

Selected Characteristics of Baby Boomers 42 to 60 Years Old in 2006

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Background

- The population born between 1946 and 1964 is commonly referred to as the Baby Boom generation.
- Distinguishable by a dramatic increase in birth rates following World War II, Baby Boomers now comprise what is seen as one of the largest generations in U.S. history.
- In 2006, Baby Boomers were ages 42 to 60.

Background

- Understanding the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the members of this generation in the present day is essential.
- The primary purpose of this presentation is to study the current characteristics of Baby Boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) by focusing on the population ages 42 to 60 in 2006. However, some of the current U.S. population ages 42 to 60 presented here is foreign born and was born in other countries during the same period.

Topics for Discussion About the Baby Boomer Population

- Population size
- Geographic distribution
- Demographic characteristics
- Socioeconomic characteristics

Past, Present and Future

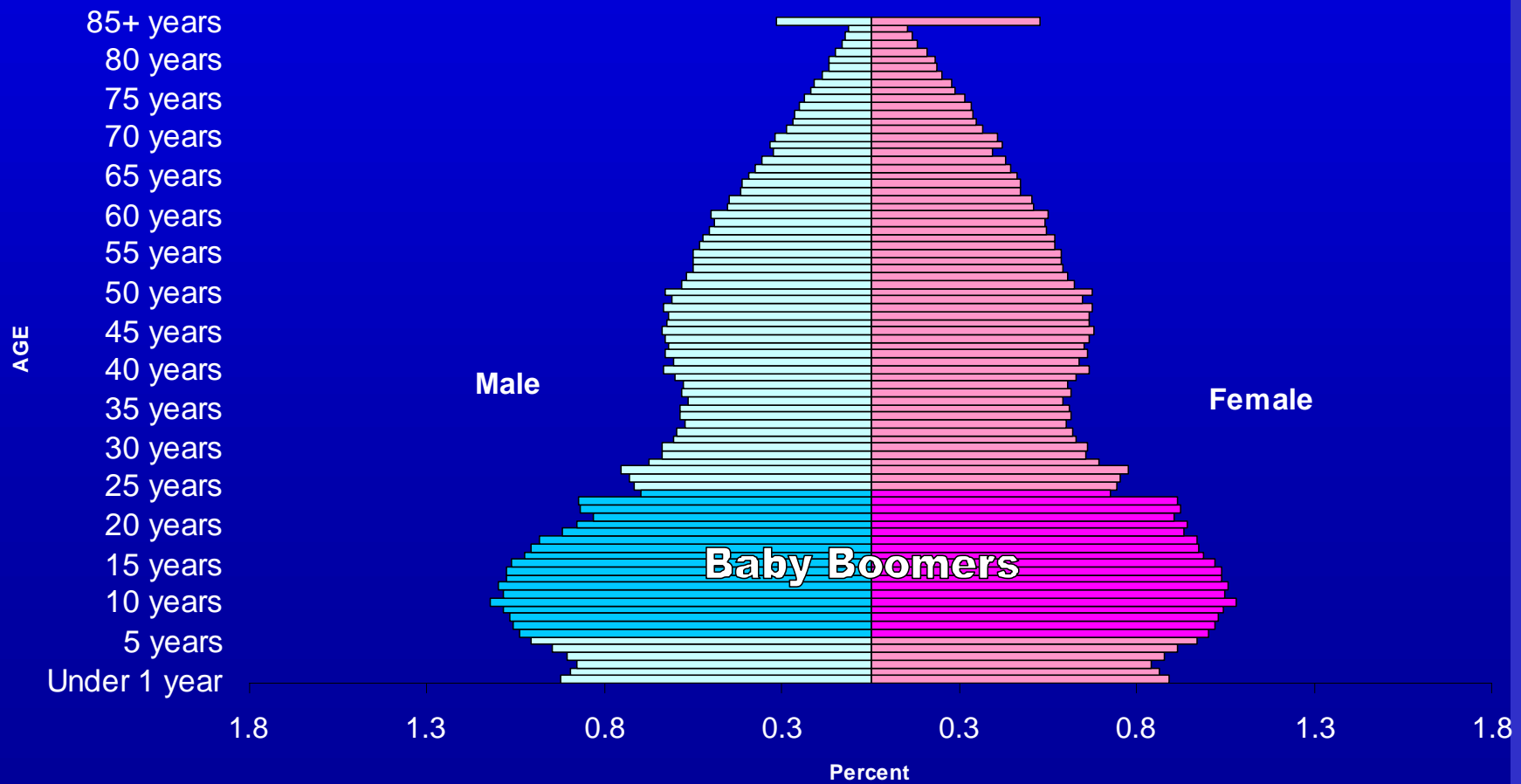
Population Size of Baby Boomers

Baby Boomers by Sex: 1970-2030

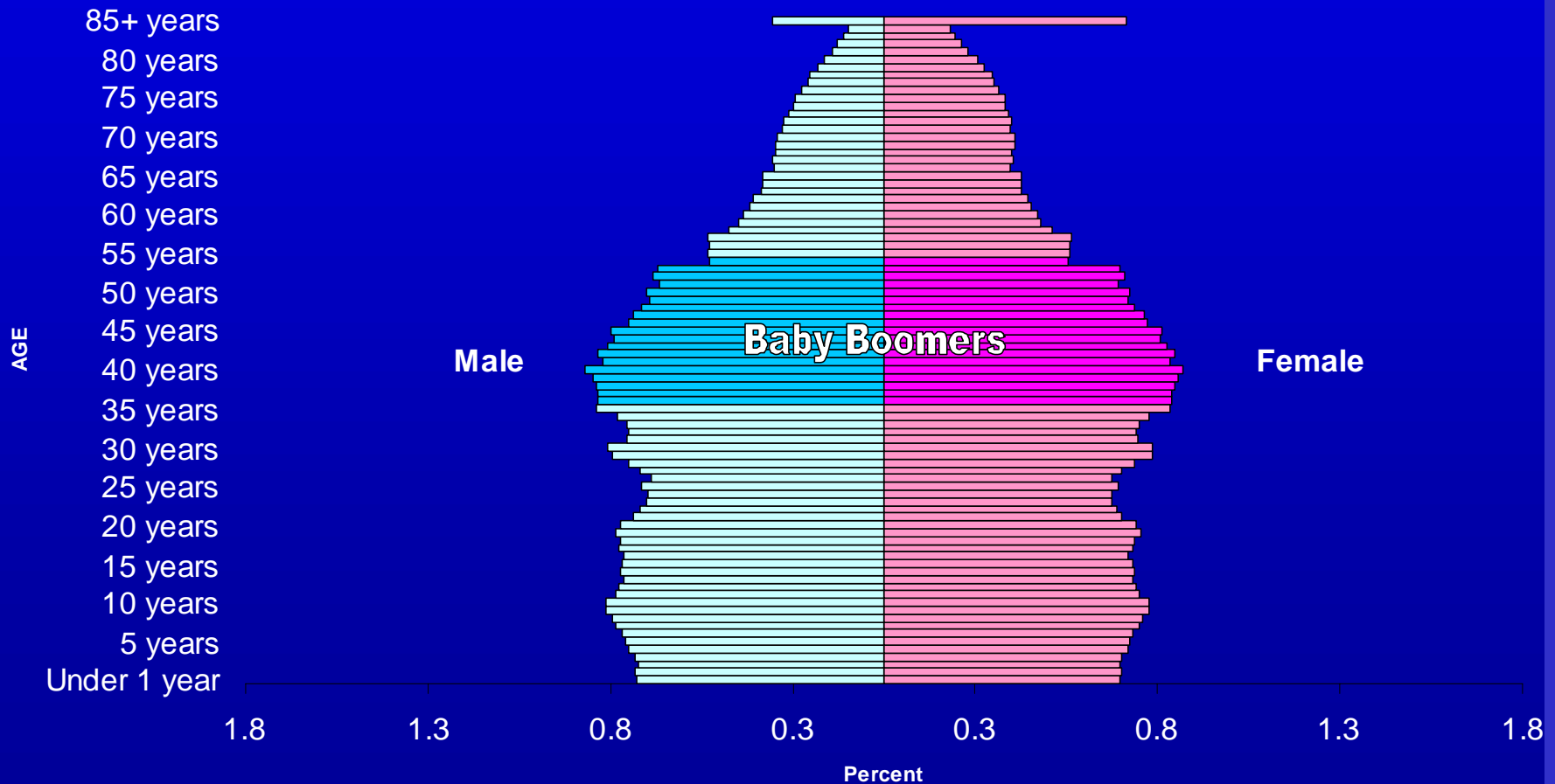
Year	Both Sexes	Male	Female
Number			
1970	72,376,007	36,369,345	36,006,662
2000	78,310,361	38,679,407	39,630,954
2006	77,980,296	38,275,051	39,705,245
2030	57,793,135	26,054,999	31,738,136
Percent			
1970	100.0	50.3	49.7
2000	100.0	49.4	50.6
2006	100.0	49.1	50.9
2030	100.0	45.1	54.9

Note: The data presented here do not exclude the effects of immigration and persons born in other countries living in the United States.

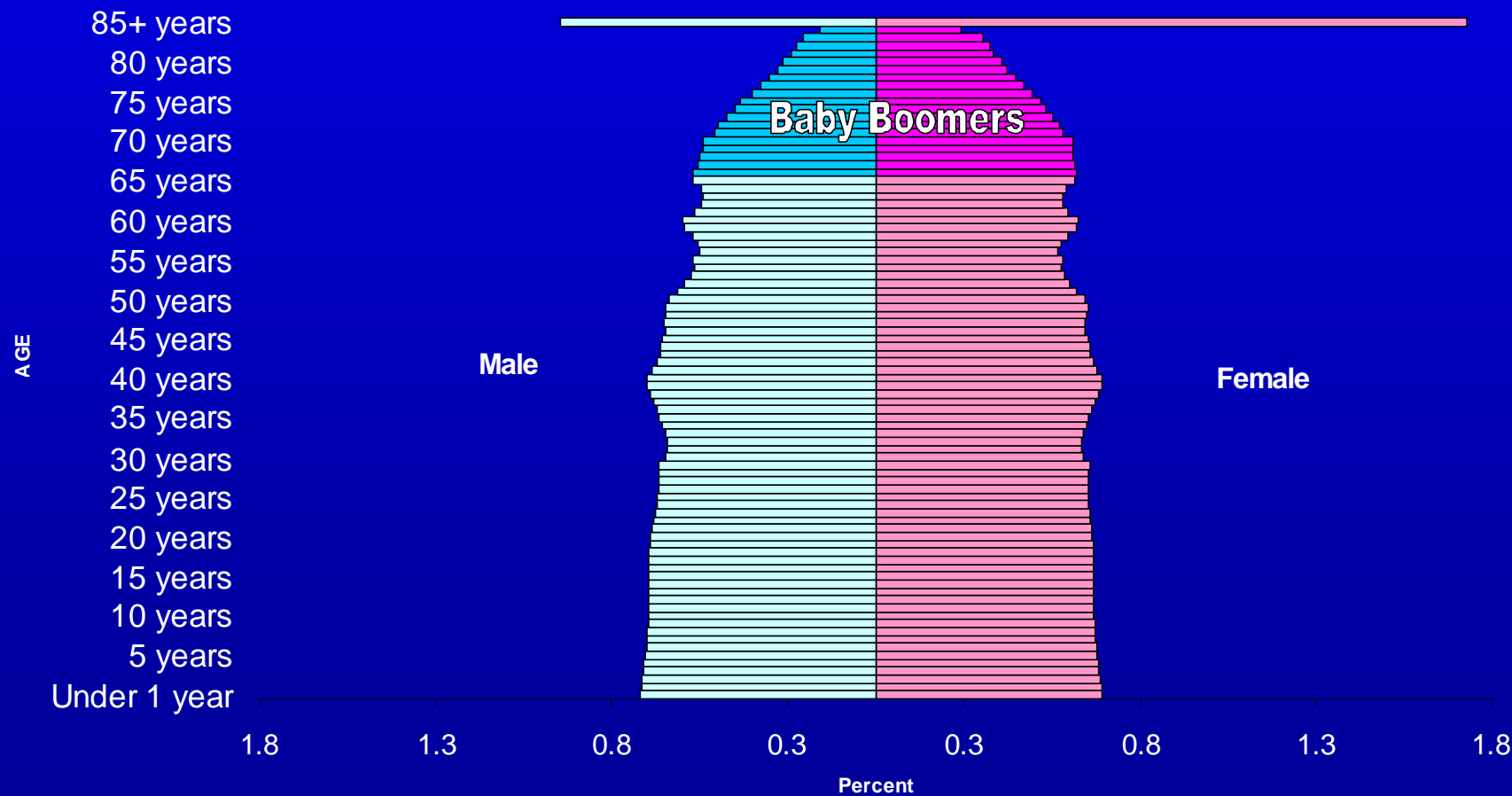
Population by Single Year of Age and Sex: 1970



Population by Single Year of Age and Sex: 2000

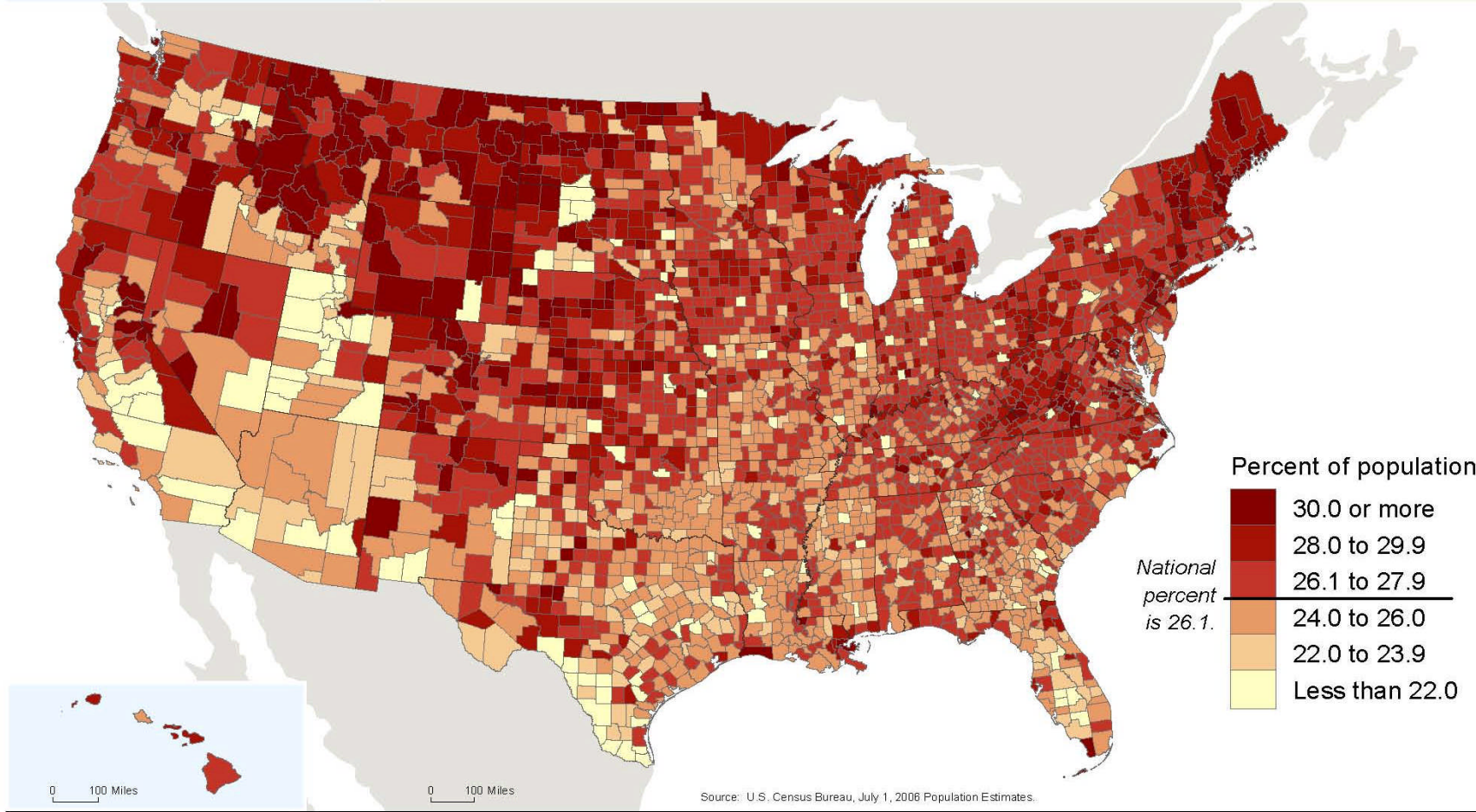
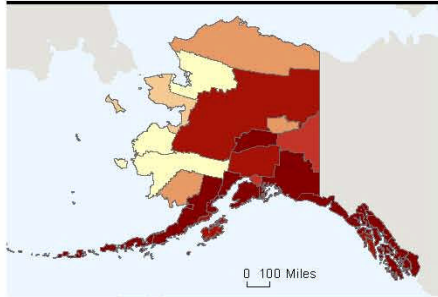


Population by Single Year of Age and Sex: 2030



Geographic Distribution of the Baby Boom Population

Baby Boomer Population as a Percent of Total Population by County: 2006



Baby Boomer Population by Region: 2006

Rank	Region	Number of Baby Boomers
1	South	28,060,126
2	Midwest	17,569,066
3	West	17,421,670
4	Northeast	14,929,434

Top Five States by Baby Boomer Population Size: 2006

Rank	State	Number of Baby Boomers
1	California	8,992,331
2	Texas	5,665,790
3	New York	5,110,668
4	Florida	4,652,377
5	Pennsylvania	3,421,875

Top Five States by Percent Baby Boomer Population: 2006

Rank	State	Percent of Baby Boomers
1	Vermont	30.1
2	Maine	29.8
3	New Hampshire	29.7
4	Montana	28.7
5	Connecticut	28.1

Top Five Counties by Baby Boomer Population Size: 2006

Rank	County	Number of Baby Boomers
1	Los Angeles County, California (part of the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA metro area)	2,416,110
2	Cook County, Illinois (part of the Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI metro area)	1,337,165
3	Harris County, Texas (part of the Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX metro area)	964,063
4	Maricopa County, Arizona (part of the Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ metro area)	875,095
5	Orange County, California (part of the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA metro area)	762,119

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates as of July 1, 2006; December 2005 Office of Management and Budget definitions of metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas.

Top Five Counties by Percent Baby Boomer Population: 2006

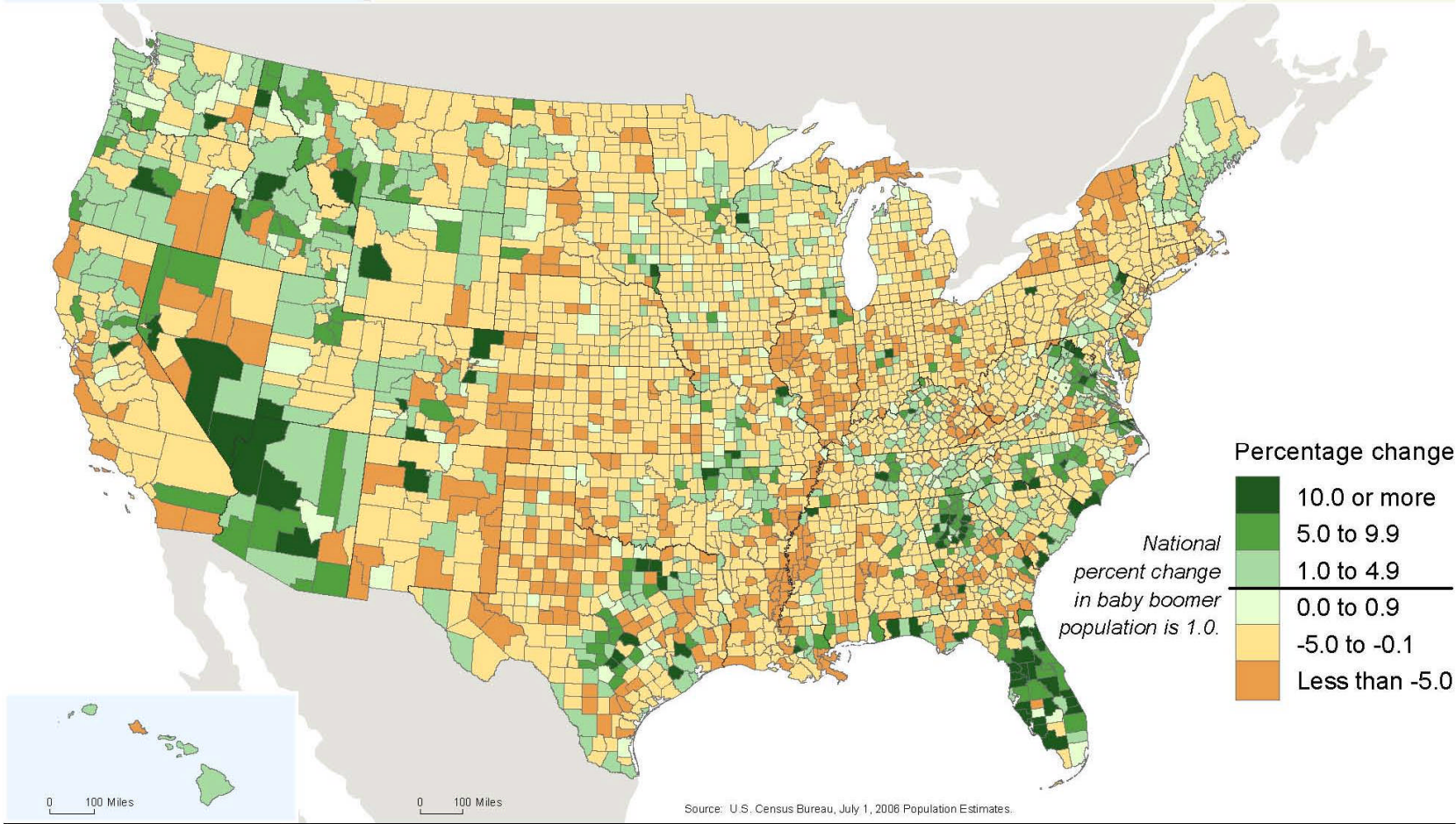
(Counties with more than 1,000 Baby Boomers in 2006)

Rank	County	Percent
1	Clear Creek County, Colorado (part of the Denver-Aurora, CO metro area)	38.0
2	Monroe County, Florida (part of the Key West-Marathon, FL micro area)	37.1
3	Mercer County*, North Dakota	36.6
4	Teller County, Colorado (part of the Colorado Springs, CO metro area)	36.5
5	Gilpin County, Colorado (part of the Denver-Aurora, CO metro area)	36.2

*County is outside of both metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas as of the December 2005 Office of Management and Budget definitions.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates as of July 1, 2006; December 2005 Office of Management and Budget definitions of metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas.

Percent Change in Baby Boomer Population by County: 2000 to 2006



Top Five Counties by Baby Boomer Growth Rate: 2000 to 2006

(Counties with more than 1,000 Baby Boomers in 2006)

Rank	County	Percent
1	Flagler County, Florida (the Palm Coast, FL micro area)	53.5
2	Lyon County, Nevada (the Fernley, NV micro area)	31.8
3	Pinal County, Arizona (part of the Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ metro area)	31.1
4	Sumter County, Florida (The Villages, FL micro area)	29.1
5	Pasco County, Florida (part of the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL metro area)	27.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates as of July 1, 2006; December 2005 Office of Management and Budget definitions of metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas.

2006 Demographic Characteristics of Baby Boomers from 2006 Population Estimates

Population Size by Sex: 2006

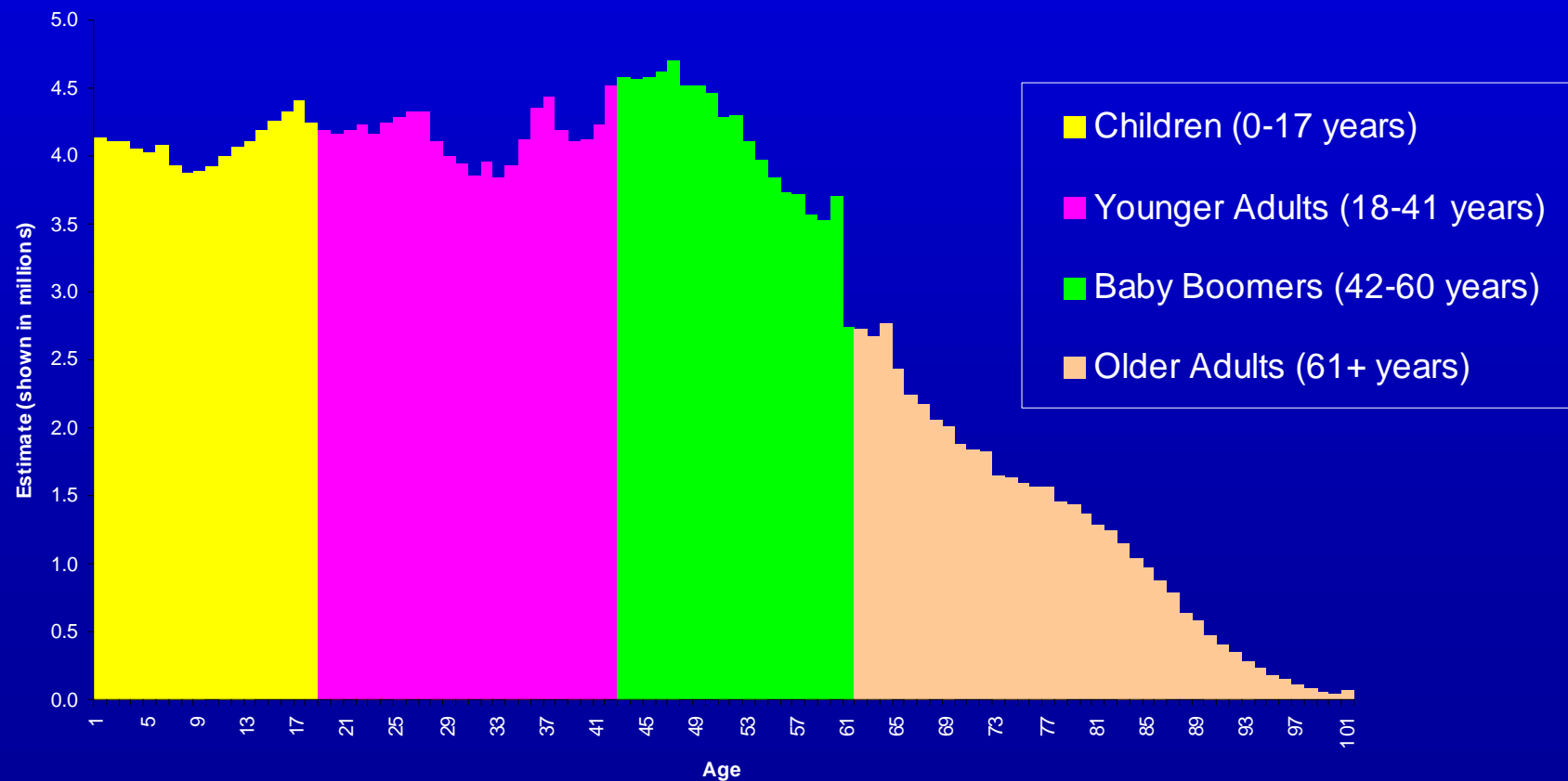
Age Group	Both Sexes	Male	Female
Number			
All Ages	299,398,484	147,512,152	151,886,332
Children (0-17 years)	73,735,562	37,734,707	36,000,855
Younger Adults (18-41 years)	99,807,722	50,787,951	49,019,771
Baby Boomers (42-60 years)	77,980,296	38,275,051	39,705,245
Older Adults (61+ years)	47,874,904	20,714,443	27,160,461
Percent			
All Ages	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children (0-17 years)	24.6	25.6	23.7
Younger Adults (18-41 years)	33.3	34.4	32.3
Baby Boomers (42-60 years)	26.1	26.0	26.1
Older Adults (61+ years)	16.0	14.0	17.9

Note: The data presented here do not exclude the effects of immigration and persons born in other countries living in the United States.

Baby Boomers: Age Distribution

- In 2006, Baby Boomers age 42 to 60 totaled an estimated 78.0 million and comprised 26.1 percent of the total U.S. population.

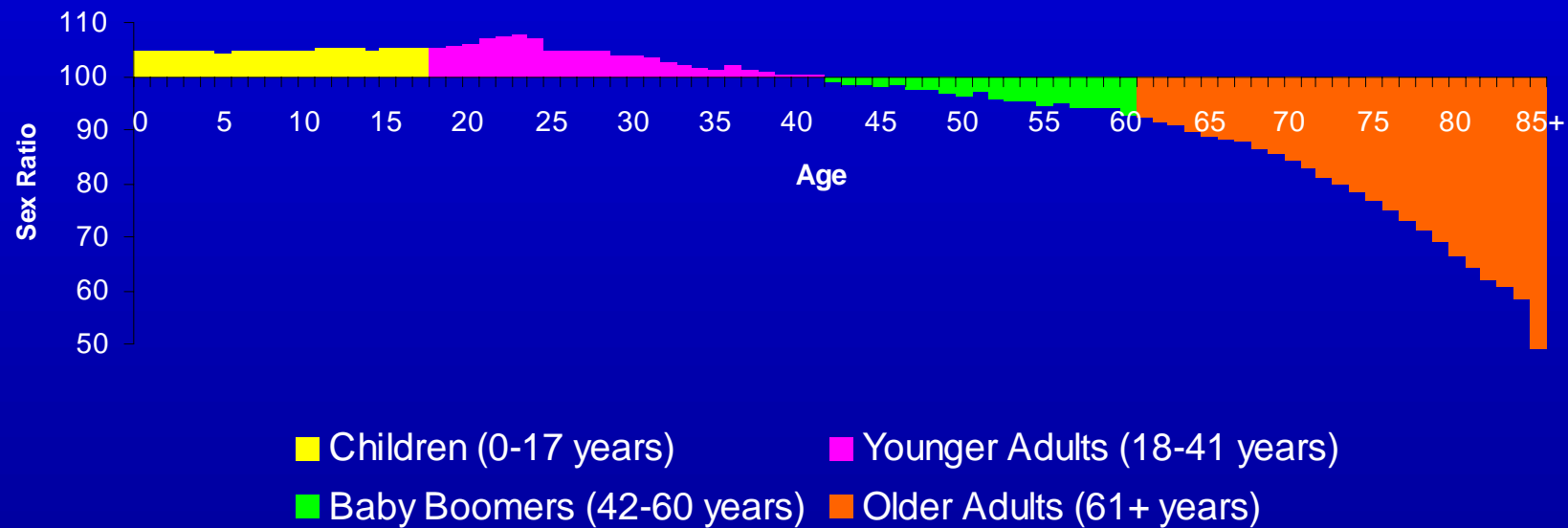
Age Distribution: 2006



Baby Boomers: Sex Ratio

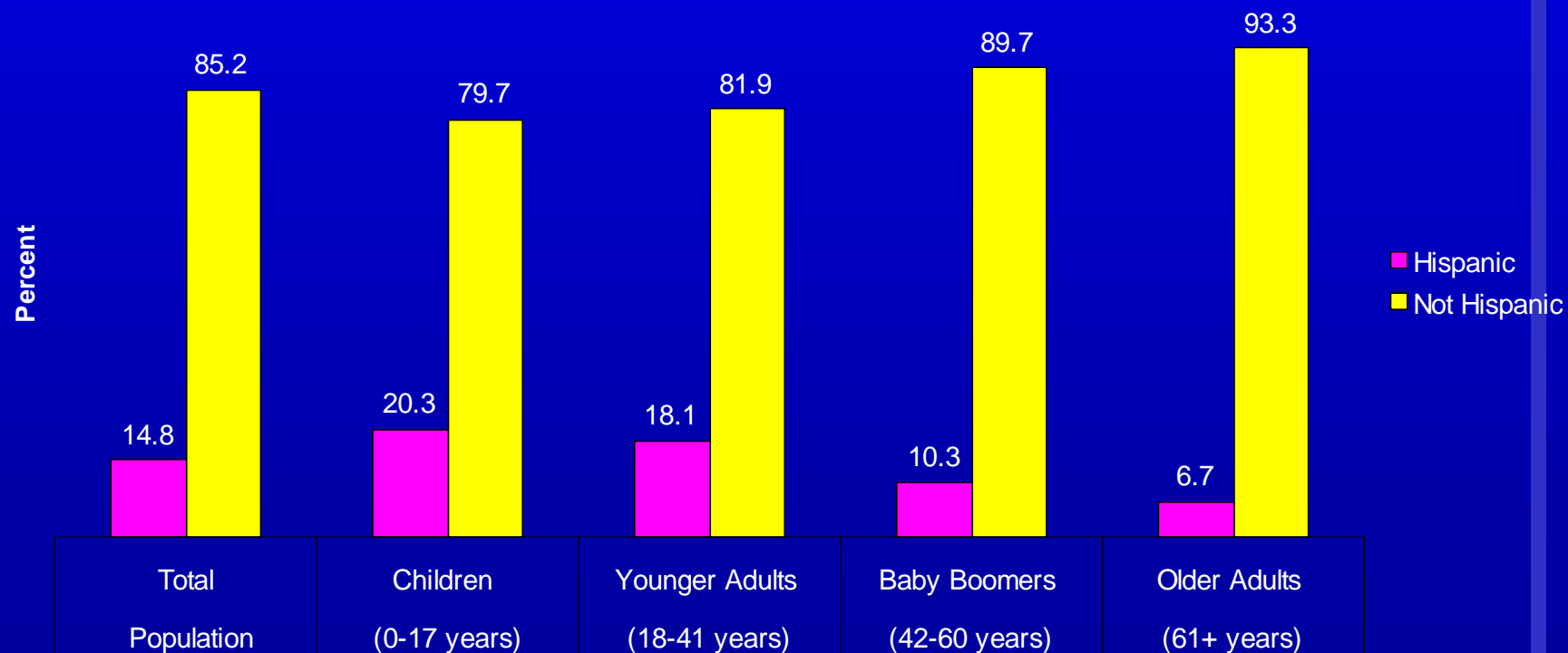
- In 2006, the sex ratio for Baby Boomers was 96.4.
- This means that there were approximately 96 male Baby Boomers per 100 female Baby Boomers.

Sex Ratios by Single Year of Age: 2006

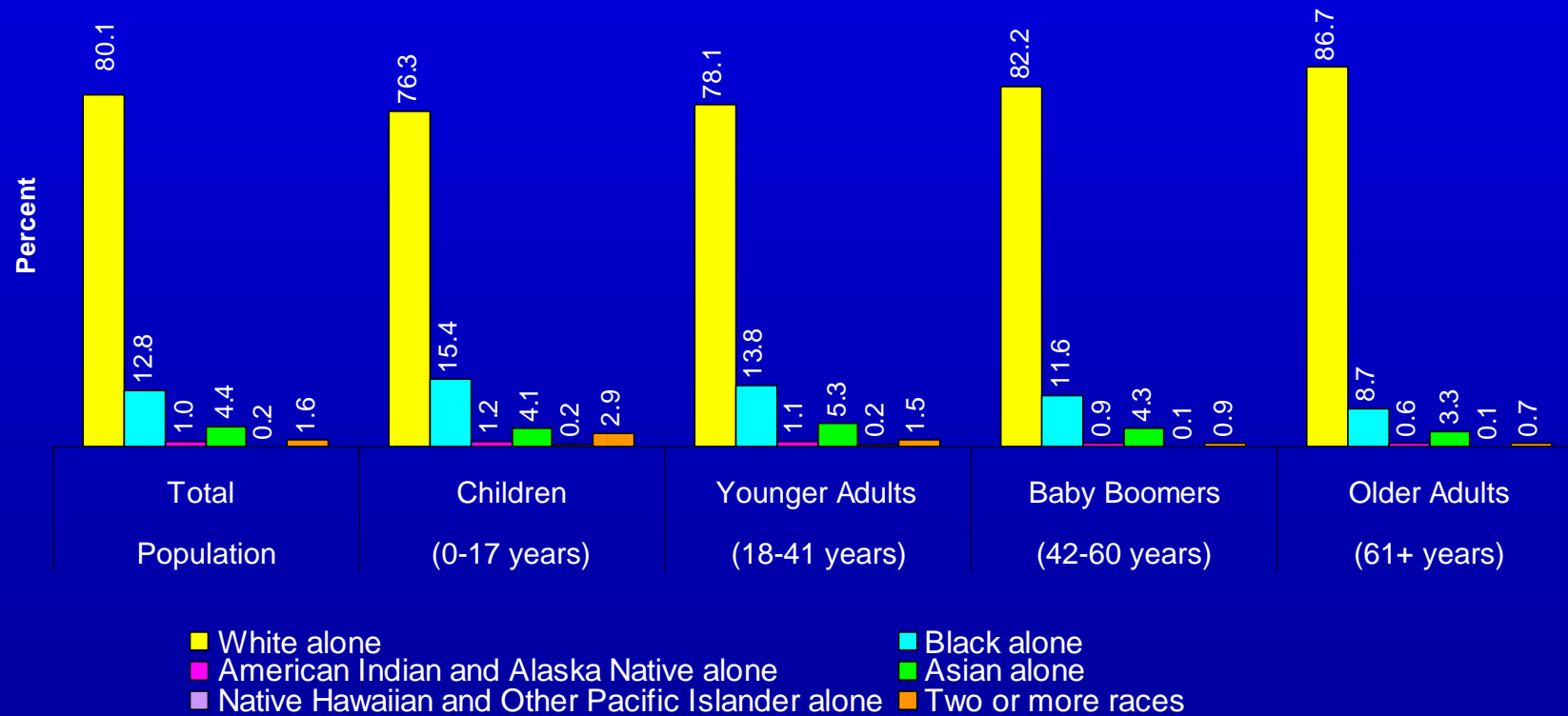


Hispanic Origin: 2006

* Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.



Racial Composition: 2006



Socioeconomic Characteristics from the 2006 American Community Survey (ACS)

(The following are survey estimates and are subject to sampling and nonsampling error.)

Benefits of Using 2006 ACS Data

- Every year, the ACS releases single year estimates for geographic areas containing a population of 65,000 or more.
- In 2006, the ACS began sampling and collecting data from group quarters (GQ) in addition to housing units.
- For more information, please see *Using Data from the 2006 American Community Survey* at http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/advance_copy_user_guide.pdf

Living Arrangements: 2006

- Living Quarters are classified as either housing units or group quarters.
- Institutional Group Quarters “include facilities for people under formally authorized, supervised care or custody at the time of enumeration; such as correctional facilities, nursing facilities/skilled nursing facilities, in-patient hospice facilities, mental (psychiatric hospitals), group homes for juveniles, and residential treatment centers for juveniles.”
- Noninstitutional Group Quarters “include facilities that are not classified as institutional group quarters; such as college/university housing, group homes intended for adults, residential treatment facilities for adults, workers’ group living quarters and Job Corps centers and religious group quarters.”

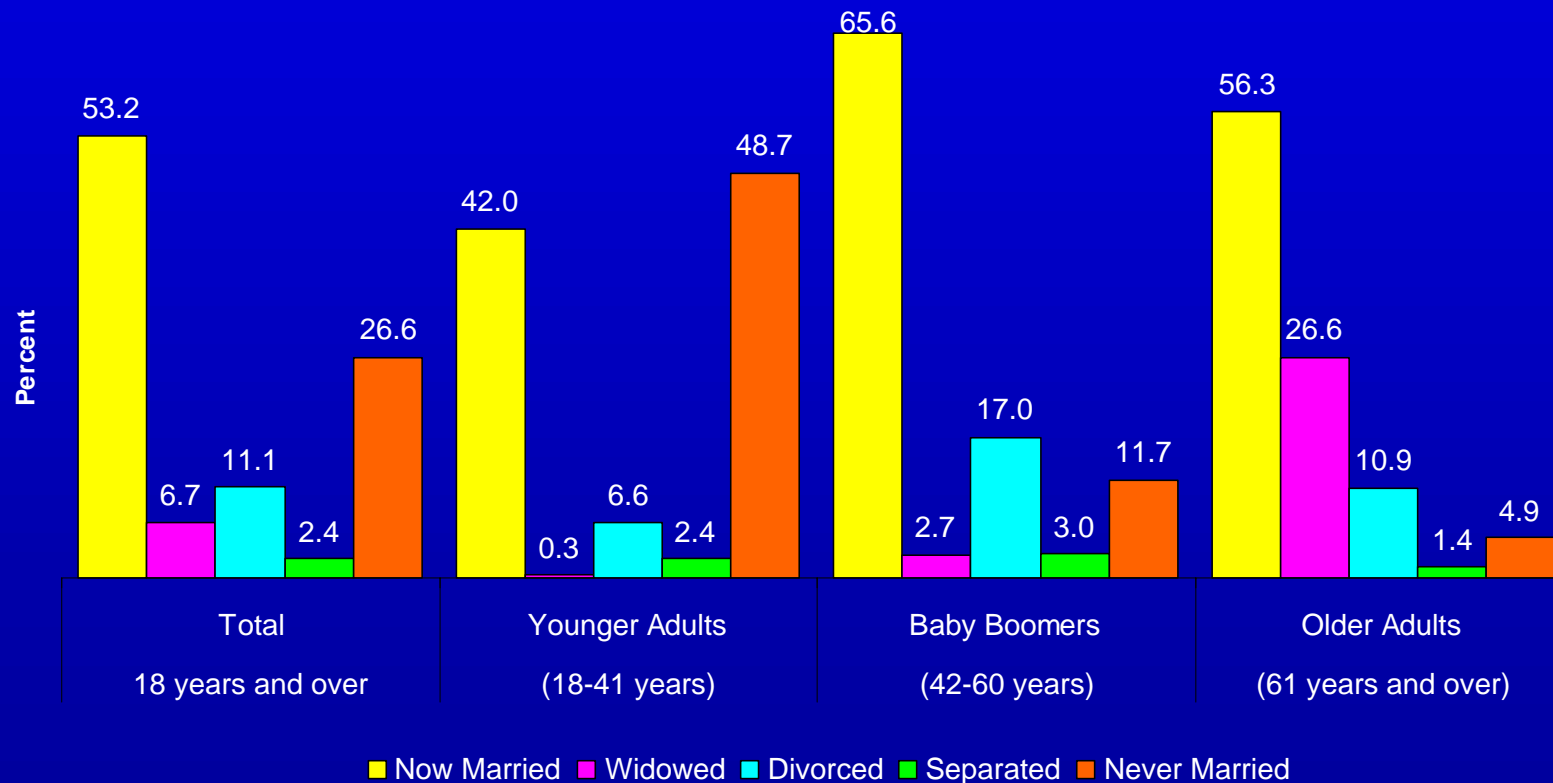
Living Arrangements: 2006

- In 2006, 1.5 percent of Baby Boomers resided in a Group Quarters facility.
- Of the Baby Boomers living in Group Quarters, 59.5 percent resided in an institutional GQ.

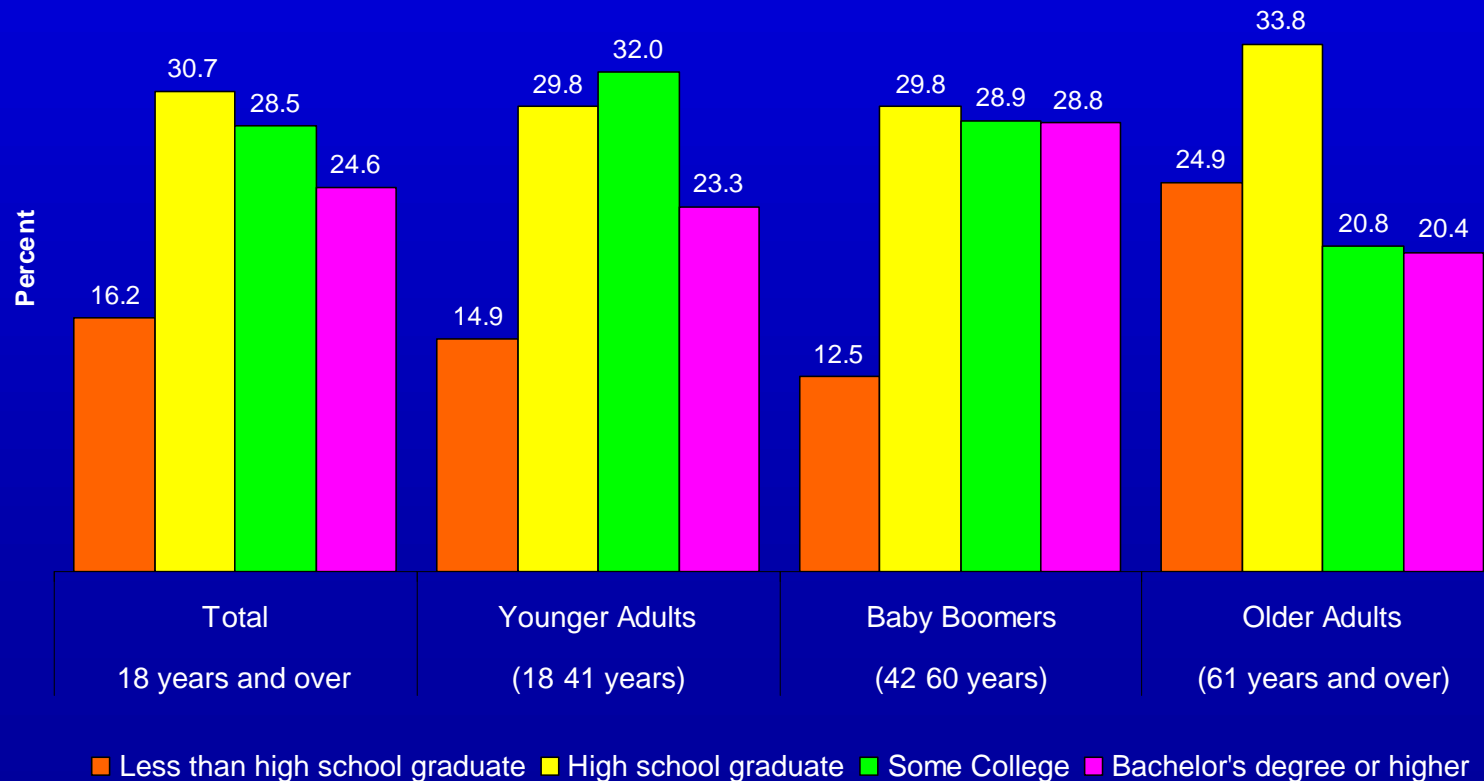
Living Arrangements: 2006

Group Quarters	Total Population 18+ years	Younger Adults 18-41 years	Baby Boomers 42-60 years	Older Adults 61+ years
Living in Group Quarters (percent)	3.5	4.6	1.5	4.2
institutionalized (percent)	50.8	33.8	59.5	84.4
noninstitutionalized (percent)	49.2	66.2	40.5	15.6

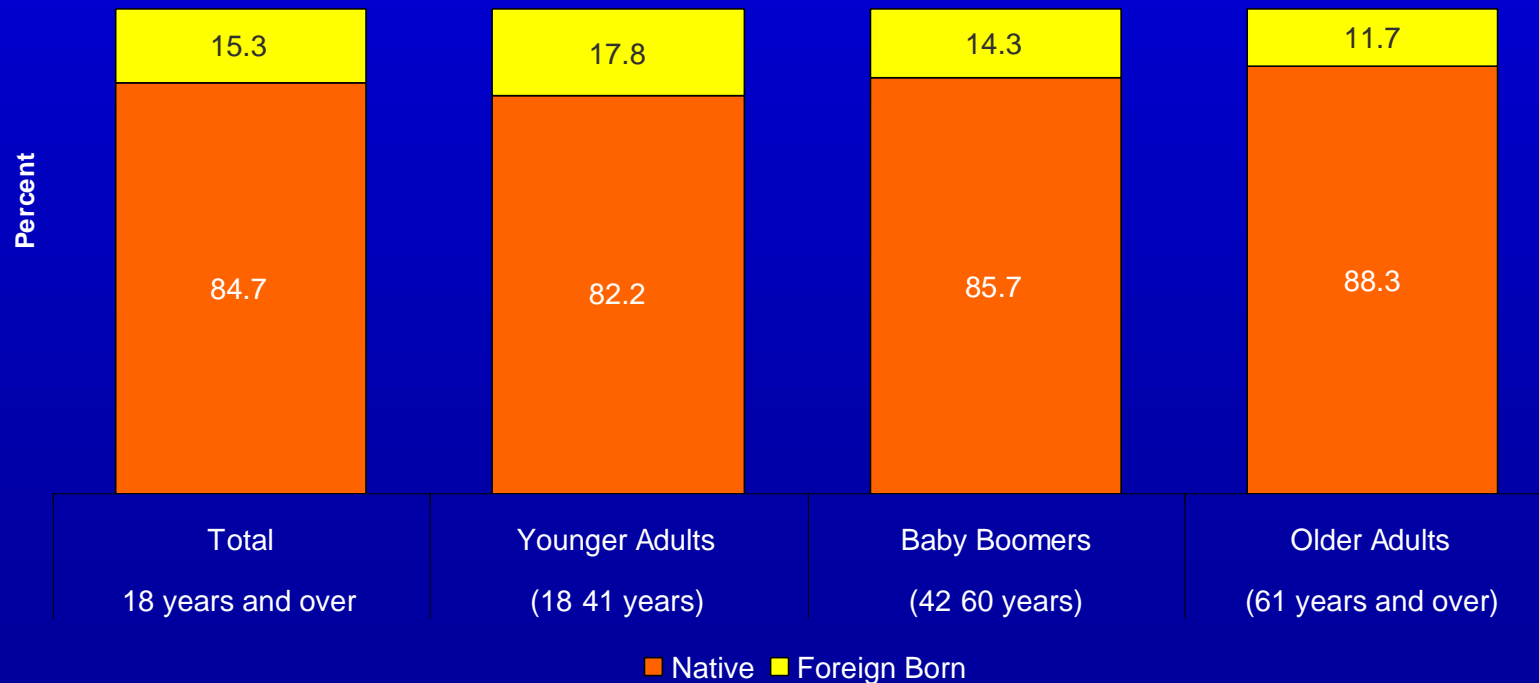
Marital Status: 2006



Educational Attainment: 2006

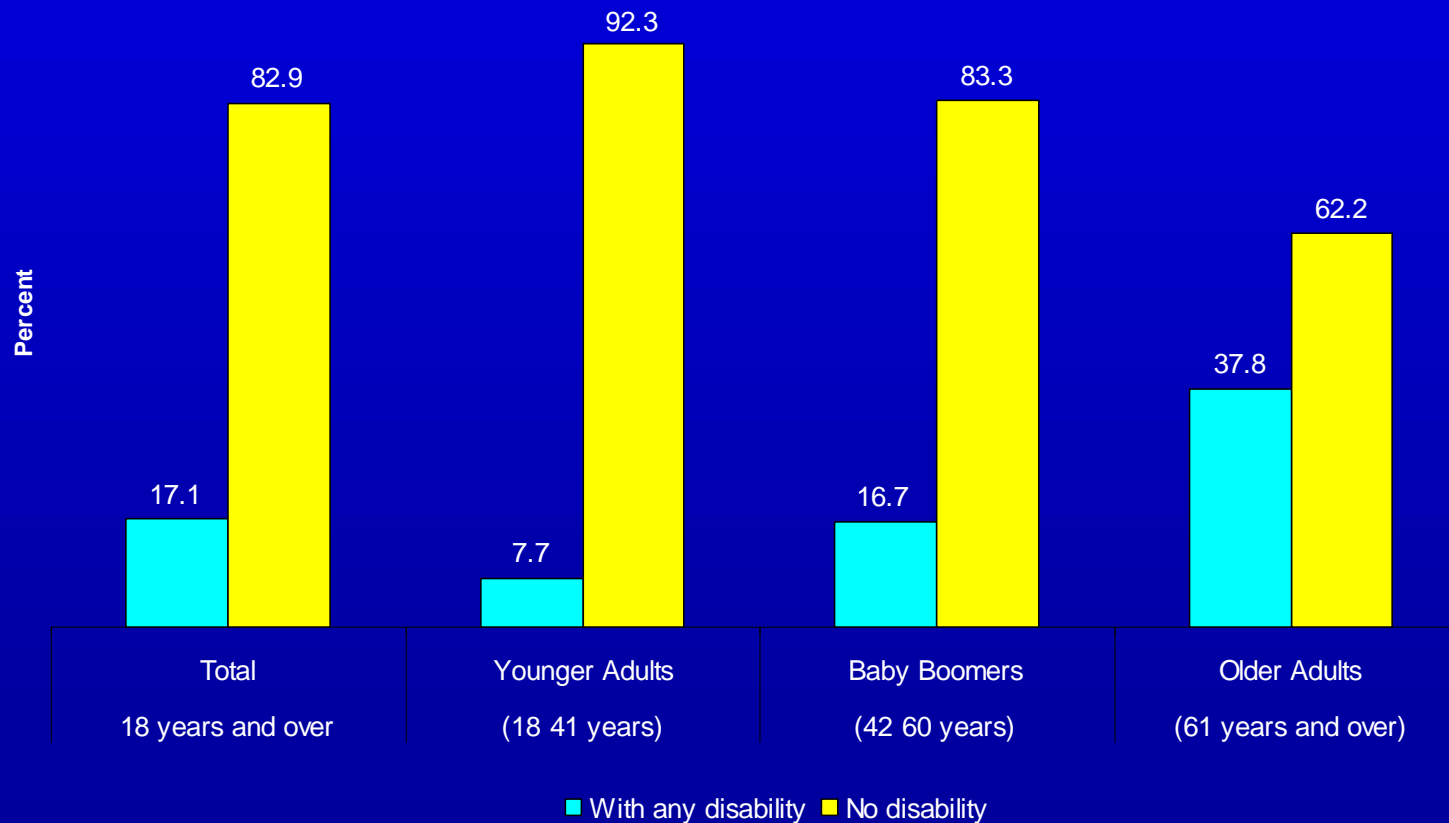


Nativity: 2006

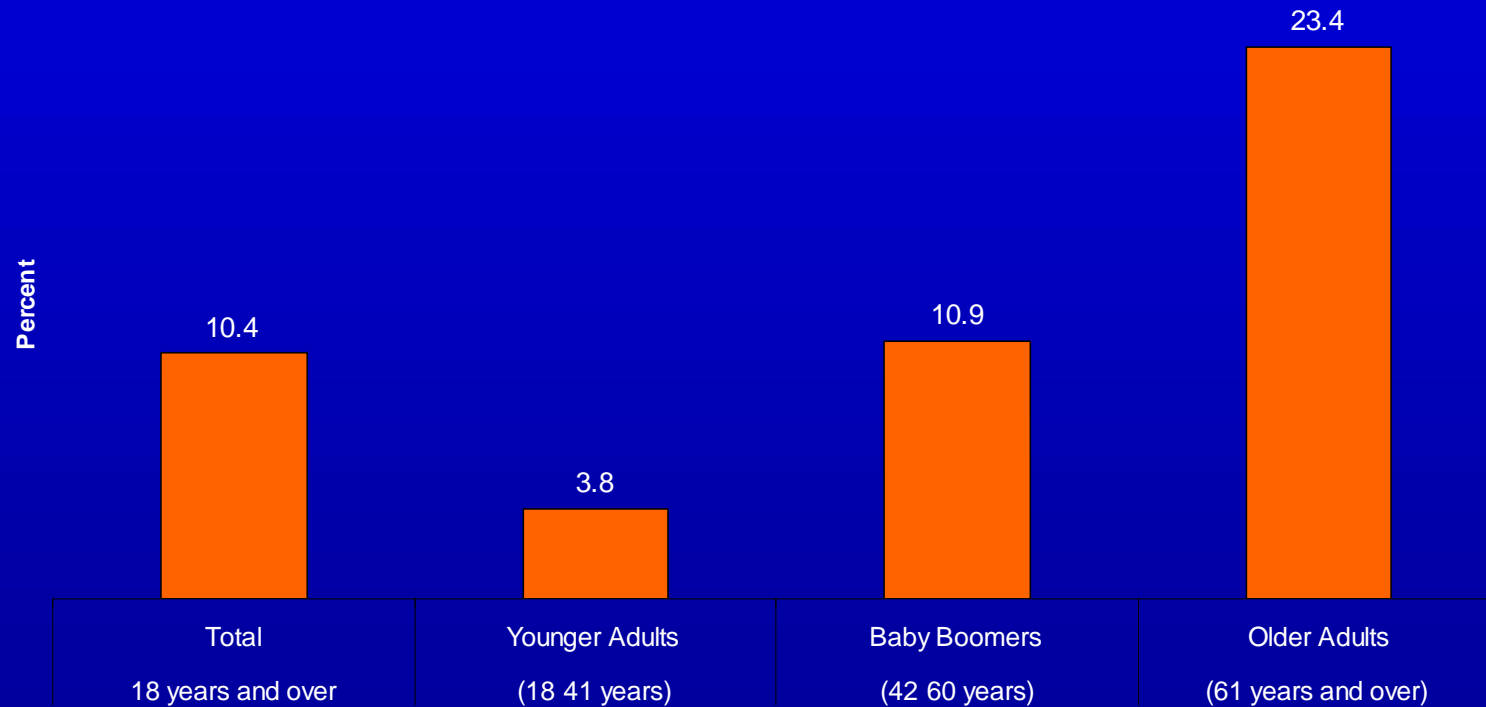


Disability Status: 2006

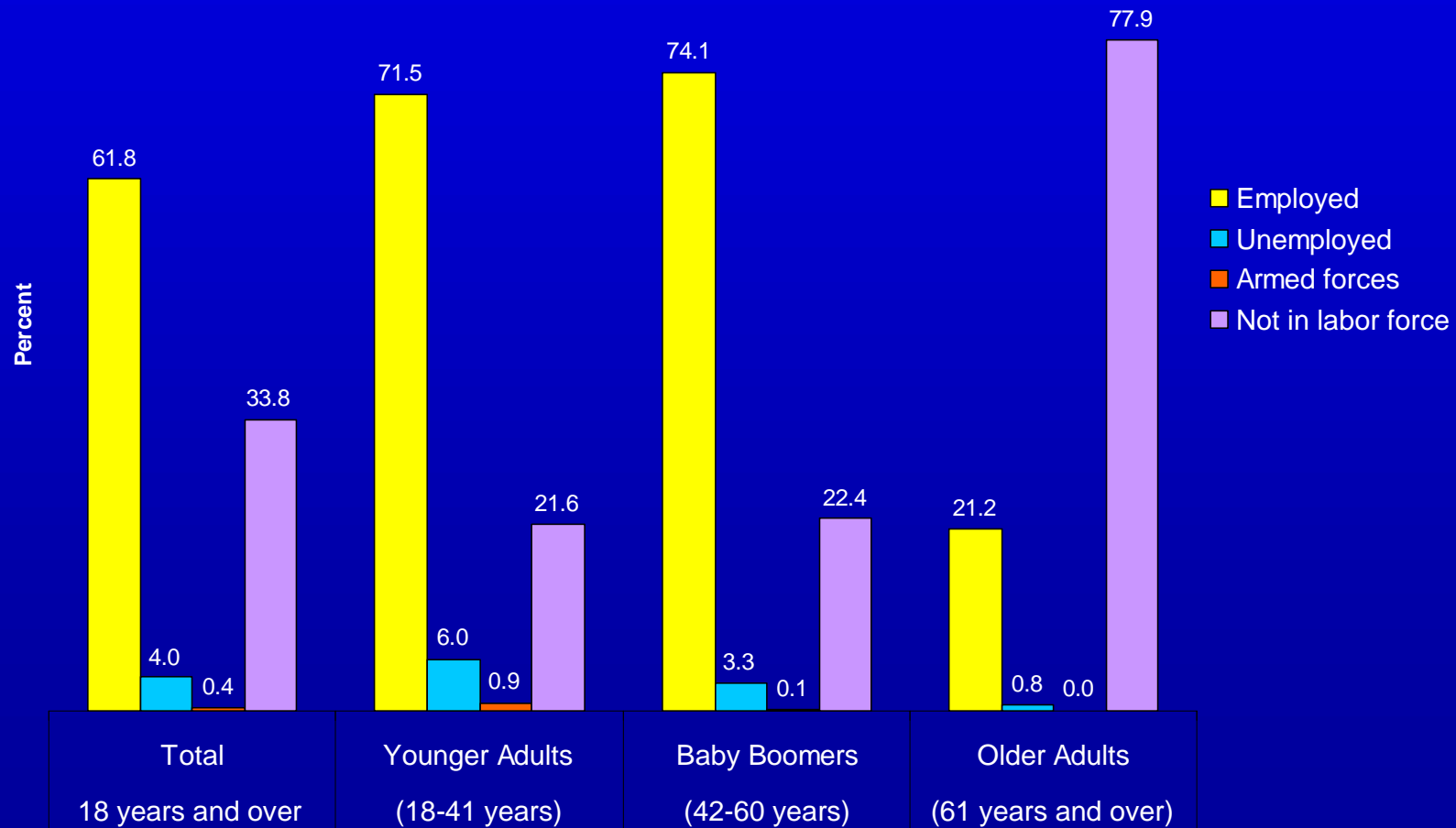
(Civilian noninstitutionalized population)



Civilian Veterans: 2006



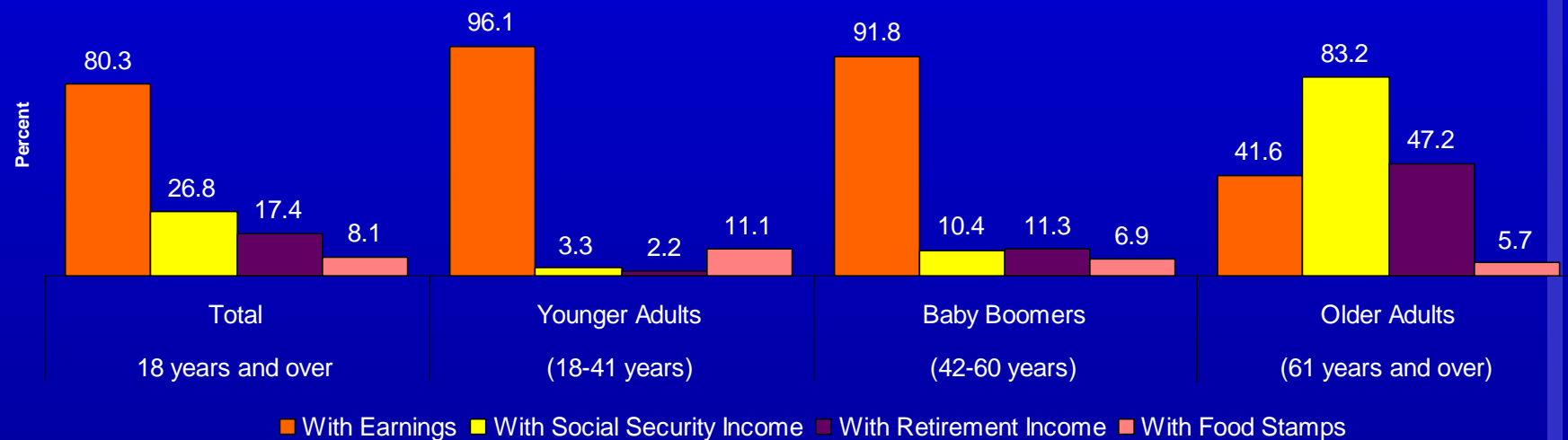
Employment Status: 2006



Selected Household Income*: 2006

Note: The age data refer to the age of the householder for the estimates of households.

* In the past 12 months in 2006 inflation-adjusted dollars

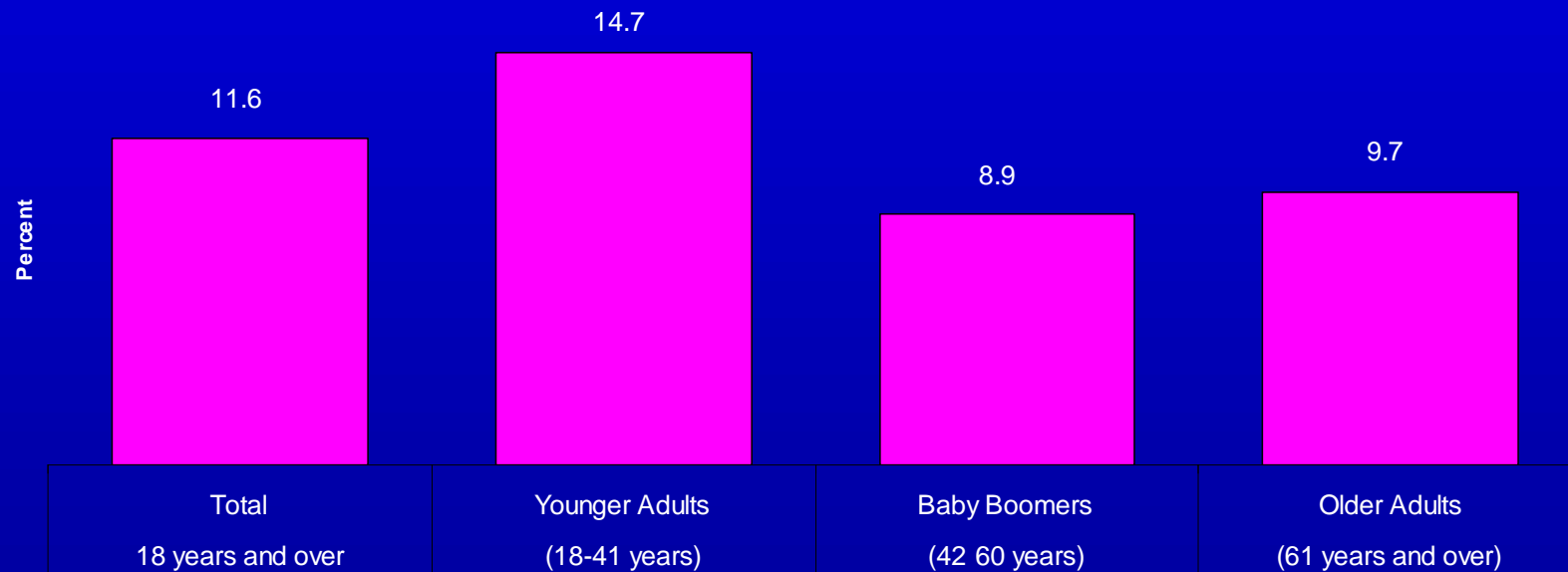


Baby Boomers: Poverty Status

- ACS determines poverty status by comparing a person's total family income in the last 12 months with the poverty threshold appropriate with that family size and composition. If family income is below the appropriate threshold, the person and/or family members are considered to be below the poverty level.
- Please refer to ACS 2006 Subject Definitions documentation at: http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/2005/usedata/Subject_Definitions.pdf

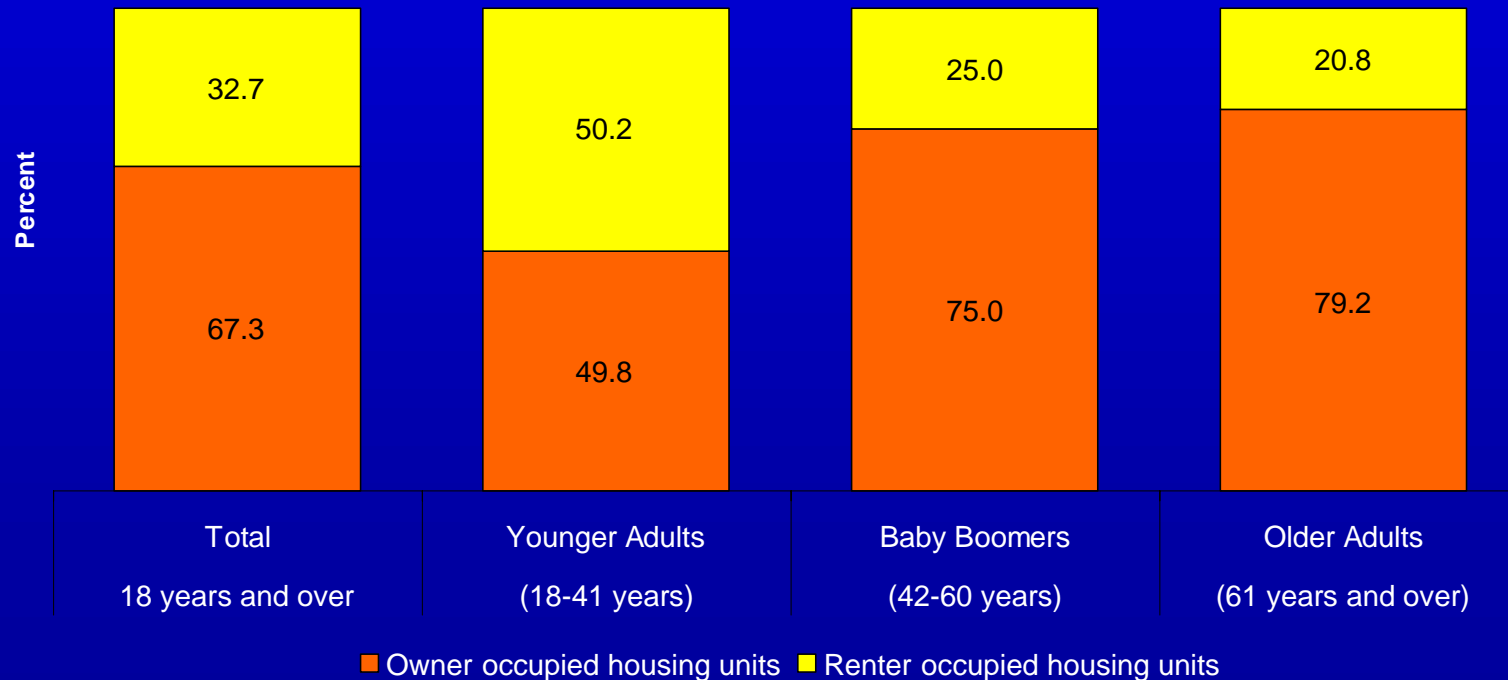
Poverty: 2006

(Population for whom poverty status is determined)



Housing Tenure: 2006

(Occupied Housing units)



Highlights of Baby Boomer Characteristics

- Baby Boomers still comprise a large portion of the U.S. population. Over one-fourth of the total U.S. population in 2006 was between ages 42 and 60.

Highlights of Baby Boomer Characteristics

- In 2006, the majority of Baby Boomers:
 - reported race as White and ethnicity as non-Hispanic
 - are currently married
 - reported having some college or higher
 - are currently employed and working

Estimates and Projections Data

For more information about the Estimates and Projections data please go to:

- *Population Estimates*
<http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.html>
- *Population Projections*
<http://www.census.gov/population/www/projections/index.html>

Quality of ACS Survey Data

For more information about the ACS sampling methodology and design, response rates, coverage and accuracy of the data please go to:

- *US Census Bureau Design and Methodology: American Community Survey (Technical Paper 67)*
<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/index.html>
- *2006 Data Users Handbook: American Community Survey*
<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/Handbook2006.pdf>

For More Information Visit

Web:

www.census.gov

Age Data:

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/age/>

Age and Special Populations Branch
Population Division
U.S. Census Bureau
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