



# Assessing the Needs of Elder Floridians

## Results of the 2016 Needs Assessment Survey

Colleen Rawson, *Research Analyst*  
Bureau of Planning and Evaluation

Jeffrey S. Bragg, Secretary

# Presentation Outline

- 1 Purpose and background of the 2016 Elder Needs Assessment Survey
- 2 Changes made to the Needs Assessment Survey since 2010
- 3 Review demographic profile and living situation of respondents
- 4 Results of the Needs Assessment Survey
- 5 Conclusions and Q&A

# Purpose of the Elder Needs Assessment Survey

- ❖ To determine the needs of Floridians ages 60 and older, from self-care limitations, health, and nutrition to modes of information, transportation, and housing
  - ❖ Special note: the Needs Assessment Survey reflects the needs of the general elder population in Florida, not the needs of DOEA program clients
- ❖ To identify major changes in elder Floridians' needs that may have occurred since the last survey was conducted in 2010
- ❖ To assist professional services planners, agency directors, and policy-makers with their services, outreach, and planning regarding the elder population
  - ❖ Especially for high-need populations: low-income, minority, and rural



# Background of the Elder Needs Assessment Survey

- ❖ The DOEA contracted with the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Florida to conduct the survey.
- ❖ 2,000 elders ages 60 and older were interviewed in March through June of 2016:
  - 1,100 in the initial sample, with approximately 100 elders from each of the 11 Planning and Service Areas (PSAs); and
  - 900 in oversample for minority, rural, and low-income elders.
- ❖ The statewide data was weighted to reflect the proper proportion of elders from each PSA in Florida. It combines the initial sample data and the oversample data.



# Differences Between 2010 and 2016 Surveys

- ❖ Based on the 2010 survey, the 2016 survey questionnaire was improved, including more comprehensive answer choices.
- ❖ Additional questions were added to the survey, expanding the following sections:
  - Demographic Profile,
  - Caregiving,
  - Information Assistance/Technology,
  - Transportation, and
  - Housing.
- ❖ Both surveys included an initial sample and an oversample of 300 low-income, 300 minority, and 300 rural respondents age 60 and older.
- ❖ Total number of respondents in 2010: **1,850**
- ❖ Total number of respondents in 2016: **2,000**

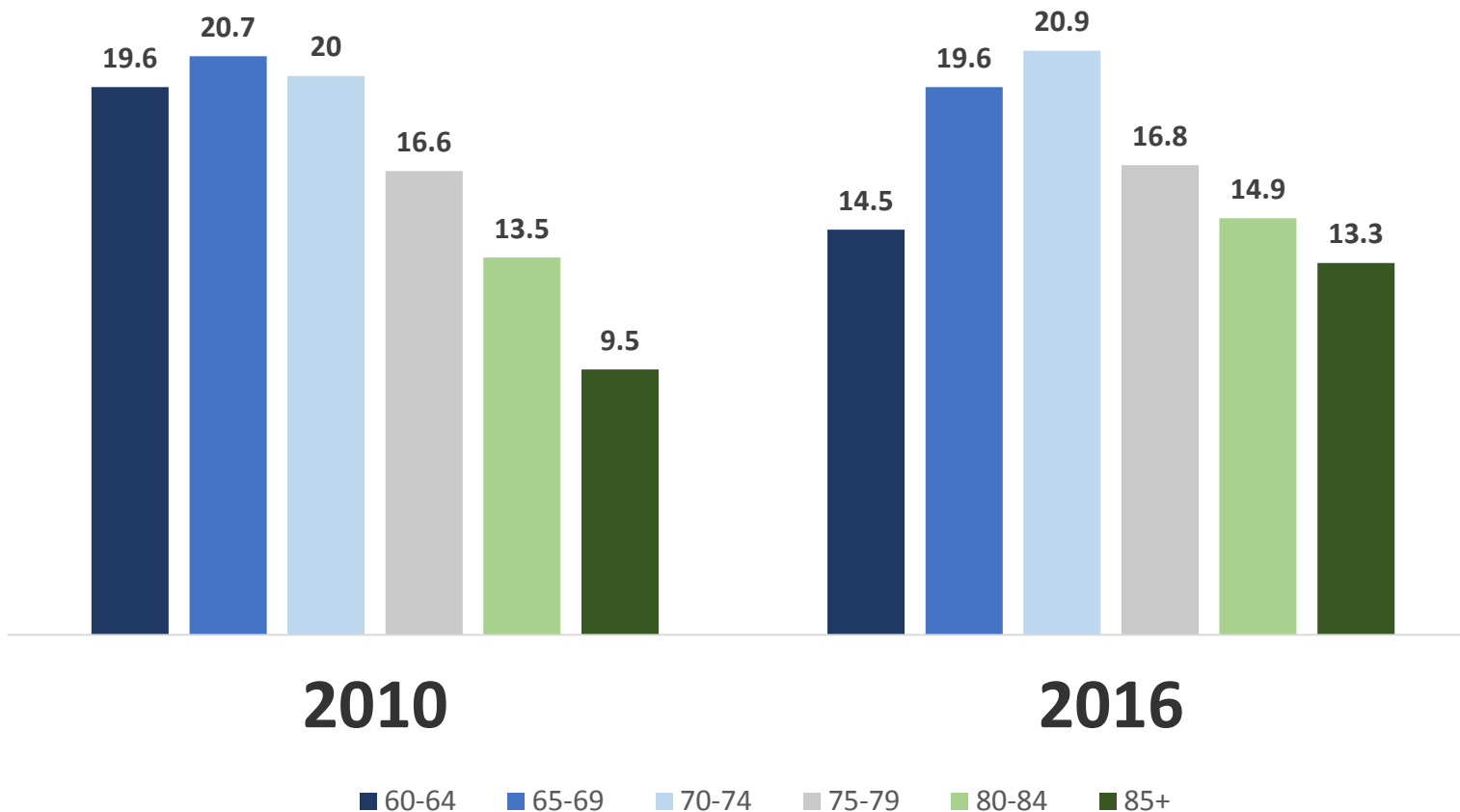
# Differences Between 2010 and 2016 Surveys

**Compared to the needs of elders identified in the 2010 survey, elders in 2016:**

- ❖ were more often caregivers (**20%** in 2010 versus **36%** in 2016),
- ❖ experienced different barriers to moving,
- ❖ had more access to the Internet (**72%** in 2010 versus **82%** in 2016) and less interest in receiving computer and Internet training (**38%** in 2010 versus **26%** in 2016),
- ❖ were less concerned about becoming a victim of consumer fraud (**83%** in 2010 versus **61%** in 2016), and
- ❖ had different concerns about legal issues.

# Demographic Profile

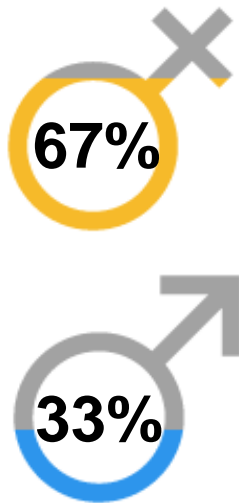
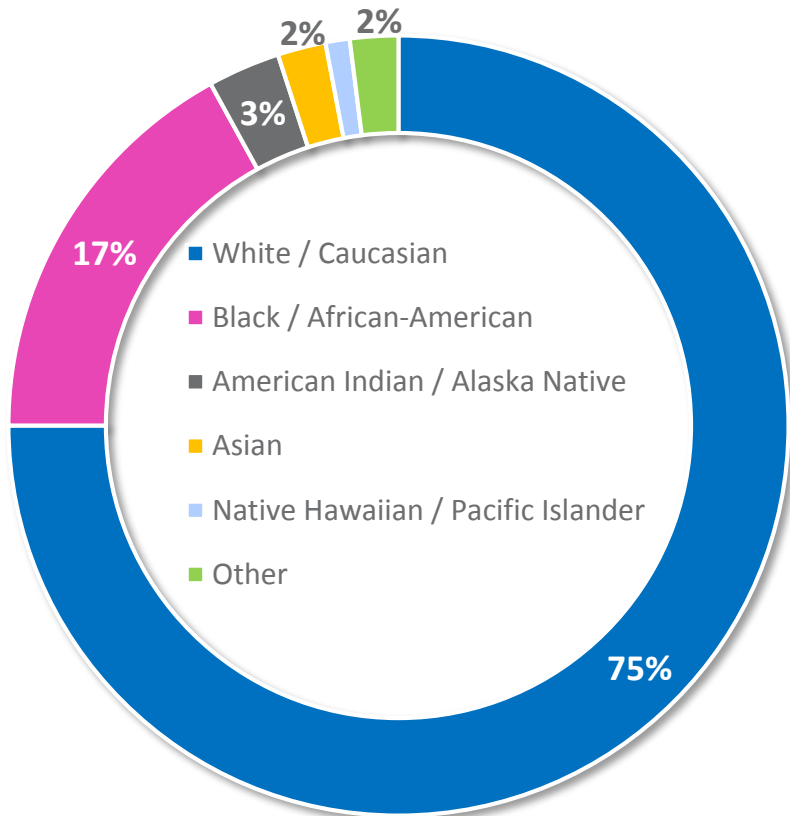
Percent Age Distribution of Statewide Respondents,  
2010 and 2016



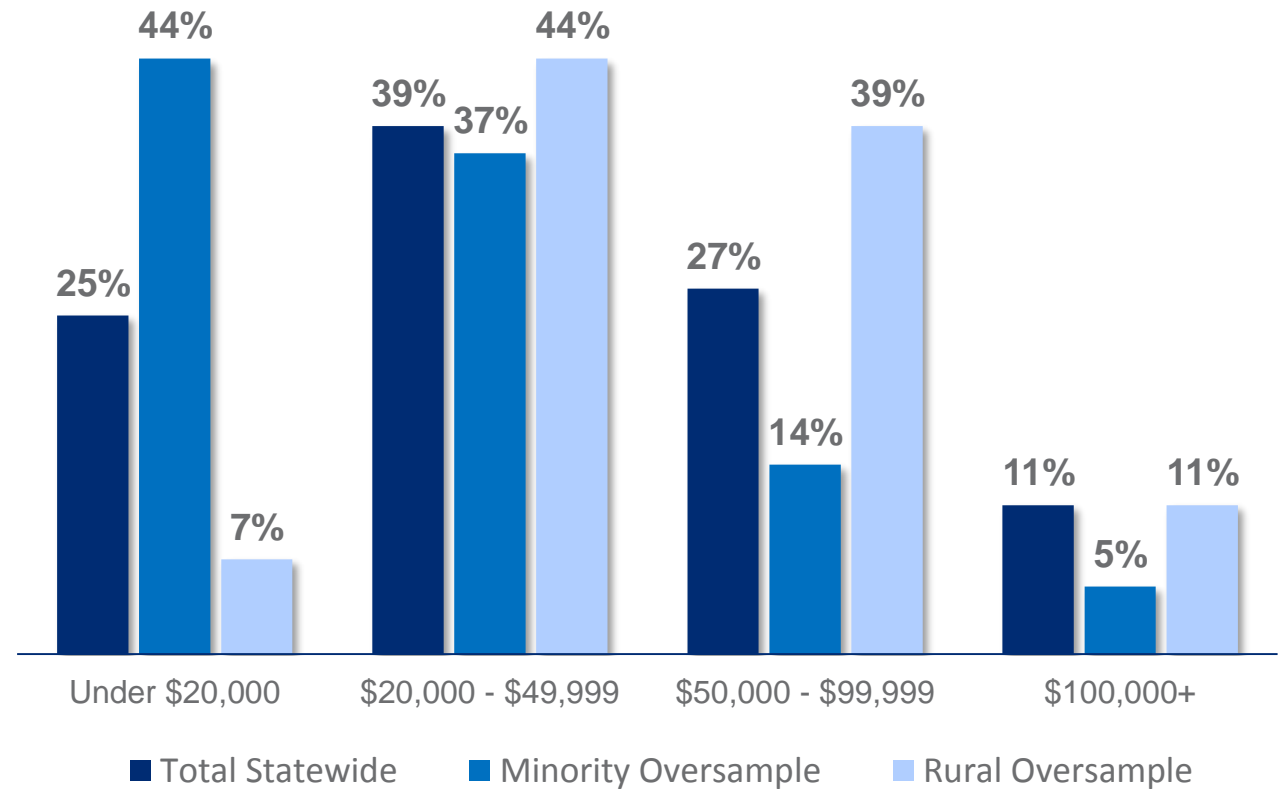
- ❖ The average respondent was a non-Hispanic white woman in her early 70s, with an income between \$40,000 and \$49,000.
- ❖ Minority elders were among the oldest surveyed (largest proportion were 75 to 84), while the rural elders were among the youngest (largest proportion were age 65 to 74).

# Demographic Profile

**1 in 10** elders  
identified as  
*Hispanic or Latinx.*



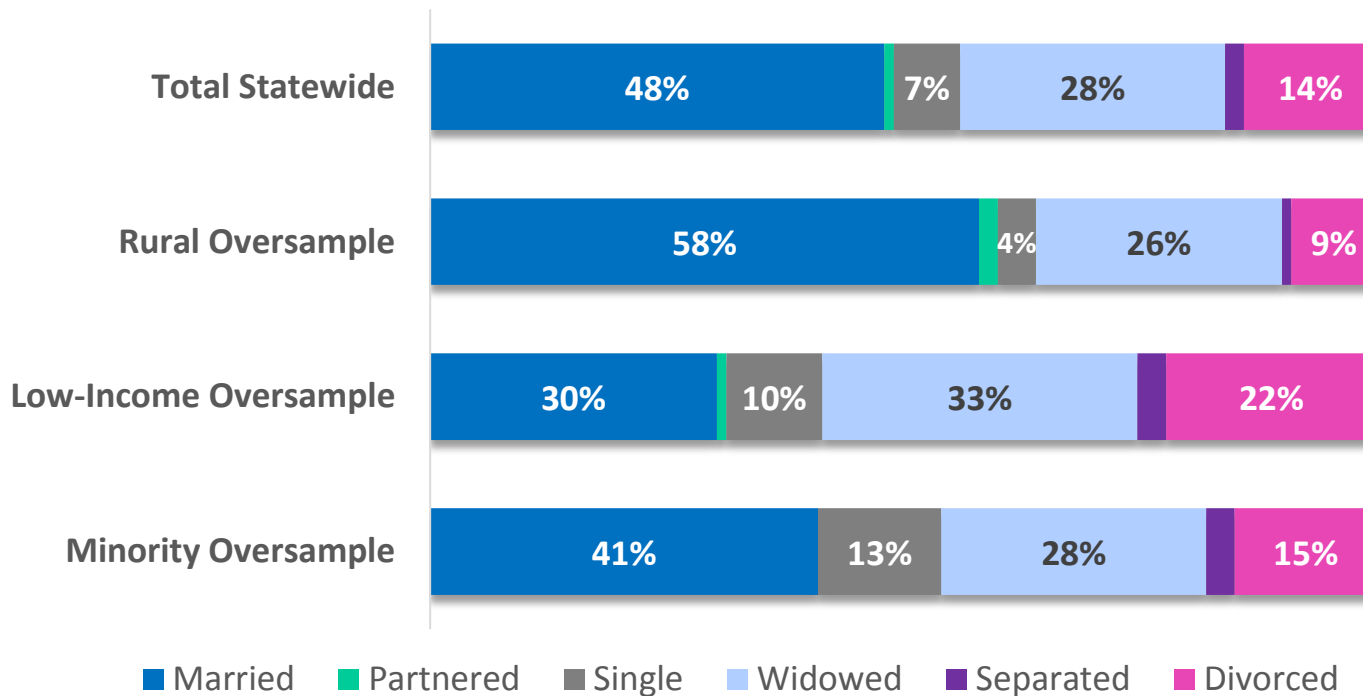
## Income Groups of Statewide, Minority, and Rural Respondents



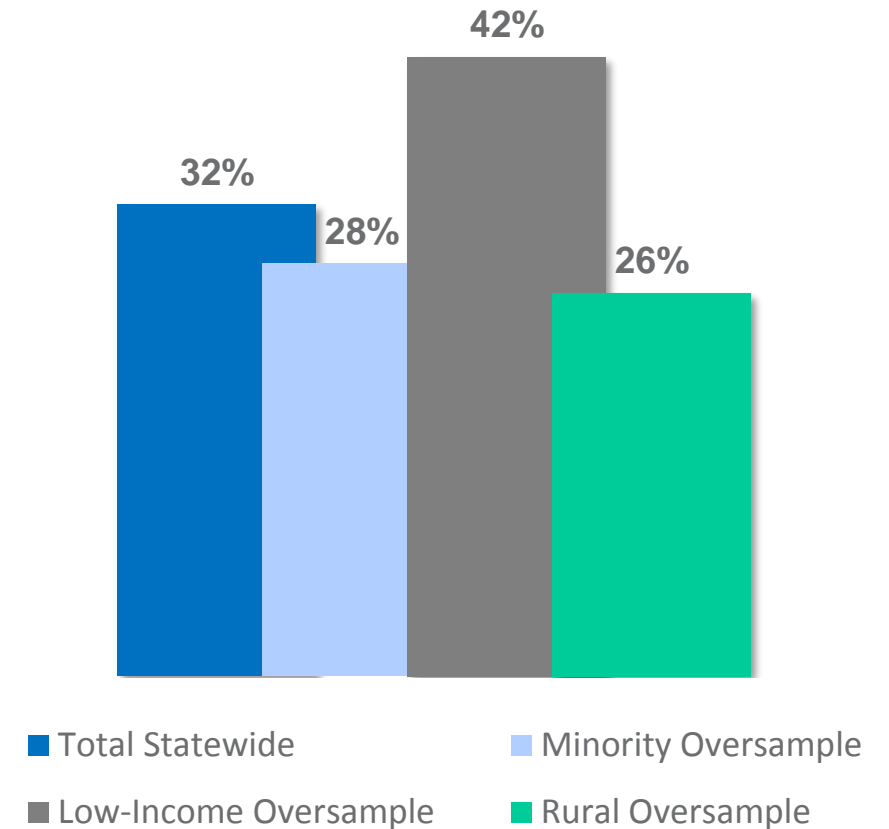


# Demographic Profile

## Marital Status of Respondents

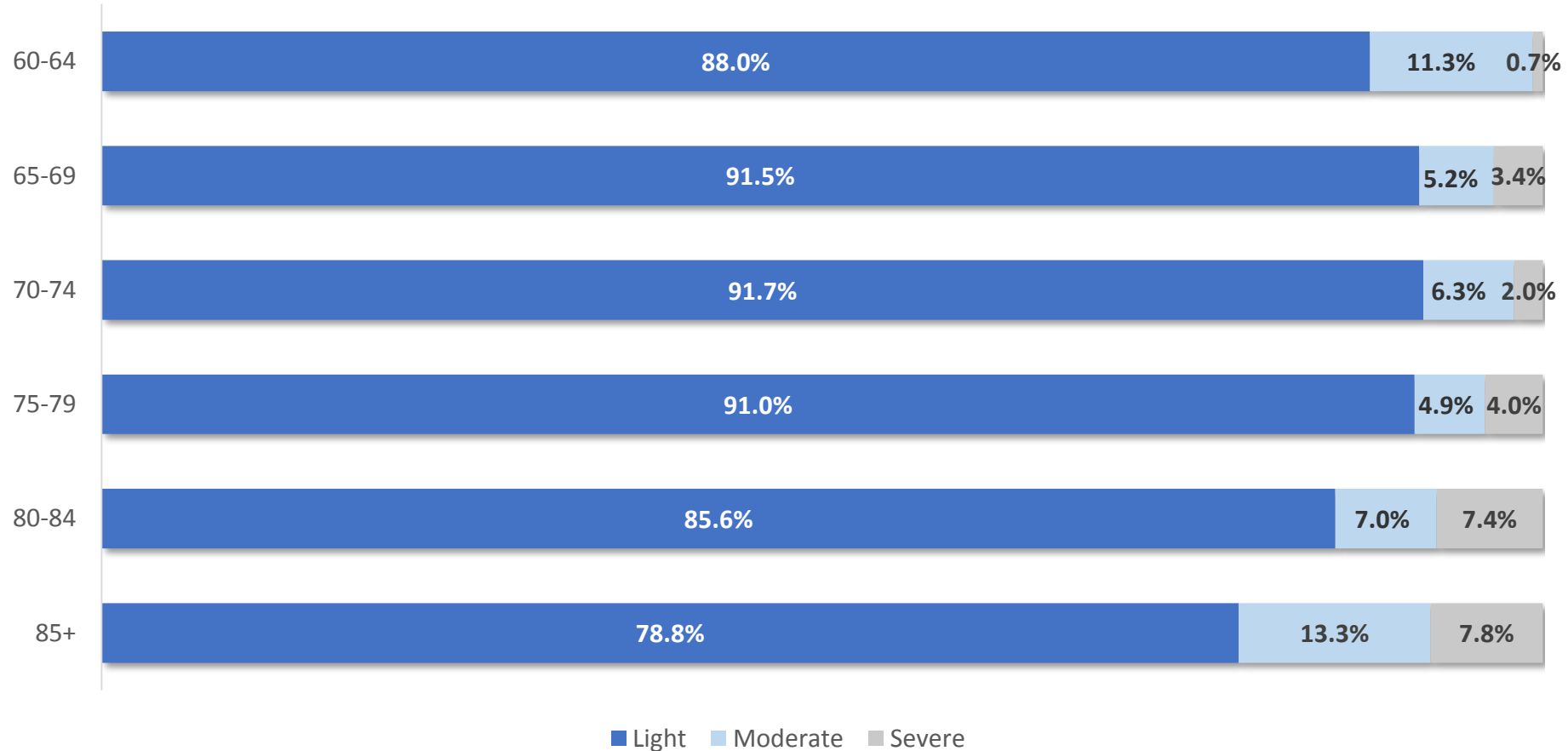


## Respondents Living Alone



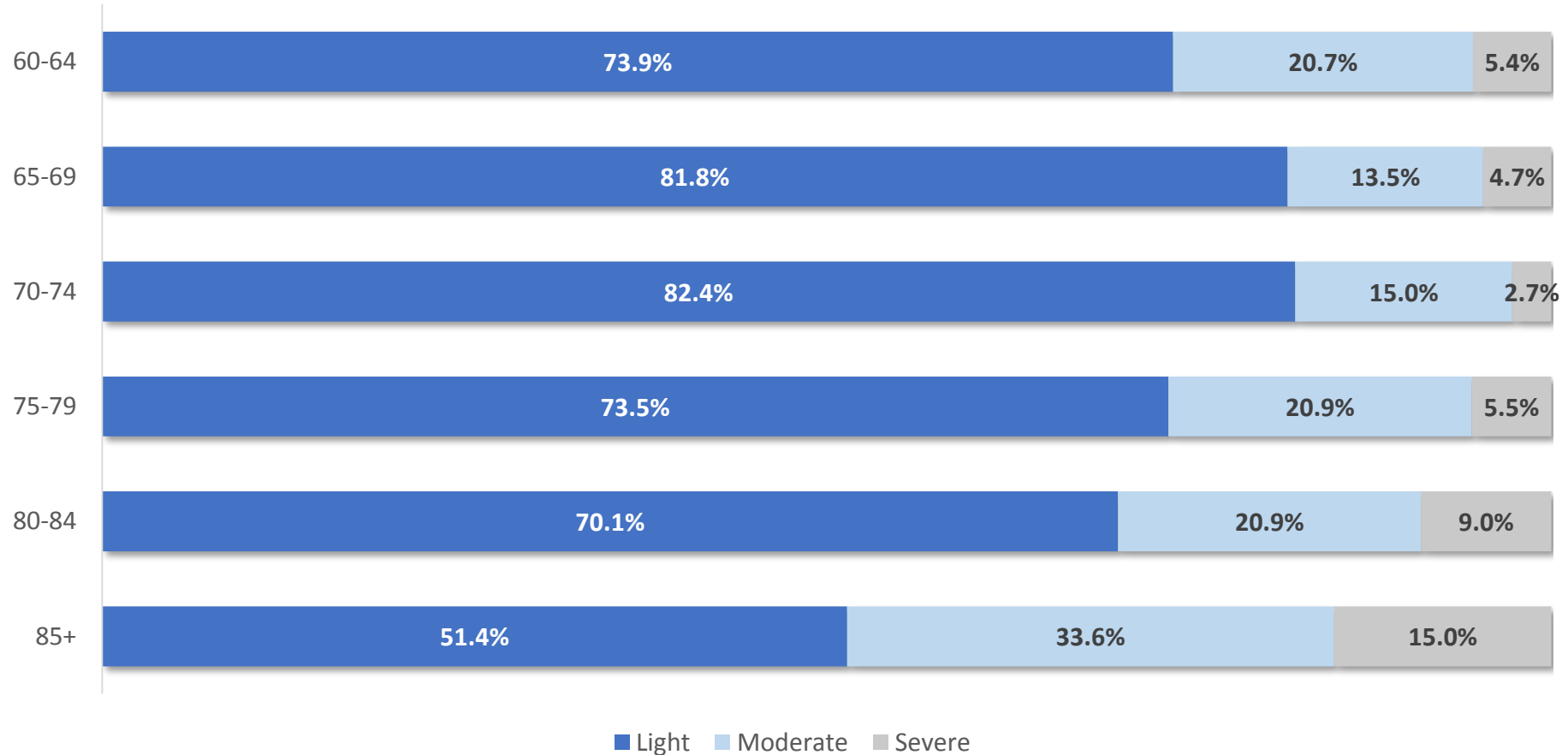
# ADL Limitations

ADL Limitations Among Respondents

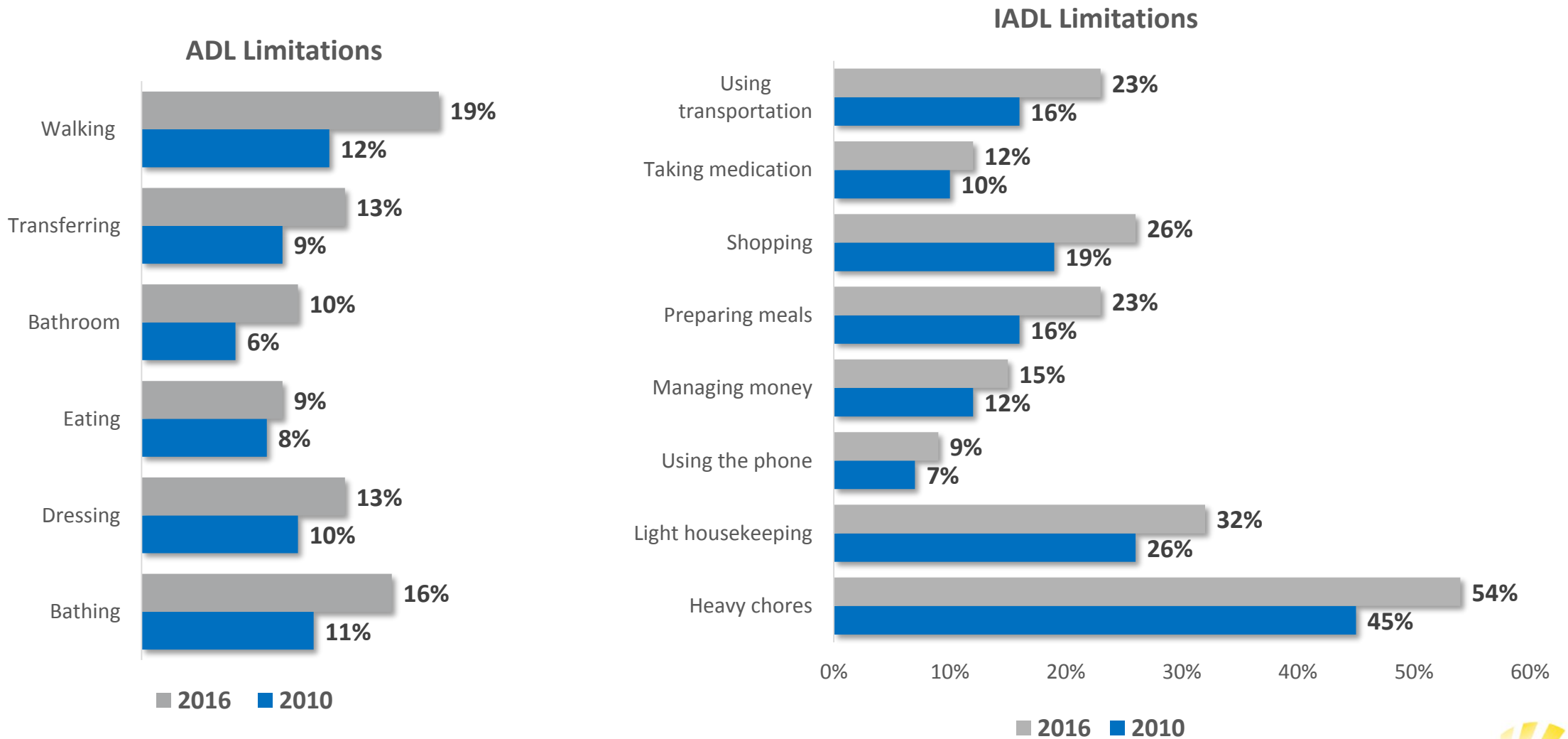


# IADL Limitations

IADL Limitations Among Respondents



# Comparison Between 2010 and 2016 Surveys



# Help with ADLs and IADLs

Approximately **1 in 4** elders got the assistance they needed with ADLs and IADLs “always” or “most of the time.”



34%



16%



9%

- ❖ When seeking assistance, elders look to friends and family (**34%**), a health care professional (**16%**), or a paid attendant (**9%**).
- ❖ Low-income elders (**12%**) were more likely to look to a government agency for assistance than other groups (**6%**).

Needed help  
with IADLs



Did not need  
help with IADLs



ADLs: N = 549

IADLs: N = 1190

# Basic Caregiving Information



**Provide care for someone who is unable to care for themselves**



**Provide care at least once a week**

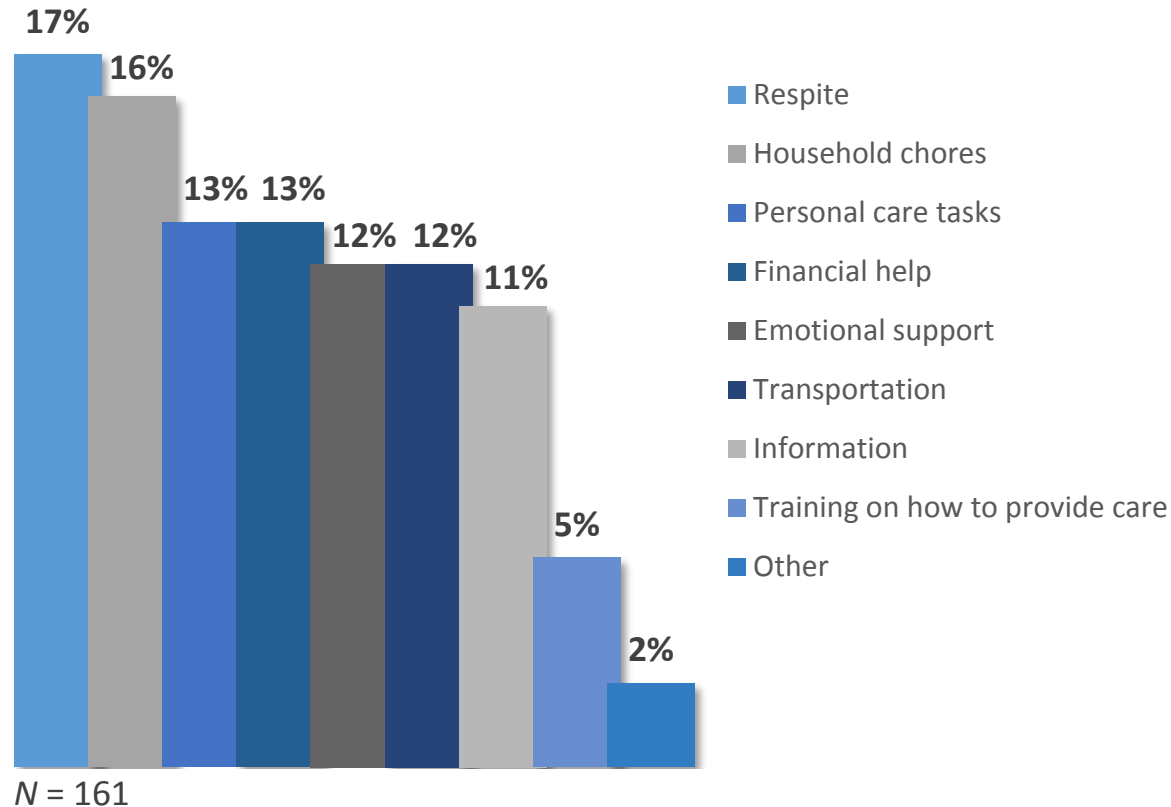


**Provide care for another elder (age 60 or older)**



# Assistance with Caregiving

## Types of Help Needed by Caregiving Elders



**32%** of caregivers receive help with their caregiving responsibilities



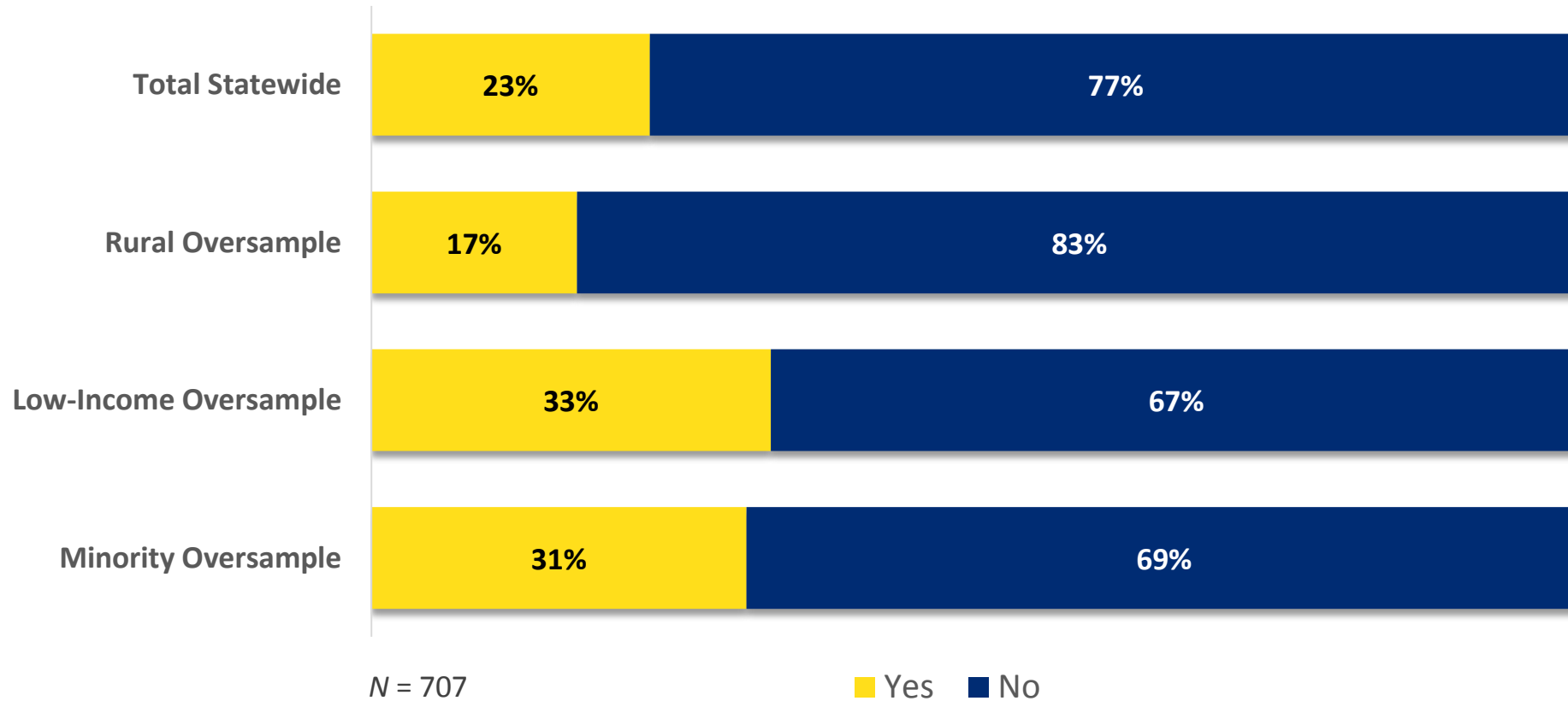
**23%** of caregivers need help with their caregiving responsibilities



**12%** of caregivers are interested in receiving caregiver training

# Assistance with Caregiving

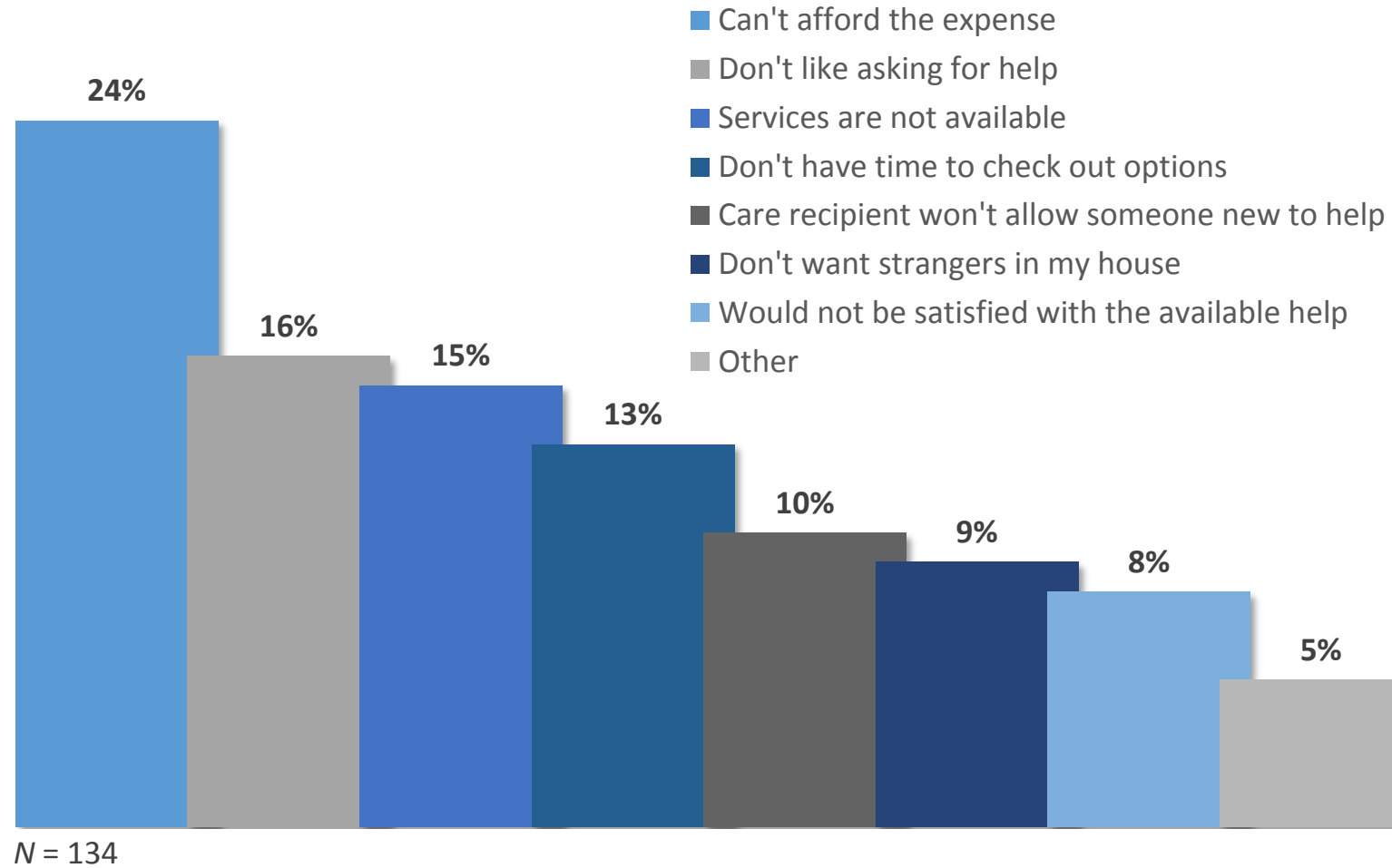
Do you need assistance with your caregiving responsibilities?





# Assistance with Caregiving

## Reasons Why Caregivers Haven't Received Help



# Health and Health Promotion



**51%** of elders surveyed were interested in taking a health class



**18%** attended an event offering free health information in the past year

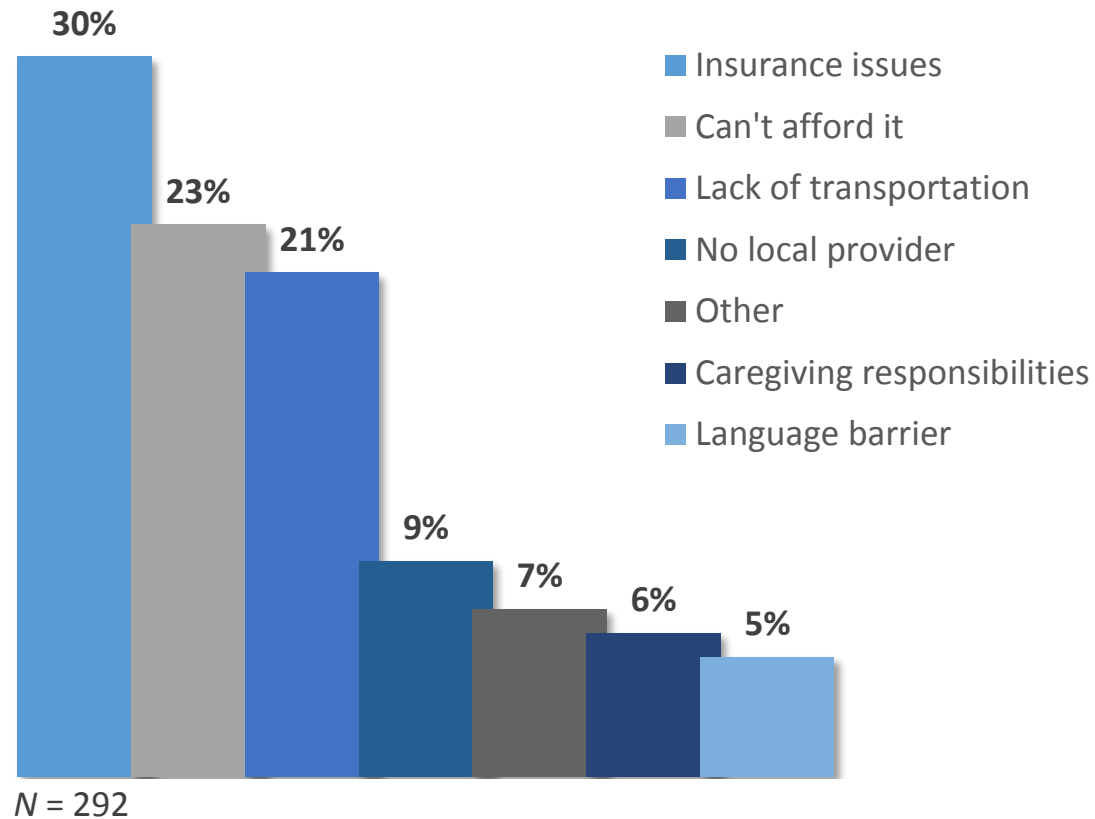


**87%** were physically active at least 3 times per week



# Access to Medical Care

## Barriers to Medical Care Among Respondents



- ❖ Of those who do not get medical care when needed, these were the main barriers to receiving medical care.
- ❖ Low-income (**29%**), minority (**28%**), and rural (**30%**) elders cited the expense as being a main barrier more than the total statewide sample (**23%**).
- ❖ One in five (**21%**) of respondents cited lack of transportation as a barrier to medical care.

# Access to Medical Care



**11%** split a pill or skipped medication because of the price



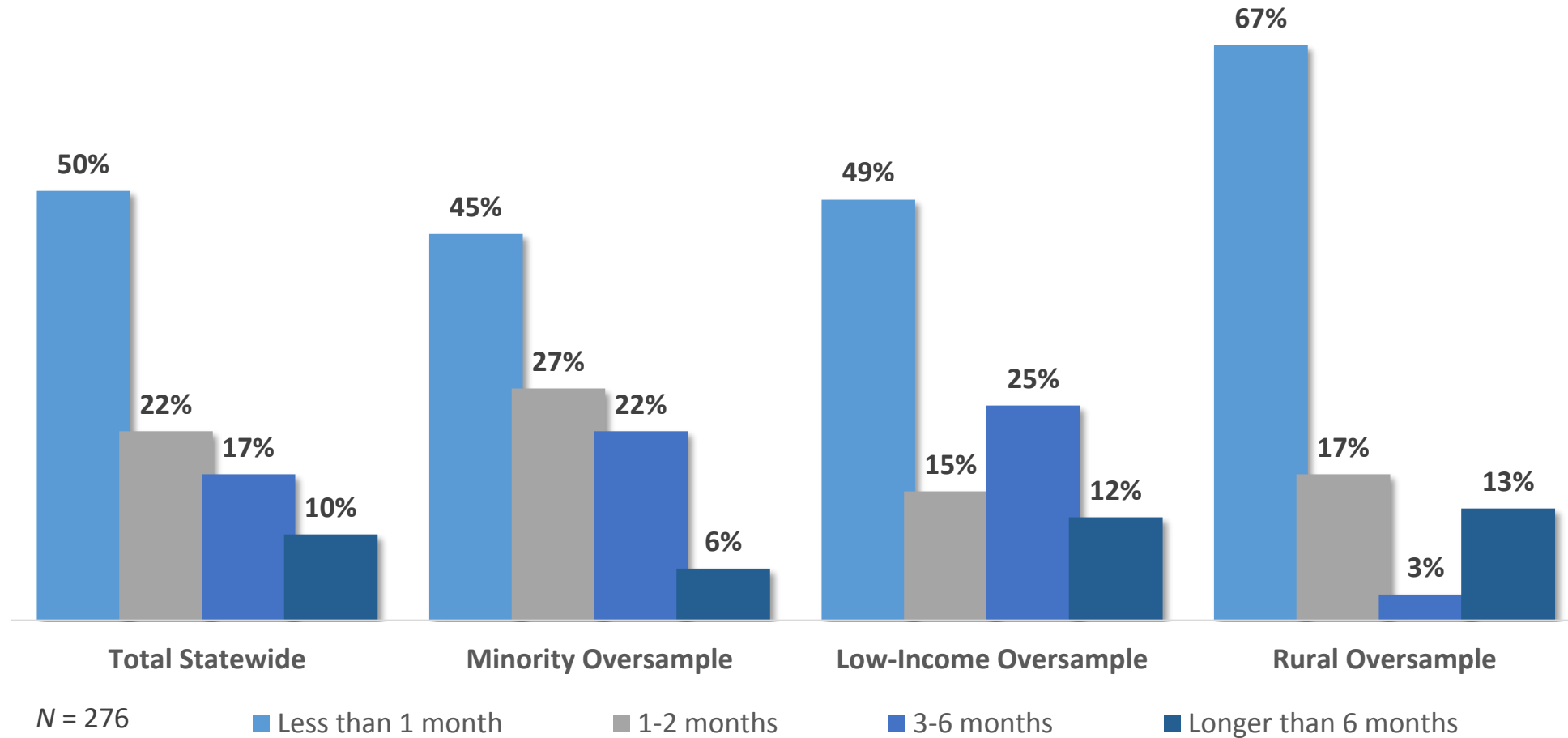
**8%** delayed or went without assistance for an emotional or mental health problem



**37%** of low-income elders delayed their prescription medications more than three months, as compared to **27%** of statewide elders

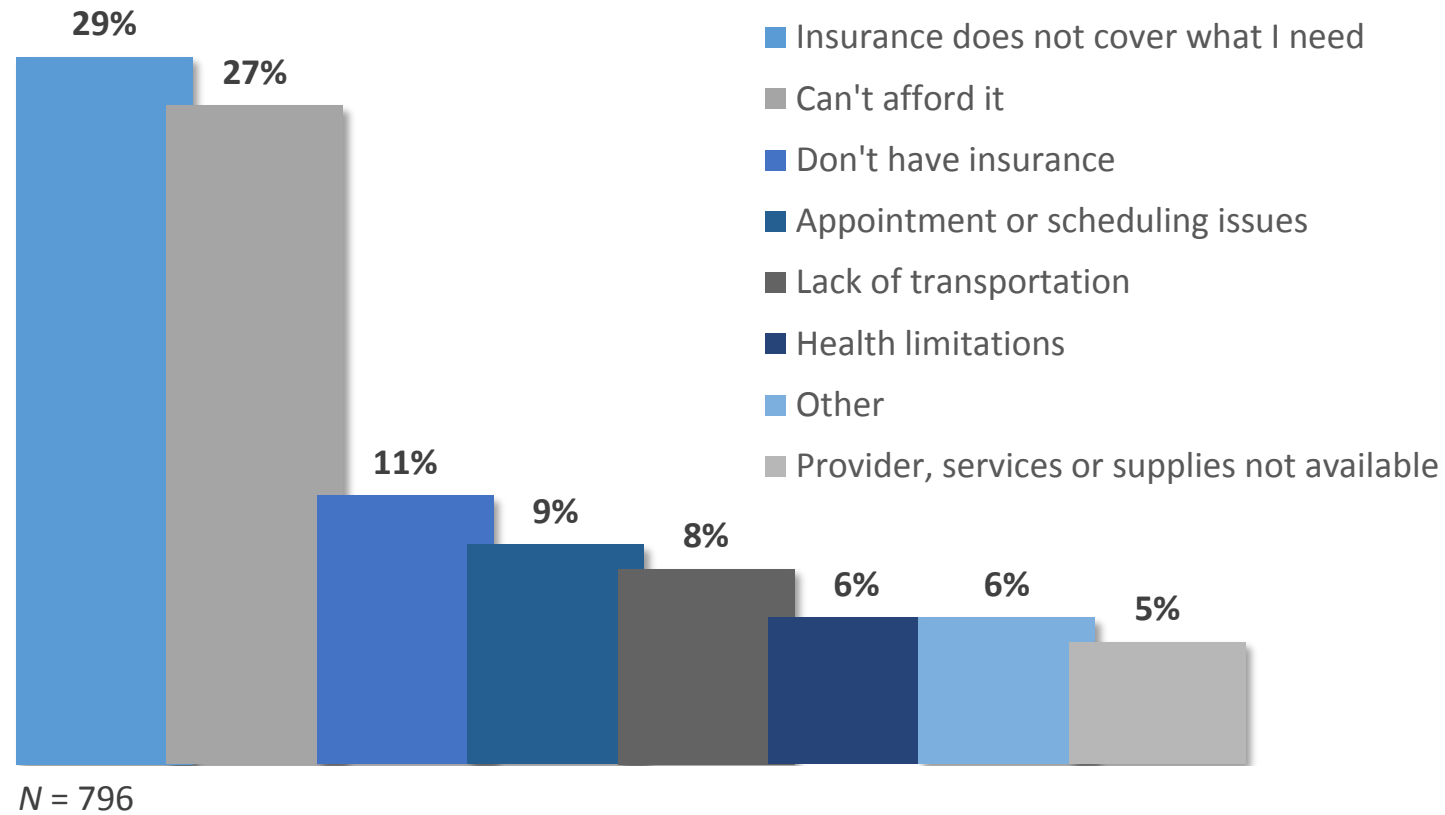
# Delays in Medical Care

## Length of Delays in Filling Prescription Medications



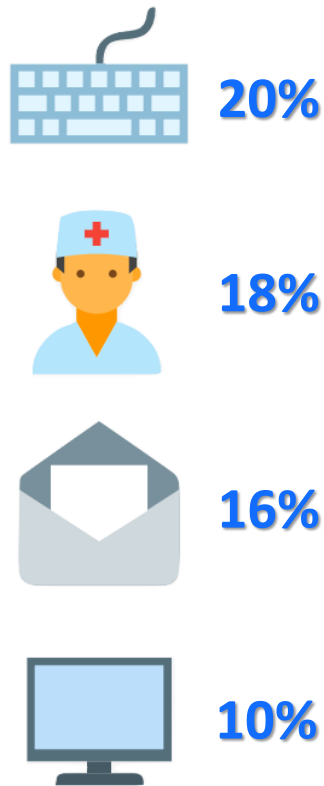
# Delays in Medical Care

## Limitations in Respondents' Ability to Get Prescriptions, Dental Care, or Eyeglasses

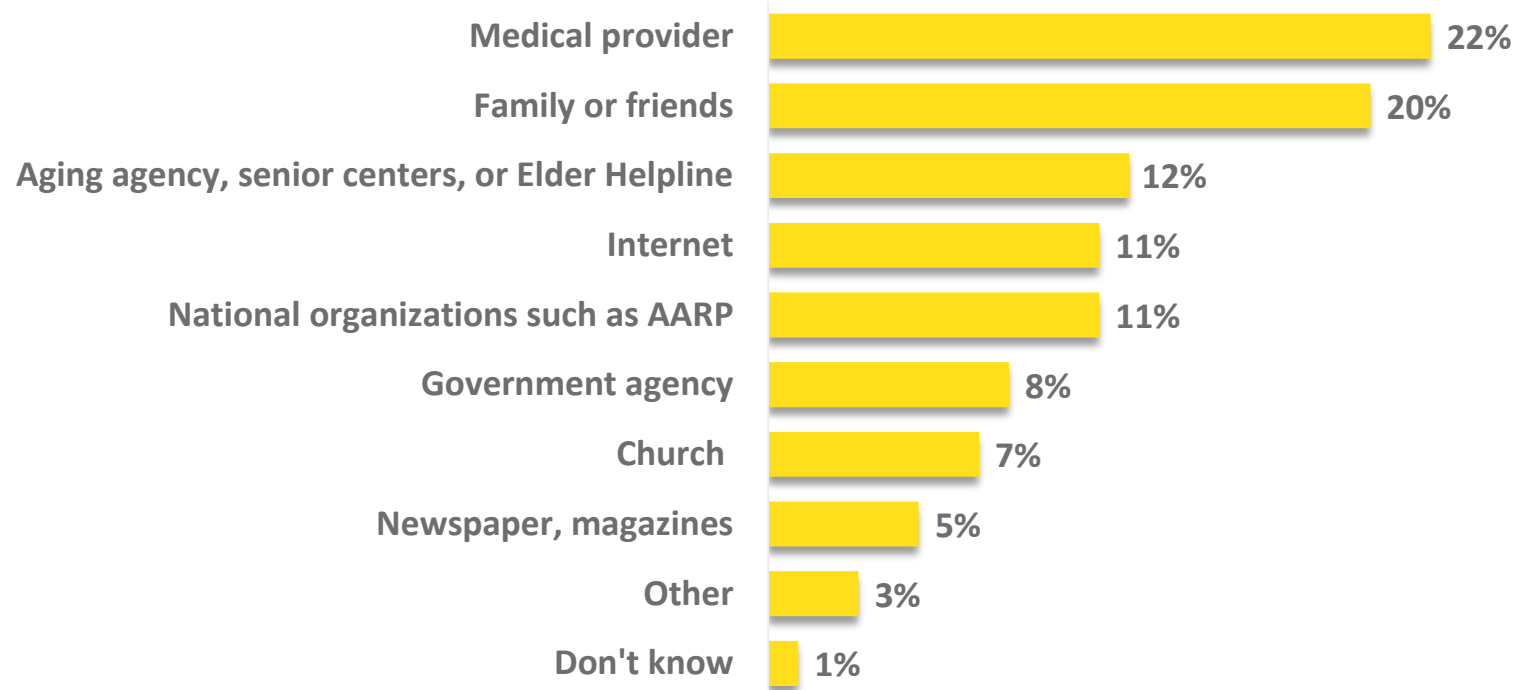


# Sources of Information about Services

## Preferred Ways of Receiving Information About Services for Elders

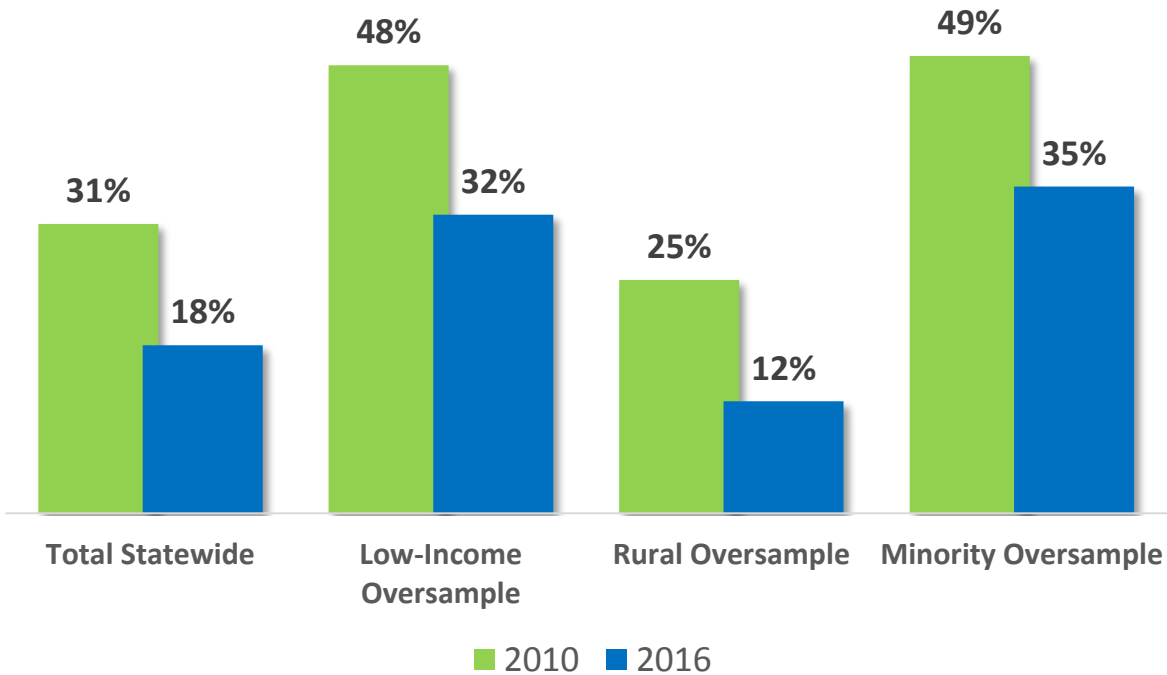


## Sources of Information About Services for Elders



# Internet and Technology Use

Percent of Respondents with No Internet Access



**26%**

were interested in receiving computer and Internet training



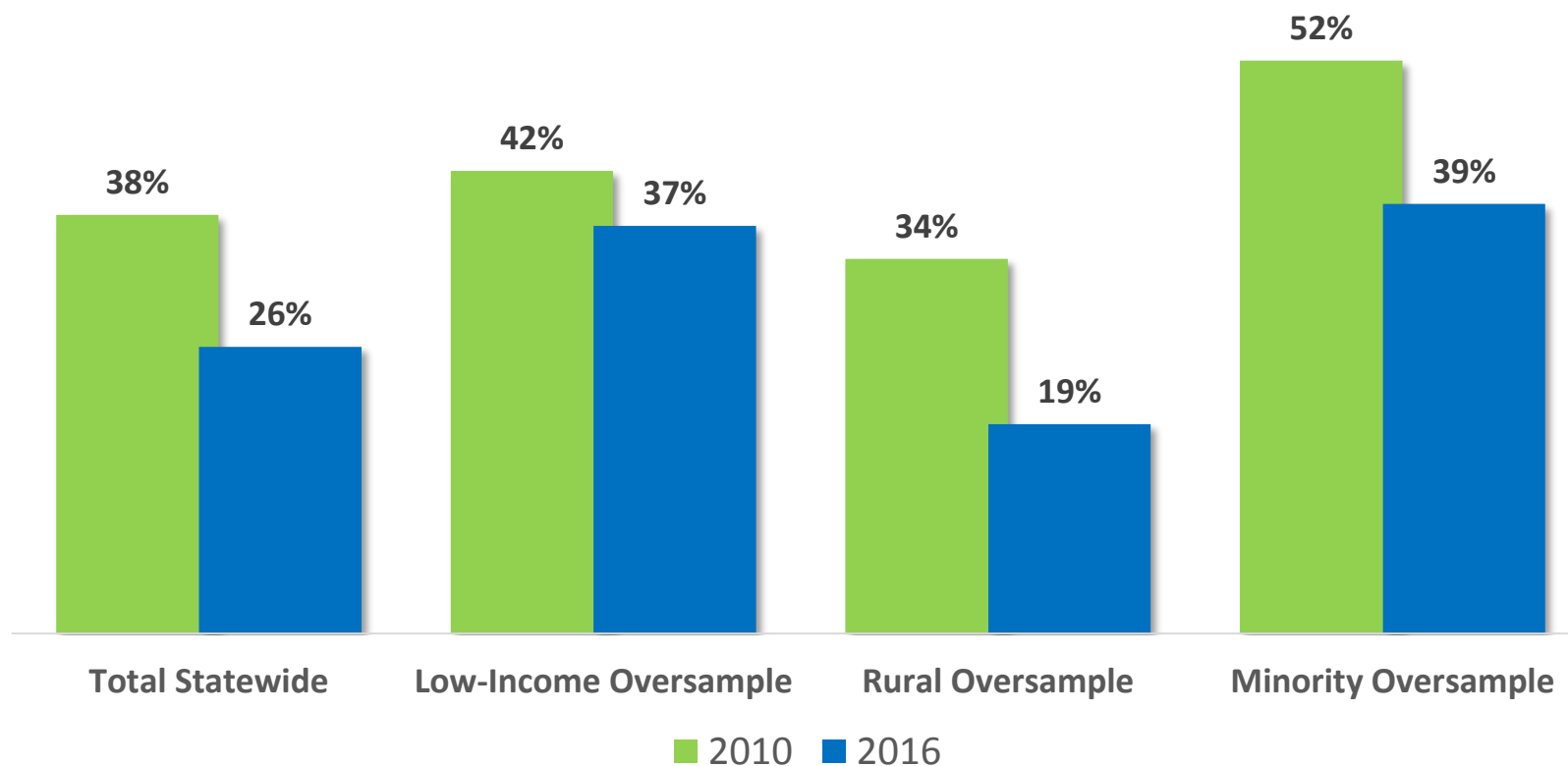
**1 in 4**

elders used a computer regularly



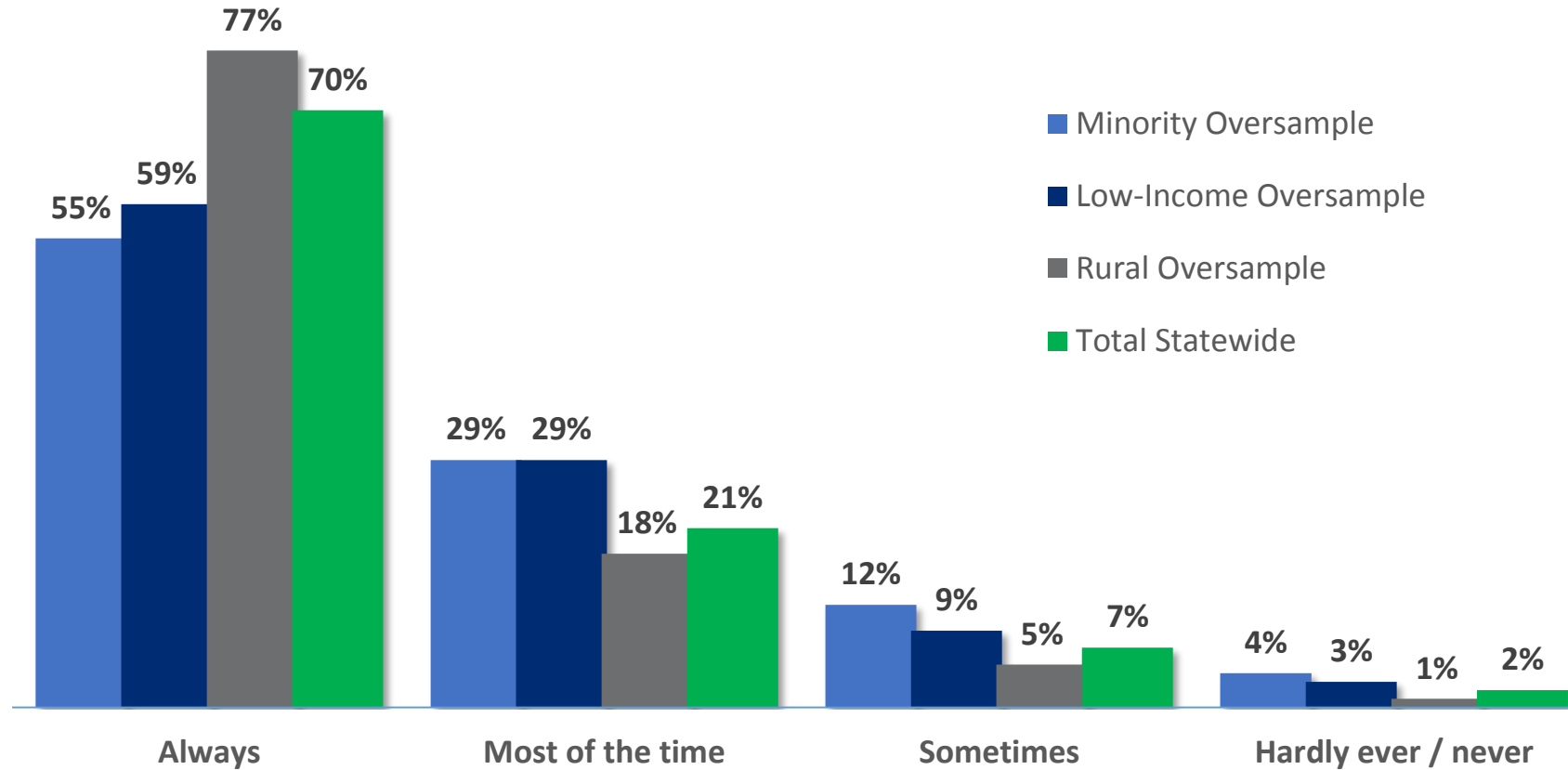
# Internet and Technology Use

Respondents Interested in Receiving Computer and Internet Training, 2010 and 2016



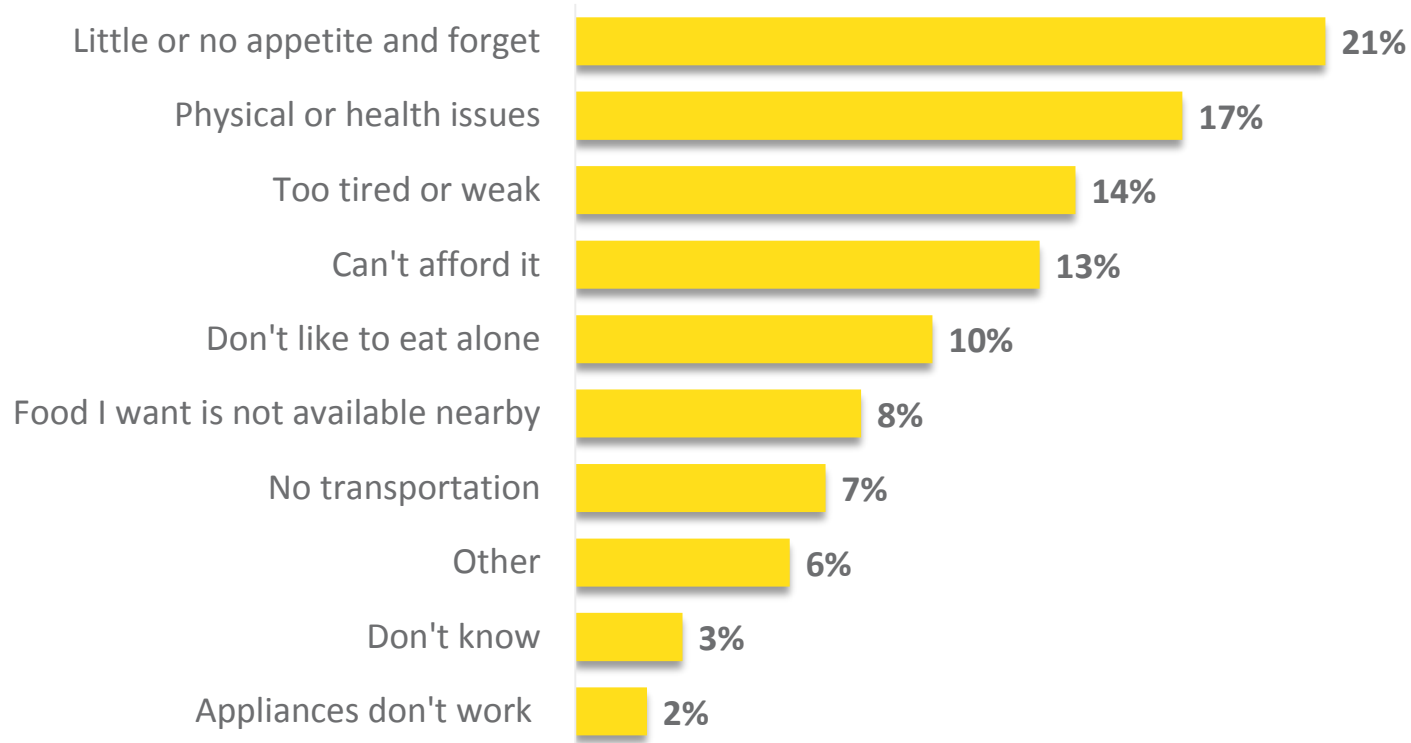
# Nutrition Risks

Frequency of Eating Needed Food Among Respondents



# Nutrition Risks

## Reasons for Inadequate Nutrition Among Respondents

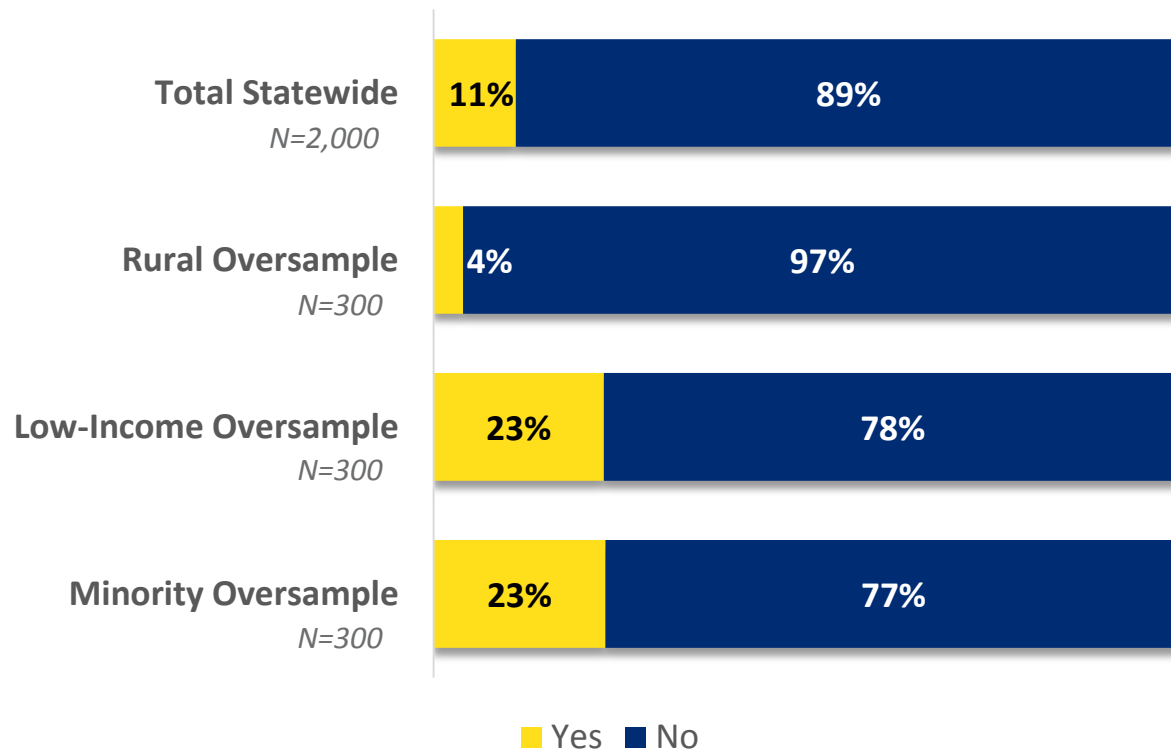


N = 524



# Food Assistance and Information

## Do you receive food assistance?



❖ Of those who receive food assistance, more than half (**52%**) receive SNAP benefits. Other sources of food assistance received include:

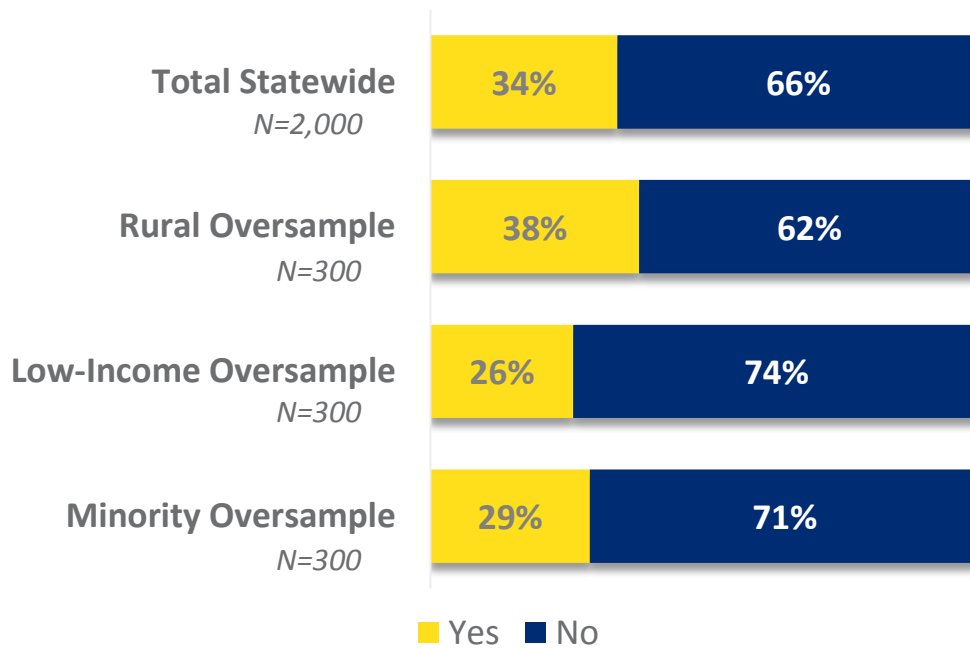
- family and friends (**16%**),
- community groups (**12%**), and
- Meals on Wheels / Home-Delivered Meals (**12%**).

❖ When asked about the Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card, most elders who did not have it said it was because they:

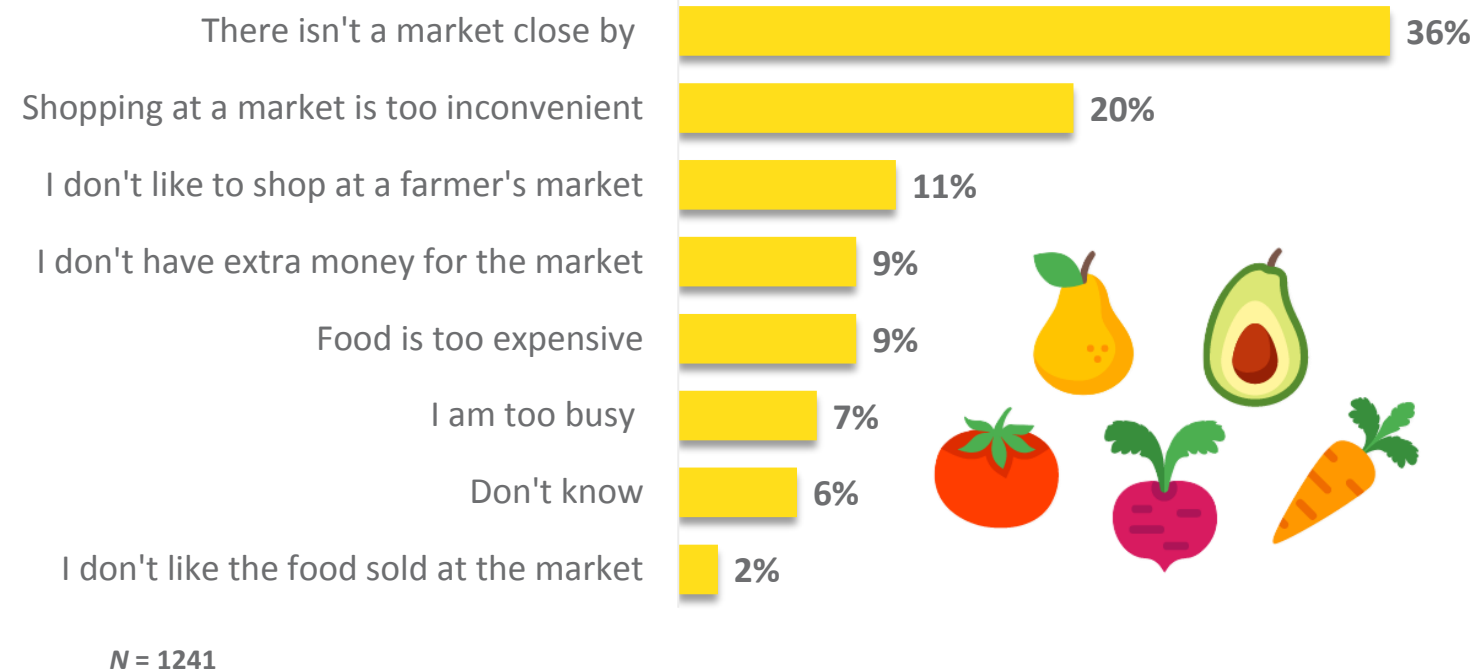
- didn't need it (**36%**),
- didn't think they would qualify for it (**14%**), or
- didn't know about the program (**13%**).

# Farmer's Markets

Have you recently purchased food from a farmer's market?



Why haven't you recently purchased food from a farmer's market?

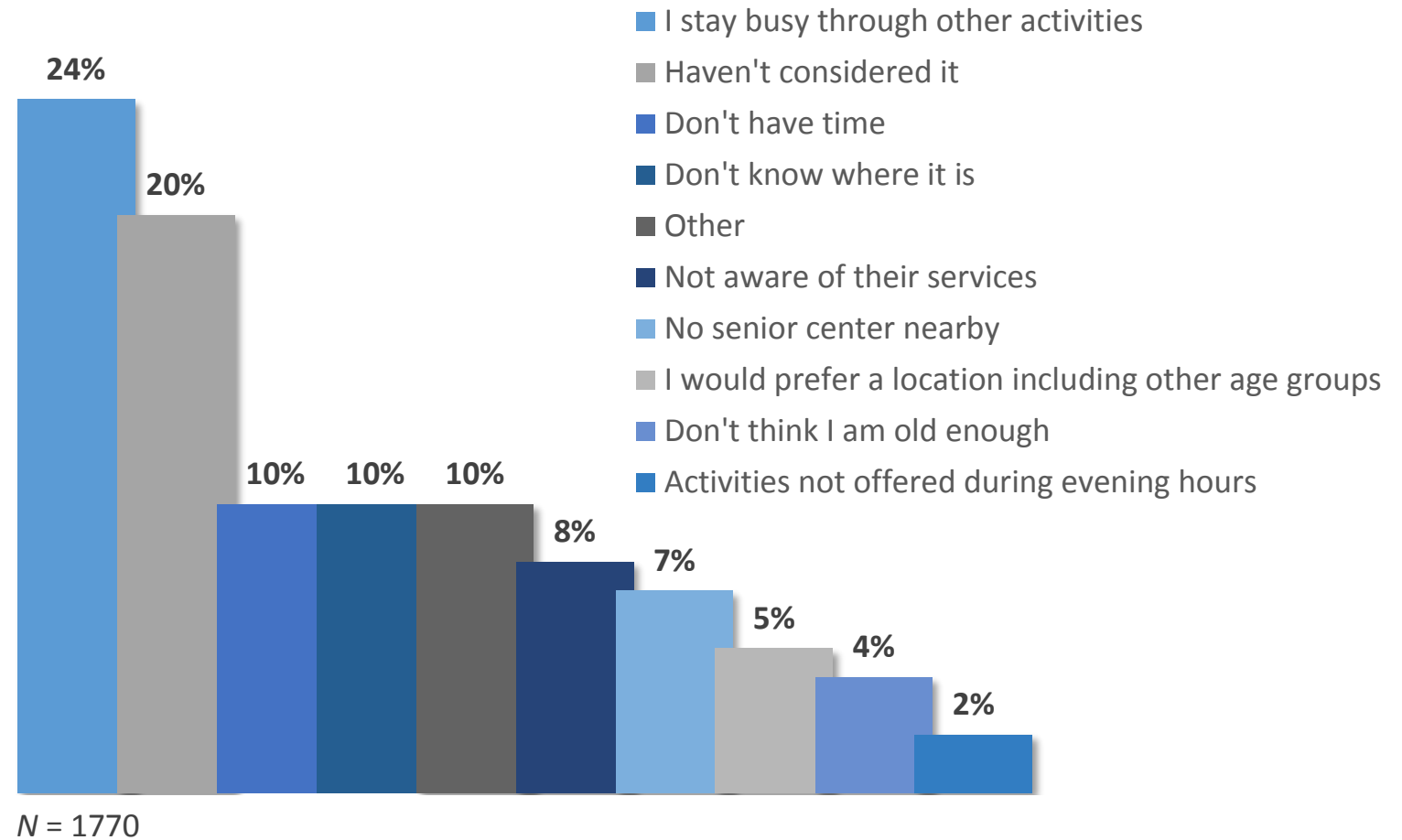


# Senior Centers



elders visited a senior center  
“often” or “sometimes”

## Reasons Why Respondents Do Not Go to Senior Center



# Modes of Transportation



**13%** of elders  
preferred to  
bicycle or walk

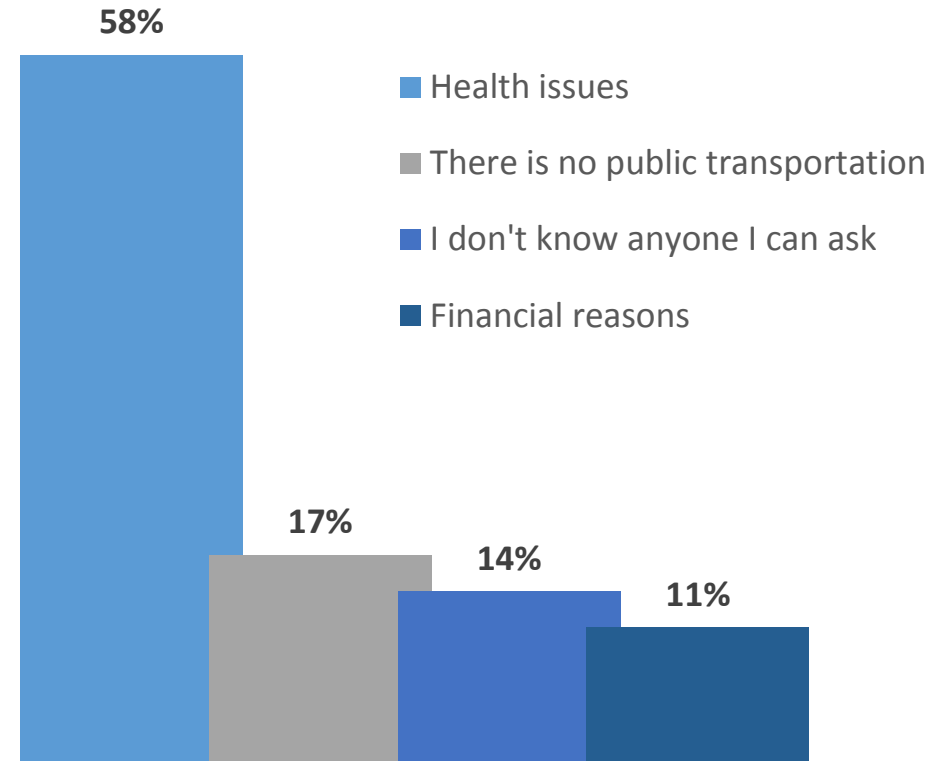


**69%** of elders  
preferred to drive  
or be driven in a car

- ❖ Minority and low-income elders were significantly more likely to use public transportation.
- ❖ Of the respondents that used public transport, **23%** were dissatisfied with the service.
- ❖ Top three reasons for not using public transportation:
  - Don't need it (**45%**)
  - Limited availability of public transportation / Doesn't go where I need it to go (**19%**)
  - Inconvenience (**13%**)

# Mobility Limitations

## Limitations on Respondents' Ability to Get Where They Need to Go



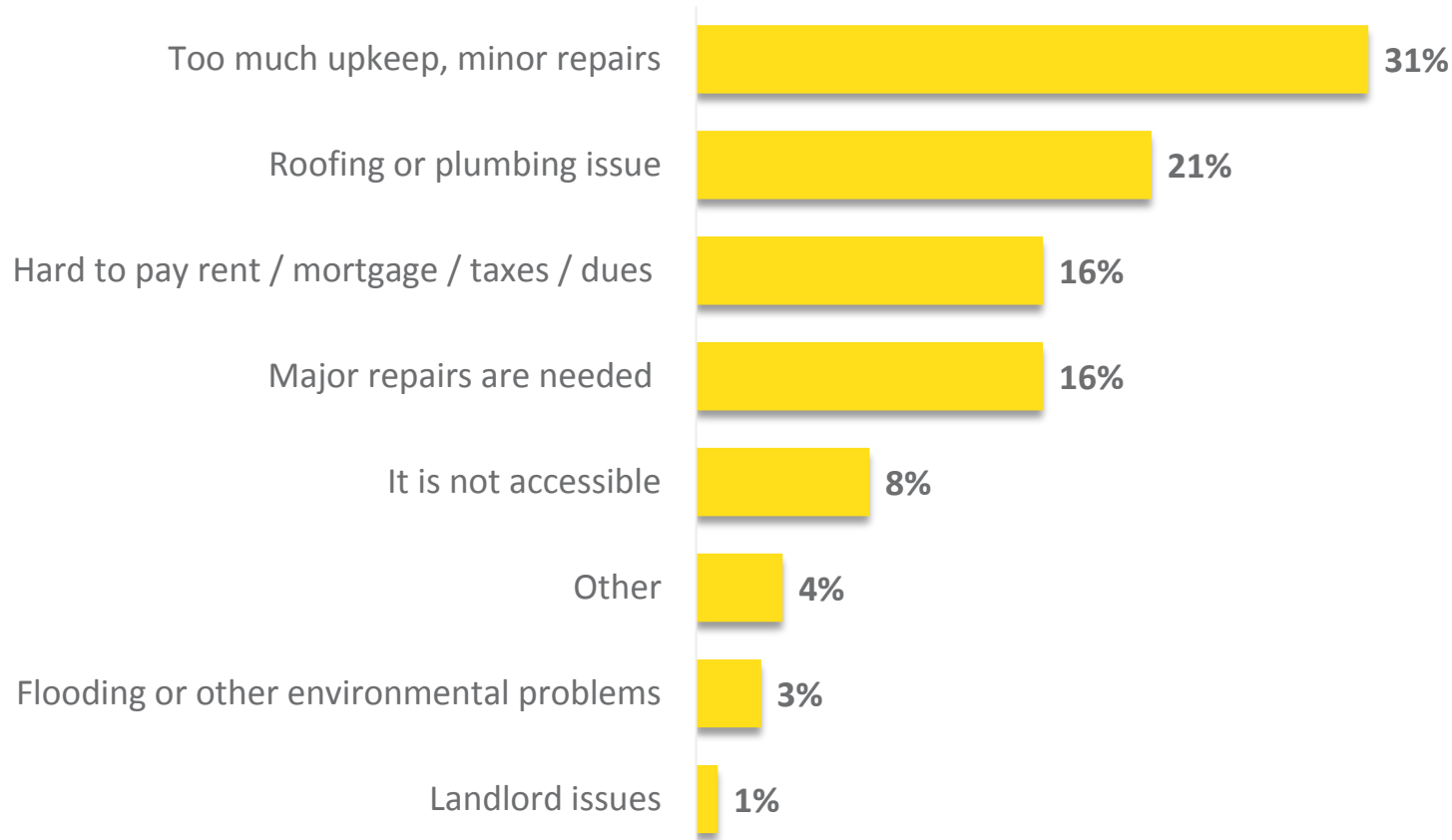
N = 134

- ❖ Most respondents (**93%**) were able to get where they needed to go.
- ❖ Among those who weren't, nearly two-thirds (**58%**) cited health issues as the main reason.
- ❖ When asked what limits their driving, respondents also cited illness or physical problems as the largest reason (**18%**).



# Home Ownership and Maintenance

## Problems with Respondents' Homes

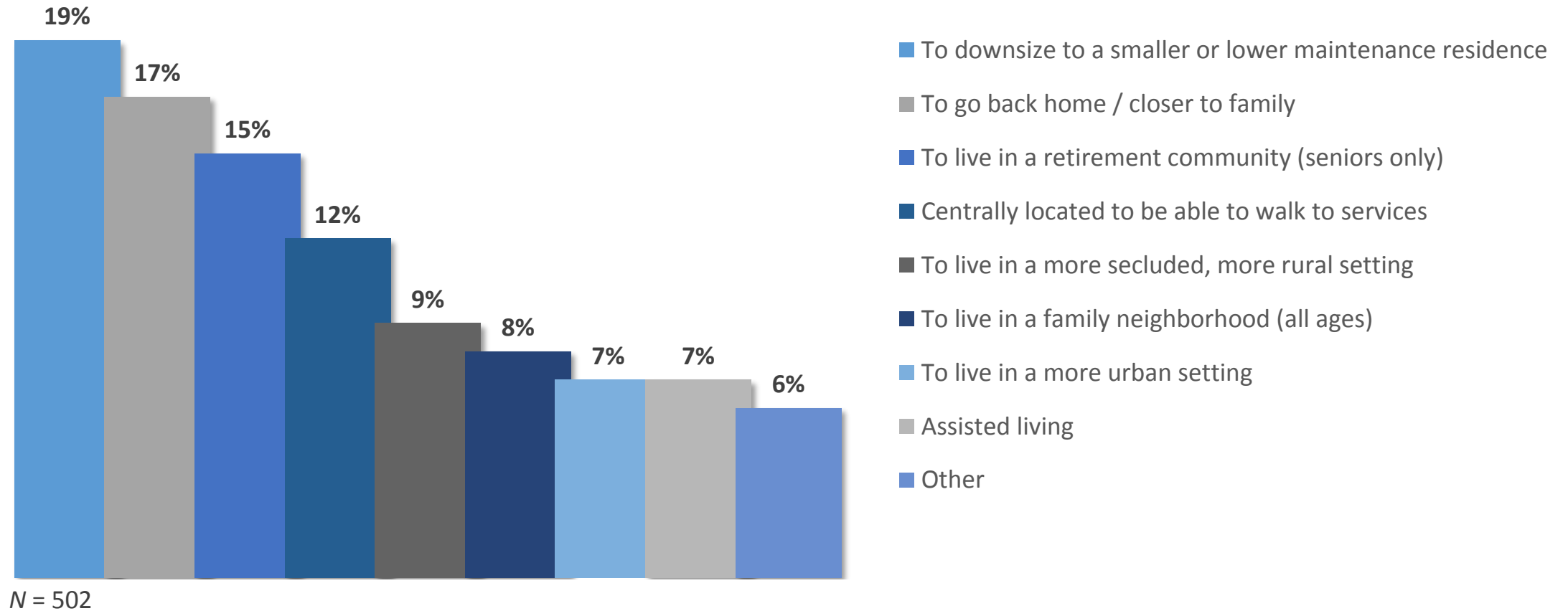


- ❖ **8 in 10** respondents owned their own home, which was especially common among rural respondents.
- ❖ Of elders who cited problems with their home, one-third (**31%**) mentioned too much upkeep or minor repairs were needed.

N = 555

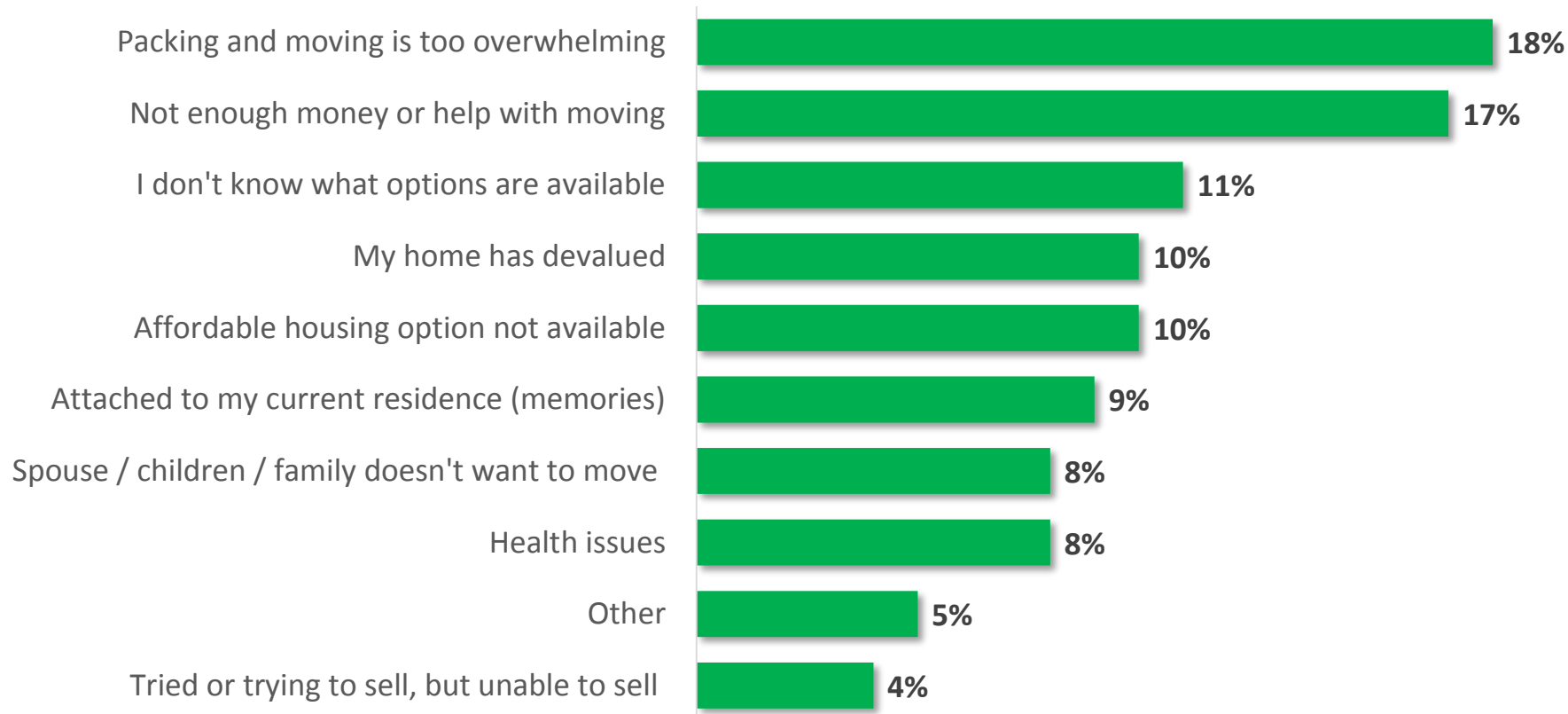
# Moving

## Desired Home Location If Respondent Could Move



# Moving

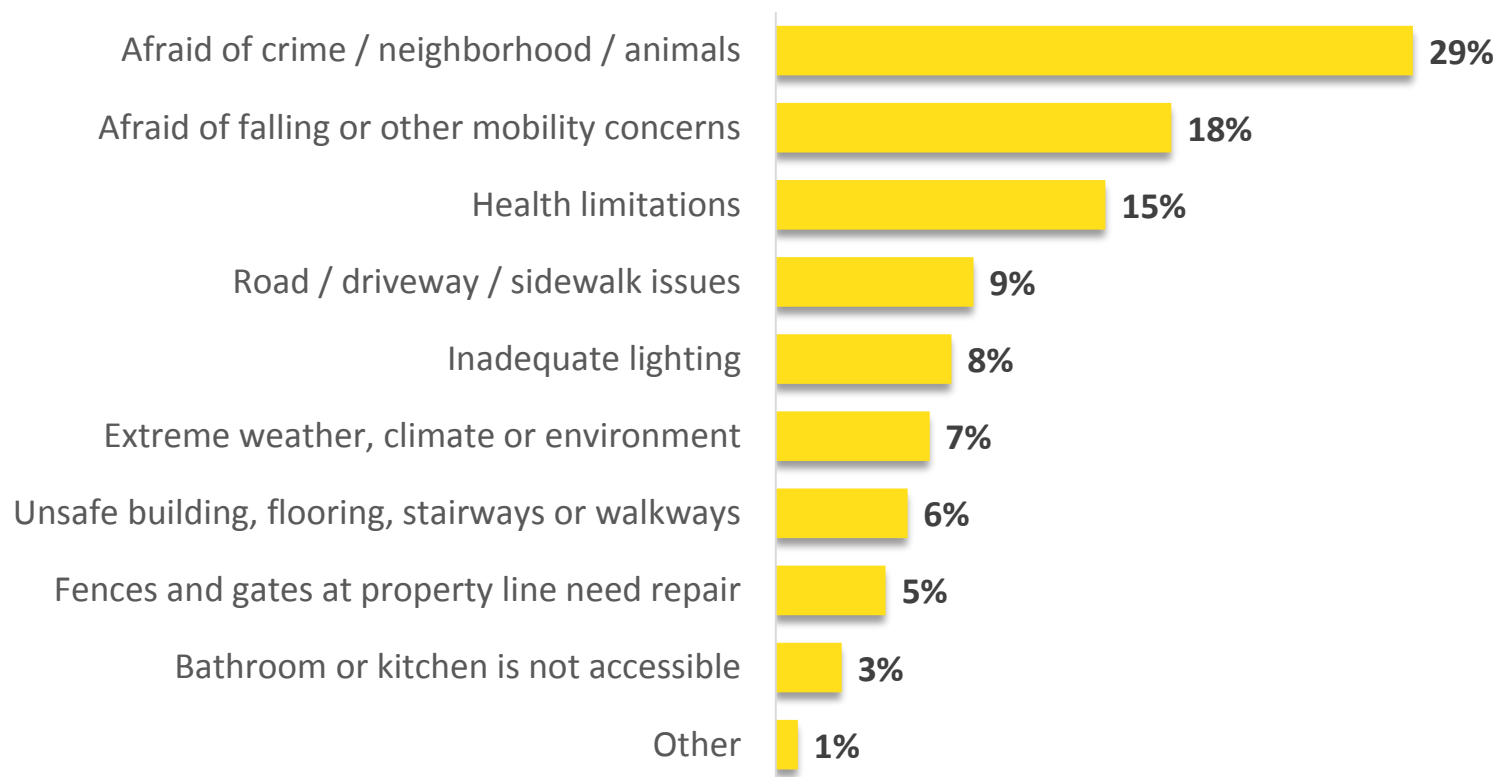
## Reasons that Prevent Respondents from Moving



N = 279

# Housing Safety

## Reasons Why Respondents Feel Unsafe in Their Homes or on Their Property



N = 65

- ❖ The large majority of all groups surveyed felt safe in their homes and properties (**96%**) and in their neighborhoods (**90%**) "always" or "most of the time."
- ❖ Minority (**20%**) and rural elders (**19%**) cited health limitations more often than other groups as a reason for feeling unsafe.

# Volunteerism

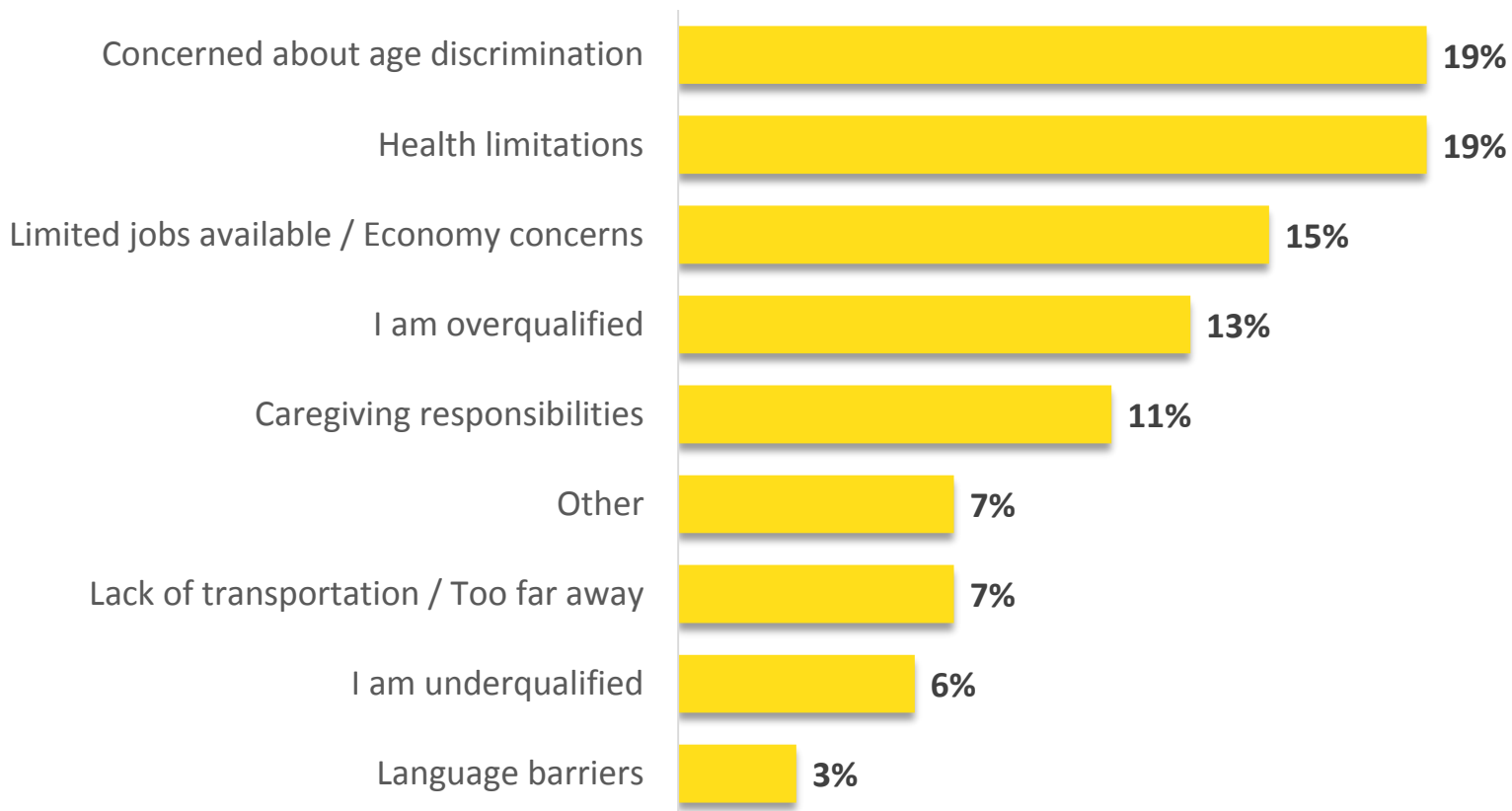


- ❖ One-third of elders volunteered. Of those who volunteered, two-thirds volunteer at least once a week.
- ❖ The organizations for which elders were most likely to volunteer were faith-based (**26%**), community- or arts-based (**17%**), civic-based (**10%**), or health-based (**10%**).
- ❖ Of those who did not volunteer, lack of time (**18%**) and health issues (**17%**) were among the most-cited reasons.



# Employment

## Limitations to Respondents' Ability to Find a Job



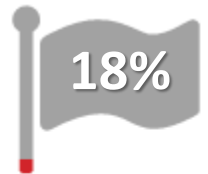
N = 182

❖ **One-half** of respondents were retired, while about **18%** were currently employed.

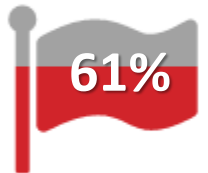
❖ **14%** were interested in switching to part-time or full-time work.

❖ Only **6%** of elders were interested in receiving job training. Of those interested, computer-related job training was most cited (**36%**).

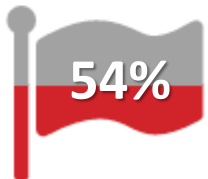
# Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Issues



Thought they were a victim of consumer fraud or a swindle

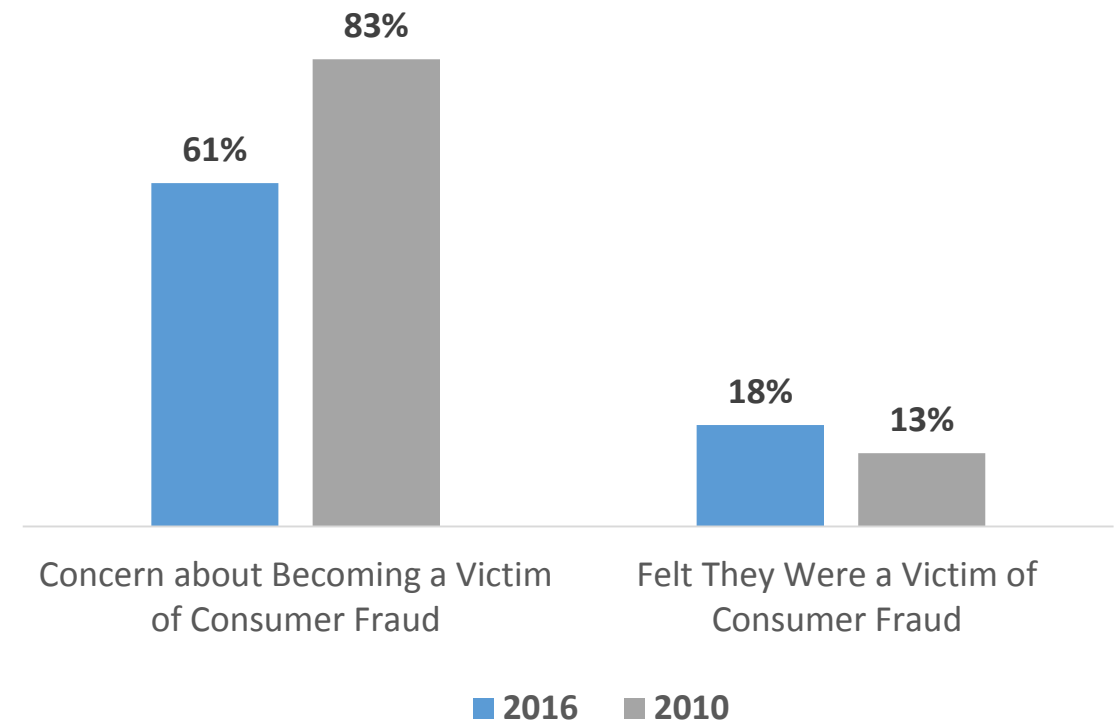


Are concerned about becoming the victim of consumer fraud or a swindle



Were aware of programs to assist elders in keeping themselves protected from abuse, neglect and financial exploitation

Concerns and Experiences Among Respondents Regarding Consumer Fraud



# Legal Assistance



**28%** of elders sought legal help in the last five years

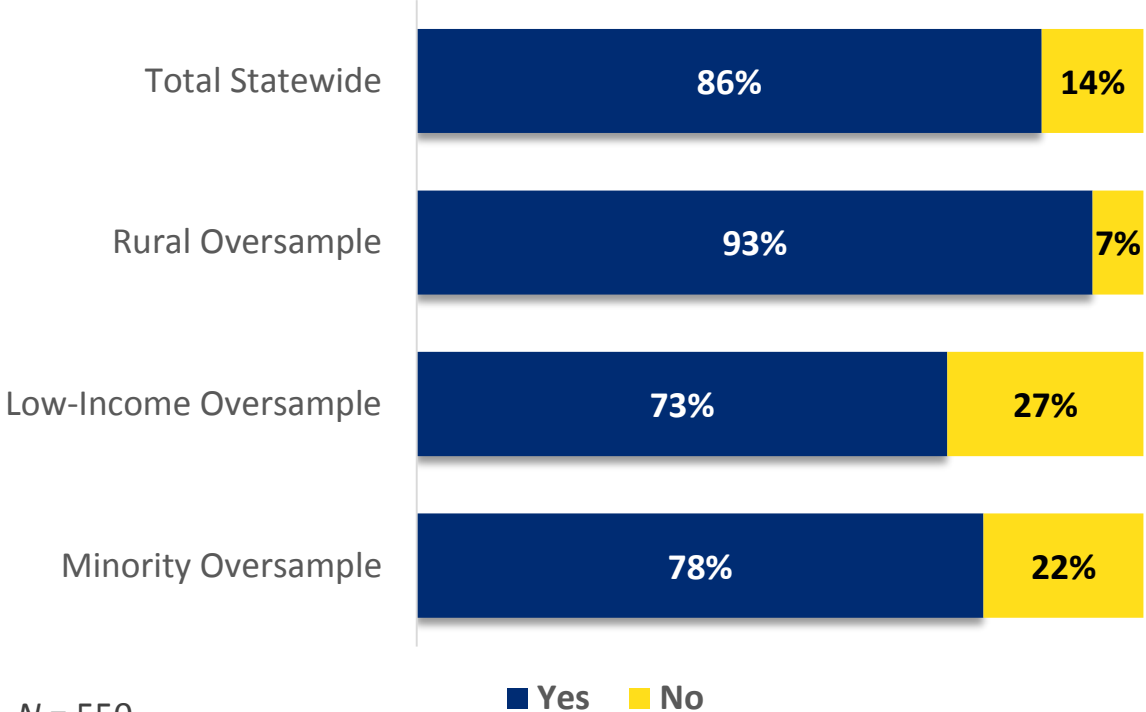


**86%** of them were able to get the legal help they needed



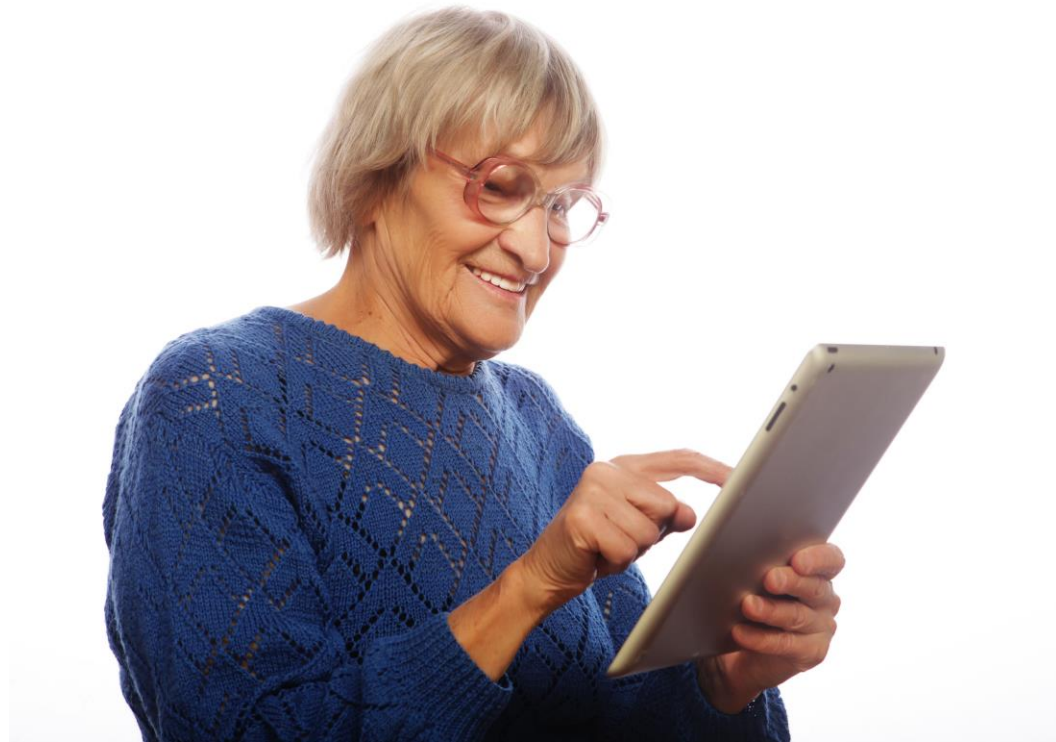
**20%** of elders think it would be difficult to find legal help in the future

## Respondents Able to Get the Legal Help They Needed





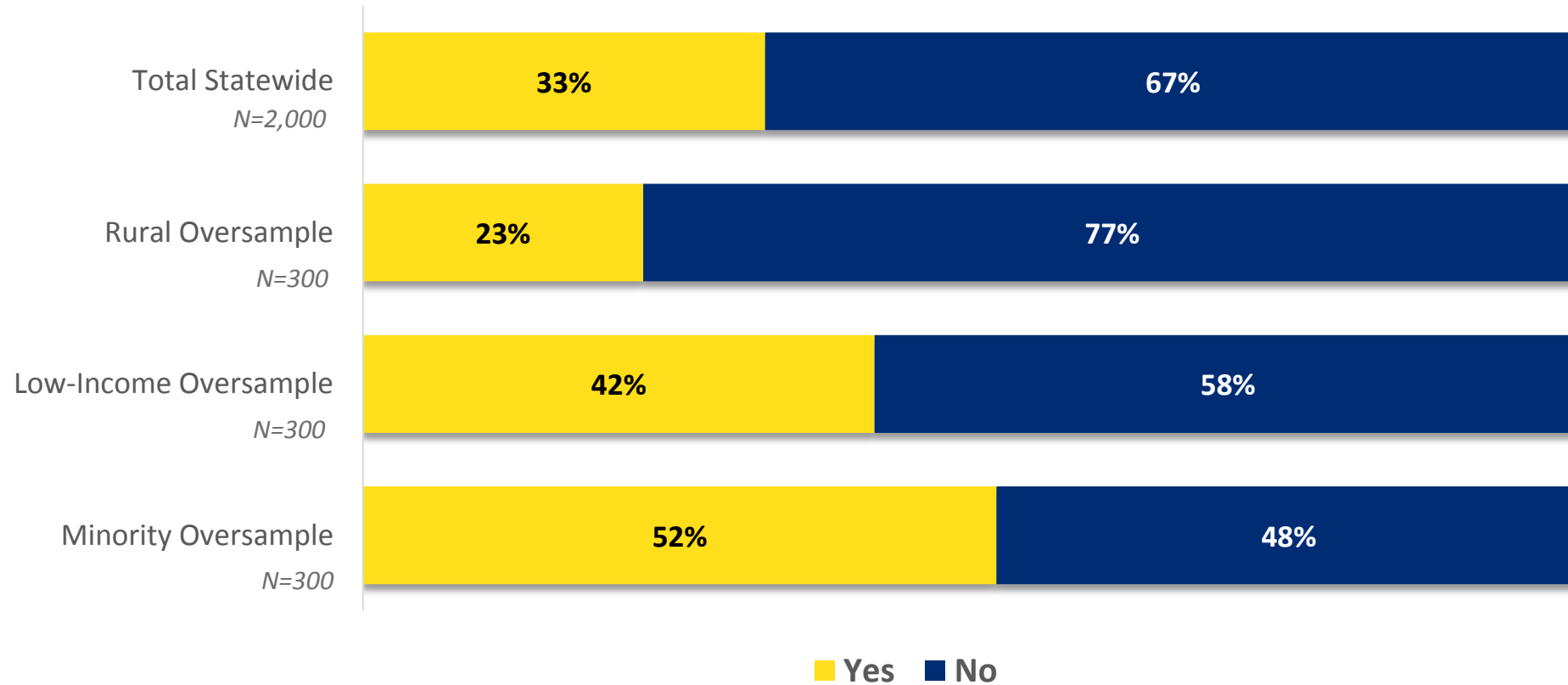
# Legal Assistance



- ❖ Of those not able to get legal help when they needed it, cost (**25%**) and lack of information about resources (**27%**) were the biggest reasons.
- ❖ **22%** of elders did not know where they would seek help with a legal need. Of those who did, most would go to the Florida Department of Elder Affairs (**18%**) or the Florida Bar Lawyer Referral Service (**19%**).

# Disaster Preparedness

## Percent of Respondents Interested in Learning about Special Needs Shelter in Emergencies



# Concluding Points

## Compared to the initial sample, elders in the minority and low-income groups:

- ❖ were more interested in receiving information on any subject;
- ❖ expressed more need for assistance with ADLs, IADLs, and caregiving responsibilities;
- ❖ delayed filling prescription medications, eye care, and dental care for longer periods;
- ❖ had less access to the Internet (**65%** and **68%** versus **87%**);
- ❖ got the food they needed less often (**84%** and **88%** versus **93%**);
- ❖ needed more financial and physical assistance with moving homes; and
- ❖ did not receive the legal help they needed as often.

## Compared to the initial sample, elders in the rural group:

- ❖ have higher incomes,
- ❖ are less interested in receiving information on most subjects,
- ❖ express less need for assistance with ADLs, IADLs, and caregiving responsibilities,
- ❖ have fewer problems with their homes, and
- ❖ are not as limited in mobility.

# Concluding Points

## Interesting statewide findings:

- ❖ Respite and emotional support were the main kinds of help needed by caregivers.
- ❖ Expense was one of the primary barriers to both medical care and legal help.
- ❖ About one-fifth of elders preferred to find out about services for elders through the Internet or email (**20%**) as well as through visits with their physician (**18%**).
- ❖ The main barriers to moving for respondents were the fact that packing is too overwhelming and that they don't have enough money or help with moving.
- ❖ Over one-fifth (**22%**) of elders did not know where they could seek help with a legal need.

# Questions?