

New England Projections: Residents of New England Aged 60 and Over

Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging
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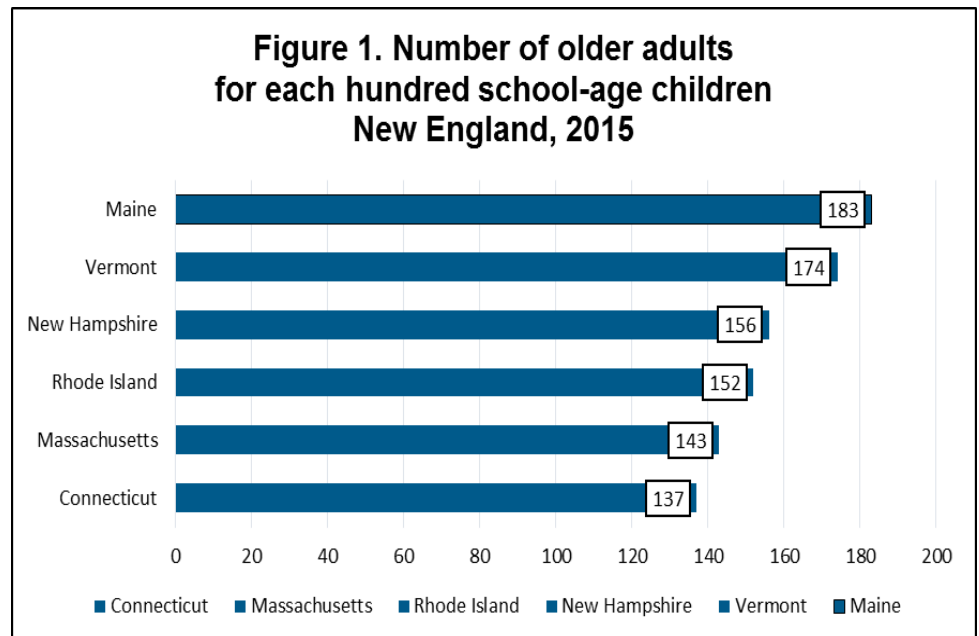
Fact Sheet

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Highlights

- New England is now and will continue to be, older than the U.S. as a whole.
- Among the New England states, Maine has the highest ratio of adults aged 60 and over to children. In Maine, for every 100 children there are 183 older adults.
- Population projections from the U.S. Census Bureau suggest that in 2030, 28% of New England residents will be 60 or older.
- Maine is projected to continue to have the largest share of seniors in 2030, at 35%.

As a region, New England is older than other geographic regions in the United States, a pattern that is expected to hold moving into coming decades. Currently, for the US as a whole there are 117 adults age 60 or older for every 100 school-age children. **Figure 1** shows that the number of adults aged 60 and over for each hundred children between 5 and 18 years of age in New England states is considerably higher than the US average. Connecticut has the lowest ratio in New England: for every 100 children, there are 137 older adults. In comparison, Maine has the highest ratio, with 183 seniors for every 100 school-age children. Massachusetts is on the low end with 143 older adults per 100 school-age children.

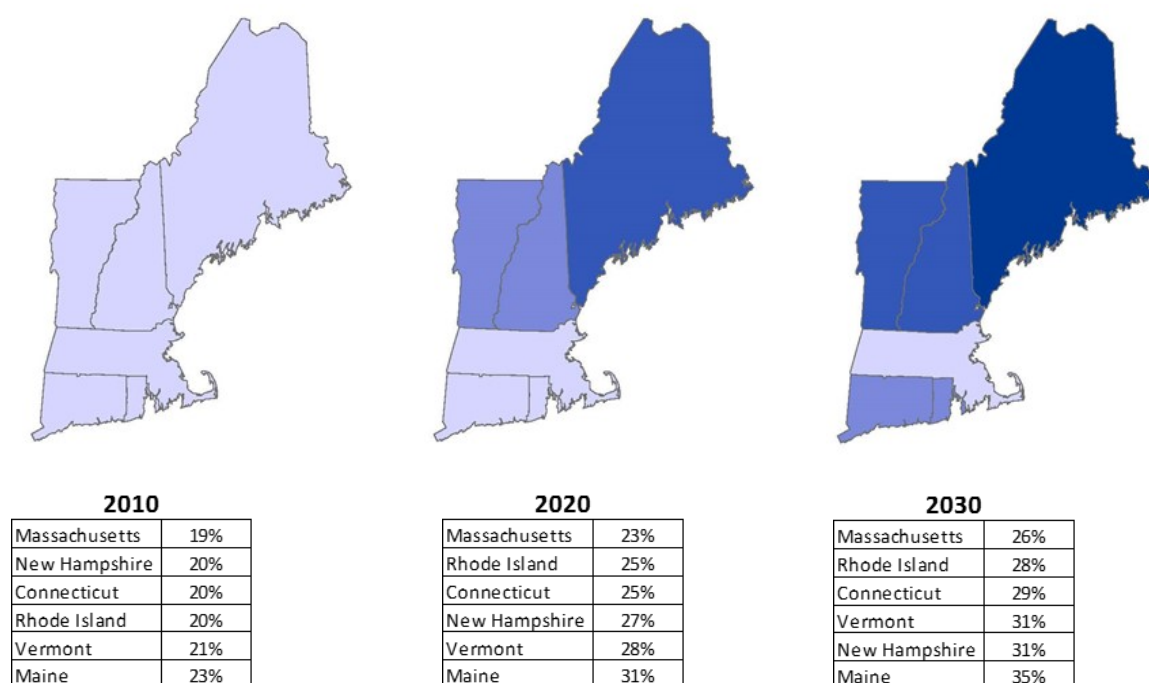


Source: U.S. Census Bureau Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex for the United States, States, Counties and Puerto Rico Commonwealth and Municipals: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2015, retrieved from factfinder.census.gov

Projections suggest that in 2030, 28% of New England residents will be 60 or older.¹ Like other regions of the U.S., New England is experiencing the impact of the aging of the Baby Boom cohort, the youngest of whom will reach age 60 in 2024. In 2030, the New England states with the largest shares of seniors will be Maine, with 35% of its residents being age 60 or older, and New Hampshire and Vermont with 31%. Among the New England states, Massachusetts is expected to have the smallest proportion of seniors, at 26%.

The pace of growth in the relative size of the older populations in New England states is reflected in **Figure 2**, which shows the projected share of residents age 60 and over between 2010 and 2030 by state. By 2020, only Massachusetts is expected to remain below 25% in terms of the share of residents who are age 60+. The increase in elder populations is due to both the aging of the “Baby Boomers” generation and increase in life expectancy. The large college-student population in Massachusetts—a population that is renewed year after year as young adults migrate to Massachusetts to attend colleges and universities—likely accounts for the somewhat suppressed pace of aging compared to other New England states.

**Figure 2. Projected Population Proportion at Age 60 or over
New England 2010-2030**



Source: Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, Demographics Research Group, University of Virginia

¹Projections for the New England states are drawn from the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, Demographics Research Group, at the University of Virginia, which produces age-specific projections for all 50 states. Projections for Massachusetts are also available from the Donahue Institute at the University of Massachusetts. The Donahue projections suggest the older population in Massachusetts will be somewhat more sizable, at 25% in 2020 and 28% in 2030.

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