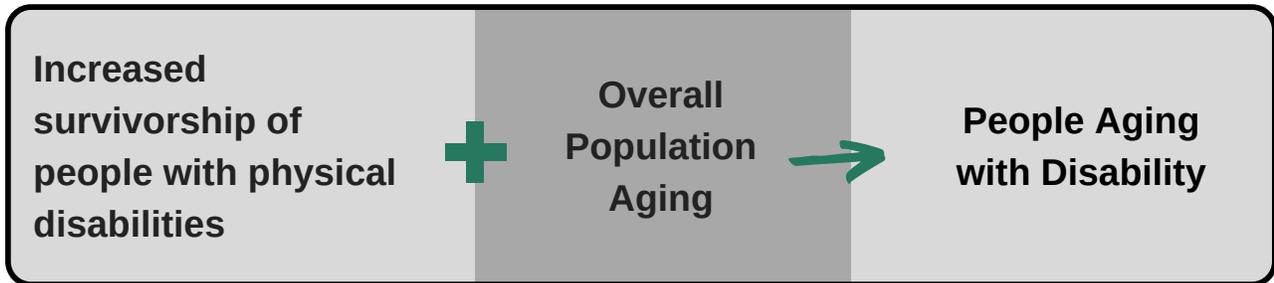


Community Participation for People Aging with Long-term Disability



Who are people aging with long-term physical disability?



What are the risk factors for aging with disability?

People with disabilities are at higher risk of developing age-related changes earlier in life, or “**premature aging.**”

People with disabilities are at risk for secondary health conditions associated with the underlying disability.

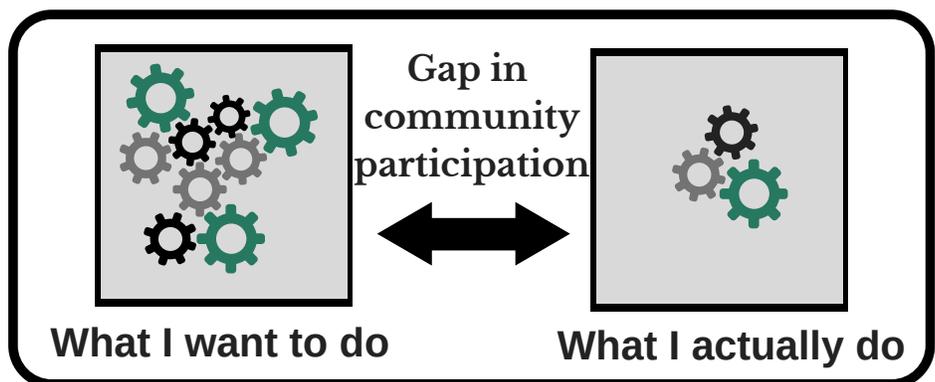
Examples include:

- Pressure sores
- Spasticity
- Fatigue
- Chronic pain
- Sleep disturbances

People aging with long-term disabilities may experience difficulties in performing some of their daily activities.

This can include:

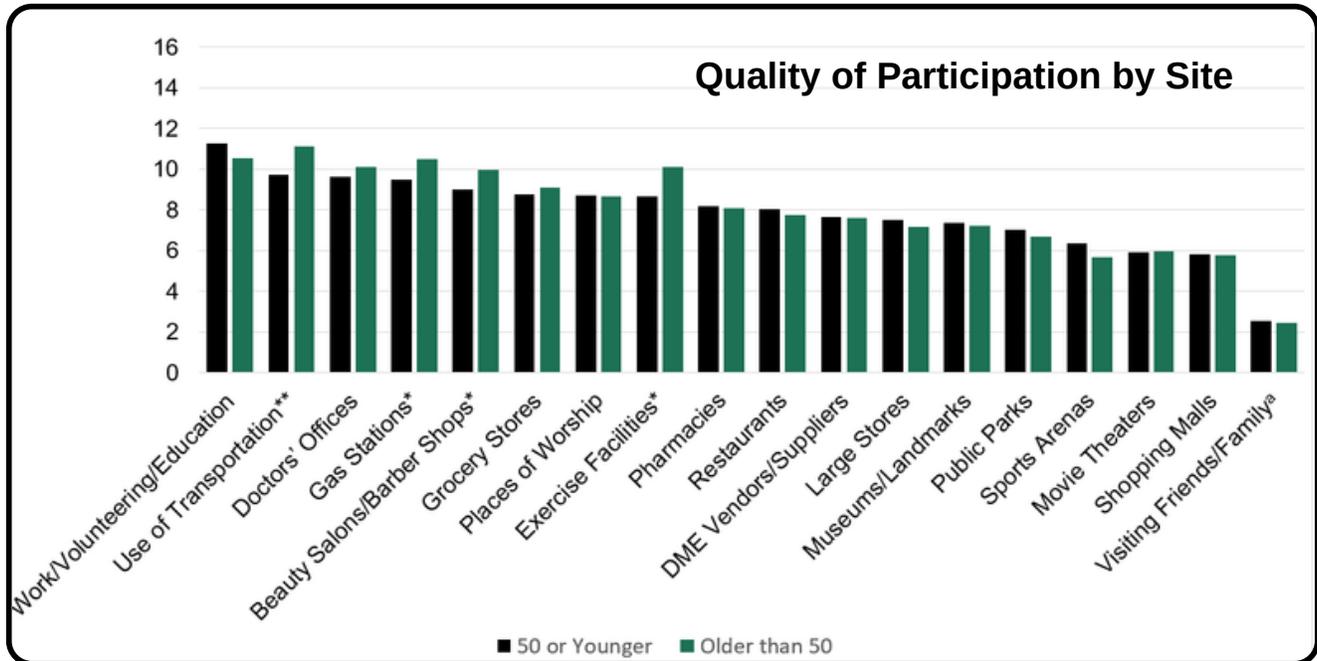
- Grocery shopping
- Going out with friends
- Working
- Going to church
- Public events
- Doctor visits



The objective of our study

To compare the quality of community participation of adults 50 years or younger to that of adults older than 50 at specific community locations through the analysis of level of **choice**, level of **satisfaction**, and level of **importance**.

- Study Participants:
- 692 participants ages 18-75
 - People with mobility, vision, or hearing impairment
 - Living in the community



50 years or younger are more likely to...

- Visit leisure sites more frequently (e.g., restaurants, movie theaters, and shopping malls)

Older than 50 are more likely to...

- Visit all sites more frequently
- Report higher quality of participation at gas stations, transportation, salons, and exercise facilities
- Visit sites essential for health more frequently

Future Steps

- 1 Discover whether differences are because of the way individuals perceive they are treated, the number of environmental supports, their health, or other factors.
- 2 Study these topics to develop interventions to improve community participation.
- 3 Enhance community participation to maintain health and well-being.

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