



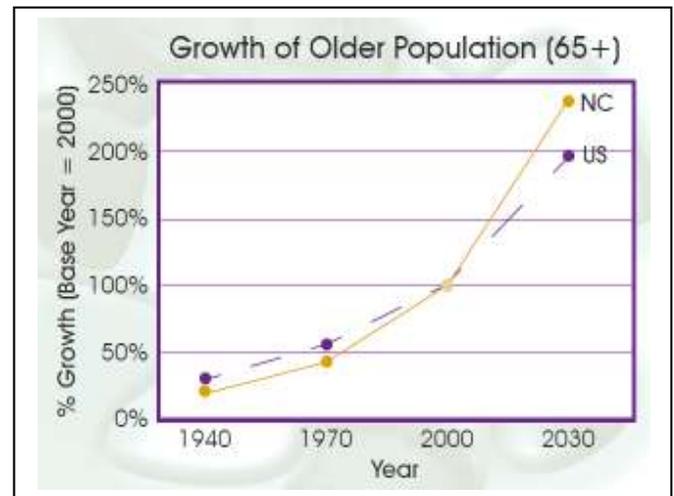
CATAWBA COUNTY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR: LIVABLE & SENIOR FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY

LIVABLE AND SENIOR-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES NORTH CAROLINA

In the fall of 2009, as a part of the Catawba Aging Leadership Planning Project, Catawba County, along with aging service providers, volunteers and local municipalities developed a "Livable & Senior Friendly Community Survey". This survey was widely distributed throughout Catawba County and targeted the County's Senior Community, their caregivers and professionals in the aging field. The purpose of the survey was to obtain current and relevant information on the quality of life of seniors. Obtaining this information is important when looking toward the future of Catawba County and in light of the following statistics:

- North Carolina ranked 11th nationally in total population and ranked 10th in the number of persons age 50 and older in 2004.
- North Carolina's older population increased 20.5% between 1990 and 2000, giving the state the 12th fastest-growing older population. This rate of growth exceeds the national average growth rate of 12%.
- NC ranks 11th highest in the proportion of the poor among older adults.
- Among the top 20 most populous states, North Carolina has the highest percentage of seniors living in rural areas.

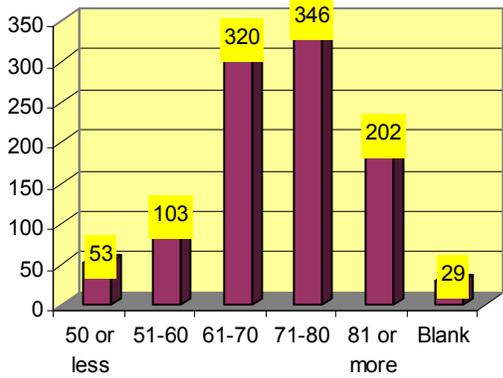


The results from the 1055 surveys will assist elected officials and service providers with better insight into ways to more efficiently and effectively meet the needs of our aging population.

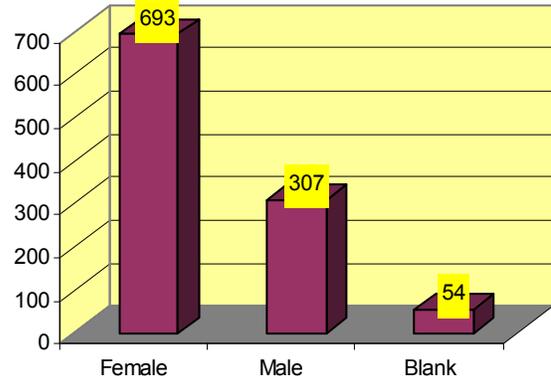
This Executive Summary includes a sample of the survey results. For more information about the survey please contact Tami Hefner, tami@catawbacountync.gov (828) 695-5607 or visit www.catawbacountync.gov to view the survey results and comments in their entirety.

Demographics

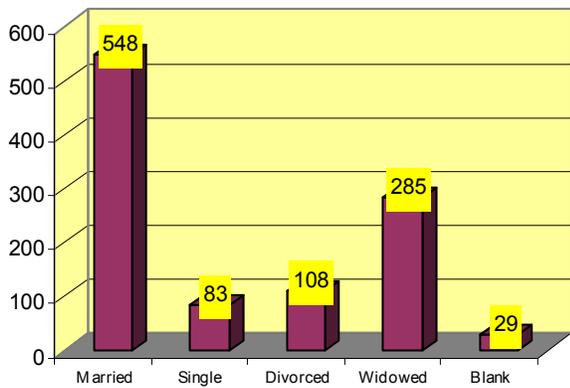
Age



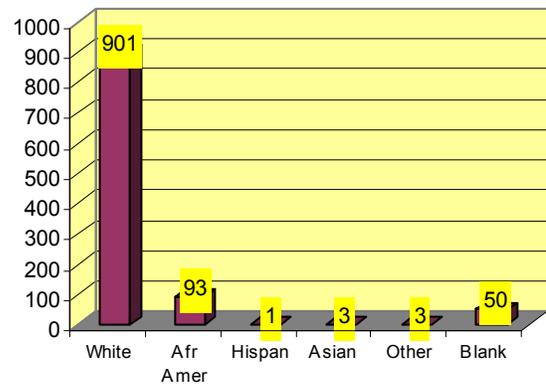
Gender



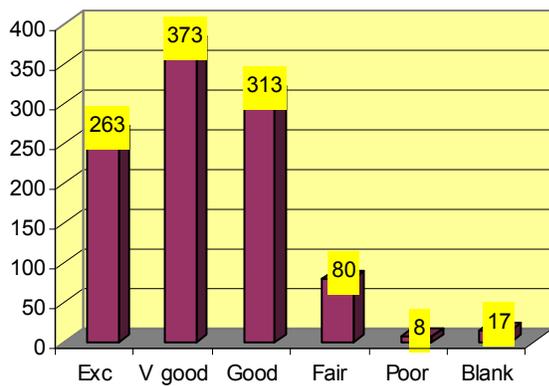
Marital status



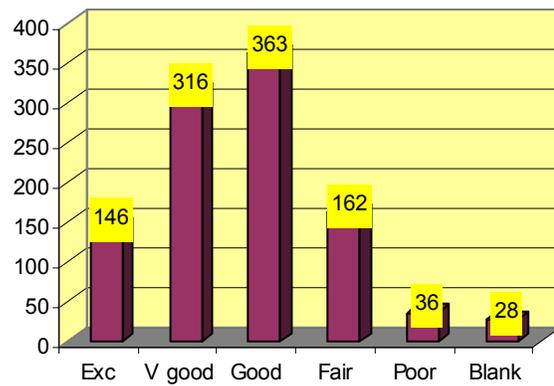
Race



Rate your quality of life

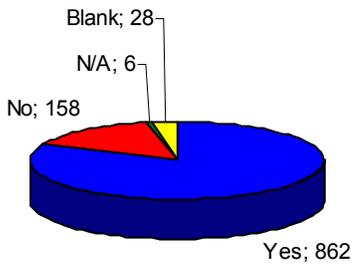


Rate your health



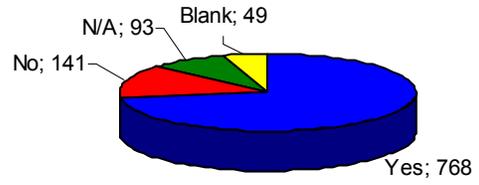
Health

Received the flu vaccine during the last 12 months



■ Yes ■ No ■ N/A ■ Blank

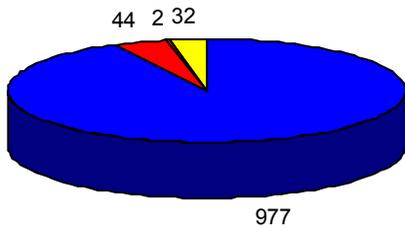
Know where to get help with obtaining medications



■ Yes ■ No ■ N/A ■ Blank

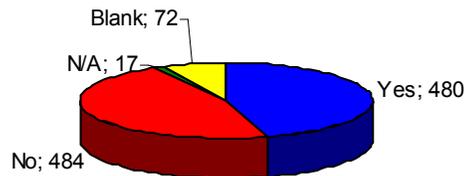
Safety and Security

I feel safe in my home and neighborhood



■ Yes ■ No ■ N/A ■ Blank

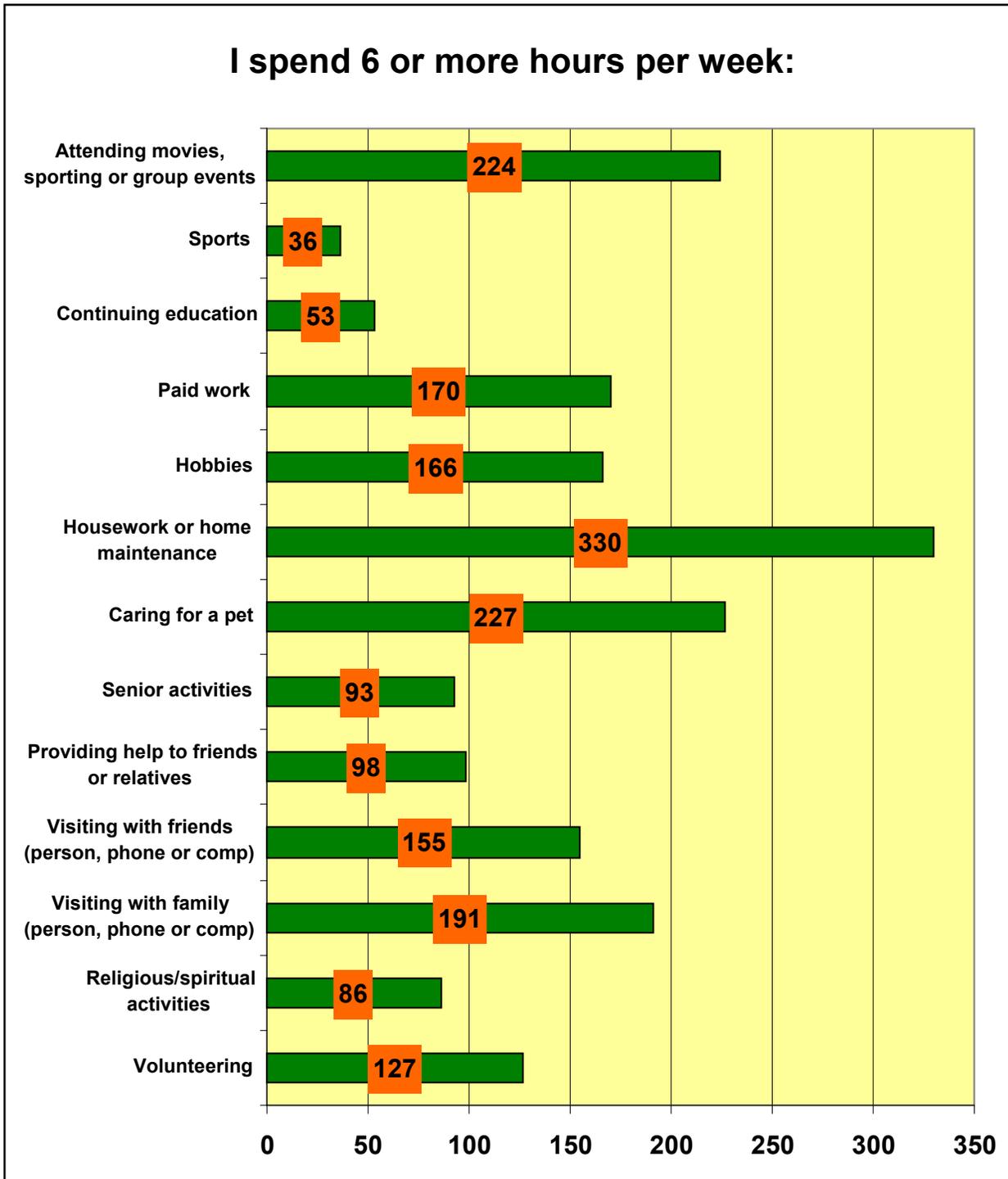
I worry about being a victim of fraud or identity theft



■ Yes ■ No ■ N/A ■ Blank

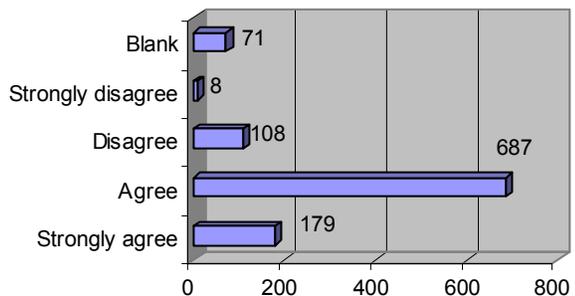
Activities

I spend 6 or more hours per week:

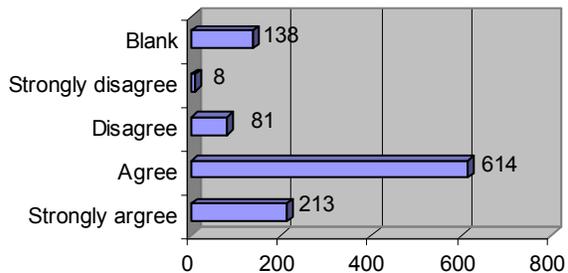


Community Assessment

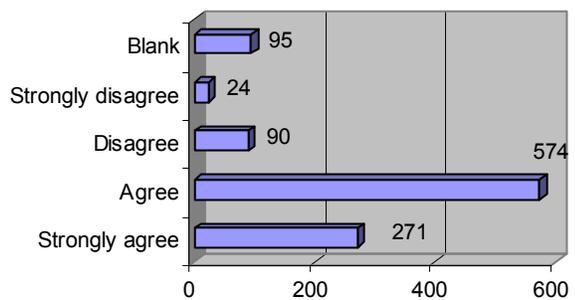
My community values older people



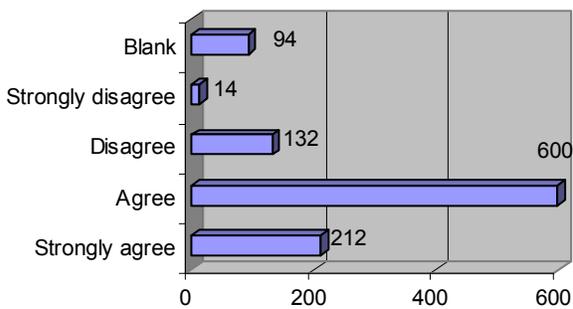
My community values my language and traditions



I have planned for my financial future

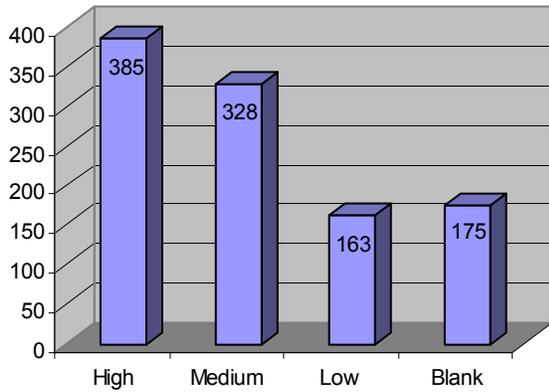


I feel hopeful about the future

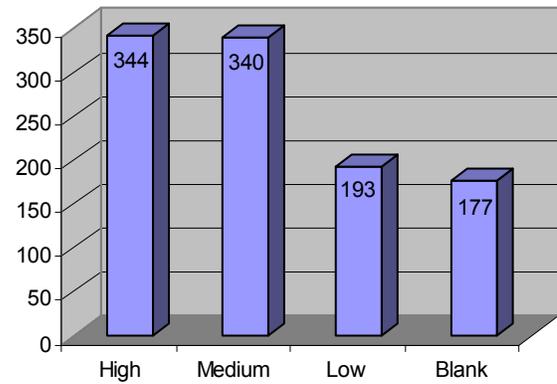


Needs

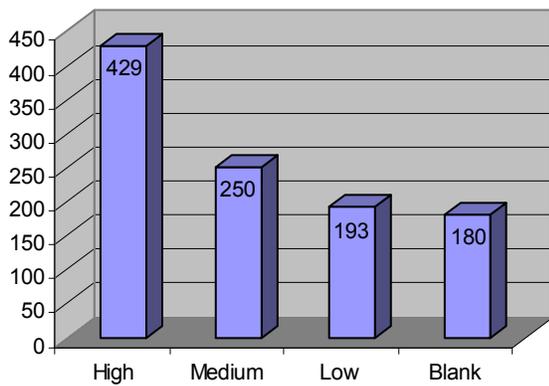
Assistance with personal care



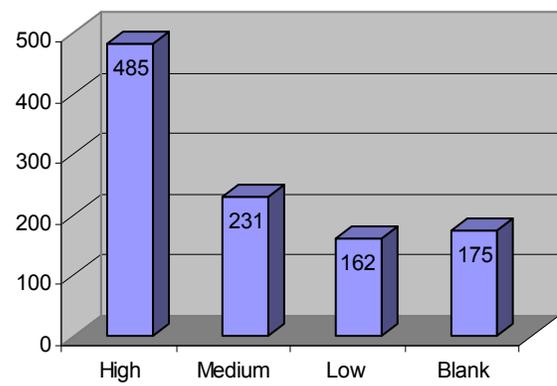
Assistance with housework, laundry, etc.



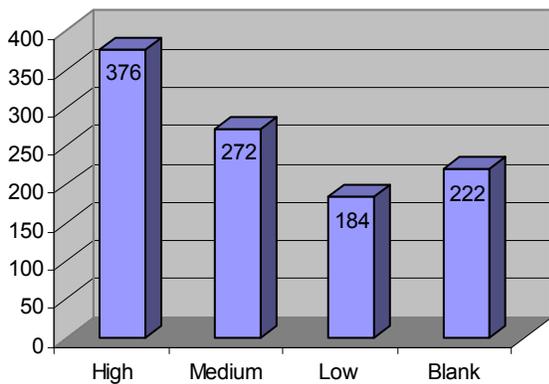
Home delivered meals



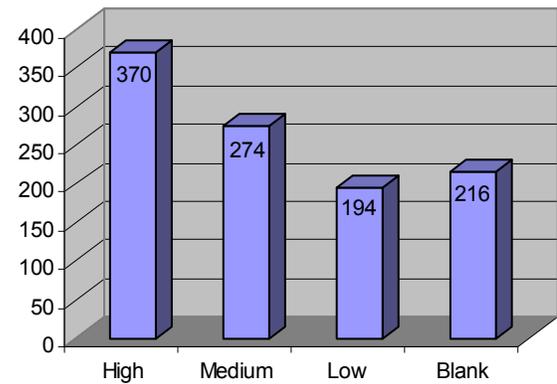
Transportation



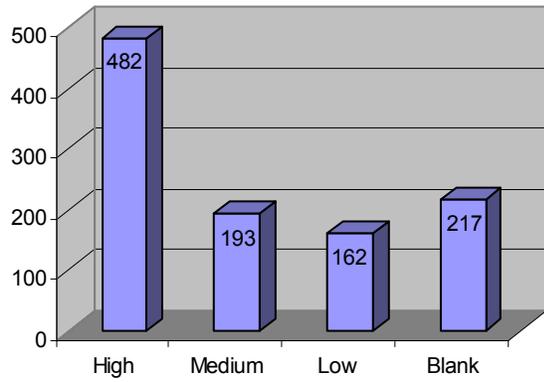
Driver safety



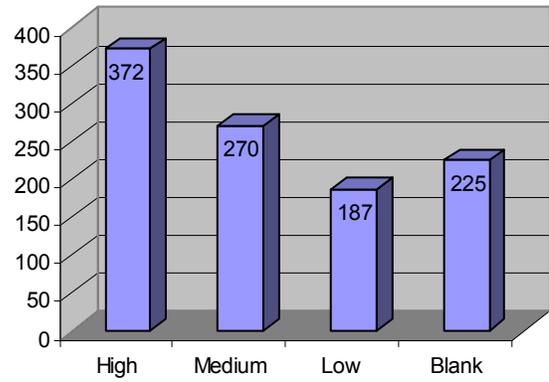
Help paying bills



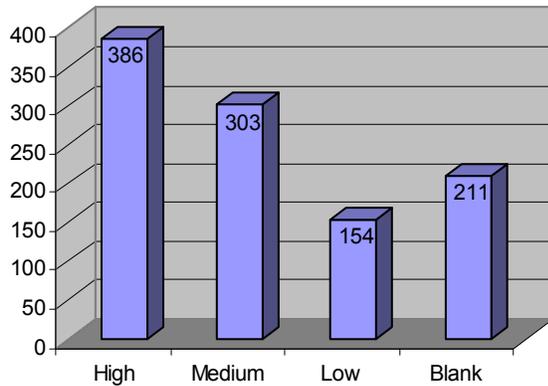
Long term care costs



Financial planning

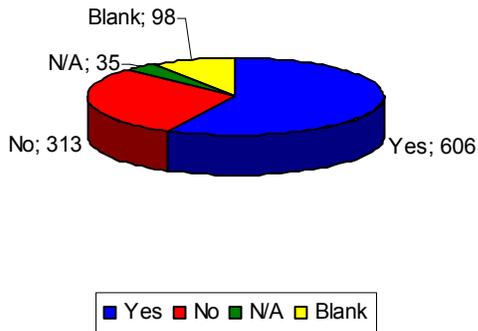


Interact with others

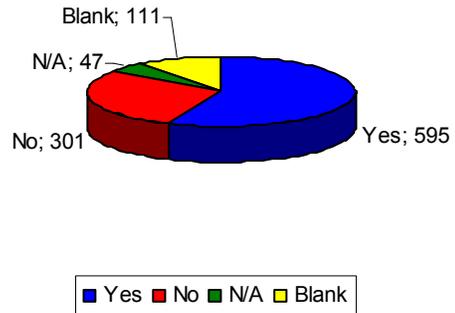


Access and Choice in Service and Support

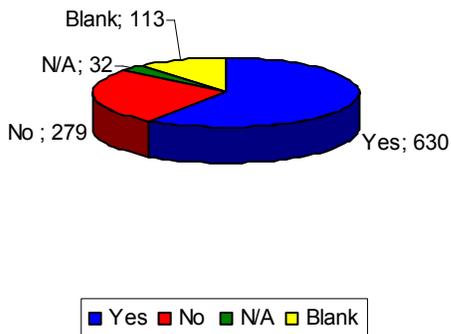
Know type of senoir services available in Catawba County



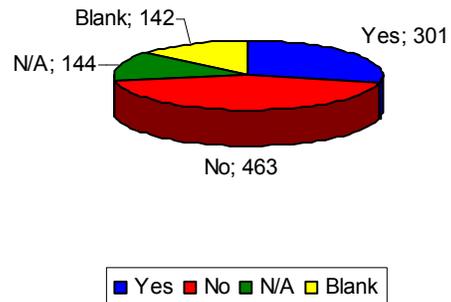
Know how to access or apply for services



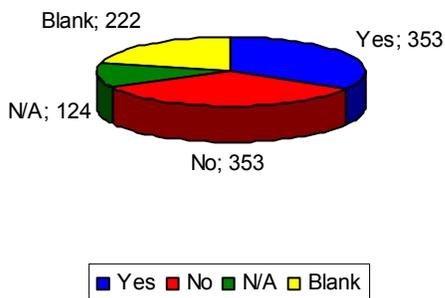
Know who to call about available services



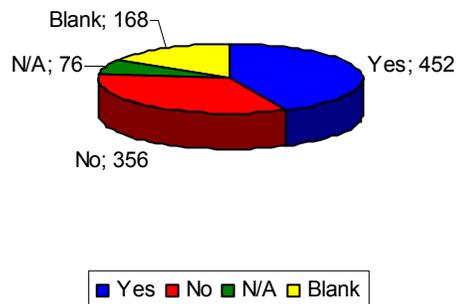
Use the internet to search for available services

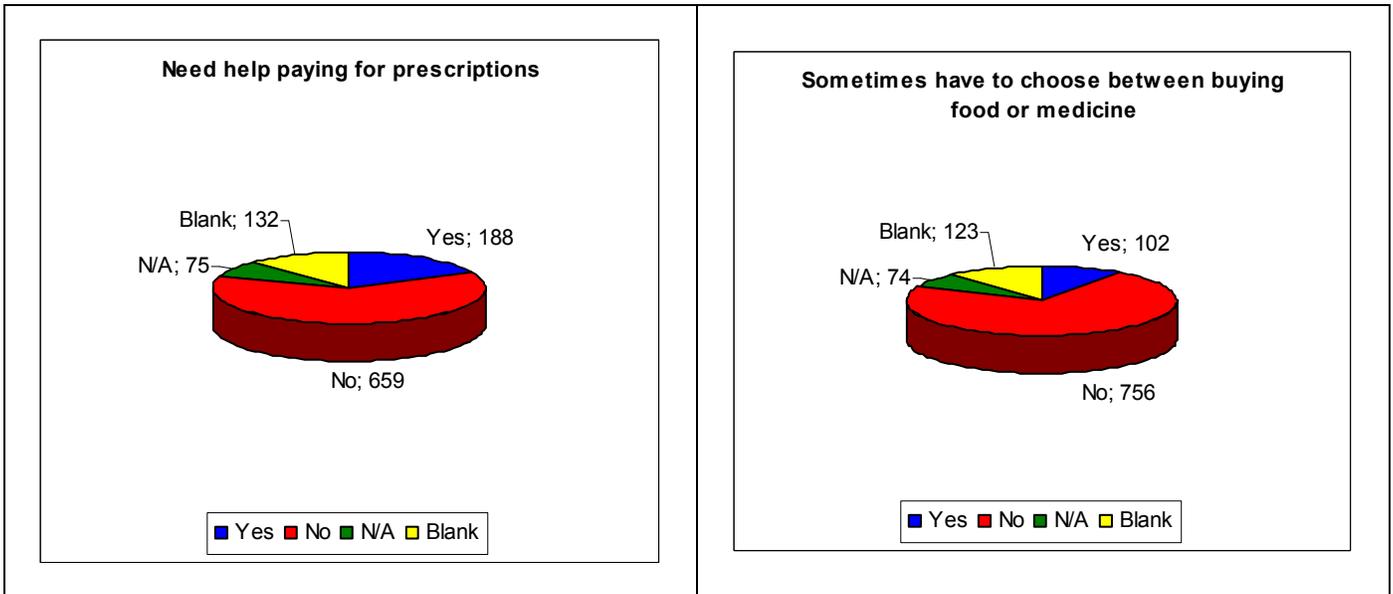


Adequate community support for caregivers



Afford services for myself or loved ones to stay at home





Selected Comments

- Catawba County is wonderful in every way. A beautiful area. Offers much in the way of leisure activities. We just need to improve our economic status (more jobs).
- Retired for 5 years, continue to volunteer in the community, active in Rotary, tutoring and soup kitchen. We are not affluent with an income of \$40,000 for 2 but we have “enough”.
- Areas of concern: Adult Day care affordability and Meals on Wheels.
- There are services out there but I have no idea how to access them.
- I am more concerned for those less fortunate than I. Those without a pension, adequate savings, under educated and no responsible relatives in the area to check on them and see their needs are being met. I feel this is a growing problem as families become more spread out and have less contact with their elderly members.
- Since we are in the SE corner of Catawba County, it’s easier to go to Iredell Co for doctors, hospitals, etc. I get the Charlotte Observer and there is very little news about the happenings in Catawba County. There was more when they had a “Catawba” addition –now the “Lake Norman” paper on Sunday has a little. What I’m trying to say I guess, is that I don’t feel a part of Catawba County.
- I am only 61 years old and I believe that my age has affected my ability to get a job.
- There are a large number of those in our community who need in home assistance but live on a limited budget and cannot afford to pay for in home aide/sitter services but do not qualify for Medicaid either. They are often at home alone, which is often unsafe, but don’t have any other option.
- The donut hole in Medicare must be fixed. Universal health care is a top priority. Transportation and long term care assistance are top priorities. We need better quality nursing homes. We should stop warehousing consumers with developmental disabilities and/or mental illness in assisted living centers.
- Senior Centers are so far apart and old in Catawba County. Most cities I have traveled have modern central facility.
- Would like to see better transportation for seniors in outlying areas.