

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' awareness of housing programs. For more information about the ASHRA project and its research activities, visit www.ashra.ca.

Seniors not Aware of Available Housing Programs

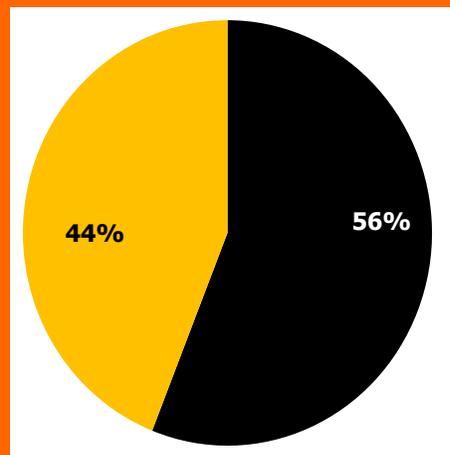
Facts about Seniors' Awareness of Housing Programs



Results from ASHRA's survey of more than 1700 Atlantic Canadian seniors indicate that most seniors are not aware of publicly funded housing programs and services to help them modify, restore, or repair their dwellings.

- More than half of seniors are not aware of such programs.
- Among those aware of programs that provide financial assistance to seniors with low income, only 15% had actually applied and received funding from these programs.

Knowledge of Financial Assistance Programs



- Seniors not aware of programs to help them rehabilitate, repair or restore
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Seniors may be Missing out on Available Assistance

Most Atlantic Canadian seniors are not aware of available housing programs and services. This suggests that low-income seniors may be missing out on financial assistance that could help them:

- **Modify their homes** - by making their dwelling more accessible; for example, by installing grab bars in bathrooms, adding hand railings to stairs, or ramps to entranceways.
- **Repair their homes** - by eliminating conditions that pose threats to health and safety, such as poorly functioning windows and entrance areas, or enlarging rooms to accommodate mobility.
- **Restore their homes** - by making improvements; for example, to the energy efficiency of their home. This could include replacing windows or heating systems.



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 direct cost of housing and housing-related expenses and their limited financial resources to cover these and other costs.

"My husband died almost 9 years ago and I don't have anybody around to do much work for me, you know, and the house needs attention and I need windows and things like that, and I can't afford to, I can only afford to keep my house running with heat and things like that."

Rural/Remote Senior

Disabled Senior

"I think I'd like to see the government take some initiative to ensure that seniors can stay in their own homes, to provide some sort of loans or grants to make modifications so that their homes are accessible."

"Right now I am changing my windows because I know that in 10 years' time I may not have the financial means to change them."

Francophone Senior

Multicultural Senior

"I find it hard to go up and down stairs. Usually, if I come downstairs in the morning, I stay downstairs until bedtime. I don't like to walk the stairs."



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