



Community Assessment Survey  
for Older Adults™

# Larimer County Report for Fort Collins, CO 2010

Brief Report



3005 30th Street • Boulder, Colorado 80301  
[www.n-r-c.com](http://www.n-r-c.com) • 303-444-7863

# Contents

Introduction .....	1
Fort Collins as a Community for Older Adults.....	3
The “Readiness” of Fort Collins for the Aging Population .....	4
Older Adult Participation in Community Life in Fort Collins .....	7
Contributions of Older Adults to Fort Collins.....	8
Fort Collins Opportunities and Challenges .....	9
Appendix A: Complete Set of Survey Frequencies.....	13
Appendix B: Survey Methodology .....	36
Appendix C: Survey Materials .....	48

## Introduction

Like waves of marathon runners, increasing numbers of adults are racing off the half-century starting line. More than one-half of the Baby Boom generation now is age 50 and older and one-third of all Americans will reach age 50 by 2010. To prepare better for this aging population, Larimer County Health and Human Services Office on Aging contracted with National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) to conduct an assessment of the strengths and needs of its older residents. Based upon the perspectives of older residents themselves, the Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA™) provides a statistically valid survey of older adults in communities across America. The study findings will be used by staff, elected officials and other stakeholders to plan for older adult services, programs and facilities. The objectives of the CASOA™ are to:

- Identify community strengths in serving older adults
- Articulate the specific needs of older adults in the community
- Estimate contributions made by older adults to the community
- Determine the connection of older adults to the community

The assessment focused on a series of needs among older adult residents age 60 or older and the community supports that foster successful aging. Forty common needs affecting older adult well being were assessed. These 40 issues fell into the larger categories of health and wellness, community design and land use, participation in productive activities and community resources for information and planning. Older adults' opinions about current community amenities and opportunities also were measured in the survey.

The results of this exploration will provide useful information for planning and resource development as well as strengthen advocacy efforts and stakeholder engagement. The ultimate goal of the assessment is to create an empowered community that supports a vibrant older adult population in Larimer County.

### Using This Brief Report

---

Communities conducting the CASOA™ can choose from a number of optional services to customize the reporting of survey results. Fort Collins's Brief Report is part of a larger project for Larimer County. The County augmented the sample of older adults to provide stand-alone brief reports for each of several geographic areas in the county, including Estes Park, Fort Collins and Loveland. A full report of results which provides expanded analytic detail and descriptive text is available for Larimer County overall. Each report is available under separate cover. The Brief Report is intended to provide a high-level summary of findings in succinct form with relevant appendices.

It should be noted that when a table for a question that only permitted a single response does not total to exactly 100%, it is due to the common practice of percentages being rounded to the nearest whole number.

### CASOA™ Methods

---

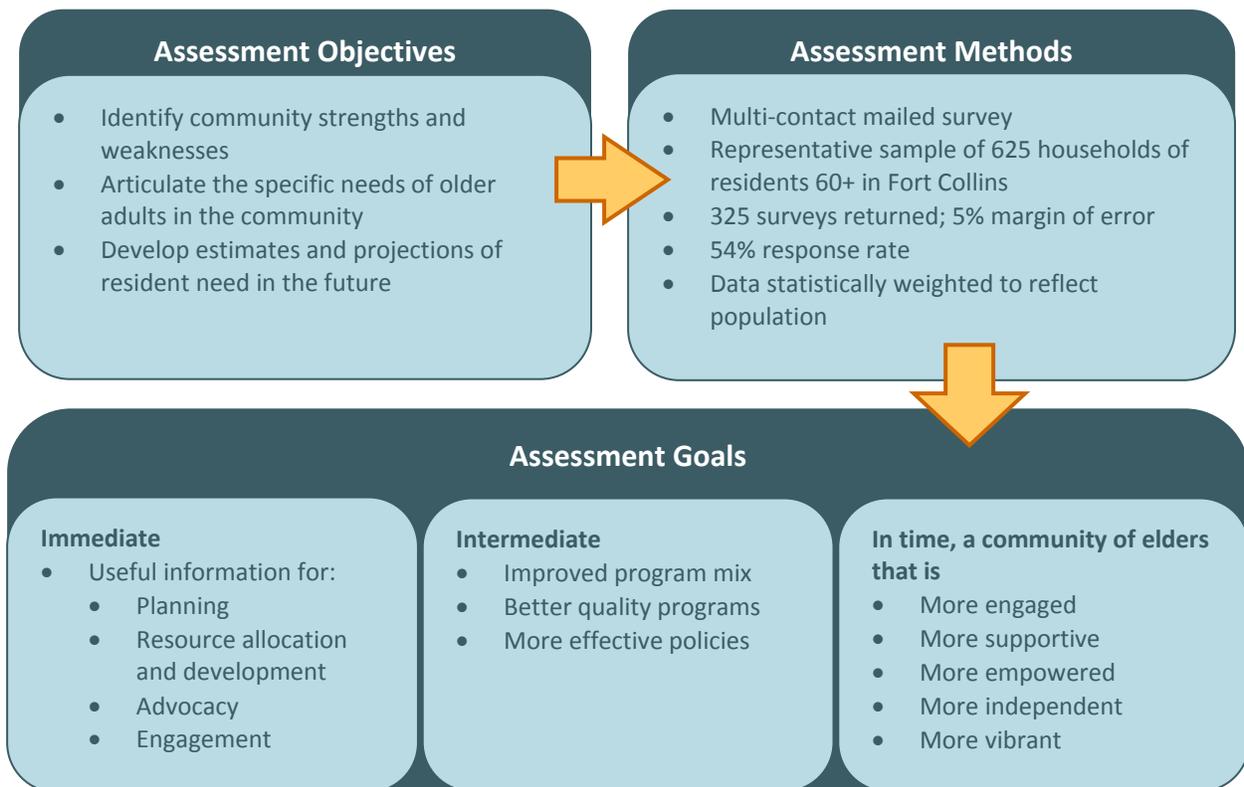
The survey and its administration are standardized to assure high quality survey methods and comparable results across CASOA™ jurisdictions. Participating households with residents 60 years or older were selected at random and the household member who responded was selected without

bias. Multiple mailings gave each household more than one prompt to participate with a self-addressed and postage-paid envelope to return the survey. Results were statistically weighted to reflect the proper demographic composition of older adults in the entire community.

The survey was mailed in June 2010 to a random selection of 2,500 older adult households in Larimer County. Older adult households were contacted three times about participation in the survey. A total of 1,277 completed surveys were obtained for the entire county, providing an overall response rate of 54% and a margin of error of plus or minus 3% around any given percent and two points around any given average rating for the entire sample.

This report contains the results for Fort Collins, located in Larimer County. The 2,500 surveys sent to Larimer County included 625 in Fort Collins. A total of 325 completed surveys was obtained for Fort Collins, providing a margin of error of 5% around any given percent and three points around any given average rating for the entire sample. The response rate for Fort Collins was 54%.

**Figure 1: CASOA™ Methods and Goals**

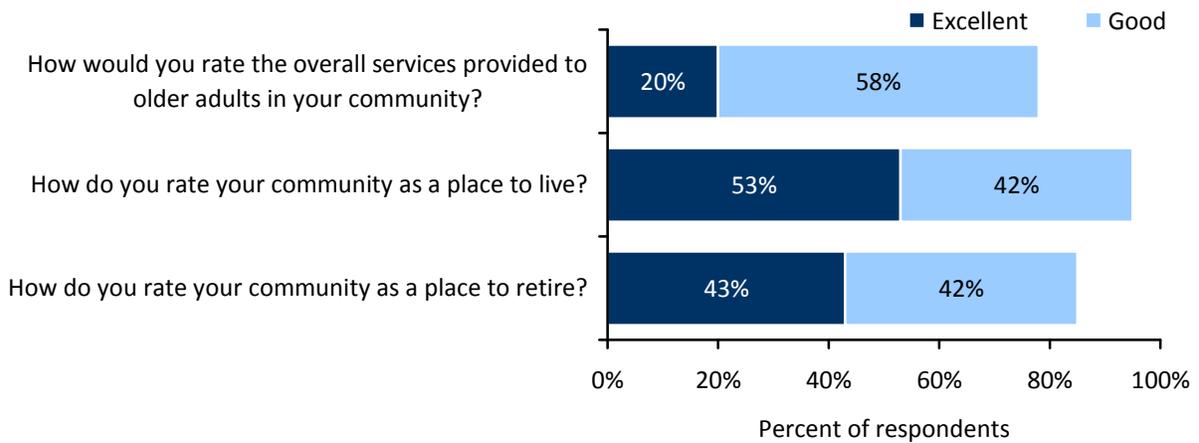


## Fort Collins as a Community for Older Adults

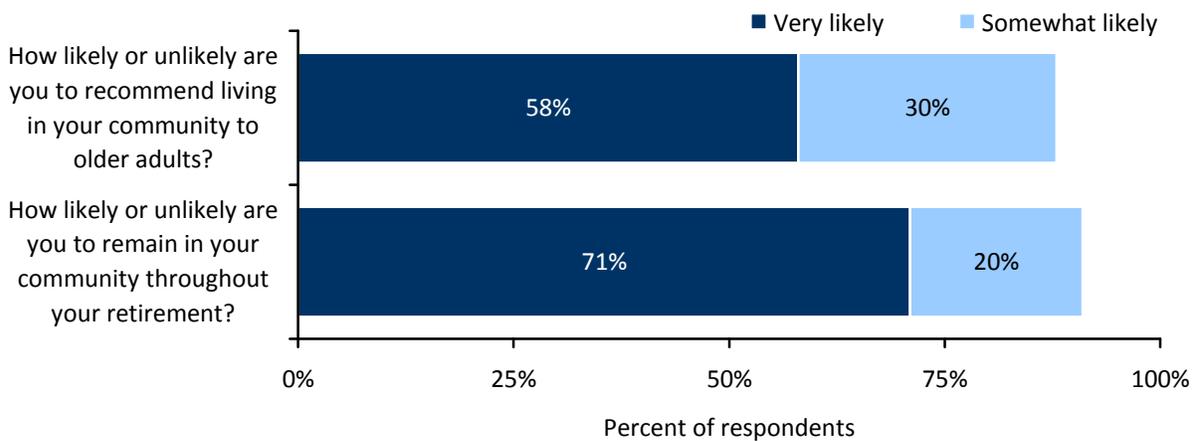
Overall perceived quality of community life may be the single best indicator of success in providing the natural ambience, services and amenities that make for an attractive community to older residents. The CASOA™ contained many questions related to quality of community life in Fort Collins – not only direct questions about quality of life overall and in neighborhoods, but questions to measure residents’ commitment to the community. Residents were asked whether they planned to move soon or if they would recommend Fort Collins to others. Intentions to stay and willingness to make recommendations provide evidence that Fort Collins offers services and amenities that work.

Most of Fort Collins’s older residents gave high ratings to the community as a place to live and place to retire. Services offered to older adults were considered “excellent” or “good” by 78% of older residents in Fort Collins. Further, most reported they would recommend the community to others and plan to stay for retirement.

**Figure 2: Fort Collins as a Place for Older Residents**



**Figure 3: Likelihood of Remaining in Community and Recommending Community**

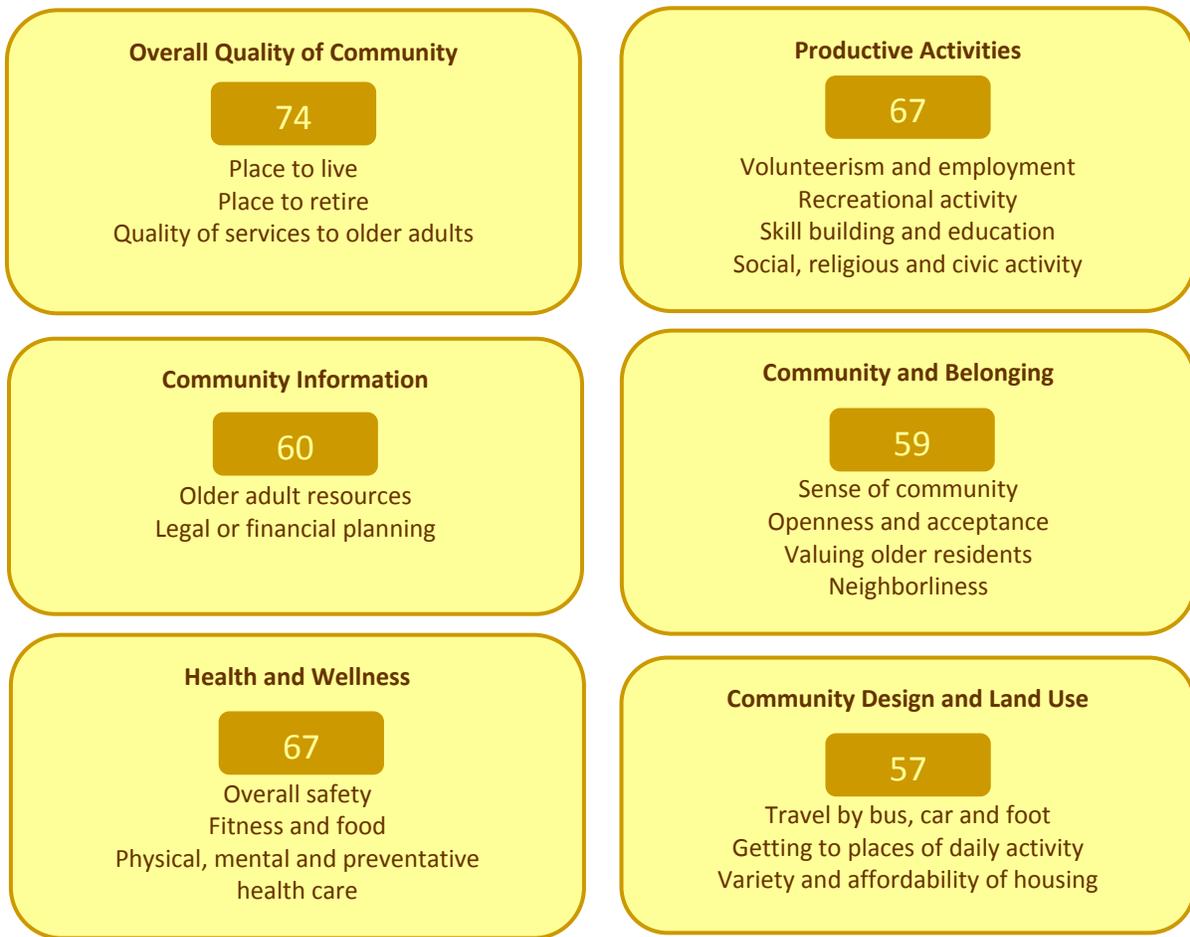


# The “Readiness” of Fort Collins for the Aging Population

Older adults may not complain, but not every community leaves older adults raving about the quality of community life or the services available for active living and aging in place. Communities that assist older adults to remain or become active community participants provide the requisite opportunities for recreation, transportation, culture, education, communication, social connection, spiritual enrichment and health care. It is not a package mix, so each community must identify what its older adults seek and what the community provides. The judgments of the residents for whom community planning takes place provide the elements of an equation that describes overall community quality in Fort Collins.

Survey respondents were asked to rate 29 aspects of the community related to six community dimensions. Ratings for individual questions were converted to an average scale of 0 (the lowest rating, e.g., “poor”) to 100 (the highest rating, e.g., “excellent”) and then combined to provide one overall rating (index) for each of the six areas. Fort Collins received its highest ratings in the area of Overall Community Quality and received the lowest ratings in the area of Community Design and Land Use.

**Figure 4: Fort Collins Community Readiness Chart**



Scale: 0=Lowest/most negative, 100=Highest/most positive

Ratings for the individual community characteristics are presented in the following six tables.

**Figure 5: Overall Quality of Community Index**

	Fort Collins average rating
<b>Quality of Community Index</b>	<b>74</b>
How do you rate your community as a place to live?	82
How do you rate your community as a place to retire?	75
How would you rate the overall services provided to older adults in your community?	65
Scale: 0=Lowest/most negative, 100=Highest/most positive	

**Figure 6: Community Information Index**

	Fort Collins average rating
<b>Community Information Index</b>	<b>60</b>
Availability of information about resources for older adults	62
Availability of financial and legal planning services	57
Scale: 0=Lowest/most negative, 100=Highest/most positive	

**Figure 7: Health and Wellness Index**

	Fort Collins average rating
<b>Health and Wellness Index</b>	<b>67</b>
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	80
Availability of affordable quality physical health care	62
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	54
Availability of preventive health services (e.g., health screenings, flu shots, educational workshops)	69
Availability of affordable quality food	66
Overall feeling of safety in your community	67
Scale: 0=Lowest/most negative, 100=Highest/most positive	

**Figure 8: Productive Activities Index**

	Fort Collins average rating
<b>Productive Activities Index</b>	<b>67</b>
Opportunities to volunteer	80
Employment opportunities	32
Opportunities to enroll in skill-building or personal enrichment classes	68
Recreation opportunities (including games, arts and library services, etc.)	75
Opportunities to attend social events or activities	69
Opportunities to attend religious or spiritual activities	79
Opportunities to attend or participate in meetings about local government or community matters	66
Scale: 0=Lowest/most negative, 100=Highest/most positive	

**Figure 9: Community and Belonging Index**

	Fort Collins average rating
<b>Community and Belonging Index</b>	<b>59</b>
Sense of community	63
Openness and acceptance of the community towards older residents of diverse backgrounds	57
Valuing older residents in your community	59
Neighborliness of your community	58
Scale: 0=Lowest/most negative, 100=Highest/most positive	

**Figure 10: Community Design and Land Use Index**

	Fort Collins average rating
<b>Community Design and Land Use Index</b>	<b>57</b>
Availability of affordable quality housing	40
Variety of housing options	50
Ease of bus travel in your community	37
Ease of car travel in your community	62
Ease of walking in your community	69
Ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	67
Scale: 0=Lowest/most negative, 100=Highest/most positive	

## Older Adult Participation in Community Life in Fort Collins

Activity builds strength and helps to keep a person from falling victim to illness. Older adults who participate in community life not only benefit directly from the activities but by linking with others who also are engaged, they build a network of support that can be instrumental in keeping them independent. Shown below are rates of participation in community activities.

**Figure 11: Community Participation**

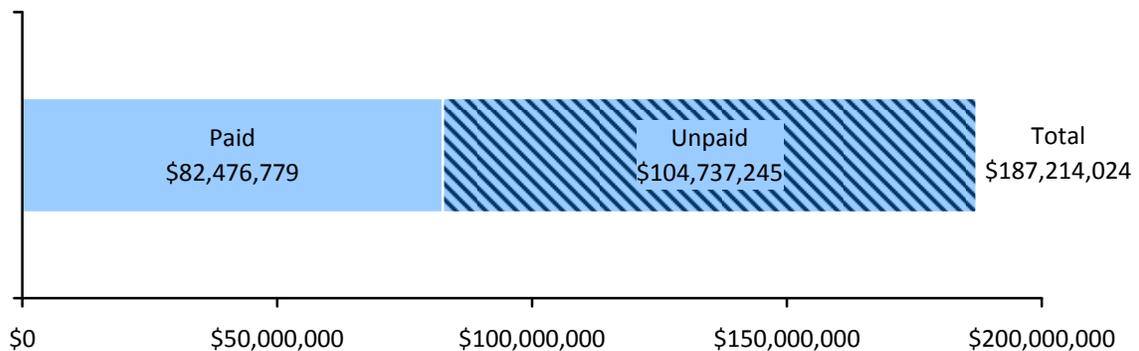
	Percent of respondents who have participated in activity in previous 12 months
Communicating/ visiting with friends and/or family	96%
Visited a neighborhood park	85%
Providing help to friends or relatives	82%
Used a public library in your community	64%
Participating in religious or spiritual activities with others	56%
Participating in a recreation program or group activity	50%
Used a senior center in your community	47%
Watched a meeting of local elected officials or other public meeting on cable television, the Internet or other media	47%
Volunteering your time to some group/activity in your community	42%
Participating in a club (including book, dance, game and other social)	41%
Used a recreation center in your community	36%
Attended a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting in your community	30%
Participating in a civic group (including Elks, Kiwanis, Masons, etc.)	13%
Used public transit (e.g., bus, subway, light rail, etc.) within your community	11%

Note: This table combines the results of questions 11 and 12, which have different response categories. Complete response frequencies for these questions can be found in Appendix A.

## Contributions of Older Adults to Fort Collins

Advantages of a community with a significant number of older adults can be read in lower crime statistics and smaller costs for infrastructure that requires fewer schools, less road maintenance, less crime fighting and smaller landfills. But the advantages that older adults provide to Fort Collins extend beyond the passive benefits of lower cost. Many older residents have time and inclination to offer productive work whether paid or not. In Fort Collins, older adults provide significant paid and unpaid contributions. In addition to their paid work, older adults contributed to Fort Collins through volunteering, providing informal help to family and friends, and offering more extensive caregiving. The value of these unpaid contributions by older adults in Fort Collins is estimated to be more than \$100 million in a 12-month period. Adding the value of their paid work, the total value of their contribution is over \$187 million in a 12-month period. For more information for how these estimates are calculated, see *Appendix B: Survey Methodology*.

**Figure 12: Estimated Annual Economic Contributions of Older Adults in Fort Collins**



## Fort Collins Opportunities and Challenges

Older adults, more than others, face difficulties with aspects of everyday life. For many older adults these difficulties vastly exceed the minor physical pains or small losses of function that characterize almost everyone's circumstances after a certain age. When individual problems are added together, a group picture emerges that provides a useful description of the entire community of Fort Collins. Nationally, areas where older adults face the largest share of life's challenges include caregiving, health and mental health, in-home support, nutrition and food security and transportation. This study explored specific problems or stressors encountered by older adults in Fort Collins, such as physical and emotional difficulties and injuries that have compromised their independence. Presented are the current individual areas of need and from those, the magnitude of broader categories of need.

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 whisper of some older adults who, no matter how sensitive the attempt, are too frail to participate in any survey enterprise.

Nonetheless, clear patterns of needs and strengths emerged from this assessment. About 6 in 10 older adults in Fort Collins reported problems with feeling like their voice is heard in the community, physical health, doing heavy or intense housework and staying physically fit. Ten percent or fewer older adults experienced problems with being a victim of crime, having enough food to eat and being physically or emotionally abused. Even the least frequently encountered issues affected hundreds of residents or more.

It should be understood that the percent of the population that experiences a problem is not a measure of how difficult a problem is to endure for the people who share it. Some needs, though rare as a percent of residents, have particularly devastating impacts on residents' quality of life – for example, needing help transferring from bed to wheelchair or having a problem with safety – so it is important to consider both the prevalence of the need and its centrality to residents' sustained independence.

**Figure 13: Older Adult Needs in Fort Collins**

Thinking back over the past 12 months, how much of a problem, if at all, has each of the following been for you?	Percent at least a "minor" problem	Number affected in 2000 (N=11,916) <sup>1</sup>
Feeling like your voice is heard in the community	60%	7,130
Your physical health	59%	7,019
Doing heavy or intense housework	59%	6,997
Staying physically fit	57%	6,804
Not knowing what services are available to older adults in your community	55%	6,508
Maintaining your yard	45%	5,339
Having adequate information or dealing with public programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid	43%	5,071
Dealing with financial planning issues	43%	5,070
Maintaining your home	42%	4,957
Finding affordable health insurance	42%	5,034

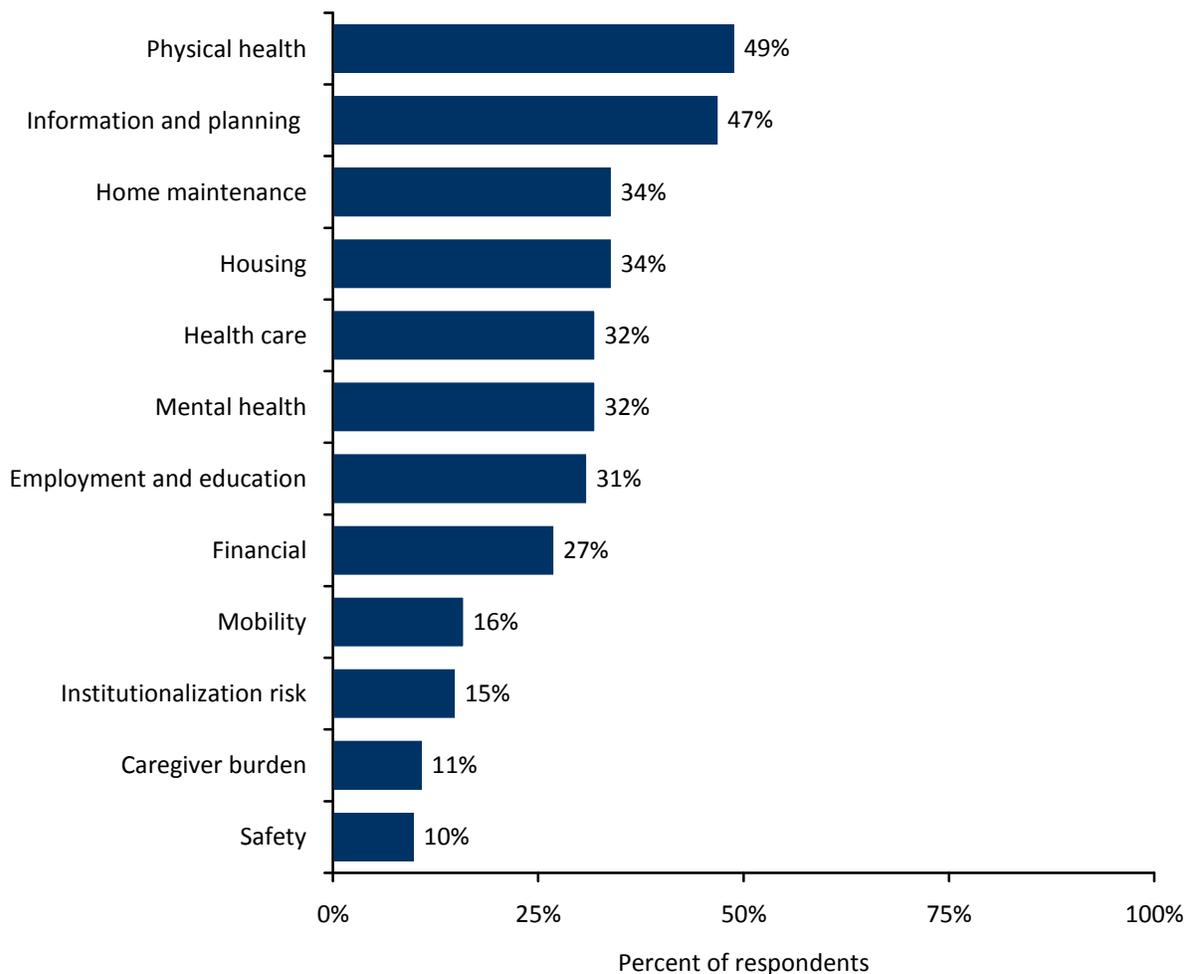
Thinking back over the past 12 months, how much of a problem, if at all, has each of the following been for you?	Percent at least a "minor" problem	Number affected in 2000 (N=11,916) <sup>1</sup>
Finding work in retirement	42%	5,063
Feeling depressed	41%	4,871
Experiencing confusion or forgetfulness	41%	4,833
Having tooth or mouth problems	40%	4,825
Maintaining a healthy diet	40%	4,734
Having interesting social events or activities to attend	38%	4,483
Feeling bored	38%	4,512
Having enough money to meet daily expenses	36%	4,231
Having interesting recreational or cultural activities to attend	36%	4,336
Building skills for paid or unpaid work	35%	4,156
Affording the medications you need	34%	4,026
Performing regular activities, including walking, eating and preparing meals	33%	3,905
Having enough money to pay your property taxes	33%	3,938
Getting the oral health care you need	32%	3,850
Dealing with legal issues	32%	3,864
Dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend	30%	3,562
Getting the health care you need	29%	3,503
Feeling lonely or isolated	29%	3,445
Finding meaningful volunteer work	27%	3,244
Providing care for another person	26%	3,068
Finding productive or meaningful activities to do	25%	2,955
Having safe and affordable transportation available	24%	2,891
Having friends or family you can rely on	21%	2,511
Falling or injuring yourself in your home	21%	2,529
Having housing to suit your needs	19%	2,251
No longer being able to drive	17%	1,980
Being a victim of fraud or a scam	16%	1,853
Being a victim of crime	10%	1,245
Having enough food to eat	7%	837
Being physically or emotionally abused	5%	618

<sup>1</sup>Source: U.S. Census Bureau - Census 2000

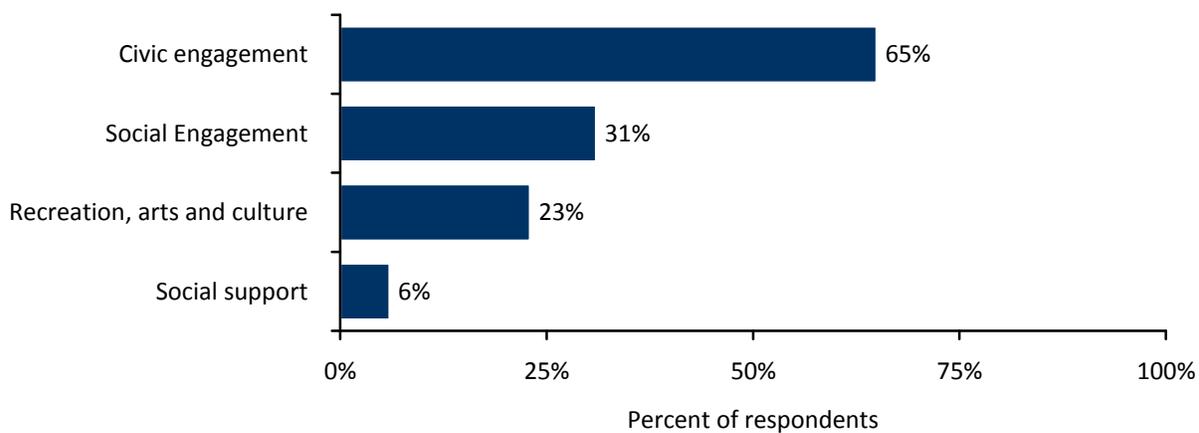
Displayed earlier in the report were the dimensions of community readiness, which combined survey questions into six categories. In addition to understanding how well the community operates to provide appropriate services for its older adults, it is important to understand what problems older adults face in their daily lives so that specific services can be considered where needs are great. Forty individual survey questions about specific problems faced by older community members, as well as respondent sociodemographics, participation levels and community engagement were grouped into 16 larger areas to provide a broad picture of older residents in the City of Fort Collins. These 16 areas were split into Core Life Needs (12 areas) and Social and Engagement Opportunities (four areas). The overall summary score for each of the 16 categories is provided in the following two charts. (See *Appendix B: Survey Methodology* for more information on the computation of these summary scores.)

The greatest Core Life Needs were in the areas of information and planning and physical health. Among Social and Engagement Opportunities, civic engagement rose to the top. Across all 16 needs areas, older residents reported the lowest prevalence of need in the area of social support, although these needs can be quite serious for the 8% of seniors affected.

**Figure 14: Older Adult Core Life Needs in the City of Fort Collins**



**Figure 15: Older Adult Social and Engagement Opportunities in the City of Fort Collins**



# Appendix A: Complete Set of Survey Frequencies

## Frequencies Excluding Don't Know Responses

This appendix displays all response categories for all questions. The first set of frequencies excludes the “don’t know” option and the second set includes “don’t know” responses.

Question 1: Quality of Community					
Please circle the number that comes closest to your opinion for each of the following questions.	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
How do you rate your community as a place to live?	53%	42%	5%	1%	100%
How do you rate your community as a place to retire?	43%	42%	13%	2%	100%

Question 2: Community Characteristics					
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Fort Collins adults age 60 or over:	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
Opportunities to volunteer	47%	46%	6%	0%	100%
Employment opportunities	4%	16%	54%	27%	100%
Opportunities to enroll in skill-building or personal enrichment classes	28%	54%	13%	5%	100%
Recreation opportunities (including games, arts and library services, etc.)	39%	47%	12%	1%	100%
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	53%	38%	8%	2%	100%
Opportunities to attend social events or activities	28%	54%	15%	3%	100%
Opportunities to attend religious or spiritual activities	49%	42%	7%	2%	100%
Opportunities to attend or participate in meetings about local government or community matters	25%	53%	16%	5%	100%
Availability of affordable quality housing	5%	33%	40%	22%	100%
Variety of housing options	9%	44%	35%	12%	100%
Availability of information about resources for older adults	22%	50%	21%	7%	100%
Availability of financial and legal planning services	14%	51%	27%	8%	100%
Availability of affordable quality physical health care	28%	38%	24%	10%	100%
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	16%	40%	32%	11%	100%
Availability of preventive health services (e.g., health screenings, flu shots, educational workshops)	30%	51%	16%	3%	100%
Availability of affordable quality food	24%	52%	20%	4%	100%
Sense of community	25%	46%	23%	6%	100%
Openness and acceptance of the community towards older residents of diverse backgrounds	14%	50%	29%	7%	100%
Ease of bus travel in your community	6%	27%	38%	29%	100%
Ease of car travel in your community	17%	57%	20%	6%	100%
Ease of walking in your community	30%	50%	17%	3%	100%

Question 3: Overall Services to Older Adults					
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
How would you rate the overall services provided to older adults in your community?	20%	58%	20%	2%	100%

Question 4: Level of Informedness about Services and Activities for Older Adults	
In general, how informed or uninformed do you feel about services and activities available to older adults in your community?	Percent of respondents
Very informed	18%
Somewhat informed	57%
Somewhat uninformed	16%
Very uninformed	9%
Total	100%

Question 5: Quality of Life and Health					
Please circle the number that comes closest to your opinion for each of the following questions.	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
How do you rate your overall physical health?	23%	54%	19%	4%	100%
How do you rate your overall mental health/emotional well being?	36%	51%	11%	1%	100%
How do you rate your overall quality of life?	35%	51%	12%	1%	100%

Question 6: Problems Faced by Older Adults					
The following questions list a number of problems that older adults may or may not face. Thinking back over the last 12 months, how much of a problem, if at all, has each of the following been for you?	Not a problem	Minor problem	Moderate problem	Major problem	Total
Having housing to suit your needs	81%	10%	6%	3%	100%
Your physical health	41%	30%	24%	5%	100%
Performing regular activities, including walking, eating and preparing meals	67%	17%	13%	3%	100%
Having enough food to eat	93%	3%	4%	1%	100%
Doing heavy or intense housework	41%	32%	15%	12%	100%
Having safe and affordable transportation available	76%	12%	8%	5%	100%
No longer being able to drive	83%	6%	1%	10%	100%
Feeling depressed	59%	25%	15%	1%	100%
Experiencing confusion or forgetfulness	59%	30%	9%	1%	100%
Maintaining your home	58%	25%	13%	4%	100%
Maintaining your yard	55%	27%	11%	7%	100%
Finding productive or meaningful activities to do	75%	14%	9%	2%	100%
Having friends or family you can rely on	79%	12%	7%	2%	100%
Falling or injuring yourself in your home	79%	15%	5%	0%	100%

Question 6: Problems Faced by Older Adults					
The following questions list a number of problems that older adults may or may not face. Thinking back over the last 12 months, how much of a problem, if at all, has each of the following been for you?	Not a problem	Minor problem	Moderate problem	Major problem	Total
Finding affordable health insurance	58%	19%	11%	12%	100%
Getting the health care you need	71%	17%	10%	3%	100%
Affording the medications you need	66%	19%	11%	4%	100%
Getting the oral health care you need	68%	15%	8%	10%	100%
Having tooth or mouth problems	60%	21%	11%	8%	100%
Having enough money to meet daily expenses	64%	18%	13%	5%	100%
Having enough money to pay your property taxes	67%	17%	9%	7%	100%
Staying physically fit	43%	30%	22%	6%	100%
Maintaining a healthy diet	60%	28%	10%	1%	100%
Having interesting recreational or cultural activities to attend	64%	21%	11%	4%	100%
Having interesting social events or activities to attend	62%	21%	12%	5%	100%
Feeling bored	62%	23%	11%	4%	100%
Feeling like your voice is heard in the community	40%	25%	21%	14%	100%
Finding meaningful volunteer work	73%	16%	8%	3%	100%
Providing care for another person	74%	14%	6%	6%	100%
Dealing with legal issues	68%	17%	11%	5%	100%
Having adequate information or dealing with public programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid	57%	25%	14%	4%	100%
Finding work in retirement	58%	13%	13%	16%	100%
Building skills for paid or unpaid work	65%	17%	11%	7%	100%
Not knowing what services are available to older adults in your community	45%	29%	16%	10%	100%
Feeling lonely or isolated	71%	17%	8%	4%	100%
Dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend	70%	16%	10%	4%	100%
Being a victim of crime	90%	6%	4%	1%	100%
Being a victim of fraud or a scam	84%	9%	5%	2%	100%
Being physically or emotionally abused	95%	2%	2%	0%	100%
Dealing with financial planning issues	57%	26%	10%	6%	100%

Question 7: Days Spent in Facilities					
Thinking back over the past 12 months, how many days did you spend in...	No days (zero)	One to two days	Three to five days	Six or more days	Total
As a patient in a hospital	75%	9%	8%	9%	100%
In a nursing home or in-patient rehabilitation facility	94%	1%	1%	5%	100%

Question 8: Falls in Last 12 Months	
Thinking back over the past 12 months, how many times have you fallen and injured yourself? Was it...	Percent of respondents
Never	71%
Once or twice	27%
3-5 times	2%
More than 5 times	0%
Total	100%

Question 9: Recommend Living in Community	
How likely or unlikely are you to recommend living in your community to older adults?	Percent of respondents
Very likely	58%
Somewhat likely	30%
Somewhat unlikely	7%
Very unlikely	6%
Total	100%

Question 10: Likelihood of Remaining in Community Throughout Retirement	
How likely or unlikely are you to remain in your community throughout your retirement?	Percent of respondents
Very likely	71%
Somewhat likely	20%
Somewhat unlikely	5%
Very unlikely	5%
Total	100%

Question 11: Participation in Activities					
In the last 12 month, about how many times, if ever, have you participated in or done each of the following?	Never	Once or twice	3 to 12 times	13 to 26 times	Total
Used a senior center in your community	56%	23%	15%	5%	100%
Used a recreation center in your community	70%	16%	9%	4%	100%
Used a public library in your community	40%	20%	30%	10%	100%
Attended a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting in your community	70%	21%	7%	1%	100%
Watched a meeting of local elected officials or other public meeting on cable television, the Internet or other media	55%	25%	17%	3%	100%
Used public transit (e.g., bus, subway, light rail, etc.) within your community	91%	7%	2%	0%	100%
Visited a neighborhood park	18%	28%	39%	16%	100%

Question 12: Hours Spent Doing Activities						
During a typical week, how many hours, if any, do you spend doing the following?	Never (no hours)	1 to 3 hours	4 to 5 hours	6 to 10 hours	11 or more hours	Total
Participating in a club (including book, dance, game and other social)	59%	22%	9%	6%	4%	100%
Participating in a civic group (including Elks, Kiwanis, Masons, etc.)	87%	8%	3%	1%	2%	100%
Communicating/ visiting with friends and/or family	4%	23%	25%	17%	30%	100%
Participating in religious or spiritual activities with others	44%	30%	10%	5%	11%	100%
Participating in a recreation program or group activity	50%	26%	12%	5%	6%	100%
Providing help to friends or relatives	18%	43%	18%	10%	11%	100%
Volunteering your time to some group/activity in your community	58%	25%	7%	3%	7%	100%

Question 13: Hours Spent Providing Care							
During a typical week, how many hours do you spend providing care for one or more individuals with whom you have a significant relationship (such as spouse, other relative, partner, friend, neighbor or child), whether or not they live with you?	Never (no hours)	1 to 3 hours	4 to 5 hours	6 to 10 hours	11 to 20 hours	20 or more hours	Total
One or more individuals age 60 or older	59%	17%	6%	5%	2%	10%	100%
One or more individuals age 18 to 59	69%	14%	6%	2%	2%	7%	100%
One or more individuals under age 18	65%	15%	6%	6%	3%	5%	100%

Question 14: Receives Care	
Whether or not they live with you, does someone provide assistance to you almost every day?	Percent of respondents
Yes	15%
No	85%
Total	100%

Question D1: Length of Residency	
How many years have you lived in your community?	Percent of respondents
Less than 1 year	4%
1-5 years	13%
6-10 years	11%
11-20 years	16%
More than 20 years	55%
Total	100%

Question D2: Housing Unit Type	
Which best describes the building you live in?	Percent of respondents
Single family home	73%
Townhouse, condominium, duplex or apartment	21%
Mobile home	3%
Assisted living residence	1%
Nursing home	0%
Other	1%
Total	100%

Question D3: Tenure (Rent or Own)	
Do you currently rent or own your home?	Percent of respondents
Rent	23%
Own (with a mortgage payment)	33%
Own (free and clear; no mortgage)	44%
Total	100%

Question D4: Monthly Housing Costs	
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 of respondents
Less than \$300 per month	19%
\$300 to \$599 per month	22%
\$600 to \$999 per month	24%
\$1,000 to \$1,499 per month	19%
\$1,500 to \$2,499 per month	13%
\$2,500 or more per month	4%
Total	100%

Question D5: Total Number of Household Members	
How many people, including yourself, live in your household?	Percent of respondents
1 person (live alone)	42%
2 people	48%
3 people	7%
4 or more people	3%
Total	100%

Question D6: Number of Older Adult Household Members	
How many of these people, including yourself, are 60 or older?	Percent of respondents
1 person	56%
2 people	44%
3 people	0%
4 or more people	1%
Total	100%

Question D7: Retirement Status	
What is your employment status?	Percent of respondents
Fully retired	70%
Working full time for pay	16%
Working part time for pay	10%
Unemployed, looking for paid work	3%
Total	100%

Question D8: Expected Age of Retirement	
[If not yet fully retired] At what age do you expect to retire completely and not work for pay at all?	Percent of respondents
60 to 64	10%
65 to 69	46%
70 to 74	18%
75 or older	26%
Never	0%
Don't know	0%
Total	100%

Question D9: Household Income	
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 of respondents
Less than \$15,000	16%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	15%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	31%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	15%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	10%
\$100,000 or more	13%
Total	100%

Question D10: Respondent Ethnicity/Origin	
Are you Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?	Percent of respondents
Yes	5%
No	95%
Total	100%

Question D11: Respondent Race	
What is your race?	Percent of respondents
American Indian or Alaskan native	2%
Asian or Pacific Islander	1%
Black, African American	0%
White/Caucasian	97%
Other	1%
Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one option.	

Question D12: Respondent Age	
In which category is your age?	Percent of respondents
60-64 years	29%
65-69 years	16%
70-74 years	15%
75-79 years	16%
80-84 years	13%
85-89 years	5%
90-94 years	4%
95 years or older	2%
Total	100%

Question D13: Respondent Gender	
What is your sex?	Percent of respondents
Female	58%
Male	42%
Total	100%

Question D14: Respondent Sexual Orientation	
What is your sexual orientation?	Percent of respondents
Heterosexual	99%
Lesbian	0%
Gay	0%
Bisexual	0%
Total	100%

Question D15: Voter Registration Status	
Are you registered to vote in your jurisdiction?	Percent of respondents
Yes	91%
No	8%
Ineligible to vote	1%
Total	100%

Question D16: Voted in Last General Election	
Many people don't have time to vote in elections. Did you vote in the last general election?	Percent of respondents
Yes	90%
No	8%
Ineligible to vote	1%
Total	100%

## Frequencies Including Don't Know Responses

These tables contain the percentage of respondents for each response category as well as the N or total number of respondents for each category, next to the percentage. When the total N for a question does not equal the total number of all respondents, it is due to some respondents skipping the question.

Question 1: Quality of Community												
Please circle the number that comes closest to your opinion for each of the following questions.	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	How do you rate your community as a place to live?	53%	167	42%	132	5%	15	1%	2	1%	2	100%
How do you rate your community as a place to retire?	43%	133	41%	127	12%	39	2%	8	1%	4	100%	310

Question 2: Community Characteristics												
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Fort Collins adults age 60 or over:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	Opportunities to volunteer	43%	137	42%	134	6%	18	0%	1	9%	30	100%
Employment opportunities	2%	8	10%	33	35%	111	18%	55	34%	107	100%	313
Opportunities to enroll in skill-building or personal enrichment classes	22%	69	43%	134	10%	32	4%	12	22%	68	100%	314
Recreation opportunities (including games, arts and library services, etc.)	36%	116	44%	141	11%	37	1%	4	7%	22	100%	320
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	50%	160	36%	114	8%	25	2%	5	5%	15	100%	320
Opportunities to attend social events or activities	25%	79	48%	152	13%	42	3%	8	11%	35	100%	316
Opportunities to attend religious or spiritual activities	43%	136	37%	118	6%	19	2%	5	13%	40	100%	319
Opportunities to attend or participate in meetings about local government or community matters	21%	67	44%	141	14%	44	4%	13	17%	53	100%	318
Availability of affordable quality housing	4%	12	26%	82	31%	98	17%	54	23%	72	100%	319
Variety of housing options	7%	23	37%	114	30%	91	10%	31	16%	50	100%	309
Availability of information about resources for older adults	19%	60	44%	136	19%	58	6%	19	12%	39	100%	312
Availability of financial and legal planning services	10%	32	37%	116	20%	61	6%	18	27%	84	100%	311
Availability of affordable quality physical health care	25%	77	33%	103	21%	66	9%	26	12%	37	100%	310
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	10%	30	24%	73	19%	59	6%	20	40%	123	100%	304
Availability of preventive health services (e.g., health screenings, flu	28%	89	48%	154	15%	48	3%	9	7%	21	100%	321

Question 2: Community Characteristics												
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Fort Collins adults age 60 or over:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	shots, educational workshops)											
Availability of affordable quality food	23%	73	49%	157	19%	60	3%	11	5%	16	100%	319
Sense of community	23%	71	42%	129	21%	66	5%	16	9%	28	100%	311
Openness and acceptance of the community towards older residents of diverse backgrounds	11%	35	41%	126	24%	73	6%	19	19%	58	100%	312
Ease of bus travel in your community	4%	12	18%	54	25%	76	19%	57	35%	107	100%	306
Ease of car travel in your community	17%	52	56%	172	20%	61	5%	17	2%	7	100%	309
Ease of walking in your community	28%	88	48%	151	16%	50	3%	10	4%	12	100%	311

Question 3: Overall Services to Older Adults		
How would you rate the overall services provided to older adults in your community?	Percent of respondents	Count
Excellent	18%	57
Good	51%	163
Fair	17%	55
Poor	2%	7
Don't know	12%	40
Total	100%	322

Question 4: Level of Informedness about Services and Activities for Older Adults		
In general, how informed or uninformed do you feel about services and activities available to older adults in your community?	Percent of respondents	Count
Very informed	18%	59
Somewhat informed	57%	184
Somewhat uninformed	16%	52
Very uninformed	9%	28
Total	100%	323

Question 5: Quality of Life and Health												
Please circle the number that comes closest to your opinion for each of the following questions.	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	How do you rate your overall physical health?	23%	75	54%	172	19%	60	4%	14	0%	0	100%
How do you rate your overall mental health/emotional well being?	36%	116	51%	165	11%	36	1%	4	0%	1	100%	322
How do you rate your overall quality of life?	35%	112	51%	163	12%	39	1%	4	0%	0	100%	318

**Question 6: Problems Faced by Older Adults**

The following questions list a number of problems that older adults may or may not face. Thinking back over the last 12 months, how much of a problem, if at all, has each of the following been for you?	Not a problem		Minor problem		Moderate problem		Major problem		Don't know		Total	
	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
Having housing to suit your needs	80%	257	10%	31	6%	20	3%	9	2%	6	100%	322
Your physical health	41%	131	30%	97	23%	75	5%	17	0%	1	100%	321
Performing regular activities, including walking, eating and preparing meals	66%	214	17%	55	12%	40	3%	9	1%	4	100%	322
Having enough food to eat	93%	296	3%	9	4%	12	1%	2	0%	1	100%	320
Doing heavy or intense housework	41%	130	31%	100	15%	47	12%	38	1%	2	100%	317
Having safe and affordable transportation available	71%	223	11%	35	7%	23	4%	13	6%	19	100%	314
No longer being able to drive	75%	225	6%	17	1%	2	9%	26	10%	31	100%	301
Feeling depressed	57%	180	24%	75	15%	46	1%	4	3%	11	100%	316
Experiencing confusion or forgetfulness	58%	186	30%	95	9%	28	1%	4	2%	5	100%	319
Maintaining your home	58%	183	25%	80	12%	39	4%	11	0%	1	100%	315
Maintaining your yard	53%	162	25%	78	11%	34	6%	20	5%	14	100%	308
Finding productive or meaningful activities to do	74%	233	14%	43	9%	27	2%	7	2%	6	100%	316
Having friends or family you can rely on	78%	251	12%	39	7%	21	2%	6	1%	2	100%	320
Falling or injuring yourself in your home	78%	247	15%	49	5%	17	0%	1	1%	4	100%	318
Finding affordable health insurance	57%	182	19%	61	11%	36	11%	37	1%	4	100%	320
Getting the health care you need	70%	225	17%	53	9%	30	3%	10	1%	3	100%	323
Affording the medications you need	65%	208	19%	60	10%	33	4%	13	2%	5	100%	319
Getting the oral health care you need	67%	214	15%	48	8%	24	9%	30	1%	4	100%	320
Having tooth or mouth problems	59%	188	21%	66	11%	36	8%	26	1%	2	100%	318
Having enough money to meet daily expenses	64%	205	18%	57	13%	41	5%	15	0%	1	100%	319
Having enough money to pay your property taxes	62%	191	16%	49	8%	25	7%	20	8%	24	100%	309
Staying physically fit	43%	137	30%	96	22%	69	6%	18	0%	0	100%	319
Maintaining a healthy diet	60%	193	28%	91	10%	32	1%	4	0%	0	100%	320

Question 6: Problems Faced by Older Adults												
The following questions list a number of problems that older adults may or may not face. Thinking back over the last 12 months, how much of a problem, if at all, has each of the following been for you?	Not a problem		Minor problem		Moderate problem		Major problem		Don't know		Total	
	Having interesting recreational or cultural activities to attend	61%	191	21%	64	10%	33	4%	12	4%	13	100%
Having interesting social events or activities to attend	59%	186	20%	64	11%	35	4%	13	5%	16	100%	314
Feeling bored	62%	196	22%	71	11%	35	4%	13	1%	2	100%	318
Feeling like your voice is heard in the community	30%	94	19%	60	16%	49	10%	32	24%	75	100%	310
Finding meaningful volunteer work	55%	168	12%	36	6%	19	2%	7	25%	76	100%	308
Providing care for another person	57%	173	11%	33	4%	13	5%	14	23%	70	100%	303
Dealing with legal issues	59%	177	15%	44	9%	28	4%	13	13%	40	100%	302
Having adequate information or dealing with public programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid	53%	166	23%	72	13%	40	3%	11	7%	22	100%	310
Finding work in retirement	40%	118	9%	28	9%	27	11%	32	31%	92	100%	296
Building skills for paid or unpaid work	41%	126	11%	32	7%	22	4%	13	37%	112	100%	305
Not knowing what services are available to older adults in your community	39%	124	25%	78	14%	45	8%	26	14%	43	100%	316
Feeling lonely or isolated	70%	221	16%	52	8%	25	4%	13	2%	6	100%	317
Dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend	65%	204	15%	46	9%	29	4%	12	7%	21	100%	312
Being a victim of crime	81%	250	6%	18	3%	10	1%	2	10%	30	100%	309
Being a victim of fraud or a scam	77%	244	8%	25	4%	14	2%	6	9%	27	100%	315
Being physically or emotionally abused	87%	275	2%	7	2%	7	0%	1	9%	27	100%	317
Dealing with financial planning issues	55%	175	25%	80	10%	31	6%	18	4%	13	100%	317

Question 7: Days Spent in Facilities												
Thinking back over the past 12 months, how many days did you spend in...	No days (zero)		One to two days		Three to five days		Six or more days		Don't know		Total	
	As a patient in a hospital	75%	231	9%	26	8%	23	9%	27	0%	0	100%
In a nursing home or in-patient rehabilitation facility	94%	277	1%	2	1%	2	5%	15	0%	0	100%	296

Question 8: Falls in Last 12 Months		
Thinking back over the past 12 months, how many times have you fallen and injured yourself? Was it...	Percent of respondents	Count
Never	71%	226
Once or twice	27%	85
3-5 times	2%	7
More than 5 times	0%	0
Don't know	0%	0
6	0%	2
Total	100%	320

Question 9: Recommend Living in Community		
How likely or unlikely are you to recommend living in your community to older adults?	Percent of respondents	Count
Very likely	55%	174
Somewhat likely	28%	89
Somewhat unlikely	6%	19
Very unlikely	5%	16
Don't know	6%	18
Total	100%	317

Question 10: Likelihood of Remaining in Community Throughout Retirement		
How likely or unlikely are you to remain in your community throughout your retirement?	Percent of respondents	Count
Very likely	66%	210
Somewhat likely	19%	60
Somewhat unlikely	4%	13
Very unlikely	4%	13
Don't know	7%	22
Total	100%	318

Question 11: Participation in Activities													
In the last 12 month, about how many times, if ever, have you participated in or done each of the following?	Never		Once or twice		3 to 12 times		13 to 26 times		More than 26 times		Total		
	Used a senior center in your community	53%	170	22%	71	14%	44	5%	16	7%	22	100%	323
Used a recreation center in your community	64%	205	15%	48	8%	27	4%	11	9%	27	100%	318	
Used a public library in your community	36%	116	18%	57	27%	86	9%	30	10%	31	100%	319	
Attended a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting in your community	70%	224	21%	67	7%	22	1%	4	1%	3	100%	321	
Watched a meeting of local elected officials or other public meeting on cable television, the Internet or other media	53%	171	24%	77	17%	54	3%	10	3%	8	100%	320	
Used public transit (e.g., bus, subway, light rail, etc.) within your community	89%	286	7%	22	2%	7	0%	1	1%	4	100%	319	
Visited a neighborhood park	15%	49	24%	77	34%	109	14%	44	13%	43	100%	323	

Question 12: Hours Spent Doing Activities														
During a typical week, how many hours, if any, do you spend doing the following?	Never (no hours)		1 to 3 hours		4 to 5 hours		6 to 10 hours		11 or more hours		Don't know		Total	
	Participating in a club (including book, dance, game and other social)	58%	183	22%	68	9%	29	5%	17	4%	14	0%	1	100%
Participating in a civic group (including Elks, Kiwanis, Masons, etc.)	87%	270	8%	24	3%	8	1%	3	2%	5	0%	1	100%	311
Communicating/ visiting with friends and/or family	4%	14	23%	71	25%	77	17%	53	30%	94	1%	4	100%	313
Participating in religious or spiritual activities with others	44%	136	30%	94	10%	32	5%	16	10%	33	1%	2	100%	313
Participating in a recreation program or group activity	50%	153	26%	81	12%	36	5%	16	6%	20	1%	4	100%	309
Providing help to friends or relatives	18%	55	42%	129	17%	52	10%	30	11%	33	2%	6	100%	306
Volunteering your time to some group/activity in your community	57%	184	25%	80	7%	23	3%	8	7%	21	1%	4	100%	321

Question 13: Hours Spent Providing Care																
During a typical week, how many hours do you spend providing care for one or more individuals with whom you have a significant relationship (such as spouse, other relative, partner, friend, neighbor or child), whether or not they live with you?	Never (no hours)		1 to 3 hours		4 to 5 hours		6 to 10 hours		11 to 20 hours		20 or more hours		Don't know		Total	
	One or more individuals age 60 or older	58%	183	17%	54	6%	20	5%	14	2%	8	10%	30	1%	4	100%
One or more individuals age 18 to 59	68%	199	13%	39	6%	18	2%	7	2%	5	7%	21	2%	5	100%	294
One or more individuals under age 18	64%	191	14%	43	6%	18	6%	18	3%	8	5%	16	1%	3	100%	296

Question 14: Receives Care		
Whether or not they live with you, does someone provide assistance to you almost every day?	Percent of respondents	Count
Yes	15%	48
No	85%	272
Total	100%	320

Question D1: Length of Residency		
How many years have you lived in your community?	Percent of respondents	Count
Less than 1 year	4%	13
1-5 years	13%	43
6-10 years	11%	35
11-20 years	16%	52
More than 20 years	55%	179
Total	100%	322

Question D2: Housing Unit Type		
Which best describes the building you live in?	Percent of respondents	Count
Single family home	73%	238
Townhouse, condominium, duplex or apartment	21%	69
Mobile home	3%	11
Assisted living residence	1%	3
Nursing home	0%	0
Other	1%	3
Total	100%	325

Question D3: Tenure (Rent or Own)		
Do you currently rent or own your home?	Percent of respondents	Count
Rent	23%	74
Own (with a mortgage payment)	33%	107
Own (free and clear; no mortgage)	44%	140
Total	100%	322

Question D4: Monthly Housing Costs		
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 of respondents	Count
Less than \$300 per month	19%	57
\$300 to \$599 per month	22%	69
\$600 to \$999 per month	24%	72
\$1,000 to \$1,499 per month	19%	59
\$1,500 to \$2,499 per month	13%	38
\$2,500 or more per month	4%	11
Total	100%	306

Question D5: Total Number of Household Members		
How many people, including yourself, live in your household?	Percent of respondents	Count
1 person (live alone)	42%	135
2 people	48%	155
3 people	7%	22
4 or more people	3%	10
Don't know	0%	0
Total	100%	321

Question D6: Number of Older Adult Household Members		
How many of these people, including yourself, are 60 or older?	Percent of respondents	Count
1 person	56%	170
2 people	44%	134
3 people	0%	0
4 or more people	1%	2
Don't know	0%	0
Total	100%	305

Question D7: Retirement Status		
What is your employment status?	Percent of respondents	Count
Fully retired	70%	219
Working full time for pay	16%	50
Working part time for pay	10%	31
Unemployed, looking for paid work	3%	11
Total	100%	311

Question D8: Expected Age of Retirement		
[If not yet fully retired] At what age do you expect to retire completely and not work for pay at all?	Percent of respondents	Count
60 to 64	10%	8
65 to 69	46%	34
70 to 74	18%	13
75 or older	26%	20
Never	0%	0
Don't know	0%	0
Total	100%	75

Question D9: Household Income		
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 of respondents	Count
Less than \$15,000	16%	48
\$15,000 to \$24,999	15%	44
\$25,000 to \$49,999	31%	92
\$50,000 to \$74,999	15%	46
\$75,000 to \$99,999	10%	29
\$100,000 or more	13%	38
Total	100%	297

Question D10: Respondent Ethnicity/Origin		
Are you Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?	Percent of respondents	Count
Yes	5%	16
No	95%	304
Total	100%	320

Question D11: Respondent Race		
What is your race?	Percent of respondents	Count
American Indian or Alaskan native	2%	5
Asian or Pacific Islander	1%	4
Black, African American	0%	1
White/Caucasian	97%	310
Other	1%	3
Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one option.		

Question D12: Respondent Age		
In which category is your age?	Percent of respondents	Count
60-64 years	29%	95
65-69 years	16%	50
70-74 years	15%	48
75-79 years	16%	52
80-84 years	13%	41
85-89 years	5%	15
90-94 years	4%	13
95 years or older	2%	7
Total	100%	321

Question D13: Respondent Gender		
What is your sex?	Percent of respondents	Count
Female	58%	186
Male	42%	136
Total	100%	322

Question D14: Respondent Sexual Orientation		
What is your sexual orientation?	Percent of respondents	Count
Heterosexual	99%	293
Lesbian	0%	0
Gay	0%	1
Bisexual	0%	1
Total	100%	295

Question D15: Voter Registration Status		
Are you registered to vote in your jurisdiction?	Percent of respondents	Count
Yes	91%	293
No	8%	27
Ineligible to vote	1%	2
Don't know	0%	1
Total	100%	322

Question D16: Voted in Last General Election		
Many people don't have time to vote in elections. Did you vote in the last general election?	Percent of respondents	Count
Yes	90%	291
No	8%	27
Ineligible to vote	1%	4
Don't know	0%	1
Total	100%	323

## Appendix B: Survey Methodology

### Data Collection Methods Used in the CASOA™

The CASOA™ instrument and its administration are standardized to assure high quality survey methods and comparable results across CASOA™ communities. The CASOA™ was customized for Larimer County to reflect the correct local age definition of older adults and so that the mailing materials used official Larimer County graphics, contact information and signatures.

#### Survey 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 in the community and of 40 different needs common to older adults.

The questionnaire grew from a synthesis of a number of 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 the conduct of numerous surveys and large scale needs assessments by NRC. A blue-ribbon panel of national experts contributed to the concept and content of the CASOA™.

The items in the questionnaire were pilot tested on senior 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.

#### Survey Sampling

“Sampling” refers to the method by which survey recipients are chosen. The “sample” refers to all those who were given a chance to participate in the survey. A sample of residents in the area 60 years of age and older was used. Although the purchased list of known senior households contained names of the residents 60 years and older, no name was printed on the survey envelope; instead, the survey was addressed to “Resident.” The list of households was compiled from a variety of public sources.

In order to select a random individual 60 years of age and older within the household, the cover letter requested that the questionnaire be given to the person 60 years of age and older who most recently celebrated their birthday (regardless of year of birth) to complete. This “birthday method” is a respondent selection method which helps to randomly select an individual within a household. It is similar to other more complex methodologies (e.g., “Kisch” or “Trodahl”), but easier to implement.

#### Survey Administration

Each sampled household received three mailings beginning in June 2010. Completed surveys were collected over the following five weeks. The first mailing was a prenotification postcard announcing the upcoming survey. A week after the prenotification postcard mailed the first wave of the survey was sent. The second wave mailed one week after the first. The survey mailings

contained a letter from the Larimer County Department of Human Services Program Manager for the Office on Aging inviting the household to participate in the CASOA™, a questionnaire and postage-paid envelope in which to return the questionnaire.

### Survey Response Rate and Confidence Intervals

Overall, 116 of the 2,500 postcards sent to Larimer County older residents were returned as undeliverable because they either had addresses that were undeliverable as addressed or were received by vacant housing units. Of the 2,384 households receiving the survey mailings, 1,277 completed the survey, providing a response rate of 54%. This is a good response rate; older adults participate in surveys at a higher rate than younger adults.

The 2,500 surveys sent to Larimer County included 625 in Fort Collins. A total of 325 completed surveys were obtained for Fort Collins, providing a margin of error of plus or minus 5% around any given percent and three points around any given average rating for the entire sample. The response rate for Fort Collins was 54%.

It is customary to describe the precision of estimates made from 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.

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 error 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.

For subgroups of responses, the margin of error increases because the sample size for the subgroup is smaller. For subgroups of approximately 100 respondents, the margin of error is plus or minus 10 percentage points.

The practical difficulties of conducting any resident survey may introduce other sources of error in addition to sampling error. Despite best efforts to boost participation and ensure potential inclusion of all older adults, some selected households will decline participation in the survey (potentially introducing non-response error) and some eligible households may be unintentionally excluded from the listed sources for the sample (referred to as coverage error).

### Survey Processing (Data Entry)

Completed surveys received were assigned a unique identification number. Additionally, each survey was reviewed and “cleaned” as necessary. For example, a question may have asked a respondent to pick one response, but the respondent checked two; the cleaning process would involve randomly selecting one of the two selected responses to be recorded in the dataset.

Once all surveys were assigned a unique identification number, they were entered into an electronic dataset. This dataset was subject to a data entry protocol of “key and verify,” in which survey data were entered twice into an electronic dataset and then compared. Discrepancies were evaluated against the original survey form and corrected. “Range checks” (examination of the data for invalid values) as well as other forms of quality control also were performed.

## Survey Data Weighting

The demographic characteristics of those completing the survey were compared to those found in the 2000 Census estimates and other population norms for residents age 60 and older living in Larimer County because the more current American Community Survey (ACS) estimates were not available for municipalities within the County and because ACS data for racial/ethnic information is not broken down by age group. Sample results were weighted using the population norms to reflect the appropriate percent of those residents. Other discrepancies between the whole population and the sample also were aided by the weighting due to the intercorrelation of many socioeconomic characteristics.

The variables used for weighting were sex, age, race, ethnicity, housing tenure (rent/own), housing unit type and geographic area. This decision was based on the disparity between the survey respondent characteristics, the population norms for these variables and the saliency of these variables in detecting differences of opinion among subgroups.

The primary objective of weighting survey data is to make the survey sample reflective of the larger older adult population of the community. This is done by: 1) reviewing the sample demographics and comparing them to the population norms from the most recent Census or other sources and 2) comparing the responses to different questions for demographic subgroups. The demographic characteristics that are least similar to the Census and yield the most different results are the best candidates for data weighting.

A special software program using mathematical algorithms is used to calculate the appropriate weights. Data weighting can adjust multiple demographic variables. Several different weighting “schemes” may be tested to ensure the best fit for the data.

The results of the weighting schemes for Larimer County and Fort Collins are presented in the following tables.

Figure 16: Weighting Scheme for the 2010 Larimer County CASOA™

	U.S. Census Norm	Unweighted data	Weighted data
<b>Sex and Age</b>			
60-74	65%	65%	65%
75-84	26%	26%	26%
85+	9%	9%	9%
Female	56%	55%	55%
Male	44%	45%	45%
Female 60-74	34%	34%	34%
Female 75-84	15%	15%	15%
Female 85+	6%	6%	6%
Male 60-74	31%	31%	31%
Male 75-84	11%	11%	11%
Male 85+	3%	3%	3%
<b>Race and Ethnicity</b>			
White	97%	97%	97%
Non-white	3%	3%	3%
Hispanic	3%	3%	3%
Not Hispanic	97%	97%	97%
<b>Housing</b>			
Rent	17%	18%	17%
Own	83%	82%	83%
Detached	85%	84%	84%
Attached	15%	16%	15%
<b>Area</b>			
Berthoud	2%	5%	2%
Fort Collins	5%	20%	5%
Fort Collins	37%	26%	36%
Loveland	25%	25%	25%
Other	31%	24%	32%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau - Census 2000

Figure 17: Weighting Scheme for the 2010 Fort Collins CASOA™

	U.S. Census Norm	Unweighted data	Weighted data
<b>Sex and Age</b>			
60-74	60%	68%	60%
75-84	29%	25%	29%
85+	12%	7%	11%
Female	59%	52%	58%
Male	41%	48%	42%
Female 60-74	33%	34%	32%
Female 75-84	18%	13%	18%
Female 85+	8%	5%	8%
Male 60-74	27%	35%	28%
Male 75-84	11%	12%	11%
Male 85+	3%	2%	3%
<b>Race and Ethnicity</b>			
White	96%	95%	96%
Non-white	4%	5%	4%
Hispanic	4%	4%	5%
Not Hispanic	96%	96%	95%
<b>Housing</b>			
Rent	23%	15%	23%
Own	77%	85%	77%
Detached	78%	76%	77%
Attached	22%	24%	23%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau - Census 2000

## Survey Data Analysis and Reporting

The survey dataset was analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). For the most part, frequency distributions and mean ratings are presented in the body of the report. A complete set of frequencies for each survey question is presented in *Appendix A: Complete Set of Survey Frequencies*.

A variety of analyses were presented in the body of the report. The following sections summarize how these analyses were conducted or scores calculated.

### Estimates of the Contribution of Older Adults to the Economy

---

The calculations of the economic contributions of older adults in Fort Collins 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). The source changes from DOLA to Census information when reporting for municipalities; the specific source is noted for each table.

The proportion of older adults who work was estimated by examining the responses to question D9 from the survey (“What is your employment status?”). Those working full-time were assumed to work 32 hours per week and those working part-time were assumed to work 15 hours per week. The proportion of survey respondents was multiplied by the number of adults 60 and over in community to ascertain the number of employed older adults. To determine the average paid wage, information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics for Fort Collins-Loveland, CO MSA was examined. Working full-time and part-time was assumed to be the equivalent of “All Occupations” (occupation code 00-0000).

The proportion of older adults doing volunteer work and providing help to friends and neighbors was determined by looking at the responses to question 12 (“During a typical week, how many hours, if any, do you spend doing the following?”), items f (“providing help to family and friends” and g (“volunteering your time to some group/activity”). Those responding “1 to 3 hours” were assumed to spend two hours, “4 to 5 hours” were assumed to spend 4.5 hours, those responding “6 to 10 hours” were assumed to spend eight hours, and those responding “11 or more hours” were assumed to spend 13.75 hours (median of 11 and 125% of 11). To determine the average hourly wage, “providing help to family and friends” was assumed to be the equivalent of “Personal Care and Service Workers, All Other” (occupation code 39-9099) and volunteering was assumed to be the equivalent of “Office Clerks, General” (occupation code 43-9061).

The proportion of older adults providing care to family and friends was determined by examining the responses to question 13. Those responding “1 to 3 hours” were assumed to spend two hours, “4 to 5 hours” were assumed to spend 4.5 hours, those responding “6 to 10 hours” were assumed to spend eight hours, and those responding “11 to 19 hours” were assumed to spend 15 hours, and those responding “20 or more hours” were assumed to spend 25 hours (median of 20 and 125% of 20). To determine the average hourly wage, providing care for older adults and adults (items a and b) were assumed to be the equivalent of “Personal and Home Care Aides” (occupation code 39-9021) and providing care for children (item c) was assumed to be the equivalent of “Child Care Workers” (occupation code 39-9011).

## Community Summary Scores

---

The community score presented in the body of the report 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,” “not a problem,” “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 reported “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 (half way between “good” and “fair”), then the result would be 50. The new scale can be thought of like the thermometer used to represent total giving to United Way. The higher the thermometer reading, the closer to the goal of 100 – in this case, the most positive response possible. The following table shows the individual questions comprising each summary score.

Index	Individual Variables Used in Index
Quality of Community	q1a. How do you rate your community as a place to live?
	q1b. How do you rate your community as a place to retire?
	q3. How would you rate the overall services provided to older adults in your community?
Community Information	q2k. Availability of information about resources for older adults
	q2l. Availability of financial and legal planning services
Health and Wellness Opportunities	q2e. Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)
	q2m. Availability of affordable quality physical health care
	q2n. Availability of affordable quality mental health care
	q2o. Availability of preventive health services (e.g., health screenings, flu shots, educational workshops)
	q2p. Availability of affordable quality food
	q2x. Overall feeling of safety in your community
Opportunities for Productive Activities	q2a. Opportunities to volunteer
	q2b. Employment opportunities
	q2c. Opportunities to enroll in skill-building or personal enrichment classes
	q2d. Recreation opportunities (including games, arts and library services, etc.)
	q2f. Opportunities to attend social events or activities
	q2g. Opportunities to attend religious or spiritual activities
	q2h. Opportunities to attend or participate in meetings about local government or community matters
Community Design and Land Use	q2i. Availability of affordable quality housing
	q2j. Variety of housing options
	q2s. Ease of bus travel in your community
	q2u. Ease of car travel in your community
	q2v. Ease of walking in your community
Community and Belonging	q2w. Ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit
	q2q. Sense of community
	q2r. Openness and acceptance of the community towards older residents of diverse backgrounds
	q2y. Valuing older residents in your community
q2z. Neighborliness of your community	

## Needs Summary Scores

The needs summary scores (indices) are based on the response patterns of older adults in the community. The following table contains each question included in the index and the required response to that question. So, for example, if a respondent indicated that her overall physical health (q5a) was “fair,” she would be counted as having a physical health issue along with other respondents who may have noted that they had a moderate or major problem with falling or maintaining a healthy diet, etc. Respondents with many physical health problems are counted only once in this category so that the total percent shown in the report graph represents the percent of older adults with at least one physical problem.

Index	Individual Variables Used in Index	Required Rating
Physical health	Must have at least one of the following:	
	q5a. How do you rate your overall physical health?	Fair or poor
	q7b. In a nursing home or in-patient rehabilitation facility	At least 1 day
	q6(a)b. Your physical health	Moderate or major problem
	q6(a)c. Performing regular activities, including walking, eating and preparing meals	Moderate or major problem
	q6(a)n. Falling or injuring yourself in your home	Moderate or major problem
	q6(b)v. Staying physically fit	Moderate or major problem
	q6(b)w. Maintaining a healthy diet	Moderate or major problem
	q6(a)s. Having tooth or mouth problems	Moderate or major problem
Mental health	Must have at least one of the following:	
	q5b. How do you rate your overall mental health/emotional well being?	Fair or poor
	q5c. How do you rate your overall quality of life?	Fair or poor
	q6(a)h. Feeling depressed	Moderate or major problem
	q6(a)i. Experiencing confusion or forgetfulness	Moderate or major problem
	q6(b)jj. Dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend	Moderate or major problem
Independence/ Institutionalization risk	Must have:	
	q6(a)c. Performing regular activities, including walking, eating and preparing meals	Moderate or major problem
Safety	Must have at least one of the following:	
	q6(b)kk. Being a victim of crime	Moderate or major problem
	q6(b)ll. Being a victim of fraud or a scam	Moderate or major problem
	q6(b)mm. Being physically or emotionally abused	Moderate or major problem
Mobility	Must have at least one of the following:	
	q6(a)f. Having safe and affordable transportation available	Moderate or major problem

Index	Individual Variables Used in Index	Required Rating
	q6(a)g. No longer being able to drive	Moderate or major problem
Housing	Must have at least one of the following: d4. 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)?/ d9. 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.)	Housing cost >30% of income
	q6(a)a. Having housing to suit your needs	Moderate or major problem
	Must have at least one of the following:	
Home maintenance	q6(a)e. Doing heavy or intense housework	Moderate or major problem
	q6(a)j. Maintaining your home	Moderate or major problem
	q6(a)k. Maintaining your yard	Moderate or major problem
	Must have:	
Social engagement	q12c. Communicating/ visiting with friends and/or family	Less than 4 hours
	Or	
	q6(b)y. Having interesting social events or activities to attend	Moderate or major problem
	Or all of the following:	
	q12a. Participating in a club (including book, dance, game and other social)	Never
	q12b. Participating in a civic group (including Elks, Kiwanis, Masons, etc.)	Never
	q12d. Participating in religious or spiritual activities with others	Never
	q12e. Participating in a recreation program or group activity	Never
Social support	Must have:	
	d5. Household size	1 (live alone)
	And at least one of the following:	
	q6(a)m. Having friends or family you can rely on	Moderate or major problem
	q6(b)ii. Feeling lonely or isolated	Moderate or major problem
Civic engagement	Must have d14 and d15:	
	d14. Are you registered to vote in your jurisdiction?	No
	d15. Many people don't have time to vote in elections. Did you vote in the last general election?	No
	Or q12b and q12g	

Index	Individual Variables Used in Index	Required Rating
	q12b. Participating in a civic group (including Elks, Kiwanis, Masons, etc.)	Never (no hours)
	q12g. Volunteering your time to some group/activity in your community	Never (no hours)
	Or q11d and q11e	
	q11d. Attended a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting in your community	Never
	q11e. Watched a meeting of local elected officials or other public meeting on cable television, the Internet or other media	Never
Recreation, arts and culture	Must have at least one of the following:	
	q6(b)x. Having interesting recreational or cultural activities to attend	Moderate or major problem
	q6(b)z. Feeling bored	Moderate or major problem
Employment and education	Must have at least one of the following:	
	d7. What is your employment status?	Unemployed, looking for paid work
	q6(b)ff. Finding work in retirement	Moderate or major problem
	q6(b)gg. Building skills for paid or unpaid work	Moderate or major problem
Financial	Must have at least one of the following:	
	d9. 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.)/ d5. How many people, including yourself, live in your household?	Less than 30% median income
	q6(a)t. Having enough money to meet daily expenses	Moderate or major problem
	q6(a)u. Having enough money to pay your property taxes	Moderate or major problem
	Must have:	
Caregiver burden	q6(b)cc. Providing care for another person	Moderate or major problem
	Must have at least one of the following:	
Information and planning	q4. In general, how informed or uninformed do you feel about services and activities available to older adults in your community?	Somewhat or very uninformed
	q6(b)dd. Dealing with legal issues	Moderate or major problem
	q6(b)ee. Having adequate information or dealing with public programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid	Moderate or major problem
	q6(b)hh. Not knowing what services are available to older adults in your community	Moderate or major problem
	q6(b)nn. Dealing with financial planning issues	Moderate or major problem

Index	Individual Variables Used in Index	Required Rating
Health care	Must have at least one of the following:	
	q6(a)o. Finding affordable health insurance	Moderate or major problem
	q6(a)p. Getting the health care you need	Moderate or major problem
	q6(a)q. Affording the medications you need	Moderate or major problem
	q6(a)r. Getting the oral health care you need	Moderate or major problem

## Appendix C: Survey Materials

The following pages contain copies of the survey materials sent to randomly selected older adult households within Fort Collins.

**Important Survey on the Way!**

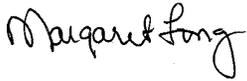
Dear County Resident,

Your household has been selected at random to participate in an anonymous survey about the needs of older adults residing within Larimer County.

You will receive a copy of the survey next week in the mail with instructions for completing and returning it. Thank you in advance for helping us with this important study!

Thank you for your cooperation. It is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,



Margaret Long  
Program Manager  
Office on Aging

**Important Survey on the Way!**

Dear County Resident,

Your household has been selected at random to participate in an anonymous survey about the needs of older adults residing within Larimer County.

You will receive a copy of the survey next week in the mail with instructions for completing and returning it. Thank you in advance for helping us with this important study!

Thank you for your cooperation. It is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,



Margaret Long  
Program Manager  
Office on Aging

**Important Survey on the Way!**

Dear County Resident,

Your household has been selected at random to participate in an anonymous survey about the needs of older adults residing within Larimer County.

You will receive a copy of the survey next week in the mail with instructions for completing and returning it. Thank you in advance for helping us with this important study!

Thank you for your cooperation. It is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,



Margaret Long  
Program Manager  
Office on Aging

**Important Survey on the Way!**

Dear County Resident,

Your household has been selected at random to participate in an anonymous survey about the needs of older adults residing within Larimer County.

You will receive a copy of the survey next week in the mail with instructions for completing and returning it. Thank you in advance for helping us with this important study!

Thank you for your cooperation. It is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,



Margaret Long  
Program Manager  
Office on Aging



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

**Office on Aging**

2601 MIDPOINT DRIVE, SUITE 112  
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO 80525

Presorted  
First Class Mail  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Boulder, CO  
Permit NO. 94



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

**Office on Aging**

2601 MIDPOINT DRIVE, SUITE 112  
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO 80525

Presorted  
First Class Mail  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Boulder, CO  
Permit NO. 94



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

**Office on Aging**

2601 MIDPOINT DRIVE, SUITE 112  
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO 80525

Presorted  
First Class Mail  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Boulder, CO  
Permit NO. 94



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

**Office on Aging**

2601 MIDPOINT DRIVE, SUITE 112  
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO 80525

Presorted  
First Class Mail  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Boulder, CO  
Permit NO. 94



LCHS 2481

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

**Office on Aging**

2601 MIDPOINT DRIVE, SUITE 112  
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO 80525

Prsrt Std  
US Postage  
PAID  
Boulder, CO  
Permit NO. 94



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

**Office on Aging**

2601 Midpoint Drive, Suite 112  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80525  
(970) 498-7750  
Fax (970) 498-7625

May 2010

Dear Resident:

The Larimer County Office on Aging is conducting a Community Assessment Survey of Older Adults to learn about their current and future needs. Your household is one of a small number of households in the county that we chose randomly to participate in this survey.

Please take a few minutes to complete the following survey. Your answers will help the agency to better understand and plan for the needs of older adults in our community. You should find the questions interesting and we will definitely find your answers useful. Please participate!

To get a representative sample of residents living within the region, the **adult 60 years or older** in your household **who most recently had a birthday** (regardless of the year of birth) should complete this survey. Please have the appropriate member of the household spend a few minutes to answer all the questions and return the survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. **Your responses will remain completely anonymous.**

Since only a small number of households are being surveyed, your participation is very important. If you have any questions or need assistance with this survey, please call the Margaret Long, Program Manager at 970-498-7755.

You can help us shape the future for older adults in our county. Thank you for your time and participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Margaret Long'.

Margaret Long  
Program Manager  
Office on Aging



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

**Office on Aging**

2601 Midpoint Drive, Suite 112  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80525  
(970) 498-7750  
Fax (970) 498-7625

May 2010

Dear Resident:

About one week ago we sent you this survey that asks for your opinion about the needs of older adults in Larimer County. If you have already completed the survey and returned it, we thank you and ask you to disregard this letter. **Do not complete the survey a second time.** If you haven't had a chance complete and mail the survey, please do so now. We are very interested in obtaining your input.

Your answers will help the agency to better understand and plan for the needs of older adults in our community. You should find the questions interesting and we will definitely find your answers useful. Please participate!

To get a representative sample of residents living within the region, the **adult 60 years or older** in your household **who most recently had a birthday** (regardless of the year of birth) should complete this survey. Please have the appropriate member of the household spend a few minutes to answer all the questions and return the survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. **Your responses will remain completely anonymous.**

Since only a small number of households are being surveyed, your participation is very important. If you have any questions or need assistance with this survey, please call the Margaret Long, Program Manager at 970-498-7755.

You can help us shape the future for older adults in our county. Thank you for your time and participation.

Sincerely,

Margaret Long  
Program Manager  
Office on Aging

**Please complete this questionnaire if you are the resident age 60 or older in the household who most recently had a birthday. The year of birth of the 60+ age resident does not matter. Please circle the response that most closely represents your opinion for each question. Your responses are anonymous and will be reported in group form only.**

**1. Please circle the number that comes closest to your opinion for each of the following questions:**

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
How do you rate your community as a place to live? .....	1	2	3	4	5
How do you rate your community as a place to retire? .....	1	2	3	4	5

**2. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to adults age 60 or older in your community:**

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Opportunities to volunteer .....	1	2	3	4	5
Employment opportunities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to enroll in skill-building or personal enrichment classes.....	1	2	3	4	5
Recreation opportunities (including games, arts, and library services, etc.) ..	1	2	3	4	5
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)....	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to attend social events or activities .....	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to attend religious or spiritual activities .....	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to attend or participate in meetings about local government or community matters.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality housing .....	1	2	3	4	5
Variety of housing options.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of information about resources for older adults.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of financial or legal planning services .....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality physical health care .....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality mental health care .....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of preventive health services (e.g., health screenings, flu shots, educational workshops) .....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality food.....	1	2	3	4	5
Sense of community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Openness and acceptance of the community towards older residents of diverse backgrounds.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of bus travel in your community .....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of car travel in your community .....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of walking in your community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall feeling of safety in your community .....	1	2	3	4	5
Valuing older residents in your community .....	1	2	3	4	5
Neighborliness of your community .....	1	2	3	4	5

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

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

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

- Very informed
- Somewhat informed
- Somewhat uninformed
- Very uninformed

**5. Please circle the number that comes closest to your opinion for each of the following questions:**

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
How do you rate your overall physical health? .....	1	2	3	4	5
How do you rate your overall mental health/emotional well being? .....	1	2	3	4	5
How do you rate your overall quality of life? .....	1	2	3	4	5

**6a. The following questions list a number of problems that older adults may or may not face. Thinking back over the last 12 months, how much of a problem, if at all, has each of the following been for you?**

	<i>Not a problem</i>	<i>Minor problem</i>	<i>Moderate problem</i>	<i>Major problem</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Having housing to suit your needs .....	1	2	3	4	5
Your physical health.....	1	2	3	4	5
Performing regular activities, including walking, eating and preparing meals.....	1	2	3	4	5
Having enough food to eat.....	1	2	3	4	5
Doing heavy or intense housework.....	1	2	3	4	5
Having safe and affordable transportation available .....	1	2	3	4	5
No longer being able to drive .....	1	2	3	4	5
Feeling depressed.....	1	2	3	4	5
Experiencing confusion or forgetfulness .....	1	2	3	4	5
Maintaining your home.....	1	2	3	4	5
Maintaining your yard.....	1	2	3	4	5
Finding productive or meaningful activities to do .....	1	2	3	4	5
Having friends or family you can rely on .....	1	2	3	4	5
Falling or injuring yourself in your home .....	1	2	3	4	5
Finding affordable health insurance.....	1	2	3	4	5
Getting the health care you need.....	1	2	3	4	5
Affording the medications you need.....	1	2	3	4	5
Getting the oral health care you need.....	1	2	3	4	5
Having tooth or mouth problems .....	1	2	3	4	5
Having enough money to meet daily expenses .....	1	2	3	4	5
Having enough money to pay your property taxes.....	1	2	3	4	5

**6b. The following questions list a number of other problems that older adults may or may not face. Thinking back over the last 12 months, how much of a problem, if at all, has each of the following been for you?**

	<i>Not a problem</i>	<i>Minor problem</i>	<i>Moderate problem</i>	<i>Major problem</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Staying physically fit.....	1	2	3	4	5
Maintaining a healthy diet .....	1	2	3	4	5
Having interesting recreational or cultural activities to attend .....	1	2	3	4	5
Having interesting social events or activities to attend.....	1	2	3	4	5
Feeling bored .....	1	2	3	4	5
Feeling like your voice is heard in the community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Finding meaningful volunteer work .....	1	2	3	4	5
Providing care for another person.....	1	2	3	4	5
Dealing with legal issues.....	1	2	3	4	5
Having adequate information or dealing with public programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid .....	1	2	3	4	5
Finding work in retirement.....	1	2	3	4	5
Building skills for paid or unpaid work.....	1	2	3	4	5
Not knowing what services are available to older adults in your community .....	1	2	3	4	5
Feeling lonely or isolated .....	1	2	3	4	5
Dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend .....	1	2	3	4	5
Being a victim of crime .....	1	2	3	4	5
Being a victim of fraud or a scam.....	1	2	3	4	5
Being physically or emotionally abused .....	1	2	3	4	5
Dealing with financial planning issues.....	1	2	3	4	5

**7. Thinking back over the past 12 months, how many days did you spend...**

As a patient in a hospital? ... \_\_\_\_\_ number of days

In a nursing home or in-patient  
rehabilitation facility? ..... \_\_\_\_\_ number of days

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

- Never
- Once or twice
- 3-5 times
- More than 5 times
- Don't know

**9. How likely or unlikely are you to recommend living in your community to older adults?**

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Very unlikely
- Don't know

**10. How likely or unlikely are you to remain in your community throughout your retirement?**

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Very unlikely
- Don't know

**11. In the last 12 months, about how many times, if ever, have you participated in or done each of the following?**

	<i>Never</i>	<i>Once or twice</i>	<i>3 to 12 times</i>	<i>13 to 26 times</i>	<i>More than 26 times</i>
Used a senior center in your community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Used a recreation center in your community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Used a public library in your community .....	1	2	3	4	5
Attended a meeting of your community's local elected officials or other local public meeting .....	1	2	3	4	5
Watched a meeting of your community's local elected officials or other public meeting on cable television, the Internet or other media.....	1	2	3	4	5
Used public transit (e.g., bus, subway, light rail, etc.) within your community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Visited a neighborhood park .....	1	2	3	4	5

**12. During a typical week, how many hours, if any, do you spend doing the following?**

	<i>Never (no hours)</i>	<i>1 to 3 hours</i>	<i>4 to 5 hours</i>	<i>6 to 10 hours</i>	<i>11 or more hours</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Participating in a club (including book, dance, game and other social).....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Participating in a civic group (including, Elks, Kiwanis, Masons, etc.).....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Communicating/visiting with friends and/or family .....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Participating in religious or spiritual activities with others .....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Participating in a recreation program or group activity.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Providing help to friends or relatives.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Volunteering your time to some group/activity in your community.....	1	2	3	4	5	6

**13. During a typical week, how many hours do you spend providing care for one or more individuals with whom you have a significant personal relationship (such as a spouse, other relative, partner, friend, neighbor or child), whether or not they live with you?**

	<i>Never (no hours)</i>	<i>1 to 3 hours</i>	<i>4 to 5 hours</i>	<i>6 to 10 hours</i>	<i>11 to 19 hours</i>	<i>20 or more hours</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
One or more individuals age 60 or older.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
One or more individuals age 18 to 59.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
One or more individuals under age 18.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

**14. Whether or not they live with you, does someone provide assistance to you almost every day?**

- Yes
- No

**Our last questions are about you and your household. Again, all of your responses to this survey are completely anonymous and will be reported in group form only.**

- D1. How many years have you lived in your community?**  
 Less than 1 year       11-20 years  
 1-5 years               More than 20 years  
 6-10 years
- D2. Which best describes the building you live in?**  
 Single family home  
 Townhouse, condominium, duplex or apartment  
 Mobile home  
 Assisted living residence  
 Nursing home  
 Other
- D3. Do you currently rent or own your home?**  
 Rent  
 Own (with a mortgage payment)  
 Own (free and clear; no mortgage)
- D4. 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)?**  
 Less than \$300 per month  
 \$300 to \$599 per month  
 \$600 to \$999 per month  
 \$1,000 to \$1,499 per month  
 \$1,500 to \$2,499 per month  
 \$2,500 or more per month
- D5. How many people, including yourself, live in your household?** \_\_\_\_\_ members
- D6. How many of these people, including yourself, are 60 or older?** ..... \_\_\_\_\_ members
- D7. What is your employment status?**  
 Fully retired → *Go to Question D9*  
 Working full time for pay  
 Working part time for pay  
 Unemployed, looking for paid work
- D8. [IF NOT YET FULLY RETIRED] At what age do you expect to retire completely and not work for pay at all?** ..... \_\_\_\_\_ years old

- D9. 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.)**  
 Less than \$15,000  
 \$15,000 to \$24,999  
 \$25,000 to \$49,999  
 \$50,000 to \$74,999  
 \$75,000 to \$99,999  
 \$100,000 or more
- D10. Are you Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?**  
 Yes                       No
- D11. What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race you consider yourself to be)**  
 American Indian or Alaskan native  
 Asian or Pacific Islander  
 Black, African American  
 White/Caucasian  
 Other
- D12. In which category is your age?**  
 60-64 years       80-84 years  
 65-69 years       85-89 years  
 70-74 years       90-94 years  
 75-79 years       95 years or older
- D13. What is your sex?**  
 Female                   Male
- D14. What is your sexual orientation?**  
 Heterosexual       Gay  
 Lesbian               Bi-sexual
- D15. Are you registered to vote in your jurisdiction?**  
 Yes                       Ineligible to vote  
 No                         Don't know
- D16. Many people don't have time to vote in elections. Did you vote in the last general election?**  
 Yes                       Ineligible to vote  
 No                         Don't know

**Thank you for completing this survey. Please return the completed survey in the postage paid envelope to: National Research Center, Inc., P.O. Box 549, Belle Mead NJ 08502-9922**