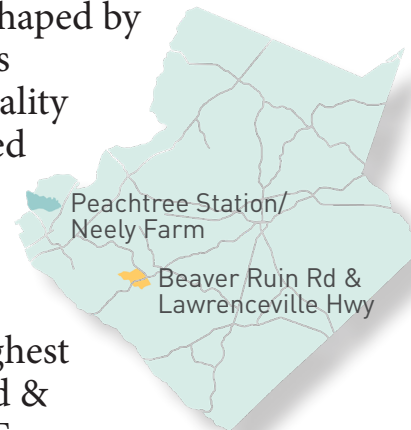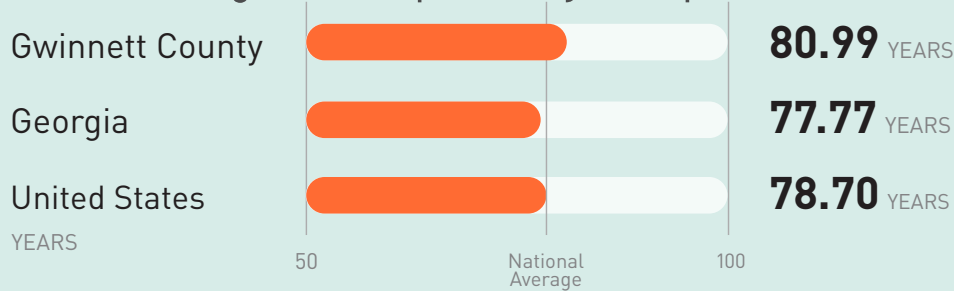# Life Expectancy in Gwinnett County

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 Gwinnett County: Beaver Ruin Rd & Lawrenceville Hwy and Peachtree Station/Neely Farm, respectively. Consideration of these factors can inform strategies that help to extend lifespans and improve quality of life.
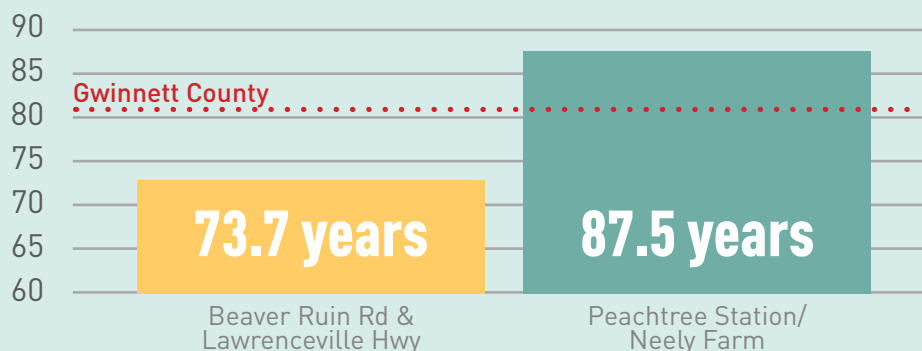
Peachtree Station/
Neely Farm

Beaver Ruin Rd &
Lawrenceville Hwy

Two neighbor-hoods 6 miles apart where the average resident has a life expectancy difference of almost 14 years.

Average Life Expectancy Comparisons

Gwinnett County		**80.99** YEARS
Georgia		**77.77** YEARS
United States		**78.70** YEARS

YEARS

50   National Average   100

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

Life Expectancy in Gwinnett

Gwinnett County

73.7 years — Beaver Ruin Rd & Lawrenceville Hwy
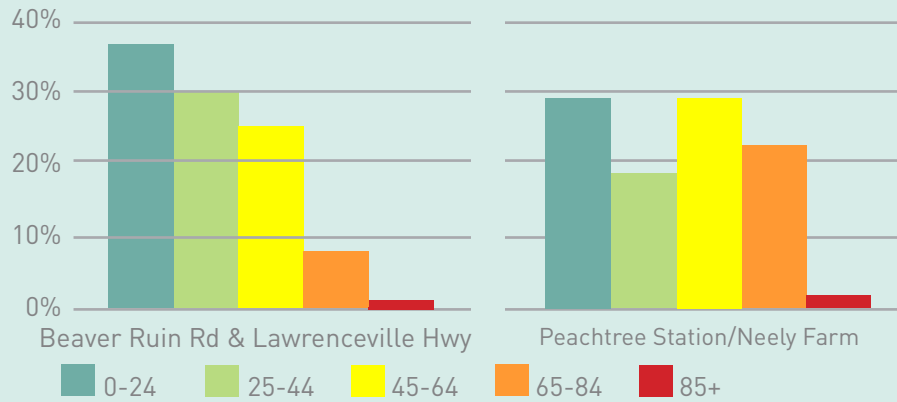
87.5 years — Peachtree Station/Neely Farm

(y-axis: 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90)

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

Factors Affecting Life Expectancy in Gwinnett County

Age Distribution

Legend: 0-24 | 25-44 | 45-64 | 65-84 | 85+
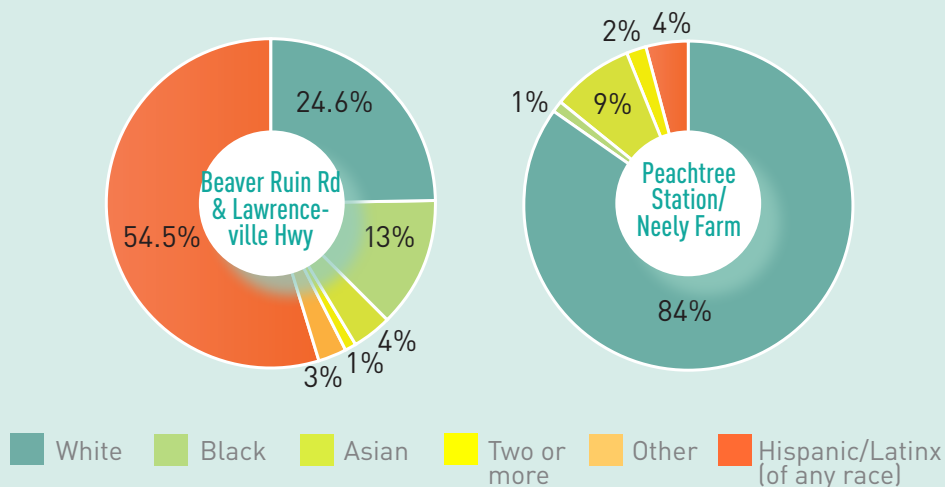
Two-thirds of residents of the Lilburn-Providence Christian Academy tract are under 45, while about half of residents of Peachtree Station/Neely Farm are 45 or older. The metro Atlanta region as a whole is more evenly distributed.

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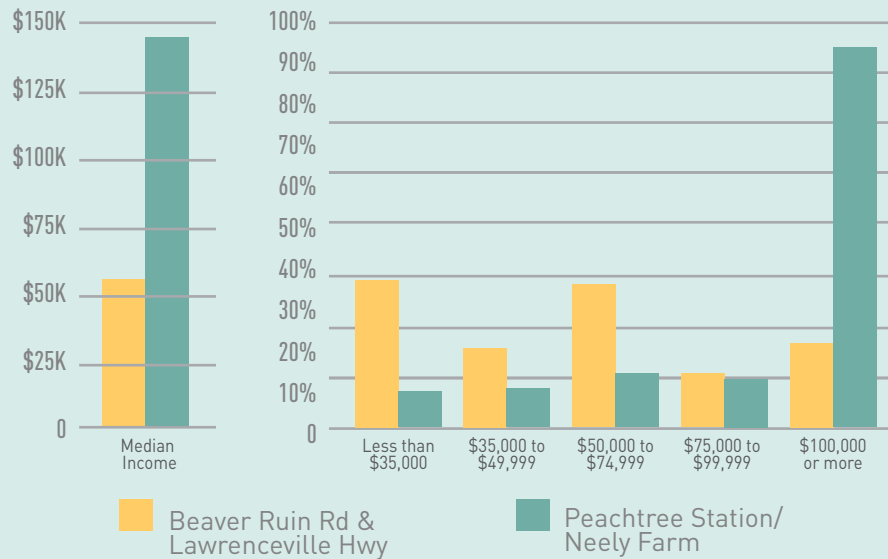
Race & Hispanic Origin

Beaver Ruin Rd & Lawrenceville Hwy: 24.6%, 13%, 4%, 1%, 3%, 54.5%

Peachtree Station/Neely Farm: 84%, 9%, 1%, 2%, 4%

Legend: White | Black | Asian | Two or more | Other | Hispanic/Latinx (of any race)

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
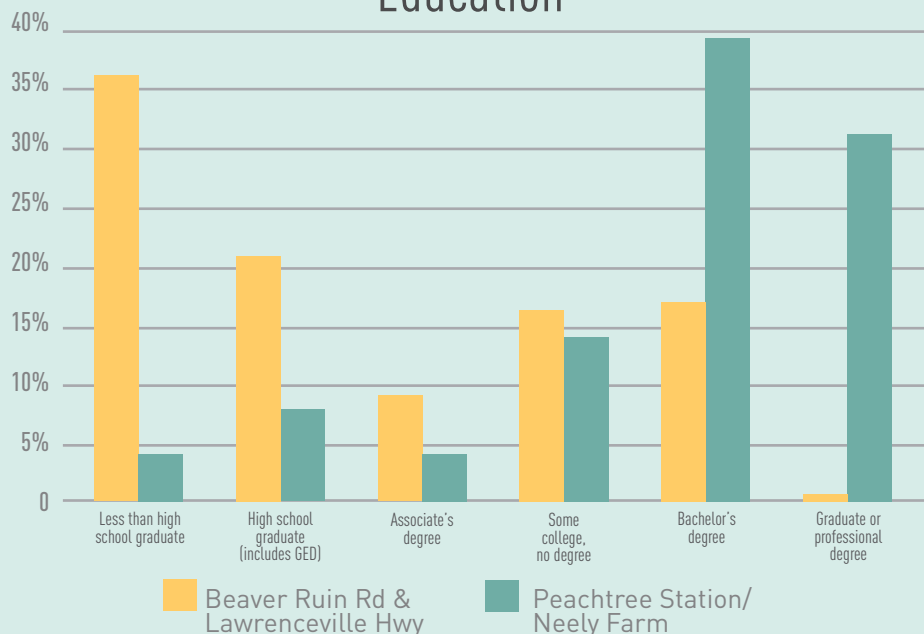
Household Income

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.

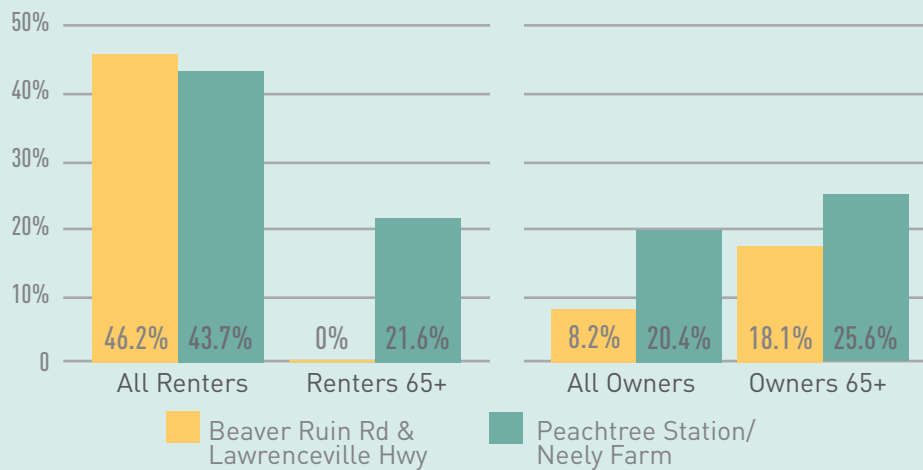Data Source: US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019

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
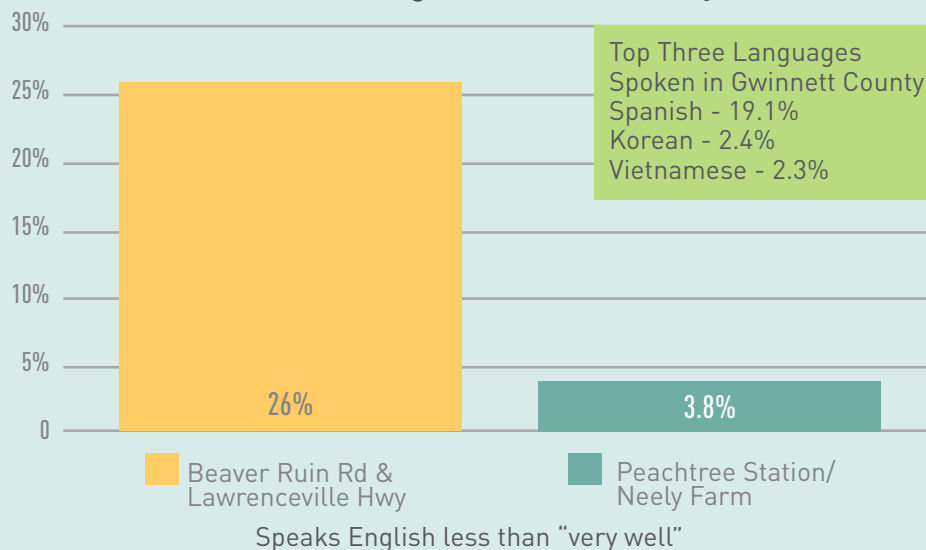
Housing Cost-Burdened Households

Category	Beaver Ruin Rd & Lawrenceville Hwy	Peachtree Station/ Neely Farm
All Renters	46.2%	43.7%
Renters 65+	0%	21.6%
All Owners	8.2%	20.4%
Owners 65+	18.1%	25.6%

Legend:
- Beaver Ruin Rd & Lawrenceville Hwy
- Peachtree Station/ Neely Farm

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.

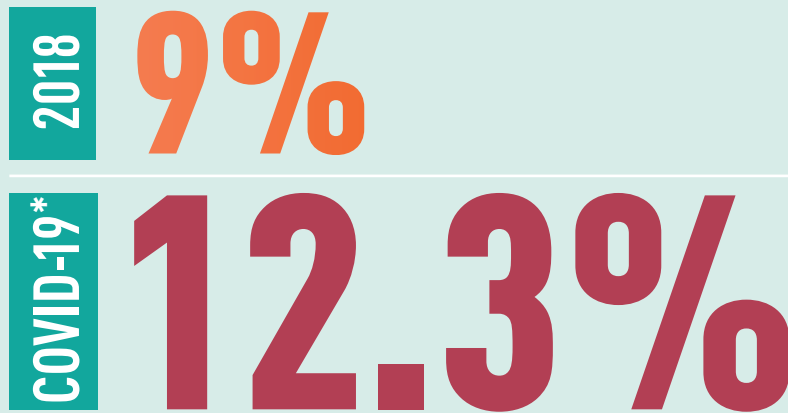Data Source: US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019

Limited English Proficiency

Top Three Languages Spoken in Gwinnett County
Spanish - 19.1%
Korean - 2.4%
Vietnamese - 2.3%

Beaver Ruin Rd & Lawrenceville Hwy	Peachtree Station/ Neely Farm
26%	3.8%

Speaks English less than "very well"

People who do not speak English well often rely on informal networks and sources of information unless translated and culturally-appropriate information and services are available.

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

Percent of Gwinnett County Food Insecure

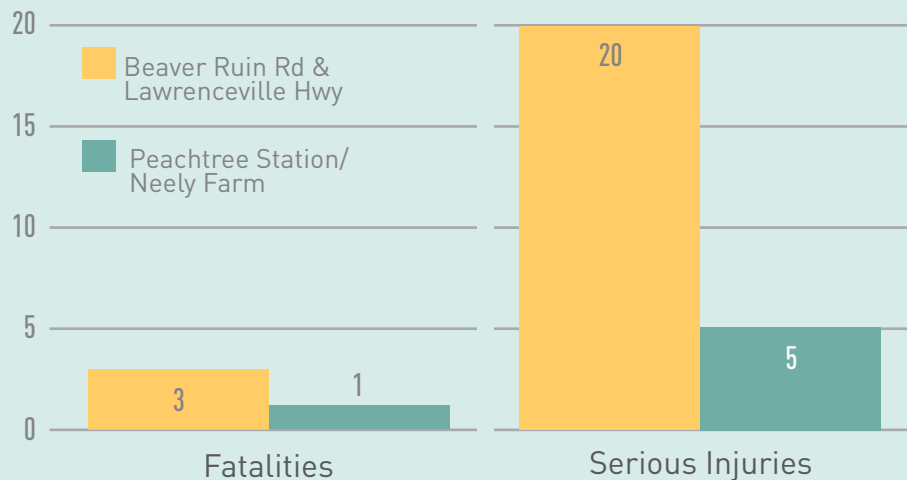**2018** **9%**

COVID-19* **12.3%**

*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.

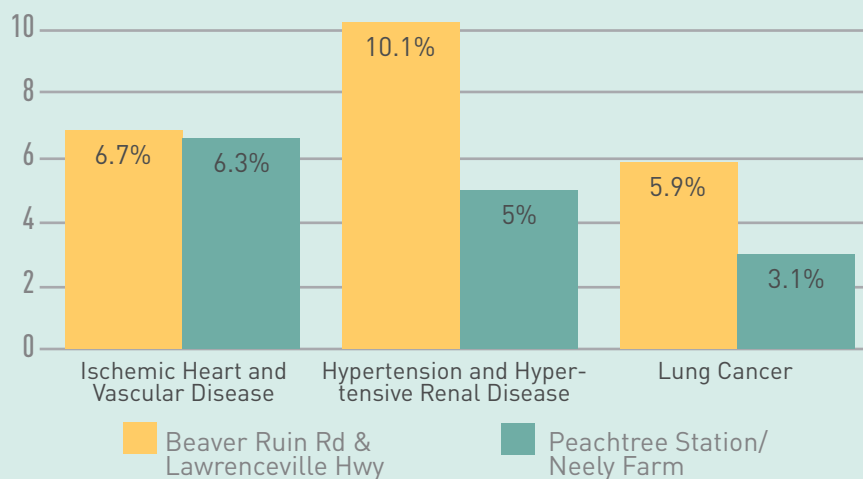Data Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap, 2018

Crashes Involving Motor Vehicles

Legend:
- Beaver Ruin Rd & Lawrenceville Hwy
- Peachtree Station/ Neely Farm

Fatalities: 3, 1
Serious Injuries: 20, 5

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

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

Top Causes of Premature Death

Chart showing percentages for three causes across two areas:

Cause	Beaver Ruin Rd & Lawrenceville Hwy	Peachtree Station/ Neely Farm
Ischemic Heart and Vascular Disease	6.7%	6.3%
Hypertension and Hypertensive Renal Disease	10.1%	5%
Lung Cancer	5.9%	3.1%

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.

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

Sustained Engagement

To better understand the issues facing residents in the Indian Lake 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 Indian Lake community shared 6 issues impacting their quality of life:

- Affordable Housing

- Public Transportation

- Safety & Security

- Affordable Healthcare

- Affordable Fresh Foods

- Homelessness Resources

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 Gwinnett County to conduct broader outreach. They attended a drive-through food distribution event and engaged over 100 residents. 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.*

33% of residents chose affordable housing as their top issue

21% of residents chose affordable healthcare as their top issue

15% of residents chose homelessness resources as their top issue

12% of residents chose access to affordable fresh foods as their top issue

10% of residents chose safety and security as their top issue

9% of residents chose access to public transportation 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 Gwinnett 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 Gwinnett County to continue to design evidence-based approaches to health disparities in the county. This includes continuing outreach initiatives in the Indian Lake neighborhood, promoting affordable housing and healthcare 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 Gwinnett 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

For more information, please contact **info@empowerline.org**