OHIO LONG TERM CARE RESEARCH PROJECT

SCRIPPS GERONTOLOGY CENTER

PROFILE & PROJECTIONS OF THE 60+ POPULATION

VAN WERT COUNTY OHIO

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All county reports as well as a state report are downloadable at:
http://www.scripps.muohio.edu/scripps/research/countyreports.html

FAST FACTS ABOUT Van Wert County and its 60+ Population

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- Almost 20% of Van Wert County's population is age 60+ (or 5,839 individuals)
- By 2020, there will be 7,200 individuals age 60+ in Van Wert County (This is a 23% increase in the 60+ population)
- Nearly 7 in 10 individuals age 85+ are female
- Disability increases with age: Only 3% of 60-69 year olds have a severe disability, compared to 44% of those 90+
- Nearly 30% of individuals age 60+ have at least one disability
- By 2020, over 550 individuals age 60+ with a severe disability will reside in Van Wert County
- Almost 11% of the age 60+ population live in poverty
- Only 1% of individuals age 60+ are racial or ethnic minorities
- Of men age 60+, 81% are married, compared to only 54% of women
- More than 8 in 10 individuals age 60+ have 12 or fewer years of education
- Of women age 60+, 38% live alone, compared to 17% of men

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Preface

During the next 20 years, the national population, as well as the population in Ohio, will grow older. This shift in population structure is credited to the unprecedented growth in the population over the age of 60, caused by the aging baby boom cohort. In anticipation of this impending change, we have created this series of reports to help Ohio area agencies on aging, service providers, and other agencies that are not directly involved in aging services to better plan for the needs of the aging population.

The purpose of these reports is to present the unique profile of the **older population (60+)** in each of Ohio's 88 counties and to project the number of older people and the prevalence of disability among this population. Trends and projections are provided for ages 60 and above, because 60 is the eligibility age for some state and local home care programs. Specific topics explored include disability, poverty, marital status, living alone, and educational attainment among the older population. Throughout the reports, trends are compared according to gender and age group for each county. To provide a better understanding of the county's standing in relation to the rest of the state, population characteristics from each county are compared with corresponding measures of Ohio's older population. In order to provide insight into the direction the county is moving, some population trends are also presented.

In preparing this report, we used census data from the Census short form, which is available for all residents within each county, and the Census long-form, which is available for a representative sample of county residents. The actual Census count from the Census short-form and the weighted sample counts from the long-form may be slightly different. To preserve privacy and confidentially of the respondents, the census long-form data is available for geographic units with a minimum population of 100,000. In some cases a large county encompasses several such geographic units while in other cases a few neighboring counties are bundled together to form a geographic unit with 100,000 population. In large counties, the data for education, poverty threshold, living arrangement, marital status and disability rates are for the county alone, while smaller neighboring counties will show identical data, for the above indicators of need for assistance, for the bundled counties. **The data in this report combine Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, and Van Wert Counties.**

Sources used to create all tables and figures are specified.

PROFILE & PROJECTIONS OF THE 60+ POPULATION: VAN WERT COUNTY, OHIO

Background

This report illustrates the demographic changes that occurred in Van Wert County between 1990 and 2000, and presents projections of the older population including the number of older adults with disabilities. The report also covers other population characteristics that have been shown to be associated with the need for long-term care services among older adults, such as the prevalence of poverty, living alone, lack of education, and being unmarried. County-level data are compared to data on Ohio as a whole in order to show differences or similarities in population characteristics. By examining both demographic patterns and informed projections, counties will be better prepared to address the needs of their aging and disabled populations.

County Overview

Van Wert County is located in the northwest portion of Ohio, encompassing the city of Van Wert. In 2000, the County population was 29,659. Van Wert County is relatively rural, with 51.6% of the population living in rural areas in 2000, compared to 53.8% in 1990. This represents a decrease of 7.1% in rural population over the ten-year period. With 5,839 individuals age 60 and over, Van Wert County has the 68th largest 60+ population in the state, yet it ranks 13th in proportion of total population that is 60+ (out of 88 counties in Ohio). As shown in the Summary Table, the 60+ population represents 19.7% of the total population in Van Wert County.

Summary Table
Van Wert County, 2000

Total Population Age 60+	5,839
% Population Age 60+	19.7
Population Age 40+	13,734
% Population Age 40+	46.3
% Population 60+ at or Below Poverty Level*	10.5
% Population Age 60+ with Self-Care Disabilities*	8.1
% Population Age 60+ with at Least one Physical, Mental, Sensory or Self-Care Disability*	29.1
% Population 60+ who are White	98.9
% Population Age 60+ who are Married*	66.0
% Population Age 60+ who are Living Alone*	28.5
% Population Age 60+ who Have Less Than a High School Diploma*	29.7

*These data categories reflect combined data from Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, and Van Wert Counties.

In some instances in this report, data are presented for the population age 40+. This cohort is important to consider when developing projections, because the population age 40+ in 2000 will be age 60+ in 2020. The population that is currently 40+ is also significant because it contains the baby boom generation. As shown in the summary table, 46.3% of the population in Van Wert County is currently over the age of 40.

In the remainder of this report, we explore variables (touched on in the Summary Table) that are related to long-term care needs. Factors related to one's need for long-term care include disability, income, race and ethnicity, marital and educational status, and living arrangements. The following sections provide detailed analyses of these risk factors according to gender, age group, county/state standing, and ten-year trends.

Population Profile

The total population of Van Wert County decreased by 2.6% between 1990 (30,464 residents) and 2000 (29,659 residents). The entire population of Ohio increased 4.7% in the same time. In 2000, 19.7% of the county population was 60+. Table 1 provides a detailed breakdown of the older population in Van Wert County in 2000 by age group and gender.

Table 1
Population Age 60+, by Gender and Age Group
Van Wert County, 2000

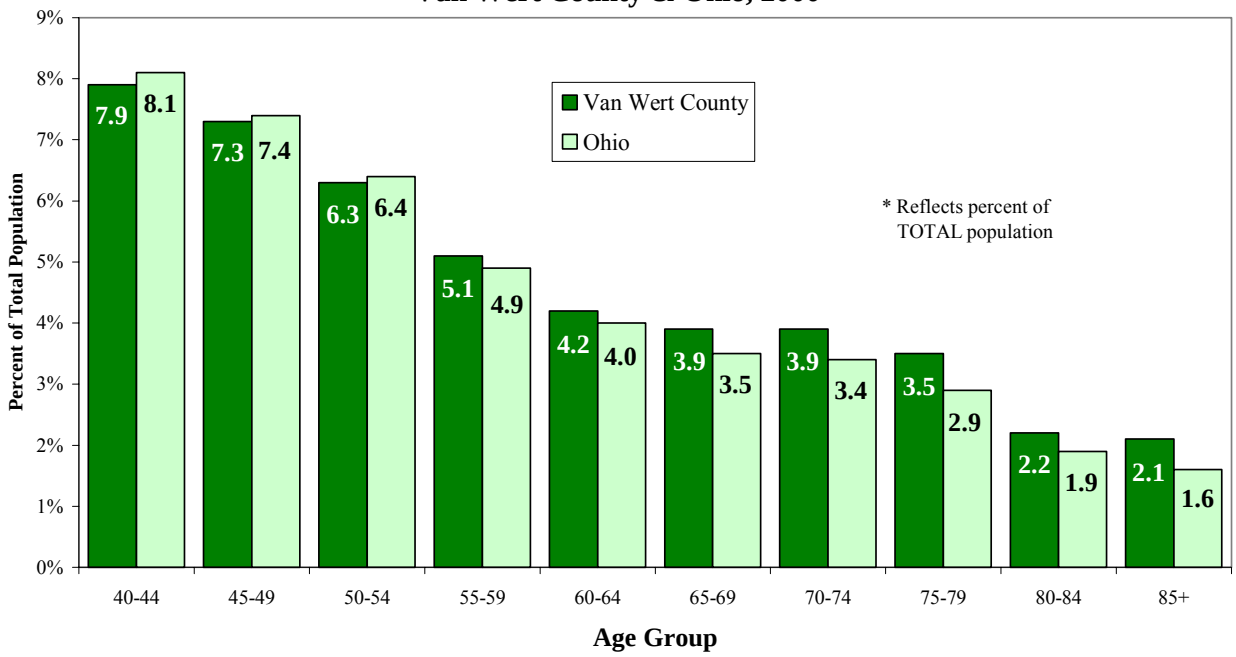
	Men		Women		
Age Group	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Total**
60-64	594	47.6	653	52.4	1,247
65-69	516	44.9	634	55.1	1,150
70-74	534	45.8	631	54.2	1,165
75-79	423	41.2	603	58.8	1,026
80-84	230	35.9	410	64.1	640
85-89	137	32.8	281	67.2	418
90-94	37	25.5	108	74.5	145
95+	10	20.8	38	79.2	48
Total 60+	2,481	42.5	3,358	57.5	5,839
Ohio 60+	823,200	41.9	1,140,289	58.1	1,963,489

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population: Table P12. SEX BY AGE [49] - Universe: Total Population

Gender Distribution - The gender distribution of the older population in Van Wert County is similar to that of the state of Ohio. Of the entire county population age 60+, women comprise 57.5% (compared to 58.1% in the state). As shown in Table 1, women outnumber men at all ages over 60; a disparity that increases with each advancing age group. Of particular interest is the gender ratio among the oldest age group. Of the population over the age of 84 in Van Wert County, 69.9% are women. The higher proportion of women among the oldest age group suggests that the population potentially eligible for, and in need of, long-term care services is largely female.

Growth in the Older Population - As shown in Figure 1, there are only slight differences in the population distribution across age groups in the county compared to the state. Although the majority of Ohioans are under the age of 60, the proportion of older adults in Van Wert County (and Ohio) will grow substantially over the next several decades. This growth in the older population is largely a result of the aging baby boomers. Currently ranging from 40 to 59 years of age, this cohort will dramatically impact the age distribution of the older population as they age. The influence of the baby boomers on both county and state populations is evident in Figure 1.

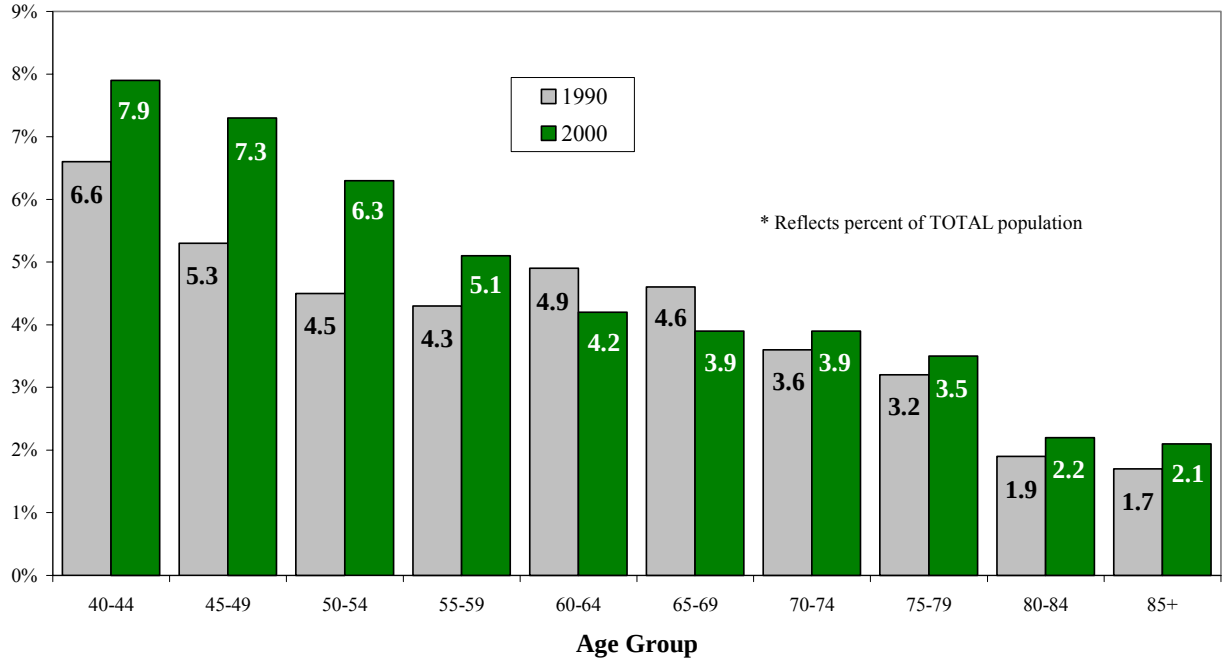
Figure 1
Population Distribution* by Age Group (40-85+)
Van Wert County & Ohio, 2000



Source: U.S.Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population:P12. SEX BY AGE [49].

The impact of the baby boomers on the age distribution of the 40+ population is also evident when population data from 2000 are compared to data from 1990. As shown in Figure 2, 26.6% of the county population was age 40-59 in 2000, compared to 20.7% in 1990. Also noteworthy is the increase in the population over the age of 85. In Van Wert County, this age group comprised 2.1% of the population in 2000 compared to 1.7% in 1990 (a 23.5% increase in the 85+ population). In Ohio, 1.6% of the population was over the age of 85, compared to 1.3%

Figure 2
Population Distribution* by Age Group (40-85+)
Van Wert County, 1990 & 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Summary Tape File 1 (STF1) P011 & 2000 Census of Population: P12. SEX BY AGE [49].

in 1990 (a 22.8% increase in the 85+ population).

Another indication that the population in Van Wert County is aging is the increase in median age[1]. Between 1990 and 2000, median age increased from 33 years (1990) to 38 years (2000). This increase closely reflects that of the state, where the median age rose from 33 to 36 years in the same period. An increase in median age suggests that the proportion of older adults in Van Wert County is growing. As these segments of the county population reach advanced age, the need for long-term care services may increase.

[1] The **median age** of a population is that age that divides a population into two groups of the same size, such that half the total population is younger, and the other half is older.

Population Projections

This section of the report focuses on the expected growth of the overall older population, and on the growth of the older population who will experience some limitation in their ability to perform basic *activities of daily living* (ADLs) such as bathing, dressing, and preparing meals.

To project the size of the population age 60 and older for the years 2005 to 2020, we began with the population (already born) that has reached at least the age of 40. Using the *cohort component* methodology of population projection (Shryock & Siegel, 1996), we made the following assumptions about both survival and migration rates:

Survival Rate: Ohio's survival rates are based on national projected survival rates. These rates include improvements in national mortality rates, while maintaining deviation from the national rates observed in Ohio in the 2000 Vital Statistics.

Migration Rate: The 10-year net migration rates were estimated using age-sex counts of each county's population in the 1990 and 2000 Censuses adjusted for the deaths occurring to the age-sex group from April 1, 1990 through March 31, 2000. Of course, in calculating the deaths occurring to an age group, adjustment was made for the group's aging during the decade. The age-sex specific rates of net migration for each county during 1995-2000 are assumed to hold for that county during the period 2000-2005 and 2005-2020. For a more detailed explanation of the procedures used for determining survival or migration rates see the Methodology section.

A beneficial feature of these population projections is the detailed presentation of the 85-89, 90-94, and 95+ age groups (when possible) for the following reasons:

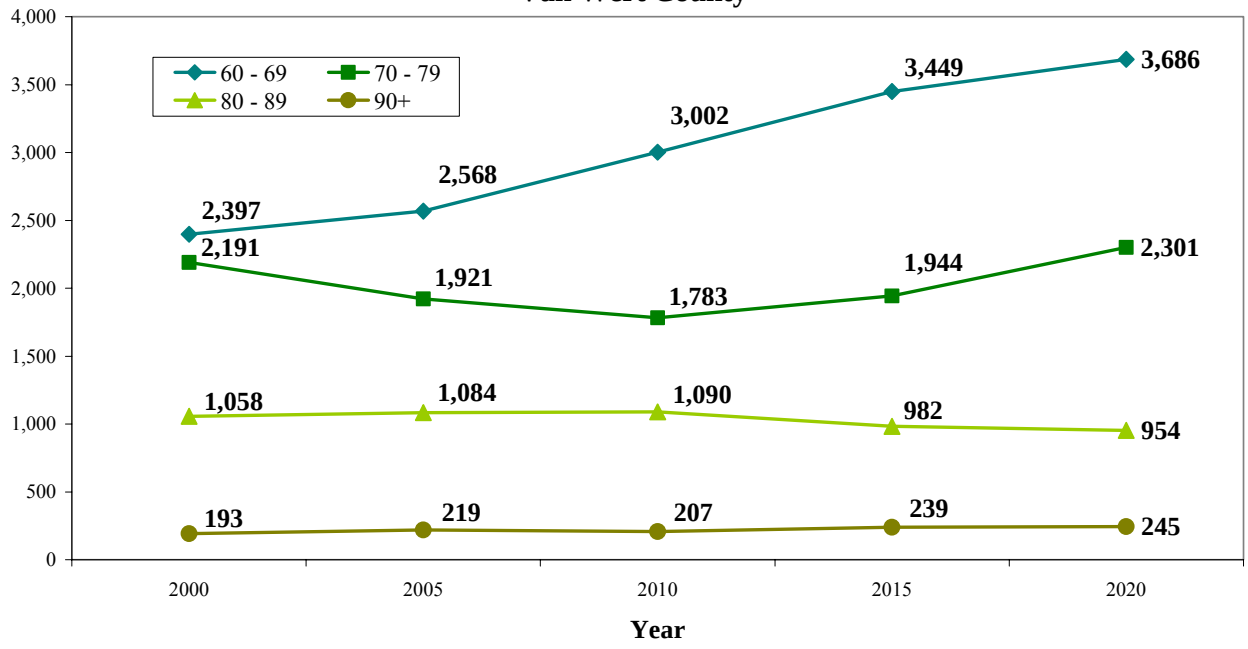
1.) The high rate of growth of the population 85 years and over;

2.) Rates of disability vary considerably among these age groups;

3.) The Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics now recommends that data be presented for ages 85-89, 90-94, and 95+ (http://www.agingstats.gov/chartbook2000/dataneeds.html).

The number of Van Wert County residents age 60 and over is expected to increase from a total of 5,839 in 2000 to a projected 7,186 in 2020. As Figure 3 (and Table 1a in the Appendix) illustrates, the greatest increase is expected among the 60-69 year age group (those currently age 40-49). In 2000, there were 2,397 older adults age 60-69 in Van Wert County. By the year 2020, when the bulk of the baby boomers move into this age group, it is expected that there will be approximately 3,686 individuals age 60-69 in Van Wert County. This projection suggests a 53.8% increase in the County population in this age group. The 90+ age group is also expected to increase, from 193 in 2000, to 245 in 2020 (an increase of 26.9%).

Figure 3
Projections of Population Age 60+, by Year* and Age Group, Van Wert County

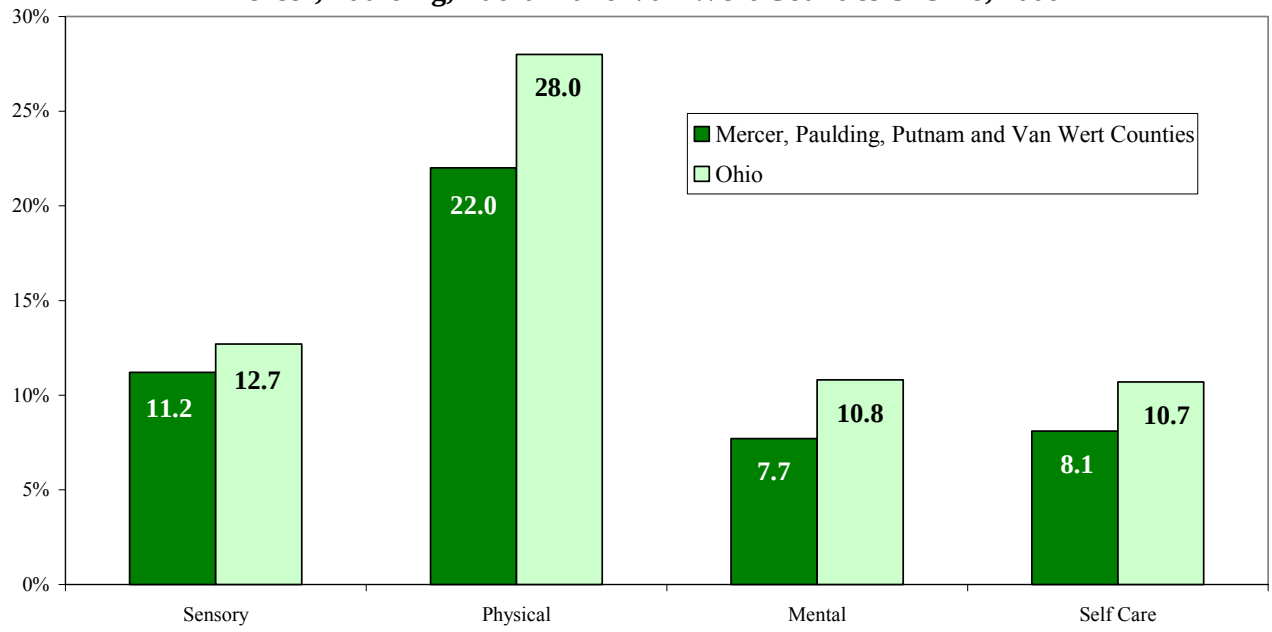


Source: Authors' projections.
*Year 2000 data are actual population counts.

Prevalence of Disability among the 60+ Population

The rate of disability among the 60+ population in Van Wert, Mercer, Paulding, and Putnam Counties[2] closely mirrors the state of Ohio. In 2000, the most common type of disability reported was physical, followed by sensory, self-care, and mental impairments, respectively (see Figure 4). According to the Census, a physical impairment is defined as a long-lasting condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying. Sensory impairments include blindness, deafness, or any severe and long-lasting vision or hearing impairment. Mental health impairment is defined as having difficulty learning, remembering or concentrating because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition that lasts 6 months or more. Self-care impairments include difficulty dressing, bathing, or getting around the house as a result of a long-lasting condition (6 months or more). It should be noted that these categories are not mutually exclusive. Respondents could have multiple impairments, which may span more than one disability category. In 2000, 29.1% of the 60+ population in Van Wert, Mercer, Paulding, and Putnam Counties had at least one disability.

Figure 4
Proportion of Population Age 60+, with Sensory, Physical, Mental and Self-Care Disabilities, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam and Van Wert Counties & Ohio, 2000

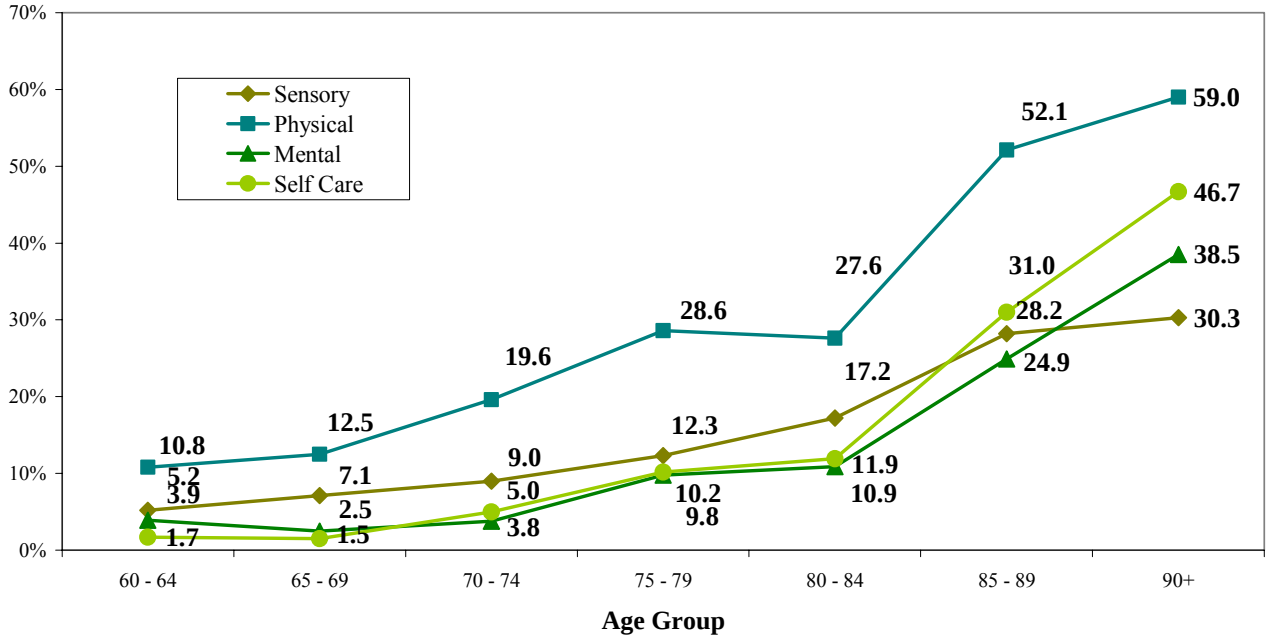


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000: Public Use Microdata Sample: 5-Percent.

[2] As explained in the Preface, Figures 4-6, 9-12, & 14-20 present data for Van Wert, Mercer, Paulding, and Putnam Counties.

As illustrated in Figure 5, the percentage of individuals reporting sensory, physical, mental and self-care disabilities in Van Wert, Mercer, Paulding, and Putnam Counties steadily increases with age, not surprisingly, with the oldest age group reporting the highest levels in all four types of disability. For example, the proportion of people with physical disabilities increases from 10.8% of the population age 60-64, to 59.0% of the population age 90+.

Figure 5
Disability Among Population Age 60+
by Type of Disability and Age Group,
Mercer, Paulding, Putnam and Van Wert Counties, 2000



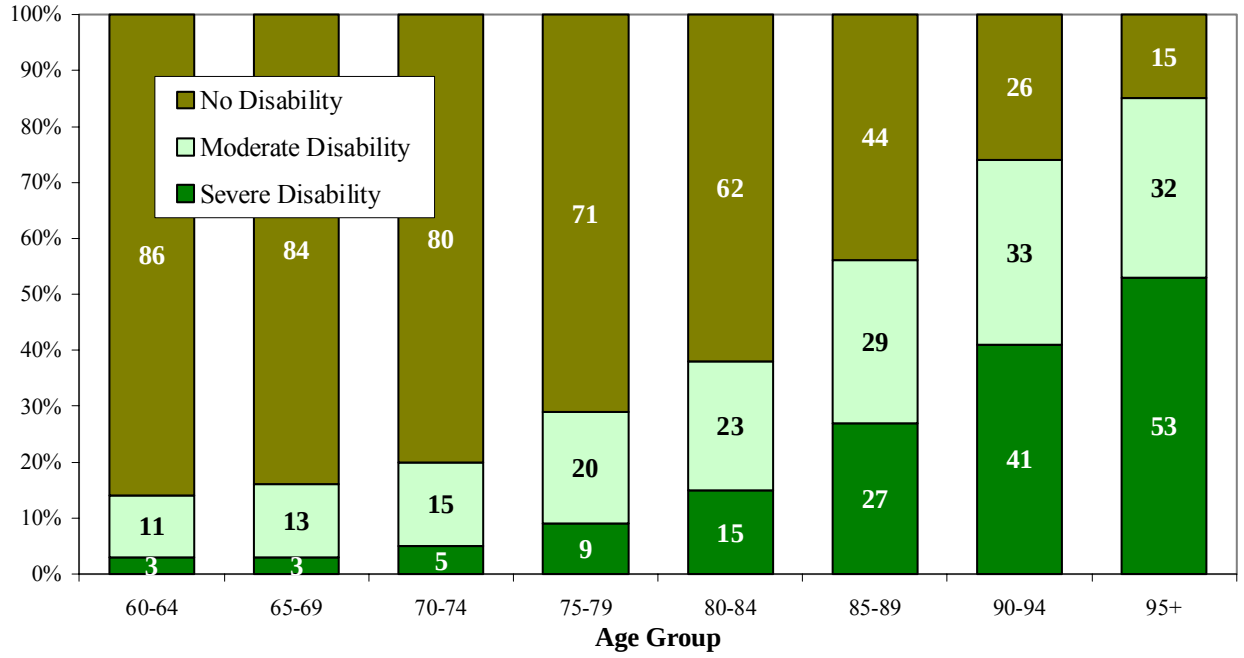
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000: Public Use Microdata Sample: 5-Percent.

Projections of Population with Disability

In this study, disability is defined as a measure of impairment in Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs). Three levels are assigned to this measure: Severe Disability, Moderate Disability, and Little or No Disability. Individuals are classified as moderately disabled if they received assistance in one of the following ADLs: eating, transferring in or out of bed or chair, getting to the toilet, dressing, bathing, or remaining continent; or in at least one of the following instrumental tasks of daily living: walking, shopping, meal preparation, housekeeping, or using transportation or telephone. Severe disability refers to receiving assistance in at least two of the following ADLs: eating, bathing, transferring in or out of bed or chair, getting to the toilet, dressing, or remaining continent, or to having cognitive impairment. The disability rates by sex and age group are assumed to remain the same from 2000 to 2020 as they were in 1995.

The prevalence of disability increases with age. As Figure 6 shows, only 3% of the population age 60-64 have a severe disability, compared to more than half (53%) of the people age 95 and older. Women experience higher rates of severe and moderate disability at every age compared to men of the same age. For more information on the prevalence of disability among men and women by age group, see the Methodology section.

Figure 6
Estimated Percentage Distribution of Total Population by Disability Status and Age Group, 1995



Source: Mehdizadeh, S.A., Kunkel, S.R., Ritchey, P.N. (2001). *Projections of Ohio's Older Disabled Population: 2015 to 2050*. Oxford, OH: Scripps Gerontology Center, Miami University.

Since the rate of disability by gender and age group was held constant throughout the timeline (see the Methodology section for a more detailed explanation), any fluctuations in the number of persons with disabilities across time are attributed to projected changes in the number of people in each age-gender group. As was discussed in the population projections section (see Figure 3), the greatest increases in the 60+ population are expected in the 60-69 and 90+ age groups, while more modest increases are expected in the 70-79 and 80-89 age groups. Because increases are expected in all segments of the 60+ population, the projected number of persons with disabilities is expected to increase from 2000-2020 in Van Wert County (see Table 2 below, and Table 1a in the Appendix). When broken down by age group, projections suggest the greatest increases in both moderate and severe disability among the 60-69 and 90+ age groups because of projected increases in these populations. Table 1a in the Appendix provides a breakdown of the projected number of disabled persons for each age group for Van Wert County.

Table 2
Projections of Disability Among Population Age 60+
Van Wert County, 2000*-2020

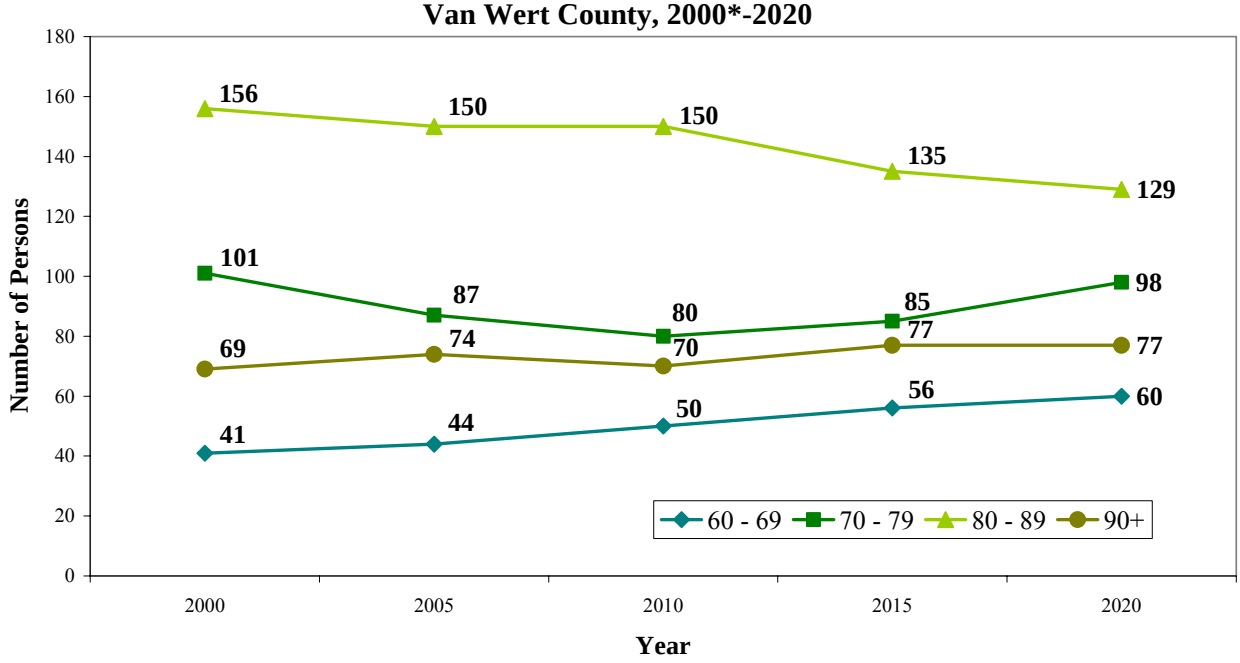
Year	Total Population	No Disability	Moderate Disability	Severe Disability
2000	5,839	4,326	993	520
2005	5,792	4,301	979	512
2010	6,082	4,566	1,002	514
2015	6,614	5,022	1,061	531
2020	7,186	5,490	1,145	551

Source: Authors' Projections
* Year 2000 data are actual disability counts, years 2005-2020 are projections.

Figures 7 and 8 (and Tables 2a and 3a in the Appendix) show the projected number of disabled women and men (respectively) in Van Wert County according to age group. Because the rates of disability are assumed to be constant over the future time horizon, projected changes in the number of people with disabilities reflect changes in population composition.

With regard to the older female population, 367 were severely disabled in 2000, compared to a projected 364 in 2020. Changes in the number of disabled older adults are expected only in age groups where population changes are expected. Figure 7 shows that between 2000 and 2020, an increase in numbers of severely disabled women is expected among the 60-69 and 90+ age groups in Van Wert County, as these populations are expected to increase.

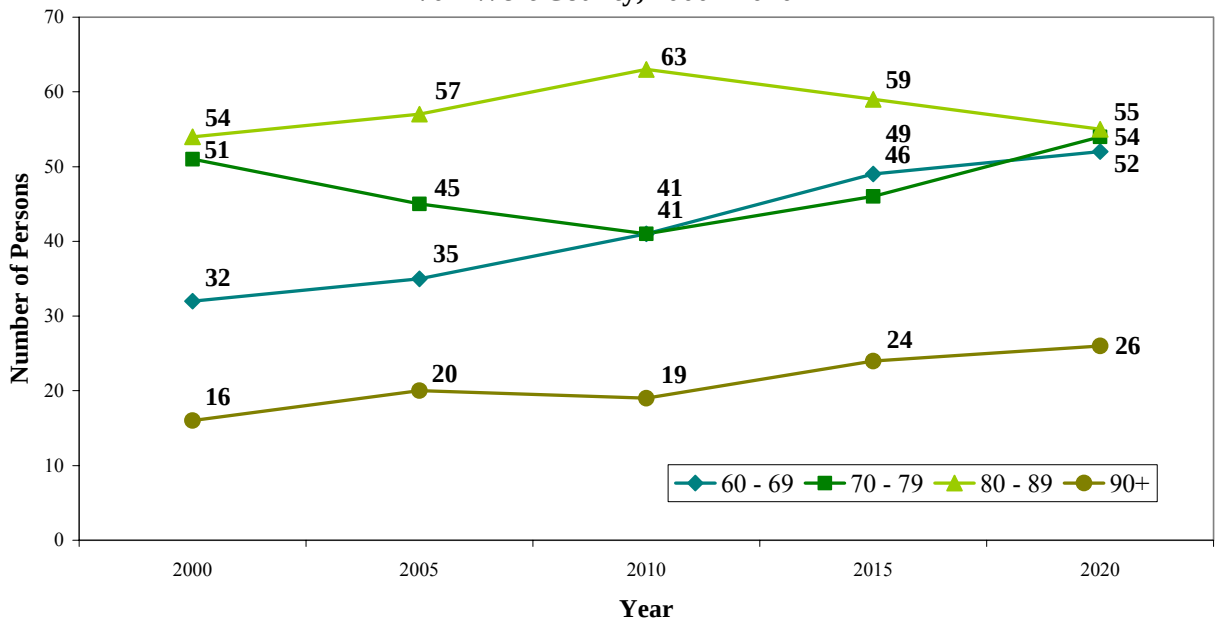
Figure 7
Projections of the Number of Women Age 60+ with Severe Disability, by Age Group, Van Wert County, 2000*-2020



Source: Authors' projections.
*Year 2000 data are actual disability counts.

The population with severe disabilities in Van Wert County is largely female. In 2000, a total of 153 males age 60 and over were severely disabled (compared to 367 females). By the year 2020, it is expected that the number of disabled older men will increase to 187 (compared to 364 older women). Figure 8 shows that the largest increase in the number of severely disabled men is expected among the 60-69 age group. Smaller increases in the number of severely disabled men are expected among the 70-79, 80-89, and 90+ age groups in Van Wert County.

Figure 8
Projections of the Number of Men Age 60+ with Severe Disability, by Age Group, Van Wert County, 2000*-2020



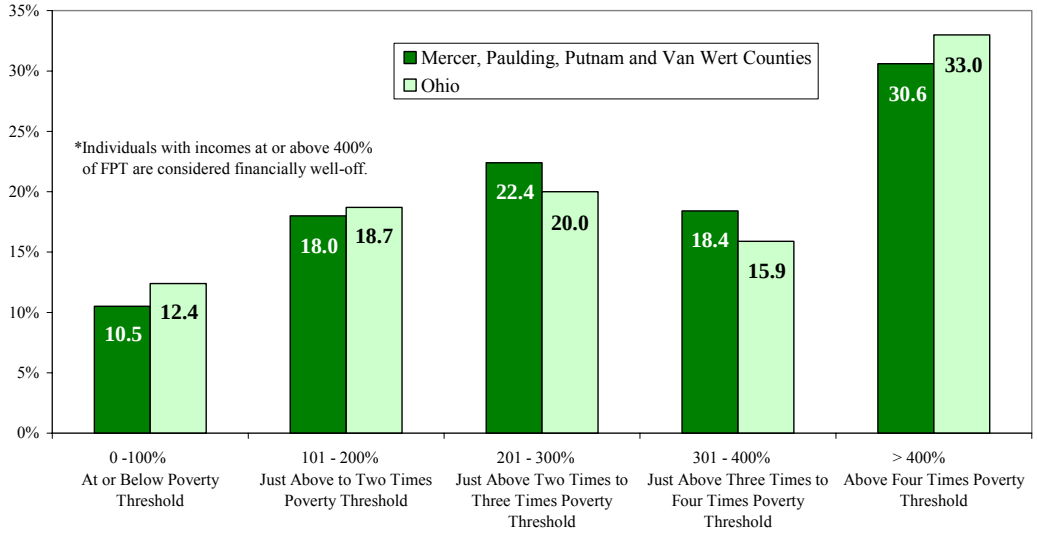
Source: Authors' projections.
*Year 2000 data are actual disability counts.

Population Characteristics that Could Affect Need for Care

Several variables have been found to be related to the prevalence of disability and the need for long-term care services as one ages. These variables include poverty, racial and ethnic background, marital status, living alone, and educational attainment (http://www.aoa.gov/prof/statistics/future_growth/aging21/Program.asp). In the following sections, these issues are explored in the context of the older population in Van Wert, Mercer, Paulding, and Putnam Counties.

Poverty - Standards for gauging poverty levels are set by the Federal Poverty Threshold[3], which delineates income levels (or thresholds) that vary by family size, age of householder, and number of related children under 18 years of age. Rates of poverty are typically discussed as percentages of the Federal Poverty Threshold (FPT), for which those with incomes below 100% of the FPT are the most impoverished, and those with incomes above 400% of the FPT are the most economically advantaged. In the following discussion, data regarding individuals with incomes greater than 400% of the poverty level are included for comparison, although these individuals are not considered impoverished. As shown in Figure 9, a significant number of older adults in Van Wert, Mercer, Paulding, and Putnam Counties are potential candidates for state and federal assistance based on income eligibility. In 2000, 50.9% of the 60+ population had incomes below 300% of the federal poverty level. Of this population, 10.5% were living at or below 100% of the poverty level.

Figure 9
Proportion of Population Age 60+ by Poverty Threshold Ratio, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam and Van Wert Counties & Ohio, 2000

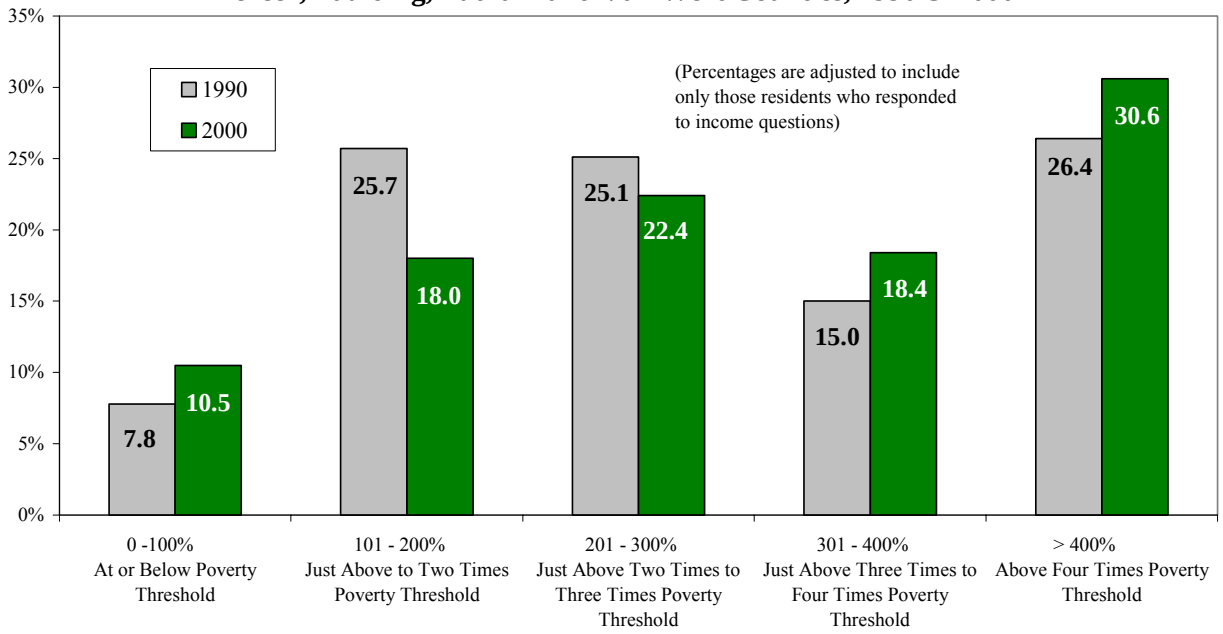


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000: Public Use Microdata Sample: 5-Percent.

[3] **Federal Poverty Threshold -** In 2000, the poverty level was $8,959 for one person under the age of 65, and $8,259 for an individual over 65. For two person households, the poverty level was $11,590 if the householder was under 65 and $10,419 when the householder was 65+. In 1990, the poverty threshold was $6,800 (annual income) for one person under the age of 65, and $6,268 for an individual over 65. For two person households, where the householder was under the age of 65, the poverty threshold was $8,794, and $7,905 when the householder was 65+. For more information about poverty thresholds, see: http://www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/threshld.html

Compared to 1990, there were a higher percentage of older adults at both ends of the poverty scale in Van Wert, Mercer, Paulding, and Putnam Counties in 2000. The greatest change occurred among the older population with incomes below 100% of the FPT. Figure 10 shows that the percent of adults 60+ living below the poverty level increased from 7.8% in 1990 to 10.5% in 2000. At the other end of the scale, the percent of older adults with incomes over 400% of the poverty level (the most economically advantaged) also increased in this period, from 26.4% in 1990, to 30.6% in 2000. A considerable number of people did not complete income related questions properly in the 1990 Census. As a result, the wide gap in the percentage of people at or below poverty from 1990 to 2000 may be partially due to this responding pattern.

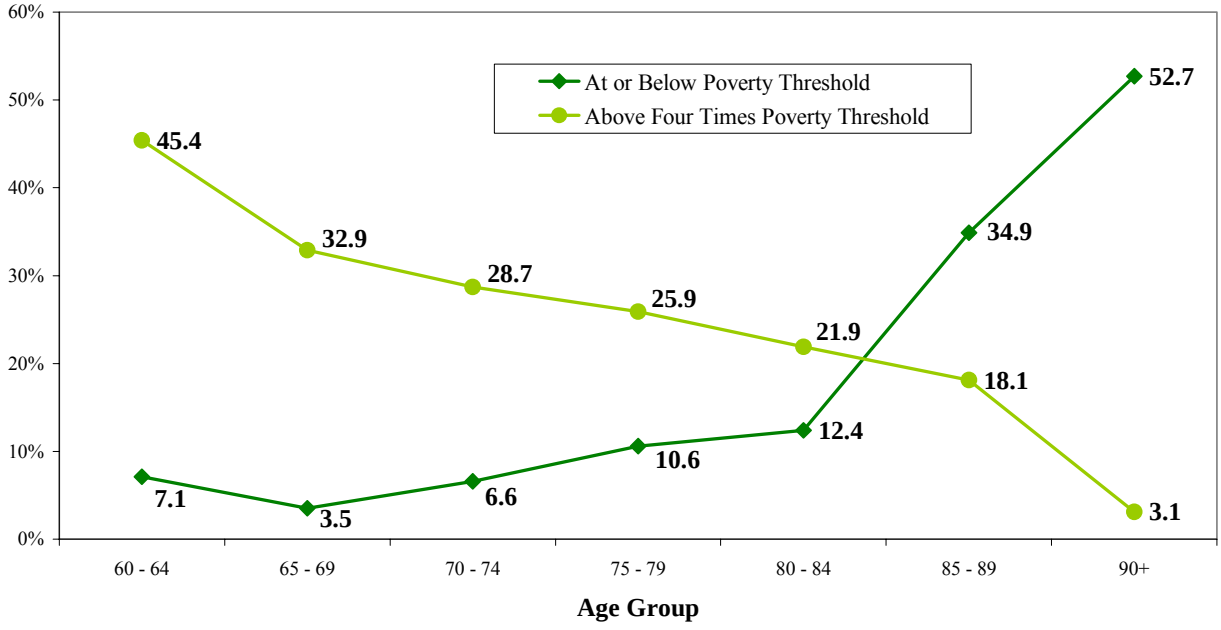
Figure 10
Proportion of Population Age 60+ by Poverty Threshold Ratio, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam and Van Wert Counties, 1990 & 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000: Public Use Microdata Sample: 5-Percent.

A closer examination of poverty rates in Van Wert, Mercer, Paulding, and Putnam Counties reveals striking trends in relation to age. As shown in Figure 11, the percentage of people at or below the poverty level increases dramatically with advancing age. To illustrate, nearly one-half (45.4%) of 60-64 year olds reported incomes above four times the poverty threshold (the highest income category), compared to only 3.1% of those in the oldest age group (90+). In contrast, 7.1% of 60-64 year olds fall in the lowest income category, while 52.7% of the 90+ population reported incomes at or below the poverty threshold.

Figure 11
Proportion of 60+ Population in Poverty Compared to Those with Incomes Above Four Times Poverty Threshold, by Age Group, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam and Van Wert Counties, 2000



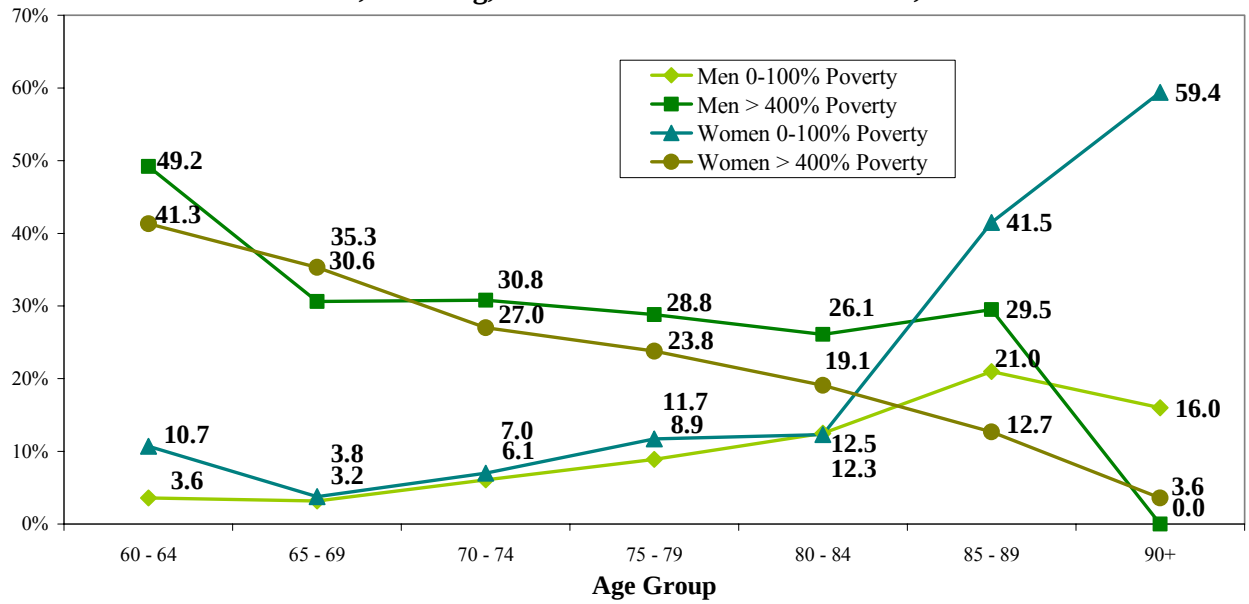
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000: Public Use Microdata Sample: 5-Percent.

Figure 12 shows a comparison of the most economically disadvantaged income category (≤ 100% FPT) and the most economically advantaged income category (> 400% FPT) by gender and age group. In order to show the contrast between the lowest and the highest income groups, the middle income categories have been intentionally left out.

In 2000, 49.2% of men age 60-64 were in the highest income category, while 0% of men 90+ had this level of income. In contrast, only 3.6% of men age 60-64 were in the lowest income category, compared to 16.0% of men age 90+. Figure 12 shows that a fairly stable percentage of older men were classified as having incomes at or below 100% of the FPT from ages 60-84, with a sharp increase in the proportion of men in this income category as they approach the 90+ age group. It appears that age 85-89 is a pivotal point for men, where average incomes drop sharply as they near the 90+ age group.

The pattern of income distribution among older women in Van Wert, Mercer, Paulding, and Putnam Counties is similar to that of older men. One important distinction is that there is a higher proportion of women in the lowest income category (≤ 100% FPT), and a lower proportion of women in the highest income category (>400% FPT) at nearly all ages.

Figure 12
Proportion of Population Age 60+,
by Poverty Threshold Ratio*, Age Group, and Gender,
Mercer, Paulding, Putnam and Van Wert Counties, 2000

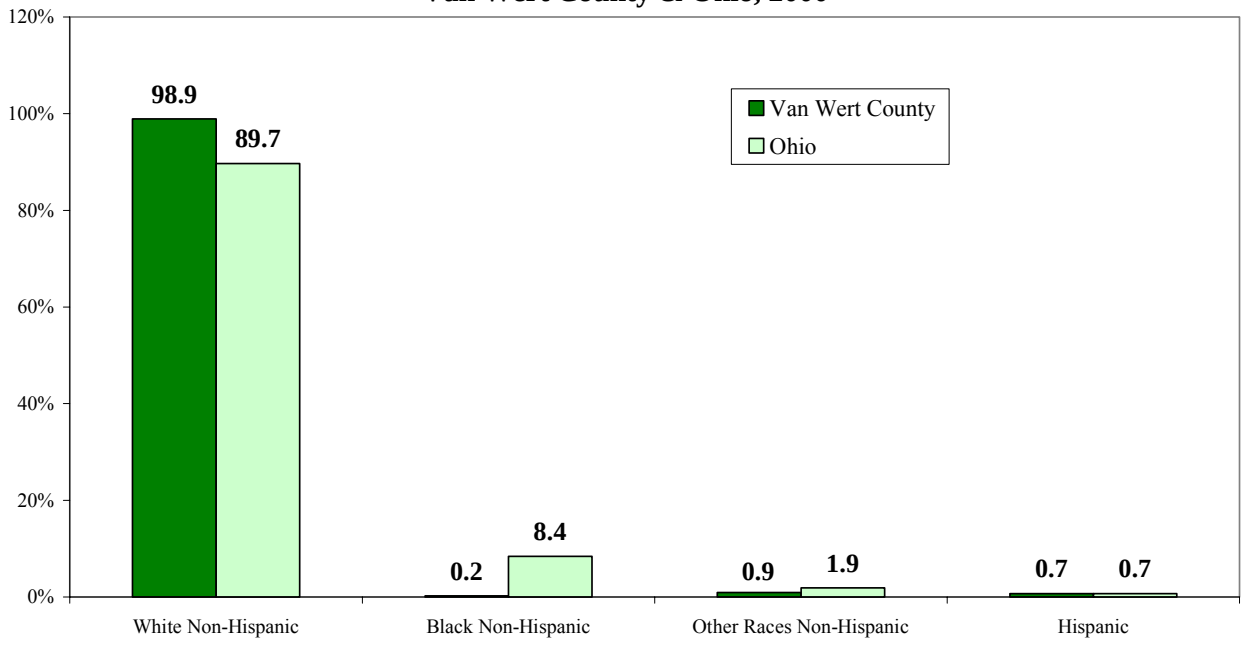


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000: Public Use Microdata Sample: 5-Percent.
*Middle income groups have been removed in order to show the contrast between the lowest and highest income groups.

Race and Ethnicity

Van Wert County's older population is less racially and ethnically diverse than the older population in Ohio as a whole. Figure 13 shows that in 2000, 98.9% of the county population (60+) identified themselves as white non-Hispanic, compared to 89.7% of the state population. In the same year, 0.2% of the county population self-identified as black non-Hispanic, compared to 8.4% of the state population.

Figure 13
Race and Ethnic Distribution Among Population Age 60+,
Van Wert County & Ohio, 2000

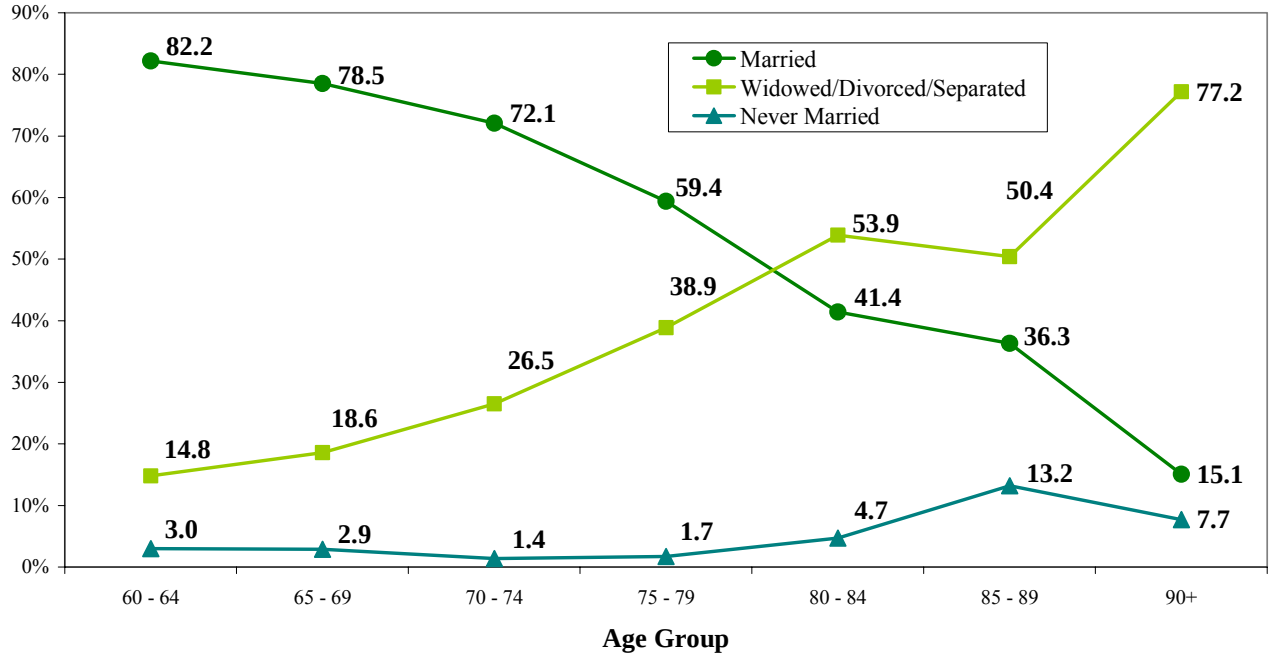


Source:U.S.Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population: PCT12I, PCT12J, & PCT12H SEX BY AGE.

Marital Status

According to Census data, the percentage of married older adults decreases steadily after age 60. As illustrated in Figure 14, the majority (82.2%) of 60-64 year olds were married in 2000, while 17.8% were single (defined as widowed, divorced, separated or never married). In contrast to 60-64 year olds, the marital status of the 90+ population is nearly the inverse. Among this age group, 84.9% were single in 2000, while 15.1% were married.

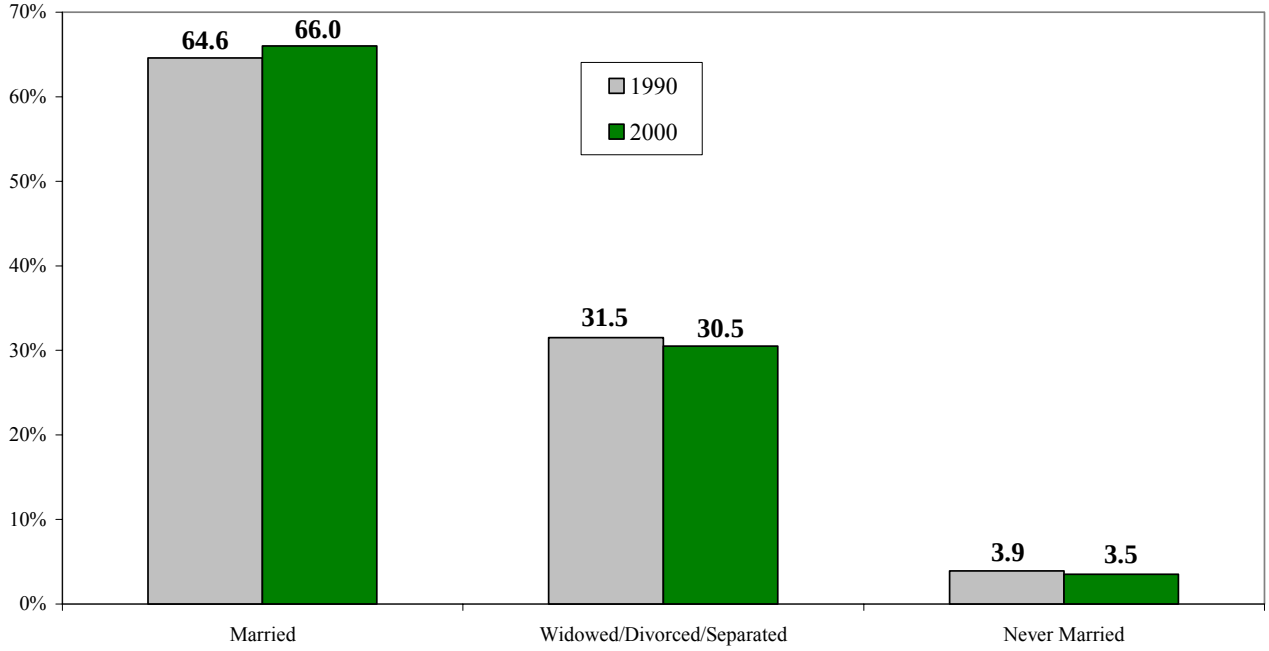
Figure 14
Marital Status of Population Age 60+, by Age Group
Mercer, Paulding, Putnam and Van Wert Counties, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000: Public Use Microdata Sample: 5-Percent.

Between 1990 and 2000, the percentage of married older adults (60+) in Van Wert, Mercer, Paulding, and Putnam Counties remained fairly stable. In 2000, 66.0% of older residents were married compared to 64.6% in 1990. Similarly, no major changes occurred among the single population (people who were widowed, divorced, separated, or never married). In 2000, 34.0% of the 60+ population was single, compared to 35.4% in 1990 (see Figure 15).

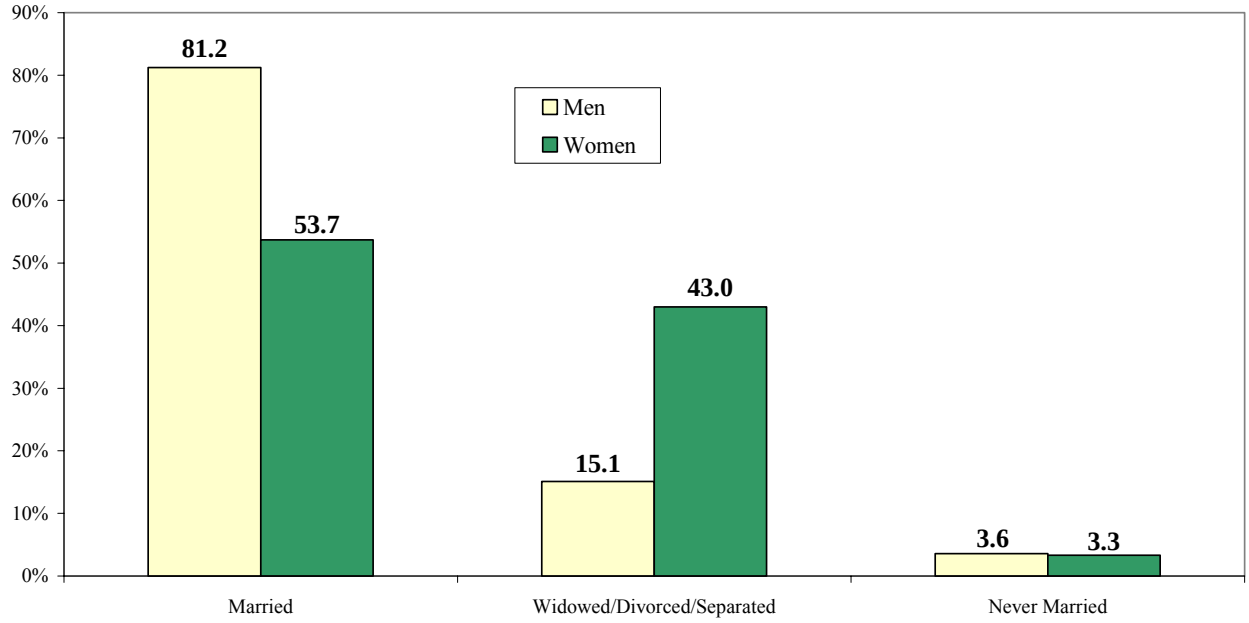
Figure 15
Marital Status Among Population Age 60+,
Mercer, Paulding, Putnam and Van Wert Counties, 1990 & 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000: Public Use Microdata Sample: 5-Percent.

Women above the age of 60 are more likely to be widowed, divorced, or separated than men. Figure 16 shows that 81.2% of men age 60+ in Van Wert, Mercer, Paulding, and Putnam Counties were married in 2000, compared to only 53.7% of women. Because single older adults are more likely than married couples to need outside help or institutional care, the population in Van Wert, Mercer, Paulding, and Putnam Counties that is potentially in need of such assistance is largely female.

Figure 16
Marital Status Among Population Age 60+, by Gender
Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, and Van Wert Counties, 2000



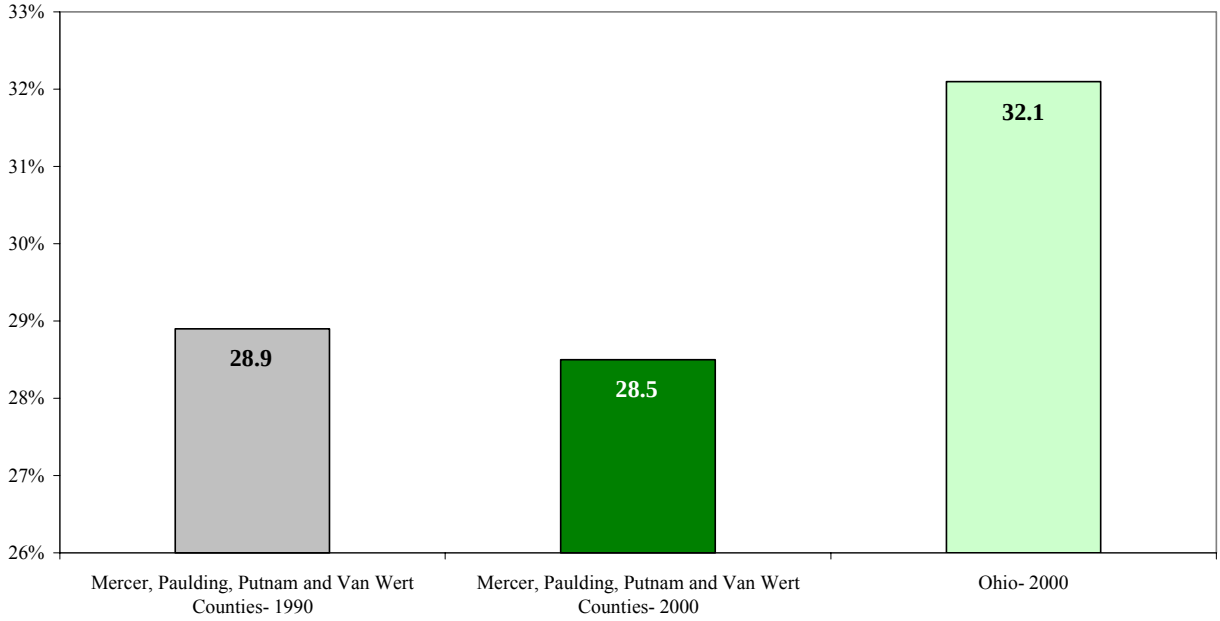
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000: Public Use Microdata Sample: 5-Percent.

Living Alone

Figure 17 compares the proportion of Van Wert, Mercer, Paulding, and Putnam County residents age 60+ who were living alone in 2000 to Ohio, and illustrates the changes that occurred in the county population (60+) living alone between 1990 and 2000.

In 2000, 28.5% of Van Wert, Mercer, Paulding, and Putnam County residents age 60+ were living alone, compared to 32.1% of the state population age 60+. The percentage of older adults living alone in Van Wert, Mercer, Paulding, and Putnam Counties has decreased since 1990, from 28.9% of the 60+ population to 28.5% in 2000.

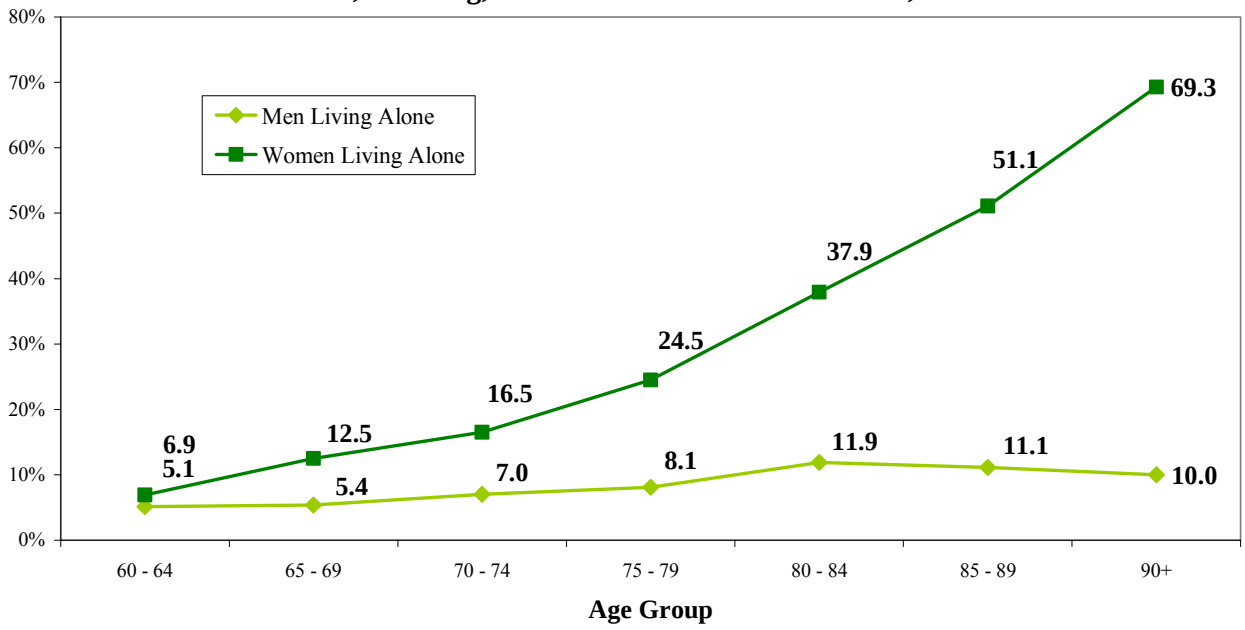
Figure 17
Proportion of Population Age 60+ Living Alone, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam and Van Wert Counties, 1990 & 2000, and Ohio, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000: Public Use Microdata Sample: 5-Percent.

Older women are more likely than older men to be living alone in Van Wert, Mercer, Paulding, and Putnam Counties. Figure 18 shows that a higher percentage of women than men are living alone at all ages above 60. While the percentage of men living alone increases only slightly with age, the percent of women living alone increases dramatically with age. Among the 60-64 year age group in 2000, 6.9% of women were living alone, compared to 5.1% of men. Among the oldest age group (90+), 69.3% of women were living alone, compared to only 10.0%

Figure 18
Proportion of Population Age 60+ Living Alone,
by Gender, and Age Group,
Mercer, Paulding, Putnam and Van Wert Counties, 2000



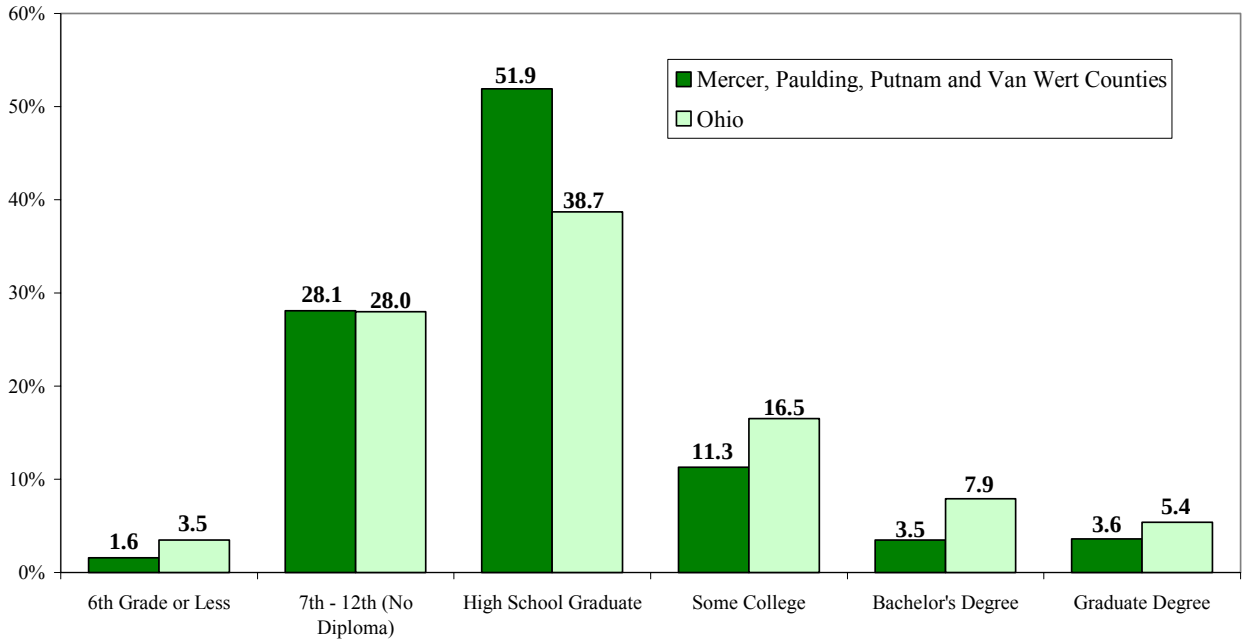
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000: Public Use Microdata Sample: 5-Percent.

of their male counterparts.

Education

Studies suggest that there is a strong relationship between educational attainment and the prevalence of poverty and disability in old age. Figure 19 shows that the majority of older adults (60+) in Van Wert, Mercer, Paulding, and Putnam Counties have completed 12 or fewer years of school. Over one half (51.9%) of older adults have completed high school, and 29.7% have completed less than 12 years. This suggests that a significant proportion of the older population may be economically vulnerable.

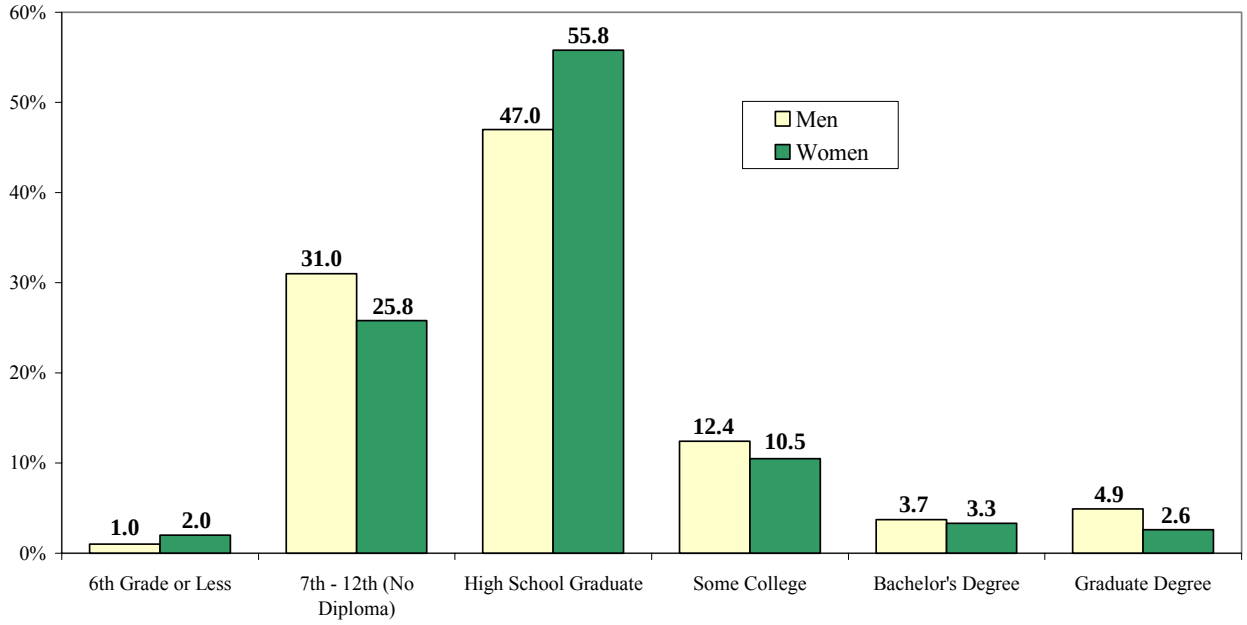
Figure 19
Highest Level of Educational Attainment
Among Population Age 60+
Mercer, Paulding, Putnam and Van Wert Counties & Ohio, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000: Public Use Microdata Sample: 5-Percent.

Figure 20 contrasts the educational attainment of older adults in Van Wert, Mercer, Paulding, and Putnam Counties by gender. Older women are more likely to have only completed high school, while older men are more likely to have pursued and obtained higher degrees. As a whole, the older female population in Van Wert, Mercer, Paulding, and Putnam Counties is less educated than the older male population.

Figure 20
Highest Level of Educational Attainment
Among Population Age 60+, by Gender
Mercer, Paulding, Putnam and Van Wert Counties, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000: Public Use Microdata Sample: 5-Percent.

Summary

This analysis of population trends and projections in Van Wert County, Ohio reveals several important issues with regard to the prevalence of poverty and disability among the older population. Primarily, it is evident that the County population is aging, and the population age 60+ will continue to grow over the next twenty years. More specifically, the so-called "oldest old" (85+) are the fastest growing age group in the County (as well as the state of Ohio). The unprecedented growth in the older population will present the County (and the state) with a number of challenges in the coming years. Among the older population in Van Wert County, levels of disability and poverty increase with age, with the oldest old experiencing the highest rates of both. Also of concern is the preponderance of older women among the oldest age groups, who comprise a majority of the impoverished, disabled and single populations. These women, who are highly economically vulnerable, and are potentially in need of significant personal care assistance, are frequently living alone; a trend that is expected to become increasingly common over the next several decades.

Methodology

Projections of the disabled older population in Van Wert County were calculated in three steps. We developed projections of the county's older population by gender and age groups from 2000 to 2020. We also made estimates of disability rates for the older population by gender and age groups. And, we applied these disability rates to the projected population to project the number of persons with a disability in Van Wert County.

Projection Method - We developed population projections using the "cohort component method" (Shryock & Siegel, 1996). This method involves beginning with actual population counts in gender and age groups, and applying specific rates of change (births, deaths, and migration) to estimate the future population. We projected the population in cycles of 5-year periods through the year 2020. We applied projected survival rates to the beginning population in order to calculate the surviving population for a 5-year period (see following section for an explanation of survival rates). Next, we applied gender and age group specific migration rates to calculate the number of survivors leaving and joining the county population during the five years. The final projected population equals the survived population plus the difference between the number of migrants leaving and joining the county. The projected population at the end of each 5-year period becomes the beginning population for the next 5-year period, and the procedure is repeated over the desired time horizon. We used 5-year age groupings of men and women to make the projections. In order to project the population that will be 60+ in 2020, we began with the population that was 40+ in 2000 (these cohorts, of course, age as they are projected forward).

Survival Rates - To calculate survival rates for the older population in Ohio, we combined projected national mortality rates from the Census with actual mortality rates for the state to develop a trended set of survival rates for 2005-2020. All calculations were done for each gender in 5-year age groups. Using Census projected life tables for 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020, we developed 5-year survival rates for the nation (for life tables, see http://www.census.gov/population/www/projections/natdet.html). Using Ohio counts of death and counts of population for 2000, we developed survival rates for Ohio for 2000. We then projected the County's survival rates to pattern the expected change for the Nation while maintaining the difference between the County and the Nation that occurred in 2000.

Migration Rates - We computed net migration estimates (i.e., the difference in the number of migrants joining and leaving the county) for the County for each gender in 5-year age groups (beginning with ages 40-44 years old, through 95+). We calculated migration estimates using Census data for 1990 and 2000 and counts of County death from Ohio public use mortality files (Ohio Department of Health, 1990-2000). We "survived" the 1990 County population of each gender and age group by subtracting the deaths from those residing in the county from April 1, 1990 through March 31, 2000. In calculating the deaths occurring to an age group, we adjusted for the group's getting older, or aging, during the decade. We calculated net migration by subtracting this survived population from the 2000 count of the age population (the age group that was 10 years older in 2000 than in 1990). Thus, net migration equals the actual 2000 count minus the survived population (or minus the number of people that would have been in the county had no migration taken place during the decade). The aforementioned set of assumptions, which guided our projection methodology, garnered specific results. If these assumptions were

changed, it would yield different results. In 2003, the Ohio Department of Development produced a series of population projections for each of Ohio's 88 counties. As their research was based on a different set of assumptions, their numbers differ from ours slightly (http://www.odod.state.oh.us/research/).

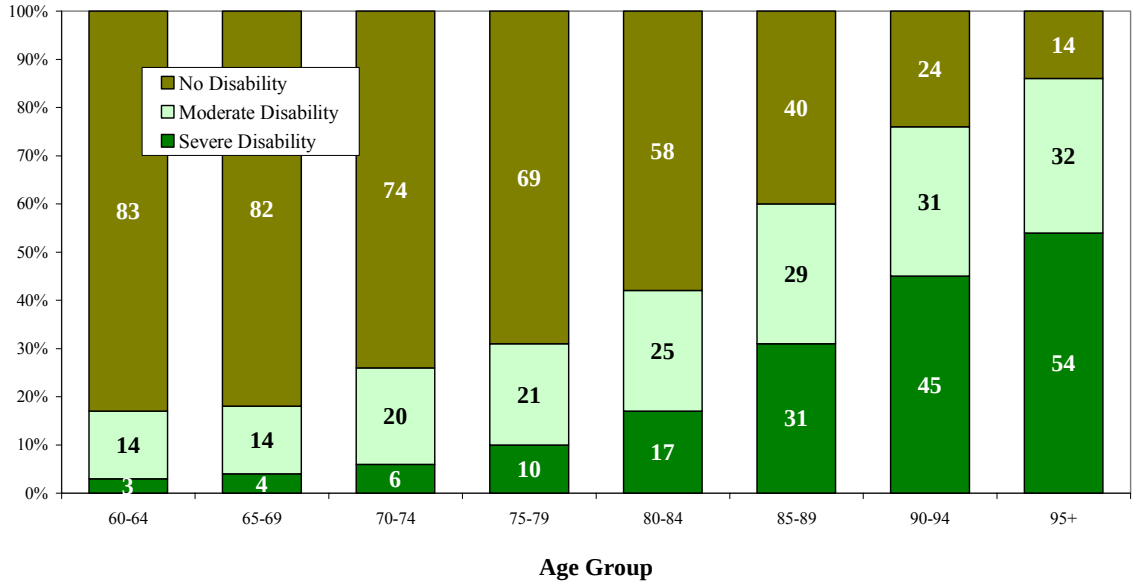
Estimation of Age and Sex Specific Disability Rates for Gender and Age Groups - Disability in this study is defined as a measure of impairment in activities of Daily Living (ADL) and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL). Three levels were assigned to this measure: Severe Disability, Moderate Disability, and Little or No Disability. Disability rates for the institutionalized and community based older population were calculated separately, weighted by their respective proportions in the population, and then combined.

The community disability rates were calculated using the community portion of the 1994 National Long Term Care Survey (NLTCS). Institutional disability rates were calculated using the 1995 National Nursing Home Survey (NNHS). These surveys provided information to calculate the disability rate for the 65+ population. As we defined disability, we relied on individual ADL-IADL item scores. Sample participants were identified as either dependent in performing Activities of Daily Living or independent in order to assign disability status to each individual. Two criteria were used in selecting individual ADL or IADL items to include in the disability scale: 1) items must have similar wording, content, and time span in both surveys; and 2) the scale, and the items used in creating the scale, must be as similar as possible to the items used in calculating the disability measure that we created in our earlier studies of projecting disabled older population of Ohio.

We used 2000 Census data on self-care disabilities and the National Health Interview Survey on Disability, 1995: Phase II Adult Followback as a guide to extend the disability rates established for the 65+ population to the 60-64 age group. We are assuming that the proportion of the population that will become disabled in each gender and age group will remain constant from 1995 (the survey dates) to the year 2020. We acknowledge that there are studies that suggest it could be otherwise.

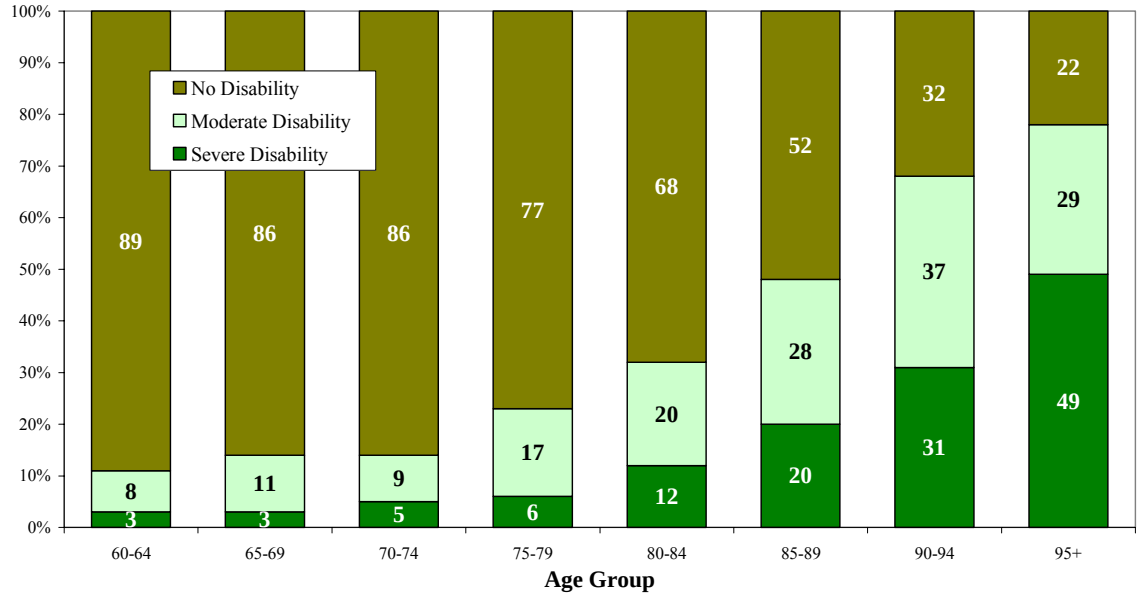
Figures 21 and 22 show the higher rates of severe disability among women of all ages, and the consistent increase in the prevalence of disability with advancing age for both men and women.

Figure 21
Estimated Percentage Distribution of Women by Disability Status and Age, 1995



Source: Mehdizadeh, S.A., Kunkel, S.R., Ritchey, P.N. (2001). *Projections of Ohio's Older Disabled Population: 2015 to 2050* . Oxford, OH: Scripps Gerontology Center, Miami University.

Figure 22
Estimated Percentage Distribution of Men by Disability Status and Age, 1995



Source: Mehdizadeh, S.A., Kunkel, S.R., Ritchey, P.N. (2001). *Projections of Ohio's Older Disabled Population: 2015 to 2050* .

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Appendix

Table 1a
Projections of Total Older Population by Age and Levels of Disability
Van Wert County, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020

Year	Age Group	Total Population	No Disability	Moderate Disability	Severe Disability
2000*	**60 - 69**	2,397	2,036	288	73
	70 - 79	2,191	1,665	374	152
	80 - 89	1,058	580	268	210
	90+	193	45	63	85
	Total Age 60+	5,839	4,326	993	520
2005	**60 - 69**	2,568	2,184	305	79
	70 - 79	1,921	1,457	332	132
	80 - 89	1,084	608	269	207
	90+	219	52	73	94
	Total Age 60+	5,792	4,301	979	512
2010	**60 - 69**	3,002	2,554	357	91
	70 - 79	1,783	1,358	304	121
	80 - 89	1,090	605	272	213
	90+	207	49	69	89
	Total Age 60+	6,082	4,566	1,002	514
2015	**60 - 69**	3,449	2,936	408	105
	70 - 79	1,944	1,487	326	131
	80 - 89	982	541	247	194
	90+	239	58	80	101
	Total Age 60+	6,614	5,022	1,061	531
2020	**60 - 69**	3,686	3,135	439	112
	70 - 79	2,301	1,762	387	152
	80 - 89	954	533	237	184
	90+	245	60	82	103
	Total Age 60+	7,186	5,490	1,145	551

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000: Public Use Microdata Sample: 5-Percent.
* Year 2000 data are actual population counts, years 2005-2020 are projections.

Table 2a
Projections of the 60+ Female Population by Age Group and Level of Disability
Van Wert County

Year	Age Group	Total Population	Population with No Disability	Population with Disability	
				Moderate[a]	Severe[b]
2000	**60-64**	653	542	93	18
	65-69	634	522	89	23
	70-74	631	470	123	38
	75-79	603	411	129	63
	80-84	410	237	102	71
	85-89	281	114	82	85
	90 +	146	31	46	69
	Total	3,358	2,327	664	367

Year	Age Group	Total Population	Population with No Disability	Population with Disability	
				Moderate[a]	Severe[b]
2005	**60-64**	742	616	105	21
	65-69	611	503	85	23
	70-74	553	412	108	33
	75-79	525	358	113	54
	80-84	445	257	111	77
	85-89	238	96	69	73
	90 +	158	34	50	74
	Total	3,272	2,276	641	355

Year	Age Group	Total Population	Population with No Disability	Population with Disability	
				Moderate[a]	Severe[b]
2010	**60-64**	887	737	126	24
	65-69	697	574	97	26
	70-74	536	399	105	32
	75-79	464	316	100	48
	80-84	394	227	98	69
	85-89	265	107	77	81
	90 +	149	32	47	70
	Total	3,392	2,392	650	350

Table 2a Continued
Projections of 60+ Female Population by Age Group and Level of Disability
Van Wert County

Year	Age Group	Total Population	Population with No Disability	Population with Disability	
				Moderate[a]	Severe[b]
2015	**60-64**	937	778	133	26
	65-69	836	689	117	30
	70-74	615	458	120	37
	75-79	454	309	97	48
	80-84	353	204	88	61
	85-89	241	97	70	74
	90 +	165	36	52	77
	Total	3,601	2,571	677	353
Year	**Age Group**	**Total Population**	**Population with No Disability**	**Population with Disability**	
				Moderate[a]	**Severe[b]**
2020	**60-64**	1,011	839	144	28
	65-69	886	730	124	32
	70-74	741	552	145	44
	75-79	525	358	113	54
	80-84	351	203	87	61
	85-89	222	90	64	68
	90 +	164	35	52	77
	Total	3,900	2,807	729	364

Source: Authors' projections.

[a] Moderate disability is defined as received help in at least one of the following activities of daily living: eating, transferring in or out of bed or chair, getting to the toilet, dressing, bathing, remaining continent; or in at least two of the following instrumental activities of daily living: walking, shopping, meal preparation, housekeeping, or using transportation.

[b] Severe disability is defined as received help in at least two of the following activities of daily living: eating, transferring in or out of bed or chair, getting to the toilet, dressing, remaining continent, or having cognitive impairment.

Table 3a
Projections of the 60+ Male Population by Age Group and Level of Disability
Van Wert County

Year	Age Group	Total Population	Population with No Disability	Population with Disability	
				Moderate[a]	Severe[b]
2000	**60-64**	594	527	50	17
	65-69	516	445	56	15
	70-74	534	461	49	24
	75-79	423	323	73	27
	80-84	230	157	46	27
	85-89	137	72	38	27
	90 +	47	14	17	16
	Total	2,481	1,999	329	153

Year	Age Group	Total Population	Population with No Disability	Population with Disability	
				Moderate[a]	Severe[b]
2005	**60-64**	685	608	57	20
	65-69	530	457	58	15
	70-74	431	372	40	19
	75-79	412	315	71	26
	80-84	284	194	57	33
	85-89	117	61	32	24
	90 +	61	18	23	20
	Total	2,520	2,025	338	157

Year	Age Group	Total Population	Population with No Disability	Population with Disability	
				Moderate[a]	Severe[b]
2010	**60-64**	803	713	67	23
	65-69	615	530	67	18
	70-74	446	385	41	20
	75-79	337	258	58	21
	80-84	282	193	56	33
	85-89	149	78	41	30
	90 +	58	17	22	19
	Total	2,690	2,174	352	164

Table 3a Continued
Projections of 60+ Male Population by Age Group and Level of Disability
Van Wert County

Year	Age Group	Total Population	Population with No Disability	Population with Disability	
				Moderate[a]	Severe[b]
2015	**60-64**	952	845	79	28
	65-69	724	624	79	21
	70-74	522	450	48	24
	75-79	353	270	61	22
	80-84	235	160	47	28
	85-89	153	80	42	31
	90 +	74	22	28	24
	Total	3,013	2,451	384	178
Year	**Age Group**	**Total Population**	**Population with No Disability**	**Population with Disability**	
				Moderate[a]	**Severe[b]**
2020	**60-64**	927	823	77	27
	65-69	862	743	94	25
	70-74	618	533	57	28
	75-79	417	319	72	26
	80-84	250	171	50	29
	85-89	131	69	36	26
	90 +	81	25	30	26
	Total	3,286	2,683	416	187

Source: Authors' projections.

[a] Moderate disability is defined as received help in at least one of the following activities of daily living: eating, transferring in or out of bed or chair, getting to the toilet, dressing, bathing, remaining continent; or in at least two of the following instrumental activities of daily living: walking, shopping, meal preparation, housekeeping, or using transportation.

[b] Severe disability is defined as received help in at least two of the following activities of daily living: eating, transferring in or out of bed or chair, getting to the toilet, dressing, remaining continent, or having cognitive impairment.