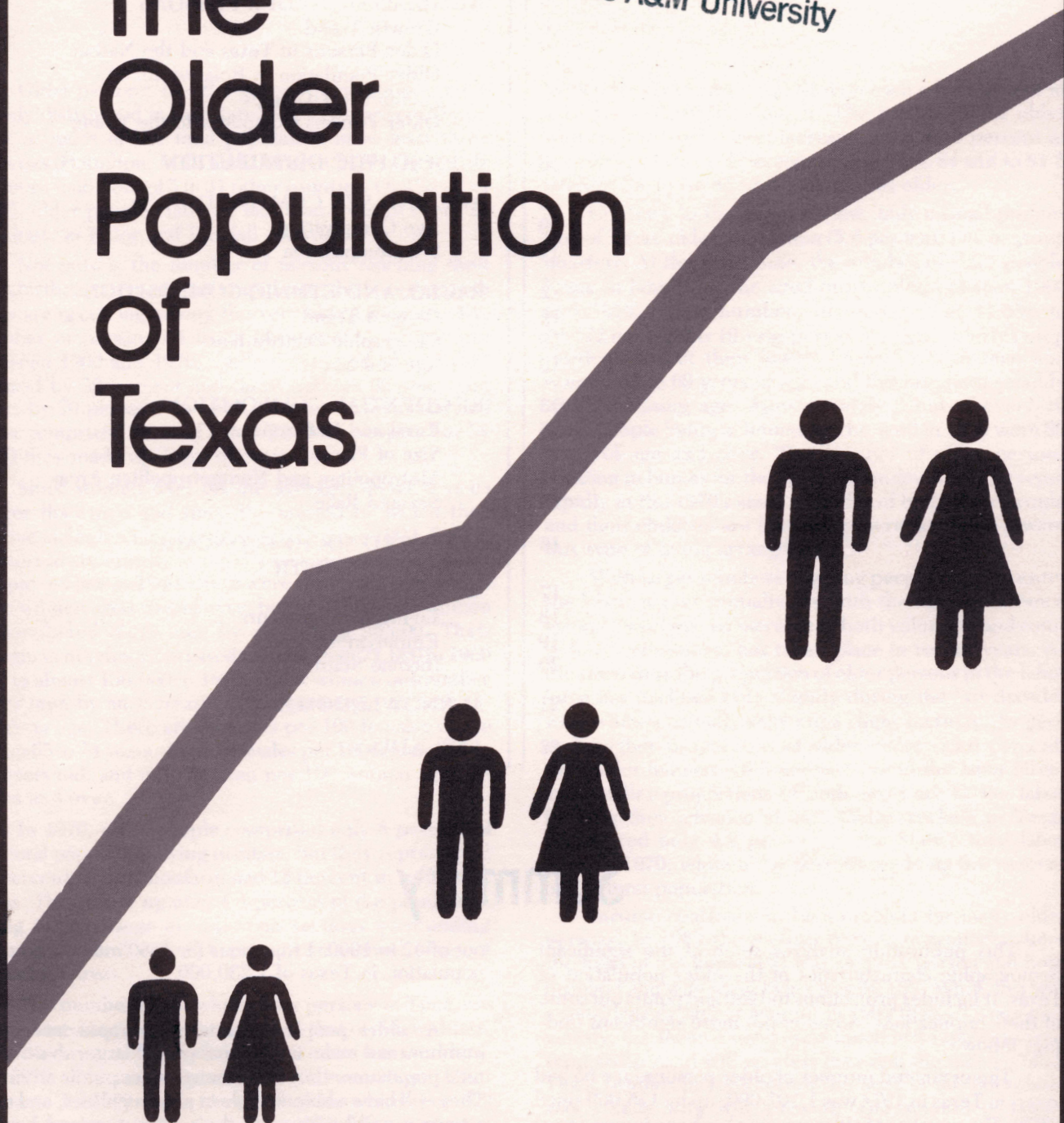


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The Older Population of Texas



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Summary

This publication analyzes some of the significant demographic characteristics of the older population of Texas. It includes projections to 1980 and points out some of their implications. Some of the more significant findings follow.

The estimated number of older persons (age 65 and over) in Texas in 1974 was 1,107,000, up by 115,000 since 1970. The number of older persons has been increasing at a considerably faster rate than the State's total population. As a result they comprised 1 out of every 11 Texans in 1970, as contrasted with only 1 out of 68 in 1870 and 1

out of 42 in 1900. Projections for 1980 indicate an older population in Texas of 1,230,000.

As older people continue their rapid increase in numbers and make up an increasingly larger share of the total population, they will receive wider public attention. They will have a broader role to play in politics, and more attention will be given to their recreation and housing needs, to different kinds of retirement and pension programs and to medical and welfare services for older people.

Older persons, like the general population, are unevenly distributed in the State. They comprised 25 percent or more of the total population in at least three counties (Hamilton, Mills and Llano) in 1970. They made up more than 1 out of 5 in 31 other counties. On the other hand, older people made up less than 1 out of every 21 residents in Ector and Randall counties.

Not only is the number of persons reaching their 65th birthday increasing at a rapid rate, the fastest growth rates are occurring among the very oldest persons. The number of persons 65 to 74 increased by 27 percent between 1960 and 1970, while those aged 75 to 84 increased by 39 percent and those persons 85 years and over, by 70 percent. In 1940, persons 85 years old and older comprised 1 out of every 22 older people, but by 1970 they made up 1 out of every 14.

Since women live, on the average, about 8 years longer than men and since the margin by which they outlive males has increased materially since 1900, female numerical superiority is rapidly increasing among older people. As late as 1940, there were over 5,000 more men than women aged 65 and over, but by 1950 older women outnumbered older men by more than 25,000. Their margin in numbers increased to more than 71,000 in 1960 and to almost 156,000 in 1970. Older women outnumber older men by an increasingly wider margin as they advance in age. There are 79 males per 100 females in the group 65 to 74 years of age; 66 males per 100 females 75 to 84 years old; and only 54 men per 100 women aged 85 years and over.

In 1970, older people comprised only 8 percent of the total population living in cities, but they represented 12 percent in rural nonfarm and 15 percent in rural farm areas. They made up only 4.4 percent of the population living in the fringe or suburban sections surrounding larger cities and only 7.8 percent in central cities of urbanized areas.

The number of nonwhite older persons in Texas has been increasing at a slower rate than that of older whites. In 1900, one out of every five older Texans was nonwhite; by 1970 they made up one out of every eight older persons. In 1900 there were 390 older whites per 100 older nonwhites in Texas, but by 1970 this margin was increased to 755 older whites per 100 older nonwhites.

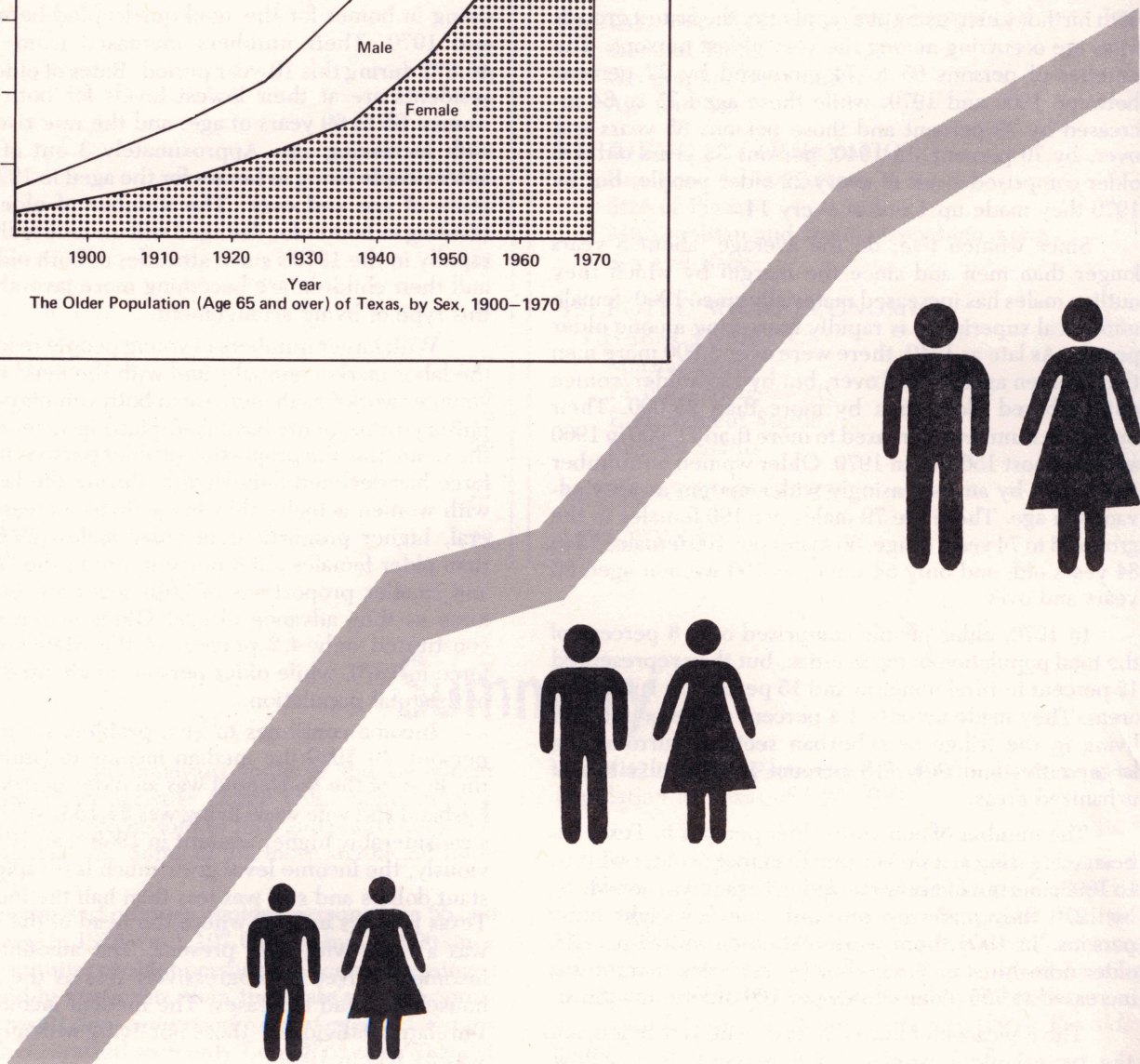
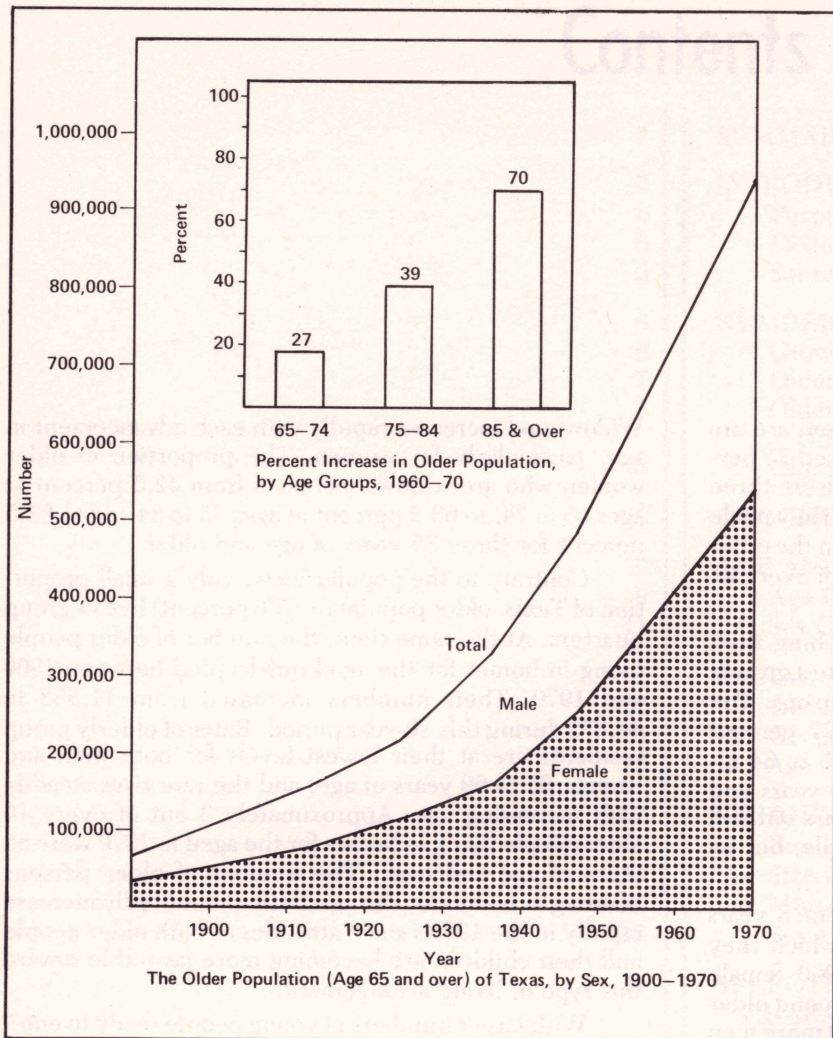
The typical older male (75.3 percent) is married, and the typical older woman (53.8 percent) is a widow.

Widowhood increases rapidly with each advancement in age, particularly for women. The proportion of older women who are widows increases from 42.5 percent at ages 65 to 74, to 68.2 percent at ages 75 to 84 and to 81.5 percent for those 85 years of age and older.

Contrary to the popular view, only a small proportion of Texas' older population (5.6 percent) live in group quarters. At the same time, the number of older people living in homes for the aged quadrupled between 1960 and 1970. Their numbers increased from 11,558 to 46,872 during this 10-year period. Rates of elderly group residents are at their lowest levels for both men and women 65 to 69 years of age, and the rate rises steadily with increasing age. Approximately 3 out of every 10 older people living in homes for the aged in 1970 were 85 years of age and over. The number of older persons residing in homes for the aged will undoubtedly increase rapidly in the 1970's since attitudes of both older people and their children are becoming more favorable toward this type of living arrangement.

With larger numbers of young people ready to enter the labor market annually and with the need to advance younger workers, an increase in both voluntary and compulsory retirements has taken place in recent years. At the same time the proportion of older persons in the labor force has declined only slightly during the last decade, with women actually showing a slight increase. In general, higher proportions of older males (29.6 percent) than older females (10.8 percent) are in the labor force, and smaller proportions of both sexes are in the labor force as they advance in age. Older workers in Texas constituted only 4.2 percent of the State's total labor force in 1970, while older persons made up 8.9 percent of the total population.

Income continues to be a problem for many older persons. In 1969 the median income of families where the head of the household was an older person and both husband and wife were living was \$4,153. While this was a considerably higher amount in 1969 than 10 years previously, the income level grew much less rapidly in constant dollars and still was less than half the income of all Texas families in 1969 where the head of the household was a male with wife present. The amount of family income received is progressively less as the age of the household head increases. The median income of older unrelated individuals (those not living with any relatives) was \$1,635 in 1969.



The Older Population of Texas

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Giant strides have been made in the United States in increasing human life expectancy. This has been possible through improved arts and techniques by which hazards of living are reduced and death is delayed. Through increased knowledge and preventive medicine, better diets and control of life-taking communicable diseases, man's chances of living longer have been increased greatly.

A baby born in the United States in 1800 had an average life expectancy of around 35 years. By 1900 the average age at death for babies born that year had increased to 48. Youngsters born in 1974, however, have an average life expectancy of slightly more than 71 years. So rapid has life expectancy increased that a baby born in the United States at the present time has a better chance of living to 60 than a youngster born in 1850 had of reaching its fifth birthday.

While man's increased life expectancy has some advantages, it also created circumstances which did not exist among previous generations of Americans. One of these has been the development of a society with increasingly larger numbers of people in the older age brackets.

Few demographic developments have received such wide public attention in recent years as the rapidly growing numbers of older people. In recognition of this

trend, the President's Council on Aging was established in 1962 and the Texas Governor's Committee on Aging in 1965. Since May 1963, each President of the United States has designated May as Senior Citizens Month. This has been changed in 1974 to Older Americans Month and, for Texas, Older Texans Month. In 1965 Congress passed the Older Americans Act, establishing the Administration on Aging in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. This provided funds for the first time for a major organization within the Federal government to act as the focal point for all governmental activities regarding older persons and as a clearinghouse for information related to problems of the aged and the aging. Also for the first time, funds were provided to assist states and local communities in establishing and carrying out programs specifically for older people. In June 1974, it was announced that in the latter part of the year a National Institute on Aging was to be formally established within the National Institutes of Health.

The general public has had to learn the meaning of *gerontology* (the study of the aged) and *geriatrics* (the subdivision of medicine which is concerned with old age and its diseases). As the elderly have increased rapidly in numbers and have come to present a larger proportion of the total population, some new situations have developed in American society which can be expected to become more critical in future years. More attention will be given directly to recreation, housing and other conveniences to provide the types of facilities needed by older citizens. Political figures will direct more of their attention to the aged, and bills introduced in legislative bodies will reflect the numerical strength of older people. Pension plans will have to be arranged so that amounts contributed before retirement will be balanced against payments received after retirement. Medical and welfare services for

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older people will be expanded as will retirement homes and similar facilities. Means of combating loneliness in the lives of older persons will receive closer study. Much thought will be directed toward keeping larger numbers of older people occupationally active, since many under present involuntary retirement policies have 25 to 35 years of living in retirement and are made to feel that they have little to contribute to modern society.

In recognition of these needs, the following funds were allocated through the Texas Governor's Committee on Aging in 1973: \$3.29 million under Title III of the Older Americans Act for social services and for the establishment of Area Agencies on Aging; \$4.77 million under Title VII of the Older Americans Act for nutrition programs; and \$200,000 in state funds for the Senior Texans Employment Program (STEP). There is little doubt that as older persons increase in numbers, the amount of funding for programs for the aged will increase materially at the local, state and federal levels.

Purpose and Scope

This publication deals with the demographic characteristics of the older population of Texas — their numbers; geographic distribution; age, sex, residential and racial composition; and other important demographic phenomena. The purpose of the report is to bring together in one publication information on the older adults of Texas in a meaningful and useful form that will be helpful to people and agencies interested in and working with the problems of people at these age levels. The publication grew mainly out of a recognition that Texas and the nation are developing a large population of older people, that they have unique problems and interests and that more needs to be known about them as a group.

Older adults carry in themselves, as it were, the history of the past, and changes over time are reflected in present differences between older persons and the rest of the population. For example, the schooling of today's older citizens is considered inadequate by present standards; their occupations and those of their parents are vastly different from today's occupations. Their life styles differ greatly from those of the general population as well as from the life styles of persons considered old during the period when they were born — around the turn of the twentieth century. The needs of older people are different in many respects from those of any other group. This holds even for the customary essentials of life: food, housing, clothing and medical care.

Increased activity in recent years in the field of aging has not been confined to the State and Federal governments. Many towns and cities have organized to deal with one or more aspects of older people's problems. The Texas Agricultural Extension Service employs specialists who work with personnel at the county level in planning for the needs of older adults. Activity centers sponsored by municipalities and voluntary organizations which work with older adults have increased greatly in number. Some communities provide older citizens with better housing, recreational facilities, opportunities for adult education, job counseling and opportunities for employment. Many segments of society are engaged in this effort

— physicians, medical and research personnel, clergymen, educators, social workers, recreation specialists, government officials, civic leaders and people from many other different walks of life. This report is especially designed for these people as well as for agencies primarily in positions involving action and planning for the older people of Texas.

Definition of Older Population

As used in this publication, the *older population* includes *all persons 65 years of age and over*. Several terms popularly used to describe groups of people at these age levels include "aged," "older adults," "senior citizens," "old people" and "the elderly." However, a number of persons 65 years of age and older express an aversion to these terms as applied to themselves. While it is realized that the chronological age of a person does not automatically qualify an individual as a member of the "older population," demographers tend to classify all persons 65 years of age and over in this category, particularly since 65 has come to be accepted as the age of expected retirement.

Since the older population is not a single homogeneous mass and since their characteristics tend to vary sharply in several ways, it is necessary to consider them from several different points of view. For convenience and simplicity in discussion, however, the single broad age group, 65 years and over, is often selected for detailed consideration.

Sources of Data

The data used in this publication were largely obtained directly or derived from a variety of Bureau of the Census publications. However, certain data not available in print were derived from magnetic summary tapes of the 1970 census belonging to the Texas A&M University Library. In order to keep the presentation in simple form, the sources of individual quoted figures are not documented, but documentation is included where data are presented in tabular form.

NUMBERS OF OLDER PERSONS

Growth Trend

Interest in the older population in recent years has been intensified at least partly because of their rapidly growing numbers. Furthermore, population projections indicate that the need for concern with a large older population will remain with the State indefinitely.

The number of Texans who were aged 65 and over in 1900 was only 74,000, Table 1 and Figure 1. By 1930 the initial 74,000 more than tripled to 232,000, and that number more than quadrupled by 1970. In the year 1980 older Texans are projected to number around 1,230,000.

The older population increased by one-third during the last decade. This rapid increase resulted from several factors. First, the number of births in the United States increased steadily between 1895 and 1905, when those who reached age 65 between 1960 and 1970 were born. Second, a much larger proportion of the nation's babies are now surviving to 65 years and beyond than was for-

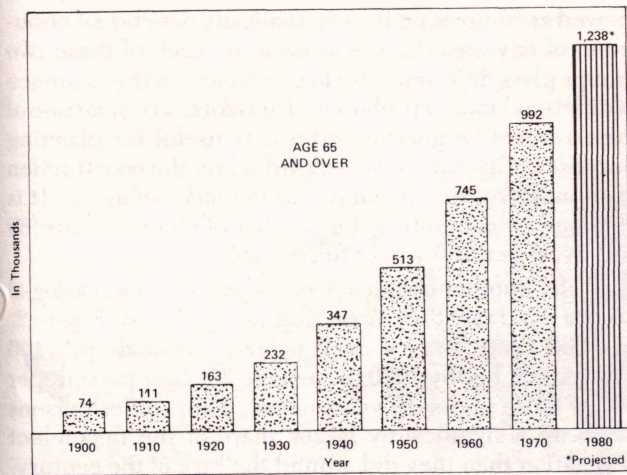


Figure 1. Increase in the population of older Texans from 1900 to 1970 and projected to 1980.

merly the case. Third, immigrants to the United States in the latter years of the 19th century and early years of the 20th century now are also reaching age 65. Fourth, Texas has had an influx of older persons from outside the State. For example, migration estimates prepared by the Bureau of the Census indicates that the *age cohort* 65 and over in 1970 (55 and over in 1960) had a net in-migration of almost 53,000 persons between 1960 and 1970. This is about one-fourth of the total net migration into Texas that occurred during the last decade.

TABLE 1. NUMBER AND PERCENT OF OLDER PERSONS IN TEXAS, 1870-1970, ESTIMATES FOR 1974 AND PROJECTIONS FOR 1980

Year	Older population	Increase in older population since preceding census	Percent older persons of total population
1870	12,060		1.5
1880	27,709	15,649	1.7
1890	47,229	19,520	2.1
1900	74,037	26,808	2.4
1910	110,801	36,764	2.8
1920	163,046	52,245	3.5
1930	232,459	69,413	4.0
1940	347,495	115,036	5.4
1950	513,420	165,925	6.7
1960	745,391	231,971	7.8
1970	992,059	246,668	8.9
Estimated, 1974	1,107,000	115,000	9.2
Projected, 1980	1,230,000	238,000	9.6

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, *U. S. Census of Population: 1970, "General Population Characteristics,"* PC(1)-B45, *Texas*, Table 21, and *U. S. Census of Population: 1940, Second Series "Characteristics of the Population," Texas*, Table 8. Estimates and projections based on U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 43, February, 1973, "Some Demographic Aspects of Aging in the United States"* and Series P-25, No. 518, June, 1974, "Estimates of the Population of States, by Age, July 1, 1973."

That the older population is growing at a faster rate than the remainder of the State's people is illustrated by the fact that they make up a progressively larger share of the total numbers. In 1870, persons 65 years of age and over made up only 1 out of every 68 Texans. By 1970, they comprised 1 out of every 11, and by 1980 almost 1 out of every 10 Texans will be 65 years of age or older. While the State's total population increased by 16.9 percent between 1960 and 1970, the number of older persons increased by 33.1 percent, thus growing at almost twice as fast a rate as the total number of residents during the decade.

Older Persons in Texas and the Nation

The 992,000 older persons in Texas were exceeded numerically in only five other states in 1970. These were New York, California, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Ohio, in that order. Florida ranks in the seventh position, with Texas having about 2,700 more older persons than that state. There were more older persons in 1970 in Texas alone than the combined number of older people residing in 15 other less populated states.

Older persons make up a lower proportionate share of the total Texas population, however, than do older people in the nation as a whole and in three of the four major geographic regions of the United States, Table 2. Persons 65 years of age and older comprise 8.9 percent of the total population of the State, as well as of the Western region of our nation.

TABLE 2. NUMBER AND PERCENT OF OLDER PERSONS IN TEXAS, THE UNITED STATES AND MAJOR GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS, 1970

Area	Total population	Older population	Percent older persons of total population
United States	203,211,296	20,065,502	9.9
Northeast	49,040,703	5,199,384	10.6
North Central	56,571,663	5,727,424	10.1
South	62,795,367	6,042,633	9.6
West	34,804,193	3,096,061	8.9
TEXAS	11,196,730	992,059	8.9

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, *U. S. Census of Population: 1970, "General Population Characteristics,"* PC(1)-B1, *United States Summary*, Tables 52, 57 and 62.

While the older population makes up about 1 out of every 11 persons in Texas, some neighboring states have higher proportions — approximately 1 out of 8 (12.4 percent) in Arkansas and in Oklahoma (11.7 percent). Texas ranks 37th among the 50 states in percentage of older persons. Florida has the highest proportion, 1 out of 7 (14.6 percent), followed by Iowa, Nebraska and Arkansas, all with 12.4 percent. With the exception of Florida, the list of states with relatively large proportions of older persons (that is, more than 11.5 percent) is comprised principally of those which have experienced heavy out-migration. In these areas young people typi-

cally have been leaving in large numbers while the elderly have remained behind. This combination of circumstances normally results in an age distribution heavily weighted toward older persons. Florida's high proportion of the elderly is largely the result of the migration of persons to that state to retire. For example, Florida is estimated to have had a net in-migration of 366,000 persons (55 years of age and over in 1960) during the 1960-1970 decade.

Alaska has the lowest proportion of older persons; they make up only 1 out of every 43 persons (2.3 percent) there. Alaska's low proportion is the result of a large in-migration of younger people to a new developing area and some out-migration of older persons. The major reason Texas is well below the national average in proportion of older persons to total population is the combination of less out-migration as a whole and a large in-migration of persons in the younger age levels.

The number of older people is increasing at a faster rate in Texas than in the United States as a whole, giving the State an increasingly larger share of the nation's older people. For example, only 1 out of every 42 (2.4 percent) of the nation's older persons lived in Texas in 1900 compared with 1 out of 20 (4.9 percent) in 1970.

Older Population in Relation to Other Age Groups

By dividing all of the State's residents into successive five-year age groups, comparisons can be made which reveal how rapidly the older population is increasing in relation to persons at other age levels. Those aged 65 and over increased more than twice as fast (33.1 percent) as the remainder of the population as a whole (16.0 percent) between 1960 and 1970. They also increased more rapidly than most of the other age levels, with the exception of those between 15 and 24 and those 60-64 years of age. The major reason for the rapid growth of persons 15 to 24 years of age is the big increase in the number of births between 1936 and 1945 (when those who were aged 15-24 in 1960 were born) and between 1946 and 1955 (when those who were aged 15-24 in 1970 were born). On the other hand, the increase in persons 60 to 64 years of age is largely attributed to greater numbers of immigrants between 1906 and 1910 than between 1896 to 1900 and to longer life expectancies.

The net effect of older persons' more rapid increase in numbers than the rest of the State's population as a whole is an increase in the median age level. The median age of a population indicates the degree to which any area's people collectively are growing older or younger. The median age of Texas' residents has increased by almost 8 years between 1900 and 1970, from 18.7 to 26.4. If fertility rates continue to remain low during the remainder of the 1970's, the median age of Texas residents will increase substantially by 1980.

Older Persons Compared to the Young

Persons in the younger and older age groups — under 18 years of age and those 65 and over — are usually

viewed as comprising the economically dependent population of any area. At the same time, each of these two groups plays different roles in society and in the existence of different kinds of problems. Therefore, a comparison of their respective growth patterns is useful for planning purposes. This can be accomplished by the construction of an index commonly known as the *index of aging*. It is obtained by computing the number of older persons (65 and over) per 100 young (under 18).

The number of older persons has been increasing at a more rapid rate than Texas' young population, Figure 2. In 1900 there were only 3 older individuals per 100 youngsters, but by 1970 there were 25 older persons per 100 of those under 18 years of age. Thus, older persons make up a significantly larger share of the dependent population than they did around the turn of the century. Furthermore, if the current low fertility levels are maintained while life expectancies continue to increase, older persons will undoubtedly make up a significantly larger share of the State's dependent population in the immediate future.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Although Texas had almost one million older people in 1970, they are, like the remainder of the population, very unequally distributed within the State, Figure 3. Information on the number residing in each county appears in Appendix Table 1. They tend to be most important numerically in the most populous areas.

In 1970, seven counties had more than 20,000 older persons. Harris County had the largest number, more than 102,000 older citizens. Three others had more than 50,000 — Dallas (88,000), Bexar (62,000) and Tarrant (52,000); and three had more than 20,000 — Jefferson

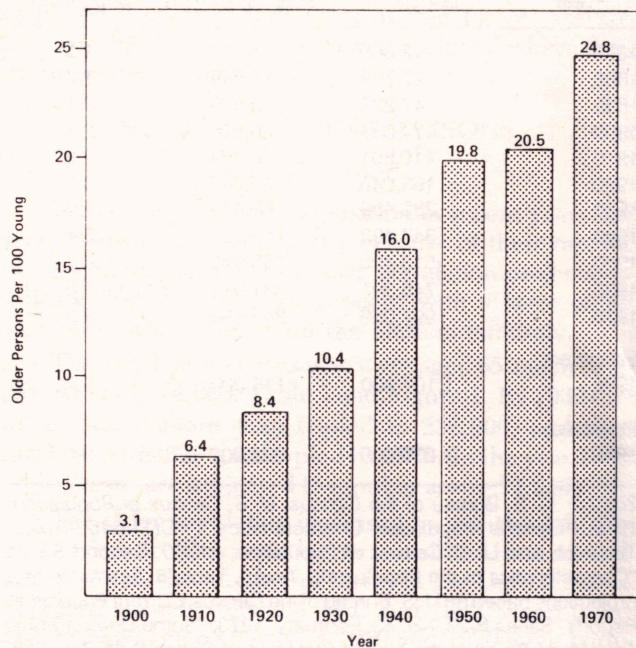


Figure 2. Number of older persons (65 and over) per 100 young (under 18) in the Texas population, 1900-1970.

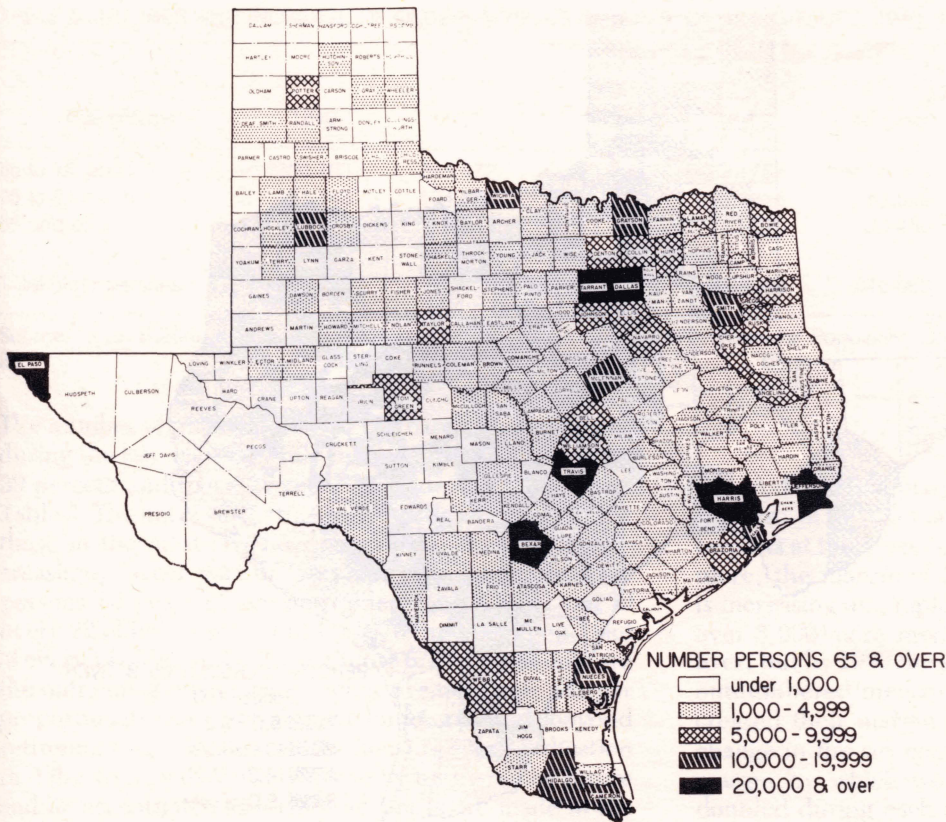


Figure 3. Number of older persons in Texas counties, 1970.

(21,105), Travis (20,662) and El Paso (20,636). At the other extreme were five counties with fewer than 100 older persons. These were Loving, with 14 older citizens; King, with 24; Kenedy, with 53; Borden, with 63; and Glasscock, with 92.

In general, older persons made up a smaller share of the total population in West and South Texas than in the eastern portion of the State, Figure 4. There were three Texas counties in 1970 in which older persons made up one out of every four residents. These were Hamilton (26.5 percent), Mills (25.5) and Llano (24.9 percent). An additional 31 counties had more than one out of every five persons who were 65 years of age or older, and in another 28 they made up at least 18 percent of the total population. All of these are counties with basically rural populations from which young people have migrated in large numbers, leaving behind persons in older age groups. They also tend to be located fairly near the geographic center of the State. At the same time, there were two counties in which older persons represented as little as 1 out of every 21 residents. These were Ector and Randall counties (4.7 and 4.6 percent, respectively). They also made up fewer than 1 out of every 17 people in 15 other counties. Most of the areas with small proportions of older persons are located in the High Plains section and have had oil, gas or irrigation developments in recent years which attracted mostly younger people.

Most of the counties with comparatively large numbers of older persons had, during the last decade, large increases of persons 65 years of age or older. Harris County, for example, increased its number of older resi-

dents by more than 35,000 between 1960 and 1970, while Dallas County experienced an increase of more than 27,000. The number of older persons more than doubled in Andrews County, while almost doubling in Llano, Hartley and Ector counties, Figure 5. On the other hand, Borden County had no change in number of older persons between 1960 and 1970, and five counties experienced decreases in older persons during the decade. There were Foard, Kent, King, Kinney and Roberts counties — all of which have relatively small total numbers of residents as well as of older persons.

AGE AND SEX COMPOSITION

One of the main reasons almost every public document asks for an individual's age and sex is that these factors are relevant to most circumstances involving a human being. In general, people of different ages and of different sex have different interests and capabilities for performing the many and diverse roles and activities in society. It becomes important, therefore, to review the changing age and sex composition of the older population.

Age Composition

Not only is the number of persons reaching their 65th birthday increasing at a rapid rate, the fastest growth is occurring among the very oldest persons. For example, the number of centenarians in Texas jumped from 610 in 1960 to 5,043 in 1970. Furthermore, the rate of increase gets higher with each advancement in age beyond 65.

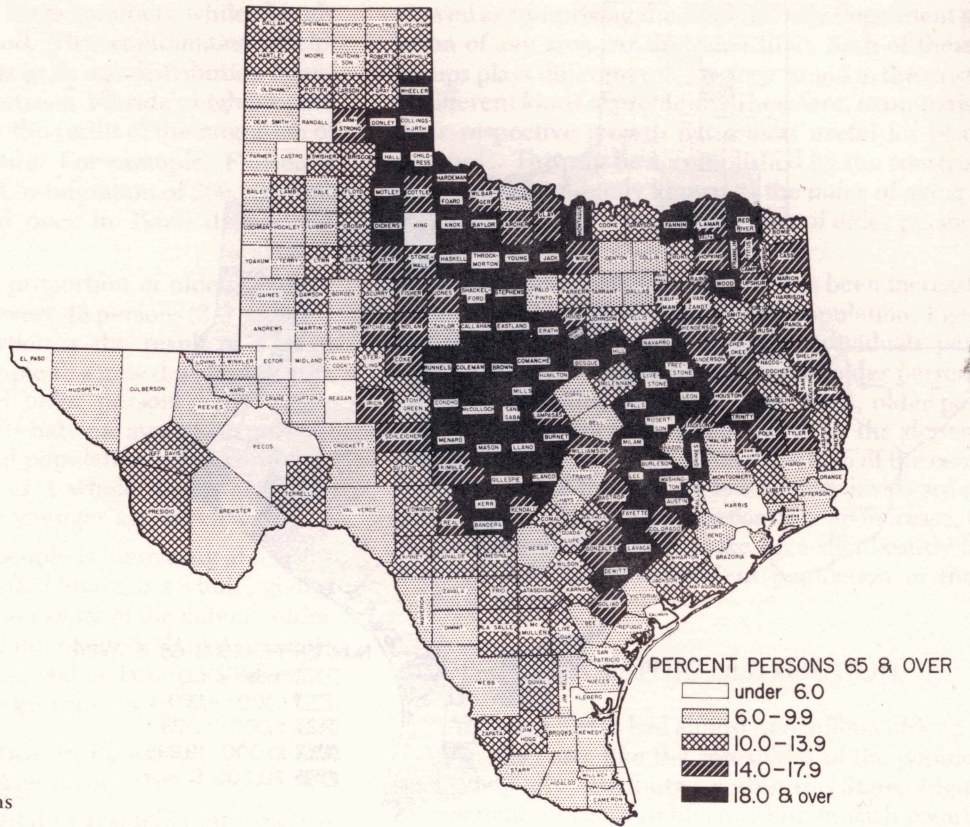


Figure 4. Percent of older persons in Texas counties, 1970.

Figure 5. Percent of increase in older persons in Texas counties, 1960-1970.

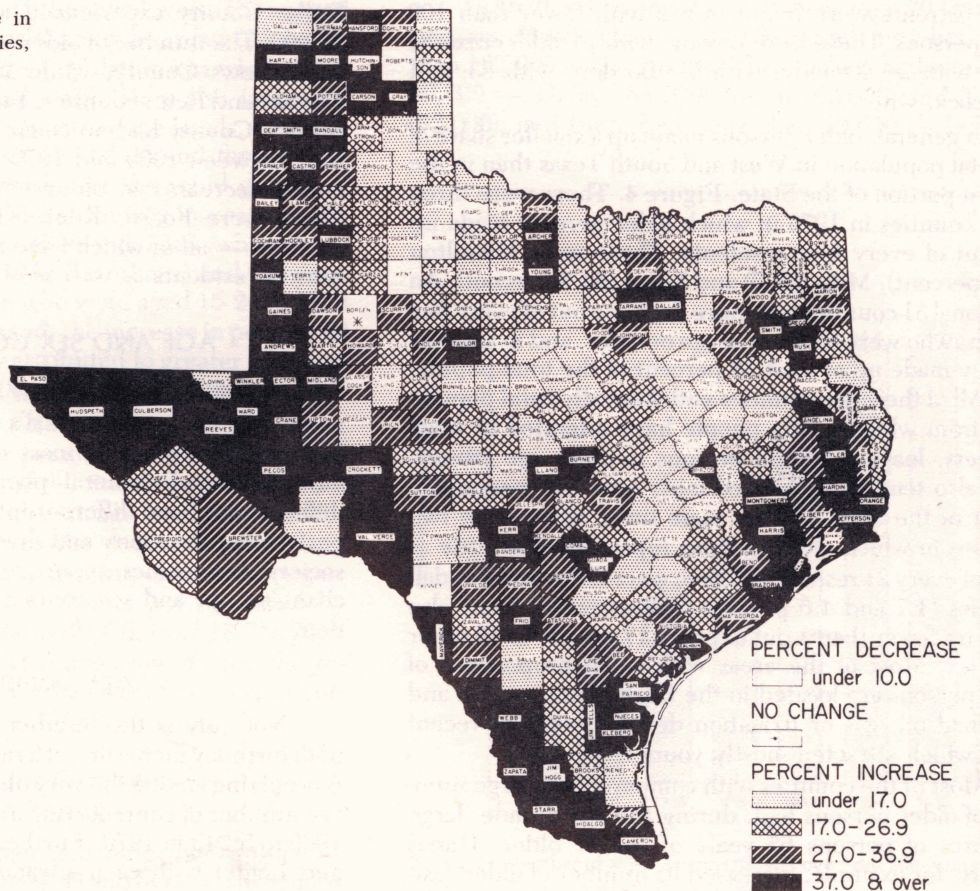


TABLE 3. NUMBER AND INCREASE OF OLDER PERSONS IN TEXAS, BY AGE GROUPS, 1940, 1950, 1960 and 1970

Age groups	1940	1950	1960	1970	Increase 1960-70		Increase 1940-70	
					Number	Percent	Number	Percent
65 to 74 years	250,703	355,472	493,349	627,758	134,409	27.2	377,055	150.4
75 to 84 years	81,146	134,527	208,817	290,626	81,809	39.2	209,480	258.2
85 and older	15,646	23,421	43,225	73,675	30,450	70.4	58,029	370.9
Total older persons	347,495	513,420	745,391	992,059	246,668	33.1	644,564	185.5

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, *U. S. Census of Population: 1970*, "General Population Characteristics," PC(1)-B45, Texas, Table 21.

The number of persons 65 to 74 increased by 27 percent during the last decade, while those 75 to 84 increased by 39 percent and those 85 years and older by 70 percent, Table 3. The net result of these growth differentials is that those in the most advanced ages are making up an increasingly larger part of the older population. In 1940 persons 85 years of age and older comprised 1 out of every 22 older persons, but by 1970 they made up 1 out of every 14 older individuals, Figure 6. Thus, not only are the numbers growing who reach retirement age, a larger proportionate share will also live for long periods beyond retirement age. Furthermore, there is every indication that this trend will continue for some time into the future and be accentuated as further advances are made in life expectancies.

Sex Composition

A large majority of older persons in Texas are women. In 1970 females outnumbered their male counterparts at these age levels by 156,000, Table 4. Furthermore, the margin of female predominance in numbers is increasing at a rapid rate. As late as 1940, there were over 5,000 more men than women 65 years of age and over, but by 1950 the situation had reversed, and women outnumbered men by 25,000 in 1950. In 1960 they increased their margin to 71,000. So rapid has been this change in the sex composition of older persons that the margin by which women outnumber men more than doubled during each of the last two decades. If women over 65 at the present time feel that it is hard to find a male companion of their age, projections offer little hope, since indications are that the situation will become more acute in the future.

One way to illustrate the sex composition of a given population is to compute a *sex ratio*, which is defined as the number of males per 100 females in any given year. These computations indicate that in 1920 there was a sizable excess of males — 121 per 100 females in the State's older population, Figure 7. The balance between the two sexes approached equality in 1940, but still favored males slightly. By 1950, the balance in numbers swung over in favor of women, there being only 91 males per 100 females in these older age groups.

TABLE 4. NUMBER OF OLDER MALES AND FEMALES IN TEXAS, 1920-1970

Year	Males	Females	Excess in numbers	
			Males	Females
1920	89,268	73,778	15,490	
1930	123,443	109,016	14,427	
1940	176,468	171,027	5,441	
1950	244,181	269,239		25,058
1960	337,089	408,302		71,213
1970	418,270	573,789		155,519

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, *U. S. Census of Population: 1970*, "Characteristics of the Population," PC(1)-B45, Texas, Table 21.

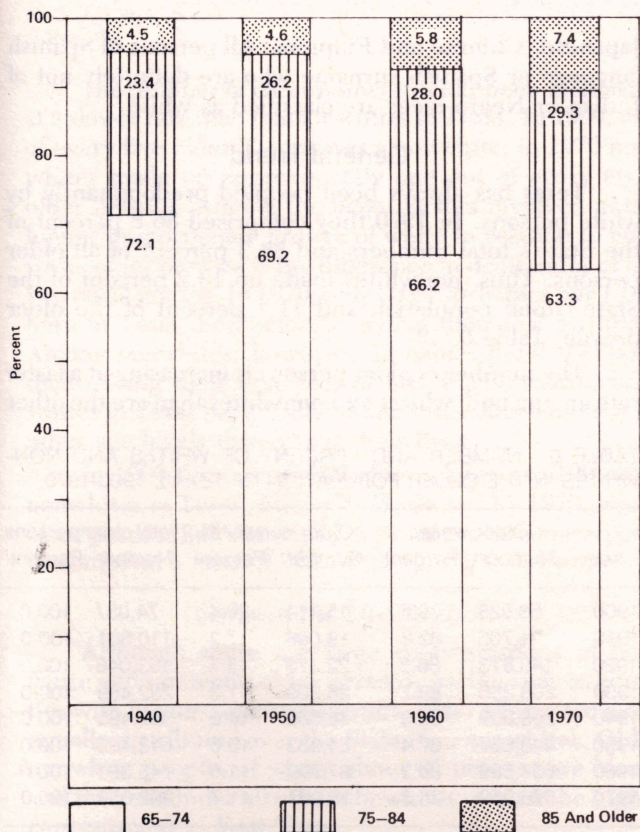


Figure 6. Percentage distribution of older persons in Texas, by age groups, 1940-1970.

Historically, in Texas as well as in the remainder of the nation, there are more boys born than girls. For the

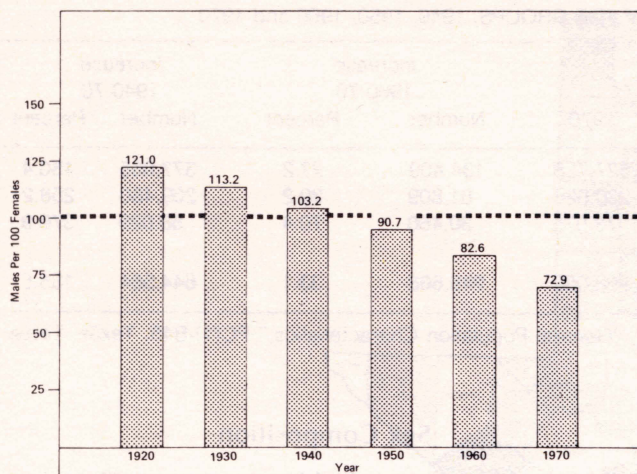


Figure 7. Males per 100 females in the older population of Texas, 1920-1970.

10-year period from 1960 to 1970, for example, there were 104.7 male per 100 female live births in the State. Each generation starts out with an excess of boys. The mortality rate for males, however, is higher at every age level from the time that birth occurs, so that females begin to catch up in numbers with each advancement in age.

In 1970, there were 103.6 boys per 100 girls under 5 years of age. The difference between male and female numbers narrows as they advance in years so that by age 19, boys outnumber girls by a very slight margin. By age 20 there are more females, and they outnumber males by an increasingly wider margin at each succeeding age level through their remaining years. By the time they reach the 65-to-74-year age group, there are only 79 males per 100 females, and their ratios decline to 66 per 100 females at ages 75 to 84 and to only 54 per 100 females at ages 85 and over, Table 5. That the sex ratio lowers with advanced age is indicated by the fact that there were only 47.6 males per 100 females in the Texas population between the ages of 95 and 99 in 1970. The influence of these differences is reflected in the rapidly increasing number of widows in the State. The increasingly larger margin of females at each progressively older age level is further illustrated by the figures contained in Table 5. For example, there were 66 males per 100 females in 1960 who were 85 and over, but the ratio was reduced to only 54 per 100 females in this same age group by 1970.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC COMPOSITION

The racial and ethnic composition of the older population is just as important in many ways as the total numbers of older persons in the State. Each racial group has different birth and death rates, educational and income levels and different status-level occupations. The degree to which persons comprising different racial elements differ in their social and economic characteristics and the degree to which their numbers are unequal play an integral part in such factors as the average incomes and average educational levels of the older population of the State. Although table headings in Bureau of Census pub-

lications clearly refer to people by race, closer inspection of their contents reveals that populations are normally divided by color. The two major classifications of people distinguished by the Bureau of the Census, based on color, are white and nonwhite. The major elements of the nonwhite group are Blacks, North American Indians,

TABLE 5. NUMBER OF OLDER MALES AND FEMALES IN TEXAS, BY AGE GROUPS, 1960 and 1970

Age groups	Males	Females	Excess of females	Males per 100 females
1960				
65 to 74 years	229,450	263,899	34,449	86.9
75 to 84 years	90,490	118,327	27,837	76.5
85 years and over	17,149	26,076	8,927	66.0
Total older persons	337,089	408,302	71,213	82.6
1970				
65 to 74 years	277,285	350,473	73,188	79.1
75 to 84 years	115,125	175,501	60,376	65.6
85 years and over	25,860	47,815	21,955	54.1
Total older persons	418,270	573,789	155,519	72.9

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, *U. S. Census of Population: 1960*, "General Population Characteristics," PC(1)-45B, Texas, Table 16 and *U. S. Census of Population: 1970*, "Characteristics of the Population," PC (1)-45B, Texas, Table 20.

Japanese, Chinese and Filipinos. All persons of Spanish language or Spanish surname who are definitely not of Indian or Negro races are classified as white.

General Trend

Texas has always been peopled predominantly by white persons. In 1970 they comprised 86.8 percent of the State's total numbers and 88.3 percent of all older persons. Thus, nonwhites made up 13.2 percent of the State's total population and 11.7 percent of the older people, Table 6.

The number of older persons is increasing at a faster rate among both whites and nonwhites than are the other

TABLE 6. NUMBER AND PERCENT OF WHITES AND NONWHITES IN THE OLDER POPULATION OF TEXAS, 1900-1970

Year	Older whites		Older nonwhites		Total older persons	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1900	58,923	79.6	15,114	20.4	74,037	100.0
1910	91,705	82.8	19,096	17.2	110,801	100.0
1920	140,673	86.3	22,373	13.7	163,046	100.0
1930	206,250	88.7	26,209	11.3	232,459	100.0
1940	298,809	86.0	48,686	14.0	347,495	100.0
1950	448,537	87.4	64,883	12.6	513,420	100.0
1960	657,589	88.2	87,802	11.8	745,391	100.0
1970	876,052	88.3	116,007	11.7	992,059	100.0

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, *U. S. Census of Population: 1970*, "General Population Characteristics," PC(1)-B45, Texas, Table 21.

age groups. In 1900, they each comprised 2.4 percent of their respective racial groups. By 1970, however, older persons comprised 9.0 percent of the total white and 7.8 percent of the total nonwhite population residing in the State. Considerable difference exists in the proportionate shares that older persons make up of various ethnic groups in Texas. For example, only 4.6 percent of all persons of Spanish language or Spanish surname are 65 years of age or older, while they make up 8.1 percent of the black population and only 3 percent of all other nonwhites (comprised mainly of American Indian, Chinese, Japanese and Filipino), Table 7.

TABLE 7. NUMBER AND PERCENT OF OLDER PERSONS IN RACIAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS IN TEXAS, 1970

Racial or ethnic group	Total population	Older persons	Percent older persons of total population
Whites	9,749,569	876,052	9.0
Spanish language or surname	2,059,671	94,916	4.6
All other whites	7,689,898	781,136	10.2
Nonwhites	1,479,602	116,007	7.8
Negro	1,396,605	113,521	8.1
All other nonwhites	82,997	2,486	3.0
Total population	11,196,730	992,059	8.9

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, *U. S. Census of Population: 1970*, "General Population Characteristics," PC(1)-B45, Table 21 and "General Social and Economic Characteristics," PC(1)-C45, Table 48.

The number of older nonwhites has been increasing at a slower rate than that for whites in Texas. In 1900, one of every five older Texans was a nonwhite; in 1970 nonwhites made up approximately one out of every eight older persons. Among the major factors involved in the higher proportionate growth of white in relation to nonwhite older persons is the difference in death rates of the two racial groups. In 1970, only 20 white babies per 1,000 born in Texas died before reaching their first birthday. Among nonwhites, however, 32 babies per 1,000 born died during their first year of life. Furthermore, nonwhites in Texas have higher death rates than whites at all other age levels throughout their lives.

In 1900 there were 390 older whites per 100 older nonwhites in Texas, Figure 8. However, by 1970, white older persons had outranged their nonwhite counterparts to comprise a ratio of 755 whites per 100 nonwhites.

Geographic Distribution

Although there are large concentrations of both white and nonwhite older persons, particularly in counties with big metropolitan centers, older whites are more equally distributed over the State than nonwhites. Older nonwhite people, of whom about 95 percent are blacks and the remainder all other nonwhites, tend to be highly concentrated in East Texas.

In 1970, Harris County had the largest number of white persons aged 65 and over (83,000) and also had the

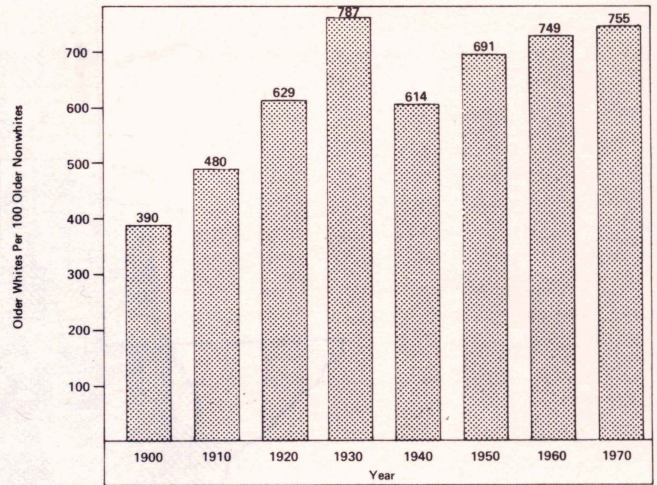


Figure 8. Number of older whites per 100 older nonwhites in Texas, 1900-1970.

largest number of older blacks (19,000). Their numbers increased in Harris County by 51 and 61 percent, respectively, between 1960 and 1970. Second in numbers of older persons in both groups is Dallas County, with 77,000 whites and 11,000 blacks 65 years of age and over. While Loving County had the fewest older whites (14), there were 35 counties with no blacks aged 65 and over, and an additional 19 with fewer than 5 older blacks. All of these counties are located west of Fort Worth, and several are in South Texas.

Figures 9 and 10 show the percentage of older persons in the white and black populations of Texas counties in 1970. In four counties, older persons made up 25 percent of the white population. These are Hamilton, Mills, Delta and Throckmorton counties. An additional 36 counties had white populations of which at least 20 percent were 65 years of age and over. At the other extreme, older persons made up less than 5 percent of all whites in two counties (Randall and Ector), and in an additional 14 counties they made up less than 6 percent. Older persons made up at least 1 out of 5 blacks in 21 Texas counties in 1970. Most of the counties with the highest proportionate shares of older blacks also had relatively small total numbers of blacks.

Age and Sex

Although whites greatly outnumber nonwhites at all of the older age levels, they both have fairly similar age distribution patterns, Table 8. Whites have a slightly larger proportion of older persons between 65 and 84 years of age than nonwhites, while the situation is reversed at 85 years of age and older. The margin by which women outnumber men increases among both racial groups with each advancement in age, but nonwhites have higher proportions of males than females at all of the older age levels than whites.

RESIDENTIAL COMPOSITION

As with members of any other age group, the location of residence of older persons continues to have an important bearing upon many features of their lives. It

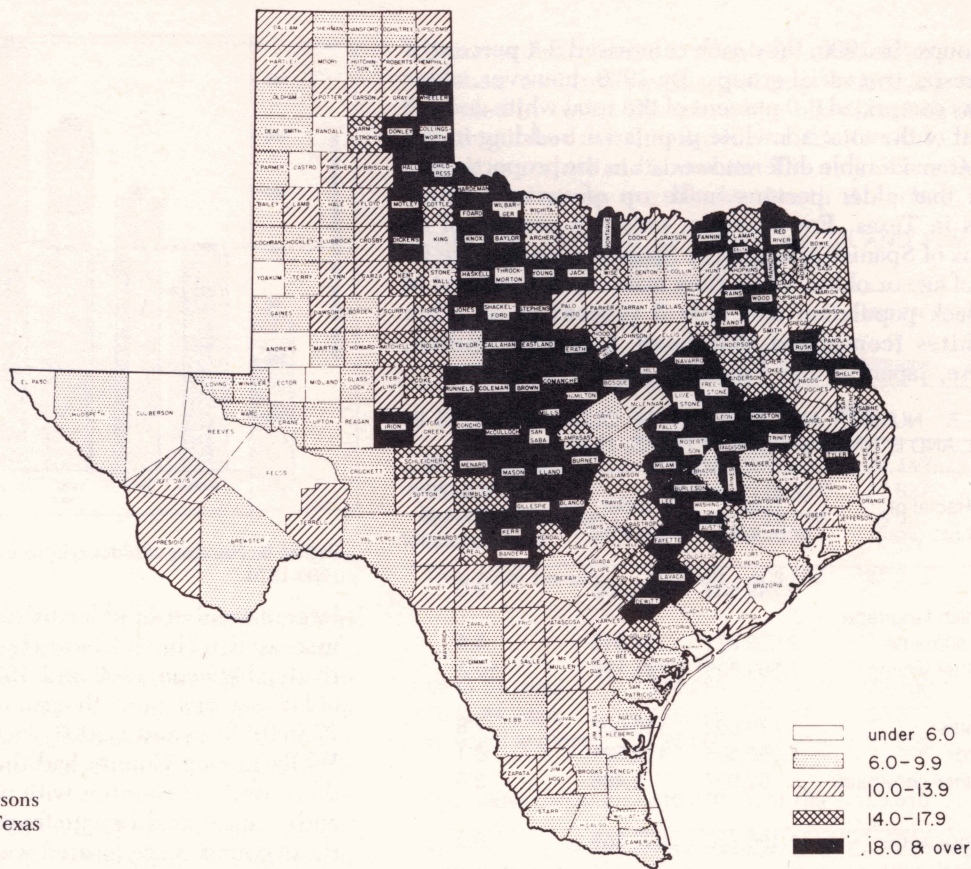


Figure 9. Percent of older persons in the white population of Texas counties, 1970.

influences their life-styles, including living accommodations, transportation forms and their availability and health care. For the rural resident, agricultural occupations still exert a great deal of influence, a low density of population persists and population aggregates are comparatively small. A higher degree of ethnic and cultural homogeneity still characterizes the rural resident as compared with the city dweller. Older city dwellers in some ways are faced with different types of problems than are older people in rural areas.

A number of terms are used by the Bureau of Census in connection with designation of place of residence of individuals. Among these are "urban" and "rural," "size of place" and "metropolitan" and "nonmetropolitan." These terms as applied throughout this publication coincide with their definitions as formulated by the Bureau of the Census.

The current census definition of *urban* population includes all persons in incorporated and unincorporated centers of 2,500 or more persons and the densely populated fringe around cities of 50,000 inhabitants or more. The *rural* population is divided into *rural farm* and *rural nonfarm*. The *rural farm* population includes persons living in rural territory on places of 10 or more acres from which sales of farm products they produced amounted to \$50 or more in 1969 or on places of less than 10 acres from which the sale of farm products amounted to \$250 or more. The classification *rural nonfarm* population applies to all other persons in rural territory, including those living in communities of less than 2,500 and those living in farm houses but not leasing or operating the farm land.

Two types of *places* are recognized by the Bureau of the Census — incorporated and unincorporated. In designating a place as unincorporated, the Census Bureau

TABLE 8. NUMBER AND PERCENT OF MALES PER 100 FEMALES, BY AGE GROUPS, FOR OLDER WHITES AND NON-WHITES IN TEXAS, 1970

Age groups	Older whites			Older nonwhites		
	Number	Percent	Males per 100 females	Number	Percent	Males per 100 females
65 to 74 years	552,109	63.0	78.5	75,649	65.2	83.8
75 to 84 years	259,682	29.7	64.0	30,944	26.7	80.6
85 and over	64,261	7.3	51.7	9,414	8.1	72.4
Total older persons	876,052	100.0	71.8	116,007	100.0	82.0

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, *U. S. Census of Population: 1970, "General Population Characteristics,"* PC(1)-B45, Table 20.

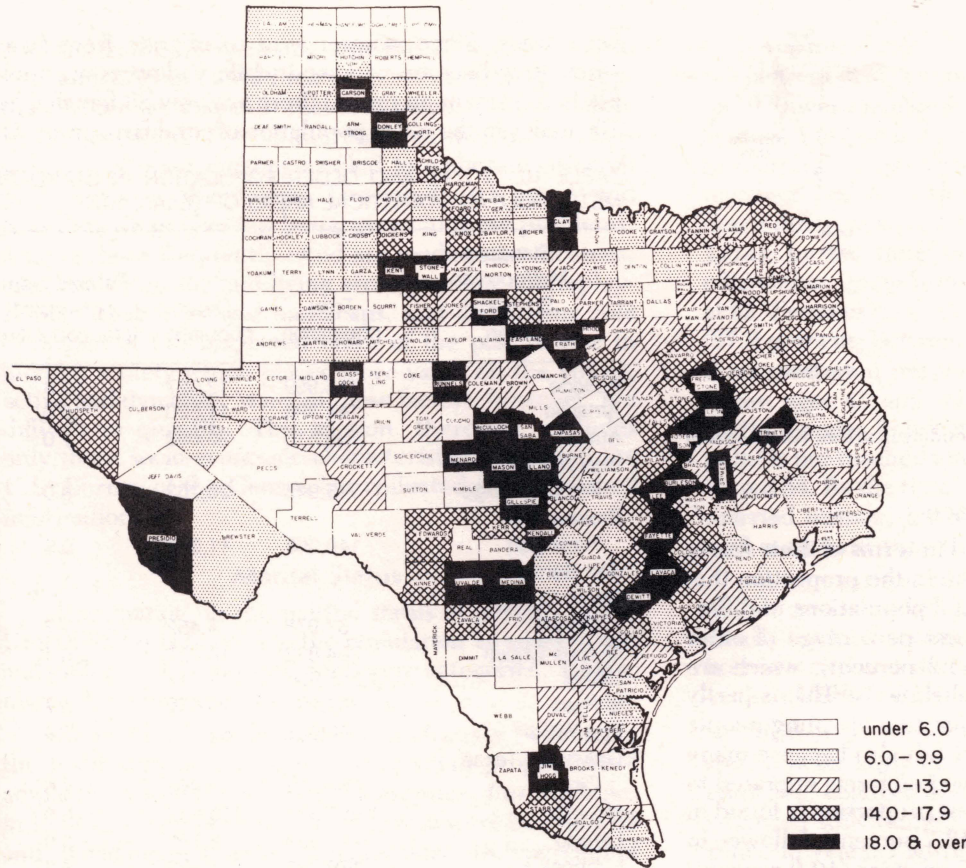


Figure 10. Percent of older persons in the black population of Texas counties, 1970.

delineates a definite nucleus of residences with its boundaries drawn to include, if feasible, all the surrounding closely settled area. At the other extreme, a *Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area* (SMSA) requires a city (or twin cities) of 50,000 or more persons. The SMSA is made up of counties as units, and includes the contiguous territory, both rural and urban, which is deemed to be closely integrated with the central city or cities. In some instances, only the one county in which the central city of 50,000 or more is located constitutes an SMSA, while in others two or more counties are combined to form a meaningful metropolitan area. For example, the Bryan-College Station SMSA included only Brazos County in 1970, but, at the other extreme, the Dallas SMSA consisted of a total of six counties — Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Kaufman and Rockwall.

Rural and Urban Areas

The rural areas of Texas have a much higher percentage of older persons than urban areas. The highest proportion exists among rural farm residents where they compromised one out of every seven in 1970, Table 9. The next highest proportion of older people to total population is in rural nonfarm areas (1 out of 8), while they make up only 1 out of every 12 in towns and cities which are classified as urban. Thus, while 20 percent of all Texas residents lived in rural areas of the State in 1970, these same areas had 30 percent of the State's older people, Figure 11. These major differences are explained largely by the high rate of out-migration of young people from rural to urban areas.

In 1970 older persons made up larger proportions of the total populations in all three areas — rural farm, rural nonfarm and urban — over 1960, indicating the more rapid rate of growth of aged persons than of other age groups. While there was an actual decline of about 21,000

TABLE 9. PERCENT OF OLDER PERSONS IN TEXAS, BY RESIDENCE, 1960 and 1970, AND PERCENT CHANGE 1960-1970

Areas	Percent of older persons		Percent change, 1960-70
	1960	1970	
Urban	6.9	8.0	44.0
Rural	10.4	12.3	11.7
Rural nonfarm	10.2	11.9	29.1
Rural farm	11.0	14.5	-27.4
Total	7.8	8.9	33.1

Source: R. L. Skrabanek, B. E. Dickerson and W. K. Upham, *Characteristics of the Texas Aged*, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station-Texas Agricultural Extension Service Bulletin 1057, October 1966 and U. S. Bureau of the Census, *U. S. Census of Population: 1970*, "Detailed Characteristics," PC(1)-D45, Texas, Table 138.

older persons residing in rural farm areas during the last decade, they still comprised a larger share of all rural farm residents in 1970 than in 1960. This again reflects the rapid rate at which younger persons migrated from rural farm areas during the last decade.

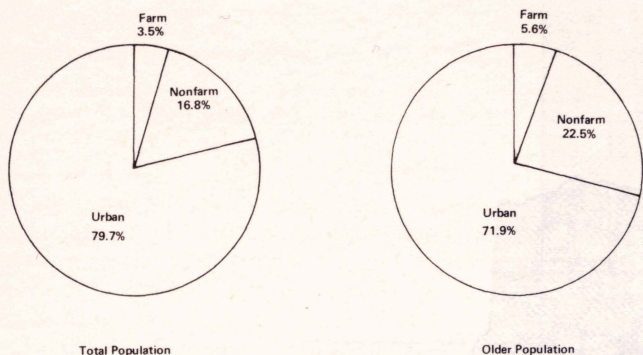


Figure 11. Total and older population residing in urban, rural nonfarm and rural farm areas of Texas, 1970.

Size of Place

When places are considered in terms of their size in 1970, there is a definite gradation in the proportion that older persons make up of the total populations in different size communities. The largest percentage of older people exists in small towns (15.2 percent), which are rural places of 1,000 to 2,500 inhabitants. This is partly because of a high rate of out-migration of young people from small towns to bigger cities but also because many older persons who previously lived on farms migrated to the closest town. The next highest proportion is found in urban places of 2,500 to 10,000 (12.7 percent), followed in order by urban places of 10,000 or more (10.0 percent) and by urbanized areas of the State, cities of 50,000 inhabitants or more and the surrounding closely settled areas (7.0 percent). The central cities of urbanized areas have a higher proportion of older persons (7.8 percent) than their urban fringe sections (4.4 percent). These statistics indicate that in the urban fringe young families with children predominate in numbers.

Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Areas

Older persons are proportionately almost twice as important in nonmetropolitan as in metropolitan areas of Texas. They comprise 13.2 and 7.3 percent of all people in their respective areas. Thus, while metropolitan areas as a whole have 74 percent of the State's people, they have only 61 percent of the older persons. Conversely, nonmetropolitan areas have 26 percent of all persons, but 39 percent of Texas' aged population.

The proportions that the elderly comprise of the total populations of individual Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas of Texas have been computed and appear in Table 10. These range in proportion from a high of 13.2 percent in the Sherman-Denison SMSA to a low of only 4.7 percent in the Odessa SMSA. The relatively small number of older persons in the Odessa SMSA is explained by the fact that oil and gas developments which have expanded in more recent years have attracted large numbers of young people.

Sex and Race

Because of longer life expectancies, females outnumber males in all residence categories except in rural

farm areas. Since women tend to migrate from farms when they become widowed while widowers are more likely to remain on farms, there are only 88 females per 100 males in the older population of rural farm areas. On

TABLE 10. TOTAL AND OLDER POPULATION IN STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS OF TEXAS, 1970

Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area	Total population	Older population	Percent older persons of total population
Abilene	113,959	12,027	10.6
Amarillo	144,396	11,520	8.0
Austin	295,516	20,662	7.0
Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange	315,943	25,263	8.0
Brownsville-Harlingen	140,368	11,983	8.5
San Benito			
Bryan-College Station	57,978	4,452	7.7
Corpus Christi	284,832	18,327	6.4
Dallas	1,555,950	112,542	7.2
El Paso	359,291	20,636	5.7
Fort Worth	762,086	57,978	7.6
Galveston-Texas City	169,812	12,962	7.6
Houston	1,985,031	119,933	6.0
Laredo	72,859	5,799	8.0
Lubbock	179,295	11,322	6.3
McAllen-Pharr-Edinburg	181,535	14,193	7.8
Midland	65,433	3,404	5.2
Odessa	91,805	4,349	4.7
San Angelo	71,047	7,601	10.7
San Antonio	864,014	66,447	7.7
Sherman-Denison	83,225	10,997	13.2
Texarkana	101,198	11,811	11.7
Tyler	97,096	10,801	11.1
Waco	147,553	18,237	12.4
Wichita Falls	127,621	12,641	9.9
Total	8,267,843	605,887	7.3

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, *U. S. Census of Population: 1970, "General Population Characteristics,"* PC(1)-B45, Texas, Table 24.

the other hand, females 65 years of age and over outnumber males at these same levels by a margin of 149 to 100 in urban areas of the State and by 119 to 100 in rural nonfarm areas.

Older whites are approximately 7.5 times more numerous than older nonwhites in Texas as a whole. The elderly whites outnumber elderly nonwhites by the largest margins in urban fringes of urbanized areas (1,976 whites per 100 nonwhites) and in rural farm areas (1,576 per 100). Their predominance is smallest in SMSA's (735 per 100).

SELECTED SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Older people have always been a part of the American society. However, it was not until they more than

doubled in absolute numbers in the 20 years between 1940 and 1960 and until their proportion of the total population increased steadily that they began to attract widespread attention. Public awareness of the growing importance of older citizens has led to elaborate research programs in problem areas associated with aging, and considerable publicity is being given to these problems. Among those frequently cited are inadequate incomes, unsuitable housing and living arrangements, unemployment, disabilities and handicaps, and a changing role from that of the respected elder of the past to one in modern society which places more value on the young, active and dynamic. Many of these factors, however, are difficult to quantify. This section, therefore, includes only those socio-economic characteristics for which the U.S. Bureau of the Census has collected and published information.

Marital Status

Information on the marital status of persons in the United States is limited to the population 14 years of age and older and is divided into four categories, single, married, widowed and divorced.

In an American society which strongly believes in the institution of marriage, a very small proportion of adults live without marrying at least once. For example, in 1970 only 5 percent of all Texans who were between 65 and 70 had never married. Furthermore, 18.6 percent of all older males and 11.7 percent of all older females had married at least twice. In general the marital status of persons depends largely upon their age, and the proportions of single, married and widowed are determined to a large extent by the age distributions of the populations being compared.

Approximately 1 percent of all Texas males and 2.6 percent of all Texas females who were 15 years of age in 1970 were married. At marriage, the bride is on the average 3 to 4 years younger than the groom. Differences in marriage rates of males and females, in their age at marriage and in their life expectancies, result in some major differences in the marital status of the two sexes. In Texas, by the time women are 20 years of age, wives outnumber single women; husbands exceed single males at 22. Females reach their maximum proportions married (87.0 percent) between ages 35 and 39, but males reach their maximum proportions married (89.8 percent) between ages 45 and 49. There are more widowed than single females between the ages of 40 and 44, but this point is not reached among males until they are between 50 and 54. By the time women are 70, widows outnumber married women, but widowers do not outnumber married men until they have passed their 85th birthday.

A comparison of the older population with young people considered eligible to marry (14 to 64 years of age) clearly shows that larger proportions of young people are both married and single, while a much larger proportion of the elderly are widowed, Figure 12.

Although the proportions of single and divorced persons remain fairly constant at all age levels throughout adult life, changes in the numbers of those married and widowed shift rapidly among older persons as they advance in years, Figure 13. The married proportion falls sharply and the widowed proportion rises steeply with increasing age. From 47 percent at ages 65 to 74, the proportion of married women declines to 9 percent at age 85 and over. At the same time, the proportion of widowed women increases from 43 percent before their 75th birthday to 82 percent after they are aged 85. While four

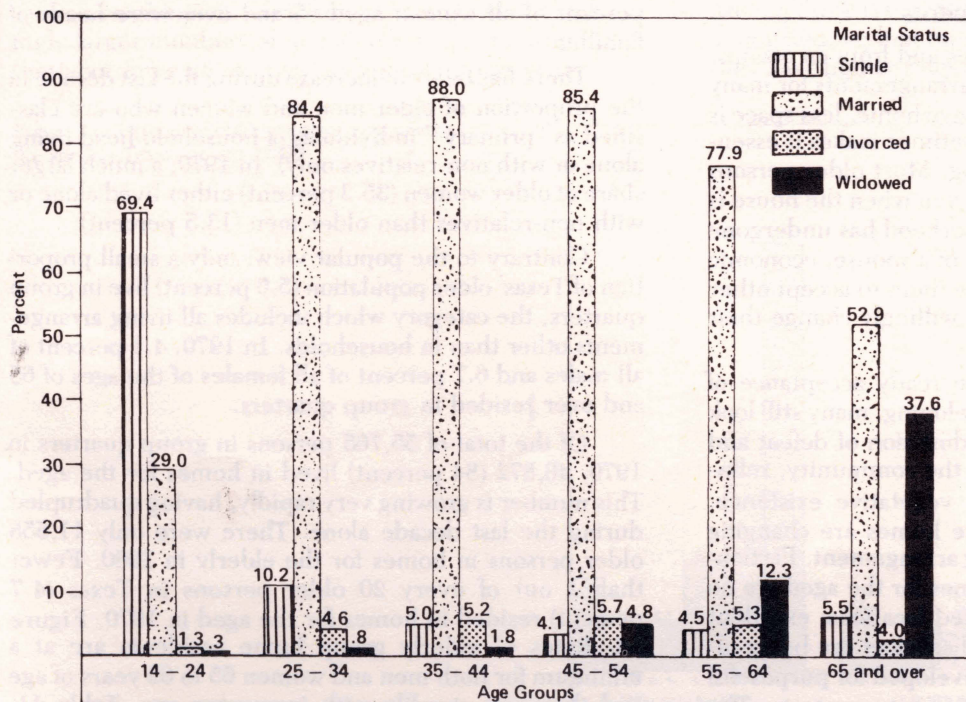


Figure 12. Marital status of the population of Texas by age groups, 1970.

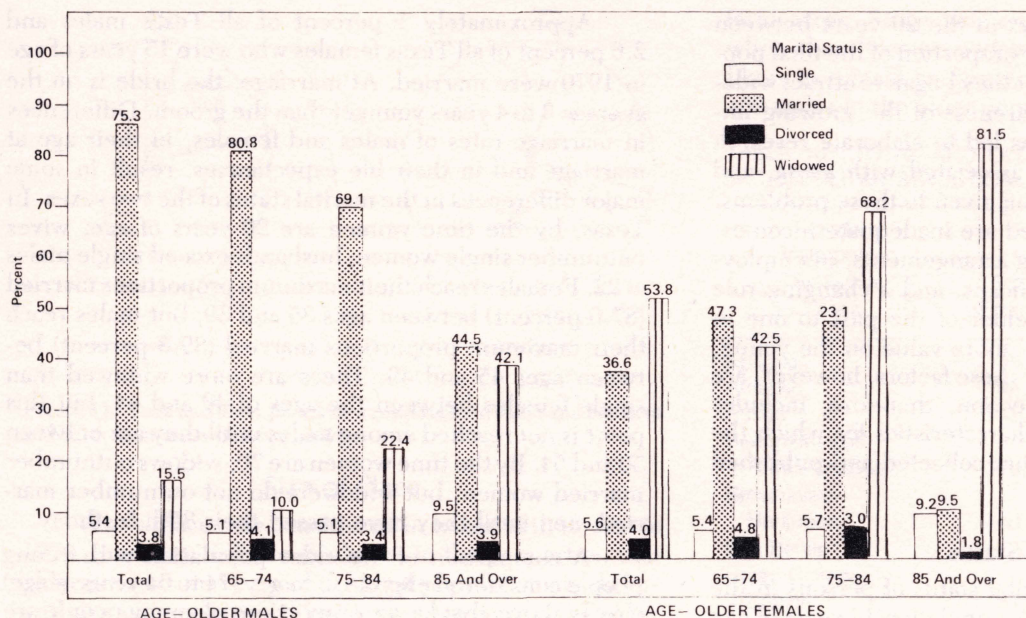


Figure 13. Marital status of the older population of Texas, by age and sex, 1970.

out of five males are married at ages 65 to 74, the proportion of those married falls to less than one-half at age 85. From only 10 percent before their 75th birthday, the proportion of widowed men increases to 42 percent for males 85 years old and older. Only one out of six older men are widowed, but well over half of the women are in this category. Several factors explain the higher proportion of widows among elderly women, including higher rates of mortality among men, intensified by the fact that husbands are typically older than their wives by several years, and the higher remarriage rates of widowers, who may take wives from among single, divorced or widowed women or women under age 65.

Living Arrangements

Retirement from family duties and from an occupation creates problems with living arrangements for many older persons. As their children leave home, less space is needed, and reduced income sometimes makes it essential to seek less expensive housing. Most older persons prefer to live in their own homes even when the house is too large for them and the neighborhood has undergone radical changes. Unless the death of a spouse, economic reverses or physical reverses force them to accept other living arrangements, they do not willingly change their domestic status.

While on one hand, a more ready acceptance of group homes for the elderly is developing, many still look upon homes for the aged as an admission of defeat and withdrawal or as a rejection from the community, relinquishment of total assets and a vegetative existence. However, improvements in these homes are changing attitudes toward this type of living arrangement. Particularly since the middle 1960's, homes for the aged are no longer being established in isolated locations; excellent medical, rehabilitational and food services are being offered; and programs have been developed for purposeful activity and maintenance of community contacts. The

number of older persons living in facilities planned for this particular age group has increased materially in recent years, and undoubtedly more older people will continue to choose this type of living arrangement in the future.

Despite this wider acceptance, most older persons still want to continue as families and do not voluntarily change their living arrangement just because of age. In Texas, a majority are able to follow this choice, with living arrangements of older men differing sharply from those of older women. Three out of every four males 65 years of age and older were classified as heads of their families in 1970, and one-third of the older females were the wives of males who were heads of families. An additional 9.3 percent of all women aged 65 and over were heads of families.

There has been an increase during the last decade in the proportion of older men and women who are classified as "primary" individuals (a household head living alone or with non-relatives only). In 1970, a much larger share of older women (35.3 percent) either lived alone or with non-relatives than older men (13.5 percent).

Contrary to the popular view, only a small proportion of Texas' older population (5.6 percent) live in group quarters, the category which includes all living arrangements other than in households. In 1970, 4.1 percent of all males and 6.7 percent of all females of the ages of 65 and over resided in group quarters.

Of the total of 55,765 persons in group quarters in 1970, 46,872 (84 percent) lived in homes for the aged. This number is growing very rapidly, having quadrupled during the last decade alone. There were only 11,558 older persons in homes for the elderly in 1960. Fewer than 1 out of every 20 older persons in Texas (4.7 percent) resided in homes for the aged in 1970, Figure 14. Rates of elderly group home residents are at a minimum for both men and women 65 to 69 years of age and then rise steadily with increasing age, Table 11.

TABLE 11. OLDER PERSONS LIVING IN HOMES FOR THE AGED IN TEXAS, BY AGE, 1970

Age	Older persons							Females per 100 males
	Total		Males		Females			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
65 to 69	3,928	8.4	1,612	12.0	2,316	6.9	140	
70 to 74	5,997	12.8	2,034	15.1	3,963	11.9	190	
75 to 79	9,723	20.8	2,711	20.2	7,012	21.0	260	
80 to 84	12,628	26.9	3,345	24.9	9,283	27.7	280	
85 and over	14,596	31.1	3,743	27.8	10,853	32.5	290	
Total	46,872	100.0	13,445	100.0	33,427	100.0	250	

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Census of Population: 1970*, "Detailed Characteristics," PC(1)-D45, Texas, Table 154.

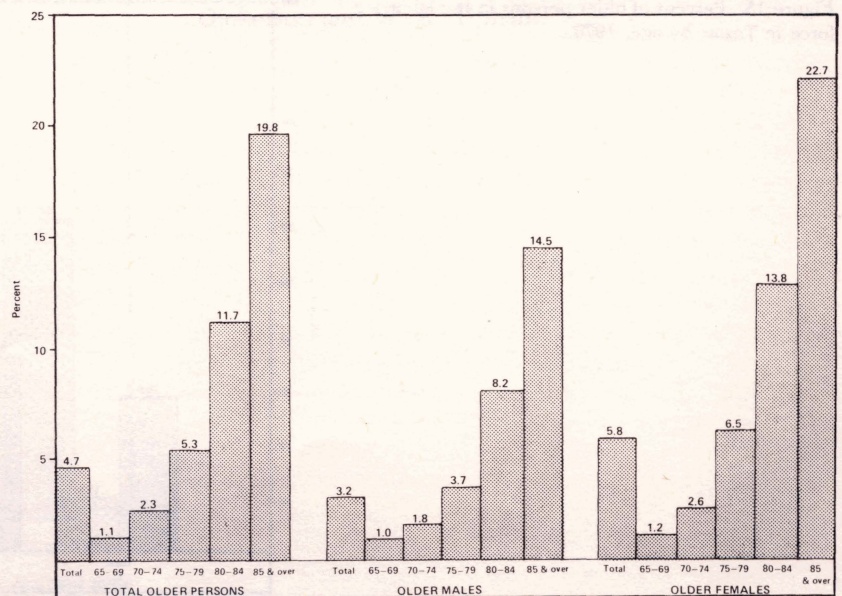
There were 250 older women per 100 older men living in homes for the aged in 1970, and their margin of dominance in numbers increases progressively with age. For example, among those 85 years old and older there were 290 women per 100 men in homes for the aged. Females comprised 60 percent of all persons 65 to 69 years of age in homes for the aged in 1970, and they made up 74 percent among those aged 85 and over.

Employment Status

There is much evidence that a large number of persons would like to continue employment past age 65. Self-employed business and professional workers and especially farmers like to continue as long as possible. Many wage earners resist retirement as long as their good health continues, and many would like to work longer. Women who worked while their children were growing up tend to keep working, and increasing numbers who did not work seek jobs in their newly freed time. However, a combination of circumstances is causing increasingly larger numbers of qualified workers to drop out of the labor force at younger ages than in past years.

During World War II, the employment of older workers was at its peak since there was an acute shortage of workers in a number of occupations. Never before, however, has the nation had so many young individuals annually entering the labor force as in the 1970's. For example, in 1970 Texas had 1,093,000 persons 15 to 19 years old who were ready to enter the labor market in the years from 1971 through 1975. At the same time there were only 510,000 persons 55 to 59 years old who reached the prescribed retirement age during the same period. Thus, there should be approximately 2.14 young people ready to enter the Texas labor force for every 1 person retiring, thereby creating pressures on persons to retire before they reach their 65th birthday. At the same time, new sources of productive energy and new types of machinery have displaced many jobs through automation and technological advances. The reluctance of employers to hire people after they have passed middle age is based on a variety of beliefs, many of which are unproven. Among these is that older people are less productive than young people; that they are harder to get along with; that they have higher rates of absenteeism due to more illness

Figure 14. Percent of older persons in homes for the aged in Texas, by age, 1970.



and age-connected reasons; that their job accident rates are higher; that there is more labor turnover among older workers; and, particularly in retail establishments, that customers prefer to deal with young people, especially younger, as opposed to older, women.

Retirement should not be determined by age alone, and ability and desire to work should be taken into account. But with increasingly larger numbers of well-trained young people attempting to enter the labor market annually and with the need to advance younger workers, a sharp increase in both voluntary and compulsory retirements has taken place in recent years. Consequently there has been a decided downward trend in the employment of older people in Texas as well as in the nation, particularly since 1950. The proportion of older males in the labor force dropped from 41.5 percent in 1950 to 34.6 percent in 1960 and to 29.6 percent in 1970. While there is growing recognition of the current waste of skills and experience and of the individual problems and frustrations brought on by retirement at a fixed age, both voluntary and forced retirements are occurring at younger ages and at a faster rate than ever before.

Older workers in Texas constituted only 4.2 percent of the State's total labor force in 1970, while older persons made up 8.9 percent of the total population. In general, higher proportions of older males (29.6 percent) are in the labor force than females (10.8 percent), and smaller proportions of both sexes are in the labor force as they advance in age, Figure 15.

All persons in the labor force belong in one of two categories: the Armed forces or the civilian labor force. Among the older population, of course, few are in the Armed Forces. Unemployment rates (technically, an unemployed person is defined as one who is not at work but is actively looking for work) are about the same for older persons as they are for younger people in the labor force. However, such statistics may be misleading; more

older people might be discouraged in being unable to find employment and might drop out of the labor force altogether, thus being removed from the list of unemployed persons.

The occupation of unemployed younger and older persons are shown in five broad categories in Table 12. Among older employed males, over one-third are in professional and managerial occupations, and one-fourth are in unskilled jobs (mostly laborers and service workers). Among older employed women, 35 percent are in unskilled jobs (laborers, service workers and especially private household workers), and 3 out of 10 are in white collar occupations (especially clerical and sales workers).

Income Status

Having sufficient income for shelter, food, clothing, increased medical needs and active living is regarded as one of the most pressing needs of older people. Considerable progress has been made, particularly in the last couple of decades, in providing basic income to older persons. Other than money received from employment, some older people obtain income from private retirement, social security and old age pension payments. Despite the progress being made, income continues to be a problem for many.

In 1969 the median income of families where the head of household was an older married male with wife present was \$4,153. This was less than half the income of all Texas families where the head of household was a male with wife present. The amount of family income received lessens progressively as the age of the head of the household increases, Figure 16. In 1969, in situations where husband and wife were living together and where the head of household was an older person, about 17 percent of the families had money incomes of less than \$2,000, and an additional 16 percent received under \$3,000. Almost 9 percent had incomes of \$15,000 or more during the year.

Figure 15. Percent of older persons in the labor force in Texas, by age, 1970.

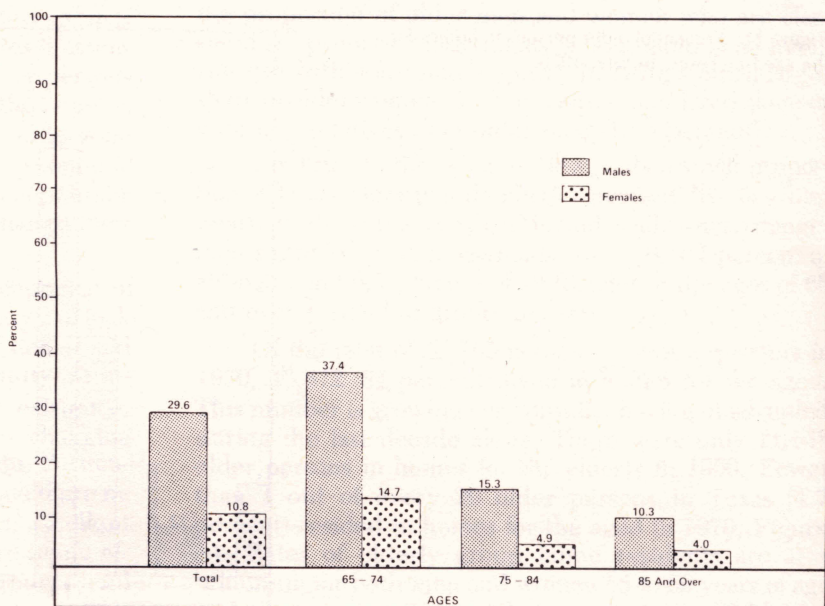


TABLE 12. OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYED YOUNGER AND OLDER PERSONS IN TEXAS, BY SEX, 1970

Occupation	Employed males				Employed females			
	14-64 years of age		Older population		14-64 years of age		Older population	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Professional and managerial	695,806	27.6	42,419	35.3	294,915	19.9	14,928	24.9
White collar	374,072	14.8	18,904	15.8	642,730	43.4	17,976	30.0
Skilled	546,366	21.7	17,762	14.8	26,696	1.8	1,474	2.5
Semiskilled	471,087	18.7	11,426	9.5	144,704	9.8	4,579	7.6
Unskilled	431,647	17.1	29,572	24.6	372,995	25.1	21,006	35.0
Total	2,518,978	100.0	20,083	100.0	1,482,040	100.0	59,963	100.0

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Census of Population: 1970*, "Detailed Characteristics," PC(1)-D45, Texas, Table 174.

The median income of families with male heads 65 and over increased considerably (about 70 percent) in the 1959-69 decade in current dollars but grew much less rapidly in constant dollars.

The median income of older unrelated individuals (those not living with any relatives) nearly doubled in the 1959-69 decade, but the figure is still quite low — \$1,635 in 1969. Unrelated individuals aged 65 and over have a median income only about two-fifths as great as families headed by older persons. The median income of older female unrelated individuals in 1969 was \$1,599, which is slightly below the \$1,761 level achieved by older male unrelated individuals.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors are indebted to A. B. Wooten, Director, and W. G. Adkins, head of the Research Division, Texas Real Estate Research Center, for providing funds for the employment of Sandra Klein, undergraduate Sociology student, Texas A&M University, who did most of the computational and cartographic work contained in this publication. They are also indebted to Jeanette Tryner for her contributions in the development of various phases of the manuscript.

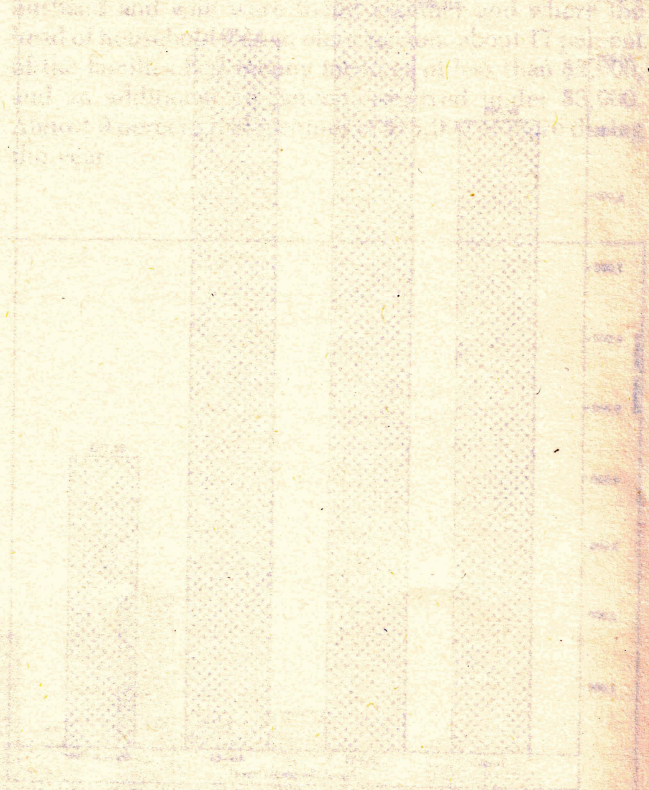
The authors also appreciate the assistance of Vivian H. Blair, Family Life Specialist — Aging, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, in supplying information of a historical nature on agencies and programs whose central concern is the older population. The assistance of the Texas A&M University Library in acquiring magnetic summary tapes of the 1970 census and a standard set of computer programs from DUALabs is very much appreciated.

This publication is largely a revision of Texas Agricultural Experiment Station — Texas Agricultural Extension Service Bulletin 1057, *Characteristics of the Texas Aged* (October, 1966) by R. L. Skrabanek, B. E. Dickerson and W. K. Upham.



Figure 16. Median income of Texas families headed by married male with wife present, by age of family head, 1969.

Appendix



APPENDIX TABLE 1. THE OLDER POPULATION OF TEXAS, BY COUNTIES, 1960 and 1970

County	Older population		Net change, 1960-70		Percent older persons of total population, 1970
	1970	1960	Number	Percent	
Anderson	4,750	4,002	748	18.7	17.1
Andrews	588	267	321	120.2	5.7
Angelina	5,189	3,731	1,458	39.1	10.5
Aransas	1,214	659	555	84.2	13.6
Archer	834	600	234	39.0	14.5
Armstrong	334	280	54	19.3	17.6
Atascosa	2,189	1,683	506	30.1	11.7
Austin	2,721	2,223	498	22.4	19.7
Bailey	750	498	252	50.6	8.8
Bandera	859	618	241	39.0	18.1
Bastrop	3,026	2,650	376	14.2	17.5
Baylor	1,051	842	209	24.8	20.1
Bee	1,855	1,445	410	28.4	8.2
Bell	8,735	6,990	1,745	25.0	7.2
Bexar	62,416	46,898	15,518	33.1	7.5
Blanco	707	600	107	17.8	19.8
Borden	63	63	0	0	7.1
Bosque	2,613	2,176	437	20.1	23.8
Bowie	7,781	6,187	1,594	25.8	11.5
Brazoria	5,746	3,728	2,018	54.1	5.3
Brazos	4,452	3,202	1,250	39.0	7.7
Brewster	667	518	149	28.8	8.6
Briscoe	345	320	25	7.8	12.4
Brooks	622	514	108	21.0	7.8
Brown	4,799	4,128	671	16.3	18.6
Burleson	1,844	1,729	115	6.7	18.4
Burnet	2,410	1,372	1,038	75.7	21.1
Caldwell	2,777	2,234	543	24.3	13.1
Calhoun	993	669	324	48.4	5.6
Callahan	1,719	1,396	323	23.1	21.0
Cameron	11,983	8,093	3,890	48.1	8.5
Camp	1,280	1,089	191	17.5	16.0
Carson	754	512	242	47.3	11.9
Cass	3,547	2,907	640	22.0	14.7
Castro	525	303	222	73.3	5.1
Chambers	924	714	210	29.4	7.6
Cherokee	5,294	4,439	855	19.3	16.5
Childress	1,373	1,146	227	19.8	21.8
Clay	1,387	1,235	152	12.3	17.2
Cochran	453	351	102	29.1	8.5
Coke	497	421	76	18.1	16.1
Coleman	2,445	2,153	292	13.6	23.8
Collin	6,393	5,435	958	17.6	9.6
Collingsworth	979	901	78	8.7	20.6
Colorado	2,619	2,225	394	17.7	14.9
Comal	3,012	1,999	1,013	50.7	12.5
Comanche	2,570	2,407	163	6.8	21.6
Concho	617	526	91	17.3	21.0
Cooke	3,036	2,640	396	15.0	12.9
Coryell	2,492	2,066	426	20.6	7.1
Cottle	549	478	71	14.9	17.1
Crane	263	154	109	70.8	6.3
Crockett	321	210	111	52.9	8.3
Crosby	1,026	840	186	22.1	11.3
Culberson	172	115	57	49.6	5.0
Dallam	687	665	22	3.3	11.4
Dallas	88,237	61,112	27,125	44.4	6.7
Dawson	1,767	1,363	404	29.7	10.7
Deaf Smith	1,205	757	448	59.2	6.3
Delta	1,153	1,136	17	1.5	23.4
Denton	5,970	4,598	1,372	29.8	7.9
DeWitt	3,542	2,888	654	22.6	19.0
Dickens	711	706	5	.7	19.0
Dimmit	813	638	175	27.4	9.0

APPENDIX TABLE 1. THE OLDER POPULATION OF TEXAS, BY COUNTIES, 1960 and 1970 (Continued)

County	Older population		Net change, 1960-70		Percent older persons of total population, 1970
	1970	1960	Number	Percent	
Donley	785	737	48	6.5	21.6
Duval	1,177	935	242	25.9	10.0
Eastland	4,288	3,668	620	16.9	23.7
Ector	4,349	2,202	2,147	97.5	4.7
Edwards	251	225	26	11.6	11.9
Ellis	6,188	5,451	737	13.5	13.3
El Paso	20,636	14,232	6,404	45.0	5.7
Erath	3,617	3,127	490	15.7	19.9
Falls	3,543	3,343	200	6.0	20.5
Fannin	4,651	4,274	377	8.8	20.5
Fayette	3,973	3,581	392	10.9	22.5
Fisher	1,083	924	159	17.2	17.1
Floyd	1,259	1,039	220	21.2	11.4
Foard	451	466	-15	-3.2	20.4
Fort Bend	3,890	2,846	1,044	36.7	7.4
Franklin	1,063	869	194	22.3	22.1
Freestone	2,415	2,246	169	7.5	21.7
Frio	1,158	842	316	37.5	10.4
Gaines	761	512	249	48.6	6.6
Galveston	12,962	9,034	3,928	43.5	7.6
Garza	599	507	92	18.1	11.3
Gillespie	2,100	1,640	460	28.0	19.9
Glasscock	92	69	23	33.3	8.0
Goliad	763	661	102	15.4	15.7
Gonzales	2,792	2,480	312	12.6	17.1
Gray	2,951	1,924	1,027	53.4	11.0
Grayson	10,997	9,093	1,904	20.9	13.2
Gregg	7,826	5,367	2,459	45.8	10.3
Grimes	2,231	1,968	263	13.4	18.8
Guadalupe	4,031	2,842	1,189	41.8	12.0
Hale	3,226	2,681	545	20.3	9.5
Hall	1,121	994	127	12.8	18.6
Hamilton	1,908	1,748	160	9.2	26.5
Hansford	459	295	164	55.6	7.2
Hardeman	1,346	1,168	178	15.2	19.8
Hardin	2,884	2,095	789	37.7	9.6
Harris	102,341	66,732	35,609	53.4	5.9
Harrison	5,943	4,607	1,336	29.0	13.3
Hartley	322	163	159	97.5	11.6
Haskell	1,536	1,366	170	12.4	18.0
Hays	2,227	1,886	341	18.1	8.1
Hemphill	395	332	63	19.0	12.8
Henderson	3,984	3,094	890	28.8	15.1
Hidalgo	14,193	10,038	4,155	41.4	7.8
Hill	4,490	4,139	351	8.5	19.9
Hockley	1,604	1,200	404	33.7	7.9
Hood	1,131	885	246	27.8	17.8
Hopkins	3,468	2,998	470	15.7	16.8
Houston	2,976	2,620	356	13.6	16.7
Howard	3,122	2,332	790	33.9	8.3
Hudspeth	196	133	63	47.4	8.2
Hunt	6,235	5,408	827	15.3	13.0
Hutchinson	2,097	1,213	884	72.9	8.6
Irion	188	144	44	30.6	17.6
Jack	1,253	1,039	214	20.6	18.7
Jackson	1,343	1,123	220	19.6	10.4
Jasper	3,061	2,335	726	31.1	12.4
Jeff Davis	198	160	38	23.8	13.0
Jefferson	21,105	14,964	6,141	41.0	8.6
Jim Hogg	477	315	162	51.4	10.2
Jim Wells	2,502	1,768	734	41.5	7.6
Johnson	5,830	4,548	1,282	28.2	12.7
Jones	2,885	2,421	464	19.2	17.9

APPENDIX TABLE 1. THE OLDER POPULATION OF TEXAS, BY COUNTIES, 1960 and 1970 (Continued)

County	Older population		Net change, 1960-70		Percent older persons of total population, 1970
	1970	1960	Number	Percent	
Karnes	1,730	1,393	337	24.2	12.9
Kaufman	4,878	4,273	605	14.2	15.1
Kendall	1,152	877	275	31.4	16.5
Kenedy	53	47	6	12.8	7.8
Kent	209	219	-10	-4.6	14.6
Kerr	4,629	3,232	1,397	43.2	23.8
Kimble	655	560	95	17.0	16.8
King	24	26	-2	-7.7	5.2
Kinney	232	233	-1	-4	11.6
Kleberg	1,929	1,344	585	43.5	5.8
Knox	1,131	964	167	17.3	18.9
Lamar	5,743	5,094	649	12.7	15.9
Lamb	2,713	1,632	541	33.1	12.2
Lampasas	1,554	1,341	213	15.9	16.8
La Salle	527	524	3	.6	10.5
Lavaca	3,656	3,140	516	16.4	20.4
Lee	1,563	1,373	190	13.8	19.4
Leon	1,751	1,642	109	6.6	20.0
Liberty	3,659	2,749	910	33.1	11.1
Limestone	3,633	3,225	408	12.7	20.1
Lipscomb	432	377	55	14.6	12.4
Live Oak	857	673	184	27.3	12.8
Llano	1,739	876	863	98.5	24.9
Loving	14	12	2	16.7	8.5
Lubbock	11,322	7,837	3,485	44.5	6.3
Lynn	984	830	154	18.6	10.8
McCulloch	1,742	1,442	300	20.8	20.3
McLennan	18,237	14,755	3,482	23.6	12.4
McMullen	146	119	27	22.7	13.3
Madison	1,281	1,084	197	18.2	16.7
Marion	1,389	1,045	344	32.9	16.3
Martin	433	353	80	22.7	9.1
Mason	716	670	46	6.9	21.3
Matagorda	2,876	2,176	700	32.2	10.3
Maverick	1,200	795	405	50.9	6.6
Medina	2,293	1,791	502	28.0	11.3
Menard	529	470	59	12.6	20.0
Midland	3,404	1,897	1,507	79.4	5.2
Milam	3,679	3,321	358	10.8	18.4
Mills	1,074	918	156	17.0	25.5
Mitchell	1,400	1,193	207	17.4	15.4
Montague	2,975	2,515	460	18.3	19.4
Montgomery	4,297	2,737	1,560	57.0	8.7
Moore	742	463	279	60.3	5.3
Morris	1,523	1,234	289	23.4	12.4
Motley	476	384	92	24.0	21.9
Nacogdoches	4,287	3,420	867	25.4	11.8
Navarro	5,829	5,143	686	13.3	18.7
Newton	1,449	1,142	307	26.9	12.4
Nolan	2,361	1,819	542	29.8	14.6
Nueces	14,966	10,244	4,722	46.1	6.3
Ochiltree	649	476	173	36.3	6.7
Oldham	166	138	28	20.3	7.4
Orange	4,158	2,703	1,455	53.8	5.8
Palo Pinto	2,857	2,621	236	9.0	9.9
Panola	2,443	1,938	505	26.1	15.4
Parker	3,708	3,049	659	21.6	10.9
Parker	684	515	169	32.8	6.5
Pecos	809	548	261	47.6	5.9
Polk	2,259	1,744	515	29.5	15.6
Potter	9,017	6,700	2,317	34.6	10.0
Presidio	618	492	126	25.6	12.8
Rains	666	575	91	15.8	17.8

APPENDIX TABLE 1. THE OLDER POPULATION OF TEXAS, BY COUNTIES, 1960 and 1970 (Continued)

County	Older population		Net change, 1960-70		Percent older persons of total population, 1970
	1970	1960	Number	Percent	
Randall	2,503	1,392	1,111	79.8	4.6
Reagan	184	158	26	16.5	5.7
Real	296	254	42	16.5	14.7
Red River	2,931	2,553	378	14.8	20.5
Reeves	989	712	277	38.9	6.0
Refugio	889	725	164	22.6	9.4
Roberts	110	122	-12	-9.8	11.4
Robertson	2,648	2,312	336	14.5	18.4
Rockwall	876	787	89	11.3	12.4
Runnels	2,238	1,971	267	13.5	18.5
Rusk	5,790	4,129	1,661	40.2	17.0
Sabine	1,073	960	113	11.8	14.9
San Augustine	1,261	946	315	33.3	16.0
San Jacinto	1,087	930	157	16.9	16.2
San Patricio	3,361	2,442	919	37.6	7.1
San Saba	1,228	1,224	4	.3	22.2
Schleicher	325	260	65	25.0	14.3
Scurry	1,789	1,360	429	31.5	11.4
Shackelford	707	563	144	25.6	21.3
Shelby	3,329	2,927	402	13.7	16.9
Sherman	257	189	68	36.0	7.0
Smith	10,801	7,707	3,094	40.1	11.1
Somervell	583	506	77	15.2	20.9
Starr	1,416	972	444	45.7	8.0
Stephens	1,646	1,387	259	18.7	19.6
Sterling	125	119	6	5.0	11.8
Stonewall	384	325	59	18.2	16.0
Sutton	345	260	85	32.7	10.9
Swisher	1,032	786	246	31.3	10.0
Tarrant	52,148	37,108	15,040	40.5	7.3
Taylor	9,142	6,591	2,551	38.7	9.3
Terrell	201	174	27	15.5	10.4
Terry	1,096	960	136	14.2	7.8
Throckmorton	536	464	72	15.5	24.3
Titus	2,505	2,001	504	25.2	15.0
Tom Green	7,601	5,749	1,852	32.2	10.7
Travis	20,662	16,073	4,589	28.6	7.0
Trinity	1,463	1,179	284	24.1	19.2
Tyler	2,025	1,400	625	44.6	16.3
Upshur	3,069	2,423	646	26.7	14.6
Upton	366	279	87	31.2	7.8
Uvalde	2,019	1,520	499	32.8	11.6
Val Verde	1,742	1,224	518	42.3	6.3
Van Zandt	3,907	2,926	981	33.5	17.6
Victoria	3,846	2,818	1,028	36.5	7.2
Walker	2,411	1,981	430	21.7	8.7
Waller	1,543	1,253	290	23.1	10.8
Ward	879	621	258	41.6	6.8
Washington	3,466	3,043	423	13.9	18.4
Webb	5,799	4,188	1,611	38.5	8.0
Wharton	4,113	3,433	680	19.8	11.2
Wheeler	1,217	1,080	137	12.7	18.9
Wichita	11,807	9,016	2,791	31.0	9.7
Wilbarger	2,630	2,325	305	13.1	17.1
Willacy	1,324	1,029	295	28.7	8.5
Williamson	5,909	4,674	1,235	26.4	15.8
Wilson	1,641	1,527	114	7.5	12.6
Winkler	614	395	219	55.4	6.4
Wise	2,857	2,333	524	22.5	14.5
Wood	3,504	2,641	863	32.7	18.9
Yoakum	392	232	160	69.0	5.3
Young	2,872	2,084	788	37.8	18.7
Zapata	572	342	230	67.3	13.1
Zavala	838	713	125	17.5	7.4

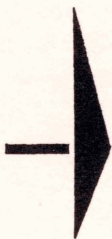
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Texas A&M University
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