

SECTION 1

Demographic Characteristics



Key Terms and Concepts for Section 1 ¹

Age. Age classification is based on the age of the person at his or her last birthday as of March 2009. 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, 2008

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	48.4	47.3	43.2	47.6	43.9	43.2	37.2	
Women	51.6	52.7	56.8	52.4	56.1	56.8	62.8	
Race								
White alone	83.4	85.1	86.6	85.3	85.4	86.4	89.1	
Black alone	10.5	9.6	8.5	8.9	9.4	8.9	7.2	
Asian alone	4.2	3.5	3.4	3.9	3.3	3.5	2.8	
Hispanic origin	9.0	7.7	7.2	8.0	7.9	7.0	5.8	
Marital status								
Married	67.8	69.0	54.8	66.6	61.7	52.6	36.7	
Nonmarried	32.2	31.0	45.2	33.4	38.3	47.4	63.3	
Widowed	4.7	7.5	29.0	12.3	20.8	33.4	52.6	
Divorced	16.0	14.4	9.6	13.9	11.0	7.7	4.9	
Never married	7.9	6.0	4.2	4.6	4.3	4.1	3.7	
Living with nonspouse family	35.3	24.6	21.3	22.0	21.0	20.6	21.2	
Persons in family								
1	21.1	22.6	32.8	24.3	27.6	34.4	45.9	
2	49.5	56.9	52.3	58.1	57.0	51.5	41.8	
3 or more	29.3	20.5	15.0	17.6	15.4	14.2	12.2	
Social Security beneficiary	8.8	39.1	85.8	78.2	87.7	89.5	90.4	
Number (thousands)	25,796	8,493	37,788	11,825	8,579	7,329	10,054	

(Continued)

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2008—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	84.3	86.4	87.4	86.5	86.2	87.1	90.4	
Black alone	9.7	8.5	7.7	7.9	8.8	8.3	5.9	
Asian alone	4.1	3.1	3.3	3.9	2.9	3.5	2.6	
Hispanic origin	9.0	7.7	7.2	7.7	7.4	6.8	6.4	
Marital status								
Married	71.3	76.4	72.0	77.0	76.9	69.8	61.4	
Nonmarried	28.7	23.6	28.0	23.0	23.1	30.2	38.6	
Widowed	2.1	2.9	12.9	4.6	7.8	15.1	28.8	
Divorced	14.3	11.8	8.3	10.8	9.3	8.1	3.8	
Never married	8.5	5.8	4.4	5.2	4.1	4.4	3.3	
Living with nonspouse family	37.4	24.4	18.5	20.6	18.3	16.6	17.4	
Persons in family								
1	20.2	19.4	21.9	18.8	18.9	23.8	27.8	
2	47.1	58.2	62.6	62.6	64.8	63.4	59.7	
3 or more	32.7	22.4	15.6	18.7	16.3	12.8	12.5	
Social Security beneficiary	8.8	34.8	85.5	77.9	88.8	89.7	90.1	
Number (thousands)	12,489	4,017	16,308	5,632	3,769	3,167	3,740	

(Continued)

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2008—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	82.4	83.9	85.9	84.3	84.8	86.0	88.3	
Black alone	11.3	10.6	9.2	9.8	9.8	9.4	7.9	
Asian alone	4.3	3.8	3.5	4.0	3.6	3.5	3.0	
Hispanic origin	8.9	7.6	7.2	8.3	8.3	7.1	5.4	
Marital status								
Married	64.6	62.2	41.8	57.1	49.7	39.6	22.1	
Nonmarried	35.4	37.8	58.2	42.9	50.3	60.4	77.9	
Widowed	7.1	11.6	41.3	19.3	31.1	47.3	66.7	
Divorced	17.6	16.8	10.6	16.6	12.4	7.4	5.6	
Never married	7.4	6.3	4.0	4.0	4.4	3.8	3.9	
Living with nonspouse family	33.3	24.8	23.4	23.2	23.1	23.7	23.5	
Persons in family								
1	22.0	25.5	41.0	29.4	34.4	42.4	56.7	
2	51.9	55.7	44.4	54.1	50.9	42.4	31.3	
3 or more	26.1	18.8	14.5	16.5	14.6	15.2	12.1	
Social Security beneficiary	8.8	42.9	86.0	78.4	86.8	89.3	90.5	
Number (thousands)	13,307	4,476	21,480	6,193	4,810	4,162	6,314	

(Continued)

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2008—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	49.0	48.1	43.6	48.3	44.3	43.5	37.7	
Women	51.0	51.9	56.4	51.7	55.7	56.5	62.3	
Hispanic origin	10.0	8.4	7.8	8.8	8.8	7.6	6.1	
Marital status								
Married	70.5	71.4	56.6	69.2	63.8	54.4	38.0	
Nonmarried	29.5	28.6	43.4	30.8	36.2	45.6	62.0	
Widowed	4.3	6.8	28.4	11.3	19.7	32.4	52.0	
Divorced	15.8	14.1	9.3	13.3	10.8	7.7	4.8	
Never married	6.7	5.3	3.8	4.1	3.8	3.7	3.4	
Living with nonspouse family	33.3	21.8	18.7	19.4	18.5	17.4	18.9	
Persons in family								
1	20.2	21.8	32.7	23.2	26.9	35.1	46.6	
2	51.7	59.8	54.3	61.4	59.6	53.0	42.7	
3 or more	28.1	18.4	13.0	15.4	13.5	11.9	10.7	
Social Security beneficiary	8.2	39.1	87.3	79.6	89.2	90.9	91.8	
Number (thousands)	21,505	7,226	32,714	10,093	7,327	6,336	8,958	

(Continued)

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2008—Continued

Characteristic	Aged 55–61	Aged 62–64	Aged 65 or older					
			Total	65–69	70–74	75–79	80 or older	
Black alone								
Sex								
Men	44.8	41.8	39.0	42.2	41.5	40.1	30.8	
Women	55.2	58.2	61.0	57.8	58.5	59.9	69.2	
Hispanic origin	2.1	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.5	2.9	1.6	
Marital status								
Married	46.0	46.5	36.0	42.9	40.9	35.9	20.4	
Nonmarried	54.0	53.5	64.0	57.1	59.1	64.1	79.6	
Widowed	7.3	13.0	36.0	19.3	30.8	43.0	59.8	
Divorced	20.4	20.2	13.6	20.3	14.2	9.8	6.5	
Never married	18.3	13.3	8.5	10.2	8.8	7.6	6.5	
Living with nonspouse family	42.7	39.3	34.5	33.6	32.3	36.8	36.5	
Persons in family								
1	31.6	32.8	40.2	37.9	39.1	36.5	47.8	
2	38.1	38.7	37.8	36.6	39.7	41.4	34.1	
3 or more	30.3	28.4	22.0	25.5	21.1	22.1	18.1	
Social Security beneficiary	13.8	43.5	79.4	72.6	80.0	83.7	84.7	
Number (thousands)	2,715	817	3,229	1,051	803	652	722	

(Continued)

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2008—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	47.0	42.5	41.7	47.1	38.7	43.2	34.3
Women	53.0	57.5	58.3	52.9	61.3	56.8	65.7
Hispanic origin	1.4	1.0	1.3	1.4	0.9	1.8	1.2
Marital status							
Married	77.0	71.7	59.2	68.8	68.1	53.1	40.3
Nonmarried	23.0	28.3	40.8	31.2	31.9	46.9	59.7
Widowed	5.5	9.5	27.7	15.8	19.5	33.4	50.5
Divorced	6.2	5.2	5.1	6.8	6.3	2.9	3.0
Never married	5.5	5.9	2.9	1.4	2.4	4.7	4.2
Living with nonspouse family	53.8	44.7	47.3	44.0	46.0	54.7	47.2
Persons in family							
1	9.9	12.7	16.2	14.7	14.2	12.6	24.2
2	40.9	44.6	42.4	45.0	46.9	40.3	35.4
3 or more	49.1	42.7	41.4	40.3	38.9	47.1	40.4
Social Security beneficiary	4.9	24.7	65.7	61.7	70.7	70.4	63.1
Number (thousands)	1,078	295	1,296	467	286	260	284

(Continued)

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2008—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	48.5	47.7	43.0	45.9	41.3	41.9	41.1	
Women	51.5	52.3	57.0	54.1	58.7	58.1	58.9	
Race								
White alone	92.9	93.3	94.4	93.9	94.9	94.1	94.8	
Black alone	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.2	1.8	3.7	2.0	
Asian alone	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.9	0.6	
Marital status								
Married	61.9	60.5	50.5	59.8	51.8	49.9	34.3	
Nonmarried	38.1	39.5	49.5	40.2	48.2	50.1	65.7	
Widowed	5.0	8.3	26.4	12.9	22.1	31.0	49.5	
Divorced	15.3	14.5	11.0	13.7	12.4	8.0	7.5	
Never married	10.1	6.4	6.4	7.1	6.4	6.3	5.5	
Living with nonspouse family	59.7	47.7	43.6	41.4	44.1	42.0	48.1	
Persons in family								
1	18.0	21.1	24.1	20.8	23.9	23.9	29.7	
2	30.0	38.5	41.4	45.1	41.5	40.9	35.5	
3 or more	52.0	40.4	34.6	34.1	34.6	35.2	34.7	
Social Security beneficiary	8.6	33.9	73.4	69.9	75.1	77.4	73.8	
Number (thousands)	2,311	650	2,717	950	677	511	580	

(Continued)

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2008—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	48.3	42.2	43.0	47.4	44.5	43.3	37.1	
Women	51.7	57.8	57.0	52.6	55.5	56.7	62.9	
Race								
White alone	78.1	85.1	88.1	86.9	86.9	87.8	90.5	
Black alone	16.6	10.7	7.9	8.3	8.5	8.3	6.7	
Asian alone	2.3	2.2	2.6	3.1	2.7	2.8	2.0	
Hispanic origin	8.7	6.6	6.2	7.2	6.8	6.0	4.7	
Marital status								
Married	52.5	65.2	54.5	67.0	61.9	53.2	36.7	
Nonmarried	47.5	34.8	45.5	33.0	38.1	46.8	63.3	
Widowed	10.5	11.2	30.4	12.7	21.1	33.9	53.4	
Divorced	20.6	14.8	9.4	14.0	11.2	7.4	4.6	
Never married	11.4	5.7	3.7	4.1	3.8	3.5	3.3	
Living with nonspouse family	35.0	21.9	18.9	19.3	18.7	18.4	19.2	
Persons in family								
1	29.1	26.5	34.1	25.1	28.4	35.3	47.2	
2	45.2	55.6	53.2	59.9	58.3	52.6	42.5	
3 or more	25.7	17.9	12.7	15.0	13.2	12.2	10.2	
Number (thousands)	2,270	3,318	32,406	9,242	7,522	6,557	9,085	

(Continued)

Demographic Characteristics of Aged Persons

Table 1.1
Percentage with characteristic, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2008—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	48.4	50.6	44.0	48.3	40.1	42.4	38.3	
Women	51.6	49.4	56.0	51.7	59.9	57.6	61.7	
Race								
White alone	83.9	85.1	77.3	79.6	74.9	74.7	75.9	
Black alone	9.9	8.9	12.4	11.1	15.2	13.8	11.4	
Asian alone	4.4	4.3	8.3	6.9	7.9	9.9	10.8	
Hispanic origin	9.0	8.3	13.4	11.1	15.9	14.9	15.7	
Marital status								
Married	69.3	71.4	56.5	64.9	60.0	47.6	37.1	
Nonmarried	30.7	28.6	43.5	35.1	40.0	52.4	62.9	
Widowed	4.1	5.1	21.1	10.7	19.1	28.6	45.2	
Divorced	15.6	14.2	11.3	13.4	9.6	10.6	8.2	
Never married	7.6	6.3	7.0	6.4	7.5	8.6	6.7	
Living with nonspouse family	35.3	26.3	35.4	31.5	37.7	39.6	40.3	
Persons in family								
1	20.4	20.1	24.6	21.7	21.6	26.5	33.9	
2	50.0	57.8	46.6	51.6	47.8	42.3	35.4	
3 or more	29.7	22.1	28.8	26.7	30.6	31.2	30.7	
Number (thousands)	23,527	5,175	5,382	2,583	1,057	772	969	

Table 1.2
Percentage of wives with characteristic, by husband's race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2008

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	41.5	15.3	4.3	7.5	4.3	1.9	0.8	
55-61	51.8	47.3	12.2	23.6	9.9	3.8	1.7	
62-64	4.2	27.8	12.3	25.4	7.7	3.8	1.6	
65 or older	2.5	9.5	71.1	43.5	78.1	90.5	95.9	
65-69	2.0	8.3	26.1	33.8	38.6	15.8	5.6	
70-74	0.4	0.8	19.7	8.4	28.6	37.4	12.6	
75-79	0.1	0.1	13.7	1.0	9.7	32.2	25.1	
80 or older	0	0.3	11.7	0.4	1.2	5.1	52.6	
Wife race								
White alone	85.8	88.0	88.7	87.9	87.9	87.6	92.0	
Black alone	6.9	6.4	6.0	6.0	6.7	7.0	4.3	
Asian alone	5.6	3.9	4.1	4.6	4.1	4.2	2.9	
Wife Hispanic origin	8.6	8.0	6.9	7.6	6.8	6.6	6.1	
Wife Social Security beneficiary	6.4	21.9	68.9	50.4	71.6	83.4	86.5	
Number (thousands)	8,907	3,071	11,742	4,338	2,897	2,211	2,296	
<i>White alone husbands</i>								
Wife race								
White alone	97.7	98.3	98.4	98.2	98.3	98.3	99.2	
Black alone	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	
Asian alone	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.2	
Wife Hispanic origin	9.3	8.6	7.4	8.1	7.3	6.9	6.5	
Number (thousands)	7,690	2,711	10,469	3,845	2,555	1,951	2,118	

(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, 2008—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	8.4	5.3	1.5	0.9	1.9	3.2	0	
Black alone	89.4	94.0	97.9	97.9	97.8	96.8	100.0	
Asian alone	1.0	0.5	0.3	0.7	0	0	0	
Wife Hispanic origin	2.8	2.0	2.9	3.6	1.9	4.9	0	
Number (thousands)	659	201	693	255	191	151	97	
Asian alone husbands								
Wife race								
White alone	4.0	5.8	5.5	7.9	2.8	6.8	a	
Black alone	0	0	1.0	0	0	4.6	a	
Asian alone	95.4	94.2	93.3	91.9	96.9	88.7	a	
Wife Hispanic origin	1.3	0	1.4	0.9	0	4.6	a	
Number (thousands)	425	100	428	180	96	89	63	
Hispanic origin husbands								
Wife race								
White alone	93.7	95.0	94.9	95.4	95.0	90.1	98.9	
Black alone	1.6	0.4	2.7	2.1	1.4	8.0	0	
Asian alone	0.8	0.8	0.2	0.1	0	0.9	0	
Wife Hispanic origin	85.1	86.2	89.4	90.4	89.5	86.1	90.7	
Number (thousands)	754	220	752	305	177	144	126	
Beneficiary husbands								
Wife Social Security beneficiary	25.8	39.6	76.7	58.9	77.5	89.5	92.3	
Number (thousands)	662	1,002	10,050	3,382	2,574	2,005	2,089	
Nonbeneficiary husbands								
Wife Social Security beneficiary	4.8	13.3	22.6	20.4	24.6	23.5	28.1	
Number (thousands)	8,246	2,068	1,692	956	323	206	207	

a. Fewer than 75,000 weighted cases.

Table 1.3
Percentage of husbands with characteristic, by wife's race, Hispanic origin, Social Security beneficiary status, and age, 2008

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	12.6	3.9	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.9	
55-61	53.8	13.5	2.4	4.9	1.4	0.7	0.1	
62-64	16.9	30.7	3.3	7.2	1.0	0.2	0.7	
65 or older	16.7	51.9	93.1	86.6	96.4	98.0	98.3	
65-69	11.9	39.5	21.1	41.5	15.2	2.6	1.1	
70-74	3.3	8.0	25.2	31.6	34.6	17.1	2.6	
75-79	1.0	3.0	22.3	9.9	34.5	43.3	8.0	
80 or older	0.5	1.3	24.5	3.6	12.1	35.0	86.6	
Husband race								
White alone	87.4	88.4	90.2	89.2	89.4	91.4	92.7	
Black alone	7.1	6.6	5.1	5.5	5.5	5.0	3.6	
Asian alone	4.2	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.8	2.9	3.4	
Husband Hispanic origin	7.3	6.3	6.4	6.8	6.9	6.2	4.8	
Husband Social Security beneficiary	22.6	55.0	84.6	77.8	87.2	91.0	89.7	
Number (thousands)	8,591	2,785	8,969	3,535	2,393	1,647	1,394	
<i>White alone wives</i>								
Husband race								
White alone	98.7	98.9	99.1	98.7	99.0	99.3	99.9	
Black alone	0.4	0.1	0	0	0.1	0.1	0	
Asian alone	0.3	0.4	0.1	0	0.4	0.2	0	
Husband Hispanic origin	8.0	6.5	6.8	7.2	7.4	6.4	5.1	
Number (thousands)	7,463	2,445	8,049	3,142	2,121	1,498	1,288	

(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, 2008—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	2.2	2.0	2.0	1.8	2.5	2.7	a	
Black alone	97.1	97.4	97.0	98.2	94.0	97.3	a	
Asian alone	0	0	0.9	0	2.9	0	a	
Husband Hispanic origin	1.9	1.2	3.0	3.5	4.1	1.9	a	
Number (thousands)	590	179	468	196	138	83	50	
Asian alone wives								
Husband race								
White alone	15.6	19.5	13.6	12.3	20.3	a	a	
Black alone	0.6	1.7	0.4	1.1	0	a	a	
Asian alone	83.1	76.8	85.8	86.3	79.3	a	a	
Husband Hispanic origin	1.2	1.2	0.5	1.2	0	a	a	
Number (thousands)	405	111	340	141	99	49	51	
Hispanic origin wives								
Husband race								
White alone	94.6	91.4	96.2	96.1	95.6	95.8	a	
Black alone	3.1	2.0	1.4	2.1	0.9	1.4	a	
Asian alone	0.4	0.9	0.9	0.5	2.3	0	a	
Husband Hispanic origin	81.0	83.4	82.9	80.6	88.2	81.7	a	
Number (thousands)	677	173	620	262	174	111	73	
Beneficiary wives								
Husband Social Security beneficiary	53.6	74.7	92.7	87.0	94.6	96.7	97.4	
Number (thousands)	529	1,160	7,621	2,813	2,081	1,486	1,241	
Nonbeneficiary wives								
Husband Social Security beneficiary	20.6	41.0	39.0	42.0	37.9	39.1	27.3	
Number (thousands)	8,063	1,625	1,348	722	312	161	153	

a. Fewer than 75,000 weighted cases.