NJ Age – Friendly Community Health Needs Assessment Report:

2025 – 2026 New Jersey (NJ) Age – Friendly Grant

The City of Orange Township, NJ Health Department

June 1, 2026

Executive Summary

Over the past year (2025 – 2026), the City of Orange Township, New Jersey (NJ) has made significant progress toward becoming an age – friendly community where older adults can age with honor, dignity, and community connection through support from the NJ Age – Friendly Grant Program. This grant enabled the City of Orange to complete a comprehensive community health needs assessment to identify, analyze and prioritize community health needs across the core domains of livability – communication, housing, healthcare, transportation, financial stability, outdoor spaces, social participation and support.

As a result, the City of Orange was able to focus on initiatives that reduces barriers, strengthens independence, and improves systems that support healthy aging for older adults. Key findings from the comprehensive community health needs assessment identified the need to improve transportation access, social isolation, healthcare access, and implement the use of community ambassadors to improve community engagement, communication, and trust. At the same time, the assessment highlights significant community assets, including existing municipal programs, strong social networks, and opportunities for strategic cross-sector collaboration.

The report outlines a series of evidence-informed recommendations designed to strengthen Orange's capacity to support healthy aging. These recommendations are organized into short, medium, and long-term actions that promote equity, accessibility, independence, and quality of life for older adults. Collectively, they provide a strategic roadmap for advancing

Orange Township as a more inclusive, resilient, and age-friendly community for residents of all generations.

Introduction

In a city rooted in resilience, the NJ Age – Friendly Grant has strengthened the City of Orange's ability to support older adults in aging with independence, honor, dignity, and community connection. The NJ Age – Friendly Grant has empowered the City of Orange to reduce transportation barriers, improve social participation in community activities, and create long-term systems change. The City of Orange is honored to reshape how older adults engage with their community and health. Older adults will have valuable resources and community support to remain active contributors to community life.

The survey findings provide important insight into the intersection of aging, economic insecurity, transportation access, healthcare affordability, housing stability, and social participation. These findings are intended to inform future planning, guide resource allocation, and support evidence-based decision-making for age-friendly policies and programs.

Overview of Population Demographics for the City of Orange Township

The City of Orange Township, NJ is a densely populated urban community located within Essex County with a population of 35,642 according to the United States (US) Census Bureau (2024). The population of individuals aged 65 and over is 14.7%. The US Census Bureau identifies the population demographics of Orange as 54.5% African American, 34.9% Hispanic or Latino, 5.6% White, 2.0% Asian, 0.6% American Indian / Alaskan Native, and 12.7% with two or more races. The median household outcome is $52, 847 and 21.9% of the population lives

in poverty. In addition, 46.4% of the population are foreign – born and 49.4% of the population speak a language other than English at home.

When comparing crucial population statistics of the City of Orange to Essex County and the state of NJ, 21.9% of the population in Orange live in poverty in comparison to 13.4% of the population living in poverty in Essex County and 9.2% of the population living in poverty in the state of NJ. In addition, the per capita income in Orange is $28,257 in comparison to the per capita income in Essex County - $49,449 and per capita income in NJ - $54,253. Furthermore, the median household income in Orange is $52,847 in comparison to the median outcome in Essex County - $80,789 and the median outcome in the state of NJ - $103,556.

Detailed Demographic and Social Demographics for the City of Orange Township

PEOPLE	
Population	
Population estimates, July 1, 2025, (V2025)	**35,642**
Population estimates, July 1, 2024, (V2024)	35,079
Population estimates base, April 1, 2020, (V2025)	34,393
Population estimates base, April 1, 2020, (V2024)	34,404
Population, percent change - April 1, 2020 (estimates base) to July 1, 2025, (V2025)	3.6%
Population, percent change - April 1, 2020 (estimates base) to July 1, 2024, (V2024)	2.0%
Population, Census, April 1, 2020	34,447
Population, Census, April 1, 2010	30,134
Age and Sex	
Persons under 5 years, percent	7.3%
Persons under 18 years, percent	26.6%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	14.7%
Female persons, percent	54.1%
Race and Hispanic Origin	
White alone, percent	8.6%
Black alone, percent (a)	54.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent (a)	0.6%
Asian alone, percent (a)	2.0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent (a)	0.0%
Two or More Races, percent	12.7%
Hispanic or Latino, percent (b)	34.9%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	5.0%
Population Characteristics	
Veterans, 2020-2024	414
Foreign-born persons, percent, 2020-2024	46.4%

Reference: U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). QuickFacts: City of Orange township, Essex County, New Jersey. https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/cityoforangetownshipessexcountynewjersey/PST045225#PST045225

Housing	
Housing Units, July 1, 2025, (V2025)	X
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2020-2024	25.5%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2020-2024	$365,500
Median selected monthly owner costs - with a mortgage, 2020-2024	$2,743
Median selected monthly owner costs - without a mortage, 2020-2024	$1,399
Median gross rent, 2020-2024	$1,550
Building Permits, 2025	X
Families & Living Arrangements	
Households, 2020-2024	12,140
Persons per household, 2020-2024	2.80
Living in the same house 1 year ago, percent of persons age 1 year+ , 2020-2024	86.1%
Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons age 5 years+, 2020-2024	49.4%
Computer and Internet Use	
Households with a computer, percent, 2020-2024	93.4%
Households with a broadband Internet subscription, percent, 2020-2024	85.3%
Education	
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2020-2024	78.4%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2020-2024	22.5%
Health	
With a disability, under age 65 years, percent, 2020-2024	11.4%
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent	⚠ 29.2%
Economy	
In civilian labor force, total, percent of population age 16 years+, 2020-2024	68.1%
In civilian labor force, female, percent of population age 16 years+, 2020-2024	61.9%
Total accommodation and food services sales, 2022 ($1,000) (c)	46,709
Total health care and social assistance receipts/revenue, 2022 ($1,000) (c)	95,732
Total transportation and warehousing receipts/revenue, 2022 ($1,000) (c)	29,819
Total retail sales, 2022 ($1,000) (c)	194,655
Total retail sales per capita, 2022 (c)	$5,775

Reference: U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). QuickFacts: City of Orange township, Essex County, New Jersey.
https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/cityoforangetownshipessexcountynewjersey/PST045225#PST045225

Transportation	
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16 years+, 2020-2024	32.0
Income & Poverty	
Median households income (in 2024 dollars), 2020-2024	$52,847
Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2024 dollars), 2020-2024	$28,257
Persons in poverty, percent	⚠ 21.9%
BUSINESSES	
Businesses	
Total employer establishments, 2023	X
Total employment, 2023	X
Total annual payroll, 2023 ($1,000)	X
Total employment, percent change, 2022-2023	X
Total nonemployer establishments, 2023	X
All employer firms, Reference year 2023	X
Male-owned employer firms, Reference year 2023	X
Female-owned employer firms, Reference year 2023	X
Minority-owned employer firms, Reference year 2023	X
Nonminority-owned employer firms, Reference year 2023	X
Veteran-owned employer firms, Reference year 2023	X
Nonveteran-owned employer firms, Reference year 2023	X
GEOGRAPHY	
Geography	
Population per square mile, 2020	15,565.7
Population per square mile, 2010	13,705.7
Land area in square miles, 2020	2.21
Land area in square miles, 2010	2.20
FIPS Code	3401313045

Reference: U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). QuickFacts: City of Orange township, Essex County, New Jersey. https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/cityoforangetownshipessexcountynewjersey/PST045225#PST045225

Community Assets

To support the wellbeing of older adults, the City of Orange provides a variety of community assets and essential services through the Older Adults Department and Health Department to ensure older adults have access to information, receive community support, and participate in community life. Community assets include free community health/wellness workshops, health screenings, transportation services, community resources, mental health /social services, access to fresh produce at food pantries, and community events to promote social engagement.

Although the City of Orange has a variety of community assets to support the needs of older adults, service gaps still exist. The NJ Age – Friendly Grant Initiative allows the City of Orange to elevate their existing community assets to implement change and continue evolving as an age – friendly community. Through this initiative, Orange Township is taking a proactive and forward-thinking approach to aging. The effort represents an important step toward ensuring that the city remains welcoming, accessible, and supportive for residents across all life stages while fostering a community where older adults can age with dignity, independence, and connection.

Age – Friendly Community Survey Findings; 2025 - 2026

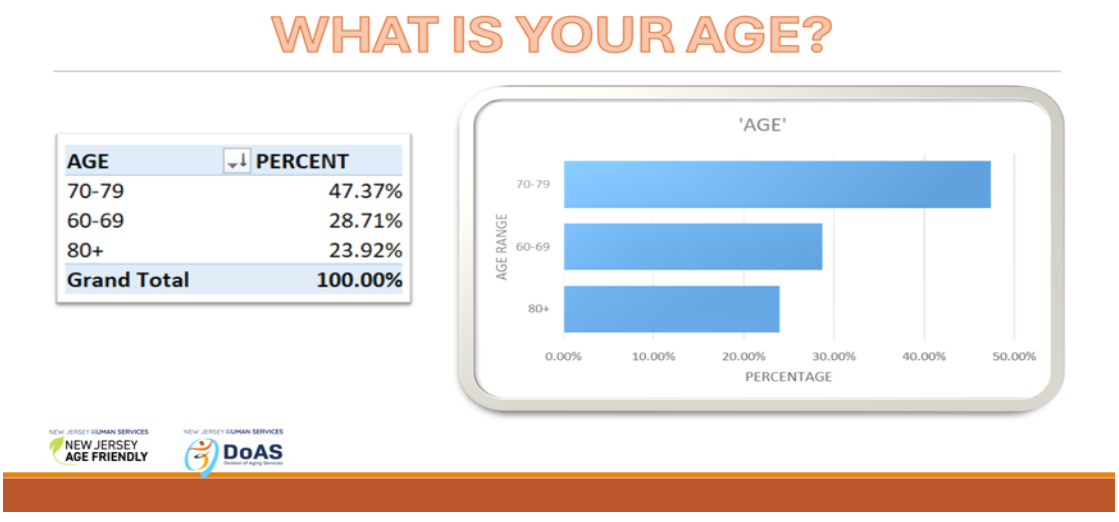
Comprehensive data was collected from 418 anonymous surveys completed by older adults in the City of Orange, NJ. Data collected provided pertinent information on older adults within the community such as age, race/ethnicity, language, monthly income, housing, transportation, healthcare, social participation and support. Data analysis results from each question on the survey are listed below.

Methodology

A total of 418 anonymous qualitative surveys were distributed to reach a representative sample of older adults (aged 60+) in the City of Orange at a variety of locations such as the local post office, grocery stores, food distribution pantries, apartment buildings, senior citizen buildings, workshops, focus groups, and community streets. A comprehensive review of secondary demographic data was collected using data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Data was analyzed to highlight the percentage for each key variable (age, race/ethnicity, language, monthly income, housing, transportation, healthcare, social participation and support).

Demographic Profile

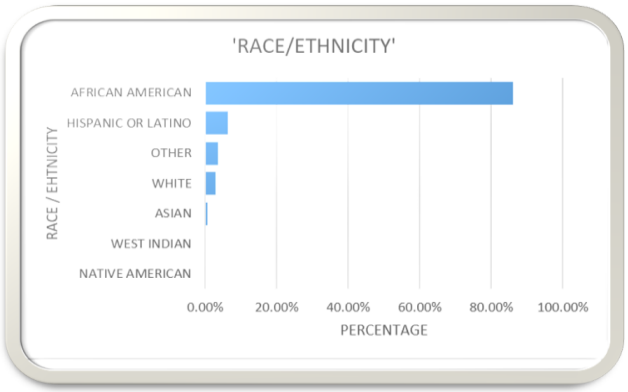
- **Age:** The majority of respondents (47.37%) were between the ages of 70 and 79, indicating that the survey successfully captured perspectives related to later-life aging needs, including mobility, healthcare access, and social support.



- **Race / Ethnicity:** Approximately 86.12% of respondents identified as Black or African American, reflecting both the demographic makeup of Orange Township and the survey's strong reach within the city's historically underserved communities.

WHAT IS YOUR RACE/ETHNICITY?

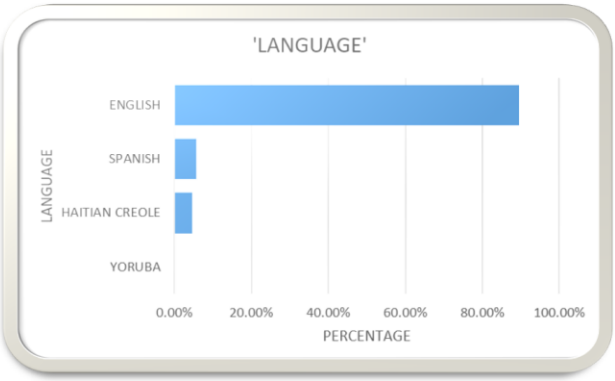
RACE/ETHNICITY	PERCENT
AFRICAN AMERICAN	86.12%
HISPANIC OR LATINO	6.22%
OTHER	3.59%
WHITE	2.87%
ASIAN	0.72%
WEST INDIAN	0.24%
NATIVE AMERICAN	0.24%
Grand Total	**100.00%**



- **Language:** English was identified as the primary language spoken at home by approximately 89.47% of respondents. Additional languages included Spanish, Haitian Creole, and Yoruba, underscoring the importance of culturally and linguistically responsive outreach and services.

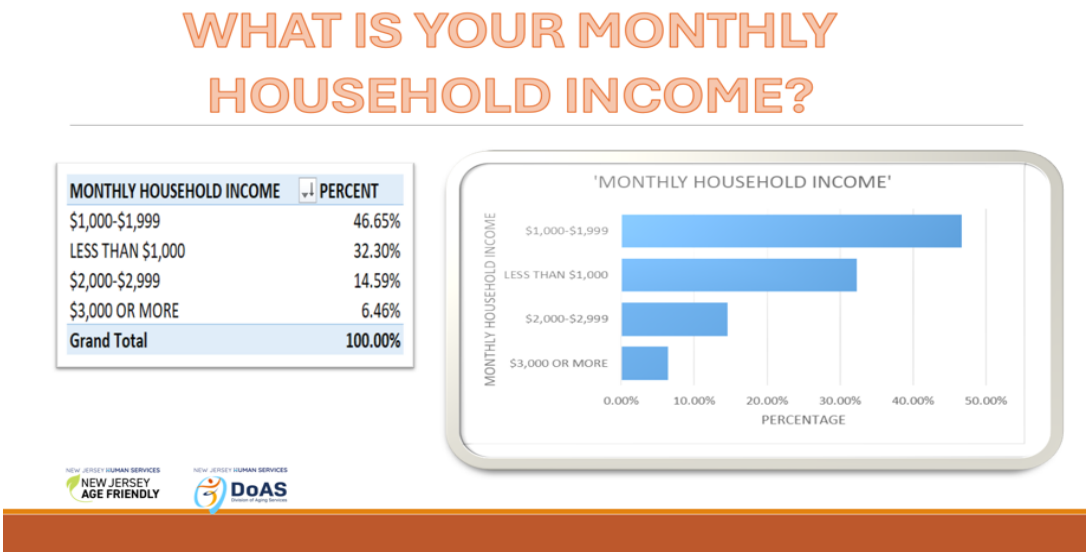
WHAT LANGUAGE DO YOU SPEAK AT HOME?

LANGUAGE	PERCENT
ENGLISH	89.47%
SPANISH	5.74%
HAITIAN CREOLE	4.55%
YORUBA	0.24%
Grand Total	**100.00%**

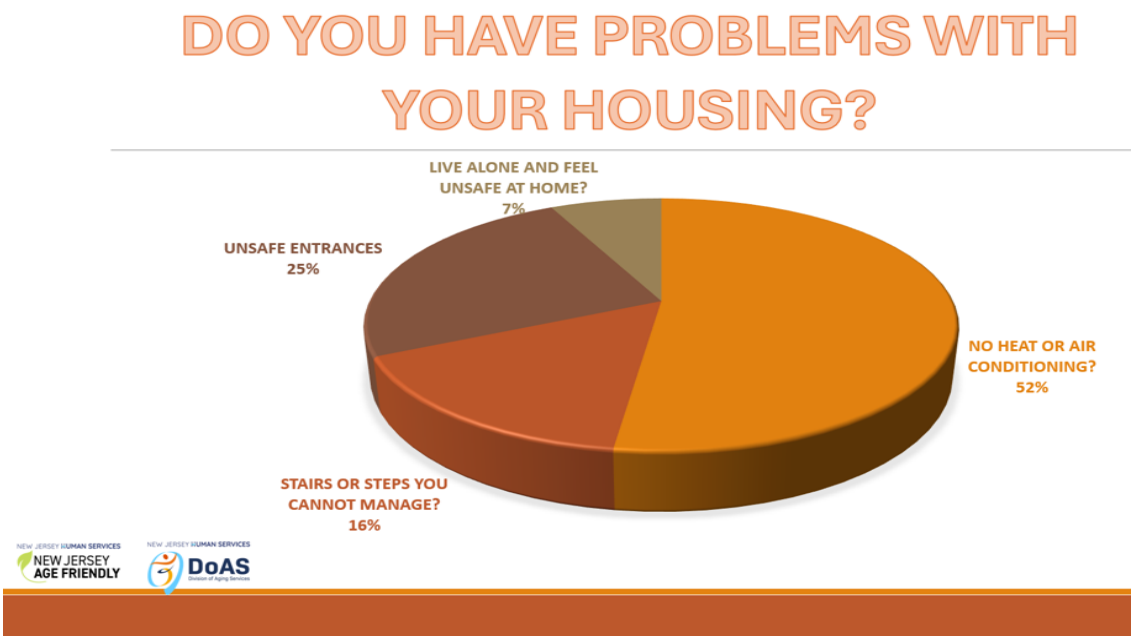


- **Income:** The assessment revealed substantial economic vulnerability among older residents:

- 46.65% reported monthly household incomes between $1,000 and $1,999
- 32.30% reported monthly income below $1,000
- These findings suggest that many older adults are living at or near the poverty threshold. Limited financial resources significantly affect access to housing, healthcare, food, transportation, medication, and opportunities for social engagement.

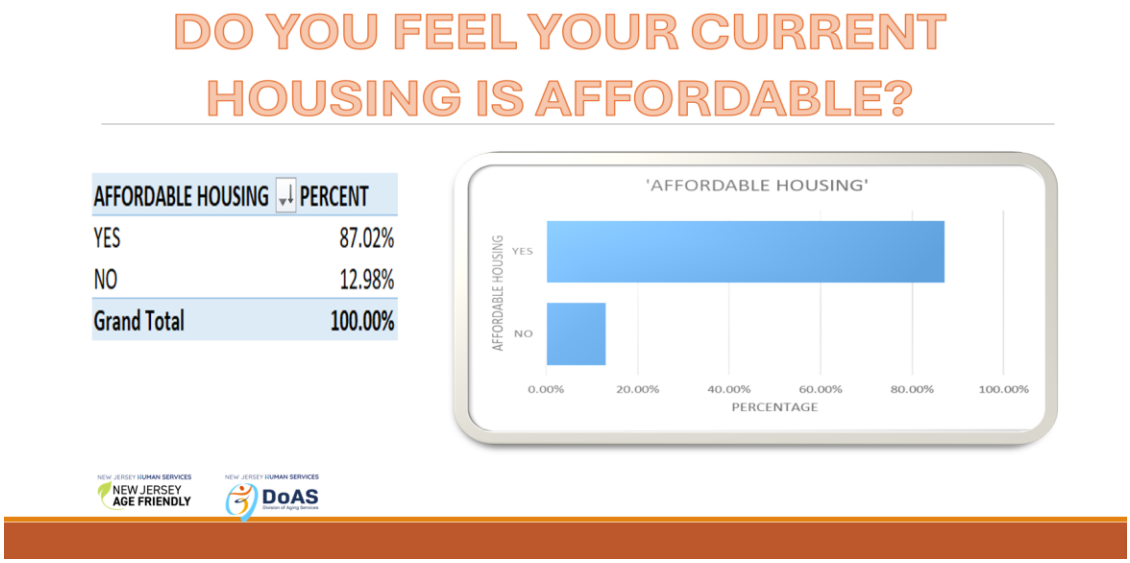


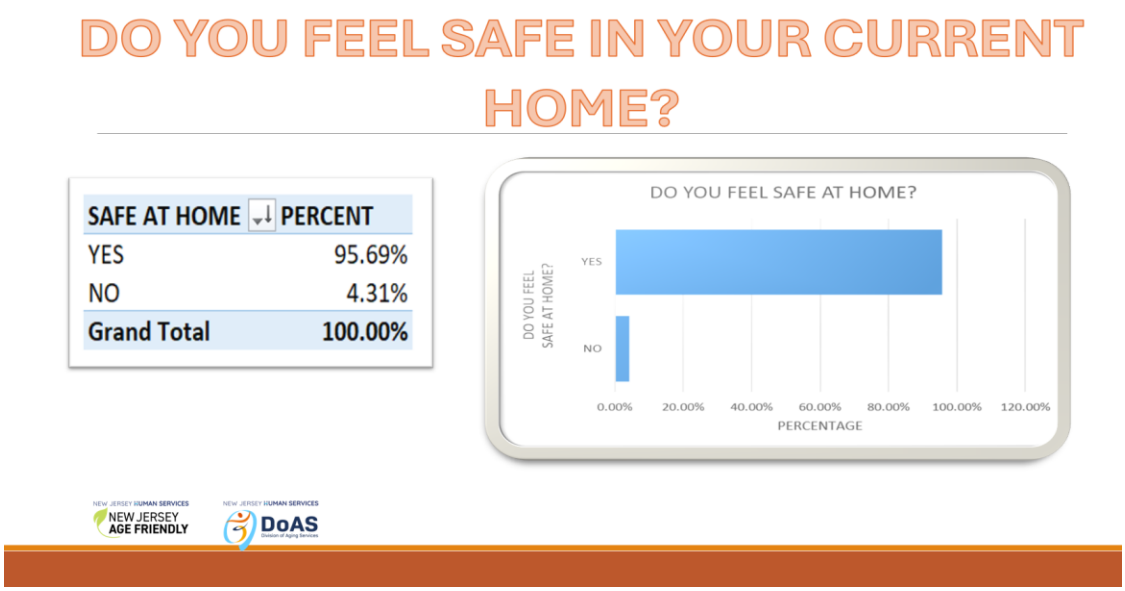
- **Housing:** Homeownership among respondents was extremely low, with only 1.1% reporting ownership of their homes. The overwhelming majority relied on rental or other non-ownership living arrangements, increasing vulnerability to housing instability, rising rental costs, and potential displacement. Participants also identified concerns related to:
  - Housing affordability
  - Accessibility limitations within homes
  - Maintenance and repair challenges
  - Safety concerns
  - Need for aging-in-place modifications



Key Findings

1. **Housing Affordability and Security**
    - A core social determinant of health is housing. To support healthy wellbeing, housing must be affordable and safe. Data analysis revealed high rates for housing affordability and security.
- 95.69% of respondents feel safe in their current home. 87.02% of respondents feel that housing is affordable.

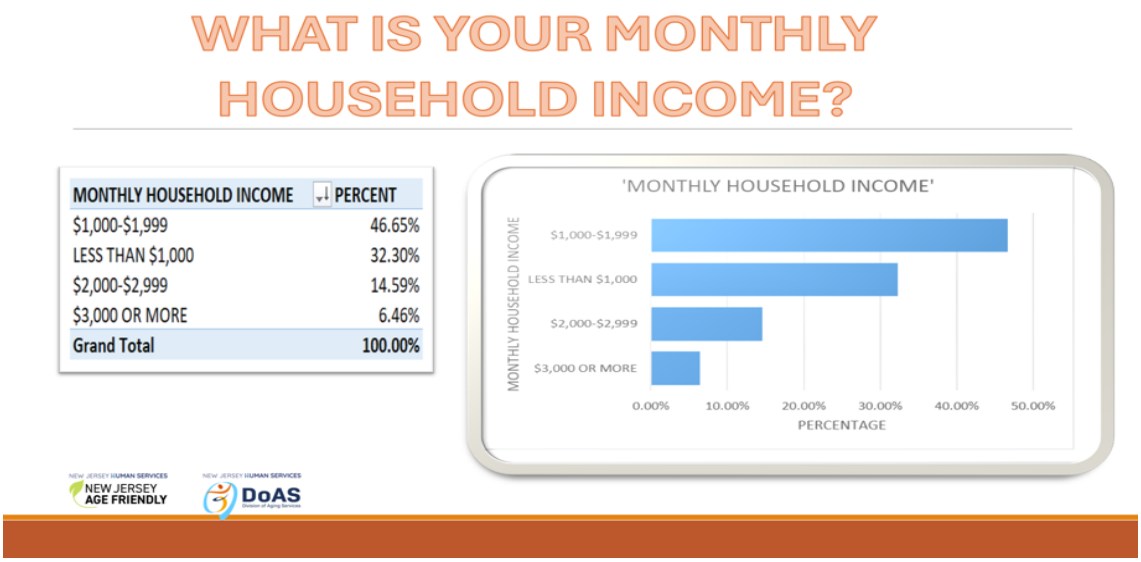


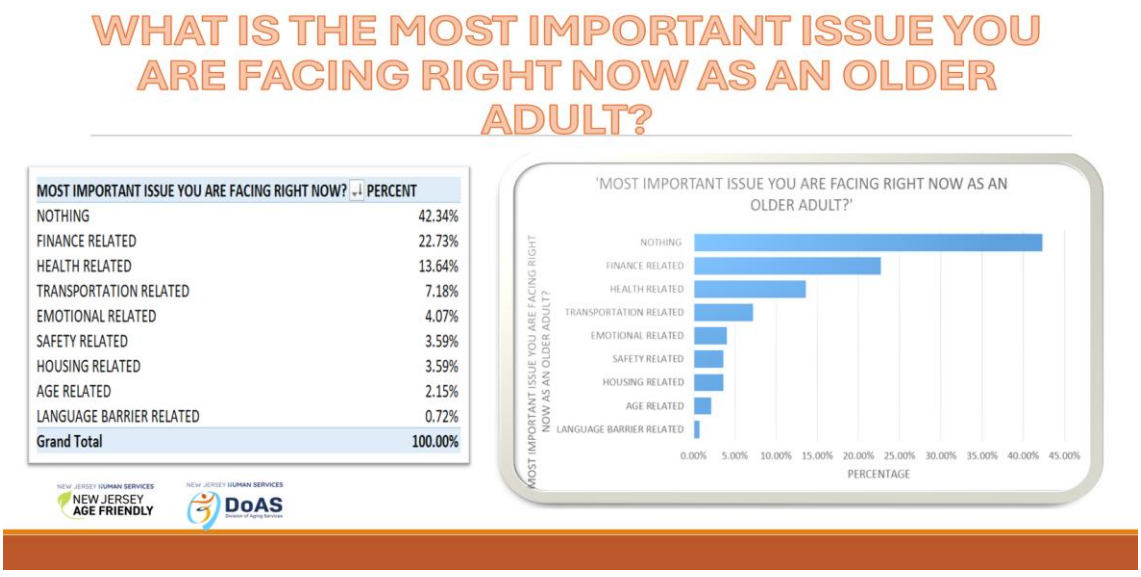


2. Economic Vulnerability

- In the City of Orange, many older adults have low – income households which can contribute to economic vulnerability affecting housing, food, stability, health, social engagement, and safety.

- 22.73% of respondents revealed that the most important issue they are facing right now is financial related. 46.65% of respondents have a monthly income of $1,000 - $1,999. 32.30% of respondents have a monthly income below $1,000.



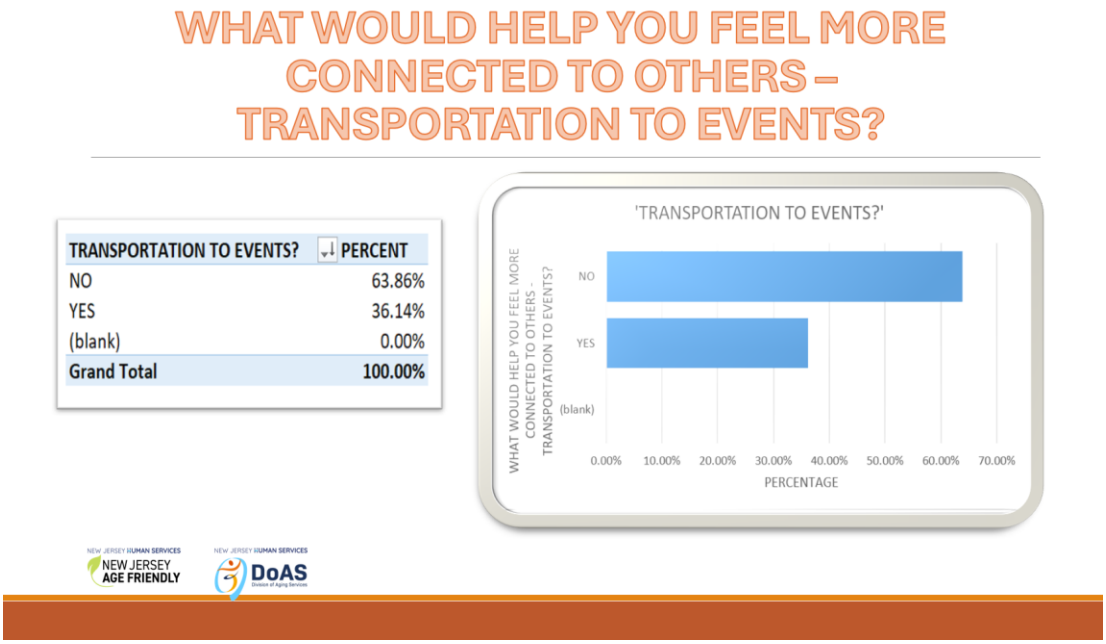


3. Transportation Challenges

- Key findings from the comprehensive community health needs assessment survey identified the need to improve access to transportation services and

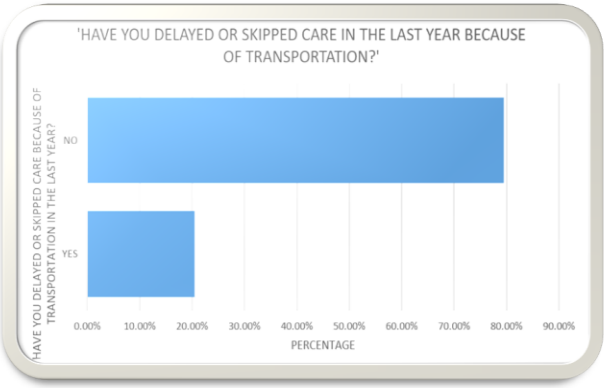
communication about activities/workshops for older adults to increase social participation.

- 36.14 % of respondents feel transportation to events would help them feel more connected to others. 20.49% of respondents delayed or skipped care in the past year because of transportation. 19.62% of respondents reported that they have trouble getting to places (doctor appointments, grocery store, religious/social activities).



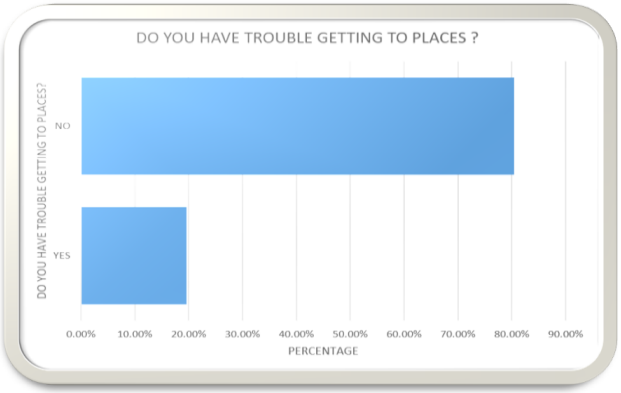
IN THE LAST YEAR, DID YOU DELAY OR SKIP CARE BECAUSE OF TRANSPORTATION?

DELAYED/SKIPPED CARE - TRANSPORTATION?	PERCENT
NO	79.51%
YES	20.49%
Grand Total	100.00%



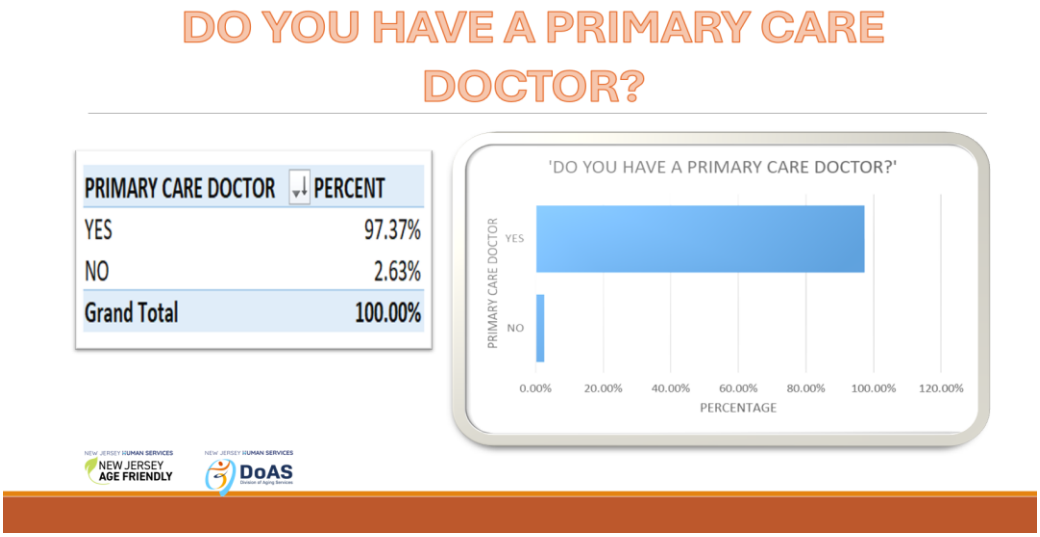
DO YOU HAVE TROUBLE GETTING TO PLACES (DOCTOR APPOINTMENTS, GROCERY STORE, RELIGIOUS/SOCIAL ACTIVITIES)?

DO YOU HAVE TROUBLE GETTING TO PLACES?	PERCENT
NO	80.38%
YES	19.62%
Grand Total	100.00%



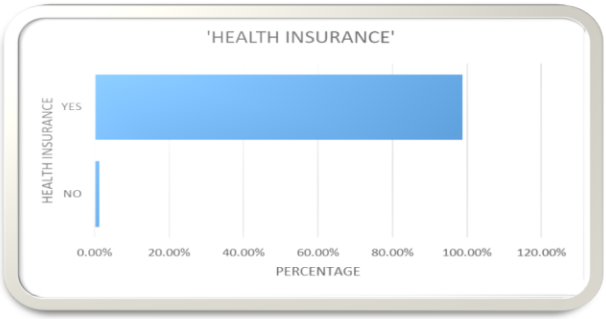
4. **Healthcare Access and Affordability**

- Fixed incomes and low-income households are major barriers to healthcare.
- Key findings from the comprehensive health needs assessment survey revealed that 97.37% of respondents have a primary care doctor. 98.80% of respondents have health insurance. 20.49% of respondents delayed or skipped care in the past year because of transportation. 10.07% of respondents delayed or skipped care because of cost. 2.43% of respondents delayed or skipped care because of language barriers.



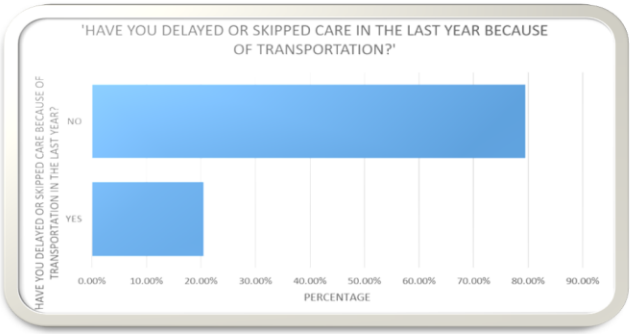
DO YOU HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE?

HEALTH INSURANCE	PERCENT
YES	98.80%
NO	1.20%
Grand Total	100.00%



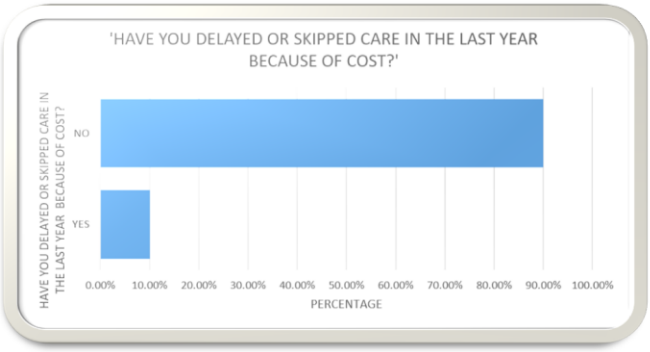
IN THE LAST YEAR, DID YOU DELAY OR SKIP CARE BECAUSE OF TRANSPORTATION?

DELAYED/SKIPPED CARE - TRANSPORTATION?	PERCENT
NO	79.51%
YES	20.49%
Grand Total	100.00%



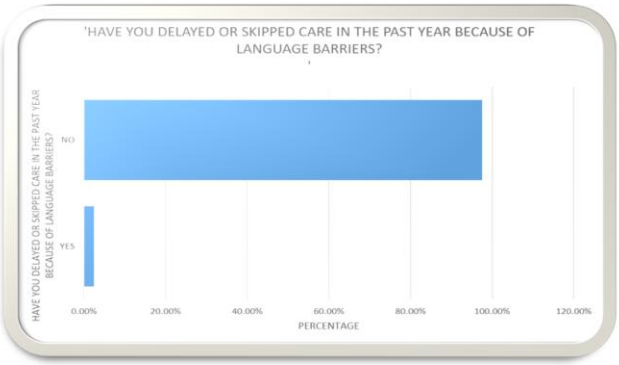
IN THE LAST YEAR, DID YOU DELAY OR SKIP CARE BECAUSE OF COST?

DELAYED/SKIPPED CARE - COST?	PERCENT
NO	89.93%
YES	10.07%
Grand Total	100.00%



IN THE LAST YEAR, DID YOU DELAY OR SKIP CARE BECAUSE OF LANGUAGE BARRIERS?

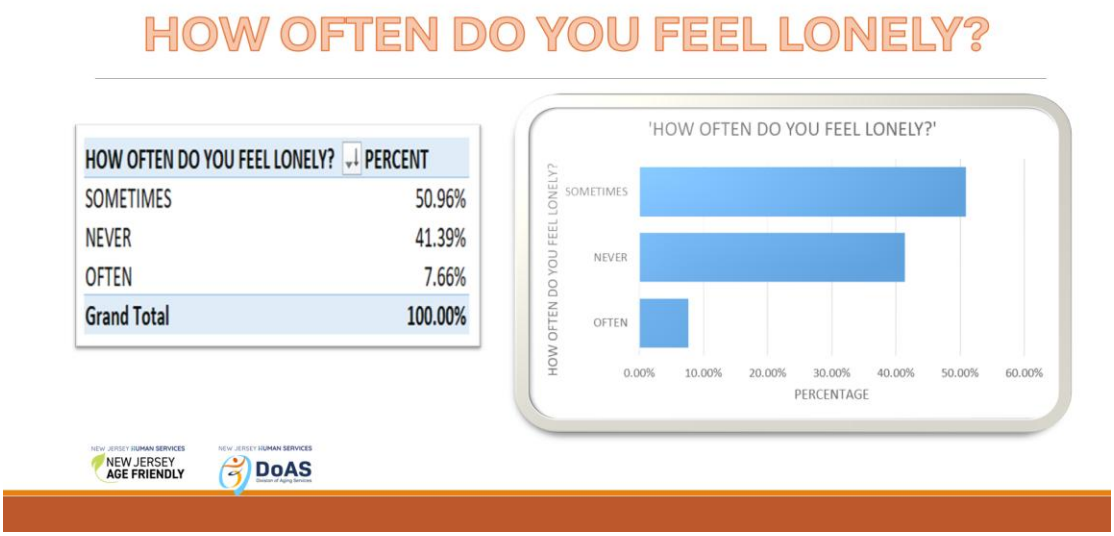
DELAYED/SKIPPED CARE - LANGUAGE BARRIER?	PERCENT
NO	97.57%
YES	2.43%
Grand Total	100.00%



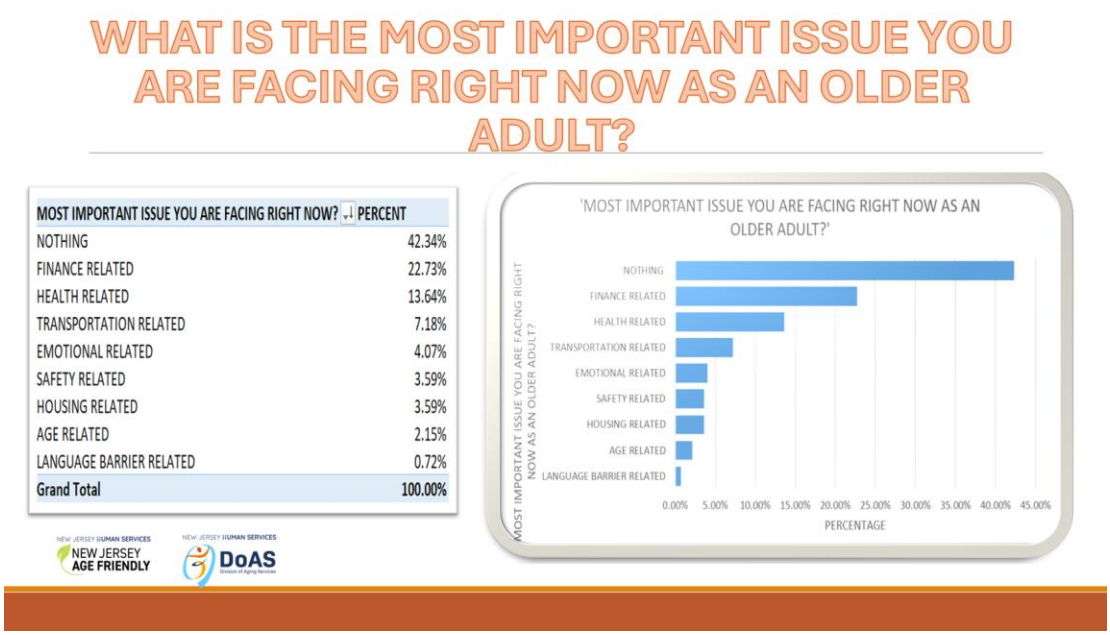
5. Social Participation and Support

- Older adults in the City of Orange have numerous opportunities to attend health workshops and community activities. Monthly activity calendars are distributed to senior housing buildings, but overall participation in these events remains low.

- 50.96 % of respondents reported that they feel lonely sometimes. 44.44% of respondents feel that more community activities would help them feel more connected to others. 4.07% of respondents feel that the most important issue they are facing right now is related to emotional issues.







Priority Needs

Healthcare Access and Economic Assistance

- Improved healthcare accessibility through affordable prescription assistance, preventive care programs, mobile clinics, and chronic disease management services.

- Economic assistance and benefits navigation support, including SNAP enrollment, energy assistance, Medicare Savings Programs, and financial literacy resources.

Transportation Access

- Transportation is a priority need for older adults in the City of Orange based on data analysis retrieved from the community health needs assessment survey.
- Transportation plays a key role in access to healthcare, food, and social participation.
- Transportation services must be expanded in Orange to provide older adults with reliable, consistent, and easily accessible coverage options.
- Expanded age-friendly transportation services, including shuttle programs, transportation vouchers, and improved Access Link coordination.

Improved Communication

- Improved communication is a priority need for older adults based on data analysis retrieved from the community health needs assessment survey.
- Despite multiple activities and workshops available to older adults in Orange, the total number of older adults attending remains low.

Social Isolation

- Programs aimed at reducing social isolation through peer support groups, congregate meals, volunteer opportunities, and culturally relevant community engagement initiatives.

Recommendations

In response to data analysis retrieved from the community health needs assessment survey, the City of Orange developed a strategic action plan to initiate transportation workshops for older adults during the month of June 2026 in collaboration with EZ Ride and implement the use of community ambassadors to help strengthen community engagement, increase social participation in community activities, improve communication, build trust, and spread awareness on valuable resources.

Transportation workshops in partnership with EZ Ride will help older adults in the City of Orange gain insight into transportation options making it easier for them to attend medical appointments, participate in community activities, improve access to food (grocery stores, food pantries), attend religious activities, and remain socially connected. Transportation workshops and the implementation of ambassadors will help build bridges between older adults and the community of Orange to support Orange's initiative to be a more inclusive and age – friendly community.

Short – Term (0 – 6 months)

- Improve awareness, affordability, and access.

- Launch a transportation awareness campaign highlighting EZ Ride services using flyers, senior – citizen building outreach, library postings, and email/phone call blasts.
- Provide transportation, healthcare access, economic assistance, and navigation workshops in senior – citizen buildings.

- Create multilingual communication unified transportation information worksheets with clear instructions, hours, eligibility, and contact numbers to distribute within the community of Orange.
- Increase outreach through trusted community institutions, including churches, senior buildings, health department, and local nonprofits.

Medium – Term (6 – 18 months)

- Expand services and coordination through the use of community ambassadors.
- Launch a pilot senior transportation program with EZ-Ride offering scheduled shuttle services to healthcare facilities, grocery stores, pharmacies, and senior centers.
- Expand culturally responsive senior programming through partnerships with community organizations and faith-based institutions.
- Develop a home modification assistance program to support aging in place and improve home safety.

Long – Term (18+ months)

- Advocate for the development of dedicated affordable senior housing units within Orange Township.
- Institutionalize a mobile healthcare initiative focused on preventive screenings, medication management, and wellness outreach.
- Establish a centralized Senior Engagement Hub offering integrated health, social, recreational, and resource navigation services.
- Evaluate success and metrics utilizing random feedback surveys.

Evaluation Metrics

To measure progress and impact, the following indicators are recommended:

- **Transportation** – number of senior trips provided and missed medical appointment due to transportation barriers.
- **Social Engagement** – attendance of senior citizens attending senior workshops, activities, and community events.

- **Housing Stability**
    - Number of older adults accessing rental assistance.
    - Number of affordable senior housing placements secured.
    - Number of homes modified for aging in place

- **Healthcare Access**
    - Percentage of residents reporting improved healthcare access
    - Reduction in delayed or skipped medical care due to cost or transportation

Conclusion

The results of the Age – Friendly Grant survey plays a significant role in strengthening and supporting the needs of older adults in the City of Orange, NJ. The findings demonstrate clear needs related to housing affordability, economic security, transportation access, healthcare affordability, and social connection. At the same time, the assessment reveals a resilient and

engaged older adult population that seeks not only support services, but also meaningful inclusion, participation, and recognition within the broader community. Addressing these gaps will help reduce barriers that can lead to unmet needs amongst older adults in the City of Orange. The New Jersey Age – Friendly Grand allowed the City of Orange to enhance the quality of life for older adults and build a community grounded in equity, inclusiveness, and support.

Moving forward, Orange has an opportunity to strengthen its age-friendly initiatives through partnerships with EZ-Ride shuttle services and incorporating community ambassadors to build trust, spread awareness, and connect older adults with the community. Addressing these needs through strategic investment, collaborative partnerships, and age-friendly planning will position Orange Township to become a more equitable, inclusive, and supportive community where older adults can age with dignity, independence, purpose, and connection.