

**Senior Moments #2
October 13, 2025**

I would like to share some numbers to help better understand that the 65 and over population in Ludington is much different than most towns and cities. The following data is from 2023.

- In 2023 in the United States 17.3% of the total population was 65 or older.
- In Michigan, that number was 19.2%.
- In Mason County, that number was 26.9%.
- In Ludington, 30% of the population was 65 or older.
- It is projected that in 2050, 22.8% of the United States population will be 65 or over.
- So here we are in Ludington, 25 years before that projected 22.8% nation wide figure, already at 30% of our total population being 65 or older.

For comparison purposes, here are some numbers for other cities/towns along the west coast of Michigan.

Traverse City	22.9%
Manistee	28.1%
Muskegon	19.7%
Holland	16.6%
St. Joseph	18.5%

So - why are all these numbers important?

If city leaders like yourselves, and others, are not aware of what percentage of the Ludington population is comprised of senior citizens, how can you possibly know how to plan appropriately to meet their needs in critical areas, including:

- Healthcare allocation: An aging population correlates with a higher use of healthcare services. Knowing the percentage of seniors helps healthcare officials and public health organizations plan for quality medical services for seniors, as well as the training of staff.
- Caregiving support: As people live longer, the need for family

and professional caregivers increases. Knowing the number of older adults, especially those with increased disabilities, helps communities anticipate and support the growing caregiving needs.

- **Social and emotional well-being:** Information on the number and living arrangements of older adults, particularly the percentage who live alone, can be used to identify and address social and psychological issues like isolation. Social services and other agencies can use this information to create programs that promote community engagement.

- **AWARENESS!** City leaders, and others as well, need to be made aware not only of the large percentage of seniors in our community and the challenges that presents, but also of the experiences, talents, time and willingness to serve, many of our seniors share with this community.

But that's for another Senior Moment