

Coastline Elderly Services, Inc.

*Area Agency on Aging
and
Aging Services Access Point*

2010 Transportation Needs of Older People

Serving the communities of Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Gosnold, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford and Rochester

FOREWORD

The availability of adequate transportation has been identified in numerous surveys as one of the greatest need throughout our planning and service area. Elders and those with disabilities face many barriers in accessing public transportation. For some, public transportation may not be available in communities we serve, such as Marion and Rochester. For others, the cost of getting to a medical appointment by cab, especially out of the area, may be too costly.

Over the years we have seen an increase in the number of elders who need escorts to accompany them to medical appointments, due to many factors. Some of those factors are related to the elders' mental/cognitive status, decreased physical capabilities, language barrier, among others. Recent studies have identified that a lack of transportation prevents our elders and/or the disabled from accessing medical care services.

To determine how the Area Agency on Aging can assist with meeting the needs of elders and those with disabilities, we conducted this *Transportation Needs Assessment Survey* to guide us in the implementation and development of enhanced services to the population we serve.

The survey was conducted in three languages, English, Spanish and Portuguese. The Area Agency on Aging disseminated 262 questionnaires by mail and through our nutrition sites. A total of 107 households responded which resulted in a 41% response rate. The results are attached. The number in the symbol (N=) following the percentage represents the denominator used in the calculation of the percentage, unless the denominator equals the total sample size. Data in this report is based on a sample of the population and, therefore, is subject to sampling error. The data in some indicators may not sum to totals because of rounding.

A special thank you to Mildred Asano, Ph.D., Research and Data, from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, for her invaluable assistance in analyzing the survey data, and Kim Bryant, Planning Assistant, Coastline Elderly Services, Inc. for his role in compiling the responses.

Funding to conduct the survey was made possible by MARTAP (*Massachusetts Rural Transit Assistance*) on behalf of MassDOT.

Ann McCrillis
Area Agency on Aging Planner

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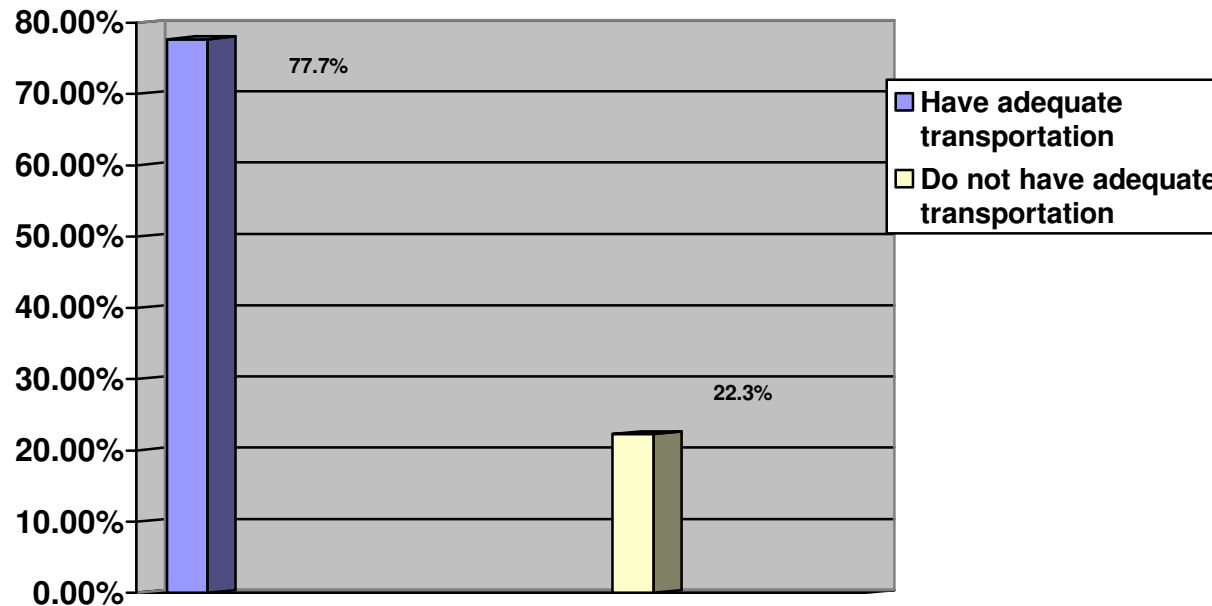
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SURVEY RESULTS

Adequate Medical Transportation

Elders / disabled were asked if they had adequate medical transportation. Respondents, 77.7 percent, said they had adequate transportation, while 22.3 percent said they did not.

Indicator 1



(N=94)

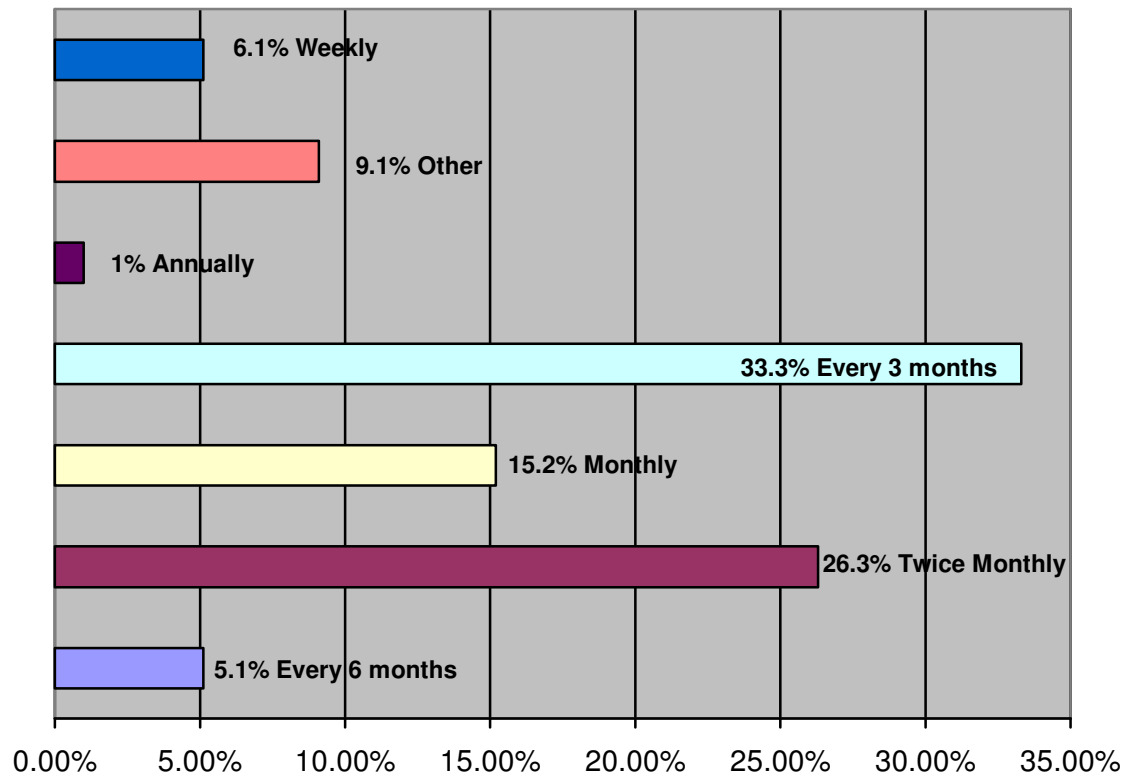
Note: Medical transportation is a vital link in improving health care by encouraging greater use of preventive medical care; keeping elders /disabled mobile and independent in their own homes; increasing overall health and well being; reducing overall health costs to society, and creating cost sharing arrangements between the medical and transportation communities.

Frequency of Medical Appointments

Respondents were asked to identify the frequency of their scheduled medical appointments.

Every three months 33.3 percent of elders or disabled go to a medical appointment, and 26.3 percent said they go to a medical appointment twice monthly.

Indicator 2



(N=99)

Note: Throughout the nation, between 1992 and 2005, the number of physician visits and consultations increased. There were 11,359 visits and consultations per 1,000 Medicare enrollees in 1992, compared with 13,914 in 2005. No data available from 2005 to current.

Mode of Transportation the Elder /Disabled Utilized

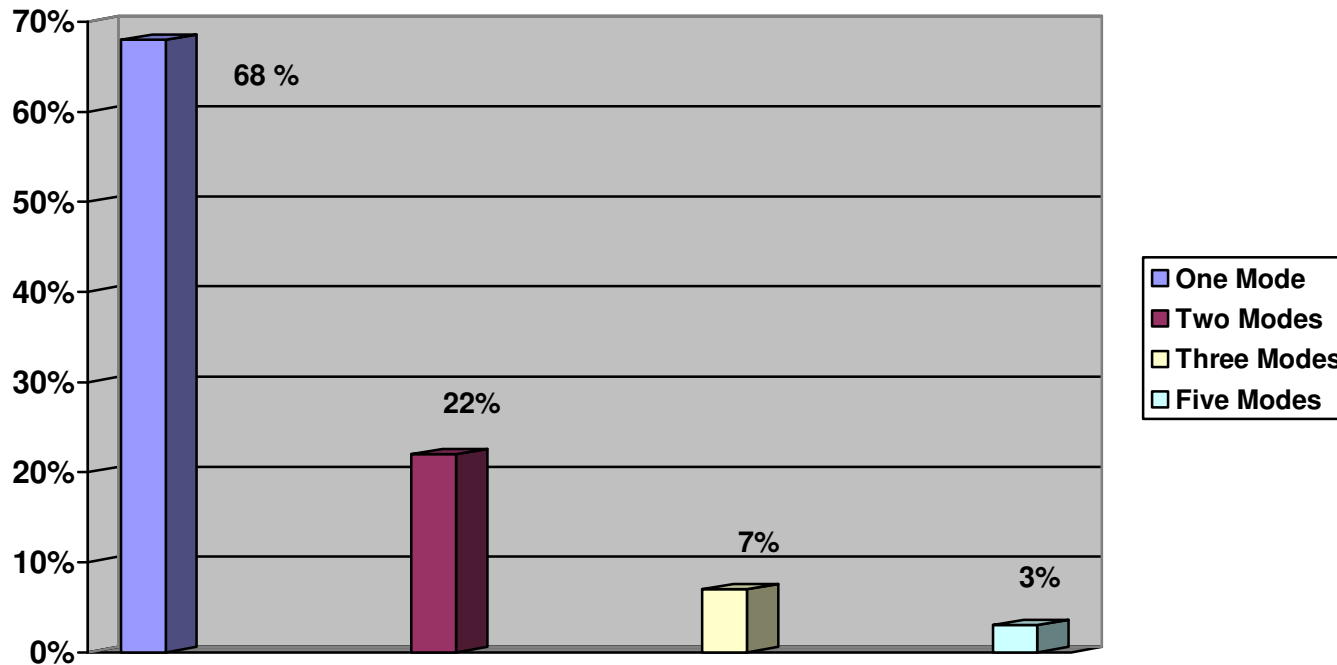
Indicator 3

Mode	Percent
A friend or relative drives	38.0%
I drive	11.0%
Utilize the COA van	6.0%
Other alternative	6.0%
A relative or friend, or I drive	5.0%
A relative or friend, or the COA van	5.0%
Public Transit (bus alone)	4.0%
A relative or friend, or taxi	4.0%
Taxi (only)	3.0%

(N=100)

Number of Modes Used To Get to a Medical Appointment

Indicator 3a



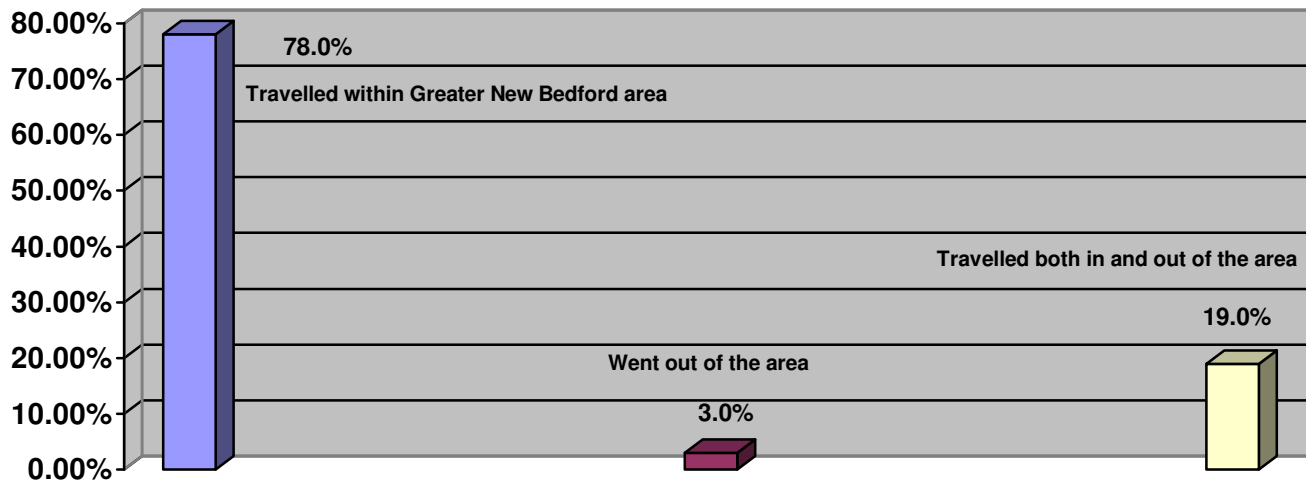
(N=100)

Respondents identified (Indicators 3 and 3a) the various modes they utilize to get to a medical appointment. Sixty-eight percent utilized only one mode, while 22 percent said two modes; 7 percent said 3 modes and 3 percent utilized five modes.

Location of Medical Appointments

The survey requested information regarding whether the appointments were local (within the Greater New Bedford region, or out of the area, (out of the Greater New Bedford region) or both.

Indicator 4

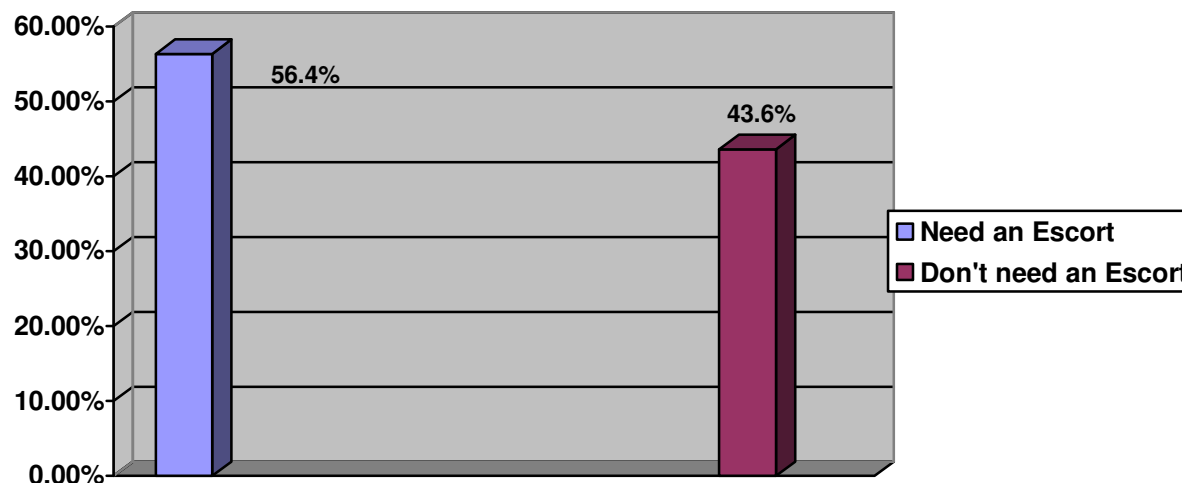


(N=101)

Seventy-eight percent of elders /disabled residents travelled within the Greater New Bedford region for a medical appointment, while 3 percent went out of the area, and 19 percent travelled both in and out of the area.

Number of Elders/Disabled Who Need An Escort

Indicator 5



(N=101)

Respondents were asked if they needed an escort to accompany them to medical appointments, and 56.4 percent said they did, while 43.6 percent said they did not. For those who needed an escort, 17.4% said their escort was paid, while 82.6 percent said they did not pay their escort.

Note: Informal (unpaid) family caregivers provide the majority of assistance that enables chronically disabled older people to continue to live in the community rather than in specialized care facilities. Many of these chronically disabled older adults have considerable needs, with some requiring at least 50 hours per week of personal assistance with functional activities.

Average Cost of Medical Transportation

For those responding to the average cost of medical transportation, 26.6 percent said they paid approximately \$5 for transportation to a medical appointment.

Twenty percent spent an average of \$10, and 11.1 percent paid \$20 or more.

Indicator 6

Percent Paying	Dollar Amount
2.2	\$1.00
4.5	\$2.00
26.6	\$5.00
4.5	\$7.50
20.0	\$10.00
2.2	\$12.00
2.2	\$13.00
6.7	\$15.00
2.2	\$18.00
11.1	\$20.00
4.5	\$25.00
6.7	\$30.00
2.2	\$40.00
2.2	\$80.00
2.2	\$100.00

(N=40)

Age of Respondents

Respondents were asked to list their age group for this survey. Nearly forty-two percent said they were age 85 years of age and older.

Indicator 7

Age of Respondents	Percent
45-49	1%
60-64	1%
65-69	11.5%
70-74	10.4%
75-79	13.5%
80-84	20.8%
85+	41.7%

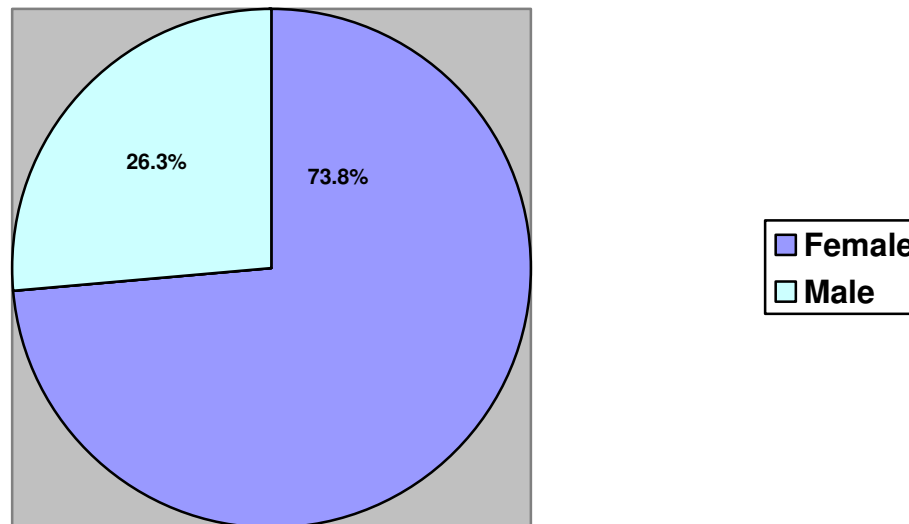
(N=96)

Note: The baby boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964) will start turning 65 in 2011, and the number of older people will increase dramatically during the 2010-2030 period. The older population in 2030 is projected to be twice as large as their counterparts in 2000, growing from 35 million to 72 million and representing nearly 20 percent of the total U.S. population. The U.S. Census Bureau projects that the population age 85 and over could grow from 5.7 million in 2008 to 19 million by 2050.

Gender of Respondents

Randomly selected, 73.8 percent were females and 26.3 percent were males who responded to this survey.

Indicator 8



(N=80)

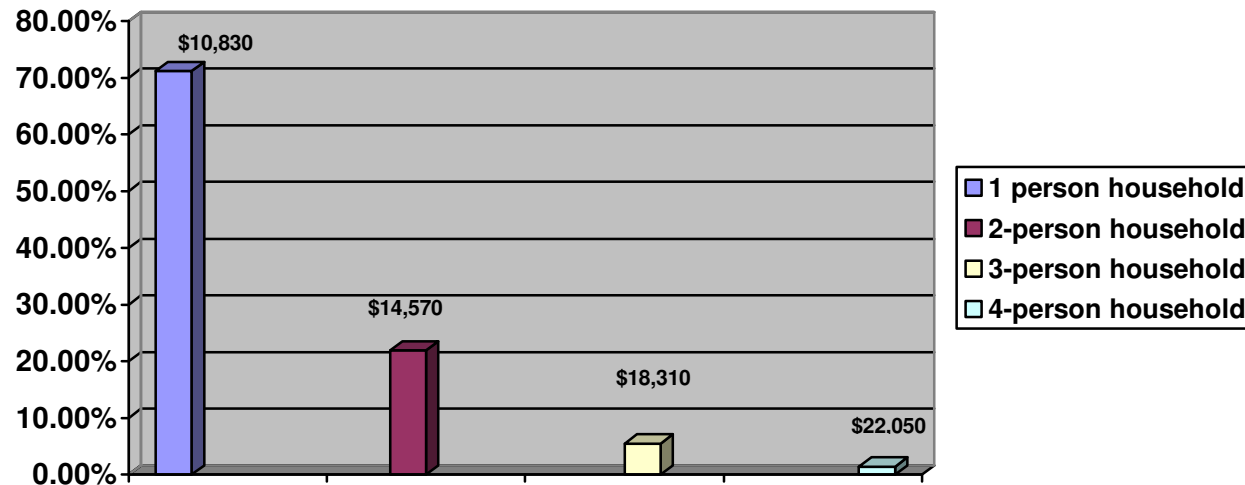
Note: Older women outnumbered older men in the United States, and the proportion that is female increased with age. In 2008, women accounted for 58 percent of the population age 65 and over and for 67 percent of the population 85 and over.

Annual Household Income of Respondents

Respondents were asked to provide their annual household income based on an income table.

In a one-person household 71.2 percent of those responding said their income was \$10,830 annually. In a two-person household, the annual income was \$14,570; a three-person household, \$18,310, and a four-person household's annual income was reported at \$22,050.

Indicator 9



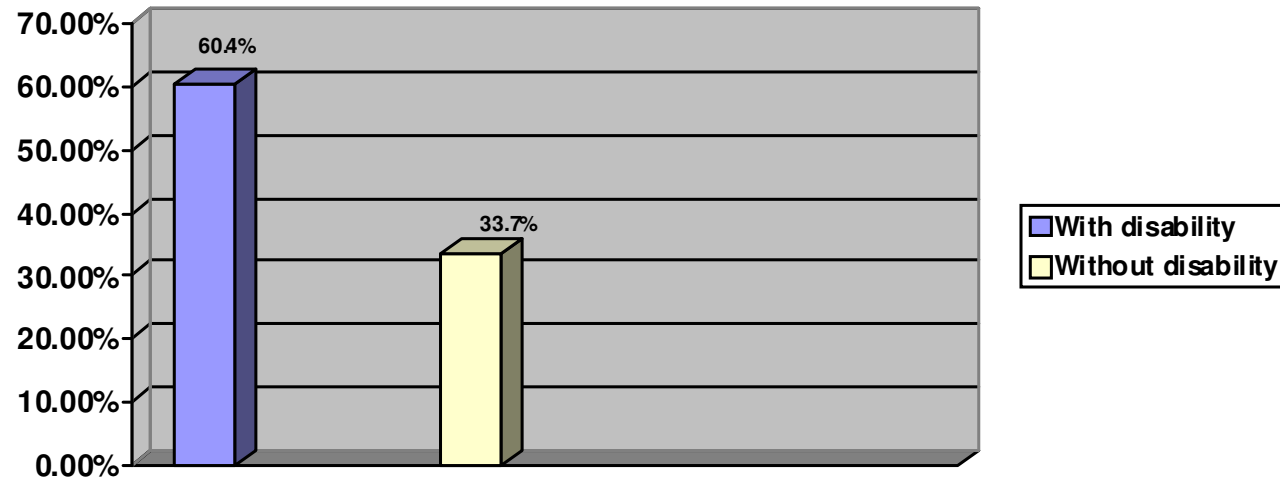
(N=73)

Note: The official poverty definition is based on annual money income before taxes and does not include capital gains, earned income tax credits, or noncash benefits. To determine who is poor, the U.S. Census Bureau compares family income (or an unrelated individual's income) with a set of poverty thresholds that vary by family size and composition and are updated annually for inflation. People identified as living in poverty are at risk of having inadequate resources for food, housing, health care, and other needs.

Individuals with Disabilities

Of those responding, 60.4 percent said they had a disability or lived with someone who had a disability, while 33.7 percent of respondents said there was no one in the household with a disability.

Indicator 10



(N=95)

Note: On July 26, 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act, guaranteeing equal opportunity for people with disabilities in public accommodations, commercial facilities, employment, transportation, state and local government services and telecommunications. Overall, 18 percent of the population (51.2 million) have some level of disability, and 12 percent (32.5 million) have a severe disability. Disability among the elderly has declined by 1 percent or more per year for the past several decades. Strong evidence relates these changes to improved medical technology and to behavioral changes.

Disability Reported

Of those surveyed, 51.7 percent said they had been diagnosed with a physical disability; 5.0 percent acknowledged that they had difficulty with their vision, and 3.3 percent said they had difficulty with hearing.

Indicator 11

Disability	Percent
Hearing	3.3%
Vision	5.0%
Mental	1.7%
Mental & Hearing	1.7%
Physical	51.7%
Physical & Other	1.7%
Physical & Hearing	8.3%
Physical & Vision	3.3%
Physical, Vision & Hearing	13.3%
Physical & Mental	10.0%

(N=60)

Note: Nationally, vision trouble affects 18 percent of the older population, 15 percent of men and 19 percent of women. Among people age 85 and over, 28 percent reported trouble seeing. Additionally, the percentage with trouble hearing was higher for people age 85 and over (60 percent) than for people age 65-74 (28 percent).

References

1. *Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics: Older Americans 2010: key Indicators of Well-Being. Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics, Washington, DC, U.S. Government Printing Office July 2010:*
2. National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. *The Power of Prevention: Chronic disease the public health challenge of the 21st century.* 2009
3. Horiuchi S. *Greater Lifetime Expectation.* Nature 40: 744-5 June 2000
4. *Medical Transportation: Challenges of the Future;* Jon E. Burkhardt; 2010
5. Health Affairs: *Declining Disability Among The Elderly;* David Cutler, 2001

Other Resources:

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, HHS

Office of Disability, Aging and Long-Term Care Policy: <http://www.aspe.hhs.gov>.

FedStats.gov: <http://www.fedstats.gov>

APPENDIX

Detailed Tables

Indicators

Indicator 1

Q1. Do you have adequate transportation for your medical needs?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	73	72.3	77.7	77.7
No	21	20.8	22.3	100
Total	94	93.1	100.0	
System missing	7	6.9		
Total	101	100		

Indicator 2

Number of medical appointments	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Daily/Weekly/ Twice a month/Bimonthly	33	32.7	33.3	33.3
Monthly	15	14.9	15.2	48.5
Every 2-3 months	34	33.7	34.3	82.8
Every 4-6 months	6	5.9	6.1	88.9
Every 7-12 months (inc Yearly)	2	2	2.0	90.9
Other	9	8.9	9.1	100.0
Total	99	98.0	100.0	
System missing	2	2		
Total	101	100		

Indicator 3a

Mode of transportation	Coding	Frequency	Percent
A relative or friend drives alone	10000000	38	38.0%
I drive alone	00001000	11	11.0%
Council on Aging van alone	00100000	6	6.0%
Other alone (Walking, MO Life, Churchill Transit or Project Access)	00000001	6	6.0%
A relative or friend & I drive	10001000	5	5.0%
A relative or friend & COA van	10100000	5	5.0%
Public Transit (bus) alone [GATRA; SRTA]	00000100	4	4.0%
A relative or friend and Taxi	10000010	4	4.0%
Taxi alone (includes YWCA)	00000010	3	3.0%
Public transit (bus) & Other	00000101	1	1.0%
Public transit (bus) & Taxi	00000110	1	1.0%
I drive & Public transit (bus)	00001100	1	1.0%
Demand Response alone	00010010	1	1.0%
COA van & Taxi	00100010	1	1.0%
COA van & Public transit (bus)	00100100	1	1.0%
COA van, D Response, I drive, Public transit & Taxi	00111110	1	1.0%
Ambulance, Demand Response & Other	01010001	1	1.0%
Ambulance, COA van & taxi	01100010	1	1.0%
A relative or friend & Other	10000001	1	1.0%
A relative or friend, Public transit & Other	10000101	1	1.0%
A relative or friend, I drive & Taxi	10001010	1	1.0%
A relative or friend, I drive & Public transit	10001100	1	1.0%
A relative or friend & Demand Response	10010000	1	1.0%
A relative or friend, COA van & Taxi	10100010	1	1.0%
A relative or friend, COA van, & I drive	10101000	1	1.0%
A relative or friend, COA van, Demand Response, Taxi & Other	10110011	1	1.0%
A relative or friend, Ambulance, COA van, I drive & Taxi	11101010	1	1.0%
	Total	100	100.0%

Indicator 3b

Number of modes used to get to a medical appointment	Frequency	Percent
One mode	68	68.0
Two modes	22	22.0
Three Modes	7	7.0
Five modes	3	3.0
Total	100	100.0

Indicator 4 a

Location	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Local (within GNB region)	78	77.2	78.0	78.0
Out of the area (out of GNB region)	3	3	3.0	81.0
Both	19	18.8	19.0	100.0
Total	100	99	100	
System missing	1	1		
Total	101	100		

Indicator 4b

Place of "Out of Area" destination	Frequency	Percent
Attleboro	1	4.5%
Boston	9	40.9%
Brockton	1	4.5%
Fall River	3	13.6%
Providence	2	9.1%
Somerset	1	4.5%
Waltham	1	4.5%
Wareham	1	4.5%
Unspecified	8	36.4%
Total	22	

Indicator 5a

Need an escort to go to a medical appointment?

Need Escort	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	57	56.4	56.4
No	44	43.6	100.0
Total	101	100.0	

Indicator 5b

If yes, Is the escort paid?

Pay for escort	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	8	14	17.4	17.4
No	38	66.7	82.6	100.0
Total	46	80.7	100.0	
System missing	11	19.3		
Total	57	100.0		

Indicator 6a

Statistics	Q6_L	Q6_M	Q6_H
Valid	40	40	40
System missing	61	61	61
Mean	\$13.53	\$14.78	\$16.41
Median	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
Std. Deviation	\$13.92	\$14.76	\$19.38
Range	\$78.80	\$78.80	\$98.80
Minimum	\$1.20	\$1.20	\$1.20
Maximum	\$80.00	\$80.00	\$100.00

Indicator 6b

Q6 Low range

Dollar cost	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
\$1.20	1	2.5	2.5
\$2.00	2	5.0	7.5
\$5.00	12	30.0	37.5
\$7.50	2	5.0	42.5
\$10.00	7	17.5	60.0
\$10.80	1	2.5	62.5
\$12.00	1	2.5	65.0
\$13.00	1	2.5	67.5
\$15.00	3	7.5	75.0
\$20.00	4	10.0	85.0
\$25.00	2	5.0	90.0
\$30.00	2	5.0	95.0
\$40.00	1	2.5	97.5
\$80.00	1	2.5	100.0
Total	40	100.0	

Indicator 6c

Q6 Mid range

Dollar cost	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
\$1.20	1	2.5	2.5
\$2.00	2	5.0	7.5
\$5.00	9	22.5	30.0
\$7.50	4	10.0	40.0
\$10.00	7	17.5	57.5
\$10.80	1	2.5	60.0
\$12.00	1	2.5	62.5
\$13.00	1	2.5	65.0
\$15.00	2	5.0	70.0
\$16.50	1	2.5	72.5
\$20.00	4	10.0	82.5
\$25.00	1	2.5	85.0
\$27.50	1	2.5	87.5
\$30.00	2	5.0	92.5
\$40.00	1	2.5	95.0
\$46.25	1	2.5	97.5
\$80.00	1	2.5	100.0
Total	40	100.0	

Q6 High range

Dollar cost	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
\$1.20	1	2.5	2.5
\$2.00	2	5.0	7.5
\$5.00	9	22.5	30.0
\$7.50	1	2.5	32.5
\$10.00	10	25.0	57.5
\$10.80	1	2.5	60.0
\$12.00	1	2.5	62.5
\$13.00	1	2.5	65.0
\$15.00	2	5.0	70.0
\$18.00	1	2.5	72.5
\$20.00	4	10.0	82.5
\$25.00	1	2.5	85.0
\$30.00	3	7.5	92.5
\$40.00	1	2.5	95.0
\$80.00	1	2.5	97.5
\$100.00	1	2.5	100.0
Total	40	100.0	

Indicator 7

Which best portrays the age group?

Age group	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
45-49	1	1	1	1
60-64	1	1	1	2.1
65-69	11	10.9	11.5	13.5
70-74	10	9.9	10.4	24
75-59	13	12.9	13.5	37.5
80-84	20	19.8	20.8	58.3
85+	40	39.6	41.7	100.0
Total	96	95.0	100.0	
System missing	5	5.0		
Total	101	100.0		

Indicator 8

Gender of Respondents	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	21	20.8	26.3	26.3
Female	59	58.4	73.8	100.0
Total	80	79.2	100.0	
System missing	21	20.8		
Total	101	100.0		

Indicator 9 a

Which best portrays the total annual household income of Respondents?

Household annual income	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1 person in family \$10,830	52	51.5	71.2	71.2
2 people in family \$14,570	16	15.8	21.9	93.2
3 people in family \$18,310	4	4	5.5	98.6
4 people in family \$22,050	1	1	1.4	100.0
Total	73	72.3	100.0	
System missing	28	27.7		
Total	101	100		

Indicator 9 b

Household by Poverty Level	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Below poverty level	72	71.3	88.9	88.9
Above poverty level	9	8.9	11.1	100.0
Total	81	80.2	100.0	
System missing	20	19.8		
Total	101	100.0		

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	0.745	1.000	0.388		
Continuity Correction	0.186	1.000	0.666		
Likelihood Ratio	0.689	1.000	0.406		
Fisher's Exact Test				0.405	0.317
Linear-by-Linear Association	0.735	1.000	0.391		
N of Valid Cases	76				

^aComputed only for a 2x2 table

^b1 cells (25.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 2.00.

Indicator 10

Household member with a disability	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	61	60.4	64.2	64.2
No	34	33.7	35.8	100
Total	95	94.1	100	
System missing	6	5.9		
Total	101	100		

Indicator 11a

Disability	Coding	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Hearing	00010	2	3.3%	3.3%
Vision	00100	3	5.0%	8.3%
Mental	01000	1	1.7%	10.0%
Mental & Hearing	01010	1	1.7%	11.7%
Physical	10000	31	51.7%	63.3%
Physical & Other	10001	1	1.7%	65.0%
Physical & Hearing	10010	5	8.3%	73.3%
Physical & Vision	10100	2	3.3%	76.7%
Physical, Vision, & Hearing	10110	8	13.3%	90.0%
Physical & Mental	11000	6	10.0%	100.0%
Total		60	100.0	

Indicator 11b

Number of disabilities	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
One disability	37	61.7%	61.7%
Two disabilities	15	25.0%	86.7%
Three disabilities	8	13.3%	100.0%
Total	60	100.0%	