



FEDERATION OF PROTESTANT WELFARE AGENCIES

## Key Facts on Elderly Welfare

The need for elderly services will continue to grow with the number of seniors increasing and older adults living longer. Those elderly aged 65 years and older grew from 35 million in 2000 to 38 million in 2008; representing a 9% increase in the elderly population within this eight year timeframe.<sup>1</sup>

Between 2015 and 2025 the population of those 60 years of age and older in New York State is projected to increase to 4.4 million with the influx of baby boomers comprising 22.2 % of all New Yorkers.<sup>2</sup> Baby Boomers will reach 85 years of age during the period from 2035 to 2055. As the largest growing elderly population, the number of people 85 and older will increase from 277,000 in 1995 to a projected 391,000 in 2025 -- a 41% increase in just over 30 years.<sup>3</sup>

Income support is one of the most critical and mounting needs among the aging, who as of 2008, total 1 million in New York City. The poverty rate among those 65 and over has increased in New York City from 16.5 % in 1990 to 18.5 % in 2008. This is compared to the national poverty rate for the elderly which was 9.8 % in 2008.<sup>4</sup> Note: the poverty rate for elderly New Yorkers rises to 32% under the new measure performed by the Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO).

Grandparent-headed households are on the rise. In fact, a new term -- the "skipped-generation" household, where a grandparent and grandchild reside without a parent present, has been coined. Nationally, some 6 million children live with a grandparent or other relative caregiver and 2.4 million of these children are being raised without their parents present.<sup>5</sup>

In New York State, there are 297,239 children living in grandparent-headed households. There are another 111,806 children living in households headed by other relatives. Of the children living in households headed by grandparents by other relatives in New York, 165,493 are living there without either parent present.<sup>6</sup>

The number of elderly needing mental health services in New York City is expected to grow from 180,000 currently to 300,000 by 2030.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Aging, American Fact Finder, U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3 year estimates, [www.factfinder.census.gov](http://www.factfinder.census.gov).

<sup>2</sup> New York State Office For the Aging, Demographic Projections to 2025, page 7.

<sup>3</sup> New York State Office for the Aging, Demographic Projections to 2025, page 7.

<sup>4</sup> Aging, American Fact Finder, U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3 year estimates, [www.factfinder.census.gov](http://www.factfinder.census.gov).

<sup>5</sup> AARP, State Fact Sheets for Grandparents and other Relatives Raising Children, [www.grandfactsheets.org](http://www.grandfactsheets.org), state\_fact\_sheets 2007.

<sup>6</sup> AARP, Grandfacts, A State Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children, New York, [www.grandfactsheets.org](http://www.grandfactsheets.org). state\_fact\_sheets, March 2008.

<sup>7</sup> Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Older Adults in New York City, <http://www.mhawestchester.org/advocates/tolderadults032207.asp>.