

## Population Projections

Projected population trends for the United States can be used to approximate future trends for Tennessee's population. The projected population trends for the United States are as follows:

- The percent of the population in their 50's will increase by approximately 50% from 1996 to 2006. This is largely due to the fact that post-World War II baby boomers began to turn 50 in the latter part of 1996.
- The rate of population growth of the elderly (ages 65 and over) will be very slow for the next seven to twelve years. It is projected that the percent of the population ages 65 and over will remain steady during the next 8 years.
- The number of elderly will greatly increase between the years 2010 to 2030. This is the period when baby boomers will swell the ranks of the elderly (ages 65 and over).
- The age-group comprising people ages 85 and over will double in size from 1995 to 2025. By 2050, a fivefold increase in size is projected.
- The non-Hispanic white population<sup>2</sup> will account for only 25% of the total population growth during the next seven years. From 2030 to 2050, this group will be declining in size, and, therefore, will not contribute to the population growth.
- The percentage of the population that is non-Hispanic white will decrease by approximately 28% from 1995 to 2050.
- By the middle of the twenty-first century, the black population will have nearly doubled in size from 1995. Each year after 2016, growth within the black population will be larger than growth occurring within the non-Hispanic white population.
- The highest rates of growth will occur within the Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander populations through the year 2030. It is projected that annual growth rates within these groups may exceed 2% until 2030.

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<sup>2</sup>The U.S. Census Bureau defines four race categories (white, black, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and Asian/Pacific Islander) and two ethnic categories (Hispanic and non-Hispanic). Within this system, every person is classified as both a member of one of the four race groups and as being either Hispanic or non-Hispanic. The total number of Hispanics in a population refers to all Hispanics in the population, regardless of race. More specifically, Hispanics are defined as "persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race". The majority of Hispanics are white; therefore, "white Hispanic" is used to describe the Hispanic portion of the white population. The white non-Hispanic population refers to whites who are not of Hispanic origin. The total white population is the sum of white Hispanics and white non-Hispanics.