



**A Great City for Older Adults:
An AARP Survey on the Strengths and
Challenges of Growing Old in Burlington**

Report Prepared by Katherine Bridges

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AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. We produce *AARP The Magazine*, published bimonthly; *AARP Bulletin*, our monthly newspaper; *AARP Segunda Juventud*, our bimonthly magazine in Spanish and English; *NRTA Live & Learn*, our quarterly newsletter for 50+ educators; and our website, www.aarp.org. AARP Foundation is our 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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SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

This community survey, part of The Burlington Livable Communities Project, was conducted on behalf of AARP by Woelfel Research, Inc. Eight hundred Burlington residents age 45 and older participated in 20-minute telephone interviews between November 1 and November 14, 2006, on a number of issues regarding housing, mobility, and community engagement. Some of the top findings from the survey include:

Neighborhoods & Housing

- Eight out of ten respondents rate their neighborhood as an excellent or good place for older people to live, and a similar number say they would like to stay in their current home and neighborhood as long as they can.
- Financial concerns, such as affording property taxes, rent, and utilities, topped the list of items that residents feel threaten their ability to stay where they are, but a significant number are also concerned about factors that could limit their independence, such as no longer being able to drive, and getting help with chores and personal care.
- If they could no longer stay in their current homes or wanted to move, a location that enabled the greatest amount of independence, such as being able to schedule their own daily activities and having access to transportation, shopping, and services, would be most desirable for a new setting.

Mobility & Transportation

- The majority of Burlington residents age 45+ are quite mobile, getting out of their homes and going somewhere, such as shopping, visiting, or exercising at least five times a week. However, residents age 75+ get out much less frequently, as do those with lower incomes and education.
- Three-quarters of Burlington residents 45+ use a personal vehicle as their primary mode of transportation when going somewhere, although considerable numbers also walk, bike, and get a ride from someone else on occasion. Only 30 percent of residents 45+ have used the bus, and most of these do not use it regularly, even though few have any complaints about using it.
- Despite the high reliance on personal vehicles to get around in the City, most Burlington residents age 45+ do not think it would be difficult to remain in their current neighborhood if they were no longer able to drive. However, most agree that more help from family and friends; more driving alternatives, such as community vans and volunteer drivers; and more delivery services for groceries and prescriptions would make it easier for them to remain in their current locations.

- Most residents who sometimes walk around the City think sidewalks are for the most part quite accessible. However, the results show there are opportunities for improvements, such as improved lighting and maintenance, better clearing of snow, ice, and debris, better policing to ensure drivers stop at crosswalks, and restricting the sidewalks for pedestrian use only.

Community Engagement

- Most Burlington residents age 45+ are well-connected to others in their community. In addition to their regular contact with family, friends, and neighbors, about sixty percent of residents age 45+ are volunteers and/or belong to a social, religious, recreational, or special interest group. Wealthier and college-educated residents are more likely to be connected to the community in each of these ways.
- The majority of residents age 45+ feel Burlington has convenient places for them to participate in public meetings and events, and that it has well-run community centers, recreation centers, parks and other places where older people can socialize. In addition, most respondents, particularly older residents, agree they are very well-aware of activities for older adults that are available in Burlington. However, a substantial number of residents report having barriers to attending events in the City, such as cost and transportation.
- Residents age 45+ believe it is important for the City to offer community engagement opportunities such as educational offerings, waterfront activities, volunteer opportunities, and recreational activities for older adults. However, each of these activities is more appealing to those who are younger, wealthier and college-educated.

Overall, the survey shows Burlington has an appealing environment for most of its 45-plus residents, and they seem inclined to stay because of it. However, there are opportunities for making it better, particularly in anticipation of a growing older population. In addition, below the top-line findings, there are many socio-economic and neighborhood differences that should be considered to ensure the City is a livable one for all of its residents today and as they grow older.

BACKGROUND

As most people know, the United States is an aging society. The percentage of older adults in the country is expected to rise rapidly over the next 30 years. Vermont—and Burlington specifically—are no exceptions. In 2003, Vermont’s population was about 619,000, with about 13 percent of residents being age 65 and older. In 2015, the 65-plus population will make up 15 percent of the state’s population, and by 2025, it will be 20 percent.^{1,2} In Burlington, the 65-plus population makes up about 11 percent of the total population, and this percentage is likely to grow as it will across the State and U.S. as residents live longer, healthier lives.

In 2005, AARP published a report on creating livable communities, such that enable individuals to age successfully.³ *The AARP Report: Beyond 50.05* clearly identifies a livable community as one “that has affordable and appropriate housing, supportive community features and services, and adequate mobility options, which together facilitate personal independence and the engagement of residents in civic and social life.”

The Burlington Livable Community Project is a collaborative approach to planning for the demands an aging population will place on Burlington as a city, its residents and its resources. The project is led by AARP Vermont in cooperation with the city and a group of some 30 community stakeholder organizations. The multi-year effort aims to provide direction, assess needs and resources and develop recommendations in the areas of housing, transportation and mobility and community engagement.

In support of this Project, two major data collection activities have taken place, which collectively have included nearly 1000 of the City’s middle-aged and older adults. First, a series of focus groups, facilitated by The Snelling Center for Government, were held in September 2006 at various locations in Burlington. Residents age 50 and older were invited to attend these groups and participate in discussions around questions such as: *What are your current experiences in Burlington in meeting your changing needs as you grow older? What is needed to be in place to make Burlington your city of choice for living as an older adult?*

¹ *Projections of the Population, By Age and Sex, of States: 1995 to 2025*. United States Census Bureau. <http://www.census.gov/population/projections/state/stpjage.txt>

² *Projections of the Total Population of States: 1995 to 2025*. United States Census Bureau. <http://www.census.gov/population/projections/state/stpjpop.txt>

³ Kochera, A., Straight, A., & Guterbock, T. (2005). *Beyond 50.05: A report to the nation on livable communities: Creating environments for successful aging*. Washington, DC: AARP.

A community survey was the second data collection activity conducted to support The Burlington Livable Community Project. This telephone survey of 800 Burlington residents age 45 and older was conducted by Woelfel Research, Inc. of Dunn Loring, VA, between November 1 and November 14, 2006.⁴ The survey collected information from respondents on their opinions and experiences in Burlington on transportation and mobility options, housing and neighborhoods, and community engagement opportunities, as well as tested some of the themes that emerged from the focus groups in each of these areas. These resident interviews provide insights into the needs, preferences, and expectations of Burlington residents as they continue to make their home in the City as they grow older.

The findings from both the focus groups and the community survey will be shared with Burlington's City Council and Mayor's Office and will form the basis of the recommendations that project stakeholders will make to ensure that Burlington remains a great city for older adults.

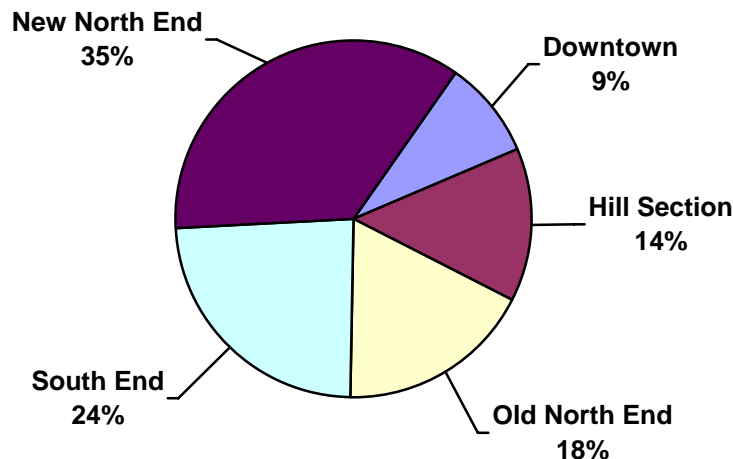
⁴ See Methodology section for full details on survey execution. The annotated questionnaire appended to this report contains responses to all survey questions.

Neighborhoods and Housing

Current Living Arrangements

Residents age 45 and older in all parts of Burlington were included in this community survey. Of those responding, about one-third say they live in the New North End, one-quarter say they live in the South End, and about one-fifth reported being from the Old North End. The remaining residents identified their neighborhoods as being either in the Hill Section or Downtown.

**Percentage of Respondents Living in Each Neighborhood
(N=800)**



More than three-quarters (77%) of Burlington residents age 45-plus own their homes, and about one-quarter (23%) are renters. Those who are homeowners primarily live in single family homes (77%), while 16 percent own condominiums, and the remaining homeowners live in duplexes, or some other multi-unit structure. Among the renters, about one-third is in some type of senior housing, while the remainder is in non-age restricted housing.

Not surprisingly, homeowners age 45+ in Burlington tend to be higher income residents and those with college educations. Homeowners predominantly live in the New North End, South End and Hill Section, while renters tend to be clustered in the Downtown area, and the Old North End region being more evenly split (See Table 1).

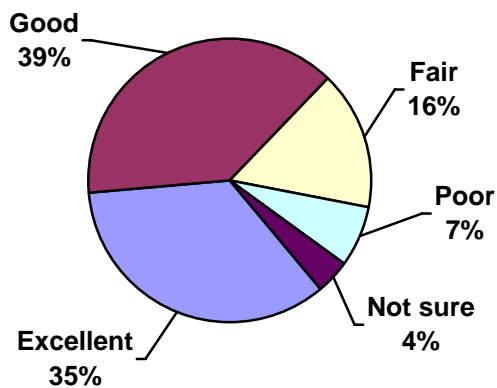
Currently, over half (52%) of respondents live with a spouse or partner and four in ten (38%) live alone. The likelihood of living alone increases with respondent age (27% 45-54; 35% 55-64; 42% 65-74; 53% 75+). Residents who live alone are significantly more likely to live Downtown (71%) or in the Old North End (50%), then they are in other areas of the City.

Among those living alone, about half (48%) say they might consider homesharing, or bringing someone of their choosing into their home to provide them with services to enable them to continue living in their home. However, more than four in ten living alone (44%) said they would not consider this option. The willingness to consider homesharing declines with respondent age, with those ages 45-54 being twice as likely to consider this option than those who are 75 and older (48% 45-54; 43% 55-64; 31% 65-74; 25% 75+). In addition, residents living in the New North End are substantially more likely than those living in the Old North End to consider homesharing (42% vs. 24%).

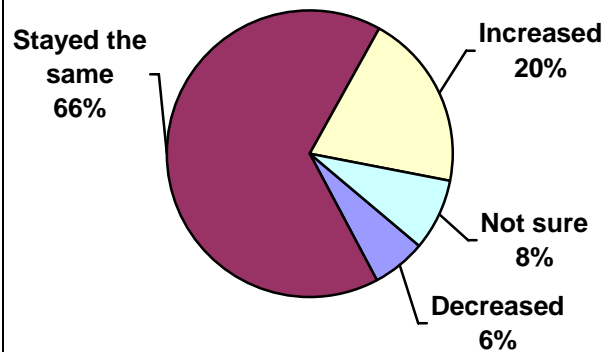
Neighborhood Safety

When asked to consider the how safe they feel when walking in their neighborhood in the evening, about three-quarters of Burlingtonians age 45-plus say they would rate their neighborhood security as excellent or good. Most respondents also say the amount of crime in their neighborhood has stayed the same over the past 12 months. However, there are marked differences in these opinions based on where respondents live. For instance, nearly half of respondents in the Old North End, and nearly as many Downtown residents, rate their neighborhoods' security as fair or poor. Similarly, residents in these two areas as well as the Hill Section are more apt to report there has been an increase in crime in their neighborhood in the past year. Similar differences of opinion appear according to income and education (See Table 2).

**Safety Rating of Neighborhood
(Walking in Evening)
(N=800)**

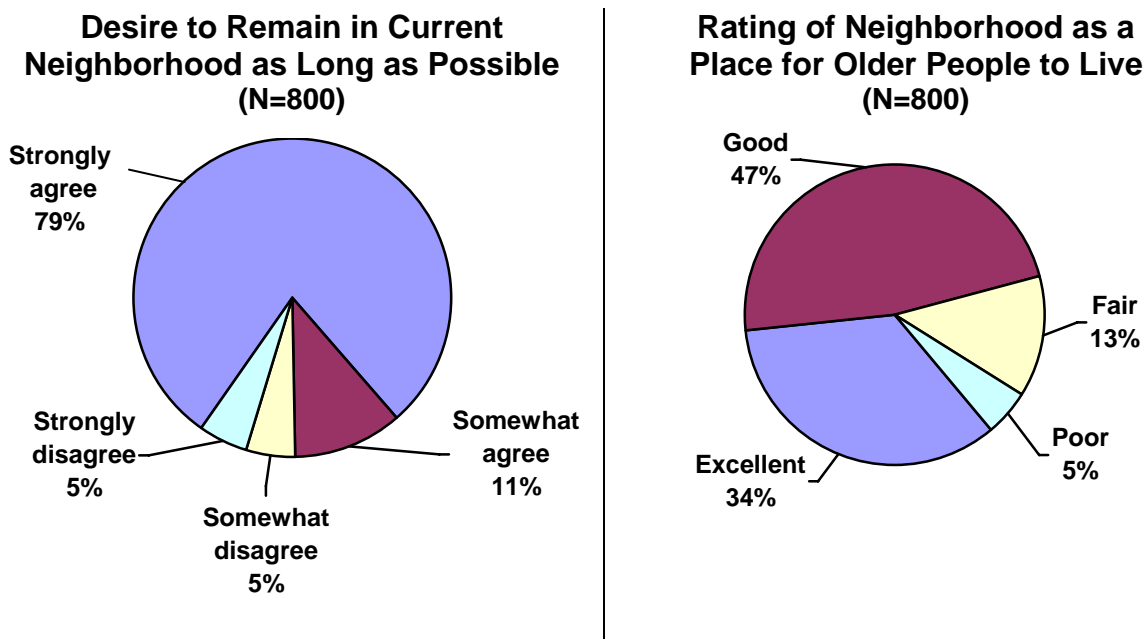


**Perceived Change in Amount of Crime
in Neighborhood in Last Year
(N=800)**



Neighborhood Appeal

To assess their desire to remain in their neighborhoods as they age, survey respondents were asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with the statement: “What I’d really like to do is remain in my neighborhood for as long as possible.” Nearly nine out of ten agreed with this statement--most of them strongly. Moreover, eight out of ten say they would rate their neighborhood as an excellent for good place for older people to live.

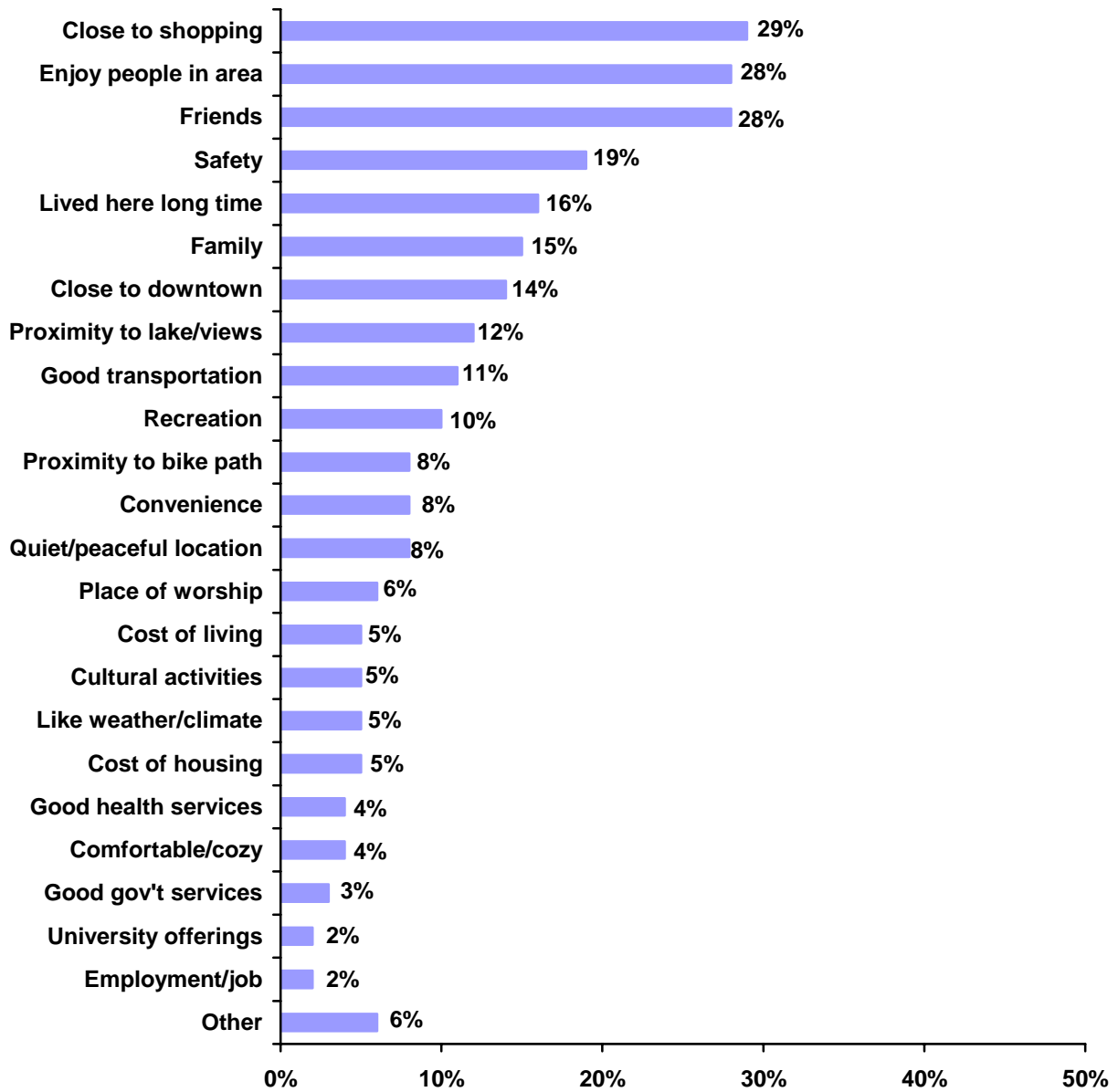


Older residents more often rate their neighborhood as an excellent or good place for older people to live, and not surprisingly, they are also more likely to express a desire to remain in their current neighborhoods as long as possible. (See Table 3.)

Similar to differences noted previously, there appears to be less favorability in one’s neighborhood among those living in the Old North End in comparison to other areas, particularly as a place respondents want to stay for as long as possible. (See Table 3.)

Respondents give a wide variety of reasons for wanting to stay in their neighborhoods, including proximity to services and activities, being close to people they like, and general familiarity and comfort with the area. However, the top reasons given by respondents for wanting to remain in their neighborhoods are that it is close to shopping and that they enjoy the people in the area, including their friends. Safety is another important factor for one in five residents who want to remain in their neighborhood.

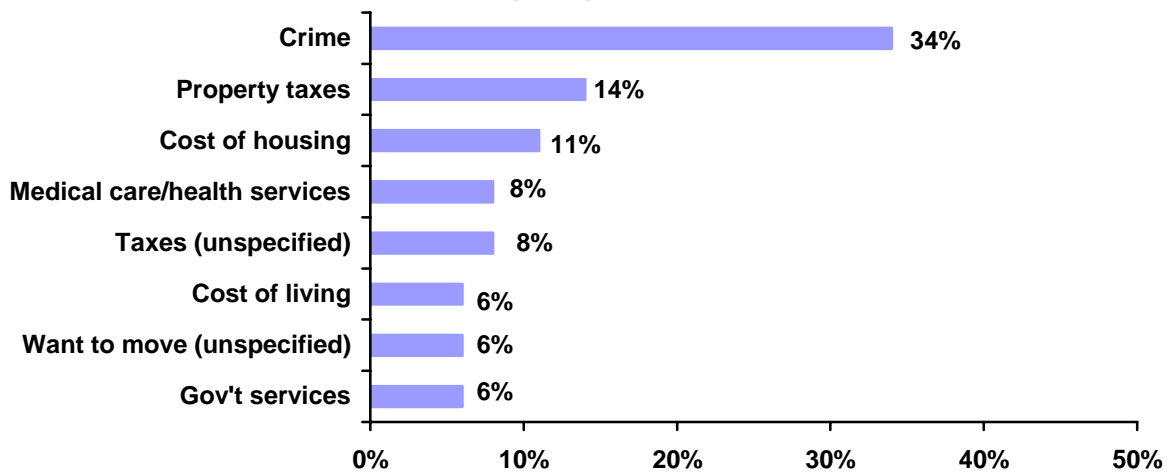
Reasons for Wanting to Remain in Same Neighborhood (n=716)



With only ten percent (n=65) indicating they would not like to remain in their community, it is difficult to provide a true assessment of what might motivate people to leave. However, among those respondents who indicated a lack of desire to remain where they are, crime and financial burdens are the most prevalent reasons given for their desire to move from their neighborhoods.⁵ Nearly half (46%) of the respondents from the Old North End who do not want to stay in their neighborhoods cite crime as the reason for wanting to leave.

⁵ Additional responses are noted in annotated questionnaire in Appendix B.

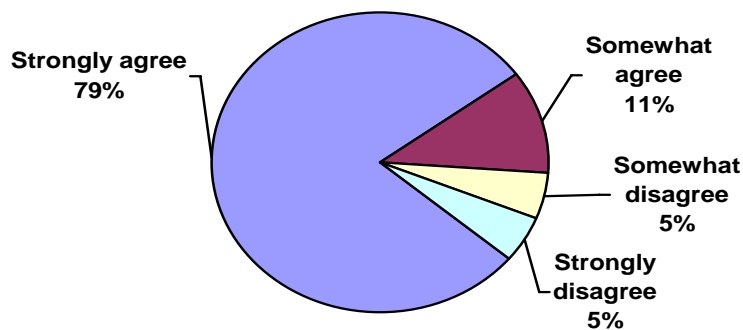
Top Reasons for Not Wanting to Remain in Same Neighborhood (n=65)



Desire to Remain in Their Homes

A similar percentage of Burlington residents expressing a desire to remain in their neighborhoods also express a desire to remain in their homes. Eight in ten respondents strongly agree with the statement “*What I’d really like to do is remain in my home for as long as possible,*” further indicating the strong desire among most older Burlingtonians to remain in their community.

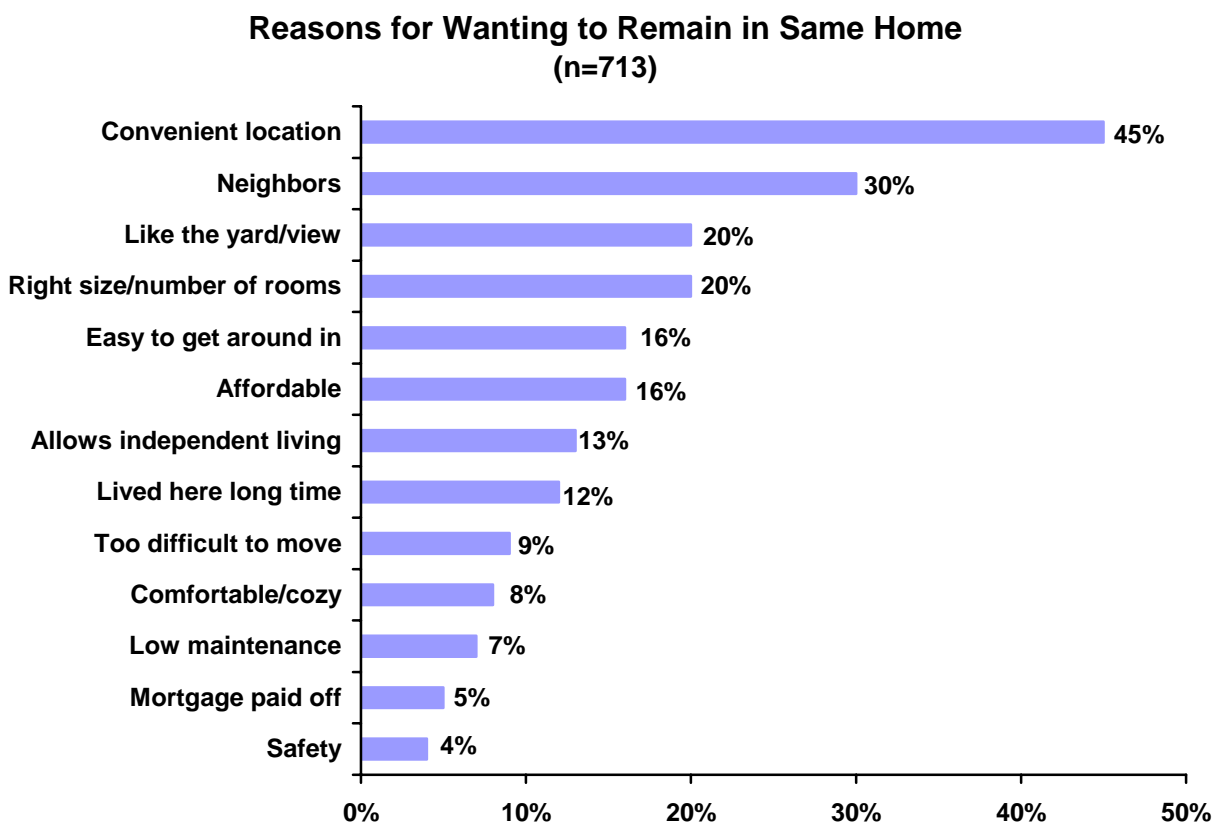
Desire to Remain in Current Home As Long as Possible (N=800)



More residents age 65 and older express a desire to remain in their homes for as long as possible compared to the younger residents surveyed (94% vs. 86%). Residents who have high school educations or less are also more likely than those with higher educations to want to remain where they are for as long as possible (93% vs. 88%). Similar to what was reported about remaining in their neighborhoods, residents in the Old North End are the least likely to want to remain in their homes for as long as possible (84% vs. 92% South End and 91% New North End, Hill Section).

When asked what some of the reasons are that they would want to remain in the same home, respondents most often say because their home is in a convenient location.

However, an affinity for their neighbors and their surroundings are also important factors in wanting to remain where they are. Structural features of the home fall farther down the list, but having the right size home is a reason for wanting to stay for one in five respondents.

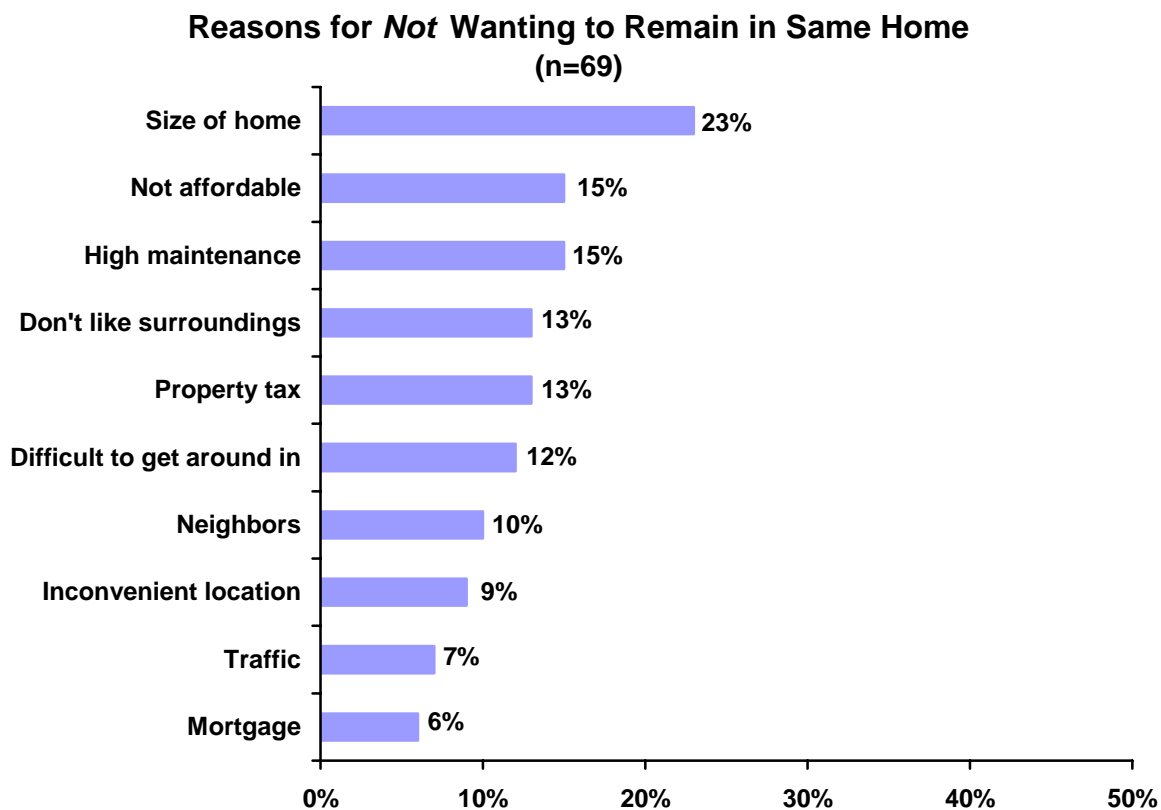


Interestingly, having a convenient location is more important for younger residents than it is for those ages 75 and older (45% 45-54; 51% 55-64; 46% 65-74 vs. 34% 75+), while those in the older age group are more likely to want to remain where they are because it allows them to live independently (17% 75+ vs. 9% 45-54; 14% 55-64; 12% 65-74).

The most notable differences in the reasons given for wanting to remain in their homes occur between neighborhoods. While having a convenient location is noted most often by residents in all neighborhoods, there is significant variation thereafter. For instance, residents living Downtown are the most likely to mention the ease in which they can get around in their homes, but are the least likely to note their surroundings (yard, trees, views, etc.) as appealing aspects of their homes. Neighbors are a top-mentioned reason for wanting to stay where they are for residents in the New North End, South End, and Hill Section, but less so for those living Downtown or in the Old North End. (See Table 4.)

For the one in ten respondents (n=69) who indicated they may not want to stay in their current homes as long as possible, their reasons for wanting to move are less varied by demographic factors, and largely revolve around structural features, such as size of their home and its surroundings, or financial barriers.

The only notable demographic difference in the reasons for wanting to move is that higher income residents are more likely to be dissatisfied with the size of their current home compared to lower income residents (46% \$75K+ and 30% \$35K-\$75K vs. 8% <\$35K).

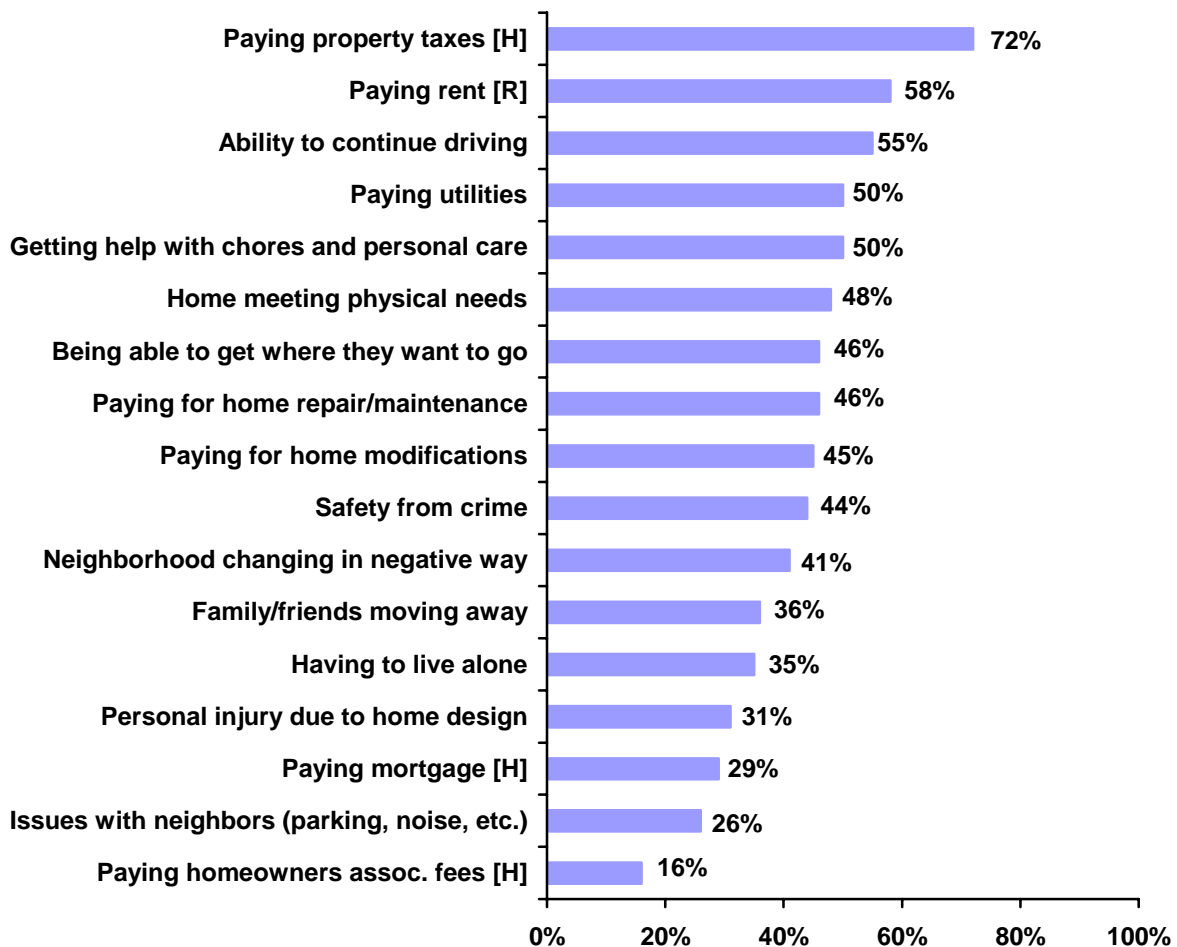


Needs and Concerns for the Future

As people age, there are factors that can make it more difficult for them to remain in their home or community. Survey respondents were read a list of such factors and asked how concerned they were about each one of them. Financial concerns, such as affording property taxes, rent, and utilities, topped the list but a significant number are also concerned about factors that could limit their independence, such as no longer being able to drive, and getting help with chores and personal care.

Interestingly, concern about many of these items is higher among the middle-aged respondents than it is among those who are older. And as would be expected, those with lower- and middle-incomes more often express concern about the financial issues than do those with higher incomes. Concern about neighborhood issues fall along the same lines as have been noted earlier, with those living in the Old North End and Downtown having greater concern about crime, conflicts with neighbors, and the neighborhood changing in ways they do not like. (See Table 5.)

**Percent of Respondents Concerned About Facing Listed Issues As They Get Older
(N=800)***

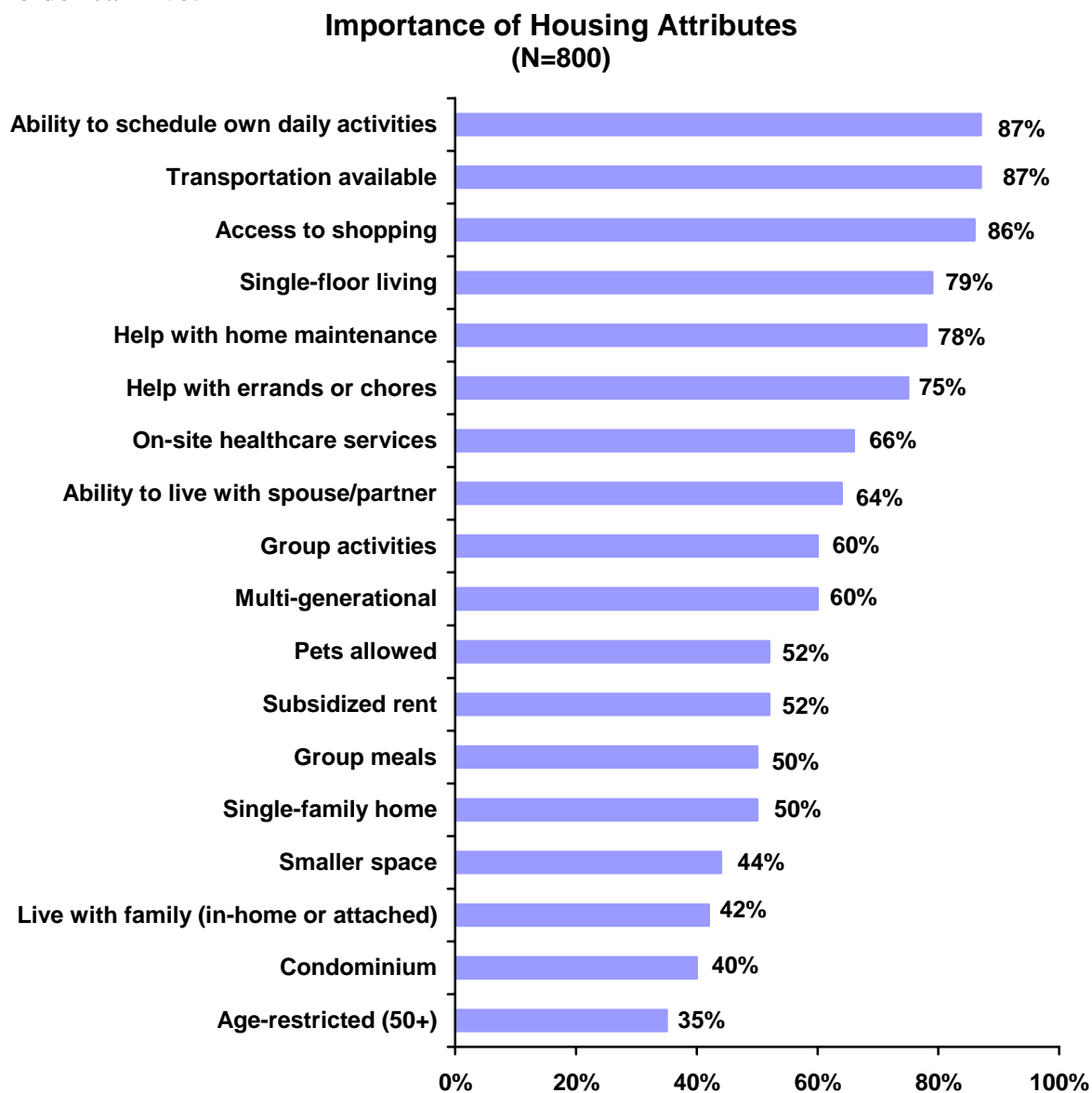


* Includes all respondents except where noted: [H] Homeowners (n=615) or [R] Renters (n=184)

As people age, they sometimes find their current living arrangements do not meet their needs. To better understand the future housing needs of Burlington residents, respondents were asked to consider what attributes would be important for them to have in a home, if they could no longer stay in their current home or wanted to move. The results show that attributes which enable them greatest amount of independence are most important to Burlington residents, while social and environmental aspects are less important.

Being able to schedule their own daily activities and having access to transportation and shopping top the list of features that respondents feel would be important for them to have in a place if they move. In addition, single-floor living and help with home maintenance and chores, all factors that can influence one's level of independence, were noted by at least three-quarters of the residents surveyed. Social attributes, such as group activities and meals, were noted by at least half, but were overall less important than other factors to many respondents.

Interestingly, more residents say living in a multi-generational setting is important than do those who want an age-restricted environment, such as one where only people age 50 or older can live.



Here again, there are interesting differences by age. Middle-aged respondents are more likely than older respondents to say most of these housing attributes, especially those that would promote independent living, would be somewhat or very important for them to have in a place they might move. The one exception where more older residents (65+) than their younger counterparts rate an attribute as important is having an age-restricted community. (See Table 6.)

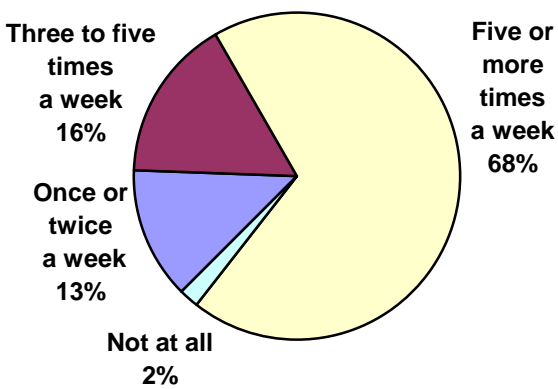
Residents with higher incomes and higher educations tend to rate many of these attributes similarly to middle-aged respondents. However, lower-income and lower-educated residents are more likely to rate having a place that is rent-subsidized as very or somewhat important. They are also more likely to say having an age-restricted community is important to them. (See Table 6.)

Mobility and Transportation

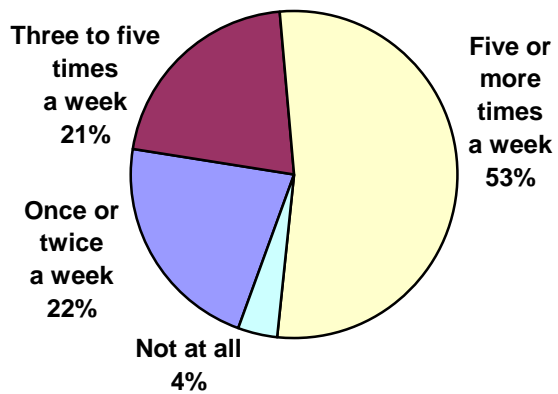
Current Modes of Transportation and Frequency of Outings

The majority of Burlington residents age 45 and older are quite mobile, getting out of their homes and going somewhere, such as shopping, visiting, or exercising at least five times a week. However, residents age 75 and older get out much less frequently: compared to younger residents, they are about twice as likely to get out only two times a week or less.

Frequency of Outings in Typical Week for Residents Age 45+ (N=800)



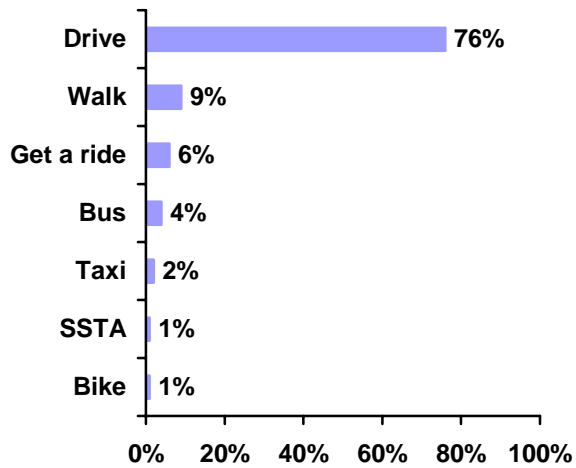
Frequency of Outings in Typical Week for Residents Age 75+ (n=163)



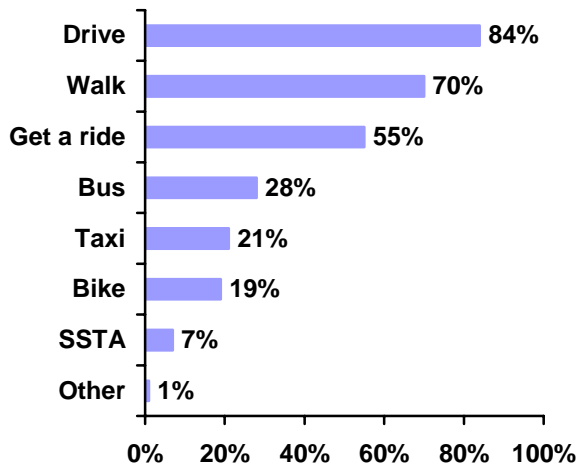
Lower education and lower income residents also get out less frequently than those with higher education and those with incomes above \$35,000 a year. Looking at differences by city neighborhood, residents in the South End and Downtown get out most often. (See Table 7.)

When Burlington residents 45-plus go places like the grocery store, the doctor, to work, or to social events, about three-quarters say they primarily drive to get there. Less than ten percent usually walk, get a ride from someone else, take the bus, or use some other way to get to their destinations. However, a significant amount of these residents do use alternative modes of transportation: seven in ten sometimes walk, over half sometimes get a ride with others, and three in ten say they use the bus on occasion.

Primary Modes of Transportation For Residents Age 45+ (N=800)

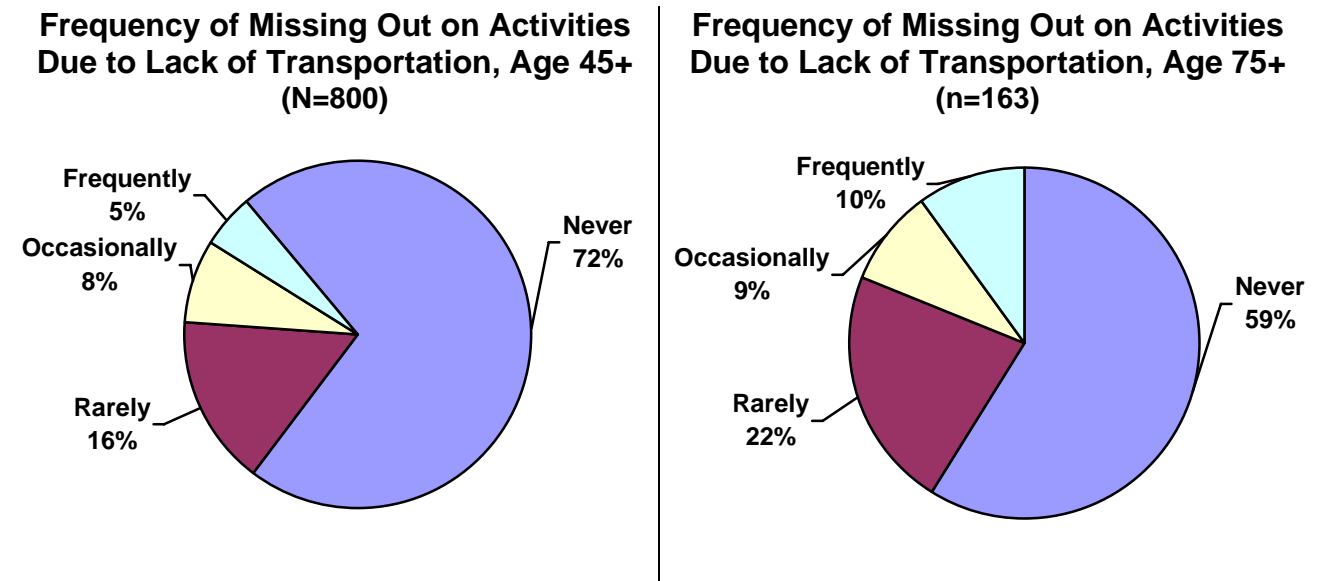


Percent of Residents 45+ Who Use Various Modes of Transportation (N=800)



While driving is still the primary mode of transportation for residents 45 and older, regardless of age, residents age 75 and older are slightly less likely (65%) to drive than younger residents (45-74), and are more likely to get a ride from someone else (17%). Residents with incomes below \$35,000 a year are also less likely to drive than residents with higher incomes, but are more likely to get a ride with someone else, go by taxi, or on the bus. College educated residents are more likely to walk or drive whereas those with less education more often get rides with others, take taxis or the bus. By neighborhood, residents in the New North End are least likely to walk and are most likely to drive. Downtown residents are the most likely to use the bus. (See Table 8.)

Relatively few Burlington residents age 45 and older miss out on activities away from their homes because of a lack of transportation. However, residents age 75 or older more frequently miss out on such opportunities because they do not have the means to get to them. This pattern continues across income and education, with lower income and lower education residents also reporting they miss out on activities due to a lack of transportation. (See Table 9.)

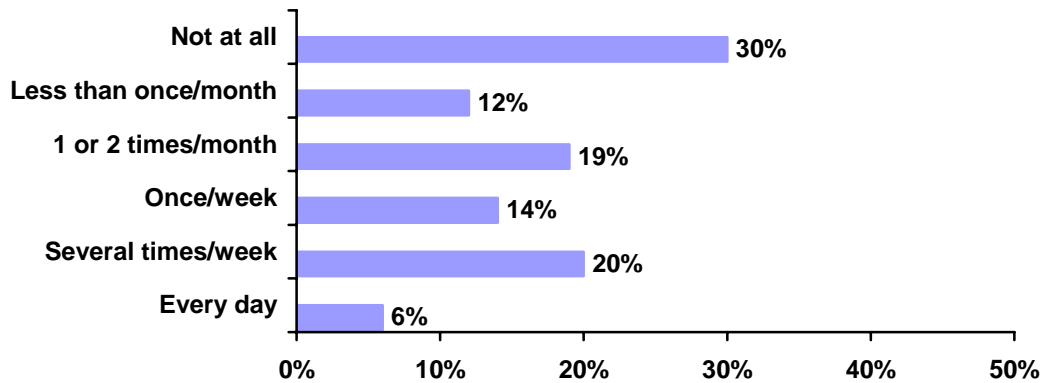


Public Transportation

Most Burlingtonians surveyed (93%) are aware of the public transportation system in the city. Three-quarters of residents with such awareness say the closest bus stop to their home is less than one-quarter mile away. However, one in ten says they have to go at least a half a mile to reach the closest bus stop from their home. While nearly two-thirds of residents in the New North End report being less than a quarter mile away from the closest bus stop, more residents in this section of the City than any other report being farther away than this from a bus stop (20% ¼ to ½ mi.; 8% ½ to ¾ mi.; 4% ¾ to 1 mi.; 5% 1+ mi.)

Three in ten (30%) Burlington residents age 45 or older mentioned taking the bus as a way of getting around at least occasionally. Of these, forty percent say they had used the city bus at least once a week in the previous two months. However, thirty percent had not used it at all during this timeframe.

**Frequency of Using the Bus in Past Two Months Among Residents Age 45+
(n=227)**

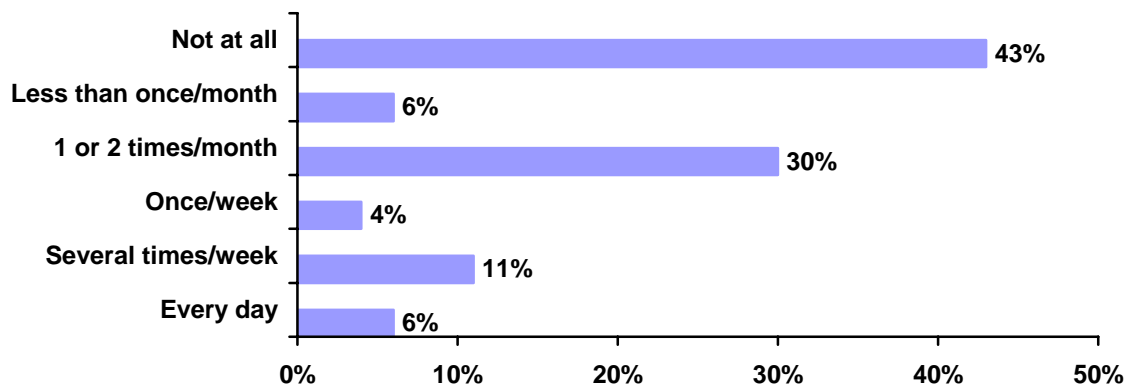


Residents with incomes below \$35,000 a year take the bus more frequently than those with higher incomes: over half (53%) reported taking the bus at least weekly during the two months prior to the survey compared to about one-quarter (26%) of those with higher incomes.

Not surprisingly, residents living in the Downtown area are substantially more frequent users of the bus than residents in other areas, particularly those in the New North End and in the Hill Section. More than two-thirds (68%) of Downtown residents had used the bus at least weekly in the two months prior to the survey, compared to only 28 percent of those living in the New North End and 33 percent living in the Hill Section.

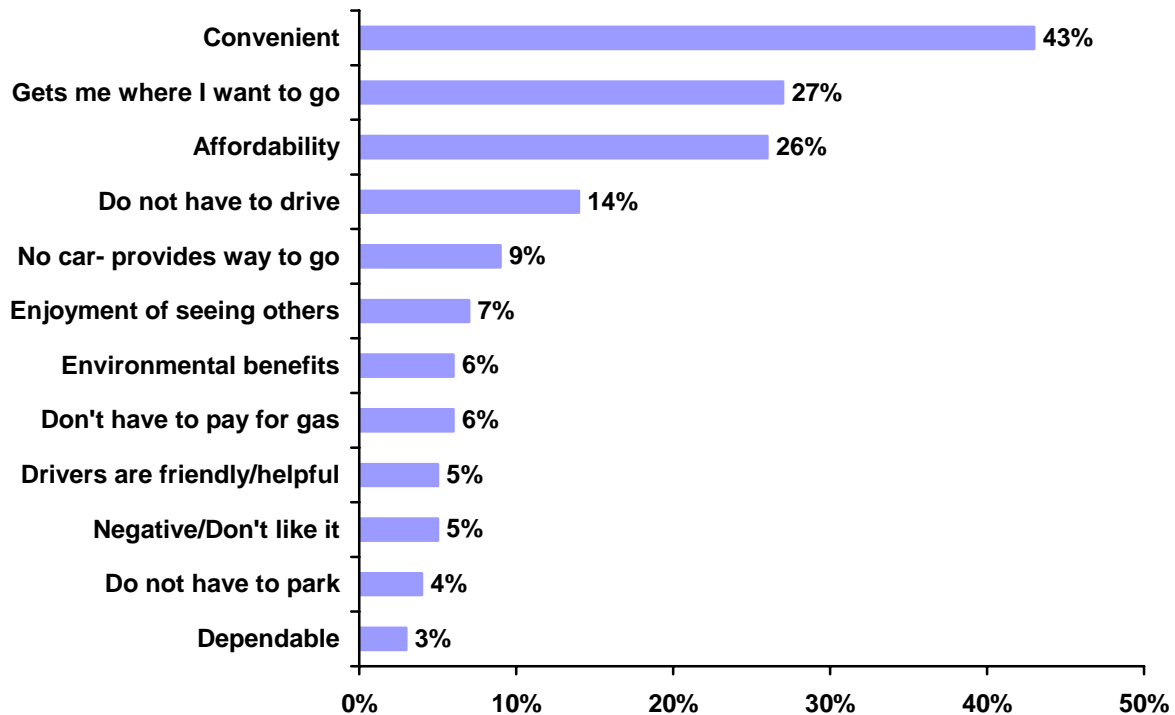
SSTA, the public transportation service provided to people with disabilities who cannot use public buses, is reportedly used at least occasionally by seven percent of residents age 45 or older in Burlington. Of these, most had not used the service in the previous 2 months more than once or twice—if at all.

**Frequency of Using SSTA in Past Two Months Among Residents Age 45+
(n=53)**



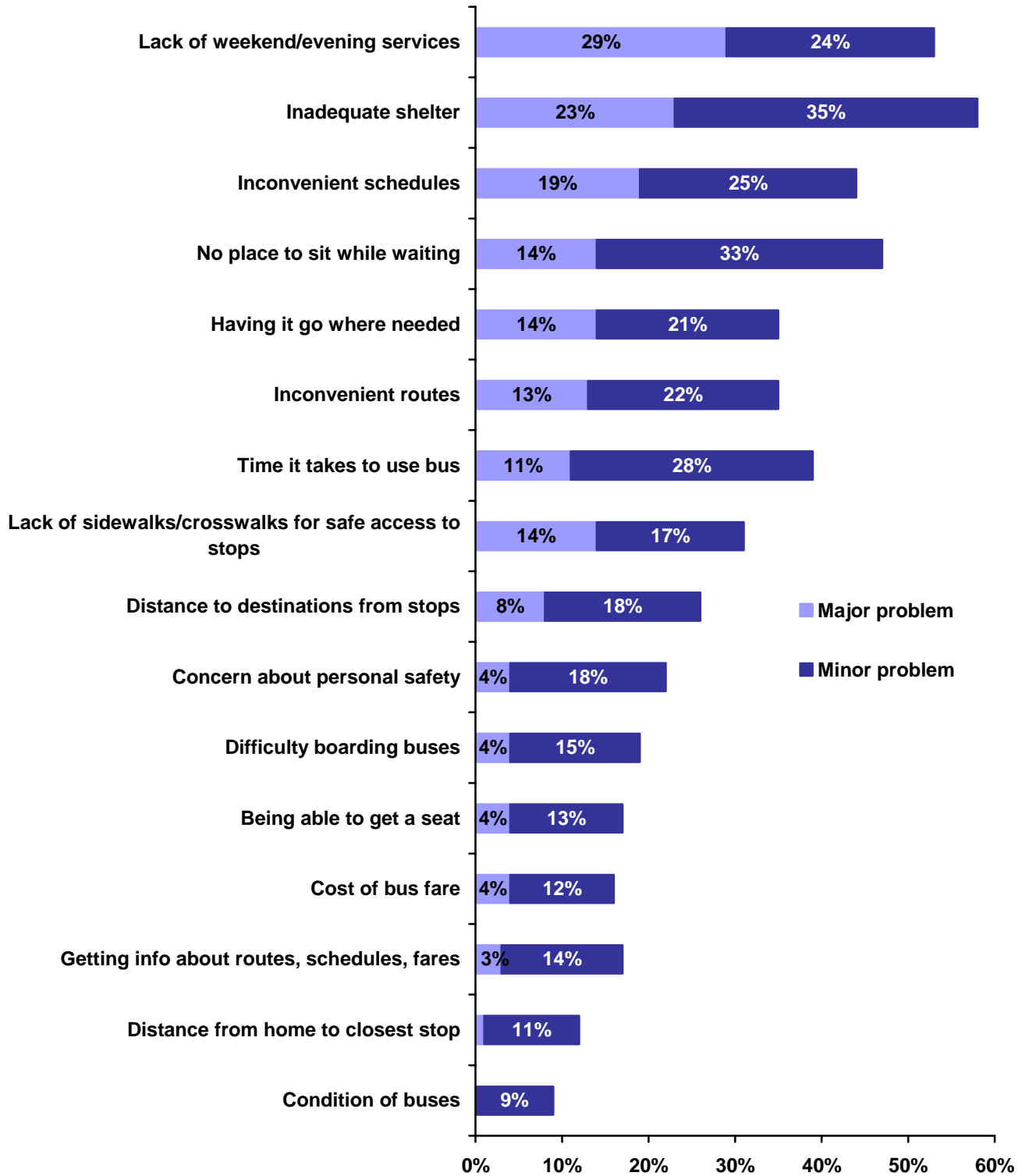
When asked what they like most about using the bus or SSTA services, public transportation users most often say they like the convenience of it and that it gets them where they want to go. Residents age 75-plus are more likely to say they like the convenience (59%) of public transportation, whereas younger respondents most often like its affordability aspects (32% 45-55), or that they don't have to drive (20% 55-64). One-third (32%) of public transportation users in the Hill Section say they do not have a car so it provides them with a way to get around (compared to less than 7 percent in other areas).

What Public Transportation Users Like Most About Using the Bus or SSTA
(n=176)

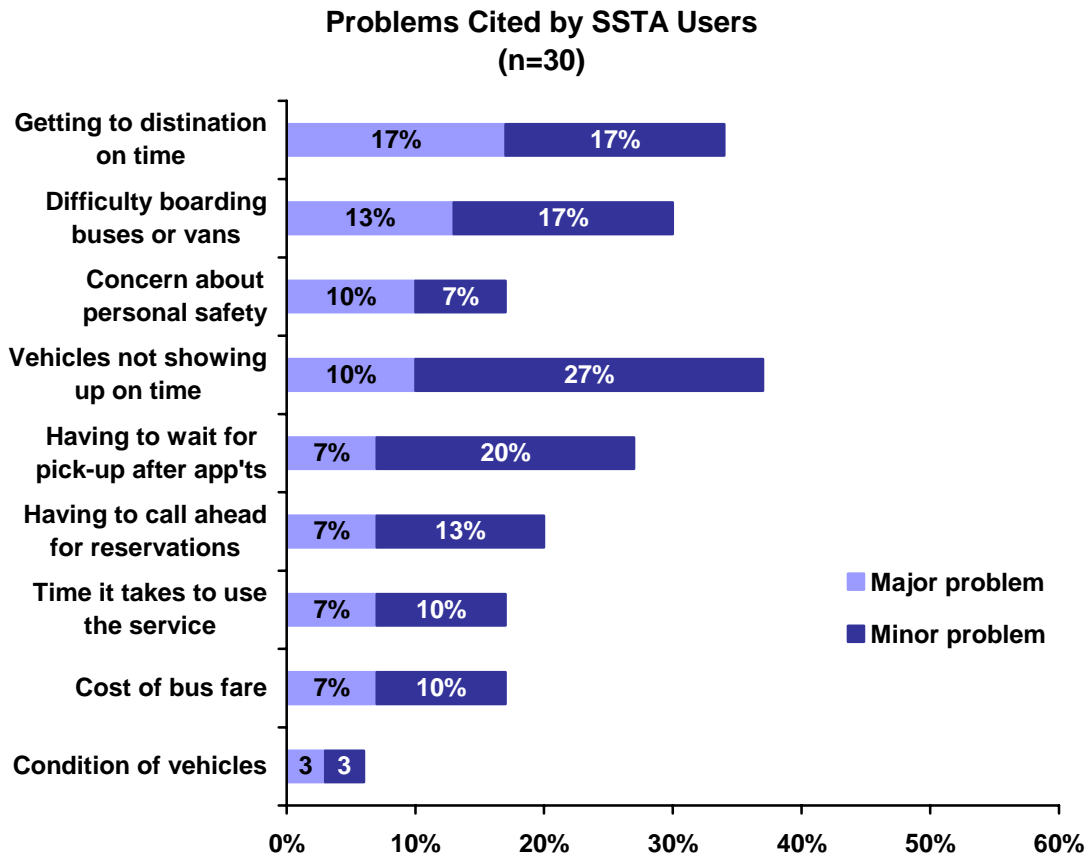


When asked about their experiences with using the City bus, most public bus users say they have minor or no problems using the bus system. The most commonly reported problems among users include lack of weekend or evening services, and not having adequate shelter from the weather while waiting for the bus. A sizable number of users also cite inconvenient schedules and not having a place to sit while waiting as being at least a minor problem for them when using the bus.

Problems Cited by City Bus Users (n=160)

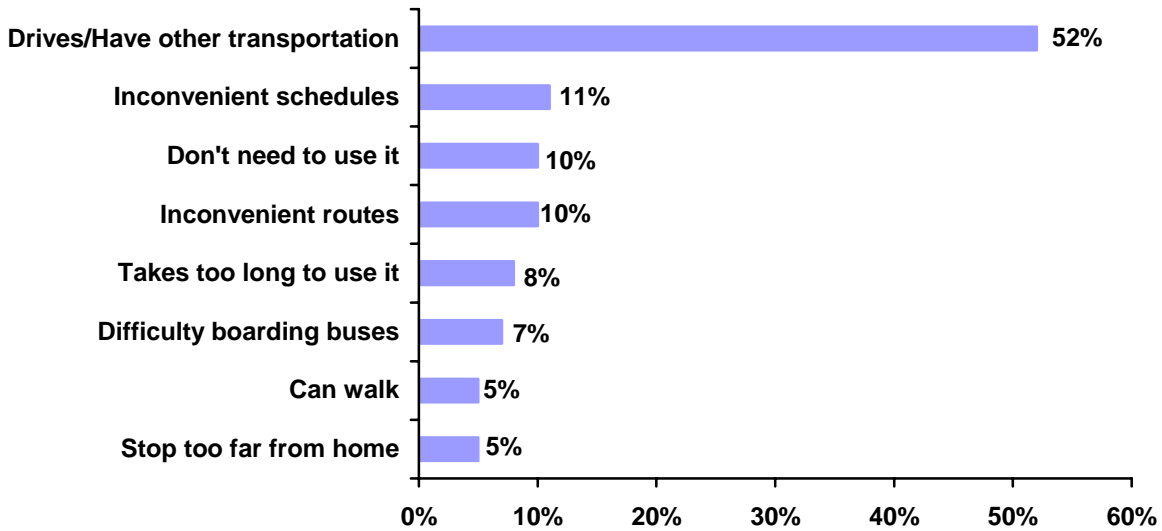


SSTA users were also asked about some of the problems they might encounter when using this service. Again, most users say they do not have problems using SSTA; however, the top difficulties cited by users are getting to their destination on time and difficulty boarding the buses or vans. Over a third of SSTA users also say they have had at least minor problems with the vehicles not showing up on time.



Residents who have not used the bus in the few months prior to the survey were asked to give some reasons why they have not used this service. A majority of respondents say they have not used the bus in the past few months because they have alternative modes of transportation and do not have a need for it. Very few respondents cite problems using the bus service itself as deterrents from using it, although inconvenient schedules and routes were cited most often.

**Top Reasons for *Not* Using the City Bus*
(n=602)**

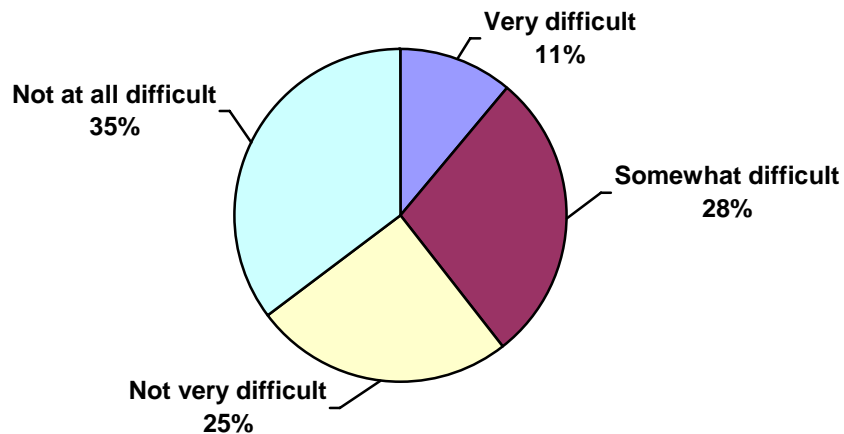


**See annotated questionnaire for full list of reasons given*

Community Accessibility

Despite the high reliance on personal vehicles to get around in the City, most Burlington residents age 45-plus do not think it would be difficult to remain in their current neighborhood if they were no longer able to drive. Only one in ten thinks it would be very difficult to remain in their current neighborhood if they could not drive.

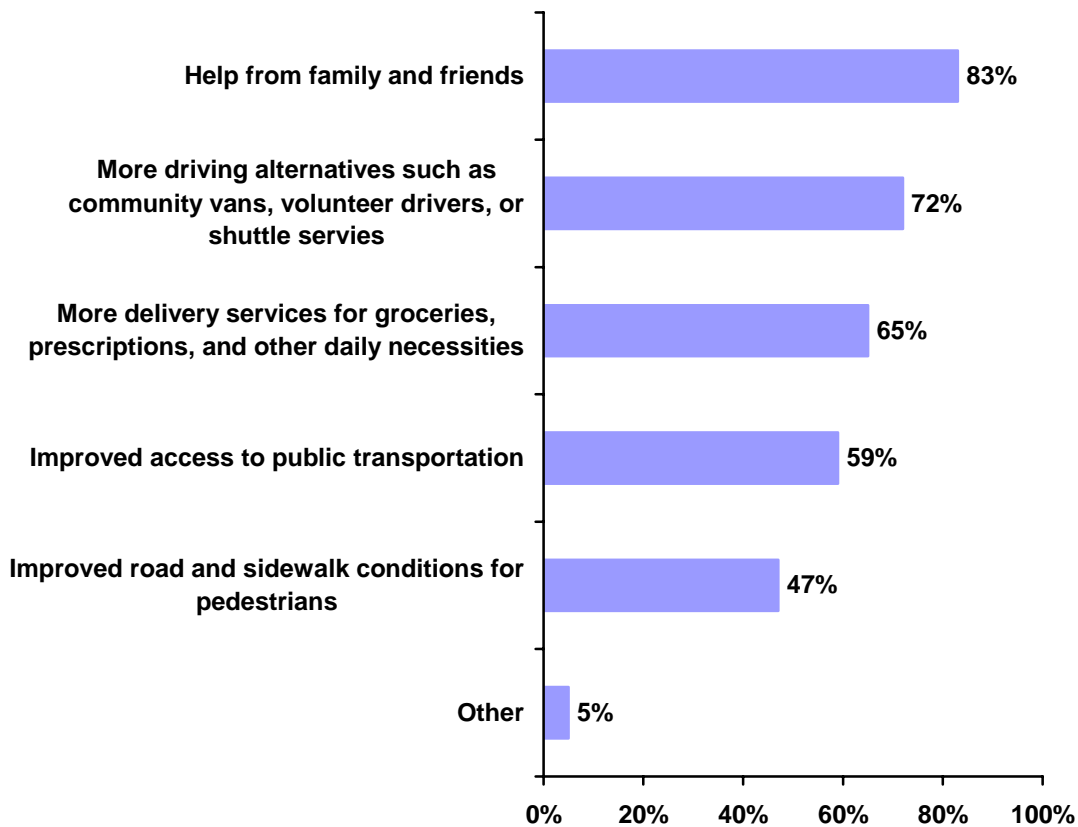
**Anticipated Difficulty of Remaining in Current Neighborhood if
No Longer Able to Drive
(n=674)**



Interestingly, there were very few differences demographically on this question. Residents in the 55-64 age group were slightly more likely than younger respondents to think it would be very difficult for them to remain in their neighborhood if they could no longer drive (15% vs. 7%), and those with higher education levels more often thought it might be somewhat difficult as compared to those with high school educations or less (29% vs. 16%). There were no other differences in terms of age or neighborhood location.

Despite the majority of residents saying they did not think it would be difficult to stay in their neighborhoods if they could no longer drive, when asked about specific improvements that might be made to enhance their communities' accessibility if they could no longer get around as they currently do, most respondents agreed more help from family and friends would make it easier for them. Over seven in ten thought more driving alternatives, such as community vans, volunteer drivers, and carpooling would make it easier for them to stay in their neighborhoods if their conditions changed, and nearly as many agreed that more delivery services for groceries, prescriptions, and the like would make it easier for them to remain in their location.

Improvements That Would Make It Easier for Residents to Stay in Their Neighborhoods if They Were No Longer Able to Get Around as They Currently Do (N=800)



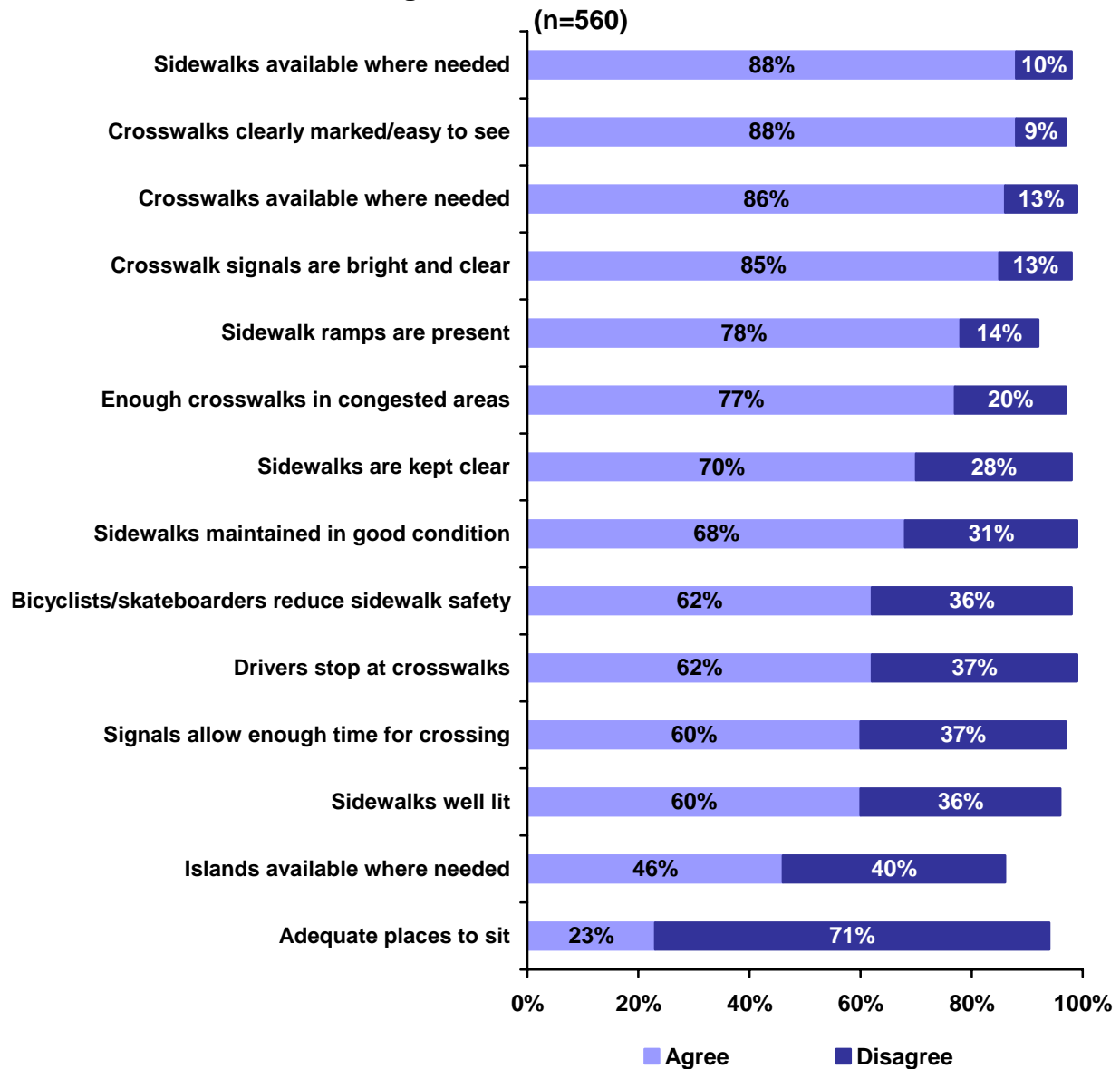
With the exception of getting help from family and friends, residents age 55-64 were most likely to think each of these improvements would help them stay in their neighborhoods if they could no longer get around. Interestingly, the oldest residents were among the least likely to think these enhancements would help them stay put (See Table 10).

Residents in the Old North End, Downtown, and Hill Section were significantly more likely to say that improved road and sidewalk conditions for pedestrians would help them stay in their neighborhoods as compared to the other two areas (See Table 10).

Pedestrian Accessibility

Residents age 45-plus who say they sometimes walk to get places in the City, were asked to state their level of agreement or disagreement with a number of statements about the conditions and accessibility of Burlington sidewalks and crosswalks. With the exception of not having adequate places to sit and rest along the sidewalks and not having enough pedestrian islands available where they are needed in the streets, most Burlington residents believe that the City is pedestrian-friendly. In fact, there seem to be relatively few residents surveyed that think there are problems with the crosswalks, although a sizable minority indicate that the traffic signals do not allow enough time for pedestrians to cross. While residents for the most part seem to think sidewalks are accessible, the greater amount of disagreement on a number of these statements show there are opportunities for improvements, such as improved lighting and maintenance, better clearing of snow, ice, and debris, better policing to ensure drivers stop at crosswalks, and restricting the sidewalks for pedestrian use only (no bicycles or skateboards).

Pedestrian Agreement/Disagreement with Statements About Burlington Sidewalks and Crosswalks



Interestingly, where there are age differences in the level of agreement on these statements, younger respondents are more likely to disagree, indicating there is greater dissatisfaction with accessibility and condition of sidewalks and crosswalks among residents ages 45-64 than there is among older residents (See Table 11). Residents' level of agreement with many of these statements also varies according to which neighborhood they live in, with those in the New North End generally being more satisfied with the condition of sidewalks and crosswalks in their community (See Table 12).

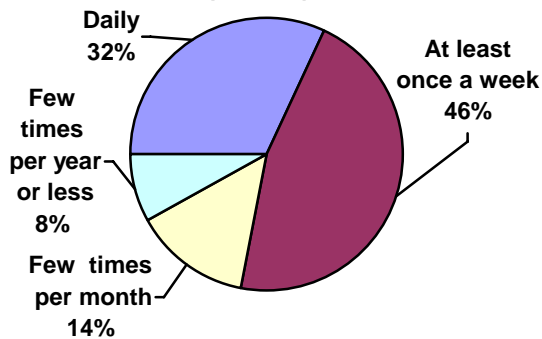
Community Engagement

Social Contacts

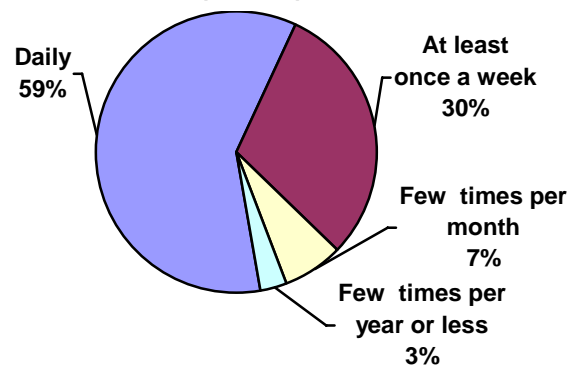
Most Burlington residents age 45-plus are well-connected to others in their community, and very few (5%) are dissatisfied with the amount of contact they have with family, friends, and neighbors. Two-thirds (66%) of Burlington residents age 45-plus have family members living nearby. However, residents report more frequent contact with friends and neighbors than they do with family: Nearly 60 percent have daily contact with friends and neighbors, while less than a third (32%) have daily contact with family. Only one in ten respondents say they have contact with friends or neighbors a few times a month or less.

The likelihood of having daily contact with family increases with respondent age (37% vs. 25% 45-54; 30% 55-64; 65-74 36%; 37% 75+), and the older residents are, the more likely they are to be very satisfied with the amount of contact they have with others than are younger residents (61% 45-54; 71% 55-64; 76% 65-74; 80% 75+).

**Frequency of Contact with Family
Among Residents Age 45+
(N=800)**



**Frequency of Contact with Friends/
Neighbors Among Residents Age 45+
(N=800)**



Nearly two-thirds (62%) of residents surveyed in Burlington say they have helped out someone in their neighborhood with chores or some other type of assistance. Younger respondents, along with those with higher incomes and educations are more likely to have helped out a neighbor in this way. Residents in the New North End (66%) and the South End (64%) are more apt to help out their neighbors as compared to those living Downtown (49%).

Engagement in neighborhood events seems to be happening similarly across the City, with about half of residents' age 45-plus in all of the neighborhoods saying they have participated in a neighborhood event in the last year. Again, likelihood of participating in neighborhood events increases with income (43% <\$35K; 50% \$35K-\$75K; 64% \$75K+) and education (30% HS or less; 47% some college; 62% college+).

Volunteering and Participation in Organizations

In addition to their regular contact with family, friends, and neighbors, about sixty percent (58%) of residents age 45-plus in Burlington also belong to a social, religious, recreational, or special interest group. The likelihood of belonging to one of these groups increases with education, with about seven in ten residents (71%) who are college-educated belonging to a group, compared to about half (55%) or residents with some college experience, and one-third (33%) of those with a high school education or less. Similarly, the likelihood of belonging to an organized group also increases with income (47% < \$35K; 61% \$35K-\$75K; 68% \$75K+). There are also differences in this type of engagement depending on the region of the City in which residents live, with those living in the Hill Section (63%) and the New North End (61%) more often belonging to a group than those in the Old North End (49%) or Downtown (48%).

About the same percentage of people who belong to an organized group also volunteer: six in ten residents age 45+ (59%) have volunteered their time in the past year to an organization. The likelihood of volunteering declines with increasing age, but increases with income and education. Again, those in the Hill Section and New North End are more likely to be engaged in volunteer opportunities.

Demographic Differences in Percentage of Residents Who Volunteered in Past 12 Months (N=800)

Age:	65% 45-54	64% 55-64	59% 65-74	45% 75+
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Income:	47% <\$35,000	67% \$35,000-\$75,000	77% \$75,000+
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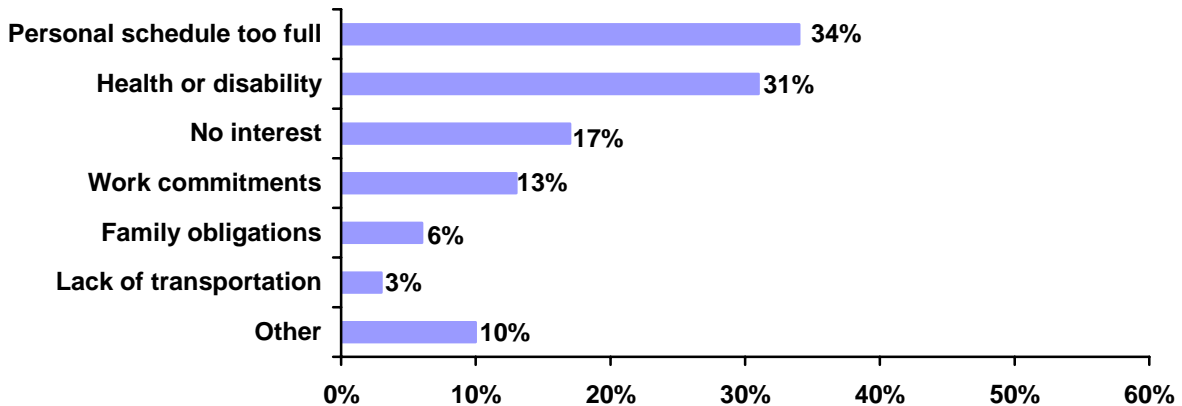
Education:	30% HS or less	57% Some college	75% College+
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Neighborhood:	51% Old North End	63% New North End	57% South End	55% Downtown	66% Hill Section
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The top reason given for not volunteering in the last year is having an already too-full personal schedule, with those ages 45-54 being the most likely to give this as a reason (51%). The top reason for not volunteering among those 75 and older, however, is a health condition or disability (51%). This oldest age group is also more likely to cite a lack of transportation as a reason (8%).

Those with college educations and incomes above \$75,000 are more likely to say their personal schedules are too full, or that they have work commitments. Residents with less education and less income are more often hindered by health care reasons or a disability.

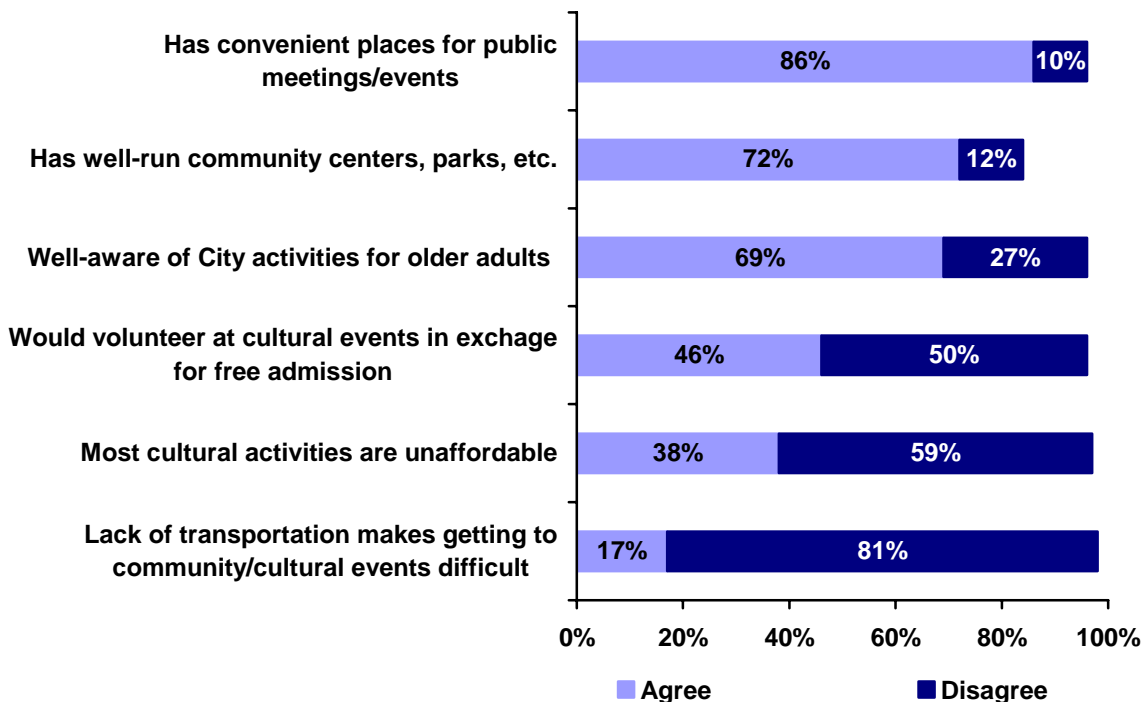
**Top Reasons for Not Volunteering in Past 12 Months
(n=324)**



Community Events

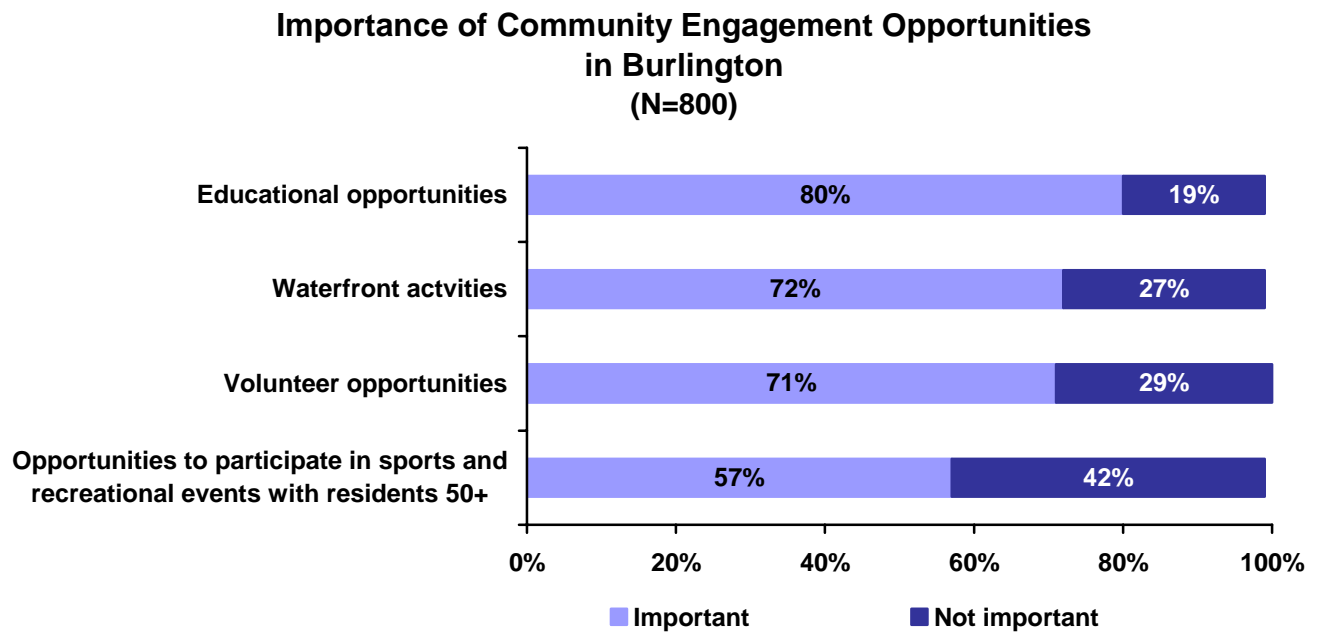
Most residents age 45-plus feel Burlington has convenient places for them to participate in public meetings and events, and that it has well-run community centers, recreation centers, parks and other places where older people can socialize. In addition, most respondents, particularly older residents, agree they are very well-aware of activities for older adults that are available in Burlington. Although the majority are in agreement with the following statements, there are variations by age, income, education, and neighborhood (See Table 13).

**Resident Agreement/Disagreement with Statements About
Burlington Community Activities and Events
(N=800)**



About half of residents age 45-plus say they would like to volunteer at cultural events in Burlington in exchange for free admission. Overall, most residents surveyed do not think there are transportation or cost barriers preventing them from participating in cultural events in the City. But here again, there are differences in opinion based on age, income, education, and neighborhood, with lower income residents and those with lower education citing barriers most often. (See Table 14.)

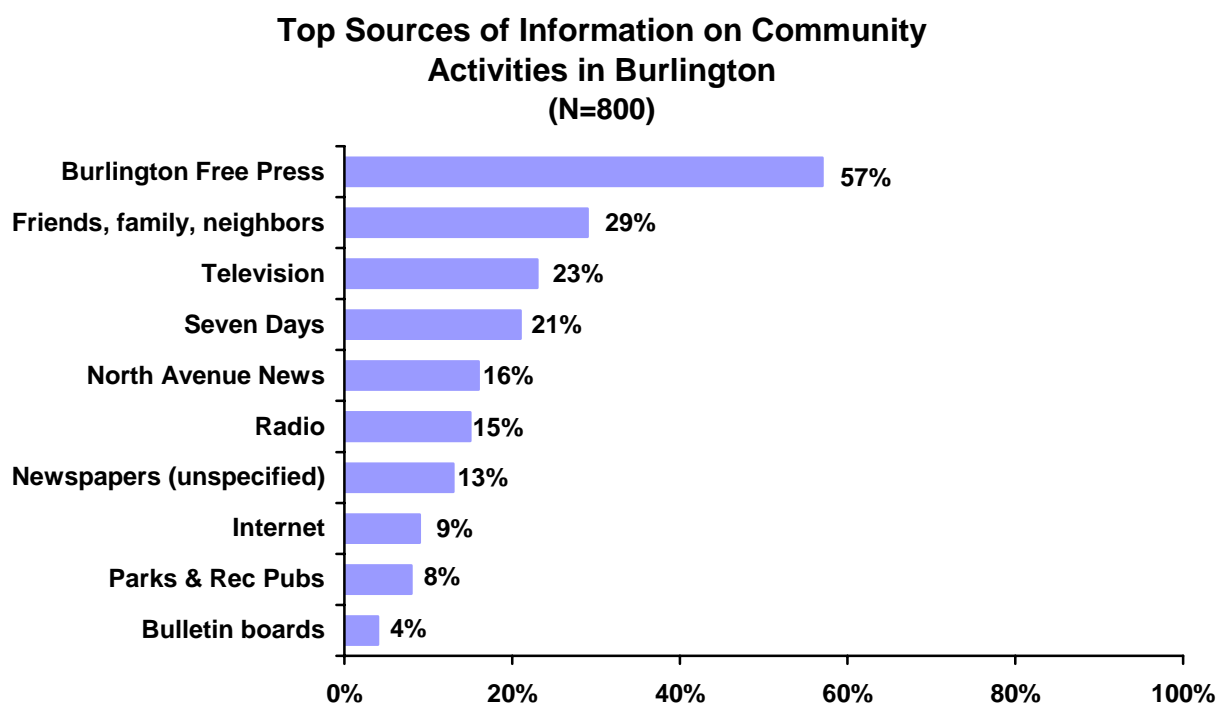
Residents were asked how important it is to them to have several community engagement opportunities available in Burlington. Education opportunities are very or somewhat important for most residents age 45-plus, followed by waterfront activities and volunteer opportunities. Out of the four community engagement opportunities tested in the survey, opportunities to participate in sports and recreational events with other residents age 50 and older was rated the least important, but was still at least somewhat important to the majority.



Residents age 45-54 are the most likely to say having each of these types of community activities is important, with the number of residents rating them as such declining substantially with older age. Ratings of importance for each of these activities, however, increase with income and educational levels. There is little variation by neighborhood on the importance of having these activities available; however, more residents in the New North End and Hill section see importance in having opportunities to volunteer. (See Table 15.)

Community Event Information Sources

Over half of Burlington residents age 45 and older rely on the *Burlington Free Press* to find out about community and neighborhood activities. Word of mouth from family and friends, television, and *Seven Days* are also common sources of information about events happening in Burlington. *North Avenue News* is an important source of information for those living in the New North End (27%).



Seventy percent of residents age 45 and older say they have accessed the Internet in the last twelve months from their home, work, or from some other source such as their library. Of these, most access the Internet daily (72%) or several times a week (19%). However, only one in ten Burlington residents report getting information about community events on the Internet. Residents age 45-54 are more likely to use the Internet for this purpose (16%) as are those who are college educated (13%), and those living in the South End (12%) or Hill Sections (15%).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The results of the survey seem to indicate that Burlington residents age 45 and older are getting along well in the City, and that the City by many measures is considered a livable one for its current older residents. However, as the population ages, there undoubtedly will need to be changes made to accommodate the growing older population and to enable residents to continue to characterize Burlington as a great city for older adults. In addition to the many positives identified by the residents surveyed, a number of challenges and areas for improvement have been revealed, which if addressed can assure the City continues to be recognized as one of the nation's most desirable small cities for all its citizens. Below is a summary of research finding highlights as well as questions the findings raise that can be considered for future planning.

Neighborhoods and Housing

In terms of housing, most residents age 45 and older are homeowners, living in single family homes. Moreover, the vast majority want to stay in their current homes and neighborhoods for as long as possible. Convenient locations and appreciation of their surroundings and neighbors are all appealing aspects that contribute to their desire to remaining where they are. In addition, most feel safe in their neighborhoods and believe they are good places for older adults to live.

On a more challenging side, many residents, particularly middle-aged and middle- to low-income ones, cite financial concerns that threaten their ability to stay in their current home and communities. These financial concerns raise a question to be addressed: ***What can Burlington do to ensure that its residents can afford to grow old in the City?***

In terms of future housing needs, it is clear from the results that future housing developments and policies for older adults should be made with a central focus on independent living. More than physical features alone, services and locations that will enable residents to continue to live independently are extremely important to older residents today, and may be even more so important to older residents in the future. While most have a desire to remain where they currently are, for those that need or want to move, there should be a wide range of options available since, beyond living independently, there is a wide range of opinions on what would suit them best. In considering these findings: ***How can Burlington ensure that older residents have access to services that will enable them to remain independent and stay integrated in the community? For those that need or want to move, do they have a wide variety of affordable housing options that enable them to remain as independent as possible?***

A number of differences among neighborhoods emerged in the survey results in terms of housing. While a desire to remain where they currently are is consistently high across the City, for those living in the Old North End, continuing to remain in their current location seems less appealing than it does to residents living in other areas of the City.

This difference seems largely due to security concerns, but is also likely due to financial concerns and having lower levels of engagement with the community. Residents in the Downtown area are also less apt to be motivated to stay because of their surroundings, however, this seems to be balanced out by the ease in which they can get around. Another factor possibly contributing to these differences is the housing composition of these two areas: both the Old North End and Downtown have higher rates of renters which may be causing the residents to feel the effects of a more transient community, and the lessened community engagement that often results from such an arrangement.

On the converse, residents living in the New North End seem to be most content with their current living arrangements and most often rate their neighborhood as a good one for older adults. Here again, the housing composition may be a contributing factor. With more small, single family homes, this region may in fact be the most appealing for those contemplating where they will live as independently as possible as they get older.

The many neighborhood differences suggest another question to be answered: ***What can Burlington do to build on the strengths of neighborhoods, while addressing the challenges in each, to ensure all residents feel secure and are afforded the independence they desire in later life?***

Mobility and Transportation

Burlingtonians are very mobile, and they are heavily reliant on the private automobile to maintain this level of mobility. Even though most residents age 45 and older live within one-quarter mile of the nearest bus stop and there are few complaints among users about the City's bus service, utilization of public transportation is relatively low. In fact, the primary reason residents are not using the bus is because they have their own car and they do not see a need to use it. Yet with age, we know from this data as well as elsewhere, that as the likelihood of driving declines. A question for Burlington in planning for the future is: ***How can Burlington develop and market its public transportation system so that more residents see the benefits of using public transportation, and it will become more common among the transportation choices for older adults?***

The results of this survey indicate that the City is largely considered to be pedestrian friendly, with most residents age 45 and older reporting sidewalks and crosswalks as highly usable and accessible. However, as also noted by focus group participants, there are some areas for improvement. For instance, many respondents would like more places to sit along sidewalks, more islands for street crossings, increased time for crosswalks, better lighting, better maintenance of sidewalks, and better policing of drivers to ensure they stop for pedestrians in crosswalks. As the population ages in Burlington, these issues may become more pronounced for the older population. So the question becomes: ***How can Burlington make improvements to their sidewalks and roadways to ensure the City is accessible to all residents?***

Community Engagement

Burlington residents age 45 and older are very well-connected. The majority of these residents have frequent contact with family and friends and over half are involved with organized groups, volunteering, and neighborhood events. In fact, overall, very few residents report barriers to getting involved with community activities. However there are demographic differences to be considered: residents age 75 and older, as well as those with low-incomes and those without college educations are the least likely to be engaged in community events, volunteering, and they more often report being socially isolated. These residents are also the most likely to report having barriers to community events, such as cost and transportation. Since community engagement is a key to having a livable community for older adults, the question is: ***How can Burlington adapt so that all Burlington residents are afforded the same opportunities for community engagement, regardless of age, income, and education?***

Burlington is a city rich with educational opportunities for residents of all ages. This alone is a factor that draws many of the City's older residents to the area and encourages others to stay. In fact, more respondents to this survey rated educational activities as an important community engagement opportunity than they did for the other activities tested. It is important to ensure that these and other activities are made available to the residents of Burlington, especially those with higher incomes and educations. But, it is also important to learn what other activities would be appealing to those who have lower incomes and those who are not college educated, since educational opportunities, opportunities for volunteering, and recreational activities were rated lower by these residents. The challenge for Burlington is: ***What opportunities for community engagement can be offered in Burlington that will be appealing to the lower-income residents and those without college educations?***

Ensuring residents are aware of community events and activities is obviously important to increasing participation, and for the most part, residents age 45 and older feel they are well-aware of the activities that are happening in the City. Residents most often refer to newspapers to get information about community events, so newspapers, particularly the *Burlington Free Press*, are the best ways to get information out to the most people. However, with so many Burlington residents reporting they are regularly online, yet so few indicating they get community information there, the Internet presents a good opportunity for getting more people connected to community events and information. To keep more residents informed of community events an issue to address is: ***How can Burlington leverage Internet usage among residents to improve awareness of community activities and engagement?***

Methodology

The Burlington Livable Community Survey, sponsored by AARP, interviewed a representative sample of 800 adults aged 45 and older living in Burlington, Vermont. The interviews were conducted in English by Woelfel Research, Inc. (WRI) from November 1 to November 14, 2006. Details on the design, execution and analysis of the survey are discussed below.

SAMPLE DESIGN

The sample was designed to represent the Burlington adult 45 and older population in telephone households. The 2000 Census lists the total population of Burlington aged 45 and older at 10,610. The challenge for this sample was obtaining a sufficient number of telephone numbers to be able to achieve 800 completed interviews.

A hybrid approach was employed combining an RDD sample with a listed household sample. The RDD telephone sample was provided by Scientific Telephone Surveys (STS) according to WRI specifications. Sample was drawn using standard *list-assisted random digit dialing* (RDD) methodology. *Active blocks* of telephone numbers (area code + exchange + two-digit block number) that contained three or more residential directory listings were selected with probabilities in proportion to their share of listed telephone households; after selection, two more digits were added randomly to complete the number. Sampled phone numbers were compared against business directories and matching numbers purged. STS provided us with all possible RDD numbers for the one Burlington zip code.

Once these numbers had been exhausted, STS then provided WRI with all the listed telephone numbers from the Burlington, VT area. These listed numbers were de-duped with the RDD sample. The de-duped listed numbers were used to complete the interviewing.

QUESTIONNAIRE DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING

The questionnaire was developed by AARP staff in consultation with The Snelling Center for Government. In order to improve the quality of the data, the questionnaire was pre-tested with a small number of respondents. The pretest interviews were monitored by the AARP staff and conducted using experienced interviewers who could best judge the quality of the answers given and the degree to which respondents understood the questions. Some final changes were made to the questionnaire based on the monitored pretest interviews.

CONTACT PROCEDURES

Interviews were conducted from November 1 to November 14, 2006. As many as 10 attempts were made to contact every sampled telephone number. Sample was released for interviewing in replicates, which are representative sub-samples of the larger sample. Using replicates to control the release of sample ensures that complete call procedures are followed for the entire sample. It also ensures that the geographic distribution of numbers called is appropriate. Calls were staggered over times of day and days of the week to maximize the chance of making contact with potential respondents. Each household received at least one daytime call in an attempt to find someone at home.

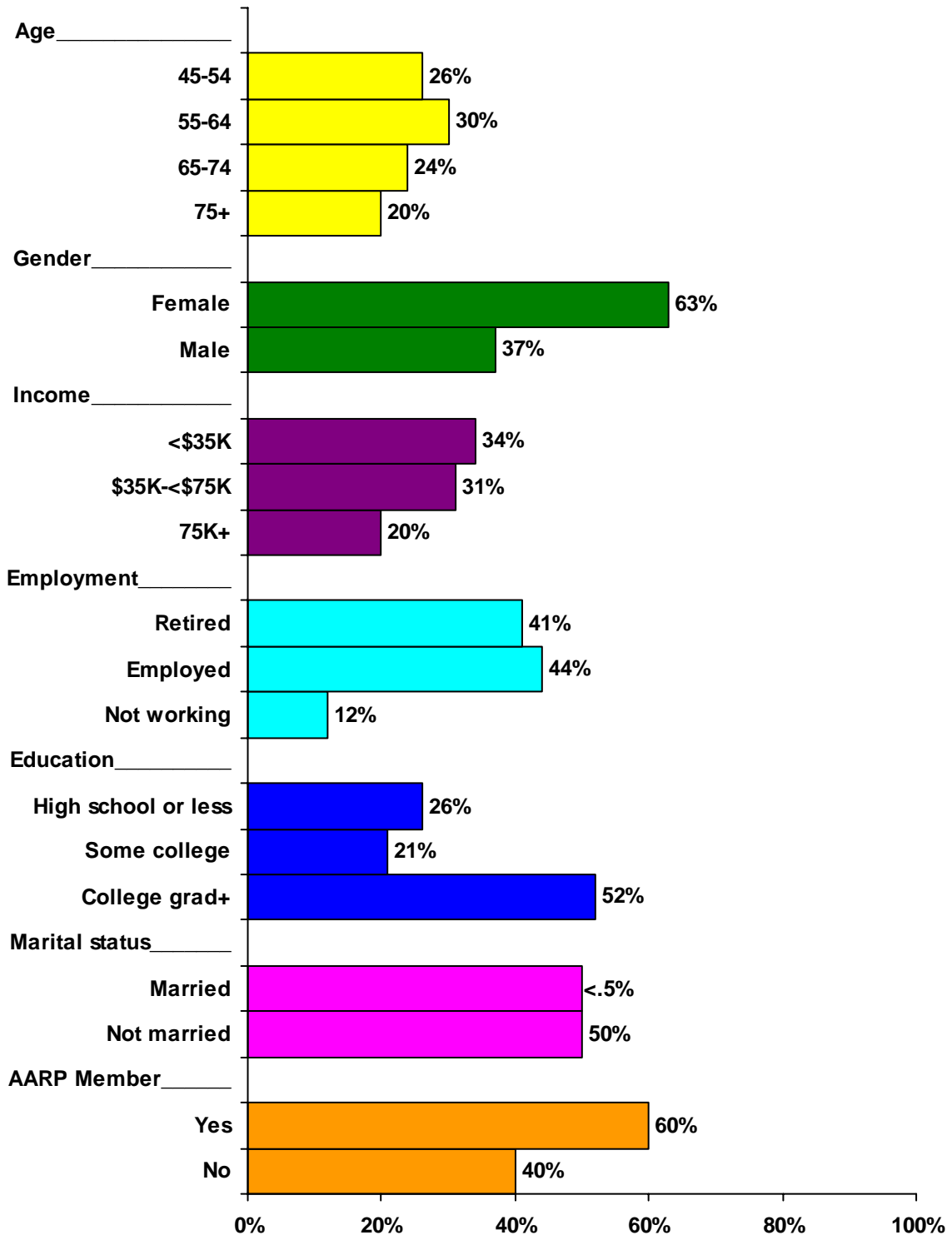
WEIGHTING AND ANALYSIS

The data were not weighted due to the lack of reliable data available on the demographic make-up of the surveyed region. The confidence intervals around a sample of 800 are +/- 3.5%.

RESPONSE RATE

The response rate using an older version of AAPOR's RR3 formula was 12 percent. The cooperation rate was 97 percent.

Respondent Demographics



Appendix A: Data Tables

Table 1A				
Demographic Differences in Living Arrangements				
(N=800)				
Age	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
	%	%	%	%
Own (n=615)	74	80	79	74
Condo	12	16	20	17
Single family	76	77	75	79
Duplex	7	5	2	2
Co-op	1	2	0	0
Rent (n=184)	26	20	21	25
Full-market apt. for any age	47	31	28	5
Subsidized apt. for any age	16	35	23	10
Subsidized apt. for seniors	7	8	33	37
Full-market apt. for seniors	4	6	5	42
House	16	10	8	2

Table 1B			
Demographic Differences in Living Arrangements			
(N=800)			
Income:	<\$35,000	\$35,000-\$75,000	\$75,000+
	%	%	%
Own (n=615)	55	88	96
Condo	16	17	14
Single family	73	74	82
Duplex	6	6	2
Co-op	1	1	0
Rent (n=184)	45	12	5
Full-market apt. for any age	25	45	14
Subsidized apt. for any age	27	3	0
Subsidized apt. for seniors	24	3	0
Full-market apt. for seniors	15	7	0
House	7	24	29
Education:	HS or less	Some college	College+
	%	%	%
Own (n=615)	71	68	84
Condo	10	13	20
Single family	80	78	75
Duplex	5	4	4
Co-op	1	1	1
Rent (n=184)	29	32	16
Full-market apt. for any age	25	26	36
Subsidized apt. for any age	20	31	15
Subsidized apt. for seniors	23	20	16
Full-market apt. for seniors	21	15	5
House	8	4	16

Table 1C					
Demographic Differences in Living Arrangements					
(N=800)					
Neighborhood:	Old North End	New North End	South End	Downtown	Hill Section
	%	%	%	%	%
Own (n=615)	57	91	82	39	3
Condo	9	14	21	37	12
Single family	69	83	70	48	87
Duplex	18	0	6	0	1
Co-op	1	0	1	4	0
Rent (n=184)	43	9	18	61	20
Full-market apt. for any age	38	16	32	19	35
Subsidized apt. for any age	20	8	12	26	30
Subsidized apt. for seniors	23	16	27	29	0
Full-market apt. for seniors	3	24	9	17	26
House	12	32	9	0	0

Table 2A			
Demographic Differences in Assessments of Neighborhood Safety			
(N=800)			
Income:	<\$35,000	\$35,000-\$75,000	\$75,000+
	%	%	%
Neighborhood Security: Excellent/Good	64	75	90
Neighborhood Security: Fair/Poor	32	22	9
Neighborhood Crime: Increased	27	16	14
Neighborhood Crime: Stayed the Same	58	71	76
Education:	HS or less	Some college	College+
	%	%	%
Neighborhood Security: Excellent/Good	66	67	80
Neighborhood Security: Fair/Poor	28	29	18
Neighborhood Crime: Increased	17	25	19
Neighborhood Crime: Stayed the Same	62	58	71

Table 2B					
Demographic Differences in Assessments of Neighborhood Safety					
(N=800)					
Neighborhood:	Old North End	New North End	South End	Downtown	Hill Section
	%	%	%	%	%
Neighborhood Security: Excellent/Good	51	80	81	57	82
Neighborhood Security: Fair/Poor	46	15	15	41	15
Neighborhood Crime: Increased	34	14	14	26	23
Neighborhood Crime: Stayed the Same	53	73	70	55	65

Table 3A				
Demographic Differences in Assessments of Neighborhoods as Desirable Places to Age				
(N=800)				
Age:	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
	%	%	%	%
Desire to remain in neighborhood	86	87	93	95
Neighborhood: Excellent/good place for older people to live	77	78	85	86

Table 3B			
Demographic Differences in Assessments of Neighborhoods as Desirable Places to Age			
(N=800)			
Income:	<\$35,000	\$35,000-\$75,000	\$75,000+
	%	%	%
Desire to remain in neighborhood	88	89	91
Neighborhood: Excellent/good place for older people to live	76	84	87
Education:	HS or less	Some college	College+
	%	%	%
Desire to remain in neighborhood	93	88	89
Neighborhood: Excellent/good place for older people to live	86	72	83

Table 3C					
Demographic Differences in Assessments of Neighborhoods as Desirable Places to Age					
(N=800)					
Neighborhood:	Old North End	New North End	South End	Downtown	Hill Section
	%	%	%	%	%
Desire to remain in neighborhood	84	91	92	87	91
Neighborhood: Excellent/good place for older people to live	62	90	84	74	81

Table 4
Differences in the Reasons for Wanting to Remain in Current Home by Neighborhood
(n=713)

Neighborhood:	Old North End	New North End	South End	Downtown	Hill Section
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Convenient location	39	45	45	50	47
Neighbors	21	33	32	23	35
Surroundings	20	20	25	7	22
Size of home	14	20	22	12	28
Easy to get around in	17	19	12	27	12
Affordable	23	16	14	20	10
Allows for independent living	12	12	14	18	13
Lived here for long time	16	10	13	3	14

Table 5A
Demographic Differences in Concern About Factors Affecting Independent Living
(N=800)

Includes all respondents except where noted: [H] Homeowners (n=615) or [R] Renters (n=184)

Age:	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Paying property taxes [H]	82	79	71	49
Paying rent [R]	73	76	36	37
Ability to continue driving	51	60	58	47
Paying utilities	64	56	44	30
Getting help with chores and personal care	53	58	52	34
Home meeting physical needs	54	54	47	32
Being able to get where they want to go	50	53	44	33
Paying for home repair/maintenance	54	57	39	29
Paying for home modifications	55	56	36	27
Safety from crime	50	46	43	34
Neighborhood changing in negative way	46	50	39	25
Family/friends moving away	39	40	34	29
Having to live alone	32	38	40	28
Personal injury due to home design	36	38	24	20
Paying mortgage [H]	46	35	19	12
Issues with neighbors (parking, noise, etc.)	34	31	22	13
Paying homeowners assoc. fees [H]	18	14	20	14

Table 5B
Demographic Differences in Concern About Factors Affecting Independent Living
(N=800)

Includes all respondents except where noted: [H] Homeowners (n=615) or [R] Renters (n=184)

Income:	<\$35,000 %	\$35,000-\$75,000 %	\$75,000+ %
Paying property taxes [H]	75	81	69
Paying rent [R]	58	72	57
Ability to continue driving	51	63	56
Paying utilities	56	57	38
Getting help with chores and personal care	48	54	52
Home meeting physical needs	44	50	54
Being able to get where they want to go	44	51	46
Paying for home repair/maintenance	43	58	41
Paying for home modifications	46	56	37
Safety from crime	51	40	38
Neighborhood changing in negative way	43	40	40
Family/friends moving away	35	35	38
Having to live alone	30	35	39
Personal injury due to home design	31	28	36
Paying mortgage [H]	30	35	26
Issues with neighbors (parking, noise, etc.)	29	28	21
Paying homeowners assoc. fees [H]	20	18	12
Education:	HS or less %	Some college %	College+ %
Paying property taxes [H]	76	72	70
Paying rent [R]	39	62	72
Ability to continue driving	50	53	58
Paying utilities	50	56	47
Getting help with chores and personal care	44	48	54
Home meeting physical needs	40	47	53
Being able to get where they want to go	38	45	51
Paying for home repair/maintenance	43	45	48
Paying for home modifications	42	46	46
Safety from crime	45	52	40
Neighborhood changing in negative way	34	49	42
Family/friends moving away	32	35	38
Having to live alone	40	32	33
Personal injury due to home design	26	28	34
Paying mortgage [H]	30	31	28
Issues with neighbors (parking, noise, etc.)	18	29	29
Paying homeowners assoc. fees [H]	20	20	13

Table 5C
Demographic Differences in Concern About Factors Affecting Independent Living
(N=800)

Includes all respondents except where noted: [H] Homeowners (n=615) or [R] Renters (n=184)

Neighborhood:	Old North End %	New North End %	South End %	Downtown %	Hill Section %
Paying property taxes [H]	77	74	67	70	69
Paying rent [R]	63	52	53	62	48
Ability to continue driving	47	64	53	41	52
Paying utilities	63	54	44	46	35
Getting help with chores and personal care	51	53	48	51	43
Home meeting physical needs	48	47	51	46	46
Being able to get where they want to go	45	44	47	52	47
Paying for home repair/maintenance	46	51	46	30	43
Paying for home modifications	45	50	43	35	42
Safety from crime	59	41	40	44	39
Neighborhood changing in negative way	57	35	36	58	38
Family/friends moving away	36	35	34	38	37
Having to live alone	31	39	36	29	31
Personal injury due to home design	38	29	34	23	27
Paying mortgage [H]	33	33	24	19	28
Issues with neighbors (parking, noise, etc.)	37	20	23	33	27
Paying homeowners assoc. fees [H]	18	15	21	22	10

Table 6A
Demographic Differences in Importance of Housing Attributes
(N=800)

Age:	45-54 %	55-64 %	65-74 %	75+ %
Ability to schedule own daily activities	88	90	86	82
Transportation available	91	93	83	80
Access to shopping	87	93	85	75
Single-floor living	77	80	83	77
Help with home maintenance	80	82	77	71
Help with errands or chores	77	80	73	69
On-site healthcare services	66	64	69	66
Ability to live with spouse/partner	78	70	59	45
Group activities	63	64	59	53
Multi-generational	70	62	60	47
Pets allowed	62	63	44	33
Subsidized rent	61	53	44	45
Group meals	48	54	48	50
Single-family home	59	52	45	43
Smaller space	48	48	43	32
Live with family (in-home or attached)	44	41	41	41
Condominium	41	44	39	32
Age-restricted (50+)	28	32	39	41

Table 6B
Demographic Differences in Importance of Housing Attributes
(N=800)

Income:	<\$35,000	\$35,000-\$75,000	\$75,000+
	%	%	%
Ability to schedule own daily activities	82	92	88
Transportation available	83	93	92
Access to shopping	80	90	92
Single-floor living	76	82	81
Help with home maintenance	73	84	80
Help with errands or chores	69	81	78
On-site healthcare services	65	70	59
Ability to live with spouse/partner	44	71	90
Group activities	53	65	63
Multi-generational	55	63	71
Pets allowed	48	59	56
Subsidized rent	67	55	27
Group meals	47	55	50
Single-family home	46	53	50
Smaller space	38	45	54
Live with family (in-home or attached)	46	42	38
Condominium	30	44	50
Age-restricted (50+)	39	34	22
Education:	HS or less	Some college	College+
	%	%	%
Ability to schedule own daily activities	76	89	92
Transportation available	78	90	91
Access to shopping	77	85	91
Single-floor living	77	84	78
Help with home maintenance	71	75	83
Help with errands or chores	64	79	79
On-site healthcare services	66	68	65
Ability to live with spouse/partner	54	59	72
Group activities	54	64	62
Multi-generational	50	54	69
Pets allowed	40	53	58
Subsidized rent	61	62	43
Group meals	46	51	52
Single-family home	50	54	50
Smaller space	41	44	45
Live with family (in-home or attached)	47	43	39
Condominium	31	37	45
Age-restricted (50+)	46	41	27

Table 6C
Demographic Differences in Importance of Housing Attributes
(N=800)

Neighborhood:	Old North End %	New North End %	South End %	Downtown %	Hill Section %
Ability to schedule own daily activities	86	89	86	77	91
Transportation available	81	90	90	84	87
Access to shopping	81	88	85	84	87
Single-floor living	73	85	81	73	73
Help with home maintenance	75	82	77	68	77
Help with errands or chores	71	76	74	86	73
On-site healthcare services	62	72	62	68	61
Ability to live with spouse/partner	55	70	66	44	71
Group activities	49	64	62	59	32
Multi-generational	59	57	62	55	72
Pets allowed	54	51	53	49	55
Subsidized rent	70	50	41	68	41
Group meals	44	58	47	36	50
Single-family home	46	54	48	42	55
Smaller space	34	48	43	35	50
Live with family (in-home or attached)	43	46	43	38	30
Condominium	33	40	44	45	35
Age-restricted (50+)	38	39	30	35	28

Table 7A			
Demographic Differences in the Frequency in Which Residents 45+ Go Someplace in a Typical Week			
(N=800)			
Income:	<\$35,000	\$35,000-\$75,000	\$75,000+
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Not at all	3	0	1
1-2 Times/Wk	18	11	8
3-5 Times/Wk	26	10	6
5+ Times/Wk	52	80	85
Education:	HS or less	Some college	College+
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Not at all	4	2	1
1-2 Times/Wk	22	14	9
3-5 Times/Wk	24	18	12
5+ Times/Wk	50	66	79

Table 7B					
Demographic Differences in the Frequency in Which Residents 45+ Go Someplace in a Typical Week					
(N=800)					
Neighborhood:	Old North End	New North End	South End	Downtown	Hill Section
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Not at all	4	1	3	3	0
1-2 Times/Wk	15	15	7	12	17
3-5 Times/Wk	14	16	18	26	11
5+ Times/Wk	67	68	71	59	73

Table 8A				
Demographic Differences Among Residents 45+ Using Various Transportation Modes as Their Primary Way of Getting Around				
(N=800)				
Age:	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
	%	%	%	%
Drive	77	81	79	65
Walk	13	8	7	6
Get a ride	1	2	9	17
Bus	4	4	4	6
Taxi	1	1	1	3
SSTA	1	1	1	3

Table 8B			
Demographic Differences Among Residents 45+ Using Various Transportation Modes as Their Primary Way of Getting Around			
(N=800)			
Income:	<\$35,000	\$35,000-\$75,000	\$75,000+
	%	%	%
Drive	62	87	88
Walk	11	8	8
Get a ride	11	3	1
Bus	9	1	1
Taxi	3	*	0
SSTA	2	*	0
Education:	HS or less	Some college	College+
	%	%	%
Drive	71	72	81
Walk	6	8	11
Get a ride	12	6	3
Bus	5	8	2
Taxi	4	1	1
SSTA	2	2	1

Table 8C					
Demographic Differences Among Residents 45+ Using Various Transportation Modes as Their Primary Way of Getting Around					
(N=800)					
Neighborhood:	Old North End	New North End	South End	Downtown	Hill Section
	%	%	%	%	%
Drive	65	86	80	49	76
Walk	12	4	9	19	12
Get a ride	9	6	6	7	6
Bus	4	3	3	16	3
Taxi	4	0	1	4	2
SSTA	3	*	1	3	1

Table 9A				
Demographic Differences in the Frequency of Residents 45+ Missing Activities Outside of Their Home Due to Lack of Transportation				
(N=800)				
Age:	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
	%	%	%	%
Frequently	4	4	3	10
Occasionally	8	6	7	9
Rarely	11	16	16	22
Never	77	75	73	59

Table 9B			
Demographic Differences in the Frequency of Residents 45+ Missing Activities Outside of Their Home Due to Lack of Transportation			
(N=800)			
Income:	<\$35,000	\$35,000-\$75,000	\$75,000+
	%	%	%
Frequently	11	1	0
Occasionally	15	3	1
Rarely	24	14	6
Never	49	83	93
Education:	HS or less	Some college	College+
	%	%	%
Frequently	7	11	2
Occasionally	9	12	5
Rarely	20	18	13
Never	64	59	80

Table 9C					
Demographic Differences in the Frequency of Residents 45+ Missing Activities Outside of Their Home Due to Lack of Transportation					
(N=800)					
Neighborhood	Old North End	New North End	South End	Downtown	Hill Section
	%	%	%	%	%
Frequently	9	2	4	13	4
Occasionally	13	5	3	23	6
Rarely	21	16	13	22	11
Never	56	77	81	42	80

Table 10A				
Demographic Differences in the Community Accessibility Enhancements That Would Make Remaining in Neighborhoods Easier				
(N=800)				
Age	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
	%	%	%	%
Help from family/friends	81	81	82	88
More driving alternatives	77	78	71	61
More delivery services	68	73	61	55
Improved public transportation access	60	64	57	52
Improved road/sidewalk conditions	43	56	39	46

Table 10B			
Demographic Differences in the Community Accessibility Enhancements That Would Make Remaining in Neighborhoods Easier			
(N=800)			
Income	<\$35,000	\$35,000-\$75,000	\$75,000+
	%	%	%
Help from family/friends	79	85	84
More driving alternatives	71	76	77
More delivery services	63	70	65
Improved public transportation access	62	61	60
Improved road/sidewalk conditions	51	41	43
Education	HS or less	Some college	College+
	%	%	%
Help from family/friends	86	79	83
More driving alternatives	65	73	76
More delivery services	64	65	66
Improved public transportation access	61	51	61
Improved road/sidewalk conditions	52	51	42

Table 10C					
Demographic Differences in the Community Accessibility Enhancements That Would Make Remaining in Neighborhoods Easier					
(N=800)					
Neighborhood	Old North End	New North End	South End	Downtown	Hill Section
	%	%	%	%	%
Help from family/friends	85	85	80	74	83
More driving alternatives	73	74	74	67	68
More delivery services	68	65	59	65	74
Improved public transportation access	64	60	56	58	56
Improved road/sidewalk conditions	56	38	44	52	58

Age:	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
	%	%	%	%
Sidewalks available where needed	91	81	92	92
Crosswalks clearly marked/easy to see	88	87	90	91
Crosswalk available where needed	84	85	87	90
Crosswalk signals are bright and clear	86	85	84	85
Enough crosswalks in congested areas	75	79	78	77
Sidewalk ramps are present	79	77	84	70
Sidewalks are kept clear	72	64	70	77
Sidewalks maintained in good condition	71	61	71	74
Bicyclists/skateboarders reduce sidewalk safety	56	63	70	58
Drivers stop at crosswalks	62	55	64	73
Signals allow enough time for crossing	64	59	56	62
Sidewalks well lit	58	53	63	55
Islands available where needed	49	42	44	56
Adequate places to sit	24	18	26	26

Neighborhood:	Old North End	New North End	South End	Downtown	Hill Section
	%	%	%	%	%
Sidewalks available where needed	90	89	85	92	88
Crosswalks clearly marked/easy to see	86	90	88	86	90
Crosswalks available where needed	85	89	80	88	88
Crosswalk signals are bright and clear	83	89	80	84	86
Enough crosswalks in congested areas	77	82	66	84	82
Sidewalk ramps are present	76	84	77	75	71
Sidewalks are kept clear	55	76	77	63	66
Sidewalks maintained in good condition	58	72	72	71	64
Bicyclists/skateboarders reduce sidewalk safety	72	59	54	69	63
Drivers stop at crosswalks	58	66	62	67	57
Signals allow enough time for crossing	58	62	59	57	63
Sidewalks well lit	49	64	51	67	53
Islands available where needed	42	46	45	55	49
Adequate places to sit	21	24	23	35	14

Table 13A
Demographic Differences in the Percentage of Residents 45+ Agreeing with
Statements about Accessibility of Burlington's Community Events

(N=800)

Age:	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Convenient places for public meetings	88	86	89	82
Well-run community centers, rec. centers, etc.	65	70	76	80
Well-aware of City events for older adults	53	69	73	83

Table 13B
Demographic Differences in the Percentage of Residents 45+ Agreeing with
Statements about Accessibility of Burlington's Community Events

(N=800)

Income:	<\$35,000	\$35,000-\$75,000	\$75,000+
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Convenient places for public meetings	81	89	94
Well-run community centers, rec. centers, etc.	75	74	72
Well-aware of City events for older adults	69	71	66
Education:	HS or less	Some college	College+
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Convenient places for public meetings	82	79	91
Well-run community centers, rec. centers, etc.	76	66	73
Well-aware of City events for older adults	73	69	66

Table 13C
Demographic Differences in the Percentage of Residents 45+ Agreeing with
Statements about Accessibility of Burlington's Community Events

(N=800)

Neighborhood:	Old North	New North	South	Downtown	Hill
	End	End	End		Section
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Convenient places for public meetings	77	87	88	87	93
Well-run community centers, rec. centers, etc.	67	75	66	74	79
Well-aware of City events for older adults	67	72	65	67	69

Table 14A				
Demographic Differences in the Percentage of Residents 45+ Agreeing with Statements about Barriers to Burlington's Cultural Events				
(N=800)				
Age:	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
	%	%	%	%
Would volunteer at cultural events in exchange for free admission	56	55	42	26
Most cultural activities are unaffordable	40	42	34	33
Lack of transportation makes getting to community/cultural events difficult	12	14	16	27

Table 14B			
Demographic Differences in the Percentage of Residents 45+ Agreeing with Statements about Barriers to Burlington's Cultural Events			
(N=800)			
Income:	<\$35,000	\$35,000-\$75,000	\$75,000+
	%	%	%
Would volunteer at cultural events in exchange for free admission	45	53	52
Most cultural activities are unaffordable	55	37	18
Lack of transportation makes getting to community/cultural events difficult	30	10	5
Education:	HS or less	Some college	College+
	%	%	%
Would volunteer at cultural events in exchange for free admission	33	45	54
Most cultural activities are unaffordable	38	50	33
Lack of transportation makes getting to community/cultural events difficult	21	25	11

Table 14C					
Demographic Differences in the Percentage of Residents 45+ Agreeing with Statements about Barriers to Burlington's Cultural Events					
(N=800)					
Neighborhood:	Old North End	New North End	South End	Downtown	Hill Section
	%	%	%	%	%
Would volunteer at cultural events in exchange for free admission	50	50	40	48	43
Most cultural activities are unaffordable	47	31	34	59	36
Lack of transportation makes getting to community/cultural events difficult	22	12	15	41	10

Table 15A				
Demographic Differences in the Percentage of Residents 45+ Noting Importance of Community Engagement Opportunities in Burlington				
(N=800)				
Age:	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
	%	%	%	%
Educational opportunities	87	86	77	67
Waterfront activities	80	78	68	57
Volunteer opportunities	80	77	69	51
Sports/Recreation activities with residents 50+	66	60	57	41

Table 15B			
Demographic Differences in the Percentage of Residents 45+ Noting Importance of Community Engagement Opportunities in Burlington			
(N=800)			
Income:	<\$35,000	\$35,000-\$75,000	\$75,000+
	%	%	%
Educational opportunities	75	86	88
Waterfront activities	70	73	80
Volunteer opportunities	61	75	87
Sports/Recreation activities with residents 50+	48	63	70
Education:	HS or less	Some college	College+
	%	%	%
Educational opportunities	68	77	87
Waterfront activities	65	71	75
Volunteer opportunities	52	69	81
Sports/Recreation activities with residents 50+	46	55	63

Table 15C					
Demographic Differences in the Percentage of Residents 45+ Noting Importance of Community Engagement Opportunities in Burlington					
(N=800)					
Neighborhood:	Old North End	New North End	South End	Downtown	Hill Section
	%	%	%	%	%
Educational opportunities	76	81	78	81	85
Waterfront activities	69	73	71	80	67
Volunteer opportunities	63	74	69	64	79
Sports/Recreation activities with residents 50+	54	60	55	49	61

Appendix B:
ANNOTATED QUESTIONNAIRE

Burlington Livable Community Survey

Total completes 800 45+ Burlington residents

Introduction

Hello, my name is [FIRST AND LAST NAME]. I am calling from Woelfel Research, an independent research firm. We are calling (today/tonight) to ask people like yourself what you'll need and want as you get older to make Burlington a great place to grow old. This is not a sales call. The survey is for research purposes only and will help inform decisions about the future of Burlington. All of your responses will be completely confidential.

IF NECESSARY: This survey has been sponsored by AARP Vermont working in conjunction with the City of Burlington and many local organizations that work with older residents.

IF NECESSARY: The length of the survey varies depending on your responses to questions. We generally find that this survey takes about 20 minutes.]

Screening

S1-My questions today/tonight are for a head of household who is aged 45 or older. Would that be you? Yes, it's me 1

- (REPEAT INTRODUCTION & SKIP TO Q.0) ◀-- No, but let me get him/her 2
- (SCHEDULE CALLBACK) ◀-- No, not here 3
- (THANK & TERMINATE) ◀-- No one in household qualifies..... 4
- (CALLBACK LATER) ◀-- [VOL] Don't know 5
- (CALLBACK LATER) ◀-- [VOL] Refused 6

S2-In order to ensure we talk to a broad cross-section of people, please tell me in what year were you born? _____ [IF 1961 OR LATER OR DON'T KNOW/REFUSED, THANK & TERMINATE.]

	<u>Age</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Age</u>			
26%	45-54	30%	55-64	24%	65-74	20%	75+

S3-Because this survey is of people who reside in Burlington, would you confirm for me that you live in Burlington? Yes 1

- (REPEAT INTRODUCTION & SKIP TO Q.3) ◀-- No, but let me get him/her 2
- (SCHEDULE CALLBACK) ◀-- No, not here 3
- (THANK & TERMINATE) ◀-- No one in household qualifies..... 4
- (CALLBACK LATER) ◀-- [VOL] Don't know 5
- (CALLBACK LATER) ◀-- [VOL] Refused 6

S4-How long have you lived in Burlington? RECORD _____ Years _____ Months

S5-And which of the following Burlington neighborhoods do you live in? Do you live in the....

- 18% Old North End
- 36% New North End
- 24% South End
- 9% Downtown or
- 14% Hill Section (THIS COULD BE EITHER THE NORTH OR SOUTH SIDE OF MAIN STREET)

[RECORD GENDER]

37% Male

63% Female

Mobility and Transportation Questions

Burlington has repeatedly been cited as one of America's most livable communities for children and families. Yet little attention has been placed on what kind of city Burlington is, or can be, for residents as they age.

First, I'd like to ask you some questions about getting around in Burlington.

1. **In a typical week, how often do you say you get out of your home and go somewhere, for example, shopping, visiting, or exercising? Would you say...**

<u>%</u>	
13	Once or twice a week
16	Three to five times a week
68	Five or more times a week
2	Or, not at all
*	[VOL] Don't know

2. **When you go places like the grocery store, the doctor, to work or to social events, how do you usually get there? (DO NOT READ LIST. ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE)**

<u>%</u>	
9	Walk
76	Drive myself
6	Get a ride
2	Take a taxi
4	Take a bus
1	SSTA or transportation provided to people with disabilities who cannot get to or use public transportation
1	Bike
*	I do not get out of the house
*	[VOL] Don't know

3. **What other ways do you get to places you need to go? Do you ever...(ASK EACH)**

<u>%</u>	
61	Walk
8	Drive yourself
50	Get a ride with someone else
20	Take a taxi
24	Take a bus
6	Use SSTA, or the transportation service provided to people with disabilities who cannot get to or use the bus
19	Bike
*	Train
*	Walk
1	Other

4. **In general, how often do you miss out on doing something away from your home because you do not have transportation? Would you say you... [READ LIST]**

<u>%</u>	
5	Frequently miss out
8	Occasionally miss out
16	Rarely miss out, or
72	Never miss out on doing something because you do not have transportation

5. **IF Q2 DOES NOT =5 or 6 OR Q3 DOES NOT = e. or f.: To the best of your knowledge, and not including taxi cabs, is there public transportation available in your community such as buses and community vans for seniors or people with disabilities? N=545**

<u>%</u>	
93	Yes
2	No ► GO TO QUESTION 13
4	[VOL] Not sure ► GO TO QUESTION 13

6. **How close is the nearest bus stop from your home? Would you say it is.... N=764**

<u>%</u>	
75	Less than ¼ mile
14	At least ¼ mile but less than ½ mile
5	At least ½ mile but less than ¾ mile
3	At least ¾ mile but less than 1 mile
2	One mile or more
1	[VOL] Not sure

7. **IF Q2=5 OR Q3=e: About how often you have used the bus in the last two months? Have you used it.... N=227**

<u>%</u>	
6	Every day ► <i>ASK Q8 & THEN GO TO QUESTION 9</i>
20	Several times a week ► <i>ASK Q8 & THEN GO TO QUESTION 9</i>
14	About once a week ► <i>ASK Q8 & THEN GO TO QUESTION 9</i>
19	Once or twice a month ► <i>ASK Q8 & THEN GO TO QUESTION 9</i>
12	Less than once a month ► <i>ASK Q8 & THEN GO TO QUESTION 9</i>
30	Not at all ► <i>ASK Q8 & THEN GO TO QUESTION 12</i>

8. **IF Q2=6 OR Q3=f: About how often you have used SSTA in the last two months? Have you used it.... N=53**

<u>%</u>	
6	Every day
11	Several times a week
4	About once a week
30	Once or twice a month
6	Less than once a month
43	Not at all ► GO TO QUESTION 12 IF HAVEN'T USED BUS

9. **What do you like most about using public transportation, such as the bus or SSTA? (DO NOT READ LIST; ACCEPT MULTIPLE ANSWERS.) N=176**

<u>%</u>	
26	It is affordable
27	It gets me where I want to go
7	I enjoy seeing other people
43	It is convenient
6	I do not have to pay for gas
14	I do not have to drive
9	I do not have a car so it provides me with a way go places
5	Don't like it (negative)
6	Environmental reasons
5	Drivers are friendly and helpful
4	No parking/Don't have to pay to park
3	Dependable / on time
2	Other
2	[VOL] Not sure
2	[VOL] Refused

10. **IF Q2=5 or Q3=e.: Thinking about your experiences with using the bus, I'd like you to tell me whether each of the following are a major problem for you, a minor problem, or not a problem at all for you. (READ EACH ITEM; RANDOMIZE LIST. "Is this a major problem, minor problem, or not a problem at all for you?") N=160**

	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not a problem at all	DK
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
a. Difficulty boarding buses	4	15	81	0
b. Being able to get a seat	4	13	82	1
c. Being concerned about personal safety	4	18	77	2
d. Cost of the bus fare	4	12	83	1
e. Having a place to sit while waiting	14	33	53	0
f. Having it go where you need to go.....	14	21	65	0
g. Having adequate shelter from the weather while waiting	23	35	41	1
h. Getting information about fares, routes, and schedules	3	14	83	1
i. Inconvenient schedules.....	19	25	54	2
j. Inconvenient routes.....	13	22	64	1
k. No weekend or evening services	29	24	46	1
l. The condition of the buses.....	0	9	91	0
m. The time it takes to use the bus, due to it making numerous stops, transferring, or its speed	11	28	62	0
n. Distance from your usual destinations from their nearest bus stops ..	8	18	74	1
o. Distance from your home to the nearest bus stop	1	11	88	0
p. Sidewalks or crosswalks providing safe access to the bus stops.....	14	17	68	1
q. When using the SSTA do you have any difficulties.....	13	17	70	0

11. IF Q2=6 or Q3=f: **Thinking about your experience with SSTA, I'd like you to tell me whether each of the following is a major problem for you, a minor problem, or not a problem for you at all.** (READ EACH ITEM; RANDOMIZE LIST. "Is this a major problem, minor problem, or not a problem at all for you?) N=30

	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not a Problem at all	Not Sure
	%	%	%	%
a. Difficulty boarding buses or vans.....	13	17	70	0
b. Being concerned about personal safety	10	7	80	3
c. The cost of using SSTA.....	7	10	80	3
d. The condition of the vehicles.....	3	3	90	3
e. The time it takes to use public transportation, for example, numerous stops, transferring, and speed....	7	10	80	3
f. Having to call ahead for reservations	7	13	77	3
g. Vehicles not showing up on time	10	27	63	0
h. Getting where you need to go on time.....	17	17	63	3
i. Having to wait to be picked up after appointments...	7	20	70	3

12. IF Q7=6: **What are some of the reasons you have not used the bus in the past few months?** (DO NOT READ LIST; ACCEPT MULTIPLE ANSWERS) N=602

%	
7	Difficulty boarding buses or vans
1	Not being able to get a seat
2	concern about personal safety
1	The cost of public transportation/ too expensive
1	No place to sit while waiting
10	Doesn't go where I need to go/ inconvenient routes
1	Having adequate shelter from the weather while waiting
1	Getting information about fares, routes, and schedules
11	Inconvenient schedules, such as, no weekend or evening services
2	Poor conditions of public transportation stations and vehicles
8	It takes too long to use public transportation, for example, numerous stops, transferring, and vehicle speed
2	Difficulty getting to the stop (no sidewalks to use, busy roads to cross, no cross walks)
5	Stop is too far from my home/ no stop near my home
52	Drives a car- has own transportation
2	Carpools/gets a ride
5	Walk
10	Doesn't need to (unspecified)
4	Other
2	[VOL] Not sure
2	[VOL] refused

13. IF Q2=2 or Q3=b: **If you were no longer able to drive, how difficult would it be for you to continue living in your current neighborhood. Would it be...** N=674

<u>%</u>	
11	Very difficult
28	Somewhat difficult
25	Not very difficult, or
35	Not difficult at all
1	[VOL] Don't know
*	[VOL] Refused

14. **Which of the following would make it easier to stay in your neighborhood if you could no longer get around as you currently do? (READ EACH ITEM)**

<u>%</u>	
59	Improved access to public transportation
47	Improved road and sidewalk conditions for pedestrians
65	More delivery services for groceries, prescriptions, and other daily necessities
72	More driving alternatives, such as community vans, volunteer drivers, carpooling, or service shuttles like the Price Chopper bus
83	Help from family or friends
1	Better bike routes
*	Better bus schedule
*	Cheaper cab fairs
1	Increased police/security
2	Lower taxes
2	Other

15. IF Q2=1 or Q3=a: **I'm going to read some statement about crosswalks and sidewalks in Burlington. Thinking about walking in your community, I'd like you to tell me how much you agree or disagree with each statement by telling me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree. (READ EACH ITEM)
N=560**

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	DK	Ref
	%	%	%	%	%	%
a. Crosswalk signals are bright and clear.	55	31	7	6	2	1
b. Crosswalks are available where needed.	55	31	8	5	1	*
c. Crosswalk signals allow enough time to cross the street.....	31	30	15	22	3	*
d. Crosswalks are clearly marked and easy to see.	58	30	6	3	2	*
e. There are enough pedestrian crosswalks in highly congested traffic areas.	47	31	13	7	3	0
f. Sidewalks are well lit.....	23	34	21	15	7	*
g. Sidewalks are maintained in good condition	31	38	16	15	1	0
h. Sidewalks are kept clear of snow, ice, leaves and trash.....	36	34	15	13	2	0
i. Drivers stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.	24	38	15	22	1	0
j. Sidewalks are available where needed.	54	34	6	4	1	*
k. Ramps from the sidewalk to the street are present	49	29	7	7	8	*
l. Islands that allow pedestrians to stop partially through crossing a street are available where needed.....	23	24	20	20	13	1
m. There are adequate places to sit and rest along the sidewalks.	9	14	28	43	6	*
n. Bicyclists and skateboarders using sidewalks make walking more difficult.	39	23	19	17	2	0

16. **Now I have some questions about how safe you feel in your neighborhood. I would like you to rate your neighborhood on your feeling of safety and security when walking in your neighborhood in the evening. Would you rate your neighborhood's security as ... [READ LIST]**

%	
35	Excellent
39	Good
16	Fair
7	Poor
4	[VOL] Don't know
*	[VOL] Refused

17. **Over the past 12 months, would you say the amount of crime in your neighborhood has increased, stayed the same, or decreased?**

<u>%</u>	
20	Increased
66	Stayed the same
6	Decreased
8	[VOL] Don't know
*	[VOL] Refused

STRATEGIC TOPIC QUESTIONS: HOUSING

The next few questions I'd like to ask you to refer to your neighborhood, meaning the area of Burlington in which you live.

18. **How strongly you agree or disagree with the following statement: “What I’d really like to do is remain in my neighborhood for as long as possible”. Do you...**

<u>%</u>		
79	Strongly Agree	(GO TO Q 19)
11	Somewhat Agree	(GO TO Q19)
5	Somewhat Disagree	(SKIP TO Q20)
5	Strongly Disagree	(SKIP TO Q20)
1	[VOL] Don't Know	(SKIP TO Q 21)
0	[VOL] Refused	(SKIP TO Q 21)

19. IF Q18=1OR 2: **What are some of the reasons you would want to remain in the same neighborhood?** N=716

<u>%</u>	<i>[DO NOT READ LIST. CHECK CLOSEST CATEGORY, ACCEPT MULTIPLE ANSWERS]</i>
15	Family (positive)
28	Friends (positive)
5	Like the weather/climate
29	Good shopping/ close to shopping
19	Safety from crime/security
6	Place of worship (positive)
10	Recreation (positive)
5	Cost of living (positive)
5	Cost of housing (positive)
11	Good transportation options
2	Employment/job (positive)
1	Taxes (positive)
4	Good medical care/health services
1	Good opportunities for volunteering
3	Good government services
5	Cultural activities (positive)
1	Good opportunities for political engagement/activism in area
28	Enjoy the people living in the area
2	University offerings
12	Views of Lake Champlain/close to lake
8	Close to bike path/access to bike path
16	Always lived here/ Lived here for long time/ Home
14	Close to downtown
4	Comfortable/ cozy
8	Convenience
1	Good for seniors
8	Quiet/peaceful
1	Sense of belonging
*	Safety
*	Privacy
*	Same reason as before
2	Other, not categorized above (RECORD) _____
2	[VOL] Don't Know

20. IF Q18=4OR 5: **What are some of the reasons you would NOT want to remain in the same neighborhood?**

<u>%</u>	(N = 65) [DO NOT READ, CHECK CLOSEST CATEGORY, ACCEPT MULTIPLE ANSWERS]
2	Family (negative)
5	Friends (negative)
3	Bad weather/climate
3	Shopping (negative)
29	Crime/security (negative)
0	Place of worship (negative)
3	Recreation (negative)
6	Cost of living (negative)
11	Cost of housing (negative)
5	Transportation options (negative)
2	Employment/job (negative)
8	Taxes (negative)
8	Medical care/health services (negative)
3	Opportunities for volunteering (negative)
6	Government services (negative)
5	College kids
3	Noise
3	Not good for minorities
5	Want to live in country
6	Want to move (unspecified)
2	Neighbors (negative)
5	Safety/Crime
14	Property tax
6	Other, not categorized above _____(fill in)
2	[VOL] Don't Know
3	[VOL] Refused

21. **Thinking about your future needs, how would you rate your neighborhood as a place for older people to live? [READ LIST]**

<u>%</u>	
34	Excellent
47	Good
13	Fair
5	Poor
1	[VOL] Don't Know
*	[VOL] Refused

22. **How strongly you agree or disagree with the following statement: “What I’d really like to do is remain in my home for as long as possible”. Do you...**

<u>%</u>	
79	Strongly Agree (SKIP TO Q23)
11	Somewhat Agree (SKIP TO Q23)
5	Somewhat Disagree (SKIP TO Q24)
4	Strongly Disagree (SKIP TO Q24)
1	[VOL] Don't Know (Skip to Q25)
1	[VOL] Refused (Skip to Q 25)

23. **IF Q22=1 OR 2: What are some of the reasons you would want to remain in the same home?** [Ask open ended; interviewer to check closest category] [If response “I like this house”, ask “Why do you like this house”] **N=713**

<u>%</u>	<i>[RECORD ALL THAT APPLY]</i>
16	Home is affordable
20	Right size/number of rooms
2	Durable/high quality construction
20	Like the yard/lot/trees/view/surroundings
16	Easy to get around in/do activities
7	Low maintenance
30	Neighbors (positive)
45	Convenient location
5	Paid off mortgage
9	Too difficult to move/hassle of moving
13	I can live independently
12	Always lived here/ Lived here for long time/ Home
*	Close to downtown
8	Comfortable/ cozy
1	Convenience
1	Good for seniors
2	Quiet/peaceful
*	Sense of belonging
4	Safety
1	Privacy
2	Same reason as before
1	Other
1	[VOL] Don't Know
1	[VOL] Refused

24. If Q22=4 or 5: **What are some of the reasons you would NOT want to remain in the same home?** [Ask open ended, interviewer to check closest category] [If response “I don’t like this house”, ask “Why do you not like this house”] **N=69**

<u>%</u>	<i>[RECORD ALL THAT APPLY]</i>
15	Home is not affordable
23	Not the right size/number of rooms
3	Not durable/low quality construction
13	Don’t like the yard/lot/trees/view/surroundings
12	Difficult to get around in/do activities
15	High maintenance
10	Neighbors (negative)
9	Location not convenient
6	Mortgage (negative)
0	Easy to move/like moving
4	Can’t live independently
7	Traffic congestion in area
3	Don’t want to live alone
4	College kids
3	Noise
3	Not good for minorities
4	Want to live in the country
6	Want to move (unspecified)
1	Neighbors (negative)
4	Safety/crime
13	Property tax
7	Other, not categorized above _____ (fill in)
0	[VOL] Don’t Know
4	[VOL] Refused

25. **Do you own or rent your home?** (IF RESPONDENT SAYS THEY HAVE A MORTGAGE ON THEIR HOME, CODE AS OWN)

<u>%</u>	
77	Own
23	Rent
*	Don't know

26. **IF 25=1: Do you own a N=615**

<u>%</u>	
16	condo
77	single family home
1	co-op unit
2	Apartment
4	Duplex
1	Mobile home
*	Other
*	[VOL] Refused

27. **IF 25=2: Do you rent a... N=184**

<u>%</u>	
10	house
13	full-market rent apartment for seniors
29	full market rent apartment for any age,
20	affordable or subsidized housing apartment for seniors
21	affordable or subsidized housing apartment for people of any age
1	assisted living unit
2	Apartment
1	Duplex
3	Condo
1	[VOL] Refused

28. **What is your current living arrangement? Do you live...(ACCEPT MULTIPLE ANSWERS)**

<u>%</u>	
38	alone
52	with spouse or partner
2	with a parent
12	with an adult child
12	with a minor child
3	with a friend
3	with any other family members

29. **Would you consider homesharing, or bringing someone of your choosing into your home to provide you with services, if that meant you could continue to live in your current home? N=304**

<u>%</u>	
36	Yes
44	No
13	Maybe
7	[VOL] Don't know

Question for homeowners only: H = 615
 Question for renters only: R = 184
 Question for both: B

30. Next, I am going to read you some items that some people have said make it difficult for them to remain in their home or community as they get older. I read each of the following statements; I'd like you to tell me if it is something you are very concerned about, somewhat concerned about, not very concerned about, or not at all concerned about.

READ EACH ITEM AND ROTATE STATEMENTS; AFTER FIRST TWO OR THREE ITEMS:

Is this something you are very concerned about, somewhat concerned about, not very concerned about, or not at all concerned about.

	LEVELS OF CONCERN						Ref. %
	Very	Some what	Not Very	Not at all	N/A	Not sure	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Being able to pay my rent in coming years (R).....	28	30	12	29	1	1	0
Being able to pay the mortgage in coming years (H)	12	17	16	35	19	0	0
Being able to pay my property taxes in coming years (H).....	43	29	11	17	0	*	*
Being able to pay my homeowners association or condo fees and assessments (H)	7	10	12	35	37	1	0
Being able to pay my utility bills in coming years (B).....	18	32	21	28	2	*	0
Being able to pay for home repair or maintenance (B).....	16	30	19	27	7	1	*
Being able to pay for home improvement/home modification (B)	14	31	18	30	7	1	0
Being able to get where I want to go (B)	16	31	23	30	*	1	*
Being able to continue to drive (B)	23	32	17	18	11	*	0
Being safe from crime in this home or community (B).....	17	27	25	31	1	0	0
Being safe from injury because of the way this home is designed (B).....	7	23	26	43	*	*	0
My family or friends moving away (B).....	10	26	26	36	2	*	0
Having conflicts/issues with neighbors such as noise, parking, etc) (B).....	9	17	26	47	1	*	*
My neighborhood changing in ways that I won't like (B).....	16	26	24	33	1	1	0
My home meeting my physical needs as I grow older (B)	13	35	21	30	*	1	0
Being able to get help in the home with chores and personal care as I get older (B).....	14	36	21	27	1	1	0
Having to live alone (B)	11	24	23	40	2	1	*

31. **As people age, they sometimes find their current living arrangement does not meet their needs. If you could no longer stay in your home or wanted to move, how important would each of the following attributes be for you to have in a place that you might move?** [READ EACH ITEM; RANDOMIZE. AFTER FIRST TWO ITEMS AND AS NEEDED READ:

Would this be very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important in a place that you might move.

		Level of Importance					Ref
		Very	Somew	Not	Not at	Don't	
		%	hat	Very	all	know	
		%	%	%	%	%	%
a.	Single-floor living	51	28	11	9	1	*
b.	Age –restricted to older adults, say 50 and older	17	18	26	38	2	*
c.	Availability of group meals	16	34	23	25	3	*
d.	Health care services on-site.....	33	32	19	13	2	*
e.	A single-family home	26	24	23	23	3	*
f.	A condominium.....	12	27	21	35	4	1
g.	With family, either in their house or in an attached apartment	15	27	24	30	4	*
h.	Financially subsidized rent	29	23	19	25	4	*
i.	Multi-generational, meaning all ages are living in the building or neighborhood	30	30	19	19	2	*
j.	Being able to live with a spouse or partner	52	13	10	24	2	1
k.	Having the ability to make decisions about and schedule your daily activities	73	14	5	7	1	*
l.	Being able to have pets	35	17	14	32	1	*
m.	Availability of group activities	24	36	20	19	1	*
n.	Availability of transportation	64	24	5	6	1	*
o.	Access to shopping	56	29	7	7	1	*
p.	A smaller space	16	28	22	33	2	*
q.	Availability of help with errand or chores ..	35	40	12	11	2	*
r.	Availability of help with home maintenance	41	37	10	11	2	*

STRATEGIC TOPIC QUESTIONS: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

32. Do you have family members living nearby?

<u>%</u>	
66	Yes
34	No

33. How often do you have contact with family who do not live with you? [READ LIST]

<u>%</u>	
32	Daily
46	At least once a week
14	A few times per month
5	A few times per year
3	Once a year or less
*	[VOL] Don't know
1	[VOL] Refused

34. How often do you have contact with friends and neighbors? [READ LIST]

<u>%</u>	
59	Daily
30	At least once a week
7	A few times per month
2	A few times per year
2	Once a year or less
*	[VOL] Don't know
*	[VOL] Refused

35. And how satisfied are you with the amount of this contact with family, friends, and neighbors? (IF NEEDED REPEAT: THE CONTACT IS WITH family who do not live with you, or friends and neighbors?) Are you . . . [READ LIST]

<u>%</u>	
71	Very satisfied
23	Somewhat satisfied
4	Somewhat dissatisfied
1	Very dissatisfied
1	[VOL] Don't know
*	[VOL] Refused

36. Do you belong to any social, religious, recreational, or special interest groups?

<u>%</u>	
58	Yes
42	No

37. **Have you volunteered any of your time in the last 12 months to any organizations such as charities, schools, hospitals, religious organizations, associations, and civic or other groups?**

<u>%</u>	
59	Yes
41	No
*	[VOL] Don't know

38. **IF Q37=2: What are some of the reasons you haven't been a volunteer in the last 12 months? (DO NOT READ LIST: ACCEPT MULTIPLE ANSWERS) N=324**

<u>%</u>	
34	Personal schedule too full
17	No interest
13	Work commitments
31	Health or disability
2	My skills don't match organizations' needs
1	No one I know personally asked me
3	Lack of transportation
6	Family obligations
1	No organization contacted me and asked to volunteer
1	People should be paid for their work
1	Distance—takes too long to get there and back
1	Expense—travel costs too much
3	Age
1	Other
2	[VOL] Don't know
3	[VOL] Refused

39. **In the last 12 months, have you helped out someone in your neighborhood with chores or some other type of assistance?**

<u>%</u>	
62	Yes
38	No
*	[VOL] Don't know

40. **In the last 12 months, have you participated in any neighborhood events?**

<u>%</u>	
50	Yes
50	No
*	[VOL] Don't know

41. **Next I'd like to ask you about activities in Burlington. For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree. (READ EACH ITEM; RANDOMIZE)**

Would you say....	Strongly Agree %	Somewhat Agree %	Somewhat Disagree %	Strongly Disagree %	D/K %	Ref %
a. Burlington has well-run community centers, recreation centers, parks and other places where older people can socialize	39	34	7	6	15	*
b. Burlington has convenient places for me to participate in public meetings and events	54	33	4	5	4	*
c. I would like to participate in more cultural activities in Burlington but find most of them are unaffordable to me	17	21	23	36	4	*
d. I would like to participate in more community or cultural events but getting transportation to events is difficult for me	8	8	20	61	2	1
e. I would like to volunteer at cultural events in Burlington in exchange for free admission	20	26	20	30	3	*
f. I am very well aware of the activities for older adults that are available in Burlington	38	31	15	13	4	*

42. **And for the next few items, please tell me how important it is to have these opportunities available to you in Burlington by stating whether it is very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important. How important is it to you to have.....(READ EACH ITEM; RANDOMIZE LIST)**

	LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE					DK %	Ref %
	Very	Somewhat	Not very	Not at all			
	Very %	Somewhat %	Not very %	Not at all %			
a. Opportunities to participate in sports and recreational events with other residents age 50 and older	27	30	19	23	1	*	
b. Opportunities to become a volunteer.....	35	36	12	17	1	*	
c. Educational opportunities for older adults	50	30	9	10	1	*	
d. Waterfront activities for older adults.....	41	31	13	13	2	*	

43. How do you currently find out about community or neighborhood activities?
 (DO NOT READ LIST-ACCEPT MULTIPLE ANSWERS)

<u>%</u>	
8	Parks and recreation publications
57	Burlington Free Press
16	North Avenue News
21	Seven Days
3	Front Porch Forum, or an on-line list serve for neighborhoods
23	Television
15	Radio
3	Senior Centers
29	Friends, family, neighbors (word of mouth)
9	Internet
2	AARP magazines
4	Bulletin boards
*	Calls
2	Church /church bulletins
2	Community papers
1	Emails
4	Flyers/notices
1	Library
13	Newspapers (unspecified)
1	Posters
1	Schools
2	Work of mouth
2	Mailing
2	other
1	[VOL] Don't know
1	[VOL] Refused

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

D1. These last few questions are for statistical purposes. First, what was the highest grade of school or year of college that you completed? [DO NOT READ LIST]

<u>%</u>	
6	Some high school or less
20	High school graduate
21	Some college/trade or business school
22	College graduate
6	Some Post graduate work
24	Graduate or professional degree
*	[VOL] Refused

D2. Which of the following best describes your current employment status? Are you . . .
 [READ LIST]? [ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.]

<u>%</u>	
31	Employed full-time (SKIP TO Q. D2a)
12	Employed part-time (SKIP TO Q. D2a)
41	Retired
4	A homemaker
*	A full-time student
6	Disabled
2	Unemployed or temporarily laid off
1	Self
1	Retired but working
*	Other
*	[VOL] Don't know
*	[VOL] Refused

D2.a. Are you self-employed? N=350

<u>%</u>	
29	Yes
69	No
2	[VOL] Not Asked

D3. Are you currently . . . [READ LIST]? [ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE. IF LIVING WITH PARTNER, DIVORCED, SEPARATED, WIDOWED OR SINGLE, CODE AS 2.]

<u>%</u>	
50	Married or in a Civil Union
4	Not married, living with a partner
16	Divorced or separated
18	Widowed, or
12	Single, never married
*	[VOL] Don't know
1	[VOL] Refused

D4. In the last 12 months, have you accessed the Internet from your home, work, or from some other source such as your local library?

<u>%</u>	
70	Yes
30	No
*	[VOL] Refused

D5. IF D4=1: Which would you say comes closest to how often you access the Internet....

<u>%</u>	(N=562)
72	Daily
19	Several times a week
7	Several times a month
3	Several times a year
*	[VOL] Don't know

D6. What race do you consider yourself? [READ LIST]

<u>%</u>	
1	African-American or Black
93	White or Caucasian
*	Asian
1	American Indian
1	Mix
2	Other [SPECIFY:] _____
0	[VOL] Hispanic/Latino
*	[VOL] Don't know
2	[VOL] Refused

D7. In general, would you say your health is . . . [READ LIST]?

<u>%</u>	
30	Excellent
34	Very good
21	Good
12	Fair, or
4	Poor
*	[VOL] Don't know
*	[VOL] Refused

D8. Does any disability, handicap, or chronic disease keep you (or your spouse) from participating fully in work, school, housework, or other activities?

<u>%</u>	
24	Yes, myself
5	Yes, my spouse
69	No
2	Yes, both self and spouse
*	[VOL] Don't know
*	[VOL] Refused

D9. Are you (or your spouse) a member of AARP?

<u>%</u>	
60	Yes
40	No
*	[VOL] Don't know
*	[VOL] Refused

D10. In 2005, was your total household income, before taxes, [READ LIST]?

<u>%</u>	
13	Less than \$15,000
12	\$15,000 up to \$25,000
9	\$25,000 up to \$35,000
14	\$35,000 up to \$50,000
9	\$50,000 up to \$60,000
8	\$60,000 up to \$75,000
9	\$75,000 up to \$100,000, or
11	\$100,000 or more
5	[VOL] Don't know
13	[VOL] Refused

D11. **[RECORD TELEPHONE NUMBER]** _____ - _____ - _____

We appreciate giving your time to this important survey. If you would like to continue being involved in activities to make Burlington a great place to grow old, AARP Vermont and their partners would welcome your participation. Would you like to learn more about upcoming events related to this initiative?

If yes: Would you like to take down a phone number so that you can find out about upcoming opportunities or would you like to have AARP send you information?

AARP

Knowledge Management

**For more information contact Katherine Bridges at:
207.899.2094 or by [email at: kbridges@aarp.org](mailto:kbridges@aarp.org)**