Centenarian Fact Sheet

The Centenarian Snapshot

Who
- Centenarian – A person who has reached the age of 100 years or more.
- In the United States, centenarians traditionally receive a letter from the President upon reaching their 100th birthday, congratulating them on their longevity.
- NBC’s The Today Show has marked 100th birthdays with on-air announcements since 1983.
- According to the Inglewood, Calif.-based Gerontology Research Group, which verifies reports of extreme ages, only 75 living people – 64 women and 11 men – qualify as Super Centenarians or people living to be 110 or more.

How Many
- The U.S. Census Bureau estimated 84,331 centenarians in the United States as of November 1, 2007
- 580,605 is the projected number of centenarians in the United States by 2040 according to the population projections of the U.S. Census Bureau.
- By 2050, the numbers of U.S. centenarians is expected to reach 834,000 and maybe even 1 million according to Dr. Robert Butler, President of the International Longevity Center in New York City.
- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 1 of every 26 baby boomers, members of the generation born from 1946 through 1964, will reach 100.
- **Approximately 900 centenarians are Evercare members.**
- The greatest number of Evercare centenarians live in New York, Florida, Texas and Massachusetts.
- About 80 percent of centenarians are women according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Where
- The greatest number of centenarians (5,341) lived in California, followed by 3,997 centenarians in New York – U.S. Census Bureau (2000)
- South Dakota had 247 centenarians (1 out of every 3,056 people) – U.S. Census Bureau (2000)
- Iowa had 941 centenarians (1 out of every 3,110 people) and the highest proportion of their population is 100 years and older – U.S. Census Bureau (2000)
- The 2008 book, The Blue Zone, showed that people in Nicoya Costa Rica; Okinawa, Japan; Sardinia, Italy; and Loma Linda, California all live exceptionally long, healthy lives. Many of them live to be not just 100, but 110 or even older.
- The Gerontology Research Group also reports that about half of the Super Centenarians live in the United States.
Edna Parker of Indiana is the world’s oldest living person at age 115.

Cpl. Frank Buckles, age 107 and the man thought to be the last known U.S. veteran of WWI, was honored at the White House in March, 2008.

Fred Hale, Sr. held the Guinness record for the oldest driver. Hale gave up driving at age 108 because he found slow drivers annoying. Hale passed away in November 2004 at age 113.

Marianne Crowder of Palo Alto, California, is the nation’s oldest living Girl Scout at age 102.

A diehard Philadelphia Phillies fan for more than 70 years, Evelyn Yeager attended her first baseball game in 2005 at the age of 101.

Until his death in May, 2008, Bill Hargrove, age 106, was recognized as the nation’s oldest bowler.

Tom Spear, 102, still plays 18 holes of golf three days a week, and says he consistently shoots at least 15 strokes under his age. Certainly no “handicap.”

Nora Hardwick, 100, of Ancaster, Lincs, still drives, is active in her church and raises money for her community. She still enjoys tea and shopping with her “girls” daughters Maureen, 77, and Janice, 72.

Centenarian Juanita Ollman survived the flu epidemic of 1919. She attends church regularly, says she may have smoked a bit too much, but she eats whatever she wants including bacon and eggs for breakfast every morning. She still ballroom dances whenever she can.

Audrey Stubbart remembers encounters with Sioux Indians growing up on the plains of Nebraska. As a centenarian she taught Sunday school and still worked 40 hours a week as a reporter and columnist for her local newspaper.

Tom Lane of Nebraska took up competitive swimming at age 82. At 102, he holds several age group swim records. Tom’s daily exercise routine includes 30 sit-ups followed by 15 minutes of calisthenics, two or three sets of strength training on a weight machine, and of course, lots of swimming.

York Garrett at 101 still works every day as a pharmacist in North Carolina.

Dr. Ray Crist, 100, is one of the scientists who helped develop the atomic bomb.

Great Britain’s most famous and beloved centenarian, HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, who passed away at age 102, was dedicated to the service of her country and the fulfillment of her Royal duties right up to her very last days.

Clarence Vail, age 101, and Mayme Vail, age 99, of Minnesota earned their place in the Guinness World Records when they celebrated their 83rd wedding anniversary in March, 2008.

Until recently, Lillian Cox, 101, of Florida took care of her 80-year-old daughter who was recovering from cancer.

Dorothy Young, 100, of New Jersey and her 94-year-old boyfriend, Stan Mader, see each other two to three times a week and have been together for 10 years.

The same Dorothy Young, 100, became an assistant to the legendary Harry Houdini when she was 18 years old.

Edith Blair Staton, age 102, was one of the first national directors of the Girl Scouts of America.

At 100, Ernest Trent of Somerset, Pennsylvania, is the oldest MINI Cooper buyer.

At age 106, Jack Weil, founder and CEO of the Denver-based Western clothing manufacturer Rockmount Ranch, is believed to be the oldest working CEO in the United States.

Dorothy Loveless has lived in the same house in England for 100 years.
Famous 100-Year-Olds – continued

- At age 107, Albert Plummer of Miami, Florida is the state’s oldest African-American resident.
- Charlie Brock, 102, Tampa, Florida, is the oldest competitor at the Polk Senior Games.
- Eddy L. Williams, 108, of Washington, D.C. is the oldest District resident.
- 102-year-old trumpeter Leonard “Rosie” Ross of Arizona has been playing the trumpet professionally since 1923.
- New York City resident Ruth Proskauer Smith, age 100, teaches a class on the Supreme Court at the downtown branch of City College.
- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania resident Bucky Williams, age 101, is the oldest player from the American Negro Baseball Association.
- Legendary jazz musician Huey Long, age 103, is the oldest surviving member of the jazz quartet, the Ink Spots. Long lives on his own and makes his home in Houston, Texas.
- Neva Morris of Ames, Iowa is the oldest Iowa resident at age 112.
- Pediatrician Dr. Lelia Denmark, 110, of Athens, Georgia practiced medicine until she was 103.
- Beatrice Farve of Brunswick, Georgia is the state’s oldest resident at age 112.
- At age 111, Besse Cooper is Georgia’s second oldest person.
- Ella Schuler, 110, of Topeka, Kansas earned her high school diploma in her 50s.
- 110-year-old Wally Baker of Wilmington, Delaware drove until she was 90, danced well into her 90s and mowed the lawn until she was 100.
- Ruth Meyers Lincoln of Little Rock, Arkansas walked across the Big Dam Bridge to celebrate her 110th birthday.
- Los Angeles-based Gertrude Baines, 114, is the oldest African-American in the world.
- Chrissie Martenstein, 110, is the oldest living resident of San Francisco, California.
- Noemi Anderson from Petaluma, California is the oldest known member of American Association of University Women (AAUW).
- Maggie Renfro of Minden, Louisiana is the state’s oldest living person at age 112.
- C. Letitia Lawson, 111, lives on her own and is the second oldest Iowa resident.
- Dina Manfredini, 110, of Valley Junction holds the title of third oldest Iowa resident.
- 112-year-old Daisey Bailey enjoys a shot of bourbon every day. She is also the oldest resident of Michigan.
- Nellie Jones and Beatrice Cooper, both 111, are the second and third oldest Michigan residents.
- At 111 years of age, Walter Breuning of Great Falls, Montana is one of the oldest men in America and the fourth oldest man in the world.
- Walter Seward, age 111, of West Orange, New Jersey is the third oldest documented man in the United States and the sixth oldest man in the world.
- At age 112, Olivia Patricia Thomas is New York state’s oldest citizen.

Evercare Centenarians

Evercare has approximately 900 Centenarians in its membership. Some of these Centenarians agreed to be interviewed for YouTube video segments called “Secrets of the Centenarians” – our special thanks to:
Clara Singer, 102
Edith Jansky, 101
Margaret Thone, 100
Maurice Eisman, 100
Marie Keeler, 100
Other Famous “100-Year-Olds”

- The Times Square Ball is 100 years old. The famous time ball first appeared at the top of the New York Times Building on New Year’s Eve, 1907.
- The Coca-Cola Company, founded by Asa Griggs Candler in 1892, has quenched the country’s thirst for 116 years.
- Johnson & Johnson, founded in 1896, has been a household name for 112 years.
- The Quaker Oats Company was founded in 1901 when several American pioneers in oat milling came together to process and sell high-quality oats to American families. In 2001, after 100 years as a publicly traded company, Quaker merged with PepsiCo and became a unit of PepsiCo.
- William Procter, a candlemaker, and James Gamble, a soapmaker, formed the company known as Procter & Gamble in 1837. Throughout the company’s 171 years, Procter & Gamble has been credited with inventing world-famous Ivory soap and the “soap opera.”
- Sears, Roebuck and Company, founded in 1886 by Richard Sears and Alvah Roebuck, began as a mail order catalog business and rose to become the largest retailer in the United States by the mid-20th century.
- The New York Life Insurance Company was founded in 1845 as the Nautilus Insurance Company in New York City, with assets of just $17,000. Today, 163 years later, the New York Life Insurance Company is the largest mutual life insurance company in the United States and one of the largest life insurers in the world.
- Harper’s Bazaar made its debut in 1867 as America’s first fashion magazine.
- C.A. Pillsbury and Company was founded in 1872 by Charles Alfred Pillsbury and his uncle John Sargent Pillsbury. It was the first company in the U.S. to use steam rollers for processing grain. Purchased by General Mills in 2000, Pillsbury remains a sweet favorite with consumers 136 years later.
- Vogue, described as “the world’s most influential fashion magazine,” was founded in 1892. Today, Vogue is published in nine countries.
- In 1904, E.F. Hutton & Co. was founded by Edward Francis Hutton, his brother Franklyn Laws Hutton and Gerald M. Loeb, and because one of the most respected financial firms in the United States.
- The F.W. Woolworth Company, founded by Fran Winfield Woolworth in 1878, was among the first five-and-dime stores.
- Levi Strauss & Company, founded in 1853 in San Francisco by Levi Strauss, is still an original 155 years later.
- The Ford Motor Company, founded by Henry Ford in 1903, continues to be a driving force 105 years later.
- The Kellogg Company, formed by W.K. Kellogg when production of Kellogg’s Corn Flakes began in 1906, is still serving up breakfast 102 years later.
- Converse, an American shoe company founded by Marquis M. Converse in 1908, has been hitting their stride for 100 years.
- Harvard University, founded in 1636 by the colonial Massachusetts legislature, is the oldest institution of higher learning in the United States and a member of the Ivy League.
- Another Ivy League member, Yale University, founded in 1701 as the Collegiate School, is one of the oldest institutions of higher education in the United States.
- Founded in 1746, Princeton University is one of the oldest universities in the United States and belongs to the Ivy League.
- The University of Notre Dame, founded as an all-male institution in 1842, awarded degrees as early as 1849.
American Express, best known for its credit card, charge card and traveler’s cheque businesses was founded in 1850. Two of its three founders were Henry Wells and William Fargo who also founded Wells Fargo.

Jockey International (originally Coopers Inc.) was founded by Samuel T. Cooper in 1876 as a hosiery business. Jockey created the world’s first brief in 1934. Today, Jockey is a recognized brand in more than 120 countries.

More than 114 years ago, William H. Danforth began producing feed for a variety of farm animals under the name Purina Mills (now Nestle Purina PetCare).

In 1908, The Hoover Company of North Canton, Ohio introduced what would become the first commercially successful portable electric vacuum cleaner.

Hanes Underwear was introduced in 1901.

In the late 1890s, Bayer introduced a new pain reliever that the company called “aspirin.”