



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

March 9, 2006

The Elderly (65+) in the United States: 2005

MIDDLETOWN, Pa –The Pennsylvania State Data Center at Penn State Harrisburg reports that the U.S. Census Bureau has released a Special Studies report, *65+ in the United States: 2005*. Commissioned by the National Institute on Aging (NIA), a component of the National Institutes of Health, the report provides a picture of the health and socioeconomic status of the aging population. It highlights striking shifts in aging on a population scale and also describes changes at the local and family levels, examining, for example, changes in family structure as a result of divorce. The report also analyzes data for the population age 65 and older, disaggregated into narrower age groups where possible. Topics covered in the study include: population growth, longevity and health, economic characteristics, geographic distribution, social profile, diversity by race and Hispanic origin, and future implications.

Data used in this report are primarily from Census 2000 and previous censuses, nationally represented surveys such as the Current Population Survey (CPS) and the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), recent population projections, and data compiled from other federal agencies, including the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).

The entire 243 page report may be downloaded or viewed (PDF format) at:
http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu/pasdc/PA_Stats/Age/65+UnitedStates.pdf

Some of the highlights from *65+ in the United States: 2005* include:

- The first baby boomers will turn 65 in 2011, and people age 65 and over are projected to comprise 20 percent of the total U.S. population in 2030, compared with 12 percent in 2003.
- About 80 percent of centenarians are women.
- The United States is relatively young compared with other developing countries.

Today's release by the U.S. Census Bureau includes a limited amount of data at the state and county level. The Pennsylvania State Data Center has provided additional information below about the Commonwealth's elderly (65+) population.

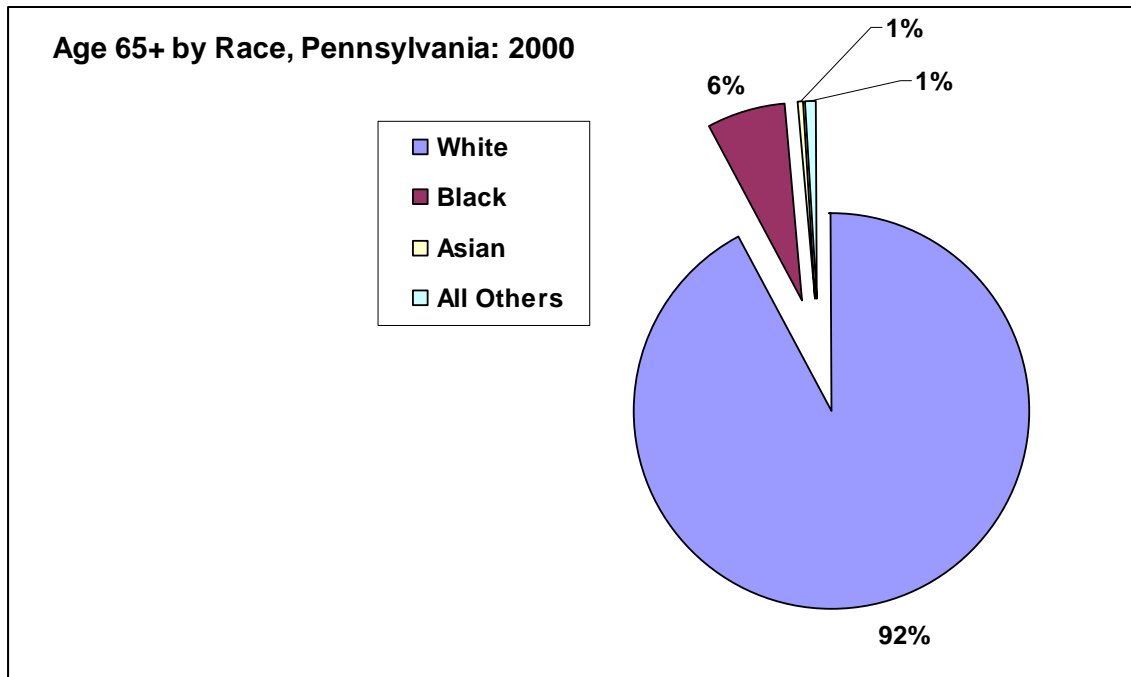
Pennsylvania's Age 65+ population

Pennsylvania had the fifth largest elderly population nationally in 2000 (1,919,165). The commonwealth also ranked 2nd in percent of the population age 65+ (15.6 percent), behind Florida (17.6 percent). Pennsylvania's population age 65+ increased 4.9 percent from 1990 to 2000. Nationally, the elderly population increased 12.0 percent over the same period. By 2030, Pennsylvania is projected to drop to 11th nationally in percent of the population age 65 and over. This is despite the fact that elderly Pennsylvanians are projected to grow to 22.6 percent of the population by 2030 and number almost 2.9 million persons, an increase of over 50 percent.

Race and Hispanic Origin: Pennsylvania, age 65+

The elderly White alone population in Pennsylvania totaled 1,770,773 in 2000, and the non-Hispanic, White alone population age 65+ was 1,761,664; fourth largest in the nation. The commonwealth's Black or African American alone elderly population was 122,689, ninth largest in the nation. No other race category for this age group ranked in the nation's top ten. The elderly Hispanic population (any race) in Pennsylvania was 15,545 and ranked 10th nationally. All other races in Pennsylvania made up just 8 percent of the population age 65+. (Chart 1)

Chart 1



Counties With Older Populations in Pennsylvania

In 2000, Allegheny County had the largest elderly population in Pennsylvania (228,416), followed by Philadelphia (213,722). Nationally, Allegheny County was the 13th largest county in population age 65+ while Philadelphia was 15th. Montgomery County ranked

48th nationally with an elderly population of 111,797. Los Angeles County, CA had the largest population age 65+ nationally (926,673).

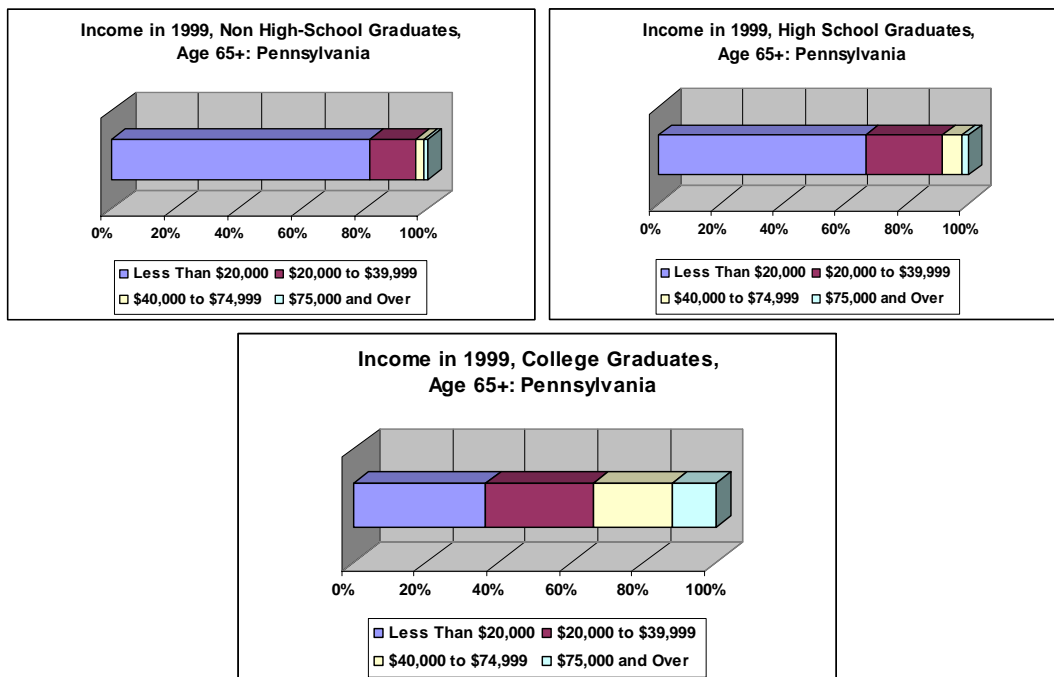
No Pennsylvania counties ranked in the top 50 nationally in percent of population age 65+. Charlotte County, Florida had the highest percent of population age 65+ (34.7 percent). Sullivan County had the highest percent of population age 65+ in Pennsylvania (21.9 percent), while Centre County had the lowest percent (10.4).

Income by Educational Attainment

Based on census 2000, 37 percent of the 1.9 million elderly people in Pennsylvania have not received a high-school diploma, 49 percent have earned a high-school diploma only, and the remaining 14 percent have earned a college degree.

Higher education seems to play a significant role in income for the elderly population in Pennsylvania. Eighty-one percent of non high-school graduates earned less than \$20,000 a year in 1999, while just one percent earned more than \$75,000 a year. Thirty-seven percent of college graduates age 65+ earn less than \$20,000 a year, while 12 percent earned more than \$75,000 a year. (Chart 2)

Chart 2: Income in 1999 by Educational Attainment, Age 65+:



Other Highlights of Pennsylvania's Elderly Population

- In 2000, almost 80 percent of Pennsylvania's elderly population (1.5 million) lived in urban areas; the remaining 20 percent lived in areas the U.S. Census

- Bureau defines as rural. Of those, about 10,000 are living on rural farms.
- There are almost 106,000 people age 65+ living in nursing homes.
 - Over 164,000 were in poverty (about 9.1 percent of the population age 65+ for whom poverty can be determined).
 - Over 555,000 lived alone. (Table 1)
 - Pennsylvania ranks 1st nationally in number of people who are native to their state of residence (over 1.5 million) and 3rd in percent of people who are native to their state of residence. (Table 2)
 - Diseases of the heart (31.2 percent) and malignant neoplasms (21.6 percent) made up over half of the 99,000 deaths of people age 65+ in 2004.

Table 1: Households With One or More People Age 65 and Over, Pennsylvania 2000

	Pennsylvania
Total Households:	4,777,003
Households with one or more people 65+:	1,328,237
1-person household	555,374
2-or-more person household:	772,863
Family households	747,730
Nonfamily households	25,133

A complete profile of the population age 65+ from the 2004 American Community Survey may be viewed at:

http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu/pasdc/PA_Stats/America_Community_Survey/2004/sbjtables/S0103.htm

Additional customized data about Pennsylvania's older populations may be obtained by contacting the Pennsylvania State Data Center at 717.948.6336, or by emailing the PaSDC at: PaSDC@psu.edu.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth's official source for 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.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau Census 2000, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Health Statistics and Research and *65+ in the United States: 2005*

Table 2: Born in State of Residence, U.S., 2000

State	Population Age 65+				
	Total	Born in State of Residence: Nativity			
		Total	Rank	Percent	Rank
Pennsylvania	1,920,257	1,517,294	1	79.02	3
New York	2,450,697	1,454,079	2	59.33	30
Texas	2,067,467	1,231,015	3	59.54	29
Ohio	1,508,095	945,543	4	62.70	22
Illinois	1,498,929	933,368	5	62.27	23
California	3,586,794	812,644	6	22.66	45
Michigan	1,219,232	744,169	7	61.04	25
North Carolina	969,822	666,276	8	68.70	12
Massachusetts	859,601	589,122	9	68.53	13
Wisconsin	702,668	512,803	10	72.98	8
Georgia	787,906	501,359	11	63.63	19
New Jersey	1,113,035	485,645	12	43.63	35
Missouri	756,038	485,489	13	64.21	16
Indiana	752,885	465,533	14	61.83	24
Tennessee	702,839	459,887	15	65.43	15
Alabama	580,028	442,905	16	76.36	6
Virginia	790,567	423,292	17	53.54	32
Minnesota	593,415	418,455	18	70.52	11
Kentucky	503,668	398,295	19	79.08	2
Louisiana	518,097	387,772	20	74.85	7
Iowa	436,377	337,327	21	77.30	4
South Carolina	485,845	309,444	22	63.69	18
Oklahoma	455,700	290,871	23	63.83	17
Mississippi	344,288	264,986	24	76.97	5
Florida	2,806,137	249,342	25	8.89	48
Maryland	598,004	248,998	26	41.64	36
Arkansas	374,729	238,319	27	63.60	20
Connecticut	469,287	232,858	28	49.62	33
West Virginia	276,826	219,193	29	79.18	1
Kansas	355,681	217,012	30	61.01	26
Washington	662,162	208,409	31	31.47	41
Nebraska	232,359	165,716	32	71.32	9
Maine	183,642	123,099	33	67.03	14
Colorado	415,782	121,815	34	29.30	43
Oregon	437,887	113,944	35	26.02	44
Utah	190,531	113,515	36	59.58	28
Hawaii	161,141	97,898	37	60.75	27
Rhode Island	152,719	96,111	38	62.93	21
South Dakota	108,116	76,884	39	71.11	10
New Mexico	212,490	71,258	40	33.53	39

Table 2: Born in State of Residence, U.S., 2000

State	Population Age 65+				
	Total	Born in State of Residence: Nativity			
		Total	Rank	Percent	Rank
New Hampshire	148,039	57,963	41	39.15	37
Montana	120,931	57,702	42	47.71	34
Idaho	145,945	53,819	43	36.88	38
Vermont	77,295	41,419	44	53.59	31
Delaware	101,670	33,627	45	33.07	40
Wyoming	57,467	17,852	46	31.06	42
District of Columbia	70,088	13,753	47	19.62	46
Nevada	218,497	8,470	48	3.88	49
Alaska	35,093	6,845	49	19.51	47
Arizona	667,607	-	-	-	-
North Dakota	94,597	-	-	-	-

- Data suppressed for confidentiality purposes
 Note, population totals may differ from Summary File 1 data