Economic Security & Older Adults in Massachusetts

The Elder Economic Security Index measures the income older adults need to meet their daily living costs while staying in their own homes.

### Housing and health care are the biggest expenses in Massachusetts and throughout the U.S.

#### Monthly expenses for a single renter in Massachusetts and an average single renter in the U.S.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MA (MA)</th>
<th>US (US)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOUSING</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEALTH CARE</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MISC.</td>
<td>$1000</td>
<td>$1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOOD</td>
<td>$1500</td>
<td>$1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANS.</td>
<td>$2000</td>
<td>$2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$4500</td>
<td>$4500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Many older adults in Massachusetts face economic insecurity.

42% of single older adults and 25% of couples are not poor enough to qualify for many programs and services, but do not have enough money to make ends meet.

#### In the gap between poverty and economic security

- **Elder Person Living Alone**
  - Below Federal Poverty Level: 19%
  - In the gap between poverty and economic security: 42%
  - Above the MA Elder Index: 39%

- **Elder Couple Living Together**
  - Below Federal Poverty Level: 5%
  - In the gap between poverty and economic security: 25%
  - Above the MA Elder Index: 70%

### Women and racial/ethnic minorities face greater economic disparities.

- **Women**
  - Blackburn: 60%
  - Hispanics: 72%
  - Asians: 78%
  - Men: 54%
  - 65%

- **Elder Economic Security Index**
  - Three states with the most single older adults living below the Elder Index.
  - MISSISSIPPI: 64%
  - MASSACHUSETTS: 61%
  - NEW YORK: 60%
  - U.S. AVERAGE: 53%

Learn more about the Elder Economic Security Index
Gerontology Institute, McCormack Graduate School
www.umb.edu/demographyofaging/elder_economic_security
Jan.Mutchler@umb.edu

DATA FROM 2016