P·H·R·E·S·H NEWSLETTER

We want to share information with the Homewood community about our study on neighborhood change and health and the results we have found.

P·H·R·E·S·H (Pittsburgh Hill/Homewood Research on Neighborhood Change and Health) is a research project conducted by the RAND Corporation.

P·H·R·E·S·H partners with the Hill District CDC, Hill Consensus Group, Operation Better Block, Homewood Children's Village, the University of Pittsburgh, and residents of the Hill District and Homewood and is funded by the National Institutes of Health.

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A Message from Our Field Coordinator, La'Vette Wagner

I want to extend a big thank you for letting us learn from you! This newsletter is delayed, and we apologize! We were preparing to send this out before the coronavirus (COVID) hit. We now have information for you about what we learned during our last data collection in the spring of 2018, as well as what we've learned about the impact of COVID in the community. We are excited to share this information with you, and we welcome your reactions and feedback.

In 2011, we randomly selected addresses that represented the full neighborhoods of the Hill District and Homewood and went door to door to offer these households an opportunity to participate in our study. The original study looked at what happened after the supermarket opened in the Hill District. Since then, PHRESH has grown to consider other neighborhood-level changes (housing improvements, business openings, and other improvements) in both the Hill District and Homewood. We collected data from households in 2013, 2014, 2016, and 2018. In 2019, we did a survey on thinking and memory among residents over the age of 50. We are collecting information now about COVID-19 and its impact on the community.

The goal of PHRESH is to capture residents' health and well-being over time. We hire residents from the community to help with data collection and welcome your feedback.

This newsletter has updates on sleep, access to food, diet, heart disease and diabetes risk factors, and neighborhood factors. In addition, we have included information on how the community has been affected by COVID.

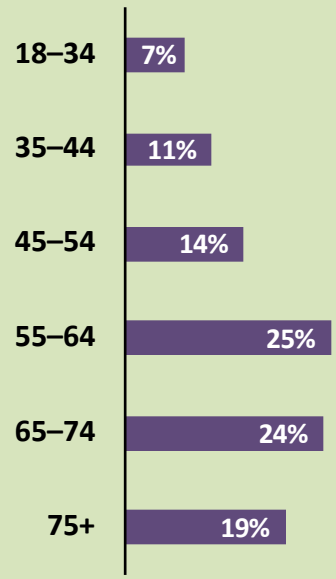
A quick look at Homewood PHRESH participants…

Homewood PHRESH Participants in 2018	%
Female	78%
55 years or older	68%
Black/African American	91%
Married/living with partner	14%
At least high school education	90%
Lived in Homewood for more than 20 years	46%

Additional information:

- 43% are 65 years of age or older.
- 55% have at least some college or technical college education.
- 85% have lived in Homewood for more than 5 years.

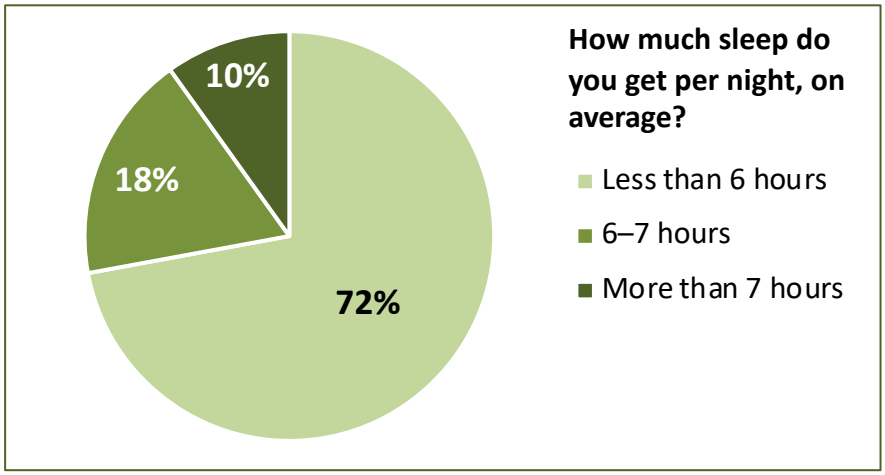
Participants by age in 2018



Highlights from Our 2018 Survey Results

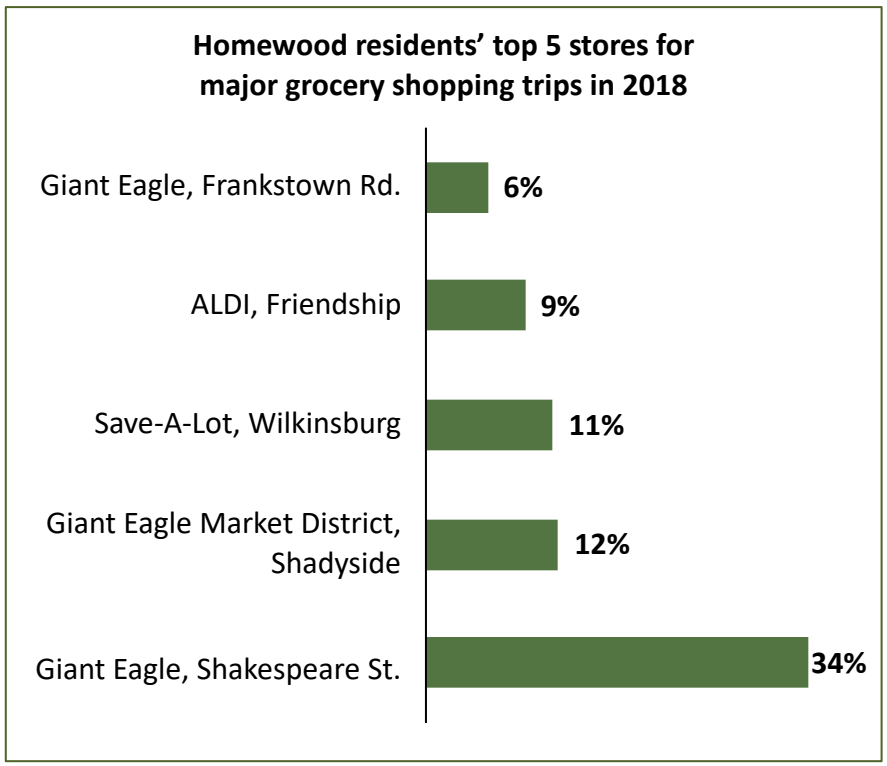
How much sleep do residents get?

Almost 90% of Homewood residents get less than 7 hours of sleep. Just 10% of Homewood residents get at least 7 hours. **The recommended sleep duration for adults is 7–9 hours.**



Where do residents do their major food shopping?

In 2018, we asked Homewood residents where they did their major grocery shopping. The Shakespeare St. Giant Eagle near the East Liberty busway station was the most common stop.



A quick look at Homewood PHRESH participants…

Healthy Eating

Half of participants are meeting guidelines for a healthy diet, such as eating enough fruit and vegetables and keeping sodium and saturated fat intake low.

- **30%** ate 5 or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day.
- **69%** met the guidelines for low sodium and saturated fat in their diet.

Heart Health and Diabetes

We measured important heart health and diabetes measures, including blood pressure and blood sugar.

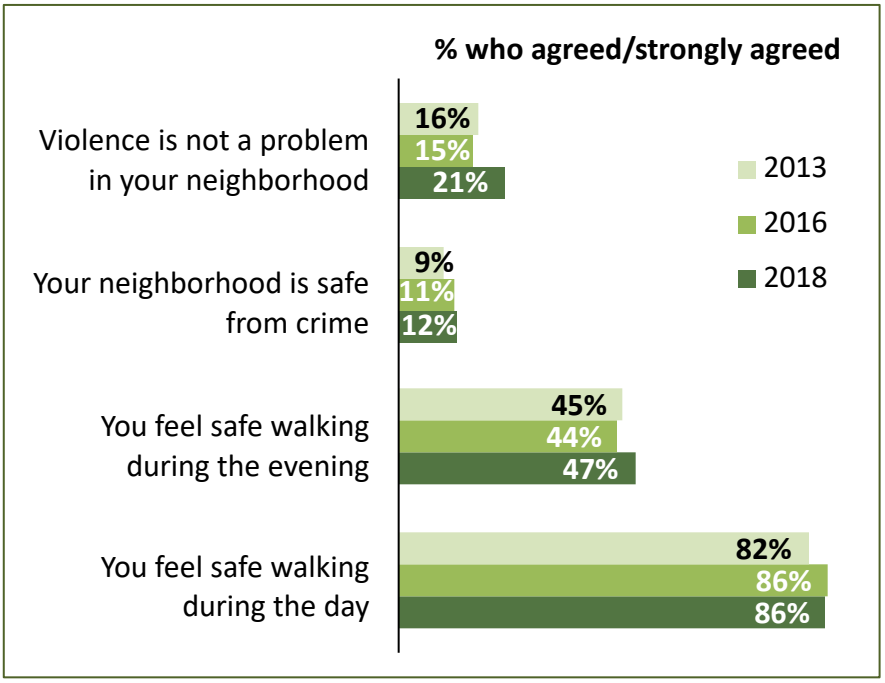
High blood pressure is a risk factor for heart disease, and high blood sugar is a risk factor for diabetes.

- **75%** had high blood pressure or were taking blood pressure medication.
- **35%** had high blood sugar or were taking diabetes medication.

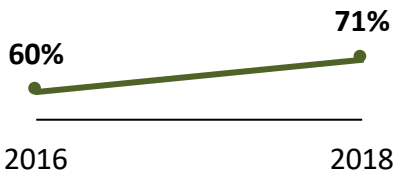
Highlights from Our 2018 Survey Results

How do residents feel about their neighborhood?

56% of Homewood PHRESH participants reported that they were satisfied with their neighborhood. We also asked about their sense of neighborhood safety, which has increased since our first data collection in 2013.

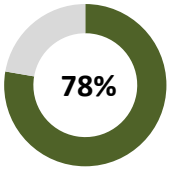


Homewood residents reported more housing maintenance problems in 2018

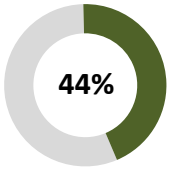


The types of problems residents reported included peeling paint or broken plaster; problems with plumbing, heating, windows, or door locks; and rats, mice, or cockroaches.

Homewood still had many vacant buildings and lots in 2017, and some sidewalks needed repair



of Homewood blocks had at least one vacant property or empty lot, about the same as in 2012.



of Homewood's sidewalks were in poor condition, compared to 25% in 2012.

Moving?

If you are a PHRESH participant and have moved since our data collection last year or are planning to move, please contact our Field Coordinator, La'Vette, to update your information. You can email lmwagner@rand.org or call 412-586-5695.

What's Next for PHRESH?

PHRESH delayed our Spring 2020 data collection until Spring 2021, but someone from our team may be contacting you or may already have contacted you to ask questions about your experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are a resident of the Hill District or Homewood and are interested in becoming a data collector (and administer the PHRESH survey to PHRESH participants), please contact La'Vette and tell her you are interested!

If there are other pieces of information you would like to learn, please feel free to contact La'Vette, or take a look at our website

www.rand.org/phresh

THANK YOU to all of our participants who gave their time to participate in our study!

RAND CORPORATION

HILL CDC

HILL DISTRICT CONSENSUS GROUP

THE COMMUNITY TABLE

OPERATION BETTER BLOCK

Reweaving The Fabric of Community Life

HOMEWOOD CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

Homewood Perspective

"The mission of the Homewood Children's Village is to improve the lives of Homewood's children and their community. We want to be able to use the data that the PHRESH study has collected over time to better understand how improvements in our neighborhood impact the health and well-being of our residents."

Dr. Shannah Tharp Gilliam, Director, Office of Research and Evaluation, Homewood Children's Village,

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Protecting your Privacy

Protecting your privacy is one of the PHRESH study's top concerns. There are many processes in place to protect the information you provide our study. If you'd like to learn more, please visit our website:
www.rand.org/phresh