

The Odessa Service Area has a population of 12,422 according to the 2000 Census of Population and Housing. The area is 49.8 percent female and 50.2 percent male. The population 60 and older comprises only 15 percent of the total population (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 (96.3%). The area also has 115 African Americans age 55 and older and 100 seniors of other races. The area also is home to 242 Multiracial seniors and 101 Hispanics age 55 and older.

More than half (63%) of the households with householder age 65 and older reside in family households. This is just slightly over the state percentage of 61.3 percent. The Odessa Service Area has about the same proportion of persons 65 and older living alone – 30.6 percent compared to 30.2 percent both statewide and for the 13-county Care Connection Area.

The Odessa Service Area has only a slightly higher rate of seniors living below poverty. The poverty rate of persons 65 and older is 10.4 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 13.4 percent compared to 12.3 percent statewide and 14.7 percent in the overall Care Connection Area.

There are 4,580 occupied housing units in this service area in which the occupant is age 55 and older. About 80.2 percent of homes are owner-occupied compared to 70.2 percent statewide and 73 percent in the 13-county area overall. According to the 2000 Census, the Odessa Service Area had less housing stock built before 1940 (12.3%) compared to the state overall at 16.2 percent. Over a fifth (21.1%) 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 78.4 in the Odessa Service Area compared to 78.5 statewide. The most common disability tallied was physical disability (26.6%) followed by “go-outside-home” disability (22.9%), sensory disability (12.5%), mental disability (9%), and self-care disability (7.4%).

More than half of persons age 65 and older in this area reported being married-couples in the 2000 Census (58.6%). Another 28.3 percent reported being widowed. As would be expected, the most likely to report being widowed are those age 85 and older (57.9%). This is, however, slightly lower than the state rate of 63.2 percent and the 13-county area rate of 60.5 percent.

The Odessa Service Area had a higher percentage of persons 65 and older who had completed high school (47.4%) than the state (33.9%) or the 13-county area (38.3%). Three percent of Odessa Service Area seniors reported having a Bachelor's Degree according to the 2000 Census.