Evaluating Needs of Older Adults in Massachusetts Communities

Hayley P. Gleason  
*University of Massachusetts Boston*

Caitlin Coyle  
*University of Massachusetts Boston*

Bernard A. Steinman  
*University of Massachusetts Boston, bernard.steinman@umb.edu*

Ceara R. Somerville  
*University of Massachusetts Boston*

Jan Mutchler  
*University of Massachusetts Boston, jan.mutchler@umb.edu*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://scholarworks.umb.edu/ocp_posters](http://scholarworks.umb.edu/ocp_posters)

Part of the [Civic and Community Engagement Commons](http://scholarworks.umb.edu/ocp_posters), and the [Gerontology Commons](http://scholarworks.umb.edu/ocp_posters)

Recommended Citation

Gleason, Hayley P.; Coyle, Caitlin; Steinman, Bernard A.; Somerville, Ceara R.; and Mutchler, Jan, "Evaluating Needs of Older Adults in Massachusetts Communities" (2014). *Office of Community Partnerships Posters*. Paper 269.  
[http://scholarworks.umb.edu/ocp_posters/269](http://scholarworks.umb.edu/ocp_posters/269)

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of Community Partnerships at ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. It has been accepted for inclusion in Office of Community Partnerships Posters by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. For more information, please contact library.uasc@umb.edu.
Evaluating Needs of Older Adults in Massachusetts Communities

Hayley P. Gleason, Caitlin Coyle, Bernard A. Steinman, Ceara R. Somerville, and Jan E. Mutchler
Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging, John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies

Background
Throughout Massachusetts, the ongoing demographic shift toward an older population has required most cities and towns to re-evaluate the adequacy of services and programs for older adults.

By 2030, the vast majority of municipalities in Massachusetts will have unprecedented proportions of people age 60 or over.

Community Partners
The Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging (CSDRA) contracts with COAs in communities to conduct multicomponent needs assessments aimed at identifying gaps in programs and services, and bringing to light interests and preferences of older residents.

Approaches and Methods
A mix of quantitative and qualitative methods are used to develop multidimensional descriptions of towns, their demographics and services/programs, and to identify needs and preferences of older residents.

Results/Impacts
In contracting with CSDRA, individual communities usually have specific long-term goals. Anecdotal evidence suggests that evaluations have been used in various capacities to improve quality of life for older constituents served by COAs in communities.

What We Have Learned
- Communities often have difficulties justifying services and supports for older residents vis-à-vis their other competing needs.
- Communities lack good information about their residents, and this is a barrier to their planning.
- A major challenge lies in understanding how the needs of seniors can be met while simultaneously promoting livability for all residents in the community.

Councils on Aging
Most municipalities have Councils on Aging (COA) – agencies charged with establishing priorities, serving as advocates, and offering opportunities to elders, their families, and their caregivers.

Senior Centers administered by COAs promote well-being via services, activities, leadership, and referral to other needed services.