Washtenaw County
Older Adults 60+ Survey Results
Assessing Quality of Life & Social Connectedness
Philanthropic, university, community partnership

- Ralph C Wilson, Jr Foundation
- Community Technical Assistance Collaborative
- STATCOM, Statistics in the Community
Identification of vulnerable older adults (60+)

Zip Code
- 48197
- 48198

Financial
- Rent Assistance
- Medicaid
- Not enough money for bills

Living Alone
- Living at home alone
Vulnerable older adults have lower quality of life

- Zip code vulnerable
  - 39
  - 49
- Financially vulnerable
  - 42
  - 51
- Living Alone vulnerable
  - 47
  - 48
Vulnerable older adults have lower social connectedness
Every aspect of quality of life is lowest with **combined** financial and zip code vulnerability.
Every aspect of social connectedness is lower for those with **combined** financial and zip code vulnerability.
Zip code + not volunteering + financial vulnerability = lowest levels of quality of life

High Quality of Life

Medium Quality of Life

Low Quality of Life
Zip code + financial vulnerability + under 77.5 years old = lowest levels of social connectedness
Themes to the question “What services do you need to stay happy, healthy, and independent?”

- Transportation: 52
- Household help: 20
- Social activities: 18
- Money: 14
- Groceries: 13
- Mental/Health care: 11
- Housing: 8
- Meals on Wheels: 7
- Exercise facilities: 7
- In-home care: 6

n = 156 responses
Census data suggest that 60 may be too late
We learned about **measuring vulnerability**

Using Medicaid, housing assistance, or answering “no” to “enough money for bills” as an indicator of financial vulnerability correlated with lower quality of life.

Living in 48198 and 48197 correlated with lower quality of life.

Living alone does not seem to be a significant indicator of lower quality of life.

People who were financially stable who lived in 48197 or 48198 still had a lower QOL.

Financial and zip code vulnerability had a compounding effect on quality of life outcomes.
We found some **protective factors and needs**

Transportation is a major need across the county

We may need to be providing services to seniors earlier if we’re aiming to prevent early death and close the longevity disparity

Research on the relationship of volunteering to quality of life is continuing to come out and should be reviewed for innovations - https://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/releases/hea-31-1-87.pdf
Thank you

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Older adults who are **zip code vulnerable** on average have lower levels of quality of life.
Older adults who are zip code vulnerable on average have lower levels of social connectedness.
Older adults with financial vulnerability on average have lower levels of quality of life.
Older adults with financial vulnerability on average have lower levels of social connectedness.
Older adults living alone report similar quality of life compared to those living with others.
Older adults living alone report slightly lower social connectedness compared to those living with others.