

## Profiles of Older Philadelphians by City Planning District

### **What are the Planning District Reports?**

**Why were they created?** PCA created the Planning District Reports for three reasons.

- First, we wished to update our Neighborhood Profiles. These descriptions of Philadelphia neighborhoods were created in 2007 by combining data from multiple sources to create descriptions of the older adults in the city by neighborhood. Neighborhoods were identified by clustering Zip Codes. These profiles have been used by numerous individuals and organizations to gain a better understanding of the status of older adults in each of the city's neighborhoods. However, they are now out of date, and needed to be updated to reflect the current status of the city's older adult population.
- Second, since we first created the Neighborhood Profiles, our tools for examining the status of older adults have become much more sophisticated. In particular, by developing a program in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) we are better able to integrate spatial data with Census and survey results to provide a much more complete view of the context in which older adults live. We are also now able to create maps that show the location of services for older adults as well as the distribution of older adults in the city.
- Finally, the creation of 18 new City Planning Districts by the City's Planning Commission provided a more useful base on which to define city neighborhoods. We can contribute to the City's efforts to improve the lives of all its citizens by contributing to efforts to modify the environments in which people live. Further, we will allow others to combine information from our reports with other data provided at the district level to further enrich our understanding of the neighborhoods of Philadelphia.

**Who are the older adults?** In most cases the data we report is for persons age 60 and older, because most programs for older adults use age 60 as a cut off for eligibility. For a few items we could only find information on persons age 65 and older. Those items are identified in the reports.

**Why are there only 17 Reports?** We did not prepare a report for the Lower South Planning District because the sample of older adults in that district was too small to make any estimate to the population.

**Who is our intended audience?** We hope that by providing information about the city's elderly at this level, and linking the information about the elderly to information about the neighborhoods in which they live, we can help community leaders, people in the aging network, neighborhood activists, researchers and others better understand the lives of the city's elderly population.

**Will the reports be updated?** We hope to update these reports on a regular schedule. Given that we need to wait for new information to become available we would expect to update information every three to five years, depending on data availability.

## **What information is contained?**

**Where does the data come from?** We have combined two types of data to compile these reports. The first type is survey data, the second are data files based on location. This also means that not all the information used was collected at the same time or using the same method. Nevertheless we believe that these data files can be combined to provide a description of the older adult population and services designed for this age group.

### *Survey data*

1. Data taken from the American Community Survey (ACS) of the Bureau of the Census
2. Data from the Public Health Management Corporation Household Health Surveys.

The Census file is created by bringing together the ACS surveys for 5 years (2009-2013), the PHMC data was collected in 2010 and 2012. Census data was used for estimates concerning vacant properties and the overall population of each District, as well as for estimating certain characteristics of older adults (language spoken at home and percentage responsible for own grandchildren). Both the PHMC and ACS data sets are samples – that is, they interview a number of persons and use that information to estimate the total number of older adults in a given local. Please see the Limitations on the Data Sets section below for some implications of using survey data.

### *Geographically/spatially based information*

1. Information gathered for PCA's website Resource Directory (Affordable Senior Housing and Senior Center locations)
2. Nursing home locations from the PA Department of Health's annual survey for 2011 (<http://www.pasda.psu.edu/>)
3. Part 1 crime incidents (1/1/2006-7/31/2013) from the City of Philadelphia (<https://www.opendataphilly.org/>)
4. Pharmacy and grocery store data purchased from infoUSA Business Listing File (2013)

The PCA Resources Directory data was collected in 2014. Institutions listed are those known to PCA.

Each report has two elements – a map of the Planning District with information about the older adult population and the services available for older adults in that District, and second a table of information about the residents of the Planning District.

### **What types of information are listed on the maps?**

- Proportion of older adults by Census Tract
- Location of Senior Centers\*
- Location of Nursing Homes\*
- Location of Affordable Housing for older adults\*

\*Please see limitations on the data section below

More information on affordable housing sites senior centers can be found at the PCA website (see below).

**What items appear in the data tables?** The table itself is divided into two parts – the first section includes information about the District as a whole (population, crime, etc.). We included information about these local areas that was not specifically about the elderly (crime rates for example) so we could place the elderly in their neighborhoods within the wider context of the areas in which they live.

The second part of the report contains information about the older adults in the District. For every report we also provide the same statistic for the City as a whole so comparisons can be made. The reports include information on the social and economic characteristics of the older residents, their health, environment, caregiving and knowledge about services for the elderly.

### **Limitations on the Data**

There are four limitations on the data that users need to consider when using the reports.

1. Some items are missing from the data tables. In some cases individual items are missing because the size of the sample for a particular district was too small to make a reliable estimate. The statistics for the City as a whole still appear in those cases. For some Planning Districts not enough respondents answered a particular question for us to create a reliable estimate of the total number of such persons living in the District. For this reason some items are listed as “NA” (Not Available) for a particular district.
2. \*Please note that the senior centers and affordable housing sites listed include only those that are known to PCA. We do not claim that these are exhaustive lists.
3. Data does come from different years and was collected in various ways. While the information is reliable we cannot guarantee every piece of information is up to date. For example, if you want to use a particular agency listed on the map please contact them first to ensure that they will be able to assist you.
4. We report on the percentages of persons speaking English, Spanish, Asian/Pacific Islander and Indo-European languages among older persons. We did not include the “Other” language category because of very small numbers of persons in that category and no way to identify or classify those “other” languages.

### **Where can I get more information?**

For more information on the City’s Planning Districts, the web site is:  
<http://phila2035.org/home-page/district/>

To find out more information about programs and services for older adults please check the PCA website [www.pcacares.org](http://www.pcacares.org)