

Top 10 Highest-Rent 55+ Counties in the U.S. — ALEX Intelligence 2026

Top 10 55+ Counties by Rent — \$1,862 Median

Collier County leads U.S. 55+ rent market — ALEX Intelligence, 2026

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THE DATA

\$1,862

Median Gross Rent (2024)

Collier County has the highest median gross rent among U.S. counties with the highest 65+ population share.

This figure reflects the escalating cost of housing in retirement destinations that are both desirable and in high demand. For 55+ buyers, this is not just about location — it's about the new financial threshold for entry into top-tier active-adult communities. The data shows that affordability is no longer a function of price alone, but of rent pressure in the most sought-after counties.

01

Rent Is the New Entry Barrier

The \$1,862 median gross rent in Collier County signals a shift: affordability in the 55+ market is increasingly defined by rental pressure, not just purchase price. For retirees relying on fixed incomes, this rent level represents a significant portion of monthly cash flow, especially in age-restricted communities where maintenance and amenities are factored into the cost. This dynamic favors those with strong equity release or supplemental income, reshaping who can access the highest-tier retirement environments.

02

Downsizing ≠ Lower Cost Anymore

The assumption that downsizing reduces living costs is being challenged. In top 55+ counties, even smaller homes command premium rents due to location, lifestyle, and community infrastructure. This undermines the traditional downsizing narrative and suggests that the equity released from a prior home may be insufficient to cover rent in high-demand areas. As a result, retirees may be forced to choose between maintaining their lifestyle and relocating to more affordable, but less desirable, markets.

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