

2018

Profile of American Indians and Alaska Natives Age 65 and Over



October 2019

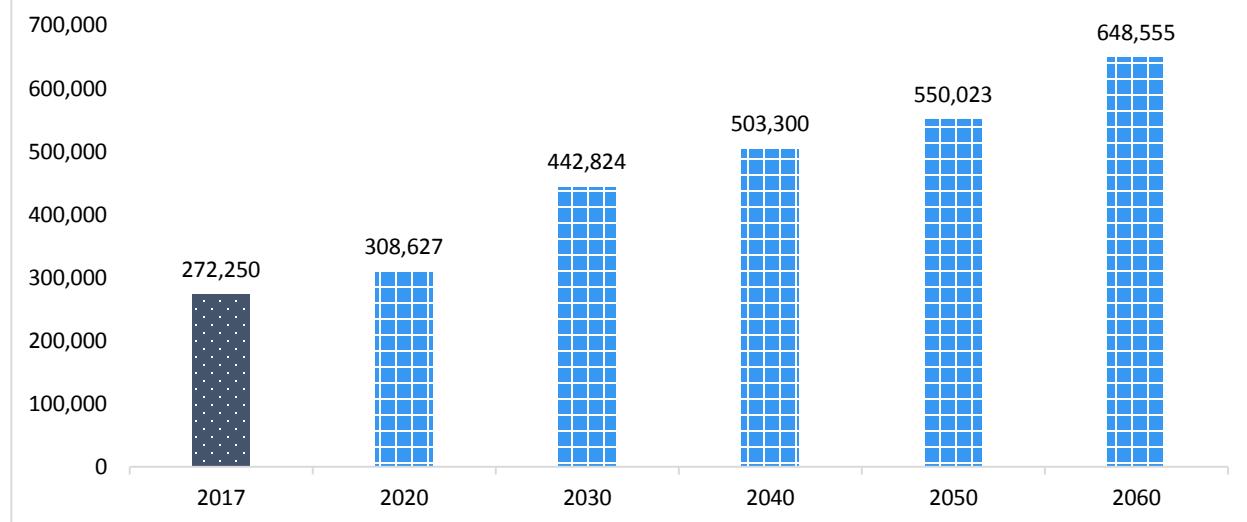


The Administration for Community Living, which includes the Administration on Aging, is an operating division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Introduction

In 2017, there were 50.9 million Americans age 65 and over and 6.5 million age 85 and over. The population age 65 and older is expected to increase to 94.7 million in 2060. The population age 85 and older is expected to more than double to 19 million during the same period. Among the population age 65 and over, there were 125 women for every 100 men. At age 85 and over, this ratio increased to 184 women for every 100 men. Along with these general trends for America's older population, the American Indian and Alaska Native older population is also growing.

Population and Projections of American Indians and Alaska Natives 65 and Over: 2017-2060



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates, 2017 and Population Projections, 2017 (revised)

Note: Increments in years are uneven. Lighter bars indicate projections. The terms American Indians and Alaska Natives refer to American Indians and Alaska Natives who are not Hispanic and do not identify as more than one race.

The non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native population age 65 and over was 272,250 in 2017 and is projected to grow to more than 648,000 by 2060. In 2017, American Indian and Alaska Natives made up 0.5% of the older population and this number is projected to be 0.7% by 2060. The number of Americans age 65 and over who reported they were American Indian and Alaska Native in combination with one or more races was 568,611 in 2017.

Centenarians

In 2017, there were 437 American Indians and Alaska Natives age 100 and over (116 men and 321 women) comprising less than .5% of all centenarians.

Residence

In 2017, almost half (48%) of all older American Indians and Alaska Natives lived in six states: Oklahoma (33,285), Arizona (26,256), California (23,894), New Mexico (18,977), North Carolina (14,995), and Texas (13,131).

Grandparents

Among non-Hispanic American Indians and Alaska Natives (alone) grandparents age 60 and over living with their grandchildren in 2017, 47% were responsible for their own grandchildren and 53% were not.

Poverty

The poverty rate in 2017 for American Indians and Alaska Natives age 65 and older was 17%.

Mortality

The top 5 leading causes of death for non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native men age 65 and over in 2017 were heart disease, cancer, chronic lower respiratory diseases, diabetes, and stroke. For women, the top 5 leading causes of death were heart disease, cancer, chronic lower respiratory diseases, stroke, and diabetes.

Disability Status

In 2017, 47% of older non-Hispanic American Indians and Alaska Natives (alone) had one or more disabilities.

Participation in Older Americans Act (OAA) Programs

In 2017, state and Area Agencies on Aging provided services to a total of 10 million persons age 60 and over. Consistent with requirements of the OAA, considerable emphasis was placed on services to persons with the greatest social and economic need, including members of racial and ethnic minority groups, and especially those who are poor. Among the older persons who received Title III OAA home and community-based registered services, 1% were American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Notes

The sources for the data in this report include the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates; Population Projections; Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement; and American Community Survey. Sources also include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System, and the Administration for Community Living's State Program Report data.

This report includes data on the age 65 and over population unless otherwise noted. The phrases "older adults" or "older persons" refer to the population age 65 and over.

Numbers in this report may not add up due to rounding.

Age-adjusted estimates are used when available.

The data presented in this report refer to the noninstitutionalized population except where noted.

2018 Profile of Hispanic Americans Age 65 and Over was developed by the Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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