



## LITERACY AND SENIORS

Florida has more citizens aged 65 and over than any other state, except California. Among all states, Florida has by far the highest proportion of citizens who are 65 and over, and is projected to maintain that number-one ranking in the coming decades.

**SOURCE:** Change and Response to Change in Florida's Public Schools.

Florida ranks as the fourth most populous state, with a population of 16.33 million as of April 1, 2001. From 1990 to 2000, the U.S. population has increased about 1% annually, while Florida's population has averaged a 1.8% annual increase.

From 1990 to 2000, the elderly population (aged 65 or older) increased by 18.6% and constituted 17.5% of the State's total population on April 1, 2000. Growth in this age group is projected at 14% between 2000 and 2010, to become 45.1% of total population by 2010.

**SOURCE:** U.S. Census 2000.

The proportion of high-school graduates among the elderly has increased from 64% to 70% from 1995 to 2000, and is expected to increase to over 75% by 2010 as the more educated younger cohorts age. However, in addition to the 30% of the elderly who have not completed high school, an additional proportion of elderly, especially Hispanic elderly, have limited facility in the English language, even though they may have completed high school in their native countries.

**SOURCE:** Aging Into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. National Aging Information Center.