Planning for Aging: Does Gender Matter?

Does Gender Matter? YES!

- Women live longer, have lower income and wealth
- Women bear a greater share of the care burden:
  - For children, for elders and for partners
- Poor and minority women are especially vulnerable

A Gender Lens Requires a Multi-Generational Planning Approach

Planners and Gender Bias

- Transportation planning is biased toward commuting instead of mobility
  - This creates challenges for women, children and seniors.
- Planners give insufficient attention to formal care supports for women:
  - Child care, elder care, social supports
- Planners give almost no attention to informal networks for care support
  - Family, friend and neighbor networks
Three Arenas for Planning

- **Foster Individual Independence** (Inclusive Design)
- **Promote Formal Services** (Market and Government)
- **Support Informal Networks** (Family, Friends and Neighbors)

Take a Lifelong Approach
The link between design and services

Suburbs and Rural have more seniors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Metro Core</th>
<th>Suburban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population 65+ years old</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population growth in 65+ years old</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population less than 18 years old</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty rate 65+ years old</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty rate under 18 years old</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per capita income</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services for Seniors</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>22</td>
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</tbody>
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Rural and suburbs lag in elder service delivery.

Source: N=1,430 local governments, 2010 Maturing of America survey. Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of survey questions in each category.
Planning and Participation increase service delivery levels by 3-6 services

Planning for elders (strategic plan, comp. plan, zoning & building codes)

Elder participation in planning

Inter-generational programs

Government

Non-profit

For-profit

Market

+ leads to more services available

Regression results controlled for population, poverty, metro status, government finance and city manager government.

Rural and Suburbs do more planning

Rural Areas

Suburbs

Planning for seniors

More single-family homes (municipalities)

More mobile homes (counties)

+ leads to more

- leads to less

Regression results controlled for population, poverty, metro status, government finance and council manager government.

Planning Matters!

- **Planning and elder participation** – Stimulate both a government and a market response
- **Potential for Multi-generational Planning** - Limited evidence of tradeoff between needs of elders and needs of children
- **Capacity constraints not as strong as feared** - Rural and suburbs do more after controlling for population size
- **New Urbanism is not the only approach** - Address physical design, service delivery and informal networks

www.mildredwarner.org/planning

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