



# Center for Family and Demographic Research

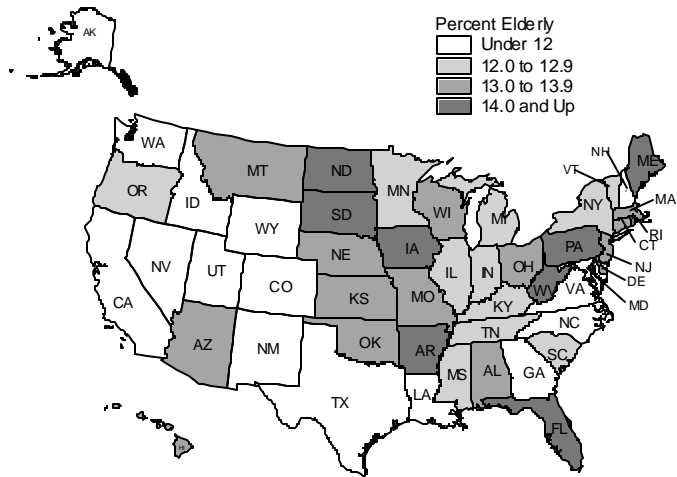
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Bowling Green State University

## Ohio Population News: The Elderly in Ohio

Ohio's elderly population defined as persons age 65 and over, accounted for 13.3% of the population in 2000, increasing 7.2% from 1990. The proportion of the population that is elderly varies by race: 14.2% of the Non-Hispanic white population is elderly compared with 9.5% of the Black population, 4.9% of the Asian population, and 4.6% of the Hispanic population. The elderly population is expected to grow at a moderate pace over the next few decades and then increase dramatically. The main factor in the predicted increase in growth will be due to the Baby Boomers, the large birth cohort born between the years 1946 and 1964. The first of this cohort will be turning 55 this year, and will reach age 65 by the year 2011. Once this occurs, there will be a rapid growth in the number of persons age 65 and over. **In fact, the US Census Bureau estimates that by the year 2025, Ohio's elderly population will account for nearly 20% of the state's population.** On the national level, the states with the highest percentage of elderly in 2000 were Florida (17.6%), Pennsylvania (15.6%), and West Virginia (15.3%). The states with the lowest percentages: Alaska (5.7%), Idaho (6.3%), and Utah (8.5%).

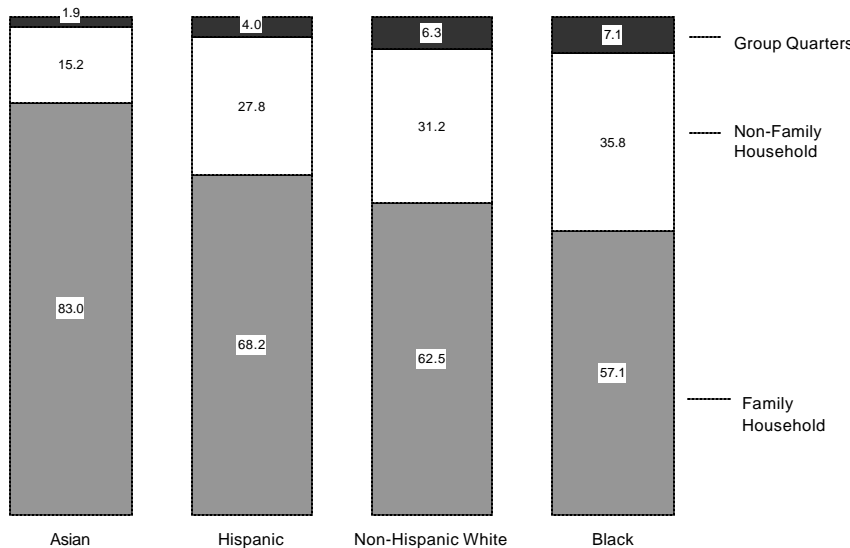
## MAP OF THE PERCENT ELDERLY, U.S.



**IN OHIO:** Delaware County (Delaware City) had the lowest proportion of elderly in the state (8.2%), while Jefferson County (Steubenville) had the highest (18.6%).

## LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Figure 1: Living Arrangements for the Population Ages 65 and Over, Ohio 2000



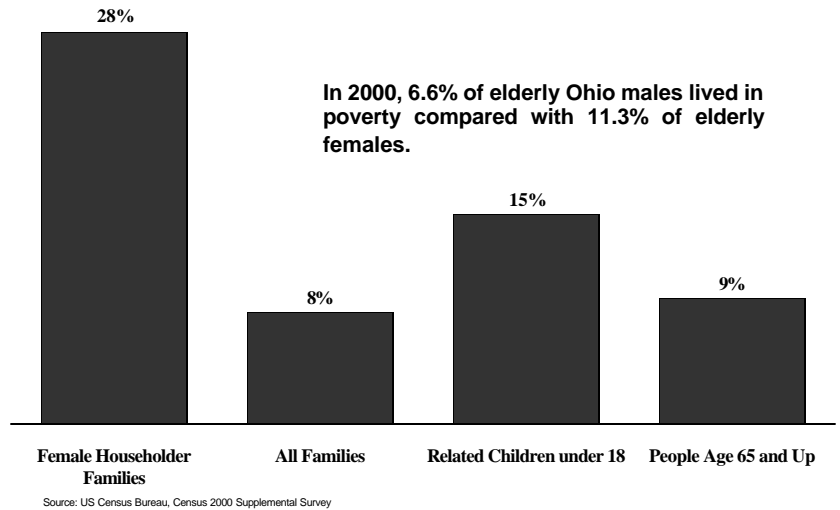
Source: P30 Tables 2000 Census

Results from the 2000 Census provide researchers with a look at the living arrangements of the elderly population in Ohio. **Figure 1** diagrams the differences by race/ethnic groups for those persons age 65 and older. Clearly, the majority of the elderly population regardless of race is living in family households, that is, with their spouse, child, or other relatives. Nonfamily households can be comprised of someone living alone or with nonrelatives such as a roommate. **Almost three-quarters (71.8%) of the population living in nonfamily households are women living alone.** This proportion varies by race/ethnic group; Non-Hispanic white (73%), Black (63%), Asians (68%) and Hispanics (59%).

## POVERTY

Roughly 133,000 of Ohio's elderly live below the poverty threshold. For an individual aged 65 and over who lives alone, the threshold in 2000 was \$8,259. The poverty rate has declined dramatically for the elderly in Ohio during the last 20 years- from 25% in 1970 to 9% in 2000. Meanwhile, Ohio's poverty rate among preschool children rose from 17.2% in 1980 to 25.0% in 1995. The decline in poverty among seniors has been attributed to large increases in real Social Security payment benefits, while the child poverty increase has been strongly linked to the 57% cut in real AFDC public assistance benefits. **Figure 2** at the right is based on calculations from the Census 2000 Supplemental Survey. (Poverty status is determined for all people except those who are living in institutions, group quarters or college dormitories.)

FIGURE 2: Poverty Rates for Ohio, 2000



In 2000, 6.6% of elderly Ohio males lived in poverty compared with 11.3% of elderly females.

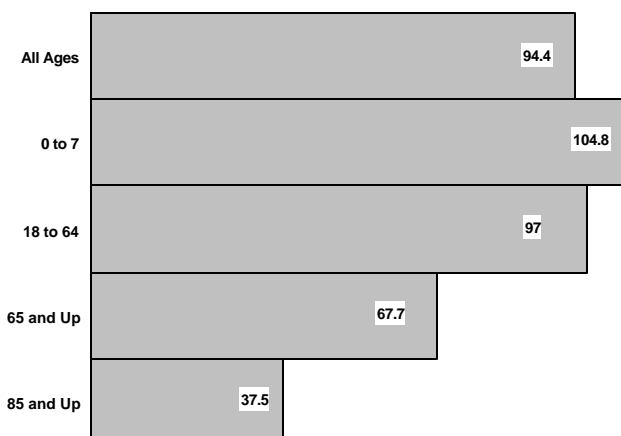
The office of budget and policy analysis has estimated that in Ohio:

- 2 in 5 elderly people are lifted from poverty by Social Security
- Without Social Security, 49% of the elderly in Ohio would be poor.
- More than three of every five elderly people in Ohio whom Social Security lifts from poverty are women.

Sources: Ohio Poverty Indicators: Volume 10 found at [http://www.cwru.edu/affil/CEOGC/opi\\_sum.htm](http://www.cwru.edu/affil/CEOGC/opi_sum.htm)  
<http://www.cbpp.org/4-8-99socsec-states2.htm#OHIO>

The **sex ratio** is the number of males per 100 females. (A sex ratio under 100 means that there are more females than males, a sex ratio over 100 means that there are more males than females.) **In Ohio, there are 67.7 elderly males for every 100 elderly females.** The ratio is more dramatic for the oldest old population (those ages 85 and up); 37.5 males for every 100 females.

### SEX RATIO FOR OHIO 2000



## HEALTH INSURANCE FOR OHIO'S ELDERLY

Almost all of the elderly in Ohio have some form of health insurance; the majority (97%) using government health insurance. Just over 77% of the elderly have some form of private health insurance, either used alone or in conjunction with Medicare (67.6%) and to a lesser degree Medicaid (1.4%). Less than one percent of the elderly are not covered by any insurance at all. See Table 1 below.

TABLE 1: HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE STATUS AND TYPE FOR ELDERLY POPULATION, OHIO 1999 (numbers are in 1000's)

Covered by some type of health insurance	99.0%
Covered by...	
Private health Insurance	77.5%
Employment Based	44.5%
Own Employment Based	33.5%
Government Health Insurance	96.3%
Medicaid	4.9%
also covered by private insurance	1.4%
Medicare	96.0%
also covered by private insurance	67.6%
also covered by Medicaid	5.1%
Military Health Insurance	1.7%
<b>Not Covered by Any Health Insurance</b>	<b>0.7%</b>

Source: Census Bureau Poverty Estimates Table 24a

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