

October 2021 Advocacy Update

There hasn't been much of a party in Washington as the new fiscal year begins because Congress remains mired in a very tense game of political football. Here's the play-by-play and how it impacts aging advocacy.

Federal Update

Congress is clearly on a streak, but not a winning one. They extended their abysmal track record for dropping the ball by not passing the Federal budget before the beginning of the fiscal year. They didn't approve any of their 12 appropriations bills before the October 1, 2021 deadline. Instead, they continued their streak of not fulfilling their most basic Constitutional duty for the 25th consecutive year.

To avoid a government shutdown, Congress did pass a **Continuing Resolution** (CR) that punts the deadline for the budget to pass until December 3rd. This temporarily extended current funding levels for federal agencies and programs. Congress still needs to decide on a game plan to suspend the debt ceiling in the next couple of weeks to avoid a default on US debts.

In the meantime, House Democrats are still negotiating the passage of an infrastructure bill and spending bill.

The **Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework (BIF),** *formerly Biden's American Jobs Plan*, is a \$1T Senate supported bill that includes \$550B in "new" spending to cover roads and bridges, railroads, transit, Power grid, Water, broadband Cybersecurity and Climate change mitigation.

The **Build Back Better (BBB) Act**, *formerly Biden's American Families Plan* is a \$3.5T House bill that includes \$190B for Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services, expanded Medicare benefits (Dental, Hearing, Vision), healthcare subsidies, Prescription Drug Reforms, Paid family leave, \$4B Elder Justice funding and \$1.2B increase to Older Americans Act funding and waive the state and local match requirements for the new Older Americans Act funding and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This is the reconciliation package that would appropriate spending for the FY22 Budget. This bill will likely be reduced to between \$1.5T and \$2.1T.

Speaker Pelosi wants both bills passed together as she fears that passing the BIF alone would derail the passage of the BBB bill. Advocacy efforts are still needed to let our elected officials know that these two pieces of legislation are important to older adults and the final negotiations need to protect the funding outlined in the BBB Act above. Please visit our advocacy webpage to send a letter to your legislators today: https://agequide.org/advocacy/#/.



State Update

Together, a statewide movement for aging equity. This campaign aims to increase the commitment to Illinois' rapidly aging population, families and caregivers, and to promote equitable aging. To this end, HMPRG is offering a Policy Academy comprised of two training and discussion sessions. This is an excellent opportunity for learning, advocacy, and networking for anyone interested in aging equity. To participate in the Illinois Aging Together Policy Academy, visit IllinoisAgingTogether.org.

IL Dept on Aging's State Plan on Aging was approved by the Administration on Community Living (ACL). The plan can be found at https://files.constantcontact.com/eeb100c1801/3bf9bb18-a981-4b95-8a67-ffe4b9ab4e11.pdf

The Chicago Bears aren't the only ones who might get a new zip code. As the 102nd Illinois General Assembly nears the end zone, legislators are expected to tackle redistricting during the fall veto session, October 19-28. It's uncertain if they will take up any other legislation but aging advocates may have one last opportunity to push to appropriate funding for the **Illinois Family Caregiver Act**. If this bill isn't considered during the veto session, it will be re-introduced again next year.

AgeGuide is keeping an eye on both Springfield and Washington and continuing to advocate for the needs of older adults in Illinois.

Here at Home

AgeGuide Learning Center: The AgeGuide Learning Center (ACL) is now live and offering free on-line Dementia Friendly (DF) Business Sector trainings. If you are interested in becoming Dementia Friendly, visit AgeGuide's website https://ageguide.org/advocacy/dementia-friendly-initiative/dementia-friendly-pledge-business-form/ or contact Colette Jordan cjordan@ageguide.org.

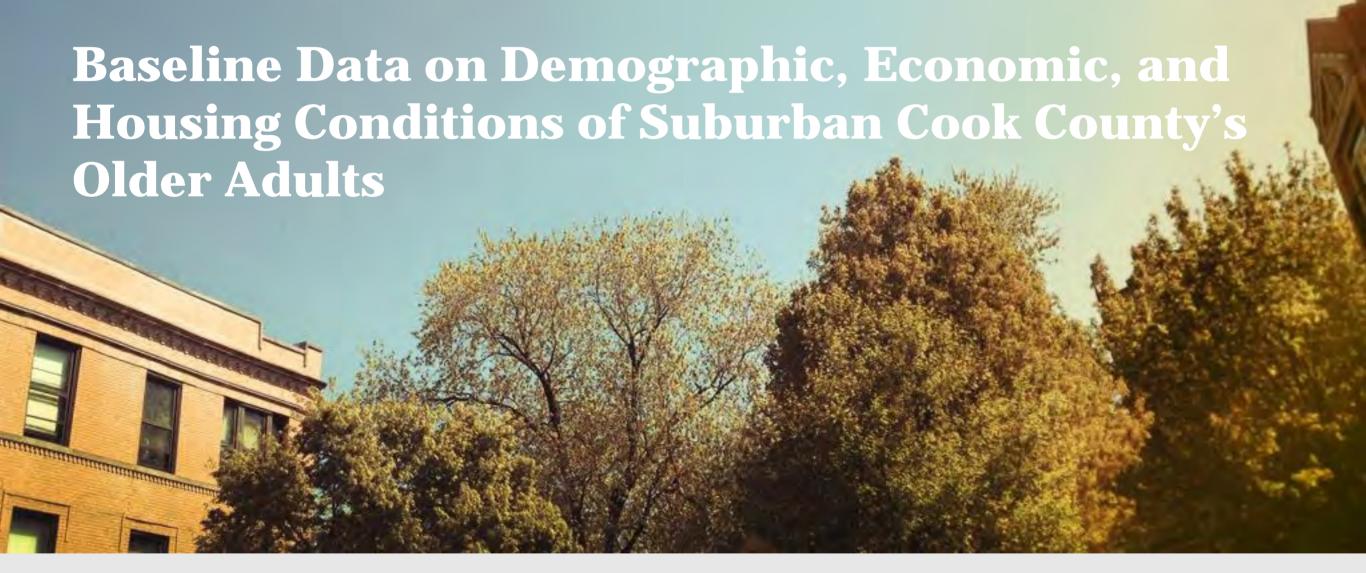
Caregiver Conference November 30th: AgeGuide is partnering with AARP to offer a 90 minute (1-2:30p) virtual opportunity to engage informal family caregivers. We will kick it off with author and motivational speaker Loretta Veney who celebrates the resilience of caregiving. This outreach opportunity will connect informal caregivers with resources to keep their loved ones at home. The first 300 participants will receive a survival kit including Loretta Veney's book and additional resources.

INSTITUTE FOR HOUSING STUDIES AT DEPAUL UNIVERSITY



PRESENTATION

October 7, 2021



Presented by the Institute for Housing Studies

Project Overview

 Develop applied research and data exploring the housing implications and policy challenges facing older adults in the Cook County.

Project goals

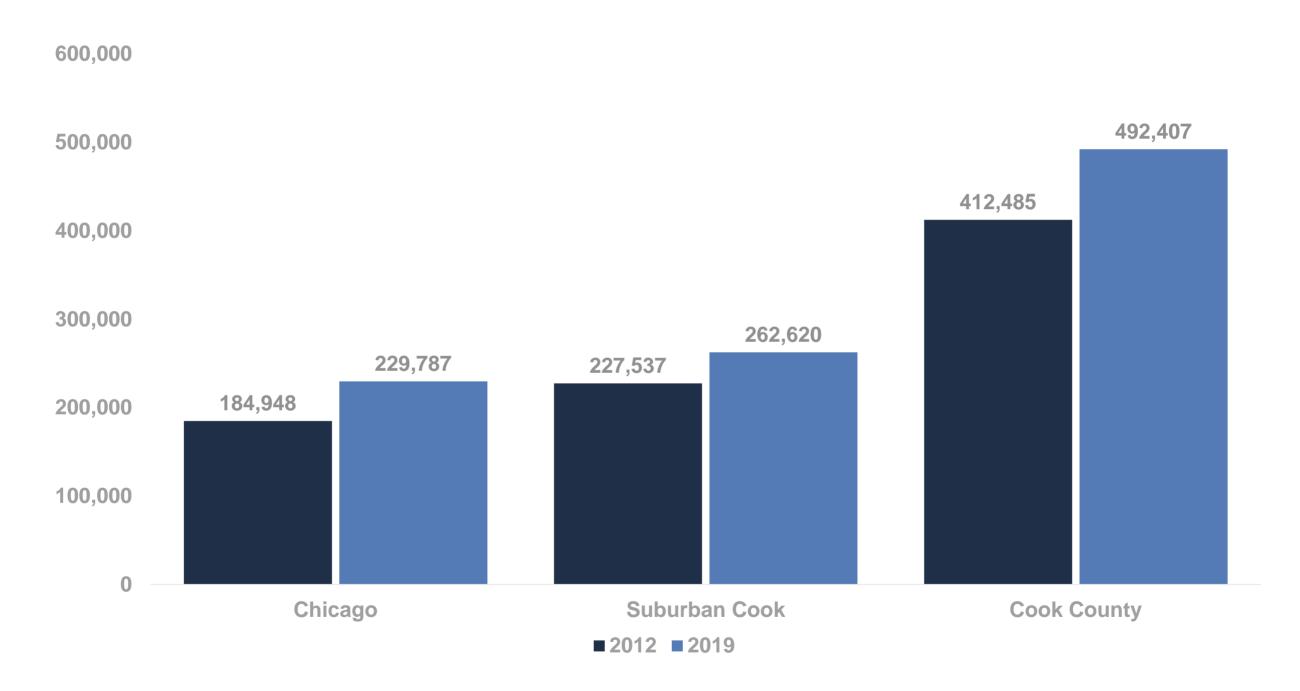
- Produce original new data to help frame policy discussions
- Raise awareness of these issues among a broad audience
- Establish baseline information to allow for tracking conditions as they change
- Enhance the capacity of regional stakeholders to be data-informed as they advance policy solutions
- Build internal capacity at IHS to track housing issues related to older adults identify emerging challenges, and respond to new data needs and assistance requests
- Identify and address emerging issues as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Produce baseline report that establishes conditions across a set of issues impacting older adults in Cook County
- Unpack changing nature of economic and housing insecurity for older adults in the county

Data Indicators for Older Adults in Cook County

- The region is aging
 - Chicago has fewer older adults and older adults make up a smaller portion of the city's total households when compared to suburban Cook County
 - The number of older adult households and the share of all households that are headed by an older adult increased more in the city than suburbs
- Key housing market, demographic and economic trends vary substantially between the City of Chicago and suburban Cook County
 - Tenure shifts opposite in city and suburbs
 - Patterns in older adult households by income vary substantially
- Similarly, there is substantial variation in housing and economic trends by household race/ethnicity
 - Total household shifts, composition of older adult households by income, and nature of cost burden and other economic indicators vary by householder race and ethnicity

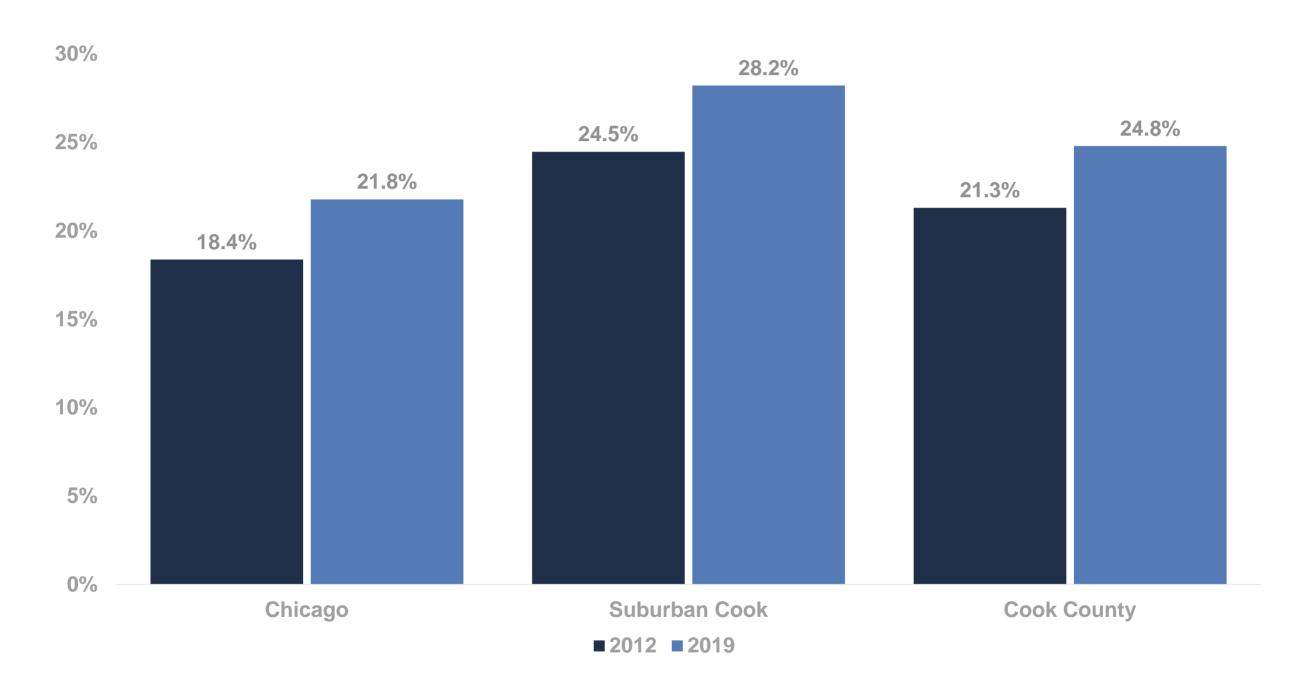
Growing number of older adult (65+) headed households

Total households headed by an older adult (65+), 2012 and 2019



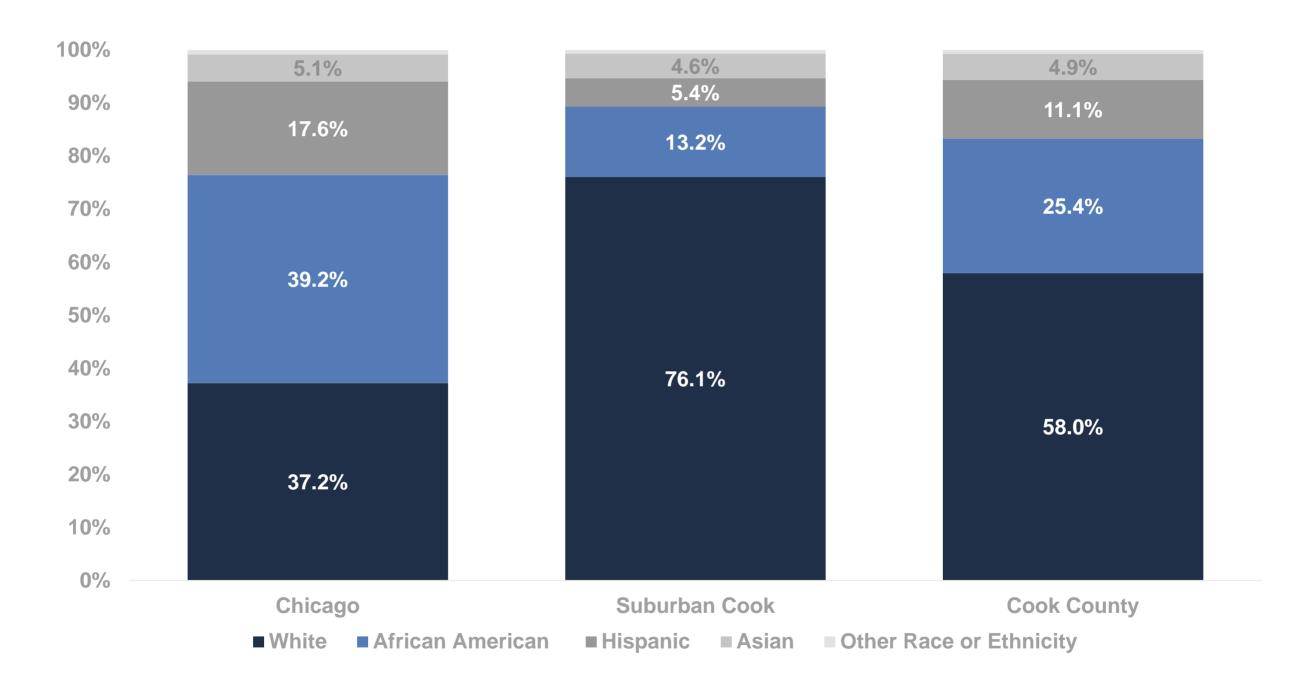
Older adults make up a growing share of total households

Percentage point change in the share of all households headed by an older adult (65+), 2012 to 2019



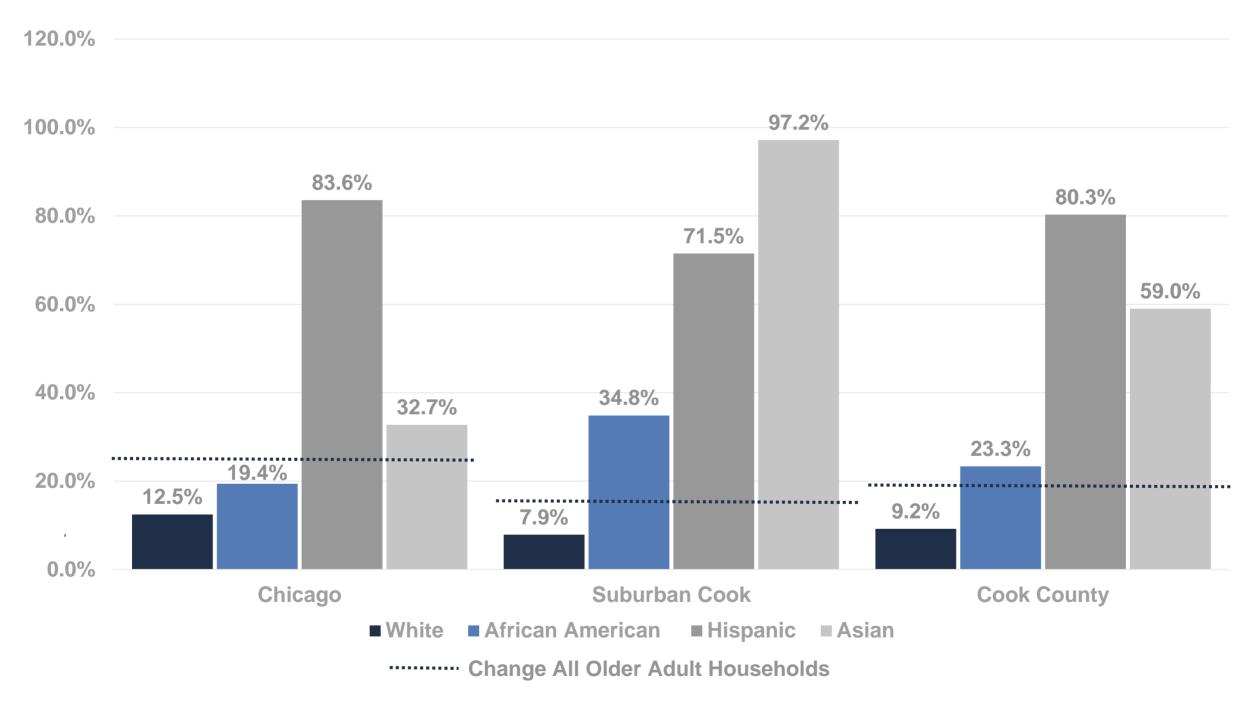
Variation in race/ethnic composition of older adult households

Distribution of Older Adult (65+) Headed Households by Race/Ethnicity of Householder, 2019



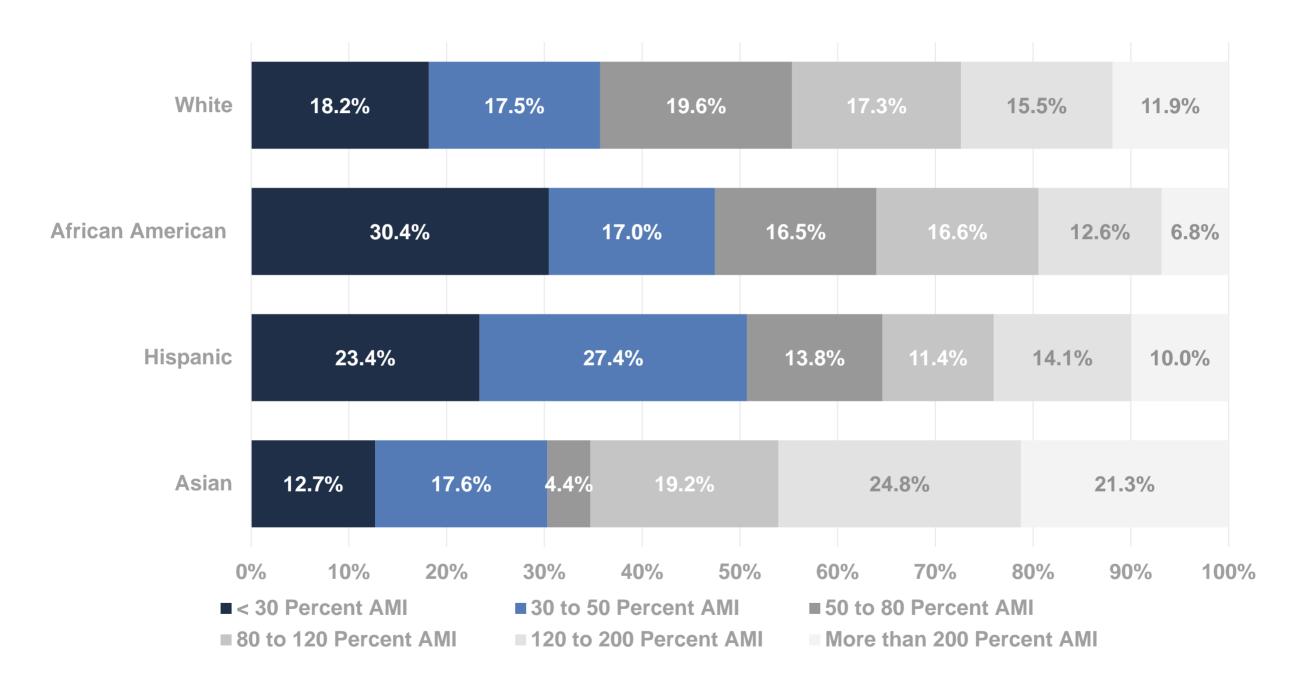
Older adult households of color are growing fastest

Percent Change in the Number of Older Adult (65+) headed households by Race/Ethnicity, 2012 to 2019



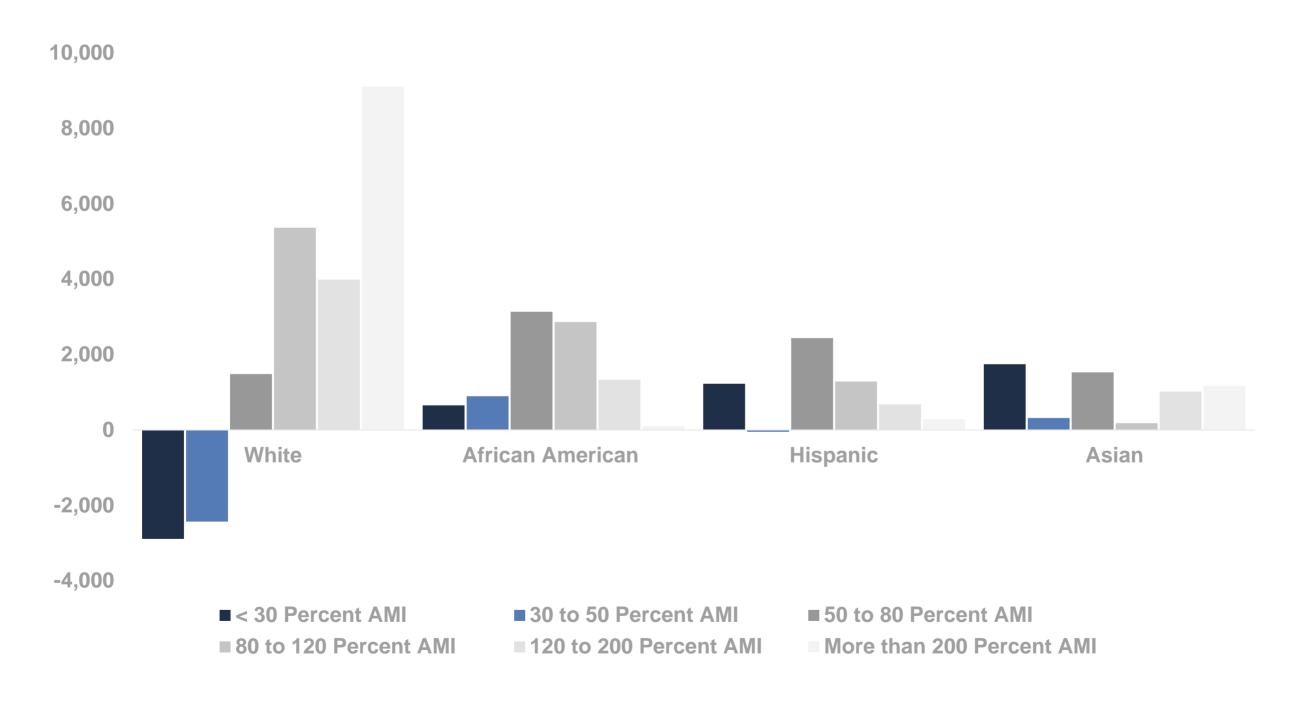
Older adults of color are more likely to have lower-incomes

Distribution of Older Adult (65+) Households by Income Range for Largest Race/Ethnic Groups in suburban Cook, 2019



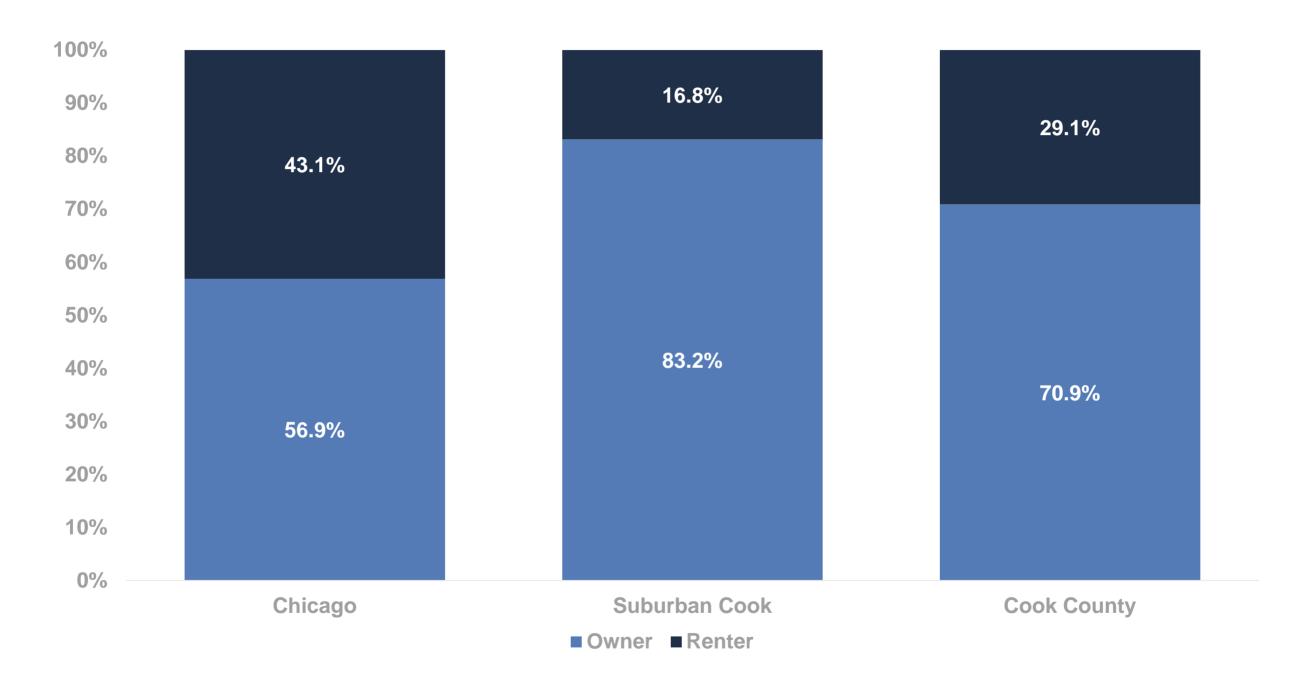
Largest growth in higher- and middle-income households

Net change in suburban Cook older adult (65+) households by income and race/ethnic group, 2012 to 2019



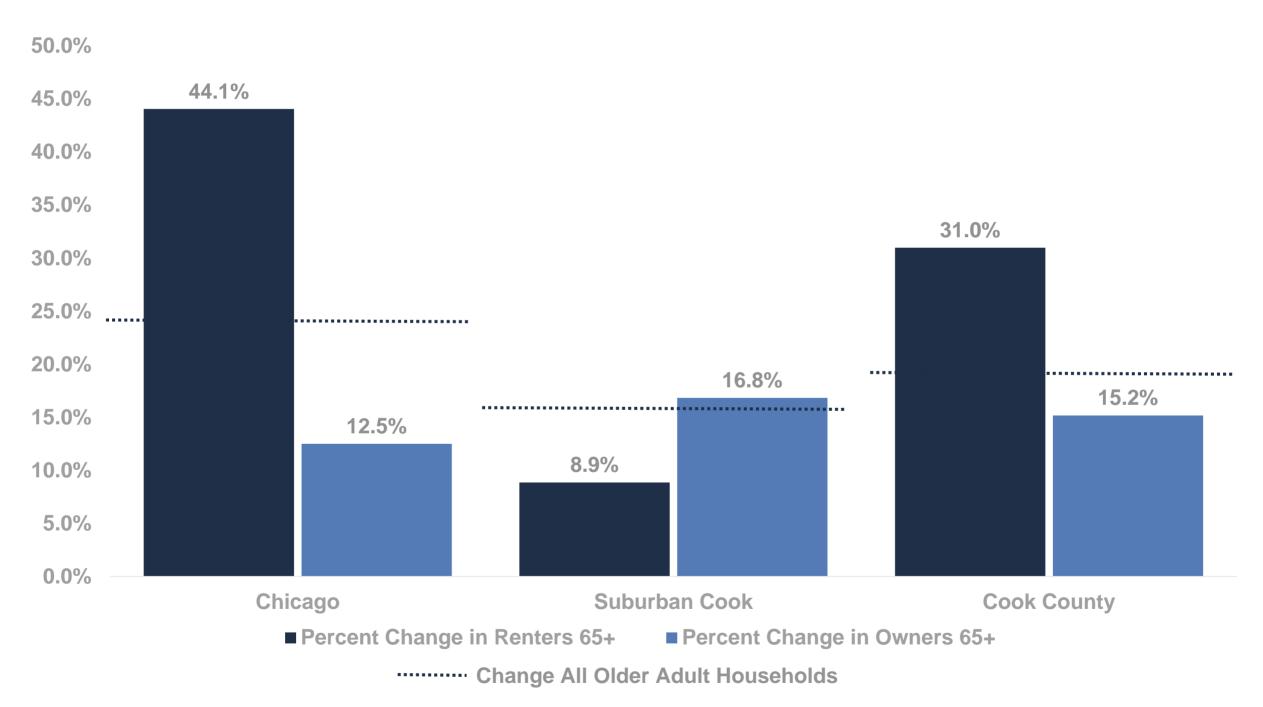
Countywide, older adult households are primarily owners

Composition of Older Adult Households (65+) by tenure, 2019



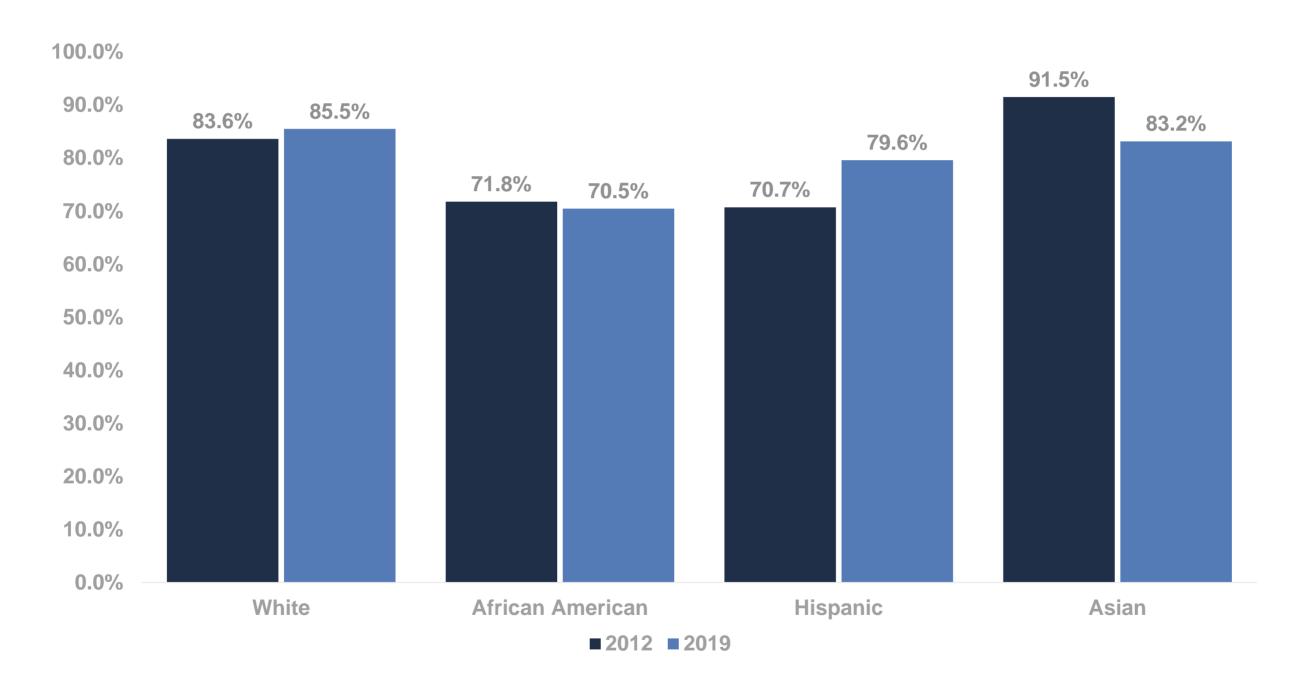
Variation in tenure shifts in city and suburbs, however

Change in Number of Older Adult (65+) Households by Tenure, 2012 to 2019



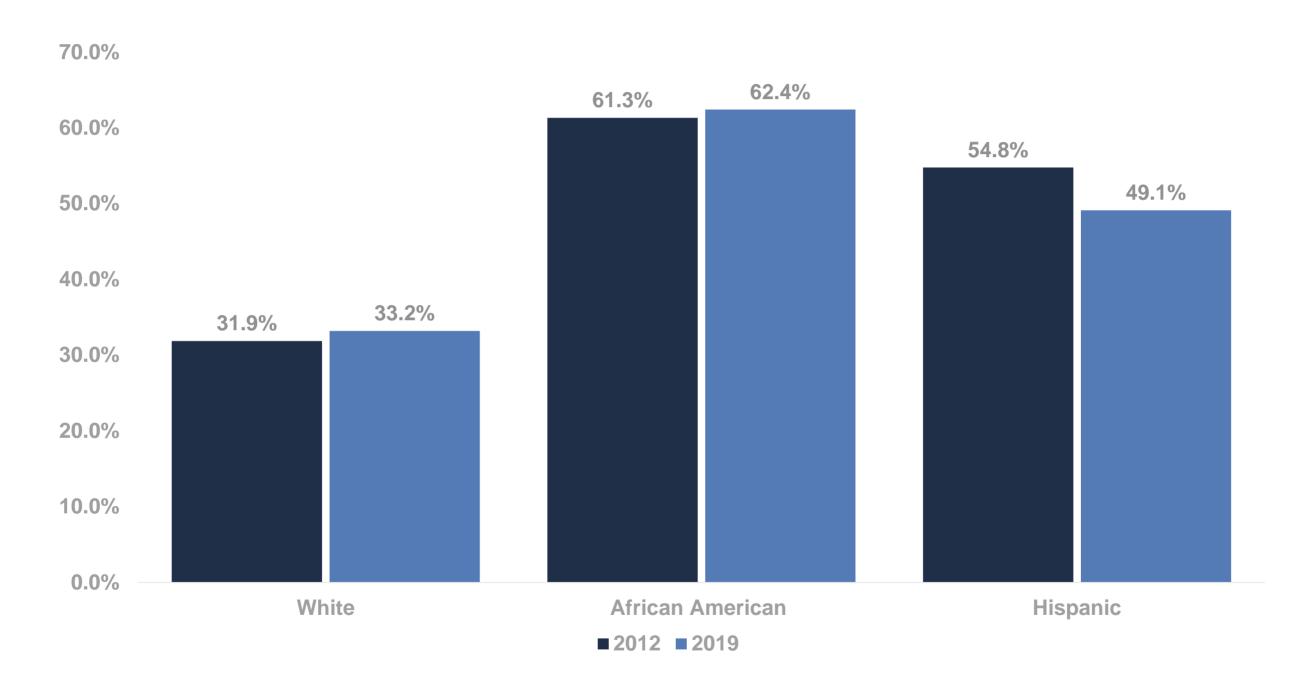
Vast majority of suburban older adults own their homes

Share of Older Adults (65+) Households that are Owner Occupied in Suburban Cook, 2012 and 2019



65+ suburban Black and Hispanic owners often have a mortgage

Share of Suburban Older Adult (65+) Owner Households with a Mortgage, 2012 and 2019



Opportunity for focus group discussion

- Co-convene with Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative
- Discussion with suburban stakeholders to understand key issues and applications for data
- Dig into questions such as
 - Did these data indicators confirm what you see on the ground?
 - Is there a particular indicator or finding that you think is most useful? How would you use it?
 - Were there any trends that were surprising? Are there any new questions these data raise?
 - Did anything strike you as inaccurate or require a different interpretation?
 - What other indicators would you recommend to highlight additional aspects of the issues discussed?
 - What is missing?

INSTITUTE FOR HOUSING STUDIES AT DEPAUL UNIVERSITY



October 7, 2021

Baseline Data to Understand Demographic, Economic, and Housing Conditions for Suburban Cook County's Older Adults



Contact: sduda1@depaul.edu or gsmith33@depaul.edu

Age-Friendly Community Status Update

Village of Arlington Heights, Illinois



2017 Applied for Age-Friendly Community Designation

The Letter of Commitment

- While there is flexibility in how this document can be worded, the following items must be addressed in a Letter of Commitment that is signed by the community's highest elected leader.
- 1. Establishing mechanisms to involve older people
- 2. A baseline assessment of the agefriendliness of the community
- 3. The development of a communitywide action plan based on the findings of the assessment
- 4. Identification of indicators so progress can be monitored against the action plan



2019 AARP Age-Friendly Online Community Survey

- For ONLINE Survey; contact AARP
- O https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/a
 CHL=preview
- Template Directly Addresses 8 Domains of Livability
- No Additional Questions Related to your Municipality

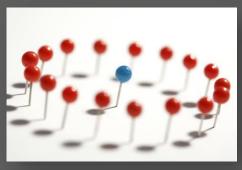


Priority Outcomes



- 1. Access to Safe Affordable Housing
- 2. Increase Affordable Transportation Options
- 3. Central Source of Community Information
- 4. Increase Use of Senior Center Activities
- 5. Access to Affordable Home Health Care Providers
- 6. Install Audio/Visual Pedestrian Crossings
- 7. Job Opportunities for Older Adults and Those with Disabilities
- 8. Civic Activities that are More Affordable
- 9. Create Separate Pathways for Bikes vs. Pedestrians
- 10. Involving Older Adults in School Events





ACTION PLAN



VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SENIOR CITIZENS' COMMISSION

COMMUNICATION: OBJECTIVE 1

Work with Village staff to increase the community's awareness of age friendly information, resources, through increasing number of people on email list by 20%.

- Set a benchmark of contacts collected in 2020/2021.
- Gather contacts.
- Send communication/information via emails, social media posts, and other communication methods to contacts informing them of Age Friendly and other info on resources at the Senior Center.
- Continue with outreach of other departments and partner agencies annually to grow list.



COMMUNICATION: OBJECTIVE 2

Work with Senior Center staff and the Village's Communications to evaluate and update the Senior Center marketing plan to inform the community of Age-Friendly programs and services in Arlington Heights

- Review current senior center marketing plan.
- Ensure that plan encompasses age-friendly as well as addresses diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Staff to review with Village's Communications department for further evaluation.
- Implement plan and review annually.



COMMUNICATION: OBJECTIVE 3

Work with Village staff to conduct a feasibility study on a 311 (Information Call Center) to present findings to the Village Board.

- Contact local and out of state call and information centers in the area for study.
- Conduct site visits and interviews with local call centers.
- Compare costs of services, infrastructures, staffing, management, and efficacy.
- Present findings in a report to present to the Board.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING: OBJECTIVE 1

Work with the Village Board on the Affordable Housing Ordinance to include affordable housing for older adults.

- Advocate for affordable housing when projects presents themselves.
- Attend housing commission meetings to keep informed of upcoming projects.
- Write letter to the Village Board/Housing Commission/Planning to advocate for affordable housing projects and programs that benefit older adults.
- Advocate for affordable housing for ages 60+.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING: OBJECTIVE 2

Research other affordable housing options and community resources for older adults to maintain independence in Arlington Heights

- Review current housing options for older adults in the community.
- Research shared housing, affordable housing, accessory unit dwellings, and programs that enable aging in community for feasibility.
- Work with Senior Center staff to create a report on findings of housing options and programs to present to the Senior Citizens' Commission, Housing Commission and Board.



SAFE & AFFORDABLE TRANSPORTATION: OBJECTIVE 1

Evaluate current resources for transportation and make recommendations for future needs.

- Update Transportation resources flyer and post on website/in senior center and other locations.
- Work with Senior Center Manager and Disability Coordinator to evaluate current public transportation routes and note any gaps in service or accessibility for older adults and individuals with disabilities.
- Present findings in a report to the Board.



SAFE & AFFORDABLE TRANSPORTATION: OBJECTIVE 2

Advocate for affordable, accessible transportation options for older adults and individuals with disabilities.

- Connect with elected officials and public transportation representatives on affordable, accessible transportation options.
- Work with Village staff to create forums, focus groups, and surveys for residents to communicate unmet transportation needs in their area.
- Present findings to the Senior Citizens Commission and report to the Village Board.



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES: OBJECTIVE 1

Create and implement opportunities for civic engagement such as classes and forums.

- Connect with local governments, agencies, and other resources for presentations on information to live well and age well in the community.
- Schedule presentations on a quarterly basis.
- Schedule community forums on housing and aging issues.



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Senior Citizens Commission

AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN FY 2021/2022

_	FY 2021/2022					
	GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	STATUS		
			options and programs to present to the Senior Citizens' Commission, Housing Commission and Board.			
fc	III. Safe and Accessible Transportation	Evaluate current resources for transportation and make recommendations for future needs. (Feldman/Williams; 3/31/22)	 a. Update Transportation resources flyer and post on website/in senior center and other locations. b. Work with Senior Center Manager and Disability Coordinator to evaluate current public transportation routes and note any gaps in service or accessibility for older adults and individuals with disabilities. c. Present findings in a report to the Board. 	 a. Completed 08/01/2021 b. Completed 07/15/2021 c. TBC 03/31/2022 		
		2. Advocate for affordable, accessible transportation options for older adults and individuals with disabilities. (Feldman/Williams 09/01/2022)	a. Connect with elected officials and public transportation representatives on affordable, accessible transportation options. b. Work with Village staff to create forums, focus groups, and surveys for residents to communicate unmet	a. TBC 09/30/2022 b. TBC 01/31/2022		
			transportation needs in their area. c. Present findings to the Senior Citizens Commission and report to the Village Board.	c. TBC 12/31/2023		

Senior Citizen

Senio

Contact/Questions

- Tracey Colagrossi, MS
- Senior Center Manager
- Department of Health & Human Services
- Village of Arlington Heights
- O <u>Tcolagrossi@vah.com</u>
- 847-253-5532 ext. 301







Promote healthy behaviors through partnerships and policy and make health resources and knowledge accessible to all.







WALK BATAVIA/ BIKE BATAVIA CAMPAIGN GOALS

Increase the number of people walking and biking to and around Downtown Batavia.

Getting Batavian's to acknowledge and understand that the suburban reliance on cars is unsustainable and unhealthy.

We are focusing on changing travel behavior specifically in Downtown Batavia.

We want people to slow down and analyze their environment.



A step-by-step self-service guide for assessing a community's walkability

ahrp.org/walk-wedit.

AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit LEADER GUIDE

How to host a walkability workshop and community walk audit

earp.org/walk-audit







CROSSING STREETS and INTERSECTIONS

Complete one set of the Assignment #1 sheets for each intersection you observe.

TIP: We suggest allowing 20 to 30 minutes per intersection.

Intersection observed:	and			
	Street Name 1	Street Name 2		
Day and Date of week:				
Time observations began:	AM PM	Time observations ended:	AM PM	
DIRECTIONS : Place a ✓ next to	any items that are a p	problem for pedestrians and note:		

- What might be especially problematic for a child, older adult or person with disabilities?
- What is the exact location of each problem? Record a landmark or side of street (North, South, East or West) on the line to the right of each item you check.

PROBLEMS FOR PEDESTRIANS

LOCATION



Complete one sheet for each sidewalk-equipped street within your walk area.

Street observed:	between	Cross Street 1	and Cro	oss Street 2
Day and Date of week:				
Time observations began:	AM PM	Time observation	ns ended:	AM PM
DIRECTIONS: Place a ✓ next to any item	ns that are a pro	blem for pedestriar	ns and note:	
 What might be especially probl 	ematic for a chi	ld, older adult or pe	erson with disa	abilities?
 What is the exact location of ea (North, South, East or West) on 				
PROBLEMS FOR PEDESTRIANS		LO	CATION	
O There are no sidewalks, paths or shoul	ders.	·		
O The sidewalks are not continuous (i.e.,	segments are r	nissing).		
O The sidewalk isn't wide enough for two together side-by-side (minimum width				

▶ DRIVER BEHAVIOR

Complete one sheet for the entire walkable area on your walk audit map.

Day and Date of week:			
Time observations began:	AM PM	Time observations ended:	AM PM
DIRECTIONS: Place a ✓ next to any items to	that are a pi	roblem for pedestrians and note:	
 What might be especially p 	problematic	for a child, older adult or person with di	sabilities?
		roblem? Record a landmark or side of street to the right of each item you check.	reet
PROBLEMS FOR PEDESTRIANS		LOCATION	
O Drivers do not stop at stop signs			
O Drivers do not obey traffic signals			
O Drivers appear to be speeding			
O Drivers don't yield to pedestrians, especi	ially at right	turns	
O Drivers do not stop behind the crosswall	k		



O Thoro are unleached door

Complete one sheet for the entire walkable area on your survey map.

AM PM	Time observations ended:	_ AM PM
that are a pr	oblem for pedestrians and note:	
matic for a ch	ild, older adult or person with disabilities?	
	LOCATION	
cellphones)		
activity		
	AM PM that are a pr matic for a ch ach problem? le line to the	s that are a problem for pedestrians and note: matic for a child, older adult or person with disabilities? ach problem? Record a landmark or side of street ne line to the right of each item you check. LOCATION cellphones)

► COMFORT and APPEAL

Complete one sheet for the entire walkable area on your survey map.

Day and Date of week:			
Time observations began:	_ AM PM	Time observations ended:	_ AM PM
DIRECTIONS: Place a ✓ next to any items	s that are a pr	oblem for pedestrians and note:	
 What might be especially proble 	matic for a ch	nild, older adult or person with disabilities?	
 What is the exact location(s) of e (North, South, East or West) on the 	•	? Record a landmark or side of street right of each item you check.	
PROBLEMS FOR PEDESTRIANS		LOCATION	
People don't feel safe walking here.			
O The street needs shade trees			
O The street needs grass, flowers and land	dscaping		
O The street needs benches and places to	rest	<u> </u>	
O The grass and/or landscaping needs ma	aintenance		

FINDING SOLUTIONS

PROBLEMS

- There are no sidewalks, paths or shoulders
- Sidewalks start and stop, are broken or blocked
- There is too much traffic

▶ SOLUTIONS

- Identify another (safer) route
- Tell the traffic engineering or public works department about the problems and provide a copy of your walk audit results
- Speak up at board meetings
- Write or petition the city for better walkways
- Work with a local transportation engineer to develop a plan for a safe walking route
- Make the local media aware of the problems

▶ PROBLEMS

- The roads are too wide to cross
- Traffic signals don't allow enough time to cross and/or don't provide regular chances to cross

▶ PROBLEMS

- Drivers are backing up without looking
- Drivers aren't yielding to pedestrians
- Drivers are driving too fast and/or speeding up to make the light
- Drivers are running red lights and stop signs

SOLUTIONS

- Identify another (safer) route
- Set an example by being a safe driver
- Report unsafe drivers to the police
- Petition for better law enforcement
- Ask the municipality's transportation planners and engineers for traffic-calming solutions
- Organize a neighborhood speed watch program

▶ PROBLEMS

- The landscaping is in poor condition or nonexistent
- · Dogs are off-leash

2017 AARP LIVABLE COMMUNITIES GRANT RECIPIENT

"Great communities require careful planning and time. These quick action projects will give community leaders the motivation and momentum to create greater change."

— Nancy LeaMond, AARP Executive Vice President and Chief Advocacy and Engagement Officer



GOAL OF THE DOCUMENTARY

"Goal of the video was to create visual advocacy tool showcasing the existing bike and pedestrian friendly infrastructure, and, in contrast, show areas that need improvement and currently present challenges to people of different mobility levels."

PROJECT DESIGN



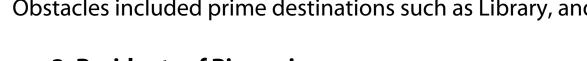
Group 1: Auditors

- Took route around the city as a group
- Took route around the city partnered with a member of Group 2 or 3
- Took route around the city on bicycle



Group 2: Adults and Children

- Partnered with member from Auditor Group for tour
- Discussed challenges taking children around the city possess
- Obstacles included prime destinations such as Library, and Batavia Creamery



Group 3: Residents of Riverrain

- Partnered with member from Auditor Group for tour
- Discussed challenges navigating the city with walking restrictions (walker, balance, cane)
- Obstacles included entrances with only stairs, lack of benches and busy street crossings



PART 1: AUDITORS ON FOOT

Urban Diary

As we walk, please take pictures or videos of the built environment: buildings, curbs, sidewalks, streets, lights anything that catches your eye. Also, be thinking about the following aspects of the city. How would you rate Downtown along these metrics?

Downtown along these metrics? Intersections Width of streets Presence/locations of crosswalks Presence /locations of signals Comfort and Appeal Presence of trees for shade along the path Availability of benches or other seating Landscaping aesthetics Presence of trash on streets

WHAT GRADE DO YOU GIVE BATAVIA IN TERMS OF PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY?

Driver Behavior

Drivers stopping at pedestrian crossings

Driver speed

Cars blocking crosswalks

Graffiti or run down buildings

Drivers yielding to pedestrians in walks or right turns

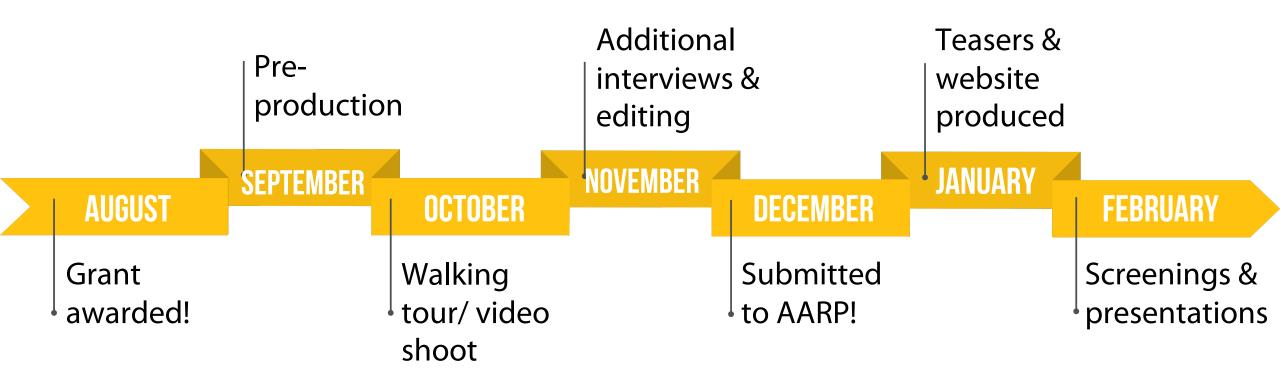
Sidewalks

Condition of sidewalks Connectivity of sidewalks Proximity to streets, driveways or parking Locations of curb cuts (ramps)

	Batavia Depot Museum 1	Ral Joey's Restaurant
Z	0	z z
Wester St	McDonald's 7	Katrina Salon & Spa
Wilson St Gammon Coach House		
(3) (D)	6	River * 8
1st St	5	Webster St



PROJECT RECAP



WEBSITE

WWW.WELLBATAVIA.COM/WALKBATAVIA-BIKEBATAVIA



Case Studies

Stories of walking and biking in Batavia.



Riding the bus in Batavia

Feb 18, 2018



Polling Places

Can you walk to your polling place? Does it matter? We think it does.

Feb 12, 2018



Library

The Batavia Public Library is a fabulous space. It is a great community place. But, is it easily accessible to all?

Feb 12, 2018



CLEARING A PATH FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS CLEARS THE PATH FOR EVERYONE!

THE MINI-DOCUMENTARY



