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New federal report released on older Americans

Released today, *Older Americans 2024: Key Indicators of Well-Being* describes the growing number of older adults in the United States and explores characteristics related to economics, health, and social and physical environment. Today's release is the ninth report prepared by the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics. Sixteen Federal agencies collaborate to monitor and report national-level trends on the well-being of older Americans, making it easy for the public to access key statistics that affect the health and well-being of older Americans.

This report presents 41 indicators of well-being across six broad domains – population, economics, health status, health risks and behavior, health care, and environment. Additionally, the report includes a special feature section on Telehealth, which uses three data sources to describe the use of telehealth among older adults: visit-based data from fee-for-service Medicare claims; person-level survey data from the National Health Interview Survey; and visit-based data from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey.

The older population is projected to become increasingly diverse, reflecting the demographic changes in the U.S. population during the last several decades. By 2060, it is estimated that the population 65 and older will be 55.6% non-Hispanic White alone, 12.7% non-Hispanic Black alone, 8.5% non-Hispanic Asian alone, and 20.4% Hispanic.

Among the older population, increasing age is associated with higher rates of poverty. In 2022, 9% of people ages 65 – 74 compared with 14% of people age 85 and older were in poverty. Poverty rates also vary greatly by race and ethnicity, with 8%, the lowest, among the non-Hispanic White alone population, and 18%, one of the highest, among the non-Hispanic Black alone population.

Heart disease and cancer were the top two leading causes of death in 2022 for both men and women age 65 and over. Among women, they were followed by stroke, Alzheimer's disease, and COVID-19. Among men, they were followed by COVID-19, chronic lower respiratory diseases, and stroke.

Other highlights from this year's report include:

- 57.8 million people age 65 and over lived in the United States in 2022 accounting for 17.3% of the total population. By 2100, the older population is expected to nearly double, to 106.3 million, representing 29.1% of the total U.S. population.
- In 2022, 9% of households in the United States with people age 65 and over (3.9 million households) were food insecure at some time during the year.

- The prevalence of certain chronic health conditions differed by sex. Women reported higher levels of arthritis and asthma than men. Men reported higher levels of cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and high cholesterol in 2022.
- In 2022, 71% of people age 65 and over reported receiving a flu vaccination in the past 12 months; Non-Hispanic Asian (74%) and non-Hispanic White older Americans (73%) were more likely to have received the flu vaccination, compared with non-Hispanic Black (63%) and Hispanic (61%) older adults.
- After adjusting for inflation, average prescription drug costs for noninstitutionalized Americans age 65 and over increased between 1992 and 2021—from \$1,235 to \$6,432.
- About 16% of the noninstitutionalized Medicare population age 65 and over limited their driving to daytime because of a health or physical problem in 2021. The percentage of people who limited their driving to daytime was greater for those age 85 and over (36%) than for those ages 65–74 (12%).
- Telehealth visits among older Americans increased in 2020, the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Rates of telehealth have declined since 2020 but remain higher than in 2019. There is variation in the use of telehealth by region, age, race and ethnicity, and education and income level. Among people aged 65 and over, visits to psychiatrists were the most frequent telehealth doctor visits in 2022.

This report is published by the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics and is posted on agingstats.gov.

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