

STATE DATA center

Older Americans Month: May 2017 - A Snapshot of DC's Elderly Population

















By Joy Phillips

After a meeting with the National Council of Senior Citizens, President John F. Kennedy encouraged all Americans to pay tribute to older people across the country by designating May 1963 as Senior Citizens Month. Every president since has issued a formal proclamation during or before the month of May in support of older Americans. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued a proclamation changing the name of this observance to Older Americans Month. This month continues to be a time to celebrate older population through ceremonies, events and public recognition.

A snapshot of the elderly population (age 60 years and older) in the District of Columbia in 2015 showed the following:

(Note: Data are from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Estimates, except otherwise indicated).

Highlights

<p>Population 108,860</p> <p>The number of people age 60 and older in the District of Columbia on July 1, 2015. This age group accounted for 16.2 percent of the total population.</p> <p>141,400</p> <p>The projected population of people age 60 and older in 2030. People in this age group will comprise nearly one in six District residents. Of this number, 13,100 will be age 85 or older. (Source: DC Office of Planning, State Data Center)</p> 	<p>Earnings \$116,626</p> <p>The mean earnings of households age 60 and older in 2015.</p> 	<p>Households 71,563</p> <p>The number of households with householder age 60 and older in 2015.</p> 	
<p>Marital Status - Married</p> <p>37.5%</p> <p>The percentage of the population age 60 and older in 2015 who were married.</p> 	<p>Jobs</p> <p>31.7%</p> <p>The percentage of people age 60 and older in the labor force in 2015.</p> <p>1.6%</p> <p>The percentage of people age 60 and older who were unemployed in 2015.</p> 	<p>Education</p> <p>41.2%</p> <p>The percentage of the population age 60 and older in 2015 who had earned a bachelor's degree or higher.</p> <p>22.3%</p> <p>The percentage of the population age 60 and older in 2015 with a high school diploma only.</p> 	<p>Disability</p> <p>31.4%</p> <p>The percentage of the population age 60 and older who reported having some type of disability in 2015.</p> 
<p>Marital Status - Widowed</p> <p>19.5%</p> <p>The percentage of the population age 60 and older in 2015 who were widowed.</p> 	<p>Retirement Income</p> <p>46.2%</p> <p>The percentage of households age 60 and older with retirement income.</p> 	<p>Living Alone</p> <p>54.3%</p> <p>The percentage of householders age 60 and older living alone in 2015.</p> 	<p>Serving Our Nation</p> <p>13,500</p> <p>The estimated number of District veterans age 60 and older in 2015.</p> 
	<p>Poverty</p> <p>15.8%</p> <p>The percentage of the population age 60 and older in poverty in 2015.</p> 	<p>Owner-Occupied Units</p> <p>56.7%</p> <p>The percentage of owner-occupied housing units occupied by people age 60 and older in 2015.</p> 	<p>Computer and Internet Use</p> <p>54,655 (75.6%)</p> <p>The number of responders age 65 and older who reported living in homes with computers in 2015. This is an increase from 2014 (50,251). Additionally, 45,380 (62.8%) accessed the internet through a high-speed internet connection in 2015, up from 43,260 in 2014.</p>  <p>(Note: Data for the 60-64 years population was not available).</p>