

A decorative graphic consisting of a large, thin yellow arc that starts near the top right and curves down towards the bottom right. A vertical line extends from the top left corner down to the horizontal line, and another vertical line extends from the bottom right corner down to the horizontal line. A horizontal line runs across the page, intersecting these vertical lines. A small yellow square is positioned at the intersection of the horizontal line and the right vertical line. A small yellow square is also positioned at the intersection of the horizontal line and the left vertical line.

**2009 Survey of Linn  
County Iowa Residents  
50+ on Livable  
Communities Issues**

August 2010



# **2009 Survey of Linn County Iowa Residents Age 50+ on Livable Communities Issues**

**Report Prepared by Ekom Etuk and Erica Dinger, JD  
In conjunction with the AARP Cedar Rapids Area Chapter**

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Washington, DC 20049  
<http://www.aarp.org/research/>**

**In Brief:** This report is presented in four distinct sections covering health issues, transportation issues, housing issues, and leisure and recreation. Each section contains a brief methodology allowing the sections to be used independently or as part of the larger report. In addition, each section contains an annotation for that survey and, where available, the verbatim responses to the open-ended question at the end of the surveys.

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## **Background**

Linn County is growing and the population is aging, creating unique challenges and opportunities for the county. In 2009 there were 209,226 residents of Linn County, an increase of 9.1 percent from just a year before.<sup>1</sup> Linn County is the second most populous county in Iowa and the tenth largest in square mileage. In 2008 12.8 percent of Linn County residents were over 65 years of age and 14.8 percent of all Iowans were over 65.<sup>2</sup> By July of 2009 there were 444,294 Iowans age 65 or older and of those 76,148 were 85 or older.<sup>3</sup>

In 2006 the Cedar Rapids Area AARP Chapter in conjunction with community partners launched the “Livable Community Project.” As part of this project, four surveys were conducted to explore how Linn County residents age 50 plus looked at their health and wellness, housing, transportation issues, and leisure and recreation. The focus of the surveys was to examine, among other things, if residents were aware of services in their community for older residents, how they used transportation options, and if they were utilizing community resources.

## **Methodology**

Three thousand Linn County residents age 50 and older were selected to receive a survey. The county voter registration rolls of those 50 and older were used to draw the sample. The sample was approximately five percent of voters age 50 and older. Names were then randomly assigned to receive one of four surveys (health and wellness, housing, transportation, or leisure and recreation). Nine hundred and sixteen surveys were returned for an overall response rate of 31 percent. This yields a sample error of and/- 3.2 percent, meaning that in 95 out of 100 cases the response given is within 3.2 percent of the response if every registered voter age 50 and older had been asked.

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<sup>1</sup> United States Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts. Updated April 22, 2010. Downloaded June 24, 2010. <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/19/19113.html>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> United States Census Bureau Population Estimates. July 9, 2010. Downloaded June 24, 2010. <http://www.census.gov/popest/states/asrh/SC-EST2009-01.html>

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## Linn County Livable Community Project Team

This project was made possible through the hard work and dedication of a group of local leaders.

Beverly Johnson	AARP Cedar Rapids Area Chapter
Judy Fries	AARP Cedar Rapids Area Chapter
Ron Rath	AARP Cedar Rapids Area Chapter
Barbara Weber	AARP Cedar Rapids Area Chapter
Becky Groff	AARP Iowa Office
Kelli Sharpe	Linn Co. Planning & Development
Renee Grummer-Miller	Aging Services
Carol Luth	Aging Services
Audrey Reid	Milestones Adult Day Care
Myrt Bowers	Witwer Sr. Center
Ingrid Wensel	Heritage Area Agency on Aging
Joel Katcher	Inter Religious Council of Linn Co.
Katie Lammers	Marion Churches Sr. Living Foundation
Mary Klinger	United Way
Judy Stoffels	United Way
Jim Houser	Linn Co. Board of Supervisors
Rob Wagner	Cedar Rapids Recreation Department
Cherie Clark	Handicapped Services
William Mau	Department Sheriff (retired)
Joel Miller	Linn Co. Auditor
Linda Bigley	Iowa State Extension Service
Gina Johnson	Mercy Medical Center
Tracy Robertson	Alzheimer Association
Stephanie Neff	Healthy Linn

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## Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by Ekom Etuk and Erica Dinger of Research and Strategic Analysis. Assistance was provided by Aisha Bonner, Cheryl Barnes, Susan Silberman, and Rachelle Cummins, Research and Strategic Analysis. Expertise and guidance was provided by Connie Eastman, AARP Iowa. The Office of General Counsel provided advice and review of the reports.

### Background

In order to examine how prepared Linn County is for the aging of its residents, the Cedar Rapids Area Chapter of AARP in conjunction with community partners conducted a survey from June to July, 2009. Residents received a survey in one of four areas of concern: health and wellness, transportation, housing, or leisure and recreation. Three thousand residents of Linn County over the age of 50 were randomly selected to receive the survey from the voter registration rolls. Residents were then randomly divided into four groups and sent one of the four surveys. 916 surveys were returned, for an overall response rate of 30 percent. Individual response rates are: Health and wellness, 30%; Transportation, 32%; Housing, 31%, and Leisure and recreation, 28%.

### DETAILED FINDINGS

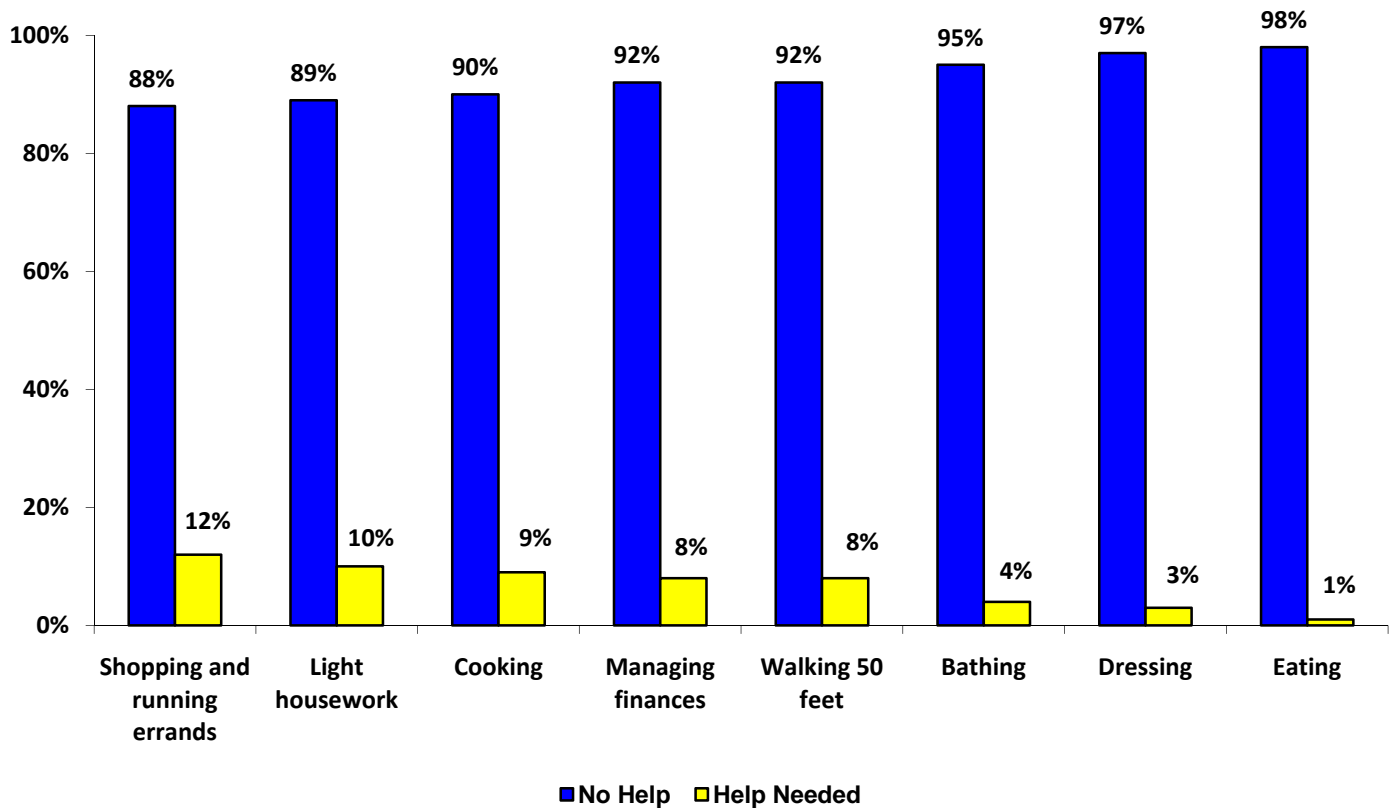
- **Most respondents say they are in good health and need little help with daily activities.**
- ✓ Two-thirds (66%) of respondents in Linn County report that their health is good or very good, while an additional 14 percent say their health is excellent.
- ✓ Respondents are most likely to report seeing a dentist or eye doctor at least once in the past twelve months.
- ✓ Only 16 percent say they have been hospitalized in the past twelve months.

#### Type of Medical Service and Frequency of Use (n=225)

Frequency	Dentist	Eye Doctor	Family Doctor	Specialist	Emergency
None	18 %	31 %	8 %	41 %	72 %
1-2 times	64 %	59 %	44 %	36 %	14 %
3-5 times	12 %	5 %	36 %	10 %	2 %
6 or more times	2 %	2 %	12 %	6 %	1 %

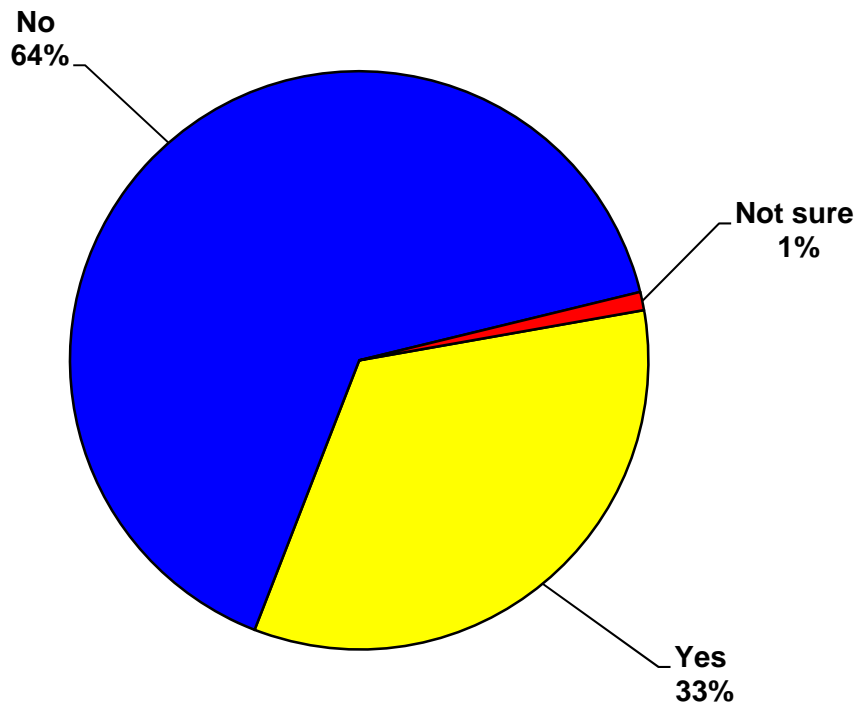
- Few respondents report needing help with their day-to-day activities.
- ✓ People most commonly report needing help with shopping and running errands and light housework.
- ✓ Sixteen percent say that a spouse is the most common caregiver.

### Those Who Need Help and Need No Help (n=225)



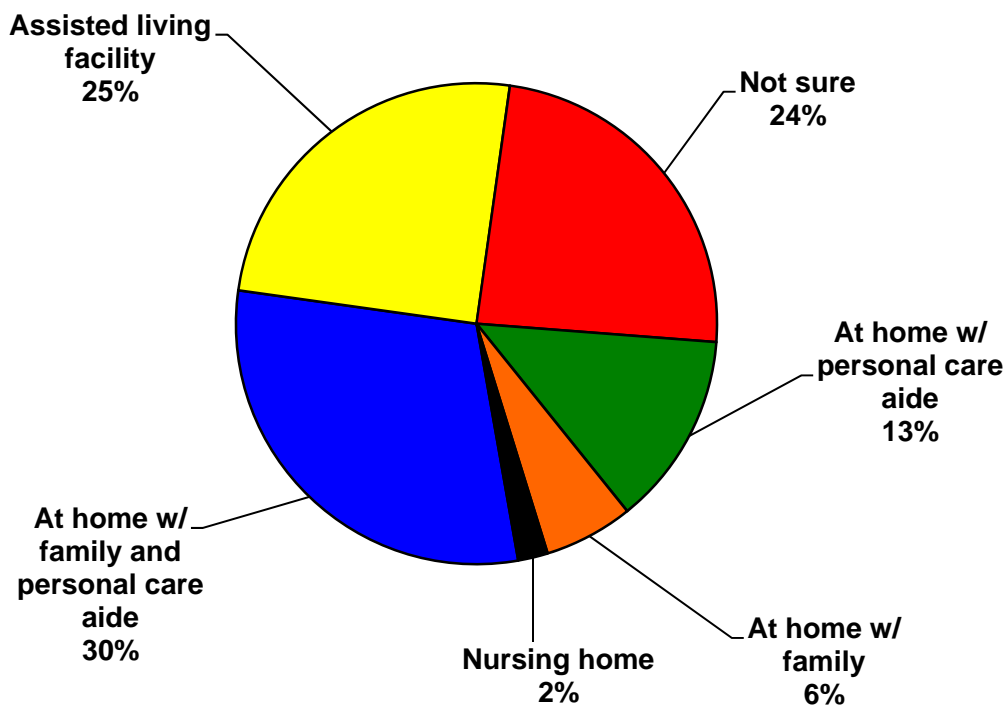
- **A third of respondents say they or someone in their household has been a caregiver in the past twelve months.**
- ✓ A third of respondents say that in the last 12 months either they or someone in their household has provided unpaid care to a relative or friend 18 years or older to help them care for themselves.
- ✓ This care can include helping the person with personal needs, household chores, or checking in with them to see how they are doing.

**Provide Unpaid Care  
(n=225)**



- **Most respondents want to receive long-term care services at home.**
- ✓ Although most (97%) respondents have never lived in a residential care facility, nearly three in ten (29%) say it is at least somewhat likely that they or a family member could need long-term care services in the next five years.
- ✓ Half of respondents want to receive any needed long-term care services at home, from family and friends, home care aides, or a combination of both.
- ✓ About 24 percent are unsure of how they would like to receive long-term care.

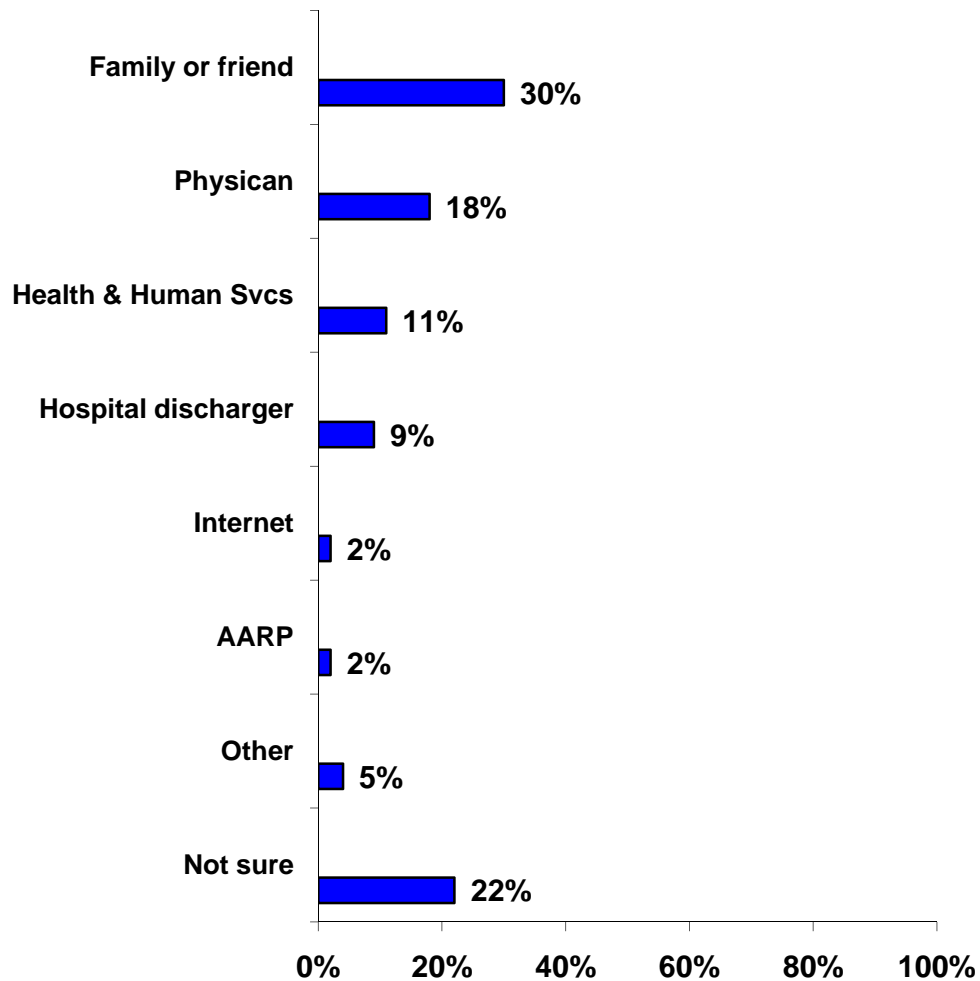
**Preferences for Receiving Long-Term Care**  
(n=225)





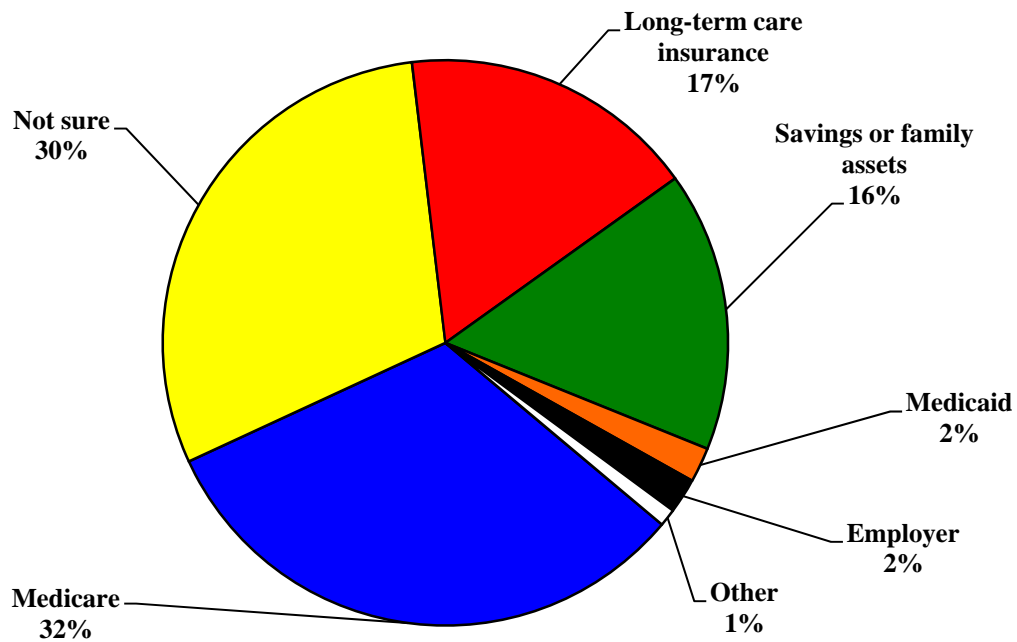
- Linn County respondents say they would turn to family and friends for information about long-term care services.
- ✓ Respondents say they would turn to family and friends, their physician, and health and human services to learn about long-term care services in their community

### **Finding Out About Long-Term Care Services (n=225)**



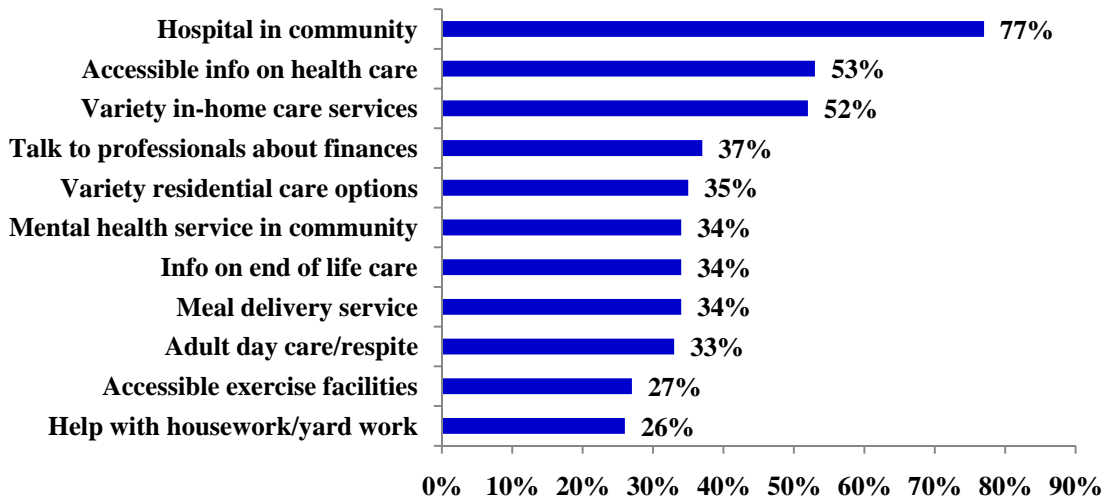
- **Nearly a third of respondents say they would rely on Medicare to pay for long-term care services.**
- ✓ 17 percent would rely on long-term care insurance and 30 percent are unsure of how they would pay for needed long-term care.
- ✓ It is important to note that Medicare does not cover long-term care expenses.

### **Paying for Long-Term Care Services** (n=225)



- Resources related to health and staying in their homes as they age are the most important to Linn County respondents.
- ✓ When asked about resources in their community, health resources are at the top of the list for Linn County residents. Specifically, they say access to hospitals, accessible information on health care, and a variety of in-home care services are the most important services needed in their community.

### Extremely Important in Linn County (n=225)

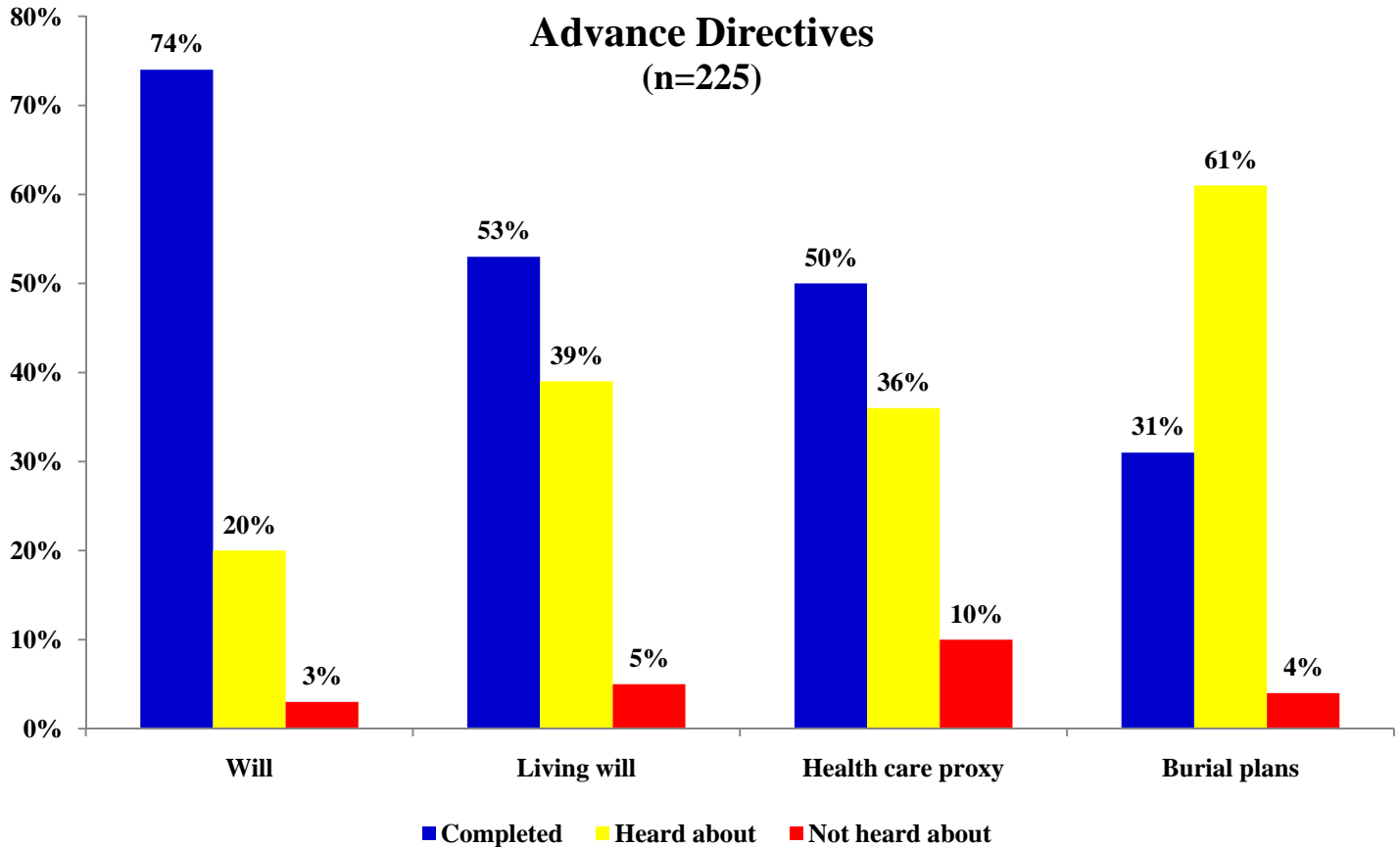


- When asked about which resources exist in their community, more than three-fourths at least somewhat agree that Linn County has enough doctors and hospitals. Fewer agree that Linn County has services that allow people to remain at home or affordable long-term care facilities.

### Opinions of Linn County Services (n=225)

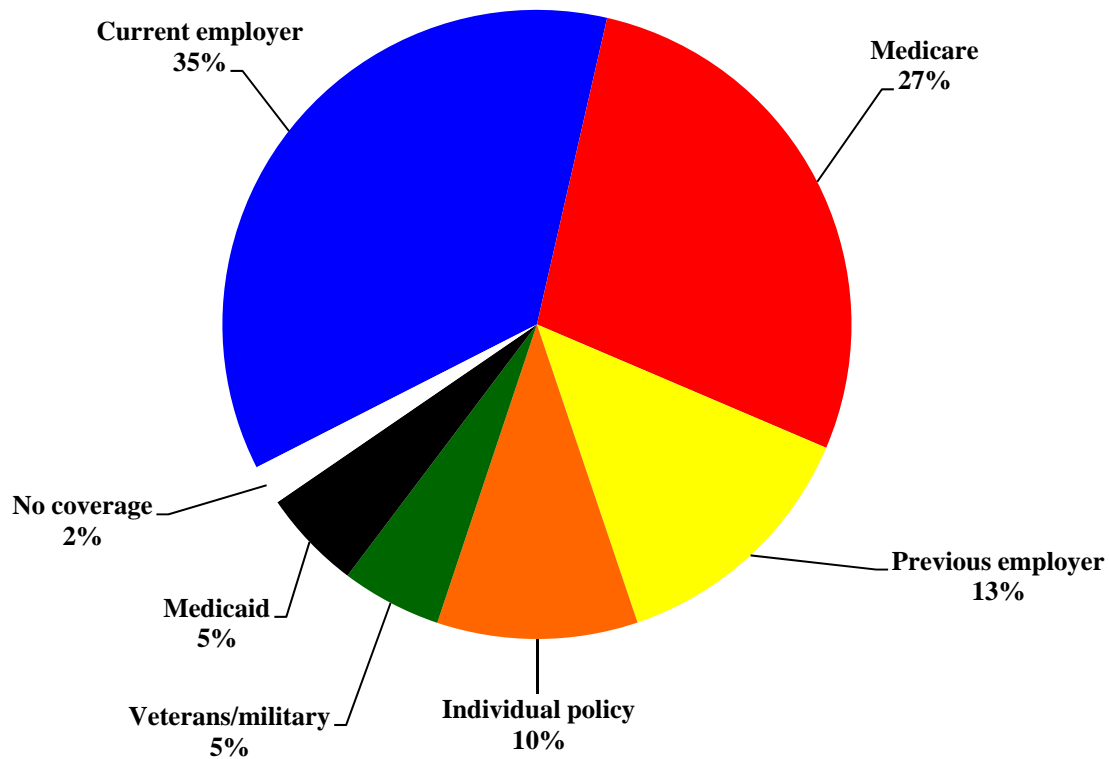
	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Enough doctors & hospitals	50%	29%	8%	5%	4%
Affordable long-term care facilities	11%	35%	19%	20%	11%
Services which allow me to stay at home as I age	14%	50%	17%	11%	3%

- Linn County residents are preparing for the future.
- ✓ Three-fourths have completed a last will and testament, while half have completed a health care proxy or living will.



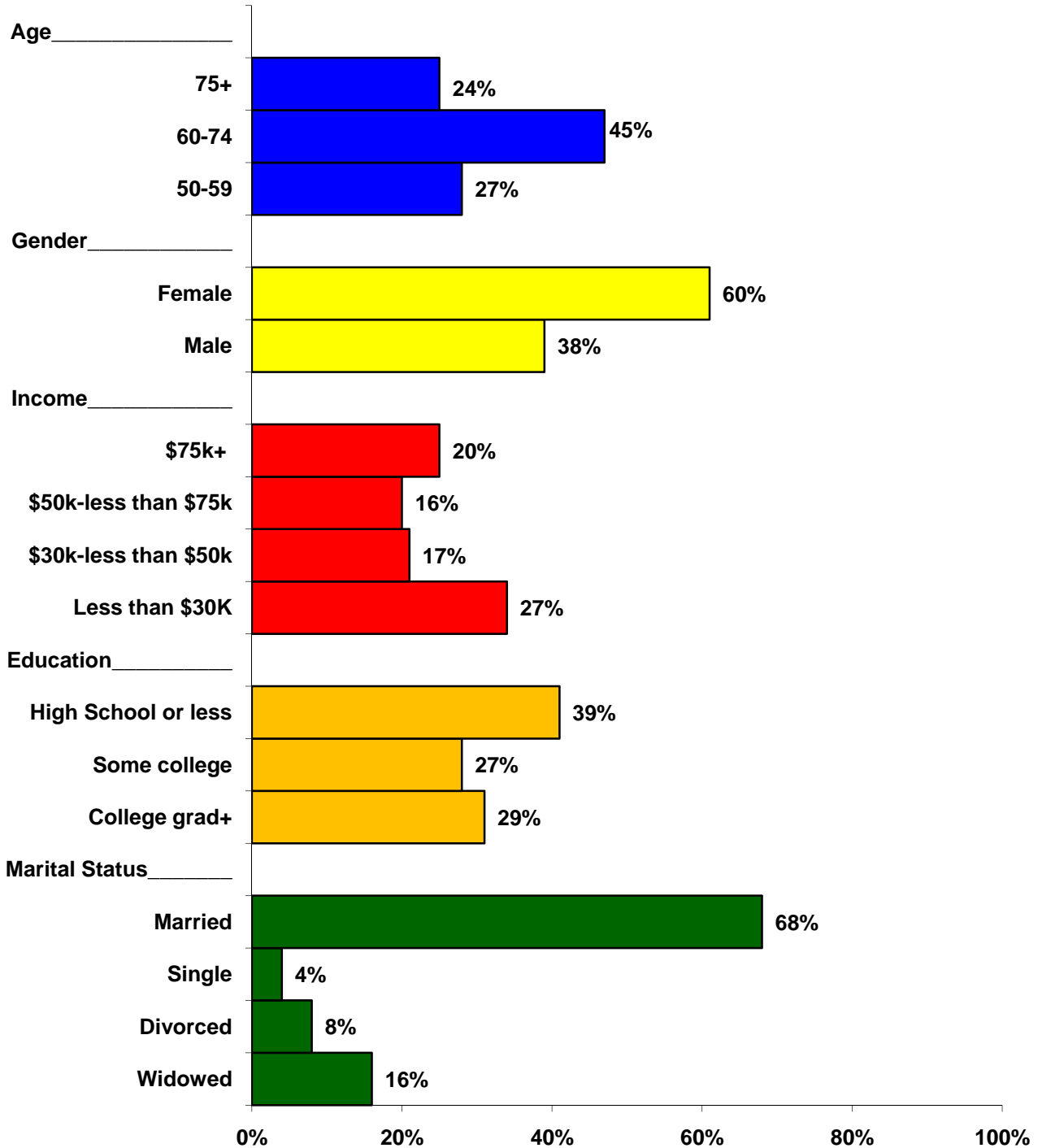
- Respondents say their primary source of health coverage is an employer or Medicare.

### Primary Health Care Coverage (n=225)



- Most respondents (84%) have lived in Linn Co for the last 12 months.
- Most respondents (77%) say they live within the city limits of a town or city

### Respondent Demographics (n = 225)



**Appendix A:  
ANNOTATION**

## ANNOTATED QUESTIONNAIRE

### 2009 LINN COUNTY HEALTH SURVEY Linn County Residents Age 50 and on Voter Registration Rolls (n=225) (Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number)

#### Health & Wellness

**1. How would you describe your health today?**

- 14% Excellent
- 35% Very good
- 32% Good
- 12% Fair
- 5% Poor
- <.5% Not sure

**2. In the past 12 months, how many times have you used the following medical services?**

	None	1-2 times	3-5 times	6 or more times	Not sure
	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
a. General physician or family doctor .....	8%	44%	36%	12%	0%
b. Medical specialist, like a cardiologist .....	41%	36%	10%	6%	2%
c. Emergency department at a hospital.....	72%	14%	2%	1%	3%
d. Eye doctor.....	31%	59%	5%	2%	1%
e. Dentist.....	18%	64%	12%	2%	1%

**3. In the past 12 months, have you been hospitalized or needed to stay in the hospital overnight?**

- 12% Yes, once
- 4% Yes, more than once
- 83% No

**4. In the past five years, have you lived in a residential care facility such as a nursing home or assisted living facility?**

- 2% Yes, currently
- 1% Yes, in the past five years
- 97% No [GO TO QUESTION 6]



**5. How did you select the residential care facility? (n=6)**

- 83% Family/friend referral
- 0% Physician referral
- 0% Case manager/Social Worker referral
- 0% Advertisement
- 17% Hospital discharge planner referral
- 0% Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- 0% Not sure

**6. How likely are you or a family member to need long-term care services, such as nursing home care or assisted living care, the next five years?**

- 6% Extremely likely
- 6% Very likely
- 18% Somewhat likely
- 32% Not very likely
- 24% Not at all likely
- 15% Not sure

**7. If you or a family member needed long-term care services, how would you like to receive those services?**

- 6% Have family and friends provide all the care at home
- 13% Have care provided at home by a personal care aide
- 30% Have care provided at home by both family and friends and a personal care aide
- 25% Have care provided in a home-like setting such as an assisted living facility where housing, food, and personal help are provided
- 2% Have care provided in a nursing home
- 24% Not sure

**8. If you or a family member needed long-term care services, where would you be most likely to find out about these services?**

- 30% Family/friend
- 18% Physician
- 1% Newspaper advertisement
- <.5% Clergy
- 9% Hospital discharge planner
- 2% AARP
- 2% Internet
- 11% Health and Human Services
- 1% Telephone book
- 3% Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**9. If you or a family member needed long-term care services, where would you be most likely to find out about these services?**

- 32% Medicare
- 2% Medicaid
- 17% Long-term care insurance
- 2% Employer
- 16% Savings or family assets
- 1% Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. How much help do you need with the following?**

	No Help	Some Help	Completely Reliant on Help	Not Sure
a. Walking 50 feet.....	92%	5%	3%	0%
b. Shopping and running errands.....	88%	8%	4%	0%
c. Light housework.....	89%	8%	3%	<.5%
d. Managing finances.....	92%	5%	2%	0%
e. Cooking meals.....	90%	5%	4%	<.5%
f. Bathing.....	95%	3%	2%	0%
g. Dressing.....	97%	2%	1%	0%
h. Eating.....	98%	<.5%	1%	0%

**11. How often do you receive help with the following?\***

	Daily	3-5 times a week	1-2 times a week	Less than 1 time a week	Not Sure
a. Walking 50 feet. (n=17)....	24%	24%	12%	12%	24%
b. Shopping and running errands (n=27).....	7%	19%	33%	33%	0%
c. Light housework (n=23)....	17%	13%	13%	52%	0%
d. Managing finances (n=17) .	24%	0%	18%	24%	12%
e. Cooking meals (n=21).....	43%	14%	0%	29%	10%
f. Bathing (n=10).....	20%	10%	40%	20%	10%
g. Dressing (n=7).....	29%	14%	14%	29%	14%
h. Eating (n=3).....	67%	0%	0%	0%	33%

- Caution should be used when interpreting results with n's of less than 20.

**12. Who most often provides help with your care?**

16%	Spouse
4%	Child
3%	Other family member
<.5%	Friend
1%	Paid caregiver, such as a visiting nurse
66%	I do not need care
1%	Not sure

**13. In the last 12 months, have you or anyone in your household provided unpaid care to a relative or friend 18 years or older to help them care for themselves? Such care can include personal needs, household chores, or checking up on them to see how they are doing.**

33% Yes  
64% No  
1% Not sure

**14. Thinking about your community in Linn County, how important are the following community characteristics to you?**

	<b>Extremely important</b>	<b>Very important</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not very important</b>	<b>Not at all important</b>
	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
a. Accessible exercise facilities, such as gyms or parks.....	27%	25%	27%	10%	6%
b. A hospital in the community.....	77%	19%	2%	0%	1%
c. Mental health services in the community	34%	28%	19%	11%	4%
d. A variety of in-home care services that allow people to age at home.....	52%	31%	11%	1%	4%
e. Adult day care or respite care .....	33%	34%	19%	8%	4%
f. A variety of residential care options, such as nursing homes .....	35%	39%	15%	5%	4%
g. Accessible information on health care ..	53%	30%	11%	1%	3%
h. Professionals to talk to about financial and legal services .....	37%	32%	21%	4%	5%
i. Information on end of life care .....	34%	31%	20%	3%	5%
j. A meal delivery service, such as meals-on-wheels.....	34%	32%	18%	8%	5%
k. Help with housework or yard work.....	26%	32%	29%	5%	5%

15. Advance directives allow people to make their health care choices known in advance of an incapacitating illness or death. Which of the following advance directives and other pre-plans have you heard about and completed?

	Have heard about <u>and</u> completed	Have heard about but <u>not</u> completed	Have not heard about
a. A health care proxy or durable power of attorney for health care in which you name someone to make decisions about your health care in the event you become incapacitated .....	50%	36%	10%
b. A living will or other written instructions in which you state the kind of health care you want or don't want under certain circumstances.....	53%	39%	5%
c. A last will and testament that controls how your money and other property are to be distributed .....	74%	20%	3%
d. Funeral or burial pre-plans in which you plan or purchase in advance any goods or services for yourself .....	31%	61%	4%

16. What is your primary source of health care coverage?

- 21% Through current employer
- 13% Through your spouse's employer
- 10% On your own, through an individual insurance policy, such as COBRA
- 13% Through a previous employer or spouse's previous employer (may be a retirement benefit)
- 5% Veterans or military benefits
- 5% Medicaid
- 27% Medicare
- 1% Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- 2% I do not have health care coverage

17. Please state whether you agree or disagree with the following statements about Linn County

	Strongly Agree ▼	Somewhat agree ▼	Neither ▼	Somewhat Disagree ▼	Strongly Disagree ▼
a. There are enough health services, such as doctors and hospitals .....	50%	29%	8%	5%	4%
b. There are affordable long-term care residential facilities .....	11%	35%	19%	20%	11%
c. There are services that will allow me to stay at home as I age.....	14%	50%	17%	11%	3%

## About You

*These questions ask you to provide basic information about yourself. They are for classification purposes only and will be kept entirely confidential.*

**D1. What is your gender?**

- 38% Male
- 60% Female

**D2. What is your marital status?**

- 4% Single/never married
- 68% Married
- 1% Not married, living with a partner
- 16% Widowed
- 8% Divorced
- 1% Separated

**D3. What is your age as of your last birthday? \_\_\_\_\_ (in years)**

- 27% 50-59
- 45% 60-74
- 24% 75and
- 4% Missing/ No Answer

**D4. What is your race?**

- 96% White or Caucasian
- 1% Black or African-American
- <.5% Asian American or Pacific Islander
- 0% American Indian or Alaska Native
- 0% Asian
- 0% Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**D5. How many months did you spend in Linn County last year? \_\_\_\_\_**

- 0% 1-4
- 3% 5-8
- 93% 9-12
- 4% Missing/ No Answer

**D6. What is your zip code? \_\_\_\_\_**

- 18% 52302
- 18% 52402
- 13% 52403
- 12% 52405
- 9% 52404
- 27% Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**D7. Which of the following best describes where you live?**

- 4% On a farm
- 5% In a rural, non-farming area
- 8% Unincorporated, but adjacent to a town or city
- 77% Within city limits of a town or city
- 3% Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**D8. Please indicate who lives with you in your household. (Check all that apply)**

- 18% I live alone
- 66% Spouse/significant other
- 17% Other family members (child, grandchild, brothers/sisters)
- 0% I live with non-relatives (friends, roommates)
- 4% Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**D9. What is the highest level of education you have completed?**

- 6% 0-12<sup>th</sup> grade (no diploma)
- 32% High school graduate or equivalency
- 20% Post-high school education (no degree)
- 7% 2-year college degree
- 20% 4-year college degree
- 9% Graduate or professional degree(s)

**D10. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?**

- 4% Self-employed, part-time
- 4% Self-employed, full-time
- 8% Employed, part-time
- 23% Employed, full-time
- 51% Retired, not working at all
- 4% Not in labor force for other reasons
- 2% Unemployed but looking for work

**D11. What was your annual household income before taxes in 2008?**

- 4% Less than \$10,000
- 12% \$10,000 to \$19,999
- 12% \$20,000 to \$29,999
- 6% \$30,000 to \$39,999
- 11% \$40,000 to \$49,999
- 16% \$50,000 to \$74,999
- 20% \$75,000 or more
- 3% Not sure
- 6% Missing/ No Answer

Thank you for completing this survey.  
Return by July 30, 2009

## Background

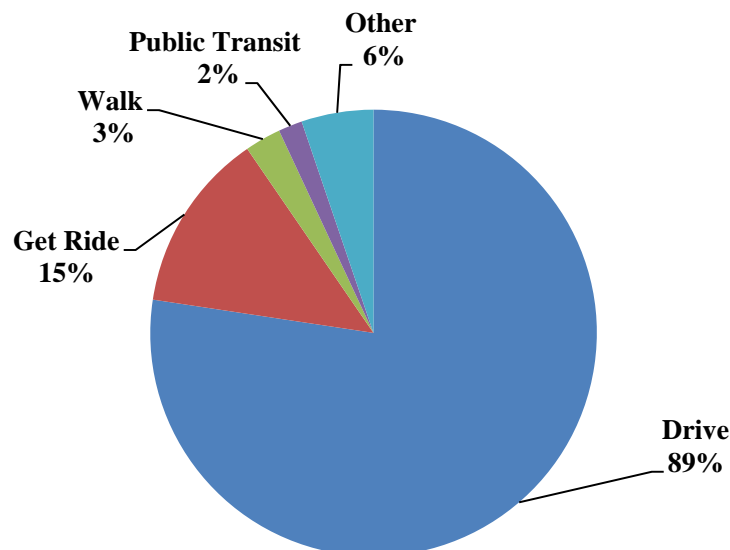
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## DETAILED FINDINGS

### Driving and Public Transportation

- Linn County respondents are active – three-fourths (74%) go out five or more times in a typical week and nine in ten (91%) drive.
- ✓ Respondents overwhelmingly say they drive themselves to get where they need to go.

### Getting Where You Need to Go (n=243)



- **In the past two months, respondents are most likely to have driven a car and least likely to have taken public transportation.**
- ✓ Given how often Linn County residents go out during the week and that so many of them drive, this is unsurprising.

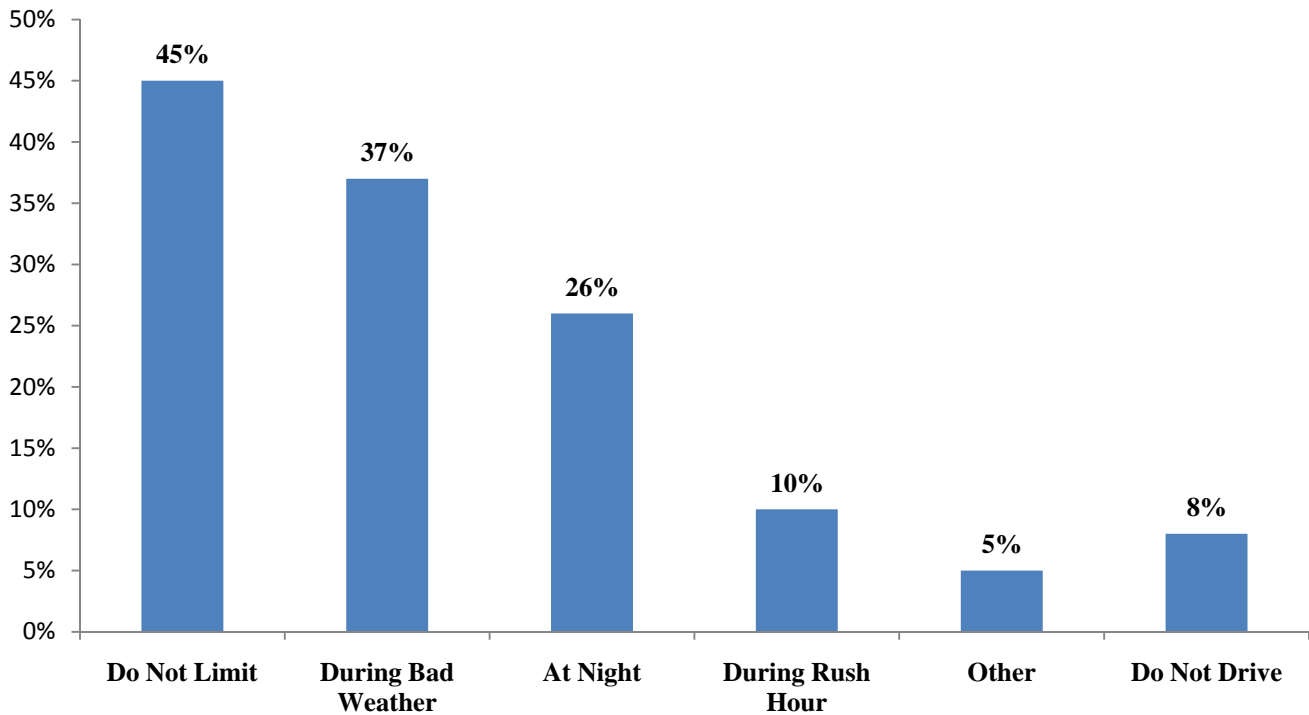
**Frequency of Using Transportation  
(n=243)**

	Daily	1-2/Week	3-5/Week	Monthly	Not at All
<b>Driven a car</b>	51%	5%	31%	3%	9%
<b>Asked for a ride</b>	<.5%	6%	2%	6%	74%
<b>Walked rather than drive</b>	2%	8%	4%	10%	62%
<b>Taken public transit</b>	<.5%	2%	1%	1%	82%



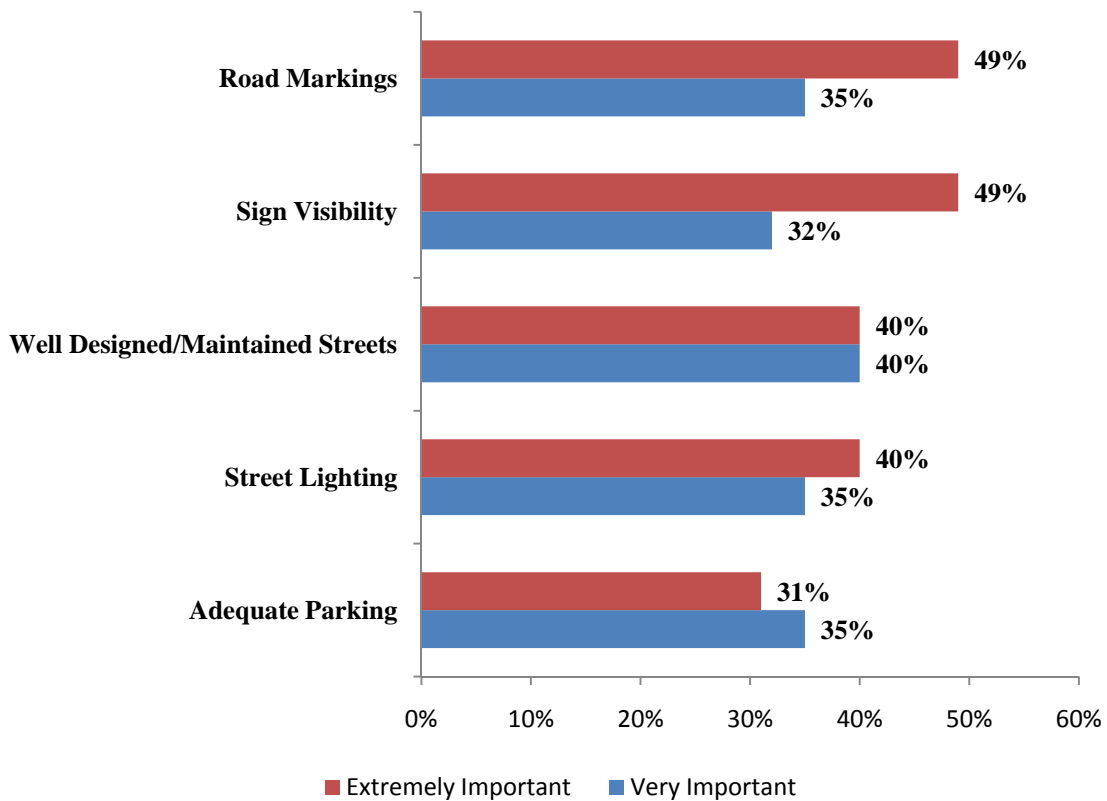
- Respondents are most likely to say they limit their driving during bad weather.
- ✓ When asked if there are circumstances under which they would limit their driving, 45% said they do not limit their driving.

**Conditions to Limit Driving**  
(n=243)



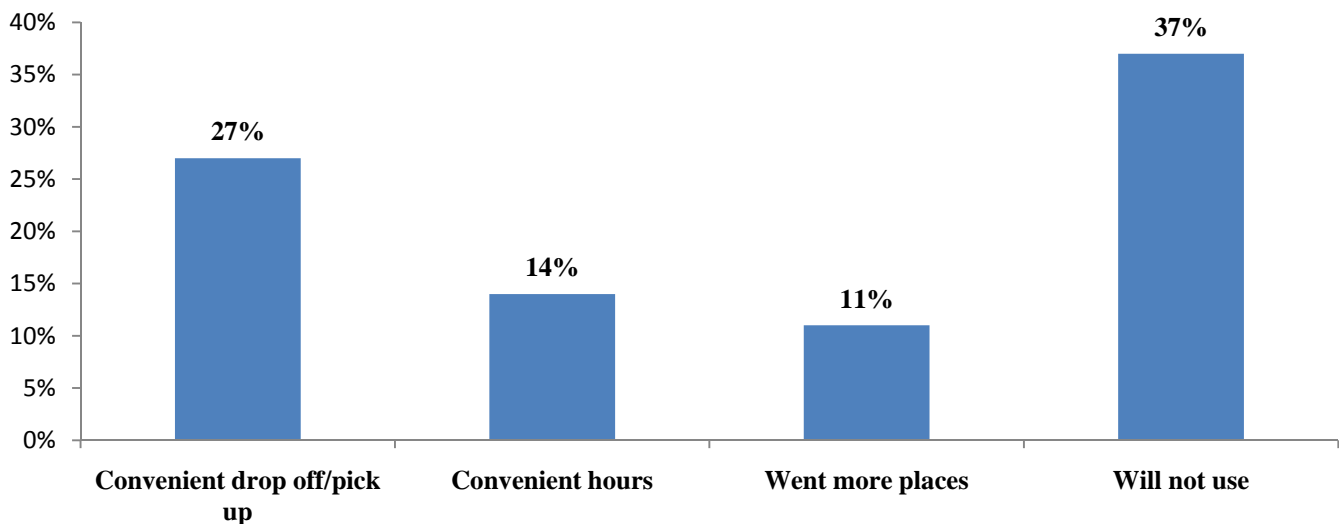
- **Pavement, land and road markings and sign visibility are most important to Linn County drivers.**
- ✓ Respondents also say that well designed and maintained streets and street lighting are very or extremely important to them as they drive in Linn County.
- ✓ Few respondents say they have had trouble going places because they lacked needed transportation options.

**Very/Extremely Important When Driving  
(n=243)**



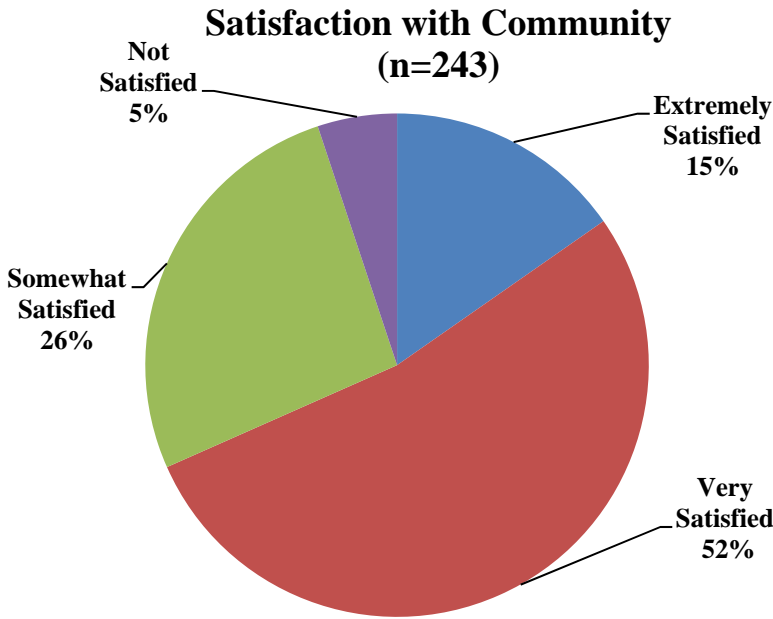
- **Linn County respondents are aware of public transportation in their community – 76% say they know it is available.**
- ✓ However, only 5% have used public transportation in the last month.
- ✓ When asked what time of day public transportation would be of most use, responses were split fairly evenly across hours.
- ✓ Respondents say that convenient spots for pick up and drop off would make them more likely to use public transportation.

### **Reasons to Use Public Transit** (n=243)



- **Linn County respondents learn about public transportation options from the phone book (43%) or friends and family (42%).**
- ✓ Others heard about public transit options from a government agency such as an AAA (18%) or an advertisement (15%).

**Community Characteristics**

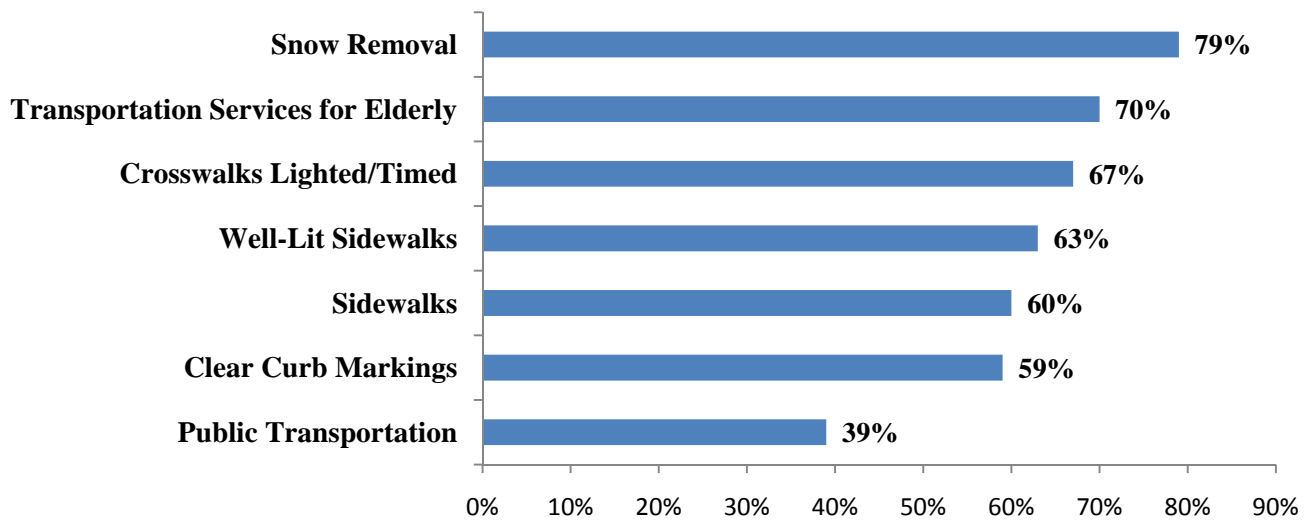


- **Linn County respondents are happy with their community.**
- ✓ Three-fourths (76%) say that their community is an excellent, very good, or good place for people approaching retirement age.
- ✓ Two-thirds (67%) are extremely or very satisfied with their community as a place to live.

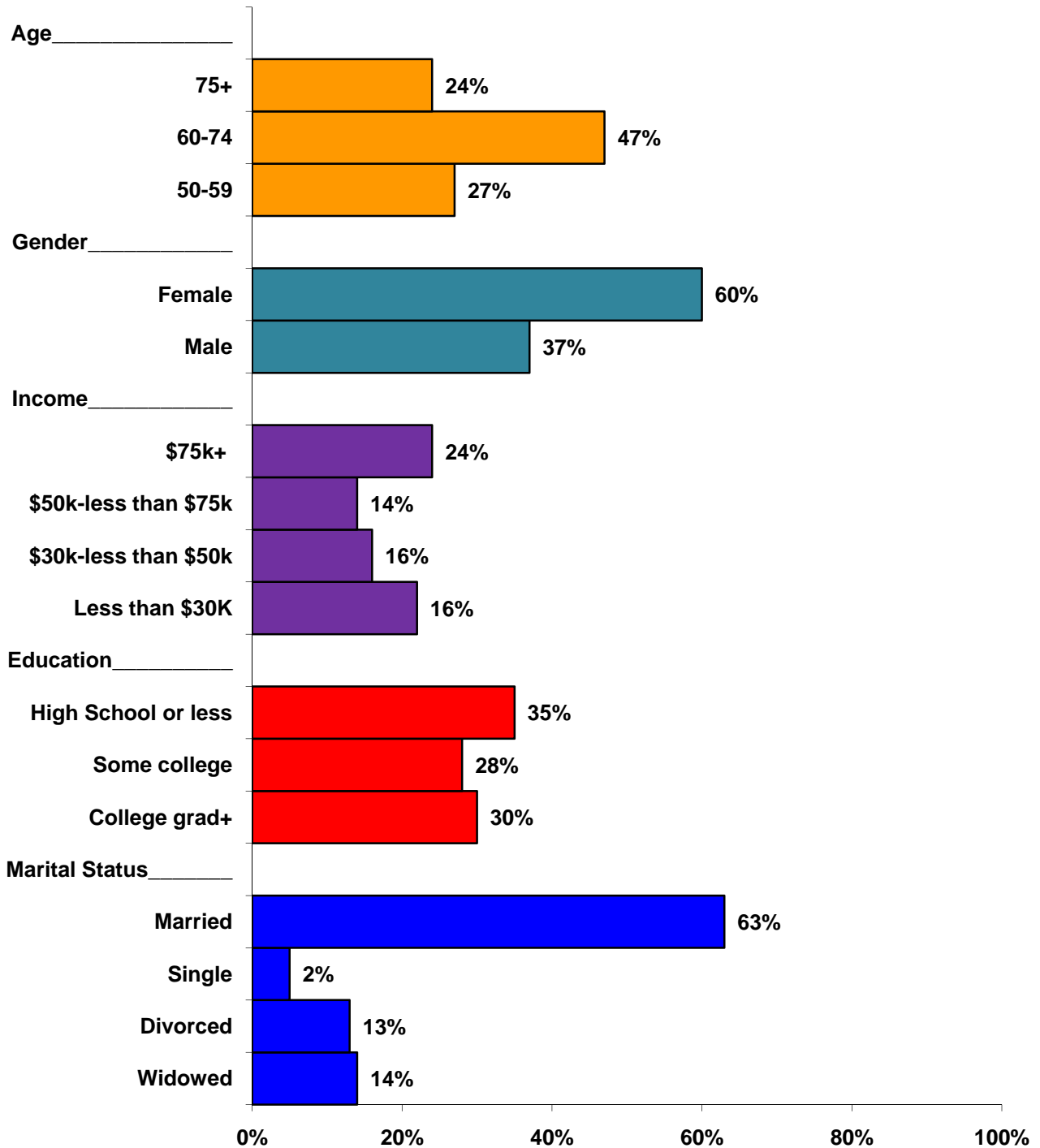
- **Linn County respondents say they can get around their community.**
- ✓ Fully 72 percent say they are extremely or very satisfied with their ability to get around Linn County.
- ✓ About one in seven (15%) say they have a mobility issue that limits their ability to walk or get around. A few respondents report needing a cane or walker to help them get around.

- **Speedy snow removal and transportation services for people with disabilities or the elderly are of top importance for Linn County residents.**
- ✓ Six in ten or more respondents are also concerned with walking around Linn County. They want crosswalks that are well-lighted and give them enough time to cross the street, sidewalks that go where they want to go, and clear curb markings and curb cuts.

**Extremely/Very Important Community Characteristics  
(n=243)**



**Respondent Demographics**  
(n = 243)



**APPENDIX A:  
ANNOTATION**

## ANNOTATED QUESTIONNAIRE

### 2009 LINN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION SURVEY Linn County Residents Age 50 and Years (n=243)

1. In a typical week, how often would you say you get out of your home and go somewhere, for example, shopping, going to work or appointments, or visiting people?

- 2% Not at all
- 7% 1 to 2 times
- 17% 3 to 5 times
- 74% 5 or more times
- >.5% Not sure

2. Do you currently drive?

- 91% Yes
- 9% No
- 0% Not sure

3. In general, when you need to get somewhere, how do you go?

- 89% Drive
- 15% Get a ride with family or friends
- 3% Walk
- 2% Take public transportation
- 1% Take van or special transportation for senior citizens (perhaps this is LIFTS?)
- 1% Taxi
- 2% Bike
- 2% Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- 0% Not sure

4. In the past two months, how frequently have you....

	Daily ▼	1-2 times a week ▼	3-5 times a week ▼	Monthly ▼	Not at all ▼
a. Driven a car .....	52%	5%	31%	3%	9%
b. Asked for a ride .....	1%	7%	2%	7%	84%
c. Walked rather than taking a car.....	2%	9%	5%	12%	72%
d. Taken public transportation.....	1%	2%	1%	1%	95%



**5. Are there any circumstances under which you limit your driving? (Check all that apply)**

- 26% At night
- 37% During bad weather (rain, snow)
- 10% During rush hour
- 5% Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- 45% I do not limit my driving
- 8% I do not drive
- 0% Not sure

**6. When you drive in Linn County, how important are each of the following?**

	<b>Extremely Important</b>	<b>Very Important</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>Not Very Important</b>	<b>Not at all important</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
a. Sign visibility .....	54%	34%	10%	1%	1%	0%
b. Street lighting .....	43%	38%	13%	4%	2%	0%
c. Pavement, lane, or road markings.....	53%	37%	7%	1%	1%	0%
d. Adequate parking .....	35%	39%	22%	3%	1%	0%
e. Well designed and maintained streets .....	44%	43%	12%	1%	1%	0%

**7. Do you ever have difficulty going to the following places because you don't have transportation?**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
a. Medical appointments .....	0%	96%	4%
b. Grocery shopping or other errands .....	0%	97%	3%
c. Activities with family or friends .....	0%	97%	3%
d. Your place of worship .....	0%	97%	3%
e. Entertainment or leisure activities .....	>.5%	95%	4%
f. Volunteer activities .....	1%	96%	3%

**8. To the best of your knowledge, is there public transportation available in your community?**

- 76% Yes
- 15% No
- 9% Not sure

**9. In the last two months, how often have you used public transportation?**

- 0% Every day
- 2% Several times a week
- >.5% About once a week
- 1% Once or twice a month
- 2% Less than once a month
- 95% Not at all
- 0% Not sure

**10. What would make you more likely to use public transportation in your community?**

- 27% Convenient spots for pick up and drop off
- 6% Less expensive
- 14% Convenient hours
- 11% It went more places
- 37% I will not use public transportation
- 24% Not sure

**11. What time of day would public transportation or transportation assistance be of most use to you? (Check all that apply)**

- 9% 5 to 7 AM
- 10% 7 to 9 AM
- 11% 10 AM to Noon
- 9% 12 to 2 PM
- 15% 2 to 4 PM
- 11% 6 to 8 PM
- 6% Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- 39% None, I would not use public transportation
- 27% Not sure

**12. Thinking about your future needs, how would you rate your community as a place for people approaching retirement age to live?**

- 4% Excellent
- 18% Very good
- 38% Good
- 28% Fair
- 10% Poor
- 2% Not sure

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

- >.5% Extremely satisfied
- 4% Very satisfied
- 27% Somewhat satisfied
- 53% Not too satisfied
- 15% Not at all satisfied
- >.5% Not sure

**14. How important is it to you personally to have the following characteristics in your community?**

	<b>Extremely Important</b>	<b>Very Important</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>Not Very Important</b>	<b>Not at all important</b>
a. Dependable public transportation .....	17%	24%	26%	19%	14%
b. Sidewalks going to where you want to go....	26%	38%	24%	7%	6%
c. Crosswalks lighted and well-timed .....	28%	42%	16%	9%	6%
d. Well-lit sidewalks .....	25%	43%	18%	10%	4%
e. Clear curb markings and cut curbs .....	26%	37%	23%	10%	3%
f. Speedy snow removal ..	46%	37%	15%	2%	1%
g. Transportation services for people with disabilities or the elderly .....	36%	36%	18%	7%	2%

**15. How do you find out about transportation options in your area? (Check all that apply)**

- 42% Friends or family
- 43% Telephone directory/phone book
- 15% Ad in newspaper, TV, or radio
- 2% Religious organization
- 6% Doctor or medical professional
- 18% Area Agency on Aging, Social Security Administration, or other government agency

**16. Overall, how satisfied are you with your ability to get around in Linn County?**

- 1% Extremely satisfied
- 3% Very satisfied
- 20% Somewhat satisfied
- 58% Not too satisfied
- 16% Not at all satisfied
- 2% Not sure

**17. Do you have any mobility issues that limit your ability to walk or get around?**

- 15% Yes
- 83% No (Go to Question D1)
- 2% Not sure

**18. Do you use anything to help you get around? (n=36)**

- 44% Cane
- 25% Walker
- 17% Wheelchair
- 6% Motorized scooter
- 14% Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**19. Please use the space below to let us know anything else concerning transportation services in Linn County:**

**About You**

*These questions ask you to provide basic information about yourself. They are for classification purposes only and will be kept entirely confidential.*

**D1. What is your gender?**

- 37% Male
- 60% Female

**D2. What is your marital status?**

- 5% Single/never married
- 63% Married
- 1% Not married, living with a partner
- 14% Widowed
- 13% Divorced
- 1% Separated

**D3. What is your age as of your last birthday? \_\_\_\_\_ (in years)**

- 28% 50-59
- 44% 60-74
- 22% 75and
- 3% Missing/ No Answer

**D4. What is your race?**

- 95% White or Caucasian
- 1% Black or African-American
- <.5% Hispanic/Latino
- <.5% American Indian or Alaska Native
- <.5% Asian
- 1% Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**D5. How many months did you spend in Linn County last year? \_\_\_\_\_**

- 1% 6 months or less
- 1% 7 -9 months
- 94% 10-12 months

**D6. What is your zip code? \_\_\_\_\_**

- 2% 52202
- 1% 52213
- 1% 52214
- <.5% 52218
- 1% 52227
- 2% 52228
- 4% 52233
- 2% 52253
- 14% 52302
- 1% 52314
- <.5% 52324
- 2% 52328
- <.5% 52336
- <.5% 52341
- 1% 52352
- 2% 52401
- 15% 52402
- 16% 52403
- 2% 52404
- 13% 52405
- <.5% 52408
- 5% 52411
- <.5% 54203

**D7. Which of the following best describes where you live?**

- 3% On a farm
- 3% In a rural, non-farming area
- 3% Unincorporated, but adjacent to a town or city
- 86% Within city limits of a town or city
- 3% Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**D8. Please indicate who lives with you in your household. (Check all that apply)**

- 24% I live alone
- 61% Spouse/significant other
- 12% Other family members (child, grandchild, brothers/sisters)
- 1% I live with non-relatives (friends, roommates)
- 1% Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**D9. What is the highest level of education you have completed?**

- 7% 0-12<sup>th</sup> grade (no diploma)
- 28% High school graduate or equivalency
- 17% Post-high school education (no degree)
- 11% 2-year college degree
- 17% 4-year college degree
- 14% Graduate or professional degree(s)

**D10. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?**

- 4% Self-employed, part-time
- 3% Self-employed, full-time
- 9% Employed, part-time
- 22% Employed, full-time
- 49% Retired, not working at all
- 3% Not in labor force for other reasons
- 3% Unemployed but looking for work

**D11. What was your annual household income before taxes in 2008?**

- 4% Less than \$10,000
- 9% \$10,000 to \$19,999
- 10% \$20,000 to \$29,999
- 8% \$30,000 to \$39,999
- 9% \$40,000 to \$49,999
- 14% \$50,000 to \$74,999
- 24% \$75,000 or more
- 4% Not sure
- 7% Missing/ No Answer

Thank you for completing this survey.  
Return by July 30, 2009

**APPENDIX B:  
VERBATIM RESPONSES**

## **2009 Linn County Transportation Survey**

### **Verbatim Responses**

- 1) I don't use the city bus much right now but family members do. It is comforting to know if is a half a block away should I need it. I do like the fact that when I want to leave town the city bus has a route that will take us to the air port to catch an outgoing bus leaving town. I would like to see a straighter and quicker route to the airport though. They have added many routes since my younger days when I used to get around.
- 2) I understand SE Linn has a service of providing rides to Dr's appointments. It would be nice to be able to go other Places to a mall, etc. I have cataracts and probably shouldn't be driving.
- 3) The St. Lukes hospital and our Coventry extend insurance coverage was extremely helpful during my husband's therapy services since May.
- 4) Since I don't use it. I guess it is okay.
- 5) I need someone to accompany me every 3-4 months to the Pain Clinic and to UI-Eye Clinic. I cannot drive after these particular treatments and am required by the doctor to have a driver. I am able to drive myself to other Dr appts and to physical therapy alone. It is very important that I have a garage to keep my car in during winter. I would be unable to shovel my car out or clear ice from my car if it was parked in a apt. complex parking lot. Then I would always depend on a driver or stay in all winter and not see my doctor.
- 6) >Build beltway @ County Home Rd >finish Collins extension to West Side >Look @light rail along 380 from Hiawatha to Iowa City
- 7) I have just been put in a nursing home so I am not too good at responding to these questions. I am answering from previous experience. My husband is still alive and takes care of the driving.
- 8) County Roads Failing



- 9) Although I'm aware of Lifts service, I've never used it, and am not sure how much advance notice is required, what schedules are, & how much help getting on& off is available----questions that might be answered in a follow-up AARP? Also---how many people answered "not sure" to question #2? I want to stay out of their way!
- 10) It would be very helpful when weather is too bad for me to drive, that we seniors could get a reduced rate taking cabs. This would especially be helpful when I have to get to one of my many doctor appointments.
- 11) poor rural road maintenance
- 12) The LIFTS bus provided incredible service to my husband's Grandmother. My mom used it when she was visiting us. It's a great service!
- 13) Never had to inquire about public transportation not sure what is available in our area. Sidewalks in our section of town are great. I plan on driving for quite a few more years.
- 14) It would be nice just to go for a ride and get out of the house. There have been times when I didn't go out for months. My ability to go out is very limited because of my w/c and having no one to go with me to push it.
- 15) Currently I do not use any form of Transportation other than my own. I live in a small town and as far as I know there is none available near anyway. As I get older and need some I'm sure my concerns will change
- 16) As long as I still have a husband, I depend on him to get me places.
- 17) City of Robins lacks Public Transportation Buses Need to Run later---till 9 pm
- 18) I do not need them yet but when I do I hope they will have improved.
- 19) The city Streets in Cedar Rapids are in terrible condition.
- 20) The most serious concern is the lack of repairing the streets. The potholes and lumps need to be fixed. They tear our cars apart! This is supposed to be the second largest city of Iowa, yet we are so far behind in development, as well as streets and avenues condition. It's sad!
- 21) I have {      }
- 22) Currently concerned about 'potholes' in roads. Lack of sidewalks. If I was older or had mobility issues the concerns might be different.

- 23) Major roads should all have curbs and rain gutters in town
- 24) I hear some sidewalk must be widened to 6ft so two motor scooters can pass? Is this not a waste of taxpayer money and the homeowner cost esp. since the city allows anyone to complain about uneven walkway and then they hire a concrete company and access the cost to the landowner.
- 25) You should probably define 'public transportation' in this survey. Does it include taxis? Charitable van services?
- 26) No concerns
- 27) Need sidewalks & cross walks on Collins Rd
- 28) Fix the pot holes! Keep the road lines clear
- 29) Do a good job organizing transportation with all ages of groups of people that have different problems depending what situation and disability problems people are having providing themselves reasonable transportation for themselves.
- 30) Not available where we live.
- 31) Have had both knee joints replaced . . . have had both hip joints replaces . . . have a handicapped sticker for my car . . . but get along quite well.
- 32) At the present time I do not use public transportation---However---I would like to see smaller vans in many areas to have easy access. May drive to a hub and use larger bus. If I was dependent on public transportation now---I do not think it would be adequate in CR---Linn County.
- 33) Do not have any issues.
- 34) I will be moving to less rural area---Blake Blvd SE Cedar Rapids next week. Public Transportation will be much more accessible there. I think this will be to my advantage as I age.
- 35) Street signs larger---more visible.
- 36) The struts and roads are in dire need of repair.
- 37) The public transportation buses need to be smaller---there has never been a full bus for the forty years that I have observed the service. A shuttle service for visitors @ hotels would be nice for visitors wanting to tour areas of interest.
- 38) I have no problem at this time with transportation as my husband and I both drive---I am very comfortable with this---I might add that we found the conditions of our residential streets the last two winters deplorable---snow removal and sanding were sometimes nonexistent. We do not often have reason to drive through the country---what options for public transportation do the elderly have . . . Lifts?---others?---

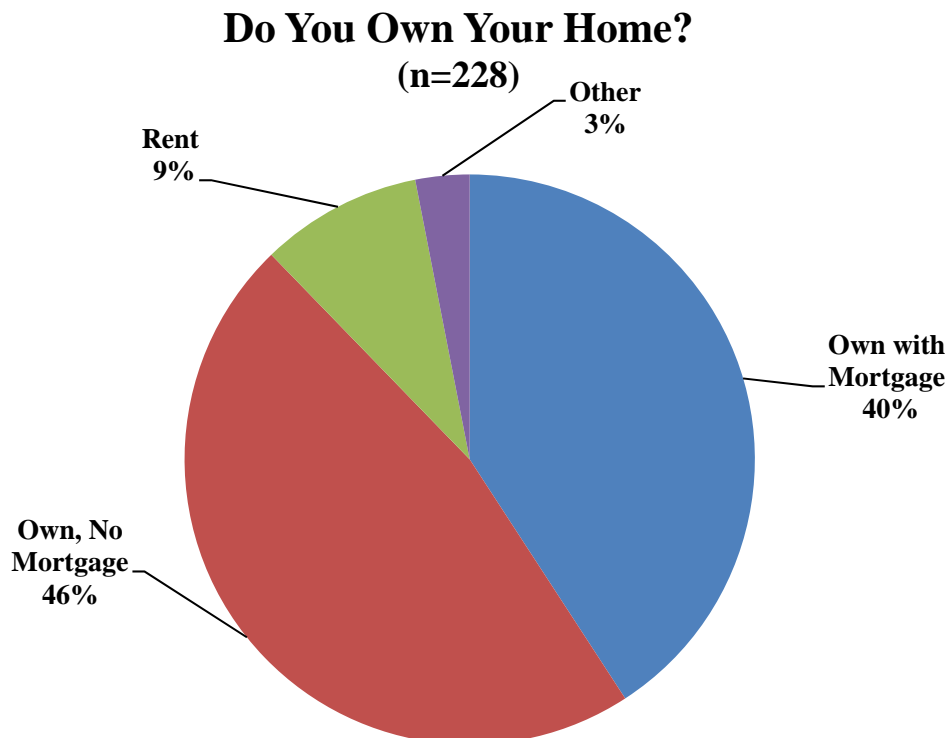
### Background

In order to examine how prepared Linn County is for the aging of its residents, the Cedar Rapids Area Chapter of AARP in conjunction with community partners conducted a survey from June to July, 2009. Residents received a survey in one of four areas of concern: health and wellness, transportation, housing, or leisure and recreation. Three thousand residents of Linn County over the age of 50 were randomly selected to receive the survey from the voter registration rolls. Residents were then randomly divided into four groups and sent one of the four surveys. 916 surveys were returned, for an overall response rate of 30 percent. Individual response rates are: Health and wellness, 30%; Transportation, 32%; Housing, 31%, and Leisure and recreation, 28%.

### DETAILED FINDINGS

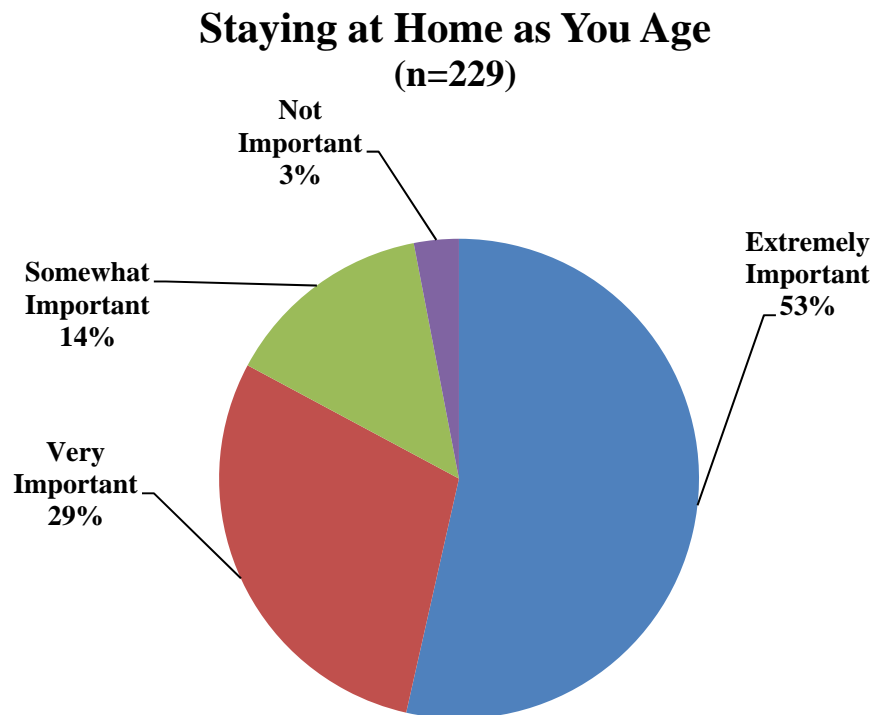
#### Home Characteristics

- Almost three-fourths (74%) of respondents live in a single family home, while one in seven lives in an apartment or condominium.
- ✓ Most respondents own their home, either with or without a mortgage. Moreover, 66 percent of Linn County residents have called their community “home” for over 10 years.



**Aging in Place**

- **It is very important for Linn County respondents to stay in their current residence as long as possible. Eight in ten (82%) say it is very or extremely important to them.**
- ✓ More than two-thirds (68% ) say their current home is accessible to people with mobility issues, while 26% say it is not.



- **A quarter of respondents say their home needs repairs, modifications, or changes to allow them to stay there as they age.**
- ✓ Major repairs such as replacing the roof or improving the heating and cooling in the home were most often reported as completed by respondents.
- ✓ Most respondents paid for their home modifications or repairs through assets or savings (64%) or a bank or home equity loan (11%).

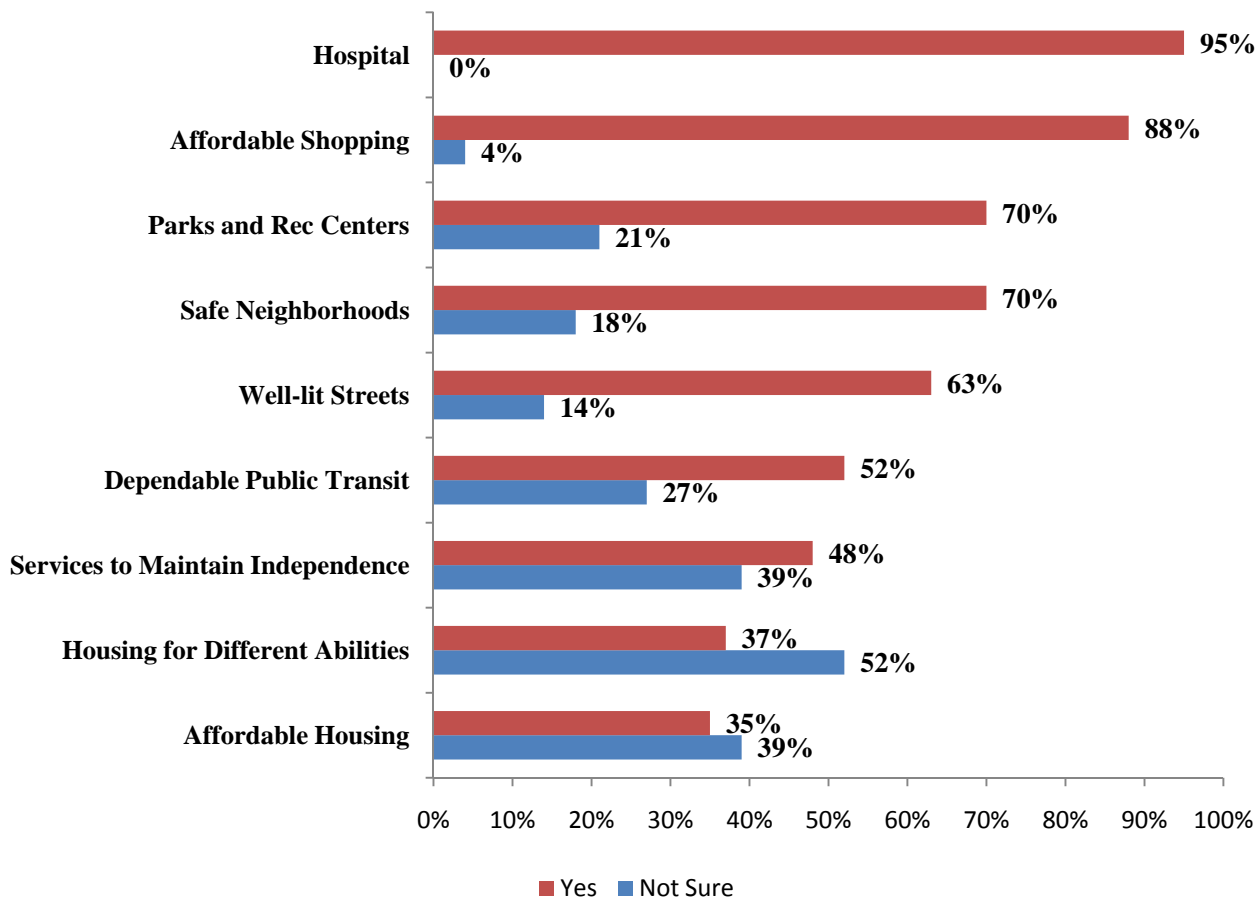
**Home Modifications  
(n=229)**

	<b>Have Completed</b>	<b>Plan on Completing</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
<b>Major, such as replacing the roof</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Heating or Cooling</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Bathroom, such as handrails</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>Appliances</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>Accessibility, such as ramps</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>55%</b>

## Community Characteristics

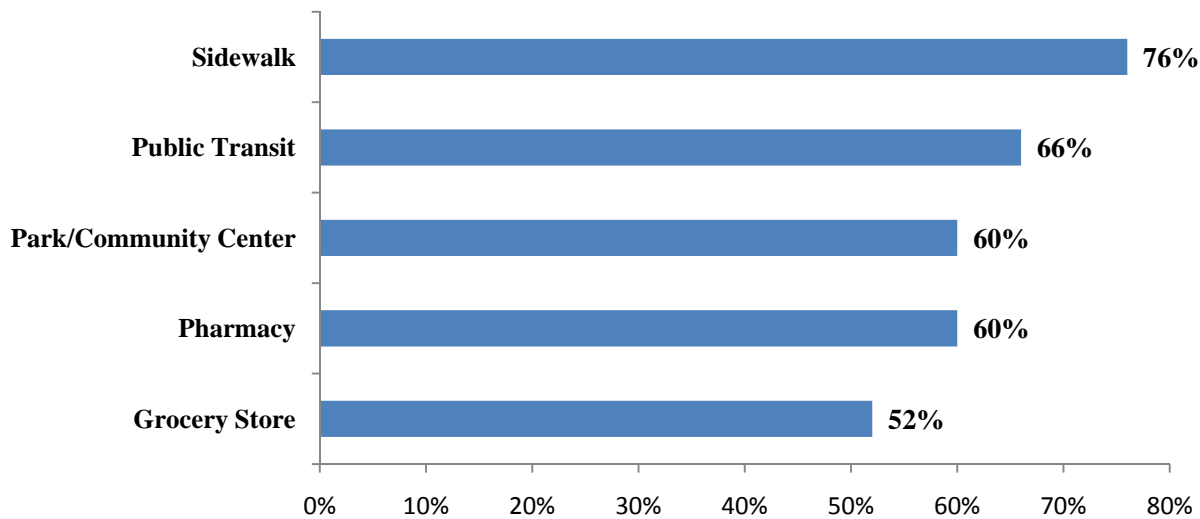
- Linn County respondents are aware of their community hospital and affordable shopping in their area.
- ✓ Linn County residents are much less sure if their community has a variety of services to help you maintain independence as you age (39%), affordable housing (39%), and housing for people with different physical abilities (52%).

### Community Features (n=229)



- **Half of respondents say that Linn County is an excellent or good place for older people to live, while an additional 32% say it is a good place to live.**
- ✓ Respondents say that most wanted or needed services are within a half mile of their home.

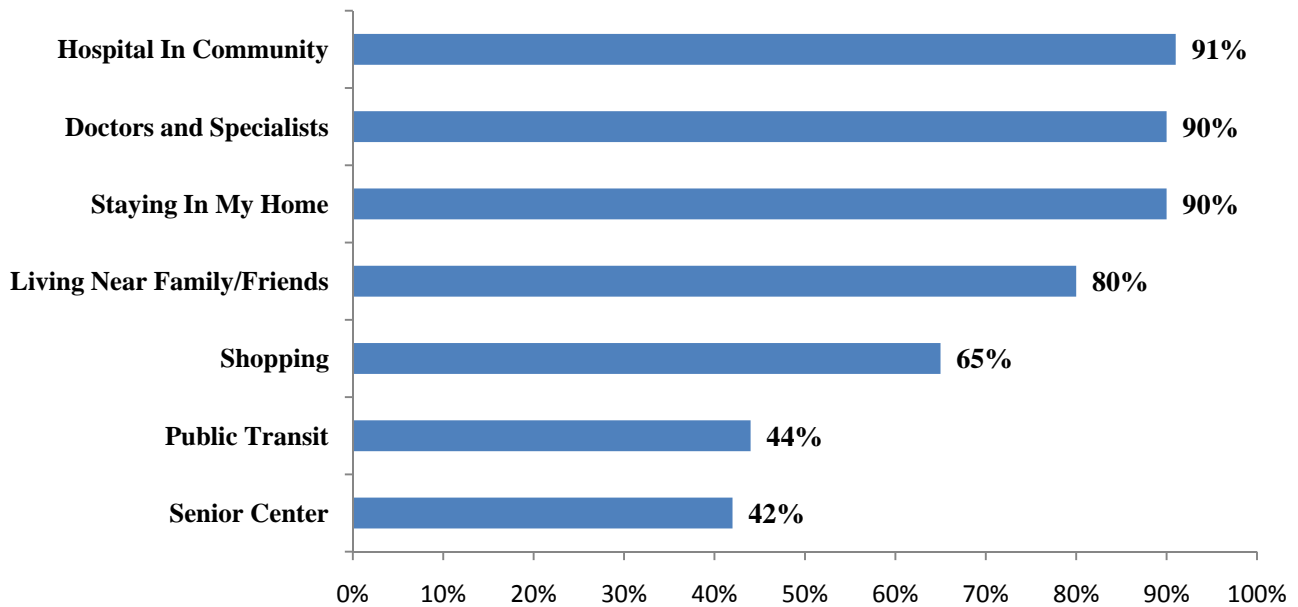
**Features Within a Half Mile of Your Home  
(n=229)**



- **Linn County respondents would turn to friends or family (54%) or an Area Agency on Aging (44%) for information on housing options.**
- ✓ About two in ten say they would turn to the Internet (22%), the phone book (21%), or a church or religious organization (20%).

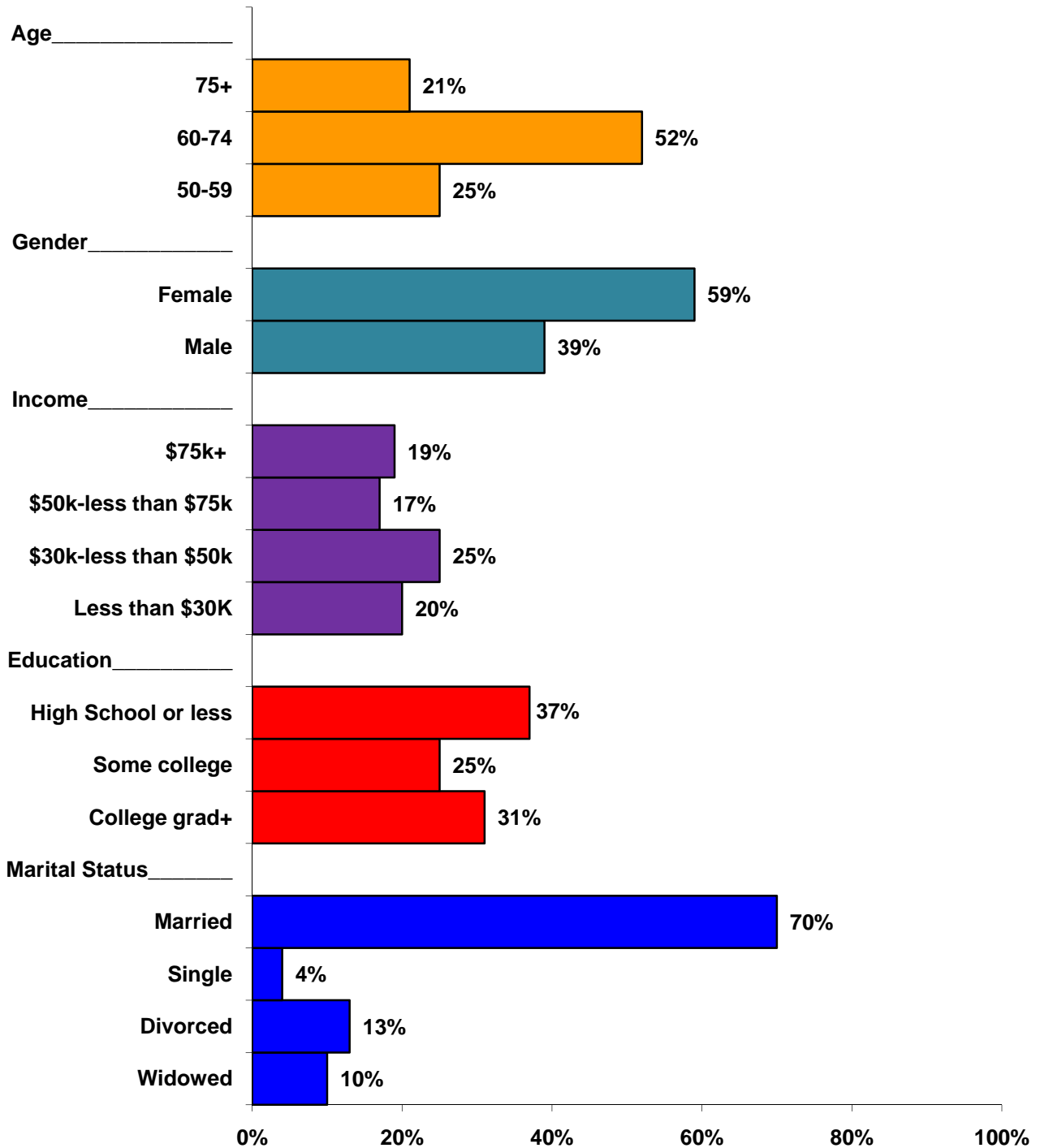
- Access to needed specialists and hospitals and being able to remain at home as long as possible are the most important community characteristics respondents want as they age.
- ✓ Eight in ten also say that living near family and friends is very or extremely important to them.

**Extremely/Very Important Community Characteristics  
(n=229)**





**Respondent Demographics**  
(n = 229)



**APPENDIX A:  
ANNOTATION**

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## **ANNOTATED QUESTIONNAIRE**

### **2009 LINN COUNTY HOUSING SURVEY Linn County Residents Age 50 and Years (n=229)**

**1. Which of the following arrangements best describes where you currently live?**

- >.5 Assisted living residence [SKIP TO Q7]
- >.5% Nursing home [SKIP TO Q7]
- 74% A one family house
- 3% Two family house
- 3% Townhouse or rowhouse
- 15% Apartment or condominium
- 2% Senior housing, apartment, or condominium
- 2% Mobile Home/Trailer
- 0% Not sure

**2. Do you own or rent your home? (n=228)**

- 47% Own, without a mortgage
- 40% Own, pay a mortgage
- 9% Rent
- 1% Live with an adult child or others
- 2% Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- 0% Not sure

**3. How long, in years, have you been living at your current residence? (n=228)**

- 34% 01-10 years
- 27% 11-20 years
- 16% 21-30 years
- 8% 31-40 years
- 10% 41-50 years
- 4% 51-84 years

**4. Is your monthly housing cost that is your rent or mortgage, affordable? Housing is considered affordable when it is 30% or less of your monthly income. (n=228)**

70% Yes  
7% No  
6% Not sure

**5. Do you currently receive any help to pay for your housing? (n=228)**

1% Yes  
95% No [SKIP TO Q7]  
<.5% Not sure [SKIP TO Q7]

**6. What help do you receive to pay for your housing? (Check all that apply) (n=2)**

0% Federal government aid  
0% State government aid  
50% Rent subsidy program  
0% Medicaid waivers  
0% Section 8 housing  
0% Help from family or friends  
0% Help from a private organization, such as a non-profit or a church  
0% Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
0% Not sure

**7. Overall, how satisfied are you with your current living situation?**

40% Extremely satisfied  
40% Very satisfied  
16% Somewhat satisfied  
3% Not very satisfied  
1% Not at all satisfied  
0% Not sure

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

53% Extremely important  
29% Very important  
14% Somewhat important  
2% Not very important  
1% Not at all important  
1% Not sure

**9. Is your current home accessible for people in wheelchairs or with walkers?**

26% Yes  
68% No  
6% Not sure

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

25% Yes  
58% No  
15% Not sure

**11. Have you made any of the following modifications or do you plan on doing so?**

	Have Completed ▼	Plan on Completing ▼	Not Sure ▼
a. Bathroom modifications such as handrails or non-skid tile.....	21%	9%	45%
b. Accessibility modifications such as adding lifts or ramps.....	5%	4%	55%
c. Moved or modified appliances.....	17%	4%	46%
d. Improved heating or cooling.....	41%	7%	25%
e. Major modifications, such as replacing the roof.....	44%	14%	20%

**12. If you have made any home modifications, how did you pay for them?**

64% My own assets or savings  
11% Bank or home equity loan  
<.5% Private loan from family or friend  
1% Government program, such as for weatherization  
7% Not sure

**13. Do you think you will need to move out of your current residence within the next two years?**

9% Yes  
81% No [SKIP TO Q15]  
9% Not sure [SKIP TO Q15]

**14. Why do you think you will need to move within the next two years? Check all that apply. (n=20)**

- 15% Current residence is too difficult to maintain
- 10% Move to be closer to family
- 10% Move to warmer/cooler climate
- 5% Move to a safer location
- 25% Downsizing
- 25% Current residence is too expensive
- 15% Health related reasons
- 30% Current residence is not handicapped accessible
- 10% Move to location with more services
- 20% Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**15. Do you feel that Linn County has the following?**

	Yes	No	Not Sure
	▼	▼	▼
a. Safe neighborhoods.....	70%	11%	18%
b. Well-lit streets.....	63%	22%	14%
c. Dependable public transportation..	52%	18%	27%
d. Affordable housing options.....	35%	20%	39%
e. A wide variety of services to help you maintain your independence as you age .....	48%	10%	39%
f. Well run parks and recreation centers .....	70%	6%	21%
g. A hospital in your community.....	95%	3%	<.5%
h. Affordable shopping .....	88%	7%	4%
i. A variety of housing options for persons with different physical abilities.....	37%	8%	52%

**16. Within a half mile of your residence, do you have....**

	Yes	No	Not Sure
	▼	▼	▼
a. A grocery store.....	52%	46%	<.5%
b. A drug store or pharmacy.....	60%	38%	<.5%
c. Public transportation..	66%	24%	8%
d. A sidewalk or safe pedestrian walkway	76%	21%	<.5%
e. A park or community center .....	60%	32%	6%

**17. Who would you turn to for information about housing options in Linn County?**

- 54% Family or friends
- 44% Area Agency on Aging
- 11% AARP
- 17% County offices
- 16% Medical professional, such as a doctor
- 21% Phone book
- 22% Internet
- 11% Senior center
- 20% Church or religious organization
- 6% Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**18. Thinking about your future needs, how would you rate Linn County as a place for older people to live?**

- 20% Excellent
- 30% Very good
- 32% Good
- 8% Fair
- 2% Poor
- 6% Not sure

**19. As you age, which of the following community characteristics are important to you?**

	Extremely important ▼	Very important ▼	Somewhat important ▼	Not too important ▼	Not at all important ▼	Not Sure ▼
a. Having easily accessible public transportation .....	19%	25%	26%	14%	7%	4%
b. Staying in my own home as long as possible .....	59%	31%	4%	1%	1%	0%
c. Living near family and friends .....	42%	38%	13%	1%	1%	1%
d. Being close to shopping .....	31%	34%	25%	5%	0%	1%
e. Having a hospital in my community .....	66%	25%	3%	1%	0%	0%
f. Being close to needed doctors and specialists .....	62%	28%	5%	2%	0%	0%
g. Having easily accessible opportunities for leisure activities, such as a senior center .....	19%	23%	32%	14%	4%	2%

**20. Please use the space provided to tell us anything else you feel we should know about housing in Linn County**

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## About You

*These questions ask you to provide basic information about yourself. They are for classification purposes only and will be kept entirely confidential.*

### D1. What is your gender?

- 39% Male
- 59% Female

### D2. What is your marital status?

- 4% Single/never married
- 70% Married
- 1% Not married, living with a partner
- 10% Widowed
- 13% Divorced
- 1% Separated

### D3. What is your age as of your last birthday? \_\_\_\_\_ (in years)

- 25% 50-59
- 54% 60-75
- 21% 75and

### D4. What is your race?

- 97% White or Caucasian
- 1% Black or African American
- 0% Asian American or Pacific Islander
- <.5% American Indian or Alaska Native
- <.5% Asian
- 1% Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### D5. How many months did you spend in Linn County last year? \_\_\_\_\_

- 1% 6 months or less
- 6% 7- 9 months
- 92% 10-12 months



**D6. What is your zip code? \_\_\_\_\_**

<.5%	52202
1%	52213
2%	52214
<.5%	52218
<.5%	52227
1%	52228
<.5%	52233
16%	52302
1%	52314
1%	52324
2%	52328
1%	52336
1%	52341
<.5%	52352
1%	52401
20%	52402
15%	52403
15%	52404
12%	52405
3%	52411

**D7. Which of the following best describes where you live?**

- <.5% On a farm
- 4% In a rural, non-farming area
- 2% Unincorporated, but adjacent to a town or city
- 89% Within city limits of a town or city
- 3% Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**D8. Please indicate who lives with you in your household. (Check all that apply)**

- 19% I live alone
- 66% Spouse/significant other
- 12% Other family members (child, grandchild, brothers/sisters)
- 0% I live with non-relatives (friends, roommates)
- 2% Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**D9. What is the highest level of education you have completed?**

- 9% 0-12<sup>th</sup> grade (no diploma)
- 28% High school graduate or equivalency
- 20% Post-high school education (no degree)
- 5% 2-year college degree
- 19% 4-year college degree
- 12% Graduate or professional degree(s)

**D10. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?**

- 2% Self-employed, part-time
- 1% Self-employed, full-time
- 8% Employed, part-time
- 25% Employed, full-time
- 54% Retired, not working at all
- 3% Not in labor force for other reasons
- 2% Unemployed but looking for work

**D11. What was your annual household income before taxes in 2008?**

- 2% Less than \$10,000
- 8% \$10,000 to \$19,999
- 10% \$20,000 to \$29,999
- 15% \$30,000 to \$39,999
- 10% \$40,000 to \$49,999
- 17% \$50,000 to \$74,999
- 19% \$75,000 or more
- 3% Not sure
- 8% Missing/ No Answer

Thank you for completing this survey.  
Return by July 30, 2009

**APPENDIX B:  
VERBATIM RESPONSES**

## **2009 Linn County Housing Survey**

### **Verbatim Responses**

- 1) Hurry up with closure on flood houses!
- 2) Living with my granddaughter. It was or is her house destroyed. Getting work done is slow.
- 3) I have an excellent landlord-M and N Development LLC---I believe that a lot of other landlords around Linn could learn a lot from them. Kindness, understanding and there if you need them.
- 4) Real estate is affordable, but a poor investment in Linn County compared with other locations around the Country.
- 5) We also need trains and buses to go outside the city.
- 6) Where are we going with expenses for homes-upkeep? Experience out of control over—all—Since 1966.
- 7) Need to upgrade rain drains to carry away water as quickly as possible especially where historic experience has shown that present drainage pipes are too small to carry away the run off when required.
- 8) I don't go out at night . . .I don't go out alone . . . I am crippled by arthritis so use a cane . . . possibly a walker soon . . . I have to depend on someone with a car to take me shopping and church . . . I have had a triple bypass heart surgery.
- 9) Building inspectors not always reliable.
- 10) Cold winters---ice and snow, but (global warming) climate change solves that issue. cap and trade (tax) will reduce our energy costs!?
- 11) More places in the city for people to meet and visit. The mall (Westdale) attracts people to walk---We need more places for meeting and exercising for elderly. Property taxes are also so expensive for elderly living @ home.
- 12) Housing options are available but not affordable for many couples. My spouse is not ambulatory, has a G tube, has an incurable blood disorder and is 88 yrs of age. Our income makes me the caretaker.

- 13) Should have a way when time 'to go' can go without no meddling . . . Drug shot . . . gas or whatever . . . Just like your family pet.
- 14) I live in Eagle Ridge [indecipherable] Home Park in Marion . . There are no sidewalks along Hwy 151 from Hwy 13---to Hy Vee. I could save gas money for my car if I could walk to work.
- 15) Having affordable housing for seniors that encompasses independent, assisted living and nursing home facilities in one Location
- 16) Our location makes it close to a store and pharmacy and also less than 10 min to our doctor and hospital.
- 17) It took my daughter months to get my ramp up so I could get out. Now I looking helping to get a small porch I go out to sit on the porch outside . . .
- 18) I believe a lot of people don't have the income /money to 'repair' their homes since the 08 flood.
- 19) Reasonable price housing in Linn County"
- 20) All the sidewalks need work on in the SC side of town for Chairs to get there better . . .
- 21) Start enforcing criminal codes in low income housing areas!!!

### Background

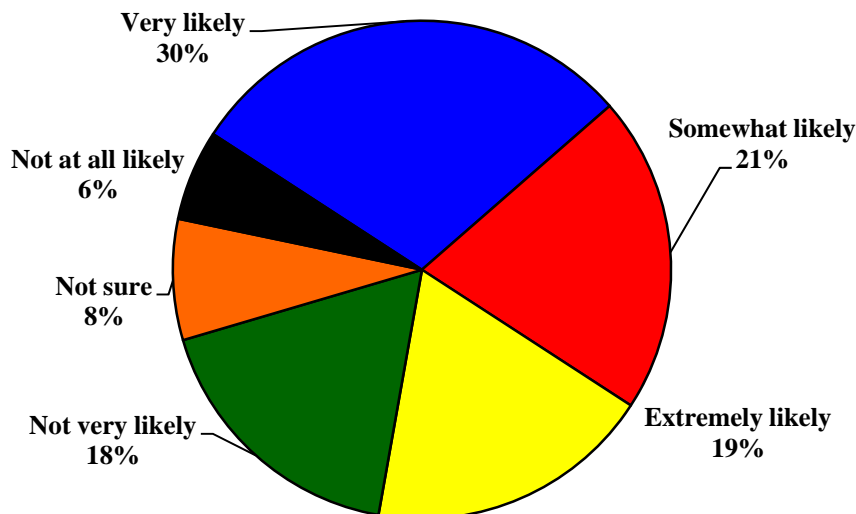
In order to examine how prepared Linn County is for the aging of its residents, the Cedar Rapids Area Chapter of AARP in conjunction with community partners conducted a survey from June to July, 2009. Residents received a survey in one of four areas of concern: health and wellness, transportation, housing, or leisure and recreation. Three thousand residents of Linn County over the age of 50 were randomly selected to receive the survey from the voter registration rolls. Residents were then randomly divided into four groups and sent one of the four surveys. 916 surveys were returned, for an overall response rate of 30 percent. Individual response rates are: Health and wellness, 30%; Transportation, 32%; Housing, 31%, and Leisure and recreation, 28%.

### DETAILED FINDINGS

#### Lifelong Learning and Activities

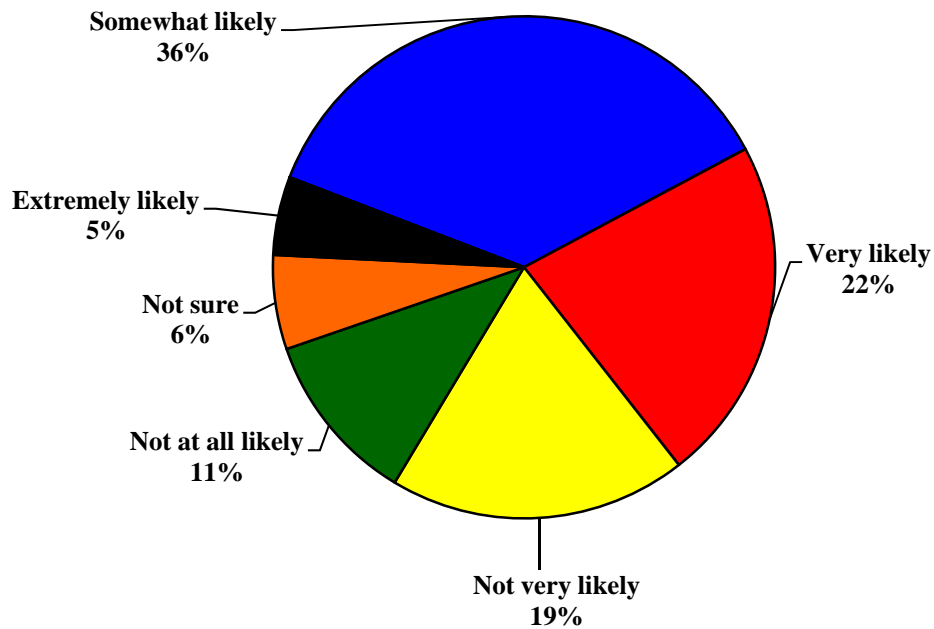
- Seven in ten Linn County respondents who are not retired say it is at least somewhat likely that they will work as long as possible.
- ✓ Although nearly half (47%) of respondents say they are currently retired, many of those who are not retired intend to work as long as possible.

#### Likelihood of Delaying Retirement Among Those Still Working (n=109)

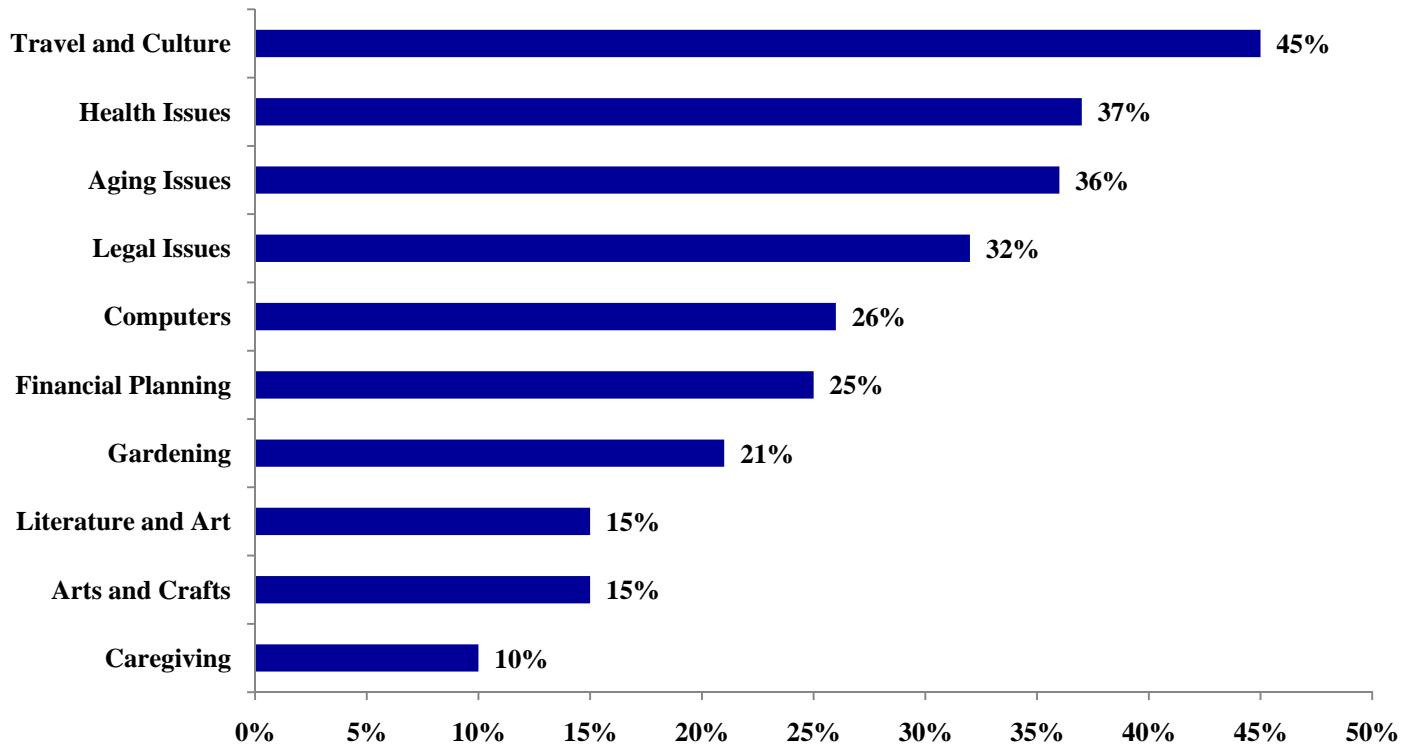


- **Six in ten Linn County respondents say they are at least somewhat likely to take a class that interests them.**
- ✓ Respondents are mostly unsure (12%) of how much they would pay for such a class in fees or say it depends on the class (47%).
- ✓ However, only three percent of respondents are currently enrolled in a formal educational program, such as a program at a community college.

**Likelihood of Attending a Class if Held in Local Community  
(n=219)**



### Classes of Interest (n=219)

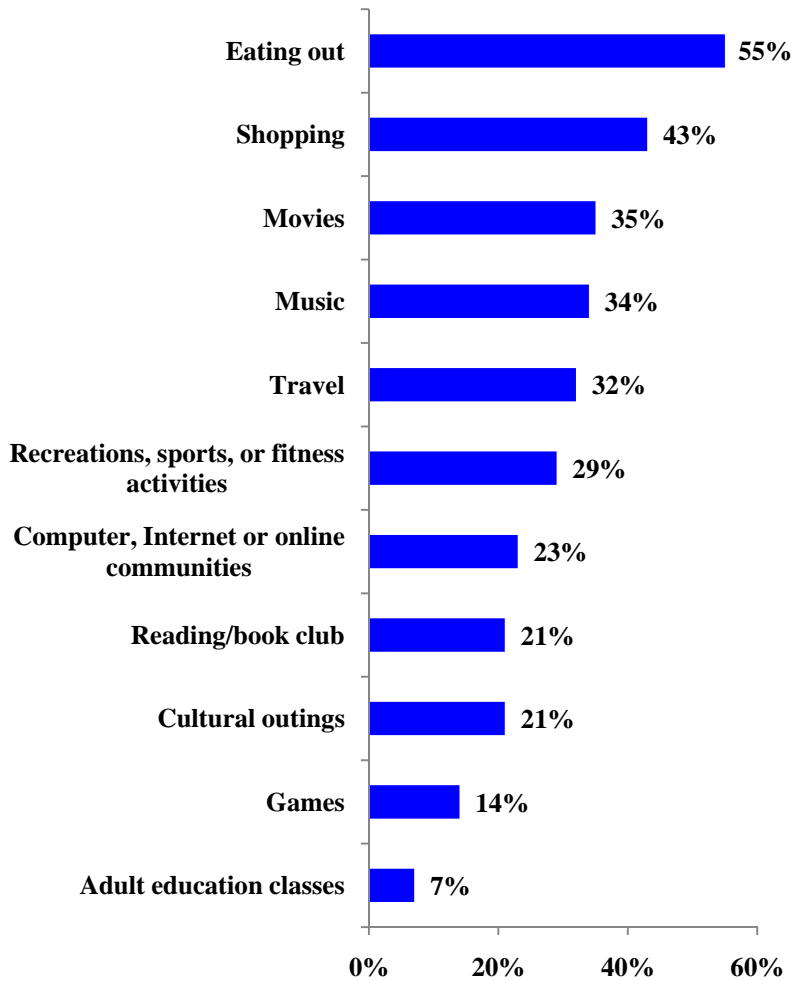


- **Respondents are most interested in classes in the area of travel and culture, health issues, and aging related issues.**
- ✓ When asked to select areas of interest from a list, travel and culture, health issues, and aging related issues were the most popular among Linn County residents.
- ✓ Respondents were also very interested in learning about legal issues and computers.
- ✓ It is interesting to note that fully 79 percent report that they have a computer with internet access or have access to such a computer.



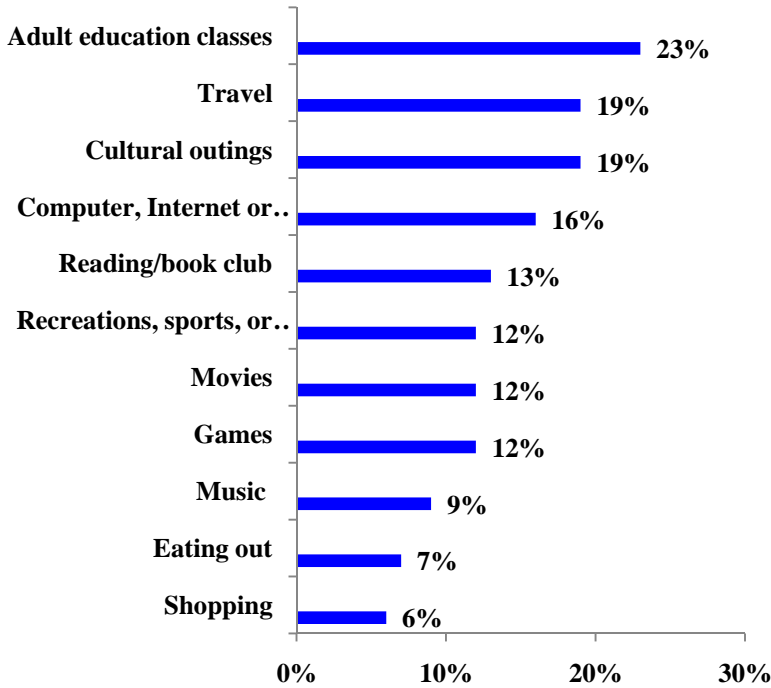
- **Being too busy and cost are the top two reasons why respondents have not participated in activities of interest to them.**
- ✓ Respondents list being too busy (40%) and cost of classes or activities (24%) as their top two reasons for not participating in an activity that interests them.
- ✓ When they do participate in such activities, they do so with a spouse or family member (53%) or alone (24%).

**Activities In last Three Months  
(n=219)**



- **In the past three months, Linn County respondents say they have participated in eating out and shopping.**
- ✓ At least a third of Linn County respondents say they have participated in activities such as eating out, shopping, going to the movies, and playing or listening to music in the last three months.
- ✓ Almost one in three respondents has participated in some sort of recreation, sports, or fitness activity, while nearly a quarter have done an activity online.

### Interested - Have Not Participated (n=219)

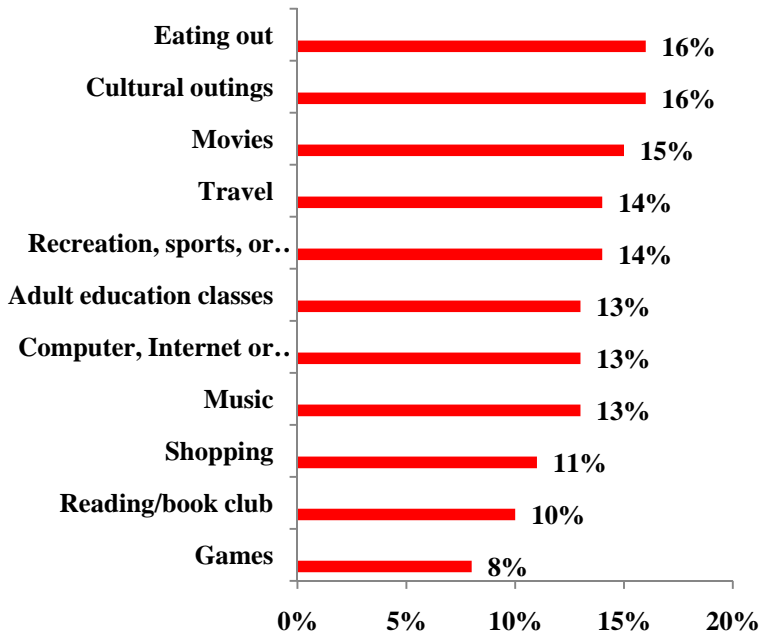


➤ Nearly a quarter of respondents say they are interested in adult education classes but they have not participated in them.

✓ Respondents were asked which activities they were interested in but had not done.

✓ About two in ten say they are interested in cultural outings or travel.

### Would Participate (n=219)



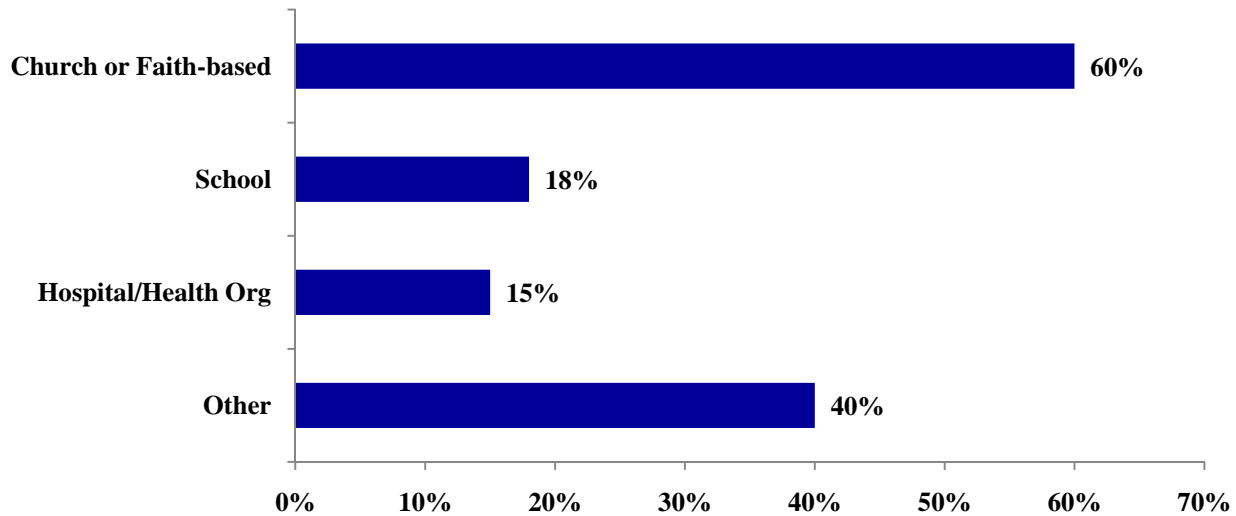
➤ About one in six respondents say they would participate in going out to eat or cultural events if they had the opportunity.

✓ Respondents were asked which activities they would participate in if they had the opportunity.

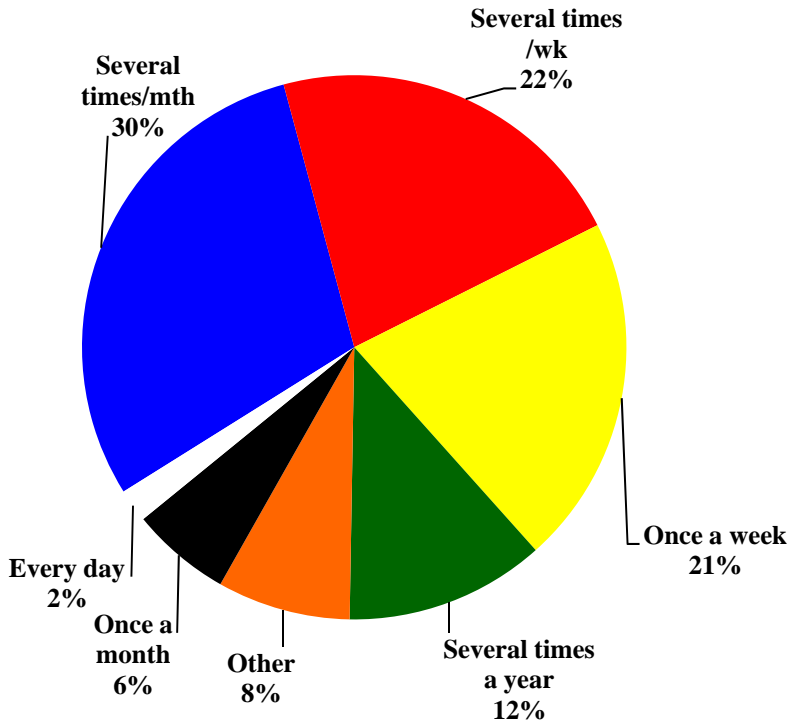
**Volunteering and Religion**

- **Volunteering and being active in their community is important to Linn County respondents.**
- ✓ Almost two-thirds (65%) of respondents say they are aware of organizations in the county that provide older adults with volunteer opportunities.
- ✓ Three in ten (31%) volunteer with a group or organization.
- ✓ Respondents most commonly volunteer with a church, synagogue, or faith-based organization.

**Where Linn County Residents Volunteer  
(n=67)**

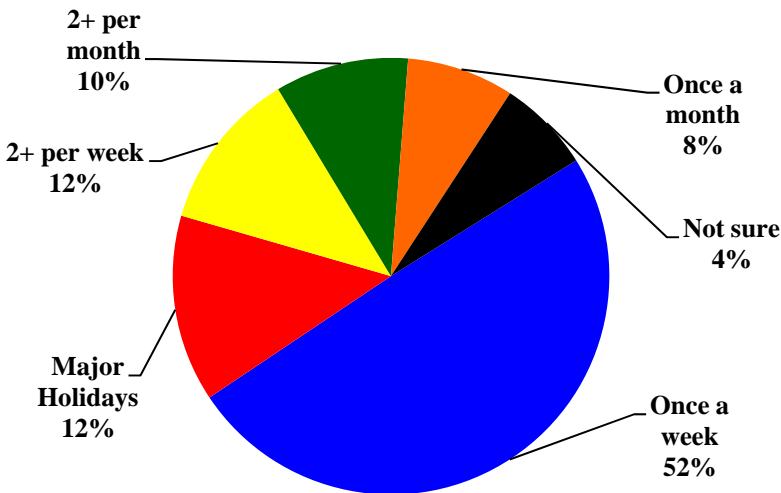


**Volunteer Frequency  
(n=67)**



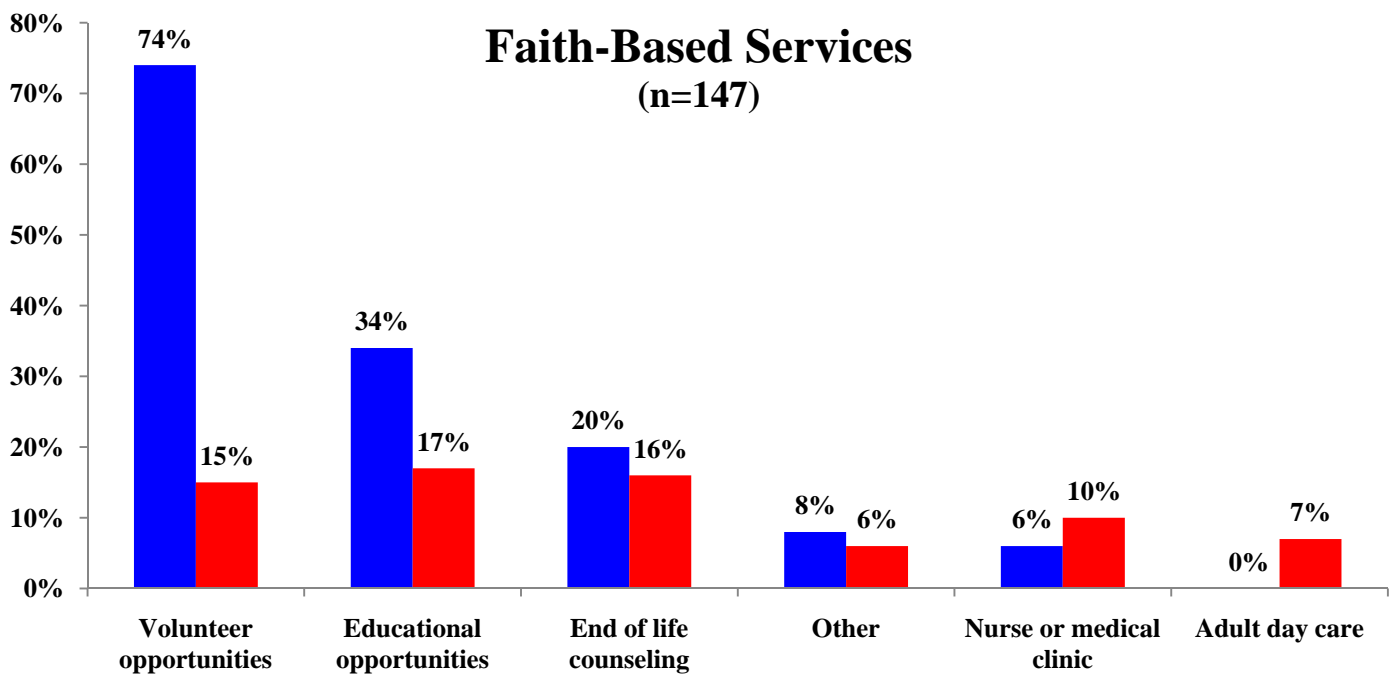
- **Linn County volunteers most often work with their chosen organization several times a month.**
- ✓ Respondents say that being too busy with family (37%) and/or with work (37%) is the major barrier to them volunteering or volunteering more often.
- ✓ One in seven say that volunteering does not interest them.

**Religious Attendance  
(n=152)**



- **Faith is an important part of life for Linn County respondents.**
- ✓ Fully 67 percent say that they belong to a religious or faith-based organization.
- ✓ Of those who belong to a faith organization, about half attend services once a week.

- **Most religious organizations have volunteer opportunities, while many provide educational opportunities.**
- ✓ Respondents were asked what services their faith-based organization provided and which services they would like their faith-based organization to provide.
- ✓ Many organizations provide volunteer and educational opportunities, and respondents say these are the types of support and assistance they want from their faith-based organization.



- Does your faith-based organization have any of the following?
- What types of support would you like from your faith-based organization?

- **Linn County respondents would turn to friends or family (54%) for information on faith-based activities or organizations or to a newspaper or advertisement (27%).**
- ✓ The phone book (21%), Internet (20%), and religious newspapers (19%) were also sources of information for at least two in ten respondents.

**Community**

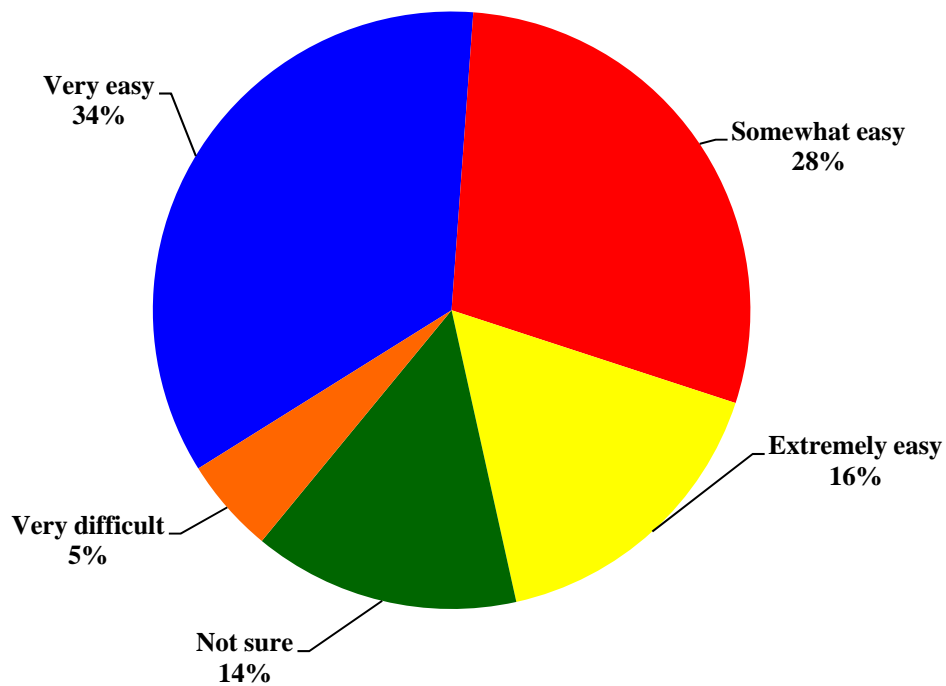
- **Over three-fourths of Linn County respondents say their community has well-run parks with walkways and benches that are safe and inviting.**
- ✓ Respondents were asked several questions about the types of services available in their community.
- ✓ Over three-fourths said that Linn County has well-run parks with a variety of activities and that walkways and benches are safe and inviting.
- ✓ However, at least two in ten respondents were not sure if their community had accessible trails, a senior center, or a directory for older persons.

<b>Does Your Community Offer Any of the Following? (n=219)</b>			
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not sure</b>
<b>Parks that have walkways and benches that are safe and inviting</b>	78%	5%	11%
<b>Well-run parks and recreation activities</b>	77%	7%	10%
<b>Trails and picnic areas at parks that are accessible to people of different physical abilities</b>	69%	4%	21%
<b>Senior centers with a variety of activities</b>	51%	7%	37%
<b>An information hotline or directory for older persons</b>	19%	7%	64%

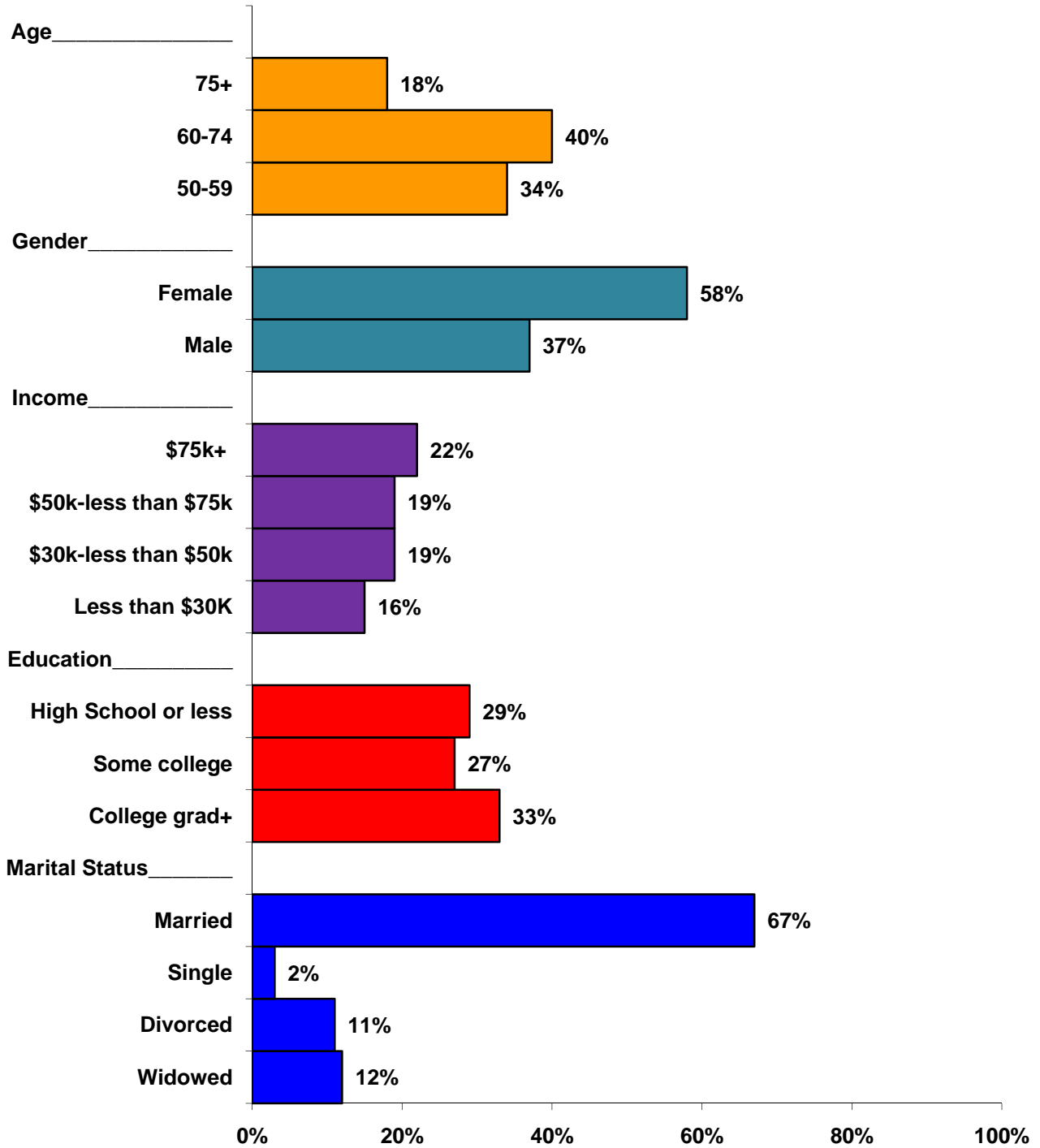
- **Respondents say their community library is within easy reach.**
- ✓ About three-fourths of respondents say their library system is an easy distance from their home (77%) and has adequate lighting (74%).
- ✓ Over two-thirds (68%) say their library facilities are accessible to people with different physical abilities, but only 23 percent say it offers services for those with limited sight.
- ✓ In addition, only 26 percent say their library has book clubs or discussion groups. Given the interest Linn County respondents show for cultural activities and events, book and discussion clubs may interest them.

- **Linn County respondents are confident that they can find the information they need about services in their community.**
- ✓ Almost eight in ten (79%) respondents say finding information about Linn County services, such as parks and libraries, would be at least somewhat easy.

**How Easy is Finding Information on Services  
(n=219)**



**Respondent Demographics**  
(N = 219)





## **Appendix A:**

### **Annotation**

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## ANNOTATED QUESTIONNAIRE

### 2009 LINN COUNTY LEISURE AND RECREATION SURVEY Linn County Residents Age 50 and Years (n=219)

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

- 29% Work full-time
- 14% Work part-time
- 2% Not working but looking for work
- 47% Retired [**SKIP TO Q3**]
- 4% Retired and working again full- or part-time
- 1% Retired and looking for work
- 4% Not in labor force for other reasons [**SKIP TO Q3**]
- 1% Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Thinking about your own current work situation, how likely is it that you will put off full retirement and work as long as possible? (n=109)**

- 19% Extremely likely
- 30% Very likely
- 21% Somewhat likely
- 18% Not very likely
- 6% Not at all likely
- 8% Not sure

**3. Are you currently enrolled in a formal educational experience, such as night school or a computer class at a local community college?**

- 3% Yes
- 97% No
- 0% Not sure

**4. Do you own a computer with Internet access or have access to a computer with Internet access, such as at the local library?**

- 79% Yes
- 20% No
- 1% Not sure

**5. Thinking about your own interests, what sort of areas would you like to learn more about over the next two years?  
Check all that apply.**

- 36% Aging related issues
- 32% Legal issues (power of attorney, wills and estate planning)
- 37% Health issues (diet and exercise)
- 25% Financial planning
- 8% Grandparenting
- 10% Caregiving (caring for an aging spouse or relative)
- 45% Travel and culture
- 15% Arts and Crafts (knitting, crocheting)
- 21% Gardening
- 15% Literature and art appreciation
- 3% Business issues (starting your own business, incorporation)
- 26% Computers
- 1% Resume writing and job hunting skills
- 7% Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- 15% None

**6. How likely would you be to attend a class on your area(s) of interest if it was held in your local community?**

- 5% Extremely likely
- 22% Very likely
- 36% Somewhat likely
- 19% Not very likely
- 11% Not at all likely
- 6% Not sure

**7. About how much would you be willing to pay in tuition or fees to attend a class in your area(s) of interest?**

- 8% 0 to \$5
- 5% \$6 to \$10
- 18% \$11 to \$20
- 7% \$21 or more
- 47% It would depend on the class
- 12% Not sure

**8. Thinking about your interests and activities, please mark below if you are interested in an activity but have not participated in it, have participated in an activity in the past 3 months, or would participate in an activity if you had the opportunity.**

	<b>Interested but Not participated</b>	<b>Participated in past 3 months</b>	<b>Would participate</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
	▼	▼	▼	▼
a. Adult education classes.....	23%	7%	13%	32%
b. Travel.....	19%	32%	14%	17%
c. Reading/book clubs.....	13%	21%	10%	29%
d. Recreation, sports, or fitness activities.....	12%	29%	14%	23%
e. Cultural outings or events, such as going to museums .....	19%	21%	16%	23%
f. Computers, Internet, or online communities.....	16%	23%	13%	26%
g. Movies .....	12%	35%	15%	21%
h. Shopping .....	6%	43%	11%	20%
i. Games (bridge, billiards).....	12%	14%	8%	40%
j. Music (playing or listening).....	9%	34%	13%	19%
k. Eating out.....	7%	55%	16%	11%

**9. If you have not participated in an activity you are interested in in the last 3 months, what are some of the reasons why? Check all that apply**

- 40% I am too busy
- 24% Cost
- 6% Transportation issues
- 5% There are no opportunities in my community
- 17% Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- 21% Not sure

**10. When you do participate in the activities in Question 8, how are you most likely to do so?**

- 24% Alone
- 53% With my spouse or family
- 11% With a few close friends
- 1% In a large group
- 2% In an organized group, such as with a club or other organization
- 7% Not sure

**11. Are you aware of any organizations in Linn County that provide older adults with volunteer opportunities?**

- 65% Yes
- 25% No
- 8% Not sure

**12. Do you currently volunteer with any group or organization?**

- 31% Yes
- 66% No **[SKIP TO Q15]**
- 1% Not sure **[SKIP TO Q15]**

**13. Where do you volunteer? Check all that apply (n=67)**

- 60% Church, synagogue, or faith-based organization
- 18% School or working with youth
- 10% Senior center or working with older adults
- 10% Political organization
- 15% Hospital or health organization
- 2% Humane society or working with animals
- 40% Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**14. About how often do you volunteer? (n=67)**

- 2% Every day
- 22% Several times a week
- 21% Once a week
- 30% Several times a month
- 6% Once a month
- 12% Several times a year
- 8% Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**15. What are some of the barriers that prevent you from volunteering or prevent you from volunteering more often? Check all that apply**

- 1% No volunteer opportunities in my community
- 1% I do not have transportation to volunteer opportunities
- 37% I am too busy with family obligations
- 37% I am too busy with work obligations
- 14% Volunteering does not interest me
- 26% Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**16. Do you belong to a religious or faith-based organization, such as a church or synagogue?**

- 67% Yes
- 30% No **[SKIP TO Q20]**
- 1% Not sure **[SKIP TO Q20]**

**17. About how often do you attend religious services, such as worship services or Bible study? (n=147)**

- 12% 2 or more times a week
- 52% Once a week
- 10% 2 or more times a month
- 8% Once a month
- 12% Major holidays
- 4% Not sure

**18. Does your religious or faith-based organization have any of the following? Check all that apply (n=147)**

- 6% Nurse or medical clinic
- 0% Adult day care
- 34% Educational opportunities
- 20% End of life counseling
- 74% Volunteer opportunities
- 8% Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**19. What types of support or assistance would you like from your religious or faith-based organization? Check all that apply (n=147)**

- 10% Nurse or medical clinic
- 7% Adult day care
- 17% Educational opportunities
- 16% End of life counseling
- 15% Volunteer opportunities
- 6% Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**20. If you needed information on religious or faith-based activities or organizations in Linn County, where would you turn for that information?**

- 54% Friend or family member
- 27% Newspaper, radio, or television advertisement
- 21% Phone book
- 20% Internet
- 8% Community newsletter
- 19% Faith-based or religious newsletter
- 4% Signs or flyers
- 10% Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**21. Does your community offer any of the following?**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
	▼	▼	▼
a. Well-run parks and recreation activities.....	77%	7%	10%
b. Parks that have walkways and benches that are safe and inviting. ....	78%	5%	11%
c. Trails and picnic areas at parks that are accessible to people of different physical abilities.....	69%	4%	21%
d. Senior centers with a variety of activities ....	51%	7%	37%
e. An information hotline or directory for older persons .....	19%	7%	64%

**22. Thinking about the library system in your community, does it offer any of the following?**

	Yes	No	Not Sure
	▼	▼	▼
a. A library that is easy to reach from your residence.....	77%	12%	7%
b. Book clubs or discussion groups.....	26%	4%	58%
c. Facilities that are accessible to people of different physical abilities.....	68%	2%	20%
d. Adequate lighting.....	74%	1%	17%
e. Services for those with limited sight.....	23%	3%	63%

**23. If you needed information on services provided in Linn County, such as information on parks or libraries, how easy or difficult would it be to find?**

- 16% Extremely easy
- 34% Very easy
- 28% Somewhat easy
- 5% Very difficult
- 0% Extremely difficult
- 14% Not sure

**24. Please use the space below to share with us any additional thoughts about recreation and leisure activities in Linn County.**

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**About You**

*These questions ask you to provide basic information about yourself. They are for classification purposes only and will be kept entirely confidential.*

**D1. What is your gender?**

- 37% Male
- 58% Female

**D2. What is your marital status?**

- 2% Single/never married
- 67% Married
- 1% Not married, living with a partner
- 12% Widowed
- 11% Divorced
- 0% Separated

**D3. What is your age as of your last birthday? \_\_\_\_\_ (in years)**

- 34% 50-59
- 40% 60-74
- 18% 75and
- 8% Missing/ No Answer

**D4. What is your race?**

- 92% White or Caucasian
- 1% Black or African-American
- 1% Hispanic/Latino
- 1% American Indian or Alaska Native
- 1% Asian
- 1% Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**D5. How many months did you spend in Linn County last year? \_\_\_\_\_**

- <.5% 1-4 years
- 5% 5-8 years
- 89% 9-12 years

**D6. What is your zip code? \_\_\_\_\_**

- 19% 52402
- 18% 52302
- 14% 52403
- 11% 52405
- 28% Other

**D7. Which of the following best describes where you live?**

- 3% On a farm
- 5% In a rural, non-farming area
- 3% Unincorporated, but adjacent to a town or city
- 82% Within city limits of a town or city
- 1% Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**D8. Please indicate who lives with you in your household. (Check all that apply)**

- 20% I live alone
- 64% Spouse/significant other
- 13% Other family members (child, grandchild, brothers/sisters)
- 1% I live with non-relatives (friends, roommates)
- 3% Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**D9. What is the highest level of education you have completed?**

- 7% 0-12<sup>th</sup> grade (no diploma)
- 22% High school graduate or equivalency
- 19% Post-high school education (no degree)
- 8% 2-year college degree
- 14% 4-year college degree
- 19% Graduate or professional degree(s)



**D10. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?**

- 3% Self-employed, part-time
- 5% Self-employed, full-time
- 9% Employed, part-time
- 27% Employed, full-time
- 43% Retired, not working at all
- 2% Not in labor force for other reasons
- 1% Unemployed but looking for work

**D11. What was your annual household income before taxes in 2008?**

- 2% Less than \$10,000
- 7% \$10,000 to \$19,999
- 6% \$20,000 to \$29,999
- 11% \$30,000 to \$39,999
- 8% \$40,000 to \$49,999
- 19% \$50,000 to \$74,999
- 22% \$75,000 or more
- 3% Not sure
- 7% Missing/ No Answer

Thank you for completing this survey.  
Return by July 30, 2009

**Appendix B:**  
**Verbatim Responses**

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## 2009 Linn County Leisure Survey

### Verbatim Responses

•

- 1) C.R. and Linn Co. ---- a great place to live and raise a family. We are very happy here----
- 2) Keep library at Westdale Mall. Much better parking available----
- 3) We have enough
- 4) I think Linn County provides something for everyone, young or old, in way of recreation and leisure activities.
- 5) C.R. and Linn Co. ---- a great place to live and raise a family. We are very happy here----
- 6) I would only question the accessibility of restrooms throughout the park.
- 7) I think this is a great place to live---and to grow older with dignity.
- 8) Many venues are held at the same time---then nothing is offered for a couple of weeks.
- 9) My elderly father loves to play golf. However, his mobility is limited and the cost is often too much to do often. could there be a day when courses are more accessible to others in his situation.
- 10) I love living here---I enjoy Ellis and Bever and Noelridge Park----love the water ski shows---love the Kernel's baseball! Great place to live!
- 11) Cedar Rapids: Our city rec. indoor pool (Bender) is a disgrace. The YMCAs are expensive, and many people have too much pride to ask for reduced rate. I believe we need more walking and bicycle trails all over Cedar Rapids. Benches by bus stops would make it easier for people of all ages to travel locally by bus.
- 12) I've never been to a library . . . I live on 1 acre and I take care of it myself. I mow . . . trim trees . . . walk 3 miles every day . . . bowl once a week and dance occasionally at the senior center . . . do all my own house cleaning . . . so I don't have time to volunteer . . . also drive my family to Dr's and etc.
- 13) Ely Senior Dining has the best M>F lunch in Town . . . but a disproportionate w.r.t. . . . the town growth, attend it. Lack of P.R. . . . there is a disconnect."
- 14) I hope that when the time comes, the information about meals brought to the home; assisted care in/out of the home, etc., is easier to find than it is now.
- 15) Need a par 3 lighted city golf course and indoor tennis facility. Also, bus trips to Midwestern ski areas.
- 16) I love golf. I play 9-18 holes 5 days a week March—Nov. Please keep golf affordable. Also like Cherry Hill Aquatic Center. It could be and should be open more. Maybe at 68 degrees and less than [illegible] for one hr.
- 17) Too much emphasis on the city of CR!

- 18) I love golf. I play 9-18 holes 5 days a week March—Nov. Please keep golf affordable. Also like Cherry Hill Aquatic Center. It could be and should be open more. Maybe at 68 degrees and less than [illegible] for one hr.
- 19) AARP should not condone the Right to ‘Choose’ the premeditated . . . paid . . . painful . . . killing of unborn people (many people) . . . Don’t condone homosexuality
- 20) I love golf. I play 9-18 holes 5 days a week March—Nov. Please keep golf affordable. Also like Cherry Hill Aquatic Center. It could be and should be open more. Maybe at 68 degrees and less than [illegible] for one hr.
- 21) More for youth to do . . . Affordable small trips for senior’s citizens to do
- 22) Its pretty good overall considering everything that’s transpired. All anyone can do is their best.
- 23) Groups in Linn County seem to be working regularly to provide opportunities for recreation and leisure activities, but what about some free Friday night music---like Iowa City?
- 24) Groups in Linn County seem to be working regularly to provide opportunities for recreation and leisure activities, but what about some free Friday night music---like Iowa City?
- 25) I would like to see Linn Co. continue developing trails and a more ‘bicycle friendly’ environment.
- 26) Indian creek nature trail needs to be fixed soon
- 27) I think we have many recreational and leisure activities, more than I have time to participate in.
- 28) Public library is very limited due to flood
- 29) Most things are too expensive for me.
- 30) Would like to see more for older adults
- 31) I think we’re lucky to have a good system of activities here.
- 32) I live in Cedar Rapids and there is a rising concern among seniors regarding safety on our streets. (Especially after dark). It appears that we have established a ‘gang’ culture that seems to be increasing with incoming people from Chicago. I understand this is a law enforcement problem but it causes some hesitation among older folks regarding activities outside the home.”
- 33) I think CR and Marion do fairly well in these areas---I think our churches should help in these areas too and most of them do ---- but most are geared to the healthy folks---
- 34) I would like to see more paved trails that can be used for rollerblading & for handicapped walking trail. We could use a “club house” for tennis court at Vets tennis courts.

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that helps people 50 and have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to either political campaigns or candidates. We produce AARP The Magazine, the definitive voice for 50 and Americans and the world's largest-circulation magazine with over 35.1 million readers; AARP Bulletin, the go-to news source for AARP's millions of members and Americans 50 and; AARP VIVA su Segunda Juventud, the only bilingual U.S. publication dedicated exclusively to the 50 and Hispanic community; and our website, AARP.org. AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. We have staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



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