Target the Right Places and Policies to Make Your Community More Livable: AARP Livability Index

15th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference
February 12, 2016
Portland, Oregon

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THE LIVABILITY INDEX: GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS FOR ALL AGES

WHAT IS A LIVABLE COMMUNITY?

"A livable community is one that is safe and secure, has affordable and appropriate housing and transportation options, and offers supportive community features and services. Once in place, those resources enhance personal independence; allow residents to age in place; and foster residents' engagement in the community's civic, economic, and social life."

—*AARP Public Policy Institute*

HOW DO PEOPLE CHOOSE NEIGHBORHOODS

- Preferences

- Limitations
  - Family Budget
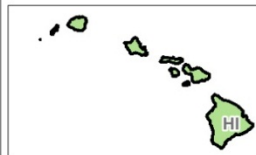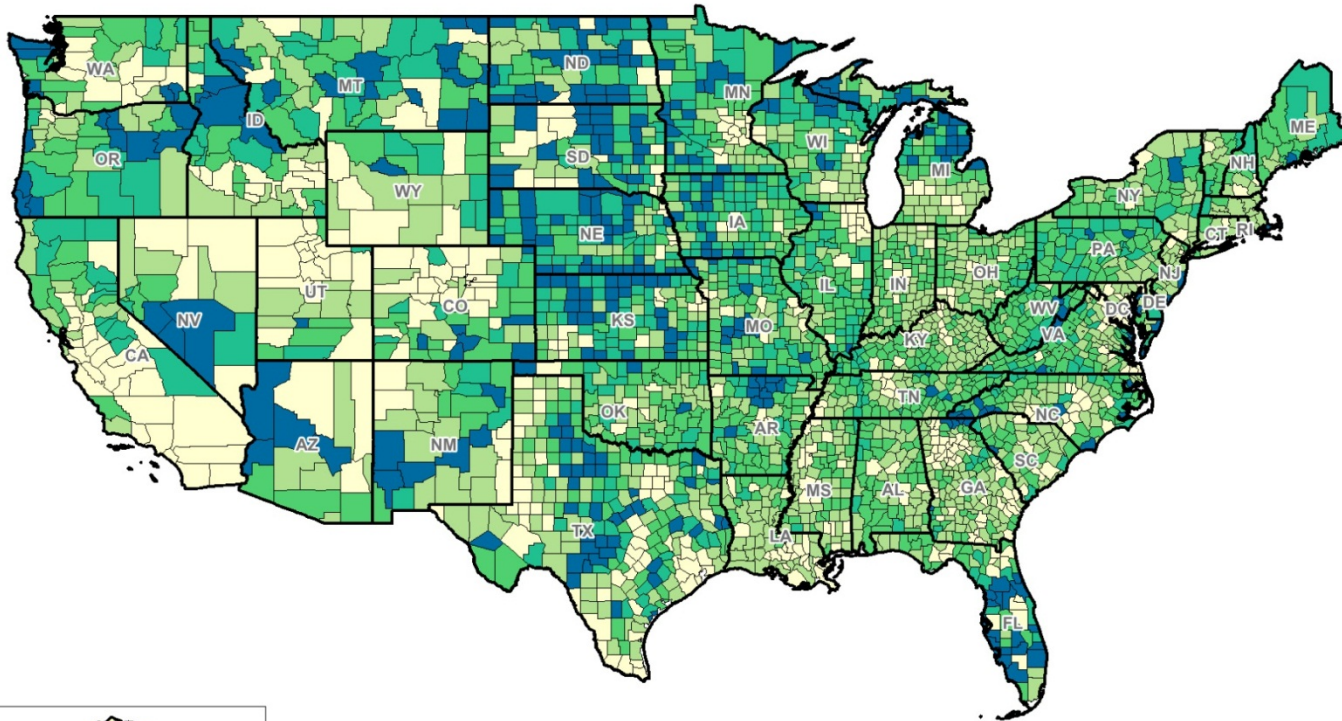 - Availability

- Where People Live

WHY DID AARP CREATE THE LIVABILITY INDEX?
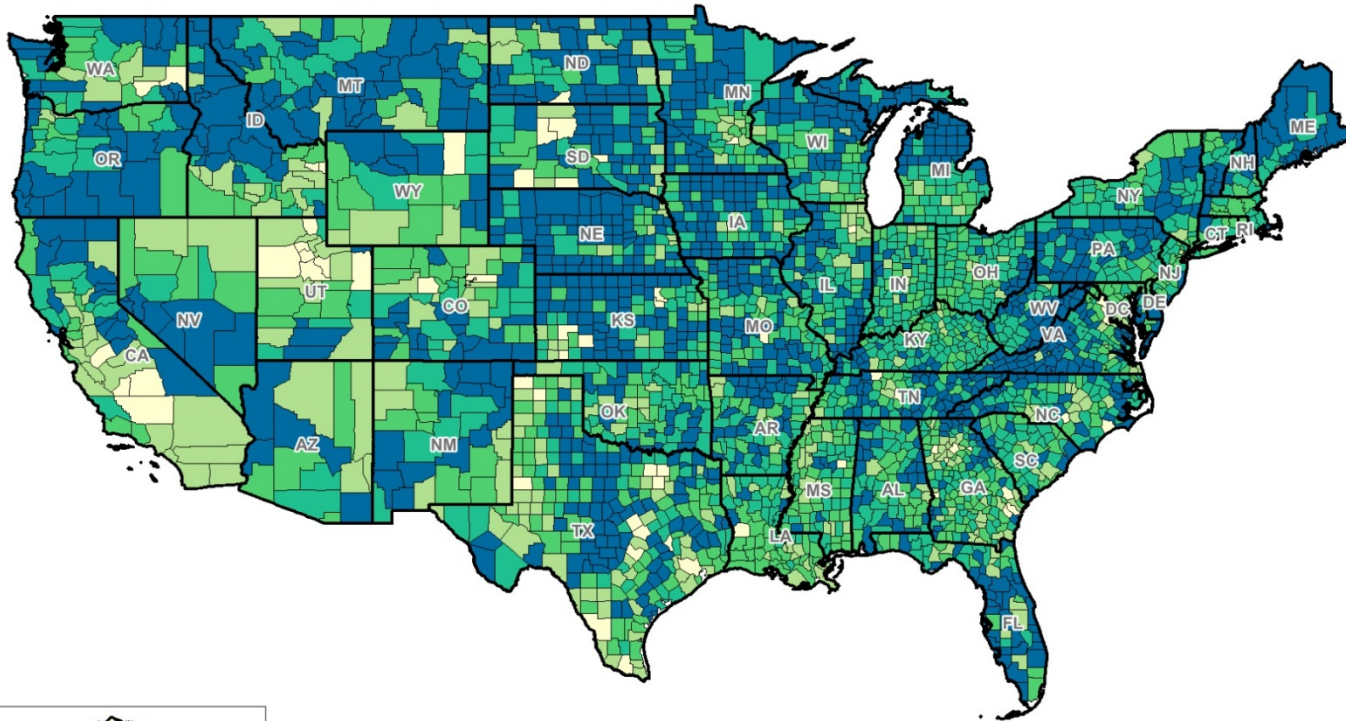
AMERICA IS AGING

Percent of Population Age 65+ 2010

Percent Population Age 65+ 2010
- 21% or more (349)
- 18% to 21% (483)
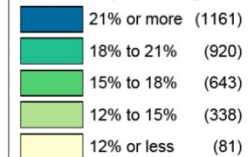- 15% to 18% (917)
- 12% to 15% (888)
- 12% or less (506)

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2010 Census.

AMERICA IS AGING

Percent of Population Age 65+ 2020

Source: The Nielsen Company, 2015.

Portland Metro Region

- Between 2010 and 2030, while our region's population will grow by 35% overall, the number of people 65+ will grow by 106% (Metro, 2009)

- We ALL are aging, but little planning has occurred

- Our window of opportunity for preparing is shrinking rapidly

WHAT IS THE LIVABILITY INDEX: GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS FOR ALL AGES

WHAT'S UNIQUE ABOUT AARP'S LIVABILITY INDEX: GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS FOR ALL AGES

ENGAGEMENT
Internet Access
Civic Engagement
Social Engagement
Equal Rights
Commitment to Livability

HEALTH
Healthy Behaviors
Access to Health Care
Quality of Health Care
Commitment to Livability

OPPORTUNITY
Equal Opportunity
Economic Opportunity
Education
Multi-generational Communities
Local Fiscal Health
Commitment to Livability

ENVIRONMENT
Water Quality
Air Quality
Resilience
Energy Efficiency
Commitment to Livability

Explore the Score

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HOUSING
Housing Accessibility
Housing Options
Housing Affordability
Commitment to Livability

TRANSPORTATION
Convenient Transportation Options
Transportation Costs
Safe Streets
Accessible System Design
Commitment to Livability

NEIGHBORHOOD
Proximity to Destinations
Mixed-use Neighborhoods
Compact Neighborhoods
Personal Safety
Neighborhood Quality
Commitment to Livability

How can the Index be used?

- Catalyze community conversations for lasting change
- Benchmarking and baseline assessment
- Guidance for policy making
- Measuring progress

It's not a one-generation issue!

Overlap in community livability features that benefit both older adults & families with children

Older Adults

Families with Children

- Smaller homes requiring less maintenance
- Supportive services

- Affordable homes
- Accessible, visitable homes
- Transportation options
- Safe, walkable streets
- Open space & parks
- Convenient shopping and services
- Nearby, high-quality health services
- Good jobs

- Good schools
- Convenient child care

www.aarp.org/livabilityindex

FOR MORE INFORMATION

AARP Public Policy Institute

www.aarp.org/livabilityindex   @AARPpolicy

AARP Livable Communities Resources

www.aarp.org/livablepolicy

www.aarp.org/livable   @AARPlivable

AARP Oregon

www.aarp.org/or   @AARPOR

Visit www.aarp.org/livabilityindex **Questions to consider:**

- How did your community perform overall? In what domains and metrics does your community perform well? Are there policies or other factors that contribute to its success?

- Where is there room for your community to improve its livability? Are there specific policies that your community could adopt to address these issues?

- Are there areas of your community that are more livable than others?

- Are there specific groups within your community that are concentrated in less livable areas?

- What are the steps that your community could take to improve its livability? These can include not only state or local policies, but also infrastructure projects, community outreach, programs and services, or efforts to benefit specific neighborhoods or population groups.