

Statistics on Aging

- Nearly one out of every four U.S. households (23 percent, or 22.4 million) provides care to a relative or friend aged 50 or older.
- About 15 percent of U.S. adults care for a seriously ill or disabled family member.
- About 13.3 million people -- seven percent of U.S. adults -- are spouses or adult children of disabled older people and have the potential responsibility for their care. Of these, about 85 percent (or 11.4 million) are adult children.
- About 7.3 million people are informal caregivers, providing unpaid help to disabled older people living in the community. Of these, about three-fifths (or 4.2 million) are spouses and adult children, and the remaining two-fifths (3.1 million) are other relatives, friends and neighbors.
- Seventy-two percent of caregivers are female, mostly wives and adult daughters.
- The average age of a caregiver is 57. More than one in three, however, are older themselves (65 years of age and older).
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released a study stating that the older population will increase drastically between the years 2010 and 2030 when the "baby boom" generation reaches age 65.
- By 2030, there will be about 70 million older persons, more than twice the number in 2000. Individuals 65+ represented 12.4 percent of the population in the year 2000 but are expected to grow to be 20 percent of the population by 2030, according to The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- The same study by The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services also stated that minority populations are expected to represent 25.4 percent of the elderly population in 2030, up from 16.4 percent in 2000. Between 1999 and 2030, the white population 65+ is projected to increase by 81 percent compared with 219 percent for older minorities, including Hispanics (328 percent), African Americans (131 percent), American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts (147 percent), and Asians and Pacific Islanders (285 percent).
- The top five social trends affecting the supply of caregivers in the future are: (1) increasing divorce and remarriage rates; (2) increasing geographic mobility; (3) decreasing family size; (4) delayed childbearing; and (5) more women in the workplace, according to Coordinated Care Solutions.
- Coordinated Care Solutions predicts that in the twenty-first century the demands placed on family and other informal caregivers are likely to escalate, affecting nearly every American family.

SOURCE: **National Association for Adult Day Services**