



CITY OF
**PALO
ALTO**

City Council Staff Report

From: City Manager

Report Type: INFORMATION REPORTS

Lead Department: City Manager

Meeting Date: September 18, 2023

Report #:2306-1676

TITLE

Avenidas Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults

INFORMTIONAL REPORT

In early 2023, Avenidas, a nonprofit organization serving seniors, released the results of the Community Assessment Survey of Older Adults (CASOA). Avenidas has conducted community wide research into the changing needs and interests of older adults every ten years since 1962. The report includes years of data collected from The Community Assessment of Older Adults (CASOA), a survey that measures what older people think about quality of life in their state, county, city, or town. The report is intended to enable local governments, community-based organizations, the private sector and other community members to understand more thoroughly and predict more accurately the services and resources required to serve an aging population. As with the Annual Community Survey, the City of Palo Alto values this information to evaluate its facilities and senior programming meets the needs of its residents.

Conducted by Polco NRC, the survey was mailed to 12,000 households selected at random, with an adult member 60 years or older. A total of 669 responses were obtained, providing an overall response rate of 5.82%. Results were statistically weighted to reflect the proper demographic composition of older adults in the entire community. Aspects of livability are explored within six community dimensions: Community design, Employment and Finances, Equity and Inclusivity, Health and Wellness, Information and Assistance, and Productive Activities.

Below are a few key findings of the report:

OVERALL COMMUNITY QUALITY

About 89% of older residents living in the region rated their overall quality of life as excellent or good. Most of the older respondents scored their communities positively as a place to live and would recommend their communities to others. About 85% residents planned to stay in their community throughout their retirement.

COMMUNITY DESIGN

About 63% of respondents rated the overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in their community as excellent or good. In many communities, ease of travel by walking or bicycling is given lower ratings than travel by car. Here, ease of travel by car was considered excellent or good by 88% of respondents, while ease of travel by walking and bicycling was considered excellent or good by 80% and 79% of respondents, respectively.

EMPLOYMENT AND FINANCES

About 92% of older residents rated the overall economic health of their communities positively, although the cost of living was rated as excellent or good by only 13%.

About 15% older adults reported financial challenges and 14% reported employment needs.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

About 64% of older residents rated the sense of community in their towns as excellent or good, and neighborliness was rated positively by 59% of residents.

About 64% of the respondents positively rated their community's openness and acceptance toward older residents of diverse backgrounds, and 57% indicated that their community valued older residents.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

About 83% older residents in the region rated their overall physical health as excellent or good and 89% rated their mental health as excellent or good.

In most places, opportunities for health and wellness receive higher ratings from older adults than do health care ratings. Here, community opportunities for health and wellness were scored positively by 86% residents, while the percent giving ratings of excellent or good to the availability of physical health care was 56%, to mental health care 39%, and to long term care options 45%.

The full report can be found online at <https://www.avenidas.org/media/news/avenidas-casoa-final-report/>, and linked as Attachment A in this report.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: 2022 Avenidas Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults

APPROVED BY:

Ed Shikada, City Manager