

Elderly Population (Ages 65 & Over)

- The number of elderly persons (ages 65 and over) has increased by 11% from 1990 to 1996 in Tennessee. In 1996, people aged 65 and over made up 12.9% of Tennessee's total population compared with 12.7% in 1990.
- In 1996, the elderly population was 61% female and 39% male. From 1990 to 1996, elderly females increased by 12% and elderly males increased by 10%.
- In 1996, the elderly population was 11% black, 88.7% white, and 0.3% other races.
- The number of elderly blacks increased by 3% from 1990 to 1996. During the same period, the number of elderly whites increased by 12%. The number of elderly persons of other races increased by 7% .
- In 1996, 8.9% of all blacks in Tennessee were elderly, down from 9.5% in 1990.
- In 1996, 14% of all whites in Tennessee were elderly. This is a very slight increase from 1990, when 13% of all whites in Tennessee were aged 65 and over.
- In 1996, the region with the smallest percentage of elderly was the Mid-Cumberland Region (10%). The smallest percentages of elderly persons by county lived in Rutherford (8%), Cheatham (8%), Montgomery (8%), Williamson (8%), and Wilson (9.5%) Counties.
- In 1996, counties with the largest percentage of elderly persons were Henry (20%), Cumberland (20%), Decatur (19%), Houston (19%), and Unicoi (19%) Counties. The region with the largest percentage of elderly was the Northwest Region (17%).
- Among the elderly, the age-group with the largest percentage increase (28%) from 1990 to 1996 was the oldest old, ages 85 and over. This age-group also had the largest gap in the percentage (73%) of females compared to males (27%) in 1996.
- In 1996, people ages **65-74**:
 - constituted approximately 55% of the total elderly population in Tennessee
 - were 57% female and 43% male
 - were 10.8% black, 88.9% white, and 0.3% other races.
- The number of people ages **65-74** increased 6.6% from 1990 to 1996. Within this age-group, the number of females increased 6.4%, and the number of males increased 6.8% from 1990 to 1996.
- The increase from 1990 to 1996 in the number of blacks, whites, and other races, for ages **65-74**, was 0.6%, 7.3%, and 5.8%, respectively.