THE ELDERLY AREN'T JUST IN FLORIDA ANYMORE

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When asked to identify where one would find large cities (100,000+) with the highest shares of population aged 65 years and over, common knowledge would say **Florida**, with Arizona a distant second. But what would you say if I told you that you should also look toward Michigan—in the suburbs of Detroit?

An analysis of 2000 Census results indeed gives Florida six spots in the top 10 for large cities with high elderly populations, led by Clearwater at #1 (21.5%), Cape Coral at #2 (19.6%), St. Petersburg at #4 (17.4%) and Hollywood tied for #5 (17.3%). While Honolulu sneaks in at #3 (17.8%), guess who ties with Hollywood? In a tie with Hollywood for #5 is our own southeast Michigan community of Warren, and coming in at #8, with 16.9%, just behind Miami's 17.0%, is our own Livonia. The top 10 is rounded out by Scottsdale, Arizona (16.7%) and Hialeah, Florida (16.6%). Tied with Hialeah for the tenth spot is Pueblo, Colorado, home of the Federal Government's Consumer Information Center.

The next Michigan city to appear in the ranking is Sterling Heights, ranked 87th at 11.8%, followed by Grand Rapids in 95th place with 11.6%.

Table 1. Ranking of Top 100 Cities of 100,000 or More Population by Percent 65 Years and Over

Rank (of 245 places)	Place Name[1]	State	Total Population	Population 65 Years and Over	
				Number	Percent
1	Clearwater city	FL	108,787	23,357	21.5
2	Cape Coral city	FL	102,286	20,020	19.6
3	Honolulu CDP[1]	HI	371,657	66,257	17.8
4	St. Petersburg city	FL	248,232	43,173	17.4
5	Hollywood city	FL	139,357	24,159	17.3
5	Warren city	MI	138,247	23,871	17.3
7	Miami city	FL	362,470	61,768	17.0
8	Livonia city	MI	100,545	16,988	16.9
9	Scottsdale city	AZ	202,705	33,884	16.7
10	Hialeah city	FL	226,419	37,679	16.6
10	Pueblo city	CO	102,121	16,967	16.6
12	Pittsburgh city	PA	334,563	55,034	16.4
12	Metairie CDP[1]	LA	146,136	24,033	16.4
14	Evansville city	IN	121,582	19,746	16.2
15	Independence city	MO	113,288	17,594	15.5
16	Erie city	PA	103,717	15,931	15.4

Rank (of 245 places)	Place Name[1]	State	Total Population	Population 65 Years and Over	
				Number	Percent
17	Fort Lauderdale city	FL	152,397	23,306	15.3
18	Chattanooga city	TN	155,554	23,695	15.2
18	Pembroke Pines city	FL	137,427	20,881	15.2
20	Allentown city	PA	106,632	16,141	15.1
20	Topeka city	KS	122,377	18,418	15.1
22	Yonkers city	NY	196,086	29,377	15.0
22	Waterbury city	CT	107,271	16,045	15.0
24	Springfield city	MO	151,580	22,586	14.9
25	South Bend city	IN	107,789	15,940	14.8
26	Louisville city	KY	256,231	37,457	14.6
27	Peoria city	AZ	108,364	15,652	14.4
27	Springfield city	IL	111,454	16,096	14.4
27	Knoxville city	TN	173,890	24,994	14.4
30	Peoria city	IL	112,936	16,033	14.2
31	Worcester city	MA	172,648	24,389	14.1
31	Philadelphia city	PA	1,517,550	213,722	14.1
31	Torrance city	CA	137,946	19,427	14.1
31	Rockford city	IL	150,115	21,109	14.1
35	Spokane city	WA	195,629	27,301	14.0
36	Santa Rosa city	CA	147,595	20,576	13.9
36	Glendale city	CA	194,973	27,114	13.9
36	Shreveport city	LA	200,145	27,770	13.9
39	Stamford city	CT	117,083	16,175	13.8
39	Portsmouth city	VA	100,565	13,854	13.8
41	St. Louis city	MO	348,189	47,842	13.7
41	Mobile city	AL	198,915	27,273	13.7
41	Winston-Salem city	NC	185,776	25,404	13.7
41	San Francisco city	CA	776,733	106,111	13.7
45	Oceanside city	CA	161,029	21,859	13.6
46	Akron city	OH	217,074	29,325	13.5
46	Birmingham city	AL	242,820	32,682	13.5
48	Buffalo city	NY	292,648	39,327	13.4
48	Waco city	TX	113,726	15,249	13.4
48	Bellevue city	WA	109,569	14,689	13.4
48	Huntsville city	AL	158,216	21,162	13.4
48	Beaumont city	TX	113,866	15,219	13.4
53	Mesa city	AZ	396,375	52,876	13.3
53	Savannah city	GA	131,510	17,467	13.3
55	Richmond city	VA	197,790	26,129	13.2
55	Baltimore city	MD	651,154	85,921	13.2
57	Toledo city	OH	313,619	41,200	13.1
57	Cedar Rapids city	IA	120,758	15,794	13.1
59	Manchester city	NH	107,006	13,829	12.9
59	Syracuse city	NY	147,306	18,948	12.9
59	Tulsa city	OK	393,049	50,508	12.9
62	Burbank city	CA	100,316	12,859	12.8
62	San Buenaventura (Ventura) city	CA	100,916	12,931	12.8
62	Gary city	IN	102,746	13,143	12.8
65	Amarillo city	TX	173,627	21,895	12.6

Rank (of 245 places)	Place Name[1]	State	Total Population	Population 65 Years and Over	
				Number	Percent
66	Cleveland city	OH	478,403	59,979	12.5
66	Tampa city	FL	303,447	37,953	12.5
66	Fort Wayne city	IN	205,727	25,615	12.5
69	Salem city	OR	136,924	17,039	12.4
69	Springfield city	MA	152,082	18,906	12.4
69	Des Moines city	IA	198,682	24,559	12.4
72	Wichita Falls city	TX	104,197	12,808	12.3
72	Cincinnati city	OH	331,285	40,654	12.3
74	Washington city	DC	572,059	69,898	12.2
75	Pasadena city	CA	133,936	16,222	12.1
75	Lakewood city	CO	144,126	17,410	12.1
75	Eugene city	OR	137,893	16,657	12.1
78	Daly City city	CA	103,621	12,486	12.0
78	Seattle city	WA	563,374	67,807	12.0
78	Dayton city	OH	166,179	19,960	12.0
78	Abilene city	TX	115,930	13,924	12.0
78	Albuquerque city	NM	448,607	53,670	12.0
83	Tucson city	AZ	486,699	57,828	11.9
83	Tacoma city	WA	193,556	22,994	11.9
83	Wichita city	KS	344,284	40,891	11.9
83	Greensboro city	NC	223,891	26,579	11.9
87	Montgomery city	AL	201,568	23,800	11.8
87	Omaha city	NE	390,007	46,022	11.8
87	Green Bay city	WI	102,313	12,042	11.8
87	Sterling Heights city	MI	124,471	14,638	11.8
91	Columbus city	GA	186,291	21,817	11.7
91	New York city	NY	8,008,278	937,857	11.7
91	Kansas City city	MO	441,545	51,692	11.7
91	New Orleans city	LA	484,674	56,653	11.7
95	Little Rock city	AR	183,133	21,327	11.6
95	Grand Rapids city	MI	197,800	22,958	11.6
95	Kansas City city	KS	146,866	17,039	11.6
95	Portland city	OR	529,121	61,163	11.6
95	Las Vegas city	NV	478,434	55,297	11.6
100	Oklahoma City city	OK	506,132	58,098	11.5
100	Bridgeport city	CT	139,529	16,012	11.5

While Warren and Livonia rank at the top for larger cities, a number of Michigan cities come in with higher shares of elderly. Though most of these tend to be quite small – under 5,000 persons – and located in either the Upper Peninsula or northern Lower Peninsula, there are a number of larger cities with significant shares. Table 2 provides a listing of some of these.

Among the larger cities with shares higher than Warren and Livonia are St. Clair Shores at 21.8 percent, Allen Park at 20.9 percent, Farmington at 20.5 percent, Harper Woods at 19.9 percent, and Dearborn Heights at 18.7 percent.

While the total population 65 years and over showed some growth over the last decade – up 10 percent in Michigan – the change varied among the age cohorts within. The

"65-74 years" group actually experienced a loss, while the "75-84 years" and "85 years and over" cohorts experienced significant gains – 25 and 33 percent, respectively. This trend will continue over the next decade as the small cohorts born in the World War II years turn 65. However, beginning in 2011 and extending for almost two decades, the "baby boom" generation will begin to turn 65 years of age. From that point on, the trends that we have seen in Florida, as well as cities in our own backyard, will become commonplace across the country.

Table 2. Ranking of Michigan Cities of 5,000 or More Population by Percent 65 Years and Over

Place Name	Total Population	Population 65 Years and Over	
		Number	Percent
Ironwood city, Michigan	6,293	1,541	24.5%
Zeeland city, Michigan	5,805	1,350	23.3%
Center Line city, Michigan	8,531	1,912	22.4%
St. Clair Shores city, Michigan	63,096	13,725	21.8%
Escanaba city, Michigan	13,140	2,816	21.4%
Allen Park city, Michigan	29,376	6,136	20.9%
Farmington city, Michigan	10,423	2,132	20.5%
South Haven city, Michigan	5,021	1,019	20.3%
Kingsford city, Michigan	5,549	1,126	20.3%
Harper Woods city, Michigan	14,254	2,831	19.9%
Ludington city, Michigan	8,357	1,658	19.8%
Riverview city, Michigan	13,272	2,619	19.7%
Flushing city, Michigan	8,348	1,641	19.7%
Grand Haven city, Michigan	11,168	2,190	19.6%
Trenton city, Michigan	19,584	3,837	19.6%
Alpena city, Michigan	11,304	2,214	19.6%
Iron Mountain city, Michigan	8,154	1,597	19.6%
Manistee city, Michigan	6,586	1,275	19.4%
Beverly Hills village, Michigan	10,437	1,994	19.1%
Gladstone city, Michigan	5,032	954	19.0%
Dearborn Heights city, Michigan	58,264	10,914	18.7%
Grosse Pointe Woods city, Michigan	17,080	3,108	18.2%