

# Life Expectancy in Douglas County

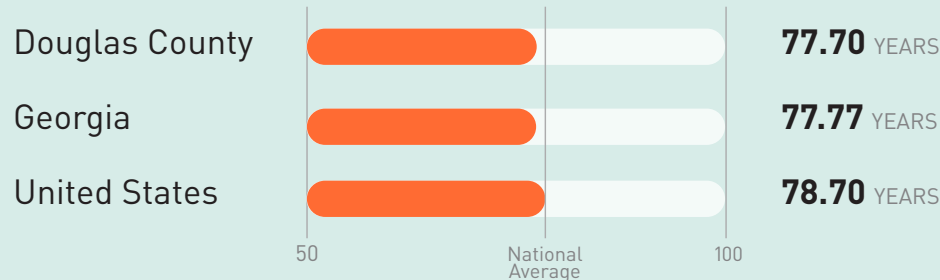
July 2021

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.

The average life expectancy in Douglas County is lower than the average life expectancy across the state of Georgia. The Winston census tract has the lowest life expectancy in Douglas County (72.5 years), which is more than five years shorter than the county's average life expectancy of 77.7 years. Residents in this same tract experience characteristics that both positively and negatively impact life expectancy. This document provides a snapshot of select social and economic characteristics with large discrepancies within this tract, as well as some characteristics for the county. Consideration of these factors can inform strategies that help to extend lifespans and improve quality of life.

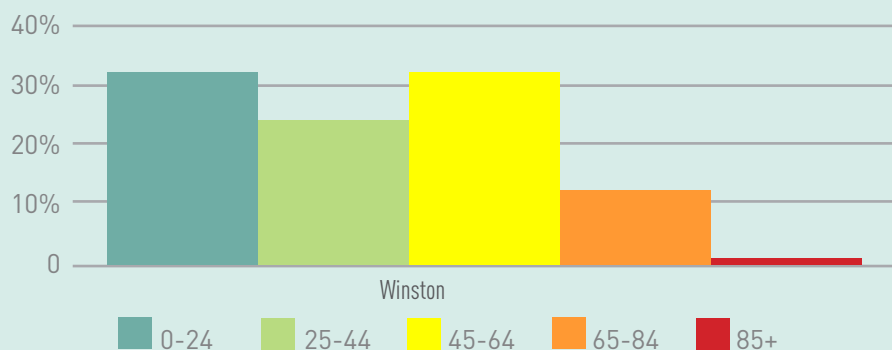


## Average Life Expectancy Comparison



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

## Age Distribution

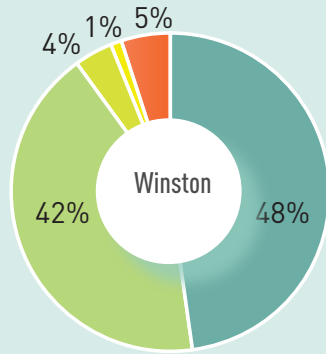


12.5% of residents in the Winston census tract are age 65 or older.

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

# Factors Affecting Life Expectancy in Douglas County

## Race & Hispanic Origin

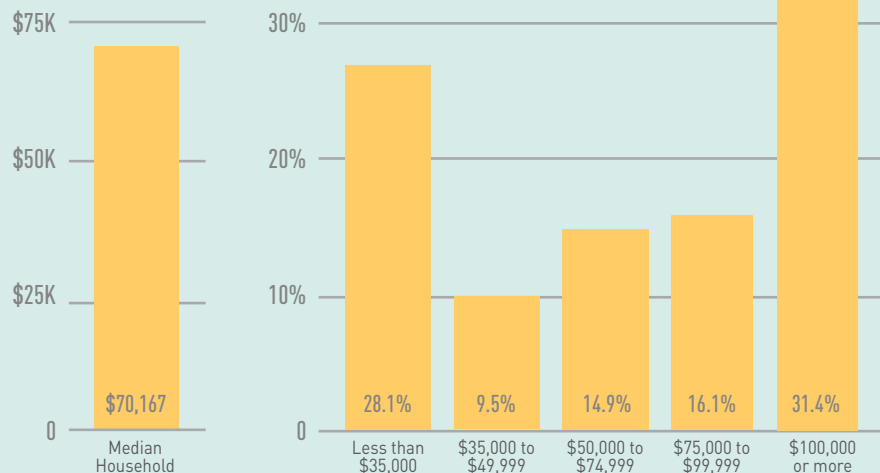


On average, with some minor exceptions, studies have shown that white individuals outlive other individuals at every age and level of education. Reasons for this discrepancy vary by individual, but in general, multiple factors are at play associated with systemic racism, including socioeconomic status and access to health care.



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

## Household Income

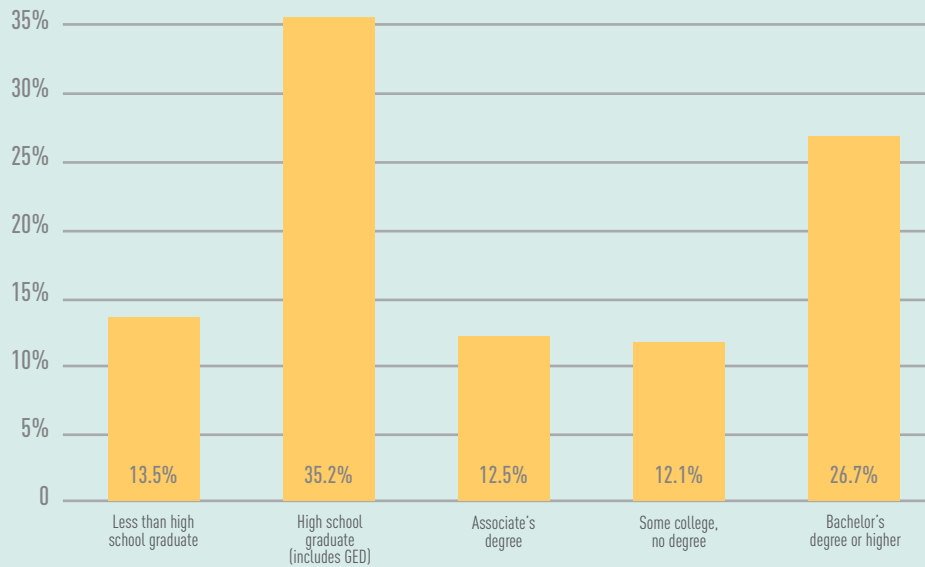


Winston

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. Residents of the lowest life expectancy census tract in Douglas County experience great income disparity, even within the same census tract.

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

## Education

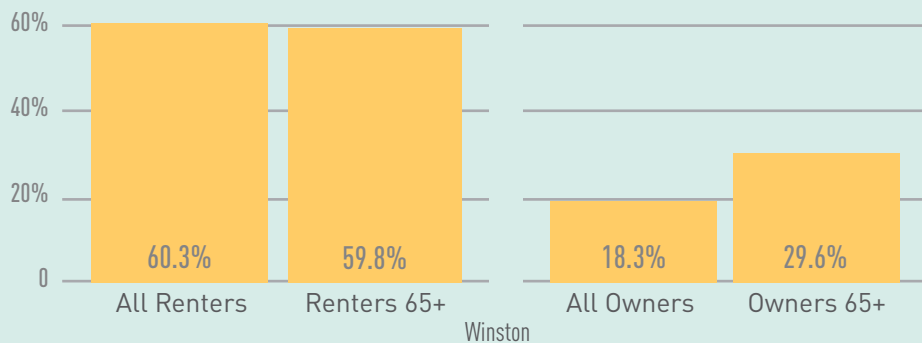


Winston

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. Within the lowest life expectancy tract in Douglas County, one third of residents have a high school education, and over one third of residents also have some college or higher levels of education.

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

## Housing Cost-Burdened Households

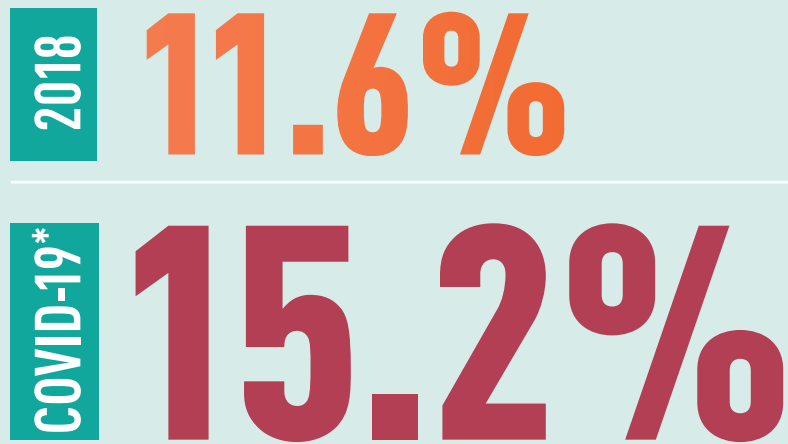


Winston

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.

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

## Percent of Douglas County Food Insecure

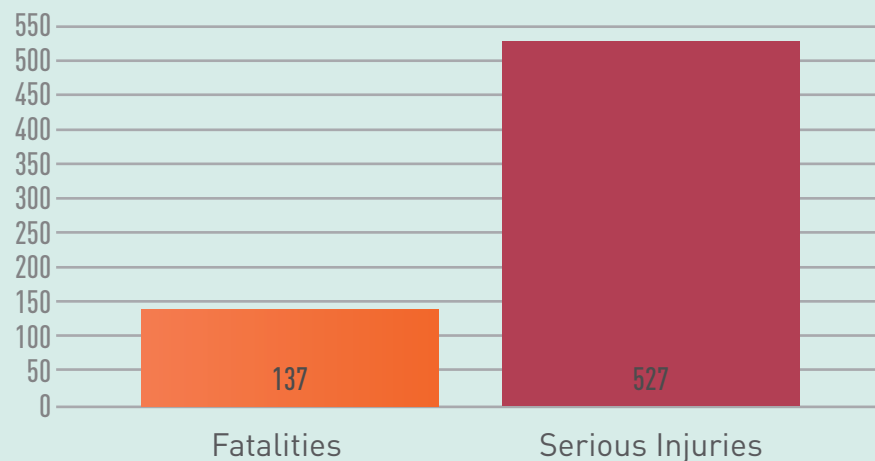


*\*projected rise due to COVID*

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

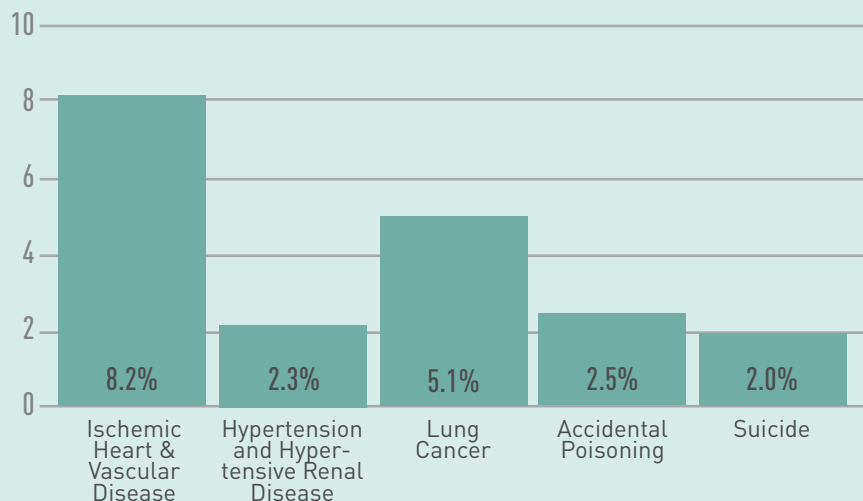
## Crashes Involving Motor Vehicles in Douglas County



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 in Douglas County



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

## 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](mailto:info@empowerline.org)