

# New Gloucester Lifelong Maine Survey Result

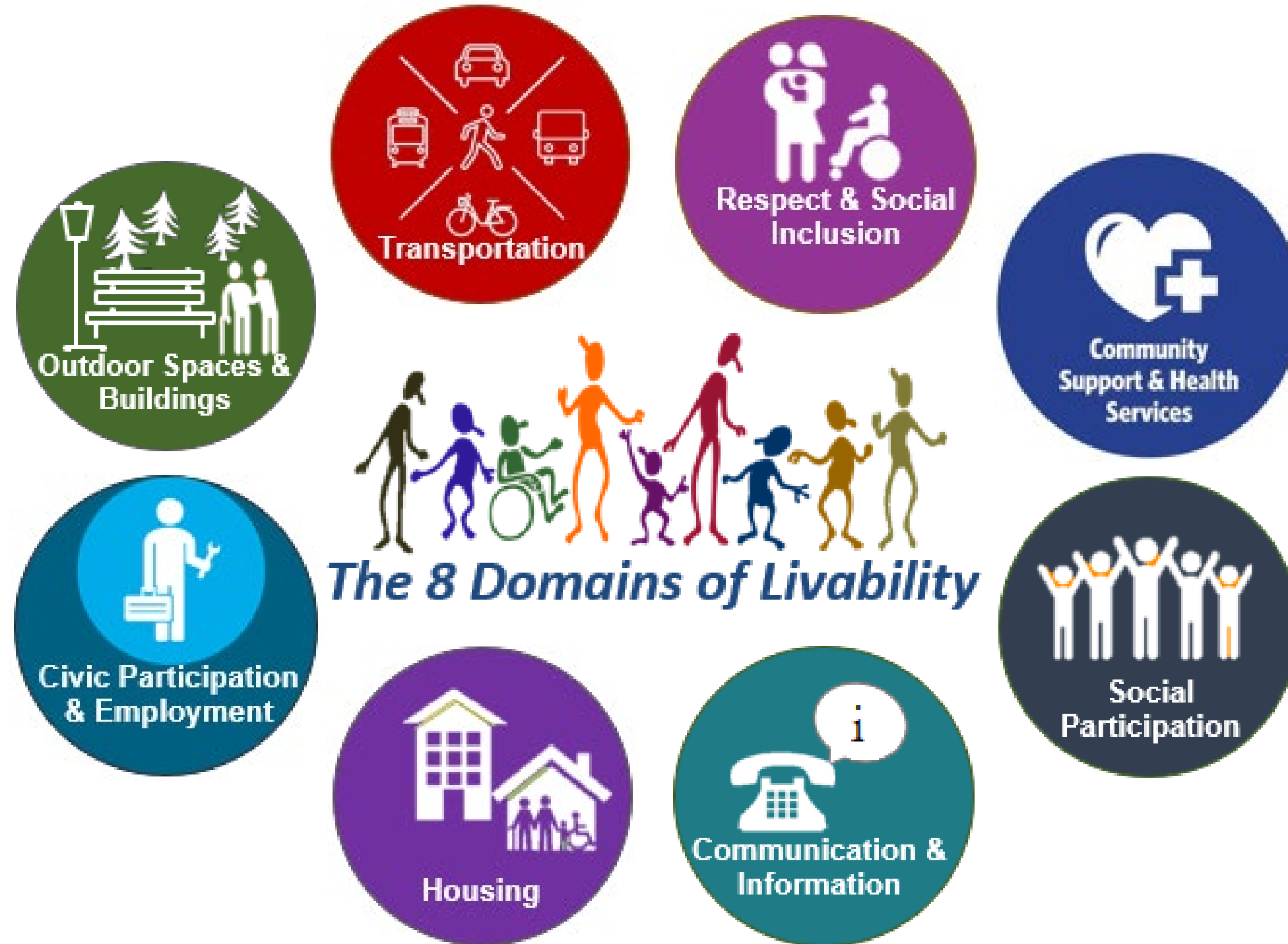


2024 New Gloucester Survey Result

University of Maine Center on Aging



# 8 Elements of Lifelong Communities



## New Gloucester Survey Data



New Gloucester Town Hall

- Total surveys returned: 122
- Survey was distributed: via community gatherings, library, town hall, and online via Facebook and NGX
- Survey open June 25, 2024

Are you satisfied with your ability to go places you need to go?

83%

Yes

17%

No

# 2024 New Gloucester Community Survey

What would be most helpful to meet your transportation needs?  
(Check all that apply)

37%

Public Transportation

34%

Rides for 60+

19%

Family or friends to help me

8%

Accessibility for walker/wheelchair

63%

Safer paths/walkways

45%

Better visibility/lighting

12%

Owning a vehicle

17%

Taxi/Uber/Lyft

Do you ever decide not to go somewhere you want to go because of transportation issues?

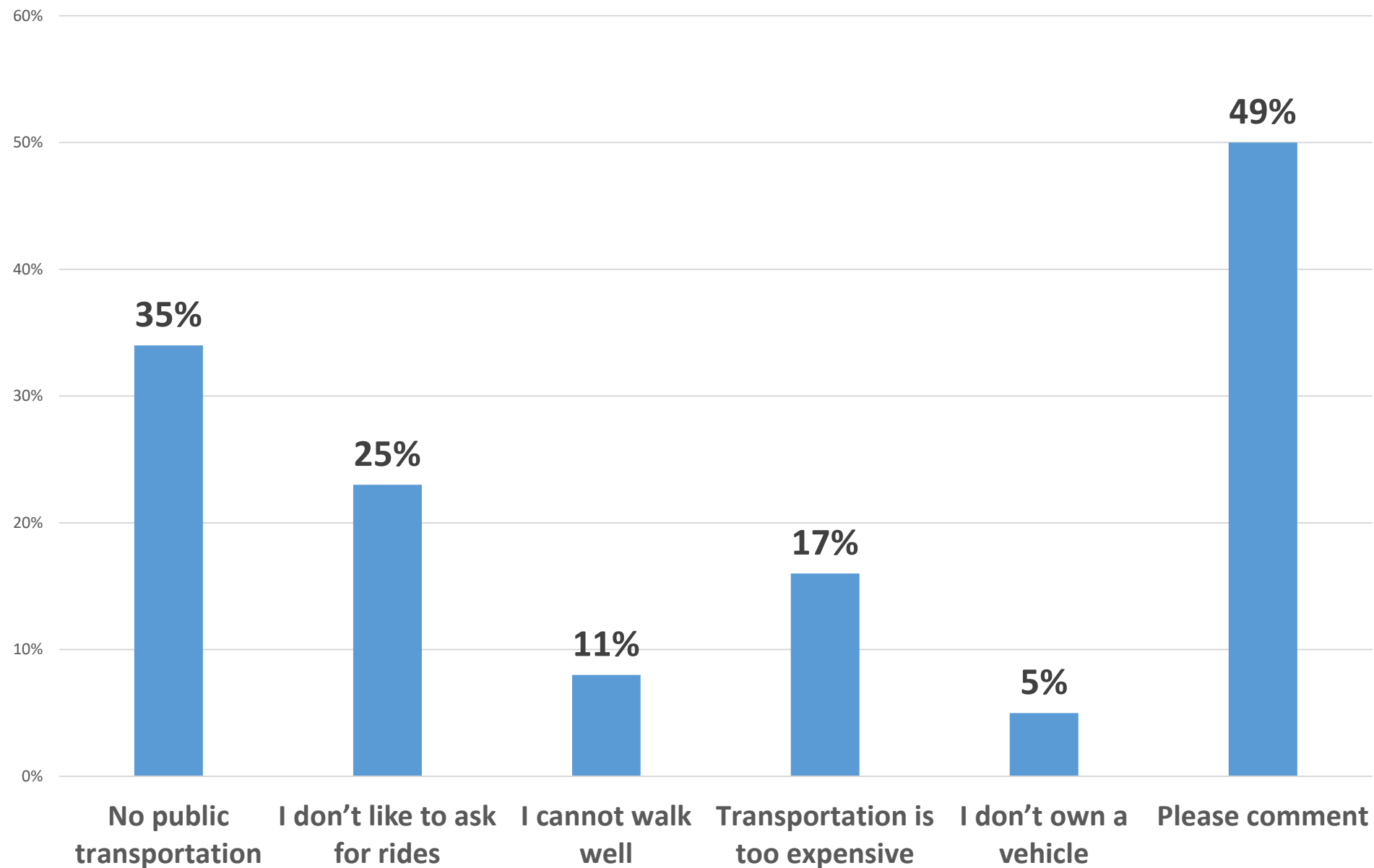
21%

Yes

79%

No

## What transportation issues have you experienced? (Check all that apply)



**35%**

of respondents experienced that there was no public transportation.

### Some Comments:

1. I can still drive. So far, so good.
2. I never tried Uber/Lift
3. None
4. For medical appointments, I am not supposed to drive but I drive
5. Roads are too narrow. People speed



Is your home warm enough in winter?

94%

Yes

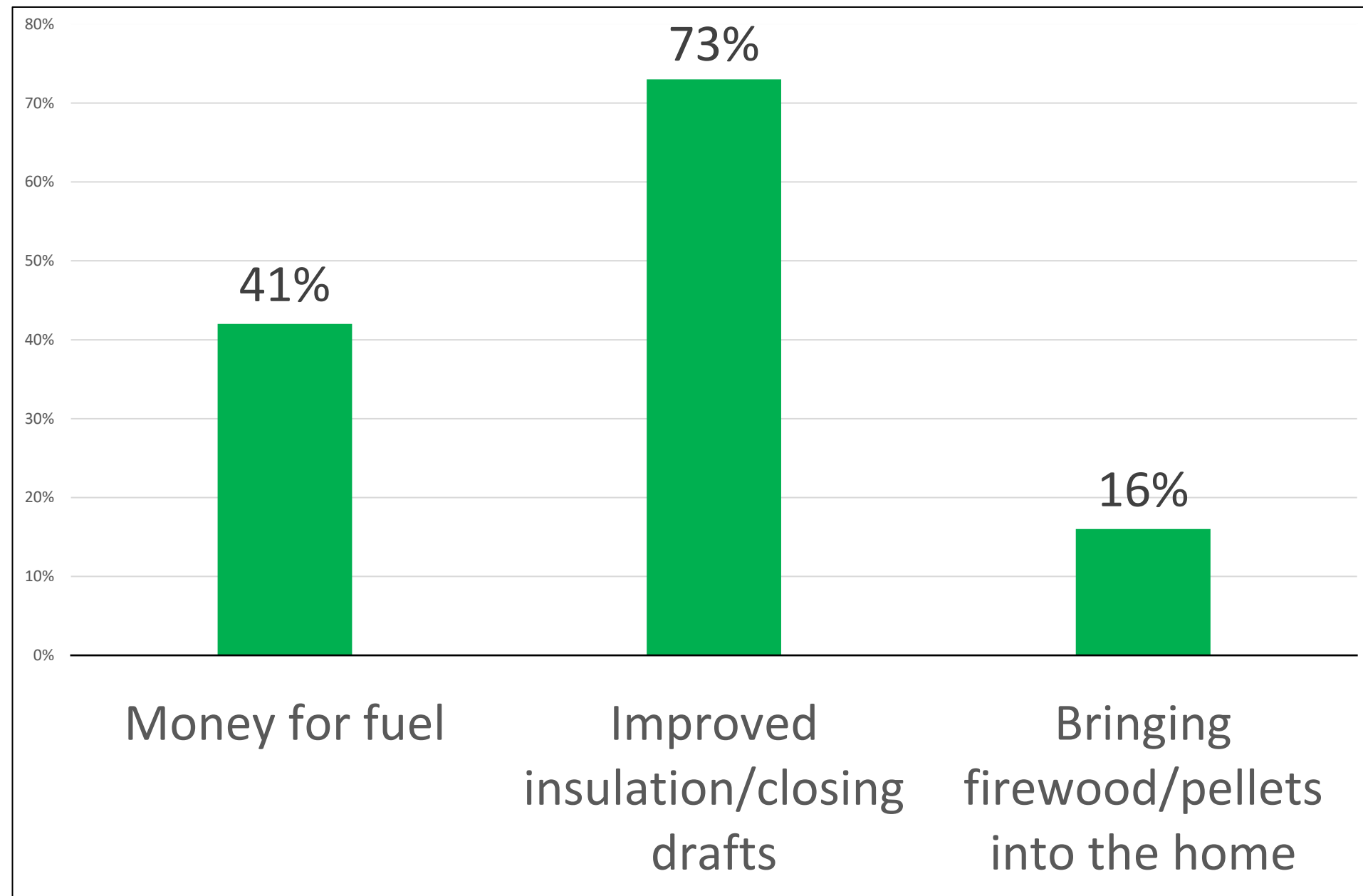
6%

No



## 2024 New Gloucester Community Survey

# What would be helpful keeping the house warm? (Check all that apply)



Do you think you will move in the future?

40%

Yes

60%

No

# 2024 New Gloucester Community Survey

Which factors would affect your decision to move? (Check all that apply)

15%

Prefer a different climate

27%

Need for more accessible home

20%

Need to be near medical care

27%

Need to be near conveniences (shopping, library, church)

52%

Expense of current home (e.g. property tax, maintenance) is too high

27%

Need for public transportation or other transportation options

32%

Need for smaller home

# 2024 New Gloucester Community Survey

Would any of these modifications make it easier to remain in your home? (Check all that apply)

28%

Widening doors

28%

Install emergency response system

14%

Install better lighting

36%

Adding grab bars, handrails, or non-slip tiles

36%

Installing a ramp

39%

Adding a bedroom bathroom, or kitchen on the first floor



# Please comment on your housing situation or needs

- We are hoping we can find a boarder or grandkid who would be willing to live here in our upstairs and help with things we cannot do.
- Fine for now and hopefully many more years!
- Who would pay for those repairs or alterations
- Less handouts to the poor
- We are seasonal snowbirds.
- Just built totally accessible home
- Small 2 bedroom trailer with 2 preteens of the opposite sex. No privacy. All on top of each other
- please do not use this survey to increase taxes.
- As. This is our first year we will not burn wood. Really concerned about the cost of oil gas.

### Please comment on your housing situation or needs

- It currently meets my family's needs but I can see that eventually we may need to make more adjustments to our house, shifting all essentials onto one floor,\* and the property maintenance may be beyond our physical capabilities. \*We currently have a kitchen, bedroom, and bathroom on the first floor but may eventually need to move the laundry to the same floor.
- We need to replace our roof and furnace, both of which are huge investments
- Overall age of the home and general maintenance.
- There are no over 55 communities in NG. As I get older, I want to continue my independence within a community of folks who can help one another if needed. (Rides, help after a health issue, companionship, help with household chores)
- I am a 39 year old mom and have no current housing needs.

## 2024 New Gloucester Community Survey

What would make using public spaces (for example, town or government offices, community center, places of worship, library, shopping, and restaurants) more convenient? (Check all that apply)

63%

Clearing of ice  
and snow

56%

Better maintained  
sidewalks

35%

More designated  
parking

25%

Doors that are  
easier to open

32%

More street/parking  
lot lighting

19%

Wheelchair  
ramps

38%

Handrails

### Please comment on your access to public spaces:

- What sidewalks?! There is no safe place to walk.
- All are good for me.
- We are fortunately very ambulatory (in our 70's). I'm certain the other seniors would greatly benefit from all of the above.
- This is not a walkable town
- Especially back of town office. Slope difficult.
- Currently it's fine, as long as I can drive, since most public spaces around here require access via a car.
- All maintenance is adequate right for me right now. I would like to see the road I live on (Woodman Rd) paved.
- Wider road shoulders



### Please comment on your access to public spaces:

- Currently have no issues accessing public spaces and parking is currently not a problem at locations I visit
- Only if one drives. I don't feel safe walking on roads here. Drivers go too fast and come way too close to walkers.
- An example of a restaurant with no handicap parking spots is Margaritas in Portland.
- The walkway to the library really needs a railing installed - it's not easy when it's snowing or ice is on the ground. Would like benches at the fairground.
- We would like it if the snowplow did not deposit a giant wall of snow at the end of driveways. That right there is a deterrent for staying in our own home in the winter.
- Accessibility does not seem to be a consideration of the town currently.

# 2024 New Gloucester Community Survey

What services would you like to use more often? (Check all that apply)

88%

Fitness activities

55%

Health and  
Wellness classes

14%

Social service  
providers

16%

Home Health  
services

14%

Financial assistance  
for health services

13%

Medical answering  
service

8%

Other

### Tell us which health services would be helpful to you:

- I have seen the posters for Chair Yoga at the church, have not been free to go yet, but hope to this coming week. Maybe group classes held at the fairgrounds would help, even in the winter, if we could cross-country ski or snowshoe around the track. For me, a leader and group are necessary.
- NONE. Do not use taxpayer dollars for this.
- At this time, none. Someday - home health services and fitness/wellness groups for seniors.
- A geriatric medical practice at Pineland.
- Wellness checks for when I'm older
- A gym
- Possible adult education classes as a means to get out, get exercise, meet contemporaries.

# Tell us which health services would be helpful to you:

- Heated therapeutic Pool
- Probably need home health in the future
- Qi gong/ balance classes, more fitness options (like classes, benches at firgrounds and in other locations.
- I would like see a geriatric medical practice start up at Pineland.



Do you feel adequately informed about community resources?

**58%**

Yes

**42%**

No

Do you feel adequately informed about community activities?

60%

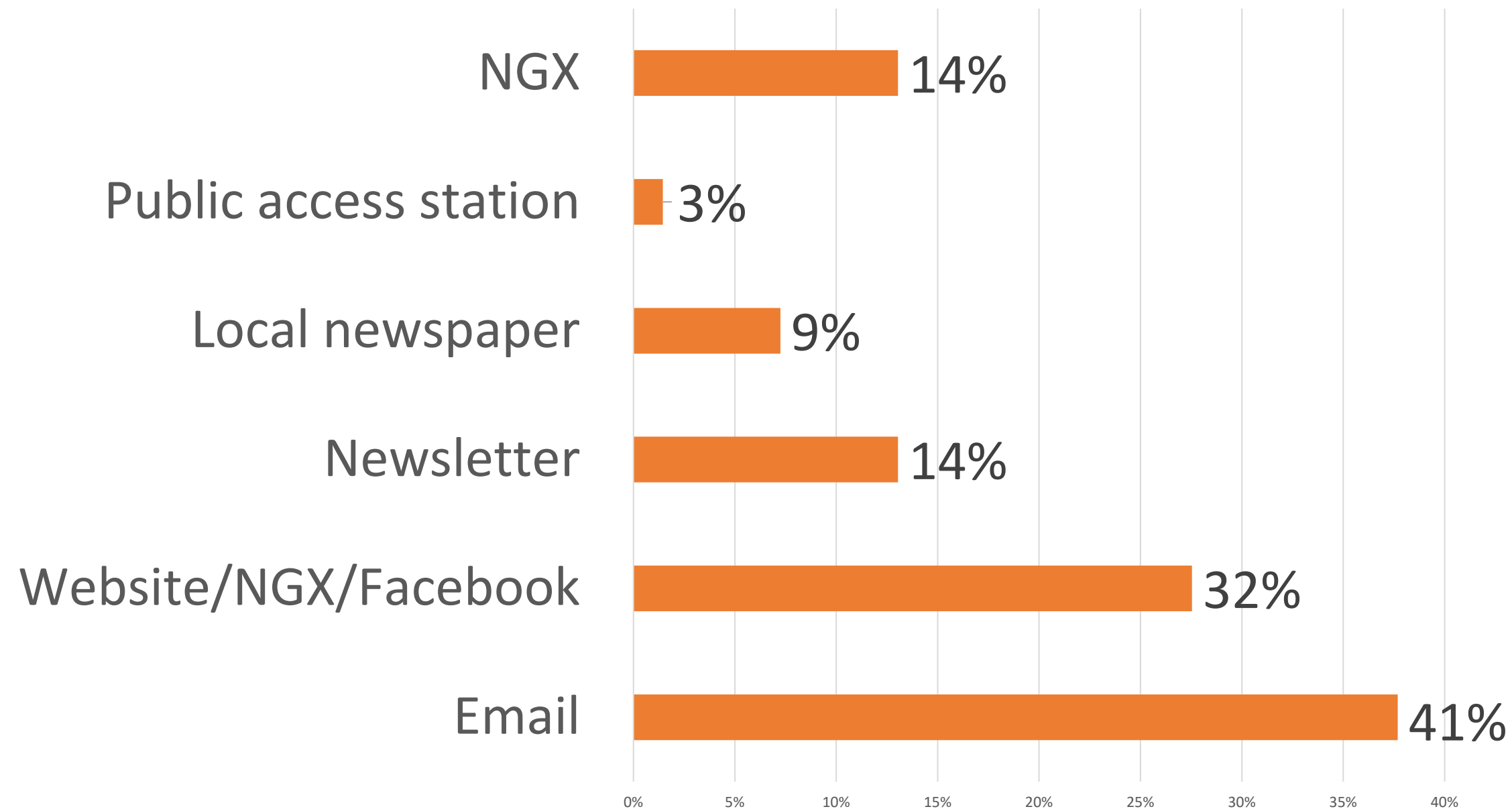
Yes

40%

No

# 2024 New Gloucester Community Survey

## How would you like to be informed of resources and activities in your community?



Are you satisfied with how much you participate in civic activities such as voting, participating in local government, volunteering or employment?

87%

Yes

13%

No



# 2024 New Gloucester Community Survey

What would be helpful to allow you to engage more fully with the community? (Check all that apply)

<b>38%</b> Volunteer activities	<b>14%</b> Opportunity to participate in local government	<b>17%</b> Opportunity to participate in organizations	<b>6%</b> Transportation
<b>66%</b> Information about opportunities	<b>13%</b> Other		<b>7%</b> Please comment

# What would be helpful to allow you to engage more fully with the community? (Check all that apply); Some Comments

- Not Applicable
- Stopped voting when selectboard still spent money on things voters said no to.
- More time
- Clearing my schedule
- Men's Club
- adult education classes
- I would like to attend select board meetings by Zoom. I don't see well at night, so decline to make the drive. There would be much more engagement in local government if you made attending the meetings more accessible with technology. This is the way things are done now!

# What would be helpful to allow you to engage more fully with the community? (Check all that apply): Please comment

- Like home visits re activities. Town access to absentee ballots very helpful
- I already participate in volunteer activities and local government to a considerable degree.
- Include older citizens, we have wisdom and some knowledge

Are you satisfied with your social life?

81%

Yes

19%

No



# 2024 New Gloucester Community Survey

What would improve your ability to socialize? (Select all that apply)

<p><b>66%</b> Information about events</p>	<p><b>47%</b> Organized events</p>	<p><b>53%</b> Social or hobby clubs</p>	<p><b>35%</b> Timing events at more convenient hours</p>
<p><b>8%</b> Transportation</p>	<p><b>33%</b> Having people to socialize with</p>	<p><b>14%</b> Please comment</p>	

# What would improve your ability to socialize? Some Comments

- L Many things tend to be at night or on weekends. Things I am unable to do because I hate driving at night.
- We are very content with our ability to socialize.
- Walking group in the afternoon or early evening
- I also get social interaction at work.
- Close parking
- I am partially at fault.
- If you want more socializing: go elsewhere. This is a rural community.
- Very busy life
- All the over 60 activities are during the work day and I cannot afford to retire

# What would improve your ability to socialize? Some Comments

- evening hours are not convenient for attendance
- We miss the Village Store and Maples, great community gathering places. And we need more community meeting spaces.

Do you feel valued as a resident of your community?

75%

Yes

25%

No

# What would make you feel more valued? Some Comments

- I feel satisfied because I am very forward about engaging where I want to engage. After reporting about NG, being a frequent critic at the BOS mike during Public Participation, and being on committees, I feel very valued. It might be a good idea to do some kind of education/invitation programing, and maybe more than one way, to let people know how the committee/department etc works, and how individual people can find a place for themselves. Also, everyone on committees and town work should know that direct invitations, person-to-person, is the most effective way of getting people to engage.
- Stop with the hatred among the “parties”
- Probably being closer to where activities take place.



# What would make you feel more valued? Some Comments

- As with the country as a whole, new Gloucester is plagued by the great political divide. We need opportunities for everyone to work together to make life better for everyone.
- Not having a bully as a landlord. Wayfarer village deals with a rude, ignorant man.
- I would need to be more involved for people to know that I exist in order to value me.

# What would make you feel more valued? Some Comments

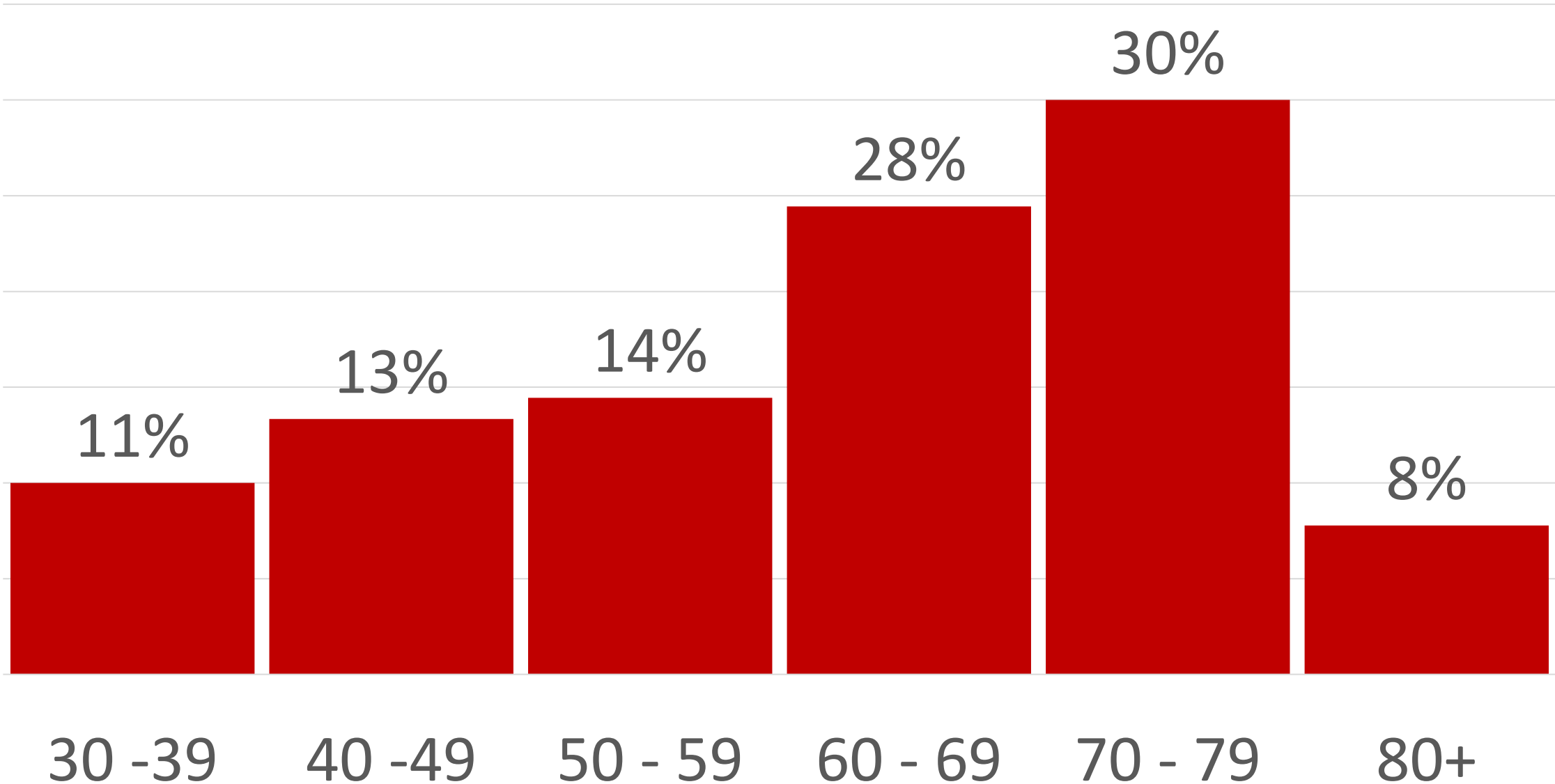
- Town Hall has very poor customer service. It has been for years now. A smile and genuine hello, how are you? Is nice. The municipality ruined the library and what it was to the community along with the Fire & Rescue Department. The highway department is also very poorly run. It's hard to feel valued when there is a lot of mis management within the town.
- Keep up equity outreach for all residents and groups. Police need to help avoid profiling.
- Surveys like this help. Seeing diverse people participate in local government and boards also helps, as then it is apparent that the town is not just looking for a single voice, but for a representation of voices.
- I feel respected, which is all I really need.

# What would make you feel more valued? Some Comments

- I don't need to feel valued
- Zoom access to public meetings with ability to speak.
- Lower real estate taxes
- I haven't been here long enough to socialize.
- More ways to help and volunteer
- This is more of a societal issue, not personal.
- Lower school taxes
- Liberals provide a VERY unwelcoming atmosphere.
- There seems to be a disconnect between Town Hall/ government and the larger community. Many have expressed their desire for more information, connection and communication with the Town, but this seems to fall on deaf ears.

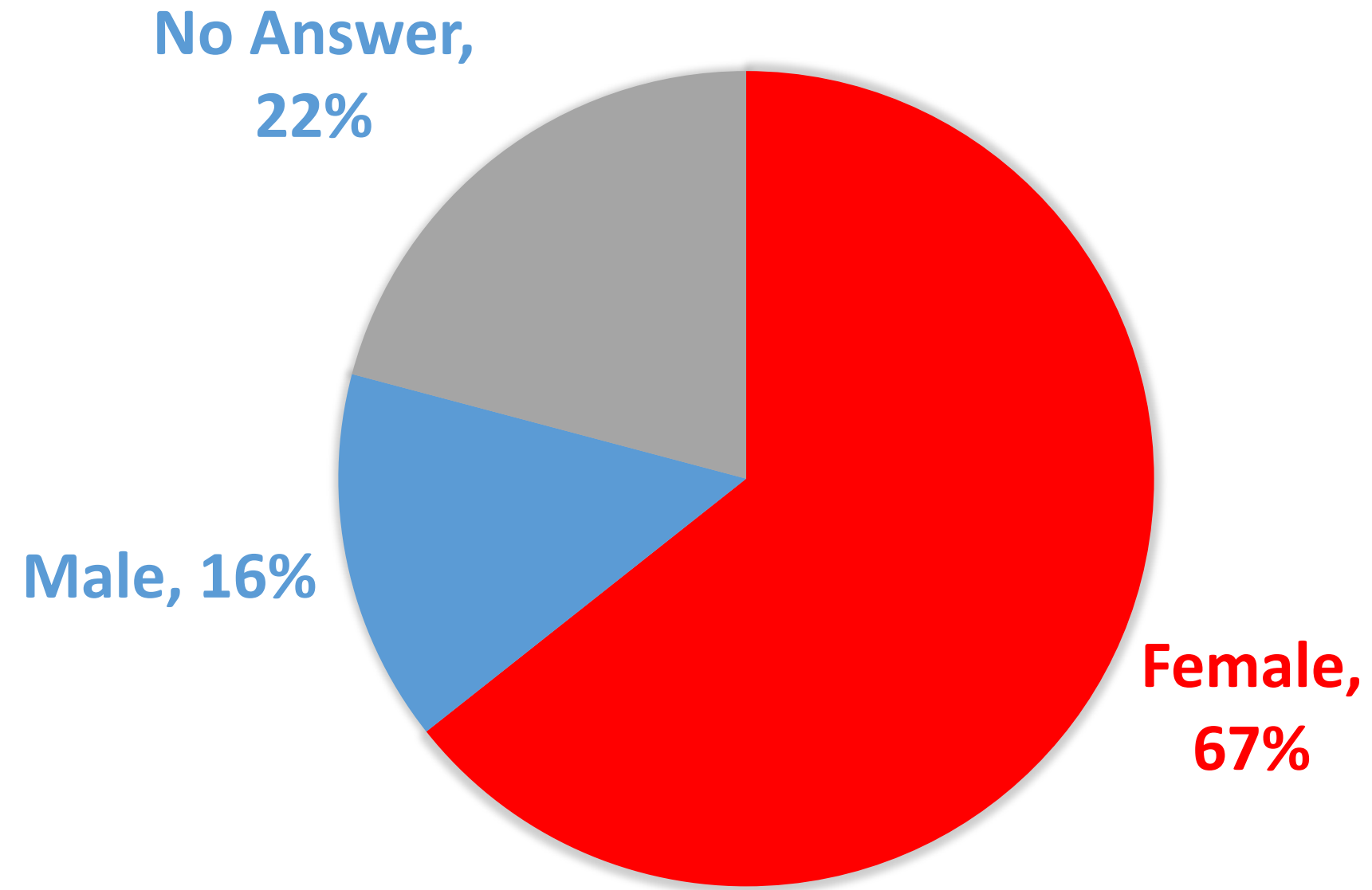
2024 New Gloucester Community Survey

# Age Distribution of Respondents



# 2024 New Gloucester Community Survey

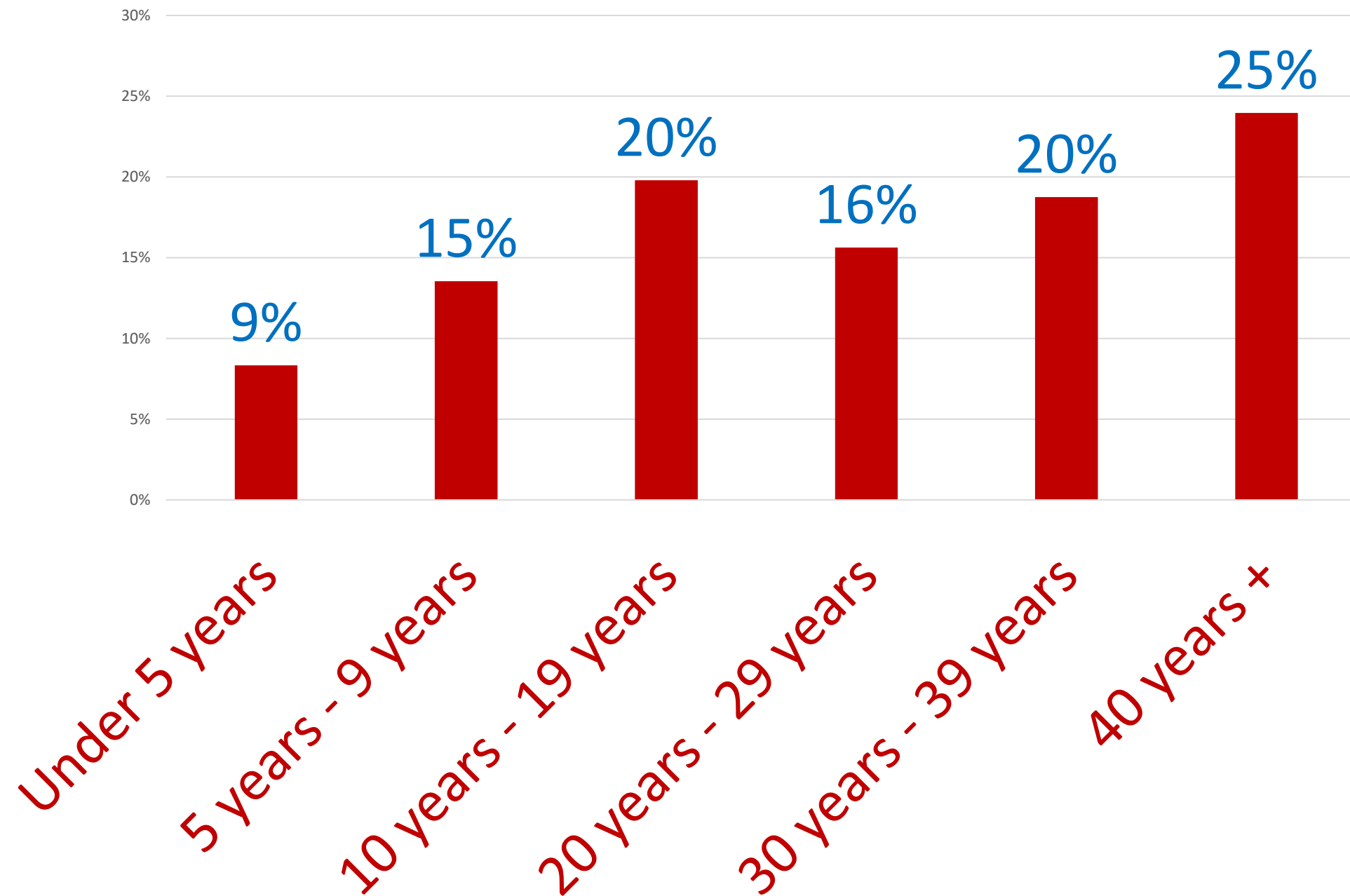
## Gender of Respondents





# 2024 New Gloucester Community Survey

## How many years have you lived in New Gloucester?



# Do respondents live alone or share their home with others?

**16%**

live alone

**84%**

I live with one or more  
people

# Please tell us what is working well to support aging in New Gloucester: Some Comments

- I love the imagination the GNG Rec departments are showing for their activities for us older folks. They should keep it up! and I wonder if there would be a way to showcase the abilities and knowledge of these older folks that would lift them up in the eyes of a public that is getting used to thinking of "old" as being "not interesting," or no longer important....
- New Gloucester provides me with all the services necessary.
- I don't have issues now but want to be prepared for later and not rely on out of state family.
- More communication about what is available.
- We very much enjoy our life here in New Gloucester.

# Please tell us what is working well to support aging in New Gloucester: Some Comments

- I think the reality is that living in rural areas is hard for aging. However these things are not easy to change, and should be thought of prior to making commitments to age in the area. The reality is planning ahead for retirement and for aging is something that needs to be done young. As we age we need to gracefully acknowledge this. Services like home care in the state are strapped and few and far between, even if there were more services the likelihood of accessing them is most likely harder for aging populations. The reality is that volunteer work by local boards, groups, and citizens can help those who cannot help themselves. The town as a whole can offer resources in terms of information or wellness checks if requested. But a town isn't the replacement of family and friends to help those age in place.

# Please tell us what is working well to support aging in New Gloucester: Some Comments

- Town services. Red Cross fire alarm outreach. Library. Food pantry but not sure re homebound.
- Not sure. Have been self reliant for my senior years.
- Rural setting , no traffic and over development
- It's a small town, so neighbors help neighbors
- I really honestly don't know what there is to support aging in New Gloucester.
- Social activities.
- Having a group of people dedicated to working on issues relating to aging. Such work benefits others in the community as well - improved accessibility is important for many people, not just seniors.



# Please tell us what is working well to support aging in New Gloucester: Some Comments

- I am not sure I can answer this. My wife and I are ambulatory and healthy so we're fine. My wife is caring for her elderly parents in another community. They are struggling in that community even though there are many resources there. I am very supportive of growth in the town, but I'm not sure what could be added to make getting older in the town easier.
- Not well informed enough to answer question
- BLING programs with the Fire Department. (smoke detectors, files for life)
- Recreation Dept. monthly sr. lunches with Gray and NG.
- Wednesday Walkers
- The attention that BLING and others are paying to the issue makes me grateful to live here - knowing that there are people thinking about this and caring.

# Please tell us what is working well to support aging in New Gloucester: Some Comments

- Safe access to local government facilities
- BLING (yay!)
- Lots of activities offered by the Rec Department
- The Community Cafe and other Rec events
- I'm doing fine right now, but do have concerns about being able to stay in my own home
- Our proximity to excellent medical facilities.
- Happy to see the efforts towards an Age Friendly Community designation. This gets the ball rolling for positive change.
- Community Cafe, adult programming at GNGRec, Public Library programs