American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Community Assessment Report

United Way of Weld County
Aging Well Collective Impact Group

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Introduction

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Network of Age-Friendly Communities, founded in 2012, describes itself as "a catalyst to educate local leaders (both elected officials and engaged residents) and encourage them to implement the types of changes that make communities more livable for people of all ages, especially older adults.[1]" The Network of Age Friendly Communities provides a framework for organizing the age-friendly efforts around 8 Domains, which helps make the process more manageable and targeted.

Meanwhile, in 2020-2021, the Aging Well Collective Impact Workgroup, recognized that AARP's process would assist in the group's efforts to identify priority actions to take to improve life for aging Weld County residents. In April, 2021 on behalf of Evans, Garden City, and Greeley, the Aging Well (AW) Collective Impact Group applied to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

The Aging Well application was accepted for the three named communities. In addition, AARP also approved the application to serve as a regional application for the entirety of Weld County, meaning that any other Weld County community can join the Network of Age-Friendly Communities at any point. As of March 2022, the three original communities remain the only participants. Once the application is accepted, the communities are asked to complete an assessment and then write a three-year action plan based on the information gathered.

From August through early November 2021, the AW Collective Impact Workgroup worked to complete the community assessment through a county-wide survey process with listening sessions hosted in the participating communities. The listening sessions largely corroborated the information gathered in the survey. Results on the positive end of the spectrum indicated that the parks system was a source of pride along with the diversity of the community. With regards to areas of improvement, the notable takeaways were that the county as a whole and the Evans, Garden City, and Greeley region specifically, are lacking in
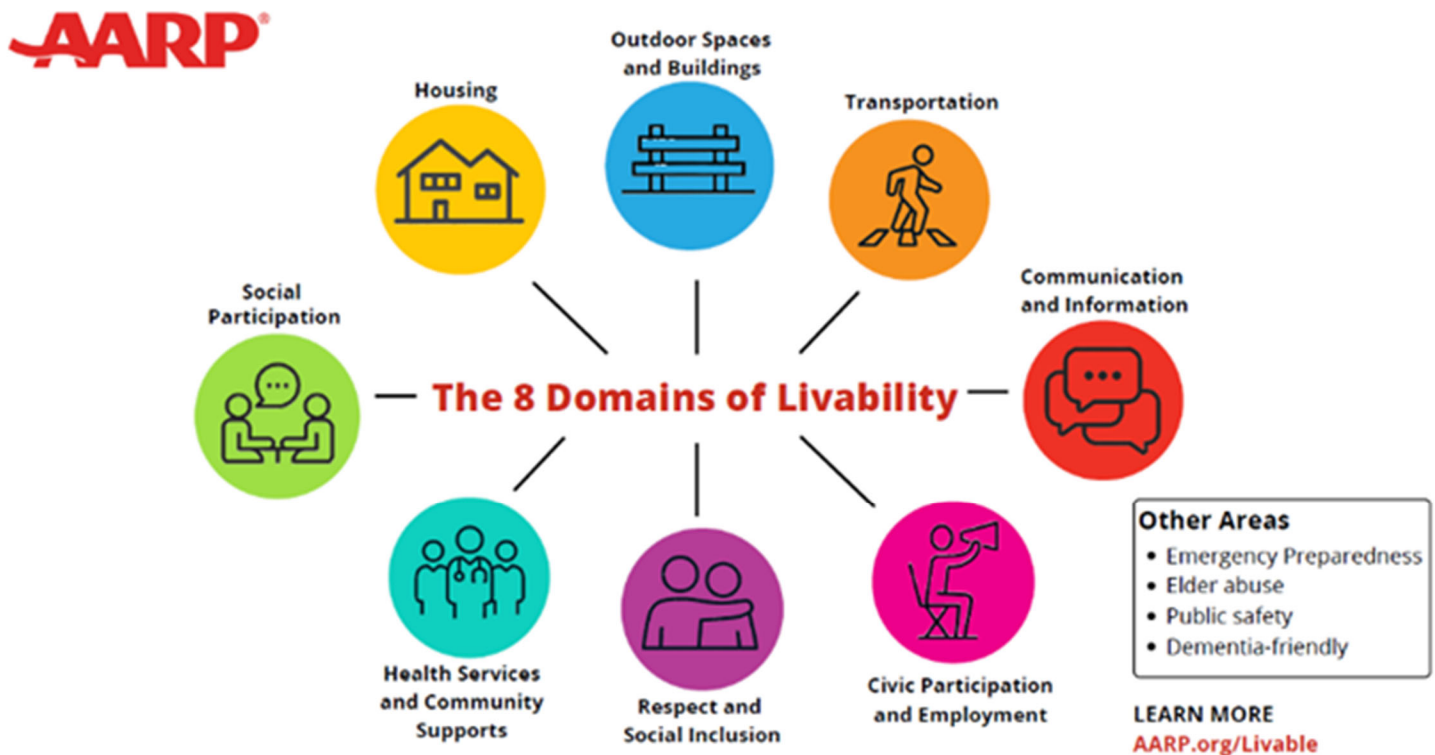- effective and affordable alternatives to personal vehicles as transportation,
- safe, affordable, and available low-income housing options
- affordable in-home medical and personal care services
- centralized and easily accessible source of community information

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[1] https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/network-age-friendly-communities/info-2014/an-introduction.html

As recommended by the AARP framework, the needs of the community have been divided into 8 domains in order to provide detailed and targeted analysis. The domains are depicted in the graphic below:

These areas of need are central to allowing individuals to remain in their homes safely and with dignity for as long as desired.

The objective of this report is to:
   A.   provide an account of the community assessment process in order to replicate and improve on it in the future,
   B.   show the demographic make-up and discuss potential biases within the collected data,
   C.   give a general overview of the data as they relate to the 8 domains of livability in order to inform the three-year action plans to be written by the Aging Well Collective Impact group.

Methodology

The AARP developed a standardized age-friendly survey that can be used by any member community for free. An unaltered version of the AARP survey was chosen as the base-line method for the community assessment and was distributed throughout the county. The distribution process involved both digital and paper copies of the survey. The digital version was only available in English, but the paper copy was available in both English and Spanish.

A local community organization, Hispanic Women of Weld County (HWWC), offered to help with the distribution and collection of the Spanish version. English paper copies were provided to senior centers, recreation centers, and other government buildings throughout the County. Fliers advertising the survey were also distributed throughout the county. The AWCI shared the information through social media, networking emails and similar digital marketing methods. As an additional incentive, an option to participate in a drawing for one of five $50 VISA gift cards was available to those who completed the survey. A total of 533 surveys were completed with around half of those coming just from Evans, Garden City and Greeley residents. The Greeley Active Adult Center was an active participant in the distribution of the surveys and around 60 surveys came from those efforts (11% of total responses 23% of county seat responses).

The survey asked a range of questions related to the 8 Domains, with varying rating and answer systems. For clarity purposes, the two social related domains have been merged into one. A total of 64 questions used the same answer system (a rating of 1 = poor to 5 = Excellent with a not sure option), those questions have been coded to the appropriate domain and those analyses are available in the data analysis section later in the document.

The survey was open to any resident at least 18 years of age as parsing responses by age range was part of the process. Feedback from younger ages will help the AWCI group continue to look holistically at community needs and interests.

The survey process was supplemented by a series of 5 Listening Sessions held in Evans and Greeley in the last week of October and the first week of November. AARP provides a *Community Listening Session Toolkit* to member communities which outlines the entire Listening Session process. This toolkit was the baseline for the five sessions offered in October and November. Four sessions were advertised and open to the public, one of which was held entirely in Spanish. The fifth session was a closed event held at the Immigrant and Refugee Center of Northern Colorado (IRC NoCO).

Per the 2020 census 29.9% of Weld County residents are of Hispanic origin.[2] For the Greeley area, which according to the 2020 Census data file has a total population of 141,979, 40% of that population is of Hispanic origin. Additionally, there are an estimated 26,662 Weld County residents who are foreign-born (8.1% of population), over 16,000 of those are believed to be in the Greeley area (61% of Foreign-Born residents) which is 11% of the Greeley population. The goal of the Spanish language and IRC NoCO sessions was to hear from these sub-populations directly.

33 individuals participated in the public sessions, with 13 of those attending the Spanish language session. The IRC NoCO event occurred during regular class-time hours which allowed for around 60 individuals to participate. Across all the sessions, there were common themes related to information gaps, along with the aforementioned lack of housing, transportation, and in-home services. The participants were asked two major thematic questions:
- what do you love about the community, and
- what is needed to improve the community?

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[2] https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?g=0600000US0812391634&tid=DECENNIALPL2020.P4 (Greeley)
https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?g=0500000US08123&tid=DECENNIALPL2020.P2 (Weld County)

The responses to each were coded to the appropriate domains and grouped around sub-themes. Additionally, the participants were asked to identify what they believed to be the top priorities for the need responses. Those priorities have also been grouped by domain and themes. The participants were also given a prioritization document to fill out that listed the lowest rated survey question for each domain. The participants were asked to choose their number 1, 2, and 3 priorities from the 7 lowest rated questions. This voting process also matched the general themes from the survey responses and listening session comments.

Survey Demographics

Demographic information such as age, sex, race and income was collected with each survey. The table below shows a brief summary of the age, race and gender make-up of the sample. The following sections go into further detail and compare demographic variables to identify trends in the data.
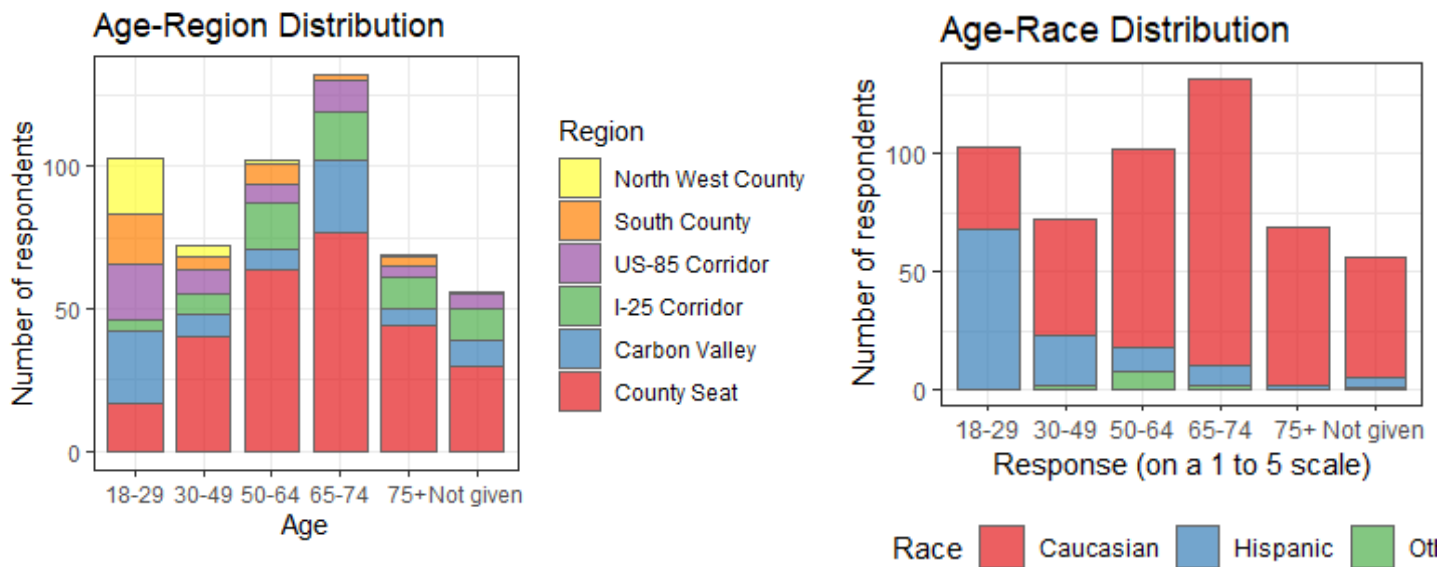
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Survey Response Demographics
Total Responses: 533
51% from Greeley, Evans, and Garden City residents

        Ages*                      Race/Ethnicity**
  • 25% 18-34 years old          • 77% Caucasian
  • 27 % 35-64 years old           • 21% Hispanic
  • 38% 65+ years old          • 2% Some other race

                        Gender
                • 62% Female  • 38% Male

        *11% of survey respondents refused to provide
                   information on their age
   ** According to census data, almost 30% of Weld County is
        of Hispanic origin, and 63% identify as White only.
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Age - Overall, The sample population has a pretty diverse age range. With roughly half of the sample being below age 55. Younger adults made up a much larger percent of the total sample size than expected with roughly 20% being below 30 years old.

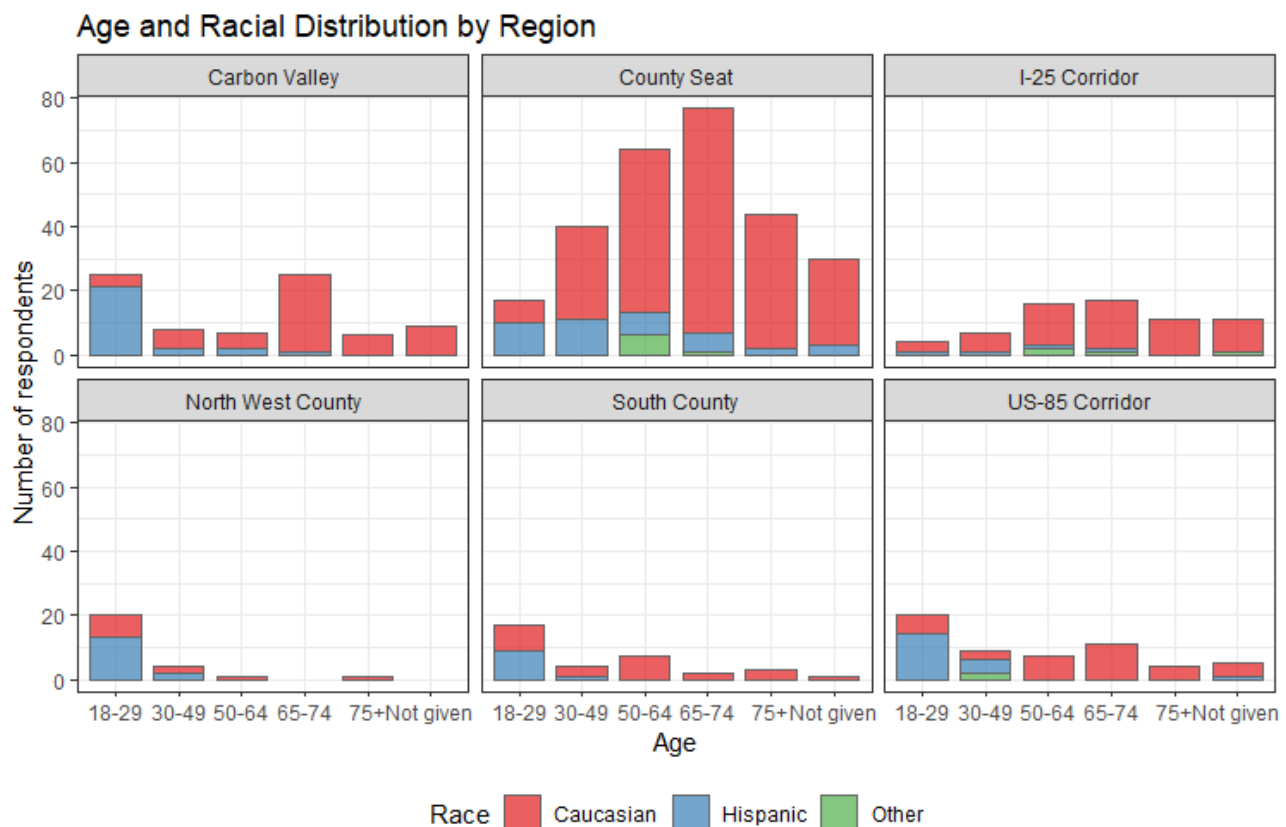| Age Range	Number of Respondents	Percentage
18-29	103	19.3%
30-49	72	13.5%
50-64	102	19.1%
65-74	132	24.7%
75+	69	12.9%

The graphs below show the age makeup of respondents. The graph on the left shows the racial makeup of each age range. You can see from looking at this graph, that our younger respondents were Hispanic by majority, while older adults were white by a vast majority. The graph on the right shows where the respondents in each age range live. About 50% of our total respondents were from the County Seat region (Greeley, Evans, Garden City). This graph indicates that a larger proportion of non-County Seat respondents were between the ages of 18 and 29 (about 33%).

Region - Survey respondents were asked which community within Weld County they lived in, and were divided into 6 geographic areas based on their response.

Region	Municipalities included in Region	# of Respondents	% of Total
Carbon Valley	Dacono, Erie, Frederick and Firestone	80	15%
County Seat	Greeley, Evans and Garden City	264	50%
I-25 Corridor	Windsor, Severance, Johnstown, Milliken, Berthoud, Mead and Longmont	66	13%
North-West County	Briggsdale, Grover, New Raymer, Carr and Fort Collins	36	7%
South County	Fort Lupton, Lochbuie, Brighton, Hudson and Keenesburg	34	6%
US-85 Corridor	Ault, Pierce, Nunn, Eaton, Kersey, Gilcrest, LaSalle, Galeton, Gill and Platteville	46	9%

The graph below shows the age and racial makeup of all respondents from each geographic area. An important irregularity to mention is the lower representation of older adults in the North-west county, south county, and US-85 corridor regions. You can also see more specific racial breakdown of each region. Across all regions, there is particularly low representation for racial minority adults in the older cohorts.
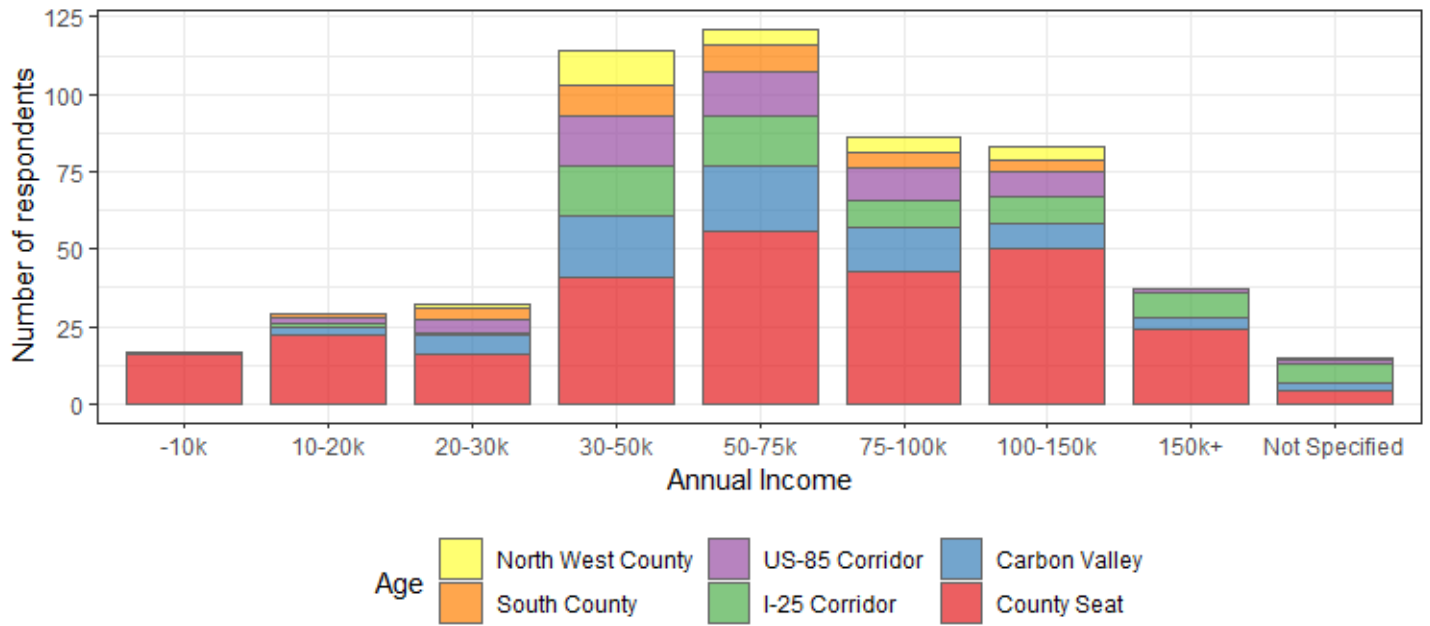

Age and Racial Distribution by Region

Race - According to US Census Data, 65% of Weld County's population is White with no Hispanic heritage, 30% Hispanic, and 5% other. Our survey respondents consisted of 76.4% Caucasian, 21.2% Hispanic, and only 2.4% Other ethnicities. This indicates that our minority populations are underrepresented in our survey data, especially among older adults considering that the majority of minority races were between the ages of 18-29.

Income - There is a significant skew towards higher income individuals. According to the United States Census Bureau the average Individual Income for Weld County is $34,305. For survey respondents, average income was in the 50 - 75 thousand dollar range. 63% of survey respondents had income higher than $50,000 per year. The following graph shows the regional make-up of the specified income brackets.

Income Bracket	Number of Respondents	Percentage	Combined
Less than 10k	17	3.2%	
10-20k	29	5.4%	36.0%
20-30k	32	6.0%	
30-50k	114	21.3%	
50-75k	121	22.7%	38.8%
75k-100k	86	16.1%	
100k-150k	83	15.5%	22.5%
Over 150k	37	6.9%	

Income Distribution

Chart: Income Distribution — stacked bar chart showing Number of respondents (y-axis, 0 to 125) by Annual Income (x-axis: -10k, 10-20k, 20-30k, 30-50k, 50-75k, 75-100k, 100-150k, 150k+, Not Specified).

Legend (Age):
- North West County (yellow)
- South County (orange)
- US-85 Corridor (purple)
- I-25 Corridor (green)
- Carbon Valley (blue)
- County Seat (red)

Listening Session Overview

Listening Session Numbers

Total Participants: 93

Spanish Only Session***
- 13 (14%)

3 English Sessions
- 20 (22%)

IRCNoCO Session***
- 60 (65%)

***All these participants were non-White and/or non-English speaking.

Through the listening sessions, we tried to address the needs of people who were under-represented in the Community Assessment Survey. The IRC NoCO sessions provided valuable insight from Weld County's refugee community with over 60 participants. The other listening sessions also provided valuable insight from volunteers who were often extremely well-informed and active community participants.

During these sessions, we asked participants their opinions about the strengths and weaknesses of the community. They were asked to leave comments about what they loved in their community, and which areas had unresolved needs. The comments were divided into the 7 domains identified in the chart to the right. The chart gives a glimpse into where the needs are, as well as what Weld County is doing right. Below is a more detailed account of the things respondents loved about their county.

COMMENT OVERVIEW BY DOMAIN

Domain	Love (72)	Need (176)
Outdoor Spaces & Buildings (28)	12 (17%)	16 (9%)
Transportation (55)	4 (6%)	51 (29%)
Housing (27)	2 (3%)	25 (14%)
Social (60)	41 (57%)	19 (11%)
Civic (15)	1 (1%)	14 (8%)
Information (31)	1 (1%)	30 (17%)
Health & Community Supports (32)	11 (15%)	21 (12%)

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY?

Outdoor Spaces & Buildings (12)
- Walking paths (3)
- Parks System (7)
- Safe (3)

Transportation (4)
- The ability to walk places (2)
- Grocery Delivery
- Bus system

Housing (2)
- Habitat for Humanity Community in Evans
- Walkable neighborhoods like at Centerplace

Social (34)
- Libraries
- Safe and Clean (6)
- Recreation options (3)
- Small town w/ amenities (7)
- Cultural/Arts Options (8)
- Diverse Community (6)
- Shopping/Eating options (4)

Civic (8)
- Job opportunities
- Education including UNC/AIMS (7)

Information (1)
- Senior news publications

Health & Community Supports (11)
- Increased medical services (2)
- Fitness Centers
- Improved environment (2)
- Community Resources (4)
- Local markets on East side
- Translation services at clinics

This chart shows the comments given by listening session participants. All similar comments have been consolidated into single statements. Numbers in parenthesis () indicate the total number of comments within a specific domain. Numbers in brackets [] refers to the number of comments that were consolidated into that statement. Some comments had multiple ideas, which fit into different consolidated statements.

PRIORITIES BY DOMAIN
Participants indicated which needs should take priority

Outdoor Spaces & Buildings (2)
- Utilize UNC/AIMS students to complete fall/spring clean-up projects
- Increased snow removal efforts in neighborhood streets and sidewalks

Transportation (6)
- East side infrastructure improvements
- Lighting for nighttime walking [2]
- Crosswalk improvements [2]
- Bus System improvements
- Sidewalk Improvements

Housing (5)
- Affordable and accessible housing [5]
- Planned Development Projects

Social (2)
- Affordable space rentals for Older Adult specific activities
- Pension/retirement plan for undocumented Older Adults

Information (4)
- Centrally Located sources of information [4]

Health & Community Supports (5)
- Accessible medical programs (Rx, Dental, Vision)
- Affordable in-home services [3]
- Address downtown food desert

Using the results from the community assessment survey, we identified the questions with the lowest overall ratings. The issues in those questions were brought to the attention of the listening session participants. Participants were then asked to rate which 3 issues they thought were the highest priority. The results are shown here.

The following have been identified as lacking in the community. Please indicate the **three** items we should prioritize improving.	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice
Low-income and/or older adult housing options	11	6	0
Accessible, affordable, and timely public transportation	2	6	4
Community information in one central source	3	2	6
Affordable In home services (chores, home-health, etc.)	4	4	5
Older adult employment opportunities	0	2	1
Benches and other resting places in accessible locations	0	0	2
Social activities for older adults	0	0	1

Higest Score per column
Second Highest Score per column

AARP Community Survey Data Overview

The following sections dive into the specific questions focused on each of the 8 Domains of Livability. The intention of each breakdown is to provide an evidence based reference document to guide the future work in the county: specifically to aid in the creation of the 3-year work plans recommended by the AARP Network of Age-friendly Communities. Each section provides a list of the specific questions asked, the highest scoring and lowest scoring of these questions, and a graphical representation of the data for each question. The hope is that this will spark ideas of where the community should focus its efforts and encourage further exploration into the data. The full data set is available at United Way of Weld County and further analysis may be provided as the work plans are developed.

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

According to AARP, the outdoor Spaces and buildings domain focuses on the accessibility of facilities, both indoors and out. Providing sufficient seating, elevators, railings, and zero-step entrances are examples of how these public spaces can be accessible to all, and ensuring green spaces and parks are maintained and plentiful can lead to quality of life improvements for everyone.

Ensuring public spaces are both safe and accessible for people of differing physical abilities can greatly influence how much the services are actually utilized and enjoyed by people of varying mobility needs. Being aware and inclusive of these needs leads to more plentiful amenities such as benches and restrooms that can be enjoyed by all.

Improvements in this domain occur as proximity and quality, and availability of outdoor spaces, parks and public buildings increases, as well as the availability of amenities within those public spaces. This could be as simple as personal lawns/backyards and as broad as walking trails and libraries. Improvements in this domain occur when educational opportunities increase as well as an emphasis on multi-generational communities.

Below are the questions identified as belonging to the Outdoor Spaces & Buildings domain. The answers were converted to a number scale for easier graph visualization and so the mean can be calculated to provide an additional performance measure.

Would you rate your community as excellent (5), very good (4), good (3), fair (2), or poor (1) on having the following?

- Q13c. Seasonal services such as lawn work for low-income and older adults *(Average = 3.14)*
- Q15e. Well-maintained parks *(Average = 3.67)*
- Q15f. Safe parks *(Average = 3.50)*
- Q15g. Public buildings and spaces including restrooms that are accessible to people of different physical abilities *(Average = 3.21)*
- Q15h. Enough benches for resting in public areas like parks, along sidewalks, and around public buildings *(Average = 3.01)*
- Q15k. Neighborhood watch programs *(Average = 2.89)*

Interpretation: **Lowest rated** = Neighborhood Watch Programs followed by Public Benches
Highest rated = Well-Maintained Parks followed by Safe Parks
NA responses - There were a large number of respondents who answered "not sure" on their assessment of seasonal services such as lawn work for low-income and older adults, as well as neighborhood watch programs. There was also a higher concentration of older adults who answered "not sure" compared to other age groups.
Skew - In general, the younger cohort rates all categories higher than their older counterparts.

The charts here show the responses for all the questions. The bars are segmented to show the age of the respondents.

(All questions are based on a scale where 1= Poor and 5= Excellent and NA = Not sure)

Outdoor Spaces & Buildings Response Distributions

Transportation

According to AARP, the Transportation domain is focused on a holistic approach to transportation needs. This means access to the community is the primary goal and transportation is how that access occurs, so sidewalks, safe streets, and alternatives to motorized transportation also fall into this domain in addition to the traditional public and private transit systems.

Lack of transportation is often an underlying cause for why people miss doctor's appointments, lose their jobs, or have trouble accessing healthy food options. For older adults this problem increases as mobility becomes more difficult thus limiting people's ability to drive themselves or navigate transit options. An older adult who utilizes a wheelchair may live only a short distance from a transit stop but the sidewalk between her house and the stop may be impassable due to roots and lack of curb cuts. Instead of having independence and transportation access, our friend and community member finds herself homebound and entirely reliant on support services and relationships. Addressing transportation in a holistic manner, not just looking at motorized vehicle options but also walkability, safety of streets and speed limits, and other alternative solutions, will allow the community to find and eliminate barriers to transportation.

Improvements in this domain occur as access, safety, and convenience increase. Accessibility can address barriers in design, cost, and locations. Safety looks at walkability issues, street design, and speed limits. Convenience addresses issues around location, frequency, and congestion.

Below are the questions identified as belonging to the Transportation domain. The answers were converted to a number scale for easier graph visualization and so the mean can be calculated to provide an additional performance measure.

Would you rate your community as excellent (5), very good (4), good (3), fair (2), or poor (1) on having the following?
- 14a. Sidewalks that are in good condition, safe for pedestrians, and accessible for wheelchairs or other assistive mobility devices (3.35)
- 14b. Well-lit, accessible, safe streets and intersections for all users (3.25)
- 14c. Audio and visual pedestrian crossings (2.83)
- 14d. Separate pathways for bicyclists and pedestrians (2.83)
- 14e. Well-maintained streets (3.13)
- 14f. Easy to read traffic signs (3.48)
- 14g. Enforced speed limits (3.02)
- 15l. Conveniently located public parking lots and areas to park including handicapped parking (3.16)
- 15m. Affordable public parking (3.46)
- 17a. Accessible and convenient public transportation (2.61)
- 17b. Affordable public transportation (2.73)
- 17c. Well-maintained public transportation vehicles (2.93)
- 17d. Timely public transportation (2.63)
- 17e. Safe public transportation stops/areas that are accessible to people of varying physical abilities (2.80)
- 17f. Special transportation services for people with disabilities and older adults (2.88)
- 25e. Transportation to and from volunteer activities for those who need it (2.89)

Interpretation: **Lowest rated** = Accessible and convenient public transportation followed by Timely public transportation. Safe and accessible public transportation stops, Pedestrian crossings, and bike paths were also rated very low

Highest rated = Easy to read traffic signs followed by Affordable public parking. Sidewalks were also rated noticeably higher
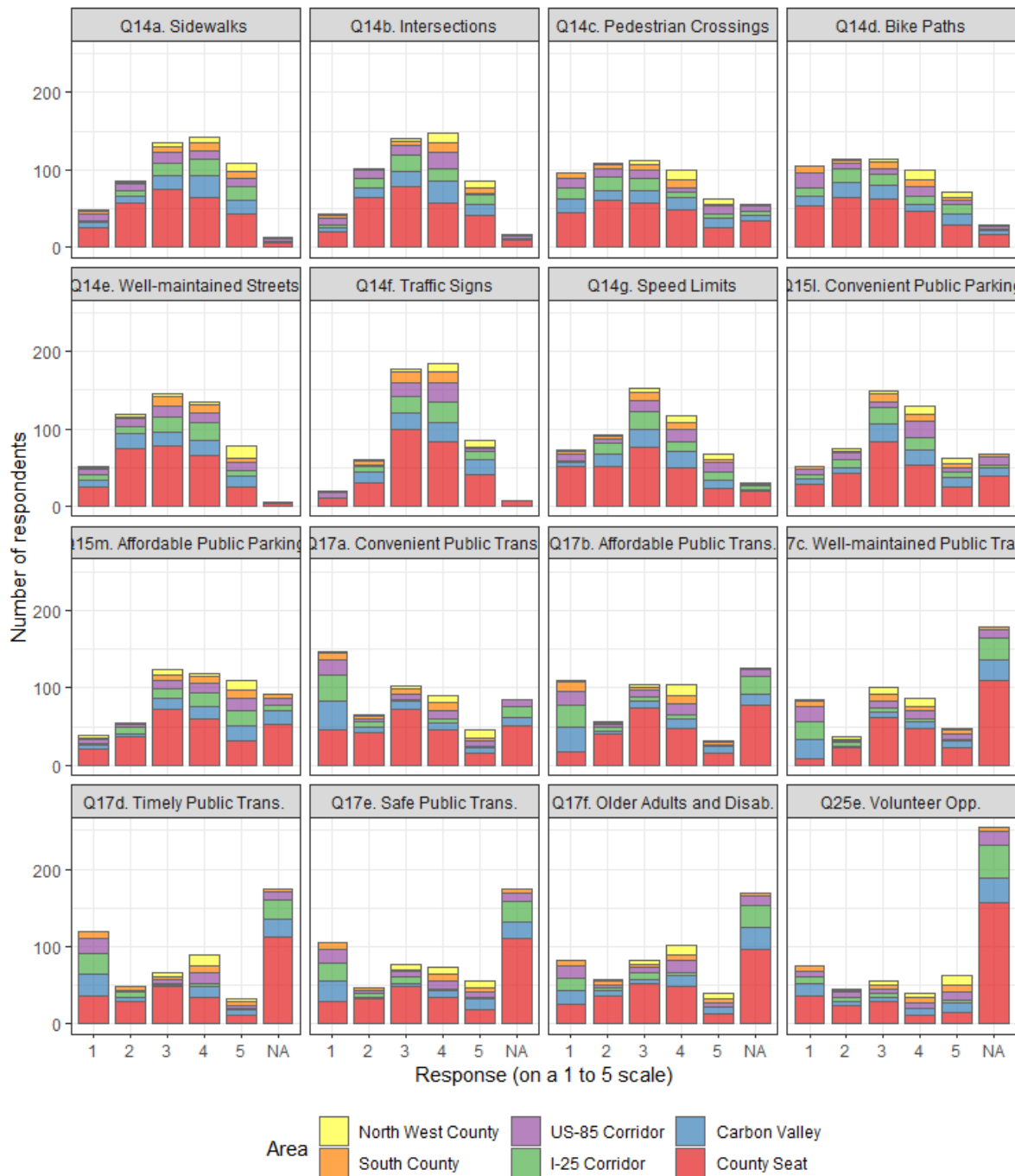
NA responses - Particularly high for 17c, 17d, 17e, 17f and 25e (public transportation and volunteer opportunities). This could indicate information gaps in these areas.

Skew - Questions pertaining to public transportation were scored considerably lower by those outside of the county seat, while questions about public parking, intersections, sidewalks, street maintenance, and streetlights were rated higher.

The charts on this page show the responses for all the above questions. The bars are segmented to show the region in which the respondents live. (All questions are based on a scale where 1= Poor and 5= Excellent and NA = Not sure)

Transportation Response Distributions

Housing

According to AARP, the Housing domain is focused on affordability of housing as well as design accessibility. For many people the right house is not simply about the financial component, though this element can be and often is monumental, it can also be about amenities like a no-step entrance, or building styles like ranch or multi-family options, which are often hard to locate. Older adults experience changes in mobility which can make multi-level homes unmanageable and even hazardous. Yet the seemingly obvious answer of moving to a home where everything is on a single floor is quite difficult in Weld County. Plus one-story homes can be much more expensive and in the current market they do not stay available for any significant period of time.

Limited options with regards to amenities and alternative housing styles and arrangements aside, affordable housing is a massive crisis. In Weld County, 30% of residents are housing cost burdened, meaning the household spends more than 30% of its income on either mortgage or rental payments. That number increases to 52% when looking at our low-income older adult population. Despite a growing number of older adult living centers in the county, especially in the Greeley, Evans, Garden City area, affordability remains a problem. These facilities are incredibly nice but largely out of the price-range for our lower-income community members. Beyond that, many people wish to remain in their personal residence rather than relocating to a collective living arrangement, meaning that we as a community need to come together to address the lack of affordable housing and lack of housing that people can grow older in safely.

Improvements in this domain occur as affordability changes through a drop in housing costs and an increase in the number of subsidized and affordable units, as well as increasing the accessibility and the floor plans offered.

Below are the questions identified as belonging to the Housing domain. The answers were converted to a number scale for easier graph visualization and so the mean can be calculated to provide an additional performance measure.

Survey Questions:
Would you rate your community as excellent (5), very good (4), good (3), fair (2), or poor (1) on having the following?

Q13a. Home modification and repair contractors who are trustworthy, do quality work, and are affordable (3.50)

Q13b. A home repair service for low-income and older adults that helps with things like roof or window repairs (3.03)

Q15a. Well-maintained homes and properties (3.45)

Q15b. Affordable housing options for adults of varying income levels such as older active adult communities, assisted living and communities with shared facilities and outdoor spaces (2.61)

Q15c. Homes that are built with things like a no step entrance, wider doorways, and first floor bedrooms and bathrooms (2.69)

Q15d. Well-maintained, safe low-income housing (2.49)

Interpretation: **Lowest rated** = Well-maintained, safe, low-income housing followed by Affordable housing options for adults of varying income. Also rated low was Homes that were built with age-friendly features
Highest rated = Trustworthy, quality, and affordable contractors followed by Well-maintained homes/properties
NA responses - "Not sure" responses were especially high for (Q13b) Low-income home repair services, as well as(Q15c) Homes that are built with things like a no step entrance, wider doorways, and first floor bedrooms and bathrooms and (Q15d) Well-maintained, safe low-income housing.
Skew - (Q15b) Affordable housing and communities, (Q15c) Age/disability-friendly homes, and (Q15d) low-income housing were all scored considerably lower by County Seat and I-25 corridor respondents than the other county areas. It should also be noted that all the above housing related questions were scored noticeably higher by the younger age demographic (ages 18-29)

The charts on this page show the responses for all the above questions. The bars are segmented to show the region in which the respondents live. In general, there are a lot more people from outside of the county seat that are satisfied with the level of well-maintained homes, as well as contractors and home repair services.

(All questions are based on a scale where 1= Poor and 5= Excellent and NA = Not sure)

Housing Response Distributions

Social Participation, Respect & Inclusion

According to AARP these domains are focused on the degree to which a community embraces diversity and offers opportunities to residents of all ages and backgrounds. Backed by a strong regional economy and fiscally healthy local governments, welcoming communities provide residents an equal chance to earn a living wage and improve their well-being, from jobs to education.

According to listening session participants, the plentiful social events, gatherings, and cultural diversity is a tremendous source of pride for Greeley residents. Weld County's population is 30% Hispanic, and the county seat is 40% Hispanic. Weld County is also a major hub for refugees entering the United States, giving our community a unique cultural identity. Ensuring that community activities are inclusive of all walks of life, young and old, should be a top priority for such a diverse county.

Improvements in this domain occur when educational opportunities increase as well as an emphasis on multi-generational communities.

Below are the questions identified as belonging to the Social Participation, Respect & Inclusion domain. The answers were converted to a number scale for easier graph visualization and so the mean can be calculated to provide an additional performance measure.

Survey Questions:
Would you rate your community as excellent (5), very good (4), good (3), fair (2), or poor (1) on having the following?
- Q24a.   Conveniently located entertainment venues (3.02)
- Q24b.   Activities geared specifically towards older adults (2.90)
- Q24c.   Activities that offer senior discounts (2.95)
- Q24d.   Activities that are affordable to all residents (2.95)
- Q24e.   Activities that involve both younger and older people (3.14)
- Q24f.   A variety of cultural activities for diverse populations (3.03)
- Q24g.   Local schools that involve older adults in events and activities (2.72)
- Q24h.   Continuing education classes or social clubs to pursue new interests, hobbies or passions (3.04)
- Q24i.   Driver education or refresher courses (3.13)

Interpretation: **Lowest rated** = Local Schools that involve older adults in activities
Highest rated = Activities that involve both older and younger people
NA responses - "Not sure" responses are particularly high for (Q24g) Schools that involve older adults and (Q24i) Driver refresher courses. Another noteworthy information gap is (Q24h) Continuing education classes or social clubs to pursue new interests, hobbies or passions.
Skew - There is a noticeable skew in the data due to the lower age bracket responses. Age 18-29 scored the questions noticeably higher than their older counterparts. Removing them from the analysis drops the average in almost every scenario.

The results of questions in this domain were not particularly high or low. However, feedback from people in the listening sessions was overwhelmingly positive in this domain. That combined with the amount of "not sure" responses seems to indicate that those who are heavily involved with community activities have lots of praise, however there could be more awareness and inclusion for more casual residents.

The charts here show the responses for all the above questions. The bars are segmented to show the age of the respondents. In general, the younger cohort rates all categories higher than their older counterparts.

(All questions are based on a scale where 1= Poor and 5= Excellent and NA = Not sure)

Social Participation, Repect, and Inclusion Response Distributions

Work & Civic Engagement

According to AARP the Work and Civic Engagement domain is focused on ensuring the continued purpose of older adults through both paid and unpaid opportunities to participate in the larger community.

Civic engagement provides connection to the broader community that increases a sense of ownership and belonging. The more connected we are to our communities the more responsibility we feel toward addressing needs and improving the quality of life for all community members. This connection also prevents loneliness that can be as dangerous to one's health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

Improvements in this domain occur when volunteer and employment opportunities increase for all age-ranges, but especially for older adults.

Below are the questions identified as belonging to the Work & Civic Engagement domain. The answers were converted to a number scale for easier graph visualization and so the mean can be calculated to provide an additional performance measure.

Survey Questions:
 Would you rate your community as excellent (5), very good (4), good (3), fair (2), or poor (1) on having the following?
- Q25a.   A range of volunteer activities to choose from (3.39)
- Q25b.   Volunteer training opportunities to help people perform better in their volunteer roles (3.18)
- Q25c.   Opportunities for older adults to participate in decision making bodies such as community councils or committees (3.30)
- Q28a.   A range of flexible job opportunities for older adults (2.72)
- Q28b.   Job training opportunities for older adults who want to learn new job skills within their job or get training in a different field of work (2.71)
- Q28c.   Jobs that are adapted to meet the needs of people with disabilities (2.79)
- Q28d.   Policies that ensure older adults can continue to have equal opportunity to work for as long as they want or need to regardless of their age (2.88)

Interpretation: **Lowest rated** = Job training opportunities for older adults and flexible and job opportunities for older adults followed by Jobs that are adapted for people with disabilities
Highest rated = Volunteer Opportunities followed by Opportunities such as community councils and committees
NA Responses - All of the questions in this domain have pretty substantial "Not sure" response rates. This could be due to gaps in community outreach/awareness and may indicate room for improvement
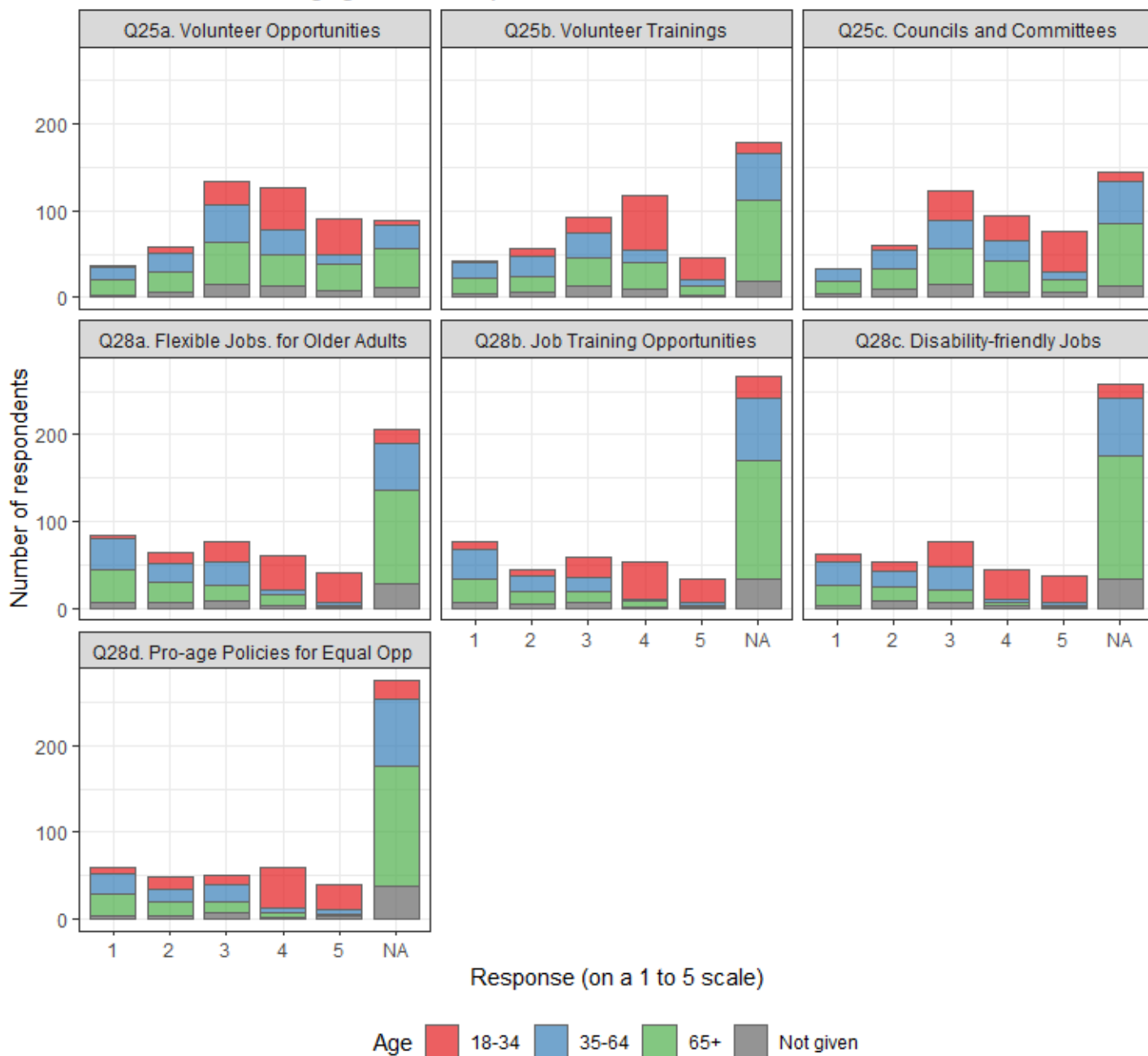**Skew -** Age 18-29 scored the questions noticeably higher than their older counterparts. Removing them from the analysis drops the average in every scenario.

The charts on the following page show the responses for all the above questions. The bars are segmented to show the age of the respondents. In general, the younger cohort rates all categories higher than their older counterparts. It should also be noted that there was a large number of " Not Sure" responses for all job and work related questions.

(All questions are based on a scale where 1= Poor and 5= Excellent and NA = Not sure)

Work and Civic Engagement Response Distributions

Communication & Information

According to AARP the Communication and Information domain is focused on providing accessible information to people of all age groups. This means communicating through many different forms of communication. Computer literacy and internet access are not a given for many older adults and different communities and cultures require different communication strategies. Making sure people can receive critical information in a way that works for them is the first step to getting older adults aware and involved with the opportunities available in the community.

Improvements in this domain occur when older adults know where to go for resources and have recurring and frequent access to informational updates to community events and opportunities

Below are the questions identified as belonging to the Communication & Information domain. The answers were converted to a number scale for easier graph visualization and so the mean can be calculated to provide an additional performance measure.

Survey Questions:
Would you rate your community as excellent (5), very good (4), good (3), fair (2), or poor (1) on having the following?
- Q18d. Health care professionals who speak different languages (3.27)
- Q19d. A service that provides people to help seniors easily find and access health and supportive services (3.17)
- Q19f. Easily understandable and helpful local hospital or clinic answering services (3.30)
- Q25d. Easy to find information on available local volunteer opportunities (3.06)
- Q30a. Access to community information in one central source (2.99)
- Q30b. Clearly displayed printed community information with large lettering (2.82)
- Q30c. Free access to computers and the Internet in public places such as the library, senior centers or government buildings (3.57)
- Q30d. Community information that is delivered in person to people who may have difficulty or may not be able to leave their home (2.99)
- Q30e. Community information that is available in a number of different languages (3.13)

Interpretation: **Lowest rated** = Clearly displayed community information with large lettering followed by Information delivered in-person and Access to information in one central source

Highest rated = Free access to computers and public internet access followed by easily understandable hospital and clinical services and health-care professionals who speak different languages
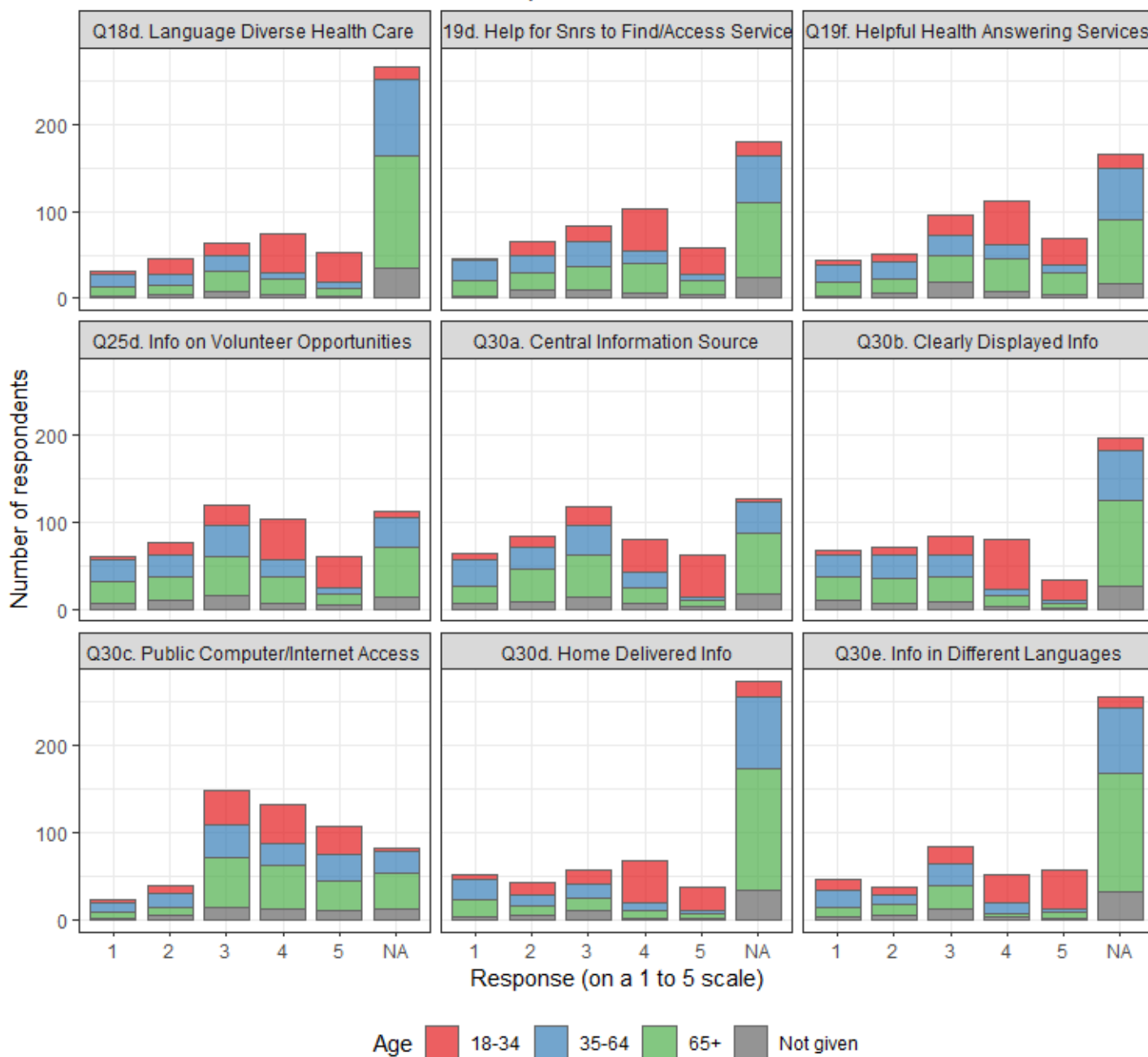
NA Responses - Many of the questions in this domain have pretty substantial "Not sure" response rates. Questions pertaining to health-care/information available in different languages and other services utilized by specific populations are likely not of interest to most respondents. However some "not sure" responses may indicate an information gap.

Skew - Age 18-29 scored the questions noticeably higher than their older counterparts. Removing them from the   analysis drops the average in every scenario.

The charts on the following page show the responses for all the above questions. The bars are segmented to show the age of the respondents. In general, the younger cohort rates all categories higher than their older counterparts. It should also be noted that there were a large number of "Not Sure" responses for many questions in this domain.

(All questions are based on a scale where 1= Poor and 5= Excellent and NA = Not sure)

Communication and Information Response Distributions

Community & Health Services

According to AARP this domain is focused on a holistic understanding of health. Healthy communities have comprehensive smoke-free air laws, offer easy access to exercise opportunities, and have high-quality health care available. Because health is so deeply related to quality of life, many other categories of livability in this Index include metrics related to health. For example, access to healthy foods, jobs and education, number of walk trips, lower speed limits, social engagement measures, and air and water pollution are all related to health. Where you live matters.

Improvements in this domain occur when people have the ability to access high quality care at both the response and prevention levels. Other areas of improvement include addressing food deserts and food-insecurity, as well as increasing general community support and safety-nets.

Below are the questions identified as belonging to the Community & Health Services domain. The answers were converted to a number scale for easier graph visualization and so the mean can be calculated to provide an additional performance measure.

Would you rate your community as excellent (5), very good (4), good (3), fair (2), or poor (1) on having the following?

Q15i.   Conveniently located emergency care centers (3.43)
Q15j.   Well-maintained hospitals and health care facilities (3.63)
Q18a.   Well-trained certified home health care providers (3.41)
Q18b.   Affordable home health care providers (3.08)
Q18c.   A variety of health care professionals including specialists (3.35)
Q18e.   Respectful and helpful hospital and clinic staff (3.70)
Q19a.   Affordable health and wellness programs and classes in areas such as nutrition, smoking cessation, and weight control (3.24)
Q19b.   Affordable fitness activities specifically geared towards older adults (3.26)
Q19c.   Conveniently located health and social services (3.09)
Q19e.   Affordable home care services including personal care and housekeeping (2.96)

Interpretation: **Lowest rated** = Affordable home care services
Highest rated = Respectful and helpful hospital and clinic staff followed by Well-maintained hospitals and health care facilities
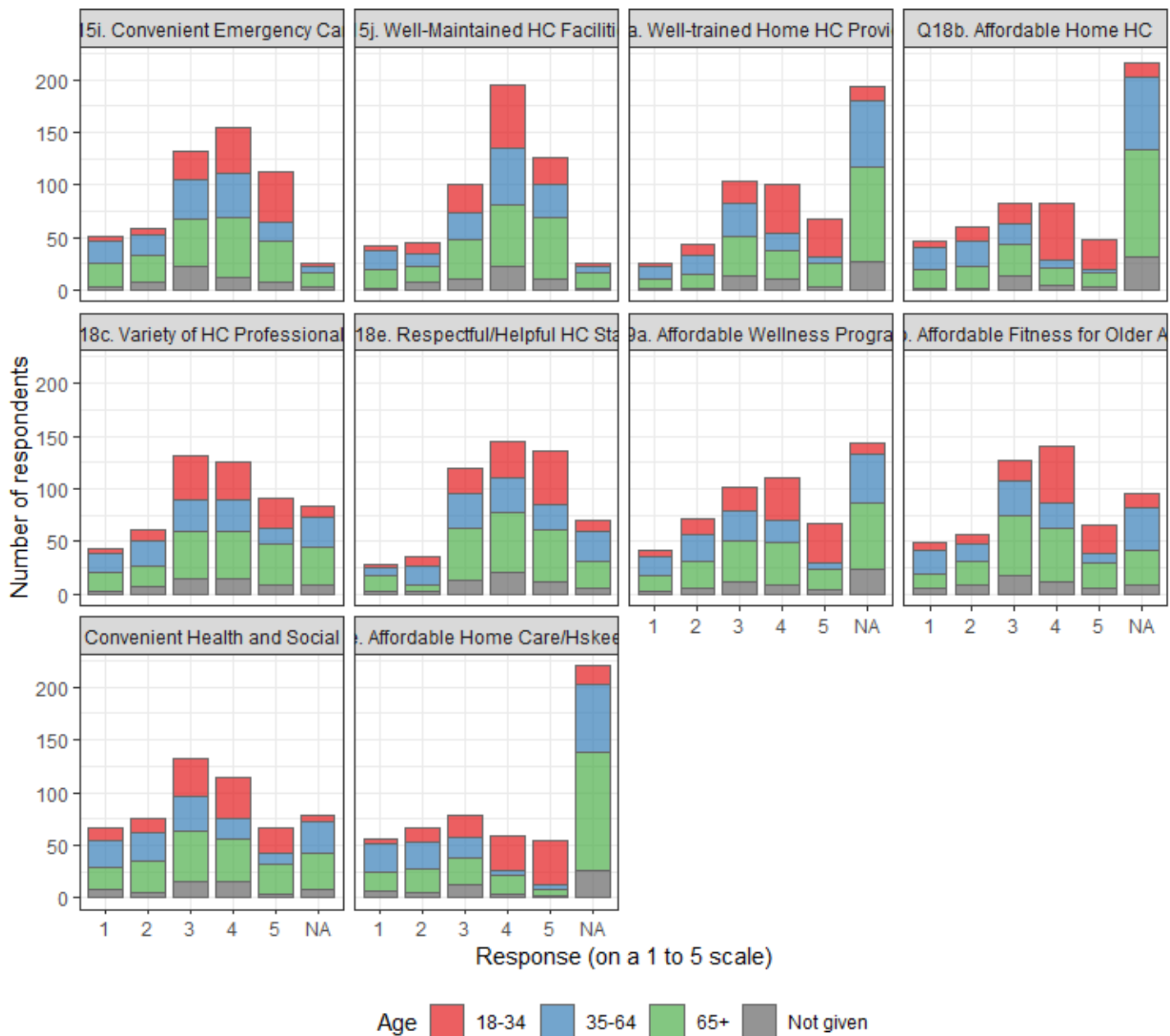**NA Responses** - Many of the questions in this domain have pretty substantial "Not sure" response rates. Questions pertaining to home care are likely not of interest to most respondents. However some "not sure" responses may indicate an information gap.
Skew - Age 18-29 scored the questions noticeably higher than their older counterparts. Removing them from the   analysis drops the average in almost every scenario.

The charts on the following page show the responses for all the above questions. The bars are segmented to show the age of the respondents. In general, the younger cohort rates all categories higher than their older counterparts. It should also be noted that there were a large number of " Not Sure" responses for many of the home-care related questions in this domain

(All questions are based on a scale where 1= Poor and 5= Excellent and NA = Not sure)

Community and Health Services Response Distributions

Conclusion

By understanding the survey data laid out in this report, as well as the community listening session comments, the Aging Well group of community volunteers has begun to piece together an evidence based strategy of how to steer the needs of our aging community. However, the data collected is not perfect. Under-represented minority populations, over-representation of younger respondents, and an over-representation of higher income individuals are just a few factors that could lead to biases within the data. Considering the potential biases laid out in this report will help us focus on the needs of populations that were under-represented, as well as help us improve the fairness of the collection process for future needs assessment projects.

This data report marks the end of the Community Assessment process. Moving forward, the insights gathered from the AARP survey and community listening sessions will begin to shape plans and lead to tangible change in Greeley, Evans, Garden City, and Weld County as a whole.

A special thanks goes out to all of those involved in the Aging Well Collective Impact Initiative, the staff at AARP for their continued involvement during this process, and the community members who shared their time through complete surveys and/or participating in the listening sessions. All of their hard work has moved the county in the direction of addressing the needs of our older adults in an unprecedented way. Conversations on the issues facing older adults, such as independence, affordable care, inclusion and opportunity now have a dedicated inter-agency, community-wide platform.

Led by a diverse group of experts, community volunteers and advocates, the Aging Well group will begin to construct work plans for these issues and many others. By the end of 2022, the community will be on its way to acting on those plans and doing the work that needs to be done to make Weld County a more livable place for residents of all ages.