

Assessing the Needs of Elder Floridians: PSA 5

Introduction

A needs assessment was conducted by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs to determine the needs of elders residing in the community. Elders were sampled regardless of whether or not they had ever contacted or received services by the Department. Survey results are summarized at the Planning and Service Area (PSA) level and include special tabulations for “hard-to-measure” rural, low-income, and minority populations of elders.

The Department contracted with the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Florida to conduct a statewide survey to measure elder Floridians’ needs. The two-part survey of people age 60 and older was conducted in July and September of 2010.

The final survey instrument retained many elements from the previous needs assessment instrument conducted in 2003. Based on findings from the previous needs assessment and feedback from staff, changes were made to this survey, which included expanding self-care limitations questions and offering a greater variety in response options, including multiple responses. The final survey was comprised of 82 questions distributed among the following sixteen categories (number of questions for each section shown in parentheses):

1. Demographic Profile (3);
2. Living Situation (1);
3. Self Care Limitations (5);
4. Caregiving (9);
5. Health and Health Promotion (12);
6. Information and Assistance (4);
7. Nutrition (7);
8. Senior Centers (3);
9. Transportation (7);
10. Advocacy and Perspective on Aging (3);
11. Housing (9);
12. Volunteerism (4);
13. Employment (6);
14. Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation (3);
15. Legal Assistance (4); and
16. Disaster Preparedness (2).

Methodology

The needs assessment survey was administered to a random sample of 100 elders (age 60 and over) from each Planning and Service Area (PSA). The survey also included oversampling 750 additional elders from “hard-to-measure” populations across the state – 250 elders each from minority, rural, and/or low-income status groups. Responses from these subpopulations were evaluated separately.

To sample 100 respondents from the PSA, survey participants were selected by geographically coding screened addresses for potential respondents age 60 and older from a consumer database compiled by InfoUSA. Approximately 200 potential participants were randomly selected from PSA 5 with the intention of completing 100 surveys. When 100 surveys were completed, oversamples for rural, poverty, and minority populations (N=250 for each sub-population, respectively) were selected randomly and analyzed at the state level.

Current research indicates that in the past decade, the use of landline-telephone surveys has resulted in the lower inclusion of low-income and minority populations because of their lower likelihood to own higher cost landline telephones.¹ As a result, more low-income, rural, and minority populations² have turned to pre-paid or low-cost cellular service plans whose numbers would not be included in a consumer database derived from publicly-listed telephone directories.³ It is prohibitive for many research organizations to conduct telephone surveys using cellular phone numbers because of the high costs associated with acquiring these databases. The InfoUSA database that was used to derive this study sample only included landline telephones, which may have resulted in an inherent bias toward higher socioeconomic status. As a result, there is a potential for underestimating existing needs of low-income elders when interpreting survey results. Separate measurements of oversampled minority, low-income, and rural subpopulations are included to address this bias.

Frequencies of responses were tabulated for elders surveyed in the PSA, and presented with any discrepancies found in the minority, low-income, and rural groups. For questions that included multiple response variables, variables were restructured for each question using SPSS. This information is presented in the Appendix. The reader will find it helpful to reference questions

¹ Call, K. T., Davern, M., Boudreaux, M., Johnson, P. J., & Nelson, J. (2011). Bias in telephone surveys that do not sample cell phones: Uses and limits of poststratification adjustments. *Medical Care*, 49(4), 355-364.

² Shebl, F., Poppell, C.F., Zhan, M., Dwyer, D. M., Hopkins, A. B., Groves, C., and Steinberger, E. K. (2009). Measuring health behaviors and landline telephones: Potential coverage bias in a low-income, rural population. *Public Health Reports*, 124, 495-502.

³ Keeter, S., Kennedy, C., Clark, A., Tompson, T., & Mokrzycki, M. (2007). What's missing from national landline RDD surveys? The impact of the growing cell-only population. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 71(5), 772-792.

and responses contained in the Appendix alongside the text when reviewing the information contained in this report.

Planning and Service Area 5

This report analyzes the findings of the needs assessment survey for Planning and Service Area 5. PSA 5 includes Pasco and Pinellas counties, accounting for 7% of the elders surveyed statewide. Throughout this report, comparisons are made between the responses of the 100 elders in the PSA and those of the oversampled or “hard-to-reach” sub-populations of minority, low-income, and rural elders. Comparisons with these often-disadvantaged sub-populations are important, for their needs may be different or more intense than those of the general population.

Using data from the 2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate (U.S. Census Bureau), this Planning and Service Area is composed of 424,543 residents age 60 and over. The average rate of residents living below the poverty line in PSA 5 is 8%, with Pinellas County exhibiting the highest rate (9%). Approximately 11% of residents in the PSA are minorities, with Pinellas again exhibiting the highest proportion of non-white residents (13%). Although Pinellas County has a 100% urban population, 15% of Pasco County residents are rural.

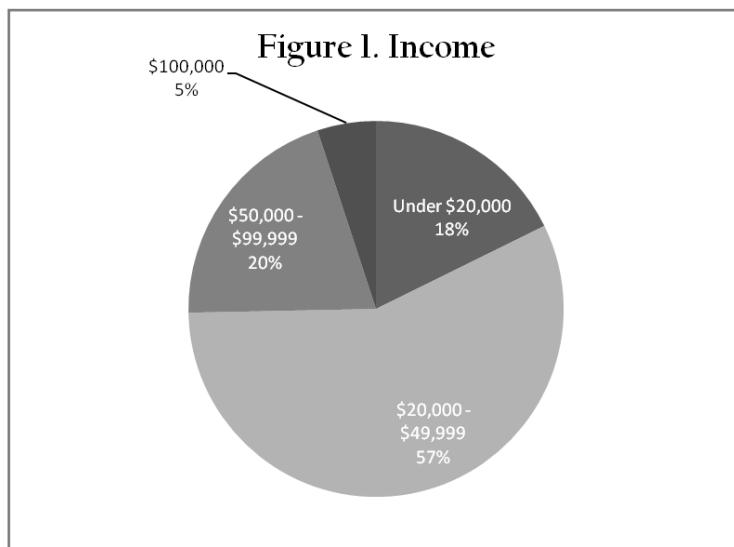
Selected Population Characteristic Estimates for 2009, PSA 5

County	60+ Population	Minority	Low-Income	Rural
Pasco County	141,949	9%	8%	15%
Pinellas County	282,594	13%	9%	0%
PSA 5 TOTAL/AVERAGES	424,543	11%	8%	8%

Source: 2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate (U.S. Census Bureau)

Demographic Profile

The demographic profile of the survey respondents includes self-disclosed information about race and ethnicity, gender, household income and area urbanicity.⁴ The typical respondent who participated in the needs assessment survey in PSA 5 was a white woman in her early 70s, living in an urban area, with an annual income between \$30,000 and \$39,999.



In PSA 5, more female (61%) than male respondents participated in the survey (Appendix, Question 81). Among rural elders, more males participated in the survey than females (46%); however, the percentage of minority females (67%) was considerably higher compared to minority male respondents, and the number of low-income females (57%) was somewhat higher than low-income males. The overrepresentation of female

compared to male minorities in the survey may be related to current demographic trends of higher rates of attrition and institutionalization for elder minority males compared to their white counterparts.⁵

Elders included in the PSA 5 survey were predominantly of white or Caucasian ethnicity (90%). The composition of non-white respondents were black or African-American (5%), Latino (2%), Asian or Pacific Islander (2%), and Native American (1%) (see Appendix, Question 82). Approximately 18% of elders in PSA 5 reported an annual income of less than \$20,000, as did 49% of minorities. Rural elders reported the highest incomes with 14% reporting over \$100,000 per year- this is in contrast with only 6% of elders in PSA 5 and 9% statewide reporting such high incomes (see Appendix, Question 83). This may be due to the high proportion of respondents still living with their spouse in the rural areas, and more dual incomes resulting in higher average household incomes (see Figure 1 and Appendix, Question 1 and the discussion in the following section).

Living Situation

⁴ Population groups other than Whites are considered racial/ethnic minorities for the purpose of this report. Those earning less than \$20,000 a year (before taxes) are classified as “low-income”.

⁵ Sharma, A. (2011). Multinomial analysis of assistance migration. Proceedings from Elderly Populations: 42nd Annual Meeting of The Southern Demographic Association, Tallahassee, Florida.

An important component of successfully aging in place for elders is their living situation, specifically, whether or not they live with their spouse, with others, or alone. Elders who live with a spouse have higher chances of remaining in the community for a variety of reasons. Spouses contribute to better mental health, greater material quality of life, and a higher likelihood of receiving care should it become necessary as a result of illness or disability.⁶ Nearly one-half of the elders surveyed in PSA 5 live with their spouse (43%), while 39% live alone. Of all groups, rural elders were the most likely to live with a spouse (55%). In contrast, minority and low-income elders reported a greater chance of living alone and lower incidence of living with a spouse compared to all elders surveyed in PSA 5: only 38% of minority elders and 41% of low-income elders currently live with a spouse (see Appendix, Question 1).

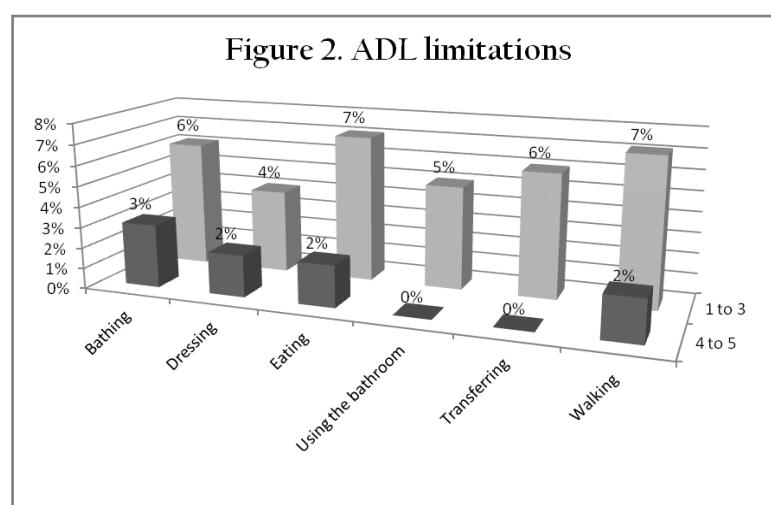
Self Care Limitations

As seniors age, the ability to perform some types of tasks can be diminished due to a variety of health and cognitive limitations. Elders' capacity to care for themselves is commonly measured in terms of ADLs (Activities of Daily Living) and IADLs (Instrumental Activities of Daily Living).

Activities of Daily Living refer to daily self-care activities, such as eating, bathing, dressing, grooming, and walking, among others. Identifying limitations in elders' ability to care for their basic needs can be used as one indicator of the potential demand for assistance in an area. For respondents who reported needing help with personal care tasks, Figures 2 and 3 show on a scale from 1 to 5 (1-3 = moderate need; 3-5=serious need) how much assistance was needed for each type of personal care task (see also Appendix, Questions 2 through 5).

In PSA 5, 16% of elders reported needing some level of assistance with one or more ADL and of these, most required a moderate level of assistance. Specifically, 7% of respondents reported moderate need for assistance or supervision with both eating and walking, while 3% needed a greater level of assistance with bathing (see Figure 2). Minority and low-income elders reported the most need for assistance with such tasks (see Appendix, Question 2).

Of those respondents in PSA 5 who reported a need for ADL assistance, over half (53%) did not receive the assistance they required, and only 6% of the respondents reported always receiving the assistance they needed (see Appendix, Question 3).

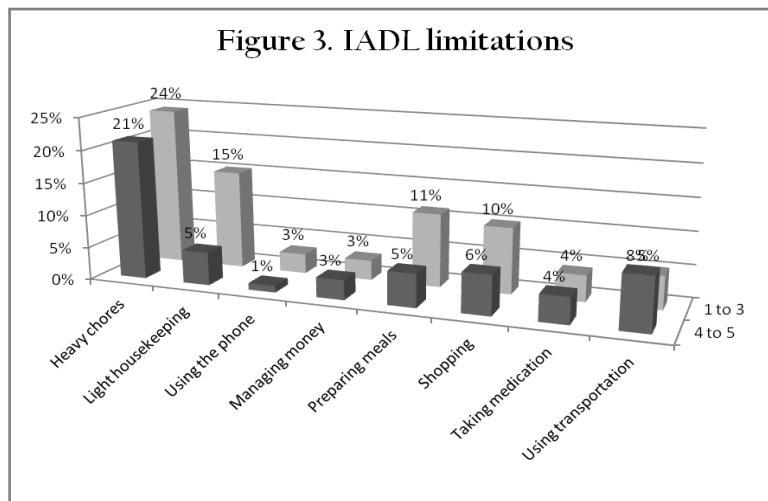


⁶ Hays, Judith C., R.N., Ph.D (2002). Living Arrangements and Health Status in Later Life: A Review of Recent Literature. *Public Health Nursing*, Volume 19, Issue 2 (p. 136-151).

IADLs are tasks that enable an individual to live independently, such as performing chores, use of technology such as the telephone, money management, taking medication, and transportation. The need for help with IADLs was more pronounced for respondents than for ADLs. In PSA 5, 49% of elders reported needing at least a moderate level of assistance with an instrumental activity of daily living. Of these, rural elders were generally comparable, but low income elders generally reported needing greater levels of assistance with IADLs, and minorities were twice or three times more likely to report needing assistance than the wider PSA population (see Appendix, Question 4).

Proactive help seeking behaviors and sources are a critical factor in elders getting the assistance they need to remain independent.

Almost half of the respondents (47%) who needed assistance said they have tried to get help from family members, while 13% have sought assistance from a government agency. Of those elders who reported needing assistance with one or more IADL, 42% said they did not receive the assistance they required, while only 8% reported they always received such assistance (see Appendix, Questions 5 and 6).



Caregiving

Caregivers play a vital role in the long term care of elders and their ability to stay in their community. In PSA 5, 15% of respondents currently provide direct or indirect care to others (including care provided over the phone), with slightly increased rates across minority (20%), low-income (19%), and rural populations (18%). The majority of caregiving elders (76%) care for another elder (see Appendix, Questions 7 and 9).

Elders in PSA 5 who provide care to another person do so frequently. As shown in Figure 4, 13% provide care at least once a day up to all day long and almost one-third (28%) do so once a week or more.

Less than one-half of caregivers (46%) in PSA 5 receive help with their caregiving responsibilities; while 12% reported needing help with such responsibilities (see

Appendix, Questions 10 and 11). The types of needed help identified by respondents are consistent with the current research on caregiver needs; these include information about resources, transportation, help with household chores, and respite (see Figure 5).⁷

Figure 4. Frequency of care

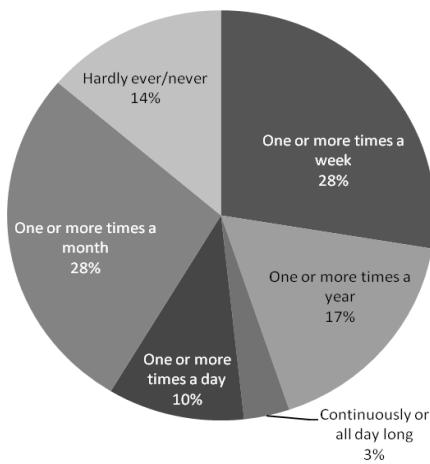
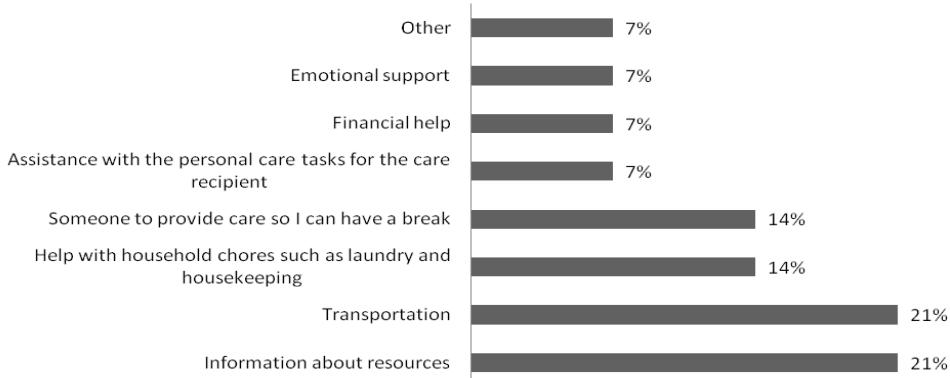


Figure 5. Help needed in caregiving



Of those who have sought help with their caregiving responsibilities, a majority have turned to either friends or neighbors (40%) or family members (20%), while others have sought help from religious organizations (20%), and state agencies (20%). In general, minority, low income and rural elders were more likely to seek help from a wider variety of sources than those in PSA 5 (see Appendix, Question 13).

⁷ Robison, J., Fortinsky, R., Kleppinger, A., Shugrue, N., & Porter, M. (2009). A broader view of family caregiving: effects of caregiving and caregiver conditions on depressive symptoms, health, work, and social isolation. *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, 64B(6), 788–798, doi:10.1093/geronb/gbp015. Advance Access publication on March 24, 2009.

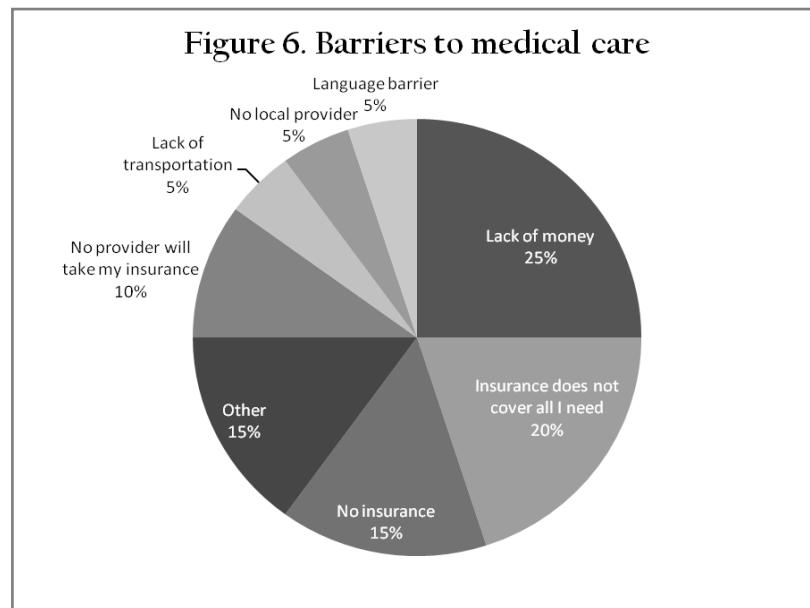
The largest impediment to those who did not receive help with caregiving was that the care recipient would not allow someone new to provide help (25%). Other reasons cited include: inability to afford the expense, the caregiver does not want strangers in their house, the caregiver does not like asking for help, services are not available, and the caregiver does not believe they would be satisfied with the available help (13% each) (see Appendix, Question 14). In the PSA, 12% of caregiving elders are interested in receiving caregiver training, with minorities reporting a greater interest in receiving such training (24%) (Appendix, Question 15).

Health and Health Promotion

Ensuring access to health care, disease prevention information, and activities for fitness and wellness are important factors in maintaining the vitality and independence of the elder population. Over one-third of elders (37%) are interested in training or classes to keep themselves healthy, with an even greater interest among the minority (61%), low-income (52%), and rural populations (47%). However, most elders surveyed (88%) have not attended an event offering free health information (Appendix, Questions 16 and 17).

In PSA 5, 12% of elders are not always able to receive medical care when they need it, with higher percentages reported for minority (36%), low-income (26%), and rural elders (18%) (see Appendix, Question 19). Of those elders, 25% reported that a lack of money served as the largest barrier. The remainder of respondents cited insufficient insurance (20%), no insurance (15%), that no provider will take the elder's insurance (10%), lack of transportation (5%), no local provider (5%), or a language barrier (5%) prevented their access to medical care (see Figure 6).

Elders reported a high frequency of delaying dental care (29%), eye care (21%) and mental health treatment (16%) (see Appendix, Questions 23, 24, and 26). Delays in dental and eye care reported by almost half of minorities and over a third of low-income elders, while delays in mental health treatment are lower among these groups (10% each). For dental care, 49% of minorities reported delays, as did 37% of low-income elders. For eye

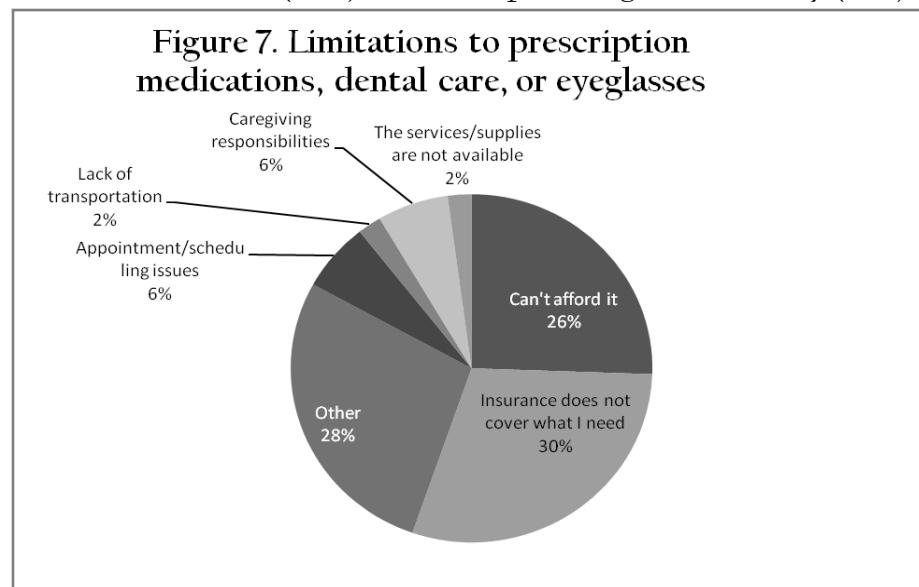


care, 47% of minorities, and 36% of low-income elders, reported delays. When delays in such care occur, the delay is most likely to be for six months or more. For instance, over one-third of

minorities delayed receiving dental care longer than six months, while only 3% delayed care for 1-2 months (see Appendix, Question 24-26).

In filling their prescription medications, 10% of PSA 5 elders (and 9% of rural elders) reported a delay, with higher percentages among the minority (25%) and low-income populations (18%) (see Appendix, Question 21). However, over one-half of elders surveyed in the PSA (53%) were unaware of prescription assistance programs, with even higher rates among minority (60%), low-income (54%) and rural elders (54%) (see Appendix, Question 22). Overall, more than half of respondents had financial impediments to receiving needed care of various types: 26% reported that they cannot afford prescriptions, dental and vision care, and an additional 30% reported that their insurance coverage was insufficient (see Figure 7 and Question 25).

Since the needs assessment survey targeted elders age 60 and older, not all elders were old enough to be eligible for Medicare. In addition, some elders age 65 and older may not be eligible because they did not work the requisite ten years in Medicare-covered employment, or are not a legal resident of the United States. In PSA 5, 65% of elders surveyed over the age of 65 participate in Medicare. Over one-third of elders (35%) surveyed have private health insurance, with similar rates for rural elders (32%), but lower percentages for minority (21%) and low-

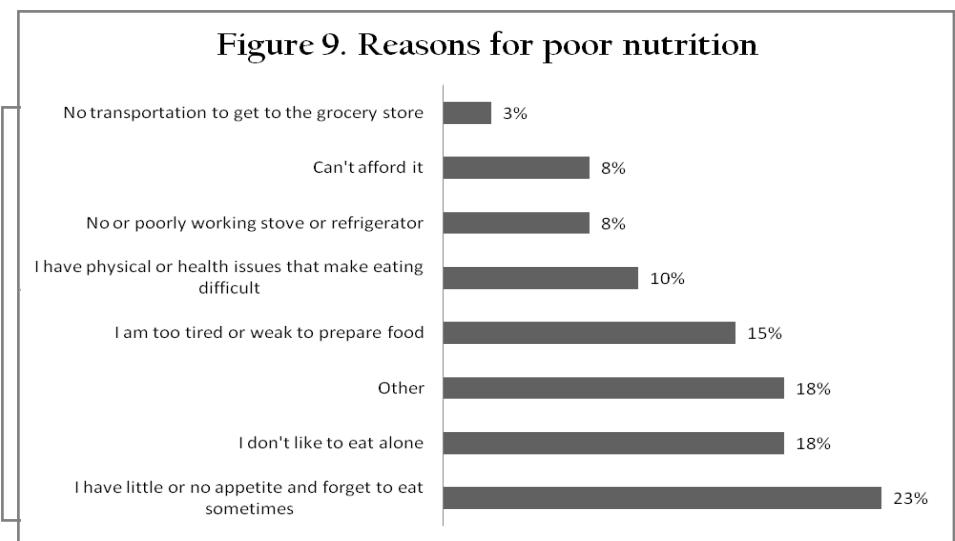


income elders (26%) (for more information, see Appendix, Question 27).

Information and Assistance

When asked who they would contact if they needed information about services for elders, respondents in PSA 5 reported that they were more likely to turn to a medical professional or institution for information (20%), or to consult family members, neighbors or friends (17%). Other sources, such as news media and organizations helping the elderly (such as AARP) were cited by 10% or less (see Figure 8).

When asked how they receive information about activities in their communities, elders reported



receiving information from the newspaper (23%), and from television (21%). Fewer respondents reported receiving information from family members, neighbors, or friends (15%) and 11% read newsletters, flyers, or bulletins (see Appendix, Question 29).

Of PSA 5 elders, 74% reported that they have Internet access, and 35% said they are interested in receiving training on computer and Internet use. Minority and low-income elders, who were less likely to have Internet access (44% and 57%, respectively), were more interested in computer and Internet training (53% and 42%, respectively). Rural elders have the highest rate of Internet access (78%), with over one-third of rural elders (37%) interested in computer and Internet training (see Appendix, Questions 30 and 31).

Nutrition

Good nutrition is imperative for preventing health disorders and allowing elders to remain in their communities longer. However, only 77% of elders surveyed in PSA 5 reported always eating all the food they need, while 70% of low-income elders, 65% of minority elders, and 75% of rural elders said they are meeting dietary requirements (see Appendix, Question 32).

Elders who reported not eating all of the food they need identified the following reasons: having little or no appetite (23%), not liking to eat alone (18%), too tired or weak to prepare food

(15%), having physical or health issues that make eating difficult (10%), no or poorly working stove or refrigerator (8%), not being able to afford food (8%), or not having transportation to get to the grocery store (3%) (see Figure 9 and Question 33).

Although only 8% of the overall PSA reported affordability as their main barrier to adequate nutrition, the rates of minority, low-income and rural elders unable to afford food are much higher, ranging from 20 to 22%, respectively (Appendix, Question 33). The reduced ability to purchase food by minority and low-income elders is reflected in their greater use of food debit cards: 21% of minority and 14% of low-income elders reported using a food debit card, compared to 6% PSA-wide. Approximately 27% of minority respondents said they do not have a debit card because they were determined ineligible (see Appendix, Question 36). In PSA 5, 16% of elders surveyed said they are interested in receiving more information about the program; 44% of minority, and 31% of low-income, respondents reported interest in receiving such information (see Appendix, Question 37). Enrollment in the food debit program is a nationwide challenge as only one-third of the elderly individuals who are eligible for food stamps actually participate in the program.⁸ In addition, 12% of elders surveyed in PSA 5 were interested in receiving information about where meals for seniors are offered. Greater percentages of minority (36%), low-income (25%), and rural respondents (15%) are interested in where meals are offered (see Appendix, Question 38).

Senior Centers

“Senior centers are community facilities that provide a broad spectrum of services suited to the diverse needs and interests of independent older persons.”⁹ Florida has approximately 240 senior centers that are visited by an estimated 380,000 seniors each year¹⁰, yet only 7% of elders in PSA 5 reported that they visit a senior center with any regularity. More minority elders (16%) attend senior center events and activities compared to 9% of low-income elders and 6% of rural elders. Of those who do not visit the senior center, 24% of respondents stated that they do not visit because they stay busy through other activities and groups. Smaller proportions reported not having time (17%) or not being aware of the services offered (15%) (see Appendix, Questions 39 and 40). When asked what kinds of services or activities they would like to see offered at senior centers, 15% cited physical activities and another 15% cited travel and tours (see Appendix, Question 41).

Transportation

⁸ <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/efan04009/efan04009a.pdf>

⁹ 2011 Summary of Programs and Services, Florida Department of Elder Affairs

¹⁰ Ibid

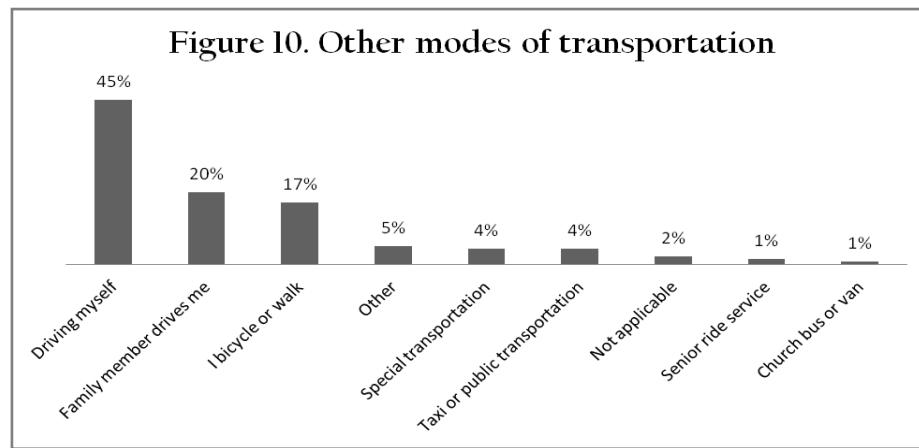
The availability of transportation to elders is central to their independence and well-being and losing the ability to drive is often a major concern to elders. In PSA 5, 4% of elders surveyed reported not being able to get where they need or want to go. Of respondents, 45% stated that they only get around by driving themselves or are otherwise homebound. When asked about other ways to get around, 20% of elders said a spouse, family member, friend or neighbor drives, and 17 % of elders said they use a bicycle or walk, while 5% use special transportation or a senior ride service and another 4% of elders reported using a taxi or public means (see Figure 10 and Appendix, Questions 42-45).

Compared with other respondents in the Planning and Service Area, minority elders (12%) were three times more likely to have problems getting where they needed to go, and low-income elders (7%) were almost twice as likely to have problems getting where they needed to go (Appendix, Question 42). Of those respondents who reported problems with transportation, one in four (25%) cited health issues as the reason why (see Appendix, Question 43). Only 4% of respondents reported using public transportation with any frequency. Compared with only 5% for PSA 5, 24% of rural elders had no public transportation available (see Appendix, Question 46).

Elder Advocacy and Attitudes on Aging in the Community

Elders play a vital role in Florida's communities and it is important for these communities to make elders feel safe, respected and valued. In PSA 5, 12% of respondents feel that their city or town is not elder friendly, a sentiment that was more frequently reported by minority (24%) and low-income elders (19%) (see Appendix, Question 49).

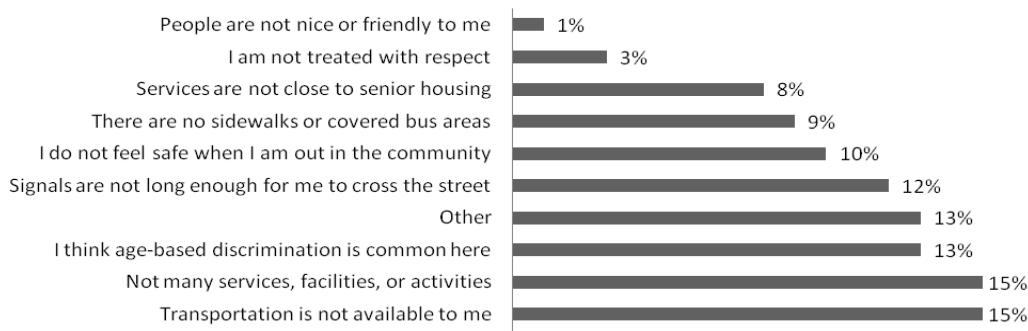
When asked what makes a city or town seem unfriendly to elders, the reasons cited were: lack of transportation (15%), limited services, facilities, or activities (15%), and age-based discrimination (13%), short signals when crossing streets (12%) and concern over safety when



out in the community (10%). For more information, see Figure 11.

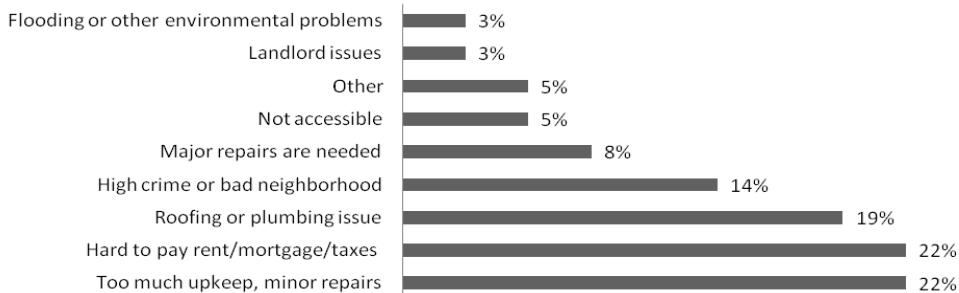
Housing

Figure II. Non-elder-friendly cities and towns



Living in a safe, affordable, and comfortable home is an important aspect of remaining in the community for all people. However, the availability of suitable homes remains a major concern of planners and advocates for the disabled and elderly, in particular. Currently, 54% of residents

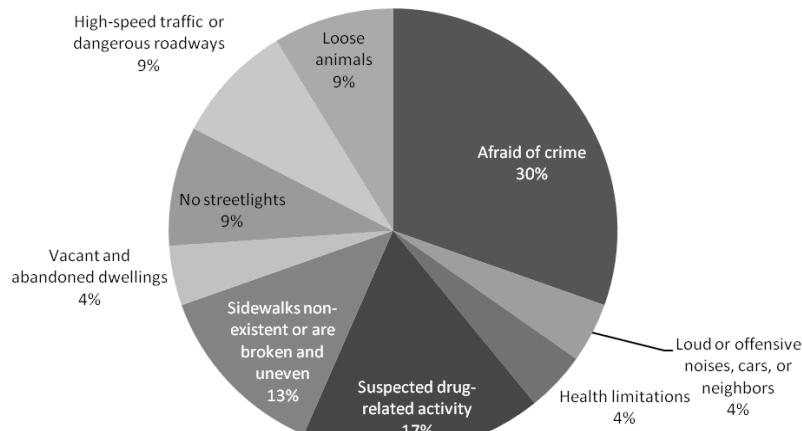
Figure 12. Problems with home or neighborhood



in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) assisted households are elderly or disabled, and in many communities around the country, the supply of affordable, suitable housing units for elders is grossly inadequate to meet demand.¹¹ Many of these elders reported an inability to find housing they felt safe in, could afford, could physically maintain, and had hopes to remain in as they aged.

In PSA 5, 23% of elders surveyed reported problems with their home or neighborhood. Of these elders, most reported challenges with upkeep and repairs (22%), difficulty with home finances (22%), roofing or plumbing issues (19%), and high crime (14%) (see Figure 12). The greatest concern for minority (31%) and low-income elders (21%) pertained to making housing payments, which reflects the national trends addressed in the HUD report (31% and 21%, respectively; see Appendix,

Figure 13. Reasons why elders feel unsafe in neighborhoods



¹¹ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development “Fiscal Year 2012 Program and Budget Initiatives: The Population HUD Serves”. <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=FctShtHUDClients2.pdf>

Question 52). Nearly one in five elders (19%) indicated a need or desire to move from their current residence. The largest group (33%) would prefer living in a retirement community and 17% would prefer residing in a more centrally located area (see Appendix, Question 53). Elders who said they cannot move cited the following diverse reasons: devalued property (45%), packing and moving is too overwhelming (18%), not enough money or help with moving (9%), and attachment to current residence (9%) (see Appendix, Question 55).

Only 2% of elders reported not always feeling safe in their home, while 9% of elders surveyed said they do not always feel safe in their neighborhood (see Appendix, Questions 57 and 59). Reasons cited include: fear of crime (30%), suspected drug-related activity (17%), broken or non-existent sidewalks (13%), no streetlights (9%), high-speed traffic and dangerous roadways (9%), and loose animals (9%) (see Figure 13). Rural respondents (5%) were half as likely to sometimes feel unsafe in their neighborhood as PSA 5-wide participants; however, minority (23%) and low-income (14%) respondents expressed greater concern over safety issues in their neighborhoods (specifically crimes and drugs) (Appendix, Question 59).

Volunteerism

Many elders remain active and derive a sense of worth by contributing to their communities through volunteer work. Elders volunteer more than their younger counterparts, with rates of volunteering not declining until elders are in their mid-70s.¹² Over one-third of respondents (38%) in PSA 5 currently volunteer, primarily for religious or community organizations. Only 10% of elders reported not being interested in volunteering and 29 % are interested in receiving information regarding opportunities for volunteering. The main cited impediment to volunteering is a lack of time (18%) (see Appendix, Questions 61-64).

Employment

Florida's elders are an important part of the state's overall economy, and a critical component of the state's skilled workforce. Even though many elders desire full-time work and are employable, there are barriers preventing their full participation in the workforce. While the majority of respondents (57%) in PSA 5 said they are willingly retired or don't want to work, 7% were needed for homemaker or caregiving duties, and 13% said that they are unable to work because of health or functional limitations or are otherwise involuntarily unemployed (see Figure 14). The percentages of minority (16%) and low-income elders (15%) who were prevented from working because of health or functional limitations or are involuntarily unemployed were higher than those of the total elder respondents in PSA 5 (see Appendix, Question 65).

¹² S Linda K. George, Still Happy After All These Years: Research Frontiers on Subjective Well-being in Later Life. *The Journals of Gerontology, Series B Volume 65B* (4): 461-469, March 2010.

Of those interested in switching to or securing part- or full-time work, 11% are interested in working part-time and 7% in working full-time. Though only 7% have already tried a job matching service, 17 % of PSA 5 elders are interested in receiving such help, with higher percentages of minorities (31%) and low-income elders (20%) reporting the same. In addition, 13% of PSA 5 elder respondents would like to receive job training. Compared with PSA 5, rural

elders were less interested in job training (9%), while low-income elders were more interested (17%), and minority elders were more than twice as likely (27%) to report an interest in job training (see Appendix, Questions 66-68).

Of those who were interested in finding employment but were unable to do so, most stated that over-qualification and the limited availability of jobs were the main reasons they were unable to find work

(17% each). The limited availability of jobs was more pronounced among minority and low-income respondents (29% and 27%, respectively). Approximately 5% of elders (and 7% of each of the oversampled populations) said they were wrongfully terminated, passed over for promotion, denied a position, or mistreated in the workforce because of their age (Appendix, Questions 70 and 71).

Exploitation and Legal Issues

The National Center on Elder Abuse estimates five million cases of elder financial exploitation occur annually. Many of these cases go unreported as seniors may be too embarrassed to report fraud or are unaware they are being victimized.¹³ In PSA 5, all of the respondents were concerned about becoming a victim of consumer fraud or swindle, however only 11% of elder respondents stated they have been a victim in recent years (Appendix, Questions 72 and 73). More than one-third (39%) were unaware of programs that assist elders in keeping themselves

¹³ <http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us/english/pubs/pubs/MasterPlan/10ElderRights.pdf>

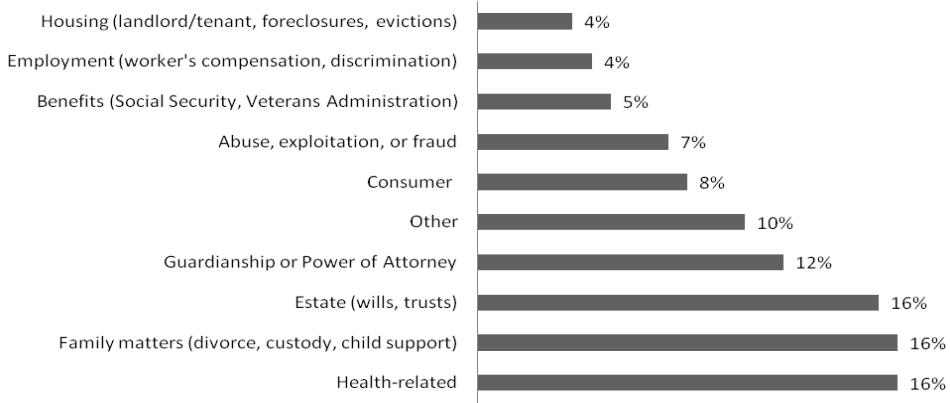
protected from abuse, neglect and financial exploitation. Minority (58%), low-income (57%), and rural respondents (52%) were even less aware of such programs (Appendix, Question 78).

In 2005, the Department of Elder Affairs created the Elder Rights Unit, which oversees Title VII programs including Elder Abuse Prevention, Legal Services Development, and the State Health Insurance Assistance Program, known as SHINE. In addition, the Department offers a Senior Legal Helpline providing free legal advice and brief services by telephone to eligible Florida residents age 60 and older, for civil (not criminal) legal problems. Nearly one-third of respondents in PSA 5 (31%) were aware of the legal services provided by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs. To a lesser degree, elders were familiar with the following organizations, in order of response: local legal aid office (20%), local Area Agency on Aging (18%), Florida Senior Legal Helpline (16%) and Florida Bar Lawyer Referral Service (15%) (see Appendix, Question 74).

As shown in Figure 15, the primary types of legal problems that concern elders in PSA 5 are those related to health issues (i.e., improper billing with Medicare and Medicaid), family matters (i.e., divorce, custody, etc.), and estates (i.e., wills, trusts, etc.) (see Appendix, Question 77).

Of those surveyed, 15% reported that they have needed legal advice in the past three years but

Figure 15. Legal matters concerning elders



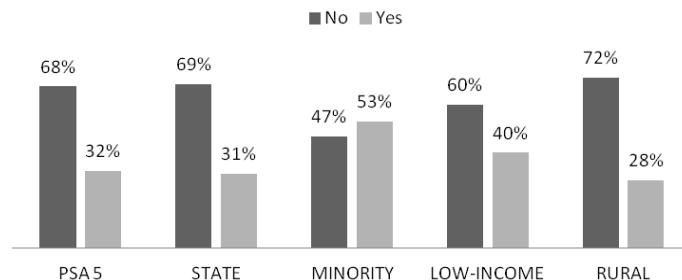
not seen a lawyer. Higher percentages of minority (24%), low-income (19%), and rural (22%) respondents reported the same (see Appendix, Question 75). For PSA 5 and all three subgroups, financial reasons were cited by 39-43% of respondents as the primary reason for not seeing a lawyer (see Appendix, Question 76).

Disaster Preparedness

Unique combinations of challenges affect elders, such as limited transportation options, activity limitations and health concerns; so many elders in Florida need extra assistance in preparing for disasters, especially hurricanes. For this reason, the Department has emphasized hurricane evacuation assistance and worked in cooperation with the Executive Office of the Governor to urge seniors to discuss their storm safety plans with loved ones. Also, a variety of options to assist with coping with and preparing for disasters are provided by the Department, including a Disaster Preparedness Guide for Elders, a Family Disaster Plan, and Disaster Supply Kits, including one for pets.¹⁴ This is important, for almost one-third of elders surveyed (32%) were interested in learning about temporary or special needs shelter options during an evacuation-related event; and minority (53%) and low-income (40%) elders reported an even greater interest (as shown in Figure 16).

Fortunately, there is a high degree of awareness that this is an important issue in our state, and surveyed elders expressed a high of interest in becoming better prepared. Specifically, 45% of elders reported an interest in more elder-specific training classes for disaster preparedness. Even greater percentages of minority (62%) and low-income elders (52%) were interested in receiving such training (see Appendix, Question 80).

Figure 16. Elders' interest in learning more about temporary or special needs shelter options



¹⁴ <http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us/english/hr.php>

Appendix: Survey Questions

Living Situation

Question 1: What is your current living situation?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Live with spouse	43%	49%	38%	41%	55%
Live alone	39%	31%	31%	35%	25%
Live with friend	6%	2%	1%	2%	3%
Other	6%	6%	7%	4%	3%
Live with child	4%	8%	13%	10%	9%
Live with grandchild or other relative	3%	3%	10%	8%	6%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Self Care Limitations

Question 2: On a scale from zero to five, how much assistance do you need for the following personal care tasks (ADLs)?

		PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Bathing	0	91%	90%	77%	84%	93%
	1 to 3	6%	5%	11%	8%	4%
	4 to 5	3%	5%	12%	8%	4%
Dressing	0	94%	92%	79%	85%	93%
	1 to 3	4%	5%	12%	10%	6%
	4 to 5	2%	4%	9%	5%	2%
Eating	0	91%	93%	83%	88%	95%
	1 to 3	7%	4%	11%	8%	3%
	4 to 5	2%	3%	6%	4%	2%
Using the bathroom	0	95%	94%	87%	92%	96%
	1 to 3	5%	4%	7%	5%	3%
	4 to 5	0%	2%	5%	3%	1%
Transferring	0	94%	92%	82%	86%	91%
	1 to 3	6%	6%	13%	11%	8%
	4 to 5	0%	2%	6%	4%	2%
Walking	0	91%	89%	75%	84%	91%
	1 to 3	7%	8%	14%	9%	7%
	4 to 5	2%	4%	11%	7%	3%

Self Care Limitations

Question 3: How often do you receive the help you need with personal care tasks (ADLs)?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Hardly ever/never	53%	47%	51%	50%	48%
Most of the time	24%	14%	9%	14%	20%
Sometimes	18%	27%	23%	22%	20%
Always	6%	12%	17%	14%	13%
Respondents	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Self Care Limitations

Question 4: On a scale from zero to five, how much assistance do you need for the following other activities (IADLs)?

		PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Heavy chores	0	55%	56%	45%	46%	58%
	1 to 3	24%	24%	29%	29%	27%
	4 to 5	21%	19%	26%	24%	16%
Light housekeeping	0	80%	76%	61%	67%	79%
	1 to 3	15%	16%	27%	22%	14%
	4 to 5	5%	8%	12%	12%	7%
Using the phone	0	96%	94%	86%	90%	96%
	1 to 3	3%	3%	6%	6%	2%
	4 to 5	1%	3%	8%	4%	2%
Managing money	0	94%	88%	80%	82%	91%
	1 to 3	3%	7%	9%	10%	6%
	4 to 5	3%	4%	11%	8%	3%
Preparing meals	0	84%	84%	74%	76%	86%
	1 to 3	11%	9%	14%	13%	9%
	4 to 5	5%	7%	11%	11%	5%
Shopping	0	84%	82%	68%	73%	84%
	1 to 3	10%	8%	17%	14%	10%
	4 to 5	6%	10%	14%	13%	7%
Taking medication	0	92%	91%	83%	85%	91%
	1 to 3	4%	5%	11%	8%	5%
	4 to 5	4%	4%	7%	6%	4%
Using transportation	0	87%	85%	71%	77%	88%
	1 to 3	5%	6%	11%	9%	6%
	4 to 5	8%	9%	18%	14%	6%

Self Care Limitations

Question 5: How often do you receive the help you need with general activities (IADLs)?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Hardly ever/never	42%	48%	50%	53%	47%
Sometimes	29%	22%	23%	18%	21%
Most of the time	21%	16%	11%	15%	15%
Always	8%	14%	16%	14%	17%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Question 6: From whom have you tried to get help with personal care tasks and general activities?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Family	47%	36%	48%	44%	49%
Friends and/or Neighbors	14%	18%	18%	25%	22%
Other	12%	10%	13%	13%	11%
Not Applicable	12%	17%	0%	0%	0%
State Agency	9%	3%	7%	4%	3%
Local Agency	4%	4%	4%	5%	5%
Religious Organization	2%	6%	3%	4%	5%
Community Group	0%	3%	2%	3%	1%
Federal Agency	0%	4%	4%	2%	4%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Caregiving

Question 7: Do you ever provide care, either directly or indirectly over the telephone, for someone who is not able to take care of him or herself?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
No	71%	72%	70%	71%	73%
Yes	15%	20%	20%	19%	18%
Maybe	14%	8%	10%	10%	9%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Caregiving

Question 8: How often do you provide care?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Hardly ever/never	14%	17%	13%	17%	12%
One or more times a year	17%	6%	12%	5%	16%
One or more times a month	28%	29%	18%	23%	16%
One or more times a week	28%	29%	32%	35%	41%
One or more times a day	10%	10%	10%	8%	7%
Continuously or all day long	3%	9%	15%	11%	7%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 9: How many persons for whom you provide care are in each of the following categories?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
0-18 years old	1+	16%	16%	24%	18%
19-59 years old	1+	32%	25%	28%	23%
60+ years old	1+	76%	86%	88%	94%

Question 10: Do you have help with your caregiving responsibilities?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
No	54%	56%	61%	54%	53%
Yes	46%	44%	39%	46%	47%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 11: Do you need help (or more help) with your caregiving responsibilities?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
No	88%	79%	79%	80%	77%
Yes	12%	21%	21%	20%	23%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Caregiving

Question 12: What type of help do you need?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Information about resources	21%	14%	17%	19%	15%
Transportation	21%	12%	8%	6%	7%
Help with household chores such as laundry and housekeeping	14%	13%	15%	13%	14%
Someone to provide care so I can have a break	14%	11%	12%	16%	15%
Assistance with the personal care tasks for the care recipient	7%	12%	8%	9%	13%
Financial help	7%	12%	17%	15%	15%
Emotional support	7%	14%	10%	12%	11%
Other	7%	6%	2%	3%	1%
Training on how to provide care	0%	7%	12%	7%	8%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Question 13: From whom have you tried to get help with your caregiving responsibilities?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Friends/neighbors	40%	14%	7%	3%	12%
Family	20%	25%	21%	28%	21%
Religious organization	20%	11%	4%	7%	2%
State agency	20%	11%	21%	10%	12%
Local agency	0%	12%	14%	17%	17%
Community group	0%	10%	11%	10%	12%
Federal agency	0%	10%	14%	7%	7%
Other	0%	5%	4%	10%	7%
Not applicable	0%	2%	4%	7%	10%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Caregiving

Question 14: Are any of the following reasons why you do not receive or did not try to get help with your caregiving responsibilities?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
The care recipient won't allow someone new to provide help	25%	13%	5%	8%	13%
I can't afford the expense	13%	20%	17%	17%	15%
I don't want strangers in my house	13%	8%	10%	8%	8%
I don't like asking for help	13%	10%	12%	12%	15%
Services are not available	13%	14%	14%	12%	15%
I don't think I would be satisfied with the available help	13%	6%	10%	8%	5%
Other	13%	4%	12%	6%	3%
The care does not require a lot of time or energy	0%	12%	17%	15%	17%
I don't have time to check out options	0%	13%	5%	15%	8%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Question 15: Would you be interested in receiving caregiver training?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
No	88%	90%	76%	87%	91%
Yes	12%	10%	24%	13%	9%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Health and Health Promotion

Question 16: During the past year have you attended an event offering free health information?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
No	88%	84%	82%	85%	87%
Yes	12%	16%	18%	15%	13%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 17: If training or classes were available to help you learn about keeping yourself healthy, how interested would be in attending?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Not interested	63%	53%	39%	48%	53%
Somewhat interested	25%	32%	34%	38%	38%
Very interested	12%	16%	27%	14%	9%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Health and Health Promotion

Question 18: Are you regularly doing a physical activity three or more times a week?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Yes	68%	76%	66%	74%	78%
No	32%	24%	34%	26%	22%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 19: If you need medical care, are you able to get it?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Yes, always	88%	81%	64%	74%	82%
Yes, most of the time	8%	13%	21%	16%	14%
No, never or hardly ever	3%	2%	6%	3%	1%
Yes, sometimes	1%	4%	9%	7%	3%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 20: What keeps you from getting medical care?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Lack of money	25%	19%	24%	23%	24%
Insurance does not cover all I need	20%	21%	17%	20%	18%
No insurance	15%	10%	17%	17%	18%
Other	15%	14%	9%	7%	11%
No provider will take my insurance	10%	8%	8%	5%	6%
Lack of transportation	5%	10%	8%	8%	6%
No local provider	5%	9%	4%	8%	9%
Language barrier	5%	4%	7%	6%	2%
Caregiving responsibilities	0%	6%	7%	6%	6%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Question 21: In the last 12 months, how long have you delayed filling your prescription medications?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
No prescription medications needed	8%	8%	12%	10%	14%
No delay	82%	82%	63%	73%	77%
Less than 1 month	4%	5%	8%	8%	5%
1-2 months	5%	3%	10%	6%	2%
3-6 months	0%	1%	4%	2%	1%
Longer than 6 months	1%	1%	3%	2%	1%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Health and Health Promotion

Question 22: Are you aware of any prescription assistance programs?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
No	53%	52%	60%	54%	54%
Yes	47%	48%	40%	46%	46%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 23: In the last 12 months, how long have you delayed getting dental care?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
No dental care needed	24%	20%	26%	27%	21%
No delay	47%	51%	25%	36%	51%
Less than 1 month	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%
1-2 months	1%	3%	3%	2%	2%
3-6 months	7%	7%	9%	7%	4%
Longer than 6 months	18%	18%	34%	26%	19%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 24: In the last 12 months, how long have you delayed getting new eyeglasses or other eye care?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
No eyeglasses or eye care needed	11%	13%	12%	11%	13%
No delay	68%	63%	40%	53%	60%
Less than 1 month	4%	2%	6%	5%	4%
1-2 months	2%	3%	2%	2%	1%
3-6 months	3%	5%	7%	7%	7%
Longer than 6 months	12%	14%	32%	22%	16%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 25: What has limited your ability to get prescription medications, dental care, or eyeglasses?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Insurance does not cover what I need	30%	24%	23%	26%	29%
Other	28%	22%	23%	22%	23%
Can't afford it	26%	27%	29%	29%	31%
Appointment or scheduling issues	6%	7%	6%	7%	5%
Caregiving responsibilities	6%	5%	4%	3%	3%
The services or supplies are not available in my community	2%	3%	5%	5%	4%
Lack of transportation	2%	6%	5%	3%	2%
Health limitations	0%	5%	6%	5%	3%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Health and Health Promotion

Question 26: In the past year, have you had to delay or do without help for an emotional or mental health problem?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
No	84%	89%	90%	90%	91%
Yes	16%	11%	10%	10%	9%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 27: What kind(s) of health care insurance do you have?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Medicare*	65%	85%	47%	47%	50%
Private insurance	35%	34%	21%	26%	32%
Other	11%	10%	11%	10%	8%
Veteran's health benefits	6%	8%	4%	7%	9%
Medicaid	4%	5%	18%	11%	4%
None	3%	1%	3%	2%	2%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older

Information and Assistance

Question 28: Who would you contact if you needed information about services that help older adults?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Doctor's office, VA clinic, or registered nurse	20%	19%	19%	21%	22%
Family members, neighbors, or friends	17%	18%	23%	23%	21%
National organizations (AARP)	10%	11%	11%	9%	11%
Government agency	9%	8%	7%	6%	6%
Internet	8%	9%	3%	6%	9%
Church	8%	7%	7%	7%	6%
Elder Helpline	7%	6%	6%	6%	5%
Aging agencies, senior centers, or retirement communities	7%	7%	6%	7%	6%
Newspaper, magazines	6%	6%	5%	4%	4%
Community organizations	6%	5%	5%	4%	3%
Other	3%	4%	7%	6%	5%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Information and Assistance

Question 29: How do you find out what is going in your community?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Newspaper	23%	20%	18%	21%	22%
Television	21%	20%	28%	24%	21%
Family, neighbors, or friends	15%	16%	14%	16%	15%
Newsletters, flyers, or bulletins	11%	10%	10%	10%	9%
Internet	10%	11%	7%	8%	11%
Radio	8%	9%	11%	8%	8%
Community center or other community group/organization	5%	6%	5%	5%	6%
Faith-based organization	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Other	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 30: Do you have access to the internet?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Yes	74%	72%	44%	57%	78%
No	26%	28%	56%	43%	22%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 31: If training on using computers or the internet were available, would you be interested in attending?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
No	65%	63%	47%	58%	63%
Yes	35%	37%	53%	42%	37%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Nutrition

Question 32: How often do you eat all the food you need?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Always	77%	74%	65%	70%	75%
Most of the time	20%	21%	20%	21%	19%
Sometimes	1%	4%	11%	6%	4%
Hardly ever/never	2%	1%	3%	2%	2%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Nutrition

Question 33: Why is that you do not eat all the food you need?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
I have little or no appetite and forget to eat sometimes	23%	17%	17%	15%	19%
I don't like to eat alone	18%	13%	10%	11%	16%
Other	18%	21%	15%	16%	17%
I am too tired or weak to prepare food	15%	13%	10%	14%	10%
I have physical or health issues that make eating difficult	10%	11%	11%	11%	9%
No or poorly working stove or refrigerator	8%	3%	6%	3%	3%
Can't afford it	8%	16%	20%	22%	20%
No transportation to get to the grocery store	3%	6%	10%	8%	5%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.					

Question 34: Do you eat a healthy variety of foods in your diet?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Yes	90%	92%	91%	91%	95%
No	10%	8%	9%	9%	5%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 35: Do you have a food debit card (also known as food stamps)?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
No	94%	95%	79%	86%	97%
Yes	6%	5%	21%	14%	3%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 36: What are the reasons you do not have a food debit card?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Not needed	69%	64%	40%	55%	65%
I have been determined not eligible	12%	15%	27%	17%	14%
Other	10%	12%	15%	14%	10%
I don't like asking for help	5%	5%	10%	8%	6%
I won't get enough assistance to be worth the effort	2%	2%	4%	3%	2%
I don't want to provide personal information	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%
Don't know	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%
Refused	0%	0%	2%	1%	1%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Nutrition

Question 37: Would you like more information about the card?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
No	84%	78%	56%	69%	81%
Yes	16%	22%	44%	31%	19%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 38: Are you interested in learning about where meals for seniors may be offered in your community?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
No	88%	83%	64%	75%	85%
Yes	12%	17%	36%	25%	15%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Senior Centers

Question 39: How often do you go to the senior center?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Never/hardly ever	93%	90%	84%	91%	94%
Often	4%	4%	6%	3%	3%
Sometimes	3%	6%	10%	6%	4%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 40: Why is it that you hardly ever or never go to the Senior Center?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
I stay busy through other activities and groups	24%	26%	15%	20%	24%
I don't have time	17%	12%	12%	12%	12%
I am not aware of the services that are offered	15%	12%	10%	11%	11%
Other	13%	12%	11%	13%	13%
I don't think I am old enough to go there	8%	8%	9%	9%	9%
I would prefer a location that also includes other age groups	5%	8%	11%	9%	8%
I don't like the activities offered	4%	4%	5%	4%	4%
There is not a senior center nearby	4%	6%	7%	7%	8%
Transportation is not available	3%	4%	8%	6%	4%
Caregiving responsibilities	3%	3%	5%	4%	3%
Physically unable to attend	2%	3%	6%	5%	4%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Senior Centers

Question 41: What kinds of services or activities do you think should be offered at senior centers that you would be more likely to use?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Physical activities	15%	17%	17%	17%	16%
Travel/tours	15%	14%	15%	13%	14%
Arts and crafts/hobby classes	14%	13%	14%	14%	13%
Using the computer and/or Internet	13%	15%	14%	13%	15%
Genealogy classes	12%	10%	9%	10%	9%
Card games	12%	12%	10%	11%	13%
Nature-related activities	11%	13%	14%	14%	13%
Other	9%	6%	7%	7%	7%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Transportation

Question 42: Are you usually able to get where you need or want to go?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Yes	96%	96%	88%	93%	98%
No	4%	4%	12%	7%	2%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 43: What is the main thing that limits your ability to get where you want to go?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Don't know	75%	36%	30%	32%	29%
Health issues	25%	33%	39%	32%	43%
There is no public transportation	0%	14%	12%	16%	14%
I don't know anyone I can ask	0%	8%	0%	3%	14%
Financial reasons	0%	8%	18%	16%	0%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Transportation

Question 44: If you are limited in how often you drive, what limits you?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Illness or physical problem	23%	16%	10%	11%	15%
I can/do not drive	17%	23%	30%	25%	18%
Spouse or other person usually drives	17%	12%	11%	13%	19%
Other	17%	17%	18%	21%	19%
Visual impairment	10%	11%	10%	13%	9%
Car problems (no car or repairs needed)	10%	6%	5%	4%	1%
Financial reasons	3%	8%	11%	8%	11%
Car in use by someone else	3%	3%	1%	1%	3%
Amount of traffic	0%	4%	3%	4%	6%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Question 45: What other ways do you use to get around?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Only get around by driving myself, or I am homebound	45%	43%	39%	43%	52%
A spouse, family member, friend or neighbor drives me	20%	22%	23%	21%	19%
I bicycle or walk	17%	16%	7%	10%	11%
Other	5%	4%	7%	5%	4%
Special transportation (golf cart, wheelchair, or scooter)	4%	5%	3%	6%	8%
I take a taxi or use public transportation	4%	5%	9%	6%	2%
Not applicable	2%	2%	3%	4%	2%
Senior ride service	1%	2%	4%	3%	1%
Church bus or van	1%	1%	4%	3%	1%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Question 46: How often do you use public transportation?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
No public transportation is available in this area	5%	10%	8%	12%	24%
I don't use public transportation	85%	75%	64%	69%	69%
Hardly ever	6%	9%	10%	9%	5%
Sometimes	4%	4%	12%	6%	1%
Often	0%	2%	6%	3%	0%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Transportation

Question 47: Please rate your level of satisfaction with the public transportation services:

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Very satisfied	50%	49%	37%	37%	50%
Somewhat satisfied	25%	37%	43%	49%	50%
Somewhat dissatisfied	25%	8%	13%	7%	0%
Very dissatisfied	0%	7%	7%	7%	0%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 48: Please select your reasons for being less than satisfied with or are not using public transportation:

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Don't need it	17%	10%	12%	18%	11%
My town has very limited public transportation	17%	13%	14%	12%	33%
It is inconvenient (rides too long or too many stops)	17%	18%	12%	12%	11%
It doesn't go where I need to go	17%	13%	14%	12%	22%
Lack of knowledge about the service	17%	6%	2%	3%	0%
Other	17%	28%	33%	24%	11%
I have health, age, or financial issues	0%	4%	7%	9%	0%
Safety issues	0%	7%	7%	9%	11%
Not accessible with wheelchair	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
It is not clean	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
My friends don't use it	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Elder Advocacy and Attitudes on Aging in the Community

Question 49: Do you feel your city/town values older people or is elder friendly?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Yes, very much so	39%	37%	40%	36%	35%
Yes, somewhat	44%	42%	31%	40%	43%
No, not very much	8%	10%	17%	12%	8%
Don't know	5%	7%	5%	5%	7%
No not at all	4%	5%	7%	7%	7%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Elder Advocacy and Attitudes on Aging in the Community

Question 50: What makes your city/town elder-friendly to you?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
People are friendly and courteous to me	12%	12%	12%	12%	11%
There are programs, services, activities, and events for me	11%	10%	10%	10%	10%
There are many other seniors in my community	11%	11%	10%	11%	11%
I am treated with respect	11%	11%	13%	12%	11%
Street signs are easy for me to read	10%	11%	11%	10%	11%
I feel safe when I am out in the community	10%	11%	10%	10%	11%
I feel I have something to contribute and that it would be appreciated	9%	10%	10%	9%	10%
Transportation is available to seniors	9%	9%	11%	10%	9%
Businesses offer me senior discounts	9%	9%	8%	9%	9%
There are a variety of affordable housing options available	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%
Other	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Question 51: What makes your city/town not seem elder-friendly to you?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Transportation is not available to me	15%	12%	9%	10%	14%
There are not very many services, facilities, or activities for seniors	15%	14%	13%	17%	16%
I think age-based discrimination is common here	13%	10%	12%	10%	8%
Other	13%	13%	7%	10%	11%
Signals are not long enough for me to cross the street	12%	10%	10%	8%	6%
I do not feel safe when I am out in the community	10%	9%	10%	8%	7%
There are no sidewalks or covered bus areas	9%	11%	11%	12%	15%
Services are not close to senior housing	8%	9%	10%	10%	11%
I am not treated with respect	3%	7%	9%	7%	6%
People are not nice or friendly to me	1%	5%	9%	7%	6%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Housing

Question 52: Do you have any of the following problems with your home or neighborhood?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Too much upkeep, minor repairs (i.e., painting)	22%	23%	12%	15%	19%
Hard to pay rent/mortgage/taxes (i.e., homeowner association dues)	22%	21%	31%	21%	21%
Roofing or plumbing issue	19%	12%	13%	15%	13%
High crime or bad neighborhood	14%	8%	6%	10%	7%
Major repairs are needed (other than roofing or plumbing)	8%	12%	13%	13%	8%
Not accessible (i.e., stairs, no grab bars in bathtub, cabinets are hard to reach)	5%	5%	3%	6%	2%
Other	5%	11%	17%	14%	24%
Landlord issues	3%	3%	1%	1%	0%
Flooding or other similar environmental problems	3%	4%	4%	6%	4%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Question 53: If you want or need to move, what type of location would you prefer?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
To live in a retirement community (seniors only)	33%	19%	14%	19%	18%
Other	21%	17%	16%	15%	18%
Centrally located to be able to walk to services	17%	21%	22%	18%	14%
To live in a family neighborhood (all ages)	8%	11%	14%	13%	10%
To live in a more secluded, more rural (country) setting	8%	15%	14%	15%	19%
Assisted living	8%	11%	10%	8%	7%
To live in a more urban (city) setting	4%	8%	10%	12%	16%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Question 54: If you want or need to move, what type of structure would you prefer?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Single family home	58%	46%	49%	49%	56%
Other	33%	20%	16%	20%	24%
Apartment-type housing	8%	22%	19%	21%	12%
Duplex, triplex, or quad	0%	12%	16%	10%	9%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Housing

Question 55: If you want or need to move, what prevents you from moving?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
My home was devalued, I won't get enough money out of it	45%	22%	26%	28%	40%
The idea of packing and moving is too overwhelming	18%	13%	5%	10%	13%
Other	18%	16%	11%	14%	20%
Not enough money or help with moving	9%	15%	26%	15%	8%
Attached to my current residence (memories)	9%	12%	4%	7%	4%
Preferred/affordable housing option not available	0%	6%	10%	8%	1%
Health issues	0%	4%	4%	3%	4%
I don't know what options are available	0%	10%	14%	15%	10%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Question 56: Would you be interested in sharing your home with any of the following:

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Family member	33%	31%	27%	26%	31%
None	31%	35%	48%	49%	40%
Friend	10%	10%	5%	6%	10%
Individual who could assist around the house	7%	5%	3%	4%	3%
Open to all options	7%	6%	5%	5%	6%
A college student	4%	3%	2%	2%	2%
Other	4%	4%	6%	4%	4%
Another older person	3%	5%	4%	4%	3%
A single mother and children	2%	2%	2%	0%	2%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Question 57: How often do you feel safe at home?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Most or all of the time	98%	97%	94%	96%	97%
Some of the time	2%	2%	6%	4%	2%
Rarely ever/never	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Housing

Question 58: What makes you feel unsafe in your home or on your property?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Afraid of crime	67%	28%	30%	36%	29%
Fences and gates at property line need repair	33%	7%	0%	0%	0%
Unsafe building, flooring, stairways, or walkways	0%	7%	0%	0%	0%
Bathroom or kitchen is not senior friendly	0%	7%	4%	0%	0%
Afraid of falling or other mobility concerns	0%	16%	4%	9%	7%
Health limitations	0%	11%	0%	0%	0%
Inadequate lighting	0%	8%	4%	9%	7%
Other	0%	17%	57%	45%	57%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Question 59: How often do you feel safe out in your neighborhood?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Most or all of the time	91%	91%	77%	86%	95%
Some of the time	9%	8%	17%	10%	3%
Rarely ever/never	0%	1%	6%	4%	2%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 60: What makes you feel unsafe while out in your neighborhood?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Afraid of crime	30%	23%	23%	21%	20%
Suspected drug-related activity	17%	16%	13%	14%	14%
Sidewalks non-existent or are broken and uneven	13%	10%	10%	9%	13%
No streetlights	9%	8%	10%	9%	9%
High-speed traffic or dangerous roadways	9%	10%	11%	10%	8%
Loose animals	9%	8%	7%	8%	9%
Vacant and abandoned dwellings	4%	7%	7%	7%	7%
Loud or offensive noises, cars, or neighbors	4%	7%	5%	7%	7%
Health limitations	4%	7%	8%	10%	11%
Other	0%	3%	6%	6%	4%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Volunteerism

Question 61: Do you currently volunteer?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
No	62%	64%	76%	69%	62%
Yes	38%	36%	24%	31%	38%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 62: What type of organization do you volunteer for?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Faith or religious-based	28%	24%	25%	29%	28%
Community (i.e., arts organizations, museums, politics, etc.)	16%	15%	11%	11%	15%
Other	14%	13%	11%	14%	13%
School-related (parent organization, primary school, or university, etc.)	13%	9%	9%	8%	6%
Health-related (i.e., hospital, nursing home, Red Cross, politics, etc.)	11%	8%	11%	10%	7%
Civic (city or county boards)	8%	9%	9%	8%	12%
Professional organization	5%	7%	5%	3%	5%
Child welfare	5%	3%	5%	4%	3%
Senior center	2%	5%	9%	6%	3%
Animal, wildlife, or nature-related organization	0%	6%	3%	5%	7%
None of the above	0%	1%	3%	1%	1%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Volunteerism

Question 63: What keeps you from volunteering?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Not enough time	18%	15%	13%	12%	15%
Health issues	16%	16%	24%	20%	17%
Work prevents it	10%	9%	7%	7%	9%
Don't want to or not interested in volunteering	10%	15%	13%	17%	18%
Haven't been asked	9%	8%	7%	8%	5%
Other	9%	9%	8%	8%	11%
Haven't found the right organization	8%	7%	5%	5%	7%
Limited energy or functional ability	8%	11%	9%	12%	8%
Caregiving responsibilities	6%	5%	6%	6%	5%
Lack of transportation	5%	4%	5%	3%	3%
None of the above	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Question 64: Would you be interested in receiving information on volunteer opportunities in your area?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
No	71%	75%	61%	72%	74%
Yes	29%	25%	39%	28%	26%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Employment

Question 65: What is your employment status?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Retired	51%	52%	43%	49%	56%
Unable to work due to health or functional limitations	11%	9%	14%	12%	8%
Working full-time	9%	7%	5%	4%	7%
Do not want to work	6%	5%	4%	6%	6%
Full-time homemaker	6%	7%	10%	8%	5%
Working part-time	5%	7%	5%	5%	5%
Self-employed	4%	4%	3%	3%	4%
Other	3%	3%	5%	4%	3%
Involuntarily unemployed	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%
I am actively looking for work but I haven't found a job yet	2%	2%	5%	4%	2%
Full-time caregiver	1%	2%	3%	3%	3%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Question 66: Are you interested in switching to or securing part- or full-time work?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Not currently looking	59%	66%	54%	61%	69%
Other	18%	15%	14%	17%	14%
Part-time work	11%	13%	21%	16%	12%
Full-time work	7%	4%	6%	3%	2%
Caregiving responsibilities interfere with ability to look for work	5%	3%	5%	4%	3%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Employment

Question 67: Are you interested in receiving help from a job-matching service?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
No	76%	79%	56%	74%	81%
Yes	17%	17%	31%	20%	15%
Already tried a job-matching service	7%	4%	13%	7%	5%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Question 68: Do you want job training?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
No	84%	82%	63%	74%	83%
Yes	13%	12%	27%	17%	9%
Already received training	3%	6%	10%	8%	7%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Question 70: If you are interested in finding employment but have been unable to do so, what has interfered with your ability to find a job?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Other	33%	30%	15%	20%	15%
I am overqualified	17%	12%	11%	9%	18%
Limited jobs available	17%	24%	29%	27%	27%
Health limitations	11%	16%	19%	22%	20%
Caregiving responsibilities	11%	11%	4%	4%	5%
Lack of transportation/too far away	6%	4%	4%	5%	7%
I am underqualified	6%	1%	4%	5%	4%
Language barriers	0%	3%	12%	7%	4%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Question 71: In recent years, do you feel you have been wrongfully terminated, passed over for promotion, denied a position or mistreated in the workforce because of your age?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
No	95%	94%	93%	93%	93%
Yes	5%	6%	7%	7%	7%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Exploitation and Legal Issues

Question 72: In thinking about your experiences as a consumer, in recent years have you felt that you were the victim of consumer fraud or a swindle?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
No	89%	88%	84%	86%	84%
Yes	11%	12%	16%	14%	16%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 73: How concerned are you about becoming the victim of consumer fraud or a swindle, such as identity theft, home repair fraud, or otherwise being pressured to make a financial commitment you might not agree with?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Extremely concerned	27%	26%	28%	23%	15%
Very concerned	27%	29%	37%	39%	38%
Somewhat concerned	45%	32%	14%	16%	23%
Not very concerned	0%	4%	5%	13%	19%
Not at all concerned	0%	9%	16%	9%	6%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 74: Florida has several organizations in place that assist elderly and low-income residents with legal needs. Are you aware of any of the following organizations?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Florida Department of Elder Affairs	31%	30%	26%	28%	28%
Local Legal Aid Office	20%	21%	22%	20%	20%
Local Area Agency on Aging	18%	19%	19%	19%	20%
Florida Senior Legal Helpline	16%	14%	18%	17%	15%
Florida Bar Lawyer Referral Service	15%	16%	16%	16%	17%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 75: Thinking about your experiences in the past three years, have you ever thought that you needed advice from a lawyer but did not go see a lawyer?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
No	85%	80%	76%	81%	78%
Yes	15%	20%	24%	19%	22%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Exploitation and Legal Issues

Question 76: Why didn't you see a lawyer?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Lawyers are too expensive	39%	43%	41%	41%	43%
Other	22%	21%	15%	20%	14%
I felt I could solve the problem myself	13%	14%	13%	12%	19%
I didn't know where to get a lawyer	9%	7%	15%	13%	9%
I was embarrassed	9%	4%	4%	6%	4%
I wasn't sure the problem was legal	9%	9%	13%	8%	10%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Question 77: What legal issues concern you the most?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Health-related (Medicaid or Medicare, improper billing)	16%	19%	22%	20%	21%
Family matters (divorce, custody, child support)	16%	10%	9%	9%	11%
Estate (wills, trusts)	16%	16%	8%	13%	16%
Guardianship or Power of Attorney	12%	10%	7%	7%	9%
Other	10%	11%	11%	12%	13%
Consumer (home improvement, shoddy goods or services)	8%	9%	6%	9%	8%
Abuse, exploitation, or fraud	7%	7%	10%	8%	8%
Benefits (Social Security, Veterans Administration)	5%	10%	8%	10%	8%
Employment (worker's compensation, discrimination)	4%	5%	11%	7%	3%
Housing (landlord/tenant, foreclosures, evictions)	4%	4%	9%	5%	3%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Question 78: Are you aware of programs to assist elders in keeping themselves protected from abuse, neglect and financial exploitation (that is, being taken advantage of)?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Yes	61%	46%	42%	43%	48%
No	39%	54%	58%	57%	52%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Disaster Preparedness

Question 79: Would you be interested in learning more about temporary or special needs shelter options that might be available to you in the event of an emergency requiring evacuation?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
No	68%	69%	47%	60%	72%
Yes	32%	31%	53%	40%	28%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 80: If elder-specific training or classes were available on how to best ensure your needs are met before, during and after a hurricane or other major hazardous event, how interested would you be in attending?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Not interested	55%	50%	38%	48%	55%
Somewhat interested	29%	33%	32%	33%	33%
Very interested	16%	16%	30%	19%	12%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Demographic Information

Question 81: Are you male or female?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Female	61%	53%	67%	57%	46%
Male	39%	47%	33%	43%	54%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 82: What race or ethnicity do you best identify with?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
White or Caucasian	90%	84%	20%	84%	90%
Black or African-American	5%	7%	29%	6%	2%
Latino	2%	7%	20%	4%	2%
Asian or Pacific Islander	2%	1%	5%	1%	1%
Native American	1%	2%	25%	4%	4%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Question was not pertinent to all respondents.

Demographic Information

Question 83: Which of these categories best describes your total household income in 2009 before taxes?

	PSA 5	STATE	MINORITY	LOW-INCOME	RURAL
Under \$20,000	18%	18%	49%	100%	19%
\$20,000-\$29,999	23%	20%	24%	0%	17%
\$30,000-\$39,999	16%	16%	10%	0%	15%
\$40,000-\$49,999	18%	12%	5%	0%	10%
\$50,000-\$59,999	6%	9%	7%	0%	11%
\$60,000-\$69,999	4%	6%	1%	0%	4%
\$70,000-\$79,999	5%	4%	0%	0%	4%
\$80,000-\$89,999	1%	3%	1%	0%	5%
\$90,000-\$99,999	4%	3%	0%	0%	3%
\$100,000-\$109,999	0%	2%	0%	0%	4%
\$110,000-\$119,999	3%	1%	1%	0%	3%
\$120,000 or more	3%	6%	0%	0%	7%
Total Responses	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%