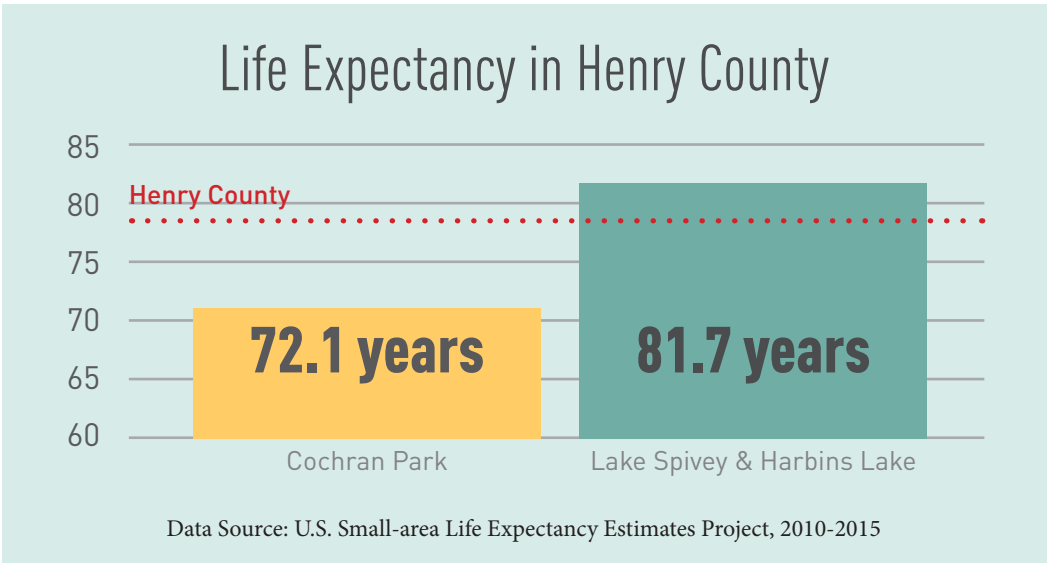
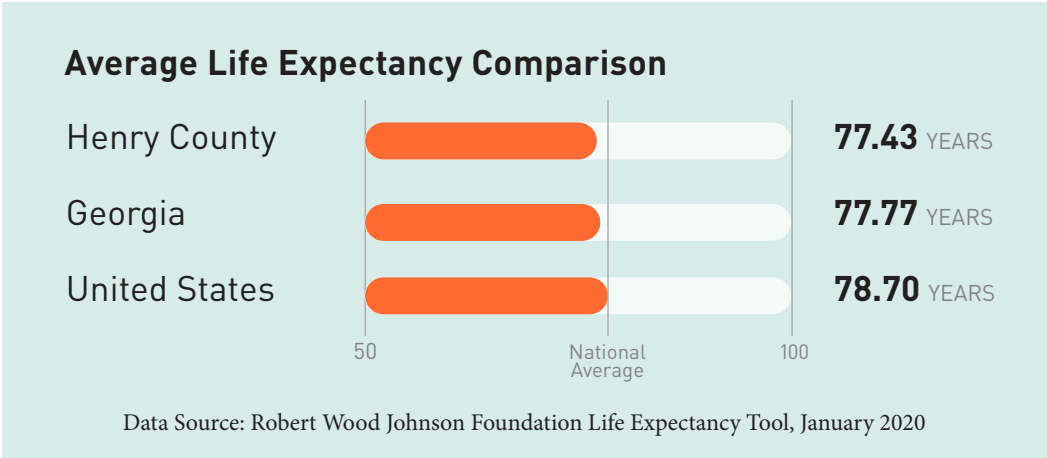


# Life Expectancy in Henry County

July 2021

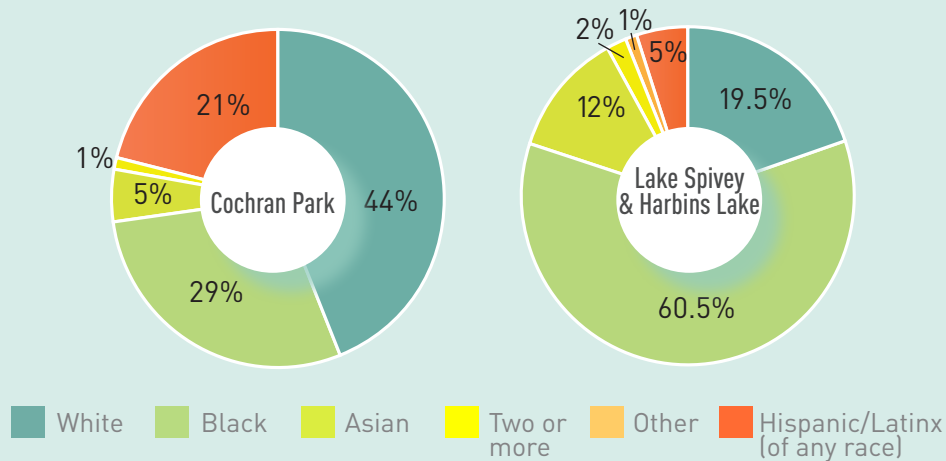
Across metro Atlanta, lifespans vary by as much as two decades or more based on geography. Life expectancy is shaped by numerous complex factors beyond an individual's control, such as access to food, sidewalks, and quality education. Many of these factors can be influenced by our work at ARC and that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

This document provides a snapshot of select social and economic characteristics that impact life expectancy and vary between the census tracts with the lowest and highest life expectancy in Henry County: Stockbridge/Cochran Park and Lake Spivey/Harbins Lake, respectively. Consideration of these factors can inform strategies that help to extend lifespans and improve quality of life.



# Factors Affecting Life Expectancy in Henry County

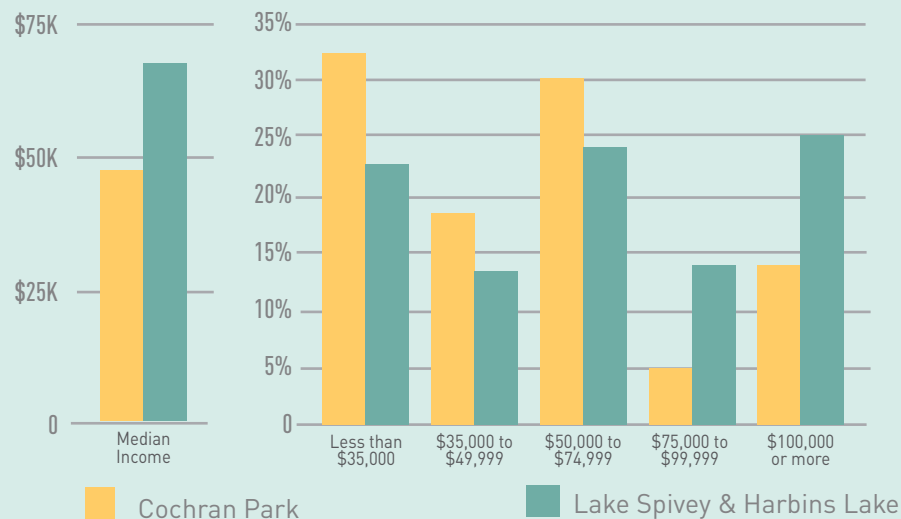
## Race & Hispanic Origin



On average, studies have shown that white individuals outlive other individuals at every age and level of education. There are, however, some exceptions like these two census tracts where the census tract with a higher proportion of Black residents has a longer average life expectancy overall. However systemic racism, including its effect on socioeconomic status and access to health care, may still decrease life expectancy at the individual level.

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

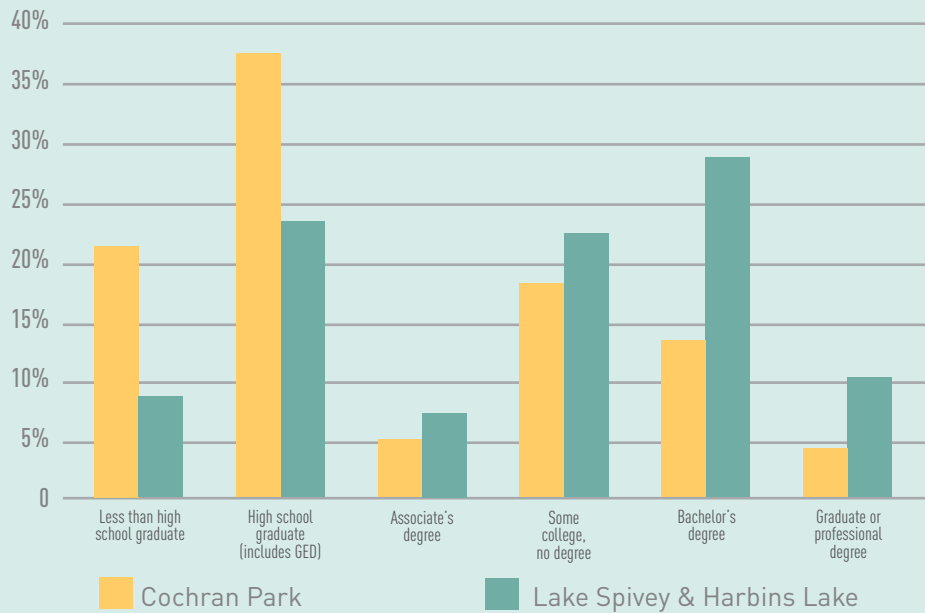
## Household Income



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

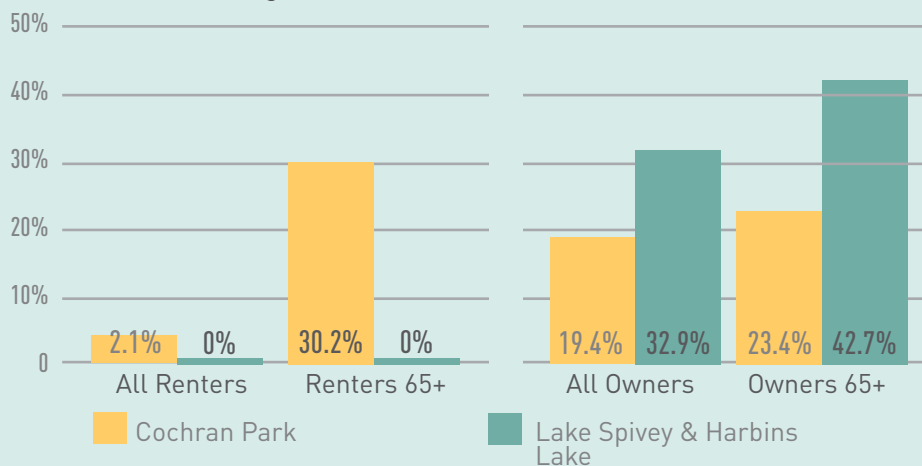
## Education



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

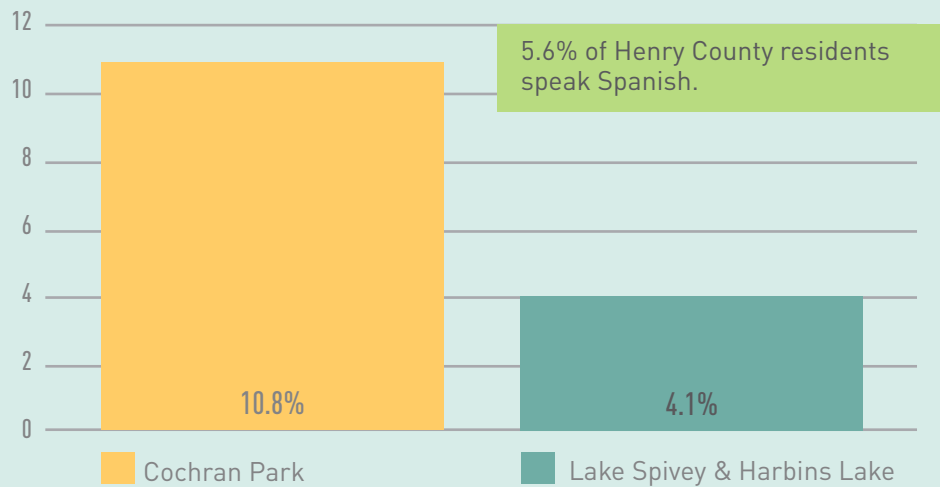
## Housing Cost-Burdened Households



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

## Limited English Proficiency

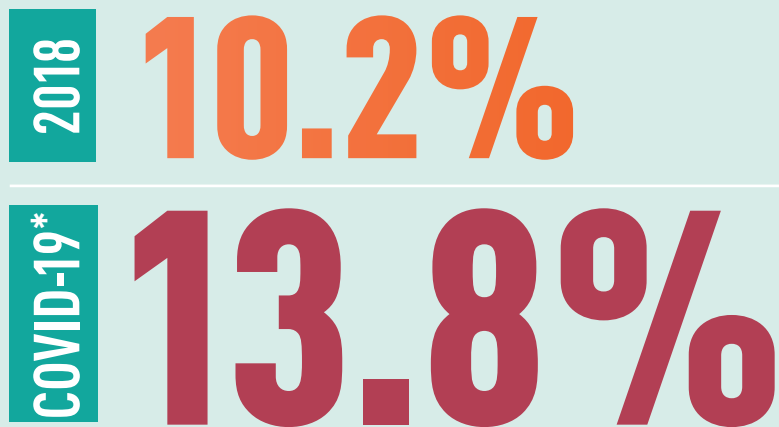


Speaks English less than "very well"

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 Henry County Food Insecure

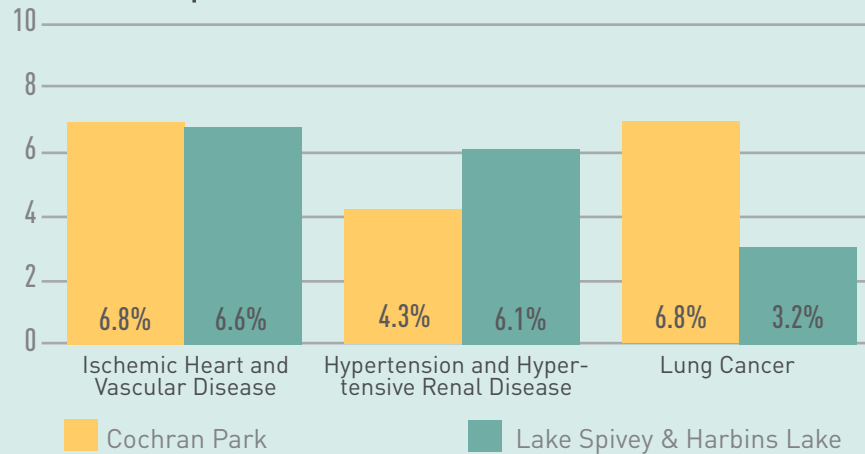


*\*projected rise due to COVID*

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

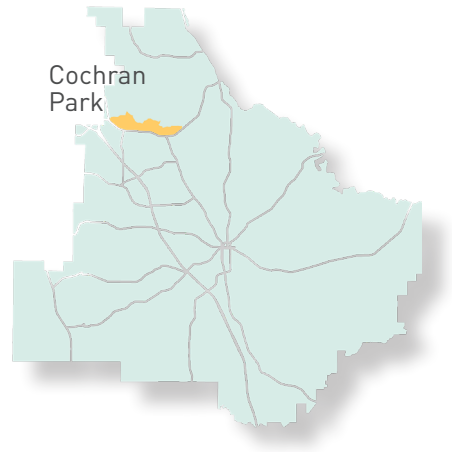


Premature deaths due to these causes can be prevented through interventions in areas such as transportation, access to preventative care, disease management, and mental health services.

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

# Sustained Engagement

To better understand the issues facing residents in the Cochran 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 Cochran Park community shared 5 issues impacting their quality of life:

- Affordable Housing
- Public Transportation
- Senior Services
- Affordable Healthcare
- Increased Community Activities

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 Henry County to conduct broader outreach. They attended a mobile health clinic organized at a local care home. 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.\*

**27%** of residents chose affordable housing as their top issue

**22%** of residents chose affordable healthcare as their top issue

**22%** of residents chose access to public transportation as their top issue

**16%** of residents chose affordable healthcare as their top issue

**14%** of residents chose senior services 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 Henry 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 Henry County to continue to design evidence-based approaches to health disparities in the county. This includes continuing outreach initiatives in the Cochran Park neighborhood, promoting affordable housing, healthcare, and transportation options 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 Henry 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)