

# Livability for All in DeSoto County, MS

## An Age-Friendly Community Survey of Residents Age 45+

AARP October 2016

<https://doi.org/10.26419/res.00132.013>



# Livable Community

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.

– AARP Policy Book, Chapter 9



# AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities

- AARP's Age-Friendly Network is an affiliate of the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Program.
- The program was established to connect cities, communities and organizations worldwide with the common vision of making their community a great place where people can grow up and grow old.
- The program targets the environmental, social, and economic factors that influence the health and well-being of residents of all ages.

## The WHO 8 Domains of Livability



Community  
& Health  
Care



Transportation



Housing



Social  
Participation



Outdoor  
Spaces &  
Buildings



Respect &  
Social  
Inclusion



Civic  
Participation  
&  
Employment

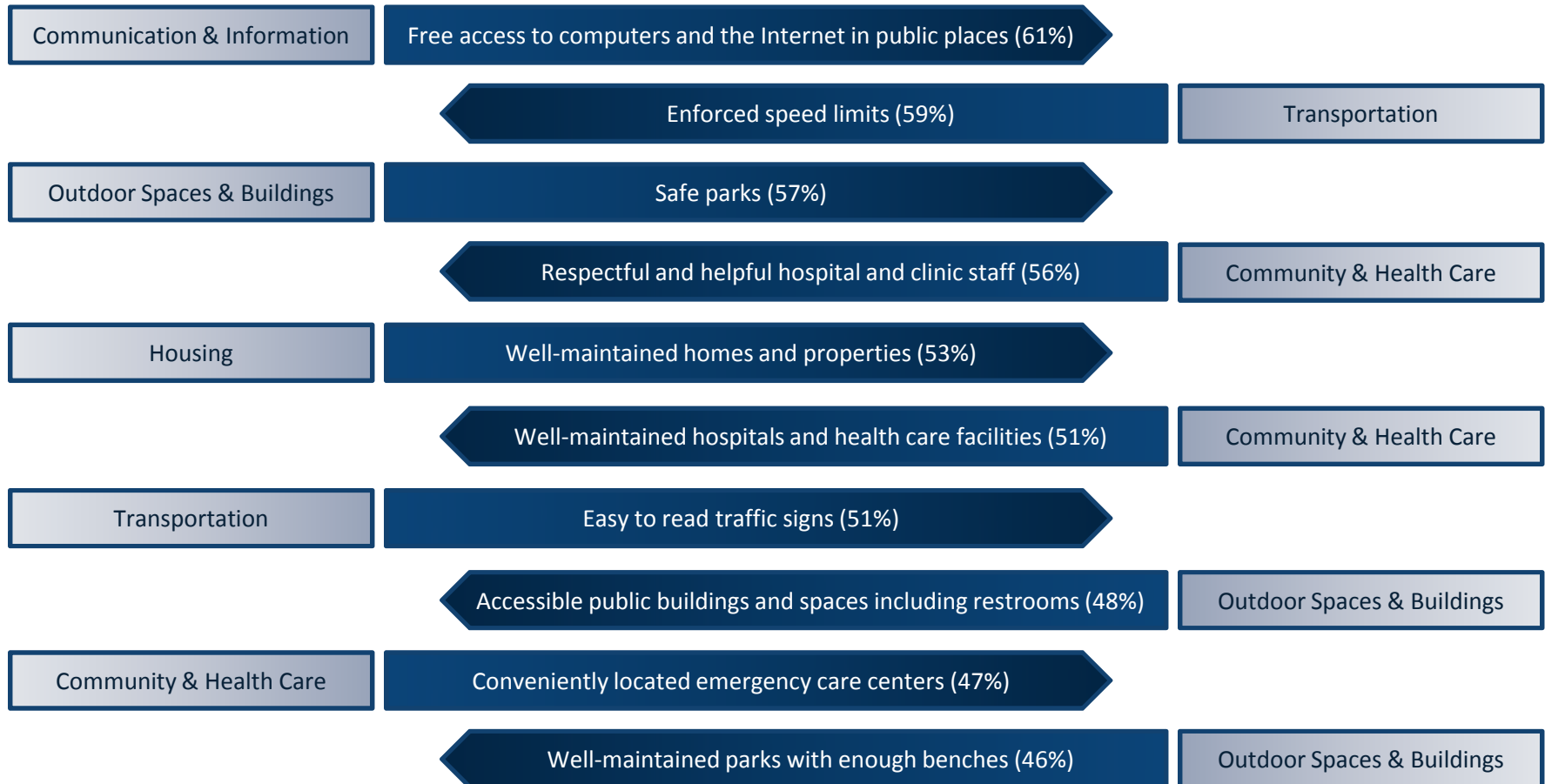


Communication  
& Information

Icons from FlatIcon.com

# Top 10 Community Features

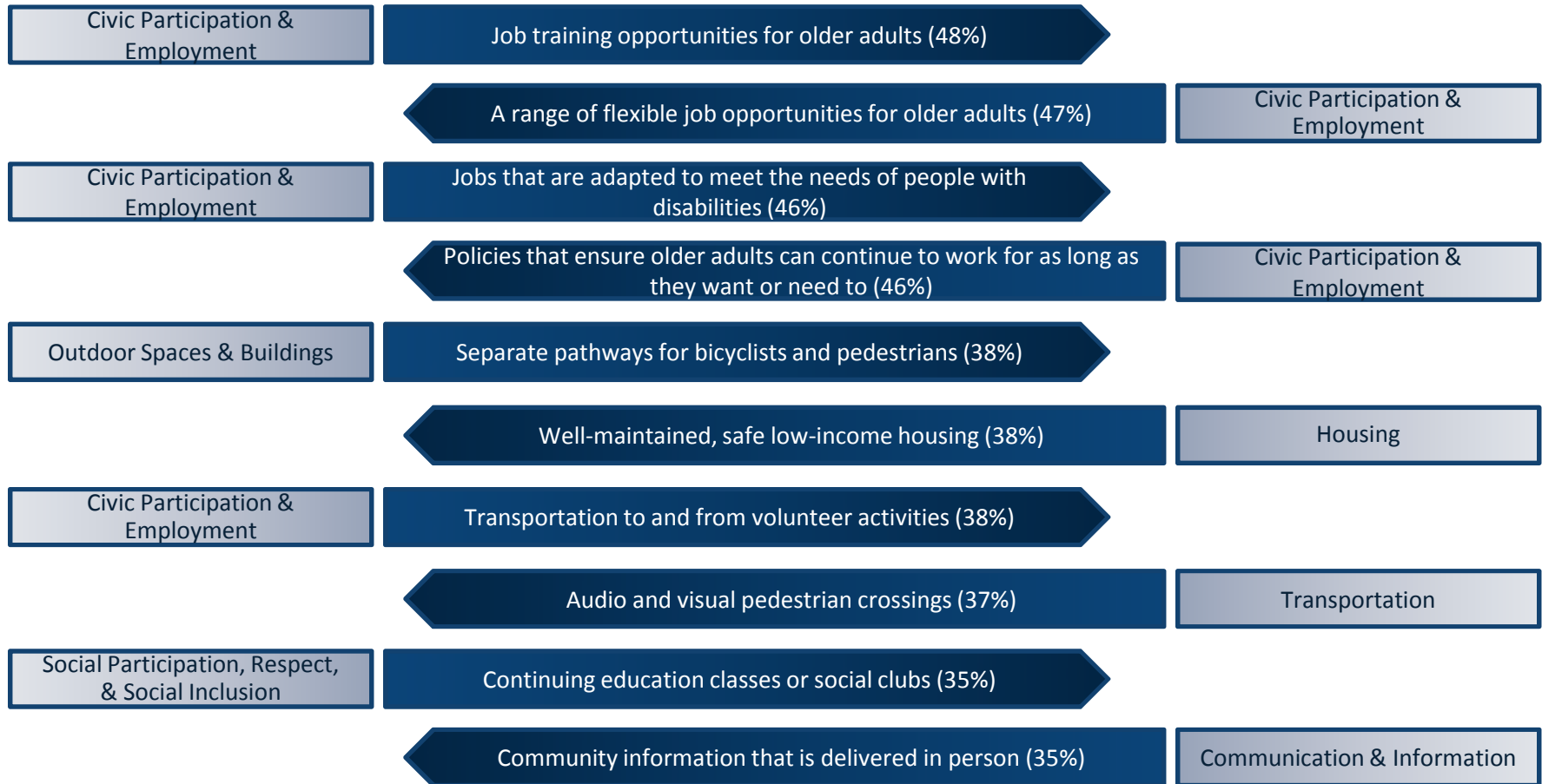
(% Excellent/Very Good)



Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of DeSoto County Residents Age 45+

# Bottom 10 Community Features

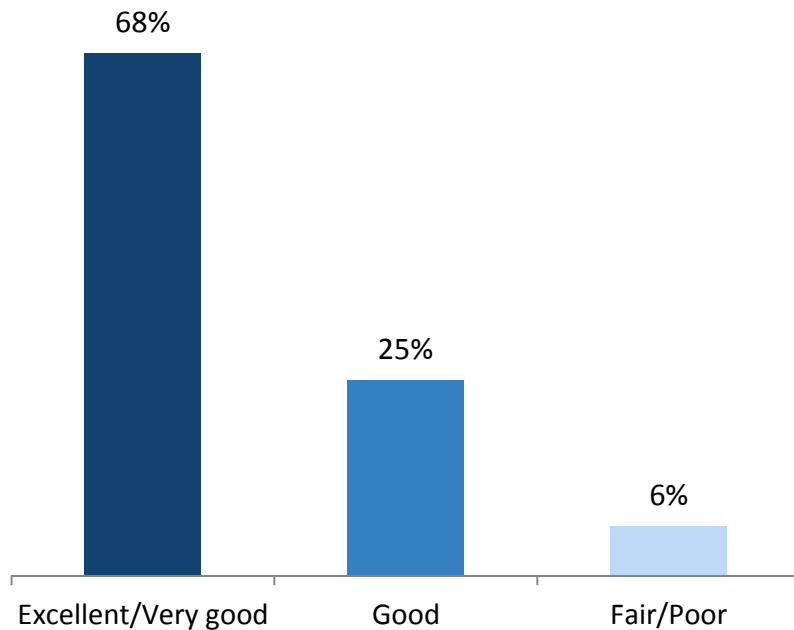
(% Fair/Poor)



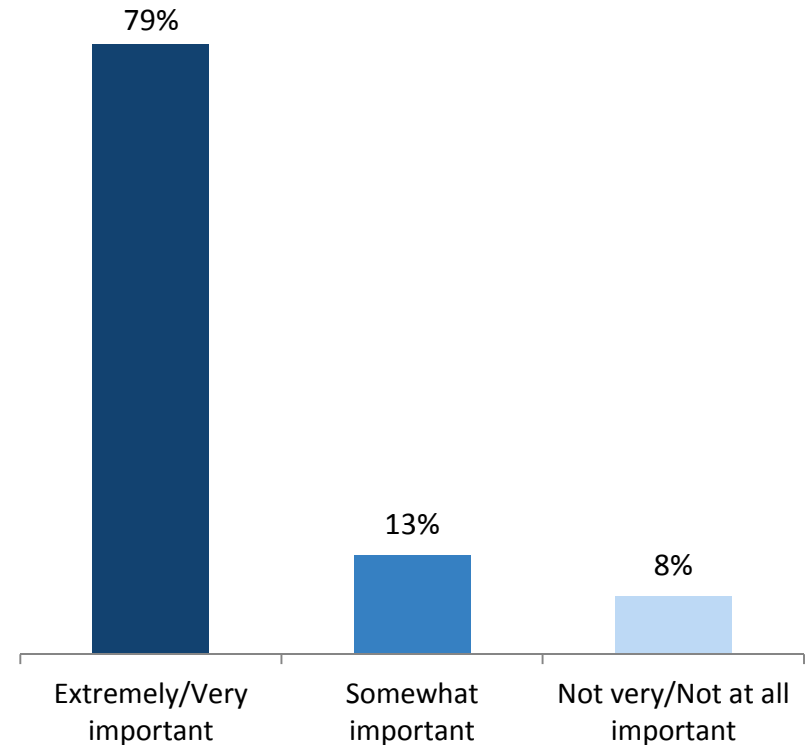
Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of DeSoto County Residents Age 45+

The majority of DeSoto County residents age 45+ believe their community is a good place to age and want to live there independently for as long as possible.

Rating of Current Community  
as a Place for People to Live as They Age



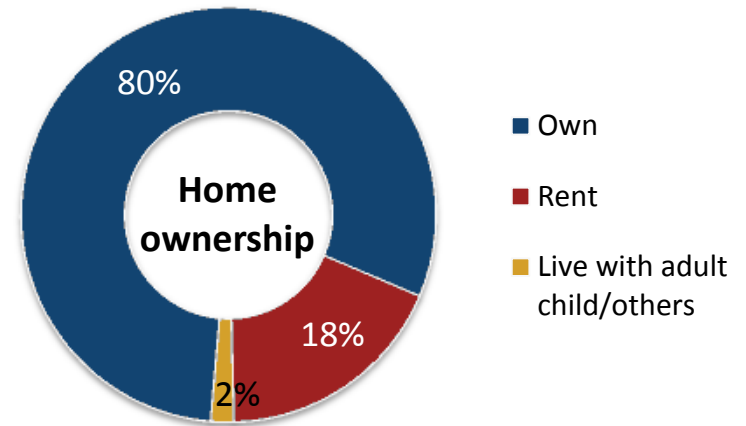
Importance of  
Remaining in Current Community



Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of DeSoto County Residents Age 45+

Most DeSoto County residents age 45+ own single family homes.


Type of Home	
A single family house	89%
A mobile home	4%
An apartment	3%
Senior housing/Assisted living facility	2%
A two family house that has two separate living units	1%
A condominium/Coop	1%
A townhouse/Row house	<1%
Other	<1%



78% of respondents say remaining in their current home is extremely/very important.

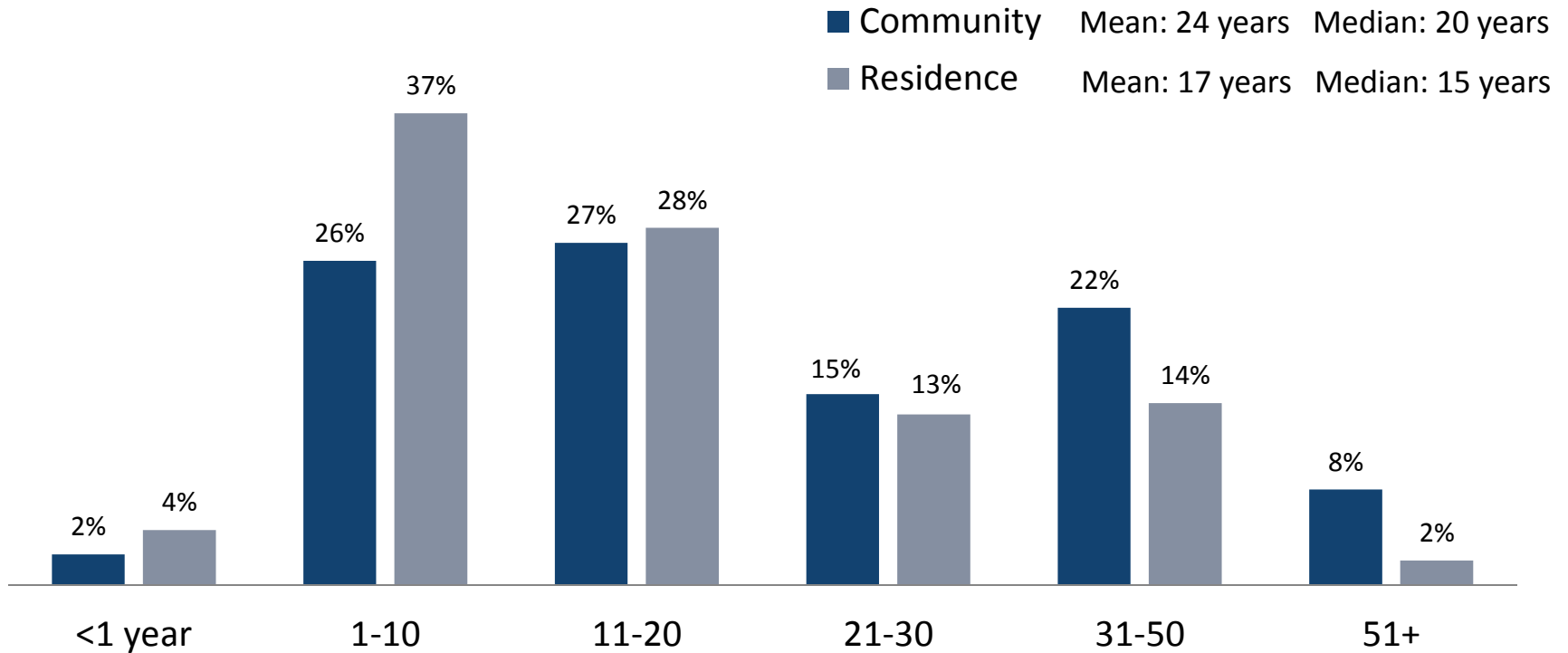


20% of respondents say they need to make major repairs, home modifications, or changes



Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of DeSoto County Residents Age 45+

DeSoto County residents age 45+ have lived in their home for an average of 17 years and have lived in their community even longer, an average of 24 years.



Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of DeSoto County Residents Age 45+

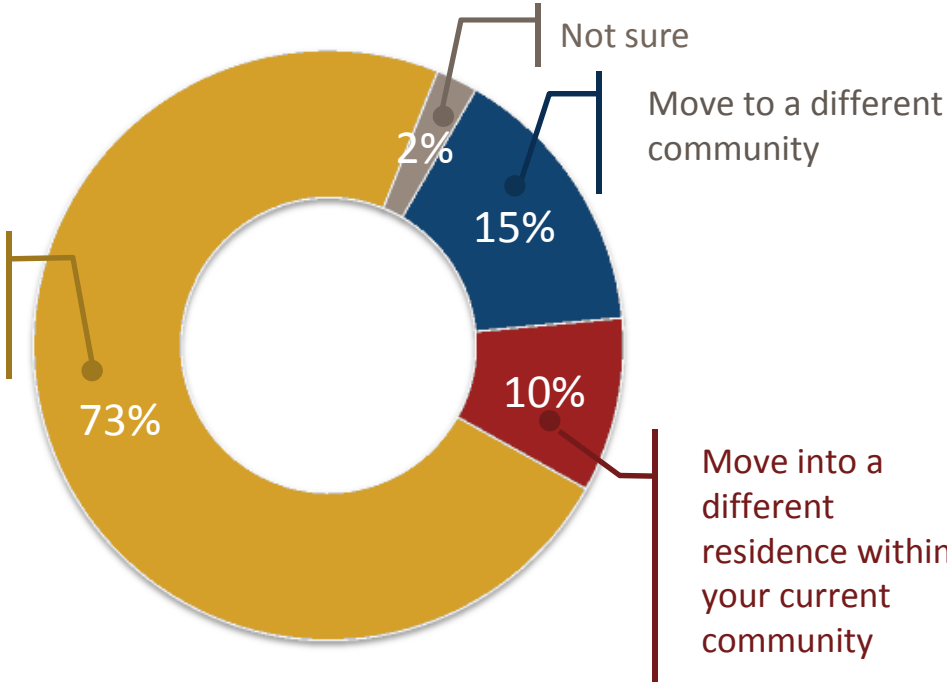


# The majority of DeSoto County residents age 45+ expect to stay in their home or community as they get older.



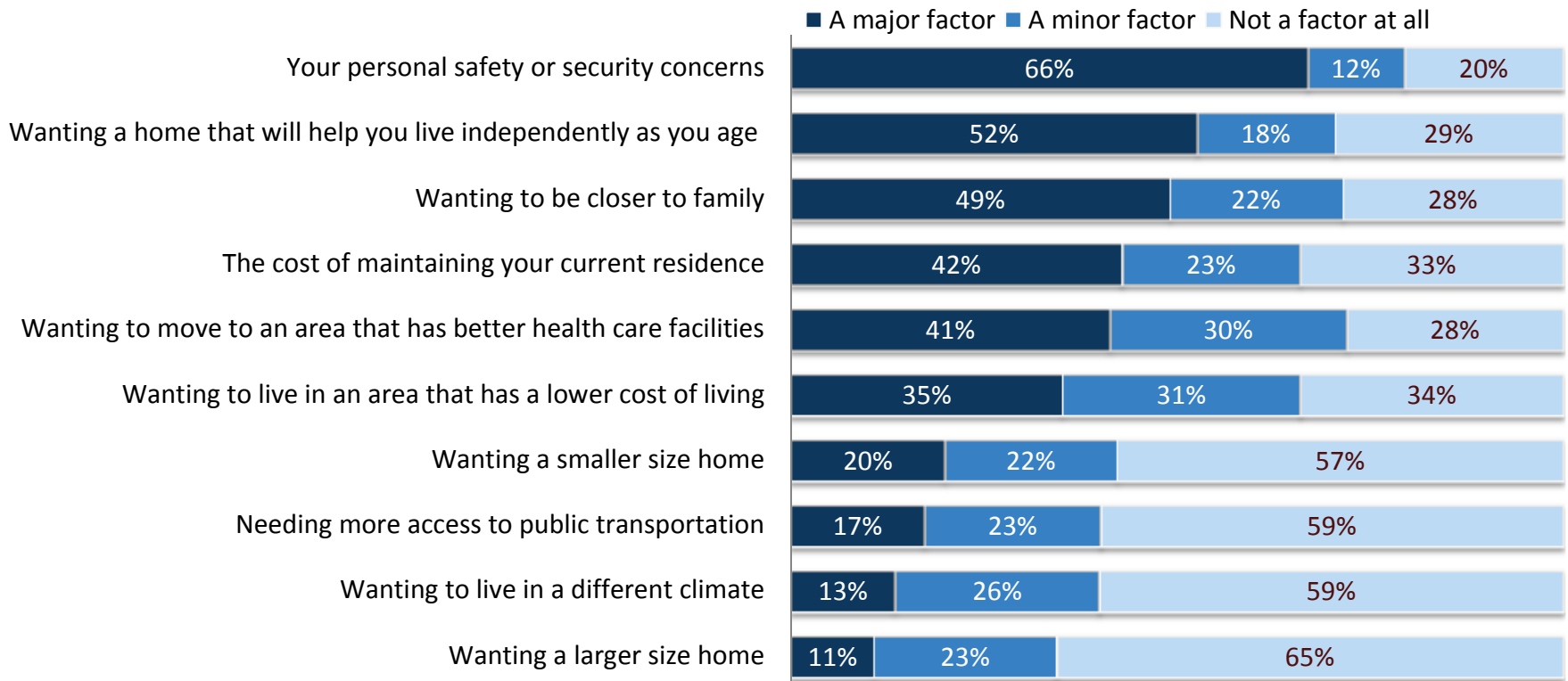
Photo from <http://www.rpsrelocation.com>

Stay in your current residence and never move



Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of DeSoto County Residents Age 45+

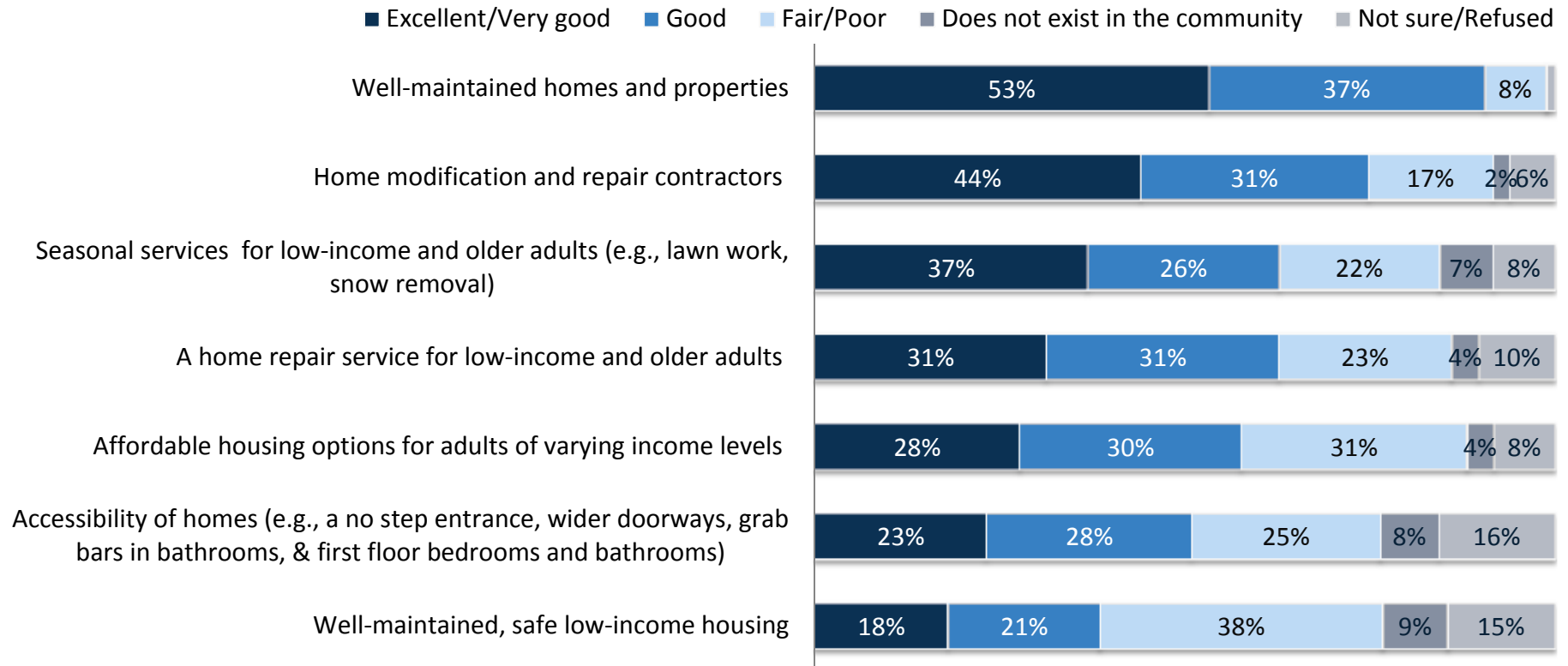
# Safety, age-friendly housing, wanting to be closer to family, and affordability are influential factors for DeSoto County residents age 45+ considering moving when they get older.



Question: If you were to consider moving out of your residence, would the following be a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor at all in your decision to move?

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of DeSoto County Residents Age 45+

# DeSoto County residents age 45+ rate their community positively on having well-maintained homes and properties as well as good home modification and repair contractors.

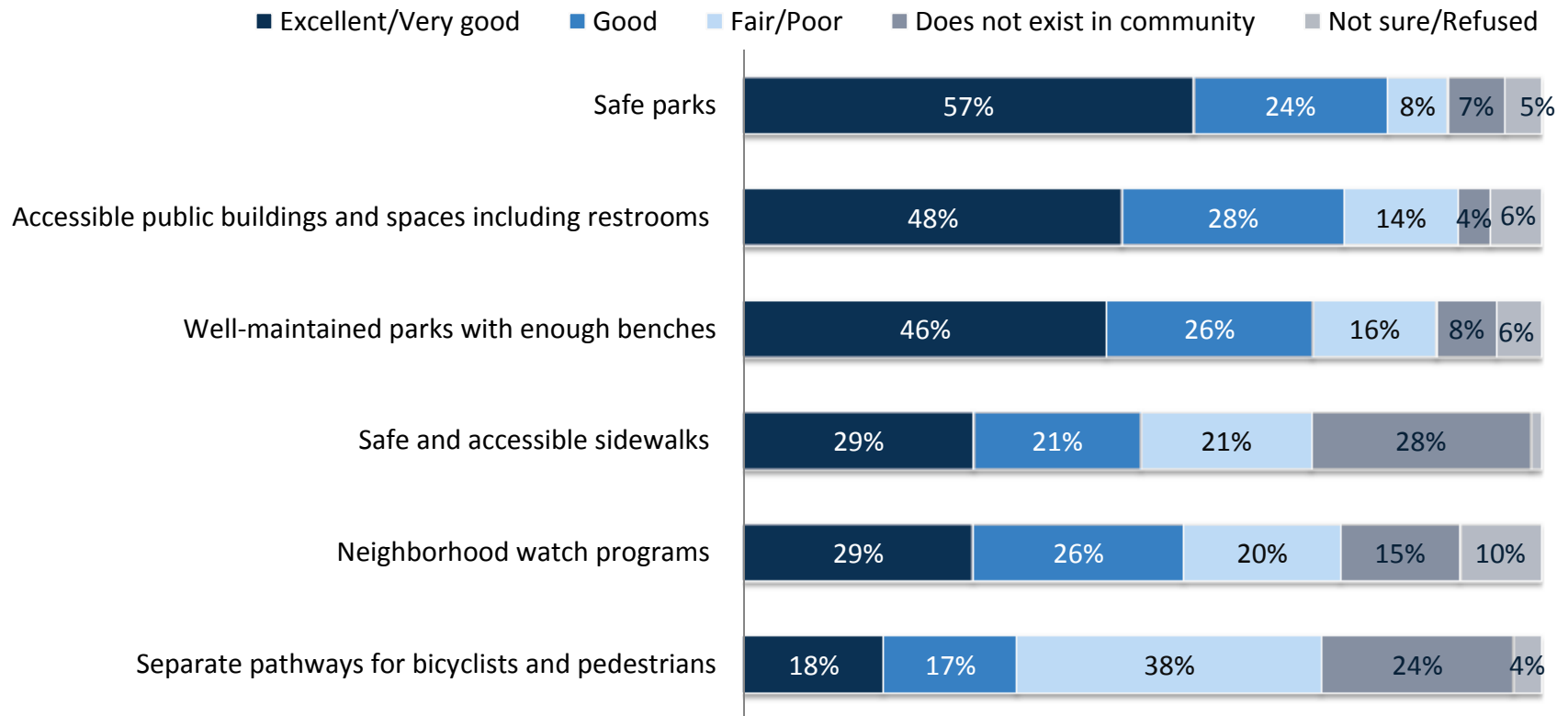


Question: Would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on having the following?

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of DeSoto County Residents Age 45+



# DeSoto County residents age 45+ rate their community excellent to good at having well-maintained, safe parks and accessible public facilities.



Question: Would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on having the following?

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of DeSoto County Residents Age 45+





# Most DeSoto County residents age 45+ drive themselves to get around their community.



Photo from iStock.com/diego\_cervo

90% drive themselves around  
22% have others drive them



Photo from iStock.com/Satoshi-K

14% walk

<1% use public transportation  
2% ride a bike



Photo from iStock.com/kali9

1% take a taxi  
2% use a special transportation service  
0% get around some other way



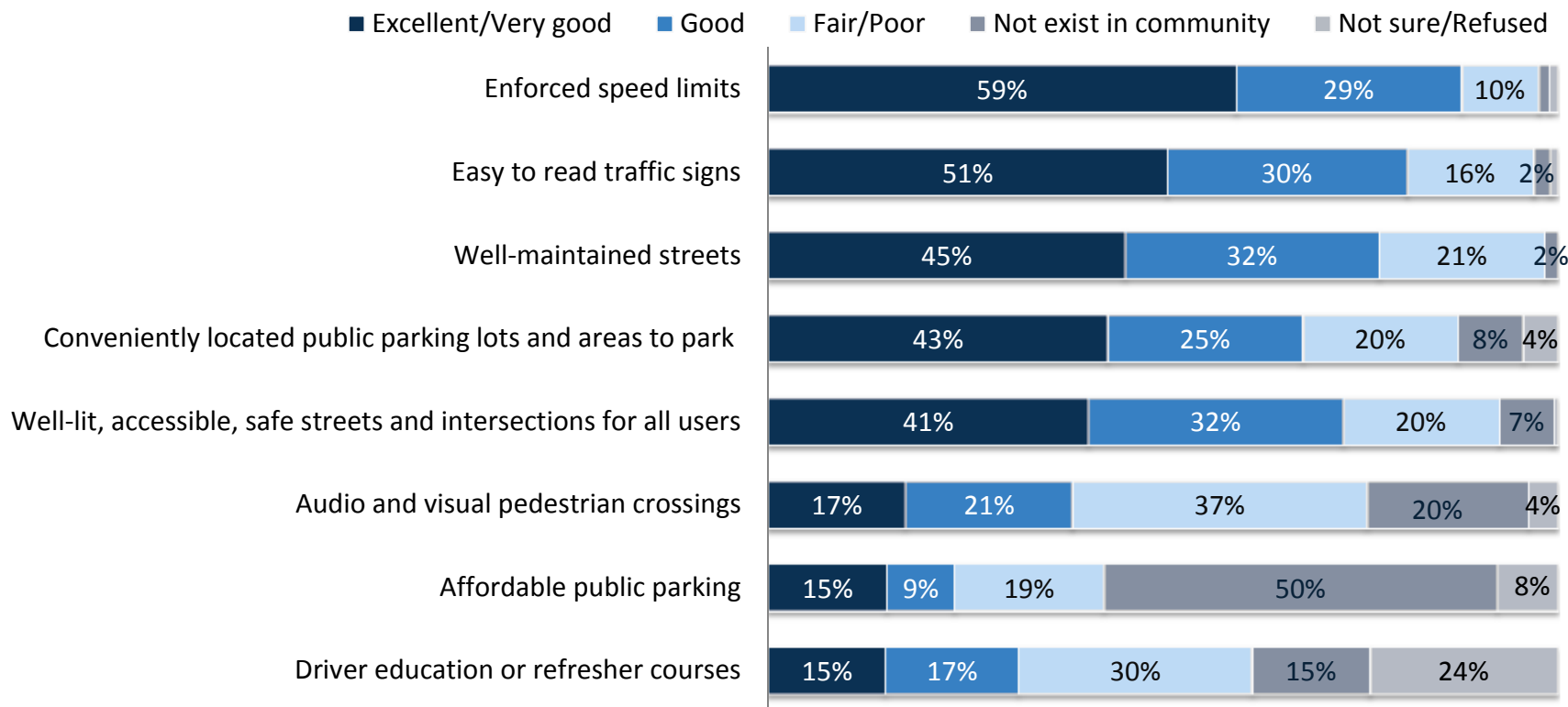
Photo from ScienceWorldReport.com

Question: How do you usually get around your community for things like shopping, visiting the doctor, running errands, or other things?

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of DeSoto County Residents Age 45+



# DeSoto County residents age 45+ rate their community excellent to good on having well-maintained, safe streets with enforced speed limits and ample places to park.



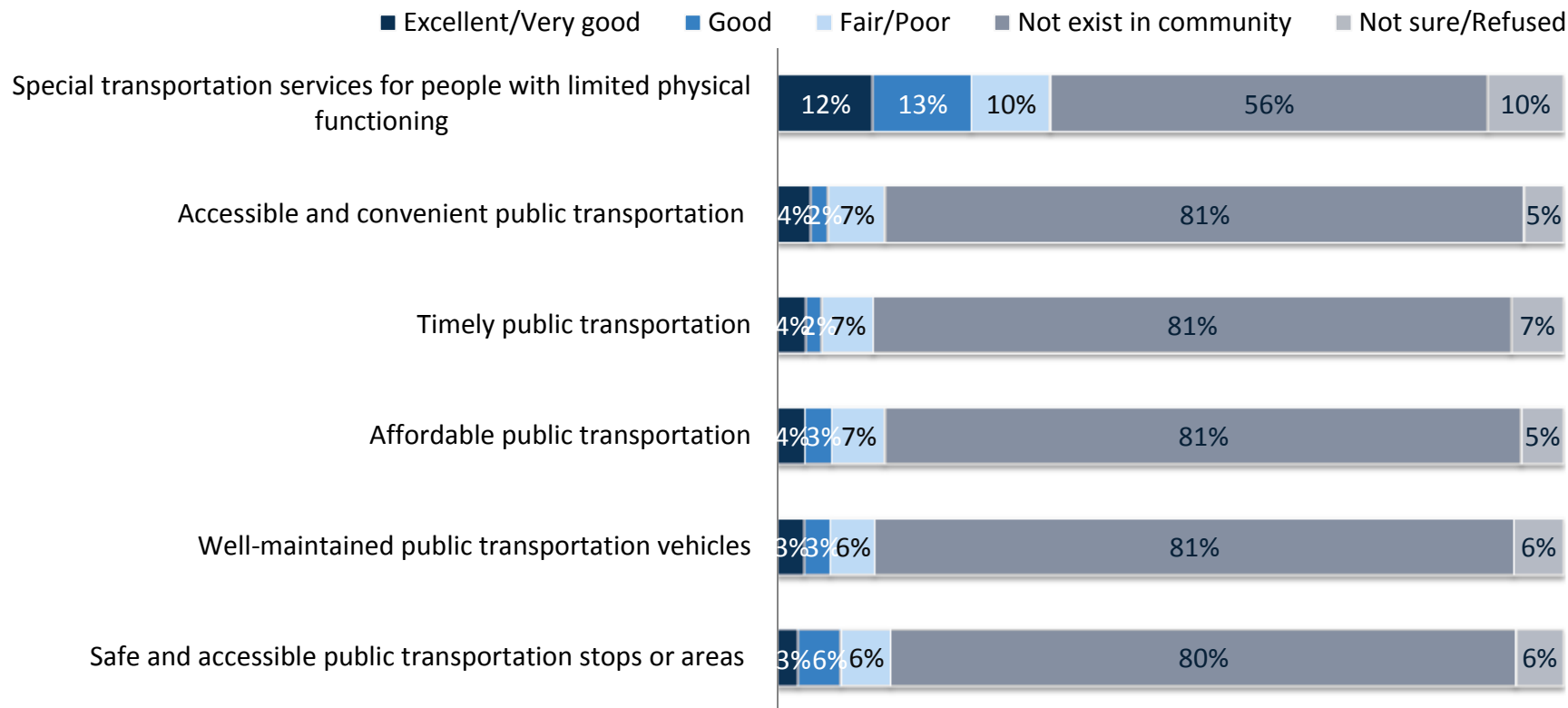
Question: Would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on having the following?

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of DeSoto County Residents Age 45+





# DeSoto County residents age 45+ indicate a lack of public transportation in their community.



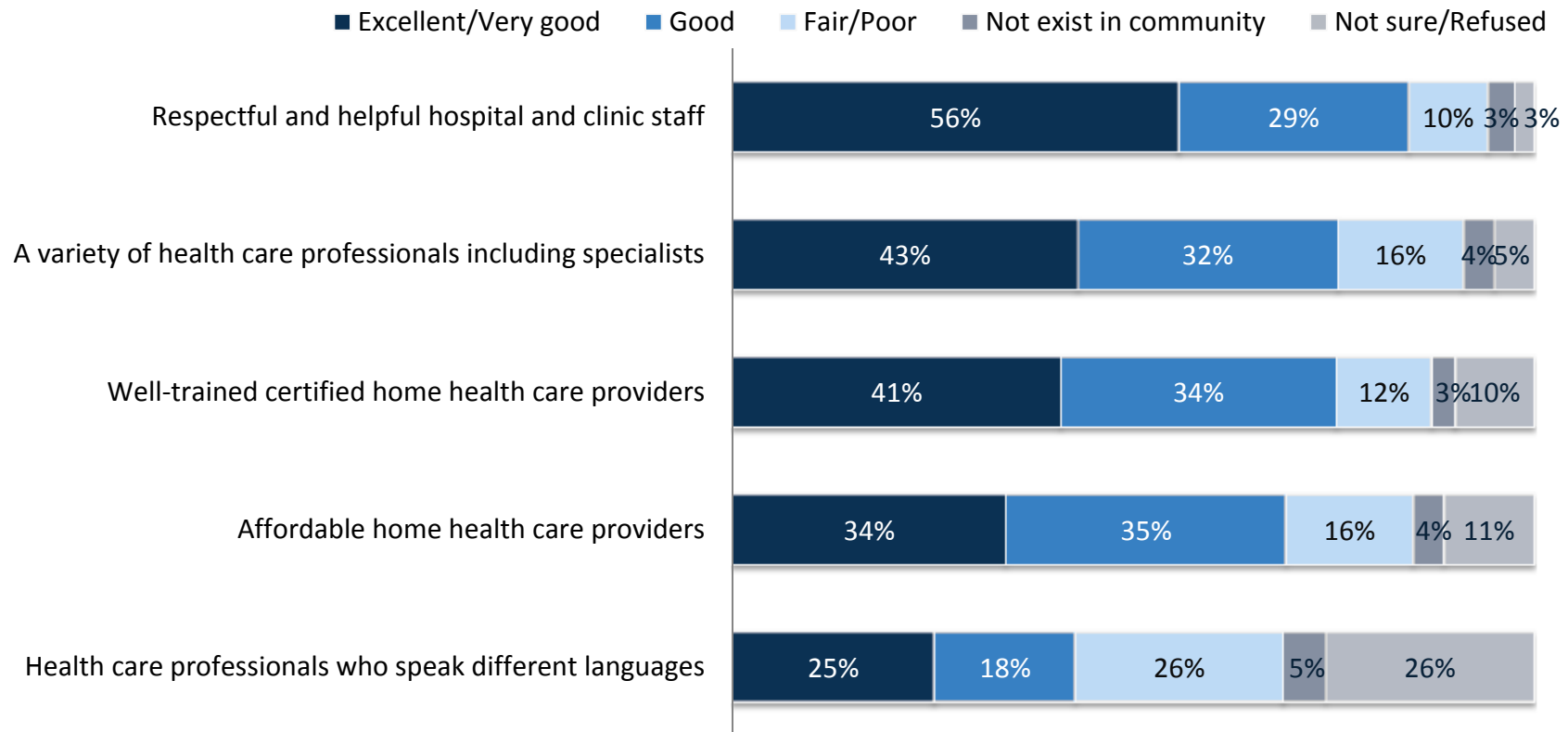
Question: Would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on having the following?

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of DeSoto County Residents Age 45+





The majority of DeSoto County residents age 45+ rate their community excellent to good on having a variety of helpful and respectful health care professionals and well-trained, certified and affordable home health care providers.



Question: Would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on having the following?

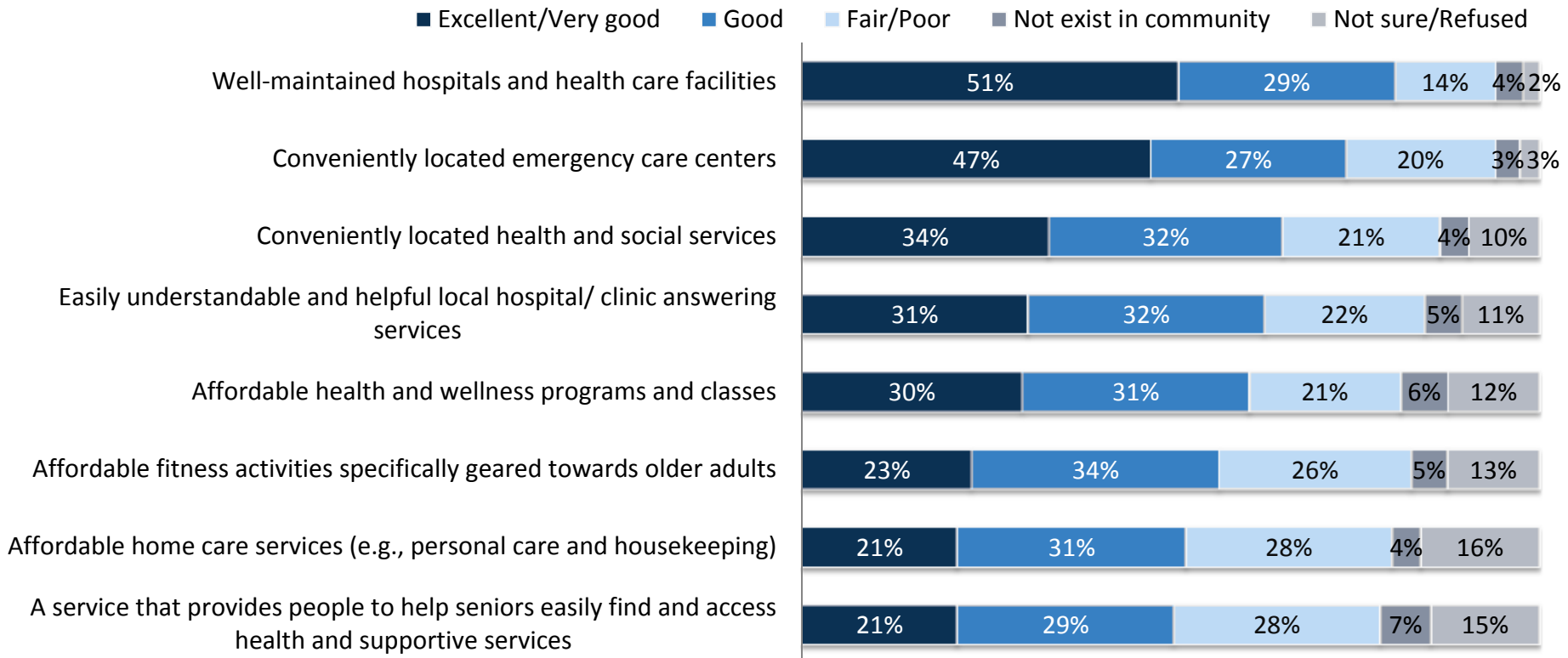
Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of DeSoto County Residents Age 45+







About half of DeSoto County residents age 45+ rate their community excellent to very good on having well-maintained and conveniently located health care facilities.



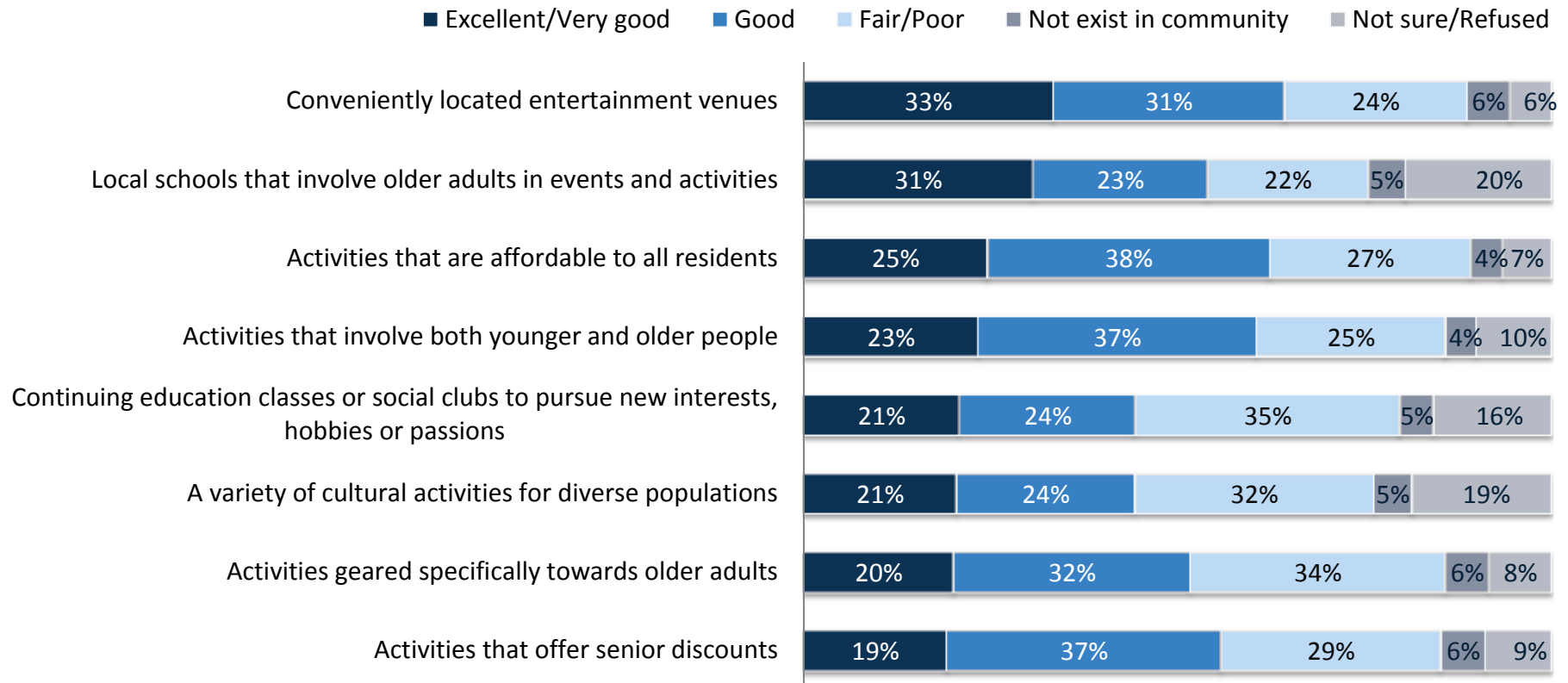
Question: Would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on having the following?

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of DeSoto County Residents Age 45+





## DeSoto County residents age 45+ rate their community excellent to good for having affordable and conveniently located social activities.

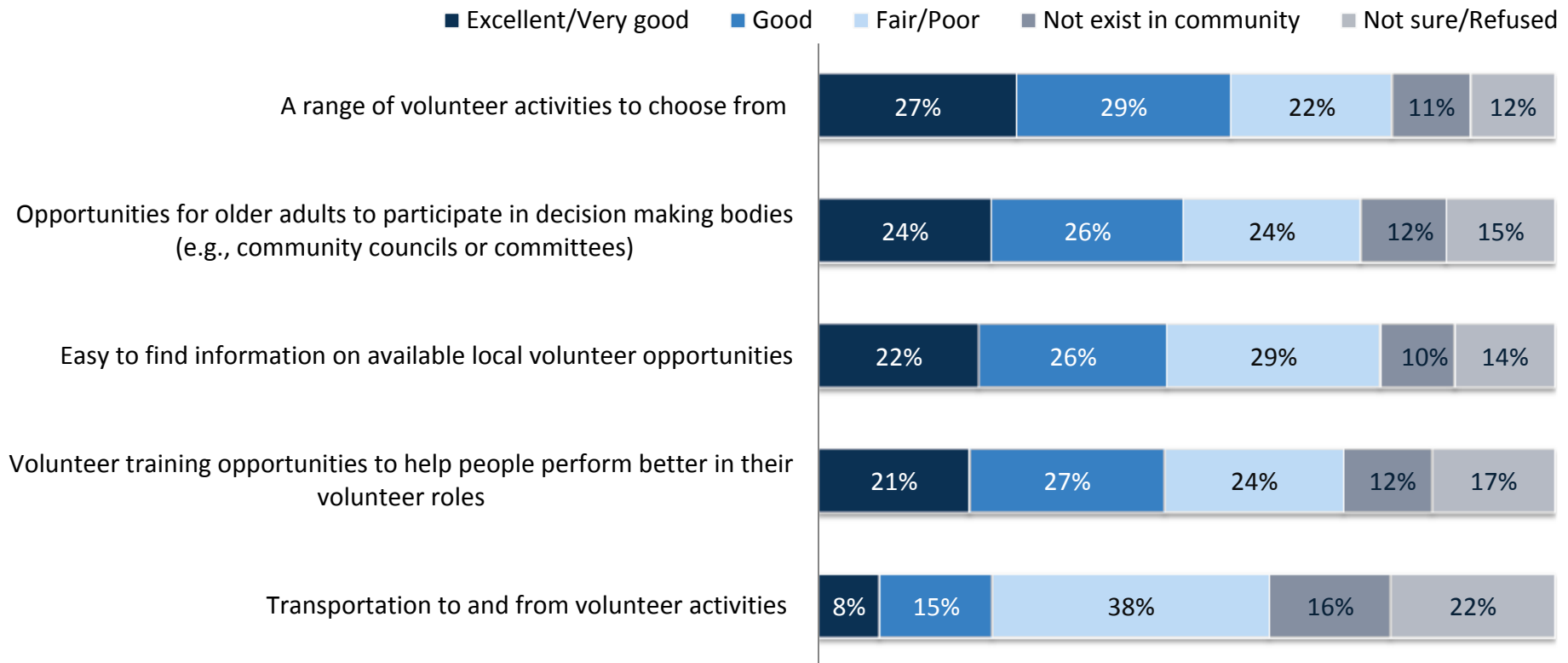


Question: Would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on having the following?

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of DeSoto County Residents Age 45+



About half of DeSoto County residents age 45+ rate their community positively on having access to a variety of volunteer activities although a plurality give a negative rating on having volunteer transportation.

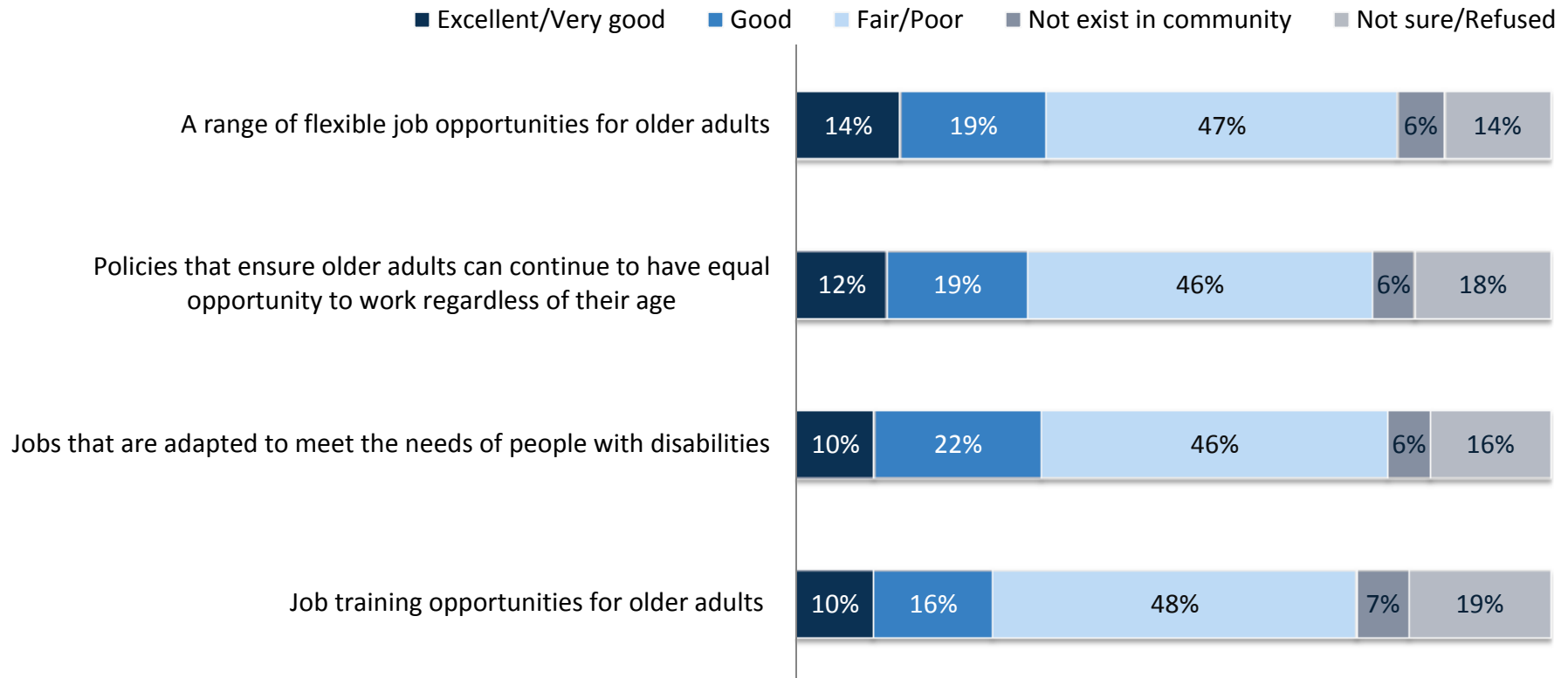


Question: Would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on having the following?

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of DeSoto County Residents Age 45+



Nearly half of DeSoto County residents age 45+ rate their community fair or poor for having employment opportunities for older residents.

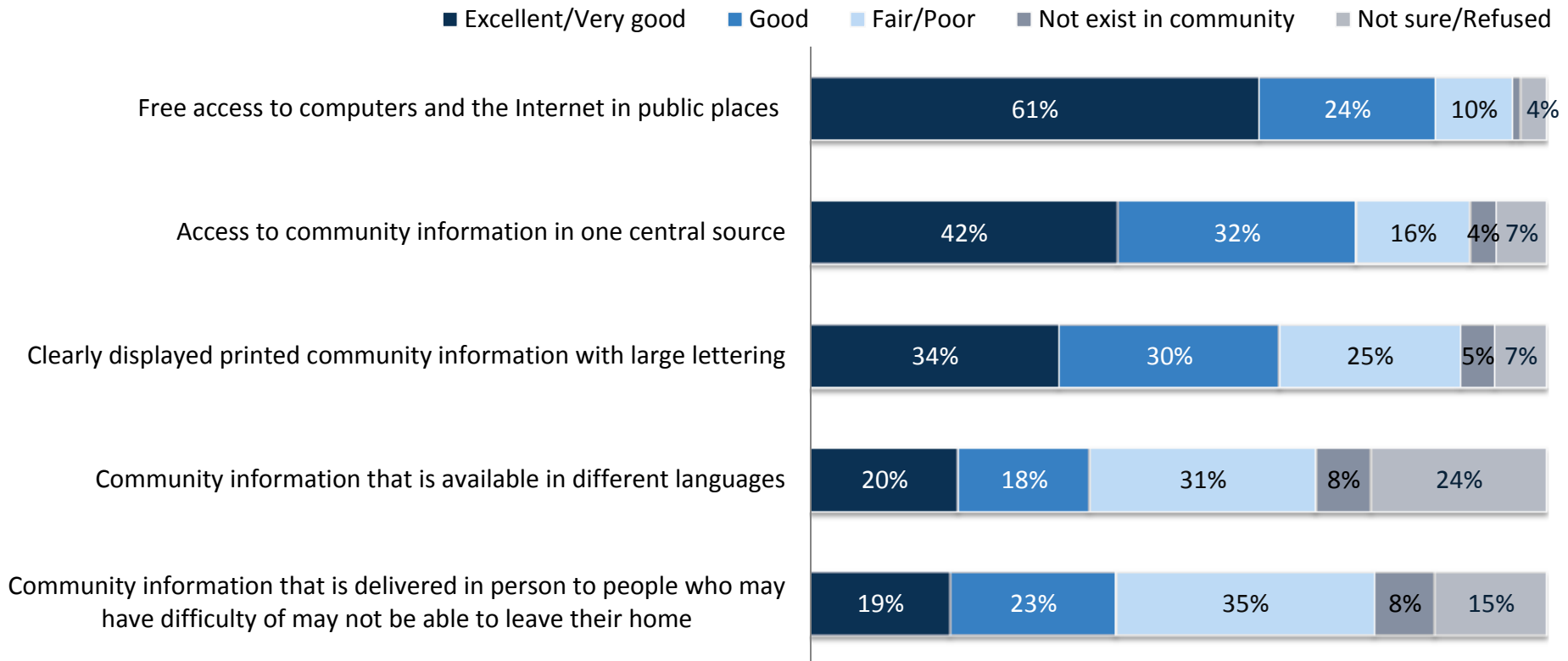


Question: Would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on having the following?

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of DeSoto County Residents Age 45+



The majority of DeSoto County residents age 45+ rate their community positively on having easy access to community information; however, residents are divided on having information available in different languages or for residents with limited mobility.



Question: Would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on having the following?

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of DeSoto County Residents Age 45+



# Respondent Profile: Demographics

Gender	
Male	46%
Female	54%

Age	
45-49	18%
50-54	12%
55-64	34%
65-74	21%
75-84	11%
85+	4%

Race/Ethnicity	
White or Caucasian	84%
Black	16%
Asian	1%
Native American or Alaskan Native	0%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0%
Hispanic	2%
Other	<1%

Marital Status	
Single, never married	13%
Married	57%
Not married, living with your partner or significant other	2%
Separated	1%
Divorced	11%
Widowed	16%

Health Status	
Excellent/Very good	39%
Good	44%
Fair/Poor	17%

Disability Status	
Yes, myself	19%
Yes, my spouse or partner	5%
Yes, both myself and my spouse or partner	1%
No	73%

AARP Membership	
Yes	26%
No	73%

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of DeSoto County Residents Age 45+

# Respondent Profile: Socioeconomic & Voting

## Education

0 to 12th grade, but with no diploma	16%
High school graduate or equivalent	34%
Post high school education, but with no degree	15%
2 year degree (Associate's Degree)	18%
4 year degree (Bachelor's Degree)	10%
Post graduate study, but with no degree	2%
Graduate or professional degree	6%

## Employment Status

Self-employed full-time	11%
Self-employed part-time	2%
Employed full-time	30%
Employed part-time	6%
Retired and not working at all	40%
Unemployed and looking for work	2%
Not in the labor force for other reasons	8%

## Income

< \$10,000	8%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	14%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	14%
\$30,000 - \$49,999	20%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	17%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	10%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	3%
\$150,000 +	2%

## Voting Behavior

Always	58%
Most of the time	23%
About half of the time	7%
Seldom	4%
Never	6%

## Political Party

Democrat	22%
Republican	55%
Independent	12%
Something else	<1%

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of DeSoto County Residents Age 45+



## Survey Methodology:

- A telephone and face-to-face survey was commissioned by AARP to assess public opinion among DeSoto County residents age 45+ about age-friendly and livable community topics in DeSoto County.
- Telephone and face-to-face interviewing was conducted by Alan Newman Research from June 21st to August 4th 2016.
- A total of 500 interviews were conducted. The margin of error for this sample is  $\pm 4.4\%$ .
- The telephone sample utilized RDD landline and cell phone records.

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of DeSoto County Residents Age 45+





## Contact Information:

- This deck, the annotated survey, the methodology report, and an infographic can be accessed at:  
[www.aarp.org/2016agefriendlycommunity](http://www.aarp.org/2016agefriendlycommunity)
- For more information about age-friendly work in DeSoto County, please contact Ivory Craig, AARP Mississippi, at [icraig@aarp.org](mailto:icraig@aarp.org).
- For more information about the survey, please contact Joanne Binette, AARP Research, at [jbinette@aarp.org](mailto:jbinette@aarp.org).