

Methodology

The 2018 AARP Age-Friendly Survey of Fort Wayne, Indiana, was written and approved by AARP Indiana. Purdue Extension conducted the survey using a combination of online and paper formats. The online survey was conducted using Qualtrics. The paper survey was a replica of the online survey, with all necessary skip logic statements written into the directions. The survey and marketing materials were available in English and Spanish. The survey was publically available from November 1, 2018 – December 15, 2018, and only people who confirmed that they were 45 years old or older were allowed to complete it.

Given the chosen formats of the survey, and the target population of people 45 years old or older living in the Greater Fort Wayne Area (comprised of the City of Fort Wayne along with the remainder of Allen County and all of the adjacent counties (Adams, DeKalb, Huntington, Noble, Wells and Whitley)), Purdue Extension and AARP used their local, regional and statewide networks to market the survey links and provide opportunities for paper surveys to be completed.

The following direct marketing channels were utilized:

- Two press releases (see attached)
- Social Media (through targeted and boosted Facebook posts and Twitter tweets)
- Email Blasts
- Newsletters

The following in-direct marketing channels were utilized to encourage collaboration across a variety of partners whose stakeholders include the target population:

- Targeted emails to local/regional partners
- Phone calls to key partners

Just over half (54.6%) of all the usable surveys collected were submitted within five days of the press releases. The five-day period after the second press release resulted in 44.8 percent of all usable surveys.

The survey was attempted 822 times by potential respondents. Twenty-one respondents indicated that they were not 45 years old or older and were not able to complete the remainder of the survey. Three hundred individuals started the survey and completed between two and 87 percent of the survey (forty people (13.5%) of those finished more than half of the survey). Five hundred and one people completed the survey. Of those, five lived outside of the Greater Fort Wayne area (within the city limits of Fort Wayne, the remainder of Allen County and the entirety of each of the adjacent counties (Huntington, Noble, Wells and Whitley Counties)) and were left out of the analysis, leaving 496 useable surveys (see Figure 1 and Table 1).

Eighty-six percent of all survey respondents (n=496) were from a City of Fort Wayne zip code. An additional 8.9 percent of survey respondents were from Allen County, meaning that only 4.4 percent of survey respondents were from the adjacent counties.

Figure 1: Heat map of number of survey responses in the Greater Fort Wayne Area by zip code

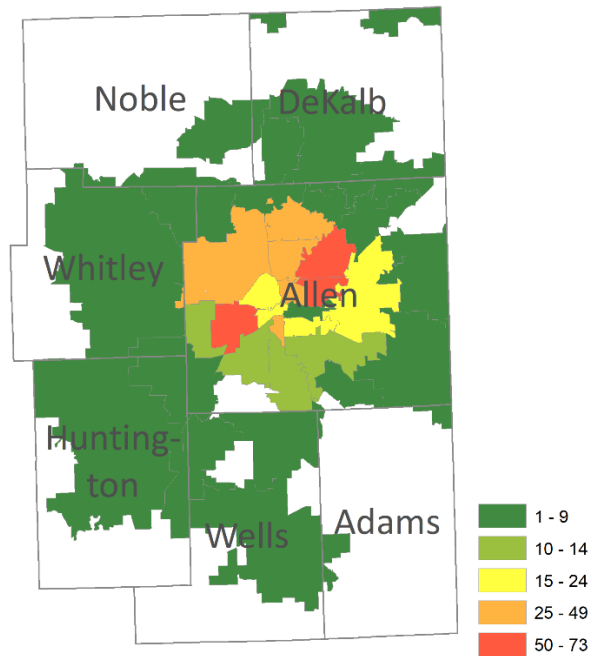


Figure 2: Frequency of completed surveys by zip code

County	Zip Code	Number of Surveys	Percent of Total (n=496)
City of Fort Wayne		428	86.3%
	46802	19	3.8%
	46803	3	0.6%
	46804	55	11.1%
	46805	37	7.5%
	46806	17	3.4%
	46807	34	6.9%
	46808	16	3.2%
	46809	13	2.6%
	46814	12	2.4%
	46815	50	10.1%
	46816	14	2.8%

	46818	27	5.4%
	46819	14	2.8%
	46825	34	6.9%
	46835	50	10.1%
	46843	1	0.2%
	46845	31	6.3%
	46846	1	0.2%
Allen County		44	8.9%
	46741	1	0.2%
	46745	2	0.4%
	46748	8	1.6%
	46765	7	1.4%
	46773	3	0.6%
	46774	19	3.8%
	46788	3	0.6%
	46797	1	0.2%
Adjacent Counties		22	4.4%
<i>Dekalb County</i>	46706	4	0.8%
	46738	1	0.2%
	46742	1	0.2%
	46747	1	0.2%
<i>Huntington County</i>	46750	1	0.2%
	46783	2	0.4%
<i>Noble County</i>	46710	1	0.2%
<i>Wells County</i>	46714	1	0.2%
	46770	1	0.2%
	46777	4	0.8%

<i>Whitley County</i>	46723	3	0.6%
	46725	2	0.4%
Unclassified		2	0.4%

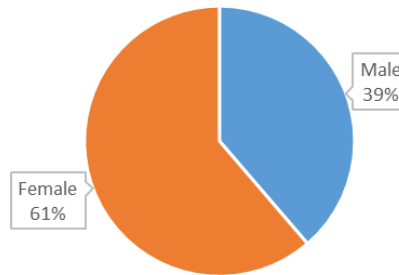
NOTE: Two surveys were not directly linked to Fort Wayne through geocoding or survey responses to the Community or Zip Code questions. However, other evidence led us to conclude that the survey respondents lived in the Greater Fort Wayne Area.

The estimated population in the Greater Fort Wayne Area that was 45 years old or older in 2017 (the latest data available through the US Census) was 241,936 (EMSI, 2018). Given 496 survey respondents, the approximate margin of error for the survey was +/- 4 percent at the 95 percent confidence level.

About You

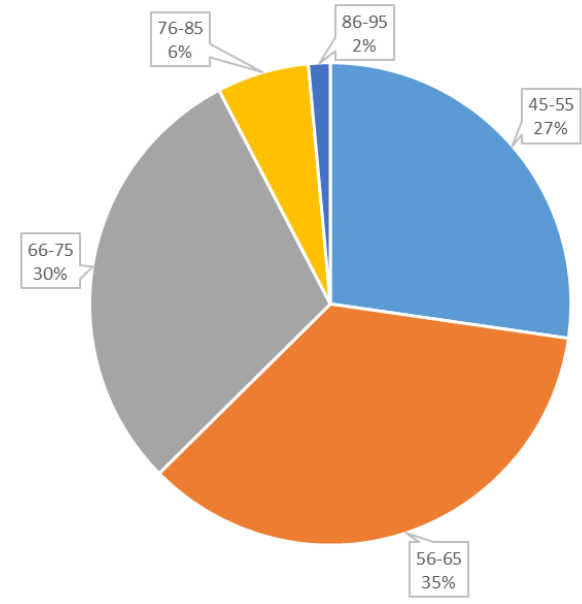
Survey respondents provided demographic information about themselves and their households. This information lends itself to determining if there was some potential bias in responses and some indication of prevailing trends in the Great Fort Wayne Area.

Figure 3: Are you male or female? (n=491, response rate=99.0%)



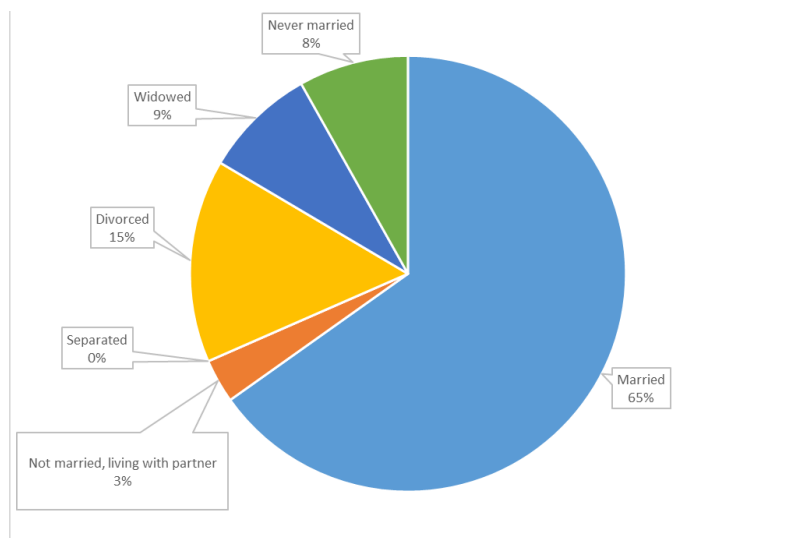
Nearly two-thirds of respondents were female (61%) and thirty-nine percent were male.

Figure 4: What is your age in years? (n=484, response rate=97.6%)



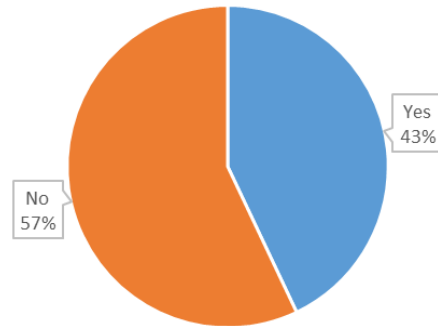
Respondents were asked their age twice in the survey. The first time, as the opening question, they were asked if they were 45 years old or older. If they responded that they were younger than 45, they were brought to the end of the survey and not given an opportunity to complete the remaining questions. The second time was in the Demographics section at the end of the survey. The youngest survey respondents (45-55 years old) comprised 27 percent of the respondents. Just over one-third of respondents (35%) were between the ages of 56 to 65. Nearly one-third (30%) were between 66 and 75. The uppermost age ranges 76-85 and 86-95 represented six percent and two percent of the respondents, respectively.

Figure 5: What is your current marital status? (n=491, response rate=99.0%)



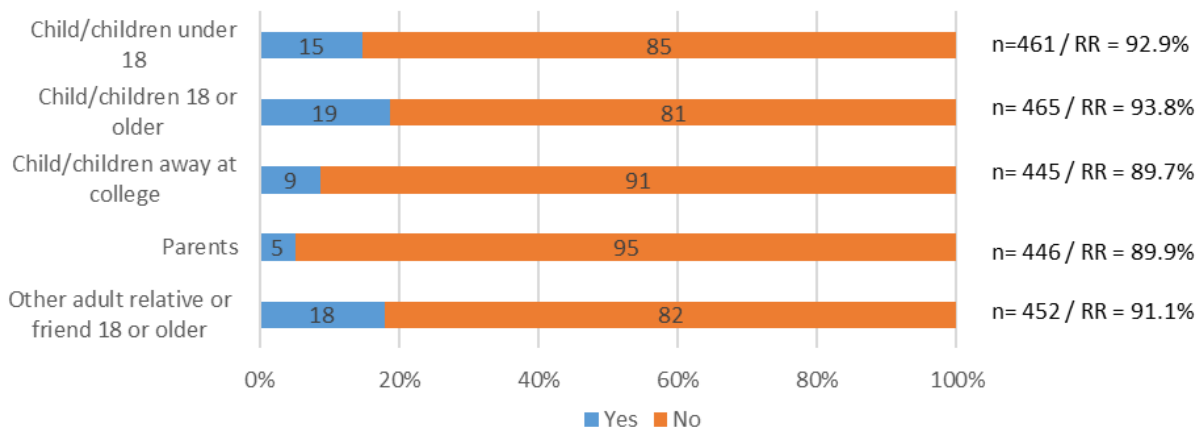
The majority of respondents (65%) were married and 15 percent were divorced. Eight percent of respondents were widowed and eight percent were never married. The remaining three percent were 'Not married, living with partner', none were Separated.

Figure 6: Are you or your spouse currently a member of AARP? (n=489, response rate=98.6%)



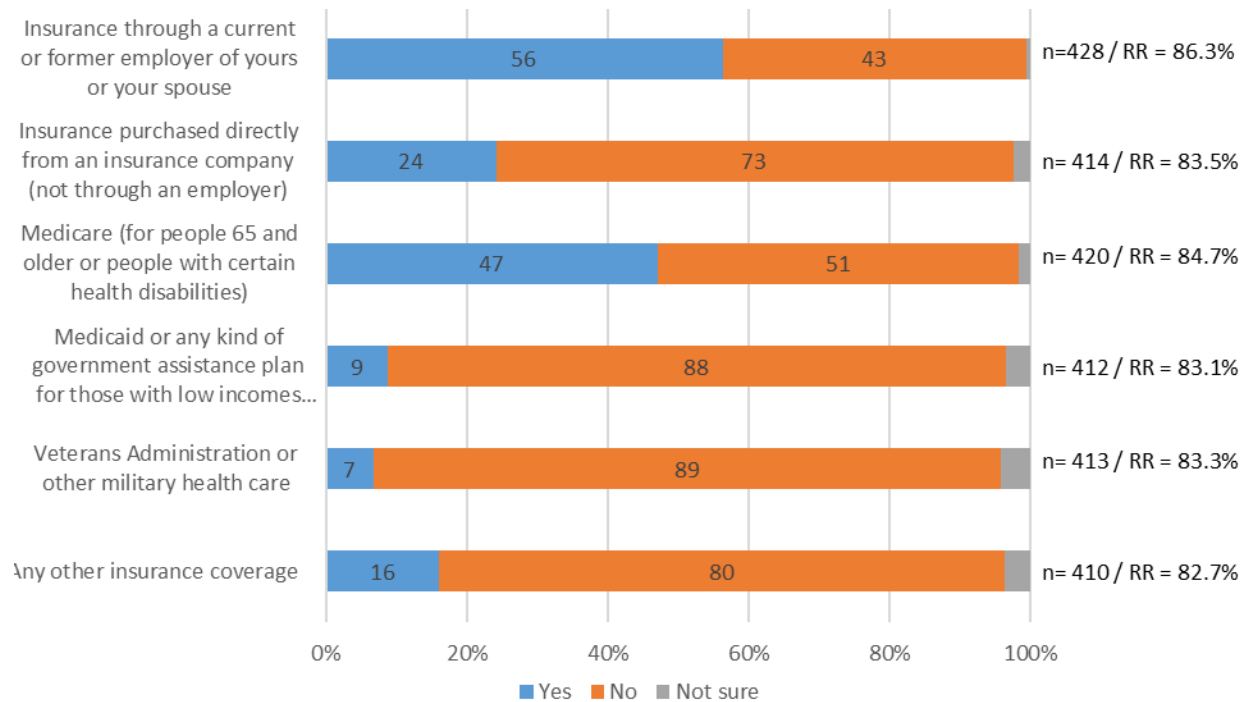
Fifty-seven percent of respondents, or their spouses, were not members of AARP.

Figure 7: Besides yourself, do you have any of the following people living in your household?



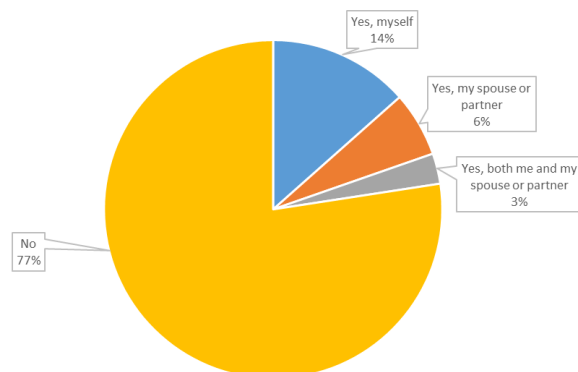
Survey respondents were asked about the generational composition of their household. Fifteen percent of respondent households included children under the age of 18 and 19 percent included children 18 years old or older. Nearly eight percent (7.5%) of respondents reported having children in their household who were below and above the age 18 threshold. Nine percent of respondents reported having children that were attending college, but still considered part of the household. Eighteen percent of respondents reported having an adult relative or friend living in their household. The least common multi-generational combination was having a parent of the survey respondent as part of the household (5%). It should be noted that over two-thirds of respondent households (63.9%; 280/438) were only composed of the householder or the householder and partner or unrelated friend.

Figure 8: Do you have any of the following kinds of health care coverage?



Respondents were asked if they have a variety of types of health coverage. Over half of the respondents that answered the question (56%; N=428) reported that they carried insurance through a current or former employer of theirs or their spouse. Nearly half (47%) of respondents carried Medicare. Interestingly, almost twelve percent (11.8%; N=415) carried a combination of employer-related insurance and Medicare. The third most common source of health coverage was insurance purchased directly from an insurance company (24%, N = 414). Nine percent of respondents were using Medicaid and seven percent were covered through the Veterans Administration or other military health care.

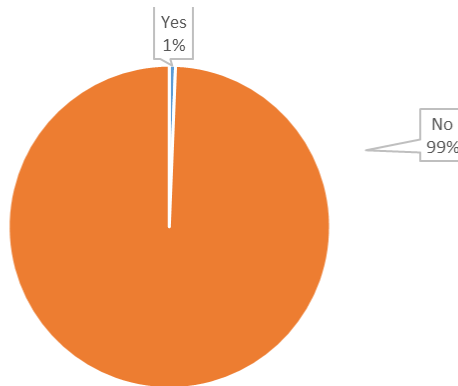
Figure 9: Does any disability, handicap, or chronic disease keep you and/or your spouse or partner from fully participating in work, school, housework or other activities? (n=483, response rate=97.4%)



Over three-quarters of respondents (77%) reported that neither they nor their spouse had any disability, handicap or chronic disease that kept them from fully participating in work, school, housework or other activities. Fourteen percent of respondents reported having such an issue that was impacting their daily lives and six percent reported that their spouse did. Three percent

said that these issues impacted both their spouse and themselves. Of those that reported that either they or their spouse had a disability, handicap or chronic disease, the majority (55% or 60/109) were using Medicare for health coverage, just over a quarter (28%, 31/109) were using employer-based health coverage and 22 percent (24/109) were using Medicaid. It should be noted that the health coverages are not mutually exclusive so some people with health-related issues were using a combination of coverages.

Figure 10: Are you of Hispanic, Spanish, Latino origin or descent? (n=481, response rate=97.0%)



Despite efforts to market and offer the survey in Spanish, very few people of Hispanic, Spanish or Latino origin/descent participated in the survey (<1% or three people) and, of those that did, the data suggests that English is their primary language.

Figure 11: If you are Hispanic or Latino, please indicate which one best represents the language (s) you speak at home. (n=2, response rate=66.7%)

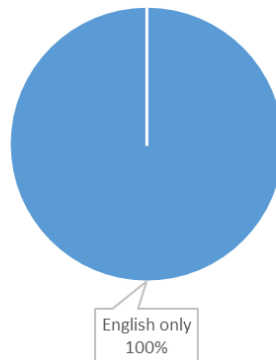
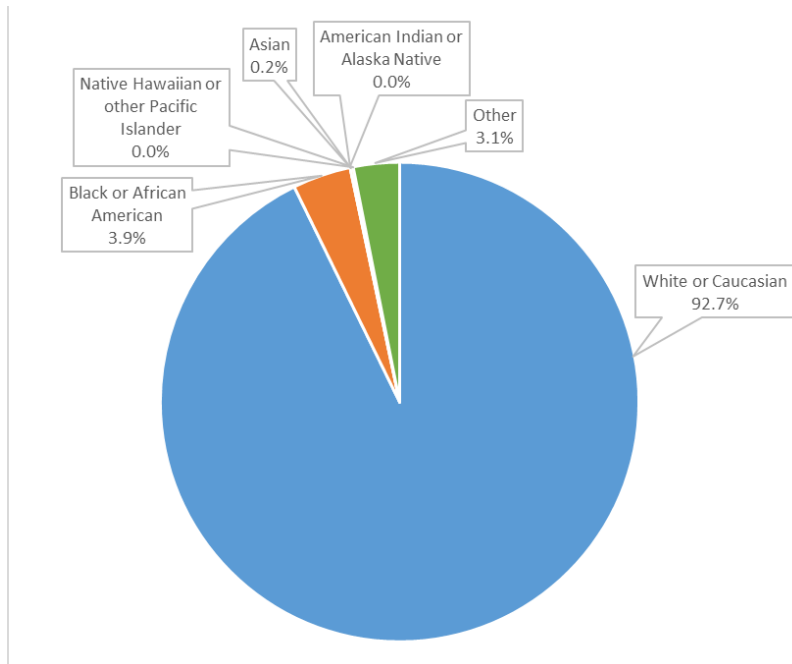
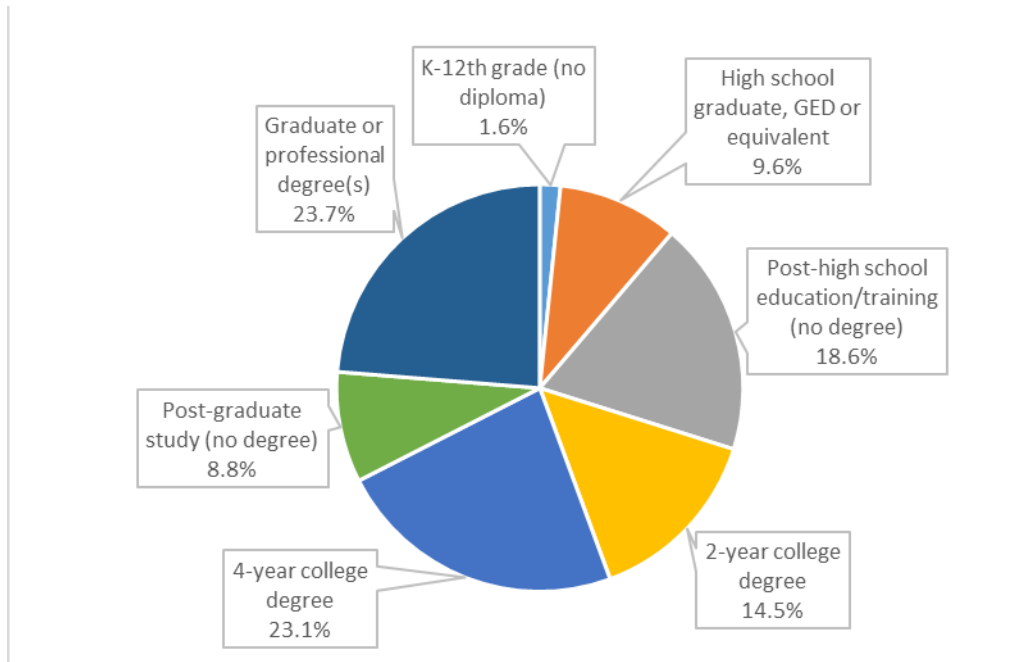


Figure 12: What is your race and/or ethnicity? (n=482, response rate=97.2%)



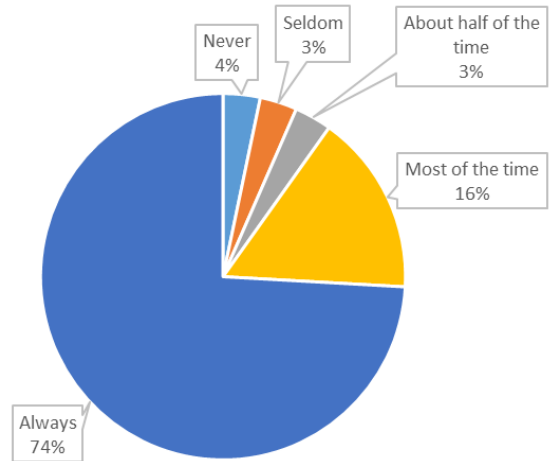
The vast majority of respondents indicated that they were White or Caucasian (93%). The second largest race/ethnic group was Black or African American (4%) and the third was Other(3%). Allen County's population itself (372,907 in 2017) is rather diverse (White (82.1%), Black or African American (12%), Asian (2.9%), Two or More Races (2.5%), American Indian or Alaskan Native (0.5%) and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (0.1%)). Keeping in mind that the Greater Fort Wayne Area contains populations in six adjacent counties, that population (223,860 in 2017) is much less diverse (White (98%), Black or African American (0.4%), Asian (0.4%), Two or More Races (0.9%), American Indian or Alaskan Native (0.3%) and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (0.03%)). This dichotomy, along with the Census tracts that were predominant sources of respondents, resulted in the racial/ethnic mix of respondents.

Figure 13: What is the highest level of education you have completed? (n=489, response rate=98.6%)



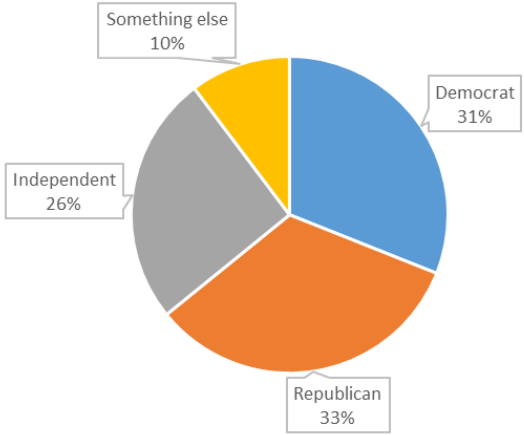
The educational attainment of the respondents primarily fell in into the post-secondary and above categories with 89 percent of respondents having at least some post-secondary to graduate/professional training. The remaining 12 percent includes 10 percent having a high school degree only and two percent not having obtained a high school degree, or equivalent, by the time they reached a minimum age of 45 years old. The most common educational attainment across respondents was graduate or professional degree (24%) and four-year college degree (23%). Nearly, fifteen percent of respondents completed a two-year degree. Twenty-eight percent started degrees, either post-secondary (19%) or graduate (9%), but did not obtain a degree by the end of their studies. Interestingly, both Allen County and the surrounding counties have similar educational attainment patterns (for those people 25 years old or older) with 37 percent of the population attaining the level of a two-year degree or higher and 28 percent ending their education after high school graduation. This suggests that the respondent's educational attainment was higher on average than the general population over the age of 25 in the Greater Fort Wayne Region.

Figure 14: Thinking about state elections for Indiana Governor and Legislators in the last five years, how often would you say you voted? (n=487, response rate=98.2%)



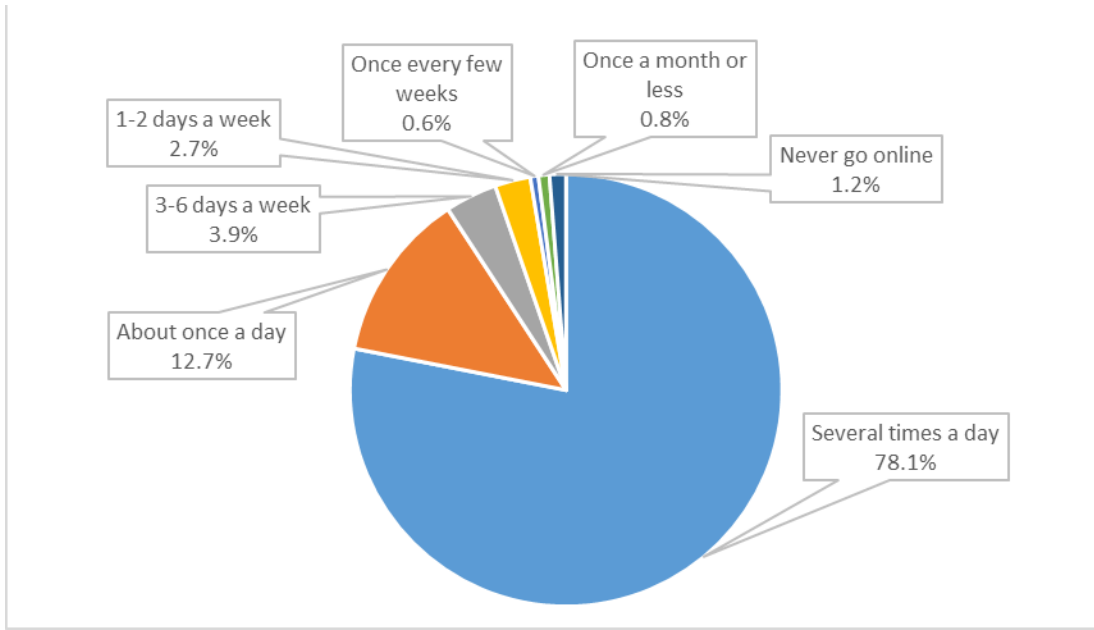
By-in-large, the survey respondents in the Greater Fort Wayne Area were civically engaged, in terms of voting in state elections for Indiana Governor and Legislators, with 93 percent reporting that they vote at least half the time (Always (74%), Most of the Time (16%) and About half the time (3%)). Seven percent (Seldom (3%) and Never (4%)) reported that they were not civically engaged.

Figure 15: Do you consider yourself to be a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent or something else? (n=477, response rate=96.2%)



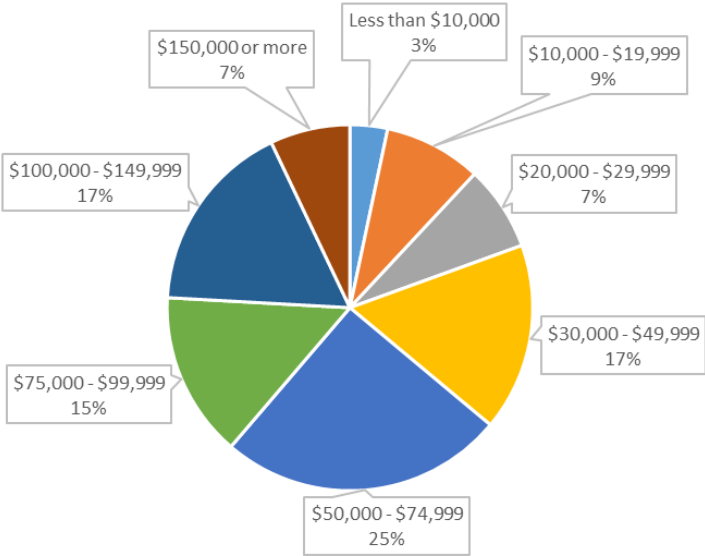
A slight majority of respondents considered themselves to be Republican (33%) versus Democrat (31%). Just over a quarter of respondents (26%) identified themselves as Independent and the remaining ten percent were “Something Else.”

Figure 16: In general, how often do you go online to access the Internet? (n=488, response rate=98.4%)



Over three-quarters (78%) reported that they go online “Several times a day” and an additional 13 percent go online about once a day. Of the nine percent of the respondents that are not online daily, nearly seven percent are online between one and six days per week. Less than two percent (1.4%) go online every few weeks (0.6%) or once a month or less (0.8%). Just over one percent (1.2%) of respondents never go online.

Figure 17: What was your annual household income before taxes in the most recent tax year? (n=452, response rate=91.2%)



Median income in Allen County (2017) was \$52,661. Roughly 64 percent of respondents reported their household income was at or above the median for Allen County. Approximately nineteen percent of respondents reported annual household income in the lowest three tiers (Less than \$10k (3%), Between \$10k-19,999 (nine percent) and \$20k - \$29,999 (7%)). At the other end of the spectrum, 39 percent of respondents reported annual household income in the

top three tiers (\$75k-\$99,999 (15%), \$100k-\$149,999 (17%) and \$150k+ (7%)). The remaining 32 percent of respondents fell roughly on either side of median income (\$30k - \$49,999 (17%) and \$50k-\$74,999 (25%)).

Your Community

Respondents were asked to rate their community on a scale from Poor (1) – Excellent (5).

Fifty-two percent of survey respondents (n=495) rated the Greater Fort Wayne Area as an Excellent (13%) or Very Good (39%) place for people to live as they age. An additional 31 percent felt the Greater Fort Wayne Area is a Good place for people to live as they age. Seventeen percent of survey respondents expressed that the Greater Fort Wayne Area was a Fair (14%) or Poor (3%) place for people to live as they age.

Figure 18: How would you rate your community as a place for people to live as they age? (n=495, response rate=99.8%)

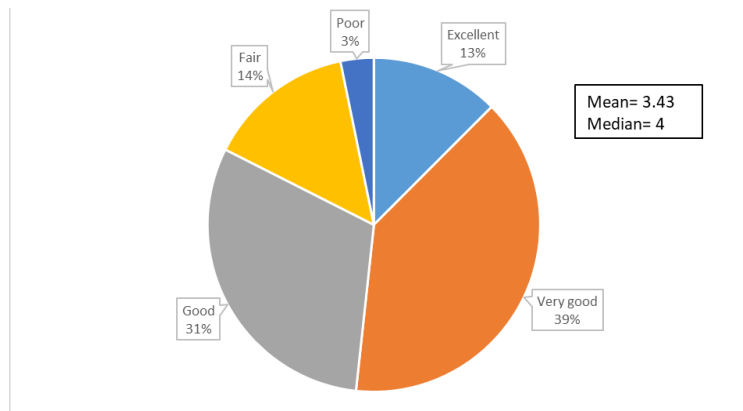
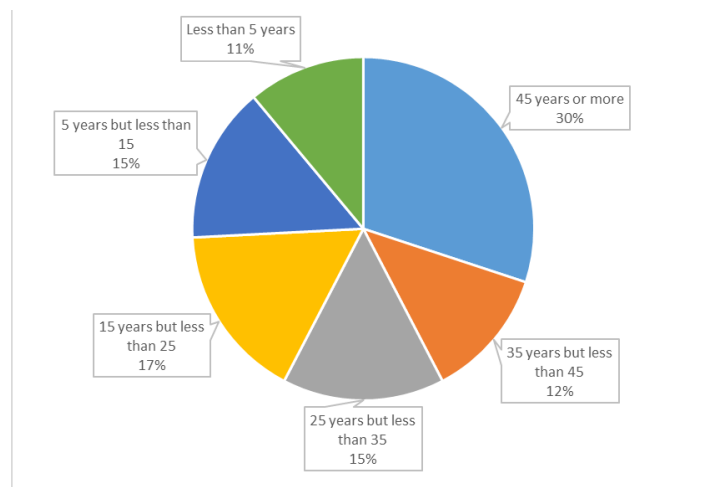


Figure 19: How long have you lived in this community? (n=496, response rate=100%)



The majority of survey respondents (30%, n =496) have lived in the Greater Fort Wayne Area for 45 years or more. Given the minimum survey respondent age of 45 years old, this means that many survey respondents have lived in the Greater Fort Wayne Area for more than half their lives. Twenty-seven percent of survey respondents have lived in the Greater Fort Wayne

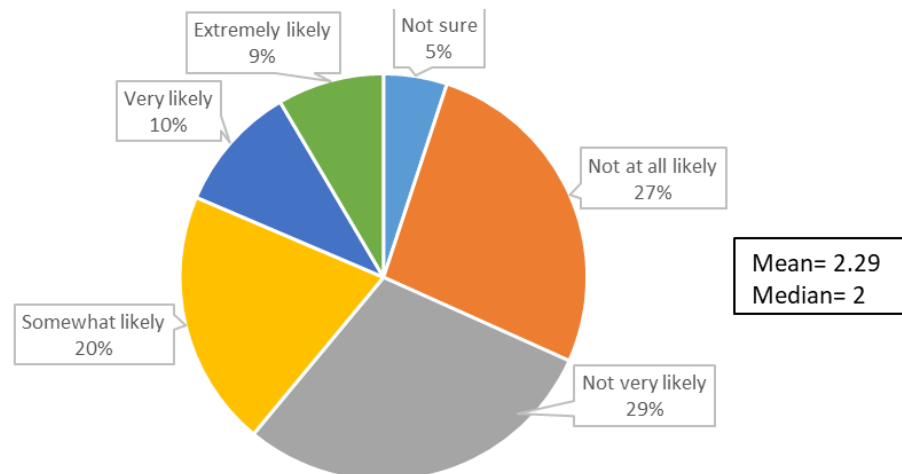
Area more than 25 years, but less than 45 years, meaning over half (57%) the survey respondents have lived in the area for over 25 years.

Newcomers, those that have lived in the Greater Fort Wayne area for less than five years, represented the smallest segment of survey respondents (11%). Nearly a third (32%) of survey respondents have spent between five and 25 years in the Greater Fort Wayne Region.

The weighted average length of time survey respondents have been living the Greater Fort Wayne Area (34 years, using range midpoints) coupled with the average age of survey respondents (62 years old), offers further evidence that many survey respondents have spent a considerable proportion of their lives living in the Greater Fort Wayne Area.

Respondents were asked to rate using a scale from Extremely likely (5) – Not at all Likely (1), including a Not Sure (0) category for those who were uncertain.

Figure 20: Thinking about your retirement years when you do not work at all for pay, how likely is it that you will move to a different home in your community? (n=495, response rate=99.8%)



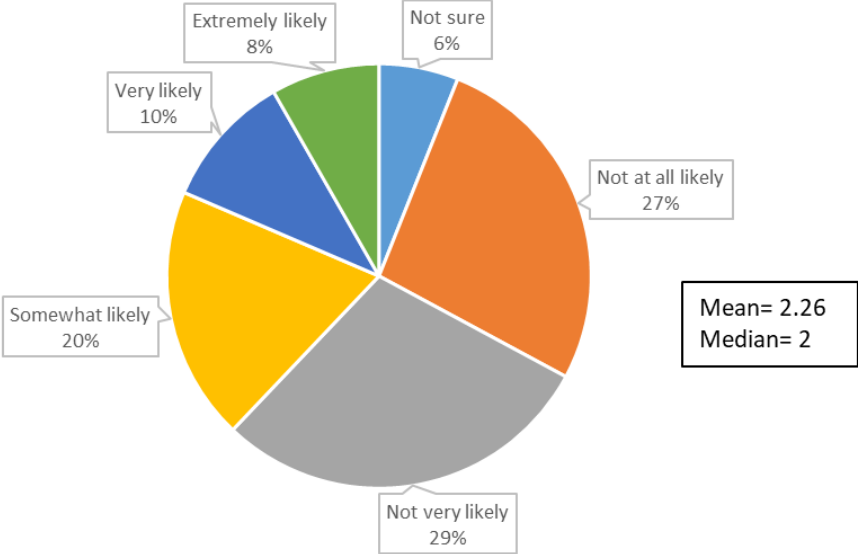
Fifty-six percent of survey respondents reported that it was Not Very Likely (29%) or Not At All Likely (27%) that they would consider moving from the Greater Fort Wayne Area to spend their retirement years. This suggests that a majority of survey respondents in the Greater Fort Wayne Area are not 'footloose,' but rather intending to spend their retirement years aging in place, in their current home.

On the other hand, 20 percent of survey respondents are considering (Somewhat Likely) a move within the Greater Fort Wayne Area. A similar proportion (19%) are Very Likely (10%) or Extremely Likely (9%) to leave their current home, but stay in the area when the retirement years approach. Five percent are unsure.

These findings have implications from a variety of perspectives, especially housing. Those survey respondents that plan to or are likely to stay in their current homes create a drag on housing supply. Conversely, those that are likely to move create demand for housing - in this case, housing that caters to people in their retirement years.

Respondents were also asked to rate using a scale from Extremely likely (5) – Not at all Likely (1), including a Not Sure (0) category for those who were uncertain.

Figure 21: Thinking about your retirement years when you do not work at all for pay, how likely is it that you will move to a different home *outside* of your community? (n=496, response rate=100%)



Here, respondents were considering the likelihood of moving outside of the Greater Fort Wayne Area. The distribution of responses was very similar to the question regarding moving within the Greater Fort Wayne Area, with 56 percent reporting that it was Not at all Likely (27%) or Not Very Likely (29%) that they would move outside of the area. Similarly, the proportion of respondents that are Somewhat Likely (20%), Very Likely (10%) and Extremely Likely (8%) are nearly identical to those reporting interest in moving within the area.

Cross-tabulations offer an opportunity to examine whether respondents are likely to move or not by comparing their responses to the two questions. Results show that 38 percent of total respondents (n=495) report that the likelihood of their moving within or outside the area is **unlikely**. Fifty-seven percent report some likelihood of moving within or outside of the area and the remaining five percent are **Unsure**. The Likely movers are represented by three categories (by color): those that are likely to **move outside of the area** (18%, n=89), those likely to move **inside the area** (19%, n=94) and those that are likely to move and may land either **within the area or outside** (20%, n=99).

Figure 22: Survey Respondents Moving Within or Outside of the Community during Retirement

		Move Outside of Area						Total
		Not sure	Not at all likely	Not very likely	Somewhat likely	Very likely	Extremely likely	
Move	Not sure	13	2	5	1	3	1	25
	Not at all likely	4	82	7	8	8	23	132
	Not very likely	1	29	70	23	19	3	145

Somewhat likely	6	8	33	49	4	1	101
Very likely	1	6	16	10	15	2	50
Extremely likely	5	5	14	5	2	11	42
Total	30	132	145	96	51	41	495

While it is important to understand the likelihood that seniors may leave the area during their retirement years, it is equally important to understand the motivating factors behind such a decision. Here, respondents were asked, “If you were to consider moving out of your community during your retirement when you do not work at all, would the following factors impact your decision to move?”

The top factors that would motivate moving decisions were “Looking for a home that will help you live independently as you age” (72% answered “Yes”) and “Looking for a different home size that meets your needs” (67% answered “Yes”).

The factors that had the least effect on the decision to move were “Fearing for your personal safety or security concerns” (71% answered “No”), “Wanting to move to an area that has better health care facilities” (62% answered “No”) and “Needing more access to public transportation” / “Looking for an area that has a lower cost of living” (each with 61% of respondents answering “No”).

Factors that played a relatively muted role in the decision to move were “Maintaining your current home will be too expensive” (a negative nineteen percentage point difference between “Yes” and “No”), “Wanting to be closer to family” (a negative seventeen percentage point difference between “Yes” and “No”) and “Wanting to live in a different climate” (a virtual tie between “Yes” and “No”).

These results suggest that housing availability is a key factor in the Greater Fort Wayne Area. Housing availability is a complex issue influenced by many variables including overall supply, amenities, price point, year built, location, etc.

Figure 23: If you were to consider moving out of your community during your retirement when you do not work at all, would the following factors impact your decision to move?

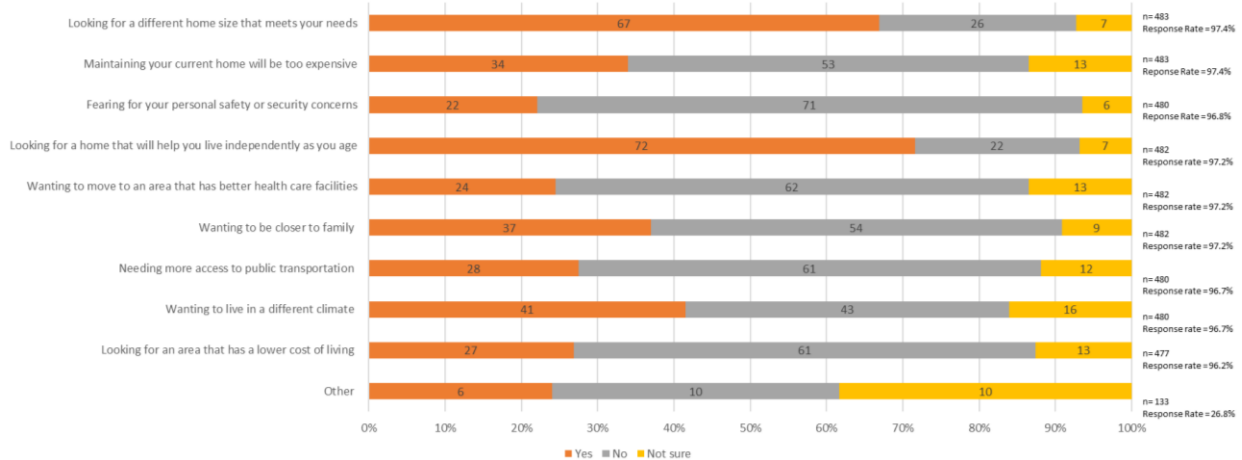
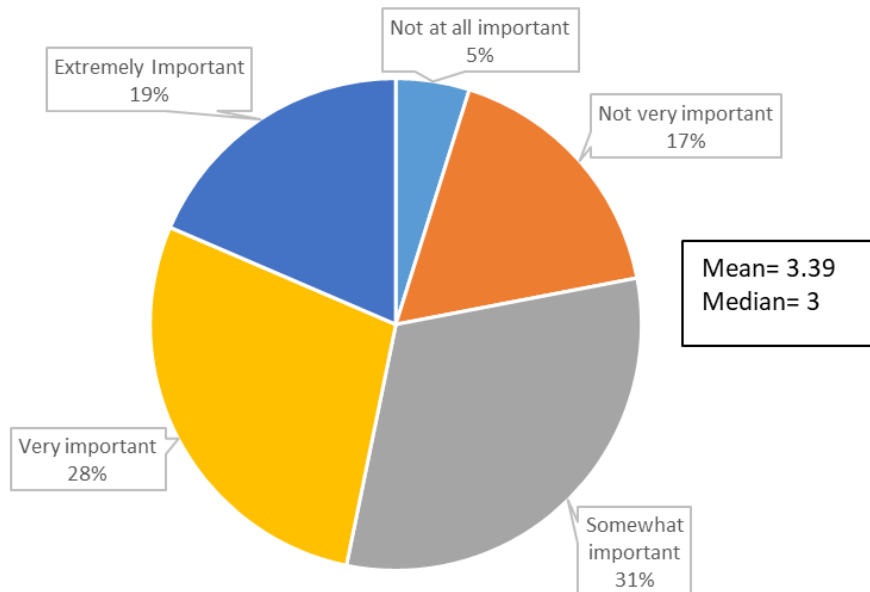


Figure 24: How important is it for you to remain in your community as you age? (n=496, response rate=100%)



Respondents were asked to rate using a scale from Extremely Important (5) to Not at all Important (1). Over three-quarters of respondents (78%, n=495) felt that it was at least Somewhat Important to remain in their community. Forty-seven percent of respondents felt it was Very Important (28%) or Extremely Important (19%). The remaining 22 percent did not view remaining in the community as important.

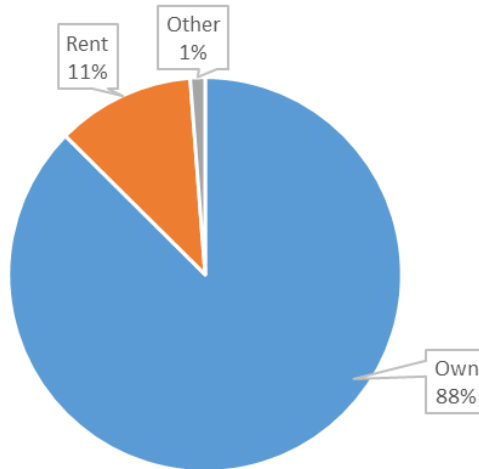
Cross-tabulations with questions regarding the likelihood of a move within or outside the area show that roughly a third (34.7%, n=172) of respondents are not very likely to move and feel that it is important to remain in their community.

However, there is a slightly larger group (36.6%, n = 181) of individuals that reported that they have some likelihood of moving (Somewhat to Extremely Likely) though they feel it is important to stay (at least Somewhat Important). This is the group that challenges communities to devise ways to address the factors that lead to decisions to migrate (as discussed in the previous question). In contrast, 75 respondents (15.2%) do not place high importance in remaining and report a likelihood of moving.

The remainder of the respondents are uncertain of their plans irrespective of the importance of remaining (though the majority of Unsure individuals (33 of 42) think it is important to remain) or do not expect to leave (Not Very or Not at all Likely) and do not place high importance on remaining.

HOUSING

Figure 25: Do you own or rent your primary home? (n=493, response rate=99.4%)



The majority of respondents (88%) reported owning their primary home. According to the American Community Survey, a similar number of households with a head of household aged 65 or greater (80.8% in Allen County) report owning their home, much higher than the Allen County average of 68.3% for owner-occupied homes. While this is an imperfect comparison, it does lend some evidence that households led by older Allen County residents (the vast majority of respondents were from Allen County) are more likely to own their homes.

Eleven percent of respondents reported renting their primary home (versus a 19.2% rental rate amongst Allen County residents over the age of 65).

In addition to ownership status, residents were asked, “What type of home is your primary home?” Given the high ownership rate of respondents, it follows that the majority of respondents (87%, n=429) reported a single-family home as their primary home. The next most common primary home type was an apartment (5%, n = 27). Relatively few respondents lived in other types of housing.

Figure 26: What type of home is your primary home? (n=494, response rate=99.6%)

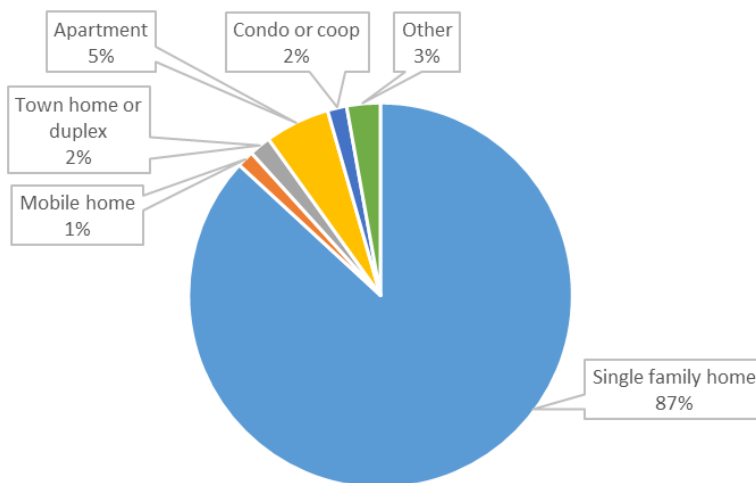
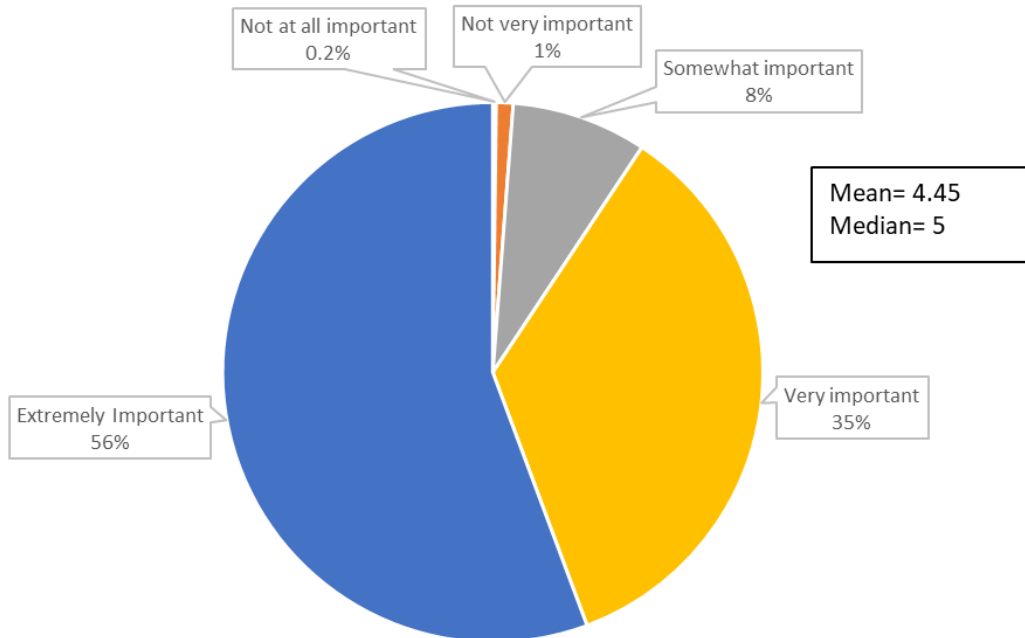


Figure 27: How important is it for you to be able to live independently in your own home as you age? (n=494, response rate=99.6%)

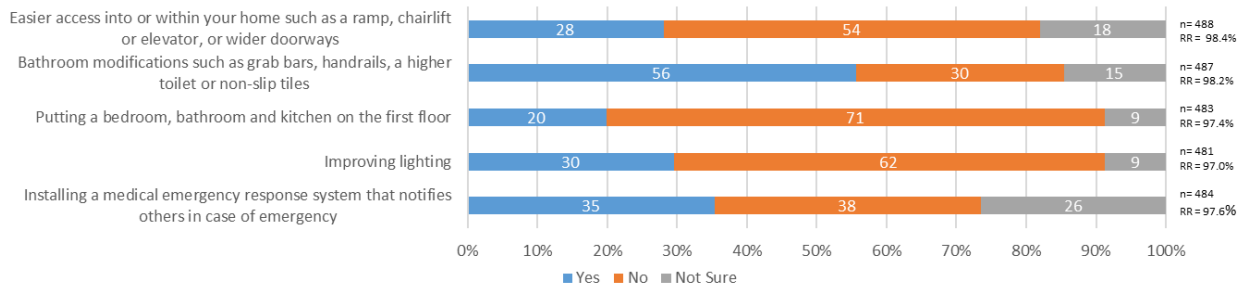


Respondents were asked to rate using a scale from Extremely Important (5) to Not at all Important (1). Over half of respondents (56%) reported that living independently at home as they age was Extremely Important and another 35 and eight percent said it was Very Important and Somewhat Important, respectively.

Using cross tabulation, this question can be related to the factors impacting the decision to move. “Looking for a Home that will Help You Live Independently as You Age” (Q7d), was the most important factor overall and 339/344 (98.5%) respondents who identified this factor as an important determinant for deciding to move also said it was at least Somewhat Important to live independently as they age.

Respondents were asked to answer the following question using responses of “Yes,” “No” and “Not Sure.”

Figure 28: Do you think you will need to make the following types of modifications or improvements to your home to enable you to stay there as you age?

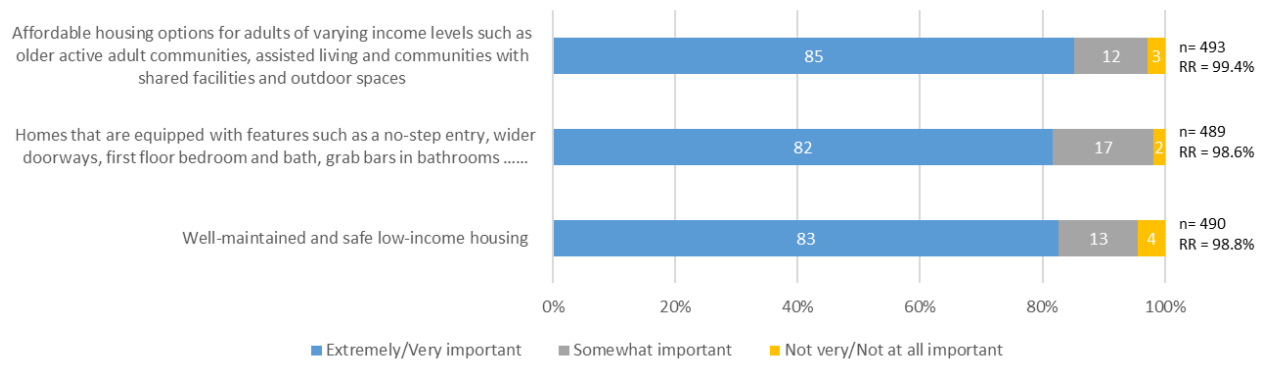


There was not an overwhelming consensus amongst the respondents. The only modification that received a majority of “Yes” responses (56%) was “Bathroom modifications such as grab bars, handrails, a higher toilet or non-slip tiles.” All other modifications were deemed necessary by between one-fifth of respondents (“Putting a bedroom, bathroom and kitchen on the first

floor”) to just over a third (35%) of respondents (“Installing a medical emergency response system that notifies others in case of emergency”).

Respondents were asked to answer the question below using a scale from Extremely Important (5) to Not at all Important (1). All three housing options (affordable at a variety of income and amenity levels, senior-friendly amenity and low-income housing) were deemed important at the Extremely/Very Important level (82 – 85%) and Somewhat Important level (12-17%). Only a small minority of respondents (2-4%) felt that these aspects of housing were Note Very or Not at all Important.

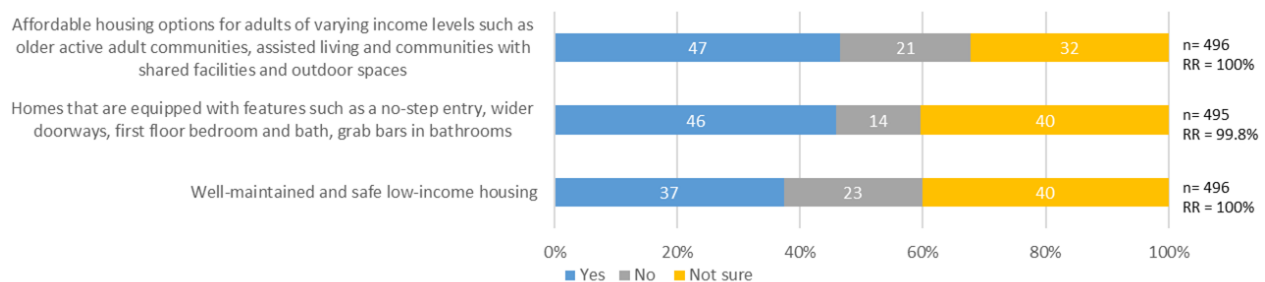
Figure 29: How important do you think it is to have the following in your community?



Not only is importance a key factor, respondents were also asked about what their community had using responses of “Yes”, “No” and “Not Sure.”

Respondents reported that just less than half of them (47%) lived in a community with “Affordable housing options for adults of varying income levels such as older active adult communities, assisted living and communities with shared facilities and outdoor spaces.” Twenty-one percent said that these options did not exist in their community and nearly a third (32%) were unsure if they existed in their community. Similarly, 46 percent of respondents reported that “Homes that are equipped with features such as a no-step entry, wider doorways, first floor bedroom, and bath, grab bars in bathrooms” existed in their community, 14 percent reported that they did not, and 40 percent were unsure. Lastly, 37 percent reported that “Well-maintained and safe low-income housing” existed in their community, 23 said it did not, and 40 percent were unsure.

Figure 30: Does the community where you live have the following?



There are some potential caveats to this data. The ‘community’ that the respondents have in mind is likely quite variable as Fort Wayne itself varies from neighborhood to neighborhood, and the Greater Fort Wayne Area is even more variable across county lines and the entire spectrum of their rural and urban constituent parts. Also, respondents are working from their reality and knowledge about their community. No single individual has full information about their community, especially when it comes to specific aspects discussed here. That said, the reported existence of these options and the importance of these options are both useful units of analysis. Following the gap analysis methodology used in the 2014 “Livability for All: The 2014 AARP Livable Communities Survey of Honolulu, Hawaii Adults age 45+”, we examine the “gap” between the proportion of respondents that believe these option are Extremely/Very/Somewhat Important and the proportion of respondents that report the existence of the options.

Based on the survey responses, gaps exist for all three housing options. Gaps range from 51 to 58 percentage points, with the widest gap for “Well-maintained and safe low-income housing.”

Figure 31: Gap between importance and existence of housing options

Housing Options	Gap	Extremely, Very, or Somewhat Important	Yes, Characteristic or Service Exists
Affordable housing options for adults of varying income levels such as older active adult communities, assisted living and communities with shared facilities and outdoor spaces	-51	97	47
Homes that are equipped with features such as a no-step entry, wider doorways, first floor bedroom and bath, grab bars in bathrooms	-52	98	46
Well-maintained and safe low-income housing	-58	96	37

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

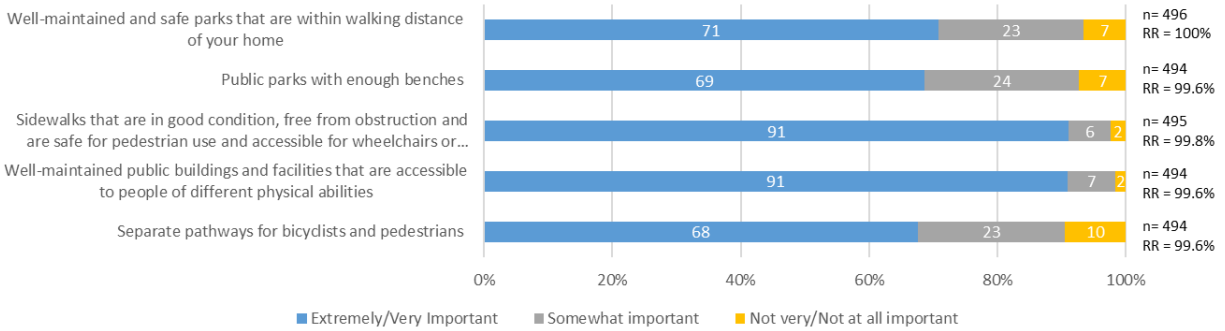
Respondents were asked to rate their community amenities using a scale of “Extremely Important” (5) to “Not at all Important” (1).

Outdoor spaces and the built environment both can play key roles in the community’s quality of life. Here we examine parks, in terms of proximity and amenities, and built capital in terms of sidewalks, paths and public buildings accessibility.

The respondents essentially split the options into two tiers. Tier 1 included: “Sidewalks that are in good condition, free from obstruction and are safe for pedestrian use and accessible for wheelchairs or other assistive mobility devices” and “Well-maintained public buildings and facilities that are accessible to people of different physical abilities” which both had ninety-one percent of respondents rating these as Extremely/Very Important. Tier 2 included the other three options: “Well-maintained and safe parks that are within walking distance of your home,” “Public parks with enough benches” and “Separate pathways for bicyclists and pedestrians.” Between 68 and 71 percent of respondents rated these as Extremely/Very Important. Ten percent or less of the respondents deemed any of these options as being Not Very/Not at all Important, lending

further evidence that these quality of life elements are key. The difference lies in the prioritization, with Tier 1 being more of a priority than Tier 2 based on importance.

Figure 32: How important do you think it is to have the following in your community?



When respondents were asked if their communities contained any of the outdoor spaces and buildings, the results were fairly similar across the board. In terms of the Tier 1 options, based on importance, 59 percent of respondents from the Greater Fort Wayne area report having “Well-maintained public buildings and facilities that are accessible to people of different physical abilities.” This resulted in the smallest gap between importance and existence (40 percentage points). Forty-three percent of the respondents report having the other Tier 1 characteristic, “Sidewalks that are in good condition, free from obstruction and are safe for pedestrian use and accessible for wheelchairs or other assistive mobility devices” resulting in the second largest gap of 54 percentage points.

Less than 50 percent of respondents reported having access to any of the Tier 2 options in their community. The largest gap was for “Separate pathways for bicyclists and pedestrians” (57 percentage points). “Public parks with benches” was second (54 percentage points) and “Well-maintained and safe parks that are within walking distance of your home” had the second lowest at 46 percentage points.

Figure 33: Does the community where you live have the following?

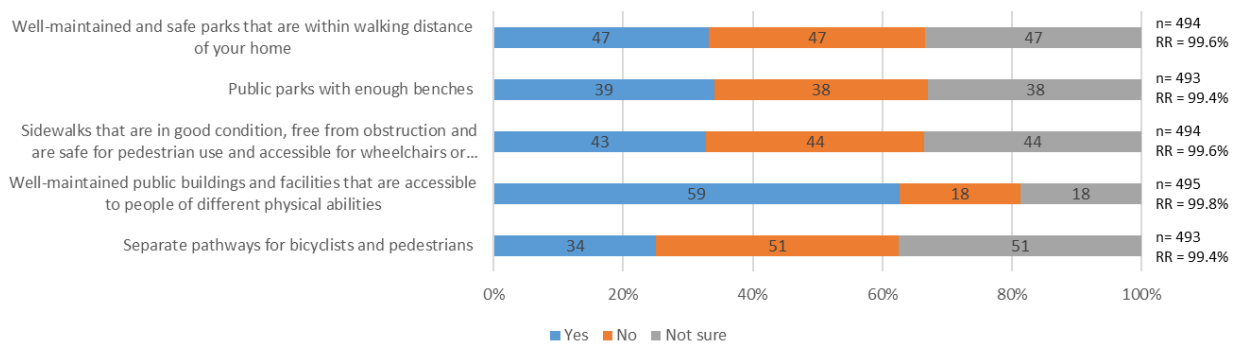


Figure 34: Gap between importance and existence of outdoor spaces and buildings

Outdoor Spaces and Building Options	Gap	Extremely, Very, or Somewhat Important	Yes, Characteristic or Service Exists
Well-maintained and safe parks that are within walking distance of your home	-46	93	47
Public parks with enough benches	-54	93	39
Sidewalks that are in good condition, free from obstruction and are safe for pedestrian use and accessible for wheelchairs or other assistive mobility devices	-54	98	43
Well-maintained public buildings and facilities that are accessible to people of different physical abilities	-40	98	59
Separate pathways for bicyclists and pedestrians	-57	90	34

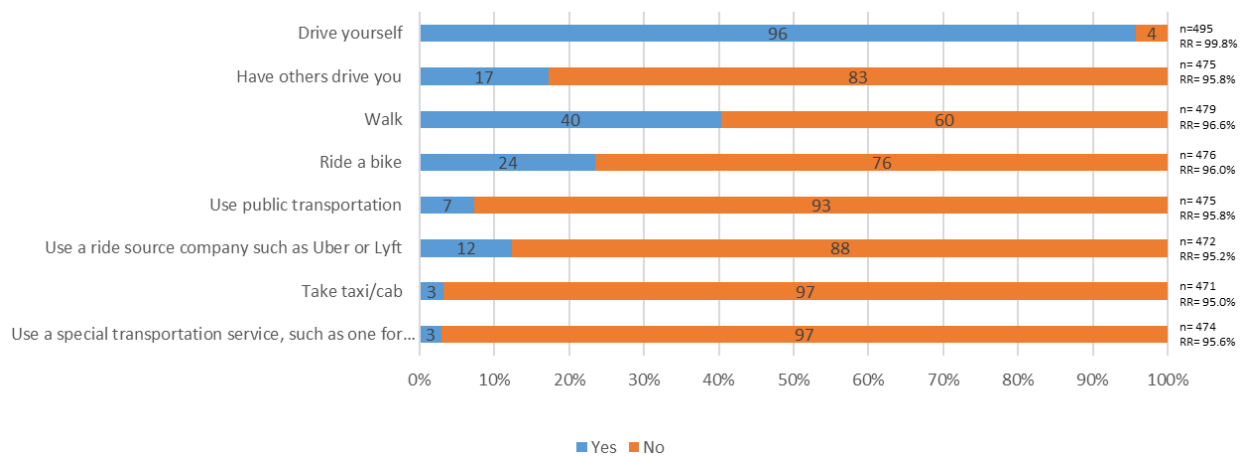
Transportation and Streets

Respondents were asked how they got around using a “Yes” or “No” response (“Not Sure” was not an option, but respondents could opt out of the question).

By far, the top choice of transportation was “Drive yourself” (96% of respondents said “Yes”). The age range of the respondents was from 45 to 94 years old. Interestingly, of the 20 people (4%) that answered “No” to “Drive Yourself,” only two were above the age of 75 years old.

The next highest was “Walk” (40% said “Yes”) and the third was “Ride a Bike” (24%). Seventeen percent reported “Having others drive you,” and 12 percent reported using a ride source company. Seven percent answered “Yes” to “Use Public Transportation,” and three percent answered “Take taxi/cab” or “Use a special transportation service, such as one for seniors or persons with disabilities.”

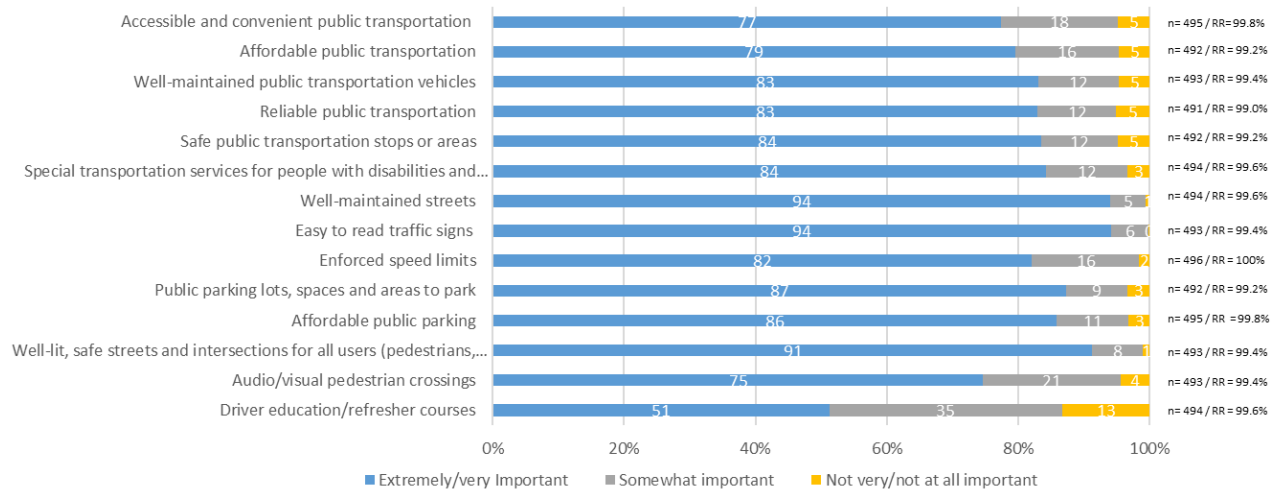
Figure 35: Do you get around for things like shopping, visiting the doctor, running errands or going to other places in the following ways?



In addition to the transportation modalities that respondents currently use, they were asked about transportation options, including those related to services, infrastructure and training. The

question listed below is rated using a scale from “Extremely Important” (5) to “Not at all Important” (1).

Figure 36: How important do you think it is to have the following in your community?



An easy way to rank these options is to use the mean value of the Importance scale for each item. Ranked from highest score (where Extremely Important = 5 and Not at all Important = 1), “Easy to read traffic signs,” “Well-lit, safe streets and intersections for all users (pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers)” and “Well-maintained streets” were the top three. Keeping in mind that all options were considered at least Somewhat Important (3 or above), the three lowest-scoring options were “Accessible and convenient public transportation (4.16), “Audio/visual pedestrian crossings” (4.09) and “Driver education/refresher courses” (3.56).

Figure 37: importance rankings of transportation modalities based on the mean survey responses

Importance Rank	Options	Mean
1	Easy to read traffic signs	4.55
2	Well-lit, safe streets and intersections for all users (pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers)	4.54
3	Well-maintained streets	4.53
4	Public parking lots, spaces and areas to park	4.33
5	Affordable public parking	4.33
6	Special transportation services for people with disabilities and older adults	4.32
7	Safe public transportation stops or areas	4.28
8	Enforced speed limits	4.28
9	Well-maintained public transportation vehicles	4.24
10	Reliable public transportation	4.24
11	Affordable public transportation	4.19
12	Accessible and convenient public transportation	4.16
13	Audio/visual pedestrian crossings	4.09

14	Driver education/refresher courses	3.56
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“Easy to Read Traffic Signs” (Yes = 71%), “Public Parking lots, spaces and areas to park” (Yes = 61%) and “Special transportation services for people with disabilities and older adults” (Yes = 57%) were the three most common transportation and street amenities. “Driver education/refresher courses” (Yes = 15%), “Safe public transportation stops or areas” (Yes = 30%) and Audio/visual pedestrian crossings (Yes = 31%) were the least common transportation and street amenities.

Figure 38: Does the community where you live have the following?

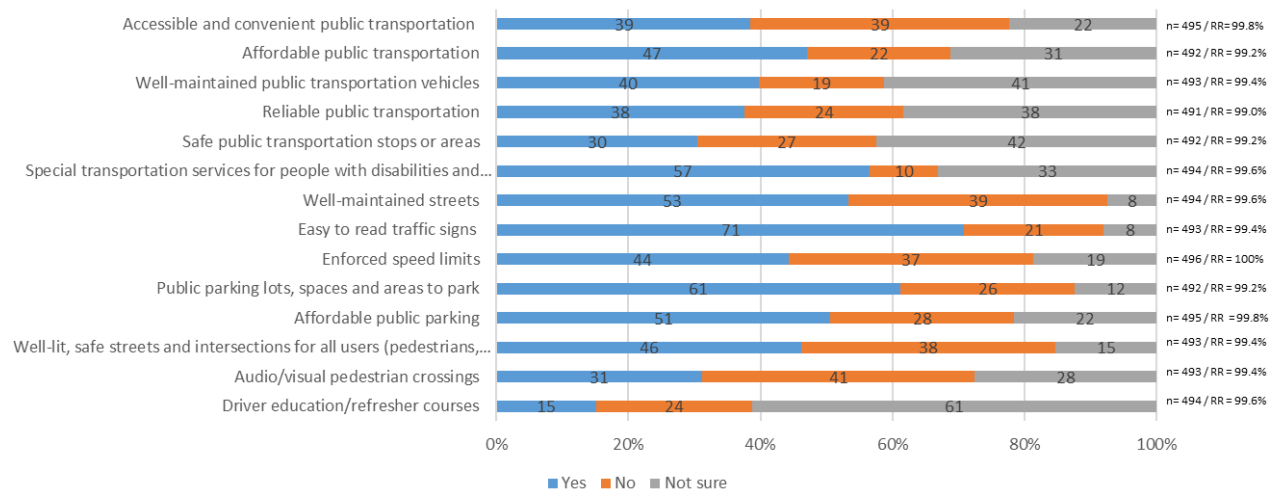


Figure 39: Gap between importance and existence of transportation modalities

Transportation and Streets	Gap	Extremely, Very, or Somewhat Important	Yes, Characteristic or Service Exists
Accessible and convenient public transportation	-57	95	39
Affordable public transportation	-48	95	47
Well-maintained public transportation vehicles	-56	95	40
Reliable public transportation	-57	95	38
Safe public transportation stops or areas	-65	95	30
Special transportation services for people with disabilities and older adults	-40	97	57
Well-maintained streets	-46	99	53
Easy to read traffic signs	-29	100	71
Enforced speed limits	-54	98	44
Public parking lots, spaces and areas to park	-35	97	61
Affordable public parking	-46	97	51
Well-lit, safe streets and intersections for all users (pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers)	-53	99	46
Audio/visual pedestrian crossings	-64	96	31

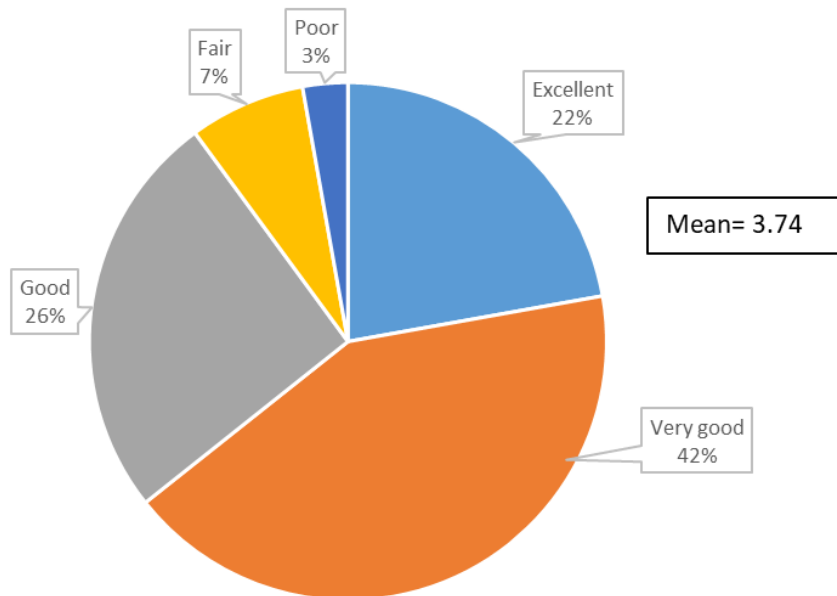
Driver education/refresher courses	-72	87	15
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In terms of the gap between importance and availability, the smallest gap was the ‘most’ important option, “Easy to read traffic signs” (29 percentage points). Second smallest gap was “Public parking lots, spaces and areas to park” (35 percentage points) and “Special transportation services for people with disabilities and older adults” (40 percentage points). The largest gap involved the ‘least’ important option, “Driver education/refresher courses” (72 percentage points), though much of the gap was due to respondents being unsure (61%) about availability. Two other options with relatively large importance to availability gaps were “Audio/visual pedestrian crossings” (the second least important) and “Safe public transportation stops or areas” (with gaps of 64 and 65 percentage points, respectively).

Health and Wellness

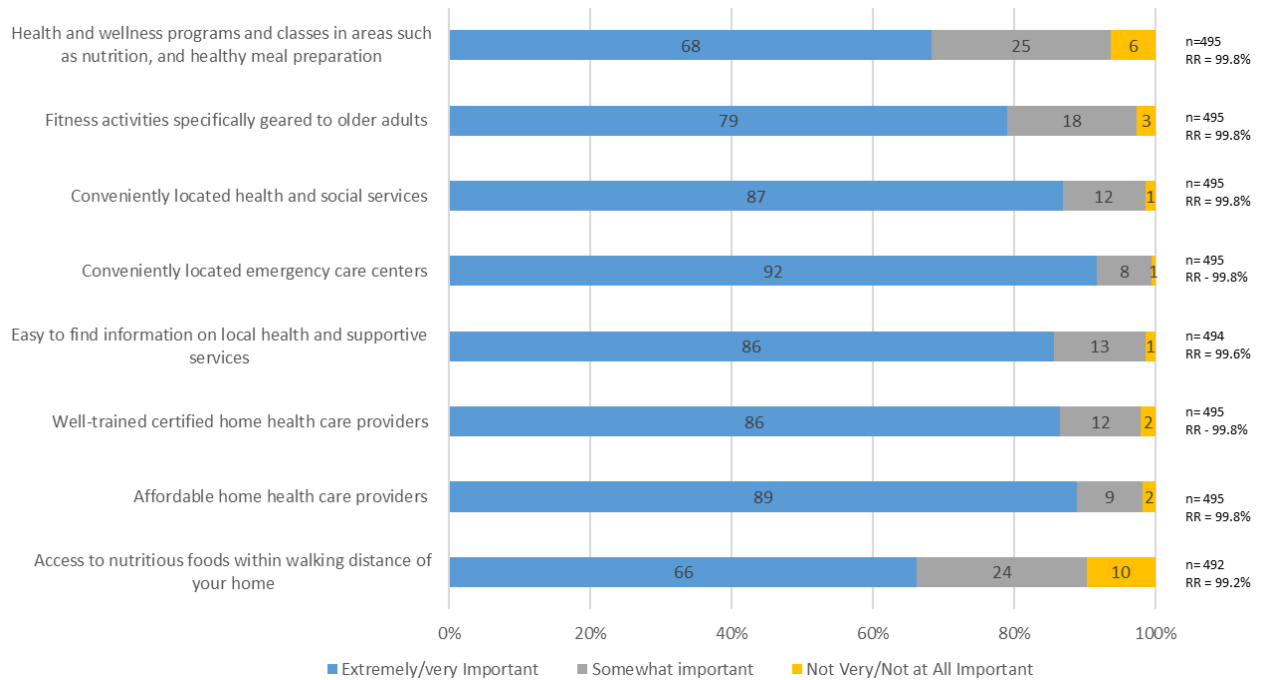
Respondents were asked to answer the question below using a scale of Excellent (5) to Poor (1). The average health rating was 3.74, roughly corresponding to Good/Very Good.

Figure 40: In general, when compared to most people your age, how would you rate your health? (n=496, response rate=100%)



Sixty-four percent of respondents rated their health as “Excellent” or “Very Good” in comparison to most people their age. Roughly a quarter of respondents rated their health as “Good.” Ten percent rated their health as “Fair” or “Poor.”

Figure 41: How important do you think it is to have the following in your community?



In terms of the importance of health and wellness related amenities, “Conveniently located emergency care centers” (92% Extremely/Very important), “Affordable home health care providers” (89% Extremely/Very important), “Conveniently located health and social services” (87% Extremely/Very important) were rated as most important. “Access to nutritious foods within walking distance of your home” (66% Extremely/Very important and 10% Not Very/Not at all Important) and “Health and wellness programs and classes in areas such as nutrition and healthy meal preparation” (68% Extremely/Very important and 6% Not Very/Not at all Important) were deemed least important. Interestingly, both of these nutrition-oriented amenities were somewhat divisive given relatively the lower proportion of “Extremely/Very Important” responses and a relatively higher proportion of “Not Very/Not at All Important” responses.

However, it should be noted that every single amenity on the list received a rating of Extremely/Very important by at least two-thirds of participants. Additional evidence is found in the average (mean) rating for importance, where all amenities received at least between Somewhat and Very Important scores.

Figure 42: importance rankings of health and wellness related amenities based on the mean survey responses

Importance Rank	Options	Mean
1	Conveniently located emergency care centers	4.45
2	Affordable home health care providers	4.41
3	Conveniently located health and social services	4.31
4	Well-trained certified home health care providers	4.31
5	Easy to find information on local health and supportive services	4.27
6	Fitness activities specifically geared to older adults	4.15

7	Health and wellness programs and classes in areas such as nutrition, and healthy meal preparation	3.94
8	Access to nutritious foods within walking distance of your home	3.92

In terms of the availability of health and wellness amenities, “Conveniently located emergency care centers” (Yes = 69%) and “Fitness activities specifically geared to older adults” (Yes = 60%) were the most common. “Access to nutritious foods within walking distance of your home” (No = 66%) and “Affordable home health care providers” (Yes = 21%, though 60% were Not sure) were the least common. It should be noted that, in many cases, respondents were more often “Not sure” than willing to provide a definitive “No.”

Figure 43: Does the community where you live have the following?

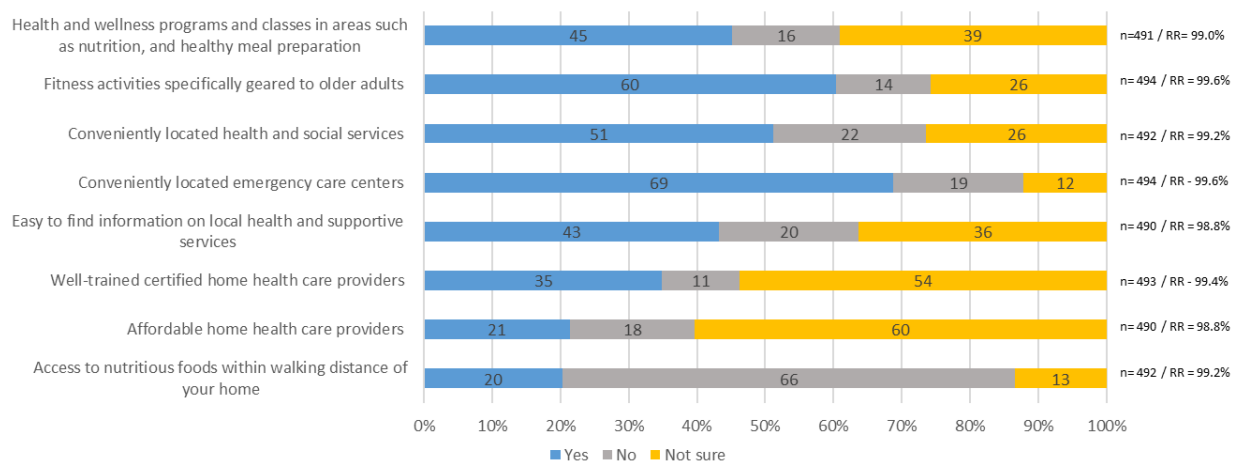


Figure 44: Gap between importance and existence of health and wellness related amenities

Health and Wellness	Gap	Extremely, Very, or Somewhat Important	Yes, Characteristic or Service Exists
Health and wellness programs and classes in areas such as nutrition, and healthy meal preparation	-49	94	45
Fitness activities specifically geared to older adults	-37	97	60
Conveniently located health and social services	-47	99	51
Conveniently located emergency care centers	-31	99	69
Easy to find information on local health and supportive services	-55	99	43
Well-trained certified home health care providers	-63	98	35
Affordable home health care providers	-77	98	21
Access to nutritious foods within walking distance of your home	-70	90	20

The gap between in importance and existence was highest for “Affordable home health care providers” (77 percentage points) and “Access to nutritious foods within walking distance of your home” (70 percentage points). The lowest gap was for “Conveniently located emergency care

centers” (31 percentage points) and “Fitness activities specifically geared to older adults” (37 percentage points).

Social Participation, Inclusion and Education Opportunities

Social participation, inclusion and education opportunities examine activities aimed at social and human capital formation in the Greater Fort Wayne Area. The question below was answered using a scale from “Extremely Important” (5) to “Not at all Important” (1) for social participation, inclusion and education opportunities. The most important activities in this realm were “Activities that offer senior discounts” (82% Extremely/very Important) “Accurate and widely publicized information about social activities” (82% Extremely/Very Important) and “Activities specifically geared to older adults” (79% Extremely/Very Important). The least important was “Local schools that involve older adults in events and activities” (58% Extremely/Very Important and 10% Not very/Not at all Important).

Figure 45: “How important do you think it is to have the following in your community?”

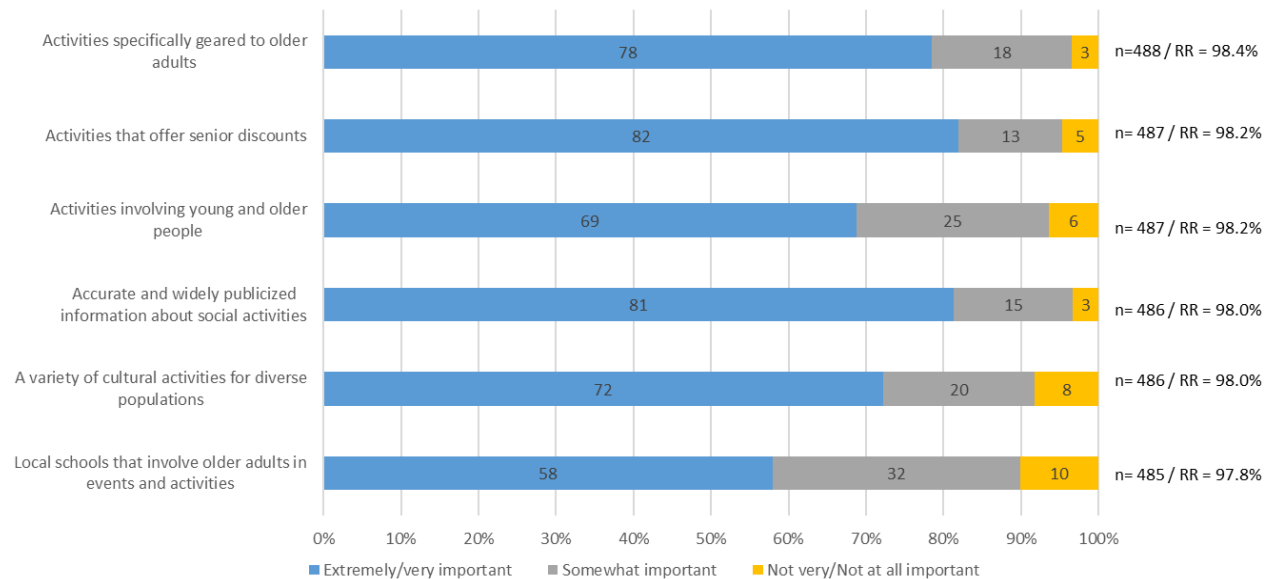
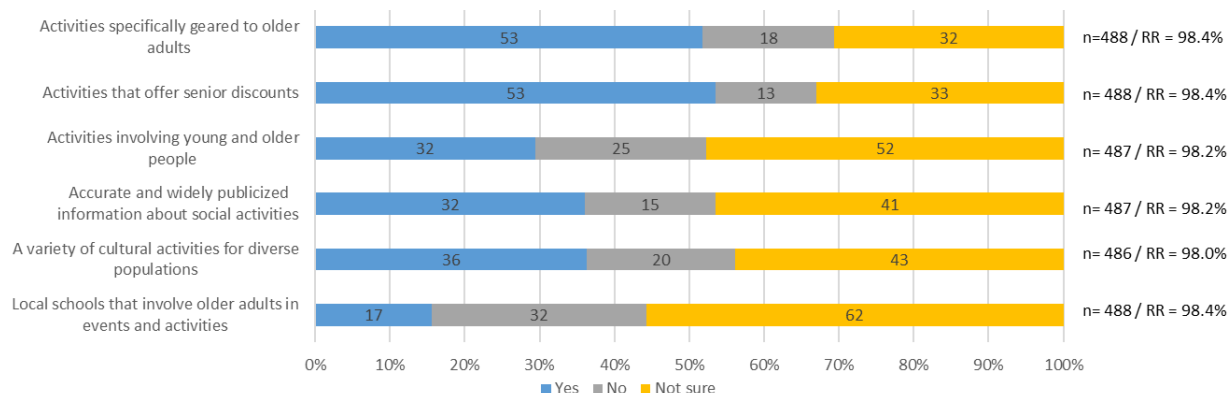


Figure 46: Importance rankings of social participation, inclusion and educational opportunities based on the mean from survey responses

Importance Rank	Options	Mean
1	Activities that offer senior discounts	4.15
2	Accurate and widely publicized information about social activities	4.15
3	Activities specifically geared to older adults	4.08
4	A variety of cultural activities for diverse populations	4
5	Activities involving young and older people	3.91
6	Local schools that involve older adults in events and activities	3.69

All of the social and human capital formation activities rated, on average, at least a Somewhat Important (Somewhat important = 3).

Figure 47: Does the community where you live have the following?



In terms of existence, “Activities specifically geared to older adults” (Yes = 53%) and “Activities that offer senior discounts” (Yes = 53%) were the most common. “Local schools that involve older adults in events and activities” was the least common (Yes = 17%) and the least understood (Not sure = 62%).

Figure 48: Gap between importance and existence of social participation, inclusion and educational opportunities

Social Participation, Inclusion and Education Opportunities	Gap	Extremely, Very, or Somewhat Important	Yes, Characteristic or Service Exists
Activities specifically geared to older adults	-43	97	53
Activities that offer senior discounts	-42	95	53
Activities involving young and older people	-62	94	32
Accurate and widely publicized information about social activities	-65	97	32
A variety of cultural activities for diverse populations	-56	92	36
Local schools that involve older adults in events and activities	-72	90	17

The widest gap between importance and existence was related to “Local schools that involve older adults in events and activities” (72 percentage points). The smallest gap was between “Activities that offer senior discounts” (42 percentage points) and “Activities specifically geared to older adults” (43 percentage points).

Volunteering and Civic Engagement

Respondents were asked to provide information about volunteering and civic engagement opportunities in the Greater Fort Wayne Area. The question asked was, “How important do you think it is to have the following in your community?” using a scale from “Extremely Important” (5) to “Not at all Important” (1). The most important volunteering and civic engagement activity/opportunity was “Access to elected officials and other decision-makers” (82% Extremely/very Important) followed closely by “Access to information on local government

processes and civic issues to make informed decisions as a citizen” (81% Extremely/very Important). Having a range of volunteer activities to choose from” was deemed Somewhat/Very Important (mean = 3.9), though it received the largest proportion of “Not very/Not at all Important” ratings (6%).

Figure 49: How important do you think it is to have the following in your community?

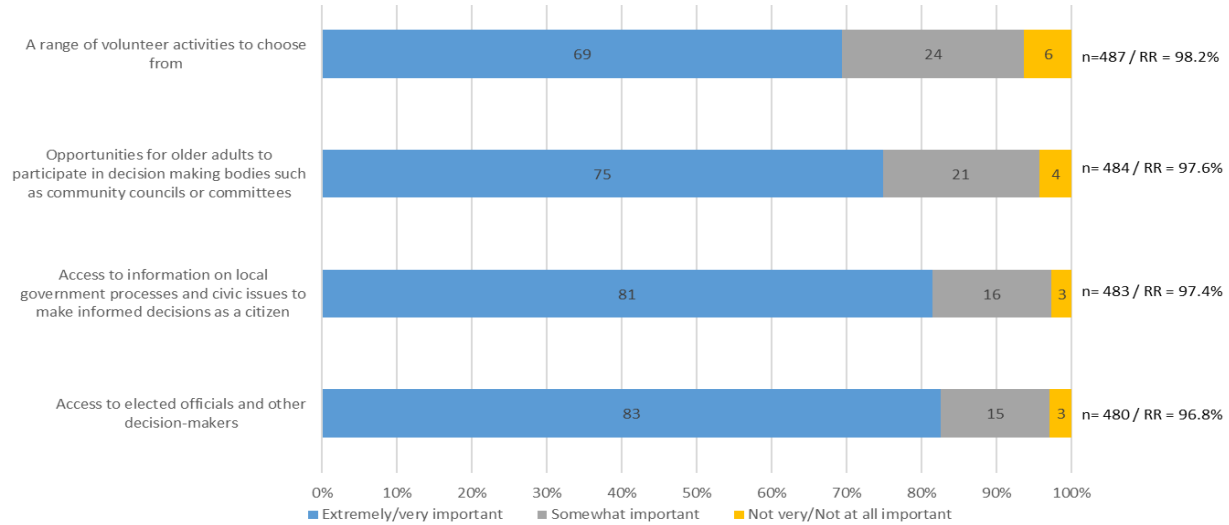
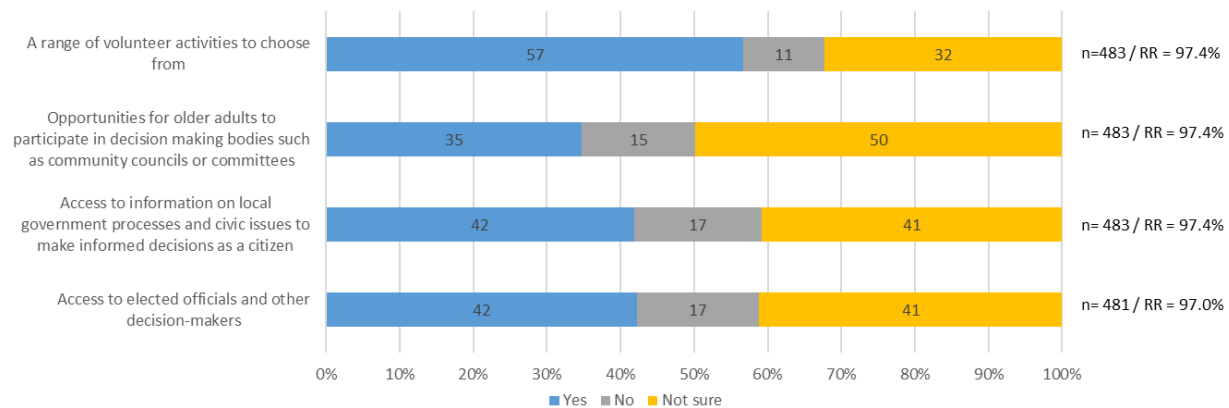


Figure 50: Importance rankings of volunteering and civic engagement based on the mean from survey responses

Importance Rank	Options	Mean
1	Access to elected officials and other decision-makers	4.21
2	Access to information on local government processes and civic issues to make informed decisions as a citizen	4.17
3	Opportunities for older adults to participate in decision making bodies such as community councils or committees	4.02
4	A range of volunteer activities to choose from	3.9

Figure 51: Does the community where you live have the following?



In terms of the existence of opportunities/activities that support volunteering and civic engagement and the relationship with importance, “A range of volunteer activities to choose from” was the most common (Yes = 57%) and most fulfilled opportunity (with a 37 percentage point gap). “Opportunities for older adults to participate in decision making bodies such as community councils or committees” was the least common (Yes = 35%) and the least fulfilled opportunity (with a 61 percentage point gap). Access to information on local government and access to local leaders were equivalently common (Yes = 42%) and fulfilled (55 percentage point gap).

Figure 52: Gap between importance and existence of volunteering and civic engagement opportunities

Volunteering and Civic Engagement Opportunities	Gap	Extremely, Very, or Somewhat Important	Yes, Characteristic or Service Exists
A range of volunteer activities to choose from	-37	94	57
Opportunities for older adults to participate in decision making bodies such as community councils or committees	-61	96	35
Access to information on local government processes and civic issues to make informed decisions as a citizen	-55	97	42
Access to elected officials and other decision-makers	-55	97	42

Job Opportunities

Respondents were asked about their employment status. The majority of respondents worked full time (41 percent) either “Employed full-time” (37 percent) as an employee or “Self-employed, full time” (four percent). The next largest employment category was “Retired, not working at all” representing 37 percent of the sample. Fourteen percent of respondents worked part-time, either as “Employed, part-time (nine percent) or “Self-employed, part-time” (five percent). The remainder of the respondents were “Not in the labor force for other reasons” (seven percent) or “Unemployed, but looking for work” (one percent).

Figure 53: Which of the following best describes your employment status? (n=493, response rate=99.4%)

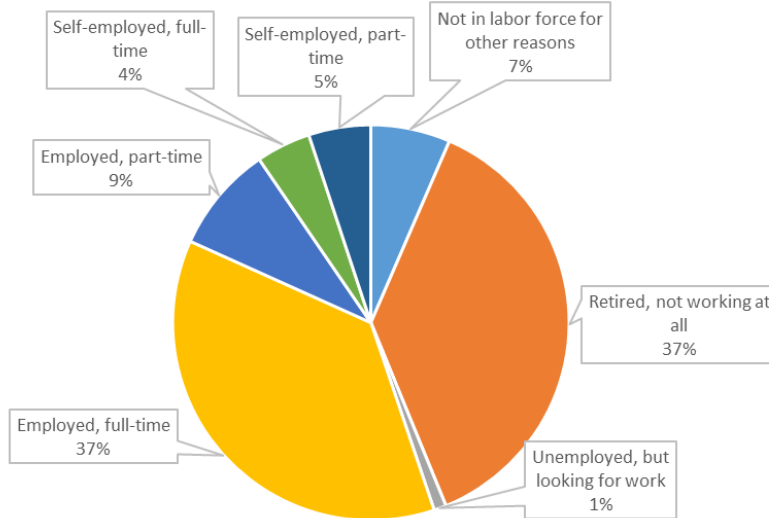
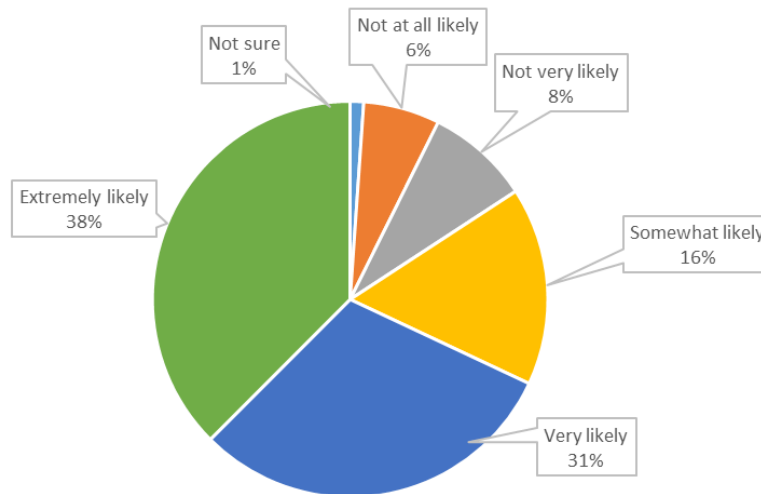


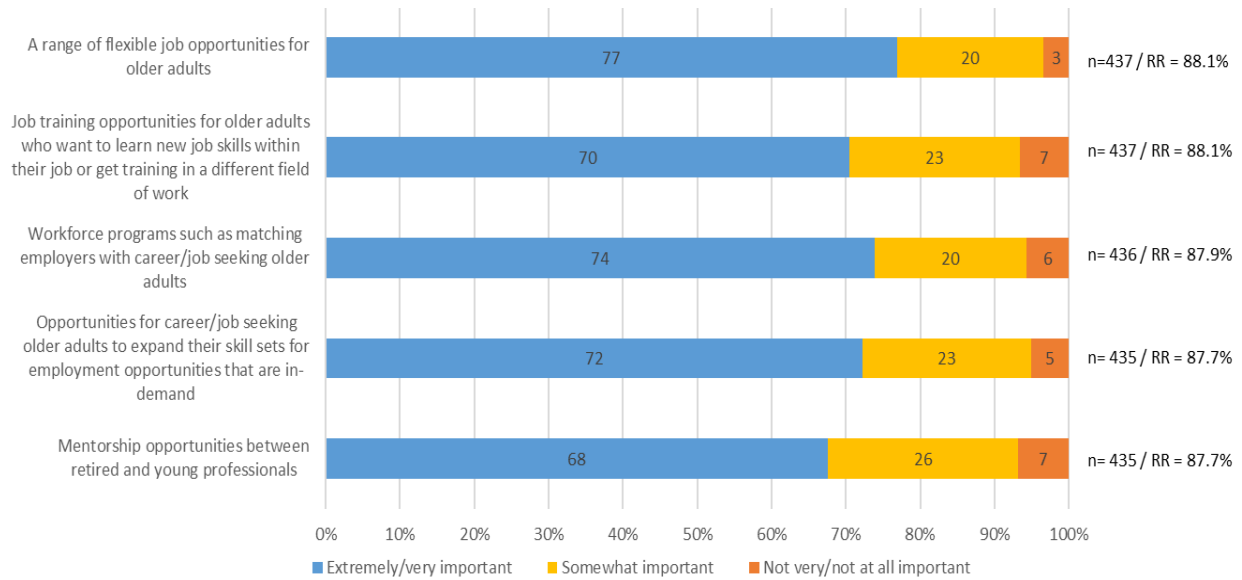
Figure 54: How likely is it that you will continue to work for as long as possible, rather than choosing to retire and no longer work for pay? (n=272, response rate=99.4%)



Of those respondents will in the workforce, 69 percent said they are Extremely/Very Likely going to continue to work for as long as possible rather than choosing to retire. In contrast, fourteen percent were Not very/Not at all likely to continue to work. This may be driven somewhat by the fact that 62 percent of survey respondents were 65 years old or younger. (See the About You section for information on the demographics of the survey respondents.)

NOTE: We could run a cross tabulation on age*work

Figure 55: How important do you think it is to have the following in your community?

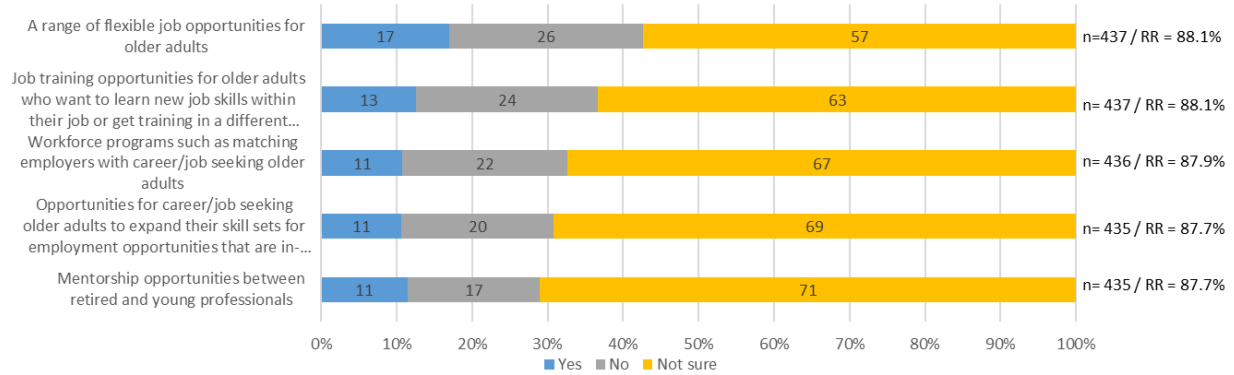


Respondents were asked about the importance of a variety of job opportunities using a scale of “Extremely Important” (5) to “Not at all Important” (1). All of the options were considered at least Somewhat/Very important (93% or more responding Somewhat/Very/Extremely Important). “A range of flexible job opportunities for older adults” was ranked the most important (77% Extremely/Very Important, mean score of 4.12). “Workforce programs such as matching employers with career/job seeking older adults” was second most important (74% Extremely/Very Important, mean score of 4.06). On the other end of the importance spectrum, “Mentorship opportunities between retired and young professionals” was considered Somewhat/Very Important (mean score of 3.92) and seven percent thought that it was Not very/Not at all Important. Similarly, “Job training opportunities for older adults who want to learn new job skills within their job or get training in a different field of work” was considered to be on the verge of Very Important (mean score 3.99), but seven percent thought that it was Not very/Not at all Important.

Figure 56: Importance rankings of job opportunities based on the mean from survey responses

Importance Rank	Options	Mean
1	A range of flexible job opportunities for older adults	4.12
2	Workforce programs such as matching employers with career/job seeking older adults	4.06
3	Opportunities for career/job seeking older adults to expand their skill sets for employment opportunities that are in-demand	4.02
4	Job training opportunities for older adults who want to learn new job skills within their job or get training in a different field of work	3.99
5	Mentorship opportunities between retired and young professionals	3.92

Figure 57: Does the community where you live have the following?



When considering whether job-related opportunities exist in the Greater Fort Wayne Area, it is apparent that there is a lack of information available to respondents. For every opportunity, at least half to almost three quarters of respondents answered that they were “Not Sure” if the listed job opportunities were available in the Greater Fort Wayne Area. The most common job-related opportunity was “A range of flexible job opportunities for older adults” (Yes = 17%).

Figure 58: Gap in job opportunities importance and existence based on survey responses

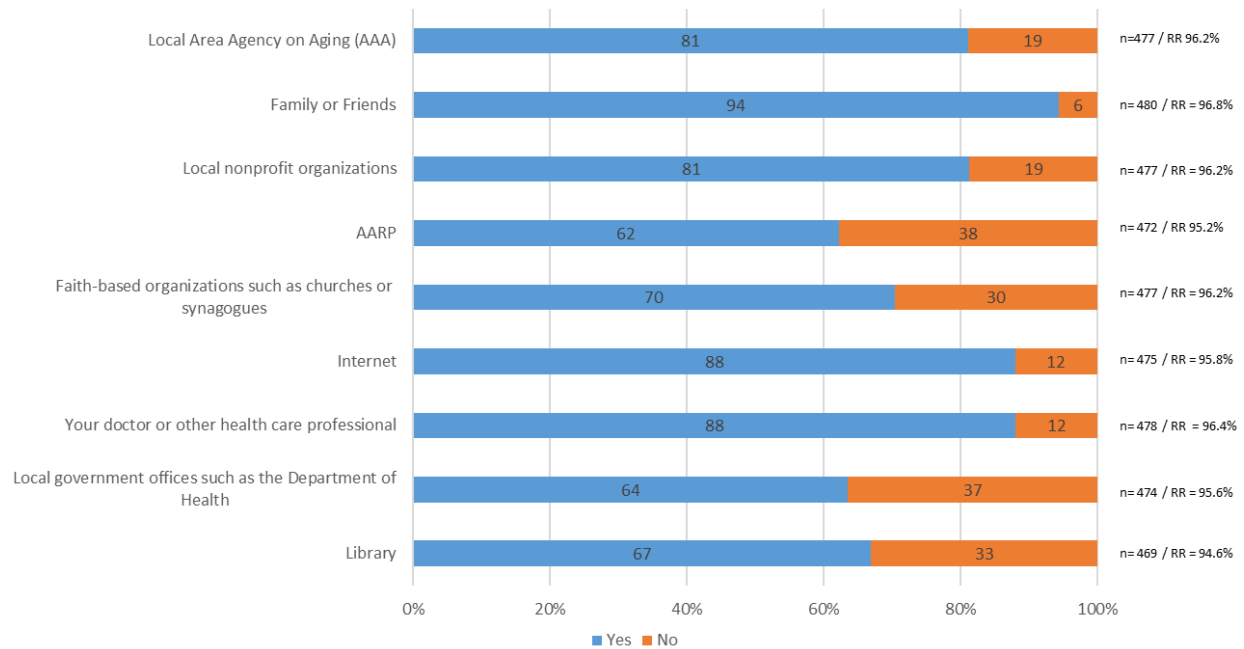
Job Opportunities	Gap	Extremely, Very, or Somewhat Important	Yes, Characteristic or Service Exists
A range of flexible job opportunities for older adults	-80	97	17
Job training opportunities for older adults who want to learn new job skills within their job or get training in a different field of work	-81	93	13
Workforce programs such as matching employers with career/job seeking older adults	-83	94	11
Opportunities for career/job seeking older adults to expand their skill sets for employment opportunities that are in-demand	-84	95	11
Mentorship opportunities between retired and young professionals	-82	93	11

Community Information

Respondents were asked a Yes/No question about turning to resources for information.

The top five resources were “Family or friends” (Yes = 94%), “Internet” and “Doctor or other health care provider” were tied (Yes = 88%), and “Local Area Agency on Aging (AAA)” and “Local nonprofit organizations” were also tied (Yes = 81%). The resources receiving the least number of “Yes” responses were AARP (Yes = 62%), “Local government offices such as the Department of Health” (Yes = 64%) and Library (Yes = 67%) and “Faith-based organizations, such as churches or synagogues” (Yes = 70%). Essentially, there were two tiers, those resources that received 60-70 percent “Yes” and those that received 80-90 percent “Yes.”

Figure 59: Would you turn to the following resources if you, a family member or friend needed information about services for older adults, such as caregiving services, home delivered meals, home repair, medical transport or social activities?



Respondents were asked about the importance of a variety of information sources using a scale from Extremely likely (5) – Not at all Likely (1). The most important information source was “Access to affordable and dependable high speed internet” (87% Extremely/Very Important, mean = 4.4) followed by “Free access to computers and the Internet in public places such as the library, senior centers or government buildings” (80% Extremely/Very Important, mean = 4.18). This is directly connected to the previous survey question which asked “Would you turn to the following resources if you, a family member or friend needed information about services for older adults, such as caregiving services, home delivered meals, home repair, medical transport or social activities?” where the Internet was ranked as the second most important resource. The least important of the sources was “An automated community information source that is easy to understand like a toll-free telephone number” (67% Extremely/Very Important, 10% Not very/Not at all Important), but it still ranked in the Somewhat/Very Important (mean = 3.89) range.

Figure 60: How important do you think it is to have the following in your community?

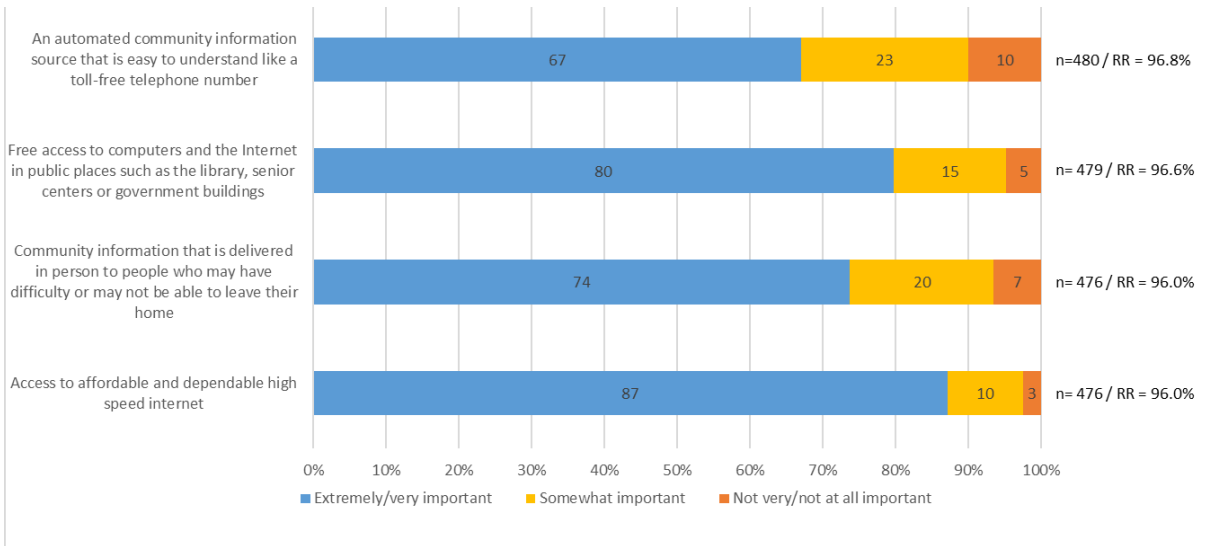


Figure 61: Importance rankings of community options based on the mean from survey responses

Importance Rank	Options	Mean
1	Access to affordable and dependable high speed internet	4.4
2	Free access to computers and the Internet in public places such as the library, senior centers or government buildings	4.18
3	Community information that is delivered in person to people who may have difficulty or may not be able to leave their home	4.01
4	An automated community information source that is easy to understand like a toll-free telephone number	3.89

Figure 62: Does the community where you live have the following?

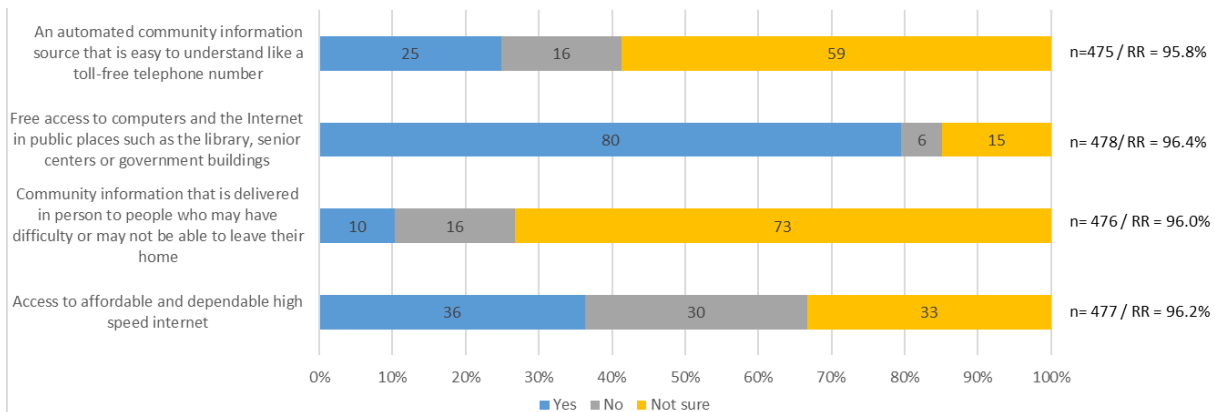


Figure 63: Gap between importance and existence of community information

Community Information	Gap	Extremely, Very, or Somewhat Important	Yes, Characteristic or Service Exists
An automated community information source that is easy to understand like a toll-free telephone number	-65	90	25
Free access to computers and the Internet in public places such as the library, senior centers or government buildings	-16	95	80
Community information that is delivered in person to people who may have difficulty or may not be able to leave their home	-83	93	10
Access to affordable and dependable high speed internet	-61	97	36

In terms of the existence of the information sources, “Free access to computers and the Internet in public places such as the library, senior centers or government buildings” was nearly ubiquitous (No = 6%, Gap = 16 percentage points). In contrast, “Community information that is delivered in person to people who may have difficulty or may not be able to leave their home” was uncommon (Yes = 10%, Gap = 83 percentage points) and relatively unknown (Not Sure = 73%).

Overall Picture in Terms of Gaps and Best Practices in the Greater Fort Wayne Area

It is of interest to examine the ‘big picture’ of where the gaps are and what options or opportunities are currently being taken advantage of in the Greater Fort Wayne Area. Throughout the analysis, we have calculated the arithmetic gap (difference) between the percent of survey respondents who rank a specific option/opportunity as Extremely, Very, or Somewhat Important and the proportion of survey respondents that believe that specific option/opportunity already exists in their community. Obviously, there are some limitations to this analysis, the main one being the prevailing information asymmetry between what actually exists and what people know exists.

In the study, we employ the gap analysis methodology used in the 2014 “Livability for All: The 2014 AARP Livable Communities Survey of Honolulu, Hawaii to examine the existence of these options/opportunities and the importance of these options/opportunities. While the “gap” (difference between the percent of survey respondents deeming an option/opportunity important versus the percentage that recognize the existence of it) is generally intuitive, these percentages are independent of one another. This independence lends itself to actually multiplying the percentages instead of subtracting. The resulting product is based on the magnitude of the independent variables instead of simply measuring the distance in-between these variables. We rank ‘need’ as the lowest products (typically driven by low existence values) and lowest (wider or more negative) gaps. We rank ‘best practices’ as the greatest products (driven by high importance and high existence values) and greatest (smaller or less negative) gaps.

Table: Options/Opportunities in Greater Fort Wayne Area Ranked by Product between Importance and Existence – A Measure of Most Need

Rank	Option/Opportunity	Gap	Extremely, Very, or Somewhat Important	Yes, Characteristic or Service Exists	Issue	Ratio
1	Community information that is delivered in person to people who may have difficulty or may not be able to leave their home	-83	93	10	Community Information	0.093
2	Mentorship opportunities between retired and young professionals	-82	93	11	Job Opportunities	0.102
3	Workforce programs such as matching employers with career/job seeking older adults	-83	94	11	Job Opportunities	0.103
4	Opportunities for career/job seeking older adults to expand their skill sets for employment opportunities that are in-demand	-84	95	11	Job Opportunities	0.105
5	Job training opportunities for older adults who want to learn new job skills within their job or get training in a different field of work	-81	93	13	Job Opportunities	0.121
6	Driver education/refresher courses	-72	87	15	Transportation and Streets	0.131
7	Local schools that involve older adults in events and activities	-72	90	17	Social Participation, Inclusion and Education Opportunities	0.153
8	A range of flexible job opportunities for older adults	-80	97	17	Job Opportunities	0.165
9	Access to nutritious foods within walking distance of your home	-70	90	20	Health and Wellness	0.180

10	Affordable home health care providers	-77	98	21	Health and Wellness	0.206
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Table: Options/Opportunities in Greater Fort Wayne Area Ranked by Gap between Importance and Existence – A Measure of Most Need

Rank	Option/Opportunity	Gap	Extremely, Very, or Somewhat Important	Yes, Characteristic or Service Exists	Issue
1	Opportunities for career/job seeking older adults to expand their skill sets for employment opportunities that are in-demand	-84	95	11	Job Opportunities
2	Workforce programs such as matching employers with career/job seeking older adults	-83	94	11	Job Opportunities
3	Community information that is delivered in person to people who may have difficulty or may not be able to leave their home	-83	93	10	Community Information
4	Mentorship opportunities between retired and young professionals	-82	93	11	Job Opportunities
5	Job training opportunities for older adults who want to learn new job skills within their job or get training in a different field of work	-81	93	13	Job Opportunities
6	A range of flexible job opportunities for older adults	-80	97	17	Job Opportunities
7	Affordable home health care providers	-77	98	21	Health and Wellness
8	Driver education/refresher courses	-72	87	15	Transportation and Streets
9	Local schools that involve older adults in events and activities	-72	90	17	Social Participation, Inclusion and

					Education Opportunities
10	Access to nutritious foods within walking distance of your home	-70	90	20	Health and Wellness

Table: Options/Opportunities in Greater Fort Wayne Area Ranked by Product between Importance and Existence – A Measure of Best Practices

Rank	Option/Opportunity	Gap	Extremely, Very, or Somewhat Important	Yes, Characteristic or Service Exists	Issue	Ratio
1	Free access to computers and the Internet in public places such as the library, senior centers or government buildings	-16	95	80	Community Information	0.76
2	Easy to read traffic signs	-29	100	71	Transportation and Streets	0.71
3	Conveniently located emergency care centers	-31	99	69	Health and Wellness	0.683
4	Public parking lots, spaces and areas to park	-35	97	61	Transportation and Streets	0.592
5	Fitness activities specifically geared to older adults	-37	97	60	Health and Wellness	0.582
6	Well-maintained public buildings and facilities that are accessible to people of different physical abilities	-40	98	59	Outdoor Spaces and Building Options	0.578
7	Special transportation services for people with disabilities and older adults	-40	97	57	Transportation and Streets	0.553
8	A range of volunteer activities to choose from	-37	94	57	Volunteering and Civic Engagement Opportunities	0.536
9	Well-maintained streets	-46	99	53	Transportation and Streets	0.525

10	Activities specifically geared to older adults	-43	97	53	Social Participation, Inclusion and Education Opportunities	0.514
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Table: Options/Opportunities in Greater Fort Wayne Area Ranked by Gap between Importance and Existence – A Measure of Best Practices

Rank	Option/Opportunity	Gap	Extremely, Very, or Somewhat Important	Yes, Characteristic or Service Exists	Issue
1	Free access to computers and the Internet in public places such as the library, senior centers or government buildings	-16	95	80	Community Information
2	Easy to read traffic signs	-29	100	71	Transportation and Streets
3	Conveniently located emergency care centers	-31	99	69	Health and Wellness
4	Public parking lots, spaces and areas to park	-35	97	61	Transportation and Streets
5	Fitness activities specifically geared to older adults	-37	97	60	Health and Wellness
6	A range of volunteer activities to choose from	-37	94	57	Volunteering and Civic Engagement Opportunities
7	Well-maintained public buildings and facilities that are accessible to people of different physical abilities	-40	98	59	Outdoor Spaces and Building Options
8	Special transportation services for people with disabilities and older adults	-40	97	57	Transportation and Streets
9	Activities that offer senior discounts	-42	95	53	Social Participation, Inclusion and Education Opportunities

10	Activities specifically geared to older adults	-43	97	53	Social Participation, Inclusion and Education Opportunities
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PRESS RELEASES

November 1, 2018

AARP Indiana, Purdue will conduct survey in Indianapolis, Fort Wayne to assess community age-friendliness

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. – An online survey designed to provide information to improve the quality of life for older citizens in Indianapolis and Fort Wayne kicks off on Thursday (Nov. 1).

[AARP Indiana](#) is working with Purdue University's [Center for Regional Development](#) to assess the age-friendliness of Indianapolis and Fort Wayne, communities with an aging population that is expected to grow over the next two decades. The Livable Communities Survey, which is available online through Dec. 15, will determine attitudes and opinions of those 45 and older on a variety of topics, such as housing, outdoor spaces, transportation and streets, health and wellness, social participation, educational opportunities, volunteering and civic engagement, and job opportunities.

The survey is part of AARP's [Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities](#) initiative, which encourages areas to prepare for the rapid aging of the U.S. population through awareness of the environmental, economic and social factors that influence older adults' health and well-being.

"Data gathered from the survey will help leaders have meaningful conversations about how to harness the value that older Hoosiers bring to their communities and engage these residents to be even more involved," said Sarah Waddle, state director for AARP Indiana. "We also hope to encourage these areas to become AARP Age-Friendly Communities by using this data to identify community needs and implement a plan to address those needs."

The American Community Survey in 2016 estimated that those 45 and older made up almost 36 percent of the Indianapolis population and more than 37 percent of Fort Wayne's population. By 2040 those numbers are expected to increase by about 18 percent in Marion County and nearly 24 percent in Allen County.

Michael Wilcox, the senior associate at Purdue's Center for Regional Development who is overseeing the survey, said input from Indianapolis and Fort Wayne residents is critical to helping those communities meet the needs of this growing population segment.

"As longevity has increased, it has proven a challenge to adequately assess and address the ability of communities to provide needed resources for a swelling population of older residents," said Wilcox, who also is a [Purdue Extension](#) assistant program leader for economic and community development. "This survey will gather input from those who are currently using those resources or are future users. We are providing a real-world look at what needs these citizens have and how those needs can best be met."

Indianapolis residents can complete the survey by going to <https://bit.ly/2Q89GHF> or https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cvyP5XRKL408c6h. Fort Wayne residents can complete the survey online at <https://bit.ly/2qjIRpK> or https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9zNP4IccaOxtmwR. All responses are completely anonymous and no information will be collected that could identify any individual.

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November 28, 2018

Deadline approaching for Indy, Fort Wayne residents to complete AARP Indiana community age-friendliness survey

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. – Residents of Indianapolis and Fort Wayne ages 45 and older have until Dec. 15 to complete an online survey designed to provide information to improve the quality of life for older citizens.

[AARP Indiana](#) is working with Purdue University's [Center for Regional Development](#) to assess the age-friendliness of Indianapolis and Fort Wayne, communities with an aging population that is expected to grow over the next two decades. The Livable Communities Survey will determine attitudes and opinions of respondents on a variety of topics, such as housing, outdoor spaces, transportation and streets, health and wellness, social participation, educational opportunities, volunteering and civic engagement and job opportunities.

"The survey only takes about 10 minutes to complete, but its findings have the potential to create a positive impact for older citizens for decades to come," said Michael Wilcox, the senior associate at Purdue's Center for Regional Development who is overseeing the survey.

The survey is part of AARP's [Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities](#) initiative, which encourages areas to prepare for the rapid aging of the U.S. population through awareness of the environmental, economic and social factors that influence older adults' health and well-being.

Indianapolis residents can complete the survey by going to https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cvyP5XRKL408c6h. Fort Wayne residents can complete the survey online at

https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9zNP4lccaOxtmwR. All responses are completely anonymous, and no information will be collected that could identify any individual.

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