

# OHIO POPULATION NEWS

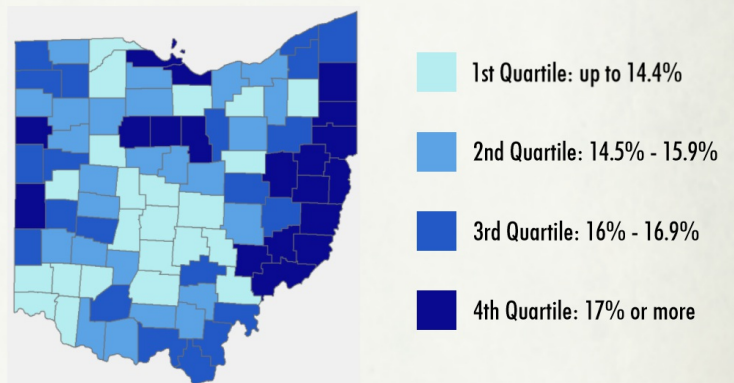
Issue 33

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## Older Americans in Ohio, 2014

Over the past decade, America's Baby Boomer generation has begun to enter into the country's older adult population (those aged 65 and older). Florida had the highest percentage of older Americans in 2014 (19.1%), while Alaska had the lowest percentage (9.5%). In Ohio, there were about 1.8 million residents aged 65 or older, representing 15.5% of the state's population. The percentage of older residents varied across Ohio, as shown in the map. Noble County had the highest percentage of older residents (22.8%), whereas Union and Franklin Counties had the lowest (10.4%). In this issue of Ohio Population News, we focus on two vulnerable groups of older Ohioans in 2014: those living alone and veterans.

Figure 1. Percentage of Older Americans in Ohio by County, 2014

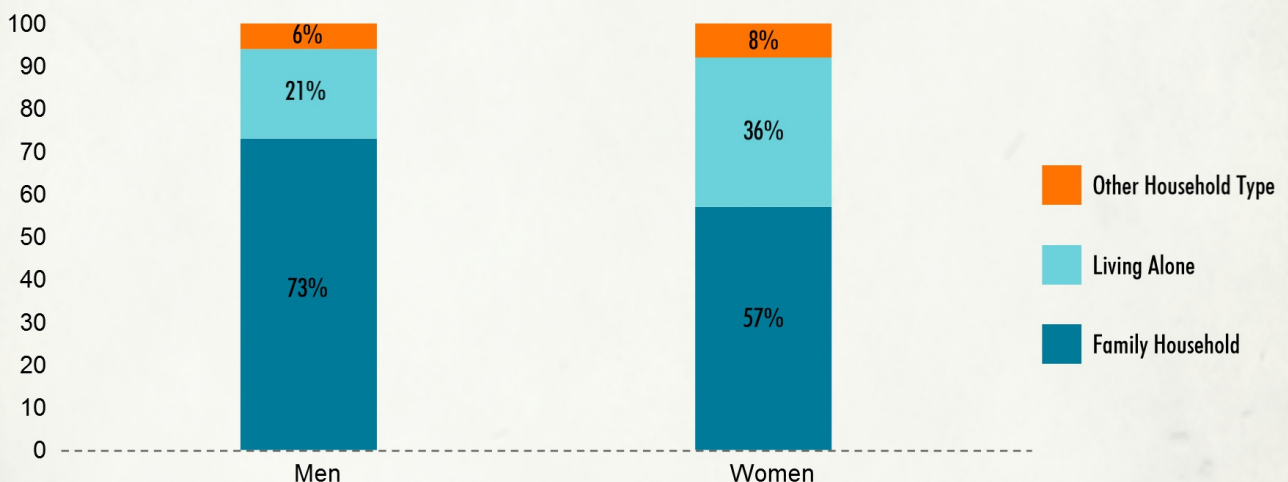


Source: American Community Survey, 2014 5-Year Estimates

## Living Alone

Figure 2 displays the living arrangements of Ohio's older population by gender. In 2014, the majority (64%) of Ohio's older population lived in a family household (defined as those living with at least one other family member, such as a spouse, biological or step-child, grandchild, sibling, or parent). However, nearly 30% of Ohio residents aged 65 or older were living alone, corresponding to over 500,000 individuals. A larger share of older women (36%) were living alone compared to men (21%). In fact, 69% of Ohio's older population living alone in 2014 were women (not shown).

Figure 2: Living Arrangement of Older Ohioans, 2014



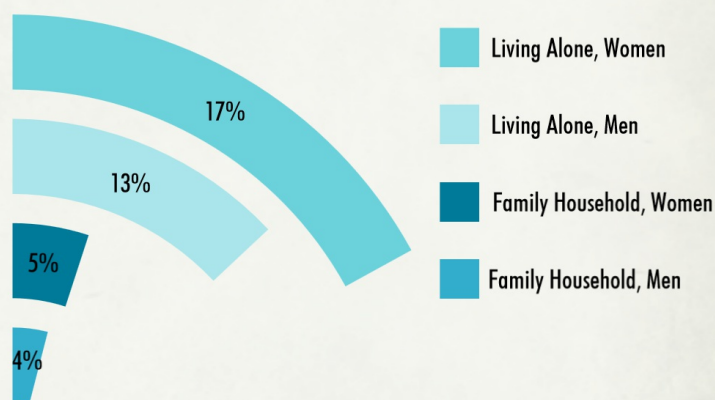
Source: American Community Survey, 2014 1-Year Estimates

Questions or comments? Email the CFDR at [cfdr@bgsu.edu](mailto:cfdr@bgsu.edu) | visit [www.bgsu.edu/cfdr](http://www.bgsu.edu/cfdr) for the latest information on upcoming events.

## Poverty Status: Living Alone vs. Living in a Family Household

Differences in poverty status existed between older Ohioans who were residing alone and those living in a family household. Overall, 8% of older adults in Ohio were living in poverty in 2014. Figure 3 shows that men and women residing alone more often lived in poverty than their counterparts residing in a family household. Among those residing alone, 17% of women aged 65 or older were living at or below the poverty threshold compared to 13% of men. A smaller difference in poverty level exists between men and women living with a family member, as 4% of older men and 5% of older women residing in a family household lived in poverty in 2014.

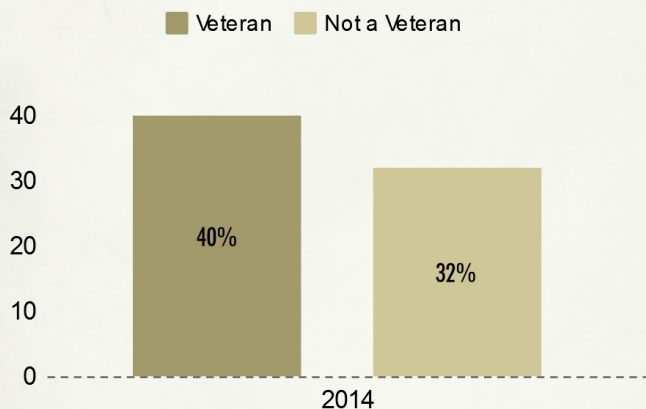
Figure 3: Older Ohioans Living in Poverty by Living Arrangement and Gender, 2014



Source: American Community Survey, 2014 1-Year Estimates

## Veterans

Figure 4: Older Male Ohioans Living with a Disability by Veteran Status, 2014



Source: American Community Survey, 2014 1-Year Estimates

In 2014, about 21% of all Ohioans aged 65 or older were veterans (corresponding to over 383,000 individuals). Nearly half of older men in Ohio were veterans, in contrast to only 1% of older women. The majority (46%) of older veterans living in Ohio served during the Vietnam Era (August 1964 – April 1975), while about one-fifth served during the Korean War (July 1950 – January 1955).

Figure 4 shows, among older veteran men, 40% lived with a disability in 2014 compared to 32% of non-veterans. The most common form of disability among older veterans and civilians was difficulty walking, which affected a quarter of Ohio's population aged 65 or older. The percentage of veterans living in poverty (4%) was lower than that of non-veterans (9%).