Investing in People over the Life Course: Advancing Age

Moderator - Susan Longworth, Senior Business Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

Tracy Dudzinski, Administrative Coordinator, Owner, Board Member, Cooperative Care
Mary Patoka, President & CEO, CAP Services
May yer Thao, Executive Director, Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce
Janet Zander, Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator, Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources
Demographic shifts in Wood County

Key points:
• Population growth trends in Wood County diverge from state and national trends
• Since 1970 the share of Wood County population that is 65+ has almost doubled and is the fastest growing segment of the population
Key points: This trend is going to continue and is particularly pronounced in this area.
## Workforce Realities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Median Hourly Wage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home Health Aides</td>
<td>$9.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counter and Rental Clerks</td>
<td>$9.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Care Aides</td>
<td>$11.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janitors and Cleaners, Except</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners</td>
<td>$11.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing Assistants</td>
<td>$12.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers</td>
<td>$12.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key point: these numbers are challenging for those charged with serving this growing population.
Key point: Elder poverty is on par with the state and country – but this is a larger segment of the population in Wood County.
Poverty by age and family status

Key points:

Elders who live by themselves are much more likely to be poor.

It matters especially for elderly women who are more likely to be living on their own.

*note: This doesn’t include people who are living in group / nursing homes
Housing cost burden: Rent vs. Owning

Homeownership amongst the elderly in Wood County is on par the rest of the state/country.

However, seniors who rent are greatly more cost burdened than those who own their homes.
Some conclusions

Aging patterns in Wood county diverge from the rest of the country – a trend that will continue...

– Wages do not seem to support this increase in demand
– Aging alone increases odds of living in poverty
– Renting greatly increases the odds of living in poverty