



Survey of Somerville Residents Age 50 and Older



City of Somerville
Mayor Joseph A Curtatone

**Office of Strategic Planning
& Community Development**

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1.1 Reasons for Undertaking this Study

“The number of Somerville residents aged 65 and older has decreased steadily since 1970. As a percentage of the city’s population, seniors have declined since 1980”

- City of Somerville, Population Trend Report, April 2009

As the City of Somerville undertakes its comprehensive planning process to guide community development through 2030, several demographic trends have been revealed. One of these has been the decreasing number of older people living in Somerville. While the population at large has been slowly declining in Somerville since 1970, the loss of seniors has exceeded that of other age cohorts.

While local trends have seen the senior population drop, the US as a whole is preparing for a significant increase in the number of Americans over the age of 65. As the baby boomer generation moves into their twilight years, a growing proportion of the population will be considered “senior”. The US Census estimates that by 2030, over 20 percent of the population will be over 65. While the current population of 65 plus in Somerville hovers near 10 percent, the boomer cohort, those 45 to 64, constitute 19 percent of the current local population. As this group ages, it is important for the City to be prepared, and ensure that they remain a part of a diverse, dynamic, and inclusive Somerville.

To better understand the meaning of these trends, the city has embarked on a study that will review the relevant literature, analyze population trends, and survey local residents age 50 and older. The central focus of this study is a survey distributed to residents in this age group. This survey aims to identify two things:

1. What are areas the senior population sees as strengths and weaknesses in the community (in relation to neighborhoods, housing, accessibility and transportation, community involvement, health, and services)?
2. What opinions do those 50 and older have about the current conditions in Somerville as they relate to aging?

From this information, the city hopes to gain an understanding of the concerns and desires of the community’s older residents, and create an action plan that not only keeps seniors here but creates an environment where seniors can age in place gracefully, and positively contribute to the community.

1.2 Takeaways

- **The senior population in Somerville is changing.**

Examining the latest demographic data from the U.S. Census Bureau, we see a shift occurring in the older population in Somerville. The oldest residents, those over 65, and the baby boomers, those 45 to 64 have very different profiles. Few of the oldest residents, those over 65, pursued any additional education after high school (about 25%), while nearly 60 percent of the baby boomer cohort has some type of college degree. Additionally, the baby boomers also have much higher household incomes. This shift in the senior population, to a group of more educated individuals with greater purchasing power, could have a variety of implications in the way the City markets its services, programs, and engages this population.

- **Respondents want to remain in Somerville for the long term**

Several questions in the survey asked people to gauge their satisfaction with living in Somerville, and their desire to stay in the city for the long term. Many of those surveyed (68.8%) have lived in the community for more than 20 years. The overwhelming response showed that people are engaged and committed to staying where they are, assuming they will be able to afford the ever increasing cost of living, and stay healthy enough to maintain their independence.

- **Many older residents live in small households**

Most of those surveyed lived in smaller households: 36 percent of respondents live alone, and another 35 percent live in two family households. As people age and become less independent it may be important to have systems in place to support these individuals if they choose to remain in their homes, or alternatively, to have attractive local options for offering supportive living arrangements. These options could help this population remain in the community, even as their needs for support change.

- **The age of Somerville's housing presents specific challenges**

Somerville is composed of an aging housing stock. With many of the homes in the city where built in the early part of the 20th century, they require significant upkeep. A significant challenge that was illuminated by the survey is that the great majority of these homes are not handicap accessible. Almost 80 percent of respondents reported their current residence as being inaccessible for a person with a disability. While citizens remain healthy and able bodied, this may not pose any great problems, but as people age and mobility decreases, major changes to their houses may be necessary to remain in their homes.

- **Respondents have specific concerns when it comes to aging in place**

As a person ages and exits the work force, certain issues may become more important. Several questions asked respondents to think about their situation in the future, and consider what issues and concerns they imagine to be the most important as they age. These questions focused both on the larger community and personal living spaces. These responses can better inform leaders throughout the city as they strive to make Somerville a more inviting and comfortable place for people to age.

1.3 Methodology

This study builds off of initial research conducted in 2008. At that time a draft survey was developed, but never distributed. A central goal of this study was to refine and revise that survey, distribute it widely, and collect meaningful data.

The survey underwent several drafts and revisions, after consultation and discussions with Somerville officials in several city departments as well as outside organizations including; the Visiting Nurses Association, the Somerville Housing Authority, the City's Health Department, Traffic and Infrastructure Division, Housing Division, Veteran's Services, and the Council on Aging. These discussions helped refine the questions of the survey, and ensure that it addressed issues that would enlighten a broad cross section of leaders in the city.

Once the survey instrument was complete, the goal for distribution was to get a representative sample of residents 50 and older in Somerville. While those referred to as "senior citizens" are usually much older than 50, the City hoped to gain an understanding of not just current seniors, but those that will become seniors in the approaching years. In this way, the City could become forward thinking about the needs of this population, and prepare for this group in a manner that best suites their needs and desires.

Once the survey was completed, a three pronged distribution approach was employed. This included a paper version delivered to a random selection of 1,000 individuals from the pool of voters registered with the elections department, development of a web-based survey that was posted to the City's website and also distributed to the ResiStat e-mail list (of nearly 5,000), and a distribution of nearly 1,000 paper copies of the survey through partnering organizations. These partner organizations were critical in achieving a high response rate and included the cooperation of SCM (Door 2 Door Transportation), the Council on Aging, Mystic River Development, Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services, and the Visiting Nurses Association.

This robust distribution resulted in the return of 585 surveys. This number surpassed the original goal of 375.

1.4 Limitations

While the response rate was beyond initial expectations, there were certain limitations to this outreach which must be kept in mind when interpreting the results of this survey. First, this survey was only conducted in English. Somerville is a diverse community, in which residents speak nearly 50 languages. Data released in the American Community Survey for 2009, conducted by the US Census Bureau found that for the Somerville population 65 and older, 12.49 percent reported to speak English “not well” or “not at all” as opposed to “well” or “very well”. Although attempts were made to reach out to non-English speaking groups, the time frame and language abilities of those conducting the survey limited this effort. Non-English speaking groups are more likely to be of minority groups in Somerville, and as such, may be under represented.

Each of the various distribution methods had limitations of their own, but by combining various approaches, these drawbacks were hopefully overcome. In regards to the sample from the elections data; this population consist only of registered voters, and in turn US citizens. This leaves out a significant number of residents who may not currently be registered, and/or US citizens. The survey link posted on the City website, and distributed electronically through the ResiStat may have only reached a very specific group of computer literate individuals. Additionally the ResiStat distribution is a self selected group of individuals with particular interest in data and statistics as it pertains to community and municipal activities. When this distribution was sent out, response seemed to gravitate towards highly educated, higher income households. Similarly, distribution through partner organizations resulted in high return rates, but would have reached those individuals who are well connected with these groups in the community. In other words, many of those individuals who are more detached or not engaged with the community may not have been reached in the survey distribution.

To mitigate some of the effects of these limitations, we spent time discussing and analyzing the results of the study with several of the groups and leaders we had initially met in formulating the survey. By getting feedback from these groups, we hope to have more thoughtfully interpreted the results, draw more informed conclusions, and make more meaningful recommendations.

2. Demographic Data

How well do those surveyed represent the population of Somerville residents over 50?

On December 14, 2010, the US Census Bureau released their results from the 2009 American Community Survey (ACS), the first ever five year compilation of data by the Census Bureau. This data set encompasses a wide range of community characteristics from the usual demographics, to information on housing stock, and commuting patterns of residents. ACS estimates are based on data collected from January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2009, and are not connected to the 2010 Census counts. Although this data does not serve as the official population count used for the decennial census, much of the data it offers gives more detailed information of communities. This timely release of data serves as a point of comparison for returned surveys. By comparing the demographic data reported by survey respondents to the ACS, we can determine how accurately the survey sample represents the 50 and older population of Somerville.

Note: The ACS is not consistent in the manner in which it pulls out age subdivisions for various data sets. For each demographic characteristic, comparisons were made to ACS data that most closely aligned to the survey data set. The reader should be mindful of these slight variations as they interpret the results of the survey.

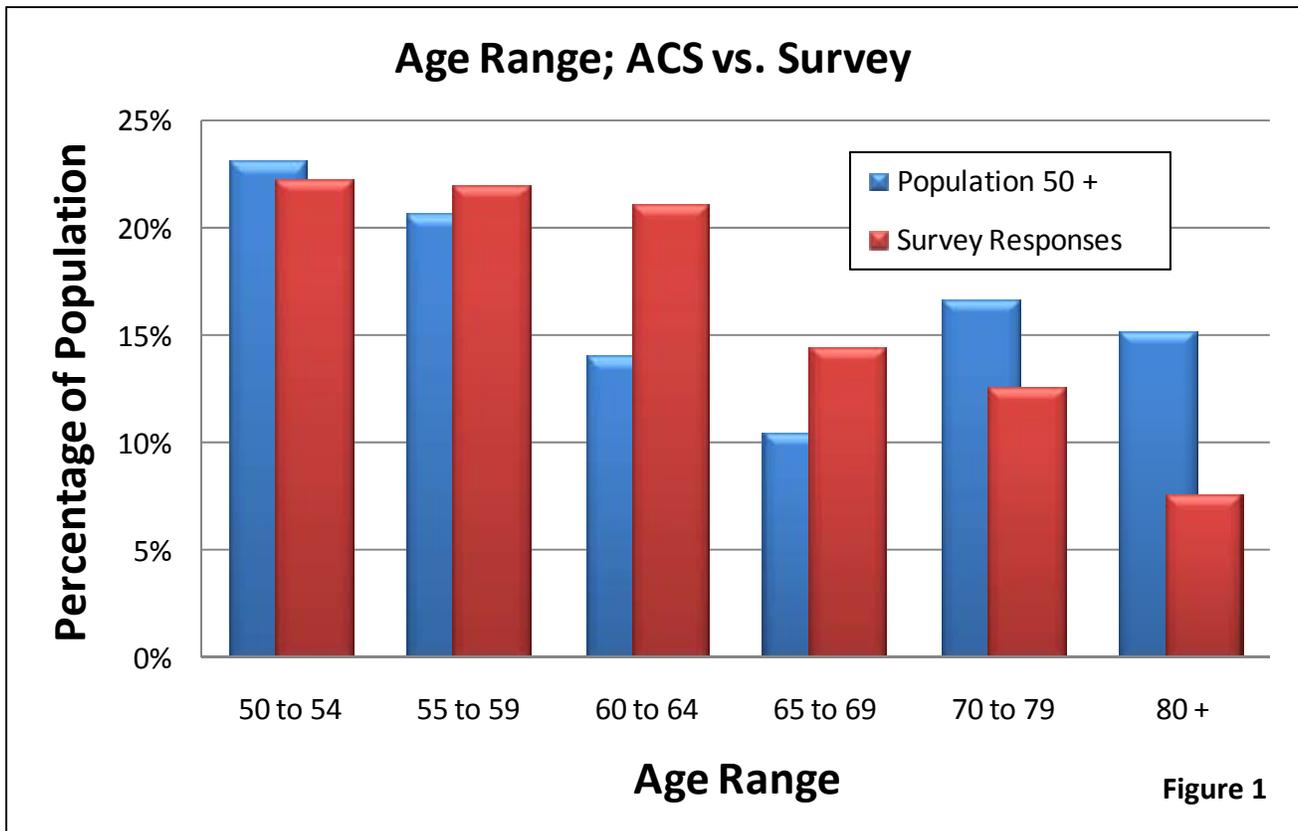
Margin of Error: The total Somerville population age 50 and older is 17,369. We were able to collect data from a sample of 585 of these residents. With that sample size, our data has a margin of error of 3.98 percent (at the 95% confidence level). This means that 95 percent of the time, we can be certain that our results fall within 3.98 percent (in either direction) of the results we've arrived at.

2.1 Age

Overall, the self reported characteristics of those surveyed align fairly close to that of the population 50 and older in the City. According to the 2009 data, the total population for Somerville is 75,880 and those over 50 years old account for 17,369 or about 23 percent of the population. Further subdividing this group by age, we find that our survey results slightly over represent seniors between the ages of 60 and 70 and slightly under represent those over 70.

Table 1: Age Range; ACS vs. Survey

Age Range	ACS 2009, Percent of Population 50 +	Percent of Survey Responses
50 to 54	23.12 %	22.3 %
55 to 59	20.62 %	22.0 %
60 to 64	14.02 %	21.1 %
65 to 69	10.40 %	14.4 %
70 to 79	16.67 %	12.6 %
80 +	15.16 %	7.6 %

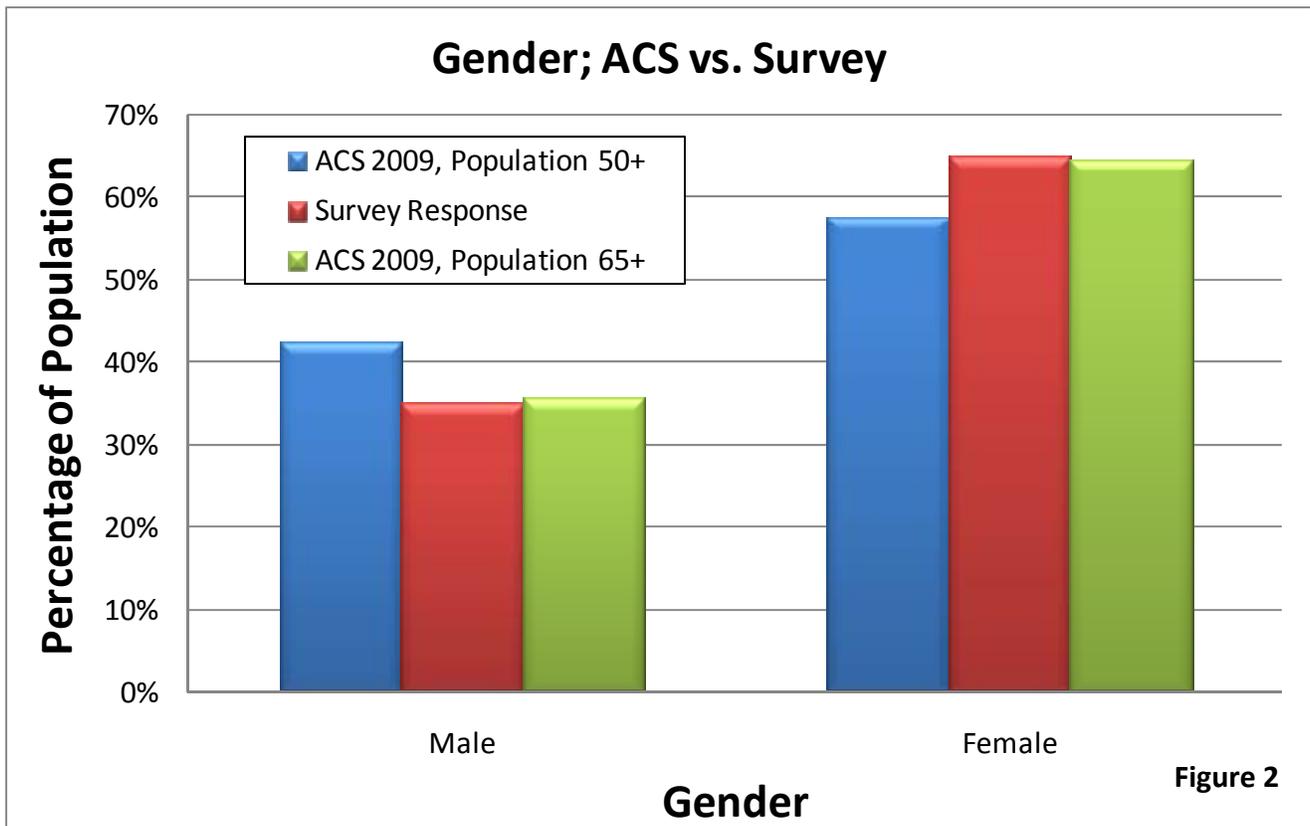


2.2 Gender

For the breakdown of male versus female, the female population is slightly over represented for the age bracket of those over 50, but is closely aligned to what the breakdown becomes at the older end of this cohort, for those 65 plus.

Table 2: Gender; ACS vs. Survey

Gender	ACS 2009, 50+	Survey Response	ACS 2009, 65+
Male	42.43%	35%	35.48%
Female	57.57%	65%	64.52%

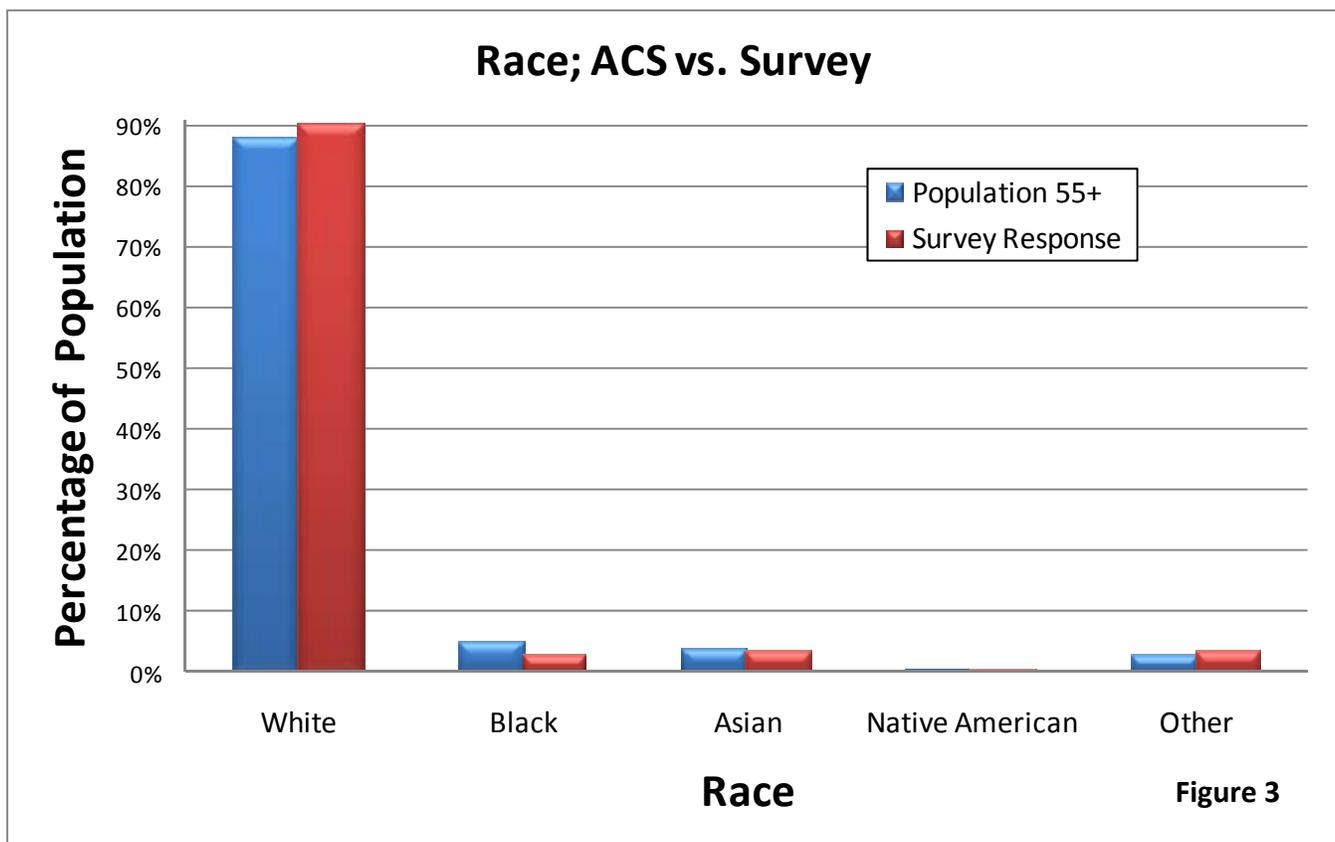


2.3 Race & Ethnicity

At first glance, the racial breakdown of the survey results may seem to under represent minority groups, especially given the diversity of Somerville. But in comparing the reported racial breakdown with that of data available from the ACS for the Somerville population over 55, we see the results are very similar to the actual population

Table 3: Race; ACS vs. Survey

Race	ACS 2009, 55+	Survey Response
White/Caucasian	88.25%	90.5%
Black/African-American	4.96%	2.7%
Asian/Pacific-Islander	3.74%	3.3%
Native American	0.4%	0.2%
Other/Multi-Racial	2.66%	3.3%



For those who identify as Latino or Hispanic, the survey results closely aligned to that of the 55 and older population in the 2009 ACS.

Table 4: Hispanic; ACS vs. Survey

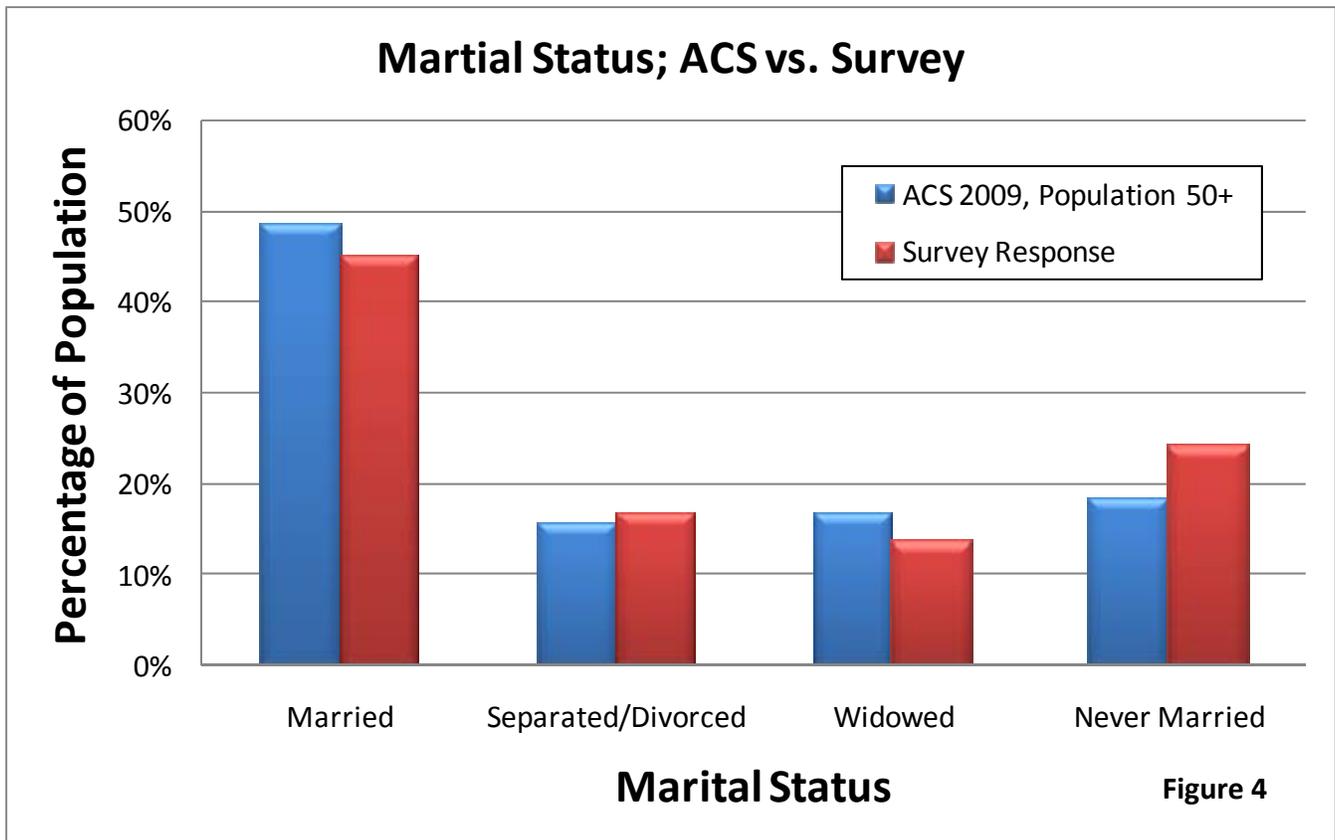
	ACS 2009, 55+	Survey Response
Yes, Hispanic or Latino	3.71%	3.9%

2.4 Marital Status

When comparing the survey respondents' marital status to that of the ACS for those 50 and older in Somerville, we can see that responses over represent the 'Never Married' and under represent 'Widowed.' Given the margin of error for the ACS and the Survey, the difference in 'Married' and 'Separated/Divorced' is not statically significant.

Table 5: Marital Status; ACS vs. Survey

Marital Status	ACS 2009, 50+	Survey Response
Married	48.70%	45.2%
Separated/Divorced	15.79%	16.8%
Widowed	16.86%	13.7%
Never Married	18.65%	24.2%

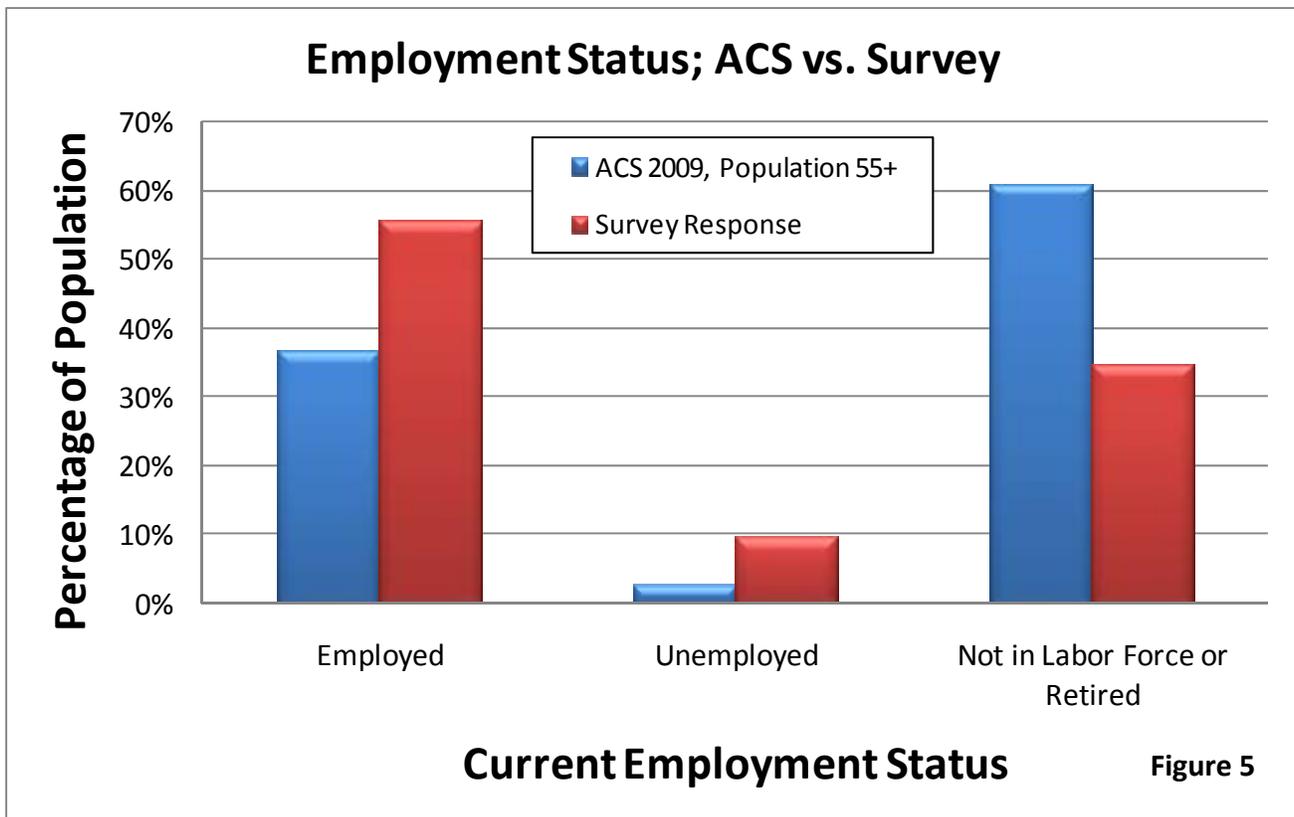


2.5 Employment Status

The employed also appear to be over represented in the survey sample. Over half (55.7 percent) of respondents reported still working in the survey, as opposed to only about a quarter of the population over 60 in the ACS. This may be partially attributable to the wider age range in the survey; most able bodied people continue working through their fifties. Some overlap may exist between the ‘Unemployed’ and ‘Not in Labor Force’ of the ACS versus the ‘Unemployed’ and ‘Retired’ in the Survey categories; there was no option for ‘disabled’ in the survey, and therefore responses may have classified themselves as either unemployed or retired. Additionally, given the continuing challenges of the current economic recession, it is possible that a growing number of older Somerville residents have chosen to re-enter the labor force, and thus inflated the employment numbers in the survey response data. Regardless, it is clear from the gathered information that those who responded were more likely to be employed than seems to be representative of the general senior population.

Table 6: Employment Status; ACS vs. Survey

Status	ACS 2009, 55+	Status	Survey Response
		Employed Full Time	42.4%
Employed	36.53%	Employed Part Time	13.3%
Unemployed	2.64%	Unemployed	9.7%
Not in Labor Force	60.84%	Retired	34.6%

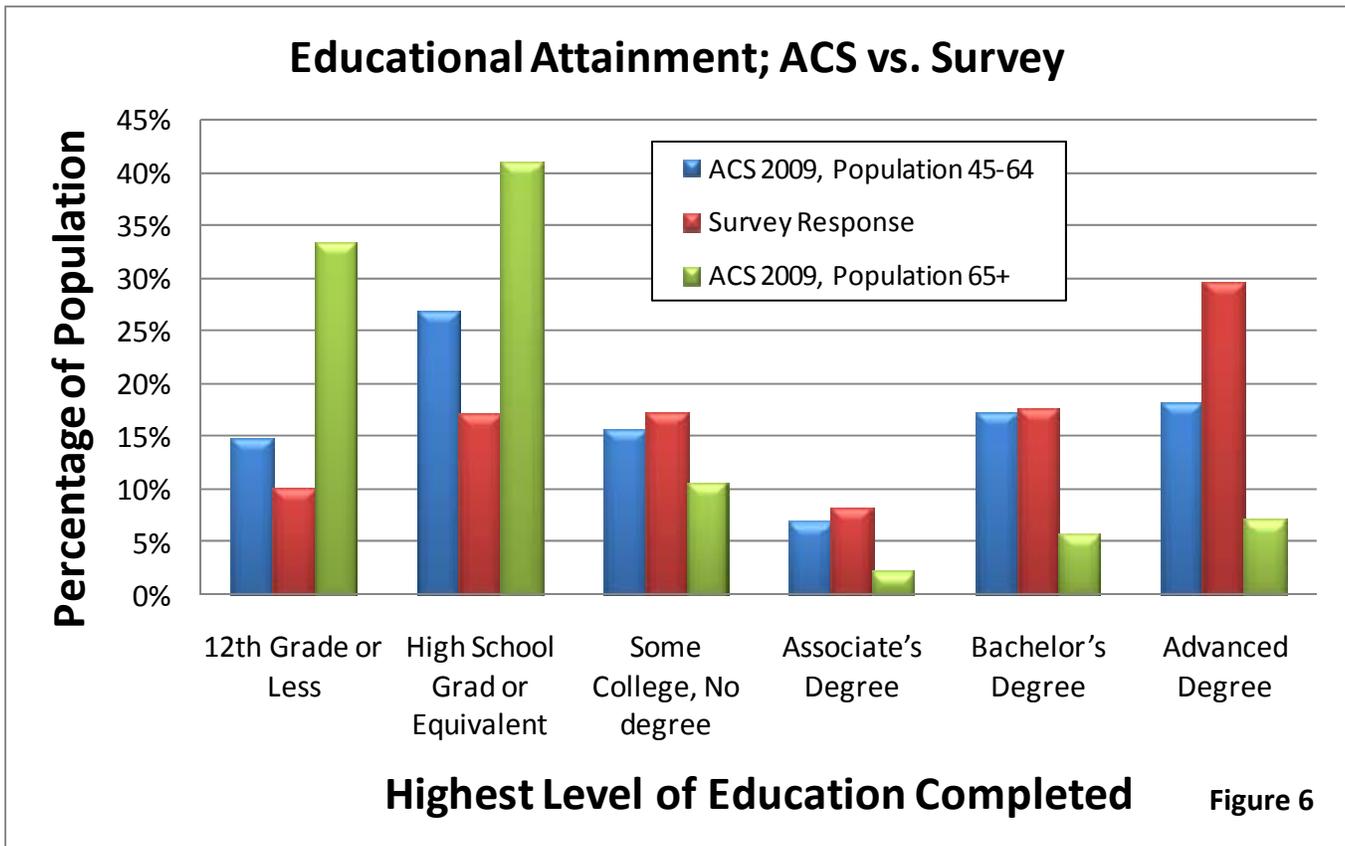


2.6 Educational Attainment

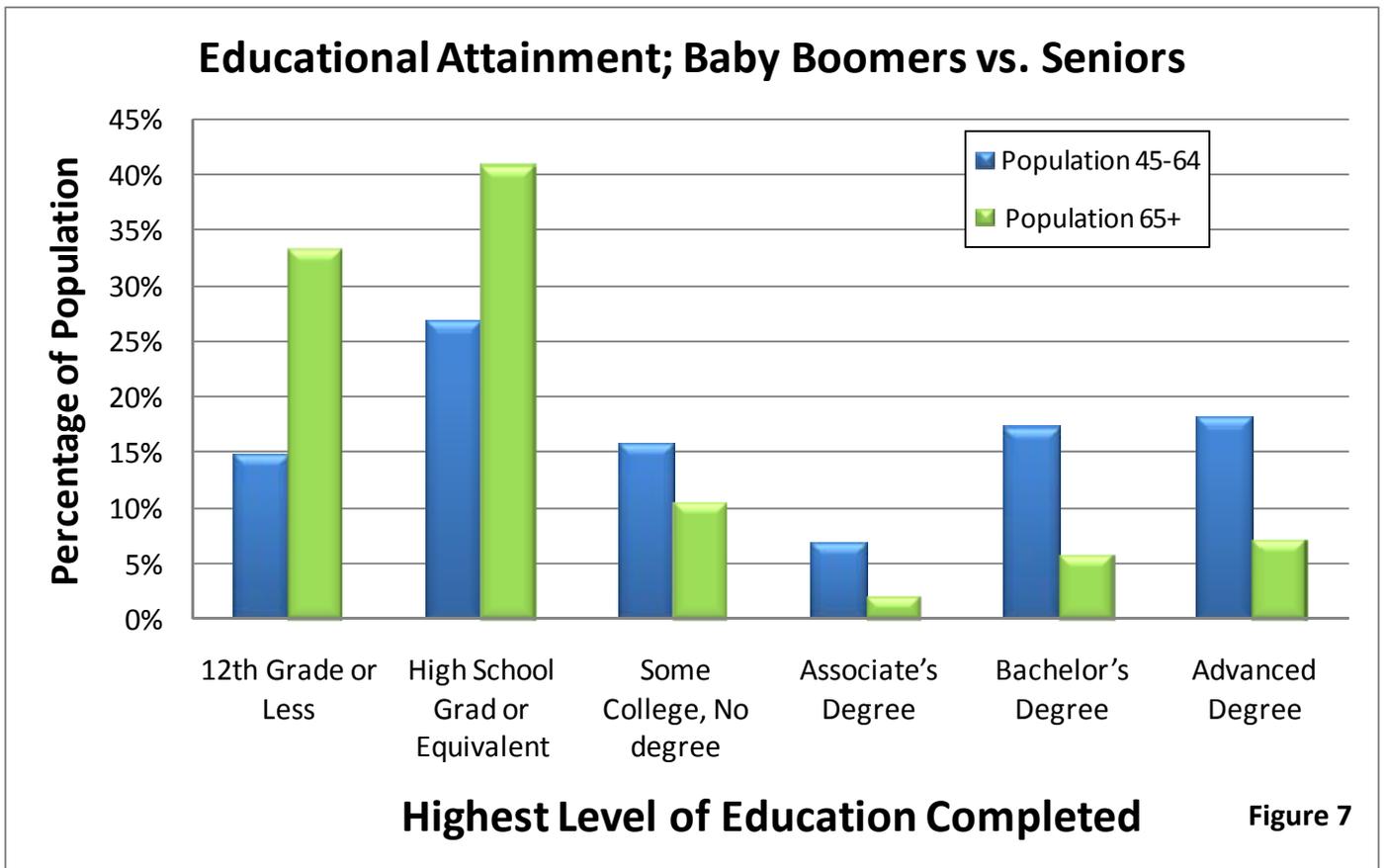
Responses of the survey are skewed when examining educational attainment. Nearly half of the respondents had at least a bachelor’s degree, as compared to only 12.9 percent of the Somerville population over 65. Conversely, when examining the baby boomer cohort, those 45-64, 35.44 percent had at least a bachelor’s degree. In either case, the survey still seems to over represent the highly educated.

Table 7: Educational Attainment; ACS vs. Survey

Educational Attainment	ACS 2009, 45-64	Survey Response	ACS 2009, 65+
12 th Grade or Less	14.79%	10.1%	33.53%
High School Grad or Equivalent	26.94%	17%	41.03%
Some College, No degree	15.84%	17.2%	10.62%
Associate’s Degree	6.9%	8.3%	2.18%
Bachelor’s Degree	17.23%	17.7%	5.74%
Advanced Degree	18.21%	29.7%	7.17%



Interestingly, the differences between the educational attainment of the baby boomer cohort and those 65 plus, as identified in the ACS, are significant. This shift speaks to the changes that have occurred in Somerville over the course of the last thirty years, and should be kept in mind when planning for the next generation of elders in our community.



2.7 Household Income

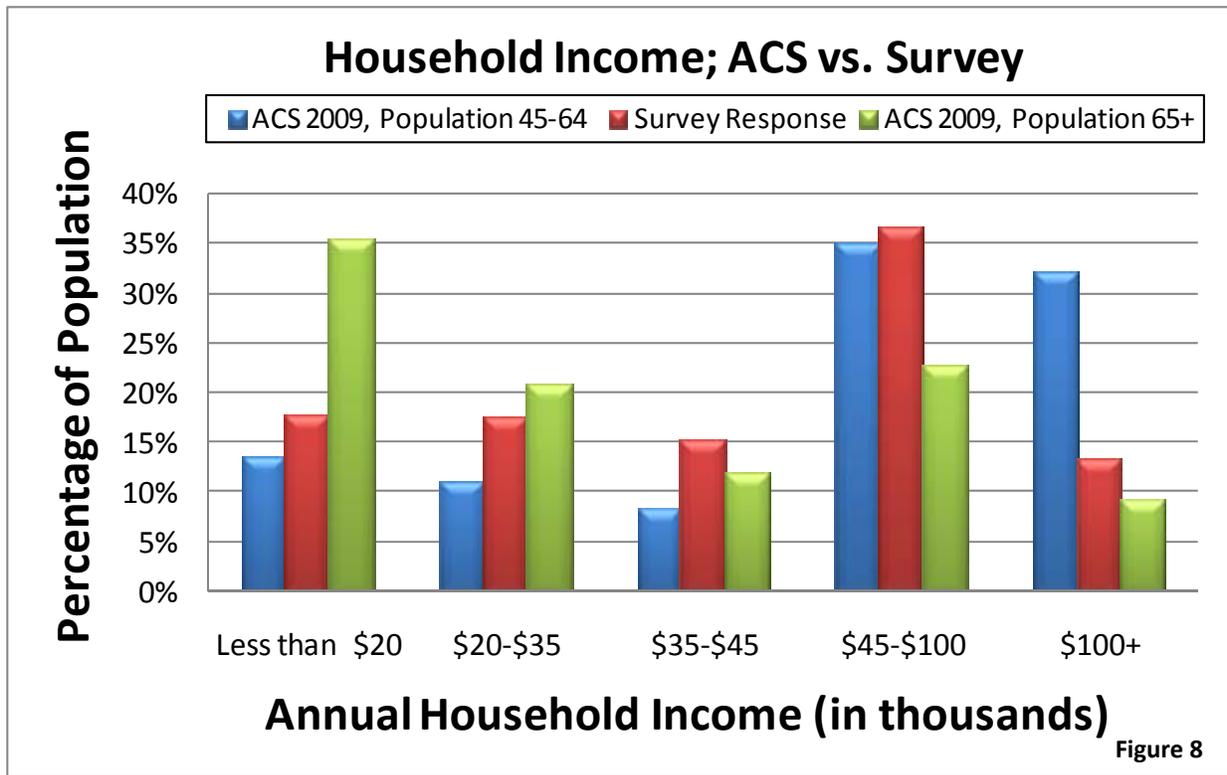
When examining the household income ranges reported by the Census Bureau in the ACS, it becomes apparent that the baby boomer cohort, aged 45-64, has significantly higher incomes than that of the 65+ group. This is undoubtedly tied to the fact that most people in the boomer cohort are in the prime of their working careers, while those 65+ are more likely to not be working and/or on fixed incomes. The most striking disparity of these two groups is that the number of households over 65+ making less than \$20,000 - more than a third of this age group, while roughly a third of the 45-64 group is making over \$100,000. Being aware of this income disparity is important as city leaders move forward and make policy decisions regarding those aging in Somerville.

It's also important to note that the survey responses seem to represent generally higher income groups, which may be tied to two facts. First, the respondents were more likely to be on the younger end of the 50 plus age cohort and thus more likely to still be working, and second, this end of the cohort also has higher levels of education. Both of these facts would likely contribute to higher incomes.

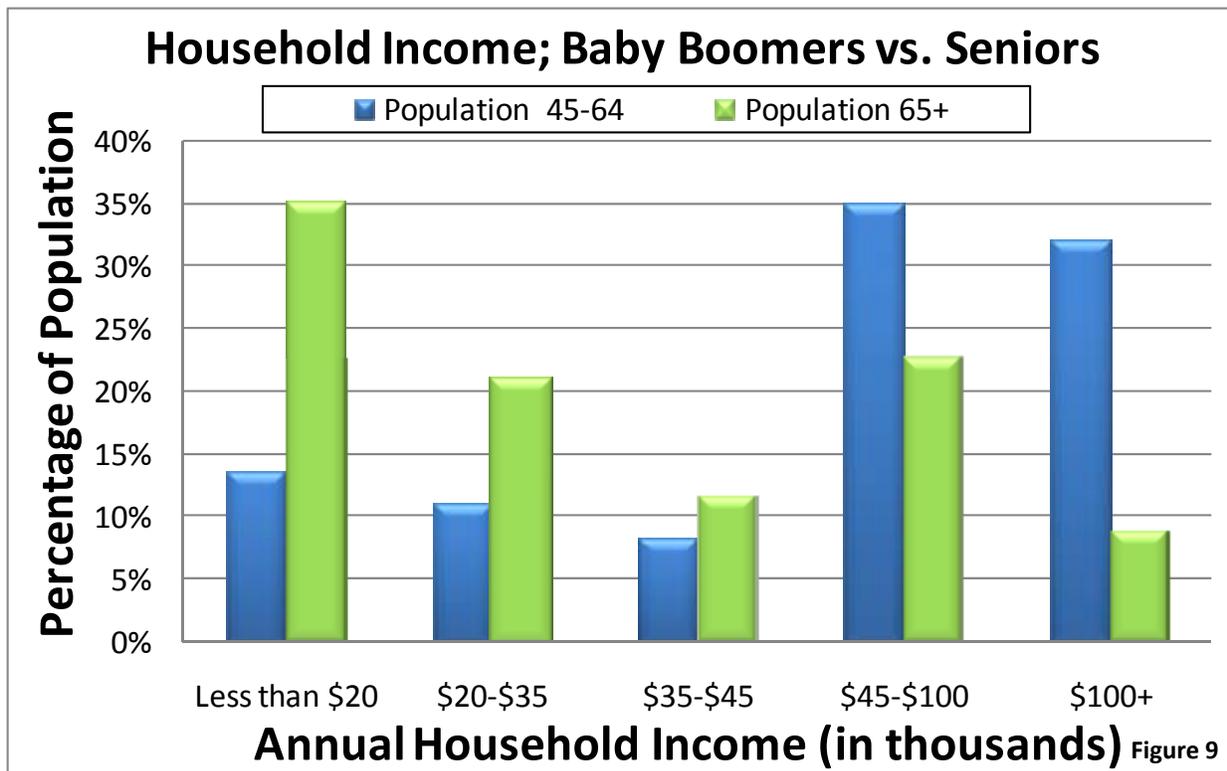
The survey data seems to fall somewhere in between the income characteristics of the two groups. Those in the middle income ranges, between \$45,000 and \$100,000 make up about a third of responses, with the remaining responses being fairly evenly distributed in the remaining income groups.

Table 8: Household Income; ACS vs. Survey

Household Income	ACS 2009, 45-64	ACS 2009, 65+	Survey Response
Less than \$20,000	13.60%	35.36%	17.6%
\$20,000-\$35,000	11.04%	20.92%	17.5%
\$35,000-\$45,000	8.36%	11.81%	15.1%
\$45,000-\$100,000	35.01%	22.80%	36.5%
\$100,000+	31.99%	9.11%	13.3%



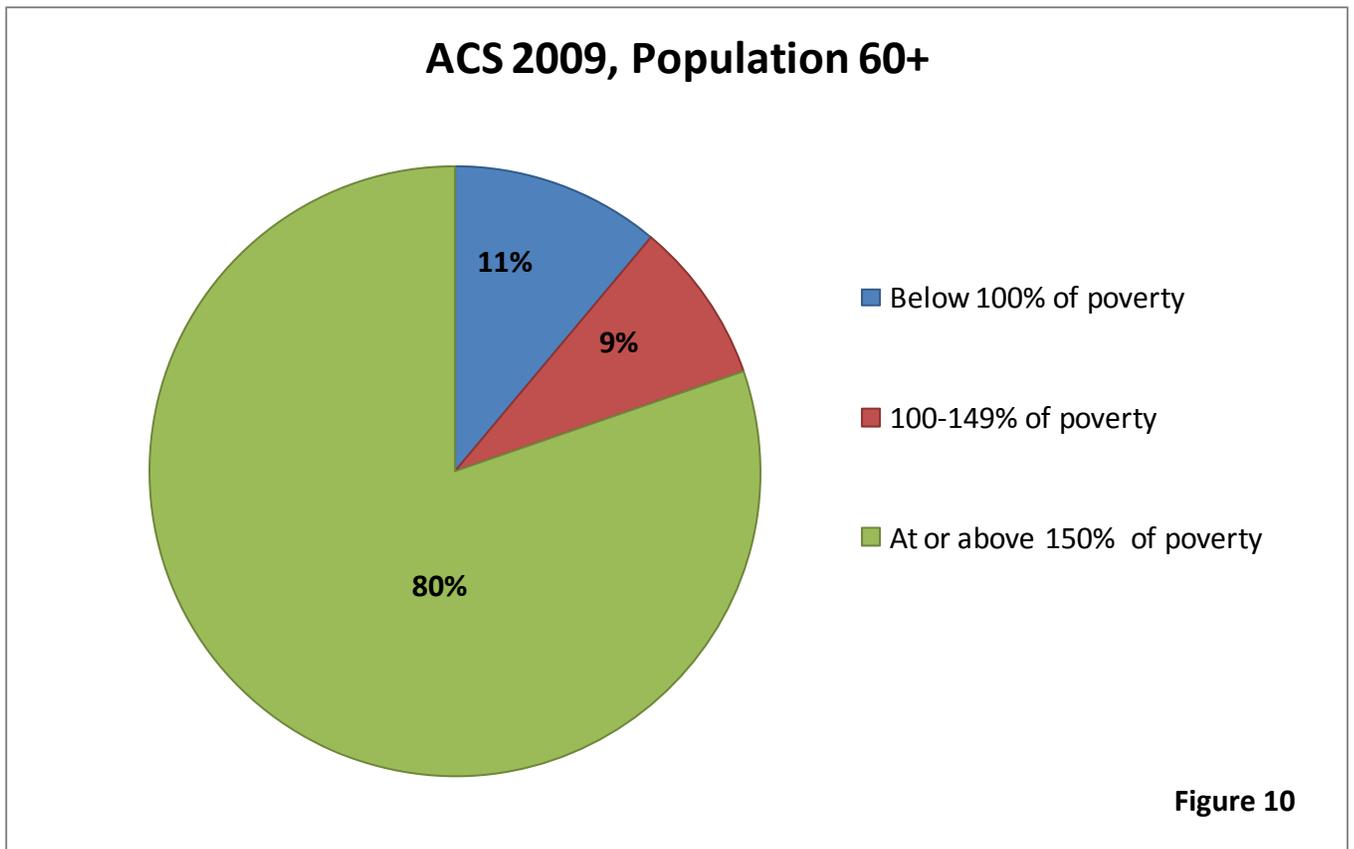
If we remove the survey response data, and examine just the 45 to 64 baby boomer cohort, to those over 65, we notice a stark difference in the income levels of these two groups.



The ACS also reports the percentage of households at the poverty level, as well as the median income for those 60 and older. Just over 10 percent of those over 60 are living below the poverty level in Somerville. The poverty level is determined by a combination of both income, and the number of people in the household. Poverty levels are outlined per household size in the chart below.

Table 9: 2009 ACS Somerville Poverty Statistics, Age 60 and Older

	ACS 2009, 60+	Household Size	100% of poverty	150% of poverty
Below 100% of poverty	11.1%	1	\$10,830	\$16,245
100-149% of poverty	8.6%	2	\$14,570	\$21,855
At or above 150% poverty	80.4%	3	\$18,310	\$27,465
Mean Earnings	\$ 67,089	4	\$22,050	\$33,075

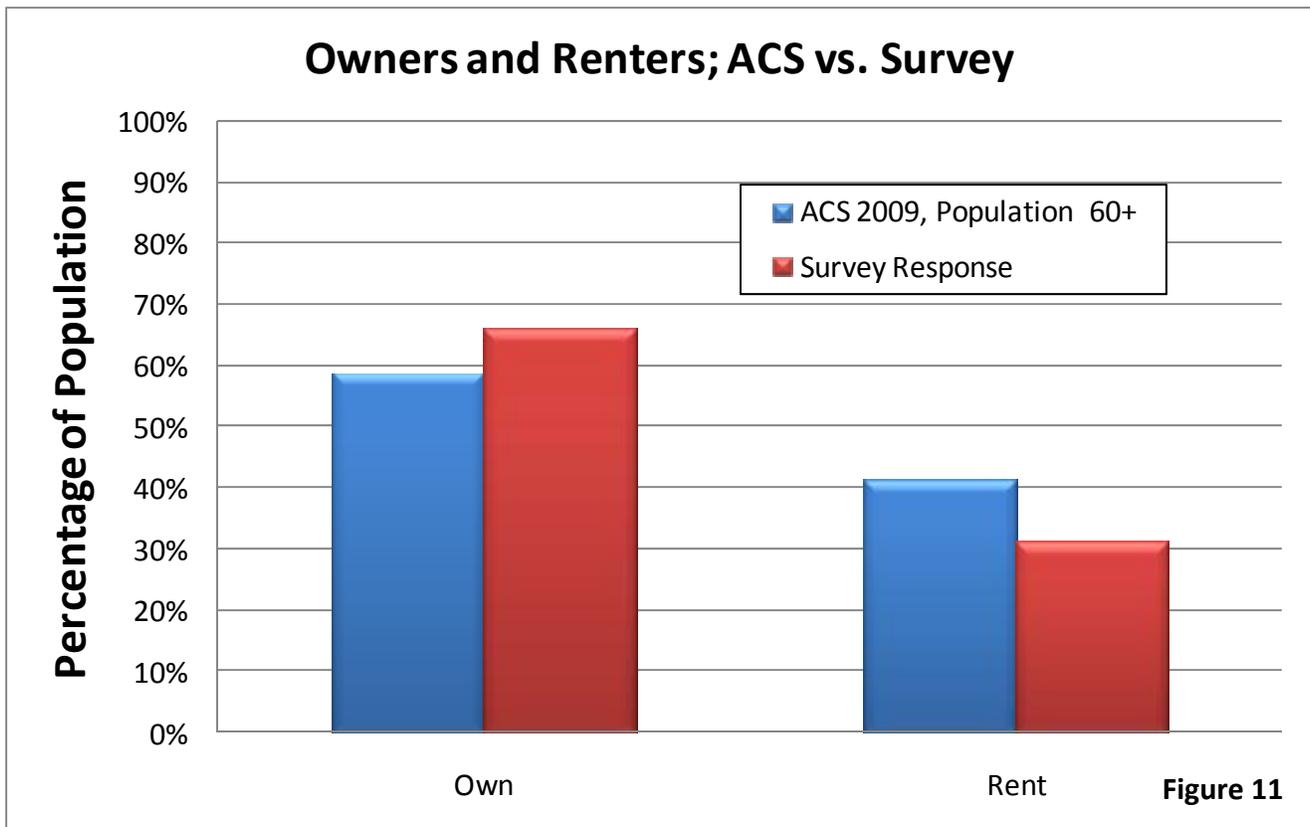


2.8 Owner vs. Renter

The survey responses slightly favored home owners over renters. This is likely related to the fact that our survey respondents have fairly high household incomes, and thus better positioned to buy property.

Table 10: Owners and Renters; ACS vs. Survey

	ACS 2009, 60+	Survey Response
Own Home	58.8%	66.2%
Rent	41.2%	31.2%



3. Housing

Housing frequently represents the greatest single expense for households. Location of a home can dictate accessibility to services, connection to community, opportunities, and overall quality of life. The survey included several questions to better gauge what type of households older Somerville residents were living in, and what issues with housing are most critical. The questions relate to household composition, affordability, and accessibility.

The results show that most older residents are living in smaller households, either alone or with a spouse. Many of this population are living in single family and 2 or 3 family homes—the housing stock that dominates much of Somerville. While most residents over 50 are paying an affordable rate for their housing, the rising cost of housing and related expenses is a concern. Accessibility of homes is a major issue, with nearly 80 percent of respondents reporting that their current living arrangement was not accessible for a person with a disability. Overall, respondents reported a strong desire to stay in their current residence for as long as possible.

3.1 Household Composition

Looking at the two questions, who do you live with, and how many people live in your home, it seems that most residence over 50 live in smaller households; a third lives alone and another third with one other person (most frequently a spouse). The last third live in larger households, with three or more members.

Table 11: Who do you live with?

Who do you live with?	Percent of Responses
No one, I live by myself	38.7%
Spouse/Partner	47.5%
Child(ren)	19.4%
Grandchild(ren)	2.8%
Other Relatives	7.1%
Friends(s) or non-relatives	2.4%
Other	1.4%

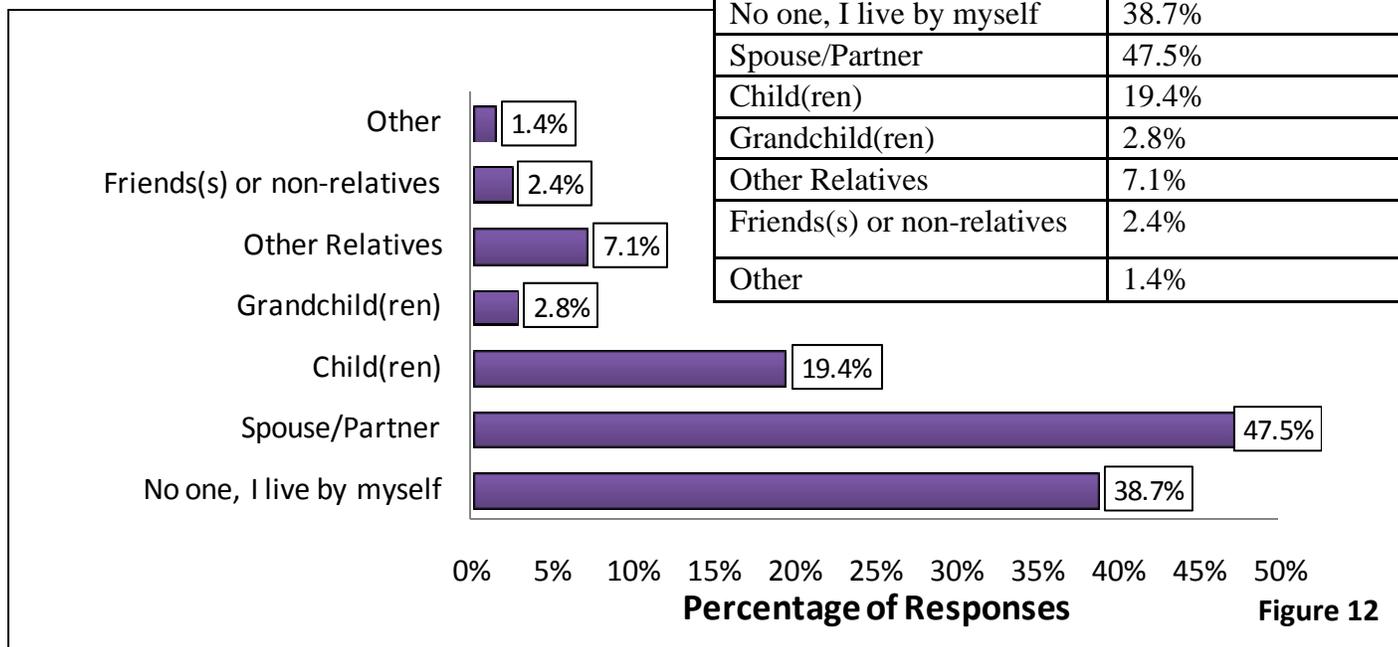


Table 12: How many people live in your home?

How many people live in your home?	Percent of Responses
1	36%
2	35%
3	16%
4	10%
5 or more	3%

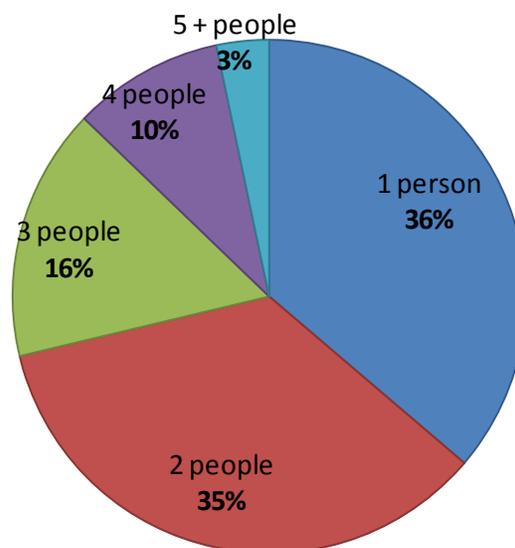


Figure 13

3.2 Neighborhoods

Survey respondents were given 16 options, and asked to select which neighborhood they lived in. This question did not include a map of Somerville, or any description of where neighborhoods were, but rather depended on the respondents own spatial understandings. The responses were widely dispersed across the community, with the most frequently cited neighborhoods being; Winter Hill, Davis Square, Spring Hill, West Somerville, Union Square, and East Somerville.

Table 13: Which neighborhood do you live in?

Neighborhood	Percentage of Responses
Ball Square	4.6%
Cobble Hill	1.7%
Clarendon Hill	3.3%
Davis Square	12.3%
East Somerville	6.0%
Gillman Square	0.9%
Magoun Square	4.3%
Powder House	3.4%
Prospect Hill	3.4%
Spring Hill	12.0%
Teele Square	5.1%
Ten Hills	2.9%
Union Square	8.1%
Ward Two	4.3%
West Somerville	8.6%
Winter Hill	14.6%
Unsure/Other	4.5%

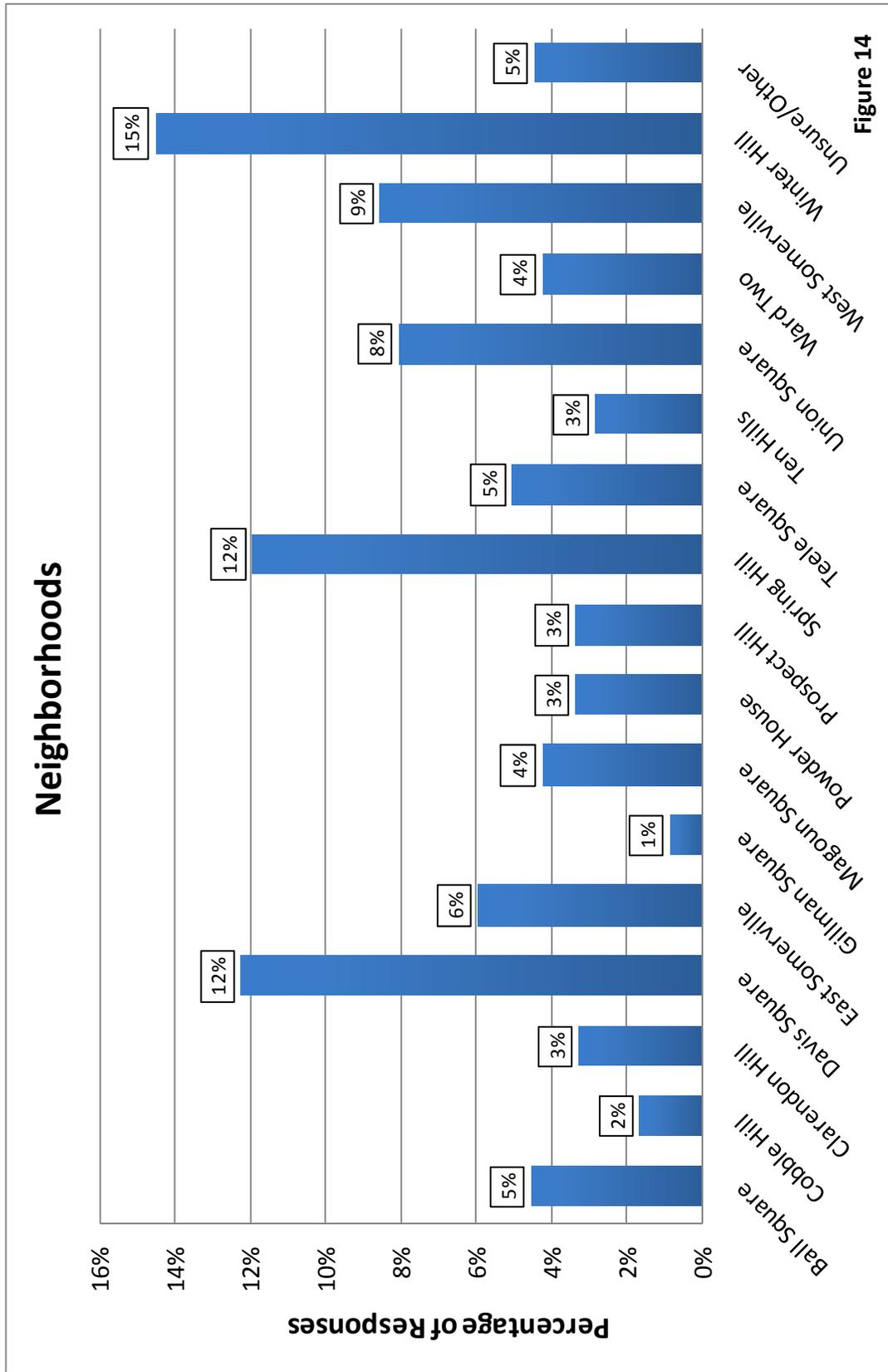


Figure 14

3.3 Current Residence

As might be suspected, given Somerville’s housing stock, over half of those 50 and older are living in two and three family homes, with almost another quarter living in single family homes. The remaining seniors are living in larger multi-unit situations including apartments, and senior specific housing.

Table 14: What type of home do you live in?

Type of Residence	Percentage of Responses
Single Family Home	21.1%
Two or Three Family Home	51.2%
Small Apartment Building (4 to 19 Units)	7.6%
Large Apartment Building (20 or more units)	8.2%
Senior Housing	7.2%
Assisted Living	0.5%
Other	4.1%

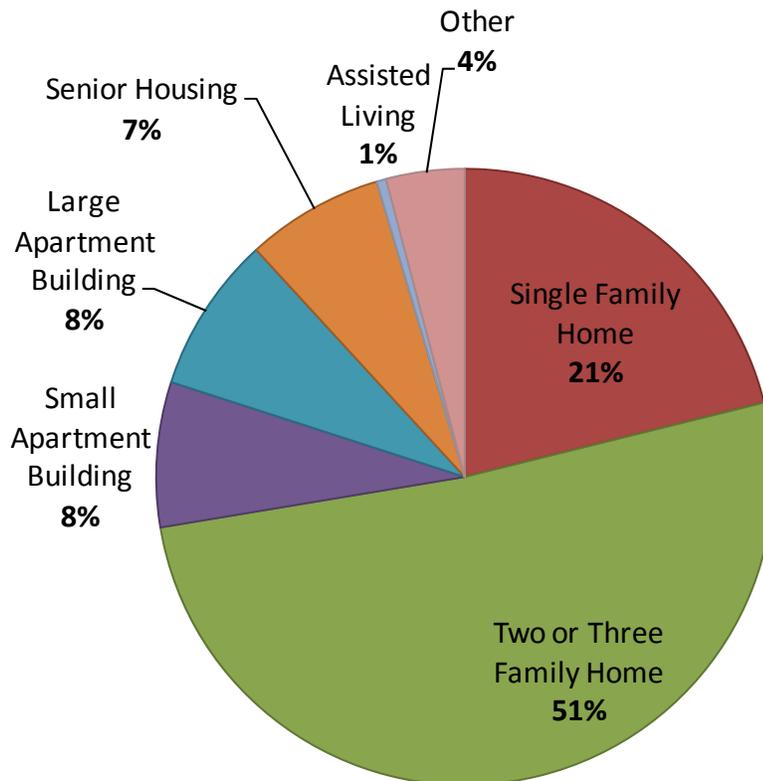


Figure 15

3.4 Accessibility

Although perhaps not surprising given the age of most of Somerville’s housing stock, the great majority of respondents reported their place of residence as not accessible for a person with a disability. Upon closer examination, when we break up responses by housing type, we find that single family homes, and two and three family homes most frequently report being inaccessible.

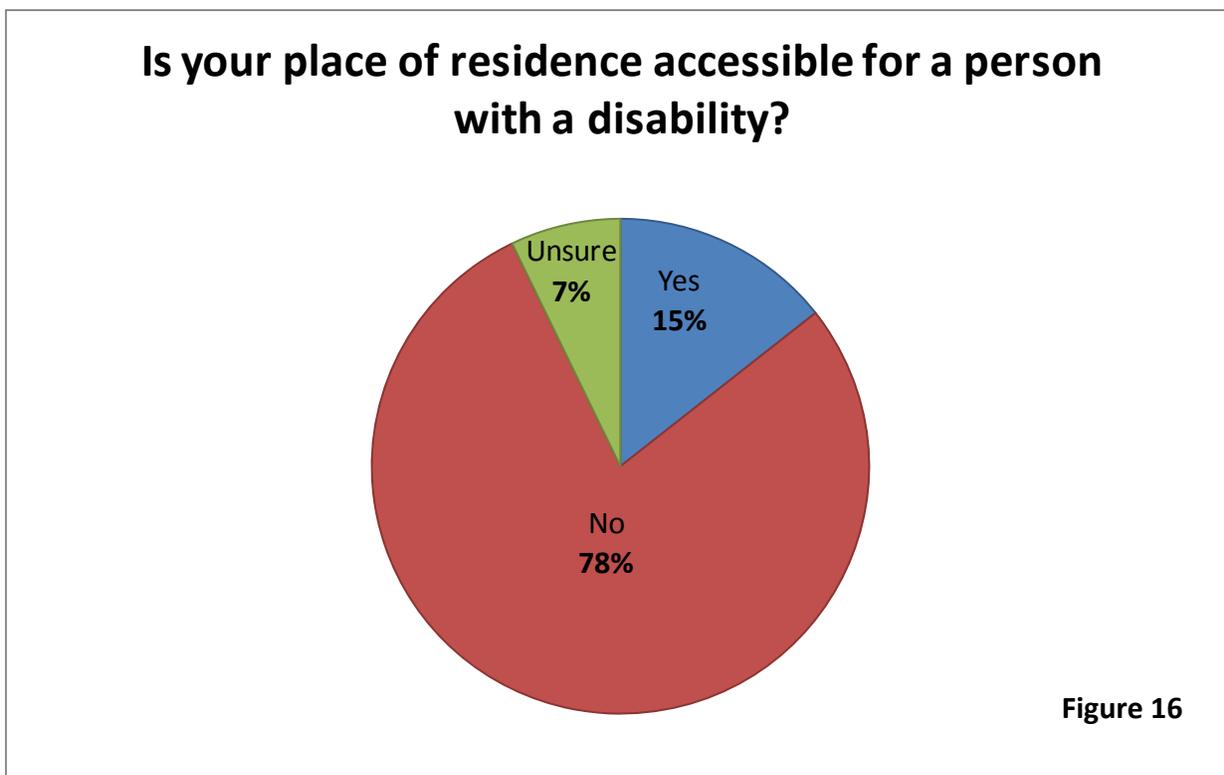


Table 15: Is your place of residence accessible for a person with a disability?

Type of Residence	Yes	No
Single family	6.5%	86.2%
Two or three family	2.0%	87.6%
Small Apt building	11.4%	77.3%
Large Apt Building	50.0%	39.6%
Senior Housing/Asst Living	71.1%	17.8%
Condo	31.2%	68.8%
Other	12.5%	87.5%

Additionally, when separating responses of owners and renters, owners are more likely to live in homes that are inaccessible.

Table 16: Of those who own, is your residence accessible for a person with a disability?

Residence Accessible?	Percentage of Responses
Yes	6.66%
No	85.13%
Unsure/No Response	8.21%

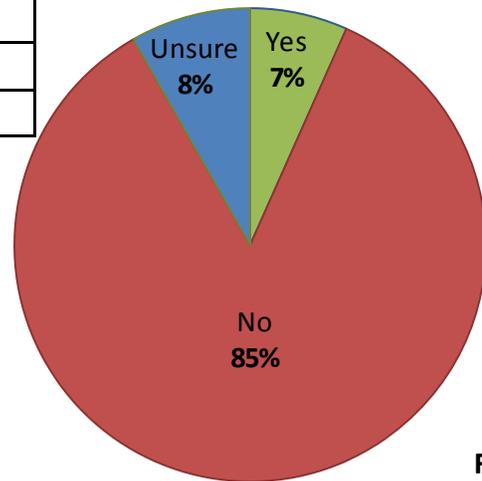


Figure 17

Table 17: Of those who rent, is your residence accessible for a person with a disability?

Residence Accessible?	Percentage of Responses
Yes	30.0%
No	58.3%
Unsure/No Response	11.7%

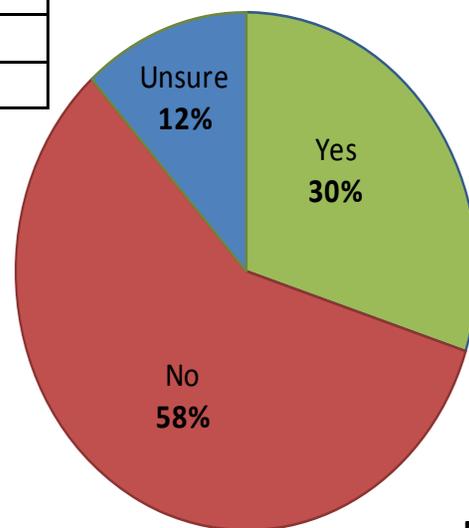
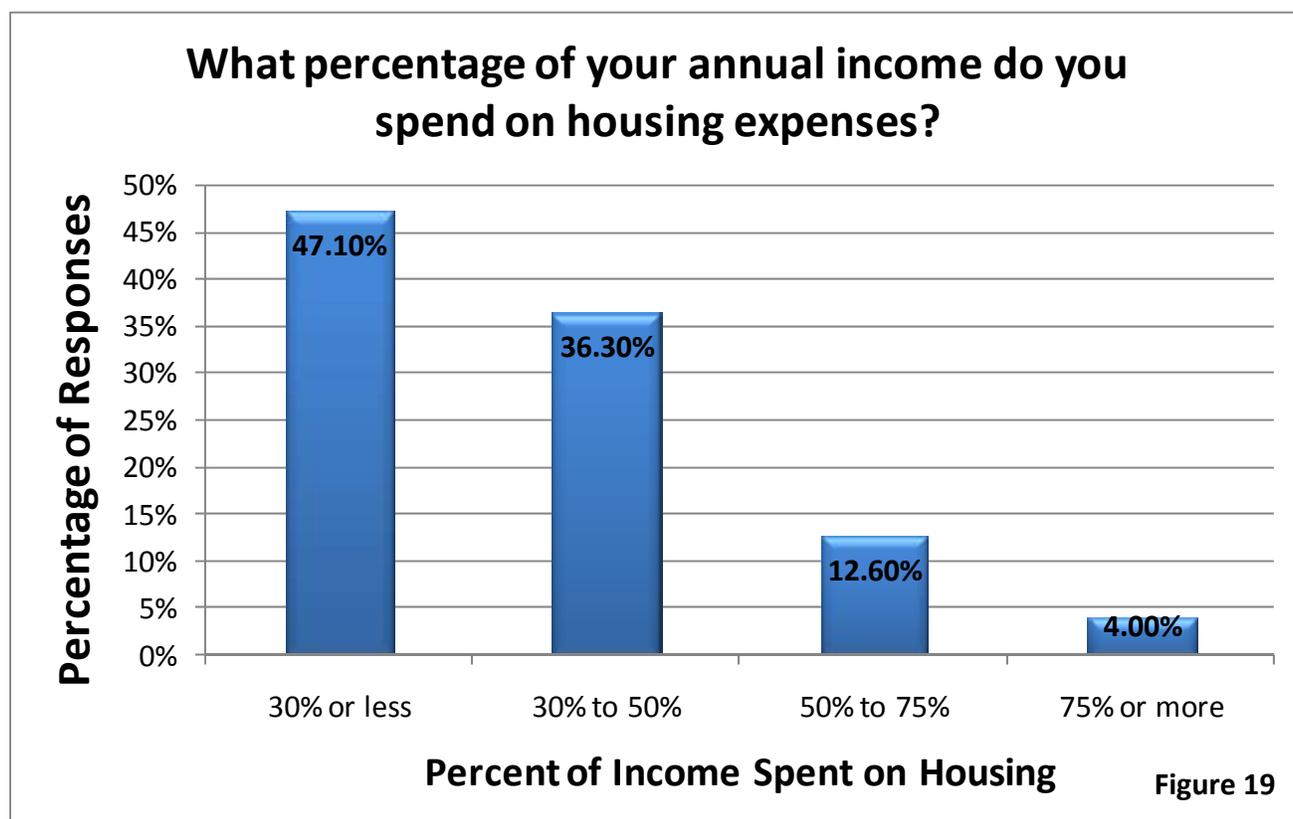


Figure 18

3.5 Annual Income Spent on Housing

The next question asked respondents what percentage of their income was spent on housing. 30 percent is generally considered “affordable” in housing literature. Those paying more than 30 percent are considered to be living in housing that is unaffordable. With this characterization, about half respondents are paying an affordable rate for their housing. Another third pay somewhere between 30 and 50 percent of their income on housing, while 16.6 percent are paying over half of their income on housing.



The percentage of older people paying more than the affordable rate is higher than that of the entire Somerville population. Data from the ACS shows that 41 percent of the *total* Somerville population is paying over 30 percent of their income on housing, while the survey shows that 52.9 percent of people over 50 are paying more than 30 percent on housing.

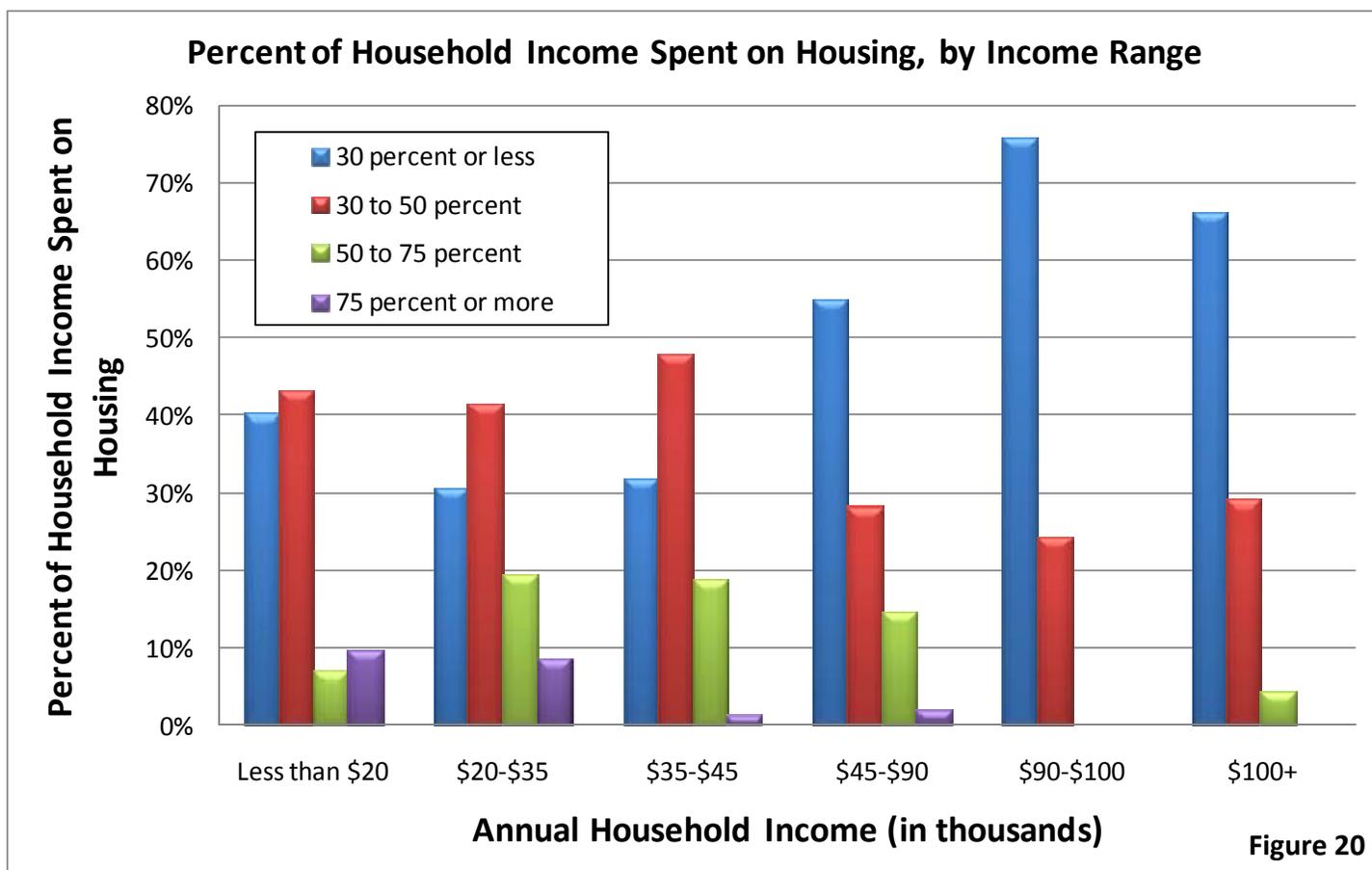
Table 18: 2009 ACS; Income Spent by Somerville Residents on Housing

Percentage of Income	Percentage of Total Somerville Population
Less than 30%	59%
30% or more	41%

When this information is separated by income range, we can see that those in the lower income brackets more frequently end up paying higher percentages of their income on housing, than those in the upper income brackets.

Table 19: Percent of Household Income Spent on Housing, by Income Range

Income Range	30% or less	30% to 50%	50% or more
Less than \$20,000	40.3%	43.1%	16.6%
\$20,000 to \$35,000	30.5%	41.5%	28.0%
\$35,000 to \$45,000	32.0%	48.0%	20.0%
\$45,000 to \$90,000	55.0%	28.2%	16.8%
\$90,000 to \$100,000	75.8%	24.2%	0.0%
\$100,000 +	66.2%	29.2%	4.6%



3.6 Desirability and Affordability of Current Residence

The next set of question asked respondents about their desire to stay in their current residence, and how confident they are in their ability to afford their current residences. There was a strong expression of wanting to stay in Somerville – over 80 percent responded positively to this question. But the ability to afford their current living situation, while positive, was less certain. About half felt they would be able to, but only 27.5 percent answered “Strongly Agree” as opposed to the 61.3 who strongly wanted stay in their homes. This line of questioning revealed that while respondents have a strong desire to stay where they are, their sense of financial security in their current residence is far less certain.

Table 20: Desire to Stay and Ability to Afford Current Residence

"I would like to continue to live in my current residence as long as possible"

"I will be able to afford to live in my current residence as long as I would like to."

Response	Percentage of Responses
Strongly Agree	61.3%
Agree	22.7%
Neutral	8.9%
Disagree	4.4%
Strongly Disagree	2.8%

Response	Percentage of Responses
Strongly Agree	27.5%
Agree	36.7%
Neutral	22.2%
Disagree	9.7%
Strongly Disagree	3.9%

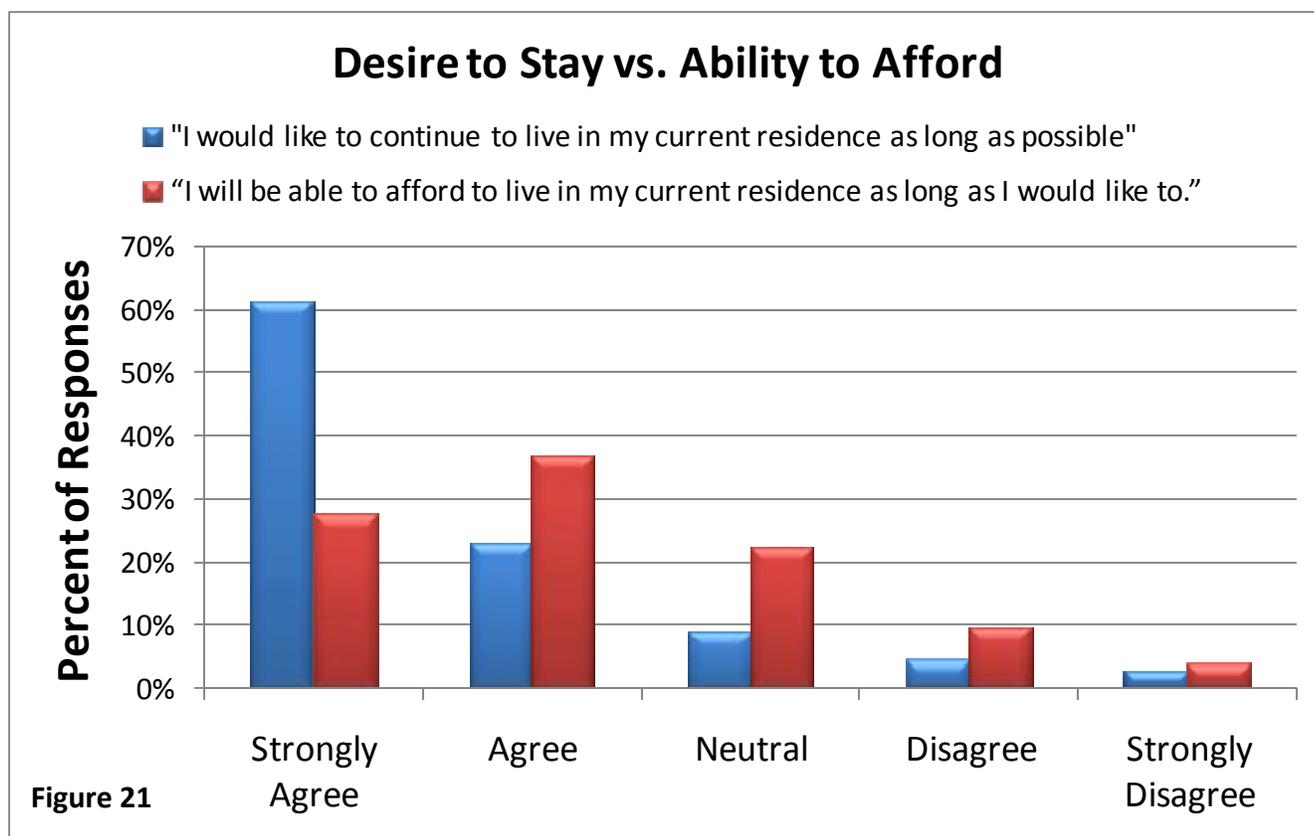


Figure 21

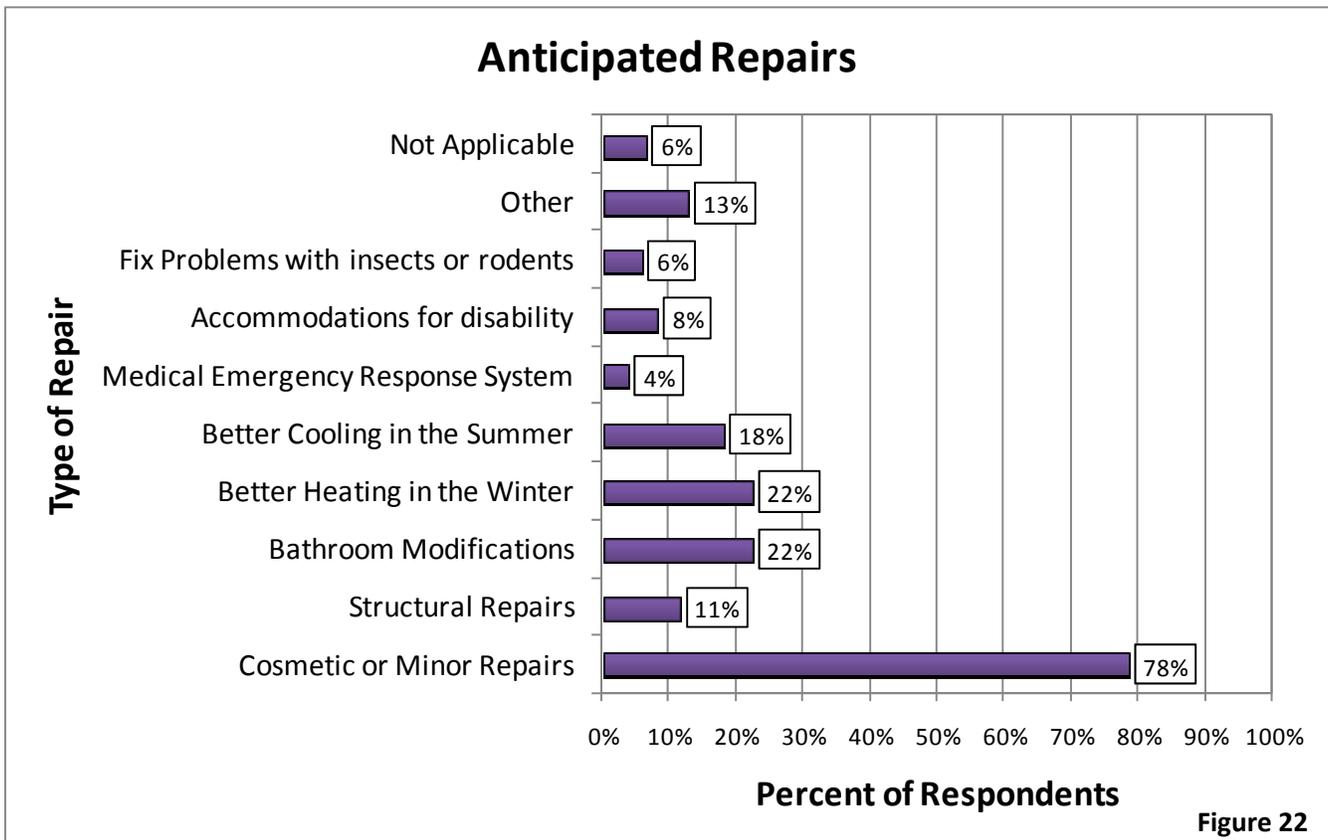
3.7 Homeowner Questions

As discussed in section 2.8 the majority of individuals in this age cohort own their homes: 390 respondents of the 585 surveyed reported to be homeowners. These individuals answered several additional questions about their homes.

If you will need home repairs or modifications in the next five years, which of these will need to be done on your current residence? Check all that apply.

Table 21: Anticipated Repairs

Type of Repair	Percentage of Homeowners
Cosmetic or Minor Repairs	78.2
Structural Repairs	11.3
Bathroom Modifications	22.1
Better Heating in the Winter	22.1
Better Cooling in the Summer	17.9
Medical Emergency Response System	3.6
Accommodations for disability	7.9
Fix Problems with insects or rodents	5.6
Other	12.6
Not Applicable	6.2

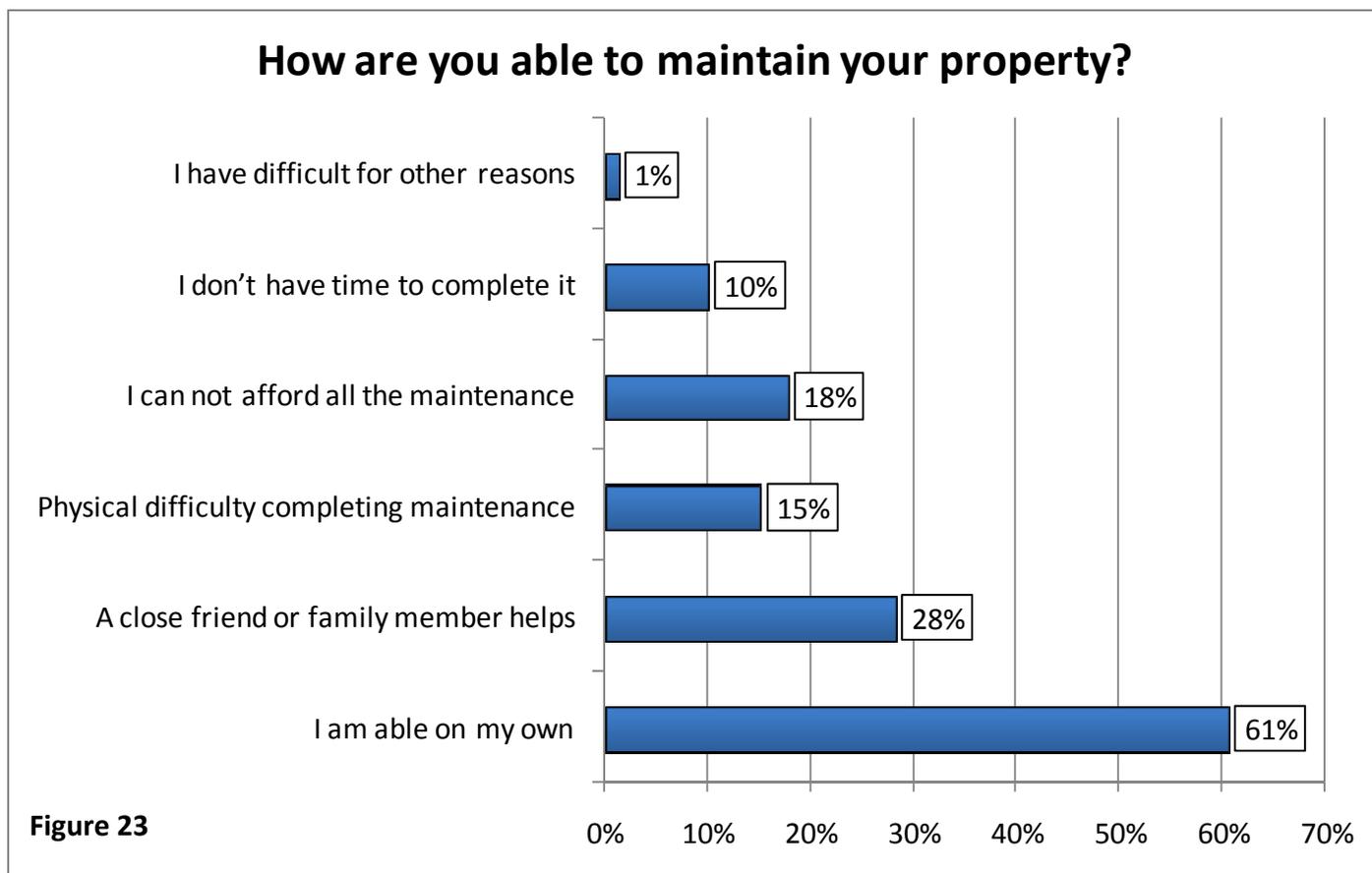


3.7.1. Home Maintenance

Are you able to complete normal maintenance to keep your units livable?

Table 22: Completing Home Maintenance

Ability to Maintain Home	Percentage of Responses
I am able to maintain my property on my own	60.5
I have a close friend or family member who helps me	28.2
I have difficulty physically completing maintenance	15.1
I can not afford all the maintenance	17.7
I don't have time to complete it	10.0
I have difficult for other reasons	1.3



3.7.2. Ownership Tenure

Most of the homeowners in this age cohort have owned their home for a long time: 82 percent have been in their homes for more than 10 years.

Table 23: Ownership Tenure

Years	Percentage of Homeowners
1-5	7.7
6-10	10.3
11-20	26.4
21-30	21.5
More than 30	34.1

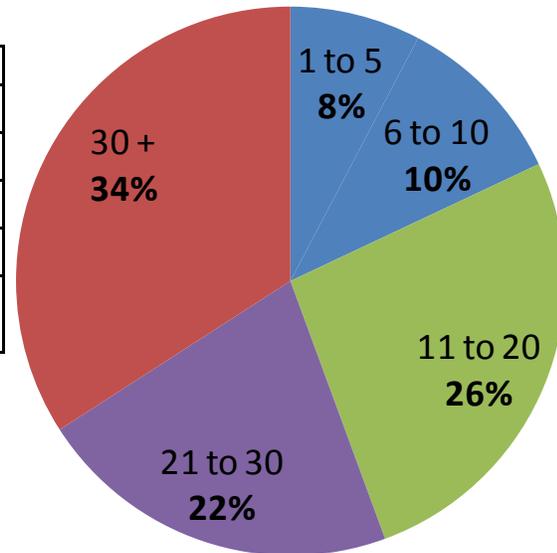


Figure 24

3.7.3 Mortgage Status

Forty percent of homeowners have paid off their mortgage, which aligns closely to the number of people who have owned their homes for more than 30 years (34.1%).

Table 24: Mortgage Status

Paid off Mortgage	Percentage of Homeowners
Yes	40.3
No	58.4
Not Applicable	1.3

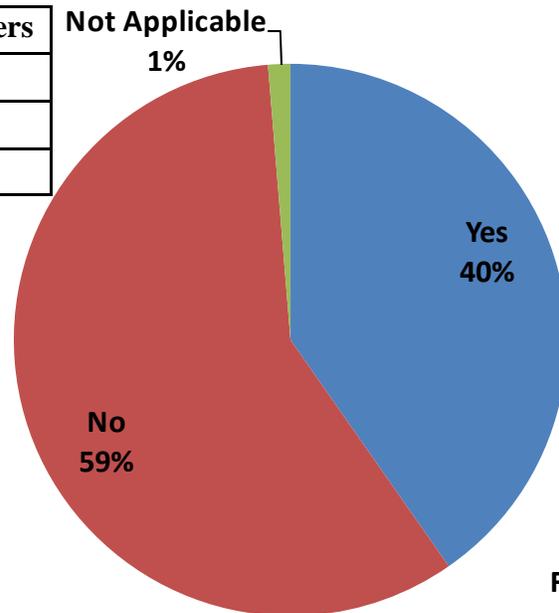


Figure 25

Few respondents reported having trouble making their monthly mortgage payments: less than 10%. Of those who faced such trouble, over half were not aware of the foreclosure prevention resources available to them.

Table 25: Paying Mortgage

Faced Difficulty Paying Mortgage	Percentage of Homeowners
Yes	9.8%
No	83.6%
Not Applicable	6.6%

Table 26: Foreclosure Prevention

	Yes	No	N/A
Are you aware of the foreclosure prevention resources available to you?	24.3 % (n=9)	56.8% (n=21)	18.9% (n=7)

If you have faced difficulty making your monthly mortgage payment, Are you aware of the foreclosure prevention resources available to you?

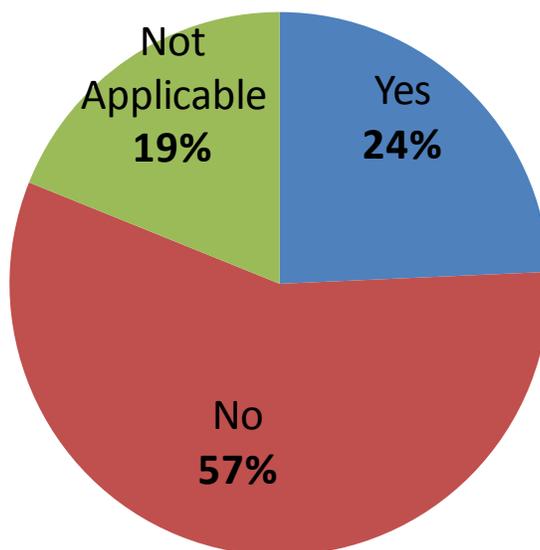


Figure 26

3.7.4. Underutilized Rentals

Prior to the completion of this survey, there was some suspicion that there might be a significant number of older people living in multi-family homes with units they choose not to rent. When this question was posed to the survey respondents, only 8.9 percent reported being in such a situation.

Table 27: Underutilized Rentals

Rental Units Not Renting	Percentage of Responses
Yes	8.9%
No	44.2%
Not Applicable	46.9%

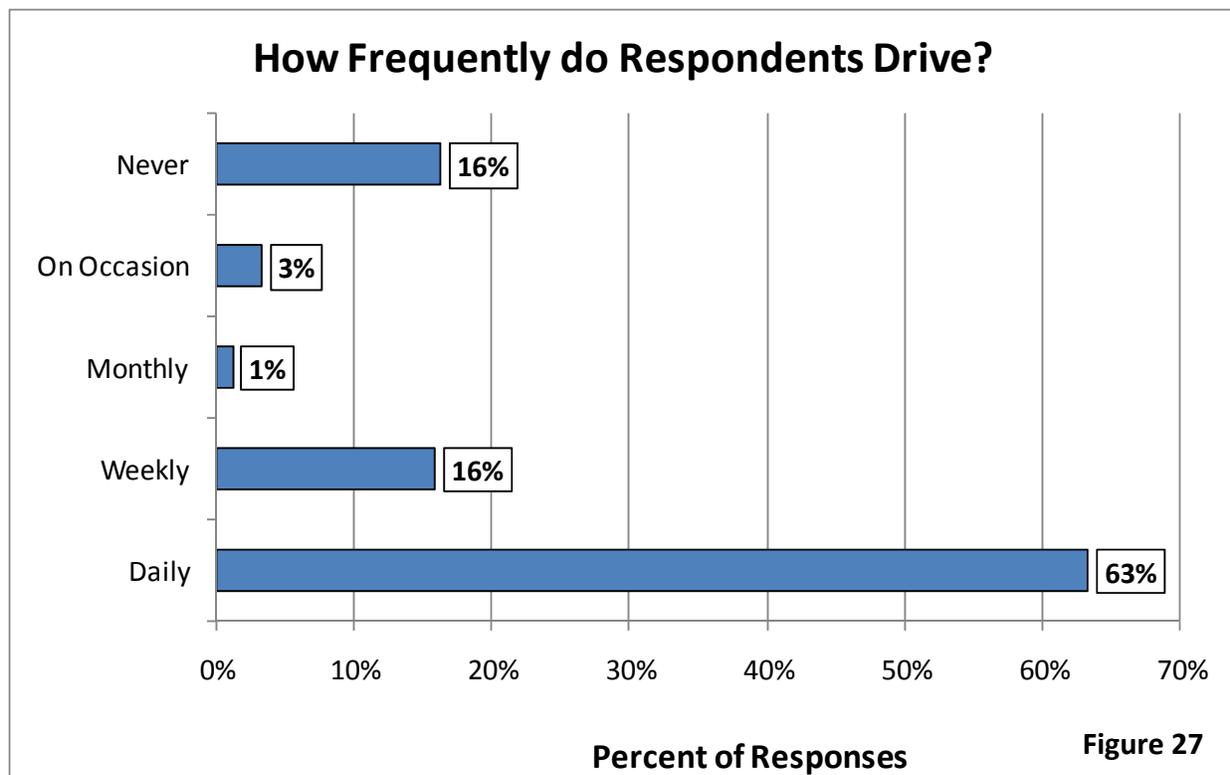
4.0 Transportation

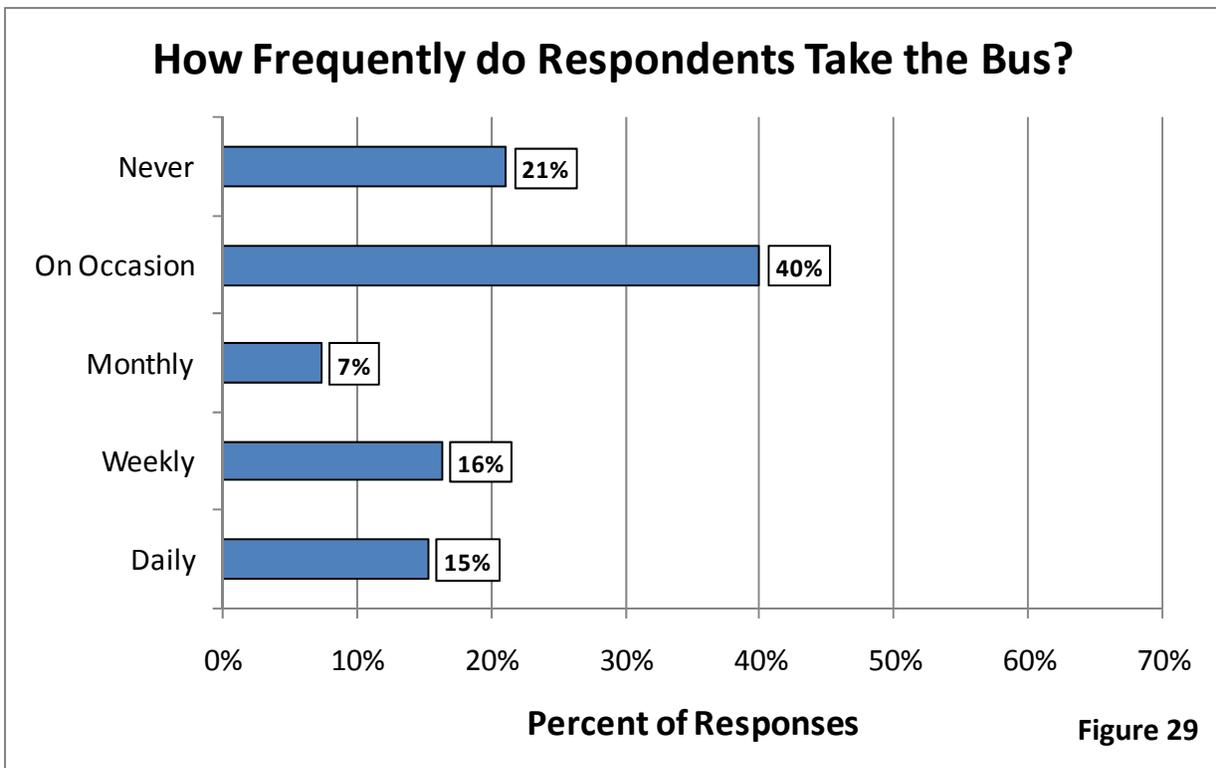
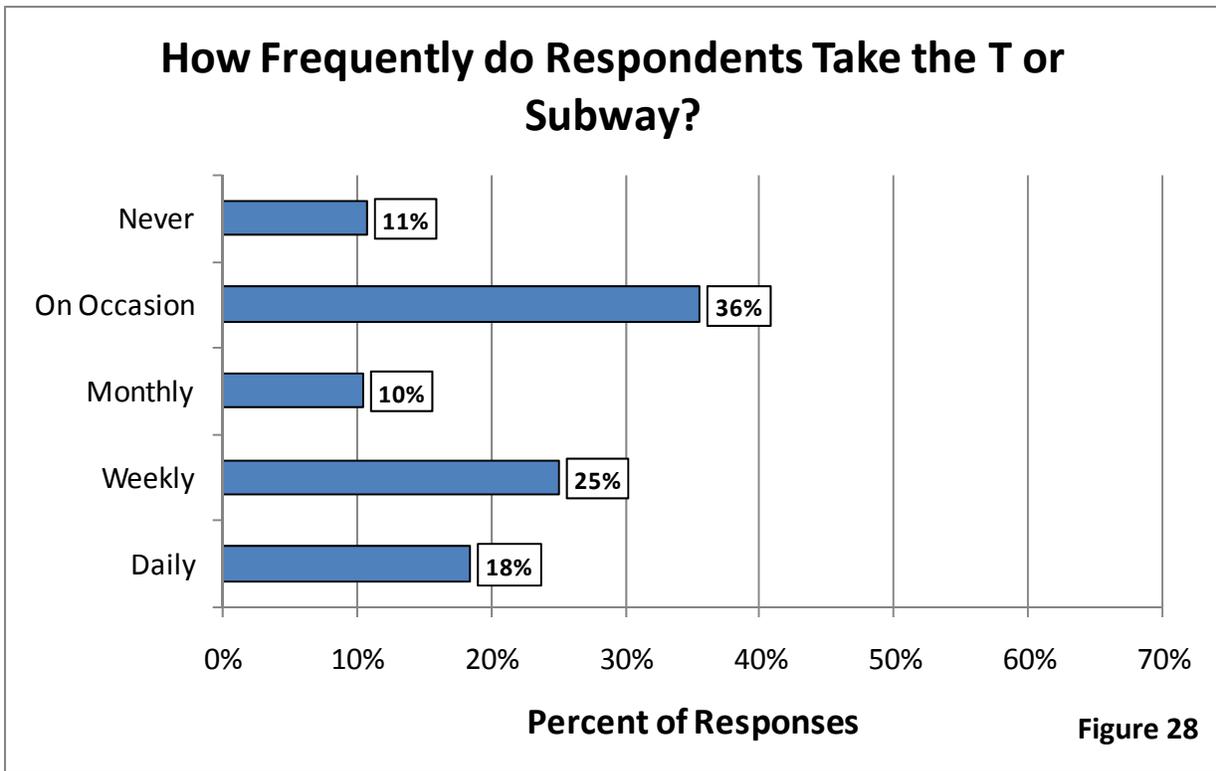
Somerville is a community with an abundance of transportation options available to its residents. MBTA services of the Red Line, nearby Orange Line, proposed Green Line, and numerous buses routes provide an array of public transit options. The community path, and addition of several miles of bike lanes in recent years have made biking safer and more accessible. And because Somerville is so dense, many are able to walk to take care of their daily errands. While many who were surveyed use these options to a certain extent, driving remains the most frequently utilized form of transit by this age group. But, as people age, their ability to drive may change, and it can be considered a positive that Somerville has a variety of options for residents to choose from.

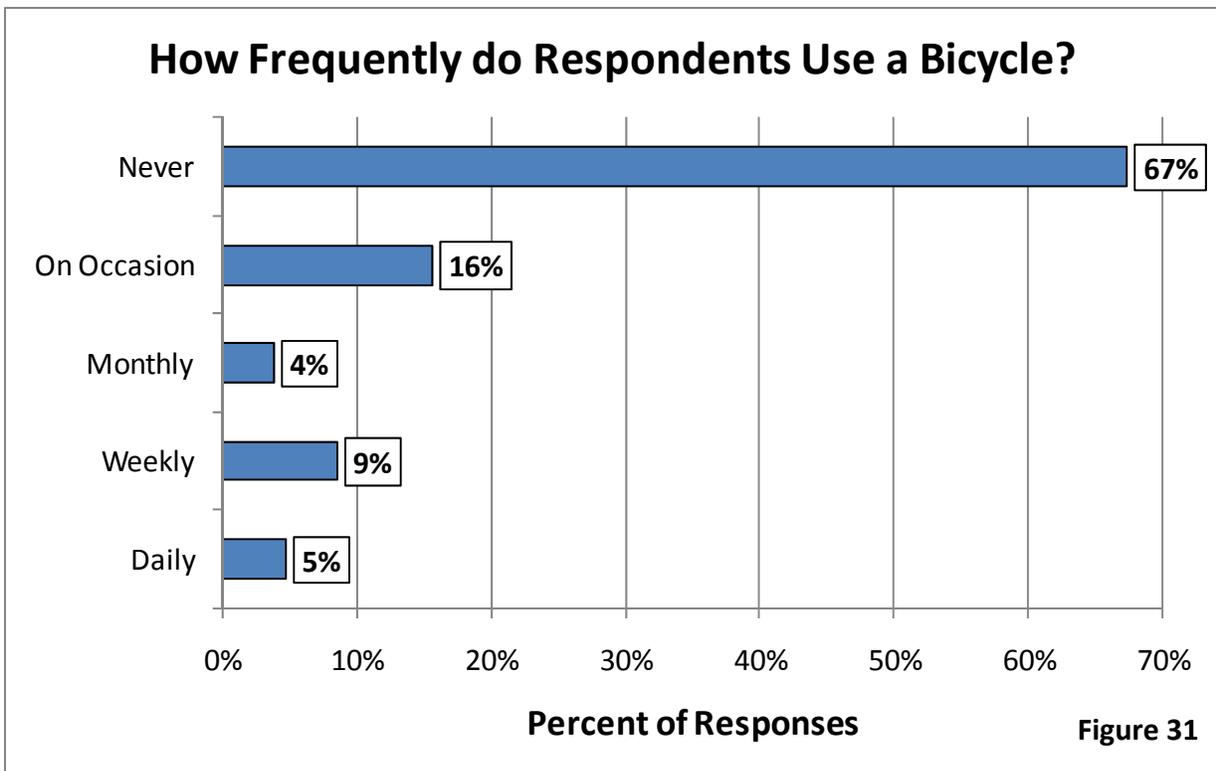
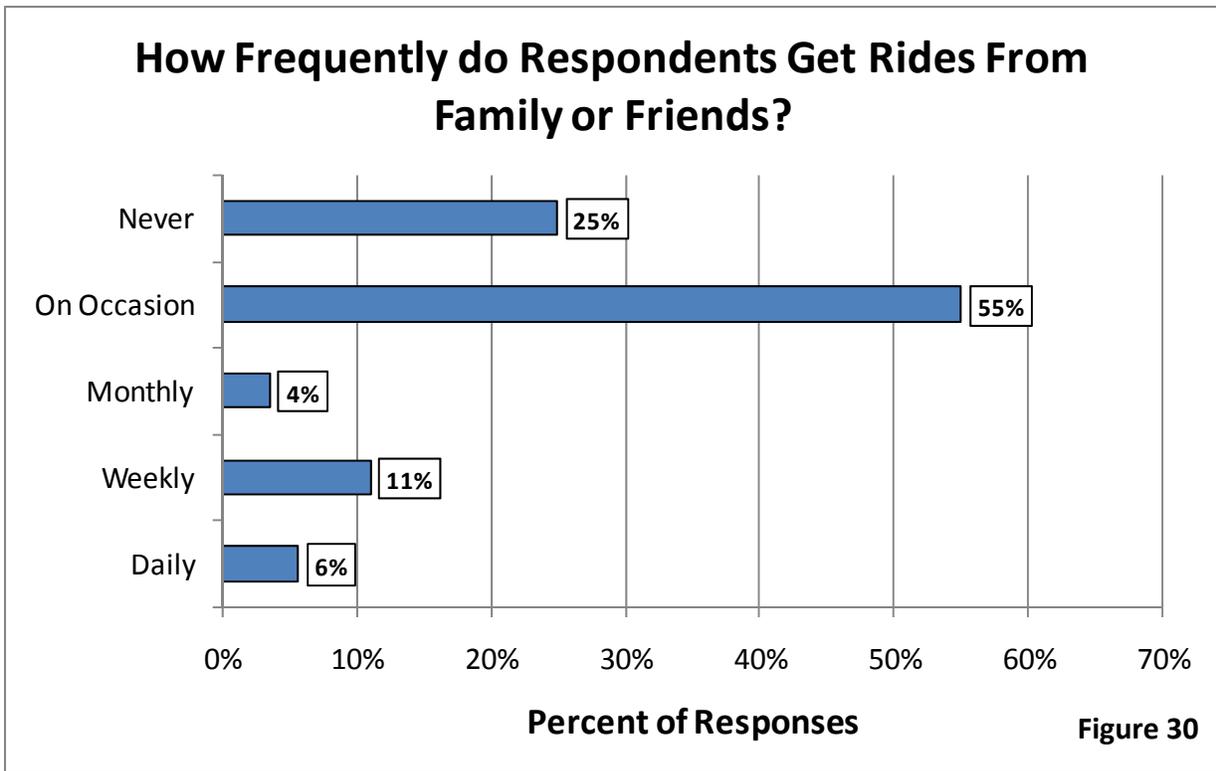
4.1 Modes of Transit

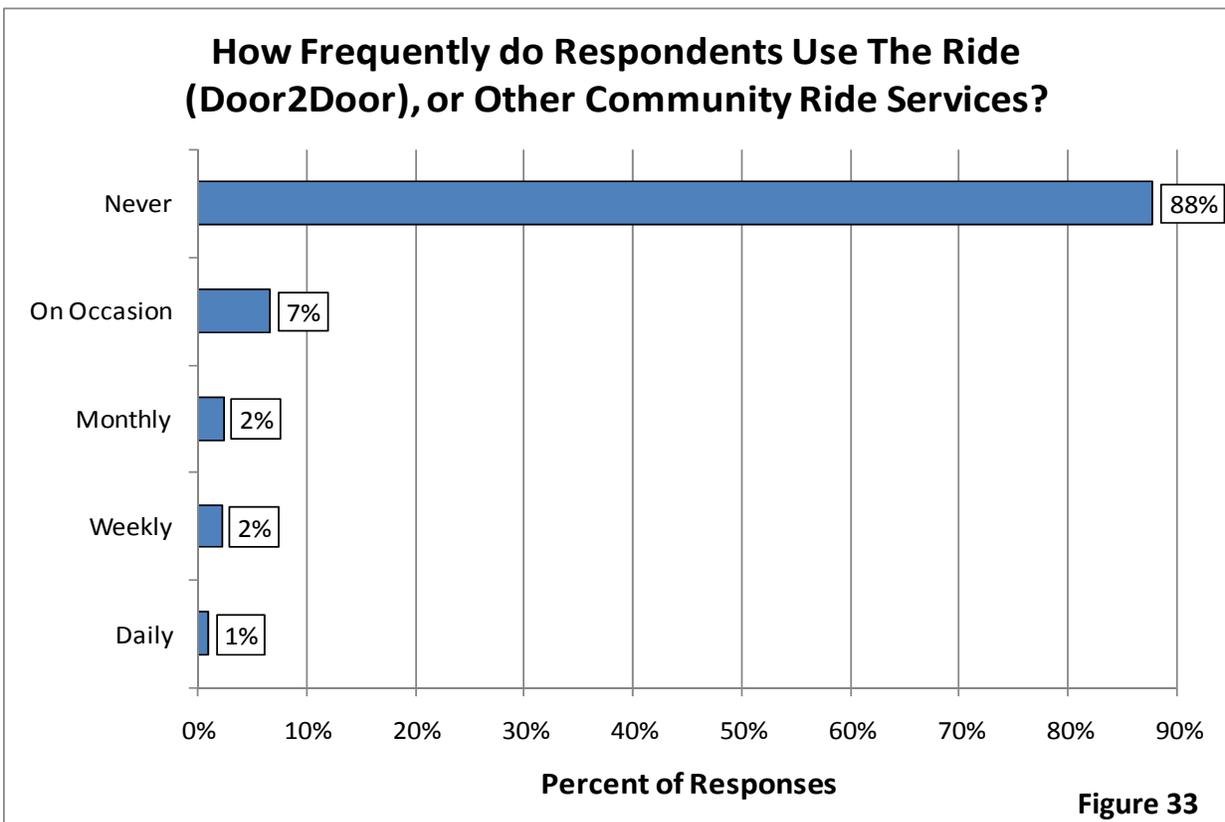
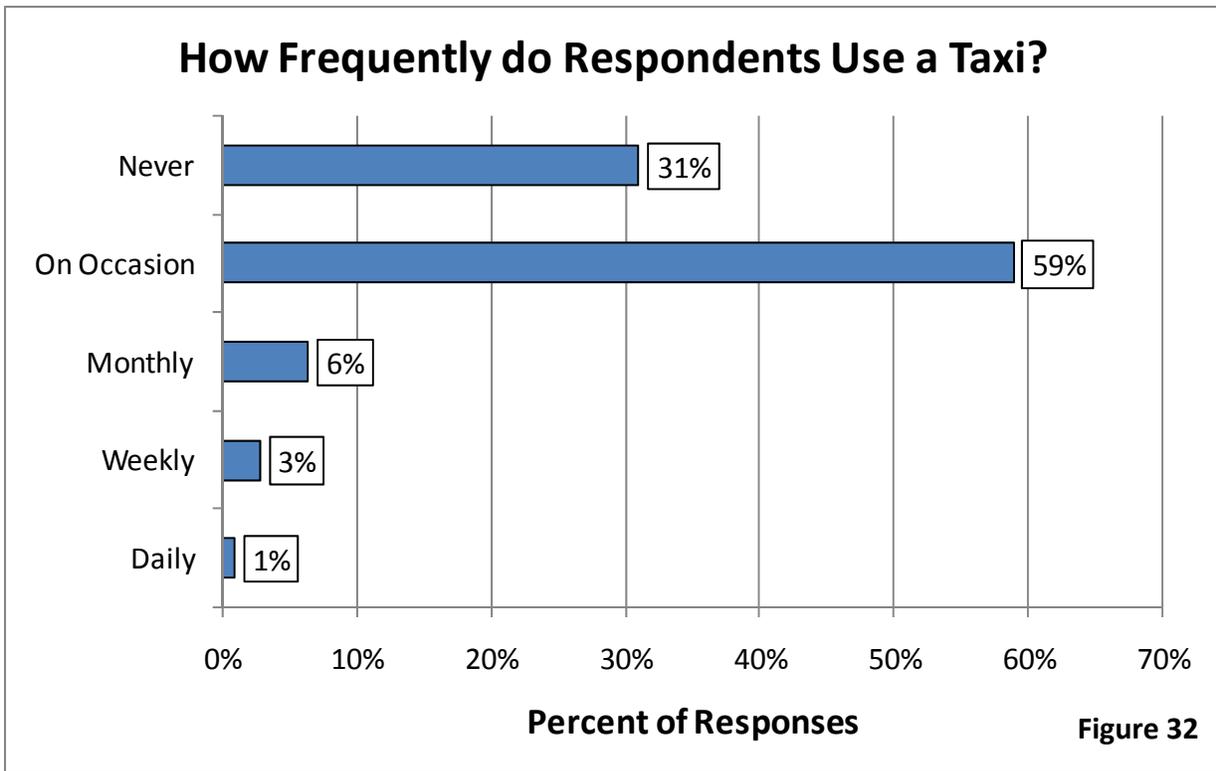
To better understand the transportation habits of Somerville residents over 50, survey takers were given several transportation options, and asked to mark how frequently they used each mode of transit. For each transportation method, respondents were asked to categorize their usage as one of the following; Daily, Weekly, Monthly, On Occasion, or Never. The first breakdowns examine the responses for each form of transportation.

Going through each form of transportation, we can identify how frequently this population utilizes various forms of transportation. Looking through these results, it appears driving is the transportation method of choice, followed by public transit services of the MBTA.



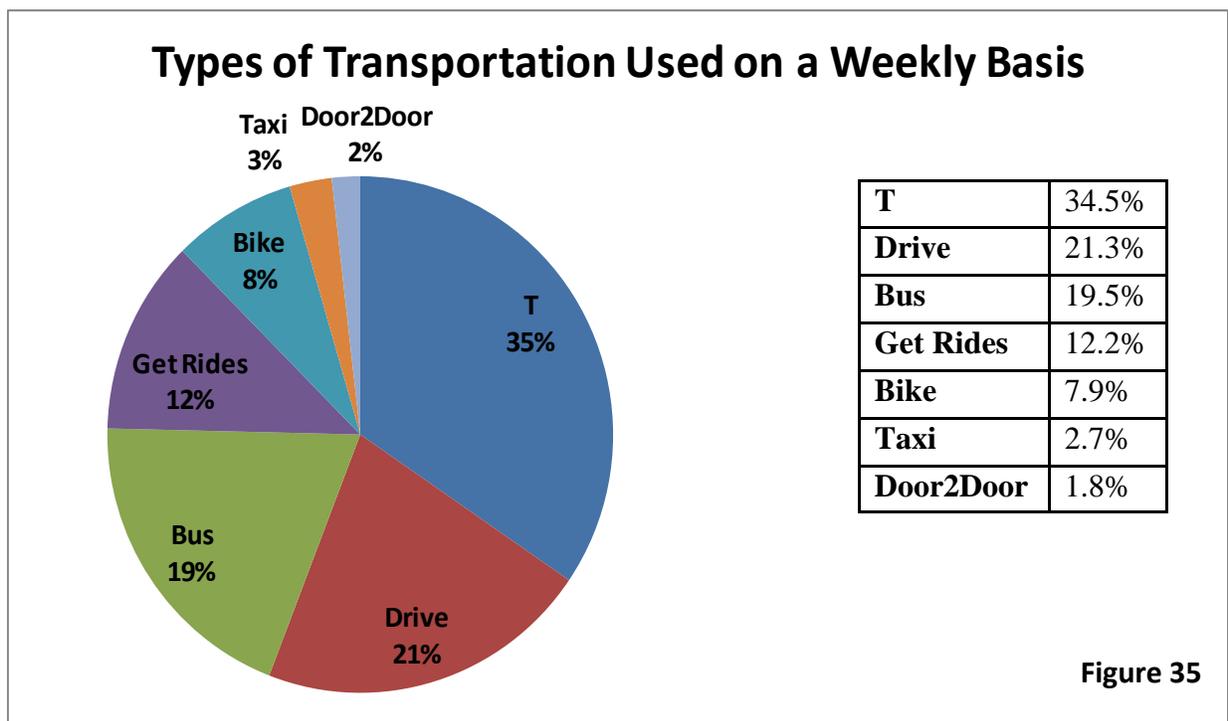
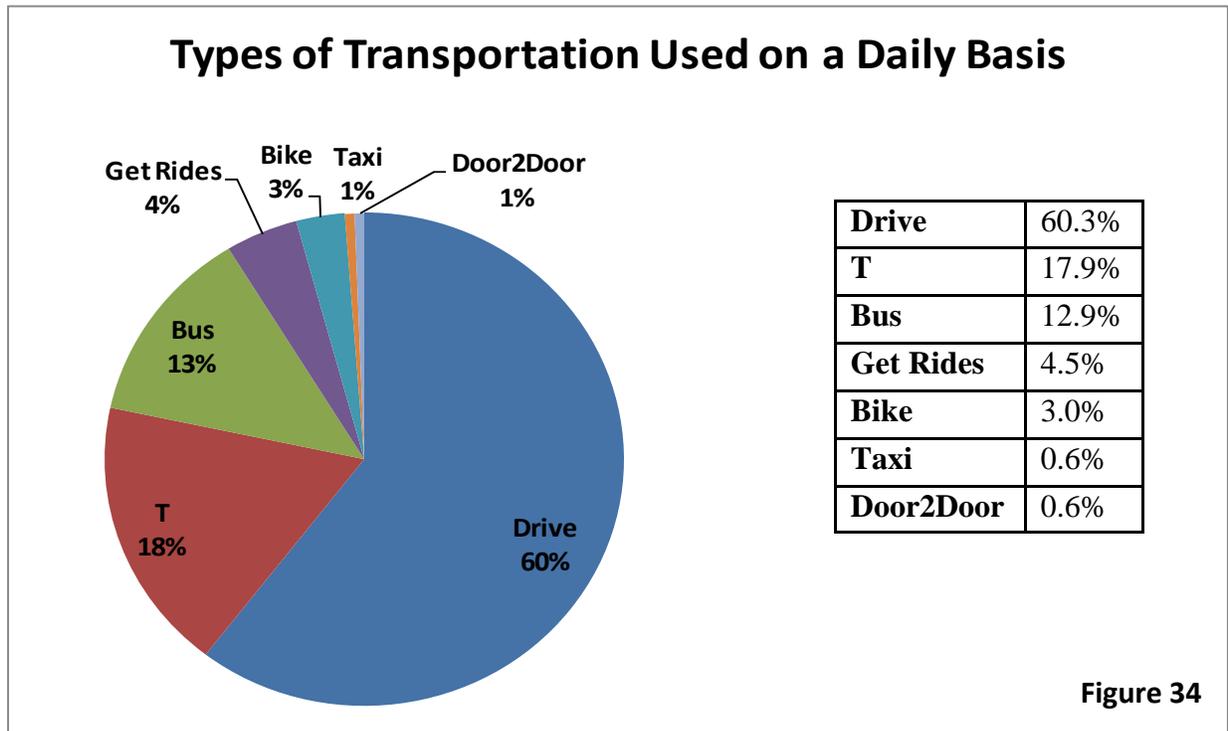


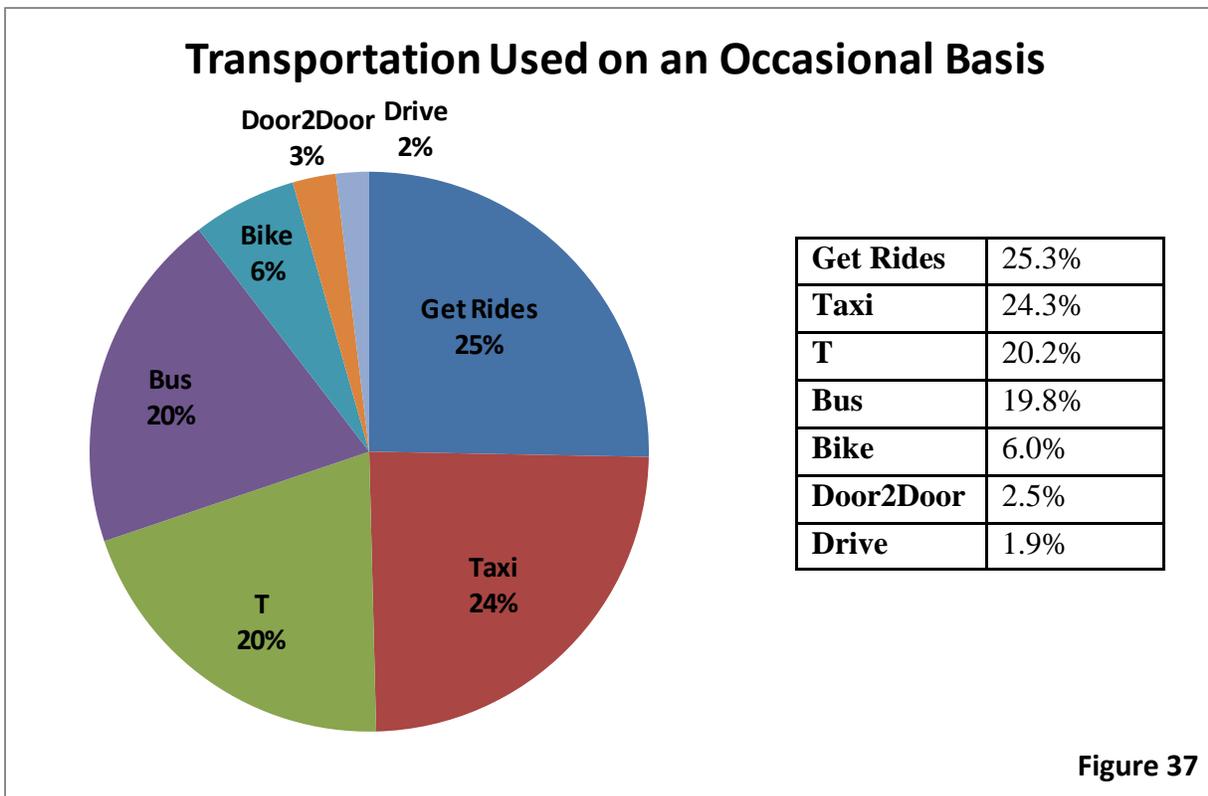
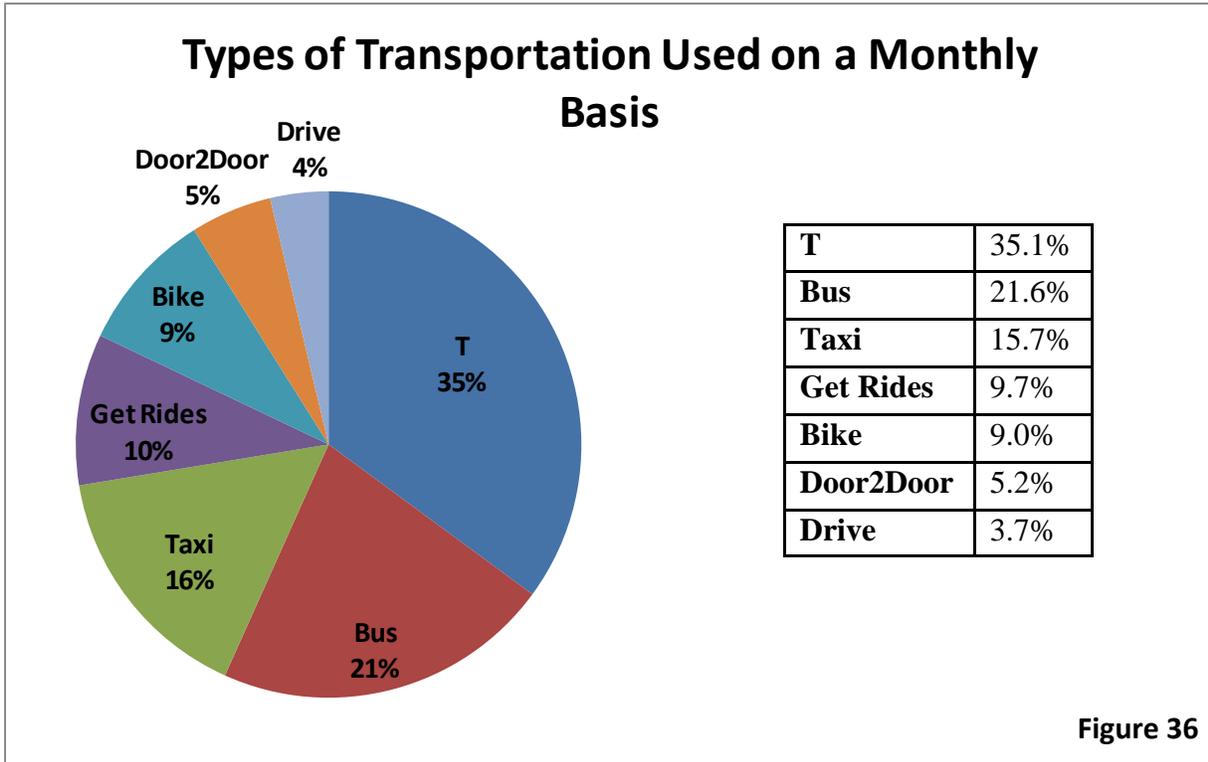




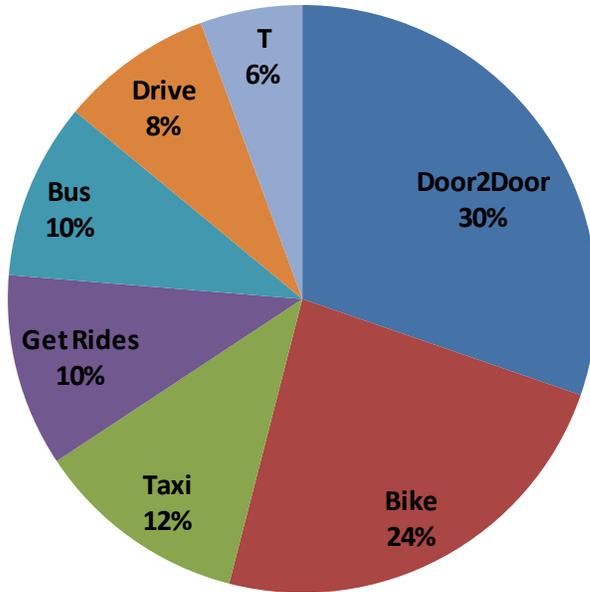
4.2 Frequency of Transportation Usage

As an alternative, we can also identify what percentage of trips occurring at each frequency utilize each particular mode of transit. For example, what percentage of daily trips are utilizing the T as opposed to being driven? The following charts illuminate that information.





Transportation Not Utilitized by Respondents



Door2Door	30.3%
Bike	23.7%
Taxi	11.7%
Get Rides	10.6%
Bus	9.7%
Drive	8.4%
T	5.6%

Figure 38

4.3 Examining Driving Habits

As we examine the answers to these questions, we see that the most frequently utilized form of transportation for the respondents is driving in a personal vehicle. This in some ways runs counter to the perception that as people age, they depend less on their cars, and more on alternative transportation modes. When we look specifically at the breakdown by age of how frequently people drive, we can see that younger age groups are driving more frequently, but even in oldest group, those 80+, almost 40 percent use their cars on a daily basis. (DNR=Did Not Respond)

Table 28: Driving Habits, by Age

Age	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Occasionally	Never	DNR	Total
50-55	64.3%	13.5%	0.8%	2.4%	11.1%	7.9%	100%
56-60	64.5%	12.9%	1.6%	0.8%	13.7%	6.5%	100%
61-65	55.1%	18.6%	0.8%	1.7%	9.3%	14.4%	99.9%
66-70	43.9%	11.0%	1.2%	8.5%	20.7%	14.6%	99.9%
71-80	46.5%	14.1%	1.4%	2.8%	11.3%	23.9%	100%
80+	38.1%	9.5%	0.0%	0.0%	26.2%	26.2%	100%

4.4 Relative Importance of Transportation Issues

When examining the transportation issues that are most important to this group, respondents were asked to rank several issues on a five point scale from “Very Important” to “Not Important”. Very few respondents classified any of these issues in the negative categories of “Less Important” or “Not Important” The list below shows the resulting rank of each of the six issues, from most to least important.

Table 29: Importance of Transportation Issues

Issue	Very Important/ Important	Neutral	Less Important/ Not Important
Safe Conditions for Pedestrians	96.2%	2.6%	1.3%
Road Conditions for Drivers	90.6%	5.2%	4.2%
Access to Public Transportation	89.6%	6.3%	4.1%
Availability of Parking Spaces	84.6%	8.3%	7.2%
Road Conditions for Cyclist	69.5%	16.1%	14.4%
Affordable driving alternatives such as community vans and affordable drivers	56.1%	23.2%	20.7%

Percent of Respondents who answered either "Very Important" or "Important"

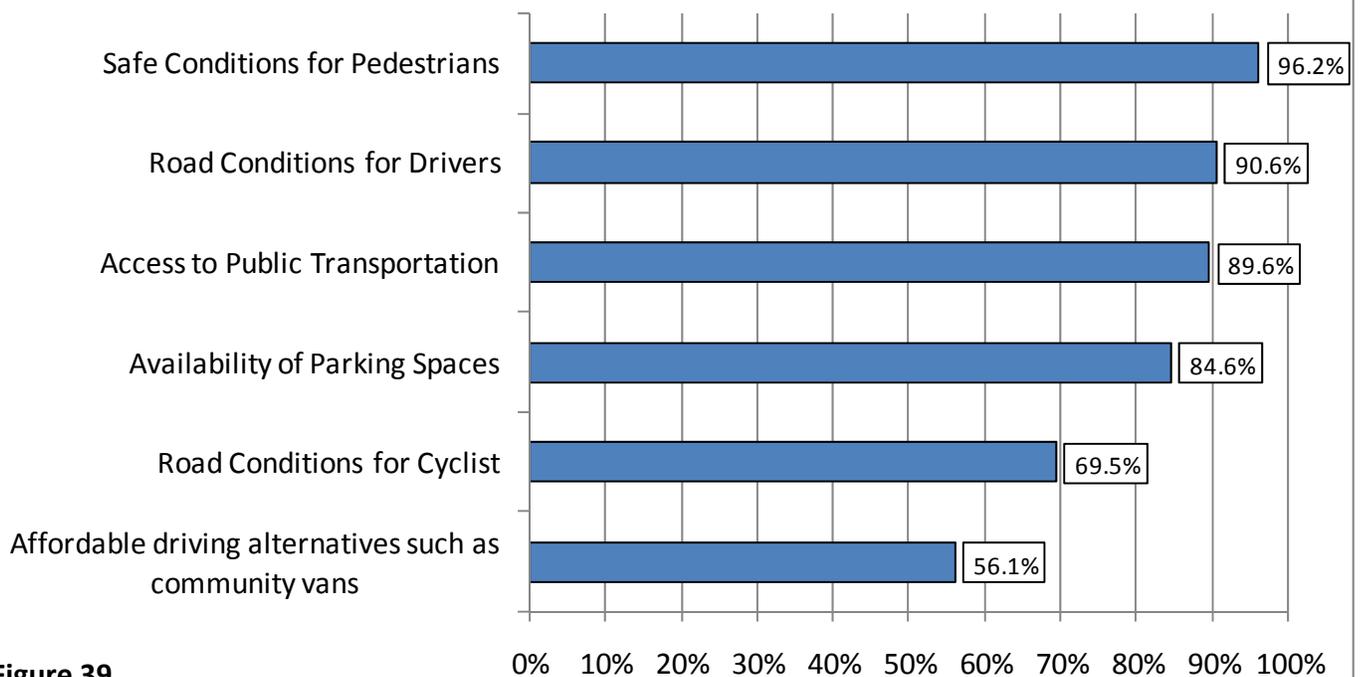
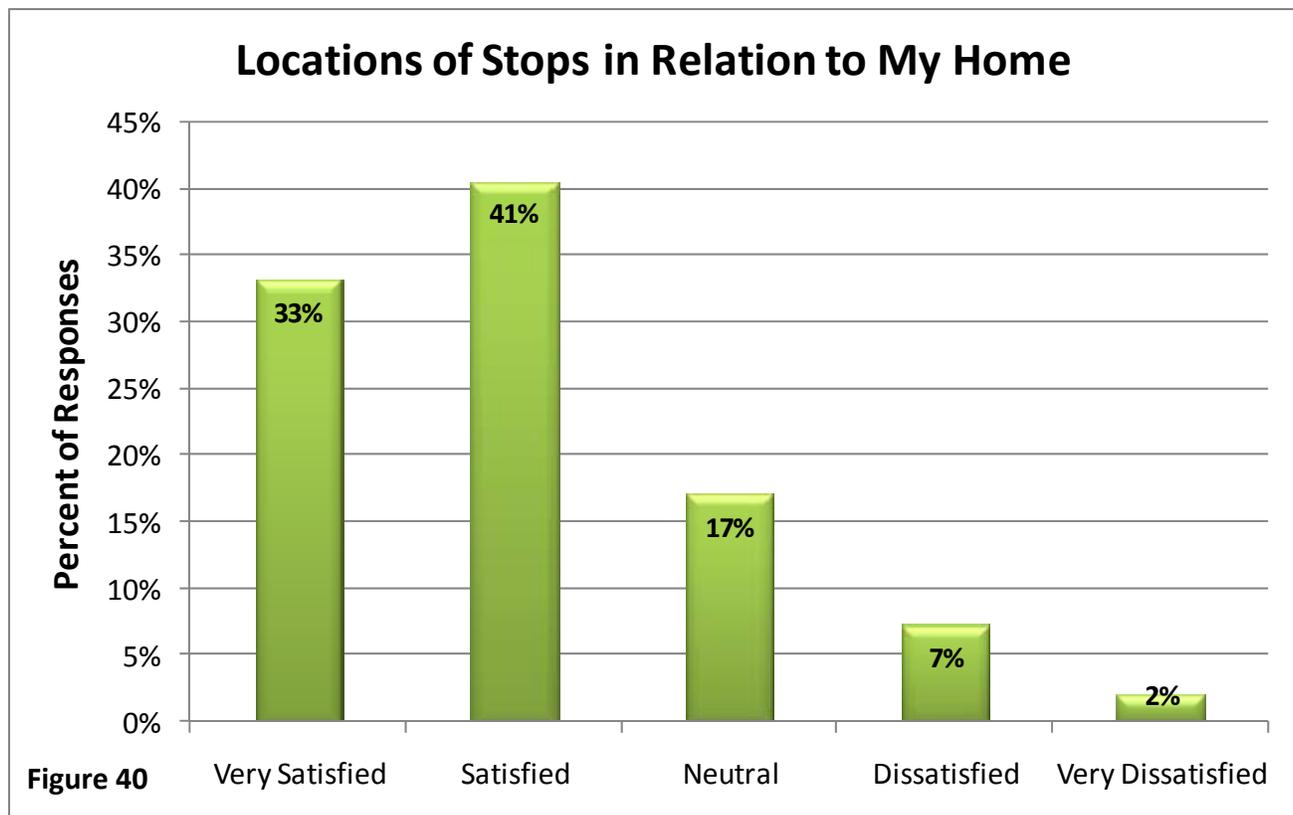


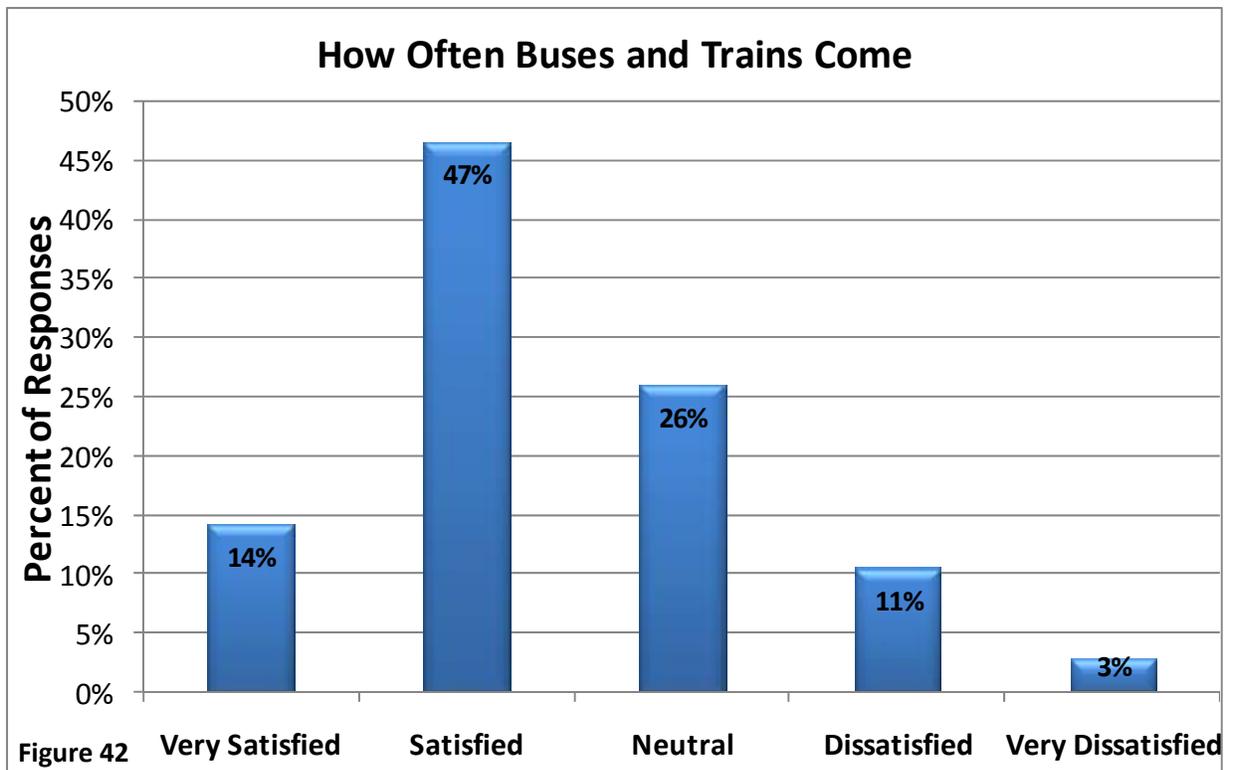
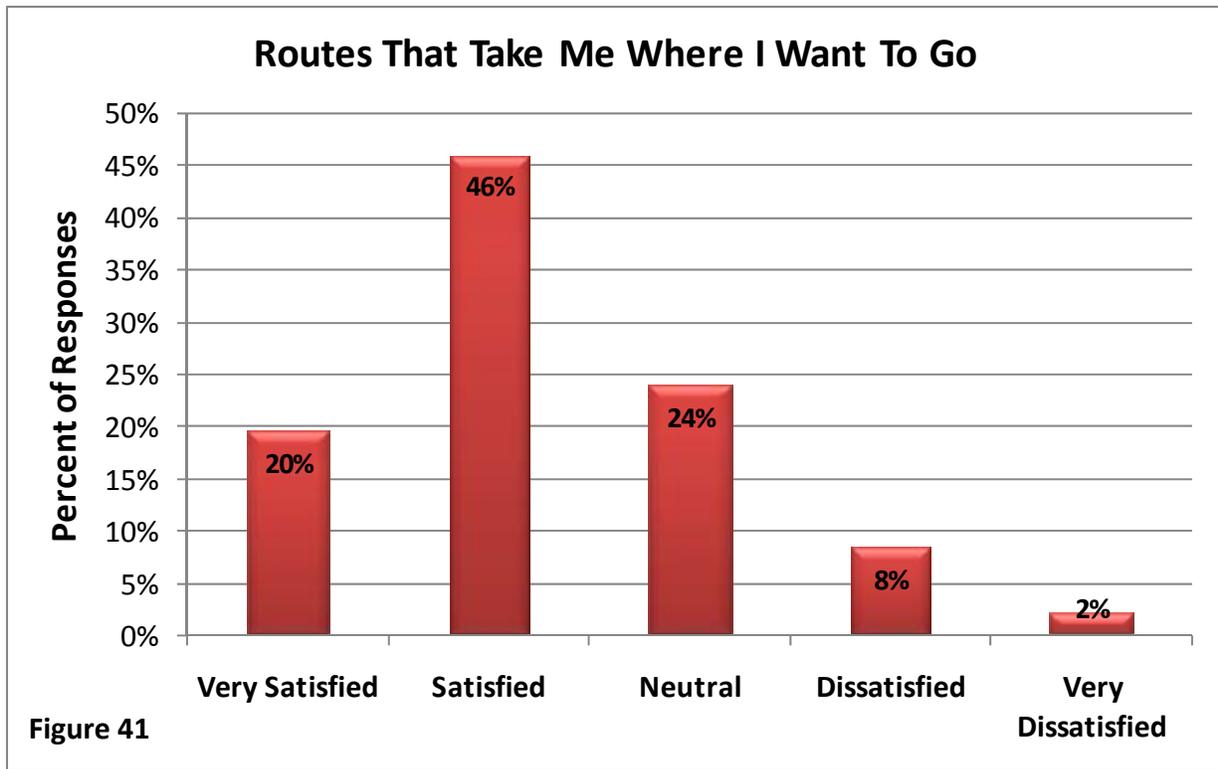
Figure 39

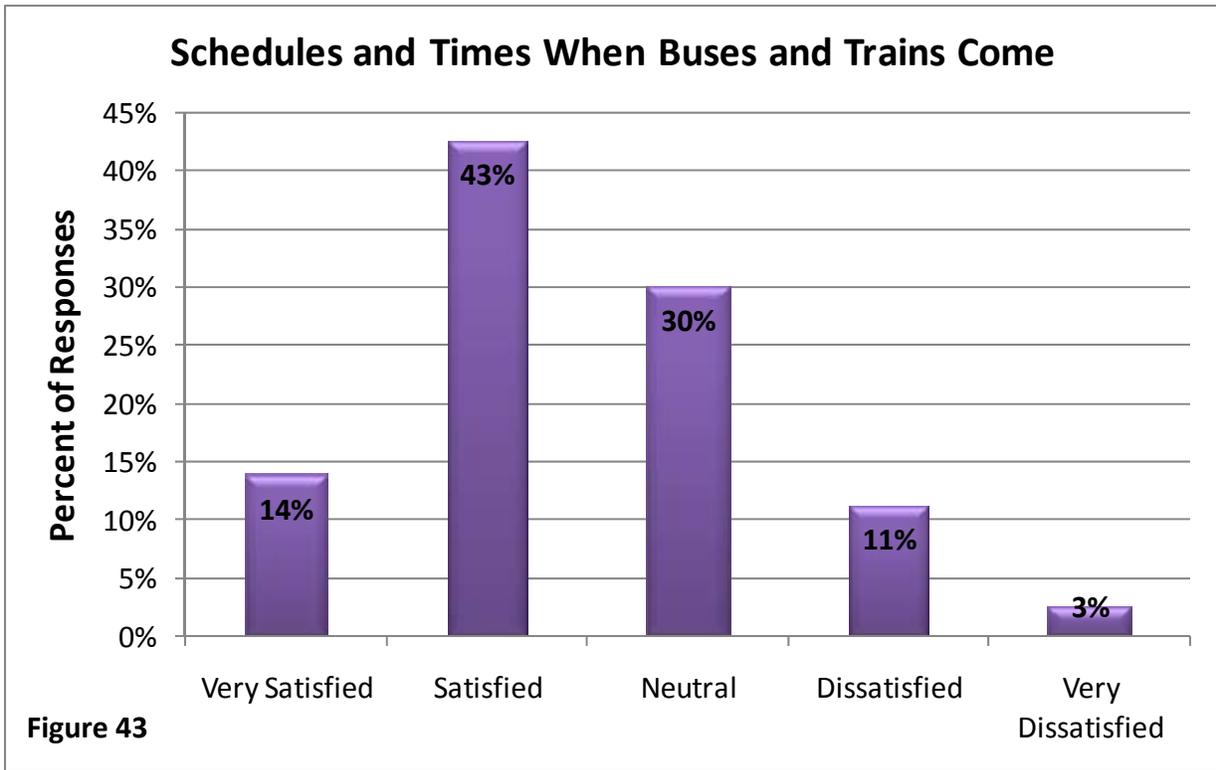
4.5 Satisfaction with MBTA Services

The final transportation question asked how satisfied respondents were with specific aspects of public transportation (identified as MBTA buses and subways). A great majority of respondents said they were either “Very Satisfied” or “Satisfied” with relatively few reporting negative feelings about MBTA services.

The aspects of public transportation respondents were most satisfied with were the location of stops in relation to their home, and the current routes. While feelings about the bus and train schedules were generally positive, there is a noticeable apathy, evidenced in the number of “Neutral” votes in that category. This may indicate that while riders are not especially dissatisfied with any of these aspects of public transportation service they don’t have especially positive feelings about their experiences.







5. Community Issues

The next group of questions asked a variety of questions, aimed at better understanding how people perceived and related to their community. Questions and responses cover a range of questions, from perceived problems, to health status, to opinions of policy makers. While these questions may seem disparate, they are meant to better understand residents place in the community, and some of the issues that effect involvement in and feelings about Somerville. The survey results point to a 50 + population that is healthy, informed, well connected to volunteer activities, and willing to voice their concerns about neighborhood problems.

5.1 Perceived Problems

To understand perceived problems at the neighborhood level, survey takers were given a list of 15 potential problems, and asked to describe each as either a; small problem, big problem, or not a problem. The chart below identifies the percentage of responses that fell with in each category for each issue. A graphical representation of this information is on the following page.

Table 30: Perceived Problems

Issue	Big Problem	Small Problem	Not a Problem
Not enough affordable housing	27.9	29.6	42.6
Too much traffic	27.6	37.8	34.6
Hard to find parking on Street	24.4	39.1	36.5
Noise	20.3	42.7	36.9
Sidewalks need repair, or don't exist	18.5	36	45.5
Hard to cross street Safely	18.4	34.9	46.8
Streets are too dark at night	18.1	37.8	44.1
People Don't get involved in efforts to improve the community	17.7	46.6	35.7
Crime	14.2	61.9	23.9
Poor public Services	9.5	31.6	58.9
Distance from Parks	6.9	27.7	65.4
Public Transportation is too far, too limited or not available	6.4	24.9	68.7
Rundown or Abandoned buildings	5.9	24.1	70.1
Not Enough Arts or Cultural Activities	5.7	25.5	68.8
Too far from shopping, banks, or other needed services	4.8	18.7	76.4

This table conveys a significant amount of information, and a few particular trends helps illuminate things more clearly.

Perceived Problems

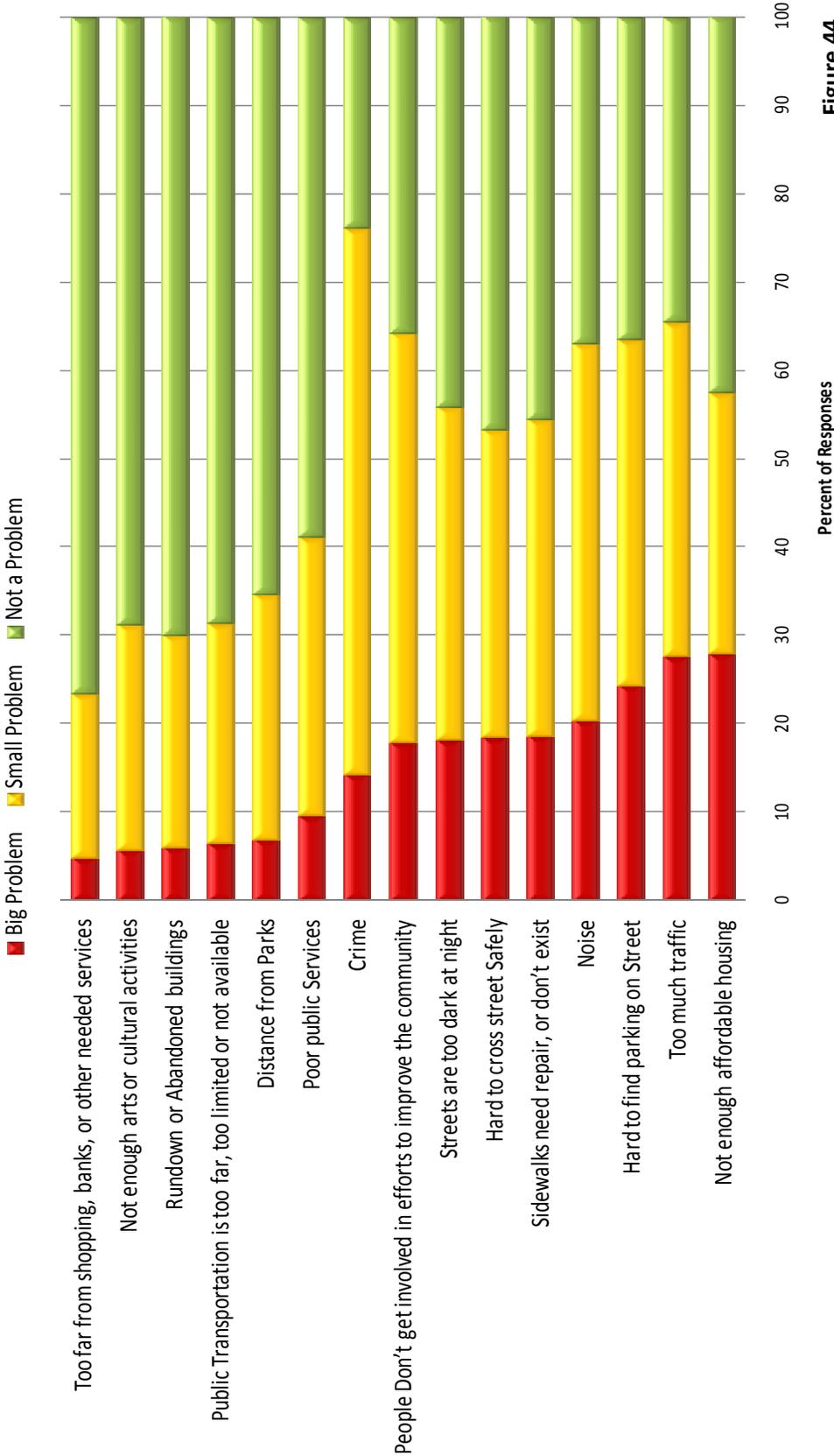


Figure 44

5.1.1 Non-problems

This question prompted respondents to consider the negative characteristic of their neighborhood, and rate how severe these problems were. While the phrasing of this questions posed these issues in a negative light, respondents still saw several issues as being non-problems. These 7 issues, nearly half the list, received more votes as “Not a Problem” as opposed to their combined votes of “Big Problem” and “Small Problem”. These issues were:

1. Too far from shopping, banks, or other needed services
2. Not enough arts or cultural activities
3. Rundown or Abandoned buildings
4. Not enough arts or cultural activities
5. Public Transportation is too far, too limited or not available
6. Distance from Parks
7. Poor public Services

These particular issues can be considered positives of living in Somerville, and allow city leaders to focus on the other half of the list and those issues that were considered to be more problematic. Taking a closer look at these other issues, we can better understand to what degree they need to be addressed.

5.1.2 Problems

The three options for each issue the survey gave where: big problem, small problem, or not a problem. If you add together the big problem and small problem categories, thus simplifying the responses to those that are simply “problems”, or “not a problem”, these issues were most frequently cited as problems:

Table 31: Most Frequently Cited as Problems

Issue	Big Problem		Small Problem		Problem	Not a Problem
Crime	14.2	+	61.9	=	76.1	23.9
Too much traffic	27.6	+	37.8	=	65.4	34.6
People Don't get involved in efforts to improve the community	17.7	+	46.6	=	64.3	35.7
Hard to find parking on Street	24.4	+	39.1	=	63.5	36.5
Noise	20.3	+	42.7	=	63.0	36.9

Interestingly, examining this table we can see that most respondents classified these issues as “Small problems.” If we want to understand what some of the most pressing problems are, we can look at those particular issues that received the most response as “Big Problems”. The chart below shows the five issues that were most frequently cited as “Big Problem”. Notable on this list is that “Not enough affordable housing” had the greatest number of these “Big Problem” votes, yet did not make the table above, those with the most overall “Problem” responses.

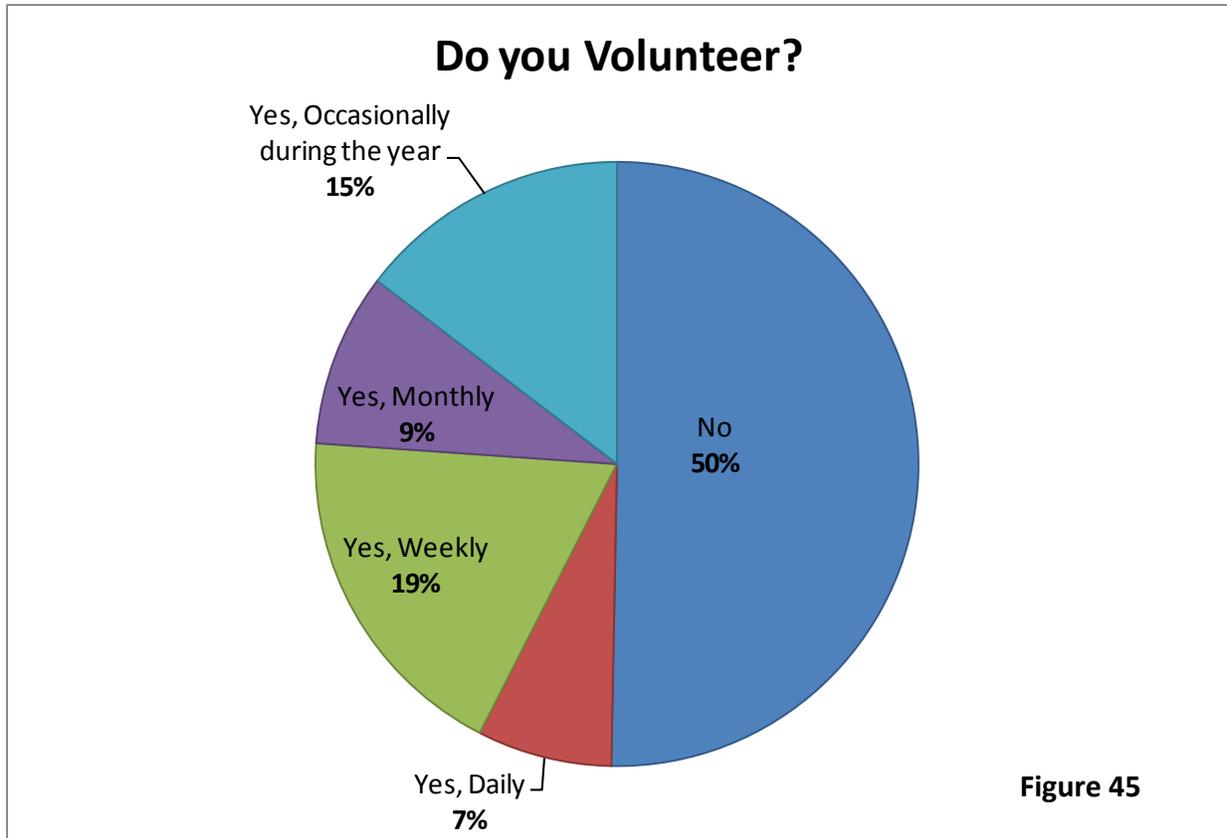
Table 32: Most Frequently Cited as “Big Problem”

Issue	Big Problem
Not enough affordable housing	27.9
Too much traffic	27.6
Hard to find parking on Street	24.4
Noise	20.3
Sidewalks need repair, or don't exist	18.5

It's possible to look at the responses from this question from a variety of angles, and the results can be interpreted in a number of ways. The most important take away though is this; this group of Somerville residents may be quick to cite an issue as a problem, but they generally classify these issues as small problems as opposed to big ones.

5.2 Volunteer Involvement

When asked about how frequently they volunteer residents 50 and over responded as follows:



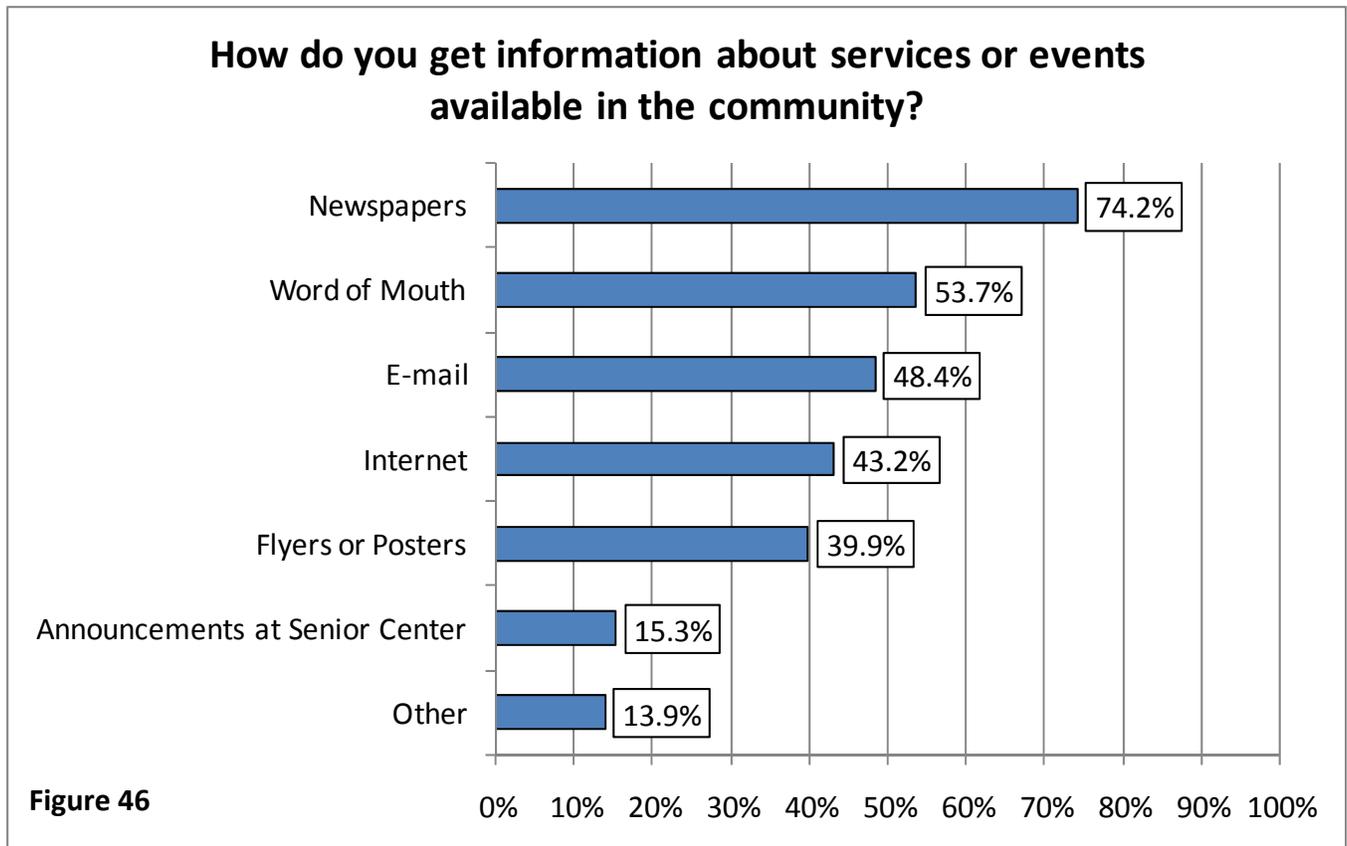
The split between those that do and do not volunteer is about equal, with 50.3% responding that do not volunteer, and 49.7% stating they do. The frequency at which those that volunteer reported engaging in these activities varied, with on a weekly basis (18.6%) being the most common response.

Respondents were asked to write in what organizations they volunteered with. Over 100 different organizations were mentioned, and some of the most frequently cited included:

- A church, temple, or religious organization
- Various local schools
- Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services
- Somerville Garden Club
- Various political groups
- Somerville Council on Aging

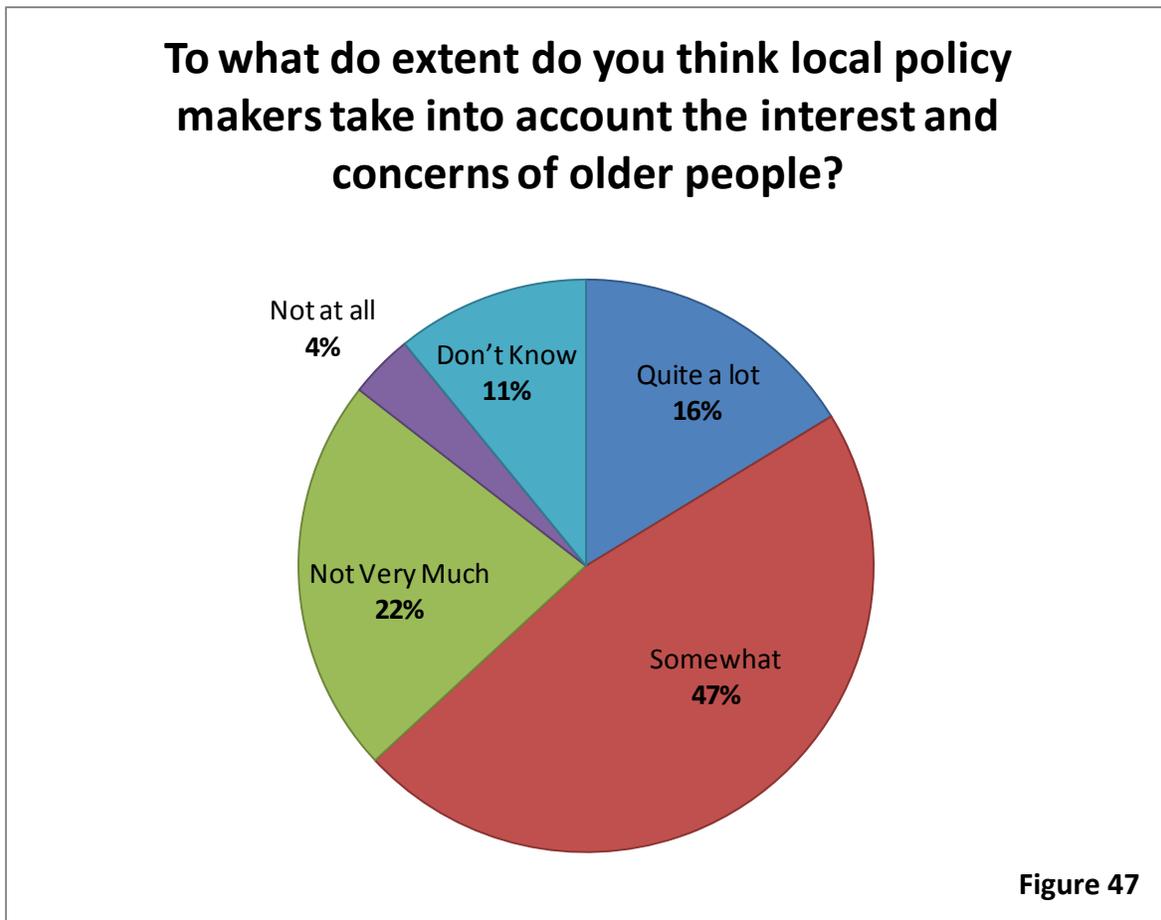
5.3 Accessing Information

One question we had when originally formulating this study, was how to best reach and inform this population on our survey efforts. This question posed several information outlets, and asked respondents to select which ones they got information from. Survey takers could select multiple outlets. The results are below.



5.4 Opinions of Policy Makers

When asked “To what do extent do you think local policy makers take into account the interest and concerns of older people?” the majority of people (61.9%) answered positively, that policy makers considered older people “Quite a lot” or “Somewhat”.



5.5 Access to Healthcare

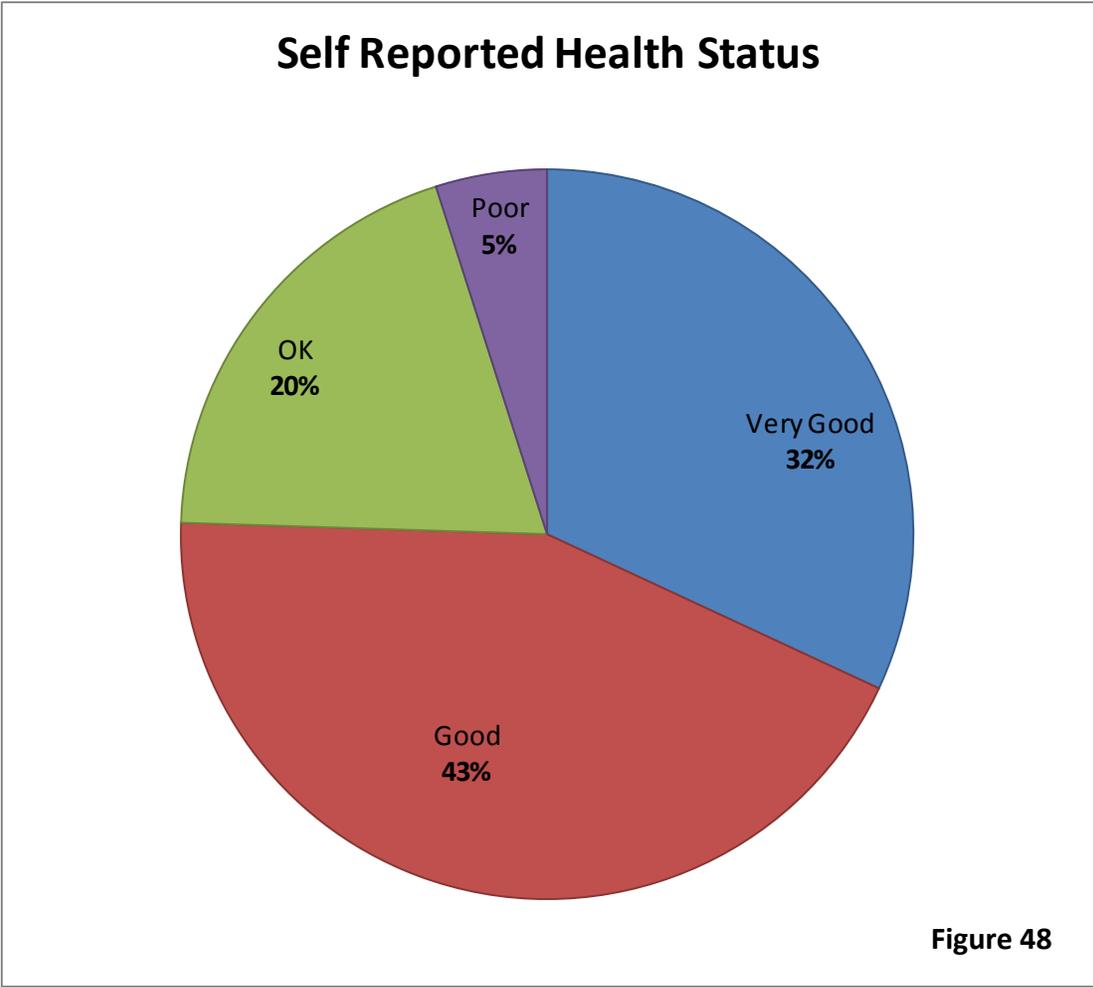
In hopes of gaining a better understanding of where Somerville residents ventured to receive health care, the survey listed 11 large health care facilities in Somerville, Cambridge and Boston. The survey also included a blank “Other” option in which respondents could enter any other facility that may not have been included. Given the frequency at which “Other” was selected, it was obvious that our list was woefully inadequate. Somerville’s location in the greater Boston area gives residents an array of high quality health care options, which make accessing appropriate care within reach.

Table 33: Where Residents Receive Health Care

Health Care Facility	Frequency
Mount Auburn Hospital	207
Other	118
Harvard Vanguard	110
Mass General Hospital	104
Somerville Hospital	96
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center	51
Brigham and Women’s Hospital	45
Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) Assembly Square	33
CHA Cambridge	31
CHA Broadway	28
Lawrence Memorial Hospital, Medford	25
Central Street Health Center	16
Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital	16
New England Baptist Hospital	15
Somerville Family Practice	10
Harvard Health	10
Union Square Family Health	7
Winchester Hospital	7
Veterans Administration, Jamaican Plain	4

5.6 Health Status

When asked to report on their current health status the great majority of people reported being in good health. Only 5 percent felt as though they were in poor health.



6. Retirement

As a person ages and exits the work force, certain issues may become more important. This set of questions asked respondents to think about their situation in the future, and consider what issues and concerns they imagine to be the most important as they age. The first set of questions focused on the attributes of the larger community, and then on characteristics of a housing community for elders. These responses can better inform leaders throughout the city as they strive to make Somerville a more inviting and comfortable place for people to age.

6.1 Community Retirement Issues

The survey respondents were given nine issues and asked to rate their relative importance when considering a place to retire. They could rank each characteristic on a 5 point scale ranging from Very Important, Important, Neutral, Less Important, Not Important. After tabulating and normalizing the data, the list ranks the issues from most to least important.

1. Access to grocery store with fresh fruits and vegetables
2. Safe Neighborhood
3. Access to health care and preventative services
4. Housing cost within my budget
5. Easy to get to trains and buses
6. Close to family or friends
7. Opportunity to volunteer and meet with others
8. Access to health club or gym
9. Access to senior center (Age 50+)

An opened ended question followed, that asked respondents to report any additional issues they considered important when considering where to retire. The most frequently cited included:

1. Desire to retire someplace that allowed for the access of cultural activities (27)
2. Good Weather (24)
3. Affordability (18)
4. A community that was walkable (13)
5. Some place that was quiet (12)
6. A place where residents were involved and active in the local community (11)
7. Desire to stay in their home if they could make the necessary modifications as they aged (7)
8. Property taxes were too high to remain in Somerville (6)
9. Need assistance with snow removal to stay in current home (5)

6.2 Living in a Retirement Building

The next question asked respondents to rate how likely it was they would move to a retirement community or building designed for older adults?

Table 34: Living in a Retirement Building

Likelihood of Moving to a Retirement Community/Building	Percent of Responses
I already do	7.7
Very likely in the future	8.7
Somewhat likely	29.2
Not too likely	20.5
Not at all likely	12.3
I'm not sure	21.6

About a third (“Very likely in the future” + Somewhat likely” = 37.9 percent) of people acknowledged there was a positive chance they would move into such a community, while another third (“Not too likely” + “Not at all likely” = 32.8 percent) did not think they would. Another fourth (21.6 percent) were unsure of the prospects of making such a move.

6.3 Retirement Building Characteristics

The next question posed the respondent a situation: If they had to move in to a retirement community or building designed for older adults, what would be the most important characteristics of such a new home? The survey listed 17 characteristics, and asked the survey taker to rank each on a five point scale from “Very Important” to “Not Important”. After normalizing and tabulating the data, the characteristics are listed below from most, to least important:

1. Enough space for family and friends to visit during the day
2. Walking distance to stores and services
3. Full Kitchen in my unit
4. Space to sit outside
5. Walking distance to the bus or train
6. Security systems in place
7. Equipped to handle health issues
8. Storage Space
9. Walking distance to parks
10. Community room where I can visit with other residents
11. Handicap Accessible
12. Enough space for family and friends to sleep overnight
13. Plenty of Parking Spaces
14. Space to serve holiday meals
15. Food prepared for me on site
16. Space to garden
17. Knowing some people before I move in

7. Staying in Somerville

The last set of questions aimed to understand two things: 1) how residents felt about staying in Somerville for the long term, and 2) how well equipped they are to do so in their current living situation. The desire to stay in Somerville was strong; nearly 75 percent of respondents expressed a desire to stay. Most rated their current homes as average places for older people to live, with few thinking of their homes as excellent in this regard. Respondents were more likely to cite their neighborhoods as above average places for older people as compared to their homes.

7.1 Homes and Neighborhoods for Older People

When questioning the suitability of respondents’ current residence as a place for older people to live, about half saw their homes as “Average”, and 41.1 percent rating their residence as “Above Average” or Excellent. When considering the same question in respect to their neighborhood, the response was even more positive; 54 percent responded “Excellent” or “Above Average”, about a third said “Average, and only 10 percent saw their neighborhood in a negative light as either “Below Average” or “Extremely Poor.”

Overall thinking about your current and future needs, how would you rate your current place of residence as a place for older people to live?

Table 35: Rating Current Residence

Opinion	Percent of Responses
Excellent	14.5
Above Average	26.6
Average	44.2
Below Average	12.1
Extremely Poor	2.5

Overall, thinking about your current and future needs, how would you rate your current neighborhood as a place for older people to live?

Table 36: Rating Current Neighborhood

Opinion	Percent of Responses
Excellent	20.3
Above Average	33.7
Average	36.4
Below Average	8.2
Extremely Poor	1.4

7.2 Desire to Stay

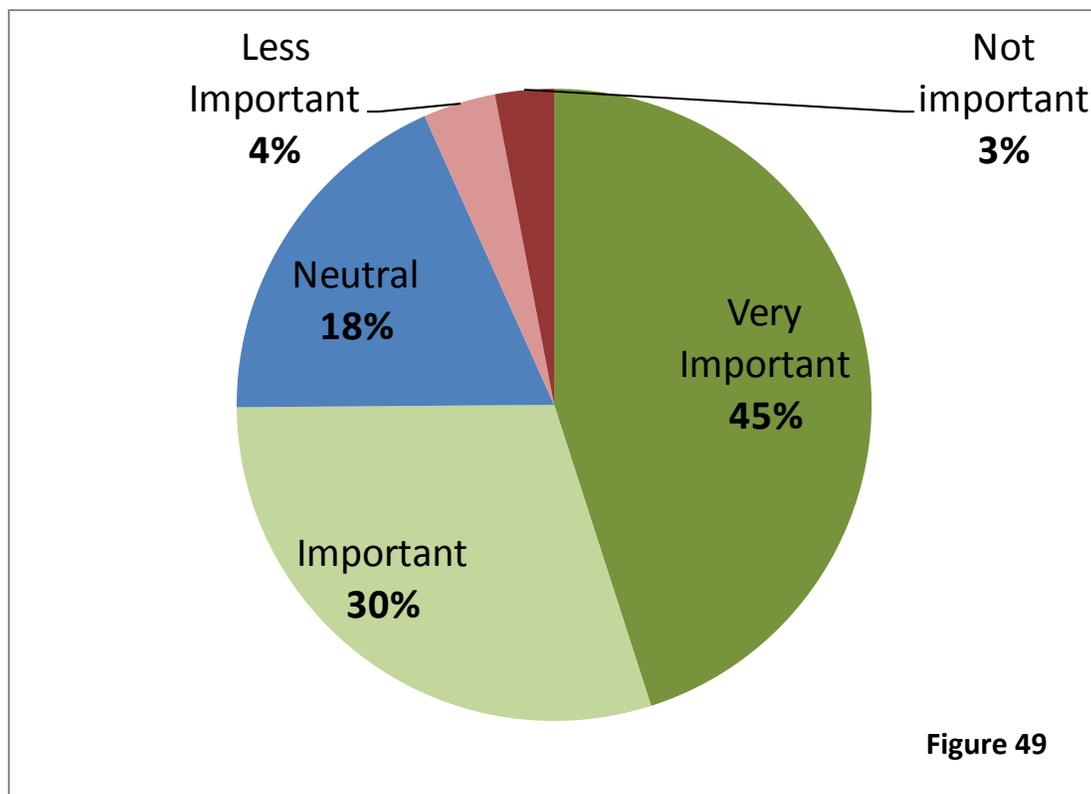
Nearly 75 percent of respondents cited it as either “Very Important” or “Important” to live in Somerville as long as possible. Just under 20 percent were neutral on this question, and only 6.7 percent did not consider this an important objective. An overwhelming number of the 50 plus population want to stay in Somerville for the long term.

How important is it to you that you continue to live in Somerville as long as possible?

Table 37: Staying in Somerville

Opinion	Percent of Responses
Very Important	45.0
Important	29.8
Neutral	18.4
Less Important	3.7
Not Important	3.0

How Important is it for you to live in Somerville for as long as possible?



Despite such an overwhelming expression to stay in Somerville, the prospects of doing so were less certain. Nearly a third expressed being unsure about whether or not they would move out of Somerville in the next 5 years.

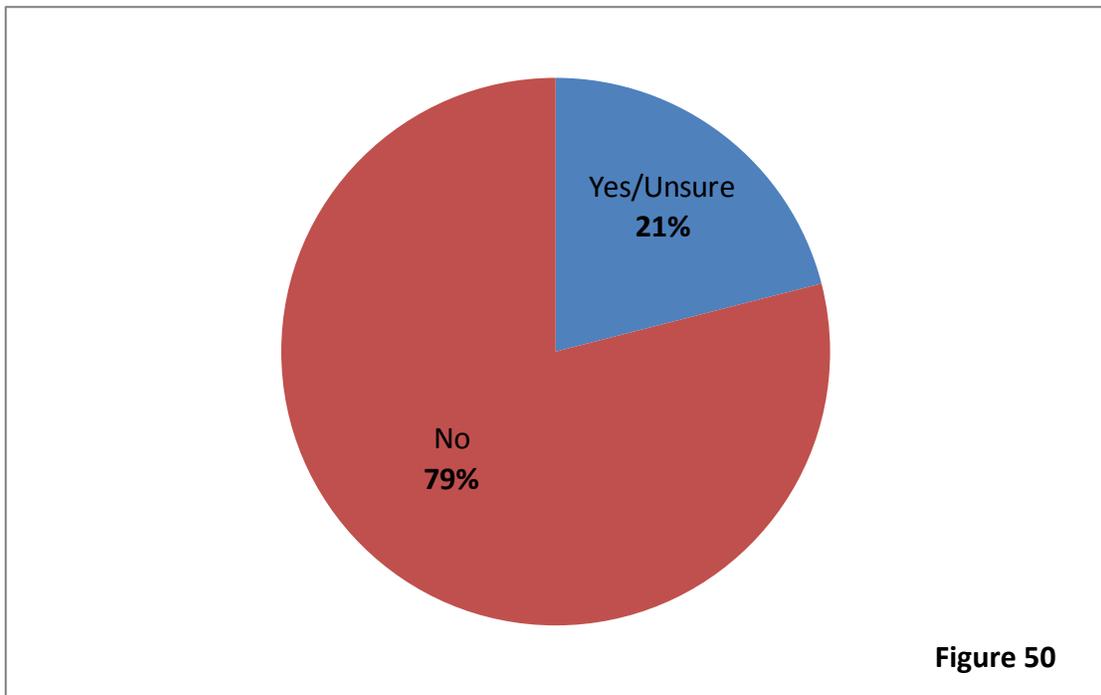
Do you see yourself moving out of Somerville in the next 5 years?

Table 38: Moving

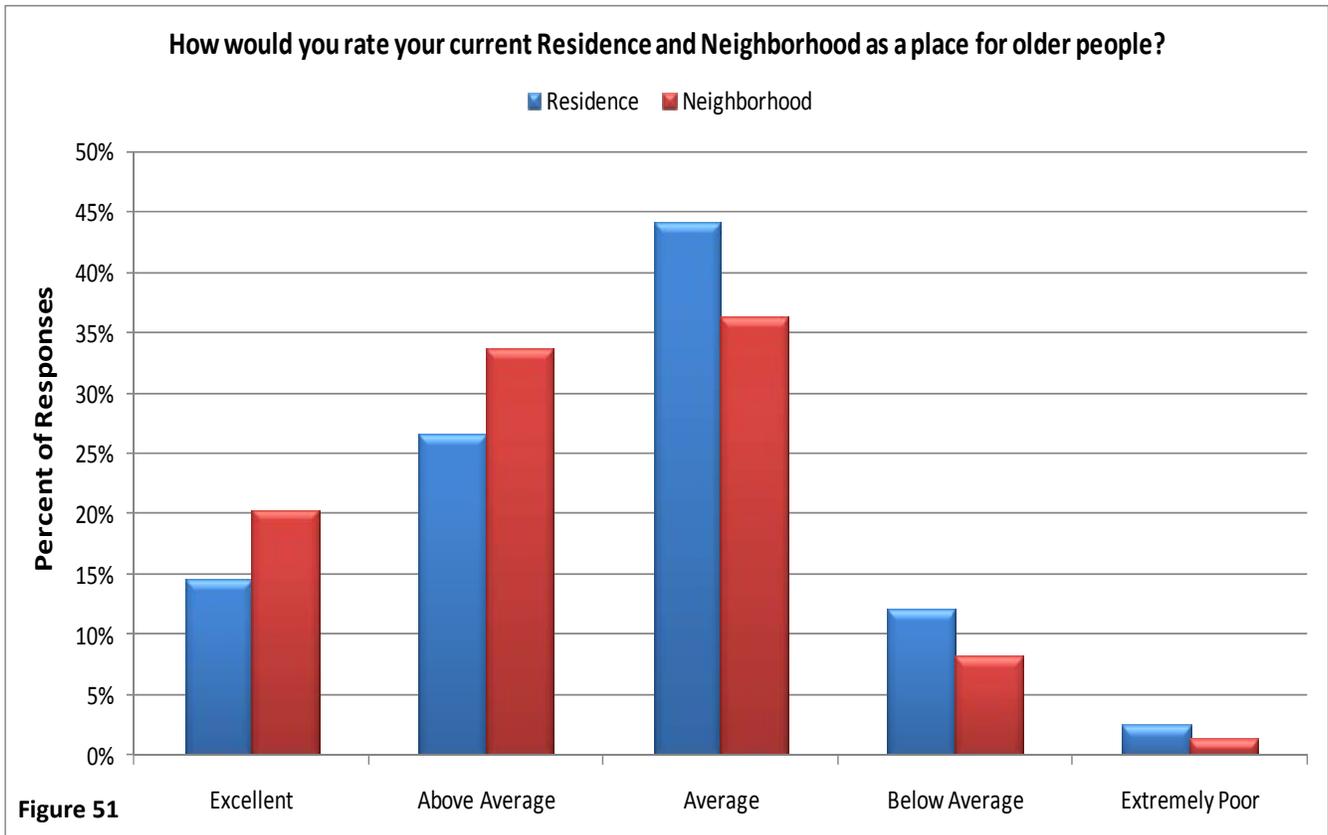
Moving out of Somerville	Percent of Responses
Yes	4.3
No	67.7
I am not sure	28.1

These results include all survey respondents, including those who don't have a strong desire to stay in Somerville. If we narrow this group, and focus on the approximately 75 percent of respondents who reported wanting to stay in Somerville as long as possible, we can see an even stronger desire to stay in Somerville. Most of these people did not seem themselves moving in the next 5 years; 79 percent reported they would not move, but 21 percent reported they may move in the coming years.

**Of those who consider it important to stay in the community:
Do you see yourself moving out of Somerville in the next 5 years?**



The next question addressed the adequacy of resident’s homes and neighborhoods as places for older people to live. By comparing these responses we can get a better feel for the urgency of these issues. Examining the figure below, we see that respondents more frequently rated their neighborhoods as ‘Excellent’ or ‘Above Average’, compared to their homes, which were most frequently cited as ‘Average’.



These responses demonstrate that organization and accessibility of neighborhoods, with nearby services, walkability, and close ties work in favor of residents as they age. The homes in these neighborhoods may represent a challenge for this cohort if they want to stay where they are.

8. Conclusions

This survey has provided a wealth of information and insights about the 50 and older population in Somerville. While the current population of 65 plus in Somerville hovers near 10 percent, the boomer cohort, those 45 to 64, constitute 19 percent; together making up nearly a third of the city's population. This group has laid the foundation for what makes Somerville a great place to live. During the last thirty years, the number of older residents has been steadily declining. While it is difficult to track down those that have chosen to leave the city, we can reach out to those that have stayed and understand what their concerns are, and how the city can best meet their needs as they age.

This survey initiative represents an important first step for the City. Concrete information can help policy makers and leaders throughout the community take action. This is an important jumping off point for the community. Armed with these insights, Somerville can begin to dig deeper into some of the issues that have emerged from this research, and begin to take actions on some of the most pressing concerns affecting these residents.

9. Appendix



Survey of Somerville Residents Age 50 and Older

This survey is also available online at:
<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/346382/Somerville-Residents-Age-50-and-Older>

All survey response will be anonymous. In no way will your personal information be connected to your answers in this survey.

1.) Which neighborhood of Somerville do you live in?

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ball Square | <input type="checkbox"/> Magoun Square | <input type="checkbox"/> Union Square |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cobble Hill | <input type="checkbox"/> Powder House | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward Two |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clarendon Hill | <input type="checkbox"/> Prospect Hill | <input type="checkbox"/> West Somerville |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Davis Square | <input type="checkbox"/> Spring Hill | <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Hill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East Somerville | <input type="checkbox"/> Teele Square | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure/Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gillman Square | <input type="checkbox"/> Ten Hills | |

2.) Which best describes your current residence?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single family home | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Two or three family home | <input type="checkbox"/> Assisted living |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apartment building (4 to 19 units) | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apartment building (20 or more units) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

3.) Who do you live with? Check all that apply:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No one, I live by myself | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Relatives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Partner | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend(s) or non-relatives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child(ren) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grandchild(ren) | |

4.) Including yourself, how many people live in your home?

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 or more

5.) Is your place of residence accessible for a person with a disability?

- Yes No Unsure

6.) Do you currently

- Own your residence
 Rent your residence (please skip to #14)
 Live with relatives or others and not responsible for paying housing costs (please skip to #14)



Questions 7 through 13 to be completed by homeowners

7.) If you will need home repairs or modifications in the next five years, which of these will need to be done on your current residence? Check all that apply

- Cosmetic or minor repairs (Example: painting, replacing screens, repairing leaky faucets, etc.)
- Structural changes (Example: adding a room or bathroom)
- Bathroom modification (Example: making showers accessible, installing grab bars)
- Better heating in the winter
- Better cooling in the summer
- Medical emergency response system
- Accommodations for disabilities (Example: Installing a wheelchair ramp or lift, widening doorways or hallways)
- Fix problem with insects or rodents
- Other: _____
- Not Applicable

8.) For how many years have you owned your home?

- 1-5 6-10 11-20 21-30 More than 30

9.) Have you paid off your mortgage?

- Yes No

10.) Have you faced any difficulty making your monthly mortgage payments?

- Yes No Not Applicable

11.) Are you aware of the foreclosure prevention services available to you?

- Yes No Not Applicable

12.) If you own a multi family home or apartment building, are there rental units at your property you have chosen not to rent?

- Yes No Not applicable

Please explain: _____



13.) If you own a home, how are you able to complete normal maintenance to keep your units livable? Check all that apply.

I am able to maintain my property on my own.

I have a close friend or family member who helps me maintain the property.

I have difficulty physically completing all the maintenance needed on the property.

I can not afford to complete all the maintenance needed on the property.

I do not have the time to take care of all the maintenance needed on the property.

I have difficulty maintaining my unit for other reasons

14.) What percentage of your annual income do you spend on housing related expenses?

- 30% or less 30% to 50% 50% to 75% 75% or more

15.) Do you agree with this statement, "I would like to continue to live in my current residence as long as possible"?

- Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

16.) Do you agree with the following statement: "I will be able to afford to live in my current residence as long as I would like to."?

- Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

17.) How often do you use the following forms of transportation?

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	On Occasion	Never
Drive my own personal vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/>				
T or Subway	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Buses	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Taxi	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Bicycle	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The Ride, SCM, Door 2 Door or other community ride services	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Get rides from family or friends	<input type="checkbox"/>				



18.) How important are the following transportation issues to you?

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Less Important	Not Important
Access to public transportation	()	()	()	()	()
Safe conditions for pedestrians	()	()	()	()	()
Safe conditions for cyclists	()	()	()	()	()
Road conditions for drivers	()	()	()	()	()
Availability of parking spaces	()	()	()	()	()
Affordable driving alternatives such as community vans and volunteer drivers	()	()	()	()	()
Other: _____	()	()	()	()	()

19.) How satisfied are you with the following with aspects of public transportation (MBTA trains and buses) in your neighborhood?

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
How often they come	()	()	()	()	()
Schedules and times when they come	()	()	()	()	()
Locations of stops in relation to my home	()	()	()	()	()
Routes that take me where I want to go	()	()	()	()	()

20.) Indicate to what degree the following issues are a problem in your neighborhood.

	Big Problem	Small Problem	Not a Problem
Crime	()	()	()
Distance from parks	()	()	()
Hard to find parking on the street	()	()	()
Hard to cross the street safely	()	()	()
Noise	()	()	()
Not enough affordable housing	()	()	()
Not enough arts or culture activities	()	()	()
People don't get involved in efforts to improve the community	()	()	()
Sidewalks need repair, or don't exist	()	()	()
Streets are too dark at night	()	()	()
Poor public services (i.e. garbage, snow removal)	()	()	()
Public transportation is too far, too limited, or not available	()	()	()
Rundown or abandoned buildings	()	()	()
Too far from shopping, banks, or other needed services	()	()	()
Too much traffic	()	()	()

Are there any other issues you consider to be problems in your neighborhood not mentioned here? _____



21.) In the past week I...

	Yes	No
Went to church, temple, or other place of worship, for services or activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Went to a movie	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attended a play	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attended a concert	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ate at a restaurant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Went to a sporting event	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attended a club meeting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Went to another social activity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Got together with friends or neighbors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gardened in a community garden, or with the Garden Club	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gardened in my own garden	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Took a walk in my neighborhood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attended an event at a Senior Center (Cross Street, Holland Street, or Ralph & Jenny Center)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

22.) What type of events, activities, or programming would bring you into a senior community center?

23.) Do you participate in any volunteering activities?

No Yes, Daily Yes, Weekly Yes, Monthly Yes, occasionally during the year

If yes, what organizations do you volunteer with? _____

24.) How do you get information about services or events available in the community?

Check all that apply.

- Newspapers
- Announcements at Senior Center
- E-mail
- Flyers or Posters
- Internet
- Word of Mouth
- Other: _____

25.) Where do you go to receive the health care services you need? Check all that Apply

- Somerville Hospital
- Mount Auburn Hospital
- Massachusetts General Hospital
- Cambridge Health Alliance Assembly Sq.
- CHA Broadway Health Center
- Central Street Health Center
- Union Square Family Health
- Brigham And Women's Hospital
- Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital
- Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
- New England Baptist Hospital
- Other: _____



26.) How would you describe your current health status?

- Very Good Good OK Poor Very Poor

27.) To what extent do you think that local policy makers take into account the interest and concerns of older people?

- Quite a lot Somewhat Not very much Not at all Don't know

28.) When considering a city or neighborhood to live in after retirement, how important are the following factors to you?

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Less Important	Not Important
Access to grocery store with fresh fruits and vegetables	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Access to health care and preventive services	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Access to a health club or gym	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Access to senior center (age 50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Close to family and friends	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Easy to get to buses and trains	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Housing cost within my budget	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Safe neighborhood	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Opportunity to volunteer and meet with others	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Are there any other factors you consider especially important when deciding where you will retire? _____

29.) How likely is it that you will some day move to a retirement community or building designed for older adults?

- I already do
 Very likely in the future
 Somewhat likely
 Not too likely
 Not at all likely
 I'm not sure



30.) If you were to move out of your current home to a retirement community or a building designed for older adults, how important would the following be?

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Less Important	Not Important
Community room where I can visit with other residents	<input type="radio"/>				
Enough space for family and friends to sleep overnight	<input type="radio"/>				
Enough space for family and friends to visit during the day	<input type="radio"/>				
Equipped to handle health issues	<input type="radio"/>				
Food prepared for me on site	<input type="radio"/>				
Full kitchen in my unit	<input type="radio"/>				
Handicap accessible	<input type="radio"/>				
Knowing some people before I move in	<input type="radio"/>				
Plenty of parking space	<input type="radio"/>				
Space to garden	<input type="radio"/>				
Space to sit outside	<input type="radio"/>				
Storage space	<input type="radio"/>				
Walking distance to the bus or train	<input type="radio"/>				
Walking distance to parks	<input type="radio"/>				
Walking distance to stores and services	<input type="radio"/>				
Security systems in place	<input type="radio"/>				
Space to serve holiday meals	<input type="radio"/>				

31.) Overall, thinking about your current and future needs, how would you rate your current place of residence as a place for older people to live?

- Excellent Above Average Average Below Average Extremely Poor

32.) Overall, thinking about your current and future needs, how would you rate your current neighborhood as a place for older people to live?

- Excellent Above Average Average Below Average Extremely Poor

33.) How important is it to you that you continue to live in Somerville as long as possible?

- Very Important Important Neutral Less Important Not Important



34.) Do you see yourself moving out of Somerville in the next 5 years?

- Yes No I am not sure

Please explain: _____

35.) Do you have any other additional thoughts, concerns, or ideas about the senior population in Somerville?

Background Information

This background information is for analytic purposes only, and is meant to help us better understand the constituents who fill out this survey.

36.) Gender

- Male Female

37.) How old are you?

- 50-55 66-70
 56-60 71-80
 61-65 80+

38.) How long have you lived in Somerville?

- less than 5 years 16 to 20 years
 5 to 10 years 21 to 25 years
 11 to 15 years More than 25 years

39.) What is your race?

- White/Caucasian
 Black/African-American
 Asian/Pacific Islander
 Native American/Alaska Native
 Other/Multi-Racial

40.) Are you Hispanic or Latino?

- Yes No

41.) What is your current marital status?

- Married Separated/Divorced
 Widowed Never Married

42.) What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- 12th grade or less
 Graduated high school or equivalent
 Some college, no degree
 Associate degree
 Bachelor's degree
 Advanced degree

43.) What is your current employment status?

- Employed Full Time Retired
 Employed Part Time Unemployed

44.) What is your annual household income?

- Less than \$20,000 \$45,001 to \$90,000
 \$20,001 to \$35,000 \$90,001 to \$100,000
 \$35,001 to \$45,000 \$100,001 or more