

Section 1: Demographic Characteristics

Key Terms and Concepts for Section 1¹

Age. Age classification is based on the age of the person at his or her last birthday as of March 2005. A married couple's age is defined as the age of the husband—unless he is under age 55 and the wife is 55 or older, in which case it is the age of the wife.

Aged unit. With age 55 as the cutoff, aged units are defined as married couples living together—at least one of whom is 55 or older—and non-married persons 55 or older.

Marital status. Married persons are married and living with their spouse. Nonmarried persons may be divorced, widowed, never married, separated, or married but living apart from their spouse.

Race. The categories White alone, Black alone, and Asian alone reflect respondents who reported only one race. Because of changes to the race category, data on race are not directly comparable to editions prior to 2002. A person's race is his or her reported race. A married couple's race is defined as the race of the husband.

Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. A married couple is of Hispanic origin if the husband is of Hispanic origin.

Family. A family is a group of two or more people (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such people (including related sub-family members) are considered as members of one family.

Social Security beneficiary. A beneficiary may be receiving retired-worker-benefits, dependents' or survivor benefits, disability benefits, or transitionally insured benefits.

¹ For more information, consult the Glossary at the front of this publication.

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2004

Characteristic	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older				
			Total	65–69	70–74	75–79	80 or older
<i>All persons</i>							
Sex							
Men	47.6	47.6	43.0	47.5	44.2	42.5	37.5
Women	52.4	52.4	57.0	52.5	55.8	57.5	62.5
Race							
White alone	84.3	85.5	87.2	84.9	86.7	88.8	89.0
Black alone	10.0	9.4	8.4	9.9	8.6	7.5	7.3
Asian alone	3.9	3.3	3.1	3.7	3.2	2.5	2.8
Hispanic origin	8.0	7.4	6.2	7.4	6.9	5.6	4.9
Marital status							
Married	68.1	69.3	54.7	66.7	60.5	54.1	37.0
Nonmarried	31.9	30.7	45.3	33.3	39.5	45.9	63.0
Widowed	5.4	8.5	30.3	14.3	24.4	31.7	52.0
Divorced	16.2	13.7	7.9	11.3	8.0	7.4	4.5
Never married	6.7	5.0	4.1	4.6	4.3	4.3	3.4
Living with nonspouse family	34.8	25.7	21.3	22.9	20.2	19.2	22.3
Persons in family							
1	20.7	21.3	32.5	23.3	28.1	34.1	45.3
2	50.7	57.7	52.6	59.1	57.2	52.5	41.6
3 or more	28.7	21.0	14.9	17.7	14.7	13.4	13.1
Social Security beneficiary	9.1	43.9	88.2	83.1	89.1	90.2	91.2
Number (thousands)	22,214	7,317	35,213	10,124	8,264	7,596	9,229

(Continued)

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2004—Continued

Characteristic	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older				
			Total	65–69	70–74	75–79	80 or older
<i>Men</i>							
Race							
White alone	85.3	86.1	87.9	84.8	87.7	89.7	90.6
Black alone	9.2	8.6	7.6	9.6	7.3	7.1	5.7
Asian alone	3.7	3.1	3.1	3.8	3.5	2.2	2.8
Hispanic origin	8.1	7.2	6.1	6.7	6.7	5.8	5.0
Marital status							
Married	73.7	76.5	71.7	76.3	74.4	72.3	61.7
Nonmarried	26.3	23.5	28.3	23.7	25.6	27.7	38.3
Widowed	2.1	3.5	13.7	5.9	11.2	13.8	27.0
Divorced	13.9	11.4	7.1	9.6	7.0	6.6	4.0
Never married	7.1	4.5	4.4	4.8	4.8	4.6	3.3
Living with nonspouse family	36.4	26.1	18.4	21.5	18.3	16.5	15.9
Persons in family							
1	19.1	17.4	21.9	18.2	19.6	21.4	30.1
2	48.3	59.7	62.7	63.1	65.0	64.8	58.0
3 or more	32.6	22.9	15.3	18.7	15.5	13.8	12.0
Social Security beneficiary	8.8	40.2	87.9	82.8	89.6	90.5	90.7
Number (thousands)	10,563	3,484	15,151	4,814	3,652	3,227	3,457

(Continued)

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2004—Continued

Characteristic	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older				
			Total	65–69	70–74	75–79	80 or older
<i>Women</i>							
Race							
White alone	83.5	84.9	86.7	84.9	85.9	88.1	88.1
Black alone	10.7	10.1	9.0	10.1	9.7	7.9	8.2
Asian alone	4.0	3.4	3.1	3.7	3.0	2.8	2.7
Hispanic origin	7.9	7.6	6.3	8.1	7.0	5.5	4.8
Marital status							
Married	62.9	62.8	42.0	58.1	49.4	40.7	22.2
Nonmarried	37.1	37.2	58.0	41.9	50.6	59.3	77.8
Widowed	8.3	13.1	42.9	21.9	35.0	45.0	67.1
Divorced	18.2	15.8	8.5	12.8	8.7	7.9	4.9
Never married	6.4	5.4	3.9	4.4	3.9	4.1	3.4
Living with nonspouse family	33.2	25.3	23.5	24.2	21.6	21.3	26.1
Persons in family							
1	22.1	24.8	40.5	27.8	34.9	43.4	54.4
2	52.8	56.0	45.0	55.4	51.0	43.4	31.8
3 or more	25.2	19.3	14.5	16.8	14.1	13.2	13.7
Social Security beneficiary	9.3	47.3	88.4	83.5	88.7	90.0	91.4
Number (thousands)	11,651	3,834	20,063	5,310	4,612	4,368	5,772

(Continued)

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2004—Continued

Characteristic	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older				
			Total	65–69	70–74	75–79	80 or older
<i>White alone</i>							
Sex							
Men	48.1	48.0	43.4	47.5	44.7	42.9	38.1
Women	51.9	52.0	56.6	52.5	55.3	57.1	61.9
Hispanic origin	8.8	8.1	6.8	8.1	7.4	6.2	5.2
Marital status							
Married	70.6	71.6	56.7	69.3	63.1	56.2	38.3
Nonmarried	29.4	28.4	43.3	30.7	36.9	43.8	61.7
Widowed	4.9	8.1	29.7	13.3	23.4	30.8	51.3
Divorced	15.7	12.9	7.5	11.0	7.5	6.9	4.3
Never married	5.9	4.3	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.4
Living with nonspouse family	32.2	22.8	18.5	19.4	17.2	16.9	19.9
Persons in family							
1	20.1	20.4	32.4	22.7	27.4	33.6	45.9
2	53.1	61.0	55.0	62.4	60.2	54.8	42.8
3 or more	26.8	18.5	12.6	14.9	12.4	11.6	11.3
Social Security beneficiary	8.8	44.2	89.6	85.0	90.1	91.5	92.3
Number (thousands)	18,737	6,254	30,710	8,591	7,163	6,741	8,215

(Continued)

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2004—Continued

Characteristic	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older				
			Total	65–69	70–74	75–79	80 or older
<i>Black alone</i>							
Sex							
Men	43.8	43.6	39.0	46.3	37.1	40.0	29.3
Women	56.2	56.4	61.0	53.7	62.9	60.0	70.7
Hispanic origin	2.5	1.6	2.2	3.4	2.1	1.4	1.1
Marital status							
Married	48.2	48.2	34.2	44.6	34.9	32.2	19.4
Nonmarried	51.8	51.8	65.8	55.4	65.1	67.8	80.6
Widowed	8.5	12.3	38.2	22.2	34.5	41.7	62.9
Divorced	21.2	21.0	12.5	14.7	13.2	13.2	7.8
Never married	14.0	10.7	8.2	11.1	8.3	8.1	3.8
Living with nonspouse family	46.1	38.5	38.7	43.0	35.9	35.6	37.9
Persons in family							
1	26.8	31.1	39.1	31.4	40.7	41.6	46.9
2	39.1	39.6	35.3	37.1	34.2	35.9	33.1
3 or more	34.1	29.3	25.6	31.6	25.1	22.5	20.0
Social Security beneficiary	13.0	47.7	81.8	74.6	84.4	82.8	89.1
Number (thousands)	2,223	686	2,958	1,001	714	573	669

(Continued)

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2004—Continued

Characteristic	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older				
			Total	65–69	70–74	75–79	80 or older
<i>Asian alone</i>							
Sex							
Men	45.8	45.1	43.6	48.3	47.5	36.5	37.8
Women	54.2	54.9	56.4	51.7	52.5	63.5	62.2
Hispanic origin	1.1	0	0.2	0	0.2	0	0.5
Marital status							
Married	67.8	70.1	59.3	70.5	64.6	50.2	44.0
Nonmarried	32.2	29.9	40.7	29.5	35.4	49.8	56.0
Widowed	5.9	7.3	27.0	15.2	22.6	32.0	45.1
Divorced	9.3	11.7	5.4	6.8	4.3	6.1	3.8
Never married	7.1	7.0	4.2	5.0	2.7	5.1	3.7
Living with nonspouse family	59.9	56.4	47.7	46.3	47.5	48.0	49.5
Persons in family							
1	14.8	15.6	18.8	13.1	14.7	26.9	25.6
2	30.3	32.1	37.5	45.0	42.6	27.1	29.0
3 or more	54.9	52.3	43.7	42.0	42.7	46.1	45.4
Social Security beneficiary	4.3	26.6	67.5	64.5	75.0	64.6	66.3
Number (thousands)	857	238	1,092	377	268	193	255

(Continued)

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2004—Continued

Characteristic	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older				
			Total	65–69	70–74	75–79	80 or older
<i>Hispanic origin</i>							
Sex							
Men	48.0	46.2	42.4	43.0	43.3	44.0	38.8
Women	52.0	53.8	57.6	57.0	56.7	56.0	61.2
Race							
White alone	93.1	94.0	94.6	93.3	94.0	97.0	95.1
Black alone	3.1	2.0	2.9	4.5	2.7	1.8	1.7
Asian alone	0.5	0	0.1	0	0.1	0	0.3
Marital status							
Married	61.2	59.5	48.9	60.0	50.0	45.5	32.3
Nonmarried	38.8	40.5	51.1	40.0	50.0	54.5	67.7
Widowed	7.2	10.6	30.5	16.6	29.0	36.4	49.9
Divorced	14.5	14.5	9.5	11.5	10.3	7.7	6.8
Never married	9.4	7.1	5.6	5.1	4.7	6.3	6.8
Living with nonspouse family	53.7	49.2	43.8	45.3	42.2	40.3	46.6
Persons in family							
1	18.3	19.1	24.6	20.0	23.3	28.1	30.9
2	36.4	40.0	39.8	41.0	39.9	41.3	36.2
3 or more	45.3	40.9	35.6	39.0	36.8	30.6	33.0
Social Security beneficiary	8.4	37.0	76.6	70.8	77.5	81.3	80.8
Number (thousands)	1,776	540	2,194	750	566	428	449

(Continued)

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2004—Continued

Characteristic	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older				
			Total	65–69	70–74	75–79	80 or older
<i>Beneficiary</i>							
Sex							
Men	46.2	43.6	42.9	47.3	44.5	42.6	37.3
Women	53.8	56.4	57.1	52.7	55.5	57.4	62.7
Race							
White alone	81.3	86.1	88.6	86.7	87.7	90.0	90.1
Black alone	14.3	10.2	7.8	8.9	8.2	6.9	7.1
Asian alone	1.8	2.0	2.4	2.9	2.7	1.8	2.0
Hispanic origin	7.3	6.2	5.4	6.3	6.0	5.1	4.3
Marital status							
Married	51.6	66.6	54.6	67.2	60.8	54.3	36.9
Nonmarried	48.4	33.4	45.4	32.8	39.2	45.7	63.1
Widowed	14.1	11.6	31.1	14.4	24.5	32.0	52.8
Divorced	21.3	14.2	7.9	11.6	8.1	7.4	4.4
Never married	9.0	4.5	3.7	3.9	4.0	4.0	2.9
Living with nonspouse family	35.2	22.6	19.2	20.4	18.0	17.2	20.8
Persons in family							
1	30.4	24.1	33.6	23.9	29.1	35.0	46.3
2	44.2	58.6	53.4	60.9	58.2	53.3	42.0
3 or more	25.4	17.3	12.9	15.3	12.8	11.7	11.7
Number (thousands)	2,023	3,215	31,045	8,416	7,361	6,853	8,415

(Continued)

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2004—Continued

Characteristic	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older				
			Total	65–69	70–74	75–79	80 or older
<i>Nonbeneficiary</i>							
Sex							
Men	47.7	50.8	44.0	48.6	42.0	41.1	39.4
Women	52.3	49.2	56.0	51.4	58.0	58.9	60.6
Race							
White alone	84.7	85.0	76.9	75.6	78.5	76.9	77.7
Black alone	9.6	8.8	12.9	14.9	12.4	13.3	9.0
Asian alone	4.1	4.3	8.5	7.8	7.4	9.2	10.5
Hispanic origin	8.1	8.3	12.3	12.8	14.1	10.8	10.6
Marital status							
Married	69.7	71.5	55.7	64.5	57.7	52.4	38.1
Nonmarried	30.3	28.5	44.3	35.5	42.3	47.6	61.9
Widowed	4.5	6.2	24.7	13.8	24.3	29.1	43.9
Divorced	15.7	13.3	8.0	9.8	7.0	7.1	6.0
Never married	6.5	5.4	7.4	7.8	6.5	7.0	8.1
Living with nonspouse family	34.7	28.1	36.8	35.4	38.0	37.7	37.8
Persons in family							
1	19.7	19.1	24.0	20.2	20.5	25.5	34.7
2	51.3	57.1	46.6	50.1	49.1	45.3	37.6
3 or more	29.0	23.9	29.4	29.7	30.4	29.2	27.7
Number (thousands)	20,192	4,102	4,168	1,708	903	742	815

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.2
Percentage of wives with characteristic, by husband's race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2004

Wife characteristic	Aged 55-61	Aged 62-64	Aged 65 or older				
			Total	65-69	70-74	75-79	80 or older
<i>All husbands</i>							
Wife age							
Under 55	43.6	12.8	4.2	7.2	4.8	1.5	1.4
55-61	50.9	52.1	10.1	22.0	6.4	4.1	0.6
62-64	3.6	26.4	12.4	27.9	8.6	2.5	1.3
65 or older	2.0	8.7	73.3	42.8	80.2	92.0	96.6
65-69	1.5	7.0	25.2	34.3	39.7	14.4	3.2
70-74	0.3	1.3	20.3	7.0	31.7	36.1	11.5
75-79	0.2	0.3	16.1	1.3	7.5	35.5	31.3
80 or older	0	0.1	11.7	0.2	1.3	6.0	50.6
Wife race							
White alone	86.5	88.1	89.6	87.5	89.5	91.3	91.7
Black alone	7.2	7.0	5.5	7.0	5.1	5.2	4.0
Asian alone	4.7	3.6	3.7	4.3	4.0	2.6	3.6
Wife Hispanic origin	7.9	6.8	5.7	6.9	6.0	5.0	4.3
Wife Social Security beneficiary	6.1	21.7	73.8	55.2	77.4	84.6	89.5
Number (thousands)	7,790	2,665	10,858	3,673	2,716	2,335	2,135
<i>White alone husbands</i>							
Wife race							
White alone	97.8	98.8	98.8	98.6	98.7	98.8	99.0
Black alone	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0
Asian alone	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.3
Wife Hispanic origin	8.5	7.4	6.1	7.3	6.3	5.3	4.6
Number (thousands)	6,787	2,339	9,760	3,211	2,437	2,147	1,965

(Continued)

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.2
Percentage of wives with characteristic, by husband's race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2004—Continued

Wife characteristic	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older					
			Total	65–69	70–74	75–79	80 or older	
Black alone husbands								
Wife race								
White alone	3.3	1.2	2.8	5.0	1.2	0.6	1.7	
Black alone	95.5	98.1	95.8	94.1	95.0	98.9	98.3	
Asian alone	0.5	0	0.5	0.3	1.5	0	0	
Wife Hispanic origin	3.0	1.0	2.8	4.4	3.0	0.8	0	
Number (thousands)	566	185	612	267	145	118	84	
Asian alone husbands								
Wife race								
White alone	3.8	2.1	3.4	4.1	5.0	a	a	
Black alone	1.2	0	0	0	0	a	a	
Asian alone	93.8	97.9	96.4	95.6	95.0	a	a	
Wife Hispanic origin	0.8	0	1.0	1.9	0.9	a	a	
Number (thousands)	307	80	359	142	97	50	70	
Hispanic origin husbands								
Wife race								
White alone	93.2	96.0	92.4	91.7	94.9	94.6	87.1	
Black alone	2.7	1.1	3.4	4.8	1.7	1.3	5.3	
Asian alone	0.4	0.2	1.5	0.1	0	3.6	4.8	
Wife Hispanic origin	84.4	87.5	86.3	91.6	86.7	79.6	81.2	
Number (thousands)	577	171	605	233	157	123	92	
Beneficiary husbands								
Wife Social Security beneficiary	19.3	37.1	81.2	63.1	83.7	90.5	96.0	
Number (thousands)	590	1,008	9,566	3,051	2,438	2,126	1,952	
Nonbeneficiary husbands								
Wife Social Security beneficiary	5.0	12.4	19.4	16.1	22.1	24.9	20.2	
Number (thousands)	7,200	1,657	1,292	621	278	209	183	

a. Fewer than 75,000 weighted cases.

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.3
Percentage of husbands with characteristic, by wife's race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2004

Husband characteristic	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older				
			Total	65–69	70–74	75–79	80 or older
<i>All wives</i>							
Husband age							
Under 55	12.2	3.3	0.8	1.2	0.7	0.4	0.9
55–61	54.0	11.6	1.8	3.8	1.0	0.8	0.1
62–64	18.9	29.2	2.8	6.1	1.6	0.4	0.2
65 or older	14.9	56.0	94.6	88.9	96.7	98.3	98.7
65–69	11.0	42.6	18.7	40.9	11.2	2.7	0.5
70–74	2.4	9.7	25.9	34.9	37.8	11.4	2.8
75–79	1.3	2.5	25.5	10.9	36.9	46.6	11.0
80 or older	0.2	1.2	24.5	2.2	10.8	37.6	84.4
Husband race							
White alone	87.8	89.2	91.2	89.0	92.0	93.0	92.7
Black alone	7.0	6.0	4.8	6.1	4.6	3.8	3.6
Asian alone	3.4	2.9	3.1	3.8	2.5	2.3	3.2
Husband Hispanic origin	6.4	5.9	5.3	6.2	5.3	4.2	4.8
Husband Social Security beneficiary	23.2	60.3	87.7	83.6	90.3	90.0	89.8
Number (thousands)	7,333	2,407	8,420	3,083	2,280	1,776	1,281
<i>White alone wives</i>							
Husband race							
White alone	98.3	98.8	99.3	99.0	99.5	99.2	99.5
Black alone	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0	0
Asian alone	0.2	0	0.1	0.2	0	0	0
Husband Hispanic origin	6.7	6.3	5.5	6.4	5.5	4.3	4.9
Number (thousands)	6,438	2,139	7,648	2,740	2,080	1,644	1,184

(Continued)

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.3
Percentage of husbands with characteristic, by wife's race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2004—Continued

Husband characteristic	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older				
			Total	65–69	70–74	75–79	80 or older
Black alone wives							
Husband race							
White alone	1.6	2.3	1.6	1.0	1.6	a	a
Black alone	96.6	97.7	98.1	98.3	98.4	a	a
Asian alone	1.0	0	0	0	0	a	a
Husband Hispanic origin	3.7	0.7	2.0	2.8	0	a	a
Number (thousands)	504	146	398	180	105	67	46
Asian alone wives							
Husband race							
White alone	15.0	18.7	11.6	8.3	22.5	a	a
Black alone	1.6	0	0.3	0.7	0	a	a
Asian alone	81.3	79.0	87.4	91.0	75.5	a	a
Husband Hispanic origin	0.5	0	3.2	2.1	6.9	a	a
Number (thousands)	274	86	288	123	76	47	42
Hispanic origin wives							
Husband race							
White alone	92.3	95.0	95.1	93.3	96.7	a	a
Black alone	3.2	1.5	2.0	3.1	0	a	a
Asian alone	0.9	0	0.8	1.2	0.7	a	a
Husband Hispanic origin	78.7	83.4	83.1	80.4	80.4	a	a
Number (thousands)	509	150	467	216	126	72	53
Beneficiary wives							
Husband Social Security beneficiary	53.0	80.3	95.0	91.3	96.6	96.8	98.0
Number (thousands)	454	1,132	7,391	2,603	2,037	1,597	1,153
Nonbeneficiary wives							
Husband Social Security beneficiary	21.2	42.5	35.3	41.7	37.5	29.6	15.3
Number (thousands)	6,880	1,275	1,030	480	243	180	127

a. Fewer than 75,000 weighted cases.