

A nighttime photograph of a city skyline, likely Columbus, Ohio, with various skyscrapers illuminated against a dark sky. A prominent red horizontal banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing white text.

Disaster Preparedness and Response for Aging

Populations
Holly Dabelko-Schoeny, MSW, PhD
Professor & Director of Research



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK



Age-Friendly Innovation Center

Mission

To innovate with older adults through research, education, policy advocacy, and engagement to ensure inclusion and build resiliency to make our communities age-friendly.

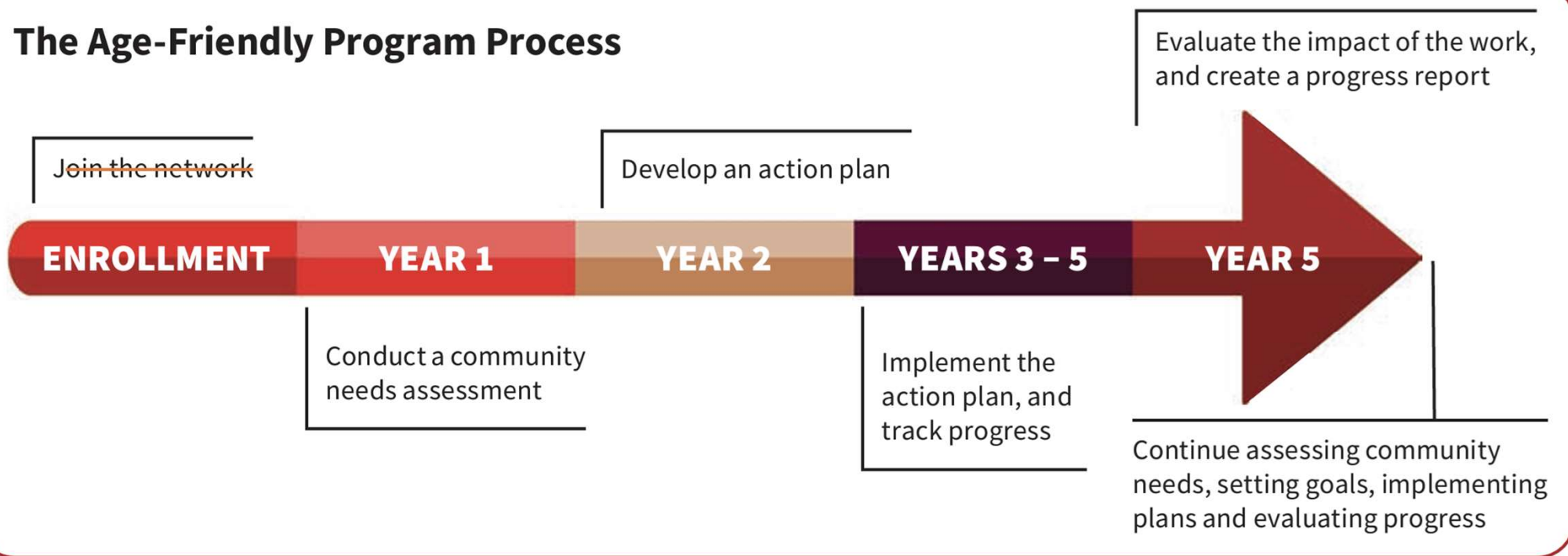




WHO Global Network
for Age-friendly Cities
and Communities

1542 Cities and Communities
18 Network Affiliates
51 Countries
Over 320 Million People
Covered

The Age-Friendly Program Process





Age-Friendly Community Domains



Transportation



Housing



Safety &
Emergency
Preparedness



Outdoor Spaces
& Buildings



Communication
& Information



Employment &
Civic
Engagement



Respect,
Inclusion, &
Social
Participation



Community
Support &
Health Services



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Special Issue: Climate Change and Aging: Forum



Age-Friendly and Climate Resilient Communities: A Grey–Green Alliance

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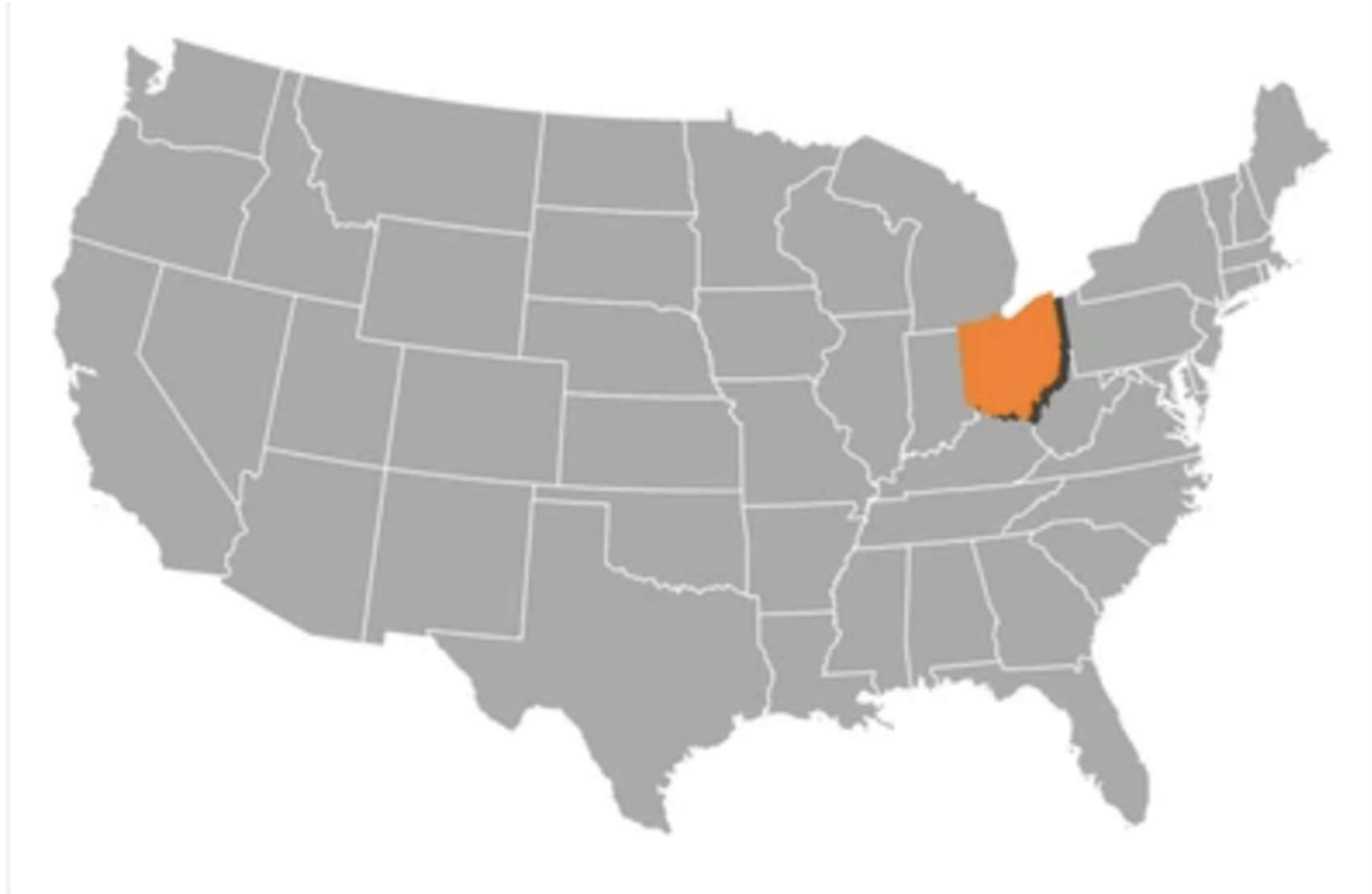
Abstract

The world's population is aging while the Earth's climate is warming. The climate change crisis poses threats to our aging population and requires concerted action. Steps to address these threats present opportunities for improving livability for people of all ages while addressing the underlying drivers of climate change. Yet prominent action frameworks such as the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities do not explicitly include climate resilience and sustainability as essential elements of age-friendly communities. In this essay, we argue for the creation of a cross-cutting and interdependent sustainability and climate resilience domain to complement the existing interconnected WHO age-friendly domains of community and healthcare, communication and information, housing, civic participation and employment, outdoor spaces and buildings, social participation, respect and social inclusion, and transportation. These domains drive the community engagement, planning, action, and evaluation required by the communities who join the Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. The age-friendly network currently includes 1,445 communities, across 51 countries. We discuss how the alignment of age-friendly and climate resilience networks strengthens local action and global advocacy through a shared vision for an age-friendly and climate resilient future.

Keywords: Aging, Climate change, Environment, Sustainability.



State of Ohio





Climate Change Impacts - Ohio



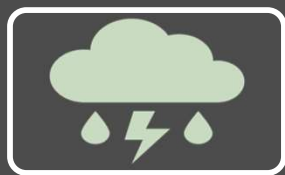
Extreme heat



Floods



Power outages



Severe weather



Regional Assessment on Aging



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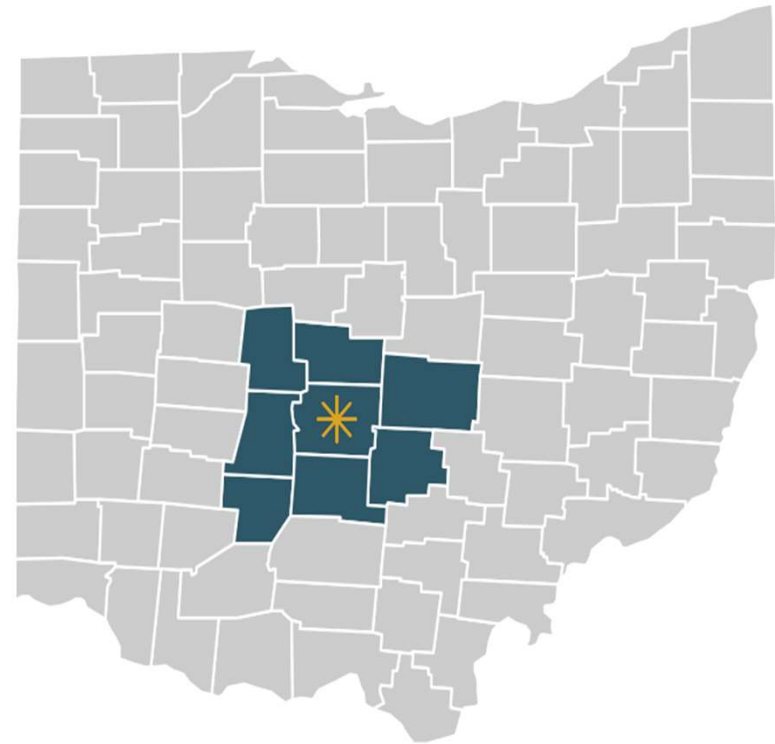
Regional Assessment on Aging

Purpose of Survey

To measure the preferences and needs of older adults living in Central Ohio related to the age-friendly livability domains.

Method

Surveys were mailed to a representative sample of 9460 adults aged 50 and older living in 8 counties in Central Ohio resulting in a 15% response rate and 2.7% margin of error at 95% confidence.



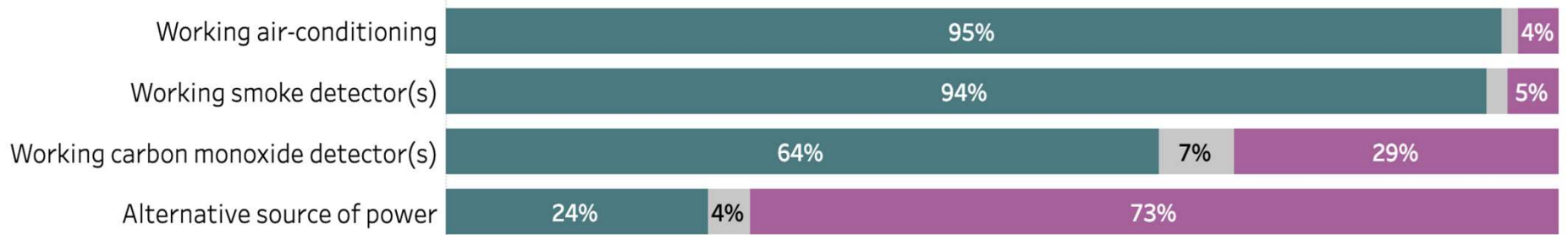


Based on FEMA guidelines , do you have a 3-day supply of emergency supplies, food, and medicine?



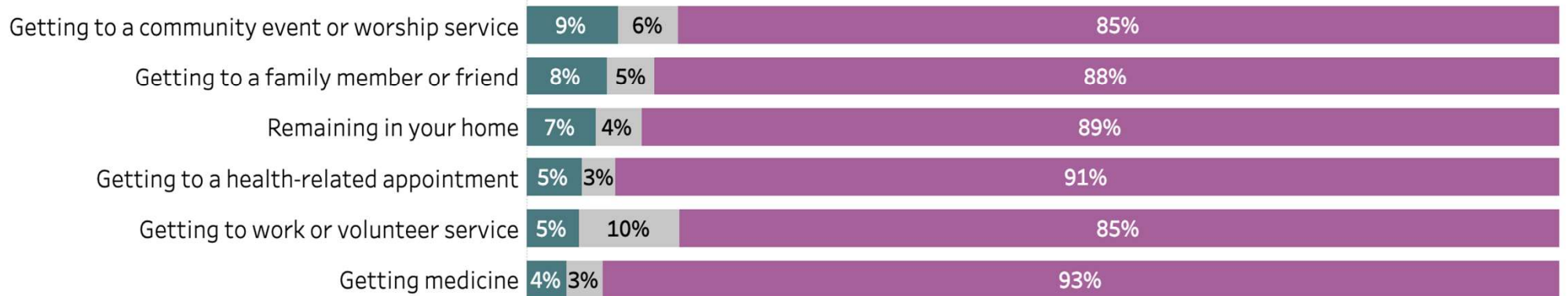
Do you have the following items in your home?

Yes Don't Know No



Have weather events like extreme heat, power outages, or flooding prevented you from any of the following?

Yes Don't Know No





Has extreme weather prevented the following?

Yes Don't Know No

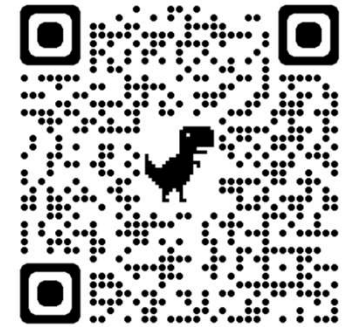
Remain in Home



Attend Health Appointment



Get to Family Member





ARTICLE



Extreme Weather Disruptions and Emergency Preparedness Among Older Adults in Ohio: An Eight-County Assessment

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Abstract

The disproportionate risks and impacts of climate change and extreme weather on older adults are increasingly evident. While especially true in disaster-prone areas, human-caused climate change introduces an element of uncertainty even in previously identified “safe” regions such as the Midwestern United States. Using a cumulative disadvantage and vulnerability-informed framework and descriptive statistics from multiple data sources, this article provides an overview of climate impacts, vulnerabilities, and county-level characteristics, focusing on older adults living in Central Ohio. A comparative multiple-case study methodology was used to triangulate regionally representative primary and secondary data sources to examine state and county-level measures of vulnerability, emergency preparedness, and disruptions caused by extreme weather among older adults across eight counties in Central Ohio. Seventy-eight percent of older adults in the sample reported being prepared for emergencies per Federal Emergency Management Agency guidelines. Older adults in Union County reported the highest rates of preparedness, while those in Fayette County reported the lowest. County-level rates of disruption of life activities by extreme weather ranged widely. Among the most rural in the region, Fayette County emerged as uniquely disadvantaged, with the lowest median income, the most vulnerable across multiple social vulnerability dimensions, and the most reported disruptions to life activities from extreme weather. County profiles offer a snapshot of existing vulnerabilities, socioeconomic conditions, special needs, preparedness, and current disruptions among older adults in the region and can inform resource mobilization across community and policy contexts.



Weather and Aging Resilient Model (WARM)



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COAAA



Experience Experts

Community Challenges and Opportunities

Scientific Experts

Practice Experts

OUR APPROACH



JAYCEE VILLAGE
APARTMENTS

1) To understand the experiences of older adults and service coordinators in low-income housing with emergency preparedness and response.

2) To build a toolkit that can be tailored to other sites and contexts.



Mixed methods community-based participatory case study design

- 1) Cross-sectional survey of residents (N = 124) and service coordinator experiences (N = 12) with extreme weather events with residents
- 2) Focus groups with residents (N = 10-12) and service coordinators (N = 12)
- 3) Innovation sessions with residents, practitioners, and service coordinators.



SERVICE COORDINATORS

38% reported lost power in buildings

75% were somewhat or very concerned about disasters

75% reported residents were not prepared

75% lacked emergency preparedness training

63% were not confident in their ability to evacuate



Focus Group Themes

- Communication
- Transportation
- Sheltering
- Power source
- Evacuation





THANK YOU!

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