1965); the female rate has increased slightly (from 1 in 12 to 1 in 10.)

OLDER PERSONS IN THE LABOR FORCE, 1965



Source: Department of Labor

How much do older persons spend?

- Of their total income of over \$40 billion a year, almost all is used for current expenditures.
- Their heaviest dollar outlays are for housing and household operations, food purchases, and transportation.
- Older people spend proportionately more than younger people on housing and household operations, health care, and food purchased for preparation at home.

Average Annual Expenditures by
Nonfarm Families and Single Consumers, 1961-62

Item	Amount		Percent	
	Under 65	65+	Under 65	65+
Total	\$5,661	\$2,983	100.0	100.0
Food	1,372	778	24.2	26.1
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	196	77	3.4	2.5
Housing and household operations	1,322	869	23.4	29.1
Housefurnishings and equipment ...	305	120	5.4	4.0
Clothing and accessories	597	213	10.5	7.2
Transportation	882	350	15.6	11.7
Medical care	351	303	6.2	10.2
Personal care	164	81	2.9	2.7
Recreational and other	472	192	8.4	6.5

Source: Tabulation by the National Industrial Conference Board of data collected by the Department of Labor.