

# Island-Wide Older Adult (60+) Survey Results

## The Why and the Who



### 1 in 3 Islanders are now 65+ and this ratio is expected to increase over the next 10 years - your voice matters!

- Nearly 2,500 respondents completed a survey (online or paper) from Oct 2020-Jan 2021.
- Balanced representation from all towns (averaging a 30% response rate).
- Representation from all age ranges with 15 surveys completed by 95+.
- 60% female/40% male respondent mix.

## Highlights of What We Heard



### How we contribute

- Over 50% volunteer (pre-COVID) with an economic annual value of \$28M, equaling a workforce of 500+ full-time employees.
- 1 in 3 Older Adults are employed, either full or part-time. 40% of those employed work for an off-island employer.
- Almost half have participated in recreational and cultural activities or wish to do so in the future.



### How we live

- 87% live in a single-family home they own with no plans to move.
- 1 in 3 have been a Caregiver in the past two years.
- Almost 100% of Older Adults wish to age-in-place, although 2 in 5 recognize they need safety modifications (grab bars etc.) to do so.
- 3 in 10 live alone which increases with age. 50% of those 85+ live alone.



### How we feel

- 9 out of 10 of Older Adults agree that: it is important to be on the island as they age; their opinions and thoughts are valued by the community; the Vineyard is a great place to be as one ages.
- 1 out of 3 Older Adults report evidence of stress due to COVID, and those with incomes <\$50k are especially hard hit.
- Those 75+ were more likely to report misplacing things and feeling confused during COVID.
- 1 in 3 reported delays in receiving medical care during COVID.



### What we need

- Up to 20% of Older Adults report difficulty in finding help with routine and heavy house and yard work currently.
- Family and friends are a safety net for short-term emergencies, however, 4 in 10 uncertain on longer-term support.
- During next two years, over 50% of Older Adults will need assistance with home repairs, yard and housework, as well as technology support/education.
- Need for essential services - home healthcare, caregiver services, adult daycare, and behavioral healthcare are expected to at least double in the next two years.

## HAMV's Priorities for an Aging Friendly Island



Ensure that the essential services Older Adults need and the workforce necessary to provide them are in place.



Expand Older Adult transportation options and raise awareness of these options.



Centralize critical information sources that are fit-for-purpose with demographic preferences in mind.



Support digital equity and inclusion for Older Adults focusing on ongoing education/assistance.



Expand opportunities for community engagement (coordinated volunteer program, time banking, educational programs etc.).



Address Older Adult safety/accessibility regarding infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, bike paths, beaches) to support their lifestyle aspirations.

## Our Focus is on Our Most Vulnerable Older Adults

### Times of Vulnerability

- 85 and older age groups.
- Those with incomes <\$50K (1 in 3), particularly <\$25K.
- Live alone (1 in 3).
- Caregivers (1 in 3).
- Socially and digitally isolated.
- Physically impaired (mobility and/or cognitively).

### Moments that Matter

- Serious medical diagnosis.
- Death of a partner or family member.
- Decline in financial position or unexpected costs.
- Unanticipated disasters (flooding, hurricanes, pandemic).

## Learn more or get involved

Interested in learning more about survey results or joining the HAMV movement for an Aging Friendly Island? Contact Cindy Trish, Executive Director [ctrish@hamv.org](mailto:ctrish@hamv.org) or 508 693-4900 ext. 455

Learn more at [www.hamv.org](http://www.hamv.org)