Projections and Characteristics of the 65+ Population in Athens County

July 2019

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Athens County, Ohio

Characteristics and Projections of the 65+ Population

About this Report

This chartbook illustrates the characteristics of the county's 65-plus population in 2015*, and changes that have occurred since 2000. It also includes population characteristics, such as education, income level, and marital status, that are shown to be associated with the need for long-term services and supports. There are charts that compare the older population of the county to the state as a whole, and charts that illustrate change over time within the county.

The data presented in this chartbook are intended to assist planners, decisions makers, and service providers to understand the growth in numbers and proportion of older adults, particularly those who will likely need assistance.

An online **interactive data center** is available for you to define your own topic, county, and population of interest to see current figures and change over time. Please visit www.ohio-population.org.

*Note: 2015 data represent a 5-year average of data collected from 2013-2017 as part of the American Community Survey (ACS), conducted by the US Census Bureau. See the Ohio Population website for further details on methodology.

Profile of the 65+ Population

The table below compares the characteristics of the 65+ population in Athens county, the state of Ohio, and the U.S. overall. Keep in mind that the numbers and percentages represent only the 65+ population in each geographic area.

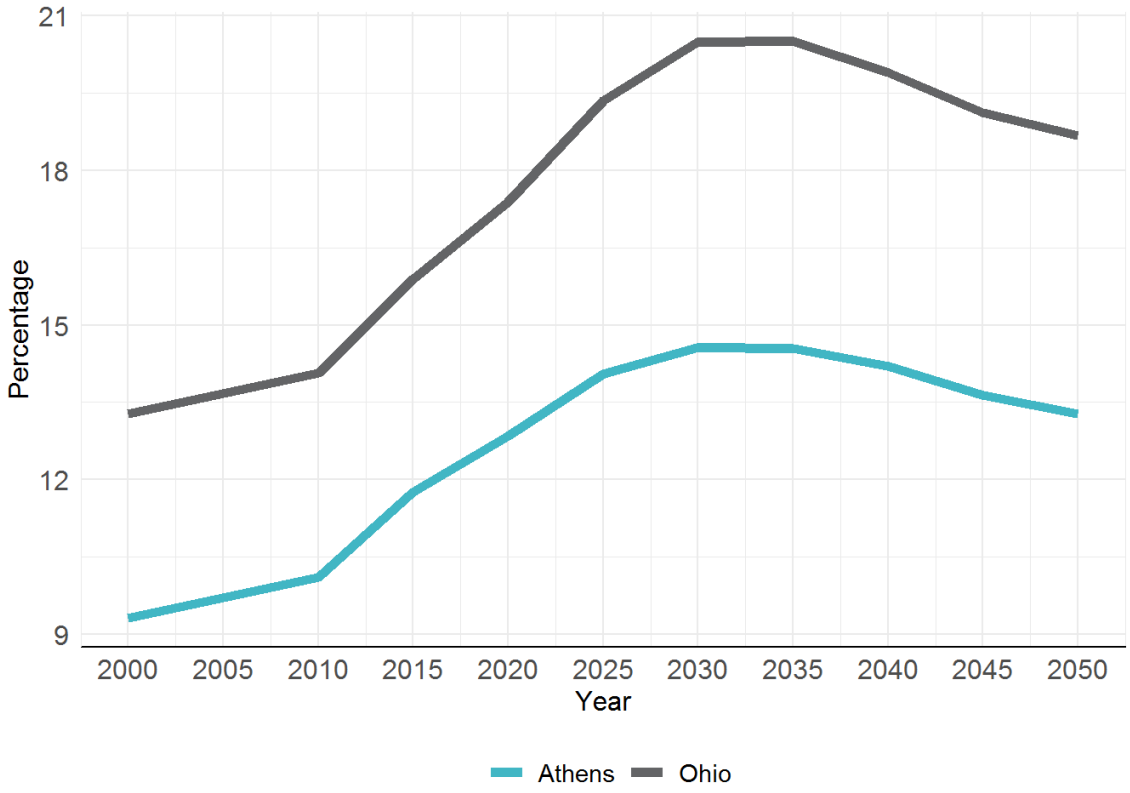
	County		Ohio		U.S.	
	2000	**2015**	**2000**	**2015**	**2000**	**2015**
Total 65+ Population	5,793	7,697	1,507,757	1,844,642	34,991,753	47,732,389
Median Household Income	21,338	36,034	25,672	38,738	26,814	41,876
Percent of Population Age 65+	9.3	11.8	13.3	15.9	12.4	14.9
Percent Below Poverty Threshold	12.9	12.9	8.1	8.0	9.9	9.3
Percent White Non-Hispanic	97.3	96.4	90.6	88.3	86.9	77.7
Percent Married	54.7	57.0	54.5	54.5	55.0	55.2
Percent with High School Diploma or Higher	66.3	83.7	66.1	84.4	65.5	82.8
Percent Living Alone	32.1	25.0	29.6	28.8	27.8	26.2

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. 2000 Census of Population and Housing. 5-Percent Public Use Microdata Sample. U.S. Census Bureau. 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Summary File. Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample, National Historical Geographic Information Systems (IPUMS NHGIS), www.nhgis.org.

Projected 65+ Population as a Percentage of Total Population

The chart below compares the projected proportion of the county's population made up by adults age 65+ through 2050, and compares it with the projected proportion of 65+ individuals in the state of Ohio overall.

Percentage of Population Age 65+ in Athens County and Ohio, 2000-2050

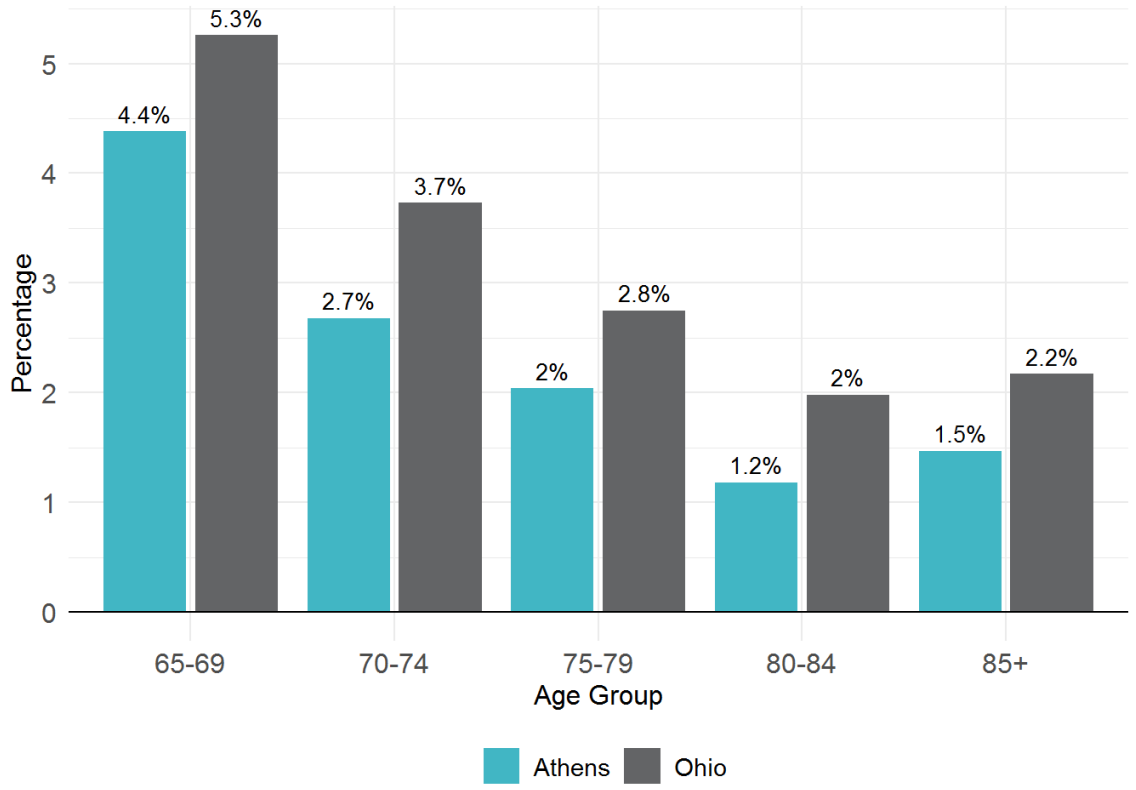


Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. 2000 Census of Population and Housing. 5-Percent Public Use Microdata Sample. U.S. Census Bureau. 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Summary File. Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample, National Historical Geographic Information Systems (IPUMS NHGIS), www.nhgis.org.
Ohio Development Services Agency, Office of Research. 2018. Population Projections: Ohio and Counties by Sex - 2015 to 2040 (April 2018).

Proportion of Population by Age Group

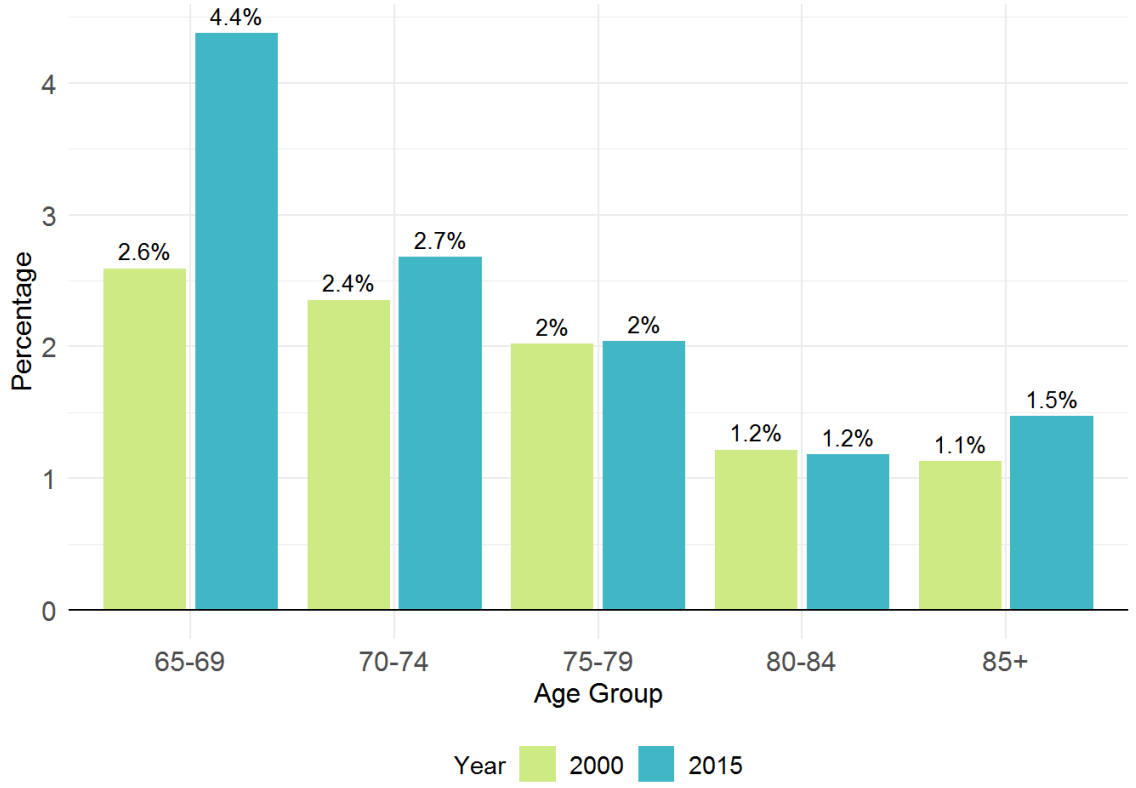
These charts show age groups within the 65+ population as a proportion of total population. The first chart compares the county with the state of Ohio in 2015, while the second chart looks at change within the county between 2000 and 2015. The table gives the percentage and number of older adults in each age bracket for 2000 and 2015.

Age Group as a Percentage of Total Population in Athens County and Ohio, 2015



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Summary File. Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample, National Historical Geographic Information Systems (IPUMS NHGIS), www.nhgis.org.

Age Group as a Percentage of Total Population in Athens County



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. 2000 Census of Population and Housing. 5-Percent Public Use Microdata Sample. U.S. Census Bureau. 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Summary File. Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample, National Historical Geographic Information Systems (IPUMS NHGIS), www.nhgis.org.

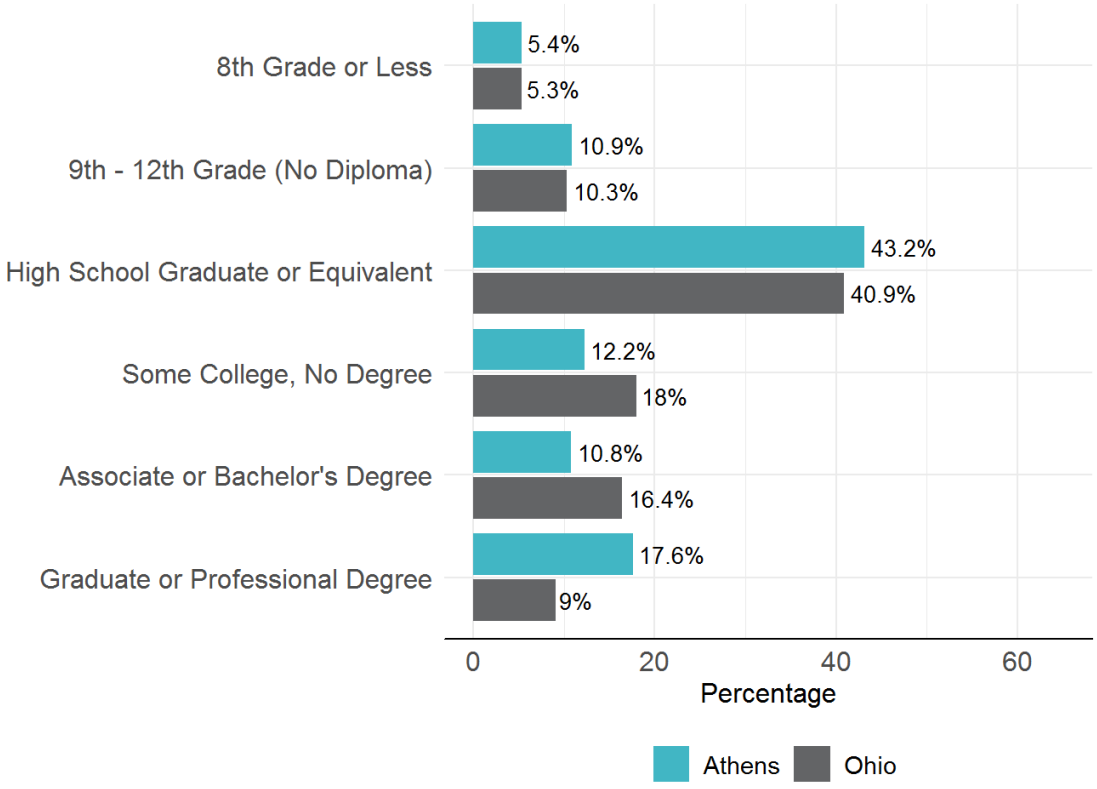
Percentage and Number of Older Adults in Athens County, by Age Group

	2000			2015		
	% of Population	# in Age Group	Total County Population	% of Population	# in Age Group	Total County Population
65-69	2.6	1,612	62,223	4.4	2,869	65,563
70-74	2.4	1,465	62,223	2.7	1,757	65,563
75-79	2.0	1,258	62,223	2.0	1,335	65,563
80-84	1.2	756	62,223	1.2	775	65,563
85+	1.1	702	62,223	1.5	961	65,563

Educational Attainment

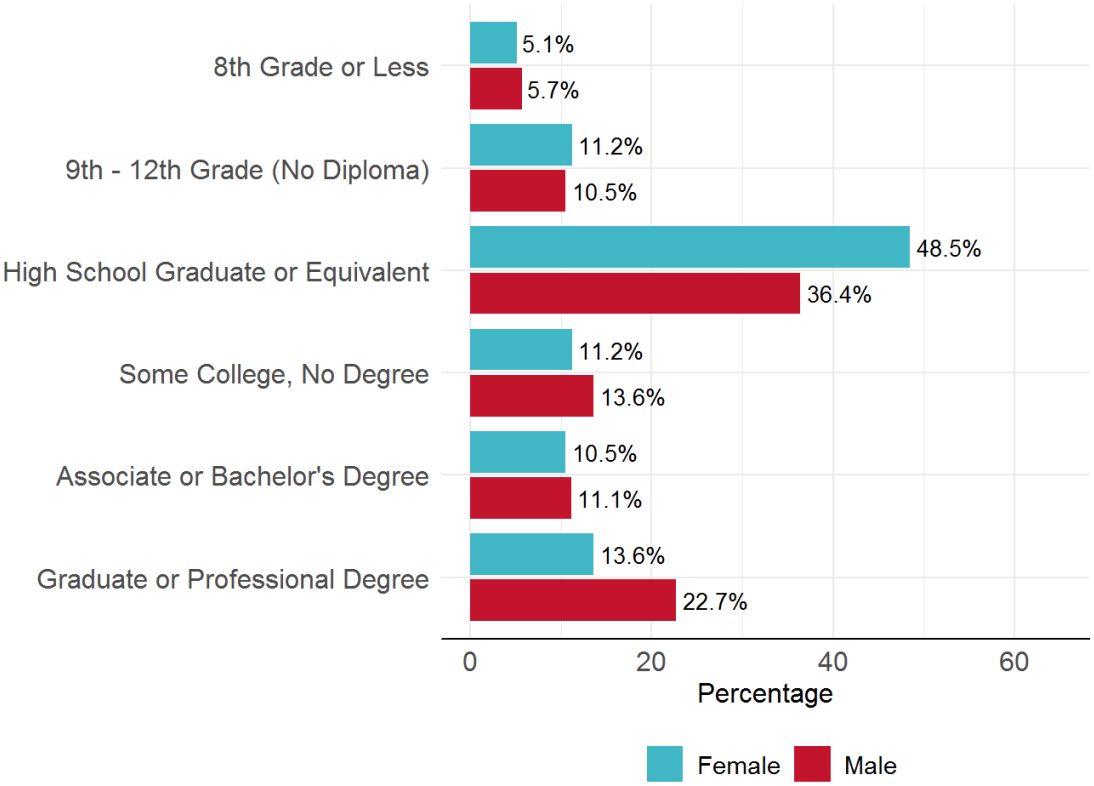
These charts show the proportion of the 65+ population at each level of educational attainment. The first chart compares the county with the state of Ohio. The second chart and accompanying table compare men and women within the county.

Educational Attainment of 65+ Population, Athens County and Ohio, 2015



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Summary File. Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample, National Historical Geographic Information Systems (IPUMS NHGIS), www.nhgis.org.

Educational Attainment of 65+ Population by Sex, Athens County, 2015



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Summary File. Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample, National Historical Geographic Information Systems (IPUMS NHGIS). www.nhgis.org

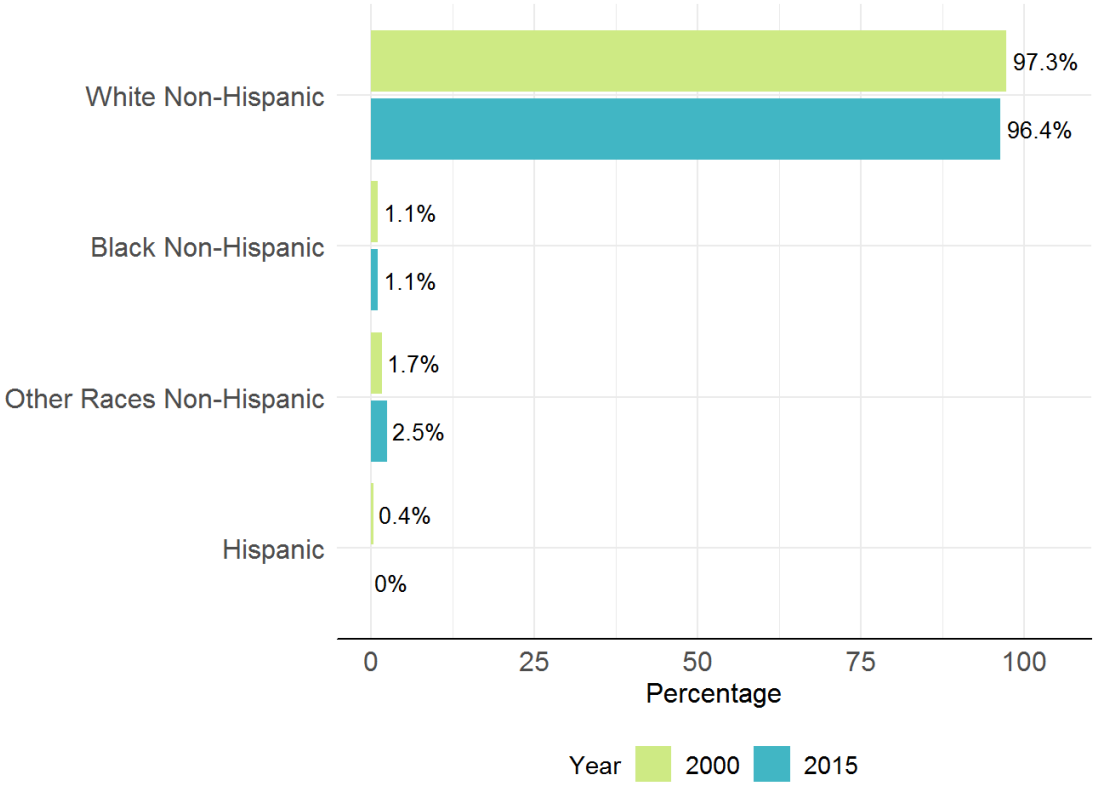
Percentage of 65+ Population at Each Level of Educational Attainment by Sex, County, and State, 2015

	County			Ohio
	Female	Male	Overall	Overall
8th Grade or Less	5.1	5.7	5.4	5.3
9th - 12th Grade (No Diploma)	11.2	10.5	10.9	10.3
High School Graduate or Equivalent	48.5	36.4	43.2	40.9
Some College, No Degree	11.2	13.6	12.2	18.0
Associate or Bachelor’s Degree	10.5	11.1	10.8	16.4
Graduate or Professional Degree	13.6	22.7	17.6	9.0

Racial and Ethnic Composition

This chart shows the racial and ethnic distribution of adults age 65+ in the county from 2000 to 2015. The table lists the percentages for the county and the state of Ohio in 2000 and 2015.

Racial and Ethnic Distribution of the 65+ Population in Athens County



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. 2000 Census of Population and Housing. 5-Percent Public Use Microdata Sample. U.S. Census Bureau. 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Summary File. Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample, National Historical Geographic Information Systems (IPUMS NHGIS). www.nhgis.org

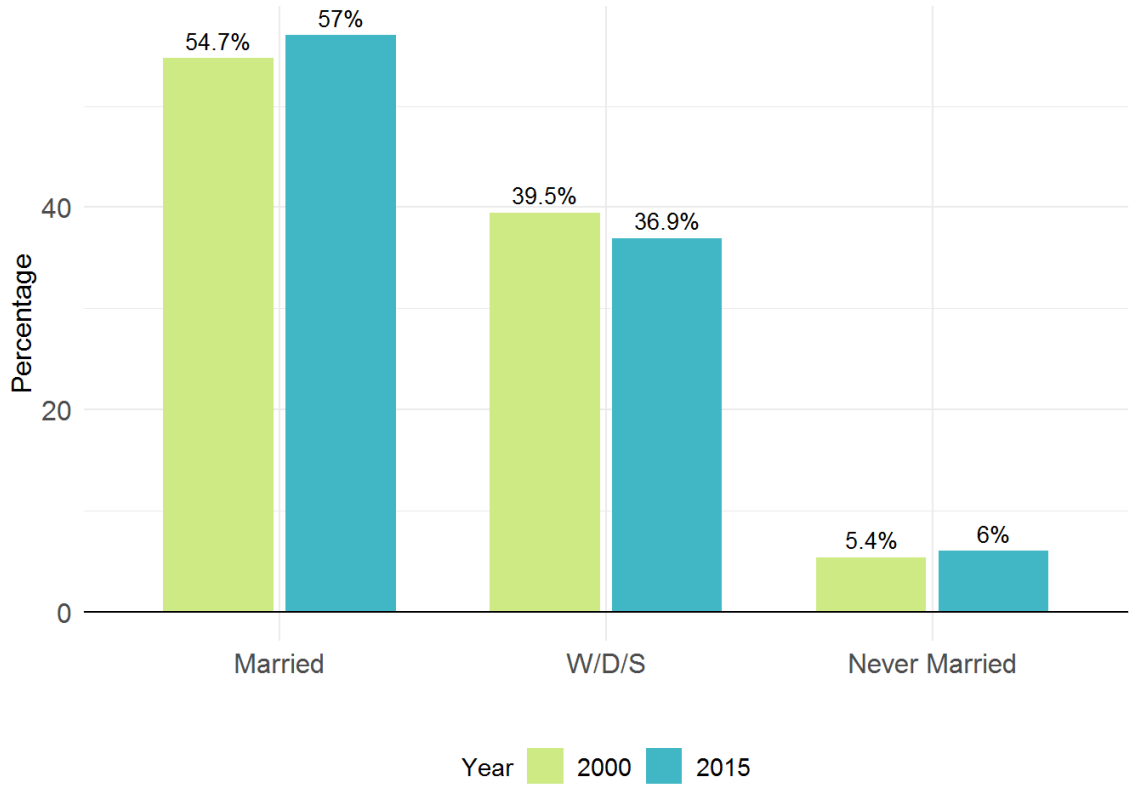
Racial and Ethnic Distribution of the 65+ Population in Athens County and Ohio, 2000-2015

	County		Ohio	
Race	**2000**	**2015**	**2000**	**2015**
Black Non-Hispanic	1.1	1.1	8.2	8.7
Hispanic	0.4	0.0	0.7	0.9
Other Races Non-Hispanic	1.7	2.5	1.2	2.1
White Non-Hispanic	97.3	96.4	90.6	88.3

Marital Status and Living Alone

These charts show the marital status of the 65+ population and the proportion living alone. The first chart and table show the change within the county between 2000 and 2015. The second chart compares the county with the state of Ohio for 2015. The third chart breaks down marital status by sex. The fourth chart plots the proportion of older adults who were never married, married, and widowed/divorced/separated by each age group (65-74, 75-84, and 85+). The final chart illustrates the proportion of 65+ men, women, and combined living alone in the county and in the state.

Marital Status of 65+ Population in Athens County

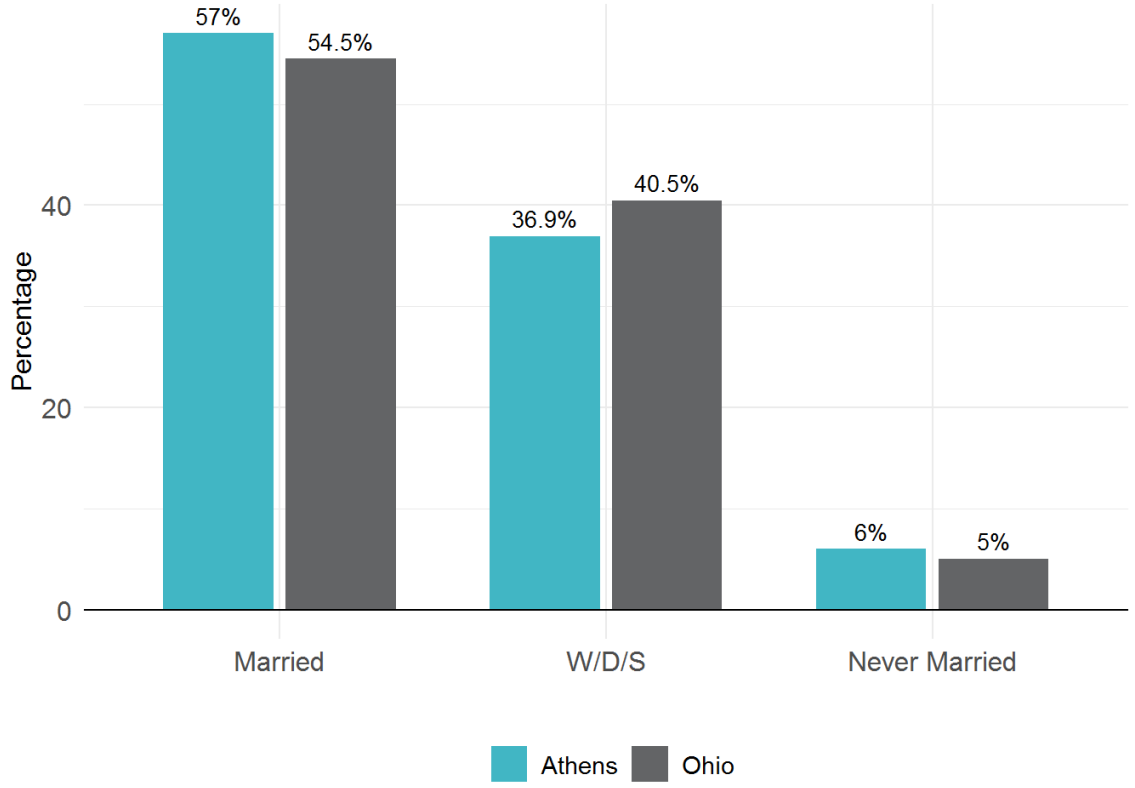


Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. 2000 Census of Population and Housing. 5-Percent Public Use Microdata Sample. U.S. Census Bureau. 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Summary File. Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample, National Historical Geographic Information Systems (IPUMS NHGIS), www.nhgis.org.

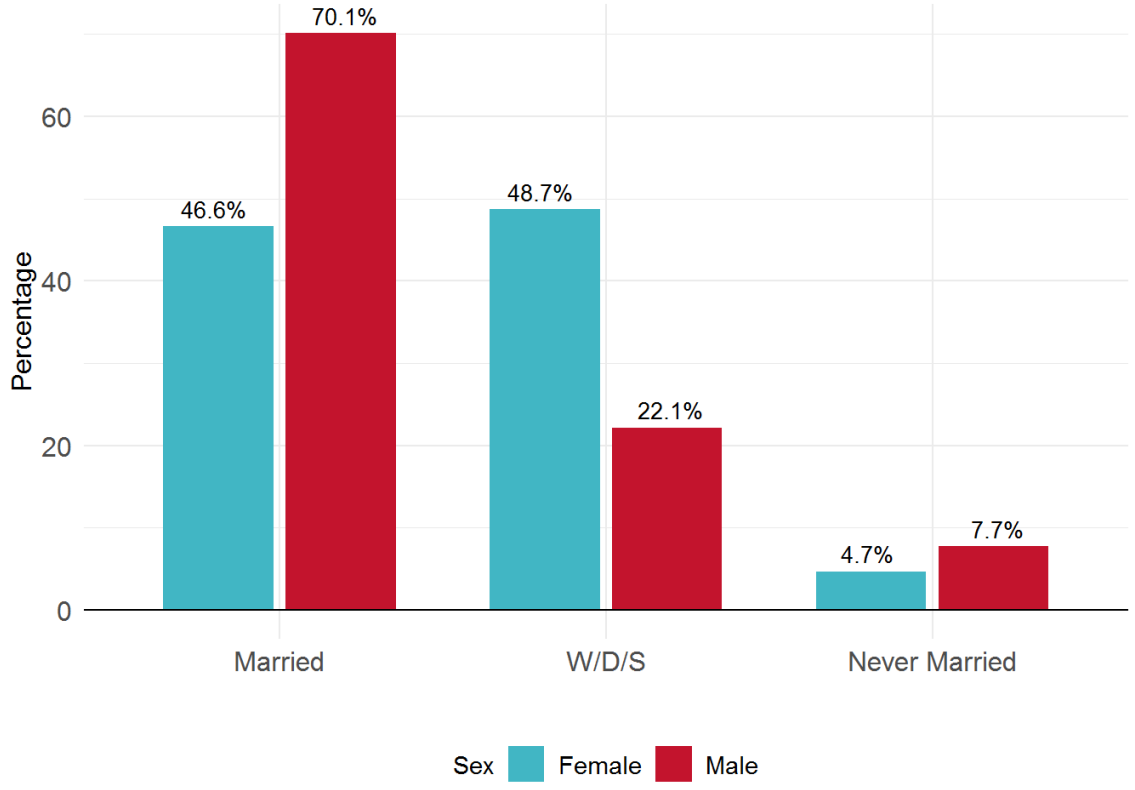
Marital Status of 65+ Population in Athens County

	2000	2015
Married	54.7	57.0
Widowed/Divorced/Separated	39.5	36.9
Never Married	5.4	6.0

Marital Status of 65+ Population in Athens County and Ohio, 2015

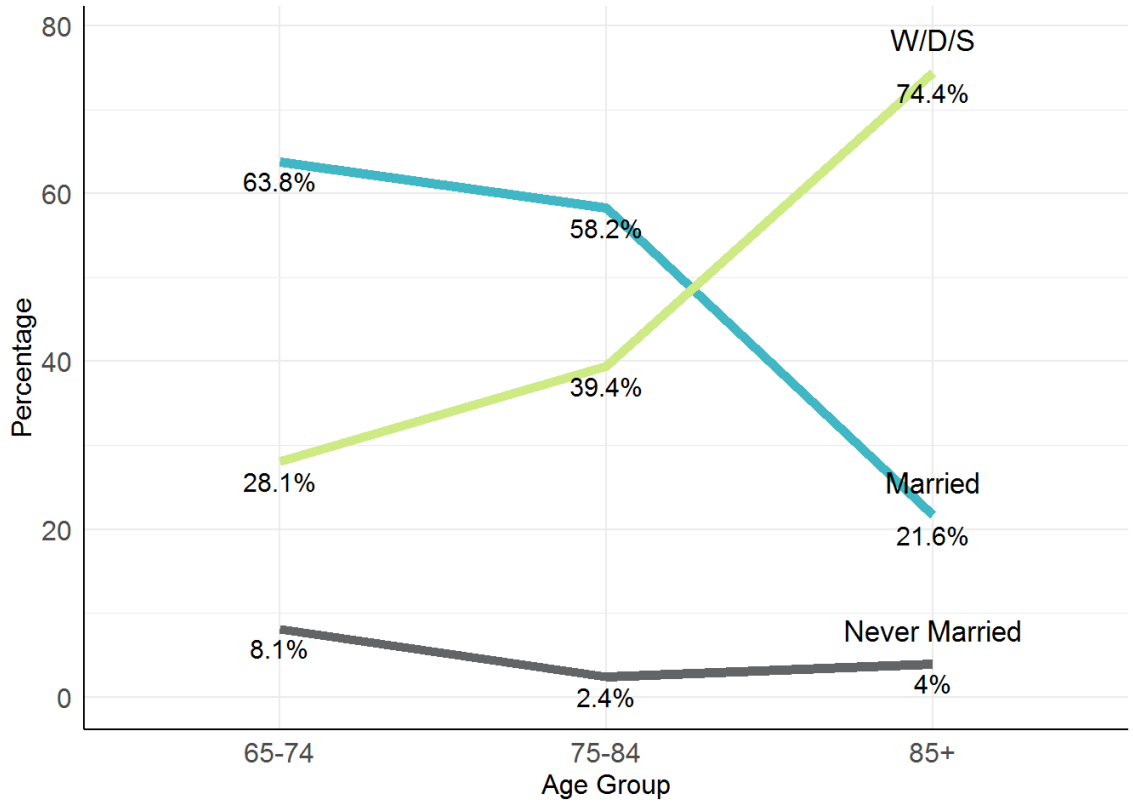


Marital Status of 65+ Population by Sex, Athens County, 2015

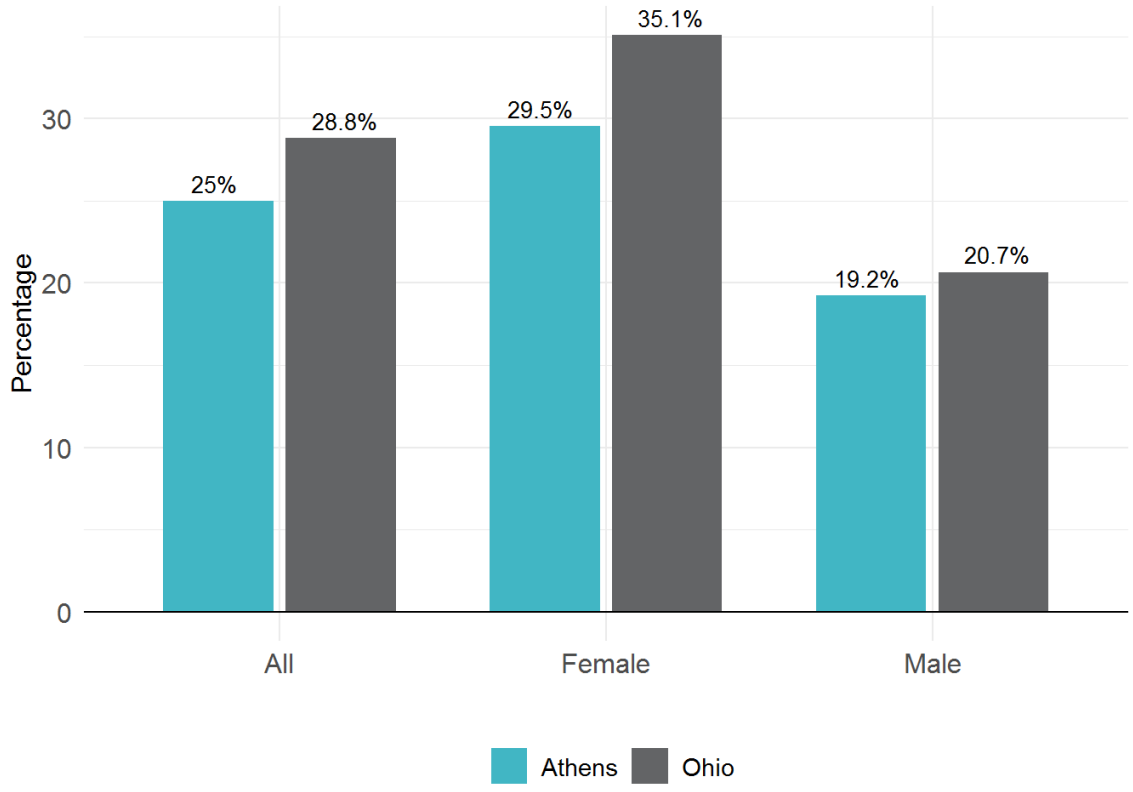


Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Summary File. Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample, National Historical Geographic Information Systems (IPUMS NHGIS), www.nhgis.org.

Marital Status by Age Group, Athens County, 2015



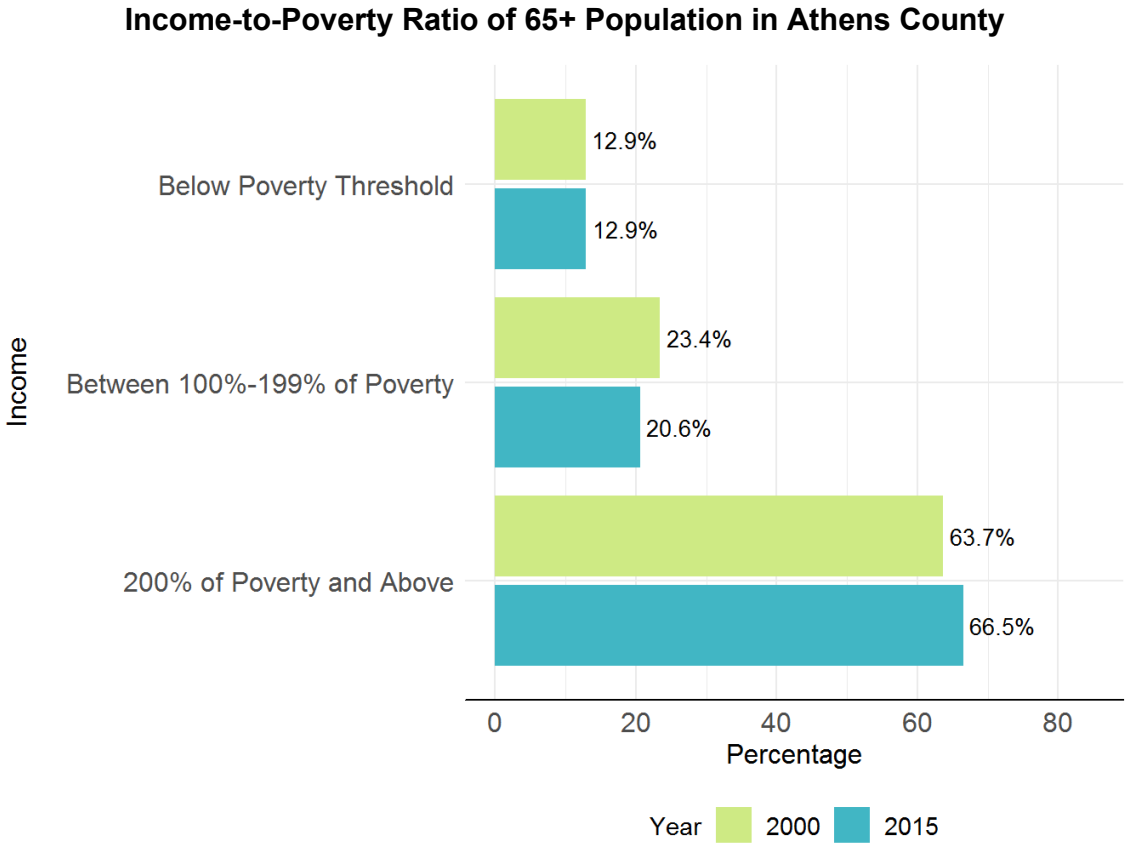
Percentage of 65+ Population Living Alone, by Sex and County, 2015



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Summary File. Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample, National Historical Geographic Information Systems (IPUMS NHGIS). www.nhgis.org

Poverty Status

This chart shows the proportion of older adults* living below or near poverty. The measure used is the income-to-poverty ratio. In 2018, the poverty threshold for a person age 65+ living alone was $12,043. Income below this amount is considered to be below the poverty threshold. A person with annual income between $12,043 and $24,086 would be between 100%-199% of poverty. Individuals with an income of 200% poverty and above have an income that is at least double the poverty threshold (greater than $24,086).



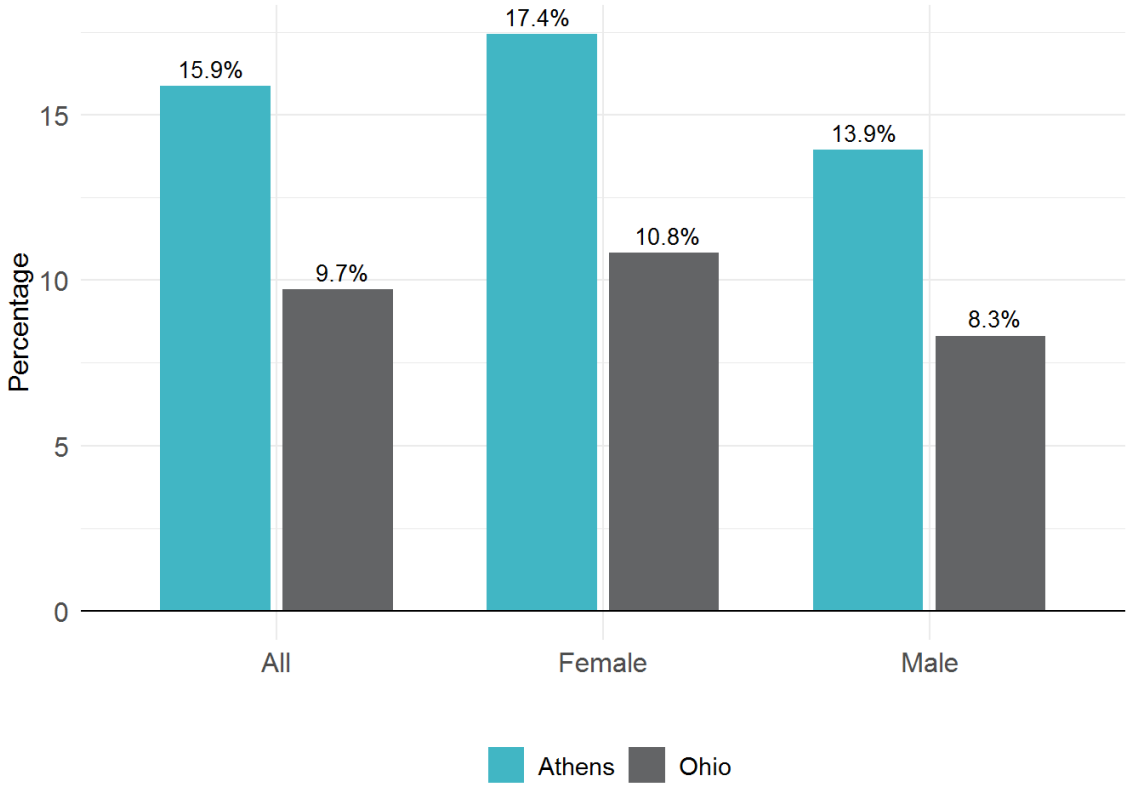
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. 2000 Census of Population and Housing. 5-Percent Public Use Microdata Sample. U.S. Census Bureau. 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Summary File. Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample, National Historical Geographic Information Systems (IPUMS NHGIS), www.nhgis.org.

*The percentage is not of the entire 65+ population, but only those individuals for whom poverty status could be determined. The poverty status is NOT determined for institutionalized persons, persons in military group quarters, or persons in college dormitories.

Medicaid Eligibility

This chart and table show the proportion of older adults whose health insurance is provided by Medicaid or other means-tested coverage.

65+ Population with Medicaid or Means-Tested Health Insurance Coverage, Athens County, 2015



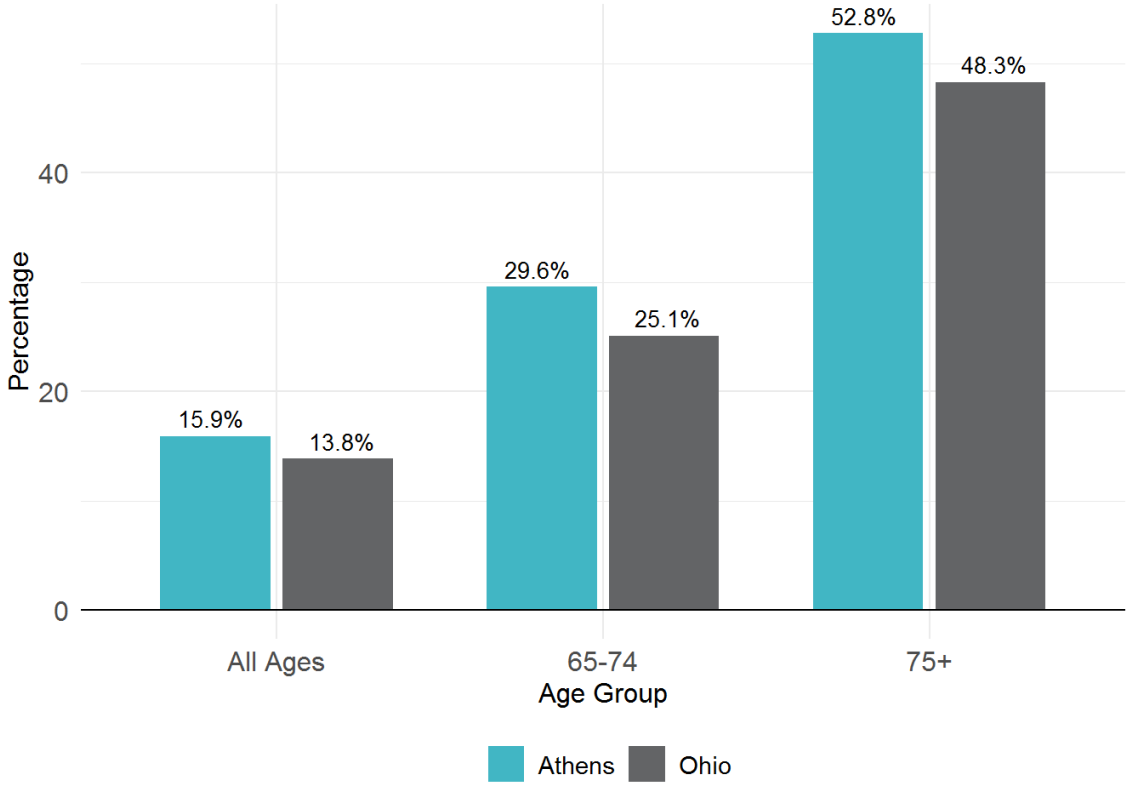
Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Summary File. Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample, National Historical Geographic Information Systems (IPUMS NHGIS). www.nhgis.org

Older Adults with Functional Difficulties

These data measure difficulty and functional impairment to identify individuals who may experience a disability. The charts show the proportion of individuals (all ages includes age 5+ or 18+ as appropriate, age 65-74, and 75+) that have reported a difficulty with one of six functional areas. The final table compares the county to Ohio for age groups 65-74 and 75+. The six areas are:

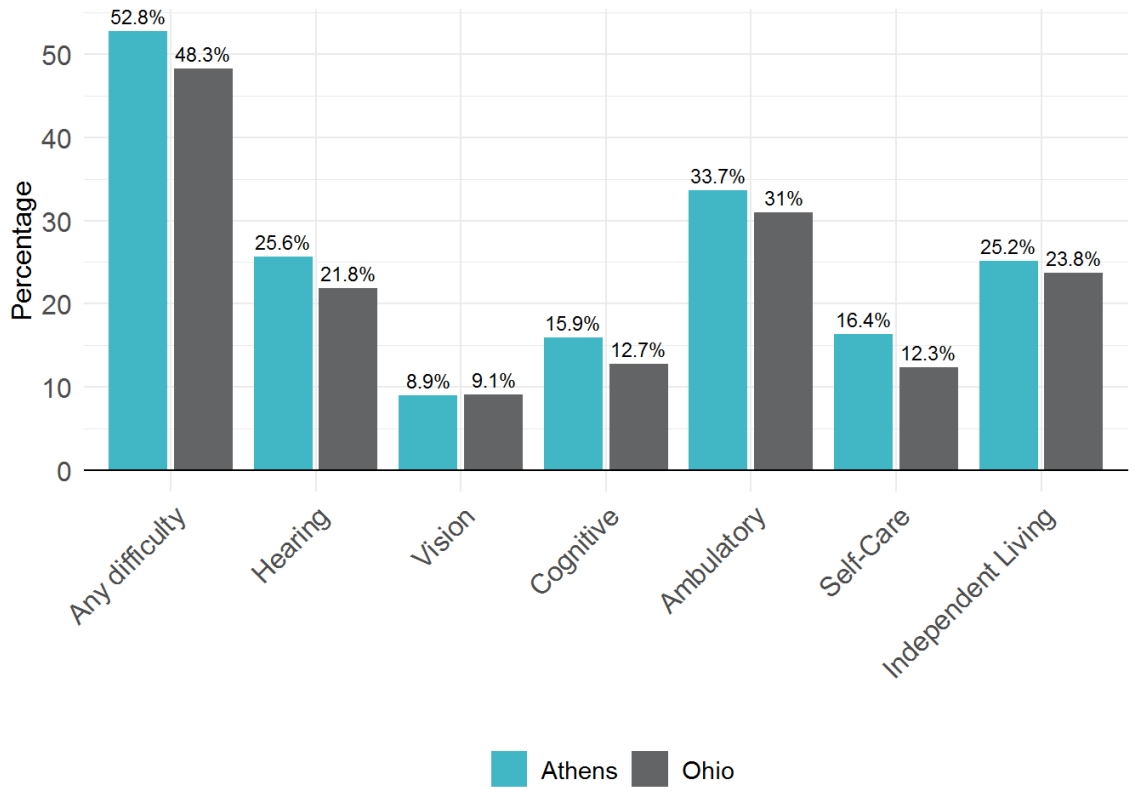
- Hearing difficulty: deaf or having serious difficulty hearing
- Vision difficulty: blind or having serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses
- Cognitive difficulty: because of a physical, mental, or emotional problem, having difficulty remembering, concentrating, or making decisions (ages 5+ only)
- Ambulatory (mobility) difficulty: having serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs (ages 5+)
- Self-care difficulty: having difficulty bathing or dressing (ages 5+ only)
- Independent living difficulty: because of a physical, mental, or emotional problem, having difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping (ages 18+ only)
- Any functional difficulty: individual reported one or more of the functional limitations listed above

% of Population with Any Functional Difficulty, by Age Group, 2015

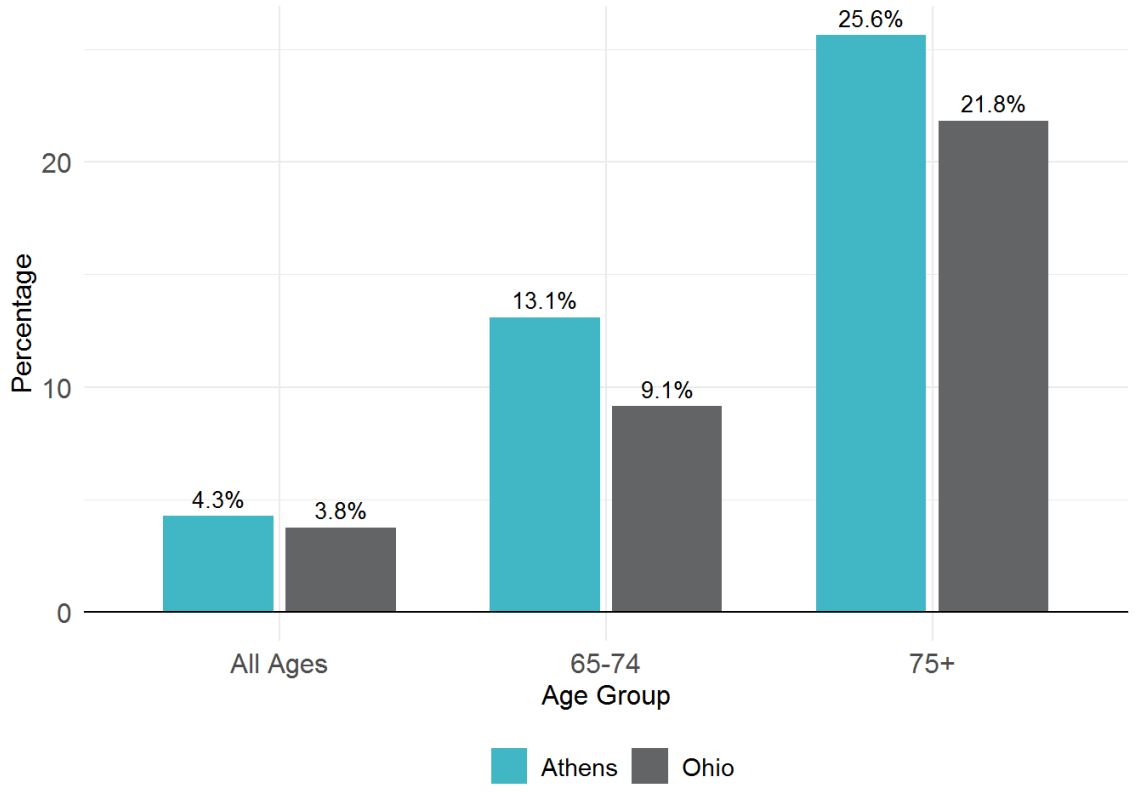


Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Summary File. Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample, National Historical Geographic Information Systems (IPUMS NHGIS), www.nhgis.org.

% of Adults Age 75+ with Functional Difficulties, by Type, 2015

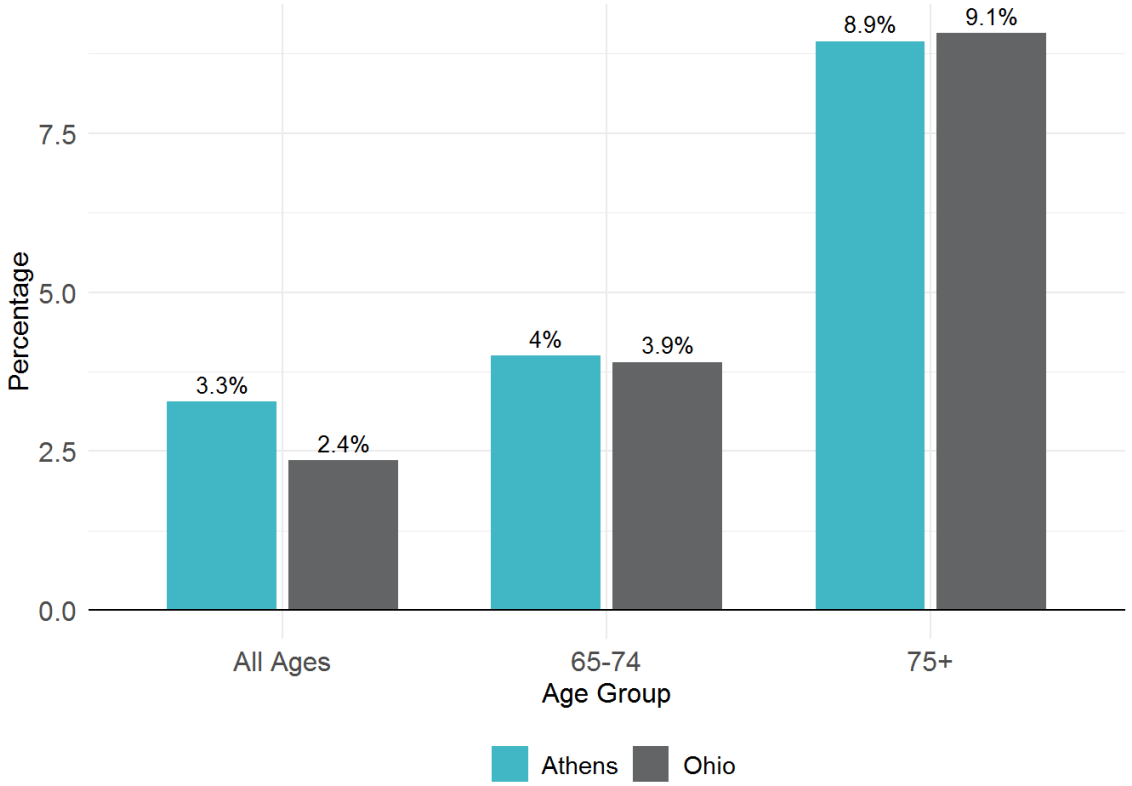


% of Population with Hearing Difficulties, by Age Group, 2015

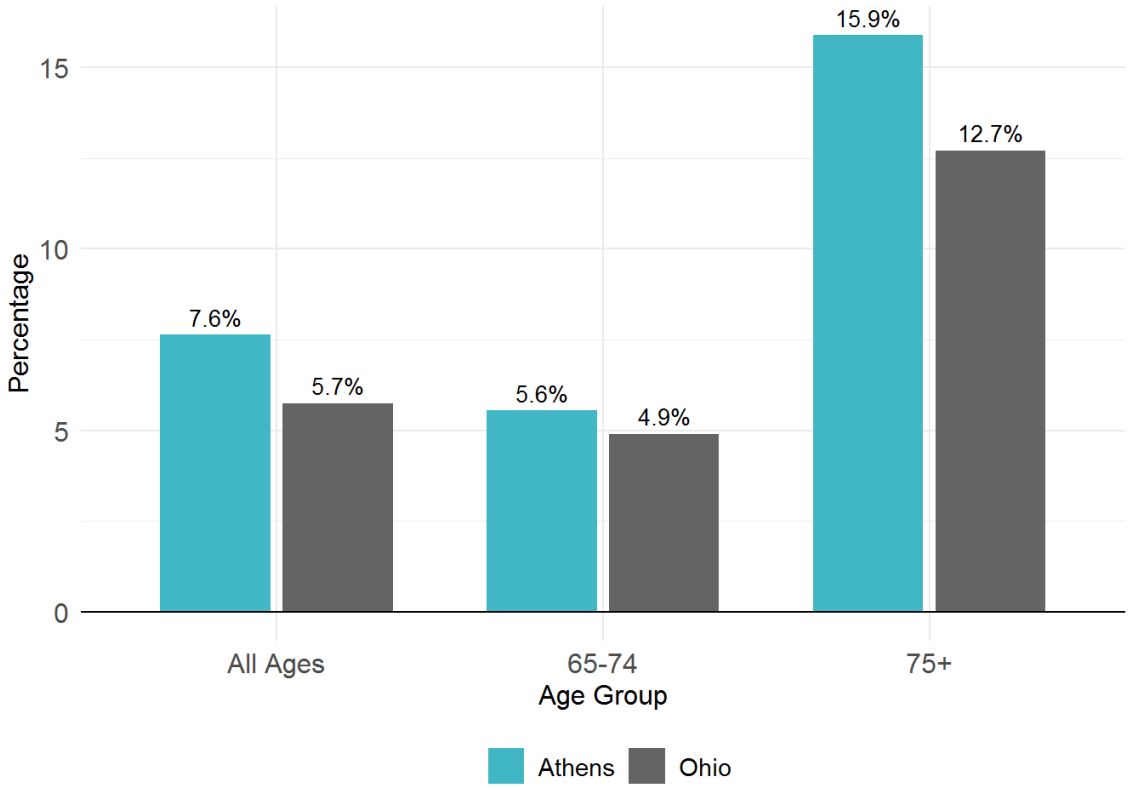


Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Summary File. Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample, National Historical Geographic Information Systems (IPUMS NHGIS), www.nhgis.org.

% of Population with Vision Difficulties, by Age Group, 2015

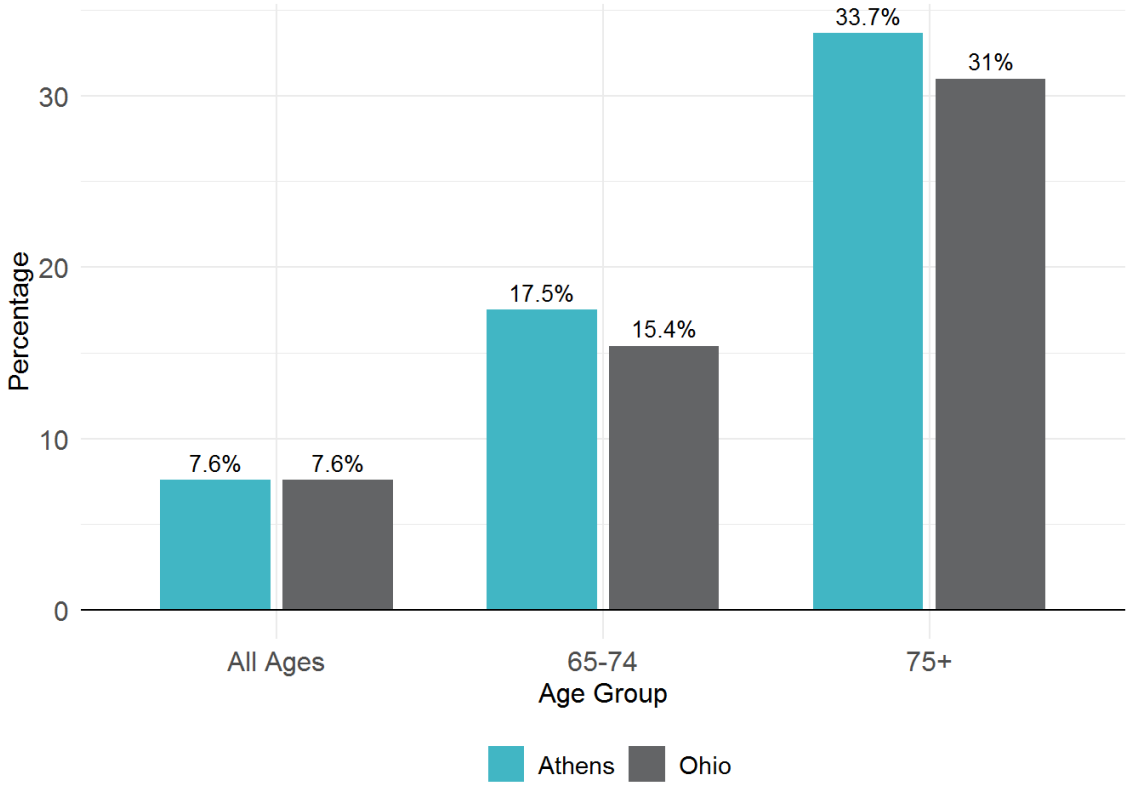


% of Population with Cognitive Difficulties, by Age Group, 2015

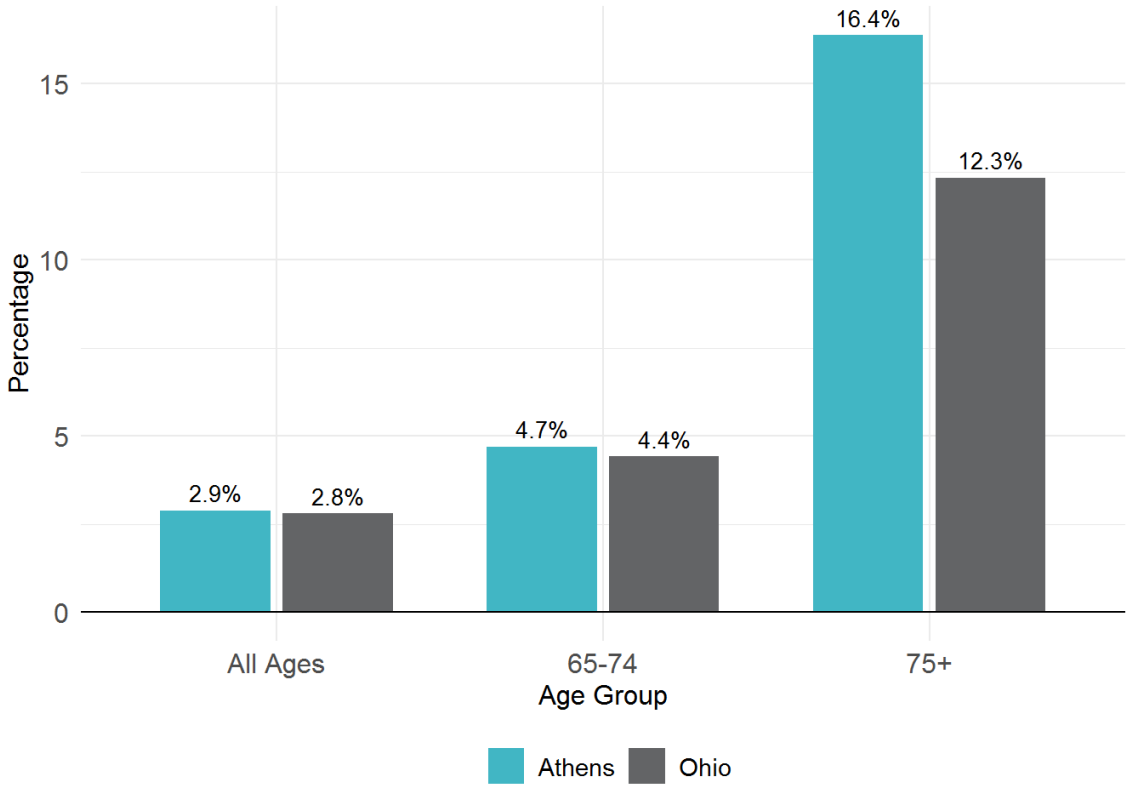


Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Summary File. Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample, National Historical Geographic Information Systems (IPUMS NHGIS), www.nhgis.org.

% of Population with Ambulatory Difficulty, by Age Group, 2015

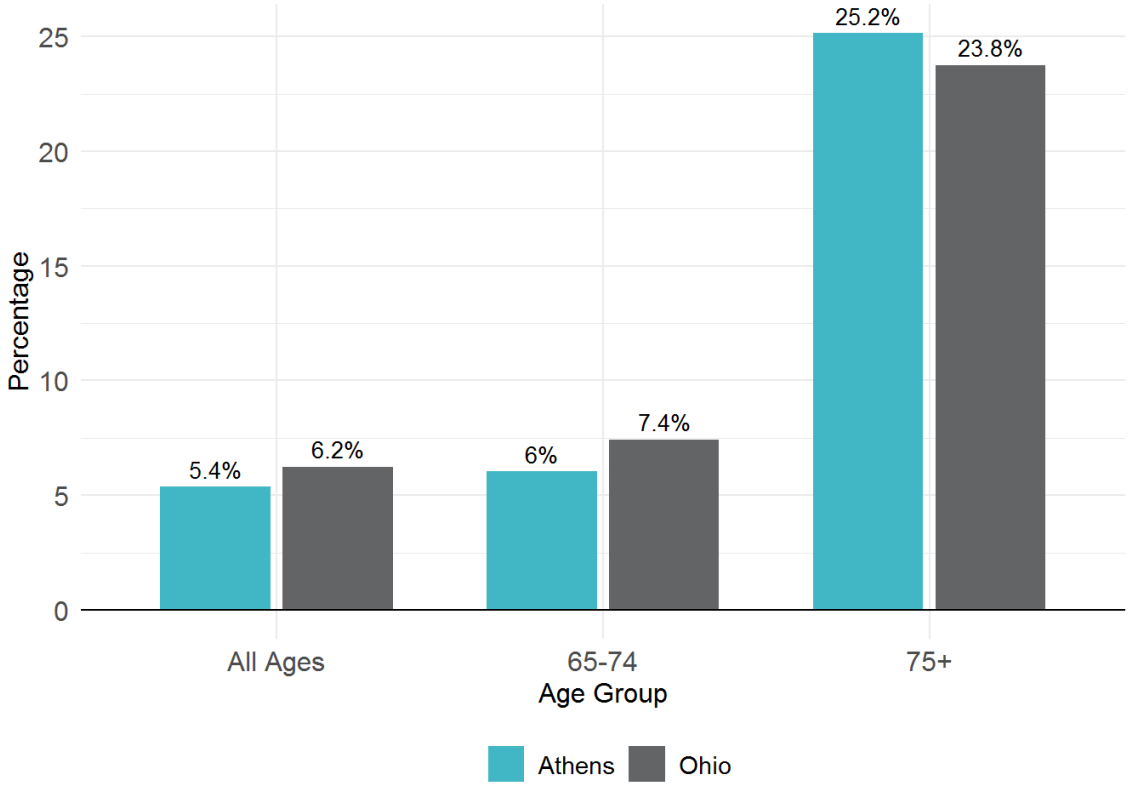


% of Population with Self-Care Difficulties, by Age Group, 2015



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Summary File. Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample, National Historical Geographic Information Systems (IPUMS NHGIS), www.nhgis.org.

% of Population with Independent Living Difficulties, by Age Group, 2015



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Summary File. Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample, National Historical Geographic Information Systems (IPUMS NHGIS), www.nhgis.org.

Percentage and Number of Older Adults with Functional Difficulties in Athens County and Ohio, 2015

	County				Ohio			
	Age 65-74		Age 75+		Age 65-74		Age 75+	
	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Any difficulty	29.6	1,354	52.8	1,528	25.1	258,117	48.3	360,547
Hearing	13.1	599	25.6	742	9.1	94,133	21.8	162,901
Vision	4.0	183	8.9	259	3.9	40,088	9.1	67,763
Cognitive	5.6	254	15.9	460	4.9	50,487	12.7	94,856
Ambulatory	17.5	801	33.7	974	15.4	158,393	31.0	231,393
Self-Care	4.7	215	16.4	474	4.4	45,377	12.3	92,037
Independent Living	6.0	276	25.2	728	7.4	76,462	23.8	177,349

Summary

These county population trends reveal important indicators of current and future need for long-term services and supports. The share of the population that is 65 years and older will continue to grow over the next 10 years. A higher percentage of the older population experiences poverty, compared to other adults. In addition, those at very advanced ages are mostly women who have outlived their spouses and most likely live alone. The combination of lower income, living alone, and higher prevalence of disability are all contributors to the need for long-term services and supports.

Additional county- and state-level data are available online at ohio-population.org, part of the Scripps Gerontology Center website.

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