Growth of Aging Population in Massachusetts
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Data released from the 2010 Census reveal that the aging of the population is occurring at a rapid pace in Massachusetts. The number of individuals aged 60 and over, numbering 1.3 million people, increased by 16% between 2000 and 2010 (see Figure). People aged 60 and over now represent 19.5% of Massachusetts’ population. This large increase is due primarily to the aging of the Baby Boom population — the large cohort of individuals born between 1945 and 1964.

Growth in the 60+ population, as well as in the middle-aged population aged 45-59 (which grew 22% during that 10-year time frame), offsets declines in the size of the younger population. Taking all age groups together, Massachusetts increased in population from 6.3 million in 2000 to 6.5 million in 2010, an overall growth of 3.1%.

As a result of the aging of the Massachusetts population, one in five Massachusetts residents is now aged 60 or over, and 14% is aged 65 or more. One-quarter of all the households in Massachusetts includes at least one person aged 65 and over. Indeed, eleven percent of all Massachusetts households are now composed of a person aged 65 and over living alone.