As the designated Area Agency on Aging for Pierce County, Aging and Disability Resources (ADR) must develop and oversee long-term services and supports for older adults and adults with disabilities living in our communities. To develop the Area Plan Update for 2022-2023, ADR initiated a survey to gather input from stakeholders in the community that was made available online and on paper through June 2021.

**SURVEY RESPONDENTS**

- 509 community members responded to the survey.
- 39% are living with a disability.
- 83% are White or Caucasian. The next largest racial group was Asian (13%) with Hispanic origin accounting for 3%.
- 79% are 60+ years old, with the majority (37%) being between the ages of 65-74.
- 38% are low or limited income.
- Nearly half (40%) live alone.
- 11% identify as being lesbian, gay or bisexual.
- 71% are females.
- 21% are veterans.

**AGING IN PLACE**

What ranked as the most common barriers to getting help?

1. Unsure of available services
2. Don't know who to ask
3. Can't afford services

What ranked as essential or very important to helping people age safely at home?

1. Information about available services
2. Help accessing services
3. Transportation

**CAREGIVING**

1 out of 5 report being an informal caregiver.

51% Don't know where to get help with caregiving responsibilities.
What do caregivers need the most help with?

1st: Information and help locating resources
2nd: Caregiving tasks
3rd: A break from caregiving

What are the most common caregiving tasks reported?

1st: Shopping or errands
2nd: Medical appointments
3rd: Cleaning the house
4th: Paying bills and/or handling finances

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

13% of respondents reported not eating a healthy diet. The top 4 reasons include:

1st: Choose to eat what I want
2nd: Dental problems
3rd: Health issues
4th: Lack of money

More than half (57%) of respondents do not participate in wellness programs. Why not?

1. Not interested
2. No transportation
3. Need information about program locations

IMPACTS OF COVID-19

43% reported experiencing increased needs during the pandemic.

What ranked as top needs or challenges reported?

1. Social isolation and/or loneliness
2. Physical isolation
3. Unable to access essential health care or other services

90% had received the COVID-19 vaccine.

Of those who were not vaccinated, 62% report concerns about vaccine safety as being the biggest barrier.
What are the top 3 needs for adults with disabilities?

1. Transportation
2. In-home personal care
3. Health care

What do older adults say are their top 3 needs?

1. Food
2. Health care
3. Health and wellness

If additional funds became available, where should it be invested to help older adults and adults with disabilities live safely at home?

1st: In-home personal care
2nd: Home delivered meals
3rd: Housekeeping assistance
4th: Information and/or outreach

Learn more at PierceCountyWA.gov/ADR