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New federal report released on older Americans

Released today, *Older Americans 2020: Key Indicators of Well-Being* describes the growing number of older adults in the United States in terms of their economic, health-related and environmental characteristics.

The older population is projected to become increasingly diverse, reflecting the demographic changes in the U.S. population during the last several decades. By 2060, it is estimated that the population 65 and older will be 55% non-Hispanic White alone, 13% non-Hispanic Black alone, 8% non-Hispanic Asian alone, and 21% Hispanic.

Among the older population, increasing age is associated with higher rates of poverty (9% for ages 65–74 compared with 14% for age 85 and older). Poverty rates also vary greatly by sex and by race and ethnicity, with the lowest poverty rates seen among the non-Hispanic White alone population and men age 65 and over.

Between 2000 and 2018, age-adjusted death rates among people age 65 and over declined by 20% and life expectancies at both age 65 and age 85 increased for both sexes and for Hispanics, non-Hispanic Whites, and non-Hispanic Blacks.

Today's release is the eighth report prepared by the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics. Sixteen Federal agencies collaborate to monitor and report national-level trends on the well-being of older Americans, making it easy for the public to access key statistics that affect the health and well-being of older Americans.

The 161-page report presents 40 indicators of well-being into six broad groups – population, economics, health status, health risks and behavior, health care, and environment.

Other highlights from this year's report include:

- Population – 52 million people age 65 and over lived in the United States in 2018, accounting for 16% of the total population. In 2030, the number and proportion of older Americans is expected to be more than twice as large as in 2000, growing from 35 million to 73 million, representing 21% of the total U.S. population.
- Economics - The most prevalent housing problem for older American households remains housing cost burden (expenditures on housing and utilities that exceed 30% of household income). About 39% of older owner/renter households and 32% of older-member households had housing cost burden problems in 2017.
- Health status – Older women were more likely to report clinically relevant depressive symptoms than older men. In 2018, 13% of women age 65 and over reported clinically relevant depressive symptoms, compared with 9% of men.
- Health risks and behavior – The percentage of people age 65 and over with obesity increased from 22% in 1988–1994 to 30% in 2003–2006 to 40% in 2015–2018.
- Health care - After adjusting for inflation, average prescription drug costs for noninstitutionalized Americans age 65 and over increased between 1992 and 2017—from \$1,114 to \$4,499.
- Environment – About 18% of the noninstitutionalized Medicare population age 65 and over limited their driving to daytime because of a health or physical problem, in 2017. The percentage of people who limited their driving to daytime was greater for those age 85 and over (41%) than for those ages 65–74 (13%).

This report is published by the [Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-related Statistics](#) and is posted on www.agingstats.gov. Single hard copies are available free from: The Government Printing Office, 8660 Cherry Lane, Laurel, MD 20707. laurelwms@gpo.gov.

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