

**MARQUETTE COUNTY 2009 OLDER ADULTS NEEDS SURVEY  
FINAL REPORT**

**A Countywide Survey of Adults 60 Years of Age and Older**

August 11, 2009

Prepared for the Marquette County Aging Services  
Committee  
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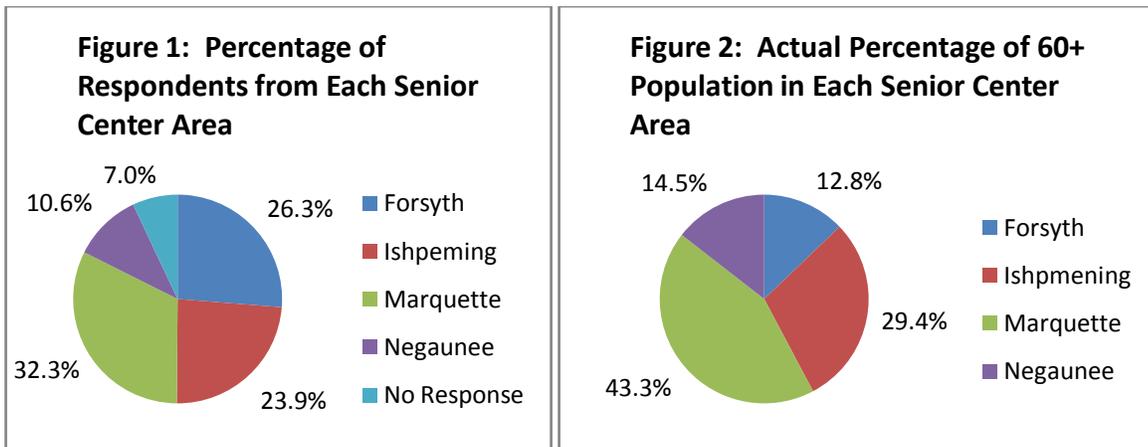
**Introduction**

In the summer and fall of 2008, the Marquette County Aging Services Committee created a 25 question survey (See Appendix A) to learn more about the needs of adults 60 years of age and older in Marquette County. In the spring of 2009, voter registration lists were used to select participants using convenience sampling. Seniors from all cities and townships in Marquette County were included. In total, 815 surveys were mailed and 499 seniors responded for a response rate of 61%.

According to 2007 estimates, there are 12,722 adults 60 years of age or older in Marquette County (U.S. Census, n.d.). Therefore, these 499 responses represent approximately four percent of the older adult population in Marquette County. The following discussion of survey results is guided by the survey questions.

**1. In which township/city do you live? (464 of 499 participants responded)**

Respondents represented all townships and cities in Marquette County. Please see Figure 1 for the percentage of respondents from each senior center area and Figure 2 for the actual percentage of older adults in each senior center area. The Forsyth Senior Center Area is over represented in the data and the remaining senior centers are underrepresented.



**2. Please circle the months you reside in Marquette County. (495 of 499 participants responded)**

Table 1 provides the percentages of respondents that reported residence in Marquette County by month. The lowest percentage of residence was reported for March when nearly 10% of respondents reported that they did not reside in Marquette County. This indicates adequate financial resources and health status for travel. Reported residence in Marquette County during March varied by age. Please see Table 2.

January	92.3%	July	99.2%
February	91.3%	August	99.2%
March	90.5%	September	99.2%
April	94.1%	October	99.4%
May	97.8%	November	97.4%
June	98.6%	December	96.4%

60-64 years	65-74 years	75-84 years	85+ years
90.6%	87.0%	92.4%	94.9%

### 3. Age of senior (497 of 499 participants responded)

The respondents were from all age categories and the percentage in each age category is similar to the actual percentages of older adults in these age categories in Marquette County (General Demographic, n.d.). Please see Table 3.

Age Category	Actual Percentages of Older Adults	Percentage of Survey Respondents
60-64 years	26.5%	25.6%
65-74 years	36.7%	38.8%
75-84 years	25.3%	23.7%
85+	11.4%	11.9%

### 4. Gender (496 of 499 participants responded)

Please see Table 4 for a contrast of males and females 60 years of age and older in Michigan versus respondents to the survey (Michigan, n.d.)

Actual Percentage MI 60 and Older	Percentage Survey Respondents
Males 43.7%	Males 47.0%
Females 56.3%	Females 53.0%

### 5. Living Status (495 of 499 participants responded)

In response to living status, 27.5% reported that they live alone and 72.5% reported that they live with others. National statistics on living arrangements are calculated

at 65 years of age and older. When including only those 65 years of age and older, the percentage of males reporting living alone was 25.1% and the percentage of females reporting living alone was 37.4%. Nationally 19.0% of males 65 years of age and older live alone and 39% of females live alone (Federal Interagency Forum on Aging, 2008).

**6. Marital Status** (495 of 499 participants responded)

With age, more men than women report being married (Federal Interagency Forum on Aging). This was also true for the Marquette County sample with 56.9% of females reporting being married versus 73.5% of males. The report of having a spouse or significant other decreased with age and this decrease was greater among female respondents (see Table 5).

Age Category	Total (Males & Females)	Males	Females
60-64 years	81.1%	84.1%	78.1%
65-74 years	72.5%	76.0%	68.8%
75-84 years	55.2%	69.6%	45.7%
85+ years	27.1%	45.8%	14.3%

**7. Current living quarters (Rent or Own)** (495 of 499 participants responded)

In regards to ownership of residence, 84% of respondents reported that they owned their living quarters and almost all owned a house (other options included Condominium/Townhouse, Apartment, and Mobile Home/Trailer). Ownership of living quarters varied by age with 94.5% of respondents 60-64 years of age, 88.6% of respondents 65-74 years of age, 78.0% of respondents 75-84 years of age, and 57.6% of respondents 85+ years of age reporting home ownership. Ownership of living quarters also varied by marital status. Of those reporting being married or having a significant other, 93.5% reported ownership of living quarters in contrast to 70.5% of widowed respondents and 60.0% of single respondents.

**8. Do you expect to change your living quarters in the next year?** (495 of 499 participants responded)

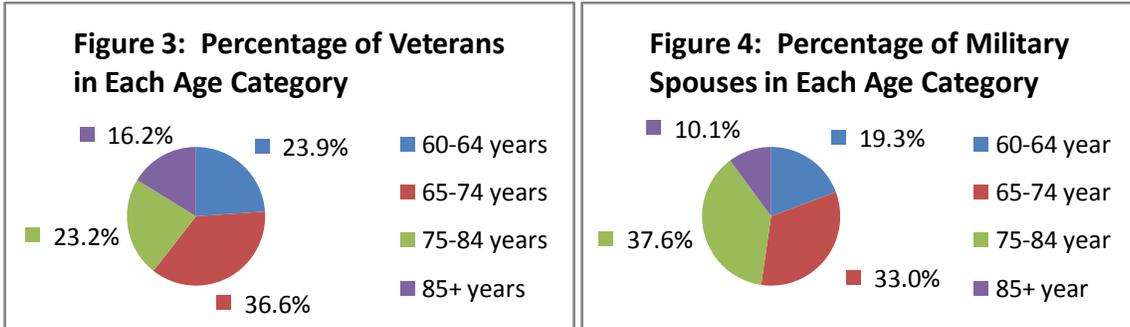
Only 3% reported that they expected to change their living quarters in the next year. The most common expected change was to another house or to an apartment.

**9. Are you a military veteran?** (495 of 499 participants responded)

In total 61.7% of male respondents reported that they were a military veteran. National data are reported by the 65+ population age category. Among the 65+ Marquette County population 64.3% of male respondents reported that they were veterans in contrast to a 2010 projection of 50% nationally (Federal Interagency Forum on Aging, 2008). It is

very interesting to note that all but one male respondent in the 85+ category reported being a military veteran.

The majority of veterans are in the 65-74 year age category while the majority of military veteran spouses are in the 75-84 year age category. See Figures 3 and 4.

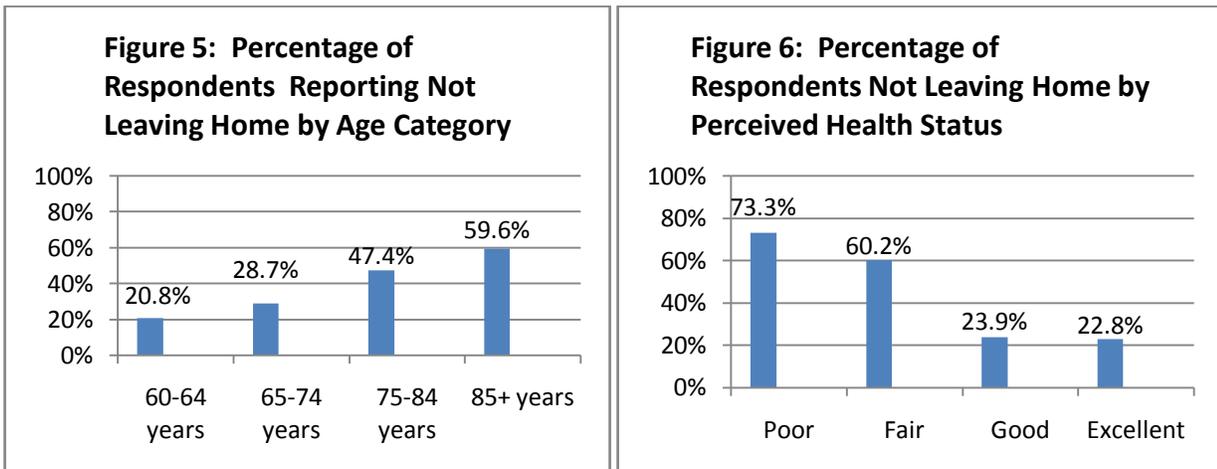


**10. Employment status** (492 of 499 participants responded)

Fourteen percent (69 respondents) reported being employed and six of the 492 respondents reported that they were seeking paid employment.

**11. Do you leave home most days?** (488 of 499 participants responded)

The percentage of those that reported that they did not leave home on most days increased with age and with poorer perceived health status (see Figures 5 & 6).



**12. Check your two most often used forms of transportation.** (494 of 499 participants responded)

The top four reported means of transportation were “My own vehicle” (89.9%), “Relatives and Friends” (35.4%), “Marq Tran Bus” (3.8%), and “Senior Volunteers” (1.4%).

**13. What do you need transportation to access. Please check *all that apply*.** (450 of 499 participants responded to the question).

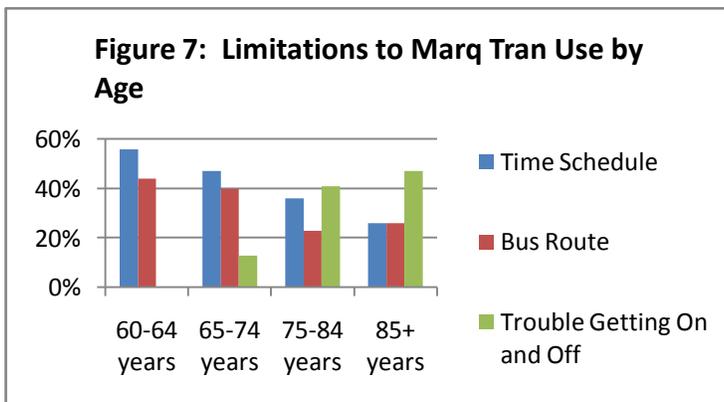
The most frequent response was “Medical appointments or pharmacy” (52.9%), “Grocery store/shopping” (51.3%), “I don’t need transportation” (44.7%), “Entertainment/social outings” (38.0%), and “Senior services” ( 6.4%).

**14. What limits you from using the Marq Tran Bus? *Mark all that apply*.** (413 of 499 participants responded)

The majority of respondents (86.9%) reported that they did not need Marq Tran. Those reporting no need for Marq Tran varied by age and by gender. See Table 6.

Age Category	Total Males & Females	Males	Females
60-64 years	77.2%	77.8%	76.6%
65-74 years	76.2%	79.6%	72.2%
75-84 years	70.3%	78.7.%	64.8%
85+ years	49.2%	62.5%	40.0%

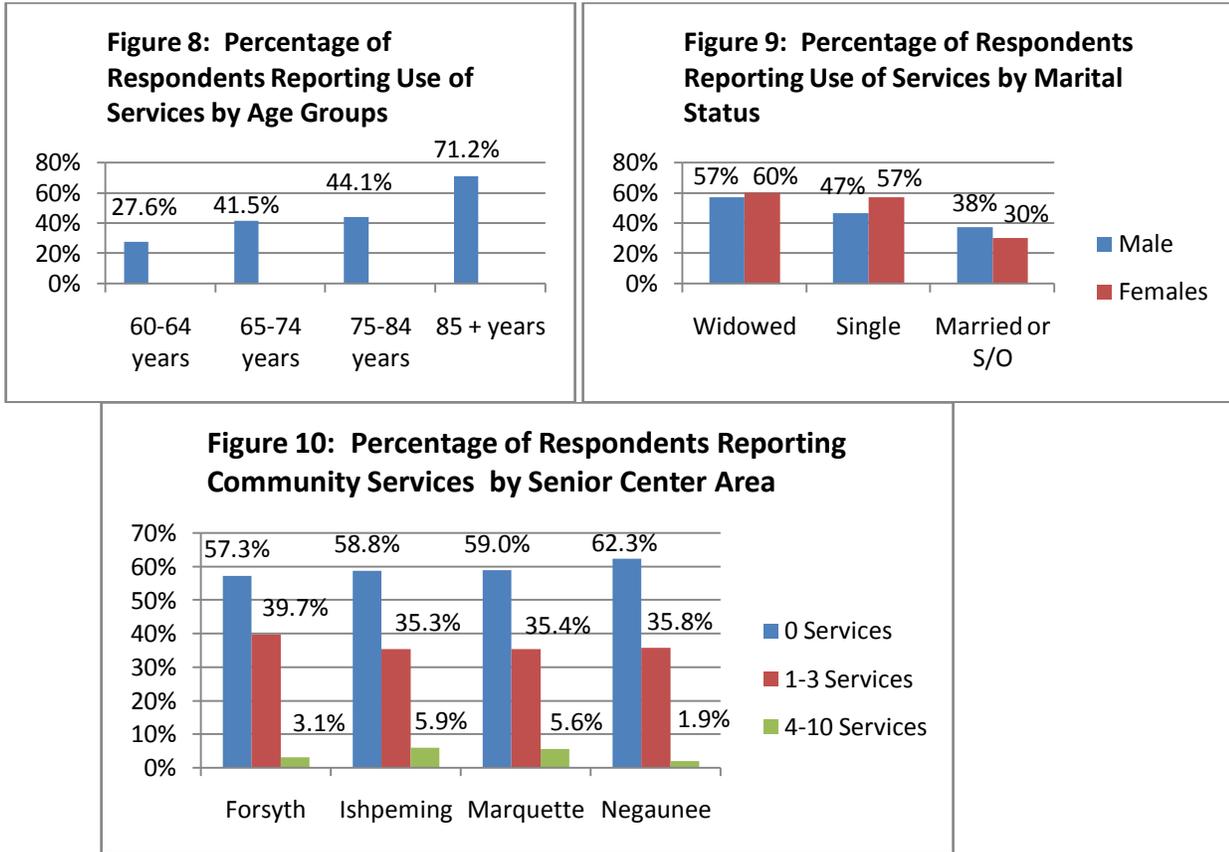
Of those with limitations for using Marq Tran, 9.9% (41 respondents) reported that the time schedule does not fit their needs, 8.0% (33 respondents) reported that the bus route does not stop at the places they need to go, and 5.6% (23 respondents) reported that they had trouble getting on and off the bus. These limitations varied greatly by age. Please see Figure 7.



**15. Which of these services have you used in Marquette County? *Check all that apply*.** (209 of 499 participants responded)

As noted, respondents had the opportunity to choose more than one response. The five most commonly reported services used were “Social Activities” (34.1%), “Monitoring BP, Blood Sugar Etc” (24.0%), “Veteran’s Benefits” (20.7%), “Help with Household Chores” (20.2%) and “Senior Congregate Meals” (20.2%). Reported use of services increased with age and decreased among those also reporting being married or having a

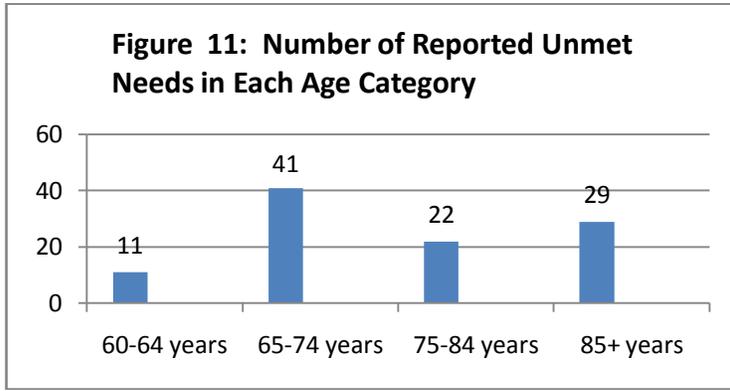
significant other (see Figures 8 & 9). Figure 10 provides the percentages of respondents that report use of community services by senior center area.



The reported use of in-home services increased with age. In the 60-64 year age category three respondents reported the use of chore service, in contrast to 10 in the 65-74 year age category, 14 in the 75-84 year age category, and 15 in the 85+ category. There was a similar trend with Meals on Wheels with two respondents in the 60-64 year age category, in contrast to four in the 65-74 year age category, seven in the 75-84 year age category and 14 in the 85+ category. It is important to note that the 85+ category made up just under 12% of survey respondents.

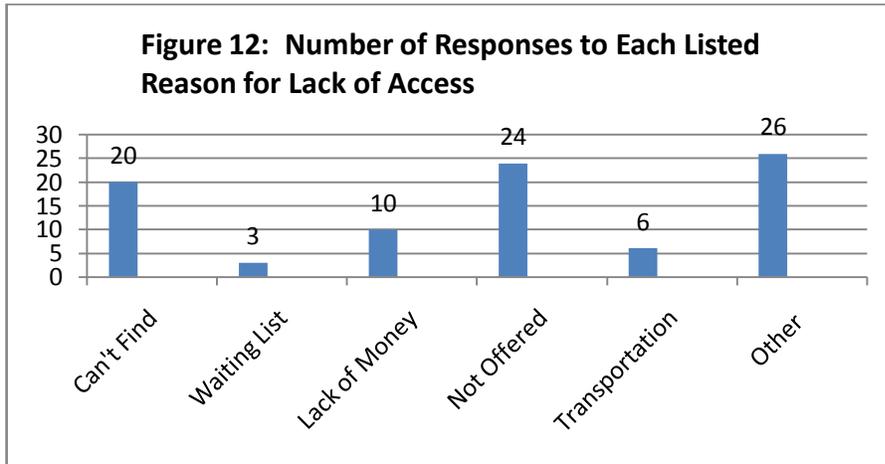
**16. Which of these services have you needed over the past year but have been unable to access in Marquette County? (59 of 499 participants responded)**

The most frequently reported needs were “Social Activities” (18.6%), “Help with Household Chores” (18.6%), “Coordination of Transportation” (18.6%), and “Financial Assistance” (18.6%). “Legal Assistance” and “Shopping Assistance” each had 15.3% of the responses. Please see Figure 11 for needs when contrasted by age categories.



**17. Why have you been unable to access these services? Please check all that apply.** (53 of 499 participants responded to the question).

The most frequent response was that the “service was not offered where I live”. Please see all responses in Figure 12.

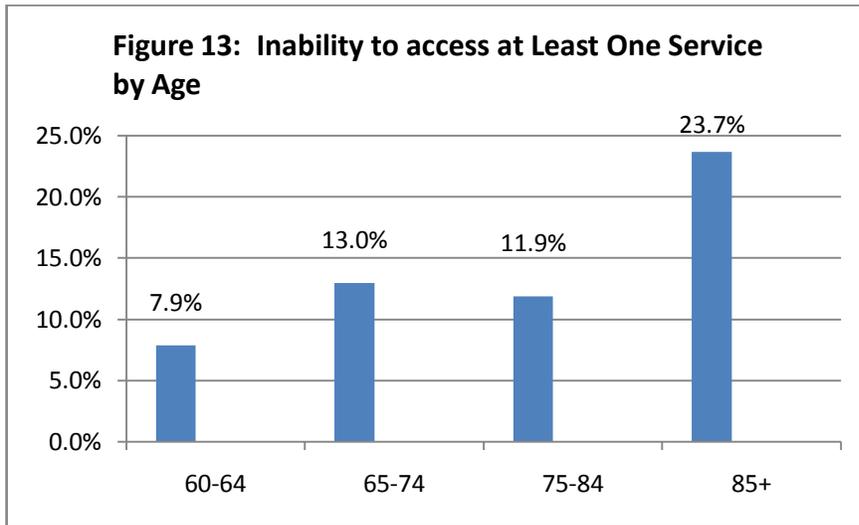


The “Other” category contained: Don’t need (17), Don’t believe in them (1), What services? (1), I can’t drive anymore (1), Unsure what is available (1), Make too much money (1), They help people only in town (1), Bus schedule was too full (1), Too much red tape (1), I didn’t think about it (1).

The reasons given for the inability to access services differed by senior center area. Please see Table 7 (Note seven percent of respondents did not report their place of residence, therefore their reasons for inability to access services are not included in Table 7).

Reasons	Forsyth	Ishpeming	Marquette	Negaunee
I don’t know where to find them.	3	3	8	0
I have been on a waiting list.	2	0	0	1
I don’t have the money.	2	2	4	0
They are not offered where I live.	11	7	5	0
I don’t have transportation.	1	2	3	0

As age increased, the inability to access at least one service increased. See Figure 13.



**18. In the last year, have you refused services available from local service providers.** (429 of 499 participants responded)

Forty-two respondents (9.8%) reported that they refused services in the last year. More individuals in the 85+ category refused services. Please see Table 8.

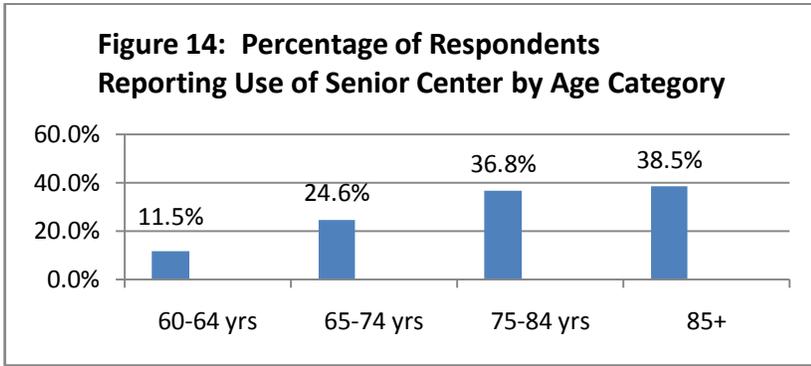
60-64 years	65-74 years	75-84 years	85+ years
7.2%	10.6%	7.3%	18.0%

**19. If yes, why have you refused these services?** (98 of 499 participants responded)

Only 42 respondents checked “yes” to question 18, however 98 respondents answered this question. When considering only those who responded that they had refused services (responded “yes” to question 19), 31 reported that they did not need the services that were offered, six reported that family helped them out with this service, and one reported that friends helped with this service. Four respondents that reported that they refused services in the past year left this question blank.

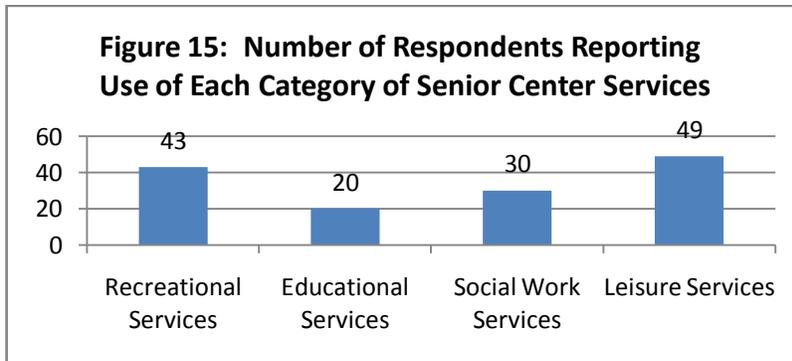
**20. Have you used your local senior center in the past year?** (477 of 499 participants responded)

Overall 122 reported yes and 355 respondents reported no they had not used their local senior center. Local senior center use increased with age (see Figure 14). More females(26.2%) than males (22.7%) reported using their local senior center. Those that reported living alone reported a higher use of their local senior center (31.6%) in contrast to those that reported living with others (22.0%).



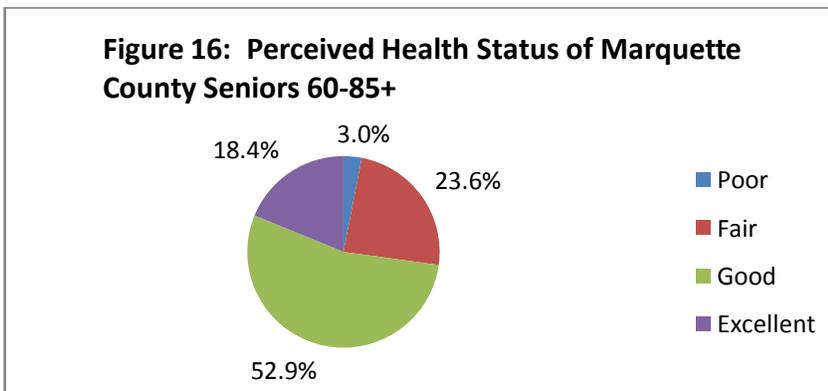
**21. If you used your senior center in the past year what services have you used?**  
 (111 of 499 participants responded)

Please see Figure 15 for the responses to each listed service.



**22. How would you rate your health?** (489 of 499 participants responded)

Please see percentages for each age category in Figure 16. Nationally, 24.8% of adults 65+ report poor or fair health (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2009). When the 60-64 year old category was removed from the Marquette County survey data, 31.1% of respondents reported poor to fair health.



**23. If you are between the ages of 60 to 65, do you have difficulty accessing health care due to lack of insurance?**

Of those between 60 and 65 years of age that responded to this question, nine respondents (7.4%) reported that they had difficulty accessing health care due to lack of insurance. National data groups utilize the 55-65 age category and in this age category, 10.8% nationally reported a lack of insurance (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2009).

**24. Do you have a primary care physician?** (480 of 499 participants responded)

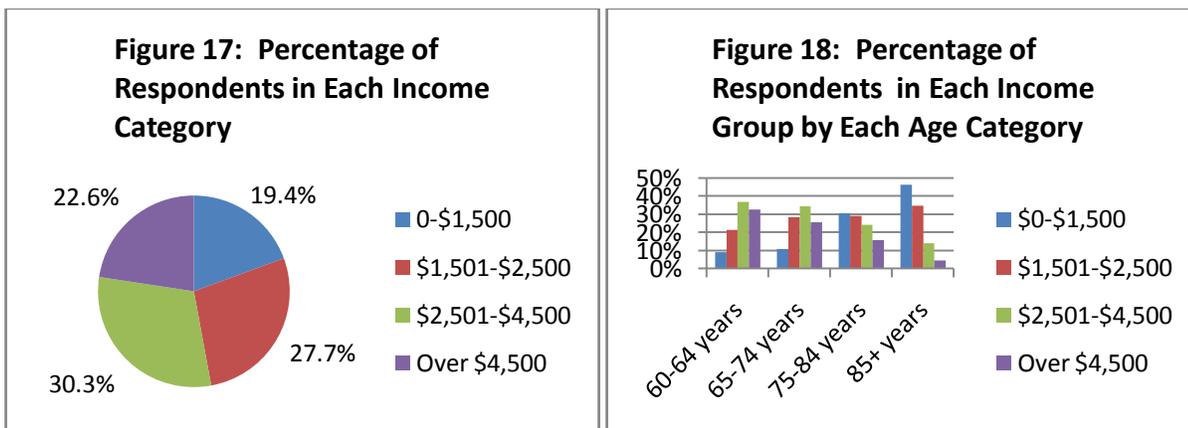
Fourteen respondents reported that they did not have a primary care physician. Please see Table 9.

60-64 years	65-74 years	75-84 years	85+ years
6	7	0	1

**Optional Question**

**25. Total monthly household income from all sources.** (352 of 499 participants responded)

Seventy percent of respondents answered this optional question. Note that 29.9% of the 60-64 year old category, 29.5% of those in the 65-74 year age category, 30.5% of those in the 75-84 year age category, and 27.1% of those in the 85+ age category did not answer this question. See Figures 17 & 18 for the percent of respondents in each income category and the percent of respondents in each age category by income category.



According to *The Elder Economic Security Initiative* (2009), older adults in Marquette County living alone need \$1,379.00 monthly to meet living expenses if they own their own home and do not have a mortgage. If they rent a residence with one bedroom, they

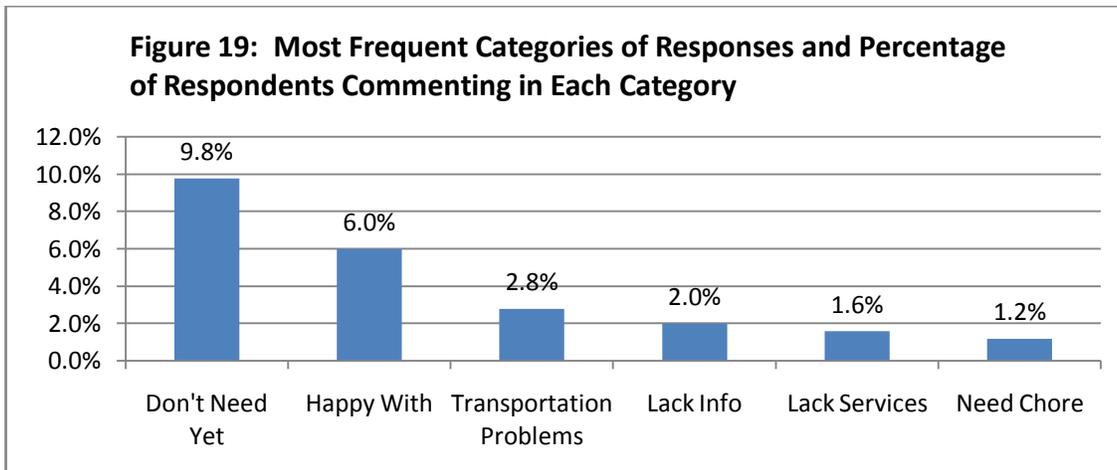
would need \$1,483.00 and if they own their own home and have a mortgage, they would need \$1,842.00 monthly.

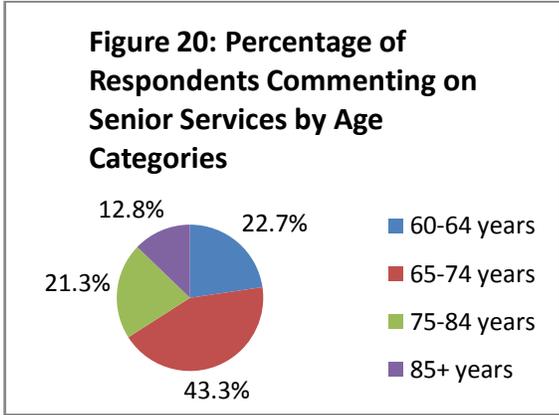
Married older adults in Marquette County would need \$2,210.00 to meet living expenses if they own their own home and do not have a mortgage. If they rent a residence with one bedroom, they would need \$2,313.00 and if they own their own home and have a mortgage, they would need \$2,672.00 monthly. Table 10 provides the percentage of respondents in each income category by marital status. Please note, the income question was answered by 222 of the 319 respondents that reported being married, 82 of the 112 respondents that reported being widowed, 46 of the 60 respondents that reported being single, and one of the three respondents that reported having a significant other).

	0-\$1,500	\$1,501-\$2,500	\$2,501-4,500	>\$4,500
Married or Significant Other	7.20%	23.4%	39.6%	30.2%
Widowed	47.6%	28.0%	15.9%	8.5%
Single	28.3%	47.8%	10.9%	13.0%

**Please share any comments about senior services in Marquette County.** (141 of 499 respondents commented in this section)

Most comments concerning senior services in Marquette County were positive. Many commented that while they don't need services at this time, they are pleased to know that they are available if they do need them. Please see Figure 19 for the most common categories of comments and Figure 20 for the percentage responding to this open-ended question by age group.

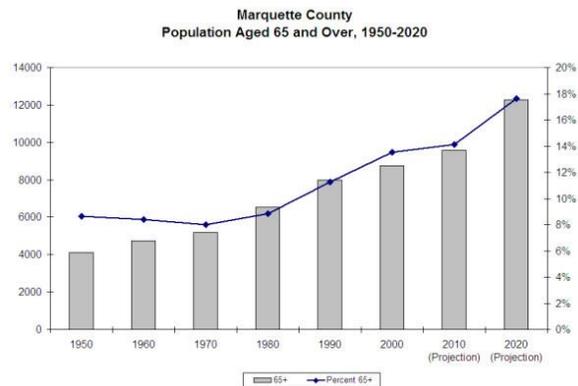
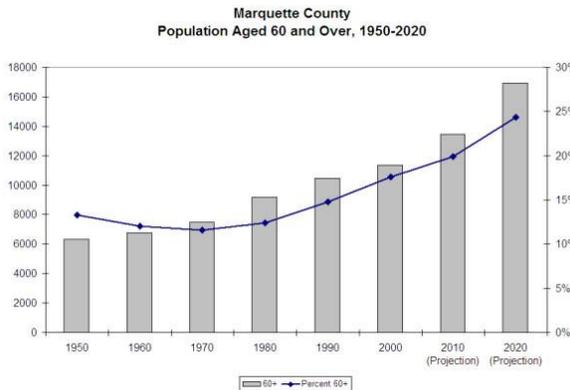


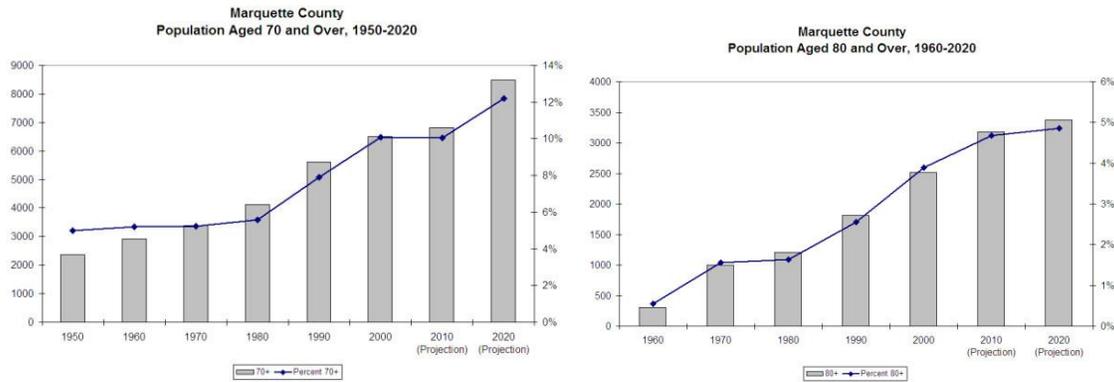


**Considerations**

Consider the potential need for increased services overall.

- Respondents who reported that they were not married or that they did not have a significant other reported higher community service use than those that were married or had a significant other. This is important as divorced and never married elders are expected to increase over time (Ferrini & Ferrini, 2008). Similarly, respondents reporting living alone reported higher use of their local senior center than those reporting living with others. Just over one quarter of respondents reported living alone.
- A higher percentage of respondents in the older age categories reported use of community services and reported increased use of the senior center in contrast to younger respondents. Older adults in all age categories are projected to increase in Marquette County. Please see the figures below downloaded from the Marquette County Aging Service’s Website.





### Consider the potential need for increased in-home services.

- Those reporting not leaving home most days increased with age from 20.8% for those 60-64 years of age to 59.6% for those 85+ years of age. As the number of oldest-old increase, more individuals may need in-home services such as assistance with personal care and Meals on Wheels. Nationally one-fourth of the young old (65-74 years of age) and almost one-half of the old-old (75 and older) in the United States had at least one limitation in activity of daily living (feeding, dressing, bathing, toileting) due to chronic disease (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2005) increasing the need for in-home services.
- As age increased, fewer respondents reported that they did not need Marq Tran. Yet, this older group also reported more limitations to using Marq Tran due to trouble getting on and off the bus. This increased reliance on Marq Tran coupled with difficulty using Marq Tran, limits the ability for the oldest-old to access services outside their home.

### Consider the increasing need for home maintenance.

- The overwhelming majority (84%) of respondents reported that they owned their own home. Only 3% reported that they expected to change their living quarters in the next year. Consider the increasing need for chore service and home maintenance as an increasing number of seniors continue upkeep on their older homes.

### Consider the need to expand services in service areas to meet the needs of the senior population.

- The most common reason cited for an inability to access services in the Forsyth and Ishpeming Senior Center Areas was that the service that was needed was not available where the respondent lived.
- Grants may be helpful in securing funding for services in the more rural areas.

Consider the long-term implications of the current economy.

- Reported income was higher among the young-old and decreased with age. This may be an indication that the future baby-boom generation will be a wealthier age group. A wealthier senior group would have the resources needed to purchase services. However, the implications of the current economy must be considered. Many of the seniors from the baby-boom generation do not have traditional retirement programs, but instead have various retirement programs that are dependent upon stock market changes. This makes the financial status of future elders difficult to predict over the long term.

Consider collaborative educational efforts with community providers

- Of male respondents, 61.7% reported that they are a military veteran. When considering age groups, the largest group of military veterans among Marquette County seniors is in the 65-74 year age group. As this group moves to the 75-84 and 85+ age group their service needs will increase. Many of these veterans may qualify for veteran's services. A collaboration between the Marquette County Senior Network and Military Service Officers would be important in educating this large group of seniors about services they may be eligible to receive.
- The most frequently reported activities "needed" but unable to access were Social Activities, Help with Household Chores, Coordination of Transportation, Financial Assistance, Legal Assistance, Shopping Assistance, Commodity Foods, Veteran's Benefits. The most commonly reported reasons why included: not offered where I live, "I don't know how to find them". Collaborative work with the 211 system may be helpful in facilitating access to available services.

Consider funding issues over the long term.

- The baby-boom generation was born between 1946 and 1964. During the year of this survey (2009), they are between 45 and 63 years of age and relatively few are in need of aging services. In 25 years (2034), they will be between 70 and 88 years of age. The numbers of oldest-old, who are most in need of services, will increase greatly (Federal Interagency Forum on Aging, 2008). In that same year (2034), there will only be 2.1 workers for every person receiving Social Security benefits (Social Security Basic Facts, 2009).
- Long-term planning to address this projected increase must begin early to provide adequate resources and services to meet the needs of an aging population that is projected to double between 2000 to 2030 (Federal Interagency Forum on Aging, 2008).

**Summary**

When considering population projections and the reported use of services, it is clear that in the coming years Marquette County Aging Services will be challenged by the need to provide many more services with limited funding. Educating the public is important in garnering the necessary support to meet this need.

The Marquette County Aging Services Committee may want to consider holding focus groups in communities throughout Marquette County. These groups would have the potential for multiple benefits including educating adults and older adults about the services available to promote healthy-independent living and informing adults and older adults about the future challenges for increased service need. Focus groups would also provide an opportunity to explore solutions generated at the grassroots level. Actively engaging community members in solutions has the potential to focus and build upon each community's assets. It also gives community members ownership in suggested programming.

However, oversight at the county level is equally important. Members of the Marquette County Aging Services Committee possess expertise important in their role as advocates for older adults. This expertise can be used to explore collaborative relationships with service providers countywide.

In order to address the growing service needs of Marquette County seniors it will be important to not only remain open to new and innovative programming, but to encourage it. The Marquette County Aging Services Committee may want to consider having a pool of funding that can be used to fund innovative programming that more efficiently meets senior service needs than traditional programming. Open to senior services programming currently receiving millage funding, this support may provide necessary start-up monies for programming changes that in the long-term would decrease costs and therefore increase service provision. An effective means of evaluation would be critical to determining the effectiveness of these programming changes.

Marquette County faces many future challenges in meeting the service needs of County seniors. This survey was important in beginning to understanding these challenges.

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**Appendix A**

**2009 NEEDS SURVEY OF OLDER ADULTS  
MARQUETTE COUNTY**

The County of Marquette is trying to learn more about the needs of adults 60 years of age or older in the county. Your answers to the questions below will help providers of aging services to plan and develop services to meet the needs of our community's older adults and their caregivers.

Please take a few minutes to complete this short survey **whether you need aging services or not** and return it in the postage paid envelope by February 20, 2009. All information will be kept confidential.

If you are age 60 or older, answer these questions for YOURSELF. As a caregiver, please answer on behalf of a SPECIFIC SENIOR age 60 or older.

1. In which township/city do you live?

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2. Please circle the months you reside in Marquette County:

Jan Feb Mar Apr May June  
July Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec

Please place a check next to the correct response for each question below.

3. Age of senior  
 60-64 years  
 65-74 years  
 75-84 years  
 85 +

4. Gender:  
 Male  
 Female

5. Living status:  
 Live alone  
 Live with someone/others

6. Marital status:  
 Married  
 Widowed  
 Single  
 Significant Other

7. Current living quarters:  
 Rent or Own (Please Circle)  
 House  
 Condominium / Townhouse  
 Apartment  
 Mobile home / trailer  
 Assisted living facility  
 Relative's home  
 Senior Housing

8. Do you expect to change your living quarters in the next year? Yes\_\_ No\_\_  
 If yes, will you move to a/an:  
 House  
 Condominium / Townhouse  
 Apartment  
 Mobile home / trailer  
 Assisted living facility  
 Relative's home  
 Nursing Home  
 Foster Care  
 Senior Housing  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Are you a military Veteran?

- Yes
- No
- I am the spouse of a Veteran

10. Employment status:

- Yes, I am employed
- No, Retired
- I am Seeking Paid Employment

11. Do you leave home most days?

- Yes
- No

12. Check your two most often used forms of transportation.

- My own vehicle
- Relatives/friends
- Marq Tran Bus
- Taxi
- Senior Volunteers (RSVP)
- Transportation is not available
- I don't need transportation
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

13. What do you need transportation to access? Please check all that apply.

- Senior services
- Medical appointments or pharmacy
- Grocery store/shopping
- Entertainment/social outings
- I don't need transportation
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

14. What limits you from using Marq Tran Bus? Mark all that apply.

- The time schedule does not fit my needs.
- The bus route does not stop at the places I need to go.
- I have trouble getting on & off the bus
- I don't need Marq Tran
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

15. Which of these services have you **used** in Marquette County? Check all that apply.

- Social Activities
- Help with Household Chores
- Senior Congregate Meals
- Coordination of Transportation
- Adult Day Care
- Financial Assistance
- Legal Assistance
- Affordable Housing
- Meals-on-Wheels
- Shopping Assistance
- Food Preparation
- Commodity Foods
- Medical Care Access Coalition
- Veteran's Benefits
- Assistance with Personal Care
- Monitoring BP, Blood Sugar, Etc.
- Education on Health Condition
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

16. Which of these services have you **needed** over the past year but have been **unable to access** in Marquette County?

- Social Activities
- Help with Household Chores
- Senior Congregate Meals
- Coordination of Transportation
- Adult Day Care
- Financial Assistance
- Legal Assistance
- Affordable Housing
- Meals-on-Wheels
- Shopping Assistance
- Food Preparation
- Commodity Foods
- Medical Care Access Coalition
- Veteran's Benefits
- Assistance with Personal Care
- Monitoring BP, Blood Sugar, Etc.
- Education on Health Condition
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

17. Why have you been unable to access these services? Please check all that apply.

- I don't know how to find them.
- I have been on a waiting list.
- I don't have the money.
- They are not offered where I live.
- I don't have transportation.
- Other

18. In the last year, have you refused services available from local service providers?

- Yes
- No

19. If yes, why have you refused these services?

- I didn't need them
- Family members help me.
- Friends help me.
- I pay for my own help.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

20. Have you used your local Senior Center in the past year?

- Yes
- No

21. If yes, which services have you used?

- Recreational Services
- Educational Services
- Social Work Services
- Leisure Services

22. How would you rate your health?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

23. If you are between the ages of 60 to 65, do you have difficulty accessing health care due to lack of insurance?

- Yes
- No

24. Do you have a primary care physician?

- Yes
- No

**Optional Question:**

25. Total monthly household income from all sources:

- \$ 0 - \$1,500
- \$1,501- \$2,500
- \$2,501- \$4,500
- Over \$4,500

Please share any comments about senior services in Marquette County:

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**Thank you for taking your time to fill out this survey!**