



# Livability for All in the City of Grand Rapids, MI

## An Age-Friendly Community Survey of Residents Age 50-Plus

AARP November 2016

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**AARP**<sup>®</sup>  
Real Possibilities  
**Research**

# 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

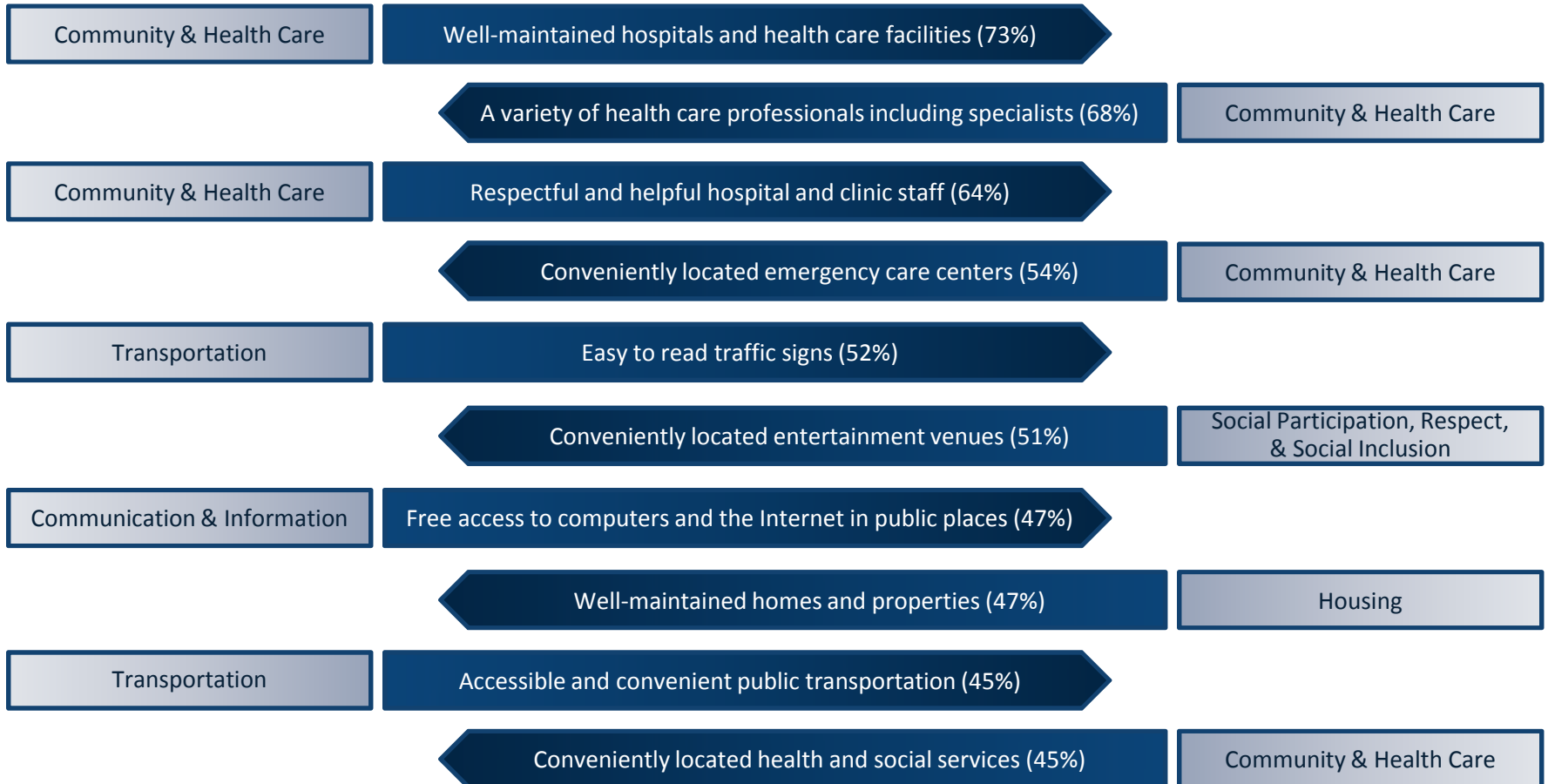


Communication  
& Information

Icons from FlatIcon.com

# Top Community Features

(% Excellent/Very Good)



Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of City of Grand Rapids Residents Age 50+

# Bottom Community Features

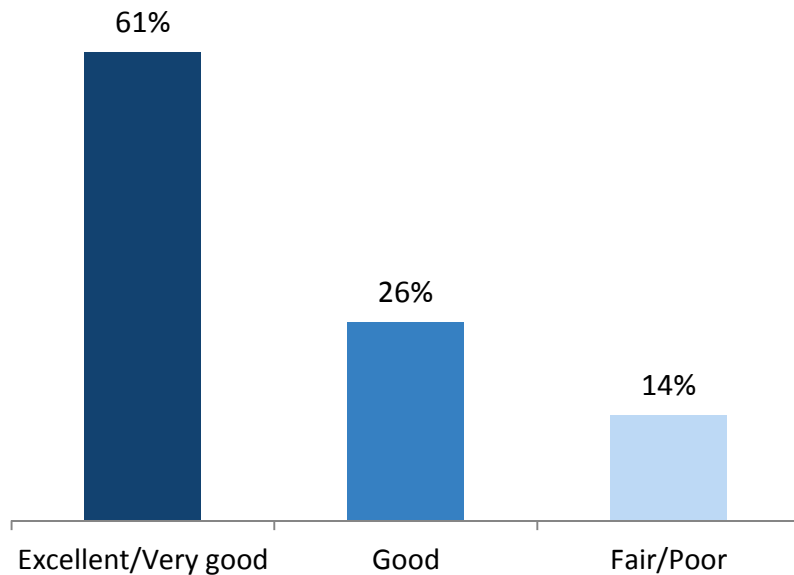
(% Fair/Poor)



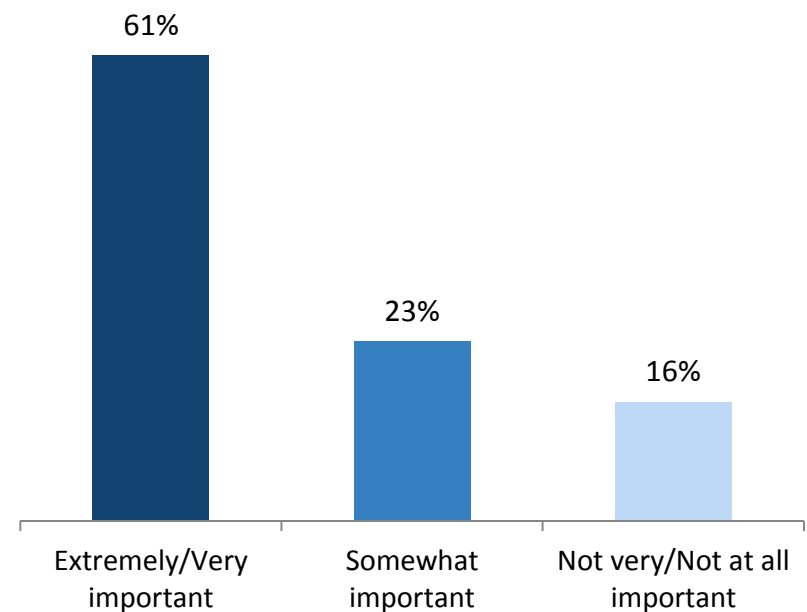
Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of City of Grand Rapids Residents Age 50+

The majority of City of Grand Rapids residents age 50+ 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



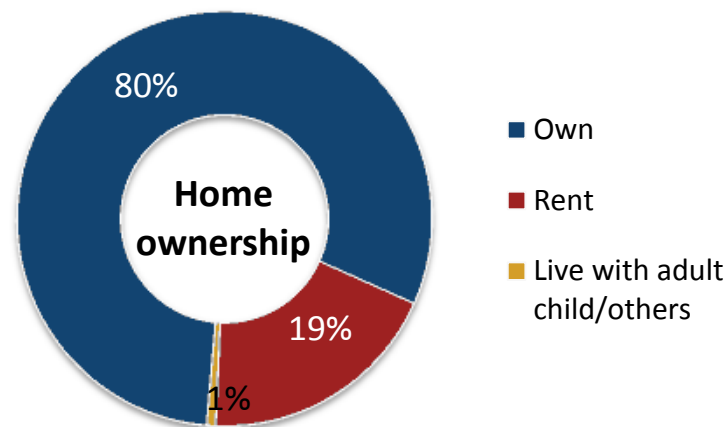
Importance of  
Remaining in Current Community



Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of City of Grand Rapids Residents Age 50+

Most City of Grand Rapids residents age 50+ own single family homes.

Type of Home	
A single family house	77%
An apartment	10%
A condominium/Coop	5%
A two family house that has two separate living units	4%
Senior housing/Assisted living facility	4%
A townhouse/Row house	1%
A mobile home	<1%
Other	0%



61% of respondents say remaining in their current home is extremely/very important.

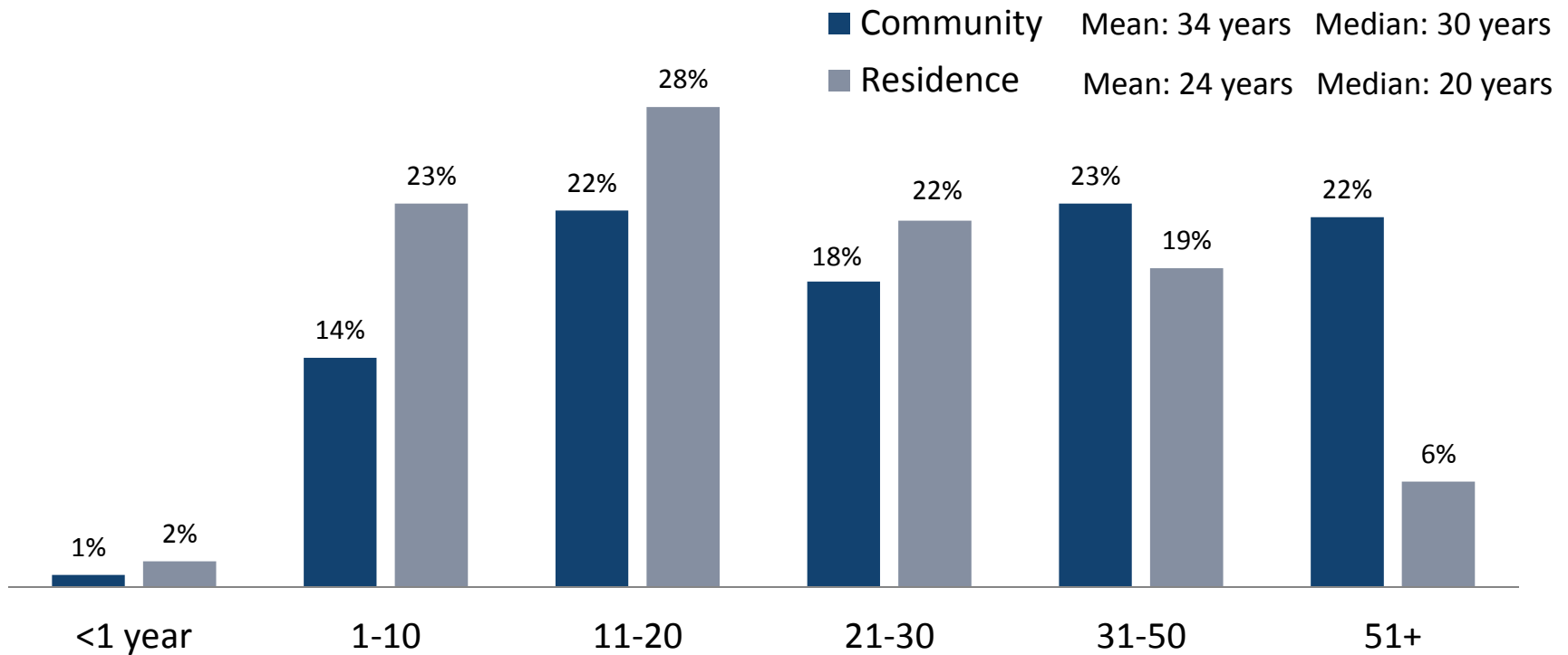


24% of respondents say they need to make major repairs, home modifications, or changes



Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of City of Grand Rapids Residents Age 50+

City of Grand Rapids residents age 50+ have lived in their home for an average of 24 years and have lived in their community even longer, an average of 34 years.



Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of City of Grand Rapids Residents Age 50+

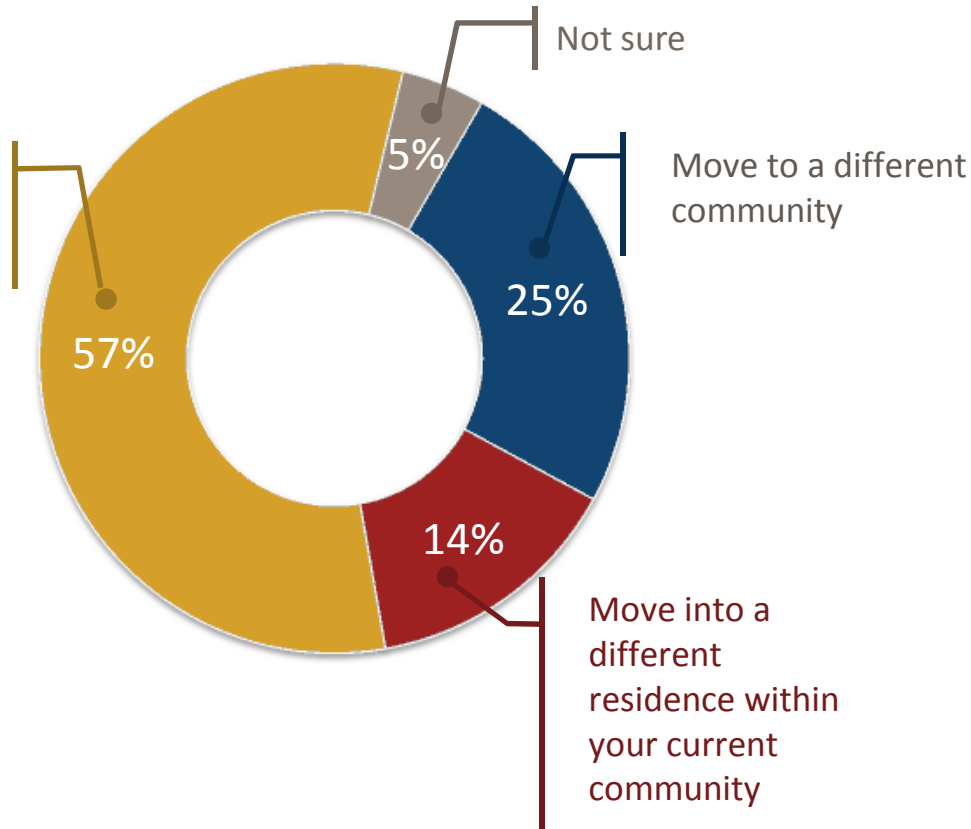


# The majority of City of Grand Rapids residents age 50+ expect to stay in their home or community as they get older.



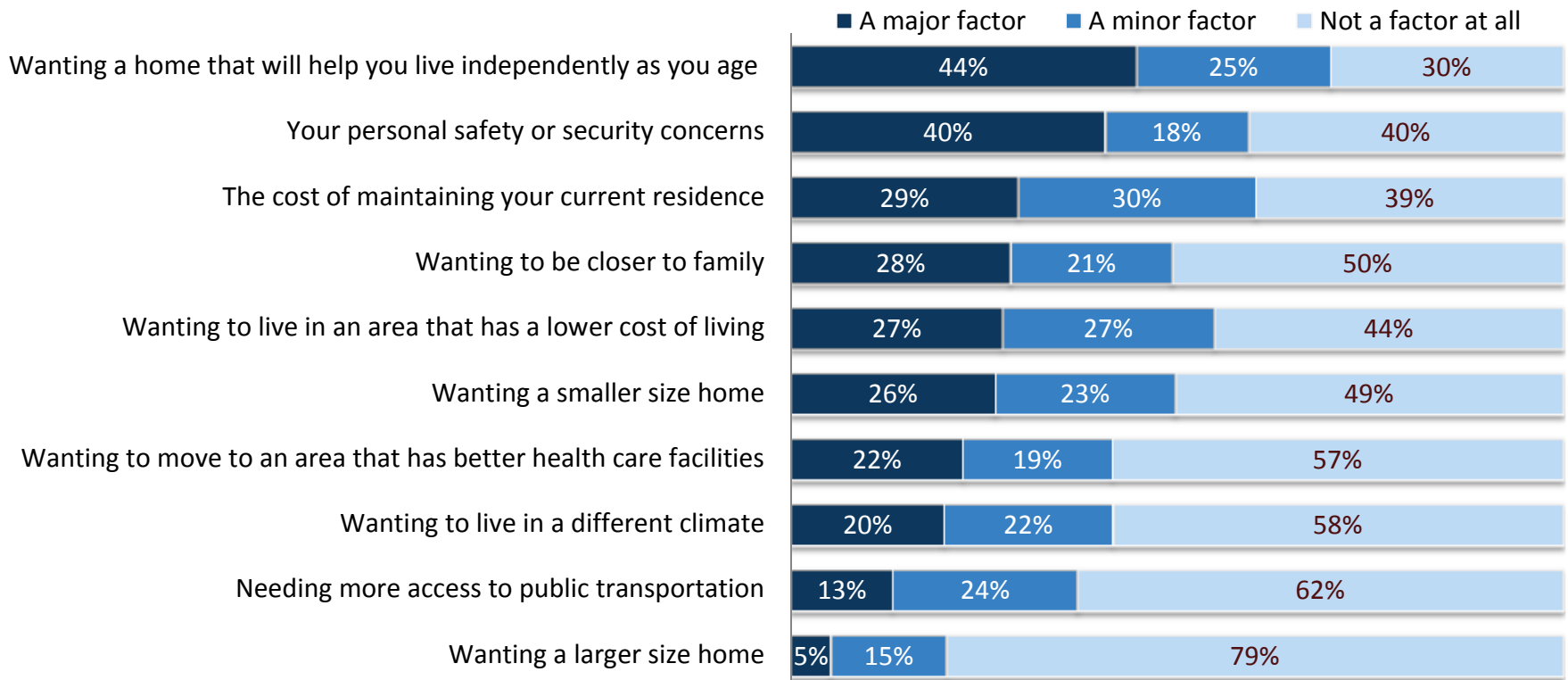
Photo from <http://www.rpsrelocation.com>

Stay in your current residence and never move



Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of City of Grand Rapids Residents Age 50+

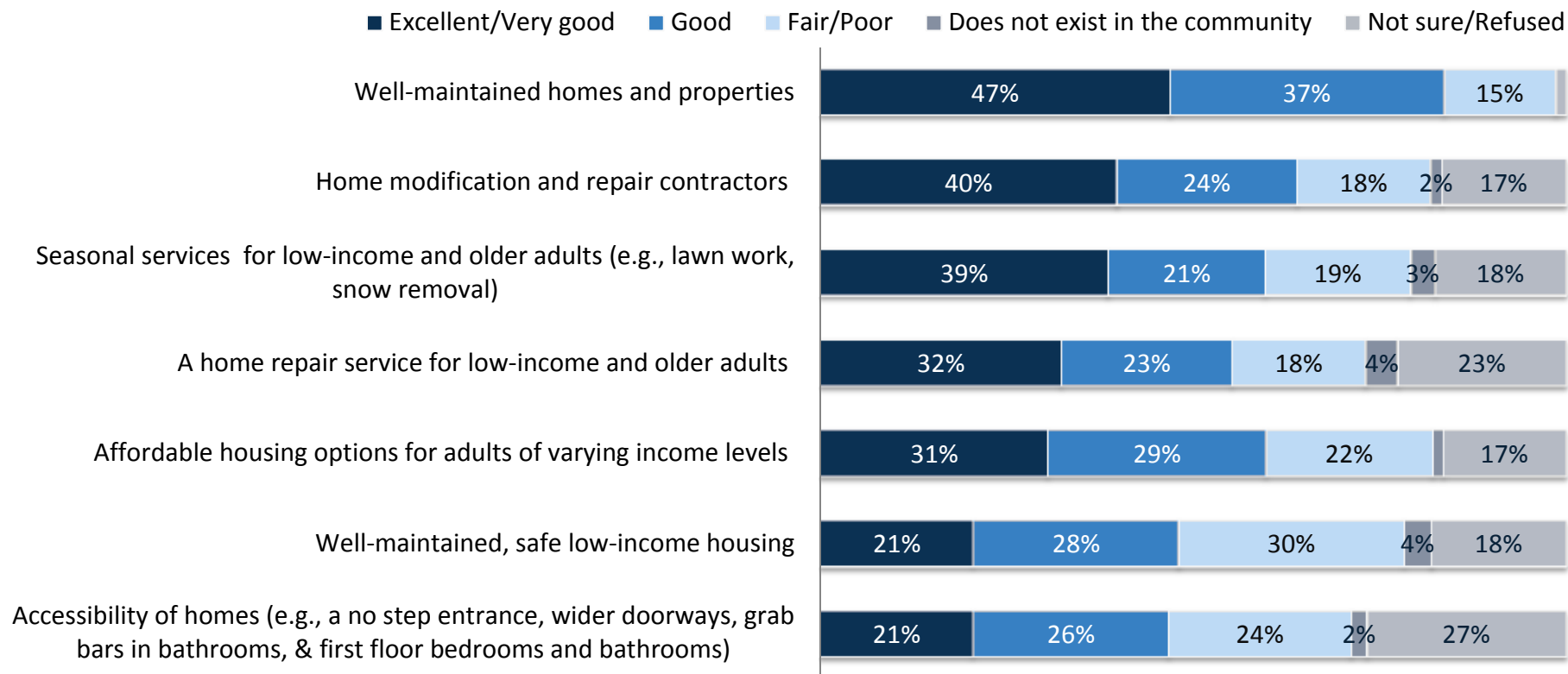
# Age-friendly housing, safety, and affordability are influential factors for City of Grand Rapids residents age 50+ considering moving when they get older.



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 City of Grand Rapids Residents Age 50+

# City of Grand Rapids residents age 50+ rate their community positively on having well-maintained homes and properties as well as good home modification and repair contractors.

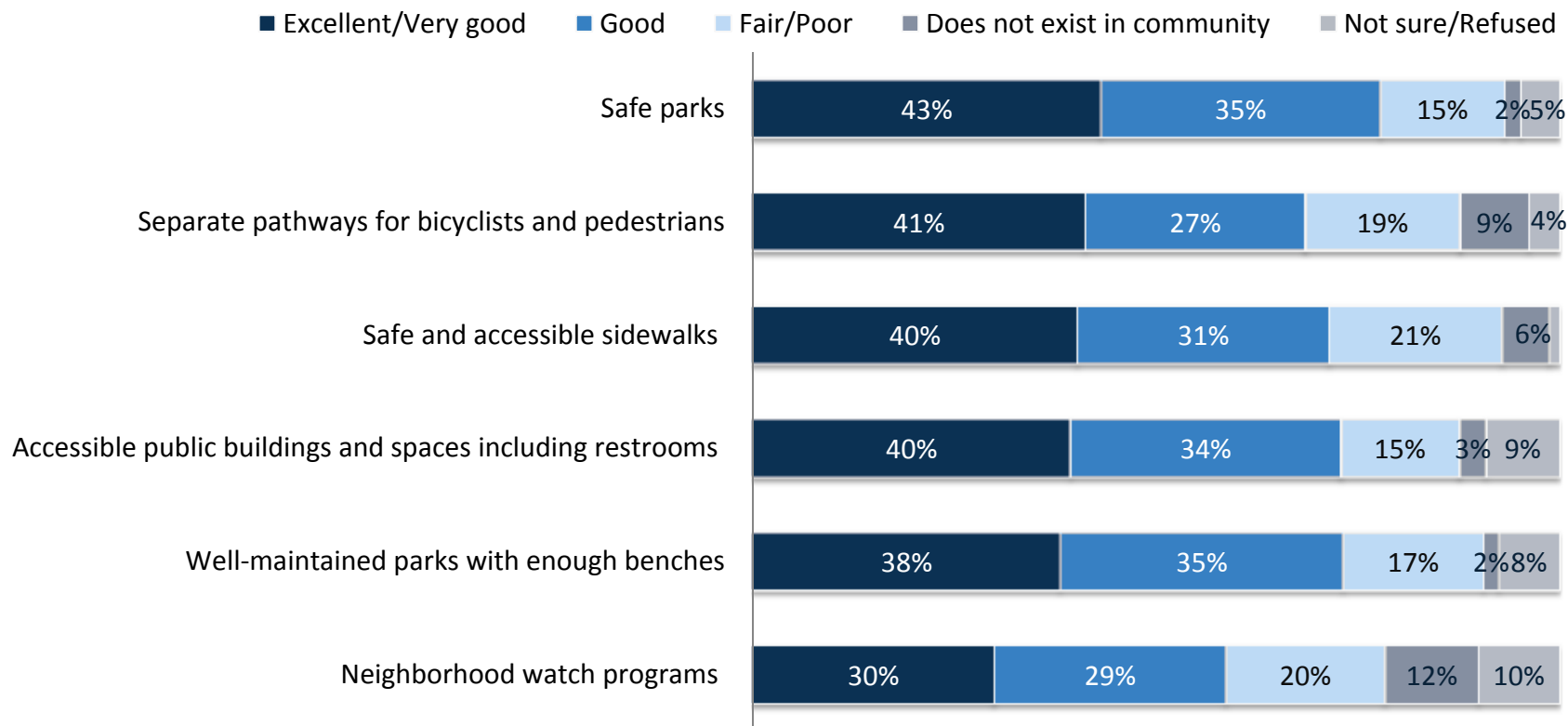


Question: Would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on having the following?

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of City of Grand Rapids Residents Age 50+



City of Grand Rapids residents age 50+ rate their community excellent to good at having well-maintained, safe parks and sidewalks, separate pathways for bicyclists and pedestrians, 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 City of Grand Rapids Residents Age 50+





# Most City of Grand Rapids residents age 50+ drive themselves to get around their community.



Photo from iStock.com/diego\_cervo

84% drive themselves around  
33% have others drive them



Photo from iStock.com/Satoshi-K

44% walk

24% use public transportation

25% ride a bike



Photo from iStock.com/kali9

10% take a taxi  
9% use a special transportation service  
<1% get around some other way



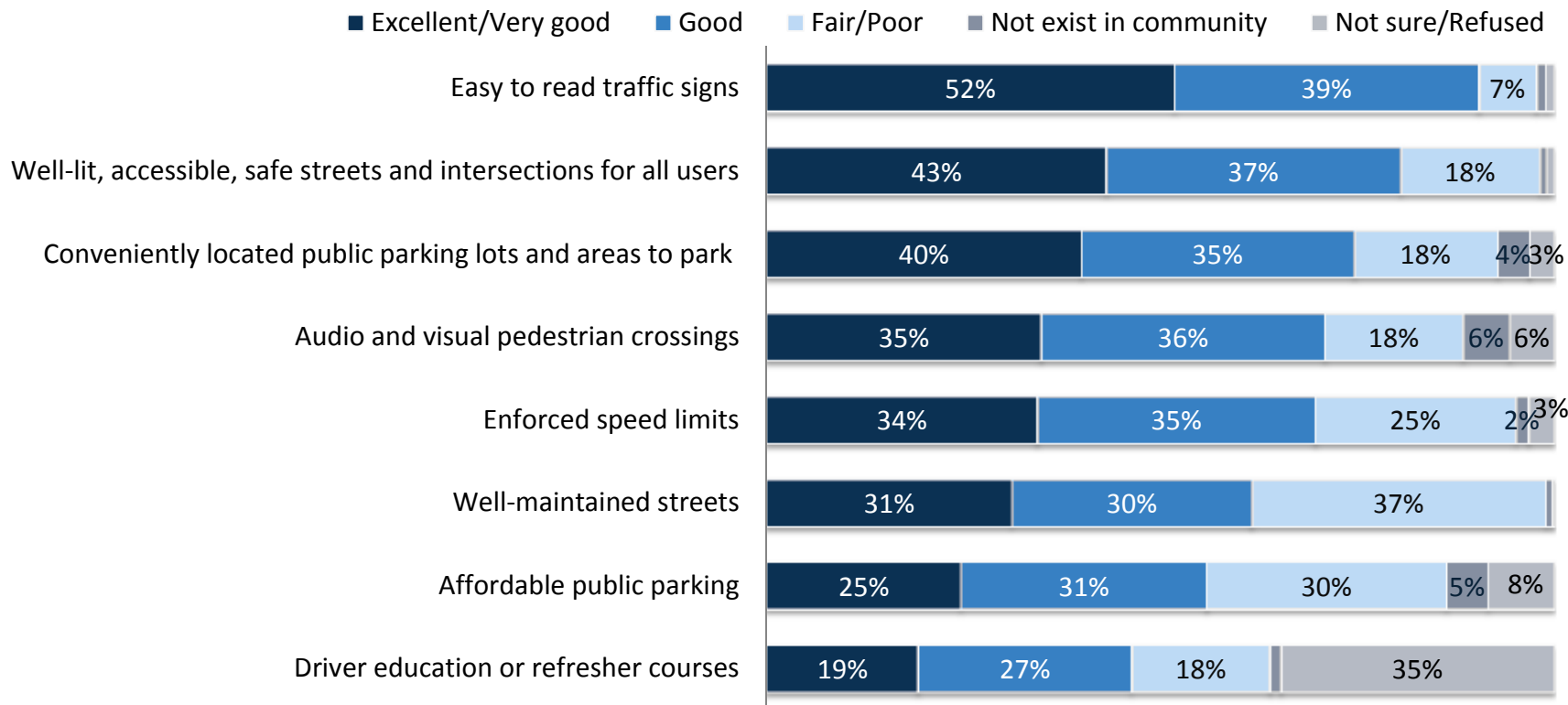
Photo from ScienceWorldReport.com

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 City of Grand Rapids Residents Age 50+



# City of Grand Rapids residents age 50+ rate their community excellent to good on having well-maintained, safe streets with easy to read traffic signs and ample places to park.

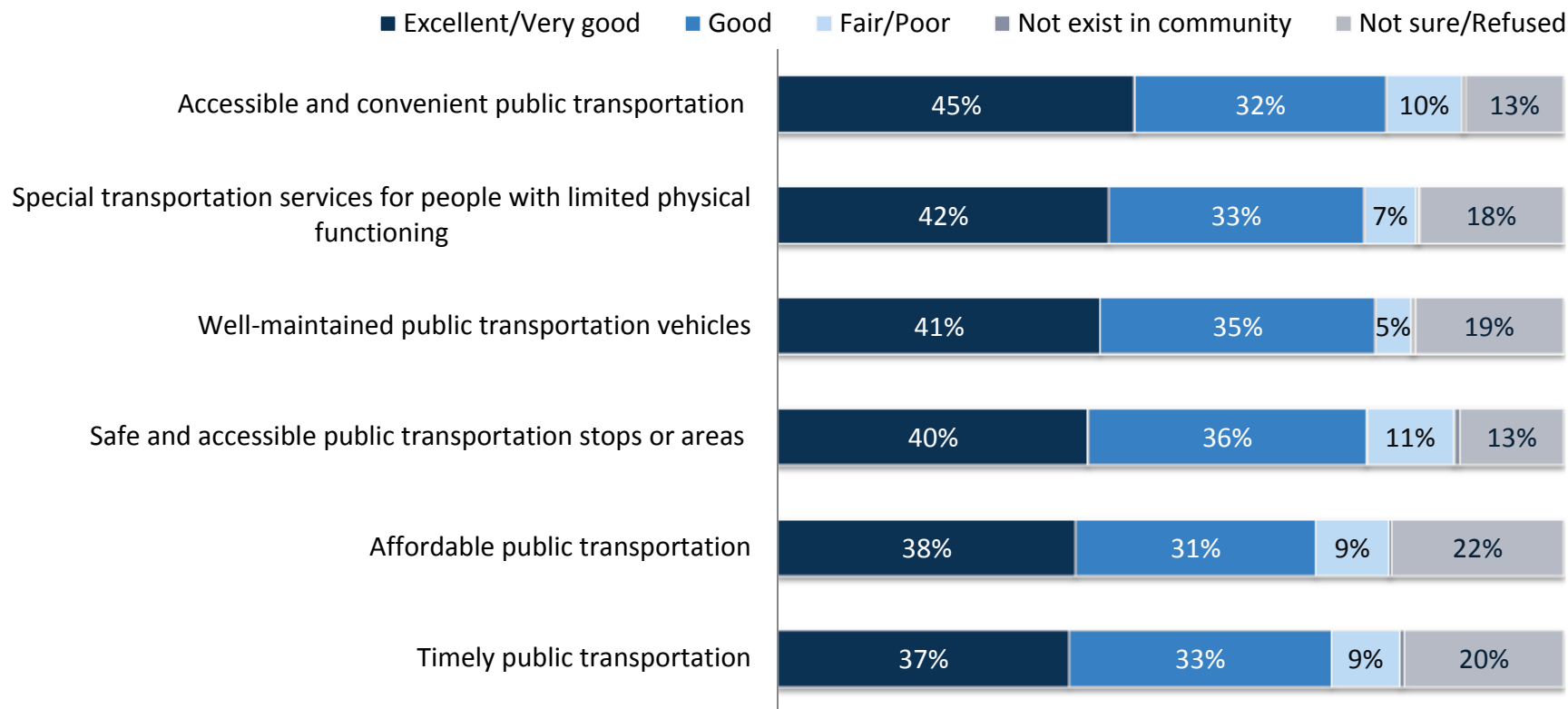


Question: Would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on having the following?

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of City of Grand Rapids Residents Age 50+



City of Grand Rapids residents age 50+ feel their community offers excellent to good special transportation options and accessible, well-maintained, safe, and affordable public transportation.

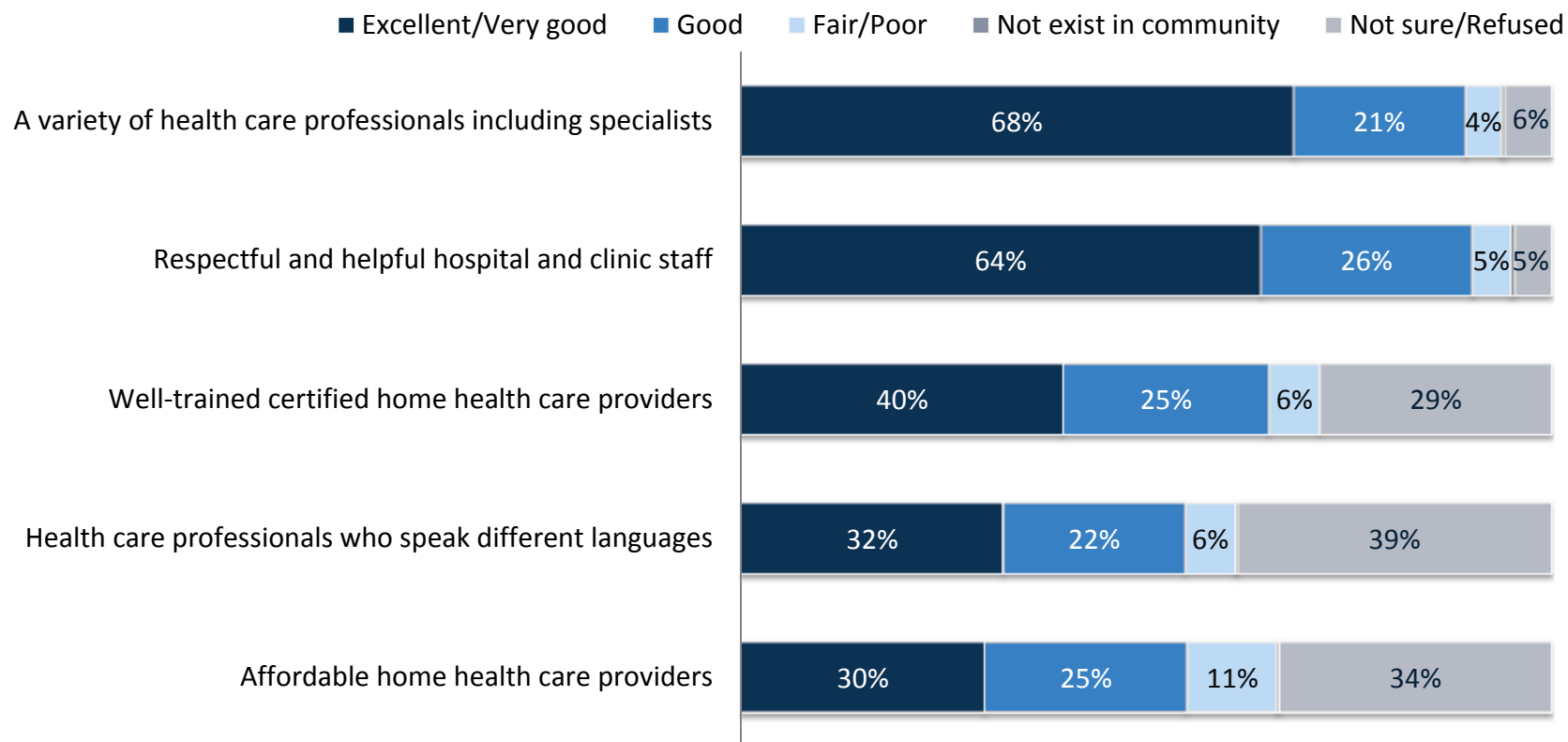


Question: Would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on having the following?

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of City of Grand Rapids Residents Age 50+



The majority of City of Grand Rapids residents age 50+ rate their community excellent to very good on having a variety of helpful and respectful health care professionals.



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

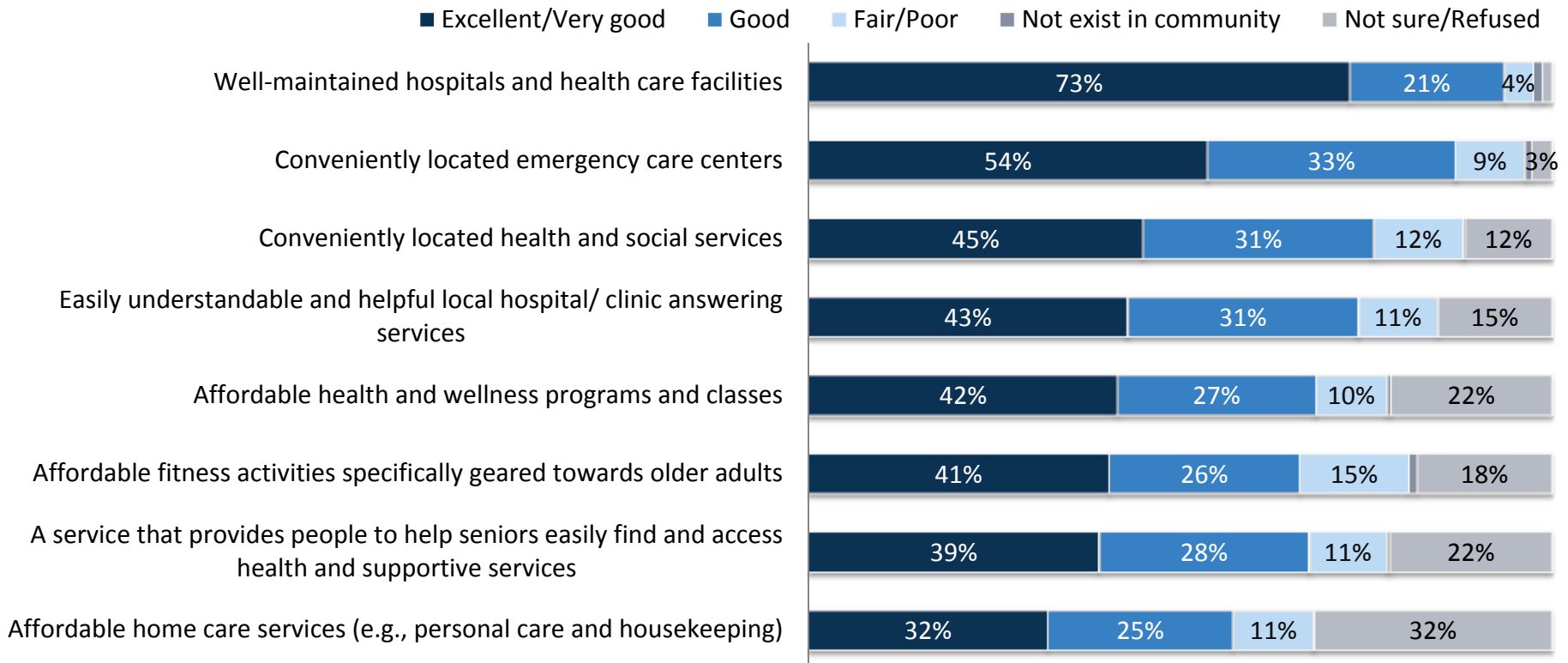
Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of City of Grand Rapids Residents Age 50+







# City of Grand Rapids residents age 50+ rate their community excellent to very good on having well-maintained and conveniently located health care facilities.



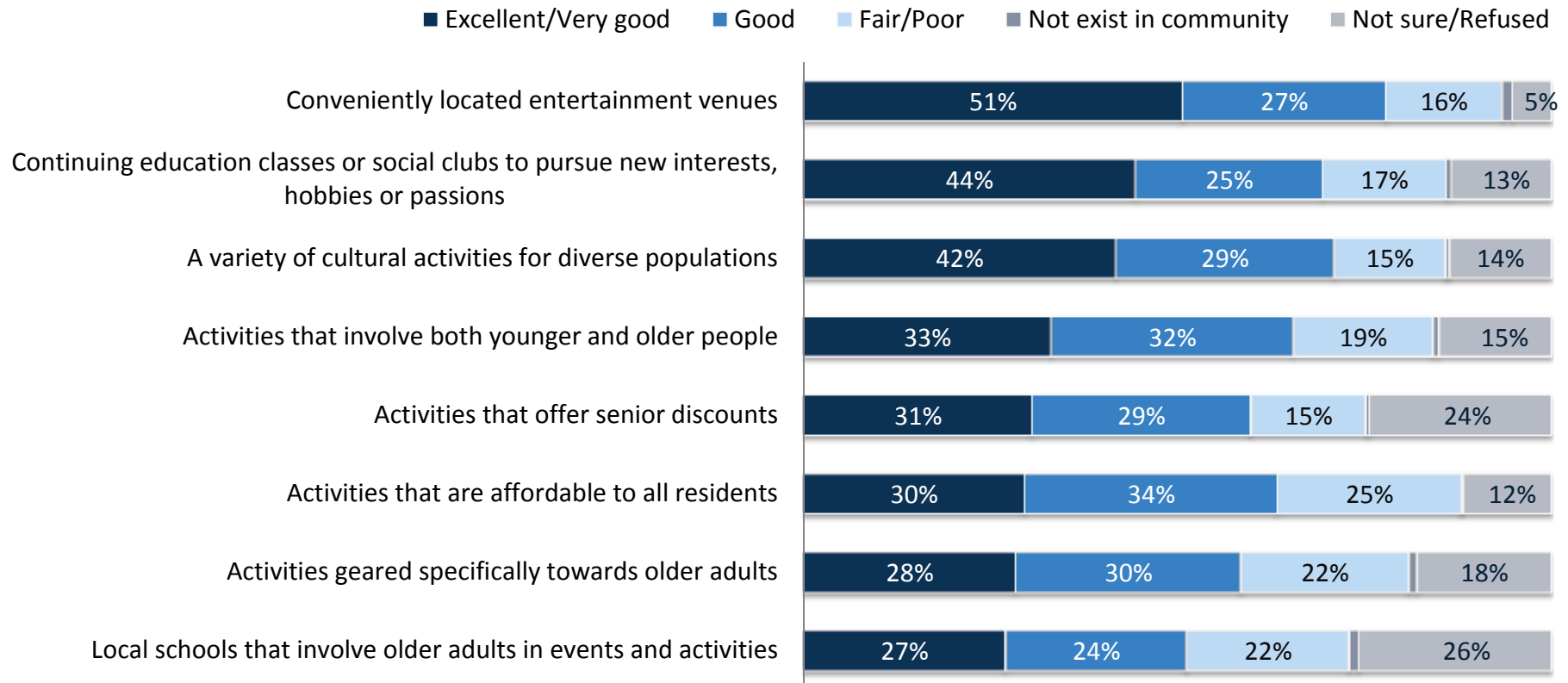
Question: Would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on having the following?

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of City of Grand Rapids Residents Age 50+





City of Grand Rapids residents age 50+ say their community has an excellent to good variety of affordable social activities at convenient locations.

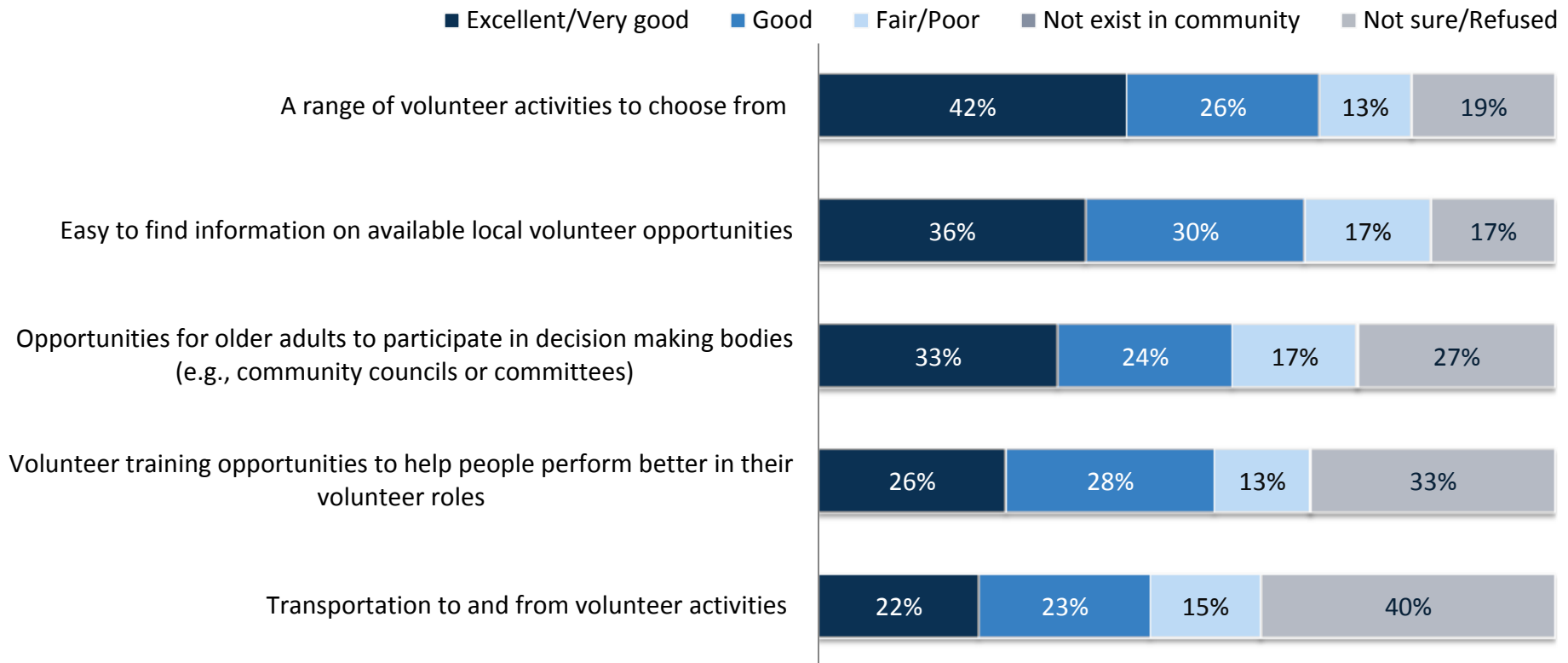


Question: Would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on having the following?

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of City of Grand Rapids Residents Age 50+



The majority of City of Grand Rapids residents age 50+ rate their community positively on having access to a variety of volunteer activities that are easy to find.

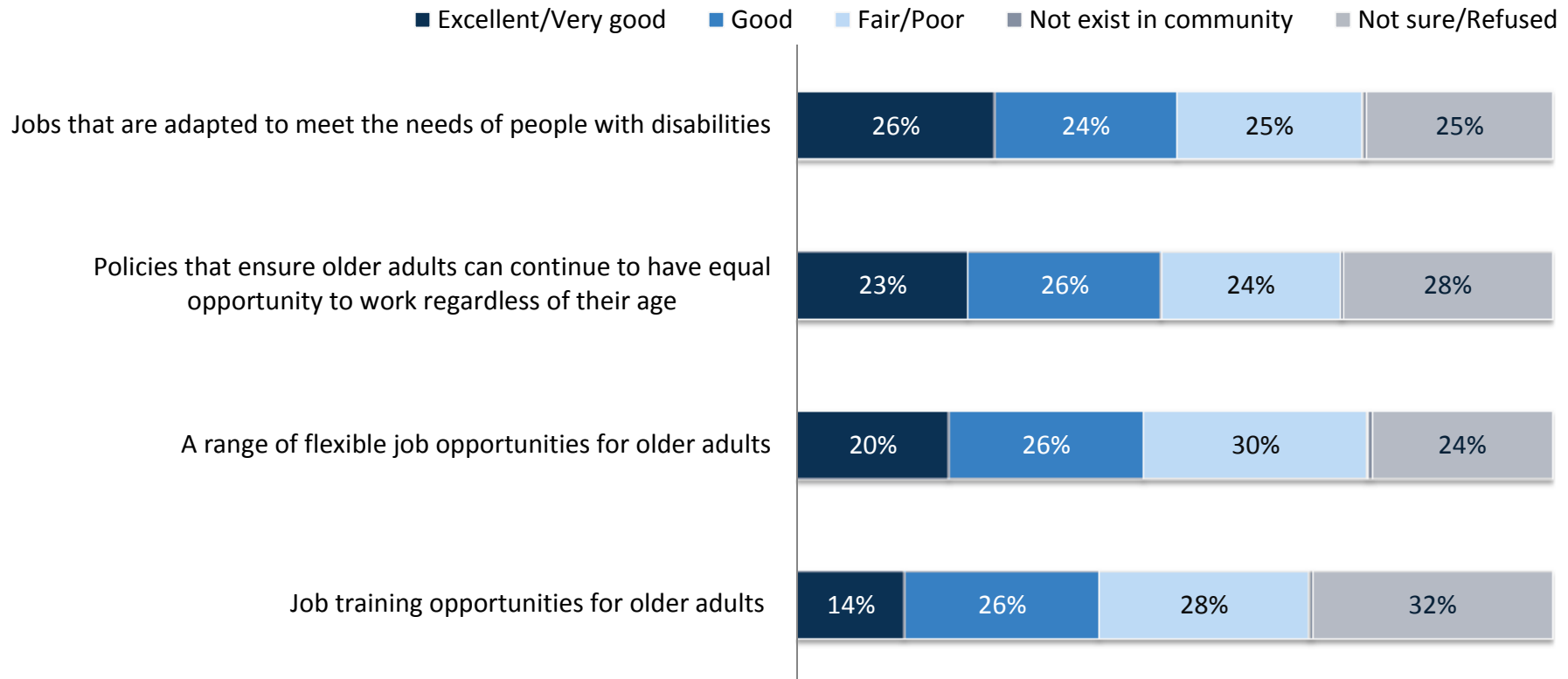


Question: Would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on having the following?

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of City of Grand Rapids Residents Age 50+



City of Grand Rapids residents age 50+ are somewhat divided in their opinions on how well their community is doing in terms of having employment opportunities for older residents.

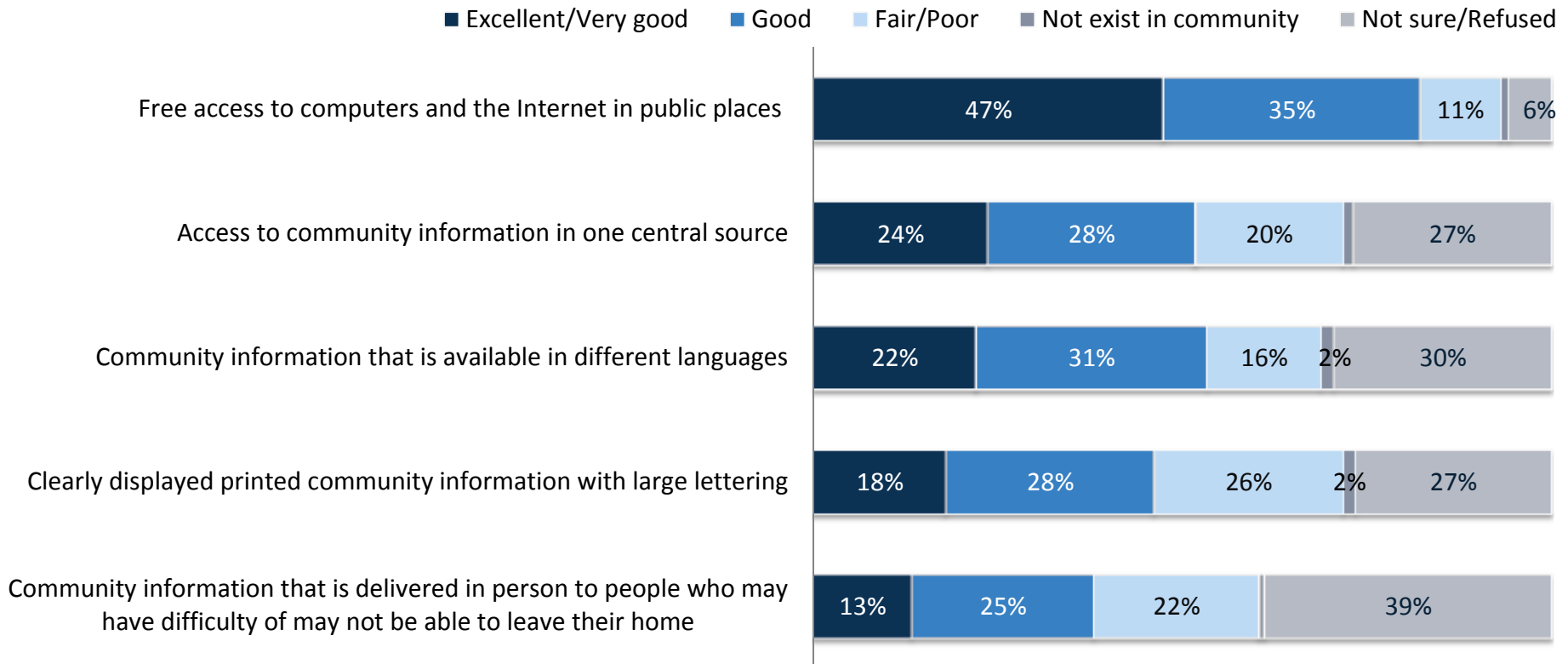


Question: Would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on having the following?

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of City of Grand Rapids Residents Age 50+



The majority of City of Grand Rapids residents age 50+ rate their community positively on having easy access to community information.



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 City of Grand Rapids Residents Age 50+



# Respondent Profile: Demographics

Gender	
Male	45%
Female	55%

Age	
50-54	12%
55-64	45%
65-74	19%
75-84	15%
85+	9%

Race/Ethnicity	
White or Caucasian	77%
Black	18%
Asian	1%
Native American or Alaskan Native	1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0%
Hispanic	4%
Other	2%

Marital Status	
Single, never married	16%
Married	46%
Not married, living with your partner or significant other	1%
Separated	1%
Divorced	17%
Widowed	18%

Health Status	
Excellent/Very good	54%
Good	32%
Fair/Poor	13%

Disability Status	
Yes, myself	20%
Yes, my spouse or partner	2%
Yes, both myself and my spouse or partner	4%
No	73%

AARP Membership	
Yes	31%
No	67%

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of City of Grand Rapids Residents Age 50+

# Respondent Profile: Socioeconomic & Voting

## Education

0 to 12th grade, but with no diploma	3%
High school graduate or equivalent	19%
Post high school education, but with no degree	18%
2 year degree (Associate's Degree)	17%
4 year degree (Bachelor's Degree)	25%
Post graduate study, but with no degree	4%
Graduate or professional degree	14%

## Employment Status

Self-employed full-time	4%
Self-employed part-time	3%
Employed full-time	23%
Employed part-time	7%
Retired and not working at all	50%
Unemployed and looking for work	1%
Not in the labor force for other reasons	11%

## Income

< \$10,000	5%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	14%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	14%
\$30,000 - \$49,999	19%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	17%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	9%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	6%
\$150,000 +	1%

## Voting Behavior

Always	64%
Most of the time	25%
About half of the time	6%
Seldom	1%
Never	1%

## Political Party

Democrat	40%
Republican	27%
Independent	25%
Something else	1%

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of City of Grand Rapids Residents Age 50+



## Survey Methodology:

- A telephone survey was commissioned by AARP to assess public opinion among City of Grand Rapids residents age 50+ about age-friendly and livable community topics in the City of Grand Rapids.
- Telephone interviewing was conducted by Alan Newman Research from July 15th to July 26th 2016.
- A total of 511 interviews were conducted. The margin of error for this sample is  $\pm 4.3\%$ .
- The sample utilized RDD landline and cell phone records.

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of City of Grand Rapids Residents Age 50+





## 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 the City of Grand Rapids, please contact Karen Kafantaris, AARP Michigan, at [kkafantaris@aarp.org](mailto:kkafantaris@aarp.org).
- For more information about the survey, please contact Joanne Binette, AARP Research, at [jbinette@aarp.org](mailto:jbinette@aarp.org).