

New York's First-Ever Statewide Needs Assessment Survey

POLCO Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults
(CASOA) 2023

Preliminary Results (Updated May, 2023)



**Office for
the Aging**



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the Aging**

ABOUT

- First survey of its kind ever conducted in New York State.
- 26,464 responses from New Yorkers 60+.
- A partnership with the Association on Aging in New York (AgingNY) and the research firm Polco.
- Postcards and printed surveys were mailed to a randomly selected sample of residents 60+.
- Respondents statewide also had a digital option for answering the survey.
- Survey period: first quarter 2023.
- Survey was available in six languages.

Survey Respondents – 26,464

- Women – 55%
- Men – 45%

Race

- American Indian/Alaska Native – 3%
- Asian – 6%
- African American – 14%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander – 1%
- White – 72%
- Hispanic, Latino – 11%

Household Income

- Less than \$25,000 – 20%
- \$25 - \$49,999 – 24%
- \$50 - \$74,999 – 18%
- \$100 - \$149,999 – 13%
- \$150,000 + – 11%

Employment Status

- Fully Retired – 67%
- Working FT – 19%
- Working PT – 11%
- Unemployed – 3%

Expectation of Retirement Age

- 60 – 64 – 9%
- 65-69 – 39%
- 70 or older – 52%

Overall Physical Health

- Excellent/good – 72%
- Fair/poor – 29%

Overall Physical Health

- Not a problem – 41%
- Minor problem – 32%
- Moderate/major problem – 27%

Overall Mental Health/Emotional Wellbeing

- Excellent/good – 82%
- Fair/poor – 18%

Housing Status

- Own with mortgage – 24%
- Own without mortgage – 42%
- Rent – 34%
- Single family home – 46%
- Townhouse/duplex – 5%
- Condo/apartment – 39%
- Mobile home – 3%

Monthly Housing Costs

- Less than \$300 – 4%
- \$300 - \$599 – 12%
- \$600 - \$999 – 22%
- \$1,000 - \$1,499 – 8%
- \$1,500 - \$2,499 – 33%
- \$2,500 - \$3,999 – 13%
- \$4,000 + – 8%

- Live alone – 40%
- 2 person household – 44%
- 3 + – 16%

HH age 60 and older

- 1 person – 57%
- 2 person – 41%
- 3+ – 2%

Housing that suits your needs

- Not a problem – 61%
- Minor problem – 16%
- Moderate/major problem – 23%

How Long Lived in Community

- Less than 2 years – 3%
- 2-5 years – 7%
- 6-10 years – 8%
- 11-20 years – 14%
- 20+ years – 68%

Having Enough Money to Pay

Property Taxes

- Not a problem – 54%
- Minor problem – 15%
- Moderate/major problem – 31%

Community as Place to Live

- Excellent/good – 78%
- Fair/poor – 22%

Neighborhood as Place to Live

- Excellent/good – 78%
- Fair/poor – 22%

Community as Place to Retire

- Excellent/good – 52%
- Fair/poor – 49%

Feeling of Safety in Community

- Excellent/good – 65%
- Fair/poor – 35%

Residents connection and engagement with their community

- Excellent/good – 45%
- Fair/poor – 56%

Community

Quality of Life in Community

- Excellent/good – 68%
- Fair/poor – 32%

Economic Health of Community

- Excellent/good – 58%
- Fair/poor – 42%

Overall Design or Layout of Community's Residential and Commercial Areas

- Excellent/good – 63%
- Fair/poor – 37%

Overall Quality of Transportation Systems (auto, bike, foot, bus)

- Excellent/good – 60%
- Fair/poor – 40%

Quality of Natural Environment

- Excellent/good – 65%
- Fair/poor – 35%

Quality of Parks and Recreation Opportunities

- Excellent/good – 65%
- Fair/poor – 35%

Health and Wellness Opportunities in Community

- Excellent/good – 59%
- Fair/poor – 41%

Opportunities for Arts, Culture, Education

- Excellent/good – 46%
- Fair/poor – 44%



Community

Rate Overall Services Provided to Older Adults in Community

- Excellent/good – 46%
- Fair/poor – 53%

Recommend Living in Your Community

- Very/somewhat likely – 63%
- Somewhat/very unlikely – 36%

Remain in Community throughout retirement

- Very/somewhat likely – 71%
- Somewhat/very unlikely – 29%

How Informed/Uninformed do you Feel About Services and Activities Available to Older Adults

- Very/somewhat informed – 56%
- Somewhat/very uninformed – 43%

Overall Quality of Life

- Excellent/good – 78%
- Fair/poor – 22%

Ease of Travel

Ease of Travel by Public Transportation

- Excellent/good – 46%
- Fair/poor – 54%

Ease of Travel by Car

- Excellent/good – 77%
- Fair/poor – 23%

Ease of Walking in Community

- Excellent/good – 64%
- Fair/poor – 36%

Ease of Bicycling in Community

- Excellent/good – 54%
- Fair/poor – 46%

Ease of Getting to Places You Like to Visit

- Excellent/good – 73%
- Fair/poor – 27%



Employment/Work

Opportunities to Build Work Skills

- Excellent/good – 31%
- Fair/poor – 69%

Quality of Employment Opportunities for Older Adults

- Excellent/good – 19%
- Fair/poor – 81%

Variety of Employment Opportunities for Older Adults

- Excellent/good – 17%
- Fair/poor – 83%

Finding Work in Retirement

- Not a problem – 54%
- Minor problem – 13%
- Moderate/major problem – 34%

Opportunities to Build Work Skills

- Excellent/good – 31%
- Fair/poor – 69%

Quality of Employment Opportunities for Older Adults

- Excellent/good – 19%
- Fair/poor – 81%

Building Skills for Paid/Unpaid Work

- Not a problem – 50%
- Minor problem – 15%
- Moderate/major problem – 35%

Affordability and Housing

Cost of Living in Community

- Excellent/good – 18%
- Fair/poor – 82%

Availability of Affordable Quality Food

- Excellent/good – 43%
- Fair/poor – 57%

Availability of Affordable Quality Housing

- Excellent/good – 21%
- Fair/poor – 79%

Public Places Where People Want to Spend Time

- Excellent/good – 40%
- Fair/poor – 60%

Variety of Housing

- Excellent/good – 23%
- Fair/poor – 76%

Availability of Accessible Housing (single floor, wide hallways/doors, no steps)

- Excellent/good – 22%
- Fair/poor – 78%

Availability of Mixed-Use Neighborhoods

- Excellent/good – 40%
- Fair/poor – 60%

Have Enough Money to Meet Daily Expenses

- Not a problem – 46%
- Minor problem – 18%
- Moderate/major problem – 36%



Engagement/Recreation

Recreation Opportunities (games, arts, libraries)

- Excellent/good – 50%
- Fair/poor – 50%

Fitness Opportunities

- Excellent/good – 49%
- Fair/poor – 51%

Opportunities to Participate in Community Matters

- Excellent/good – 44%
- Fair/poor – 56%

Opportunities to Attend Religious or Spiritual Activities

- Excellent/good – 69%
- Fair/poor – 31%

Opportunities to volunteer

- Excellent/good – 52%
- Fair/poor – 48%

Opportunities to enroll in skill building or personal enrichment classes

- Excellent/good – 33%
- Fair/poor – 67%

Opportunities to attend social events/activities

- Excellent/good – 42%
- Fair/poor – 58%

Openness and acceptance of the community towards older adults of diverse background

- Excellent/good – 49%
- Fair/poor – 51%

Valuing older adults in your community

- Excellent/good – 42%
- Fair/poor – 58%



Daily Activities

Doing Heavy or Intense Housework

- Not a problem – 34%
- Minor problem – 29%
- Moderate/major problem – 37%

Maintaining Home

- Not a problem – 41%
- Minor problem – 27%
- Moderate/major problem – 31%

Maintaining Yard

- Not a problem – 47%
- Minor problem – 25%
- Moderate/major problem – 28%

No Longer Able to Drive

- Not a problem – 76%
- Minor problem – 7%
- Moderate/major problem – 17%

Safe/Affordable Transportation Available

- Not a problem – 57%
- Minor problem – 18%
- Moderate/major problem – 25%

Performing Regular Daily Activities (walking, eating, preparing meals)

- Not a problem – 71%
- Minor problem – 17%
- Moderate/major problem – 12%

Resource Availability

Availability of Information About Resources for Older Adults

- Excellent/good – 29%
- Fair/poor – 71%

Availability of Financial/Legal Planning Services

- Excellent/good – 28%
- Fair/poor – 72%

Availability of LTC Options

- Excellent/good – 26%
- Fair/poor – 74%

Having Adequate Information on Dealing with Public Programs (Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid)

- Not a problem – 49%
- Minor problem – 24%
- Moderate/major problem – 31%

Availability of Daytime Care Options for Older Adults

- Excellent/good – 23%
- Fair/poor – 76%

Availability of Affordable Quality Physical Health Care

- Excellent/good – 41%
- Fair/poor – 59%

Availability of Affordable Quality Mental Health

- Excellent/good – 29%
- Fair/poor – 71%

Availability of Preventive Health Services (health screen, flu shot, educational workshops)

- Excellent/good – 56%
- Fair/poor – 44%

Services and Care

Not Knowing What Services are Available

- Not a problem – 27%
- Minor problem – 28%
- Moderate/major problem – 46%

Falling or Injury in Home

- Not a problem – 67%
- Minor problem – 20%
- Moderate/major problem – 13%

Finding Affordable Health Insurance

- Not a problem – 61%
- Minor problem – 17%
- Moderate/major problem – 22%

Getting Health Care You Need

- Not a problem – 63%
- Minor problem – 20%
- Moderate/major problem – 18%

Getting Oral Health Care You Need

- Not a problem – 59%
- Minor problem – 18%
- Moderate/major problem – 24%

Getting Vision Care You Need

- Not a problem – 65%
- Minor problem – 18%
- Moderate/major problem – 18%

Maintaining Healthy Diet

- Not a problem – 52%
- Minor problem – 27%
- Moderate/major problem – 20%

Having Enough Food to Eat

- Not a problem – 77%
- Minor problem – 13%
- Moderate/major problem – 10%

Affording Medications You Need

- Not a problem – 62%
- Minor problem – 19%
- Moderate/major problem – 19%

Mental Wellness

Experiencing Confusion/Forgetfulness

- Not a problem – 66%
- Minor problem – 23%
- Moderate/major problem – 11%

Feeling Depressed

- Not a problem – 59%
- Minor problem – 25%
- Moderate/major problem – 16%

Feeling Bored

- Not a problem – 55%
- Minor problem – 29%
- Moderate/major problem – 16%

Having Friends/Family to Rely On

- Not a problem – 66%
- Minor problem – 18%
- Moderate/major problem – 16%

Feeling Lonely or Isolated

- Not a problem – 61%
- Minor problem – 23%
- Moderate/major problem – 15%

Dealing With Loss – Close Family/Friend

- Not a problem – 55%
- Minor problem – 23%
- Moderate/major problem – 23%



Personal Safety

Being a Victim of Crime

- Not a problem – 83%
- Minor problem – 9%
- Moderate/major problem – 9%

Being a Victim of Fraud/Scams

- Not a problem – 73%
- Minor problem – 14%
- Moderate/major problem – 13%

Being Physically/Emotionally Abused

- Not a problem – 89%
- Minor problem – 6%
- Moderate/major problem – 5%

Being Discriminated Against Due to Age

- Not a problem – 74%
- Minor problem – 15%
- Moderate/major problem – 11%

Feeling Like You Don't Belong

- Not a problem – 69%
- Minor problem – 19%
- Moderate/major problem – 12%

Feeling Like Your Voice is Not Heard in Community

- Not a problem – 54%
- Minor problem – 22%
- Moderate/major problem – 24%

Community-Social Engagement

Finding Meaningful Volunteer Work

- Not a problem – 65%
- Minor problem – 17%
- Moderate/major problem – 18%

Finding Productive and Meaningful Activities to Do

- Not a problem – 60%
- Minor problem – 22%
- Moderate/major problem – 18%

Having Interesting Recreational/Cultural Activities to Attend

- Not a problem – 53%
- Minor problem – 24%
- Moderate/major problem – 22%

Having Interesting Social Events/Activities to Attend

- Not a problem – 51%
- Minor problem – 25%
- Moderate/major problem – 24%

Finding Productive and Meaningful Activities to Do

- Not a problem – 60%
- Minor problem – 22%
- Moderate/major problem – 18%

Having Interesting Recreational/Cultural Activities to Attend

- Not a problem – 51%
- Minor problem – 25%
- Moderate/major problem – 24%

Civic Engagement – Past 12 Months

Attended Local Public Meeting

- Yes – 18%
- No – 82%

Watched Public Meeting – Online/TV

- Yes – 30%
- No – 70%

Voted in Most Recent Election

- Yes – 84%
- No – 12%

Participated in Civic Group

- Yes – 12%
- No – 88%

Used a Senior Center in Community

- Yes – 16%
- No – 84%

Used Public Library

- Yes – 48%
- No – 52%

Used a Recreation Center in Community

- Yes – 21%
- No – 79%

Participated in Religious/Spiritual Activity

- Yes – 44%
- No – 56%

Participated in a Club (book, dance, game)

- Yes – 27%
- No – 73%

Participated in Recreation Program or Group Activity

- Yes – 26%
- No – 74%