



# Aging demographics in Hennepin County from 2000 census

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## Fast facts

According to the 2000 Census:

- ▲ Minnesota has a population of 4.9 million; 594,266 of those residents are 65 or older. Hennepin, the most populated county with 1.1 million residents, has 122,358 people age 65, and over.
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  - 38,468 live alone
  - 6,748 live in poverty
- ▲ Hennepin has 17,679 people age 85 and older. Seniors age 85 and older are 5.4 times more likely than younger seniors (ages 65-74) to report needing assistance.

## Hennepin has large, growing number of senior citizens

Two primary factors – lengthened lifespans due to better health and the aging of the baby boomers, the largest population explosion in U.S. history – are working together to create a potentially expensive problem for Hennepin County and other levels of government.

Hennepin has more seniors than any other Minnesota county. According to the 2000 Census, Hennepin has 122,358 residents who are 65 years old or older – approximately 11 percent of the county's total population. In contrast, Ramsey County has 59,502 people who are 65 years old or older, St. Louis County has 32,274, Dakota County has 26,246 and Anoka County has 21,082.

## How will a growing number of seniors effect the county?

As people age, they tend to retire, which influences the work pool. As people age and grow more frail, they may have different housing and transportation needs. They may face health challenges, and they may need services tailored to them, such as assistance with housekeeping, lawn care, cooking, dispensing medications, getting to appointments and more.

## Age and poverty

Historically in the United States, poverty and age have been strongly correlated. Since women tend to live longer and earn less than men, it has been typical to find many senior women living in poverty and relying on social services provided by the county.

Today, with safety nets such as Social Security and Medicare and with economic prosperity, seniors are more affluent. However, there is and always will be a core of low-income seniors who rely on government programs.

The 2000 Census reports:

- In Hennepin, 5.5 percent of adults 65 years and older live below the poverty level (\$8,350 in 2000 for a single person). Almost 22 percent of seniors had 1999 incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. Conversely, nearly one-half of senior households had incomes above 400 percent of FPG.
- In Minneapolis, 11 percent of adults 65 years old and older live below the poverty level.

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- ▲ The median income for married couples between the ages of 65-74 in Hennepin is \$53,613. The median income for couples 75 years and older is \$40,207.
- ▲ The median income for senior males who live alone is \$24,656; the median income for senior females who live alone is \$18,778.
- ▲ Six percent of seniors had incomes less than 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) (\$7,990 for one-person households and \$10,075 for two-person households) and an additional 16 percent had incomes below 200 percent of FPG.

## **Where do Hennepin seniors live?**

- In Hennepin, about 72 percent of residents age 65 and older live in the suburbs.
- The highest concentrations of elders over the age of 65 are in suburban communities. In parts of Minnetonka, Edina, Brooklyn Center, St. Anthony, Bloomington, Richfield, Golden Valley, Wayzata, New Hope and Robbinsdale, the 65-and-older population is 30 percent to 49 percent of the total population.
- Neighborhoods in Minneapolis with concentrations of 20 percent to 29 percent seniors are scattered mostly on the perimeter, with a few in South Minneapolis, Near North, and Longfellow. Many first-ring suburban communities show similar concentrations.