

## 2017 Cobb County Senior Services Survey Report



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## Executive Summary

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Cobb County Senior Services commissioned a survey of its residents in Spring 2017 to discover their opinions in regards to a number of issues related to aging for both seniors (categorized as residents age 55 and above) and non-seniors (categorized as participants under the age of 55). Highlights of the telephone survey are listed below.

- Almost two-thirds of adults age 55+ (65%) would turn to online resources/computer to learn about what services and support are available as they age.
- Over half of adults age 55+ (56%) and over three-fourths of adults ages 18-54 (79%) indicated that they go online several times a day.
- The average monthly housing costs for non-seniors was \$1020.02. For seniors, the average was \$794.18, and the average for total respondents was \$961.80.
- A majority of adults ages 55+ (83%) indicated that they would rely on Social Security either “completely,” “quite a bit,” or “a moderate amount” compared with 50% of adults ages 18-54.
- Almost all respondents rated their neighborhood as a “very safe” (74%) or “somewhat safe” (22%) place to live.
- Adults ages 55+ reported slightly lower rates of exercise with 63% reporting that they exercise every day or three to six times a week compared with 70% of adults ages 18-54.
- Over half of adults ages 55+ indicated that they might (23%) or definitely would (30%) use public transportation if it was free or discounted for seniors. Almost a quarter (23%) of adults ages 55+ stated that they had used a ride-sharing service and 42% said they would consider using one.
- Seventy percent (70%) of adults ages 55+ like the term “senior center.” Of the remaining, 11% prefer something else and 18% answered “don’t know.”

In addition to the random digit dial telephone survey, a web survey was posted online and a paper survey was distributed at senior centers and activities. The telephone survey and online/paper survey reached somewhat different populations. The telephone survey was designed to represent the population of Cobb County and the online/paper survey was completed by Cobb residents with ties to Senior Services. The online/paper respondents were older, more educated, and more likely to be female. The telephone survey respondents included more renters than the online/paper survey.

Seniors in both groups were equally likely to want to remain in their current home for the rest of their lives and chose the same top response if they could not remain in their current housing situation: bring in an aide or family member to care for them. Telephone respondents were somewhat more positive than online/paper respondents about their financial situation in retirement and their general health. Telephone respondents also reported more frequent exercise. Online/paper survey respondents were more likely to report caregiving responsibilities and needing help with these responsibilities. Not surprisingly, online/paper survey respondents were also more likely to have visited a senior center. In cases where respondents were allowed to give more than one response, online/paper respondents were more likely to select multiple responses than telephone respondents who were not presented with the full list of options.

## Introduction

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Cobb County Senior Services commissioned a survey of its residents in Spring 2017 to discover their opinions in regards to a number of issues related to aging for both seniors (categorized as residents age 55 and above) and non-seniors (categorized as participants under the age of 55). The A. L. Burruss Institute of Public Service & Research at Kennesaw State University developed a survey instrument in conjunction with Cobb County Senior Services. The survey includes demographic information as well as sections relating to aging, housing, finances, safety, health, transportation, caregiving, and senior centers. Questions regarding aging, senior centers, and activities were asked of seniors only. This report provides details about the survey methodology, participants, and all survey statistics.

Prior to developing the survey instrument, Cobb Senior Services collected data from focus groups with Cobb County seniors about what issues are important to them. In addition, Senior Services reviewed surveys from other communities and current research regarding issues that are important to seniors like aging in place. Seven domains were selected that represented areas important to seniors: health and wellness, caregiving, elder abuse, social engagement, housing, transportation, and environment. Senior Services surveyed 70 members of the community currently working with seniors about the importance of each domain. The most important issues identified by this group were transportation and health and wellness. A summary of the findings can be found in Appendix A.

Other quality of life surveys exist and serve as good tools to complement existing research. One survey in particular is AARP's Public Policy Institute's Livability Index. This survey measures community livability based on: housing, neighborhood, transportation, environment, health, engagement, and opportunity. These areas include a few of the areas covered in the Burruss Institute's report. The AARP report gave Cobb County a total score of 49. The score is on a scale from 0 to 100 where the average community would be given a score of 50. This score is composed of the average of the individual scores within each area. (See Appendix B for the breakdown of scores for each area.) Scores above 67 are considered above average, and scores below 34 are considered below average. Cobb County scored within the average range for all seven areas.

## Methodology

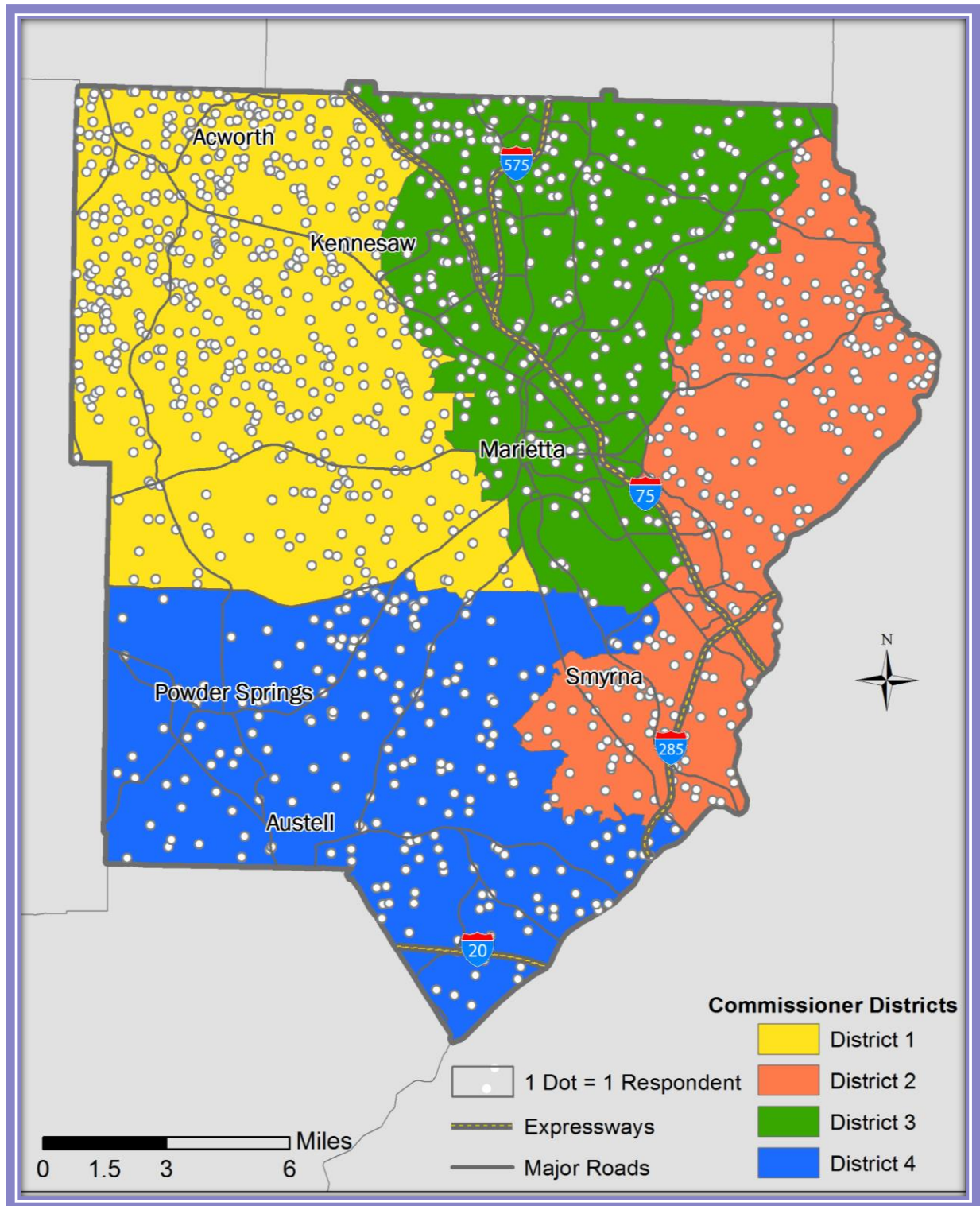
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The Burruss Institute conducted phone surveys using a random sample of numbers purchased from Survey Sampling International. The sample contained both landlines and cell phone numbers. The survey was conducted from March 16, 2017 through May 4, 2017. The total sample size was 614 residents. For the purposes of the survey, seniors were identified as those ages 55 and over. There were 261 seniors and 353 non-seniors. This random sample of adults allowed for a 95% confidence interval and a margin of error of  $\pm 4\%$  for the overall survey. The average length of the interview was 17 minutes.

In addition to the random digit dial telephone survey, a web survey was posted online and a paper survey was distributed at senior centers and activities. Figure 1 displays a map of all respondents.



Figure 1. Survey Respondents by Zip Code in Cobb County



# Telephone Survey Results



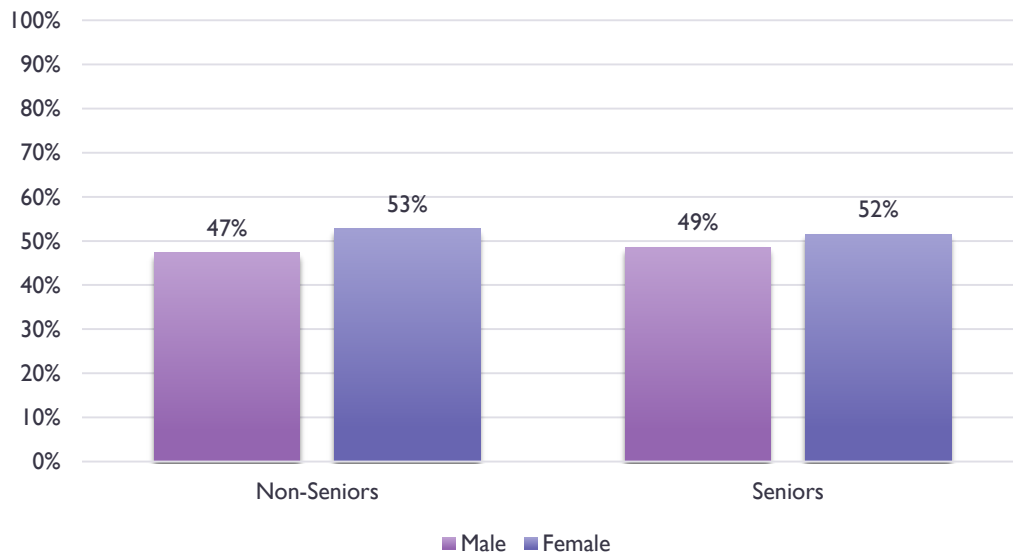


## Telephone Survey Results

### Demographics

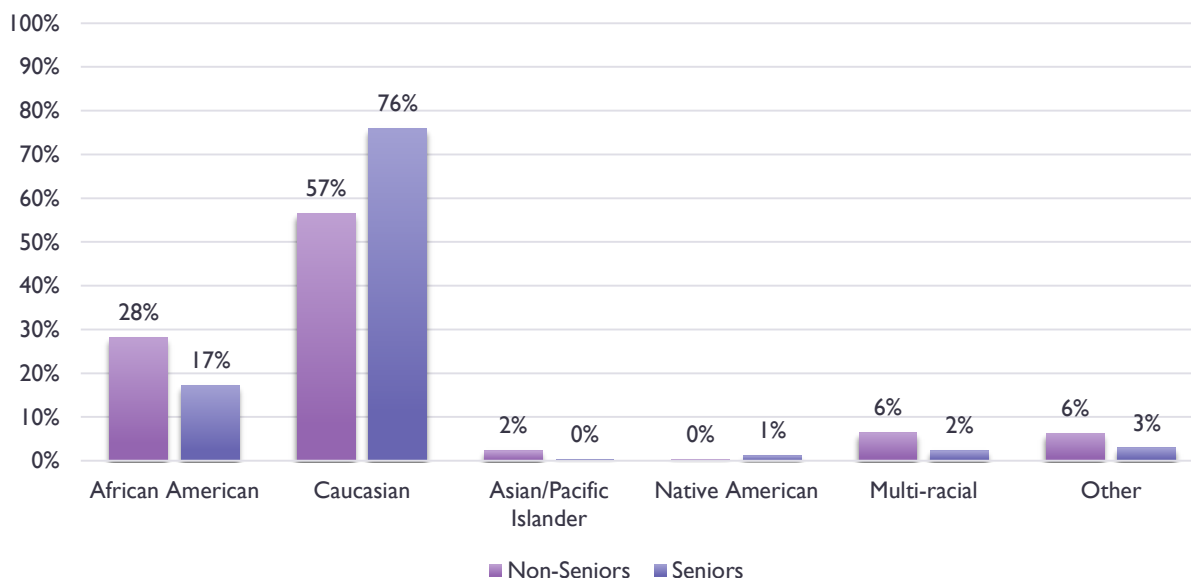
Data were weighted using 2015 Census data for gender, age, race, education and Latino/Hispanic ethnicity. Statistical weighting was used to make the results more representative of the population of Cobb County. Weighted frequencies for each survey item are located in Appendix C. In some cases, counts and frequencies may appear inconsistent due to weighting. This resulted in a total sample that was 52.2% female and 47.4% male. Respondents ranged in age from 18-92 with an average age of 44.6 years. The average age for non-seniors was 36 years. The average age for seniors was 66.6 years. Figure 2 displays the gender breakdown by age group.

**Figure 2: Non-Seniors and Seniors by Gender**



Both seniors and non-seniors identified mostly as Caucasian/White with 56.5% of non-seniors and 76.0% of seniors. Additionally, 28.1% of non-seniors and 17.2% of seniors identified as African-American/Black. Fourteen percent (14.3%) of non-seniors and 7.6% of seniors, identified as Latino/Hispanic. Less than 10% for each group identified as Asian/Pacific Islander, Native-American/American Indian, Multi-racial, and "Other." See Figure 3.

**Figure 3: Non-Seniors and Seniors by Race**



The largest percentage of respondents for each group reported their highest level of education as having “some college” or an Associate’s degree (31.1% of non-seniors and 24.1% of seniors). The second highest percentage were respondents with a Bachelor’s degree (28.2% of non-seniors and 23.5% of seniors). Twenty-one percent (21.2%) of non-seniors and 20.6% of seniors graduated from high school; 6.2% of non-seniors and 19.5% of seniors did not graduate from high school. Thirteen percent (13.2%) of non-seniors and 12.3% of seniors earned a professional or graduate degree. See Figure 4 for more detail.

**Figure 4: Non-Seniors and Seniors by Education**

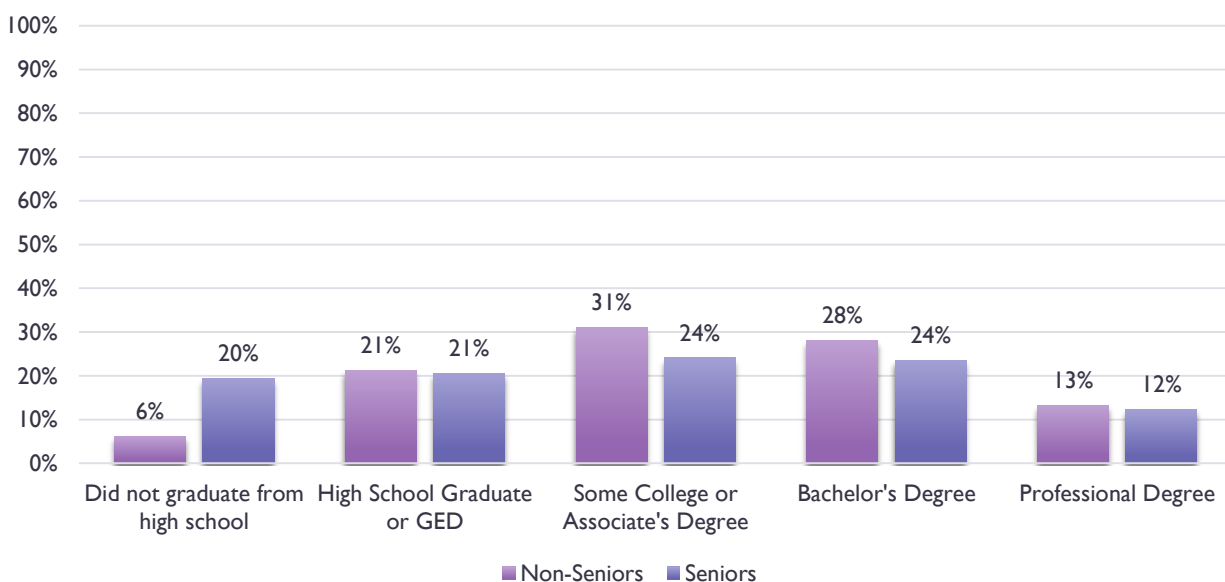
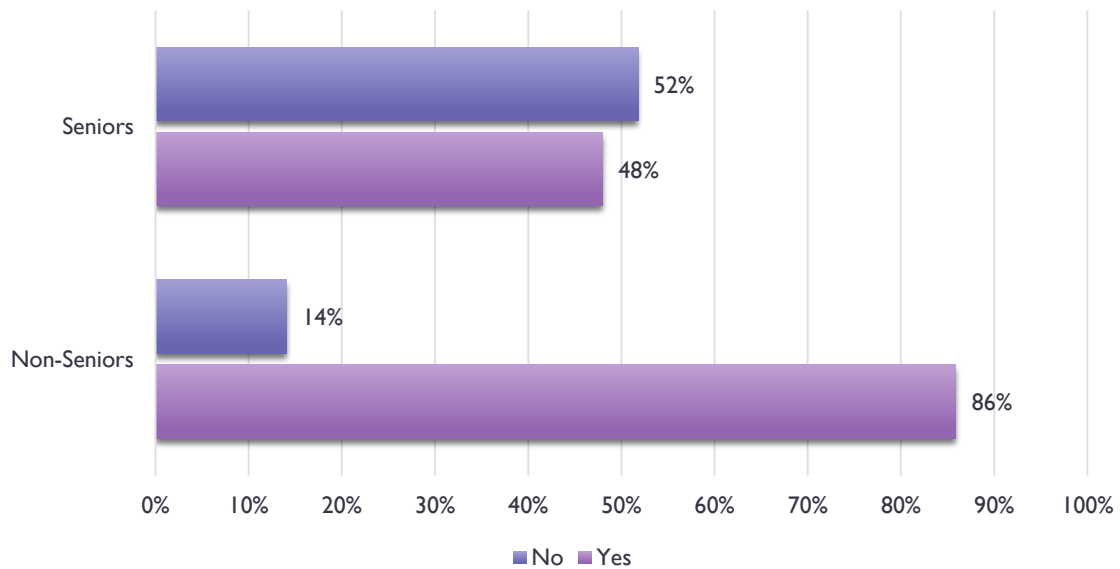


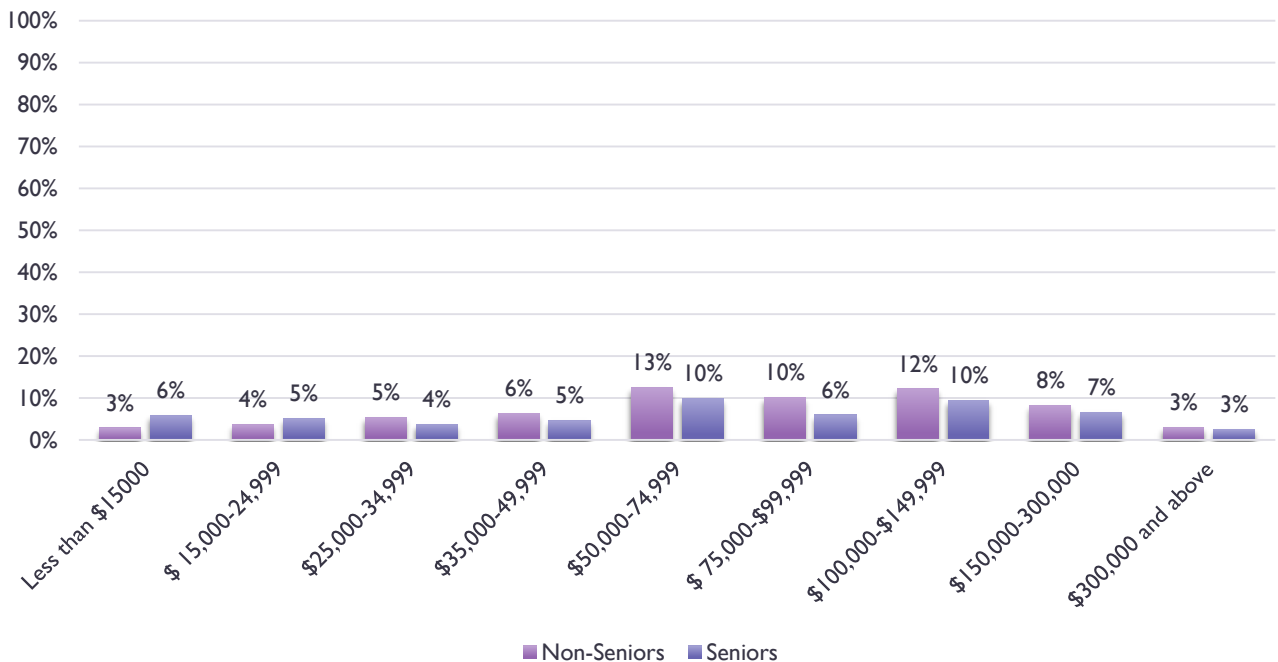
Figure 5 shows the percentage of people who were working for pay at a job among non-seniors and seniors. Eighty-six percent of non-seniors (85.9%) and just under half of seniors (48.0%) were working for pay at a job.

**Figure 5: Is the respondent working for pay at a job?**



Between 20-30% of each group chose not to disclose their income: seniors (38.5%), non-seniors (23.5%)  
 For both seniors and non-seniors, the most frequently reported response was income in the \$50,000-\$74,999 range. See Figure 6.

**Figure 6: Income Levels by Respondent Groups**

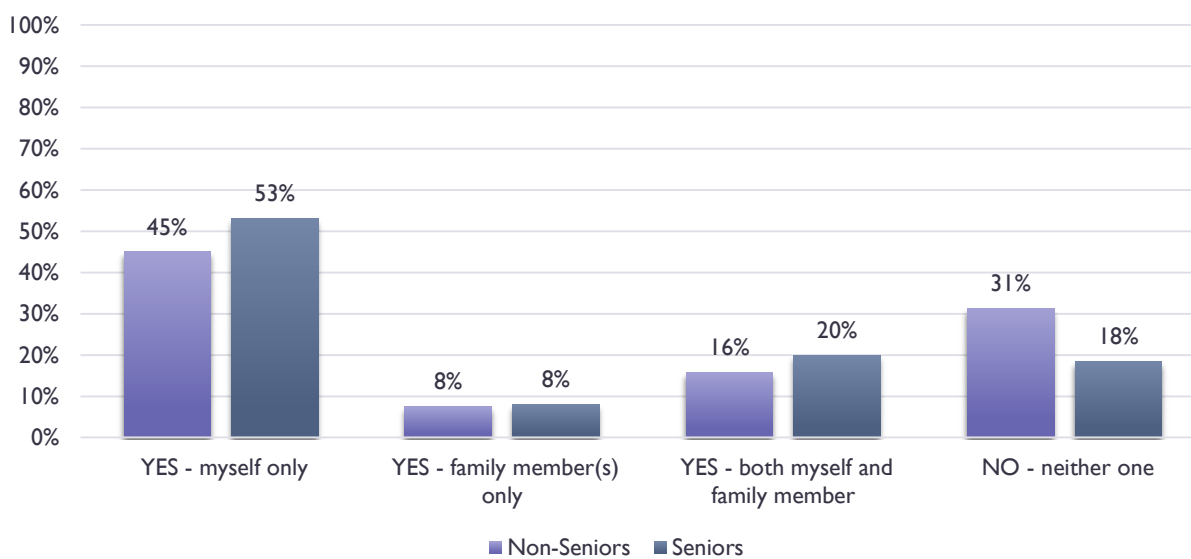




## Aging

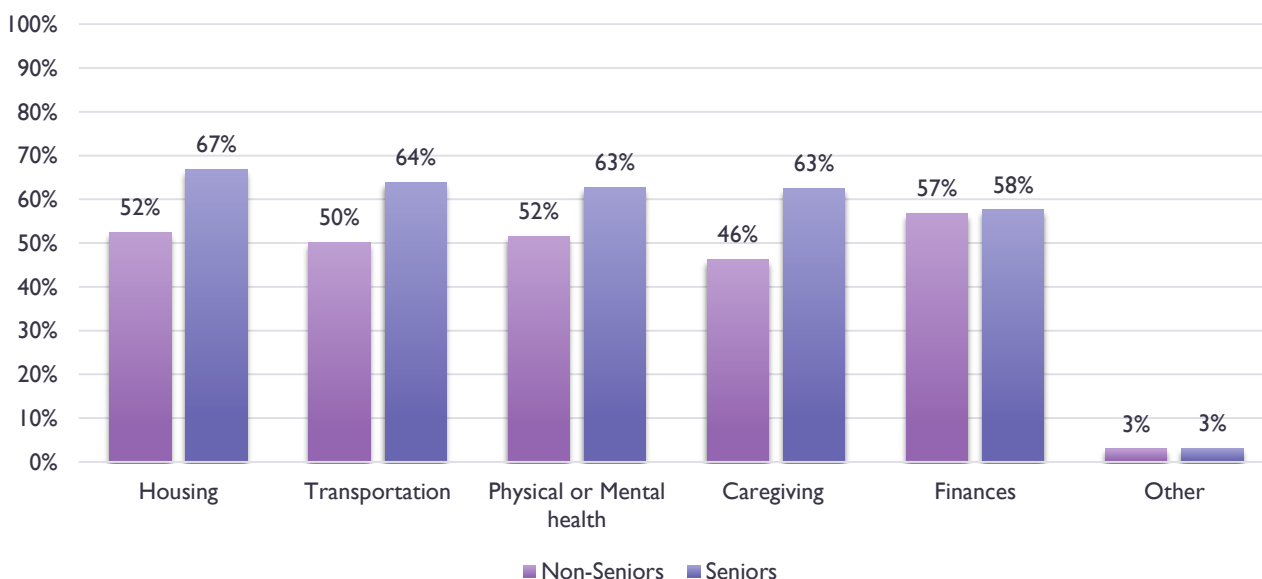
Respondents were asked if they are currently making decisions or have made decisions in the past for themselves or others regarding life changes related to aging. Almost half of non-seniors (45.0%) said yes (regarding themselves only); 53.2% of seniors said yes to making decisions for themselves only. See Figure 7 for a breakdown of all responses.

**Figure 7: Making Decisions Related to Aging**



A follow up question was asked of respondents about what types of decisions they were making. Housing related decisions were mentioned by 66.8% of seniors, while 56.8% of non-seniors mentioned finances. The second most reported answer was transportation among seniors (63.8%) and housing among non-seniors (52.4%). See Figure 8.

**Figure 8: Decision Types by Respondent Group**



More than half of seniors (65.2%) reported that they would turn to online resources/computer to learn about what services and support are available as they age. This was followed by turning to friends, family members or neighbors as a source of information (23.8%), and 19.8% reported that they didn't know where they would turn to learn about services and support. See Table 1 for the complete breakdown of responses.

**Table 1: Where would you turn to learn about what services and support are available to you as you age?**

	Percentage
Computer/online	65.2%
Friends/family members/neighbors	23.8%
Don't Know	19.8%
Senior centers	12.2%
Doctor/Medical facility/professional/VA/Healthcare insurance company	11.5%
Other	9.9%
City/county offices/City hall	7.1%
AARP	7.0%
Church	5.8%
Council/Area Agency on Aging/ Department/Division on Aging	4.9%
Social/human services (DFACS, Health Department)	1.8%
Word of mouth	1.8%
Social security office	1.1%
Library	0.6%

Respondents were asked how long they have lived in Cobb County. Among non-seniors, 30.4% reported that they had lived in Cobb County between 5-14 years; and 28.9% of seniors have lived in Cobb County for over 45 years. A follow-up question to the length of time people have resided in Cobb County asked respondents about the importance of living in Cobb County as she/he gets older. Just over half of seniors (54.3%) found it very important to continue living in the area or city where she/he currently resides, as do 29.3% of non-seniors. See Figures 9 and 10 for the breakdown of all responses by percentage and age group.

Figure 9: Number of Years Lived in Cobb

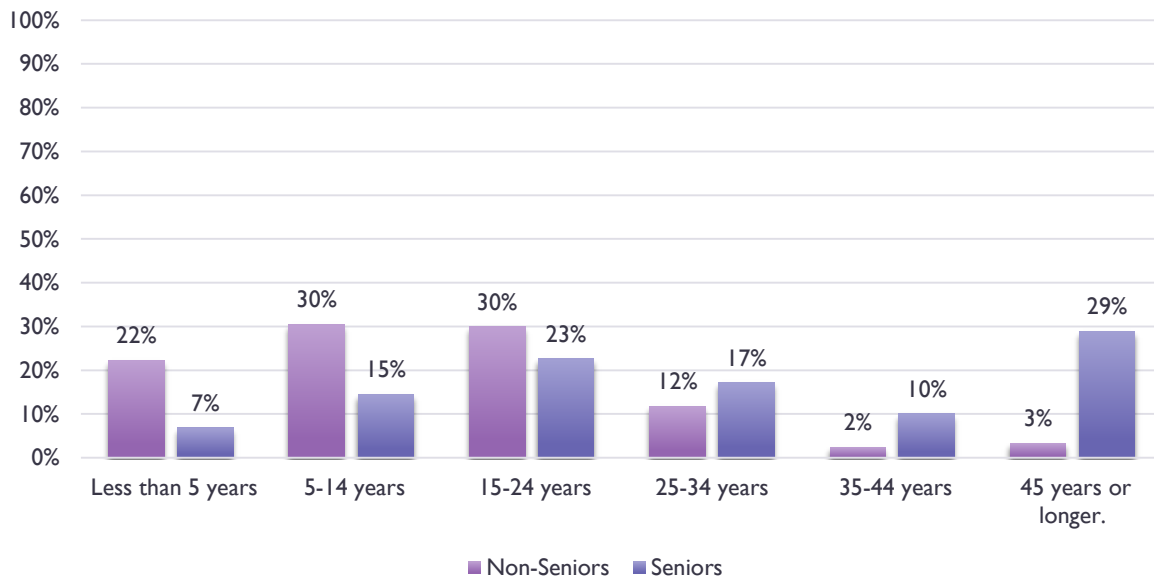


Figure 10: How important is it to stay in Cobb as the respondent ages?

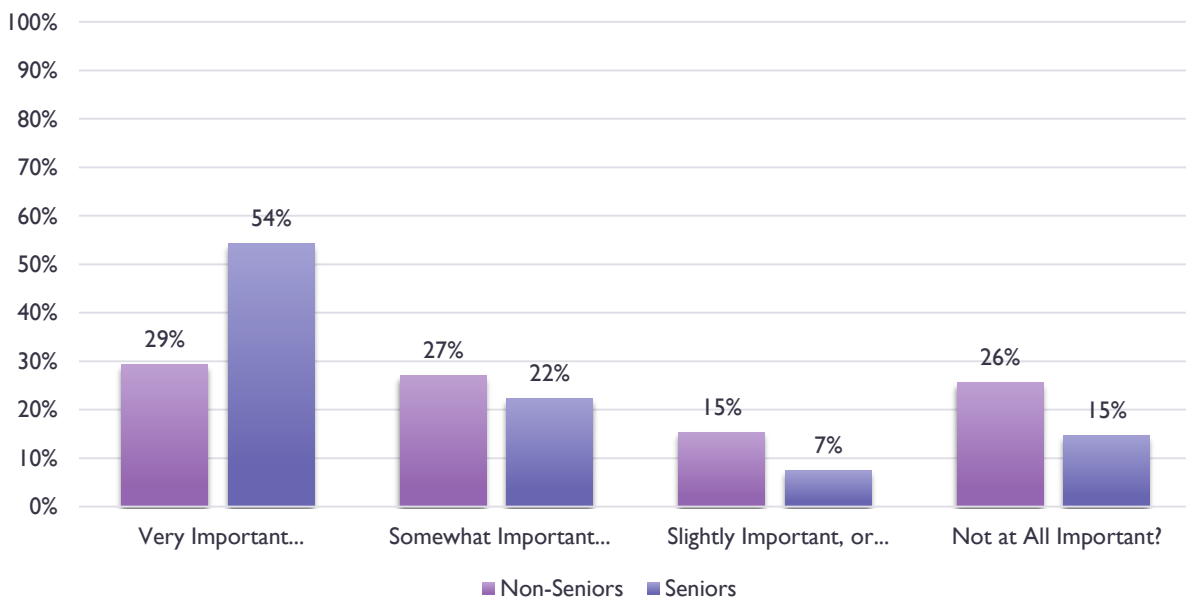
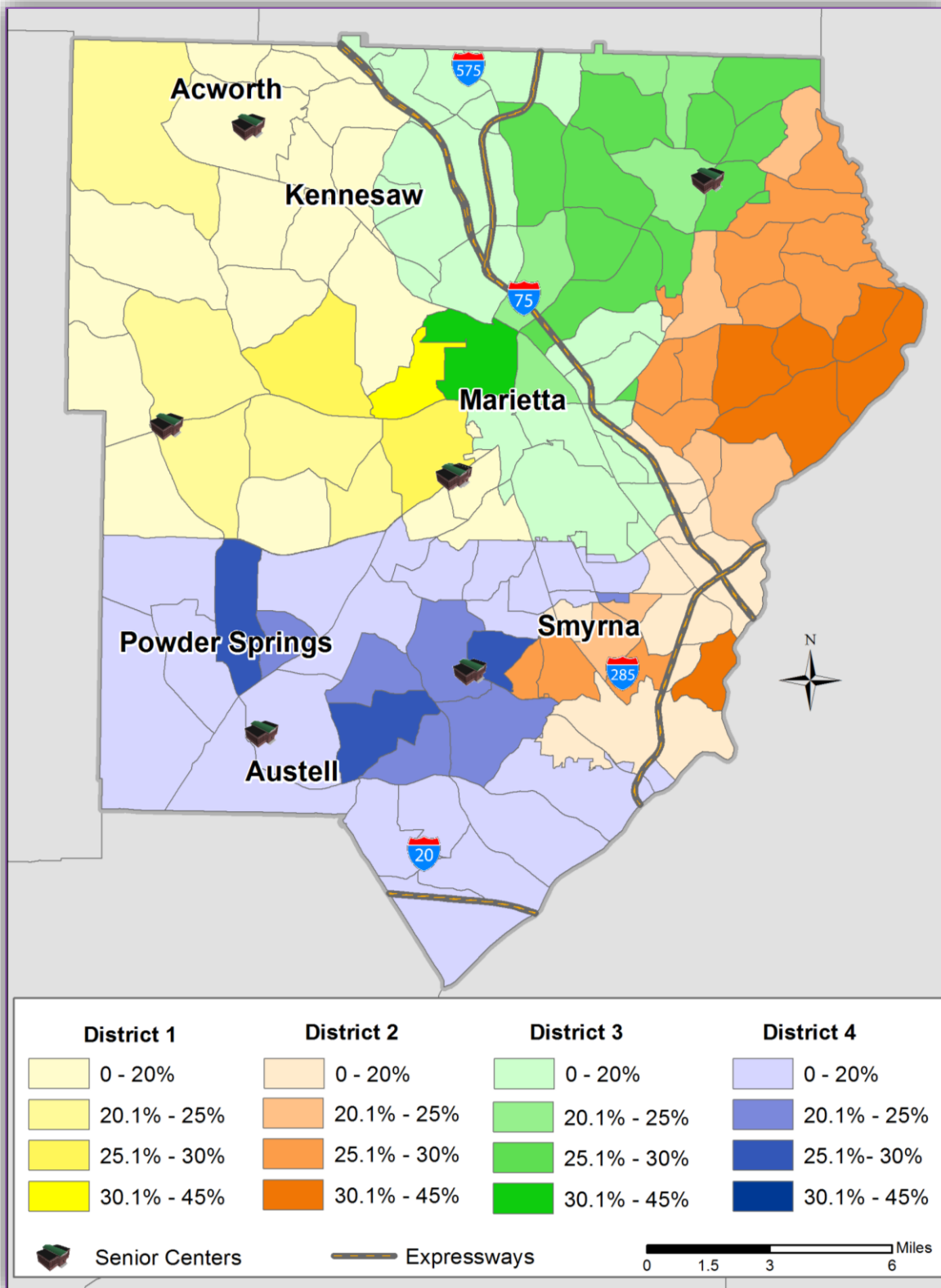


Figure 11 displays the distribution of the senior population in Cobb County by zip code and commission district.

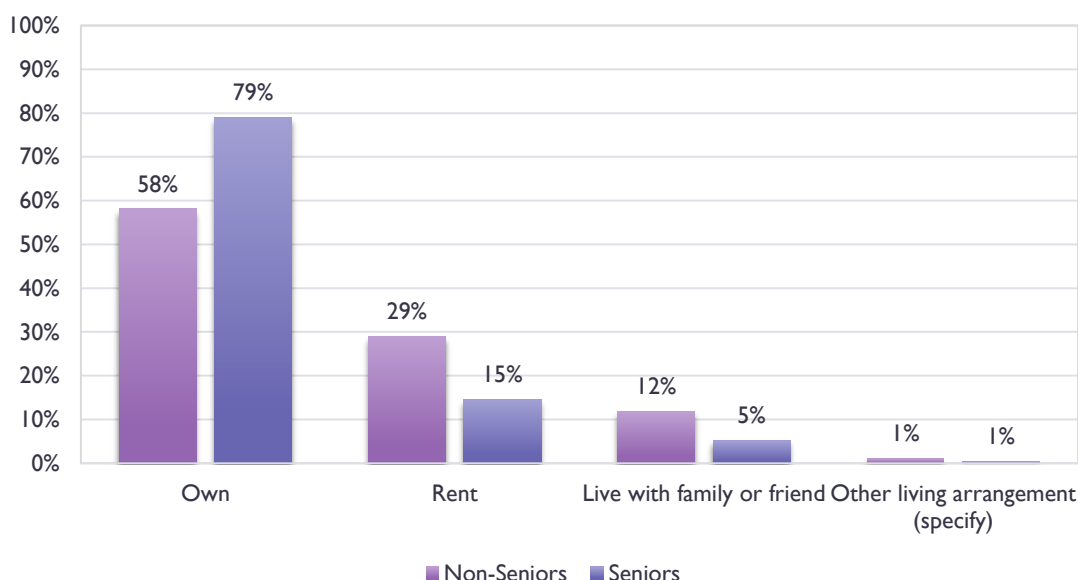
Figure 11: Distribution of the senior population in Cobb County by zip code and commission district



## Housing

Most respondents reported owning their home: 79.1% of seniors reported home ownership; and 58.1% non-seniors reported home ownership. Renting was more common among non-seniors, with 29.0% of non-seniors renting compared to 14.6% of seniors. See Figure 11 for the breakdown of all responses.

**Figure 12: Own or Rent by Respondent Groups**



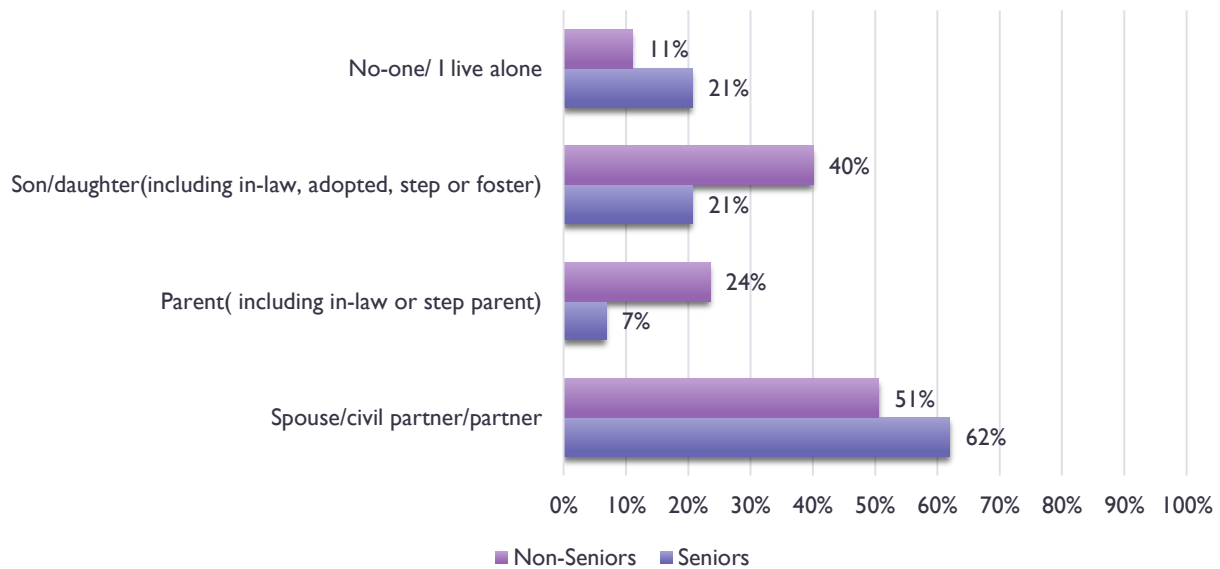
Residents who rent were asked if they were having any issues with their housing provider, landlord, or management company. Over 90% of respondents in both groups reported no issues with their housing provider (see Table 2). Those that did report an issue gave explanations such as “maintenance is really bad,” “not fixing problems such as broken air conditioning,” and “damaged mailboxes.” See Appendix D for additional ‘other’ responses.

**Table 2: Are you currently having any issues with your housing provider?**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Yes	4.2%	2.4%	3.9%
No	93.2%	95.4%	93.6%
Don't Know	2.6%	2.2%	2.5%

More than half of respondents in each group live with their spouse/civil partner/partner (50.6% of non-seniors and 62.0% of seniors). The second most frequent response regarding living arrangements was among respondents reporting to live with their son/daughter, including in-law, adopted, step, or foster (40.1% of non-seniors and 20.7% of seniors). More seniors live alone (20.7%) compared to non-seniors (11.0%). Twenty-three percent (23.5%) of non-seniors live with their parents compared to 6.8% of seniors. “Other” person, personal assistant/paid caregiver, friend, other relative, and grandparent all received less than 10% for each group in each category. See Figure 12.

**Figure 13: Whom do respondents live with in their home?**



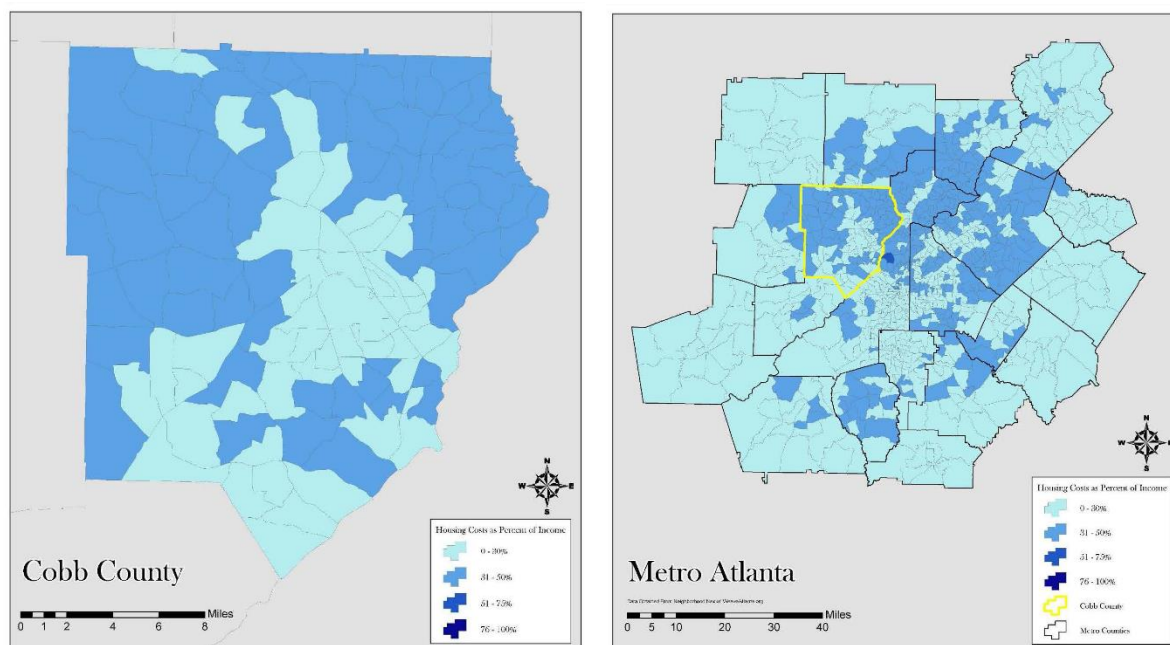
The average monthly housing costs for non-seniors was \$1020.02. For seniors, the average was \$794.18, and the average for total respondents was \$961.80. Housing costs ranged from \$0-\$7,000 for everyone, and \$0-\$4,000 for senior respondents only. See Table 3. Figure 14 displays housing costs as a percent of income for Cobb County.

**Table 3: How much do you currently pay for housing per month?**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Mean	1020.02	794.18	961.80
Median	1000.00	752.27	1000.00
Std. Deviation	762.081	828.547	784.917
Range	7000	4000	7000
Minimum	0	0	0
Maximum	7000	4000	7000



**Figure 14: Housing costs as a percent of income for Cobb County**



Seniors were asked if they intended on living in their current home for the rest of their life. Sixty-three percent (63.2%) of seniors reported that they did intend on living in their current home for the rest of their life and 11.1% reported that they were unsure. See Table 4.

**Table 4: Do you intend to continue living in your current home for the rest of your life?**

	Percent
Yes	63.2%
No	25.7%
Don't Know	11.1%

Seniors who reported that they were planning on living in their current home for the rest of their life were asked a follow up question about making possible modifications to their home so they can stay there as they age. Almost forty

percent (37.4%) of these respondents said that they would not make any changes to their home in order to accommodate aging. Of the seniors who reported that they would make changes, 21.0% reported that they would make modifications regarding improved access to their home and 12.9% reported that they would make changes in the bathroom to reduce chance of injury from slipping or falling. See Table 5.

**Table 5: Do you think you will need to make any modifications or improvements to your home to enable you to stay there as you age?**

	Percent
None	37.4%
Improved access to your home (ramps, chairlift/elevator wider doorways)	21.0%
Bathroom changes (grab bars, handrails, higher toilet; non-slip tile)	12.9%
Putting a bedroom, bathroom or kitchen on the first floor	6.4%
Improving lighting	2.3%
Installing an emergency response system that notifies others of emergency)	0.8%

Seniors were also asked where they would go if they could not continue living in their current home. More than half of seniors (54.5%) reported that they would stay in their home, but have an aide or a family member to care for them. Another 45.2% indicated that they would move in with a family member. See Table 6 for the breakdown of all choices.

**Table 6: If you found that you could no longer continue living in your current housing situation, would you consider any of the following options?**

	Percent
Stay in your home but have an aide or family member there to care for you	54.5%
Move in with a family member	45.2%
Move in with a friend	19.3%
Move into an assisted living facility	34.2%
Move into a nursing home	16.3%
Some other arrangement	6.7%
Not sure about any of these	9.4%

Seniors were also asked if they would consider living in a home or apartment that is shared by other people who are not related to them. Over three-quarters (77.9%) reported that they would not consider such a housing arrangement. Eleven percent (11.3%) reported that they would consider living with someone unrelated and 6.6% of seniors said “maybe/depends.” See Table 7 for a breakdown of responses to this question. The reasons that seniors gave for saying “maybe/depends” were only if it was needed, depends on their state of being, or if they were not required to share a bathroom and it “looks nice.” See Appendix D for additional open-ended responses.

**Table 7: Would you consider living in a house or apartment that is shared by others who are not related to you?**

	Percent
No	77.9%
Yes	11.3%
Maybe/Depends (specify)	6.6%
Don't know	4.2%
Total	100.0%

Seniors were asked if they had any problems with household related issues. Almost a third of seniors (32.2%) reported at least one problem. Problems included issues with doing yard work and major and minor home repairs.

## Finances

The Elder Economic Security Index, or Elder Index, was developed as a means of measuring the income needed for elder adults to meet their needs. This index takes into account the living expenses for those ages 65+ living outside of retirement communities and without children and other family members to care for them. This index includes the cost of housing (which includes utilities and insurance), food, transportation, healthcare (which assumes that the individuals are receiving good healthcare), and miscellaneous essentials. Table 8 presents the Elder Index for Cobb County seniors.

## 2017 Cobb Senior Services Report

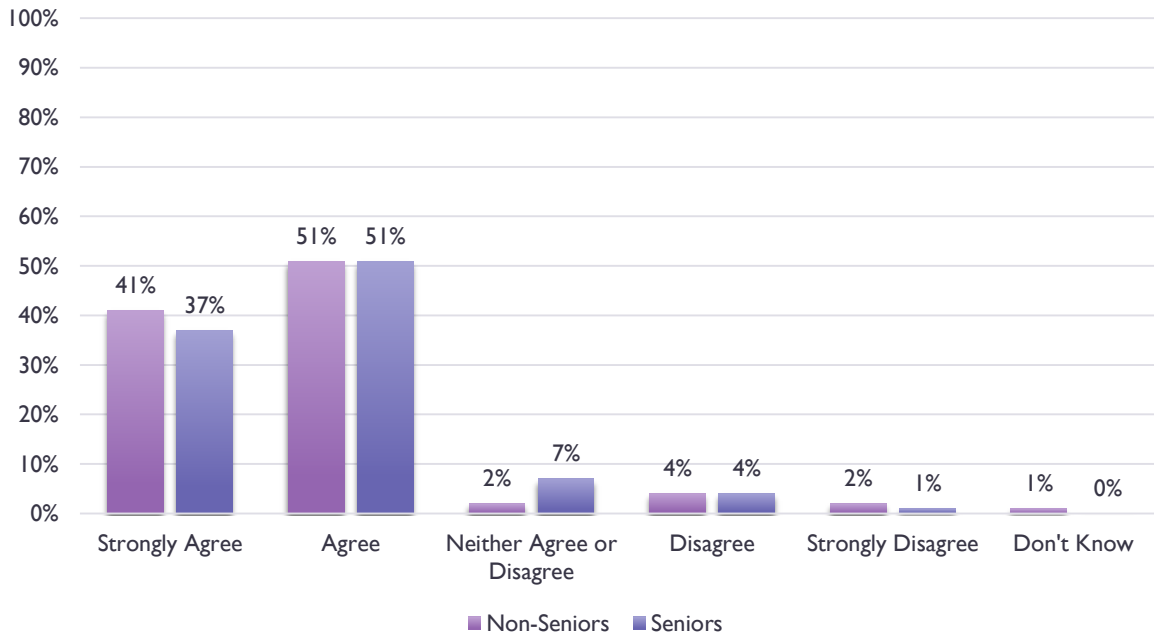
**Table 8: Elder Index Report for Cobb County, Georgia - All values are dollar amounts**

Household	Housing Status	Health Status	Housing	Food	Transportation	HealthCare	Miscellaneous	Index Per Month	Index Per Year
Single Elder	Owner w/o Mortgage	Good	389	256	200	383	246	1474	17688
	Renter, one bedroom	Good	790	256	200	383	246	1875	22500
	Owner	Good	1419	256	200	383	246	2504	30048
Elder Couple	Owner w/o mortgage	Good	389	470	309	766	387	2321	27852
	Renter, one bedroom	Good	790	470	309	766	387	2722	32664
	Owner	Good	1419	470	309	766	387	3351	40212

*All values are dollar amounts*

Respondents were read the following statement and asked whether they agreed or disagreed with that statement as it relates to their situation: *"During my retirement, I expect to have adequate resources to meet my financial needs, including home maintenance, real estate taxes, healthcare, and other expenses."* Among non-seniors, 40.8% strongly agreed and 50.7% agreed with the statement. Among seniors, 37.1% strongly agreed, and 51.2% agreed. See Figure 15 for a breakdown of all responses.

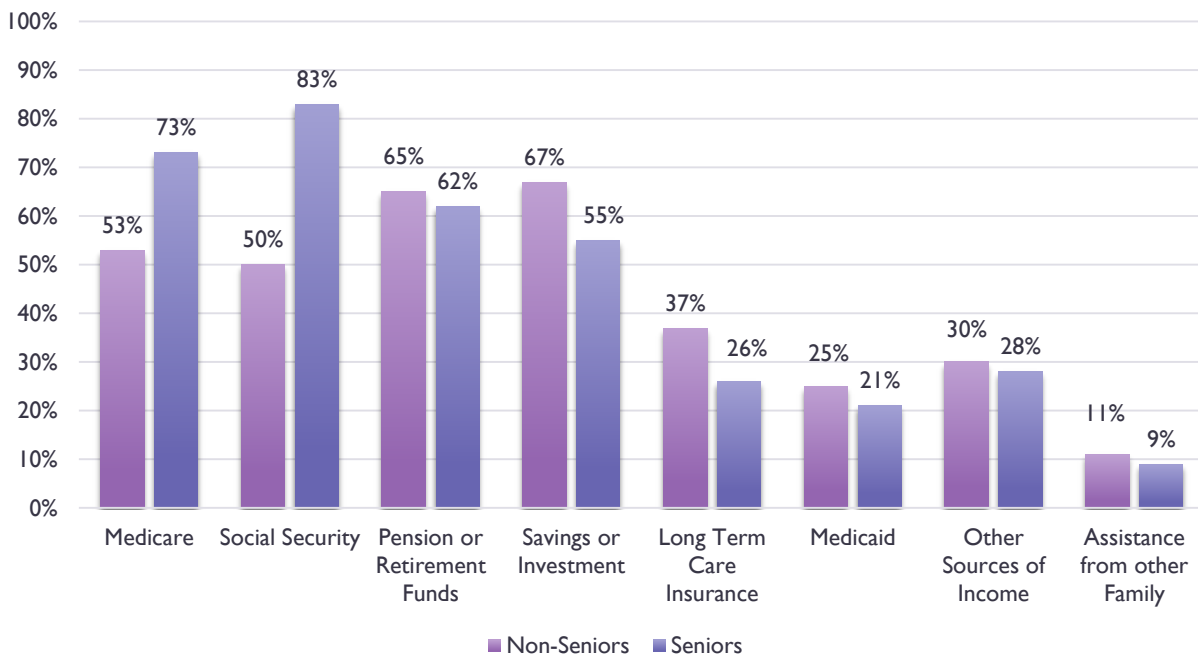
**Figure 15: "During my retirement, I expect to have adequate resources to meet my financial needs."**



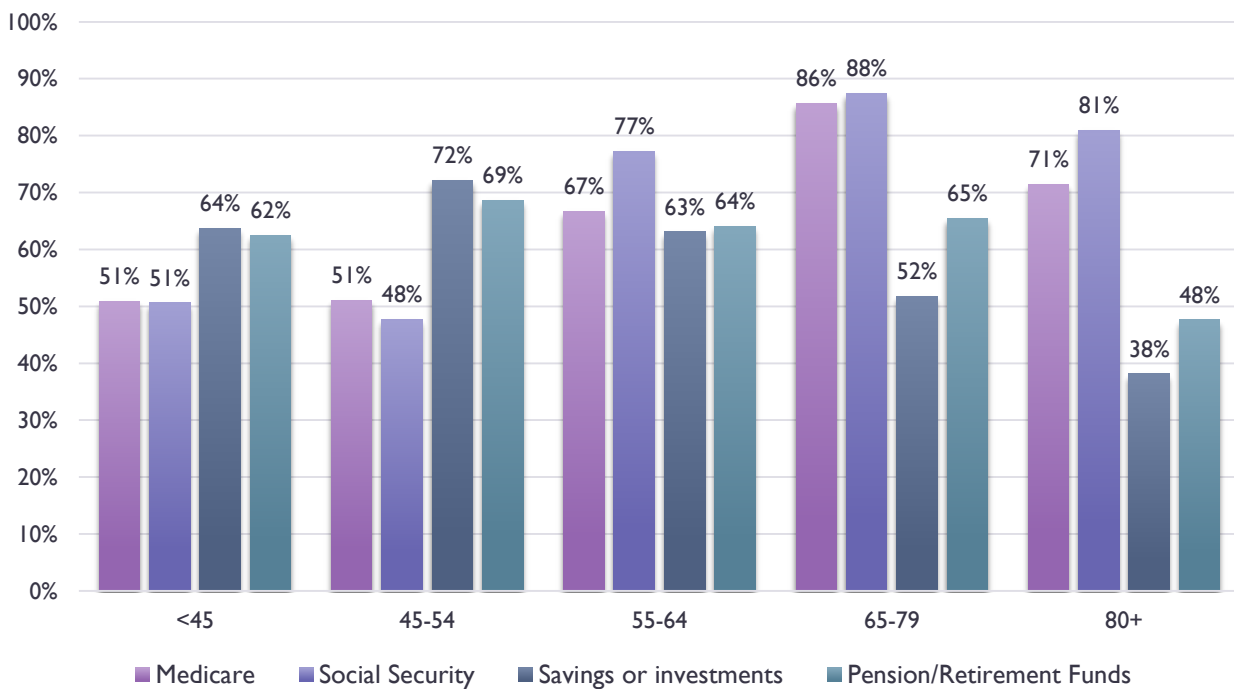
Respondents were asked if there was any time in the last twelve months when they did not have enough money to afford necessities. Eleven percent (11.6%) of non-seniors and 6.9% of seniors reported not having enough money for home or car repairs. Additionally, 9.7% of non-seniors and 4.5% of seniors did not have enough to pay for medical needs. "Other" responses included paying for college and regular family expenses. (See Appendix D for more details.)

Respondents were asked about how much they will rely on various sources of financial support as they age. Respondents were asked to choose one of the following to describe how much they would rely on each possible source: completely, quite a bit, a moderate amount, only a little bit, not at all, and don't know. The following graphs show the percentage of seniors and non-seniors who reported reliance on different types of income. The results reflect those who indicated that they would rely on the source "completely," "quite a bit," or a "moderate amount." As can be seen in the Figure 14, the majority of both groups expect to rely on Medicare and Social Security. Many people also expect to rely on private sources of income including their pensions/retirement funds and savings or investments. Breaking down the results further by age shows that respondents over age 55 report stronger reliance on Medicare and Social Security whereas respondents under age 55 report more reliance on savings, investments, and pension or retirement income. See Figure 16 for a graphic depiction of the data.

**Figure 16: Percentage of Respondents who Rely on Various Sources of Income “Completely,” “Quite a Bit,” or “A Moderate Amount”**



**Figure 17: Reliance on Sources of Income with Age Breakdowns**

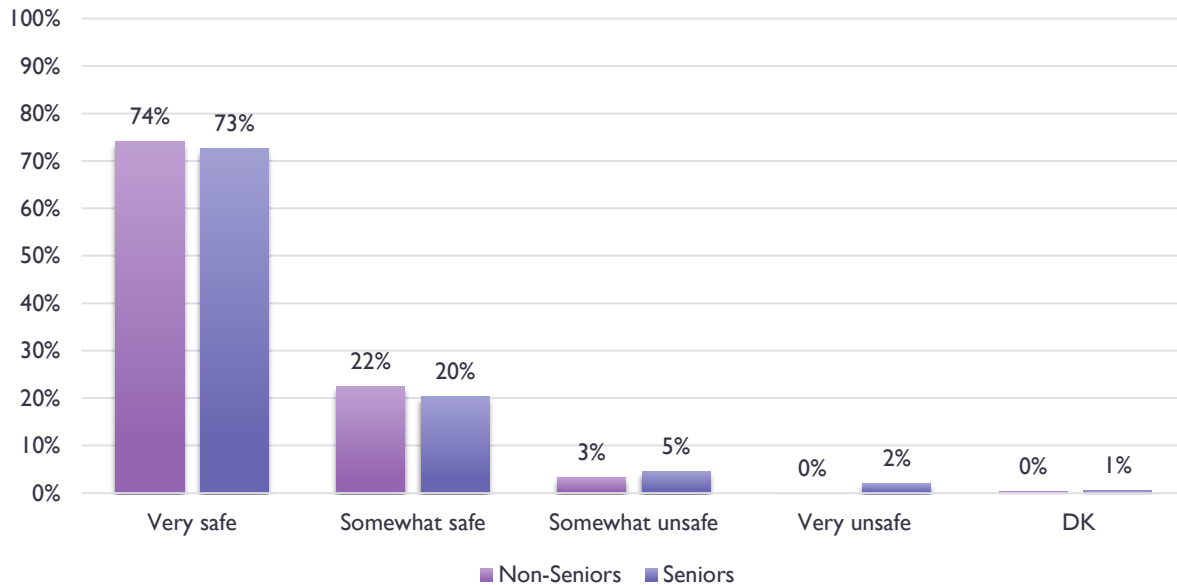


Seniors were asked if they wanted information about Medicare enrollment. Ten percent (10.2%) of seniors were interested.

## Elder Abuse

All respondents were asked questions regarding their safety. The first question was how safe their neighborhood is as a place to live. Over 70% for each group reported that it was very safe (74.1% of non-seniors and 72.6% of seniors). See Figure 18 for the breakdown of responses.

**Figure 18: Safety by Respondent Groups**



Of the respondents who answered either “somewhat safe” or “very unsafe” (n = 20), most respondents said it was due to crime, but suspected drug-related activity, noise, lack of streetlights, and inadequate lighting were also reasons many felt unsafe in their neighborhoods. A full set of responses are included in Appendix D.

Seniors were asked specific questions related to elder abuse. Over 90% of seniors reported that they would feel comfortable reporting abuse; 4.5% would not feel comfortable reporting it, and 2.2% said “don’t know.”

**Table 9: To whom would you report the abuse?**

	Percentage
Police	78.7%
Adult protective services	10.6%
Pastor/religious leader	5.1%
Relative or friend	9.4%
Other	8.2%

Seniors who did feel comfortable with reporting abuse were asked who they would report the abuse to. Over three-fourths of them (78.7%) indicated that they would report the abuse to the police. See Table 9 for a list of all responses. Results do not add to 100% as respondents were allowed to give more than one response.



**Table 10: Have you sought help for any issues related to abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation?**

Seniors were also asked if they had sought help for any issues related to abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation. Over three-fourths (83.6%) reported that they have not sought help because they had not experienced a need. See Table 10 for the breakdown of all responses.

	Percent
Yes	7.0%
No	5.6%
No, haven't experienced any issues	83.6%
Don't Know	2.8%

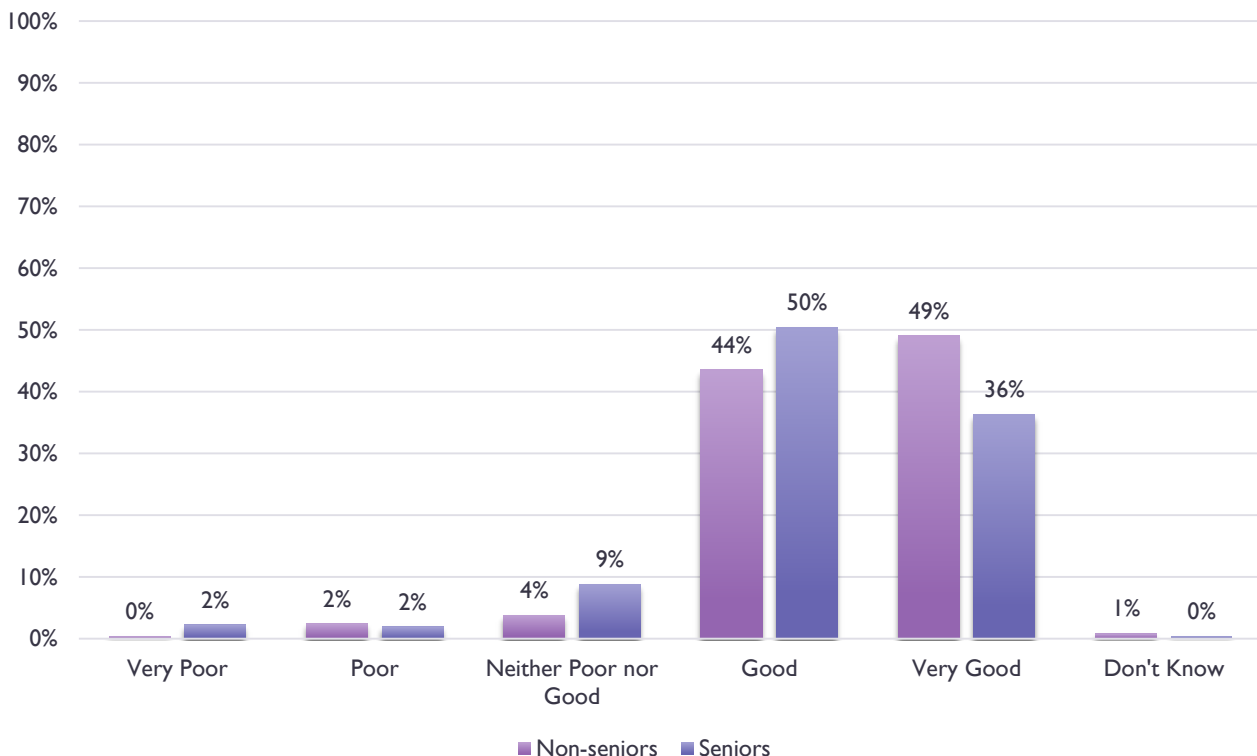
Seniors were asked how concerned they were about becoming the victim of consumer fraud or a swindle, such as identity theft, home repair fraud, or otherwise being pressured to make a financial commitment they might not agree with. Over one quarter (28.6%) were not concerned at all; 12.8% were slightly concerned; 17.7% were somewhat concerned; 20.8% were very concerned; and 19.2% were extremely concerned.

Seniors were asked if they felt they had been the victim of fraud or a swindle, over three-fourths of seniors (80.7%) said no. More than half (55.2%) of seniors reported that they were not aware of programs to assist elders in keeping themselves protected from abuse, neglect and financial exploitation.

## Health

Non-seniors were slightly more likely to rate their health as “very good” and seniors slightly more likely to rate their health as “good.” See Figure 19.

**Figure 19: Health by Respondent Group**



The average number of days physical health was rated as “not good” **over the last 30 days** for non-seniors was 2.21. For seniors, the average was slightly higher at 2.66 days. The mode was 0 days for each group, with 74.4% of non-seniors, 70.5% for seniors reporting 0 days when physical health was not good. See Appendix C and Table 11 for additional detail. The standard deviation for both groups was approximately 6.5 days.

**Table 11: How many days during the past 30 days was your physical health not good?**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Average	2.21	2.66	2.33
Standard Deviation	6.423	6.511	6.445
Minimum	0	0	0
Maximum	30	30	30

The average number of days mental health was rated as “not good” **over the last 30 days** for non-seniors was 2.62 days and 2.5 days was the average for seniors. The mode for each group was 0, with 75.4% of non-seniors and 79.6% of seniors reporting 0 days when mental health was not good. See Appendix C. The standard deviation was approximately 7 days for all three groups. See Table 12.

**Table 12: How many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good?**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Average	2.62	2.50	2.59
Standard Deviation	6.991	7.432	7.110
Minimum	0	0	0
Maximum	30	30	30

If respondents answered anything other than 0 days (or don’t know/refused) when asked how often they experienced poor physical or mental health, they qualified for a follow-up question about the number of days poor physical or mental health kept them from doing their normal activities. This qualified 165 non-seniors and 61 seniors. The average number of days was 3.4 days for non-seniors and 3 days for seniors. The mode for each group was 0, with 19.3% of non-seniors and 23.9% of seniors reporting 0 days that poor physical or mental health kept them from doing their normal activities. See Appendix C. The standard deviation was around 6.5 days for both groups with 6.5 for non-seniors and 6.7 for seniors. See Table 13.

**Table 13: How many days did poor physical or mental health keep you from doing your usual activities, such as self-care, work or recreation?**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Average	3.38	2.96	3.26
Standard Deviation	6.531	6.660	6.554
Minimum	0	0	0
Maximum	30	30	30

**Table 14: Have you sought help for this/these condition(s)?**

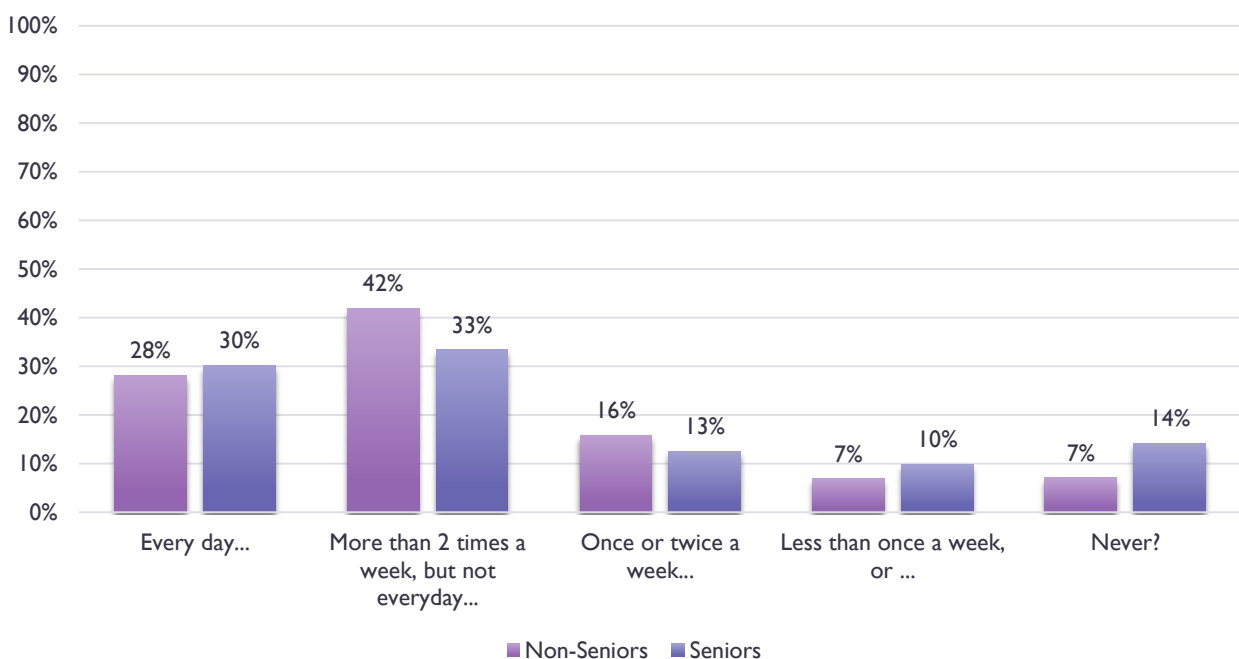
	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Yes	42.3%	59.7%	47.0%
No	53.6%	35.5%	48.7%
Don't Know	4.2%	4.8%	4.3%

If respondents answered anything other than 0 days or don't know/refused for the question of how many days did poor physical or mental health keep them from doing their usual activities, they were

asked a follow-up question about if they had sought help. More than half of respondents did not qualify: 62.1% of non-seniors and 63.4% of seniors. For non-seniors who were asked this question, over half (53.6%) said no. Almost 60% of seniors have sought help. See Table 14 for a breakdown of responses. If respondents reported they did not seek help, they were asked why. Detailed responses are found in Appendix D.

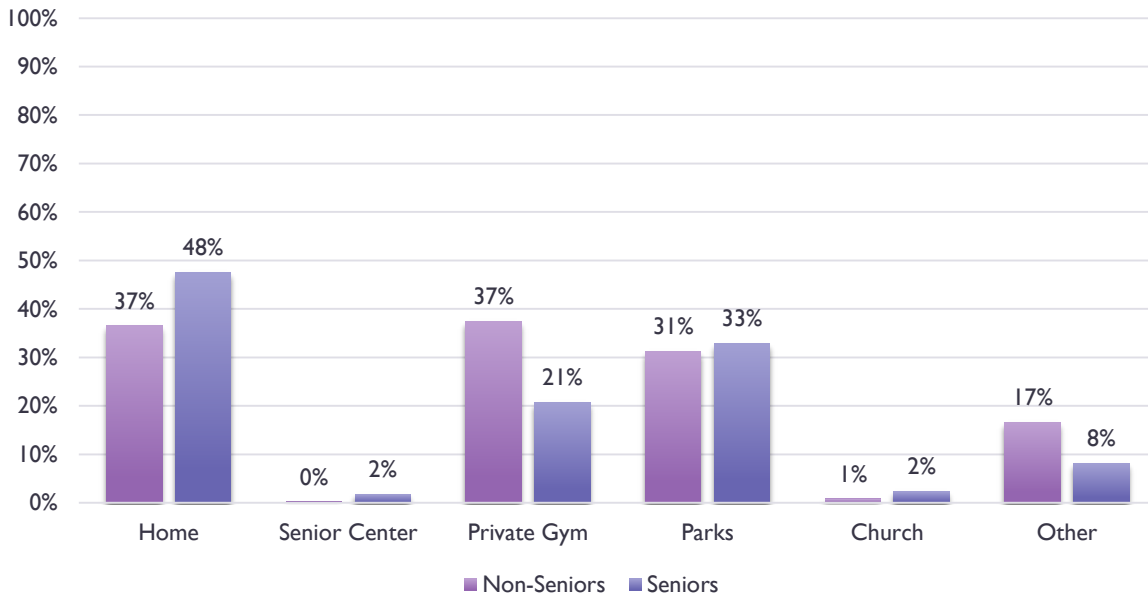
Respondents were asked about how often they exercise and where they chose to exercise. The majority of each group reported working out more than twice a week but not everyday with 41.9% of non-seniors and 33.4% of seniors. Working out "every day" was the second most reported frequency with 28.2% of non-seniors and 30.3% of seniors providing this answer. See Figure 20 for the breakdown of all responses.

**Figure 20: Exercise Frequency by Respondent Group**



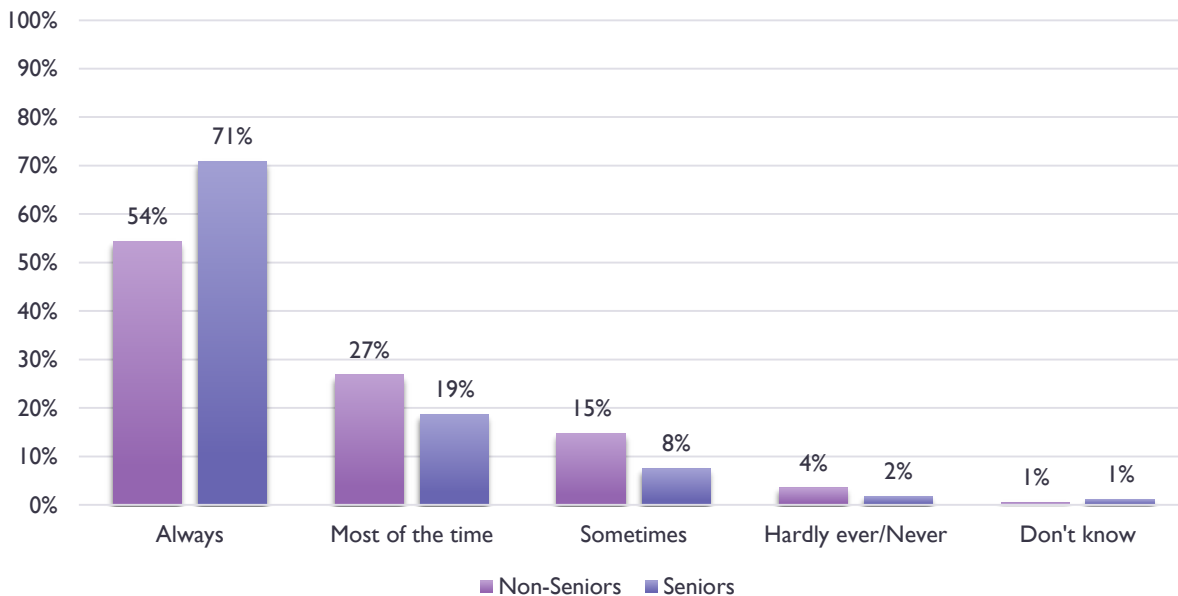
Most non-seniors reported exercising at a private gym (37.4%), while most seniors (47.5%) reported exercising at home. An additional 36.5% of non-seniors reported working out at home, and 32.9% of seniors mentioned parks or community centers. The other options, senior centers, and churches or spiritual centers were reported by less than 5% of any group. See Figure 21 for the breakdown of all responses. Totals do not add to 100% because respondents were allowed to give more than one response. "Other" responses are detailed in Appendix D.

**Figure 21: Exercise Locations by Respondent Group**



Respondents were then asked about how often they eat all of the food that they need. The majority of each group reported eating enough food “always” or “most of the time” (81.2% of non-seniors and 89.5% of seniors). See Figure 22 for a breakdown of responses to this question.

**Figure 22: "Do you eat all the food you need?"**



If respondents answered anything other than “always” when asked if they get enough food to eat, they were asked why did they not eat all the food they need. Approximately a quarter of non-seniors (23.5%) and seniors (26.0%) said it was due to having no appetite. The most frequently reported “other” reason was “no time.” More detailed responses can be found in Table 15 and Appendix D.

**Table 15: Why do you not eat all the food you need?**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
I have little or no appetite and forget to eat sometimes	23.5%	26.0%	24%
Can't afford it	5.3%	12.5%	6.7%
I am too tired or weak to prepare food	7.5%	2.0%	6.4%
I don't like to eat alone	1.8%	0.0%	1.4%
I have physical or health issues that make eating difficult	6.1%	3.2%	5.6%
No transportation to get to the grocery store	3.2%	0.7%	2.7%
No or poorly working stove or refrigerator	2.3%	1.5%	2.1%
Not enough time to eat	22.6%	10.3%	20.2%
Too picky	5.6%	4.0%	5.3%
Lazy	2.4%	5.5%	3.0%

### Transportation

All respondents were asked questions regarding transportation. Over 90% of respondents in both groups reported driving themselves. Those who did not report driving themselves either have family/friends drive them, walk, use public transportation, or another special transportation service. See Table 16 for the breakdown of all responses. Those that have used public transportation in the past twelve months have used it either once or twice (4.4% of non-seniors and 1.5% of seniors). Another 1.7% of non-seniors and 0.1% for seniors have used public transportation between 13-26 times. See Table 17 for the breakdown of all responses.

**Table 16: How do you usually get around for things like shopping, visiting the doctor, running errands or going to other places?**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Drive themselves	94.4%	90.5%	93.3%
Have family/friends drive them	2.3%	8.2%	3.9%
Walk	0.8%	0.2%	0.6%
Ride a bike	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%
Use public transportation	1.1%	0.0%	0.8%
Take a taxi/cab/Uber/Lyft	0.5%	0.2%	0.4%
Use a special transportation service	0.6%	0.4%	0.6%
Other	0.0%	0.5%	0.1%

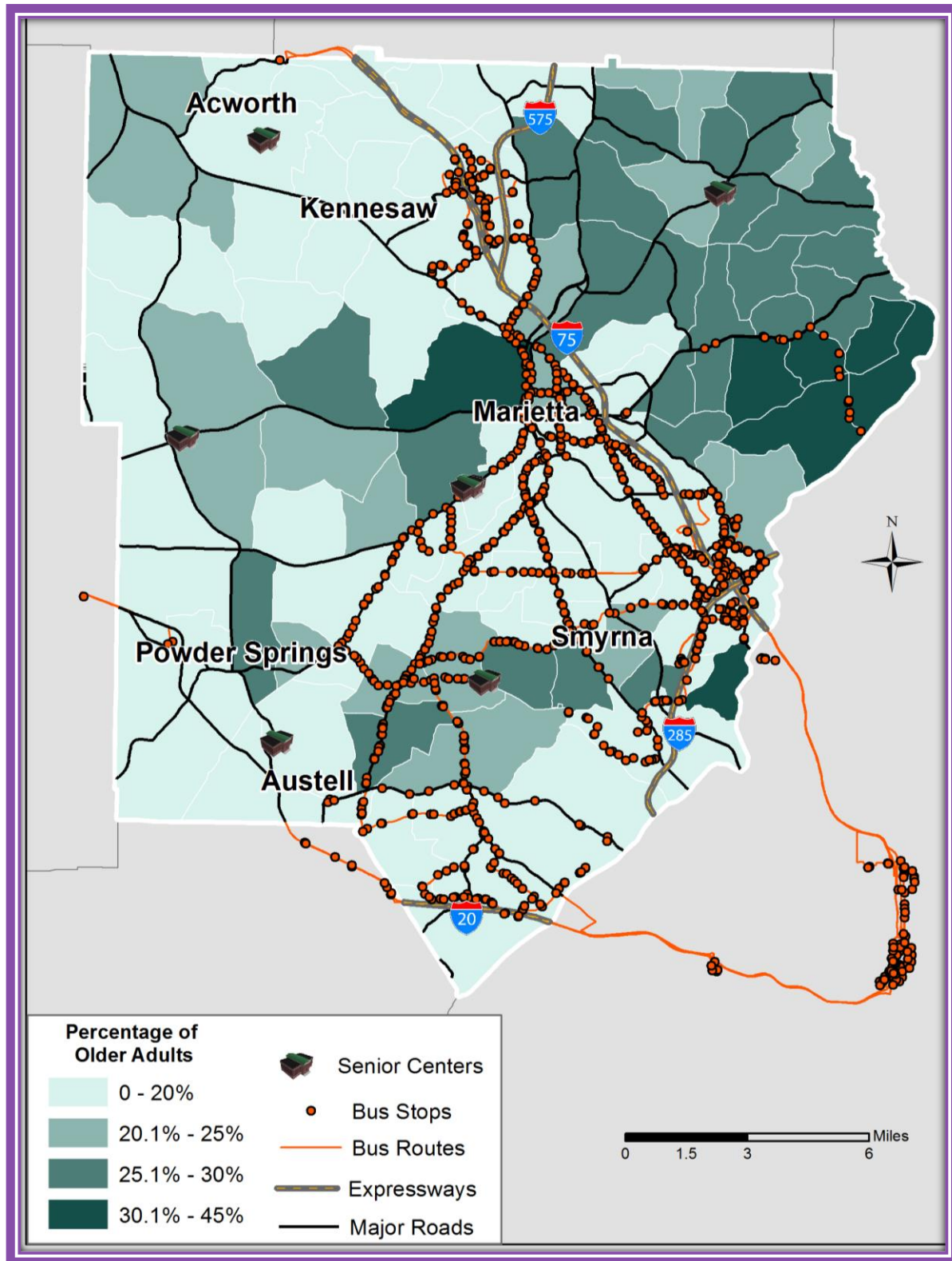
**Table 17: In the last 12 months, about how many times, if ever, have you used Cobb County public transit?**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Never	92.8%	97.4%	94.1%
Once or twice	4.4%	1.5%	3.6%
3 to 12 times	1.7%	0.1%	1.2%
13-26 times	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%
Over 26 times	0.9%	1.0%	0.9%

If participants did not use public transportation, they were asked why; 18.0% of seniors find that public transportation is inconvenient for them, and 9.7% of seniors reported that there are no bus stops near them. Figure 23 displays the location of senior centers and bus routes.



Figure 23: Location of Senior Centers and Bus Routes by Commission District and Population Density of Seniors



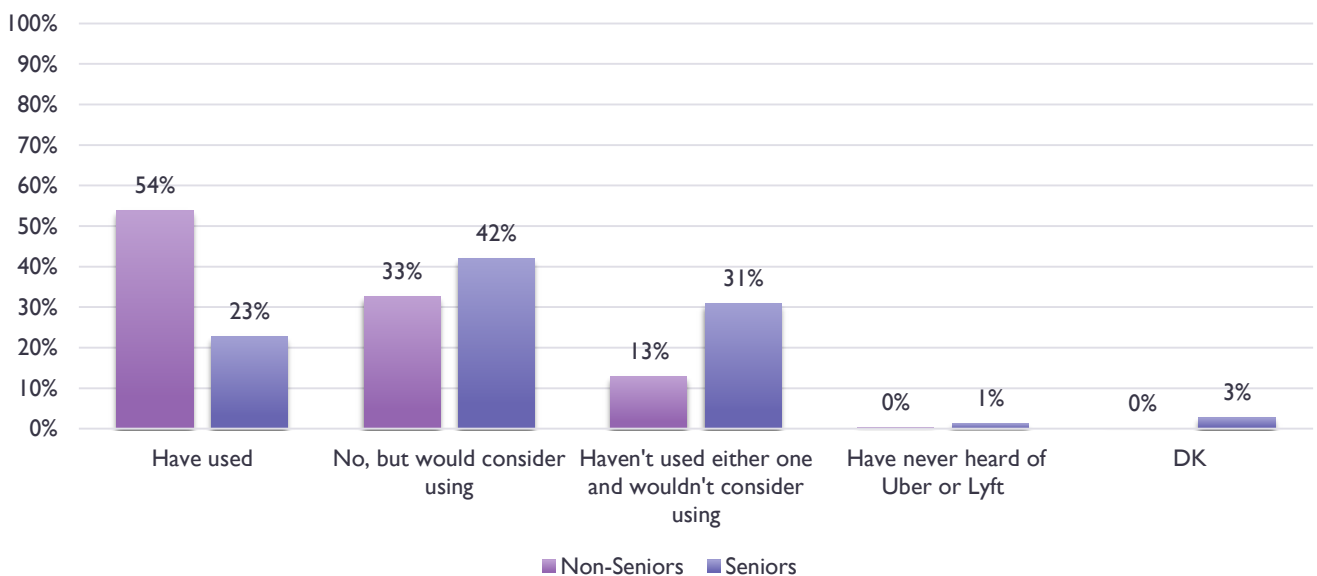
Seniors were asked additional questions about discounted public transportation. Thirty percent (29.9%) of seniors reported that if public transportation were free or discounted for seniors they would use it. See Table 18 for the breakdown of all responses.

**Table 18: If public transportation was free or discounted for seniors, would you use it?**

	Percent
Yes	29.9%
No	43%
Maybe	22.9%
Don't know	0.8%
Total	100.0%

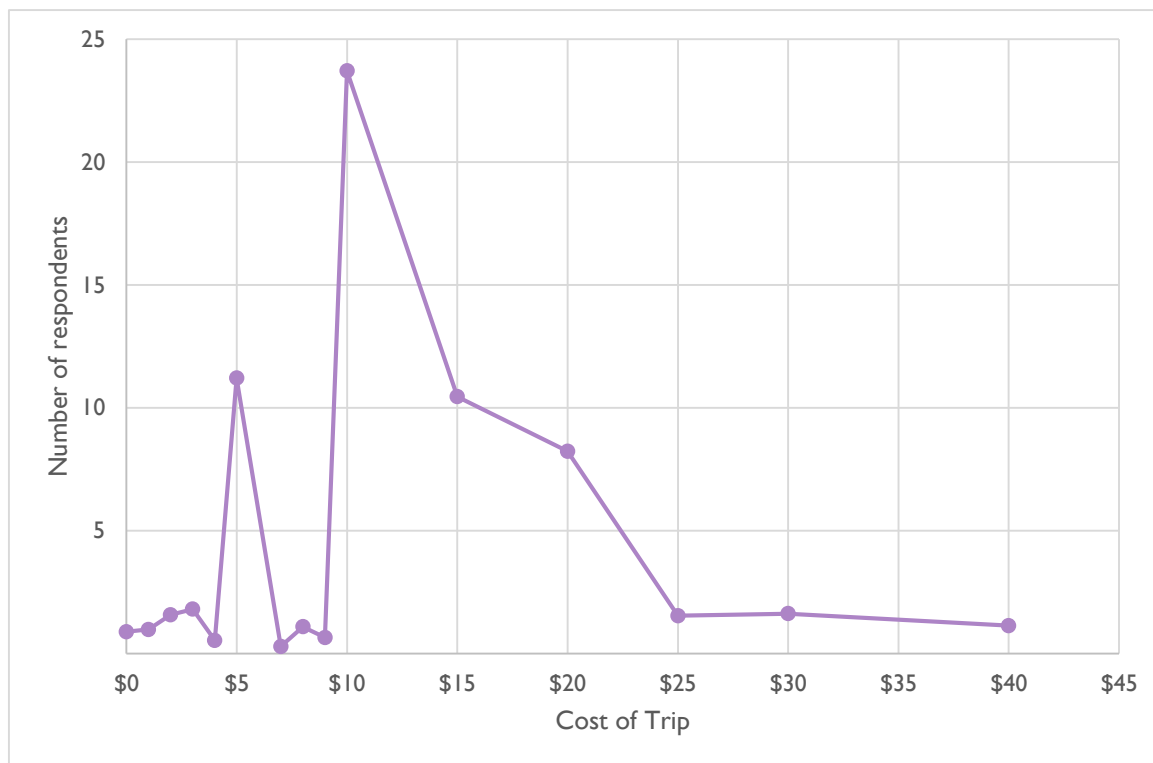
Over half (53.8%) of non-seniors have used a ride-sharing service such as Uber or Lyft compared to 22.7% of seniors. Seniors were most likely to report never using a ride-share service, but would consider it (42.1% of seniors vs. 32.7% of non-seniors). See Figure 24 for the total breakdown of all responses.

**Figure 24: Ride-share Service Use**



Seniors were asked follow-up questions regarding ride-share services depending on their answers to the previous questions. The first question was about the cost for a trip within a 10-mile limit. Sixty-five seniors reported that they did not know how much they would pay, followed by 24 seniors responding that they would pay \$10. Eleven seniors reported that they would pay \$5 and 10 seniors reported that they would pay \$15. The average amount seniors cited that they would pay was \$4.43 for a trip within 10 miles. See Figure 25. Seniors who indicated they would use a ride-share service were then asked about the frequency of using this type of service. The most frequent response was less than once a month (40.5%). See Table 21 for the breakdown of all responses.

**Figure 25: Prices Willing to Pay for a Ten-mile Trip**

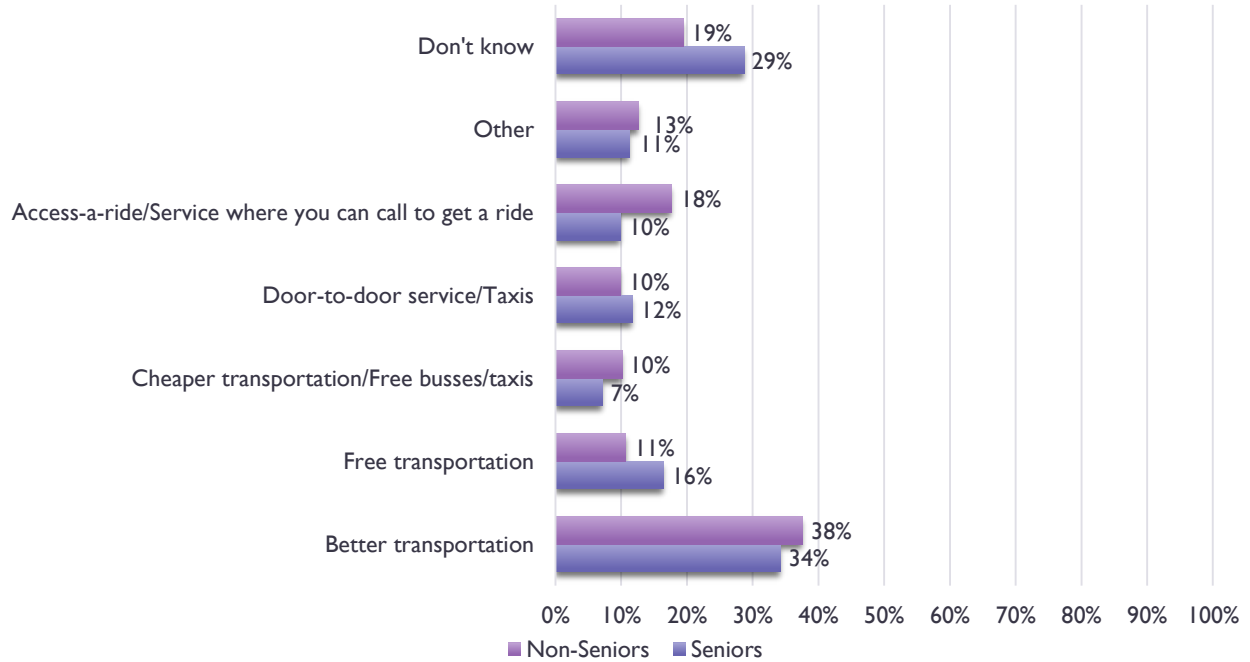


**Table 19: How often would you use Ride-Share Service?**

	Percent
Daily	4.4%
Weekly	12.4%
Once or twice a month	22.4%
Less than once a month	40.5%
DK	20.3%

When asked about ways to improve senior transportation, “better transportation” was chosen by over a third of respondents (37.6% of non-seniors and 34.2% of seniors). This was followed by “free transportation” (28.7% of seniors and 10.7% of younger adults). See Figure 26 for the breakdown of all responses with frequencies greater than 10%.

**Figure 26: Ways to Improve Senior Transportation**



## Caregiving

**Table 20: In a typical week, how many hours do you spend providing care for one or more individuals age 60 or older?**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
None	85.0%	63.4%	78.9%
1-3 hours	3.9%	8.8%	5.3%
4-5 hours	2.5%	7.3%	3.8%
6-10 hours	3.1%	2.7%	3.0%
11-20 hours	2.1%	3.5%	2.5%
20 or more hours	2.9%	12.7%	5.6%
Don't Know	0.6%	1.6%	.8%

Survey respondents were asked if they provided care to anyone age 60 or older, age 18-59, or under 18. The majority of non-seniors (85.0%) and seniors (63.4%) indicated that they do not provide care to anyone age 60 or older. Seniors were somewhat more likely to provide care to someone age 60 or older (35%). See Table 20 for the breakdown of responses.

**Table 21: Hours of Care Provided for Individuals Age 18-59**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
None	87.8%	86.1%	87.3%
1-3 hours	1.4%	4.8%	2.3%
4-5 hours	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%
6-10 hours	1.0%	3.0%	1.6%
11-20 hours	2.0%	1.3%	1.8%
20 or more hours	5.7%	3.1%	5.0%
Don't Know	.6%	0.4%	.6%

Only 12.1% of respondents provide care to individuals age 18-59, with about 5.0% of total respondents reporting that they provide 20 or more hours of care a week. See Table 21.

**Table 22: Hours of Care Provided for Individuals Under the Age of 18**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
None	83.8%	82.3%	83.3%
1-3 hours	1.4%	2.8%	1.8%
4-5 hours	0.3%	1.3%	.6%
6-10 hours	2.0%	4.1%	2.6%
11-20 hours	0.5%	2.3%	1.0%
20 or more hours	11.6%	6.6%	10.2%
Don't Know	0.3%	0.6%	0.4%

Only 16.3% of respondents provide care to individuals under age 18, with 10.2% of total respondents reporting that they provide 20 or more hours of care a week. See Table 22.

Respondents who reported that they had caregiving responsibilities were asked if they needed help; 85.3% of non-seniors and 92.7% of seniors reported that they did not need help (see Table 23). For people who reported that they needed help, a follow-up question was asked about the type of help needed. For non-seniors, "other" ranked the highest with 1.6%. For seniors, assistance with personal care tasks for the care recipient was the most reported answer with 2.3%. The "other" responses are included in Appendix D.

**Table 23: Do you need help (or more help) with your caretaking responsibilities?**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Yes	12.9%	7.3%	10.6%
No	85.3%	92.7%	88.4%
Don't Know	1.7%	0.0%	1.0%

Respondents were asked another question about whether the individual they cared for was disabled. Among non-seniors, 34.5% care for an individual with a disability. Approximately a third of seniors (32.5%) care for an individual with a disability. See Table 24.

**Table 24: Does the individual you care for have a disability?**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Yes	34.5%	32.5%	33.7%
No	63.8%	67.5%	65.3%
Don't Know	1.7%	0.0%	1.0%

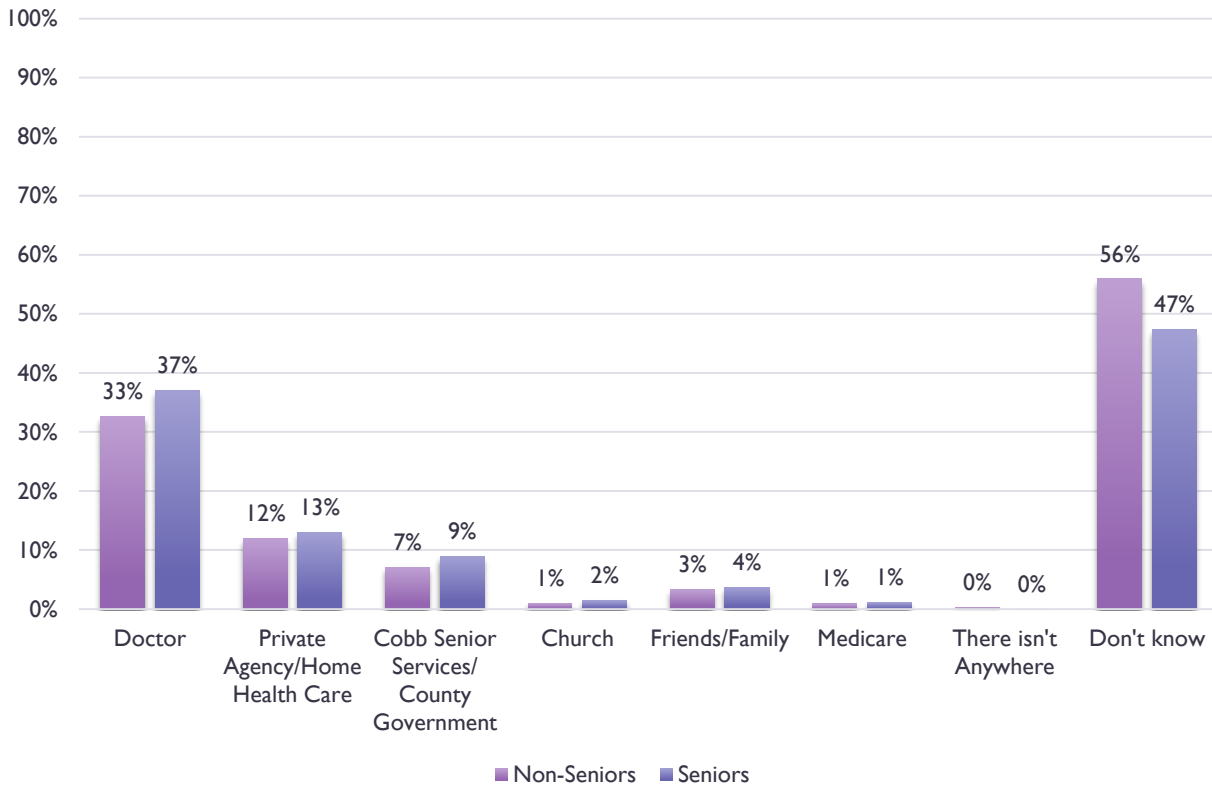
If respondents reported that they cared for an individual with a disability, they were asked how they were related to the individual. Among non-seniors, most reported that the individual was their child (11.3%). The most reported answer for seniors was providing care for their spouse or partner (16.5%). See Table 25.

**Table 25: How is the disabled individual(s) related to you?**

	Non-seniors	Seniors	Total
Parent	5.6%	8.2%	6.3%
Spouse/Partner	1.1%	16.5%	5.4%
Child	11.3%	8.8%	10.6%
Grandchild	0.7%	11.2%	3.6%
Other relative	5.0%	2.9%	4.4%
Friend/Neighbor	4.7%	6.4%	5.2%
Other	2.7%	2.4%	2.6%

Respondents were asked where they would turn to for help if they had a family member with dementia. The response with the highest frequency was “Don’t know,” with 55.9% of non-seniors and 47.4% of seniors providing this answer. The response with the second highest frequency was “Doctor” (32.6% of non-seniors and 37.0% of seniors gave this answer). See Figure 27 for more detail.

**Figure 27: Where would respondent go for help caring for a family member with dementia?**



## Social Engagement

Seniors were asked about senior centers and activities that they participate in their free time. More than half of seniors (67.1%) have never visited a senior center. Those that have were asked a follow-up question about fees. Almost one third (31.9%) of seniors qualified to answer this question, and 15.7% of seniors found the fees to be reasonable. Additionally, 14.1% did not know if the fees were okay. (See Tables 26 and 27).

**Table 26: How often do you visit a senior center?**

	Percent
Never	67.7%
Once or twice a year	19.6%
Monthly	4.3%
Weekly	4.8%
Daily	2.8%
Don't know	.7%

**Table 27: Ratings of Senior Center Fees**

	Percent
Reasonable	49.0%
Too Low	0%
Too High	6.7%
Don't Know	44.3%

Seniors were asked if they would ever use a senior center; 41.6% reported that they would and an additional 22.8% said that it would depend on other factors. See Table 28. Over half of seniors (54.4%) stated that there is a need for senior centers. See Table 29.

**Table 28: Would you use a Senior Center?**

	55-64	65-79	80+	All seniors (55+)
Yes	41.7%	43.5%	37.5%	41.8%
No	23.8%	34.8%	31.3%	28.1%
Depends	27.4%	15.2%	18.8%	22.6%
Don't Know	7.1%	6.5%	12.5%	7.5%

**Table 29: Do you think we need centers specifically for seniors?**

	Percent
Need senior centers	54.4%
Don't need senior centers	28.2%
Other (Not Both)	6.7%
Don't Know	9.7%

Respondents were asked about the term "senior center." More than two-thirds (70.6%) of seniors like the term and 10.9% reported that they would prefer something else. See Table 30 below.

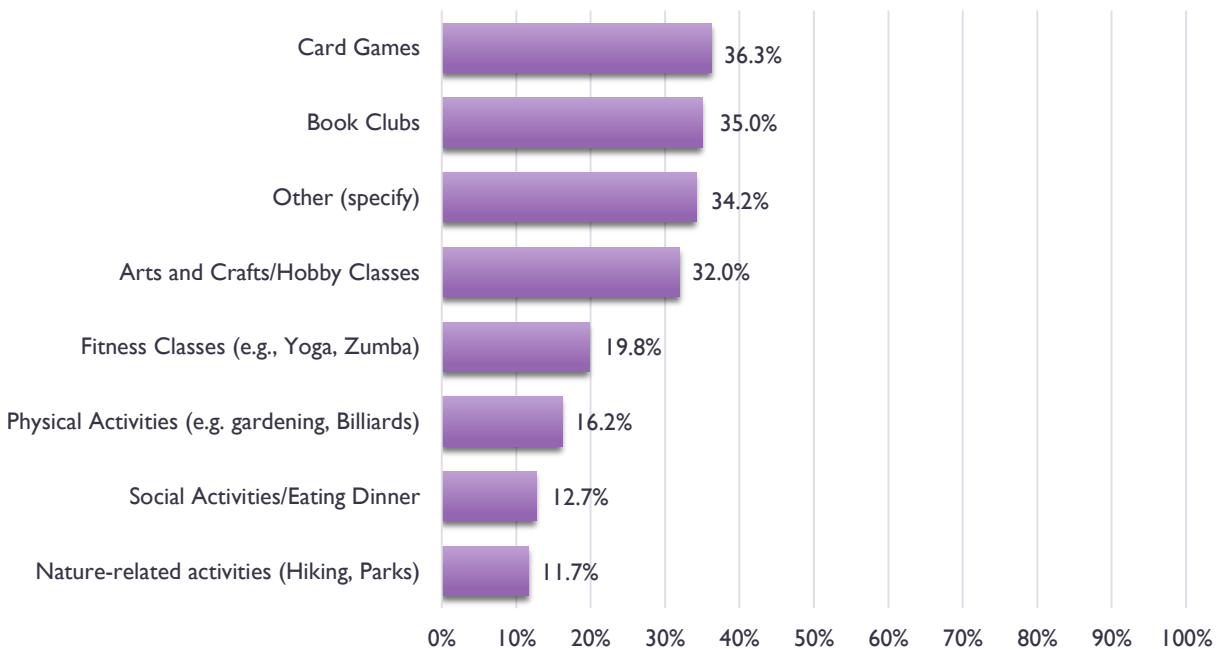
**Table 30: Do you like the term "senior center" or would you prefer something else?**

	Percent
Like the term	70.6%
Prefer something else (specify)	10.9%
Don't Know	18.5%



Seniors were asked what sorts of events or activities they would like to see at senior centers. Figure 28 lists events that were mentioned by more than 10% of respondents. The most popular responses were card games (36.3%), followed by book clubs (35.0%) and “other” (34.2%). “Other” responses are included in full in Appendix D.

**Figure 28: Events or Activities Respondents Would Like to See Offered at Senior Centers**



Over a third of seniors (38.5%) reported that they would be interested in attending a social event where alcohol is available for a fee.

Seniors were asked about the types of activities that they like to do in their free time and where they like to do these activities. Forty-four percent (44.0%) gave alternative responses such as shopping, reading, and doing history research. More than half of seniors (55.3%) reported that they liked doing these activities in their home; 27.8% reported that they liked doing them in parks, community centers or other neighborhood locations; 25.7% reported “other locations” which included places such as friends’ houses, outdoors or other places outside of Georgia. See Tables 31 and 32 as well as Appendix D for a full set of responses regarding these questions.

**Table 31: What types of activities do you like to do in your free time?**

	Percent
Other	44.4%
Fitness	23.7%
Travel	20.1%
Nature related activities	19.5%
Arts/hobbies	18.9%
Time with family and friends	16.6%
Religious or faith based activities	8.9%
Education	8.3%
Volunteer	5.9%
Meet new people	3.6%
Cards	3.0%
Dancing	3.0%
Genealogy	0.6%

**Table 32: Where do you like to do these activities?**

	Percent
Home	55.3%
Parks, community center, or other neighborhood locations	27.8%
Other	25.7%
Church or spiritual center	8.1%
Private Gym	7.6%
Restaurant/bar/coffee shop	7.3%
Senior center or similar organization	5.9%
Library	3.7%
Local community college, college or university	3.2%
Online	1.1%

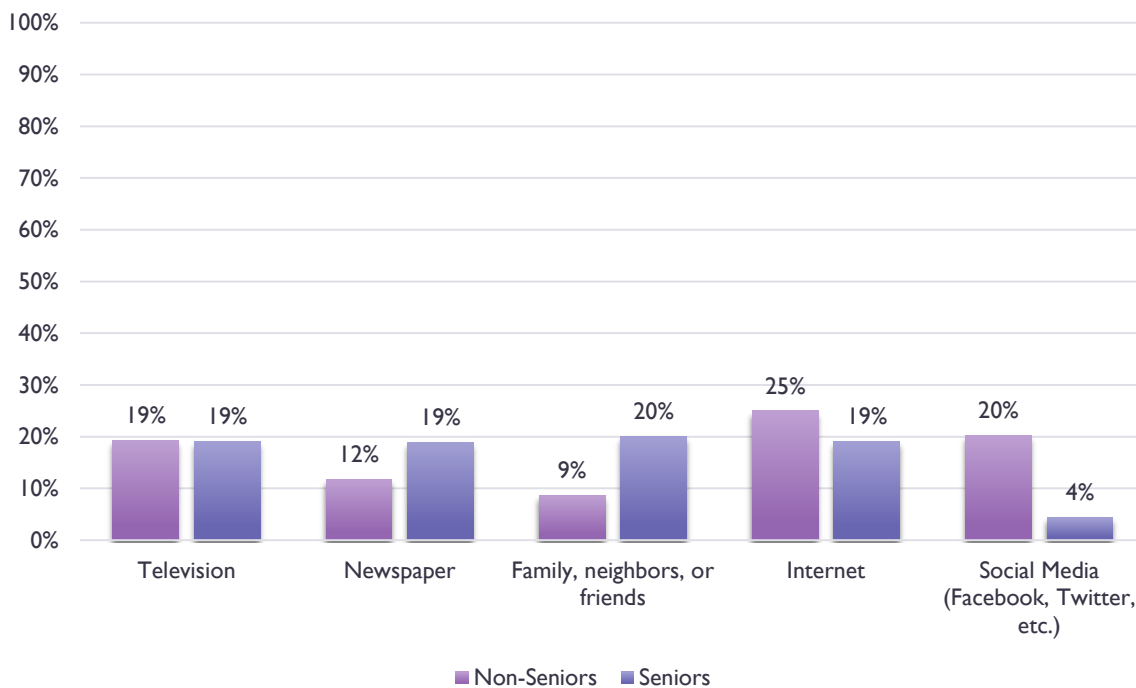
Respondents were also asked about how often they go online for a variety of things such as sending or receiving email, getting news and information, and paying bills or managing finances or buying products or services. This included all types of access such as at work, home or on a mobile device. Most respondents indicated that they went online several times a day (79.0% of non-seniors and 55.8% of seniors). See Table 33 for more detail.

**Table 33: How often do you go online to access the Internet?**

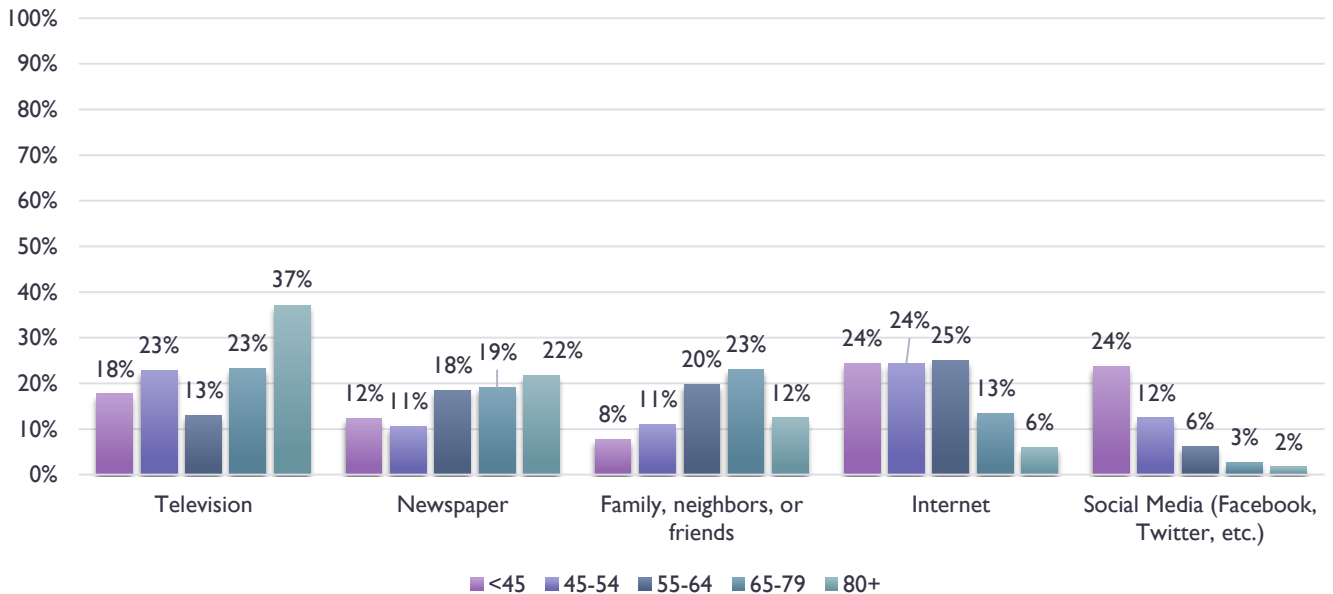
	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Never	3.2%	18.8%	7.6%
Once a month or less	0.2%	2.0%	0.7%
Once every few weeks	0.1%	1.1%	0.3%
1-2 days a week	2.9%	3.1%	2.9%
3-6 days a week	3.4%	4.3%	3.6%
About once a day	11.1%	14.5%	12.0%
Several times a day	79.0%	55.8%	72.7%

A follow up question was asked to determine how respondents most often found out about what was going on in their community. The top answers for seniors were family, friends or neighbors (20.0%); followed by a newspaper, the internet, and television (mentioned by 19.1% each). Among non-seniors, the internet was the most frequently reported answer by 25.0% of respondents. This was followed by social media (20.3%); television (19.3%); newspaper (12%); and family, neighbors or friends (9%). See Figure 29 for the complete breakdown of responses. Additional age breakdowns are shown in Figure 30.

**Figure 29: Sources of News by Respondent Groups**



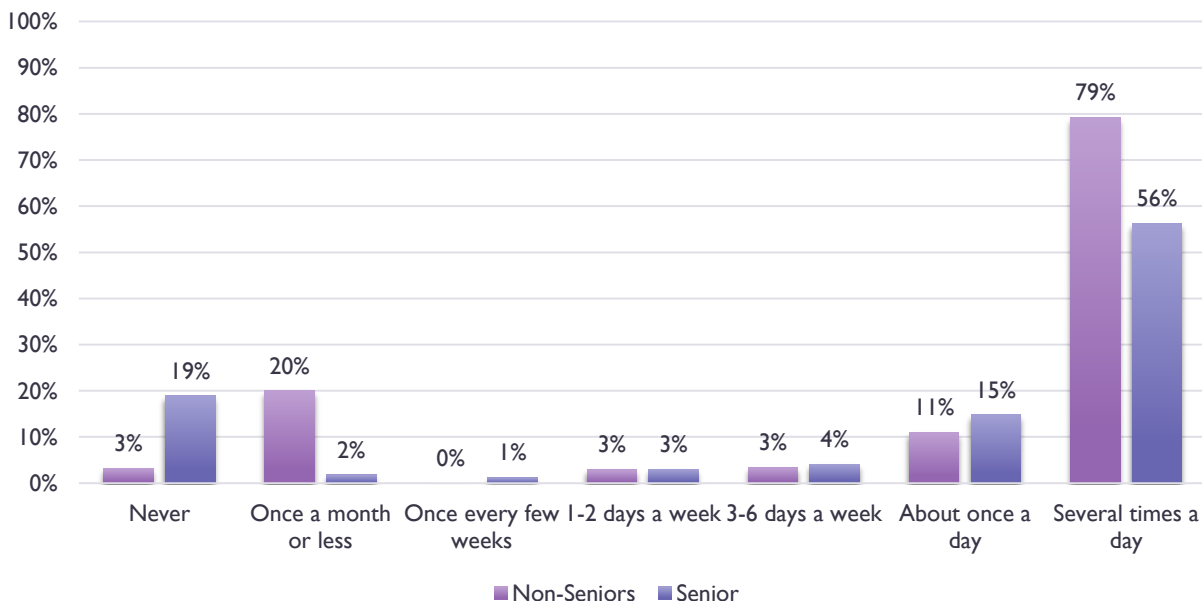
**Figure 30: Sources of News with Additional Age Breakdowns**



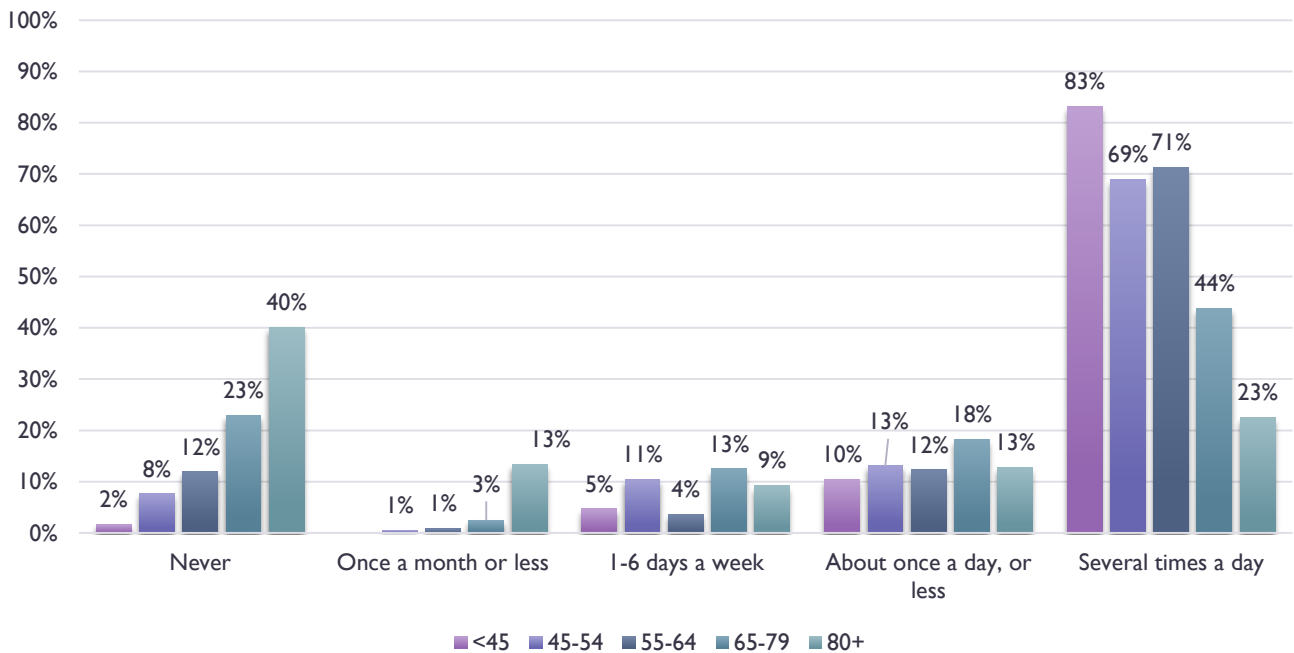
Seniors were asked whether or not they use smart phones. The majority of seniors (75.1%) answered “yes” to the question, “Do you have a smart phone?” and 22.5% of seniors answered no. Seniors were also asked if they texted. The majority of seniors reported that they do text (75.1%).

Respondents were asked about the frequency of their internet usage. Both seniors (56.2%) and non-seniors (79.3%) reported using the internet at least several times a day. Nearly one-fifth (18.9%) of seniors report never using the internet. See Figure 31. Additional age breakdowns are shown in Figure 32. Some of the frequency categories with low numbers of responses were collapsed.

**Figure 31: Internet Usage Frequency by Respondent Groups**



**Figure 32: Internet Usage with Additional Age Breakdowns**



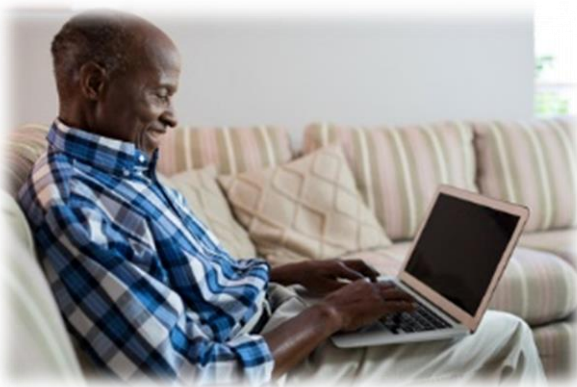
Seniors were asked how often they see or speak to a relative or another adult who does not live in their household. Almost two-thirds of seniors (62.4%) see or speak to another relative every day. See Table 34.

**Table 34: How often do you see or speak to a relative or other adult who does not live in your household?**

	Percent
Every day	62.4%
Once or twice a week	13.5%
3 or 4 days a week	10.4%
5 or 6 days a week	6.7%
At least once a month	3.8%
Less than once a month	1.8%
Never	0.3%

# Online & Paper Survey Results

“I like fitness, crafts, cooking, local day trips to learn local history.”



“More transit services within the county with a link to Marta.”

“Offer some sort of van service to get people out of their homes to socialize or go to the doctor.”

“Offer a transportation service that comes near your home at a reasonable price”



“The Marcus Jewish Community center is an example of a center that serves multiple age groups. A center for only seniors seems isolating. That's a big negative for me wanting to go to a senior center. I am a student at KSU and absolutely love the interactions with the younger generation.”





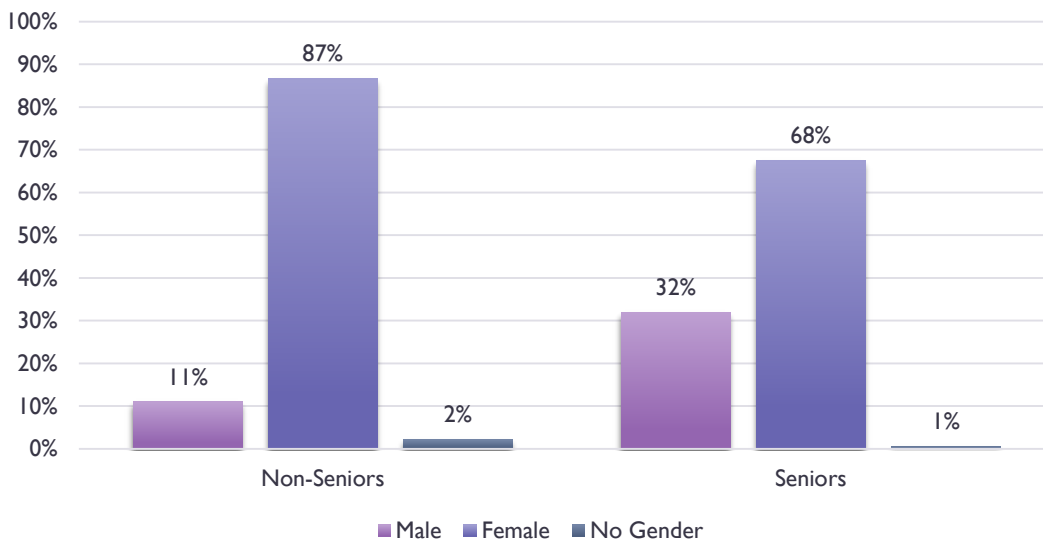
## Online and Paper Survey Results

The following section contains the results of a second survey that was available on the Cobb Seniors Services website and distributed by email to residents of Cobb County. Paper surveys were distributed at senior centers and activities. The results are reported for seniors and non-seniors. Surveys were open to everyone. Respondents were not randomly selected, therefore results cannot be considered representative of the entire population. Online and paper surveys were filled out between March 31 and July 22, 2017. A complete set of frequencies for each survey item can be found in Appendix E.

### Demographics

A total of 781 residents participated in the survey; 92 were under age 55 and the remaining 689 were age 55 or above. The total sample was 29.3% male and 70.0% female.

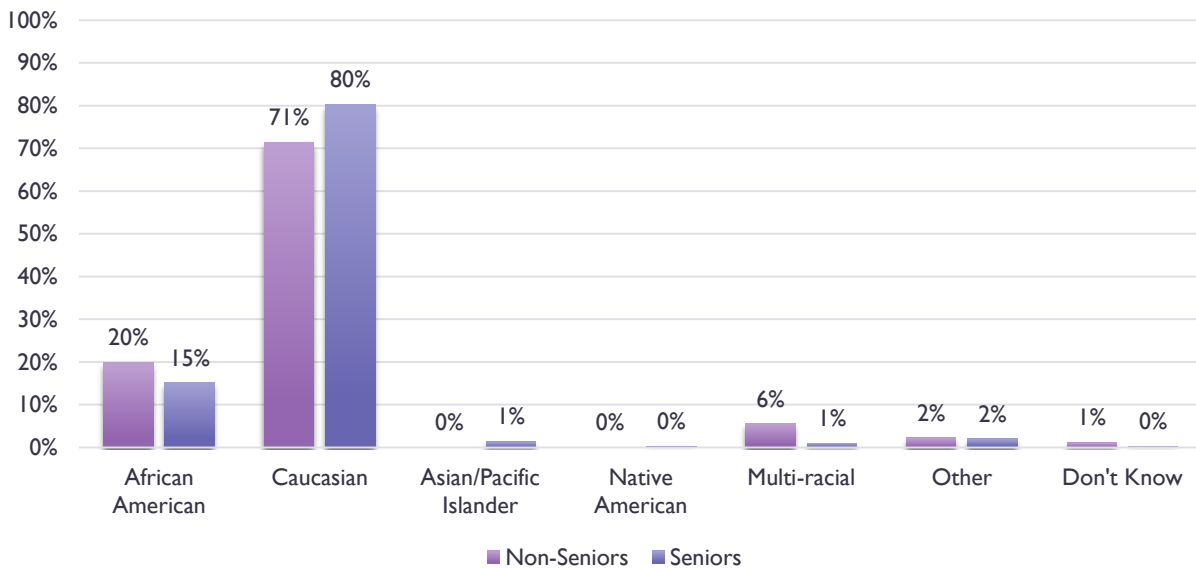
**Figure 33: Non-Seniors and Seniors by Gender**



Both seniors and non-seniors identified mostly as Caucasian/White (71.4% of non-seniors and 80.2% of seniors). Additionally, 19.8% of non-seniors and 15.1% of seniors identified as African-American/Black. Less than 10% of each group identified as Asian/Pacific Islander, Native-American/American Indian, Multi-racial, and "Other." (see Figure 34). Less than 10% of non-seniors (4.3%) and seniors (0.7%) also identified as Latino or Hispanic.



**Figure 34: Non-Seniors and Seniors by Race**



The largest percentage of respondents in each group reported their highest level of education was a Bachelor's degree (38.5% of non-seniors and 32.2% of seniors). The second largest percentage of respondents in each group reported their highest level of education as "some college" or an Associate's degree (27.5% of non-seniors and 28.5% of seniors). Nearly seven percent of non-seniors (6.6%) and 10.3% of seniors listed high school graduate or GED as their highest level of education. None of the non-seniors and 1.7% of seniors did not graduate from high school. An equal proportion of non-seniors (27.5%) and seniors (27.3%) earned a professional or graduate degree.

**Figure 35: Non-Seniors and Seniors by Education**

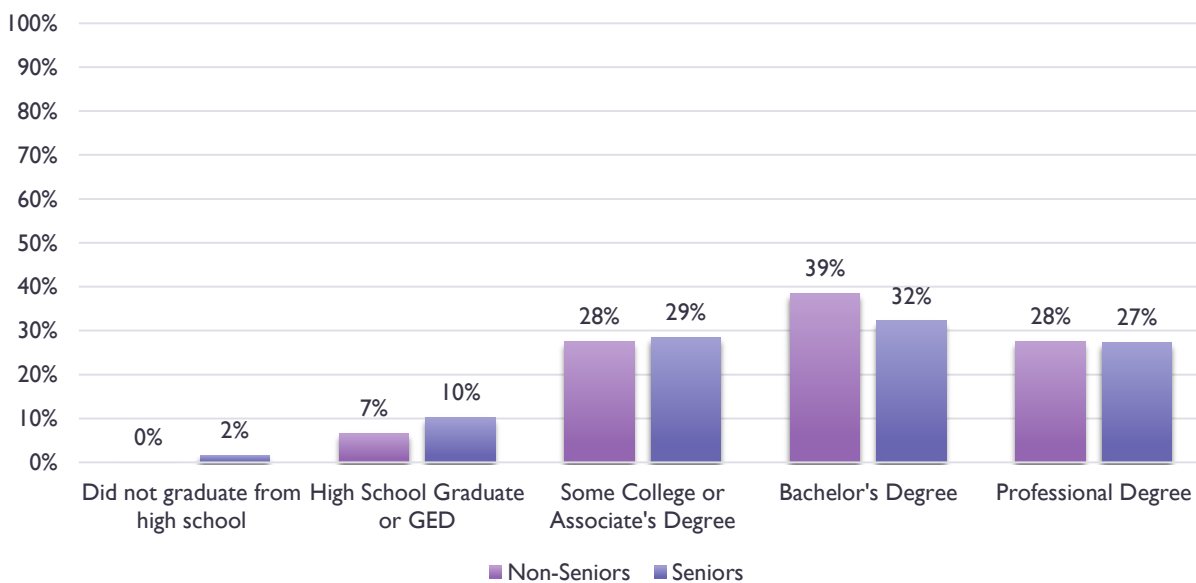
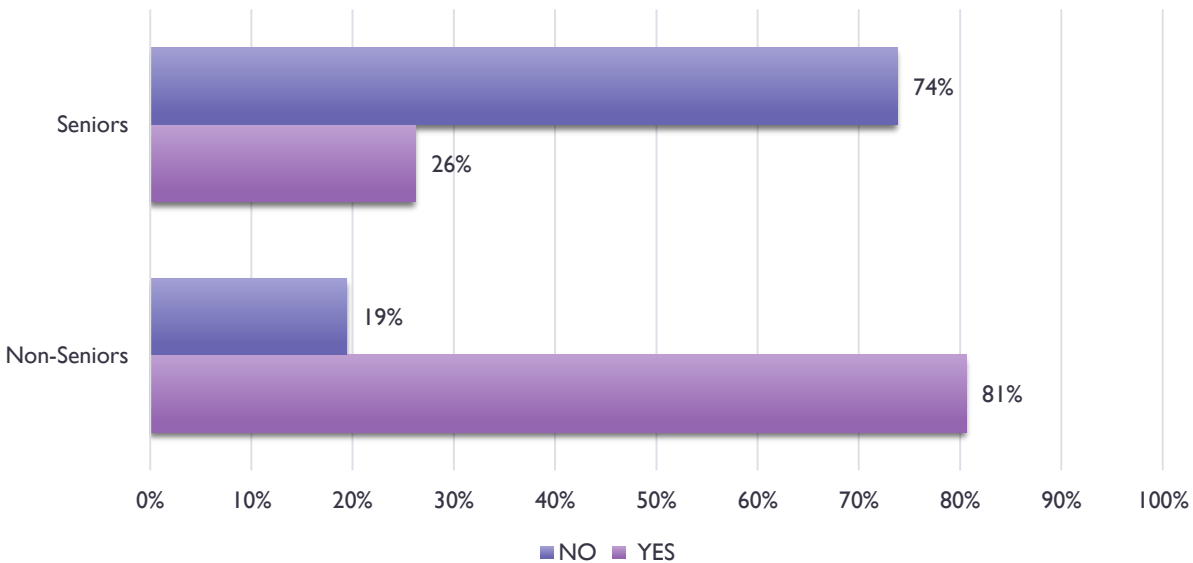


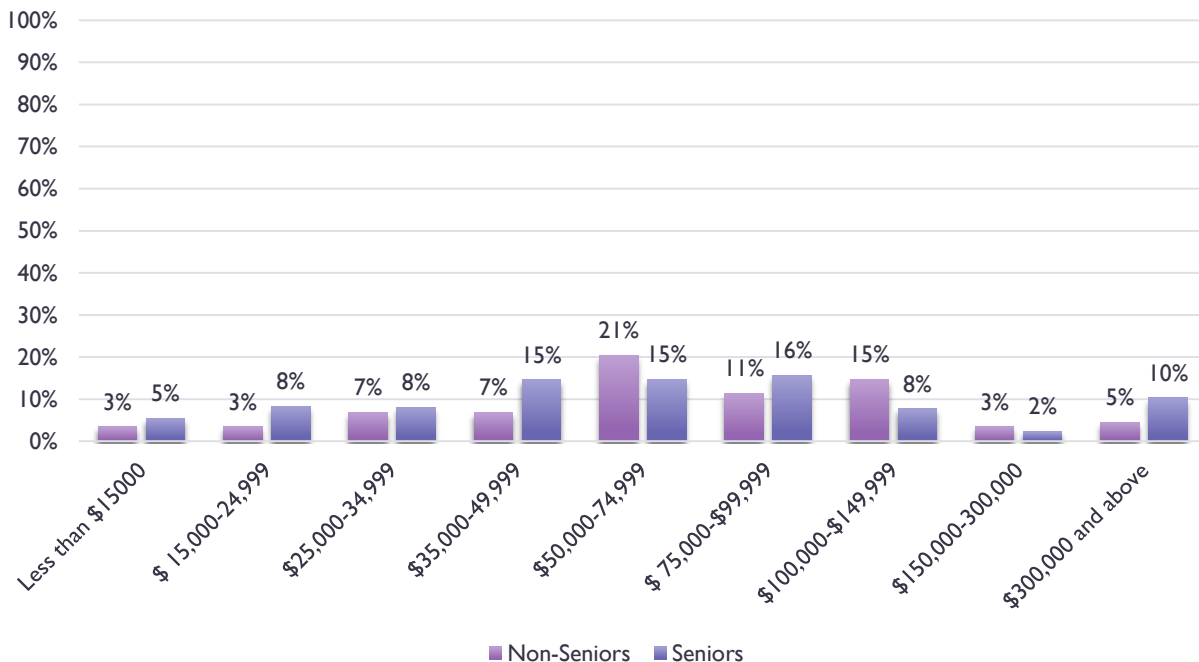
Figure 36 shows the percentage of people who were working for pay at a job among non-seniors and seniors. The majority of non-seniors (80.6%) and about a quarter of seniors (26.2%) reported working for pay at a job.

**Figure 36: Is the respondent working for pay at a job?**



Among non-seniors the most frequently reported income category was \$50,000-\$74,999. Among seniors the most frequently reported response was \$75,000-\$99,999.

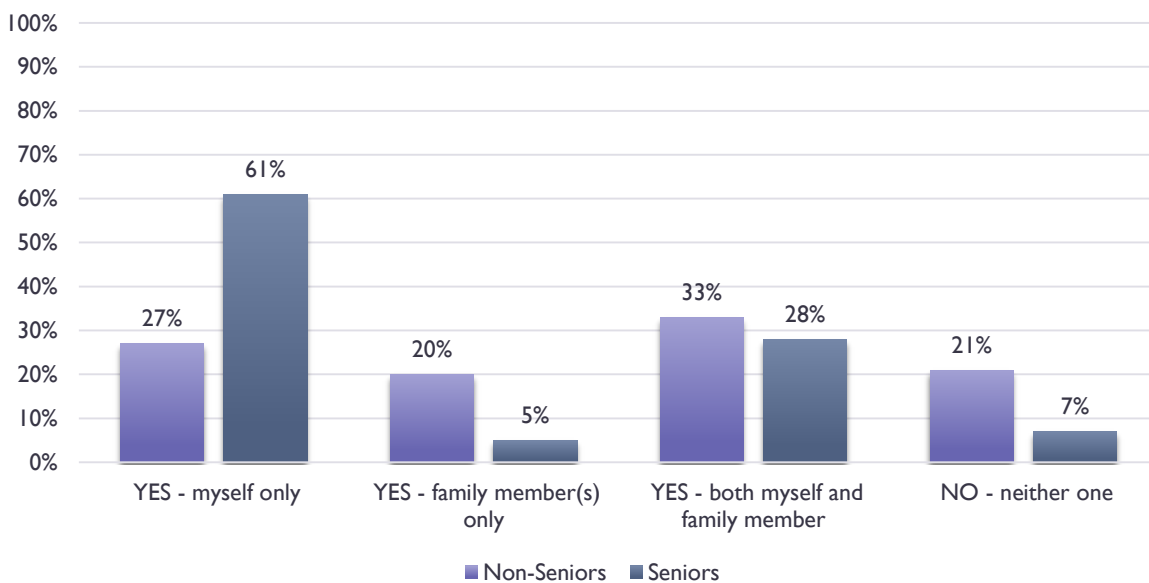
**Figure 37: Income Levels by Respondent Groups**



### Aging

Respondents were asked if they are currently making decisions or have made decisions in the past for themselves or others regarding life changes related to aging. Over one quarter (27.2%) of non-seniors said yes (regarding themselves only) and 60.7% of seniors said yes to making decisions for themselves only. See Figure 38 for a breakdown of all responses.

**Figure 38: Decision Regarding Life Changes by Respondent Group**



More than half of seniors (59.1%) reported that they would turn to online resources/computer to learn about what services and support are available as they age. This was followed by turning to friends, family members or neighbors as a source of information (44.9%), and 19.8% reported that they didn't know where they would turn to learn about services and support. See Table 35 for the complete breakdown of responses.

**Table 35 Where would you turn to learn what services and support are available to you as you age?**

	Frequency	Percentage
Computer/online	408	59.1%
Friends/family members/neighbors	310	44.9%
Doctor/Medical facility/professional/VA/Healthcare insurance	240	34.8%
Don't Know	33	19.8%
Council/agency on aging/ Department/division on aging	120	17.4%
AARP	115	16.7%
Senior centers	21	12.2%
Church	83	12.0%
Word of mouth	81	11.7%
Social security office	70	10.1%
City/county offices/City hall	59	8.6%
Social/human services (DFACS, Health Department)	43	6.2%
Library	33	4.8%
Other	16	2.3%

Among non-seniors, 24.5% reported living in Cobb County for 15-24 years. Just under a quarter (23.4%) of seniors have lived in Cobb County for 25-34 years. A follow-up question to how long people have resided in Cobb County was asked about the importance of living in Cobb County as respondents get older. Almost 60% of seniors (59.6%) found it very important to continue living in the area or city where she/he currently resides, as do 36.7% of non-seniors. See Figures 39 and 40 for the breakdown of all responses by percentage and age group.

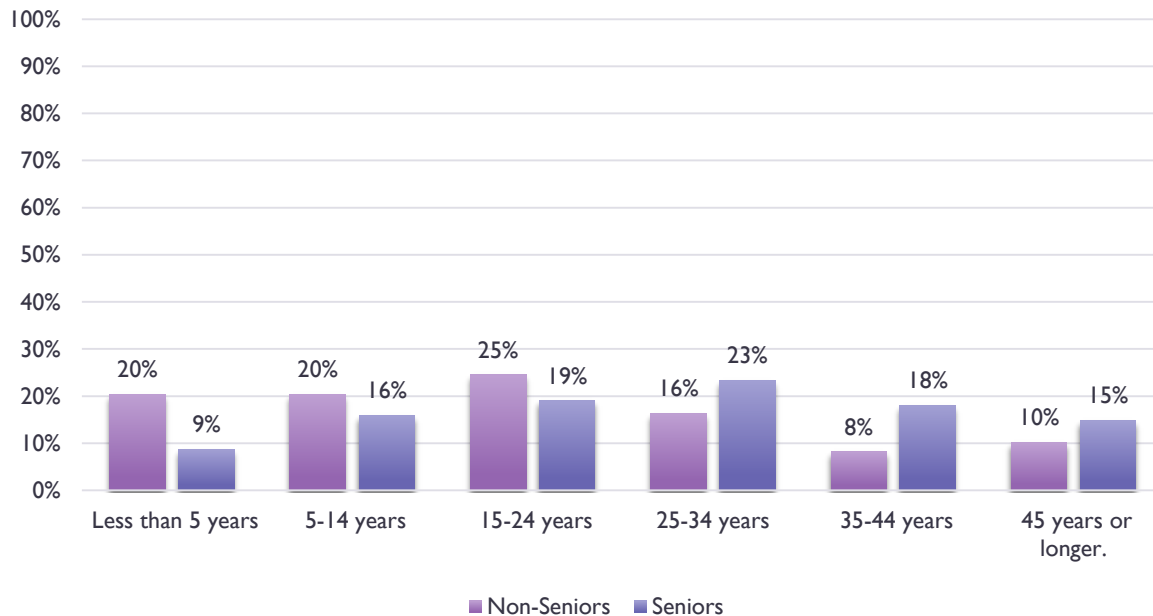
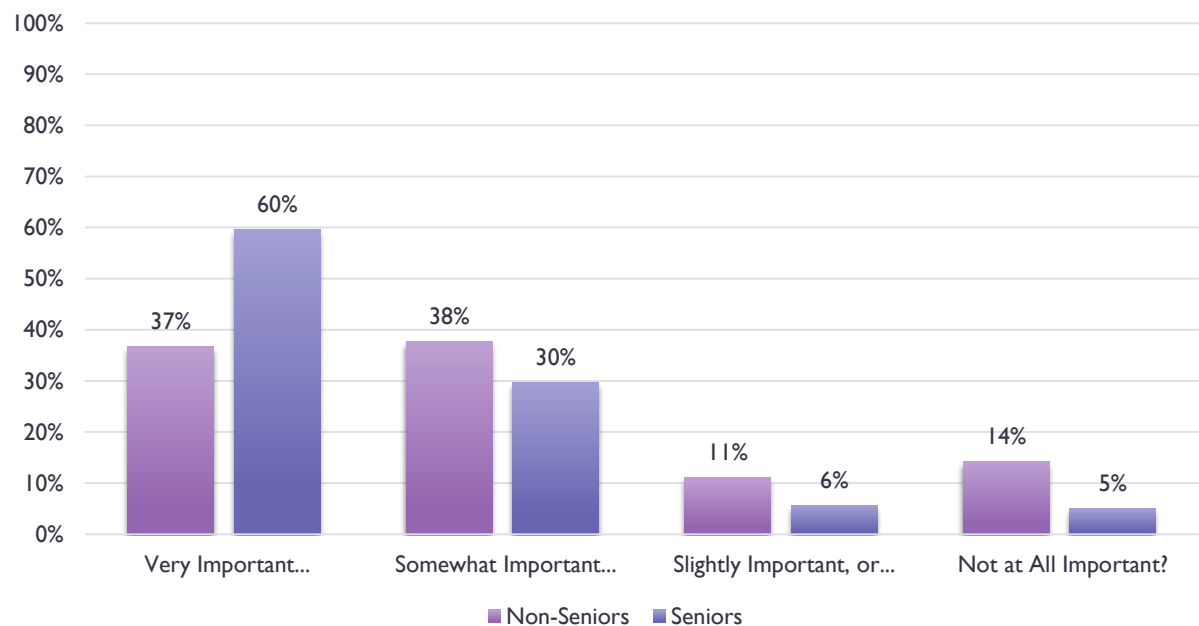
**Figure 39: Years Lived in Cobb**


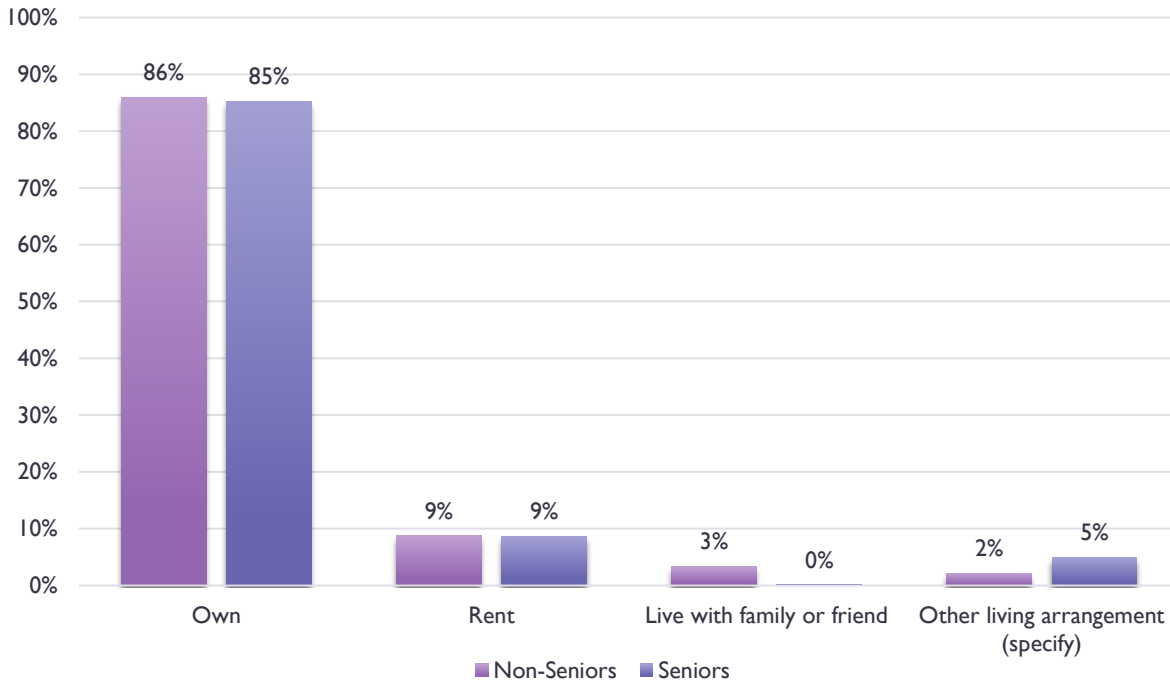
Figure 40: How Important is it to Stay in Cobb as the Respondent Ages



## Housing

Most respondents reported owning their home; 85.3% of seniors reported home ownership; and 85.9% of non-seniors reported home ownership. See Figure 41 for the breakdown of all responses.

**Figure 41: Own or Rent by Respondent Groups**



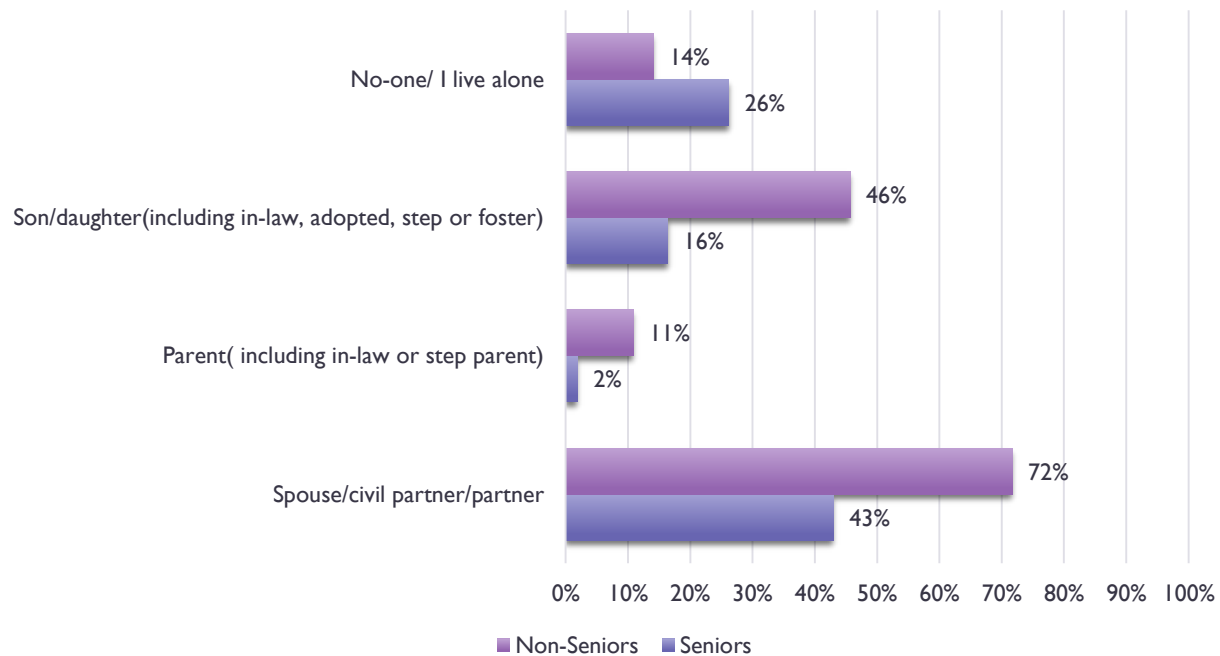
Residents who rent were asked if they were having any issues with their housing provider, landlord, or management company. Around 90% of respondents reported no issues with their housing provider (see Table 36).

**Table 36: Are you currently having any issues with your housing provider?**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Yes	7.7%	10.8%	10.3%
No	92.3%	89.2%	89.7%

Nearly three-quarters (71.7%) of non-seniors live with their spouse/civil partner/partner compared to 43.0% of seniors. Over a fourth of seniors (26.2%) reported living alone. See Figure 42.

**Figure 42: With whom do Respondents Live?**



The most frequently reported cost of housing for seniors was under \$500 a month (36.5%). The most common housing costs for non-seniors was between \$1,000 and \$1,499 (35.6%). Over a quarter of seniors (28.9%) paid between \$500 and \$999 each month for housing costs. 32.2% of non-seniors paid within this range as well. See Table 37.

**Table 37: Housing Costs**

Less than 55yrs old	Frequency	Percentage
Under \$500 a month	12	13.3
\$500-\$999	29	32.2
\$1,000- \$1,499	32	35.6
\$1,500-\$2,999	17	18.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100.0</b>
55yrs and older	Frequency	Percentage
Under \$500 a month	212	36.5
\$500-\$999	168	28.9
\$1,000- \$1,499	129	22.2
\$1,500-\$2,999	61	10.5
\$3,000-\$4,500	8	1.4
Over \$4,500 a month	3	.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Seniors were asked if they were having any difficulty affording their monthly housing costs or finding an affordable apartment to rent. Many seniors reported that their rent was affordable and that they were not looking to move (56.5%). A quarter of seniors said that it was hard to afford their current rent

(25.0%) and 15.2% said it was hard to find an affordable apartment. See Table 38 for a breakdown of responses.

**Table 38: Are you having any difficulty affording your monthly housing costs or finding an affordable apartment to rent?**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Yes, hard to afford current rent	7.7%	25.0%	22.9%
Yes, hard to find affordable apartment	38.5%	15.2%	18.1%
No, rent is affordable/not looking to move	38.5%	56.5%	54.3%
Other	15.4%	3.3%	4.8%

Seniors were asked if they intended on living in their current home for the rest of their life. Sixty-three percent (63.4%) of seniors reported that they intend on living in their current home for the rest of their life and 36.6% reported that they do not (see Table 39 below).

**Table 39: Do you intend to continue living in your current home for the rest of your life?**

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	409	63.4%
No	236	36.6%

Seniors who reported that they were planning on living in their current home for the rest of their life were asked a follow up question about making possible modifications to their home so they can stay there as they age. Of the seniors who reported that they would make changes, 28.6% reported that they would make modifications regarding improved access to their home and 45.5% reported that they would make changes in the bathroom to reduce chance of injury from slipping or falling. Results do not add to 100% as respondents were allowed to give more than one response. See Table 40 for more detail.

**Table 40: Do you think you will need to make any modifications or improvements to your home to enable you to stay there as you age?**

	Frequency	Percent
Bathroom changes (grab bars, handrails, higher toilet; non-slip tile)	186	45.5%
Installing an emergency response system that notifies others of emergency)	140	34.2%
Improved access to your home (ramps, chairlift/elevator wider doorways)	117	28.6%
None	104	25.4%
Improving lighting	50	12.2%
Putting a bedroom, bathroom or kitchen on the first floor	38	9.3%



Seniors were also asked where they would go if they could not continue living in their current home. Just under half of seniors (47.5%) reported that they would stay in their home, but have an aide or a family member to care for them. Another 28.0% indicated that they would move in with a family member. See Table 41 for the breakdown of all answer choices.

**Table 41. If you found that you could no longer continue living in your current housing situation, would you consider any of the following options?**

	Frequency	Percent
Stay in your home but have an aide or family member there to care for you	328	41.9%
Move into an assisted living facility	306	39.1%
Move in with a family member	193	24.7%
Not sure	149	19.1%
Some other arrangement	61	7.8%
Move in with a friend	55	7.0%
Move into a nursing home	38	4.9%

In addition, seniors were asked if they would consider living in a home or apartment that is shared by other people who are not related to them. Over half (57.0%) reported that they would not consider such a housing arrangement. Twelve percent (12.1%) reported that they would consider living with someone unrelated and 15.5% of seniors said “maybe/depends.” See Table 42 for a breakdown of responses to this question. Some of the reasons that seniors gave for saying “maybe/depends” were “if required by physical handicap/ deterioration,” and “when it becomes necessary.” See Appendix F for additional open-ended responses.

**Table 42: Would you consider living in a house or apartment that is shared by others who are not related to you?**

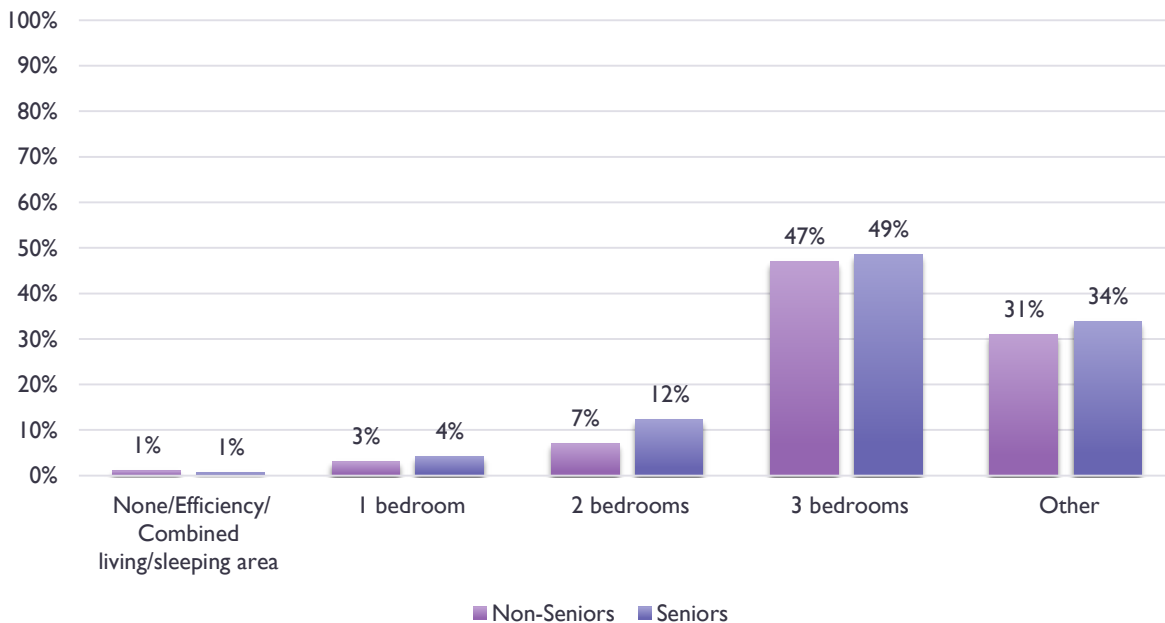
	Frequency	Percent
No	378	57.0%
Yes	80	12.1%
Maybe/Depends (specify)	103	15.5%
Don't know	102	15.4%
Total	663	100.0%

Seniors were asked if they had any problems with household related issues. Half reported no problems in this area. Of those who did experience issues, almost one-third (30.6%) of seniors reported issues with doing yard work. An additional thirty percent (30.3%) indicated that major repairs were necessary. See Table 43.

**Table 43: Home Issues for Seniors**

	Frequency	Percent
None	330	50.1%
Ability to do yard work	200	30.6%
Major repairs are needed	196	30.3%
Minor home repairs	125	23.3%
Sufficient lighting	55	8.5%
Hard to pay rent/mortgage/taxes	54	8.3%
Paying for home maintenance	12	7.1%
Flooding or other similar environmental problems	31	4.8%

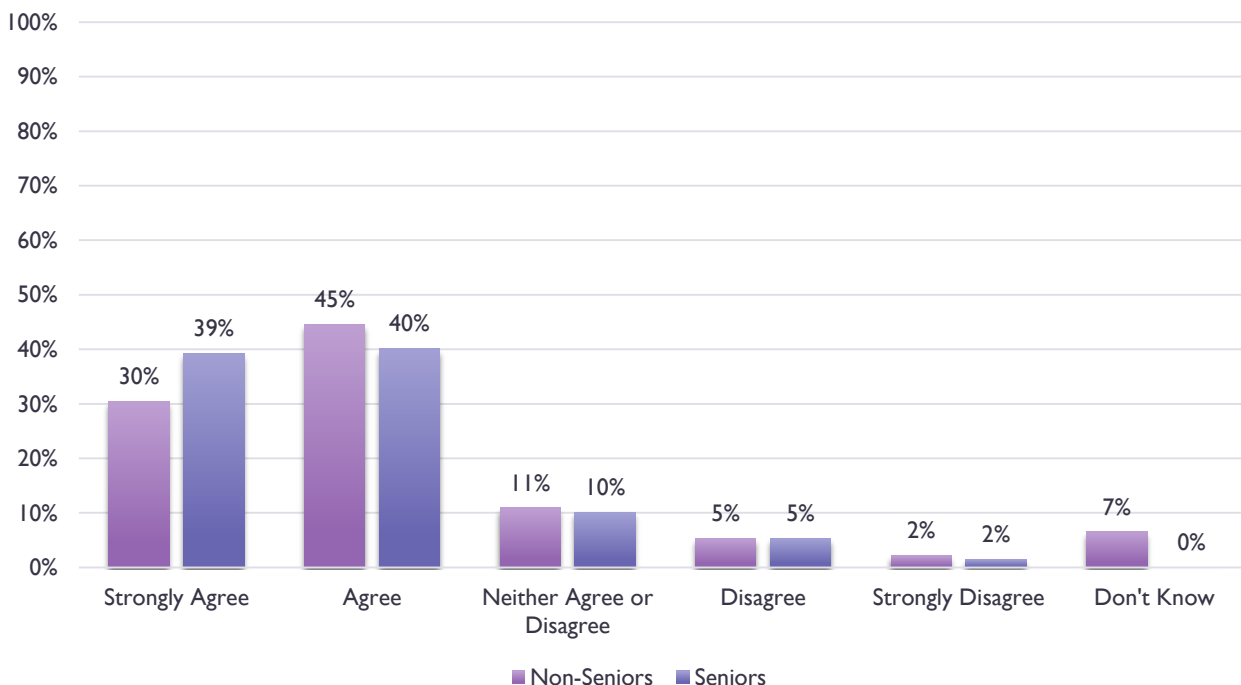
Among seniors and non-seniors, most lived in homes with three or more bedrooms (see Figure 43).

**Figure 43: How Many Bedrooms are in their Current Residence by Respondent Groups**

## Finances

Respondents were asked how much they agreed or disagreed with the following statement as it relates to their situation: *"During my retirement, I expect to have adequate resources to meet my financial needs, including home maintenance, real estate taxes, healthcare, and other expenses."* Among non-seniors, 30.4% strongly agreed and 44.6% agreed with the statement. Among seniors, 39.2% strongly agreed, and 40.1% agreed. See Figure 44 for a breakdown of all responses.

**Figure 44: Financial Statement by Respondent Groups**



Respondents were asked about how much they will rely on various sources of financial support as they age. Respondents were asked to choose of the following to describe how much they would rely on each possible source: completely, quite a bit, a moderate amount, only a little bit, and not at all. The following graphs show the percentage of seniors who reported reliance on different types of income. As can be seen in the charts, the majority expect to rely on Medicare and Social Security. Many people also expect to rely on private sources of income including their pensions/retirement funds and savings or investments. (see Figure 45). Figure 46 breaks down the results further by age. These results reflect those who indicated that they would rely on the source “completely,” “quite a bit,” or a “moderate amount.”

**Figure 45: Percentage of Respondents who Rely on Various Sources of Income**

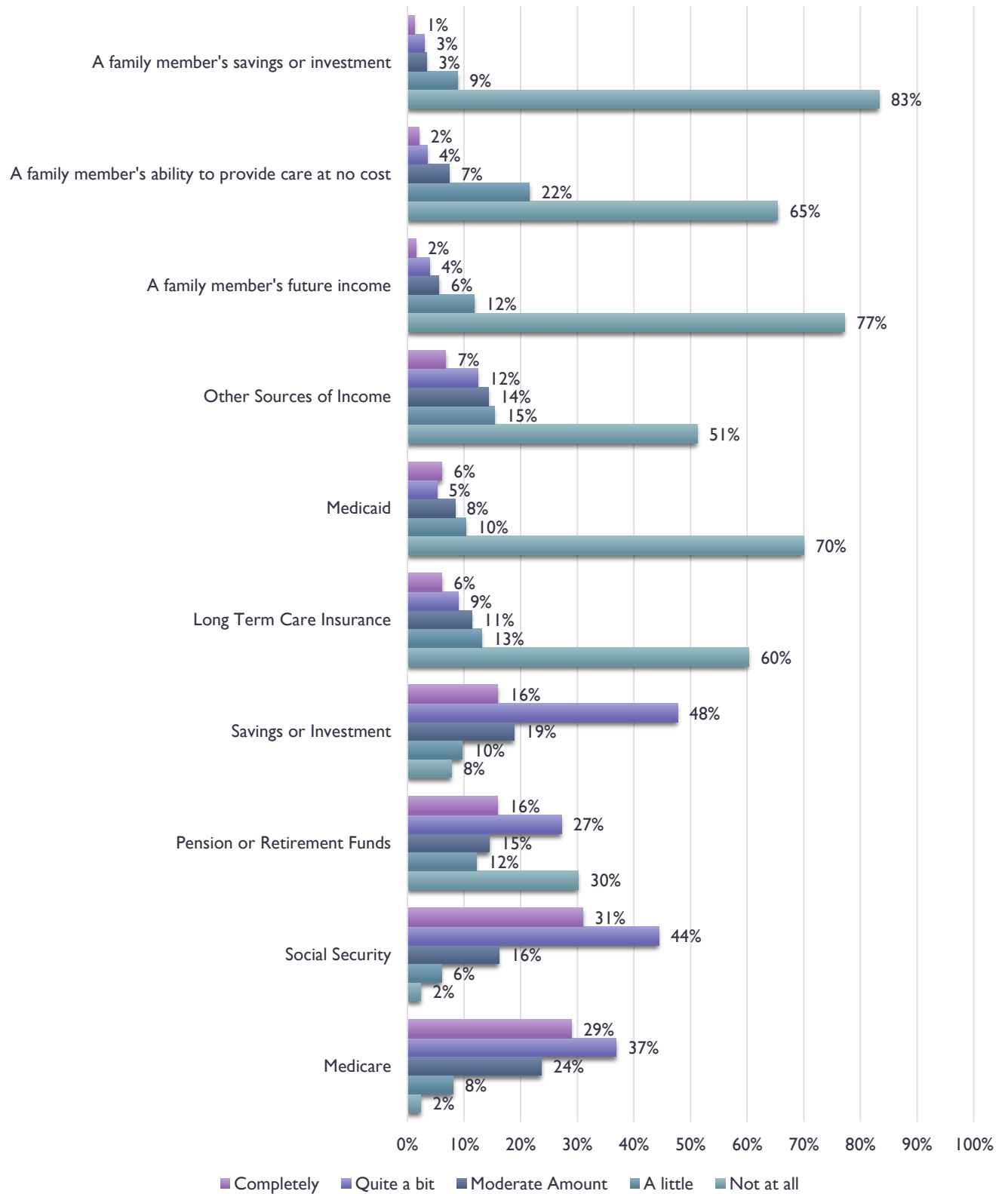
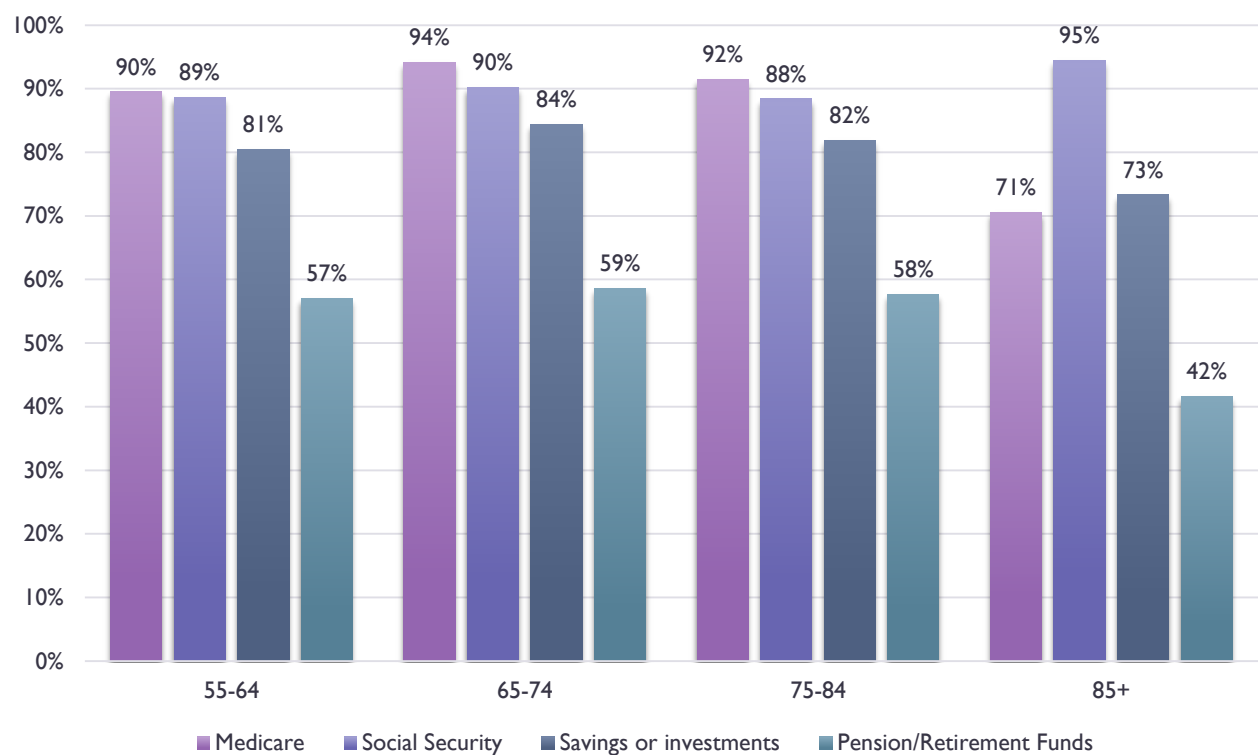


Figure 46: Reliance on Sources of Income based on Age Category



## Elder Abuse

Seniors were asked questions regarding their safety. The first question was how safe their neighborhood is as a place to live; 60.1% reported that it was very safe; and less than one percent (0.8%) reported that it was very unsafe. See Table 44 for the breakdown of responses.

**Table 44: Safety Ratings**

55yrs and older	Frequency	Percentage
Very safe	394	60.1
Somewhat safe	238	36.3
Somewhat unsafe	19	2.9
Very unsafe	5	.8
Total	656	100.0

Seniors were asked specific questions related to elder abuse. Over 95% of seniors reported that they would feel comfortable reporting abuse. Seniors were asked if they would feel comfortable using an anonymous report line. The majority of seniors (73.1%) said yes, while 26.9% of seniors said they would not feel comfortable using such a report line. Seniors who did feel comfortable with reporting abuse were asked who they would report the abuse to. Over half (57.8%) indicated that they would report the abuse to the police. See Table 45 for a list of all responses.

**Table 45: Who Seniors Would Report Abuse To**

	Frequency	Percentage
Police	344	57.8%
Relative or friend	116	19.5%
Adult protective services	101	17.0%
Other	18	3.0%
Pastor/religious leader	16	2.7%

Seniors were also asked if they had sought help for any issues related to abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation. Over ninety percent (94.3%) reported that they have not sought help because they had not experienced a need. See Table 46 for the breakdown of all responses.

**Table 46: Have you sought help for any issues related to abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation?**

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	36	5.7%
No	597	94.3%

Seniors were asked how concerned they were about becoming the victim of consumer fraud or a swindle, such as identity theft, home repair fraud, or otherwise being pressured to make a

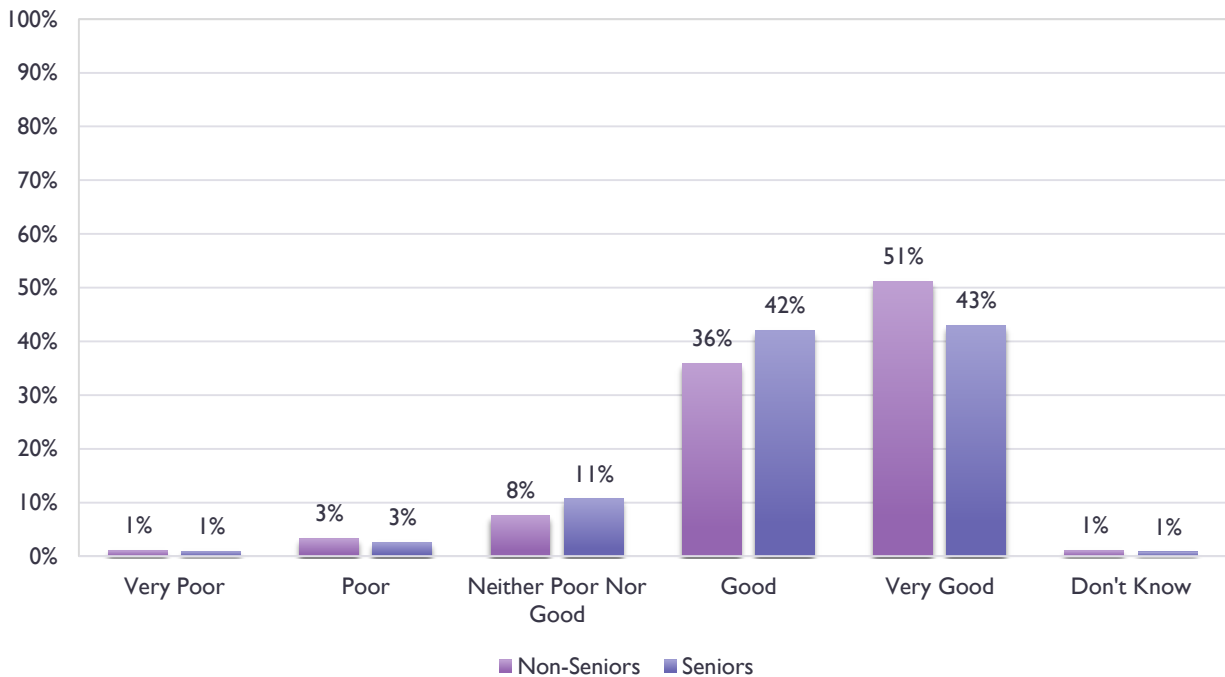
financial commitment they might not agree with. Under ten percent (8.8%) were not concerned at all; 23.2% were slightly concerned; 29.0% were somewhat concerned; 21.6% were very concerned, and 17.5% were extremely concerned, .

Seniors were asked if they felt they had been the victim of fraud or a swindle, over three-fourths of seniors (78.2%) said no. More than half (59.6%) of seniors reported that they were not aware of programs to assist elders in keeping themselves protected from abuse, neglect and financial exploitation.

## Health

Non-seniors were slightly more likely to rate their health as “very good” and seniors slightly more likely to rate their health as “good” (see Figure 47).

**Figure 47: Health by Respondent Group**



**Table 47: Days when Physical Health was Not Good**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Responding	86	533	619
Mean	2.70	3.28	3.20
Std. Deviation	5.617	7.073	6.888
Range	30	30	30
Maximum	30	30	30

standard deviation for both groups was approximately 6.9 days.

The average number of days physical health was rated as “not good” among non-seniors was 2.70. Among seniors, the average was slightly higher at 3.28 days (total 3.20 days). See Appendix F and Table 47 for additional detail. The

**Table 48: Days when Mental Health was Not Good**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Responding	88	527	615
Mean	3.44	2.03	2.23
Std. Deviation	6.789	5.456	5.681
Range	30	30	30
Maximum	30	30	30

Appendix F for more details.

The average number of days mental health was rated as “not good” among non-seniors was 3.44 days; 2.03 days was the average among seniors. The standard deviation was approximately 5.7 days for both groups. See Table 48 as well as

**Table 49: Days when Poor Health Interfered with Normal Activities**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Responding	87	536	623
Mean	2.62	1.98	2.07
Std. Deviation	6.738	5.572	5.747
Range	30	30	30
Maximum	30	30	30

If respondents answered anything other than 0 days (or don't know/refused) when asked how often they experienced poor physical or mental health, they qualified for a follow-up question about the number of days poor

physical or mental health kept them from doing their normal activities. This qualified 87 non-seniors and 536 seniors. The average number of days was 2.62 days among non-seniors and 1.98 days among seniors. The standard deviation was around 6.7 for non-seniors and 5.6 for seniors. See Table 49.

Respondents who reported poor mental health kept them from normal activities were asked if they had sought help. Over half of non-seniors (51.3%) and seniors (50.7%) experiencing poor mental health said that they had sought help. See Table 50.

**Table 50: Seeking Help for Mental Conditions**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Yes	51.3%	50.7%	50.9%
No	48.7%	49.3%	49.1%

Respondents who reported poor physical health which interfered with normal activities were asked if they had sought help; 63.9% of non-seniors said that they had sought help for physical conditions; and 75.5% of seniors said they had sought help for physical conditions.

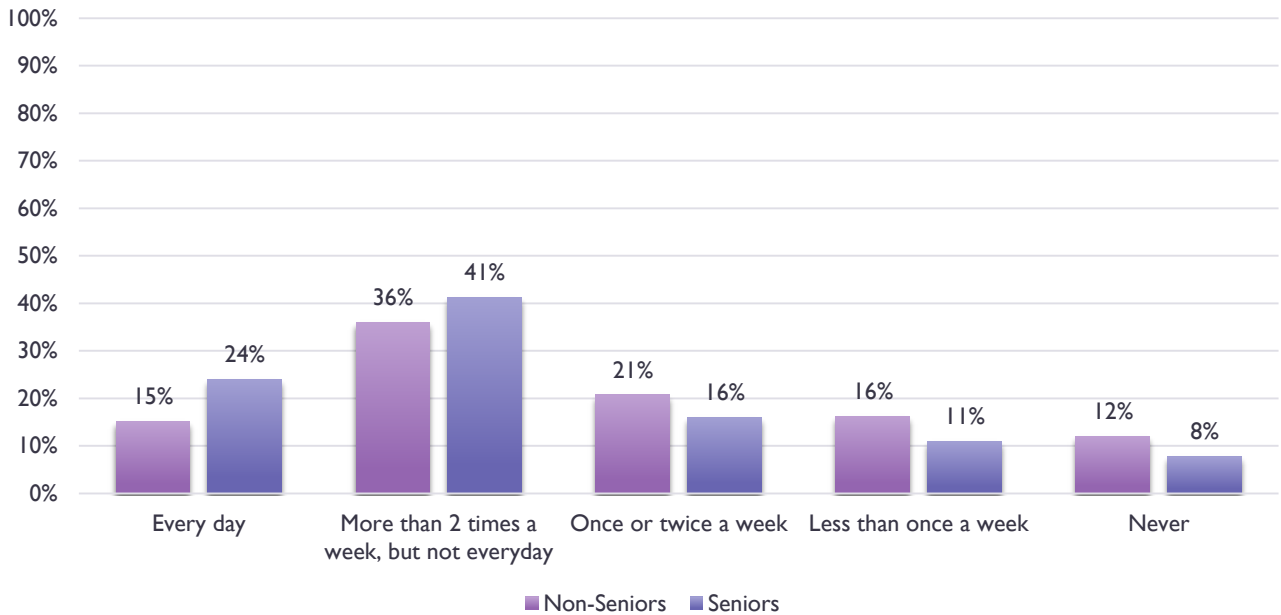
**Table 51: Seeking Help for Physical Conditions**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Yes	63.9%	75.5%	73.8%
No	36.1%	24.5%	26.2%

Respondents were asked about how often they exercise and where they choose to exercise. The majority of each group reported working out more than twice a week but not everyday with 40.6% of non-seniors, 35.9% of seniors, and 41.3% of total respondents choosing this answer. Working out once or twice a week was the second most reported frequency among non-seniors with 20.7% choosing this answer. Working out every day was the second most reported response for seniors with 24.0%. See Figure 48 for the breakdown of all responses.

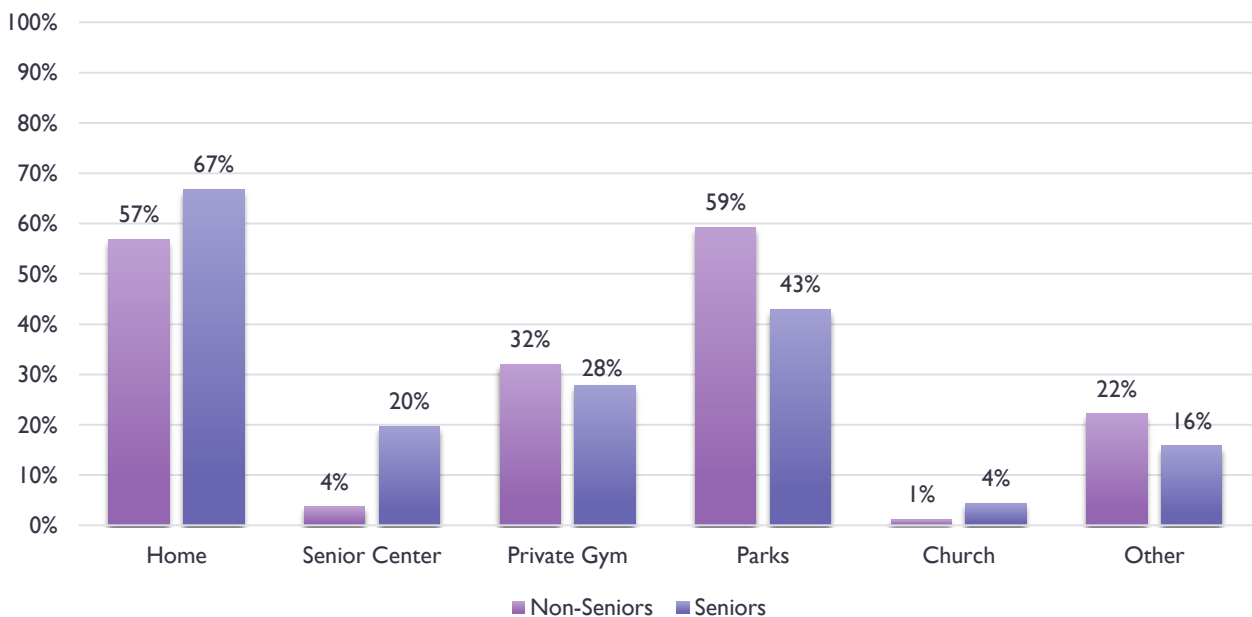


**Figure 48: Exercise Frequency by Respondent Group**



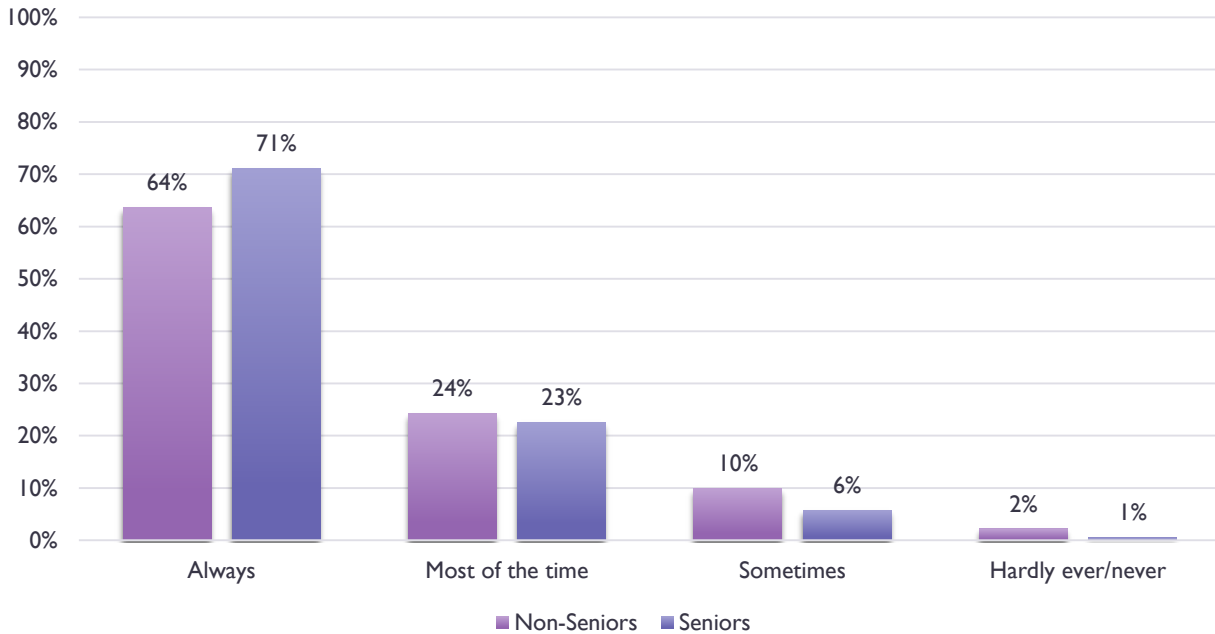
Most non-seniors and seniors reported exercising at parks and home more frequently. See Figure 49 for the breakdown of all responses. Totals do not add to 100% because respondents were allowed to select more than one response. “Other” responses are detailed in Appendix F.

**Figure 49: Exercise Locations by Respondent Group**



Respondents were then asked about how often they eat all of the food that they need. The majority of each group reported eating enough food “always” or “most of the time” (87.9% of non-seniors and 93.8% of seniors). See Figure 50 for a breakdown of responses to this question.

**Figure 50: Do you eat all the food you need?**



If respondents answered anything other than “always” when asked if they get enough food to eat, they were asked why did they not eat all the food they need. Forty-two percent (42.4%) of non-seniors said it was due to having no appetite (compared to 38.4% of seniors). More detailed responses can be found in Table 52 and Appendix F.

**Table 52: Why do you not eat all the food you need?**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
I have little or no appetite and forget to eat sometimes	42.4%	38.4%	39.0%
Other	33.3%	27.0%	28.0%
I am too tired or weak to prepare food	18.2%	12.4%	13.3%
I don't like to eat alone	3.0%	11.9%	10.6%
Can't afford it	9.1%	7.6%	7.8%
I have physical or health issues that make eating difficult	15.2%	6.5%	7.8%
No transportation to get to the grocery store	6.1%	4.3%	4.6%
No or poorly working stove or refrigerator	6.1%	2.7%	3.2%

## Transportation

Respondents were asked questions regarding transportation. Most seniors (85.9%) and non-seniors (96.7%) reported driving themselves. Those who did not report driving themselves either have family/friends drive them, walk, use public transportation, or another special transportation service. Those that have used public transportation in the past twelve months have used it once or twice (12.0% of non-seniors and 9.4% of seniors). See Table 53 and 54 for the breakdown of all responses to these questions.

**Table 53: How do you usually get around for things like shopping, visiting the doctor, running errands or going to other places?**

Non-Seniors	Frequency	Percentage
Drive yourself	89	96.7
Have others drive you	1	1.1
Other (specify)	2	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Seniors	Frequency	Percentage
Drive yourself	560	85.9
Have others drive you	59	9.0
Walk	4	.6
Use public transportation	6	.9
Take a taxi or cab	2	.3
Use special transportation service such as one for seniors or persons with disabilities	11	1.7
Other (specify)	10	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 54: How many times, if ever, have you used Cobb County public transit?**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Never	81.5%	82.4%	82.3%
Once or twice	12.0%	9.4%	9.7%
3 to 12 times	3.3%	4.8%	4.6%
13-26 times	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%
Over 26 times	2.2%	2.5%	2.4%

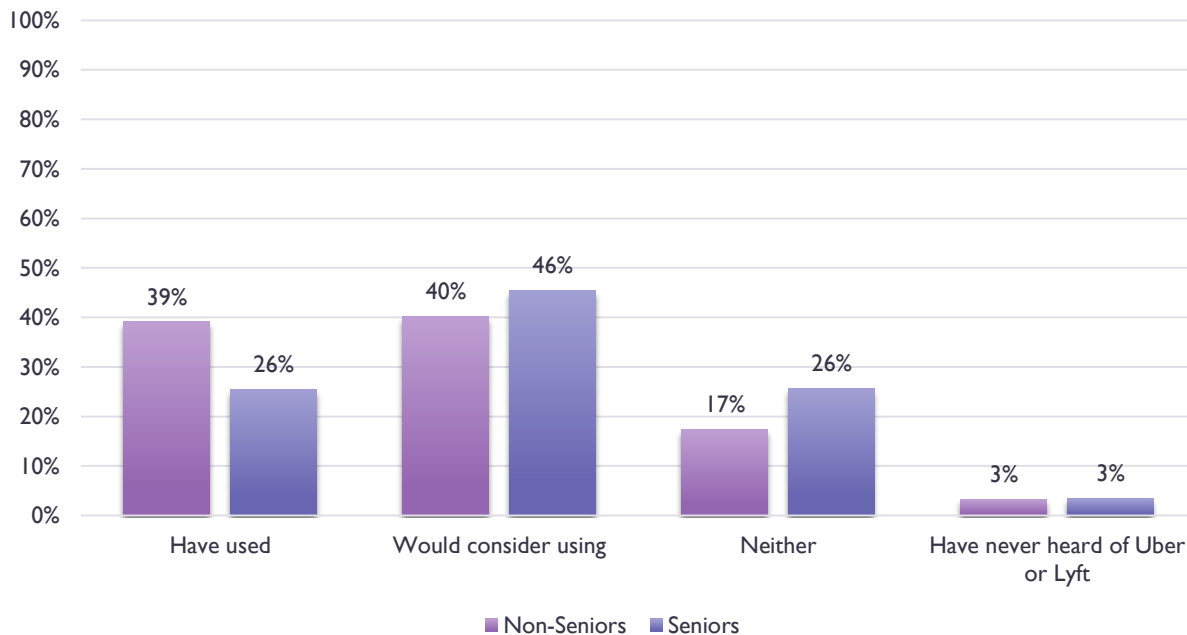
Seniors were asked additional questions about discounted public transportation. Almost thirty percent (26.6%) of seniors reported that if public transportation were free or discounted for seniors they would use it. See Table 55 for the breakdown of all responses.

**Table 55: If public transportation was free or discounted for seniors, would you use it?**

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	174	26.6%
No	91	13.9%
Maybe	292	44.6%
Don't Know	97	14.8%
Total	654	100.0%

Over half (53.8%) of non-seniors have used a ride-sharing service such as Uber or Lyft compared to 22.7% of seniors. Seniors were most likely to report never using a ride-share service, but would consider it (45.5% of seniors vs. 40.2% of non-seniors). See Figure 51 for the total breakdown of all responses.

**Figure 51: Ride-Share Service Use**



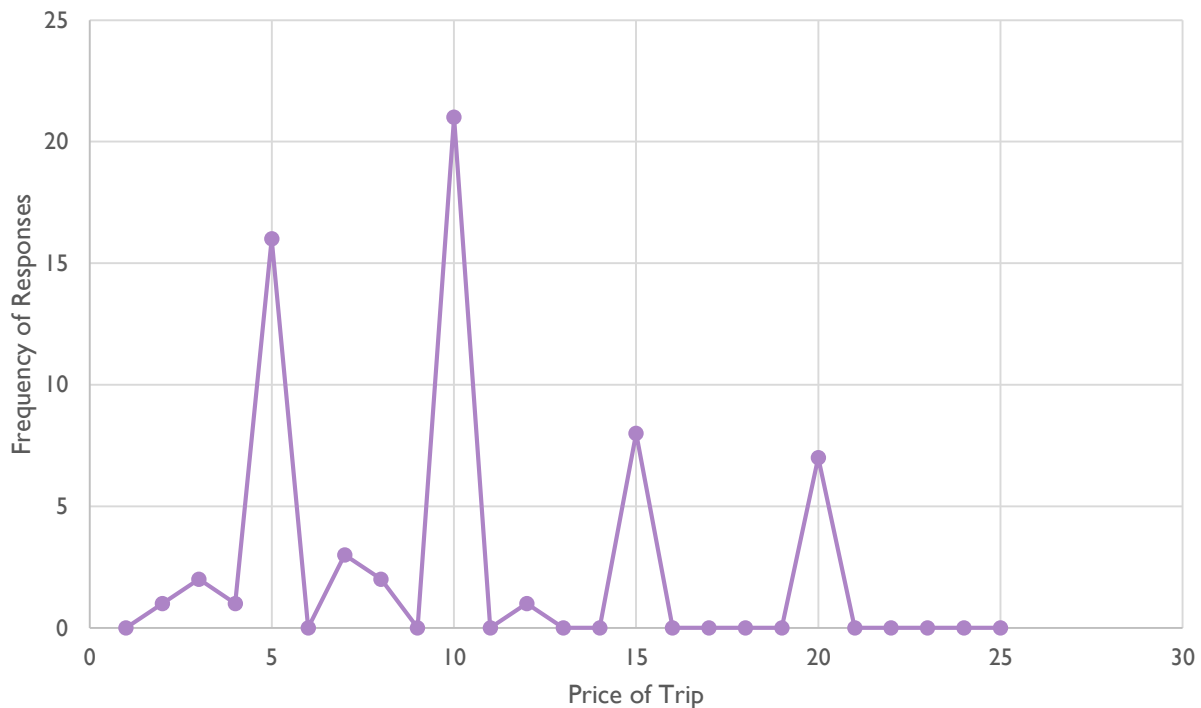
**Table 56: How often would you use this type of service?**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Daily	2.8%	2.5%	2.6%
Weekly	16.7%	22.6%	21.8%
Once or twice a month	38.9%	31.9%	32.9%
Less than once a month	41.7%	43.0%	42.8%

Seniors were asked about the frequency of using a ride-share service. The most frequent response was less than once a month (43.0% of seniors). See Table 56 for the

breakdown of all responses. Seniors were also asked how much they would be willing to pay for a trip within a 10 mile limit. Seniors were most likely to give a response in the \$5-\$10 range. See Figure 52 for additional detail.

**Figure 52: Price Willing to Pay for a Ten-Mile Trip**



## Caregiving

Survey respondents were asked if they provided care to anyone age 60 or older, age 18-59, or under 18. Thirty-one percent (31.4%) of seniors and twenty-nine (29.4%) of non-seniors indicated that they provide 1-3 hours of care for people age 60 or older per week. See Table 57 for the breakdown of responses.

**Table 57: How many hours do you spend providing care for one or more individuals age 60 or older?**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Never	17.6%	14.7%	15.3%
1-3 hours	29.4%	31.4%	31.1%
4-5 hours	5.9%	19.9%	17.4%
6-10 hours	20.6%	16.0%	16.8%
11-20 hours	5.9%	3.8%	4.2%
20 or more	20.6%	14.1%	15.3%

Over half of seniors and non-seniors said that the person age 60 or older that they provide care for has a disability (56.1% and 53.6%, respectively). See Table 58.

**Table 58: Does the individual age 60 or older for whom you provide care have a disability?**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Yes	53.6%	56.1%	55.6%
No	46.4%	43.9%	44.4%

The majority of non-seniors said that the disabled individual they cared for was a parent (71.4%); 31.3% of seniors also said they cared for a disabled parent. Many seniors also care for a disabled spouse or partner (28.1%).

**Table 59: How is the disabled individual(s) related to you?**

	Non-seniors	Seniors	Total
Parent	71.4%	31.3%	38.5%
Spouse/Partner	7.1%	28.1%	24.4%
Grandchild	NA	3.1%	NA
Other Relative	10.7%	13.3%	12.8%
Friend/neighbor	3.6%	19.5%	16.7%
Other	7.1%	4.7%	5.1%

The majority of seniors (62.7%) do not provide care for anyone between the ages of 18 and 59. Over a quarter (27.3%) of non-seniors provide care for someone between these ages. See Table 60.

**Table 60: How many hours do you spend providing care for one or more individuals ages 18 to 59?**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Never	33.3%	62.7%	55.9%
1-3 hours	27.3%	15.5%	18.2%
4-5 hours	15.2%	9.1%	10.5%
6-10 hours	9.1%	4.5%	5.6%
11-20 hours	NA	1.8%	NA
20 or more	15.2%	6.4%	8.4%

Of those caring for someone between the ages of 18 and 59, just under half of seniors (46.3%) say that the individual they care for has a disability. See Table 61.

**Table 61: Does the individual age 18 to 59 for whom you provide care have a disability?**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Yes	36.4%	46.3%	42.9%
No	63.6%	53.7%	57.1%

Many non-seniors (42.9%) say that the disabled individual they care for is a spouse or partner. Of the seniors who are caring for someone with a disability between the ages of 18 and 59, 57.5% report that it is their child.

**Table 62: How is the disabled individual(s) related to you?**

	Non-seniors	Seniors	Total
Spouse/Partner	42.9%	15.0%	24.6%
Child	38.1%	57.5%	NA
Grandchild	NA	17.5%	NA
Other Relative	19.0%	2.5%	8.2%
Friend/neighbor	NA	7.5%	4.9%

The majority of seniors (55.5%) provide no care for anyone under the age of 18. Over a third (35.5%) of non-seniors say they provide 20 or more hours each week of care for someone under the age of 18.

**Table 63. Hours of Care Provided for Individuals Under the Age of 18**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
None	38.7%	55.5%	51.8%
1-3 hours	3.2%	13.6%	11.3%
4-5 hours	3.2%	9.1%	7.8%
6-10 hours	16.1%	9.1%	10.6%
11-20 hours	3.2%	8.2%	7.1%
20 or more hours	35.5%	4.5%	11.3%

Most respondents caring for someone under the age of 18 (80.6%) say that the person they care for does not have a disability. Only 14.3% of seniors say the minor they care for has a disability. See Table 64.

**Table 64: Does the individual under age 18 for whom you provide care have a disability?**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Yes	33.3%	14.3%	19.4%
No	66.7%	85.7%	80.6%

The majority of non-seniors (83.3%) who care for someone under the age of 18 with a disability report that they are caring for their child. See Table 65.

**Table 65: How is the disabled individual(s) related to you?**

	Non-seniors	Seniors	Total
Parent	0.0	2.0%	0.0
Child	83.3%	6.1%	26.9%
Spouse/Partner	5.6%	0.0	0.0
Grandchild	0.0	81.6%	0.0
Other Relative	5.6%	2.0%	3.0%
Friend/neighbor	5.6%	4.1%	4.5%
Other	0.0	4.1%	0.0

**Table 66: Do you need help (or more help) with your caretaking responsibilities?**

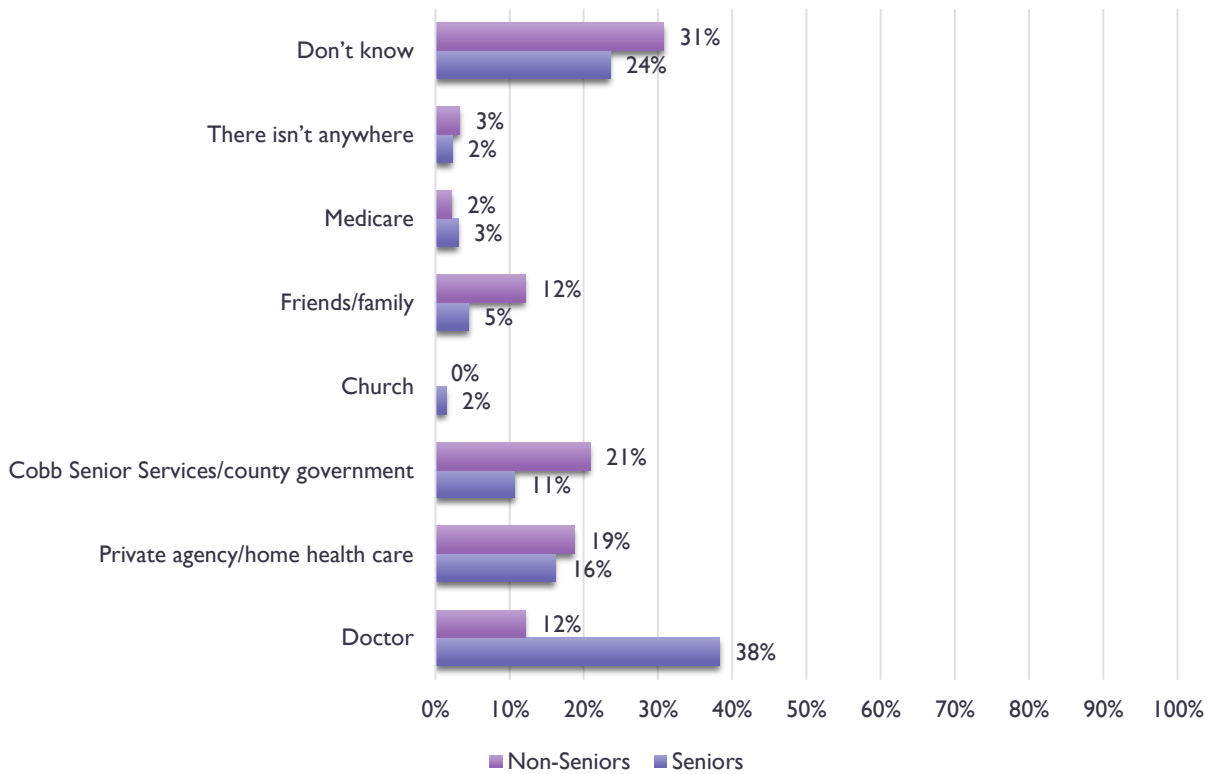
	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Yes	36.8%	21.8%	24.2%
No	63.2%	78.2%	75.8%

Over a fifth of seniors (21.8%) and over a third of non-seniors (36.8%) report that they need help with their current caretaking

responsibilities (see Table 66).

Respondents were asked where they would turn to for help if they had a family member with dementia. The response with the highest frequency for seniors “Doctor,” with 38.3% of seniors providing this answer. The response with the highest frequency for non-seniors was “Don’t Know” (30.8%), followed by Cobb Senior Services/county government (21.0%). See Figure 53 for more detail.

**Figure 53. Help with Family with Dementia**





## Social Engagement

Seniors were asked about senior centers and activities that they participate in their free time. Under half of seniors (40.7%) have never visited a senior center. Those that have were asked a follow-up question about fees. Almost half (46.6%) seniors found the fees to be reasonable. Additionally, 45.1% did not know if the fees were okay. (See Table 67 and 68).

**Table 67: About how often do you visit a senior center?**

	Percent
Not at all	40.7%
Once or twice a year	26.4%
Monthly	10.0%
Weekly	16.5%
Daily	5.1%
Don't know	1.3%

**Table 68: Reasonableness of the Fees**

	Percent
Reasonable	46.6%
Too Low	0.6%
Too High	7.6%
Don't Know	45.1%

Over half of seniors (53.5%) stated that we need senior centers. Nearly one third (30.1%) of seniors stated that it would be better to have community centers for all ages. See Table 69.

**Table 69: Do you think we need centers specifically for seniors or would it be better to just have more community centers for all?**

	Percent
Need senior centers	53.5%
Don't need senior centers	30.1%
Other (Not Both)	4.3%
Don't Know	12.1%

Respondents were asked whether or not they liked the term “senior center,” or if they would prefer something else. Just under half (49.0%) of seniors said that they liked the term, while 33.1% said they did not know. See Appendix F for other responses.

**Table 70: Do you like the term "senior center" or would you prefer something else?**

	Percent
Like the term	49.0%
Prefer something else (specify)	17.8%
Don't Know	33.1%

**Table 71: What types of activities do you like to do in your free time?**

	Percent
Arts/hobbies	32.2%
Cards	24.3%
Dancing	15.7%
Education	45.1%
Fitness	59.9%
Genealogy	10.9%
Meet new people	36.5%
Nature	40.0%
Religion	38.4%
Time with family and friends	75.5%
Travel	65.9%
Volunteer	43.9%

Seniors were asked about the types of activities that they like to do in their free time and where they like to do these activities. The top three responses among seniors were spending time with friends and family (75.5%), followed by traveling (65.9%), and fitness activities (59.9%). More than three-quarters of seniors (75.4%) reported that they liked doing these activities in their home; 46.8% reported that they liked doing them in parks, community centers or other neighborhood locations; 15.5% reported “other locations.” Totals do not add to 100 because respondents were allowed to select more than one response. See Tables 71 and 72 as well as Appendix F for a full set of responses regarding

these questions.

**Table 72: Where do you like to do these activities?**

	Percent
Home	75.4%
Senior center or similar organization	40.0%
Private Gym	24.8%
Parks, community center, or other neighborhood locations	46.8%
Church or spiritual center	38.8%
Library	19.9%
Local community college, college or university	18.3%
Online	42.2%
Restaurant/bar/coffee shop	41.0%
Other	15.5%

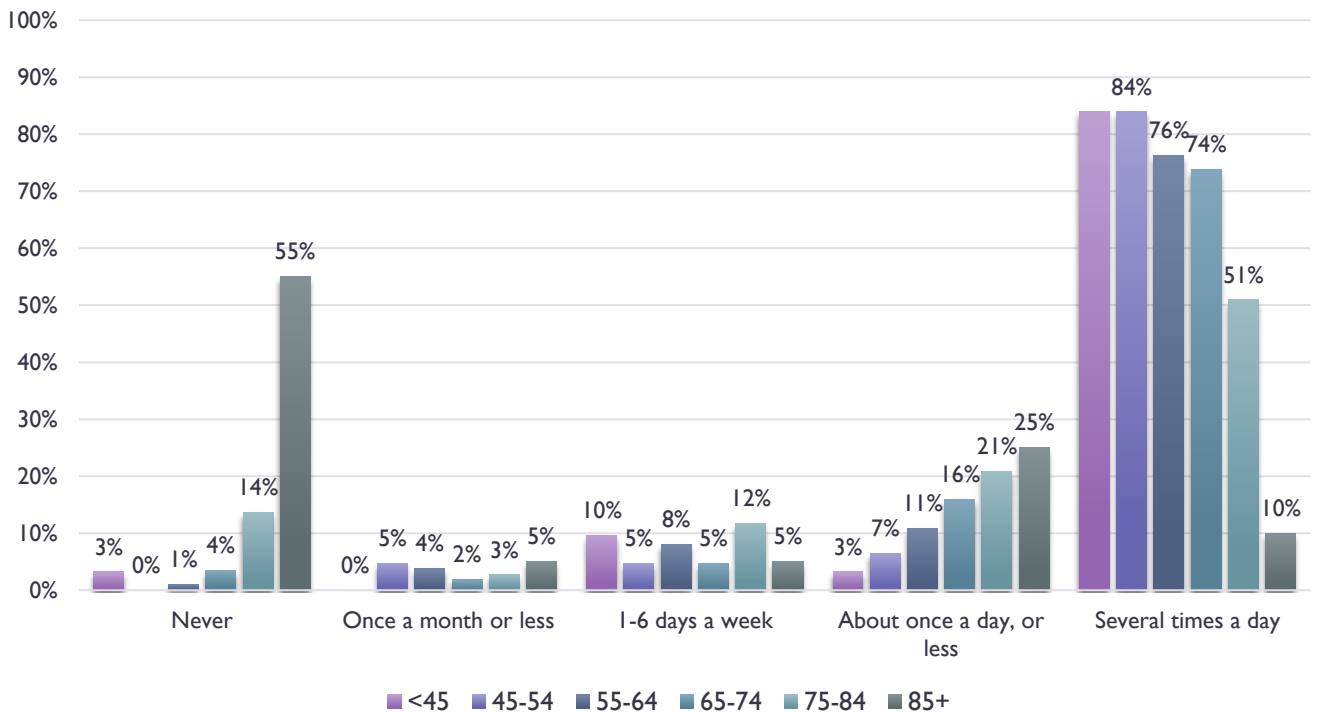
**Table 73. Online by Respondent Groups**

	Non-Seniors	Seniors	Total
Never	1.1%	6.2%	5.5%
Once a month or less	1.1%	0.8%	0.8%
Once every few weeks	2.2%	1.9%	1.9%
1-2 days a week	3.3%	2.5%	2.6%
3-6 days a week	3.3%	4.5%	4.3%
About once a day	5.4%	15.6%	14.3%
Several times a day	83.7%	68.5%	70.5%

Respondents were also asked about how often they go online for a variety of things such as sending or receiving email, getting news and information, and paying bills or managing finances or buying products or services. This included all types

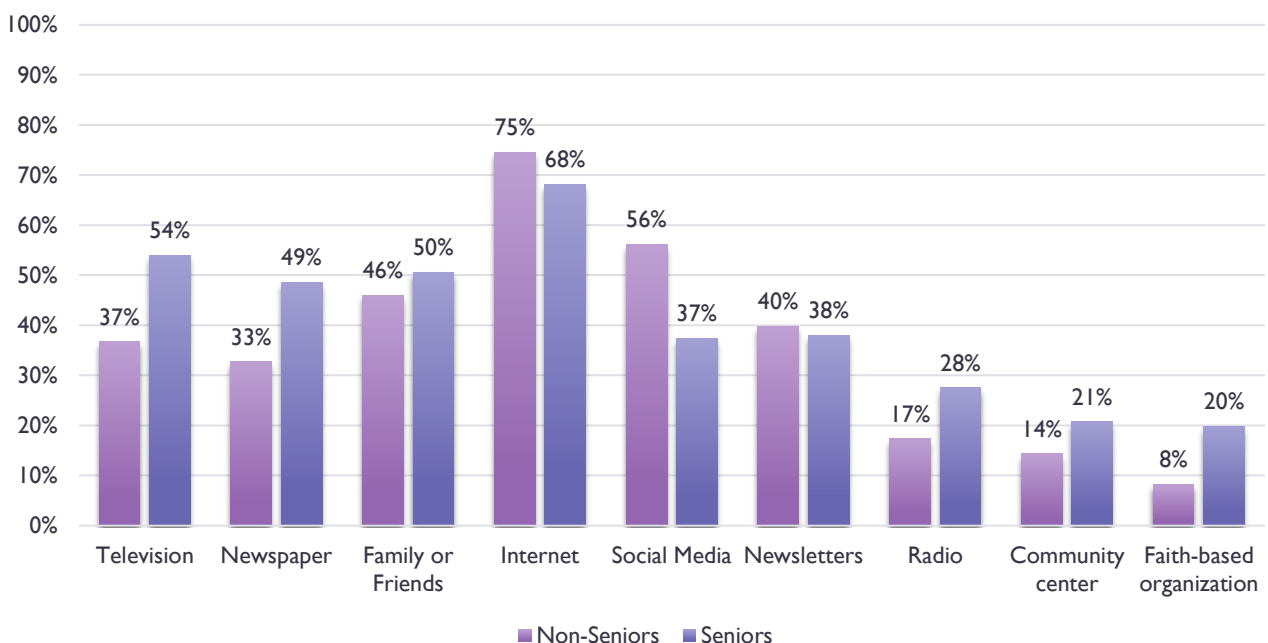
of access such as at work, home or on a mobile device. Most respondents indicated that they went online several times a day (83.7% of non-seniors and 68.5% of seniors). See Table 73 for more detail. Additional age breakdowns are shown in Figure 54.

**Figure 54: Frequency of Internet Access by Age Group**

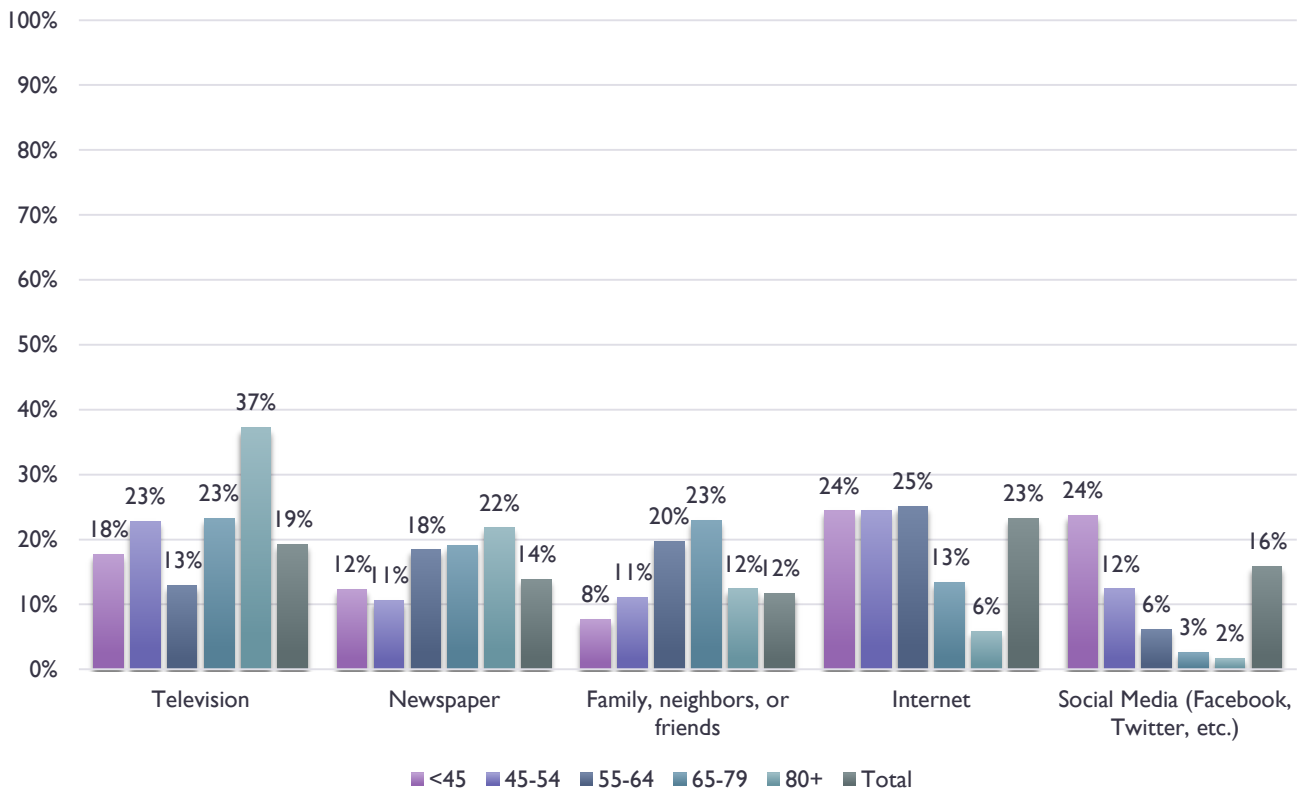


Respondents were asked how they received news regarding what was going on in their community. The most common response for seniors (68.1%) and non-seniors (74.5%) was the internet. Responses do not add to 100% as respondents were allowed to choose more than one response. See Figure 55 for more detail. Additional age breakdowns are shown in Figure 56.

**Figure 55. Sources of News**



**Figure 56. Sources of News by Age Group**



Seniors were asked how often they see or speak to a relative or another adult who does not live in their household. Just under half of seniors (47.6%) see or speak to another relative every day. See Table 74.

**Table 74: How often do you see or speak to a relative or other adult who does not live in your household?**

	Percent
Every day	47.6%
Once or twice a week	15.5%
3 or 4 days a week	13.6%
5 or 6 days a week	14.9%
At least once a month	7.2%
Less than once a month	0.4%
Never	0.9%