

Planning for all ages survey 2019 Survey Summary

Mildred Warner and Xue Zhang, September 2020

The Planning for All Ages survey is a joint project of Cornell University and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) with funding from US Dept. of Agriculture (NIFA/AFRI, grant #2019-68006-29674). Cornell Survey Research Institute consolidated the survey responses and the following organizations helped review and promote the survey: American Planning Association (APA), APA Small Town and Rural Division, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, AARP, National Association of Counties, and National League of Cities, Florida A & M University and Tompkins, NY Age-friendly Center of Excellence.

The survey was conducted in summer and fall of 2019 with both paper and online response options. Surveys were mailed to all 3035 counties, all municipalities over 25,000 population and a one in three sample of municipalities under 25,000, and a one-in-2.5 sample of towns and townships over 2,500 in population for a total of 8016 local governments. 1312 places responded for a response rate of 16%. Paper responses constituted 67% of respondents and 33% responded on line. Survey results were cleaned and analyzed by Dr. Xue Zhang and Dr. Mildred Warner at Cornell University.

Table 1 Respondents by population group

Population	Universe	Sample	Sample (%)
Under 2.5K	143	22	15%
2.5-5K	1,533	250	16%
5-10k	1,301	202	16%
10-25K	1,672	234	14%
25-50K	1,588	264	17%
50-100K	908	159	18%
100-250K	545	106	19%
250-500K	174	46	26%
500-1,000K	104	20	19%
Over 1,000K	48	9	19%
Total	8016	1312	16%

Table 2 Respondents by metro status

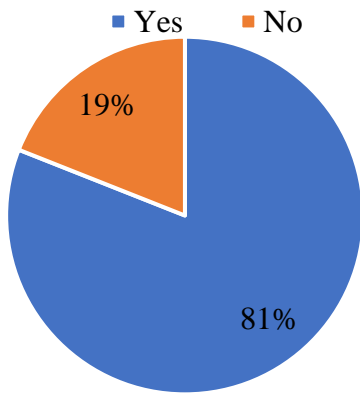
	N	Percentage
Metro core	233	18%
Suburb	677	52%
Rural	402	31%
Total	1312	100%

The survey explores the extent to which local governments engage in planning and other activities to meet the needs of residents across all age groups –especially seniors and families with children. This survey provides insights into how local governments can promote more livable communities for all residents.

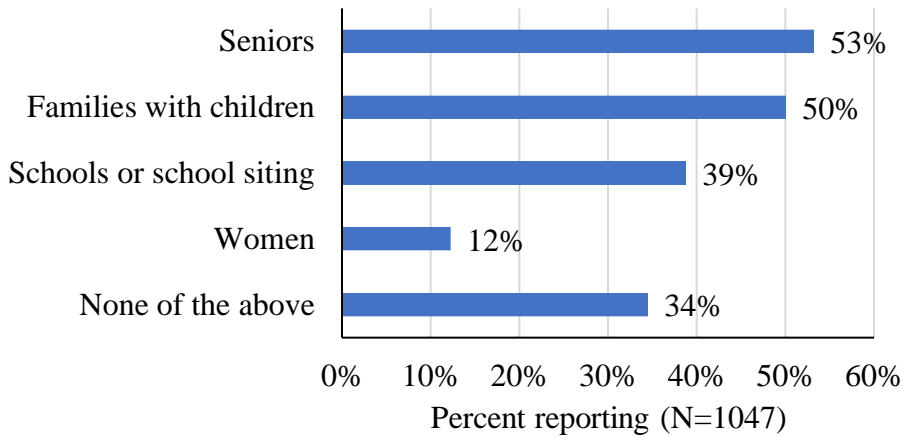
The summary below shows the percentages that provided answers in response to each individual question. Not all local governments answered each question, so the percentages are not based on all survey respondents. The number reporting (N) is provided for each question.

Section 1: Planning and Participation

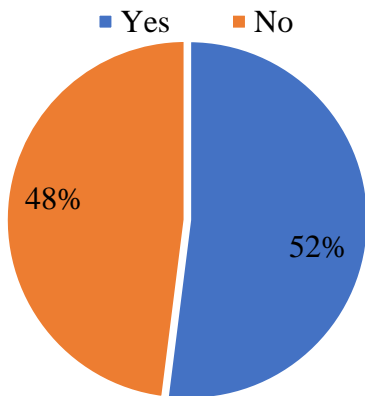
Q1. Does your community have a comprehensive plan?
(N=1297)



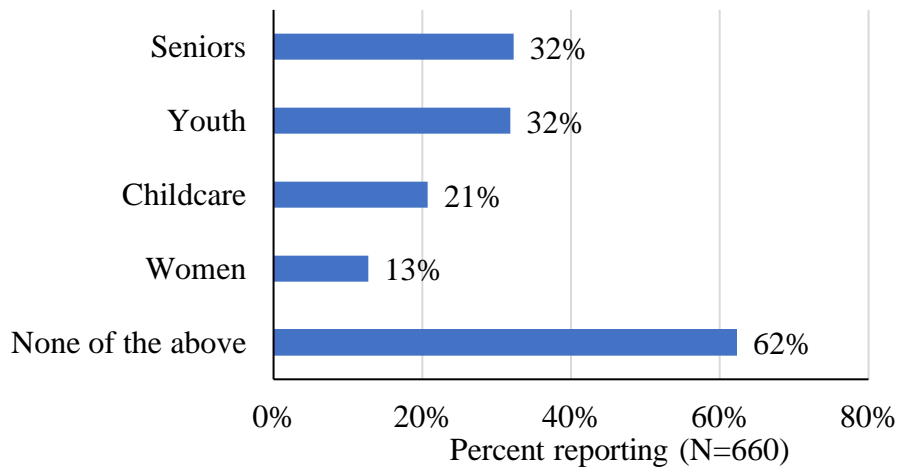
If yes, does the comprehensive plan address the needs of



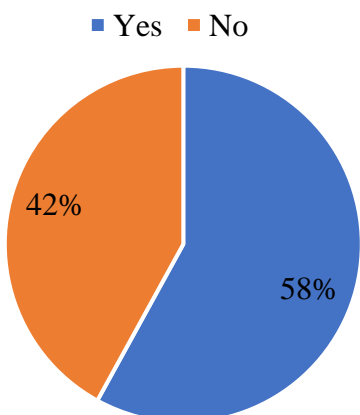
Q2. Does your community have an economic development plan?
(N=1274)



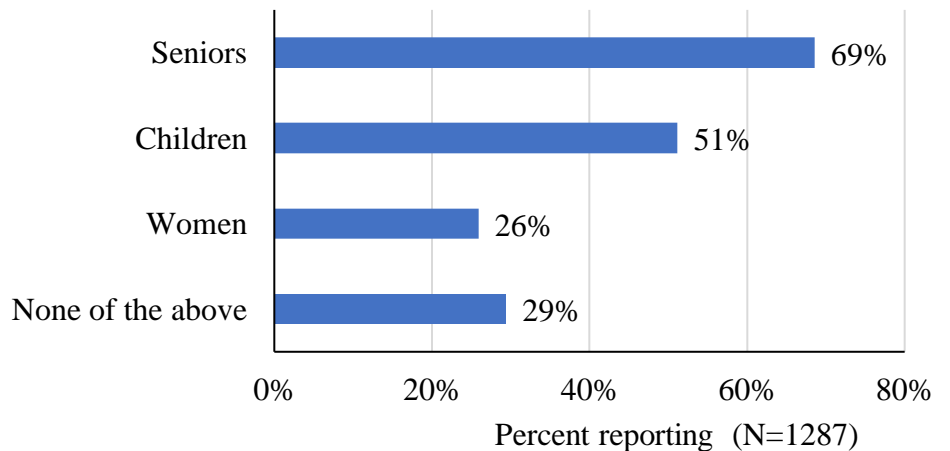
If yes, does the economic development plan address the needs of



Q3. Does your community have a transportation plan?
(N=1287)

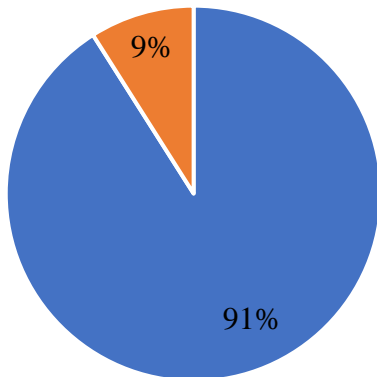


If yes, does the transportation plan address the needs of

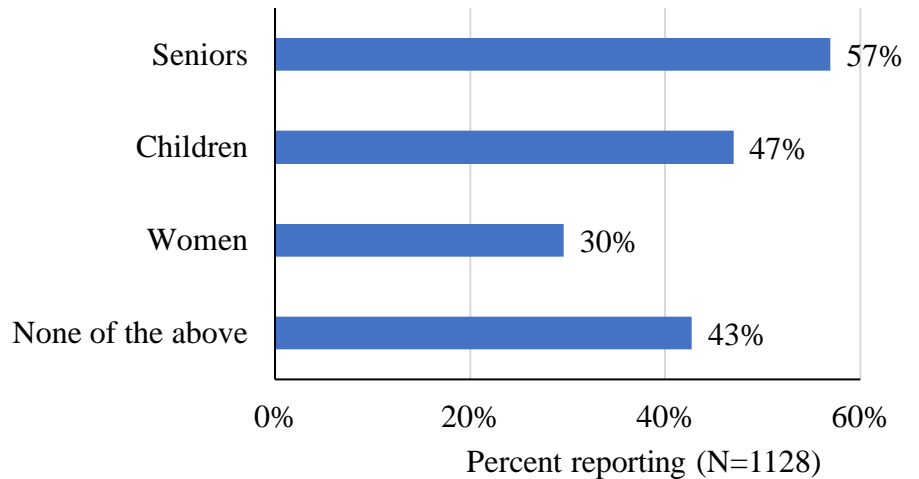


Q4. Does your community have an emergency or disaster plan? (N=1235)

■ Yes ■ No

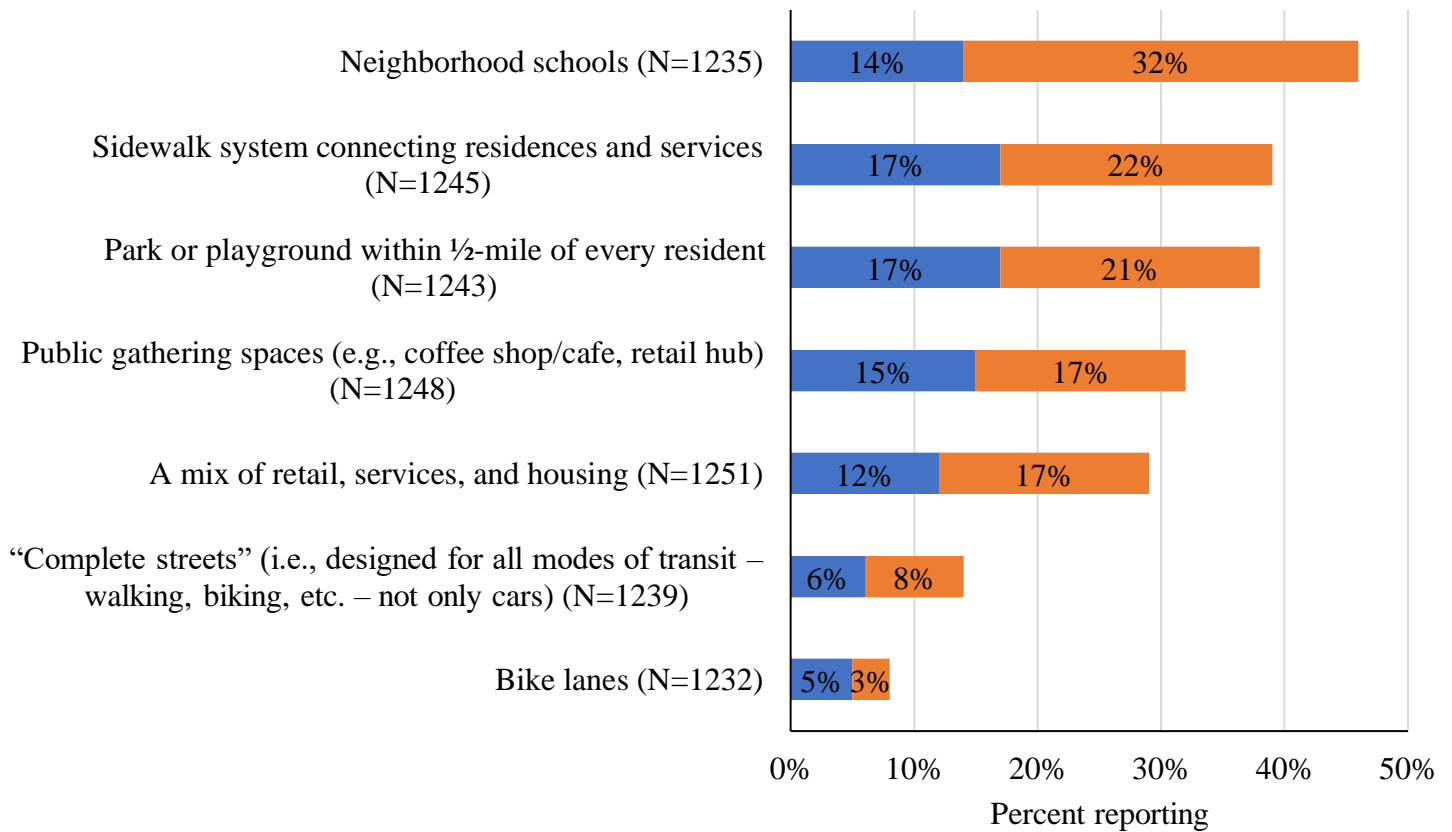


If yes, does the emergency plan or disaster plan address the needs of

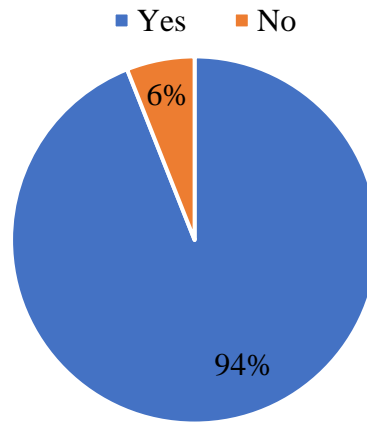


Q5. What percent of your community contains the following?

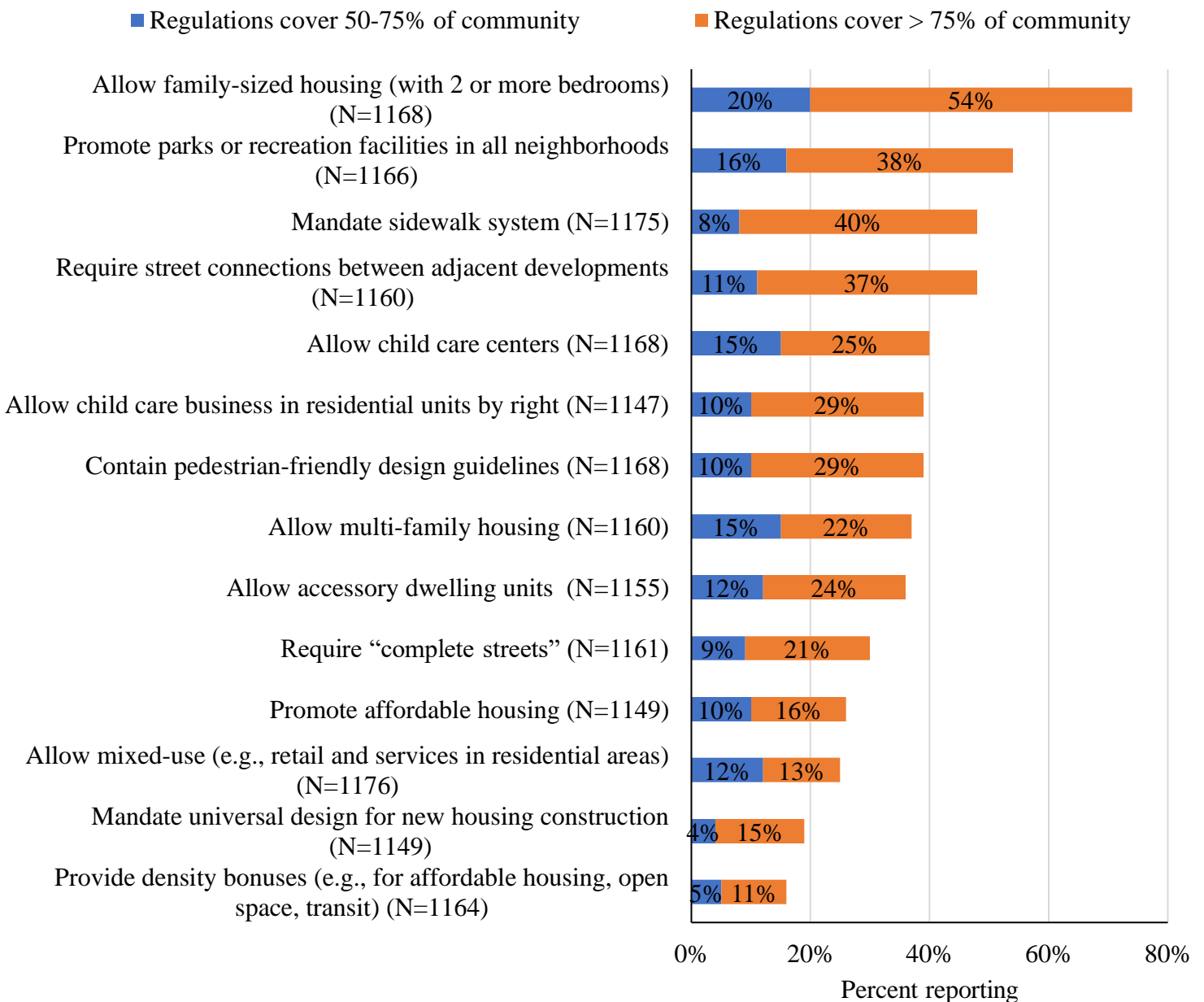
■ More than half of the community (51-75%) contains the following
 ■ Most of the community contains (>75%) the following



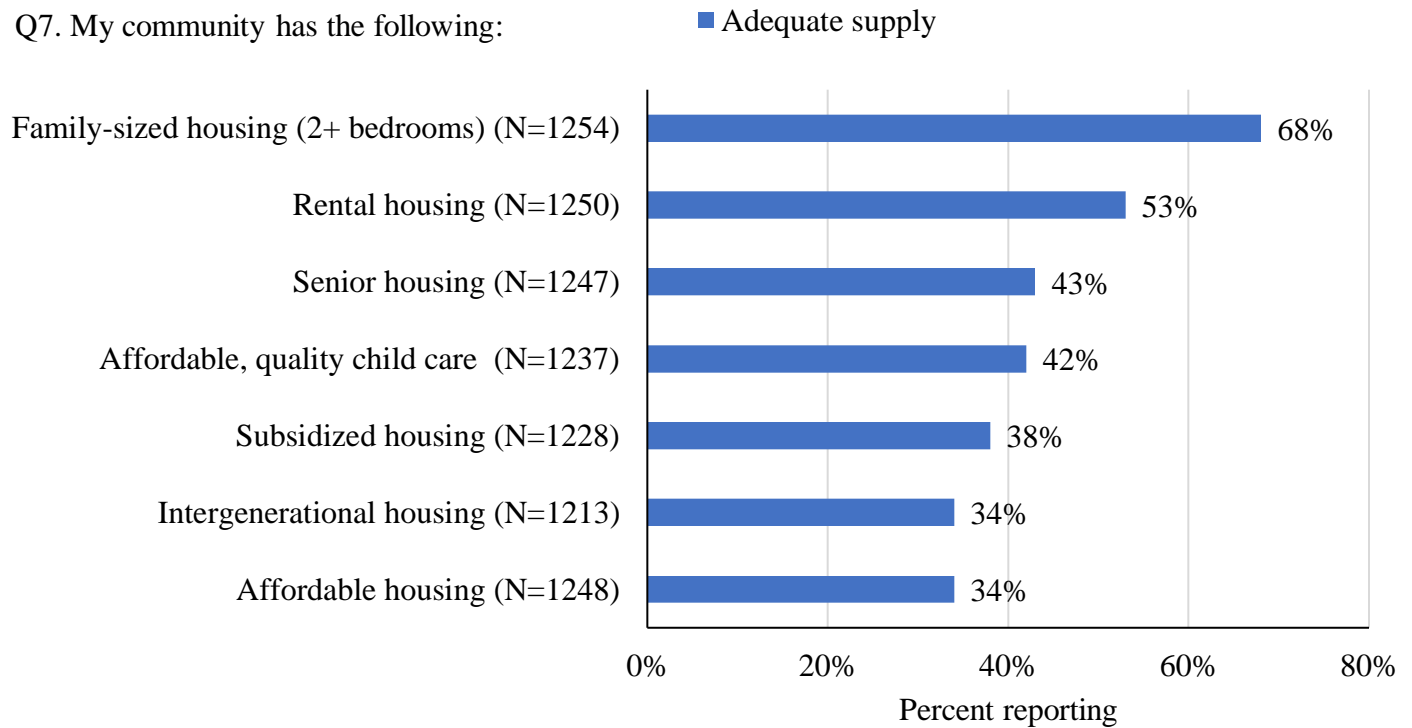
Q6. Does your community have zoning, subdivision regulations, or building codes? (N=1237)



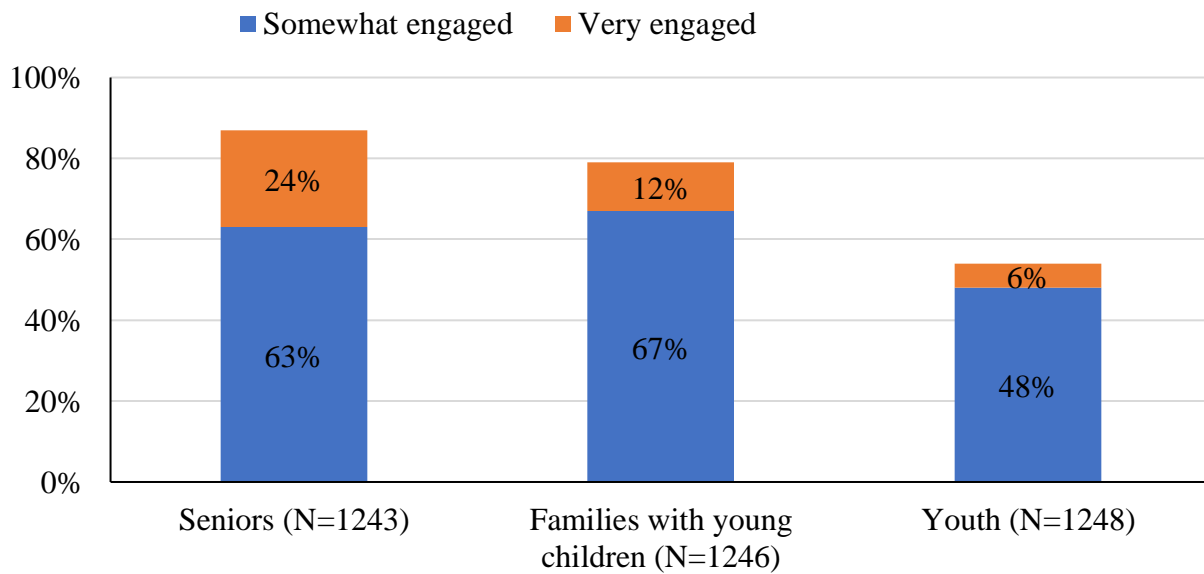
If yes, in what percent of your community do those regulations do the following?



Q7. My community has the following:



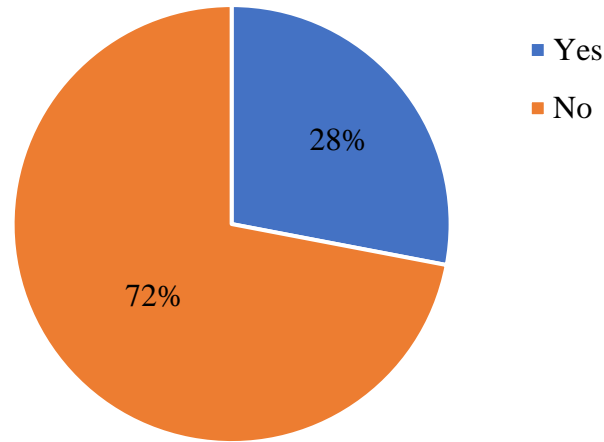
Q8. How engaged are the following groups in planning for their needs?



Q9. Which are the best ways to assess the needs of the following groups?

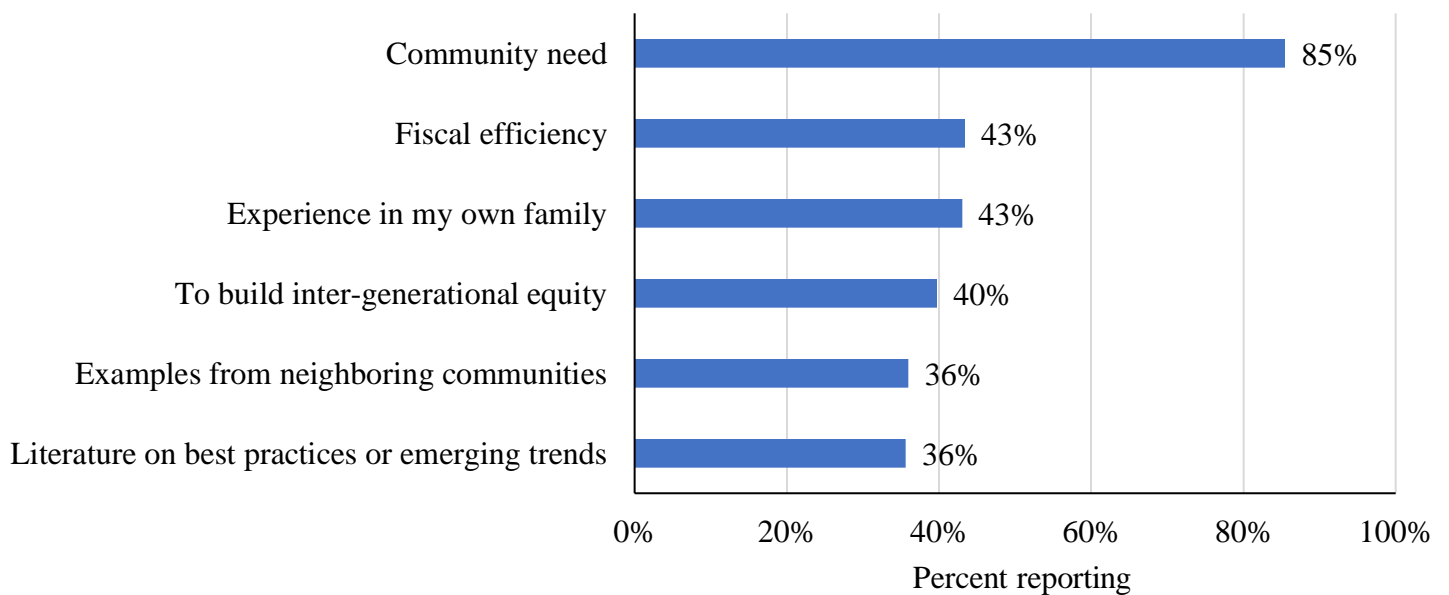
	Surveys	Large public meetings	Small focus groups	Advisory groups	Social networking (e.g., Facebook, texting)
Seniors (N=1237)	48%	42%	62%	46%	19%
Families with young children (N=1233)	48%	26%	46%	33%	73%
Youth (N=1229)	25%	11%	40%	28%	80%

Q10. Do you provide foreign language translation for public meetings and documents? (N=1222)



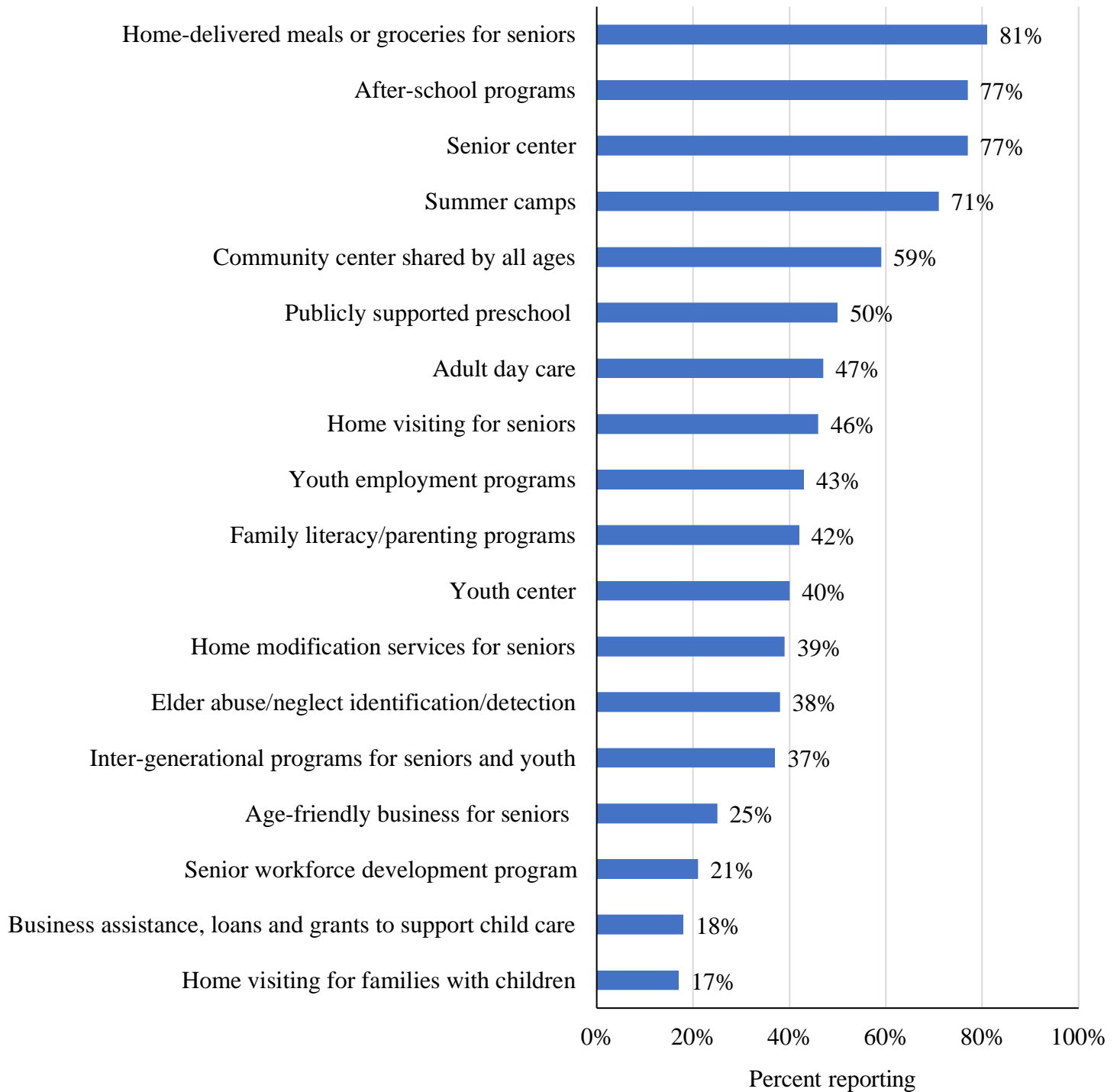
Q11. What motivates you to engage in planning for seniors and families with children?	Seniors	Families with children
Availability of government funding for services or program (N=817)	96%	83%
Pressure from local elected leader (N=607)	90%	82%
Interest of staff or prioritization by staff (N=742)	90%	90%
Pressure from business/nonprofit leader (N=428)	82%	87%
Political engagement of seniors (families with children (N=640)	94%	73%
Desire to attract or retain seniors (children) in the community (N=804)	88%	85%
Designation as an “Age Friendly” or “Livable Community for all Ages” (N=626)	94%	83%

Q12. What motivates your own professional interest in multigenerational planning? (N=1162)

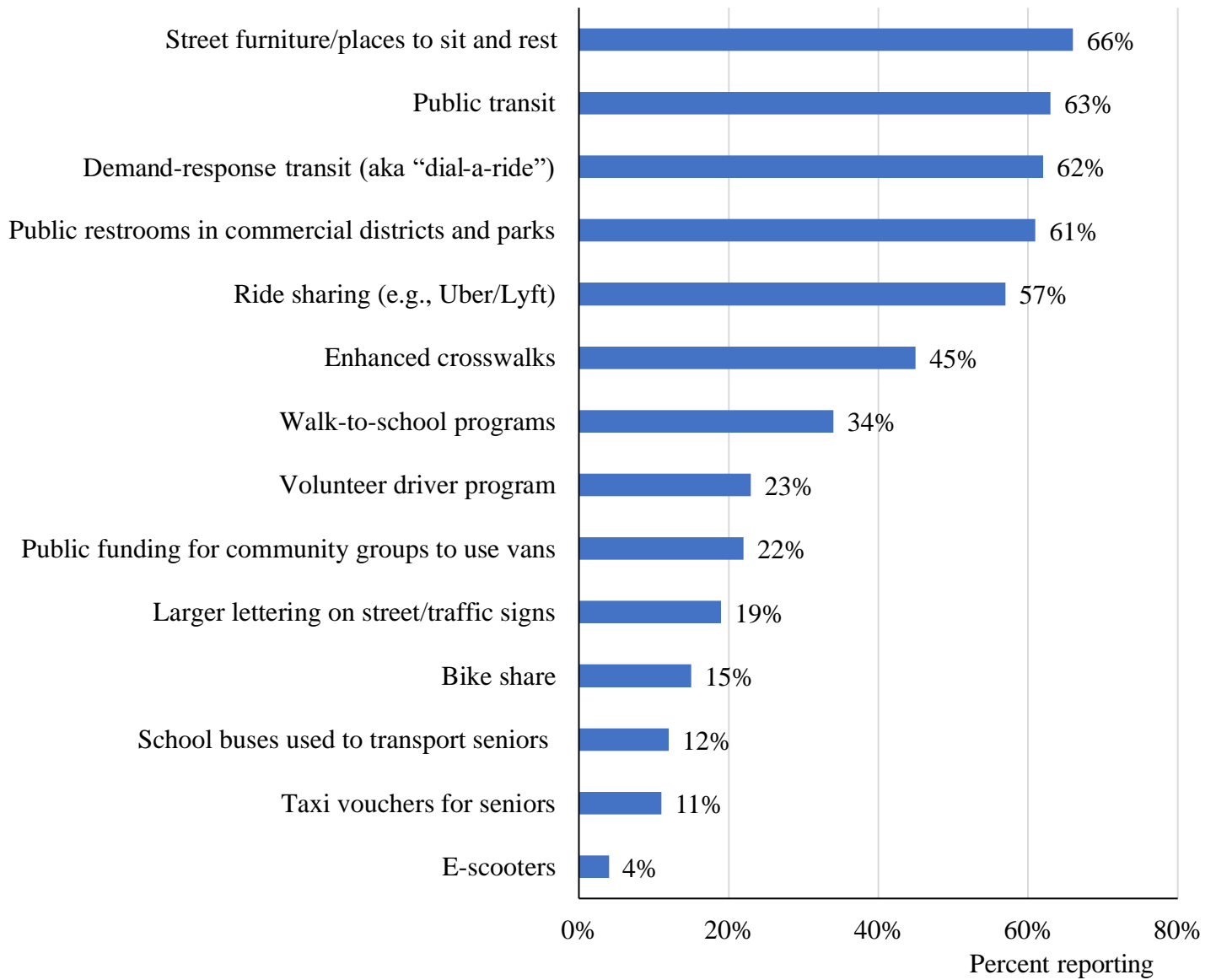


Section 2: Services

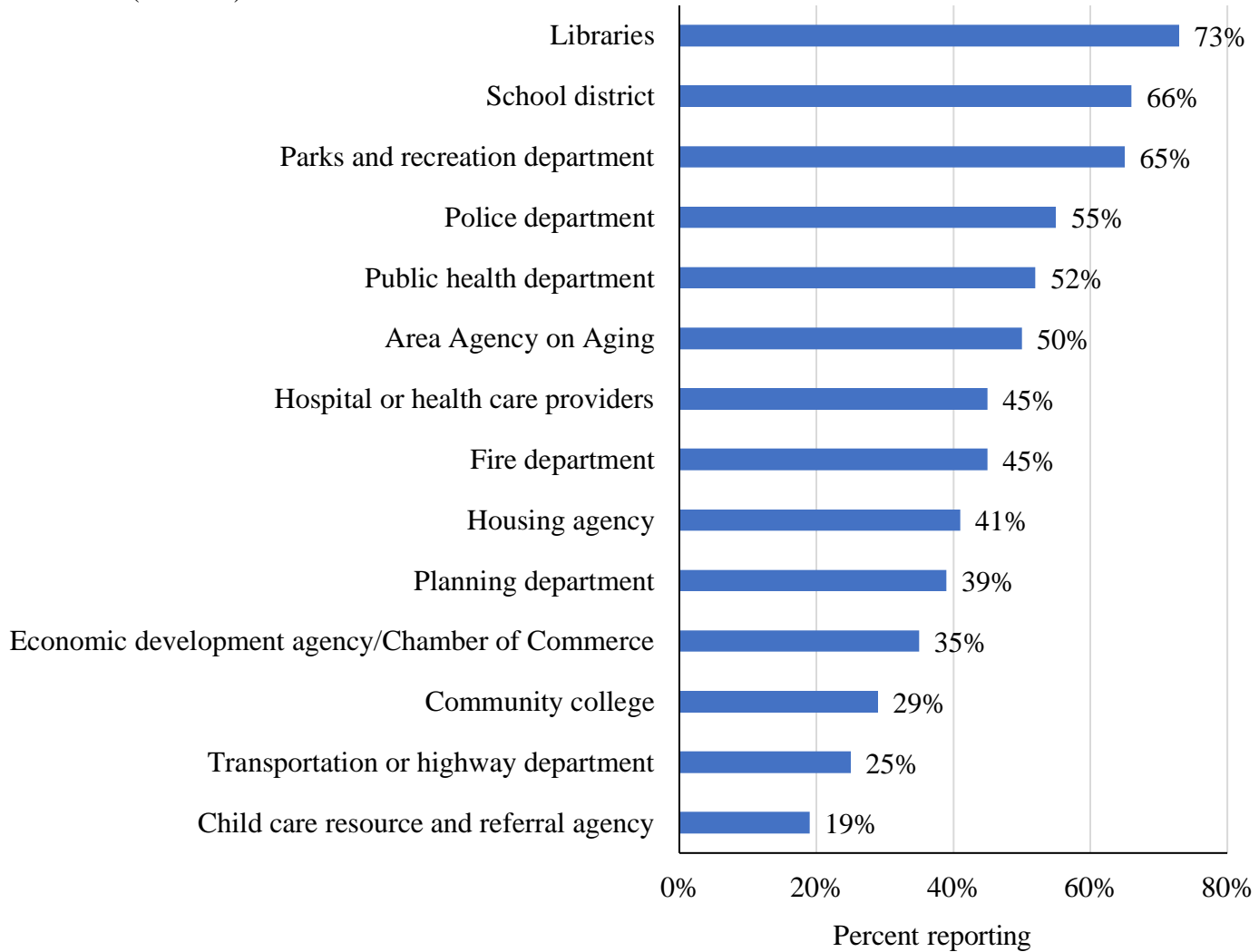
Q13. Which of the following facilities, services or programs are available in your community? (N=1232)



Q14. Which of the following mobility-related services and facilities are available in your community? (N=1187)

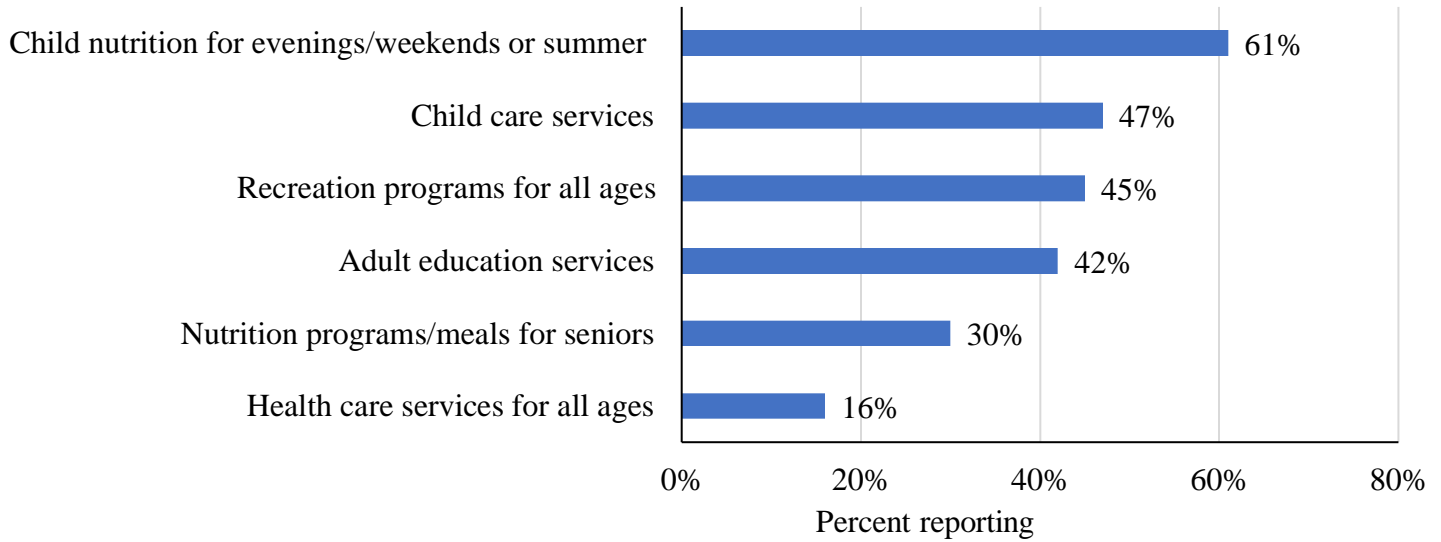


Q15. Getting beyond silos: are any of the following engaged in cross-agency partnerships to serve children or seniors? (N=1128)



Q16. Please answer the following questions about schools in your community.	Yes	No
Does local government have any tax or budget control over schools? (N=1236)	17%	83%
Does local government participate in school district educational facility planning? (N=1224)	35%	65%
Do schools and local government share any facilities (e.g., playing fields, gyms, computer labs)? (N=1236)	57%	43%
Does local government have any joint use (or similar) agreements or with schools? (N=1216)	56%	44%

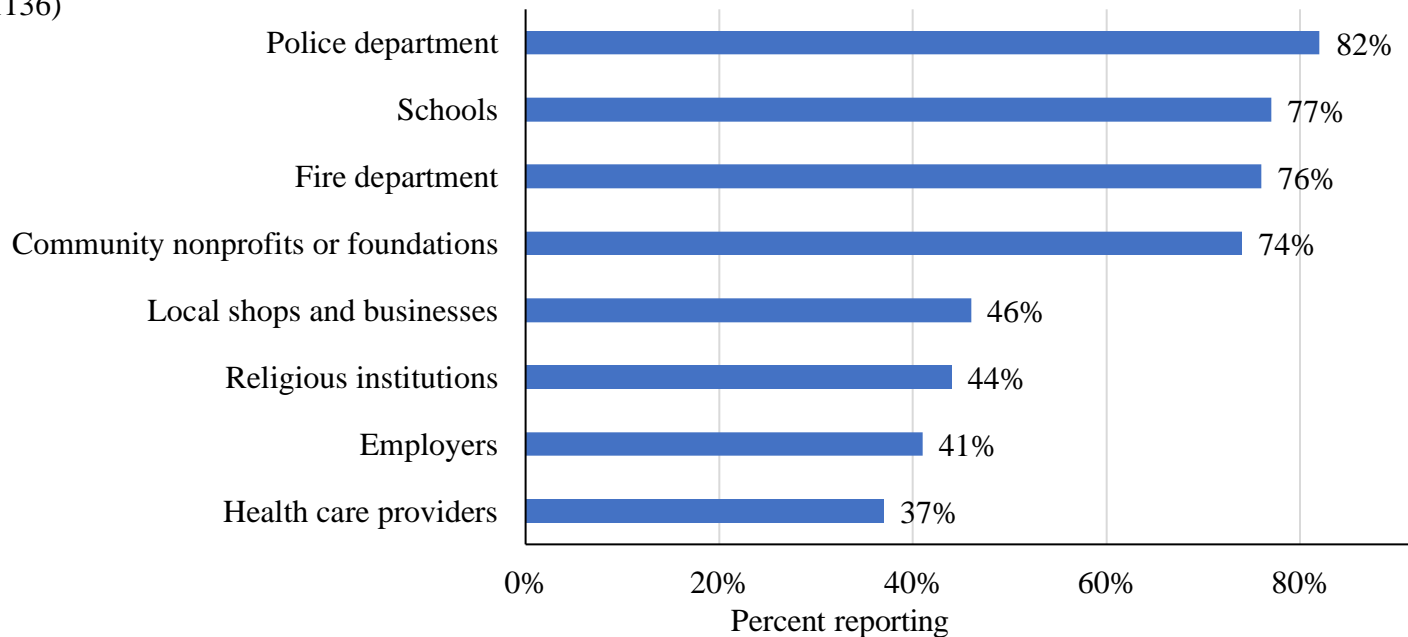
Q17. Which of the following services are offered in your community's public schools? (N=899)



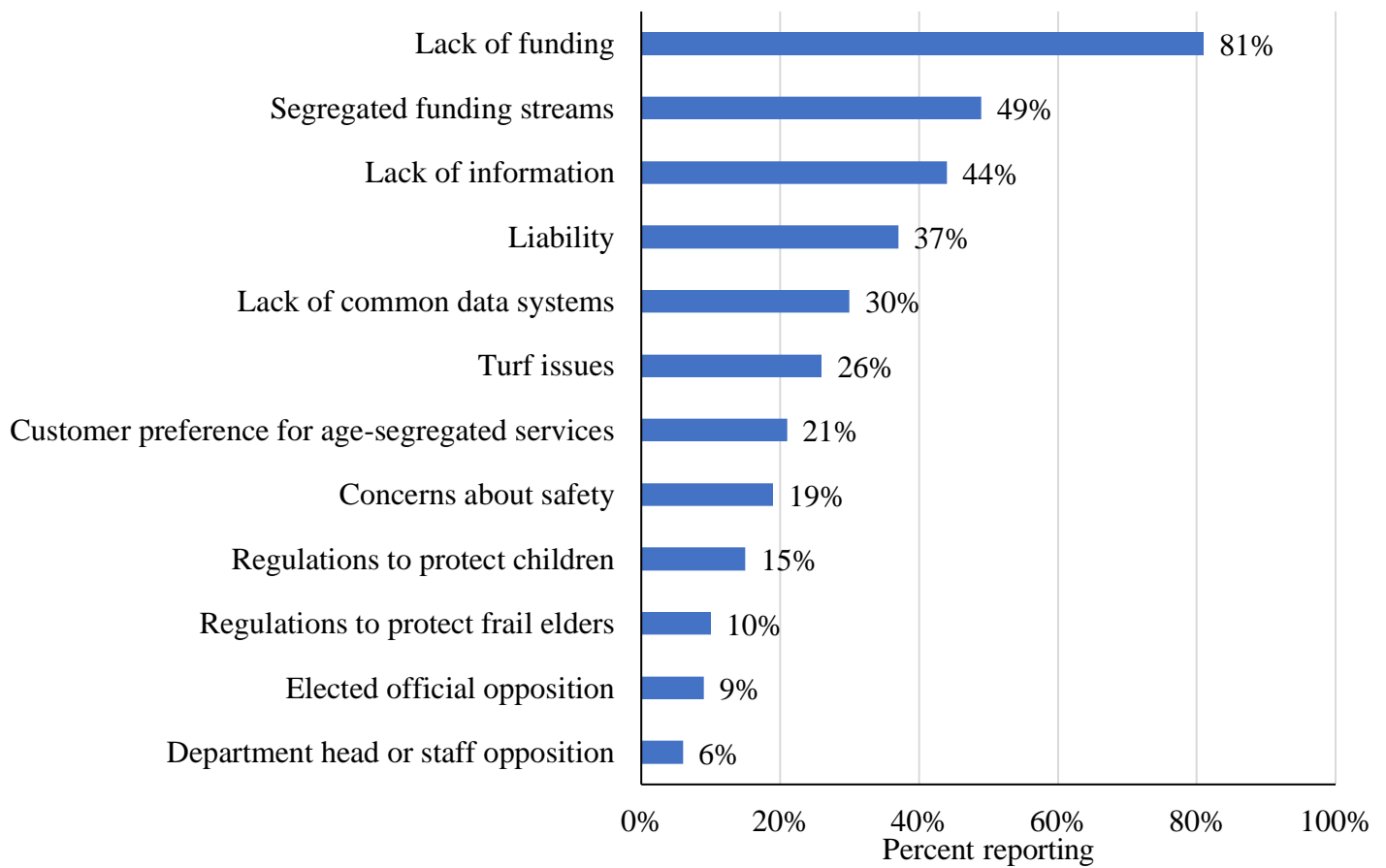
Q18. What are the most trusted institutions that seniors and families with children use for information about services? (Check all that apply.) (N=1170)

	Seniors	Families with children
Schools (N=1062)	14%	100%
Religious institutions (N=1001)	97%	69%
Health care providers (N=879)	96%	74%
Employers (N=533)	50%	93%
Community nonprofits or foundations (N=806)	93%	83%
Police (N=759)	95%	86%
Fire department (N=683)	96%	87%
City/county information and referral services (N=841)	95%	85%
Local retail providers (e.g., banks, grocery stores) (N=368)	88%	81%

Q19. Does your local government work with the following institutions to deliver information and services? (N=1136)



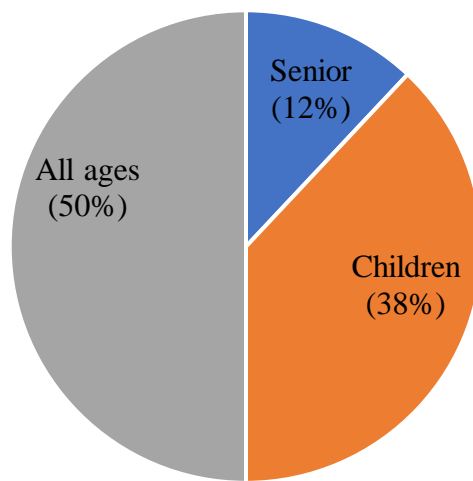
Q20. What are the barriers to joint programming for different ages? (N=1112)



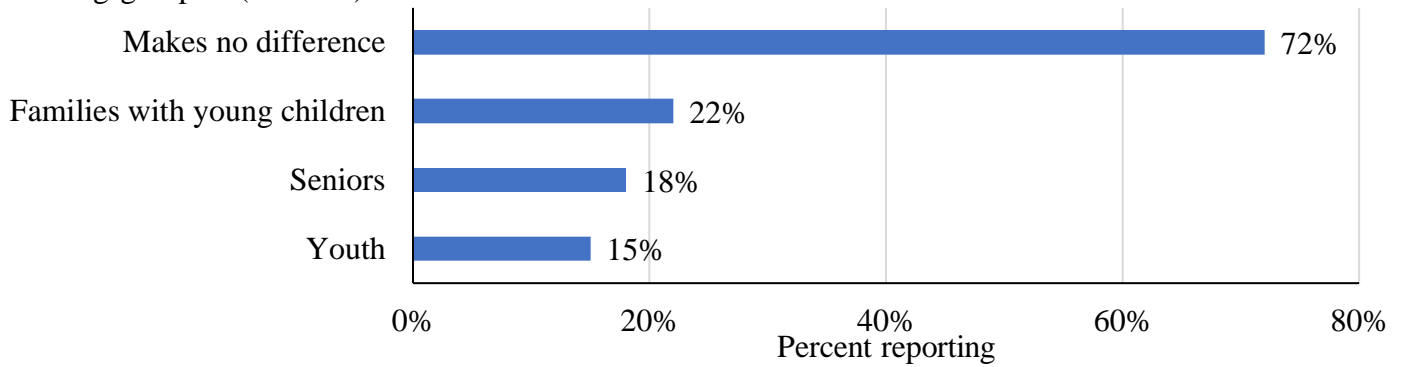
Q21. Do you face opposition to joint programming for seniors and children? (Check all that apply.) (N=1095)

Response	%
From seniors toward children	10%
From families with children toward seniors	3%
No opposition	88%

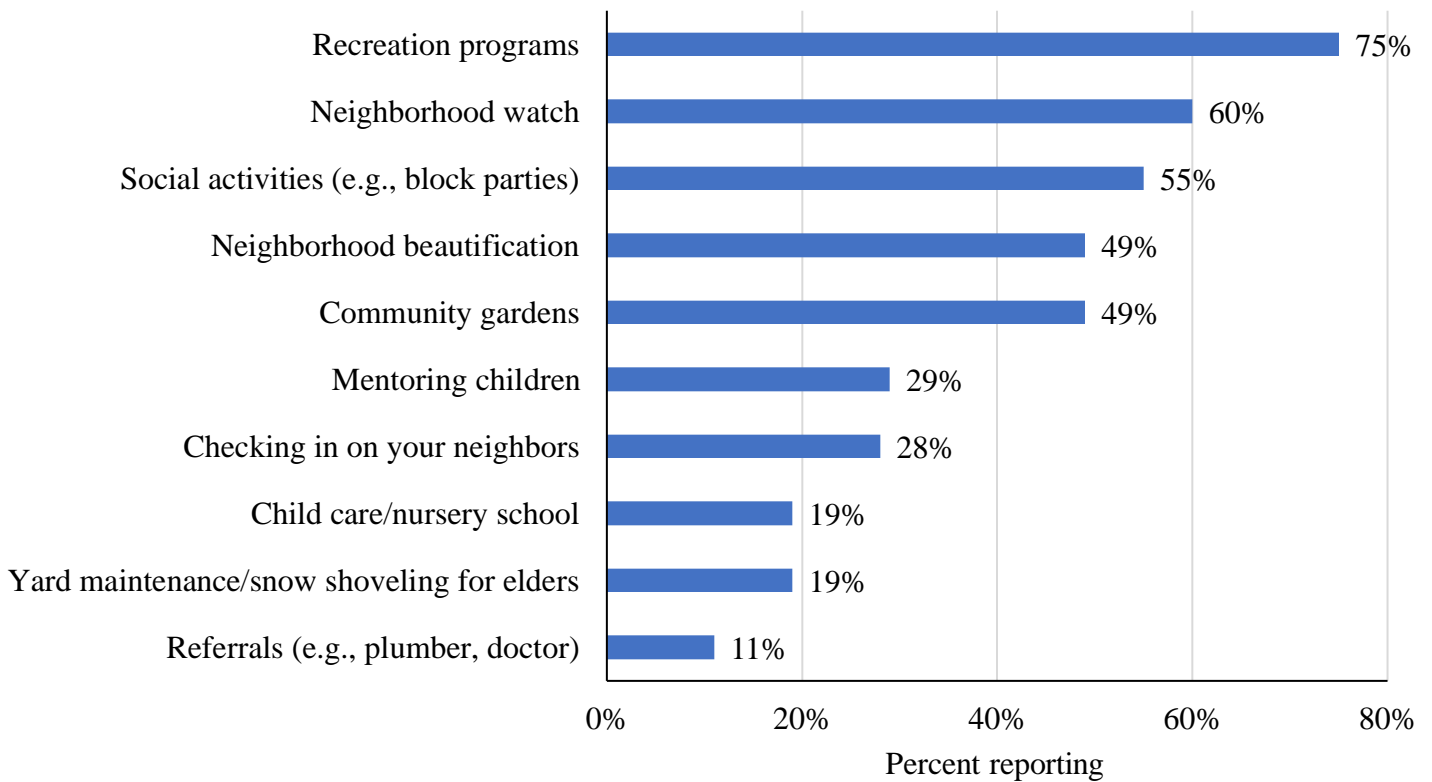
Q22. Is it easier to raise local funds (e.g., bonds, taxes) if facilities are for: (N=1089)



Q23. Does planning for all ages lead to more business and developer investment in services or facilities for the following groups? (N=1086)



Q24. Does your local government support or facilitate informal networks of residents to provide the following? (N=1043)



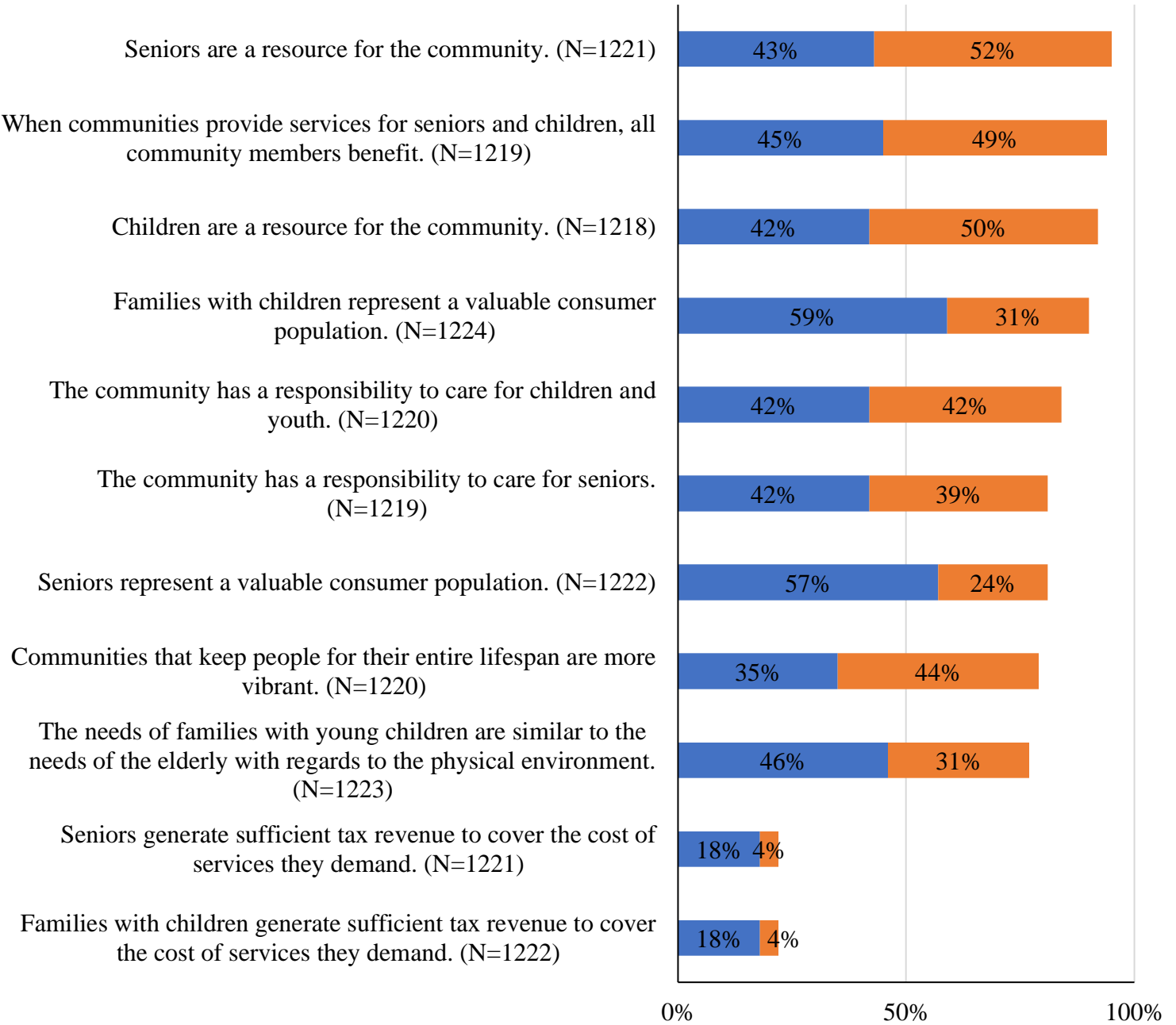
25. Does your local government support any of the following civic engagement activities for seniors or with children? (Check all that apply.)

	Yes	No
Volunteer opportunities for older adults (e.g. arts, culture, human services). (N=1056)	71%	28%
Volunteer opportunities for families with children (e.g. arts, culture, human services) (N=1013)	64%	36%
Programs that support older adults' participation in local educational opportunities (e.g. discounts, transportation) (N=964)	48%	51%

Section 3: Value and Attitudes

Q26. Please indicate the degree to which you agree with the following statements.

■ Agree ■ Strongly Agree



Q27. Please indicate the extent to which you agree the following statements are true of your community?

■ Agree ■ Strongly Agree

