Dutchess County ICA Community Health Survey
Age Group Analysis

September 2009

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Raw data for the analysis were obtained from the *Dutchess County ICA Community Health Survey Report*, Center for Governmental Research (CGR), March 2009

This report is intended as a supplement to CGR's report and is not meant as a standalone document.

While all the graphs and data analysis in this report are valid in and of themselves, optimal interpretation will be achieved by placing them in the context of the CGR report.

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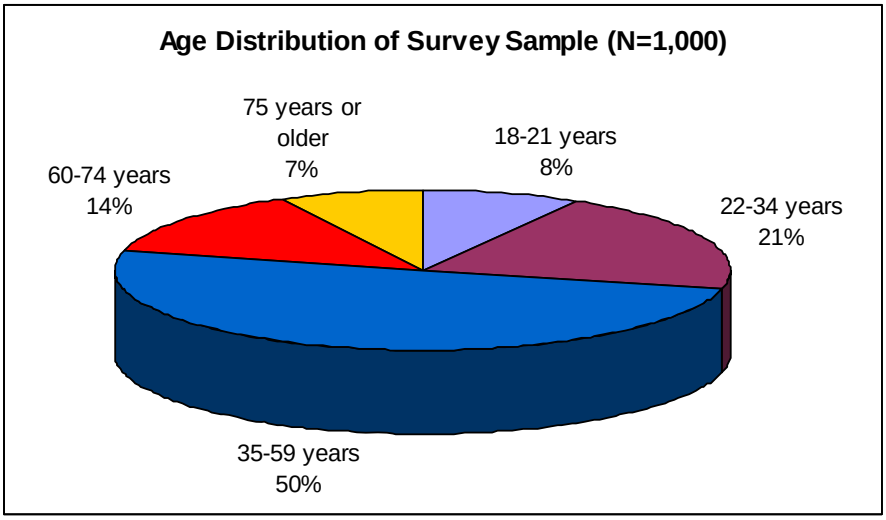
Introduction

While age differences are mentioned throughout the main CGR report, this supplement systematically reviews each indicator in the context of age group differences. When data qualify for statistical analysis (e.g. sufficiently large sample size), responses are graphed by age group. Indicators are presented in the same order as in the main document. For context, the summary introductory table which phrases each question is included at the beginning of each topic (as numbered in the main document unless table has been modified).

Demographic Characteristics - Age

The age distribution of the survey sample matches the Census 2000 demographics for Dutchess County. Less than one quarter of the survey sample is 60 years and older (21%).



Data Source: U.S. Census 2000 (Stratification data not available in intercensal estimates

Survey Results

Community Safety

Threats to Safety in Your Community

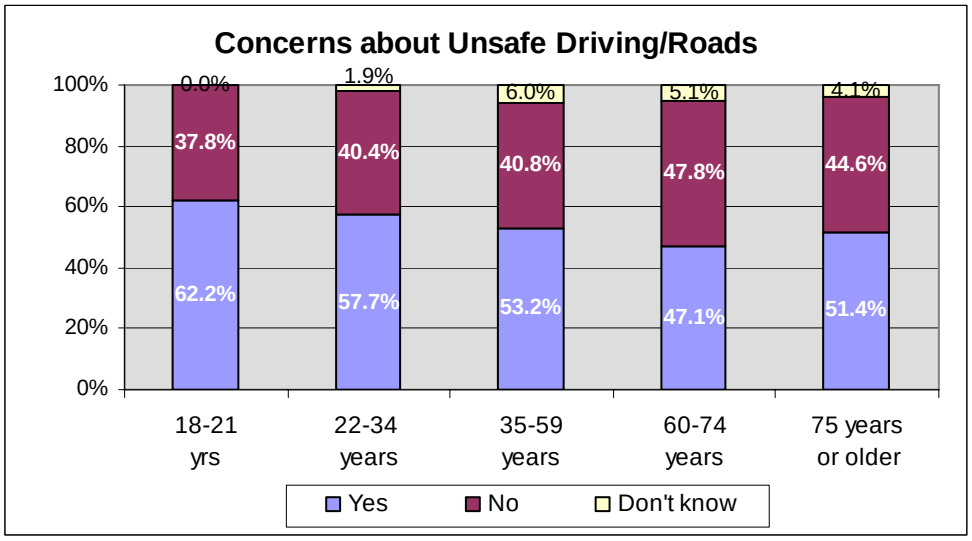
Table 2: In your opinion, are any of the following issues a serious threat to safety in your community?

	Yes	*Percentage (n=1000)*
Unsafe driving or roads as a threat to pedestrians, drivers, or others	538	*53.8%*
Substance Abuse (for example, drugs or alcohol)	418	*41.8%*
School violence or bullying	333	*33.3%*
Internet predators	308	*30.8%*
Crime in general	295	*29.5%*
Unsafe use of firearms	214	*21.4%*
Violence in the home such as domestic violence or child abuse	192	*19.2%*

For this question set, the youngest age group responded in the affirmative more often than other groups, with the proportion of affirmative answers declining with age and the proportion of "don't know" responses increasing with age.

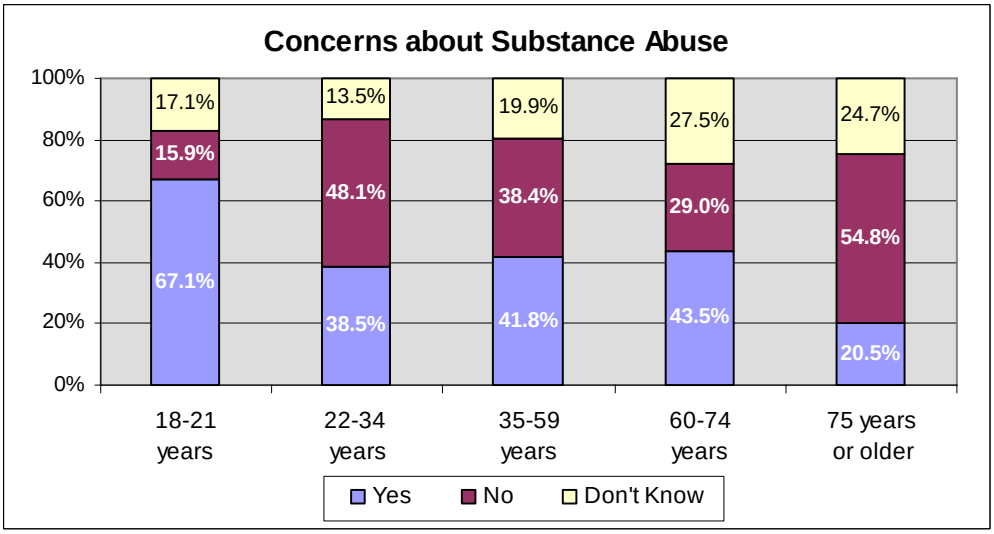
Unsafe Driving or Roads

The proportion of respondents who felt this is a serious issue was highest in the youngest age group. Differences between groups were not statistically significant.



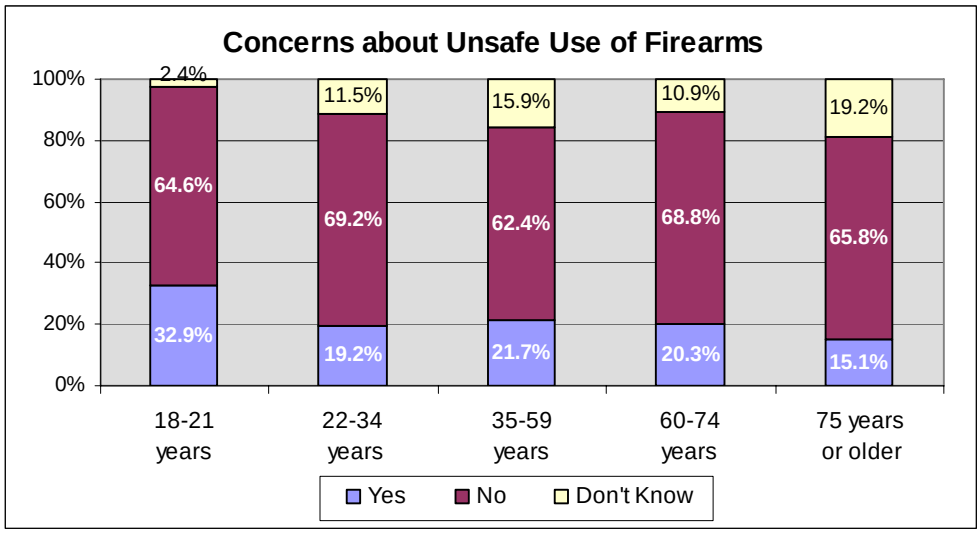
Substance Abuse

The 18-21 year olds stand apart from the other age groups in considering substance abuse a serious threat – two thirds compared to less than half in all other age groups. While all age groups had respondents who didn't know if substance abuse was a problem in their community, over one quarter of each of the two oldest age groups didn't know. The differences between age groups were statistically significant ($p \leq 0.01$).



Unsafe Use of Firearms

A third of 18-21 year olds saw the unsafe use of firearms as a serious threat to the safety of their community, compared with 22% or less in other age groups. They were also the only group with virtually no "Don't know" responses. The differences between the youngest age group and the other age groups were statistically significant ($p \leq 0.01$).



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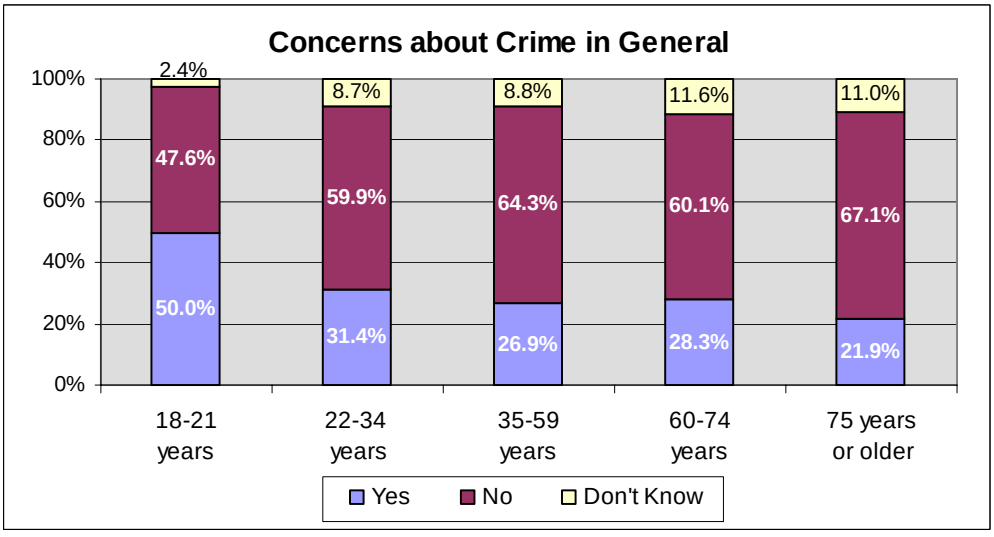
Crime in General

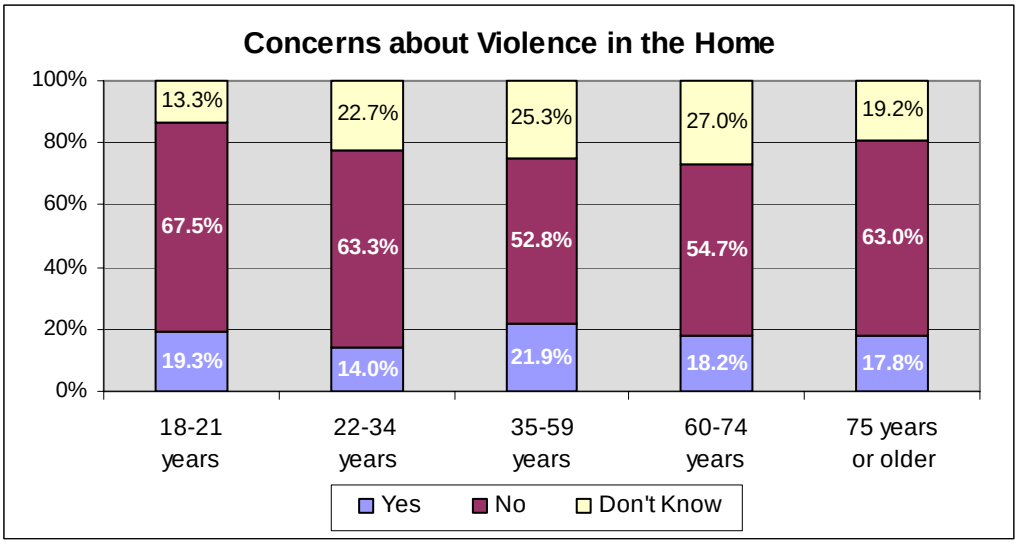
Half of 18-21 year olds surveyed felt that crime in general is a serious threat, compared to less than a third in the other age groups. Interestingly, the oldest age group was apparently the least concerned. The differences between the youngest age group and the other age groups were statistically significant ($p \leq 0.01$).



Violence in the Home

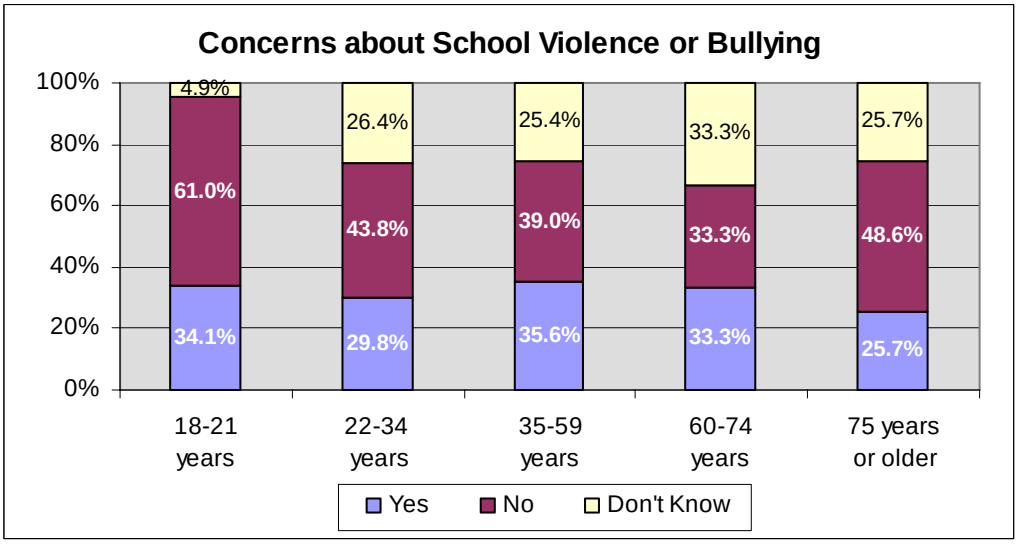
The proportion of respondents that saw violence in the home as a serious threat was low - 22% or less in all age groups - with the highest proportion in the 35-59 year old age group (22%). Over a quarter of respondents in this age group and in the 60-74 year old group did not form an

opinion. A statistically significant difference was found between the 35-59 year old and 22-34 year old groups ($p \leq 0.05$).



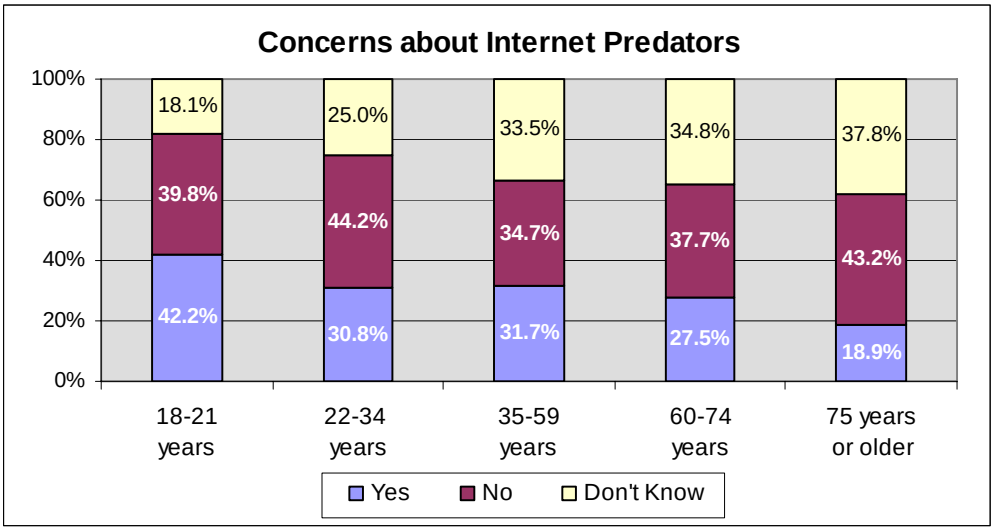
School Violence or Bullying

There was little variation with regards to affirmative answers between age groups - ranging from 26% among the 75+ year old group to 36% among 35-59 year olds. However, the 18-21 year olds had by far the lowest rate of unawareness – 5% compared to one quarter to a third for the other four groups. The differences between the youngest age group and the other groups were statistically significant ($p \leq 0.01$).



Internet Predators

The largest proportion of respondents who saw internet predators as a serious threat was in the 18-21 year old group (42%), compared to less than a third in all of the other age categories. Concern decreased with age and unawareness increased with age. Differences between age groups were statistically significant ($p \leq 0.01$).

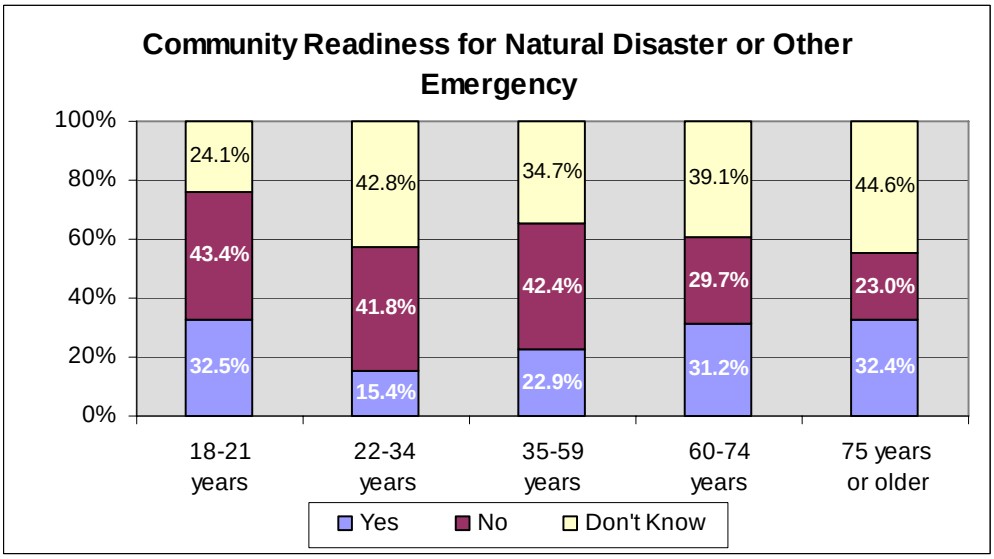


Natural Disasters and Emergencies – Community Readiness

Table 3: Do you feel that your community is ready to deal with a natural disaster or other emergency?

Response	Yes	Percentage
Yes	239	*23.9%*
No	392	*39.2%*
Don't Know	369	*36.9%*
Total	1,000	*100.0%*

Only about a third or less of respondents in each age group felt that their communities are ready for an emergency. A larger proportion of respondents under age 60 felt that their community is not prepared. The unawareness rates were exceptionally high in all age groups – over one third in all but the 18-21 year old group. Differences between age groups were statistically significant ($p \leq 0.01$).

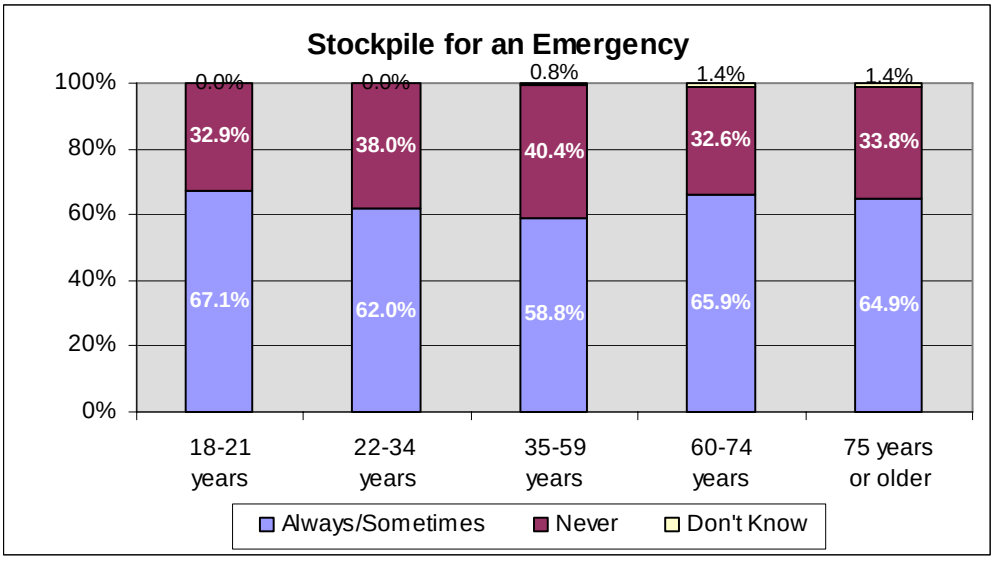


Natural Disasters and Emergencies - Preparation for Emergencies

Table 4: In preparation for an emergency -- like a winter storm -- do you stockpile at least a two week supply of emergency food and supplies, such as canned food, bottled water, and any medicine you take regularly?

Response	Yes	Percentage
Always	352	*35.2%*
Sometimes	264	*26.4%*
Never	377	*37.7%*
Don't Know	7	*0.7%*
Refused	0	*0.0%*
TOTAL	1,000	*100.0%*

Approximately two thirds of all respondents stockpile for an emergency. There were no statistical differences between age groups.



Community Health

Serious Health Issues in Your Community

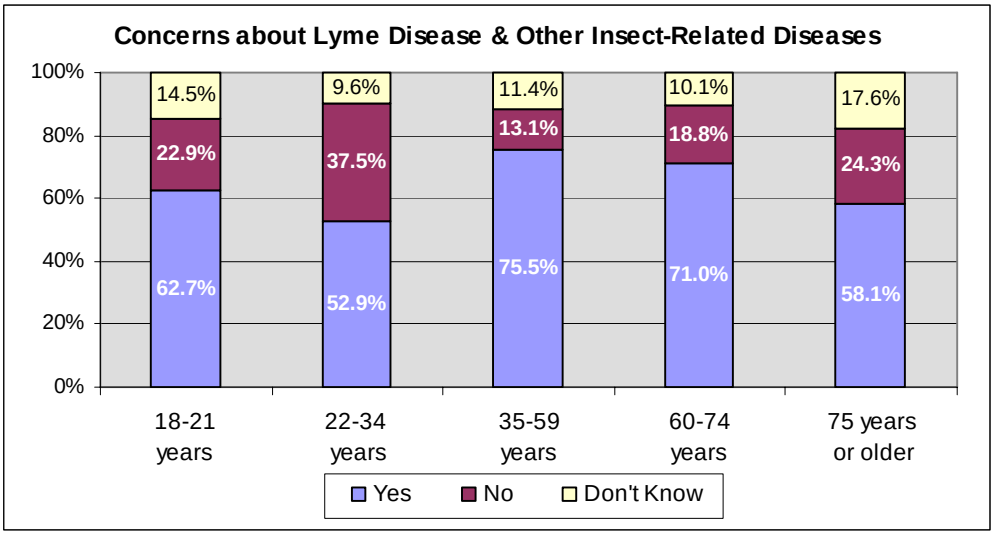
Table 5: In your opinion are any of the following a serious health issue in your community?

	Yes	*Percentage*
Lyme Disease or Other insect-related diseases	678	*67.8%*
Water Pollution	358	*35.8%*
Air Pollution	236	*23.6%*
Food Safety	202	*20.2%*
Unsafe Housing Conditions	196	*19.6%*

With the exception of Lyme Disease, the youngest age group had the highest proportion of respondents indicating that any of the five issues are of concern in their community.

Lyme Disease and Other Insect-related Diseases

Residents between the ages of 35 and 74 were most concerned about this issue (approximately three quarters in each age group) while 22-34 year old respondents were the least concerned.



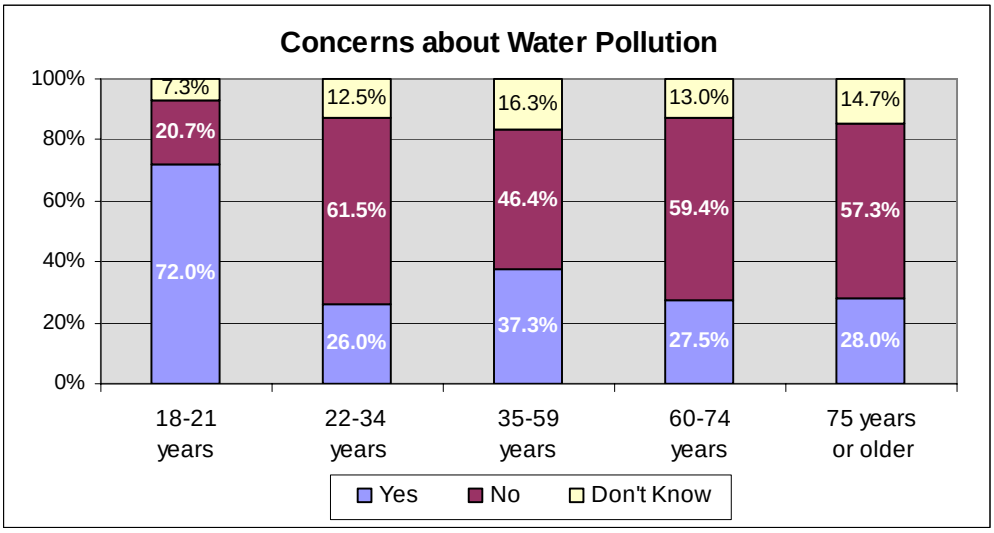
Most differences between age groups were statistically significant ($p \leq 0.01$).

Statistically Significant Differences Between Age Groups

Age	22-34 yrs	35-59 yrs
18-21 yrs	x	x
35-59 yrs	x	
60-64 yrs	x	
75+ yrs	x	x

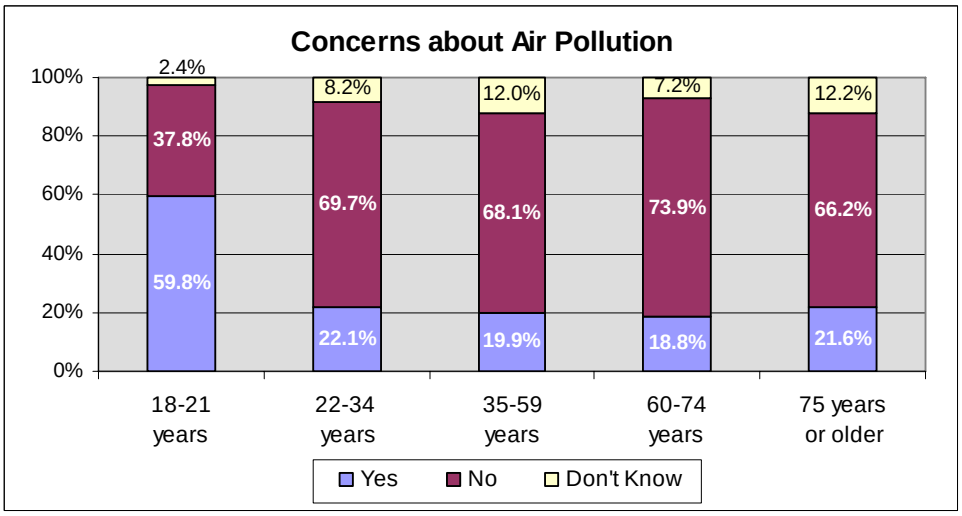
Water Pollution

Younger residents were far more likely to consider water pollution a serious issue – close to three quarters of 18-21 year olds compared to 35% of the overall sample. This difference was statistically significant ($p \leq 0.01$).



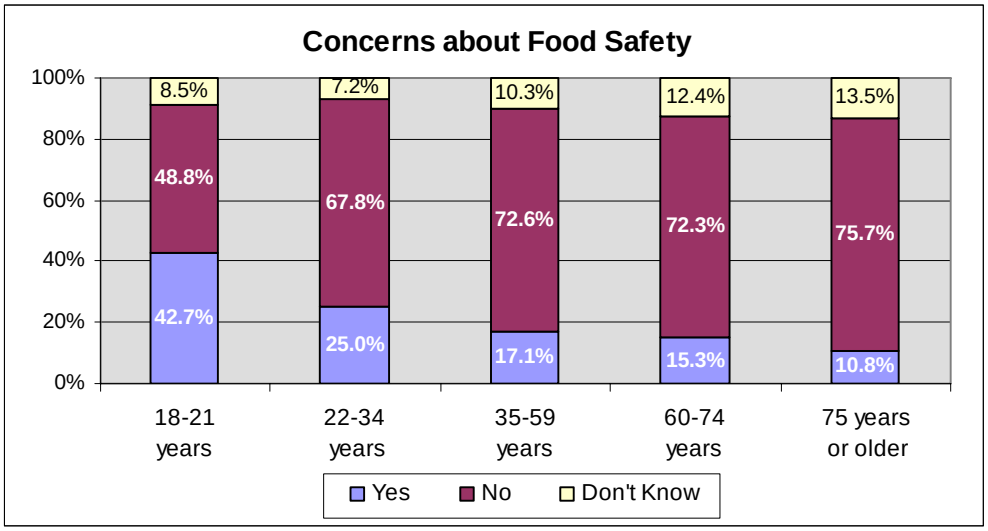
Air Pollution

As with water pollution, the youngest age group was most concerned about air pollution - close to 60% compared to about a quarter of the sample as whole. This difference was statistically significant ($p \leq 0.01$).



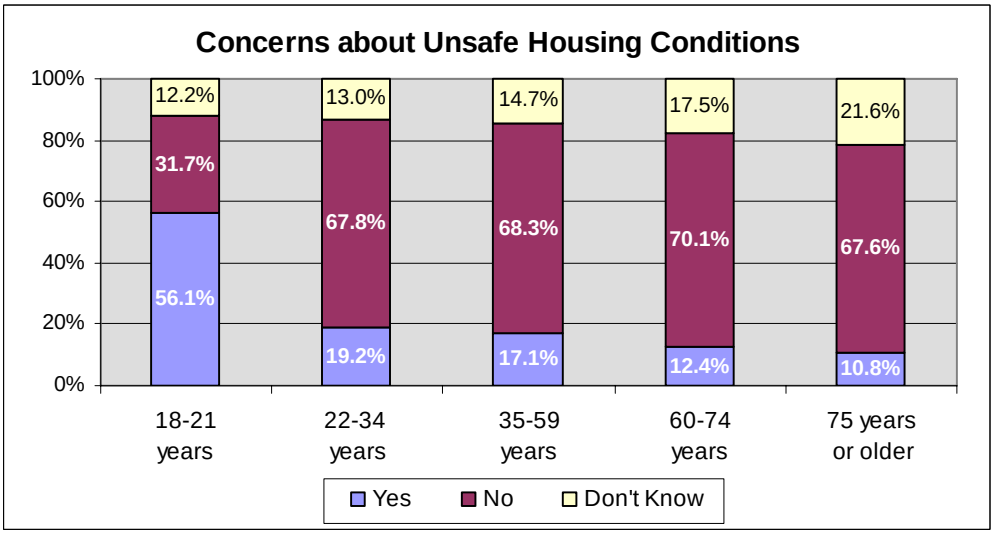
Food Safety

Younger respondents most frequently indicated that food safety is a serious health issue. The incidence of concerned respondents decreased with age. Differences between age groups were statistically significant ($p \leq 0.01$) except between 60-74 and 75+ year olds.



Unsafe Housing Conditions

Over half of 18-21 year olds considered unsafe housing a serious health issue, compared to less than a fifth of the remaining sample. Respondents ages 60 and older voiced the least concern. It should be noted that the percent of respondents who were unsure about the issue increased with age, reaching close to one quarter of 75+ year olds. The difference between the youngest age group and the other four age groups was statistically significant ($p \leq 0.01$).



Access to Healthcare

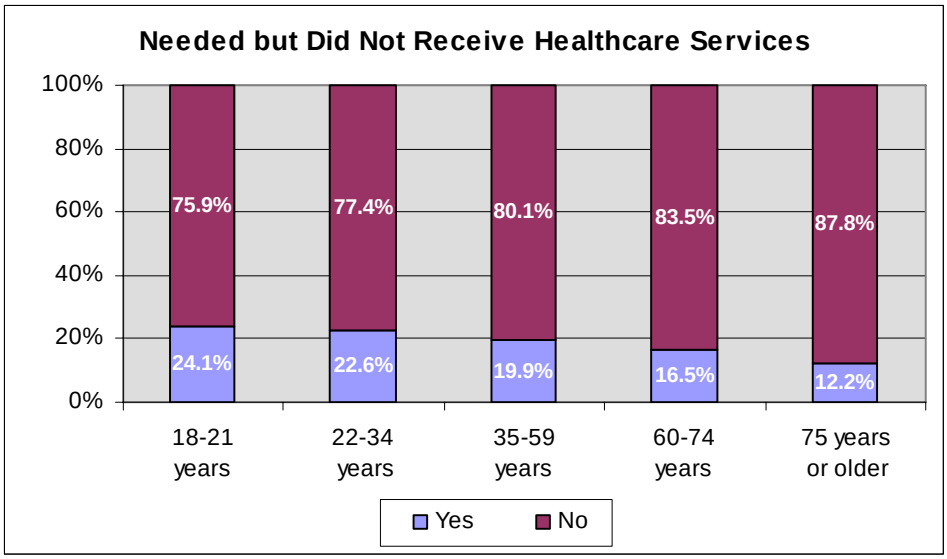
Table 6: At any time in the past year did you or any member of your immediate household need but did not receive any of the following health care services?

Analysis of respondents answering 'yes' to any service listed.

Response	Number	*Percentage*
Yes	197	*19.7%*
No	803	*80.3%*
Total	1,000	*100.0%*

Ability to Receive Needed Services

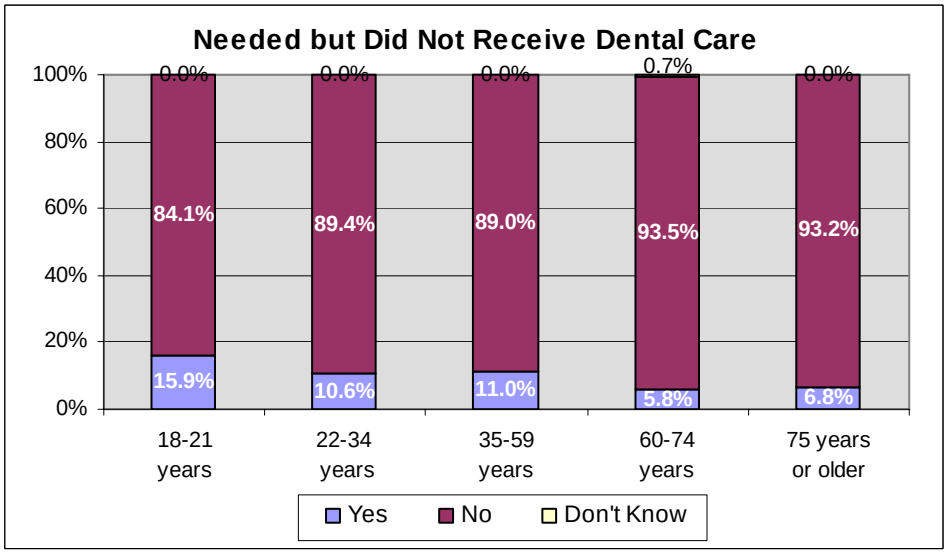
The highest proportion of respondents unable to receive needed services was in the youngest age group and decreased as age increased. These differences, however, were not statistically significant.



Due to the small number of responses for each individual type of service needed but not received, statistical analysis is not reliable. However, dental care by age group is presented as informational since it was selected by over half of those who did not receive a needed service (103/197).

Dental Care

The percent of respondents needing but not receiving dental care declined with age, following the same pattern as for overall ability to receive needed services. Differences were not statistically significant.



Barriers to Healthcare Access

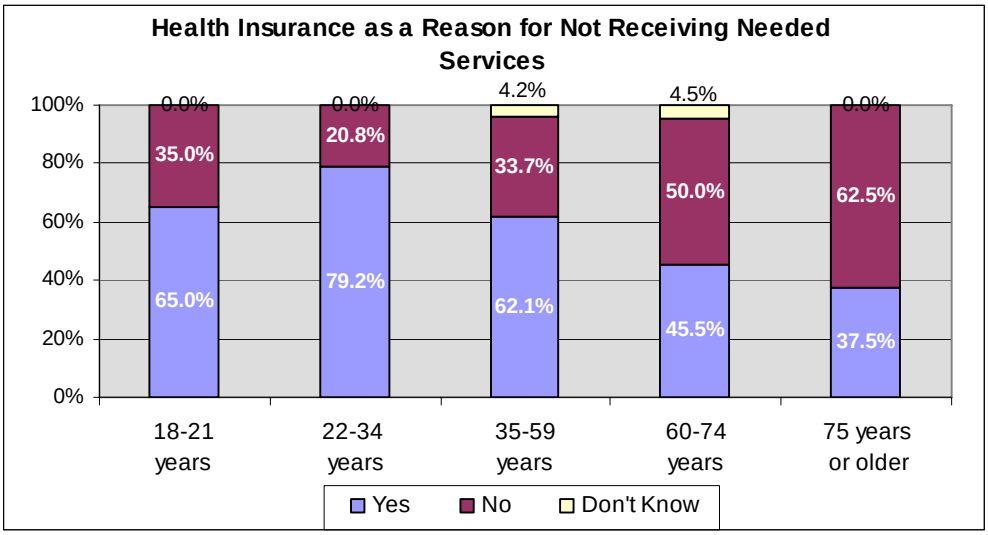
Due to the small number of responses for each individual type of barrier, statistical analysis is not reliable. However, health insurance by age group is presented as informational since it was selected by close to two thirds of those who did not receive a needed service.

Health Insurance

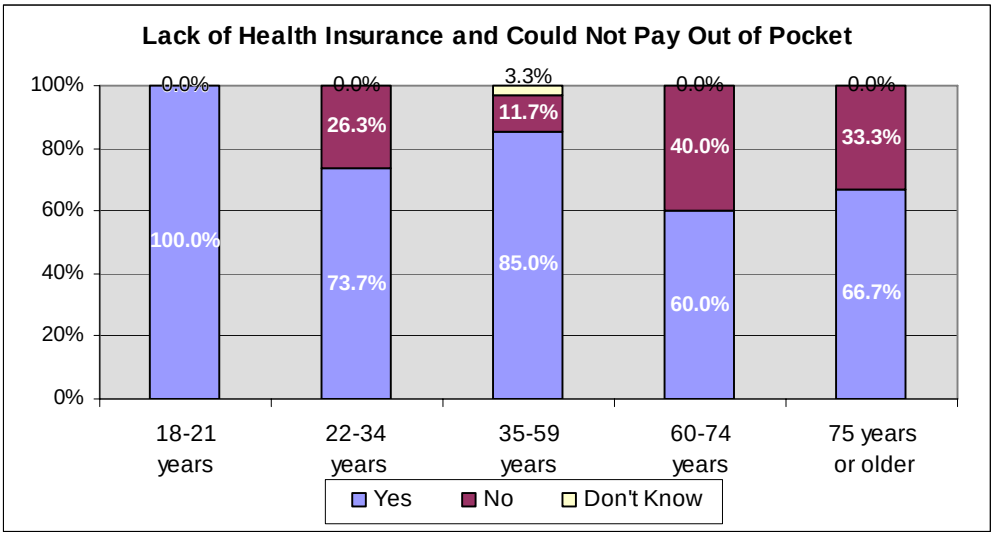
Table 9: Was health insurance ever a reason why you or any immediate member of your household did not receive a needed healthcare service?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	123	*63.9%*
No	64	*33.4%*
Don't Know	5	*2.7%*
Total	193	*100.0%*

The two oldest age groups had the lowest percentages of respondents identifying health insurance as a barrier to needed healthcare services. There were no statistically significant differences between age groups.



Again, due to the small number of responses, the specific types of health insurance barriers experienced by respondents cannot be analyzed reliably by age group. However, "Lack of health insurance" by age group is presented as informational since it was selected by over 80% of respondents as a health insurance barrier (100/123). There were no statistically significant differences between age groups.



Accessing Services Outside of Dutchess County

Table 12: In the past year, have you or any immediate member of your household gone outside of Dutchess County to get healthcare services?

Response	Number	Percentage
No	657	*65.7%*
Yes	338	*33.8%*
Don't Know	6	*0.6%*
Total	1,000	*100.0%*

Approximately one-third (34%) of survey respondents indicated that they or an immediate member of their household had gone outside of Dutchess County for healthcare services in the past year. Inclusion of an immediate member of the household decreases the meaningfulness of age group analysis because other members of the household may belong to an age group different than that of the respondent. Thus age group analysis was not performed for this section.

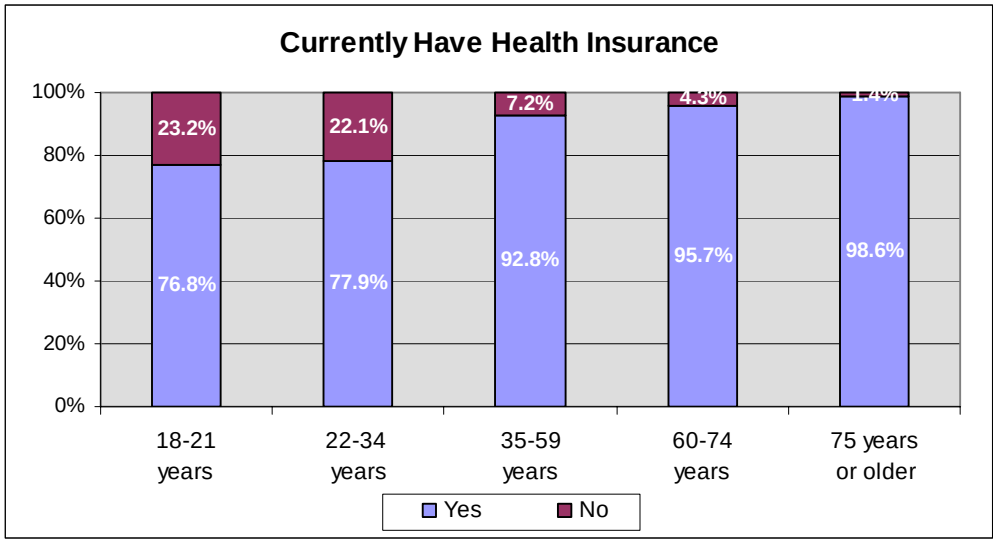
Insurance Status

Almost all survey respondents reported that they have health insurance coverage for themselves.

Table 14: Do you currently have health insurance coverage for yourself?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	893	*89.2%*
No	108	*10.8%*
Total	1000	*100.0%*

The proportion of respondents with health insurance was lowest in the two youngest age groups and increased with age to 99% of those 75+ years old. The differences between the two youngest age groups and the other three groups (35-75+ years) were statistically significant ($p \leq 0.01$).



Not surprisingly, the largest proportion of respondents with employer-based health insurance was in the three younger age groups (61-77%) compared to the two older age groups (49% for 60-74 years old and 12% for 75+ years old). These differences were statistically significant ($p \leq 0.01$). Due to small numbers for other types of insurance, age group analysis could not be performed.

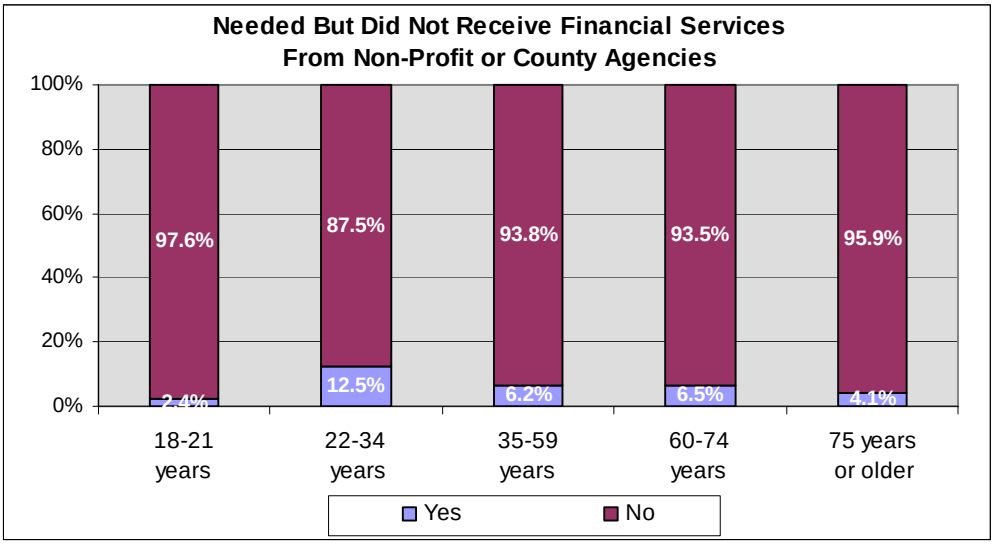
Access to Social Services

Financial Assistance

Table 16: At any time in the past year did you or any member of your immediate household need but did not receive any of the following financial assistance?
Analysis of respondents answering 'yes' to any service listed.

Response	Number	Percentage
No	930	*92.9%*
Yes	71	*7.1%*
Total	1,001	*100.0%*

The 22-34 year old group had the highest proportion of respondents who did not received needed services (12.5%). The difference between this age group and the other four groups was statistically significant ($p \leq 0.01$). For a list of financial assistance services, please refer to the main report.



Due to small numbers when breaking down the list of needed services and the reasons needed services were not obtained, these data were not analyzed by age group.

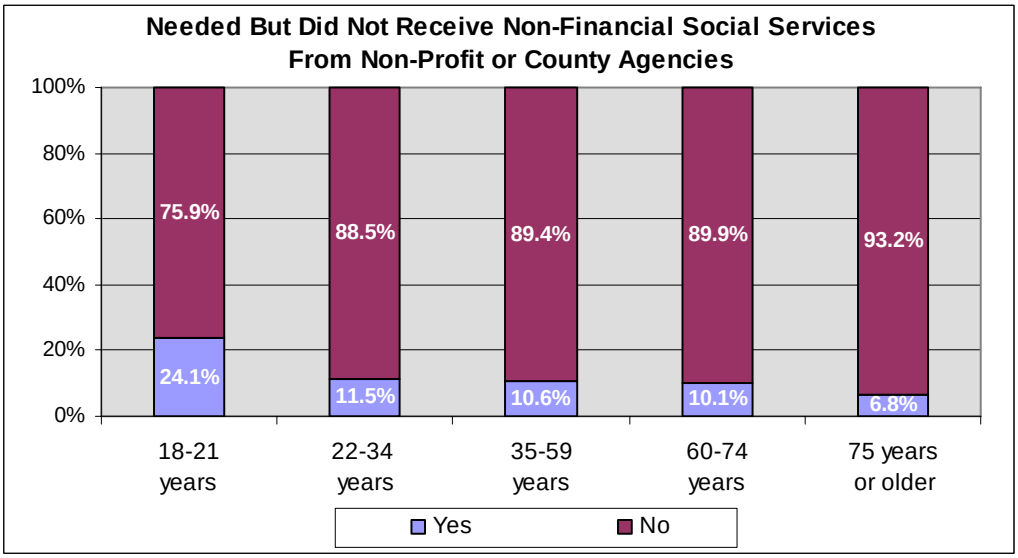
Other Social Services

Table 17: At any time in the past year did you or any member of your immediate household need but did not receive any other service assistance?

Analysis of respondents answering 'yes' to any service listed.

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	115	*11.5%*
No	885	*88.5%*
Total	1,000	*100.0%*

The percentage of affirmative responses was highest amongst 18-21 year olds (24%). The difference between this age group and the other four groups was statistically significant ($p \leq 0.01$). For a list of financial assistance services, please refer to the main report.



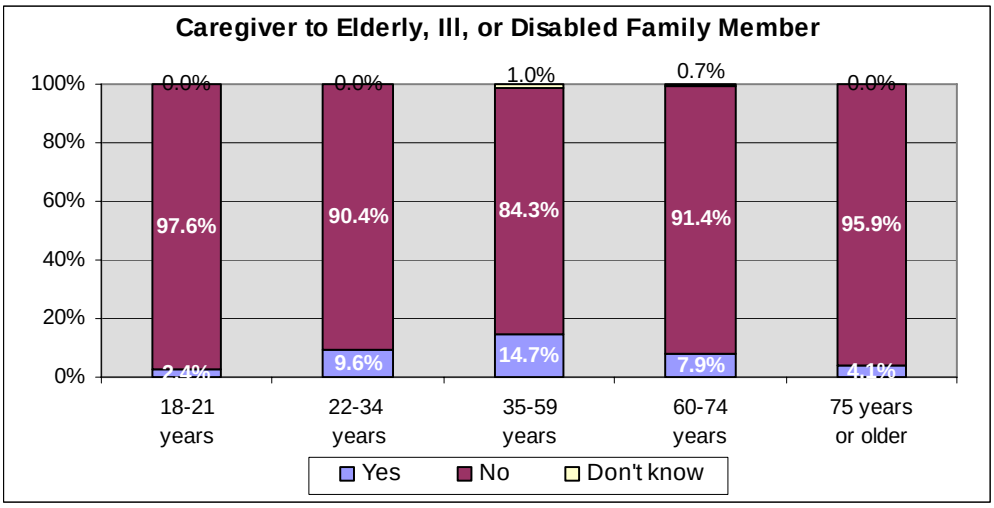
Due to small numbers when breaking down the list of needed services and the reasons needed services were not obtained, these data were not analyzed by age group.

Caregiver Services

Table 22: Are you or anyone in your immediate household a caregiver to an elderly, ill, or disabled family member?

	Number	Percentage
Yes	110	*11.0%*
No	883	*88.4%*
Don't Know	7	*0.6%*
Total	1,000	*100.0%*

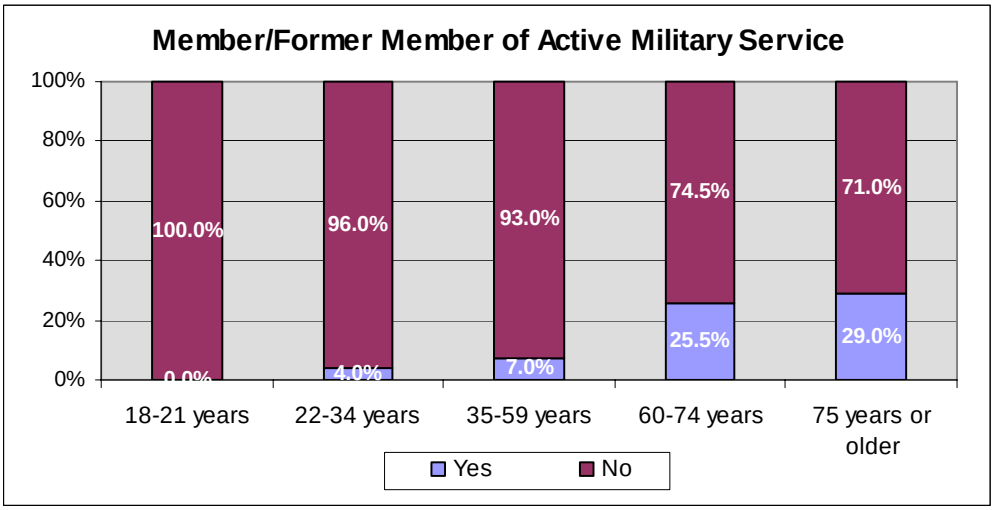
Only 11% of respondents identified themselves as caregivers, and the highest proportion was among the 35-59 year olds (15%). The difference between this age group and the other four groups was statistically significant ($p \leq 0.01$).



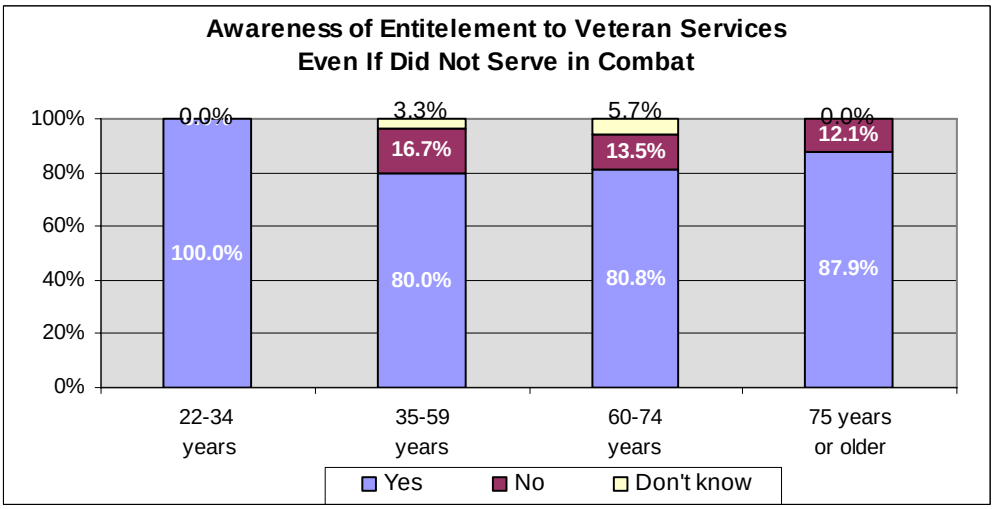
Due to small numbers, individual caregiver services that were needed but not received were not analyzed by age group.

Veterans Services

Twelve percent (117/1,000) of all respondents identified themselves as a current or former member of active military service. Not surprisingly, the older respondents (60-75+ year olds) had the highest proportion of veterans (over one quarter). These differences were statistically significant at $p \leq 0.01$.



The vast majority of veterans were aware of their entitlements.



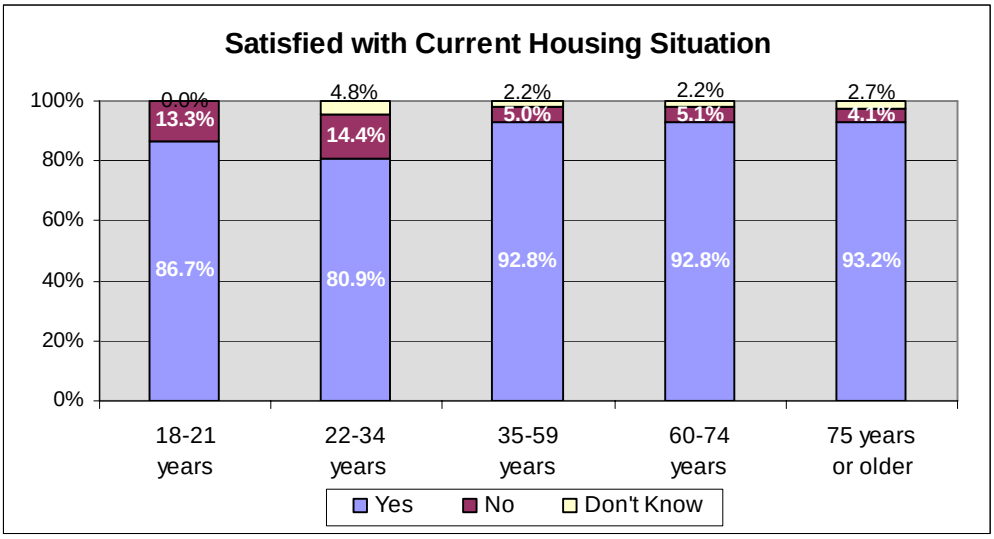
Community Characteristics

Housing

Table 25: Are you satisfied with your current housing situation?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	899	*89.9%*
No	76	*7.6%*
Unsure	25	*2.5%*
Total	1,000	*100.0%*

The proportion of those satisfied with their current housing situation was highest in the three older age groups and lowest amongst the 22-34 year olds. The difference between the latter age group and the other four groups was statistically significant ($p \leq 0.01$).



Reasons for dissatisfaction with housing could not be analyzed reliably by age group due to the small number of respondents within each category.

Recreational Features

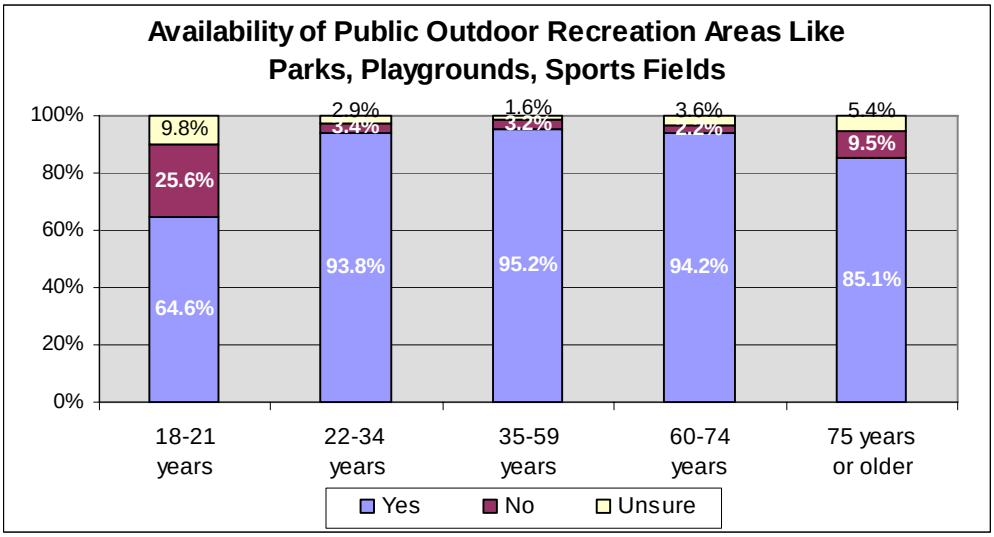
Availability of Features

Table 27: Are any of the following features available in your local community?

	Yes	Percentage (n=1000)
Public outdoor recreation areas like parks, playgrounds, sports fields	915	*91.5%*
Public outdoor trails for walking, running or bicycling	786	*78.5%*
Community Centers	618	*61.9%*

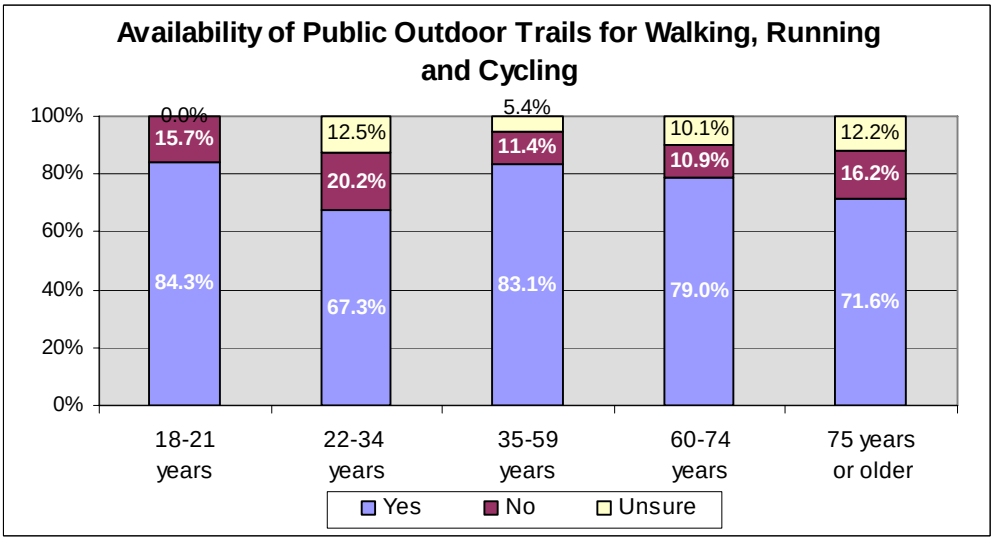
Parks, playgrounds and sports fields

The 18-21 year old group had a noticeably lower proportion of respondents who stated that this feature was available in their community. This group also had the highest percentage of individuals who were unsure of the availability of the features. Differences were statistically significant between all groups ($p \leq 0.01$) except between the 22-34, 35-39 and 60-74 year old groups.



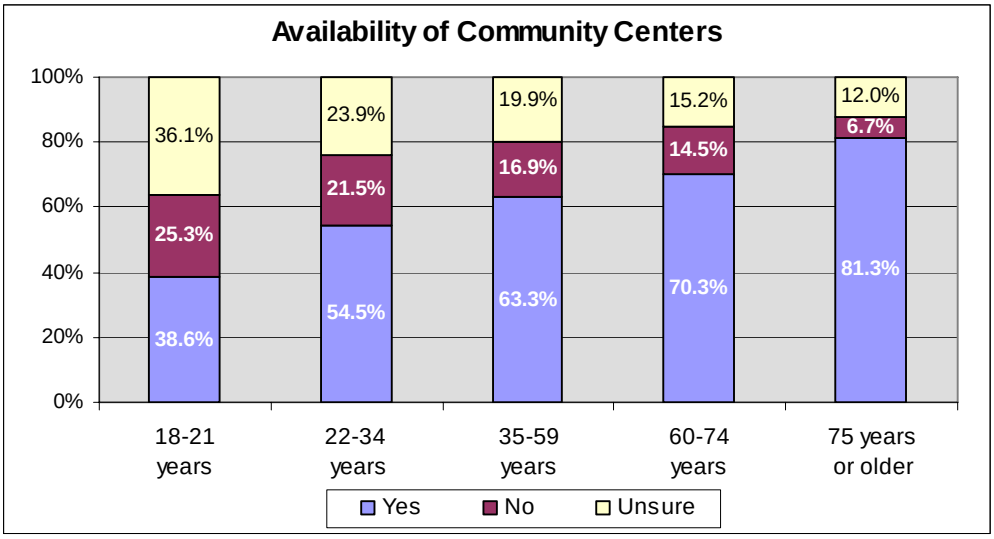
Outdoor trails for walking, running and cycling

For this feature, the 22-34 and 75+ year olds had the lowest affirmative response rates as well as the highest rates of "unsure" responses. The difference between the 22-34 year olds and the other four groups was statistically significant ($p \leq 0.01$) as were differences between the 18-21 year olds and the two oldest groups, and between the 35-59 year olds and the 75+ year olds.



Community Centers

The proportion of survey respondents who indicated that community centers are available in their area increased with age. Conversely, the proportion of survey respondents who were unsure about the availability of community centers decreased with age – from over one third in 18-21 year olds down to a little over one tenth in 75+ year olds. Differences between age groups were statistically significant at $p \leq 0.01$ with the exception of differences between 35-59 and 60-74 year olds and between the two oldest age groups.



Use of recreational features

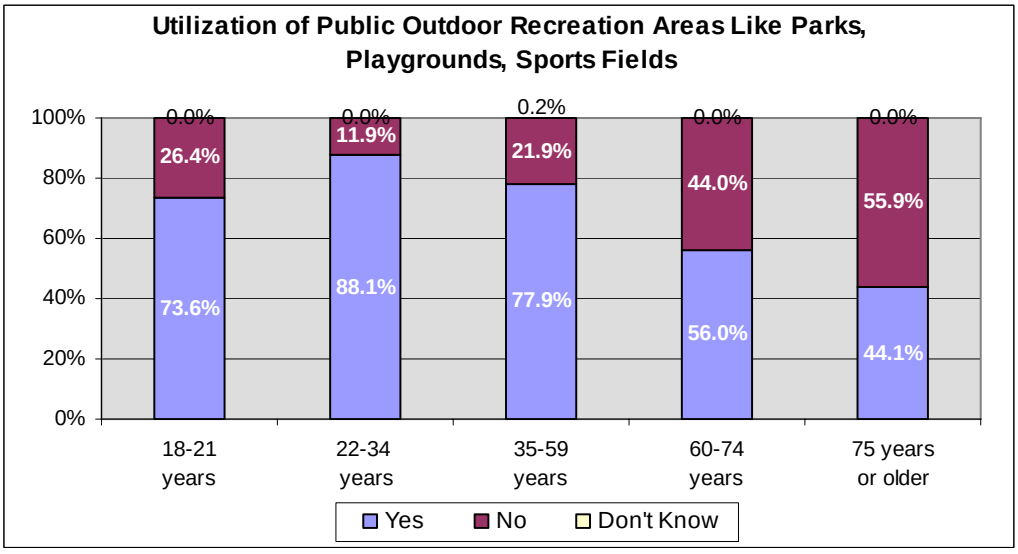
Table 28: Which of these features do you use?

	Yes	Percentage (n=959)
Public outdoor recreation areas like parks, playgrounds, sports fields	711	*74.1%*
Public outdoor trails for walking, running or bicycling	522	*54.4%*
Community Centers	219	*22.9%*

Community centers had by far the lowest utilization rates of the three surveyed features.

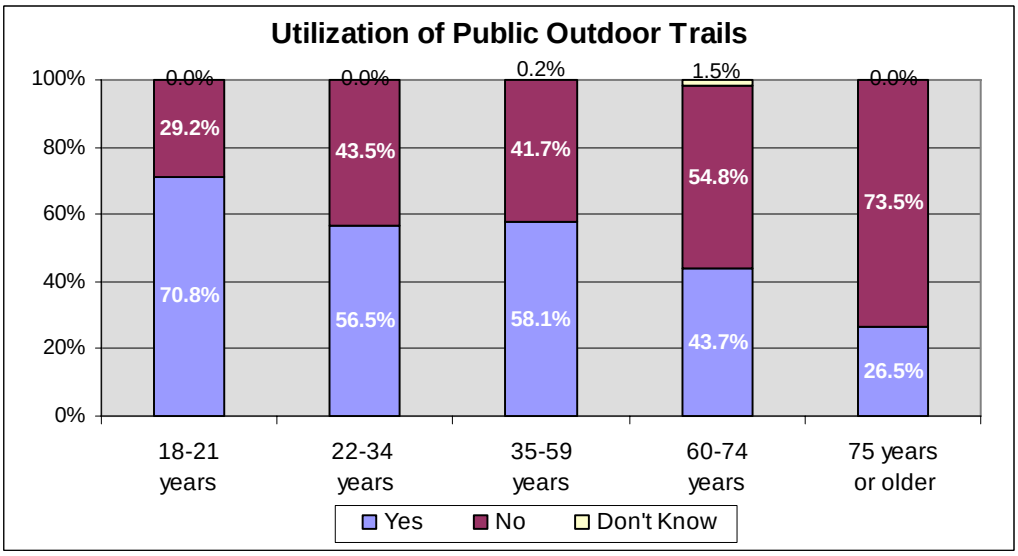
Parks, playgrounds and sports fields

Even though the youngest respondents had a utilization rate slightly lower than that of 35-59 year olds, there seems to be a downward trend in utilization with increasing age. Differences between age groups were statistically significant at $p \leq 0.01$ except between the youngest group and the 35-39 year olds, and between the two oldest age groups.



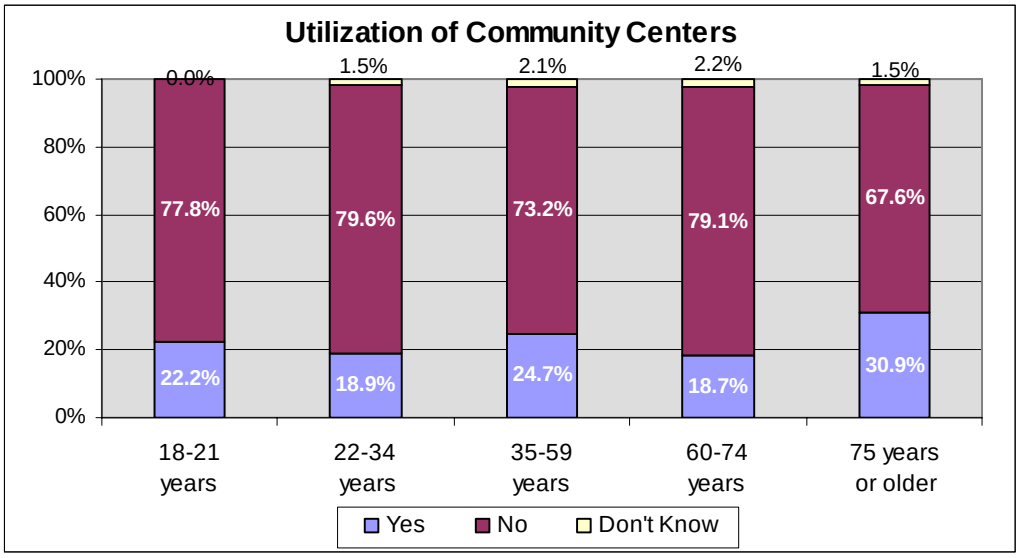
Outdoor trails for walking, running and cycling

Utilization of this feature decreased with age. Statistically significant differences ($p \leq 0.01$) were observed between the 18-21 year old group and the two oldest age groups, and between the 22-34 year old group and the 75+ year old respondents.



Community centers

Differences between age groups were not statistically significant. As noted earlier, the awareness of availability of these facilities was significantly higher in the older age groups.



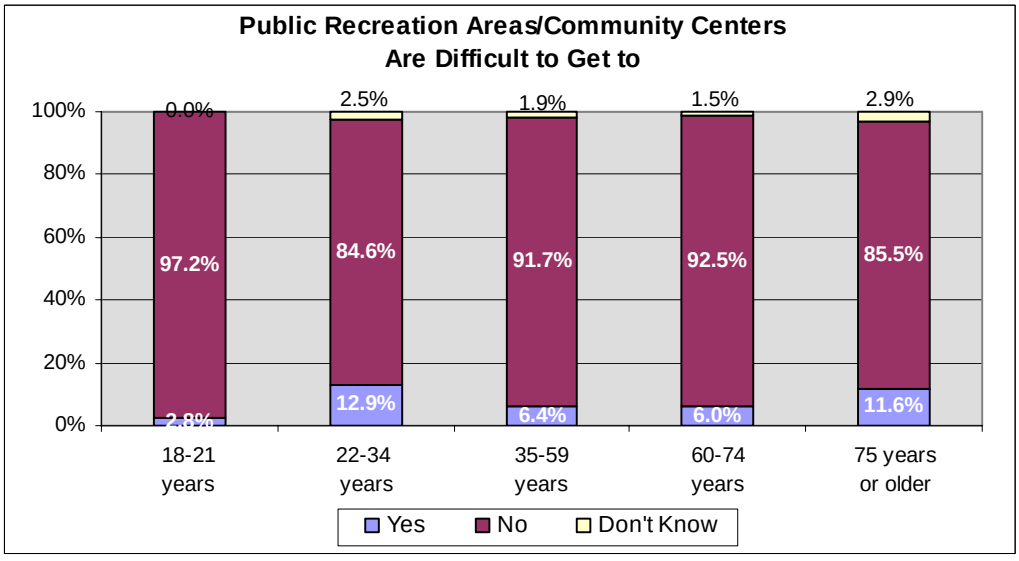
Barriers impeding utilization of community recreation features

Table 29: Do any of the following issues make these features difficult or impossible to use?

	Yes	Percentage (n=959)
They are difficult to get to	74	*7.7%*
They are not safe	67	*7.0%*
They are too expensive to use	31	*3.2%*

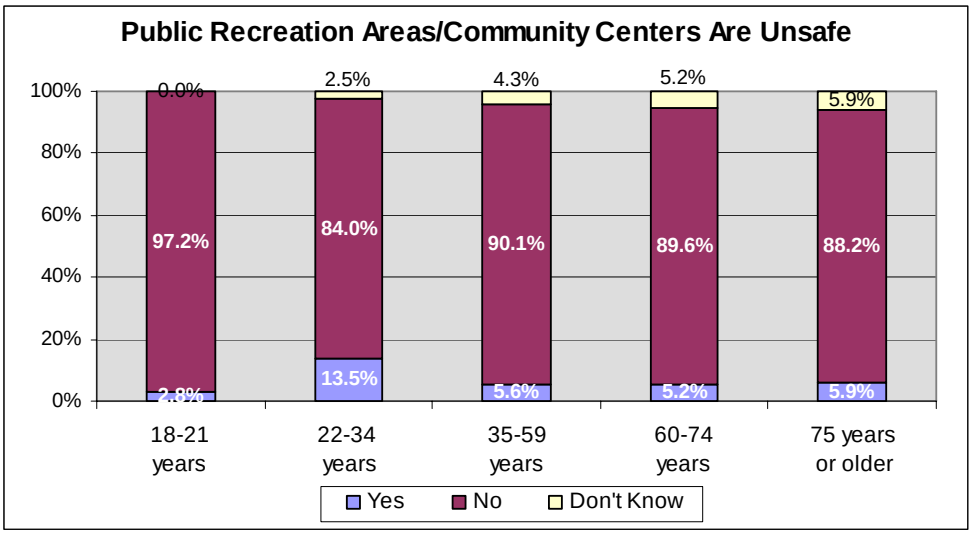
Features are difficult to get to

The highest proportion of respondents who felt the features are difficult to access was among 22-34 and 75+ year olds. Differences were statistically significant ($p \leq 0.05$), comparing the youngest age group to the 22-34 and 75+ year olds. The differences between the 22-34 and the 35-59 year olds were also statistically significant.



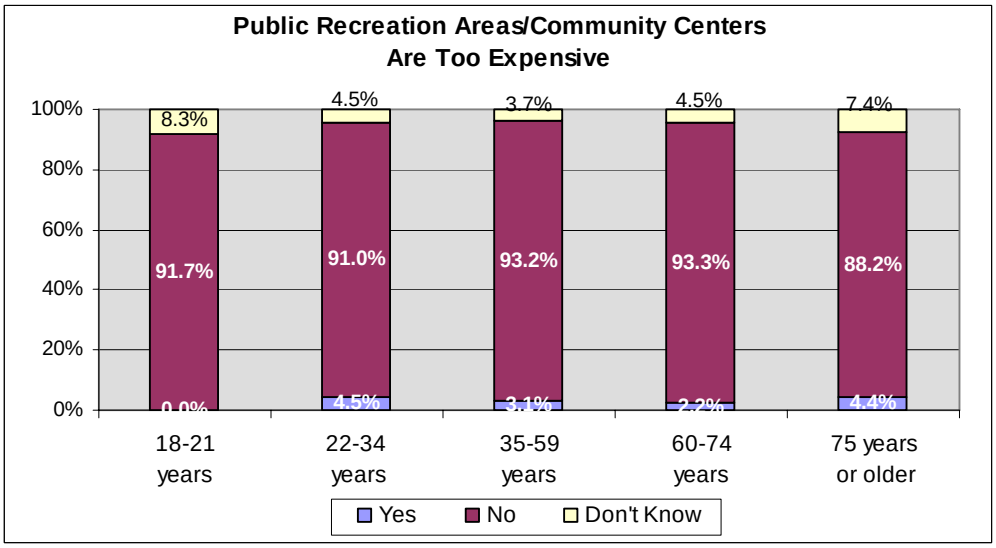
Features are not safe

The 22-34 year age group was most concerned about safety. Differences were statistically significant ($p \leq 0.01$) between all age groups except between the youngest age group and the three older age groups and between the 22-34 year olds and the 75+ year old respondents.



Features are too expensive to use

Very few respondents, of any age, felt that cost was an access issue. There were no statistically significant differences between age groups.

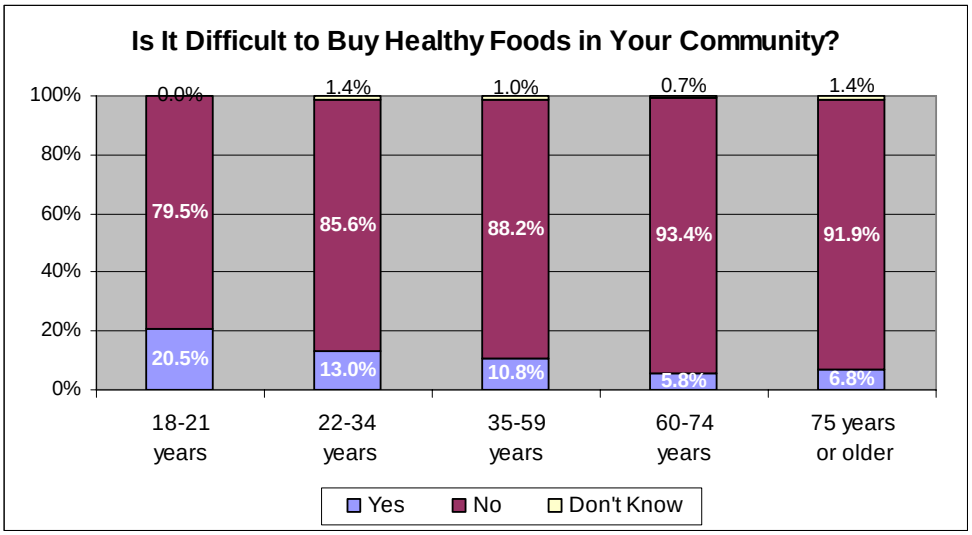


Access to Healthy Foods

Table 30: Is it difficult for you to buy healthy foods in your community, such as fresh fruits, vegetables and low-fat milk?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	111	*11.1%*
No	878	*87.9%*
Unsure	10	*1.0%*
Total	1,000	*100.0%*

The proportion of perceived difficulties decreased with age. Differences between age groups were not statistically significant.



Age group analysis of the reason(s) why buying healthy foods was difficult was not possible due to the small subsets of respondents.

Overarching Issues

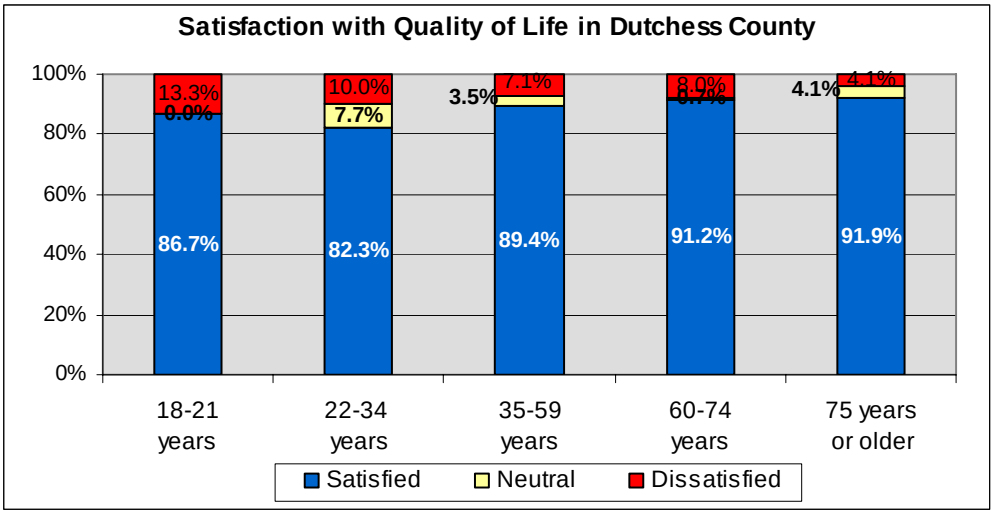
Quality of Life

How satisfied are you with the quality of life in Dutchess County?

Response	Number	Percentage
Satisfied	874	*87.4%*
Neutral	37	*3.7%*
Dissatisfied	81	*8.1%*
Don't Know	6	*0.6%*
Refused	2	*0.2%*
Total	1,000	*100.0%*

The data for this question were retabulated to group “very satisfied” with “somewhat satisfied”, and “neither satisfied nor dissatisfied” was renamed “neutral. The two oldest age groups had the

highest level of satisfaction. The difference was a statistically significant between them and the 22-34 year olds ($p \leq 0.01$).



Means of Obtaining Information

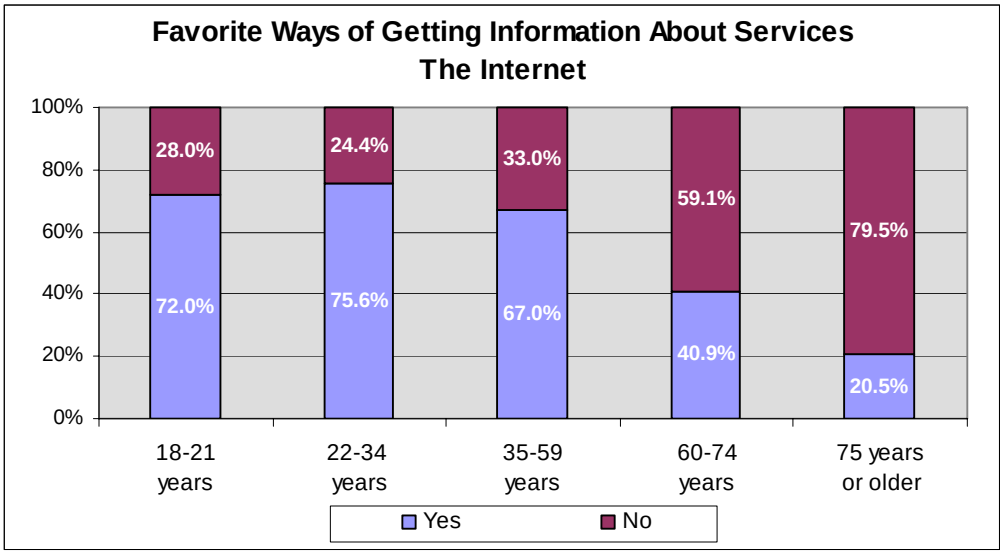
Survey respondents were asked to identify their two favorite ways of obtaining information about the services mentioned in the survey. They were not asked to rank their top choices.

Table 33: What are your top two favorite ways of getting information on the services we talked about?

	Yes	Percentage
Internet *(n=974)*	605	*62.1%*
Word of Mouth *(n=974)*	516	*53.0%*
Newspaper *(n=974)*	491	*50.4%*
Radio *(n=974)*	148	*15.2%*
Service Providers *(n=969)*	133	*13.7%*
211 *(n=968)*	35	*3.6%*

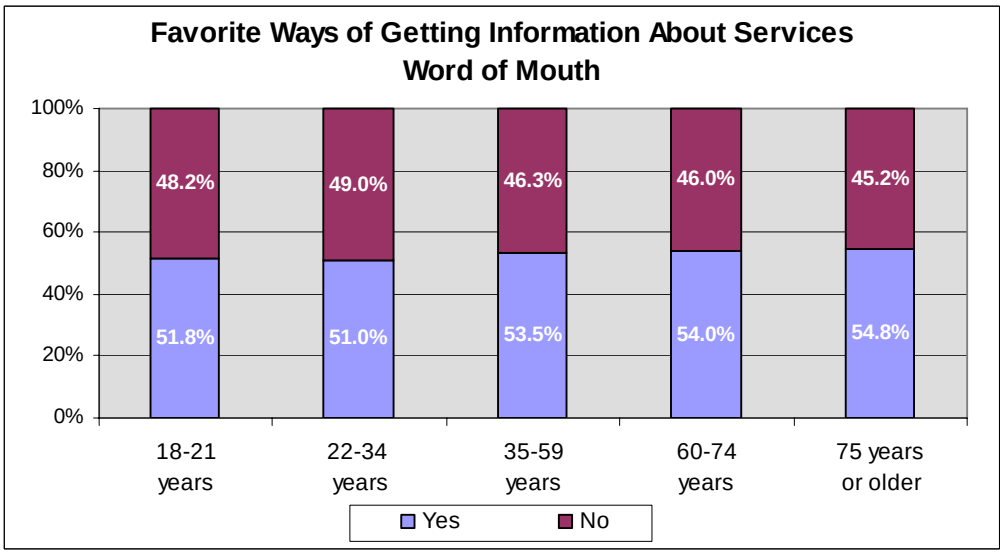
Internet

The use of the internet as a means of getting information decreased with age, with almost three quarters of 18-21 year olds using the internet compared to less than one quarter of 75+ year olds. Differences between the three younger age groups and the two older age groups were statistically significant at $p \leq 0.01$.



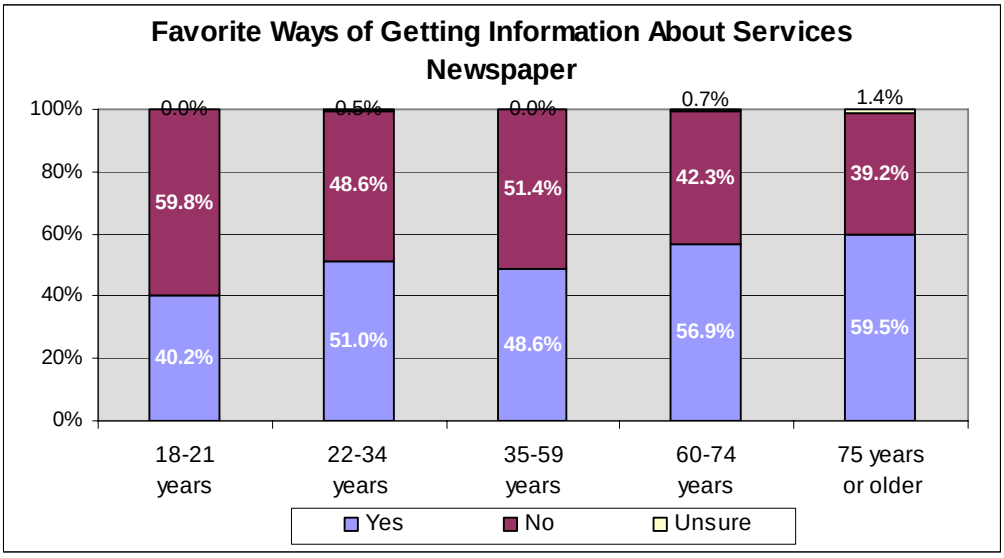
Word of mouth

Variations across age groups were not statistically significant, with approximately half, on average, preferring word of mouth.



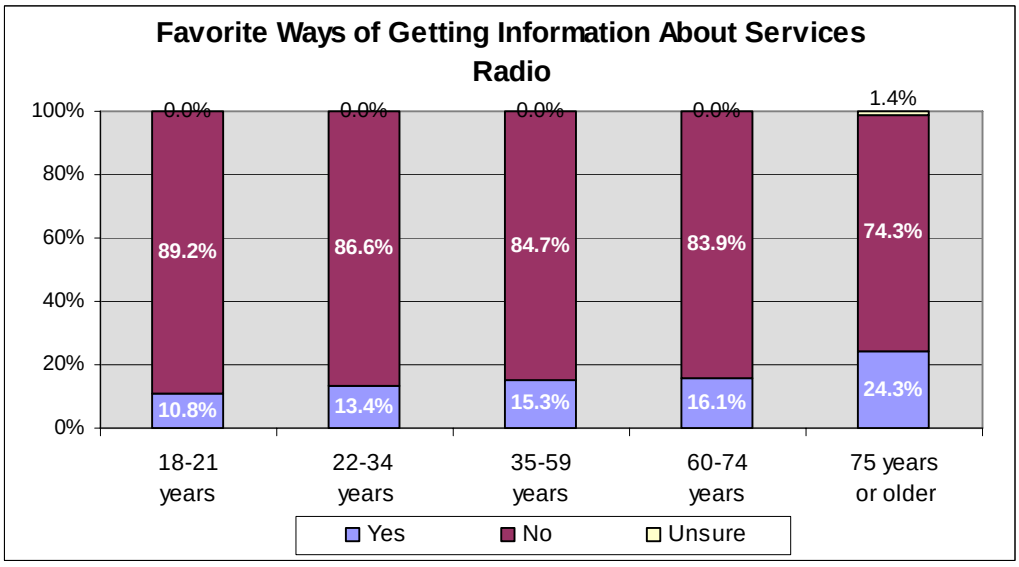
Newspaper

The use of newspapers was slightly more prevalent among older respondents but differences between age groups were not statistically significant.



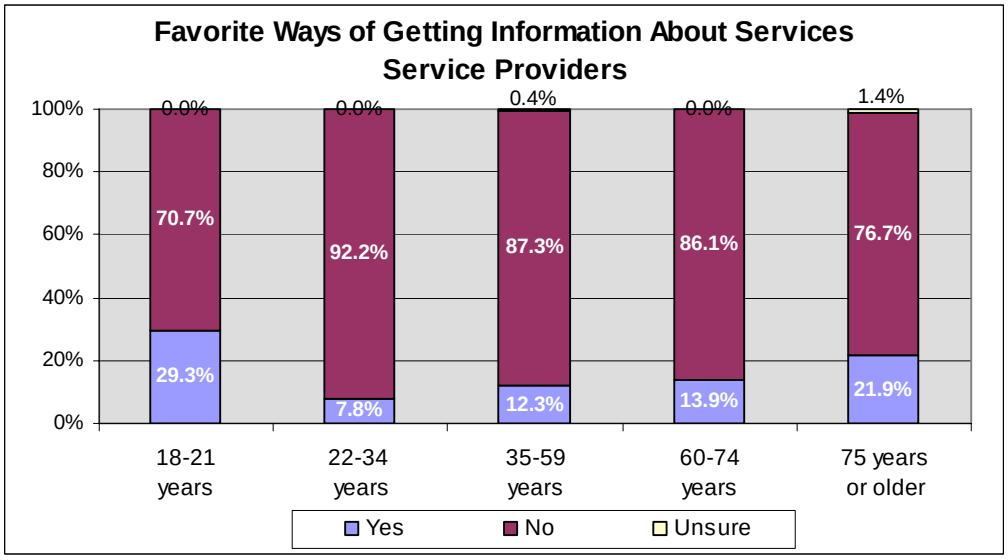
Radio

Radio use was also more prevalent among older respondents. Differences between the youngest and the oldest age group were statistically significant ($p \leq 0.05$).



Service Providers

The largest proportion of respondents who chose service providers as one of their top two favorite ways of obtaining information were among the 18-21 and 75+ year olds. These two age groups were statistically different from the 22-34 year old group ($p \leq 0.01$).



211

Virtually none of the respondents identified 211 as a favored means of obtaining information, and there were no statistically significant differences between age groups.