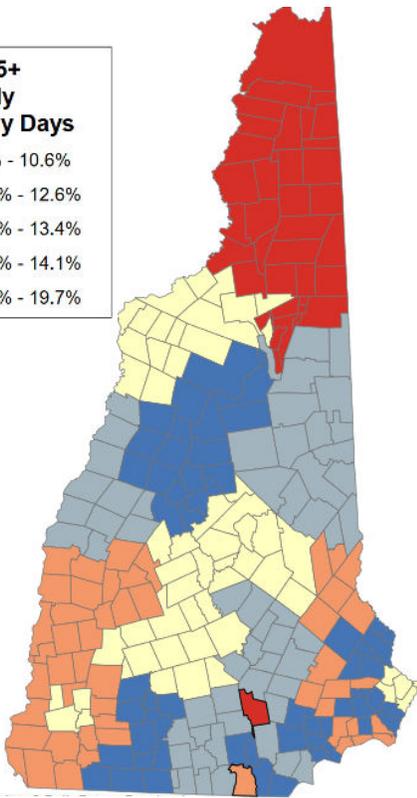
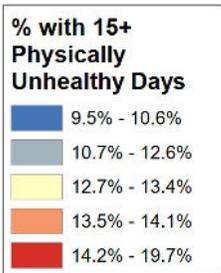


Developing Age-Friendly Zoning Policies: Supporting People to live in the Communities of their Choice

This strategy brief is brought to you by the NH Alliance for Healthy Aging (NH AHA). We are committed to creating communities that support older adults and their families and where New Hampshire's culture, policies and services advance health, independence and dignity for all of us as we get older.

Zoning shapes the places that we live by designating how land can be used within a community. This means that zoning laws determine where housing, schools, businesses, parks, and other community buildings exist and who has the easiest access to them.

Percentage of people age 60+ with self reported health as fair or poor



Source: NH Healthy Aging Data Report

Zoning policies can support age-friendly communities by providing ways for older adults to stay connected and healthy in their neighborhood.

For example, community traits such as access to nutritious food, air quality, and affordable housing contribute to individuals' health. Because zoning policies and regulations are different across local municipalities, peoples' health varies on where they live and what they have access to.

Zoning policies can block age-friendly communities efforts by restraining building types, home modifications, and land use in certain areas. These restrictions disconnect older people from their community and do not provide older people with affordable options to age independently

DID YOU KNOW?



244

Cities and towns in NH



15

Age-friendly communities in NH (2019)



79%

NH Residents who are 60+ own their home

AHA Zoning Activities

STRATEGIES

Strategy 1:
Increase housing diversity in NH

Strategy 2:
Create model ordinance for age-friendly communities

ACTIVITIES

In collaboration with Southern NH Planning Commission, created and distributed a survey related to create innovative housing solutions

Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission and the town of Chester drafted NH's first age-friendly zoning ordinance, passed in 2019

FUTURE GOALS

Share and highlight innovative housing models and solutions across NH.



Support the expansion and development of age-friendly communities in NH



Highlight in NH: Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU)

An ADU is a second living unit that is within or attached to a single-family home. Passed in 2017, NH law requires municipalities to allow ADUs in zoning districts where single-family dwellings are permitted. ADUs provide flexibility to age in the community, care for family members, earn income from a small rental, or support a young adult.



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