

# CASOA™

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT SURVEY  
FOR OLDER ADULTS™

State of Montana

## **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
 <b>Overall Community Quality</b>	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place to Live and Retire</li> <li>• Recommend and Remain in Community</li> </ul>
 <b>Community Design</b>	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Mobility</li> <li>• Land Use</li> </ul>
 <b>Employment and Finances</b>	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment</li> <li>• Finances</li> </ul>
 <b>Equity and Inclusivity</b>	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equity</li> <li>• Community Inclusivity</li> </ul>
 <b>Health and Wellness</b>	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• Physical Health</li> <li>• Mental Health</li> <li>• Health Care</li> <li>• Independent Living</li> </ul>
 <b>Information and Assistance</b>	Government programs, policies and information assistance can support successful aging initiatives allowing older residents to remain independent contributors to community quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of Older Adult Services</li> <li>• Information on Available Older Adult Services</li> </ul>
 <b>Productive Activities</b>	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civic Engagement</li> <li>• Social Engagement</li> <li>• Caregiving</li> </ul>

## 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 37,386 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 5,940 completed surveys was

obtained, providing an overall response rate of 16.82 % and a margin of error plus or minus 1.27% 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 850 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 6790 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 Montana 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 Montana 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, Montana'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<sup>®</sup>) across all Areas Agencies on Aging across the state. Data in this report focuses on older residents throughout the State of Montana.

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 State of Montana 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. Additionally, 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 (63% excellent or good) than they did the overall quality of life in their community (83%).

## 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 State of Montana related to areas of Safety (average positive score of 70), Physical Health (58), and Mobility (57). The areas showing the greatest need for improvement related to Housing (positive score of 10), Mental Health (22) and Independent Living (23). 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 78% of respondents, while ease of travel by walking was considered excellent or good by only 61% 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 10% 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 44% of older residents in the State of Montana 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 50% 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 2 in 10.
- Employment opportunities for older adults (quality and variety) received low ratings (26% and 21% positive, respectively), and the opportunity to build work skills also was found to be lacking (33% excellent or good).
- About 3 in 10 older adults reported financial challenges and 2 in 10 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 60% of older residents rated the sense of community in their towns as excellent or good, and ratings of neighborliness were slightly lower (53%).
- About half of the respondents positively rated their community's openness and acceptance toward older residents of diverse backgrounds, while about 4 in 10 indicated that their community valued older residents.
- Inclusion challenges were reported by about 22% of older residents and equity challenges by 7%.

## 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 76% of older residents in the State of Montana rated their overall physical health as excellent or good and a somewhat higher proportion (85%) rated their mental health as excellent or good.
- Community opportunities for health and wellness were scored positively by 6 in 10 residents, while the availability of physical health care, mental health care and long term care options received lower ratings (40% or fewer gave positive ratings).
- Health-related problems were some of the most common challenges listed by older adults in the survey, with 39% reporting physical health challenges and 28% reporting mental health challenges. Health care was also a challenge for about 44% 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 State of Montana were rated as excellent or good by only 49% of survey respondents.
- About two-thirds 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 and financial or legal planning services were each rated positively by about 3 in 10 older residents.
- About 42% of older adults were found to have information access challenges in the State of Montana.

## 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 6 in 10 of older adults surveyed felt they had excellent or good opportunities to volunteer, while 8 in 10 participated in some kind of volunteer work.
- About 24% of older residents reported providing care to individuals 55 and older, 20% to individuals 18-54 and 16% to individuals under 18.
- Older adults in the State of Montana reported challenges with being civically engaged (26%), being socially engaged (28%) and caregiving (13%).

## The Economic Contribution of Older Adults in the State

The contribution older adults make through employment, volunteerism and caregiving was calculated for all older adults living in the State of Montana. It is estimated that older residents contribute \$5,348,503,202 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 State of Montana, the largest challenges were in the areas of housing, health care and information. At least 42% 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 State of Montana 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 37 items. The State of Montana did not score above the benchmark comparisons for any items and scored below the benchmark comparisons for 15 items.

The areas in which the State of Montana ratings were lower than benchmark comparisons are shown below:

- Overall economic health of your community
- Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in your community
- Quality of employment opportunities for older adults
- 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)
- Public places where people want to spend time
- Availability of affordable quality physical health care
- Availability of affordable quality mental health care
- Recreation opportunities (including games, arts, library services, etc.)
- Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)
- Opportunities participate in community matters
- Making all residents feel welcome

In terms of older resident challenges, the region scored similar to benchmark averages for 42 items. The one area in which residents reported a higher need compared to benchmarks was having enough money to pay your property taxes. There were no areas in which older adults in Montana reported a greater need compared to benchmarks.

## Section 3: Community Readiness

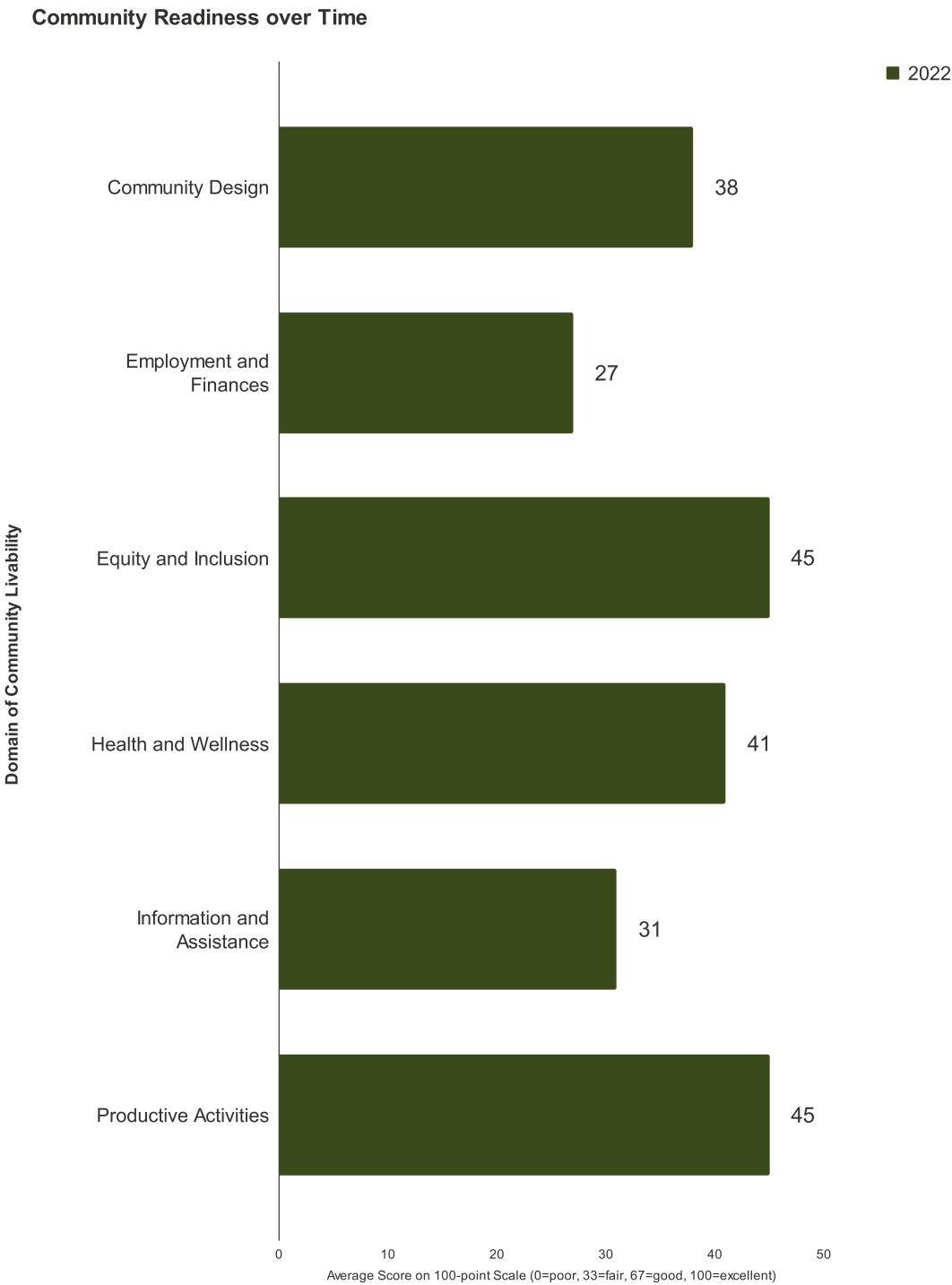
Communities that assist older adults to remain or become active community participants must provide the requisite opportunities for recreation, transportation, culture, education, communication, social connection, spiritual enrichment and health care. Because every community is different, each must identify 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 Montana.

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 (index<sup>1</sup>) 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"> <li>• Place to Live and Retire</li> <li>• Recommend and Remain in Community</li> </ul>	64
Community Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Mobility</li> <li>• Land Use</li> </ul>	38

<b>Dimension</b>	<b>Community Livability Topics</b>	<b>Score</b> (out of 100)
Employment and Finances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment</li> <li>• Finances</li> </ul>	27
Equity and Inclusivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equity</li> <li>• Community Inclusivity</li> </ul>	45
Health and Wellness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• Physical Health</li> <li>• Mental Health</li> <li>• Health Care</li> <li>• Independent Living</li> </ul>	41
Information and Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of Older Adult Services</li> <li>• Information on Available Older Adult Services</li> </ul>	31
Productive Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civic Engagement</li> <li>• Social Engagement</li> <li>• Caregiving</li> </ul>	45



<sup>1</sup>These 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.)

### Livability score trend unavailable.

Because State of Montana 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**

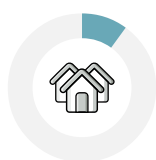
76 / 100



**Recommend and Remain in Community**

75 / 100

## Community Design



**Housing**

10 / 100



**Land Use**

42 / 100



**Mobility**

57 / 100



## Employment and Finances



**Employment**  
27 / 100



**Finances**  
34 / 100

## Equity and Inclusivity



**Community Inclusivity**  
54 / 100



**Equity**  
48 / 100

## Health and Wellness



**Health Care**  
47 / 100



**Independent Living**  
23 / 100



**Mental Health**  
22 / 100



**Physical Health**  
58 / 100



**Safety**  
70 / 100

## Information and Assistance



**Information on  
Available Older Adult  
Services**  
29 / 100



**Quality of Older Adult  
Services**  
49 / 100

Productive Activities



Caregiving  
*Scoring not applicable*



Civic Engagement  
53 / 100



Social Engagement  
56 / 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.



**i Livability score trend unavailable.**

Because State of Montana 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**

Because State of Montana 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	84%	–
Your community as a place to live	80%	–
The overall quality of life in your community	75%	–
Your community as a place to retire	63%	–

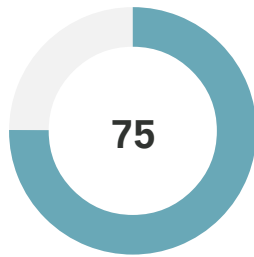
## Status Indicators - Personal Quality of Life

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Your overall quality of life	83%	–

## 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.



Livability score


Average of community quality items

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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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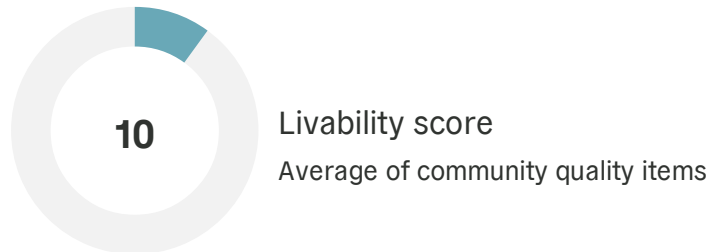
Quality of Community

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

Characteristic	% likely	National Benchmark
Remain in your community throughout your retirement	81%	<div>—</div>
Recommend living in your community to older adults	69%	<div>▼</div>

## 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.



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Because State of Montana 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.

### Trends unavailable

Because State of Montana 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
Doing heavy or intense housework	59%	
Maintaining your home	56%	
Maintaining your yard	55%	
Having housing to suit your needs	29%	



## Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Variety of housing options	10%	
Availability of accessible housing (e.g., homes with a no step entry, single-floor living, wide hallways and doorways)	10%	
Availability of affordable quality housing	10%	

## 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.



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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.

### Trends unavailable

Because State of Montana 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)	58%	
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	36%	
Availability of mixed-use neighborhoods where people live close to places where they can eat, shop, work, and receive services	21%	

## 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.



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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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Potential Problems

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

Characteristic	% problematic	National Benchmark
Having safe and affordable transportation available	35%	-
No longer being able to drive	15%	-

## Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Ease of travel by car in your community	78%	
Ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	75%	
Ease of walking in your community	61%	
Ease of bicycling in your community	52%	
Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in your community	43%	
Ease of travel by public transportation in your community	25%	

## 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.



**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 State of Montana 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	44%	–
Finding work in retirement	34%	–



## Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Opportunities to build work skills	33%	–
Quality of employment opportunities for older adults	26%	↓
Variety of employment opportunities for older adults	21%	–

## 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



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.

### Trends unavailable

Because State of Montana 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 enough money to meet daily expenses	44%	
Having enough money to pay your property taxes	39%	


## Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Overall economic health of your community	49%	
Cost of living in your community	20%	

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:	10%	

## 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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## 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.

### Trends unavailable




Because State of Montana doesn't have any prior measurements, these trends aren't available. Trends will be available after this survey has been conducted a second time.

### 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	37%	
Feeling like you don't fit in or belong	31%	
Having friends or family you can rely on	30%	

## Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Sense of community in your community	60%	–
Neighborliness of your community	53%	–
Making all residents feel welcome	48%	▼

## 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.**

Because State of Montana 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.

### Trends unavailable

Because State of Montana 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
Being treated unfairly or discriminated against because of your age	20%	

## Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Openness and acceptance of the community towards older residents of diverse backgrounds	51%	
Valuing older residents in your community	44%	

## 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.**

Because State of Montana 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.

### Trends unavailable

Because State of Montana 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
Finding affordable health insurance	45%	
Getting the health care you need	42%	
Getting the oral health care you need	39%	
Getting the vision care you need	37%	
Affording the medications you need	37%	

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	39%	

## 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

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.

### Trends unavailable

Because State of Montana 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.)	2.6	–

## Potential Problems

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

Characteristic	% problematic	National Benchmark
Performing regular activities, including walking, eating and preparing meals	30%	–

## 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	14%	–

## 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.)	52%	–

## 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)	2%	–

## 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




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.

### Trends unavailable

Because State of Montana 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
Dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend	41%	
Feeling depressed	41%	
Experiencing confusion or forgetfulness	35%	

## Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	22%	

Status Indicators - Personal Health Status

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Your overall mental health/emotional wellbeing	85%	<div>-</div>

## 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






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.

### Trends unavailable

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## Potential Problems

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

Characteristic	% problematic	National Benchmark
Staying physically fit	57%	
Your physical health	56%	
Maintaining a healthy diet	46%	
Falling or injuring yourself in your home	32%	
Having enough food to eat	17%	

## Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Overall quality of natural environment in your community	76%	–
Overall health and wellness opportunities in your community	61%	–
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	54%	▼
Availability of affordable quality food	39%	▼

## 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?	37%	–

## 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	76%	<div>-</div>

## 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.



**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 State of Montana 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
Being a victim of fraud or a scam	22%	–
Being a victim of crime	13%	–
Being physically or emotionally abused	7%	–

## Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Overall feeling of safety in your community	70%	–



## 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

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.

### Trends unavailable



Because State of Montana doesn't have any prior measurements, these trends aren't available. Trends will be available after this survey has been conducted a second time.

### 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	71%	
Having adequate information or dealing with public programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid	57%	

## Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Availability of financial or legal planning services	29%	–
Availability of information about resources for older adults	28%	–

## 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?	63%	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	86%	–
Access the internet from your home using a computer, laptop, or tablet computer	84%	–
Access the internet from your cell phone	71%	–
Visit social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor, etc.	61%	–
Shop online	28%	–
Share your opinions online	23%	–

## 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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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.



**Trends unavailable**

Because State of Montana 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
How would you rate the overall services provided to older adults in your community?	49%	<div>-</div>

## 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 independently<sup>1</sup>. 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 children<sup>2</sup>.

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

<sup>2</sup> AARP 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

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.

### Trends unavailable

Because State of Montana 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
Providing care to someone age 55+	1.8	–
Providing care to someone age 18 to 54	1.6	–
Providing care someone under age 18	1.1	–



## 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	19%	–
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+	24%	–
Providing care to someone age 18 to 54	20%	–
Providing care someone under age 18	16%	–

## 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.



**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.

### Trends unavailable

Because State of Montana 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
Volunteering your time	4.9	

## 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	34%	
Finding meaningful volunteer work	24%	

## Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Opportunities to volunteer	63%	—
Residents' connection and engagement with their community	49%	—
Opportunities participate in community matters	49%	↓

## 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	81%	↑

## Status Indicators - Participation

Percent reporting yes.

Characteristic	% yes	National Benchmark
Voted in your most recent local election	90%	–
Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting	28%	–
Attended a local public meeting (of local elected officials like City Council or County Commissioners, advisory boards, town halls, HOA, neighborhood watch, etc.)	23%	–
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



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.

### Trends unavailable

Because State of Montana 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
Talking or visiting with friends/family	4.4	
Assisting friends, relatives, or neighbors	3.1	







## Potential Problems

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

Characteristic	% problematic	National Benchmark
Having interesting social events or activities to attend	47%	
Having interesting recreational or cultural activities to attend	44%	
Feeling bored	42%	



## Quality of Community

Percent reporting *excellent* or *good*.

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark
Opportunities to attend religious or spiritual activities	77%	
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	71%	
Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	53%	
Recreation opportunities (including games, arts, library services, etc.)	47%	
Opportunities to attend social events or activities	47%	
Opportunities to enroll in skill-building or personal enrichment classes	33%	

## 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	65%	
Talking or visiting with friends/family	61%	



**Status Indicators - Participation**

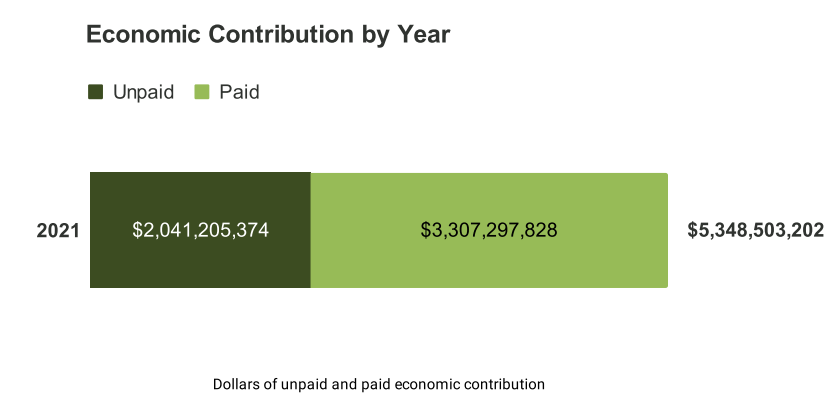
Percent reporting yes.

Characteristic	% yes	National Benchmark
Participated in religious or spiritual activities with others	48%	–
Used a public library in your community	42%	–
Participated in a club (including book, dance, game, and other social)	31%	–
Participated in a recreation program or group activity	29%	–
Used a recreation center in your community	21%	–
Used a senior center in your community	20%	–

Section 12: Economic Contribution

Productive behavior is “any activity, paid or unpaid, that generates goods or services of economic value.”<sup>1</sup> 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 Montana



The calculations of the economic contributions of older adults in Montana 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
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Providing care to older adult(s)	26%	88,737	1.92	\$13.02	\$115,635,150
Providing care to adult(s)	21%	71,285	1.68	\$13.02	\$81,127,763
Providing care to child(ren)	18%	61,615	1.36	\$11.45	\$49,811,555
Providing help to family and friends	66%	225,960	3.15	\$13.90	\$514,551,579
Volunteering	83%	283,909	5.2	\$16.66	\$1,280,079,327
<b>Subtotal unpaid</b>					<b>\$2,041,205,374</b>
Working part time	12%	41,773	15	\$22.73	\$740,610,226
Working full time	20%	67,861	32	\$22.73	\$2,566,687,602
<b>Subtotal paid</b>					<b>\$3,307,297,828</b>
<b>Total contribution</b>					<b>\$5,348,503,202</b>

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

\* Based on U.S. Census Bureau - 2019 American Community Survey; about 342563 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 Montana. 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=342563)*
Housing	44%	149,687
Mobility	23%	78,172
Employment	22%	75,219
Finances	32%	107,953
Equity	7%	24,241
Community Inclusivity	22%	76,478
Safety	12%	41,320
Physical Health	39%	133,814
Mental Health	28%	97,276
Health Care	44%	151,288
Independent Living	12%	42,435

	<b>Percent with need</b>	<b>Number affected in 2022</b> (N=342563)*
Housing	44%	149,687
Mobility	23%	78,172
Information on Available Older Adult Services	42%	143,005
Civic Engagement	26%	89,688
Social Engagement	28%	97,102
Caregiving	13%	43,087

## 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 Montana'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 (342563)\*

*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)*

	<b>Housing</b>	<b>Mobility</b>	<b>Employment</b>	<b>Finances</b>	<b>Equity</b>
Female	48%	23%	20%	32%	8%
Male	39%	23%	23%	31%	7%
55 to 64 years	40%	20%	24%	35%	9%
65 to 74 years	44%	23%	22%	31%	7%
75 or over	50%	27%	16%	24%	3%
White	43%	22%	21%	31%	6%
Not white	58%	33%	33%	44%	18%
Hispanic	53%	33%	23%	42%	12%
Not Hispanic	44%	23%	22%	31%	7%
Less than \$25,000	67%	38%	37%	62%	15%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	45%	21%	22%	30%	6%
\$50,000 or more	30%	18%	15%	15%	3%
Rent	62%	34%	31%	51%	14%
Own	39%	20%	20%	27%	5%
Lives alone	53%	28%	23%	38%	9%
Lives with others	38%	20%	21%	28%	6%
Overall	44%	23%	22%	32%	7%

	<b>Community Inclusivity</b>	<b>Safety</b>	<b>Physical Health</b>	<b>Mental Health</b>	<b>Health Care</b>	<b>Independent Living</b>
Female	22%	11%	39%	30%	44%	13%
Male	22%	13%	39%	27%	45%	11%

55 to 64 years	25%	13%	38%	29%	50%	10%
65 to 74 years	21%	11%	40%	28%	43%	12%
75 or over	20%	11%	40%	29%	34%	17%
White	21%	11%	38%	28%	43%	12%
Not white	34%	24%	51%	38%	54%	16%
Hispanic	27%	14%	51%	38%	48%	17%
Not Hispanic	22%	12%	39%	28%	44%	12%
Less than \$25,000	39%	19%	61%	42%	61%	24%
\$25,000 to \$74,999	21%	12%	39%	27%	44%	12%
\$75,000 or more	14%	10%	27%	23%	37%	6%
Rent	36%	17%	58%	37%	53%	22%
Own	19%	11%	34%	26%	42%	10%
Lives alone	29%	13%	47%	35%	45%	17%
Lives with others	18%	11%	35%	25%	44%	10%
Overall	22%	12%	39%	28%	44%	12%

Information on Available Older Adult Services	Civic Engagement	Social Engagement	Caregiving
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	<b>Information on Available Older Adult Services</b>	<b>Civic Engagement</b>	<b>Social Engagement</b>	<b>Caregiving</b>
Female	43%	26%	28%	13%
Male	40%	26%	28%	12%
55 to 64 years	45%	28%	29%	15%
65 to 74 years	40%	26%	29%	12%
75 or over	37%	23%	26%	9%
White	40%	25%	28%	12%
Not white	57%	36%	33%	24%
Hispanic	45%	36%	27%	19%
Not Hispanic	41%	26%	28%	13%
Less than \$25,000	58%	39%	40%	13%
\$25,000 to \$74,999	41%	25%	29%	14%
\$75,000 or more	32%	20%	20%	12%
Rent	51%	36%	37%	13%
Own	40%	24%	26%	12%
Lives alone	44%	29%	32%	8%
Lives with others	40%	24%	26%	15%
Overall	42%	26%	28%	13%

\* 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	5% (367)
55-59 years	18% (1188)
60-64 years	24% (1645)
65-69 years	17% (1183)
70-74 years	15% (989)
75-79 years	12% (783)
80-84 years	7% (461)
85-89 years	2% (146)
90-94 years	0% (25)
95 years or older	0% (2)

**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	28% (1789)	52% (3290)	16% (1009)	4% (225)	0% (31)
Your neighborhood as a place to live	39% (2429)	45% (2861)	12% (781)	3% (211)	0% (27)
Your community as a place to retire	21% (1298)	41% (2549)	26% (1618)	11% (680)	2% (148)
Sense of community in your community	17% (1092)	41% (2548)	30% (1866)	9% (567)	3% (194)
The overall quality of life in your community	21% (1345)	53% (3344)	21% (1304)	4% (248)	1% (67)

**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	7% (454)	40% (2526)	36% (2279)	13% (800)	4% (274)
Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in your community	9% (553)	33% (2084)	35% (2181)	20% (1290)	3% (205)
Overall design or layout of your community's residential and commercial areas (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, parks, etc.)	8% (491)	44% (2769)	35% (2229)	11% (693)	3% (160)
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in your community (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas, broadband)	11% (683)	45% (2834)	29% (1822)	11% (698)	4% (271)
Overall feeling of safety in your community	18% (1128)	52% (3250)	23% (1452)	7% (443)	0% (27)
Overall quality of natural environment in your community	29% (1798)	46% (2908)	20% (1235)	4% (249)	2% (121)
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	25% (1583)	44% (2769)	20% (1270)	8% (505)	3% (174)
Overall health and wellness opportunities in your community	17% (1053)	42% (2682)	27% (1733)	11% (669)	3% (181)
Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	15% (954)	36% (2306)	29% (1862)	16% (980)	3% (219)
Residents' connection and engagement with their community	9% (545)	38% (2371)	37% (2335)	11% (708)	6% (361)

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

Answer Choice	Percent
Excellent	6% (400)
Good	36% (2296)
Fair	31% (1954)
Poor	13% (801)
Don't know	14% (879)

**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	19% (1213)	47% (2976)	18% (1135)	12% (785)	4% (245)
Remain in your community throughout your retirement	48% (3038)	30% (1881)	10% (614)	9% (560)	4% (238)

**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	14% (885)
Somewhat informed	50% (3159)
Somewhat uninformed	26% (1652)
Very uninformed	11% (680)

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

Characteristic	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Your overall physical health	18% (1180)	58% (3679)	19% (1210)	5% (311)	0% (6)
Your overall mental health/emotional wellbeing	31% (1978)	54% (3415)	13% (823)	2% (147)	0% (10)
Your overall quality of life	27% (1694)	56% (3547)	15% (977)	2% (120)	0% (10)

**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% (135)
Somewhat positive	8% (492)
Neutral	33% (2116)
Somewhat negative	39% (2507)
Very negative	18% (1140)

**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	5% (291)	17% (1075)	24% (1531)	40% (2537)	15% (938)
Ease of travel by car in your community	22% (1392)	56% (3551)	18% (1154)	3% (204)	1% (40)
Ease of walking in your community	16% (1018)	44% (2779)	27% (1700)	11% (677)	3% (174)
Ease of bicycling in your community	11% (698)	35% (2244)	30% (1880)	13% (850)	10% (656)
Ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	19% (1225)	56% (3520)	21% (1312)	4% (233)	1% (54)
Opportunities to build work skills	3% (213)	19% (1205)	26% (1632)	19% (1187)	33% (2043)
Quality of employment opportunities for older adults	3% (187)	15% (925)	25% (1568)	25% (1547)	33% (2088)
Variety of employment opportunities for older adults	2% (156)	11% (715)	25% (1543)	28% (1791)	33% (2087)
Cost of living in your community	2% (109)	18% (1120)	44% (2791)	34% (2163)	2% (126)
Availability of affordable quality food	7% (414)	32% (2048)	41% (2612)	19% (1189)	1% (75)
Availability of affordable quality housing	2% (97)	8% (476)	26% (1618)	58% (3672)	8% (476)
Variety of housing options	1% (70)	8% (513)	27% (1694)	52% (3320)	12% (731)
Availability of accessible housing (e.g., homes with a no step entry, single-floor living, wide hallways and doorways)	1% (81)	6% (355)	20% (1286)	42% (2648)	31% (1977)
Availability of mixed-use neighborhoods where people live close to places where they can eat, shop, work, and receive services	3% (161)	16% (981)	35% (2237)	35% (2184)	12% (744)



Characteristic	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Public places where people want to spend time	6% (411)	27% (1678)	38% (2402)	22% (1370)	7% (470)
Availability of information about resources for older adults	3% (204)	20% (1283)	33% (2109)	26% (1646)	17% (1073)
Availability of financial or legal planning services	3% (192)	18% (1171)	27% (1741)	25% (1598)	26% (1641)
Availability of long-term care options	4% (241)	19% (1175)	30% (1918)	25% (1597)	22% (1402)
Availability of daytime care options for older adults	1% (74)	7% (460)	19% (1205)	31% (1967)	41% (2619)
Availability of affordable quality physical health care	7% (442)	28% (1744)	34% (2148)	20% (1266)	11% (702)
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	3% (168)	13% (795)	24% (1509)	29% (1836)	31% (1972)
Availability of preventive health services (e.g., health screenings, flu shots, educational workshops)	12% (727)	40% (2514)	32% (2016)	10% (620)	7% (446)
Recreation opportunities (including games, arts, library services, etc.)	10% (637)	33% (2084)	34% (2129)	14% (902)	9% (580)
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	14% (900)	36% (2267)	28% (1802)	14% (856)	8% (508)
Opportunities participate in community matters	7% (439)	34% (2141)	32% (2003)	11% (719)	16% (1019)
Opportunities to volunteer	14% (880)	40% (2526)	24% (1541)	7% (435)	15% (953)
Opportunities to enroll in skill-building or personal enrichment classes	4% (245)	19% (1212)	25% (1554)	22% (1382)	31% (1928)
Opportunities to attend social events or activities	8% (498)	33% (2079)	34% (2158)	12% (759)	13% (804)
Opportunities to attend religious or spiritual activities	22% (1382)	45% (2859)	17% (1088)	3% (207)	12% (779)

Characteristic	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Openness and acceptance of the community towards older residents of diverse backgrounds	9% (565)	32% (2037)	27% (1717)	12% (784)	19% (1235)
Making all residents feel welcome	8% (506)	35% (2197)	33% (2086)	13% (836)	12% (732)
Valuing older residents in your community	6% (404)	31% (1954)	33% (2118)	13% (853)	16% (994)
Neighborliness of your community	12% (749)	39% (2443)	33% (2077)	12% (742)	5% (322)

**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	56% (3491)	18% (1095)	19% (1154)	8% (476)	0% (12)
Having enough money to pay your property taxes	56% (3414)	15% (907)	13% (789)	9% (523)	8% (518)
Having housing to suit your needs	70% (4360)	11% (714)	10% (639)	7% (445)	1% (81)
Doing heavy or intense housework	40% (2530)	28% (1769)	19% (1218)	11% (680)	1% (56)
Maintaining your home	43% (2689)	29% (1791)	20% (1228)	7% (426)	2% (94)
Maintaining your yard	44% (2703)	26% (1615)	18% (1093)	9% (544)	3% (215)
Having safe and affordable transportation available	60% (3779)	14% (854)	11% (699)	8% (504)	7% (412)
No longer being able to drive	76% (4669)	4% (241)	4% (235)	6% (346)	11% (676)
Finding work in retirement	43% (2658)	8% (468)	8% (514)	6% (382)	34% (2104)
Building skills for paid or unpaid work	33% (2016)	10% (602)	11% (645)	6% (364)	41% (2482)
Having adequate information or dealing with public programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid	39% (2414)	23% (1456)	19% (1162)	9% (581)	10% (627)
Not knowing what services are available to older adults in your community	26% (1593)	25% (1565)	24% (1474)	13% (826)	12% (756)
Your physical health	44% (2728)	32% (2003)	18% (1091)	6% (354)	0% (16)
Falling or injuring yourself in your home	67% (4189)	20% (1249)	8% (515)	3% (212)	1% (89)

Characteristic	Not a problem	Minor problem	Moderate problem	Major problem	Don't know
Finding affordable health insurance	53% (3295)	18% (1145)	13% (780)	13% (822)	3% (167)
Getting the health care you need	58% (3617)	22% (1377)	13% (827)	6% (378)	1% (54)
Getting the oral health care you need	60% (3744)	17% (1044)	12% (734)	10% (615)	2% (112)
Getting the vision care you need	62% (3877)	18% (1120)	12% (725)	7% (436)	2% (96)
Affording the medications you need	62% (3890)	18% (1115)	12% (728)	7% (433)	1% (77)
Staying physically fit	42% (2657)	33% (2066)	17% (1088)	7% (412)	1% (42)
Maintaining a healthy diet	54% (3396)	27% (1713)	14% (888)	4% (238)	0% (10)
Having enough food to eat	82% (5160)	10% (631)	5% (320)	2% (141)	0% (6)
Experiencing confusion or forgetfulness	64% (4021)	25% (1587)	6% (388)	2% (154)	1% (93)
Feeling depressed	58% (3636)	28% (1744)	10% (599)	4% (229)	1% (55)
Feeling bored	58% (3601)	29% (1800)	10% (594)	3% (206)	1% (40)
Having friends or family you can rely on	69% (4348)	17% (1085)	8% (517)	5% (295)	0% (29)
Feeling lonely or isolated	63% (3899)	23% (1458)	9% (559)	4% (269)	0% (23)
Dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend	58% (3605)	21% (1318)	12% (745)	6% (395)	3% (168)
Being a victim of crime	83% (5137)	7% (434)	3% (188)	3% (162)	5% (291)
Being a victim of fraud or a scam	75% (4692)	12% (751)	6% (367)	3% (192)	4% (228)

Characteristic	Not a problem	Minor problem	Moderate problem	Major problem	Don't know
Being physically or emotionally abused	90% (5644)	4% (280)	2% (96)	1% (75)	3% (164)
Being treated unfairly or discriminated against because of your age	77% (4834)	12% (778)	5% (332)	2% (122)	3% (188)
Feeling like you don't fit in or belong	68% (4213)	20% (1237)	7% (429)	4% (236)	2% (114)
Feeling like your voice is heard in the community	47% (2952)	19% (1169)	11% (663)	7% (434)	16% (1014)
Feeling PHYSICALLY burdened by providing care for another person	77% (4788)	11% (658)	4% (269)	3% (182)	6% (344)
Feeling EMOTIONALLY burdened by providing care for another person	73% (4558)	12% (759)	6% (356)	4% (225)	5% (340)
Feeling FINANCIALLY burdened by providing care for another person	78% (4876)	9% (592)	4% (257)	3% (171)	6% (354)
Performing regular activities, including walking, eating and preparing meals	70% (4455)	18% (1143)	9% (558)	3% (182)	0% (26)
Finding meaningful volunteer work	56% (3521)	10% (610)	5% (318)	3% (179)	26% (1651)
Finding productive or meaningful activities to do	63% (3940)	19% (1225)	9% (555)	4% (241)	5% (339)
Having interesting recreational or cultural activities to attend	52% (3256)	23% (1423)	12% (739)	6% (365)	8% (517)
Having interesting social events or activities to attend	49% (3064)	24% (1545)	13% (815)	6% (391)	8% (493)

**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% (4934)	11% (689)	5% (337)	5% (284)
In a long-term care facility (including nursing home or in-patient rehabilitation facility)	98% (6158)	0% (11)	0% (13)	1% (75)

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

Answer Choice	Percent
Never	62% (3982)
1 to 2 times	31% (2008)
3 to 5 times	5% (299)
More than 5 times	1% (72)
Don't know	0% (17)

**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.)	77% (4894)	23% (1479)
Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting	72% (4545)	28% (1799)
Voted in your most recent local election	10% (654)	90% (5668)
Participated in a civic group (including Elks, Kiwanis, Masons, etc.)	83% (5279)	17% (1065)
Used a senior center in your community	80% (5070)	20% (1287)
Used a public library in your community	58% (3656)	42% (2673)
Used a recreation center in your community	79% (4979)	21% (1361)
Participated in a recreation program or group activity	71% (4530)	29% (1819)
Participated in religious or spiritual activities with others	52% (3322)	48% (3016)
Participated in a club (including book, dance, game, and other social)	69% (4419)	31% (1942)

**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% (2090)	39% (2451)	11% (711)	7% (432)	3% (170)	3% (194)	3% (190)
Volunteering your time	18% (1150)	34% (2162)	22% (1365)	13% (828)	5% (293)	5% (339)	3% (159)
Talking or visiting with friends/family	38% (2396)	25% (1538)	14% (892)	10% (634)	4% (262)	7% (454)	1% (77)
Providing care to someone age 55+	74% (4686)	12% (745)	5% (291)	2% (156)	1% (62)	4% (237)	2% (120)
Providing care to someone age 18 to 54	79% (4967)	9% (558)	3% (196)	3% (173)	1% (70)	3% (212)	2% (112)
Providing care someone under age 18	83% (5273)	8% (503)	3% (183)	2% (119)	1% (36)	2% (146)	1% (83)
Receiving assistance, paid or unpaid (e.g., with shopping, cooking, etc.)	47% (2955)	32% (1995)	10% (606)	5% (299)	2% (136)	3% (191)	2% (130)



**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	61% (3890)	14% (857)	9% (563)	3% (176)	13% (807)	1% (43)
Access the internet from your cell phone	53% (3350)	9% (540)	9% (575)	2% (143)	26% (1647)	1% (58)
Visit social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor, etc.	36% (2291)	15% (942)	9% (571)	3% (205)	36% (2267)	1% (59)
Use or check email	53% (3350)	24% (1539)	9% (564)	3% (200)	11% (667)	0% (26)
Share your opinions online	10% (629)	3% (211)	9% (560)	9% (567)	67% (4249)	2% (119)
Shop online	6% (358)	3% (211)	18% (1158)	39% (2446)	33% (2083)	1% (52)

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

Answer Choice	Percent
Less than 2 years	4% (260)
2-5 years	9% (580)
6-10 years	10% (640)
11-20 years	14% (929)

Answer Choice	Percent
More than 20 years	62% (4002)

**17. Which best describes the building you live in?**

Answer Choice	Percent
Single family home	77% (4908)
Townhouse, condominium, duplex, or apartment	14% (901)
Mobile home	7% (465)
Assisted living residence	1% (42)
Nursing home	0% (6)
Other	1% (90)

**18. Do you rent or own your home?**

Answer Choice	Percent
Rent	19% (1232)
Own (with a mortgage payment)	28% (1790)
Own (free and clear; no mortgage)	53% (3345)

**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	16% (979)
\$300 to \$599 per month	30% (1853)
\$600 to \$999 per month	23% (1453)
\$1,000 to \$1,499 per month	16% (988)
\$1,500 to \$2,499 per month	11% (668)
\$2,500 or more per month	5% (287)

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

Answer Choice	Percent
1 person (live alone)	36% (2280)
2 people	55% (3532)
3 people	6% (365)
4 or more people	4% (230)

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

Answer Choice	Percent
1 person	44% (2761)
2 people	55% (3477)
3 people	1% (56)
4 or more people	0% (28)

**22. What is your employment status?**

Answer Choice	Percent
Fully retired	66% (4195)
Working full time for pay	19% (1218)
Working part time for pay	13% (825)
Unemployed, looking for paid work	2% (103)

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

Answer Choice	Percent
55-59	1% (13)
60-64	18% (197)
65-67	29% (314)
68-69	11% (113)
70-72	15% (163)
73 or older	26% (275)

**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	21% (1296)
\$25,000 to \$49,999	28% (1678)
\$50,000 to \$74,999	21% (1290)
\$75,000 to \$99,999	13% (771)
\$100,000 to \$149,999	10% (614)
\$150,000 to \$199,999	4% (219)

Answer Choice	Percent
\$200,000 or more.	3% (196)

## 25. Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?

Answer Choice	Percent
No, not of Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Spanish origin	99% (6236)
Yes, I consider myself to be of Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Spanish origin	1% (92)

## 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	4% (256)
Asian	0% (27)
Black or African American	0% (17)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0% (6)
White	94% (6107)
A race not listed	2% (101)

**27. What is your sex?**

Answer Choice	Percent
Female	52% (3306)
Male	48% (3074)
Identify in another way	0% (9)

**28. What is your sexual orientation?**

Answer Choice	Percent
Heterosexual	96% (5669)
Lesbian	1% (30)
Gay	1% (47)
Bisexual	1% (50)
Identify in another way	2% (113)

## 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	5% (367)
55-59 years	18% (1188)
60-64 years	24% (1645)
65-69 years	17% (1183)
70-74 years	15% (989)
75-79 years	12% (783)
80-84 years	7% (461)
85-89 years	2% (146)
90-94 years	0% (25)
95 years or older	0% (2)



**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	28% (1789)	52% (3290)	16% (1009)	4% (225)
Your neighborhood as a place to live	39% (2429)	46% (2861)	12% (781)	3% (211)
Your community as a place to retire	21% (1298)	41% (2549)	26% (1618)	11% (680)
Sense of community in your community	18% (1092)	42% (2548)	31% (1866)	9% (567)
The overall quality of life in your community	22% (1345)	54% (3344)	21% (1304)	4% (248)

**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	8% (454)	42% (2526)	38% (2279)	13% (800)
Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in your community	9% (553)	34% (2084)	36% (2181)	21% (1290)
Overall design or layout of your community's residential and commercial areas (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, parks, etc.)	8% (491)	45% (2769)	36% (2229)	11% (693)
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in your community (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas, broadband)	11% (683)	47% (2834)	30% (1822)	12% (698)
Overall feeling of safety in your community	18% (1128)	52% (3250)	23% (1452)	7% (443)
Overall quality of natural environment in your community	29% (1798)	47% (2908)	20% (1235)	4% (249)
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	26% (1583)	45% (2769)	21% (1270)	8% (505)
Overall health and wellness opportunities in your community	17% (1053)	44% (2682)	28% (1733)	11% (669)
Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	16% (954)	38% (2306)	31% (1862)	16% (980)
Residents' connection and engagement with their community	9% (545)	40% (2371)	39% (2335)	12% (708)

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

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
Excellent	7% (400)
Good	42% (2296)
Fair	36% (1954)
Poor	15% (801)

**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	20% (1213)	49% (2976)	19% (1135)	13% (785)
Remain in your community throughout your retirement	50% (3038)	31% (1881)	10% (614)	9% (560)

**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	14% (885)
Somewhat informed	50% (3159)
Somewhat uninformed	26% (1652)
Very uninformed	11% (680)

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

Not including don't know

Characteristic	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Your overall physical health	19% (1180)	58% (3679)	19% (1210)	5% (311)
Your overall mental health/emotional wellbeing	31% (1978)	54% (3415)	13% (823)	2% (147)
Your overall quality of life	27% (1694)	56% (3547)	15% (977)	2% (120)

**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% (135)
Somewhat positive	8% (492)
Neutral	33% (2116)
Somewhat negative	39% (2507)
Very negative	18% (1140)

**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	5% (291)	20% (1075)	28% (1531)	47% (2537)
Ease of travel by car in your community	22% (1392)	56% (3551)	18% (1154)	3% (204)
Ease of walking in your community	16% (1018)	45% (2779)	28% (1700)	11% (677)
Ease of bicycling in your community	12% (698)	40% (2244)	33% (1880)	15% (850)
Ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	19% (1225)	56% (3520)	21% (1312)	4% (233)
Opportunities to build work skills	5% (213)	28% (1205)	39% (1632)	28% (1187)
Quality of employment opportunities for older adults	4% (187)	22% (925)	37% (1568)	37% (1547)
Variety of employment opportunities for older adults	4% (156)	17% (715)	37% (1543)	43% (1791)
Cost of living in your community	2% (109)	18% (1120)	45% (2791)	35% (2163)
Availability of affordable quality food	7% (414)	33% (2048)	42% (2612)	19% (1189)
Availability of affordable quality housing	2% (97)	8% (476)	28% (1618)	63% (3672)
Variety of housing options	1% (70)	9% (513)	30% (1694)	59% (3320)
Availability of accessible housing (e.g., homes with a no step entry, single-floor living, wide hallways and doorways)	2% (81)	8% (355)	29% (1286)	61% (2648)
Availability of mixed-use neighborhoods where people live close to places where they can eat, shop, work, and receive services	3% (161)	18% (981)	40% (2237)	39% (2184)

Characteristic	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Public places where people want to spend time	7% (411)	29% (1678)	41% (2402)	23% (1370)
Availability of information about resources for older adults	4% (204)	24% (1283)	40% (2109)	31% (1646)
Availability of financial or legal planning services	4% (192)	25% (1171)	37% (1741)	34% (1598)
Availability of long-term care options	5% (241)	24% (1175)	39% (1918)	32% (1597)
Availability of daytime care options for older adults	2% (74)	12% (460)	33% (1205)	53% (1967)
Availability of affordable quality physical health care	8% (442)	31% (1744)	38% (2148)	23% (1266)
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	4% (168)	18% (795)	35% (1509)	43% (1836)
Availability of preventive health services (e.g., health screenings, flu shots, educational workshops)	12% (727)	43% (2514)	34% (2016)	11% (620)
Recreation opportunities (including games, arts, library services, etc.)	11% (637)	36% (2084)	37% (2129)	16% (902)
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	15% (900)	39% (2267)	31% (1802)	15% (856)
Opportunities participate in community matters	8% (439)	40% (2141)	38% (2003)	14% (719)
Opportunities to volunteer	16% (880)	47% (2526)	29% (1541)	8% (435)
Opportunities to enroll in skill-building or personal enrichment classes	6% (245)	28% (1212)	35% (1554)	31% (1382)
Opportunities to attend social events or activities	9% (498)	38% (2079)	39% (2158)	14% (759)
Opportunities to attend religious or spiritual activities	25% (1382)	52% (2859)	20% (1088)	4% (207)
Openness and acceptance of the community towards older residents of diverse backgrounds	11% (565)	40% (2037)	34% (1717)	15% (784)

Characteristic	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Making all residents feel welcome	9% (506)	39% (2197)	37% (2086)	15% (836)
Valuing older residents in your community	8% (404)	37% (1954)	40% (2118)	16% (853)
Neighborliness of your community	12% (749)	41% (2443)	35% (2077)	12% (742)



**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	56% (3491)	18% (1095)	19% (1154)	8% (476)
Having enough money to pay your property taxes	61% (3414)	16% (907)	14% (789)	9% (523)
Having housing to suit your needs	71% (4360)	12% (714)	10% (639)	7% (445)
Doing heavy or intense housework	41% (2530)	29% (1769)	20% (1218)	11% (680)
Maintaining your home	44% (2689)	29% (1791)	20% (1228)	7% (426)
Maintaining your yard	45% (2703)	27% (1615)	18% (1093)	9% (544)
Having safe and affordable transportation available	65% (3779)	15% (854)	12% (699)	9% (504)
No longer being able to drive	85% (4669)	4% (241)	4% (235)	6% (346)
Finding work in retirement	66% (2658)	12% (468)	13% (514)	9% (382)
Building skills for paid or unpaid work	56% (2016)	17% (602)	18% (645)	10% (364)
Having adequate information or dealing with public programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid	43% (2414)	26% (1456)	21% (1162)	10% (581)
Not knowing what services are available to older adults in your community	29% (1593)	29% (1565)	27% (1474)	15% (826)
Your physical health	44% (2728)	32% (2003)	18% (1091)	6% (354)
Falling or injuring yourself in your home	68% (4189)	20% (1249)	8% (515)	3% (212)

Characteristic	Not a problem	Minor problem	Moderate problem	Major problem
Finding affordable health insurance	55% (3295)	19% (1145)	13% (780)	14% (822)
Getting the health care you need	58% (3617)	22% (1377)	13% (827)	6% (378)
Getting the oral health care you need	61% (3744)	17% (1044)	12% (734)	10% (615)
Getting the vision care you need	63% (3877)	18% (1120)	12% (725)	7% (436)
Affording the medications you need	63% (3890)	18% (1115)	12% (728)	7% (433)
Staying physically fit	43% (2657)	33% (2066)	17% (1088)	7% (412)
Maintaining a healthy diet	54% (3396)	27% (1713)	14% (888)	4% (238)
Having enough food to eat	83% (5160)	10% (631)	5% (320)	2% (141)
Experiencing confusion or forgetfulness	65% (4021)	26% (1587)	6% (388)	3% (154)
Feeling depressed	59% (3636)	28% (1744)	10% (599)	4% (229)
Feeling bored	58% (3601)	29% (1800)	10% (594)	3% (206)
Having friends or family you can rely on	70% (4348)	17% (1085)	8% (517)	5% (295)
Feeling lonely or isolated	63% (3899)	24% (1458)	9% (559)	4% (269)
Dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend	59% (3605)	22% (1318)	12% (745)	7% (395)
Being a victim of crime	87% (5137)	7% (434)	3% (188)	3% (162)
Being a victim of fraud or a scam	78% (4692)	13% (751)	6% (367)	3% (192)

Characteristic	Not a problem	Minor problem	Moderate problem	Major problem
Being physically or emotionally abused	93% (5644)	5% (280)	2% (96)	1% (75)
Being treated unfairly or discriminated against because of your age	80% (4834)	13% (778)	5% (332)	2% (122)
Feeling like you don't fit in or belong	69% (4213)	20% (1237)	7% (429)	4% (236)
Feeling like your voice is heard in the community	57% (2952)	22% (1169)	13% (663)	8% (434)
Feeling PHYSICALLY burdened by providing care for another person	81% (4788)	11% (658)	5% (269)	3% (182)
Feeling EMOTIONALLY burdened by providing care for another person	77% (4558)	13% (759)	6% (356)	4% (225)
Feeling FINANCIALLY burdened by providing care for another person	83% (4876)	10% (592)	4% (257)	3% (171)
Performing regular activities, including walking, eating and preparing meals	70% (4455)	18% (1143)	9% (558)	3% (182)
Finding meaningful volunteer work	76% (3521)	13% (610)	7% (318)	4% (179)
Finding productive or meaningful activities to do	66% (3940)	21% (1225)	9% (555)	4% (241)
Having interesting recreational or cultural activities to attend	56% (3256)	25% (1423)	13% (739)	6% (365)
Having interesting social events or activities to attend	53% (3064)	27% (1545)	14% (815)	7% (391)

**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% (4934)	11% (689)	5% (337)	5% (284)
In a long-term care facility (including nursing home or in-patient rehabilitation facility)	98% (6158)	0% (11)	0% (13)	1% (75)

**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	63% (3982)
1 to 2 times	32% (2008)
3 to 5 times	5% (299)
More than 5 times	1% (72)

**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.)	77% (4894)	23% (1479)
Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting	72% (4545)	28% (1799)
Voted in your most recent local election	10% (654)	90% (5668)
Participated in a civic group (including Elks, Kiwanis, Masons, etc.)	83% (5279)	17% (1065)
Used a senior center in your community	80% (5070)	20% (1287)
Used a public library in your community	58% (3656)	42% (2673)
Used a recreation center in your community	79% (4979)	21% (1361)
Participated in a recreation program or group activity	71% (4530)	29% (1819)
Participated in religious or spiritual activities with others	52% (3322)	48% (3016)
Participated in a club (including book, dance, game, and other social)	69% (4419)	31% (1942)

**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	35% (2090)	41% (2451)	12% (711)	7% (432)	3% (170)	3% (194)
Volunteering your time	19% (1150)	35% (2162)	22% (1365)	13% (828)	5% (293)	6% (339)
Talking or visiting with friends/family	39% (2396)	25% (1538)	14% (892)	10% (634)	4% (262)	7% (454)
Providing care to someone age 55+	76% (4686)	12% (745)	5% (291)	3% (156)	1% (62)	4% (237)
Providing care to someone age 18 to 54	80% (4967)	9% (558)	3% (196)	3% (173)	1% (70)	3% (212)
Providing care someone under age 18	84% (5273)	8% (503)	3% (183)	2% (119)	1% (36)	2% (146)
Receiving assistance, paid or unpaid (e.g., with shopping, cooking, etc.)	48% (2955)	32% (1995)	10% (606)	5% (299)	2% (136)	3% (191)

**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	62% (3890)	14% (857)	9% (563)	3% (176)	13% (807)
Access the internet from your cell phone	54% (3350)	9% (540)	9% (575)	2% (143)	26% (1647)
Visit social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor, etc.	37% (2291)	15% (942)	9% (571)	3% (205)	36% (2267)
Use or check email	53% (3350)	24% (1539)	9% (564)	3% (200)	11% (667)
Share your opinions online	10% (629)	3% (211)	9% (560)	9% (567)	68% (4249)
Shop online	6% (358)	3% (211)	19% (1158)	39% (2446)	33% (2083)

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

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
Less than 2 years	4% (260)
2-5 years	9% (580)
6-10 years	10% (640)
11-20 years	14% (929)

Answer Choice	Percent
More than 20 years	62% (4002)

### 17. Which best describes the building you live in?

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
Single family home	77% (4908)
Townhouse, condominium, duplex, or apartment	14% (901)
Mobile home	7% (465)
Assisted living residence	1% (42)
Nursing home	0% (6)
Other	1% (90)

### 18. Do you rent or own your home?

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
Rent	19% (1232)
Own (with a mortgage payment)	28% (1790)
Own (free and clear; no mortgage)	53% (3345)



**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	16% (979)
\$300 to \$599 per month	30% (1853)
\$600 to \$999 per month	23% (1453)
\$1,000 to \$1,499 per month	16% (988)
\$1,500 to \$2,499 per month	11% (668)
\$2,500 or more per month	5% (287)

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

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
1 person (live alone)	36% (2280)
2 people	55% (3532)
3 people	6% (365)
4 or more people	4% (230)

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

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
1 person	44% (2761)
2 people	55% (3477)
3 people	1% (56)
4 or more people	0% (28)

**22. What is your employment status?**

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
Fully retired	66% (4195)
Working full time for pay	19% (1218)
Working part time for pay	13% (825)
Unemployed, looking for paid work	2% (103)

**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	1% (13)
60-64	18% (197)
65-67	29% (314)
68-69	11% (113)
70-72	15% (163)
73 or older	26% (275)

**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	21% (1296)
\$25,000 to \$49,999	28% (1678)
\$50,000 to \$74,999	21% (1290)
\$75,000 to \$99,999	13% (771)
\$100,000 to \$149,999	10% (614)
\$150,000 to \$199,999	4% (219)
\$200,000 or more.	3% (196)

**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% (6236)
Yes, I consider myself to be of Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Spanish origin	1% (92)

**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	4% (256)
Asian	0% (27)
Black or African American	0% (17)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0% (6)
White	94% (6107)
A race not listed	2% (101)

**27. What is your sex?**

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
Female	52% (3306)
Male	48% (3074)
Identify in another way	0% (9)

28. What is your sexual orientation?

Not including don't know

Answer Choice	Percent
Heterosexual	96% (5669)
Lesbian	1% (30)
Gay	1% (47)
Bisexual	1% (50)
Identify in another way	2% (113)

## 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	80	–	216	297
Your neighborhood as a place to live	84	–	162	256
Your community as a place to retire	63	–	214	297
Sense of community in your community	60	–	170	297
The overall quality of life in your community	75	–	178	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	49		200	256
Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in your community	43		212	256
Overall design or layout of your community's residential and commercial areas (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, parks, etc.)	53		199	256
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in your community (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas, broadband)	58		128	162
Overall feeling of safety in your community	70		215	297
Overall quality of natural environment in your community	76		124	256
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	71		99	162
Overall health and wellness opportunities in your community	61		185	256
Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	53		184	256
Residents' connection and engagement with their community	49		99	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?	49	–	52	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	69	↓	260	297
Remain in your community throughout your retirement	81	–	52	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?	63			


**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	76		201	296
Your overall mental health/emotional wellbeing	85		46	102
Your overall quality of life	83		40	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:	10		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	25	–	186	280
Ease of travel by car in your community	78	–	91	297
Ease of walking in your community	61	–	176	297
Ease of bicycling in your community	52	–	10	20
Ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	75	–	22	60
Opportunities to build work skills	33	–	26	58
Quality of employment opportunities for older adults	26	∨	222	296
Variety of employment opportunities for older adults	21	–	34	58
Cost of living in your community	20	∨	264	297
Availability of affordable quality food	39	∨	269	289
Availability of affordable quality housing	10	∨	266	296
Variety of housing options	10	⋈	284	297
Availability of accessible housing (e.g., homes with a no step entry, single-floor living, wide hallways and doorways)	10	∨	48	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	21		37	58
Public places where people want to spend time	36		210	255
Availability of information about resources for older adults	28		56	102
Availability of financial or legal planning services	29		71	102
Availability of long-term care options	29		71	102
Availability of daytime care options for older adults	14		85	102
Availability of affordable quality physical health care	39		234	288
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	22		248	286
Availability of preventive health services (e.g., health screenings, flu shots, educational workshops)	55		191	286
Recreation opportunities (including games, arts, library services, etc.)	47		243	295
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	54		237	294
Opportunities participate in community matters	49		240	295
Opportunities to volunteer	63		137	204
Opportunities to enroll in skill-building or personal enrichment classes	33		63	102















Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark	Rank	# of Compared Communities
Opportunities to attend social events or activities	47		226	295
Opportunities to attend religious or spiritual activities	77		64	102
Openness and acceptance of the community towards older residents of diverse backgrounds	51		222	297
Making all residents feel welcome	48		133	162
Valuing older residents in your community	44		66	102
Neighborliness of your community	53		132	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	56		58	102
Having enough money to pay your property taxes	61		87	102
Having housing to suit your needs	71		64	102
Doing heavy or intense housework	41		49	102
Maintaining your home	44		67	102
Maintaining your yard	45		83	102
Having safe and affordable transportation available	65		62	102
No longer being able to drive	85		40	101
Finding work in retirement	66		50	102
Building skills for paid or unpaid work	56		71	101
Having adequate information or dealing with public programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid	43		74	102
Not knowing what services are available to older adults in your community	29		64	102

Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark	Rank	# of Compared Communities
Your physical health	44		37	102
Falling or injuring yourself in your home	68		55	102
Finding affordable health insurance	55		69	102
Getting the health care you need	58		71	102
Getting the oral health care you need	61		75	102
Getting the vision care you need	63		81	102
Affording the medications you need	63		59	102
Staying physically fit	43		47	102
Maintaining a healthy diet	54		45	102
Having enough food to eat	83		59	101
Experiencing confusion or forgetfulness	65		53	102
Feeling depressed	59		49	102
Feeling bored	58		44	102
Having friends or family you can rely on	70		38	102



Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark	Rank	# of Compared Communities
Feeling lonely or isolated	63		56	101
Dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend	59		50	102
Being a victim of crime	87		46	100
Being a victim of fraud or a scam	78		61	102
Being physically or emotionally abused	93		43	100
Being treated unfairly or discriminated against because of your age	80		22	58
Feeling like you don't fit in or belong	69		20	58
Feeling like your voice is heard in the community	57		30	102
Feeling PHYSICALLY burdened by providing care for another person	81		31	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	70		9	20
Finding meaningful volunteer work	76		5	20
Finding productive or meaningful activities to do	66		9	20



Characteristic	% positive	National Benchmark	Rank	# of Compared Communities
Having interesting recreational or cultural activities to attend	56		8	20
Having interesting social events or activities to attend	53		7	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)	2		60	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?	37		35	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.)	23		140	296
Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting	28		17	101
Voted in your most recent local election	90		33	160
Participated in a civic group (including Elks, Kiwanis, Masons, etc.)	17		24	102
Used a senior center in your community	20		28	100
Used a public library in your community	42		81	102
Used a recreation center in your community	21		72	102
Participated in a recreation program or group activity	29		56	102
Participated in religious or spiritual activities with others	48		64	102
Participated in a club (including book, dance, game, and other social)	31		38	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	65		90	102
Volunteering your time	81		9	102
Talking or visiting with friends/family	61		93	102
Providing care to someone age 55+	24		85	102
Providing care to someone age 18 to 54	20		18	102
Providing care someone under age 18	16		59	101
Receiving assistance, paid or unpaid (e.g., with shopping, cooking, etc.)	52		11	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	84		105	161
Access the internet from your cell phone	71		118	161
Visit social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor, etc.	61		109	160
Use or check email	86		111	161
Share your opinions online	23		102	161
Shop online	28		112	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)<sup>®</sup>

The Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA)<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> survey instrument and its administration are standardized to assure high-quality survey methods and comparable results across CASOA communities. The CASOA was customized for Montana to reflect the correct local age definition of older adults and to use official Montana graphics, contact information and signatures on survey invitation mailing materials. The State of Montana sponsored and funded this research. Please contact Kerrie Reidelbach of the State of Montana at [KReidelbach@mt.gov](mailto:KReidelbach@mt.gov) 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 State of Montana boundaries.

Since it would be cost prohibitive to survey every person age 55 years or older in Montana, 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 State of Montana 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 President or Director of each AAA 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 2064 (6%) of the 37,386 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 35,322 households that received the survey, 6,790 completed the survey, providing an overall response rate of 16.82%. Of the total surveys received, 4,110 were completed using the hard copy surveys while 1,830 were submitted online. Response rates are calculated using AAPOR's response rate #2<sup>1</sup> 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 850 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.<sup>2</sup>

The margin of error for the State of Montana survey is no greater than plus or minus 1.27 percentage points around any given percent reported for all probability survey respondents (5940). 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 6790 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 Montana. 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 State of Montana CASOA

Demographic Group	Unweighted	Weighted	Population Target <sup>1</sup>
<b>Rent or Own Home</b>			
Rent	10.1 %	19.5 %	20 %
Own	89.9 %	80.5 %	80 %
<b>Housing Type</b>			
Detached	83.9 %	77.5 %	77.4 %
Attached	16.1 %	22.5 %	22.6 %
<b>Race</b>			
White	94.4 %	93.8 %	94.1 %
Not white	5.6 %	6.2 %	5.9 %
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
Hispanic	1.4 %	1.5 %	1.6 %
Not Hispanic	98.6 %	98.5 %	98.4 %
<b>Gender</b>			
Female	61.8 %	51.8 %	51.8 %

Male	38.2 %	48.2 %	48.2 %
<b>Age</b>			
Age 55 to 64	36.1 %	44.3 %	44.3 %
Age 65 to 74	42.8 %	33.7 %	33.5 %
Age 75 and over	21.1 %	22 %	22.2 %
<b>Gender and Age</b>			
Female 55 to 64	23.3 %	22.9 %	22.7 %
Female 65 to 74	26 %	16.5 %	16.8 %
Female 75 and over	12.6 %	12.3 %	12.3 %
Male 55 to 64	12.9 %	21.3 %	21.6 %
Male 65 to 74	16.9 %	17.2 %	16.7 %
Male 75 and over	8.4 %	9.7 %	9.9 %

## 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 Montana 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, Montana’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"><li>• Your community as a place to live</li><li>• Your neighborhood as a place to live</li><li>• Your community as a place to retire</li><li>• The overall quality of life in your community</li><li>• Recommend living in your community to older adults</li><li>• Remain in your community throughout your retirement</li></ul>
Community Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Housing</li><li>• Mobility</li><li>• Land Use</li></ul>
Employment and Finances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Employment</li><li>• Finances</li></ul>

Dimension of Community Readiness	Items Included in Community Readiness Score
Equity and Inclusivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equity</li> <li>• Community Inclusivity</li> </ul>
Health and Wellness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall feeling of safety in your community</li> <li>• Overall quality of natural environment in your community</li> <li>• Overall health and wellness opportunities in your community</li> <li>• Availability of affordable quality food</li> <li>• Availability of long-term care options</li> <li>• Availability of daytime care options for older adults</li> <li>• Availability of affordable quality physical health care</li> <li>• Availability of affordable quality mental health care</li> <li>• Availability of preventive health services (e.g., health screenings, flu shots, educational workshops)</li> <li>• Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)</li> </ul>
Information and Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How would you rate the overall services provided to older adults in your community?</li> <li>• Availability of information about resources for older adults</li> <li>• Availability of financial or legal planning services</li> </ul>
Productive Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities</li> <li>• Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts</li> <li>• Residents' connection and engagement with their community</li> <li>• Recreation opportunities (including games, arts, library services, etc.)</li> <li>• Opportunities participate in community matters</li> </ul>

## 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"> <li>Any of the following were a major or moderate problem:</li> <li>Feeling PHYSICALLY burdened by providing care for another person</li> <li>Feeling EMOTIONALLY burdened by providing care for another person</li> <li>Feeling FINANCIALLY burdened by providing care for another person</li> </ul>
Civic Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any of the following were a major or moderate problem:</li> <li>Feeling like your voice is heard in the community</li> </ul>
Community Inclusivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any of the following were a major or moderate problem:</li> <li>Having friends or family you can rely on</li> <li>Feeling lonely or isolated</li> <li>Feeling like you don't fit in or belong</li> </ul>
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any of the following were a major or moderate problem:</li> <li>Finding work in retirement</li> <li>Building skills for paid or unpaid work</li> </ul>
Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any of the following were a major or moderate problem:</li> <li>Being treated unfairly or discriminated against because of your age</li> </ul>
Finances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any of the following were a major or moderate problem:</li> <li>Having enough money to meet daily expenses</li> <li>Having enough money to pay your property taxes</li> </ul>

Needs Score	Items Included in the Score
Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any of the following were a major or moderate problem:</li> <li>• Finding affordable health insurance</li> <li>• Getting the health care you need</li> <li>• Getting the oral health care you need</li> <li>• Getting the vision care you need</li> <li>• Affording the medications you need</li> </ul>
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any of the following were a major or moderate problem:</li> <li>• Having housing to suit your needs</li> <li>• Doing heavy or intense housework</li> <li>• Maintaining your home</li> <li>• Maintaining your yard</li> </ul>
Independent Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spent one or more days:</li> <li>• In a long-term care facility (including nursing home or in-patient rehabilitation facility)</li> <li>• As a patient in a hospital</li> </ul>
Information and Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any of the following were a major or moderate problem:</li> <li>• Having adequate information or dealing with public programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid</li> <li>• Not knowing what services are available to older adults in your community</li> </ul>
Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any of the following were a major or moderate problem:</li> <li>• Experiencing confusion or forgetfulness</li> <li>• Feeling depressed</li> <li>• Dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend</li> </ul>
Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any of the following were a major or moderate problem:</li> <li>• Having safe and affordable transportation available</li> <li>• No longer being able to drive</li> </ul>



Needs Score	Items Included in the Score
Physical Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any of the following were a major or moderate problem:</li> <li>• Your physical health</li> <li>• Falling or injuring yourself in your home</li> <li>• Staying physically fit</li> <li>• Maintaining a healthy diet</li> <li>• Having enough food to eat</li> </ul>
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any of the following were a major or moderate problem:</li> <li>• Being a victim of crime</li> <li>• Being a victim of fraud or a scam</li> <li>• Being physically or emotionally abused</li> </ul>
Social Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any of the following were a major or moderate problem:</li> <li>• Feeling bored</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup>See 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

<sup>2</sup>A 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+.