

The Marshall Service Area has a population of 18,792 according to the 2000 Census of Population and Housing. The area is 51.4 percent female and 48.6 percent male. Less than a fifth of the population is 60 and older (18.9 percent 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 (89.7%). The area also has 904 African Americans age 55 and older, 92 American Indian seniors, 122 Asian seniors, and 371 seniors of other races. The area also is home to 446 Multiracial seniors and 954 Hispanics age 55 and older.

A little over half (54.1%) of the households with householder age 65 and older reside in family households. This is just slightly under the state percentage of 61.3 percent. The Marshall Service Area has a higher proportion of persons 65 and older living alone – 35.1 percent compared to 30.2 percent both statewide and for the 13-county Care Connection Area.

The Marshall Service Area has a lower rate of seniors living below poverty. The poverty rate of persons 65 and older is 6.7 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 7.1 percent compared to 12.3 percent statewide and 14.7 percent in the overall Care Connection Area.

There are 6,993 occupied housing units in this service area in which the occupant is age 55 and older. About two-thirds (67.6%) of these homes are owner-occupied compared to 70.2 percent statewide and 73 percent in the 13-county area overall. Almost half of renter-occupied units are persons 65 and older (45.2%). According to the 2000 Census, quite a bit of the housing stock in this service area was built before 1940 (22.4%). Only eight 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 85.4 in the Marshall Area compared to 78.5 statewide. The most common disability tallied was physical disability (31.6%) followed by “go-outside-home” disability (17.6%), sensory disability (17.6%), mental disability (10.5%), and self-care disability (8.1%).

Almost half of persons age 65 and older in this area reported being married-couples in the 2000 Census (45.9%). Another 34.7 percent reported being widowed. As would be expected, the most likely to report being widowed are those age 85 and older (56.7%). This is lower than the state rate of 63.2 percent and the 13-county area rate of 60.5 percent.

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

