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# Population Update, Report Number 1

M P. Riley  
*South Dakota State University*

R. T. Wagner  
*South Dakota State University*

F. G. Bender

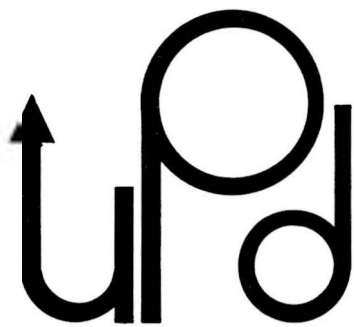
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# POPULATION UPDATE

Update Series, Report No. 1  
Department of Rural Sociology  
Agricultural Experiment Station  
South Dakota State University  
Brookings, South Dakota

By: Marvin P. Riley, and Robert T. Wagner, Professors,  
and  
Fred G. Bender, student research assistant,  
Department of Rural Sociology

How many persons of the ages 60 and over or 65 and over are living in South Dakota counties? How rapidly is this segment of our population growing? Answers to these questions are essential to planning efforts for the many federal, state, and local programs dealing with the unique needs of the elderly.

The U.S. National Clearinghouse on Aging, in conjunction with the Bureau of the Census, has annually estimated the population of those 60 and over (60+) and 65 and over (65+) since 1974.<sup>1</sup> In order to provide a better understanding of the Clearinghouse's estimates for South Dakota's counties, and to make this information available to more people, the Rural Sociology Department at South Dakota State University, Brookings, has prepared this Population Update bulletin.

## South Dakota Statistics

The U.S. 1970 Census showed South Dakota had 80,274 people 65+ years of age, which was 12.1% of the state's population. (Table 1). By 1975, the figure had jumped to 85,400 (12.5%), 5,000 more than in 1970.

Turner County showed the largest proportion 65+ population in 1975, with 20% of its total population in this age group. The smallest percentage of elderly people, 5%, was in the Indian reservation county of Shannon. Looking at the state as a whole, the 65+ population

increased by 6.3% from 1970 to 1975. (Table 2) The rate of increase of 1.2% per year is just about the same rate as during the 1960's.

Out of the state's 67 counties, 59 had increases in their elderly populations. Stanley County had the greatest increase of 22% in the 65+ population. Eight counties had declines in the 65+ age group. The greatest decline was Faulk County with -7%.

The data estimates for the 65+ population are based on Medicare enrollments, and are considered to have a "high degree of reliability" by the Clearinghouse on the Aging.<sup>2</sup> The data for the 60+ population estimates are based on adjusted county ratios, and are only rough estimates. However, the 60+ estimates are included in Population Update because they partially indicate future trends for the 65+ population.

Table 1 lists the following by county: the total population, the number of persons 60+ and 65+, the total state population as of April 1, 1970, and the population estimates as of July 1, 1975. The data shown for 1970 are U.S. 1970 Census counts, and the data shown for 1975 are the Clearinghouse estimates.

Table 2 shows the percentage of the total state population that was 60+ and 65+ in 1970 and 1975, and also shows the percentage change and number change between those years. The estimates for 1975 in Table 1 have been rounded by the Clearinghouse to the nearest hundred; however, percentage figures presented in Table 2 are based on the estimates before rounding.

Figure 1 and 2 show the 65+ percentages from Table 1 arranged on state maps.

Figure 1 shows the highest percentage of persons 65+ is predominately in the eastern half of the state. Fall River County is the only county in the western half of the state to fall into either of the two higher percentage classifications. One apparent reason for high percentages of persons 65+ in individual counties concerns the presence or absence of urban (places with a population 2500+) in 1970. None of the eleven counties that have the largest percentage of persons 65+ have urban places. Instead, they contain a number of small towns which have become desirable retirement

Figure 1. Percentage of Population 65 and Over, 1975

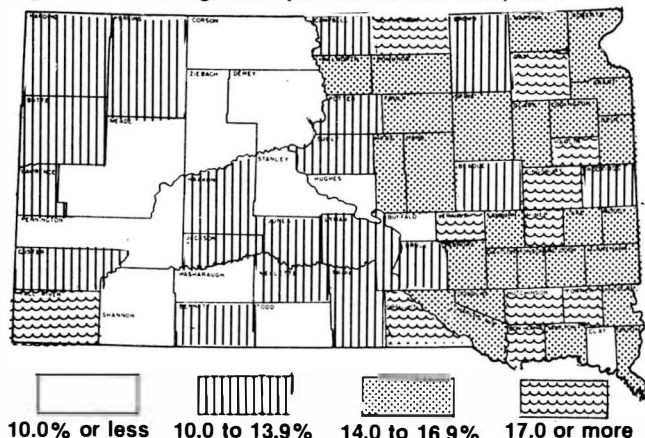


Table 1. Population 60 and Over and 65 and Over in 1970 and 1975 for S.D. Counties

County	1975 Estimate			1970 U.S. Census		
	Total Population	Population 60 and Over	Population 65 and Over	Total* Population	Population 60 and Over	Population 65 and Over
STATE TOTAL	683300	116700	85400	665507	109559	80274
AURORA	4000	800	600	4183	795	572
BEADLE	20000	3700	2700	20877	3593	2668
BENNETT	3300	500	300	3088	432	298
BON HOMME	7900	1900	1400	8577	1802	1338
BROOKINGS	22600	3200	2400	22158	3086	2292
BROWN	37800	5800	4300	36920	5419	3987
BRULE	5800	1100	800	5870	1014	752
BUFFALO	1800	200	100	1739	168	119
BUTTE	8400	1500	1100	7825	1389	992
CAMPBELL	2500	500	300	2866	453	309
CHARLES MIX	10500	2000	1500	9994	1812	1314
CLARK	5800	1200	900	5515	1233	937
CLAY	13400	1500	1100	12923	1514	1122
CODINGTON	19900	3800	2800	19140	3511	2599
CORSON	5000	600	400	4994	571	391
CUSTER	5300	900	700	4698	860	595
DAVISON	17800	3500	2700	17319	3291	2515
DAY	8500	2000	1500	8713	1982	1543
DEUEL	5700	1300	900	5686	1232	878
DEWEY	6000	600	400	5170	583	398
DOUGLAS	4500	900	700	4569	887	665
EDMUNDS	5600	1200	900	5548	1047	776
FALL RIVER	8400	2100	1600	7505	2071	1587
FAULK	3600	700	500	3893	732	569
GRANT	9700	1900	1400	9005	1821	1367
GREGORY	6500	1600	1200	6710	1483	1089
HAAKON	2700	500	300	2802	444	311
HAMLIN	5500	1300	1000	5172	1338	996
HAND	5400	1100	800	5883	1020	736
HANSON	3600	700	500	3781	734	559
HARDING	1000	300	200	1855	286	186
HUGHES	13500	1700	1200	11632	1489	1037
HUTCHINSON	9700	2600	1900	10379	2374	1789
HYDE	2400	500	300	2515	491	355
JACKSON	1600	300	200	1531	256	184
JERAULD	3000	800	600	3310	768	579
JONES	1600	300	200	1882	312	207
KINGSBURY	7200	1900	1400	7657	1828	1386
LAKE	10600	2400	1700	11456	2143	1565
LAWRENCE	16700	2900	2000	17453	2628	1883
LINCOLN	12500	2700	2000	11761	2471	1844
LYMAN	4100	700	500	4060	612	429
MCCOOK	6900	1500	1200	7246	1307	1146
MCPHERSON	4600	1100	800	5022	979	725
MARSHALL	5700	1300	1000	5965	1255	962
MEADE	18300	2000	1400	16618	1812	1301
MELLETTE	2400	400	300	2420	334	232
MINER	4100	1100	800	4454	1026	773
MINNEHAHA	100100	14700	10700	95209	13083	9519
MOODY	7600	1600	1100	7622	1503	1088
PENNINGTON	67400	7300	5000	59349	6531	4492
PERKINS	4800	900	600	4769	814	574
POTTER	4200	800	600	4449	784	584
ROBERTS	11800	2600	1900	11678	2424	1766
SANBORN	3400	800	600	3697	738	549
SHANNON	9400	700	500	8198	699	436
SPINK	10000	2000	1500	10595	2118	1559
STANLEY	2500	400	200	2457	307	190
SULLY	2200	300	300	2362	344	256
TODD	7300	700	500	6606	587	412
TRIPP	8300	1300	1000	8171	1293	429
TURNER	9400	2500	1900	9872	2363	1788
UNION	10400	2000	1500	9643	1894	1432
WALWORTH	7800	1500	1100	7842	1461	1056
WASHA BAUGH	1500	200	100	1389	137	91
YANKTON	17900	3500	2600	19039	3358	2469
ZIEBACH	2700	300	200	2221	233	167

Table 2. Percentage Measures: Population 60 and Over and 65 and Over in 1970 and 1975

County	(1975 Estimate)		Change-1970 to 1975			
	Percent of Total Population		60 Years and Over		65 Years and Over	
	60 and Over	65 and Over	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
STATE, TOTAL	17.1	12.5	7100	6.5	5100	6.3
AURORA	21.0	15.1	(Z)	5.5	(Z)	3.4
BEADLE	18.3	13.6	100	2.2	100	2.1
BENNETT	14.9	10.3	100	15.3	(Z)	15.1
BON HOMME	23.6	17.5	100	3.2	(Z)	3.1
BROOKINGS	14.1	10.5	100	3.0	100	2.9
BROWN	15.4	11.3	400	7.2	300	7.0
BRULE	18.2	13.4	(Z)	3.6	(Z)	3.5
BUFFALO	8.6	6.1	(Z)	-6.0	(Z)	-5.9
BUTTE	18.4	13.2	200	11.3	100	11.2
CAMPBELL	20.4	13.9	100	12.8	(Z)	12.6
CHARLES MIX	19.3	14.0	200	11.9	200	11.8
CLARK	21.1	16.1	(Z)	0.9	(Z)	-1.0
CLAY	11.5	8.5	(Z)	1.5	(Z)	1.3
CODINGTON	19.0	14.0	300	7.3	200	7.2
CORSON	11.7	8.0	(Z)	2.3	(Z)	2.3
CUSTER	17.8	12.3	100	10.0	100	9.9
DAVISON	19.5	14.9	200	5.6	100	5.5
DAY	23.2	18.1	(Z)	0.8	(Z)	0.6
DEUEL	22.7	16.1	100	5.8	(Z)	5.6
DEWEY	9.9	6.8	(Z)	1.4	(Z)	1.5
DOUGLAS	20.6	15.5	(Z)	4.6	(Z)	4.7
EDMUNDS	20.9	15.5	100	11.6	100	11.7
FALL RIVER	24.6	18.8	(Z)	0.6	(Z)	0.7
FAULK	18.9	14.7	(Z)	-6.6	(Z)	-6.7
GRANT	19.4	14.5	100	3.2	(Z)	3.1
GREGORY	25.0	18.4	100	9.3	100	9.3
HAAKON	16.7	11.7	(Z)	2.5	(Z)	2.3
HAMLIN	24.6	18.3	(Z)	0.4	(Z)	0.3
HAND	20.7	14.9	100	8.9	100	8.8
HANSON	19.0	14.4	(Z)	-5.6	(Z)	-5.7
HARDING	16.8	10.9	(Z)	10.5	(Z)	10.2
HUGHES	12.5	8.7	200	13.6	100	13.5
HUTCHINSON	26.5	19.9	200	8.8	200	8.7
HYDE	19.8	14.3	(Z)	-1.4	(Z)	-1.7
JACKSON	17.3	12.4	(Z)	11.3	(Z)	10.9
JERAULD	25.3	19.1	(Z)	0.9	(Z)	0.9
JONES	18.8	12.0	(Z)	-8.5	(Z)	-0.5
KINGSBURY	25.8	19.6	(Z)	-1.6	(Z)	1.4
LAKE	22.5	16.4	300	11.7	200	11.6
LAWRENCE	17.0	12.2	200	8.5	200	8.4
LINCOLN	21.9	16.3	300	10.9	200	10.8
LYMAN	16.7	11.7	100	11.8	100	11.7
McCOOK	22.3	16.9	(Z)	2.5	(Z)	2.4
McPHERSON	24.2	17.9	100	14.7	100	14.5
MARSHALL	22.1	16.9	(Z)	0.4	(Z)	0.5
MEADE	10.8	7.8	200	9.3	100	9.2
MELLETTE	15.2	10.6	(Z)	9.0	(Z)	9.1
MINER	25.5	19.2	(Z)	2.3	(Z)	2.2
MINNEHAHA	14.6	10.6	1600	12.0	1100	11.9
MOODY	20.8	15.1	100	5.2	100	5.1
PENNINGTON	10.8	7.4	800	11.8	500	11.7
PERKINS	18.2	12.8	100	6.5	(Z)	6.4
POTTER	18.7	13.9	(Z)	0.5	(Z)	0.3
ROBERTS	22.3	16.3	200	8.7	200	8.7
SANBORN	22.3	16.6	(Z)	3.7	(Z)	3.6
SHANNON	7.0	5.0	(Z)	-5.7	(Z)	-3.8
SPINK	20.6	15.1	-100	-3.3	-100	-3.4
STANLEY	14.7	9.1	100	21.8	(Z)	22.1
SULLY	15.8	11.7	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)
TODD	8.9	6.3	100	11.2	(Z)	11.2
TRIPP	16.1	11.6	(Z)	3.6	(Z)	3.4
TURNER	26.4	20.0	100	4.7	100	4.8
UNION	19.0	14.3	100	4.4	100	4.3
WALWORTH	19.7	14.2	100	5.7	100	5.6
WASHA BAUGH	9.8	6.5	(Z)	9.5	(Z)	9.9
YANKTON	19.7	14.5	200	5.2	100	5.1
ZIEBACH	10.2	7.3	(Z)	17.2	(Z)	16.8

\*'Z' values represent less than 100 persons

locations for the aged in our state. For example, Turner County has 10 such places. Of the 24 counties that fall into the second highest category, only nine have a town with a population of 2500 + .<sup>3</sup>

Figure 2 shows the percentage change in the number of persons 65 + between the years 1970 and 1975 for each of South Dakota's 67 counties. While there seems to be no apparent overall pattern of change, individual counties often border one or more counties with the same classification. Further in-depth analysis, considering such factors as changing agricultural and industrial trends, loss of farm population, and trends in net out-migration, would need to be taken into account to determine any direction to the change.

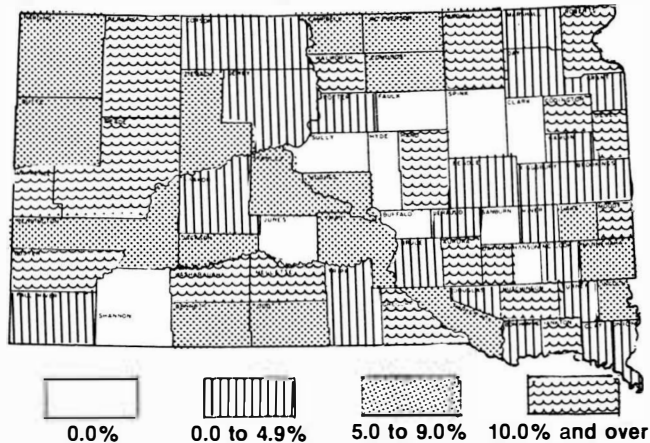
It is important to understand that the **proportion** of persons 60 + or 65 + years to those under the age of 60 or 65 can be

influenced by either adding or subtracting persons on **either** side of ages 60 or 65. For example, the loss in population due to out-migration of persons in their twenties can affect the proportion of the population 65 + .

Whatever the reasons, it is apparent that our state is experiencing a change in the age structure of our population at all levels. Table 2 shows an increase of 6.5% in the number of persons 60 + and 6.3% increase in the number of persons 65 + .

In general, the elderly people in South Dakota are comprising a larger segment of our state's population today than they ever have before. As citizens we need to reflect on the implications of this change for the economy and the welfare of our state. More than ever before the elderly people need to be taken into account in both planning and allocating state, federal and local funds and in researching the special needs of this segment of our state's population.

**Figure 2. Percentage Change 65 Years and Over, 1970-1975**



**Footnotes**

1. Estimates of the 60 + and 65 + Population for Counties and PSA's: 1975, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, National Clearinghouse on Aging, Data Management Center, Computer Operations Division, Washington, D.C.

2. Donald G. Fowles, Estimates of 60 + and 65 + Populations for Counties and PSA's: 1975, Data Analysis and Dissemination Division, National Clearinghouse on Aging, AOA/OHD/DHEW, Washington, D.C., p.3.

3. Marvin P. Riley and Robert T. Wagner, Population Change: South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota.

**Other Population Update topics include:**

- Recent Population Estimates for South Dakota Counties
- Patterns of Population Migration in South Dakota
- Changing Fertility Patterns
- Cost and Value of Children

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