



Community Assessment Survey
for Older Adults™

Jefferson County, Colorado
2010

Brief Report



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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners



Contents

Introduction	1
Jefferson County as a Community for Older Adults.....	3
The “Readiness” of Jefferson County for the Silver Tsunami	4
Older Adult Participation in Community Life in Jefferson County.....	7
Contributions of Older Adults to Jefferson County	8
Jefferson County Opportunities and Challenges	9
Appendix A: Complete Set of Survey Frequencies.....	12
Appendix B: Survey Methodology	30
Appendix C: Survey Materials	40

Introduction

Like waves of marathon runners, increasing numbers of adults are racing off the half-century starting line. More than one-half of the Baby Boom generation now is age 50 and older and one-third of all Americans will reach age 50 by 2010. To prepare better for this aging population, or “silver tsunami,” as it has been called, Jefferson County contracted with National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) to conduct an assessment of the strengths and needs of its older residents. Based upon the perspectives of older residents themselves, the Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA™) provides a statistically valid survey of older adults in communities across America. The study findings will be used by staff, elected officials and other stakeholders to plan for older adult services, programs and facilities. The objectives of the CASOA™ are to:

- Identify community strengths in serving older adults.
- Articulate the specific needs of older adults in the community.
- Estimate contributions made by older adults to the community.
- Determine the connection of older adults to the community.

The assessment focused on a series of needs among residents age 60 years or older and the community supports that foster successful aging. Forty common needs affecting older adult well being were assessed. These 40 issues fall into the larger categories of health and wellness, community design and land use, participation in productive activities and community resources for information and planning. Older adults’ opinions about current community amenities and opportunities also were measured in the survey.

The results of this exploration will provide useful information for planning and resource development as well as strengthen advocacy efforts and stakeholder engagement. The ultimate goal of the assessment is to create an empowered community that supports a vibrant older adult population in Jefferson County.

Using This Brief Report

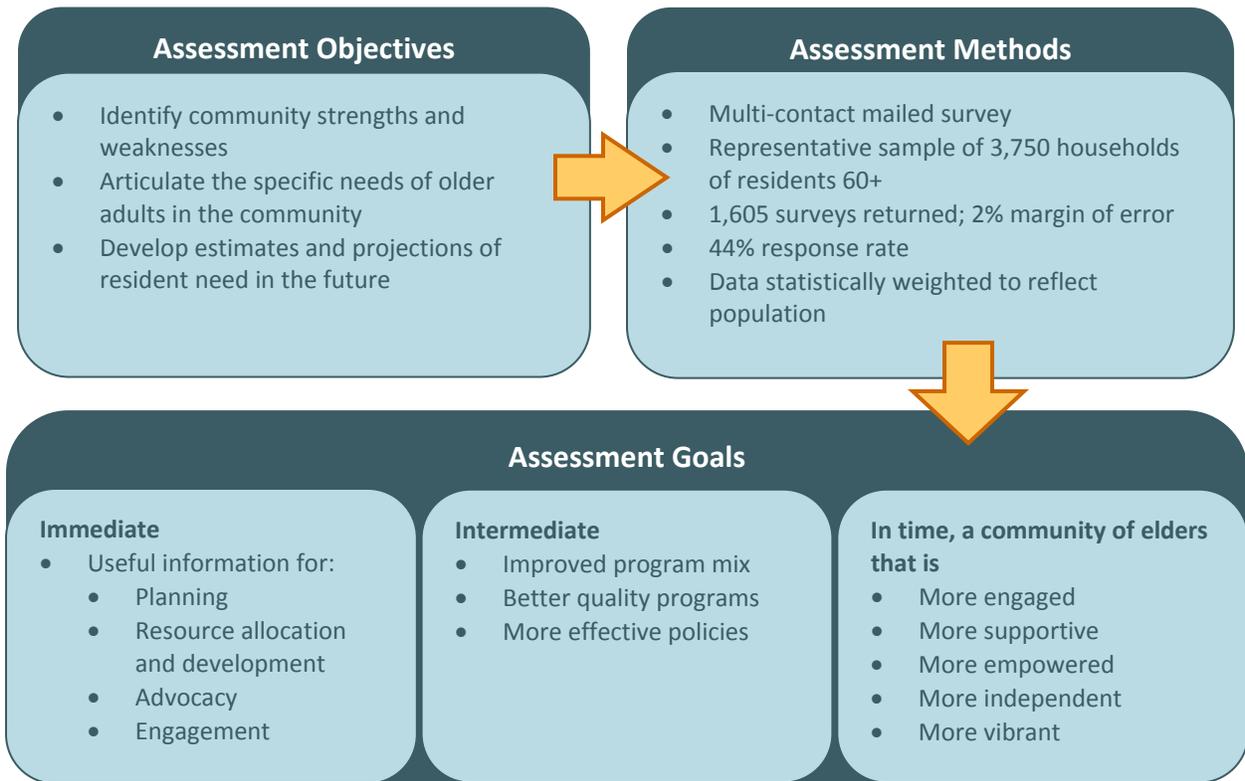
Communities conducting CASOA™ can choose from a number of optional services to customize the reporting of survey results. This Brief Report is part of a larger project for Jefferson County. Jefferson County augmented the sample of older adults to provide stand-alone brief reports for each of several geographic areas in the county (Arvada, Edgewater, Golden, Lakewood, Wheat Ridge and Unincorporated Jefferson County). Jefferson County also selected a full report of results for the county-level findings, which provides expanded analytic detail and descriptive text. Each report is available under separate cover. The Brief Report is intended to provide a high-level summary of findings in succinct form with relevant appendices.

CASOA™ Methods

The survey and its administration are standardized to assure high quality survey methods and comparable results across CASOA™ jurisdictions. Participating households with residents 60 years or older were selected at random and the household member who responded was selected without bias. Multiple mailings gave each household more than one prompt to participate with a self-addressed and postage-paid envelope to the survey. Results were statistically weighted to reflect the proper demographic composition of older adults in the entire community.

The survey was mailed in April 2010 to a random selection of 3,750 older adult households in Jefferson County. Older adult households were contacted three times about participation in the survey. A total of 1,605 completed surveys was obtained for the entire county, providing an overall response rate of 44% and a margin of error of plus or minus 2% around any given percent and two points around any given average rating for the entire sample.

Figure 1: CASOA™ Methods and Goals



Jefferson County as a Community for Older Adults

Overall perceived quality of community life may be the single best indicator of success in providing the natural ambience, services and amenities that make for a community attractive to older residents. CASOA™ contained many questions related to quality of community life in Jefferson County – not only direct questions about quality of life overall and in neighborhoods, but questions to measure residents’ commitment to the community. Residents were asked whether they planned to move soon and if they would recommend Jefferson County to others. Intentions to stay and willingness to make recommendations provide evidence that Jefferson County offers services and amenities that work.

Many of Jefferson County’s older residents gave high ratings to the community as a place to retire and most said it was a “good” or “excellent” place to live. Services offered to older adults were considered “excellent” or “good” by 65% of older residents in Jefferson County. Further, a strong majority reported they would recommend the community to others and plan to stay for retirement.

Figure 2: Jefferson County as a Place for Older Residents

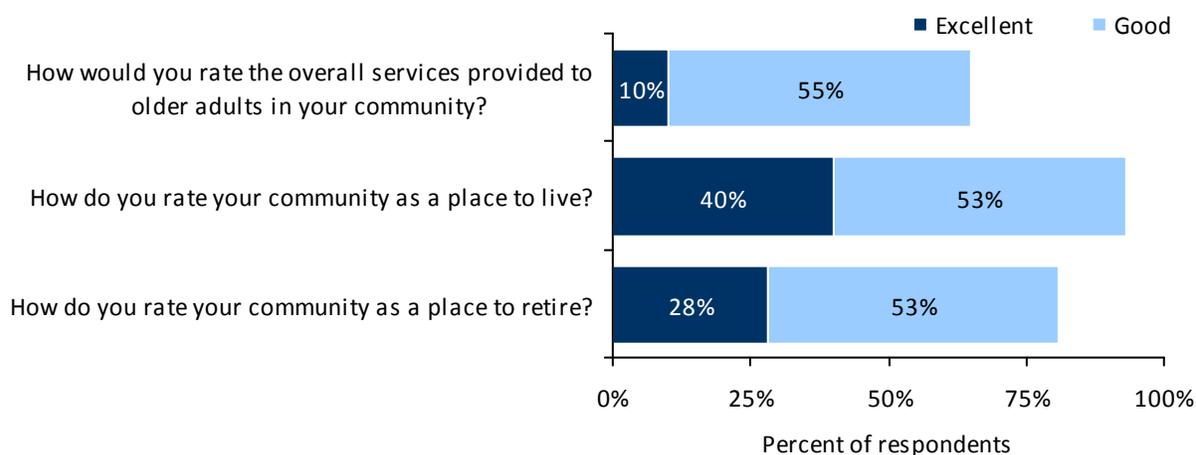
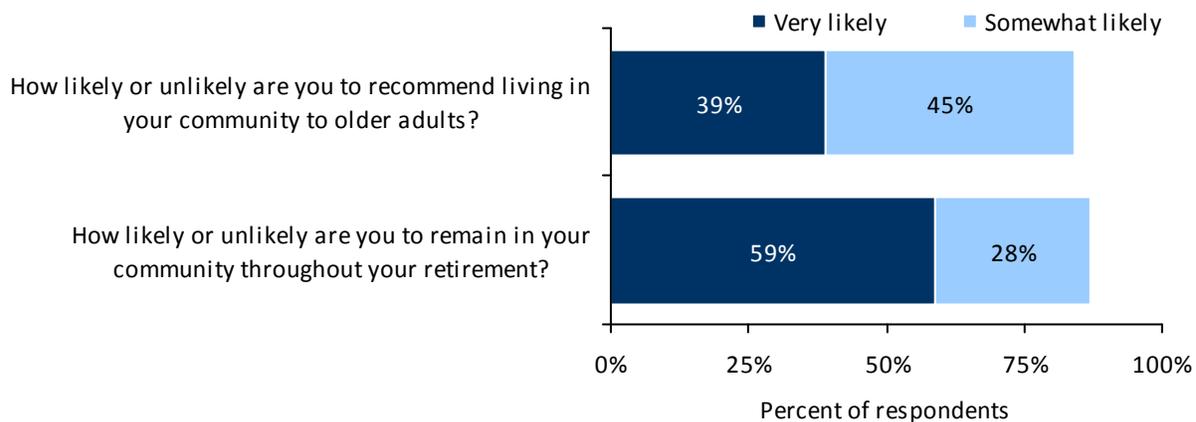


Figure 3: Likelihood of Remaining in Community and Recommending Community

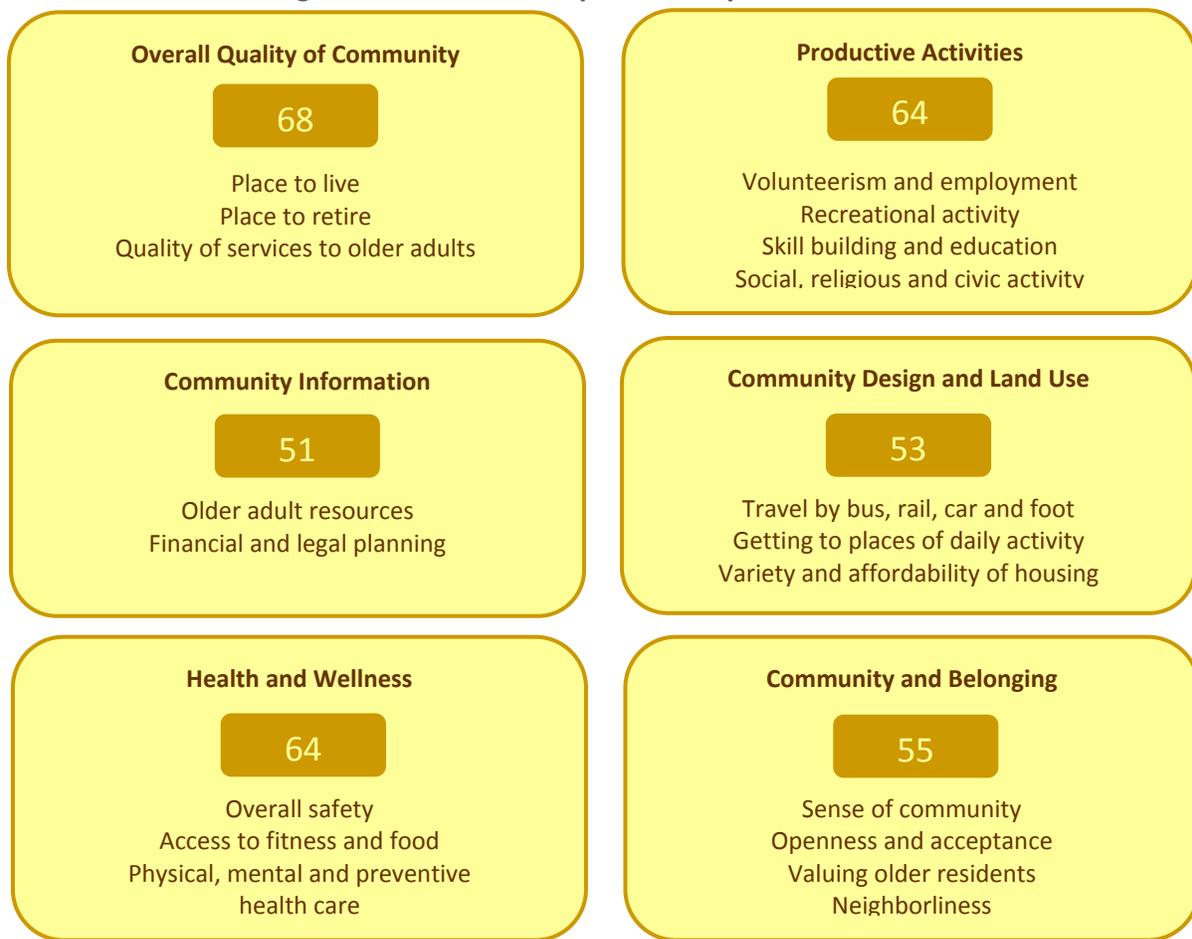


The “Readiness” of Jefferson County for the Silver Tsunami

Older adults may not complain, but not every community leaves older adults raving about the quality of community life or the services available for active living and aging in place. Communities that assist older adults to remain or become active community participants provide the requisite opportunities for recreation, transportation, culture, education, communication, social connection, spiritual enrichment and health care. It is not a package mix, so each community must identify what its older adults seek and what the community provides. The judgments of the residents for whom community planning takes place provide the elements of an equation that describes overall community quality in Jefferson County.

Survey respondents were asked to rate 29 aspects of the community related to six community dimensions. Ratings for individual questions were converted to an average scale of 0 (the lowest rating, e.g., “poor”) to 100 (the highest rating, e.g., “excellent”) and then combined to provide one overall rating (index) for each of the six areas. Jefferson County received its highest ratings in the area of Overall Quality of Community and the lowest ratings in the area of Community Information.

Figure 4: Jefferson County Community Readiness Chart



Scale: 0=Lowest/most negative, 100=Highest/most positive

Ratings for the individual community characteristics are presented in the following six tables.

Figure 5: Overall Quality of Community Index

	Jefferson County average rating
Quality of Community Index	68
How do you rate your community as a place to live?	77
How do you rate your community as a place to retire?	68
How would you rate the overall services provided to older adults in your community?	57
Scale: 0=Lowest/most negative, 100=Highest/most positive	

Figure 6: Community Information Index

	Jefferson County average rating
Community Information Index	51
Availability of information about resources for older adults	52
Availability of financial and legal planning services	49
Scale: 0=Lowest/most negative, 100=Highest/most positive	

Figure 7: Health and Wellness Index

	Jefferson County average rating
Health and Wellness Index	64
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	76
Availability of affordable quality physical health care	57
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	49
Availability of preventive health services (e.g., health screenings, flu shots, educational workshops)	62
Availability of affordable quality food	64
Overall feeling of safety in your community	66
Scale: 0=Lowest/most negative, 100=Highest/most positive	

Figure 8: Productive Activities Index

	Jefferson County average rating
Productive Activities Index	64
Opportunities to volunteer	71
Employment opportunities	33
Opportunities to enroll in skill-building or personal enrichment classes	62
Recreation opportunities (including games, arts and library services, etc.)	73
Opportunities to attend social events or activities	61
Opportunities to attend religious or spiritual activities	76
Opportunities to attend or participate in meetings about local government or community matters	60
Scale: 0=Lowest/most negative, 100=Highest/most positive	

Figure 9: Community Design and Land Use Index

	Jefferson County average rating
Community Design and Land Use Index	53
Availability of affordable quality housing	42
Variety of housing options	49
Ease of bus travel in your community	40
Ease of rail or subway travel in your community	15
Ease of car travel in your community	67
Ease of walking in your community	63
Ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	65
Scale: 0=Lowest/most negative, 100=Highest/most positive	

Figure 10: Community and Belonging Index

	Jefferson County average rating
Community and Belonging Index	55
Sense of community	55
Openness and acceptance of the community towards older residents of diverse backgrounds	55
Valuing older residents in your community	56
Neighborliness of your community	55
Scale: 0=Lowest/most negative, 100=Highest/most positive	

Older Adult Participation in Community Life in Jefferson County

Activity is like a needed vitamin, it builds strength and helps to keep a person from falling victim to illness. Older adults who participate in community life not only benefit directly from the activities but by linking with others who also are engaged, they build a network of support that can be instrumental in keeping them independent. Included below are rates of participation in community activities.

Figure 11: Community Participation

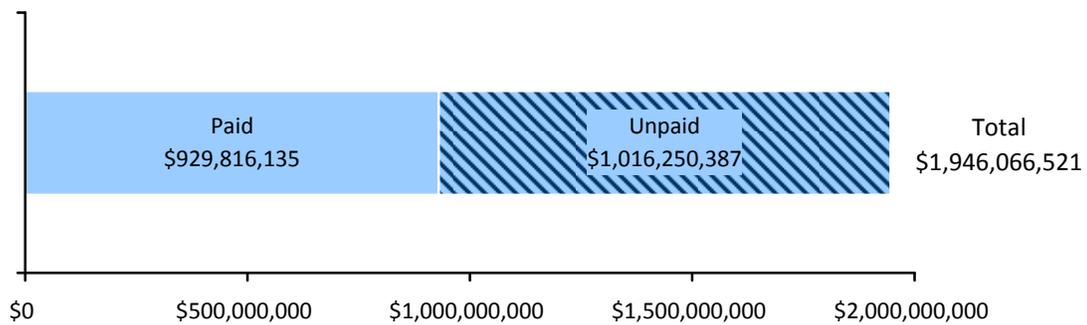
	Percent of respondents who have participated in activity in the previous 12 months
Communicating/visiting with friends and/or family	97%
Providing help to friends or relatives	88%
Visited a neighborhood park	85%
Used a public library in your community	67%
Participating in religious or spiritual activities with others	63%
Participating in a recreation program or group activity	48%
Used a recreation center in your community	47%
Watched a meeting of local elected officials or other public meeting on cable television, the Internet or other media	43%
Volunteering your time to some group/activity in your community	40%
Participating in a club (including book, dance, game and other social)	36%
Attended a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting in your community	33%
Used a senior center in your community	27%
Used public transit (e.g., bus, subway, light rail, etc.) within your community	27%
Participating in a civic group (including Elks, Kiwanis, Masons, etc.)	12%

Note: This table combines the results of questions 11 and 12, which have different response categories. Complete response frequencies for these questions can be found in Appendix A.

Contributions of Older Adults to Jefferson County

Advantages of a community with a significant number of older adults can be read in lower crime statistics and smaller costs for infrastructure that requires fewer schools, less road maintenance, less crime fighting and smaller landfills. But the advantages that older adults provide to Jefferson County extend beyond the passive benefits of lower cost. Many older residents have time and inclination to offer productive work whether paid or not. In Jefferson County, older adults provide significant paid and unpaid contributions. In addition to their paid work, older adults contributed to Jefferson County through volunteering, providing informal help to family and friends, and offering more extensive caregiving. The value of these unpaid contributions by older adults in Jefferson County is estimated to be about \$1 billion in a 12-month period. Adding the value of their paid work, the total value of their contribution is nearly \$2 billion in a 12-month period. For more information for how these estimates are calculated, see *Appendix B: Survey Methodology*.

Figure 12: Estimated Annual Economic Contributions of Older Adults in Jefferson County



Jefferson County Opportunities and Challenges

Older adults, more than others, face difficulties with aspects of everyday life. For many older adults these difficulties vastly exceed the minor physical pains or small losses of function that characterize almost everyone’s circumstances after a certain age. When individual problems are added together, a group picture emerges that provides a useful description of the entire community of Jefferson County. Nationally, areas where older adults face the largest share of life’s challenges include caregiving, health and mental health, in-home support, nutrition and food security and transportation. This study explores specific problems or stressors encountered by older adults in Jefferson County, such as physical and emotional difficulties and injuries that have compromised their independence. Presented are the current individual areas of need and from those, the magnitude of broader categories of need.

Typically, it is understood that the self-reported needs of older adults represent a minimum level, a conservative estimate attenuated by respondents’ strong desire to feel and appear self-reliant and further reduced by the silent whisper of some older adults who, no matter how sensitive the attempt, are too frail to participate in any survey enterprise.

Nonetheless, clear patterns of needs and strengths emerged from this assessment. About 6 in 10 older adults reported problems with their physical health, staying physically fit and not knowing what services are available to older adults in the community. Less than 10% of older adults reported experiencing problems with having enough food to eat or being abused. Even the least frequently encountered issues affected thousands of residents.

It should be understood that the percent of the population that experiences a problem is not a measure of how difficult a problem is to endure for the people who share it. Some needs, though rare as a percent of residents, have particularly devastating impacts on residents’ quality of life – for example, needing help transferring from bed to wheelchair or having a problem with safety – so it is important to consider both the prevalence of the need and its centrality to residents’ sustained independence.

Figure 13: Older Adult Needs in Jefferson County

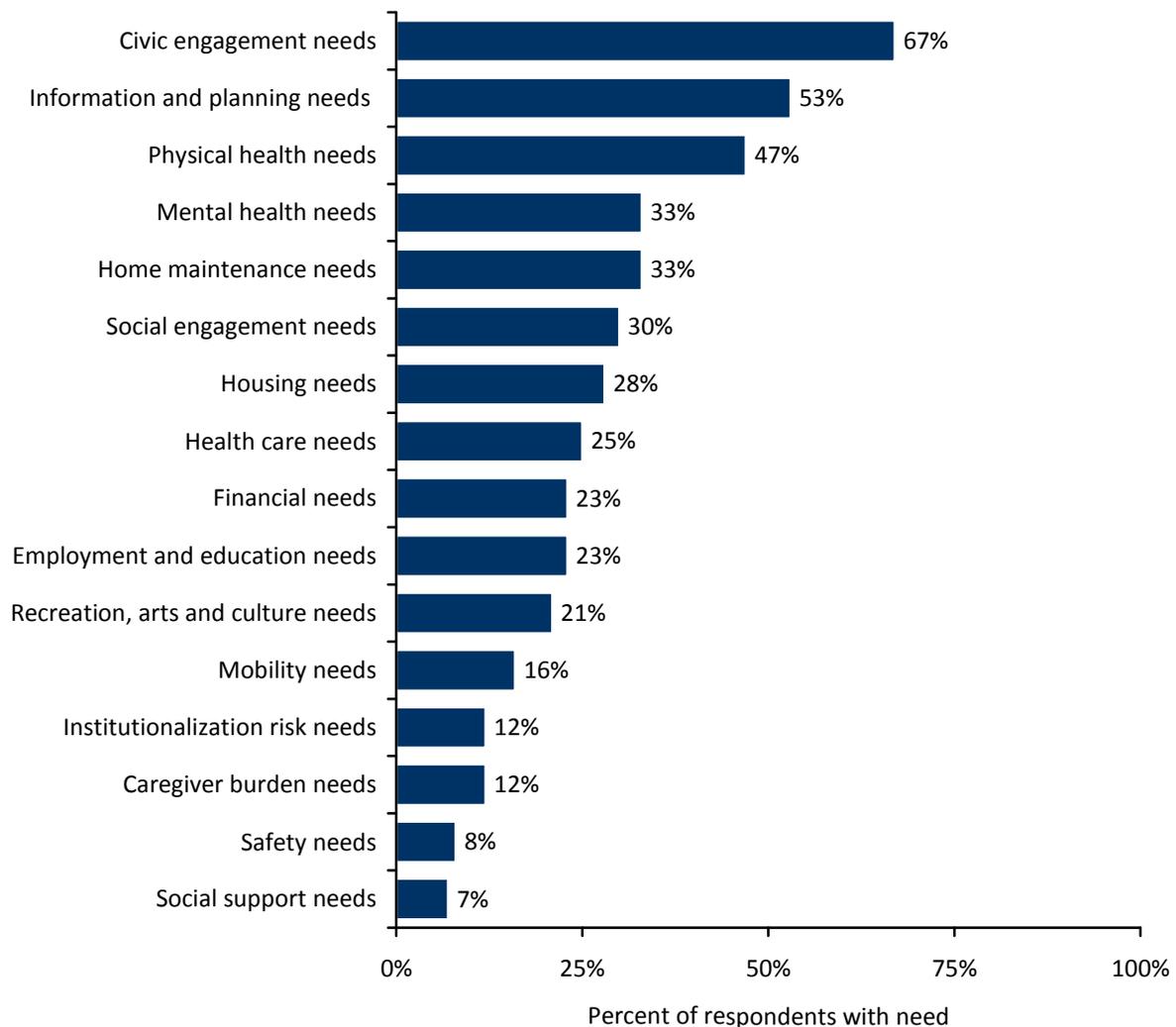
Thinking back over the past 12 months, how much of a problem, if at all, has each of the following been for you?	Percent at least a "minor" problem	Number affected in 2010 (n=105,914)
Staying physically fit	58%	61,728
Not knowing what services are available to older adults in your community	58%	61,372
Your physical health	58%	61,035
Doing heavy or intense housework	56%	59,829
Feeling like your voice is heard in the community	51%	54,469
Maintaining your yard	43%	45,976
Having adequate information or dealing with public programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid	40%	41,982
Maintaining your home	39%	41,774
Maintaining a healthy diet	39%	41,457
Having interesting social events or activities to attend	38%	40,752
Having tooth or mouth problems	37%	39,319

Thinking back over the past 12 months, how much of a problem, if at all, has each of the following been for you?	Percent at least a "minor" problem	Number affected in 2010 (n=105,914)
Having interesting recreational or cultural activities to attend	36%	38,460
Feeling depressed	36%	38,431
Feeling bored	35%	37,543
Dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend	33%	35,053
Experiencing confusion or forgetfulness	33%	34,947
Having enough money to meet daily expenses	33%	34,834
Finding work in retirement	33%	34,513
Dealing with financial planning issues	31%	33,287
Building skills for paid or unpaid work	31%	32,883
Having enough money to pay your property taxes	31%	32,553
Finding affordable health insurance	30%	32,229
Getting the oral health care you need	29%	30,837
Dealing with legal issues	29%	30,773
Finding productive or meaningful activities to do	29%	30,191
Performing regular activities, including walking, eating and preparing meals	28%	30,073
Affording the medications you need	27%	28,675
Feeling lonely or isolated	27%	28,563
Having safe and affordable transportation available	26%	27,942
Providing care for another person	25%	26,785
Finding meaningful volunteer work	24%	25,259
Getting the health care you need	22%	23,523
Having friends or family you can rely on	21%	22,317
Falling or injuring yourself in your home	20%	21,251
No longer being able to drive	14%	14,858
Having housing to suit your needs	13%	13,953
Being a victim of fraud or a scam	12%	12,662
Being a victim of crime	12%	12,578
Having enough food to eat	8%	8,357
Being physically or emotionally abused	5%	5,135

Displayed earlier in the report were the dimensions of community readiness, which combined survey questions into six categories. In addition to understanding how well the community operates to provide appropriate services for its older adults, it is important to understand what problems older adults face in their daily lives so that specific services can be considered where needs are great. Forty individual survey questions about activities and problems faced by older community members were grouped into 16 larger areas to provide a broad picture of older residents' needs here. The level of older adult need for each category is provided in the following chart. (See *Appendix B: Survey Methodology* for more information on the computation of these summary scores.)

The greatest areas of resident need were civic engagement and information and planning. Issues in the area of physical health were determined to be problematic for about half of the older residents in Jefferson County. Older residents reported the lowest prevalence of need in the areas of social support and safety, although these needs can be quite serious for the 7-8% of seniors affected.

Figure 14: Older Adult Needs in Jefferson County



Appendix A: Complete Set of Survey Frequencies

This appendix displays all response categories for all questions. The first set of frequencies excludes the “don’t know” option and the second set includes “don’t know” responses.

Frequencies Excluding Don’t Know Responses

Question 1: Quality of Community					
Please circle the number that comes closest to your opinion for each of the following questions.	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
How do you rate your community as a place to live?	40%	53%	7%	0%	100%
How do you rate your community as a place to retire?	28%	53%	16%	3%	100%

Question 2: Community Characteristics					
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to adults age 60 or over in your community:	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
Opportunities to volunteer	31%	53%	14%	2%	100%
Employment opportunities	3%	22%	45%	30%	100%
Opportunities to enroll in skill-building or personal enrichment classes	16%	57%	22%	5%	100%
Recreation opportunities (including games, arts and library services, etc.)	35%	51%	12%	3%	100%
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	41%	47%	11%	2%	100%
Opportunities to attend social events or activities	19%	48%	27%	5%	100%
Opportunities to attend religious or spiritual activities	39%	50%	9%	1%	100%
Opportunities to attend or participate in meetings about local government or community matters	19%	48%	27%	6%	100%
Availability of affordable quality housing	7%	32%	43%	18%	100%
Variety of housing options	9%	40%	38%	12%	100%
Availability of information about resources for older adults	11%	45%	33%	11%	100%
Availability of financial and legal planning services	8%	41%	38%	12%	100%
Availability of affordable quality physical health care	17%	47%	25%	11%	100%
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	11%	41%	32%	16%	100%
Availability of preventive health services (e.g., health screenings, flu shots, educational workshops)	20%	51%	24%	5%	100%
Availability of affordable quality food	23%	52%	20%	5%	100%
Sense of community	14%	45%	33%	8%	100%
Openness and acceptance of the community towards older residents of diverse backgrounds	13%	49%	29%	10%	100%
Ease of bus travel in your community	8%	32%	32%	28%	100%
Ease of rail or subway travel in your community	2%	12%	14%	71%	100%
Ease of car travel in your community	24%	56%	17%	3%	100%
Ease of walking in your community	25%	47%	21%	7%	100%

Question 3: Overall Services to Older Adults					
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
How would you rate the overall services provided to older adults in your community?	10%	55%	29%	6%	100%

Question 4: Level of Informedness about Services and Activities for Older Adults	
In general, how informed or uninformed do you feel about services and activities available to older adults in your community?	Percent of respondents
Very informed	12%
Somewhat informed	51%
Somewhat uninformed	24%
Very uninformed	13%
Total	100%

Question 5: Quality of Life and Health					
Please circle the number that comes closest to your opinion for each of the following questions.	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
How do you rate your overall physical health?	18%	58%	18%	5%	100%
How do you rate your overall mental health/emotional well being?	37%	53%	10%	1%	100%
How do you rate your overall quality of life?	29%	56%	12%	2%	100%

Question 6: Problems Faced by Older Adults					
The following questions list a number of problems that older adults may or may not face. Thinking back over the last 12 months, how much of a problem, if at all, has each of the following been for you?	Not a problem	Minor problem	Moderate problem	Major problem	Total
Having housing to suit your needs	87%	8%	4%	2%	100%
Your physical health	42%	33%	19%	6%	100%
Performing regular activities, including walking, eating and preparing meals	72%	17%	8%	3%	100%
Having enough food to eat	92%	5%	3%	0%	100%
Doing heavy or intense housework	44%	29%	16%	11%	100%
Having safe and affordable transportation available	74%	15%	8%	4%	100%
No longer being able to drive	86%	5%	3%	6%	100%
Feeling depressed	64%	24%	10%	2%	100%
Experiencing confusion or forgetfulness	67%	26%	5%	2%	100%
Maintaining your home	61%	27%	10%	3%	100%
Maintaining your yard	57%	27%	10%	6%	100%
Finding productive or meaningful activities to do	71%	18%	7%	3%	100%
Having friends or family you can rely on	79%	13%	6%	3%	100%

Question 6: Problems Faced by Older Adults					
The following questions list a number of problems that older adults may or may not face. Thinking back over the last 12 months, how much of a problem, if at all, has each of the following been for you?	Not a problem	Minor problem	Moderate problem	Major problem	Total
Falling or injuring yourself in your home	80%	14%	4%	2%	100%
Finding affordable health insurance	70%	14%	8%	9%	100%
Getting the health care you need	78%	12%	8%	2%	100%
Affording the medications you need	73%	15%	6%	6%	100%
Getting the oral health care you need	71%	15%	7%	7%	100%
Having tooth or mouth problems	63%	22%	9%	6%	100%
Having enough money to meet daily expenses	67%	21%	7%	5%	100%
Having enough money to pay your property taxes	69%	16%	8%	6%	100%
Staying physically fit	42%	33%	19%	6%	100%
Maintaining a healthy diet	61%	25%	12%	2%	100%
Having interesting recreational or cultural activities to attend	64%	22%	11%	3%	100%
Having interesting social events or activities to attend	62%	23%	12%	4%	100%
Feeling bored	65%	22%	11%	3%	100%
Feeling like your voice is heard in the community	49%	25%	17%	10%	100%
Finding meaningful volunteer work	76%	14%	7%	3%	100%
Providing care for another person	75%	12%	8%	5%	100%
Dealing with legal issues	71%	17%	7%	5%	100%
Having adequate information or dealing with public programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid	60%	22%	11%	6%	100%
Finding work in retirement	67%	11%	10%	11%	100%
Building skills for paid or unpaid work	69%	16%	10%	5%	100%
Not knowing what services are available to older adults in your community	42%	27%	19%	11%	100%
Feeling lonely or isolated	73%	16%	7%	3%	100%
Dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend	67%	15%	11%	7%	100%
Being a victim of crime	88%	6%	3%	3%	100%
Being a victim of fraud or a scam	88%	6%	4%	3%	100%
Being physically or emotionally abused	95%	2%	1%	2%	100%
Dealing with financial planning issues	69%	20%	9%	3%	100%

Question 7: Days Spent in Facilities					
Thinking back over the past 12 months, how many days did you spend in...	No days (zero)	One to two days	Three to five days	Six or more days	Total
As a patient in a hospital	79%	8%	7%	6%	100%
In a nursing home or in-patient rehabilitation facility	97%	0%	0%	3%	100%

Question 8: Falls in Last 12 Months	
Thinking back over the past 12 months, how many times have you fallen and injured yourself? Was it...	Percent of respondents
Never	70%
Once or twice	27%
3-5 times	2%
More than 5 times	1%
Total	100%

Question 9: Recommend Living in Community	
How likely or unlikely are you to recommend living in your community to older adults?	Percent of respondents
Very likely	39%
Somewhat likely	45%
Somewhat unlikely	10%
Very unlikely	6%
Total	100%

Question 10: Likelihood of Remaining in Community Throughout Retirement	
How likely or unlikely are you to remain in your community throughout your retirement?	Percent of respondents
Very likely	59%
Somewhat likely	28%
Somewhat unlikely	7%
Very unlikely	6%
Total	100%

Question 11: Participation in Activities					
In the last 12 months, about how many times, if ever, have you participated in or done each of the following?	Never	Once or twice	3 to 12 times	13 to 26 times	Total
Used a senior center in your community	76%	14%	7%	3%	100%
Used a recreation center in your community	61%	21%	12%	7%	100%
Used a public library in your community	37%	26%	26%	10%	100%
Attended a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting in your community	68%	24%	7%	1%	100%
Watched a meeting of local elected officials or other public meeting on cable television, the Internet or other media	58%	25%	14%	3%	100%
Used public transit (e.g., bus, subway, light rail, etc.) within your community	74%	13%	10%	2%	100%
Visited a neighborhood park	18%	26%	39%	17%	100%

Question 12: Hours Spent Doing Activities						
During a typical week, how many hours, if any, do you spend doing the following?	Never (no hours)	1 to 3 hours	4 to 5 hours	6 to 10 hours	11 or more hours	Total
Participating in a club (including book, dance, game and other social)	64%	20%	8%	4%	4%	100%
Participating in a civic group (including Elks, Kiwanis, Masons, etc.)	88%	7%	2%	1%	2%	100%
Communicating/ visiting with friends and/or family	3%	22%	26%	18%	31%	100%
Participating in religious or spiritual activities with others	37%	35%	11%	6%	10%	100%
Participating in a recreation program or group activity	52%	23%	9%	7%	9%	100%
Providing help to friends or relatives	12%	44%	19%	9%	16%	100%
Volunteering your time to some group/activity in your community	60%	25%	6%	3%	6%	100%

Question 13: Hours Spent Providing Care							
During a typical week, how many hours do you spend providing care for one or more individuals with whom you have a significant relationship (such as spouse, other relative, partner, friend, neighbor or child), whether or not they live with you?	Never (no hours)	1 to 3 hours	4 to 5 hours	6 to 10 hours	11 to 20 hours	20 or more hours	Total
One or more individuals age 60 or older	57%	17%	6%	6%	2%	11%	100%
One or more individuals age 18 to 59	71%	13%	5%	3%	2%	6%	100%
One or more individuals under age 18	72%	10%	5%	3%	3%	6%	100%

Question 14: Receives Care	
Whether or not they live with you, does someone provide assistance to you almost every day?	Percent of respondents
Yes	17%
No	83%
Total	100%

Question D1: Length of Residency	
How many years have you lived in your community?	Percent of respondents
Less than 1 year	1%
1-5 years	14%
6-10 years	10%
11-20 years	18%
More than 20 years	56%
Total	100%

Question D2: Housing Unit Type	
Which best describes the building you live in?	Percent of respondents
Single family home	80%
Townhouse, condominium, duplex or apartment	17%
Mobile home	1%
Assisted living residence	1%
Nursing home	0%
Other	1%
Total	100%

Question D3: Tenure (Rent or Own)	
Do you currently rent or own your home?	Percent of respondents
Rent	17%
Own (with a mortgage payment)	37%
Own (free and clear; no mortgage)	46%
Total	100%

Question D4: Monthly Housing Costs	
About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?	Percent of respondents
Less than \$300 per month	16%
\$300 to \$599 per month	28%
\$600 to \$999 per month	22%
\$1,000 to \$1,499 per month	14%
\$1,500 to \$2,499 per month	15%
\$2,500 or more per month	5%
Total	100%

Question D5: Total Number of Household Members	
How many people, including yourself, live in your household?	Percent of respondents
1 person (live alone)	34%
2 people	55%
3 people	7%
4 or more people	4%
Total	100%

Question D6: Number of Older Adult Household Members	
How many of these people, including yourself, are 60 or older?	Percent of respondents
1 person	51%
2 people	48%
3 people	0%
4 or more people	1%
Total	100%

Question D7: Retirement Status	
What is your employment status?	Percent of respondents
Fully retired	67%
Working full time for pay	17%
Working part time for pay	13%
Unemployed, looking for paid work	3%
Total	100%

Question D8: Expected Age of Retirement	
[If not yet fully retired] At what age do you expect to retire completely and not work for pay at all?	Percent of respondents
60 to 64	8%
65 to 69	38%
70 to 74	31%
75 or older	23%
Total	100%

Question D9: Household Income	
How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)	Percent of respondents
Less than \$15,000	7%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	18%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	29%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	21%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	10%
\$100,000 or more	14%
Total	100%

Question D10: Respondent Ethnicity/Origin	
Are you Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?	Percent of respondents
Yes	5%
No	95%
Total	100%

Question D11: Respondent Race	
What is your race?	Percent of respondents
American Indian or Alaskan native	1%
Asian or Pacific Islander	1%
Black, African American	0%
White/Caucasian	96%
Other	3%
Total	100%

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one option.

Question D12: Respondent Age	
In which category is your age?	Percent of respondents
60-64 years	31%
65-69 years	19%
70-74 years	17%
75-79 years	16%
80-84 years	9%
85-89 years	7%
90-94 years	1%
95 years or older	0%
Total	100%

Question D13: Respondent Gender	
What is your sex?	Percent of respondents
Female	57%
Male	43%
Total	100%

Question D14: Respondent Sexual Orientation	
What is your sexual orientation?	Percent of respondents
Heterosexual	99%
Lesbian	1%
Gay	0%
Bi-sexual	0%
Total	100%

Question D15: Voter Registration Status	
Are you registered to vote in your jurisdiction?	Percent of respondents
Yes	96%
No	4%
Ineligible to vote	0%
Total	100%

Question D16: Voted in Last General Election	
Many people don't have time to vote in elections. Did you vote in the last general election?	Percent of respondents
Yes	94%
No	6%
Ineligible to vote	0%
Total	100%

Frequencies Including Don't Know Responses

These tables contain the percentage of respondents for each response category as well as the N or total number of respondents for each category, next to the percentage. When the total N for a question does not equal the total number of all respondents, it is due to some respondents skipping the question.

Question 1: Quality of Community												
Please circle the number that comes closest to your opinion for each of the following questions.	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	How do you rate your community as a place to live?	39%	612	53%	824	7%	108	0%	5	0%	3	100%
How do you rate your community as a place to retire?	27%	416	52%	795	16%	239	3%	49	1%	19	100%	1,518

Question 2: Community Characteristics												
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to adults age 60 or over in your community:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	Opportunities to volunteer	25%	392	43%	670	11%	173	2%	27	20%	306	100%
Employment opportunities	2%	28	14%	210	27%	423	18%	278	39%	607	100%	1,545
Opportunities to enroll in skill-building or personal enrichment classes	13%	196	44%	676	17%	268	4%	54	23%	349	100%	1,543
Recreation opportunities (including games, arts and library services, etc.)	32%	500	47%	744	11%	168	2%	37	8%	122	100%	1,570
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	38%	583	43%	666	10%	150	2%	24	8%	132	100%	1,555
Opportunities to attend social events or activities	16%	247	39%	611	22%	348	4%	63	18%	287	100%	1,557
Opportunities to attend religious or spiritual activities	34%	530	44%	682	8%	123	1%	20	13%	207	100%	1,561
Opportunities to attend or participate in meetings about local government or community matters	16%	255	40%	630	23%	354	5%	77	15%	240	100%	1,555
Availability of affordable quality housing	5%	77	24%	377	33%	509	14%	215	24%	382	100%	1,561
Variety of housing options	7%	112	31%	479	30%	457	10%	147	22%	334	100%	1,528
Availability of information about resources for older adults	9%	137	37%	578	27%	426	9%	145	18%	275	100%	1,561
Availability of financial and legal planning services	5%	81	26%	399	24%	368	8%	118	37%	571	100%	1,536
Availability of affordable quality physical health care	14%	222	39%	605	21%	332	9%	142	16%	257	100%	1,558
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	5%	82	21%	320	16%	247	8%	126	50%	774	100%	1,549

Question 2: Community Characteristics												
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to adults age 60 or over in your community:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	Availability of preventive health services (e.g., health screenings, flu shots, educational workshops)	18%	276	45%	702	21%	328	5%	74	12%	184	100%
Availability of affordable quality food	22%	341	49%	764	19%	293	5%	74	6%	88	100%	1,560
Sense of community	13%	191	40%	611	30%	452	7%	110	10%	158	100%	1,522
Openness and acceptance of the community towards older residents of diverse backgrounds	10%	154	37%	572	22%	338	7%	112	24%	366	100%	1,541
Ease of bus travel in your community	6%	93	24%	370	24%	374	21%	333	25%	381	100%	1,551
Ease of rail or subway travel in your community	2%	23	8%	121	9%	139	47%	699	34%	499	100%	1,481
Ease of car travel in your community	24%	370	54%	846	16%	255	3%	45	3%	43	100%	1,560
Ease of walking in your community	25%	383	46%	711	20%	319	7%	113	2%	35	100%	1,562

Question 3: Overall Services to Older Adults		
How would you rate the overall services provided to older adults in your community?	Percent of respondents	Count
Excellent	8%	127
Good	43%	676
Fair	22%	352
Poor	4%	68
Don't know	23%	356
Total	100%	1,578

Question 4: Level of Informedness about Services and Activities for Older Adults		
In general, how informed or uninformed do you feel about services and activities available to older adults in your community?	Percent of respondents	Count
Very informed	12%	184
Somewhat informed	51%	810
Somewhat uninformed	24%	384
Very uninformed	13%	204
Total	100%	1,583

Question 5: Quality of Life and Health												
Please circle the number that comes closest to your opinion for each of the following questions.	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	How do you rate your overall physical health?	18%	287	58%	924	18%	287	5%	82	0%	4	100%
How do you rate your overall mental health/emotional well being?	37%	580	52%	826	10%	152	1%	15	1%	9	100%	1,583
How do you rate your overall quality of life?	29%	468	56%	896	12%	195	2%	29	0%	1	100%	1,589

Question 6: Problems Faced by Older Adults												
The following questions list a number of problems that older adults may or may not face. Thinking back over the last 12 months, how much of a problem, if at all, has each of the following been for you?	Not a problem		Minor problem		Moderate problem		Major problem		Don't know		Total	
	Having housing to suit your needs	85%	1,345	8%	122	4%	57	2%	25	2%	32	100%
Your physical health	42%	665	33%	517	19%	299	6%	88	0%	3	100%	1,572
Performing regular activities, including walking, eating and preparing meals	72%	1,132	17%	263	8%	131	3%	55	0%	1	100%	1,582
Having enough food to eat	92%	1,441	5%	71	3%	46	0%	6	0%	6	100%	1,570
Doing heavy or intense housework	43%	673	29%	453	16%	254	11%	167	1%	18	100%	1,565
Having safe and affordable transportation available	70%	1,092	14%	220	7%	114	4%	57	5%	80	100%	1,563
No longer being able to drive	79%	1,198	4%	68	3%	44	6%	84	8%	129	100%	1,523
Feeling depressed	63%	982	23%	363	10%	159	2%	37	1%	23	100%	1,565
Experiencing confusion or forgetfulness	66%	1,041	26%	404	5%	83	2%	25	1%	17	100%	1,571
Maintaining your home	60%	945	27%	418	10%	152	3%	46	1%	16	100%	1,576
Maintaining your yard	55%	848	26%	402	10%	152	6%	96	3%	49	100%	1,546
Finding productive or meaningful activities to do	70%	1,100	18%	283	7%	114	3%	42	2%	31	100%	1,570
Having friends or family you can rely on	78%	1,238	13%	198	6%	93	3%	40	1%	10	100%	1,579
Falling or injuring yourself in your home	78%	1,233	14%	222	4%	58	2%	30	2%	30	100%	1,572
Finding affordable health insurance	68%	1,084	14%	217	8%	122	8%	135	2%	30	100%	1,587
Getting the health care you need	77%	1,219	12%	182	8%	129	2%	37	1%	12	100%	1,578
Affording the medications you need	72%	1,139	15%	232	6%	94	6%	97	1%	14	100%	1,575

Question 6: Problems Faced by Older Adults

The following questions list a number of problems that older adults may or may not face. Thinking back over the last 12 months, how much of a problem, if at all, has each of the following been for you?	Not a problem		Minor problem		Moderate problem		Major problem		Don't know		Total	
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Getting the oral health care you need	70%	1,106	15%	229	7%	115	7%	109	1%	16	100%	1,576
Having tooth or mouth problems	62%	983	22%	351	9%	143	5%	86	1%	11	100%	1,574
Having enough money to meet daily expenses	67%	1,054	21%	333	7%	113	4%	71	1%	12	100%	1,583
Having enough money to pay your property taxes	66%	1,018	15%	236	8%	123	6%	92	5%	77	100%	1,546
Staying physically fit	41%	646	33%	511	19%	296	6%	95	1%	12	100%	1,560
Maintaining a healthy diet	60%	943	25%	389	12%	184	2%	33	1%	11	100%	1,560
Having interesting recreational or cultural activities to attend	61%	934	21%	329	11%	164	3%	40	5%	71	100%	1,538
Having interesting social events or activities to attend	58%	885	22%	336	11%	166	3%	52	7%	100	100%	1,538
Feeling bored	64%	989	21%	330	10%	161	3%	52	1%	12	100%	1,543
Feeling like your voice is heard in the community	35%	539	18%	273	12%	185	7%	113	27%	420	100%	1,529
Finding meaningful volunteer work	57%	870	11%	161	5%	78	2%	33	25%	381	100%	1,523
Providing care for another person	60%	902	10%	150	7%	99	4%	56	20%	295	100%	1,503
Dealing with legal issues	62%	938	15%	223	6%	95	4%	66	13%	196	100%	1,518
Having adequate information or dealing with public programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid	56%	867	21%	317	11%	165	6%	88	7%	101	100%	1,538
Finding work in retirement	46%	690	8%	115	7%	102	8%	117	31%	467	100%	1,491
Building skills for paid or unpaid work	47%	699	11%	158	7%	104	4%	53	32%	471	100%	1,485
Not knowing what services are available to older adults in your community	36%	544	23%	356	16%	249	9%	145	16%	239	100%	1,533
Feeling lonely or isolated	72%	1,115	16%	250	7%	114	3%	48	1%	19	100%	1,546
Dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend	63%	972	15%	224	10%	161	6%	95	5%	80	100%	1,533
Being a victim of crime	80%	1,234	6%	85	3%	45	2%	36	9%	141	100%	1,542
Being a victim of fraud or a scam	79%	1,220	5%	81	3%	50	2%	35	10%	150	100%	1,536
Being physically or emotionally abused	90%	1,386	2%	33	1%	15	2%	23	6%	90	100%	1,546
Dealing with financial planning issues	66%	1,031	19%	303	8%	129	3%	40	3%	54	100%	1,558

Question 7: Days Spent in Facilities												
Thinking back over the past 12 months, how many days did you spend in...	No days (zero)		One to two days		Three to five days		Six or more days		Don't know		Total	
As a patient in a hospital	79%	1,170	8%	117	7%	110	6%	84	0%	0	100%	1,481
In a nursing home or in-patient rehabilitation facility	97%	1,374	0%	2	0%	1	3%	39	0%	0	100%	1,416

Question 8: Falls in Last 12 Months		
Thinking back over the past 12 months, how many times have you fallen and injured yourself? Was it...	Percent of respondents	Count
Never	70%	1,096
Once or twice	27%	423
3-5 times	2%	35
More than 5 times	1%	10
Don't know	1%	12
Total	100%	1,576

Question 10: Likelihood of Remaining in Community Throughout Retirement		
How likely or unlikely are you to remain in your community throughout your retirement?	Percent of respondents	Count
Very likely	56%	867
Somewhat likely	26%	411
Somewhat unlikely	7%	106
Very unlikely	6%	90
Don't know	5%	80
Total	100%	1,554

Question 14: Receives Care		
Whether or not they live with you, does someone provide assistance to you almost every day?	Percent of respondents	Count
Yes	17%	259
No	83%	1,301
Total	100%	1,560

Question D3: Tenure (Rent or Own)		
Do you currently rent or own your home?	Percent of respondents	Count
Rent	17%	263
Own (with a mortgage payment)	37%	584
Own (free and clear; no mortgage)	46%	734
Total	100%	1,581

Question D6: Number of Older Adult Household Members		
How many of these people, including yourself, are 60 or older?	Percent of respondents	Count
1 person	51%	776
2 people	48%	729
3 people	0%	4
4 or more people	1%	8
Don't know	0%	0
Total	100%	1,517

Question D7: Retirement Status		
What is your employment status?	Percent of respondents	Count
Fully retired	67%	1,032
Working full time for pay	17%	268
Working part time for pay	13%	202
Unemployed, looking for paid work	3%	45
Total	100%	1,546

Question D8: Expected Age of Retirement		
[If not yet fully retired] At what age do you expect to retire completely and not work for pay at all?	Percent of respondents	Count
60 to 64	8%	32
65 to 69	38%	154
70 to 74	31%	128
75 or older	23%	95
Total	100%	409

Question D9: Household Income		
How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)	Percent of respondents	Count
Less than \$15,000	7%	104
\$15,000 to \$24,999	18%	258
\$25,000 to \$49,999	29%	420
\$50,000 to \$74,999	21%	304
\$75,000 to \$99,999	10%	148
\$100,000 or more	14%	198
Total	100%	1,431

Question D10: Respondent Ethnicity/Origin		
Are you Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?	Percent of respondents	Count
Yes	5%	84
No	95%	1,456
Total	100%	1,540

Question D11: Respondent Race		
What is your race?	Percent of respondents	Count
American Indian or Alaskan native	1%	12
Asian or Pacific Islander	1%	11
Black, African American	0%	5
White/Caucasian	96%	1,498
Other	3%	47
Total	100%	1,554

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one option.

Question D12: Respondent Age		
In which category is your age?	Percent of respondents	Count
60-64 years	31%	480
65-69 years	19%	298
70-74 years	17%	259
75-79 years	16%	250
80-84 years	9%	146
85-89 years	7%	106
90-94 years	1%	21
95 years or older	0%	5
Total	100%	1,564

Question D13: Respondent Gender		
What is your sex?	Percent of respondents	Count
Female	57%	885
Male	43%	680
Total	100%	1,565

Question D14: Respondent Sexual Orientation		
What is your sexual orientation?	Percent of respondents	Count
Heterosexual	98%	1,434
Lesbian	0%	7
Gay	0%	6
Bisexual	1%	15
Total	100%	1,462

Question D15: Voter Registration Status		
Are you registered to vote in your jurisdiction?	Percent of respondents	Count
Yes	96%	1,525
No	3%	56
Ineligible to vote	0%	2
Don't know	0%	6
Total	100%	1,589

Question D16: Voted in Last General Election		
Many people don't have time to vote in elections. Did you vote in the last general election?	Percent of respondents	Count
Yes	94%	1,498
No	6%	89
Ineligible to vote	0%	3
Don't know	0%	3
Total	100%	1,593

Appendix B: Survey Methodology

Data Collection Methods Used in the CASOA™

The CASOA™ instrument and its administration are standardized to assure high quality survey methods and comparable results across CASOA™ communities. The CASOA™ was customized for Jefferson County to reflect the correct local age definition of older adults and so that the mailing materials used official Jefferson County graphics, contact information and signatures.

Survey Development

The CASOA™ questionnaire contains many questions related to the life of older residents in the community. The instrument includes questions related to overall quality of life, characteristics of the community, perceptions of safety in the community and of 40 different needs common to older adults.

The questionnaire grew from a synthesis of a number of data collection processes including a national search of needs assessments conducted by communities across the United States, a review of the literature on aging and the conduct of numerous surveys and large scale needs assessments by NRC. A blue-ribbon panel of national experts contributed to the concept and content of the CASOA™.

The items in the questionnaire were pilot tested on senior residents using a “think-aloud” method in which older adults were asked to complete the survey and describe their thought processes related to specific questions and question sets. The results of the pilot test were used to alter the questionnaire for better understanding by senior participants. The final questionnaire was tested in a set of diverse U.S. communities and modifications again were made as necessary.

Survey Sampling

“Sampling” refers to the method by which survey recipients are chosen. The “sample” refers to all those who were given a chance to participate in the survey. A sample of residents in the area 60 years of age and older was used. Although the purchased list of known senior households contained names of the residents 60 years and older, no name was printed on the survey envelope; instead, the survey was addressed to “Resident.” The list of households was compiled from a variety of public sources.

In order to select a random individual 60 years of age and older within the household, the cover letter requested that the questionnaire be given to the person 60 years of age and older who most recently celebrated their birthday (regardless of year of birth) to complete. This “birthday method” is a respondent selection method which helps to randomly select an individual within a household. It is similar to other more complex methodologies (e.g., “Kisch” or “Trodahl”), but easier to implement.

Survey Administration

Each sampled household received three mailings beginning in late April. Completed surveys were collected over the following five weeks. The first mailing was a prenotification postcard announcing the upcoming survey. A week after the prenotification postcard mailed the first wave of the survey was sent. The second wave was mailed one week after the first. The survey mailings

contained a letter from the executive director of Jefferson County Human Services inviting the household to participate in the CASOA, a questionnaire and postage-paid envelope in which to return the questionnaire.

Survey Response Rate and Confidence Intervals

Seventy-nine of the 3,750 postcards sent to Jefferson County residents were returned as undeliverable because they either had addresses that were undeliverable as addressed or were received by vacant housing units. Of the 3,671 households receiving the survey mailings, 1,605 completed the survey, providing a response rate of 43%. This is a good response rate; older adults participate in surveys at a higher rate than younger adults.

It is customary to describe the precision of estimates made from surveys by a “level of confidence” and accompanying “confidence interval” (or margin of error). A traditional level of confidence, and the one used here, is 95%. The 95% confidence interval can be any size and quantifies the sampling error or imprecision of the survey results because some residents’ opinions are relied on to estimate all residents’ opinions. The confidence interval for the Jefferson County CASOA™ survey is no greater than plus or minus two percentage points around any given percent reported for the entire sample and two points around average ratings.

A 95% confidence interval indicates that for every 100 random samples of this many residents, 95 of the confidence intervals created will include the “true” population response. This theory is applied in practice to mean that the “true” perspective of the target population lies within the confidence interval created for a single survey. For example, if 75% of residents rate a service as “excellent” or “good,” then a 4% margin of error (for the 95% confidence interval) indicates that the range of likely responses for the entire community is between 71% and 79%. This source of error is called sampling error. In addition to sampling error, other sources of error may affect any survey, including the non-response of residents with opinions different from survey responders.

For subgroups of responses, the margin of error increases because the sample size for the subgroup is smaller. For subgroups of approximately 100 respondents, the margin of error is plus or minus 10 percentage points.

The practical difficulties of conducting any resident survey may introduce other sources of error in addition to sampling error. Despite our best efforts to boost participation and ensure potential inclusion of all older adults, some selected households will decline participation in the survey (potentially introducing non-response error) and some eligible households may be unintentionally excluded from the listed sources for the sample (referred to as coverage error).

Survey Processing (Data Entry)

Completed surveys received were assigned a unique identification number. Additionally, each survey was reviewed and “cleaned” as necessary. For example, a question may have asked a respondent to pick one response, but the respondent checked two; the cleaning process would involve randomly selecting one of the two selected responses to be recorded in the dataset.

Once all surveys were assigned a unique identification number, they were entered into an electronic dataset. This dataset was subject to a data entry protocol of “key and verify,” in which survey data were entered twice into an electronic dataset and then compared. Discrepancies were

evaluated against the original survey form and corrected. “Range checks” (examination of the data for invalid values) as well as other forms of quality control also were performed.

Survey Data Weighting

The demographic characteristics of those completing the survey were compared to those found in the 2000 Census estimates and other population norms for Jefferson County residents age 60 and older. Sample results were weighted using the population norms to reflect the appropriate percent of those residents. Other discrepancies between the whole population and the sample also were aided by the weighting due to the intercorrelation of many socioeconomic characteristics.

The variables used for weighting were sex, age, race, ethnicity, housing tenure (rent/own), housing unit type and geographic area. This decision was based on the disparity between the survey respondent characteristics, the population norms for these variables and the saliency of these variables in detecting differences of opinion among subgroups.

The primary objective of weighting survey data is to make the survey sample reflective of the larger older adult population of the community. This is done by: 1) reviewing the sample demographics and comparing them to the population norms from the most recent Census or other sources and 2) comparing the responses to different questions for demographic subgroups. The demographic characteristics that are least similar to the Census and yield the most different results are the best candidates for data weighting.

A special software program using mathematical algorithms is used to calculate the appropriate weights. Data weighting can adjust multiple demographic variables. Several different weighting “schemes” may be tested to ensure the best fit for the data.

The results of the weighting schemes for Jefferson County are presented in the following table.

Figure 15: Weighting Scheme for the 2010 Jefferson County CASOA™

	US Census Norm	Unweighted	Weighted
Sex and Age			
60-74	68%	65%	66%
75-84	24%	26%	26%
85+	8%	9%	8%
Female	56%	58%	57%
Male	44%	42%	43%
Female 60-74	36%	36%	35%
Female 75-84	14%	16%	15%
Female 85+	6%	7%	6%
Male 60-74	32%	30%	32%
Male 75-84	10%	10%	10%
Male 85+	2%	2%	2%
Race and Ethnicity			
White	96%	95%	96%
Non-white	4%	5%	4%
Hispanic	4%	6%	5%
Not Hispanic	96%	94%	95%
Housing Characteristics			
Rent	18%	21%	18%
Own	82%	79%	82%
Detached	82%	78%	80%
Attached	18%	22%	20%
Geography			
Arvada	21%	28%	21%
Edgewater	1%	12%	1%
Golden	3%	14%	3%
Lakewood	33%	13%	33%
Wheat Ridge	11%	14%	11%
Other Cities	6%	6%	6%
Unincorporated	25%	13%	25%

¹Source: U.S. Census Bureau - Census 2000

Survey Data Analysis and Reporting

The survey dataset was analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). For the most part, frequency distributions and mean ratings are presented in the body of the report. A complete set of frequencies for each survey question is presented in *Appendix A: Complete Set of Survey Frequencies*.

A variety of analyses were presented in the body of the report. The following sections summarize how these analyses were conducted or scores calculated.

Estimates of the Contribution of Older Adults to the Economy

The calculations of the economic contributions of older adults in Jefferson County were rough estimates using data from the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics (Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Area Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates).

The proportion of older adults who work was estimated by examining the responses to question D7 from the survey (“What is your employment status?”). Those working full-time were assumed to work 32 hours per week and those working part-time were assumed to work 15 hours per week. The proportion of survey respondents was multiplied by the number of adults 60 and over in the community to ascertain the number of employed older adults. To determine the average paid wage, information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the Denver MSA was examined. Working full-time and part-time was assumed to be the equivalent of “All Occupations” (occupation code 00-0000).

The proportion of older adults doing volunteer work and providing help to friends and neighbors was determined by looking at the responses to question 14 (“During a typical week, how many hours, if any, do you spend doing the following?”), items f (“providing help to family and friends”) and g (“volunteering your time to some group/activity”). Those responding “1 to 3 hours” were assumed to spend two hours, “4 to 5 hours” were assumed to spend 4.5 hours, those responding “6 to 10 hours” were assumed to spend eight hours, and those responding “11 or more hours” were assumed to spend 13.75 hours (125% of 11). To determine the average hourly wage, “providing help to family and friends” was assumed to be the equivalent of “Personal Care and Service Workers, All Other” (occupation code 39-9099) and volunteering was assumed to be the equivalent of “Office Clerks, General” (occupation code 43-9061).

The proportion of older adults providing care to family and friends was determined by examining the responses to question 16. Those responding “1 to 3 hours” were assumed to spend two hours, “4 to 5 hours” were assumed to spend 4.5 hours, those responding “6 to 10 hours” were assumed to spend eight hours, and those responding “11 to 19 hours” were assumed to spend 15 hours, and those responding “20 or more hours” were assumed to spend 25 hours (125% of 20). To determine the average hourly wage, “providing care for older adults and adults” (items a and b) were assumed to be the equivalent of “Personal and Home Care Aides” (occupation code 39-9021) and “providing care for children” (item c) was assumed to be the equivalent of “Child Care Workers” (occupation code 39-9011).

Community Summary Scores

The community score presented in the body of the report represents the average of the questions included in the index. Although the evaluative or frequency questions were made on 4- or 5- point scales with 1 representing the best rating, the scales had different labels (e.g., “excellent,” “not a problem,” “very likely”). To calculate these average scores, the questions used in the index were converted to a common scale where 0 is the worst possible rating and 100 is the best possible rating. If everyone reported “excellent,” then the result would be 100 on the 0-100 scale. If the average rating for quality of life was right in the middle of the scale (half way between “good” and

“fair”), then the result would be 50. The new scale can be thought of like the thermometer used to represent total giving to United Way. The higher the thermometer reading, the closer to the goal of 100 – in this case, the most positive response possible. The table below shows the individual questions comprising each summary score.

Index	Individual Variables Used in Index
Quality of Community	q1a. How do you rate your community as a place to live?
	q1b. How do you rate your community as a place to retire?
	q3. How would you rate the overall services provided to older adults in your community?
Community Information	q2k. Availability of information about resources for older adults
	q2l. Availability of financial and legal planning services
Health and Wellness Opportunities	q2e. Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)
	q2m. Availability of affordable quality physical health care
	q2n. Availability of affordable quality mental health care
	q2o. Availability of preventive health services (e.g., health screenings, flu shots, educational workshops)
	q2p. Availability of affordable quality food
	q2x. Overall feeling of safety in your community
Opportunities for Productive Activities	q2a. Opportunities to volunteer
	q2b. Employment opportunities
	q2c. Opportunities to enroll in skill-building or personal enrichment classes
	q2d. Recreation opportunities (including games, arts and library services, etc.)
	q2f. Opportunities to attend social events or activities
	q2g. Opportunities to attend religious or spiritual activities
	q2h. Opportunities to attend or participate in meetings about local government or community matters
Community Land Use and Design	q2i. Availability of affordable quality housing
	q2j. Variety of housing options
	q2s. Ease of bus travel in your community
	q2t. Ease of rail or subway travel in your community
	q2u. Ease of car travel in your community
	q2v. Ease of walking in your community
	q2w. Ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit
Community and Belonging	q2q. Sense of community
	q2r. Openness and acceptance of the community towards older residents of diverse backgrounds
	q2y. Valuing older residents in your community
	q2z. Neighborliness of your community

Needs Summary Scores

The needs summary scores (indices) are based on the response patterns of older adults in the community. The table below contains each question included in the index and the required response to that question. So, for example, if a respondent indicated that her overall physical health (q5a) was “fair,” she would be counted as having a physical health issue along with other respondents who may have noted that they had a moderate or major problem with falling or maintaining a healthy diet, etc. Respondents with many physical health problems are counted only once in this category so that the total percent shown in the report graph represents the percent of older adults with at least one physical problem.

Index	Individual Variables Used in Index	Required Rating
Physical health	Must have at least one of the following:	
	q5a. How do you rate your overall physical health?	Fair or poor
	q7b. In a nursing home or in-patient rehabilitation facility	At least 1 day
	q6(a)b. Your physical health	Moderate or major problem
	q6(a)c. Performing regular activities, including walking, eating and preparing meals	Moderate or major problem
	q6(a)n. Falling or injuring yourself in your home	Moderate or major problem
	q6(b)v. Staying physically fit	Moderate or major problem
	q6(b)w. Maintaining a healthy diet	Moderate or major problem
	q6(a)s. Having tooth or mouth problems	Moderate or major problem
Mental health	Must have at least one of the following:	
	q5b. How do you rate your overall mental health/emotional well being?	Fair or poor
	q5c. How do you rate your overall quality of life?	Fair or poor
	q6(a)h. Feeling depressed	Moderate or major problem
	q6(a)i. Experiencing confusion or forgetfulness	Moderate or major problem
	q6(b)jj. Dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend	Moderate or major problem
Independence/ Institutionalization risk	Must have:	
	q6(a)c. Performing regular activities, including walking, eating and preparing meals	Moderate or major problem
Safety	Must have at least one of the following:	
	q6(b)kk. Being a victim of crime	Moderate or major problem
	q6(b)ll. Being a victim of fraud or a scam	Moderate or major problem
	q6(b)mm. Being physically or emotionally abused	Moderate or major problem
Mobility	Must have at least one of the following:	
	q6(a)f. Having safe and affordable transportation available	Moderate or major problem

Index	Individual Variables Used in Index	Required Rating
	q6(a)g. No longer being able to drive	Moderate or major problem
Housing	Must have at least one of the following:	
	d4. About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?/ d9. How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)	Housing cost >30% of income
	q6(a)a. Having housing to suit your needs	Moderate or major problem
Home maintenance	Must have at least one of the following:	
	q6(a)e. Doing heavy or intense housework	Moderate or major problem
	q6(a)j. Maintaining your home	Moderate or major problem
	q6(a)k. Maintaining your yard	Moderate or major problem
Social engagement	Must have:	
	q12c. Communicating/ visiting with friends and/or family	Less than 4 hours
	Or	
	q6(b)y. Having interesting social events or activities to attend	Moderate or major problem
	Or all of the following:	
	q12a. Participating in a club (including book, dance, game and other social)	Never
	q12b. Participating in a civic group (including Elks, Kiwanis, Masons, etc.)	Never
	q12d. Participating in religious or spiritual activities with others	Never
q12e. Participating in a recreation program or group activity	Never	
Social support	Must have:	
	d5. Household size	1 (live alone)
	And at least one of the following:	
	q6(a)m. Having friends or family you can rely on	Moderate or major problem
	q6(b)ii. Feeling lonely or isolated	Moderate or major problem
Civic engagement	Must have d14 and d15:	
	d14. Are you registered to vote in your jurisdiction?	No
	d15. Many people don't have time to vote in elections. Did you vote in the last general election?	No
	Or q12b and q12g	

Index	Individual Variables Used in Index	Required Rating
	q12b. Participating in a civic group (including Elks, Kiwanis, Masons, etc.)	Never (no hours)
	q12g. Volunteering your time to some group/activity in your community	Never (no hours)
	Or q11d and q11e	
	q11d. Attended a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting in your community	Never
	q11e. Watched a meeting of local elected officials or other public meeting on cable television, the Internet or other media	Never
Recreation, arts and culture	Must have at least one of the following:	
	q6(b)x. Having interesting recreational or cultural activities to attend	Moderate or major problem
	q6(b)z. Feeling bored	Moderate or major problem
Employment and education	Must have at least one of the following:	
	d7. What is your employment status?	Unemployed, looking for paid work
	q6(b)ff. Finding work in retirement	Moderate or major problem
	q6(b)gg. Building skills for paid or unpaid work	Moderate or major problem
Financial	Must have at least one of the following:	
	d9. How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)/ d5. How many people, including yourself, live in your household?	Less than 30% median income
	q6(a)t. Having enough money to meet daily expenses	Moderate or major problem
	q6(a)u. Having enough money to pay your property taxes	Moderate or major problem
	Must have:	
Caregiver burden	q6(b)cc. Providing care for another person	Moderate or major problem
	Must have at least one of the following:	
Information and planning	q4. In general, how informed or uninformed do you feel about services and activities available to older adults in your community?	Somewhat or very uninformed
	q6(b)dd. Dealing with legal issues	Moderate or major problem
	q6(b)ee. Having adequate information or dealing with public programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid	Moderate or major problem
	q6(b)hh. Not knowing what services are available to older adults in your community	Moderate or major problem
	q6(b)nn. Dealing with financial planning issues	Moderate or major problem

Index	Individual Variables Used in Index	Required Rating
Health care	Must have at least one of the following:	
	q6(a)o. Finding affordable health insurance	Moderate or major problem
	q6(a)p. Getting the health care you need	Moderate or major problem
	q6(a)q. Affording the medications you need	Moderate or major problem
	q6(a)r. Getting the oral health care you need	Moderate or major problem

Appendix C: Survey Materials

The following pages contain copies of the survey materials sent to randomly selected households within Jefferson County.

Important Survey on the Way!

Dear Jefferson County Resident,

Your household has been selected at random to participate in an anonymous survey about the needs of older adults in Jefferson County.

You will receive a copy of the survey next week in the mail with instructions for completing and returning it. Thank you in advance for helping us with this important study!

Thank you for your cooperation. It is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,



Lynn A. Johnson
Executive Director

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Lynn A. Johnson
Executive Director

Important Survey on the Way!

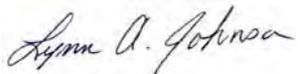
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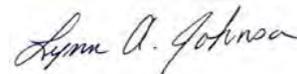
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Sincerely,



Lynn A. Johnson
Executive Director

900 Jefferson County Parkway
Golden, CO 80401



Presorted
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US Postage
PAID
Boulder, CO
Permit NO. 94

900 Jefferson County Parkway
Golden, CO 80401



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Golden, CO 80401



Presorted
First Class Mail
US Postage
PAID
Boulder, CO
Permit NO. 94



April 2010

Dear Jefferson County Resident:

Jefferson County is conducting a Community Assessment Survey of Older Adults to learn about their current and future needs. Your household is one of a small number of households in the county that we chose randomly to participate in this survey.

Please take a few minutes to complete the following survey. Your answers will help the County to better understand and plan for the needs of older adults in our community. You should find the questions interesting and we will definitely find your answers useful. Please participate!

To get a representative sample of county residents, the **adult 60 years or older** in your household **who most recently had a birthday** (regardless of the year of birth) should complete this survey. Please have the appropriate member of the household spend a few minutes to answer all the questions and return the survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. **Your responses will remain completely anonymous.**

Since only a small number of households are being surveyed, your participation is very important. If you have any questions or need assistance with this survey, please call Susan Franklin, Program Manager at 303-271-4051.

You can help us shape the future for older adults in Jefferson County. Thank you for your time and participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn A. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Lynn A. Johnson
Executive Director

Community Development & Criminal Justice Planning
Children, Youth & Families
Workforce Development
Community Assistance
Justice Services
Head Start



May 2010

Dear Jefferson County Resident:

About one week ago we sent you this survey that asks for your opinion about the needs of older adults in Jefferson County. If you have already completed the survey and returned it, we thank you and ask you to disregard this letter. **Do not complete the survey a second time.** If you haven't had a chance complete and mail the survey, please do so now. We are very interested in obtaining your input.

Community Development & Criminal Justice Planning
Children, Youth & Families
Workforce Development
Community Assistance
Justice Services
Head Start

Please take a few minutes to complete the following survey. Your answers will help the County to better understand and plan for the needs of older adults in our community. You should find the questions interesting and we will definitely find your answers useful. Please participate!

To get a representative sample of county residents, **the adult 60 years or older** in your household **who most recently had a birthday** (regardless of the year of birth) should complete this survey. Please have the appropriate member of the household spend a few minutes to answer all the questions and return the survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. **Your responses will remain completely anonymous.**

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn A. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Lynn A. Johnson
Executive Director

Please complete this questionnaire if you are the resident age 60 or older in the household who most recently had a birthday. The year of birth of the 60+ age resident does not matter. Please circle the response that most closely represents your opinion for each question. Your responses are anonymous and will be reported in group form only.

1. Please circle the number that comes closest to your opinion for each of the following questions:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
How do you rate your community as a place to live?	1	2	3	4	5
How do you rate your community as a place to retire?	1	2	3	4	5

2. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to adults age 60 or older in your community:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Opportunities to volunteer	1	2	3	4	5
Employment opportunities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to enroll in skill-building or personal enrichment classes.....	1	2	3	4	5
Recreation opportunities (including games, arts, and library services, etc.) ..	1	2	3	4	5
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)....	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to attend social events or activities	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to attend religious or spiritual activities	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to attend or participate in meetings about local government or community matters.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality housing	1	2	3	4	5
Variety of housing options.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of information about resources for older adults.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of financial or legal planning services	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality physical health care	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of preventive health services (e.g., health screenings, flu shots, educational workshops)	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality food.....	1	2	3	4	5
Sense of community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Openness and acceptance of the community towards older residents of diverse backgrounds.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of bus travel in your community	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of rail or subway travel in your community	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of car travel in your community	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of walking in your community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall feeling of safety in your community	1	2	3	4	5
Valuing older residents in your community	1	2	3	4	5
Neighborliness of your community	1	2	3	4	5

3. How would you rate the overall services provided to older adults in your community?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

4. In general, how informed or uninformed do you feel about services and activities available to older adults in your community?

- Very informed
- Somewhat informed
- Somewhat uninformed
- Very uninformed

5. Please circle the number that comes closest to your opinion for each of the following questions:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
How do you rate your overall physical health?	1	2	3	4	5
How do you rate your overall mental health/emotional well being?	1	2	3	4	5
How do you rate your overall quality of life?	1	2	3	4	5

6a. The following questions list a number of problems that older adults may or may not face. Thinking back over the last 12 months, how much of a problem, if at all, has each of the following been for you?

	<i>Not a problem</i>	<i>Minor problem</i>	<i>Moderate problem</i>	<i>Major problem</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Having housing to suit your needs	1	2	3	4	5
Your physical health.....	1	2	3	4	5
Performing regular activities, including walking, eating and preparing meals.....	1	2	3	4	5
Having enough food to eat.....	1	2	3	4	5
Doing heavy or intense housework.....	1	2	3	4	5
Having safe and affordable transportation available	1	2	3	4	5
No longer being able to drive	1	2	3	4	5
Feeling depressed.....	1	2	3	4	5
Experiencing confusion or forgetfulness	1	2	3	4	5
Maintaining your home.....	1	2	3	4	5
Maintaining your yard.....	1	2	3	4	5
Finding productive or meaningful activities to do	1	2	3	4	5
Having friends or family you can rely on	1	2	3	4	5
Falling or injuring yourself in your home	1	2	3	4	5
Finding affordable health insurance.....	1	2	3	4	5
Getting the health care you need.....	1	2	3	4	5
Affording the medications you need.....	1	2	3	4	5
Getting the oral health care you need.....	1	2	3	4	5
Having tooth or mouth problems.....	1	2	3	4	5
Having enough money to meet daily expenses	1	2	3	4	5
Having enough money to pay your property taxes.....	1	2	3	4	5

6b. The following questions list a number of other problems that older adults may or may not face. Thinking back over the last 12 months, how much of a problem, if at all, has each of the following been for you?

	<i>Not a problem</i>	<i>Minor problem</i>	<i>Moderate problem</i>	<i>Major problem</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Staying physically fit.....	1	2	3	4	5
Maintaining a healthy diet	1	2	3	4	5
Having interesting recreational or cultural activities to attend	1	2	3	4	5
Having interesting social events or activities to attend.....	1	2	3	4	5
Feeling bored	1	2	3	4	5
Feeling like your voice is heard in the community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Finding meaningful volunteer work	1	2	3	4	5
Providing care for another person.....	1	2	3	4	5
Dealing with legal issues.....	1	2	3	4	5
Having adequate information or dealing with public programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid	1	2	3	4	5
Finding work in retirement.....	1	2	3	4	5
Building skills for paid or unpaid work.....	1	2	3	4	5
Not knowing what services are available to older adults in your community	1	2	3	4	5
Feeling lonely or isolated	1	2	3	4	5
Dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend	1	2	3	4	5
Being a victim of crime	1	2	3	4	5
Being a victim of fraud or a scam.....	1	2	3	4	5
Being physically or emotionally abused	1	2	3	4	5
Dealing with financial planning issues.....	1	2	3	4	5

7. Thinking back over the past 12 months, how many days did you spend...

As a patient in a hospital? ... _____ number of days

In a nursing home or in-patient
rehabilitation facility? _____ number of days

8. Thinking back over the past 12 months, how many times have you fallen and injured yourself? Was it...

- Never
- Once or twice
- 3-5 times
- More than 5 times
- Don't know

9. How likely or unlikely are you to recommend living in your community to older adults?

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Very unlikely
- Don't know

10. How likely or unlikely are you to remain in your community throughout your retirement?

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Very unlikely
- Don't know

11. In the last 12 months, about how many times, if ever, have you participated in or done each of the following?

	<i>Never</i>	<i>Once or twice</i>	<i>3 to 12 times</i>	<i>13 to 26 times</i>	<i>More than 26 times</i>
Used a senior center in your community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Used a recreation center in your community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Used a public library in your community	1	2	3	4	5
Attended a meeting of your community's local elected officials or other local public meeting	1	2	3	4	5
Watched a meeting of your community's local elected officials or other public meeting on cable television, the Internet or other media.....	1	2	3	4	5
Used public transit (e.g., bus, subway, light rail, etc.) within your community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Visited a neighborhood park	1	2	3	4	5

12. During a typical week, how many hours, if any, do you spend doing the following?

	<i>Never (no hours)</i>	<i>1 to 3 hours</i>	<i>4 to 5 hours</i>	<i>6 to 10 hours</i>	<i>11 or more hours</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Participating in a club (including book, dance, game and other social).....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Participating in a civic group (including, Elks, Kiwanis, Masons, etc.).....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Communicating/visiting with friends and/or family	1	2	3	4	5	6
Participating in religious or spiritual activities with others	1	2	3	4	5	6
Participating in a recreation program or group activity.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Providing help to friends or relatives.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Volunteering your time to some group/activity in your community.....	1	2	3	4	5	6

13. During a typical week, how many hours do you spend providing care for one or more individuals with whom you have a significant personal relationship (such as a spouse, other relative, partner, friend, neighbor or child), whether or not they live with you?

	<i>Never (no hours)</i>	<i>1 to 3 hours</i>	<i>4 to 5 hours</i>	<i>6 to 10 hours</i>	<i>11 to 19 hours</i>	<i>20 or more hours</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
One or more individuals age 60 or older.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
One or more individuals age 18 to 59.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
One or more individuals under age 18.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

14. Whether or not they live with you, does someone provide assistance to you almost every day?

- Yes
- No

Our last questions are about you and your household. Again, all of your responses to this survey are completely anonymous and will be reported in group form only.

D1. How many years have you lived in your community?

- Less than 1 year 11-20 years
 1-5 years More than 20 years
 6-10 years

D2. Which best describes the building you live in?

- Single family home
 Townhouse, condominium, duplex or apartment
 Mobile home
 Assisted living residence
 Nursing home
 Other

D3. Do you currently rent or own your home?

- Rent
 Own (with a mortgage payment)
 Own (free and clear; no mortgage)

D4. About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?

- Less than \$300 per month
 \$300 to \$599 per month
 \$600 to \$999 per month
 \$1,000 to \$1,499 per month
 \$1,500 to \$2,499 per month
 \$2,500 or more per month

D5. How many people, including yourself, live in your household? _____ members

D6. How many of these people, including yourself, are 60 or older? _____ members

D7. What is your employment status?

- Fully retired → *Go to Question D9*
 Working full time for pay
 Working part time for pay
 Unemployed, looking for paid work

D8. [IF NOT YET FULLY RETIRED] At what age do you expect to retire completely and not work for pay at all? _____ years old

D9. How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)

- Less than \$15,000
 \$15,000 to \$24,999
 \$25,000 to \$49,999
 \$50,000 to \$74,999
 \$75,000 to \$99,999
 \$100,000 or more

D10. Are you Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?

- Yes No

D11. What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race you consider yourself to be)

- American Indian or Alaskan native
 Asian or Pacific Islander
 Black, African American
 White/Caucasian
 Other

D12. In which category is your age?

- 60-64 years 80-84 years
 65-69 years 85-89 years
 70-74 years 90-94 years
 75-79 years 95 years or older

D13. What is your sex?

- Female Male

D14. What is your sexual orientation?

- Heterosexual Gay
 Lesbian Bi-sexual

D15. Are you registered to vote in your jurisdiction?

- Yes Ineligible to vote
 No Don't know

D16. Many people don't have time to vote in elections. Did you vote in the last general election?

- Yes Ineligible to vote
 No Don't know

Thank you for completing this survey. Please return the completed survey in the postage paid envelope to: National Research Center, Inc., P.O. Box 549, Belle Mead NJ 08502-9922