

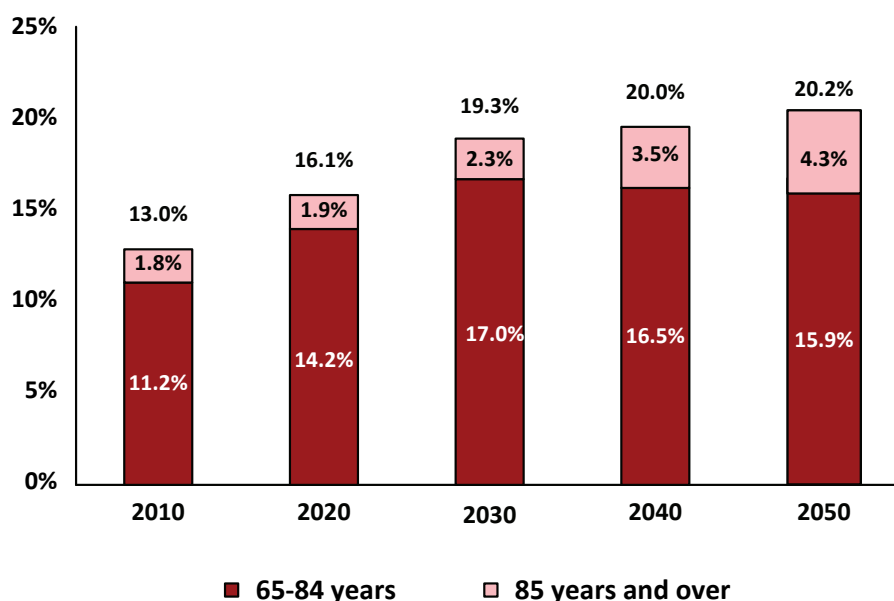
Growing Demand for Long-Term Care in the U.S. (Updated)

In 2011, the largest generation in history – the baby boomers – began turning 65. The U.S. population is also living longer, often with chronic illness and disabling conditions. Given these demographic trends, we can anticipate significant growth in the demand for long-term care.

This fact sheet describes trends that contribute to the growing demand for long-term care among Americans. All the references accessed to produce this fact sheet are provided for further review.

- The number of Americans who need long-term care is expected to increase from approximately 12 million today to **27 million** in 2050.¹
- Baby boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964) will turn 65 between 2011 and 2029.² During this time, 10,000 Americans will turn 65 every day.³
- By 2030 when the last baby boomers turn 65, the number of Americans age 65 and older is projected to be about **72 million**, or about **19%** of the total U.S. population (up from over 40 million or 13% in 2010, See Figure 1).⁴
- By 2050 when the last baby boomers turn 85, the number of Americans age 65 and older is projected to increase to almost **89 million**, or about **20%** of the total U.S. population (See Figure 1).⁴

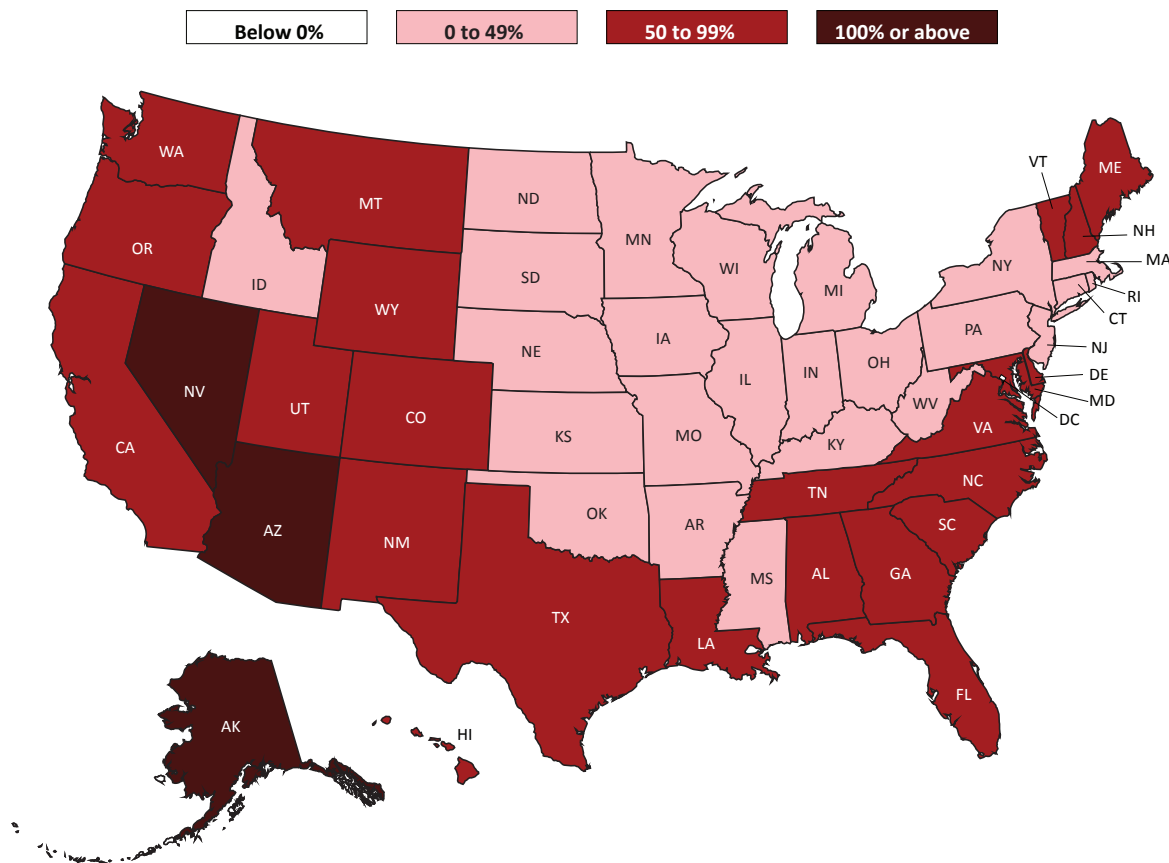
FIGURE 1 Older Americans as a Percentage of the Total U.S. Population, 2010-2050



Source: Feder J, Komisar H. The Importance of Federal Financing to the Nation's Long-Term Care Safety Net. 2012. Data used in this figure is based on C. Werner, The Older Population: 2010, U.S. Census Bureau, November 2011 and Projections for 2020-2050 from U.S. Census Bureau, "Table 3. Percent Distribution of the Projected Population by Selected Age Groups and Sex for the United States: 2010 to 2050," August 14, 2008.

- The percentage of the U.S. population that is age 85 and older—those having the most likely need for supportive services—is expected to grow by **more than 25%** by 2030 and by **126%** by 2050 (See Figure 1).⁴
- The states with the greatest projected population growth of those age 85 and older from 2010 to 2030 are: **Alaska (+217%), Nevada (+147%), Arizona (+119%)**. The District of Columbia is projected to experience a 10 percent decline in the number of Americans age 85 and older during that period (See Figure 2).⁵

FIGURE 2 Projected Growth of Americans Age 85 and Older from 2010 to 2030



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. Interim State Population Projections, 2005

- Life expectancy in the U.S. has increased dramatically over the last century and is expected to continue to increase. For individuals born in 2010, the projected average life expectancy is **79 years**, compared to almost 52 years in 1910.^{6,7}
- Life expectancy is higher for women than men. For those born in 2010, projected life expectancy for women is about **81 years**, compared to **76 years** for men.⁶
- Between 2000 and 2030 the number of Americans with chronic conditions will have increased by **37%**, an increase of 46 million people.⁸

- **Twenty-seven million** individuals with chronic conditions in the general U.S. population also have functional impairment.⁹
- As of 2012, 5.2 million people age 65 and older have Alzheimer's Disease. By 2025, the number of people age 65 and older with Alzheimer's disease is estimated to increase by 30% to **6.7 million**. By 2050, this number may triple to a projected **11 million to 16 million**.¹⁰

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For more information contact:

The SCAN Foundation

Lisa R. Shugarman, Ph.D., Director of Policy

Keyla Whitenhill, MPH, Policy Analyst

3800 Kilroy Airport Way, Suite 400, Long Beach, CA 90806

www.TheSCANFoundation.org

(888) 569-7226 | info@TheSCANFoundation.org

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