In 2002 7% of the world population was over 65 years old. Only 1% of the population of the United Arab Emirates was over 65 years old. China has the largest elderly population (92 million) but this is only 7% of the Chinese population.

Growing proportions of elderly people are partly a result of people living longer and, often, of fewer births reducing the size of the younger population.

Africa is home to only 6% of the world’s population aged over 65, but 13% of the total global population.

“...We live in an era of unprecedented, rapid and inexorable global ageing.” — HelpAge International, 2002