



# Livability for All in Mecklenburg County, NC

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

AARP September 2016

<https://doi.org/10.26419/res.00132.031>



**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

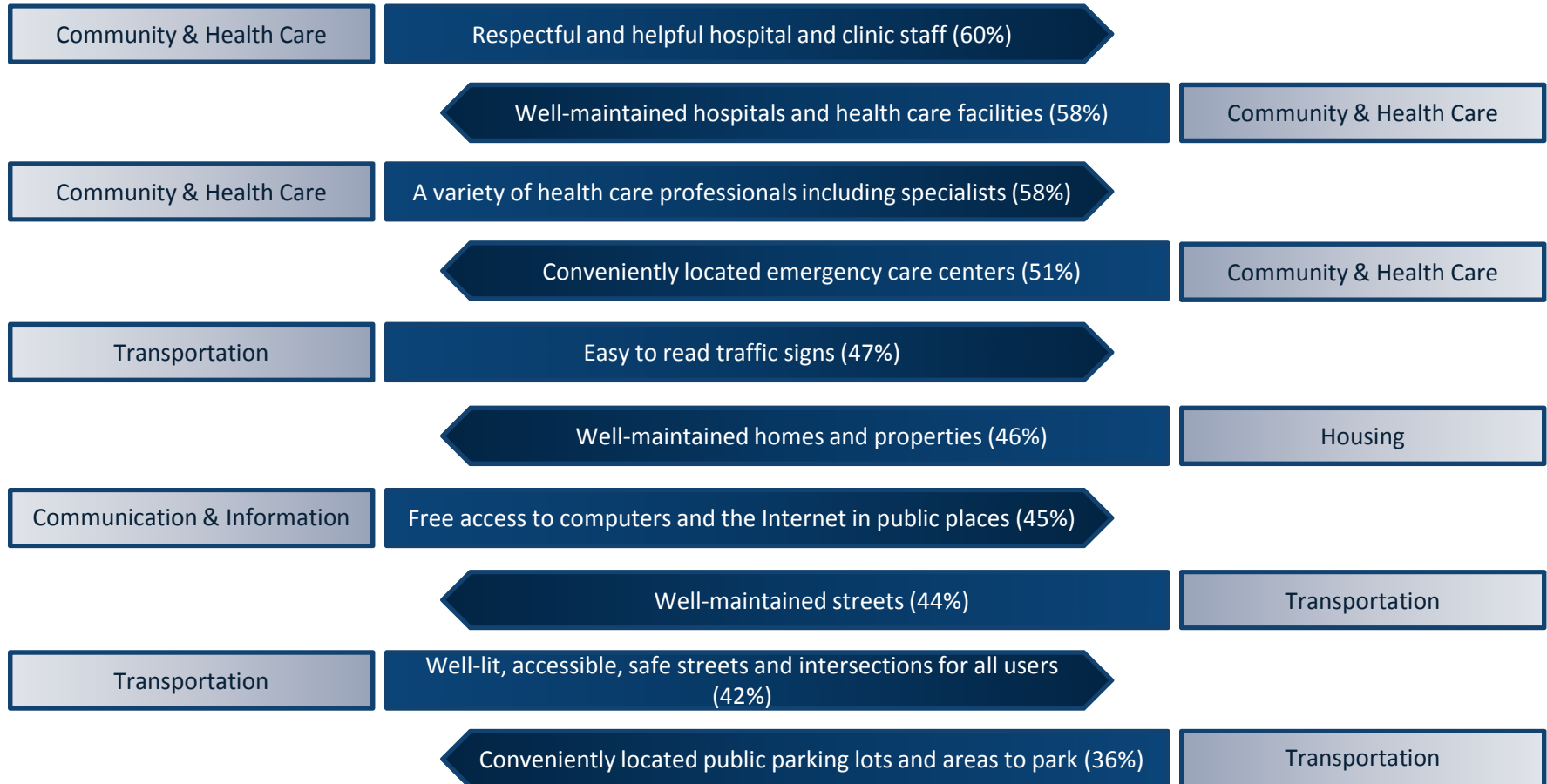


Communication  
& Information

Icons from FlatIcon.com

# Top 10 Community Features

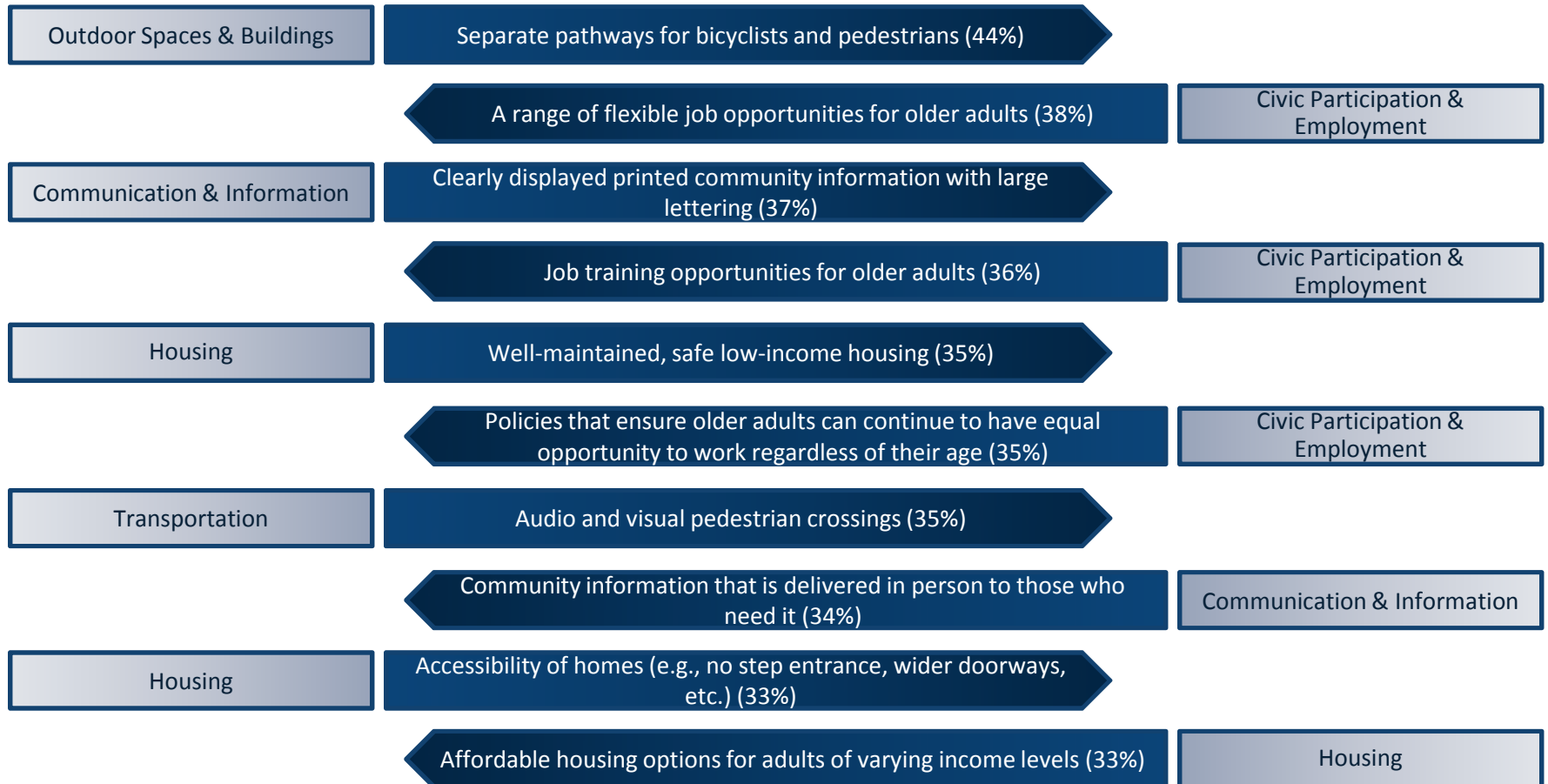
(% Excellent/Very Good)



Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of Mecklenburg County Residents Age 50+

# Bottom 10 Community Features

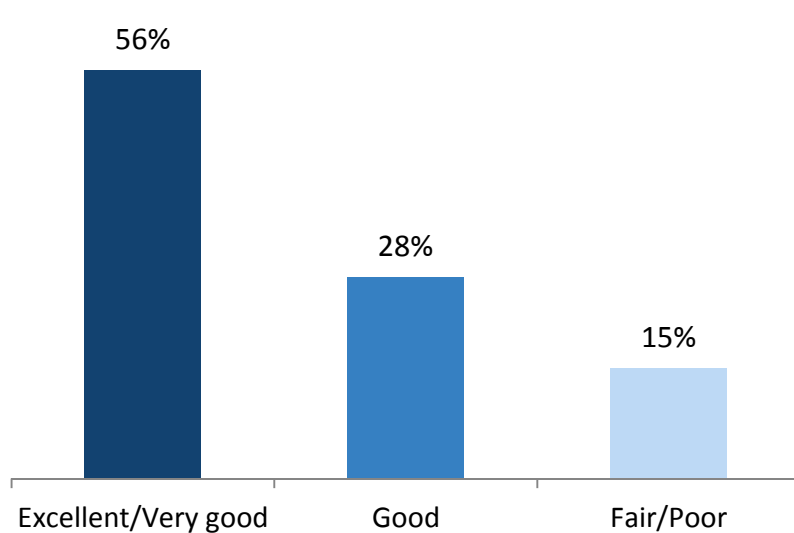
(% Fair/Poor)



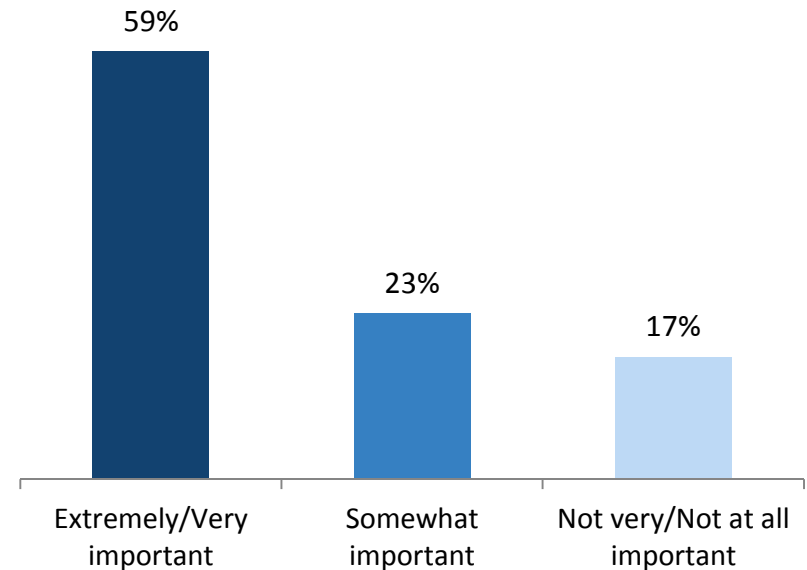
Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of Mecklenburg County Residents Age 50+

The majority of Mecklenburg County 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



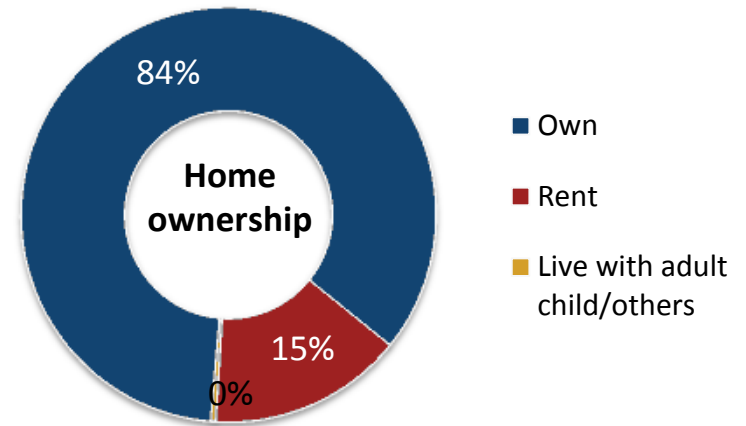
Importance of  
Remaining in Current Community



Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of Mecklenburg County Residents Age 50+

Most Mecklenburg County residents age 50+ own single family homes.


Type of Home	
A single family house	83%
An apartment	7%
A condominium/Coop	3%
A townhouse/Row house	2%
Senior housing/Assisted living facility	2%
A two family house that has two separate living units	2%
A mobile home	1%
Other	0%



63% of respondents say remaining in their current home is extremely/very important.

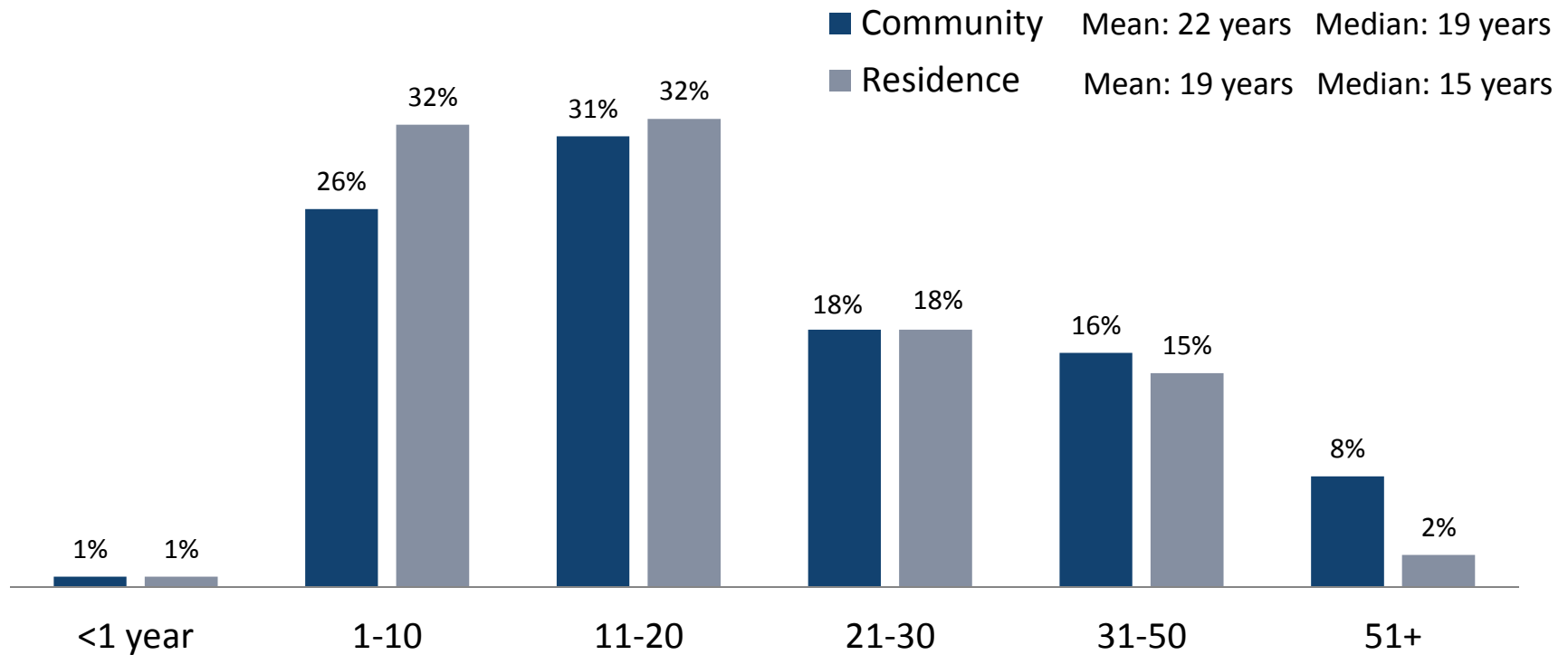


21% of respondents say they need to make major repairs, home modifications, or changes



Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of Mecklenburg County Residents Age 50+

Mecklenburg County residents age 50+ have lived in their home for an average of 19 years and have lived in their community slightly longer, an average of 22 years.



Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of Mecklenburg County Residents Age 50+

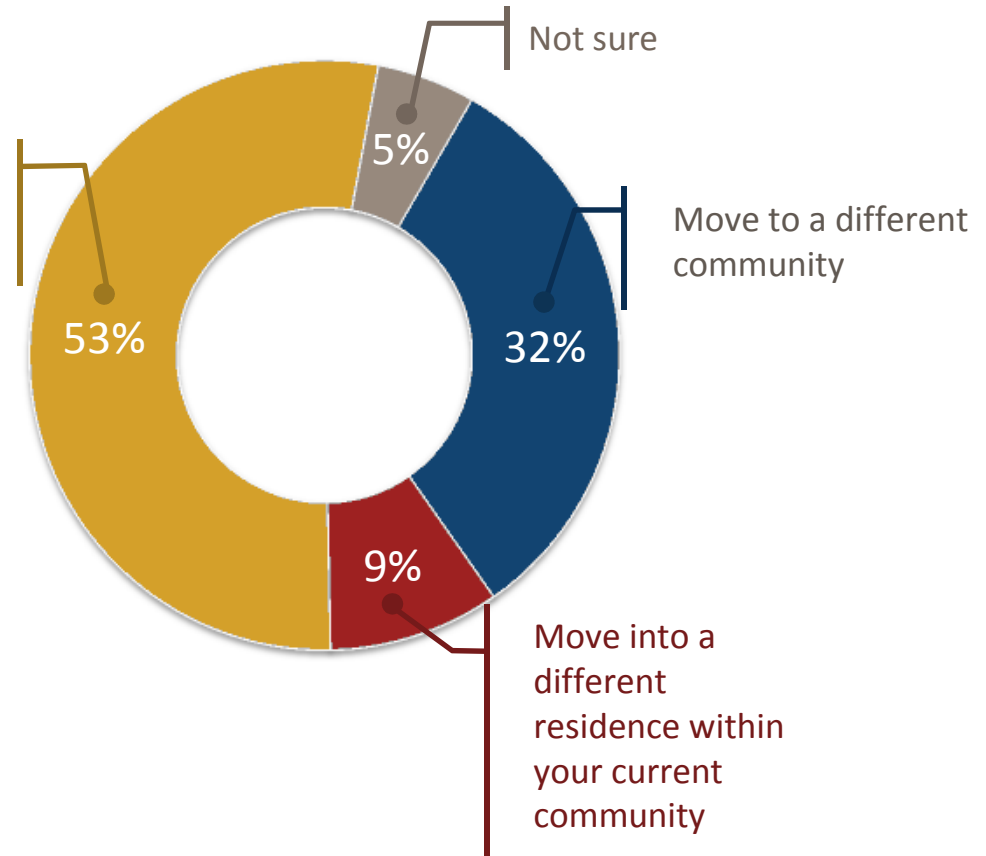


# The majority of Mecklenburg County residents age 50+ expect to stay in their home or community as they get older.



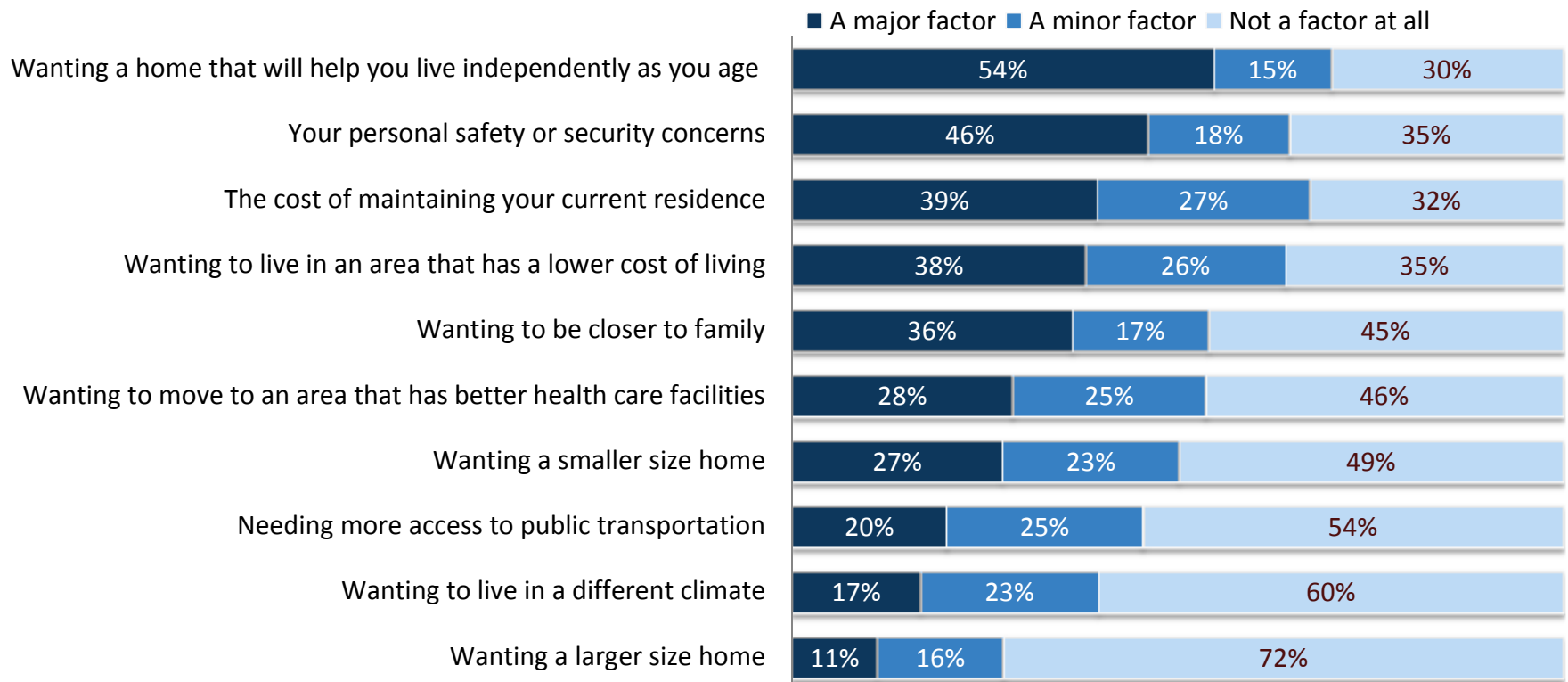
Photo from <http://www.rpsrelocation.com>

Stay in your current residence and never move



Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of Mecklenburg County Residents Age 50+

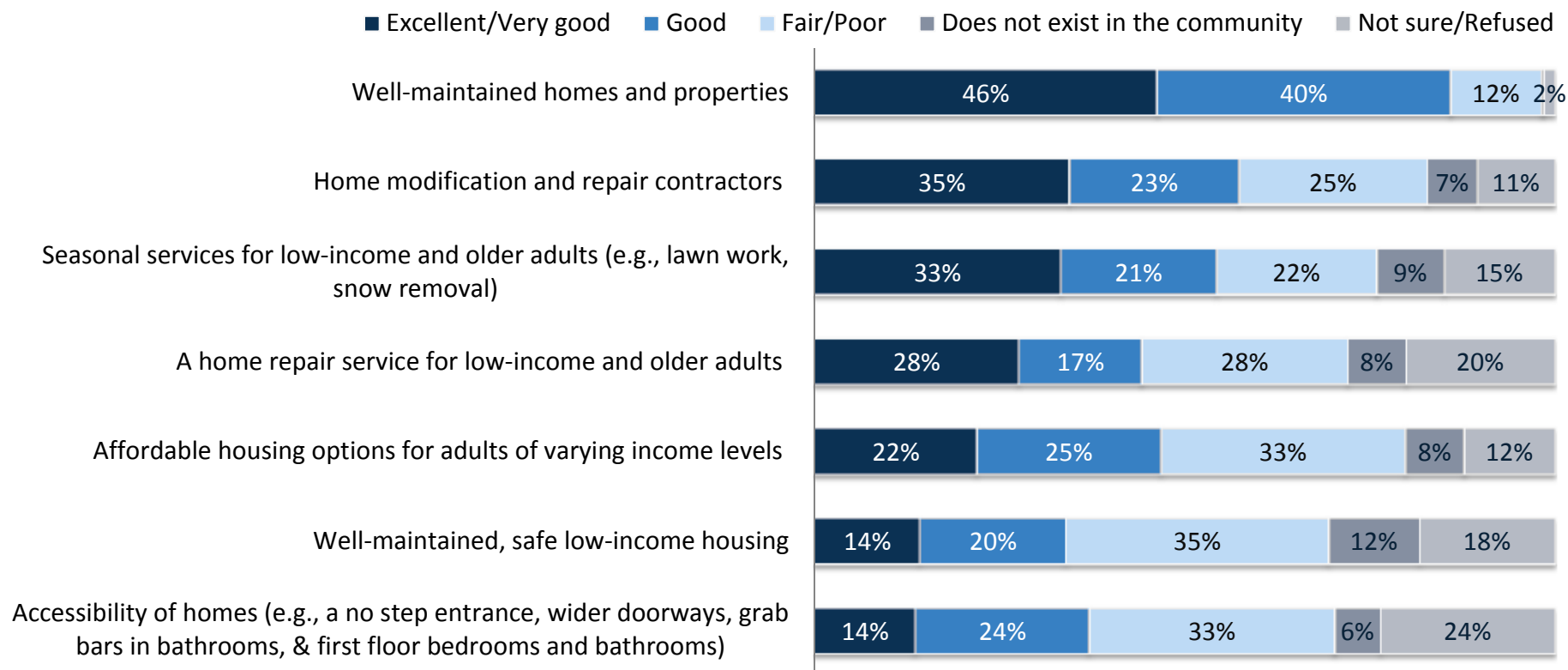
# Age-friendly housing, safety, wanting to be closer to family, and affordability are influential factors for Mecklenburg County residents age 50+ considering moving when they get older.



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 Mecklenburg County Residents Age 50+

# Mecklenburg County residents age 50+ rate their community positively on having well-maintained homes and properties as well as good home modification and repair contractors and seasonal services.

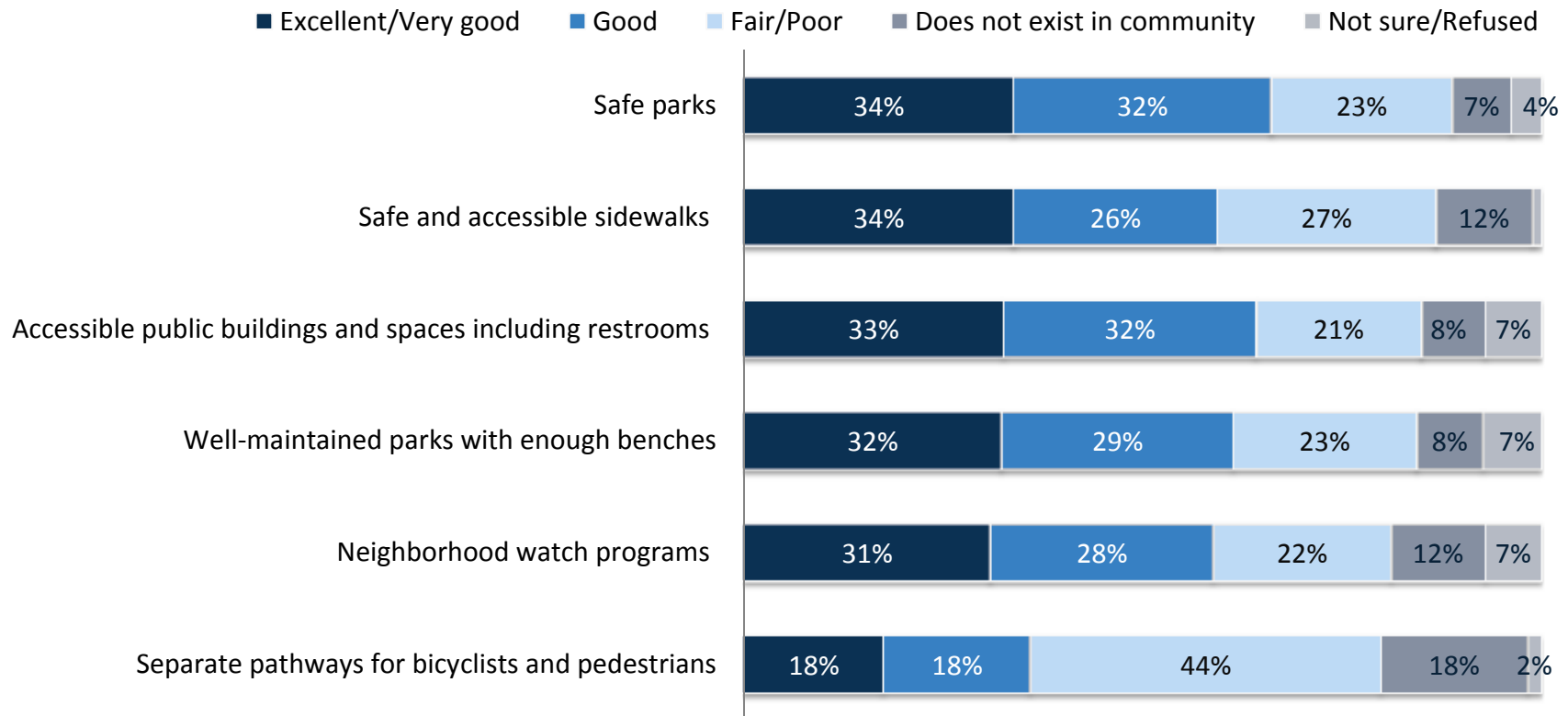


Question: Would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on having the following?

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of Mecklenburg County Residents Age 50+



# Mecklenburg County residents age 50+ rate their community excellent to good on 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 Mecklenburg County Residents Age 50+





# Most Mecklenburg County residents age 50+ drive themselves to get around their community.



Photo from iStock.com/diego\_cervo

85% drive themselves around  
35% have others drive them



Photo from iStock.com/Satoshi-K

43% walk

20% use public transportation

11% ride a bike



Photo from iStock.com/kali9

13% take a taxi  
10% use a special transportation service  
1% get around some other way



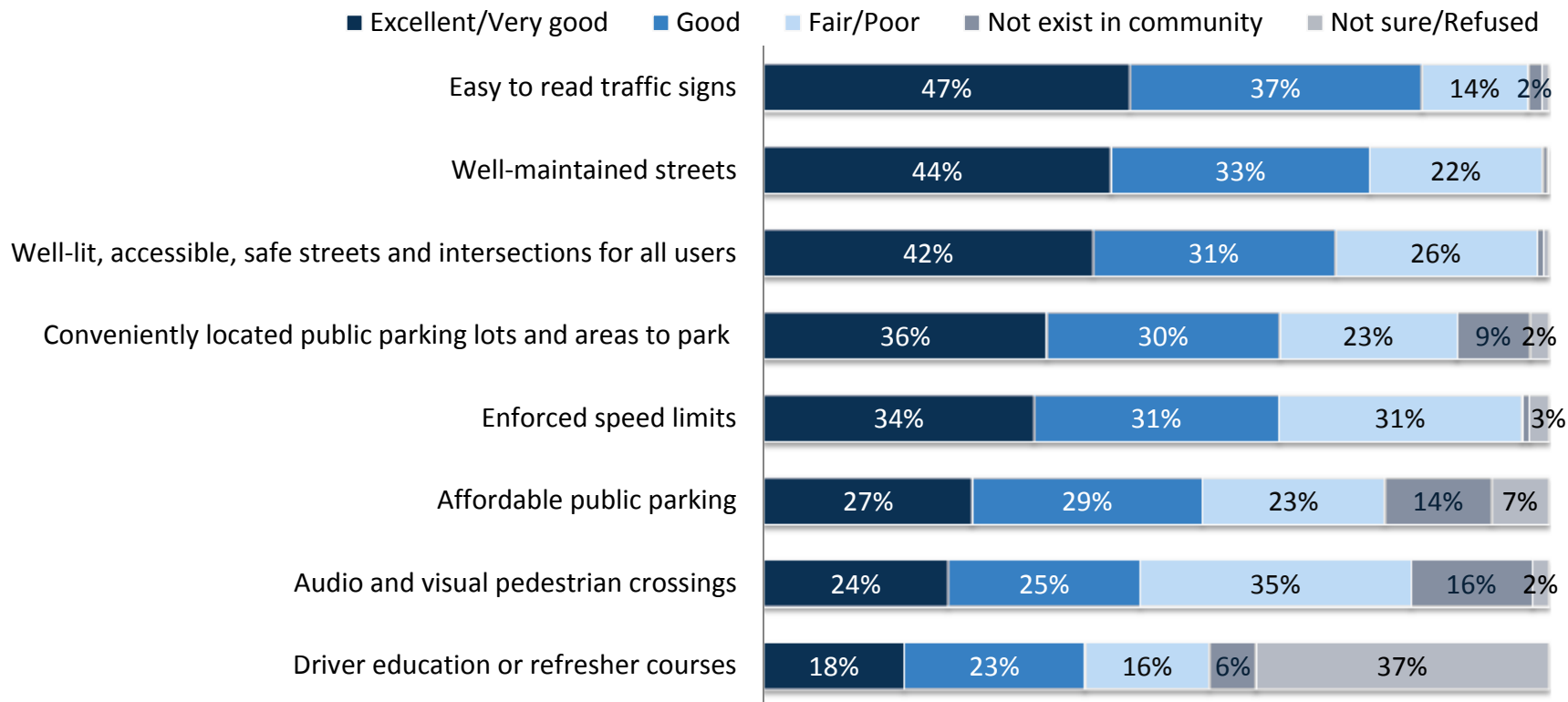
Photo from ScienceWorldReport.com

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 Mecklenburg County Residents Age 50+



# Mecklenburg County residents age 50+ rate their community excellent to good on having well-maintained, safe streets and ample places to park.

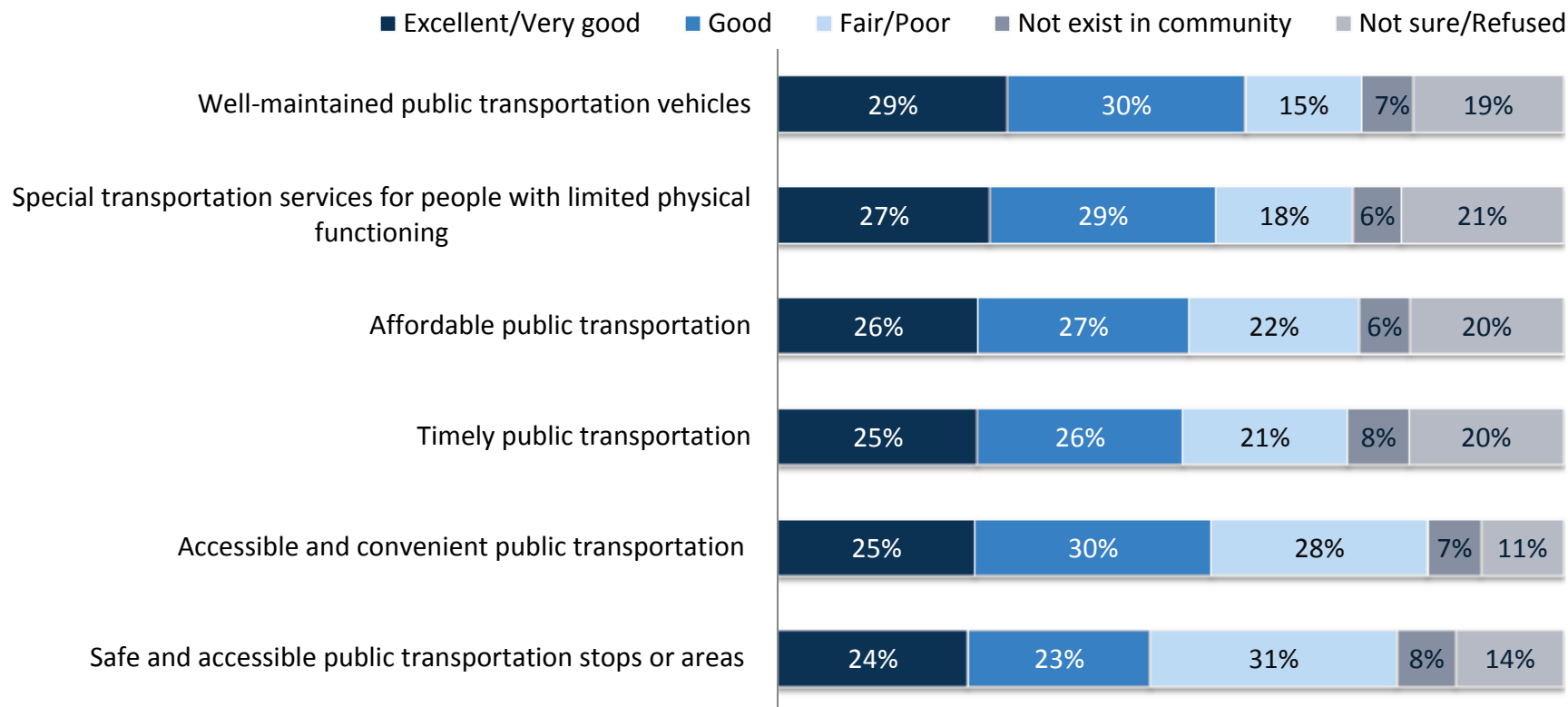


Question: Would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on having the following?

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of Mecklenburg County Residents Age 50+



Mecklenburg County residents age 50+ feel their community offers excellent to good special transportation options and well-maintained and affordable public transportation.

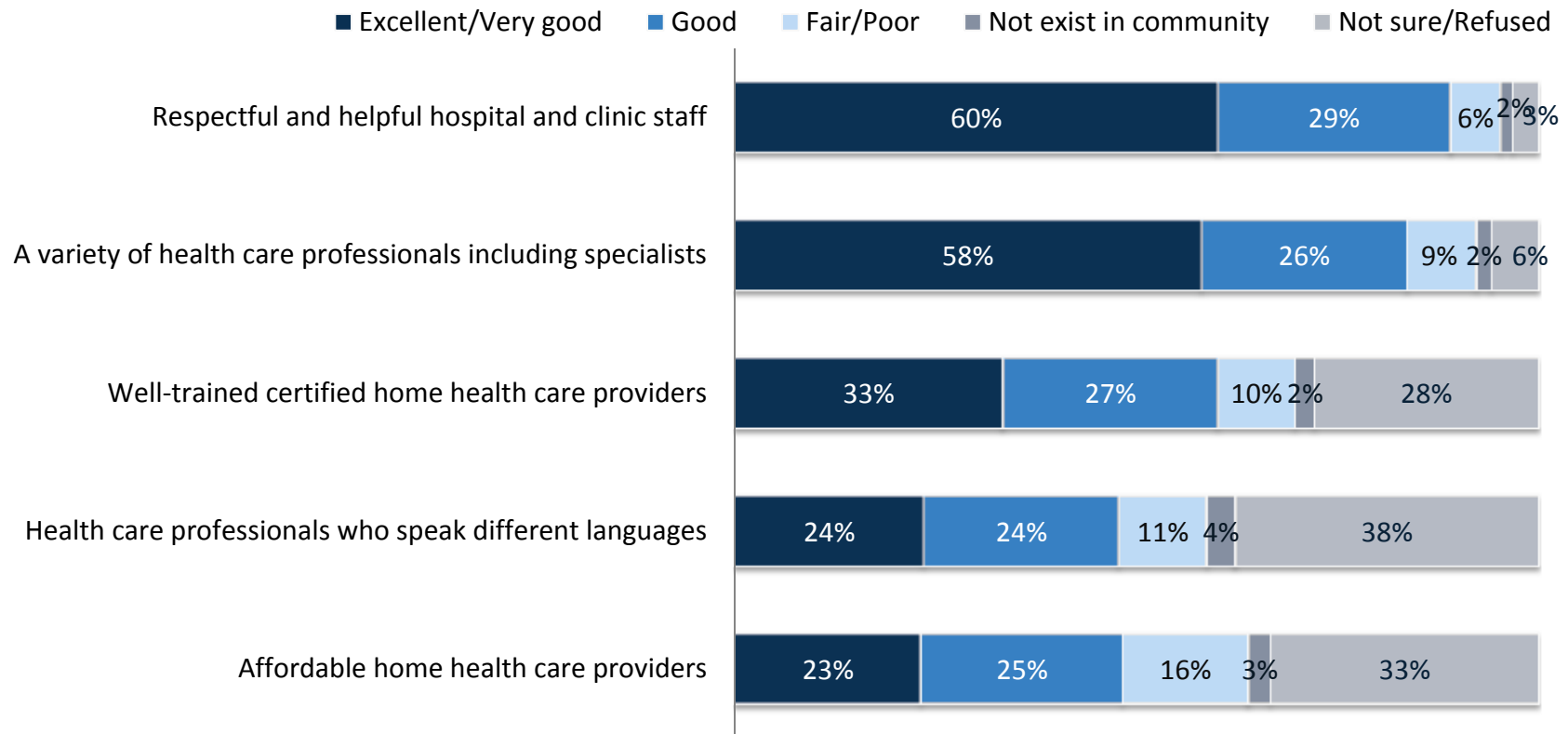


Question: Would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on having the following?

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of Mecklenburg County Residents Age 50+



The majority of Mecklenburg County 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?

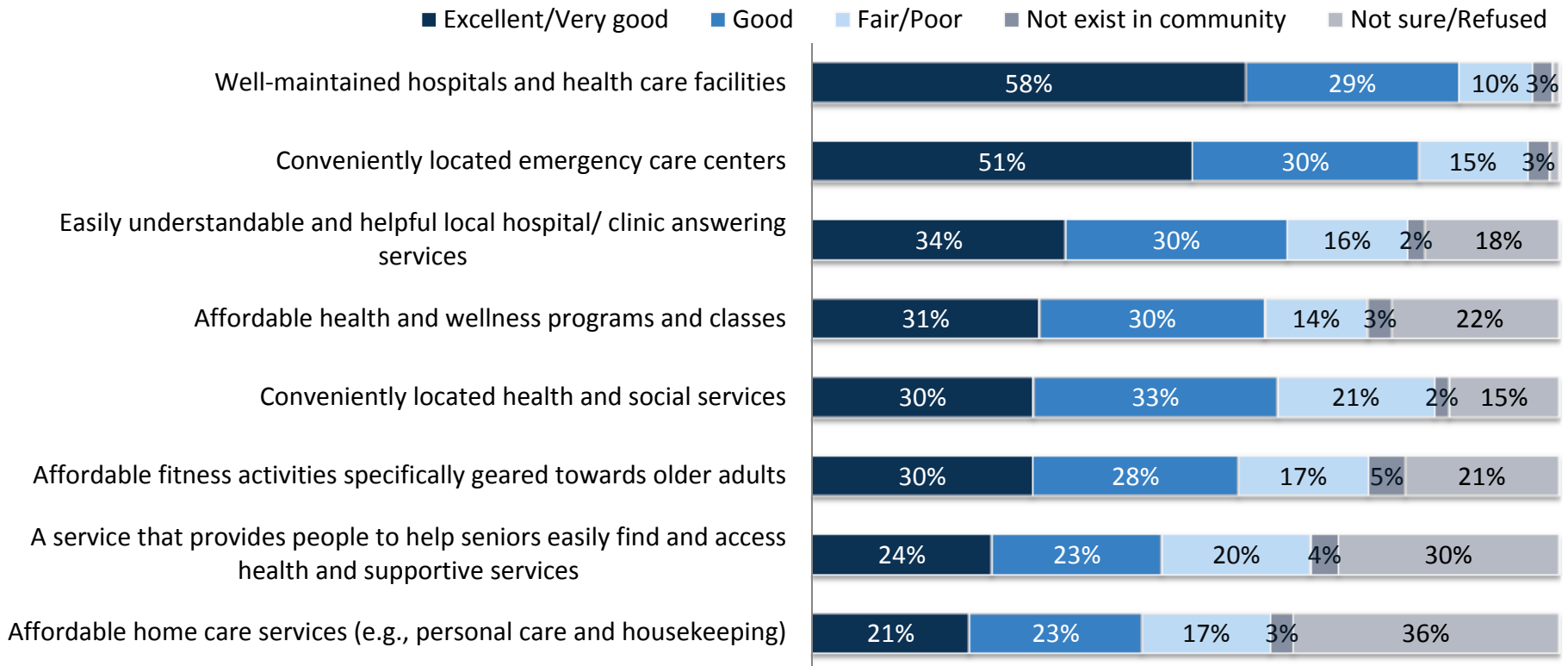
Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of Mecklenburg County Residents Age 50+







Over half of Mecklenburg County residents age 50+ rate their community excellent to very good on having well-maintained and conveniently located health care facilities.



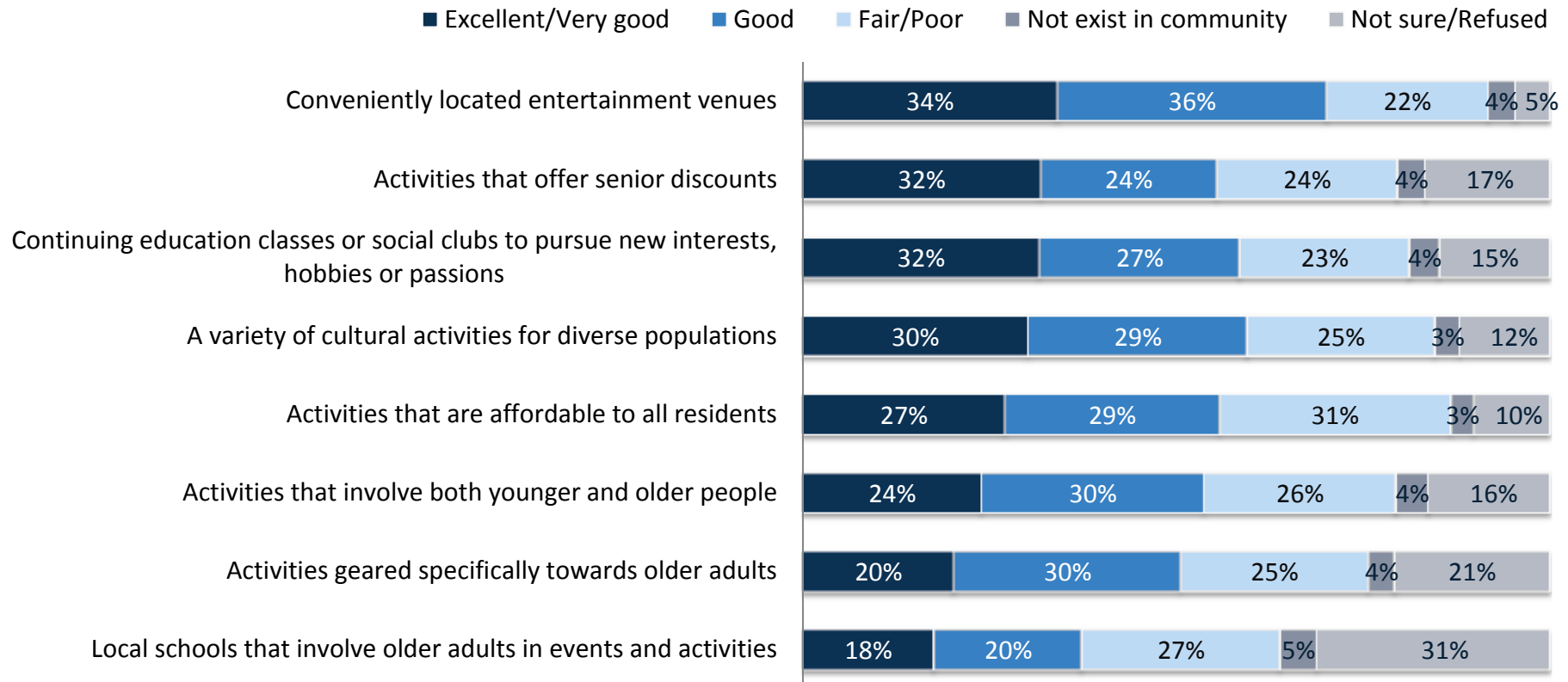
Question: Would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on having the following?

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of Mecklenburg County Residents Age 50+





Mecklenburg County 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 Mecklenburg County Residents Age 50+



The majority of Mecklenburg County residents age 50+ rate their community positively on having access to a variety of volunteer activities although a plurality give a negative rating on having volunteer transportation.

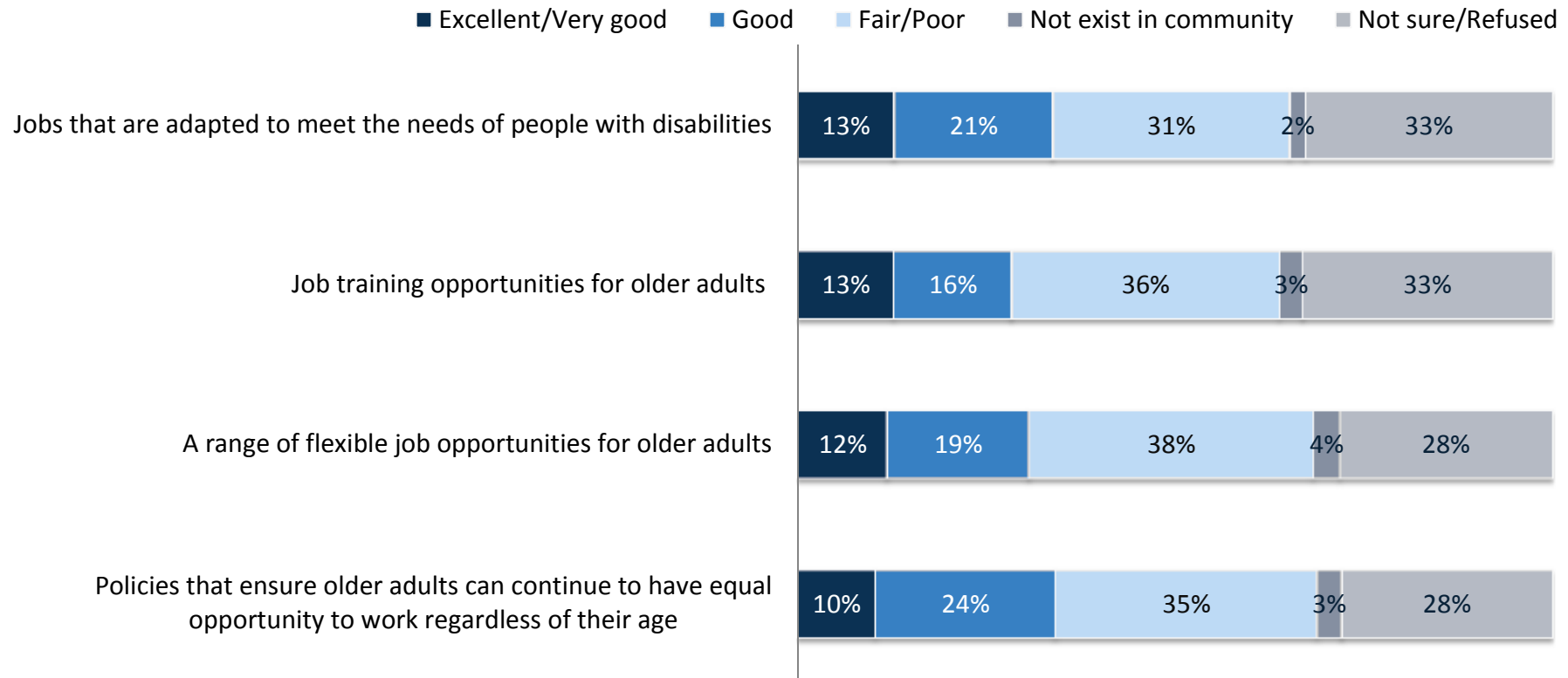


Question: Would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on having the following?

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of Mecklenburg County Residents Age 50+



A plurality of Mecklenburg County residents age 50+ give a negative rating for how well their community is doing in terms of having employment opportunities for older residents.



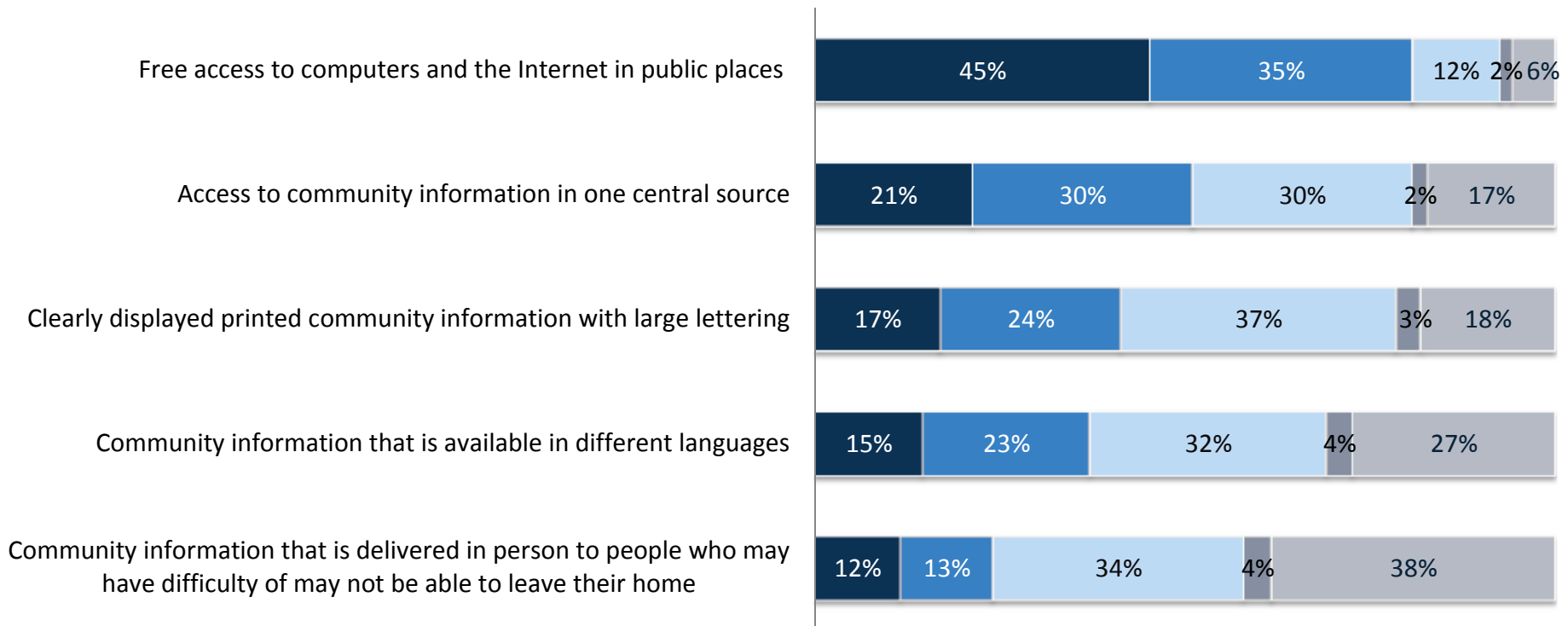
Question: Would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on having the following?

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of Mecklenburg County Residents Age 50+



The majority of Mecklenburg County residents age 50+ rate their community positively on having easy access to community information; however, having information available with large lettering, in different languages or for residents with limited mobility receive more negative ratings.

■ Excellent/Very good ■ Good ■ Fair/Poor ■ Not exist in community ■ Not sure/Refused



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 Mecklenburg County Residents Age 50+



# Respondent Profile: Demographics

Gender	
Male	45%
Female	55%

Age	
50-54	17%
55-64	44%
65-74	23%
75-84	10%
85 or older	5%

Race/Ethnicity	
White or Caucasian	66%
Black	30%
Asian	1%
Native American or Alaskan Native	<1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0%
Hispanic	2%
Other	2%

Marital Status	
Single, never married	13%
Married	52%
Not married, living with your partner or significant other	2%
Separated	2%
Divorced	12%
Widowed	18%

Health Status	
Excellent/Very good	55%
Good	29%
Fair/Poor	15%

Disability Status	
Yes, myself	20%
Yes, my spouse or partner	4%
Yes, both myself and my spouse or partner	3%
No	73%

AARP Membership	
Yes	34%
No	64%

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of Mecklenburg County Residents Age 50+

# Respondent Profile: Socioeconomic & Voting

## Education

0 to 12th grade, but with no diploma	5%
High school graduate or equivalent	15%
Post high school education, but with no degree	15%
2 year degree (Associate's Degree)	16%
4 year degree (Bachelor's Degree)	27%
Post graduate study, but with no degree	4%
Graduate or professional degree	17%

## Employment Status

Self-employed full-time	6%
Self-employed part-time	3%
Employed full-time	23%
Employed part-time	6%
Retired and not working at all	46%
Unemployed and looking for work	6%
Not in the labor force for other reasons	10%

## Income

< \$10,000	6%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	8%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	9%
\$30,000 - \$49,999	13%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	15%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	9%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	13%
\$150,000 +	8%

## Voting Behavior

Always	59%
Most of the time	28%
About half of the time	4%
Seldom	3%
Never	5%

## Political Party

Democrat	46%
Republican	23%
Independent	23%
Something else	1%

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of Mecklenburg County Residents Age 50+



## Survey Methodology:

- A telephone survey was commissioned by AARP to assess public opinion among Mecklenburg County residents age 50+ about age-friendly and livable community topics in Mecklenburg County.
- Telephone interviewing was conducted by Alan Newman Research from July 1st to July 14th 2016.
- A total of 500 interviews were conducted. The margin of error for this sample is  $\pm 4.4\%$ .
- The sample utilized RDD landline and cell phone records.

Source: 2016 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey of Mecklenburg County 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 Mecklenburg County, please contact Michael Olender, AARP North Carolina, at [molender@aarp.org](mailto:molender@aarp.org).
- For more information about the survey, please contact Joanne Binette, AARP Research, at [jbinette@aarp.org](mailto:jbinette@aarp.org).