



Community Assessment Survey
for Older Adults™

Boulder County, Colorado
2010

Demographic Subgroup Comparisons



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C o n t e n t s

Survey Background	1
Demographic Subgroup Comparisons	3

Survey Background

About the Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults™

The Boulder County contracted with National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) to conduct an assessment of the strengths and needs of its older residents. The Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA™) is a statistically valid survey of older adults used by staff, elected officials and other stakeholders to plan for older adult services, programs and facilities. The ultimate goal of the assessment is to create an empowered community that supports a vibrant older adult population in Boulder County.

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

Communities conducting CASOA™ can choose from a number of optional services to customize the reporting of survey results. Boulder County's Report of Demographic Subgroup Comparisons is part of a larger project for Boulder County and additional reports are available under separate cover.

One of the add-on options that Boulder County chose was to have crosstabulations of survey questions 1-14 by respondents' gender, age, household composition and income level.

“Don't Know” Responses

On many of the questions in the survey respondents may answer “don't know.” The proportion of respondents giving this reply is shown in the full set of responses included in Appendix A of the Brief Report. However, these responses have been removed from the analyses presented in the body of the report. In other words, the tables display the responses from respondents who had an opinion about a specific item.

Understanding the Tables

In this report, comparisons between demographic subgroups are shown. For most of the questions, we have shown only one number for each question. We have summarized responses to show only the proportion of respondents giving a certain answer; for example, the percent of respondents who rated the quality of life as “excellent” or “good,” or the percent of respondents who participated in an activity at least once.

ANOVA and chi-square tests of significance were applied to these comparisons of survey questions by demographic subgroups. A “p-value” of 0.05 or less indicates that there is less than a 5% probability that differences observed between subgroups are due to chance; or in other words, a greater than 95% probability that the differences observed are “real.” Where differences were statistically significant, they are marked in grey.

It should be noted that when a table for a question that only permitted a single response does not total to exactly 100%, it is due to the common practice of percentages being rounded to the nearest whole number.

Demographic Subgroup Comparisons

The following tables contain the crosstabulations of survey questions 1 through 14 by selected respondent characteristics. Chi-square or ANOVA tests of significance were applied to these breakdowns of survey questions. A “p-value” of 0.05 or less indicates that there is less than a 5% probability that differences observed between groups are due to chance; or in other words, a greater than 95% probability that the differences observed in the selected categories of the sample represent “real” differences among those populations. Where differences between subgroups are statistically significant, they have been marked with grey shading.

Question 1: Quality of Community									
Percent of respondents who rated the following as "excellent" or "good":	Sex		Age			Household composition		Low income household	
	Female	Male	60 to 74 years	75 to 84 years	85 or over	Lives alone	Lives with others	No	Yes
How do you rate your community as a place to live?	93%	91%	92%	91%	97%	92%	93%	94%	82%
How do you rate your community as a place to retire?	78%	76%	74%	80%	88%	76%	78%	80%	63%

Question 2: Community Characteristics									
Percent of respondents who rated the following as "excellent" or "good":	Sex		Age			Household composition		Low income household	
	Female	Male	60 to 74 years	75 to 84 years	85 or over	Lives alone	Lives with others	No	Yes
Opportunities to volunteer	87%	88%	88%	88%	78%	86%	89%	89%	78%
Employment opportunities	22%	21%	20%	21%	31%	19%	22%	22%	18%
Opportunities to enroll in skill-building or personal enrichment classes	74%	70%	71%	78%	65%	75%	71%	73%	64%
Recreation opportunities (including games, arts and library services, etc.)	86%	84%	85%	86%	85%	85%	86%	87%	74%
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	88%	92%	90%	91%	84%	87%	92%	92%	79%
Opportunities to attend social events or activities	74%	78%	74%	80%	70%	71%	79%	79%	59%
Opportunities to attend religious or spiritual activities	88%	89%	86%	92%	88%	85%	91%	90%	78%
Opportunities to attend or participate in meetings about local government or community matters	77%	78%	78%	78%	69%	75%	79%	80%	62%
Availability of affordable quality housing	27%	25%	23%	28%	43%	26%	25%	25%	34%

Question 2: Community Characteristics									
Percent of respondents who rated the following as "excellent" or "good":	Sex		Age			Household composition		Low income household	
	Female	Male	60 to 74 years	75 to 84 years	85 or over	Lives alone	Lives with others	No	Yes
Variety of housing options	35%	41%	35%	39%	47%	36%	38%	38%	35%
Availability of information about resources for older adults	69%	59%	59%	76%	72%	68%	64%	67%	57%
Availability of financial and legal planning services	52%	52%	47%	61%	66%	53%	52%	53%	47%
Availability of affordable quality physical health care	59%	61%	55%	68%	74%	57%	62%	62%	52%
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	45%	51%	43%	59%	53%	47%	49%	51%	35%
Availability of preventive health services (e.g., health screenings, flu shots, educational workshops)	71%	70%	66%	79%	78%	70%	71%	73%	58%
Availability of affordable quality food	68%	71%	66%	78%	73%	70%	69%	71%	57%
Sense of community	67%	60%	61%	70%	71%	67%	62%	65%	58%
Openness and acceptance of the community towards older residents of diverse backgrounds	67%	63%	61%	71%	73%	65%	65%	65%	64%
Ease of bus travel in your community	48%	47%	46%	51%	45%	49%	46%	48%	44%
Ease of car travel in your community	66%	73%	70%	70%	68%	73%	68%	71%	62%
Ease of walking in your community	78%	84%	79%	82%	86%	81%	81%	82%	75%

Question 3: Overall Services to Older Adults									
Percent of respondents who rated the overall quality of services to older adults as "excellent" or "good"	Sex		Age			Household composition		Low income household	
	Female	Male	60 to 74 years	75 to 84 years	85 or over	Lives alone	Lives with others	No	Yes
Percent of respondents who rated the overall quality of services to older adults as "excellent" or "good"	76%	72%	69%	84%	77%	74%	74%	77%	61%

Question 4: Level of Informedness about Services and Activities for Older Adults									
	Sex		Age			Household composition		Low income household	
	Female	Male	60 to 74 years	75 to 84 years	85 or over	Lives alone	Lives with others	No	Yes
Percent of respondents who felt "somewhat" or "very" informed about the services and activities for older adults	75%	62%	60%	85%	90%	74%	66%	69%	72%

Question 5: Quality of Life and Health									
Percent of respondents who rated the following as "excellent" or "good":	Sex		Age			Household composition		Low income household	
	Female	Male	60 to 74 years	75 to 84 years	85 or over	Lives alone	Lives with others	No	Yes
How do you rate your overall physical health?	78%	83%	86%	68%	70%	77%	83%	82%	68%
How do you rate your overall mental health/emotional well being?	89%	89%	90%	87%	85%	89%	90%	89%	87%
How do you rate your overall quality of life?	87%	89%	90%	86%	78%	87%	89%	90%	76%

Question 6: Problems Faced by Older Adults									
Percent of respondents who reported at least a "minor" problem with the following:	Sex		Age			Household composition		Low income household	
	Female	Male	60 to 74 years	75 to 84 years	85 or over	Lives alone	Lives with others	No	Yes
Having housing to suit your needs	16%	15%	16%	14%	14%	19%	13%	14%	24%
Your physical health	58%	54%	53%	61%	61%	58%	55%	54%	68%
Performing regular activities, including walking, eating and preparing meals	27%	22%	16%	37%	51%	29%	22%	22%	43%
Having enough food to eat	7%	5%	6%	6%	9%	10%	4%	4%	17%
Doing heavy or intense housework	60%	44%	44%	71%	68%	59%	49%	51%	66%
Having safe and affordable transportation available	26%	22%	21%	32%	33%	29%	22%	22%	39%
No longer being able to drive	16%	9%	5%	23%	37%	17%	9%	10%	28%
Feeling depressed	41%	31%	34%	39%	43%	44%	32%	35%	42%
Experiencing confusion or forgetfulness	35%	32%	28%	42%	49%	37%	32%	32%	40%

Question 6: Problems Faced by Older Adults									
Percent of respondents who reported at least a "minor" problem with the following:	Sex		Age			Household composition		Low income household	
	Female	Male	60 to 74 years	75 to 84 years	85 or over	Lives alone	Lives with others	No	Yes
Maintaining your home	42%	36%	35%	48%	48%	47%	35%	38%	47%
Maintaining your yard	49%	38%	38%	54%	63%	52%	39%	42%	54%
Finding productive or meaningful activities to do	28%	27%	25%	31%	35%	33%	25%	26%	38%
Having friends or family you can rely on	25%	23%	25%	22%	21%	32%	20%	22%	35%
Falling or injuring yourself in your home	25%	17%	15%	32%	41%	27%	18%	19%	34%
Finding affordable health insurance	34%	38%	43%	24%	20%	37%	36%	35%	42%
Getting the health care you need	26%	28%	31%	20%	19%	31%	25%	24%	40%
Affording the medications you need	27%	30%	29%	27%	25%	31%	27%	25%	47%
Getting the oral health care you need	29%	28%	31%	26%	18%	33%	26%	24%	52%
Having tooth or mouth problems	37%	34%	34%	39%	33%	37%	35%	33%	50%
Having enough money to meet daily expenses	33%	32%	33%	32%	35%	39%	29%	28%	60%
Having enough money to pay your property taxes	27%	30%	30%	29%	9%	30%	28%	27%	40%
Staying physically fit	53%	45%	47%	54%	61%	53%	48%	48%	63%
Maintaining a healthy diet	32%	36%	35%	31%	32%	38%	31%	31%	48%
Having interesting recreational or cultural activities to attend	32%	31%	30%	28%	52%	36%	29%	29%	49%
Having interesting social events or activities to attend	35%	39%	36%	32%	46%	42%	33%	35%	47%
Feeling bored	36%	31%	30%	33%	62%	41%	29%	31%	48%
Feeling like your voice is heard in the community	53%	57%	55%	56%	49%	56%	54%	53%	60%
Finding meaningful volunteer work	21%	24%	22%	22%	18%	22%	22%	21%	27%
Providing care for another person	24%	25%	21%	32%	33%	24%	25%	24%	29%
Dealing with legal issues	31%	27%	27%	33%	34%	38%	25%	27%	43%
Having adequate information or dealing with public programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid	38%	38%	40%	34%	38%	43%	35%	35%	52%
Finding work in retirement	33%	31%	39%	22%	8%	37%	30%	31%	39%
Building skills for paid or unpaid work	29%	27%	29%	26%	26%	33%	26%	26%	38%
Not knowing what services are available to older adults in your community	48%	57%	57%	42%	51%	53%	51%	50%	62%
Feeling lonely or isolated	33%	22%	26%	29%	40%	39%	22%	27%	39%

Question 6: Problems Faced by Older Adults									
Percent of respondents who reported at least a "minor" problem with the following:	Sex		Age			Household composition		Low income household	
	Female	Male	60 to 74 years	75 to 84 years	85 or over	Lives alone	Lives with others	No	Yes
Dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend	35%	30%	28%	45%	38%	42%	28%	32%	34%
Being a victim of crime	8%	7%	7%	8%	10%	10%	6%	7%	15%
Being a victim of fraud or a scam	9%	10%	9%	11%	12%	13%	7%	8%	15%
Being physically or emotionally abused	6%	4%	6%	5%	1%	6%	5%	5%	10%
Dealing with financial planning issues	36%	32%	37%	30%	31%	37%	33%	34%	41%

Question 7: Days Spent in Facilities									
Percent of respondents who spent at least 1 day...	Sex		Age			Household composition		Low income household	
	Female	Male	60 to 74 years	75 to 84 years	85 or over	Lives alone	Lives with others	No	Yes
As a patient in a hospital	16%	21%	16%	24%	27%	20%	18%	18%	21%
In a nursing home or in-patient rehabilitation facility	2%	2%	1%	3%	5%	3%	1%	2%	1%

Question 8: Falls in Last 12 Months									
Percent of respondents who had at least 1 fall.	Sex		Age			Household composition		Low income household	
	Female	Male	60 to 74 years	75 to 84 years	85 or over	Lives alone	Lives with others	No	Yes
Thinking back over the past 12 months, how many times have you fallen and injured yourself? Was it?	33%	27%	29%	32%	46%	36%	28%	28%	51%

Question 9: Recommend Living in Community									
	Sex		Age			Household composition		Low income household	
	Female	Male	60 to 74 years	75 to 84 years	85 or over	Lives alone	Lives with others	No	Yes
Percent of respondents "somewhat" or "very" likely to recommend living in their community	83%	83%	82%	83%	83%	81%	84%	85%	70%

Question 10: Likelihood of Remaining in Community Throughout Retirement									
	Sex		Age			Household composition		Low income household	
	Female	Male	60 to 74 years	75 to 84 years	85 or over	Lives alone	Lives with others	No	Yes
Percent of respondents "somewhat" or "very" likely to remain in their community throughout their retirement	87%	85%	82%	94%	94%	84%	88%	87%	85%

Question 11: Participation in Activities									
Percent of respondents who participated in or did the following at least once:	Sex		Age			Household composition		Low income household	
	Female	Male	60 to 74 years	75 to 84 years	85 or over	Lives alone	Lives with others	No	Yes
Used a senior center in your community	40%	29%	27%	53%	47%	45%	31%	34%	48%
Used a recreation center in your community	49%	43%	50%	46%	29%	42%	49%	48%	39%
Used a public library in your community	68%	70%	71%	69%	48%	68%	69%	70%	62%
Attended a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting in your community	35%	40%	38%	39%	23%	33%	40%	39%	29%
Watched a meeting of local elected officials or other public meeting on cable television, the Internet or other media	46%	41%	44%	46%	40%	46%	42%	45%	44%
Used public transit (e.g., bus, subway, light rail, etc.) within your community	36%	34%	38%	31%	26%	40%	32%	35%	39%
Visited a neighborhood park	81%	88%	88%	81%	62%	82%	86%	86%	75%

Question 12: Hours Spent Doing Activities									
Percent of respondents who spent at least 1 hour doing the following:	Sex		Age			Household composition		Low income household	
	Female	Male	60 to 74 years	75 to 84 years	85 or over	Lives alone	Lives with others	No	Yes
Participating in a club (including book, dance, game and other social)	43%	27%	36%	39%	36%	43%	33%	39%	27%
Participating in a civic group (including Elks, Kiwanis, Masons, etc.)	11%	17%	13%	14%	20%	15%	14%	13%	17%
Communicating/ visiting with friends and/or family	98%	97%	97%	97%	100%	98%	97%	98%	95%
Participating in religious or spiritual activities with others	52%	45%	46%	60%	46%	48%	50%	50%	49%
Participating in a recreation program or group activity	54%	41%	50%	50%	33%	49%	48%	49%	45%
Providing help to friends or relatives	85%	86%	88%	87%	63%	81%	89%	87%	77%
Volunteering your time to some group/activity in your community	47%	42%	47%	47%	23%	45%	45%	47%	35%

Question 13: Hours Spent Providing Care									
Percent of respondents who provided at least 1 hour of care to...	Sex		Age			Household composition		Low income household	
	Female	Male	60 to 74 years	75 to 84 years	85 or over	Lives alone	Lives with others	No	Yes
One or more individuals age 60 or older	35%	27%	30%	37%	26%	26%	35%	33%	22%
One or more individuals age 18 to 59	21%	21%	20%	20%	20%	20%	21%	20%	23%
One or more individuals under age 18	22%	19%	21%	15%	26%	18%	22%	20%	22%

Question 14: Receives Care									
	Sex		Age			Household composition		Low income household	
	Female	Male	60 to 74 years	75 to 84 years	85 or over	Lives alone	Lives with others	No	Yes
Percent who received assistance from someone almost every day	16%	15%	10%	21%	36%	13%	16%	15%	18%