Healthy Homes, Healthy Georgians: The Role of Housing in Population Health
Moderated by GBPI Senior Policy Analyst Laura Harker
Dr. Carol Collard
Founder and CEO of CaringWorks, Inc.

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Associate Professor and Extension Housing Specialist at UGA
Health and Housing: Working Toward Health Equity

Breanna Lathrop, DNP, MPH, FNP-BC
Health Equity
The Life Expectancy Gap

Zip code matters more than genetic code

- Inland Northwest: 4 years
- Las Vegas: 16 years
- Denver: 11 years
- Chicago: 16 years
- Philadelphia: 20 years
- El Paso: 13 years
- Atlanta: 15 years
- Miami: 15 years
The Gap is Actually Worse

Census Tract 97: 87.2

Census Tract 23: 63.6

23.6 year life expectancy gap
Conditions in which people are born, grow, play, work, live, and age affect health and quality of life. Distribution of money, power, resources.

Medical care prevents 10-15% of premature deaths.
Social Determinants of Health

Chronic Stress

- Maladaptive coping mechanisms
- Alterations to neuro and endocrine systems

Premature Aging

Poor Health Outcomes
Shorter Lifespan
Health and Housing

**Housing**
- Homelessness
- Contaminated environments
- Disrepair
- Lack of affordability
- Housing insecurity

**Health**
- Stress
- Respiratory disease
- Communicable diseases
- Mental health
- Violence
- Chronic disease

**Over 3000 homeless in Atlanta**

**Absolute national shortage of 4.6 million rentals available for low income rentals**
Housing as Medicine: Clinic Strategies

- Housing First model
- Integrated, health centric care partnerships

Henry*
Non-verbal schizophrenia,
sleeping outside a church

Mike*
Bipolar, schizophrenia
Sleeping outside
Frequent aggression

Stable Housing
Working part-time
Apply for disability

Stable housing
Decreased aggression
Next Steps

• Increase affordable housing to prevent homelessness and housing insecurity
• Legal protection and representation for renters in Georgia
• Integrated housing and health models
• Housing First approach to homelessness
Pamela R. Tuner, Ph.D.

Associate Professor & Extension Housing Specialist

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• 159 counties
• 1.8 million rural Georgians (approx.)
• Over 1 million houses built before 1978
• 648,000 private wells (2012)
• Close to 9% children diagnosed with asthma
Radon (radon.uga.edu)

- Radioactive element
- Gas formed from gradual breakdown of uranium in soil and rocks
- Colorless, tasteless, odorless
- 2nd leading cause of lung cancer
- May also be found in well water
- EPA Action level: 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L)
Poisonings in Georgia (2018)

Top 5 Substances: By Age

CHILDREN <6 YEARS
- Antihistamines: 5.55%
- Cosmetics/Personal Care Products: 11.20%
- Foreign Bodies/Toys/Miscellaneous: 6.22%
- Analgesics: 8.42%
- Cleaning Substances (Household): 10.36%

ADULTS >19 YEARS
- Bites and Envenomations: 5.77%
- Analgesics: 12.66%
- Cardiovascular Drugs: 6.37%
- Antidepressants: 6.94%
- Sedative/Hypnotics/Antipsychotics: 9.53%
Challenges & Opportunities

- Awareness
- Education & Knowledge
- Access to services
- Resources
- Partnerships
  - Rural Georgia Healthy Housing Advisory Board (SW Georgia)
Thank you

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