

Key Aspects of Aging in the Right Place for Older Adults with Lived Experience of Homelessness: A Photovoice Exploration

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AIRP
Aging in the Right Place
PARTNERSHIP

VABE
Viellir au Bon Endroit
PARTENARIAT



Agenda



Objective



Background



Methods



Photovoice



Sample of
Participants



Emerging
Themes



Conclusion



OBJECTIVES: Aging in the Right Place

To improve the shelter/housing options to meet the unique and complex health and social needs of older persons with lived experience of homelessness (OPEH)

To evaluate promising practices of shelter/housing for OPEH that promote aging in the right place (AIRP)

To facilitate knowledge mobilization whilst increasing public awareness of OPEH and perceptions of AIRP



BACKGROUND



Aging in the Right Place (AIRP) for older adults^{1,2}



Older persons experiencing homelessness (OPEH) in Canada³⁻⁹



Need to evaluate 'right' set of housing for OPEH^{4,9-14}



Utilizing the photovoice method among OPEH to better understand AIRP^{15,16}

Promising Practices Across the Housing Continuum



AIRP Conceptual Framework



AIRP Project and Community-Engaged Research?

AIRP prioritizes collaboration with service providers, partner organizations, and older persons with lived experiences of homelessness (OPEH).

Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Meetings that provides community partners and OPEH Advisors with updates on the project progress and next steps.

OPEH Advisors provide feedback and guidance on tool development, data collection protocols, and more at different stages of the project.



METHODS: Data Collection Tools

Aging in the
Right Place



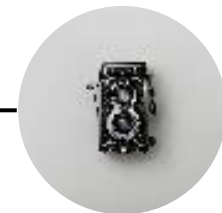
Document review



Environmental audit



Provider interviews



Client photovoice
interviews

What is Photovoice?



Photovoice is a qualitative method used in **community-based participatory action research strategy** to document and reflect reality in a hands-on manner. ^{15,16}

Empower people



Record and reflect
their community's
strengths and
concerns



Promote critical
dialogue and
knowledge about
personal and
community aspects

- ❖ Clients took photos that represent *aging in the right place* to them, to visualize, and illustrate, perceptions and perspectives.

METHODS: Client Photovoice Interviews

Photovoice: A participatory action research

Semi-structured interview

Photovoice
interview

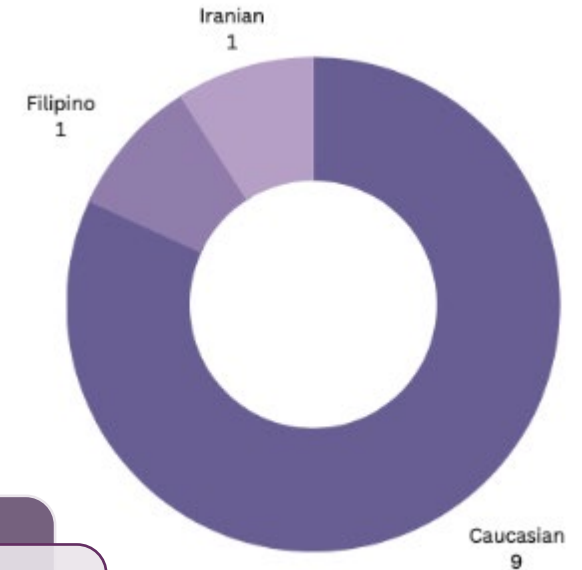
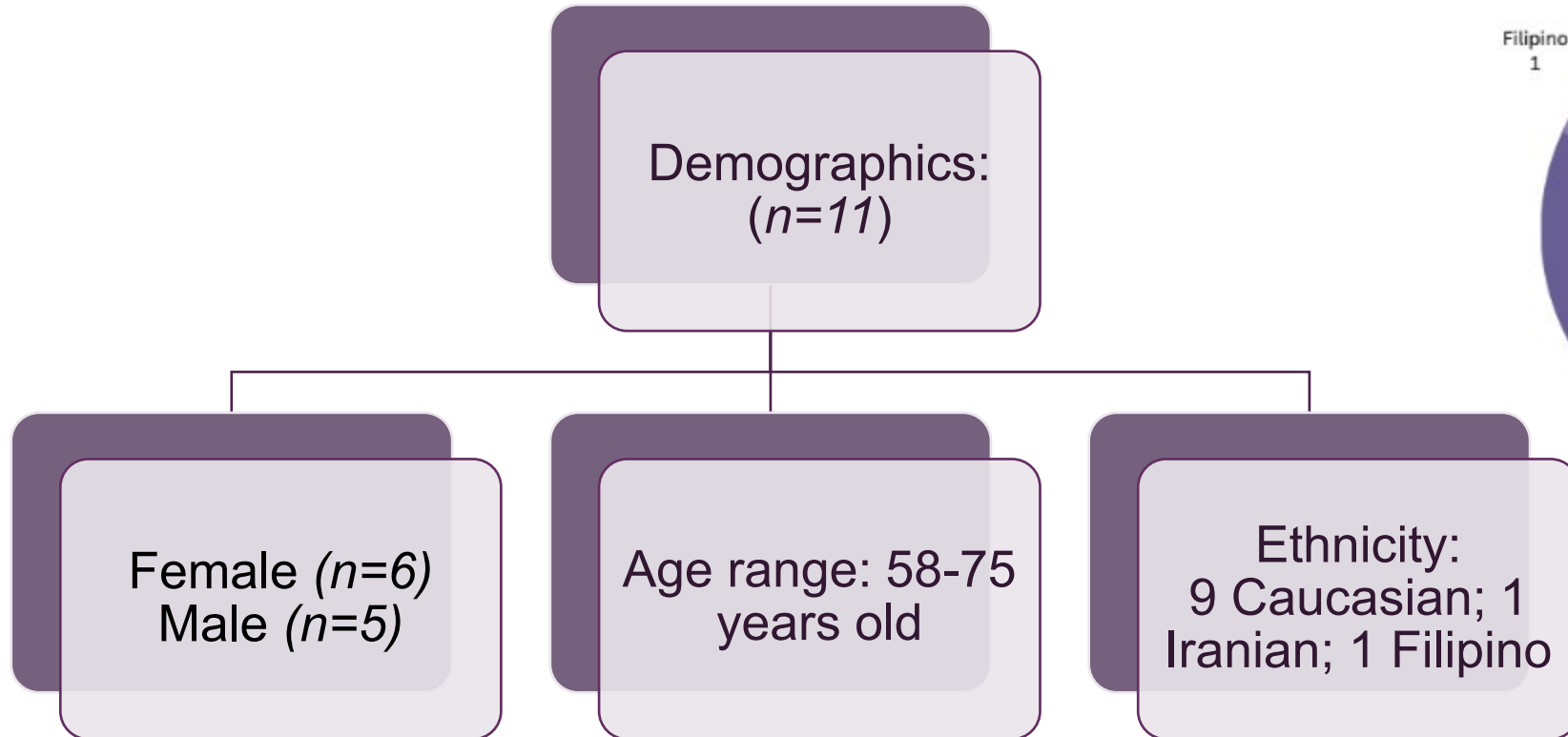
11 Clients

3 Sessions

45 to 60 min
sessions

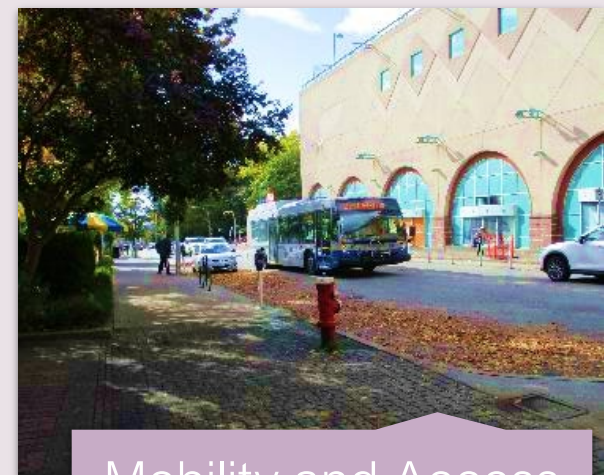
In-person

Sample of Participants



55% Female and 45% Male

Emerging Themes



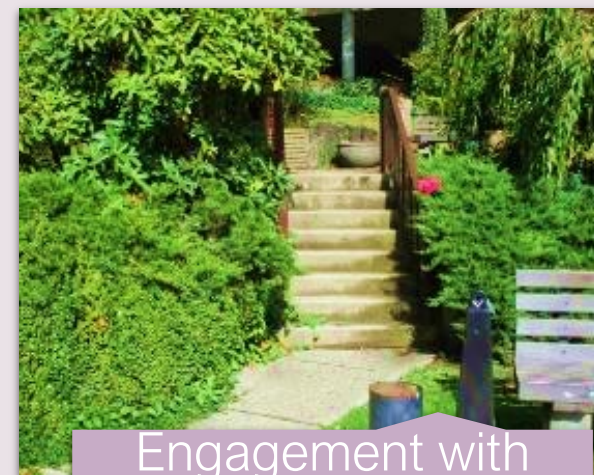
Mobility and Access
in the Community



Opportunity for
Social Interaction



Supportive Aspects
of THP



Engagement with
Built and Natural
Environment

Mobility and Access in the Community



“I don’t have to go twenty blocks to get a bus, right?” And it is nice to be able to walk out and its right there, right? ... So, and you know its nice to have instead of walking two or three blocks trying to find a bus stop.” C1

“I just took the bus. It is essential to have a bus to get on. So, people can leave if they don’t have a car, and they can actually get on with a walker, because I do. And the buses kneel so, you don’t really need the ramp.” C3

Mobility and Access in the Community



That's why this community is so nice. [It's] not just the community of people living together in one place, but also the businesses, the price outlet...there that is a symbiotic relationship, with the residents and the businesses. They're supporting each other. Amazing." C9

"Hey I don't have to walk very far. Or have to take a bus to get to a shopping center...I mean it is close, you know? Doesn't take that long and I like to get things done and then go home again." C1

"To be able to go shopping is a luxury that I don't have. However, I can go shopping at the Dollarama or the dollar store, and pick up little things that make it kind of fun and nice to have. It's like going shopping that experience was cheap. I really enjoyed having that store that close. I've never had that before and haven't had it since. And I missed that now and just be able to pop on my scooter bus down to the dollar store. It was just very nice to be able to do that. A fun afternoon." C4

Social Interaction



“I just think it is nice to have a gazebo. And it is nice to have a place for people to meet and chat... Especially now that people can’t come together in the community room and the pandemic. So, it kind of become to a place for people to hang out if they want to. Or to come out of their apartments. I think it is important to have some where to go. You know? You don’t feel totally coupé up.” C3



“I liked to talk to people there, they knew me. So that was good... Mostly with people that worked there and nobody I would see on a regular basis just sometimes somebody sat in there and we would talk. Not somebody I knew or would see again.” C4

Supportive Nature of Program



“When I would leave and go, whether it be to part time employment, or to the grocery store. I never worried about leaving [partner’s name removed], here. It’s very, very. ..The door was always locked and you had to use the buzzer 99% of the time. It was very well secured. I felt safe.” C8



“[I] have access to my own computer and then I was also given the tablet, so I have portable access to it as well, to the internet and different programs which allow me to help look for housing. They allow me to connect with the world and when you’re going through trauma and you’re homeless and things like that you lose connection... it’s a lot of grief involved, so I think with the internet, you can still stay connected to the world and feel like you’re still part of it, it’s like the world comes to you...” C5



“That’s my bed. And my little alcove...I just think it is nice...I just figured it is nice to know that somebody actually cared about, you know, making it look nice. It is not just functional, but it is going to look nice...” C3

Engagement with Built and Natural Environment



“This is from my window... And there is a tree outside and the crows are in the tree, actually, in the evening... And I sit there at my computer and my table looks out through the window, and across the way, beyond that there is a little back road, and then the back of the houses... You know it is just nice to be able to look out at trees rather than on another house.” C3



“Even these short moments of connection you know they enrich our lives you know with strangers sometimes then you can you know they can leave imprints on you so I think these sort of places you can just accidentally connect with people, and it adds beauty I think just walking around and seeing people. Like cafes open here, I think it's a very nice environment you know, makes you feel a part of something.” C5



“When I was living in the camper, like I said, I'd be away to kill time. So go to the mall, hang around with the food court... Yeah, it's like this only now I don't have to be there and just be there because I want to, not because I have to kill time. Well, it feels, feels like I have more control over my life, right? I'm not forced to, forced to be somewhere I don't want to be.” C6

Wrapping up Photovoice Findings

Community Connectivity

- Public transportation that is walkable
- Being near or able to easily access affordable amenities (necessary and pleasure)

Social Interaction

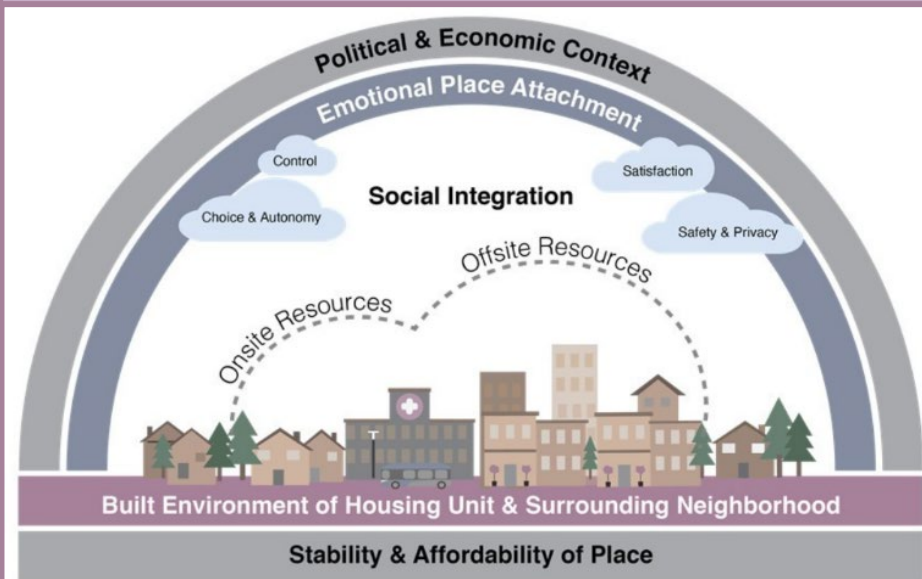
- Social space at building that is welcoming
- Affordable social outings nearby
- Missing deep social connections

Supportive Aspects of THP

- Safety and security
- Meeting clients where they are at
- Small thoughtful touches (dignity)
- Transferrable skills and opportunities

Built and Natural Environment

- Connected to nature inside and outside in an accessible fashion
- Being able to venture to the built environment out of mere desire allows for the expression choice, freedom, and control



Conclusion

Photovoice provides an opportunity for OPEH to actively engage in research in a participatory fashion.

The four emerging themes identified from photovoice interviews can help bridge current gaps in knowledge to transform program practices related to housing for OPEH.

Offering insight on the barriers and facilitators of AIRP through action-based research.

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