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Town of Cohasset Senior Center Study

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Town of Cohasset Senior Center Study

December 2012

GERONTOLOGY INSTITUTE

JOHN W. MCCORMACK GRADUATE SCHOOL OF POLICY
& GLOBAL STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON



Town of Cohasset Senior Center Study

December 2012

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We extend special thanks to the many residents of Cohasset who completed the community survey in support of our data collection. Without their cooperation, this project would not have been successful.

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Executive Summary

The Town of Cohasset is considering the construction of a new Senior Center that will provide the opportunity for expanded programming within a dedicated building. In support of planning efforts by the Town of Cohasset, a study was conducted by the Gerontology Institute of the McCormack Graduate School at UMass Boston. The study addresses the need for, and probable utilization of, a new Senior Center, and includes consideration of the recreational, educational and health-related programs that are likely to be offered through the new Center. Results of the study presented in this report respond to three questions: First, what are the demographic characteristics of Cohasset with respect to aging and the older population? Second, what features and services do community members value in Cohasset, and what programs would be most valued in a Senior Center? And third, what are the features of other communities' Senior Centers, and their associated expenses?

Results

The older population represents a sizable and growing segment of the community in Cohasset. According to data from the 2010 Census, 22% of Cohasset's population is aged 60 or over, amounting to 1,688 individuals who are part of an age group commonly referred to as "seniors." This senior segment grew rapidly between 2000 and 2010 in Cohasset, increasing by nearly 20% during the decade. Considerable growth of the senior population will persist in coming decades as the individuals now aged 40-59, who make up more than one-third of the total population of Cohasset, enter later life. If the senior population again grows by 20% between 2010 and 2020, then the 2020 population of Cohasset would include 2,026 seniors. If this age segment increases by 25%—a likely scenario, given the large current population aged 50-59—seniors will number 2,110 individuals in 2020. Substantially escalated demands on Elder Affairs are likely as a result of these demographic shifts.

A community survey was conducted to examine questions about quality of life in Cohasset, learn about valued Town services, and obtain information about programs and

services that would be welcomed in a new Senior Center. Results suggest that survey respondents are highly satisfied with living in Cohasset, and positively evaluate most features of Cohasset as a community in which to live. Services currently provided by the Town—including services for seniors as well as those for children, public safety, and others—are widely valued across age groups. Together, these services make up important features of the overall high quality of life that is enjoyed by members of the Cohasset community.

Cohasset Elder Affairs is a Town office that provides programs and services designed to meet the interests and the physical, educational, mental health, and social needs of the older population of Cohasset. The community questionnaire included a list of programs and services that are either currently available or being considered by Cohasset Elder Affairs, asking respondents to rate the importance of each. Results suggest broad support for the programs and services being considered; most respondents to the survey rate each of these programs and services as “very important” or “important.” Most of these valued programs have space demands for effective delivery—meal programs, wellness programs, fitness activities and adult education among them. Results also reveal a high level of satisfaction with Cohasset Elder Affairs, especially among those most familiar with its services. Among respondents who have used Cohasset Elder Affairs services, more than two-thirds report that they are “somewhat” or “very” satisfied.

As an additional indicator of the value attached by respondents to the programs and services offered by Cohasset Elder Affairs, findings suggest that a large share are willing to pay a nominal fee to participate in activities offered in a new senior center. Eighty percent of those aged 60 and older, and 86% of those who have used Cohasset Elder Affairs services, are willing to pay a small fee to participate. New programs under consideration also receive broad support by respondents. Strong support for implementing a tax work-off program is expressed, with 70% of respondents either favoring or strongly favoring implementing a tax work-off program for eligible seniors. Notably, support for this program is only slightly higher among seniors than among younger respondents. A second program under consideration—the Social Adult Day Care program—also receives strong support, with 71% of respondents either favoring

or strongly favoring offering a Social Adult Day Care program in Cohasset. Virtually no difference in support is evident by age on this question.

Evidence from the community survey, along with data from the U.S. Census for Cohasset, highlights pockets of vulnerability that exist among Cohasset's seniors. Most older residents in Cohasset are financially secure, experience adequate socialization, and are able to meet their own transportation and support needs. However, median income for the older population is substantially lower than for their younger neighbors. As many as one out of 10 seniors aged 70 and older interact with others by phone or in person less than one day a week. And many seniors report that they have modified their driving by avoiding driving at night or in bad weather, or in other ways. These points of vulnerability highlight segments of the community who are exposed to health risks and reduced quality of life. Some Senior Center programs may be especially helpful for these individuals. However, Cohasset Elder Affairs activities appeal broadly to older adults throughout the community, supporting quality of life, community engagement, and overall well-being.

As a means of understanding potential expenses associated with operating a new senior center, data on Senior Center facilities, staffing, and financing are presented for four comparison communities. All four communities report that they need more space for the burgeoning demand for their programs and services, or anticipate needing more space soon. The space currently available to Cohasset Elder Affairs is substantially less than the space available in any of the comparison communities. The Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs recommends that senior centers use 5.5 square feet per senior resident as a guideline when evaluating adequacy of space. Space currently available to Cohasset Elder Affairs is 1.3 square feet per senior resident. Following the EOEA recommendation, and applying it to the number of seniors in Cohasset in 2010, a senior center of at least 9,300 square feet would be suggested. If likely growth in the size of the senior population to the year 2020 is taken into account, the minimum square footage recommended would be 11,100 to 11,600 square feet.

Cohasset, as well as all four comparison communities, uses a combination of full-time and part-time paid staff as well as many volunteers. Activities in all towns are financed by a combination of Town funding, distributions from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, subsidies of various types, fees associated with some programs, and donated and in-kind support. The Cohasset Elder Affairs budget is currently on par with that of similarly sized communities. All four comparison communities report substantial outside fundraising that helps to close the gap between Town support and the full expense of operations. The added expense of operating a new senior center in Cohasset would depend in part on how active and successful Cohasset Elder Affairs is in generating supplementary outside funding.

Conclusion

Overall, a high level of support is evident in Cohasset for older residents, and for services and programs offered through Elder Affairs. This study suggests that improved public education about the services and programs offered through Elder Services would be beneficial. A large share of respondents to the community survey expresses limited awareness of Cohasset Elder Affairs and its offerings, even among older age groups. As well, greater attention to the needs and interests of younger seniors may be beneficial. Involving younger community residents in Elder Affairs activities will increase familiarity with Cohasset Elder Affairs, making it more likely that services are sought out when they are needed. Improved public education about the variation in needs and resources of community members throughout Cohasset may be desirable. Some residents may fail to recognize the pockets of frailty, isolation, and income insecurity present in their neighborhoods. A balanced consideration of the costs of building a new senior center would take into account the value added to the community by well-designed and targeted programming, such as programs that support seniors' efforts to maintain their homes and neighborhoods; the potential posed by a vibrant senior center for volunteerism and strengthened community networks; and other community benefits that may be promoted by a well-functioning senior center, such as stability to neighborhoods as seniors are able to remain in their homes.

Town of Cohasset Senior Center Study

Introduction

The Town of Cohasset is considering the construction of a new Senior Center. The new structure would provide a site both for the consolidation of services currently offered to older residents of the Town and for the expansion of program offerings. At the request of the Town, the Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston conducted a study designed to provide information helpful to the Town in its decision-making. The study addresses the need for, and probable utilization of, a new Senior Center, and includes consideration of the recreational, educational and health-related programs that are likely to be offered through the new Center.

Councils on Aging (COAs) are municipal agencies that provide leadership around aging issues within communities, and offer services to older adults and their families.¹ In Cohasset, the Council on Aging is the office through which many familiar programs for seniors are offered, including information about services located throughout the community and region, health insurance information benefits counseling (SHINE), and meal programs, among others. In many communities, a Senior Center overseen by the local COA serves as a central site for the delivery of programming and services. Currently, Cohasset lacks a dedicated Senior Center, instead using shared facilities in the South Shore Community Center.

Three questions define the scope of this project. First, what are the demographic characteristics of Cohasset with respect to aging and the older population? Second, what features and services do community members value in Cohasset, and what programs would be most valued in a Senior Center? And third, what are the features of other communities' Senior Centers, and their associated expenses? This report provides evidence addressing each of these questions. Before discussing the data compiled for this study, background information on

¹ The Older Americans Act (OAA) defines "seniors" as those aged 60 and over. The OAA serves as the authorizing legislation for service programs for those aged 60+ throughout the US. Cohasset Elder Affairs offers services and programs available to all residents aged 60 and over.

the aging of communities and the role of aging services in securing quality of life for seniors is reviewed.

Background

Cohasset is a community of approximately 7,500 residents on the South Shore of Massachusetts. Similar to other communities throughout the country, Cohasset expects to experience a surge in its population aged 60+ as the so-called Baby Boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964) age into later life (Vincent and Velkoff 2010). A vast research literature demonstrates that circumstances common within older populations—such as physical mobility difficulties, economic and social losses, and cognitive declines—place unique demands on community resources. Inasmuch as many of the services required by older populations are provided either publicly or through public-private partnerships, municipalities must adapt quickly to changing age profiles within their populations.

“Aging in place” is a commonly voiced goal among seniors. This term implies remaining in familiar community settings, with needed supports, as opposed to moving into institutional living situations (Salomon 2010). By aging in place, seniors are able to retain their independence, as well as maintaining valued social relationships and community involvements. In turn, aging in place may promote “successful aging,” including lowering risks of chronic disease and disabling conditions. By taking steps to support seniors’ goals for successful aging and aging in place, communities may retain a larger share of its older population and benefit from the experience and community commitment that long-term residents offer, while simultaneously reducing potential resource demands associated with frailty and dependence.

Research underway globally seeks to establish how communities may become more “livable” for their aging populations by embracing features that allow seniors “to maintain their independence and quality of life as they age and retire” (Nelson & Guengerich 2009; World Health Organization n.d.). Key components of livability include the availability and affordability of housing suitable for aging in place; availability of transportation options that allow individuals to maintain social ties, obtain needed goods and services, access community

amenities and remain engaged with their communities; and availability of community services that meet people's evolving needs, including home and community-based long-term care services (AARP, 2005).

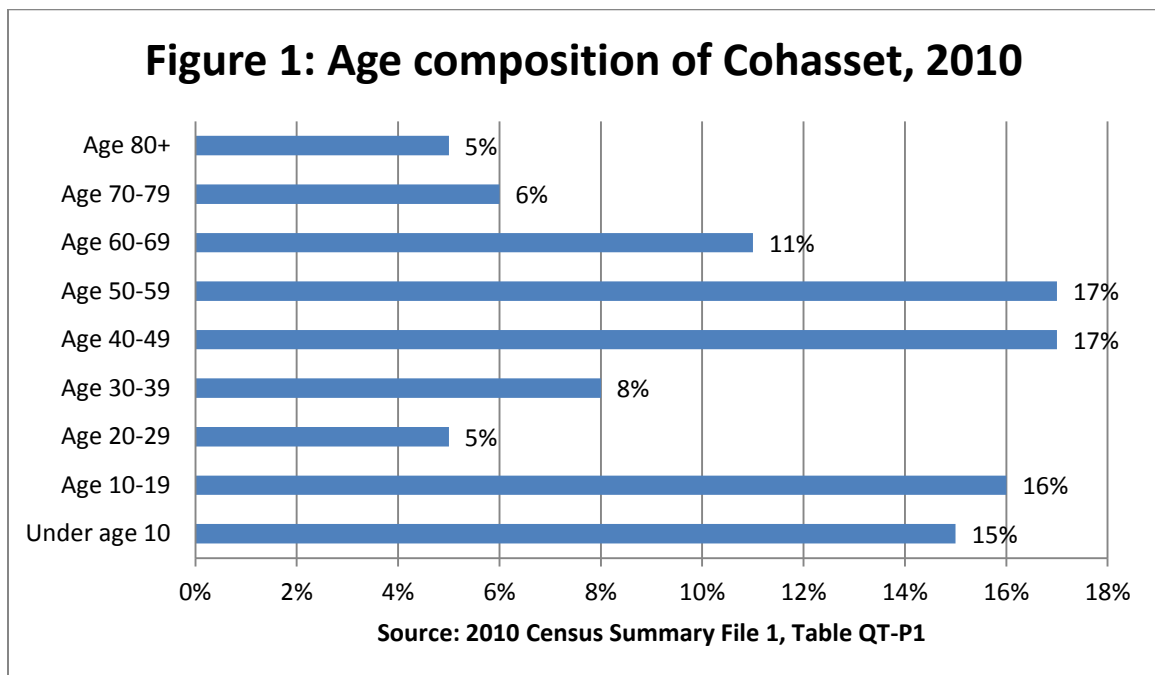
In many communities throughout the Commonwealth, Councils on Aging provide leadership in identifying and promoting community features and services that respond to seniors' evolving needs. Medical and social services that can be easily accessed or delivered in-home are needed by seniors who have mobility limitations, as well as by anyone who experiences challenges with transportation. Programs that connect seniors with affordable assistance for maintaining their homes and their property can help protect seniors' investments and maintain their neighborhoods. Safe and walkable shopping and entertainment districts are valued by all age groups, but may be especially helpful for those with mobility and transportation limitations. Providing opportunities for social engagement—through volunteer programs, opportunities to take classes or participate in exercise programs or social activities—can help community members maintain social support and remain active. National research has linked participation in senior centers to health benefits, reduced social isolation, and increased life satisfaction (Pardasani and Thompson 2012).

Findings

The initial step in conducting the study was refining the Town's goals for the project, and learning more about Cohasset Elder Affairs and the new Senior Center under consideration. Conversation between staff from the Gerontology Institute, the Town Manager, and the Director of Elder Affairs yielded agreement that the study would include three primary components: (1) a demographic profile based on existing data from the U.S. Census Bureau; (2) a web-based survey of adult residents, focusing broadly on town services as well as more narrowly on potential Senior Center programming; and (3) a description of Senior Center features and expenses currently in place in a small sample of comparison communities.

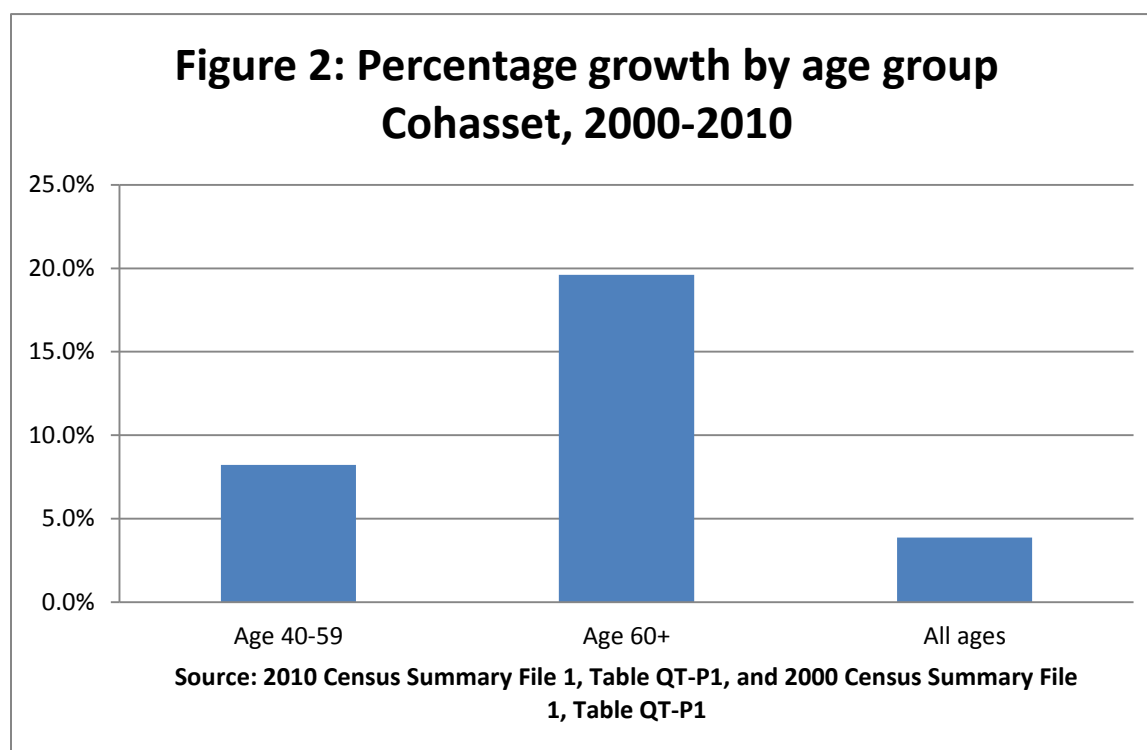
Demographic features of Cohasset

Demographic characteristics and trends in Cohasset indicate that the older population represents a substantial share of the town's population. Figure 1 illustrates the age composition of Cohasset, based on the 2010 Census (U.S. Census Bureau, 2011), and shows that 22% of the 2010 population (or 1,688 individuals) was aged 60 or over². Moreover, Cohasset is aging rapidly. As illustrated in Figure 2, the 60+ age segment grew rapidly between 2000 and 2010 in Cohasset, increasing by nearly 20% during that decade.³ Although the population aged 40-59 grew at a slower pace, it is notable that individuals currently aged 40-59 make up more than one-third of the total population of Cohasset in 2010—a very large group of individuals who will be entering later life within the next two decades (see Figure 1).



² In comparison, 18% of the U.S. population, and 19% of the Massachusetts population, was aged 60+ in 2010.

³ This represents an increase of 277 people aged 60 and over in Cohasset. In comparison, the population aged 60+ grew by 25% in the U.S., and 16% in Massachusetts during this time interval.



Looking ahead, if we assume that the age 60+ population increases by another 20% between 2010 and 2020, the senior population would number 2,026 individuals; if we assume a 25% increase (a likely scenario given the very large number of people age 50-59 currently living in Cohasset), the 2020 senior population would include 2,110 individuals aged 60 or more.

Seniors are strongly represented among the household heads in Cohasset. Figure 3 illustrates that 29% of all the householders⁴ in Cohasset are aged 65 or older, with seniors representing a slightly larger share of renters (35%) and a somewhat smaller share of owners (27%).⁵ Moreover, a large share of the occupied housing units in Cohasset includes at least one older resident. As shown in Figure 4, 42% of all households in Cohasset include at least one individual aged 60 or over. Nearly a third includes one or more members aged 65 or older, and nearly one-fifth includes a member aged 75 or older. Clearly, older adults are present in many households, either as the householder or as another member of the household.

⁴ A “householder” is the person in whose name a home is owned or rented.

⁵ A large majority—nearly 85%—of Cohasset housing units are owner-occupied. Among households headed by an adult aged 65 or older, 80% are owned.

Figure 3: Age structure of householders, 2010

Source: 2010 Census Summary File 1, Table QT-H2

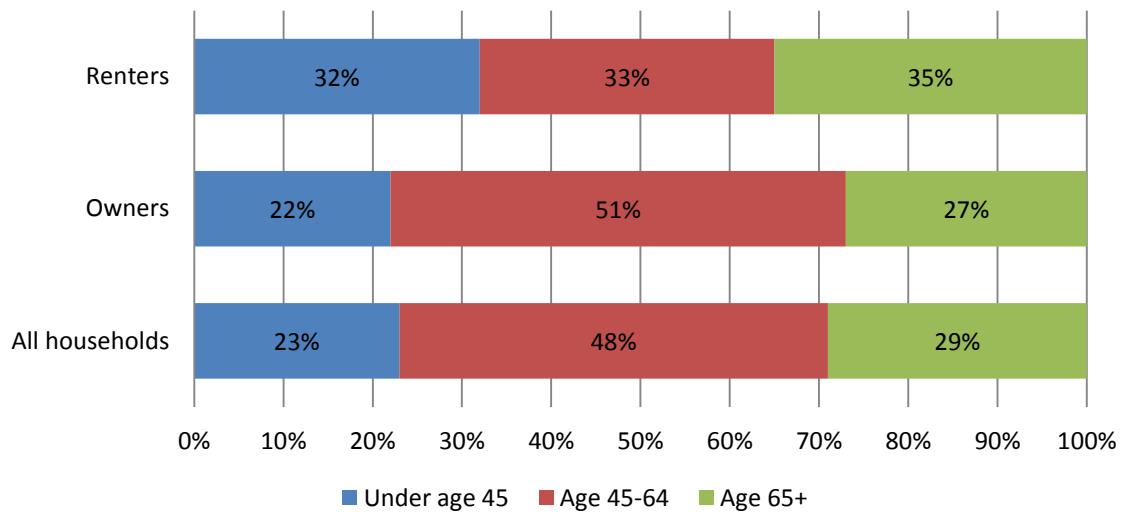
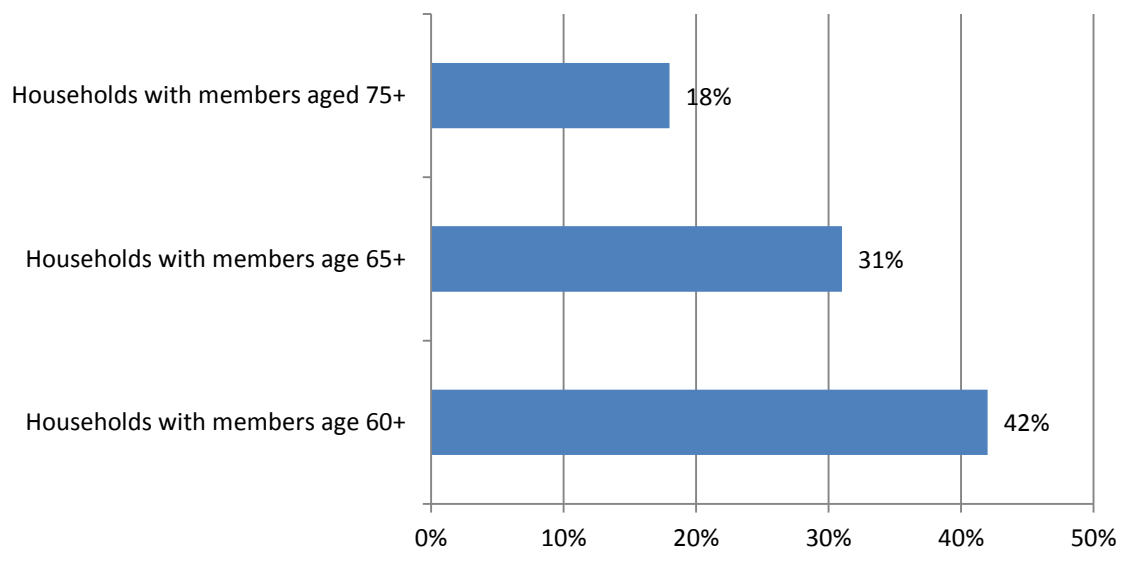
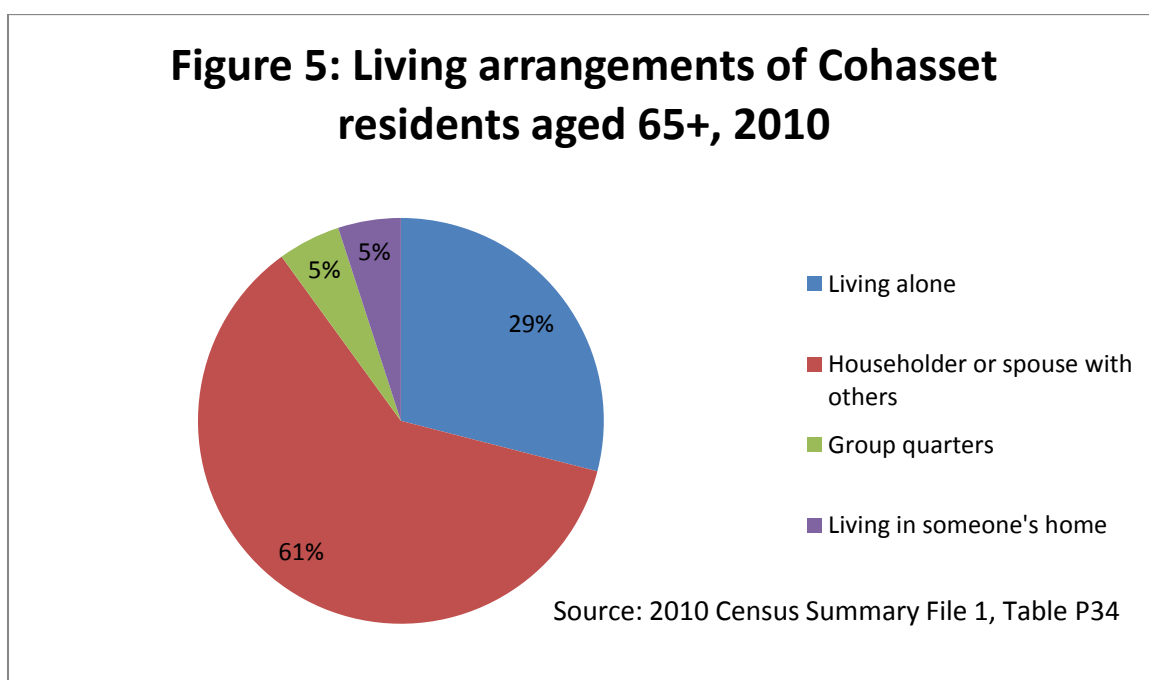


Figure 4: Share of households with older members, Cohasset 2010

Source: 2010 Census Summary File 1, Tables P23, P25 and P26



Nine out of ten Cohasset seniors live independently in the community (see Figure 5). More than 60% of all seniors head a household including others—this could be a married couple living together, or a senior with their children or grandchildren—and 29% of the seniors in Cohasset live alone in a one-person household. Only 5% lives in group quarters (such as congregate living residences), and another 5% lives in the home of someone else, such as an adult child.



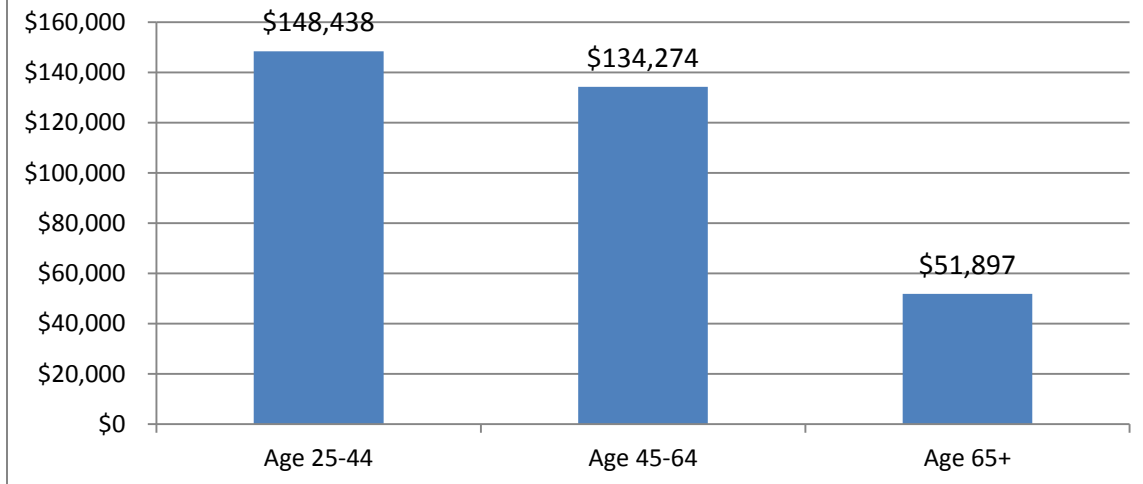
Cohasset residents enjoy high incomes, on average, with the median household income registering roughly \$114,000 annually⁶ (U.S. Census Bureau, 2012). Yet incomes are considerably lower for seniors in Cohasset, compared to younger households. Figure 6 shows that although median household income in 2010 was \$148,000 for households headed by an adult aged 25-44, and \$134,000 for a householder aged 45-64, median income was just under \$52,000 annually for households headed by seniors.⁷

⁶ Household income is the total income reported from all sources, summed for all individuals in the household.

⁷ Household incomes in Cohasset are greater than national medians for seniors (\$51,897 in Cohasset compared to \$34,873 nationally) as well as overall (\$114,214 in Cohasset compared to \$64,509 nationally).

Figure 6: Median household income by age of householder, Cohasset (2010 dollars)

Source: 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, Table B19049



These figures, extracted from publicly available Census data, show that the population of Cohasset includes a large and growing older population. Seniors—those aged 60 and older—are present in a very large share of households in Cohasset. Most seniors live in family households but more than one-quarter live alone. Moreover, incomes are substantially less on average among older householders than among their younger counterparts.

Community survey: perspectives from the community

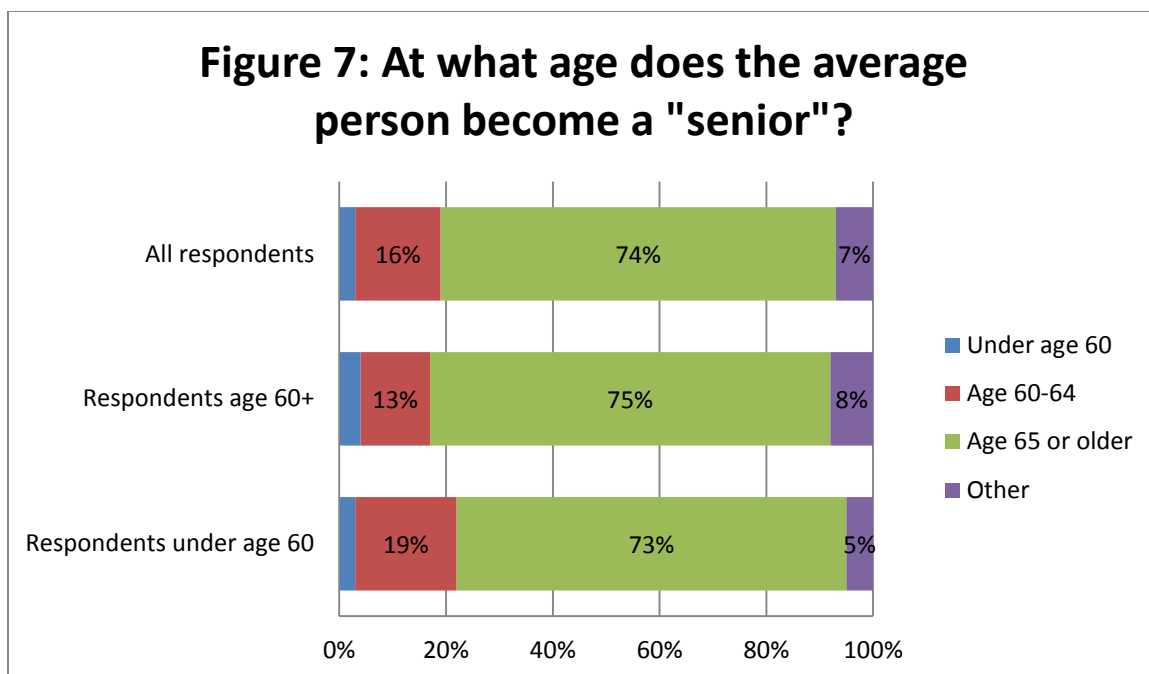
A community survey was designed to meet multiple goals. One purpose was to obtain input on a potential Senior Center, its services and programs. An additional goal was to learn from community members about a range of topics relating to the quality of life in Cohasset and other town services. Given the Town's desire to offer every adult in the community the opportunity to participate, an internet-based survey was developed. Although web surveys typically yield lower response rates, they are a desirable means of reducing the expense of data collection (Dillman et al 2009). The data collection was conducted subsequent to review and approval by the University of Massachusetts Boston Institutional Review Board (IRB), which oversees research involving human participants. Participants were advised of their rights as

human subjects, which include the right to privacy. All data collected from community members were stored securely, and no identifying information was retained. For a detailed discussion of the methodology used in the community survey, see Appendix A. The discussion below provides highlights of the study results. Detailed results are provided in tabular form in Appendix B.

Who are Cohasset's "seniors"?

Cohasset Elder Affairs serves as the Council on Aging for the Town of Cohasset. Councils on Aging are charged with providing leadership, programs, and services to "seniors," defined by the federal Administration on Aging (AoA) as those aged 60 and older. In many communities, residents are drawn to the programs and services offered through COAs at a somewhat later age than 60, often not until they are 65 or 70 years old. As well, some of the services offered by COAs are helpful to younger residents, such as bereavement support groups or caregiver support groups. Indeed, in many communities the local COA serves as the *de facto* social service agency for the town.

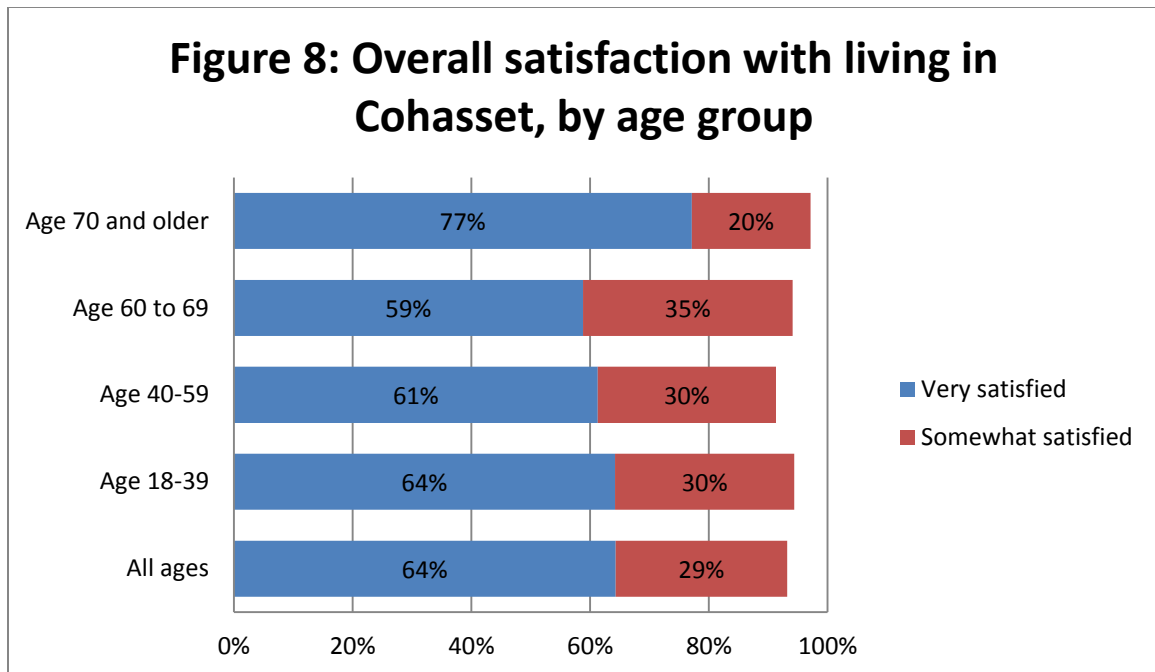
Despite the "official" definition offered by AoA, the age at which an individual identifies with having "senior" status is highly individualized. As shown in Figure 7, only 16% of all respondents to the Cohasset community survey stated that the average person becomes a "senior" at age 60-64, with 74% stating that senior status is reached at an older age. Individuals who are themselves age 60 or older are only slightly more likely than younger respondents to name an age older than 65 as associated with senior status. For all age groups, the single most likely age group named as aligning with senior status is age 65-69. Seven percent of the respondents report that senior status is reached at an "other" age—with write-in comments suggesting that when a person becomes a senior is based more on function and attitude than age (see Appendix C).



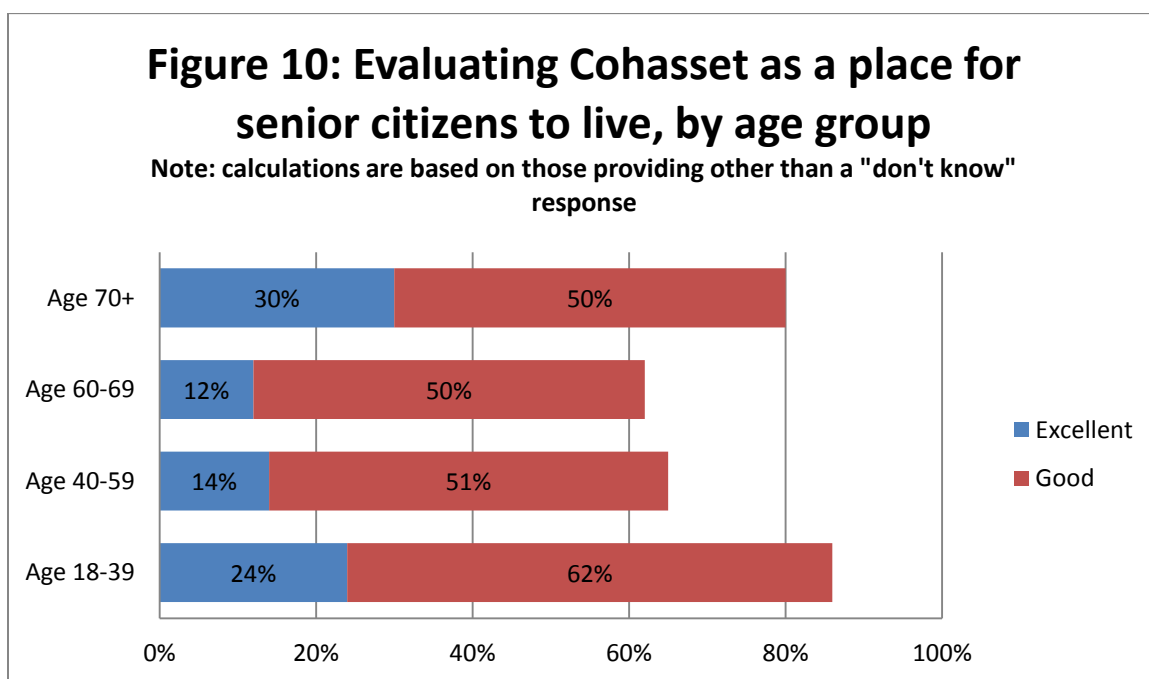
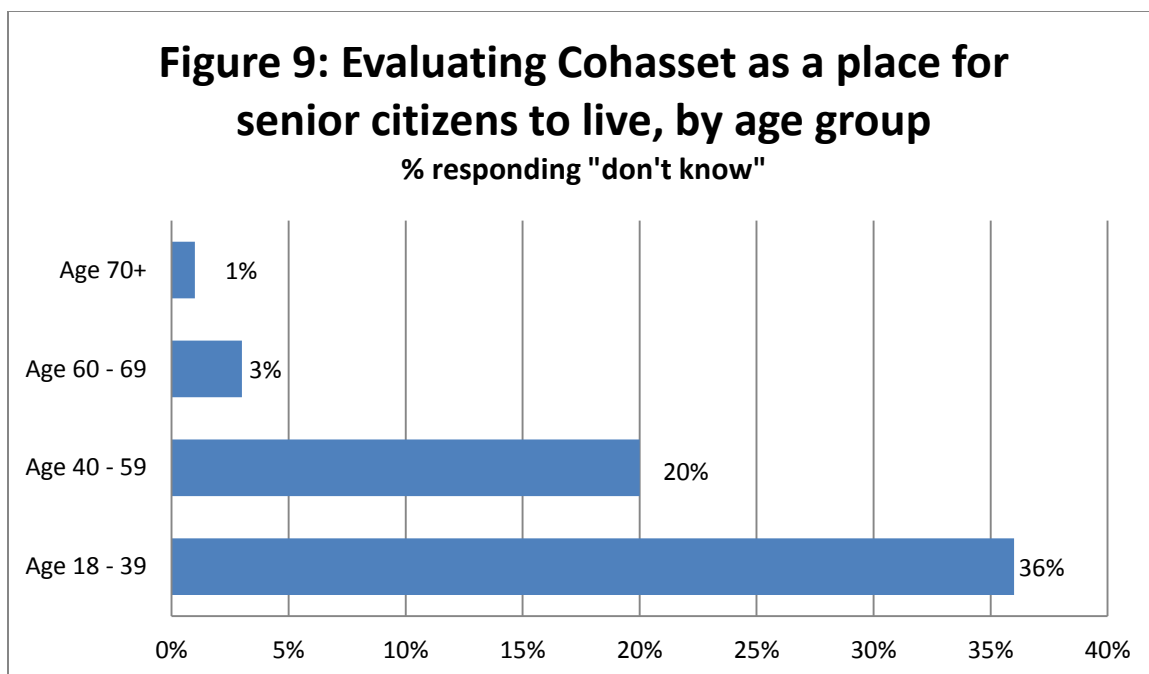
Using the AoA definition of age 60 and older, survey results suggest that Cohasset's seniors are by and large long-term residents of Cohasset who remain in the community year-round. Nearly two-thirds of the survey respondents who are aged 60-69 have lived in Cohasset for at least 25 years, and two-thirds of the respondents who are age 70 or older have lived in Cohasset for 35 years or longer. More than 90% of all age groups, including seniors, live in Cohasset year-round. These and many other statistics about the respondents to the Cohasset community survey are included in Appendix B.

Quality of life in Cohasset

Residents to the community survey report being satisfied with living in Cohasset (see Figure 8). Considering all ages together, 64% of respondents report they are "very satisfied" and another 29% report being "somewhat satisfied." A comparison by age group suggests that high rates of satisfaction are shared by all age groups in Cohasset.



Given the special focus of this study on seniors in Cohasset, respondents were asked to rate Cohasset as a place for senior citizens to live. Not surprisingly, a sizable share of the younger respondents—36% of those 18-39 and 20% of those 40-59—respond that they “don’t know” how Cohasset is as a place for seniors (see Figure 9). Considering only those offering a rating, Figure 10 shows that a large share of all age groups rate Cohasset as “excellent” (12%-30%) or “good” (50%-62%) as a place for seniors to live.



To learn more about respondents' evaluation of Cohasset as a community in which to live, respondents were asked to rate the Town on several specific features related to quality of life. Figure 11 shows that a number of residents respond that they "don't know" what rating to assign these attributes, with especially high levels of "don't know" responses occurring for activities designed for older adults (22%), education for adults (15%) and health services (11%).

Taking into consideration only those who provided a rating, more than half of the respondents rate each attribute as “excellent” or “good” (Figure 12). The highest rated attributes are “Opportunities to volunteer in Cohasset” rated as excellent by 39% and good by 50%; “Recreational opportunities in Cohasset” rated as excellent by 41% and good by 46%; and “Ease of getting where you want to go in Cohasset” rated as excellent by 39% and good by 46%. The lowest ratings are assigned to “Educational opportunities for adults in Cohasset” (11% excellent and 43% good); “Activities designed for older adults in Cohasset” (12% excellent and 45% good); and “Shopping opportunities in Cohasset” (10% excellent and 49% good). Notably, even among these lowest rated amenities, more than 50% of the respondents evaluate them as excellent or good.

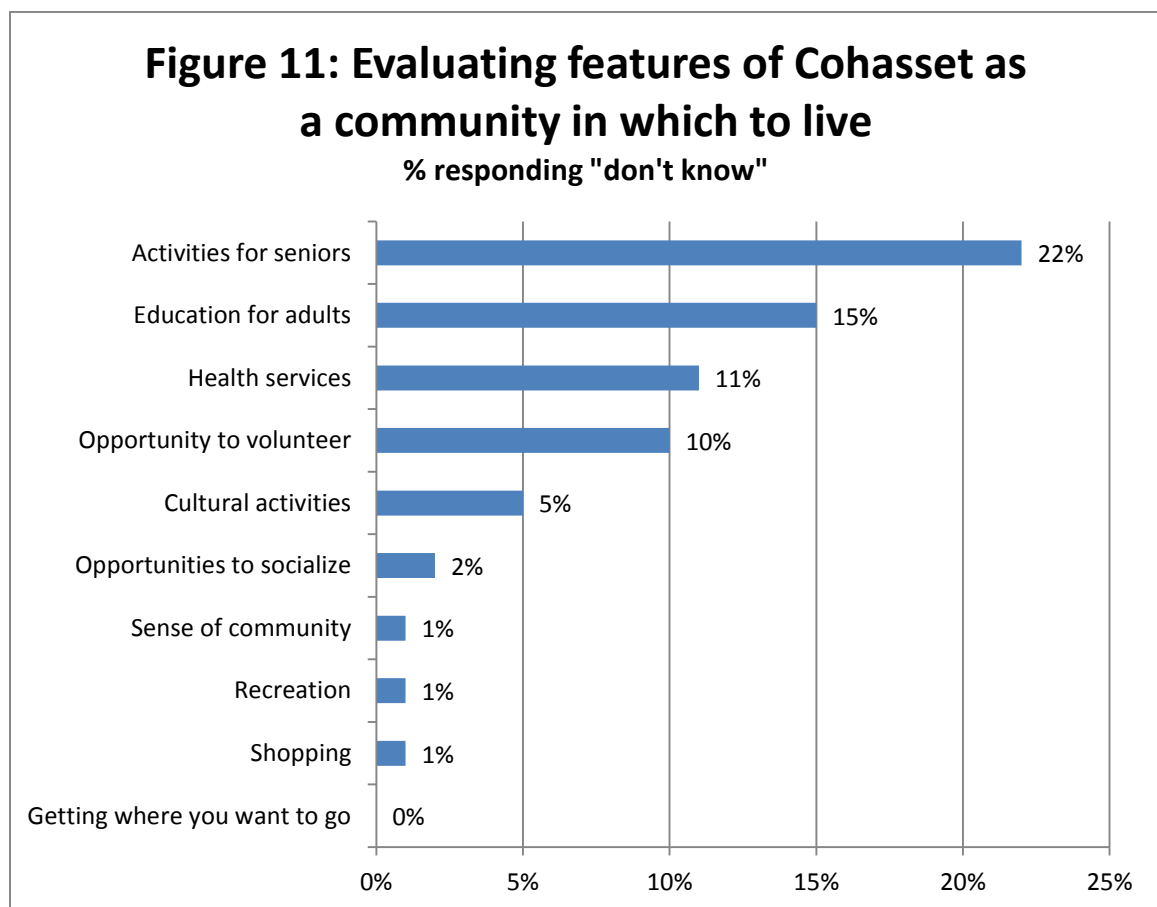
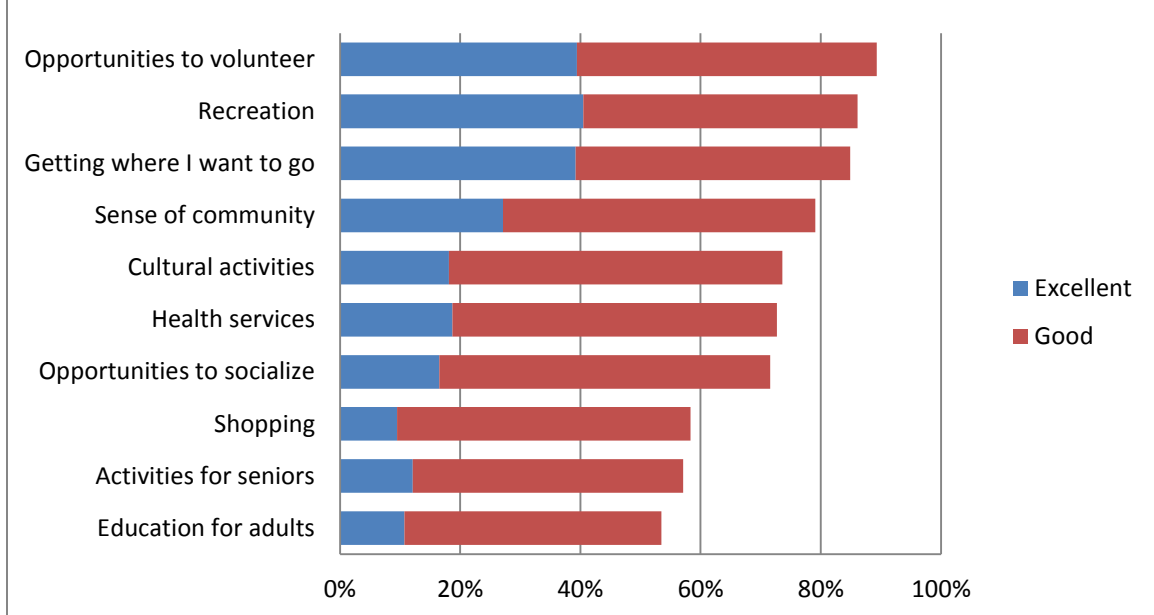


Figure 12: Evaluating features of Cohasset as a community in which to live

Note: Calculations are based on those providing other than a "don't know" response



Given the focus of this study on seniors, special attention is directed toward the evaluation of “Activities designed for older adults in Cohasset.” Figure 13 shows the level of “don’t know” responses by age group, and Figure 14 provides the ratings given by age, among those who give a response other than “don’t know.” Once again, younger residents are considerably more likely to report that they are not able to rate the quality of activities designed for older adults, with 32% of those age 18-39 and 28% of those aged 40-59 providing a “don’t know” response. Among those who do rate activities designed for older adults in Cohasset, 8-15% of each age group rates them as “excellent,” and an additional 43-56% rates them as “good.”

Figure 13: Evaluating activities designed for older adults, by age group

Percentage responding "don't know"

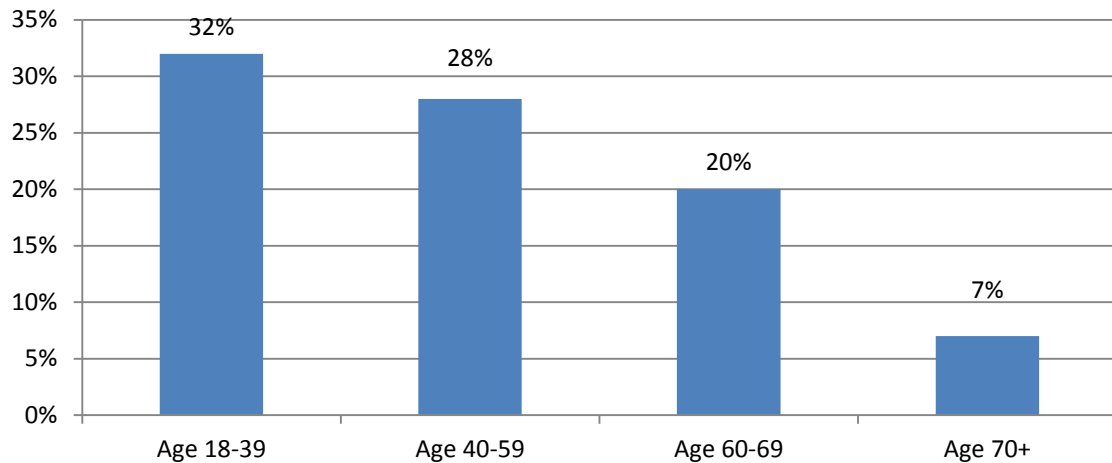
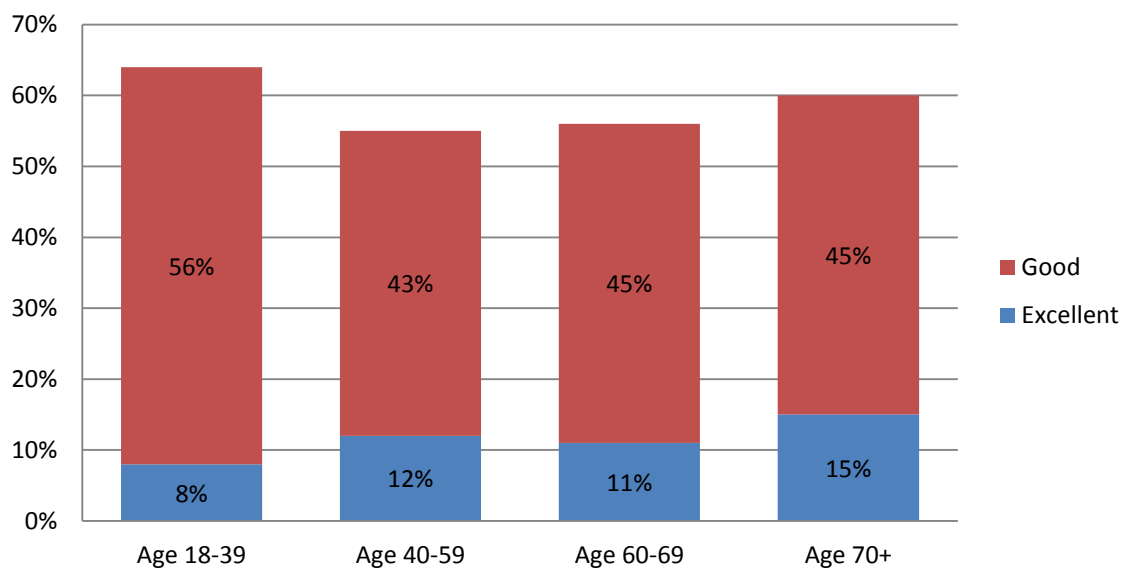


Figure 14: Evaluating activities designed for older adults, by age group

Note: calculations are based on those providing other than a "don't know" response



Taken together, these results suggest that residents rate Cohasset highly as a community in which to live overall, as well as with respect to specific attributes such as recreational opportunities and sense of community. Activities for seniors are rated lower than other community attributes, but more than 50% of all age groups evaluate activities designed for older adults in Cohasset as either “good” or “excellent.” Notably, a high percentage of respondents under age 60 reports that they “don’t know” how Cohasset is as a place for senior citizens to live; similarly, a sizable share reports that they “don’t know” how to evaluate activities designed for older adults. One-fifth of adults aged 60-69 provide a “don’t know” response to the question asking for an evaluation of activities for older adults; this suggests that many residents approaching later life may not be aware of the programs and services already in place in Cohasset. Survey participants were invited to write in additional thoughts about how Cohasset is as a place for senior citizens to live, and many did so. These responses are reproduced verbatim in Appendix C; responses range from praise for Cohasset as a community (“It is safe and quiet and people look out for each other”); to more critical comments (“Seniors in Cohasset need greater opportunity for social and educational activities”). Many of the write-in comments focus on broad issues relating to lack of affordability of housing and services; limited options for transportation; and limited programs available for seniors.

Town services in Cohasset

Cohasset is responsible for providing many services and amenities for its residents. Respondents to the questionnaire were asked to rate 16 different services provided by the Town of Cohasset in terms of their importance to the community as a whole. Figure 15 shows that the vast majority of the respondents rates each of these services as “important” or “very important.” More than 90% of the respondents provide these ratings for fire service, police service, street repair, and public schools. Between 80% and 90% of the respondents provide these ratings for almost all of the other services (the exception is traffic enforcement, rated as very important by 30% and important by 43%). The rating of services for seniors falls in the

middle of this distribution, with 41% of the respondents rating these services as “very important” and an additional 42% rating them as “important.”

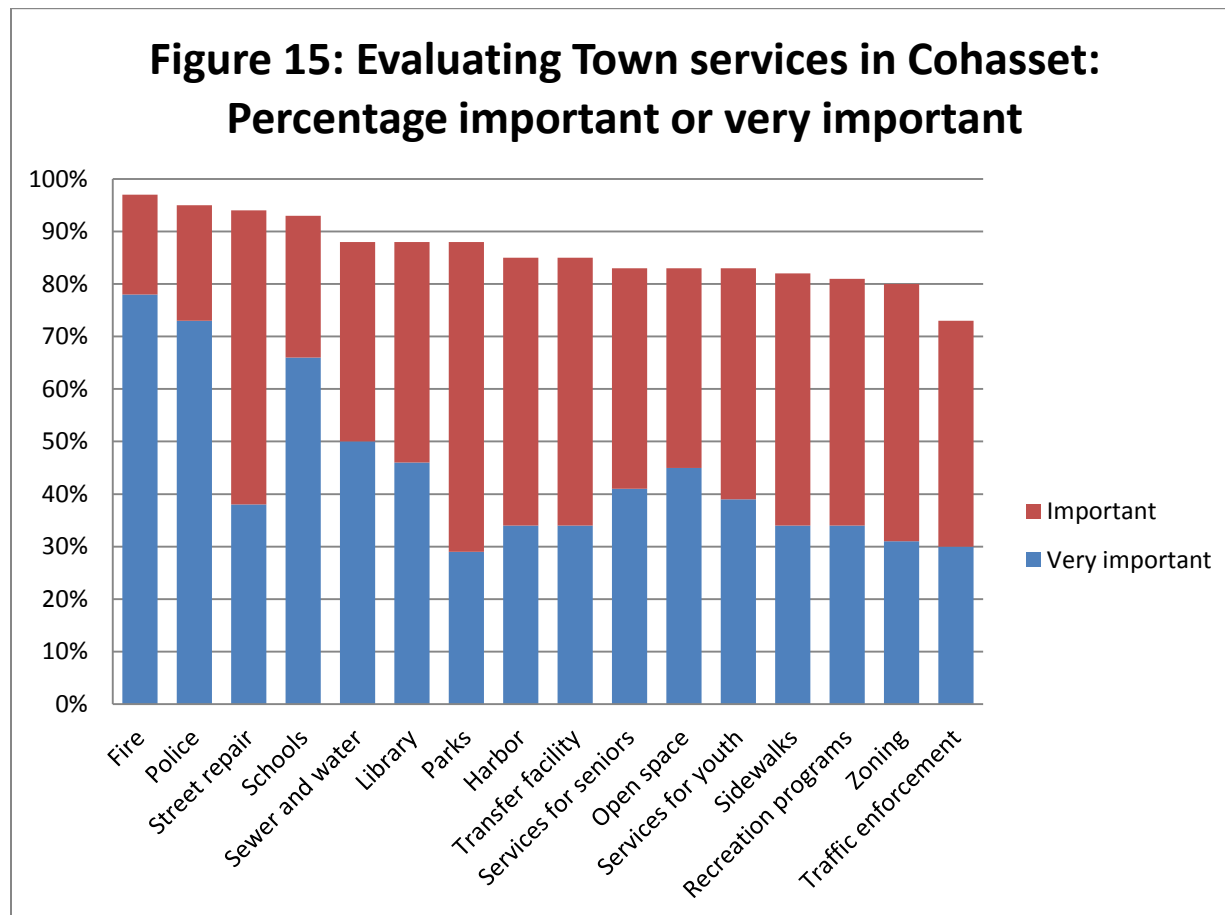
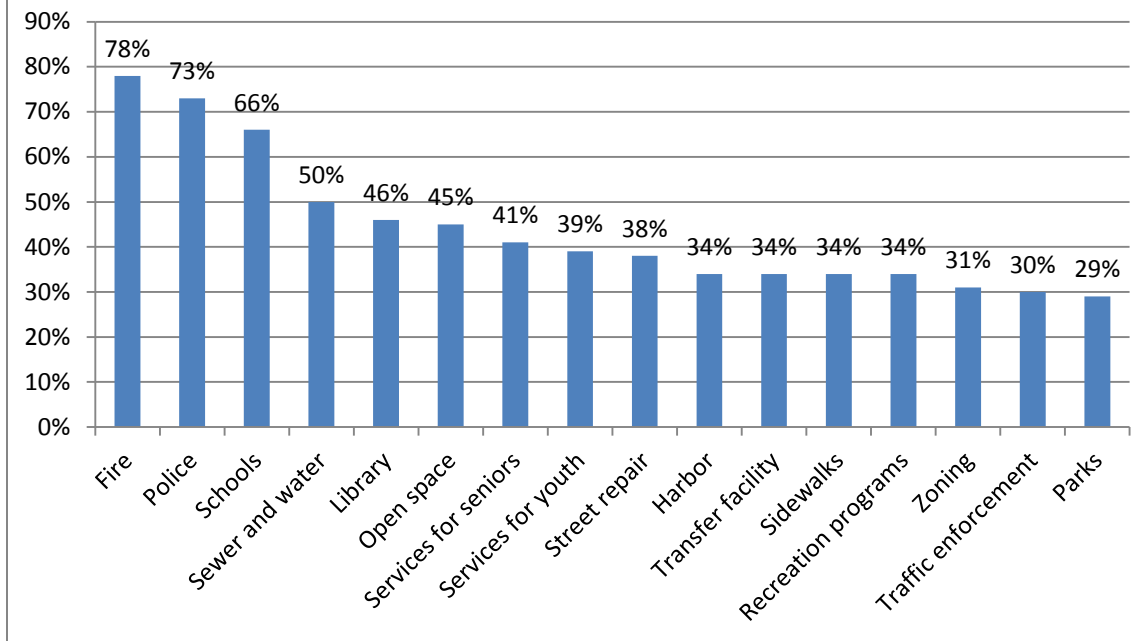
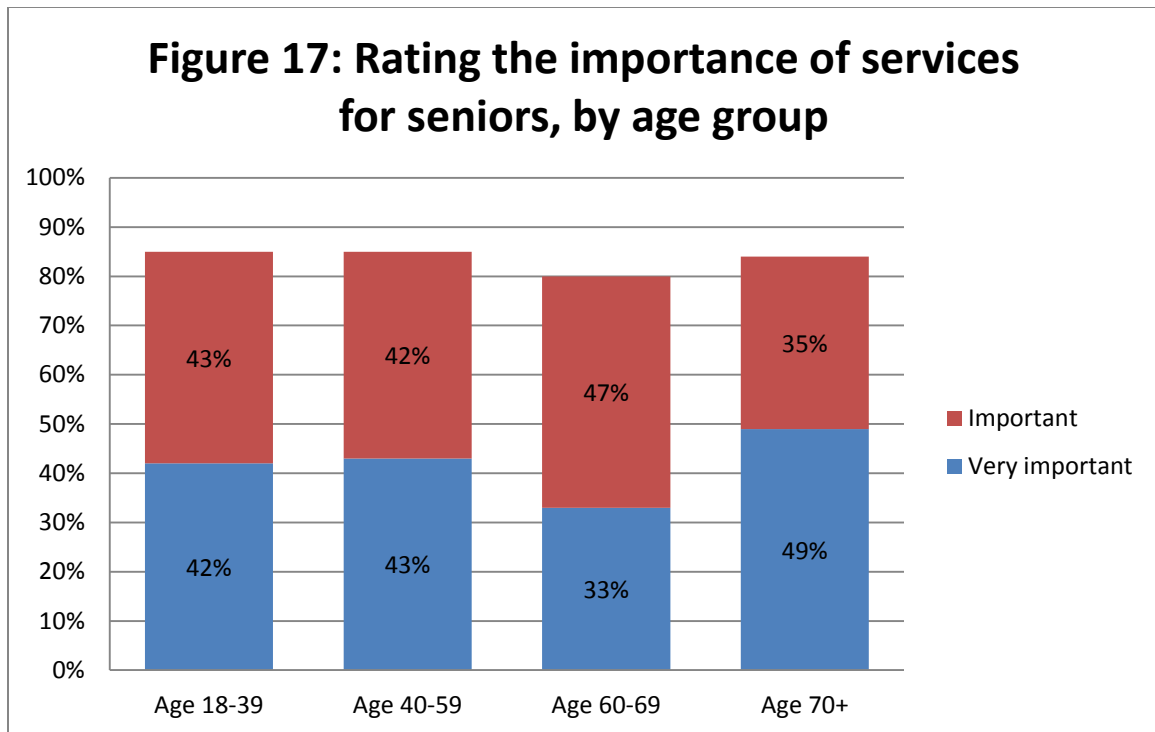


Figure 16 shows the same services, ranked by those rating the service as “very important.” This Figure shows that once again fire services, police services, and public schools receive the highest ratings overall, with more than 60% rating them as “very important.” The next tier of services include sewer service and water treatment, public library services, preserving open space, and services for seniors, with 40-50% of the respondents rating these as “very important.” All of the services are rated as “very important” by at least 29% of those responding.

Figure 16: Evaluating Town services in Cohasset: Percentage very important



Given the focus of this study on senior residents, closer inspection of the rating of services for seniors is provided in Figure 17. This figure shows that all age groups rate the importance of services for seniors similarly, with 80% or more of each age group rating senior services as “very important” or “important.” Among the oldest age group—those aged 70 and older—nearly half rate senior services as “very important.” Additional data presented in Appendix B show similarity in the rating of most services across age groups. For example, 90% or more of each age group rates public schools as “very important” or “important.”



Programs and services for seniors in Cohasset

Cohasset Elder Affairs is a Town office that provides programs and services designed to meet the interests and the physical, educational, mental health, and social needs of the older population of Cohasset. The community questionnaire included a list of programs and services that are either currently available or being considered by Cohasset Elder Affairs, asking respondents to rate the importance of each. Figure 18 shows that most respondents to the survey rate each of these programs and services as “very important” or “important.” More than 80% of the respondents give one of these two highest ratings to the following services and programs: transportation services, meal programs, health and wellness programs, information and referral, in-home visits, and opportunities to volunteer. All other services and programs are rated as “very important” or “important” by 70-80% of the respondents. Arguably, additional space may not be necessary to expand some of the valued services, including transportation services, and in-home services. However, most of the valued services would benefit from additional appropriate space, including meal programs, wellness programs, and

fitness activities. As well, some efficiencies in providing services and promoting community participation may be realized if activities are offered in a centralized location.

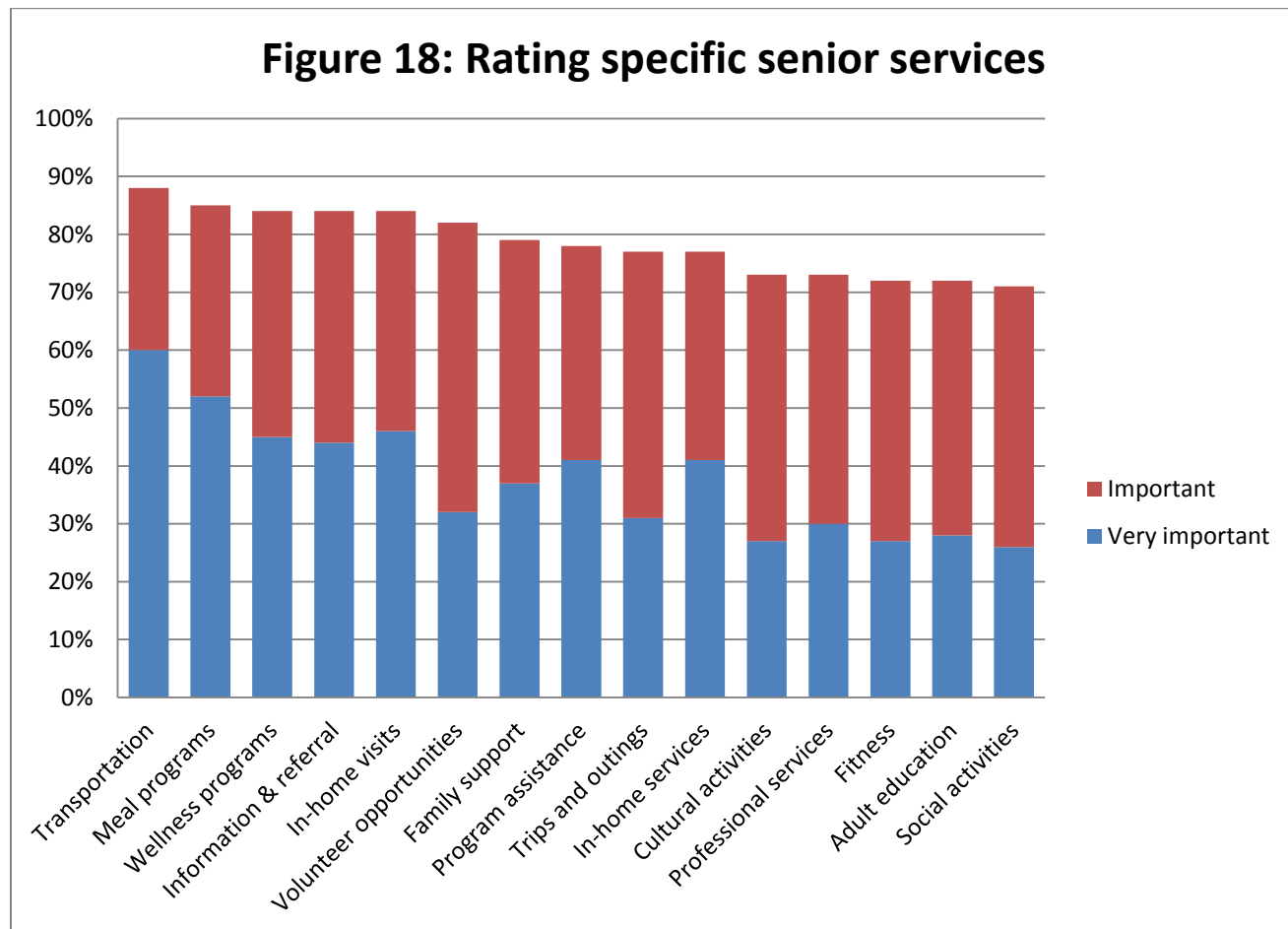
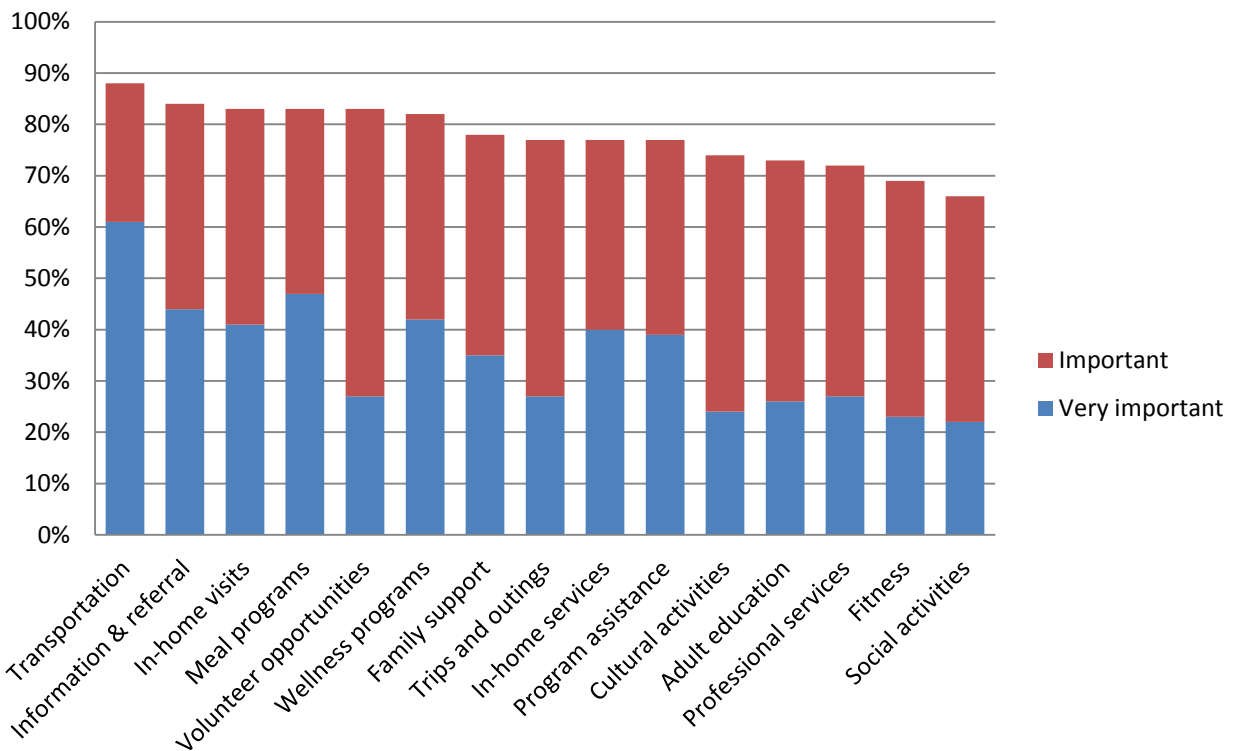


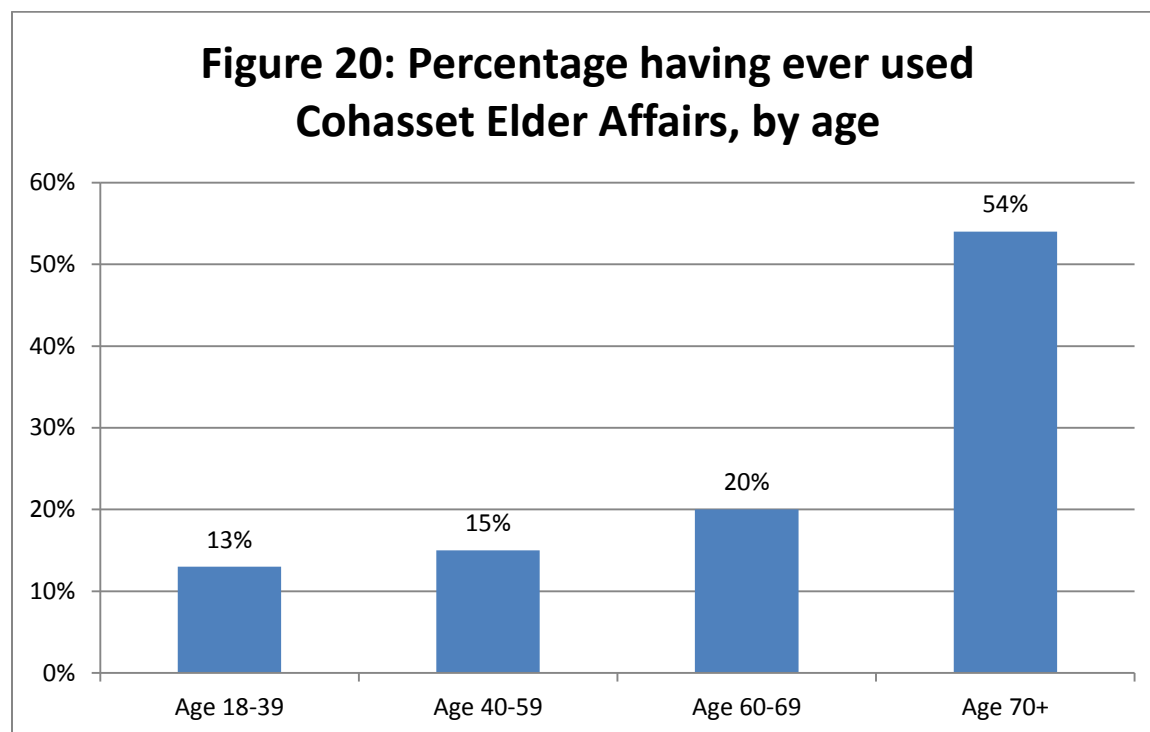
Figure 19 examines the rating of these same services focusing just on the residents currently eligible for them on the basis of age—individuals who are 60 and over. Although the relative ranking of the services is slightly different for this age group, the overall pattern of ratings is quite similar. More than 60% of the older respondents rates each of the services and programs as either “important” or “very important,” with transportation, information and referral, in-home visits, meal programs, volunteer opportunities, and wellness programs once again leading the list in favorable ratings.

Figure 19: Rating specific senior services, adults aged 60+ only



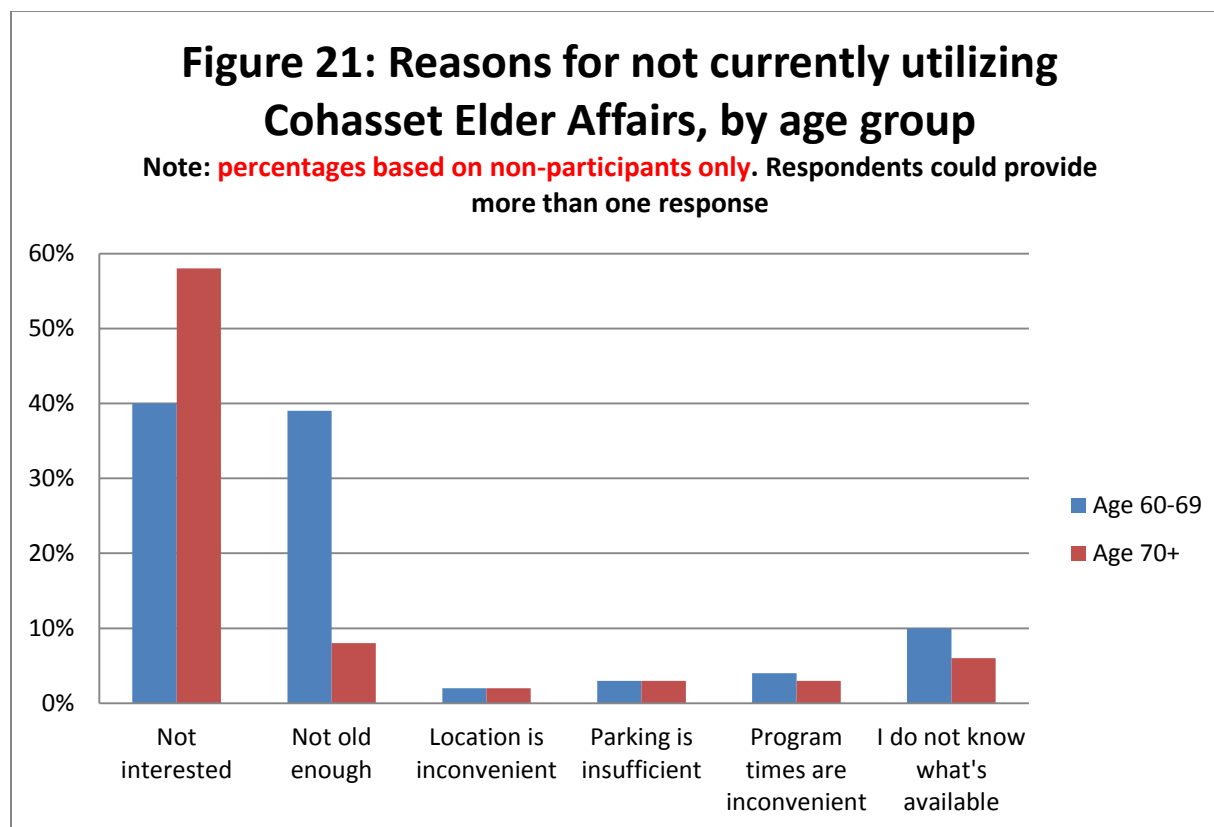
Respondents were invited to share their thoughts about the programs or services that they would most like to see offered at the proposed new senior center in Cohasset. The full list of write-in responses is included in Appendix C. Some specific programs were suggested, such as socialization programs for men, expanded opportunities for social interaction, and property tax relief. A number of respondents used this opportunity to voice support for the proposed senior center (“I feel that our seniors have paid their dues and should be given a place to both socialize and seek help as needed”) while others expressed opposition to the proposal (“I do not think a new center is necessary to offer the programs I believe are important”). Still others provided mixed evaluations, offering support for senior services yet opposition to building a new senior center (“I strongly support an effort to improve community educational, recreational and cultural facilities, perhaps through a new Center. However, I strongly disagree with a proposal to build a center exclusively for Seniors”).

A sizable share of the respondents to the survey—28% of all age groups—reports having used the programs or services offered by Cohasset Elder Affairs. As shown in Figure 20, participation is especially high among the oldest age category, with more than 50% of those aged 70 and older having participated in Cohasset Elder Affairs activities. Only 20% of respondents in their 60s, and 10-15% of the younger respondents report having done so. Although especially high rates of senior center participation for those aged 70+ are reported elsewhere in the literature (Pardasani and Thompson 2010), it is likely also that seniors who are familiar with Cohasset Elder Affairs were more likely to respond to the survey.



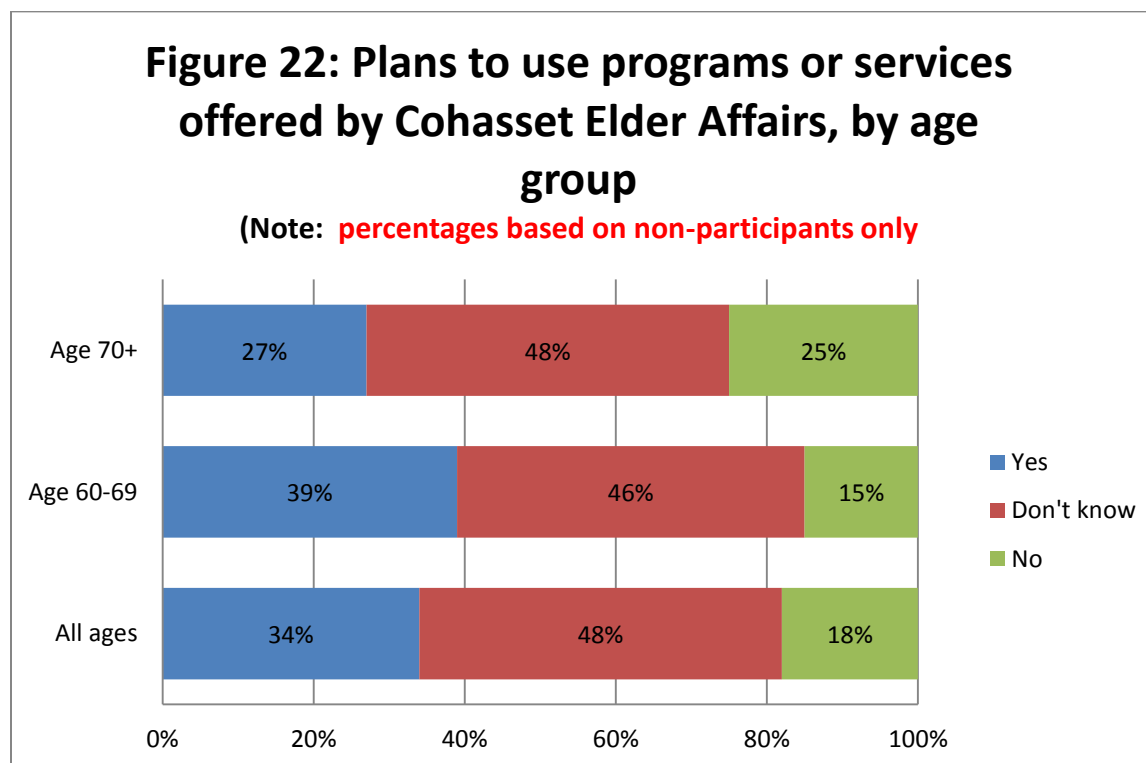
Residents who have not participated in Cohasset Elder Affairs programs and services were asked to report their reasons; respondents could report more than one reason if desired. Focusing just on those aged 60 and over (see Figure 21), the most commonly reported reason is lack of interest. The second most commonly reported reason for nonparticipants aged 60-69 is not being “old enough” (reported by nearly 40%), whereas no other single reason is reported by more than a few seniors aged 70 and older. A number of non-participants wrote in other reasons, with examples including the following: “Too busy”; “Nothing I am interested in is offered”; “Facility is inadequate and unappealing”; “I am fiercely independent and never, ever

bored”; and “Am I old enough? I am 69, but work full time.” Once again, the full list of responses is reproduced verbatim in Appendix C. As a reminder, these statistics and reports are drawn exclusively from those respondents who are not already participating in Elder Affairs activities.



Those who have not participated in Cohasset Elder Affairs programs and services were also asked if they plan to utilize them in the future. Results presented in Figure 22 suggest that nonparticipants of all ages typically express uncertainty as to whether they plan to use these programs in the future. Among those who are not already participating in Elder Affairs activities, just over one-quarter of seniors aged 70+, and more than one-third of seniors aged 60-69, report that they plan to utilize the programs in the future; one-quarter of those 70+ and 15% of those 60-69 report that they do not plan to use the programs. These reports suggest that all but 15-25% of Cohasset respondents are either planning to use the programs in the future, or think they may use them. Most residents are open to and potentially interested in

the offerings of Cohasset Elder Affairs, despite not being current participants. Write-in responses offered throughout the questionnaire suggest that many non-participants feel that under the right circumstances they would turn to Elder Affairs—for example, upon retirement, if they need transportation services, or when an offered program especially interests them.



All respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with the programs and services currently offered by Cohasset Elder Affairs. Figure 23 suggests that more than 40% of all respondents are “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the programs, but a sizable share of all age groups are “neither satisfied nor dissatisfied” with Elder Affairs programming. This response pattern is consistent with the large share of the respondents who do not know much about Elder Affairs’ programming or services, even among those who are age 60 and older. Figure 24 compares satisfaction ratings between those who are presumably most informed about Elder Affairs—those who have used their programs or services in the past—with the ratings of non-participants. Among participants, more than 70% report being “Very” or “somewhat” satisfied and only 21% are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. In contrast, two-thirds of those who have not used the services are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. Some

respondents express dissatisfaction with the current space (“We need more space!!!”), and others cite programming gaps (“No programs for younger, active seniors”). Many write-in responses in this section refer to limited knowledge of Elder Affairs (“Hard to judge as I have not participated”).

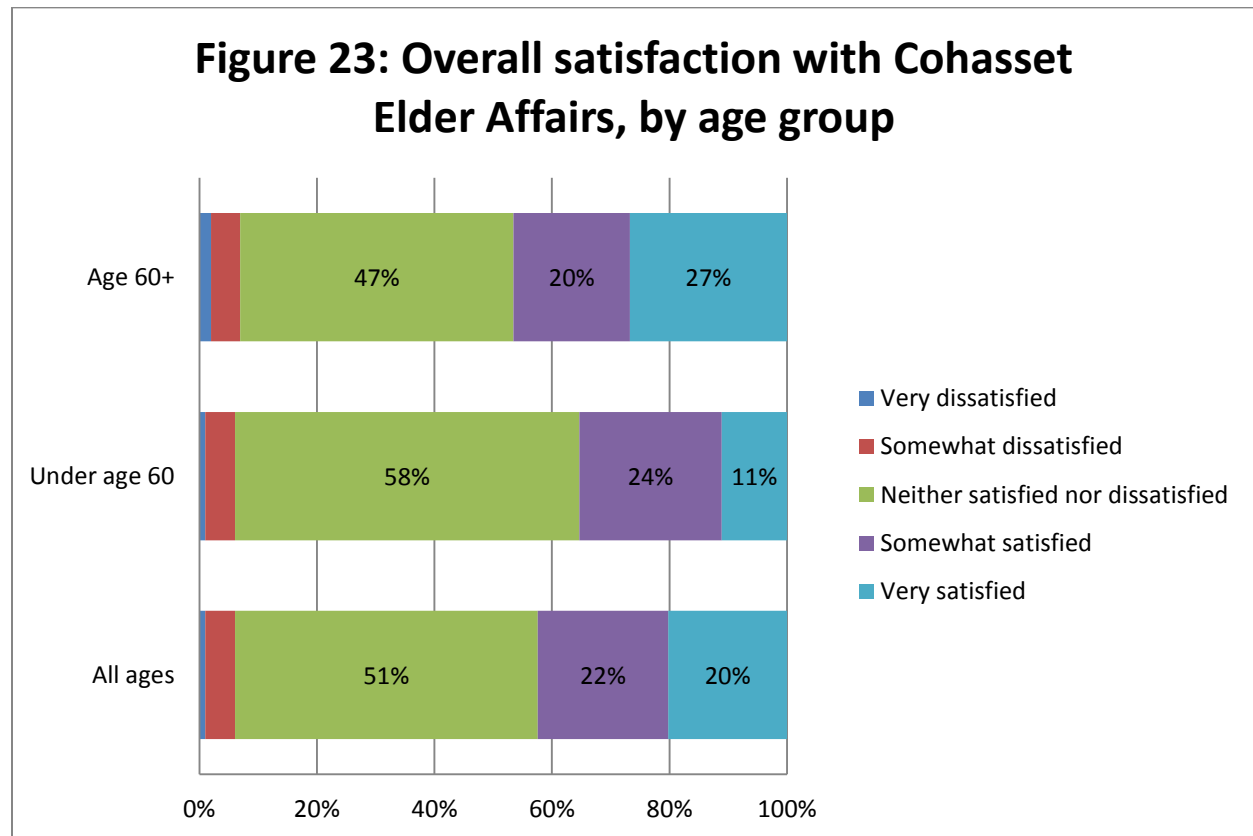
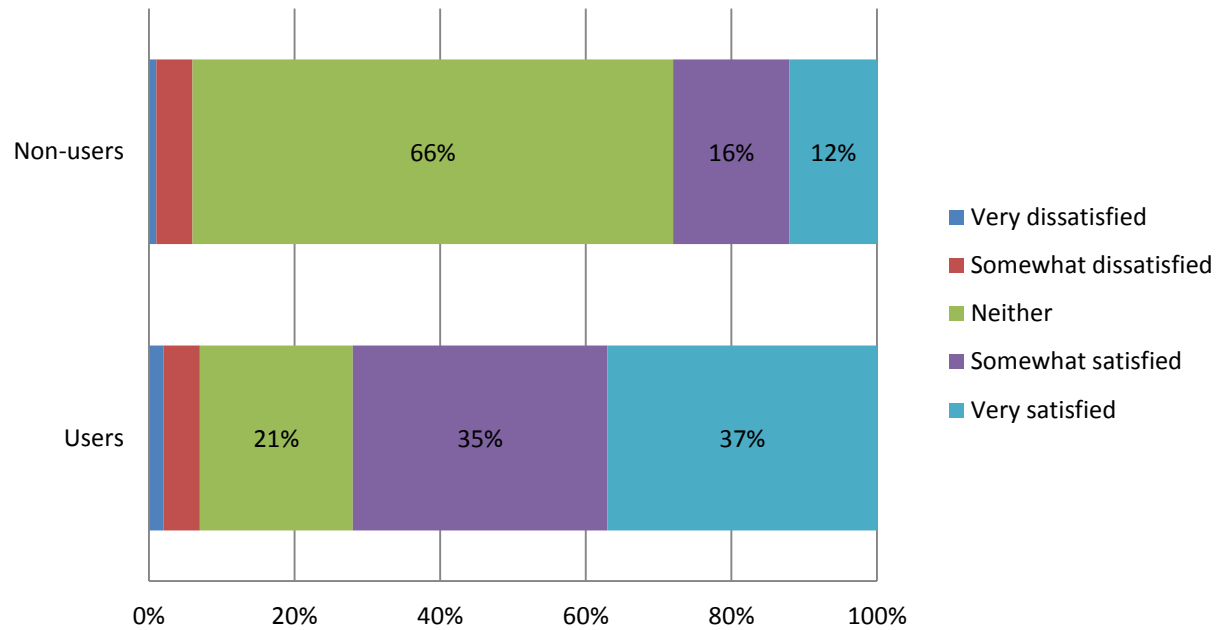


Figure 24: Overall satisfaction with Cohasset Elder Affairs, by user category



A number of respondents have experience with other towns' senior centers. Nearly one-quarter of the Cohasset respondents aged 60+ reports having traveled to other towns' senior centers to participate in their activities and programs (Figure 25). Those who have participated in Cohasset Elder Affairs programs and services are especially likely to be familiar with another town's Senior Center, with 41% reporting such participation (Figure 26).

Figure 25: Percentage visiting other towns' senior centers, by age group

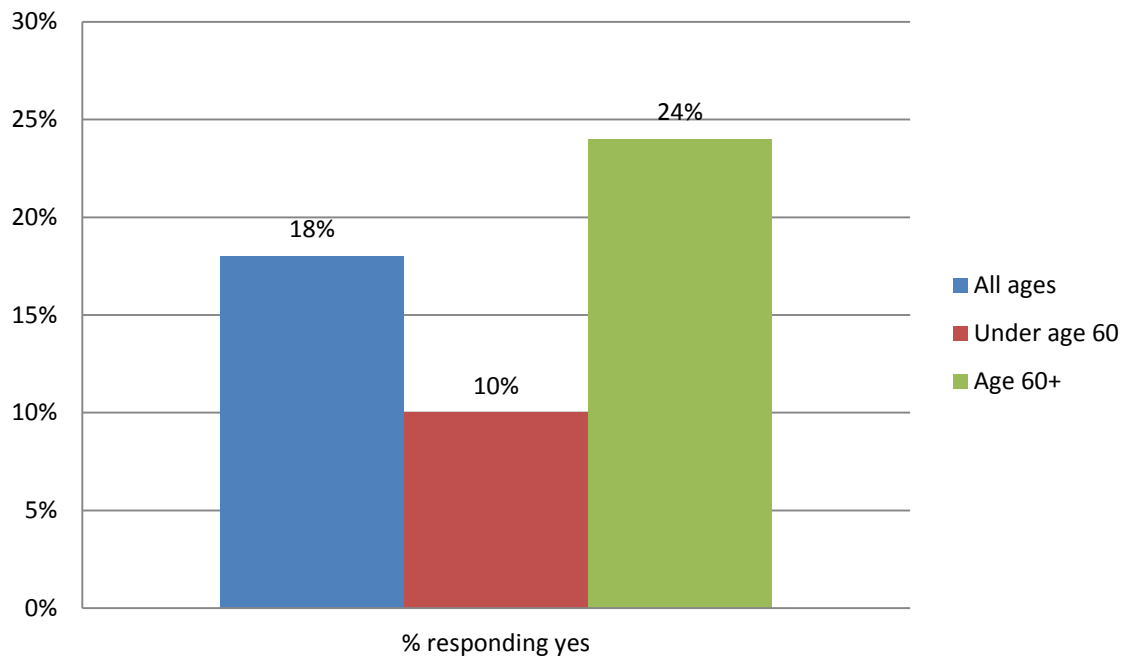
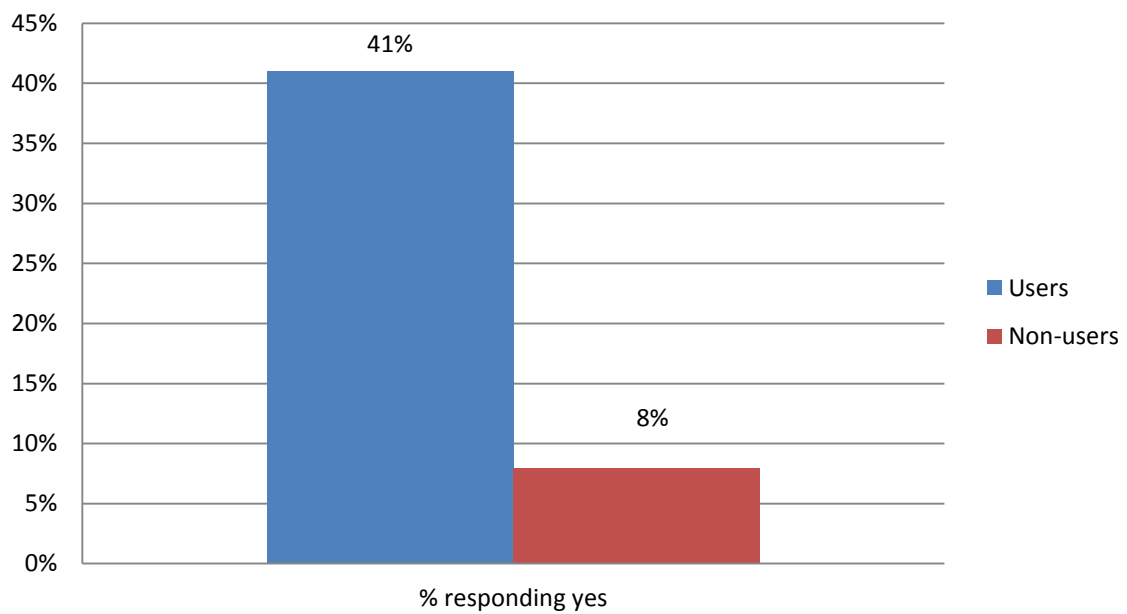
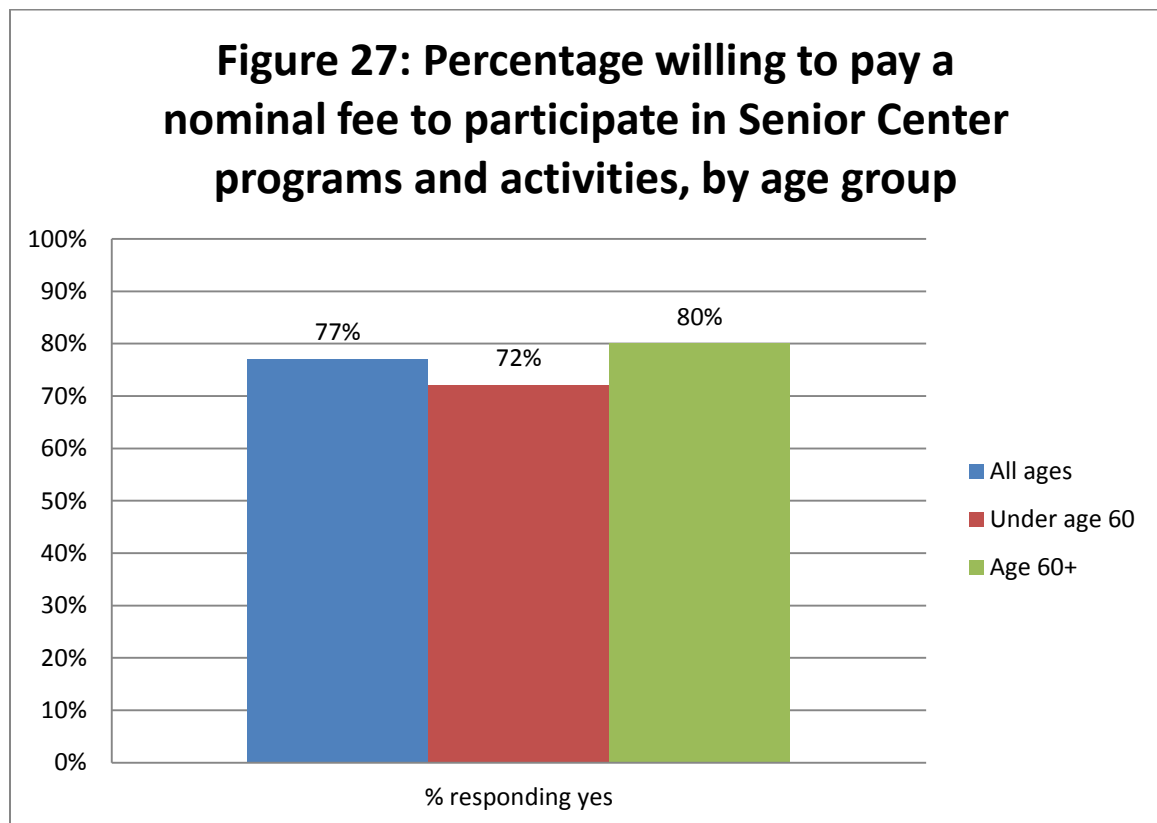
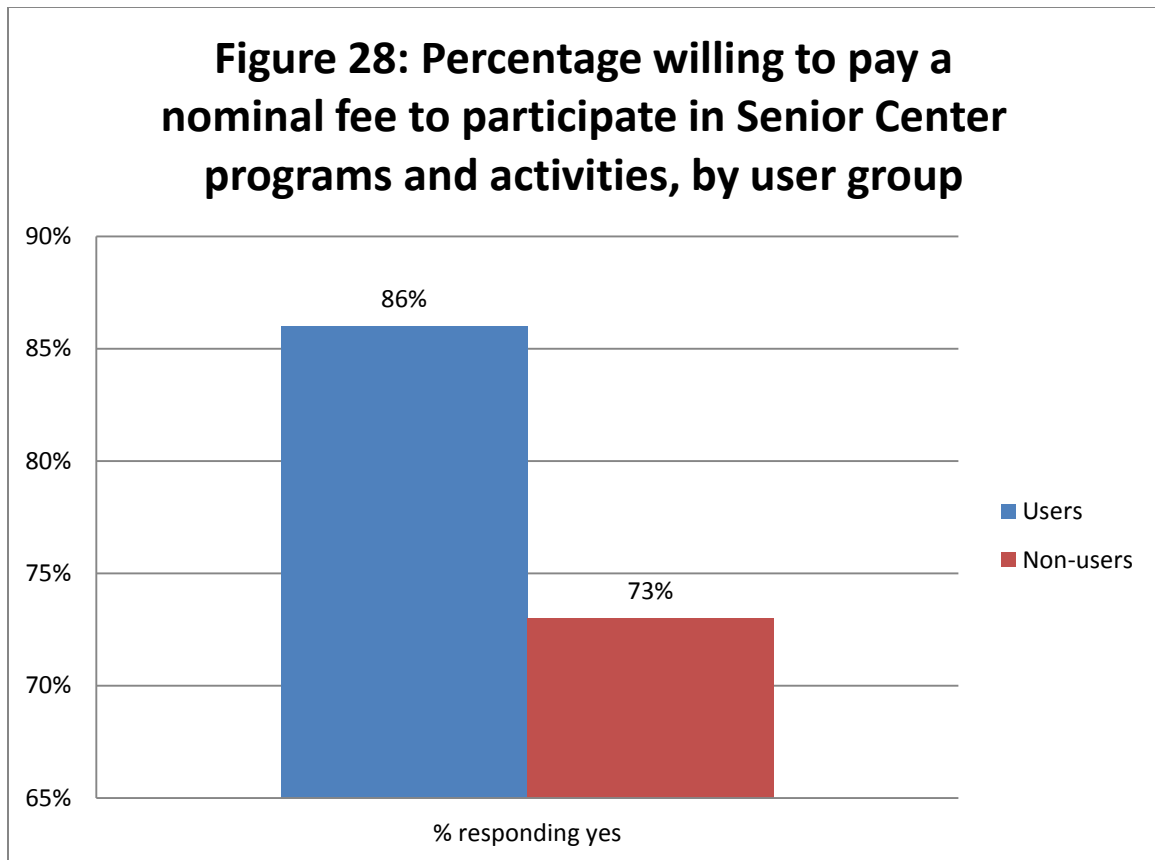


Figure 26: Percentage visiting other towns' senior centers, by user group



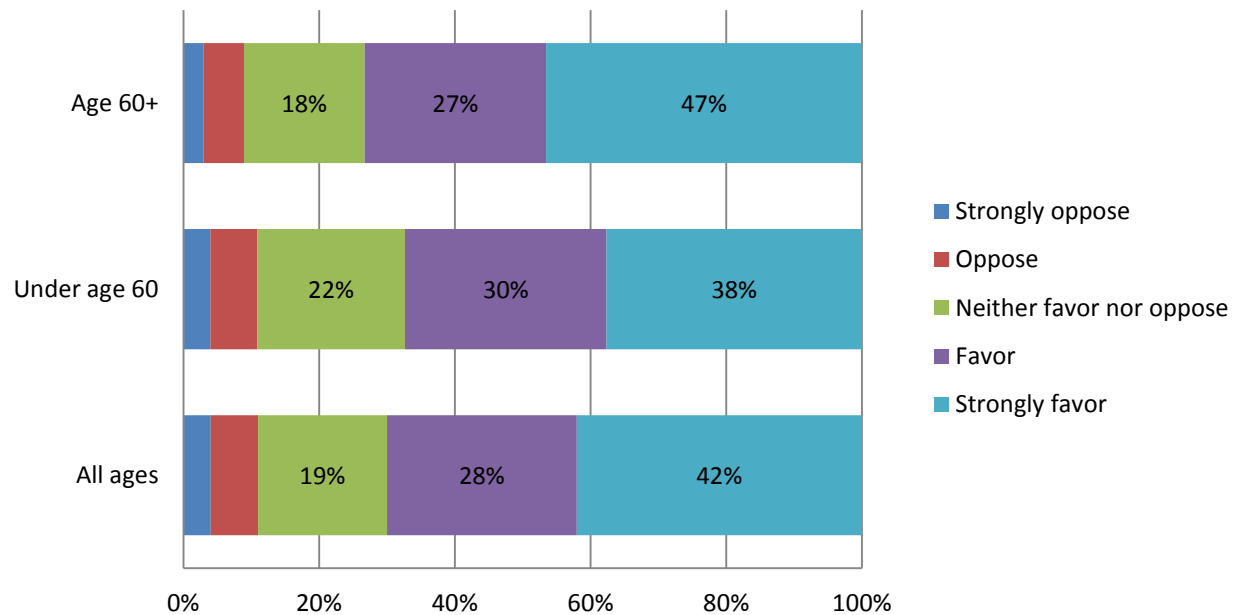
Respondents were asked about three specific issues of concern to Cohasset Elder Affairs. First, respondents were asked if they would be willing to pay a nominal fee to participate in the programs and activities offered by the Town of Cohasset Senior Center. More than 70% of all respondents, and 80% of those aged 60+, report that they would be willing to pay a small fee (Figure 27). Notably, a large majority (86%) of respondents who have used Elder Affairs programs express willingness to pay a fee, a larger share than among those who have not used the programs (73%; see Figure 28). Many respondents who offered additional input on this issue are in favor of some fee-based programming, at least for participants who can afford it and at a limited cost (e.g., “Those that can pay should be able to make some sort of financial commitment to the center. Those that cannot should still have access to the new center and its programs”). For the full list of write-in responses on this issue, see Appendix C.





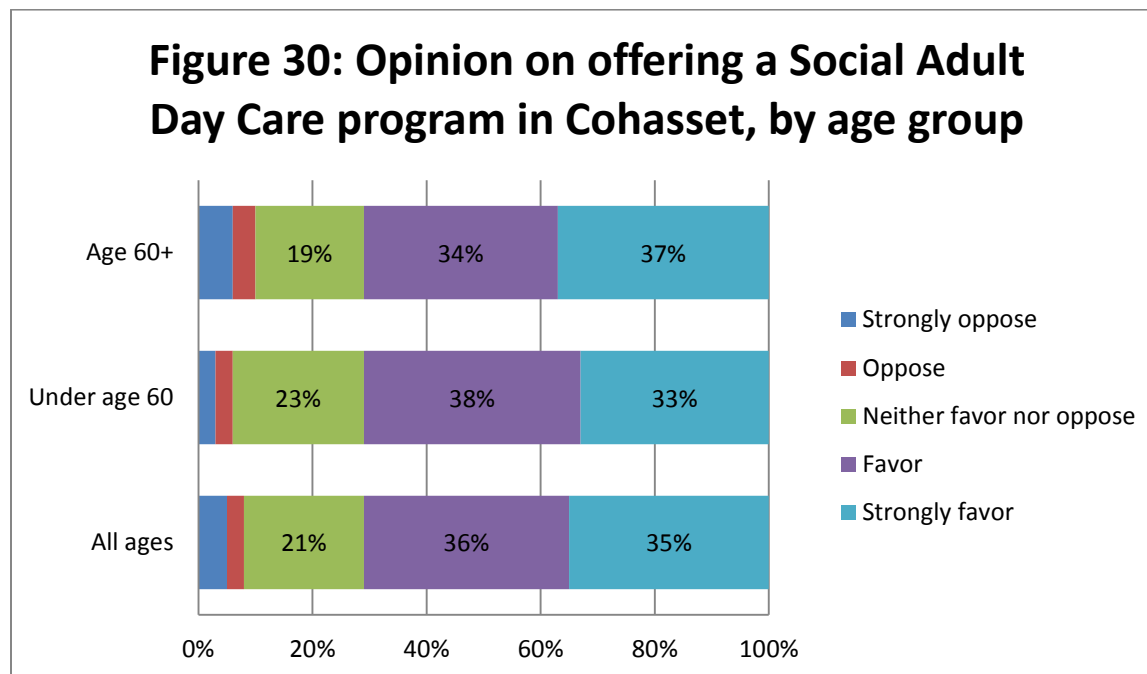
A second issue raised in the questionnaire focuses on tax work-off programs. Many towns in Massachusetts have implemented these programs for seniors. Tax work-off programs allow eligible seniors to receive a deduction from their property tax in exchange for volunteering their services to the town in which they live. COAs commonly manage tax work-off programs within the communities they serve. Respondents were asked to report the degree to which they favor or oppose implementing a tax work-off program for eligible seniors in Cohasset. As shown in Figure 29, more than 40% of all respondents “strongly favor” such a program, with another 28% responding that they “favor” a tax work-off program. Only 11% oppose or strongly oppose a tax work-off program for eligible seniors in Cohasset. Support for a program with these features is somewhat stronger among those aged 60+ than among those under age 60, although a majority of both groups report either favoring or strongly favoring it. Extensive write-in comments on this issue suggest interest in this program, with concerns raised about equity, impact on Town finances, and accountability (see Appendix C).

Figure 29: Opinion on implementing a tax work-off program for eligible seniors in Cohasset, by age group



Many towns also offer Social Adult Day Care programs through their Councils on Aging. Social Adult Day Care provides fee-based daytime supervision and care for adults in a small group setting in the senior center. These programs offer fitness and exercise, educational, recreational and socialization services, as well as meals and transportation. In the community survey, 70% of respondents report either favoring or strongly favoring offering a Social Adult Day Care program in Cohasset (see Figure 30). No sizable difference in favorability ratings on this issue are noted by age. Although few respondents express opposition, about 20% report neither favoring nor opposing a Social Adult Day Care program, suggesting that public education on this issue may be valued. Write-in comments highlight ways in which such a program could be helpful to community members. For example, one respondent wrote “For several years I cared for my husband, who suffered from Alzheimer's. It would have been very helpful to have an occasional day when I could bring him to an adult care center.” And as stated by another respondent, “these programs are a lifesaver to families who care for the elderly & need to work or have a break.” Although many respondents voice support for the concept, a

number note that the program should be self-supporting. For example, “This program, if implemented, should not be a burden to the town. It should be totally self-supporting through family contribution.” Other respondents suggest that any program should be offered in the private market (“This is a clear market for a private operation, this is not something our local town should provide”). Readers are invited to review the full list of comments reproduced in Appendix C.



Driving and socializing

Among the many services typically offered by senior centers, transportation services and opportunities for socialization are among the most commonly included. Data reported above suggest that community members value these programs. Information gleaned from survey respondents and described below suggests that segments of the population, especially those aged 70 and older, may benefit from these types of services.

Transportation barriers are a key issue for many seniors. Transportation to obtain needed services, to participate in valued activities, and to maintain social relationships is essential to well-being in later life. Yet seniors in many communities, especially those living in less geographically dense communities such as Cohasset, have few alternatives to driving as a

means of getting where they need and wish to go. Although barriers to continued driving are significant for some seniors nationally, all but 3% of the respondents to the Cohasset community survey report that they drive.⁸ Drivers were asked if they ever modify driving by avoiding certain situations such as driving at night or on the expressway. The share of respondents making no such modifications is high among those aged 18-39 (about 90%), but far lower among those aged 70 or more (56%) (see Figure 31). The most common modifications reported are avoiding driving at night, reported by 12% of drivers, and avoiding driving in bad weather, reported by 11%. Making left-hand turns, driving far or unfamiliar places, and driving on the expressway are avoided by 5-7% of the drivers in Cohasset (see Figure 32). Among drivers aged 70 and older, more than one-quarter avoid driving at night, 20% avoid driving in bad weather, 15% avoid driving far distances or in unfamiliar areas, 11% avoid expressway driving, and 7% avoid making left hand turns (see tables in Appendix B). These figures suggest that many in this age group have adapted their driving behaviors to their changing abilities; however, these accommodations may result in some seniors not being able to get where they wish to go.

⁸ Although older Cohasset residents are somewhat less likely to drive than are younger residents, only 5% of those aged 70 or more state that they do not drive.

Figure 31: Percentage of drivers making no modifications to driving, by age group

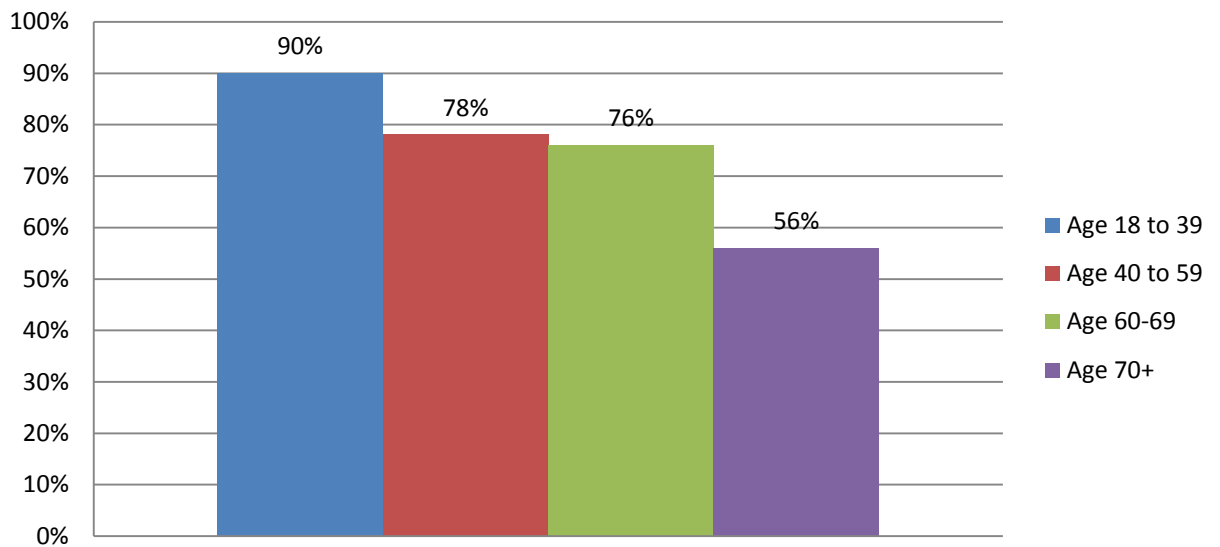
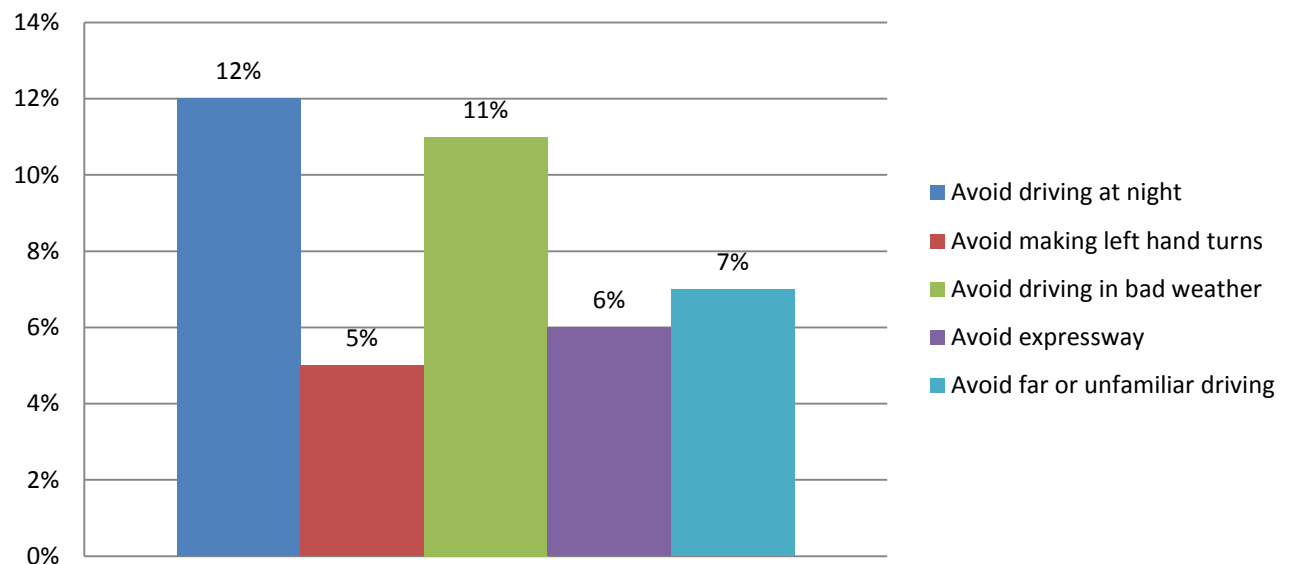
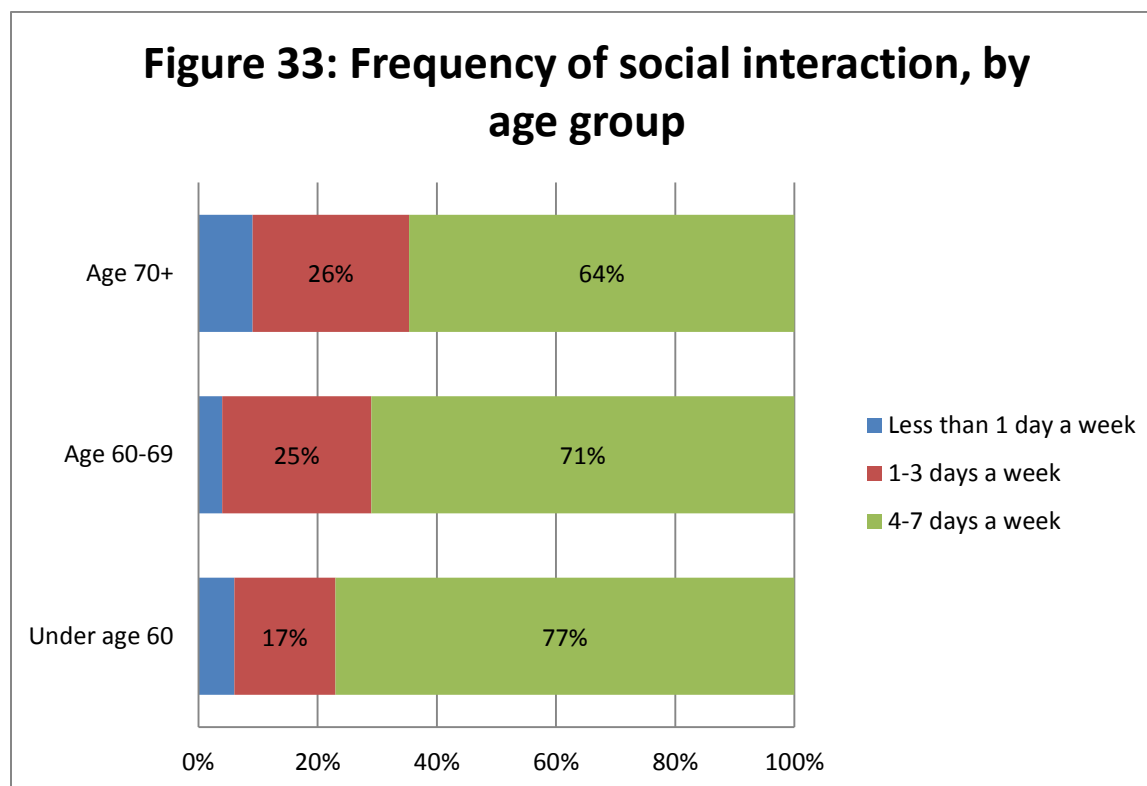


Figure 32: Percentage of drivers modifying driving in specified ways

Note: more than one modification may be reported



Social isolation is an issue for some seniors, especially those with physical limitations who live alone. Infrequent contact with social support networks, such as family members, friends, and neighbors, has been linked with mental and physical health risks (Thoits, 2011). As shown in Figure 33, a majority of respondents among all age groups interact with friends or relatives at least 4 days in a typical week, suggesting a high level of social engagement. Yet seniors report lower levels of engagement than their younger counterparts, with 9% of those aged 70 and older interacting with others less than one day a week, and another 26% interacting with others 1 to 3 days in a typical week. To the extent that these individuals may be interested in participating in expanded senior center activities, isolation and its associated health risks may be offset.



Additional comments

Questionnaire respondents were invited to share their thoughts about Cohasset Elder Affairs, and many did so. A full listing of these comments is included in Appendix C. Strong views are expressed by some respondents in support of expanded services (e.g., “Elder Affairs does a great job with the resources they have but they should be seeing more support from the

Town of Cohasset”) while other respondents cite the expense of expansion and questioned the need for services (“Town shouldn’t be our personal carer. The citizens of Cohasset should bear responsibility for themselves”). A very large number of respondents shared their views on this issue, citing a need for improved awareness of Elder Affairs services and programming, offering praise for current and potential offerings, and emphasizing the value that seniors bring to the community. However, financial concerns associated with expanded programming and/or building a new Senior Center are expressed by many participants.

Respondents were also invited to share their thoughts about the Town of Cohasset overall, and many offered a response. A full listing of these comments is also included in Appendix C. Themes highlighted in this section include a high level of attachment to the community of Cohasset, with concerns raised about cost of living, tax rates, and town politics. Many respondents chose to reiterate their support for, or resistance to, a new Senior Center. Others highlighted concerns about other aspects of the community, relating to the schools, roads, traffic enforcement, and other issues.

Examples of senior centers in other Massachusetts communities

Most communities in Massachusetts have a Council on Aging. Yet communities across the Commonwealth vary greatly in terms of the kinds of programs and services offered for seniors, the size and configuration of space designated for those activities, and the level of staffing used to provide those services. The Executive Office of Elder Affairs allocates funds to COAs based on size of the senior population, but these distributions are small (e.g., in FY2012 the allocation for Cohasset was \$10,550, or just over \$6 per adult resident aged 60 and over). COAs supplement these distributions with grants, fundraising by Boosters or Friends groups, and fees for certain services. Typically a large share of COA expenses is funded as part of the Town budget.

Part of the goal in conducting this project was to gain insight into likely financial costs associated with operating a new Senior Center. As a basis for comparison, information was obtained from 4 communities in Massachusetts that have Senior Centers: Halifax, Southborough, Marshfield, and Duxbury. Interviews were conducted by phone and/or by email

with the Directors of the Senior Centers in each of these communities. Data were collected on budget, funding mechanisms, programs offered, level of usage, and staffing. Each of these communities is unique, and each has made choices about how to serve the needs of older residents, taking into consideration local resources, values, and goals. Information obtained from these towns is therefore not offered as targets or recommendations for Cohasset, but rather is meant to provide a range of scenarios in place within other communities.

As a means of providing context, Table 1 provides data on the four selected towns, in comparison to Cohasset. Two of the towns—Halifax and Southborough—are similar to Cohasset in terms of the number of seniors residing in the community; each of these communities has 1,500 to 1,700 residents aged 60+. The share of the total population represented by adults aged 60+ is similar in four of the communities (21%-23%), with Southborough's share being lower (about 17%). Although the towns share high socioeconomic status on average, Cohasset, Southborough, and Duxbury enjoy especially high median household incomes, and a majority of adults in these communities have a college degree.

Table 1: Demographic features of comparison communities

	Cohasset	Halifax	Southborough	Marshfield	Duxbury
Population (2010)	7,542	7,518	9,767	25,132	15,059
Population aged 60+ (2010)	1,688	1,561	1,609	5,143	3,530
Percentage age 60+	22.4%	20.8%	16.5%	20.5%	23.4%
Median household income	\$114,214	\$81,855	\$140,184	\$86,486	\$114,565
Percentage of adults with a college degree	65%	23%	68%	48%	68%

Source: 2010 Census Summary File 1; 2006-2010 American Community Survey Summary File

Features and staffing of the senior centers. Table 2 outlines some features of the senior centers in place within the four communities. Although Cohasset does not have a free-standing senior center as the other four communities do, information on currently available space and staffing for Cohasset is listed. Three of the comparison senior centers were constructed within the last 12 years while the fourth was opened in the 1980s. The centers vary in size from 4,000 square feet to more than 12,000 square feet. One way to gauge adequacy of senior center space is by calculating a ratio of square feet available to age-eligible (age 60+) community members. The Executive Office of Elder Affairs suggests 5.5 square feet per senior resident as a minimum target for Senior Center square footage; all four centers have space falling below this level. When asked if available space meets its current needs, only Duxbury reports that its space is adequate for its current needs. None of the center directors report having adequate space for needs anticipated in the future. As well, rooms that are too small or awkwardly configured for programs and activities are mentioned by some directors.

Table 2: Features and staffing of senior centers in comparison communities

	Halifax	Southborough	Marshfield	Duxbury	Cohasset
Year opened	1980s	2005	2003	2001	1991
Square feet	6,600	4,000	12,600	12,500	2,500 (includes shared space)
Ratio, sq ft/seniors	4.2	2.5	2.5	3.5	1.3 if including shared space, .27 if not
Number of rooms	13	7	10	12	3, if including shared space, 1 if not
Hours of operation	M-F, 8-4	M-F, 8-3 Sat, 9-12	M-F 8:30-4:30 Occasional weekends	M&TH 8-8 T&W 8-4 F 8-12 Occasional weekends	M-F 8 – 4
Number of full-time staff	2	1	4	6	1
Number of part-time staff	7	5	12	17	6
# of volunteers	84	100	312	246	194
Volunteer hours	56hrs/week	25-50hrs/week	630hrs/week	1-10hrs/week per volunteer	177 hrs/wk

The space currently available for senior programming is far smaller in Cohasset than in any of the comparison communities, both in absolute terms (2,500 square feet) and in comparison to the number of seniors living in Cohasset (1.3 square feet per senior resident, including shared space in the calculation). If the new Senior Center is built to the 5.5 square feet/senior resident minimum standard, the new Center would be built to at least 9,300 square feet (using the 2010 population of residents aged 60+ as the basis). If likely growth in the size of the senior population between 2010 and 2020 of 20-25% is taken into account, the minimum square footage recommended would be 11,100 to 11,600 square feet.

Staffing levels are similar in Cohasset to Southborough, somewhat lower than Halifax, and considerably lower than Marshfield and Duxbury. Each community uses a combination of full-time staff, part-time staff, and volunteers, and all employ full-time directors. Volunteers form a central component to the staffing of all COAs. Directors report that volunteers are used extensively in running the centers and providing services. For example, volunteers provide administrative assistance, serve as friendly visitors, deliver Meals on Wheels, serve as drivers in the center's transportation programs, and teach classes. Volunteer participation in Cohasset is high, considerably higher than in the comparison communities of most similar population size (Halifax and Southborough).

Financing the Senior Centers. The total budgets reported by the directors vary widely, reflecting size of the population served, sources of financing, and range of programs offered. Subsidies and fees are used by centers to offset many programming expenses; for example, congregate meals offered at the center may be provided by local ASAPs⁹ and therefore do not represent a direct expense of the center. Similarly, funding received from outside organizations in support of key programs—such as transportation funding from GATRA or other entities—represent opportunities to provide significant services to seniors that may otherwise be absent. Senior centers rely on a combination of funding sources, often including a substantial amount of donated and in-kind support, and they are staffed to a considerable but variable extent by volunteers. Thus it is not surprising that consistently calculated estimates of total budgets are challenging to obtain.

⁹ ASAPs are Aging Services Access Points. These are private, non-profit agencies that span multiple communities and provide services to seniors.

As shown in Table 3, total operating budgets, and the funds allocated by the towns to their COAs, vary considerably across these communities. Comparisons are difficult for a number of reasons. As noted, some programs are fee-based or subsidized by outside entities. Some directors receive Town subsidies such as building maintenance and telephone service that are not included in their COA budgets. All four comparison towns report substantial outside fundraising that helps to close the gap between Town support and the full expense of operations. Halifax and Southborough, towns similar to Cohasset in terms of the number of senior residents, report annual budgets of \$200,000-\$250,000, with 75-85% of their budgets being provided by the town. Although considerably larger, with a corresponding larger budget, Duxbury also receives about 75% of its funding from town resources. Although Marshfield receives just over half of its direct funding from town resources, the COA director reports that when town subsidies are included, about 80% of its funding is covered by the town. The budget for Cohasset is similar to or a bit higher than budgets for Halifax and Southborough, the towns of most similar population size. The share of overall budget contributed by the Town in Cohasset is considerably higher, at 90%. If a new Center is built in Cohasset that approximates the size of the Marshfield or Duxbury Center, the total budget would be expected to increase considerably in Cohasset. However, the net increase to the Town budget could be lessened if subsidies, grants, fee-based services, and fundraising activities generate a larger share of the overall support than is currently evident.

Table 3: Budgeting and programs, senior centers in comparison communities

	Halifax	Southborough	Marshfield	Duxbury	Cohasset
COA Budget*	\$200,532	\$250,580	\$383,186	\$637,354	\$264,940
Town budget for COA**	\$153,257	\$213,924	\$204,686	\$471,401	\$238,390
Special programs					
Offers a tax work-off program	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Number of tax work-off slots	n/a	30	33	35	n/a
Budget for the tax work—off program	n/a	\$30,000	\$25,000	\$35,000	n/a
Adult day care available	No	No	No	Yes	No
ADC attendance	n/a	n/a	n/a	11	n/a
ADC fee	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$40/day	n/a

*Budget amount reported by the Senior Center Director; includes multiple sources of funding

** Town funding reported for FY13 in the Town Warrant (retrieved online)

All four comparison communities offer some fee-based programs. For example, Halifax charges participants for special events that include meals, and for Zumba (a popular fitness activity). Three of the four communities offer a tax work-off program, including 30-35 participant slots. Budgets for the tax work-off program range from \$750-\$1,000 per participant. Duxbury is the only community of the four to offer adult day care. Eleven participants attend the Duxbury ADC, and it is offered two days per week at a charge of \$40 per day. The Duxbury Center Director reports that a third day will be added in December to accommodate 10 more attendees. She notes that scholarships are offered to families who

need assistance. Neither of the special programs offered in some of the other communities—the tax work-off program or the Social Adult Day Care program—are currently in place in Cohasset.

Conclusion

The Town of Cohasset is considering the construction of a new Senior Center that will provide the opportunity for expanded programming within a dedicated structure. Cohasset Elder Affairs currently operates out of space that is too small with reference to metrics offered by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, in comparison to similarly sized communities, and as reported by many respondents to the community survey. The construction of a new Senior Center would support the expansion of programs and services, and generate efficiencies resulting from a consolidation of activities and administration. Evidence collected for this report suggests that a large and growing senior population resides in Cohasset, and that most adult residents of all ages value Elder Affairs programming.

A new Senior Center is expected to expand programs and activities, potentially increasing the share of seniors who are drawn to participate. Yet even a stable rate of participation in programs and services will result in growing usage, as the older population continues to grow in number. The Executive Office of Elder Affairs for Massachusetts suggests that senior centers be built to a minimum of 5.5 square feet per senior resident in a community. The space currently available to Cohasset Elder Affairs amounts to 1.3 square feet per senior. If new space were made available applying the recommended square footage to the 2010 senior population of Cohasset, at least 9,300 square feet would be required. If expectations about the growth in the size of the senior population between 2010 and 2020 are taken into account, the minimum square footage recommended would be 11,100 to 11,600 square feet.

The Town of Cohasset is proceeding in a thoughtful way as it reflects upon its options for meeting the needs of its current and future older residents. Results from the community survey suggest that residents have a high level of satisfaction with the town and a strong positive evaluation of the importance of town services, including Elder Affairs. Age differences

in the perceived importance of specific town services are generally small. Services currently provided—including services for seniors as well as those for children, public safety, and others—are widely valued across age groups. Together, these services make up important features of the overall high quality of life that is enjoyed by members of the Cohasset community.

In tandem with consideration of a new Senior Center, Cohasset is evaluating the kinds of services and programs it will provide to seniors. An extensive list of senior services—some of which are being considered for expansion while others would be offered for the first time—receives strong and consistent positive evaluations by residents responding to the community survey. The highest levels of support are reported for the kinds of programs that are central to senior health and community involvement, including transportation services, information and referral, meal programs, and wellness programs. However, recreational programs are rated highly as well, including trips and outings, adult education, and fitness activities. Indeed, at least 70% of community respondents rates every mentioned service as “important” or “very important,” in recognition of the widespread value attached to programming that targets Cohasset seniors. While some of these services may not require significant additions to space—transportation services, for example—expansion of other services such as meal programs, wellness programs, educational and fitness activities likely would need additional square footage. An expansion of administrative space and consolidation of programming space within a single structure would likely result in efficiencies that could be beneficial for Cohasset Elder Affairs.

Overall, a high level of support for seniors within the community, and for services and programs offered through Elder Affairs, is evident in Cohasset. However, mixed comments are offered by respondents with respect to the need for a new Senior Center in order to deliver the essential services. Some community members are concerned about the pressure a new Center may place on Town finances. Figures presented on finances and programming for four comparison towns suggests that these concerns are not without merit. Yet, the overall budget and quality of a new Senior Center will depend heavily not only on the funds provided by the Town, but also on the extent to which the Board and Director of the COA are successful in

supplementing Town commitments with other sources of funds, including donations, grants, and the selected offering of fee-based programs and services. This supplemental financing is an important part of the overall budget for all of the comparison towns reviewed in this report. The stated willingness of Cohasset community survey respondents to pay for some programs, and the enthusiasm for volunteerism expressed in the survey, suggests that efforts to generate supplemental funding will be successful.

Several additional observations are offered based on this study. First, improved public education about the services and programs offered through Elder Services would be beneficial. A large share of respondents to the community survey expresses limited awareness of Cohasset Elder Affairs and its offerings, even among older age groups. The community already offers a considerable amount of support and enthusiasm for Cohasset Elder Affairs; greater participation in the COA's activities may result from broader awareness of its programs and services. Second, greater attention to the needs and interests of younger seniors may be beneficial. Nationally, many young seniors are drawn to well-designed educational programs such as Late Life Learning programs. As well, many young seniors benefit from programs relating to caregiver concerns, retirement planning, or downsizing—common experiences shared by young segments of the senior population. Bringing more young residents into Elder Affairs activities will increase familiarity with the COA, making it more likely that services that are often most beneficial to older seniors—such as transportation, meals, or information and referral—are sought out when they are needed. Third, improved public education about the variation in needs and resources of community members throughout Cohasset may be useful. Perhaps in response to Cohasset's reputation as a privileged community, some residents may fail to recognize the frailty, isolation, and income insecurity that is present in their neighborhoods. These attributes only characterize a minority of Cohasset's seniors; moreover, income security, isolation, and frailty are present in younger populations as well as among some seniors. However, Cohasset Elder Affairs is a resource for those seniors within the community who could benefit from support, and can provide leadership for the community on these issues. Finally, as the Town continues its deliberations around the construction of a new Senior Center, sensitivity to community concerns about associated expense may be warranted.

These concerns may be addressed to some extent through public education around the value added to the community at large by well-designed and targeted programming, such as programs that support seniors' efforts to maintain their homes and neighborhoods. Helping community members to understand the potential posed by a vibrant senior center for volunteerism and strengthened community networks may also be beneficial. As well, it may be helpful to explain ways in which a well-functioning senior center can have broad community benefit—for example, by helping to bring stability to neighborhoods as seniors are able to remain in their homes, by promoting senior wellness, and by supporting the goal of a high quality of life that extends across the life course.

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Appendix A: Methodology

A key goal in collecting data through a community survey was to offer every adult resident the opportunity to respond to the issues presented. This goal resulted in two decisions. First, *all* residents aged 18 and over were eligible to respond, rather than just those individuals who were at or approaching an age at which they may be interested in using a senior center. Second, due to the large number of potential respondents, a mail survey was determined to be cost-prohibitive and an internet survey was designed. Topics covered by the questionnaire included the quality of life in Cohasset; the importance of specific Town services (including but not limited to services for seniors); transportation in Cohasset; and social and demographic characteristics of the respondents. This questionnaire was posted to SurveyMonkey, a secure online site for creating and conducting surveys (<http://www.surveymonkey.com/>). The questionnaire is reproduced below, as Exhibit A.1.

A postcard inviting participation was sent to every resident of Cohasset aged 18 and older (see Exhibit A.2). The Town address list was used to generate the mailing. The postcard included the website through which residents could access the questionnaire, along with an individual key code; each respondent was required to enter his or her key code in order to access the web survey. Additional efforts to encourage participation were undertaken by the Town, including posting flyers, news media coverage, and encouragement by town officials.

Despite the advantages of web-based data collection, some significant disadvantages are acknowledged. Some individuals who wished to participate may not have access to a computer or to the internet. Other individuals may lack the knowledge or physical dexterity to use a computer; as well, some individuals are reluctant to enter any information online. Efforts were taken by the research team to minimize the extent to which each of these disadvantages prevented participation. Three public sessions were scheduled in Cohasset during which interested community members could use public computers, receiving personal assistance if desired (See Exhibit A.3). Although few community members took advantage of these opportunities, those who did are unlikely to have participated in the absence of these sessions. As well, public computers at the Town library were available during normal hours for any resident to participate if desired. It is not known how many residents participated on public computers. For those lacking the knowledge, physical dexterity, or interest in responding online,

additional options were made available. A phone number was provided on the postcard. Residents who called the number were advised of the opportunities to receive assistance during one of the three public events held in Cohasset. As well, paper surveys were mailed to residents who requested this option.

The address list received from the Town included a total of 6110 names of residents aged 18 and older. A personally addressed postcard was mailed to each individual; 207 postcards were returned as undeliverable, resulting in a total of 5,903 potential respondents. Of these, 511 responses were received, for a response rate of 9%. This is a lower rate of return than is desirable, but not unexpected given the challenges associated with internet surveys. Nearly all of these responses were received online, with 16 returned by mail. Response rates were higher for older residents (eg, 17% for those aged 70 and older), presumably as a result of higher interest in the topic among the older residents (see Table A.1).

Table A.1: Response rates by age group, Cohasset Community Survey

Age of resident	Mailed and delivered	Number returned*	Response rate
18-39	1,509	62	4.1%
40 to 59	2,579	175	6.8%
60 to 69	950	127	13.4%
70 and older	865	147	17.0%
TOTAL	5,903	511	8.7%

*Note: A small number of questionnaires were returned with no age identified. These responses were distributed across age groups in proportion to the distribution of those reporting age, and are reflected in these calculations.

A low response rate is of special concern when the individuals who respond are substantially different from those who do not participate. As suggested above, respondents to the questionnaire are measurably older than Town residents overall. Table A.2 below illustrates that whether compared to the 2010 Census age distribution or the address list provided by the Town, respondents were far more common in the 60+ age groups. In an effort to compensate for this

overabundance of older respondents in the respondent pool, many of the statistics presented in this report drawn from the community survey are reported by age group.

Table A.2: Age distribution of responses, address list, and 2010 Census

	Respondents	2010 Census	Cohasset address list
18-39	12%	21%	26%
40 to 59	34%	48%	44%
60 to 69	25%	15%	16%
70 and older	29%	16%	14%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%



**Town of
Cohasset
Massachusetts**

Town of Cohasset Community Survey

Welcome to the Town of Cohasset Community Survey!

1. Please write in your personal key code. This code is located on the postcard you received in the mail below your name. (See diagram).

Personal Key Code:

Personal Key Code

John Doe

00000

4200 Main Street
Cohasset, MA 02025

2. Are you currently age 18 or older?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If No, please do not continue. To complete this survey you must be 18 years or older. Thank you for your participation.

Section I. About Living in Cohasset

First we'd like to hear your thoughts on Cohasset as a community in which to live.

3. Overall, how satisfied are you with living in Cohasset?

- ☐ Very satisfied
- ☐ Somewhat satisfied
- ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- ☐ Somewhat dissatisfied
- ☐ Very dissatisfied

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Cohasset as a community in which to live:

4. Shopping opportunities in Cohasset

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Don't know

7. Educational opportunities for adults in Cohasset

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Don't know

5. Recreational opportunities in Cohasset

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Don't know

8. Activities designed for older adults in Cohasset

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Don't know

6. Ease of getting where you want to go in Cohasset

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Don't know

9. Sense of community in Cohasset

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Don't know

10.Opportunities to volunteer in Cohasset

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Don't know

12.Opportunities for social interaction in Cohasset

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Don't know

11.Cultural activities in Cohasset

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Don't know

13.Opportunities to obtain health services in Cohasset

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Don't know

14.How would you rate Cohasset as a place for senior citizens to live?

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Don't know

If you would care to comment further, please do so here:

Section II. About Cohasset Town Services

In this section we would like to hear your opinion on the importance of the services provided by the Town of Cohasset to its residents.

15.The following is a list of services provided by the Town of Cohasset. Please rate the importance of each service to the community as a whole.

	Very important	Important	Neutral	Unimportant	Very unimportant
Services	1	2	3	4	5
Police services					
Fire services					
Traffic enforcement					
Street repair					
Sidewalk maintenance					
Maintenance of town parks					
Services for seniors					
Public library services					
Harbor maintenance					
Preserving open space					
Public schools					
Recycling Transfer Facility					
Sewer service and water treatment					
Zoning and building inspection					
Services for youth					
Recreation programs					

Section III. About Cohasset Elder Affairs

Cohasset Elder Affairs is a Town office that provides programs and services designed to meet the interests and the physical, educational, mental health, and social needs of the older population of Cohasset. In this section we'd like to hear your thoughts and opinions on Cohasset Elder Affairs, its programs and services, and the new Senior Center that has been proposed.

16. The following programs and services are currently available, or are being considered, by Cohasset Elder Affairs. Please rate the importance of each program or service to the community.

	Very important	Important	Neutral	Unimportant	Very unimportant
Programs and Services	1	2	3	4	5
Transportation services to medical appointments, grocery shopping and errands					
Social and recreational outings such as trips to museums and shopping					
Information and referral including information about local resources and care providers					
Cultural activities including presentations, current event lectures and art exhibits					
Social activities such as clubs, and card and board games					
Fitness activities such as tai chi, yoga and dancing					

	Very important	Important	Neutral	Unimportant	Very unimportant
Programs and Services	1	2	3	4	5
Meal programs, including congregate lunches and Meals on Wheels					
Family support activities such as caregiver support groups, bereavement support and caregiving seminars					
Opportunities for older adults to volunteer					
Health and wellness programs, such as blood pressure clinics, podiatry and health education series					
In-home support services, such as home repairs and homebound service assessments					
Adult education or Life-Long Learning Programs, including job skills, computer training and art and language classes					
Professional services, such as tax preparation, legal services, and health insurance counseling (SHINE)					

	Very important	Important	Neutral	Unimportant	Very unimportant
Programs and Services	1	2	3	4	5
Assistance with local or state programs such as fuel assistance, Medicaid and Veterans Assistance eligibility					
In-home visits to home-bound seniors from volunteers					

17. What programs or services would you most like to see offered at the proposed new senior center in Cohasset?

18. Have you ever used the programs or services offered by Cohasset Elder Affairs?

- ☐ Yes [If yes, please skip to question #21]
☐ No

19. What is the reason you do not currently utilize the Cohasset Elder Affairs programs and services? **[Check all that apply]**

- ☐ I am not interested
☐ I am not old enough
☐ I do not have transportation
☐ The location of programs is not convenient
☐ Parking is insufficient
☐ The programs are not offered at times that are convenient
☐ I do not know about the available programs and services
☐ Other (please specify)

20. Do you plan to utilize the programs or services offered by Cohasset Elder Affairs in the future?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know

21. Overall, how satisfied are you with the programs and services currently offered by Cohasset Elder Affairs?

- ☐ Very satisfied
- ☐ Somewhat satisfied
- ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- ☐ Somewhat dissatisfied
- ☐ Very Dissatisfied

If you would care to comment further, please do so here:

22. Would you be willing to pay a nominal fee to participate in the programs and activities offered by the Town of Cohasset senior center?

- ☐ Yes, I would pay a small fee
- ☐ No, I would not be willing to pay a small fee

If you would care to comment further, please do so here:

23. Have you ever traveled to other towns' senior centers to participate in their activities and programs?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

24.Many towns in Massachusetts have implemented tax work-off programs for seniors. Tax work-off programs allow eligible seniors to receive a deduction from their property tax in exchange for volunteering their services to the town in which they live.

To what degree do you favor or oppose implementing a tax work-off program for eligible seniors in Cohasset?

- ☐ Strongly favor
- ☐ Favor
- ☐ Neither favor nor oppose
- ☐ Oppose
- ☐ Strongly oppose

If you would care to comment further, please do so here:

25.Many towns offer a Social Adult Day Care program through their Council on Aging. Social Adult Day Care provides fee based daytime supervision and care for adults in a small group setting in the senior center. These programs offer fitness and exercise, educational, recreational and socialization services, as well as meals and transportation.

To what degree do you favor or oppose offering a Social Adult Day Care program in Cohasset?

- ☐ Strongly favor
- ☐ Favor
- ☐ Neither favor nor oppose
- ☐ Oppose
- ☐ Strongly oppose

If you would care to comment further, please do so here:

Section IV. About You and Your Family

The final set of questions is about your activities, and demographic information about you and your family.

26. Do you drive?

- ☐ Yes [If yes, please skip to question #29]
- ☐ No

27. Do you experience any transportation difficulties in getting to where you want to go?

- ☐ No, obtaining adequate transportation is not a problem for me
- ☐ Yes, I sometimes cannot go where I would like because transportation is not available or convenient
- ☐ Yes, I often cannot go where I would like because transportation is not available or convenient

28. How do you meet your transportation needs? **(Check all that apply)**

[Following this question, please skip to question #30]

- ☐ My spouse or child(ren) drive me
- ☐ Friends or neighbors drive me
- ☐ Public transportation
- ☐ Cohasset Elder Services transportation services
- ☐ Taxi
- ☐ Other (please specify)

29. Do you ever modify your driving by engaging in any of the following behaviors?
(Check all that apply)

- ☐ Not applicable, I do not modify my driving at all
- ☐ I avoid driving at night
- ☐ I avoid making left hand turns
- ☐ I avoid driving in bad weather
- ☐ I avoid expressway driving
- ☐ I avoid driving far distances or in unfamiliar areas
- ☐ Other changes to driving behaviors (please specify):

30. How often do you talk on the phone, email or get together with friends or relatives in a typical week?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Less than one day per week
- ☐ 1-3 days per week
- ☐ 4-7 days per week

31. How long have you lived in Cohasset?

- ☐ Fewer than 5 years
- ☐ 5-14 years
- ☐ 15-24 years
- ☐ 25-34 years
- ☐ 35 years or longer

32. What is your current age?

- ☐ 18-29 years old
- ☐ 30-39 years old
- ☐ 40-49 years old
- ☐ 50-59 years old
- ☐ 60-69 years old
- ☐ 70 -79 years old
- ☐ 80-89 years old
- ☐ 90 years or older

33.What is your sex?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

34.What is your race? **(Please check all that apply)**

- ☐ White/Caucasian
- ☐ Black/African American
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Hispanic/Latino
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

35.What is your marital status?

- ☐ Never married
- ☐ Married
- ☐ Living with a partner as though married
- ☐ Separated or divorced
- ☐ Widowed

36.What is the highest degree or level of school that you have completed?

- ☐ Less than a high school degree
- ☐ High school diploma or GED
- ☐ Some college
- ☐ Four year college degree (BA, BS)
- ☐ Master's Degree
- ☐ Doctoral Degree
- ☐ Professional Degree (e.g., MD, JD)
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

37.Is the home in which you live...

- ☐ Owned by you or someone else in your family, with or without a mortgage?
- ☐ Rented by you or someone else in your family?

38.Do you live in Cohasset year-round?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

39. Who do you live with? **(Check all that apply)**

- ☐ I live alone (Please skip to question #42)
- ☐ With a spouse/partner
- ☐ With my child(ren)
- ☐ With my parent(s)
- ☐ With another relative
- ☐ With someone else (including housemates)

40. How many people under age 18 live in your home? _____

41. How many people (including yourself) age 60 or older live in your home?

42. In your opinion, at what age does the average person become a "senior"?

- ☐ Under age 50
- ☐ Age 50-54
- ☐ Age 55-59
- ☐ Age 60-64
- ☐ Age 65-69
- ☐ Age 70-74
- ☐ Age 75-79
- ☐ Age 80-84
- ☐ Age 85-89
- ☐ Age 90 or older
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

43. What was your total family income from all sources before taxes last year?

- ☐ Less than \$25,000
- ☐ \$25,000-\$49,999
- ☐ \$50,000-\$74,999
- ☐ \$75,000-\$99,999
- ☐ \$100,000-\$149,999
- ☐ \$150,000 to \$199,999
- ☐ \$200,000 or more

44.If you have any other thoughts about Cohasset Elder Affairs that you would like to share, please include them here:

45.Please share any additional thoughts you may have about the Town of Cohasset:

Thank you for your participation. We appreciate your taking the time to share your thoughts about the town of Cohasset.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this survey, please contact:

Jan E. Mutchler, Ph.D.
Associate Director for Social and Demographic Research
Gerontology Institute
McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies
University of Massachusetts Boston
Phone: # 617.287.7321

The Town of Cohasset Invites you to Participate in a

COMMUNITY SURVEY

The survey is available **now until October 19th**
and can be found online at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CohassetCommunitySurvey>

Please use your Personal Identification Number to access the survey. This number is located below your name on the front of this card.

If you are unable to complete the survey online, please call
617-287-7361 to receive instructions on alternative options.

Thank you for taking the time to participate and make your voice heard!

This survey is being conducted by The Gerontology Institute, McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston in partnership with the Town of Cohasset



**Town of
Cohasset
Massachusetts**

Exhibit A.3

The Town of Cohasset Invites you to Participate in a

COMMUNITY SURVEY

If you are 18 years or older and are a Cohasset resident, you will be receiving a postcard inviting you to participate in a community survey. The survey will be available online for you to complete no later than **October 19**. The information gathered from the survey will help Cohasset continue to be a wonderful place for people of all ages to live.

If you need help completing this valuable survey, we invite you to come to one of the following locations, at the dates and times indicated below, where UMass volunteers will offer assistance.

Cohasset Housing Authority
Wednesday October 10
10:00am-Noon

Paul Pratt Library
Thursday October 11
10:00 am-Noon

Cohasset Community Center (Elder Affairs)
Saturday October 13
10:00am-Noon

Public computers are available during normal work hours at the library and Cohasset elder affairs for those who need access.

For more information, please call 617-287-7361

We appreciate your taking the time to participate!

Appendix B: Tables from community survey

Note: Percentage distributions are reproduced below for all variables included in the Cohasset community survey. Percentages are also provided within each of four key age groups. Due to the small number of cases included in some cells, readers are cautioned against drawing strong conclusions based on differences between age groups, especially including the youngest group of respondents aged 18-39.

Q3: Overall, how satisfied are you with living in Cohasset?

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very satisfied	64%	64%	61%	59%	77%
Somewhat satisfied	29%	30%	30%	35%	20%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	3%	6%	3%	2%	1%
Somewhat dissatisfied	3%	0%	5%	2%	1%
Very dissatisfied	1%	0%	1%	2%	1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	502*	53	160	119	140

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q4: Rating of shopping opportunities in Cohasset

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Excellent	9%	11%	8%	11%	11%
Good	48%	45%	48%	46%	56%
Fair	34%	32%	32%	36%	31%
Poor	8%	10%	11%	7%	2%
Don't know	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	500*	53	160	121	141

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q5: Rating of recreational opportunities in Cohasset

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Excellent	40%	34%	43%	43%	40%
Good	45%	41%	44%	40%	50%
Fair	13%	23%	11%	16%	9%
Poor	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%
Don't know	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	495*	53	160	121	137

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q6: Ease of getting where you want to go in Cohasset

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Excellent	39%	43%	36%	41%	42%
Good	46%	44%	50%	42%	43%
Fair	13%	13%	10%	15%	13%
Poor	2%	0%	4%	2%	2%
Don't know	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	495*	53	158	121	140

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q7: Educational opportunities for adults in Cohasset

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Excellent	9%	11%	9%	8%	9%
Good	36%	21%	33%	37%	46%
Fair	31%	36%	29%	37%	27%
Poor	9%	4%	11%	7%	9%
Don't know	15%	28%	18%	11%	9%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	496*	53	159	121	140

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q8: Activities designed for older adults in Cohasset

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Excellent	10%	6%	9%	8%	14%
Good	35%	38%	31%	36%	42%
Fair	27%	22%	26%	29%	29%
Poor	6%	2%	6%	7%	8%
Don't know	22%	32%	28%	20%	7%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	493*	53	158	119	140

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q9: Sense of community in Cohasset

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Excellent	27%	34%	27%	22%	31%
Good	51%	56%	53%	48%	50%
Fair	16%	6%	13%	20%	16%
Poor	5%	4%	6%	7%	3%
Don't know	1%	0%	1%	3%	0%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	494*	52	159	121	139

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q10: Opportunities to volunteer in Cohasset

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Excellent	36%	19%	31%	34%	49%
Good	45%	50%	50%	44%	40%
Fair	8%	14%	8%	0%	7%
Poor	1%	0%	2%	9%	2%
Don't know	10%	17%	9%	13%	2%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	494*	52	159	120	140

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q11: Cultural activities in Cohasset

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Excellent	17%	15%	19%	12%	19%
Good	53%	49%	52%	48%	60%
Fair	22%	24%	18%	31%	17%
Poor	3%	4%	4%	2%	2%
Don't know	5%	8%	7%	5%	2%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	495*	53	158	121	139

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q12: Opportunities for social interaction in Cohasset

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Excellent	16%	11%	19%	15%	16%
Good	54%	68%	51%	49%	55%
Fair	24%	11%	23%	28%	26%
Poor	4%	2%	5%	4%	2%
Don't know	2%	8%	2%	4%	1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	492*	53	159	120	139

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q:13 Opportunities to obtain health services in Cohasset

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Excellent	17%	11%	15%	10%	27%
Good	48%	46%	47%	48%	47%
Fair	20%	10%	20%	27%	20%
Poor	4%	0%	6%	3%	3%
Don't know	11%	33%	12%	12%	3%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	495*	52	159	120	141

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q14: How would you rate Cohasset as a place for senior citizens to live?

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Excellent	17%	15%	11%	12%	30%
Good	45%	40%	41%	49%	49%
Fair	19%	9%	19%	28%	19%
Poor	6%	0%	9%	8%	1%
Don't know	13%	36%	20%	3%	1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	496*	53	160	121	140

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q15a: Please rate the importance of Cohasset **police services** to the community as a whole

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	73%	77%	73%	68%	79%
Important	22%	17%	21%	28%	18%
Neutral	4%	6%	6%	4%	2%
Unimportant	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Very unimportant	<1%	0%	<1%	0%	0%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	492*	53	160	121	139

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q15b: Please rate the importance of Cohasset **fire services** to the community as a whole

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	78%	79%	76%	77%	82%
Important	19%	15%	20%	20%	17%
Neutral	3%	6%	4%	3%	0%
Unimportant	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Very unimportant	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	492*	53	159	121	140

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q15c: Please rate the importance of Cohasset **traffic enforcement** to the community as a whole

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	30%	21%	32%	31%	32%
Important	43%	47%	41%	37%	47%
Neutral	22%	28%	22%	25%	17%
Unimportant	4%	2%	5%	5%	4%
Very unimportant	1%	2%	0%	2%	0%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	490*	53	158	121	140

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q15d: Please rate the importance of Cohasset **street repair** to the community as a whole

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	38%	28%	43%	41%	37%
Important	56%	55%	53%	56%	58%
Neutral	6%	17%	4%	3%	5%
Unimportant	0%	0%	0%	0%	<1%
Very unimportant	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	489*	53	160	121	137

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q15e: Please rate the importance of Cohasset **sidewalk maintenance** to the community as a whole

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	34%	26%	37%	33%	34%
Important	48%	59%	49%	43%	48%
Neutral	16%	13%	13%	21%	16%
Unimportant	2%	0%	1%	3%	2%
Very unimportant	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	488*	53	160	120	138

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q15f: Please rate the importance of Cohasset **maintenance of town parks** to the community as a whole

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	29%	32%	36%	21%	28%
Important	59%	64%	51%	67%	59%
Neutral	10%	2%	11%	10%	12%
Unimportant	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%
Very unimportant	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	490*	53	159	120	140

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q15g: Please rate the importance of Cohasset **services for seniors** to the community as a whole

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	41%	42%	43%	33%	49%
Important	42%	43%	42%	47%	35%
Neutral	14%	11%	12%	17%	12%
Unimportant	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%
Very unimportant	1%	2%	<1%	<1%	2%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	490*	53	159	121	139

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q15h: Please rate the importance of Cohasset **public library services** to the community as a whole

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	46%	28%	49%	44%	56%
Important	42%	57%	38%	41%	38%
Neutral	10%	15%	11%	10%	5%
Unimportant	1%	0%	2%	3%	0%
Very unimportant	1%	0%	0%	2%	1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	487*	53	159	119	138

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q15i: Please rate the importance of Cohasset **harbor maintenance** to the community as a whole

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	34%	36%	37%	32%	33%
Important	52%	49%	54%	52%	49%
Neutral	12%	11%	9%	13%	18%
Unimportant	1%	2%	0%	3%	<1%
Very unimportant	1%	2%	<1%	<1%	0%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	490*	53	159	120	140

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q15j: Please rate the importance of Cohasset **preserving open space** to the community as a whole

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	45%	38%	50%	36%	50%
Important	38%	46%	34%	42%	36%
Neutral	14%	14%	13%	15%	12%
Unimportant	3%	2%	3%	4%	2%
Very unimportant	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	489*	52	160	120	139

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q15k: Please rate the importance of Cohasset **public schools** to the community as a whole

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	66%	73%	75%	53%	64%
Important	27%	23%	18%	38%	30%
Neutral	6%	2%	7%	7%	6%
Unimportant	1%	0%	0%	2%	0%
Very unimportant	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	490*	53	159	121	139

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q15l: Please rate the importance of Cohasset **recycling transfer facility** to the community as a whole

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	34%	32%	36%	23%	41%
Important	51%	58%	48%	60%	46%
Neutral	13%	8%	16%	12%	13%
Unimportant	1%	2%	0%	3%	0%
Very unimportant	1%	0%	0%	2%	0%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	488*	53	160	121	136

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q15m: Please rate the importance of Cohasset **sewer service and water treatment** to the community as a whole

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	50%	43%	53%	43%	54%
Important	38%	38%	38%	48%	34%
Neutral	10%	17%	8%	7%	11%
Unimportant	1%	0%	<1%	2%	1%
Very unimportant	1%	2%	<1%	<1%	0%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	491*	53	160	120	140

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q15n: Please rate the importance of Cohasset **zoning and building inspection** to the community as a whole

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	31%	24%	32%	24%	38%
Important	49%	53%	52%	49%	44%
Neutral	18%	21%	14%	25%	16%
Unimportant	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Very unimportant	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	491*	53	160	121	138

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q15o: Please rate the importance of Cohasset **services for youth** to the community as a whole

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	39%	49%	42%	29%	40%
Important	43%	36%	43%	50%	43%
Neutral	15%	11%	13%	17%	16%
Unimportant	2%	2%	2%	3%	1%
Very unimportant	1%	2%	<1%	<1%	0%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	490*	53	160	121	139

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q15p: Please rate the importance of Cohasset **recreation programs** to the community as a whole

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	34%	43%	39%	22%	36%
Important	46%	42%	45%	60%	40%
Neutral	18%	13%	14%	16%	24%
Unimportant	1%	2%	1%	<1%	<1%
Very unimportant	1%	0%	<1%	2%	0%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	484*	53	160	121	134

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q16a: Please rate the importance to the community of Cohasset Elder Affairs **transportation services** to medical appointments, grocery shopping and errands

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	59%	62%	57%	50%	70%
Important	28%	22%	32%	36%	19%
Neutral	9%	14%	10%	10%	6%
Unimportant	2%	0%	0%	2%	4%
Very unimportant	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	479*	50	158	120	140

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q16b: Please rate the importance to the community of Cohasset Elder Affairs **social and recreational outings** such as trips to museums and shopping

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	31%	43%	34%	22%	33%
Important	46%	29%	45%	55%	46%
Neutral	17%	18%	17%	19%	15%
Unimportant	4%	6%	3%	2%	5%
Very unimportant	2%	4%	<1%	2%	1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	474*	49	158	119	138

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q16c: Please rate the importance to the community of Cohasset Elder Affairs **information and referral** including information about local resources and care providers

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	44%	45%	43%	42%	45%
Important	40%	33%	41%	37%	43%
Neutral	13%	20%	13%	17%	7%
Unimportant	2%	0%	2%	2%	4%
Very unimportant	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	474*	49	158	118	139

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q16d: Please rate the importance to the community of Cohasset Elder Affairs **cultural activities** including presentations, current event lectures and art exhibits

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	27%	37%	27%	21%	28%
Important	46%	31%	45%	54%	47%
Neutral	21%	26%	23%	20%	17%
Unimportant	5%	4%	5%	3%	6%
Very unimportant	1%	2%	0%	2%	2%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	471*	49	157	118	138

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q16e: Please rate the importance to the community of Cohasset Elder Affairs **social activities** such as clubs, and card and board games

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	26%	39%	31%	17%	26%
Important	45%	33%	49%	44%	44%
Neutral	22%	22%	16%	33%	21%
Unimportant	5%	4%	3%	3%	8%
Very unimportant	2%	2%	1%	3%	1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	470*	49	157	117	138

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q16f: Please rate the importance to the community of Cohasset Elder Affairs **fitness activities** such as tai chi, yoga and dancing

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	27%	43%	29%	26%	22%
Important	45%	31%	46%	44%	48%
Neutral	22%	20%	22%	23%	22%
Unimportant	4%	4%	3%	4%	6%
Very unimportant	2%	2%	<1%	3%	2%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	471*	49	157	118	138

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q16g: Please rate the importance to the community of Cohasset Elder Affairs **meal programs**, including congregate lunches and Meals on Wheels

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	52%	63%	58%	39%	53%
Important	33%	23%	30%	41%	32%
Neutral	11%	12%	10%	16%	9%
Unimportant	2%	0%	2%	2%	4%
Very unimportant	2%	2%	<1%	2%	2%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	473*	49	158	120	137

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q16h: Please rate the importance to the community of Cohasset Elder Affairs **family support activities** such as caregiver support groups, bereavement support and caregiving seminars

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	37%	50%	36%	31%	40%
Important	42%	28%	44%	46%	41%
Neutral	18%	20%	18%	21%	13%
Unimportant	2%	0%	<1%	<1%	5%
Very unimportant	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	477*	50	158	120	139

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q16i: Please rate the importance to the community of Cohasset Elder Affairs **opportunities for older adults to volunteer**

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	32%	38%	38%	22%	32%
Important	50%	32%	46%	61%	51%
Neutral	16%	28%	15%	16%	15%
Unimportant	<1%	0%	<1%	<1%	1%
Very unimportant	1%	2%	<1%	<1%	1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	476*	50	159	119	138

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q16j: Please rate the importance to the community of Cohasset Elder Affairs **health and wellness programs**, such as blood pressure clinics, podiatry and health education series

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	45%	54%	47%	38%	46%
Important	39%	26%	40%	41%	39%
Neutral	13%	18%	11%	16%	9%
Unimportant	2%	0%	<1%	3%	4%
Very unimportant	1%	2%	<1%	2%	2%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	476*	50	159	120	138

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q16k: Please rate the importance to the community of Cohasset Elder Affairs **in-home support services**, such as home repairs and homebound service assessments

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	41%	54%	40%	39%	42%
Important	36%	18%	39%	37%	36%
Neutral	18%	20%	17%	19%	16%
Unimportant	3%	6%	3%	2%	3%
Very unimportant	2%	2%	1%	3%	3%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	473*	50	156	120	137

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q16l: Please rate the importance to the community of Cohasset Elder Affairs **adult education** or life-long learning programs, including job skills, computer training and art and language classes

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	27%	34%	28%	18%	33%
Important	44%	34%	41%	51%	44%
Neutral	24%	28%	27%	27%	16%
Unimportant	3%	2%	3%	2%	4%
Very unimportant	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	473*	50	158	119	137

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q16m: Please rate the importance to the community of Cohasset Elder Affairs **professional services**, such as tax preparation, legal services, and health insurance counseling (SHINE)

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	29%	39%	31%	23%	31%
Important	43%	33%	43%	45%	45%
Neutral	22%	22%	21%	27%	17%
Unimportant	4%	4%	5%	3%	4%
Very unimportant	2%	2%	<1%	2%	3%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	473*	49	156	120	138

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q16n: Please rate the importance to the community of Cohasset Elder Affairs **assistance with local or state programs** such as fuel assistance, Medicaid and Veterans Assistance eligibility

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	41%	48%	44%	35%	42%
Important	37%	34%	35%	41%	36%
Neutral	17%	16%	17%	20%	16%
Unimportant	3%	0%	3%	2%	4%
Very unimportant	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	474*	50	158	118	138

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q16o: Please rate the importance to the community of Cohasset Elder Affairs **in-home visits** to home-bound seniors from volunteers

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very important	46%	52%	50%	42%	41%
Important	38%	26%	36%	44%	41%
Neutral	14%	20%	13%	12%	14%
Unimportant	1%	0%	<1%	<1%	4%
Very unimportant	1%	2%	<1%	2%	<1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	475*	50	159	118	138

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q17: What programs of services would you most like to see offered at the proposed new senior center in Cohasset?

➔ See listing in Appendix C.

Q18: Have you ever used the programs or services offered by Cohasset Elder Affairs?

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Yes	28%	13%	15%	20%	54%
No	72%	87%	85%	80%	46%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	480*	53	159	118	139

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q19: [For those who have not used the programs or services offered by Cohasset Elder Affairs]
 What is the reason you do not currently utilize the Cohasset Elder Affairs programs and services? [Check all that apply]

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
I am not interested	26%	9%	7%	38%	58%
I am not old enough	62%	98%	93%	39%	8%
I do not have transportation	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
The location of programs is not convenient	1%	0%	2%	2%	2%
Parking is insufficient	2%	0%	2%	3%	3%
The programs are not offered at times that are convenient	2%	0%	<1%	4%	3%
I do not know about the available programs and services	6%	0%	4%	10%	6%

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q20: [For those who have not used the programs or services offered by Cohasset Elder Affairs]

Do you plan to utilize the programs or services offered by Cohasset Elder Services in the future?

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Yes	34%	30%	36%	39%	27%
No	18%	9%	20%	15%	25%
I don't know	48%	61%	44%	46%	48%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	347*	46	135	95	64

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q21: Overall, how satisfied are you with the programs and services currently offered by Cohasset Elder Affairs?

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Very satisfied	20%	9%	12%	19%	33%
Somewhat satisfied	22%	32%	22%	16%	23%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	51%	57%	59%	57%	38%
Somewhat dissatisfied	5%	2%	6%	6%	5%
Very dissatisfied	2%	0%	1%	2%	1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	419*	47	133	105	128

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q22: Would you be willing to pay a nominal fee to participate in the programs and activities offered by the Town of Cohasset senior center?

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Yes, I would pay a small fee	77%	70%	73%	79%	81%
No, I would not be willing to pay a small fee	23%	30%	27%	21%	19%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	426*	46	131	111	133

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q23: Have you ever traveled to other towns' senior centers to participate in their activities and programs?

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Yes	18%	8%	10%	17%	30%
No	82%	92%	90%	83%	70%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	476*	51	156	120	142

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q24: To what degree to you favor or oppose implementing a tax work-off program for eligible seniors in Cohasset?

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Strongly favor	42%	38%	37%	47%	46%
Favor	28%	26%	31%	27%	26%
Neither favor nor oppose	19%	28%	20%	18%	18%
Oppose	8%	8%	7%	8%	5%
Strongly oppose	3%	0%	5%	<1%	5%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	476*	53	160	120	137

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q25: To what degree to you favor or oppose offering a Social Adult Day Care program in Cohasset?

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Strongly favor	35%	36%	32%	35%	40%
Favor	36%	36%	39%	35%	34%
Neither favor nor oppose	21%	26%	22%	20%	18%
Oppose	3%	2%	3%	4%	3%
Strongly oppose	5%	0%	4%	6%	5%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	466*	53	157	118	132

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q26: Do you drive?

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Yes	97%	100%	99%	97%	95%
No	3%	0%	1%	3%	5%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	477*	52	159	119	140

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q27: [Asked of non-drivers only] Do you experience any transportation difficulties in getting to where you want to go?

	All ages
No, obtaining adequate transportation is not a problem for me	50%
Yes, I sometimes cannot go where I would like because transportation is not available or convenient	50%
Yes, I often cannot go where I would like because transportation is not available or convenient	0%
TOTAL	100%
Number of respondents	12*

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q29: [Asked of drivers only] Do you ever modify your driving by engaging in any of the following behaviors? (Check all that apply)

	All ages*	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Not applicable, I do not modify my driving at all	72%	90%	78%	76%	56%
I avoid driving at night	12%	0%	7%	8%	26%
I avoid making left hand turns	6%	4%	5%	6%	7%
I avoid driving in bad weather	11%	8%	8%	9%	20%
I avoid expressway driving	6%	2%	6%	3%	11%
I avoid driving far distances or in unfamiliar areas	7%	4%	6%	2%	15%
Other changes to driving behaviors	6%	2%	3%	5%	11%

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q30: How often do you talk on the phone, email or get together with friends or relatives in a typical week?

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Never	1%	0%	1%	2%	<1%
Less than one day per week	6%	6%	5%	2%	9%
1-3 days per week	22%	13%	18%	25%	26%
4-7 days per week	71%	81%	76%	71%	64%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	471*	53	155	120	140

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q31: How long have you lived in Cohasset?

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Fewer than 5 years	8%	24%	9%	9%	1%
5-14 years	18%	21%	30%	7%	12%
15-24 years	20%	34%	27%	21%	6%
25-34 years	16%	15%	13%	25%	13%
35 years or longer	38%	6%	21%	38%	68%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	479*	53	159	121	142

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q32: What is your current age?

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
18-29 years old	6%	57%			
30-39 years old	5%	43%			
40-49 years old	14%		42%		
50-59 years old	20%		58%		
60-69 years old	25%			100%	
70-79 years old	20%				67%
80-89 years old	8%				26%
90 years or older	2%				7%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	476	53	160	121	142

Q33: What is your sex?

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Male	43%	43%	39%	48%	44%
Female	57%	57%	61%	52%	56%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	474*	53	160	120	138

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q35: What is your marital status?

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Never married	11%	58%	7%	6%	3%
Married	71%	40%	84%	83%	58%
Living with a partner as though married	2%	0%	4%	<1%	3%
Separated or divorced	6%	2%	4%	7%	8%
Widowed	10%	0%	<1%	3%	28%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	476*	53	160	119	142

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q36: What is the highest degree or level of school that you have completed?

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Less than a high school degree	<1%	2%	0%	0%	0%
High school diploma or GED	7%	5%	6%	4%	10%
Some college	16%	21%	11%	16%	20%
Four year college degree (BA, BS)	41%	34%	50%	37%	37%
Master's Degree	25%	26%	22%	27%	26%
Doctoral Degree	2%	4%	<1%	3%	1%
Professional Degree (eg, MD, JD)	6%	6%	8%	10%	3%
Other	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	477*	53	160	120	141

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q37: Is the home in which you live...

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
<u>Owned</u> by you or someone else in your family, with or without a mortgage?	92%	87%	96%	91%	90%
<u>Rented</u> by you or someone else in your family?	8%	13%	4%	9%	10%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	471*	53	159	120	137

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q38: Do you live in Cohasset year-round?

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Yes	93%	91%	97%	90%	92%
No	7%	9%	3%	10%	8%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	474*	53	158	120	140

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q39: Who do you live with? (Check all that apply)

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
I live alone	13%	4%	5%	12%	28%
With a spouse/partner	67%	38%	84%	83%	59%
With my child(ren)	26%	21%	57%	13%	11%
With my parent(s)	7%	53%	4%	0%	0%
With another relative	2%	2%	1%	3%	1%
With someone else (including housemates)	1%	4%	<1%	<1%	2%

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q42: In your opinion, at what age does the average person become a “senior”?

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Under age 50	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Age 50-54	<1%	2%	0%	0%	<1%
Age 55-59	3%	6%	2%	3%	4%
Age 60-64	16%	30%	16%	19%	8%
Age 65-69	40%	45%	46%	33%	36%
Age 70-74	19%	11%	22%	18%	19%
Age 75-79	9%	2%	4%	13%	13%
Age 80-84	5%	0%	4%	5%	7%
Age 85-89	1%	0%	1%	0%	3%
Age 90 or older	<1%	0%	0%	<1%	2%
Other	7%	4%	5%	8%	8%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	476*	53	160	120	140

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.

Q43: What was your total family income from all sources before taxes last year?

	All ages	Age 18-39	Age 40-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Less than \$25,000	6%	4%	6%	1%	12%
\$25,000-\$49,999	8%	2%	2%	5%	21%
\$50,000-\$74,999	13%	6%	10%	13%	20%
\$75,000-\$99,999	13%	13%	8%	14%	19%
\$100,000-\$149,999	20%	29%	18%	24%	12%
\$150,000-\$199,999	14%	25%	15%	16%	7%
\$200,000 or more	26%	21%	41%	27%	9%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of respondents	379*	48	131	95	104

*Includes some individuals who did not provide an age.