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Community Dwelling Women Age 85 and Older

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Canada



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Atlantic Canada



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“Team Olive”



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Data Source

- Atlantic Senior Housing Research Alliance (ASHRA) 2007 seniors housing and support services survey which focused on:
 - community dwelling adults 65 and older in Atlantic Canada
 - housing, support services, social support and transportation
 - 1702 surveys



This Presentation

- Atlantic Canada Community Dwelling
Women Age 85 and Older (n=78)
 - 29% (n= 23) New Brunswick
 - 18% (n= 14) Newfoundland/Labrador
 - 29% (n= 23) Nova Scotia
 - 24% (n= 18) Prince Edward Island



About the 78 Women from Atlantic Canada

- Age Range 85 to 102
- Urban 53% Rural 47%
- Non- Drivers 68% - Drivers 32%
- Single Family 64% - Homeowners 63%
- Widowed 82%
- Less than high school 46%
- Income Less Than \$20,000 47%
- Main Source of Income – Public Pensions



Income Comparison

Income of Community Dwelling Women Age 85 and Older by Urban/Rural, Non-Driver/Driver, Marital Status

Income	Urban % (n=)	Rural % (n=)	Non-Driver % (n=)	Driver % (n=)	Never Married % (n=)	Widowed % (n=)	Divorced/ Separated % (n=)	Married/ Common- Law % (n=)
Less than 20,000	19.1 (13)	26.5 (18)	35.3 (24)	10.3 (7)		44.1 (30)		1.5 (1)
20,000 – 39,999	22.1 (15)	14.7 (10)	22.1 (15)	14.7 (10)		26.5 (18)	2.9 (2)	7.4 (5)
40,000- 59,999	5.9 (4)	5.9 (4)	5.9 (4)	5.9 (4)	1.5 (1)	8.8 (6)		1.5 (1)
60,000 or more	2.9 (2)	2.9 (2)	5.9 (4)			5.9 (4)		



Health Status Comparison

Health Status of Community Dwelling Women Age 85 and Older by Urban/Rural, Non-Driver/Driver, Marital Status

Health Status	Urban % (n=)	Rural % (n=)	Non-Driver % (n=)	Driver % (n=)	Never Married % (n=)	Widowed % (n=)	Divorced/ Separated % (n=)	Married/ Common-Law % (n=)
Very Poor	2.7 (2)	2.7 (2)	4.1 (3)	1.4 (1)		5.4 (4)		
Poor	2.7 (2)	1.4 (1)	4.1 (3)			2.7 (2)	1.4 (1)	
Fair	21.6 (16)	18.9 (14)	35.1 (26)	5.4 (4)		33.8 (25)		6.8 (5)
Good	21.6 (16)	21.6 (16)	21.6 (16)	21.6 (16)	1.4 (1)	35.1 (26)	2.7 (2)	4.1 (3)
Excellent	2.7 (2)	4.1 (3)	2.7 (2)	4.1 (3)		6.8 (5)		



Type of Dwelling Comparison

Type of Housing of Community Dwelling Women Age 85 and Older by Urban/Rural, Non-Driver/Driver, Marital Status

Type of Housing	Urban % (n=)	Rural % (n=)	Non-Driver % (n=)	Driver % (n=)	Never Married % (n=)	Widowed % (n=)	Divorced/ Separated % (n=)	Married/ Common-Law % (n=)
Single Family	29.9 (23)	33.8 (26)	38.5 (30)	25.6 (20)		51.3 (40)	2.9 (2)	10.3 (8)
Apartment	15.1 (12)	5.2 (4)	15.4 (12)	5.1 (4)	1.3 (1)	17.9 (14)		1.3 (1)
Other	7.8 (6)	7.8 (6)	14.1 (11)	1.3 (1)		12.8 (10)	1.3 (1)	1.3 (1)

Note: Other = semi-detached, duplex, apartment building/multiplex, mobile home, room or suite within a household, in-law suite



Problems driving, difficulty getting places, someone to drive, someone to drive daily, someone to drive weekly

Category	D % ()	N-D % ()	R % ()	U % ()	NM % ()	W % ()	D/S % ()	M/C % ()
Problems Driving	(n=24)	(n=40)	(n=27)	(n=37)	(n=1)	(n=53)	(n=3)	(n=7)
Yes		60 (24)	44 (12)	34 (12)		40 (21)		43 (3)
No	40 (24)	40 (16)	56 (15)	66 (25)	100 (1)	60 (32)	100 (3)	57 (4)
Difficulty Getting Places	(n=23)	(n=52)	(n=35)	(n=40)	(n=1)	(n=63)	(n=3)	(n=8)
Never	61 (14)	62 (32)	63 (22)	60 (24)	100 (1)	60 (38)	67 (2)	63 (5)
Occasionally	39 (9)	33 (17)	37 (13)	33 (13)		37 (23)		37 (3)
Often		05 (3)		07 (3)		03 (2)	33 (1)	
Someone to Drive Her	(n=24)	(n=51)	(n=36)	(n=38)	(n=1)	(n=62)	(n=3)	(n=9)
No	62 (15)	08 (4)	14 (5)	37 (14)	100 (1)	21 (13)	67 (2)	33 (3)
Yes	21 (5)	80 (41)	72 (26)	52 (20)		66 (41)		56 (5)
Yes/No	17 (4)	12 (6)	14 (5)	11 (4)		13 (8)	33 (1)	11 (1)
Someone to Drive Daily	(n=7)	(n=38)	(n=25)	(n=19)	(n=1)	(n=38)	(n=1)	(n=6)
No		84 (32)	88 (22)	84 (16)		84 (32)	100 (1)	100 (6)
Yes	100 (7)	16 (6)	12 (3)	16 (3)		16 (6)		
Someone to Drive Weekly	(n=7)	(n=38)	(n=24)	(n=20)	(n=1)	(n=38)	(n=1)	(n=6)
No	86 (6)	76 (29)	92 (22)	60 (12)		74 (28)	100 (1)	100 (6)
Yes	14 (1)	24 (9)	08 (2)	40 (8)		26 (10)		

Note: D = Driver, N-D = Non-Driver, R = Rural, U = Urban, NM = Never Married, W = Widowed, D/S = Divorced/Separated, M/C = Married/Common-Law - % () = responses percentage (number) - (n=) by each category is the number of respondents for each category



Respondent Having Difficulty Getting Places Where/When Necessary

Driving * Respondent has difficulty getting places where/when necessary Crosstabulation

			Respondent has difficulty getting places where/when necessary			Total
			never	occasionally	fairly often	
Driving	Respondent drives	Count	14	9	0	23
		% of Total	19.2%	12.3%	0.0%	31.5%
	Respondent does not drive but others in household do	Count	15	4	0	19
		% of Total	20.5%	5.5%	0.0%	26.0%
	No on in household drives	Count	16	13	2	31
		% of Total	21.9%	17.8%	2.7%	42.5%
Total	Count	45	26	2	73	
	% of Total	61.6%	35.6%	2.7%	100.0%	



What Did I Learn?

- That community dwelling women age 85 and older face a variety of challenges
- That their transportation and education needs are not being met
- That researchers can be ageist, biased and have preconceived notions



How Can We Provide Support?

- Raise awareness :
 - only have one kick at the can
 - understand the importance of both the needs and wants being met
 - eliminate barriers (ageism, marginalization, social justice)
 - focus on abilities
 - provide critical education to unsettle older people's complacency about their social conditions and their powerlessness to transform society



Transportation

- Transportation options can be critical to the ability of older adults to get where they need to go, especially when they have limited their driving or have stopped driving altogether.
 - Availability
 - Acceptability
 - Accessibility
 - Adaptability
 - Affordability



Consequences of Inaction

- If no action is taken we are depriving today's older adults and ourselves tomorrow
- In Atlantic Canada we have four seasons and each season brings its own challenges and beauty.



No More Relaxing at the Cottage



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Watching the Sunsets



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Walk the Bay Beaches



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The Ocean Beaches



Local Wildlife



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Hay and the Yellow Canola Fields



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Hay Fields



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Potato Fields



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The Fishing Harbours



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Spring Walks in the Woods



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Woodland Ferns



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Lady's Slipper



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Beauty of Autumn



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Joys of Winter



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Finding Your Car



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Sleigh Rides



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Cross Country Skiing



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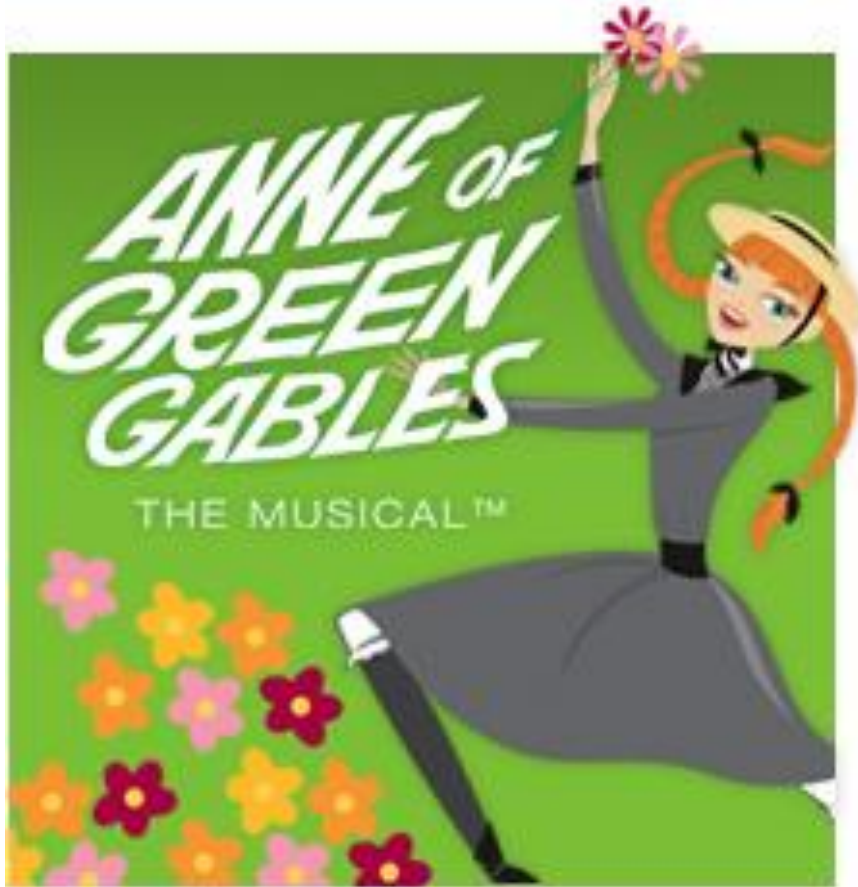
Get to Church



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Theatre



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Volunteering



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Taking your Grandchildren on Excursions



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Dinner



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Not able to get to funerals and wakes



Education Implications

- opportunities for formal, non-formal and informal learning
- education that encompasses social, psychological transitions as well as physical changes (how it feels to be old)
- Identity of barriers to educational opportunities
- empowerment through advocacy



Policy Makers

- In light of the growing aging population policy makers need to consider and support:
 - Options to support and empower community dwelling women age 85 and older ensuring
 - Innovative older adult education
 - Transportation alternatives



My Home



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My Puppy Dog



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