



Community Board Six Manhattan

Older Adults Survey 2017

The survey

Manhattan Community Board Six (CB6) conducted a survey from July to September 2017 for individuals aged 60 or older who live in Community District 6 to gain insight into their interests, lifestyles, and concerns. The survey was distributed at 3 libraries and a senior center in our district, as well as via our monthly email newsletter.

The results

We received 30 paper responses, and 67 online form responses (**97 total responses**). Only 6 respondents said they live outside of CB6, so the results may be viewed as fairly representative.

Older adults' favorite activities, in order of importance:

- socializing (61%)
- fitness (46%)
- education (44%)

Most common reasons older adults don't participate in events/activities:

- don't hear about them (81%)
- they're too expensive (21%)
- they're too far away (17%)

However, the majority (64%) of respondents will travel as far as needed for events.

Most popular ways for respondents to hear about events:

- email (58%)
- friends/word of mouth (56%)

In general, respondents prefer early or late afternoon events. Late morning and evenings are also somewhat popular. Early mornings are not popular. **Most respondents attend events by themselves.**

Lenox Hill on East 53rd Street is the most popular senior center in the district, even among those who didn't find and respond to the survey from that center.

Respondent demographics

The majority of respondents live alone. Most of the respondents are between 71 and 80 years old, and the great majority (73 of the 97) identified as female.

The majority of respondents own a home computer, and most of them own cell phones or smart phones.

Based on these survey responses, it seems older adults in the district would appreciate more **free opportunities to socialize**, advertised extensively by **email** and easy to reach with **public transportation**.

Write-in responses

The survey included a free response section where respondents could express their community concerns. Some of the most commonly expressed themes of these opinions were:

HOUSING:

- There is not enough affordable housing for seniors
- Legal aid is needed to keep landlords from winning all housing disputes against seniors trying to stay in their rent-stabilized apartments

STREETS AND TRANSIT:

- Noise and traffic is a major problem
- Public transit should be more convenient and age-friendly
- Cyclists do not follow the rules of the road and they behave in a risky manner

QUALITY OF LIFE:

- The homelessness problem is not being sufficiently addressed
- The streets are not clean enough, and the numerous bars in the area don't help
- The artistic and cultural opportunities in the city are greatly appreciated

