

# Culver City Age-Friendly Survey

## SUMMARY

### 2019

**Background:** As part of its Age-Friendly Communities planning process, the City conducted a community survey of individuals who are over age 50 and/or disabled (at any age). Using a template from AARP, the City revised the survey to focus on its' interest areas and disseminated it widely for approximately two months. Surveys were completed by 447 individuals.

Additionally, the City convened two community "listening sessions" that were facilitated by AARP. 17 people attended these sessions and additional information was gained. While the number engaged in these sessions is lower than the survey, feedback from these sessions is also included.

**Key Findings:** 81% of survey respondents report that Culver City is an Excellent or Good place to age. They have a great deal of longevity in Culver City and it is very important to them to stay there as they age. Respondents also want to age independently, in their community. However, 44% report household incomes of less than \$50,000 year and 50% report that they worry about whether they will be able to afford their homes in the future.

The survey population is pretty healthy – with 80% reporting that their health is Excellent or Good "compared to others their age." Those with higher incomes are more likely to report good health. 84% report that they exercise several times a week or daily, while 7% exercise once a month or less.

There are key areas where respondents placed high importance on specific resources, but reported lower quality or availability of those resources in the City. The top issues were housing (options, cost) and transportation/traffic (cost, reliability, and safety). Additional areas included sidewalks, bike lanes, benches and shade, and affordable parking. A high number of people (more than 60%) did not know whether some community resources were available in Culver City including information on health and supportive services, and home care services. Affordability issues focused on housing, parking, and in-home health care.

Just 57% feel prepared in case of a community-wide emergency such as an earthquake or fire.

Listening session participants identified the bus transportation, walkability/bikeability of the city, diversity, friendliness, and access to resources such as services, green spaces/parks, and elected officials among Culver City's strengths. They worry about property crime and homelessness as well as isolation. They report that affordable housing is the primary thing that needs to work better in Culver City for seniors, followed by addressing isolation.

## **FINDINGS PART I: Participant Demographics, Characteristics and Behaviors**

*Additional charts elaborating on survey findings can be found as an Attachment to this report.*

Generally, the survey population resembles the overall population of Culver City by race/ethnicity. 24% reported that they are Latino/Hispanic, 47% White/Caucasian, 8% Black or African American, and 9%

Asian or Pacific Islander. Some surveys were completed in Spanish. 61% were age 65 or older and/but just 2% were ages 80 and older. Those over 80 are underrepresented in the survey.

Respondents have lived in Culver City for quite a while – with 62% here for 25 years or more and just 5% having come in the last 5 years. With this longevity, 77% of respondents responded that it was Extremely Important or Very Important to remain in their community as they age.

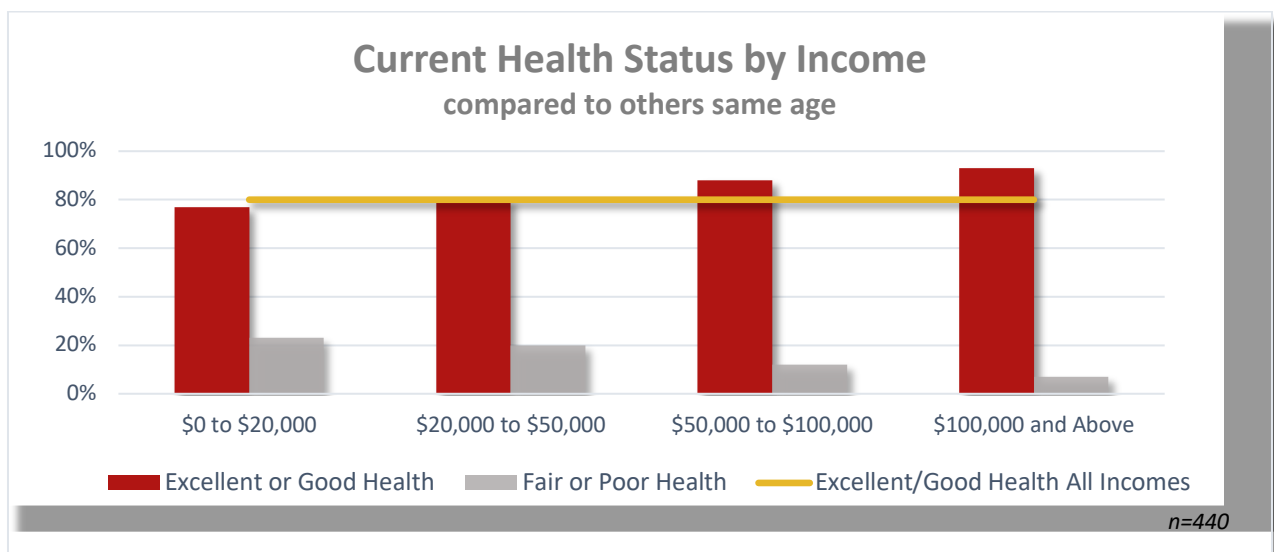
Aging independently is also very important with 82% reporting that it is Extremely Important to live independently as they age with an additional 17% reporting that it is Somewhat Important.

72% identify as female and 28% as male. 54% reported that they are married or living with a partner while 32% were single, separated or divorced. 14% were widowed.

**Income:** 44% of respondents reported a household income of less than \$50,000 a year. The Elder Self Sufficiency Index for 2015<sup>1</sup> showed that the self-sufficiency level for a single older adult living in a rented home is \$24,108 and the level is \$32,904 for a homeowner with a mortgage (statewide average). There is a sizeable group living below the self-sufficiency level if the higher than average cost of living in Culver City is considered.

**Health Insurance Status:** 54% of respondents are on Medicare and 51% report being covered by private insurance through an employer (past or present) or from their partner (they may have both). There are a number of individuals who are eligible for Medicare but still covered only under employer-based insurance. At the other end of the spectrum, just 8% report being on Medicaid (MediCal) and 2% on both Medicare and Medicaid. This “Medi-Medi” population is one definition of very low income for those over 65. 12% of those under age 65 are on Medicare – indicating a high level of disability.

**Health:** 80% of respondents report that their health is Excellent or Good when “compared to other people their age” while 19% reported it as Fair or Poor. 73% report that neither they nor their spouse/partner have any disability or chronic disease that keeps them from fully participating in work, school, housework or other activities. Health status, as self-reported, is correlated with income.



**Home/Housing:** 50% of respondents worry about whether they will be able to afford their housing as they age. 79% own their own home. 8% report that they rely in income from a “granny flat.”

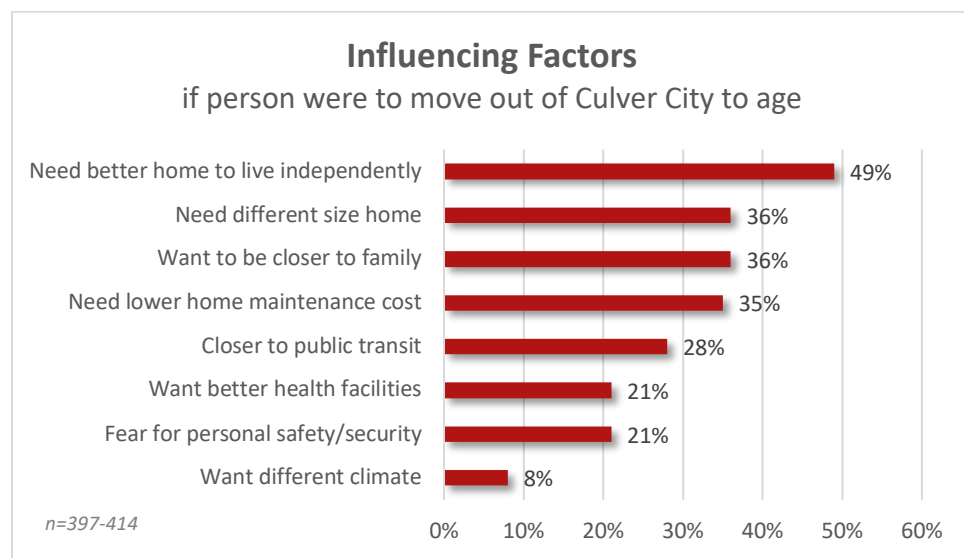
<sup>1</sup> <http://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/programs/health-disparities/elder-health/elder-index-data/Pages/CostOfLiving.aspx>

69% of respondents either live alone or with a partner/spouse. 18% have children ages 18 or older living with them, 7% have children under 18, and 7% live with other adult friends/relatives or roommates. 3% report having parents living with them.

Participants in the Listening Session also felt strongly that affordable housing needs to “work better” in Culver City.

**Types of home modifications those who stay in their current home might need:** Those who plan on staying in their current home reported that modifications they may need were most likely be to install an emergency response system (48%) or improve access into or within the home (39%). Improving lighting followed with just a few (12%) needing a bedroom or bathroom on the first floor.

**Factors that would influence people to move out of Culver City when they retire or work less:** Three out of the top four reasons a person would move out of Culver City after they retire or work less are associated with housing – needing a different home to support independent living, needing a different size home, or needing to lower their home maintenance cost. The fourth top reason was to live near family. More than one-third of optional comments on this topic were related to traffic.



**Education:** Roughly one-third of respondents’ report that they have less than a college degree (31% with 6% having a high school diploma or less). 26% have some college or vocational training but no degree, 22% have a college degree, and 46% have some post-graduate study or a graduate degree.

**Transportation:** With more than one answer allowed, 87% of respondents report that they drive themselves at least some of the time. 41% walk and 14% ride a bike. Just 28% use public transportation.

**Work Status:** 40% of respondents reported that they are currently employed with another 5% reporting that they work occasionally but not regularly. Just 2% are not working but looking for work. 10% are not in the workforce for “other reasons” such as health or caregiving.

**Meals and Socialization:** 88% make at least some of their own meals. Fewer than 4% eat at a congregate meal program, get home delivered meals, or live somewhere that provides meals for them.

82% report that they interact with friends, family or neighbors several times a week or more. Conversely, 7% interact twice a month or less. 49% report that they leave their home for social interaction, errands, fitness, or classes at least daily with 90% leaving several times a week or more. Conversely, 5% report that they leave their home twice a month or less.

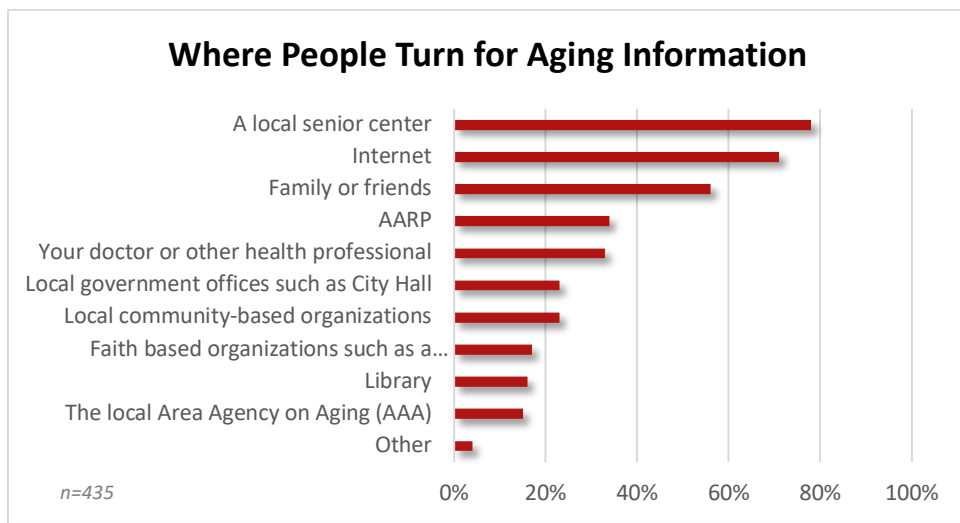
71% reported that they turn to Senior Centers for at least some of their non-exercise-related educational or self-improvement classes. 27%-38% turn to local community centers, parks, university/community college older adult programs, or online. 4% were not interested in recreational/self-improvement classes.

**Internet Usage:** 86% go on the internet once a day or more and 7% go on every few weeks or less (6% never). Those who use the internet report that they use it for:

- Getting news and information (88%)
- Shopping (79%)
- Paying bills (73%)
- Staying in touch through social media (81%)

Respondents for this survey were heavily recruited on the internet and the population that does not use the internet may be underrepresented here.

**Where People Turn for Aging Information:** 78% would turn to a local senior center and 71% would turn to the internet for aging information. There may be a bias here as such a large portion of respondents were recruited for the survey through electronic means. Those who do not use the internet may be underrepresented. 72% reported that they would welcome guidance to plan for healthy aging.



#### Other Info:

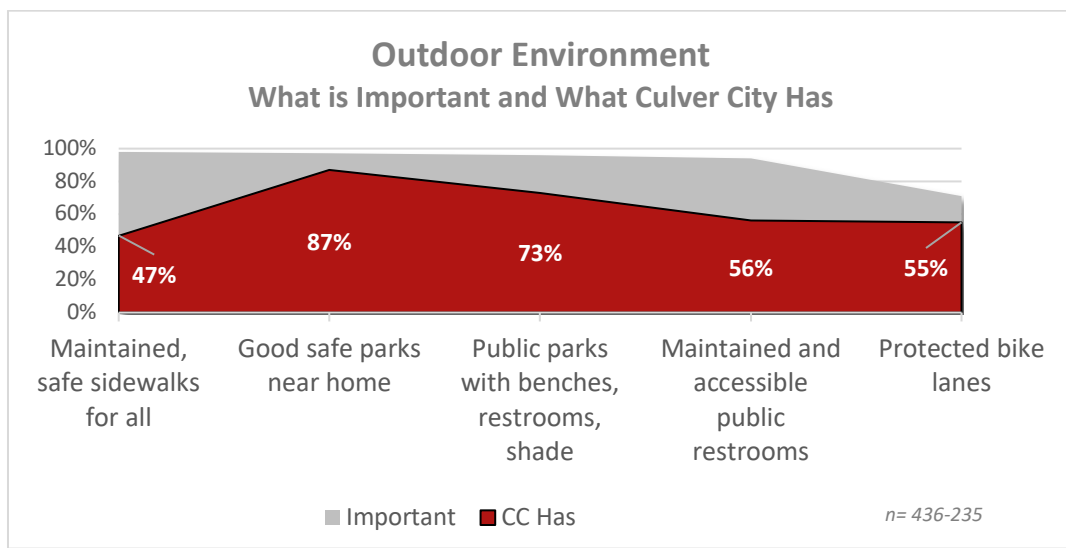
- 61% of respondents or their partner/spouse belong to AARP
- In the last 5 years, 94% have voted in local elections Always or Most of the Time.
- 73% feel optimistic that they can handle issues of aging to their satisfaction

**How People Prefer to Get Information from City:** Respondents are definitely listening to the City – with news getting to them from a variety of sources. Top sources for news are the City’s website, emails, cable, and local newspaper.

## Part 2: Knowledge about Availability and Opinions about the Importance of Community Resources

**Outdoor Environment:** Respondents were asked about how important key outdoor services and amenities are and whether Culver City currently has them. Responses to these questions include only those who knew or had an opinion (excludes “don’t know”) unless otherwise noted.

In sum, all but the protected bike lanes were considered Extremely or Very Important by 94%. 87% of those who had an opinion reported that there were well maintained parks near their home, and 73% reported that there were public parks with benches, restrooms, and shade. However, the proportion reporting that Culver City has these assets falls to 47% for safe sidewalks, 55% for protected bike lanes, and 56% for public restrooms that are well maintained and accessible (for all abilities).

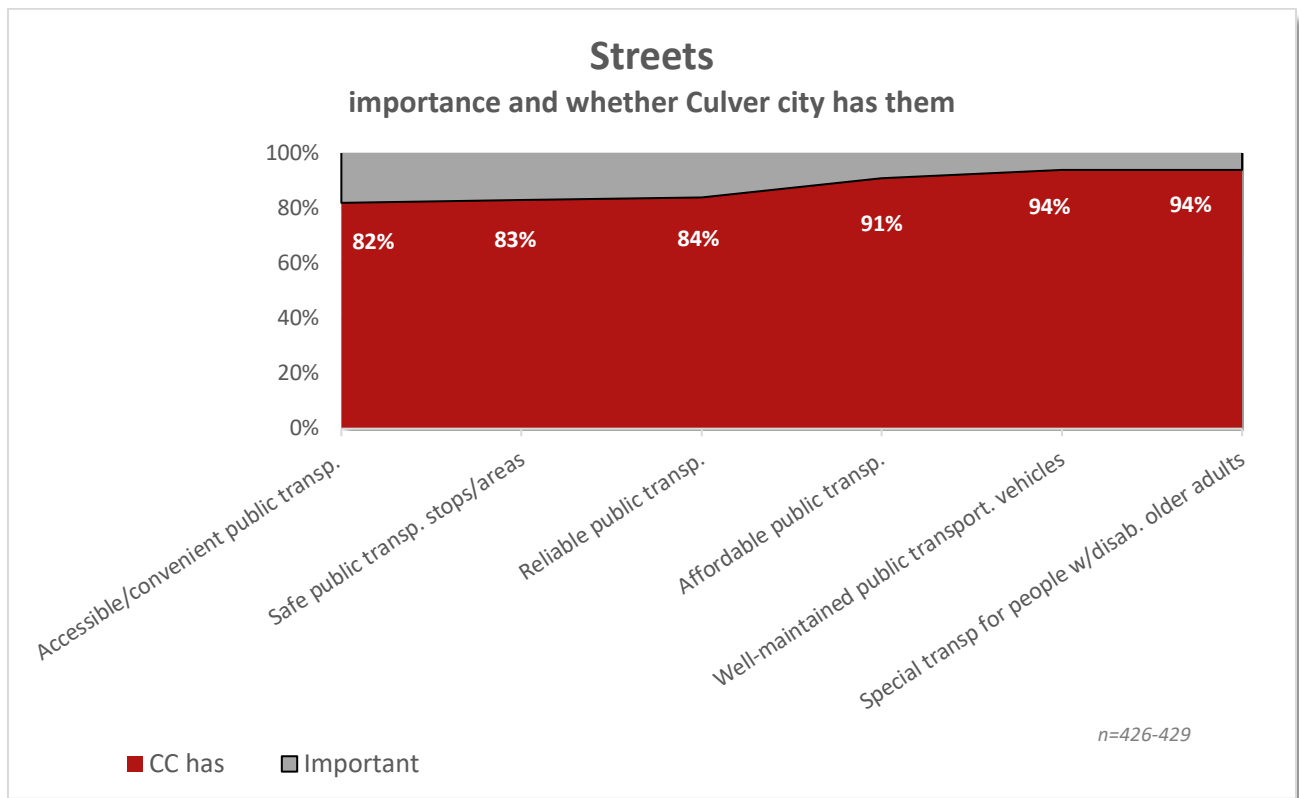
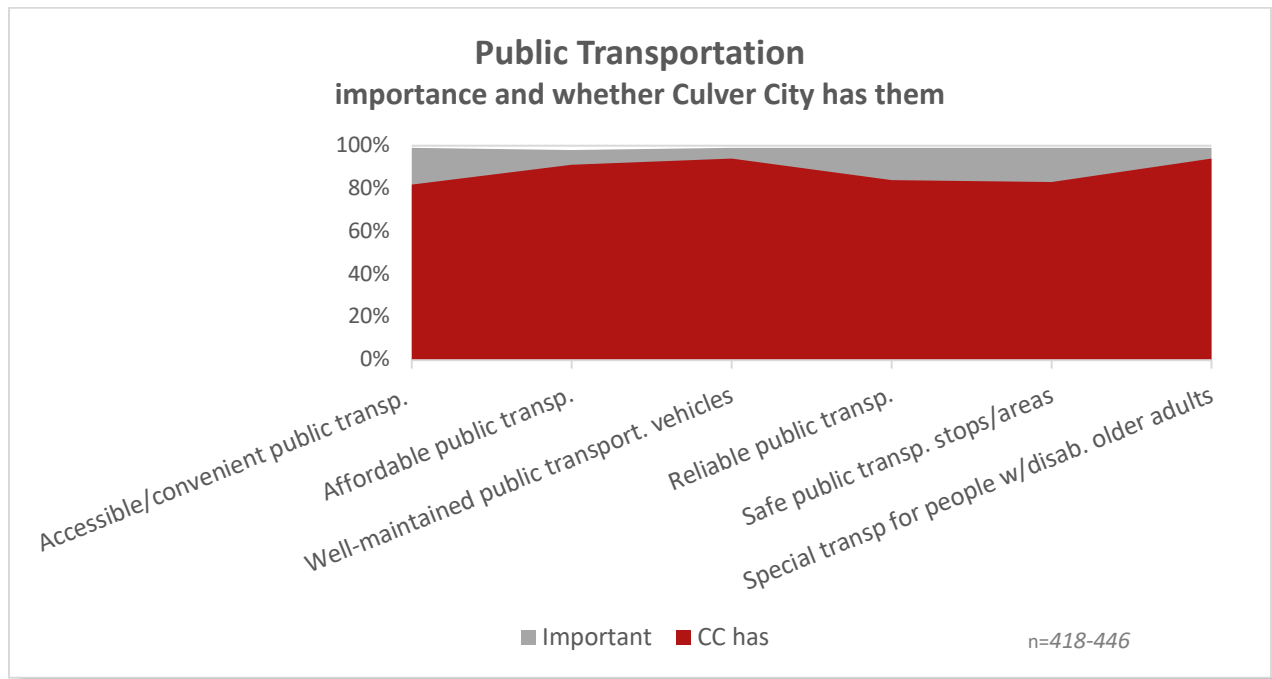


Participants in listening sessions identified green spaces and parks as among the things they like most about living in Culver City.

**Streets and Transportation:** Public transportation was rated highly important and available by respondents with perhaps the lowest ratings (but still above 80%) going to reliability and safety at stops.

Moving from a focus on transportation to streets themselves, 87%-100% of respondents reported that street issues were Extremely Important or Important but many fewer (60%-80) reported that Culver City effectively has these things. Well maintained streets, well-lit safe streets/intersections, and enforced speed limits were viewed as available by the fewest respondents but still 66%-68% said Yes.

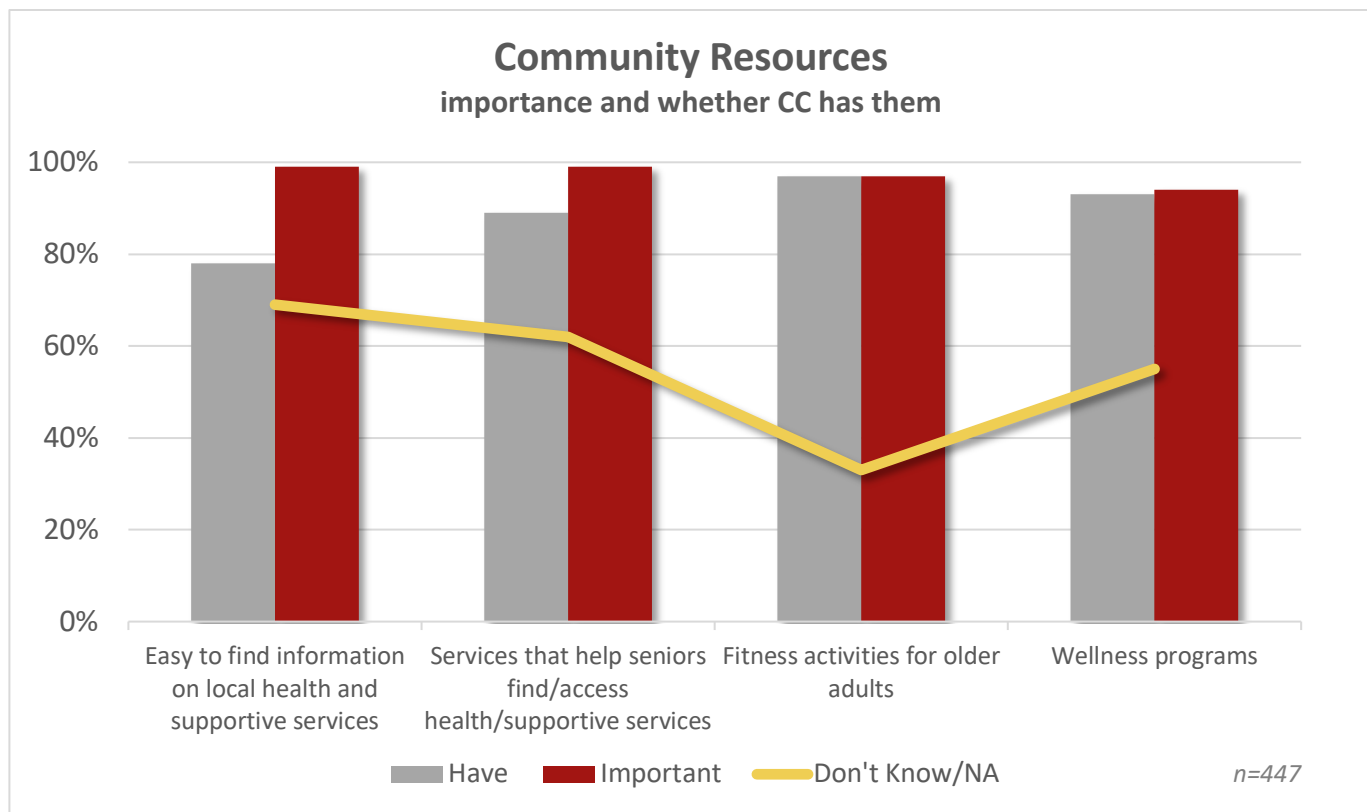
Additional questions on parking and places to rest on the street show that nearly all respondents find these to be very important. While 81% report that Culver City has adequate areas to park, this drops to 72% reporting that this parking is affordable. 65% report that there are adequate benches and shade.



**Community Resources:** The number of overall respondents that don't know what community resources exist in Culver City goes way up and this is a more significant finding that what those who do know expressed. For this reason, we have called out the "don't know" group in the chart below. The

percentage reporting that Culver City does have the resource is based on the minority who answered YES or NO.

These large “don’t know” categories suggest that a) people don’t tend to know whether these things exist until they need them, and/or b) more public education about resources is needed.

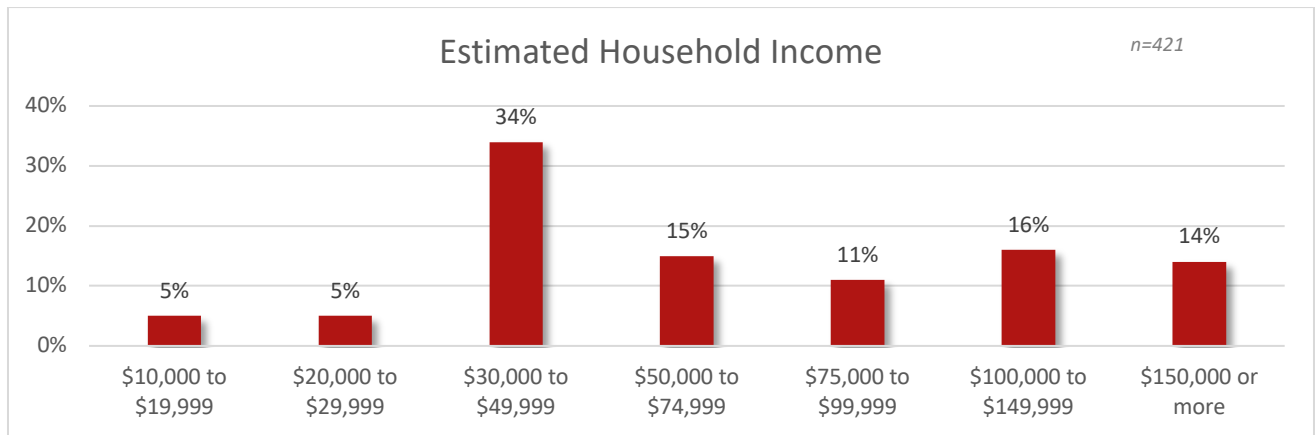
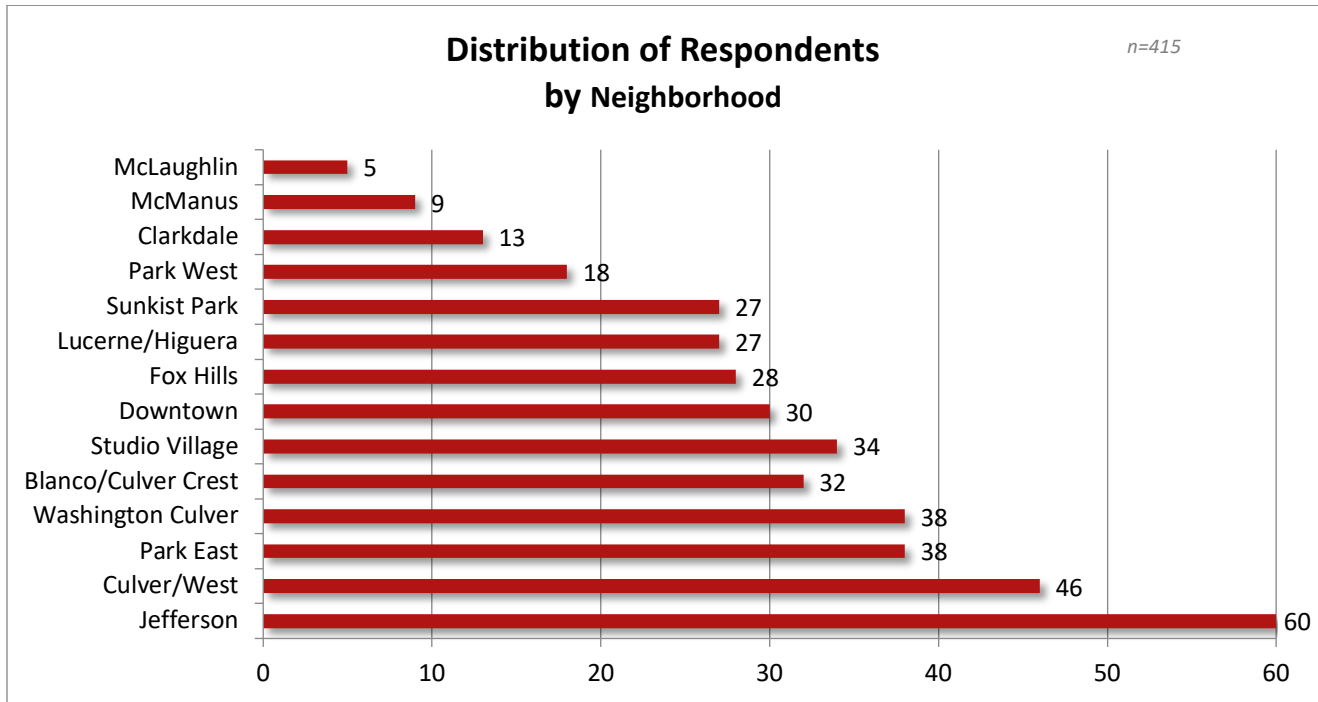


**Home Care Services:** When it comes to home care services, three-quarters of all respondents to don’t know whether they are available in Culver City although they report them as important. Of those who do feel informed, 73% think that home care services are available while only 52% think that home health care providers are affordable. Three quarters think they are well-trained.

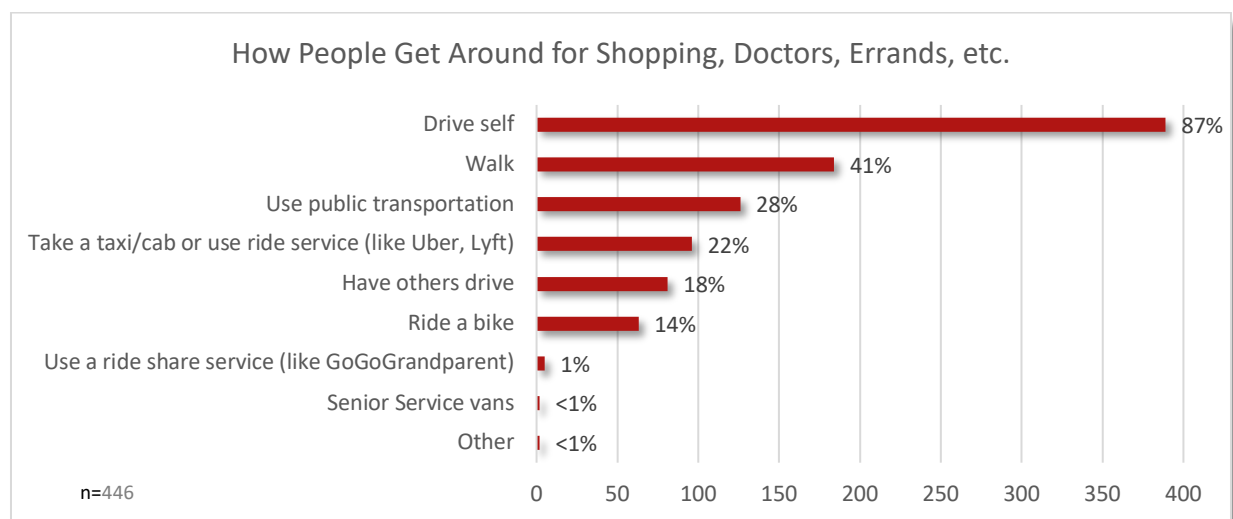
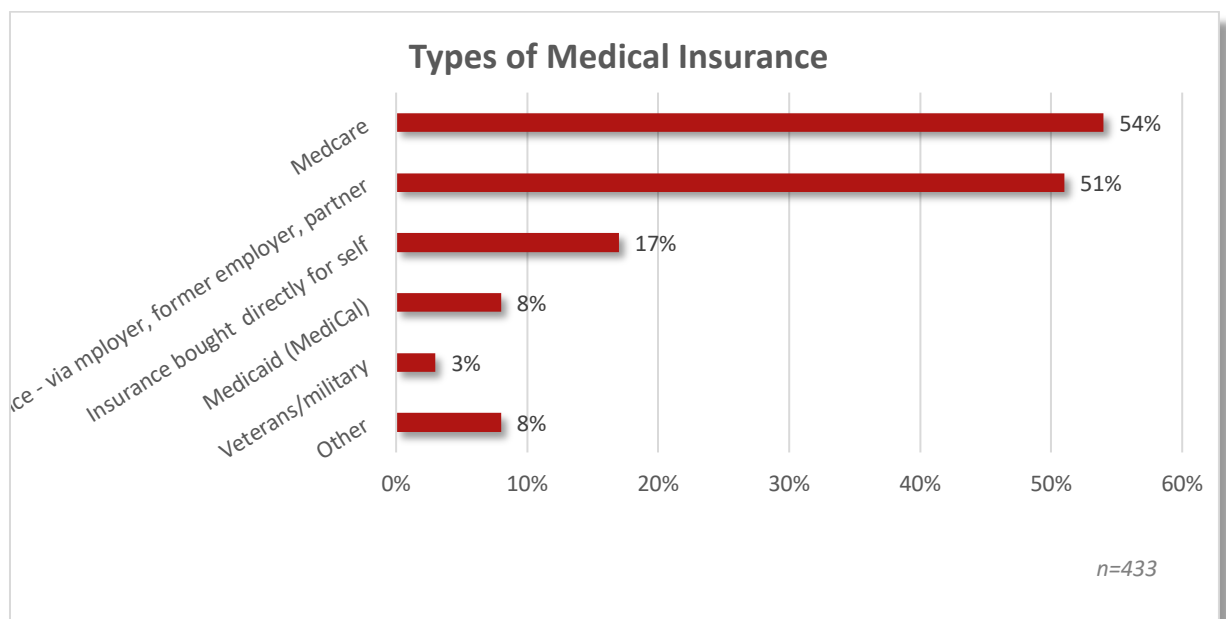
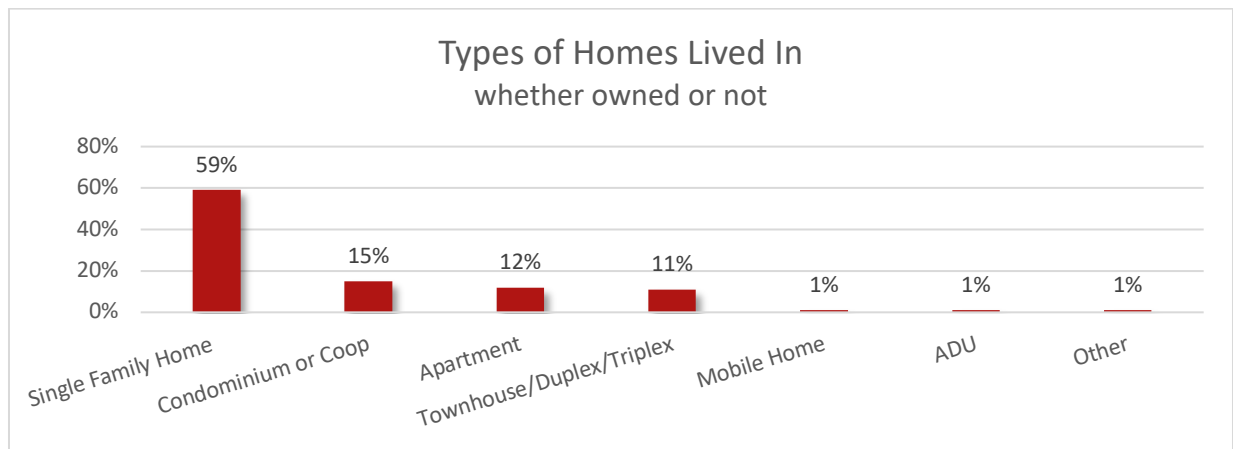
**Medical Resources:** More respondents have knowledge of whether Culver City strong medical resources but still, 45% to 75% did not know. Of those who knew, 80% or more reported that Culver City has these resources, falling to 75% when asked about respectful and helpful hospital and clinic staff.

Not surprisingly, given the demographics of respondents, 69% did not know whether Culver City has health care professionals who speak different languages. Of those who did know, 91% reported that it does.

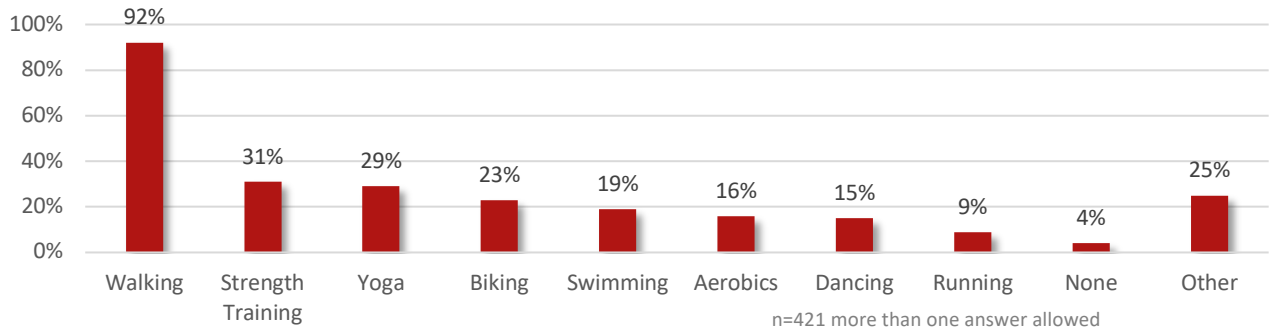
Culver City Age-Friendly Survey  
**ATTACHMENT**  
CHARTS WITH ADDITIONAL FINDINGS



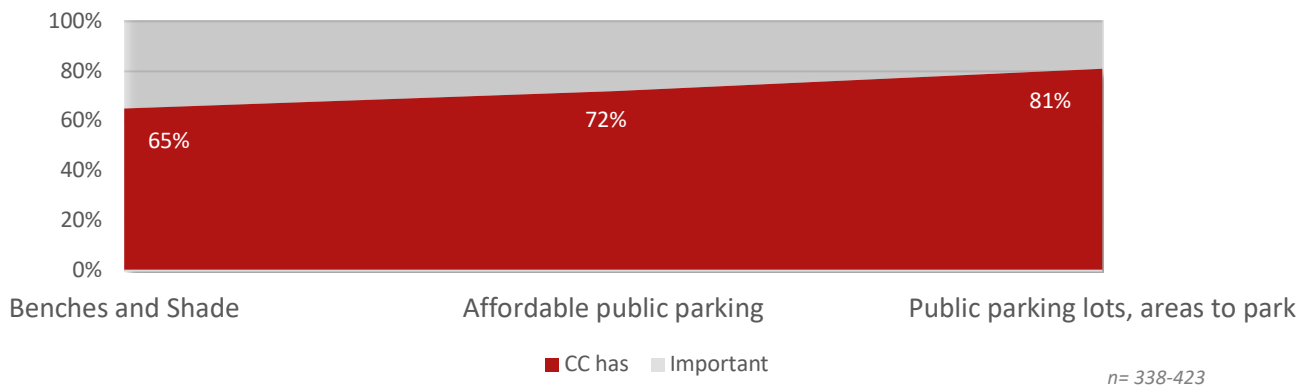




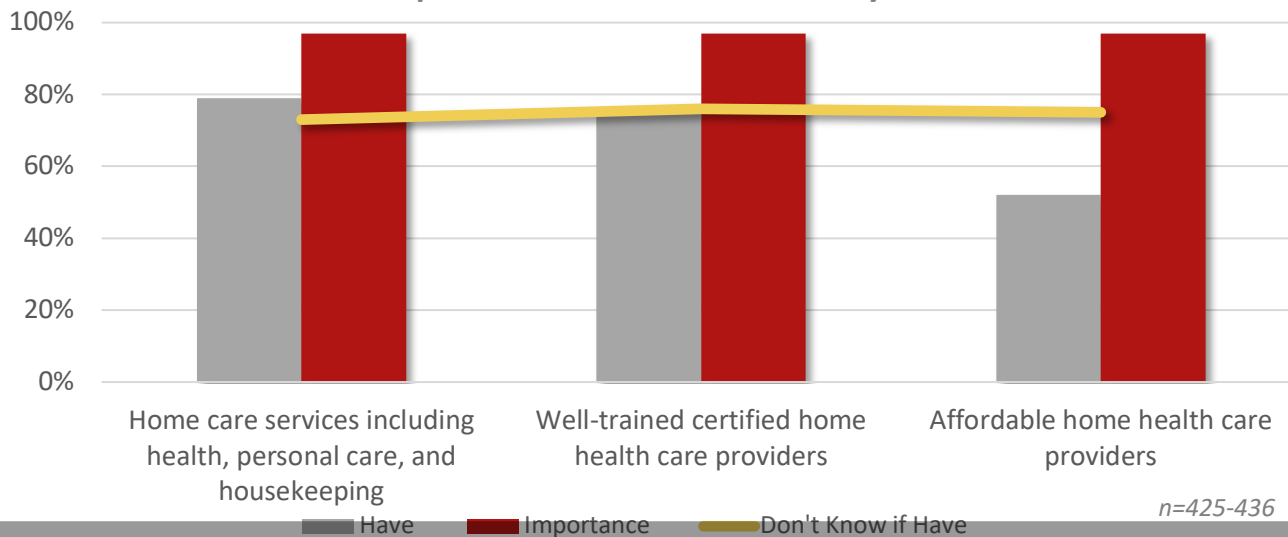
## How People Get Exercise



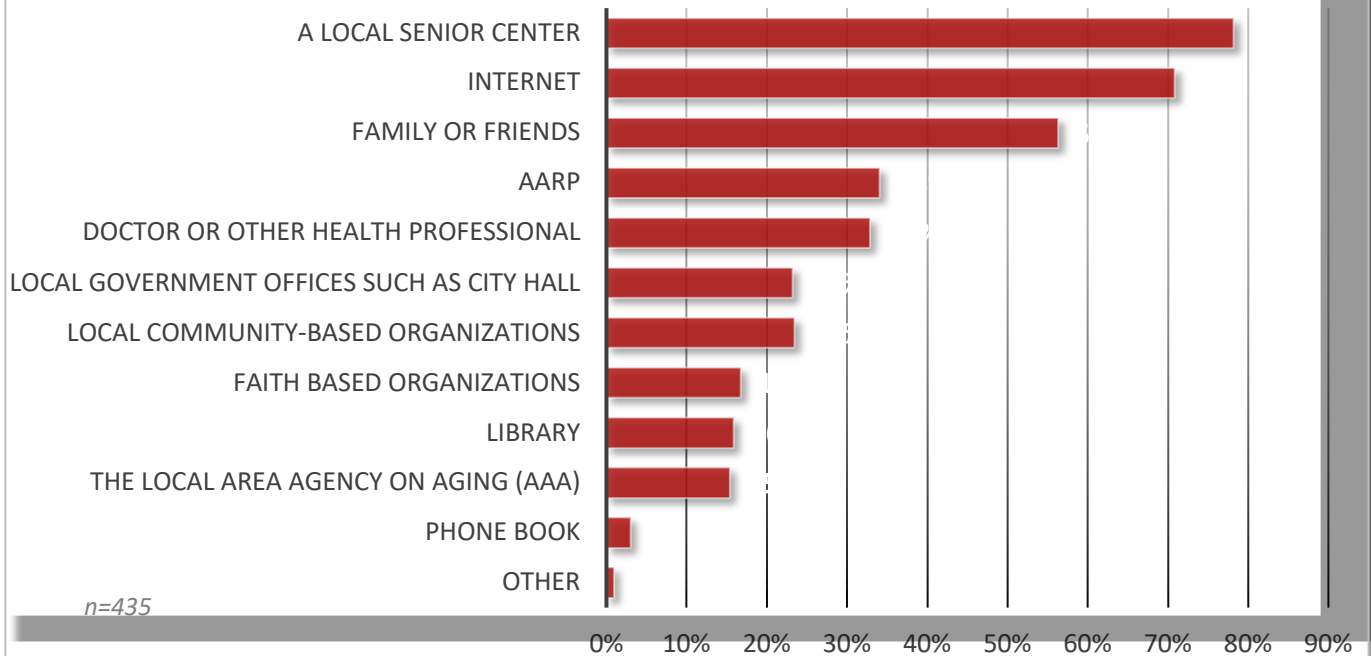
## Parking and Amenities importance and whether Culver city has them



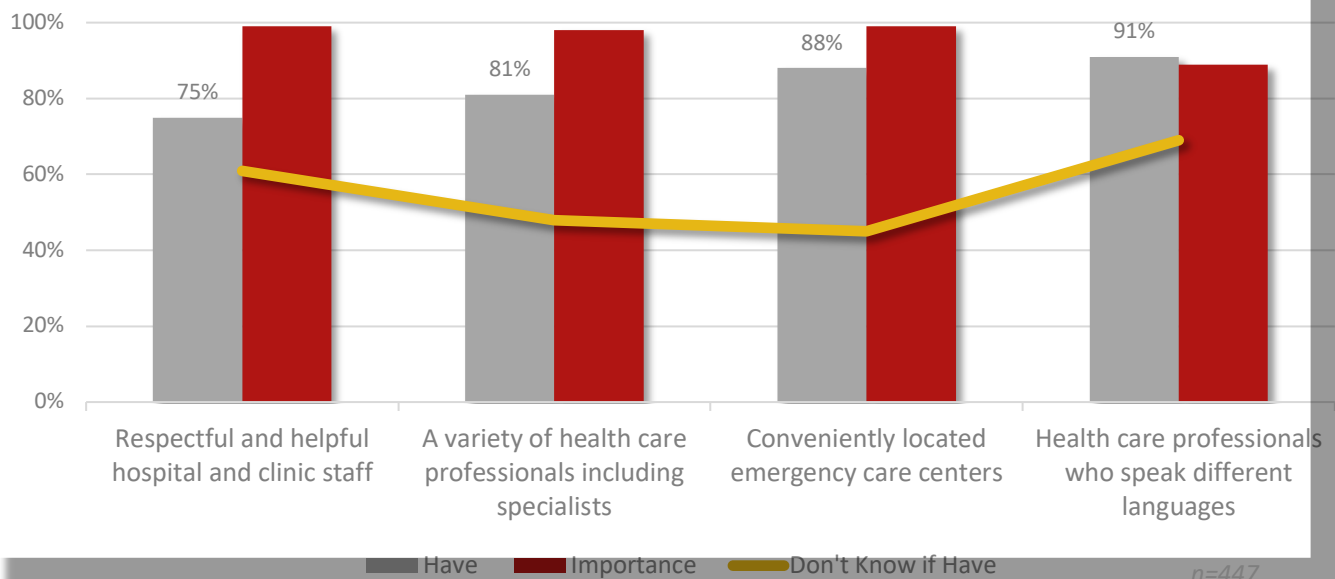
## Home Health Care importance and what Culver City has



## Where People Turn for Health Information



## Medical Resources importance and whether CC has them



### How Seniors Prefer to Receive Information from the City

