AARP Livable Communities
Great Places for All Ages
2018 HOME AND COMMUNITY PREFERENCES SURVEY: A NATIONAL SURVEY OF ADULTS AGE 18-PLUS

August 2018
Key Findings: Home and Community

Adults have a strong desire and likelihood to stay in their home and community as they age and are making plans to do so, including consideration of alternative housing options. Both the desire and likelihood to stay in their home and community is even greater among adults age 50 and older.

• Between 50% and 60% of adults age 18-49 say they want to remain in their communities and homes as they age, while nearly 80% of adults age 50+ indicate this same desire.

• About 1/3 of adults age 18-49 report they will stay in their current home and never move while nearly 1/2 of adults age 50+ say they will never move.
More than six in ten adults would like to remain in their community or current residence for as long as possible.

“What I’d really like to do is remain in my community for as long as possible.”

- 68% Strongly/Somewhat agree
- 16% Neither agree nor disagree
- 16% Strongly disagree

“What I’d really like to do is stay in my current residence for as long as possible.”

- 63% Strongly/Somewhat agree
- 13% Neither agree nor disagree
- 24% Strongly/Somewhat disagree

Q1: How strongly do you agree or disagree with the statement: What I’d really like to do is remain in my community for as long as possible? Q2: How strongly do you agree or disagree with the statement: What I’d really like to do is stay in my current residence for as long as possible?
Preference to remain in their community or current residence is stronger in older age groups.

Q1: How strongly do you agree or disagree with the statement: What I'd really like to do is remain in my community for as long as possible?

Q2: How strongly do you agree or disagree with the statement: What I'd really like to do is stay in my current residence for as long as possible?

Source: 2018 Home and Community Preferences Survey: A National Survey of Adults Age 18-Plus
Approximately half of adults expect to stay in their home or community as they get older.

Q3: Thinking about your future years, are you more likely to…?

- 32% Move to a different community
- 18% Move into a different residence within your current community
- 15% Not sure
- 35% Stay in your current residence and never move
### Top Important Community Features (%Extremely/Very Important)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Well-maintained streets</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-maintained hospitals and health care facilities</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe Parks</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conveniently located hospitals and health care facilities</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy to read traffic signs</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Q27:** How important it is to you personally to have the following in your community right now?

*Source: 2018 Home and Community Preferences Survey: A National Survey of Adults Age 18-Plus*
At least eight in ten adults say well-maintained, safe/accessible streets, and easy to read traffic signs are extremely or very important community features.

Q27: How important it is it to you personally to have the following in your community right now?

Source: 2018 Home and Community Preferences Survey: A National Survey of Adults Age 18-Plus
Adults of all ages found the same three features to be the most important concerning streets.

**Top 3 Features in 18-49**
- Well-maintained streets
- Easy to read traffic signs
- Streets and intersections that are well-lit, accessible and safe for all users

**Top 3 Features in 50+**
- Well-maintained streets
- Easy to read traffic signs
- Streets and intersections that are well-lit, accessible and safe for all users

**Top 3 Features in 65+**
- Well-maintained streets
- Easy to read traffic signs
- Streets and intersections that are well-lit, accessible and safe for all users

Q27: How important is it to you personally to have the following in your community right now?  
Source: 2018 Home and Community Preferences Survey: A National Survey of Adults Age 18-Plus
Top three street and sidewalk features are similar across ethnicity; sidewalk condition, safety and accessibility.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 3 in White</th>
<th>Top 3 in African American</th>
<th>Top 3 in Hispanic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Well-maintained streets</td>
<td>Streets and intersections that are well-lit, accessible and safe for all users</td>
<td>Well-maintained streets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy to read traffic signs</td>
<td>Well-maintained streets</td>
<td>Streets and intersections that are well-lit, accessible for wheelchairs or other assistive mobility devices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streets and intersections that are well-lit, accessible and safe for all users</td>
<td>Easy to read traffic signs</td>
<td>Streets and intersections that are well-lit, accessible and safe for all users</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q27: How important it is it to you personally to have the following in your community right now?

Source: 2018 Home and Community Preferences Survey: A National Survey of Adults Age 18-Plus
Top street and sidewalk features are similar across income levels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Level</th>
<th>Top 3 Features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;$25K</td>
<td>Well-maintained streets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Streets and intersections that are well-lit,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>accessible and safe for all users</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Easy to read traffic signs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25-49.9K</td>
<td>Well-maintained streets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Streets and intersections that are well-lit,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>accessible and safe for all users</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Easy to read traffic signs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50-74.9K</td>
<td>Well-maintained streets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Streets and intersections that are well-lit,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>accessible and safe for all users</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75K+</td>
<td>Well-maintained streets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Streets and intersections that are well-lit,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>accessible and safe for all users</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q27: How important it is it to you personally to have the following in your community right now?

Source: 2018 Home and Community Preferences Survey: A National Survey of Adults Age 18-Plus
Majorities place high importance on public transportation safety, maintenance, timeliness, accessibility, and affordability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Extremely/Very important</th>
<th>Somewhat important</th>
<th>Not very/Not at all important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safe public transportation stops or areas that are accessible to people of varying physical abilities</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timely public transportation</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-maintained public transportation vehicles</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special transportation services for people with disabilities and older adults</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordable public transportation</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public transportation that is close to your home</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Percentages for “Don’t know/No response” not shown.

Q27: How important is it to you personally to have the following in your community right now?
Source: 2018 Home and Community Preferences Survey: A National Survey of Adults Age 18-Plus
Well-maintained public transportation vehicles and safe, accessible transportation stops are top 3 concerns across all ages; for adults 50+ and 65+ special transportation services for people with disabilities/older adults are a top and unique concern.

**Top 3 Features in 18-49**
- Timely public transportation
- Well-maintained public transportation vehicles
- Safe public transportation stops or areas that are accessible to people of varying physical abilities

**Top 3 Features in 50+**
- Safe public transportation stops or areas that are accessible to people of varying physical abilities
- Special transportation services for people with disabilities and older adults
- Well-maintained public transportation vehicles

**Top 3 Features in 65+**
- Safe public transportation stops or areas that are accessible to people of varying physical abilities
- Special transportation services for people with disabilities and older adults
- Well-maintained public transportation vehicles

Q27: How important it is it to you personally to have the following in your community right now?
Source: 2018 Home and Community Preferences Survey: A National Survey of Adults Age 18-Plus
Timely public transportation was ranked as one of the top three most important community feature across ethnicities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 3 in White</th>
<th>Top 3 in African American</th>
<th>Top 3 in Hispanic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safe public transportation stops or areas that are accessible to people of varying physical abilities</td>
<td>Safe public transportation stops or areas that are accessible to people of varying physical abilities</td>
<td>Well-maintained public transportation vehicles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timely public transportation</td>
<td>Special transportation services for people with disabilities and older adults</td>
<td>Timely public transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special transportation services for people with disabilities and older adults</td>
<td>Timely public transportation</td>
<td>Affordable public transportation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q27: How important it is it to you personally to have the following in your community right now?
Source: 2018 Home and Community Preferences Survey: A National Survey of Adults Age 18-Plus
Transportation top features are similar across income levels with focus on well-maintained, accessible, and timely transportation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Level</th>
<th>Top 3 Features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;$25K</td>
<td>Timely public transportation, Well-maintained public transportation vehicles, Affordable public transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25-49.9K</td>
<td>Special transportation services for people with disabilities and older adults, Safe public transportation stops or areas that are accessible to people of varying physical abilities, Timely public transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50-74.9K</td>
<td>Safe public transportation stops or areas that are accessible to people of varying physical abilities, Well-maintained public transportation vehicles, Special transportation services for people with disabilities and older adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75K+</td>
<td>Safe public transportation stops or areas that are accessible to people of varying physical abilities, Timely public transportation, Well-maintained public transportation vehicles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q27: How important is it to you personally to have the following in your community right now?  
Source: 2018 Home and Community Preferences Survey: A National Survey of Adults Age 18-Plus
AARP’s Active Living Work in Community
Local Advocacy, Community Challenge Grants & Partnerships, Active Living Events, & Collaborating with Trusted Partners

Local Advocacy

- Vision Zero advisory committees
- Support for Complete Streets
- Advocating for accessible road design, walkability, and transportation options
- Working with communities to become Age Friendly
AARP’s Active Living Work in Community
Local Advocacy, Community Challenge Grants & Partnerships, Active Living Events, & Collaborating with Trusted Partners

AARP Community Challenge Grants
Partnering with Cycling Without Age

Cycling Without Age started in Denmark and now has 1,600 chapters, including many across the United States.

The riders sit in the front of a trishaw—a specially designed pedicab—and a pilot pedals from the back. “There’s an element of freedom to it,” says Susan Crosley, founder of a Cycling Without Age chapter in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. “Getting out into the sunshine has brought some recluses out of their shells.”

The program has had “an incredible impact on our community,” says Gus Noble, president of Caledonia Senior Living & Memory Care in North Riverside, Illinois. “The smiles on our residents’ faces when they’re riding the bikes are infectious.”

For more information, visit CyclingWithoutAge.org.
AARP’s Active Living Work in Community
Local Advocacy, Community Challenge Grants & Partnerships, Active Living Events, & Collaborating with Trusted Partners

AARP Active Living Events
- Group Bike Rides
- Mpls Open Streets Sponsor
- Group Hikes
- Canoe Paddles
- St. Paul Classic Sponsor
- River Clean Up & Listening Sessions

Trusted Partners We Work With
- Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota
- State Parks & Naturalists
- National Wildlife Refuge & Park Rangers
- Wilderness Inquiry & guides for all ages and abilities
More than six in ten adults say affordable activities for all and fitness activities are extremely or very important to have in their community.

- Extremely/Very important: 67%
- Somewhat important: 25%
- Not very/Not at all important: 8%

- Affordable fitness activities: 61%
- Places to meet and socialize with friends and neighbors: 56%
- Activities that involve both younger and older people: 54%
- A variety of cultural activities: 54%
- Continuing education classes: 54%
- Conveniently located entertainment venues: 53%
- Activities that offer senior discounts: 50%
- Social clubs to pursue new interests, hobbies or passions: 48%
- Activities geared specifically towards older adults: 45%
- Local schools that involve older adults in events and activities: 43%
- Activities specifically geared towards adults with dementia: 43%

Q27: How important it is to you personally to have the following in your community right now?

Source: 2018 Home and Community Preferences Survey: A National Survey of Adults Age 18-Plus
Social participation top features are similar across income levels with a primary focus on affordable activities.

Top 3 in <$25K
Activities that are affordable to all residents
Activities that offer senior discounts
Places to meet and socialize with friends and neighbors

Top 3 in $25-49.9K
Activities that are affordable to all residents
Affordable fitness activities
Continuing education classes

Top 3 in $50-74.9K
Activities that are affordable to all residents
Affordable fitness activities
A variety of cultural activities

Top 3 in $75K+
Activities that are affordable to all residents
Affordable fitness activities
Places to meet and socialize with friends and neighbors

Q27: How important it is it to you personally to have the following in your community right now?
Source: 2018 Home and Community Preferences Survey: A National Survey of Adults Age 18-Plus

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Top social participation features are similar in two out of three across ethnicity with affordability of activities being a priority.

**Top 3 in White**
- Activities that are affordable to all residents
- Affordable fitness activities
- Places to meet and socialize with friends and neighbors

**Top 3 in African American**
- Activities that are affordable to all residents
- Activities that offer senior discounts
- Affordable fitness activities

**Top 3 in Hispanic**
- Activities that are affordable to all residents
- Affordable fitness activities
- Continuing education classes

Q27: How important it is to you personally to have the following in your community right now?

Source: 2018 Home and Community Preferences Survey: A National Survey of Adults Age 18-Plus
Adults age 50+ and 65+ report activities that offer senior discounts in the top features; adults age 18-49 cite activities involving both younger and older people in the top features.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 3 Features in 18-49</th>
<th>Top 3 Features in 50+</th>
<th>Top 3 Features in 65+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activities that are affordable to all residents</td>
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<td>Affordable fitness activities</td>
<td>Affordable fitness activities</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Q27: How important it is to you personally to have the following in your community right now?

Source: 2018 Home and Community Preferences Survey: A National Survey of Adults Age 18-Plus
Half of adults say it is extremely or very important for older adults to have volunteer opportunities that allow them to actively engage in their community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opportunity</th>
<th>Extremely/Very important</th>
<th>Somewhat important</th>
<th>Not very/Not at all important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation to and from volunteer activities for those who need it</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy to find information on local volunteer opportunities</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range of volunteer activities to choose from</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for older adults to participate in decision-making bodies such as community councils or committees</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer training opportunities to help people perform better in their volunteer roles</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q27: How important it is to you personally to have the following in your community right now?
Source: 2018 Home and Community Preferences Survey: A National Survey of Adults Age 18-Plus

*Percentages for "Don't know/No response" not shown.
Top volunteering features are similar across income levels; top 3 preferences include information that’s easy to find and a range of volunteer activities to chose from.

**Top 3 in <$25K**
- Transportation to and from volunteer activities for those who need it
- Range of volunteer activities to choose from
- Easy to find information on local volunteer opportunities

**Top 3 in $25-49.9K**
- Transportation to and from volunteer activities for those who need it
- Easy to find information on local volunteer opportunities
- Range of volunteer activities to choose from

**Top 3 in $50-74.9K**
- Opportunities for older adults to participate in decision-making bodies such as community councils or committees
- Range of volunteer activities to choose from
- Easy to find information on local volunteer opportunities

**Top 3 in $75K+**
- Opportunities for older adults to participate in decision-making bodies such as community councils or committees
- Range of volunteer activities to choose from
- Easy to find information on local volunteer opportunities

Q27: How important it is it to you personally to have the following in your community right now?

Source: 2018 Home and Community Preferences Survey: A National Survey of Adults Age 18-Plus
Top three volunteering features are similar across ethnicity; White and African American folks alike include opportunities for older adults to participate in decision making bodies.

**Top 3 in White**
- Opportunities for older adults to participate in decision-making bodies such as community councils or committees
- Transportation to and from volunteer activities for those who need it
- A range of volunteer activities to choose from

**Top 3 in African American**
- Opportunities for older adults to participate in decision-making bodies such as community councils or committees
- Transportation to and from volunteer activities for those who need it
- A range of volunteer activities to choose from

**Top 3 in Hispanic**
- A range of volunteer activities to choose from
- Easy to find information on local volunteer opportunities
- Transportation to and from volunteer activities for those who need it

Q27: How important it is it to you personally to have the following in your community right now? Source: 2018 Home and Community Preferences Survey: A National Survey of Adults Age 18-Plus
Adults age 50+ and 65+ cite opportunities for older adults to participate in decision making among the top features for volunteering.

Top 3 Features in 18-49
- Easy to find information on local volunteer opportunities
- Arrange of volunteer activities to choose from
- Transportation to and from volunteer activities for those who need it

Top 3 Features in 50+
- Transportation to and from volunteer activities for those who need it
- Opportunities for older adults to participate in decision-making bodies such as community councils or committees
- Arrange of volunteer activities to choose from

Top 3 Features in 65+
- Opportunities for older adults to participate in decision-making bodies such as community councils or committees
- Easy to find information on local volunteer opportunities

Q27: How important is it to you personally to have the following in your community right now?
Source: 2018 Home and Community Preferences Survey: A National Survey of Adults Age 18-Plus
AARP Mission and Vision

AARP Vision
A society in which all people live with dignity and purpose, and fulfill their goals and dreams.

AARP Mission
AARP enhances the quality of life for all as we age. We champion positive social change and deliver value through advocacy, information and service.
Livable Communities
www.AARP.org/Livable
www.blog.aarp.org/greatplaces

AARP Livability Index
https://livabilityindex.aarp.org/

Age-Friendly Network

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Elyse Ruiz, Twin Cities Metro 651-726-5643, eruiz@aarp.org
Jay Haapala, Greater MN 651-726-5654
www.aarp.org/mn
www.aarp.org/twincities

This report is also available on AARP.org at 2018 Home and Community Preferences: A National Survey of Adults Age 18-Plus or AARP.org/LivableSurvey2018.