Older Americans Update 2006

Key Indicators of Well-Being
About This Report

Introduction

*Older Americans Update 2006: Key Indicators of Well-Being* is the third in a series of reports produced by the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics (Forum). This series of reports provides data on the overall status of the U.S. population age 65 and over, presents a broad summary of national indicators of well-being for this population, and monitors changes in these indicators over time. By following these data trends, more accessible information will be available to target efforts to improve the lives of older Americans.

*Older Americans Update 2006* provides readers with the most recent data available in a timely manner. It differs from the full, more detailed versions, *Older Americans 2000* and *Older Americans 2004*, in the following ways:

- Indicators are updated based on data availability. Out of a total of 37 indicators, 30 are updated in this report. The remaining 7 indicators are shown as they appeared in *Older Americans 2004*.
- The descriptive text that appears below the charts in the full versions of *Older Americans 2000* and *2004* has been replaced with the data tables used to create the charts. In most cases, the tables have been updated and show the new or corrected data in bolded color. Tables updated and adjusted for inflation show only the newly added years of data in color. Tables that did not fit under the chart are included in Appendix A.
- Supporting data for each indicator, including complete tables, PowerPoint slides, and data source descriptions, are available at: [www.agingstats.gov](http://www.agingstats.gov).

Considerations When Examining the Indicators

Indicators in *Older Americans Update 2006* are not always comparable to the original indicators in *Older Americans 2000* or *2004*. Updating certain indicators is sometimes difficult because of changes in data sources, definitions, questionnaires, or reporting categories. A comparability table is available at [www.agingstats.gov](http://www.agingstats.gov) to help readers understand the changes that have occurred.

The source of data for each indicator is noted below the chart. Descriptions of the data sources are available at: [www.agingstats.gov](http://www.agingstats.gov). In the charts, tick marks along the x axis indicate years for which data are available. The range of years presented in each chart varies because data availability is not uniform across the data sources. To standardize the time frames across the indicators, a timeline has been placed at the bottom of each indicator that reports data for more than 1 year.

Finally, the data in some indicators may not sum to totals because of rounding.

About the Forum

The Forum’s mission is to encourage cooperation and collaboration among Federal agencies to improve the quality and utility of data on the aging population. To accomplish this mission, the Forum provides agencies with a venue to discuss data issues and concerns that cut across agency boundaries, facilitates the development of new databases, improves mechanisms currently used to disseminate information on aging-related data, invites researchers to report on cutting-edge analyses of data, and encourages international collaboration.

Forum members provide funds and valuable staff time to support the activities of the Forum.

More Information

For more information about *Older Americans Update 2006* or other Forum activities, contact:

Kristen Robinson, Ph.D.
Staff Director
Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics
National Center for Health Statistics
3311 Toledo Road, Room 6321
Hyattsville, MD 20782
Phone: (301) 458-4460
Fax: (301) 458-4037
Email: agingforum@cdc.gov
Internet: [www.agingstats.gov](http://www.agingstats.gov)
Older Americans on the Internet

Supporting material for this report can be found at www.agingstats.gov. The Web site contains:

♦ Complete data for all of the indicators in Excel spreadsheets (some with standard errors, when available).
♦ Data source descriptions.
♦ Glossary.
♦ Updated PowerPoint slides of the charts.
♦ A comparability table explaining the changes to the indicators that have taken place between Older Americans 2000, 2004, and Update 2006.

The Forum’s Web site also provides:

♦ Ongoing Federal data resources relevant to the study of the aging.
♦ Links to aging-related statistical information on Forum member Web sites.
♦ Past products of the Forum (including Older Americans 2000 and 2004).
♦ Agency contacts.
♦ Subject area contact list for Federal statistics.
♦ Information about the Forum.

Additional Online Resources

Administration on Aging
A Profile of Older Americans
Online Statistical Data on the Aging
www.aoa.gov/prof/Statistics/online_stat_data/online_stat_data.asp

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
AHRQ Data & Surveys
www.ahrq.gov/data

Bureau of Labor Statistics
Bureau of Labor Statistics Data
www.stats.bls.gov/data

U.S. Census Bureau
Statistical Abstract of the United States
www.census.gov/statatab/www/
Age Data
www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/age.html
Longitudinal Employer - Household Dynamics
lehd.dsd.census.gov/led/index.html

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Research, Statistics, Data and Systems
www.cms.hhs.gov/home/rsds.asp

Department of Veterans Affairs
Veteran Data and Information
www.va.gov/vetdata

Environmental Protection Agency
Aging Initiative
www.epa.gov/aging/index.htm

National Center for Health Statistics
Data Warehouse on Trends in Health and Aging
www.cdc.gov/nchs/agingact.htm
Longitudinal Studies of Aging
www.cdc.gov/nchs/lsoa.htm
Health, United States
www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhs/us.htm

National Institute on Aging
Behavioral and Social Research
www.nia.nih.gov/bsr/resources/
NIA Centers on the Demography of Aging
agingmeta.psc.isr.umich.edu
National Archive of Computerized Data on Aging
www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACDA

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, HHS
Gateway to HHS Data and Statistics
www.hhs-stat.net
HHS Data Council
aspe.hhs.gov/datacncl/index.shtml
Office of Disability, Aging, and Long-Term Care Policy
aspe.hhs.gov/_/office_specific/daltcp.cfm

Office of Management and Budget
FedStats (Gateway to Federal Statistics)
www.fedstats.gov

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
www.samhsa.gov/Matrix/matrix_older.aspx

Social Security Administration
SSA Statistical Information
www.ssa.gov/policy
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