The majority of respondents (84%) reported owning their primary home. According to the American Community Survey, a similar number of households with a head of household aged 65 or greater (73.9% in Marion County) report owning their home, much higher than the Allen County average of 54.0% for owner-occupied homes. While this is an imperfect comparison, it does lend some evidence that households led by older Marion County residents (the majority of respondents were from Marion County) are more likely to own their homes.

Fourteen percent of respondents reported renting their primary home (versus a 26.1% rental rate amongst Marion County residents over the age of 65).

In addition to ownership status, residents were asked about their type of home. Given the high ownership rate of respondents, it follows that the majority of respondents (84%, n=581) reported a single-family home as their primary home. The next most common primary home type was apartment (7%, n = 41). Nine percent of respondents lived in other types of housing, including Condominiums/Cooperatives (5%), Town homes or duplex (3%) and mobile homes (1%).

Respondents were asked to rate using a scale from Extremely Important (5) to Not at all Important (1). Nearly two thirds of respondents (63%) reported that living independently at home as they age was Extremely Important and another 29 and six percent said it was Very Important and Somewhat Important, respectively.
Using cross tabulation, this question can be related to the factors impacting the decision to move. "Looking for a Home that will Help You Live Independently as You Age" (Q7d), was the most important factor overall and 427/463 (98.5%) respondents who identified this factor as an important determinant for deciding to move also said it was at least Somewhat Important to live independently as they age.

Respondents were asked to answer the following question using responses of “Yes”, “No” and “Not Sure”.

**FIGURE 27:** HOW IMPORTANT IS IT FOR YOU TO BE ABLE TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY IN YOUR OWN HOME AS YOU AGE? (N=582, RESPONSE RATE = 100%)

**FIGURE 28:** DO YOU THINK YOU WILL NEED TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF MODIFICATIONS OR IMPROVEMENTS TO YOUR HOME TO ENABLE YOU TO STAY THERE AS YOU AGE?
There was not an overwhelming consensus amongst the respondents. The only modification that received a majority of “Yes” responses (57%) was “Bathroom modifications such as grab bars, handrails, a higher toilet or non-slip tiles.” All other modifications were deemed necessary by between almost one fourth of respondents (“Putting a bedroom, bathroom and kitchen on the first floor”) to roughly a third of respondents (“Installing a medical emergency response system that notifies others in case of emergency” (37%), Easier access or within your home such as a ramp, chairlift or elevator, or wider doorways (34% and Improving lighting (33%).

Respondents were asked to answer the question below using a scale from Extremely Important (5) to Not at all Important (1). All three housing options (affordable at a variety of income and amenity levels, senior-friendly amenity and low-income housing) were deemed important at the Extremely/Very Important level (79 – 83%) and Somewhat Important level (14-18%). Only a minority of respondents (3-7%) felt that these aspects of housing were Note Very or Not at all Important.

FIGURE 29: HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU THINK IT IS TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

Not only is importance a key factor, respondents were also asked, “Does the community where you live have the following?” using responses of “Yes”, “No” and “Not Sure”.

Respondents reported that just less than a third of them (32%) lived in a community with “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”. Forty-one percent said that these options did not exist in their community and just over a quarter (27%) were unsure if they existed in their community. Similarly, twenty nine percent of respondents reported that “Homes that are equipped with features such as a no-step entry, wider doorways, first floor bedroom and bath, grab bars in bathrooms” existed in their community, another twenty nine percent reported that they did not and forty two percent were unsure. Lastly, twenty-one percent reported that “Well-maintained and safe low-income housing” existed in their community, forty four said it did not and thirty five percent were unsure.
There are some potential caveats to this data.

The ‘community’ that the respondents have in mind is likely quite variable as Indianapolis itself varies from neighborhood to neighborhood and the Greater Indianapolis Area is even more variable across county lines and the entire spectrum of their rural, suburban and urban constituent parts. In addition, respondents are working from their own reality and knowledge about their community. No single individual has full information about their community, especially when it comes to specific aspects discussed here. That said, the reported existence of these options and the importance of these options are both useful units of analysis. Following the gap analysis methodology used in the 2014 “Livability for All: The 2014 AARP Livable Communities Survey of Honolulu, Hawaii Adults age 45+”, we examine the “gap” between the proportion of respondents that believe these option are Extremely/Very/Somewhat Important and the proportion of respondents that report the existence of the options. Based on the survey responses, gaps exist for all three housing options. Gaps range from 64 to 72 percentage points, with the widest gap for “Well-maintained and safe low-income housing.”

### Table: Gap Between Importance and Existence of Housing Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Housing Options</th>
<th>Gap</th>
<th>Extremely, Very, or Somewhat Important</th>
<th>Yes, Characteristic or Service Exists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>-64</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homes that are equipped with features such as a no-step entry, wider doorways, first floor bedroom and bath, grab bars in bathrooms</td>
<td>-68</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-maintained and safe low-income housing</td>
<td>-72</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>