

# Trends in the Aging Population of Broome County

## Analysis of Census Data

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This report summarizes findings from an exploratory study of demographic data about older adults living in Broome County and how these data can inform the Office for Aging’s services and activities. Sources of data included census counts and American Community Survey estimates ranging from the years 2010 to 2022, as well as survey results and data collected from across Broome County’s senior centers.

Additional survey responses were taken from the American Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (2023), the first of its kind which received 465 responses from a random sample of Broome County residents age 60 and older. The complete survey report, including results and methodology, may be found by following the link below to the NYS Office for Aging website and selecting Broome County:

<https://aging.ny.gov/community-assessment-survey-older-adults>.

All census data used in this report are publicly available via the Census Bureau website.

### Guiding Questions

- How has the age composition of Broome County changed over time?
- How racially diverse is Broome County? How has the population diversified over time?
- What is the economic makeup of older adults in Broome County?
- How might these demographic factors inform how OFA structures its services?

**Total Broome County 60+ Population (1990 to Present)**

Age Group		Year					
		1990	2000	2010	2016	2020	2022
Total 60+	Residents	42,087	41,542	44,485	47,330	53,523	54,901
	% of Total County Residents	19.80%	20.70%	22.20%	24.00%	27.00%	27.80%

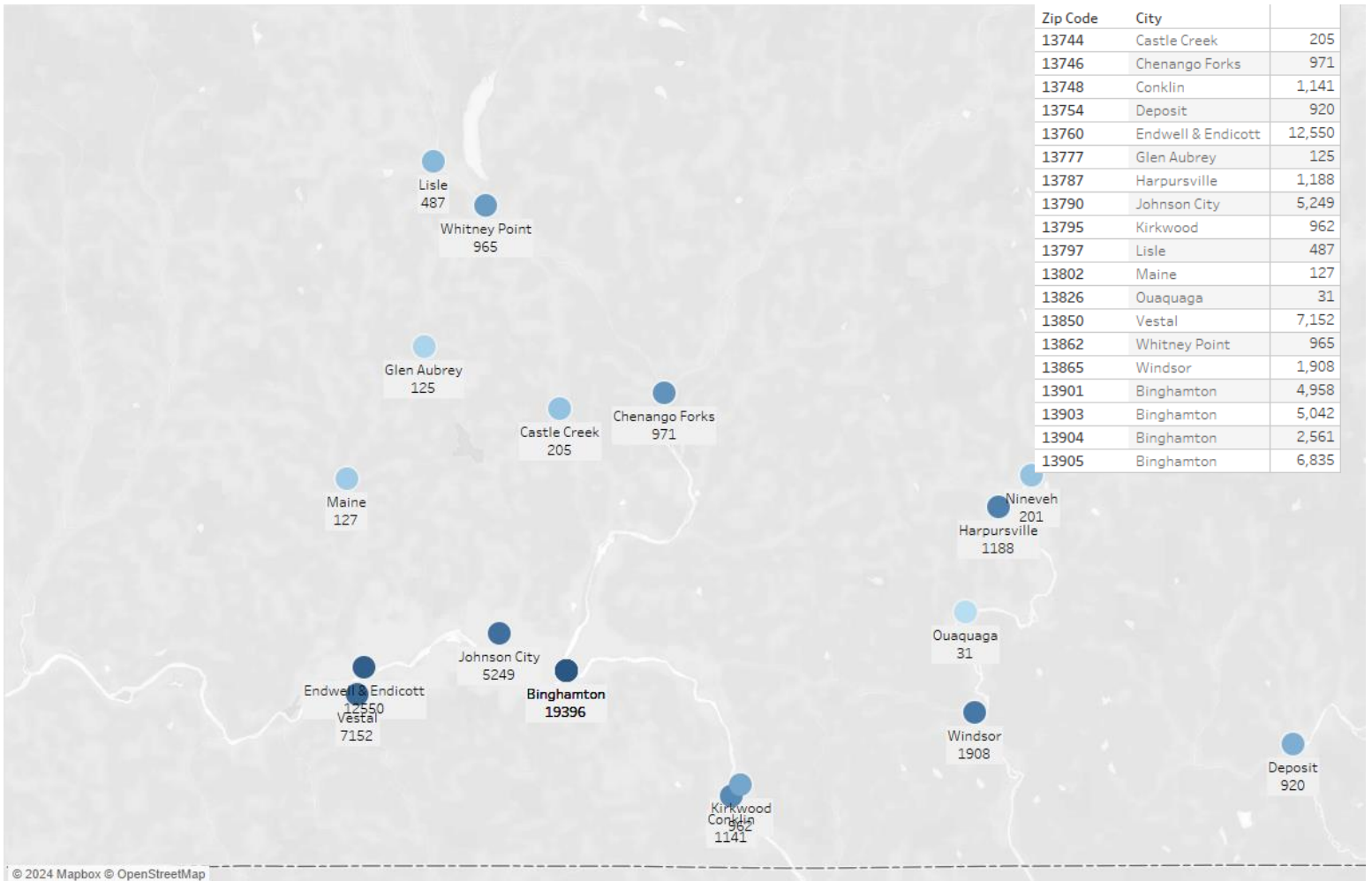
Between 1990 and 2022, the 60+ Broome County population increased by about **30%**. Important to note is that even as the county population increases, their share of that number is increasing, too, even in the 2000 census where the count *decreased*. This shows that, on aggregate, Broome County is getting “older,” with now **more than a quarter** of the population being eligible for OFA services.

### 60+ Age Groups Over Time, 1990-2022

Age Group		Year				
		1990	2000	2010	2020	2022
60 to 64	Residents	10,262	8,711	11,641	14,216	14,033
	% of Total County Residents	4.80%	4.30%	5.80%	7.20%	7.10%
65 to 74	Residents	18,024	16,073	15,668	21,241	21,965
	% of Total County Residents	8.50%	8.00%	7.80%	10.70%	11.20%
75 to 84	Residents	10,356	12,182	11,539	11,739	13,105
	% of Total County Residents	4.90%	6.10%	5.80%	5.90%	6.60%
85+	Residents	3,445	4,576	5,637	6,327	5,798
	% of Total County Residents	1.60%	2.30%	2.80%	3.20%	2.90%

The **65-74** age group has seen the most significant increase since 1990 (+**3,941**), closely followed by the **60-64** range (+**3,771**), although it is worth noting that 60-64 represents only 5 years as opposed to 10, making its increase notable, proportionally. As the baby boomer generation ages, it becomes a more significant force in skewing the older population of Broome County, and it is important to consider what the needs and preferences of this group are as they make a greater share of OFA’s client base.

### Broome County 60+ Population Mapped by Zip Code and Corresponding City



### Racial Makeup of Older Adults in Broome County (55+)

Racial Identification	Year		
	2010	2020	2022
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.10%	0.10%	0.20%
Asian	0.80%	2.10%	2.10%
Black or African American	1.70%	2.80%	2.90%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	0.90%	1.30%	1.40%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Some other race	0.20%	0.20%	0.50%
Two or more races	0.60%	0.80%	1.50%
White	96.50%	93.90%	92.80%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	95.80%	93.20%	92.30%

Broome County's older population is diversifying, it may just be hard to see from a distance! **White (Not Hispanic or Latino)** has seen a noticeable decrease in just 12 years (more than **3%**), while **Asian** and **Black** populations have made marked increases (**1.30%** and **1.2%**, respectively).

### Other Notable Statistics:

#### Economics and Finances

- About **11%** of older adults (55+) were living below the federal poverty level in 2022.
  - Of these, **3,830** were female and **2932** were male, which, including adults 55+, constitutes about **9.5%** and **10.7%** of their respective populations.
- An estimated **27%** of adults over 60 are employed; less than a percentage are still in the labor force and unemployed, while the remainder are retired and not considered part of the workforce.
- The mean income of employed older adults (2022 inflation adjusted) was **\$71,853**, which is **less than** the overall county mean of **\$82,934**.
- Of homeowners over 65, **16.7%** make less than \$20,000 annually. Contrast this with **19.2%** in 2020 and **30.8%** in 2010, and it reveals a marked improvement.

#### Mobility and Housing

- In 2022, **94.5%** of adults over 60 remained in their homes while an additional **3.6%** moved to different homes within the county, meaning that overall, about **98%** of 60+ Broome County residents had been living there for a year or more.
- **77.5%** of older adults live in owner-occupied homes, while **22.5%** live in rental housing.
- The greatest number of older adults moving into Broome County were from different counties within New York State (**624**). Compare to those moving from different states (**298**), and from abroad (**106**).

#### Demographic

- An estimated **6.9%** of 60+ older adults speak another language at home, with **3.2%** unable to speak English "very well."
- **28.8%** of 60+ older adults are considered disabled in Broome County.