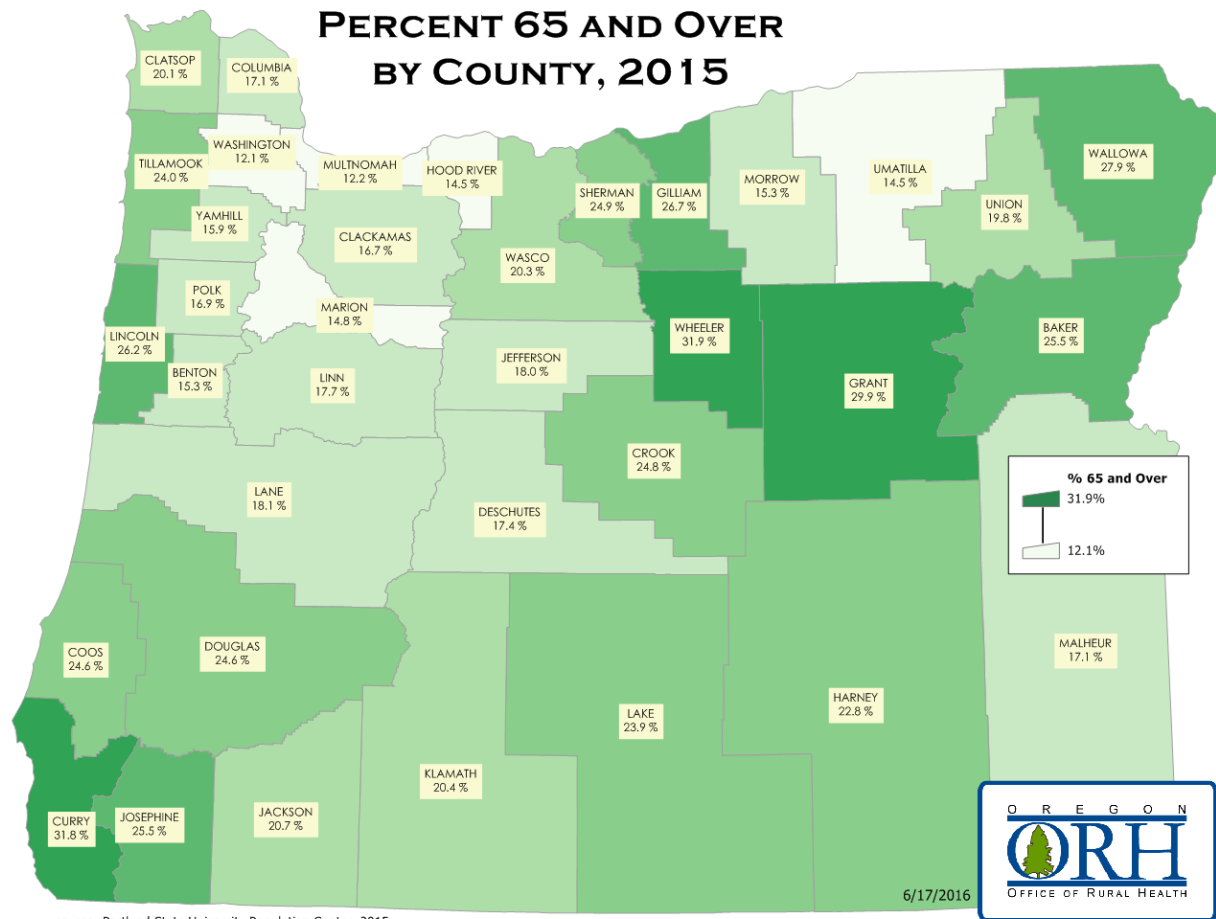


Aging in Rural Oregon & Public Policy



Rural Oregon skews older



1. Outdoor Spaces
and Buildings

2. Transportation

3. Housing

4. Social
Participation

The **AARP** Network of Age-Friendly Communities

and work within

The 8 Domains of Livability

help communities become great for people of all ages

5. Respect and
Social Inclusion

6. Civic Participation
and Employment

7. Communication
and Information

8. Community
and Health Services

Age-Friendly Communities



Domain 1

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

People need places to gather — indoors and out. Parks, sidewalks, safe streets, outdoor seating and accessible buildings (think elevators, stairs with railing, etc.) can be used and enjoyed by people of all ages.



Domain 2

Transportation

Driving shouldn't be the only way to get around. Public transit options can be as expansive as a train system or as targeted as a taxi service that provides non-drivers with rides to and from a doctor's office.

Age-Friendly Communities



Domain 3

Housing

Most older adults want to age in place. Doing so is possible if homes are appropriately designed or modified — and if a community includes affordable housing options for varying life stages.



Domain 4

Social Participation

Regardless of one's age, loneliness negatively affects a person's health and sense of wellbeing. Isolation can be combatted by the availability of accessible, affordable and fun social activities.

Age-Friendly Communities



Domain 5

Respect and Social Inclusion

Intergenerational activities are a great way for young and old to learn from one another, honor what each has to offer and, at the same time, feel good about themselves.



Domain 6

Civic Participation and Employment

An age-friendly community provides ways older people can, if they choose to, work for pay, volunteer their skills and be actively engaged in community life.

Age-Friendly Communities



Domain 7

Communication and Information

Age-friendly communities recognize that not everyone has a smartphone or Internet access and that information needs to be disseminated through a variety of means.



Domain 8

Community and Health Services

At some point, everyone gets hurt, becomes ill or simply needs a bit of help. While it's important that care be available nearby, it's essential that residents are able to access and afford the services required.

Current Policy Discussions in Salem

- Oregon Budget
 - \$1.6 billion hole
 - Cuts to Oregon Project Independence
 - Medicaid Long Term Care
- Quality of care (Purple Ribbon Commission)
- Shortage of caregiving workforce
- Affordable housing
- Prescription drug prices
- Transportation
- Family caregiver supports – training, respite

Current Policy Discussions in Washington, DC

- Affordable Care Act repeal and replacement
 - Medicaid long term care block grants/funding cuts
 - Increased insurance premiums for older people
 - Change in tax credit
 - Age rating – 3 to 1 vs. 5 to 1
- Medicare privatization
- Cuts to Meals on Wheels

What is Different in Rural Oregon than in Urban?

- Transportation needs different, but how?
- Lack of workforce?
- Lack of respite options?
- Housing costs?
- Medical care?
 - Telemedicine
- Caregiver training?
- Information and referral systems?
 - E.g., the ADRC
- Isolation?
- Poverty?
- Elder Abuse
 - Financial and physical