

STATE OF THE OLDER ADULT

THE TIME IS NOW

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Presented by ElderAlliance, Inc. & JMU Social Work Department

Baby boomers are the fastest growing age group in the U.S.A.

Currently 14.5% of the nation's population is age 65+.

By year 2029 the national population of those age 65+ will be 20%.

Parts of the Shenandoah Valley are already there!

Population Estimates by Age

	Harrisonburg City	Rockingham County	Highland County	Staunton	Waynesboro	Augusta County	Bath County
Percent population age 45-59	11.2%	22.3%	27.5%	26.0%	19.8%	24.2%	23.6%
Percent population age 60-84	9.2%	19.5%	32.6%	23.2%	20.3%	21.2%	24.4%
Percent population age 85+	1.6%	2.1%	2.9%	3.0%	2.5%	1.7%	2.1%

Data from VPAS 2015-18 Strategic Plan Demographic Data / Cooper Center
Harrisonburg population skewed due to number of university students

Do we have enough support in the Shenandoah Valley?

Valley Program for Aging Services (2014-15)

35,880	• Meals delivered to homebound people
13,108	• Hours of recreation and social programs
\$103,596	• Saved on medication costs
2,417	• Hours of in-home personal care
87	• Senior Center members
3,403	• Senior Center meals with education activities
4,791	• One-way van rides
5,031	• Contacts for information & assistance

In Harrisonburg and Rockingham County,
1 in 7 older adults are food insecure.

Almost 50% of local human services agencies reported that the needs of persons who use wheelchairs are unmet by transportation options in their service areas
[Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)]

Workforce Development

There are not enough trained professionals in the area of geriatric care, especially if our best practice methods indicate “aging in place” with adequate community supports. Percent professionals who had geriatric certifications

- 2.7% of physicians
- 4.3% psychiatrists
- 1.4% registered nurses
- 0.20 dentist
- 0.6% physical therapist
- 0.30% registered dieticians

One in five Virginians will be 65 years or older with the over 85 age group being the fastest growing segment of the population. Of those age 85+, women will be disproportionately represented.

Adults age 65+ are now twice as likely to be living in poverty as they were a decade ago. Women have a higher poverty rate than men.

For 3 out of 10 retired seniors, Social Security provides more than 90% of their total income, with an average benefit of **\$1,257 per month**. Social Security payments alone are inadequate to lift and maintain seniors out of poverty.

A TOTAL OF 31% OF SENIORS LIVING IN HARRISONBURG ARE LIVING ALONE, HIGHER THAN THE STATE AVERAGE OF 2.1% FOR MALES AND 6.1% FOR FEMALES. OF THE SENIOR HOUSEHOLDS, 7% OF THEIR ANNUAL INCOME ESTIMATES BEING LESS THAN \$10,000 AND 25% OF SENIORS HAVE LESS THAN A \$25,000 INCOME. THE MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME FOR A HARRISONBURG SENIOR IS \$36,678 (U.S. CENSUS BUREAU 2014), WHICH CAN SEEM HIGH UNTIL HEALTHCARE COSTS ARE CONSIDERED.

Older Adult Transportation Concerns

- advance schedule requirement
- hours of service
- limited service area
- being stranded/having to wait
- no help with transportation

At least 30% of older adults live in substandard, deteriorating, or dilapidated housing.

Older adult homelessness will increase by 33% in 2020

Barriers to older adult accessing healthcare:
Fixed income
Lack of family
Financial difficulties
Language problems
Physical inability to reach health care facilities

