

Abstract

The purpose of this qualitative study was to explore the specific needs of middle-income older adults to age in place in an urban setting. Two focus groups were conducted using a series of guided questions. Focus groups were transcribed and coded by the researchers using content analysis with themes and subthemes later identified using these codes. Four main themes emerged from the data: Household Establishment and Management, Environmental Barriers, Community Mobility, and Financial Concerns. Identifying the prospective needs of middle-income older adults helps validate and inform non-profit ‘village’ organizations, support community health care interventions, and allow older adults to safely remain in their homes.

Keywords: aging in place, middle income, older adult, senior, Village-to-Village Network, occupational therapy

Highlights

1. Qualitative research design examining the needs of middle-income seniors’ ability to age in place in an urban area.
2. Focus group data revealed that assistance with heavy housework and yard maintenance, in addition to a senior only community center for social engagement and exercise were found to be needs for the middle-income population to age in place.
3. Study design and data interpretation was guided by the occupational therapy Person-Environment-Occupation (PEO) model.
4. Findings may prove useful for a community initiative to promote aging in place.