



Research Brief

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Pennsylvania Remains Second in Nation in Age 65 and Over Population

MIDDLETOWN, Pa—The Pennsylvania State Data Center at Harrisburg reports that Pennsylvania remains second in the nation in terms of persons age 65 and over as a percent of the state's total population. This data comes from the recently released General Demographic Profile of Pennsylvania by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Florida remains number one in persons age 65 and over as percent of total state population at 17.6 percent. Pennsylvania is second at 15.6 percent. Pennsylvania's total age 65 and over population was counted at 1,919,165-- a 4.9 percent increase from 1990. In 1990 the state's age 65 and over population numbered 1,829,106 persons (15.4% of the population).

The remaining three of the top five states in the nation with persons age 65 and over as a percent of total state population are West Virginia (15.3%), Iowa (14.9%) and North Dakota (14.7%). Alaska with only 5.7 percent of their total population age 65 and over ranks last.

In 1990, Florida was the top ranking state in terms of percent of population age 65 and over at 18.3 percent. Pennsylvania was second at 15.4 percent. The percent of population 65 and over in Florida declined while Pennsylvania increased.

California, with almost 3.6 million persons age 65 and over has the largest population in this age category. Florida ranks second with 2.8 million persons age 65 and over. Alaska has the smallest number of persons age 65 and over with less than 36,000 persons in this age category.

Table 1 contains the entire state ranking of persons age 65 and over as a percent of total population as well as the 1990 percent of persons age 65 and over.

Table 1, Percent of Population Age 65 and Over, 2000

| Rank | State | Total population | Age 65 and Over | Percent Age 65 and Over | 1990 Percent Age 65 and Over |
|------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Florida | 15,982,378 | 2,807,597 | 17.6 | 18.3 |
| 2 | Pennsylvania | 12,281,054 | 1,919,165 | 15.6 | 15.4 |
| 3 | West Virginia | 1,808,344 | 276,895 | 15.3 | 15.0 |
| 4 | Iowa | 2,926,324 | 436,213 | 14.9 | 15.3 |
| 5 | North Dakota | 642,200 | 94,478 | 14.7 | 14.3 |
| 6 | Rhode Island | 1,048,319 | 152,402 | 14.5 | 15.0 |
| 7 | Maine | 1,274,923 | 183,402 | 14.4 | 13.3 |
| 8 | South Dakota | 754,844 | 108,131 | 14.3 | 14.7 |
| 9 | Arkansas | 2,673,400 | 374,019 | 14.0 | 14.9 |
| 10 | Connecticut | 3,405,565 | 470,183 | 13.8 | 13.6 |
| 11 | Nebraska | 1,711,263 | 232,195 | 13.6 | 14.1 |
| 12 | Missouri | 5,595,211 | 755,379 | 13.5 | 14.0 |
| 13 | Massachusetts | 6,349,097 | 860,162 | 13.5 | 13.6 |
| 14 | Montana | 902,195 | 120,949 | 13.4 | 13.3 |
| 15 | Ohio | 11,353,140 | 1,507,757 | 13.3 | 13.0 |
| 16 | Kansas | 2,688,418 | 356,229 | 13.3 | 13.8 |
| 17 | Hawaii | 1,211,537 | 160,601 | 13.3 | 11.3 |
| 18 | New Jersey | 8,414,350 | 1,113,136 | 13.2 | 13.4 |
| 19 | Oklahoma | 3,450,654 | 455,950 | 13.2 | 13.5 |
| 20 | Wisconsin | 5,363,675 | 702,553 | 13.1 | 13.3 |
| 21 | Arizona | 5,130,632 | 667,839 | 13.0 | 13.1 |
| 22 | Delaware | 783,600 | 101,726 | 13.0 | 12.1 |
| 23 | Alabama | 4,447,100 | 579,798 | 13.0 | 12.9 |
| 24 | New York | 18,976,457 | 2,448,352 | 12.9 | 13.1 |
| 25 | Oregon | 3,421,399 | 438,177 | 12.8 | 13.8 |
| 26 | Vermont | 608,827 | 77,510 | 12.7 | 11.8 |
| 27 | Kentucky | 4,041,769 | 504,793 | 12.5 | 12.7 |
| 28 | Indiana | 6,080,485 | 752,831 | 12.4 | 12.6 |
| 29 | Tennessee | 5,689,283 | 703,311 | 12.4 | 12.7 |
| 30 | Michigan | 9,938,444 | 1,219,018 | 12.3 | 11.9 |
| 31 | Illinois | 12,419,293 | 1,500,025 | 12.1 | 12.6 |
| 32 | South Carolina | 4,012,012 | 485,333 | 12.1 | 11.4 |
| 33 | Minnesota | 4,919,479 | 594,266 | 12.1 | 12.5 |
| 34 | Mississippi | 2,844,658 | 343,523 | 12.1 | 12.5 |
| 35 | North Carolina | 8,049,313 | 969,048 | 12.0 | 12.1 |
| 36 | New Hampshire | 1,235,786 | 147,970 | 12.0 | 11.3 |
| 37 | New Mexico | 1,819,046 | 212,225 | 11.7 | 10.8 |
| 38 | Wyoming | 493,782 | 57,693 | 11.7 | 10.4 |
| 39 | Louisiana | 4,468,976 | 516,929 | 11.6 | 11.1 |
| 40 | Maryland | 5,296,486 | 599,307 | 11.3 | 10.8 |
| 41 | Washington | 5,894,121 | 662,148 | 11.2 | 11.8 |
| 42 | Virginia | 7,078,515 | 792,333 | 11.2 | 10.7 |
| 43 | Nevada | 1,998,257 | 218,929 | 11.0 | 10.6 |
| 44 | California | 33,871,648 | 3,595,658 | 10.6 | 10.5 |
| 45 | Texas | 20,851,820 | 2,072,532 | 9.9 | 10.1 |
| 46 | Colorado | 4,301,261 | 416,073 | 9.7 | 10.0 |
| 47 | Georgia | 8,186,453 | 785,275 | 9.6 | 10.1 |
| 48 | Utah | 2,233,169 | 190,222 | 8.5 | 8.7 |
| 49 | Idaho | 1,293,953 | 145,916 | 95.7 | 12.0 |
| 50 | Alaska | 626,932 | 35,699 | 5.7 | 4.1 |

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth's official source of population and economic statistics. It is based at Penn State Harrisburg's Institute of State and Regional Affairs. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau's National State Data Center Program.

Editors: For additional data, contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center's State Capital Office at 717.772.2710 or for faculty comment on this topic, contact Penn State Harrisburg's Public Information Office at 717.948.6029.

Source of Information: United State Census Bureau (General Demographic Profile)

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