



Age-Friendly Action Plan

TOWNSHIP OF VERONA



NEW JERSEY HUMAN SERVICES



June 2026

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This plan was made possible with support from the New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of Aging Services. Gratitude is extended to the project Leadership Team for their demonstrated commitment to the mission of the Verona Age-Friendly Initiative and their dedication to advocating for older adults. Thank you immensely to all the community members who shared their insights and perspectives through their participation in the needs assessment survey.

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Background

The Township of Verona deeply values the importance of building a community where residents can remain active, engaged, and supported throughout all stages of life. Like many communities throughout New Jersey and the nation, Verona is experiencing a significant demographic shift as its population ages. At the outset of this project, adults aged 65 and older comprised more than 21 percent of the Township's population, substantially outpacing both the Essex County and state averages. As this percentage is projected to climb in the coming years, there is a growing need for intentional policies, programs, services, and infrastructure that support residents as they age.

Building upon existing investments in senior transportation, recreation, health resources, and community services, Township leaders have prioritized efforts to ensure Verona is working to actively address the needs of its aging population. With support from the New Jersey Department of Human Services Age-Friendly Community Grant Program, the Township launched an Age-Friendly Initiative to better understand the needs, priorities, and lived experiences of older adults. The initiative was guided by the recognition that meaningful planning for an aging population requires direct engagement with residents and a complete understanding of the factors that influence their ability to remain healthy and independent.

The effort began with the formation of a community Leadership Team, comprised of municipal staff, community stakeholders, and older adult representatives, which will serve as an ongoing implementation team throughout for this action plan. The Leadership Team established outreach methods and a framework for assessing local conditions through the lens of the eight domains of livability identified by AARP: outdoor spaces and buildings; transportation; housing; social participation; respect and social inclusion; civic participation and employment; communication and information; and community support.



The initiative was guided by the recognition that meaningful planning for an aging population requires direct engagement with residents and a complete understanding of the factors that influence their ability to remain healthy and independent.

DOMAINS OF LIVABILITY

AARP, formerly the American Association of Retired Persons, a non-profit, nonpartisan organization focusing on issues affecting individuals aged 50 and over, identifies eight “domains of livability” that impact the quality of life for older adults. The needs assessment that informed this plan evaluated community features across these eight domains.



Outdoor Spaces & Buildings

Communities must foster shared public spaces with events of communal interest for the public to gather, both indoors and outdoors. Green spaces, seating, and accessible buildings (elevators, no-step entrances, staircases with railings) can be used and enjoyed by people of all ages.



Transportation

Driving should not be the only way to get around. Car-centric development tends to create environments that are anti-social and unhealthy. Pedestrians need sidewalks and safe, crossable streets to enjoy the full benefits of a downtown commercial corridor. Dedicated bicycle lanes benefit nondrivers and drivers alike, reducing the number of cars on the road and keeping cyclists safe. Public transit options can range from large-scale (trains, buses, light rail) to small-scale (taxis, shuttles, or ride-sharing services). Communities that invest in walkability and pedestrian infrastructure are much more supportive of active, social lifestyles, helping residents age gracefully and combat cognitive decline.



Housing

National survey data consistently find that the vast majority of older adults want to reside in their current home or community for as long as possible. Doing so is possible if a community offers housing options suitable for different incomes, ages, and life stages. Opportunities for downsizing beyond single-family detached homes allow older adults to remain in their communities without the added stress of yard maintenance, high property tax payments, or high utility costs.



Social Participation

Regardless of a person’s age, loneliness is often as debilitating a health condition as having a chronic illness or disease. Sadness and isolation, especially among older adults, can be combated by providing opportunities to socialize and by offering accessible, affordable, enriching, and engaging social events.



Respect & Inclusion

Everyone wants to feel valued. Intergenerational gatherings and activities are a great way for younger and older people to learn from one another, honor what each has to offer, and, at the same time, feel good about themselves.



Work & Civic Engagement

As people age out of the workforce into retirement, there are fewer opportunities for social interaction, which means fewer opportunities to develop friendships and personal relationships. An age-friendly community encourages older people to be actively engaged in community life and has opportunities for residents to work for income or volunteer their skills. For example, town committees, political organizations, and civic groups often offer volunteer positions that allow you to meet new people and meaningfully engage with your neighbors.



Communication & Information

Digital spaces are the new “town hall,” supplanting traditional forms of information, such as physical newspapers, television, or bulletin boards. As this shift has occurred, access to smartphones, home-based internet, and technological literacy have become critical barriers to community information, especially for older adults. Age-friendly communities recognize the need to share information through a variety of channels, rather than relying solely on the web, to prevent groups from being left behind.



Community & Health Services

Despite extremely high per capita spending on healthcare, there is also a high rate of deaths for avoidable or treatable conditions across the United States relative to comparably wealthy nations as defined by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Preventive care, therefore, can make a massive impact. Keeping residents informed and connected with available health services and wellness programs at the local, county, state, and federal levels can preemptively reduce the risk of unfavorable health outcomes.

Verona Age-Friendly: A Municipal Commitment

The Township of Verona envisions an ongoing initiative that is ultimately integrated with municipal planning and decision-making to determine policies, systems, and environmental changes, while recognizing that certain municipal procedures and policies may need to adapt to be more age-friendly. To guide the initiative toward that end, the project Leadership Team developed a mission statement that reflects a desire to implement sustained changes in the community.

MISSION STATEMENT

Building a safer, more accessible, and socially connected community for older adults by improving walkability, social connection, services, caregiver support, and access to information. Through intentional planning and collaboration, the Township of Verona will ensure that seniors can thrive, participate, and age in place with dignity.

Implementation of the initiative consists of two phases:

→ PHASE 1: Community Engagement & Capacity Building

This project—including the needs assessment, community engagement process, and action plan—constitutes Phase 1 of the capacity-building for the Verona Age-Friendly Initiative.



Leadership Team Kickoff Meeting

→ PHASE 2:

Action Plan Implementation

This action plan will guide the implementation of changes to policies, systems, and the physical environment in Phase 2.

The following components undertaken in Phase 1 have enhanced the community's understanding of issues affecting older adults:

- Formation of an Age-Friendly Leadership Team
- Needs Assessment Survey
- Draft ordinance or manager's policy to establish an older adult advisory committee
- Partnerships and engagement with older adults
- Action Plan

The Leadership Team included municipal staff, elected representatives, health officials, and community members. Convening this group helped establish a foundation for the Verona Age-Friendly Initiative. Engagement sessions with this group explored

the strengths and challenges of aging in place in Verona and formulated the initiative's mission. This group also guided the project, including the development of the needs assessment survey questions, community outreach, and survey marketing methods.



“

The Leadership Team included municipal staff, elected representatives, health officials, and community members.

AGE-FRIENDLY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The needs assessment survey was administered between February 4 and March 6, 2026. The survey was available in both digital and paper hard-copy formats, issued and collected at convenient township locations. Marketing and outreach efforts included tabling at community events, mailers, e-newsletters, social media posts, partner organizations, and municipal meeting announcements. At the end of the 4-week survey window, 41 paper surveys were collected, and 237 digital submissions were received, for a combined total of 278 responses. Survey responses were analyzed to identify barriers to aging in place among township residents.



41

Paper Surveys Collected

278

Digital Submissions

Two focus groups were conducted with community members, facilitated by project managers. Both were held at the Verona Community Center, where elements of the needs assessment survey were further explored to better understand the barriers preventing older adults from fully engaging in Verona's social and civic activities.

Consistent themes emerged through both the survey and focus groups. Respondents widely considered Verona a good place to live as they age, but are feeling constrained by rising property taxes, few opportunities to downsize, difficulties with home upkeep, and limited transportation options. Information gaps created ambiguity around available senior services, programs, and schedules. Insights gathered from these focus groups and the needs assessment survey were discussed with the Leadership Team to develop the following Age-Friendly Action Plan.

Age-Friendly Action Plan

Building on information gathered through community member outreach and the needs assessment research, the Township of Verona can take the following steps to address gaps, barriers, and opportunities in its municipal services. These short-term and long-term actions will serve as the foundation for Phase 2 of the Verona Age-Friendly Initiative: implementation of the action plan. Throughout implementation, the initiative will continue to learn more about the community's needs, particularly through increased involvement of older adults, underscoring the need for ongoing evaluation and annual progress reports.

GOAL 1: ESTABLISH AND SUSTAIN A VERONA AGE-FRIENDLY INITIATIVE

The Needs Assessment revealed that older residents have a strong interest in remaining in Verona as they age, along with a significant willingness to volunteer, attend meetings, and remain engaged in the community.

1.1 Formalize a Verona Age-Friendly Sub-Committee

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS

- Establish a Verona Age-Friendly Committee as an advisory body.
- Include older adults, caregivers, municipal staff, healthcare providers, community organizations, and a Township Council liaison.
- Task the committee with overseeing the implementation of the Action Plan and reporting annually to the Township Council.

1.2 Integrate Age-Friendly Principles into Municipal Decision-Making

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS

- Review municipal policies, plans, capital projects, and redevelopment proposals through an age-friendly lens.
- Develop an Age-Friendly Impact Checklist for Township departments.
- Ensure older adult considerations are included in transportation, housing, parks, recreation, and redevelopment decisions.

1.3 Expand Partnerships

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS

- Partner with healthcare providers, faith organizations, the library, schools, and nonprofit organizations.
 - Create an Age-Friendly Community Ambassador Program to connect isolated residents with information and services.
-

1.4 Pursue Funding and Resources

LONG-TERM ACTIONS

- Pursue grants related to transportation, housing, walkability, social connection, and healthy aging.
 - Leverage county, state, and nonprofit partnerships to expand services.
 - Engage stakeholders to prioritize resource allocation for actions.
-

1.5 Sustainable Jersey Community Design for All Ages Action



As a Sustainable Jersey certified community, Verona has achieved Silver Certification status as of 2025. Sustainable Verona should collaborate on implementing the Age-Friendly Action Plan to ensure that Verona receives recognition from Sustainable Jersey's certification program through awarded points.

LONG-TERM ACTIONS

- Log Age-Friendly actions for submission to Sustainable Jersey's Community Design for All Ages Action, which carries a maximum weight of 25 points toward a Gold Star designation.
-

GOAL 2: REMOVE BARRIERS TO AGING IN PLACE



HOUSING

2.1 Expand Senior-Friendly Housing Options

Residents consistently cited the lack of downsizing options and concern about their ability to remain in Verona as housing-associated costs increase. As Verona implements its Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan to comply with its affordable housing obligation under the Fair Housing Act of 1985, the Township will create 155 additional low- and moderate-income housing units. As it does so, these units will offer new opportunities for residents to downsize while remaining in Verona, with a designated allotment reserved for seniors.

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS

- Conduct a housing market analysis focused on older adults.
- Identify redevelopment sites suitable for accessible alternatives to single-family detached housing.

LONG-TERM ACTIONS

- Continue implementation of Verona's Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan.
- Encourage smaller homes, apartments, condominiums, and elevator-served housing to provide accessible downsizing options.
- Explore incentives for universal design and accessibility features.
- Explore options for priority consideration for Verona residents in age-restricted affordable housing developments as permitted by law.

2.2 Promote Financial Stability for Older Adults

Many residents were unaware of certain property tax relief programs offered by the state. The Township should play an active role in educating residents about available opportunities, submission windows, and eligibility requirements.

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS

- Increase outreach regarding ANCHOR, Senior Freeze, and other property tax relief programs.
- Provide annual workshops on tax assistance, benefits enrollment, and financial planning.

LONG-TERM ACTIONS

- Advocate for expanded state property tax relief programs.

2.3 Create an Aging-in-Place Home Support Program

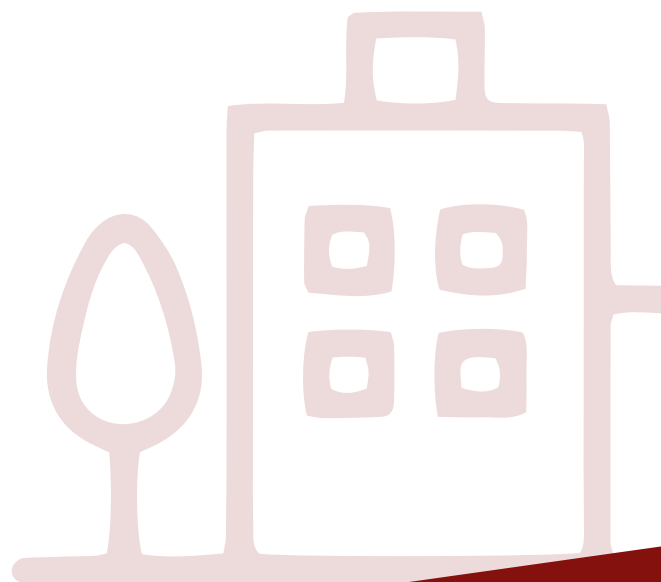
Home maintenance support was one of the most frequently cited needs in the survey. Some municipalities in New Jersey are beginning to implement volunteer- or paid-snow removal programs through local high schools. This could help address gaps in intergenerational programming while reducing the burden of home maintenance on older adults.

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS

- Establish a volunteer or vetted-contractor referral program for:
 - Snow removal
 - Lawn care
 - Minor home repairs
 - Seasonal maintenance

LONG-TERM ACTIONS

- Explore a subsidized home maintenance assistance program for low-income seniors.





TRANSPORTATION

2.4 Improve Senior Transportation Services

Transportation concerns were frequently raised in focus groups and survey results, particularly regarding Grove Avenue, Derwent Avenue, and Lakeside Avenue.

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS

- Conduct a Senior Bus and Medical Transport Vehicle service evaluation.
- Assess times, destinations, and the range of activities.
- Expand destination options and scheduling flexibility.
- Improve awareness of transportation services.

LONG-TERM ACTIONS

- Explore expanded service hours.
- Investigate partnerships with neighboring municipalities and ride-share providers.
- Evaluate demand for a local circulator shuttle connecting key destinations.

2.5 Support Residents Experiencing Driving Transitions

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS

- Offer resources for driver refresher courses.
- Develop educational materials on transportation alternatives.

LONG-TERM ACTIONS

- Create a mobility transition program for residents reducing or ending driving.
-



WALKABILITY & SAFETY

2.6 Conduct a Community Walkability Audit to Prioritize Pedestrian Safety Improvements

Many of the major roadway issues highlighted by survey respondents and focus group participants involve Essex County-owned roadways, such as Bloomfield Avenue. This creates limitations on what the Township can directly address. However, the findings of the needs assessment can be leveraged by the Township to advocate for County road improvements through direct community engagement.

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS

- Engage older adults and partner with the Neighborhood Traffic & Safety Committee in identifying:
 - Unsafe intersections
 - Missing sidewalks
 - Crossing challenges
 - Areas impacted by speeding
 - Areas in need of protected bike lanes

LONG-TERM ACTIONS

- Improve crossings near community destinations.
 - Allocate funding for solar LED flashing crosswalk signs in priority areas.
 - Install additional benches and resting areas.
 - Strengthen traffic-calming and speed-enforcement efforts.
-

2.7 Improve Winter Accessibility

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS

- Strengthen the Township's sidewalk snow-clearing program.
 - Create a volunteer snow assistance network.
-

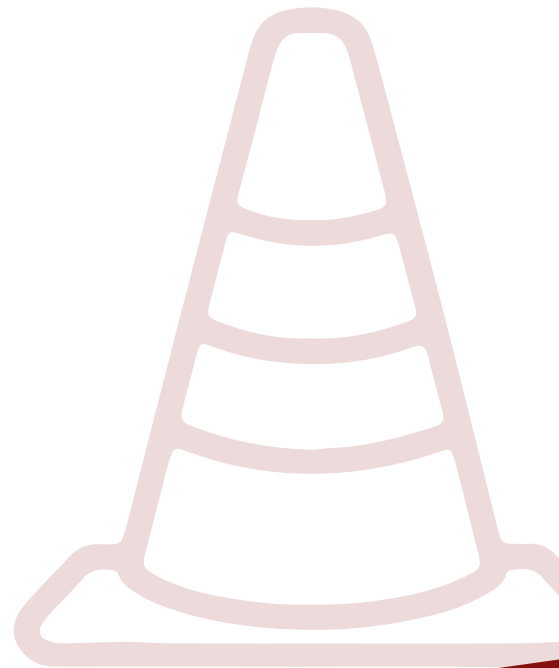
2.8 Public Safety Enhancements

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS

- Develop an internal list of homebound residents for emergency responders to be aware of for wellness checks and evacuations during extreme weather events, fires, and power outages. Include a self-registration link on the Township's Public Safety & Office of Emergency Management page.

LONG-TERM ACTIONS

- Work with police, fire, rescue, and emergency management departments to identify priority equipment upgrades, such as LUCAS chest compression machines and motorized stair lifts, for consideration in municipal budget allocations.
-





COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION ACCESS

2.9 Develop a Comprehensive Senior Communications Strategy

Lack of awareness of available services emerged consistently throughout engagement efforts.

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS

- Create a centralized Age-Friendly Verona webpage that displays information on the action plan, its implementation, and opportunities for older adults to get involved.
- Develop a printed senior resource guide.
- Expand promotion through:
 - Verona e-newsletters
 - Community organizations
 - Library
 - Faith communities
 - Healthcare providers
- Conduct a semi-annual senior services fair.

LONG-TERM ACTIONS

- Evaluate VeronaTV usage to determine whether it is a primary source of information for older residents and whether it is a cost-effective outlet for the Township to continue operating. Alternatives may include enhanced programming at the local high school to continue low-cost operation.
 - Develop a single source of information for programs, events, transportation, and services.
-



SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

2.10 Expand Recreation and Wellness Programming

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS

- Increase offerings such as:
 - Exercise classes
 - Walking groups
 - Meditation
 - Nutrition workshops
 - Arts programming
 - Mahjong and game groups
 - Educational lectures
- Collaborate with neighboring communities and organizations, such as the Montclair Area YMCA, to identify guest speakers for Senior Club events.

LONG-TERM ACTIONS

- Develop a coordinated healthy aging programming calendar.

2.11 Strengthen Intergenerational Connections

Focus group participants specifically noted the decline of intergenerational opportunities and community connection.

LONG-TERM ACTIONS

- Partner with schools and youth organizations.
- Develop intergenerational mentoring, technology assistance, and volunteer programs.
 - Student technology support hours at the Verona Library for older adults who need assistance.



VOLUNTEERISM & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

2.12 Expand Volunteer Opportunities

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS

- Create a centralized volunteer clearinghouse.
 - Match residents with opportunities based on skills and interests.
-

2.13 Increase Older Adult Representation in Local Government

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS

- Improve and promote pathways for participation on municipal boards and committees.
 - Conduct annual listening sessions with older residents.
-

2.14 Create an Age-Friendly Community Leadership Program

LONG-TERM ACTIONS

- Train residents to serve as ambassadors, advocates, and committee leaders.
 - Build long-term community ownership of the initiative.
-

LOOKING FORWARD:

Phase 2 Priority Actions (Years 1-2)

Over the next year, the Township of Verona should prioritize the following low-cost actions to capitalize on the momentum of Phase 1's community engagement efforts. With strong community buy-in from focus groups and survey responses, the Township should continue to work directly with residents through a formalized Verona Age-Friendly Committee. Under the leadership of the Director of Community Services, this Committee would oversee the implementation of the Action Plan, reporting on progress and addressing municipal capacity gaps as needed.

- 1 Establish the Verona Age-Friendly Sub-Committee.**
- 2 Conduct a housing and downsizing assessment.**
- 3 Launch a home maintenance and snow assistance program.**
- 4 Conduct a ridership audit and improve Senior Bus and Medical Transport Vehicle services.**
- 5 Conduct a community walkability and pedestrian safety audit.**
- 6 Create a centralized senior information hub and resource guide.**
- 7 Expand recreation, wellness, and social programming.**
- 8 Improve and publicize pathways to volunteer and civic engagement.**
- 9 Increase outreach regarding tax relief and financial assistance programs.**
- 10 Create an annual Age-Friendly Verona Progress Report.**

APPENDIX

- Age-Friendly Kickoff Meeting Presentation
- Community Engagement Protocol
- Needs Assessment Report
- AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities Certificate

AGE-FRIENDLY INITIATIVE



TOWNSHIP OF VERONA

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

CSOTIRO@NJFUTURE.ORG

JANUARY 14, 2026

CHRIS SOTIRO



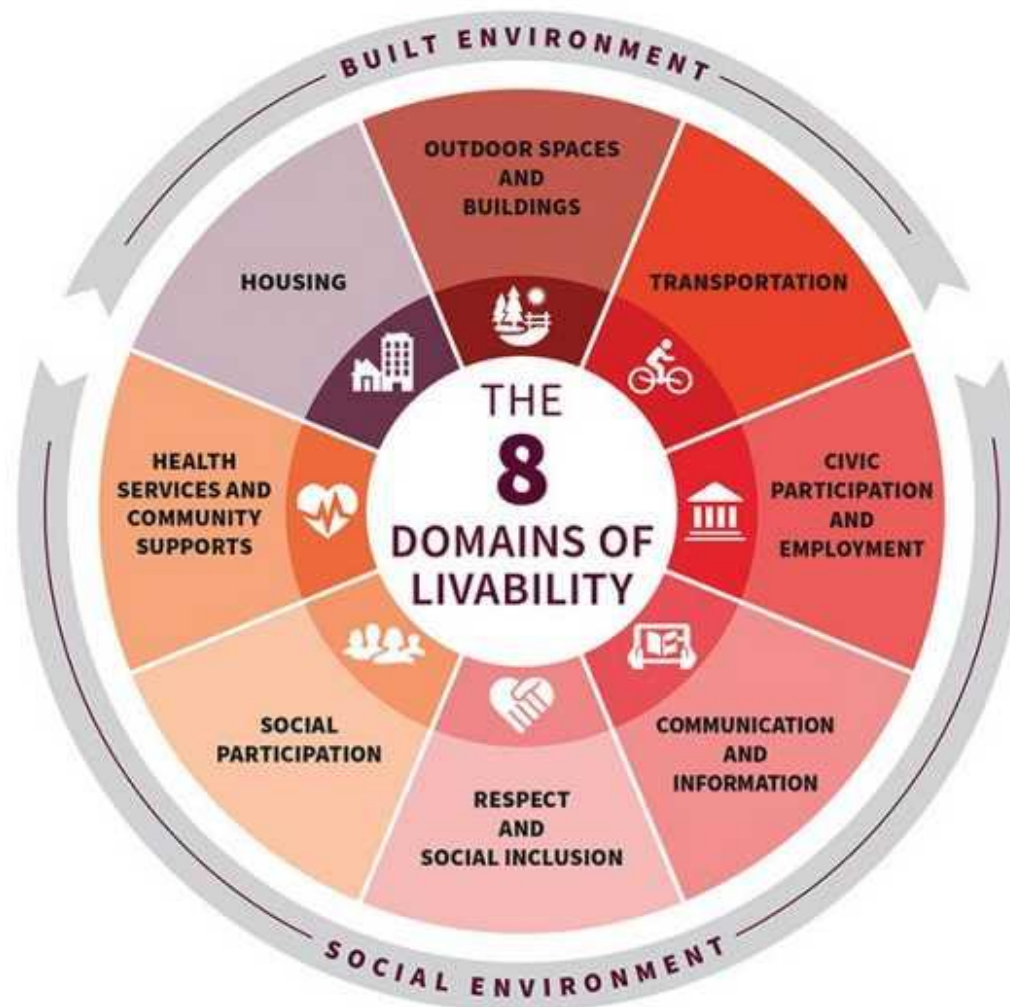
NEW JERSEY FUTURE



Project Goals & Approach



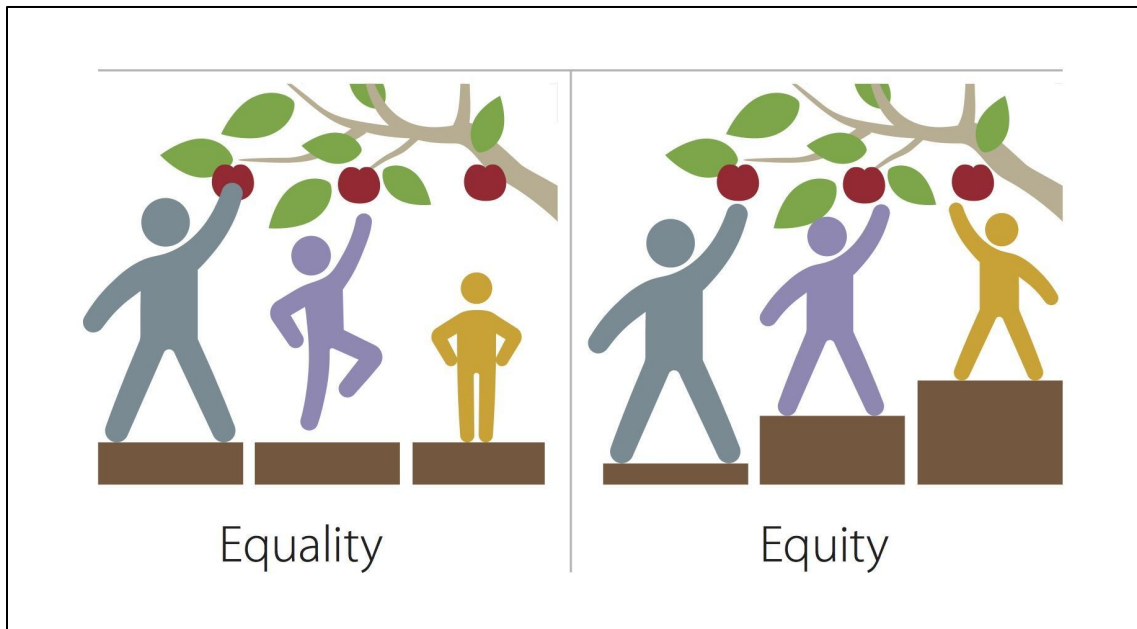
8 DOMAINS OF LIVABILITY



PROJECT TASKS

- Community Outreach Strategy
- Needs Assessment
 - Data Review
 - Survey
 - Interviews and Focus Groups
- Prioritize Actions and Develop Action Plan

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION



- Who is missing from the table?
- Which neighborhoods or demographics are typically underrepresented in planning, implementation, or distribution of benefits?
- Are there any potential negative impacts?

AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY STATES & COMMUNITIES

- Affiliate of the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities
- Membership provides local leaders with:
 - Access to expert-led webinars and technical assistance from livability professionals
 - Connections to a national network of more than 700 enrolled communities
 - A private group forum for discussions, asking questions and finding answers
 - Support, guidance and best-practice resources from AARP about creating an action plan and documenting progress

PSE CHANGE (POLICY, SYSTEM, ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE)

- **Policy change** is brought about by ordinance, resolution, protocol, procedure, agreement, or law that guides or influences behavior. Policy changes can be legislative or organizational and governmental or non-governmental, and they can mandate environmental changes or other actions to increase the likelihood that changes will be sustainable. Once policies are written, they are signed or adopted through a voting process.
- **Systems change** affects a large amount of people beyond a single organization, such as an entire healthcare system, school system, or multiple sites for large companies. Systems changes often consist of policy changes that occur at a system level.
- **Environmental change** involves physical, social, material, and/or architectural changes to the environment that influence behavior and/or the practices of people within the environment.

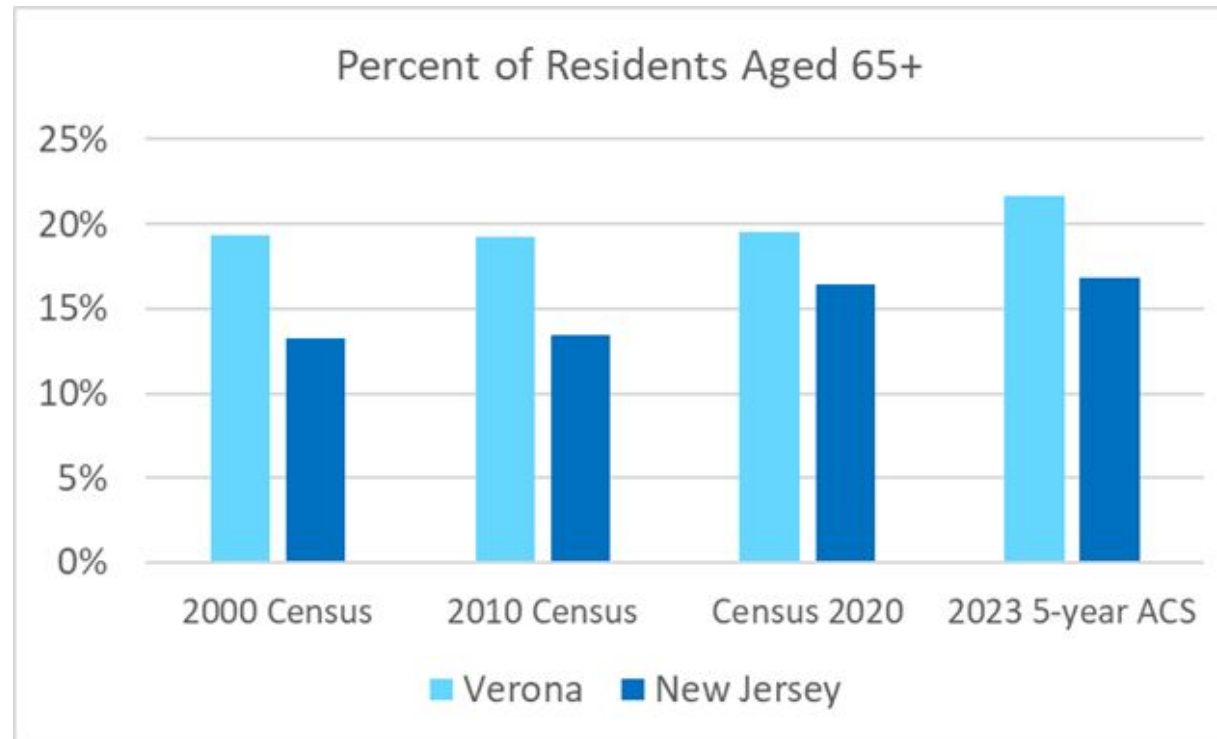


Data Review Overview

Tim Evans



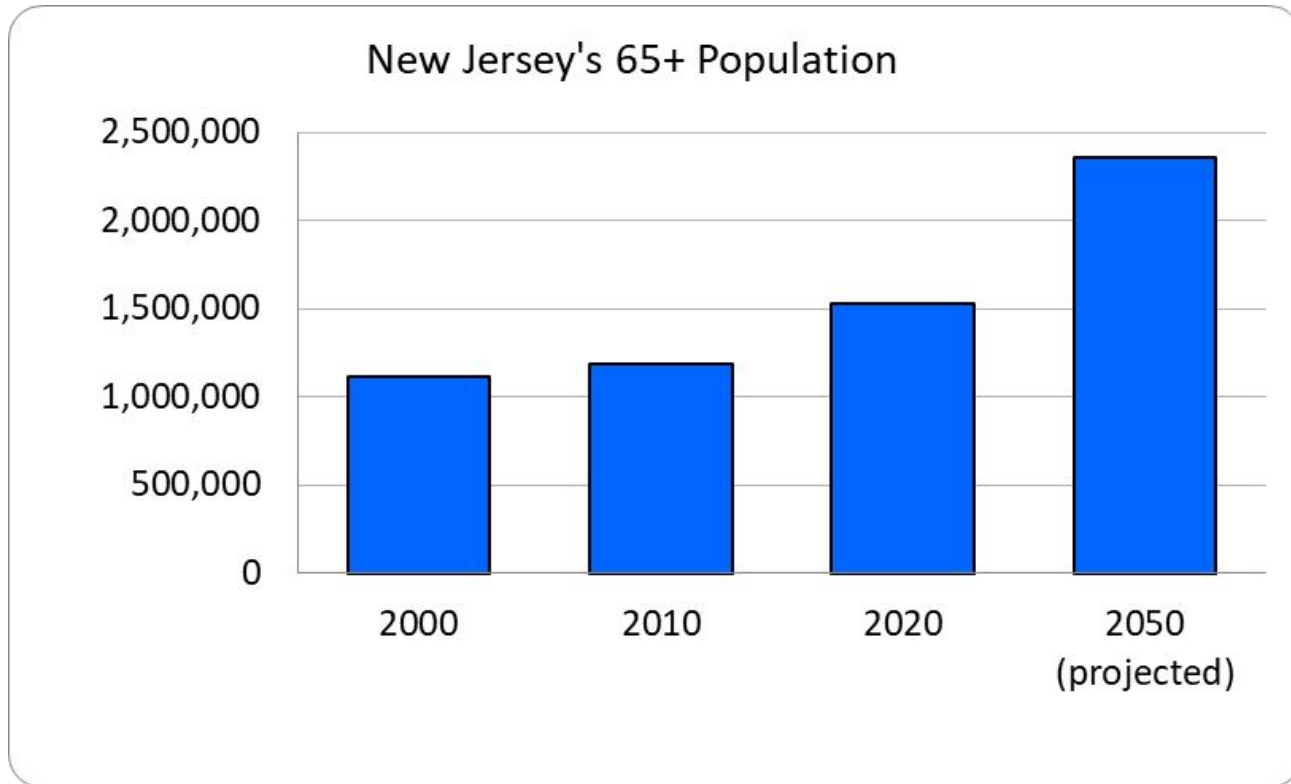
VERONA'S 65+ POPULATION



Verona's population is generally older than the state average.

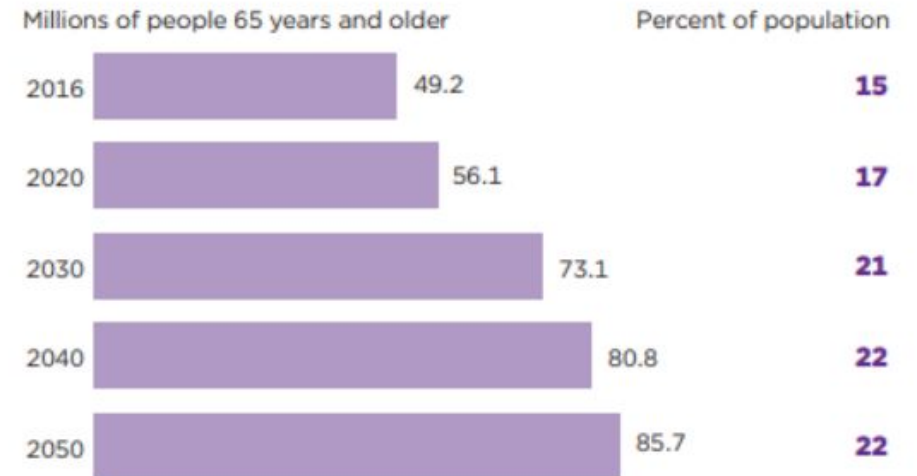
The 65+ share of the population has drifted upward, as it has both statewide and nationwide, thanks to both advancements in health and medical technology that help members of older generations live longer, and the aging of the demographically massive Baby Boom age cohort into their retirement years.

Aging of NJ's Population Projected to Continue



Nationally, from Census Bureau:

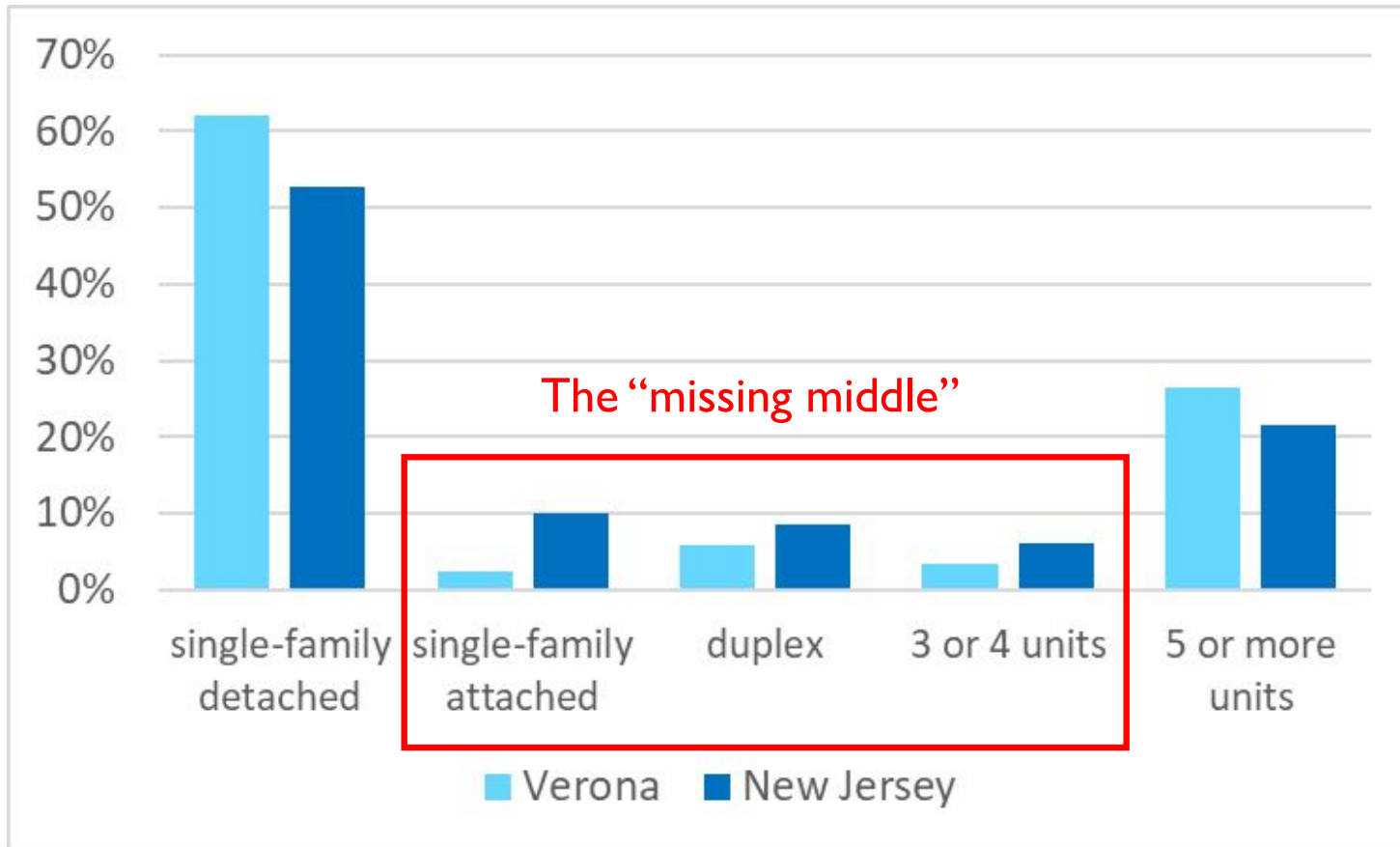
Projections of the Older Adult Population: 2020 to 2050



From Demographic Turning Points for the United States: Population Projections for 2020 to 2060.

Verona's Housing Stock

Housing units by number of units in structure



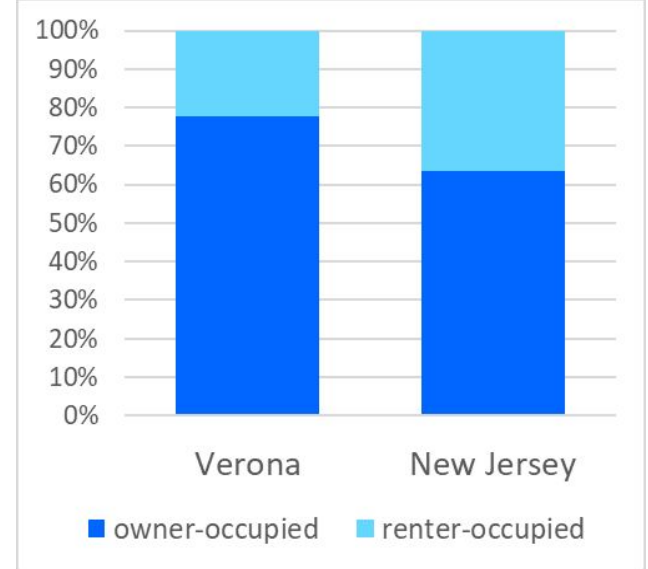
Verona's housing stock is dominated by single-family detached homes, and is relatively short on “missing middle” options (townhouses, duplexes, 3- and 4-plexes) that lend themselves to aging in place for older residents who are looking to downsize

VACANCY AND TENURE

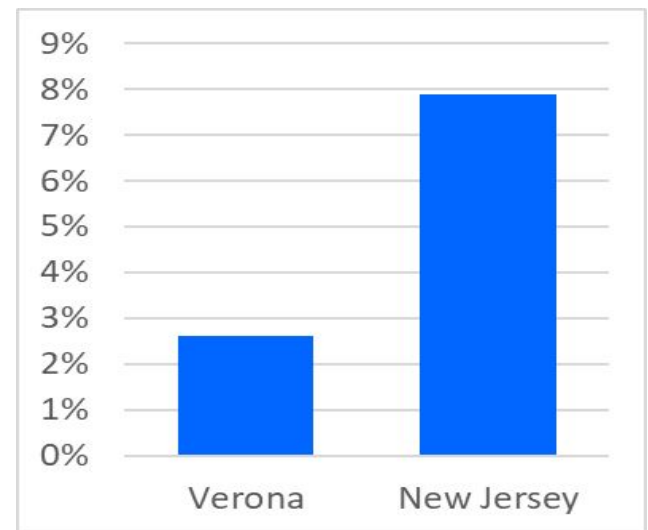
Verona has a much higher percentage of homeowner households (vs. renters) than New Jersey as a whole – 77.8%, vs. 63.7% statewide. This is probably a function of the relative lack of housing types normally geared toward renters.

Verona's housing vacancy rate of 2.6% -- one-third of the statewide rate of 7.9% -- indicates a very tight housing market, keeping upward pressure on housing prices. Combined with the characteristics of the housing stock, this portends difficulties for older residents seeking to remain in town when they are ready to downsize.

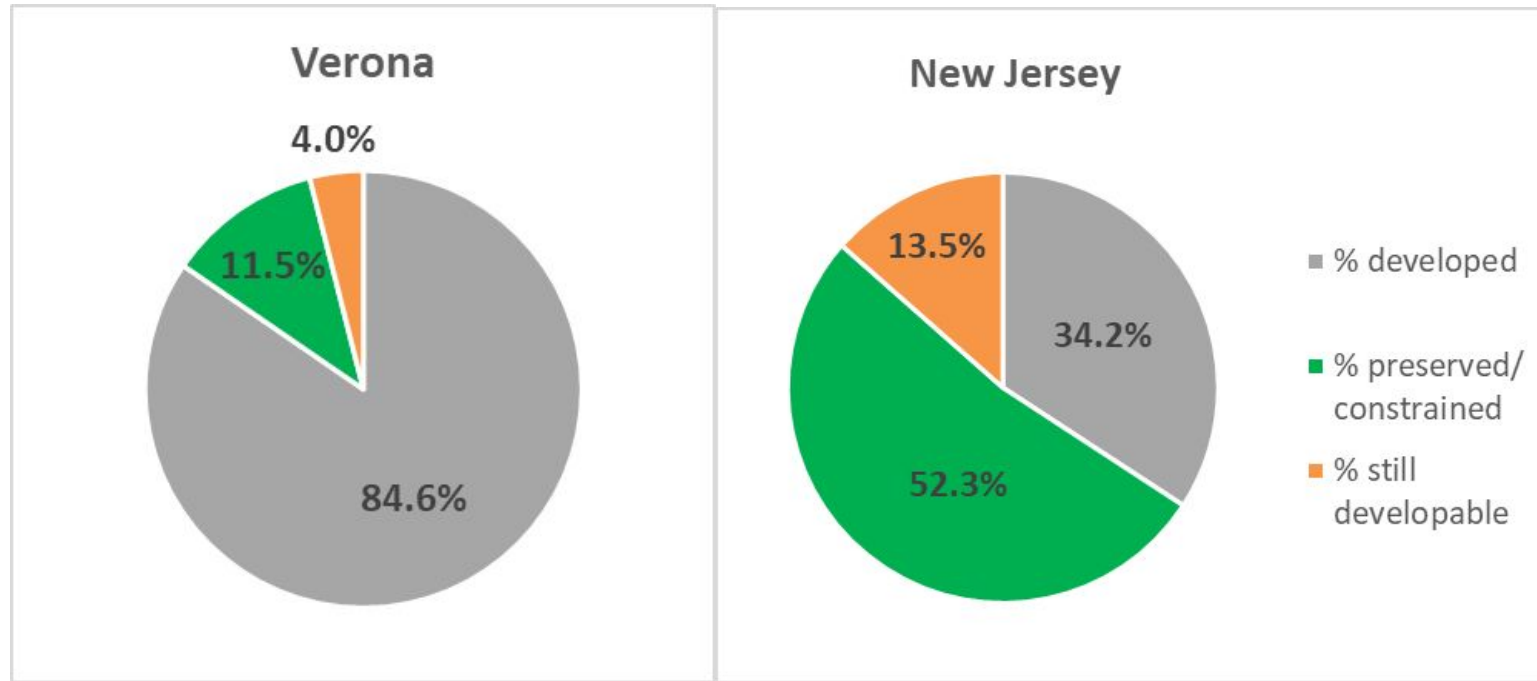
Households by tenure



Housing vacancy rate



Land Development



Verona is much more developed than the state as a whole, and most of what remains has either been permanently preserved (as parkland, for example) or cannot be built on due to environmental constraints. The township has a small amount of developable land remaining, meaning that most new development – including any changes aimed at making the township more aging-friendly – is going to be redevelopment or infill.

RESOURCES

- [NJ Division of Aging Services - Aging Friendly Resources](#)
- [The 8 Domains of Livability - An Introduction](#)
- [NJ Age-Friendly Blueprint](#)
- [Rutgers Hub for Aging Collaboration](#)



Township of Verona Aging Friendly Communities Initiative

Community Engagement Protocol

10-29-2025

Goal: To maximize the number of survey respondents by ensuring that the survey is widely visible and accessible to the Township's older residents, especially those with limited mobility or access to the internet.

1. Senior-Focused Organizations

- [Senior Club](#)
 - i. 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 1 p.m. (September-June)
 - 1. Lead a brief presentation during a meeting (January)
 - ii. Verona Community Center, 880 Bloomfield Ave
 - iii. *Contact:* Kathy Mortara (973) 902-1959
 - iv. *Contact:* Christine McGrath (Councilwoman) cmcgrath@veronanj.org
- [Verona Senior Citizen Housing](#)
 - i. 100 Hillwood Terrace, Verona, NJ 07044
- [Claridge Residences](#)
 - i. Not formally senior housing, but ~75% seniors
 - ii. Its own voting district
 - iii. 2 properties:
 - 1. 1 Claridge Dr, Verona, NJ 07044
 - 2. 1 Claridge Dr, Verona, NJ 07044
- [CCI HomeCare](#) (Non-profit)
 - i. Home health aides can assist residents with filling out the survey.
 - ii. Runs the county's "Meals on Wheels" program
 - iii. Develop a unique flyer for healthcare workers.
 - iv. 201 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, NJ 07044
- [Connections at Home](#) (Non-profit)
 - i. Access to technology for homebound seniors
 - ii. Vanguard Medical Group

2. Municipal Boards and Civic Groups

- [Multicultural Inclusion & Accessibility Advisory Committee \(MIAAC\)](#)
 - i. Lead a brief presentation during a meeting (November or January)
 - ii. Monthly meetings, every 4th Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
 - iii. Volunteer base for signage/distribution of surveys
 - iv. *Contact:* roxytirado@gmail.com (Chair)
- [Environmental Commission](#)
 - i. Active membership and volunteer events
 - ii. Existing working relationship
 - iii. *Contact:* jpearson@veronanj.org (Chair) - (973) 868-9420
- [Planning Board](#)
 - i. Monthly meetings, every 4th Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
 - ii. *Contact:* Kevin O'Sullivan, Jessica Pearson

- [Chamber of Commerce](#)
 - i. Spread the word through local businesses, provide guidance on which businesses are popular with seniors (Family diners, bars, cafes)
 - ii. *Contact:* JMcEvoy@VeronaNJ.org
- [Township Council](#)
 - i. *Contact:* Christine McGrath
- [Neighborhood Traffic & Safety Committee](#)
- [Lions Club](#) (men)
 - i. Volunteer medical transport
 - 1. Can assist with facilitating or dropping off surveys
- [Women's Club](#)
- [Unico](#) (Italian Heritage)
- [Verona Park Conservancy](#)
 - i. Contact for signage
 - ii. Cleanups, etc.
- [Friends of the Verona Public Library](#) (senior volunteer base)

3. Outreach and Marketing Avenues

- Communications Toolkit
 - i. Work with Elisa & Pam to draft
 - ii. Social media posts, flyer, sample captions
- Digital and Print Channels
 - i. Verona E-newsletter
 - ii. Health Department E-newsletter
 - iii. Verona Press releases
 - iv. Township signage on Bloomfield Ave
 - v. Verona Park signage
 - vi. Physical questionnaire options at certain local businesses (Pickup/transcription required)
- Social Media

~70% of residents receive township information primarily through social media.

 - i. Weekly social media posts throughout its ~4-week duration.
 - ii. Collaborative posts on Instagram enable up to 5 accounts to co-author a single post, boosting visibility.
 - iii. [Township_of_verona](#) (Instagram: 7k+ followers + Facebook)
 - iv. [Vec_veronanji](#) (Instagram: 5k followers; environmental commission + Facebook)
 - v. [Myveronanji](#) (Instagram: 6k followers)
 - vi. [Verona_PD](#) (Instagram: 5.7k followers)
 - vii. [Veronanjchamber](#) (Instagram: 3k followers)
 - viii. [Facebook](#) (4.5k members)

4. Community Events

- 10/25 Fall-O-Ween Fall Festival (11 a.m.-2 p.m)

- 12/6 “Faire in the Square”
- *Strans Engineering is interested in tabling, opportunity to partner.*
- Friends of the Library Book Sale
 - i. Around Fair in the Square

5. Locations for Flyers and Membership Notices

- Verona Public Library - 17 Gould St, Verona, NJ 07044
 - i. Occasional events / Lunch & Learns ([example](#))
 - ii. Community room, senior programming
 - iii. Contact: Claudine Pascale pascale@veronalibrary.org
- Verona Park
- Verona Community Garden
- Verona Community Center - 880 Bloomfield Ave, Verona, NJ 07044
- [Montclair Area YMCA](#) - 25 Park St, Montclair, NJ 07042
- [Montclair Golf Club](#) - 25 Prospect Ave, West Orange, NJ 07052
- [Crunch Fitness](#) - 309 Pompton Ave, Verona, NJ 07044

6. Faith-Based Institutions

- Interfaith Clergy. Father Gerry - just coming back from sabbatical (Need contact)
- [First Congregational Church](#) - 19 Church St, Verona, NJ 07044
- [Our Lady of the Lake Roman Catholic Church](#) - 22 Lakeside Ave, Verona, NJ 07044
- [Holy Spirit Episcopal Church](#) - 36 Gould St, Verona, NJ 07044
- [Christian Congregation in the United States - CCUS Verona](#) - 42 Personette Ave, Verona, NJ 07044
 - i. Services in English and Portuguese
- [First Presbyterian Church of Verona](#) - 10 Fairview Ave, Verona, NJ 07044
- [Salvatorian Fathers](#) - 23 Crestmont Rd, Verona, NJ 07044
 - i. Polish congregation
- [Islamic Center of Verona](#) - 56 Grove Ave #1611, Verona, NJ 07044
- [Calvary Lutheran](#) - 23 S Prospect St, Verona, NJ 07044
- [B’nai Shalom](#) - 300 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange, NJ 07052
- Informal neighborhood group for Jewish residents
 - i. Contact through Christine McGrath

7. Veterans Groups

- American Legion locations
 - i. 303 Bloomfield Ave, Caldwell, NJ 07006
 - ii. 210 Bloomfield Ave, Montclair, NJ 07042

8. State Legislative District Offices ([LD40](#))

- Senator Kristin M. Corrado
 - i. 999 Riverview Drive, Suite 350, Totowa, New Jersey 07512
 - ii. (973) 237-1360

- Assemblyman Al Barlas
 - i. 100 Passaic Avenue, Suite 155, Fairfield, New Jersey 07004
 - ii. (862) 702-8458
- Assemblyman Christopher P. DePhillips
 - i. 841 Franklin Avenue, Unit 4, Franklin Lakes, New Jersey 07417
 - ii. (201) 444-9719

9. Healthcare

Develop a unique flyer for healthcare workers.

- [Mc Carrick Thomas P MD](#)
 - i. Geriatrics and Senior Care
 - ii. 271 Grove Ave, Verona, NJ 07044
- [Mountainside Family Practice Group \(Verona\)](#)
 - i. 799 Bloomfield Ave. Suite 201, Verona, NJ 07044
- [First Care Medical Group](#)
 - i. 50 Pompton Avenue, Verona, NJ 07044

10. Other

- Advertisements at the local restaurants with senior specials
- Advertise at barbershops and salons on Bloomfield Ave
- Flyers at pharmacies
- Food Pantries
 - i. Church of the Holy Spirit - home deliveries
 - ii. [Human Needs Food Pantry of Montclair](#)
 - iii. [Toni's Kitchen](#) - home deliveries
- Recc Department Health Services - Senior Bus

Engagement Next Steps:

1. Meet with Verona Chamber of Commerce contacts to expand our local business outreach/contact list.
2. Explore upcoming event tabling opportunities with Strans Engineering.
3. Draft Communications Toolkit with Elisa and Pam (November)
 - a. Social media posts, flyers, sample captions, etc.
4. Discuss the Township's grant budget allocation for physical marketing materials, such as brochures, flyers, lawn signs, and banners.

Timeline:

- October 6th - November 7th
 - Research and prepare draft survey questions
- October 20th - November 14th
 - Develop online survey
- November 10th - 22nd
 - Detailed marketing timeline with target dates for survey testing, social media posts, survey launch, install advertising banners, etc.

- Develop survey marketing tools (Communications toolkit, social media posts, flyers, etc.)
- November 15th - January 31st
 - Survey marketing and outreach efforts
- February 2nd - 28th
 - Launch & monitor survey

Township of Verona Age-Friendly Needs Assessment Report

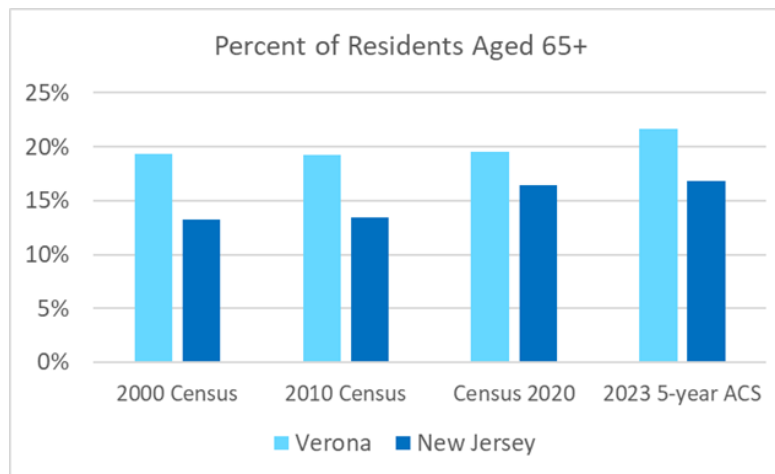
Prepared By
New Jersey Future



May 2026

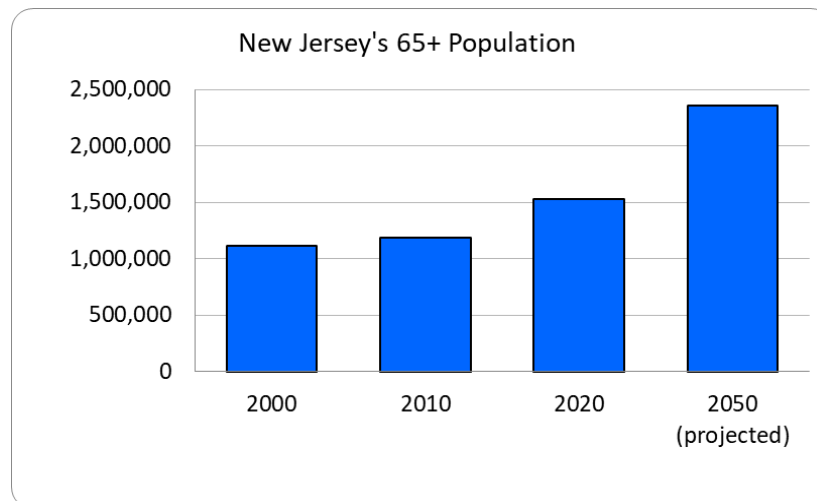
Verona Community Profile

Verona's 65+ Population

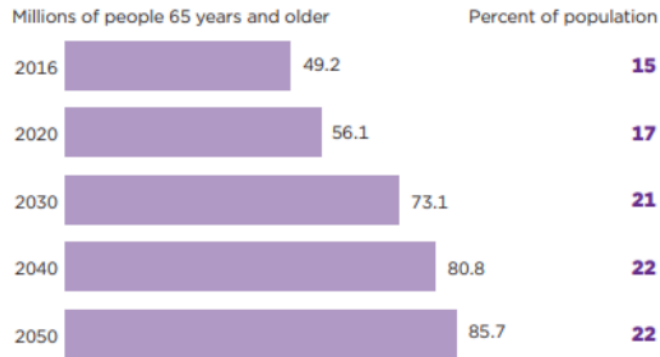


Verona's population is generally a bit older than the state's average. The 65+ share of the population has risen, as it has statewide and nationwide, largely due to a combination of advancements in health and medical technology that help older generations live longer, and the aging of the massive Baby Boomer cohort into their retirement years.

Aging of NJ's Population Projected to Continue

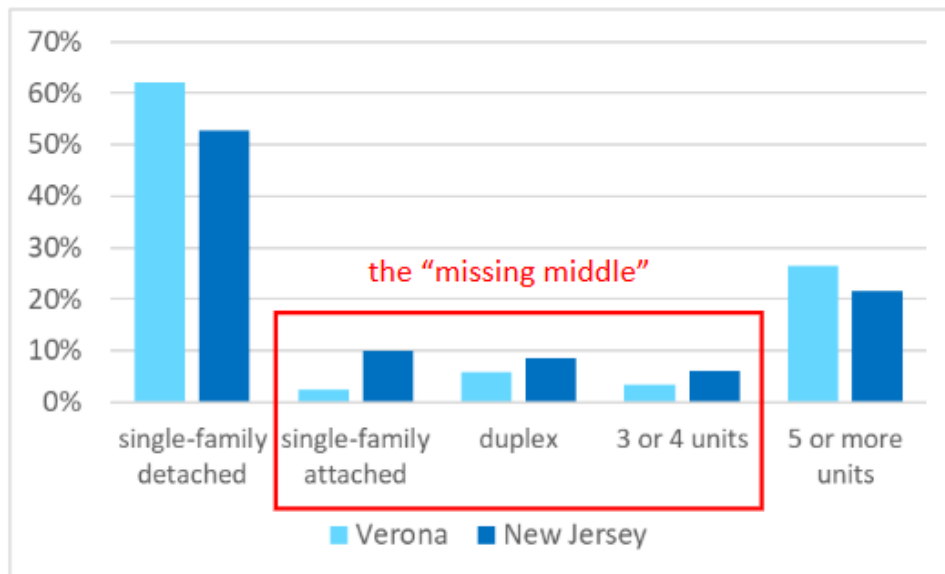


Projections of the Older Adult Population: 2020 to 2050



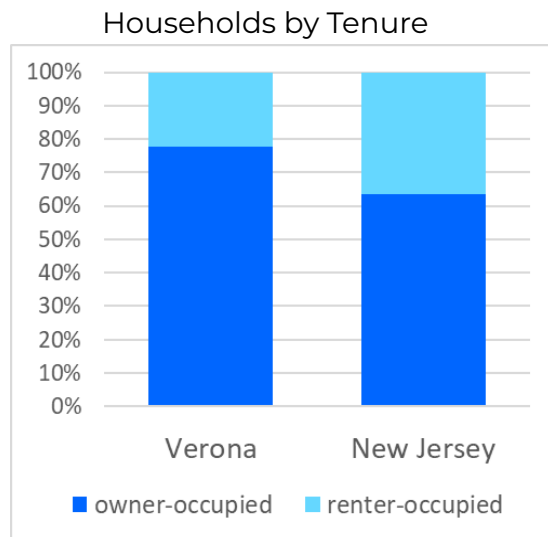
From Demographic Turning Points for the United States: Population Projections for 2020 to 2060.

Verona's Housing Stock

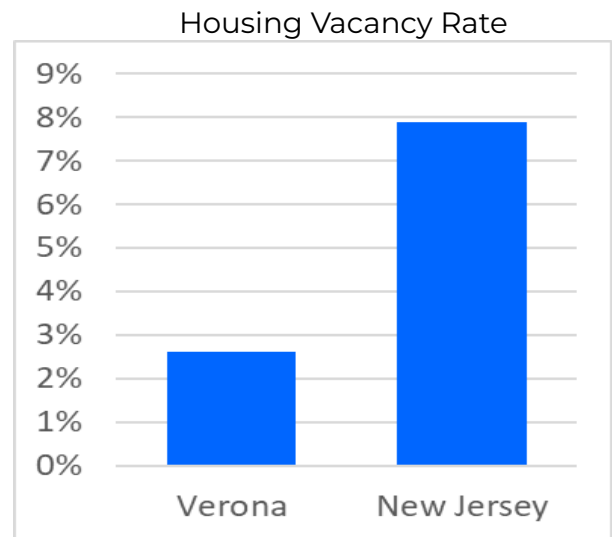


Verona's housing stock is dominated by single-family detached homes, and is relatively short on "missing middle" options (townhouses, duplexes, 3- and 4-plexes) that lend themselves to aging in place for older residents seeking to downsize.

Vacancy and Tenure

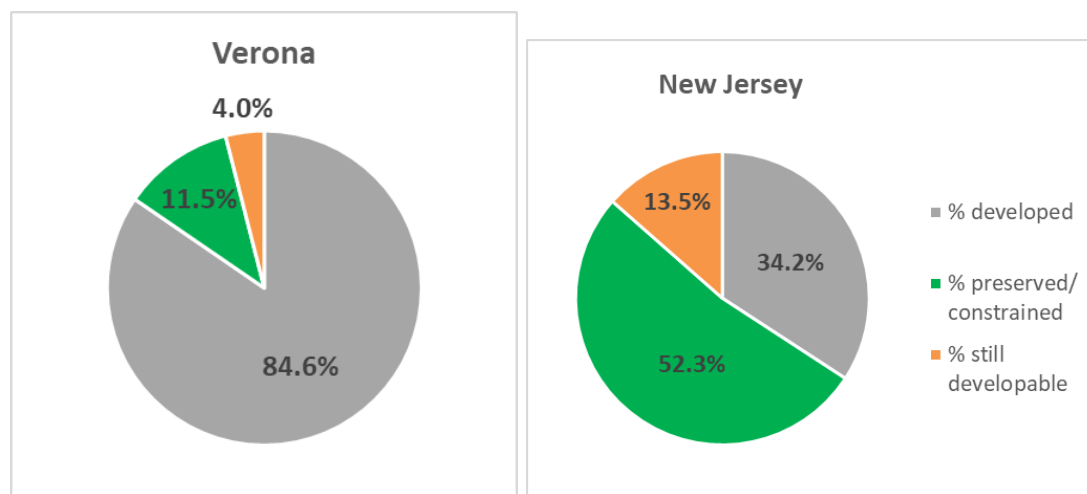


Verona has a much higher percentage of homeowner households (vs. renters) than New Jersey as a whole – 77.8%, vs. 63.7% statewide. This is likely a function of the relative lack of housing types normally geared toward renters.



Verona's housing vacancy rate of 2.6% -- one-third of the statewide rate of 7.9% -- indicates a very tight housing market, keeping upward pressure on housing prices. Combined with the characteristics of the housing stock, this portends difficulties for older residents seeking to remain in town when they are ready to downsize.

Land Development



Verona is much more developed than the state as a whole, and most of what remains has either been permanently preserved (e.g., as parkland) or cannot be built on due to environmental constraints. The township has a small amount of

developable land remaining, meaning that most new development – including any changes aimed at making the township more age-friendly – will be redevelopment or infill.

Community Survey

To collect broad input from the target population, the Township of Verona, in partnership with New Jersey Future, issued a community needs assessment survey. The survey was widely marketed throughout the community, using a mix of social media posts, flyers, tabling events, mailers, and partner organizations.

Surveys were designed with collaborative input and guidance from the Age-Friendly Leadership Team. Survey options included paper copies distributed by the Verona Community Center and a digital format via the online collection platform SurveyMonkey. Answer options ranged from multiple-choice to rank-choice to open-ended. Both versions of the survey took approximately 15 minutes to complete.

At the end of the 4-week survey window, 41 paper surveys were collected, and 237 digital submissions were received, for a combined total of 278 responses.

The full survey results are attached in Appendix A.

Direct Engagement

Throughout the survey period, two community listening sessions were convened at the Verona Community Center. Members of the public were encouraged to attend to voice their concerns, ideas, or support for various Township initiatives. Participants had the opportunity to complete paper copies of the needs assessment survey at the start of each meeting. Snacks and refreshments were provided by the Township. Each focus group consisted of 6 participants, with facilitation by New Jersey Future.

Focus Group 1

Participants in the first focus group raised major concerns about housing affordability and aging in place. Residents felt limited by rising property taxes, the high cost of downsizing, and limited local options for accessible housing. Home maintenance was identified as increasingly difficult for older adults, prompting discussion of programs such as snow removal assistance. Transportation and mobility concerns were also highlighted, including insufficient parking, challenges with new digital parking pay stations that are difficult for some older residents to navigate, speeding and traffic safety issues on roads such as Grove Avenue and Derwent Avenue, and a need for more flexibility around scheduling and destination options for the Senior Bus.

Participants also emphasized the importance of social connection, communication, and access to information. While VeronaTV was once viewed as a major centralized source of community information, residents noted that disinvestment in VeronaTV has created uncertainty about upcoming events or programs. Facebook, word of mouth, and the township e-newsletter are now the primary sources of information, though many residents remain unaware of available resources. Exercise programs were described as highly attended and valued, with interest in expanding offerings to include nutrition, meditation, Mahjong, and other wellness activities. Concerns were also raised about the decline of intergenerational and youth-based community programming, as well as the need to better engage residents who are not already connected to senior clubs or organized groups.

Focus Group 2

Participants discussed concerns about ongoing redevelopment and streetscaping efforts, noting that while new development is underway, only a small number of units are earmarked for older adults, limiting opportunities for downsizing. Many of the affordable units are distributed quickly via lottery, and no priority is given to township residents. Participants also noted concerns about several recent water main breaks and a potential connection to aging infrastructure being strained by new development projects. Roadway and pedestrian infrastructure were also discussed, noting that the inconsistent enforcement of speed limits, especially around Lakeside Avenue, has impacted residents' safety perceptions.

Social and recreational opportunities were viewed as important, but in need of expansion and greater accessibility. Participants identified an information gap regarding library offerings, community programs, and the Senior Bus, noting that residents most commonly learn about events through word of mouth, email, and Facebook groups. The discussion also highlighted an interest in organized walking groups and restoring informal opportunities for physical activity, such as walking the gym stairs in the mornings. Other activities, such as library programs, felt limiting to seniors, due to attendance caps and transportation restrictions. Community trips through the Senior Club were discussed very positively, with interest in expanding destinations and a potential audit of the club for desirable locations, such as New York City.

Open-Ended Feedback

Question 32 of the community survey, marked as “optional”, asked participants for any additional comments about the livability of Verona for older adults that were not already addressed in the survey. The results are as follows:

Summary Responses:

- Property taxes/affordability/cost of living - 24 mentions
 - High property taxes
 - Tax revaluation burden
 - Fixed-income concerns
 - Sewer/water bills and general affordability
 - Fear of being priced out of Verona
- Need for senior housing/downsizing options/55+ housing - 15 mentions
 - 55+ housing
 - One-story homes
 - Condos/elevator buildings
 - Smaller affordable homes to age in place
 - Downsizing opportunities in Verona
- Snow removal/lawn care/home maintenance help - 14 mentions
 - Snow shoveling assistance
 - Lawn care
 - Small home repairs
 - Help finding reputable providers
 - Volunteer or town-supported maintenance programs
- More senior recreation, activities, trips, and social programming - 13 mentions
 - Exercise classes
 - Trips/outings
 - Educational opportunities
 - Social gatherings
 - Arts programming
- Transportation/mobility/shuttle service - 10 mentions
 - Local shuttle requests
 - Transportation to doctors, shopping, classes
 - Loss of NYC bus service
 - Reduced driving ability concerns
- Walkability/pedestrian safety/traffic & speeding - 10 mentions
 - Unsafe crossings
 - Speeding vehicles
 - Stop sign violations
 - Hilly terrain

- Poor walkability
 - Snow obstructing sidewalks/roads
- Lack of awareness/communication about senior services - 8 mentions
 - Not knowing what services exist
 - Desire for better advertising
 - Requests for VTV/community information
 - Confusion about available programs
- Desire to age in place/love Verona/want to remain - 8 mentions
 - Positive feelings about town
 - Wanting to stay long-term
 - Appreciation for Verona's character and amenities
- Social isolation/need for connection & volunteering - 6 mentions
 - Loneliness
 - Difficulty meeting people
 - Interest in volunteer opportunities
 - Need for social outlets
- Senior-focused services & support (tech, legal, financial help, check-ins) - 5 mentions
 - Technology assistance
 - Legal/tax help
 - Wellness check-ins
 - General aging support
- Parking/accessibility concerns - 5 mentions
 - Handicap parking placement
 - Parking shortages
 - Concerns over parking apps replacing coin meters
- Perception that seniors are overlooked / town prioritizes families & schools - 5 mentions
 - Feeling ignored
 - School spending imbalance
 - Limited perceived benefit to seniors
- Opposition to additional housing development/overcrowding concerns - 4 mentions
 - Traffic/infrastructure concerns
 - Opposition to affordable housing or density
- Pool-related comments - 4 mentions
 - Positive feedback on pool
 - Requests for discounted/free senior memberships
- Library/community center accessibility & programming - 3 mentions
 - Parking access
 - Program availability
 - Community center use

- Public works/municipal management concerns - 2 mentions
 - Efficiency concerns
 - Transparency/frustration with government
- Positive mention of EMS/senior transportation services - 2 mentions

Highest-Priority Themes (by frequency)

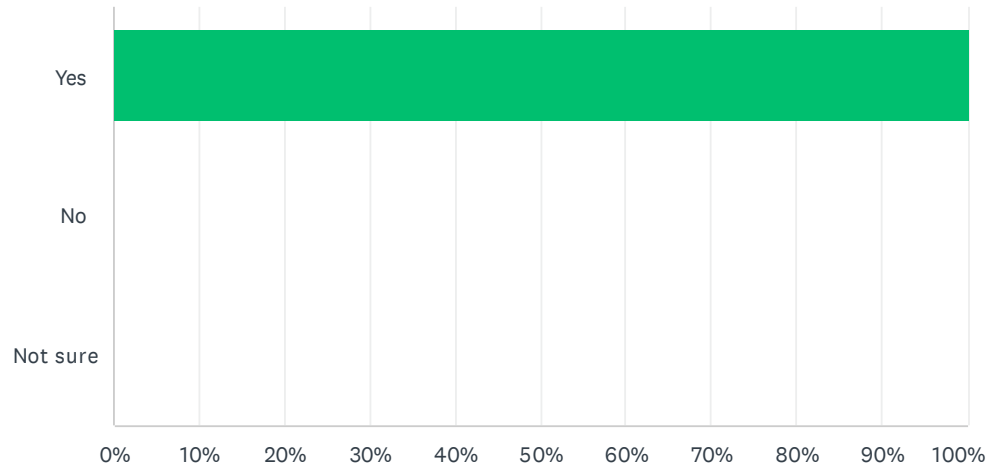
1. Affordability/property taxes (24)
2. Senior housing & downsizing (15)
3. Snow removal/home maintenance support (14)
4. More recreation/social programming (13)
5. Transportation & mobility (10)
6. Walkability/traffic safety (10)

Appendix A.

Community Survey Results

Q1 Are you a resident of the Township of Verona?

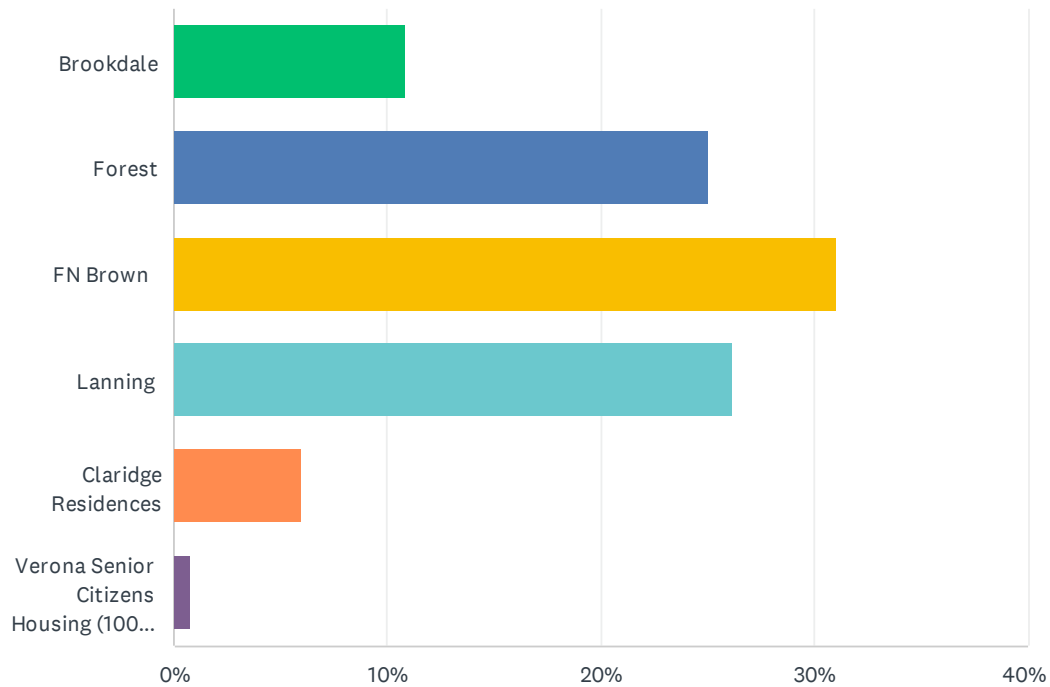
Answered: 278 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	100.00%	278
No	0.00%	0
Not sure	0.00%	0
TOTAL		278

Q2 What section of town do you live in?

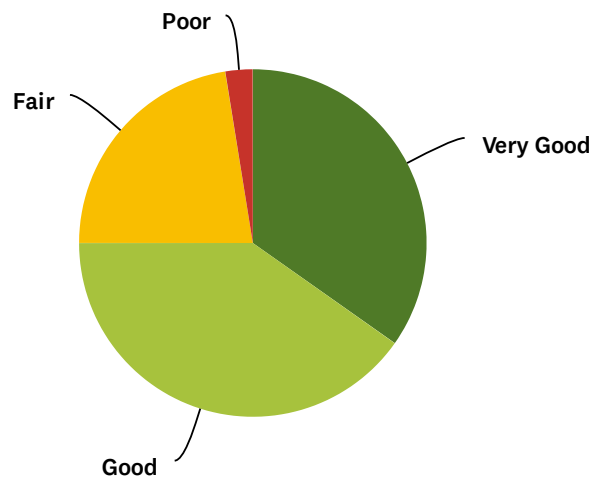
Answered: 267 Skipped: 11



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Brookdale	10.86%	29
Forest	25.09%	67
FN Brown	31.09%	83
Lanning	26.22%	70
Claridge Residences	5.99%	16
Verona Senior Citizens Housing (100 Hillwood Terrace)	0.75%	2
Total Respondents: 267		

Q3 How would you rate Verona as a place for people to live as they age?

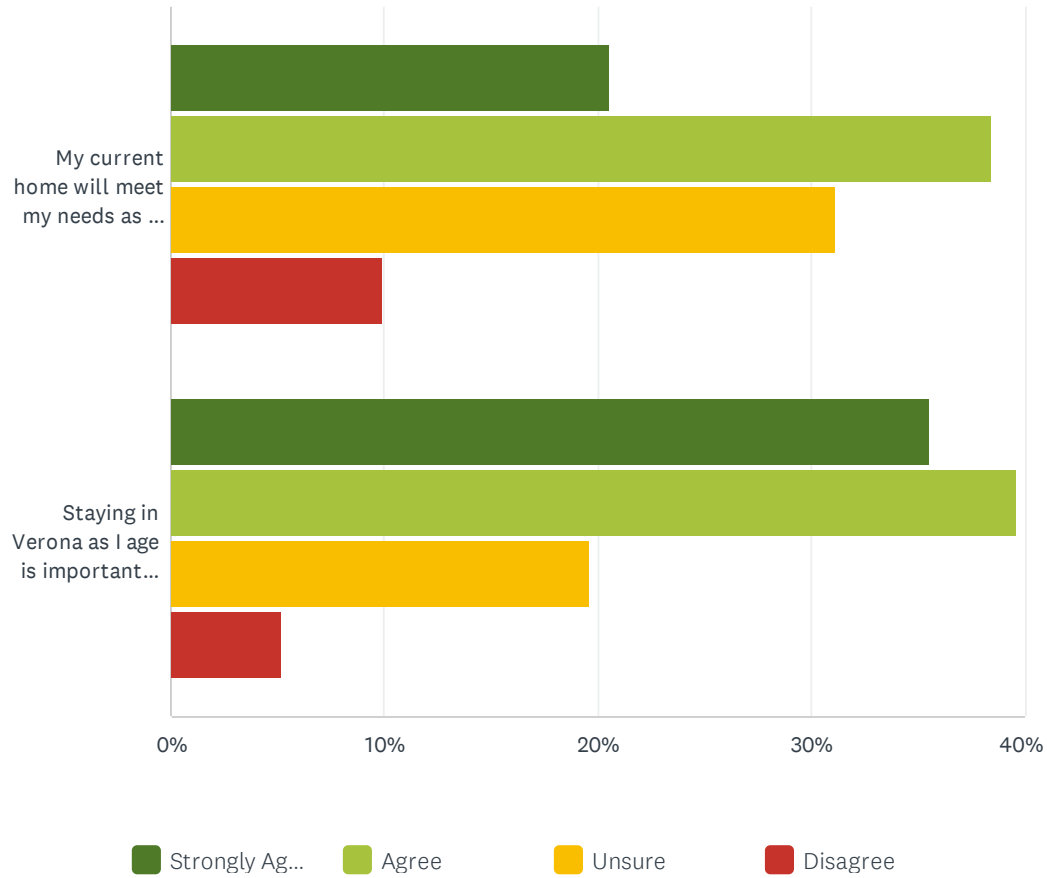
Answered: 276 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Good	34.78%	96
Good	40.22%	111
Fair	22.46%	62
Poor	2.54%	7
TOTAL		276

Q4 Please indicate how much you agree with the following statements about where you prefer to live.

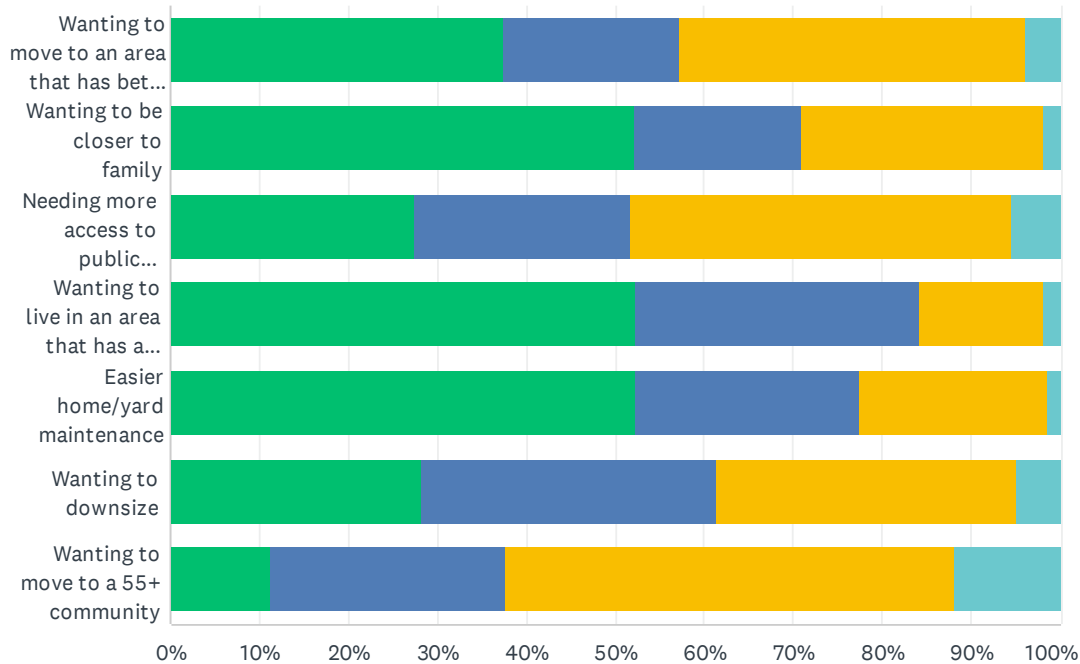
Answered: 276 Skipped: 2



	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	UNSURE	DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
My current home will meet my needs as I age	20.51% 56	38.46% 105	31.14% 85	9.89% 27	273	2.30
Staying in Verona as I age is important to me	35.56% 96	39.63% 107	19.63% 53	5.19% 14	270	1.94

Q5 As people age, some may find that they need or want to move out of their home. If you were to consider moving out of your current home due to factors related to aging, how much would each of the following considerations factor into your decision to move?

Answered: 269 Skipped: 9

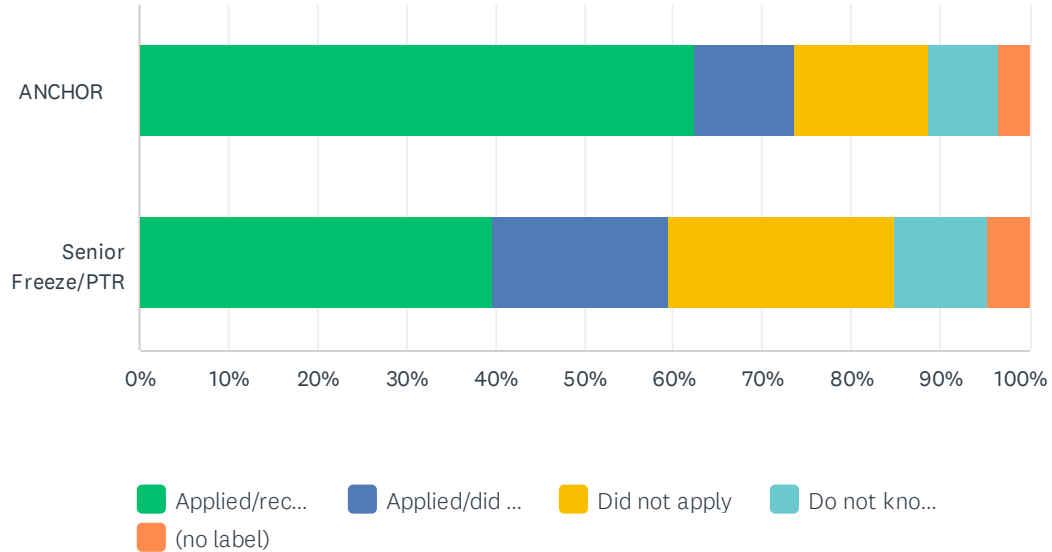


Major factor Minor factor Not a factor Not sure

	MAJOR FACTOR	MINOR FACTOR	NOT A FACTOR	NOT SURE	TOTAL
Wanting to move to an area that has better health care facilities	37.50% 99	19.70% 52	39.02% 103	3.79% 10	264
Wanting to be closer to family	52.24% 140	18.66% 50	27.24% 73	1.87% 5	268
Needing more access to public transportation	27.34% 73	24.34% 65	42.70% 114	5.62% 15	267
Wanting to live in an area that has a lower cost of living	52.43% 140	31.84% 85	13.86% 37	1.87% 5	267
Easier home/yard maintenance	52.26% 139	25.19% 67	21.05% 56	1.50% 4	266
Wanting to downsize	28.20% 75	33.08% 88	33.83% 90	4.89% 13	266
Wanting to move to a 55+ community	11.19% 30	26.49% 71	50.37% 135	11.94% 32	268

Q6 Please check which property tax assistance programs you have received/applied for.

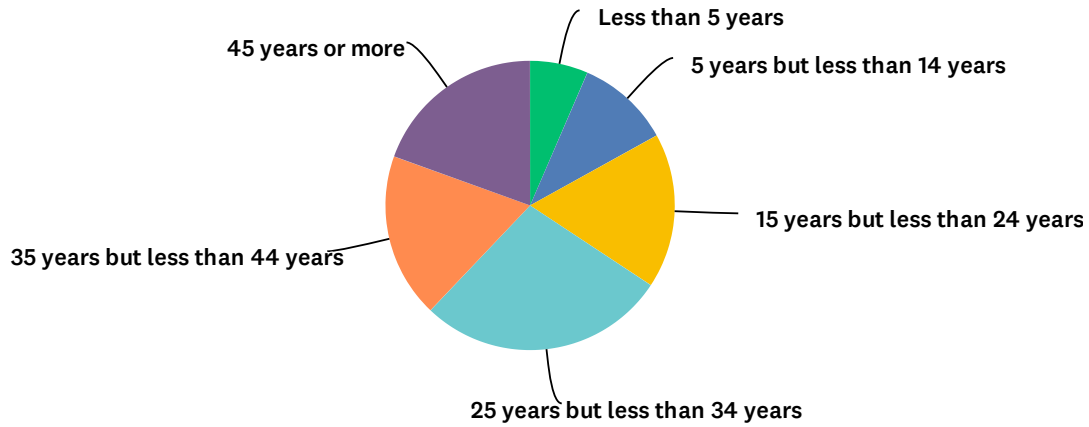
Answered: 271 Skipped: 7



	APPLIED/RECEIVED ASSISTANCE	APPLIED/DID NOT QUALIFY	DID NOT APPLY	DO NOT KNOW ABOUT	(NO LABEL)	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
ANCHOR	62.40% 161	11.24% 29	15.12% 39	7.75% 20	3.49% 9	258	1.79
Senior Freeze/PTR	39.77% 103	19.69% 51	25.48% 66	10.42% 27	4.63% 12	259	2.20

Q7 How long have you lived in your current residence?

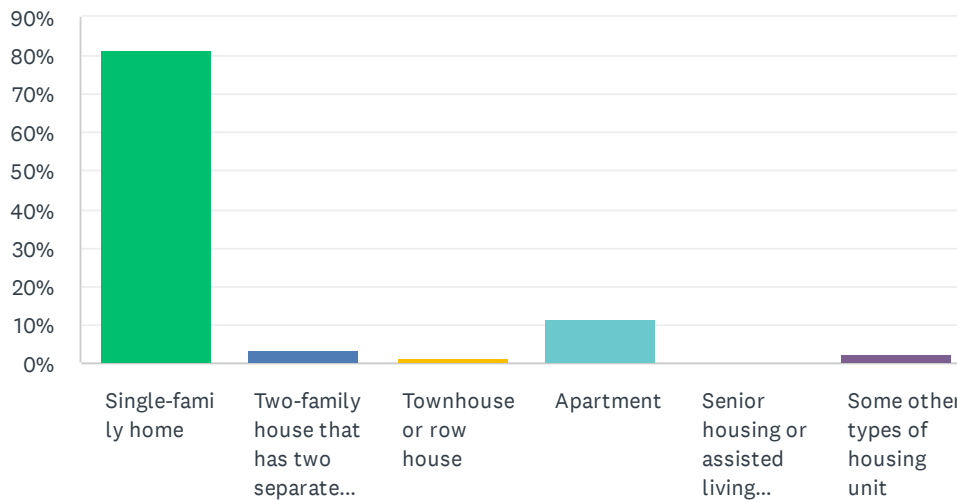
Answered: 277 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 5 years	6.50%	18
5 years but less than 14 years	10.47%	29
15 years but less than 24 years	17.33%	48
25 years but less than 34 years	27.80%	77
35 years but less than 44 years	18.41%	51
45 years or more	19.49%	54
TOTAL		277

Q8 Which of the following types of homes best describe where you currently live?

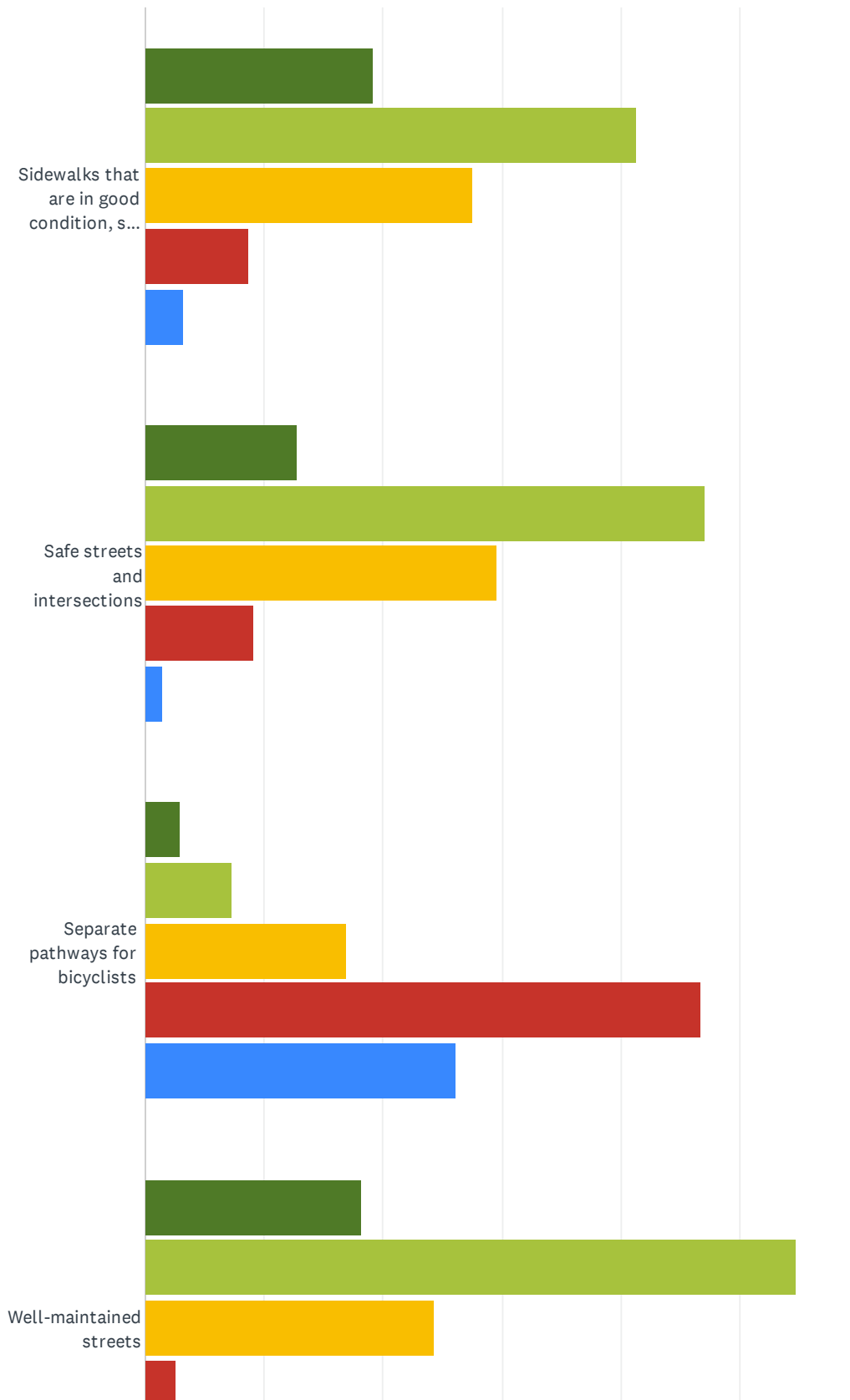
Answered: 277 Skipped: 1



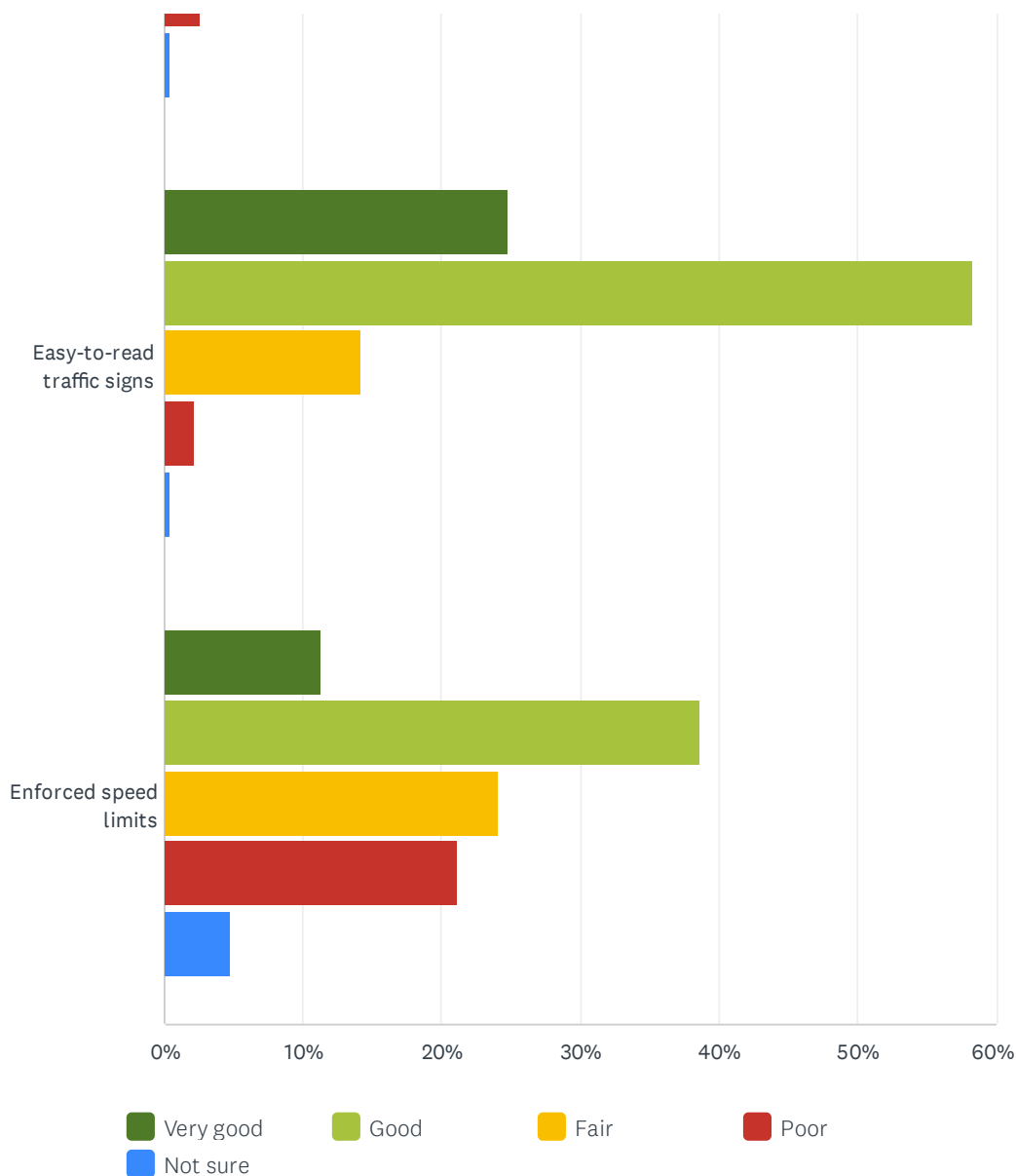
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Single-family home	81.59%	226
Two-family house that has two separate living units	3.25%	9
Townhouse or row house	1.44%	4
Apartment	11.55%	32
Senior housing or assisted living facility	0.00%	0
Some other types of housing unit	2.17%	6
TOTAL		277

Q9 How would you rate the following street characteristics?

Answered: 277 Skipped: 1



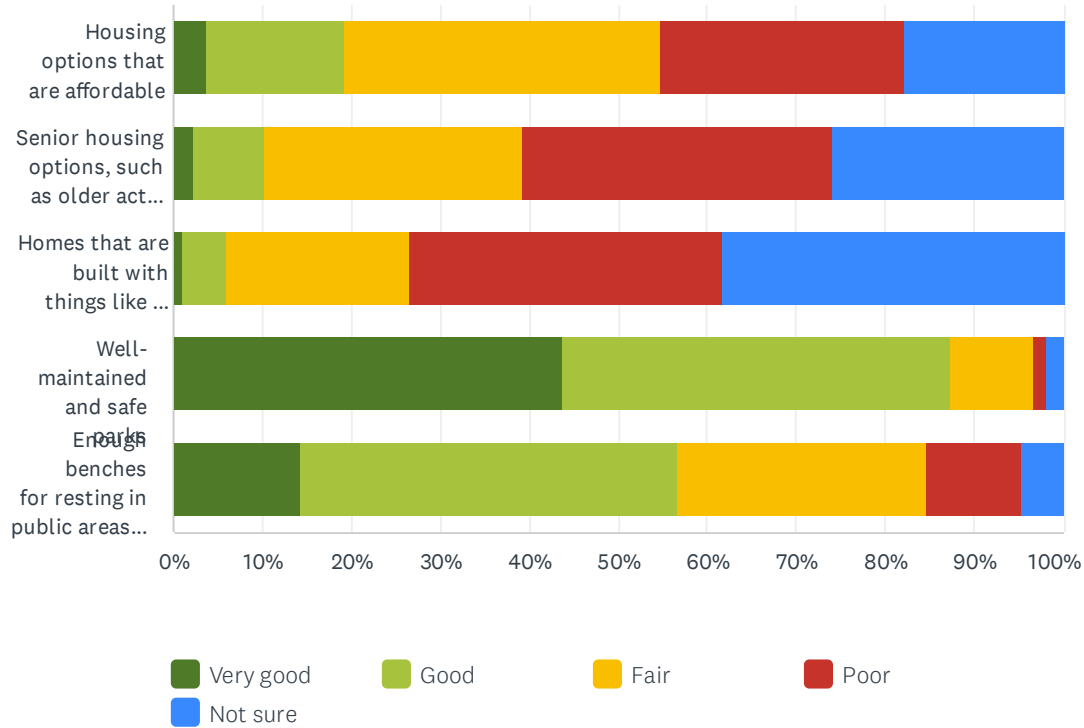
Verona Age-Friendly Community Survey



	VERY GOOD	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	NOT SURE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Sidewalks that are in good condition, safe for pedestrians, and accessible for wheelchairs or other assistive mobility devices	19.20% 53	41.30% 114	27.54% 76	8.70% 24	3.26% 9	276	2.36
Safe streets and intersections	12.77% 35	47.08% 129	29.56% 81	9.12% 25	1.46% 4	274	2.39
Separate pathways for bicyclists	2.94% 8	7.35% 20	16.91% 46	46.69% 127	26.10% 71	272	3.86
Well-maintained streets	18.12% 50	54.71% 151	24.28% 67	2.54% 7	0.36% 1	276	2.12
Easy-to-read traffic signs	24.82% 68	58.39% 160	14.23% 39	2.19% 6	0.36% 1	274	1.95
Enforced speed limits	11.31% 31	38.69% 106	24.09% 66	21.17% 58	4.74% 13	274	2.69

Q10 Would you rate Verona as very good, good, fair, or poor on having the following?

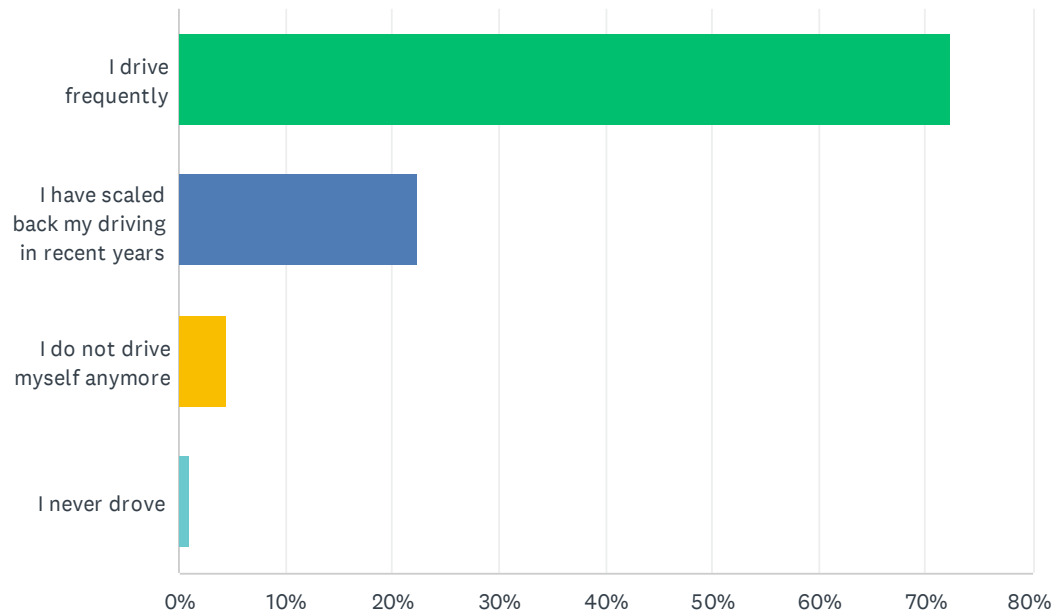
Answered: 276 Skipped: 2



	VERY GOOD	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	NOT SURE	TOTAL
Housing options that are affordable	3.70% 10	15.56% 42	35.56% 96	27.41% 74	17.78% 48	270
Senior housing options, such as older active adult communities, assisted living, and communities with shared facilities and outdoor spaces	2.20% 6	8.06% 22	28.94% 79	34.80% 95	26.01% 71	273
Homes that are built with things like a no-step entrance, wider doorways, and first-floor bedrooms and bathrooms	1.11% 3	4.81% 13	20.74% 56	35.19% 95	38.15% 103	270
Well-maintained and safe parks	43.80% 120	43.43% 119	9.49% 26	1.46% 4	1.82% 5	274
Enough benches for resting in public areas like parks, along sidewalks, and around public buildings	14.23% 39	42.34% 116	28.10% 77	10.58% 29	4.74% 13	274

Q11 How would you describe your driving habits?

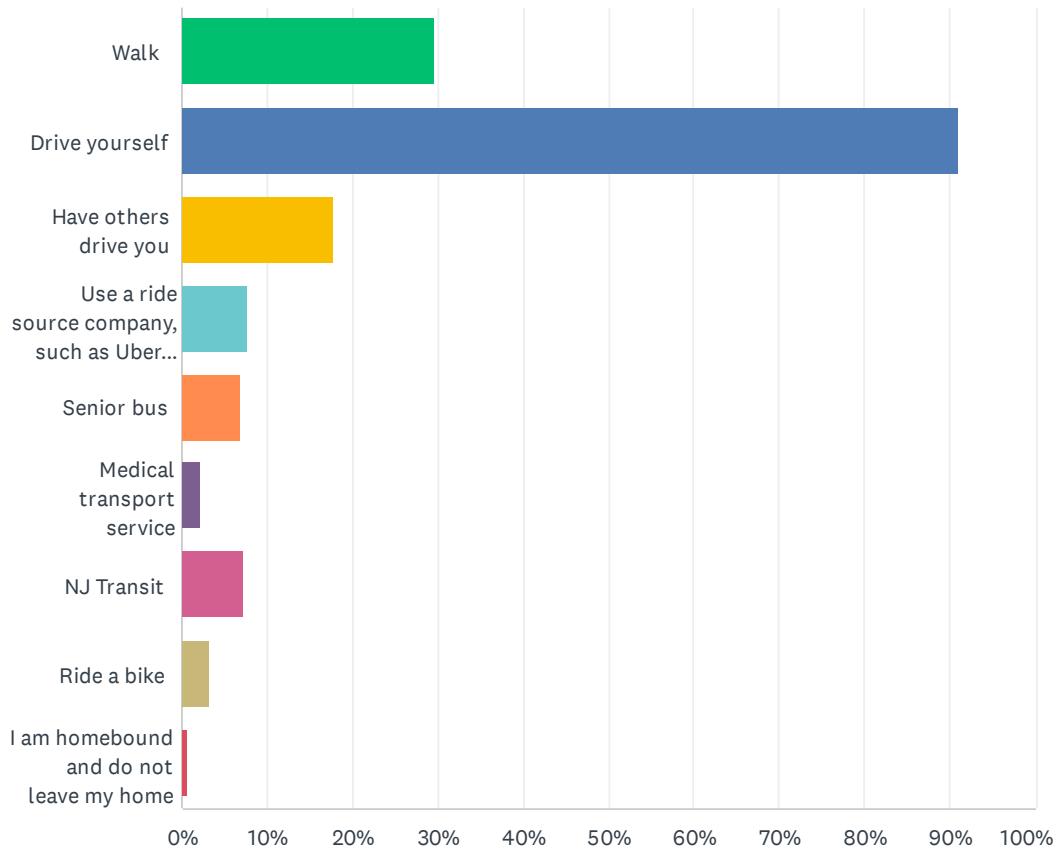
Answered: 274 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I drive frequently	72.26%	198
I have scaled back my driving in recent years	22.26%	61
I do not drive myself anymore	4.38%	12
I never drove	1.09%	3
TOTAL		274

Q12 What forms of transportation do you typically use for things like shopping, visiting the doctor, running errands, or other things? [CHECK ALL THAT APPLY]

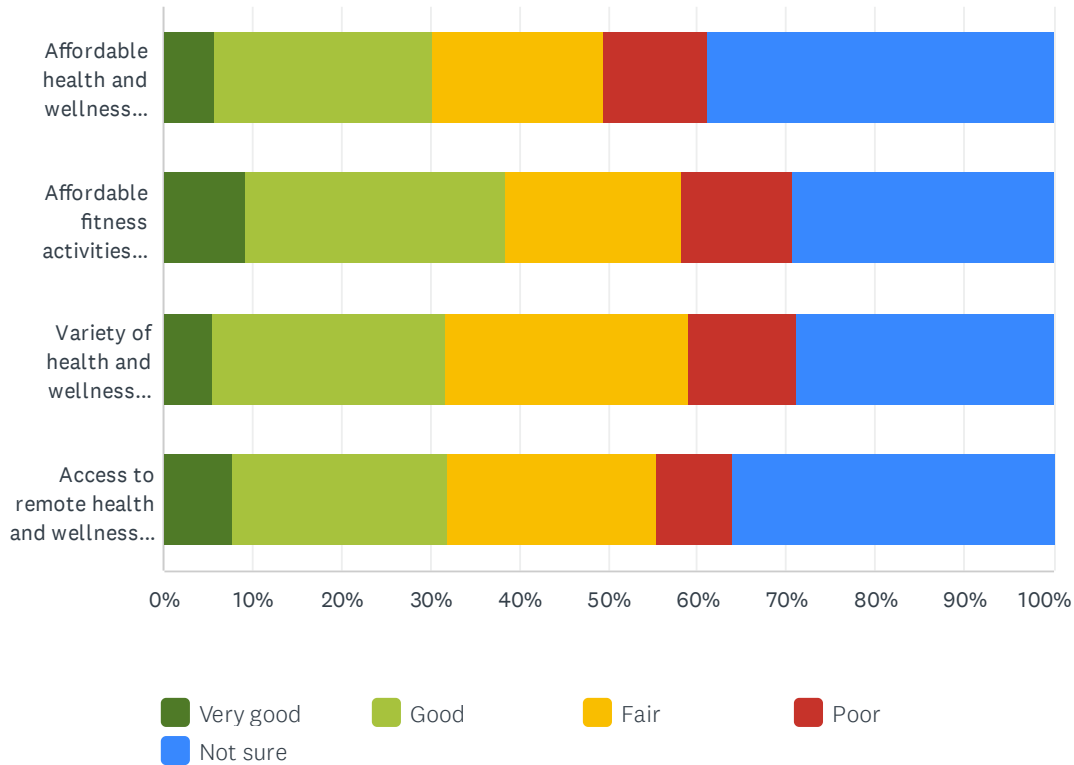
Answered: 277 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walk	29.60%	82
Drive yourself	90.97%	252
Have others drive you	17.69%	49
Use a ride source company, such as Uber or Lyft	7.58%	21
Senior bus	6.86%	19
Medical transport service	2.17%	6
NJ Transit	7.22%	20
Ride a bike	3.25%	9
I am homebound and do not leave my home	0.72%	2
Total Respondents: 277		

Q13 How would you rate the following health and wellness services in Verona?

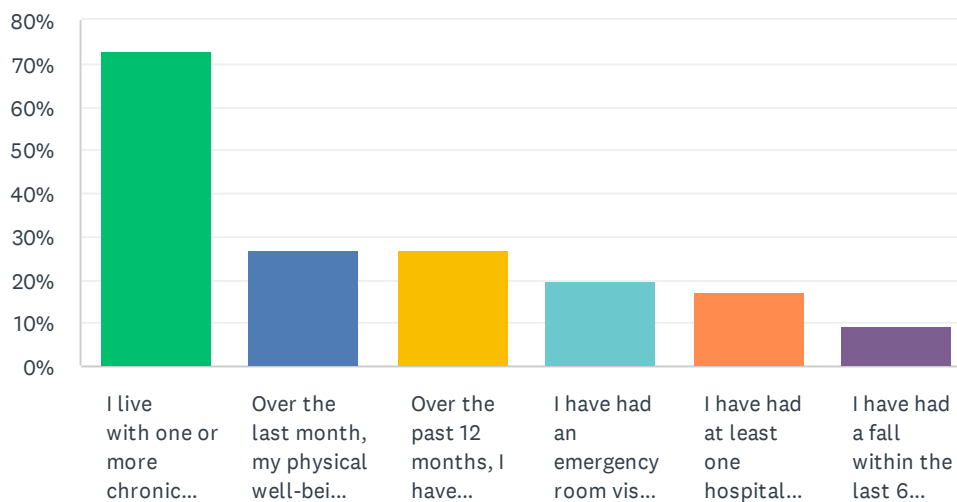
Answered: 276 Skipped: 2



	VERY GOOD	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	NOT SURE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Affordable health and wellness programs and classes in areas such as nutrition, smoking cessation, and weight control	5.82% 16	24.36% 67	19.27% 53	11.64% 32	38.91% 107	275	3.53
Affordable fitness activities specifically geared towards older adults	9.16% 25	29.30% 80	19.78% 54	12.45% 34	29.30% 80	273	3.23
Variety of health and wellness activities	5.47% 15	26.28% 72	27.37% 75	12.04% 33	28.83% 79	274	3.32
Access to remote health and wellness activities, such as chair yoga, webinars, etc.	7.72% 21	24.26% 66	23.53% 64	8.46% 23	36.03% 98	272	3.41

Q14 Please check any of the following that apply to you

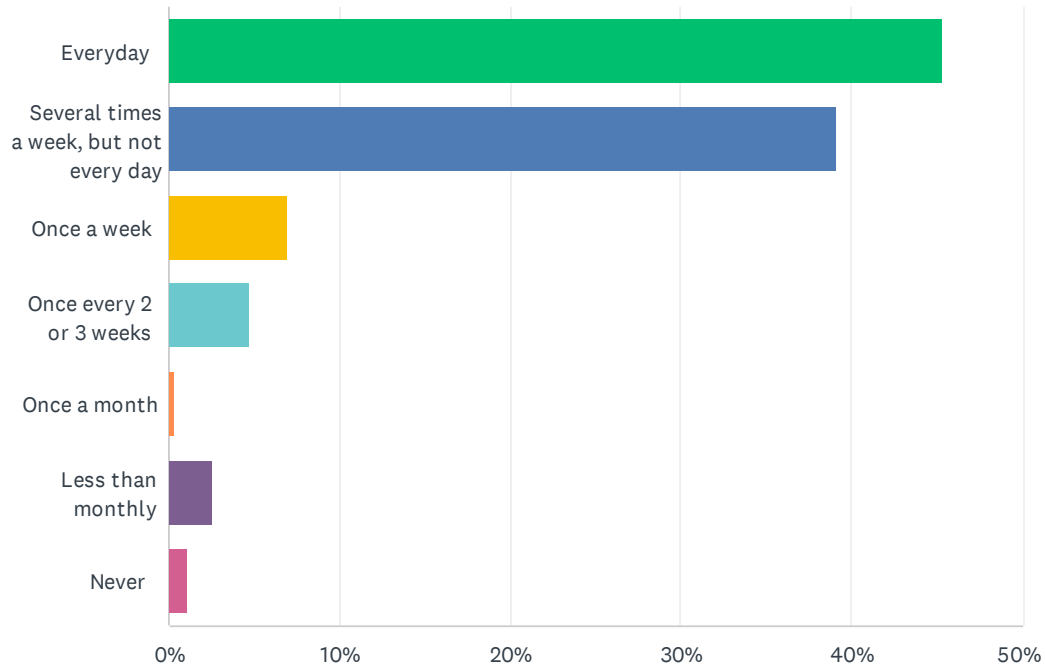
Answered: 152 Skipped: 126



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I live with one or more chronic conditions	73.03%	111
Over the last month, my physical well-being has prevented me from participating in my usual activities at least once	26.97%	41
Over the past 12 months, I have struggled with balance or mobility	26.97%	41
I have had an emergency room visit within the past year	19.74%	30
I have had at least one hospital stay in the last year	17.11%	26
I have had a fall within the last 6 months that required medical attention	9.21%	14
Total Respondents: 152		

Q15 How often do you have contact with family, friends, or neighbors who do not live with you?

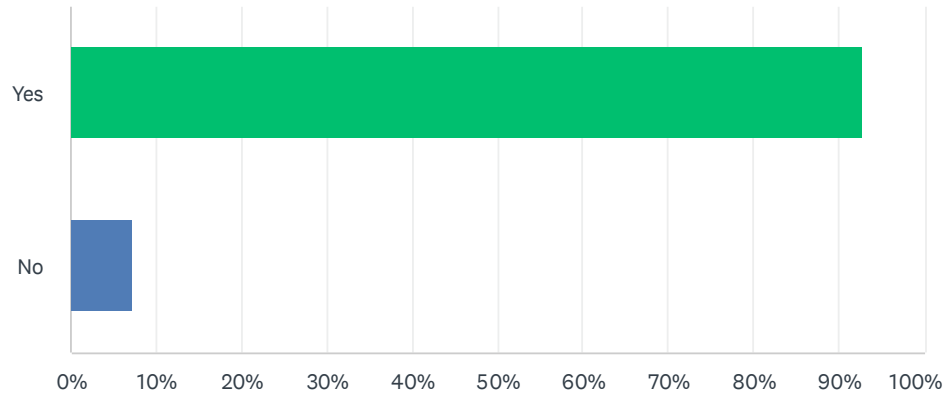
Answered: 276 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Everyday	45.29%	125
Several times a week, but not every day	39.13%	108
Once a week	6.88%	19
Once every 2 or 3 weeks	4.71%	13
Once a month	0.36%	1
Less than monthly	2.54%	7
Never	1.09%	3
TOTAL		276

Q16 If you were in trouble, do you have friends or family who can help you at any time of day or night?

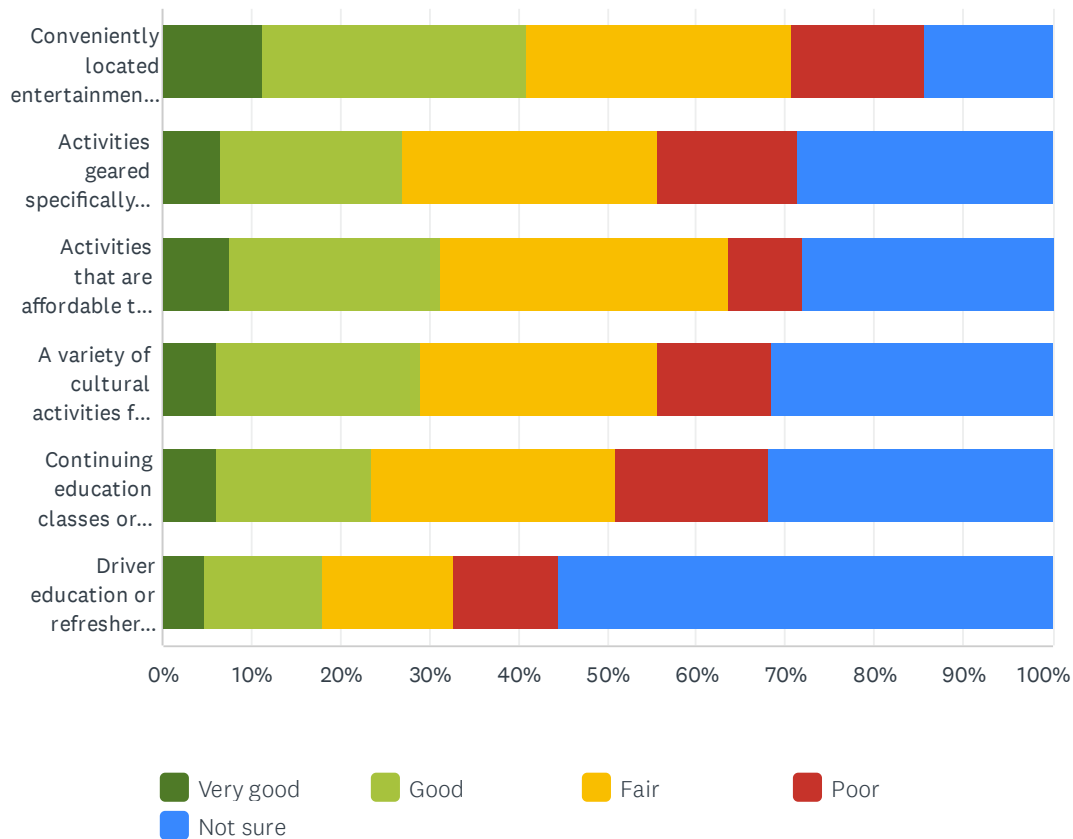
Answered: 275 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	92.73%	255
No	7.27%	20
TOTAL		275

Q17 How would you rate the following social opportunities in Verona?

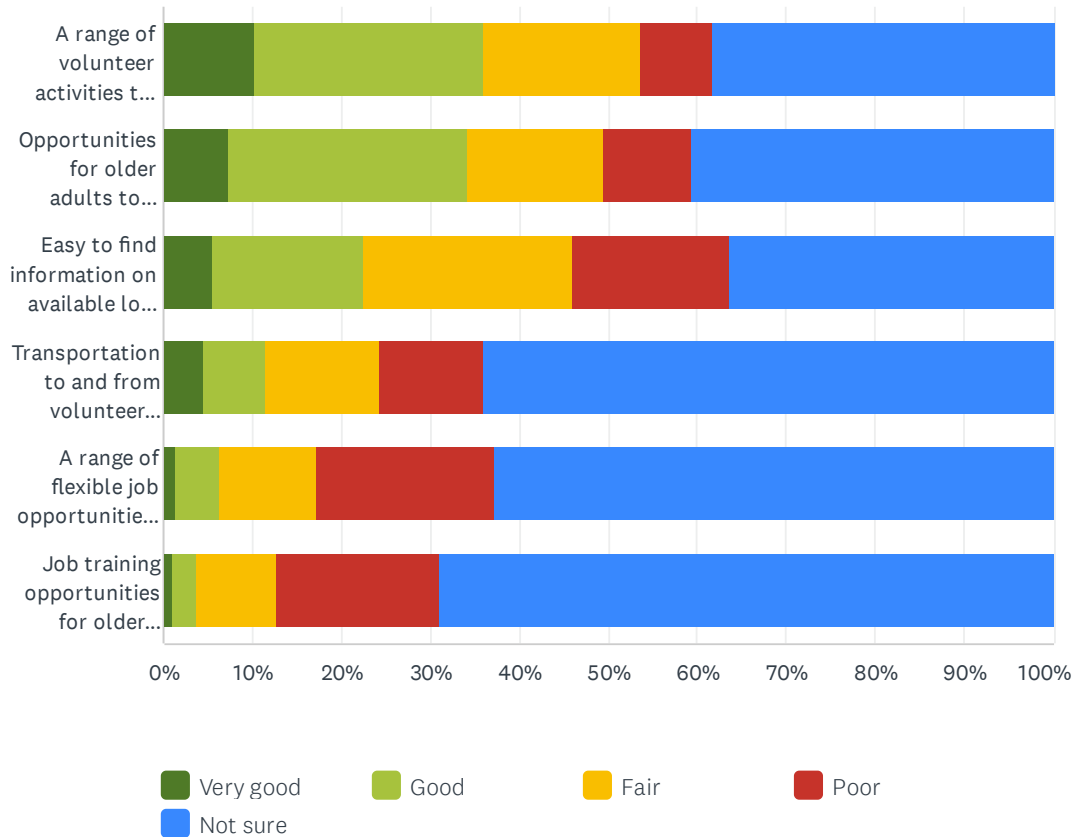
Answered: 275 Skipped: 3



	VERY GOOD	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	NOT SURE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Conveniently located entertainment venues	11.31% 31	29.56% 81	29.93% 82	14.96% 41	14.23% 39	274	2.91
Activities geared specifically towards older adults	6.55% 18	20.36% 56	28.73% 79	15.64% 43	28.73% 79	275	3.40
Activities that are affordable to all residents	7.66% 21	23.72% 65	32.12% 88	8.39% 23	28.10% 77	274	3.26
A variety of cultural activities for diverse populations	6.23% 17	22.71% 62	26.74% 73	12.82% 35	31.50% 86	273	3.41
Continuing education classes or social clubs to pursue new interests, hobbies, or passions	6.23% 17	17.22% 47	27.47% 75	17.22% 47	31.87% 87	273	3.51
Driver education or refresher courses	4.78% 13	13.24% 36	14.71% 40	11.76% 32	55.51% 151	272	4.00

Q18 How would you rate the following job and volunteering opportunities in Verona?

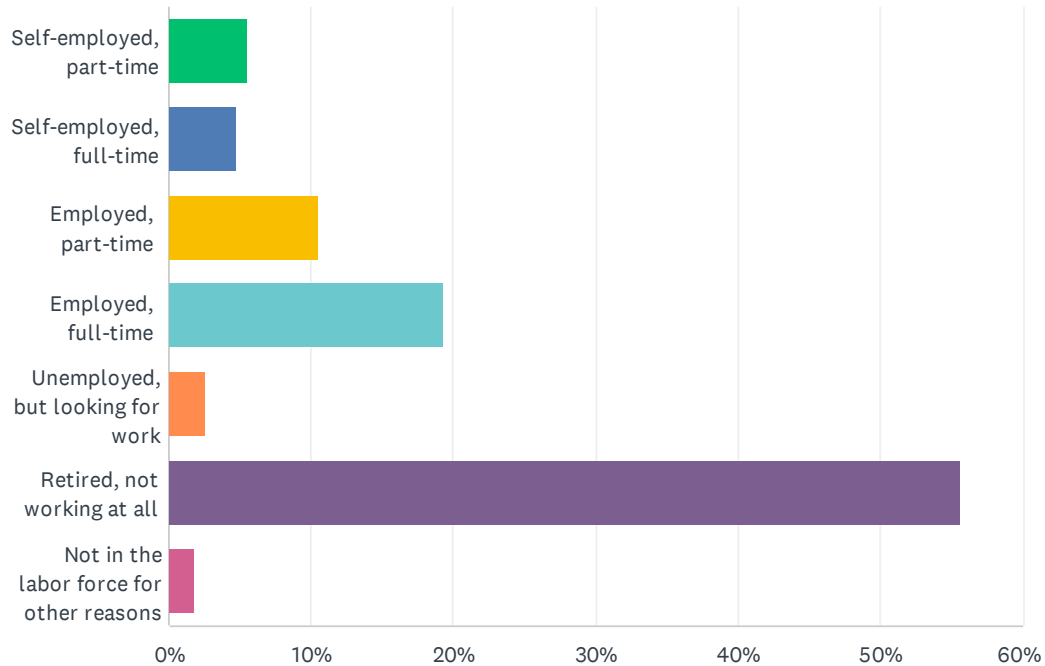
Answered: 273 Skipped: 5



	VERY GOOD	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	NOT SURE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
A range of volunteer activities to choose from	10.29% 28	25.74% 70	17.65% 48	8.09% 22	38.24% 104	272	3.38
Opportunities for older adults to participate in decision-making bodies such as municipal councils or committees	7.33% 20	26.74% 73	15.38% 42	9.89% 27	40.66% 111	273	3.50
Easy to find information on available local volunteer opportunities	5.51% 15	16.91% 46	23.53% 64	17.65% 48	36.40% 99	272	3.63
Transportation to and from volunteer activities for those who need it	4.41% 12	6.99% 19	12.87% 35	11.76% 32	63.97% 174	272	4.24
A range of flexible job opportunities for older adults	1.47% 4	4.78% 13	11.03% 30	19.85% 54	62.87% 171	272	4.38
Job training opportunities for older adults who want to learn new job skills within their job or get training in a different field of work	1.11% 3	2.59% 7	8.89% 24	18.52% 50	68.89% 186	270	4.51

Q19 Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

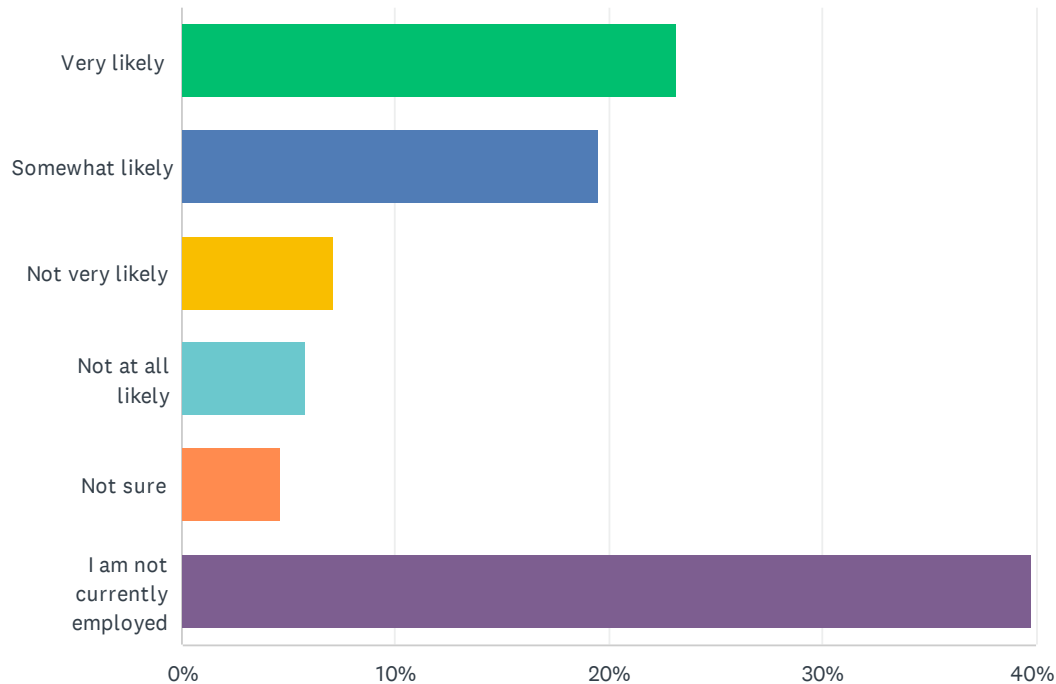
Answered: 275 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Self-employed, part-time	5.45%	15
Self-employed, full-time	4.73%	13
Employed, part-time	10.55%	29
Employed, full-time	19.27%	53
Unemployed, but looking for work	2.55%	7
Retired, not working at all	55.64%	153
Not in the labor force for other reasons	1.82%	5
TOTAL		275

Q20 If you are currently employed or looking for work, how likely is it that you will continue to work as long as possible, rather than choosing to retire and no longer work for pay?

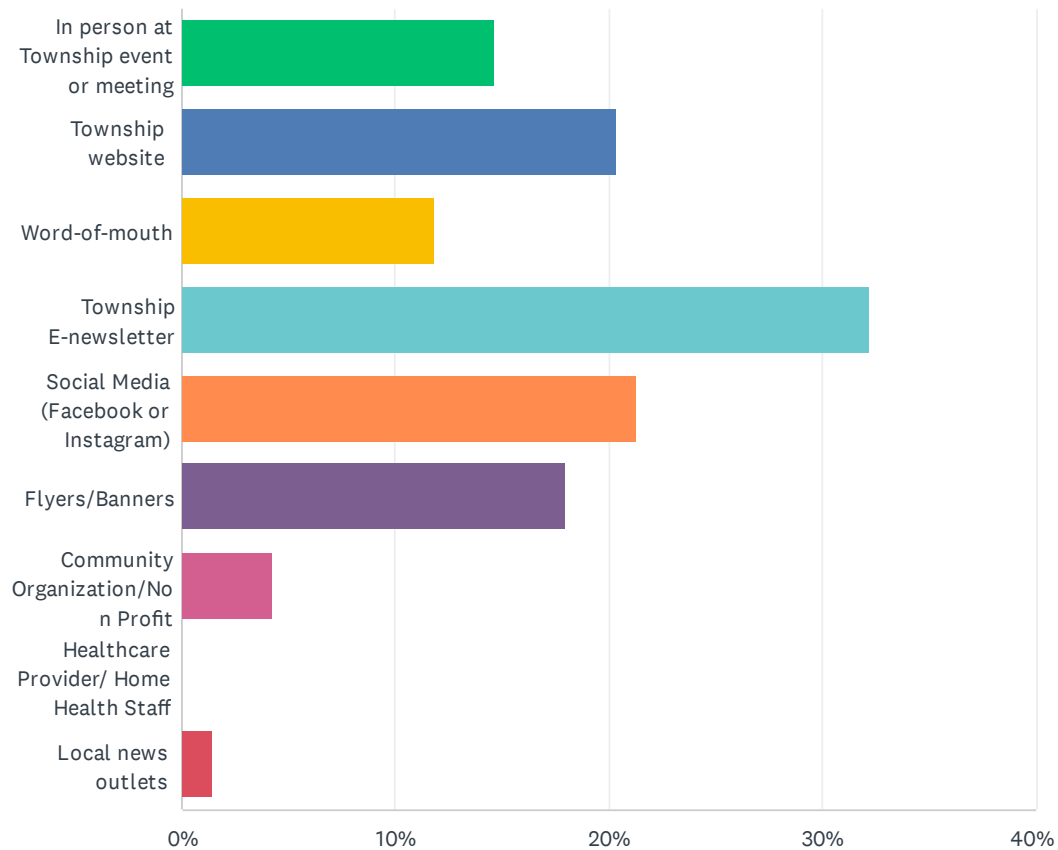
Answered: 241 Skipped: 37



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very likely	23.24%	56
Somewhat likely	19.50%	47
Not very likely	7.05%	17
Not at all likely	5.81%	14
Not sure	4.56%	11
I am not currently employed	39.83%	96
TOTAL		241

Q21 How did you hear about this survey? [CHECK ALL THAT APPLY]

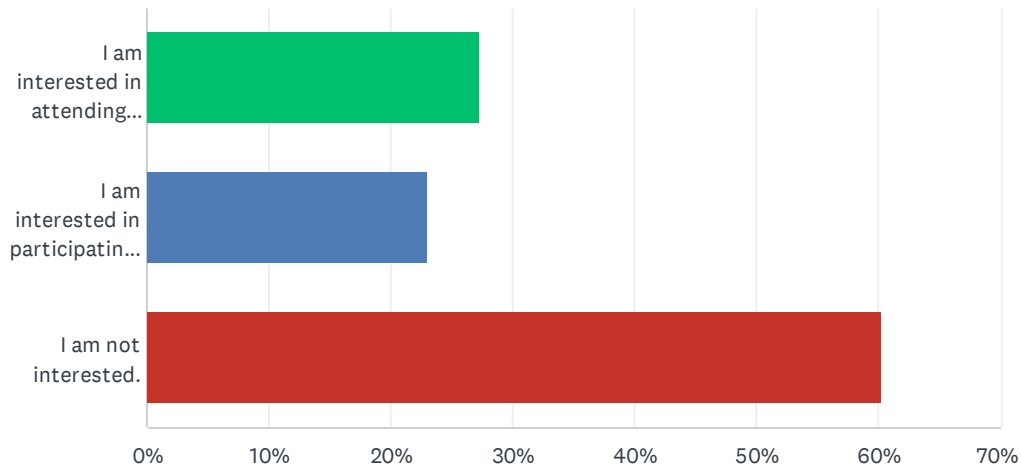
Answered: 211 Skipped: 67



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
In person at Township event or meeting	14.69%	31
Township website	20.38%	43
Word-of-mouth	11.85%	25
Township E-newsletter	32.23%	68
Social Media (Facebook or Instagram)	21.33%	45
Flyers/Banners	18.01%	38
Community Organization/Non Profit	4.27%	9
Healthcare Provider/ Home Health Staff	0.00%	0
Local news outlets	1.42%	3
Total Respondents: 211		

Q22 OPTIONAL: Please let us know if you are interested in further participating in Verona's Age-Friendly Communities initiative by attending meetings, volunteering, receiving additional information, or participating in a focus group or interview. (If yes, please provide your contact information on the next page.) [CHECK ALL THAT APPLY]

Answered: 209 Skipped: 69



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I am interested in attending meetings, volunteering my time and skills, or receiving additional information. Please contact me.	27.27%	57
I am interested in participating in a focus group or interview. Please contact me.	22.97%	48
I am not interested.	60.29%	126
Total Respondents: 209		

Q23 OPTIONAL: If you would would like to be contacted, please enter your name and contact information.

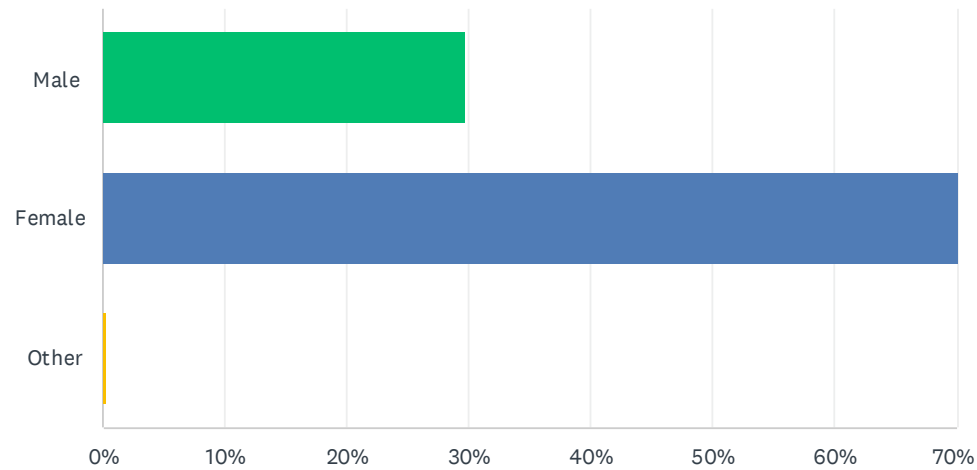
Answered: 67 Skipped: 211

Q24 OPTIONAL Do you have any additional comments about the livability of Verona for older adults that were not already addressed in this survey?

Answered: 84 Skipped: 194

Q25 What is your gender?

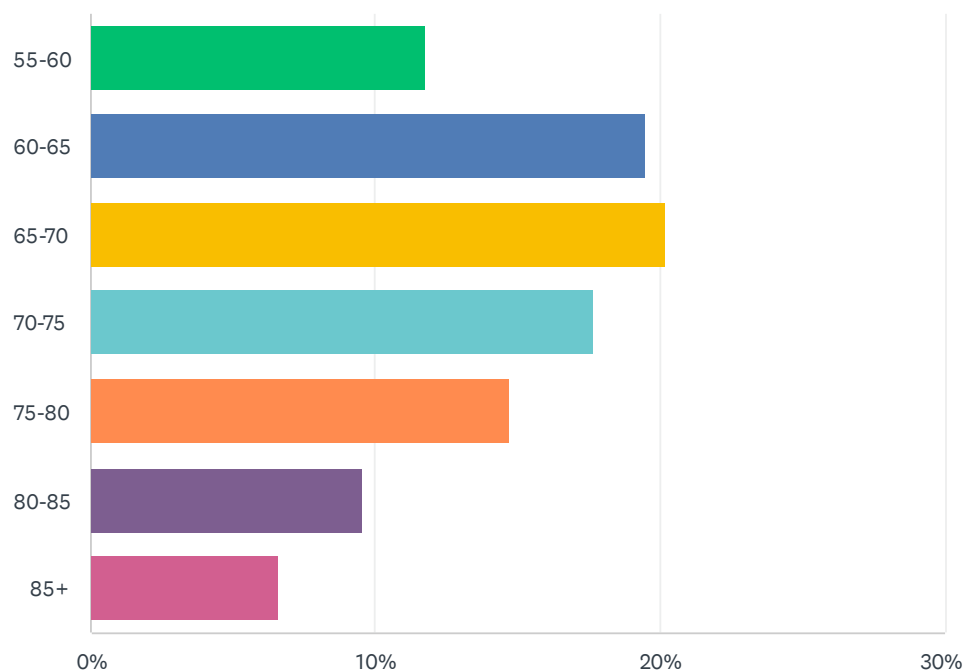
Answered: 270 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Male	29.63%	80
Female	70.00%	189
Other	0.37%	1
TOTAL		270

Q26 What is your age?

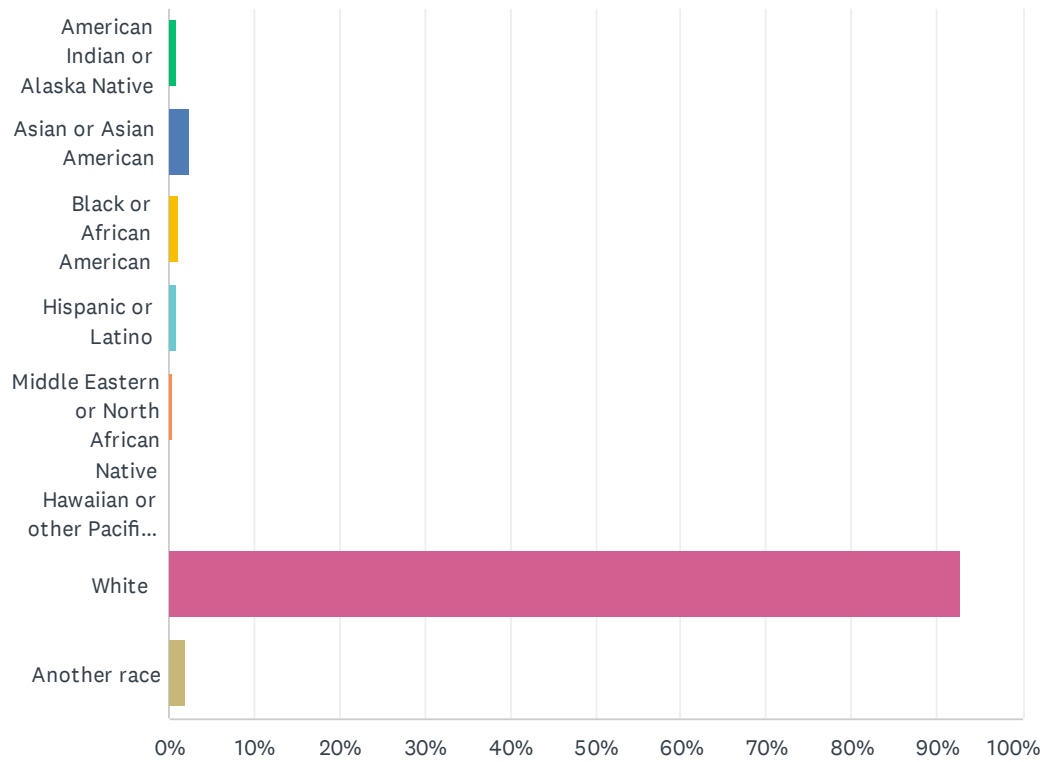
Answered: 272 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
55-60	11.76%	32
60-65	19.49%	53
65-70	20.22%	55
70-75	17.65%	48
75-80	14.71%	40
80-85	9.56%	26
85+	6.62%	18
TOTAL		272

Q27 What is your race?

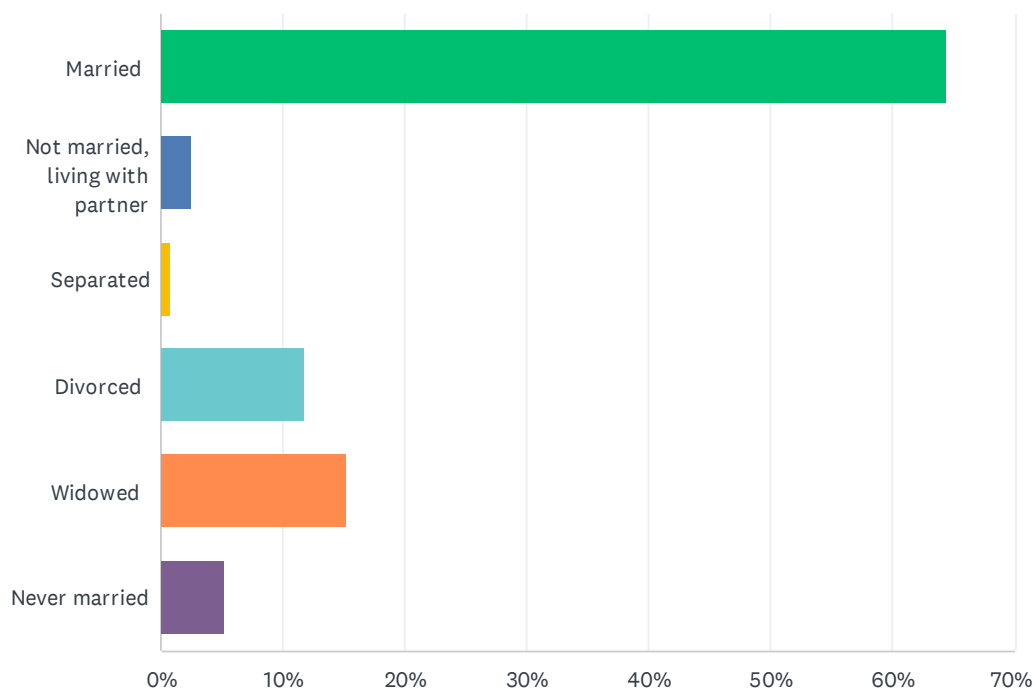
Answered: 263 Skipped: 15



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.76%	2
Asian or Asian American	2.28%	6
Black or African American	1.14%	3
Hispanic or Latino	0.76%	2
Middle Eastern or North African	0.38%	1
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.00%	0
White	92.78%	244
Another race	1.90%	5
TOTAL		263

Q28 What is your current marital status?

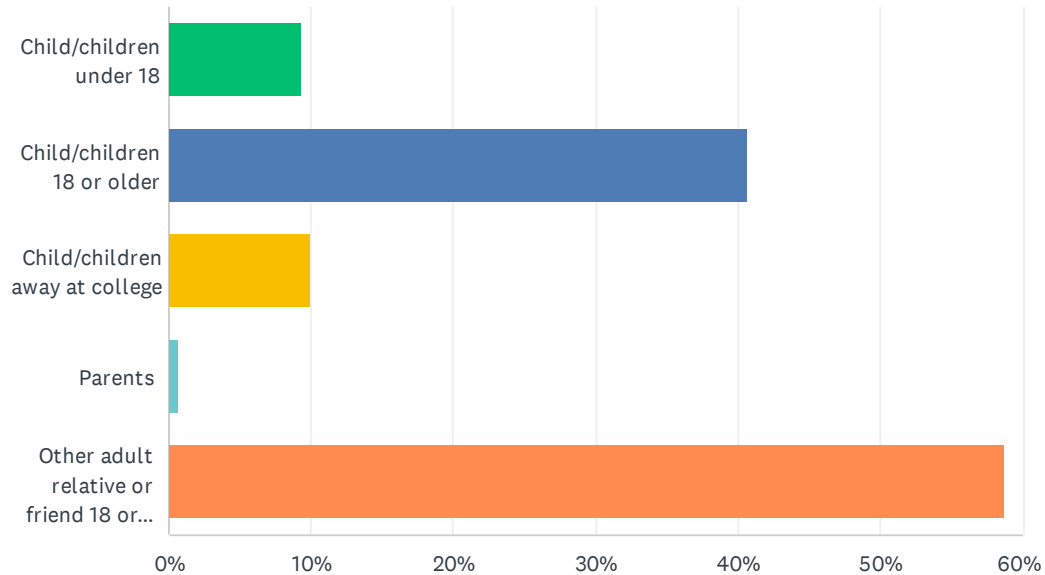
Answered: 270 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Married	64.44%	174
Not married, living with partner	2.59%	7
Separated	0.74%	2
Divorced	11.85%	32
Widowed	15.19%	41
Never married	5.19%	14
TOTAL		270

Q29 Besides you, do any of the following people live in your household? [CHECK ALL THAT APPLY]

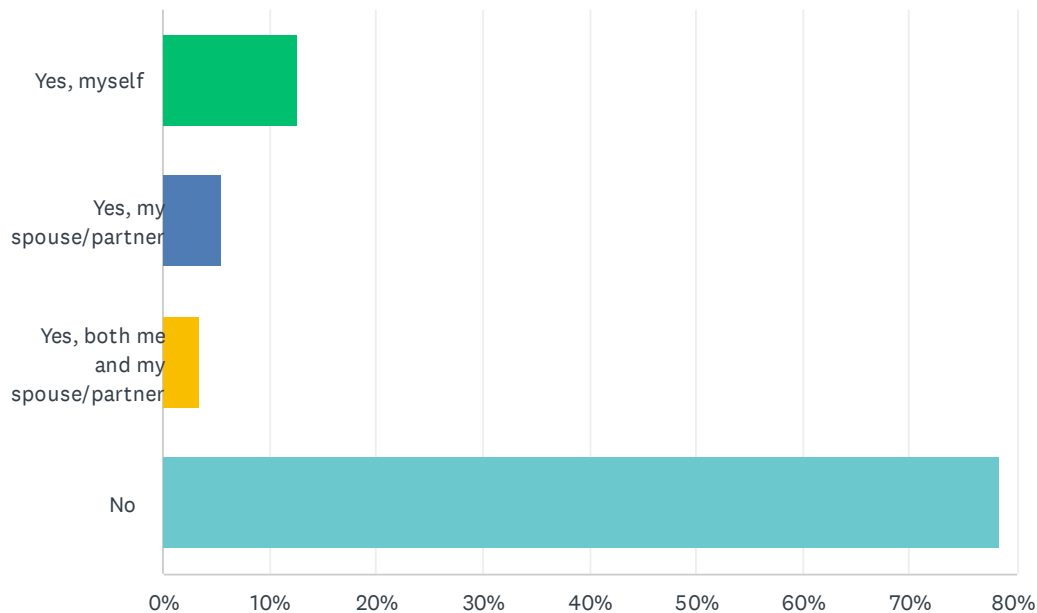
Answered: 150 Skipped: 128



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Child/children under 18	9.33%	14
Child/children 18 or older	40.67%	61
Child/children away at college	10.00%	15
Parents	0.67%	1
Other adult relative or friend 18 or older	58.67%	88
Total Respondents: 150		

Q30 Does any disability, handicap, or chronic disease keep you or your spouse or partner from participating fully in work, recreation, housework, or other activities?

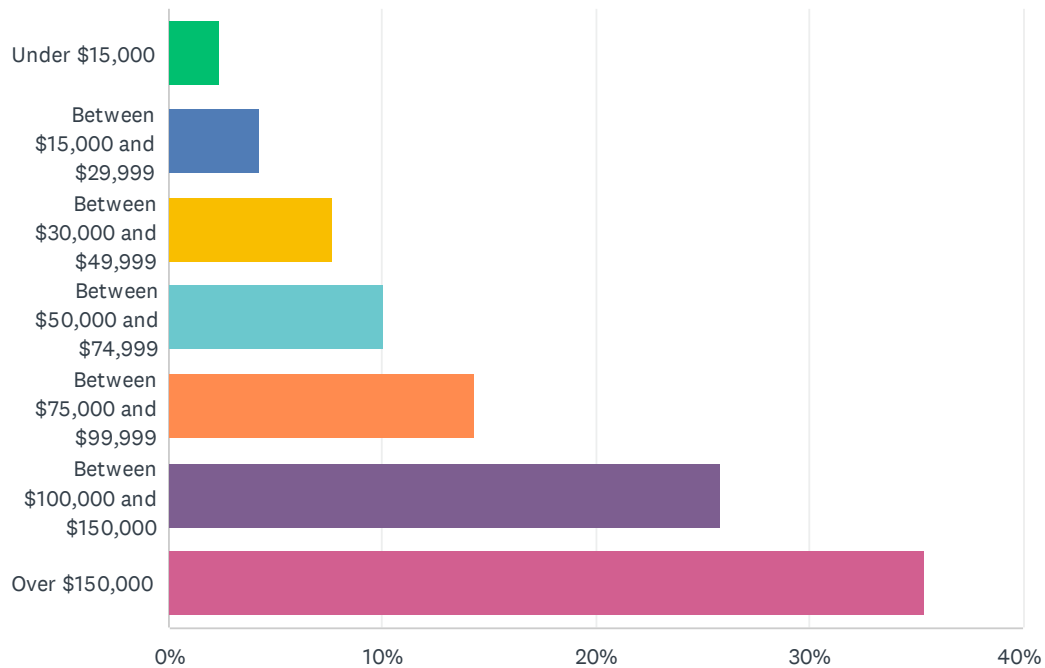
Answered: 260 Skipped: 18



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes, myself		12.69%	33
Yes, my spouse/partner		5.38%	14
Yes, both me and my spouse/partner		3.46%	9
No		78.46%	204
TOTAL			260

Q31 What was your annual household income before taxes in 2025?

Answered: 209 Skipped: 69



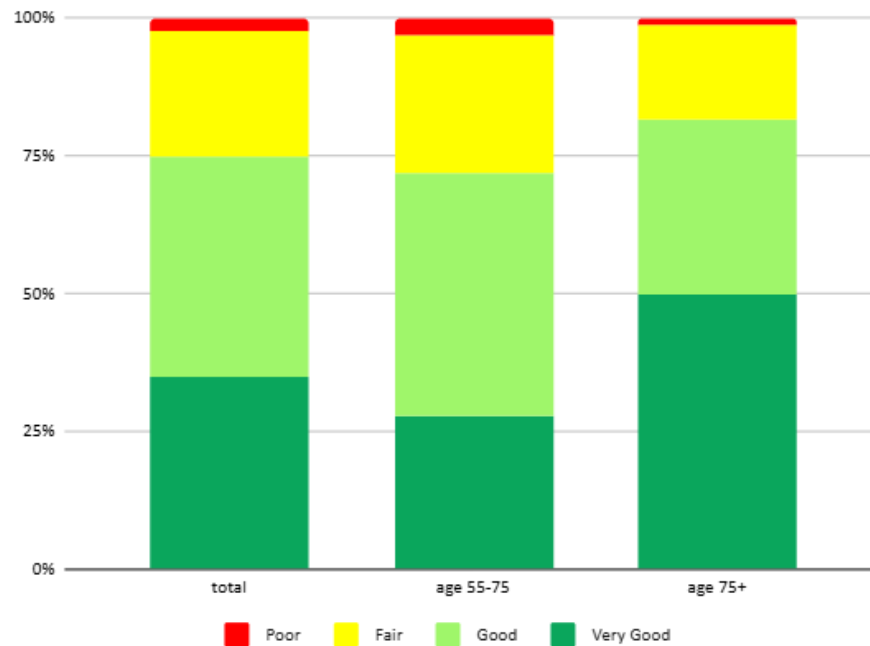
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under \$15,000	2.39%	5
Between \$15,000 and \$29,999	4.31%	9
Between \$30,000 and \$49,999	7.66%	16
Between \$50,000 and \$74,999	10.05%	21
Between \$75,000 and \$99,999	14.35%	30
Between \$100,000 and \$150,000	25.84%	54
Over \$150,000	35.41%	74
TOTAL		209

Appendix B.

Cross-Tabulation Data

How would you rate Verona as a place for people to age in place?

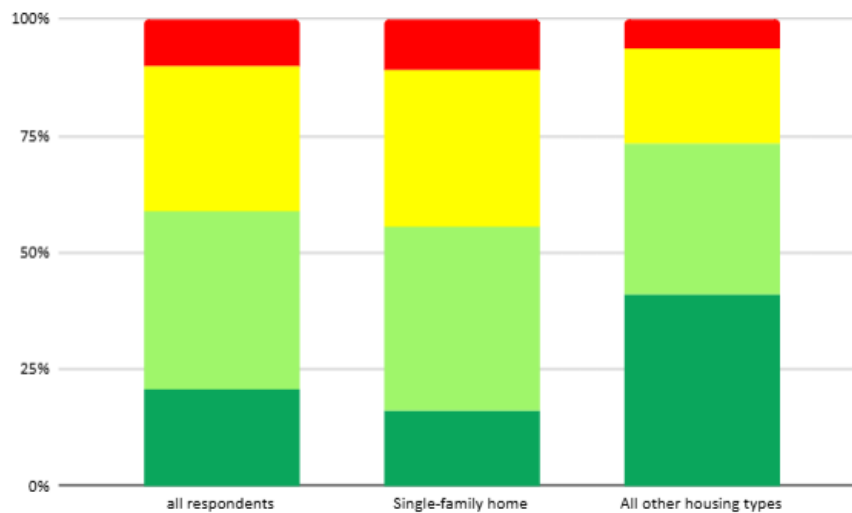
Cross-tabulated by age groups.



- People over 75 are more inclined to rate Verona as a very good place to age than people between 55 and 75.
- "Very good" was the most common response among people age 75+, while for age 55-75 the most common response was "good".
- People tend to have a better opinion of Verona as a place to age the older they get.

How do you react to the following statement: My current home will meet my needs as I age.

Cross-tabulated by housing types.



- People living in single-family detached homes are less confident that they will be able to stay in their home as they age.
- More than 4/5 of survey respondents reported living in a single-family home, with the majority of the remainder living in apartments.
- 82% of respondents reported living in a SF-detached home, while SF-detached homes make up 62% of the township's overall housing stock.

Q15, Q35, and Q39 Cross-Tabulation:

Q15. How would you describe your driving habits?

Q35. What is your age?

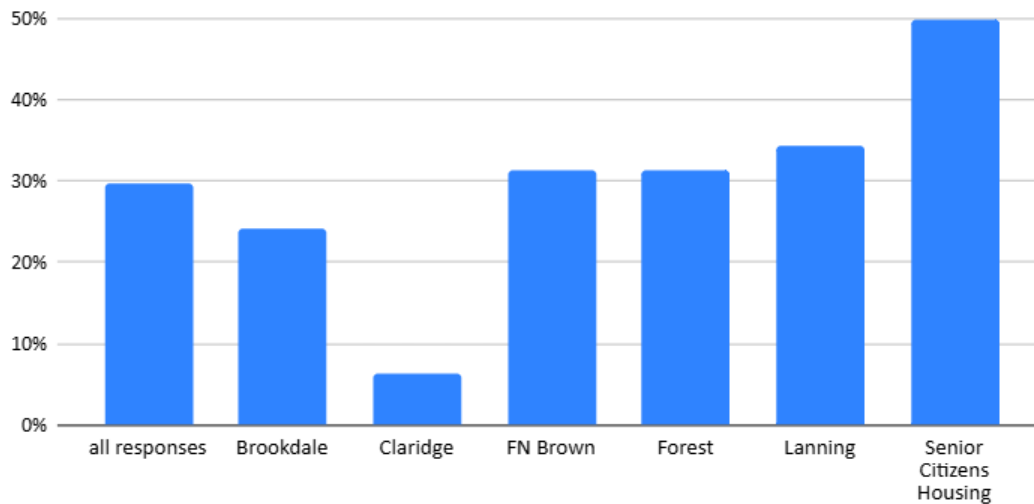
Q39. Does any disability, handicap, or chronic disease keep you or your spouse or partner from participating fully in work, recreation, housework, or other activities?

- The fraction of respondents who report scaling back their driving starts at 16% for the 55 to 65 age group and increases steadily to 38.5% among those 85 and older.
- But it isn't until you get to those 85 and older that you see a significant fraction of respondents reporting that they no longer drive at all.
- May have more to do with disability status than with age.
- The vast majority of respondents who report not having any disabilities continue to drive.

- Almost half of the respondents who are 85 and older who report scaling back or stopping driving also report having a disability.

Percentage of respondents who report walking for things like shopping, visiting the doctor, running errands, or other things.

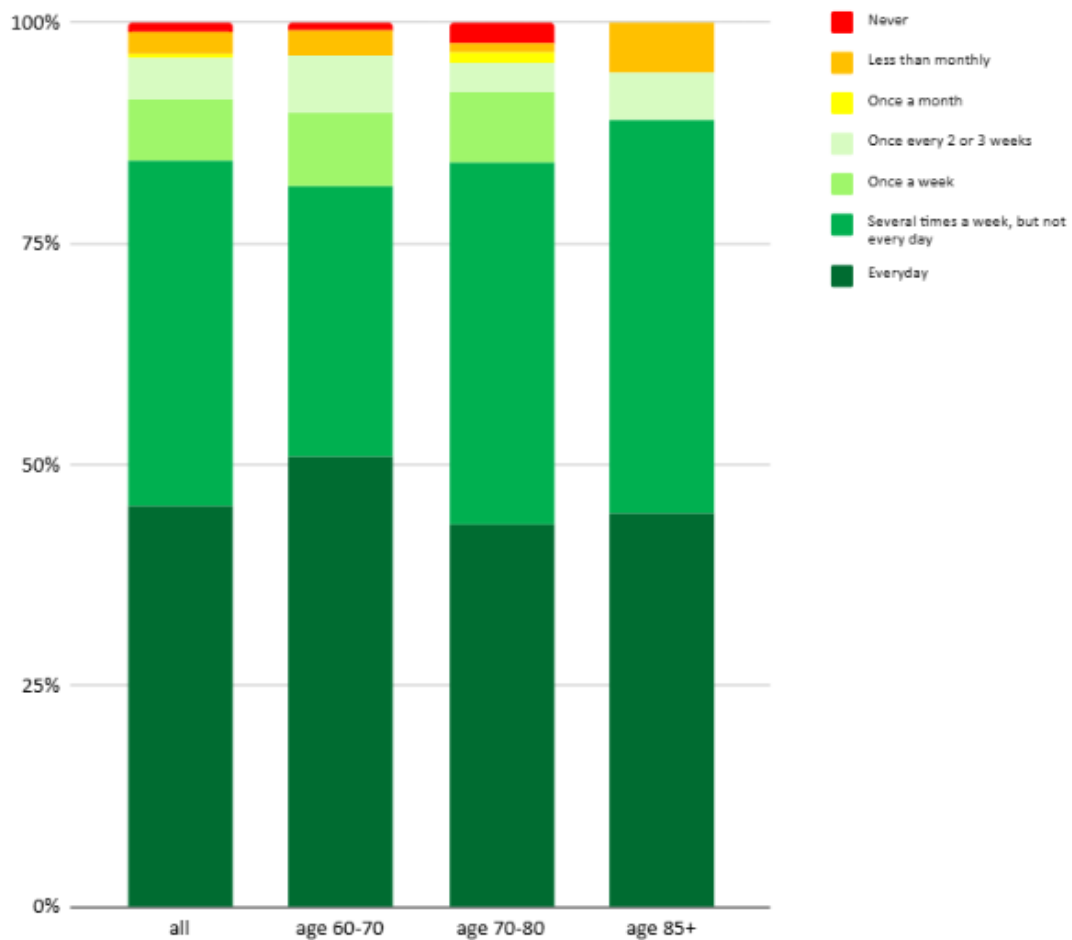
Cross-tabulated with area of residence.



- Only two survey respondents reported living in the Verona Senior Citizens Housing, but one of these reported walking for routine trip needs, yielding a walking percentage notably higher than for people in the other areas we asked about
- Through most residential areas, about 30% of respondents reported walking among their regular transportation methods, with the notable exception of the Claridge, where almost everyone drove almost all the time

How often do you have contact with family, friends, or neighbors who do not live with you?

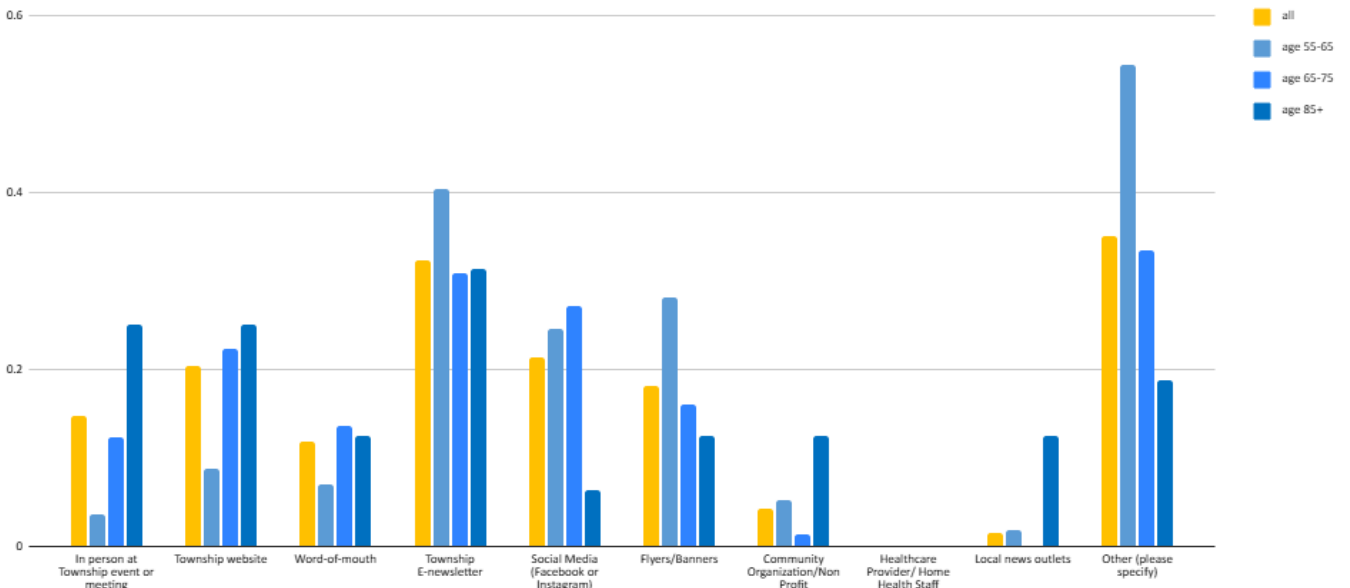
Cross-tabulated with age groups.



- Most older adults socialize multiple times a week, across all age groups. The rate is actually slightly higher for those age 85+.

How did you hear about this survey?

Cross-tabulated by age groups.



- The oldest residents -- those 85 and older -- are much less likely than other age groups to have heard about the survey via social media and are more likely to have heard about it in person at a township event or meeting, from a community organization, or from a local news source.
- The township's e-newsletter was a common source for all age groups.
- Those older than 65 were much more likely to have heard about it on the township's website than those under 65.



THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE
Township of Verona,
New Jersey

has committed to becoming more age-friendly under the criteria
established by AARP and has been accepted as a member of

**The AARP Network of Age-Friendly
States and Communities**

THIS CERTIFICATION IS VALID UNTIL

April 22, 2028

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Nancy A. Leamond', is positioned above a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Nancy A. Leamond, Chief Advocacy and Engagement Officer
COMMUNITY, STATE AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS,
AARP | WASHINGTON, D.C.

The AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities,
a program of the AARP Livable Communities initiative,
is an independent affiliate of the World Health Organization Global Network
for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.®



Age-Friendly Communities
Are Livable for
People of All Ages
aarp.org/livable