

## Usage Guide for the Profile of Older Floridians

The DOEA Profile of Older Floridians (Profiles) provides a range of data on older adults that are organized at the state, regional, and county levels. This information is divided into different sections that are organized around key themes: demographics, finances, livability, health and medical resources, and disaster preparedness. The information is meant to assist the user with an understanding of the needs and distribution of older adults throughout the state of Florida. This usage guide will present common scenarios for use, help the reader understand the purpose of the data and sections, and provide a definition for some of the more complicated factors included in the Profiles.

### Section I. Best Practice Scenarios of DOEA Profile Use

The DOEA Profile of Older Floridians has been used by the Department and Aging Network partners for more than 13 years, and it has grown to be a touchstone for myriad publications and work products. The following scenarios are examples of different types of applications for the data elements compiled in the DOEA Profile. Other examples are noted in the definitions presented in Section II.

Scenario 1: An Area Agency on Aging is working on a grant to target underserved populations at risk of homelessness. Using the county profiles' financial section, the grant writer can determine how many elders in their county are below the poverty level. In addition, they could identify rates of home renters below poverty. By comparing Florida's profile to their own county's profile, a grant writer could also expand their proposal if minorities in poverty or other at-risk groups are more prevalent in their area.

Scenario 2: A community which has joined the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities (Network) is creating its Age-Friendly Action Plan to become a Livable Community and wants to partner with its county government to provide more sidewalk barriers. Under the livability section of the county profile, the local group can use information on the percent of sidewalks with barriers, involvement in vehicle crashes, and percent of senior households with vehicle access to educate government officials on the need for more pedestrian safety features.

Scenario 3: A Lead Agency is working with local relief organization volunteers to educate and prepare elders in their county for hurricane season. Using the health and medical resources section of the profiles, they compile a short county risk assessment denoting they are in a medically underserved area and showing the high number of coastal assisted living facilities and hospitals. Using the new disaster preparedness section of the profiles, they help volunteers recognize the importance of targeting their outreach to electricity-dependent individuals and populations in evacuation zones and provide information materials to share regarding the shelter resources and local processes for registration.

## Section II. Definitions of Profile Factors

### *Elder Needs Index (ENI)*

A map of the region is included on the front page with information on the area's Elder Needs Index (ENI). The ENI is a composite measure that includes: (1) the percentage of the 60 and older population that is age 85 and older; (2) the percentage of the 55 and older population that are members of racial or ethnic minority groups; (3) the percentage of the 65 and older population with one or more disability; and (4) the percentage of the 55 and older population living below 125 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. This information is drawn from the American Community Survey and is meant to indicate a senior's overall level of risk for a need for social services within a geographic area. A legend is included in each map, where darker regions indicate a higher ENI value and therefore a higher likelihood of a need for social services.

### *Demographic Profile*

The demographic profile provides a breakdown of the area's population. There are several important areas in this section for a given issue at hand. For example, the demographic profile provides information on the number of older adults who live alone and the veteran population. This information can be critical for outreach groups or in the event of a natural disaster. Also, this section provides the number of older adults who are registered voters and have a driver's license, which may be indications of social and civic participation. Information provided about the number of older adults who are considered limited English is estimated based on those who report they do not speak English well or at all. This information is important for forecasting the number of older adults who may need access to translated documents or translation services.

The demographic profile includes two new population figures. The first is a population pyramid that presents the state population divided by gender and age groups. This pyramid contrasts the current population against the projected population to show the increase in the portion of older adults projected in the coming years. The second figure is a dependency ratio, which depicts the number of older adults for every ten working-age (15-64) individuals. A higher ratio of older adults to younger persons represents a system that has fewer workers to pay taxes to support services that are provided through state and federal public assistance and healthcare programs.

### *Financial Profile*

This section presents information on poverty, cost of living, and the number of older adults who receive different forms of social services. The section includes the median household income for the area to help understand the factors related to the cost-of-living. There is a cost-of-living measure for each profile, which is the amount to meet basic needs without public or private assistance, by occupancy type for adults age 65 or more. This measures basic expenses for adults age 65 or older living in the community, not in institutions. Annual expenses include housing, including utilities, taxes, insurance; food; transportation; health care, based on good health; and miscellaneous. The Federal Poverty Level is overlaid in this figure, to provide a reference point for the measure of income used to determine eligibility for certain public subsidies, programs,

and benefits.<sup>1</sup> The cost-of-living figure helps place the expected cost of living into context by comparing it to median income levels and the federal poverty level for each area. This includes a figure with the senior population by income relative to the poverty level, which includes vertical lines that represent the Federal Poverty Level. Furthermore, the figure demonstrates where most older adults in an area fall relative to the Federal Poverty Level.

### *Livability Profile*

The Livability section provides information on the access older adults have to resources in their neighborhoods that can help them stay connected with their social networks and the broader community. Included are housing occupancy of older adults and quality-of-life resources such as access to vehicles, the internet, and housing options. Access includes affordability, thus the number of adults age 65 or more who have a high-cost burden (i.e. people who spend a high amount of their income on housing and related costs and have a low income relative to the cost of living in the area where they live) is provided. This section also provides information on food stamp usage and the availability of low-cost (or no-cost) food distribution centers to help older adults have access to nutritious meals. Overall, this section can help identify areas where a community may be able to improve factors that contribute to livability.

### *Health Profile and Medical Resource Profile*

This section provides information on the number of medical resources in each area. This includes the number of medical professionals registered with the Department of Health and the number of facilities that provide care for older adults (e.g. nursing homes, hospitals, etc.). This information can help provide local agencies with information on the capacity and shortages of their local health system. The health and medical sections also provide a breakdown of the number of older adults with different types of functional disabilities. It also includes the number of probable Alzheimer's disease cases for the 65 or older population.<sup>2</sup>

Medically underserved areas and populations are indicated for those who have too few primary care providers, high infant mortality, high poverty or a high older adult population. The information provided is a count of the number of older adults in each area who reside in areas that are classified as medically underserved.<sup>3</sup>

### *Disaster Preparedness Section*

This section provides the reader with the resources and information needed in the event of a disaster in the area. Information regarding electricity dependency is featured. Because of the

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<sup>1</sup> The income cutoffs for poverty depend on the size of the household. Information on the current federal poverty rate can be found here: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/2019-poverty-guidelines>.

<sup>2</sup> Probable Alzheimer's is an estimate of the number of people who have Alzheimer's, this is calculated by looking at the age of the population in an area. The original research is published: Hebert, L. E., Weuve, J., Scherr, P. A., & Evans, D. A. (2013). Alzheimer Disease in the United States (2010–2050) Estimated Using the 2010 Census. *Neurology*, 80(19), 1778-1783

<sup>3</sup> This information is calculated using population data in areas designated by HRSA as Medically Underserved Areas or Populations

need for these electricity-powered devices, these are individuals who have unique threats to their safety and health without electricity. These items are defined in Section III.

Also included in this section is information on evacuation zones by area. This includes the entire older adult population who reside within less than about 62 miles of an evacuation zone and clients served by the state who reside within one of the five emergency evacuation zones (A through E). This information can help a wide variety of organizations and agencies know the number of potential older adults who might need assistance preparing for or recovering from a disaster.

### **Section III. Definitions of Key Profile Elements**

There are several definitions used in the profiles that are based on concepts or calculations developed and maintained by other entities. These are included in the profiles due to their unique relevance to an older adult population.

- **Cost-Burden** refers to adults age 65 or more who are paying more than 30 percent of their income for housing costs (including utilities) and have an income below 50 percent of the area median income. Those with higher cost burdens spend a high amount of their income on housing and related costs and have a low income relative to the cost of living in the area where they live.
- **Electricity Dependent** is a concept defined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Electricity-dependent refers to the total number of beneficiaries with claims in CMS databases from the prior month for use of electricity-dependent medical technologies, such as: ventilator, BiPAP, enteral feeding machine, intravenous (IV) infusion pump, suction pump, at-home dialysis machine, electric wheelchair, electric scooter, or electric bed equipment in the past 13 months; oxygen concentrator equipment in the past 36 months; and implanted cardiac devices that include left ventricular assistive device (LVAD), right ventricular assistive device (RVAD), bi-ventricular assistive device (BIVAD), or a total artificial heart (TAH) in the past five years.
- **Evacuation Zones** are defined by FEMA according to the potential storm surge height necessary to merit an evacuation. The following historical storm surge heights are used to designate each evacuation zone: Zone A up to 11 feet, Zone B up to 15 feet, Zone C up to 20 feet, Zone D up to 28 feet, and Zone E up to 35 feet.
- **Extended Congregate Care License** means a facility licensed to provide any of the services under a standard license and Limited Nursing Services (LNS) license, including any nursing service permitted within the scope of the nurse's license consistent with assisted living facility (ALF) residency requirements and the facility's written policy and procedures. A facility with this type of license enables residents to age in place in a residential environment despite mental or physical limitations that might otherwise disqualify them from residency under a standard or LNS license.

- Limited English Proficiency is an estimate calculated by the Department that combines the number of older adults who report they “do not speak English well” or “do not speak English at all.”
- Limited Mental Health License is any facility intending to admit three or more mental health residents. To obtain this status, a facility must apply for the license from Florida’s Agency for Health Care Administration’s Assisted Living Unit before accepting the third mental health resident.
- Limited Nursing Services License enables an ALF to provide, directly or through a contract, a select number of nursing services in addition to the personal services that are authorized by the standard license. The nursing services authorized to be provided under this license may only be provided as authorized by a licensed practitioner’s order.
- Medically Underserved Areas/Populations (MUA/P) are areas or populations designated by Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) as having too few primary care providers, high infant mortality, high poverty or a high older adult population. This information is calculated using the HRSA designation and population information. If the entire county is designated then the MUA/P includes the entire population of 60 or older. If it is a Census tract then it is the population by census tract for 60 or older. If the designation is due to low income it is the population of low-income adults who are 60 or older.
- Optional State Supplementation (OSS) is a cash assistance program. Its purpose is to supplement a person's income to help pay for costs in an assisted living facility, a mental health residential treatment facility, or an adult family care home. (Not a Medicaid program.)
- Probable Alzheimer’s is an estimate of the number of people who have Alzheimer’s. This is calculated by DOEA using a multiplier for ten-year age cohorts against the population over age 65 in an area.
- The Federal Poverty Level is issued annually by the US Department of Health and Human Services. This information is used for administrative purposes, including determining financial eligibility for certain federal programs and varies by family size. As of 2018, the Federal Poverty Level for a single-person household is \$12,140. When referring to 125% of the Federal Poverty Line this refers to those who make an income that is 25% more than the Federal Poverty Line amount. This would be an annual income for a single-person household of \$15,175.
- Silver Alerts are the number of reported missing persons 60 and older, with a verified cognitive impairment known to law enforcement, such as dementia or Alzheimer's disease.
- Age-Friendly is a designation, and Livable Communities that make up Livable Florida - a place all people can and want to call home - is the outcome. A livable community is a community that is safe and secure, has affordable and appropriate housing and transportation options, and offers supportive community features and services.
- Communities may join the network and become a part of Livable Florida by submitting to AARP a membership application and a letter of commitment from the jurisdiction's highest

elected official. Once a community has joined the network, then materials and resources are provided by AARP and the community must conduct a survey (AARP has developed a survey template that is available in both English and Spanish) and create an action plan. Many communities which have joined the network use a framework - the 8 Domains of Livability - to help them become livable for older adults and people of all ages. 1. *Community support and health system* encompasses affordable, person-centered health care and social services that promote active and independent living. 2. Safe and reliable *transportation* options to increase mobility and community participation. 3. Increased access to *communication and information* sources. 4. Programs that promote *respect and social inclusion* by actively celebrating the valuable contributions of all adults in the community. 5. Creating opportunities that allow people to engage in *civic participation and employment*. 6. Easy access to social and cultural activities to increase *social participation*. 7. Appropriate and affordable *housing* that promotes and supports aging in place. 8. Accessible *outdoor spaces and buildings* that encourage active participation and recreation. Counties represented in AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities are designated in the Profiles by the Livable Florida logo.

- Rural-Urban Designation is based on the rural-urban commuting area (RUCA) codes that classify U.S. census tracts using measures of population density, urbanization, and daily commuting. The most recent RUCA codes are based on data from the 2010 decennial census and the 2006-10 American Community Survey. The classification contains two levels. Whole numbers (1-10) delineate metropolitan, micropolitan, small town, and rural commuting areas based on the size and direction of the primary (largest) commuting flows. Rural areas are those that take on RUCA codes 4 through 10 and Urban areas have RUCA codes 1 through 3. For more information on each RUCA code please visit <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/rural-urban-commuting-area-codes>.