

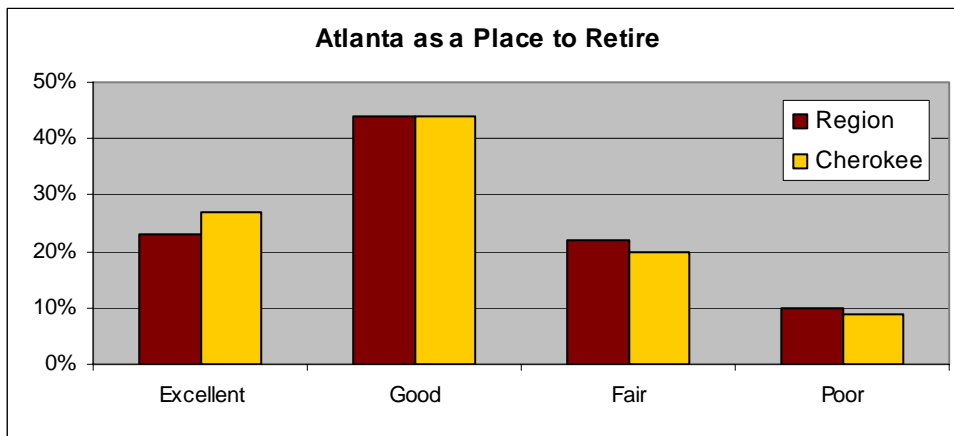
County Profile: CHEROKEE

Older Adults in the Atlanta Region: Preferences, Practices and Potential of the 55+ Population

In the Fall of 2006, the UGA Carl Vinson Institute conducted a survey of the 55+ population living in the ten county Atlanta Region. The following tables and charts summarize the survey's findings for Cherokee County.

Basic Demographics

	Cherokee	Region		Cherokee	Region
55+ population (US Census 2005)	29,134	646,620	Average years in home	14.36	18.74
% of total population 55+	15.8%	16.5%	Average years in region	33.79	37.08
% change in 55+ population 2000-2005	45.8%	30.6%	Have family in the Atlanta region	84%	85%
Projected growth 2005-2030 (ARC Estimate)	247%	127%			



Employment

	Cherokee	Region
Full time employed	27%	20%
Part time employed	8%	12%
Not working at All	65%	67%
Don't Know/Refused		1%

Of those in Cherokee who are not working at all, **73% retired from a full time job.**

Of the working population:

39% plan to continue working full time

36% plan to work part time

21% plan to retire

3% do not know what they will do.

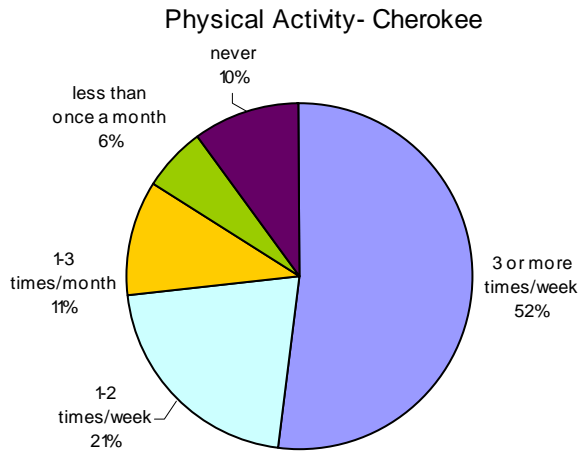
Volunteering

	Cherokee	Region
Volunteer	33%	35%
part time/almost part time	96%	94%
full time/nearly full time	4%	6%
Do not volunteer	67%	65%

Of those in Cherokee who volunteer, **many volunteer weekly (43%)** or intermittently (37%) or while still some volunteer monthly (15%).

Health and Healthcare

Health Status		
	Cherokee	Region
Excellent/very good	47%	48%
Good	27%	29%
Fair	17%	17%
Poor	8%	5%
Health compared to a year ago		
Much better	7%	8%
Somewhat better	8%	12%
Same	61%	67%
Somewhat worse	20%	11%
Much worse	4%	2%
Emotional Health		
Excellent/very good	55%	53%
Good	28%	32%
Fair	11%	10%
Poor	5%	3%
Don't know/refused	1%	1%



Knowledge/Concern about Long Term Care		
	Cherokee	Region
Believe that Medicare funds long term care		
Yes	16%	18%
No	56%	49%
Don't know/refused	28%	33%
Own long term care insurance policy		
Yes	19%	21%
No	79%	77%
Concerned about financing long term care		
Very concerned	14%	17%
Somewhat concerned	26%	28%
Not too concerned	25%	27%
Not at all concerned	30%	26%

Preventive Health Care- Cherokee

Most older adults in Cherokee are accessing basic preventive health services:

95% checked their blood pressure in past year

84% tested their cholesterol tested in past year

81% of men have had a prostate exam

However **many forgo necessary services**, only:

46% had a flu shot in the past 12 months

39% have had the pneumonia vaccine

60% of women had a mammogram in the past year

51% of women had a pap test in past year

42% have had a colorectal cancer screening within the past two years

While older adults are healthier and living longer than ever before, **many in the community still need assistance with basic needs.**

Need for Assistance with Meals		
	Cherokee	Region
Always	11%	9%
Often	2%	2%
Seldom	4%	8%
Never	83%	81%
Don't know/refused	1%	1%

Housing and Transportation

Most older adults in Cherokee County **own their own home (89%)**. Of those who do not own their own home, 77% are paying rent and 20% are living with another family member.

Planning to live in current house		
	Cherokee	Region
less than 1 year	8%	7%
1-3 more years	11%	9%
4-6 years	5%	6%
6-10 years	5%	5%
more than 10 years		2%
until I retire	3%	1%
as long as I live	61%	64%
Don't know/refused	8%	6%

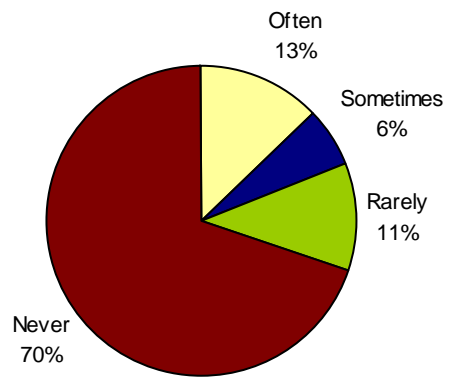
Factors choosing where to live		
	Cherokee	Region
To be near family	52.5%	42.6%
Affordable cost of housing	25.9%	19.5%
To be near doctor/good doctors	24.2%	25.1%
Proximity of entertainment venues	14.3%	16.7%
To be around other people my age	9.8%	12.7%
To be in a quiet community	31.9%	28.8%
Other	23%	29.9%
Don't know/refused	3%	4.3%

Most older adults in Cherokee County said if they did move, they **would move to another location in the region (53%)**. 22% would move to other locations in Georgia, 12% would move outside the state and 11% said they did not know where they would move.

Transportation		
	Cherokee	Region
Primary mode of transportation		
Use own car	92%	88%
Driven by others	8%	7%
Use public transportation		4%
Some other means		1%
How often do you currently use public transportation?		
Several times/week	1%	4%
Once a week		2%
Once a month	2%	3%
Just on occasion	24%	33%
Never	74%	59%

When asked how they will get around when they can no longer drive, **64% of older adults in Cherokee County plan to be driven around by others**, 9% will use public transportation, 7% plan to find some other means and **19% do not know how they will get around**.

Difficulty with Transportation- Cherokee



Methodology: The Carl Vinson Institute of the University of Georgia drew 11 independent samples for each of 10 counties and the City of Atlanta within the Atlanta region. In total, 1,651 individuals 55 and over were interviewed between September 15 and October 14 of 2006. The maximum sampling error for any single county is +/- eight %, while the sampling error for the entire region is +/- four %.

