

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems

Collecting, Analyzing, & Translating

Collecting, analyzing, and translating data on older adult health and well-being is crucial for calling attention to the needs of this population, as well as for developing interventions and targeting resources.



The collection, analysis, and dissemination of data is a foundational and crucial role for the public health sector at all levels, but comprehensive data on older adult health is not commonly collected across the country. Robust and consistent collection of data on older adult health and social needs can guide health departments in meeting the needs of older residents and their caregivers, while revealing under-resourced communities and inequities in access to healthcare or disparities in health outcomes.

As a traditionally underrepresented population in research, it is crucial for public health jurisdictions and organizations to include older adults in their data collection processes. Recognizing this, the Florida Department of Health's Division of Public Statistics and Performance Management created the Aging in Florida Dashboard in 2019, a resource that provides county-level profiles of all 67 counties in the state. These profiles include data on income, living arrangement, emergency department and hospital visits, and disability status, among other indicators for those 65 and older. The Aging in Florida Dashboard serves as a model for other states seeking to assess needs and progress towards developing an age-friendly ecosystem within the state.

Trust for America's Health's 6Cs Framework for Creating Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS) organizes public health roles in aging services.

Public health can enhance healthy aging outcomes by:

- ✓ Creating and leading policy, systems, and environmental changes to improve data collection about older adult health and well-being.
- ✓ Connecting and convening multi-sector partners to ensure that the health and social needs of older adults are equitably researched.
- ✓ Collecting, analyzing, and translating relevant and robust data on older adults to inform the development of interventions through community-wide assessment.
- ✓ Coordinating existing services by identifying the needs and assets of a community and researching ways to build on community capacity to enhance older adult health and well-being.
- ✓ Communicating and translating research findings to support the development of policies and programs that promote older adult health.
- ✓ Complementing existing health promoting programs by researching gaps in resources and translating that information into innovative policies and programs.



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