Projections and Characteristics of the 65+ Population in Athens County

July 2019

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An Ohio Center of Excellence

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Table of Contents

About this report 4
Profile of the 65+ Population 5
Projected 65+ Population as a Percentage of Total Population 6
Percentage of Population Age 65+ in County and Ohio, 2000-2050 6
Proportion of Population by Age Group 7
Age Group as a Percentage of Total Population in County and Ohio, 2015 7
Age Group as a Percentage of Total Population in County 8
Educational Attainment 9
Educational Attainment of 65+ Population, County and Ohio, 2015 9
Educational Attainment of 65+ Population by Sex, County, 2015 10
Racial and Ethnic Composition 11
Racial and Ethnic Distribution of the 65+ Population in County and Ohio 11
Marital Status and Living Alone 12
Marital Status of 65+ Population in County, 2015 12
Marital Status of 65+ Population in County and Ohio, 2015 13
Marital Status of 65+ Population by Sex, County, 2015 13
Marital Status of 65+ Population by Age Group, County, 2015 14
Percentage of 65+ Population Living Alone by Sex, County, 2015 14
Poverty Status 15
Income-to-Poverty Ratio of 65+ Population in County, 2015 15
Medicaid Eligibility 16
65+ Population with Medicaid or Means-Tested Health Insurance Coverage, 2015 16
Functional Difficulties 17
Percentage of Population with Any Functional Difficulty, by Age Group, 2015 17
Percentage of Adults Age 75+ with Functional Difficulties, by Type, 2015 18
Percentage of Population with Hearing Difficulties, by Age Group, 2015 18
Percentage of Population with Vision Difficulties, by Age Group, 2015 19
Percentage of Population with Cognitive Difficulties, by Age Group, 2015 19
Percentage of Population with Ambulatory Difficulty, by Age Group, 2015 20
Percentage of Population with Self-Care Difficulties, by Age Group, 2015 20
Percentage of Population with Independent Living Difficulties, by Age Group, 2015 21
Summary 22
Athens County, Ohio
Characteristics and Projections of the 65+ Population

About this Report

This chartbook illustrates the characteristics of the county’s 65-plus population in 2015*, and changes that have occurred since 2000. It also includes population characteristics, such as education, income level, and marital status, that are shown to be associated with the need for long-term services and supports. There are charts that compare the older population of the county to the state as a whole, and charts that illustrate change over time within the county.

The data presented in this chartbook are intended to assist planners, decisions makers, and service providers to understand the growth in numbers and proportion of older adults, particularly those who will likely need assistance.

An online interactive data center is available for you to define your own topic, county, and population of interest to see current figures and change over time. Please visit www.ohio-population.org.

*Note: 2015 data represent a 5-year average of data collected from 2013-2017 as part of the American Community Survey (ACS), conducted by the US Census Bureau. See the Ohio Population website for further details on methodology.
Profile of the 65+ Population

The table below compares the characteristics of the 65+ population in Athens county, the state of Ohio, and the U.S. overall. Keep in mind that the numbers and percentages represent only the 65+ population in each geographic area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total 65+ Population</td>
<td>5,793</td>
<td>7,697</td>
<td>1,507,757</td>
<td>1,844,642</td>
<td>34,991,753</td>
<td>47,732,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Household Income</td>
<td>21,338</td>
<td>36,034</td>
<td>25,672</td>
<td>38,738</td>
<td>26,814</td>
<td>41,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Population Age 65+</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>14.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Below Poverty Threshold</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent White Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>97.3</td>
<td>96.4</td>
<td>90.6</td>
<td>88.3</td>
<td>86.9</td>
<td>77.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Married</td>
<td>54.7</td>
<td>57.0</td>
<td>54.5</td>
<td>54.5</td>
<td>55.0</td>
<td>55.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent with High School Diploma or Higher</td>
<td>66.3</td>
<td>83.7</td>
<td>66.1</td>
<td>84.4</td>
<td>65.5</td>
<td>82.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Living Alone</td>
<td>32.1</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>28.8</td>
<td>27.8</td>
<td>26.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Projected 65+ Population as a Percentage of Total Population

The chart below compares the projected proportion of the county’s population made up by adults age 65+ through 2050, and compares it with the projected proportion of 65+ individuals in the state of Ohio overall.

Proportion of Population by Age Group

These charts show age groups within the 65+ population as a proportion of total population. The first chart compares the county with the state of Ohio in 2015, while the second chart looks at change within the county between 2000 and 2015. The table gives the percentage and number of older adults in each age bracket for 2000 and 2015.

Age Group as a Percentage of Total Population in Athens County and Ohio, 2015

### Age Group as a Percentage of Total Population in Athens County

![Bar chart showing age groups as a percentage of total population.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>2000 % of Population</th>
<th>Total County Population</th>
<th>2015 % of Population</th>
<th>Total County Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>1,612</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>2,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-74</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>1,465</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>1,757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-79</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>1,258</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>1,335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>756</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85+</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>702</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>961</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources:**
- U.S. Census Bureau. 2000 Census of Population and Housing, 5-Percent Public Use Microdata Sample.
Educational Attainment

These charts show the proportion of the 65+ population at each level of educational attainment. The first chart compares the county with the state of Ohio. The second chart and accompanying table compare men and women within the county.

Educational Attainment of 65+ Population, Athens County and Ohio, 2015

Educational Attainment of 65+ Population by Sex, Athens County, 2015


Percentage of 65+ Population at Each Level of Educational Attainment by Sex, County, and State, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Ohio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th Grade or Less</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th - 12th Grade (No Diploma)</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Graduate or Equivalent</td>
<td>48.5</td>
<td>36.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College, No Degree</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>13.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate or Bachelor's Degree</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate or Professional Degree</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>22.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Racial and Ethnic Composition

This chart shows the racial and ethnic distribution of adults age 65+ in the county from 2000 to 2015. The table lists the percentages for the county and the state of Ohio in 2000 and 2015.

Racial and Ethnic Distribution of the 65+ Population in Athens County


Racial and Ethnic Distribution of the 65+ Population in Athens County and Ohio, 2000-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>County 2000</th>
<th>County 2015</th>
<th>Ohio 2000</th>
<th>Ohio 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Races Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>97.3</td>
<td>96.4</td>
<td>90.6</td>
<td>88.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Marital Status and Living Alone

These charts show the marital status of the 65+ population and the proportion living alone. The first chart and table show the change within the county between 2000 and 2015. The second chart compares the county with the state of Ohio for 2015. The third chart breaks down marital status by sex. The fourth chart plots the proportion of older adults who were never married, married, and widowed/divorced/separated by each age group (65-74, 75-84, and 85+). The final chart illustrates the proportion of 65+ men, women, and combined living alone in the county and in the state.

Marital Status of 65+ Population in Athens County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>54.7</td>
<td>57.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed/Divorced/Separated</td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>36.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never Married</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Marital Status of 65+ Population in Athens County and Ohio, 2015

Marital Status of 65+ Population by Sex, Athens County, 2015

Marital Status by Age Group, Athens County, 2015

Percentage of 65+ Population Living Alone, by Sex and County, 2015

Poverty Status

This chart shows the proportion of older adults* living below or near poverty. The measure used is the income-to-poverty ratio. In 2018, the poverty threshold for a person age 65+ living alone was $12,043. Income below this amount is considered to be below the poverty threshold. A person with annual income between $12,043 and $24,086 would be between 100%-199% of poverty. Individuals with an income of 200% poverty and above have an income that is at least double the poverty threshold (greater than $24,086).

**Income-to-Poverty Ratio of 65+ Population in Athens County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Below Poverty Threshold</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 100%-199% of Poverty</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200% of Poverty and Above</td>
<td>63.7%</td>
<td>66.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources:**
U.S. Census Bureau. 2000 Census of Population and Housing. 5-Percent Public Use Microdata Sample.

*The percentage is not of the entire 65+ population, but only those individuals for whom poverty status could be determined. The poverty status is NOT determined for institutionalized persons, persons in military group quarters, or persons in college dormitories.
Medicaid Eligibility

This chart and table show the proportion of older adults whose health insurance is provided by Medicaid or other means-tested coverage.

Older Adults with Functional Difficulties

These data measure difficulty and functional impairment to identify individuals who may experience a disability. The charts show the proportion of individuals (all ages includes age 5+ or 18+ as appropriate, age 65-74, and 75+) that have reported a difficulty with one of six functional areas. The final table compares the county to Ohio for age groups 65-74 and 75+. The six areas are:

- Hearing difficulty: deaf or having serious difficulty hearing
- Vision difficulty: blind or having serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses
- Cognitive difficulty: because of a physical, mental, or emotional problem, having difficulty remembering, concentrating, or making decisions (ages 5+ only)
- Ambulatory (mobility) difficulty: having serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs (ages 5+)
- Self-care difficulty: having difficulty bathing or dressing (ages 5+ only)
- Independent living difficulty: because of a physical, mental, or emotional problem, having difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping (ages 18+ only)
- Any functional difficulty: individual reported one or more of the functional limitations listed above

% of Population with Any Functional Difficulty, by Age Group, 2015

% of Adults Age 75+ with Functional Difficulties, by Type, 2015

% of Population with Hearing Difficulties, by Age Group, 2015

% of Population with Vision Difficulties, by Age Group, 2015

- All Ages: Athens 3.3%, Ohio 2.4%
- 65-74 Age Group: Athens 4%, Ohio 3.9%
- 75+: Athens 8.9%, Ohio 9.1%

% of Population with Cognitive Difficulties, by Age Group, 2015

- All Ages: Athens 7.6%, Ohio 5.7%
- 65-74 Age Group: Athens 5.6%, Ohio 4.9%
- 75+: Athens 15.9%, Ohio 12.7%

% of Population with Ambulatory Difficulty, by Age Group, 2015

% of Population with Self-Care Difficulties, by Age Group, 2015

% of Population with Independent Living Difficulties, by Age Group, 2015


### Percentage and Number of Older Adults with Functional Difficulties in Athens County and Ohio, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Ohio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Age 65-74</td>
<td>Age 75+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any difficulty</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>1,354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vision</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambulatory</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Care</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Living</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>276</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scripps Gerontology Center  www ohio-population.org Page 21 of 22
Summary

These county population trends reveal important indicators of current and future need for long-term services and supports. The share of the population that is 65 years and older will continue to grow over the next 10 years. A higher percentage of the older population experiences poverty, compared to other adults. In addition, those at very advanced ages are mostly women who have outlived their spouses and most likely live alone. The combination of lower income, living alone, and higher prevalence of disability are all contributors to the need for long-term services and supports.

Additional county- and state-level data are available online at ohio-population.org, part of the Scripps Gerontology Center website.