

## ***Assessing the Needs of Older Adults in the Greater Richmond Area: A Summary of Findings and Recommended Indicators***

This brief document highlights the key findings from the DataShare Richmond Pilot Project involving United Way Services (UWS) and the Survey and Evaluation Research Laboratory (SERL). Key findings are presented within the context of their corresponding impact goal, identified by UWS. Included are tables of recommended indicators to monitor progression toward the achievement of each impact goal.

The content contained within this document is the result of analyses of existing data. There are limitations to the interpretations of the data findings. These limitations are the result of the decisions made by the original data collectors and holders about purposes, methods, and data structures. This is not uncommon when secondary data are used.

### **A. Impact Goal 1: Older Adults Are Able To Meet Their Basic Needs**

- 21% to 36% of the households in the nine localities in the Greater Richmond area have one or more individuals 65 years and older (Census 2000)
- In these localities, the number of older adult women living alone is anywhere from two to five times greater than the number of older adult men living alone (Census 2000)
- The percent of older adults living in poverty ranges from a low of 3% in Chesterfield to a high of 19% in Charles City and these percentages have decreased since 1990 for each of the nine localities (Census 2000 and Census 1990)
- In the localities except Goochland, Hanover, and Chesterfield, a higher percentage of older adult women living alone are living below the poverty level as compared to older adult men living alone (Census 2000 long-form questionnaire)
- In all the localities except Charles City, there are households with householders aged 65 and older with no telephone service (.2% to 4%) (Census 2000 long-form questionnaire)
- In all localities, there are households with householders aged 65 and older with no vehicle available (9% to 33%) (Census 2000 long-form questionnaire)

### **B. Impact Goal 2: Older Adults Are As Healthy As Possible**

- 98% of adults aged 65 and older in the Greater Richmond area report having some type of health care coverage (BRFSS survey)
- 1% of the adults aged 65 and older in the Greater Richmond area report having had a time in the last 12 months when they needed to see a doctor but could not due to cost (BRFSS survey)

## **B. Impact Goal 2: Older Adults Are As Healthy As Possible (con't)**

- 70% of the adults aged 65 and older in the Greater Richmond area report good to excellent general health (BRFSS survey)
- The average number of days of poor physical health (4 days) and poor mental health (2 days) reported by adults aged 65 and older in the Greater Richmond area compares favorably with both Virginia outside of the Greater Richmond area and the national average (BRFSS survey)
- Approximately 50% of the adults aged 65 and older in the Greater Richmond area have been told by a medical professional that they have high blood cholesterol and/or high blood pressure, both of which well exceed the Healthy People 2010 goals (BRFSS survey)
- Over 20% of the adults aged 65 and older in the Greater Richmond area have been told by a doctor that they have diabetes, which exceeds both the national and the not Greater Richmond area findings (BRFSS survey)
- 20% of the adults aged 65 and older in the Greater Richmond area report that they currently smoke; this exceeds the Healthy People 2010 goal of 12% (BRFSS survey)
- Over 80% of the adult females aged 65 and older in the Greater Richmond area report having had a clinical breast exam and over 90% report having had one within the last two years (BRFSS survey)
- Over 90% of the adult females aged 65 and older in the Greater Richmond area report having had a mammogram and over 80% report having had one within the last two years, which exceeds the Healthy People 2010 goal (BRFSS survey)
- A higher percentage of men and women aged 65 and older with disabilities in the Greater Richmond area are living below the poverty level than those without disabilities, and women with disabilities are more likely than men with disabilities to be below the poverty level (Census 2000 long-form)
- Of the nine localities, all cities / counties except Chesterfield and Goochland exceed the Health People 2010 target of 208 deaths per 100,000 for heart disease (VA Department of Health)
- Of the nine localities, all cities / counties except Charles City exceed the Healthy People 2010 target of 48 stroke-related deaths per 100,000 for cerebrovascular disease (VA Department of Health)

### C. Impact Goal 3: Older Adults Have Safe And Affordable Housing

- The homeownership rate for adults aged 65 and older is greater than the overall state rate of 80% in six of the nine localities: Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, New Kent, and Powhatan (VCHR)
- The homeownership rate for adults aged 65 and older is less than the overall state rate of 80% in the three localities that are the *most urban*: Henrico, Petersburg, and Richmond City (VCHR)
- The homeownership rate, ranging from 64% to 96%, for adults aged 65 and older is greater than that of the adults less than 65 years of age in all nine localities (VCHR)
- The lowest income populations, which includes seniors depending primarily or exclusively on social security income, experience a large gap between their income and the cost of adequate rental housing (VDHCD and VHDA Analysis)
- The percent of owners (of all ages) with gross incomes less than \$20,000 that are paying 30% or more of their income on housing (principal + interest + utilities) ranges from 49% to 73% in the nine localities (VCHR)
- The percent of renters (of all ages) with gross incomes less than \$20,000 that are paying 30% or more of their income on housing (rent + utilities) ranges from 69% to 95% in the nine localities (VCHR)
- There is an anticipated shift in the relative numbers of adults 75 and older from the core cities to the surrounding counties between 2000 and 2010 leading to a potential mismatch between the location of deep subsidy rental housing for the elderly and their location of choice (VDHCD and VHDA Analysis)

### D. Impact Goal 4: Older Adults Are Socially & Emotionally Supported In The Community

- Adults aged 65 and older in the nine localities were much more likely to be the victim of a property crime than a person crime if victimized (NIBRS 2001)
- Adults aged 65 and older in the nine localities are much less likely to be the victim of any crime than adults aged 64 and younger (NIBRS 2001)
- Adult victims of crime aged 65 and older in the nine localities were much less likely to be the victim of a person crime than adult victims of crime aged 64 and younger (NIBRS 2001)
- Of the nine localities, with the exception of Richmond City and Chesterfield, the adult victims of crime aged 65 and older were much more likely to report that the offender was someone they knew (family member or otherwise known to them) than a stranger (NIBRS 2001)

### E. Impact Goal 5: Caregivers Have Skills & Supports Needed To Care For Older Adults

- Long-term care for the elderly is considered a serious issue by 30% of the adult respondents (CVHPA Community Needs Assessment survey)
- Caring for the elderly is considered a serious issue by 22% of the adult respondents (CVHPA Community Needs Assessment survey)

### ***RECOMMENDED INDICATORS FOR MONITORING IMPACT GOALS***

*Table 1 - UWS Older Adult Impact Goals and Indicators / Indicator Status in 2003*

| <i>Impact Goal</i>   | <i>Indicator to Monitor Impact Goal</i>   |
|--|---|
| 1. Older adults are able to meet their basic needs.                              | Percent of people 65 years of age and older below the poverty line.                     |
| 2. Older adults are as healthy as possible.                                      | Number of fall-related injury hospitalizations for people 65 years of age and older.    |
| 3. Older adults have safe, affordable housing.                                   | No data available for indicators related to this impact goal.                           |
| 4. Older adults are socially and emotionally supported in the community.         | Number of reported cases of abuse and neglect against people 60 years of age and older. |
| 5. Caregivers will have the skills and supports needed to care for older adults. | No data available for indicators related to this impact goal.                           |

Source: United Way Services. (January 2003) Community Conditions Report: Social Indicators for Greater Richmond and Petersburg

Table 2 – Recommended Indicators Related to Health

| <b>Impact Goal: Older Adults are as Healthy as Possible</b>   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <i>Indicator</i>  | <i>Source</i>  | <i>Status</i>  | <i>Recommendations</i>   |
| <i>Number and rate of falls resulting in hospitalization*</i>   | <i>VDH's Center for Injury and Violence Prevention</i> | <i>Collected and included in UWS Community Conditions Report</i>                                   | -----  |
| 100% of older adults have health insurance coverage   | Virginia's BRFSS                                       | Data from 1997 to 2002 contained within this report. Healthy People 2010 target not currently met. | Continue to use BRFSS to track indicator   |
| Older adults that currently smoke not to exceed 12%.**  | Virginia's BRFSS                                       | Data from 1997 to 2002 contained within this report. Healthy People 2010 target not currently met. | Continue to use BRFSS to track indicator   |
| Older adults with high blood pressure not to exceed 16%.**  | Virginia's BRFSS                                       | Data from 1997 to 2002 contained within this report. Healthy People 2010 target not currently met. | Continue to use BRFSS to track indicator   |
| Older adults with high blood cholesterol not to exceed 17%.**   | Virginia's BRFSS                                       | Data from 1997 to 2002 contained within this report. Healthy People 2010 target not currently met. | Continue to use BRFSS to track indicator   |
| Older adults that have had a mammogram within the past two years exceed 70%.**  | Virginia's BRFSS                                       | Data from 1997 to 2002 contained within this report. Healthy People 2010 target is currently met.  | Continue to use BRFSS to track indicator   |
| Determine extent to which older adults return home following hospitalization (as opposed to being discharged to alternative care settings). | VHI data   | -----  | UWS can purchase data file and conduct analyses or request special data runs from VHI. |

Table 3 - Recommended Indicators Related to Health (continued)

| <b>Impact Goal: Older Adults are as Healthy as Possible</b>               |                       |  |   |
|---|-----------------------|--|---|
| <i>Indicator</i>  | <i>Source</i>         | <i>Status</i>  | <i>Recommendations</i>  |
| Older adults with disability living in poverty.                           | Decennial census data | Data contained within this report.                       | Access decennial census PUMS files and explore relationships between disability and other socioeconomic indicators other than income. |
| Disparities in percent of older adults with disabilities based on gender. | Decennial census data | Data contained within this report.                       |   |
| Reduce deaths due to heart disease to 208 per 100,000.**                  | VDH                   | Age-adjusted data for 2000 contained within this report. | -----   |
| Reduce deaths due to cerebrovascular disease to 48 per 100,000.**         | VDH                   | Age-adjusted data for 2000 contained within this report. | -----   |

\*Current UWS indicator for the impact goal.

\*\*Based on Healthy People 2010 targets. Additional Information about Healthy People can be found at: [www.healthypeople.gov](http://www.healthypeople.gov)

NOTE: There are a number of indicators that can be tracked through BRFSS data. However, the indicators in this table are reflective of those derived from responses to BRFSS questions that are likely to be asked each year. Indicators based on questions that are asked sporadically will have little utility in terms of monitoring yearly progress toward Healthy People 2010 targets.

Table 4 - Recommended Indicators Related to Safe and Affordable Housing for Older Adults

| <b>Impact Goal: Older Adults Have Safe, Affordable Housing</b>                                |               |  |  |
|---|---------------|--|--|
| <i>Indicator</i>  | <i>Source</i> | <i>Status</i>                                    | <i>Recommendations</i>   |
| <i>No data in Community Conditions Report</i>   |               |  |  |
| % of older adults owning homes  | VCHR          | Data for 2000 in this report.                    | Establish benchmark and goal, use VCHR data to monitor                                       |
| % of older adults in rental units   | VCHR          | Data for 2000 in this report.                    | Establish benchmark and goal, use VCHR data to monitor                                       |
| % of older adults paying 30% or more of gross income for housing costs (ownership and rental) | VCHR          | Data for all age groups in this report for 2000. | Contact VCHR for data by age groups, establish benchmark and goal, use VCHR data to monitor. |
| Availability of deep subsidy rental housing units for older adults                            | VDHCD/VHDA    | General data for 2001 in this report.            | Contact VDHCD or VHDA for detailed data.   |

*Table 5 - Recommended Indicators Related to Older Adults Being Socially and Emotionally Supported in the Community*

| <b>Impact Goal: Older Adults are Socially and Emotionally Supported in the Community</b>         |               |   |   |
|--|---------------|---|---|
| <i>Indicator</i>   | <i>Source</i> | <i>Status</i>                                 | <i>Recommendations</i>  |
| Number of reported cases of abuse and neglect against people 60 years of age and older.          | VDSS          | Data included in Community Conditions Report. |   |
| % of adults 65 and older who are victims of person crimes  | NIBRS         | Data for 2001 in this report.                 | Establish benchmark and goal, use NIBRS data to monitor                                     |
| % of adults 65 and older who are victims of property crimes                                      | NIBRS         | Data for 2001 in this report.                 | Establish benchmark and goal, use NIBRS data to monitor                                     |
| % of victims aged 65 and older who are victimized by family members or members of same household | NIBRS         | Data for 2001 in this report.                 | Establish benchmark and goal, use NIBRS data to monitor                                     |
| % of adults 65 and older who are fearful of becoming victims of crime                            | NCVS or BRFSS | No data included in this report.              | Consider adding questions to BRFSS or using National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) data |

*Table 6 - Recommended Indicators Related to Caregivers Having the Skills and Supports Needed to Care for Older Adults*

| <b>Impact Goal: Caregivers Having the Skills and Supports Needed to Care for Older Adults</b> |               |                                       |  |
|---|---------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Indicator</i>  | <i>Source</i> | <i>Status</i>                         | <i>Recommendations</i>   |
| <i>No data in Community Conditions Report</i>   |               |                                       |  |
| % of adults viewing long term care as an important issue                                      | CVHPA         | Data from 2002 survey in this report. | Work with CVHPA to include this and related questions in next community survey |
| % of adults viewing caring for the elderly as an important issue                              | CVHPA         | Data from 2002 survey in this report. | Work with CVHPA to include this and related questions in next community survey |