



SENIORS AND ELDER ABUSE

Overview

MetroWest's elder population continues to increase, as does the incidence of elder abuse. This report outlines projections on the anticipated size of their elderly population in the next 10 years, and the need to address the unique needs of this population.

Executive Office of Elder Affairs, based on MISER 12/2002 projections

- **Geography:** MetroWest 33 towns and Massachusetts
- **Years Available:** 2000 through 2020 projections
- **Website:**
www.mass.gov/?pageID=elderssubtopic&L=3&L0=Home&L1=Regulations+and+Statistics&L2=Elder+Population+Statistics&sid=Elders

Key Findings:

- MetroWest 33 towns 60 + elderly population is projected to increase during period of 2000-2010 17.1% (MA 16.0%); and it is projected to increase during period of 2000-2020 24.6% (MA 48.8%). Total MetroWest population projected to go from 121,216 in 2010 and to 151,095 in 2020.
- MetroWest 33 towns 65 + elderly population is projected to increase during period of 2000-2010 8.2% (MA 5.0%); and it is projected to increase during period of 2000-2020 37.3% (MA 37.0%).
- For Massachusetts, in fiscal year 2005, 11,503 elder abuse reports were received and there were 3,713 newly confirmed cases of elder abuse. These numbers represent increases of over 16% for both categories when compared to fiscal year 2004 numbers. The average monthly Protective Services caseload, which includes new cases and previously opened cases, increased by 13.5% in fiscal year 2005, from 2,523 to 2,864 cases per month.

The Patriot Ledger

- **Geography:** Massachusetts
- **Years Available:** 2009
- **Website:** www.enterpriseneews.com/archive/x1757234032/Elder-abuse-complaints-on-rise-in-Massachusetts

Key Findings:

From an article based on Sept 2010 interview with Director Office Elder Affairs

- Complaints of elder abuse and neglect have risen statewide in recent years while resources to investigate them have failed to keep pace.
- Case workers investigated about 16,000 reports of elder abuse or neglect in the year ending June 30, 2009, the most recent statistics available. The data cover people 60 and older in private living environments.
- "It could be the economy. It could be any number of reasons," said Deborah Fogarty, director of protective services for the state Executive Office of Elder Affairs. "We have a rapidly growing population of people who are 60 and over."
- According to the World Health Organization, the population of those aged 60 and older will more than double by 2025. And older people, in general, tend to be more vulnerable to abuse. Some such instances happen in places like nursing homes, others in homes.

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging

- **Geography:** Southborough
- **Years Available:** Current
- **Website:** http://seniorliving.about.com/od/babyboomers/a/aging_populatio.htm;
http://seniorliving.about.com/od/housingoptions/a/aging_pop_ideas.htm

Key Findings:

From an article on Senior Living

- Many communities across America are not prepared to serve the aging population boom that is expected when millions of baby boomers reach retirement age. This information comes from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), which surveyed thousands of cities and communities across the United States to see how prepared they are for the aging population boom that is expected to peak in 2030, when n4a estimates that one in every five Americans will be over the age of 65.
- Survey results led n4a to create a list of 10 best practices to help communities serve an aging population, and n4a identified communities across the U.S. which all found creative ways to meet the needs of their aging populations:
 - *Five MA towns (Rockport, **Southborough**, Newbury, Medway and Swampscott) have a tax reduction/tax work-off program for seniors who volunteer in the community.*

U.S. Census Bureau

- **Geography:** U.S., Massachusetts
- **Years Available:** various estimates and projections 2000-2050
- **Website:** http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/GCTTable?-ds_name=PEP_2008_EST&-mt_name=PEP_2008_EST_GCTT4R_U40SC&-format=US-40|U-40Sa|U-40Sb|U-40Sc|U-40Sd|U-40Se|U-40Sf|U-40Sg|U-40Sh|US-40S&-CONTEXT=gct&-geo_id=

Key Findings:

- 36.3 million - The number of seniors who were age 65 and older in the United States on July 1, 2004.
- Seniors 65+ comprised 12 percent of the total population in 2004.
- Between 2003 and 2004, 351,000 people joined the 65+ age group.
- 86.7 million - Projected number of people who will be 65 or older in the year 2050. In 2050, seniors age 65 and older will make up 21 percent of the total population.
- 147 percent - The projected percentage that the 65+ senior population will *increase* between 2000 and 2050. The U.S. population as a whole is expected to increase by only 49 percent during same period.
- 483 million - Current senior population of people age 65 and older in the world.
- 974 million - The total worldwide senior population over age 65 by 2030, projected by the Census Bureau.
- Massachusetts is tied at 20th in U.S. with 13.4 % of population 65 or older.
- Over 85 population ranking is tie at 10th with 2.2% of population
- 2009 U.S. estimate 65 years and over 39,570,590; 85 years and over 5,630,661
- 2009 Massachusetts estimate 65 years and over 894,514; 85 years and over 141,772

US Census Quick Facts

- **Geography:** Massachusetts, Waltham and Marlborough
- **Years Available:** 2000
- **Website:** www.quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/25/2572600.html

Key Findings:

- Massachusetts 65+ population-13.6% in 2009
- Waltham 65+ population-13.1%
- Marlborough 65+ population-11.6%