Livability For All in Brownsville

An Age-Friendly Community Survey of Residents Age 50-plus

AARP Real Possibilities 2016
Background

The World Health Organization’s (WHO) Global Age-Friendly Cities and Communities project was created to help cities prepare for the rapid aging of populations and the increase in urbanization.¹ The program targets the environmental, social, and economic factors that influence the health and well-being of older adults.

The WHO has identified eight areas that influence the quality of life of those in a community, particularly older adults. The eight areas or domains are: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, Housing, Transportation, Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment, Communication and Information, and Community and Health Services.

AARP Research developed a survey instrument that captures the WHO eight areas of age-friendly community in order to help communities: (1) establish a baseline with regards to older adults being able to age in place, and (2) conduct a community needs assessment to identify and prioritize areas of focus.

To minimize the survey length as well as respondent burden, the AARP survey encapsulates the WHO eight areas of livability in a slightly different structure.

According to the AARP survey and for the purposes of this report, the eight domains of age-friendly community are:

1. Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
2. Housing Features
3. Transportation and Streets
4. Job Opportunities
5. Community Information
6. Volunteering and Civic Engagement
7. Social Participation, Inclusion, and Education Opportunities
8. Health and Wellness

These survey findings help policymakers, planners and others better understand the needs of an aging population in order to begin to brainstorm steps and policies that can be taken to improve livability for all.

¹ Learn more at www.agefriendlyworld.org
Executive Summary

For Brownsville residents, the most important features of an Age-Friendly Community center around street safety, public transportation, and healthcare services.

An age-friendly community provides resources that allow residents to live independently in their own homes as long as they want and fosters residents' engagement in their community's civic, economic, and social life. The “2016 Brownsville Age Friendly Community Survey” of adults age 50-plus living in Brownsville was commissioned to help the city’s decision makers achieve the goal of an age-friendly livable community.

Survey results show that older Brownsville residents are likely to be long-time residents of the community. More than half (53%) have lived in their community for over 25 years and the vast majority intend to stay in Brownsville. More than three-fourths (77%) say their community is a good, very good or excellent place for older people to live.

Based on the eight domains of age-friendly community, survey findings also help identify the community features that are most important to Brownsville's 50-plus residents:

Many of the community features most likely to be considered important to Brownsville 50-plus residents relate to **Transportation**. Specifically, survey respondents consider it important to have streets that are well-maintained and safe for all users including pedestrians and bicyclists, easy to read traffic signs, enforced speed limits; and public transportation services that are reliable, have safe stops and well-maintained vehicles.

**Health** features also rank highly among important community aspects. In the health domain, Brownville residents are most likely to say it is important to have a variety of healthcare professionals including specialists, hospital answer services that are helpful and easy to understand, and affordable home health providers.

Additional features within each one of the eight areas are considered at least somewhat important to residents in Brownsville. A summary of the most important community features by each of the eight age-friendly community domains can be found in the following pages of this report.
Executive Summary

The top reported need gaps in Brownsville for an Age-Friendly Community are concentrated in areas of Job Opportunities, Community Information, and Volunteering and Engagement.

In addition to identifying the community features that are important, unmet needs were assessed through a gap analysis. Community needs can be defined as a gap between what is and what should be. In order to identify the needs of Brownsville residents age 50-plus, survey respondents were asked about the importance of a community feature or service, and then they were asked if these features and services exist in their community. These questions were then paired together to calculate the “need gap”.

While features of Transportation and Health dominate in terms of what is important for age-friendly Brownsville, respondents say the city delivers relatively well against these needs. The largest need gaps in Brownsville are concentrated primarily in three areas of Job Opportunities, Community Information and Volunteering and Engagement.

**Job Opportunities** for workers age 50-plus are among the most salient unmet needs in Brownsville. The top need gap identified in survey results is job training opportunities for older adults. Job flexibility and jobs adapted to needs of the disabled are also among the top need gaps.

Large gaps are also identified regarding the dissemination of **Community Information** that is printed in large lettering, delivered in person, automated and centralized.

**Volunteer and Engagement** features that are considered highly important but not necessarily available concern how well Brownsville connects residents to volunteer opportunities. Top ranked need gaps are volunteer training opportunities, easy to find information on local volunteer opportunities and transportation to and from volunteer activities for those who need it.

More information on the community need gaps by each of the eight age-friendly community domains can be found in the following pages of this report.
From a simple perspective, a "livable community" is a place that allows individuals to age-in-place. A comprehensive definition of a livable community is one that is "safe and secure, has affordable and appropriate housing and transportation options, and offers supportive community features and services. Once in place, those resources enhance personal independence; allow residents to age in place; and foster residents' engagement in the community's civic, economic, and social life."

Across the nation, individuals make connections and commitments to homes, friendships, community organizations, and local social ties within their community and want to age-in-place. Brownsville residents are no different.
Community Experience

The majority of Brownsville’s 50-plus are long-time residents who intend to stay. While most say the city is a good place to live as they age, there is room to improve.

More than half (53%) of Brownsville residents age 50-plus have lived in their current community for 25 years or more. They are even more likely to be long-time residents of Cameron county: 38% have lived in the county 45 years or more and 70% have been county residents for at least 25 years.

How would you rate Brownsville as a place for people to live as they age?

The majority of 50-plus residents consider Brownsville to be a Good (34%) or Very Good (27%) place for older people to live as they age. Another 16% rate it as Excellent. Nearly one-fourth (23%) give it an assessment of Fair or Poor.

Brownsville residents want to live independently in their own home for as long as they can.

Eight in ten (80%) say it is extremely or very important to live in their own home as they age; and half (53%) feel it is important to remain in their communities. In addition, most Brownsville residents age 50-plus expect to stay in their current home during their retirement years.

Important to live in your own home as you age 80%

Important to remain in your community as you age 53%

Few intend to move during retirement.

Likely to move to new community 9%

Likely to move to new home, same community 9%
Community Experience

Aside from family ties, housing is an influential factor for residents considering a move in retirement, including needs for age-friendly and right-sized housing and the cost of home maintenance in older age.

If Brownsville residents were to consider moving during retirement, half (54%) say being closer to family would be an important reason to do so. Home size would be a deciding criteria for four in ten (44%) and a home that enables independent living for 38%. Other influential community factors include looking for an area with a lower cost of living (36%), the expense of maintaining current homes (33%), better health facilities (31%), safety concerns (27%) and more access to public transportation (25%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Want to be closer to family</th>
<th>Need a different home size</th>
<th>Want home to help live independently as age</th>
<th>Looking for lower cost of living</th>
<th>Expensive to maintain current home</th>
<th>Better health facilities</th>
<th>Personal safety/security concerns</th>
<th>Public transportation</th>
<th>New climate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>54%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most residents age 50-plus in Brownsville own their own homes. Single family homes are most common and many will need modifications to support aging-in-place preferences.

Eight in ten (83%) residents age 50-plus in Brownsville own their home. One in ten rents (10%) and 3% have some other arrangement such as living with family. Single family homes are by far the most dominant (80%). Six percent live in a mobile home and about one in ten live in some form of multi-unit structure such as an apartment (6%), townhome or duplex (3%) or condo (1%). While most say they want to age-in-place, seven in ten (73%) say they will need to make some home modification in order to stay in their current home as they age.
Many Brownsville homes will need modifications to enable aging in place.

73% At Least 1 Home Modification Needed

41% Install medical emergency response system

58% Bathroom modifications

36% Easier home access (ramps, wider doorways, chairlifts)

31% Improve lighting

12% Add room to first floor

Home Modifications

More than half of Brownsville residents age 50-plus say they will need to make bathroom modifications in order to stay in their home as they age, such as installing grab bars, handrails, high toilet seats or non-slip tile. Installing emergency response systems are a likely modification for four in ten. One in three says they will need to add things like ramps or chairlifts for easier access into and within their home or improve lighting. Just about one in ten say they will need to make structural changes like adding a bedroom or bathroom on the first floor.
Brownsville is a driving community but one in three also walk to get where they need to.

To get around for things like shopping, visiting the doctor, or running errands, more than eight in ten (82%) drive themselves and 21% get a ride. Walking is a mode of transportation for nearly one-third (30%) of residents age 50 and over.

Brownsville residents are most likely to turn to people they know for information on services for older adults.

Eight in ten would expect friends and family to be their source of information about services for older adults such as caregiving, home delivered meals, home repair, medical transport, or social activities. Three-fourths would turn to their doctor or other health professional and about two-thirds each would seek help from faith-based organizations, local government, senior centers, AARP or another local non-profit. Just over half would go to general information resources such as the internet, library, or phone book.

80% Friends & Family 75% Health Professional 67% Faith-Based Group 67% Local Gov't Offices 65% Local Senior Center 64% AARP 63% Local Non Profit 58% Internet 55% Local Area Agency on Aging 54% Library 54% Phone Book

2016 Age-Friendly Community Survey of Brownsville
The formula for what makes a community livable isn't particularly complex. For the most part, the features are fairly simple. In a livable community, people of all ages can go for a walk, safely cross the street, ride a bike, get around without a car, live comfortably, work or volunteer, enjoy public places, socialize, spend time outdoors, be entertained, go shopping, buy healthy food, find the services they need, and make their city, town, or neighborhood a lifelong home. A community that includes all of these livable community features can be great for people of all ages.

Brownsville residents rated their community on 66 characteristics across eight domains (Health and Wellness, Transportation, Housing, Outdoor Spaces, Social Participation, Volunteering and Civic Engagement, Job Opportunities, and Community Information) in order to identify important and available community features.
Summary of Importance: 8 Age-Friendly Community Domains

Average Importance Rating of Community Features within Each Domain (on a 5 point scale where 5 = Extremely Important and 1= Not At All Important)

- Health and Wellness: 4.36
- Transportation: 4.34
- Housing: 4.23
- Outdoor Spaces: 4.21
- Job Opportunities: 4.13
- Community Info: 4.07
- Social Participation: 4.01
- Volunteer and Civic Engagement: 3.90

2016 Age-Friendly Community Survey of Brownsville
Summary of Importance: Community Features by Domain

Top Important Feature Within Each Community Domain
(% of respondents who rated the item as ■ Extremely ■ Very ■ Somewhat Important)

Health and Wellness
- Variety of healthcare professionals: 97%

Transportation
- Well-lit streets and intersections safe for all users: 98%

Housing
- Home repair service for low income and older adults: 93%

Outdoor Spaces
- Sidewalks in good condition, safe and accessible: 96%

Job Opportunities
- Jobs adapted for people with disabilities: 90%

Community Info
- Info clearly displayed in print with large lettering: 91%

Social Participation
- Activities that are affordable for all: 93%

Volunteer & Civic Engagement
- Transportation to and from volunteer activities: 91%
### Top Overall Community Features

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top Overall Community Features</th>
<th>Importance</th>
<th>Domain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Well-lit, safe streets and intersections for all users (pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers)</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-maintained streets</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy to read traffic signs</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe public transportation stops or areas</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliable public transportation</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enforced speed limits</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-maintained public transportation vehicles</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variety of health care professionals including specialists</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>Health and Wellness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easily understandable and helpful hospital answer services</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>Health and Wellness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordable home health providers</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>Health and Wellness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The top important community features to Brownsville residents relate to Transportation and Health & Wellness.

The top tier important community features among all 66 items in 8 domains (percent of respondents who rated the item as Extremely/Very/Somewhat Important).
Community Needs

A need can be identified as a gap between what is and what should be. Every community has its own culture, social structure, traditions, history, and needs. A Needs Assessment is a tool to understand and identify community needs. In order to identify the needs of Brownsville residents age 50-plus, survey respondents were asked how important community features and services were to them. Then they were asked if these features and services existed in their community. These questions were then paired together to identify community needs or “gaps” between the importance of a feature or service and its existence in the community.

To compare these questions, respondents who said a feature or service is extremely, very, or somewhat important were aggregated and then compared to respondents who said whether or not the feature or service existed in their community.
Summary of Needs: Community Features by Domain

Top Community Need Gap Within Each Domain

(Need Gap = % Extremely/Very/Somewhat Important - % Present)

**Health and Wellness**
- **70%** Affordable home health care

**Transportation**
- **60%** Audio/visual pedestrian crossing

**Housing**
- **68%** Home repair service for low income and older adults

**Outdoor Spaces**
- **72%** Neighborhood watch programs

**Job Opportunities**
- **82%** Job training opportunities for older adults

**Community Info**
- **80%** Clearly displayed printed community information

**Social Participation**
- **73%** Affordable activities

**Volunteer & Civic Engagement**
- **76%** Volunteer training opportunities

2016 Age-Friendly Community Survey of Brownsville
The largest needs in Brownsville are in the areas of Job Opportunities, Community Information and Volunteering

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top Overall Gaps</th>
<th>Gap</th>
<th>Domain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Job training opportunities for older adults</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>Job Opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printed information that has large lettering and is clearly displayed</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>Community Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A range of flexible job opportunities for older adults</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>Job Opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information delivered in person to people who have difficulty leaving their home</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>Community Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobs adapted to meet the needs of people with disabilities</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>Job Opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An automated community information source</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>Community Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to information in one central location</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>Community Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer training opportunities</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>Volunteering &amp; Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy to find information on available local volunteer opportunities</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>Volunteering &amp; Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation to and from volunteer activities for those who need it</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>Volunteering &amp; Engagement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

Items Ranked by Importance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Features</th>
<th>% Important</th>
<th>% Present</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sidewalks that are in good condition</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-maintained public restrooms that are accessible to people of different physical abilities</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-maintained public buildings that are accessible to people of different physical abilities</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood watch programs</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separate pathways for bicyclists and pedestrians</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-maintained and safe public parks</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public parks with enough benches</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The largest unmet need in outdoor spaces and buildings is

**Neighborhood watch programs** 72%

94% say it is important to have neighborhood watch programs. Only 22% say this is present in their community; resulting in a gap of 72%.

(Need Gap = % Extremely/Very/Somewhat Important - % Present)
### Housing Features

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Features</th>
<th>% Important</th>
<th>% Present</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home repair service for low-income and older adults that help with repairs</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-maintained homes and properties</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home repair contractors who are trustworthy and affordable</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-maintained and safe low-income housing</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordable housing prices for residents of varying income levels</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homes that are equipped with things like a no step entrance, wider doorways, etc.</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seasonal services such as lawn work</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The largest unmet need in housing features is

**A repair service for low-income and older adults** 68%

93% say it is important to have a repair service for low-income and older adults that helps with things like roof or window repair. Only 25% say this is present in their community; resulting in a gap of 68%.

(Need Gap = % Extremely/Very/Somewhat Important - % Present)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Features</th>
<th>% Important</th>
<th>% Present</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Well-maintained streets and roads</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-lit, safe streets and intersections for all users</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy to read traffic signs</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enforced speed limits</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliable public transportation</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe public transportation stops or areas</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-maintained public transportation vehicles</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessible and convenient public transportation</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special transportation services for seniors or people with disabilities</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Transportation and Streets, cont.

*Items Ranked by Importance*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Features</th>
<th>% Important</th>
<th>% Present</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Audio/visual pedestrian crossings</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordable public transportation</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public parking lots and areas to park</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driver education/ refresher course</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordable public parking</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The largest unmet need in transportation features is

**60%**

Audio/visual pedestrian crossings

96% say it is important to have audio and visual pedestrian crossings. Only 36% say this is present in their community, resulting in a gap of **60%**.

(Need Gap = % Extremely/Very/Somewhat Important - % Present)
### Job Opportunities

**Features** | % Important | % Present
---|---|---
Job training opportunities for older adults | 91% | 9%
Jobs that are adapted to meet the needs of people with disabilities | 90% | 14%
A range of flexible job opportunities for older adults | 88% | 11%

The largest unmet need in employment features is **Job training opportunities for older adults** with an 82% gap.

91% say it is important to have job training opportunities for older adults who want to learn new job skills within their job or get training in a different field of work. Only 9% say this is present in their community, resulting in a gap of 82%.

(Need Gap = % Extremely/Very/Somewhat Important - % Present)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Features</th>
<th>% Important</th>
<th>% Present</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Printed information that has large lettering and is clearly displayed</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free access to computers and the internet in public places</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to information in one central location</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information delivered in person to people who have difficulty leaving their home</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information that is available in different languages</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An automated community information source</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The largest unmet need in communication and information is **Printed information that has large lettering and is clearly displayed** 80%.

91% say it is important to have printed information that has large lettering and is clearly displayed. Only 11% say this is present in their community; resulting in a gap of 80%.

(Need Gap = % Extremely/Very/Somewhat Important - % Present)
## Volunteering and Civic Engagement

*Items Ranked by Importance*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Features</th>
<th>% Important</th>
<th>% Present</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for older adults to participate in decision making bodies such as community councils</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation to and from volunteer activities for those who need it</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer training opportunities to help better perform volunteer role</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A range of volunteer activities to choose from</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy to find information on available local volunteer opportunities</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The largest unmet need in volunteering and civic engagement is

**Volunteer training opportunities to help better perform volunteer role 76%**

91% say it is important to have volunteer training opportunities to help better perform volunteer role. Only 15% say this is present in their community; resulting in a gap of 76%.

(Need Gap = % Extremely/Very/Somewhat Important - % Present)
## Social Participation, Inclusion, and Education Opportunities

**Features** | **% Important** | **% Present**
--- | --- | ---
Activities that involve both younger and older people | 93% | 23%
Activities that are affordable to all residents | 93% | 20%
Activities specifically geared towards older adults | 92% | 25%
Activities that offer senior discounts | 92% | 25%
Widely publicized reliable information about activities | 91% | 18%
Continuing education classes | 88% | 36%
Conveniently located venues for entertainment | 88% | 35%
A variety of cultural activities for diverse populations | 88% | 20%
Social clubs such as book, gardening, craft or hobby | 87% | 26%
Local schools that involve older adults in events and activities | 87% | 20%

The largest unmet need in social participation, inclusion, and education opportunities is **Activities that are affordable to all residents**

93% say it is important to have activities that are affordable to all residents. Only 20% say this is present in their community; resulting in a gap of 73%.

(Need Gap = % Extremely/Very/Somewhat Important - % Present)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Features</th>
<th>% Important</th>
<th>% Present</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A variety of health care professionals</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easily understandable and helpful hospital answering services</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordable home health care providers</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respectful and helpful hospital and clinic staff</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-maintained hospitals and health care facilities</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home care services including health, personal care, and housekeeping</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conveniently located emergency care centers</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and wellness programs and classes</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-trained certified home health care providers</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Health and Wellness, cont.

Items Ranked by Importance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Features</th>
<th>% Important</th>
<th>% Present</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conveniently located health and social services</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy to find information on local health and supportive services</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A service that helps seniors find and access health services</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitness activities specifically geared towards older adults</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care professionals who speak different languages</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The largest unmet need in health services is

**Affordable home health care providers** 70%

97% say it is important to have affordable home health care. Only 27% say this is present in their community; resulting in a gap of 70%.

(Need Gap = % Extremely/Very/Somewhat Important - % Present)
Demographics n= 296

AGE
- 50-59: 39%
- 60-74: 44%
- 75+: 17%

WORK STATUS
- Employed FT: 34%
- Employed PT: 11%
- Retired: 31%
- Not working: 10%

RACE/ETHNICITY
- Hispanic: 75%
- Non Hispanic White: 17%
- African American/Black: 1%
- Asian: 2%
- American Indian: 1%

EDUCATION
- No HS diploma: 22%
- HS diploma or GED: 27%
- Post HS education no degree: 9%
- 2 year College degree: 8%
- 4 year College degree: 11%
- Post graduate study/degree: 16%

GENDER
- Male: 43%
- Female: 54%

MARITAL STATUS
- Married/Living with Partner: 59%
- Separated/Divorced: 12%
- Widowed: 19%
- Never married: 7%

DISABILITY
- Self: 24%
- Spouse or partner: 9%
- None: 67%

INCOME
- Less than $20k: 40%
- $20k - <$50k: 29%
- $50k - $100k: 20%
- $100k or more: 9%

2016 Age-Friendly Community Survey of Brownsville
Survey Methodology

This report is based on data from a mail survey of Brownsville residents age 50-plus. Resident addresses were provided by Survey Sampling International’s (SSI) proprietary database.

The survey was mailed to 3,000 resident households in Brownsville. Out of the total mailing, 296 completed surveys were returned by the cut-off date for a response rate of 9.9 percent. The sample has a margin of error of +/- 5.7 percent.

Surveys were fielded from August 17, 2015 through September 28, 2015. Each resident sampled was contacted four times receiving the following pieces of mail: 1) Pre-notification postcard; 2) survey; 3) reminder postcard; and 4) second survey copy. Mail sent to 141 addresses were returned as undeliverable.

All mail pieces were printed in English and Spanish. Survey envelopes contained an English and Spanish copy of the questionnaire and respondents could select their language of their preference. Out of the total 296 completed and returned surveys, 83 were in Spanish and 213 were in English.

Vupoint Research was commissioned to enter and tabulate the data from returned surveys.

The sample was weighted by age, gender and AARP membership. Two sources were used for the weighting: the AARP membership database and Nielsen Pop Facts Advanced demographic data, 2015. Age was imputed for those who did not indicate their age on the survey. Any respondent with an initial weight of zero received a weighting of 1.0. A fully annotated questionnaire and addendum data tables are available upon request. Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding. Also due to rounding, the percentages in the text may vary slightly from those in the annotation or in graphs.

Acknowledgments

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Photos courtesy of the City of Brownsville and AARP Texas

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