

CASOA™

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT SURVEY
FOR OLDER ADULTS™

Area IV - Agency on Aging at Rocky Mountain Development Council

Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults

August 2022



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Section 1: Introduction








About the Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults®

The Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA)® provides a statistically valid survey of the strengths and needs of older adults as reported by older adults themselves. This report is intended to enable local governments, community-based organizations, the private sector and other community members to understand more thoroughly and predict more accurately the services and resources required to serve an aging population. With this data, community stakeholders can shape public policy, educate the public and assist communities and organizations in their efforts to sustain a high quality of life for older adults.



The results of this exploration will provide useful information for planning and resource development as well as strengths advocacy efforts and stakeholder engagement. The ultimate goal of the assessment is to create empowered communities that support vibrant older adult populations.

This report summarizes how older residents view their community and its success in creating a thriving environment for older adults. Aspects of livability are explored within six community dimensions: Community Design, Employment and Finances, Equity and Inclusivity, Health and Wellness, Information and Assistance, and Productive Activities. Overall community quality also is assessed.

Domain of Community Livability	Description	Community Livability Topics
 <p>Overall Community Quality</p>	<p>Measuring community livability starts with assessing the quality of life of those who live there, and ensuring that the community is attractive, accessible, and welcoming to residents of all ages.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place to Live and Retire • Recommend and Remain in Community
 <p>Community Design</p>	<p>A well-designed community enhances the quality of life for its residents by encouraging smart land use and zoning, ensuring that affordable housing is accessible to all, and providing mobility options to support residents aging in place.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Mobility • Land Use
 <p>Employment and Finances</p>	<p>Communities that work to foster sustainable growth, create jobs and workforce training for persons of all ages, and promote equitable economies ensure older adults are able to sustain their financial well-being through retirement and not outlive their life investments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment • Finances
 <p>Equity and Inclusivity</p>	<p>A community is often greater than the sum of its parts. Having a sense of community entails not only a sense of membership and belonging, but also feelings of safety and trust in the other members of the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity • Community Inclusivity
 <p>Health and Wellness</p>	<p>The amenities available in the communities have a direct impact on the health and wellness of residents, and thus, on their quality of life overall.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety • Physical Health • Mental Health • Health Care • Independent Living
 <p>Information and Assistance</p>	<p>Government programs, policies and information assistance can support successful aging initiatives allowing older residents to remain independent contributors to community quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of Older Adult Services • Information on Available Older Adult Services
 <p>Productive Activities</p>	<p>Productivity is the touchstone of a thriving old age. Older adults' engagement and contribution to the community can be determined by their time spent in civic meetings and social activities or providing help to others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic Engagement • Social Engagement • Caregiving

Survey Methods

The CASOA survey instrument and its administration are standardized to assure high-quality survey methods and comparable results across communities. Households with an adult member 55 years or older were selected at random. Multiple mailed contacts gave each household more than one prompt to participate. A total of 3,610 older adult households were randomly selected to receive the survey. These households first received a half-page postcard inviting them to complete the survey online, followed by a mailed hard copy survey packet which included a cover letter, a copy of the questionnaire and a postage-paid return envelope. A total of 459 completed surveys was

obtained, providing an overall response rate of 13.45% and a margin of error plus or minus 4.57% around any given percent and one point around any given average rating for the entire sample (e.g., average number of caregiving hours). Results were statistically weighted to reflect the proper demographic composition of older adults in the entire community.

In addition to the random sample "probability" survey, an open participation survey was conducted, in which all older adults 55 years or older were invited to participate. The open participation survey instrument was identical to the probability sample survey. This survey was conducted entirely online. A total of 86 surveys were completed by open participation survey respondents. The open participation survey results were combined with responses from the probability sample survey, for a total of 545 completed surveys. With the inclusion of the open participation survey participants, it is likely that the precision of the responses would be even greater (and thus the margin of error smaller).

Results were statistically weighted to reflect the proper demographic composition of older adults in the entire community.

Because Rocky's Agency on Aging doesn't have any prior measurements, trends aren't available. Trends will be available after this survey has been conducted a second time. Differences in responses between the survey administrations will be tested for statistical significance, and statistically significant differences are noted in the charts. Trend data represent important comparisons and should be examined for improvements or declines.

For additional details on the survey methodology, see the Methods section.

How the Results Are Reported

Don't Know Responses and Rounding

On many of the questions in the survey, respondents could provide an answer of don't know. The proportion of residents giving this reply can be seen in Responses. However, these responses have been removed

from the analyses presented in the body of the report, unless otherwise indicated. In other words, the majority of the tables and graphs in the body of the report display the responses from respondents who had an opinion about a specific item.

For some questions, respondents were permitted to select multiple responses. When the total exceeds 100% in a table for a multiple response question, it is because some respondents are counted in multiple categories. When a table for a question that only permitted a single response does not total to exactly 100%, it is due to the customary practice of rounding percentages to the nearest whole number.

Benchmark Comparison Data

National Research Center at Polco has developed a database that collates responses to CASOA and related surveys administered in other communities, which allows the results from Rocky's Agency on Aging to be compared against a set of national benchmarks. This benchmarking database includes responses from more than 35,000 older adults (age 55 and over) in over 325 communities across the nation.

Ratings are compared when similar questions are included in Polco's database and when there are at least five other communities in which the question was asked. Where comparisons for ratings are available, Rocky's Agency on Aging's results are shown as more favorable than the benchmark, less favorable than the benchmark or similar to the benchmark. In instances where ratings are considerably more or less favorable than the benchmark, these ratings have been further demarcated by the attribute of "much" (for example, much more favorable or much less favorable).

Section 2: Key Findings

Background

Most older adults desire to age in place. Communities that assist older adults in remaining or becoming active community participants must provide the requisite opportunities for recreation, transportation, culture, education, communication, social connection, spiritual enrichment and health care.

To better understand the strengths and challenges of Montana communities aging in place, the State of Montana Unit on Aging/Aging Services partnered with Polco to administer The Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA[®]) across all Areas Agencies on Aging across the state. Data in this report focus specifically on older residents in the Area 4: Rocky's Agency on Aging region.

Survey participants rated the overall quality of life in their community. They also evaluated their communities as livable communities for older adults within six domains:

- Community Design
- Employment and Finances
- Equity and Inclusivity
- Health and Wellness
- Information and Assistance
- Productive Activities.

The extent to which older adults experience challenges within these domains is also described.

Overall Community Quality

Measuring community livability for older adults starts with assessing the quality of life of those who live there, and ensuring that the community is attractive, accessible, and welcoming to all. Exploring

how older residents view their community overall and how likely they are to recommend and remain in their communities can provide a high-level overview of the quality and livability of the community.

- About 8 in 10 of older residents living in the region rated their overall quality of life as excellent or good. Most of the older respondents scored their communities positively as a place to live and would recommend their communities to others. About 8 in 10 residents planned to stay in their community throughout their retirement.
- Older residents gave slightly lower scores to their communities as places to retire (62% excellent or good) than they did the overall quality of life in their community (84%).

Overall Scores of Community Livability

The Community Assessment Survey of Older Adults (CASOA) is designed to examine the status of older adults and the community around many (17) aspects of livability within six domains: Community Design, Employment and Finances, Equity and Inclusivity, Health and Wellness, Information and Assistance, and Productive Activities. Summary scores of community livability were created through the aggregation of a series of resident ratings within each of these different livability domains. The livability areas found to be strongest in the region related to areas of Safety (average positive score of 80), Physical Health (65), and Social Engagement (63). The areas showing the greatest need for improvement related to Housing (positive score of 7), Mental Health (14) and Independent Living (21). More detailed information about each livability domain follows.

Community Design

Livable communities (which include those with mixed-use neighborhoods, higher-density development, increased connections, shared community spaces and more human-scale design) will become a necessity for communities to age successfully. Communities that have planned and been designed for older adults tend to emphasize access, helping to facilitate movement and participation.

- About 4 in 10 respondents rated the overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in their community as excellent or good. Ease of travel by car was

considered excellent or good by 76% of respondents, while ease of travel by walking was considered excellent or good by only 60% of respondents.

- When considering aspects of housing (affordability and variety) and community features of new urbanism (where people can live close to places where they can eat, shop, work, and receive services), relatively lower scores were given by older adults compared to many other items on the survey. Only 5% of respondents gave a positive score to the availability of affordable quality housing in their communities, and only about 2 in 10 older adults gave excellent or good ratings to the availability of mixed-use neighborhoods.
- About 41% of older residents in the region reported experiencing housing needs and 23% reported mobility needs.

Employment and Finances

The life expectancy for those born between 1940 and 1960 has increased dramatically due to advances in health care and lifestyle changes. While this is a very positive trend overall, it also highlights both the importance of communities providing employment opportunities for older adults and the need for older adults to plan well for their retirement years.

- About 60% of older residents rated the overall economic health of their communities positively, although the cost of living was rated as excellent or good by only 1 in 10.
- Employment opportunities for older adults (quality and variety) received low ratings (34% and 27% positive, respectively), and the opportunity to build work skills also was found to be lacking (35% excellent or good).
- A quarter of older adults reported financial challenges and about 17% reported employment needs.

Equity and Inclusion

A community is often greater than the sum of its parts. Having a sense of community entails not only a sense of membership and belonging, but also feelings of equity and trust in the other members of the community.

- About 61% of older residents rated the sense of community in their towns as excellent or good, while about half gave positive ratings to the neighborliness of their community.
- About half of the respondents positively rated their community's openness and acceptance toward older residents of diverse backgrounds, and a slightly lower proportion indicated that their community valued older residents (41% positive).
- Inclusion challenges were reported by about 22% of older residents and equity challenges by 8%.

Health and Wellness

Of all the attributes of aging, health poses the greatest risk and the biggest opportunity for communities to ensure the independence and contributions of their aging populations. Health and wellness, for the purposes of this study, included not only physical and mental health, but issues of safety, independent living and health care.

- About 8 in 10 older residents in the region rated their overall physical health as excellent or good and a somewhat higher proportion (9 in 10) rated their mental health as excellent or good.
- Community opportunities for health and wellness were scored positively by 7 in 10 residents, while the availability of physical health care, mental health care and long term care options received lower ratings (33% or fewer gave positive ratings).
- Health-related problems were some of the most common challenges listed by older adults in the survey, with 34% reporting physical health challenges and 26% reporting mental health challenges. Health care was also a challenge for about 43% of older residents.

Information and Assistance

The older adult service network, while strong, is under-resourced and unable to single-handedly meet the needs of the continuously growing population of older adults. Providing useful and well-designed programs, as well as informing residents about other assistance resources, is an important way that government agencies can help residents age in place.

- The overall services provided to older adults in the region were rated as excellent or good by 51% of survey respondents.
- About 59% of survey respondents reported being somewhat informed or very informed about services and activities available to older adults. The availability of information about resources for older adults, financial services and legal planning services were rated positively by 31% or fewer of older residents.
- About 42% of older adults were found to have information access challenges in the region.

Productive Activities

Productive activities outside of work (such as volunteerism and social activity) promote quality of life and contribute to active aging. This domain examines the extent of older adults' participation in social and leisure programs and their time spent attending or viewing civic meetings, volunteering or providing help to others.

- About 7 in 10 of older adults surveyed felt they had excellent or good opportunities to volunteer, and 8 in 10 participated in some kind of volunteer work.
- The caregiving contribution of older adults was substantial in the region. About 26% of older residents reported providing care to individuals 55 and older, 21% to individuals 18-54 and 15% to individuals under 18.
- Older adults in the region reported challenges with being civically engaged (25%), being socially engaged (23%) and caregiving (11%).

The Economic Contribution of Older Adults in the Region

The contribution older adults make through employment, volunteerism and caregiving was calculated for all older adults living in the Area 4: Rocky's Agency on Aging region. It is estimated that older residents contribute \$991,285,975 annually to their community through paid and unpaid work.

Older Resident Needs

Through the survey, more than 40 challenges commonly facing older adults were assessed by respondents. These challenges are grouped into 15 larger categories of needs. In the region, the largest challenges

were in the areas of health care, information, and housing. At least 43% of older residents reported at least one item in these categories was a problem in the 12 months prior to taking the survey.

Comparison to National Benchmarks

To better provide context to the survey data, resident responses for the region were compared to Polco's national benchmark database or older adult opinion. Of the 52 assessments of community livability compared to the benchmark database, the region scored on par for 42 items. No items scored above the benchmark comparisons and 10 items scored below the benchmark comparisons.

The areas in which the region ratings were lower than benchmark comparisons are shown below:

- Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in your community
- Ease of travel by public transportation in your community
- Cost of living in your community
- Availability of affordable quality food
- Availability of affordable quality housing
- Variety of housing options
- Availability of accessible housing (e.g., homes with a no step entry, single-floor living, wide hallways and doorways)
- Availability of affordable quality physical health care
- Availability of affordable quality mental health care
- Making all residents feel welcome

In terms of older resident challenges, the region scored similar to benchmark averages for all 42 items. There were no areas in which residents reported a higher or lower need compared to benchmarks.

Section 3: Community Readiness

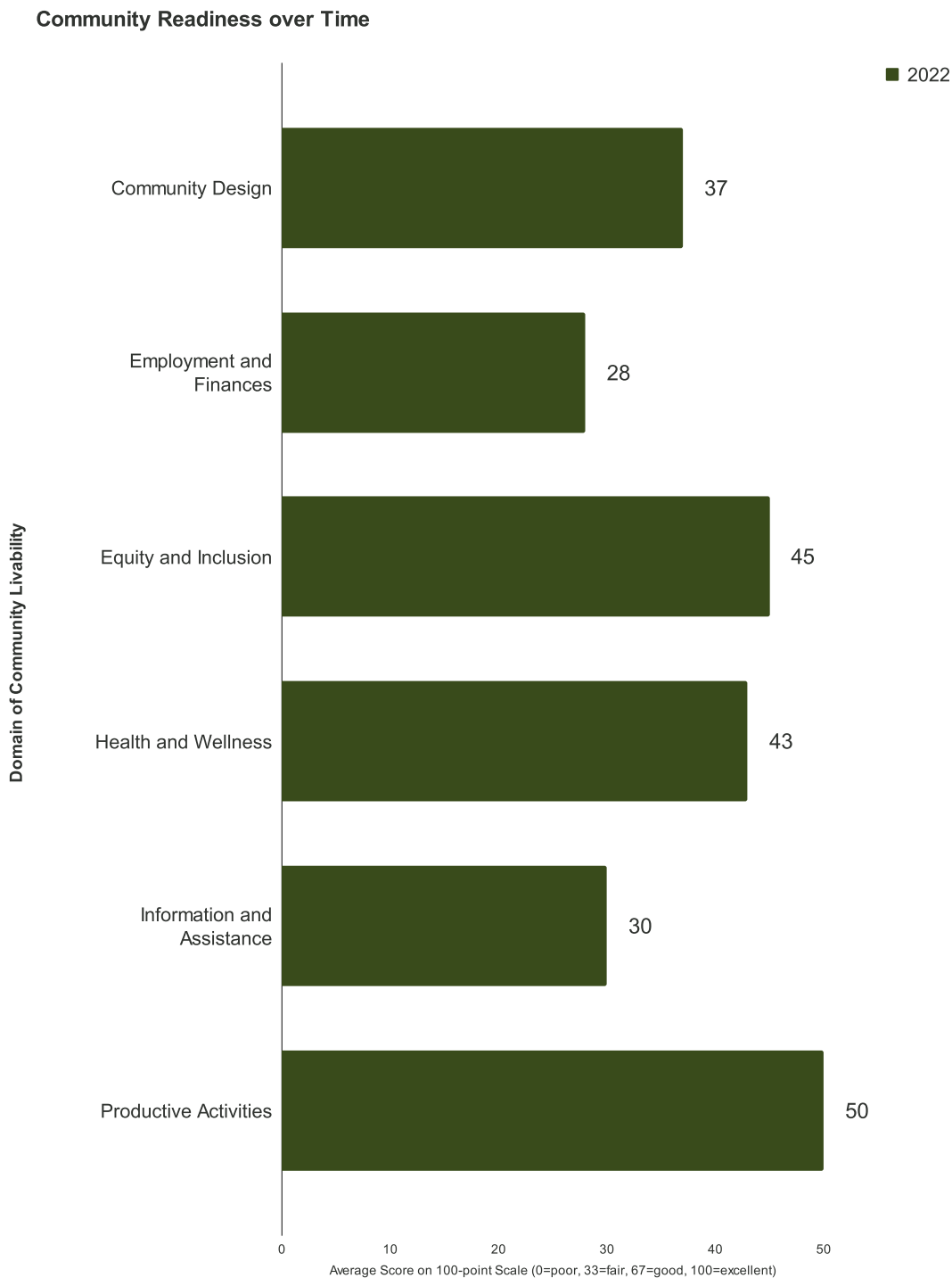
Communities that assist older adults to remain or become active community participants must provide the requisite opportunities for recreation, transportation, culture, education, communication, social connection, spiritual enrichment and health care. Because every community is different, each must identify what its older adults value most and what the community offers its older residents. The judgments of these residents provide the elements used to calculate the overall community quality in Rocky’s Agency on Aging.

Survey respondents were asked to rate a number of aspects of the community. These ratings were converted to an average scale of 0 (the lowest rating, such as poor) to 100 (the highest rating, such as excellent) and then combined to provide one overall rating (index¹) for each of the six dimensions of Community Readiness, as well as an overall rating of the Quality of the Community. If trend data prior to 2022 are shown, it should be noted that community readiness scores have been updated from previous reports to improve these metrics. Readiness scores for past surveys were recalculated using the new dimensions to make them comparable to the current structure.

Community Readiness Chart

Dimension	Community Livability Topics	Score (out of 100)
Overall Community Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place to Live and Retire • Recommend and Remain in Community 	66
Community Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Mobility • Land Use 	37

Dimension	Community Livability Topics	Score (out of 100)
Employment and Finances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment • Finances 	28
Equity and Inclusivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity • Community Inclusivity 	45
Health and Wellness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety • Physical Health • Mental Health • Health Care • Independent Living 	43
Information and Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of Older Adult Services • Information on Available Older Adult Services 	30
Productive Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic Engagement • Social Engagement • Caregiving 	50



¹These ratings are not to be understood like ratings from school tests, because they are summaries of several questions that range from 0 as poor, 33 as fair, 67 as good and 100 as excellent. For example, a score

of 58 should be interpreted as closer to good than to fair (with the midpoint of the scale, 50, representing equidistance between good and fair).

Section 4: Community Livability Topics

The Community Assessment Survey of Older Adults (CASOA) is designed to examine the status of older adults and the community around many (17) aspects of livability within six domains: Community Design, Employment and Finances, Equity and Inclusivity, Health and Wellness, Information and Assistance, and Productive Activities. Overall community quality also is assessed with two topics. (See **Introduction** section *About the Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults* for an overview of all the community livability topics within these domains.) For each of these 19 community livability topic areas, survey questions evaluated the community's ability to accommodate the needs of older residents, as well as the actual experiences and challenges of older adults.

To summarize the data, an index score was calculated for each aspect of livability by averaging the ratings given to the questions related to the specific community livability topic. (This index includes only the ratings of community amenities, not those items related to the respondents' own status or the challenges faced by the respondent.)

i Livability score trend unavailable.

Because MT Area IV - Agency on Aging at Rocky Mountain Development Council doesn't have a prior livability score, trends for livability aren't available. Trends will be available after this survey has been conducted a second time.

Overall Community Quality



Place to Live and Retire
79 / 100



Recommend and Remain in Community
73 / 100

Community Design



Housing
7 / 100

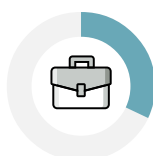


Land Use
45 / 100



Mobility
54 / 100

Employment and Finances



Employment
32 / 100



Finances
36 / 100

Equity and Inclusivity



Community Inclusivity
54 / 100



Equity
47 / 100

Health and Wellness



Health Care
44 / 100



Independent Living
21 / 100



Mental Health
14 / 100



Physical Health
65 / 100



Safety
80 / 100

Information and Assistance



Information on Available Older Adult Services
29 / 100



Quality of Older Adult Services
51 / 100

Productive Activities



Caregiving
Scoring not applicable



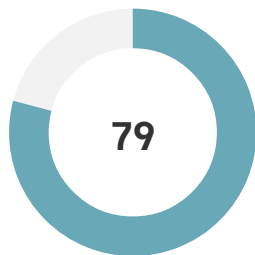
Civic Engagement
60 / 100



Social Engagement
63 / 100

Section 5A: Place to Live and Retire

Successful aging communities are attractive and welcoming to older adults and provide the support necessary for residents to age in place.



Livability score

Average of community quality items

i Livability score trend unavailable.

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Related survey results

Items on the survey related to this topic are shown below. These tables display the ratings given by respondents, as well as a comparison to the national benchmark (average ratings from communities across the nation) and, if available, comparisons to ratings from the most recently implemented survey.

i Trends unavailable

Because MT Area IV - Agency on Aging at Rocky Mountain Development Council doesn't have any prior measurements, these trends aren't available. Trends will be available after this survey has been conducted a second time.

Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Your neighborhood as a place to live	88%	–
Your community as a place to live	85%	–
The overall quality of life in your community	81%	–
Your community as a place to retire	62%	–

Status Indicators - Personal Quality of Life

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Your overall quality of life	84%	–

Section 5B: Recommend and Remain in Community

A strong testament to the quality of a community is the likelihood of residents recommending and remaining in the community. Generally, residents will not recommend a community to friends unless they believe that community is offering the right amenities and services. Furthermore, communities that do a good job supporting seniors allow their residents to remain throughout their retirement years.



i Livability score trend unavailable.

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Related survey results



Items on the survey related to this topic are shown below. These tables display the ratings given by respondents, as well as a comparison to the national benchmark (average ratings from communities across the nation) and, if available, comparisons to ratings from the most recently implemented survey.

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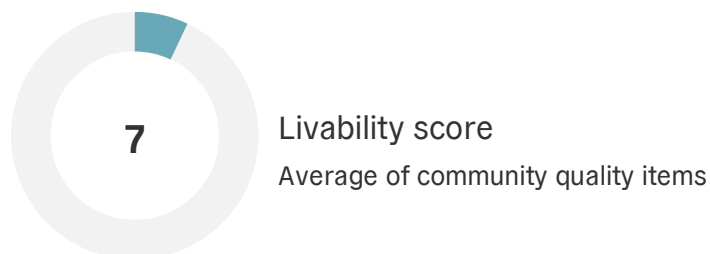
Quality of Community

Percent reporting *very likely* or *somewhat likely*.

Characteristic	% likely	National Benchmark
Remain in your community throughout your retirement	78%	
Recommend living in your community to older adults	68%	

Section 6A: Housing

Most older adults want to age in place; however, many do not have homes that feature universal design allowing access for walkers and wheelchairs and providing safety for those who are frail or experiencing mobility impairments. Ensuring the availability of housing stock that is both affordable and suitable for seniors is necessary as a community's population ages.



i Livability score trend unavailable.

Because MT Area IV - Agency on Aging at Rocky Mountain Development Council doesn't have a prior livability score, trends for livability aren't available. Trends will be available after this survey has been conducted a second time.

Related survey results

Items on the survey related to this topic are shown below. These tables display the ratings given by respondents, as well as a comparison to the national benchmark (average ratings from communities across the nation) and, if available, comparisons to ratings from the most recently implemented survey.

i Trends unavailable

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Potential Problems

Percent reporting *minor problem, moderate problem or major problem*.

Characteristic	% problematic	National Benchmark
Doing heavy or intense housework	55%	-
Maintaining your home	54%	-
Maintaining your yard	51%	-
Having housing to suit your needs	25%	-

Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Variety of housing options	9%	
Availability of accessible housing (e.g., homes with a no step entry, single-floor living, wide hallways and doorways)	7%	
Availability of affordable quality housing	5%	

Section 6B: Land Use

The movement in America towards designing more livable communities (which include mixed-use neighborhoods, higher-density development, increased connections, shared community spaces and more human-scale design) will become a necessity for communities to age successfully. Communities that have planned and been designed for older adults tend to emphasize access, helping to facilitate movement and participation.



i Livability score trend unavailable.

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Related survey results

Items on the survey related to this topic are shown below. These tables display the ratings given by respondents, as well as a comparison to the national benchmark (average ratings from communities across the nation) and, if available, comparisons to ratings from the most recently implemented survey.

i Trends unavailable

Because MT Area IV - Agency on Aging at Rocky Mountain Development Council doesn't have any prior measurements, these trends aren't available. Trends will be available after this survey has been conducted a second time.

Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in your community (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas, broadband)	59%	–
Overall design or layout of your community's residential and commercial areas (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, parks, etc.)	53%	–
Public places where people want to spend time	45%	–
Availability of mixed-use neighborhoods where people live close to places where they can eat, shop, work, and receive services	20%	–

Section 6C: Mobility

The ease with which older residents can move about their communities, whether for commuting, leisure, or recreation, plays a major role in the quality of life for all who live, work, and play in the community. Those who reside in livable communities where they can reach their destinations easily and comfortably by auto, on foot or in public transportation are more likely to remain engaged in their communities and to demonstrate signs of successful aging. Residents that must give up driving are more likely to be able to age in place if other modes of transportation are easily accessed in their neighborhood and community.



i Livability score trend unavailable.

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Related survey results

Items on the survey related to this topic are shown below. These tables display the ratings given by respondents, as well as a comparison to the national benchmark (average ratings from communities across the nation) and, if available, comparisons to ratings from the most recently implemented survey.

i Trends unavailable

Because MT Area IV - Agency on Aging at Rocky Mountain Development Council doesn't have any prior measurements, these trends aren't available. Trends will be available after this survey has been conducted a second time.

Potential Problems

Percent reporting *minor problem, moderate problem or major problem*.

Characteristic	% problematic	National Benchmark
Having safe and affordable transportation available	33%	-
No longer being able to drive	11%	-

Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Ease of travel by car in your community	76%	–
Ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	74%	–
Ease of walking in your community	60%	–
Ease of bicycling in your community	47%	–
Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in your community	40%	∨
Ease of travel by public transportation in your community	22%	∨

Section 7A: Employment

People in the U.S. are working longer and retiring at an older age than they have in the past. Older adults are postponing retirement for a variety of reasons: improved health, the desire to accumulate additional wealth and/or benefit from delayed pension plans, and because the information age-based economy is less physically demanding than jobs from the industrial age. Older workers are an untapped resource for many communities seeking economic stability and growth.



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Related survey results

Items on the survey related to this topic are shown below. These tables display the ratings given by respondents, as well as a comparison to the national benchmark (average ratings from communities across the nation) and, if available, comparisons to ratings from the most recently implemented survey.

i Trends unavailable

Because MT Area IV - Agency on Aging at Rocky Mountain Development Council doesn't have any prior measurements, these trends aren't available. Trends will be available after this survey has been conducted a second time.

i Certain benchmarks unavailable

Because this survey includes new characteristics, we can't determine your benchmark performance on the new characteristics until a sufficient number of communities have completed surveying. We'll email you when we've determined more of your benchmark performances.

Potential Problems

Percent reporting *minor problem*, *moderate problem* or *major problem*.

Characteristic	% problematic	National Benchmark
Building skills for paid or unpaid work	37%	–
Finding work in retirement	26%	–

Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Opportunities to build work skills	35%	-
Quality of employment opportunities for older adults	34%	-
Variety of employment opportunities for older adults	27%	-

Section 7B: Finances

With longer life spans, the importance of financial well-being in old age has increased dramatically. Financial independence and the ability to economically contribute to a community have become critical factors in enhancing the quality of life of older adults.



i Livability score trend unavailable.

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Related survey results

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i Trends unavailable

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Potential Problems

Percent reporting *minor problem, moderate problem or major problem*.

Characteristic	% problematic	National Benchmark
Having enough money to meet daily expenses	36%	-
Having enough money to pay your property taxes	31%	-


Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent or good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Overall economic health of your community	60%	-
Cost of living in your community	13%	∨

Status Indicators - Household Financial Status

Percent reporting *very positive* or *somewhat positive*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:	8%	

Section 8A: Community Inclusivity

Inclusivity refers to a cultural and environmental feeling of belonging. Creating places in which any individual or group can be and feel welcomed, respected, supported, and valued increases the overall livability of communities.



i Livability score trend unavailable.

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i Certain benchmarks unavailable

Because this survey includes new characteristics, we can't determine your benchmark performance on the new characteristics until a sufficient number of communities have completed surveying. We'll email you when we've determined more of your benchmark performances.

Potential Problems

Percent reporting *minor problem, moderate problem or major problem*.

Characteristic	% problematic	National Benchmark
Feeling lonely or isolated	36%	–
Feeling like you don't fit in or belong	30%	–
Having friends or family you can rely on	28%	–

Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Sense of community in your community	61%	-
Neighborliness of your community	54%	-
Making all residents feel welcome	45%	v

Section 8B: Equity

Opportunities for health, income, housing and other life circumstances are often disproportionate. Strong communities work to decrease inequalities so that all residents can successfully age in place.



i Livability score trend unavailable.

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i Trends unavailable

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Potential Problems

Percent reporting *minor problem, moderate problem or major problem*.

Characteristic	% problematic	National Benchmark
Being treated unfairly or discriminated against because of your age	22%	–

Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent or good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Openness and acceptance of the community towards older residents of diverse backgrounds	53%	–
Valuing older residents in your community	41%	–

Section 9A: Health Care

Poor health does not need to be an inevitable consequence of aging. Adoptions of healthy lifestyles and the use of preventive services will reduce the risk of morbidity and increase healthy longevity of older residents.



i Livability score trend unavailable.

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Potential Problems

Percent reporting *minor problem, moderate problem or major problem*.

Characteristic	% problematic	National Benchmark
Finding affordable health insurance	42%	-
Getting the health care you need	41%	-
Getting the oral health care you need	32%	-
Affording the medications you need	31%	-
Getting the vision care you need	28%	-

Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Availability of preventive health services (e.g., health screenings, flu shots, educational workshops)	55%	-
Availability of affordable quality physical health care	33%	v

Section 9B: Independent Living

If the community cannot help maintain the independence of residents who experience the decline in health that often accompanies aging, the potential contribution of older residents will be lost to hospitals and nursing homes.



i Livability score trend unavailable.

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Related survey results

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i Trends unavailable

Because MT Area IV - Agency on Aging at Rocky Mountain Development Council doesn't have any prior measurements, these trends aren't available. Trends will be available after this survey has been conducted a second time.

Average Number of Hours Providing Care

Average number of hours spent per respondent in a typical week

Characteristic	Average # of Hours	National Benchmark
Receiving assistance, paid or unpaid (e.g., with shopping, cooking, etc.)	2.1	-

Potential Problems

Percent reporting *minor problem, moderate problem or major problem*.

Characteristic	% problematic	National Benchmark
Performing regular activities, including walking, eating and preparing meals	27%	-

Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Availability of long-term care options	29%	–
Availability of daytime care options for older adults	11%	–

Status Indicators - Activities

Percent reporting *1 to 3 hours*, *4 to 5 hours*, *6 to 10 hours*, *11 to 19 hours* or *20 or more hours*.

Characteristic	% of respondents	National Benchmark
Receiving assistance, paid or unpaid (e.g., with shopping, cooking, etc.)	49%	–

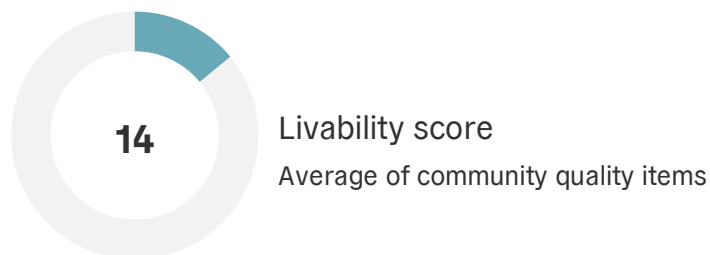
Status Indicators - Long-term Care Admissions

Percent reporting *1-2 days*, *3-5 days* or *6 or more days*.

Characteristic	% of respondents	National Benchmark
In a long-term care facility (including nursing home or in-patient rehabilitation facility)	1%	–

Section 9C: Mental Health

Mental health plays a vital role in the well-being of residents. Depression, isolation, anxiety and memory loss can have a direct and profound effect on older adults' quality of life.



i Livability score trend unavailable.

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Related survey results

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Potential Problems

Percent reporting *minor problem, moderate problem or major problem*.

Characteristic	% problematic	National Benchmark
Feeling depressed	42%	–
Dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend	38%	–
Experiencing confusion or forgetfulness	31%	–

Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent or good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	14%	∨

Status Indicators - Personal Health Status

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Your overall mental health/emotional wellbeing	87%	-

Section 9D: Physical Health

Of all the attributes of aging, health poses the greatest risk and the biggest opportunity. When good health can be sustained, the individuals benefit by living a life of better quality, friends and family benefit from reduced caregiving burdens, and the community benefits by harnessing the power of older adults' contributions.



i Livability score trend unavailable.

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Related survey results

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Potential Problems

Percent reporting *minor problem, moderate problem or major problem*.

Characteristic	% problematic	National Benchmark
Your physical health	56%	–
Staying physically fit	50%	–
Maintaining a healthy diet	38%	–
Falling or injuring yourself in your home	27%	–
Having enough food to eat	12%	–

Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Overall quality of natural environment in your community	86%	–
Overall health and wellness opportunities in your community	68%	–
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	65%	–
Availability of affordable quality food	41%	∨

Status Indicators - Falls

Percent reporting *1 to 2 times*, *3 to 5 times* or *more than 5 times*.

Characteristic	% of respondents	National Benchmark
Thinking back over the past 12 months, how many times have you fallen and injured yourself?	35%	–

Status Indicators - Hospitalizations

Percent reporting *1-2 days*, *3-5 days* or *6 or more days*.

Characteristic	% of respondents	National Benchmark
As a patient in a hospital	21%	–

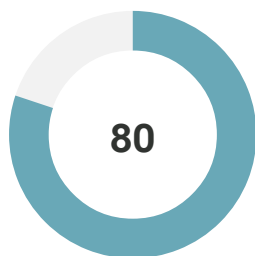
Status Indicators - Personal Health Status

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Your overall physical health	82%	-

Section 9E: Safety

Safety is one of the most essential components of community livability. The extent to which older residents feel safe from crime and other adverse events can strengthen their feelings of comfort and trust and impact their ability to live independently.



Livability score

Average of community quality items

i Livability score trend unavailable.

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Potential Problems

Percent reporting *minor problem, moderate problem or major problem.*

Characteristic	% problematic	National Benchmark
Being a victim of fraud or a scam	21%	–
Being a victim of crime	10%	–
Being physically or emotionally abused	6%	–

Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent or good.*

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Overall feeling of safety in your community	80%	–

Section 10A: Information on Available Older Adult Services

Sometimes residents of any age fail to take advantage of services offered by a community solely because they are not aware of the opportunities that exist. Educating a large community of older adults is not simple, but raising awareness about attractive, useful and well-designed programs will lead more residents to benefit from becoming participants.



i Livability score trend unavailable.

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Related survey results

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i Certain benchmarks unavailable

Because this survey includes new characteristics, we can't determine your benchmark performance on the new characteristics until a sufficient number of communities have completed surveying. We'll email you when we've determined more of your benchmark performances.

Potential Problems

Percent reporting *minor problem, moderate problem or major problem*.

Characteristic	% problematic	National Benchmark
Not knowing what services are available to older adults in your community	72%	-
Having adequate information or dealing with public programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid	59%	-

Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Availability of financial or legal planning services	31%	–
Availability of information about resources for older adults	26%	–

Status Indicators - Informed about Services

Percent reporting *very informed* or *somewhat informed*.

Characteristic	% informed	National Benchmark
In general, how informed or uninformed do you feel about services and activities available to older adults in your community?	59%	N/A

Status Indicators - Use of Technology

Percent reporting *several times a day, once a day or a few times a week.*

Characteristic	% of respondents	National Benchmark
Use or check email	90%	–
Access the internet from your home using a computer, laptop, or tablet computer	87%	–
Access the internet from your cell phone	75%	–
Visit social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor, etc.	59%	–
Shop online	25%	∨
Share your opinions online	21%	–

Section 10B: Quality of Older Adult Services

Strong local governments play a major role in producing communities that meet the needs of older residents while making the best use of available resources. Providing services that are responsive to the present and future needs of the older community is an important responsibility and a vital component of livable communities.



i Livability score trend unavailable.

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Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
How would you rate the overall services provided to older adults in your community?	51%	–

Section 11A: Caregiving

According to the Centers for Disease Control, about 2 in 5 adults 65 years and older have a disabling condition that affects their ability to live independently¹. Those who provide care to a loved one or friend with such a condition often feel a sense of contribution and personal worth despite the physical, emotional and financial burden such care can produce. While such caregiving is most often provided by family members and is unpaid, AARP researchers estimate the value of the care as \$470 billion annually. A caregiving crunch is predicted in the future, where the average American will spend more years caring for their parents than for their own children².

¹Prevalence of Disabilities and Health Care Access by Disability Status and Type Among Adults — United States, 2016

²AARP Family Caregiver Contribution study

i Livability scoring is not applicable.

Because data for this topic are informational and not evaluative, no livability score is calculated.

Related survey results

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Average Number of Hours Providing Care

Average number of hours spent per respondent in a typical week

Characteristic	Average # of Hours	National Benchmark
Providing care to someone age 55+	2.2	-
Providing care to someone age 18 to 54	1.8	-
Providing care someone under age 18	0.9	-

Potential Problems

Percent reporting *minor problem, moderate problem or major problem.*

Characteristic	% problematic	National Benchmark
Feeling EMOTIONALLY burdened by providing care for another person	23%	–
Feeling PHYSICALLY burdened by providing care for another person	18%	–
Feeling FINANCIALLY burdened by providing care for another person	17%	–

Status Indicators - Activities

Percent reporting *1 to 3 hours, 4 to 5 hours, 6 to 10 hours, 11 to 19 hours or 20 or more hours.*

Characteristic	% of respondents	National Benchmark
Providing care to someone age 55+	26%	–
Providing care to someone age 18 to 54	21%	–
Providing care someone under age 18	15%	–

Section 11B: Civic Engagement

In communities where residents care about local politics and social conditions, where they feel engaged and effective, there tends to be greater social, economic and cultural prosperity. Civic activity of any kind, such as volunteering, participating in political groups or being active in community decision-making, benefits both communities and seniors themselves.



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Average Number of Hours Providing Care

Average number of hours spent per respondent in a typical week

Characteristic	Average # of Hours	National Benchmark
Volunteering your time	4.5	⤴

Potential Problems

Percent reporting *minor problem, moderate problem or major problem*.

Characteristic	% problematic	National Benchmark
Feeling like your voice is heard in the community	43%	–
Finding productive or meaningful activities to do	33%	–
Finding meaningful volunteer work	21%	–

Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Opportunities to volunteer	73%	–
Opportunities participate in community matters	55%	–
Residents' connection and engagement with their community	53%	–

Status Indicators - Activities

Percent reporting *1 to 3 hours, 4 to 5 hours, 6 to 10 hours, 11 to 19 hours* or *20 or more hours*.

Characteristic	% of respondents	National Benchmark
Volunteering your time	79%	^

Status Indicators - Participation

Percent reporting yes.

Characteristic	% yes	National Benchmark
Voted in your most recent local election	92%	-
Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting	32%	^
Attended a local public meeting (of local elected officials like City Council or County Commissioners, advisory boards, town halls, HOA, neighborhood watch, etc.)	25%	-
Participated in a civic group (including Elks, Kiwanis, Masons, etc.)	17%	-

Section 11C: Social Engagement

It is well documented that social support also has many mental and physical health benefits. Extensive opportunities for recreation, the arts and social interaction make a community more attractive, especially to older adults.



i Livability score trend unavailable.

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Related survey results



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Average Number of Hours Providing Care

Average number of hours spent per respondent in a typical week

Characteristic	Average # of Hours	National Benchmark
Talking or visiting with friends/family	3.9	
Assisting friends, relatives, or neighbors	3.5	

Potential Problems

Percent reporting *minor problem, moderate problem or major problem.*

Characteristic	% problematic	National Benchmark
Having interesting social events or activities to attend	45%	
Feeling bored	43%	
Having interesting recreational or cultural activities to attend	40%	

Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Opportunities to attend religious or spiritual activities	83%	–
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	77%	–
Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	64%	–
Recreation opportunities (including games, arts, library services, etc.)	58%	–
Opportunities to attend social events or activities	51%	–
Opportunities to enroll in skill-building or personal enrichment classes	37%	–

Status Indicators - Activities

Percent reporting *1 to 3 hours*, *4 to 5 hours*, *6 to 10 hours*, *11 to 19 hours* or *20 or more hours*.

Characteristic	% of respondents	National Benchmark
Assisting friends, relatives, or neighbors	66%	▽
Talking or visiting with friends/family	64%	▽

Status Indicators - Participation

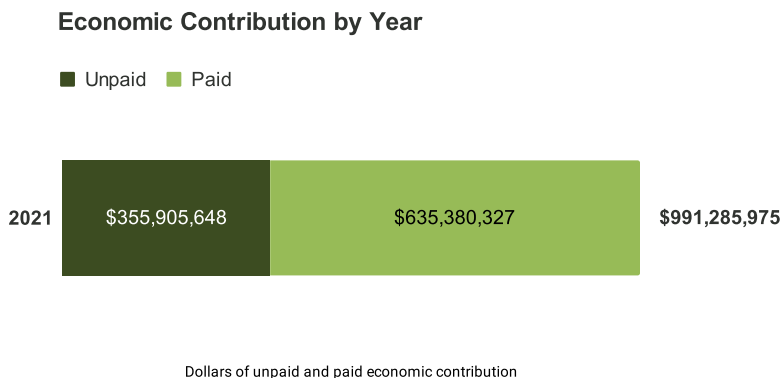
Percent reporting yes.

Characteristic	% yes	National Benchmark
Used a public library in your community	50%	-
Participated in religious or spiritual activities with others	44%	-
Participated in a club (including book, dance, game, and other social)	30%	-
Participated in a recreation program or group activity	30%	-
Used a recreation center in your community	22%	-
Used a senior center in your community	18%	-

Section 12: Economic Contribution

Productive behavior is “any activity, paid or unpaid, that generates goods or services of economic value.”¹ Productive activities include many types of paid and unpaid work, as well as services provided to friends, family or neighbors. Older adults make significant contributions (paid and unpaid) to the communities in which they live. In addition to their paid work, older adults contribute to the economy through volunteering, providing informal help to family and friends, and caregiving.

Economic Contribution of Older Adults in Rocky’s Agency on Aging



The calculations of the economic contributions of older adults in Rocky’s Agency on Aging were rough estimates using data from the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics (Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Area Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates).

Economic Contribution of Older Adults

	% of older adults	# of older adults*	Average # of hours**	Average hourly rate***	Annual total
Providing care to older adult(s)	27%	16,796	2.3	\$13.02	\$26,206,788
Providing care to adult(s)	23%	14,252	1.9	\$13.02	\$18,286,396
Providing care to child(ren)	17%	10,670	0.89	\$11.45	\$5,646,546
Providing help to family and friends	65%	40,798	3.5	\$13.90	\$103,129,239
Volunteering	81%	50,573	4.63	\$16.66	\$202,636,679
Subtotal unpaid					\$355,905,648
Working part time	16%	10,067	15	\$22.73	\$178,481,870
Working full time	19%	12,080	32	\$22.73	\$456,898,458
Subtotal paid					\$635,380,327
Total contribution					\$991,285,975

¹Rowe JW, Kahn RL. Successful Aging. New York: Pantheon Books; 1998.

* Based on U.S. Census Bureau - 2019 American Community Survey; about 62,362 adults age 55 and over in the state.

** Respondents were asked to select a range of hours. The average number of hours was calculated from the mid-point of the response scale. For example, a response of 1 to 3 hours equated to 2 hours and a response of never was assumed to be zero hours. In cases where the respondent chose a response that indicated 11 or more hours or 20 or more hours, the number of hours was calculated as 125% of 11 and 125% of 20 (i.e., 13.75 and 25 respectively). Working full time was assumed to be 32 hours per week and working part time was assumed to be 15 hours per week.

*** The economic value of an hour worked was assumed to be the same as the average hourly wage as calculated by the Bureau of Labor statistics for similar types of work in undefined. Providing care for older adults and adults was assumed to be the equivalent of "Personal and Home Care Aides." Providing care for children was assumed to be the equivalent of "Child Care Workers." Providing help to family and friends was assumed to be the equivalent of "Personal Care and Service Occupations." Volunteering was assumed to be the equivalent of "Office Clerks, General." Working full time and part time was assumed to be the equivalent of "All Occupations."

Section 13: Community Needs

The individual survey questions about specific problems faced by older community members were summarized into the 17 larger categories to provide a broad picture of older resident needs in Rocky's Agency on Aging. The figure below shows the percent of respondents who reported that one or more items within each of these 17 areas was a major or moderate problem. (See Methods for more information on the items included in each area.)

Typically, it is understood that the self-reported needs of older adults represent a minimum level, a conservative estimate attenuated by respondents' strong desire to feel and appear self-reliant and further reduced by the silent voice of some older adults who, no matter how sensitive the attempt, are too frail to participate in any survey enterprise.

Percent and Estimated Number of Older Adults With a Need

	Percent with need	Number affected in 2022 (N=62,362)*
Housing	41%	25,828
Mobility	23%	14,363
Employment	17%	10,671
Finances	25%	15,639
Equity	8%	5,075
Community Inclusivity	22%	13,539
Safety	9%	5,364
Physical Health	34%	21,373
Mental Health	26%	15,925
Health Care	43%	26,715
Independent Living	10%	6,286

	Percent with need	Number affected in 2022 (N=62,362)*
Housing	41%	25,828
Mobility	23%	14,363
Information on Available Older Adult Services	42%	26,025
Civic Engagement	25%	15,876
Social Engagement	23%	14,510
Caregiving	11%	6,977

Populations at Higher Risk

As people age, many learn to take better care of themselves, to plan for retirement and, generally, to move more deliberately. Aging builds wisdom but can sap resources — physical, emotional and financial. Even those blessed by good luck or prescient enough to plan comprehensively for the best future may find themselves with unanticipated needs or with physical, emotional or financial strengths that could endure only with help. Some people age better than others, and aging well requires certain strengths that are inherent and others that can be supported by assistance from the private sector and government.

The tables below show the reported needs within each category of livability of Rocky’s Agency on Aging's older adult population, by demographic subgroup. This information can help identify which groups are at higher risk in the community and account for sociodemographic disparities when addressing these needs.

Needs of Older Population by Sociodemographic Characteristics, Percent in 2022 (62,362)*

The sociodemographic characteristics examined included Gender, Age, Race, Ethnicity, Annual Household Income, Housing Tenure (Rent or Own), and Household Composition (Lives alone or Lives with others)

	Housing	Mobility	Employment	Finances	Equity
Female	49%	25%	17%	32%	8%
Male	33%	21%	17%	17%	8%
55 to 64 years	35%	16%	20%	23%	7%
65 to 74 years	46%	28%	18%	31%	14%
75 or over	50%	30%	9%	18%	1%
White	42%	23%	17%	25%	8%
Not white	44%	20%	15%	38%	9%
Hispanic	31%	20%	29%	50%	23%
Not Hispanic	42%	23%	17%	25%	8%
Less than \$25,000	61%	37%	43%	59%	23%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	49%	27%	18%	30%	7%
\$50,000 or more	31%	20%	10%	10%	3%
Rent	54%	37%	26%	40%	10%
Own	39%	20%	15%	22%	8%
Lives alone	50%	31%	21%	32%	10%
Lives with others	37%	19%	15%	21%	7%
Overall	41%	23%	17%	25%	8%

	Community Inclusivity	Safety	Physical Health	Mental Health	Health Care	Independent Living
Female	23%	10%	39%	30%	46%	12%

Male	20%	7%	30%	21%	40%	9%
55 to 64 years	18%	10%	29%	20%	47%	5%
65 to 74 years	29%	4%	39%	36%	41%	18%
75 or over	19%	14%	38%	22%	36%	10%
White	22%	9%	34%	25%	42%	10%
Not white	30%	4%	31%	49%	64%	3%
Hispanic	23%	0%	29%	13%	49%	29%
Not Hispanic	22%	9%	34%	25%	43%	10%
Less than \$25,000	51%	20%	55%	47%	64%	30%
\$25,000 to \$74,999	20%	9%	41%	26%	45%	11%
\$75,000 or more	10%	8%	12%	15%	41%	4%
Rent	30%	15%	59%	36%	51%	22%
Own	20%	7%	29%	23%	41%	8%
Lives alone	25%	15%	44%	33%	43%	13%
Lives with others	20%	5%	29%	21%	43%	8%
Overall	22%	9%	34%	26%	43%	10%

	Information on Available Older Adult Services	Civic Engagement	Social Engagement	Caregiving
Female	45%	29%	25%	13%
Male	39%	22%	21%	10%
55 to 64 years	46%	26%	20%	14%
65 to 74 years	36%	31%	33%	11%
75 or over	41%	14%	14%	4%
White	41%	26%	23%	10%
Not white	69%	22%	21%	35%
Hispanic	31%	29%	6%	0%
Not Hispanic	42%	26%	23%	11%
Less than \$25,000	62%	48%	32%	9%
\$25,000 to \$74,999	44%	26%	27%	14%
\$75,000 or more	21%	18%	15%	11%
Rent	66%	34%	27%	18%
Own	37%	24%	22%	10%
Lives alone	45%	26%	24%	7%
Lives with others	40%	25%	23%	13%
Overall	42%	25%	23%	11%

* Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Section 14: Full Results (with No Opinion)

These results include all questions. The results include the percentage that responded for each answer choice and the number of responses. If the choices included a choice with no opinion (like don't know or not applicable), they will be shown in this section. The following section shows the results with no opinion choices.

1. In which category is your age?

Answer Choice	Percent
50-54 years	6% (32)
55-59 years	21% (113)
60-64 years	23% (126)
65-69 years	20% (107)
70-74 years	12% (67)
75-79 years	11% (58)
80-84 years	5% (29)
85-89 years	2% (12)
90-94 years	0% (1)
95 years or older	0% (0)

2. Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in your community.

Characteristic	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Your community as a place to live	33% (168)	52% (264)	12% (59)	3% (14)	0% (2)
Your neighborhood as a place to live	42% (210)	46% (232)	9% (44)	3% (17)	0% (2)
Your community as a place to retire	18% (89)	42% (211)	25% (128)	11% (58)	3% (16)
Sense of community in your community	17% (85)	43% (216)	30% (151)	8% (40)	2% (13)
The overall quality of life in your community	26% (133)	53% (269)	14% (69)	5% (26)	1% (6)

3. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to your community as a whole.

Characteristic	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Overall economic health of your community	14% (73)	43% (217)	30% (154)	8% (41)	4% (21)
Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in your community	9% (47)	30% (151)	39% (194)	20% (102)	2% (9)
Overall design or layout of your community's residential and commercial areas (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, parks, etc.)	7% (38)	45% (229)	37% (189)	8% (43)	2% (9)
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in your community (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas, broadband)	11% (53)	45% (224)	30% (153)	7% (37)	7% (34)
Overall feeling of safety in your community	23% (112)	57% (284)	18% (91)	2% (10)	0% (1)
Overall quality of natural environment in your community	40% (205)	44% (223)	11% (55)	3% (15)	2% (9)
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	34% (169)	41% (205)	19% (93)	3% (16)	3% (16)
Overall health and wellness opportunities in your community	20% (102)	47% (238)	23% (120)	7% (37)	3% (13)
Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	25% (124)	37% (190)	24% (121)	12% (59)	2% (12)
Residents' connection and engagement with their community	11% (56)	40% (198)	37% (187)	7% (37)	4% (22)

4. How would you rate the overall services provided to older adults in your community?

Answer Choice	Percent
Excellent	5% (26)
Good	38% (193)
Fair	31% (158)
Poor	10% (52)
Don't know	15% (77)

5. Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following.

Characteristic	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Somewhat unlikely	Very unlikely	Don't know
Recommend living in your community to older adults	15% (77)	51% (258)	17% (86)	14% (70)	3% (17)
Remain in your community throughout your retirement	44% (221)	31% (158)	10% (52)	11% (58)	3% (17)

6. In general, how informed or uninformed do you feel about services and activities available to older adults in your community?

Answer Choice	Percent
Very informed	12% (61)
Somewhat informed	47% (242)
Somewhat uninformed	28% (142)
Very uninformed	13% (65)

7. Please rate the quality of each of the following.

Characteristic	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Your overall physical health	21% (108)	61% (312)	15% (77)	3% (15)	0% (0)
Your overall mental health/emotional wellbeing	36% (183)	51% (262)	11% (56)	2% (9)	0% (0)
Your overall quality of life	31% (157)	53% (269)	14% (73)	1% (7)	0% (0)

8. What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:

Answer Choice	Percent
Very positive	2% (9)
Somewhat positive	6% (30)
Neutral	34% (172)
Somewhat negative	43% (217)
Very negative	16% (82)

9. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to older adults in your community.

Characteristic	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Ease of travel by public transportation in your community	3% (17)	15% (79)	23% (119)	44% (223)	14% (73)
Ease of travel by car in your community	21% (105)	55% (277)	20% (101)	4% (22)	0% (2)
Ease of walking in your community	18% (92)	40% (204)	29% (150)	10% (50)	3% (16)
Ease of bicycling in your community	12% (59)	31% (160)	33% (169)	16% (80)	8% (41)
Ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	19% (98)	54% (277)	22% (112)	4% (20)	1% (3)
Opportunities to build work skills	5% (27)	17% (83)	24% (119)	17% (83)	38% (190)
Quality of employment opportunities for older adults	5% (23)	17% (88)	21% (106)	21% (109)	36% (183)
Variety of employment opportunities for older adults	4% (22)	13% (68)	22% (112)	25% (127)	35% (180)
Cost of living in your community	1% (7)	11% (55)	40% (203)	45% (230)	2% (10)
Availability of affordable quality food	5% (27)	35% (179)	42% (216)	16% (81)	1% (5)
Availability of affordable quality housing	1% (3)	4% (22)	20% (104)	71% (359)	4% (20)
Variety of housing options	1% (5)	7% (35)	29% (151)	55% (282)	7% (38)
Availability of accessible housing (e.g., homes with a no step entry, single-floor living, wide hallways and doorways)	1% (3)	4% (22)	20% (103)	41% (209)	34% (173)
Availability of mixed-use neighborhoods where people live close to places where they can eat, shop, work, and receive services	3% (16)	14% (72)	38% (194)	32% (164)	12% (62)

Characteristic	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Public places where people want to spend time	11% (56)	32% (165)	35% (180)	17% (88)	4% (22)
Availability of information about resources for older adults	2% (11)	18% (91)	34% (172)	23% (116)	22% (113)
Availability of financial or legal planning services	4% (21)	18% (90)	25% (128)	23% (117)	30% (155)
Availability of long-term care options	4% (19)	17% (87)	29% (147)	22% (112)	28% (145)
Availability of daytime care options for older adults	1% (8)	4% (21)	20% (100)	26% (132)	49% (248)
Availability of affordable quality physical health care	8% (40)	21% (106)	41% (208)	19% (94)	11% (55)
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	2% (9)	8% (40)	28% (138)	30% (152)	32% (162)
Availability of preventive health services (e.g., health screenings, flu shots, educational workshops)	13% (66)	38% (195)	35% (179)	8% (39)	6% (31)
Recreation opportunities (including games, arts, library services, etc.)	16% (79)	38% (192)	30% (155)	9% (43)	8% (40)
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	21% (107)	41% (207)	25% (125)	8% (42)	6% (30)
Opportunities participate in community matters	9% (44)	38% (193)	29% (147)	10% (48)	15% (75)
Opportunities to volunteer	18% (92)	47% (239)	19% (97)	4% (23)	11% (57)
Opportunities to enroll in skill-building or personal enrichment classes	6% (31)	19% (97)	24% (121)	19% (95)	32% (166)
Opportunities to attend social events or activities	11% (54)	36% (179)	36% (183)	8% (41)	9% (45)
Opportunities to attend religious or spiritual activities	23% (118)	49% (250)	12% (63)	2% (11)	13% (68)

Characteristic	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Openness and acceptance of the community towards older residents of diverse backgrounds	12% (59)	30% (154)	28% (140)	10% (51)	20% (101)
Making all residents feel welcome	10% (49)	31% (159)	37% (188)	13% (64)	10% (50)
Valuing older residents in your community	7% (36)	27% (137)	34% (173)	14% (72)	17% (87)
Neighborliness of your community	17% (86)	36% (181)	33% (166)	12% (59)	3% (17)

10. Older adults may or may not face a number of challenges. Thinking back over the last 12 months, how much of a problem, if at all, have each of the following been for you?

Characteristic	Not a problem	Minor problem	Moderate problem	Major problem	Don't know
Having enough money to meet daily expenses	64% (319)	16% (80)	16% (79)	4% (21)	0% (0)
Having enough money to pay your property taxes	63% (312)	13% (63)	9% (46)	6% (30)	10% (48)
Having housing to suit your needs	75% (379)	10% (51)	9% (43)	6% (31)	0% (1)
Doing heavy or intense housework	45% (229)	29% (149)	18% (91)	8% (38)	0% (1)
Maintaining your home	45% (228)	32% (163)	17% (87)	4% (20)	1% (5)
Maintaining your yard	48% (241)	27% (136)	16% (80)	7% (36)	1% (6)
Having safe and affordable transportation available	62% (316)	11% (58)	10% (53)	9% (44)	7% (36)
No longer being able to drive	80% (402)	2% (10)	1% (7)	7% (33)	9% (46)
Finding work in retirement	49% (245)	5% (27)	7% (33)	5% (25)	34% (170)
Building skills for paid or unpaid work	37% (182)	8% (40)	10% (48)	4% (19)	42% (205)
Having adequate information or dealing with public programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid	36% (181)	23% (117)	18% (90)	10% (52)	12% (63)
Not knowing what services are available to older adults in your community	25% (125)	24% (121)	25% (127)	14% (68)	12% (60)
Your physical health	44% (218)	34% (170)	19% (93)	3% (15)	0% (0)
Falling or injuring yourself in your home	72% (363)	17% (86)	7% (35)	3% (15)	2% (8)

Characteristic	Not a problem	Minor problem	Moderate problem	Major problem	Don't know
Finding affordable health insurance	57% (286)	14% (70)	12% (60)	15% (77)	2% (11)
Getting the health care you need	59% (298)	19% (94)	17% (87)	5% (27)	0% (1)
Getting the oral health care you need	68% (341)	14% (71)	10% (51)	7% (35)	1% (7)
Getting the vision care you need	70% (357)	13% (65)	10% (51)	5% (26)	2% (8)
Affording the medications you need	69% (346)	13% (65)	13% (67)	5% (24)	0% (2)
Staying physically fit	50% (252)	30% (152)	15% (75)	5% (26)	0% (0)
Maintaining a healthy diet	62% (310)	21% (104)	15% (75)	3% (14)	0% (0)
Having enough food to eat	88% (447)	5% (25)	5% (25)	2% (8)	0% (0)
Experiencing confusion or forgetfulness	69% (342)	25% (127)	3% (16)	2% (9)	1% (5)
Feeling depressed	57% (288)	29% (146)	9% (47)	3% (17)	1% (5)
Feeling bored	57% (284)	30% (148)	11% (55)	2% (12)	0% (1)
Having friends or family you can rely on	72% (364)	17% (85)	8% (41)	3% (17)	0% (0)
Feeling lonely or isolated	64% (319)	22% (109)	10% (49)	4% (18)	0% (2)
Dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend	61% (305)	20% (100)	11% (58)	5% (27)	3% (15)
Being a victim of crime	87% (429)	4% (21)	2% (12)	3% (14)	4% (19)
Being a victim of fraud or a scam	77% (385)	13% (66)	4% (22)	2% (12)	3% (17)

Characteristic	Not a problem	Minor problem	Moderate problem	Major problem	Don't know
Being physically or emotionally abused	91% (457)	5% (23)	1% (5)	0% (2)	3% (16)
Being treated unfairly or discriminated against because of your age	76% (380)	13% (64)	7% (34)	2% (8)	3% (17)
Feeling like you don't fit in or belong	69% (343)	17% (84)	8% (39)	5% (25)	2% (9)
Feeling like your voice is heard in the community	49% (249)	18% (93)	11% (54)	8% (41)	13% (68)
Feeling PHYSICALLY burdened by providing care for another person	76% (382)	11% (54)	3% (17)	3% (14)	7% (34)
Feeling EMOTIONALLY burdened by providing care for another person	72% (361)	12% (58)	6% (28)	4% (21)	7% (34)
Feeling FINANCIALLY burdened by providing care for another person	78% (392)	9% (45)	3% (17)	3% (17)	7% (34)
Performing regular activities, including walking, eating and preparing meals	72% (369)	17% (85)	9% (48)	1% (6)	0% (2)
Finding meaningful volunteer work	60% (301)	8% (40)	6% (31)	2% (10)	24% (120)
Finding productive or meaningful activities to do	64% (321)	18% (91)	10% (50)	3% (14)	6% (29)
Having interesting recreational or cultural activities to attend	57% (283)	22% (109)	12% (60)	4% (22)	5% (23)
Having interesting social events or activities to attend	52% (264)	25% (126)	13% (65)	5% (24)	5% (26)

11. Thinking back over the past 12 months, how much time did you spend in each of the following?

Characteristic	0 days	1-2 days	3-5 days	6 or more days
As a patient in a hospital	79% (387)	11% (55)	7% (35)	3% (16)
In a long-term care facility (including nursing home or in-patient rehabilitation facility)	99% (496)	0% (0)	0% (0)	1% (5)

12. Thinking back over the past 12 months, how many times have you fallen and injured yourself?

Answer Choice	Percent
Never	65% (331)
1 to 2 times	32% (162)
3 to 5 times	4% (19)
More than 5 times	0% (0)
Don't know	0% (0)

13. Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.

Characteristic	No	Yes
Attended a local public meeting (of local elected officials like City Council or County Commissioners, advisory boards, town halls, HOA, neighborhood watch, etc.)	75% (385)	25% (127)
Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting	68% (344)	32% (159)
Voted in your most recent local election	8% (39)	92% (467)
Participated in a civic group (including Elks, Kiwanis, Masons, etc.)	83% (424)	17% (84)
Used a senior center in your community	82% (416)	18% (93)
Used a public library in your community	50% (249)	50% (249)
Used a recreation center in your community	78% (395)	22% (114)
Participated in a recreation program or group activity	70% (357)	30% (151)
Participated in religious or spiritual activities with others	56% (282)	44% (224)
Participated in a club (including book, dance, game, and other social)	70% (354)	30% (155)

14. During a typical week, how many hours do you spend:

Characteristic	Never	1 to 3 hours	4 to 5 hours	6 to 10 hours	11 to 19 hours	20 or more hours	Don't know
Assisting friends, relatives, or neighbors	34% (169)	39% (194)	10% (49)	9% (44)	3% (14)	4% (21)	2% (8)
Volunteering your time	20% (101)	34% (171)	23% (115)	12% (62)	3% (17)	5% (23)	3% (18)
Talking or visiting with friends/family	35% (179)	27% (136)	16% (83)	11% (57)	4% (22)	4% (20)	2% (9)
Providing care to someone age 55+	72% (361)	11% (54)	5% (27)	2% (11)	1% (4)	6% (28)	3% (17)
Providing care to someone age 18 to 54	76% (385)	9% (47)	3% (17)	2% (8)	1% (6)	5% (23)	4% (18)
Providing care someone under age 18	83% (420)	9% (44)	3% (13)	2% (11)	0% (2)	1% (6)	2% (11)
Receiving assistance, paid or unpaid (e.g., with shopping, cooking, etc.)	51% (257)	33% (165)	8% (39)	4% (19)	2% (8)	2% (12)	1% (6)

15. In general, how many times do you:

Characteristic	Several times a day	Once a day	A few times a week	Every few weeks	Less often or never	Don't know
Access the internet from your home using a computer, laptop, or tablet computer	65% (331)	15% (76)	7% (37)	3% (17)	10% (48)	0% (0)
Access the internet from your cell phone	57% (289)	7% (36)	11% (55)	1% (7)	24% (120)	0% (1)
Visit social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor, etc.	37% (190)	12% (59)	10% (49)	2% (11)	38% (193)	1% (4)
Use or check email	60% (304)	23% (114)	7% (35)	3% (16)	7% (36)	0% (0)
Share your opinions online	11% (54)	2% (11)	8% (39)	12% (59)	67% (339)	1% (7)
Shop online	7% (36)	4% (18)	15% (74)	48% (241)	27% (136)	0% (1)

16. How many years have you lived in your community?

Answer Choice	Percent
Less than 2 years	5% (24)
2-5 years	8% (43)
6-10 years	14% (72)
11-20 years	10% (52)
More than 20 years	63% (320)

17. Which best describes the building you live in?

Answer Choice	Percent
Single family home	77% (392)
Townhouse, condominium, duplex, or apartment	15% (78)
Mobile home	6% (28)
Assisted living residence	1% (3)
Nursing home	0% (0)
Other	2% (10)

18. Do you rent or own your home?

Answer Choice	Percent
Rent	19% (97)
Own (with a mortgage payment)	28% (143)
Own (free and clear; no mortgage)	53% (269)

19. About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance, and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?

Answer Choice	Percent
Less than \$300 per month	10% (50)
\$300 to \$599 per month	29% (145)
\$600 to \$999 per month	22% (111)
\$1,000 to \$1,499 per month	19% (97)
\$1,500 to \$2,499 per month	12% (59)
\$2,500 or more per month	8% (41)

20. How many people, including yourself, live in your household?

Answer Choice	Percent
1 person (live alone)	36% (187)
2 people	53% (270)
3 people	7% (34)
4 or more people	4% (21)

21. How many of these people, including yourself, are 55 or older?

Answer Choice	Percent
1 person	48% (240)
2 people	51% (256)
3 people	1% (5)
4 or more people	0% (2)

22. What is your employment status?

Answer Choice	Percent
Fully retired	62% (315)
Working full time for pay	20% (102)
Working part time for pay	16% (80)
Unemployed, looking for paid work	2% (10)

23. At what age do you expect to retire completely and not work for pay at all?

Answer Choice	Percent
55-59	0% (0)
60-64	15% (16)
65-67	35% (39)
68-69	13% (14)
70-72	10% (11)
73 or older	27% (30)

24. How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)

Answer Choice	Percent
Less than \$25,000	13% (64)
\$25,000 to \$49,999	27% (131)
\$50,000 to \$74,999	22% (106)
\$75,000 to \$99,999	14% (69)
\$100,000 to \$149,999	14% (69)
\$150,000 to \$199,999	5% (24)

Answer Choice	Percent
\$200,000 or more.	5% (23)

25. Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?

Answer Choice	Percent
No, not of Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Spanish origin	99% (505)
Yes, I consider myself to be of Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Spanish origin	1% (5)

26. What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race you consider yourself to be.)

Answer Choice	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	1% (8)
Asian	1% (3)
Black or African American	0% (0)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0% (0)
White	96% (500)
A race not listed	2% (8)

27. What is your sex?

Answer Choice	Percent
Female	51% (262)
Male	49% (250)
Identify in another way	0% (0)

28. What is your sexual orientation?

Answer Choice	Percent
Heterosexual	97% (473)
Lesbian	1% (6)
Gay	1% (3)
Bisexual	0% (0)
Identify in another way	1% (3)

Section 15: Full Results (excluding No Opinion)

These results include all questions. The results include the percentage that responded for each answer choice and the number of responses. If the choices included a choice with no opinion (like don't know or not applicable), the tables in the prior section show the results with those no opinion choices. This section shows the results without those choices.

1. In which category is your age?

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
50-54 years	6% (32)
55-59 years	21% (113)
60-64 years	23% (126)
65-69 years	20% (107)
70-74 years	12% (67)
75-79 years	11% (58)
80-84 years	5% (29)
85-89 years	2% (12)
90-94 years	0% (1)
95 years or older	0% (0)

2. Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in your community.

Not including don't know

Characteristic	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Your community as a place to live	33% (168)	52% (264)	12% (59)	3% (14)
Your neighborhood as a place to live	42% (210)	46% (232)	9% (44)	3% (17)
Your community as a place to retire	18% (89)	44% (211)	26% (128)	12% (58)
Sense of community in your community	17% (85)	44% (216)	31% (151)	8% (40)
The overall quality of life in your community	27% (133)	54% (269)	14% (69)	5% (26)

3. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to your community as a whole.

Not including don't know

Characteristic	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Overall economic health of your community	15% (73)	45% (217)	32% (154)	8% (41)
Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in your community	10% (47)	31% (151)	39% (194)	21% (102)
Overall design or layout of your community's residential and commercial areas (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, parks, etc.)	8% (38)	46% (229)	38% (189)	9% (43)
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in your community (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas, broadband)	11% (53)	48% (224)	33% (153)	8% (37)
Overall feeling of safety in your community	23% (112)	57% (284)	18% (91)	2% (10)
Overall quality of natural environment in your community	41% (205)	45% (223)	11% (55)	3% (15)
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	35% (169)	42% (205)	19% (93)	3% (16)
Overall health and wellness opportunities in your community	21% (102)	48% (238)	24% (120)	8% (37)
Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	25% (124)	38% (190)	25% (121)	12% (59)
Residents' connection and engagement with their community	12% (56)	41% (198)	39% (187)	8% (37)

4. How would you rate the overall services provided to older adults in your community?

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
Excellent	6% (26)
Good	45% (193)
Fair	37% (158)
Poor	12% (52)

5. Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following.

Not including don't know

Characteristic	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Somewhat unlikely	Very unlikely
Recommend living in your community to older adults	16% (77)	53% (258)	18% (86)	14% (70)
Remain in your community throughout your retirement	45% (221)	32% (158)	11% (52)	12% (58)

6. In general, how informed or uninformed do you feel about services and activities available to older adults in your community?

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
Very informed	12% (61)
Somewhat informed	47% (242)
Somewhat uninformed	28% (142)
Very uninformed	13% (65)

7. Please rate the quality of each of the following.

Not including don't know

Characteristic	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Your overall physical health	21% (108)	61% (312)	15% (77)	3% (15)
Your overall mental health/emotional wellbeing	36% (183)	51% (262)	11% (56)	2% (9)
Your overall quality of life	31% (157)	53% (269)	14% (73)	1% (7)

8. What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
Very positive	2% (9)
Somewhat positive	6% (30)
Neutral	34% (172)
Somewhat negative	43% (217)
Very negative	16% (82)

9. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to older adults in your community.

Not including don't know

Characteristic	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Ease of travel by public transportation in your community	4% (17)	18% (79)	27% (119)	51% (223)
Ease of travel by car in your community	21% (105)	55% (277)	20% (101)	4% (22)
Ease of walking in your community	19% (92)	41% (204)	30% (150)	10% (50)
Ease of bicycling in your community	13% (59)	34% (160)	36% (169)	17% (80)
Ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	19% (98)	55% (277)	22% (112)	4% (20)
Opportunities to build work skills	9% (27)	27% (83)	38% (119)	27% (83)
Quality of employment opportunities for older adults	7% (23)	27% (88)	33% (106)	33% (109)
Variety of employment opportunities for older adults	7% (22)	21% (68)	34% (112)	39% (127)
Cost of living in your community	1% (7)	11% (55)	41% (203)	46% (230)
Availability of affordable quality food	5% (27)	36% (179)	43% (216)	16% (81)
Availability of affordable quality housing	1% (3)	5% (22)	21% (104)	74% (359)
Variety of housing options	1% (5)	7% (35)	32% (151)	60% (282)
Availability of accessible housing (e.g., homes with a no step entry, single-floor living, wide hallways and doorways)	1% (3)	6% (22)	31% (103)	62% (209)
Availability of mixed-use neighborhoods where people live close to places where they can eat, shop, work, and receive services	4% (16)	16% (72)	44% (194)	37% (164)

Characteristic	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Public places where people want to spend time	12% (56)	34% (165)	37% (180)	18% (88)
Availability of information about resources for older adults	3% (11)	23% (91)	44% (172)	30% (116)
Availability of financial or legal planning services	6% (21)	25% (90)	36% (128)	33% (117)
Availability of long-term care options	5% (19)	24% (87)	40% (147)	31% (112)
Availability of daytime care options for older adults	3% (8)	8% (21)	38% (100)	51% (132)
Availability of affordable quality physical health care	9% (40)	24% (106)	46% (208)	21% (94)
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	3% (9)	12% (40)	41% (138)	45% (152)
Availability of preventive health services (e.g., health screenings, flu shots, educational workshops)	14% (66)	41% (195)	37% (179)	8% (39)
Recreation opportunities (including games, arts, library services, etc.)	17% (79)	41% (192)	33% (155)	9% (43)
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	22% (107)	43% (207)	26% (125)	9% (42)
Opportunities participate in community matters	10% (44)	45% (193)	34% (147)	11% (48)
Opportunities to volunteer	20% (92)	53% (239)	22% (97)	5% (23)
Opportunities to enroll in skill-building or personal enrichment classes	9% (31)	28% (97)	35% (121)	28% (95)
Opportunities to attend social events or activities	12% (54)	39% (179)	40% (183)	9% (41)
Opportunities to attend religious or spiritual activities	27% (118)	57% (250)	14% (63)	2% (11)
Openness and acceptance of the community towards older residents of diverse backgrounds	15% (59)	38% (154)	35% (140)	13% (51)

Characteristic	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Making all residents feel welcome	11% (49)	35% (159)	41% (188)	14% (64)
Valuing older residents in your community	9% (36)	33% (137)	42% (173)	17% (72)
Neighborliness of your community	17% (86)	37% (181)	34% (166)	12% (59)

10. Older adults may or may not face a number of challenges. Thinking back over the last 12 months, how much of a problem, if at all, have each of the following been for you?

Not including don't know

Characteristic	Not a problem	Minor problem	Moderate problem	Major problem
Having enough money to meet daily expenses	64% (319)	16% (80)	16% (79)	4% (21)
Having enough money to pay your property taxes	69% (312)	14% (63)	10% (46)	7% (30)
Having housing to suit your needs	75% (379)	10% (51)	9% (43)	6% (31)
Doing heavy or intense housework	45% (229)	29% (149)	18% (91)	8% (38)
Maintaining your home	46% (228)	33% (163)	18% (87)	4% (20)
Maintaining your yard	49% (241)	28% (136)	16% (80)	7% (36)
Having safe and affordable transportation available	67% (316)	12% (58)	11% (53)	9% (44)
No longer being able to drive	89% (402)	2% (10)	2% (7)	7% (33)
Finding work in retirement	74% (245)	8% (27)	10% (33)	8% (25)
Building skills for paid or unpaid work	63% (182)	14% (40)	17% (48)	7% (19)
Having adequate information or dealing with public programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid	41% (181)	27% (117)	20% (90)	12% (52)
Not knowing what services are available to older adults in your community	28% (125)	27% (121)	29% (127)	15% (68)
Your physical health	44% (218)	34% (170)	19% (93)	3% (15)
Falling or injuring yourself in your home	73% (363)	17% (86)	7% (35)	3% (15)

Characteristic	Not a problem	Minor problem	Moderate problem	Major problem
Finding affordable health insurance	58% (286)	14% (70)	12% (60)	16% (77)
Getting the health care you need	59% (298)	19% (94)	17% (87)	5% (27)
Getting the oral health care you need	68% (341)	14% (71)	10% (51)	7% (35)
Getting the vision care you need	72% (357)	13% (65)	10% (51)	5% (26)
Affording the medications you need	69% (346)	13% (65)	13% (67)	5% (24)
Staying physically fit	50% (252)	30% (152)	15% (75)	5% (26)
Maintaining a healthy diet	62% (310)	21% (104)	15% (75)	3% (14)
Having enough food to eat	88% (447)	5% (25)	5% (25)	2% (8)
Experiencing confusion or forgetfulness	69% (342)	26% (127)	3% (16)	2% (9)
Feeling depressed	58% (288)	29% (146)	9% (47)	3% (17)
Feeling bored	57% (284)	30% (148)	11% (55)	2% (12)
Having friends or family you can rely on	72% (364)	17% (85)	8% (41)	3% (17)
Feeling lonely or isolated	64% (319)	22% (109)	10% (49)	4% (18)
Dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend	62% (305)	20% (100)	12% (58)	6% (27)
Being a victim of crime	90% (429)	4% (21)	2% (12)	3% (14)
Being a victim of fraud or a scam	79% (385)	14% (66)	5% (22)	2% (12)

Characteristic	Not a problem	Minor problem	Moderate problem	Major problem
Being physically or emotionally abused	94% (457)	5% (23)	1% (5)	1% (2)
Being treated unfairly or discriminated against because of your age	78% (380)	13% (64)	7% (34)	2% (8)
Feeling like you don't fit in or belong	70% (343)	17% (84)	8% (39)	5% (25)
Feeling like your voice is heard in the community	57% (249)	21% (93)	12% (54)	9% (41)
Feeling PHYSICALLY burdened by providing care for another person	82% (382)	12% (54)	4% (17)	3% (14)
Feeling EMOTIONALLY burdened by providing care for another person	77% (361)	12% (58)	6% (28)	5% (21)
Feeling FINANCIALLY burdened by providing care for another person	83% (392)	9% (45)	4% (17)	4% (17)
Performing regular activities, including walking, eating and preparing meals	73% (369)	17% (85)	10% (48)	1% (6)
Finding meaningful volunteer work	79% (301)	10% (40)	8% (31)	3% (10)
Finding productive or meaningful activities to do	67% (321)	19% (91)	10% (50)	3% (14)
Having interesting recreational or cultural activities to attend	60% (283)	23% (109)	13% (60)	5% (22)
Having interesting social events or activities to attend	55% (264)	26% (126)	14% (65)	5% (24)

11. Thinking back over the past 12 months, how much time did you spend in each of the following?

Not including don't know

Characteristic	0 days	1-2 days	3-5 days	6 or more days
As a patient in a hospital	79% (387)	11% (55)	7% (35)	3% (16)
In a long-term care facility (including nursing home or in-patient rehabilitation facility)	99% (496)	0% (0)	0% (0)	1% (5)

12. Thinking back over the past 12 months, how many times have you fallen and injured yourself?

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
Never	65% (331)
1 to 2 times	32% (162)
3 to 5 times	4% (19)
More than 5 times	0% (0)

13. Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.

Not including don't know

Characteristic	No	Yes
Attended a local public meeting (of local elected officials like City Council or County Commissioners, advisory boards, town halls, HOA, neighborhood watch, etc.)	75% (385)	25% (127)
Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting	68% (344)	32% (159)
Voted in your most recent local election	8% (39)	92% (467)
Participated in a civic group (including Elks, Kiwanis, Masons, etc.)	83% (424)	17% (84)
Used a senior center in your community	82% (416)	18% (93)
Used a public library in your community	50% (249)	50% (249)
Used a recreation center in your community	78% (395)	22% (114)
Participated in a recreation program or group activity	70% (357)	30% (151)
Participated in religious or spiritual activities with others	56% (282)	44% (224)
Participated in a club (including book, dance, game, and other social)	70% (354)	30% (155)

14. During a typical week, how many hours do you spend:

Not including don't know

Characteristic	Never	1 to 3 hours	4 to 5 hours	6 to 10 hours	11 to 19 hours	20 or more hours
Assisting friends, relatives, or neighbors	34% (169)	39% (194)	10% (49)	9% (44)	3% (14)	4% (21)
Volunteering your time	21% (101)	35% (171)	24% (115)	13% (62)	3% (17)	5% (23)
Talking or visiting with friends/family	36% (179)	27% (136)	17% (83)	11% (57)	4% (22)	4% (20)
Providing care to someone age 55+	74% (361)	11% (54)	6% (27)	2% (11)	1% (4)	6% (28)
Providing care to someone age 18 to 54	79% (385)	10% (47)	3% (17)	2% (8)	1% (6)	5% (23)
Providing care someone under age 18	85% (420)	9% (44)	3% (13)	2% (11)	0% (2)	1% (6)
Receiving assistance, paid or unpaid (e.g., with shopping, cooking, etc.)	51% (257)	33% (165)	8% (39)	4% (19)	2% (8)	2% (12)

15. In general, how many times do you:

Not including don't know

Characteristic	Several times a day	Once a day	A few times a week	Every few weeks	Less often or never
Access the internet from your home using a computer, laptop, or tablet computer	65% (331)	15% (76)	7% (37)	3% (17)	10% (48)
Access the internet from your cell phone	57% (289)	7% (36)	11% (55)	1% (7)	24% (120)
Visit social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor, etc.	38% (190)	12% (59)	10% (49)	2% (11)	38% (193)
Use or check email	60% (304)	23% (114)	7% (35)	3% (16)	7% (36)
Share your opinions online	11% (54)	2% (11)	8% (39)	12% (59)	68% (339)
Shop online	7% (36)	4% (18)	15% (74)	48% (241)	27% (136)

16. How many years have you lived in your community?

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
Less than 2 years	5% (24)
2-5 years	8% (43)
6-10 years	14% (72)
11-20 years	10% (52)

Answer Choice	Percent
More than 20 years	63% (320)

17. Which best describes the building you live in?

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
Single family home	77% (392)
Townhouse, condominium, duplex, or apartment	15% (78)
Mobile home	6% (28)
Assisted living residence	1% (3)
Nursing home	0% (0)
Other	2% (10)

18. Do you rent or own your home?

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
Rent	19% (97)
Own (with a mortgage payment)	28% (143)
Own (free and clear; no mortgage)	53% (269)

19. About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance, and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
Less than \$300 per month	10% (50)
\$300 to \$599 per month	29% (145)
\$600 to \$999 per month	22% (111)
\$1,000 to \$1,499 per month	19% (97)
\$1,500 to \$2,499 per month	12% (59)
\$2,500 or more per month	8% (41)

20. How many people, including yourself, live in your household?

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
1 person (live alone)	36% (187)
2 people	53% (270)
3 people	7% (34)
4 or more people	4% (21)

21. How many of these people, including yourself, are 55 or older?

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
1 person	48% (240)
2 people	51% (256)
3 people	1% (5)
4 or more people	0% (2)

22. What is your employment status?

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
Fully retired	62% (315)
Working full time for pay	20% (102)
Working part time for pay	16% (80)
Unemployed, looking for paid work	2% (10)

23. At what age do you expect to retire completely and not work for pay at all?

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
55-59	0% (0)
60-64	15% (16)
65-67	35% (39)
68-69	13% (14)
70-72	10% (11)
73 or older	27% (30)

24. How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
Less than \$25,000	13% (64)
\$25,000 to \$49,999	27% (131)
\$50,000 to \$74,999	22% (106)
\$75,000 to \$99,999	14% (69)
\$100,000 to \$149,999	14% (69)
\$150,000 to \$199,999	5% (24)
\$200,000 or more.	5% (23)

25. Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
No, not of Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Spanish origin	99% (505)
Yes, I consider myself to be of Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Spanish origin	1% (5)

26. What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race you consider yourself to be.)

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	1% (8)
Asian	1% (3)
Black or African American	0% (0)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0% (0)
White	96% (500)
A race not listed	2% (8)

27. What is your sex?

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
Female	51% (262)
Male	49% (250)
Identify in another way	0% (0)

28. What is your sexual orientation?

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
Heterosexual	97% (473)
Lesbian	1% (6)
Gay	1% (3)
Bisexual	0% (0)
Identify in another way	1% (3)

Section 16: National Benchmark Comparisons

Rated characteristics are eligible for trend and benchmark comparisons. For trends, the characteristic must have been asked in a prior survey, and to be statistically significant the difference between the last measurement and current measurements must be at least 7 percentage points. All characteristics should have benchmarks, and to be statistically significant (more/less favorable), the difference must be at least 10 points. To be much more favorable/unfavorable, difference must be at least 20 points.

Demographic questions aren't eligible for trend and benchmark comparisons. Though all survey questions are listed in this section, demographic questions are noted as not having trends or benchmarks.

1. In which category is your age?

Percent positive, trends, and benchmarks do not apply to this question











2. Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in your community.

Percent positive is the percentage of responses that rated the characteristic as: "Excellent" or "Good"

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark	Rank	# of Compared Communities
Your community as a place to live	85	–	170	297
Your neighborhood as a place to live	88	–	135	256
Your community as a place to retire	62	–	228	297
Sense of community in your community	61	–	170	297
The overall quality of life in your community	81	–	151	256

3. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to your community as a whole.

Percent positive is the percentage of responses that rated the characteristic as: "Excellent" or "Good"

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark	Rank	# of Compared Communities
Overall economic health of your community	60		153	256
Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in your community	40		212	256
Overall design or layout of your community's residential and commercial areas (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, parks, etc.)	53		180	256
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in your community (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas, broadband)	59		111	162
Overall feeling of safety in your community	80		158	297
Overall quality of natural environment in your community	86		48	256
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	77		75	162
Overall health and wellness opportunities in your community	68		154	256
Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	64		114	256
Residents' connection and engagement with their community	53		75	162

4. How would you rate the overall services provided to older adults in your community?

Percent positive is the percentage of responses that rated the characteristic as: "Excellent" or "Good"

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark	Rank	# of Compared Communities
How would you rate the overall services provided to older adults in your community?	51		43	102

5. Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following.

Percent positive is the percentage of responses that rated the characteristic as: "Very likely" or "Somewhat likely"

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark	Rank	# of Compared Communities
Recommend living in your community to older adults	68		275	297
Remain in your community throughout your retirement	78		84	102




6. In general, how informed or uninformed do you feel about services and activities available to older adults in your community?

Percent positive is the percentage of responses that rated the characteristic as: "Very informed" or "Somewhat informed"

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark	Rank	# of Compared Communities
In general, how informed or uninformed do you feel about services and activities available to older adults in your community?	59			


7. Please rate the quality of each of the following.

Percent positive is the percentage of responses that rated the characteristic as: "Excellent" or "Good"

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark	Rank	# of Compared Communities
Your overall physical health	82		151	296
Your overall mental health/emotional wellbeing	87		26	102
Your overall quality of life	84		30	102












8. What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:

Percent positive is the percentage of responses that rated the characteristic as: "Very positive" or "Somewhat positive"

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark	Rank	# of Compared Communities
What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:	8		250	256

9. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to older adults in your community.

Percent positive is the percentage of responses that rated the characteristic as: "Excellent" or "Good"

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark	Rank	# of Compared Communities
Ease of travel by public transportation in your community	22		204	280
Ease of travel by car in your community	76		116	297
Ease of walking in your community	60		165	297
Ease of bicycling in your community	47		14	20
Ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	74		22	60
Opportunities to build work skills	35		21	58
Quality of employment opportunities for older adults	34		178	296
Variety of employment opportunities for older adults	27		18	58
Cost of living in your community	13		284	297
Availability of affordable quality food	41		264	289
Availability of affordable quality housing	5		284	296
Variety of housing options	9		284	297
Availability of accessible housing (e.g., homes with a no step entry, single-floor living, wide hallways and doorways)	7		54	58















Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark	Rank	# of Compared Communities
Availability of mixed-use neighborhoods where people live close to places where they can eat, shop, work, and receive services	20	–	36	58
Public places where people want to spend time	45	–	181	255
Availability of information about resources for older adults	26	–	56	102
Availability of financial or legal planning services	31	–	65	102
Availability of long-term care options	29	–	64	102
Availability of daytime care options for older adults	11	–	85	102
Availability of affordable quality physical health care	33	∨	239	288
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	14	∨	268	286
Availability of preventive health services (e.g., health screenings, flu shots, educational workshops)	55	–	177	286
Recreation opportunities (including games, arts, library services, etc.)	58	–	179	295
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	65	–	181	294
Opportunities participate in community matters	55	–	219	295
Opportunities to volunteer	73	–	101	204
Opportunities to enroll in skill-building or personal enrichment classes	37	–	49	102















Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark	Rank	# of Compared Communities
Opportunities to attend social events or activities	51	–	196	295
Opportunities to attend religious or spiritual activities	83	–	44	102
Openness and acceptance of the community towards older residents of diverse backgrounds	53	–	194	297
Making all residents feel welcome	45	∨	133	162
Valuing older residents in your community	41	–	72	102
Neighborliness of your community	54	–	114	203

10. Older adults may or may not face a number of challenges. Thinking back over the last 12 months, how much of a problem, if at all, have each of the following been for you?

Percent positive is the percentage of responses that rated the characteristic as: "Minor problem", "Moderate problem", or "Major problem"

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark	Rank	# of Compared Communities
Having enough money to meet daily expenses	64	<input type="radio"/>	36	102
Having enough money to pay your property taxes	69	<input type="radio"/>	59	102
Having housing to suit your needs	75	<input type="radio"/>	45	102
Doing heavy or intense housework	45	<input type="radio"/>	33	102
Maintaining your home	46	<input type="radio"/>	60	102
Maintaining your yard	49	<input type="radio"/>	66	102
Having safe and affordable transportation available	67	<input type="radio"/>	54	102
No longer being able to drive	89	<input type="radio"/>	23	101
Finding work in retirement	74	<input type="radio"/>	21	102
Building skills for paid or unpaid work	63	<input type="radio"/>	52	101
Having adequate information or dealing with public programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid	41	<input type="radio"/>	81	102
Not knowing what services are available to older adults in your community	28	<input type="radio"/>	69	102

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark	Rank	# of Compared Communities
Your physical health	44		37	102
Falling or injuring yourself in your home	73		36	102
Finding affordable health insurance	58		44	102
Getting the health care you need	59		68	102
Getting the oral health care you need	68		46	102
Getting the vision care you need	72		35	102
Affording the medications you need	69		36	102
Staying physically fit	50		17	102
Maintaining a healthy diet	62		18	102
Having enough food to eat	88		30	101
Experiencing confusion or forgetfulness	69		26	102
Feeling depressed	58		55	102
Feeling bored	57		49	102
Having friends or family you can rely on	72		19	102

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark	Rank	# of Compared Communities
Feeling lonely or isolated	64		51	101
Dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend	62		38	102
Being a victim of crime	90		25	100
Being a victim of fraud or a scam	79		50	102
Being physically or emotionally abused	94		31	100
Being treated unfairly or discriminated against because of your age	78		36	58
Feeling like you don't fit in or belong	70		14	58
Feeling like your voice is heard in the community	57		30	102
Feeling PHYSICALLY burdened by providing care for another person	82		23	102
Feeling EMOTIONALLY burdened by providing care for another person	77		32	102
Feeling FINANCIALLY burdened by providing care for another person	83		38	102
Performing regular activities, including walking, eating and preparing meals	73		4	20
Finding meaningful volunteer work	79		3	20
Finding productive or meaningful activities to do	67		7	20

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark	Rank	# of Compared Communities
Having interesting recreational or cultural activities to attend	60		6	20
Having interesting social events or activities to attend	55		6	20

11. Thinking back over the past 12 months, how much time did you spend in each of the following?

Percent positive is the percentage of responses that rated the characteristic as: "1-2 days", "3-5 days", or "6 or more days"

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark	Rank	# of Compared Communities
As a patient in a hospital	21		55	102
In a long-term care facility (including nursing home or in-patient rehabilitation facility)	1		73	86











12. Thinking back over the past 12 months, how many times have you fallen and injured yourself?

Percent positive is the percentage of responses that rated the characteristic as: "1 to 2 times", "3 to 5 times", or "More than 5 times"

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark	Rank	# of Compared Communities
Thinking back over the past 12 months, how many times have you fallen and injured yourself?	35		55	102








13. Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.

Percent positive is the percentage of responses that rated the characteristic as: "Yes"

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark	Rank	# of Compared Communities
Attended a local public meeting (of local elected officials like City Council or County Commissioners, advisory boards, town halls, HOA, neighborhood watch, etc.)	25		113	296
Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting	32		9	101
Voted in your most recent local election	92		16	160
Participated in a civic group (including Elks, Kiwanis, Masons, etc.)	17		24	102
Used a senior center in your community	18		40	100
Used a public library in your community	50		54	102
Used a recreation center in your community	22		66	102
Participated in a recreation program or group activity	30		47	102
Participated in religious or spiritual activities with others	44		78	102
Participated in a club (including book, dance, game, and other social)	30		41	102

14. During a typical week, how many hours do you spend:

Percent positive is the percentage of responses that rated the characteristic as: "1 to 3 hours", "4 to 5 hours", "6 to 10 hours", "11 to 19 hours", or "20 or more hours"

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark	Rank	# of Compared Communities
Assisting friends, relatives, or neighbors	66		86	102
Volunteering your time	79		16	102
Talking or visiting with friends/family	64		85	102
Providing care to someone age 55+	26		74	102
Providing care to someone age 18 to 54	21		16	102
Providing care someone under age 18	15		68	101
Receiving assistance, paid or unpaid (e.g., with shopping, cooking, etc.)	49		15	20

15. In general, how many times do you:

Percent positive is the percentage of responses that rated the characteristic as: "Several times a day", "Once a day", or "A few times a week"

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark	Rank	# of Compared Communities
Access the internet from your home using a computer, laptop, or tablet computer	87		87	161
Access the internet from your cell phone	75		97	161
Visit social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor, etc.	59		131	160
Use or check email	90		88	161
Share your opinions online	21		127	161
Shop online	25		130	161

16. How many years have you lived in your community?

Percent positive, trends, and benchmarks do not apply to this question

17. Which best describes the building you live in?

Percent positive, trends, and benchmarks do not apply to this question

18. Do you rent or own your home?

Percent positive, trends, and benchmarks do not apply to this question

19. About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance, and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?

Percent positive, trends, and benchmarks do not apply to this question

20. How many people, including yourself, live in your household?

Percent positive, trends, and benchmarks do not apply to this question

21. How many of these people, including yourself, are 55 or older?

Percent positive, trends, and benchmarks do not apply to this question

22. What is your employment status?

Percent positive, trends, and benchmarks do not apply to this question

23. At what age do you expect to retire completely and not work for pay at all?

Percent positive, trends, and benchmarks do not apply to this question

24. How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)

Percent positive, trends, and benchmarks do not apply to this question

25. Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?

Percent positive, trends, and benchmarks do not apply to this question

26. What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race you consider yourself to be.)

Percent positive, trends, and benchmarks do not apply to this question

27. What is your sex?

Percent positive, trends, and benchmarks do not apply to this question

28. What is your sexual orientation?

Percent positive, trends, and benchmarks do not apply to this question

Section 17: Methods

About the Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA)[®]

The Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA)[®] was developed by National Research Center at Polco (NRC) to provide an accurate, affordable and easy way to assess and interpret the experience of older adults in the community. The CASOA[®] survey instrument and its administration are standardized to assure high-quality survey methods and comparable results across CASOA communities. The CASOA was customized for Rocky's Agency on Aging to reflect the correct local age definition of older adults and to use official Rocky's Agency on Aging graphics, contact information and signatures on survey invitation mailing materials. The State of Montana sponsored and funded this research. Please contact Jim Marks of the Rocky's Agency on Aging at jmarks@rmdc.net if you have any questions about the survey.

Questionnaire Development

The CASOA questionnaire contains many questions related to the life of older residents in the community. The instrument includes questions related to overall quality of life, characteristics of the community, perceptions of safety, and many different needs common to older adults.

The questionnaire grew from a synthesis of numerous data collection processes, including a national search of needs assessments conducted by communities across the United States, a review of the literature on aging, and numerous surveys and large-scale needs assessments conducted by NRC. A blue-ribbon panel of national experts contributed to the concept and content of CASOA.

The items in the questionnaire were pilot tested on older adult residents using a “think-aloud” method in which older adults were asked to complete the survey and describe their thought processes related to specific questions and question sets. The results of the pilot test were used to alter the questionnaire for better understanding by senior participants. The final questionnaire was tested in a set of diverse U.S. communities and modifications again were made as necessary.

Random (Probability) Sample Survey

Selecting Survey Recipients

One of the first steps taken to ensure survey results are representative of the target population is to use a source from which survey recipients are selected that provides adequate to good coverage of the target population. This source is referred to as the sampling frame.

The target population for this survey was residents age 55 years or older in households within the Rocky’s Agency on Aging boundaries.

Since it would be cost prohibitive to survey every person age 55 years or older in Rocky’s Agency on Aging, a random selection of records from the sampling frame was made. This process can be illustrated using an example that may be familiar from a math or statistics class of a jar of marbles of various colors. If the jar has two-thirds red marbles and one-third blue marbles, a random selection of marbles from that jar should result in a similar proportion (although perhaps not identical) of red and blue marbles as in the original jar.

The sampling frame used for this survey was a list of households with a high likelihood of having a resident age 55 years or older within the Rocky’s Agency on Aging boundaries from Marketing Systems Group . These lists, compiled by sampling and marketing firms based on data from multiple sources (such as warranty information, voting lists, and more), provide fairly complete coverage of all members of the target population.

Data Collection

Each randomly selected household received two mailings, about one week apart, beginning on March, 31, 2022. The first mailing was a prenotification postcard announcing the upcoming survey. This half-sheet postcard included a URL so that recipients could immediately go online to complete the survey if they wished. The second mailing contained a letter from the Director inviting the household to participate, a printed questionnaire and a postage-paid return envelope. The survey was available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, and Arabic. Completed surveys were collected over the following 8 weeks.

About 197 (5%) of the 3,610 surveys mailed were returned because the housing unit was vacant or the postal service was unable to deliver the survey as addressed. Of the remaining 3,413 households that received the survey, 545 completed the survey, providing an overall response rate of 13.45%. Of the total surveys received, 311 were completed using the hard copy surveys while 148 were submitted online. Response rates are calculated using AAPOR's response rate #2¹ for mailed surveys of unnamed persons.

Open Participation Survey

In addition to the random sample "probability" survey described above, an open participation survey was conducted, in which all older adults age 55 years or older were invited to participate. The open participation survey instrument was identical to the probability sample survey. This survey was conducted entirely online. For the open participation survey a single URL was provided to contacts from the State of Montana and each AAA to share with constituents through email lists, social media accounts, service settings and community partners. The URL directed community members to a short survey where they indicated their geographic location and were directed to the survey for their appropriate county and AAA. Each Area Agency on Aging conducted all outreach, after receiving guidance on best practices for conducting such outreach from Polco. This guidance suggested the use of social media, press releases, newsletters and e-

newsletters, existing resident email lists, printed materials, and invitations publicized at local and virtual meetings. This survey became available to all residents on 3/31/2022 and remained open until 6/8/2022. A total of 86 surveys were completed by open participation survey respondents.

Analysis and Reporting

Confidence Intervals

It is customary to describe the precision of estimates made from probability surveys by a “level of confidence” and accompanying “confidence interval” (or margin of error). A traditional level of confidence, and the one used here, is 95%. The 95% confidence interval can be any size and quantifies the sampling error or imprecision of the survey results because some residents’ opinions are relied on to estimate all residents’ opinions.²

The margin of error for the Rocky’s Agency on Aging survey is no greater than plus or minus 4.57 percentage points around any given percent reported for all probability survey respondents (459). For subgroups of responses, the margin of error increases because the number of respondents for each subgroup is smaller. For subgroups of approximately 100 respondents, the margin of error is plus or minus 10 percentage points.

The open participation survey results were combined with responses from the probability sample survey, for a total of 545 completed surveys. With the inclusion of the open participation survey participants, it is likely that the precision of the responses would be even greater (and thus the margin of error smaller).

Survey Processing (Data Entry)

Upon receipt, completed hard copy surveys were assigned a unique identification number. Additionally, each survey was reviewed and “cleaned” as necessary. An example of cleaning would be if a question asked a respondent to pick two items out of a list of five, but the

respondent checked three; in this case, NRC would use protocols to randomly choose two of the three selected items for inclusion in the dataset.

All surveys then were entered twice into an electronic dataset; any discrepancies were resolved in comparison to the original survey form. Range checks as well as other forms of quality control were also performed.

The online survey data was collected on Polco, an online civic engagement platform. Use of Polco means all collected data are entered into the dataset immediately when the respondents submit the surveys. Skip patterns are programmed into the system so respondents are automatically directed to the appropriate question (skipping irrelevant questions, when applicable) based on the individual responses given.

A series of quality control checks were also performed in order to ensure the integrity of the web data. Steps may include (and are not limited to) reviewing the data for clusters of repeat IP addresses and time stamps (indicating duplicate responses) and removing empty submissions (questionnaires submitted with no questions answered).

Survey Data Weighting

The primary objective of weighting survey data is to make the survey sample reflective of the larger population of Rocky's Agency on Aging. This is done by reviewing the demographic profile of respondents and comparing it to the demographic profile of older adults based on the most recent Census data. Those respondent subgroups that were less likely to respond are statistically adjusted to be given more weight, while those subgroups that were more likely to respond are given less weight. The characteristics used for weighting were age, gender, race, Hispanic origin, housing type, rent or own home, and area. No adjustments were made for design effects. Weights were calculated using an iterative, multiplicative raking model known as the ANES

Weighting Algorithm (see <https://surveyinsights.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Full-anesrake-paper.pdf> for more details). The results of the weighting scheme are presented in the following table.

Weighting Scheme for the 2022 Rocky's Agency on Aging CASOA

Demographic Group	Unweighted	Weighted	Population Target'
Rent or Own Home			
Rent	8.1 %	19 %	20 %
Own	91.9 %	81 %	80 %
Housing Type			
Detached	79.7 %	78.1 %	78.1 %
Attached	20.3 %	21.9 %	21.9 %
Race			
White	95.7 %	96.3 %	97.1 %
Not white	4.3 %	3.7 %	2.9 %
Ethnicity			
Hispanic	1.4 %	1 %	1.4 %
Not Hispanic	98.6 %	99 %	98.6 %
Gender			
Female	62.4 %	51.1 %	51.2 %
Male	37.6 %	48.9 %	48.8 %
Age			
Age 55 to 64	37.7 %	46.6 %	46.7 %
Age 65 to 74	44 %	33.8 %	33.8 %
Age 75 and over	18.3 %	19.6 %	19.6 %
Gender and Age			
Female 55 to 64	25.8 %	23.7 %	23.6 %
Female 65 to 74	25.2 %	16.6 %	16.7 %

Female 75 and over	11.4 %	10.8 %	10.8 %
Male 55 to 64	12.2 %	23 %	23 %
Male 65 to 74	18.3 %	17.1 %	17.1 %
Male 75 and over	7.1 %	8.8 %	8.7 %

Reporting

For the most part, the percentages presented in the reports represent the “percent positive.” The percent positive is the combination of the top two most positive response options (i.e., excellent and good, very safe and somewhat safe, essential and very important, etc.), or, in the case of resident behaviors/participation, the percent positive represents the proportion of respondents indicating yes or participating in an activity at least once a month.

On many of the questions in the survey respondents may answer don’t know. The proportion of respondents giving this reply is shown in the full set of responses included in the Responses tab. However, these responses have been removed from the analyses presented in the main body of the report. In other words, the tables and graphs display the responses from respondents who had an opinion about a specific item.

Multiple Response Questions

For some questions, respondents were permitted to select multiple responses. When the total exceeds 100% in a table for a multiple response question, it is because some respondents are counted in multiple categories.

Rounding

Excluding the Participants tab, percentages shown are rounded to the nearest whole number. This can sometimes mean that the percent of responses across all the possible response categories may sum to something other than exactly 100%. It also means that in some instances, the “percent positive,” “percent problem,” or other summaries of data may not equal the rounded percentages of the two

categories. For example, if 30.4% of respondents rated quality of life as excellent, and 20.4% of respondents rated it as good, a display of all the responses will show 30% excellent and 20% good. However, a display of the percent rating quality of life as excellent or good will show 51% (as 30.4% + 20.4% equals 50.8%, which rounds to 51%).

Making Comparisons to Benchmarks

National Research Center at Polco has developed a database that collates responses to CASOA and related surveys administered in other communities, which allows the results from Rocky's Agency on Aging to be compared against a set of national benchmarks. This benchmarking database includes responses from more than 35,000 older adults (age 55 and over) in over 325 communities across the nation.

Ratings are compared when similar questions are included in Polco's database, and there are at least five other communities in which the question was asked. Where comparisons for ratings were available, Rocky's Agency on Aging's results are shown as being more favorable than the benchmark, less favorable than the benchmark or similar to the benchmark. In instances where ratings are considerably more or less favorable than the benchmark, these ratings have been further demarcated by the attribute of "much," (for example, much more favorable or much less favorable).

Reporting Statistical Significance

For the crosstabs of survey results by selected respondent characteristic, chi-square or ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) tests of significance were applied to these breakdowns of selected survey questions. A p-value of 0.05 or less indicates that there is less than a 5% probability that differences observed between groups are due to chance; or in other words, a greater than 95% probability that the differences observed in the selected categories of the sample represent "real" differences among those populations. However, it should be noted that while these tests of statistical significance were used to help guide readers and policy makers to differences that are likely not due to chance alone, these types of probabilistic inferences were designed for use when results come from random sampling alone

(for more information, see Hirschauer, N., Gruner, S., Mußhoff, O., Becker, C., & Jantsch, A. (2020). Can p-values be meaningfully interpreted without random sampling? *Statistics Surveys*, 14, 71-91).

Community Readiness Scores

The community readiness scores presented in Community Readiness represents the average of the questions included in the index. Although the evaluative or frequency questions were made on 4- or 5-point scales, with 1 representing the best rating, the scales had different labels (e.g., excellent, very likely). To calculate these average scores, the questions used in the index were converted to a common scale where 0 is the worst possible rating and 100 is the best possible rating. If everyone answered excellent, then the result would be 100 on the 0-100 scale. If the average rating for quality of life was right in the middle of the scale (halfway between good and fair), then the result would be 50. This scale can be thought of like the thermometer that is often used to illustrate total donations received by charitable organizations—the higher the thermometer reading, the closer to the goal. In this case, 100 (the top of the thermometer) would represent the most positive response possible. The table below shows the individual questions comprising each summary score for the six dimensions of community readiness, as well as the overall rating for the Quality of the Community.

Dimension of Community Readiness	Items Included in Community Readiness Score
Overall Community Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your community as a place to live • Your neighborhood as a place to live • Your community as a place to retire • The overall quality of life in your community • Recommend living in your community to older adults • Remain in your community throughout your retirement

Dimension of Community Readiness	Items Included in Community Readiness Score
Community Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Mobility • Land Use
Employment and Finances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment • Finances
Equity and Inclusivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity • Community Inclusivity
Health and Wellness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall feeling of safety in your community • Overall quality of natural environment in your community • Overall health and wellness opportunities in your community • Availability of affordable quality food • Availability of long-term care options • Availability of daytime care options for older adults • Availability of affordable quality physical health care • Availability of affordable quality mental health care • Availability of preventive health services (e.g., health screenings, flu shots, educational workshops) • Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)
Information and Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How would you rate the overall services provided to older adults in your community? • Availability of information about resources for older adults • Availability of financial or legal planning services

Dimension of Community Readiness	Items Included in Community Readiness Score
Productive Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities • Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts • Residents' connection and engagement with their community • Recreation opportunities (including games, arts, library services, etc.) • Opportunities participate in community matters

Needs Summary

Each livability topic covered in the survey includes a summary of needs identified by respondents. For almost all of these needs summaries, a respondent was counted as having a need if they had a major problem or moderate problem with any of the items examined in each score area. The one exception is for the independent living topic; for this needs score, a respondent was counted as having a need if they reported spending any time in a hospital or in a long-term care facility in the last year.

Needs Score	Items Included in the Score
Caregiving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any of the following were a major or moderate problem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling PHYSICALLY burdened by providing care for another person • Feeling EMOTIONALLY burdened by providing care for another person • Feeling FINANCIALLY burdened by providing care for another person
Civic Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any of the following were a major or moderate problem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling like your voice is heard in the community

Needs Score	Items Included in the Score
Community Inclusivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any of the following were a major or moderate problem: • Having friends or family you can rely on • Feeling lonely or isolated • Feeling like you don't fit in or belong
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any of the following were a major or moderate problem: • Finding work in retirement • Building skills for paid or unpaid work
Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any of the following were a major or moderate problem: • Being treated unfairly or discriminated against because of your age
Finances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any of the following were a major or moderate problem: • Having enough money to meet daily expenses • Having enough money to pay your property taxes
Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any of the following were a major or moderate problem: • Finding affordable health insurance • Getting the health care you need • Getting the oral health care you need • Getting the vision care you need • Affording the medications you need
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any of the following were a major or moderate problem: • Having housing to suit your needs • Doing heavy or intense housework • Maintaining your home • Maintaining your yard
Independent Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spent one or more days: • In a long-term care facility (including nursing home or in-patient rehabilitation facility) • As a patient in a hospital

Needs Score	Items Included in the Score
Information and Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any of the following were a major or moderate problem: • Having adequate information or dealing with public programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid • Not knowing what services are available to older adults in your community
Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any of the following were a major or moderate problem: • Experiencing confusion or forgetfulness • Feeling depressed • Dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend
Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any of the following were a major or moderate problem: • Having safe and affordable transportation available • No longer being able to drive
Physical Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any of the following were a major or moderate problem: • Your physical health • Falling or injuring yourself in your home • Staying physically fit • Maintaining a healthy diet • Having enough food to eat
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any of the following were a major or moderate problem: • Being a victim of crime • Being a victim of fraud or a scam • Being physically or emotionally abused
Social Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any of the following were a major or moderate problem: • Feeling bored

¹See AAPOR's Standard Definitions here:

[http://www.aapor.org/Standards-Ethics/Standard-Definitions-\(1\).aspx](http://www.aapor.org/Standards-Ethics/Standard-Definitions-(1).aspx)

for more information

²A 95% confidence interval indicates that for every 100 random samples of this many residents, 95 of the confidence intervals created will include the "true" population response. This theory is applied in practice to mean that the "true" perspective of the target population lies within the confidence interval created for a single survey. For example, if 75% of residents rate a service as excellent or good, then a 4% margin of error (for the 95% confidence interval) indicates that the range of likely responses for the entire community is between 71% and 79%. This source of uncertainty is called sampling error. In addition to sampling error, other sources of error may affect any survey, including the non-response of residents with opinions different from survey responders. Though standardized on CASOA, on other surveys, differences in question wording, order, translation and data entry (as examples) can lead to somewhat varying results.

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau - 2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimates Age, rent or own home, and gender estimates are for those age 60+, while type of housing unit, race and ethnicity are for those age 65+.