



## Challenges of Global Aging

### THE ADMINISTRATION ON AGING

The Administration on Aging (AoA), an agency in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is one of the nation's largest providers of home- and community-based care for older persons and their caregivers. Our mission is to promote the dignity and independence of older people, and to help society prepare for an aging population.

### GLOBAL AGING

Global aging is a success story. People today are living longer and generally healthier lives. This represents the triumph of public health, medical advancement, and economic development over disease and injury, which have constrained human life expectancy for thousands of years.

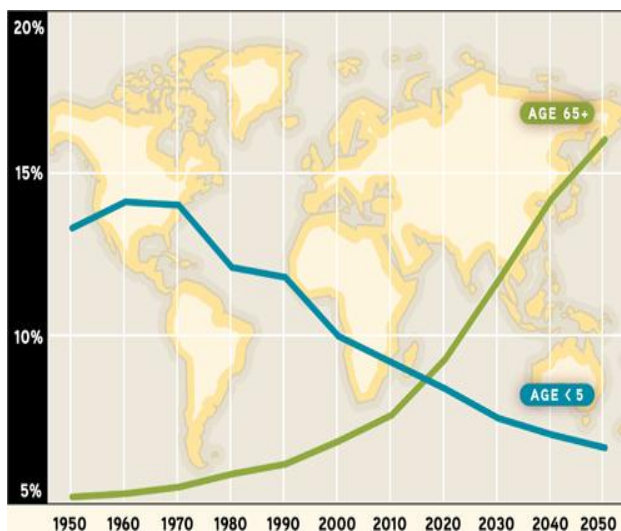
The world's population is now aging at an unprecedented rate.

- In 2006, almost 500 million people worldwide were 65 and older. By 2030, that total is projected to increase to 1 billion—1 in every 8 of the earth's inhabitants.
- The most rapid increases in the 65-and-older population are occurring in developing countries, which will see a jump of 140 percent by 2030.
- On a global level, the 80-and over population is projected to increase 233 percent between 2008 and 2040,

compared with 160 percent for the population aged 65 and over and 33 percent for the total population all ages.

- People aged 65 and over will soon outnumber children under age 5 for the first time in history.

### YOUNG CHILDREN AND OLDER PEOPLE AS A PERCENTAGE OF GLOBAL POPULATION



[Source: Why Population Aging Matters, U.S. National Institute on Aging and the U.S. Department of State, 2007.]

Population aging will affect every man, woman and child anywhere in the world. The steady increase of older age groups will

# FACTS

have a direct bearing on relationships within families, equity across generations, lifestyles, and the family solidarity that is the foundation of society.

## THE ADMINISTRATION ON AGING'S GLOBAL ACTIVITIES

As the federal focal point for older Americans and their caregivers, AoA plays a vital role in information exchange with other nations concerning aging issues. AoA collaborates with foreign governments, such as Mexico and China, and with international organizations, such as the United Nations, to enhance aging programs and policies worldwide. We respond to requests for information from international organizations, foreign governments, and non-profit agencies. We host international scholars, government officials and practitioners who come to the United States to learn first-hand about America's response to population aging.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON AGEING

On April 12, 2002, the World Assembly on Ageing adopted the International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002 (Plan). This Plan seeks to ensure that people everywhere will age with security and dignity, and continue to participate in their societies as citizens with full rights.

The top priorities include involving older persons in the development process; advancing health and well being into old age; and ensuring supportive environments that enable older persons to have choices. Core themes include the recognition of the needs of older women; the desire of older

people to stay active and engaged; and the need to create intergenerational solidarity. These themes demonstrate how the international community shares a common vision of a better future for older persons.

The Assistant Secretary for Aging led the U.S. delegation to the World Assembly on Ageing and affirmed the U.S. commitment to these themes. Working in concert with other nations, AoA continues to play a key role in implementing the Plan.

## SOURCES

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AoA's Global Aging Webpage  
[http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA\\_Programs/SpecialProjects/GlobalAging/index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/SpecialProjects/GlobalAging/index.aspx)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AOA

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, ADMINISTRATION ON AGING, WASHINGTON DC 20201

PHONE: 202.619.0724 | FAX: 202.357.3555 | EMAIL: [AOAINFO@AOA.GOV](mailto:AoAINFO@AOA.GOV) | WEB: [HTTP://WWW.AOA.GOV](http://WWW.AOA.GOV)  
FACEBOOK: [HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AOA.GOV](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AOA.GOV)

