

The Sweet Springs Service Area has a population of 2,197 according to the 2000 Census of Population and Housing. The area is 51.3 percent female and 48.7 percent male. A quarter of the population is 60 and older (25.0 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 (96.2%). The area also has 83 seniors of other races. The area also is home to 14 Hispanics age 55 and older.

Exactly half of the households with householder age 65 and older reside in family households. This is less than the state percentage of 61.3 percent. The Sweet Springs Service Area has a lower proportion of persons 65 and older living alone – 27.4 percent compared to 30.2 percent both statewide and for the 13-county Care Connection Area.

The Sweet Springs Service Area has about the same rate of seniors living below poverty as the state overall. The poverty rate of persons 65 and older is 10 percent compared to 9.9 percent statewide and 11.7 percent in the 13-county area. For persons 75 and older the rate is 9.7 percent compared to 12.3 percent statewide and 14.7 percent in the overall Care Connection Area.

There are 842 occupied housing units in this service area in which the occupant is age 55 and older. About three-quarters of these homes are owner-occupied compared to 70.2 percent statewide and 73 percent in the 13-county area overall. According to the 2000 Census, quite a bit of the housing stock in this service area was built before 1940 (38.3%). Only 4.4 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 83.5 in the Sweet Springs Area compared to 78.5 statewide. The most common disability tallied was physical disability (25.3%) followed by sensory disability (19.1%), “go-outside-home” disability (15.6%), mental disability (13.5%), and self-care disability (10%).

Less than half of persons age 65 and older in this area reported being married-couples in the 2000 Census (42.6%). Another 36.7 percent reported being widowed. As would be expected, the most likely to report being widowed are those age 85 and older (60.9%). This is slightly lower than the state rate of 63.2 percent and about the same as the 13-county area rate of 60.5 percent.

The Sweet Springs Service Area had only a slightly lower percentage of persons 65 and older who had completed high school (33.3%) than the state (33.9%) but a much lower rate than the 13-county area rate of 38.3 percent. Less than three percent of the Sweet Springs Service Area seniors reported having a Bachelor's Degree according to the 2000 Census.