USING GEOGRAPHIC DATA FOR POLICY PLANNING AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT IN CANADIAN COMMUNITIES FACING ACCELERATED AGING

Catherine Bigonnesse, Ph.D.
Canada Research Chair in Healthy Aging, University of New Brunswick
AGE-WELL Policy Rounds Webinar - February 21, 2024
ACCELERATED AGING POPULATION
The Atlantic provinces have the fastest aging population in Canada...

Proportion of people aged 65 and over

ACCELERATED AGING POPULATION
The Atlantic provinces have the fastest aging population in Canada...

![Proportion of people aged 65 and over](chart)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Canada</th>
<th>NB</th>
<th>NL</th>
<th>NS</th>
<th>PEI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>20.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2033</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>27.6</td>
<td>24.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2043</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>30.5</td>
<td>35.4</td>
<td>29.3</td>
<td>26.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A COMPLEX PHENOMENON

Aging population affects many sectors of our society at the same time…

- Health Care
- Housing
- Employment
- Transportation
- Technology
HOWEVER...

Policies on aging are developed in silos without a coherent vision of interconnecting factors...
WHY? THREE REASONS.

No Framework for Analysis
- Lack of a coherent framework to guide aging policy analysis and reforms

No Data for Policymakers
- Absence of data on aging easily accessible to policymakers

No Older Adults’ Engagement
- Low level of older adults’ engagement in policy research and design
CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR IN HEALTHY AGING

To explore the impact of social policy on older adults’ health in provinces facing the challenges of accelerated aging population

OBJECTIF 1

To develop policy analysis tools to help decision-makers better understand the impact of public policies on the aging population.

OBJECTIF 2

To develop evidence-based healthy aging policies in the Atlantic provinces by using interdisciplinary, intersectoral, and participatory research methods.
CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR IN HEALTHY AGING

To explore the impact of social policy on older adults’ health in provinces facing the challenges of accelerated aging population

OBJECTIF 1
To develop policy analysis tools to help decision-makers better understand the impact of public policies on the aging population.

OBJECTIF 2
To develop evidence-based healthy aging policies in the Atlantic provinces by using interdisciplinary, intersectoral, and participatory research methods.
OBSERVATORIES?

- Data centres created to “observe” a specific social phenomenon
- Use indicators to monitor changes and variations over time and across regions

PURPOSE OF AOA

- Tracks indicators to monitor population aging in Atlantic Canada
- Create healthy aging community profiles and an interactive map data visualizations for NB, NS, PEI, NL
WHERE EXACTLY ARE OLDER ADULTS?
Census Program Data Viewer

Percentage of the population aged 65 and over

Census subdivision:
- Percentage of the population aged 65 and over:
  - 39.9 to 97.9
  - 28.8 to 39.8
  - 21.0 to 28.7
  - 12.2 to 20.9
  - 0.0 to 12.1
  - Not available

Census year: 2021
Geographic focus of analysis: Canada
Indicator: Percentage of the population aged 65 and over
Geographic level: Census subdivision
TOP-10 CENSUS SUBDIVISIONS WITH HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF OLDER ADULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proportion of persons aged 65 years and over</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notre-Dame-des-Anges (Que.)</td>
<td>97.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kwawkawahapilt 6 (B.C.)</td>
<td>79.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Kirwan (N.L.)</td>
<td>77.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundance Beach (AB)</td>
<td>77.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masqui 4 (B.C.)</td>
<td>75.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lac-Ashuapmushuan (Que.)</td>
<td>75.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Shott’s (N.L.)</td>
<td>72.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Echo Bay (Sask.)</td>
<td>69.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priest’s Valley 6 (B.C.)</td>
<td>67.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumsden Beach (Sask.)</td>
<td>66.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TOP-10 CENSUS SUBDIVISIONS WITH HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF OLDER ADULTS PER PROVINCES

Proportion of persons aged 65 years and over

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>NL</th>
<th>PEI</th>
<th>NS</th>
<th>NB</th>
<th>QC</th>
<th>ON</th>
<th>MA</th>
<th>SK</th>
<th>AB</th>
<th>BC</th>
<th>YK</th>
<th>NWT</th>
<th>NT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>77.8</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>47.6</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>20.3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Provinces and Territories

Province

Top-Subdivision
Locations
- Port Kirwan, NL (77.8%)
- North Rustico, PEI (38.5%)
- Cole Harbour, NS (47.6%)
- North Lake, NB (51.8%)
- Notre-Dame-des-Anges, QC (97.9%)
- Manitoulin, ON (47.7%)
- Division No 18, MA (50.0%)
- Echo Bay, SK (69.2%)
- Sundance Beach, AB (77.8%)
- Kwawkwawapilt No 6, BC (79.7%)
- Tagish, YK (33.9%)
- Sambaa K’e, NWT (31.6%)
- Resolute Bay, NVT (13.9%)
FACTORS SUPPORTING HEALTHY AGING IN PLACE

HOME ENVIRONMENT
Housing type, neighbourhood poverty index

SUPPORT SERVICES
Home support, health care services, community-based support services

MOBILITY & TRANSPORTATION
Public transportation, ride share services, walkability index

INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS
Health, living alone, immigration status, language, income status

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
Extreme weather, terrain, rural vs urban, climate change
FACTORS SUPPORTING HEALTHY AGING IN PLACE
FINDING THE DATA

HOME ENVIRONMENT
Housing type, neighbourhood poverty index
✓ Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
✓ Statistics Canada

SUPPORT SERVICES
Home support, health care services, community-based support services
✓ Provincial Health Authorities
✓ Not-for-profit organizations
✓ Canadian Institute for Health Information

MOBILITY & TRANSPORTATION
Public transportation, ride share services, walkability index
✓ Municipal Authorities
✓ Not-for-profit organizations
✓ Tech companies

INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS
Health, living alone, immigration status, language, income status
✓ Provincial Health Authorities
✓ Canadian Institute for Health Information
✓ Statistics Canada
✓ CLSA

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
Extreme weather, terrain, rural vs urban, climate change
✓ Environment and Climate Change Canada
✓ Statistics Canada
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

PLANNING SERVICES

• Mobile vaccination clinic in areas with older adults living in apartment complexes
• Improving neighbourhood walkability in areas with many assisted living facilities

ADAPTING SERVICES

• Translate health care information documents in areas with immigrant older adults
• Hire staff speaking multiple languages and appropriate cultural training

WEATHER EMERGENCY

• Prioritize forest fires evacuation support in areas with older adults living alone
• Prioritize wellness check in rural areas with older adults after an ice storm or hurricane
NEXT STEPS

Beginning of CRC in Healthy Aging
SUMMER 2022

Analyze 4 millions data points...
SPRING 2024

Data Visualization Tools Online
SPRING 2025

WINTER 2024
Lab opening!

SUMMER 2024
Healthy Aging Community Profiles
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This research is undertaken, in part, thanks to funding from the Canada Research Chairs Program and with the financial and technical support of the following organizations:
THANK YOU

Catherine Bigonnesse, Ph.D.
Canada Research Chair in Healthy Aging
catherine.bigonnesse@unb.ca
(506) 453-4853

Healthy Aging Policy Innovation Lab
University of New Brunswick
Tilley Hall #221-222
healthyaginglab@unb.ca
(506) 447-3474
https://unb.ca/fredericton/arts/centres/healthyaging