

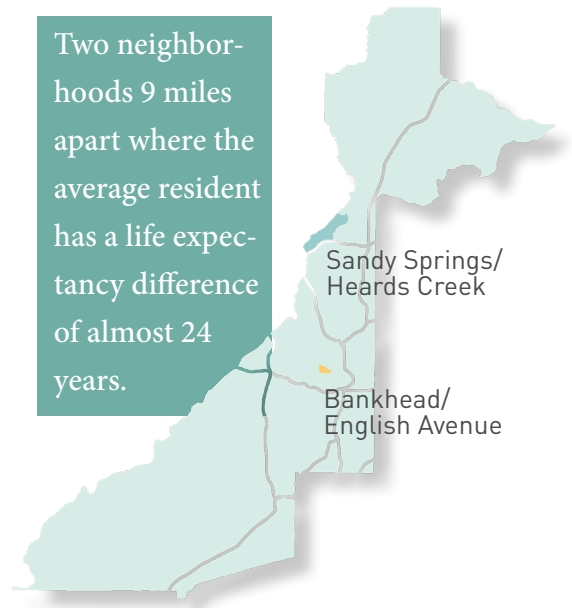
Life Expectancy in Fulton County

July 2021

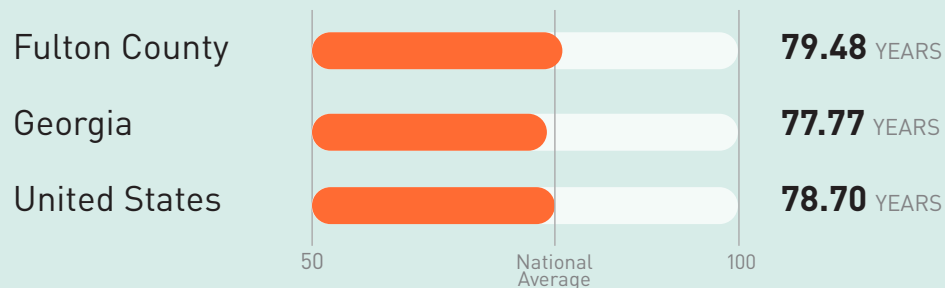
Across metro Atlanta, lifespans vary by as much as two decades or more based on geography. Life expectancy is shaped by numerous complex factors beyond an individual's control, such as access to food, sidewalks, and quality education. Many of these factors can be influenced by our work at ARC and that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

This document provides a snapshot of select social and economic characteristics that vary between the tracts with the lowest and highest life expectancy in Fulton County: Bankhead/English Avenue and Sandy Springs/Heards Creek, respectively. Consideration of these factors can inform strategies that help to extend lifespans and improve quality of life.

Two neighborhoods 9 miles apart where the average resident has a life expectancy difference of almost 24 years.

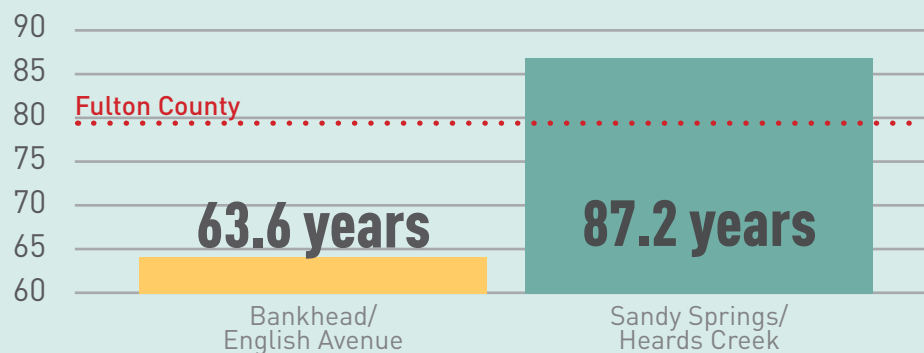


Average Life Expectancy Comparison



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

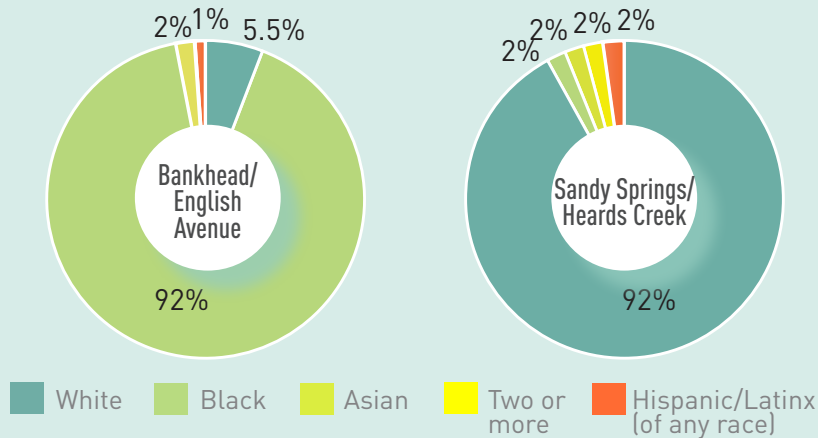
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Data Source: U.S. Small-area Life Expectancy Estimates Project, 2010-2015

Factors Affecting Life Expectancy in Fulton County

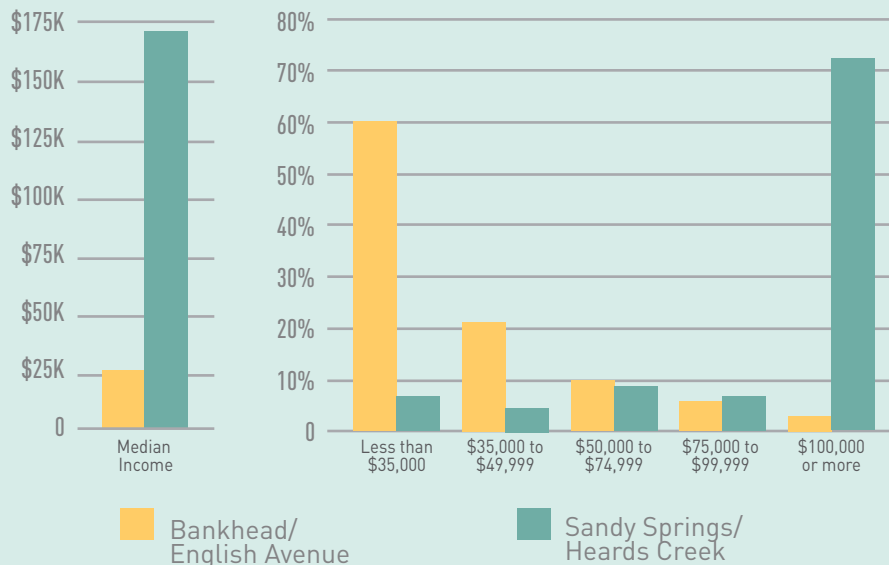
Race & Hispanic Origin



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

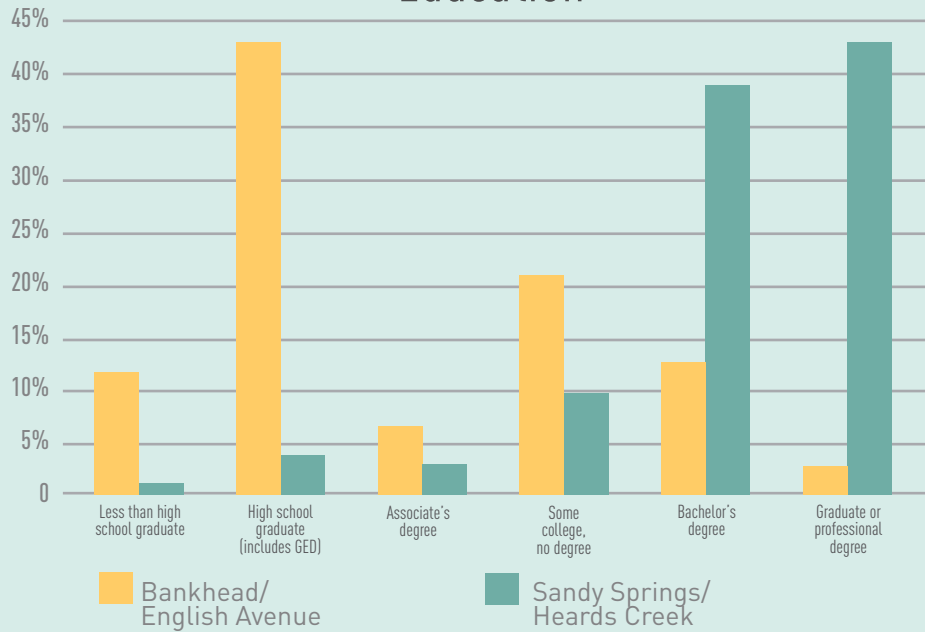
Household Income



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

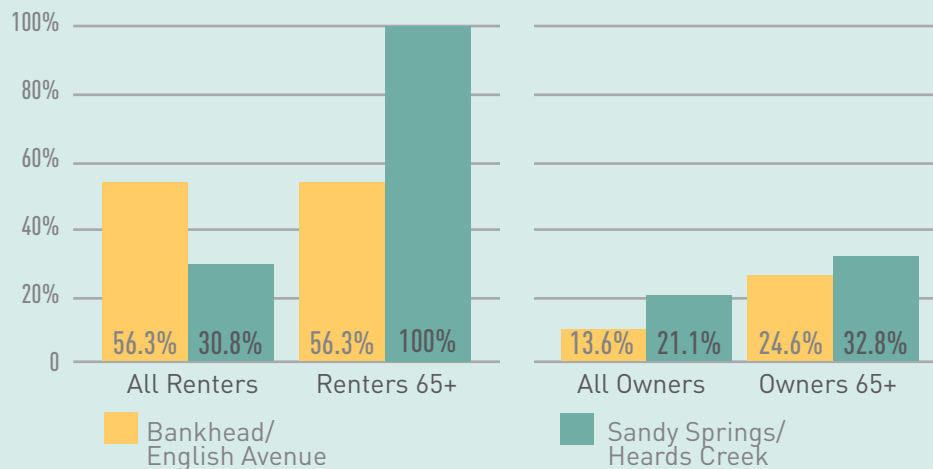
Education



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. A greater percentage of homeowners over the age of 65 are cost-burdened than younger ones in both census tracts.

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

Percent of Fulton County Food Insecure

2018 **12.5%**

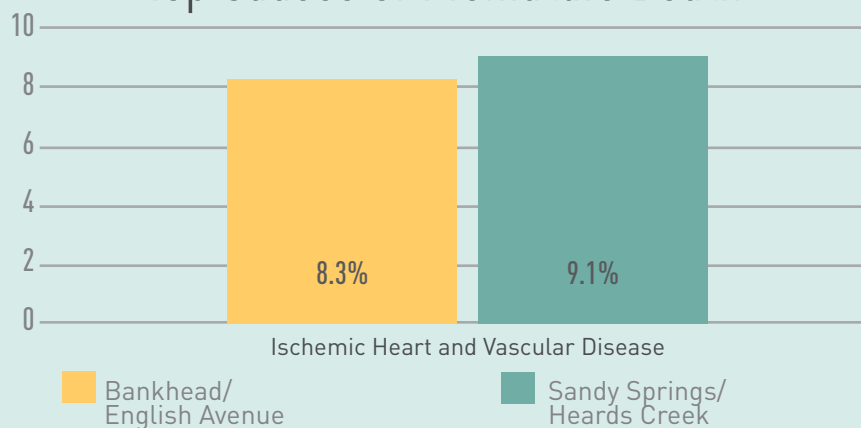
COVID-19* **16.3%**

**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

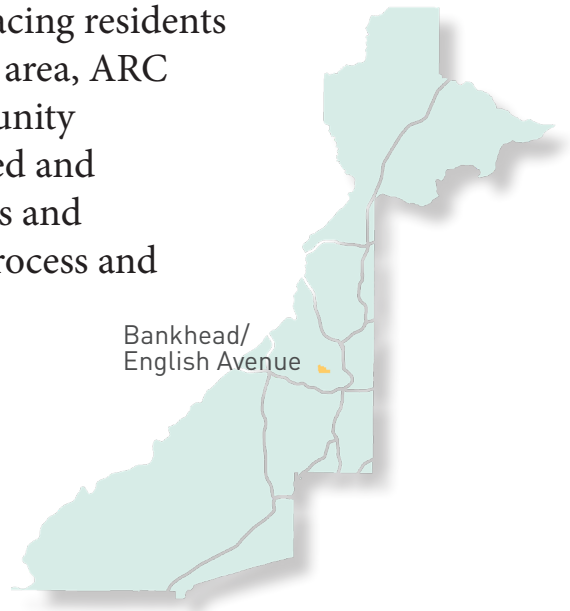


Premature deaths due to these causes can be prevented through interventions in areas such as transportation, access to preventative care, disease management, and mental health services. In the Bankhead/English Avenue tract, 6% of all deaths were due to primary hypertension & hypertensive renal disease, yet there were fewer than five cases in Sandy Springs/Heards Creek.

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

Sustained Engagement

To better understand the issues facing residents in the Bankhead/English Avenue 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 Bankhead/English Avenue community shared 4 issues impacting their quality of life:

- Affordable Housing
- Youth Activities
- Homelessness Resources
- Government Services

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 two community events in Fulton County to conduct broader outreach. They attended a neighborhood festival and a health clinic and engaged over 100 residents. At these events, 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.*

37% of residents chose affordable housing as their top issue

27% of residents chose homelessness resources as their top issue

21% of residents chose government services as their top issue

14% of residents chose youth activities as their top issue

*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 Fulton 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 Fulton County to continue to design evidence-based approaches to health disparities in the county. This includes continuing outreach initiatives in the Bankhead/English Avenue neighborhood, promoting affordable housing and homelessness resources as important policy issues, and spreading awareness about existing disparities. Contact Arin Yost at ayost@atlantaregional.org if you have questions or are interested in partnering in Fulton 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