



Islands Trust

Results of the Age Friendly Pender Island Community Questionnaire

Prepared June 29, 2015

There were 70 questionnaires completed between May 14 and June 12. The majority were completed directly online at SurveyMonkey, the remainder completed on paper and the data placed online by Islands Trust staff.

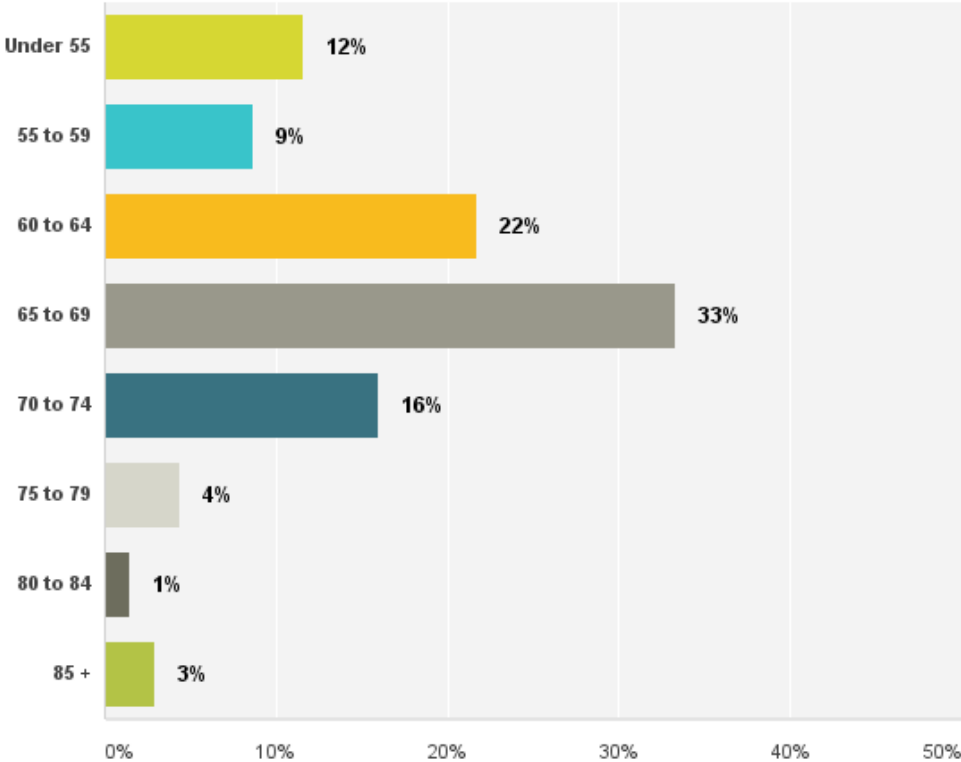
The questionnaire was designed as a voluntary “opt in” or “self selection” survey and anyone could complete it. It is not therefore a representative “scientific” sample of a given population. The information gathered is valuable nonetheless because it represents one of several streams of qualitative information and data collected in the process of creating the age friendly plan.

Paper copies of the questionnaires were distributed at the workshop of May 19 and completed surveys were dropped off at the CVRD building inspection office in the Driftwood Centre. The URL address for completing the questionnaire on line was provided at the workshop and sent out by email through various community channels.

Demographic information

Q1 What is your age?

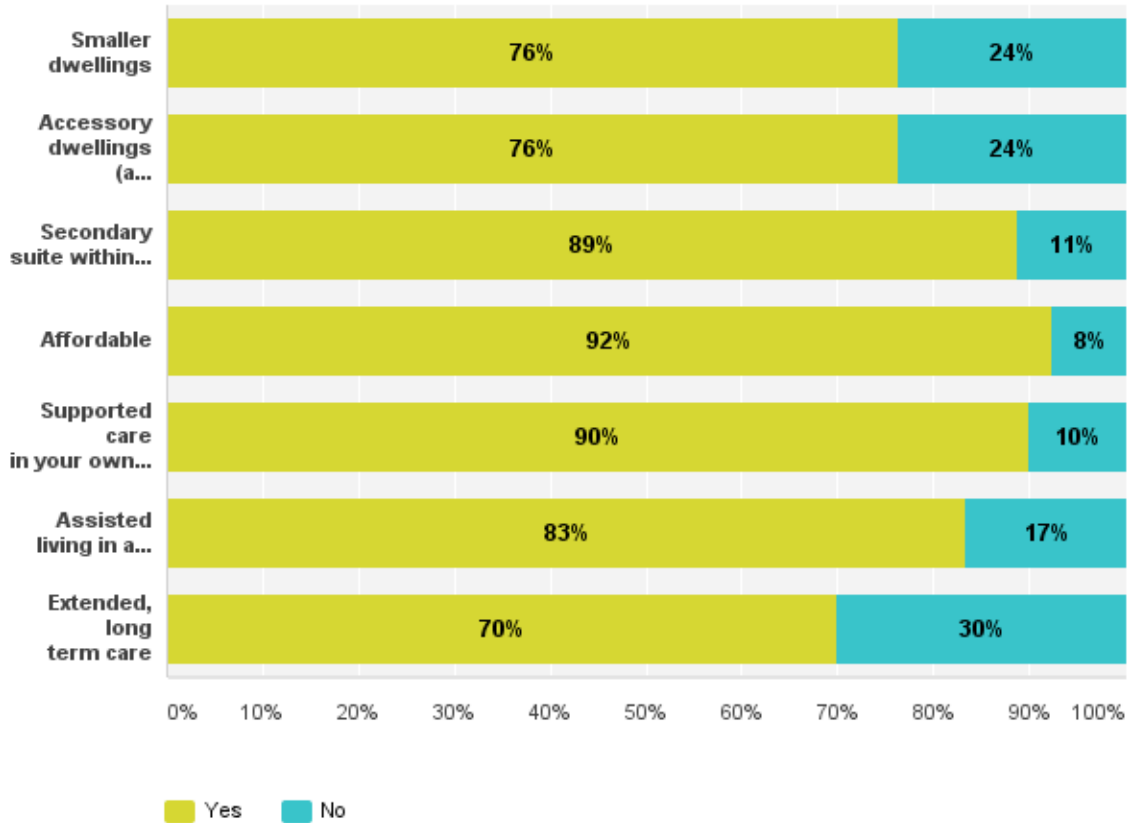
Answered: 69 Skipped: 1



Housing

Q2 What type of housing for older adults and seniors is needed? (Select yes or no)

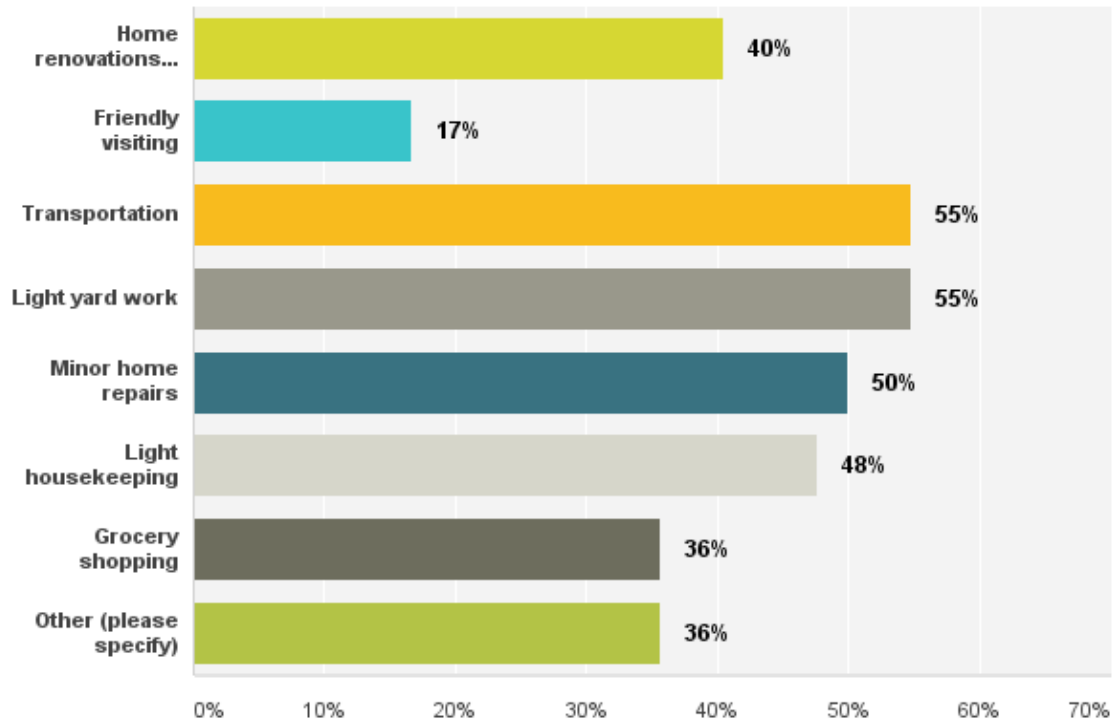
Answered: 68 Skipped: 2



1. Do you feel you can age in place in your own home?
Yes 46% No 54%

**Q4 If you answered no to previous question,
what is needed for you to age in place?
(Check any that apply)**

Answered: 42 Skipped: 28



Other

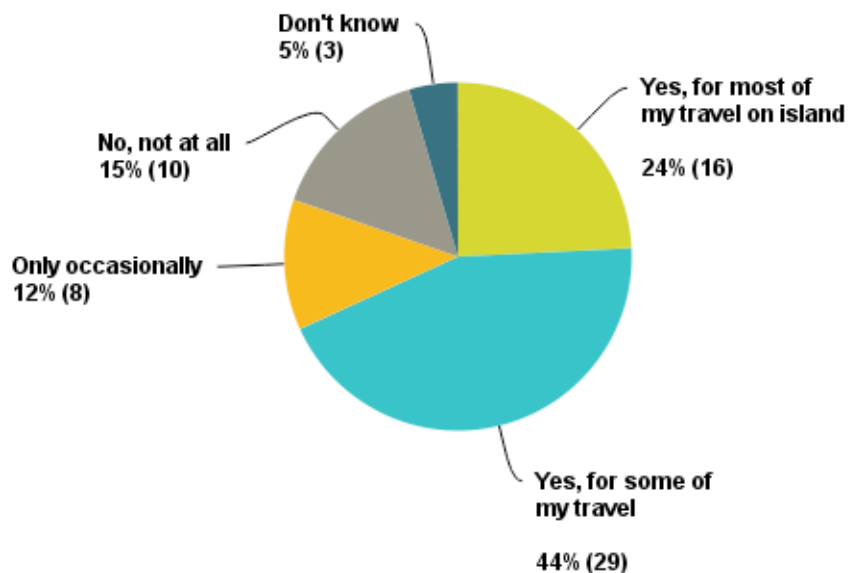
- Personal care
- Assistance to get to Medical Appointment in Victoria ...
- Will depend on my needs as I age.
- More centralized housing options--close to Driftwood Centre
- Stair lifter
- Lower rent
- Transit with nearby stop
- Affordable co-housing with relials (sp?) like Quay Side in North Vancouver
- A Strong vibrant BC economy
- Someplace else

- To clarify, if more varied accommodation was permitted as specified in Question #2 then seniors would not be left alone to deal with property maintenance which is a problem as they age. Many living on acreage.
- General property maintenance
- No stairs
- Stair elevator
- We have a large house and extensive gardens. At some point they will become too much for us. At that time we would prefer to focus our energies on other opportunities. Change is inevitable.

Transportation and infrastructure

Q5 Would you use public transportation, if it was available?

Answered: 66 Skipped: 4



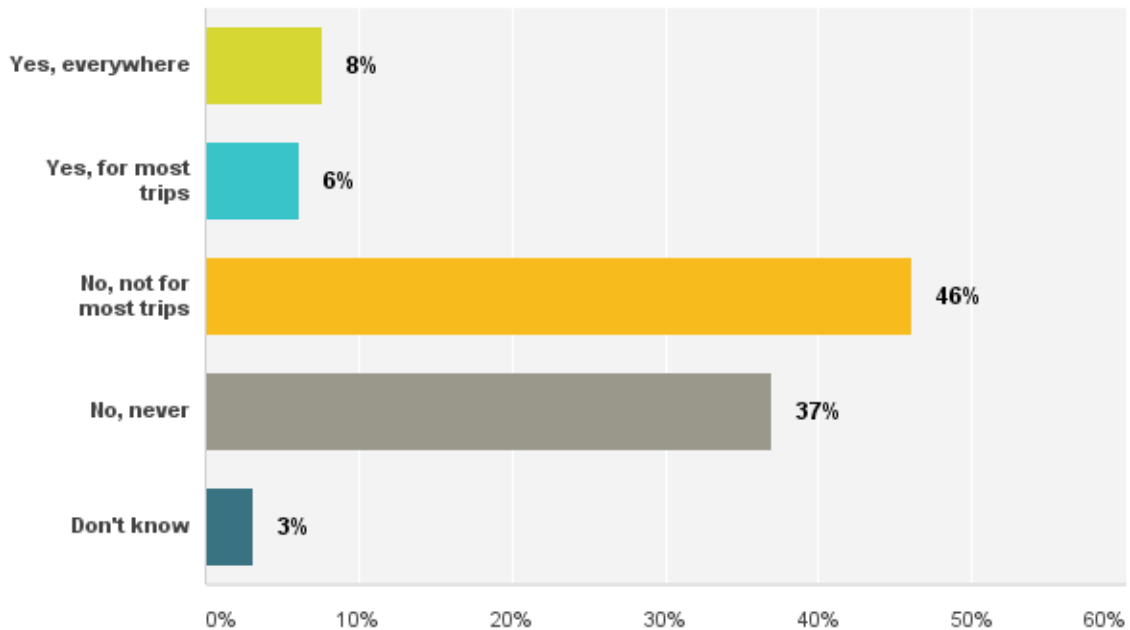
Other comments:

Not now, but within 5 years

Yes if I was no longer able to drive

Q6 Are safe and comfortable sidewalks or trails available where you need to go?

Answered: 65 Skipped: 5



7. List any facility or business that is NOT readily accessible to seniors

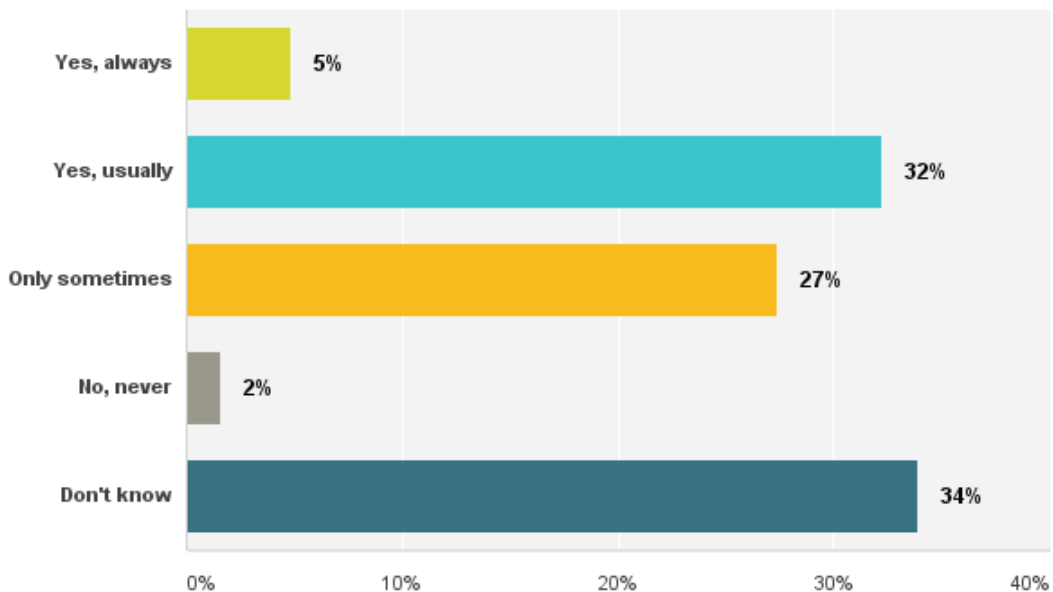
- Bank
- Senior centre,
- Port Washington dock, hill at Otter Bay Ferry Terminal as a foot passenger
- depends on where you live
- Progressive housing- stay in place while needs change to match
- Nu to you (4X)
- Medical Clinic,
- Plumtree Court: re coffee, groceries...everything is out of the way. One can't safely walk anywhere.
- The Roads. The path the services. The rocky pot holed parking at the Community Hall.
- It is a rural island Not a City
- Medical X-rays (2X)
- Islands Trust offices

- Depends if they have mobility issues
- Strip clubs
- Health centre
- Church
- Pharmacy
- Grocery store
- Community centre
- Good but limited health support here so one needs to go off island
- Golf course/ Pender Sushi
- Port Browning Pub
- None - all are very accessible
- Most every place is accessible
- My house

Community support services

Q8 Are there adequate home support services available? (e.g. meals, delivery, home care)

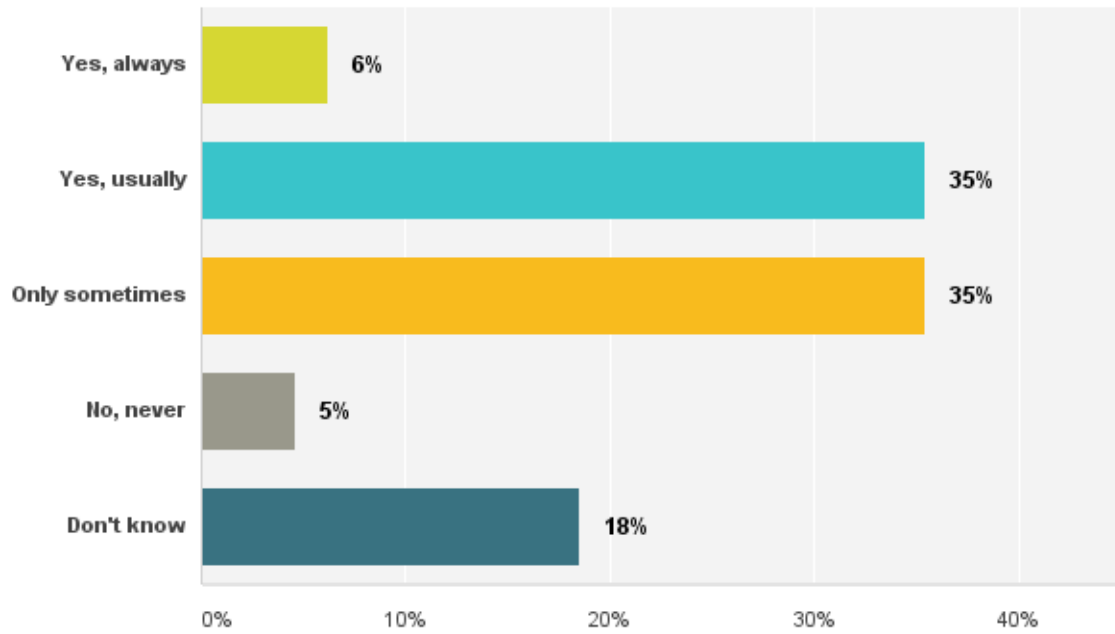
Answered: 62 Skipped: 8



Health services

Q9 Are health services for seniors adequate?

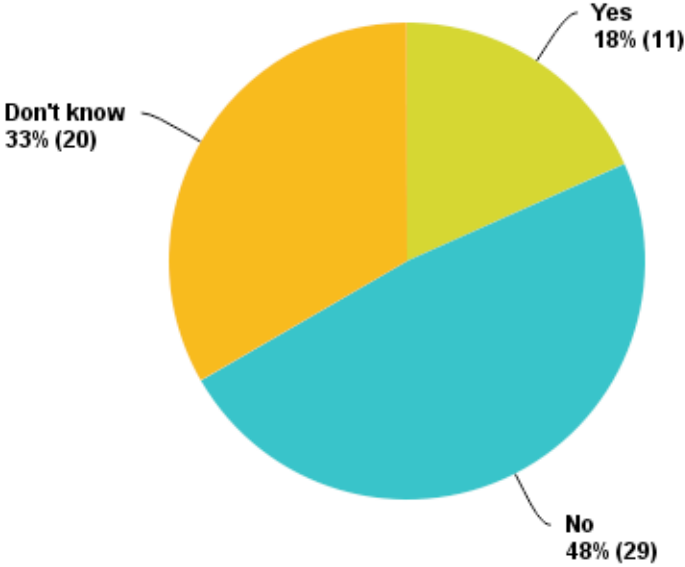
Answered: 65 Skipped: 5



Work force participation and volunteer opportunities

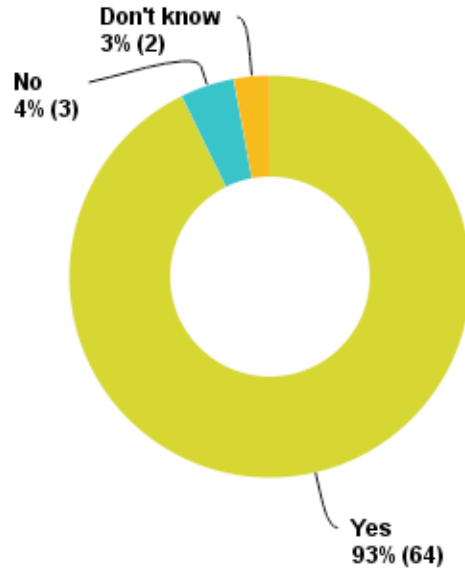
Q10 Are there adequate employment opportunities for seniors?

Answered: 60 Skipped: 10



Q11 Are you aware of volunteer opportunities in the community?

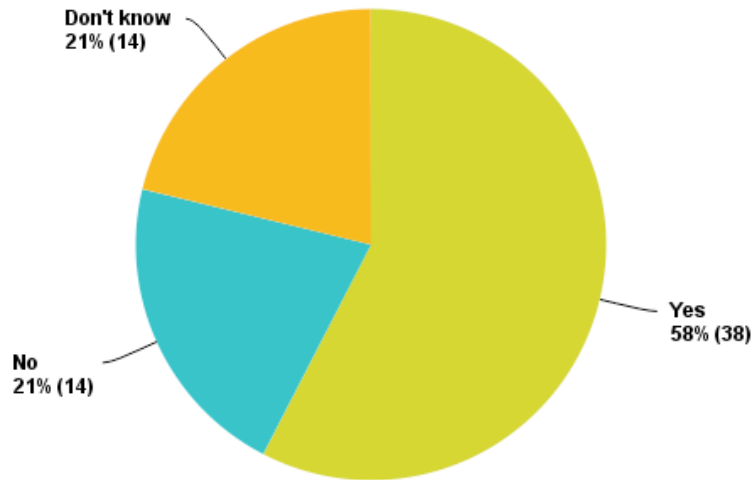
Answered: 69 Skipped: 1



Social participation

Q12 Are there sufficient recreation, learning, and social programs for seniors?

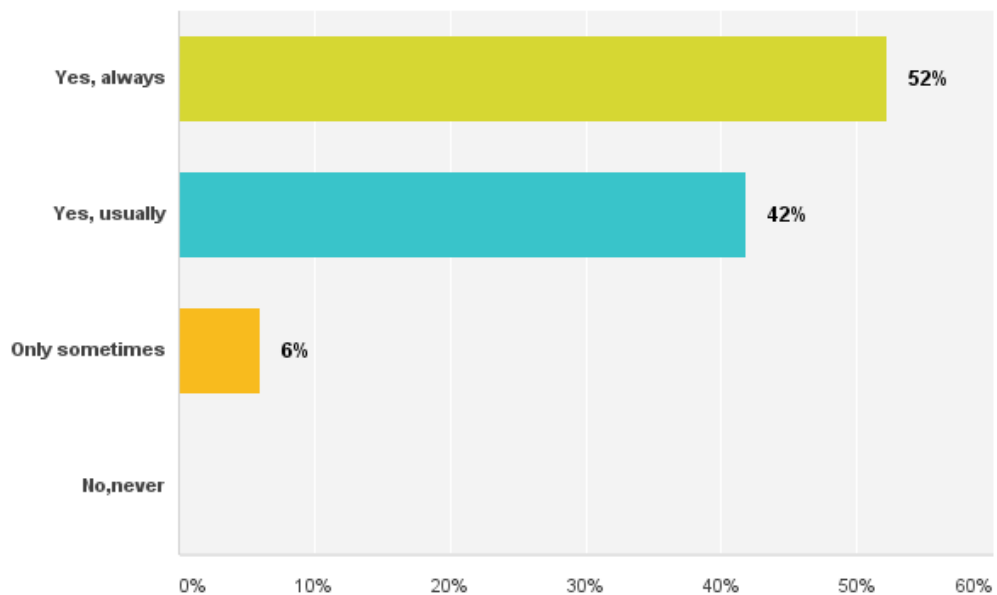
Answered: 66 Skipped: 4



Social inclusion

Q13 Are you treated with respect in our community?

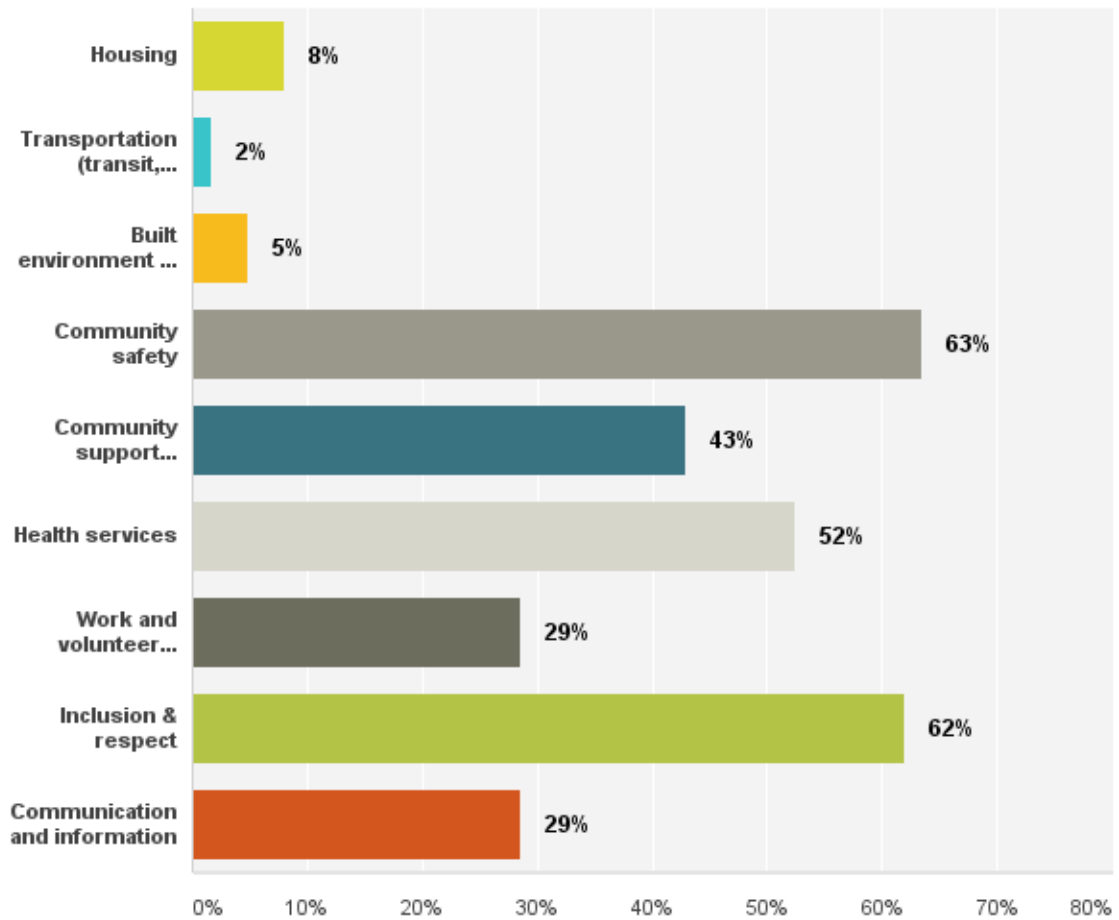
Answered: 67 Skipped: 3



Age friendliness

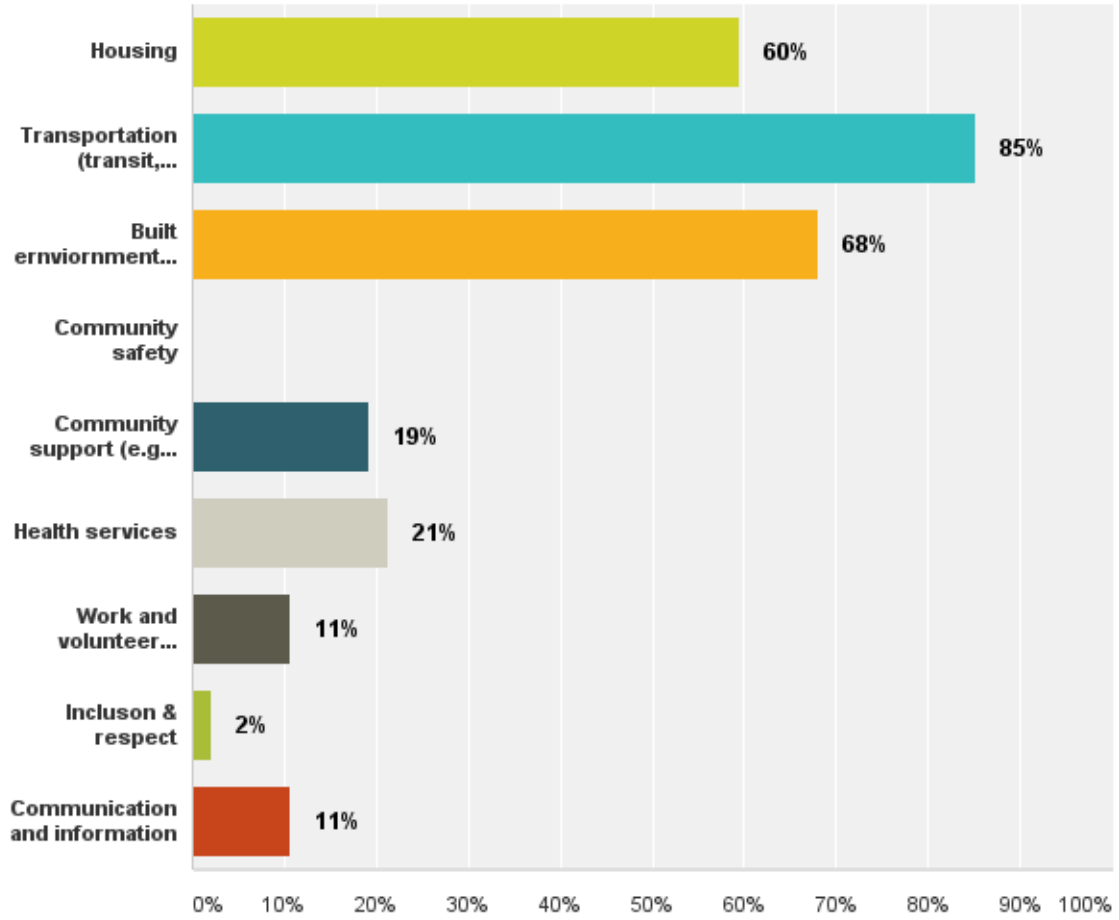
Q14 What are the most age friendly aspects Pender Island? Choose 3

Answered: 63 Skipped: 7



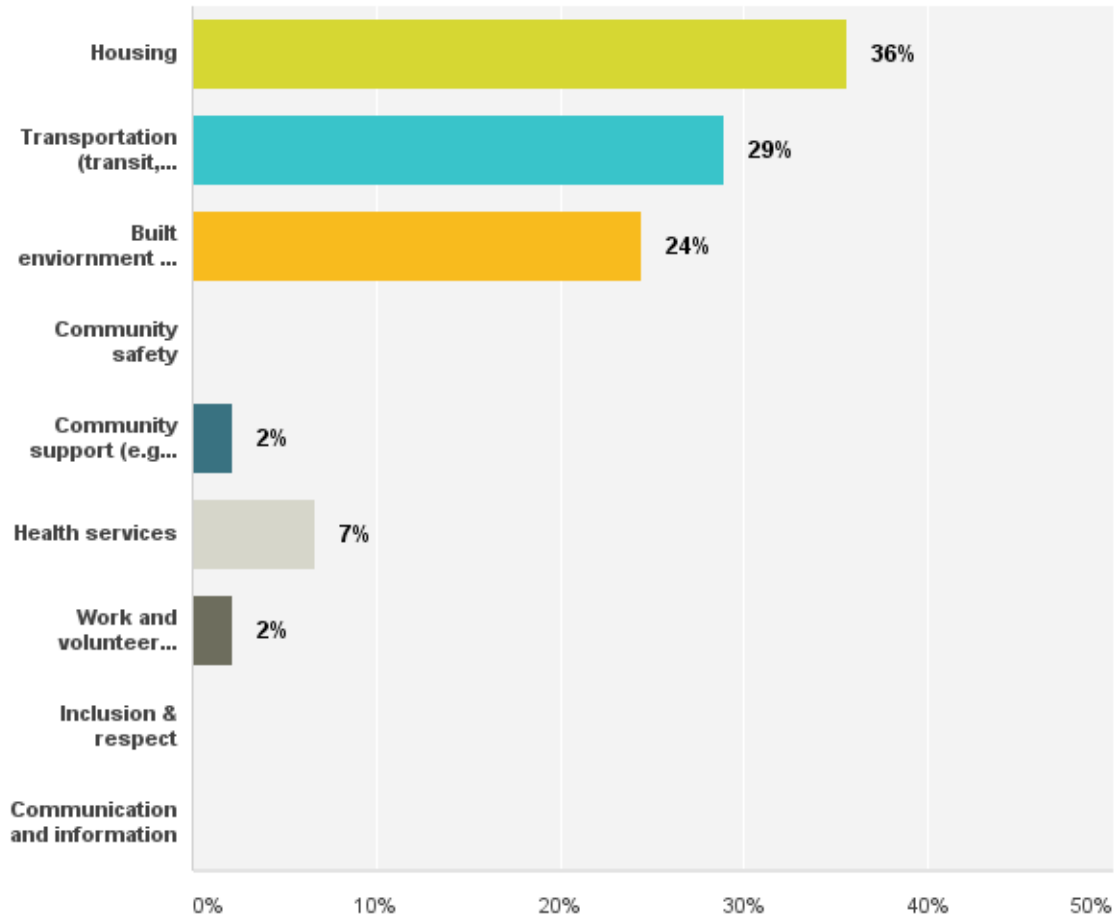
Q15 What are the least age friendly aspects of Pender Island? Choose 3

Answered: 47 Skipped: 23



Q16 What are the least age friendly aspects of Pender Island? Repeat question requiring a top choice.

Answered: 45 Skipped: 25



Other comments

- I have had severe Osteo- Arthritis for at least 14 years - often unable to work with many surgeries and find getting help when you are not officially a senior is very frustrating on Pender Island. No friends or relatives to help and specialist doctors in Vancouver. I am on a very low fixed income and I am not allowed to have a family doctor both in the Vancouver area AND up here. High ferry costs mean painful foot travel and food is VERY expensive up here. Thank you.
- Why is the Islands Trust involved in this? The CRD has more experience and assets to respond to this issue. We don't need duplicity from gov't, we need focus and co-operation.
- If elder housing is an issue, people need to consider their own needs when they build/buy their property and home, It is their responsibility, not the public purse. The largest impact to affordable housing is the CRD and BC. It is their regs that inhibit reasonable housing costs.
- Pender will have to shift to being more business friendly to support these concerns. Look at Friday Harbour - a bustling vibrant community with same # of residents.
- The Chamber of Commerce needs a pep talk on customer service. When it comes to seniors, owners need to be made aware of the importance of senior customers need for help--both verbal care and physical. There is need for customer service coming from owners....not staff....some business people on Pender are rude and disrespectful.
- I am younger, but I have always thought an all access nature trail would benefit those that are older or mobility challenged. We have seen paved or boardwalked circular interpretive paths in other areas that are wheel chair accessible with railings and benches so that older people can still enjoy nature. We have encountered several people on the island who no longer can enjoy natural aspects of the island due to the stairs down to the beaches or the rocks and driftwood to navigate. When we have seen all access trails in other areas they range from 300m in length to a km, almost always circular, and with lots signage regarding flora and fauna or historical points of interest.
- We must ensure older residents are not ghettoized, we all need exposure to every age group so we can stimulate and relate to each other. Co-housing should be considered. Its time to move on, create an action plan and people to do the work. We've heard most of the requirements often before.
- Better lighting and signage needed so don't get lost or derailed in the dark.
- It is a rural island Not a City do Not force us to provide city services
- The most age friendly things are the Weather and Friendly people
- #16 is not clear - the explanation does not help
- I cannot accurately answer some of the questions above as I have not yet needed these services.

- Many of my answers are guesses; at the moment, I have no need of services or special treatment
- I was unable to answer to the "public transport" question as, at the moment, I don't need it but were I to lose my drivers' license at some point in the future, I would definitely need PT.
- Question 14 - I would have also chosen social inclusion & respect, had I been allowed 4 picks...I answered yes to #3 but answered #4 anyway because these are likely to be needed at down the road. And depending on what happens, some home renos (access ramp) could wind up being necessary too. One way or another I plan to find a way to make all those things happen so I can age in place.
- One must be able bodied to live here on their own.
- The Pender community has a very age friendly. Unfortunately like most cities, towns & communities there comes a time in one's life that more care if needed along with social interaction. In all communities seniors advancing in age with ever increasing health issues must move closer to these facilities with closer access to specialized doctors which is in the islands means moving to Vancouver Island or the mainland. If we lived in the lower mainland we would also have to move & most likely the same distance from our grass roots. Having marine waters to travel over does not make the distance greater then moving from Aldergrove to Langley city or from Sooke to Victoria.
- I expect to be able to live on Pender only for about ten more years, ie, until 75. Then will probably have to move off-island, unless I can get adequate medical care and assistance (paid, of course) with home maintenance. our home could easily be modified to include a caregiver/ handyman's suite if the bylaws permit.

The following items #2 through #4 by one respondent:

- 2. I have answered according to my current family situation. However, other answers would be made when circumstances change, and this does not reflect all the needs I feel would make it possible for me to stay on island.
- 3. A survey of a sample of those who have felt they had to leave the island as they got older would also provide useful data.
- 4. The recent meeting was useful and interesting, but the senior attendance was very small in relation to the island's population. I suspect a significant number of people were unaware of the meeting, and others would not have been able to attend because of the sort of problems they were facing (e.g. absence of respite for a sick partner).
- Choices that meet the needs of a diverse group of seniors should be made available through progressive and flexible planning changes and the institution of innovative funding initiatives to ensure that a well-balanced and caring community is preserved.
- The questions I did not answer were left unanswered because I have no personal experiences that would help me to form opinions in those areas.