

Living Arrangements of the Older Population: 2000

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Abstract: For Census enumeration and tabulation purposes, people are living in housing units or in group quarters. This paper discusses the definitions of group quarters used in Census 2000. In addition to discussing the population in group quarters, the paper illustrates other data that are available from the census on the older population. These include such characteristics as how many households have an older person, how many older people live alone, and how many of the older population live in various group quarters living arrangements. The paper will discuss the availability of these data at the national and subnational level, and highlight various Census 2000 products that contain this information.

Keywords: Living arrangements, older population, population 65 years and over

Introduction

In 2000, 35.0 million people were 65 years and over in the United States, a 12.0 percent increase since 1990, when 31.2 million older people were counted.¹ Although the number of people 65 years and over increased between 1990 and 2000, their proportion of the total population dropped from 12.6 percent in 1990 to 12.4 percent in 2000.² This paper highlights information on the living arrangements of the population 65 years and over from Census 2000 and discusses how the classifications of living arrangements were made. The paper also describes the types of data available from Census 2000 on the population 65 years and over.

Nine of ten people 65 years and over lived in households.

In Census 2000, the Census Bureau classified people as living in either a household or group quarters. A household includes all of

the people who occupy a housing unit³. All people not living in housing units are classified by the Census Bureau as living in group quarters. A more detailed definition of group quarters is discussed later in this paper.

In 2000, the vast majority (94 percent) of the older population lived in households and only six percent lived in group quarters, the same as in 1990.⁴ In 2000, the living arrangements of the older population varied by race. Census 2000 data collected on race can be divided into two broad categories: the race *alone* population and the *Two or more races* population.⁵ People who responded

³ A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room occupied (or if vacant, intended for occupancy), as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live separately from any other people in the building and that have direct access from the outside of the building or through a common hall. The occupants may be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated people who share living quarters.

⁴ For more Census 2000 household and family information, see U.S. Census Bureau, 2001, *Households and Families: 2000*, by Tavia Simmons and Grace O'Neill, Census 2000 Brief, C2kBR/01-8, Washington, DC.

⁵ The data on race were derived from answers to the question on race that was asked of all people. The concept of race, as used by the Census Bureau, reflects self-identification by people according to the race or races with which they most closely identify. These categories are socio-political constructs and should not be interpreted as being scientific or anthropological in nature. Furthermore, the race categories include both racial and national-origin groups. The

¹ For purposes of this paper, the older population is defined as people 65 years and over.

² For more Census 2000 information on the population 65 years and over, see U.S. Census Bureau, 2001, *The 65 Years and Over Population: 2000*, by Lisa Hetzel and Annetta Smith, Census 2000 Brief, C2KBR/01-10, Washington, DC.

to the question on race by indicating only one race are referred to as the race *alone* population. For example, respondents who marked only the White category on the census questionnaire would be included in the White *alone* population. Individuals who chose more than one of the six race categories are referred to as the Two or more races population, or as the group who reported more than one race.

Among the race groups, the percentage of the older population that lived in households in 2000 ranged from 94 percent for the White alone and Black or African American alone race groups to 98 percent for the Asian alone and Two or more races groups. Of the Hispanic or Latino older population, 97 percent lived in households.⁶

Most of the population 65 years and over lived in family households.

The household population comprised family and nonfamily households. In family households at least one person in the household is related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. Family households and nonfamily household living arrangements of the older population were similar in 1990 and 2000. In 2000, 64 percent, or 22.4 million of the population 65 years and over, lived in family households and 30 percent, or 10.6 million people, lived in nonfamily households that consisted of a person living alone or a householder who shared the home only with people who were not related to him or her. In 1990, slightly more (65 percent) of the

population 65 years and over lived in family households and slightly fewer (29 percent) lived in nonfamily households. Furthermore, in 2000, the percentage of male householders 65 years and over in family households declined from 28 percent in 1990 to 27 percent in 2000. The percentage of female householders 65 years and over in family households slightly increased from 6.5 percent in 1990 to 7.3 percent in 2000. However, in 2000, a greater proportion of the male population than the female population in this age group were householders (79 percent and 21 percent, respectively). In contrast, in 1990, 81 percent of the householders 65 years and over were males and only 19 percent were females.

The percentage of the older population living in family households varied by race and Hispanic or Latino origin.

The percentage of the older population living in family households and nonfamily households in 2000 varied significantly by race and Hispanic or Latino origin. Among the race groups, the smallest percentage of the older population living in family households (61 percent) were found in households reporting their race as Black or African American alone. The older population who reported White alone, Two or more races, or American Indian and Alaska Native alone had slightly higher percentages of their older population living in family households: 64 percent, 67 percent, and 68 percent, respectively. In three race groups, over 75 percent of the older population lived in family households: Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander alone (78 percent), Some other race alone (79 percent), and Asian alone (83 percent). Over 76 percent of the Hispanic older population lived in family households and 21 percent lived in nonfamily households.

The majority of the older population in family households were either the householder or the spouse.

In Census 2000, the relationship item on the questionnaire asked how each member of the household was related to the householder. The householder is a person in whose name the housing unit is owned, being bought, or rented. This question provided information about both individuals and the make-up of families and

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requires five minimum categories (White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander) for race. In Census 2000, a sixth category, "Some other race," was added with OMB approval. In addition to the five race groups, the OMB also states that respondents should be offered the option of selecting one or more races.

⁶ People of Hispanic or Latino origin may be of any race. The terms "Hispanic" and Latino" may be used to reflect the new terminology in the standards issued by the Office of Management and Budget.

households. In family households, the relationship of the population 65 years and over was classified as either: 1) the householder, 2) spouse of householder, 3) parent of householder, 4) other relative of householder (such as parent-in-law, brother or sister), or 5) not a relative of the householder. In 2000, the vast majority of people 65 years and over in family households were either the householder (53 percent) or the spouse of the householder (35 percent). Only 11 percent of the population 65 years and over in family households were related to the householder as either a parent (6 percent) or some other relative (5 percent). Less than 1 percent of the older population in family households were not related to the householder.

The relationship of members of the older population to the householder varied by race and Hispanic or Latino origin.

In family households, the relationship of the population 65 years and over varied greatly by race.⁷ In 2000, 54 percent of the population 65 years and over in family households who reported their race as White alone reported being the householder, and 37 percent reported being the spouse. Less than 9 percent of the older population in family households who reported White alone were a parent or other relative to the householder. In the Black or African American alone family households, 58 percent of the older population were the householder, 22 percent were the spouse, and 18 percent were related to the householder. Similarly, 57 percent of the population 65 years and over in family households who reported their race as American Indian and Alaska Native alone were the householder, 25 percent were the spouse, and 17 percent were related to the householder.

The relationship of the older population to the householder in family households for the other four race groups differed significantly. In the race groups Asian alone, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander alone, Some other race alone, and Two or more races, a much larger percentage of the older population were related to the householder as either a parent or other

relative. In the Asian alone family households, 42 percent of the older population were either a parent or another relative to the householder, and in the Some other race alone family households, 40 percent of the older population were either a parent or some other relative. In the family households of the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander alone and Two or more races groups, almost 32 percent and 23 percent, respectively, of the older population were related to the householder as either a parent or other relative. Within Hispanic or Latino family households, 29 percent of the older population were either a parent or other relative to the householder.

Nationally, the percent of older adults in family households that were not related to the householder was less than one percent. For the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander alone and Some other race alone categories, the percentage of the older population not related to the householder was much higher--four percent and three percent, respectively. All other race groups had less than two percent of the older population that were not related to the householder. Of the Hispanic or Latino older population, two percent of the older population was not related to the householder.

Almost 3 in 10 people 65 years and over lived alone.

In 1990 and 2000, 28 percent of the population 65 years and over lived alone. The percentage of the population 65 years and over that were female and living alone declined slightly from 22 percent in 1990 to 21 percent in 2000, and the number of older males living alone remained relatively stable at 6 percent. The percentage of the older population living alone varied greatly by race and Hispanic or Latino origin. In three race groups, Asian alone, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander alone, and Some other race alone, less than 15 percent of the population 65 years and over lived alone. In contrast, in four race groups, White alone, Black or African American alone, American Indian and Alaska Native alone, and Two or more races, at least 25 percent of the older population lived alone. In all race groups, at least 65 percent of the population 65 years and over living alone were females.

⁷ Race of the household is the race reported by the householder.

In 2000, 22 million households were maintained by a householder 65 years and over.

Another way to analyze the living arrangements of the older population is to look at the number of households maintained by a householder 65 years and over and to study the types of families maintained in these households. In 2000, 22 million households were maintained by a householder 65 years and over. Of these, 12 million were family households and 10 million were nonfamily households. In comparison, over two-thirds (72 million) of the households maintained by a householder of any age were family households.

Of the family households maintained by a householder 65 years and over in 2000, 80 percent were married-couple households, 16 percent were maintained by females with no husband present, and less than five percent were maintained by males with no wife present. These figures were the same in 1990, when 81 percent of the households maintained by the older population were married-couple households, 15 percent were female with no husband present, and four percent were males with no wife present. In contrast, of all family households in 2000, regardless of the age of the householder, 76 percent were married-couple households, 18 percent were maintained by females with no husband present, and six percent were maintained by males with no wife present.

Among nonfamily households of the older population, the vast majority (96 percent) were one-person households and only four percent had two or more people. This distribution differed from that of nonfamily households in the total population, where 81 percent were one-person households and 19 percent had two or more people.

The majority of the older population living in group quarters were institutionalized.

Of the 2 million people 65 years and over in group quarters in 2000, 82 percent were in institutional group quarters and 18 percent were in noninstitutional group quarters. The vast majority (78 percent) were in nursing homes and almost 18 percent were in the other noninstitutional group quarters, such as group homes. Less than four percent of the population

65 years and over were in hospitals and other institutions. In all group quarters, except correctional facilities, women outnumbered men. Of the older population, women represented 74 percent of the nursing home population and 71 percent of the population in other noninstitutionalized group quarters.

The total population in group quarters increased over the decade.

In 2000, 7.8 million people, or 2.8 percent of the total population, lived in group quarters, an increase of 16 percent or almost 1.1 million people since 1990. The population in both correctional institutions and group homes increased significantly, 77 percent and 115 percent, respectively. The population 65 years and over represented 26 percent of the group quarters population.

The total population in nursing homes and hospitals/wards and hospices for the chronically ill declined over the decade.

Over the decade, the total nursing home population declined by about 3 percent. The nursing home population represented 22 percent of the group quarters population in 2000 and 27 percent in 1990. During this same period, there was a slight decline in the population in hospitals, wards, and hospices for the chronically ill.

In 2000, 91 percent of the nursing home population was 65 years and over, compared with 90 percent in 1990. The proportion of the population 65 years and over living in nursing homes declined from 5.1 percent in 1990 to 4.5 percent in 2000.

DEFINITIONS AND AVAILABILITY OF CENSUS DATA ON THE OLDER POPULATION

How the Census Bureau defines living arrangements of the older population.

In Census 2000, all people not living in housing units are classified by the Census Bureau as living in group quarters. The Census Bureau recognizes two general categories of people in group quarters: (1) institutionalized population and (2) noninstitutionalized population.

The institutionalized population included people under formally authorized supervised care or custody in institutions at the time of

enumeration. Such people are classified as “patients or inmates” of an institution regardless of the availability of nursing or medical care, length of stay, or the number of people in the institution. Generally, the institutionalized population is restricted to the institutional buildings or grounds (or must have passes or escorts to leave) and thus has limited interaction with the surrounding community. Also, they are generally under the care of trained staff who have responsibility for their safekeeping and supervision. Some examples of institutional group quarters include correctional facilities, nursing homes and hospitals for the chronically ill.

Correctional facilities include prisons, jails, federal detention centers, military disciplinary barracks and jails, police lockups, and halfway houses operated for correctional purposes. Nursing homes include skilled-nursing facilities, intermediate-care facilities, long-term care rooms in wards or buildings on the grounds of hospitals, or long-term care rooms and nursing wings in congregate housing facilities. Also included are nursing, convalescent, and rest homes such as soldiers’, sailors’, veterans’, and fraternal or religious homes for the aged, with nursing care. Hospitals include drug and alcohol recovery wards; mental (psychiatric) hospitals, hospitals or wards for the chronically ill, wards for people with physical, mental, and developmental disabilities.

The noninstitutionalized population included all people who lived in group quarters other than institutions. Examples of these noninstitutional group quarters include group homes and halfway houses, university and college dormitories, military installations, agriculture or other worker facilities, and residential facilities providing “Protective Oversight.” The Census Bureau defines group homes and halfway houses as homes for drug and alcohol abuse, homes and halfway houses for the mentally ill, mentally retarded, and physically handicapped. Residential Facilities Providing “Protective Oversight” includes those facilities providing assistance to people with disabilities.

For Census 2000, the definition of nursing homes or nursing home facilities include:

- 1) Skilled - Nursing Facilities (SNFs) - SNF’s provide skilled-nursing services,

defined as the overall management and evaluation of the patient care plan based on physicians’ orders, observation and assessment of the patients changing condition, and provision of patient education services. (A skilled-nursing facility must provide nursing care by registered nurses and licensed practical nurses on a 24-hour basis.)

- 2) Intermediate-Care Facilities (ICF’s)—Provide services at a level above room and board and can be made available only through institutional facilities, that is, services related to a planned program of care and supervision on a continuous 24 hours a day basis. (Nursing services are provided in accordance with the needs of the residents of the facility.)
- 3) Long-Term Care Rooms on the Grounds of Hospitals—Long-Term Care Rooms in Wards or Buildings on the Grounds of Hospitals and,
- 4) Long-Term Care Rooms/Nursing Wings in Congregate Housing Facilities.

In addition to the living arrangements described above, other types of living arrangements used by the older population included: Independent Living Facilities, Congregate Care Facilities, Assisted Living Facilities, and Continuing Care Communities.

How are these living arrangements classified in Census 2000?

In Census 2000, independent living facilities are classified as housing units. The population living in these facilities were tabulated in the household data, so people living in these facilities cannot be identified as living in a facility of this type. Congregate Care Facilities are classified as housing units, unless there is nursing home care, in which case only the section of the facility providing nursing home care was classified as a group quarters facility. At Assisted Living Facilities most of the units are classified as housing units, unless there is nursing home care, in which case only the section of the facility providing nursing home care was classified as a group quarters facility. Continuing Care Facilities can be either housing units or group quarters,

depending upon the type of living arrangements and services provided. Only that section of the facility providing nursing home care was classified as a group quarters facility.

Census 2000 yields a wealth of data on the older population.

A complete line of Census 2000 data products will soon be available to meet data requirements on the older population⁸. Detailed results of Census 2000 will be contained in a series of five files that will be accessible through the Internet and on CD-ROM or DVD. Several related electronic and print products include Demographic Profiles of most geographic areas; Quick Tables that allow users to choose from approximately 50 table shells, then specify the geographic area and the universe or population subgroup; and approximately 30 Geographic Comparison Tables that will enable users to compare key data items across geographic areas. In addition, there will be three series of printed reports available in print and in Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet.

The most detailed summarized data from Census 2000 will be available through four electronic summary files, called Summary Files 1, 2, 3, and 4. Summary Files (SFs) 1 and 2 will provide 100 percent data and are available now on the Internet and CD-ROM. SF 2 provides much of the same data as in SF 1, but SF 2 data also will be available for 250 race and ethnic groups, if confidentiality thresholds are met. SFs 3 and 4 will provide detailed sample population and housing characteristics from subjects on the long form. These data will be released this year. In SF 4, like SF 2, data will be provided for 250 race and ethnic groups, plus 82 ancestry groups, if confidentiality thresholds are met. In addition to the products described, the Census Bureau is offering the option of doing direct tabulations from microdata files. With microdata files, users will have considerable flexibility to specify tabulations in ways not presented elsewhere in Census 2000 products.

⁸For a description of Census 2000 data products, see U.S. Census Bureau, 2001, *Introduction to Census 2000 Data Products*, MSO/01-ICDP.