

Creating an AGE-FRIENDLY NORTHFIELD

Livability For All:
The 2017 AARP Age-Friendly
Community survey of
Northfield, Minnesota
Residents Age 50+



Report Prepared by Emily Kaegi, Grant Patronik, and Gege Zhang Carleton College, Northfield MN Advised by Katie St. Clair November 2017 The world's older population continues to grow at an unprecedented rate. The United States' 65-and-over population is projected to nearly double over the next three decades, from 48 million to 88 million by 2050. While many older adults are healthier, and more active and independent than ever before, for others, living longer does not necessarily mean living well. Both of these changing demographics will have a dramatic impact on the community structures and services required to meet the needs of an aging population. Cities must prepare today so that current and future seniors will have the support they need to age well in community.

The AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities, an affiliate of the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Program, is an international effort launched in 2006 to help cities prepare for the rapid aging of their populations. Communities in more than 20 nations, as well as 10 affiliates representing more than 1,000 communities, currently participate in the program. AARP's involvement encourages older adults not only to make their voices heard, but also to take a more active role in their communities.

This AARP Age-Friendly Communities Program is proving to be an effective tool that local leaders can use to transform their cities into intentionally designed communities that are livable for all ages. Program initiatives help communities to assess their strengths and needs in eight designated "Domains of Livability:" Housing, Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, Transportation and Streets, Health and Wellness, Social Participation, Inclusion and Educational Opportunities, Volunteering and Civic Engagement, Job Opportunities, and Community Information. Once identified, communities are better able to secure, coordinate and direct resources to address the most pressing needs of their citizens.

AARP works with local officials and partner organizations around the country to identify communities for membership in the Age-Friendly Network. AARP then facilitates the community's enrollment, and guides its representatives through the network's five-year assessment, planning and implementation process. The City of Northfield passed a resolution to apply to become part of the WHO/AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities on August 2, 2016. We were accepted, and in 2017 the Age-Friendly Northfield Advisory Committee, a grass-roots group of Northfield residents, conducted and analyzed the results of a comprehensive survey of seniors living in our community. Our purpose was to learn which of the 8 Domains of Livability Northfielders consider to be most important, which they feel meet their current and projected needs, and which they find lacking.

The current report presents the results of our August-September 2017 survey. We will use this data and analysis, in conjunction with ongoing community outreach and continuing assessment, to develop our Action Plan.

The Age-Friendly Northfield Survey and Steering Committees would like to thank the following people for their support and assistance in initiating this Age-Friendly Northfield initiative, and in conducting, analyzing and reporting the results of this survey: former Mayor Dana Graham, current Mayor Rhonda Pownell, former City Administrator CC Linstroth, current City Administrator Ben Martig, AARP Minnesota State Director Will Phillips, AARP Senior Research Advisor Joanne Binette, Carleton Professor of Mathematics and Statistics Katie St. Clair, Applied Education Research Consultant Carol Trosset.

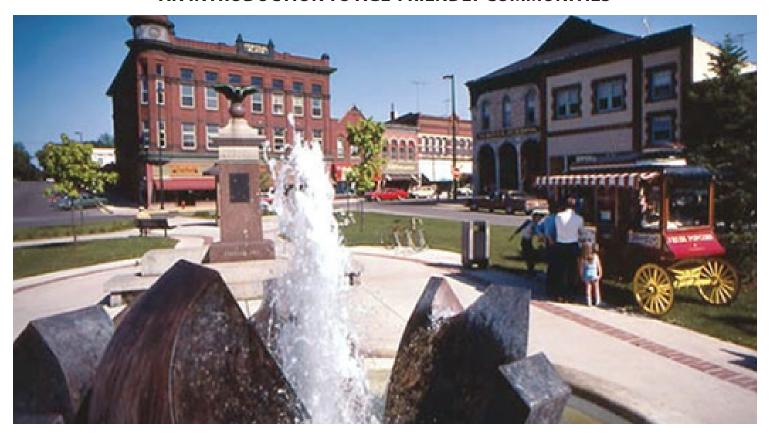
Age-Friendly Northfield Survey and Steering Committee members: Pat Allen, Evelyn Burry, Patrice Ciernia, David DeLong, Chris Ellison, Shelley Holden, Nan Just, Clare Mather, Lynne Pederson, and Scott Tempel.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AN INTRODUCTION TO AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES



A "livable community" is defined as a community that is safe and secure, has affordable and appropriate housing and transportation options, and offers supportive community features and services. Once in place, those resources enhance personal independence; allow residents to age in place; and foster residents' engagement in the community's civic, economic, and social life.¹ The Survey for Age-Friendly Northfield was conducted to help Northfield's community leadership identify areas that would make Northfield an even better liveable community. Specifically, the survey sought to:

- Determine the importance of specific livability factors that people age 50-plus need as determined by the World Health Organization (WHO)
- Assess how well Northfield is currently providing these features
- Identify community needs in these domains

¹ Binette, J. Livability For All: The AARP Age-Friendly Community Surveys (AARP Research) 2017. Retrieved at https://www.aarp.org/research/topics/community/info-2016/2016-aarp-age-friendly-community-survey.html

The analysis found that Northfield residents age 50-plus feel connected to their community. More than half have lived in their community for more than 25 years (53%). Most do not plan to move, and almost all respondents say their community is a good place for older people to live (98%).

While Northfield residents age 50-plus see many positives in their community, there are steps that can be taken to improve Northfield's livability. In July and August of 2017, 463 Northfield residents age 50-plus identified important community features as well as community needs based on the WHO's eight domains of livable communities.

Out of the eight domains (see page 7) analyzed in the survey, Health and Wellness was rated the most important livable community domain for Northfield residents age 50-plus. The fourteen features within Health and Wellness that scored the highest were healthcare facilities and providers, as well as programs to improve the health and wellness of residents age 50-plus. Transportation and Streets and Housing complete the top three most important community features as shown in the results. All eight domains were considered at least somewhat important to respondents. See Key Findings (page 9) for a summary of the most important community features sorted by domain.

This analysis also identifies community needs through gap analysis. We can define a "need" based on an apparent gap between what people think they should have and what they actually have. To identify these needs in Northfield, the survey asked respondents to rank the importance of each community feature and to respond to whether or not that feature exists in their community. The questions were paired to determine "gaps" or needs.

The largest community needs exist in the Job Opportunities, Community Information, and Housing domains. See the Key Findings (page 10) for a summary of the top 3 community needs for each WHO domain.

These survey findings hope to assist policymakers, planners and community leaders identify the needs and values of the aging population in Northfield in order to take steps to ensure Northfield is an Age Friendly, livable community.

8 DOMAINS OF LIVABILITY

By 2020, there will be more seniors in Minnesota than school age children. By 2030, 25% of Minnesota adults will be 65 or older. The rapid aging of Minnesota's population is not only going to impact Minnesota's economy and communities, it will also touch the lives of virtually every person in the State.

The number of people in Rice County aged 65 or older will double by 2035. Northfield's growing aging population will have an enormous impact on housing, infrastructure, public services, transportation, and medical services. However, this population also offers the city the benefit of vast and broad experience and knowledge, a larger pool of available volunteers and mentors, and significant economic benefit.

Age-Friendly Northfield's community-wide survey of residents age 50-plus intended to determine the importance of specific livability factors that people age 50-plus need and how well Northfield is currently doing in providing those factors. The WHO identified eight domains to assess essential age-friendly characteristics of a city.

Those domains are:

HOUSING

Most people want to remain in their own home and community as they age. Doing so is possible if housing is designed or modified for aging in place and a community has affordable housing options for varying life stages.

OUTDOOR SPACES AND BUILDINGS

People need public places to gather-indoors and out. Green spaces, safe streets, sidewalks, outdoor seating and accessible buildings (think elevators, stairs with railings etc.) can be used and enjoyed by people of all ages.

3 TRANSPORTATION AND STREETS

Driving shouldn't be the only way to get around. Public transit options can be as expensive and as infrastructure dependent as a train system or as targeted as a taxi service that provides non-drivers with rides to and from a doctor's office.

4 HEALTH AND WELLNESS

At some point, every person of every age gets hurt, becomes ill or simply needs some help. While it's important that care be available nearby, it's essential that residents are able to access and afford the services required.

5 SOCIAL PARTICIPATION, INCLUSION, AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Regardless of a person's age, loneliness is often as debilitating a health condition as having a chronic illness or disease. Sadness and isolation can be combatted by the availability of accessible, affordable and fun social activities. Everyone wants to feel valued. Intergenerational activities are a great way for young and old to learn from one another, honor what each has to offer and, at the same time, feel good about themselves.

(continued)

6 VOLUNTEERING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

An age-friendly community provides ways older people can (if they choose) volunteer their skills and be actively engaged in community life.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Why does work need to be an all or nothing experience? An age-friendly community provides ways older people can (if they choose) to continue to work for pay.

8 COMMUNITY AND INFORMATION

Age-friendly communities recognize that not everyone has a smartphone or Internet access and that information needs to be disseminated through a variety of means.

KEY FINDINGS

Across the eight domains, health and wellness is rated the most important liveable community feature for Northfield residents age 50-plus. The following table highlights the three most important features of liveability in each domain as indicated by survey respondents.

TOP 3 IMPORTANT COMMUNITY FEATURES IN EACH DOMAIN		
Housing	Quality contractors that are affordable and trustworthy (92.9%), the existence of well-maintained homes and properties (91.4%), and housing options for all income levels (88.3%).	
Outdoor Spaces and Buildings	Well-maintained and easily accessible public buildings (91.8%), sidewalks in good condition (90.1%), and well maintained and easily accessible public restrooms (82.1%).	
Transportation and Streets	Well-maintained streets (94.8%), well-lit streets and intersections (93.2%), and easy to read traffic signs (92.9%).	
Health and Wellness	Well-maintained hospital and health care facilities (97.4%), a variety of health care professionals and specialists (94.7%), affordable home health services (93.3%), and respectful and helpful hospital and clinic staff (93%).	
Social Participation, Inclusion, and Educational Opportunities	Affordable activities (86.1%), widely publicized, accurate information about social activities (85.3%), and continuing education classes (77%).	
Volunteering and Civic Engagement	A range of volunteer activities (79.3%), easily accessible information about volunteering (78.7%), and access to positions on decision making bodies (75.6%).	
Job Opportunities	Jobs for people with disabilities (76.8%), job training opportunities (64.9%), and flexible job opportunities (69%).	
Community Information	Free access to public computers and the internet (74.4%), a central location for community information (69.9%), and hand delivered information for people who cannot leave their homes (66.6%).	

The table below highlights the largest three gaps between how important respondents rated community features and what percentage of people believed those features existed in the community in each domain. Gaps are calculated by subtracting the percentage of people who felt a feature existed from the percentage who thought the feature was extremely or very important. These gaps are a way to measure community needs.

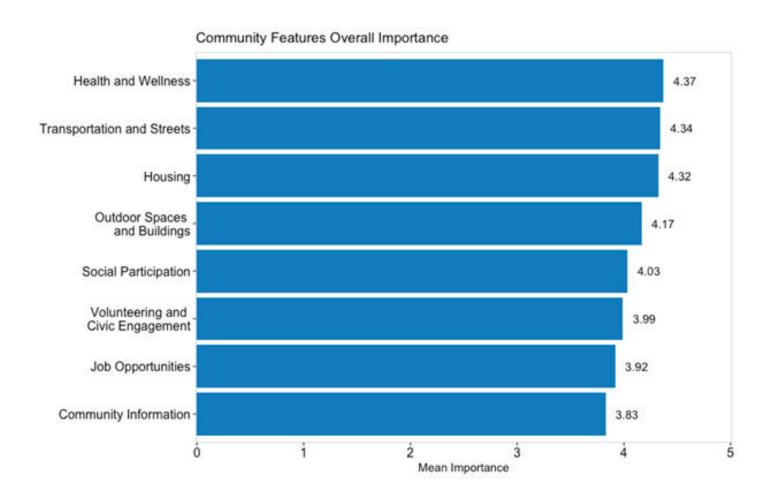
TOP 3 COMMUNITY FEATURE GAP IN EACH DOMAIN		
Housing	Home repair services for low-income and older adults (61%), homes equipped with age friendly features (35%), and seasonal home services for older adults (32%).	
Outdoor Spaces and Buildings	Well-maintained and easily accessible public restrooms (50%), neighborhood watch programs (38%), and safe and accessible sidewalks in good condition (33%).	
Transportation and Streets	Reliable public transportation (42%), safe public transportation stops (40%), and affordable public transportation (34%). Uncertainty may also explain these gaps, since less than 1 in 10 respondents reported using public transportation.	
Health and Wellness	Affordable home health care providers (56%), well-trained and certified home health care providers (38%), and easy to find information on local health and support services (38%).	
Social Participation, Inclusion, and Educational Opportunities	Activities that are affordable (41%), cultural activities (27%), and published information about social activities (24%).	
Volunteering and Civic Engagement	Volunteer training to help performance (37%), easy to find information about local volunteering opportunities (34%), and access to positions on decision making bodies (16%)	
Job Opportunities	Job training opportunities (52%), jobs for people with disabilities (48 %), and a range of flexible job opportunities (48%). These gaps may be explained by the large amount of uncertainty that exists in terms of the presence of these factors.	
Community Information	Community information hand delivered to people who have trouble leaving home (54%), access to information in one central source (45%), easily understandable and automated information source (43%), and clearly displayed and largely printed information (43%).	

IMPORTANCE OF LIVABILITY DOMAINS

Health and Wellness is the most important community domain for Northfield residents age 50-plus.

Survey respondents in Northfield rated Health and Wellness, Transportation and Streets and Housing as the top three domains. Respondents rated features within each domain on a 5 point scale with "5" being extremely important and "1" being not at all important. The overall ranking was calculated by finding the average importance ranking of all features in each domain.

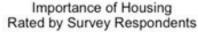
All eight domains are considered at least somewhat important to the majority of respondents, but access to high-quality healthcare centers, streets, and properties as well as experienced professionals in those domains topped the list.

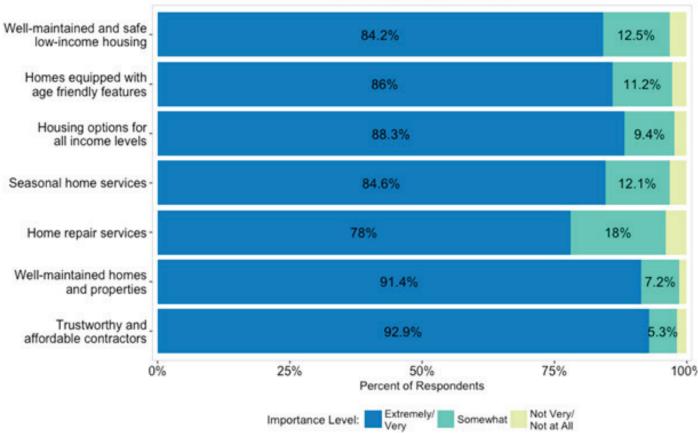


HOUSING

Trustworthy, affordable contractors and well-maintained homes and properties are the most important housing features.

Considering that most respondents are homeowners and want to remain in Northfield as they age, it is not surprising that the most important housing features enable people to stay in their homes. Having quality contractors that are affordable and trustworthy (92.9%) and the existence of well-maintained homes and properties (91.4%) are most important. The existence of houses with age friendly features such as wider doorways and grab bars (86%) and seasonal home services (84.6%) are also valued by respondents.

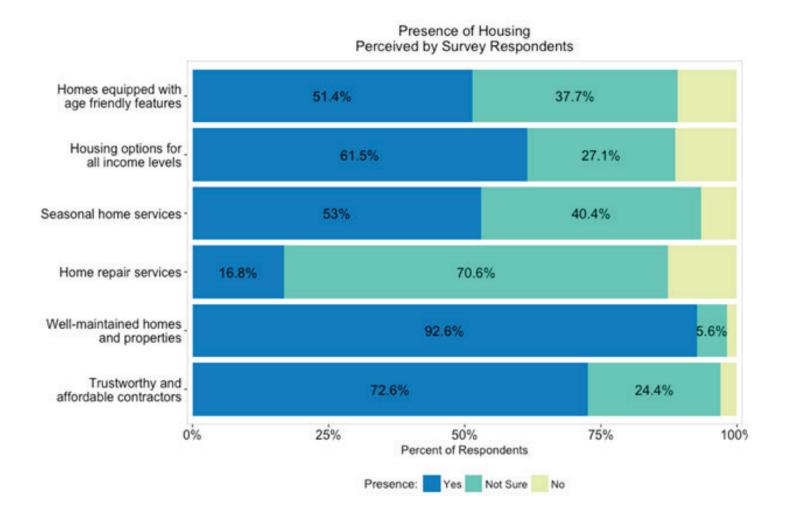




HOUSING

Most believe well-maintained homes and good contractors exist in their community, but they are unsure about seasonal and home repair services.

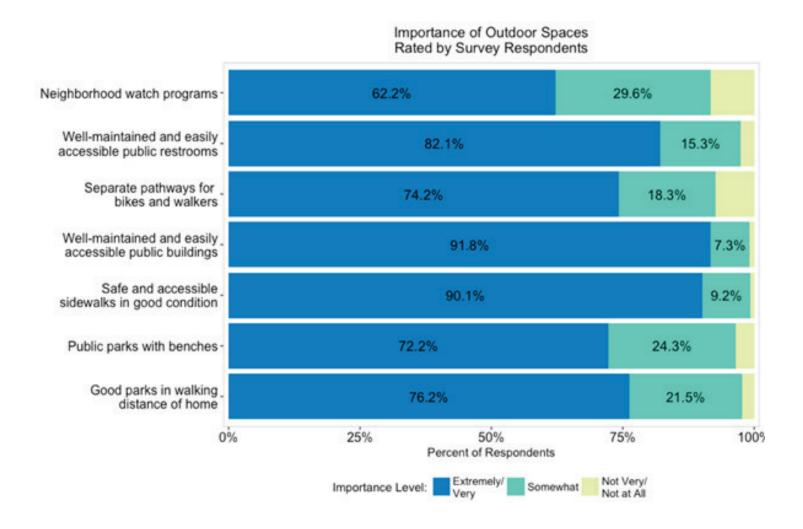
Respondents are unsure about the existence of features that would enable them to stay in their homes as they age. Seven out of ten are unsure about the existence of home repair services for low-income and elderly adults (70.6%) and two out of five are unsure about the existence of seasonal home services such as lawn work or snow removal (40.4%).



OUTDOOR SPACES AND BUILDINGS

Well-maintained, easily accessible public buildings and sidewalks in good condition are important outdoor and building features for Northfield 50-plus residents.

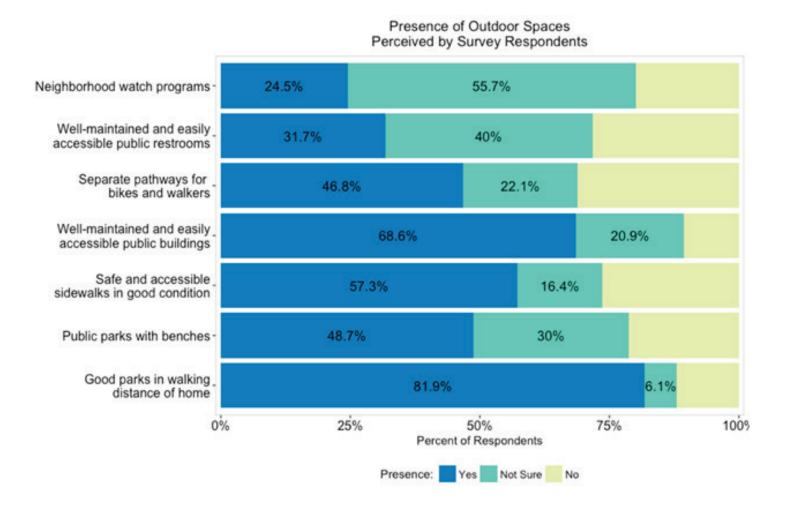
When disability, handicap or chronic diseases impairs at least one person in a household for one in four Northfield residents aged 50-plus, the community needs to make outdoor spaces a safe place for all people. When asked about public buildings and outdoor spaces in Northfield, more than two out of three Northfield residents age 50-plus rate these features as extremely or very important. They rank well-maintained and easily accessible public buildings most important (91.8%), closely followed by sidewalks in good condition (90.1%). Well maintained public restrooms (82.1%) as well as parks within walking distance from their homes (76.2%) are also highly valued by a majority of these residents.



OUTDOOR SPACES AND BUILDINGS

Most 50-plus residents agree that Northfield has easily accessible and well maintained parks, but there are a variety of answers about the existence of other outdoor spaces and public building features.

Most survey respondents believe that Northfield has well-maintained parks in good walking distance from homes (81.9%). While about three in five respondents believe the sidewalks are well maintained (57.3%), one in four believe they are not (26.4%). There is also a considerable proportion of respondents who believe that public restrooms are not easily accessible or well maintained (28.3%). Pedestrian safety could be an issue when one in three report that there are not separate pathways for bikes and walkers (31.1%).

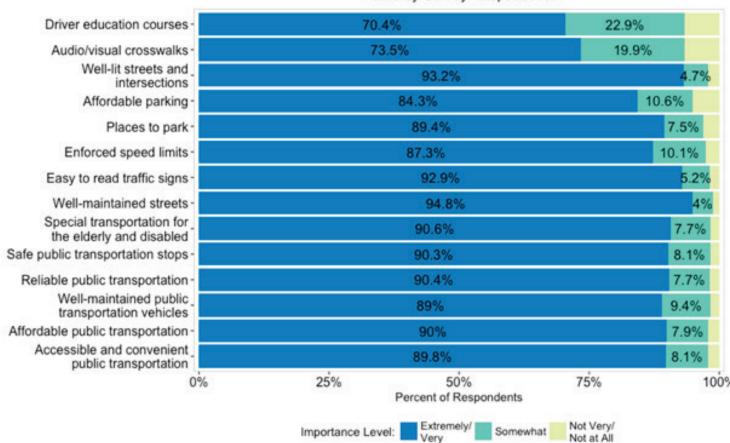


TRANSPORTATION AND STREETS

Safe and well-lit streets and traffic signs are among most important features for survey respondents.

When asked about fourteen features related to transportation in the community, well-maintained streets (94.8%), well-lit streets and intersections (93.2%), and easy to read traffic signs (92.9%) were found to be most important. 91.7% of survey respondents still drive themselves, and these features ensure that they will be able to continue doing so. 9 out of 10 respondents also found features relating to public transportation to be extremely or very important. These features include safe public transportation stops (90.3%), well maintained public transportation vehicles (89%), and reliable, affordable public transportation (90.4%).



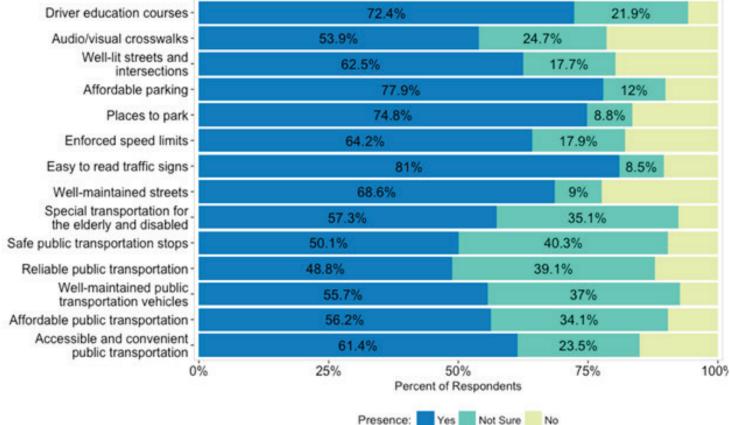


TRANSPORTATION AND STREETS

Many respondents see streets as in need of improvement and are unsure about public transportation conditions.

Roughly 1 in 5 respondents identified a lack of well-maintained (22.3%) and well-lit (19.8%) streets in the community of Northfield. This is compared to more than 90% who found both features to be extremely or very important. There is also a large percentage of respondents who are not sure whether the community has safe public transportation stops (40.3%), well maintained public transportation vehicles (37%), or reliable (39.1%), affordable public transportation (34.1%). This could be because only 1 in 10 respondents reported using public transportation (9.5%).



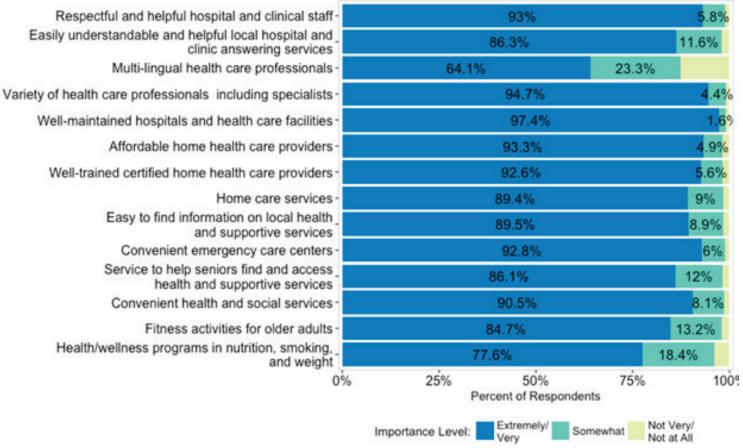


HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Having well-maintained hospitals and healthcare facilities is extremely important to Northfield residents aged 50-up.

In the area of community health and wellness, well-maintained hospitals and health care facilities (97.4%), a variety of health care professionals and specialists (94.7%), affordable home health services (93.3%), and respectful and helpful hospital and clinic staff (93%) were found to be the most important features. That being said, all features in this category are rated as being extremely or very important by more than half of survey respondents.

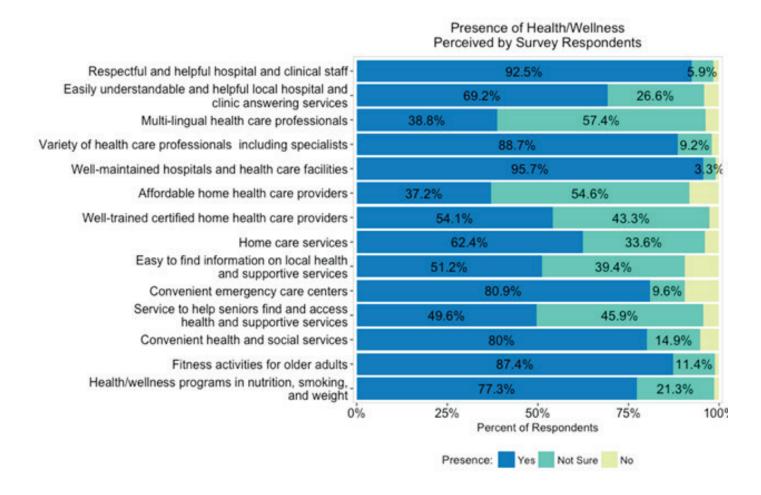
Importance of Health/Wellness Among Rated by Survey Respondents ical staff-



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Well-maintained hospitals and health care facilities are believed to exist in the community.

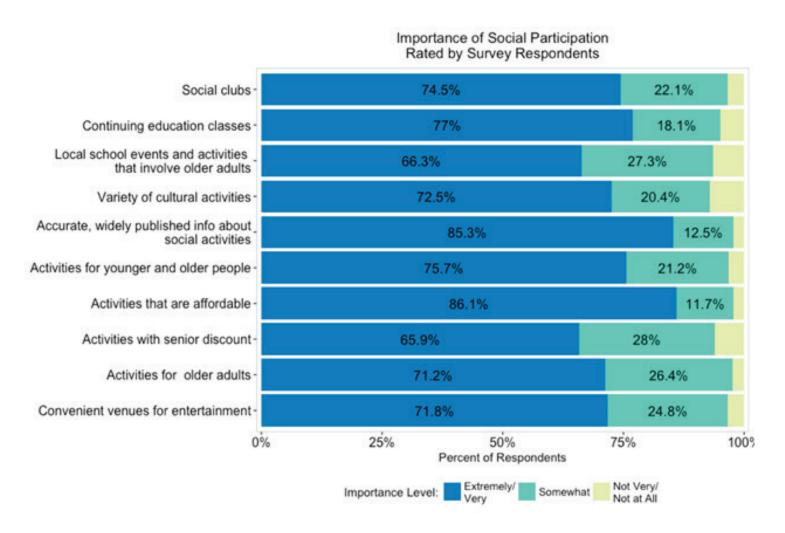
Respondents believe that many of the most important health and wellness features exist in their community. However, many older adults are unaware of the services that may help them the most while aging in their community. Around half of respondents say they are unsure of the existence of affordable home health care providers (54.6%) or services that help seniors find and access health care (45.9%).



SOCIAL PARTICIPATION, INCLUSION, & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE COMMUNITY

Affordable and widely-publicized activities are the most important social participation feature for Northfield residents.

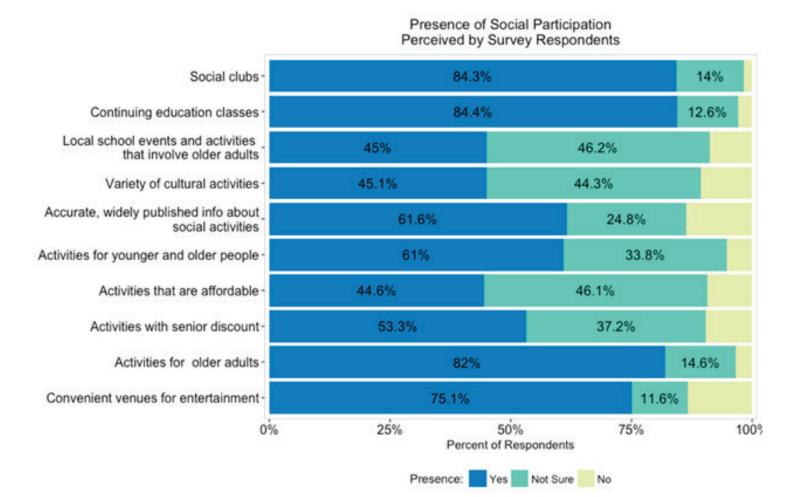
Community engagement and social activity are important for people of all ages and prevents feelings of isolation. It is assuring that almost all survey respondents (97.8%) report interactions with friends, family, or neighbors at least once a week. When asked about the importance of features associated with social activities, survey respondents ranked affordable activities as the most important feature (86.1%). North-field residents also ranked widely publicized, accurate information about social activities (85.3%) and continuing education classes (77%) as the other most important aspects of social participation in their community. More than 2 out of 3 respondents rated each feature of this domain as extremely or very important.



SOCIAL PARTICIPATION, INCLUSION, & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE COMMUNITY

Northfield offers many activities for older adults that include social clubs and continuing education classes.

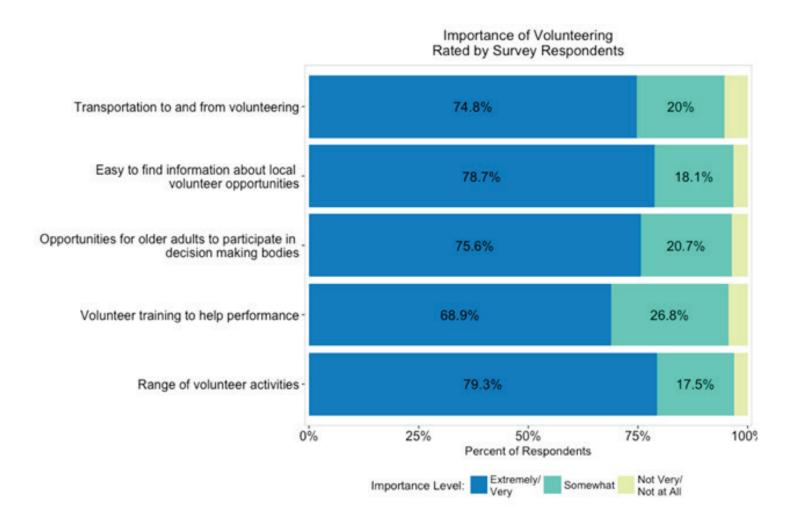
The majority of Northfield residents aged 50 or older are aware of social activities for older adults in Northfield (82%) and they know their community offers social clubs (84.3%) and continuing education classes (84.4%). Almost half of respondents (49%) participate in these types of activities at a senior center. However, less than half of survey respondents believe that social activities are affordable in Northfield (44.6%). There are also many people who are unsure of the existence of local school events that involve older adults (45%) and cultural activities (44.3%).



VOLUNTEERING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

A range of volunteer activities are of great importance to 50-plus residents of Northfield.

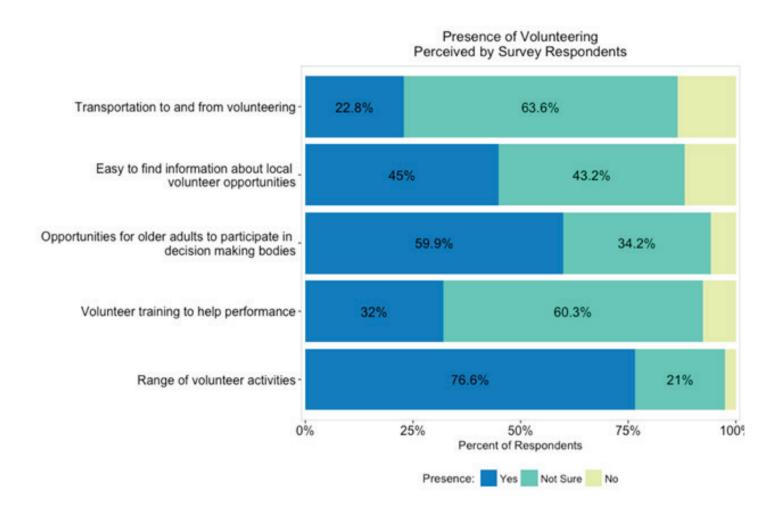
A majority of Northfield residents age 50-plus agree that having a range of volunteer activities in their community is important (79.3%). These residents also indicated that information about volunteering should be easily accessible (78.7%) and that they think it is important for them to have access to positions on decision making bodies (75.6%).



VOLUNTEERING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Northfield provides a range of volunteering activities to its 50-plus residents but most are unaware of support that could assist with their efforts.

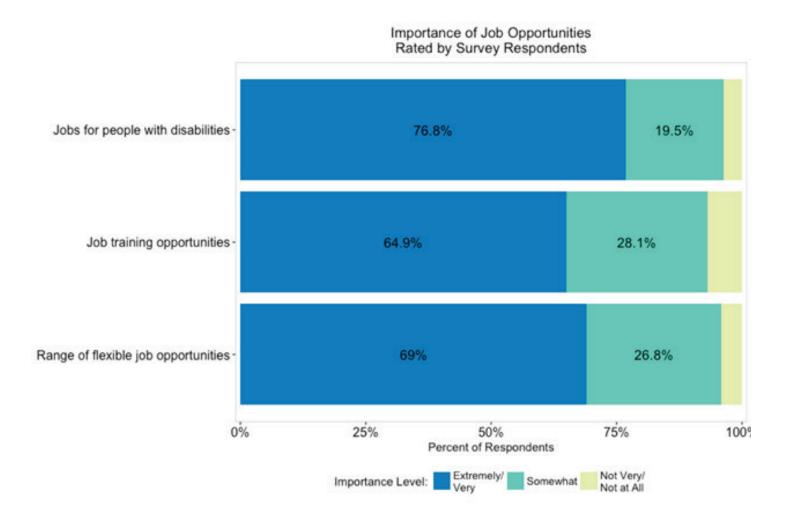
Northfield 50-plus residents rank having a variety of volunteer activities as the most important feature of the volunteering realm. A majority of this population also believe that Northfield has this feature (76.6%). However, most survey respondents are unaware of assistance for volunteering efforts. For example, 2 out of 3 respondents are unaware if there is transportation to and from volunteering events (63.6%) and more than half are unaware of training to help their performance (60.3%).



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Features relating to job opportunities are extremely or very important to a majority of Northfield residents over 50.

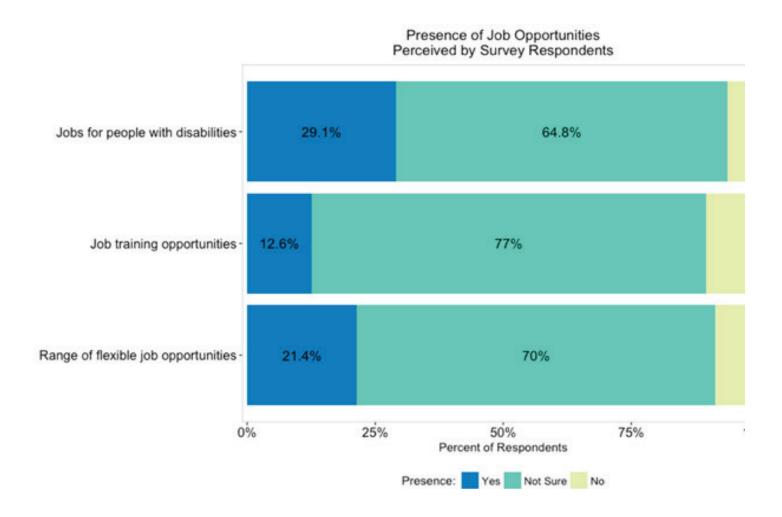
All of the features in the job opportunities section of the survey were rated as extremely or very important by a majority of respondents. Over three-quarters believe jobs for people with disabilities (76.8%) to be extremely or very important and well over half rated job training opportunities (64.9%) and flexible job opportunities (69%) as extremely or very important. This makes sense, since two out of every 5 of respondents are still in the workforce (38.6%) and a similar proportion stated it is extremely or very likely that they will continue to work as long as possible rather than retiring (39.5%).



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Most respondents are unsure whether job opportunities exist for older adults.

Despite the high percentage of respondents that believe job opportunity features to be extremely or very important, more than half of respondents are unsure whether these features even exist. While people in and out of work may believe these factors to be important, respondents who are still working are likely to be much more aware of their actual existence. Considering that three out of five respondents are no longer in the workforce (61.4%); this uncertainty is not as surprising.

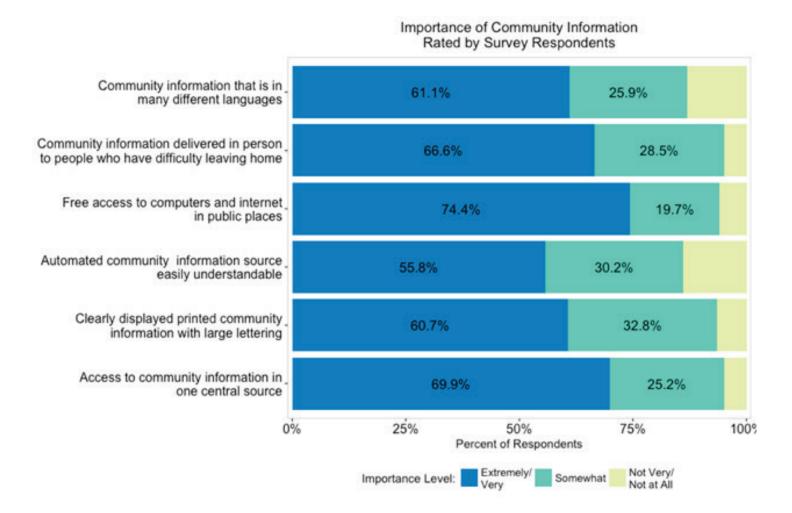


COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Communication and Information/Community Resource

Accurate, easily available community information is important to Northfield residents 50-plus.

4 out of 5 survey respondents report that they use the internet at least once a day (79.2%). This may explain why free access to public computers and the internet is rated as the most important feature when it comes to communication and information (74.4%). This community also believes that a central location for community information (69.9%) and hand delivered information for people who cannot leave their homes (66.6%) are two important features of an information system.

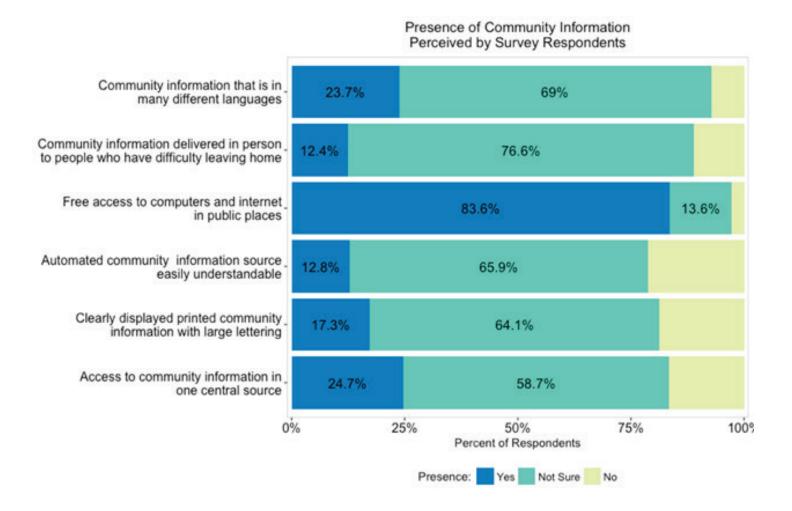


COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Communication and Information/Community Resource

Apart from free access to computers and internet, most 50-plus Northfield residents are unsure of the community information available.

Free access to computers and the internet is a well-known feature of the Northfield community. More than 4 out of 5 people believe that this is available (83.6%). However, more than half of the population is unsure if the other resources related to communication are present in Northfield. Most notably, 3 out of 4 people do not know if community information can be delivered to people who have difficulty leaving their homes (76.6%)



GAPS INDICATING COMMUNITY NEEDS



A need can be defined as an area where there is a difference between what one has and what one should have. To identify the needs of Northfield residents 50-plus, survey respondents were asked to rate the importance of the community features discussed in the previous section. Those questions were then paired with questions about whether or not those features were present in their community. This pairing allows us to review the gap between how important features are and whether respondents believe they exist in Northfield. We will think of large gaps as potential needs in Northfield.

In order to determine the gap, respondents who rated features as very or extremely important were aggregated. Then we compared this proportion to the percent of respondents who indicated a given feature existed in Northfield. The "gap" being measured is the discrepancy between high importance and known existence. Keep in mind that for many features, this gap may be large because survey respondents are unsure if a feature exists in Northfield. In this case, the need is for better information about services, not necessarily a need of that feature.

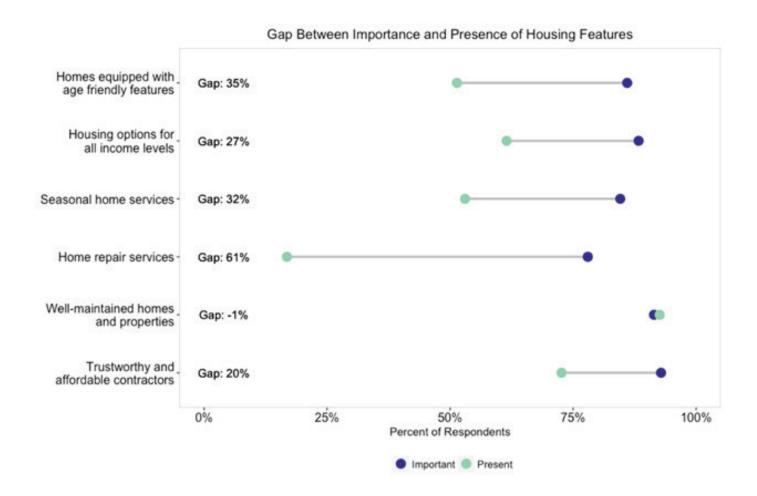
Community needs as indicated by the gap between importance and presence are most prominent in three areas: Job Opportunities, Community Information, and Housing

On average, the largest gaps between importance and presence of community features in Northfield appear in the Job Opportunities, Community Information and Housing domains. In terms of individual gaps, the top gap identified by Northfield residents age 50-plus is for home repair services for low income and older adults. The difference was 61%. As residents age and decide to remain in their homes, they need local services to help them fix and adapt their houses to their changing needs. The second largest individual gap was for affordable home health care providers. Although the average gap in the health and wellness domain was among the smallest for all domains, the gap for home health care was 56%. This is another feature that allows aging adults to stay in their homes and maintain independence.

GAP FOR HOUSING FEATURES

Northfield residents 50-plus identify a need for increased home repair services for low-income and older adults.

61% more respondents rated home repair service for low-income and older adults very/extremely important than those who believe it is present in Northfield. This gap is the largest out of any feature in this survey. 70.6% of respondents were unsure if this feature exists in Northfield, which contributes to the size of the gap. Repair services of this nature are essential for older adults who wish to stay independent and live at home but are unable to do this type of work themselves. Other notable gap existed for houses equipped with age friendly features such as grab bars in bathrooms and first floor bedrooms and bathrooms (35%) and seasonal home services (32%).



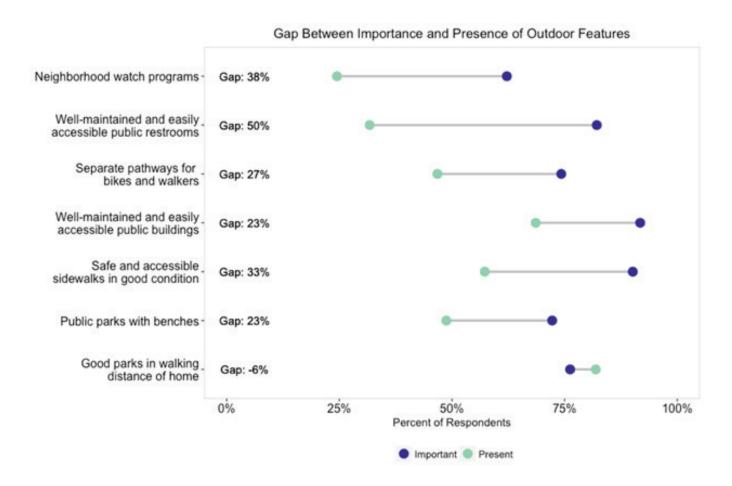
NOTE: To read these graphs, look at the distance between the Present Point colored in green and the Importance Point colored in Purple.

If the Present Point comes first (is lower than the Important Point) that means there are more people rating this feature as important than those who believe it exists

GAP FOR OUTDOOR SPACES & BUILDINGS FEATURES

The largest gaps in Northfield's outdoor features are well-maintained and easily accessible restrooms and well-maintained sidewalks.

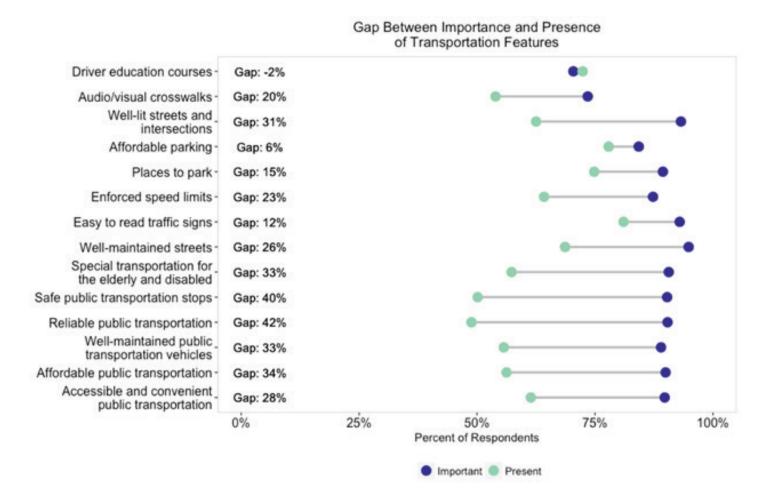
The 5th largest gap out of all domains is well-maintained and easily accessible public restrooms: 50% more respondents rated this important than those who believe this feature exists in Northfield. While 22% of respondents were unsure if this feature exists in Northfield, 31% believe it does not. Neighborhood watch programs (38%) and safe and accessible sidewalks (33%) complete the three largest gaps in the outdoor domain. It is important to note that the majority of the neighborhood watch program gap is attributed to 55.7% respondents being unsure if this feature exists in Northfield.



GAP FOR TRANSPORTATION AND STREET FEATURES

Respondents indicate that a need might exist in Northfield's public transportation.

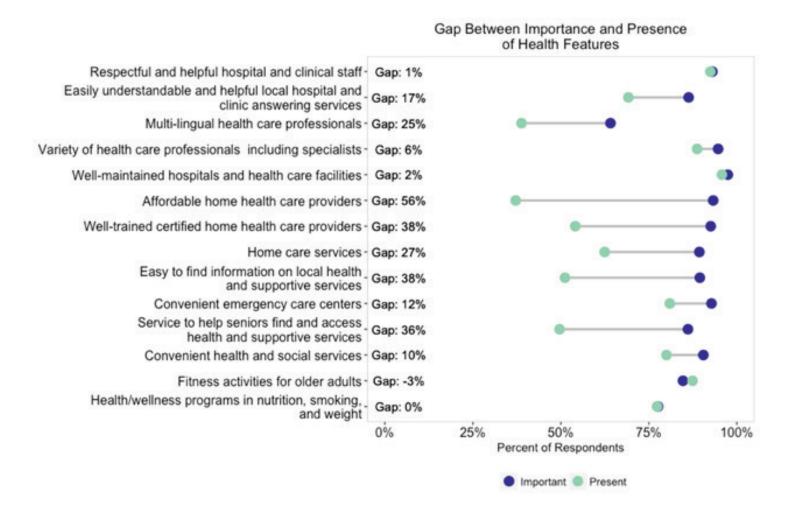
The largest gap as reported by respondents in the transportation and street domain exists in public transportation features. 42% more respondents rated reliable public transportation as important than those who believe that it exists in Northfield and 40% more rated safe public transportation as important than believe it is present. Most of this gap can be attributed to the fact that about 40% of respondents are unsure about the existence of these features. As mentioned earlier, only 9.5% of respondents reported using public transportation in the community, which could be the reason for the uncertainty.



GAP FOR HEALTH & WELLNESS FEATURES

Northfield's 50-plus residents see need for home health care and information and aid relating to health.

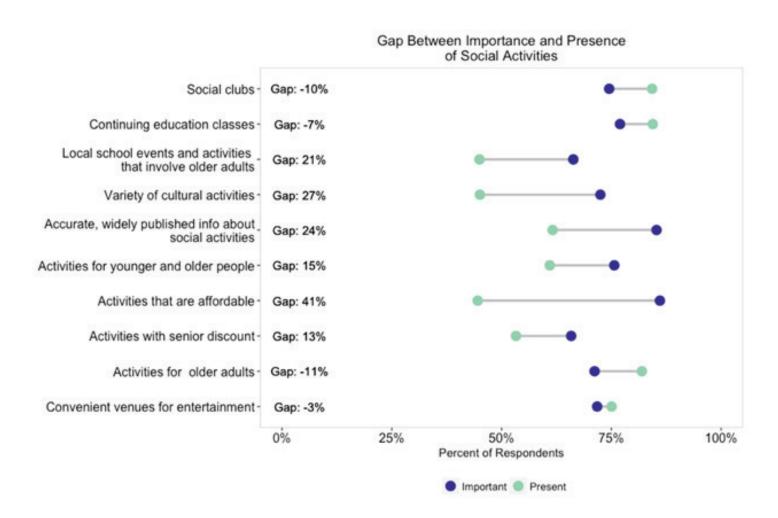
The largest gap in the health and wellness domain is in the home health care feature. 56% more respondents rated this feature as extremely or very important than did present, making it the second largest gap for any individual feature in the survey. This makes sense when considering that 54.6% of respondents were unaware of the existence of affordable home health care providers in Northfield. The second and third largest gaps in this domain were for information on local health and support services (38%) and for services that help seniors find and access health and support services (36%).



GAP FOR SOCIAL PARTICIPATION, INCLUSION, & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FEATURES

Northfield's 50-plus residents see need for larger variety of activities and for activities that are affordable.

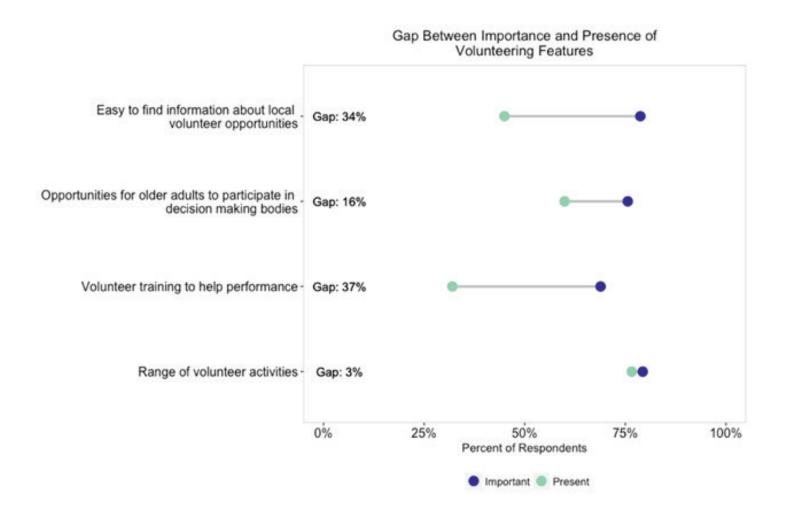
The largest gap in the social activities domain is for affordable activities. 41% more respondents rated affordable activities as extremely or very important than did present. Affordable is a subjective term, but it is worth noting that 46.1% of respondents were also unaware of activities of this description. Needs also exist for cultural activities (27%) and for widely published and accurate information about activities (24%).



GAP FOR VOLUNTEERING & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FEATURES

Northfield's age 50-plus population sees a gap in services that will help with volunteering efforts.

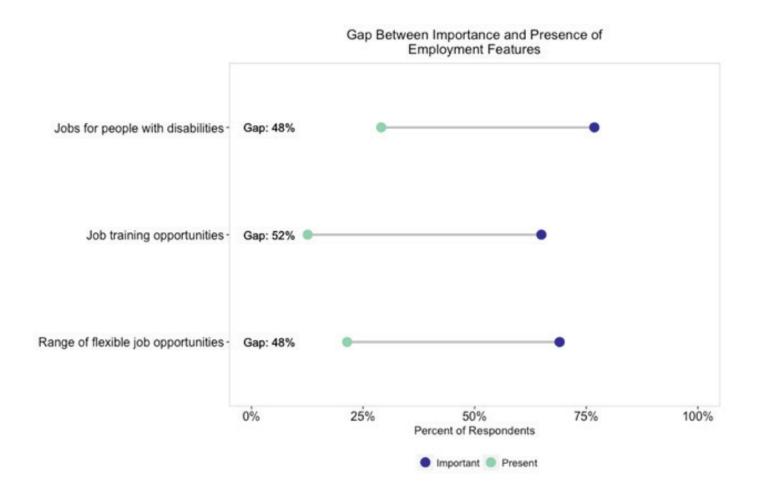
The largest gaps in the volunteering domain relate to services that would help people become better volunteers. 37% more respondents rate volunteer training as extremely or very important than do present. A gap of similar size exists for easy to find information about volunteering opportunities in the community (34%). A substantial gap also exists for opportunities for older adults to participate in decision making bodies (16%).



GAP FOR JOB OPPORTUNITIES FEATURES

Substantial gaps are found in all features relating to employment.

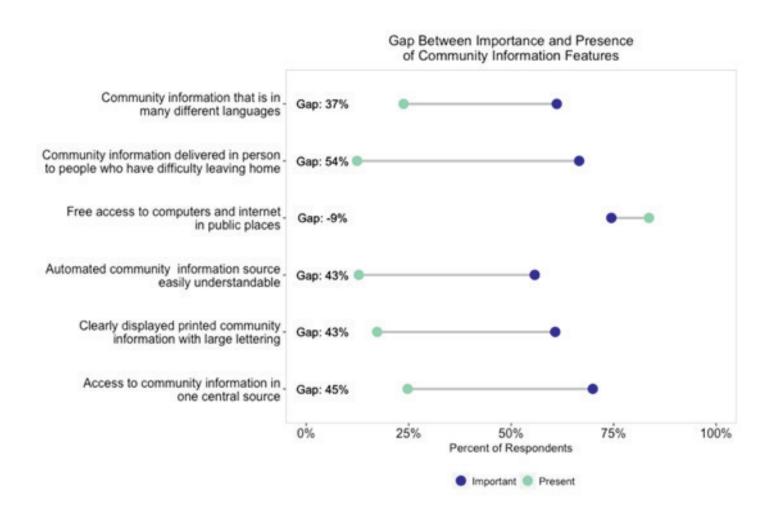
Noteworthy gaps exist when looking at all employment features. 48% more respondents identify jobs for people with disabilities and a range of flexible job opportunities as being extremely or very important than do present. The largest gap, however, is for job training opportunities for older adults (52%). These gaps may be explained by the large amount of uncertainty that exists in terms of the presence of these factors. Roughly 7 out of 10 respondents reported they were unsure of the existence of all three features in Northfield.



GAP FOR COMMUNITY INFORMATION FEATURES

Northfield residents 50-plus feel that there is a need for increased community information features in their community.

The top 3 largest gaps in community information features are community information delivered by hand to those that cannot leave their home, a central source for community information and clearly displayed community information with large lettering. 54% more respondents rated a service for information delivery to those who cannot leave their home as important when compared to those who believe it. 45% more rated a central source for information important than present and 43% more rated clearly displayed information important than present. These gaps are mostly made up of respondents who are uncertain about whether these features exist in Northfield.



DEMOGRAPHICS

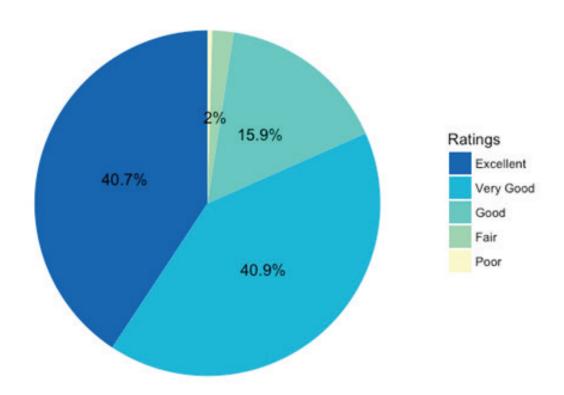
COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS

An age-friendly community examines its physical, social, and economic frameworks and makes needed changes that promote independence and a high quality of life for its citizens as they age. In this type of community, citizens are able to remain in their own home or community even though there may be significant changes in their health and economic condition.

Northfield residents age 50-plus believe their community is a good place for older people to live.

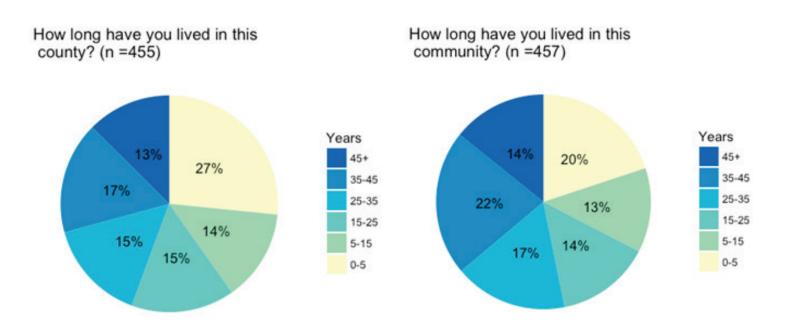
98% of Northfield residents surveyed consider their community to be an excellent, very good or good place for older people to live.

Rating Northfield as a place for older people to live (n =452)

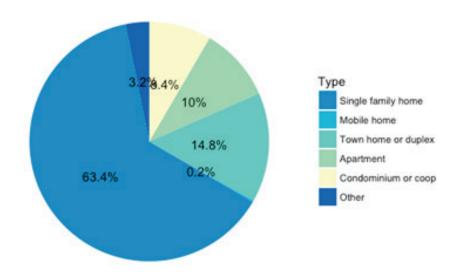


Northfield residents age 50-plus have deep roots in their community.

53% of survey respondents have lived in their community for more than 25 years. 14% have lived in their community between 15 and 25 years and an additional 33% have lived in their community less than 15 years. Most of the surveyed residents (63.4%) live in single family home; 14.8% of them live in a town home or duplex; only 0.2% of them live in a mobile home.



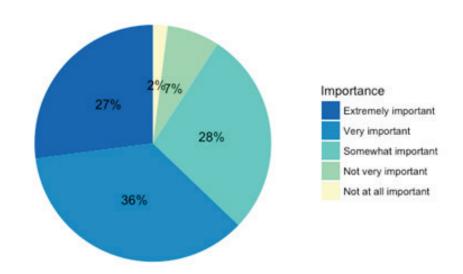
What type of home is your primary home? (n =440)



Northfield Residents age-50 plus think it is important for them to remain in their home and community.

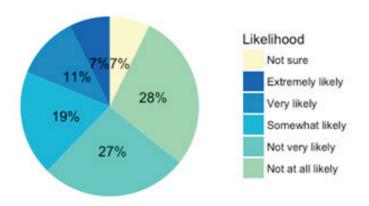
91% of Northfield residents age 50-plus want to continue living in the community as they age.

How important is it for you to remain in your community as your age? (n =447)

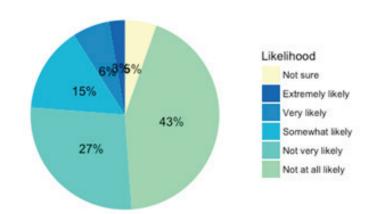


Most Northfield residents age 50-plus are unlikely to move into a different home within their community or move outside of their community in their retirement years.

When retired, how likely is if for you to move to a different home in your community? (n =437)

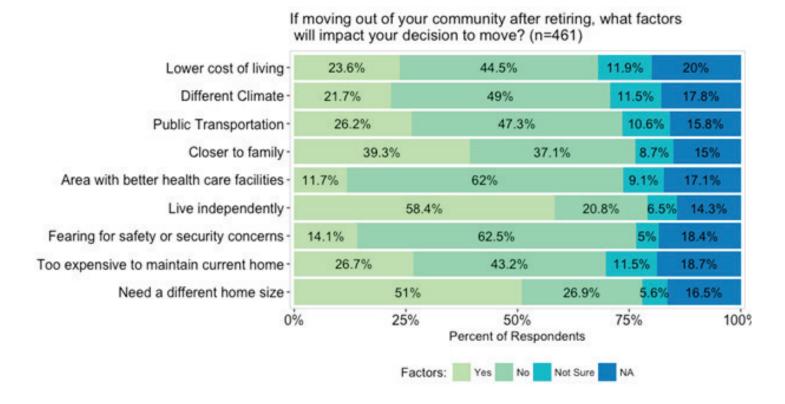


When retired, how likely is it for you to move to a different home outside of your community? (n =442)



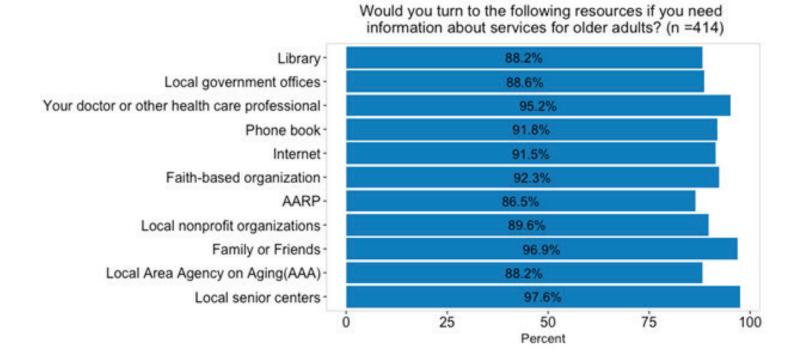
For many older Northfield adults, independent living would be a factor in the decision to move.

If survey respondents were to consider moving in their retirement years, the desire to find a home that would help them live independently as they age is the most common factor that would contribute to this decision. Finding a different size home than they currently have is another factor that would be considered by nearly half of respondents.

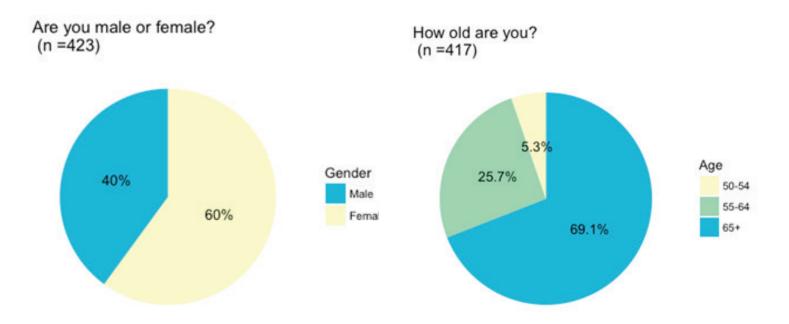


For age 50-plus Northfield residents, the local senior center is an important resource for information.

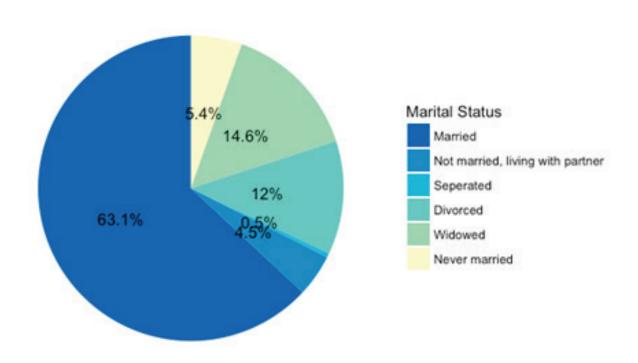
If age 50-plus Northfield residents need to find information about services for older adults, such as caregiving services, home delivered meals, home repair, medical transport or social activities, most of them choose to turn to local senior centers (97.6%), family or friends (96.9%), and doctors or other health care professional (95.2%).

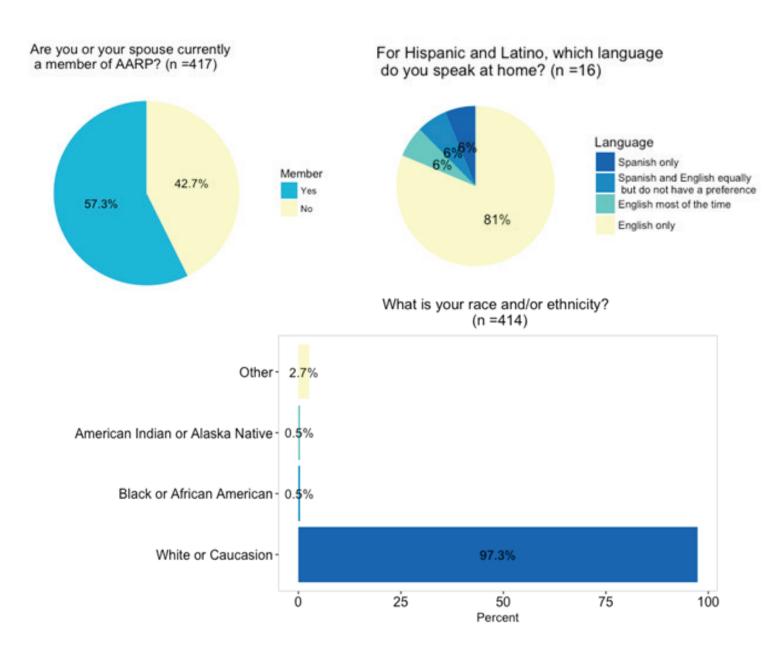


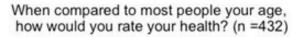
Average age: 70.3 years old



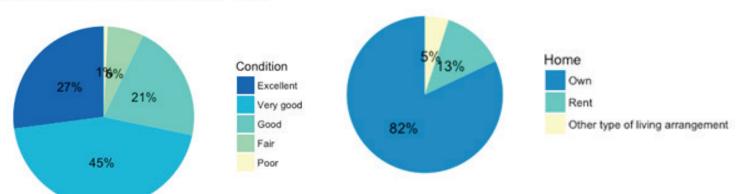
What is your current marital status? (n =425)



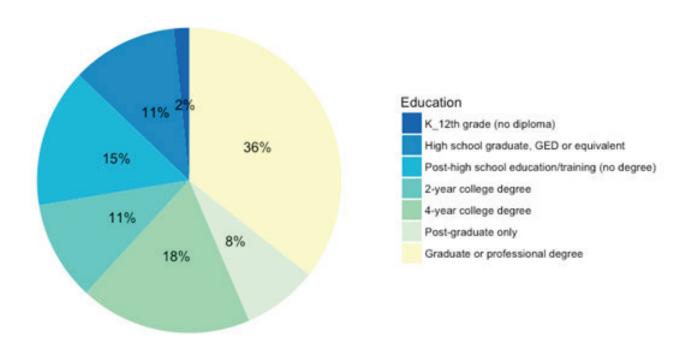




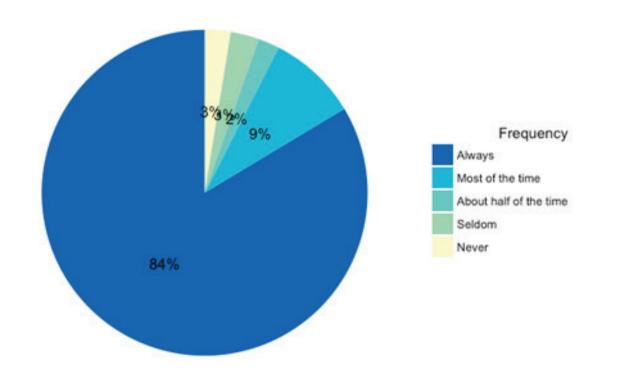
Do you own or rent your primary home? (n =445)



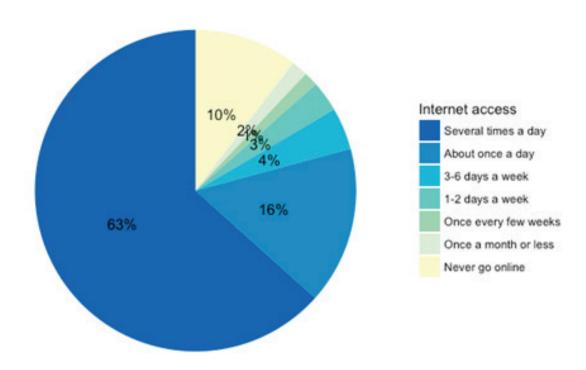
What is the highest level of education you have completed? (n =427)



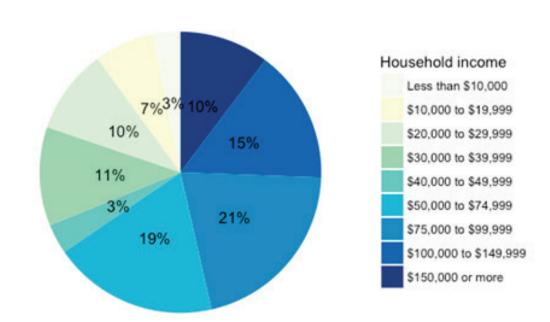
For state election in the last five years, how often did you vote? (n =427)



How often do you go online to access the Internet? (n =423)



What was your annual household income before taxes in the most recent tax year? (n =379)



METHODOLOGY

This report is based on data collected from both a random sample and a convenience sample of Northfield Residents age 50-plus. To conduct the random sample, surveys were sent by mail to 1,000 residents age 50-plus living in Northfield. These residents were randomly selected from a list of 3,000 obtained by_____. For the convenience sample, the survey was distributed and advertised at _____ as well as linked through Survey Monkey.

The survey was fielded from July 2017 through August 2017. A total of 467 surveys were completed by the cut-off date. 254 came from the random sample, which made a response rate of 25.4%. 203 surveys came from the convenience sample and 10 were unmarked on how they came in. 6 respondents were removed from this analysis because they answered that they were under 50 years old or they entered a zip-code that did not resemble Northfield's zip code. Therefore the final dataset had 461 respondents.

This survey has a margin of error of 4.6%. This means that if 95 out of 100 samples of this same size and population were given the same survey, the response to the question would fall within a range of plus or minus 4.6 percentage points of what would have been obtained if every respondent age 50 years or older were asked the same question.

In order to determine whether or not the answer would differ depending on if the respondent came from the random sample or the convenience sample, we fit a mixed effects models on the data to see if sample type was significant. For our analysis we tested a couple questions which asked about the importance of different features and for a given domain. Respondents were asked to rank their importance scale from 1 (extremely important) to 5 (not at all important). We used type of respondent, question and respondent ID (random effect) to predict the answer. When comparing the two models with or without the interaction term between type of respondent and question, we found out that the interaction term was not significant. Thus, we concluded that the type of respondent does not influence the relative importance of the feature. In addition, we noticed that convenience respondents have stronger opinions and rank things more important in magnitude. However, when we look at overall ranking of importance of the different features, both groups rank the features in the same order. The ordering of importance is preserved so we decided to combine both samples (including the unmarked type of respondents) for our analysis.

METHODOLOGY

We also examined the effect that gender or age may have had on responses. We found gender had no effect on ratings of importance, but age was significant in our analysis. The trend we noticed was that a greater proportion of residents aged 65+ were more likely to rate Northfield an excellent or very good place to live than the proportion of respondents less than 65. So much like the random vs convenience sample question, older respondents had a high magnitude of ratings, but in general rated features in the same order. Also, since 70% of respondents fell into this age-group, we decided to include all ages together in our analysis.

Graphs without sample size displayed on them have the sample sizes reported in the Appendix (see page 46). Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding. This may also cause percentages in the text to vary slightly from those in the graphs.

Sample Size for Graphs

For this analysis, respondents were not omitted from the data if they did not fully complete surveys. Respondents are omitted from only the analysis of questions they did not answer. Therefore, each individual question has a different sample size. Below are tables indicating sample size by question.

Housing Importance Analysis	
Trustworthy and affordable contractors	(n=435)
Well-maintained homes and properties	(n=432)
Home repair services	(n=427)
Seasonal home services	(n=428)
Housing options for all income levels	(n=436)
Homes equipped with age friendly features	(n=428)
Housing Presence Analysis	
Trustworthy and affordable contractors	(n=435)
Well-maintained homes and properties	(n=432)
Home repair services	(n=428)
Seasonal home services	(n=428)
Housing options for all income levels	(n=428)
Homes equipped with age friendly features	(n=431)
Outdoor and Public Buildings Importance Analysis	
Good parks in walking distance of home	(n=433)
Public parks with benches	(n=432)
Safe and accessible sidewalks in good condition	(n=435)
Well-maintained and easily accessible public buildings	(n=437)
Separate pathways for bikes and walkers	(n=431)
Well-maintained and easily accessible public restrooms	(n=431)
Neighborhood watch programs	(n=423)
Outdoor and Public Buildings Presence Analysis	
Good parks in walking distance of home	(n=442)
Public parks with benches	(n=437)
Safe and accessible sidewalks in good condition	(n=440)
Well-maintained and easily accessible public buildings	(n=436)

Separate pathways for bikes and walkers	(n=434)
Well-maintained and easily accessible public restrooms	(n=435)
Neighborhood watch programs	(n=433)
Transportation and Streets Importance Analysis	
Accessible and convenient public transportation	(n=430)
Affordable public transportation	(n=428)
Well-maintained public transportation vehicles	(n=427)
Reliable public transportation	(n=426)
Safe public transportation stops	(n=422)
Special transportation for the elderly and disabled	(n=427)
Well-maintained streets	(n=426)
Easy to read traffic signs	(n=425)
Enforced speed limits	(n=425)
Places to park	(n=424)
Affordable parking	(n=426)
Well-lit streets and intersections	(n=427)
Audio/visual crosswalks	(n=422)
Driver education courses	(n=419)
Transportation and Streets Presence Analysis	
Accessible and convenient public transportation	(n=430)
Affordable public transportation	(n=425)
Well-maintained public transportation vehicles	(n=424)
Reliable public transportation	(n=422)
Safe public transportation stops	(n=417)
Special transportation for the elderly and disabled	(n=424)
Well-maintained streets	(n=421)
Easy to read traffic signs	(n=422)
Enforced speed limits	(n=419)
Places to park	(n=421)
Affordable parking	(n=416)
Well-lit streets and intersections	(n=424)
Audio/visual crosswalks	(n=421)
Driver education courses	(n=420)

Health/Wellness Importance Analysis
$Health/wellness\ programs\ in\ nutrition, smoking, and\ weight(n=429)$
Fitness activities for older adults(n=431)
Convenient health and social services(n=431)
Service to help seniors find and access health(n=432)
and supportive services
Convenient emergency care centers(n=430)
Easy to find information on local health and(n=428)
supportive services
Home care services(n=432)
Well-trained certified home health care providers(n=431)
Affordable home health care providers(n=431)
Well-maintained hospitals and health care facilities(n=430)
Variety of health care professionals including specialists(n=432)
Multilingual health care professionals(n=429)
Easily understandable and helpful local hospital and(n=431)
clinic answering services
Respectful and helpful hospital and clinical staff(n=431)
Health/Wellness Presence Analysis
$Health/wellness\ programs\ in\ nutrition, smoking, and\ weight(n=428)$
Fitness activities for older adults(n=429)
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Well-maintained hospitals and health care facilities(n=423)
Variety of health care professionals including specialists(n=425)
Multilingual health care professionals(n=425)

Easily understandable and helpful local hospital and	(n=425)
clinic answering services	
Respectful and helpful hospital and clinical staff	(n=424)
Social Activities Importance Analysis	
Convenient venues for entertainment	(n=411)
Activities for older adults	(n=413)
Activities with senior discount	(n=410)
Activities that are affordable	(n=409)
Activities for younger and older people	(n=411)
Accurate, widely published info about social activities	(n=408)
Variety of cultural activities	(n=411)
Local school events and activities that involve older adults	(n=410)
Continuing education classes	(n=404)
Social clubs	(n=408)
Social Activities Presence Analysis	
Convenient venues for entertainment	(n=405)
Activities for older adults	(n=410)
Activities with senior discount	(n=409)
Activities that are affordable	(n=406)
Activities for younger and older people	(n=405)
Accurate, widely published info about social activities	(n=404)
Variety of cultural activities	(n=406)
Local school events and activities that involve older adults	(n=407)
Continuing education classes	(n=405)
Social clubs	(n=407)
Volunteering Importance Analysis	
Range of volunteer activities	(n=416)
Volunteer training to help performance	(n=411)
Opportunities for older adults to participate in	(n=410)
decision making bodies	
Easy to find information about local volunteer opportunities	(n=409)
Transportation to and from volunteering	(n=404)

Volunteering Presence Analysis	
Range of volunteer activities(n=410))
Volunteer training to help performance(n=406	5)
Opportunities for older adults to participate in(n=409	€)
decision making bodies	
Easy to find information about local volunteer opportunities(n=407	7)
Transportation to and from volunteering(n=162	<u>2</u>)
Job Opportunities Importance Analysis	
Range of flexible job opportunities(n=410))
Job training opportunities(n=405	5)
Jobs for people with disabilities(n=401	1)
Job Opportunities Presence Analysis	
Range of flexible job opportunities(n=406	5)
Job training opportunities(n=405	5)
Jobs for people with disabilities(n=406	5)
Community Information Importance Analysis	
Access to community information in one central source(n=409))
Clearly displayed printed community information(n=405	5)
with large lettering	٠,
Automated community information source(n=400	J)
easily understandable	71
Free access to computers and internet in public places	
Community information delivered in person to people(n=407	')
who have difficulty leaving home	٠,
Community information that is in many(n=409	J)
different languages	
Community Information Presence Analysis	
Access to community information in one central source	۱۱

Clearly displayed printed community information(n=370)
with large lettering
Automated community information source(n=367)
easily understandable
Free access to computers and internet in public places(n=397)
Community information delivered in person to people(n=363)
who have difficulty leaving home
Community information that is in many(n=358)
different languages

Creating an Age-Friendly Northfield

Age-Friendly Northfield Minnesota

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