

The Higginsville Service Area has a population of 8,026 according to the 2000 Census of Population and Housing. The area is 51.6 percent female and 48.4 percent male. More than a fifth (21.8%) of the population is 60 and older (compared to 17.6 percent statewide and 21.2 percent in the 13-county Care Connection Area).

The area's seniors age 55 and older are predominantly Caucasian (93.3%). The area also has 320 African Americans age 55 and older, and 219 seniors of other races. The area also is home to 75 Hispanics age 55 and older.

Just under half (48.4%) of the households with householder age 65 and older reside in family households. This is under the state percentage of 61.3 percent. The Higginsville Service Area has a slightly higher proportion of persons 65 and older living alone – 31.5 percent compared to 30.2 percent both statewide and for the 13-county Care Connection Area.

The Higginsville Service Area has a lower rate of seniors living below poverty. The poverty rate of persons 65 and older is 8.4 percent compared to 9.9 percent statewide and 11.7 percent in the 13-county area. Likewise, for persons 75 and older the rate is 9.6 percent compared to 12.3 percent statewide and 14.7 percent in the overall Care Connection Area.

There are 3,064 occupied housing units in this service area in which the occupant is age 55 and older. The area has a slightly higher rate of home ownership among seniors age 55 and older with 73.8 percent versus 70.2 statewide. Those least likely to own are persons age 75 and older (75.6%). According to the 2000 Census, much of the housing stock in this service area was built before 1940 (29.4%). Only 8.3 percent of housing stock was built between 1995 and 2000.

Disabilities are tallied per disability, i.e., a person with multiple disabilities would be counted multiple times – one for each disability. The ratio of disabilities per population age 65 and older is 76.7 in the Higginsville Area compared to 78.5 statewide. The most common disability tallied was physical disability (28.0%) followed by “go-outside-home” disability (19.4%), mental disability (10.6%), sensory disability (9.5%), , and self-care disability (9.2%).

Less than half of persons age 65 and older in this area reported being married-couples in the 2000 Census (42.8%). Another 40 percent reported being widowed. As would be expected, the most likely to report being widowed are those age 85 and older (81.7%). This is higher than the state rate of 63.2 percent and the 13-county area rate of 60.5 percent.

The Higginsville Service Area had a slightly higher percentage of persons 65 and older who had completed high school (34.9%) than the state (33.9%) or the 13-county area (38.3%). About seven percent of the Higginsville Service Area's seniors reported having a Bachelor's Degree according to the 2000 Census.