



Community Assessment Survey
for Older Adults™

Arapahoe County, CO
2011

Benchmark Comparisons



3005 30th Street • Boulder, Colorado 80301
www.n-r-c.com • 303-444-7863

Contents

Understanding the Benchmark Comparisons	3
Benchmark Comparisons	5

Interpreting the Results

Ratings are compared when similar questions are included in NRC's database, and there are at least five communities in which the question was asked. Where comparisons are available, three numbers are provided in the table. The first column is your county's rating on the 100-point scale (for index scores) or the portion of the population responding in a particular way (e.g., percent "likely" to recommend living in Arapahoe County). The second column is the rank assigned to your community's rating among communities where a similar question was asked. The third column is the number of communities that asked a similar question. The fourth column shows the comparison of your community's average rating (column one) to the benchmark.

Where comparisons for ratings were available, Arapahoe County's results were generally noted as being "higher" than the benchmark, "lower" than the benchmark or "similar" to the benchmark. In instances where ratings are considerably higher or lower than the benchmark, these ratings have been further demarcated by the attribute of "much," (for example, "much higher" or "much lower"). These labels come from a statistical comparison of Arapahoe County's rating to the benchmark where a rating is considered "similar" if it is within than the margin of error; "higher" or "lower" if the difference between your community's rating and the benchmark is greater the margin of error; and "much higher" or "much lower" if the difference between your community's rating and the benchmark is more than twice the margin of error.

Benchmark Comparisons

Readiness Summaries Benchmarks				
	County average rating	Rank	Number of communities for comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Health and Wellness Index	59	5	17	Higher
Community Design and Land Use Index	54	3	17	Higher
Productive Activities Index	59	7	17	Higher
Community and Belonging Index	52	9	17	Similar
Quality of Community Index	64	9	17	Similar
Community Information Index	49	5	17	Higher

Older Adult Core Life Needs				
	County percent with need	Rank	Number of communities for comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Physical health	47%	10	17	Similar
Mental health	35%	9	17	Similar
Safety	12%	4	17	Higher
Financial	24%	15	17	Much lower
Housing	31%	6	17	Similar
Home maintenance	34%	11	17	Similar
Mobility needs	16%	10	17	Similar
Caregiver burden	14%	5	17	Similar
Health care	27%	17	17	Much lower
Employment and education	25%	15	17	Lower
Institutionalization risk	16%	6	17	Similar
Information and planning	59%	2	17	Much higher

Older Adult Social and Engagement Opportunities				
	County percent with need	Rank	Number of communities for comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Social support	8%	6	17	Similar
Social engagement	32%	9	17	Similar
Civic engagement	70%	2	17	Much higher
Recreation, arts and culture	23%	11	17	Similar

Question 1: Quality of Community				
Please circle the number that comes closest to your opinion for each of the following questions.	County percent	Rank	Number of communities for comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Your community as an excellent or good place to live	86%	136	230	Similar
Your community as an excellent or good place to retire	72%	122	228	Similar

Question 2: Community Characteristics				
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to adults age 60 or over	County percent	Rank	Number of communities for comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Excellent or good opportunities to volunteer	82%	55	126	Similar
Excellent or good employment opportunities	18%	153	217	Much lower
Excellent or good opportunities to enroll in skill-building or personal enrichment classes	65%	8	22	Much higher
Excellent or good recreation opportunities (including games, arts and library services, etc.)	71%	92	226	Much higher
Excellent or good fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	77%	9	22	Much higher
Excellent or good opportunities to attend social events or activities	68%	55	126	Higher
Excellent or good opportunities to attend religious or spiritual activities	84%	63	110	Similar
Excellent or good opportunities to attend or participate in meetings about local government or community matters	69%	10	22	Higher
Excellent or good availability of affordable quality housing	44%	92	219	Higher
Excellent or good variety of housing options	55%	78	124	Similar
Excellent or good availability of information about resources for older adults	52%	9	22	Higher
Excellent or good availability of financial and legal planning services	47%	5	17	Much higher
Excellent or good availability of affordable quality physical health care	56%	100	189	Similar
Excellent or good availability of affordable quality mental health care	41%	9	22	Similar
Excellent or good availability of preventive health services (e.g., health screenings, flu shots, educational workshops)	68%	8	22	Higher
Excellent or good availability of affordable quality food	70%	59	137	Higher
Excellent or good sense of community	58%	165	229	Much lower
Excellent or good openness and acceptance of the community towards older residents of diverse backgrounds	64%	112	208	Similar
Excellent or good ease of bus travel in your community	36%	97	162	Much lower
Excellent or good ease of car travel in your community	80%	10	209	Much higher
Excellent or good ease of walking in your community	77%	48	212	Much higher
Excellent or good ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	73%	7	17	Higher
Excellent or good overall feeling of safety in your community	71%	11	17	Similar
Excellent or good valuing of older residents in your community	60%	9	17	Similar
Excellent or good neighborliness in your community	57%	11	17	Similar

Question 3: Overall Service to Older Adults				
How would you rate the overall services provided to older adults in your community?	County percent	Rank	Number of communities for comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Excellent or good overall services provided to older adults in your community	62%	127	211	Similar

Question 4: Level of Informedness about Services and Activities for Older Adults				
In general, how informed or uninformed do you feel about services and activities available to older adults in your community?	County percent	Rank	Number of communities for comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Informed about services and activities available to older adults in your community	60%	17	22	Much lower

Question 5: Quality of Life and Health				
Please circle the number that comes closest to your opinion for each of the following questions.	County percent	Rank	Number of communities for comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Excellent or good overall physical health	74%	10	22	Similar
Excellent or good overall mental health/emotional well being	88%	12	22	Similar
Excellent or good overall quality of life	82%	14	22	Similar

Question 6: Problems Faced by Older Adults				
The following questions list a number of problems that older adults may or may not face. Thinking back over the last 12 months, how much of a problem, if at all, has each of the following been for you?	County percent	Rank	Number of communities for comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Problems with having housing to suit your needs	18%	6	22	Similar
Problems with your physical health	58%	11	22	Similar
Problems with performing regular activities, including walking, eating and preparing meals	30%	12	22	Similar
Problems with having enough food to eat	9%	13	22	Similar
Problems with problems with doing heavy or intense housework	55%	13	22	Similar
Problems with having safe and affordable transportation available	29%	4	22	Higher
Problems with no longer being able to drive	13%	14	22	Similar
Problems with feeling depressed	35%	13	22	Similar
Problems with experiencing confusion or forgetfulness	31%	17	22	Lower
Problems with maintaining your home	45%	5	22	Much higher
Problems with maintaining your yard	43%	12	22	Similar
Problems with finding productive or meaningful activities to do	29%	12	22	Similar
Problems with having friends or family you can rely on	26%	7	22	Similar
Problems with falling or injuring yourself in your home	21%	16	22	Similar
Problems with finding affordable health insurance	34%	19	22	Lower
Problems with getting the health care you need	27%	14	22	Lower
Problems with affording the medications you need	29%	15	22	Lower
Problems with getting the oral health care you need	33%	11	17	Similar

Question 6: Problems Faced by Older Adults				
The following questions list a number of problems that older adults may or may not face. Thinking back over the last 12 months, how much of a problem, if at all, has each of the following been for you?	County percent	Rank	Number of communities for comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Problems with having tooth or mouth problems	40%	9	17	Similar
Problems with having enough money to meet daily expenses	37%	11	22	Similar
Problems with having enough money to pay your property taxes	31%	11	22	Similar
Problems with staying physically fit	58%	8	22	Higher
Problems with maintaining a healthy diet	38%	11	22	Similar
Problems with having interesting recreational or cultural activities to attend	37%	13	22	Lower
Problems with having interesting social events or activities to attend	38%	15	22	Lower
Problems with feeling bored	37%	14	22	Similar
Problems with feeling like your voice is heard in the community	53%	17	22	Similar
Problems with finding meaningful volunteer work	26%	11	22	Similar
Problems with providing care for another person	27%	10	22	Similar
Problems with dealing with legal issues	31%	11	22	Similar
Problems with having adequate information or dealing with public programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid	39%	11	22	Similar
Problems with finding work in retirement	40%	6	22	Similar
Problems with building skills for paid or unpaid work	33%	11	22	Similar
Problems with not knowing what services are available to older adults in your community	61%	6	22	Higher
Problems with feeling lonely or isolated	24%	19	22	Lower
Problems with dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend	35%	9	22	Similar
Problems with being a victim of crime	12%	9	22	Similar
Problems with being a victim of fraud or a scam	15%	8	22	Similar
Problems with being physically or emotionally abused	8%	3	22	Similar
Problems with dealing with financial planning issues	37%	10	22	Similar

Question 7: Days Spent in Facilities				
Thinking back over the past 12 months, how many days did you spend in...	County percent	Rank	Number of communities for comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Spent at least 1 day in a hospital in past 12 months	18%	20	21	Lower
Spent at least 1 day in a nursing home or in-patient rehabilitation facility	4%	3	21	Similar

Question 8: Falls in Last 12 Months				
Thinking back over the past 12 months, how many times have you fallen and injured yourself? Was it...	County percent	Rank	Number of communities for comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Had at least 1 fall in the past 12 months	30%	13	21	Similar

Question 9: Recommend Living in Community				
How likely or unlikely are you to recommend living in your community to older adults?	County percent	Rank	Number of communities for comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Likely to recommend living in your community to older adults	76%	14	22	Similar

Question 10: Likelihood of Remaining in Community Throughout Retirement				
How likely or unlikely are you to remain in your community throughout your retirement?	County percent	Rank	Number of communities for comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Likely to remain in your community throughout retirement	82%	18	22	Similar

Question 11: Participation in Activities				
In the last 12 month, about how many times, if ever, have you participated in or done each of the following?	County percent	Rank	Number of communities for comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Used a senior center in your community at least once in past 12 months	24%	15	22	Lower
Used a recreation center in your community at least once in past 12 months	40%	139	189	Much lower
Used a public library in your community at least once in past 12 months	66%	10	22	Similar
Attended a meeting of local elected officials/other public meeting in your community at least once in past 12 months	33%	111	226	Similar
Watched a local or other public meeting on cable television, the Internet or other media at least once in past 12 months	36%	155	183	Much lower
Used public transit (e.g., bus, subway, light rail, etc.) within your community at least once	44%	3	21	Much higher
Visited a neighborhood park at least once in past 12 months	71%	177	227	Much lower

Question 12: Hours Spent Doing Activities				
During a typical week, how many hours, if any, do you spend doing the following?	County percent	Rank	Number of communities for comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Participating in a club (including book, dance, game and other social) for one hour or more per week	33%	15	22	Similar
Participating in a civic group (including Elks, Kiwanis, Masons, etc.) for one hour or more per week	11%	20	22	Lower
Communicating/ visiting with friends and/or family for one hour or more per week	96%	10	22	Similar

Question 12: Hours Spent Doing Activities				
During a typical week, how many hours, if any, do you spend doing the following?	County percent	Rank	Number of communities for comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Participating in religious or spiritual activities with others for one hour or more per week	54%	17	22	Lower
Participating in a recreation program or group activity for one hour or more per week	53%	4	22	Much higher
Providing help to friends or relatives for one hour or more per week	87%	6	22	Similar
Volunteering your time to some group/activity in your community for one hour or more per week	41%	12	22	Similar

Question 13: Hours Spent Providing Care				
During a typical week, how many hours do you spend providing care for one or more individuals with whom you have a significant relationship (such as spouse, other relative, partner, friend, neighbor or child), whether or not they live with you?	County percent	Rank	Number of communities for comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Provides care to older adult for one hour or more per week	33%	22	22	Much lower
Provides care to adult for one hour or more per week	26%	13	22	Similar
Provides care to child for one hour or more per week	28%	11	22	Similar
Provides care to anyone for one hour or more per week	54%	20	22	Lower

Question 14: Receives Care				
Whether or not they live with you, does someone provide assistance to you almost every day?	County percent	Rank	Number of communities for comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Received assistance from someone almost every day	16%	13	22	Similar

Questions D14 and D15: Voter Participation				
	County percent	Rank	Number of communities for comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Registered to vote in your community	94%	61	229	Higher
Voted in the last general election	91%	42	228	Much higher

Housing Cost Stress				
	County percent	Rank	Number of communities for comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Experiencing housing cost stress (housing costs 30% or more of income)	31%	101	132	Much lower