

# Aging in Place: A Community Preparation Toolkit



Photo: theconversation.com

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# **Introduction**

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission provides technical assistance, information, and other various services to 45 municipalities and 18 counties in our designated region. In doing so, the Southern Georgia Regional Commission also keeps the region updated on changing factors that will affect the region. Whether in policies, demographics, or regulations, the Regional Commission provides services to help communities make the best decisions possible in their endeavor to provide a higher quality of life for their citizens.

Currently, a topic that is quickly becoming a more discussed issues is the increase in the senior population (65+) and the choices they will make as they age. Nationally, 10,000 people a day are turning 65, and this trend will continue for the next 17 years.<sup>1</sup> Many in the older-adult population will also begin to retire and counties in this region, some more than others, will experience a great increase in the older-adult population because they are naturally occurring retirement communities. There are ways that cities and counties can prepare for this influx and create communities that people will be able to enjoy throughout their lives. This type of community is called a lifelong community. A lifelong community gives people many options for a higher quality of life through accessibility and mobility.

The focus of this toolkit is to help with creating age-friendly lifelong communities throughout the region through the concept that “if it will work for seniors, it will work for everyone.”

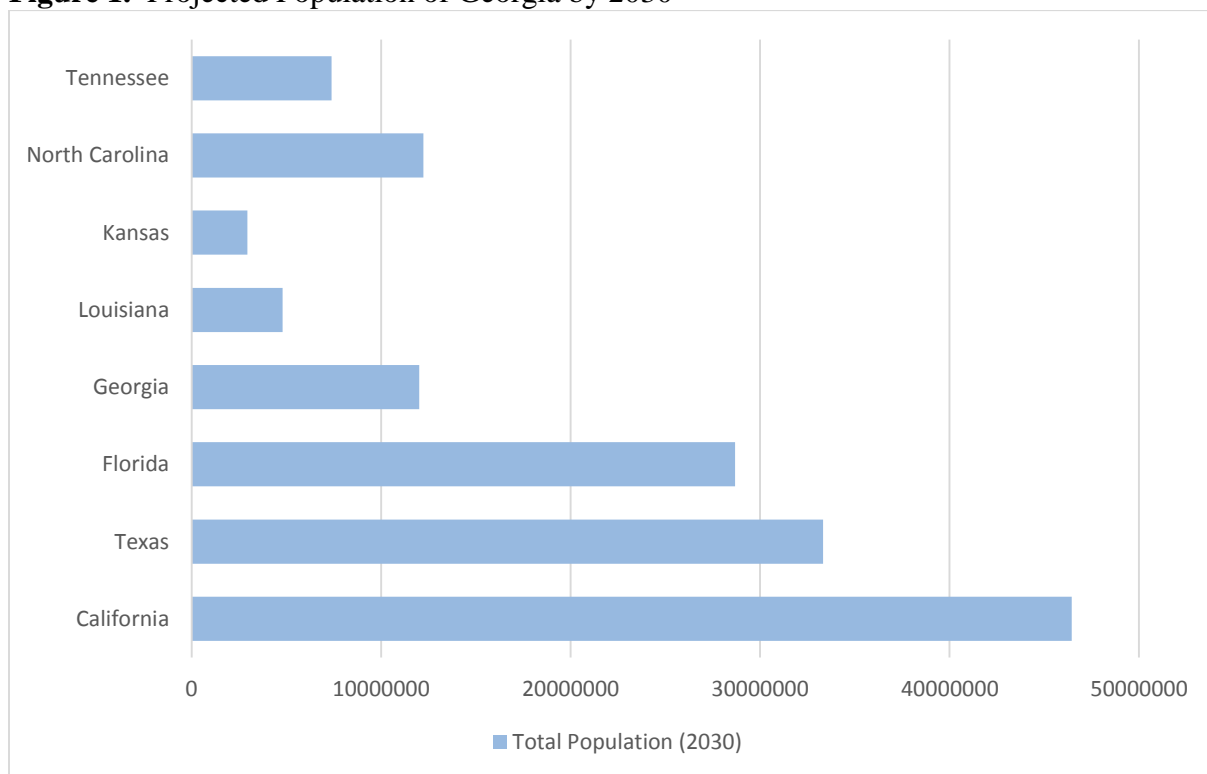
<sup>1</sup> A. Barry Rand, CEO, AARP

# Demographic Overview

## Why Should We Prepare for an Influx in the Aging Demographic?

Preparing for any change in a community can be a difficult task, especially when preparing for a population increase. Whether the increase is in the total population or a particular demographic, communities can make changes to start heading in the direction to accommodate the change. There are many choices that can be made in the areas of zoning, land-use, and local decision making that will create an environment where citizens have the opportunity to accessible amenities and a more unified community. As mentioned in the previous section, the demographic that this toolkit will focus on is the senior population. Below, are graphs that illustrate the total population and the growth in the senior population (65+) for the state of Georgia and the region. By the year 2030, Georgia will be the 8<sup>th</sup> most populous state in the U.S. and the third most populous state in the Southeastern Region. Furthermore, Georgia's senior population (65+) is expected to increase by 142.5 % and make up over 20% of its total population.<sup>2</sup>

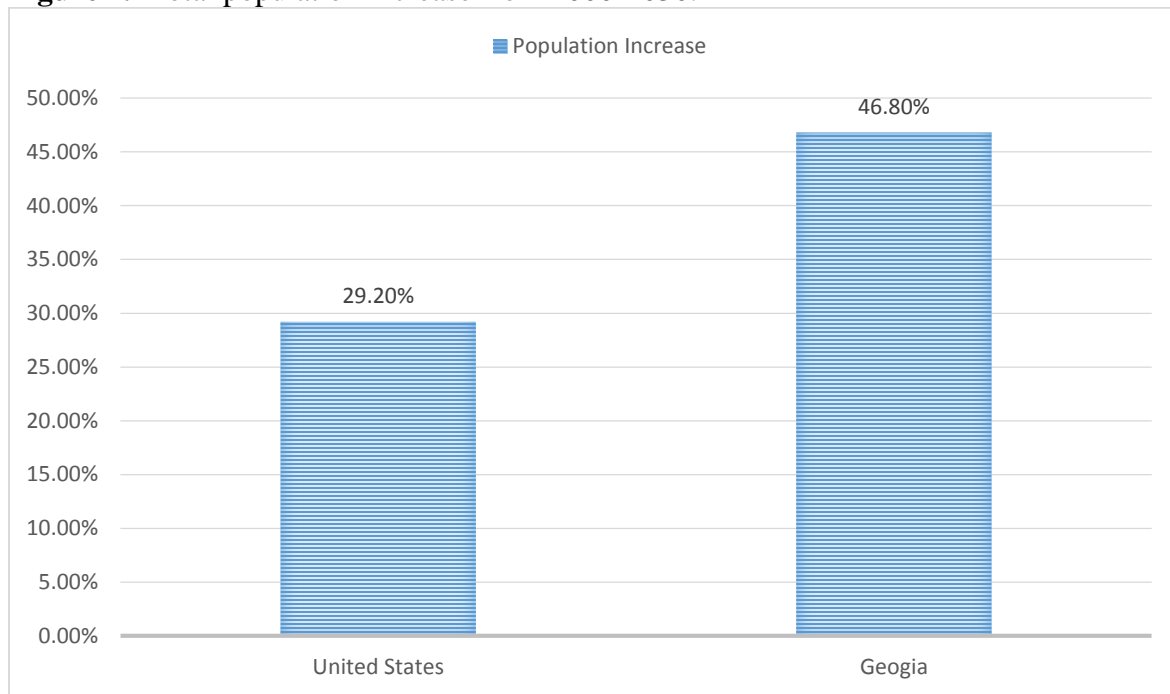
**Figure 1.** Projected Population of Georgia by 2030



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Interim State Population Projections, 2005

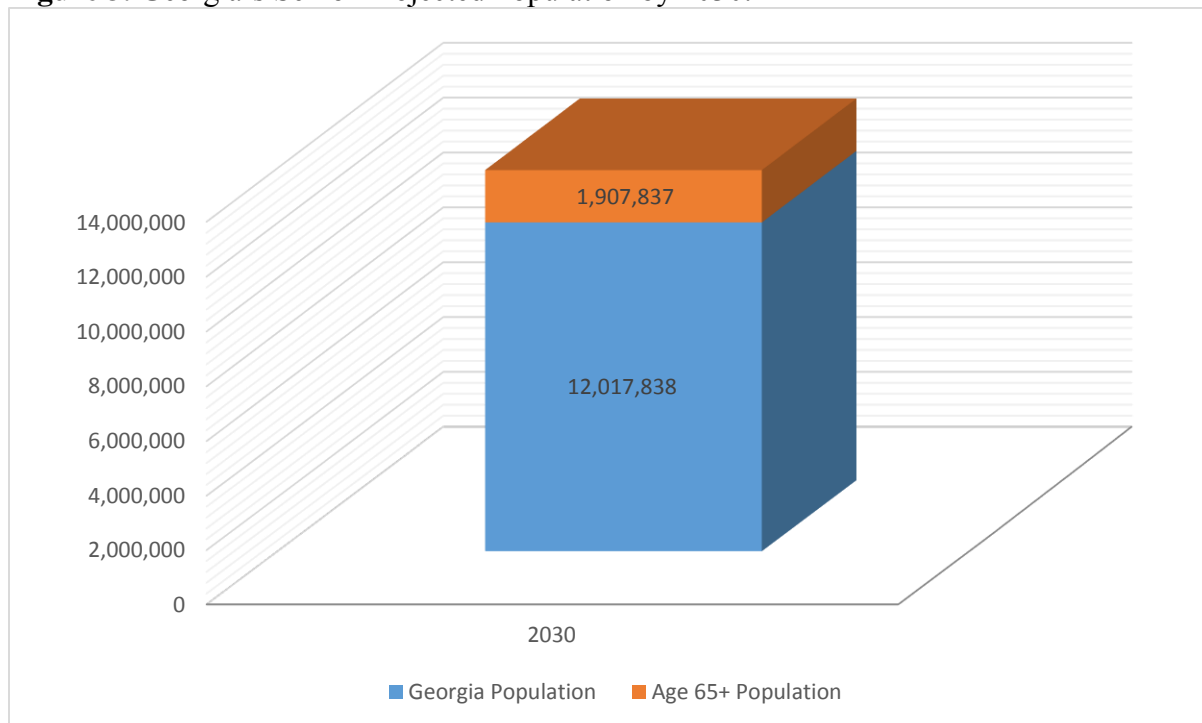
<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Interim State Population Projections, 2005

**Figure 2.** Total population increase from 2000-2030.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Interim State Population Projections, 2005

**Figure 3.** Georgia's Senior Projected Population by 2030.

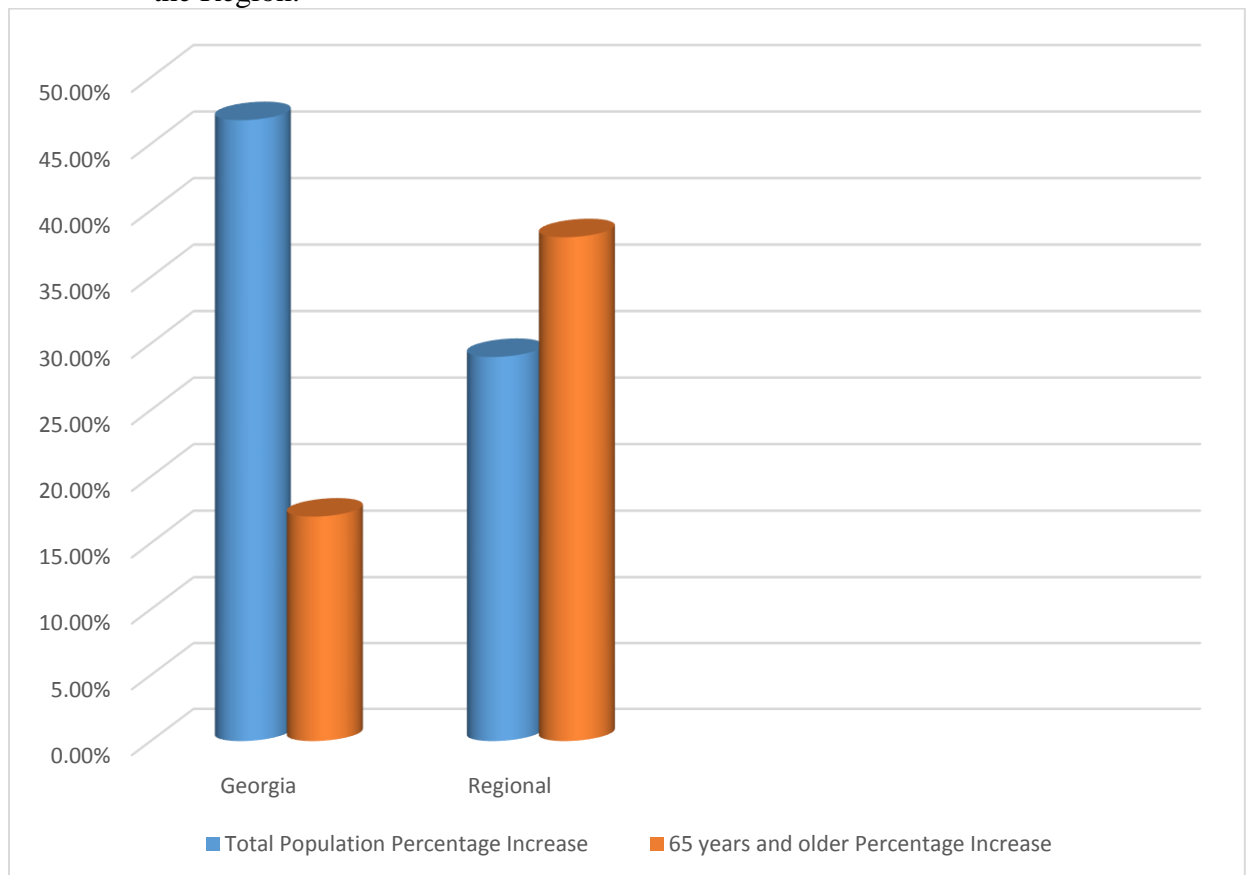


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Interim State Population Projections, 2005

## How Will the Regional Demographics Change?

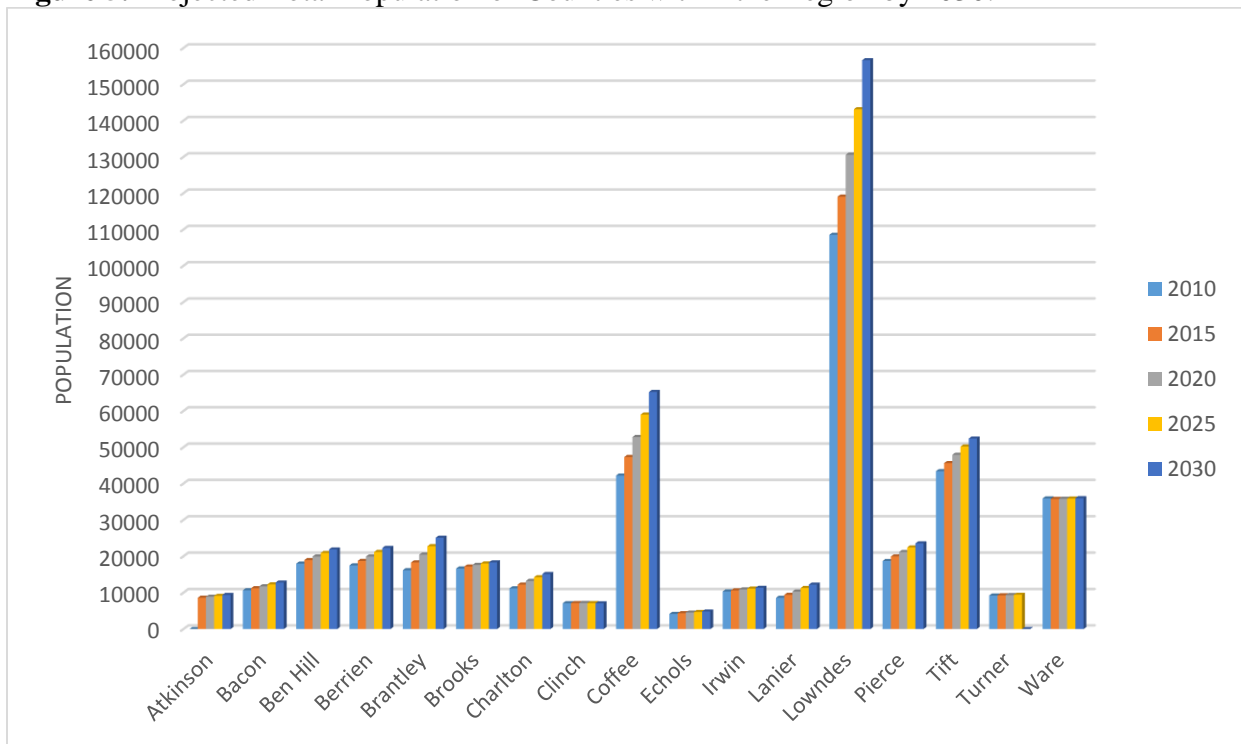
The total population of the region is expected to increase 29% by the year 2030. Regionally this increase is not comparable to the overall increase for the state; however, the region will experience a far greater percentage increase in the senior population than the state. The regional senior population will not be larger than the total population but will experience a higher percentage increase. This higher percentage increase could be due to many communities in this region being naturally occurring retirement communities, meaning that many seniors who are not from this region will choose to retire in communities within this region. By the year 2020, the region will see a 38% increase in the senior population. This means that by the year 2020, there will be an immense number of senior citizens living throughout the region, many of whom will choose to stay in their homes for the remainder of their lives. Below are graphs illustrating regional population and senior percentage increase.

**Figure 4.** Projected (2030) Percentage Increase of Total and Senior Population for Georgia and the Region.



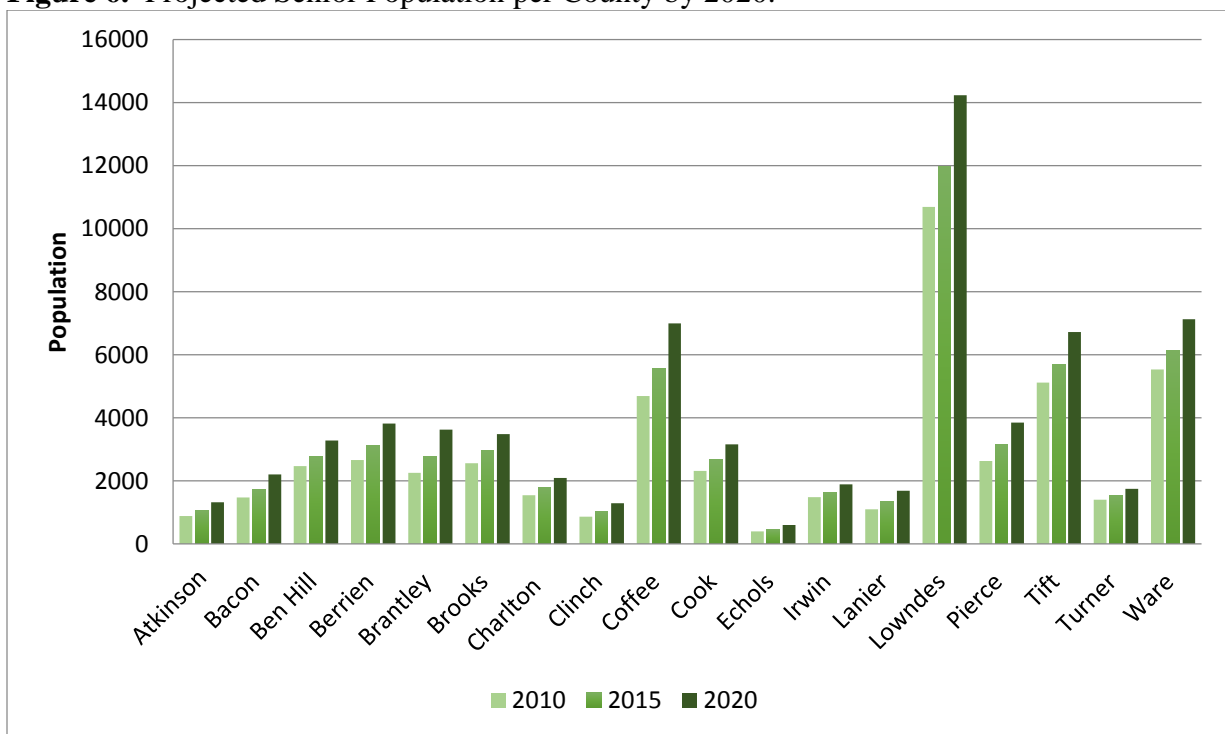
Source: Carl Vinson Institute, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget

**Figure 5. Projected Total Population of Counties within the Region by 2030.**



Source: Carl Vinson Institute, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget

**Figure 6. Projected Senior Population per County by 2020.**



Source: Governor's Office of Planning and Budget

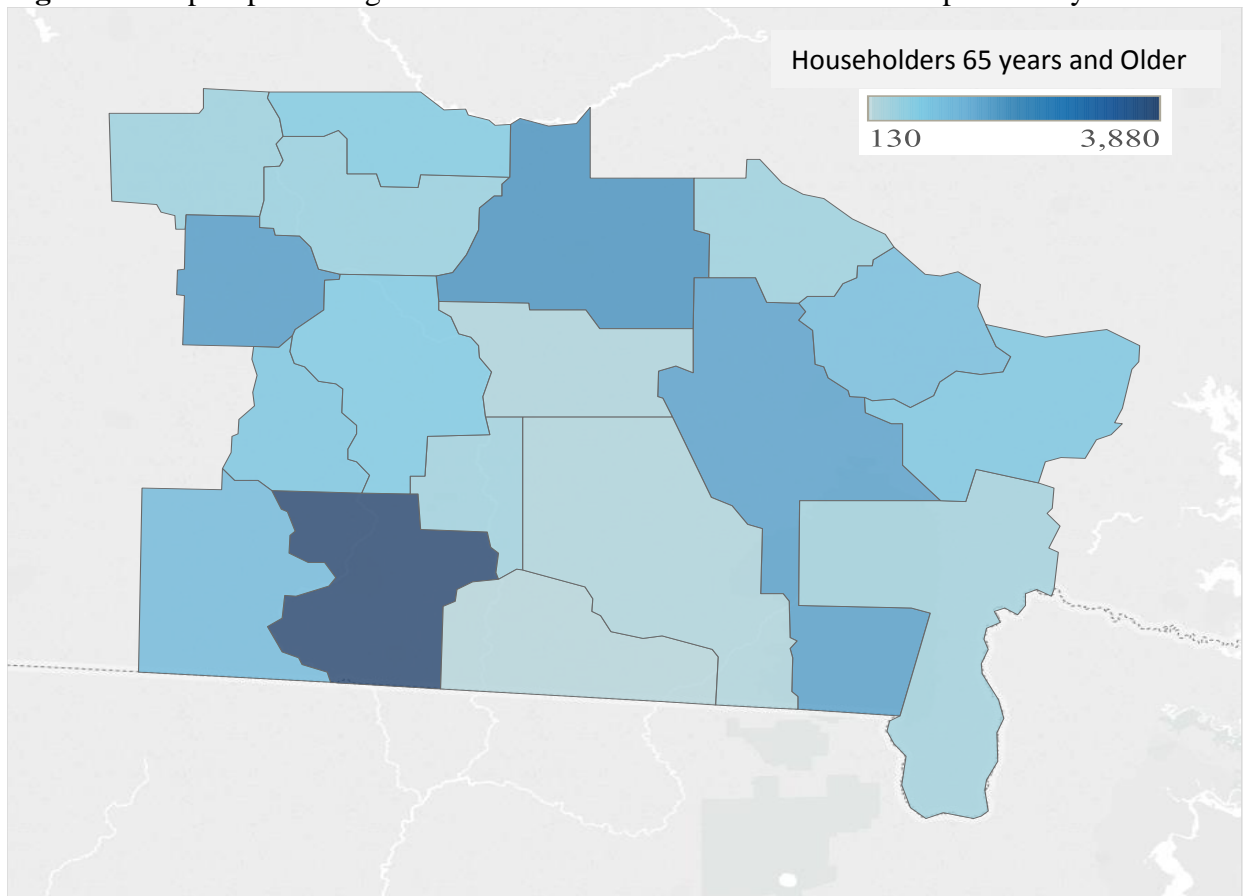


## **“Aging in Place”**

### **What is “Aging in Place?”**

As the senior population increases so will the number of seniors who choose to age in place. “Aging in Place,” is a term used by gerontologists to describe seniors who will not move into nursing homes or homes of family members but will reside within their home for the remainder of their lives. More and more seniors are aging in place and even though characteristics of the community change around them, they are choosing to remain in a place where relationships and friendships were created. In this region, as of 2012, there were 17,205 householders who were age 65 and over.<sup>3</sup> Among the seniors who choose to age in place, many will be restricted from performing various activities due to disabilities, lack of resources, and/or lack of mobility. Seniors that need help accomplishing activities often have someone living with them to provide the extra help that they may need. Although extra help may be needed, the majority of seniors in the region live alone.

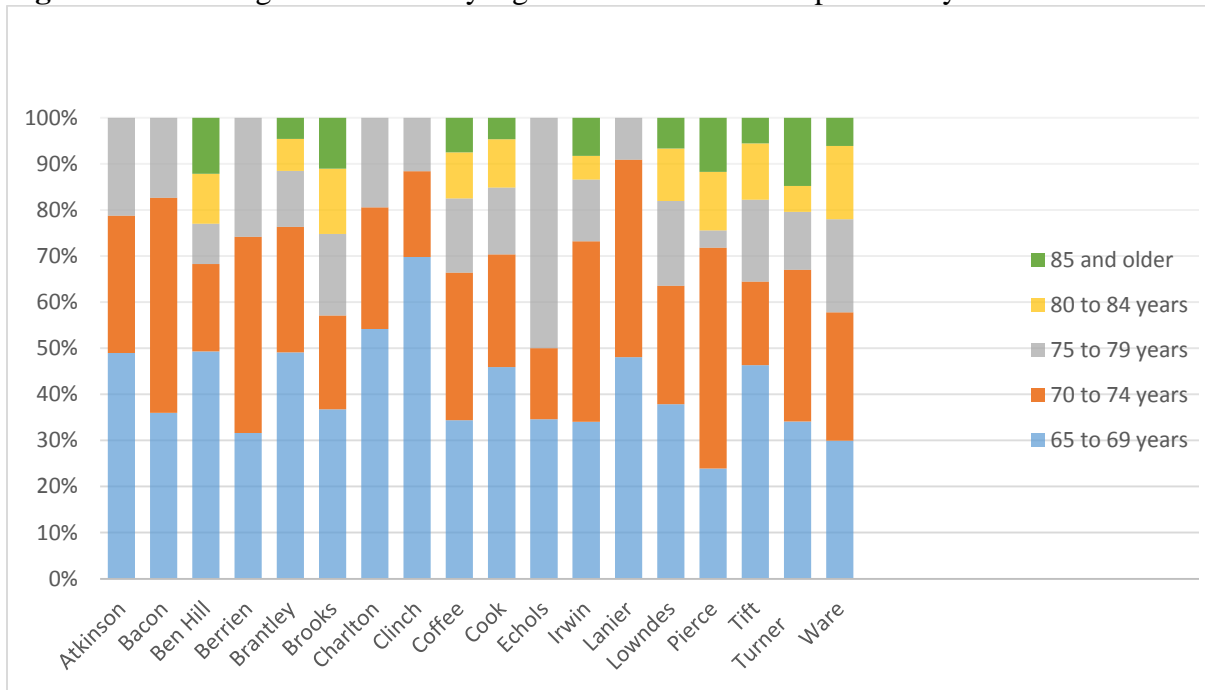
**Figure 7.** Map Representing the Number of Householders 65 and Older per County.



Source: Area Agency on Aging 2012, U.S. Census

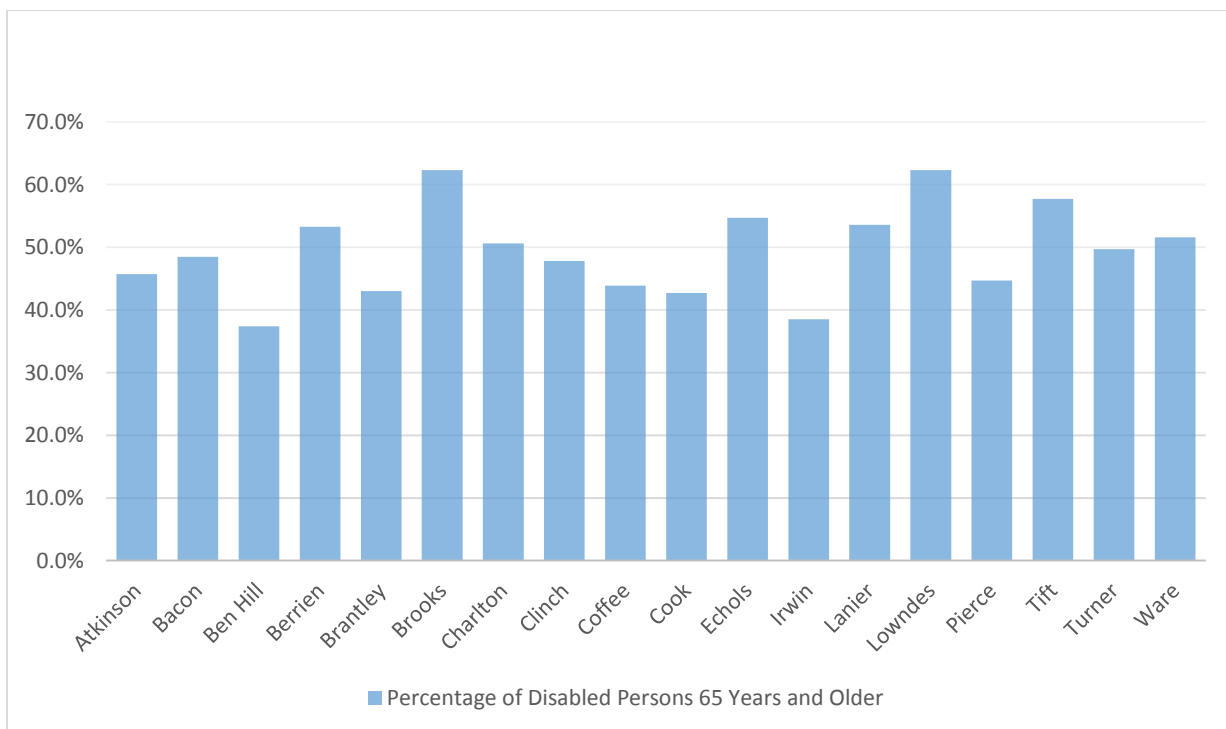
<sup>3</sup> Area Agency on Aging, 2012

**Figure 8.** Percentage Breakdown by Age of Householder 65+ per County.



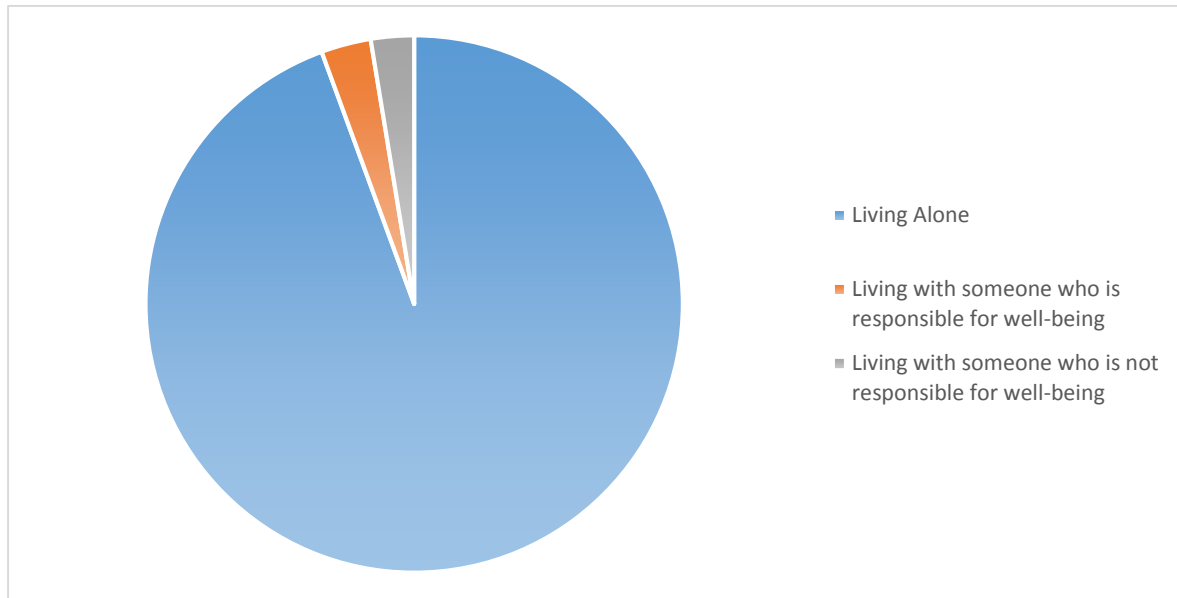
Source: Area Agency on Aging, U.S. Census

**Figure 9.** Percentage of Disabled Persons 65 Years and Older per County.



Source: Area Agency on Aging, U.S. Census

**Figure 10. Living Arrangements of Population 65 Years and Older Regionally**



Source: Area Agency on Aging, U.S. Census

## **Community Goals and Recommendations for Aging in Place**

### **Community Goals**

Goals that are created with the input of those in the community as well as ideas that will benefit the community as a whole are community goals. Creating a set of community goals is a great start to accomplishing goals that focus on different aspects of the community that will enhance the quality of life for all citizens. The community goals in this toolkit will help communities address possible issues in the senior population and provide recommendations to achieve goals and create a better community. Below are a few community goals that the *American Society on Aging* suggests will help communities to accommodate seniors who choose to age in place. This toolkit will address these goals and provide recommendations to achieve them through a question and answer format.

- Improve the public perception of aging in place.
- Increase access to and the utilization of services for frail and underserved elders.
- Enhance and sustain senior mobility in the community
- Increase the capacity and sustainability of community groups that serve elders.
- Foster opportunities for cross-cultural and intergenerational exchanges.
- Enable elders to sustain a vital active role within the community.

## **How Can We Improve The Public Perception of Aging in Place?**

Aging is a part of life that we all share; however, getting the public engaged in helping seniors as they age in place can be challenging. Making community members aware of the isolation that many seniors face due to the lack of mobility or access may encourage consideration of the quality of life they would like to provide for seniors and eventually have for themselves one day. This may also help boost a favorable perception of seniors who age in place through the use of public transit and other transportation alternatives that will help seniors during their “Golden Years.” There are many ways to help improve public perception, through Awareness, Comprehensive Planning, and Transportation Initiatives:



Photo: Pixaby.com

***Awareness*** is an important factor in helping to change the public perception of aging in place. Awareness is vital to the success of any program or goal. In this aspect, it offers the opportunity of those in the community to become informed about the issues that are affecting seniors. When the community and leaders are informed, decisions that will positively affect or promote aging in place will occur. Below are a few strategies to increase community awareness:

- Give out information that will help the community understand the senior demographic changes that are coming.
- Explain the increase of seniors who will age in place as well as the increase of in-home care givers.
- Explain why seniors need alternative modes of transportation/mobility.
- Administer community activities that will bring seniors to the forefront, either by volunteering or a special program to recognize seniors.



Photo: Pixaby.com

***Comprehensive Planning*** covers a vast amount of needs, goals, and recommendations for communities. The plans are also created to cover a specific

amount of time and serve as a guiding mechanism to help with community growth and development. Comprehensive plans can help promote aging in place and lifelong communities through land use, economic development, infrastructure development, transportation, and many other areas. There are also many planning decisions that can be made at the local level. These local government policy decisions can lay the foundation for age-friendly communities and lifelong communities as well as improve public perception:

- Mixed-use development.
- Pedestrian, non-motorized vehicle spaces.
- Inspection of new construction for environmental and safety hazards.
- Create redevelopment plans that promote age-friendly communities.
- Create and legalize zoning ordinances that allow for senior access and flexibility.



Photo: <http://laurasyr4ictportfolio.wikispaces.com/Wordle> <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>

***Transportation Initiatives/Planning*** covers all modes of transportation. Transportation initiatives focus on getting citizens to and fro through proximity, accessibility, and flexibility. All modes are considered and promoted to help enhance the quality of life:

- Multi-use Trails
- Connectivity to amenities and community spaces
- Sidewalks
- Fixed-route and demand-response transit
- Bike Paths

### **How Can We Increase Access To and the Utilization of Services for Frail and Underserved Elders Through Transportation Initiatives?**

Take every opportunity to share information about services that are specifically for the elderly. As the community becomes more aware of these services they will begin to share the information with others. Encourage collaborative efforts that may increase funding and shared use of resources to help create accessibility to services. Accessibility encompasses access, utilization and awareness

because its focus is on the community as a whole. If access to services are available, typically the use of the services will increase. Here are a few ways to help increase access to and the use of senior services using different modes of transportation as a means:

- Community and public-private transportation groups/initiatives that transport seniors to specific places of service within the community.
- Flexible Route Services for seniors that will help with errands and shopping at no to low cost.
- Have services located within walking or biking distance of aging communities; possibly setting up mobile units on specific days.
- Create a training seminar program to educate the community on services and transportation options available for the elderly and conduct the seminar within the community.
- Create public-private partnerships and community partnerships to help with constantly changing programs and regulations.



Photo: SGRC



Photo: freestockphotos.biz

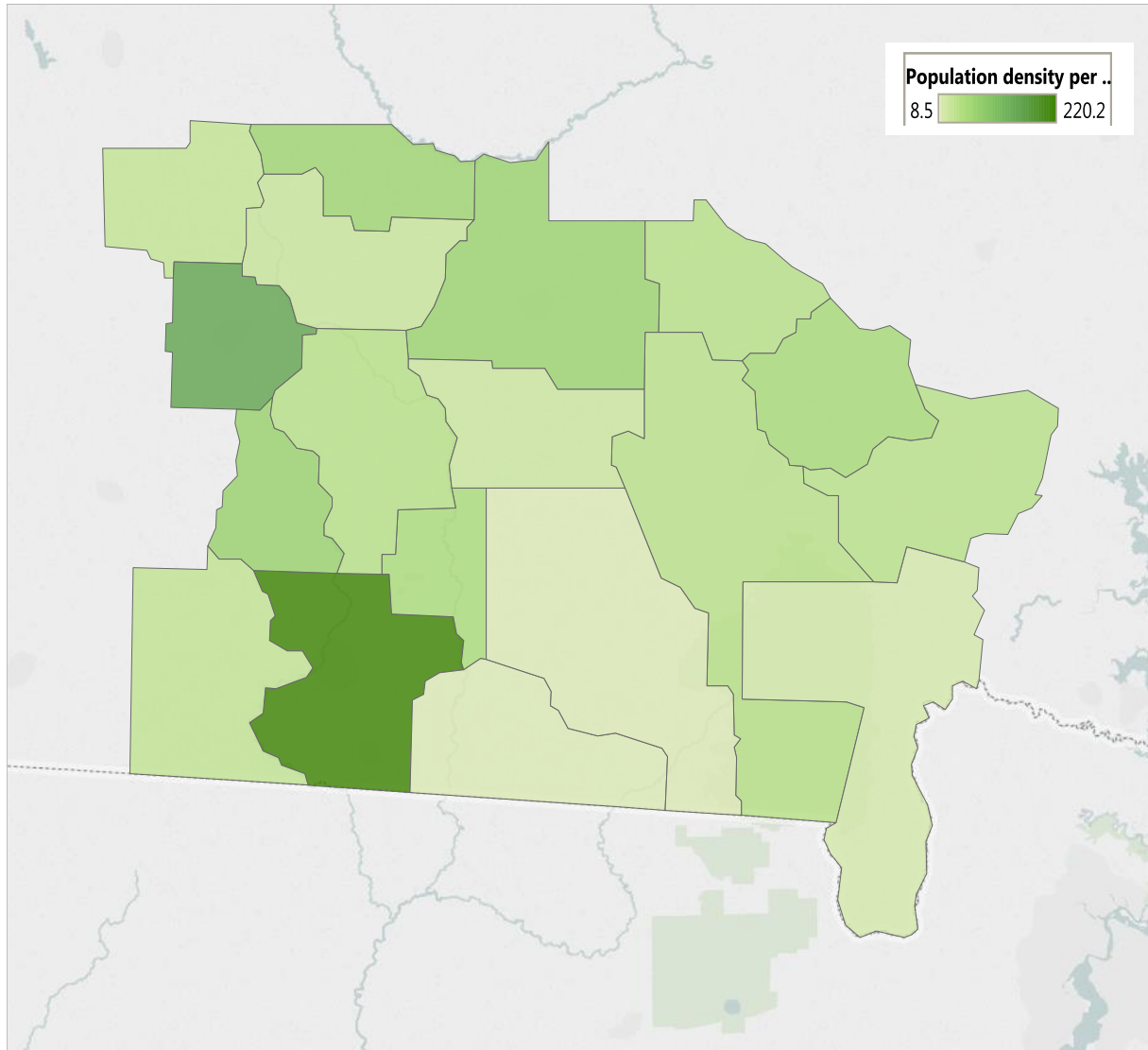
### **How Can We Enhance and Sustain Senior Mobility in the Community?**

Many seniors are dispersed in very rural areas throughout the region and as they age they will reach a point where driving is no longer an option. The inability to drive often takes away one's sense of independence and the rural geography of this region allows for isolation, which can make continued mobility while aging even more challenging. However, the confidence of being independent can be regained through knowing that there are transportation options available.

- For rural communities, safe, direct bike paths to nearby amenities may be an option.
- Make aging communities pedestrian friendly.
- Neighborhoods in close proximity to places of interest can be better suited for elderly pedestrians through the abundance of benches, shaded areas, and other means that make walking or biking pleasant.

- Make known that transit services can be utilized for more than just medical appointments. Many seniors are not aware that these services can be utilized to complete other errands.

**Figure 11.** Population Density per Square Mile by County.



Source: Georgia County Guide, 2014



The Southern Georgia Regional Commission has also put together strategies to enhance the quality of life through mobility options for seniors and communities throughout the region. They are listed below:

### *Active, Healthy Lifestyles*

Although this region is very rural it is important to create opportunities for communities to practice active, healthy lifestyles. This is a strategy that focuses on overall health and well-being of the community. An active, healthy community can be achieved through better infrastructure choices, community and school based programs, and creating accessible programs that engage people of all ages and different backgrounds in physical activity. Before engaging the community, it may be very beneficial for civic leaders to know the overall health of the community. This may make it easier to target specific areas that will affect the overall health status of the community. Community health data can be obtained from the County Health Rankings website: [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org). Another way to obtain data is through health planning and health assessments of the community through hospitals or other organizations.

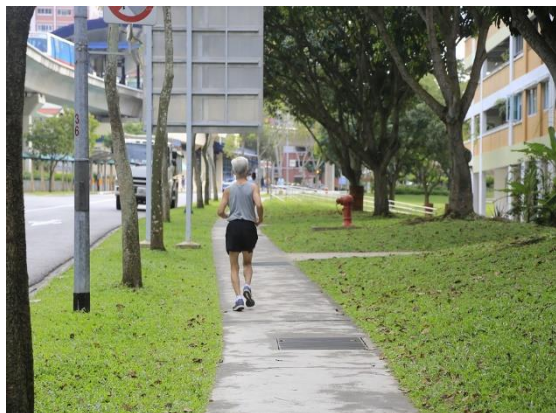


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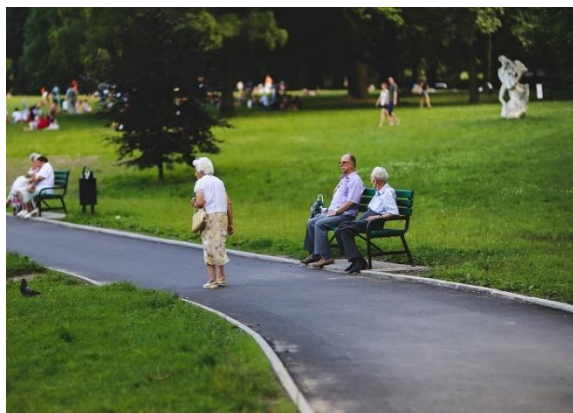
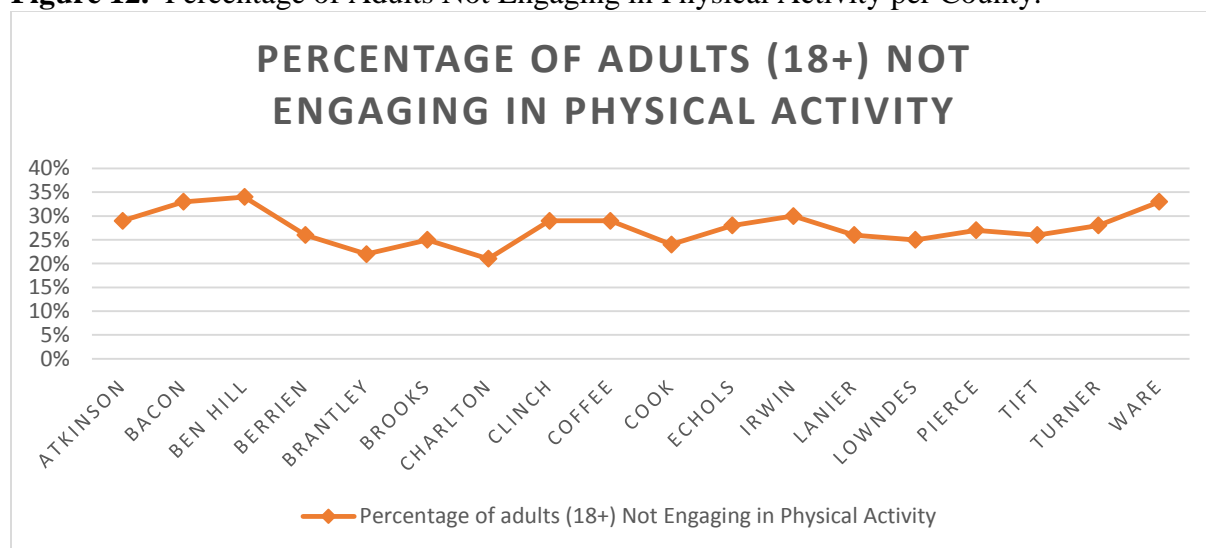


Photo: Pixaby.com

**Figure 12.** Percentage of Adults Not Engaging in Physical Activity per County.



Source: Area Agency on Aging



## ***Complete Streets***

Other modes of transportation that are beneficial to the older-adult population and community as a whole are biking and walking. SGRC has tried to incorporate safety and access for different modes of transportation in communities through the Complete Streets strategy. The Complete Streets strategy allows pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities to safely move about through infrastructure design. When conducting new construction or infrastructure projects consider this: project cost to add pedestrian and bicycle access are greatly minimized if the complete streets concept is incorporated, up front, in the original budget. The Complete Streets Policy can be found on the SGRC website.



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## ***Bike and Pedestrian Plan***

Bicycling and walking are both excellent ways to be active and many seniors enjoy doing both. The Bike/Ped Plan provides information for walking and biking safely. To view the Bike/Ped plan click [here](#). The Southern Georgia Regional Commission has created bicycle map brochures that lists bicycle trails and bicycle shops throughout the region. To view the bicycle maps for the region click [here](#). The Southern Georgia Regional Commission has also created Senior Walking Maps for various municipalities throughout the region. This is a fun interactive way for seniors to see the community! To view the Senior Walking Maps click [here](#). There are also other ways to promote walking and biking as a means of transportation, especially for seniors in the community, just remember, multi-use trails, bike paths, walking trails, all should be in close proximity to services.



Photo: [awakeningcharlotte.com](http://awakeningcharlotte.com)



Photo: [freestockphotos.biz](http://freestockphotos.biz)

## **How Can We Increase the Capacity and Sustainability of Community Groups that Serve Elders?**

Many non-profit and faith-based groups serve the senior population on a daily basis. One way to increase the capacity and sustainability of these groups and others is through formal training sessions that inform them of support services available to the elderly. The training sessions can be conducted by organizations in the community that offer various services for seniors. Community groups often are there to help seniors, but do not understand or know all the benefits that are available. Below are a few more ways that communities can help to increase the capability of these groups:

- Helping provide resources that the groups will need to continue serving seniors in the community is another way to ensure that services through these organizations will continue.
- Informing and helping community groups with funds through fundraisers, grants, etc.
- Encouraging and recognizing community groups that are making a difference in the lives of senior citizens.



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## **How Can We Foster Opportunities for Cross-Cultural and Intergenerational Exchanges?**

Encourage community groups to be diverse and mixed-age, this will help to represent the community as it is. Some citizens may have limited English proficiency, but often there are relatives who are able to interpret and present the ideas of those in the community. Have younger



adults, volunteer to take seniors to appointments and/or run errands. Teenagers can also volunteer time to participate in activities with seniors in the community.



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### **How Can We Enable Seniors to Sustain a Vital Active Role within the Community?**

Many seniors already contribute in various ways to the development and growth of their communities, such as supporting school fundraisers and spending money at local businesses. The community may want to highlight and recognize those who already have active roles in the community and continue to create new ways for seniors to participate in school programs such as SRTS (Safe Routes to School). Many seniors will also volunteer their time if asked. Senior volunteers are not only beneficial to an organization but it also is a rewarding experience for seniors. Seniors usually have a wealth of knowledge from years of experience, creating a committee or group that is specifically for seniors to engage in and express their ideas will help create an environment that is welcoming and a committee that is vital to the community.



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Photo: <http://www.dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk>

## **Moving Forward: Implementation**

Communities can start preparing for the influx in the senior demographic and start creating ways to enhance the quality of life for seniors through the use of goals that are mentioned in this article and goals that are in most comprehensive and community vision plans specific to their county/community. Community leaders can start by creating an age-friendly / lifelong community action plan, the Program-Level Logic worksheet (appendix B) can be used as a guideline. Start with goals that can be easily attained and implemented at the local level. Often the policies and procedures that are currently in place existed prior to the environment and economy that is heading our way. It will take local politicians, civic engagement, and time to create age-friendly/lifelong communities; however, this does not mean that communities should not start implementing policies and making decisions that will help enhance the quality of life for seniors and the rest of the community as we age together.



Photo: [www.pixabay.com](http://www.pixabay.com)

## **Helpful Resources**

### **Regional Snapshot (Regional Aging Demographics-AAA)**

The Regional Snapshot is an infographic that provides more data about the senior population in the region. It also explains the use of data estimates and projections.

### **Program-Level Logic Worksheet**

Provides a guideline to help measure the success of plans or activities aimed at alleviating a problem within the community.

### **Area Agency on Aging**

Provides information about senior services within the region and throughout the state as well as assistance for seniors and in-home caregivers. The website can be accessed through this link: <http://www.sgrc.us/aaa.html>

### **The AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities**

Join a network of cities that are working towards making their communities age-friendly by following this link:

<http://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/network-age-friendly-communities/>

### **Demographic Information Resources**

Demographic data is used regularly in many different organizations and for various reasons. Demographic data is also helpful when taking on community projects and can be accessed through the link below:

[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

### **Administration for Community Living: AGing Integrated Database (AGID)**

This website offers information through a database of the aging community and population. It allows the user to pull, analyze, and compare data with other sources. This website can be accessed through the link below:

[www.agid.acl.gov](http://www.agid.acl.gov)

### **Kesler, Camille. 2015. “Make ‘Aging in Place’ a Priority for all Georgians.”**

Retrieved from <http://leadership.saportareport.com/sustainable-communities/2016/01/04/make-aging-in-place-a-priority-for-all-georgians/>

# Southern Snapshot

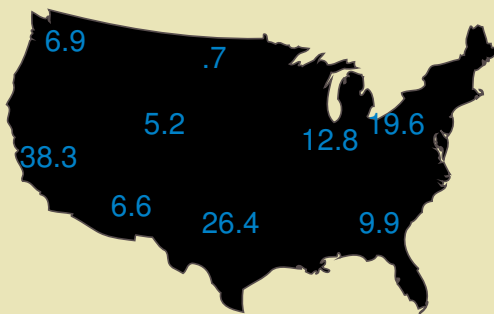
2007-2011 American Community Survey data

## Where did this data come from?

The 5-year American Community Survey data was collected from the AGing Integrated Database which already has the data filtered for the 60 years and older population. The data was collected between 2007 to 2011. While this does not represent the most current and up-to-date measures, it ensures the most reliable and largest sample size. This is how there are estimates for even the smallest of Georgia's counties



The ACS collects data through mail, phone, and personal visits



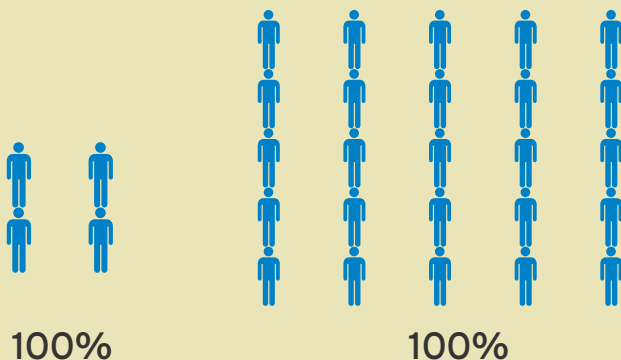
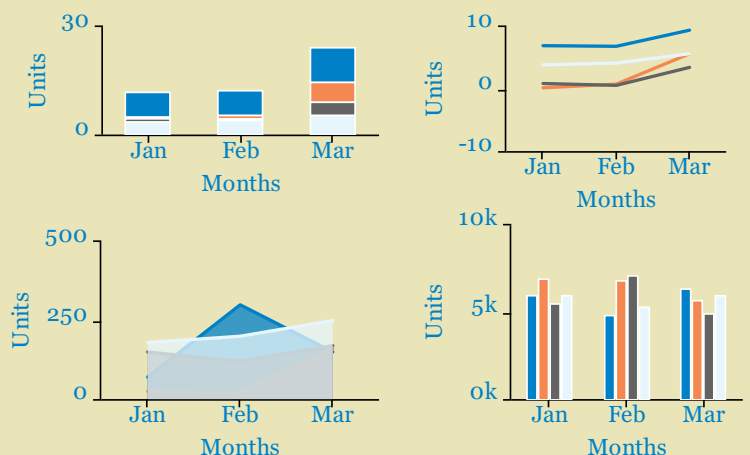
## Did you just say estimates?

Yes and this should be kept in mind when interpreting the data! Since the process of surveying every person would be time consuming and costly, the survey is only given to a small sample of the population and the results are extrapolated to create a total population data set. The numbers should therefore not be read as concrete, but as helpful guides to increase the probability of targeting specific populations

## Is there anything I should watch for when looking through the data?

Yes! There are a few pitfalls of interpreting data that can easily be avoided if you know what to look for

The first is to always look at the scale of the graph. Many of the graphs within this report may look similar but will be reporting very different numbers. Also, if the scale on a graph is out of 100, then you are most likely looking at a proportion and not absolute numbers



The second is that a proportion tells a different story from an absolute number, but both need to be taken into account to accurately interpret a statistic. For instance, a county may have 100% of grandparents living with grandchildren actually responsible for their grandchild in a county. This proportion would not be surprising to find if there were only 5 grandparents living with grandchildren in the county, but very surprising if there were 5,000 grandparents living with grandchildren

# GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS

## Georgian Elderly Population

1,483,200



This is roughly 2.6% of the National elderly population

## Lowndes County

15,060

The number of residents in Lowndes County age 60 years or over. This makes it the most populous county in Southern for this age group

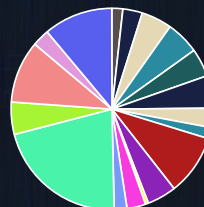
## Southern's Elderly Population

70,645

The number of Southern's elderly population. This constitutes 4.8% of Georgia's 1,483,200 residents aged 60 years and older

## Southern Population

Roughly 1/5 of Southern's elderly population lives in Lowndes County making it the most populous county



Echols County has the least 60 years and older residents with a total of only 345 people

## Population by Age

60 to 64

21,560

65 to 69

16,490

70 to 74

12,145

75 to 79

8,410

80 to 84

6,670

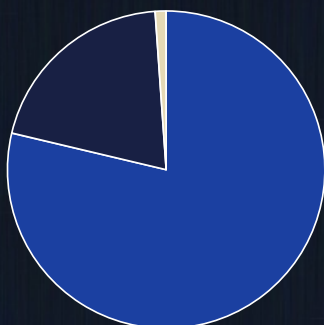
85 and Above

5,370

## Population by Race

The majority of elderly residents in Southern are white, making up 78% of the population. African Americans make up 20%, and Hispanic or Latinos 1.1%

## Southern Population



## Race by Counties

The racial makeup of individual counties vary from Southern's aggregate breakdown. Here are a few notable variations:

While Brooks County has the highest proportion of African Americans (27.3%), it only has the fifth highest total of African Americans living within the county (995)

Atkinson County's population is made of 2.8% of Hispanics/Latinos which makes it the county with the highest proportion of that race

There are 118 American Indians that live in Southern; they live in Lowndes (30), Coffee (25), Charlton (25), Cook (20), Berrien (10), Pierce (4), and Atkinson (4)

There are only 10 people of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander descent in Southern; they live in Ware County

## Ability to Speak English

Brooks County has the highest proportion of residents who speak a language other than English (5.1%), but the majority can speak English "very well" (44.7%) or "well" (15.8%). Lanier County has the highest proportion of elderly residents who speak English "not at all" (100%)



# General Income Stats



## Educational Attainment

3,030 residents living in Lowndes county have a Bachelor's degree or higher making it the most educated county. Ware County has the second most with 965 residents and Tift County has the third with 945

Looking at the same demographics but on a proportional scale draws a slightly different picture. Lowndes County has the highest proportion of educated elderly with 20.1% of its population. Lanier County is second with 18.1% and Brooks is third with 17.3%

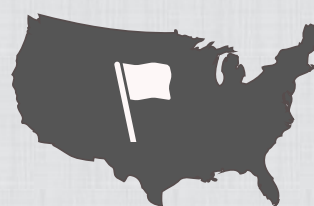
The least educated counties are Charlton County and Bacon County with only 4.4% and 4.5%, respectively, of their population with a Bachelor's degree or higher

## Employment Status

An estimated 23% of the 60 years or older population is still in the workforce throughout Southern. 809 people, or 5% of the elderly workforce, are unemployed meaning they are looking for but cannot find work

Highest Employment Rate:  
Bacon County, Brantley County,  
Clinch County, Echols County,  
Lanier County (100%)

Lowest Employment Rate:  
Cook County (87.4%)



There are no residents aged 60 or over still in the Armed Forces in Southern

## Median Income for Unrelated Individuals

US Median Salary: \$20,622



Georgia Median Salary: \$18,410



County with Highest Median Salary: Lanier County \$19,648



County with Lowest Median Salary: Bacon County \$12,145

## Median Income for Families with Householder 60 years or older

US Median Salary: \$57,046



Georgia Median Salary: \$53,773



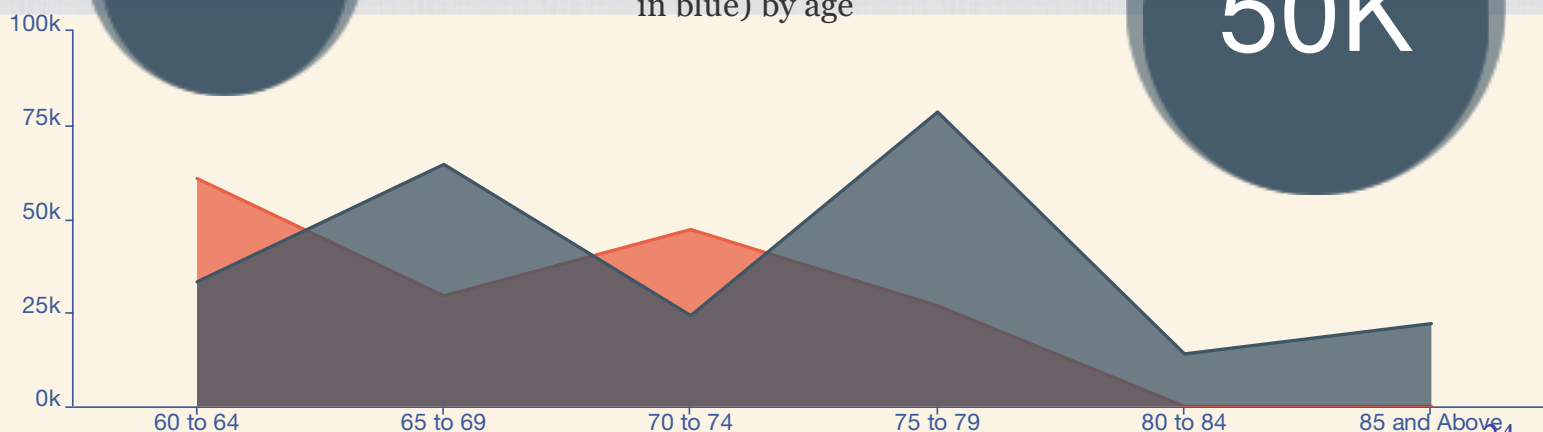
County with Highest Median Family Salary: Irwin County \$50,428

County with Lowest Median Family Salary: Bacon County \$33,080

33K

Median Family Income of the richest county (Irwin, in red) and the poorest county (Bacon, in blue) by age

50K





# Income Disparity and Poverty

## Male-Female Income Gap By Age

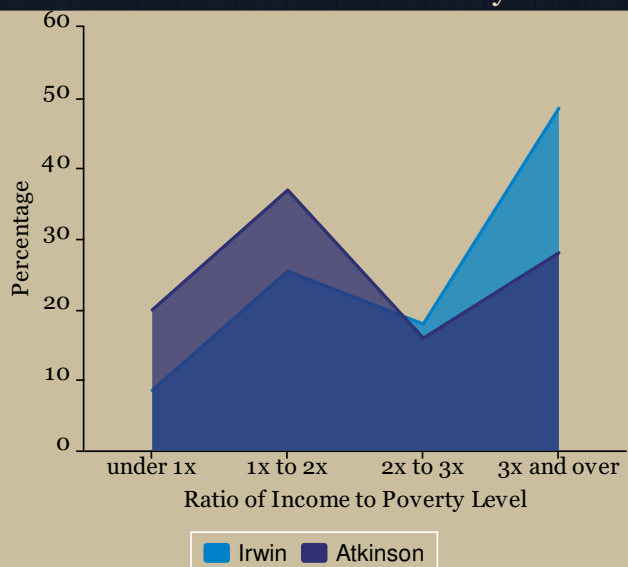
Ratio of county median incomes to Georgia's median income for the 60 years and older population



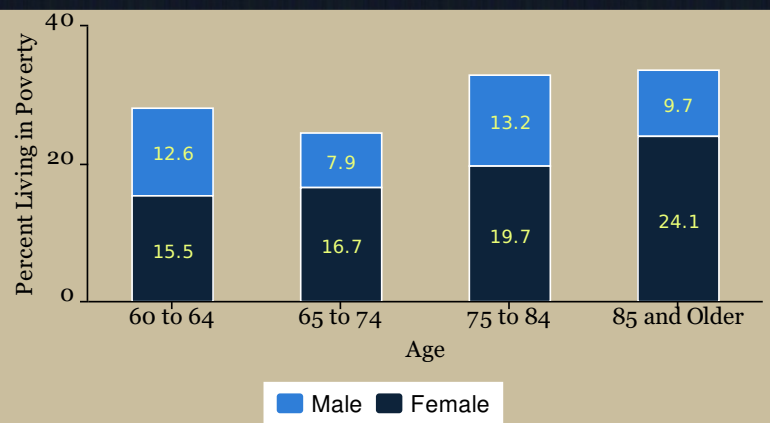
## Ratio of Income to Poverty Level for all Southern



## Disparity between Counties with Most and Least Residents in Poverty



## Ratio of Income to Poverty Level by Sex

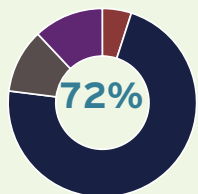




# LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Marital Status, Age of Householder, Household Type, and Residence in Previous Year

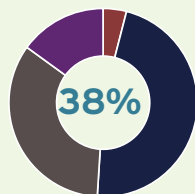
## Marital Status and Men



Just under three-quarters of men aged 60 and older are currently married

1. 82% of males in Atkinson County are now married, but 22.5% of those do not have their spouse present
2. Clinch County has the largest proportion of widowed males with 24.6%
3. Bacon County has the highest rate of divorced males with 21.5%

## Marital Status and Women



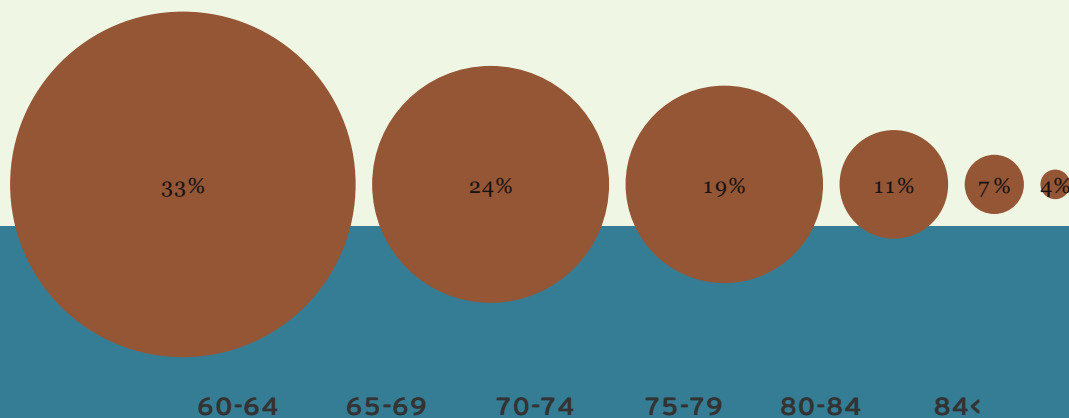
Just under two-fifths of women aged 60 and over are widows

1. Lanier County has the lowest rate of widowed women with 30.1%. Charlton County has the highest with 50.4%
2. Lanier County has the highest divorce rates among women with 24.5%



## AGE OF HOUSEHOLDER

The percentage of families with a householder 60 years or older declines in age



## Residence One Year Earlier

Same House



66,595

Diff House, Same State



3,304

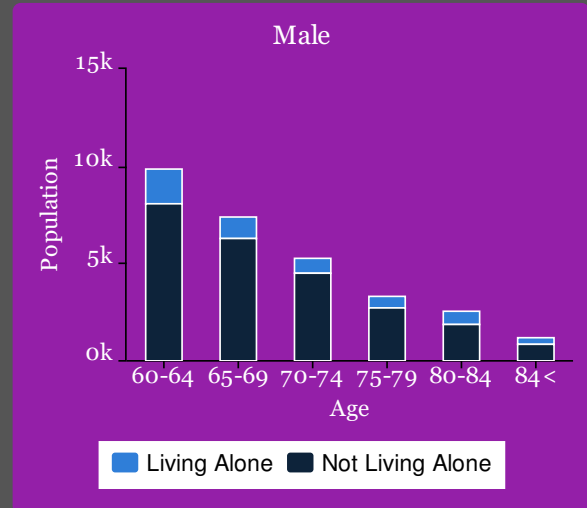
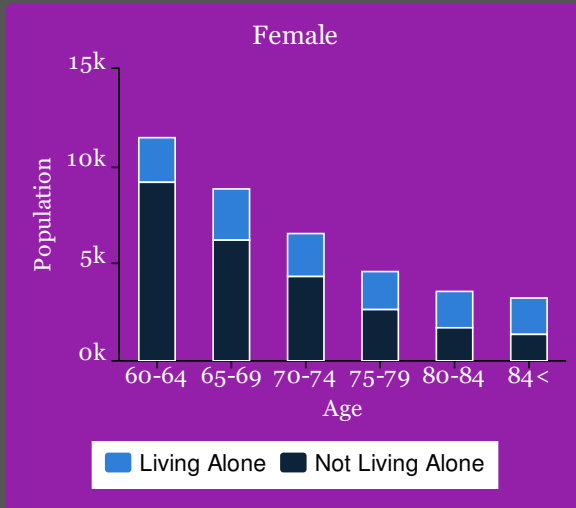
Diff House, Diff State



693

# LIVING ALONE

The absolute number of women living alone remains static throughout the age groups, but the men's number decreases with age



20 men who are living alone do not speak English compared to only 4 women



These people live in Atkinson (10), Berrien (10), and Tift (4)

## POPULATION THAT SPEAKS LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH

Only 2.5% of males 60 years and older that live alone speaks a language other than English. Women have a much lower rate with 0.7%



This of course is a very small sample of the overall population of men living alone (5,385) and women living alone (12,865)



## LIVING ALONE WITH NO INCOME

243 people live alone with no income throughout Southern

These people only account for 1.3% of those who live alone

This means 98.7% of people living alone DO have income

## INCOME OF LIVING ALONE VS NOT LIVING ALONE

People who live alone have a higher median income than those who do not in the following counties:

### Male

Ben Hill  
Brantley  
Clinch  
Coffee

Lowndes  
Tift  
Turner  
Ware

### Female

Ben Hill  
Berrien  
Coffee

Lowndes  
Tift  
Ware

# Grandparents Living with Grandchildren

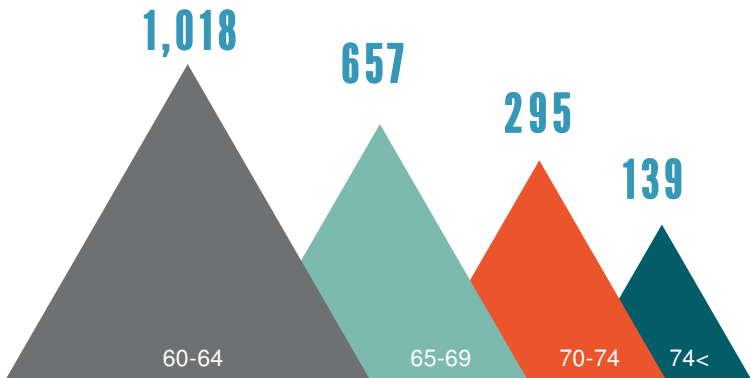


99,575 grandparents live with their own grandchildren in Georgia which makes it 6.9% of the 60 years and older population, higher than the 5.5% national average.

36,190 of the 99,575, or 36.3%, are responsible for the grandchildren. This is also higher than the national average of 30.1%

Southern has a lower proportion of grandparents living with grandchildren (6%) but a much higher proportion of grandparents responsible for the grandchildren (51.8%)

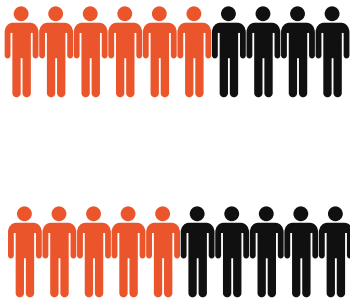
The number of grandparents responsible for grandchildren decreases with age



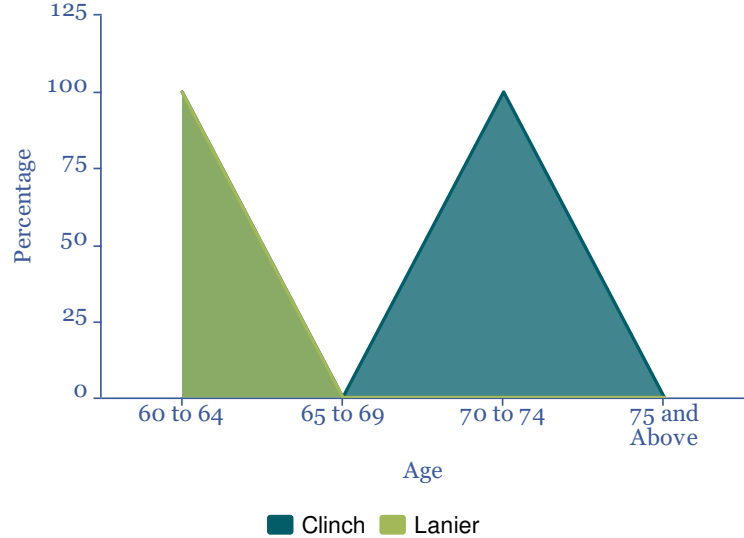
The county with the most grandparents responsible for grandchildren changes by age group. Below is a list of counties with the greatest proportion of grandparents responsible for grandchildren by age group

- 60-64 (Bacon, Brantley, Clinch, Echols, Lanier 100%)
- 65-69 (Bacon, Brantley, Echols, Pierce Turner 100%)
- 70-74 (Brantley, Brooks, Clinch, Ware 100%)
- 74+ (Coffee 75%)

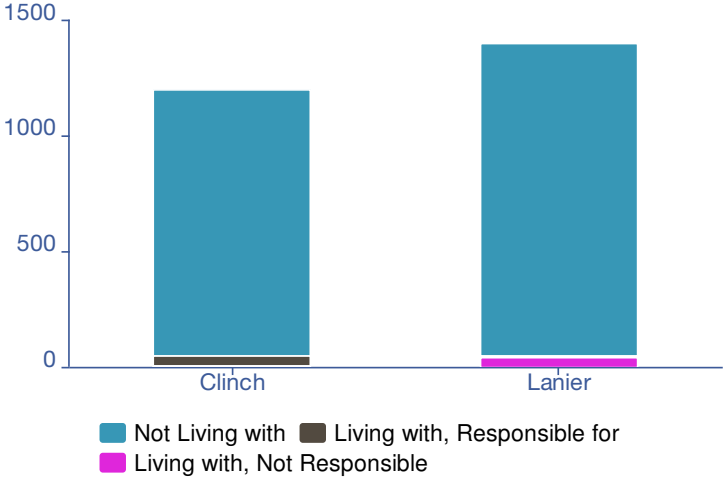
Despite there being more women taking care of their grandchildren, men have a higher chance (60.2%) of raising their own grandchildren than women (46.7%)



Comparing counties with the highest rates of grandparents responsible for grandchildren to the lowest illustrates the disparity of rates across Southern



Keep perspective on the numbers though. Despite Clinch County having high percentages in the previous graph, the group only represents a small portion of the total 60 years and older population





# Veterans



Southern has a lower percentage of veterans within their 60 years and older population; they make up 46.8% of males and 0.8% of females within the AAA compared with 48.7% and 1.1%, respectively, on the national scale.

## Male

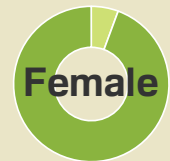
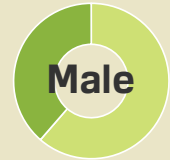
3,135

## Female

65

Lowndes County has the highest number of veterans. Not surprising since it is the most populous county

Irwin County has the highest proportion of male veterans of any county with 61.4% of males. Lanier has the highest proportion of female veterans with 5.6%



The majority of veterans are male, but female veterans are present in all but seven counties

Male veterans are more likely to live 3x above the federal poverty level than non-veterans

51.5% vs 37.8%

While non-veterans are more likely to live in poverty

14.5% vs 6.4%

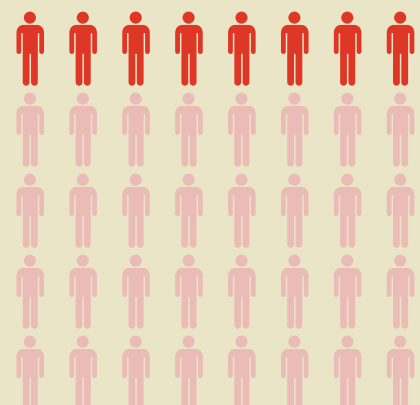
The same is true for female veterans

Ware  
Tift  
Coffee  
Lanier  
Berrien  
Brooks

These percentages add up to a large number of male veterans that live above 3x the federal poverty level. Here are the top 5 counties by absolute number:

1. Lowndes County : 1,880
2. Coffee County : 735
3. Ware County : 675
4. Tift County : 630
5. Brooks County: 425

Remember, veterans make up around a fifth of the population and can make a big impact on policy!



# Hispanic and Latino

Georgia's elderly Hispanic and Latino population make up a relatively small proportion of the total elderly population; they only constitute 2.1% of Georgia's elderly population compared to the national average of 7.1%

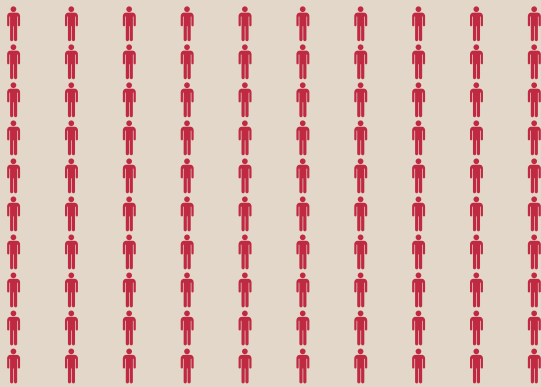
Southern has a total of 794 Hispanics and Latinos living within its region. This subset only constitutes for 1.1% of their total 60 years and older population



Mexicans make up the majority of the Hispanic and Latino population with 518 people and Puerto Ricans come second with 84. The majority of Mexicans live in Tift (150) and the majority of Puerto Ricans live in Lowndes (50)



While Georgia has a smaller proportion of Hispanic and Latinos living within the state, the state has a higher proportion of the population still in the labor force (36.6% vs 27.3%). This only means that Georgia has a higher percentage of elderly Hispanic and Latino workers though since their unemployment rate is still lower than the national average for this population



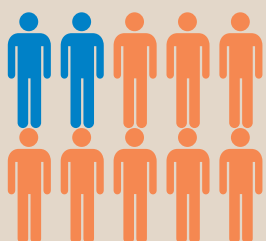
Southern is one of two AAAs that has a 0% unemployment rate for the Hispanic and Latino population (Three Rivers is the other). Atkinson and Tift employ the most with 25 Hispanic and Latinos 60 years and older

The 0% unemployment rate is of course lower than the average for whites (4.8%) and African Americans (6.6%) which make up the majority of Southern's elderly population

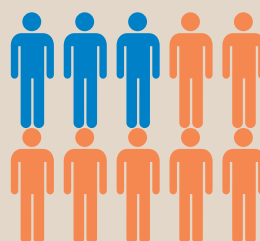
1. Southern's Hispanic and Latino population has a high median family income (\$67,833) when compared to the state average (\$44,792) for that population. It is also much higher when compared to Southern's non-Hispanic population (\$42,253)
2. While median family income looks promising, only three counties actually report the figure. Coffee County reports the highest with \$125,135; Brooks County second with \$45,417; and Tift County the lowest with \$32,946.



## Individual Poverty Rates



19.4% of Hispanic and Latinos aged 60 and older live at or below the federal poverty level in Southern. This is above the 17.1% average for the state of Georgia and ranks Southern fifth highest for poverty rates among this population



Southern also has a lower rate of Hispanic and Latino individuals that live at or above three times the federal poverty level with 30%. This is lower than the state average of 38.8% and again ranks Southern third lowest in percentage of Hispanic and Latino population within that income bracket

Problem Statement



Goal



### Resources/Inputs

Resources that are available to help achieve goal(s).

Examples:

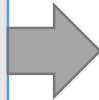
Organizations (SGRC, AAA)

Staff

Volunteers

Money

Technology, etc.



### Outputs

#### *Activities*

Activities that are needed to help achieve goals.

Examples:

Training Seminars

Website Updates

Meetings, etc.

#### *Participation*

Keeping up with who and how many citizens participate will provide observable results of activities.

Example questions:

Who do we reach?

How many times did we perform each activity?

How many people participated?

### Outcomes -- Impact

#### *Immediate*

Results that immediately follow output activities, such as informed leadership, community awareness, community ability to contribute in decision making.

#### *Intermediate*

Results that transpire sometime after output activities, such as local administrative decisionmaking, policies, and social action.

#### *Long-Term*

Ultimate results that change life conditions, such as civic impact (engaged community), social impact (collaboration among nontraditional partners), and environmental impact (humanhealth, cultural, and/or socioeconomic)

Program-Level Logic Worksheet

