

historical context Societal themes (government and institutions) themes were indicative of being able to contribute or influence one's current community. Implications for clinical practice and policy formation are provided.

SESSION 1305 (POSTER)

AGING IN PLACE | TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING ISSUES

IDENTIFYING HOUSING PREFERENCES IN AN AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

Natalie Pope,¹ and Allison Gibson¹, 1. *University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, United States*

More than a decade ago, the World Health Organization's (WHO) age-friendly cities and communities program was established to guide communities in preparing for rapid population aging. WHO identified eight domains of livability that influence health and wellbeing of older adults—housing, one of the eight domains is the focus of this study. Partnering with our local Age Friendly initiative, we examined housing preferences and values for residents of a mid-sized urban community. A cross-sectional survey was administered online via Qualtrics and through face-to-face data collection across the community (e.g., public libraries, community farmers' markets). Participants aged 30+ completed a researcher-devised survey about housing-related preferences and values. Data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Of our 518 respondents, half were 60+ and most were women (73.2%). Younger respondents (age 30-59) were more likely to be married or living with a partner (73.7%). There was little difference in housing preferences between older and younger respondents or among those with varying financial means. Analysis revealed the top five housing considerations were: "safety" (78.8%), "affordability" (73.2%), "privacy" (51.9%), "proximity to services I frequently use" (50.6%), and "accessibility" (42.4%). An unexpected finding was that almost 50% of older respondents expressed a willingness to share a home with a roommate. Data suggests that city planners and property developers should prioritize these preferences when planning for the housing related needs of older residents. Alternative housing models, such as cohousing, should be explored further. Future research should examine interpretation of such housing preferences (i.e., what's considered affordable?).

DISTANCE FROM APARTMENT TO ACTIVITY AS A BARRIER TO PARTICIPATION IN GROUP ACTIVITIES FOR ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS

Rebecca L. Mauldin,¹ and Jason Fernandez², 1. *University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas, United States*, 2. *University of Houston, Houston, Texas, United States*

Participating in group activities is potentially also beneficial for residents of assisted living facilities, who have decreased independence due to physical or cognitive limitations. However, their impaired abilities can make attending group activities difficult. One potential barrier is the physical distance from residents' apartments to the activity location. This study analyzed resident (N=30) attendance at group activities in an assisted living facility. Attendance records for

822 group activities over the course of six months and the distance between residents' apartments and activity location were analyzed. Exponential random graph models were used to estimate the effect of individual-level, activity-level, and social network factors on the likelihood that a resident attends an activity. On average, residents attended 128 events (SD = 151) during the six month study period. The average size of activities was 4.6 residents (SD = 2.9). The closest distance between a resident's apartment and an activity was 7.7 feet; however, some residents had to travel up to 382 feet to attend an activity (M=153 ft.; SD=52). After controlling for individual-, activity-, and social network-level factors, distance to the activity was significantly and negatively associated with the likelihood a resident attended the activity. In spite of the fact that assisted living facilities offer supports and services to help residents overcome their physical limitations, it appears that distances within the building can be barriers to participation in group activities. This should be taken into account in designing facilities, locating group activities, and devising strategies to increase participation in group activities.

LIFE SPACE MOBILITY AND NEIGHBORHOODS: HOW HOME MODIFICATIONS IMPACT AGING IN PLACE

Alan DeLaTorre,¹ Ivis García,² Julianne Reno,¹ Ja Young Kim,² and Keith Diaz Moore², 1. *Portland State University, Portland, Oregon, United States*, 2. *University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, United States*

This presentation details a mixed methods study funded by the National Institute for Transportation and Communities that was conducted with 50 older adults aged 65 and older who lived in Portland, Oregon (n=25) and Salt Lake County, Utah (n=25). The purpose of the study was to improve understanding of how home modifications affect older adults' mobility in different life-spaces (e.g., one's bedroom, neighborhood), their understanding of aging in place and neighborhood, and their ability to age in place. During each home visit, a series of research protocols (i.e., surveys, interviews, mapping exercises) were carried out with each participant. The study found that home modifications (e.g., grab bars, replacing showers with bathtubs, and adding raised toilets) were reported to increase in-home mobility and, for some, their independence; however, for certain participants, those same modifications were less useful, especially to those with the need for caregiver supports. Life-space mobility outside the home was impacted by home modification such as ramps and railings on stairs; for some, those modifications bolstered social connections and access to services. Overall, home modification were seen as enabling both mobility and aging in place. Furthermore, respondents' understanding and description of their neighborhoods varied greatly and were influenced by mobility barriers (e.g., presence of sidewalks and crosswalks) and available amenities.

BARRIERS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR SUFFICIENT ACADEMIC RESEARCH ON HOME MODIFICATION FOR OLDER ADULTS IN CHINA

Mengzhao Yan¹, 1. *Leonard Davis School of Gerontology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, United States*

Home modification has been perceived as an effective method to make current dwelling units more age-friendly and