

## Aging Population in 2006

As we celebrate 'Older Americans Month' this May 2008, the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging wants us to reflect on this year's theme of 'Working Together for Strong, Healthy and Supportive Communities'. This theme speaks to the opportunities we have to create better care and reinforce healthier societies for all ages. By working together, our communities can improve older adults' overall quality of life. This brief presents selected data for 2006 on the continuously growing older American population in the District of Columbia and in the nation as a whole. The data were obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau.

### Aging in the District of Columbia

- The 65 years and older population grew from 11,734 in 1900, peaked at 77,847 in 1990, declined to 69,898 in 2000 and estimated at 71,331 in 2006 (Table 1). As a percent of the population, the 65 years and older age group represented 4.2 percent of the District's population in 1900 and continued on a generally upward trend to 12.3 percent in 2006.
- Of the 65 years and older population in the District, 39 percent were male and 61 percent were female in 2006.
- Seventy-two percent of the District's 65 years and older population were high school graduates or higher in 2006 while 29.7 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. A higher percentage of males had a bachelor's degree or higher (39.5 percent) as compared to females (23.7 percent) in the 65 years and older age group.
- Of all owner occupied housing units in the District, 27 percent were occupied by people 65 years and older. Of all renter occupied housing units in the District, 14 percent were renters 65 years and older.
- Fifteen percent of the population 65 years and older live on incomes that are below the poverty level
- Heart disease and cancer are the two leading causes of death for the 65 and over age group.
- Physical disability is most prevalent among the 65 and older population. In census 2006, 30 percent of the 65 and older population had a physical disability; 13.6 percent had a sensory disability; and 10 percent had some mental disability. Overall, 37.6 percent of the population 65 years and older had some type of disability in 2006.
- Forty percent of the District's 39,300 veterans were 65 years and older in 2006.

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## National Highlights for the 65 and Older Population

- The number of people 65 years and older in the United States on July 1, 2006 was estimates at 37.3 million. This number is projected to grow to 86.7 million by 2050.
- In 2006, people 65 years and older accounted for 12 percent of the total population. People in this age group are expected to comprise 21 percent of the total population by 2050.
- The U.S. population age 65 and over is expected to increase by 147 percent between 2000 and 2050. By contrast, the population as a whole is expected to increase by only 49 percent during the same period.
- The world population 65 years and older is expected to reach 506 million by midyear 2008, and 999 million by the year 2030.
- California had the largest number of people 65 years and older in 2006 (3.9 million), followed by Florida with 3 million.
- Florida had the highest percentage of population 65 years and older in 2006 (17 percent). Next to Florida was West Virginia with 15.3 percent and Pennsylvania with 15.2 percent.

**Table 1 - District of Columbia Population by Age and Gender  
2000 and 2006**

Age Group	July 1, 2006			Census 2000		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	<b>581,530</b>	<b>272,664</b>	<b>308,866</b>	<b>572,059</b>	<b>269,366</b>	<b>302,693</b>
Under 5 years	34,948	17,660	17,288	32,536	16,483	16,053
5 to 9 years	29,385	14,895	14,490	35,385	17,760	17,625
10 to 14 years	31,335	15,836	15,499	30,018	15,097	14,921
15 to 19 years	39,304	18,658	20,646	37,867	18,016	19,851
20 to 24 years	51,491	23,426	28,065	51,823	23,617	28,206
25 to 29 years	55,825	25,867	29,958	52,849	25,232	27,617
30 to 34 years	48,055	23,375	24,680	48,913	24,522	24,391
35 to 39 years	44,139	21,851	22,288	45,949	23,391	22,558
40 to 44 years	40,770	20,589	20,181	41,728	20,618	21,110
45 to 49 years	38,531	18,788	19,743	39,397	18,745	20,652
50 to 54 years	36,286	16,985	19,301	35,913	16,615	19,298
55 to 59 years	34,623	15,652	18,971	27,803	12,675	15,128
60 to 64 years	25,507	11,363	14,144	21,980	10,052	11,928
65 to 69 years	19,986	8,762	11,224	18,525	8,162	10,363
70 to 74 years	15,979	6,799	9,180	17,394	6,941	10,453
75 to 79 years	13,619	5,311	8,308	14,976	5,602	9,374
80 to 84 years	10,977	3,777	7,200	10,028	3,415	6,613
85 years and over	10,770	3,070	7,700	8,975	2,423	6,552
Under 18 years	114,881	57,989	56,892	114,992	57,920	57,072
18 to 64 years	395,318	186,956	208,362	387,169	184,903	202,266
65 years and over	71,331	27,719	43,612	69,898	26,543	43,355
<b>Percent 65 years and over</b>	<b>12.3%</b>	<b>10.2%</b>	<b>14.1%</b>	<b>12.2%</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>14.3%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

- The median income of households with householders 65 years and older was \$27,798 in 2006, up 3.4 percent, in real terms, from 2005.
- Poverty rate for people 65 years and older decline from 10 percent in 2005 to 9.4 percent in 2006.
- By 2016, the number of people 65 years and older in the labor force is expected to increase to 10 million, up from 5.5 million in 2006.
- Over 9 million of the 65 years and older population were military veterans in 2006.
- In 2007, 76 percent of people 65 years and older had at least a high school diploma, while 19 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher.
- Fifty-three percent of people 65 and older were married in 2006. Another 32 percent were widowed.
- Most people 65 years and older lived with relatives (64 percent). Another 27 percent lived alone, 5 percent lived in group quarters, and 2 percent lived with non-relatives.
- In 2006, there were 72 men 65 years and older for every 100 women in this age group. For those 85 years and older there were 47 men for every 100 women.
- Given an aging population, the estimated number of centenarians is expected to increase from 84,331 in 2007 to 580,605 by 2040.

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