



**Building Bridges
between
Utah's Disability & Aging
Networks**

Presented by: Jen Morgan & Libby Oseguera

Who is here today?

- Do you work with older adults?
- Do you work with people with disabilities?
- Do you work with both?
- What organizations/partners do you engage with?

The challenge:
Aging and
Disability
systems don't
really
intersect...

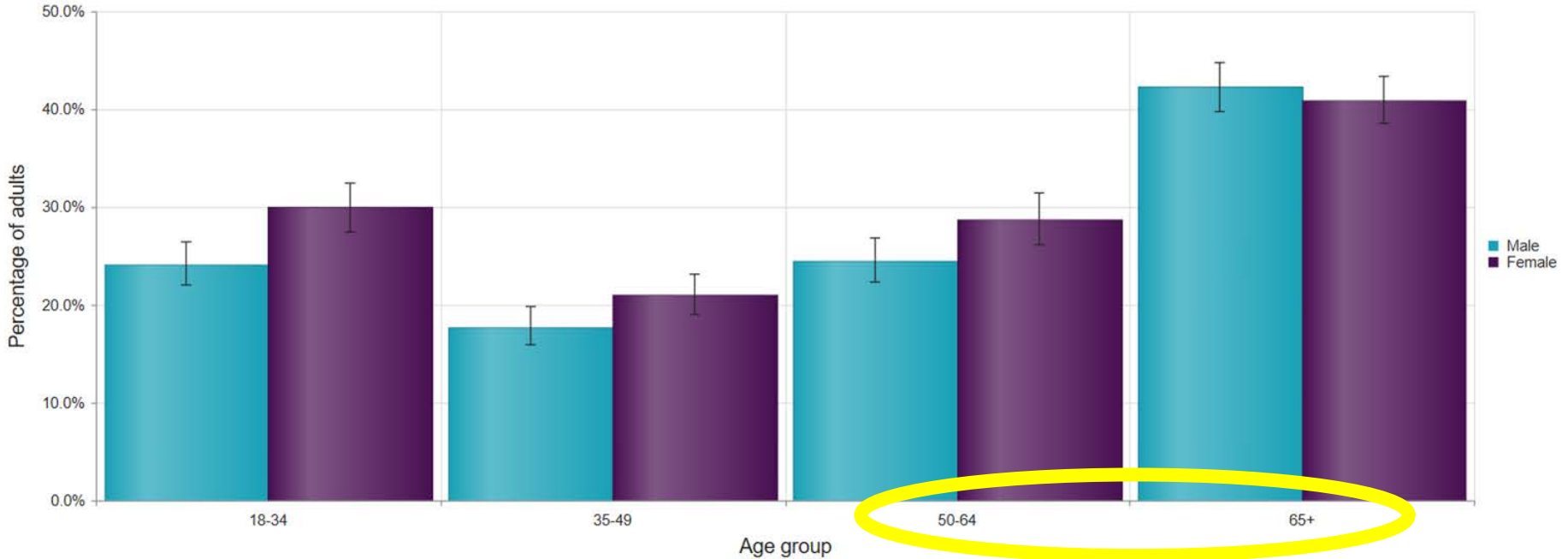


Disability:

A disability is any condition of the body or mind that makes it more difficult for the person with the condition to do certain activities and interact with the world around them.

Who are we talking about?

Disability prevalence by age and sex, Utah, 2022-2023 combined years



Utah Department of Health and Human Services Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

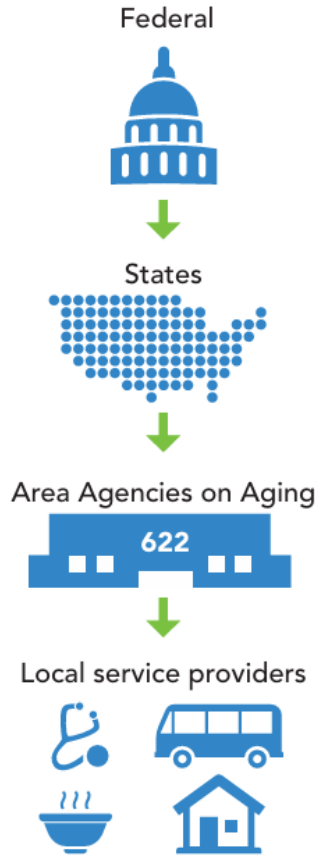
The Older Americans Act

Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) were formally established in the 1973 Older Americans Act (OAA) as the “on-the-ground” organizations charged with helping vulnerable older adults live with independence and dignity in their homes and communities.

Additional non-OAA funding leveraged by AAA:

- State General Revenue
- Medicaid
- Local Funding
- Other State Funding

Reference: [Area Agencies on Aging: Local Leaders in Aging and Community Living](#)



Utah's Area Agencies on Aging

Services, Resources & Programs for Older Adults 60+

- What is an Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and what do they Do?
Video <https://youtu.be/oEXJtlv9eTM?si=OhDxqjcWGGJ0LQ1N>
- There are 12 AAAs in Utah covering every county of the State – they oversee or collaborate with local Senior Centers
- Utah Map and find the AAA nearest to you:
- [What are Utah's Aging Services?](#)

What is an 
Area Agency on Aging?



UtahAging.org

Utah Commission on Aging

Utah's Older Adults

Older Adults typically don't say they are a person a disability when acquiring a disability due to older age.

Challenge: Older Adults acquiring a disability as they age
(Mobility, Cognitive, Hearing and Vision Loss, Chronic Illness)

Challenge: Older Veterans with a service-connected illness or disability aren't always integrated or identify with the Disability Network

Gap: Aging network and tracking specific data on type of disabilities

Real Stories:

When a person
with a disability
becomes a
caregiver...



Data & Service Gaps: Who are we serving?

What Data is the Utah Aging Network collecting?

- Type of Disability
- How do we collect it if they don't report it?
- Does the caregiver care for a child or spouse with a Disability?

Administration for Community Living working to address data gaps

- Aging, Independence, and Disability Program Data Portal
- National resources to strengthen aging and disability networks

Resources: Are Good Cross Referrals & Collaboration between the Network Being Made?

Opportunities to Bridge the Networks

- Be at the table – Join a partner’s Board or monthly meeting
- Reach out! Request a training from your partners to learn about what they do and who they serve
- When planning annual training events invite local community partners
- Gain perspectives with your clients/consumers through Motivational Interviewing & Person Centered Planning

Impacts in Bridging Disability & Aging

- **Utah Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)** – National program federally funded 2009-2014
- **Family Caregiver Collaborative** – key stakeholders including those in Aging, Disability, & Family Caregivers
- **Utah's Master Plan on Aging** – supporting older adults and family caregivers
- **No Wrong Door for Caregivers** – grant to support resources for all caregivers
- **Coalitions, Work Groups, Collaborations, Steering Committees:** including representation from both Disability & Aging Networks

Utah's Disability & Aging Resources

- Institute for Disability Research, Policy & Practice – Check out the “Project Page Tab” [Institute for Disability Research, Policy, & Practice | USU](#)
- Centers for Independent Living: [Six regional centers throughout the state](#)
- Utah Department of Health & Human Services (includes Aging & Disability):
[Divisions, Offices, and Institutions - Department of Health and Human Services](#)
- Utah Council on Developmental Disabilities: [Utah Developmental Disabilities Council | Advocating for Utahns with Developmental Disabilities](#)
- Utah VA – Caregiver Support: [VA Caregiver Support Program Home](#)
- Utah Commission on Aging: [Utah Commission on Aging - University of Utah](#)

Upcoming Conferences & Webinars on D&A

- Multicultural Disability Conference 2025: Building Bridges between Utah's Disability & Aging Networks – March 21, 2025
Slides will be available!
- Center for Healthy Aging & Innovation: Aging & Disability Webinar – March 31, 2025, [Information & Registration](#)
- 34th Annual Association on Aging with DD Conference – Missouri in May 2025 [Brochure & Registration](#)

“The future
depends on
what you
do today.”

-Mahatma Gandhi

Thank you!

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