

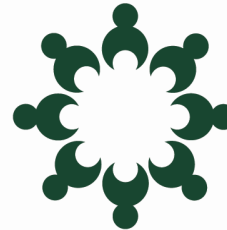
Testing the WHO Global Age-Friendly City Indicators in Ottawa, Canada

IAGG

June 26, 2013



**The Council
on Aging
of Ottawa**



**Le Conseil sur
le vieillissement
d'Ottawa**



Overview of presentation

- Profile of Ottawa seniors
- Age-Friendly Ottawa: A Community and City Partnership : Council on Aging and City of Ottawa
- Context affecting Measurement
- How Practical and Valid are the WHO AFC Indicators?
- Technical Comments
- Indicator Development Ideas
- Ottawa's Top 25 Indicators



Profile of Ottawa seniors

- 116,600 seniors (over 65 years old); this number is expected to grow to 254,000 by 2031 to make up 20% of population
- Majority live in central areas of the city – fastest growth is expected in suburban and rural areas

Profile of Ottawa seniors

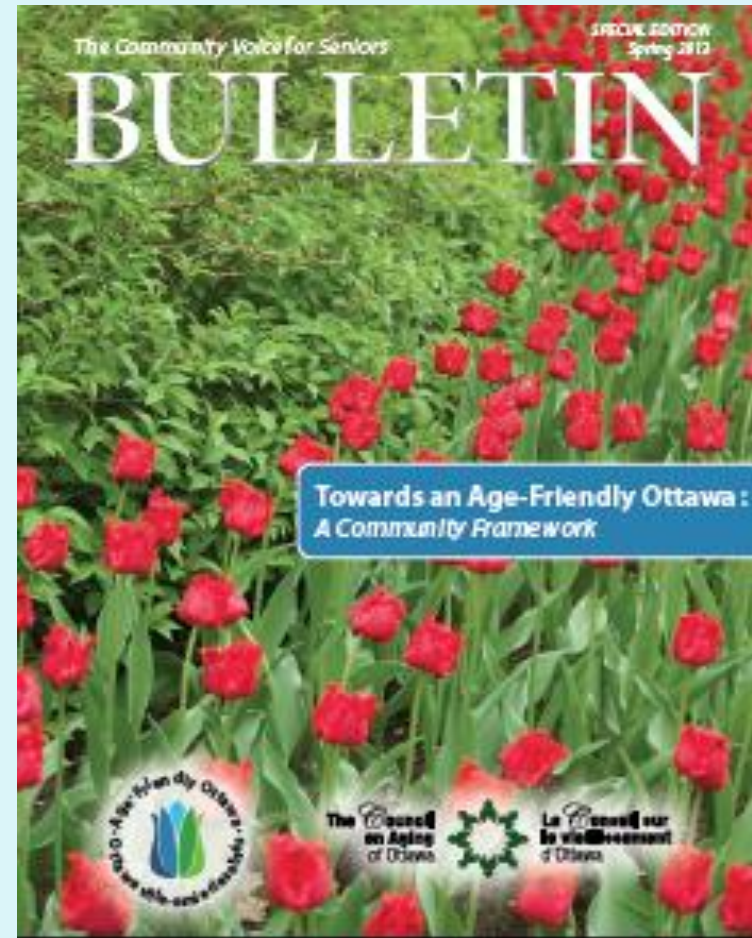
- 20 percent are francophones
- 30 percent were born in another country
- Financial security higher than provincial and national averages, but some (7%) live in poverty
- 17% use a mobility aid (cane, walker or wheelchair)

Age Friendly Ottawa(AFO)

- Initiative hosted by the Council on Aging (COA)
- COA is a bilingual voluntary organization that works with and for seniors to enhance their quality of life through sound public policy and program decisions
- **Age Friendly Ottawa** Steering Committee established in 2010 and is supported by grants
- Purpose: Make Ottawa an 'age-friendly' community as defined by the World Health Organization
- Community-wide focus
- Currently in the implementation phase

Age-Friendly Ottawa (AFO)

- 5-yr plan for continuous improvement
- Key Directions:
 - seniors' engagement
 - Collective impact
- 2-3 Objectives in each AFC domain



City of Ottawa Older Adult Plan

- Purpose: To plan and implement concrete actions to assist the City to effectively serve and be responsive to the specific needs of older adults today and in the future
- Municipal focus; all departments engaged
- Operational funding of \$500,000/year
- Vision and goals to continue, but actions to be “reviewed and refreshed” every 4 years

City of Ottawa Older Adult Plan

- 74 actions identified
- Mix of actions:
 - Many with specific outcomes for citizens (62 actions – 84%) e.g., *Make public transportation more affordable for older adults*
 - Some exploratory, or preliminary actions (12 actions – 16%) e.g., *Conduct a survey to identify the specific service needs of older adults who use emergency shelters*

Collaborative process

- Representation on mutual Steering Committee/Advisory Group
- Framework focused on the 8 WHO AFC areas
- Process (research, consultations, action plan development)
- Aligned and mutually reinforcing action plans
- Successful joint application to join the WHO Network of Age Friendly Cities (2012)
- On-going communication and mutual support between the two projects

Shared Vision

- *An age-friendly community and caring community that values the contributions of older adults and offers a broad range of opportunities for active living and healthy aging by providing supports that are responsive to the diverse needs and choices of older adults.*



Context affecting measurement

- Limited resources & current funding crisis in volunteer sector
- Limited project funding time-frame (end 2013)
- High community expectations
- Accountability for a defined scope of action
- Accountability for successful implementation rather than for the end result

Draft Indicators: How Practical?

- Lack of short-term outcome indicators, allowing measurement of progress
- Causal linkage between local actions and long-term outcomes difficult to establish
- Indicators based on local satisfaction surveys (20/61) imply high costs
- Search, analysis and compilation of existing data sources is costly

Draft Indicators: How Valid?

- Some indicators reflect provincial rather than municipal action (eg., access to a physician; access to home health care)
- Some are not appropriate in Canada (eg, number of people who have health insurance)
- Some indicators not aligned with the AFC dimension

Technical Comments

- Clearer definitions of terms needed (“Are priority parking areas provided **close to** buildings..?”)
- Too many concepts in one indicator (e.g. “number of... who perceive that public transport options are **reliable, available and adequate**”)
- Yes/no indicators not sensitive to change (e.g., “local ordinance to ensure that all public buildings have : (A) elevators....”)

Technical Comments (2)

- Some indicators would need to be modified to be measured with available Canadian data sources (e.g loneliness)
- Some difficulties in data timeliness (occasional surveys) or disaggregation (age/regional)

Indicator Development Ideas

- **Bottom -up approach:** Encourages cities to create locally-relevant indicators. From the list of locally-relevant indicators developed by many cities, common indicators could be chosen.
- **Collect and report local indicators, that reflect the priorities identified by seniors:** *“Perhaps cities could be required to report on 1-2 indicators reflecting local priorities and capacities”*

Top 25 Indicators for Ottawa

- **Outdoor Spaces and Buildings**
 - Safety (feeling safe in neighbourhood)
 - Accessibility (of buildings)
 - Mobility – Availability of resting places
- **Transportation**
 - Accessibility (stay home for lack of transportation)
 - Quality (# physically accessible buses in fleet)

Top 25 Indicators for Ottawa

- **Housing**

- Affordability
- Accessibility (policies to ensure accessibility)
- Accessibility (access to services)

- **Respect and Social Inclusion**

- Loneliness
- Social Support
- Ageism (perception of negative attitude)
- Ageism (media images of aging)

Top 25 Indicators for Ottawa

- **Civic Participation and Employment**

- Volunteering (% of seniors who engage)
- Volunteering (satisfaction with volunteer opportunities)
- Paid Employment (% seniors employed)

- **Social Participation**

- Community engagement (available gathering places)
- Community engagement (satisfaction with available gathering places)

Top 25 Indicators for Ottawa

- **Community Support and Health Services**
 - Home-based/chronic home care – AFO
 - New suggestion:
 - Access to primary care physician, geriatric care services,
- **Communication and Information**

Availability of :

 - Resource guides on leisure/recreation
 - Information on employment and volunteer opportunities
 - Information for health concerns and service needs

Top 25 Indicators for Ottawa

- **Health**

- Physical activity/inactivity

- **Economic Security**

- Financial protection for health care needs

- **Governance**

- Participation of seniors in decision-making

Thank-you!

