

NATIONAL POPULATION STATISTICS

“During the last century, the average American life expectancy at birth rose from 47 years in 1900 to 77 years and climbing in 2000.” (*Taking Care: Ethical Caregiving in Our Aging Society*, p. 6.)

“...American society is changing, the result of increasing longevity, lower birthrates, and the special anomaly known as the “baby boom” –the great increase in the birth rate between 1946 and 1964 that has produced an unusually large cohort of Americans now between the ages of 40 and 60.” (*Taking Care: Ethical Caregiving in Our Aging Society*, p 7.)

“In the year 1900, there were 3.1 million Americans over the age of 65 (or 4.1 percent of the population). By mid-century, there were 12.3 million people over 65 (or 8.1 percent of the population). In 2000, 35.0 million people were over 65 (12.4 percent of the population), a number that is projected to rise to 71.5 million by 2030 (or 19.6 percent of the population) when the youngest baby-boomers have passed age 65.” (*Taking Care: Ethical Caregiving in Our Aging Society*, p 7.)

“...the oldest of the old (people age 85 or older) are currently the fastest growing segment of the population.” (*Taking Care: Ethical Caregiving in Our Aging Society*, p. 7.)

“Between 2000 and 2050, the U.S. Census Bureau expects the population of Americans....age 65 to 74 will nearly *double*, from 18 million to 35 million; the population age 75 to 84 will more than double, from 12 million to 26 million; and the population age 85 and above will *more than quadruple*, from 4 million to 18 million.” (*Taking Care: Ethical Caregiving in Our Aging Society*, p 7-8).

“In 2000, only one state (Florida) had a population with at least 17 percent of the population aged 65 and older. By 2030, 44 states will have populations with at least 17 percent of the population aged 65 or older.” (*Taking Care: Ethical Caregiving in Our Aging Society*, p 9.)