

Atlantic Seniors Housing Research Alliance

Projecting the Housing Needs of Aging Atlantic Canadians

About ASHRA



The Atlantic Seniors Housing Research Alliance (ASHRA) is an alliance with representatives from universities, seniors' organizations, government departments, housing developers and service providers from the Atlantic Provinces, including Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador. The project was designed to build a detailed picture of aging Atlantic Canadians and their potential living arrangement needs over the next 20 years, and examine emerging options in housing choices, support services, and policies that can effectively meet them. Three key research products have emerged from the ASHRA project, including the **Report on the Atlantic Seniors' Housing and Support Services Survey (2007)**; **Focus Group Report (2008)**; and **Case Studies (2008)**. This information sheet is one in a series providing information on the key messages that have been extracted from the project results. The focus of this fact sheet is to highlight the ASHRA Survey and Focus Group findings in relation to seniors' preferences for housing. For more information about the ASHRA project and its research activities, visit www.ashra.ca.

Seniors Prefer Seniors-Only Housing

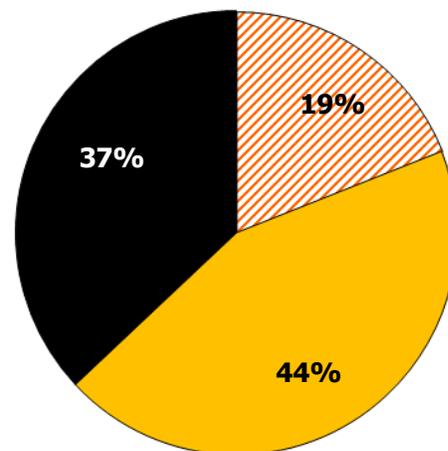
Facts about Seniors' Housing Preferences



Results from ASHRA's survey of more than 1700 Atlantic Canadian seniors suggest that most prefer seniors-only housing. Among those who participated in the survey:

- Only 19% are interested in housing for people of all ages.
- More than three-quarters of seniors prefer housing for adults only who are middle-aged or older.
- Older seniors more commonly want to live in seniors-only housing - the preference for seniors-only housing increases with age.

Preferences for Future Housing



- For seniors only
- For seniors and middle-aged adults
- For people of all ages

Preferred Types of Housing

Given that so many Atlantic Canadian seniors are interested in "seniors-only" or housing for seniors and middle-aged adults, an overemphasis on the development of housing to accommodate all ages and family types would be an incorrect use of resources. Among seniors **who have plans to move**:

Senior citizens' housing is the **most** common accommodation being sought for the future.

Apartments are the **2nd** most common accommodation being sought for the future.

Single-family detached homes are the **3rd** most common accommodation being sought for the future.



Voices of Specific Populations

In 2007, ASHRA researchers conducted 15 focus groups with specific populations, including Francophone, Rural/Remote, Aboriginal, Disabled, and Multicultural seniors. Participants discussed the importance of seniors being consulted and providing their input into the future development of seniors' housing that is appropriate to their needs and preferences.

"It's really important that the government, or the people who are in charge of this facility, to go again and do some research studies and see who are the people who are in need. You know, that's really important."

Multicultural Senior

Disabled Senior

"That's why they need consumers to be part of the planning, so they can bring those things up, because if it's not something that you have to deal with, you don't really know about it."

"...the first people that should be consulted would be the people that are going to be in there, and at some point, everyone, well I don't know about everyone, but a lot of people in that community will end up there, right?"

Rural/Remote Senior

Disabled Senior

"The input from the community and the input from the people who are going to be using them is so important. More groups like this, you know, research before the actual construction. We find out after the fact that, 'Hey, that's not what we really needed at all'."



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