



**2009  
Rockland County, New York  
Livable Communities Survey  
of AARP Members 50+:  
Fact Sheet, Annotation,  
and Methodology**

December 2009

**2009 Rockland County, New York  
Livable Communities Survey  
Of AARP Members 50+:  
Fact Sheet, Annotation, and  
Methodology**

# Rockland County, New York 2009 Livable Communities Survey of AARP Members 50+ FACT SHEET

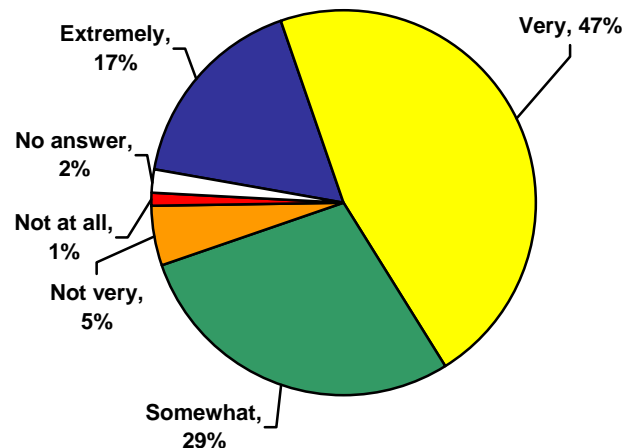
## Rockland County Statistics (Data from the U.S. Census Bureau)

- In 2008, Rockland County was the 13<sup>th</sup> largest county in New York.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2008, Rockland County's population was 298,545, which has grown by nearly 4% since 2000. Thirteen percent of the population was 65 years and older. Twenty-nine percent of people over 65 years have a disability.<sup>2,3</sup>
- In 2008, 10% of Rockland County residents lived in poverty.<sup>4</sup>
- In 2008, the median home value was \$492,000, and the median rent was \$1,275 in Rockland County.<sup>5</sup>
- According to the *2000 Census*, 65% of Rockland County residents have lived in the same house since 1995.<sup>6</sup>
- In 2009, there were 10 nursing homes and 16 assisted living facilities in Rockland County.<sup>7,8</sup>

## Satisfaction with Community

- About two in three AARP members in Rockland County say they are extremely or very satisfied with their community.
- About three in four rate their community as excellent (12%), very good (27%), or good (34%). One in four rates their community as fair (18%) or poor (6%).

**Satisfaction with Their Community  
as a Place to Live (N=1,075)**



## Desire to Remain in Community

- Nine in ten members say it is extremely (36%), very (32%), or somewhat (21%) important for them to remain in their *community* for as long as possible.
- Nearly two in three (62%) have lived in their community for over 24 years and about one in five (17%) have lived there for at least 15 years.
- Most residents own their homes (83%) and live in a single-family house (72%).
- Over seven in ten say it is extremely (47%) or very (25%) important for them to stay in their *own home* for as long as possible. However, only one in ten (11%) say their residence is part of a neighborhood or facility designed for older persons.



©2009 AARP. All rights reserved.

# Rockland County, New York 2009 Livable Communities Survey of AARP Members 50+ FACT SHEET

## Community Concerns

At least half of Rockland County members identified the following problems in their community as big or small. Likewise, at least half of members identified the following as NOT a problem.

### What's A Problem

(Members who say the following is a big or a small problem)

- Heavy traffic (72%)
- Not enough sidewalks (62%)
- Streets that are too dark (58%)
- Crime (57%)
- Not enough affordable housing (55%)
- Streets/sidewalks that need repair (55%)
- Lack or limit of public transportation (51%)
- Proximity of public transportation (50%)
- Lack of involvement in community improvements (47%)

### What's Not a Problem

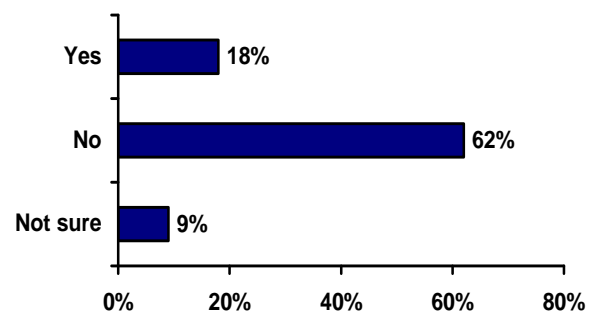
(Members who say the following is NOT a problem)

- Public services (78%)
- Rundown buildings (68%)
- Too few traffic lights (68%)
- Traffic lights timed too fast (63%)
- Proximity of shopping/banking/services (63%)
- Noise (61%)
- Medical services (56%)
- Proximity of parks and recreation (52%)

## Home Modifications

- About one in five Rockland County members say their current residence needs a major repair, modification, or change to enable them to stay there as they get older.
- Three in five strongly (37%) or somewhat (23%) support a law that would encourage builders to incorporate Universal Design standards during the building of new private homes.
- About three in five would also strongly (33%) or somewhat (25%) support legislation that requires that new affordable private homes that are being built for low-income residents use Universal Design standards.

**Major Repairs, Modifications, or Changes Needed to Current Residence to Enable Members to Stay as They Age (N=1,075)**



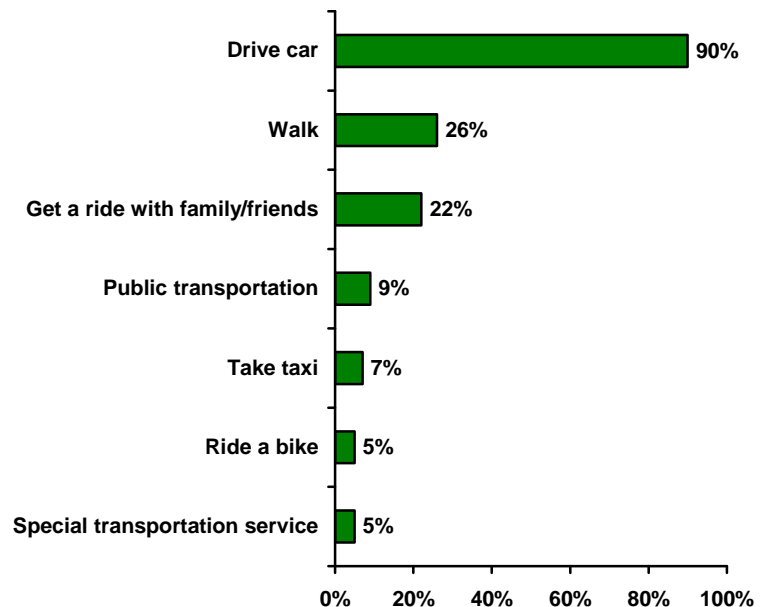
©2009 AARP. All rights reserved.

# Rockland County, New York 2009 Livable Communities Survey of AARP Members 50+ FACT SHEET

## Common Modes of Transportation

- Most Rockland County members get around in their neighborhoods for things like shopping, visiting the doctor, and running errands by driving a car; about a quarter walk or get a ride with family and friends.
- Interestingly, only about one in ten (9%) use public transportation even though three in four (74%) say public transportation is available in their community.
- About one in eight (12%) says they always, frequently, or sometimes miss activities because they don't have transportation.
- Only six percent say they have a medical condition that makes it difficult for them to travel outside the home.
- Nearly four in ten (38%) say they are somewhat satisfied with the streets in terms of safety for pedestrians and bicyclists; another quarter (26%) are not very or not at all satisfied with the degree of safety.
- At least half say they cannot safely walk from their home to a pharmacy (52%), a park (52%), or a grocery store (52%).
- Nearly six in ten say they would be extremely (26%) or very (32%) likely to support policies that would make streets safer for pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transportation users.

How Rockland County Members Get Around in Their Neighborhoods  
(N=1,075)



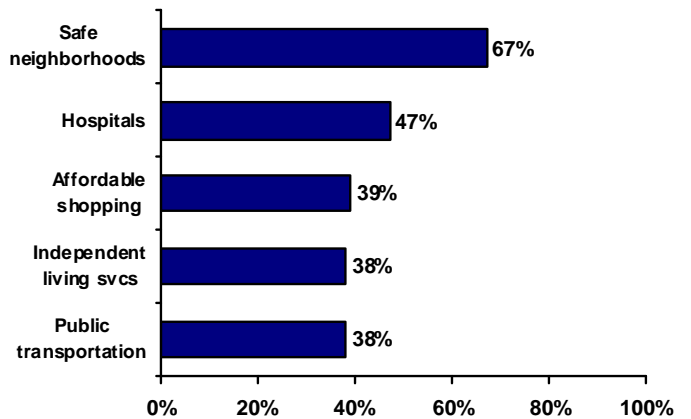
©2009 AARP. All rights reserved.

# Rockland County, New York 2009 Livable Communities Survey of AARP Members 50+ FACT SHEET

## Important Community Features and Services

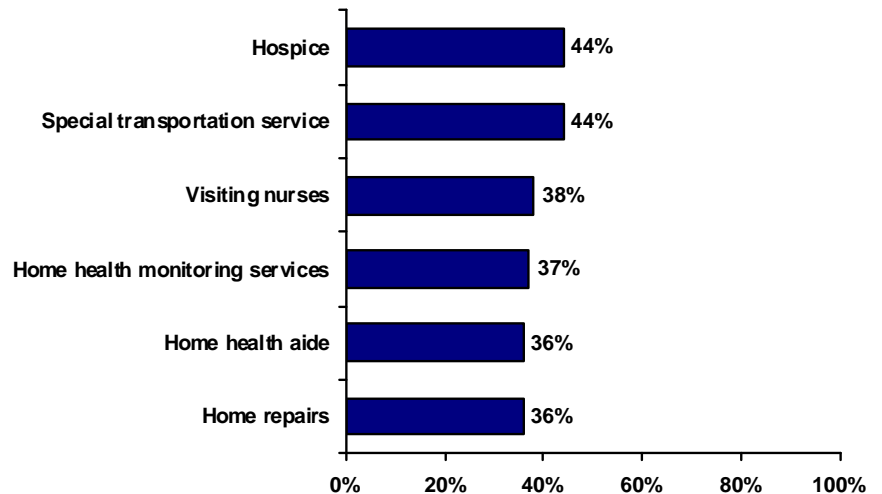
- Safe neighborhoods are an extremely important community characteristic for Rockland County members.

## Extremely Important Community Features (N=1,075)



- Rockland County members also say that Hospice and special transportation services for seniors and people with disabilities are extremely important community services.

## Extremely Important Community Services (N=1,075)



©2009 AARP. All rights reserved.

## **Rockland County, New York 2009 Livable Communities Survey of AARP Members 50+ FACT SHEET**

Respondents were asked how important twenty-one community features and fourteen community services were. Respondents were then asked if these features and services existed in their community. Pairing these questions allows us to look at “gaps” between the importance of the feature or service and its existence in the community. To compare these questions, residents who said a feature or service is extremely, very, or somewhat important were aggregated and compared to residents who said a feature or service existed in their community. Residents who said they were not sure if a feature or service was in their community were removed from this analysis.

The biggest gaps identified between what is important and what exists in their community among Rockland County members age 50+ are: an adequate supply of affordable housing, a variety of housing options for persons with different physical abilities, home repair services, chore services, sidewalks, and ways to connect older and younger people.

There were no gaps between what is important and what exists in their communities for meals on wheels, opportunities for volunteering, and places to worship.



©2009 AARP. All rights reserved.

*Source: 2009 Rockland County, New York Livable Communities Survey of AARP Members 50+. For more information about the survey, please contact William Stoner at 212.407.3736 (wstoner@aarp.org) or Joanne Binette at 202.434.6303 (jbinette@aarp.org).*

<b>Features and Services in the Community (n=varies, based on awareness of feature or service)</b>	<b>Extremely, Very, or Somewhat Important</b>	<b>Yes, Characteristic or Service Exists</b>	<b>Gap</b>
<b>An adequate supply of affordable housing (n=726)</b>	<b>81.9%</b>	<b>20.2%</b>	<b>-61.7%</b>
<b>A variety of housing options for persons with different physical abilities (n=570)</b>	<b>86.4%</b>	<b>30.4%</b>	<b>-56.0%</b>
<b>A service that helps with home repairs, like with the roof or windows (n=472)</b>	<b>87.1%</b>	<b>31.4%</b>	<b>-55.7%</b>
<b>Chore or homemakers services, like when someone comes in to do light housekeeping or cleaning (n=556)</b>	<b>87.3%</b>	<b>41.9%</b>	<b>-45.4%</b>
<b>Sidewalks going to where you want to go (n=974)</b>	<b>85.8%</b>	<b>42.8%</b>	<b>-43.0%</b>
<b>Ways to connect older and younger people (n=578)</b>	<b>82.0%</b>	<b>39.8%</b>	<b>-42.2%</b>
Good job opportunities (n=611)	58.7%	22.9%	-35.8%
A wide variety of services to help you maintain your independence as you grow older (n=701)	92.9%	59.5%	-33.4%
Respite care (n=422)	80.0%	47.4%	-32.6%
Health monitoring services (n=459)	85.8%	55.1%	-30.7%
Entertainment, such as theaters and concerts (n=969)	85.7%	55.5%	-30.2%
Outdoor maintenance services (n=587)	83.8%	55.4%	-28.4%
Walking or bike trails within a half mile of your home (n=949)	76.7%	48.9%	-27.8%
Well-designed and maintained streets (n=970)	90.0%	62.7%	-27.3%
A grocery store within a half mile of your home (n=1060)	85.6%	58.9%	-26.7%
A drug store within a half mile of your home (n=1057)	86.1%	60.6%	-25.5%
Dependable public transportation (n=855)	91.2%	66.8%	-24.4%
A hospital in the community (n=1055)	91.9%	68.7%	-23.2%
Seasonal work, such as lawn work or snow removal (n=705)	84.3%	63.5%	-20.8%
Affordable shopping (n=1015)	92.0%	73.7%	-18.3%
Home health aide, personal care attendant, or other assistant who helps with personal needs (n=617)	87.2%	70.2%	-17.0%
Visiting nurse, such as an RN who comes to your home (n=634)	89.3%	72.9%	-16.4%
Adult day care centers (n=595)	81.8%	66.2%	-15.6%
Congregate meals, such as senior lunch programs (n=627)	80.0%	67.5%	-12.5%
Convenient places for public events and meetings (n=910)	90.7%	81.2%	-9.5%
A place where older people socialize (n=847)	89.7%	81.5%	-8.2%
End of life or hospice (n=732)	85.6%	77.7%	-7.9%
Well run parks, community centers, and recreation centers (n=939)	93.2%	85.4%	-7.8%
Safe neighborhoods (n=1004)	95.5%	88.2%	-7.3%
Special transportation service, like one for seniors or persons with disabilities (n=789)	89.9%	83.0%	-6.9%
Accessible public buildings and facilities (n=853)	82.5%	76.0%	-6.5%
Senior centers (n=879)	90.3%	86.8%	-3.5%
<b>Meals-on-wheels or home delivered meals (n=843)</b>	<b>82.2%</b>	<b>84.6%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
<b>Opportunities for volunteering (n=841)</b>	<b>79.6%</b>	<b>84.3%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>
<b>Places to worship (n=1038)</b>	<b>82.2%</b>	<b>92.5%</b>	<b>10.3%</b>



©2009 AARP. All rights reserved.

Source: 2009 Rockland County, New York Livable Communities Survey of AARP Members 50+. For more information about the survey, please contact William Stoner at 212.407.3736 (wstoner@aarp.org) or Joanne Binette at 202.434.6303 (jbinette@aarp.org).

**Survey Sample N=1132 AARP Members Age 50+  
(Weighted N=1075; sampling error=+/- 3.0%)**

**Your Concerns**

1. Below is a list of concerns that have been expressed by people age 50 and older. Please check the box that most closely matches your level of concern about each item.

	Extremely concerned ▼	Very concerned ▼	Somewhat concerned ▼	Not very concerned ▼	Not at all concerned ▼	Missing/ No Answer ▼
a. Staying physically active .....	36%	37%	18%	5%	2%	3%
b. Having high quality long-term care for yourself or a family member.....	39%	29%	20%	6%	3%	3%
c. Being able to stay in your current community as you get older .....	34%	28%	20%	10%	5%	4%
d. Having enough money to meet daily living expenses ....	47%	24%	17%	6%	2%	4%
e. Affording your housing costs.....	47%	23%	16%	7%	3%	4%
f. Losing physical abilities such as strength or hand- eye coordination.....	43%	25%	21%	7%	1%	4%
g. Having good job opportunities.....	14%	16%	20%	21%	23%	6%
h. Having long-term care services that would allow you or a family member to stay at home for as long as possible .....	42%	27%	18%	7%	3%	4%
i. Being able to stay in your current residence as you get older .....	40%	23%	19%	10%	5%	4%
j. Losing cognitive abilities such as problem solving and short- and long-term memory.....	42%	26%	18%	8%	2%	4%
k. Having safe and affordable transportation alternatives if you are no longer able to drive yourself where you need to go .....	38%	29%	20%	8%	2%	4%
l. Affording your utility costs .....	38%	25%	19%	10%	4%	5%
m. Becoming ill or disabled .....	48%	25%	18%	4%	1%	5%
n. Continuing to drive safely.....	36%	26%	19%	10%	3%	6%
o. Being treated by others as unimportant or incompetent.....	31%	21%	19%	17%	8%	6%
p. Being able to remain independent as you get older .....	46%	27%	15%	5%	2%	5%
q. Making changes to your home to enable you to stay there as you get older .....	23%	24%	26%	16%	6%	5%
r. Staying connected to family and friends as you get older .....	37%	27%	18%	11%	4%	5%

*Source: 2009 Rockland County, New York Livable Communities Survey of AARP Members 50+. For more information about the survey, please contact William Stoner at 212.407.3736 (wstoner@aarp.org) or Joanne Binette at 202.434.6303 (jbinette@aarp.org).*

## Your Community

### 2. How long have you lived in your current community?

5%	< 5 year
14%	5 – 14 years
17%	15 – 24 years
20%	25 – 34 years
41%	35 + years
2%	Missing/ No Answer

### 3. Do you live in Rockland County, NY?

98%	Yes
<1%	No
0%	Not sure
2%	Missing/ No Answer

### 4. How important is it for you to remain in your community for as long as possible?

36%	Extremely important
32%	Very important
21%	Somewhat important
8%	Not very important
2%	Not at all important
2%	Missing/ No Answer

### 5. Thinking about your future needs, how would you rate your community as a place for older people to live?

12%	Excellent
27%	Very good
34%	Good
18%	Fair
6%	Poor
2%	Missing/ No Answer

### 6. Overall, how satisfied are you with your community as a place to live?

17%	Extremely satisfied
47%	Very satisfied
29%	Somewhat satisfied
5%	Not very satisfied
1%	Not at all satisfied
2%	Missing/ No Answer

## Community Features

### 7. How important do you think it is to have the following features in your community?

	Extremely important ▼	Very important ▼	Somewhat important ▼	Not very important ▼	Not at all important ▼	Missing/ No Answer ▼
a. Well run parks, community centers, and recreation centers .....	29%	44%	21%	3%	1%	3%
b. Convenient places for public events and meetings..	20%	42%	30%	5%	1%	3%
c. A place where older people socialize.....	24%	41%	24%	6%	1%	3%
d. Dependable public transportation .....	38%	37%	16%	5%	1%	3%
e. Sidewalks going to where you want to go.....	33%	33%	20%	9%	2%	3%
f. Safe neighborhoods.....	67%	26%	3%	1%	<1%	4%
g. Entertainment, such as theaters and concerts.....	19%	35%	31%	8%	1%	4%
h. Walking or bike trails within a half mile of your home .....	17%	28%	32%	15%	5%	4%
i. A grocery store within a half mile of your home .....	30%	32%	23%	8%	3%	3%
j. A drug store within a half mile of your home.....	31%	34%	22%	8%	3%	3%
k. A wide variety of services to help you maintain your independence as you grow older .....	38%	40%	15%	2%	1%	4%
l. Good job opportunities.....	15%	21%	23%	15%	20%	6%
m. Accessible public buildings and facilities .....	23%	35%	25%	9%	4%	4%
n. An adequate supply of affordable housing.....	32%	30%	20%	8%	5%	4%
o. A variety of housing options for persons with different physical abilities .....	31%	33%	23%	7%	3%	4%
p. Ways to connect older and younger people in the community .....	17%	31%	34%	9%	4%	5%
q. Opportunities for volunteering.....	14%	34%	32%	12%	4%	5%
r. Well-designed and maintained streets.....	31%	45%	14%	4%	1%	5%
s. A hospital in the community .....	47%	34%	11%	4%	1%	4%
t. Affordable shopping .....	39%	39%	15%	3%	1%	4%
u. Places to worship.....	32%	32%	18%	7%	6%	5%

**8. Does the community where you live have the following features?**

	<b>Yes</b> ▼	<b>No</b> ▼	<b>Not sure</b> ▼	<b>Missing</b> ▼
a. Well run parks, community centers, and recreation centers.....	75%	10%	13%	3%
b. Convenient places for public events and meetings .....	69%	12%	15%	4%
c. A place where older people socialize .....	64%	10%	21%	4%
d. Dependable public transportation.....	53%	22%	21%	4%
e. Sidewalks going to where you want to go .....	39%	48%	9%	4%
f. Safe neighborhoods .....	83%	6%	7%	5%
g. Entertainment, such as theaters and concerts .....	50%	35%	10%	5%
h. Walking or bike trails within a half mile of your home .....	43%	41%	12%	4%
i. A grocery store within a half mile of your home.....	58%	37%	1%	4%
j. A drug store within a half mile of your home .....	60%	34%	2%	4%
k. A wide variety of services to help you maintain your independence as you grow older.....	39%	22%	35%	4%
l. Good job opportunities .....	13%	37%	43%	7%
m. Accessible public buildings and facilities .....	60%	14%	21%	6%
n. An adequate supply of affordable housing .....	14%	49%	33%	5%
o. A variety of housing options for persons with different physical abilities.....	16%	32%	47%	5%
p. Ways to connect older and younger people in the community .	21%	27%	46%	5%
q. Opportunities for volunteering .....	66%	7%	22%	5%
r. Well-designed and maintained streets .....	57%	29%	10%	5%
s. A hospital in the community.....	67%	27%	2%	4%
t. Affordable shopping.....	70%	20%	6%	5%
u. Places to worship .....	89%	3%	4%	5%

## Community Services

### 9. To help people remain in their own homes as they age in your community, how important are the following services?

	Extremely important ▼	Very important ▼	Somewhat important ▼	Not very important ▼	Not at all important ▼	Missing/ No Answer ▼
a. Senior centers .....	32%	36%	22%	4%	1%	5%
b. Housekeeping services (cleaning or light maintenance services) .....	24%	40%	23%	5%	1%	7%
c. Congregate meals such as senior lunch programs ..	22%	33%	25%	12%	2%	6%
d. Meals-on-wheels or home delivered meals.....	28%	35%	19%	9%	2%	7%
e. A service that helps low-income or older persons with home repairs, like with the roof or windows.....	36%	35%	16%	5%	2%	6%
f. Visiting nurse such as an RN who comes to your home .....	38%	38%	13%	3%	1%	7%
g. Seasonal work such as lawn work or snow removal .....	33%	35%	17%	6%	3%	7%
h. Home health aide, personal care attendant, or other assistant who helps with personal needs.....	36%	37%	15%	4%	1%	7%
i. Respite care (getting a break from caregiving duties) .....	28%	34%	18%	8%	4%	9%
j. End of life or hospice (medication or services provided to relieve symptoms of terminal illness).....	44%	31%	10%	5%	2%	8%
k. Special transportation service like one for seniors or persons with disabilities .....	44%	35%	11%	3%	1%	6%
l. Home health monitoring services (services that monitor blood pressure, weight, etc. and transmit data that is reviewed by health professionals or emergency response systems that alerts others of a medical emergency) .....	37%	34%	15%	5%	1%	8%
m. Outdoor maintenance services such as cleaning gutters or repairing roofing .....	28%	36%	19%	5%	3%	8%
n. Adult day care centers .....	26%	34%	22%	7%	3%	8%

**10. Does the community where you live have the following services?**

	<b>Yes</b> ▼	<b>No</b> ▼	<b>Not sure</b> ▼	<b>Missing</b> ▼
a. Senior centers .....	71%	6%	18%	5%
b. Housekeeping services .....	22%	23%	48%	7%
c. Congregate meals such as senior lunch programs .....	39%	12%	42%	7%
d. Meals-on-wheels or home delivered meals.....	66%	5%	22%	8%
e. A service that helps low-income or older persons with home repairs, like with the roof or windows .....	14%	23%	56%	7%
f. Visiting nurse such as an RN who comes to your home .....	43%	9%	41%	7%
g. Seasonal work such as lawn work or snow removal .....	42%	16%	34%	8%
h. Home health aide, personal care attendant, or other assistant who helps with personal needs .....	40%	10%	43%	7%
i. Respite care (getting a break from caregiving duties).....	19%	12%	61%	9%
j. End of life or hospice (medication or services provided to relieve symptoms of terminal illness) .....	53%	7%	32%	8%
k. Special transportation service like one for seniors or persons with disabilities .....	61%	6%	27%	7%
l. Home health monitoring services .....	24%	11%	57%	8%
m. Outdoor maintenance services such as cleaning gutters or repairing roofing .....	30%	17%	45%	7%
n. Adult day care centers.....	37%	12%	45%	7%

**11. If you needed to access any of the services referenced in Questions 9 and 10, would you turn to any of the following sources to get more information about them?**

	<b>Yes</b> ▼	<b>No</b> ▼	<b>Not sure</b> ▼	<b>Missing</b> ▼
a. Family members or friends .....	82%	7%	4%	7%
b. Your doctor or other health professional .....	81%	6%	5%	8%
c. Office of Aging .....	61%	11%	20%	9%
d. Department of Social Services .....	60%	12%	18%	10%
e. Senior Center .....	55%	15%	19%	12%
f. Internet .....	58%	21%	10%	11%
g. Phone book .....	54%	14%	10%	22%
h. Other, please specify:_____				

## Community Problems

### 12. How much of a problem is each of the following in your community?

	<b>Big problem</b> ▼	<b>Small problem</b> ▼	<b>Not a problem</b> ▼	<b>Not sure</b> ▼	<b>Missing</b> ▼
a. Heavy traffic.....	29%	44%	24%	1%	3%
b. Crime .....	6%	51%	35%	5%	3%
c. Being too far away from parks and recreation .....	7%	36%	52%	2%	3%
d. Noise .....	8%	27%	61%	1%	3%
e. Street and sidewalks that need repair .....	17%	38%	36%	4%	5%
f. Not enough sidewalks .....	30%	33%	30%	5%	4%
g. Streets are too dark .....	25%	33%	34%	4%	5%
h. Rundown or abandoned buildings, houses or apartments.....	4%	18%	68%	6%	4%
i. Poor public services such as schools, garbage, or snow removal .....	4%	11%	78%	3%	4%
j. Public transportation that is too far away.....	16%	33%	39%	8%	4%
k. Public transportation that is too limited or not available .....	19%	32%	32%	13%	4%
l. Not enough senior services .....	11%	24%	32%	30%	3%
m. Too few traffic lights.....	3%	20%	68%	6%	4%
n. Traffic lights that are timed too fast .....	4%	18%	63%	10%	5%
o. Shopping, banks, or other needed services being too far away .....	7%	25%	63%	2%	4%
p. Not enough arts or cultural activities .....	10%	31%	41%	15%	4%
q. Not enough affordable housing .....	34%	21%	18%	22%	5%
r. Not enough medical services .....	8%	21%	56%	10%	5%
s. People don't get involved in efforts to improve the community .....	16%	32%	29%	19%	5%

## Your Residence

**13. Do you own or rent your primary residence?**

83% Own  
15% Rent  
3% Missing/ No Answer

**14. What type of home is your primary residence?**

72% Single family home  
1% Mobile home  
4% Town home or duplex  
9% Apartment  
9% Condominium or coop  
1% Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_  
4% Missing/ No Answer

**15. Is your residence part of a neighborhood or facility designed for older persons?**

11% Yes  
86% No  
3% Missing/ No Answer

**16. Including yourself, how many people live in your household?**

24% 1  
47% 2  
13% 3  
9% 4  
4% 5  
1% 6  
1% 7 or more  
2% Missing/ No Answer

**17. How important is it for you to stay in your current residence for as long as possible?**

47% Extremely important  
25% Very important  
17% Somewhat important  
8% Not very important  
2% Not at all important  
2% Missing/ No Answer

**18. Does your current residence need any major repairs, modifications, or changes to enable you to stay there as you age?**

18% Yes → **GO TO Question 19**  
62% No → **SKIP TO Question 20**  
9% Not sure → **SKIP TO Question 20**  
12% Missing/ No Answer

19. What types of modifications or improvements does your home need to enable you to stay there as you age?
20. Universal design means products and buildings are accessible and usable by everyone, including people with disabilities. Universal design is a framework for the design of living and working spaces and products, benefiting the widest possible range of people in the widest range of situations without special or separate design. Basic Universal Design features in a private home would include a no step entrance into the home, 36 inch doorways, a bedroom or room to convert into a bedroom on the main floor, and a full bath on the main floor.

How strongly would you support or oppose a local town law that would provide incentives for builders, such as easier zoning restrictions and waiving permit fees, to encourage builders to incorporate Universal Design standards during the building of new private homes?

- 37% Strongly support
- 23% Somewhat support
- 23% Neither support nor oppose
- 4% Somewhat oppose
- 5% Strongly oppose
- 9% Missing

21. How strongly would you support or oppose legislation that requires that new affordable private homes that are built for low-income residents with county or state funds be built using Universal Design standards?

- 33% Strongly support
- 25% Somewhat support
- 22% Neither support nor oppose
- 6% Somewhat oppose
- 8% Strongly oppose
- 6% Missing

## Community Streets & Transportation

22. Do you usually get around your community for things like shopping, visiting the doctor, running errands, or other things by doing the following?

	Yes ▼	No ▼	Not sure ▼	Missing ▼
a. Drive yourself .....	90%	6%	<1%	4%
b. Get a ride with family or friends.....	22%	58%	1%	20%
c. Walk .....	26%	54%	1%	20%
d. Ride a bike .....	5%	72%	<1%	22%
e. Take a taxi.....	7%	71%	1%	22%
f. Use public transportation.....	9%	69%	<1%	22%
g. Use a special transportation service, like one for seniors or persons with disabilities.....	5%	73%	1%	21%

**23. How often do you miss activities because you do not have transportation?**

1% Always  
3% Frequently  
8% Sometimes  
21% Rarely  
65% Never  
3% Missing/ No Answer

**24. Excluding taxi services, is public transportation service available in your community?**

74% Yes  
10% No  
12% Not sure  
4% Missing/ No Answer

**25. Do you or your spouse or partner have a medical condition that makes it difficult for you to travel outside of your home?**

6% Yes, I do  
3% Yes, my spouse or partner does  
1% Both myself and my spouse or partner does  
87% No  
4% Missing/ No Answer

**26. How satisfied are you with the streets in your community in terms of their safety for pedestrians and bicyclists?**

7% Extremely satisfied  
26% Very satisfied  
38% Somewhat satisfied  
18% Not very satisfied  
8% Not at all satisfied  
3% Missing/ No Data

**27. How likely are you to walk or bike or catch a bus to get where you need to go if the streets in your community were safer for pedestrians and bicyclists, had better street lighting, better traffic signals, and better crosswalks?**

8% Extremely likely  
18% Very likely  
21% Somewhat likely  
30% Not very likely  
20% Not at all likely  
4% Missing/ No Answer

**28. Some cities and states across the country are implementing policies to ensure roads will be designed for all users, not only drivers, but also pedestrians, bicycle riders, and those using public transportation. How likely are you to support such a policy in your community?**

- 26% Extremely likely
- 32% Very likely
- 26% Somewhat likely
- 9% Not very likely
- 4% Not at all likely
- 4% Missing/ No Answer

**29. Can you safely walk from your home to the following places?**

	Yes ▼	No ▼	Not applicable ▼	Missing ▼
a. Your place of work .....	5%	40%	50%	5%
b. A grocery store .....	36%	52%	9%	4%
c. A pharmacy .....	36%	52%	8%	4%
d. Your doctor's office .....	9%	74%	13%	4%
e. To a park or recreation area .....	34%	52%	9%	5%

## About You

The following questions are for classification purposes only and will be kept entirely confidential.

**D1. How would you rate your overall health today?**

- 16% Excellent
- 35% Very good
- 35% Good
- 11% Fair
- 2% Poor
- 2% Missing/ No Answer

**D2. Does any disability, handicap, or chronic disease keep you from participating fully in work, school, housework, or other activities?**

- 18% Yes
- 79% No
- 3% Missing/ No Answer

**D3. Are you male or female?**

- 49% Male
- 48% Female
- 3% Missing/ No Answer

**D4. What is your age as of your last birthday? \_\_\_\_\_ (in years)**

24% 50-59  
49% 60-74  
27% 75+  
0% Missing/ No Answer

**D5. What is your 5-digit ZIP Code? (Write in your ZIP CODE): \_\_\_\_\_**

**D6. What is your current marital status?**

62% Married  
2% Not married, living with partner  
1% Separated  
8% Divorced  
19% Widowed  
6% Never married  
2% Missing/ No Answer

**D7. What is the highest level of education that you completed?**

5% 0-12<sup>th</sup> grade (no diploma)  
22% High school graduate (or equivalent)  
14% Post-high school education (no degree)  
11% 2-year college degree  
17% 4-year college degree  
6% Post-graduate study (no degree)  
25% Graduate or professional degree  
5% Missing/ No Answer

**D8. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?**

4% Self-employed, part-time  
6% Self-employed, full-time  
10% Employed, part-time  
24% Employed, full-time  
46% Retired, not working at all  
3% Not in labor force for other reasons  
4% Unemployed, but looking for work  
5% Missing/ No Answer

**D9. Are you of Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino origin or descent?**

4% Yes  
88% No  
8% Missing/ No Answer

**D10. What is your race?**

82% White or Caucasian  
6% Black or African American  
<1% American Indian or Alaska Native  
3% Asian  
0% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander  
2% Other  
8% Missing/ No Answer

**D11. In the last 12 months, have you accessed the Internet from your home or work or from some other source such as your local library?**

66% Yes → **GO TO Question D12**  
26% No → **SKIP TO Question D13**  
8% Missing/ No Answer

**D12. In the last 12 months, have you visited any of AARP's Internet/Web sites (aarp.org, AARPmagazine.org, etc.)? (N = 796)**

30% Yes  
62% No  
8% Missing/ No Answer

**D13. What was your annual household income before taxes in 2008?**

2% Less than \$10,000  
6% \$10,000 to \$19,999  
11% \$20,000 to \$34,999  
10% \$35,000 to \$49,999  
6% \$50,000 to \$59,999  
9% \$60,000 to \$74,999  
12% \$75,000 to \$99,999  
24% \$100,000 or more  
7% Not sure  
13% Missing/ No Answer

**Thank you very much for completing this survey.  
Please return your completed survey by November 27, 2009  
in the enclosed postage-paid envelope to:  
AARP State Research  
601 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20049**

## Survey Methodology

AARP conducted the *2009 AARP Livable Communities Survey of Rockland County* between October 30 and November 27, 2009. Mail surveys were sent to a randomly selected sample of 3,000 members in Rockland County, New York.

Each sampled member was contacted about the survey in four ways: a pre-notification postcard, the survey itself, a reminder postcard, and a second survey. Of the 3,000 surveyed, 1,132 returned surveys by the end date yielding a response rate of 38 percent. The survey has a sampling error of plus or minus 3.0 percent.

Survey responses were weighted to reflect the distribution of AARP members by age. The weighted number of respondents used for this analysis is 1,075. As of January 30, 2010, there were 25,830 active AARP members residing in Rockland County, New York. Throughout the report, statistics representing member responses are reported in percentages. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding effects. Also due to rounding, the percents reported in the text may vary slightly from those in the annotation or in graphs.

## End Notes

1 U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates. County Datasets: New York, 2008.

[http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/CO-EST2008-popchg2000\\_2008.html](http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/CO-EST2008-popchg2000_2008.html).

2 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey. ACS Demographic and Housing Characteristics-Rockland County, 2008. [http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?\\_bm=y&-geo\\_id=05000US36087&-qr\\_name=ACS\\_2008\\_1YR\\_G00\\_DP5&-context=adp&-ds\\_name=&-tree\\_id=308&-lang=en&-redoLog=false&-format=](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=05000US36087&-qr_name=ACS_2008_1YR_G00_DP5&-context=adp&-ds_name=&-tree_id=308&-lang=en&-redoLog=false&-format=).

3 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey. Selected Social Characteristics-Rockland County, 2008.

[http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?\\_bm=y&-geo\\_id=05000US36087&-context=adp&-ds\\_name=ACS\\_2008\\_1YR\\_G00\\_&-tree\\_id=308&-lang=en&-caller=geoselect&-format=](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=05000US36087&-context=adp&-ds_name=ACS_2008_1YR_G00_&-tree_id=308&-lang=en&-caller=geoselect&-format=).

4 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey. Selected Economic Characteristics-Rockland County, 2008.

[http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?\\_bm=y&-geo\\_id=05000US36087&-qr\\_name=ACS\\_2008\\_1YR\\_G00\\_DP3&-context=adp&-ds\\_name=&-tree\\_id=308&-lang=en&-redoLog=false&-format=](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=05000US36087&-qr_name=ACS_2008_1YR_G00_DP3&-context=adp&-ds_name=&-tree_id=308&-lang=en&-redoLog=false&-format=).

5 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey. Selected Housing Characteristics-Rockland County, 2008.

[http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?\\_bm=y&-geo\\_id=05000US36087&-qr\\_name=ACS\\_2008\\_1YR\\_G00\\_DP4&-context=adp&-ds\\_name=&-tree\\_id=308&-lang=en&-redoLog=false&-format=](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=05000US36087&-qr_name=ACS_2008_1YR_G00_DP4&-context=adp&-ds_name=&-tree_id=308&-lang=en&-redoLog=false&-format=).

6 U.S. Census Bureau State and County Quick Facts-Rockland County, 2000.

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/36/36087.html>.

7 New York State Department of Health Nursing Home Profile-Rockland County, 2009.

[http://nursinghomes.nyhealth.gov/browse\\_search.php?PHPSESSID=938c2c5fc555c3d2fcf3a2cb78664e07&rt=Rockland&form=REGION](http://nursinghomes.nyhealth.gov/browse_search.php?PHPSESSID=938c2c5fc555c3d2fcf3a2cb78664e07&rt=Rockland&form=REGION).

8 New York State Department of Health Adult Care Facilities Profile-Rockland County, 2009.

[http://www.nyhealth.gov/facilities/adult\\_care/county/rockland.htm](http://www.nyhealth.gov/facilities/adult_care/county/rockland.htm).



**AARP**

**Knowledge Management**

**For more information, please contact Joanne Binette at:**

**202.434.6303 or e-mail [Jbinette@aarp.org](mailto:Jbinette@aarp.org)**