



Iowa Family
Impact Seminars

Thank you for attending the 6th Iowa Family Impact Seminar!

Please use these documents as a resource as you reflect on today's presentations and discussion.

The Next Four Decades: Aging in America

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of Americans over the age of 65 is expected to double between 2010 and 2050. This rapid increase is driven primarily by aging baby boomers and immigration trends.

The "oldest-old" age group is expected to reach 19 million by 2050. By this year, Americans aged over 85 will make up 4.3% of the nation's population. This increase is important, as the oldest old require the most additional—and most costly—care.

For more information, please see: "[The Next Four Decades: The Older Population in the United States.](#)"

How does Iowa compare?

As of 2012, almost 500,000 Iowans were over age 65, representing about 15% of the state's total population. Iowa falls behind states like Florida (17.6%) and Maine (16.3%) but is still among the highest for elder populations, ranking 11th nationally.

However, Iowa's elderly population is growing at a much slower rate than other states. Between 2000 and 2011, Iowa's elderly population increased by less than 5%. This rate of increase puts Iowa in the bottom five states for elder population growth rate.

To see more state-by-state comparisons, please see: "[A Profile of Older Americans.](#)"

**Figure 1: Number of Persons 65+,
1900 - 2060 (numbers in millions)**

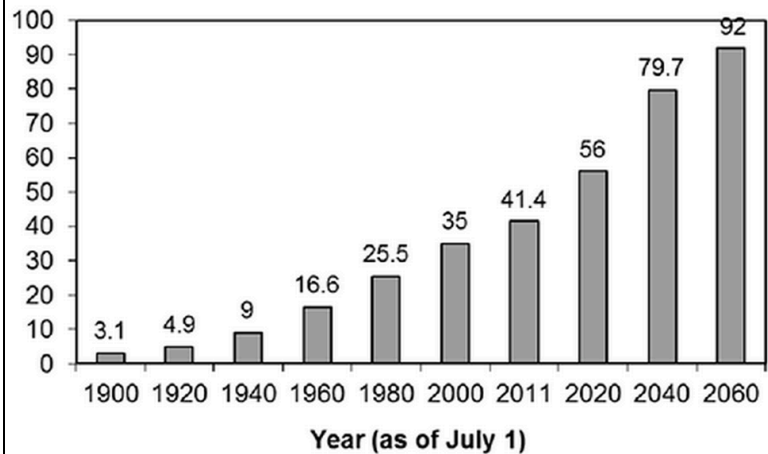


Chart courtesy of the [Administration on Aging](#).

The Elder Economic Security Standard Index for Iowa

Elder Iowans struggle to meet their basic needs on a modest Social Security stipend. Cost of living increases, health deterioration, or the loss of a spouse can create financial challenges.

The Elder Economic Security Standard Index was created to assess the necessary requirements for elderly Iowans to live securely, and aims to answer essential questions, including the appropriate level of income for Iowans to "age in place," financial needs based on housing type, flux in living expenses due to health and circumstance change, and long term care needs.

Key findings for Iowa include the following:

- Elders cannot meet their basic living needs at the federal poverty level or with the average Social Security stipend
- Housing costs are a burden—in some cases, representing half of total living expenses
- Elders face precarious financial futures if their health declines suddenly or their spouse dies

Please [click here](#) to read the full report.