

BOSTON BY THE NUMBERS

ELDERLY



CITY OF BOSTON
MAYOR THOMAS M. MENINO

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 Boston
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Authority
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POPULATION

- Since 2000, the elderly population has remained at a fairly constant size, only growing 1.5% to reach 62,237 individuals in 2010.
- The elderly as a percent of the total population of Boston shrunk slightly over the last decade from 10.4% to 10.1%.

AGE

- Just over half of the elderly population is between the ages of 65 and 75.
- There was very little change in the age distribution within the last decade.

RACE

RACIAL/ETHNIC BREAKDOWN OF BOSTON'S ELDERLY POPULATION¹

Race Distribution (100% data)	# of Elderly Individuals	% of Elderly Population	% Change since 2000
White	35,255	56.6%	-15.6%
Black or African American	14,400	23.1%	29.9%
Asian	5,549	8.9%	49.5%
Hispanic or Latino	5,395	8.7%	82.9%

Source: US Census Bureau, BRA Research Division Analysis

- While the elderly population of Boston has become increasingly more diverse in the last decade, the elderly still remain predominantly white. This differs from the total population of Boston, in which white individuals now make up only 47%.

¹The US Census Bureau does not classify Hispanic as a race. In the table above, we treated Hispanic as a unique category and removed people of Hispanic ancestry from each racial group.

HOUSING

- 94.7% of the elderly live in some form of household while 5.3% reside in group quarters.
- The number of elderly living in group quarters decreased by approximately 33.6%, while those living in a household increased by about 4.5%

NEIGHBORHOOD

- In 2010, Bay Village had the highest percentage of elderly residents with 21.3%; Longwood Medical Area had the lowest percentage of elderly residents with .5%.
- In 2010, Dorchester had the largest number of elderly residents, with close to 11,000.
- Among the more populous neighborhoods,² Beacon Hill and Mattapan experienced the most significant increases in elderly population, with 34.3% and 34.2%, respectively. Among these same neighborhoods, East Boston experienced the largest decline in its population of elderly residents over the last decade with a change of -24.8%.

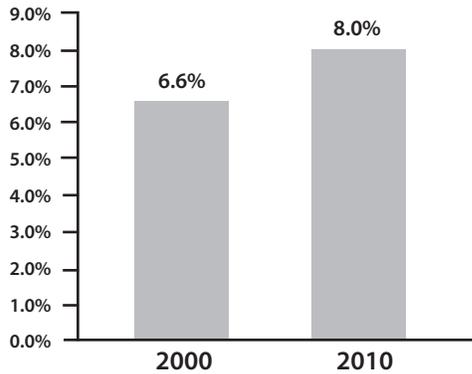
* see attached chart for more detail on the elderly population by neighborhood.

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

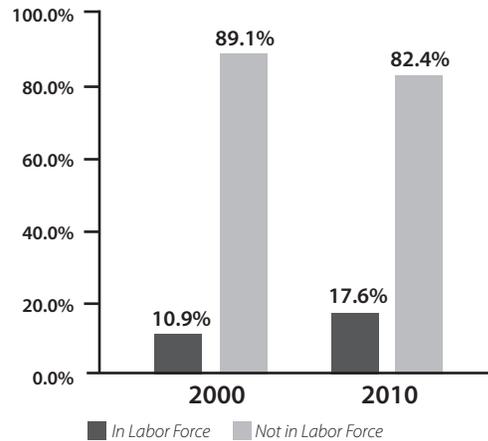
- In 2010, approximately 17.6% of the elderly population was in the labor force.
- Older workers in Boston tend to participate in the labor market at a greater rate than the national average of 16.1% participation.
- Since 2000, the number of employed elderly has increased by 67.3%, while the number of unemployed has increased by 37.5%.
- Since 2000, there has been a 5.5% decrease in the number of individuals outside of the labor force.
- The most recent recession could be influencing these trends. The recent economic downturn adversely impacted the retirement saving of many Americans. This has led to many workers choosing to postpone retirement.

²Excluding the Harbor Islands, Leather District, Longwood Medical Area, and South Boston Waterfront.

ELDERLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN BOSTON



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION IN BOSTON



Source: 2000 US Census & American Community Survey 2010, BRA Research Division Analysis

DISABILITIES

- Approximately 41.6% of the elderly live with some type of disability.
- In the last 10 years there was a decrease of close to 5% (1,279 individuals) in the number of elderly with disabilities.

POVERTY STATUS

- Overall, 20.6% of the elderly population lives below the poverty line, compared to 21.2% of Boston's general population.
- There was an 18.6% increase in the number of elderly living below the poverty line.



ELDERLY POPULATION BY NEIGHBORHOOD

	2000			2010			% Change of Population
	#	% of Elderly	% of Neighborhood	#	% of Elderly	% of Neighborhood	
Allston	1,065	1.7%	4.2%	1,095	1.8%	3.8%	2.8%
Back Bay	1,555	2.5%	8.7%	2,056	3.3%	11.4%	32.2%
Bay Village	264	0.4%	22.1%	279	0.4%	21.3%	5.7%
Beacon Hill	696	1.1%	7.7%	935	1.5%	10.4%	34.3%
Brighton	5,484	8.9%	12.5%	4,904	7.9%	10.7%	-10.6%
Charlestown	1,643	2.7%	10.8%	1,684	2.7%	10.2%	2.5%
Chinatown	677	1.1%	19.0%	681	1.1%	15.3%	0.6%
Dorchester	9,933	16.2%	8.4%	10,742	17.3%	9.4%	8.1%
Downtown	1,209	2.0%	16.4%	1,332	2.1%	11.9%	10.2%
East Boston	4,696	7.7%	12.2%	3,532	5.7%	8.7%	-24.8%
Fenway	1,479	2.4%	5.0%	1,525	2.5%	4.5%	3.1%
Harbor Islands	22	0.0%	3.4%	15	0.0%	2.8%	-31.8%
Hyde Park	3,974	6.5%	13.2%	3,944	6.3%	12.9%	-0.8%
Jamaica Plain	3,738	6.1%	9.8%	4,007	6.4%	10.7%	7.2%
Leather District	4	0.0%	1.8%	25	0.0%	3.9%	525.0%
Longwood Medical Area	21	0.0%	0.5%	18	0.0%	0.5%	-14.3%
Mattapan	2,000	3.3%	8.1%	2,684	4.3%	11.9%	34.2%
Mission Hill	1,262	2.1%	9.1%	1,477	2.4%	9.1%	17.0%
North End	1,468	2.4%	15.2%	1,308	2.1%	12.9%	-10.9%
Roslindale	3,954	6.4%	13.0%	3,477	5.6%	12.1%	-12.1%
Roxbury	3,781	6.2%	9.1%	4,458	7.2%	9.2%	17.9%
South Boston	3,994	6.5%	12.9%	3,234	5.2%	9.7%	-19.0%
South Boston Waterfront	15	0.0%	2.9%	60	0.1%	3.2%	300.0%
South End	1,998	3.3%	9.1%	2,611	4.2%	10.6%	30.7%
West End	613	1.0%	17.0%	679	1.1%	16.6%	10.8%
West Roxbury	5,791	9.4%	20.1%	5,476	8.8%	18.0%	-5.4%

Source: US Census Bureau, BRA Research Division Analysis