AGE-FRIENDLY PAWTUCKET

"HONORING THE PAST, SHAPING THE FUTURE TOGETHER"

Analysis of the Age Friendly Pawtucket AARP Community Survey:

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SURVEY SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The staff of the City of Pawtucket Mayor's Office and Division of Senior Services, and the Pawtucket Age Friendly Task Force successfully administered the AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey to 362 Pawtucket residents aged 45 and over. Through the survey responses, data was collected regarding the domains of home and community; homes, buildings, and public spaces; transportation; health and wellness; social participation, inclusion, and educational opportunities; volunteering and civic engagement; job opportunities; and community information.

This report presents the answers given by respondents to each of the 47 survey questions. It analyzes participants' responses in light of the question: what do older adults in Pawtucket think about their quality of life as they age? Is Pawtucket a city in which older adults can "age in place," as opposed to having to leave?

The "typical" respondent of the survey was a 70-year-old married female whose health was good or better. Over half of the respondents had post high school training or more. Before taxes in 2024 over half of respondents had annual incomes of less than $50,000. In 2025 the median income in Pawtucket was $67,436, as reported in the HousingWorksRI 2025 Housing Fact Book. The largest group of respondents resided in the ZIP code 02860.

Most survey respondents said that they intended to remain in their current residence and stay in their current community.

Respondents' most-cited reasons for wanting to move out of their current **residence** were wanting a home that would help them live independently as they age (e.g., wanting a home without stairs) and being concerned with the cost of maintaining their current residence.

The reasons that respondents most often gave for wanting to move out of their current **community** were concerns about their personal safety, wanting to live in an area with a lower cost of living, and wanting to live closer to family.

Survey participants reported satisfaction with much of the physical environment of Pawtucket. Especially highly rated (i.e. rated good or better) are the home modification and repair contractors, the existence of well-lit, accessible, safe streets and intersections, easy to read traffic signs, well-maintained homes and properties, well maintained parks, and safe parks.

The aspects of the physical environment where 30% or more of the respondents answered "not sure" were home repair service for low income and older adults, seasonal services

for low income and older adults, homes that are built with things like no-step entrances, well-maintained, safe low-income housing, and community watch programs.

More than half of respondents rated these elements as fair or poor: seasonal services such as lawn work for low-income and older adults, sidewalks that are in good condition, enough benches in public areas, and well-maintained hospitals and health care facilities.

Most respondents drive themselves. The majority of participants rated the public transportation as good, very good, or excellent. It should be noted that thirty percent or more of the respondents answered "not sure" in rating the affordability, well maintained public transportation vehicles, timely public transportation, safe public transportation stops, and special transportation services for people with disabilities and older adults. This could indicate that the respondents were unfamiliar with public transportation.

In the health and wellness section, over-all the respondents rated their community's health and wellness services as good or better.

The following aspects of health and wellness were rated as fair or poor by 20% or more of the respondents: affordable home health care providers, a variety of health care professionals including specialists, respectful and helpful hospital and clinic staff, affordable health and wellness programs and classes, affordable fitness classes geared for older adults, conveniently located health and social services, a service that provides people to help seniors easily find and access health and supportive services, affordable home care services, and easily understandable and helpful local hospital and clinic answering services.

Also, 30% or more answered "not sure" to many items of the health and wellness questions that may indicate a lack of information about the services.

Respondents appeared to be very well-connected to family, friends and neighbors and rarely lacked companionship. The majority said that if they were in trouble, they could call family or friends who could help them any time of the day or night.

In the domain of volunteering and civic engagement, **all** questions were answered as "not sure" by 30% or more of the respondents. This could indicate a lack of knowledge or a lack of interest in volunteering and civic engagement.

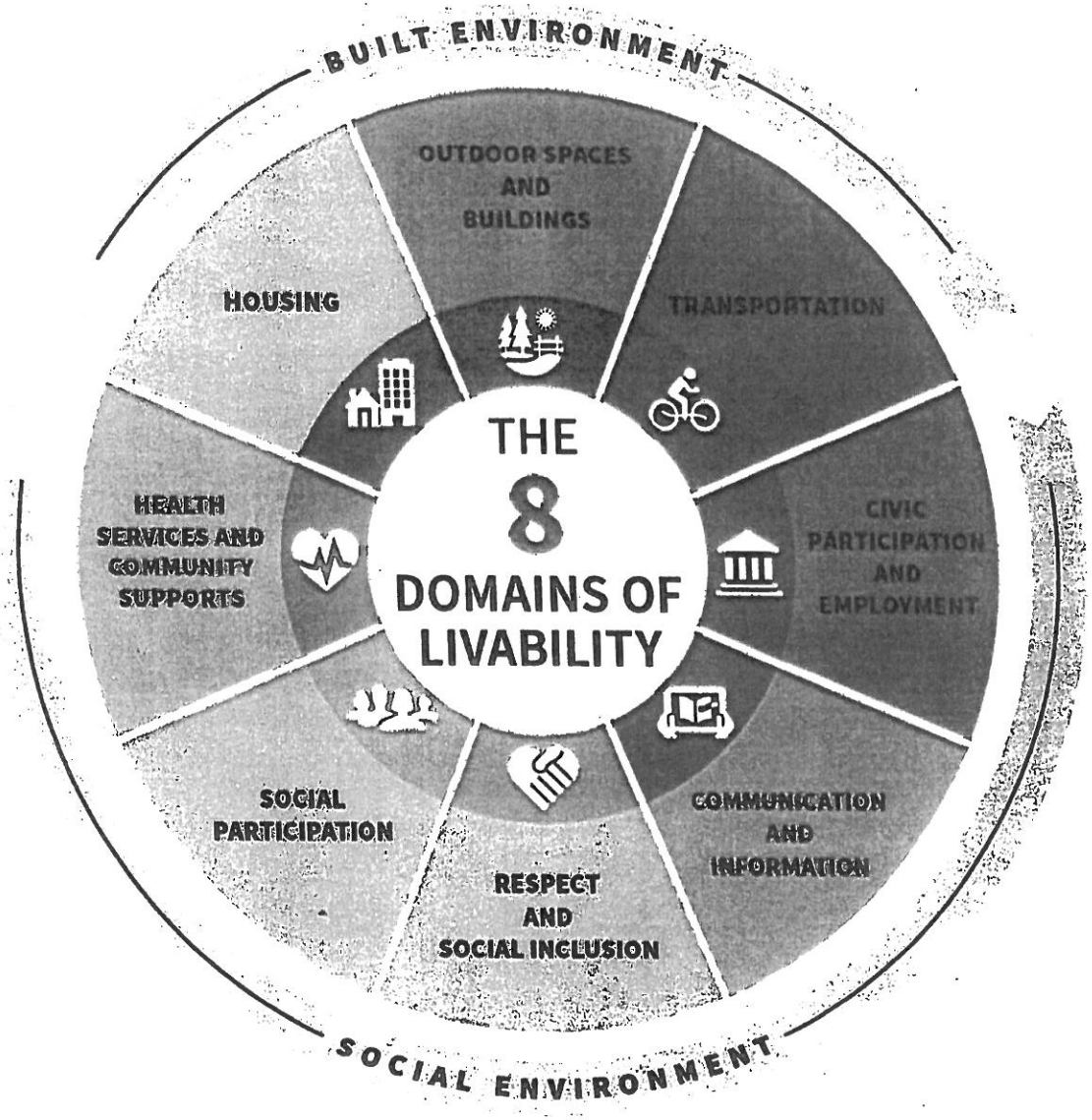
Most of the respondents were not working, with 57% being retired, 10.7% not in the labor force due to other reasons, and 5.5% unemployed but looking for work.

Over 50% of the respondents said that it was very or extremely likely that they will continue to work as long as possible.

The majority of the respondents said "not sure" when asked to rate Pawtucket in terms of a range of flexible job opportunities for older adults, job training opportunities for older adults, jobs that are adapted to meet the needs of people with disabilities, and policies that ensure older adults can continue to have equal opportunities to work.

Over 50% of participants said that they would turn to the following for needed information: local senior centers, the Office of Health Aging, family or friends, local nonprofit organizations, the Internet, their doctor or health care professional, and local government offices like the Health Department.

We believe that the City of Pawtucket AARP Age-Friendly Survey can be used by the city as a guide for planning for the needs, priorities, and desires of Pawtucket's older adults as they age. By strengthening low-rated services, disseminating information about elder-oriented resources that are not well-known to the older adult population, and maintaining well-liked services, the city can continue to ensure that its valued community of seniors can age in place.



The 8 Domains of Livability

is the framework used by states and communities enrolled in the network to organize and prioritize their work to become more livable for both older residents and people of all ages.

The availability and quality of these community features impact the well-being of older adults.