Living Situation

- 30.5% of seniors over the age of 65 live alone.
- Broome County has several federally subsidized senior citizen apartment buildings
- In Broome County there are various levels of supportive care available, including nine nursing homes, continuing care campuses that offer a variety of types of housing and services, and several adult care homes and facilities.

Gender

Elderly women are often more vulnerable in terms of economic and health status, and are more likely to live alone than are elderly men. In Broome County, 58% of seniors age 60 and over and 65% of elderly age 75 and older are female.

Summary

If current trends within the elderly population continue, the future has serious implications for Broome County. As the very old, age 80 and older, increase in our population, there is a much greater chance that they will suffer from one or more debilitating chronic illnesses and diminished independence. People 85 and older also have an increased rate of poverty due to the extended period of time they receive a fixed income.

In Broome County, 31.7% of those age 65 or older reported having a self-care limitation or difficulty with physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying.* People with such limitations often have difficulty performing activities of daily living without some form of assistance.

The Broome County Office for Aging and the community need to plan, advocate and coordinate services for the elderly with the greatest economic and social needs. Every effort must also be taken to provide information and opportunities that promote healthy aging.

Increasing self-responsibility for wellness may be our most effective measure to ensure independence and health into the later years.

* US Census, 2000

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Broome County Office for Aging

. . .bringing seniors and services together

A Profile

Broome County's Older Population

The Older Population

There are 41,542 people age 60 and older residing in Broome County according to 2000 US Census figures. The elderly population represents 20.7% of the total population of Broome County.

In New York State, those age 60 and older make up 16.9% of the total population. Broome County's population concentration of elders ranks 6th among the 63 counties of the state, including New York City.

Data from the 2000 Census indicates that during the 1990s, the total population of Broome County decreased from 212,160 to 200,536, a decline of 5.5%. During this same period, the age 60 and over population experienced a smaller decline of 542 individual, which was a decrease of 1.6%. There were, however, significant increases in the age 75 and above population. The age 75 and older population grew by 18.8% and the 85 and older age cohort increased by 30%.

In 2000, over one half (60%) of those age 70+ in the USA reported they were limited by chronic conditions. Among all elderly, 10.5% were unable to carry on a major activity of living.* Broome County has a comparable percentage of seniors limited by chronic conditions as reported in the *Aging Futures Study, 1994.*

**A Profile of Older Americans: 2000*
Administration on Aging and AARP

Poverty

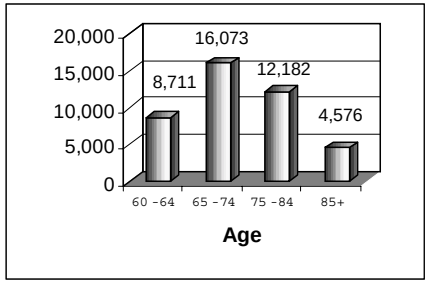
In 2000, 6.8% of the population age 65 and older in Broome County, or 2,232 persons, lived below the poverty level; 11.3% of those aged 60 and older, or 3,715 persons, qualified as near poor. Near poor is defined as 125% of the poverty threshold. In 2000, the poverty threshold was defined as having an annual income of $8,240 for a person living alone, while near poor equaled a yearly income of $10, 300.

Income

In Broome County, 58% of the elderly age 65 and older rely on Social Security as their main source of income. Of those over age 65, 23% have Social Security as their only source of income.**

*** Aging Futures Study: 1994*

Broome County Elderly Population



Broome County Population – 60 and Older

	2000 Number of Seniors	% of Broome County Population Age 60+	2000 Town Populations (all ages)	% of Town Population Age 60+
County: Broome	41,542	20.7%	200,536	20.7%
City: Binghamton	10,231	5.1%	47,380	21.6%
Towns:				
Barker	404	0.2%	2,738	14.8%
Binghamton	896	0.5%	4,969	18.0%
Chenango	2,281	1.1%	11,454	19.9%
Colesville	828	0.5%	5,441	15.2%
Conklin	1,018	0.5%	5,940	17.1%
Dickinson	1,293	0.6%	5,335	24.2%
Fenton	1,471	0.7%	6,909	21.3%
Kirkwood	1,148	0.6%	5,651	20.3%
Lisle	391	0.2%	2,707	14.4%
Maine	987	0.5%	5,459	18.1%
Nanticoke	215	0.1%	1,790	12.0%
Sanford	545	0.3%	2,477	22.3%
Triangle	465	0.2%	3,032	15.3%
Union	13,045	6.5%	56,298	23.2%
Vestal	5,321	2.7%	26,535	20.1%
Windsor	1,003	0.5%	6,421	15.6%

Future Growth

The (USA) older population will continue to grow significantly in the future. This growth slowed somewhat during the 1990s because of the relatively small number of babies born during the Great Depression of the 1930s. But the older population will burgeon between the years 2010 and 2030 when the "baby boom" generation reaches age 65.*

**A Profile of Older Americans: 1998*
Administration on Aging and AARP

Racial and Ethnic Composition

Total number of minority elderly age 60 and over in Broome County is 1,023.

- 402 are black
- 307 are Asian/Pacific Islander
- 34 are Native Americans
- 54 are of other origin
- 226 elderly persons of 2 or more races