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New Report Shows Widening Housing Inequality Among America's Older Adults

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Housing inequality is becoming increasingly evident among older Americans as the number of older households climbs to unprecedented levels, according to [Housing America's Older Adults 2019](#), our new report, out today.

Between 2012 and 2017, the number of households headed by someone 65 or older jumped from 27 million to 31 million and will continue to grow. At the same time, the number of older adults facing housing cost burdens reached an all-time high of 10 million [[Interactive Map](#)] and income disparities are widening. Meanwhile, homeownership rates are lower and debt rates are higher for those 50 to 64, as compared to earlier generations.

The new report shows lower-income households falling further behind their higher-earning peers in income growth [[Interactive Chart](#)]. It also highlights the widening racial/ethnic disparities in homeownership: last year, the black-white homeownership gap among households age 65 and over was at a 30-year high of 19.4 percent.

Given the growing affordability challenges, combined with low rates of housing accessibility and a lack of services in the areas where many older Americans live, the report highlights several serious issues facing the country. Commitments to create age-friendly communities and some recent funding for affordable housing construction for older adults are promising starts, but the time for innovation—in the design, finance, construction, and regulation of housing—is now. The quality of life and well-being of over a quarter of the US population will depend on it.

[Read the Report](#)



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