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The poorer your neighborhood, the shorter your life

In Cuyahoga County there is a 23-year age difference in neighborhoods less than two miles apart

CLEVELAND, OH – New analysis by The Center for Community Solutions shows that if you live in a poor area in Ohio, you are likely to live a shorter life than those who live in wealthier areas. In Cuyahoga County, within less than two miles, there is a 23-year difference between the neighborhoods with the highest and lowest life expectancies.

“Not everyone has an equal opportunity to live a long and healthy life, we can see that by the wide disparities in life expectancy throughout the state, and right here in Cuyahoga County,” said Kate Warren, a research associate at Community Solutions and a co-author of the report. “There is much more to health than health care. The conditions in your community influence how healthy you will be and how long you will live.”

Our new research analyzes data from the U.S Small-Area Life Expectancy Estimates Project and looks at life expectancies at the “census tract” level - an area that is roughly equal to a neighborhood. We tend to see increased poverty rates mainly in the urban cores and the rural Appalachian parts of the state, and in the process of our research we found that the lowest life expectancies in the state are in parts of the cities of Columbus and Dayton, and the third lowest life expectancy, 61.6 years old, is in part of Steubenville which is located right on the East Central border of the state near West Virginia. The highest life expectancy in the state, 89.2 years old, is in exurban Stow.

In Cuyahoga County, the area with the lowest life expectancy is partially in the University Circle neighborhood and partially in the Buckeye-Woodhill neighborhood, where people can expect to live 65.4 years. That’s compared to their neighbors, less than two miles away in Shaker Heights, who have the highest life expectancy in the county at 88.6 years.

Our research also revealed that race plays a factor in life expectancy as well, as those who live in an area with a high percentage of Black residents have lower life expectancies than their counterparts in majority white areas.

“While access to quality health care and personal choices impact our health, looking at life expectancy by geography further illustrates that place and race matters when it comes to health outcomes,” said Warren.

To read the report and use our interactive map of Ohio visit <https://commsols.com/LifeExpectancyOhio>. To speak with Warren please contact Dani Carlson at 216-282-4583 or dcarlson@communitysolutions.com.

There is a **23 year difference** in life expectancy between these two neighborhoods, **less than 2 miles apart.**

