



TOWN OF RIVERVIEW SENIORS ROUNDTABLE AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY REPORT

2023



A voice in the community...Making things happen.

VISION

As Canada's population ages, it is especially important to support older Canadians in the places where they live. Making communities age-friendly holds promise as an effective way to help seniors remain healthy, active and independent, and contribute to their families and communities (World Health Organization, 2007).

In an age-friendly community, the policies, services and structures related to the physical and social environment are designed to help seniors "age actively." In other words, the community is set up to help seniors live safely, enjoy good health and stay involved.

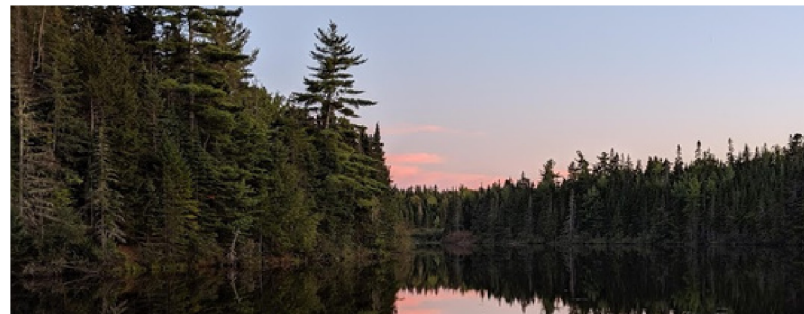
In an age-friendly community...

- outdoor areas and public buildings are pleasant, safe and accessible;
- housing is affordable, safe and well designed for seniors;
- roads and walkways are accessible and kept in good shape;
- public transportation is affordable and accessible;
- neighbourhoods are safe;
- relationships are respectful;
- health and community support services are available;
- opportunities for seniors to be socially active exist;
- seniors can take part in volunteer, political and employment positions; and
- information is easy to find and easy to understand.

MISSION

Ensure that Riverview is providing adequate support and access to our aging population across the following nine categories:

- Outdoor spaces and buildings
- Transportation
- Housing
- Policing and public safety
- Social participation
- Respect and social inclusion
- Civic participation and employment
- Communication and information
- Community support & health services





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

03

The Town of Riverview Seniors Roundtable was established in 2006 following the adoption of a council motion to advise Mayor and Council on policies, programs, and services to support the quality of life for seniors in Riverview.

As part of Mayor and Council's Strategic Plan, an action item was created under the "Active & Engaged Community" pillar to enlist the Seniors Roundtable to provide a resolution for Council to consider having Riverview designated as an Age-Friendly Community as per the New Brunswick Government Age-Friendly Community Recognition Program. An Age Friendly Ad hoc committee was established to provide recommendations on how the community can become more Age-Friendly.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines an age friendly community as a place that has an inclusive accessible urban environment that promotes active aging. It is well known that age-friendly initiatives will assist seniors in living safe, healthy lives and participating fully in society. The Town of Riverview has a population of 19,441 (2021)[Profile table, Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population - Riverview, Town \(TV\) \[Census subdivision\], New Brunswick](#)

The New Brunswick government is encouraging municipalities around the province to accommodate seniors through a recognition program. To be recognized for the age-friendly efforts, demonstration of a community's commitment to age-friendly principles through community engagement and action, requires:

1. a supporting resolution by Council
2. the establishment of an Age-Friendly Advisory Committee
3. the completion of an age-friendly community assessment
4. the establishment of a comprehensive action plan

Terms of Reference, were developed to guide the work of the committee: The New Brunswick Age-Friendly Recognition Program recognizes success and encourages the Town of Riverview residents to take sustainable action towards becoming age-friendly.



Mandate of the Committee

- The Age-Friendly Committee has been set up as an advisory to Council
- Serve as a champion for age-friendly in the community by helping to develop the action plan and encourage implementation
- Obtain formal commitment by having a resolution adopted
- Work with other members to coordinate the approach between the council, citizens, service providers and community organization to make the community age-friendly
- Provide awareness of the age-friendly approach and domains to residents
- Strive to represent the interest of older adults
- Develop assessment/ survey to be shared with citizens to assess the needs of the community
- Monitor progress being made to implement initiatives in the action plan
- Commit to renew the action plan every three years
- Keep communication lines open to residents of the age-friendly initiative including who is serving on the committee

Operations/Administration

- The Advisory Committee will meet at least four times a year at a time and place determined by the Committee.
- Administrative support will be provided by a Liaison Councillor appointed by the mayor

Term of Membership / Timeframe for Committee

- The Committee is a standing Committee that will serve for three years, however, it is expected that members of the Roundtable can serve if they wish. If a member retires from the Committee a new member will be sought from the Seniors Roundtable.

Resolution

On September 21, 2022, a resolution was given to Town Council outlining background information as set out in the executive summary with the following recommendation:

“That the Town of Riverview Council commit to the age-friendly recognition program and participate, support, promote and work with the Town of Riverview Seniors Roundtable working group to implement age-friendly initiatives within our community.”

The Age-Friendly Ad Hoc Advisory Committee was formed of the following members from the Seniors Roundtable - Jane Dunnett, Lyn MacNeill, Tanya Thompson, Pamela O'Brien and Councillor Cecile Cassista, Liaison. As a step towards gathering pertinent information in completing a community needs assessment, the ad hoc committee developed a detailed community survey during June, July, August 2022.



Approach of the survey

- A questionnaire was designed to solicit information from its senior residents (50 years and over) on their perceptions, awareness, and use of the system of services and support for seniors.
- The questionnaire was also designed and used to capture information associated with the World Health Organization (WHO) domain categories that are the basis for Age-Friendly Initiatives.
- A total of sixty questions were the main part of the questionnaire. Written comments could also be added at the end of the questionnaire. The average time to complete the questionnaire was 20 minutes.
- Residents had the choice to complete the survey on-line through the Town's website or by paper format with help if requested.
- The survey questionnaire was adapted and used with permission from the Village of New Maryland Senior Survey Committee.
- The survey started January to March 2023. Several means were used to encourage residents to complete the questionnaire, website, social media, e-mail, Town Council, local businesses community, seniors' organizations, focus groups, phone outreach, Roger Cable TV, churches, and seniors' events such as cards parties.

Key Survey Results

A total of 512 responses were received from individuals who are fifty plus. The Committee found many seniors were not comfortable using today's technology, making the outreach more challenging for the committee to conduct its survey. The survey results can be said to be representative of the Town of Riverview population.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

06

The Seniors Roundtable would like to express their sincere gratitude to all residents who took the time to provide valuable feedback to make Riverview a Great Place to... Age. Without their input, none of this would have been possible.

Our special thanks to Town Council and staff for their guidance and support. We would like to highlight the dedication of the Town of Riverview's Communications Department, who helped immensely in digitizing and promoting the survey, as well as preparing this report. Thank you to Riverview businesses, organizations and places of worship who graciously assisted by sharing the survey notices and providing financial sponsorship of our efforts. This was a valuable process and community effort to make this survey a success.

Business & Organizations

- Town of Riverview
- Shannex Incorporated (Riverview)
- Jean Coutu
- Grass Home
- Lounsbury Automotive Limited
- Riverview Lions Club
- Riverview Guardian Pharmacy
- Giant Tiger
- Homestead Restaurant
- Just Fit Fitness Centre
- Atlantic Superstore
- The Marvelous Holy Bowly
- Luxe Salon
- Old Time Meat Market
- Silvery Moon Restaurant
- Kwong's Chinese Restaurant
- Explore Nature's Bounty
- Kinsmen Apartments
- McCormack Apartments
- Argus Audiology
- Cobbs Funeral Home & Cremation Center
- Taylor Ford Lincoln
- Sally Forster REALTOR® RE/MAX Avante
- Hayward Healthy Home Solutions
- Lakeview Tower Inc.
- Sobeys (Riverview)
- Riverview Seniors Club
- GerryColeRealtor
- Kent Building Supplies (Riverview)
- Holy Whale Beer Hall
- Shoppers Drug Mart
- Inglis Jewellers
- King Krown Barber shop
- Tim Hortons (Riverview)
- Bravo Pizza
- Riverview Arts Centre
- Buckingham Place
- Woodside Realty Apartments
- Atlantic Event Décor

Places of Worship

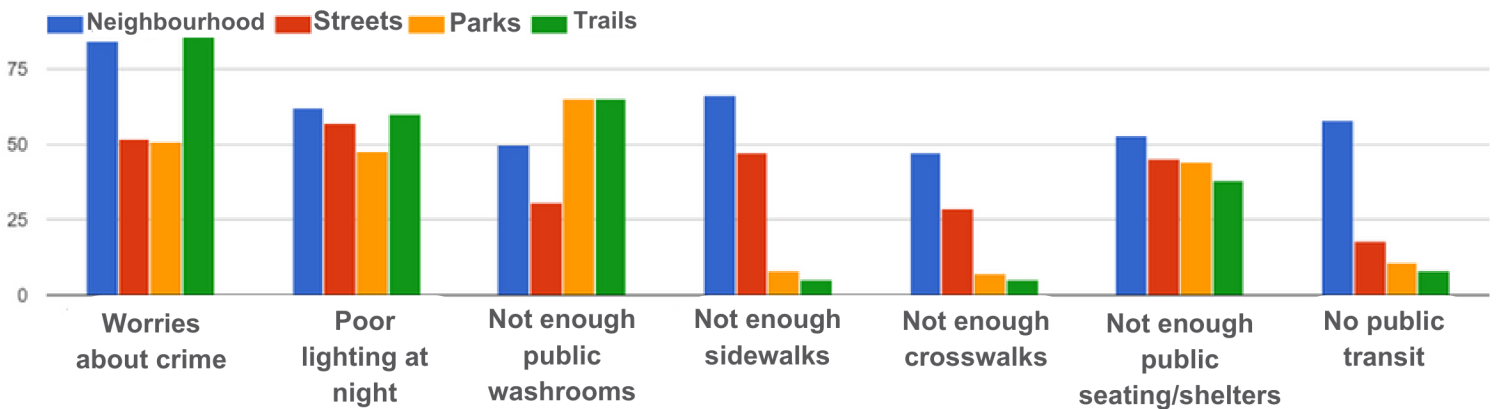
- St. John the Baptist Anglican
- Immaculate Heart of Mary
- Trinity United Church
- The Journey Church
- Bethel Presbyterian Church
- Victory Life Centre
- Gunningsville Baptist Church

THE DATA

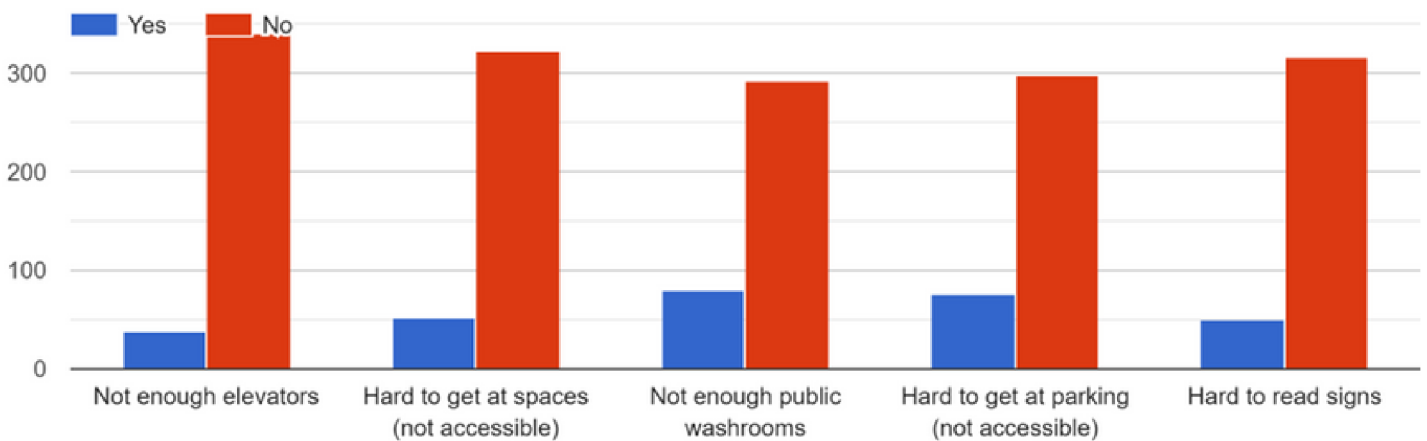
07

OUTDOOR SPACES AND BUILDINGS

Have any of the following kept you from using public outdoor spaces in Riverview?



Have any of the following kept you from using buildings in Riverview?

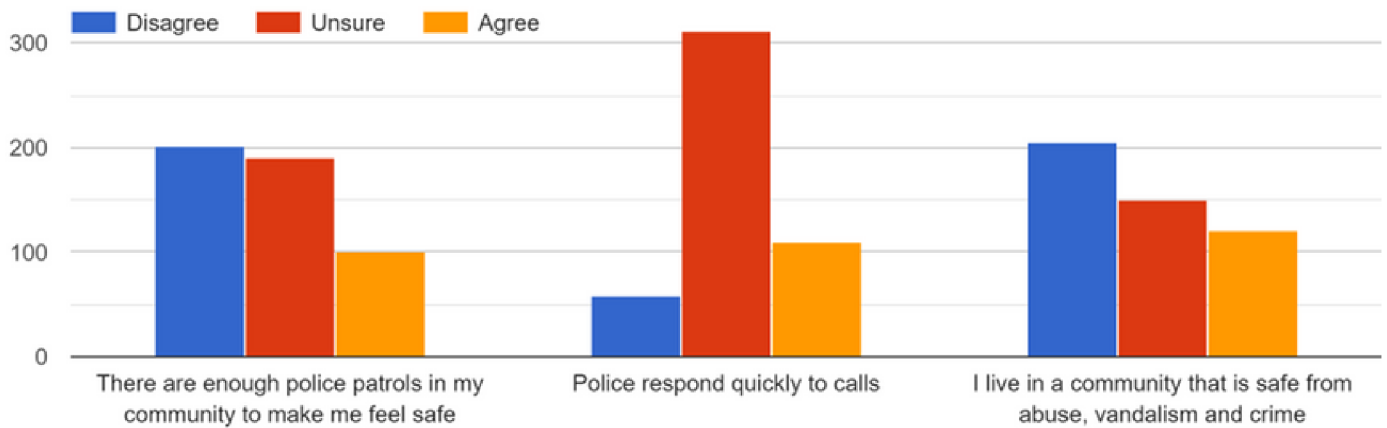


THE DATA

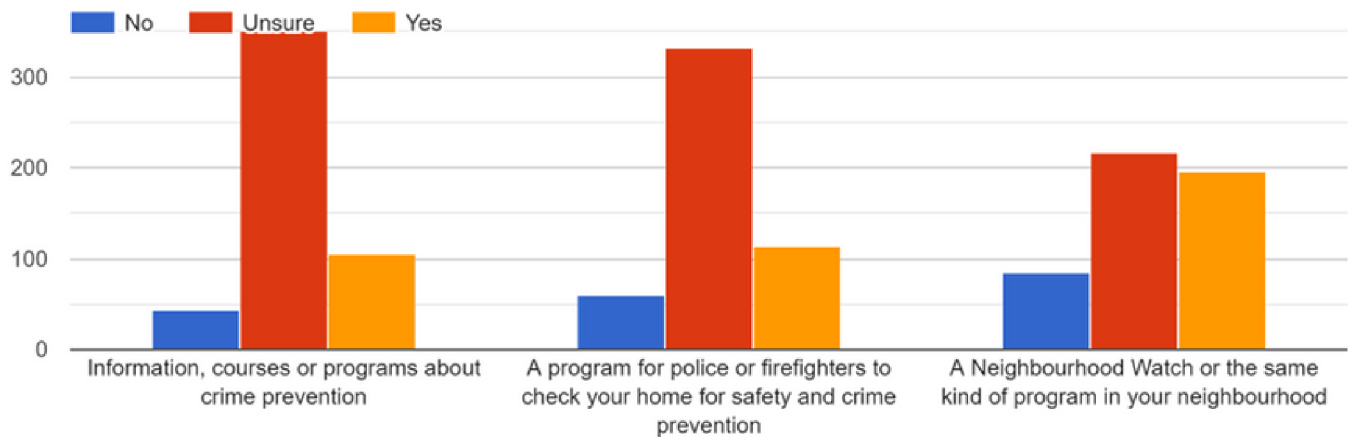
08

POLICING & PUBLIC SAFETY

Please share your opinion about each of the following statements.



As far as you know, does Riverview have the following?



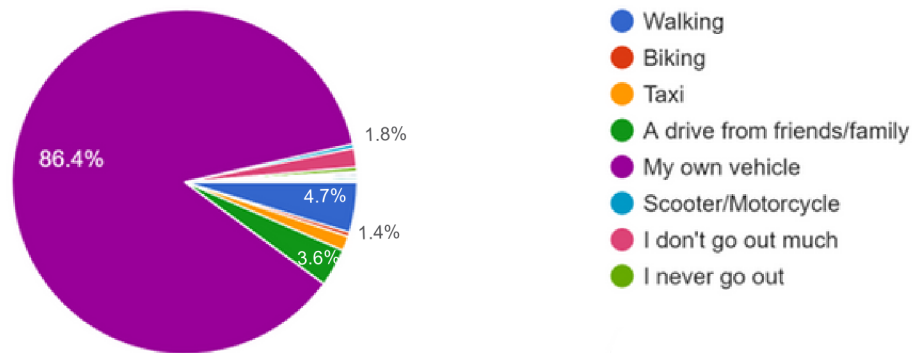
THE DATA

09

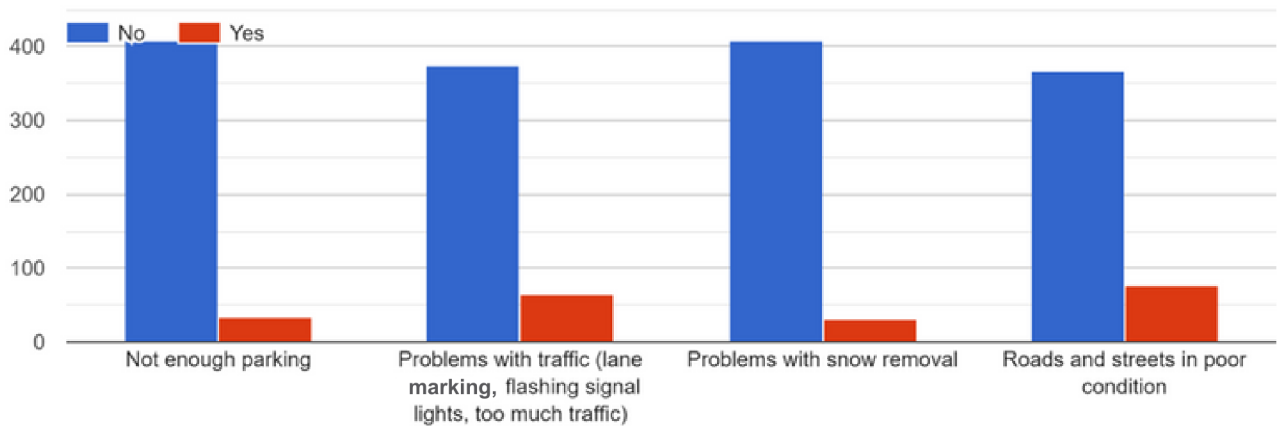
TRANSPORTATION

How do you usually get around in Riverview? (check the one you do most often)

507 responses



If you have a vehicle (car, truck or motorcycle): Have any of the following kept you from using your vehicle as much as you would like for getting around in Riverview?

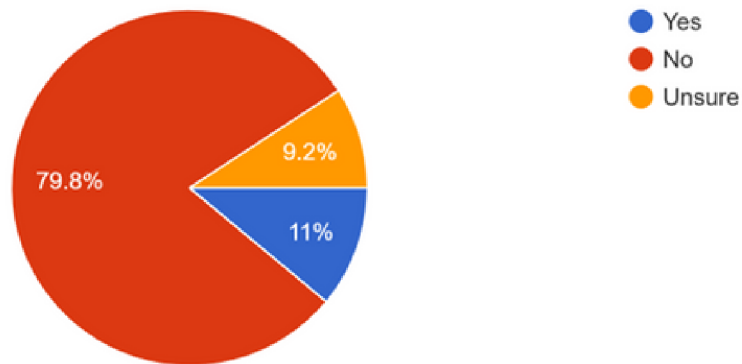


THE DATA

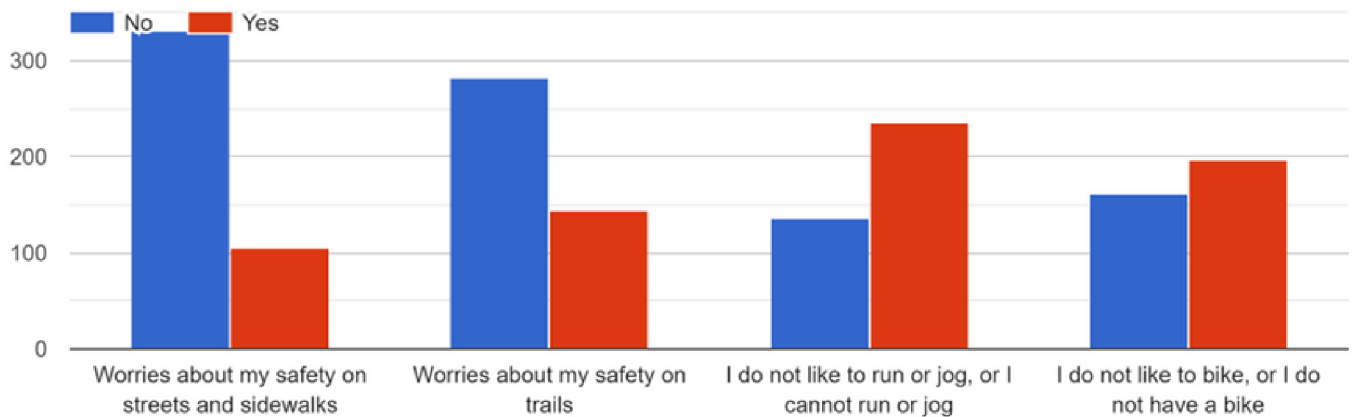
10

Has the lack of bus service kept you from getting around?

489 responses



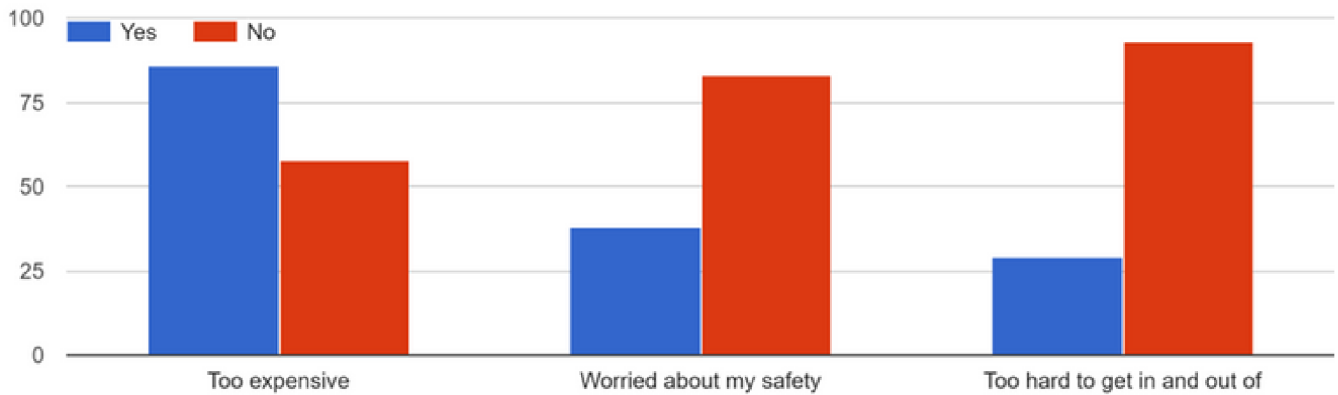
Have any of the following kept you from walking, running, jogging or biking to get around in Riverview?



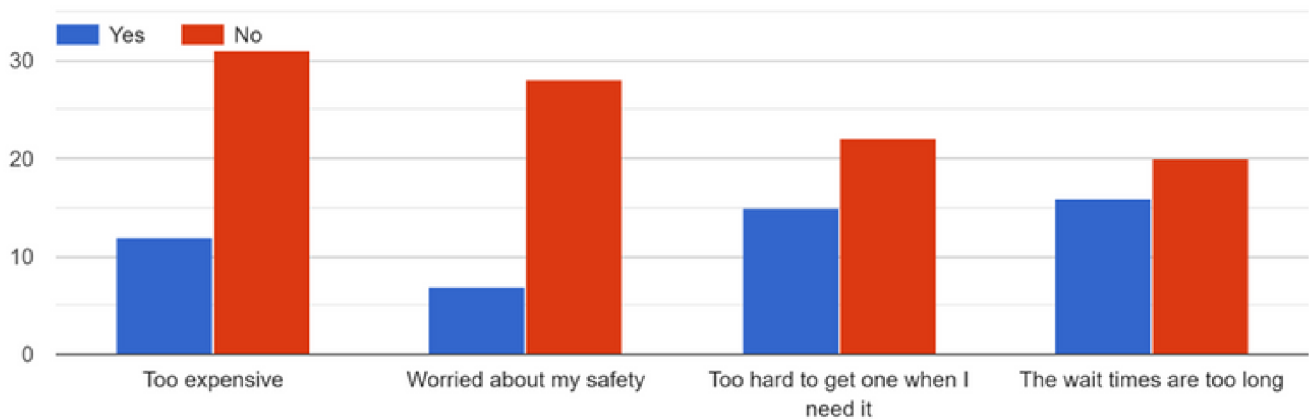
THE DATA

11

Answer only if you want to use taxis: Have any of the following kept you from using taxis as much as you want to get around?



Answer only if you want to use a wheelchair: Have any of the following kept you from using buses or shuttles that are made for wheelchairs as much as you want to get around?

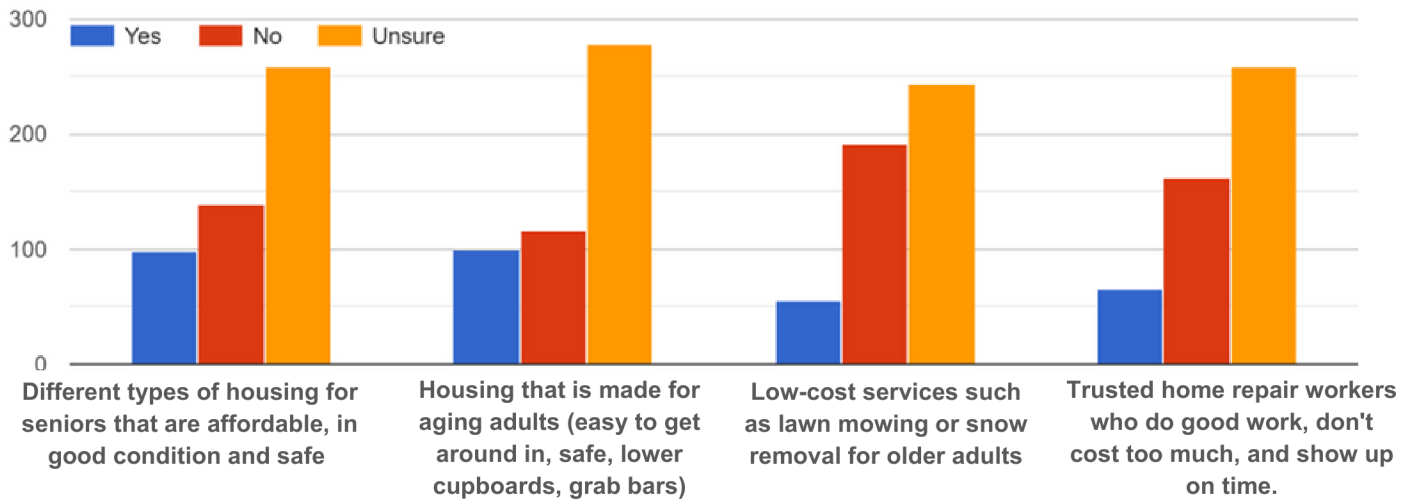


THE DATA

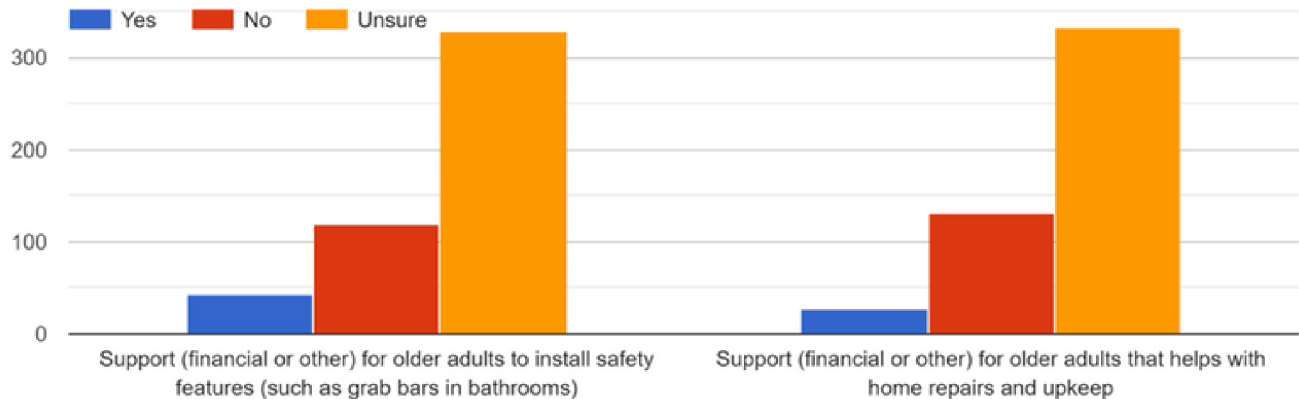
12

HOUSING

In your opinion, does Riverview have the following?



As far as you know, are the following programs available for seniors in Riverview and surrounding areas?

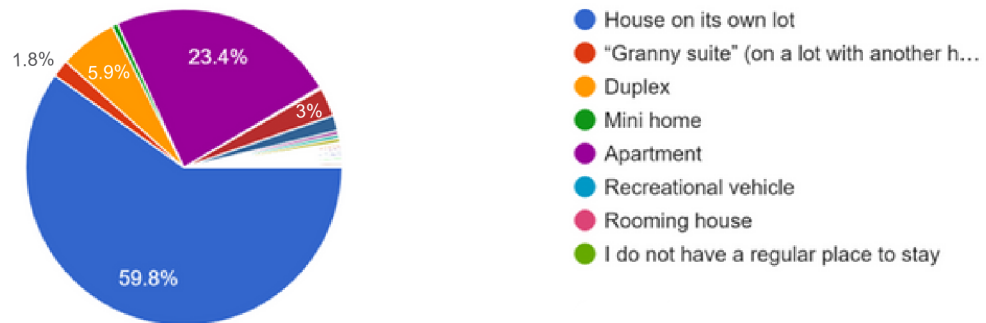


THE DATA

13

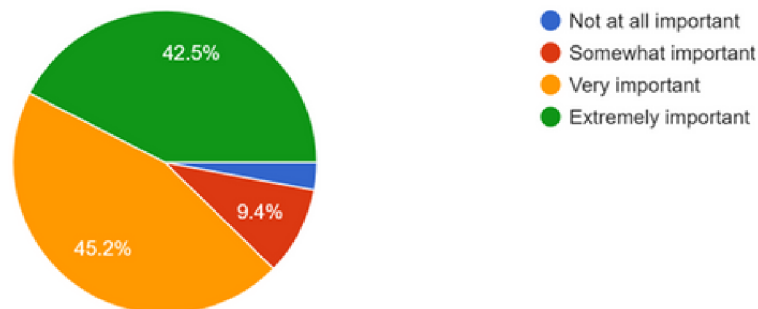
What type of housing are you living in now? (Check one answer that is closest to being right)

508 responses



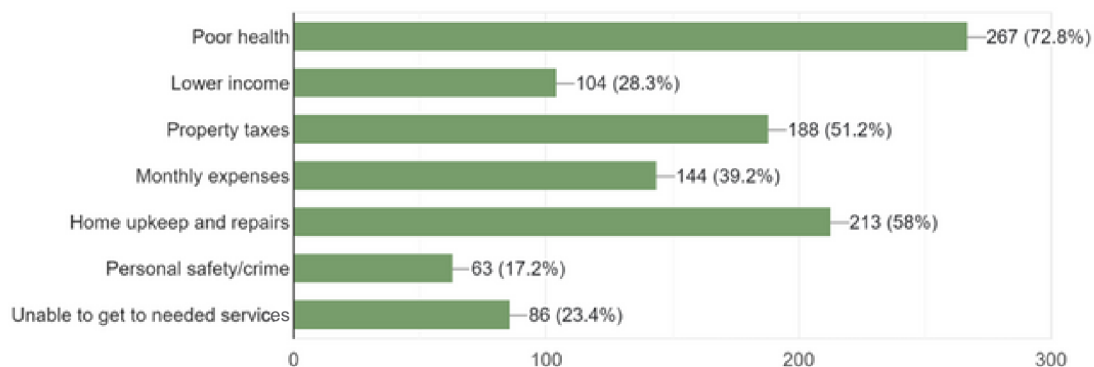
How important is it for you to be able to live in your own home without special help as you age?

478 responses



If you currently live in your own home: Do you expect that any of the following might stop you from being able to stay in your home in the coming years? (Check all that apply)

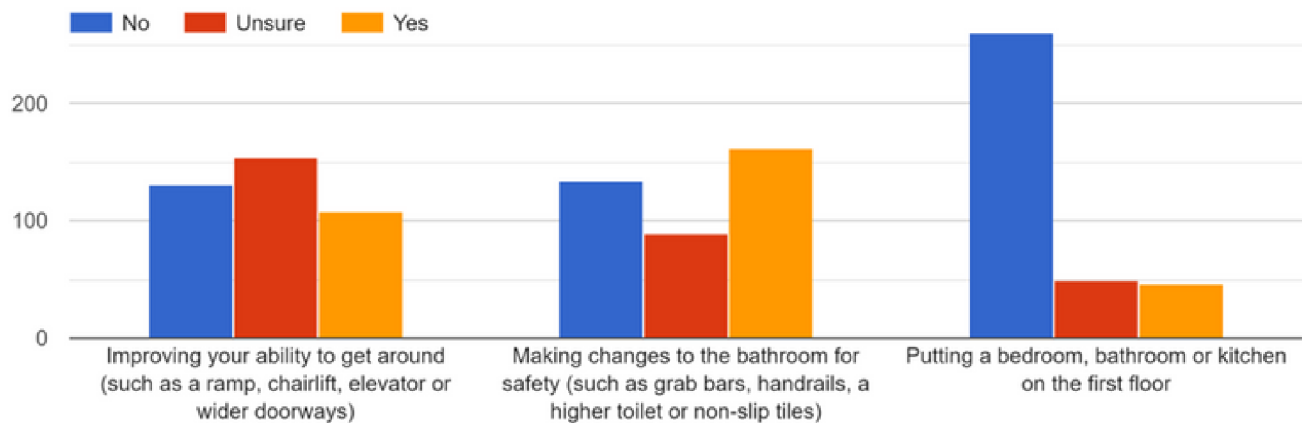
367 responses



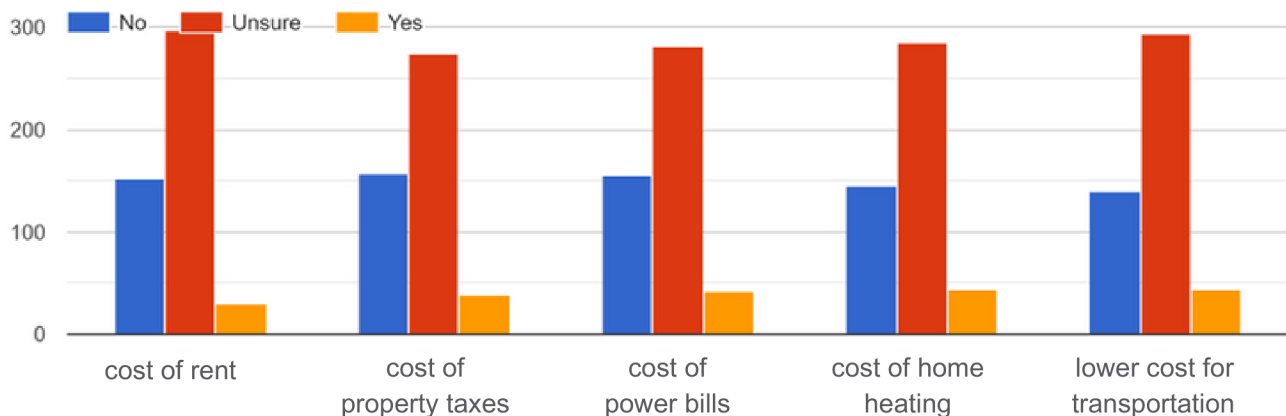
THE DATA

14

Do you think you will need to make any of the following changes to your home so that you can stay there as you age? (Check all that apply)



As far as you know, are the following cost-saving programs available for seniors in Riverview and surrounding areas?

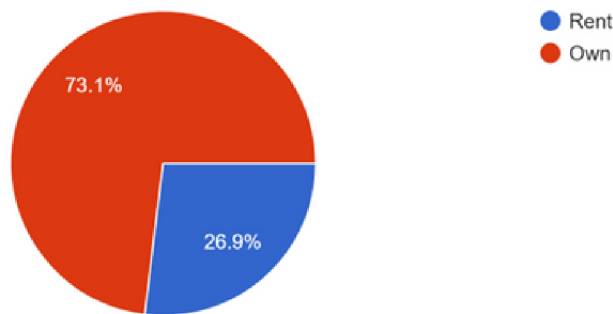


THE DATA

15

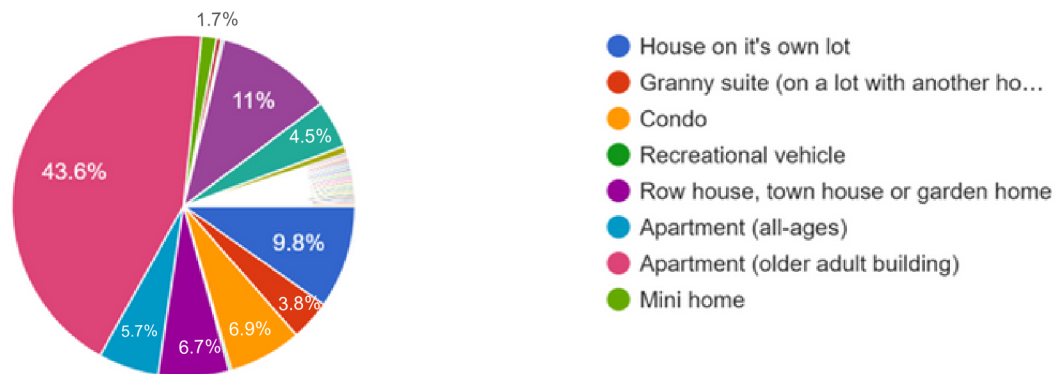
Do you pay rent or do you own the place where you are living?

501 responses



If you do plan to move, or if you may have to move in the future: What type of housing would you look for? (Check one answer that is the most likely one)

420 responses



If you expect to move: Where would your future home most likely be?

428 responses

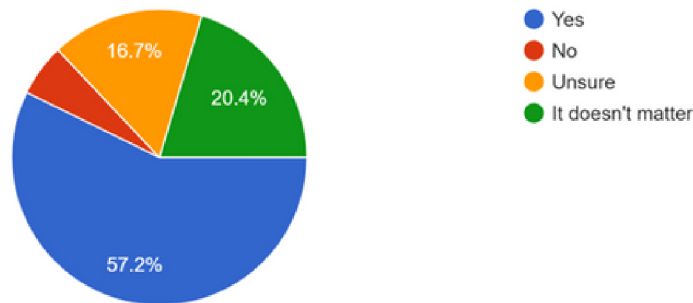


THE DATA

16

If you had to move, and you had your choice: Would you want to stay in the same neighbourhood or subdivision where you are living now?

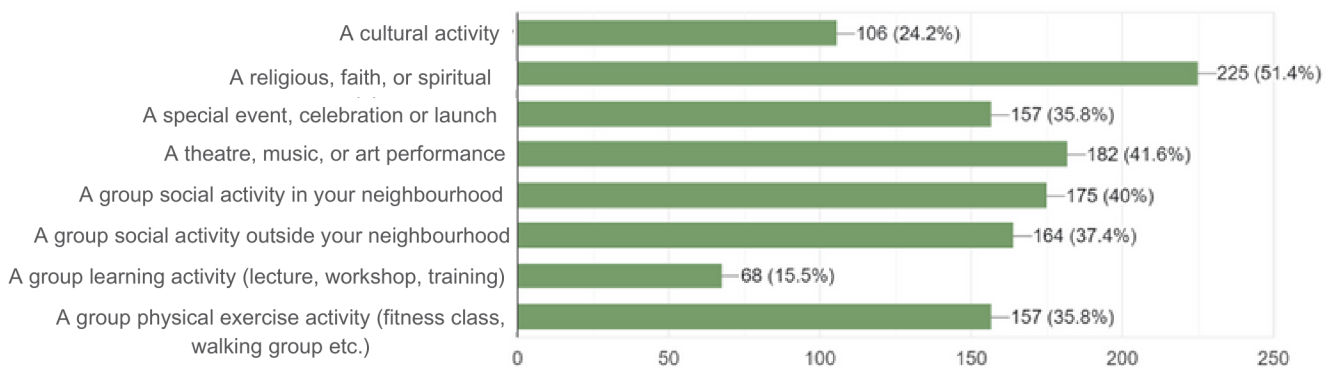
491 responses



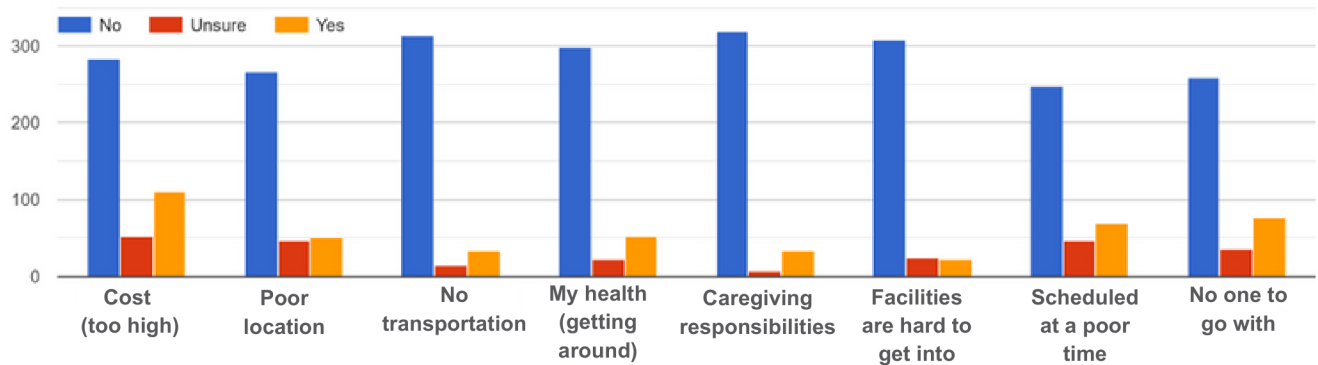
SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

In the last 3 months, have you gone to any of the following? (Check all that apply)

438 responses



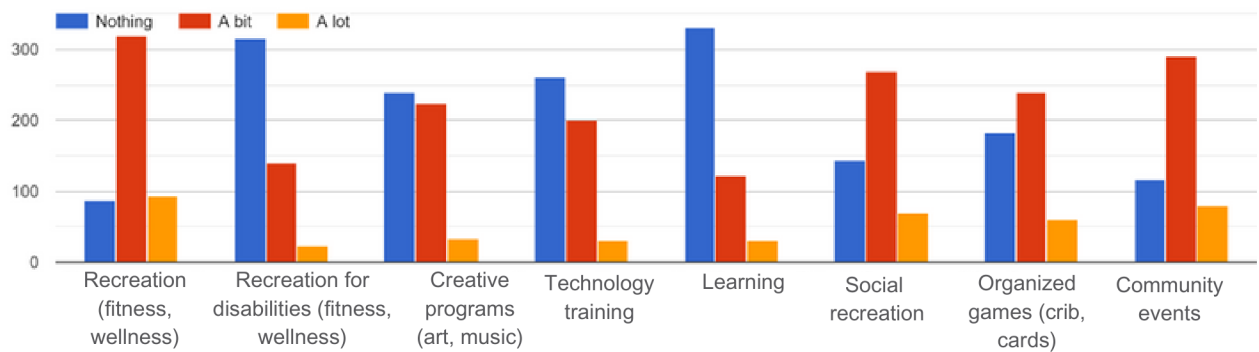
Do any of the following keep you from taking part in social, cultural, or recreational activities?



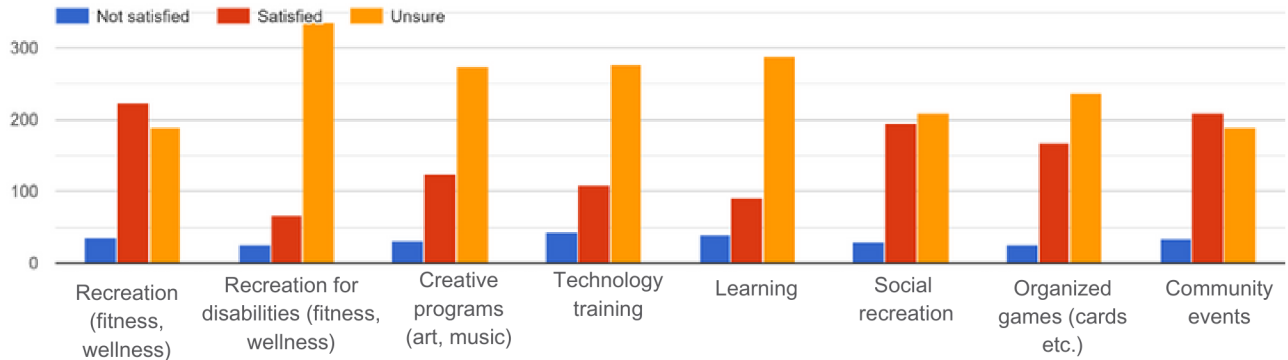
THE DATA

17

How much do you know about the following activities for adults in Riverview

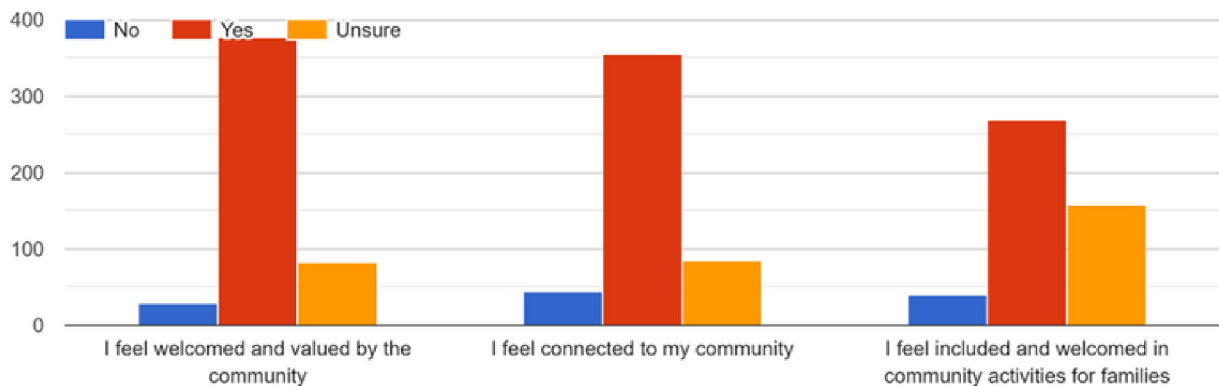


Please say whether or not you are satisfied with these activities.



RESPECT & SOCIAL INCLUSION

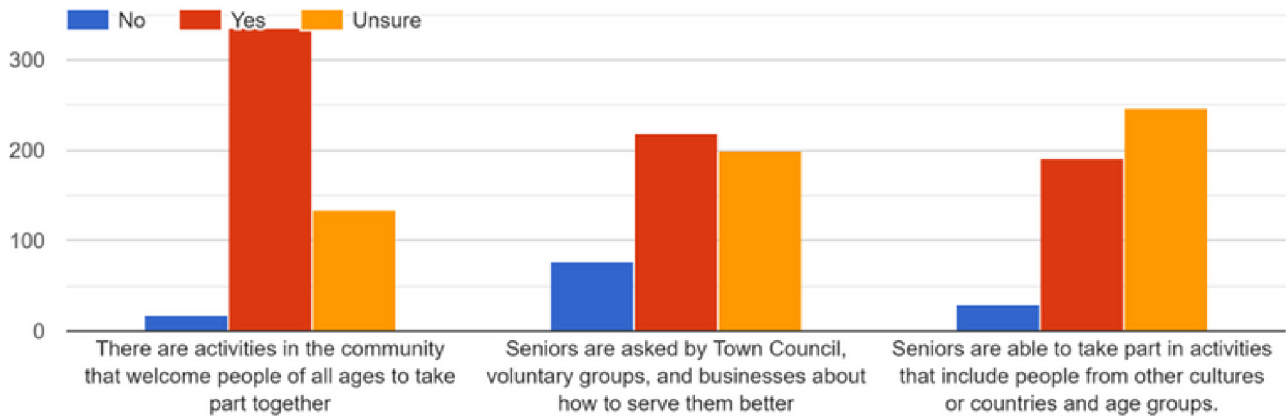
Does Riverview usually make you feel the following ways?



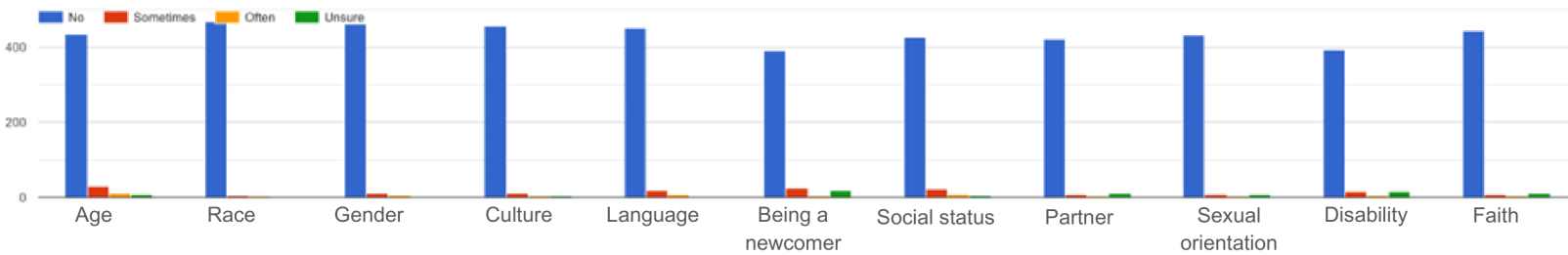
THE DATA

18

Do you feel the following statements are usually true in Riverview?



Have any of the following been used to make you feel that you don't belong in Riverview?

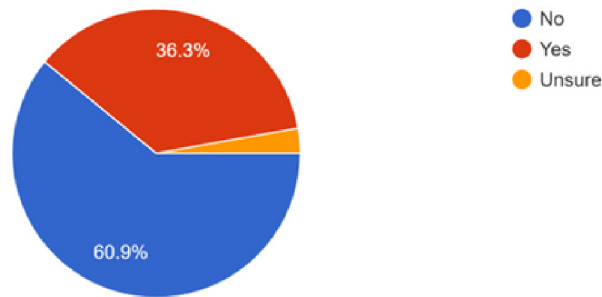


THE DATA

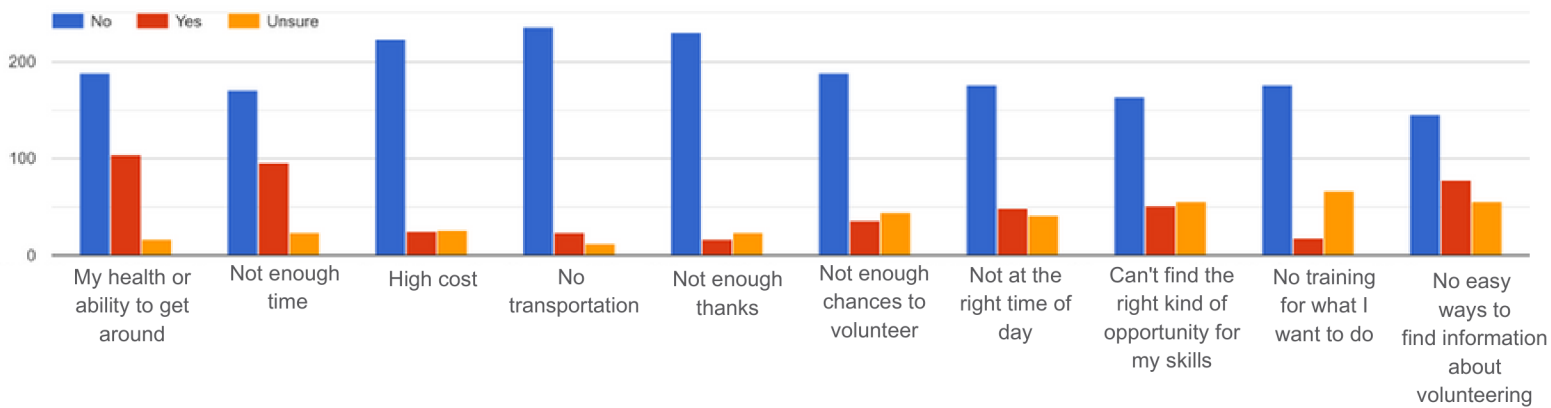
19

CIVIC PARTICIPATION & EMPLOYMENT

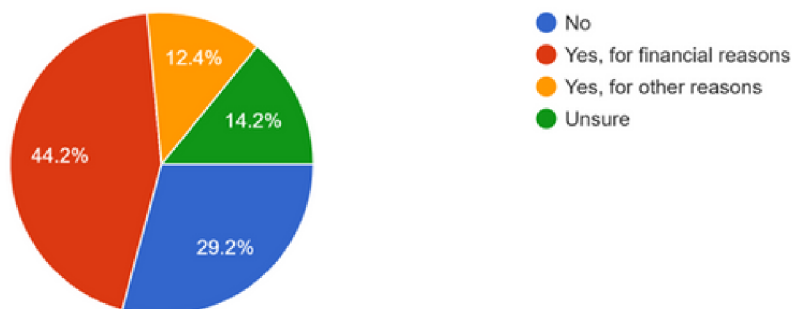
In the past 6 months, have you volunteered to help with a community event or a community group?
499 responses



If you answered 'Yes' or 'Unsure' to the last question: Do any of the following keep you from volunteering?



Only answer if you are still working now: Are you thinking about delaying your retirement?
113 responses



THE DATA

20

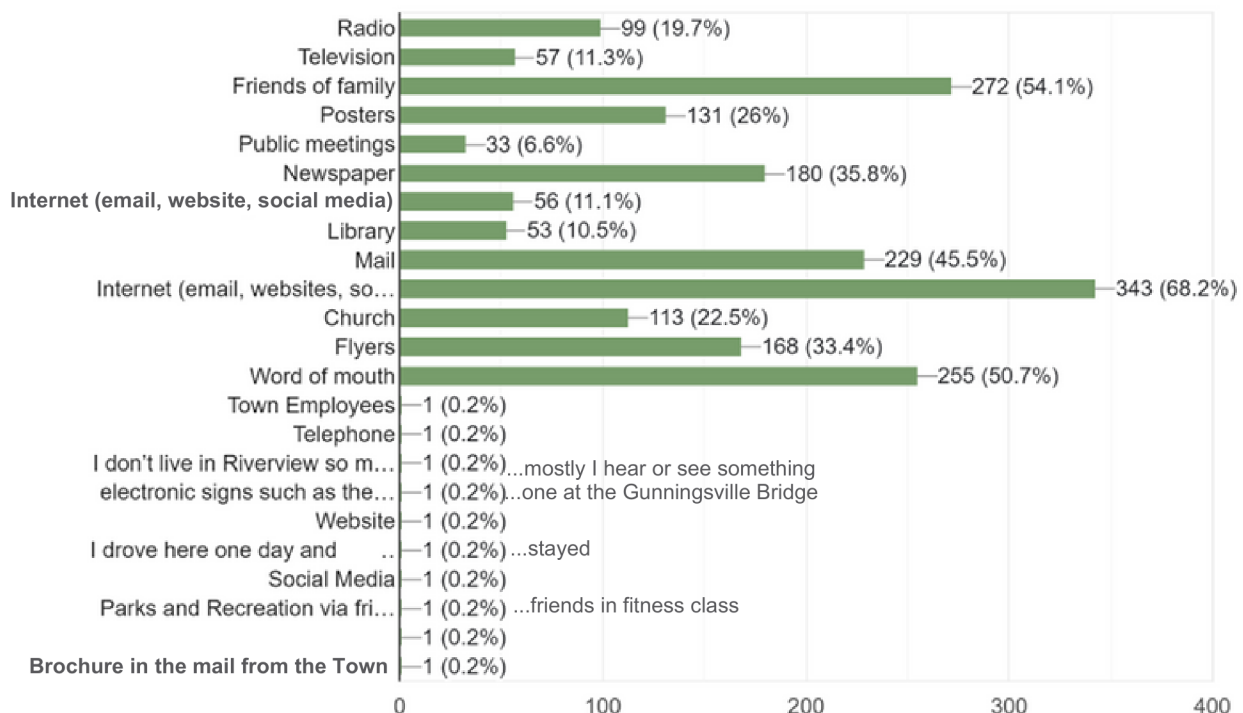
Jobs: As far as you know, does Riverview and the surrounding areas have the following?



COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION

In the past 12 months, how did you usually get the information you needed about Riverview? (Check all that apply)

503 responses

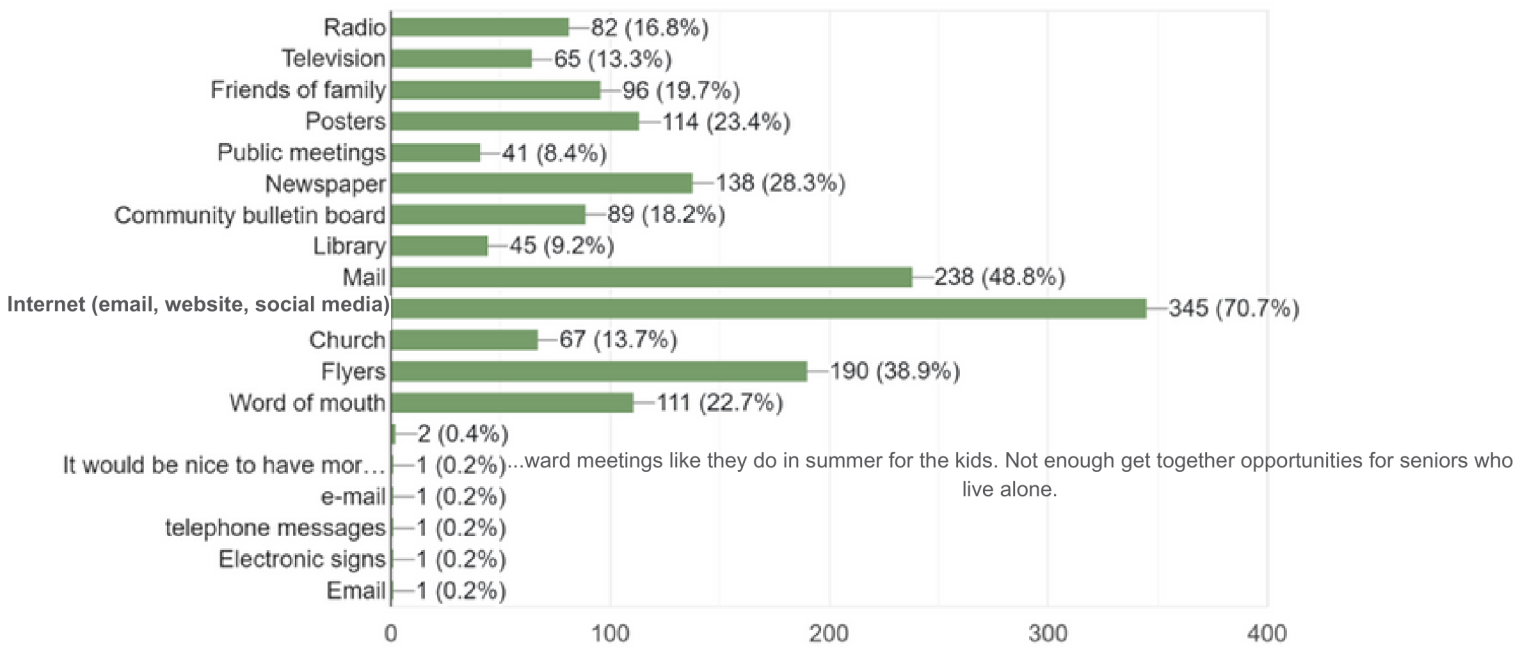


THE DATA

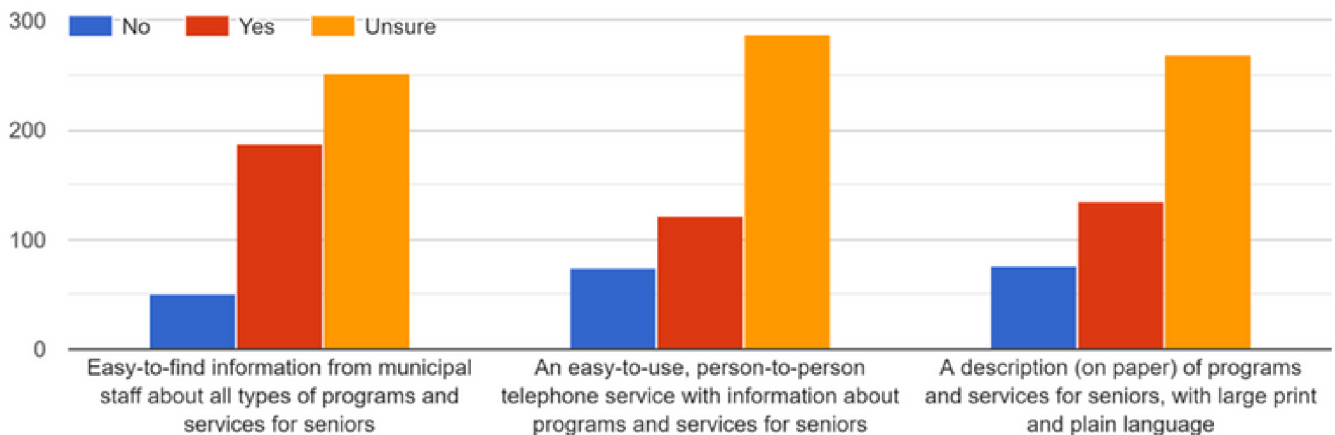
21

How would you like to get the information about Riverview? (Check as many as 3)

488 responses



As far as you know, does Riverview have the following?

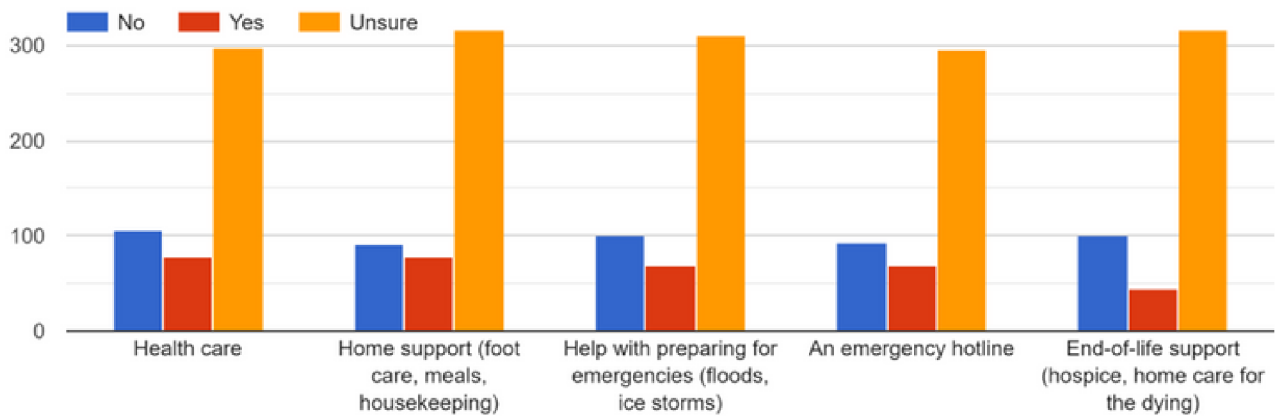


THE DATA

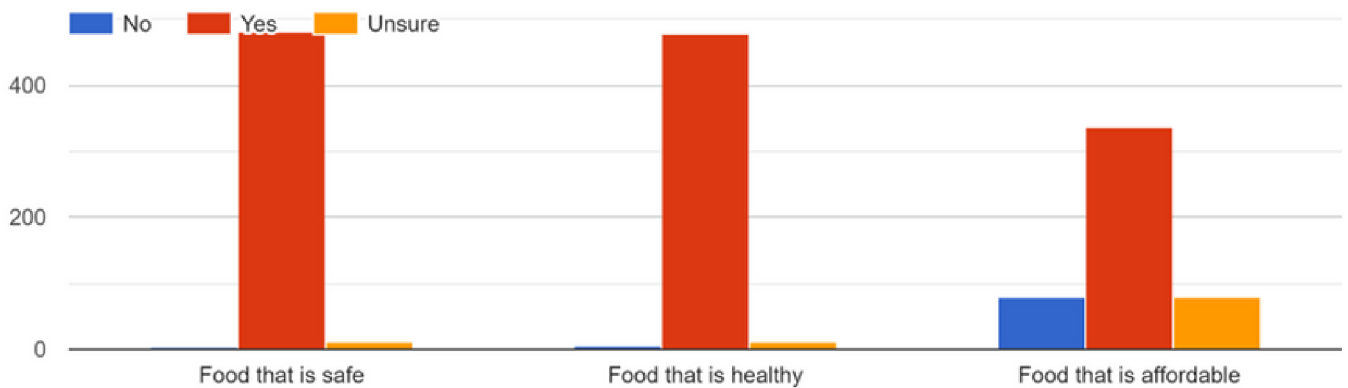
22

COMMUNITY SUPPORT & HEALTH

As far as you know, does Riverview have any service (groups of organizations) that help seniors get access to the following?



In your opinion, can you get the following in Riverview?

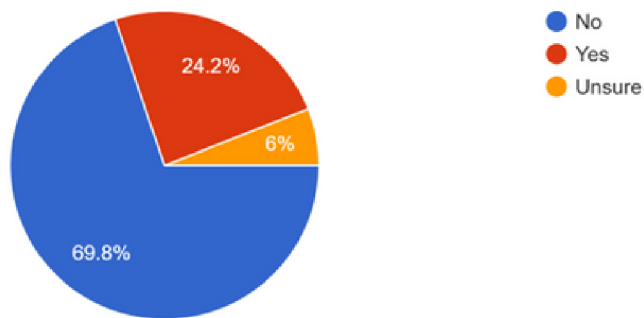


THE DATA

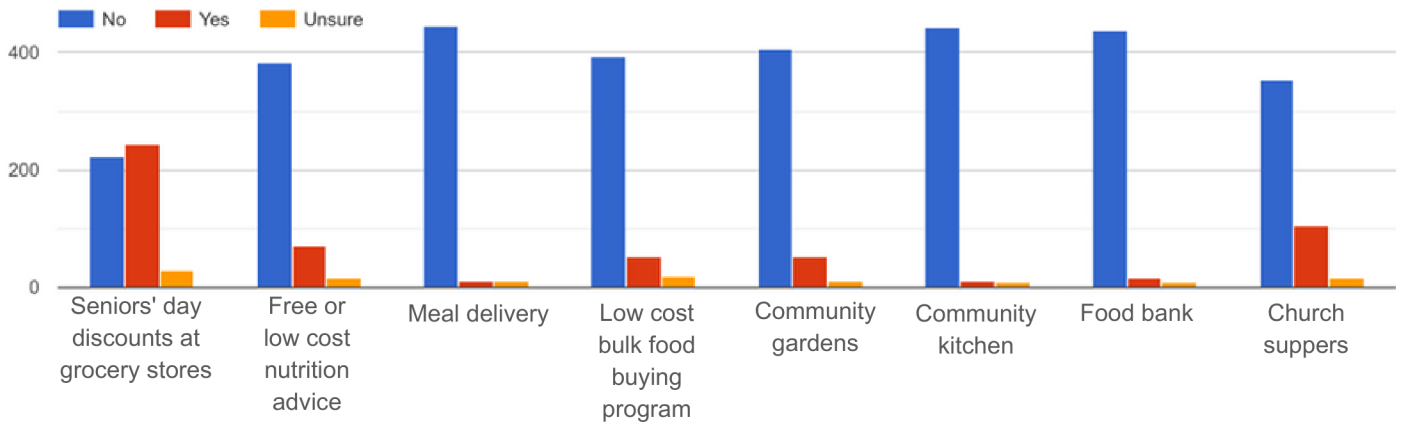
23

Do you ever find that you don't have enough money to buy healthy food after you pay your bills?

484 responses

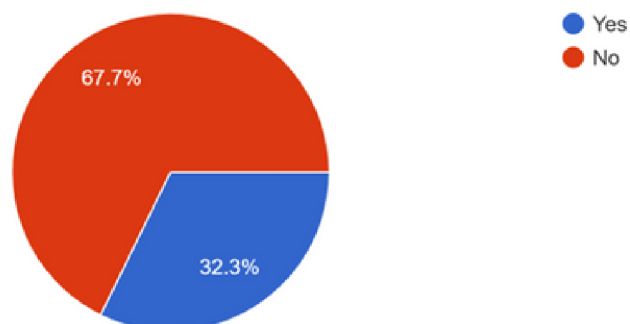


Do you use any of the following food programs?



Do you grow vegetables or fruit on your own property?

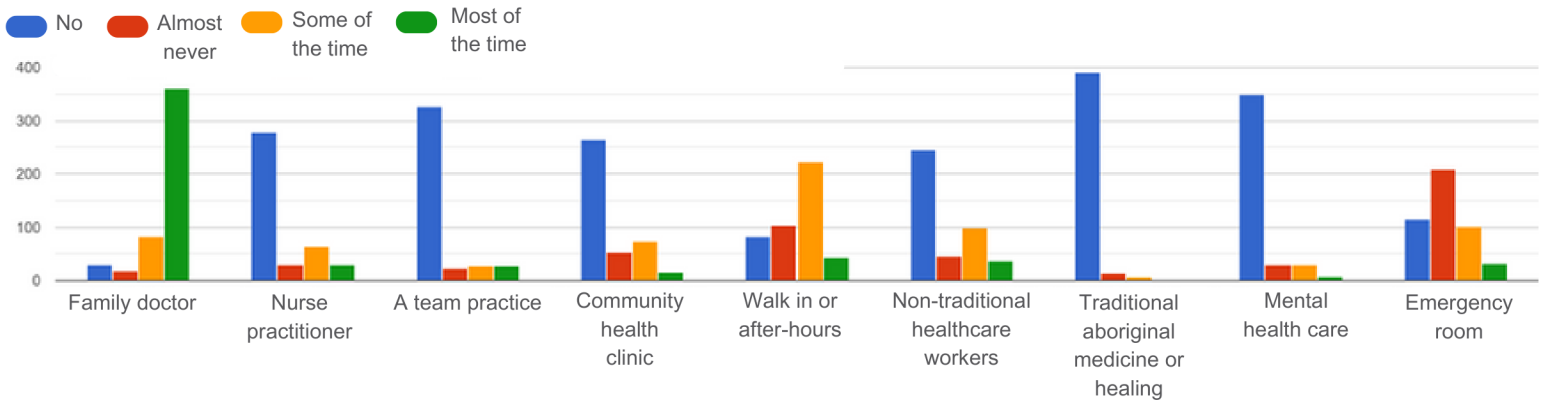
493 responses



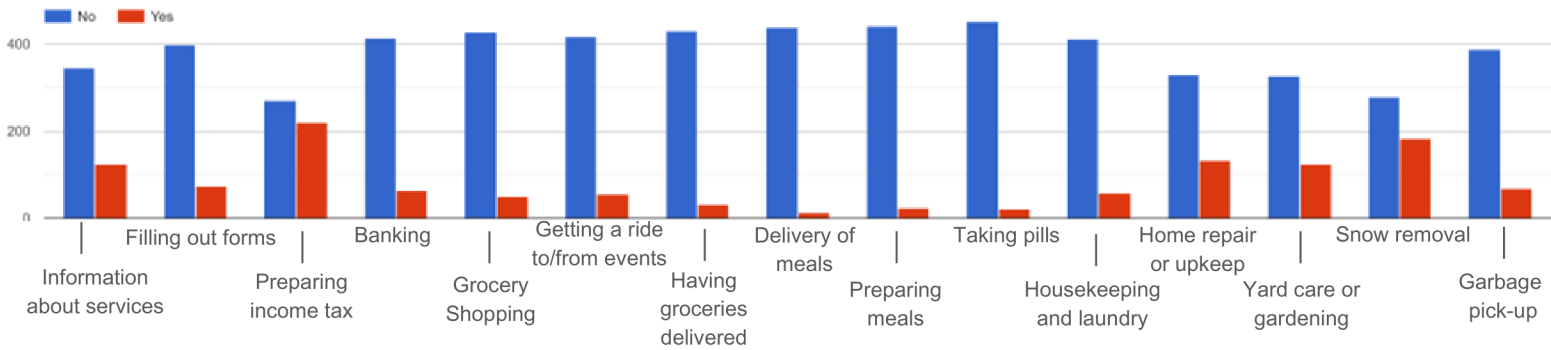
THE DATA

24

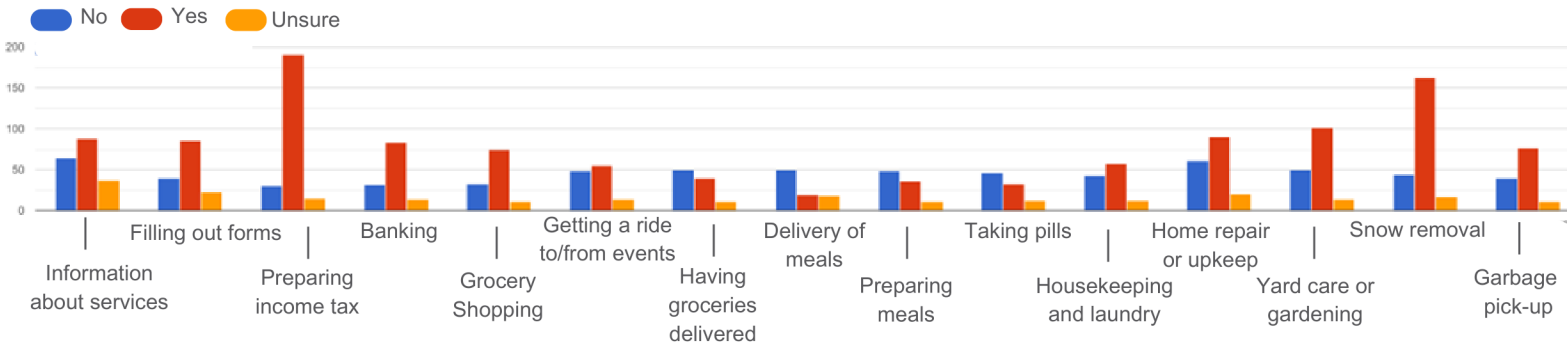
Do you go to any of the following when you need health care?



In the last 12 months have you needed help with any of the following tasks? (Check all that apply)



Just for the things that you said you needed help with in the last question: were you able to get the help you needed?

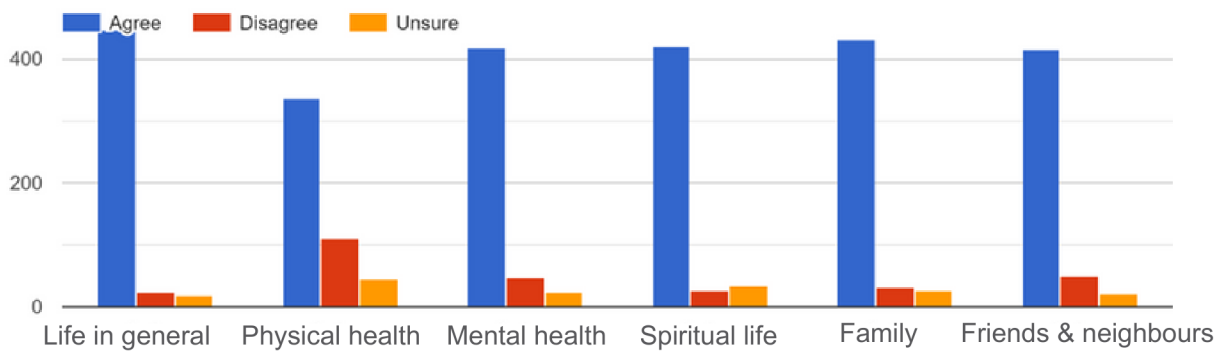


THE DATA

25

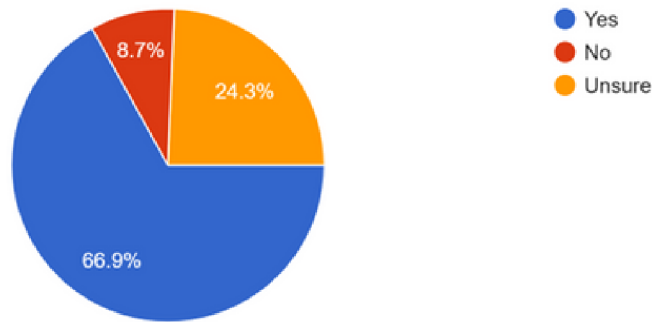
How do you feel about the following statements?

I am satisfied with my....



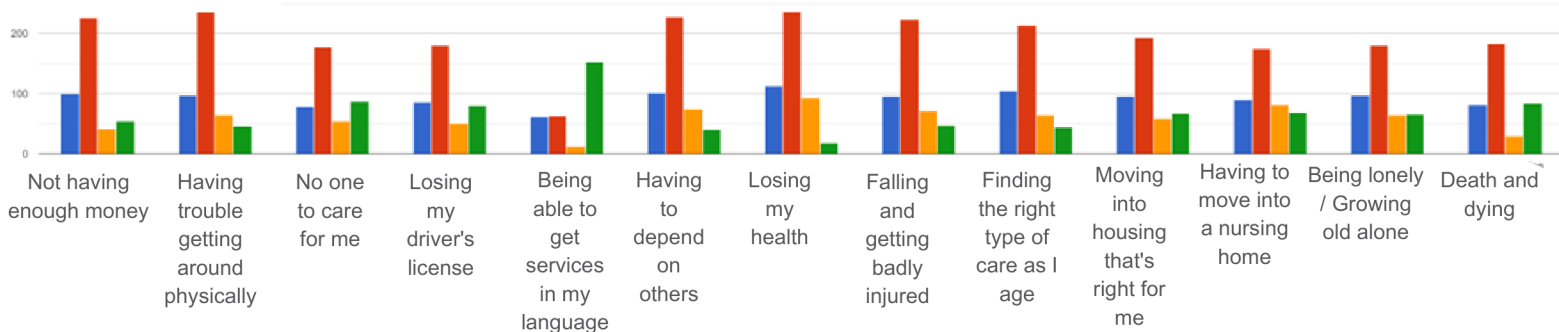
Can you rely on support or assistance from neighbours if needed?

493 responses



As you think about your future, do you worry about any of the following?

Yes A bit A lot Unsure



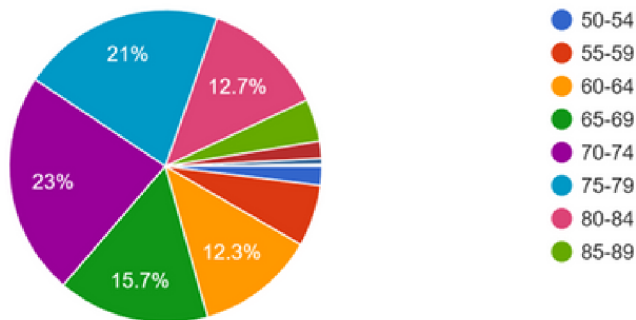
THE DATA

26

DEMOGRAPHICS

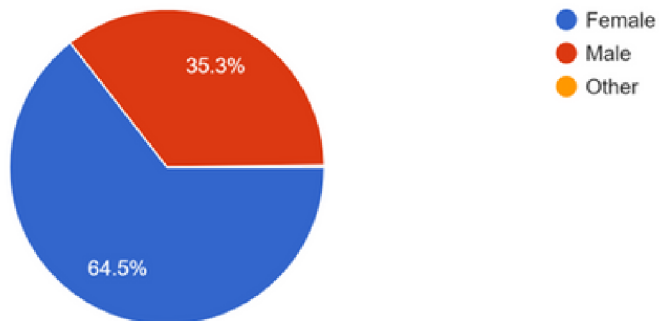
What is your age group?

504 responses



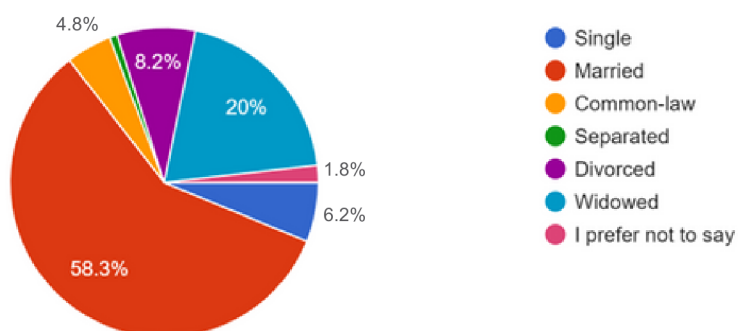
What is your gender?

498 responses



What is your marital status?

501 responses

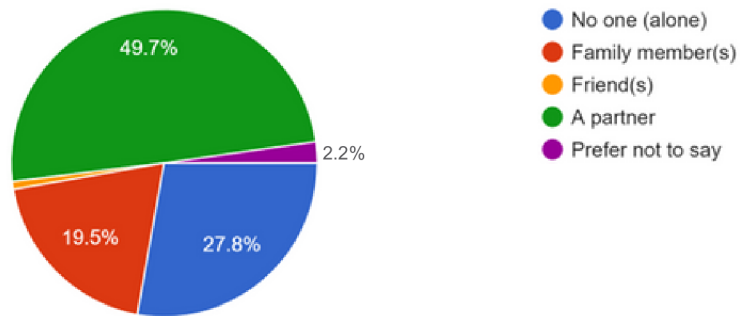


THE DATA

27

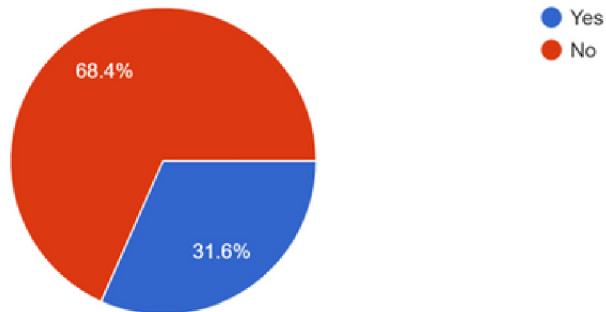
Who do you live with?

493 responses



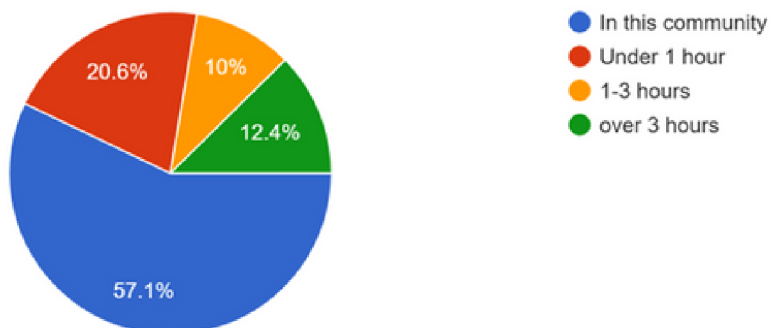
Do you own a pet?

503 responses



How far away do you live from your nearest family member?

501 responses

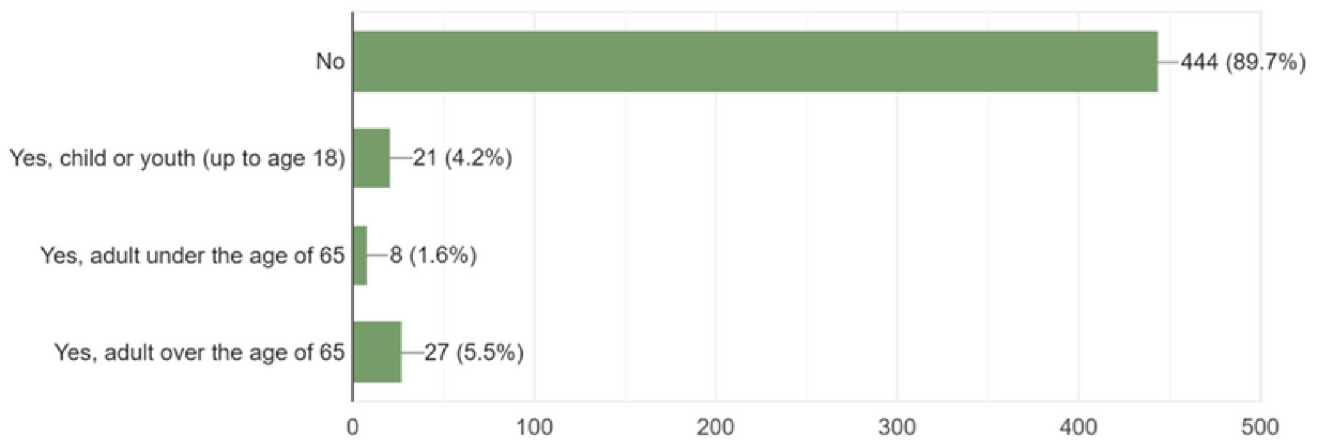


THE DATA

28

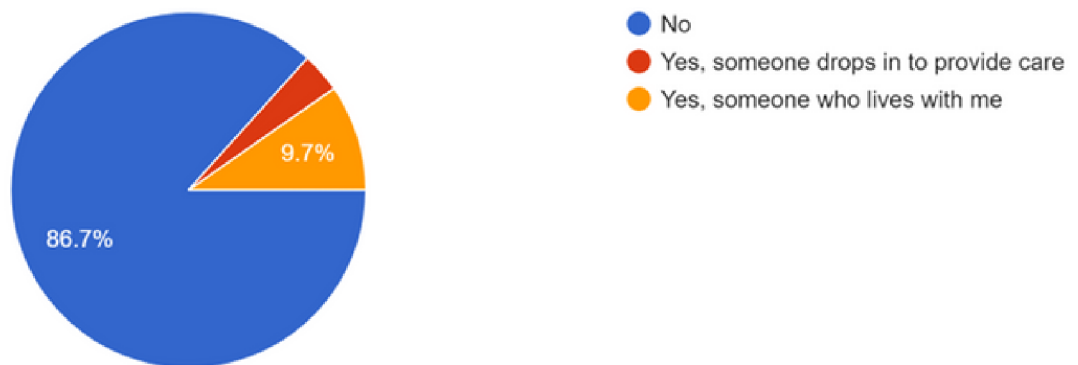
Are you a caregiver for someone who lives with you? (Check all that apply)

495 responses



Does someone care for you on a regular basis?

496 responses

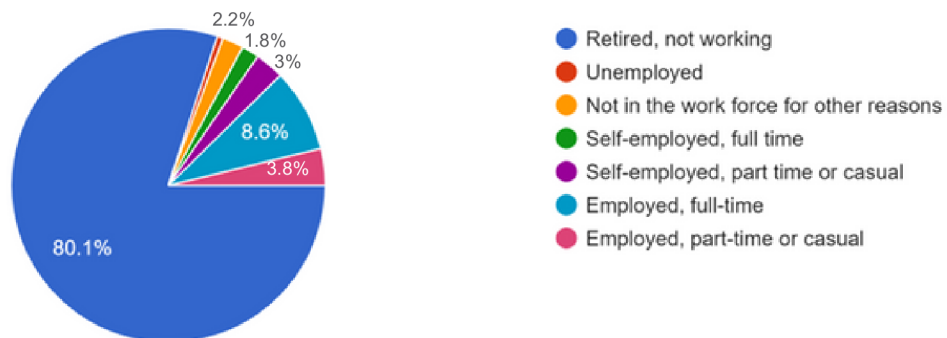


THE DATA

29

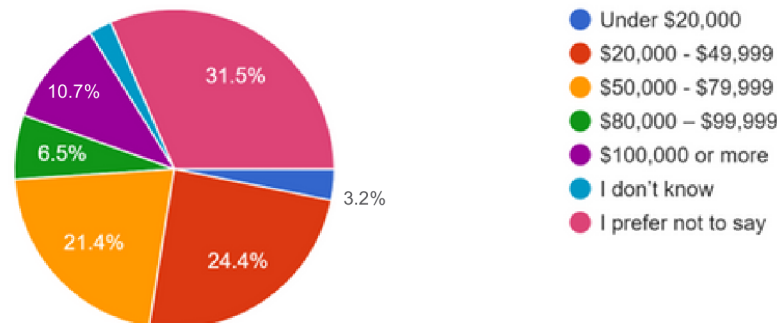
Which of the following best describes your working situation? (Check one answer that is closest to being right)

502 responses



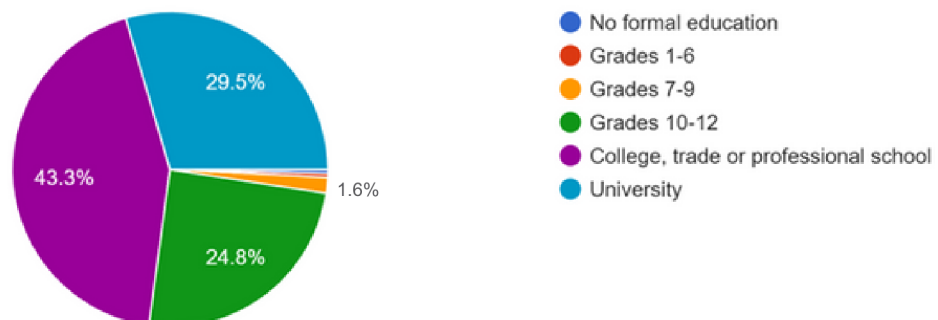
What was the total income last year, for all people living in your home, before taxes and deductions? (Check one)

476 responses



What is your highest level of education? (Check one)

501 responses



ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS

30

There were three open-ended questions in the survey (including postal codes). The other two are summarized below as there wasn't a visual graph to represent the responses.



HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN RIVERVIEW?

There was a wide range of data collected for this response, from 6 months to 71 years. The majority of respondents were long term residents of over 10 years, many over 50 years.



LANGUAGE CONSIDERATIONS

85% of respondents cited English as their first language, and 88% of respondents said they would like to receive services and information in English.





HIGHLIGHTS

31

STRENGTHS

Respected

Seniors in Riverview felt they were treated with respect across demographic groups, with youth and young children being the lowest number - hypothetically due to lack of exposure.

Active & Engaged

Over a third of respondents had taken advantage of spiritual, arts, special events, physical exercise and social activities inside and outside of their neighbourhoods in the past three months.

Valued & Connected

Less than 8% of respondents felt disconnected or unwelcomed in the community.

OPPORTUNITIES

Awareness of Programs and Events

Rarely did seniors know a lot about activities in Riverview, citing they knew "nothing" or "a bit" about the majority of community activities from creative programs to learning opportunities and community events.

Housing options

Seniors were unsure about what affordable housing options and support services were available in Riverview.

Knowledge of Services

Respondents were unsure about support services that might assist with financial advice, home repairs, safety features and crime prevention information in Riverview.





32



Next Steps

The Town of Riverview is looking forward to joining over 560 communities (and counting) in Canada that have committed to becoming age-friendly. In making changes to policies, services and structures related to the physical and social environment, we'll be able to better support and enable older people to "age actively."



Age-Friendly Road Map



OUR DEDICATED TEAM

Special thanks to all members of the Seniors Roundtable who promoted the survey, collected data, and assisted with capturing the voices of Riverview's seniors. We couldn't have done this important work without you.

Gerry Forsythe

Chair

Pamela O'Brien

Vice-Chair, Ad-hoc

Lyn MacNeill

Member, Ad-hoc

Tanya Thompson

Secretary/Treasurer, Ad-hoc

Wayne Brown

Member

Jane Dunnett

Member, Ad-hoc

Councillor Cecile Cassista

Liason, Ad-hoc

Rick Deschene

Member



30 Honour House Court
Riverview, NB E1B 3Y9



www.townofriverview.ca

