AGE-FRIENDLY
Delaware County

2018 ASSESSMENT REPORT

Published May 8, 2019
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PARTNERS

Thank you to the following partners who provided guidance on question selection and development of the survey tool.

AAA Ohio Auto Club
AARP Ohio
Bridges Community Action Partnership
Community Member - Nina Stokes
Community Member - Tom Kaelber
Connections Volunteer Center
Delaware Area Transit Authority
Delaware City Police
Delaware County Department of Job and Family Services
Delaware County District Library
Delaware County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Delaware County Regional Planning Commission
Delaware County Sheriff’s Office
Del-Mor Dwellings
Employment for Seniors
Helpline of Delaware & Morrow Counties, Inc.
Liberty Township
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Ohio Living Sarah Moore
OhioHealth
Preservation Parks of Delaware County
The Salvation Army
Willow Brook Christian Communities
AGE-FRIENDLY PROJECT OVERVIEW

Age-Friendly Delaware County is a local initiative aimed at creating a community in which residents of all ages can lead happy, healthy lives. The Age-Friendly Delaware County process is based on framework provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) and is part of a national network facilitated by AARP. Each Age-Friendly community must focus on WHO’s 8 Domains of an Age-Friendly Community. These 8 domains guide the steps of the Age-Friendly Process and help determine which partners should be engaged in the planning and facilitation of the assessment and strategic plan.

Age-Friendly Communities must also follow a five-year process in which year two focuses on a strategic assessment to gather data on the health, well-being, interests, and resources related to the 8 domains of an age-friendly community. The following report will provide an overview of the 2018 survey methodology and results.

DOMAINS

1: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
2: Transportation
3: Housing
4: Social Participation
5: Respect and Social Inclusion
6: Civic Participation and Engagement
7: Communication and Information
8: Community and Health Services

PROJECT TIMELINE

2017: Obtain Age-Friendly Designation
2018: Develop and conduct assessment of adults age 55 and older
2019: Develop strategic plan
2020-2021: Implement plan
2022: Reassess community
The Age-Friendly Delaware County Assessment began in 2018 with research of tailored survey designs, focus groups, data gap identification and an advisory group in order to determine the focus and design of the assessment process. Following these steps, the “My Life in Delaware County” survey tool was created. The survey tool included 75 questions divided between 7 sections. Cover letters, thank you/reminder letters and a reminder postcard were included in the mailings sent to residents during summer 2018.

All documents were sent to the Ohio Department of Health Institutional Review Board (IRB). Final documents underwent full review and the project was approved by the IRB.

A single sample frame was used to select which residents would receive the survey. Individuals were selected via random sampling from the Delaware County Board of Election Voter Registration Database. 1,500 registered voters age 55 and older were selected to become the sampling frame. This group was then sent a cover letter, survey and a pre-stamped envelope in which to return the survey. All sampled residents were then sent a letter as a reminder to return the survey or thank them for their participation. A few weeks later, a second survey packet was mailed to residents who had not yet responded. Lastly a reminder postcard was sent to any remaining residents who had not returned the survey. The timeline of mailings is shown below.

Returned survey responses were entered into a secure database. Data was cleaned and then analyzed using Stata software. A total of 766 valid surveys were included in the dataset for a response rate of 51%.

The full methodology report can be found at DelawareHealth.org/community-health-data
Bars are used to help interpret the importance and satisfaction questions that are throughout the report. Each bar is divided by the response options “Not at all important” to “Very important” and “Very dissatisfied” to “Very satisfied” depending on whether the bar refers to an importance or a satisfaction question. Each response corresponds to a value one through four. The values are then averaged to indicate how residents feel about the various topics and are included above each bar.

All satisfaction questions included the option “does not apply to me.” This percentage is provided so that anyone interpreting the data knows how many individuals were not included in the satisfaction average.
This section covered Q1-Q15 on the survey tool and addressed topics relating to safe and accessible places for people to gather, public buildings and greenspaces. Questions included importance and satisfaction scales for various resources and are broken down below. Differences within each resource and among various resources should be considered. Many respondents did not feel that certain resources applied to them and this is noted along the side of each graphic. For a full breakdown of results, please refer to Appendix B.

**Well-maintained sidewalks**

- **NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT**
  - 3.16
- **VERY IMPORTANT**
  - 3.51

31% of respondents selected "does not apply to me" when asked about sidewalk satisfaction

**Multi-use trails**

- **NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT**
  - 3.23
- **VERY IMPORTANT**
  - 3.34

25% of respondents selected "does not apply to me" when asked about multi-use trail satisfaction

**Tobacco-free outdoor spaces**

- **NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT**
  - 3.36
- **VERY IMPORTANT**
  - 3.5

24% of respondents selected "does not apply to me" when asked about tobacco-free outdoor space satisfaction
97% of Delaware County older adults consider their community to be somewhat or very safe.

Are outdoor spaces accessible to those with different abilities?  
- 68% Yes  
- 26% Not sure  
- 6% No

Are public buildings accessible to those with different abilities?  
- 63% Yes  
- 37% Not sure  
- 0% No

The trail surfaces are usually dirt or covered with mulch which is too hard for maneuvering.

Parking often is not nearby, steps or stairs are unavoidable, need periodic seating to rest. Remember, many handicapped are not in wheelchairs or scooters.
This section covered Q16-Q19 on the survey tool and addressed topics relating to how older adults currently navigate their community and what methods they would prefer to utilize more often. For a full breakdown of results, please refer to the Appendix B.

**Methods of transportation used by older adults in Delaware County**

- **Car (driven by yourself)**: 95%
- **Walk**: 58%
- **Car (driven by someone else)**: 48%
- **Bike**: 21%
- **Uber/Lyft**: 10%
- **Public transportation**: 2%
- **Other**: 2%
- **Taxi/cab**: 1%
- **Organizational transportation**: 1%

Olders adults identified biking and public transit as methods of transportation they wish they could utilize more.

"We need more and safer bike lanes."
"Bike more-connected paved paths."
"Bike paths from neighborhoods don’t exist."
"Like to see rail transportation around the Columbus area."
"I would use public transit more if it was available in the county."
This section covered Q20-Q25 on the survey tool and addressed topics relating to aging in place, as well as current and preferred housing types. For a full breakdown of results, please refer to Appendix B.

43% of Delaware County older adults need assistance maintaining the exterior of their home.

42% of Delaware County older adults need assistance maintaining the interior of their home.

The majority of older adults find it important to stay in both their community and current home as they age:

- 89% find it important or very important to stay in their community.
- 86% find it important or very important to stay in their current home.

Older adults indicated they would consider the following housing types if they were to move in the future:

- Condo: 56%
- Owned house: 54%
- Senior living community: 50%
- Apartment: 21%
- Family member's house: 13%
- Rented house: 10%
- Low-income or subsidized housing: 4%
- Other: 3%
This section covered Q26-Q45 on the survey tool and combines the social participation, respect and social inclusion, and civic participation and engagement domains. Questions included importance and satisfaction scales for various topics and are broken down below. Differences within each topic and among various topics should be considered. Many respondents did not feel certain topics applied to them and this is noted along the side of each graphic. For a full breakdown of results, please refer to Appendix B.
**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION**

53% Fully retired  
15% Retired, still working  
32% Not retired

31% Concerned about financially supporting themselves throughout retirement  
16% Unsure about financially supporting themselves throughout retirement  
12% of older adults still working felt there were not job opportunities available that utilize their skill sets

Do older adults feel they have a purpose within their community?

- 41% Yes  
- 17% No  
- 42% More or less

Do older adults feel their opinions are of value to decision makers in their community?

- 28% Very valued  
- 49% Somewhat valued  
- 18% Slightly valued  
- 5% Not at all valued

“All in all, Delaware County is a great place to live and retire for those who can afford it.”
COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

This section covered Q46-Q48 on the survey tool and addressed topics relating to technology and preferred methods of communication. For a full breakdown of results, please refer to Appendix B.

**Older adults would prefer to receive information by the following methods:**

- **Mail**: 80%
- **E-mail**: 56%
- **Internet searches and websites**: 48%
- **TV**: 47%
- **Newspaper**: 40%
- **Radio**: 31%
- **Faith-based organizations / community bulletins**: 28%
- **SourcePoint "My Communicator"**: 20%
- **Flyers posted in community**: 20%
- **Social Media**: 18%

**Older adults reported using the following types of technology:**

- **E-mail**: 90%
- **Computer**: 89%
- **Internet**: 89%
- **Smartphone**: 79%
- **Tablet**: 57%
- **Facebook**: 49%
- **Instagram**: 15%
In general, older adults reported their health status as:

- 44% Very Good
- 27% Excellent
- 21% Good
- 6% Fair
- 2% Poor

Number of prescription medications taken by older adults:

- 0: 17%
- 1: 16%
- 2: 17%
- 3: 16%
- 4: 12%
- 5+: 20%

Of those older adults currently taking prescription medications, 54% do not review their medications with a pharmacist every year.

- 18% of older adults have fallen in the past 6 months
- 18% are anxious about falling

Older adults reported they:
- Do not eat out or bring home takeout: 11%
- Eat out or bring home takeout 1-2 times per week: 59%
- Eat out or bring home takeout 3+ times per week: 29%

- 69% of older adults exercise every day to several times a week

3 out of every 100 adults have felt abused
8 out of every 100 older adults have been a victim of a financial scam
41% of Delaware County older adults are not aware of mental health services in their community

25% of Delaware County older adults are living with some sort of physical or mental limitation

Out of every 100 Delaware County older adults...

- 2 experience difficulty dressing or bathing
- 2 experience blindness or serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses
- 4 experience difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions due to a physical, mental or emotional condition
- 6 experience difficulty doing errands alone due to a physical, mental or emotional condition
- 11 experience deafness or serious difficulty hearing
- 16 experience difficulty walking or climbing stairs
RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

This section includes socioeconomic characteristics of those who responded to the Age-Friendly survey. Demographic data can be used to divide the larger older adult population into relevant sub-groups and provide a description of the County’s older adult population as a whole. For this survey, older adults were defined as those 55 and older.

**Race:**
- White 94%
- Other 3%
- African American 2%

**Average Age:** 68 years old

**Household income breakdown for Delaware County older adults**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual Income ($)</th>
<th>% of People</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;$25,000</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000 - $49,999</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 - $74,999</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000 - $99,999</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 - $149,999</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150,000 - $199,999</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200,000 or more</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Municipality**
- 58% Township
- 35% City
- 6% Village

**Education:**
- K-12th grade (no diploma) 2%
- High school graduate, GED or equivalent 14%
- Post-high school education/training (no degree) 15%
- 2-year college degree 11%
- 4-year college degree 25%
- Post-graduate study (no degree) 10%
- Graduate or professional degree(s) 23%
RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Current marital status of older adults

- Married: 77%
- Widowed: 11%
- Divorced: 7%
- Not married, living with partner: 3%
- Never married: 2%
- Separated: 0.14%

90% of Delaware County older adults have children

16 out of every 100 Delaware County older adults live alone

71% of Delaware County older adults have grandchildren

Average length of time lived in Delaware County: 23 years

80% of older adults would rate their community as a very good or excellent place to live as they age

How likely are Delaware County older adults to move out of the County as they age?
- 36% Not at all likely
- 22% Somewhat likely
- 18% Slightly likely
- 15% Don’t know
- 9% Very likely

Top reasons given as to why older adults would move out of Delaware County:

- Finances
- Family
- Housing
- Climate
DATA EXAMPLES AND REQUESTS

The report is a synopsis of the overall data gathered from the 2018 Age-Friendly Assessment. In addition to the data provided in this report and its appendices, further data analysis can be conducted by the Delaware General Health District upon request. Cross tabulations (as shown below) can compare questions to other questions or to various groups of people. Any further analysis will be published on the Delaware General Health District’s website.

Park importance by municipality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Importance Level: Parks</th>
<th>Municipality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Township % (n)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all important</td>
<td>2% (9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slightly important</td>
<td>4% (17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat important</td>
<td>15% (62)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Important</td>
<td>79% (326)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interpretation: 82% of those who live in a village said parks were very important compared to 79% of those who live in a township.

Current methods of transportation by age groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Method of Transportation</th>
<th>Age Group (years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>54-64 % (n)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car (driven by self)</td>
<td>99% (281)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car (driven by someone else)</td>
<td>53% (151)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Transportation</td>
<td>1% (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxi/cab</td>
<td>1% (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uber/Lyft</td>
<td>13% (38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike</td>
<td>31% (89)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>68% (193)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational Transportation</td>
<td>1% (2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interpretation: 1% of those age 54-64 use organizational transportation compared to 10% of those age 85 and older.
### DATA EXAMPLES AND REQUESTS

#### Annual medication reviews by number of prescription medications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual medication review with pharmacist</th>
<th>Number of prescription medications</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>5+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>% (n)</td>
<td>% (n)</td>
<td>% (n)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(104)</td>
<td>(96)</td>
<td>(68)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(138)</td>
<td>(107)</td>
<td>(78)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Interpretation:** 53% of those who took 5+ prescription medications do not have an annual review with their pharmacist.

#### Preferred methods of communication by age groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preferred method of communication</th>
<th>Age Group (years)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>54-64</td>
<td>65-74</td>
<td>75-84</td>
<td>85+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% (n)</td>
<td>% (n)</td>
<td>% (n)</td>
<td>% (n)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mail</td>
<td>75% (215)</td>
<td>84% (224)</td>
<td>84% (113)</td>
<td>85% (35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Media</td>
<td>24% (67)</td>
<td>19% (52)</td>
<td>9% (10)</td>
<td>2% (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td>59% (167)</td>
<td>63% (168)</td>
<td>47% (53)</td>
<td>29% (12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet Searches/Websites</td>
<td>59% (169)</td>
<td>47% (125)</td>
<td>33% (36)</td>
<td>15% (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith-based organizations and community bulletins</td>
<td>30% (36)</td>
<td>26% (76)</td>
<td>26% (29)</td>
<td>24% (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Flyers</td>
<td>24% (67)</td>
<td>19% (52)</td>
<td>14% (16)</td>
<td>12% (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper</td>
<td>35% (101)</td>
<td>43% (115)</td>
<td>46% (52)</td>
<td>49% (20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Communicator</td>
<td>17% (49)</td>
<td>24% (63)</td>
<td>22% (25)</td>
<td>20% (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV</td>
<td>46% (130)</td>
<td>47% (126)</td>
<td>50% (56)</td>
<td>56% (23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio</td>
<td>37% (106)</td>
<td>30% (81)</td>
<td>19% (21)</td>
<td>12% (5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Interpretation:** Popularity of receiving information via newspapers increased as age increased from 35% in those aged 54-64 to 49% in those aged 85+.
Data is available by the below geographic regions. While this data is not statistically significant, it can be useful in examining regional trends. Data can be requested from the Delaware General Health District.

**Grey Region:** Ostrander, Radnor, Waldo, Ashley, Prospect  
**Blue Region:** Dublin, Powell  
**Yellow Region:** Delaware  
**Orange Region:** Lewis Center, Columbus  
**Purple Region:** Sunbury, Galena, Johnstown, Centerburg  
**Green Region:** Westerville

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blue Region</th>
<th>43016</th>
<th>43017</th>
<th>43065</th>
<th>Total respondents: 183</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purple Region</td>
<td>43074</td>
<td>43011</td>
<td>43021</td>
<td>43031</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grey Region</th>
<th>43003</th>
<th>43061</th>
<th>43066</th>
<th>43342</th>
<th>43356</th>
<th>Total respondents: 29</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| *Not enough responses to report aggregate results*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yellow Region</th>
<th>43015</th>
<th>Total respondents: 197</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orange Region</td>
<td>43035</td>
<td>43240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Region</td>
<td>43081</td>
<td>43082</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For more information regarding:

Assessment results, further data analysis, survey methodology, or this report, please contact the Delaware General Health District.

Abby Crisp, Epidemiologist
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Strategic planning, workgroups, current initiatives, and ways to get involved please contact SourcePoint.

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This study includes data provide by the Ohio Department of Health which should not be considered an endorsement of this study or its conclusions.