

Broome Age-Friendly Project Survey of Adults Age 55+ Results

286 responses collected (118 online, 168 paper)

Some questions were skipped by respondents.

Percentages reflect total answers to each question.

1. How would you rate your community as a place to live as people age? (261 responses)

Excellent (34)	Very Good (53)	Good (118)	Fair (42)	Poor (14)
13%	20.3%	45.2%	16.1%	5.4%

2. What about your community makes it a good place for people to live as they age? (multiple responses selected)

Answer Choices	Number of individuals who selected this answer
1. Hospitals/health services	108
2. Cost of living	95
3. Low crime/safety	72
4. Parks/recreation	71
5. Activities for older adults	65
6. Services for older adults	62
7. Cultural opportunities	58
8. Housing options	47
9. Transportation options	42
10. Learning opportunities	40

Other: During the summer, Friday nights music on the green; friends and family; I own my own home, it is a nice place to live; proximity to major cities; meet & greets, educational talks; friendly neighbors; where I live it is convenient to a lot

3. What would make the community a better place for people to live as they age?

Answers grouped into larger categories	Comments from survey respondents
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheaper transportation • Better roads • Inexpensive rides • A government subsidized taxi service where seniors/disabled pay 50% for a taxi • Wider sidewalks
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable housing (senior living, middle income with amenities)
Services for Older Adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More elder services • Elder Care Ombudsman/Advocate • Staying in their home and bringing in needed services • Inexpensive Handyman & housekeepers • Assistance with snow shoveling • Services for people not on Medicaid • Meet needs for home bound • Water aerobics/exercise program at Vestal Center
Financial/Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower taxes, food and heat supplements • Cheaper prices, including gas • Health insurance for all • Lower taxes • Lower cost dental care
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible community activities • Block parties • Restore RailTrail walking program • Teenagers from Vestal High School to volunteer to cut lawns • Address issues with drugs • Less crime & drugs • Safer to walk the streets

4. How confident are you that you will be able to continue living in your current residence for as long as you would like? (233 responses)

Very confident (70)	Somewhat confident (106)	Not too confident (45)	Not confident at all (12)
30%	45.5%	19.3%	5.2%

5. What are some reasons you might consider moving from your current home?
(multiple responses selected)

Answer Choices	Number of individuals who selected this answer
No longer able to maintain my home	109
Needing more services for older adults	63
I don't plan on moving	77
Need for more accessible housing	56
Better transportation options	53
Reduce living costs	41
To be closer to family or friends	39
Lower crime/safety	28
More activities for older adults	28
Different climate	26
Better access to hospitals/health services	18
More access to parks/recreation	12
More access to cultural opportunities	10

Other comments:

- need climate-controlled environment;
- 1st floor living;
- Drastically rising rent;
- I have no car. There is no bus. I depend on the other to help me;
- closer to bus route;
- no family to live with me to take care of me any my home;
- if my health deteriorates;
- the need for more quiet atmosphere;
- high crime rate

6. Do you feel that there are enough social activities in your community for older adults? (272 responses)

Yes (128)	(47.1%)
No (61)	(22.4%)
I don't know (83)	(30.5%)

7. What activities would you like to see that are not currently available?

Bunko in other senior centers besides Vestal	restore the picnic at BCC	exercise at Vestal
more fitness activities/swimming	dinners, social gatherings	trips
craft classes	more emergency preparedness	computer/phone literacy
more things that are stimulating	how to use smart phones, computers/tablets	concerts for people over 65
more activities during the day	dances for seniors	more trips
more activities for park/state park	concerts, movies, bingo	virtual classes
visits from professional care givers	weekend/evening transportation to attend activities	Bible studies
internet classes	more theater	better transportation services for non-essentials
more bingo	I'm not sure, they have rules here	movie night and holiday parties
sports and music	more coffee houses	church services and activities
genealogy instructions	swinging	yoga
more modern musical instruments		

8. If you don't currently go to a senior center, that is because...

busy with other activities at current level	don't drive	other obligations
health	I don't know where it is or what services they provide	I don't want to go
I don't have a way so, so food & boring	transportation problems	I haven't taken the plunge
	not currently interested	not close enough
no longer drive	there isn't one available	location
I'm not thinking about it	unable to leave house	not interested
just an older Vietnam Veteran	I would miss receiving Meals on Wheels	no reason except I'm a homebody
we forget about it	I do but not often b/c I don't drive, need transportation	no reason, just haven't yet
my life is full already	spinal cord injury	don't know anyone, don't like going alone, afraid of falling

9. Do you currently volunteer? (225 responses)

Yes (110)	48.9%
No (115)	51.1%

If no, is this because:

I don't have time (37 responses)

I am not interested in volunteering (29 responses)

I don't know where to look for volunteer opportunities (16 responses)

I am interested in volunteering but don't like the expectations of opportunities offered (11 responses)

I am interested in volunteering but don't like the opportunities available (7 responses)

I only want a paid position (4 responses)

I would prefer to volunteer in this way:

- Helping at Vestal Senior Center;
- computer, literacy;
- cooking and helping out;
- volunteer at church;
- used to be a Foster Grandparent for 16 years;
- something I could do from home/phone;
- during day hospital auxiliaries;
- I'm already involved with church and professional societies;
- Help when I can my way!;
- I prefer interacting with people in person or through phone call;
- phone call to others;
- I sew quilts for nursing home residents;
- transportation is an issue, I don't drive however I would if it fit BC Lift schedule

10. Do you have internet at home? (240 responses)

Yes (210)	87.5%
No (30)	12.5%

If no, why not? Please explain:

- very slow/not dependable;
- too expensive;
- don't understand computers,
- needs help;
- not interested in learning about it;
- no need, have access via mobile phone;
- can't afford to; it's not useful for my lifestyle and if I need access I use the library's computer;
- not always safe with your information;
- very stressful;
- I don't understand how to use/work the internet

11. Is there anything else you would like to share about making your community a better place to age in place?

Dependable, affordable help	fix the sidewalks	pre-loaded cell phones for elderly with program options/apps
affordable housing, transportation and healthcare for all incomes	more community gardens, more daylight programs in the park	downtown not handicapped accessible, limited pharmacies
I would like my street safer, NYS DOT has made it very unsafe for everyone	build up more stores on Front Street	senior meet-up groups
more parking for attending festivities	lower property taxes for old people	honest/dependable home health aides
lessons in kindness on how to listen differently to a senior	programs for seniors at the library, I hate the automated phone calls – so annoying	affordable senior community living
reduce availability of guns especially automatic rifles	outdoor communal activities for less active adults	more health club exercise opportunities for senior that is no as expensive
easier shuttle access for non-drivers, all places should have handicap accessible doors	participate more in local government	having bank closer
434 is dangerous, perhaps more police presence	activities where young, teens, middle age and elderly can interact together	bus service to the Town Square Mall (a dream come true!)
police cracking down on road speeding	no more building for the students	it needs to "beautify itself"
not here!	source of reliable people with references to help with home maintenance	easier access to getting doctor appointments vs. waiting 2-6 months when you have an illness

I would like to exercise with other women	I have taught the Bonesaver Class for almost 20 years. At the present time my class is just too big for where we meet (old Town Hall)	my particular Senior Housing has no bus line and I like to see 2x a month bus for shopping needs
need more benches along streets	no – it's fine!	less repetitive emphasis on nutrition, exercise, socializing, etc.

Demographic Questions:

12. Where do you live: Vestal; Windsor; Endicott (Tioga County); Endicott (Broome County); City of Binghamton; Town of Binghamton; Kirkwood; Sanford/Deposit; Port Crane; Harpursville; Sidney/Masonville; Union-West Corners; Colesville; Johnson City; Vestal Center; Endwell; Dickinson; Chenango Bridge; Whitney Point; Afton; Port Dickinson; Maine; Conklin; Town of Fenton; Town of Maine; Apalachin

13. How old are you? Respondents were between 55 and 96 years old

14. How do you identify? (240 responses)

Female (174)	72.5%
Male (63)	26.25%
Other (3)	1.25%

15. What is your race and/or ethnicity? (273 responses)

African American (5)	1.83%
Asian (2)	0.73%
Native American (2)	0.73%
White (251)	91.94%
Mixed Race (0)	0%
Other (2)	0.73%
I prefer not to answer (11)	4.03%

16. Are you of Hispanic or Latino/a origin? (259 responses)

Yes (0)	0%
No (259)	100%