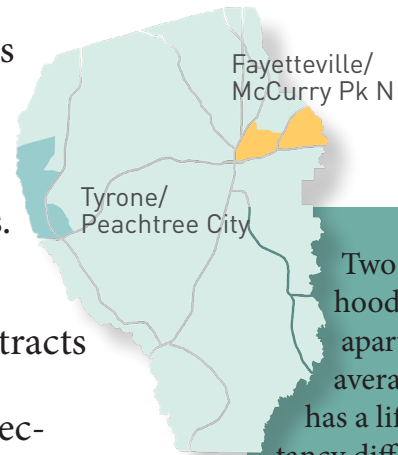


# Life Expectancy in Fayette County

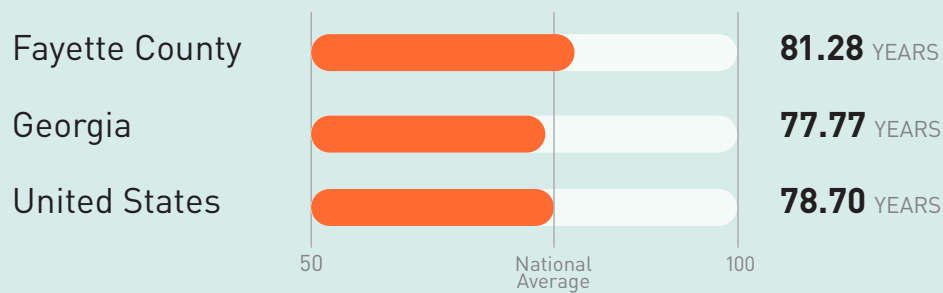
July 2021

Across metro Atlanta, lifespans vary by as much as two decades or more based on geography. Life expectancy is shaped by numerous complex factors beyond an individual's control, such as access to food, sidewalks, and quality education. Many of these factors can be influenced by our work at ARC and that of our partners.

This document provides a snapshot of select social and economic characteristics that vary between the census tracts with the lowest and highest life expectancy in Fayette County: Wellington Manor and Brookward Acres, respectively. Consideration of these factors can inform strategies that help to extend lifespans and improve quality of life.

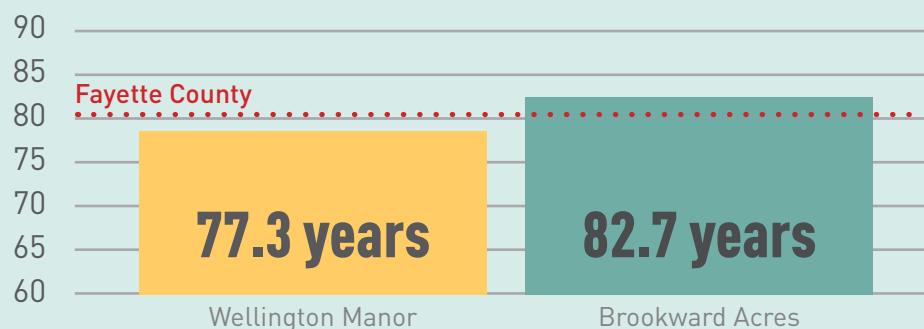


## Average Life Expectancy Comparison



Data Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Life Expectancy Tool, January 2020

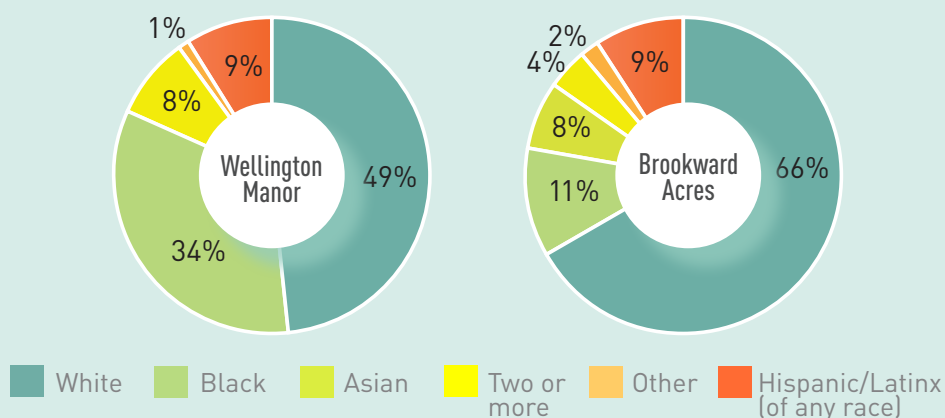
## Life Expectancy in Fayette County



Data Source: U.S. Small-area Life Expectancy Estimates Project, 2010-2015

# Factors Affecting Life Expectancy in Fayette County

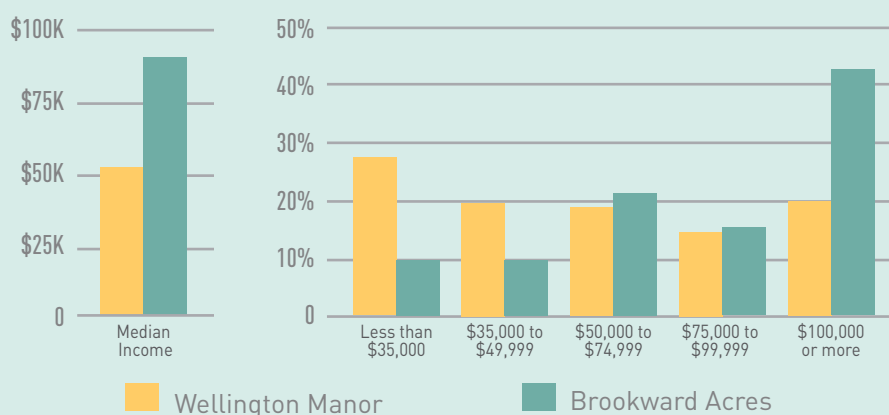
## Race & Hispanic Origin



On average, with some minor exceptions, studies have shown that white individuals outlive other individuals at every age and level of education. Reasons for this discrepancy vary by individual, but in general, multiple factors are at play associated with systemic racism, including socioeconomic status and access to health care.

Data Source: US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019

## Household Income



Many studies have found income to correlate with life expectancy, as higher incomes correlate directly with things like better diets, healthier lifestyles, and access to medical care.

Data Source: US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019

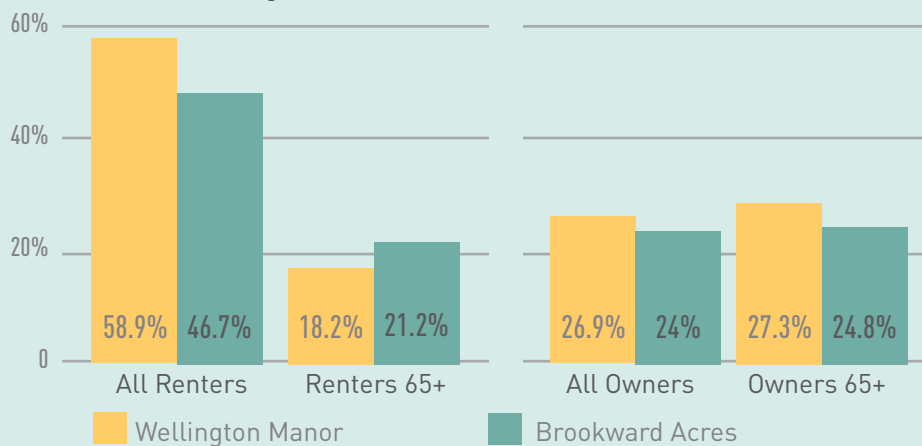
## Education



Education level is found to impact longevity regardless of gender or race. Within racial and ethnic groups, life expectancy is found to vary by as much as 13 years between those with the highest and those with the lowest levels of education.

Data Source: US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019

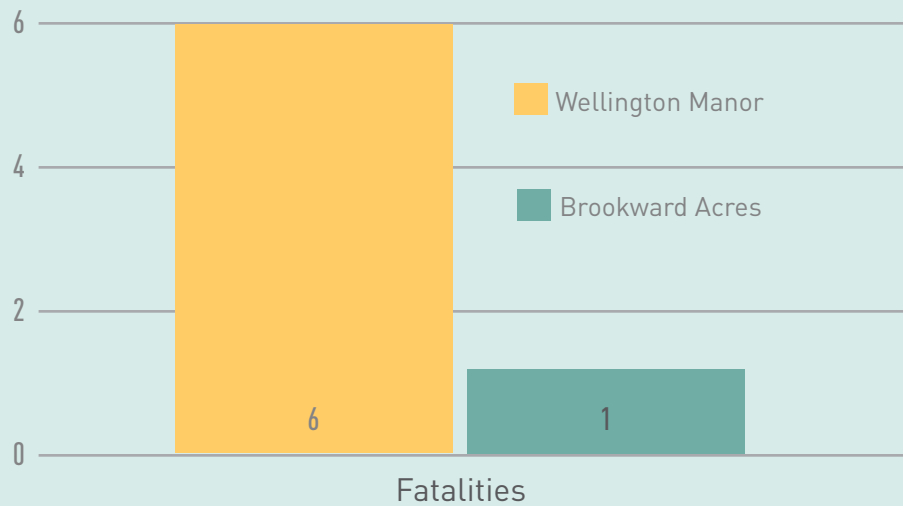
## Housing Cost-Burdened Households



Housing cost-burdened households spend more than 30% of their income on housing, potentially leaving insufficient funds for necessities such as food and medicine.

Data Source: US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019

## Crashes Involving Motor Vehicles



Research has found a disproportionate number of motor-vehicle-related pedestrian injuries and deaths take place in the nation's less pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods.

Georgia Department of Transportation, Georgia Crash Data Portal, 2013-2019

## Percent of Fayette County Food Insecure

**2018** 7.3%

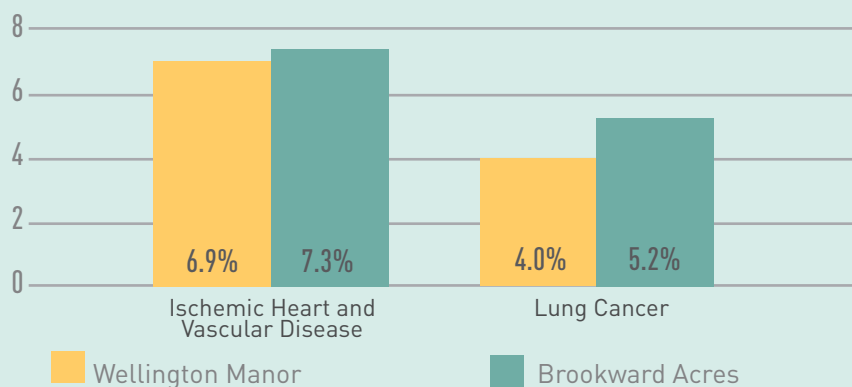
**COVID-19\*** 10.3%

*\*projected rise due to COVID*

Food insecurity is limited or uncertain access to enough food. A lack of access to healthy food is linked to a greater likelihood of developing chronic conditions such as diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease—which have been shown to significantly affect life expectancy.

Data Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap, 2018

## Top Causes of Premature Death

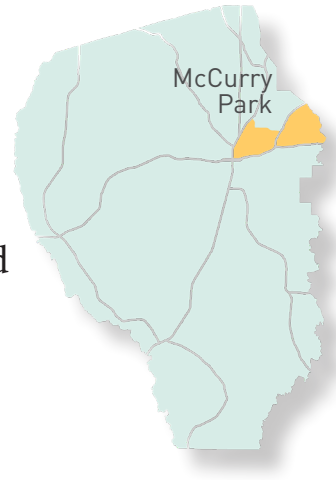


Premature deaths due to these causes can be prevented through interventions in areas such as as transportation, access to preventative care, disease management, and mental health services.

Data Source: Georgia OASIS, Mortality Mapping Tool, 2015-2019

# Sustained Engagement

To better understand the issues facing residents in the McCurry Park area, ARC embarked on a three-part community engagement process that identified and prioritized quality of life concerns and strategies for intervention. The process and findings are detailed below.



## Focus Group

To supplement the data compiled above, ARC held a focus group with ten residents of the area who were compensated \$100 for their time in early 2022. During a two-hour session, ARC asked them questions about the assets of their community, their quality of life, and barriers they experienced to health. The focus group held in the McCurry Park community shared 4 issues impacting their quality of life:

- Transportation Options
- Community Activities
- Walkability
- Affordable Fresh Foods

In the second quarter of 2022, ARC held a series of webinars with elected officials across the region where they shared the process of the focus groups and preliminary findings and invited them to engage with ARC in broader outreach.

# Prioritization

In the winter of 2022-2023, ARC attended a community event in Fayette County to conduct broader outreach. They attended a mobile health clinic and engaged residents using park facilities that day. At this event, ARC invited residents to vote on the issues that had arisen in the focus group to prioritize them. In broader community engagement, residents chose one of those issues as their primary concern.\*

**41%** of residents chose affordable fresh foods as their top issue

**24%** of residents chose improved walkability as their top issue

**24%** of residents chose community activities as their top issue

**11%** of residents chose local transportation options as their top issue

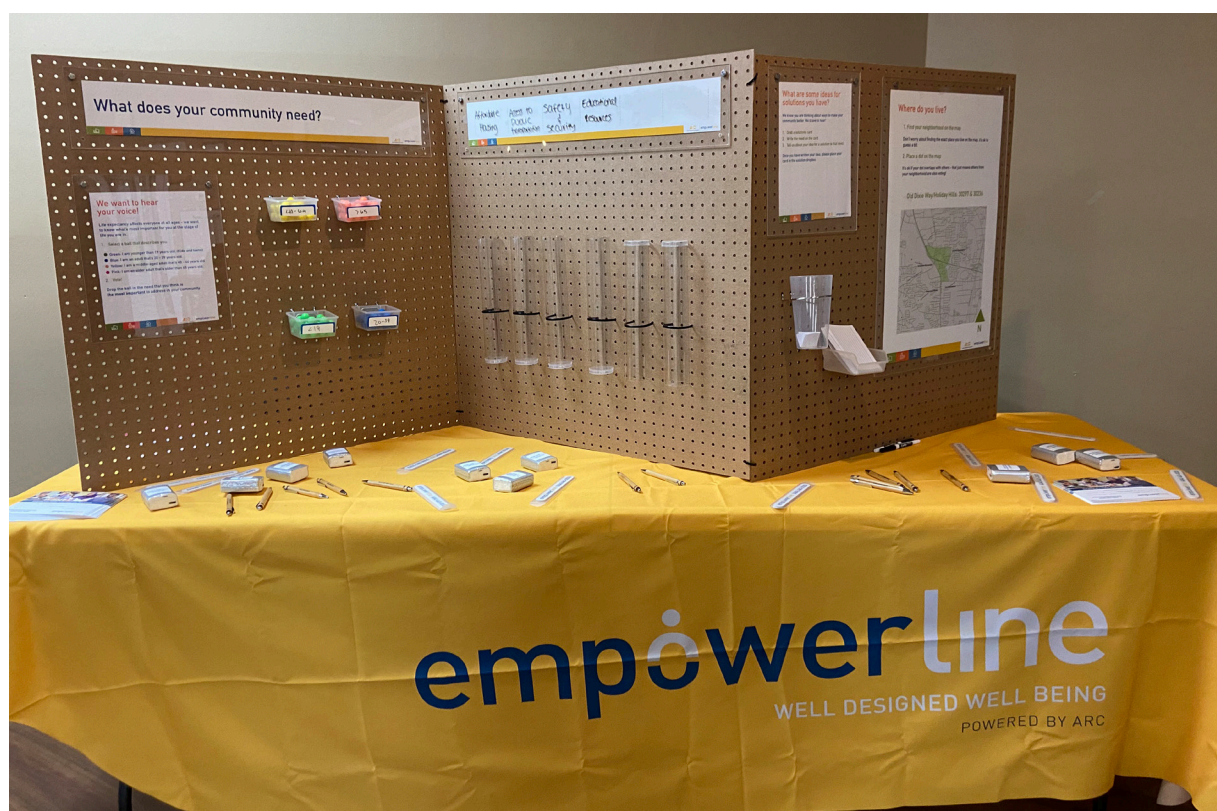
There was also space via comment cards for them to add supplemental information about personal experiences or suggestions for solutions. Residents discussed feeling isolated from central Fayetteville due to a lack of connected sidewalks or alternative transportation options and the rising cost of groceries as big concerns impacting their quality of life.

\*decimal points in percentages were rounded so total may not equal 100



# Community Listening Sessions

Finally, in 2023, ARC conducted a listening session with leaders across Fayette County, including elected officials, employees, service providers, and community leaders. Here, ARC presented their findings from the previous stages of community engagement and invited them to contribute insight on potential solutions. Based on this data, they are working with service providers and elected officials in Fayette County to continue to design evidence-based approaches to health disparities in the county. This includes continuing outreach initiatives in the McCurry Park neighborhood, promoting nutrition access, walkability, and community programming as important policy issues, and spreading awareness about existing disparities. Contact Arin Yost at [ayost@atlantaregional.org](mailto:ayost@atlantaregional.org) if you have questions or are interested in partnering in Fayette County.





# Addressing the Problem

By working together across the region, we can address metro Atlanta's life expectancy disparities. The ingenuity and resources are here. ARC invites all interested individuals and organizations to join with us and our communities to ensure that the Atlanta region is a place where people of all ages, abilities, and incomes can live high-quality lives, regardless of location. We are focusing on:

- Place** Concentrate on locations where residents experience the most inequity
- Policy** Work with governmental, philanthropic, educational, nonprofit, and business leaders to improve or amend policies that create inequities and advance policies that promote equity
- Practice** Provide services and programs that address unmet needs



| **empowerline**

For more information, please contact [info@empowerline.org](mailto:info@empowerline.org)