

Aging in Erie County

POPULATION & LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

- There are currently 133,287 people age 65 and older living in Erie County, who account for approximately 15% of the total population. Erie County has a greater percentage of residents age 65 and older (15%) than does New York State as a whole (12%).
- In Erie County, over the past 5 years, the population age 85 and older has increased at a rate of over 10%. It is expected that this segment of the population will increase at a rate of 28.% by 2015.
- It is expected that by 2015, that 1 in 4 Erie County residents will be over age 60. This due in great part to the out migration of those between the ages of 18 and 34.
- In Erie County, 41% of grandparents living with grandchildren are responsible for their care.
- Erie County currently has a total of 100,082 households with one more person age 65 or older
- Of the 133,287 persons age 65 and older, 46,111 (35%) live alone.

POVERTY & HEALTH

- In Erie County 2.6% of all persons 65 and older live in poverty as compared with 7.2% for the City of Buffalo.
- In Erie County, 8.2% of age 65 or older female headed households live in poverty as compared to 13.1% in the City of Buffalo.
- Within the City of Buffalo there are five geographic areas with high concentrations (greater than 10% of persons over age 75. These neighborhoods are: 1) Cold Spring/ Hamlin Park, 2) Masten Park & Kingsley , 3) Front Park& the Waterfront,4) Kaisertown, and 5) South Abbott / South Park.
- In Erie County, persons over age 65 have a 38% likelihood of having a disability as compared with those in the City of Buffalo, who have a 47.9% likelihood of having a disability
- According to the Institute of Gerontology at Wayne State University, persons age 65 and older spend 19% of their total income on medical expenses.
- According to the AARP, 22% of total income for persons over age 65 goes to medical expenses. For the elderly poor (below poverty) who receive Medicare, the percentage approaches 35% and 23% for the near poor (125% of poverty).