

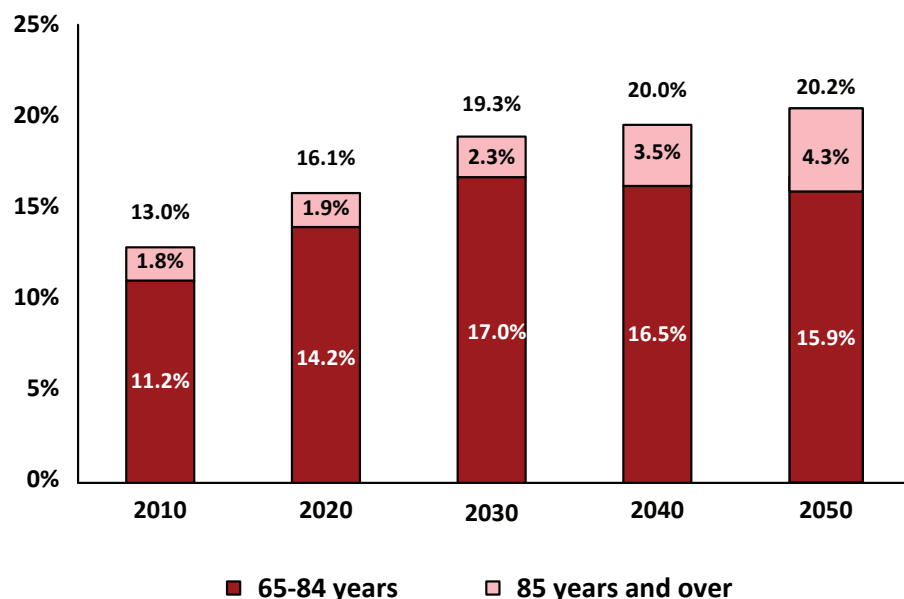
## Growing Demand for Long-Term Care in the U.S. (Updated)

*In 2011, the largest generation in history – the baby boomers – began turning 65. The U.S. population is also living longer, often with chronic illness and disabling conditions. Given these demographic trends, we can anticipate significant growth in the demand for long-term care.*

*This fact sheet describes trends that contribute to the growing demand for long-term care among Americans. All the references accessed to produce this fact sheet are provided for further review.*

- The number of Americans who need long-term care is expected to increase from approximately 12 million today to **27 million** in 2050.<sup>1</sup>
- Baby boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964) will turn 65 between 2011 and 2029.<sup>2</sup> During this time, 10,000 Americans will turn 65 every day.<sup>3</sup>
- By 2030 when the last baby boomers turn 65, the number of Americans age 65 and older is projected to be about **72 million**, or about **19%** of the total U.S. population (up from over 40 million or 13% in 2010, See Figure 1).<sup>4</sup>
- By 2050 when the last baby boomers turn 85, the number of Americans age 65 and older is projected to increase to almost **89 million**, or about **20%** of the total U.S. population (See Figure 1).<sup>4</sup>

**FIGURE 1** Older Americans as a Percentage of the Total U.S. Population, 2010-2050



**Source:** Feder J, Komisar H. The Importance of Federal Financing to the Nation's Long-Term Care Safety Net. 2012. Data used in this figure is based on C. Werner, The Older Population: 2010, U.S. Census Bureau, November 2011 and Projections for 2020-2050 from U.S. Census Bureau, "Table 3. Percent Distribution of the Projected Population by Selected Age Groups and Sex for the United States: 2010 to 2050," August 14, 2008.



- **Twenty-seven million** individuals with chronic conditions in the general U.S. population also have functional impairment.<sup>9</sup>
- As of 2012, 5.2 million people age 65 and older have Alzheimer's Disease. By 2025, the number of people age 65 and older with Alzheimer's disease is estimated to increase by 30% to **6.7 million**. By 2050, this number may triple to a projected **11 million to 16 million**.<sup>10</sup>

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