

Age

The SouthCoast population is older in comparison to the state as a whole. Over sixteen percent (16.4%) of the region's population is 65 years of age and older. This compares to 13.5% for the state (U.S. Census 2000) (see Figure 1 and Table 1). The school-aged population in the region (5 to 17 year olds) is slightly above the state average: 17.8% compared to 17.1%.

The 2000 U.S. Census indicates that many of area's high school, college, and university graduates are moving from the SouthCoast. Between 1990 and 2000, there was a 20 percent net decrease (39,000 persons) in the number of persons ages 20 to 34 residing in the SouthCoast. Many business leaders describe this out migration as a "brain drain," since this is the age cohort that most likely benefited from new postsecondary educational opportunities in the area.

Figure 1

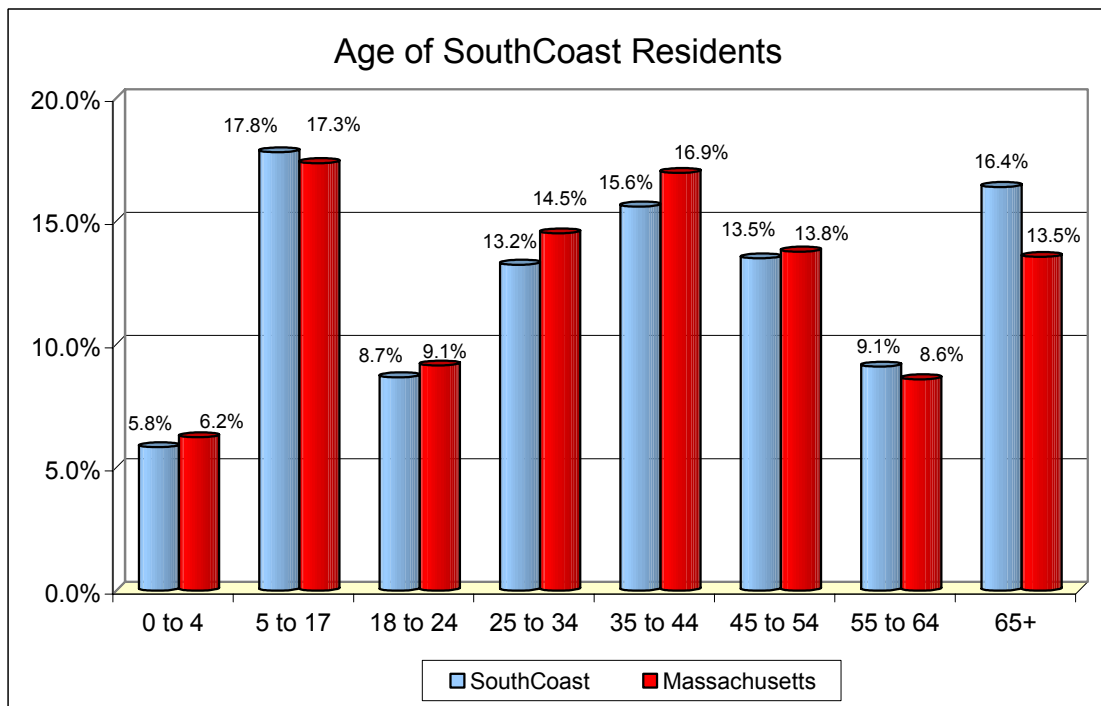


Table 1

Age of SouthCoast Residents								
Town/City	0 to 4	5 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65+
Acushnet	5.0%	18.4%	6.8%	12.0%	17.4%	15.6%	10.0%	14.8%
Dartmouth	4.4%	16.1%	13.9%	10.3%	15.5%	15.0%	9.2%	15.5%
Fairhaven	4.9%	16.8%	6.2%	11.9%	16.4%	14.2%	9.9%	19.7%
Fall River	6.3%	17.9%	9.3%	15.4%	14.4%	11.7%	8.2%	16.9%
Freetown	5.2%	19.5%	8.2%	11.9%	18.3%	18.3%	9.7%	8.9%
New Bedford	6.6%	18.1%	9.5%	14.4%	15.1%	11.5%	8.0%	16.8%
Somerset	4.3%	16.1%	6.4%	10.7%	15.2%	14.9%	11.2%	21.2%
Swansea	4.7%	17.4%	6.8%	12.3%	16.3%	16.3%	10.6%	15.7%
Westport	4.7%	16.9%	6.8%	12.0%	16.0%	16.9%	12.0%	14.7%
Lakeville	7.9%	19.7%	5.1%	11.7%	19.2%	16.3%	8.7%	11.4%
Marion	5.7%	19.3%	4.2%	10.0%	15.7%	17.0%	11.0%	17.1%
Mattapoisett	5.0%	18.4%	4.5%	9.6%	16.3%	17.5%	11.8%	16.9%
Rochester	6.0%	20.8%	6.4%	10.6%	18.9%	20.1%	8.8%	8.4%
Wareham	5.9%	18.5%	6.3%	11.6%	17.1%	14.1%	10.4%	16.0%
SouthCoast	5.8%	17.8%	8.7%	13.2%	15.6%	13.5%	9.1%	16.4%
Massachusetts	6.2%	17.3%	9.1%	14.5%	16.9%	13.8%	8.6%	13.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000



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