

2018

Profile of African Americans Age 65 and Over



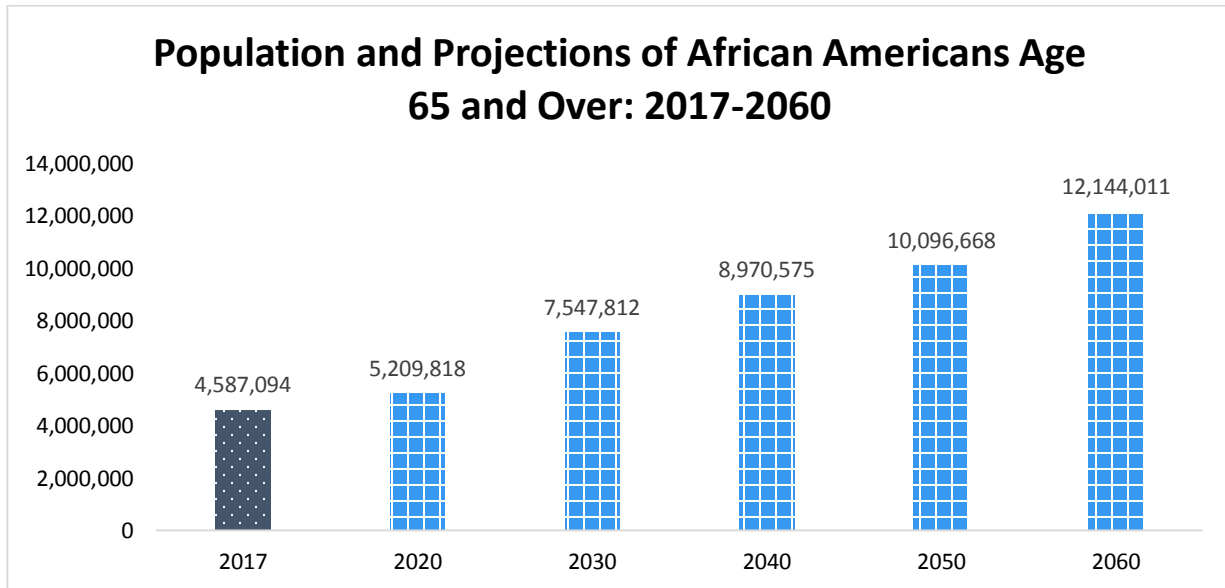
October 2019



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 African American older population is also growing.



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

Note: Increments in years are uneven. Lighter bars indicate projections.

The non-Hispanic African American population age 65 and over was 4,587,094 in 2017 and is projected to grow to 12.1 million by 2060. In 2017, African Americans made up 9% of the older population. By 2060, the percentage is projected to be 13%.

Centenarians

In 2017, there were 9,986 African Americans age 100 and over (1,933 men and 8,053 women) comprising 12% of all centenarians.

Residence

In 2017, slightly more than half (52%) of all older African Americans lived in eight states: New York (379,312), Florida (356,725), Georgia (324,254), Texas (315,817), California (285,574), North Carolina (272,023), Illinois (224,513), and Maryland (218,305).

Education

The past decade has seen a significant increase in educational attainment among older Americans, including African Americans. In 2018, 78% of the African American population age

65 and older had finished high school, and 20% had a bachelor's degree or higher. In 1998, only 44% of older African Americans were high school graduates and 7% had a bachelor's degree or higher. There are still educational differences among racial and ethnic groups. In 2018, 87% of all older persons were high school graduates and 29% had a bachelor's degree or higher.

Marital Status

In 2018, 38% of older African Americans (non-Hispanic) were married, 27% were widowed, 17% were divorced, 5% were separated (including married, spouse absent), and 13% had never been married.

Living Alone

In 2018, 39% of African Americans (non-Hispanic) age 65 and over lived alone (36% of men and 41% of women).

Grandparents

Among African American grandparents age 60 and over living with their grandchildren, 35% were responsible for their own grandchildren and 65% were not.

Income and Poverty

In 2017, households containing families headed by African Americans age 65 and over reported a median income of \$43,705. The comparable figure for all older households was \$61,946. The median personal income for older African American men was \$22,485 and \$15,817 for older African American women. The comparable figures for all older persons were \$32,654 for men and \$19,180 for women. The poverty rate in 2017 for African Americans age 65 and older was 19.3%, double the rate of 9.2% for all older Americans.

Life Expectancy

In 2017, life expectancy at birth for African Americans (non-Hispanic) was 71.5 years for men and 78.1 years for women. At age 65, life expectancy was 16.2 years for men and 19.5 years for women.

Mortality

The top 5 leading causes of death for African American (non-Hispanic) men age 65 and over in 2017 were heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, and chronic lower respiratory diseases. For women, the top 5 leading causes of death were heart disease, cancer, stroke, Alzheimer's disease, and diabetes.

Disability Status

In 2017, 39% of older African Americans had one or more disabilities.

Health Insurance

In 2017, 32% of older African Americans had both Medicare and supplemental private health insurance, and 13% were covered by both Medicare and Medicaid. In comparison, 46% of all older adults had both Medicare and supplemental private health insurance, and 7% were covered by both Medicare and Medicaid.

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 older persons who received Title III OAA home and community-based registered services, 13% were African American.

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 Center for Health Statistics, 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 African Americans Age 65 and Over* was developed by the Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

For more information, contact:
Administration for Community Living
330 C St SW, Washington DC 20201
Phone: (202) 401-4634
Email: ACLinfo@acl.hhs.gov
Web: www.acl.gov