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NORC
at the UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Resident Relocation Survey

Funded by a grant from The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Brief

Key Findings

18% of all leaseholders are 62 years or older

Within the households of the oldest leaseholders, 65% have at least one member who is disabled

Older leaseholders participated in more social activities than younger leaseholders - 44% of younger leaseholders do not participate in any social activities

Many older leaseholders do not experience any economic hardship (84%), while about half of younger leaseholders experience at least one problem

The older leaseholders are less likely than younger leaseholders to say that their new neighborhood offers better opportunities

EXPERIENCES OF ELDERLY LEASEHOLDERS

In 2000, the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) began the Plan for Transformation, an ambitious plan to rebuild or replace substandard high-rise public housing developments in Chicago. During the Transformation, CHA leaseholders were relocated to other housing either in the private market with the assistance of a Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) or in other public housing units, including traditional CHA developments as well as new mixed income developments. With support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, NORC at the University of Chicago conducts the Resident Relocation Survey (RRS). The RRS collects data from current and former CHA leaseholders on their experiences with relocation. This report on older leaseholders and age differences presents findings from our fourth survey with these leaseholders.ⁱ

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION The average age of all leaseholders is 48.74 years. Males in the sample are older than females (Table 1). Figure 1 shows the distribution of sex by 10-year age groups. At all ages, women make up the majority of the leaseholder population. However, the proportion of leaseholders who are male appears to be increasing with age. For example, while men only make up 6% of those ages 30 to 39, they make up 16% of those older than 60.

However, there are still fewer older males in the RRS than in the U.S. population.

According to data from the American Community Survey

TABLE 1. AGE DISTRIBUTION BY SEX

	FEMALES	MALES
Unweighted Number of Cases	594	67
Weighted %	90%	10%
Mean Age	48.16	53.97
Standard Deviation	13.26	13.82
Age Range	27 - 92	32 - 89

(2008),ⁱⁱ men make up 44% of that older age group in the general U.S. population.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND INCOME CHARACTERISTICS Since the CHA has begun to phase in employment requirements for leaseholders under age 62,ⁱⁱⁱ the leaseholders were categorized into three age groups: under 42 (n=234), 42 to 61 (n=311) and 62 and older (n=116). As seen in Figure 2, there are some noticeable age differences in terms of education, income, and employment. The oldest leaseholders were less likely to have finished high school as compared to younger leaseholders. Regarding income, 57% of the older group has an income of less than \$8,000. This is higher than the younger age group (47%), but lower than those between 42 and 61 years of age (65%). And, as is to be expected, leaseholders over age 62 are more likely to be unemployed (93%) than younger leaseholders.

FIGURE 1. SEX DISTRIBUTION BY 10-YEAR AGE GROUP

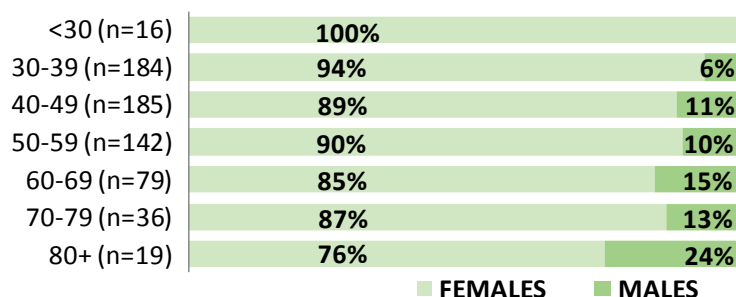
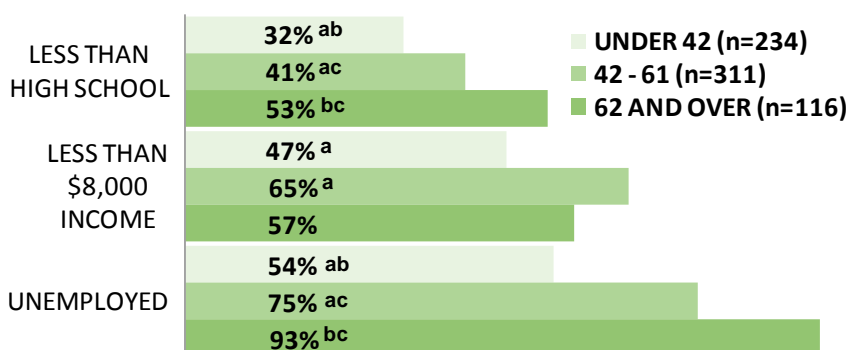


FIGURE 2. EDUCATION, INCOME, AND UNEMPLOYMENT



NOTE: Within categories (less than high school, income, unemployment), age groups sharing a superscript letter (a, b, c) are significantly different at the p<.05 level, chi-square tests.

TABLE 2. HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS BY AGE GROUP	UNDER 42 (n=234)	42 - 61 (n=311)	62 AND OVER (n=116)
Mean Number of Children	2.77 ^{ac}	0.99 ^{ab}	0.29 ^{bc}
Any Children in Household	91% ^{ac}	42% ^{ab}	17% ^{bc}
3 or More Children	53% ^{ac}	15% ^{ab}	2% ^{bc}
Mean Number of Adults	1.60	1.68	1.51
Only One Adult	56%	53%	62%
3 or More Adults	12%	16%	10%
Mean Number in Household	4.38 ^{ac}	2.67 ^{ab}	1.80 ^{bc}
5 or More People	42% ^{ac}	16% ^{ab}	8% ^{bc}
Any Disability in Household	14% ^{ac}	46% ^{ab}	65% ^{bc}

NOTE: Within rows, age groups sharing a superscript letter (a, b, c) are significantly different at the p<.05 level, chi-square tests and t-tests.

both adults and children in the households, average household size is lower for the oldest leaseholders.

Within the households of the oldest leaseholders, 65% have at least one household member who is disabled, compared to 46% of the middle age group and only 14% of the youngest leaseholders.

HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS Table 2 shows the household characteristics by age group. The households of the oldest leaseholders were less likely than other households to include children. The average number of children in the households of the oldest leaseholders was lower than for other households as well. **More than half of those under age 42 have 3 or more children in the household**, compared to 15% of the middle age group and 2% of the older leaseholders. Most households in all age groups have only one adult. Including

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND ISOLATION The RRS asked leaseholders about their social activities, including whether they participated in religious organizations, recreation centers, block groups or tenant organizations, neighborhood watches, political organizations, or parent/teacher groups. On average, leaseholders participated in 1.04 activities. The oldest leaseholders participated in more activities than the youngest leaseholders, but their participation was not very different from the middle group of leaseholders (Table 3). Further, as compared to the youngest

TABLE 3. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND ISOLATION	UNDER 42 (n=234)	42 - 61 (n=311)	62 AND OVER (n=116)
Mean Social Activities	0.88 ^a	1.13 ^a	1.12
No Social Activities	44% ^a	38%	30% ^a
3 or More Social Activities	6% ^a	14% ^a	12%

NOTE: Within rows, age groups sharing a superscript letter (a, b, c) are significantly different at the p<.05 level, chi-square tests and t-tests.

leaseholders, more of the oldest leaseholders participated in at least one social activity. **The youngest group had the highest rate of isolation** (no social activities), with 44% reporting no participation in activities, a much lower percentage than that of the oldest group (30%).

Older leaseholders have fewer economic hardships

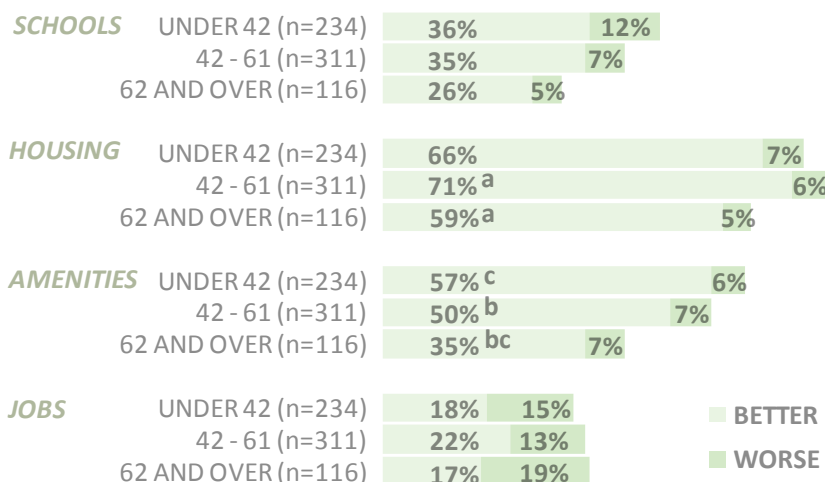
ECONOMIC HARDSHIP Leaseholders were asked if (1) their telephone had been disconnected, (2) their gas or electricity shut off due to lack of payment, (3) they had experienced trouble paying their rent, (4) their belongings were repossessed, or (5) they could not afford to buy food. The mean number of economic hardships was determined (Table 4). All three age groups were different; with **the oldest leaseholders experiencing the lowest amount of hardship** (0.18) compared to the middle age group (0.57), and the youngest leaseholders experienced the most hardship with an average of 0.79 problems. **Among the elderly, 84% experienced no problems, while 60% of the middle group and 51% of the younger leaseholders reported no hardships.** These results are significantly different. However, while none of the elderly experience great amount of hardship (3 or more problems), 3% of the middle and 7% of the youngest group had these high levels of problems. The rate for the youngest leaseholders was higher than the other two age groups.

TABLE 4. ECONOMIC HARDSHIP	UNDER 42 (n=234)	42 - 61 (n=311)	62 AND OVER (n=116)
Mean Economic Hardship	0.79 ^{ac}	0.57 ^{ab}	0.18 ^{bc}
No Economic Hardship	51% ^{ac}	60% ^{ab}	84% ^{bc}
3 or More Hardships	7% ^{ac}	3% ^a	0% ^c

NOTE: Within rows, age groups sharing a superscript letter (a, b, c) are significantly different at the p<.05 level, chi-square tests and t-tests.

TRANSPORTATION The survey asked leaseholders if they had difficulties with transportation. Twenty-four percent of the youngest group, 19% of the middle group, and 17% of the elderly had experienced difficulties with transportation (no significant differences). Transportation to shopping destinations was the largest problem for all the age groups, with more than three quarters of each group noting this as an issue. Getting to friends was another common transportation issue. But while the youngest age group had the most difficulty getting to school and work, the middle and older age groups often had trouble getting to church and some other^{iv} destinations.

FIGURE 3. OVERALL SATISFACTION OF CURRENT NEIGHBORHOOD OPPORTUNITIES

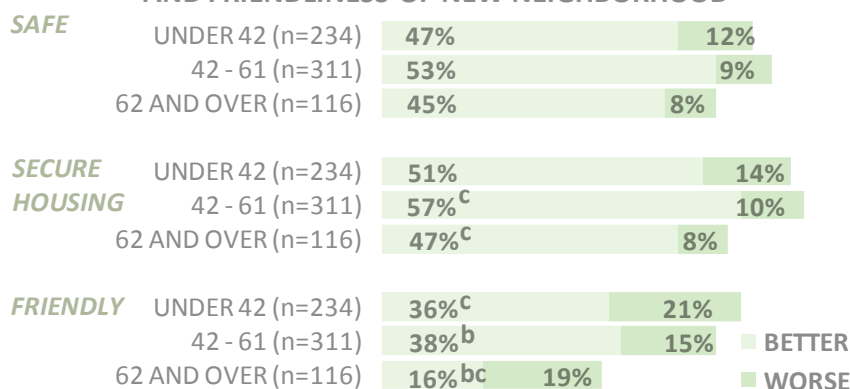


NOTE: Within categories (schools, housing, etc), age groups sharing a superscript letter (a, b, c) are significantly different at the p<.05 level, chi-square tests.

OVERALL SATISFACTION To determine how the new neighborhoods compared to those from which the leaseholders moved, the RRS asked a battery of questions on opportunities in the new neighborhood and the benefits of moving. **The oldest leaseholders were less likely than younger leaseholders to say that their new neighborhood offered better opportunities.** Sixty-two percent of the youngest group felt that the new neighborhood offered better opportunities, compared to 65% of the middle group and 51% of the older leaseholders. The oldest leaseholders were also less likely than younger leaseholders to say that the move made it

possible to do things that would benefit themselves or their families. In both the youngest and middle age group, 74% reported that the move was beneficial for their family, whereas only 58% considered the move beneficial. So, overall, it appears that the older leaseholders are less satisfied with their new neighborhood. Figure 3 shows how leaseholders compare their previous and current neighborhoods in terms of schools, housing, amenities, and job opportunities. For both housing and amenities, the older age group reported lower rates of better opportunities. Figure 4 shows how the current neighborhood compares to the leaseholder's old neighborhood in terms of safety, security of maintaining housing, and friendliness. Older leaseholders feel less secure about keeping their housing than the middle age group. Also, the oldest leaseholders consider their new neighborhoods much less friendly than the other two groups, compared to their previous neighborhoods.

FIGURE 4. BENEFITS OF MOVING: SAFETY, HOUSING SECURITY, AND FRIENDLINESS OF NEW NEIGHBORHOOD



NOTE: Within categories (less than high school, income, unemployment), age categories sharing a superscript letter (a, b, c) are significantly different at the p<.05 level, chi-square tests.

ⁱ Only leaseholders who reported that their preferred choice was subsidized housing were included in the analysis (n=661). Number of cases reported is unweighted and percentages are weighted.

ⁱⁱ For additional information about the American Community Survey, go to <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Additional detail on requirements for specific types of housing is available at <http://www.thecha.org/>.

^{iv} The "other" category encompasses all other destinations not included in church, work, school, friends, or shopping, such as doctor's office or dentist.

For more information, call Greg Lanier at 312-357-3780, or visit our web site, <http://www.norc.org/projects/Resident+Relocation+Surveys.htm>