

People with Disabilities, Older Adults and Housing



Older Adults



People with Disabilities



Unhoused Adults

Based on data from 2019 which cited 40,000 adults experiencing homelessness who are 65+, the projected number of adults 65+ who will be experiencing homelessness will rise to 106,000 by 2030.¹

As of 2018, there are between 625,000-875,000 individuals experiencing homelessness who are also experiencing disabilities.²



Costs for out of community placement & services

\$97.47
per day

Is the average cost to taxpayers for services provided to adults experiencing homelessness. These include meals, temporary shelter & medical care.³

\$275
per day

Is the average cost of keeping someone in a skilled nursing facility.³



Costs to remain in the home

\$145
per day

Is the average cost to provide in-home care for adults up to 6 hours a day paid to a caregiver. These services include bathing, dressing, meal prep, light housework, & shopping.⁴

\$126
per day

Is the average cost to keep a person with personal care needs (bathing, dressing, meal prep, light housework & shopping) in the home with a home modification thereby reducing the number of caregiver hours.⁵



“Being disabled should not mean being disqualified from having access to every aspect of life” - Emma Thompson



Barriers to remaining independent in the home & community

Indoors

#1 barrier to remaining in the home are thresholds and steps. Additionally, the position of wall mounted cabinets, light switches and other controls were barriers to autonomy in the home for older adults and people with disabilities.⁶

Community

#1 barrier to remaining independent in the community were doors not staying open or closing too quickly. This barrier was in addition to high thresholds and stairs with no ramps to access entrances.⁶



How big is the issue?

8.3 million older adults, 65 and over, have a disability that impacts their ability to navigate stairs or thresholds but only 1% of housing, nationwide, features a no-step entryway. This means that the rest of these adults struggle to get into and out of their home on a daily basis. This leads to social isolation and a loss of community engagement.⁶

9 million adults, ages 18-64 have a disability but only 1% of housing, features a no-step entryway. This impacts people in wheelchairs, those with arthritis, balance & coordination issues or vision impairments that reduce safety on uneven surfaces. The inability to safely navigate into and out of their own home inhibits employment, educational opportunities, and access to health care.⁶



7.2 million older adults have hearing difficulties⁷



4.9 million adults ages 18-64 have a hearing disability



3.1 million older adults have vision difficulties⁷



3.9 million adults ages 18-64 have a vision impairment including blindness/low vision⁷



11 million older adults have difficulty walking⁷



9.4 million adults ages 18-64 have difficulty walking⁷



7.2 million older adults have difficulty with independent living skills⁷



7.3 million adults ages 18-64 have difficulty with independent living skills⁷



4 million older adults have difficulty with self-care needs such as grooming, bathing, dressing, & toileting⁷



3.5 million adults ages 18-64 have difficulty with self-care needs such as grooming, bathing, dressing, & toileting⁷

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References:

01 2019 AHAR: Part 1-PIT Estimates of Homelessness in the U.S. <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5948/2019-ahar-part-1-pit-estimates-of-homelessness-in-the-us/>

02 Homelessness among individuals with disabilities : influential factors and scalable solutions <https://jhpmpdirect.com/2019/07/24/homelessness-among-individuals-with-disabilities>

03 Fact Sheet: Cost of Homelessness http://www.endhomelessness.org/pages/cost_of_homelessness

04 What is the cost of in-home care? <https://www.consumeraffairs.com/health/in-home-care-cost.html>

05 Housing design and community care: How home modifications reduce care needs of older people and people with disability <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph16111951>

06 For people with disabilities, a fight for access to housing <https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2018.0050>

07 Living with disabilities <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/2020/comm/living-with-disabilities.html>