

# Mackenzie Seniors Survey: Belonging



## Survey Report

Prepared by the Community Development Institute  
University of Northern British Columbia

July 2021

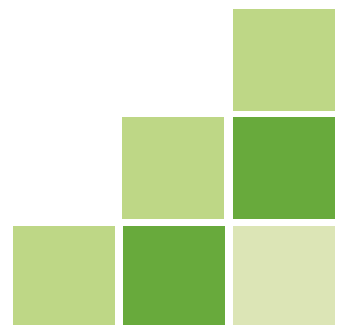
Funded by the Government of  
Canada's New Horizons for  
Seniors Program

Canada



College of  
New Caledonia

COMMUNITY  
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# Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the College of New Caledonia, Mackenzie Campus, as well as the Autumn Lodge Seniors Society for their support in distributing the survey.

## Availability

This Data Report will be available through the College of New Caledonia “New Horizons Program: Bridging the Gap” office and on their website.

All stakeholders of the “New Horizons Program: Bridging the Gap” will receive a digital copy of the report. It will also be shared with other New Horizons programs across Canada through the Government of Canada’s community of practice website.

The Community Development Institute at UNBC will post this report on its website: [www.unbc.ca/cdi](http://www.unbc.ca/cdi).

## Other surveys from this series of Mackenzie Seniors Surveys

Coming later in 2021:

Mackenzie Seniors Surveys: Recreation and Leisure Facilities and Programs

Other survey topics will include, for example, programs and services, health services, transportation, and housing.

## Contact Information

For further information about this survey, feel free to contact Marleen Morris or Greg Halseth, Co-Directors of UNBC’s Community Development Institute:

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## Introduction

In 2019, the College of New Caledonia, Mackenzie Campus, formed a community stakeholders group, successfully applied for a New Horizons grant, and entered a five-year agreement with the Government of Canada. The purpose of the grant is to understand seniors needs and issues in Mackenzie and develop programs and services that enhance quality of life for seniors.

The community stakeholders group includes a wide range of community organizations, including those that provide housing, transportation, recreation, home support, and other services to seniors. One of the stakeholders is the Community Development Institute (CDI) at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC). The CDI's role in this partnership is to design and conduct a research and evaluation framework for the "New Horizons Program: Bridging the Gap".

The Mackenzie Seniors Surveys will assist in understanding the current social and economic environment for seniors in Mackenzie and help identify potential gaps and opportunities for programs and services that could enhance quality of life.

The surveys will also help assess the impact of CNC's New Horizons Program on the lives of seniors in Mackenzie.

This survey is the first of a series of surveys to be developed and administered by the CDI as part of CNC's New Horizons program in Mackenzie. All surveys will be submitted to the UNBC Research Ethics Board for review and approval.

## Methodology

This survey targeted seniors aged 55 years and older in Mackenzie, BC. Recruitment took place in the form of advertising in various media throughout the community, word of mouth, and communication by "New Horizons Program: Bridging the Gap" stakeholders with their senior clients and networks.

This survey was primarily distributed online. In addition, paper copies were made available in the community, and respondents had the option to conduct the survey via telephone. Participants had to be aged 55 years or older to participate. Responses were collected during the month of May 2021 and part of June 2021.

The Mackenzie senior population aged 55 years and over, as per the Census 2016, comprises around 1,035 residents. This survey received 111 responses, resulting in a response rate of around 11%. The response rate of 11% means a margin of error of 8.79% with a confidence level of 95%.

## Respondent Profile

The majority of respondents were longtime residents of Mackenzie with 59% having lived in the community for over 30 years, and only 13% were relative newcomers with less than 10 years in Mackenzie to date.

Almost all respondents lived in small households; close to 70% lived in two-person households and another 27% lived by themselves.

Gender distribution in the respondent sample was close to three-quarters female and one-quarter male.

As shown in Figure 1, while a breadth of senior age groups was represented in the respondent sample, the majority were aged 60 to 74 years.

In terms of marital status, 62% of the sample were married and the next largest group were widowed (23%).

Close to two-thirds of respondents indicated they were retired. Of the 36% still active in the workforce, most still worked full-time year-round (70%).

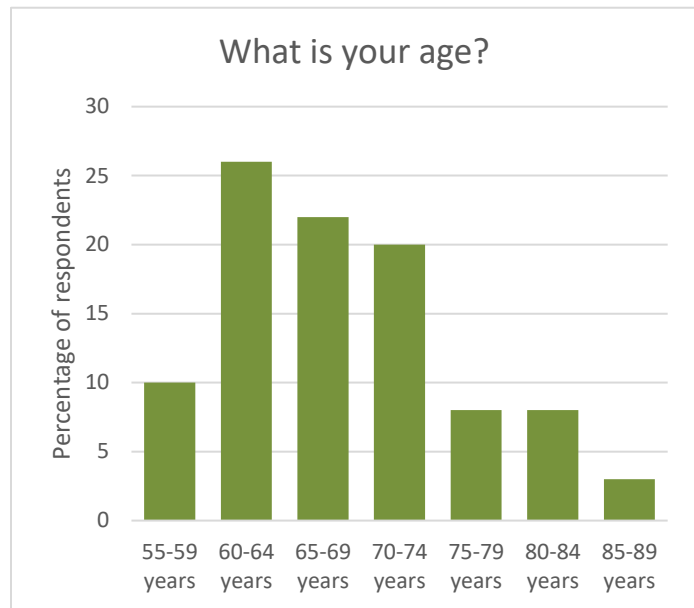


Figure 1

# Survey Results

## Mackenzie as a place to retire

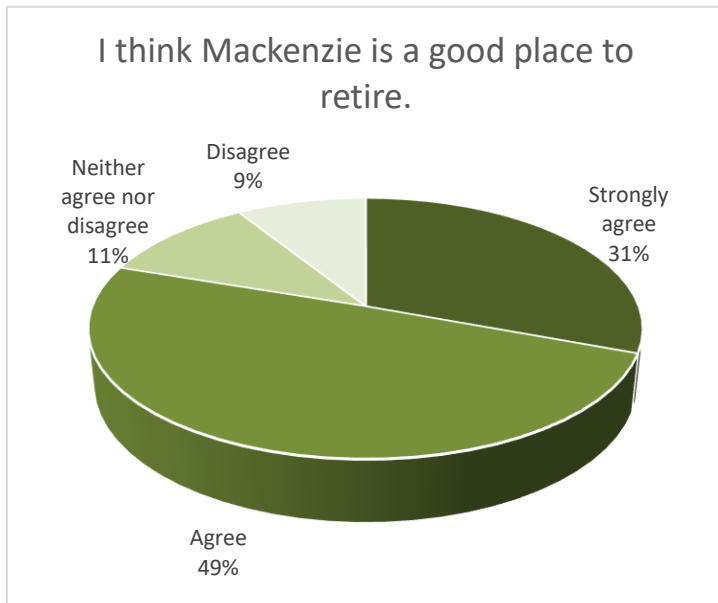


Figure 2

The first section of this survey inquired about Mackenzie seniors' opinions regarding Mackenzie as a community suited for retirement.

A total of 80% of respondents considered Mackenzie a good place to retire (see Figure 2).

At 54%, a little over one-half thought it was a better place to retire at the time of the survey than it had been five years ago.

Finally, 64% indicated they would recommend Mackenzie to family and friends as a place to retire.

## Community activities in general

When asked about availability of community activities in Mackenzie, 64% of respondents, or almost two-thirds, thought there were a large number of activities (Figure 3).

Just under 60% indicated that they participated in a number of those community activities, and just over 60% were volunteering with community activities.

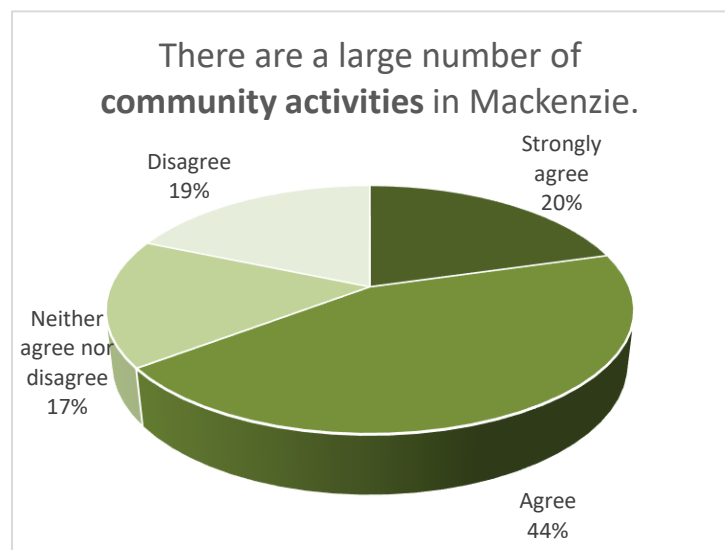
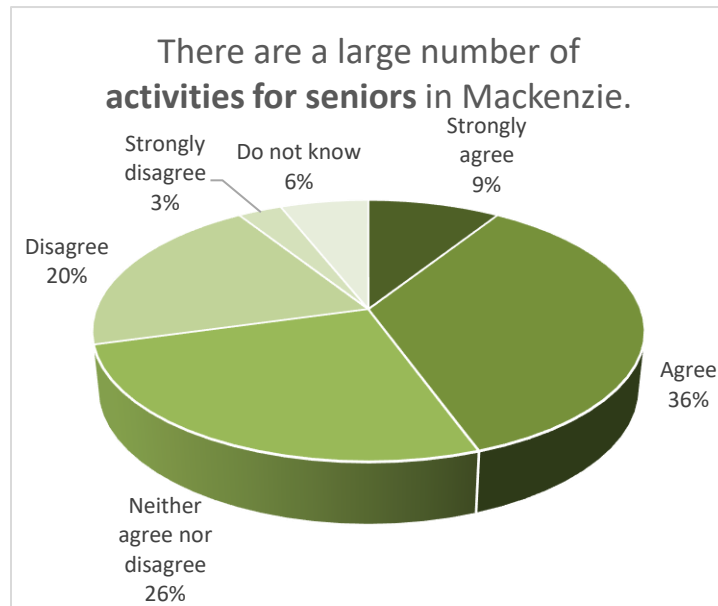


Figure 3

## Community activities for seniors



**Figure 4**

In comparison, Figure 4 shows that 45% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that there were a large number of activities for seniors in Mackenzie. Close to one-quarter, disagreed or strongly disagreed, seeing a shortage of activities targeting seniors.

Forty percent of respondents participated in activities for seniors, and another close to one-quarter of respondents gave a neutral answer, possibly indicating occasional participation.

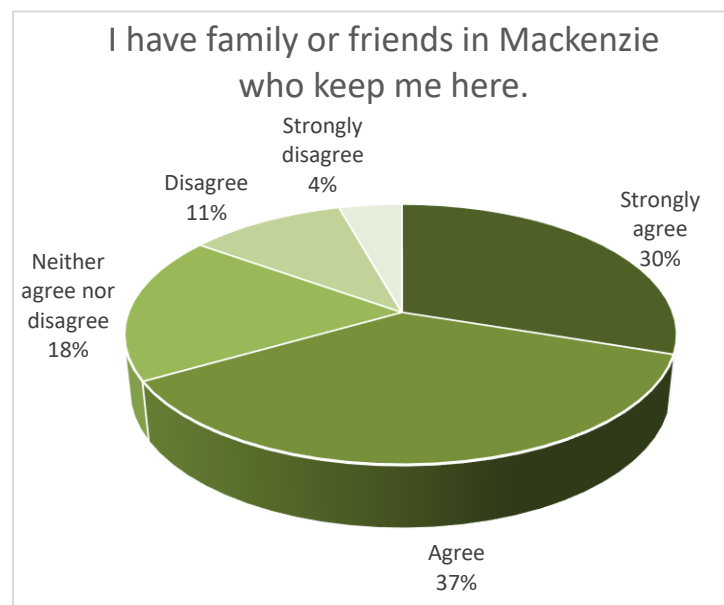
Close to one-third of respondents were volunteers with seniors' activities in Mackenzie.

## Personal networks

Almost all respondents (94%) said that they had family and friends in Mackenzie, indicating the existence of personal social networks for seniors in the community. Figure 5 shows that their network of family and friends are reasons to stay in Mackenzie for 67% of respondents.

A total of 90% agreed or strongly agreed that they had family and friends in the community who would help them out when they needed assistance.

Similarly, 88% indicated that they had family and friends who counted on them when in need of assistance.



**Figure 5**

## Community attitudes

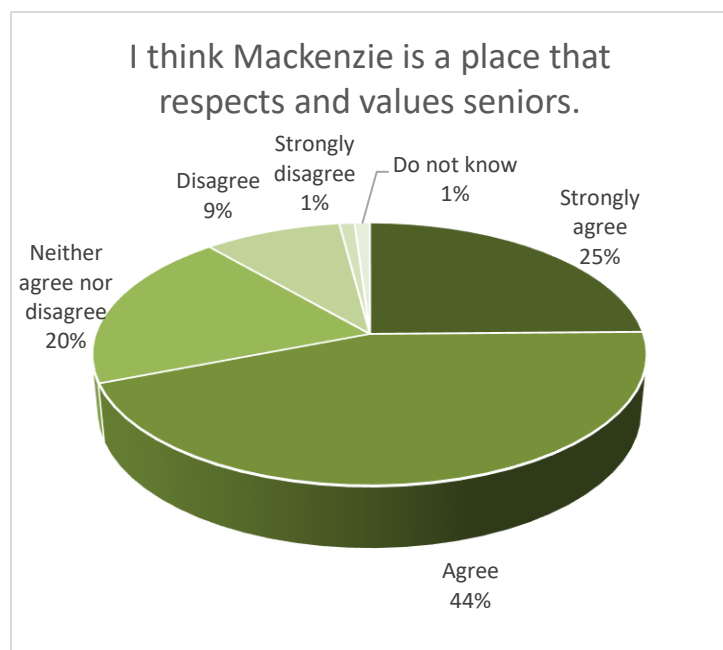


Figure 6

When asked whether people cared about one another in Mackenzie in general, 92% agreed and strongly agreed. In comparison, fewer people felt that the community cared about them, in particular, as seniors (76%).

As shown in Figure 6, 69% agreed or strongly agreed that Mackenzie respects and values its seniors, with another 20% neither agreeing nor disagreeing.

## Conclusion

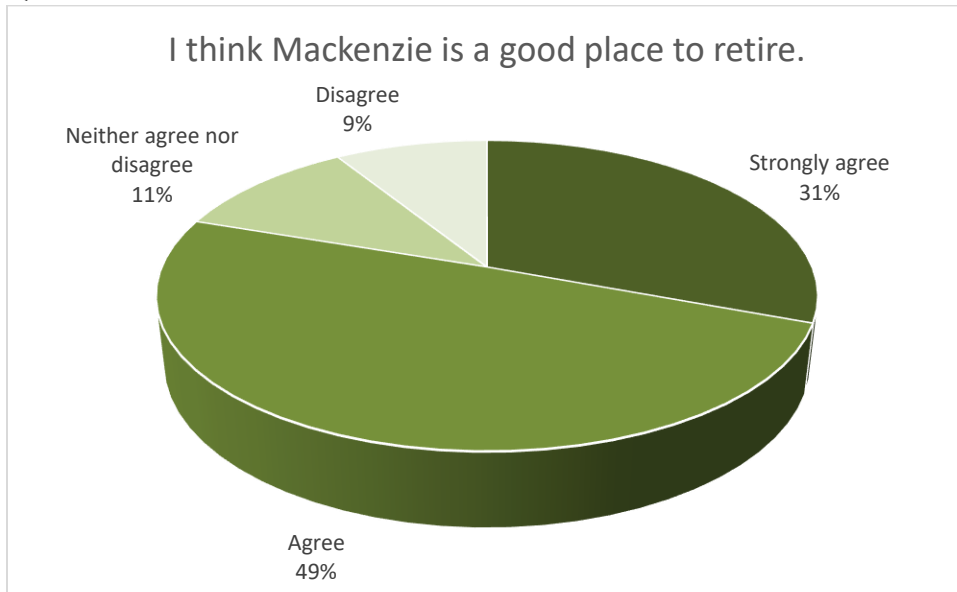
The proportion of seniors in Mackenzie has been steadily increasing for many years, and by 2016, the population aged 55 years and older made up well over one-quarter of the community's total population. Mackenzie is perceived by its seniors as a caring community in general and one that values its seniors; however, the numbers indicate that seniors feel that their generation may not always be prioritized enough. The majority of seniors consider Mackenzie a community that is well-suited to retirement, has improved life for seniors over the past five years, and is a community that has a lot to offer to keep its residents busy. At the same time, however, the responses suggest again that seniors feel that their generation is somewhat neglected in regards to activity options. Almost all seniors have close social ties in the community. Furthermore, respondents indicated that they have people in the community they can count on for help and support when they need it and that they are also in the position of providing help and support to others. The sense of belonging felt by seniors and the strong social ties that support and bind them to the community are clear strengths of the Mackenzie seniors population.



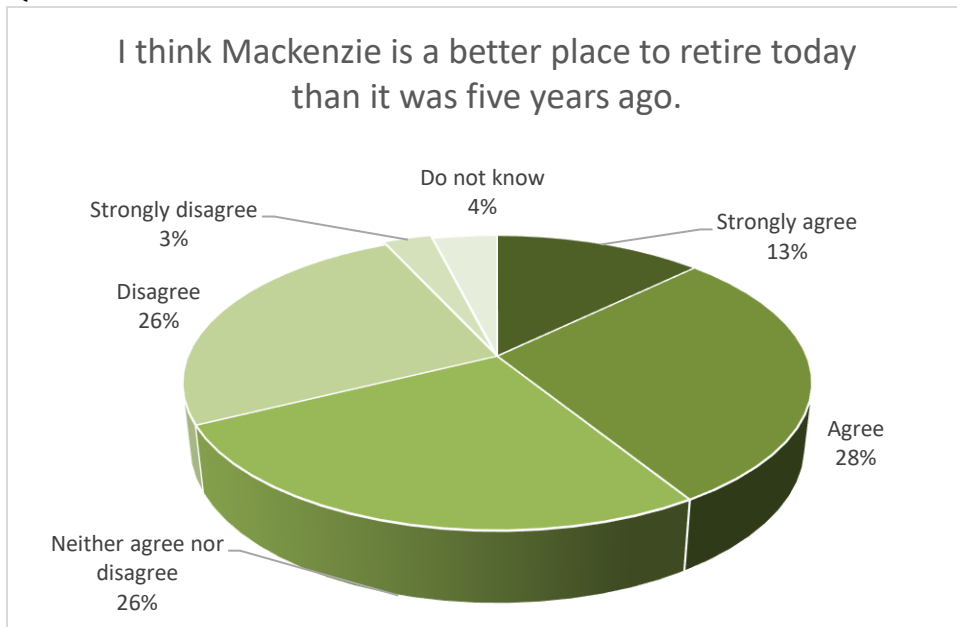
# Appendix 1 Complete Set of Graphs

Question 1, 2 and 3 included consent and confirmed that the respondent was aged 55 years or older.

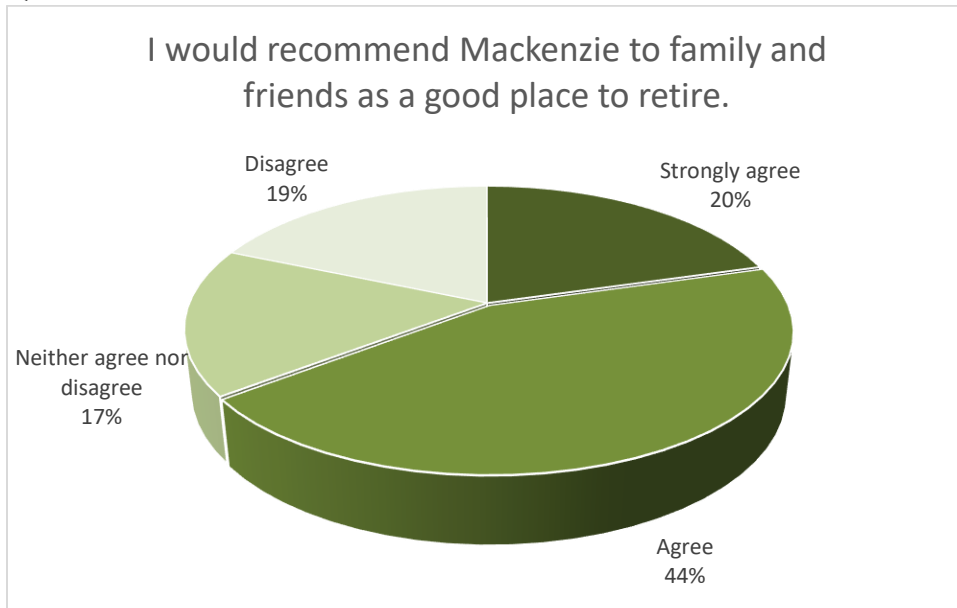
Question 4



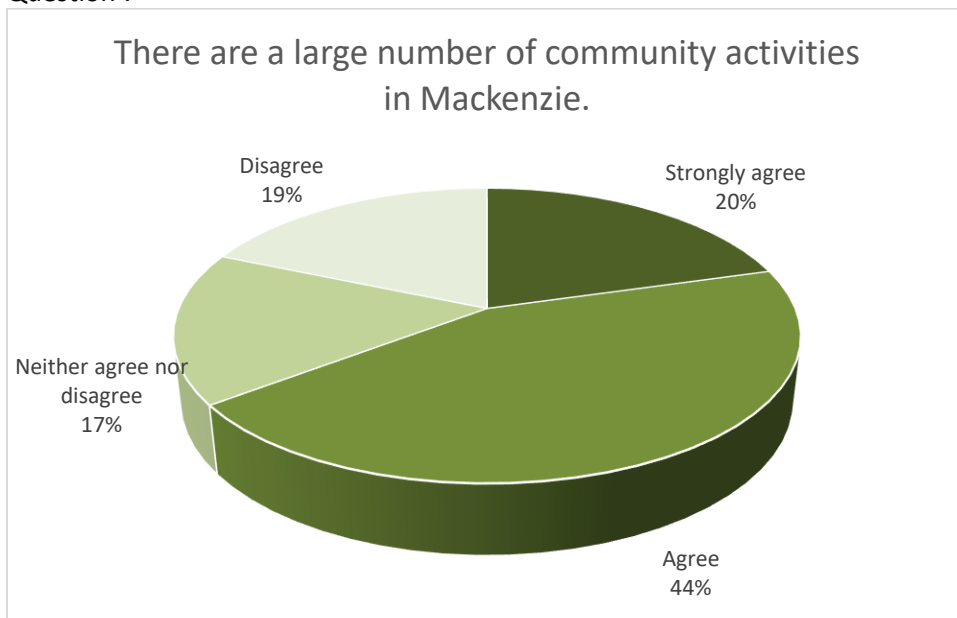
Question 5



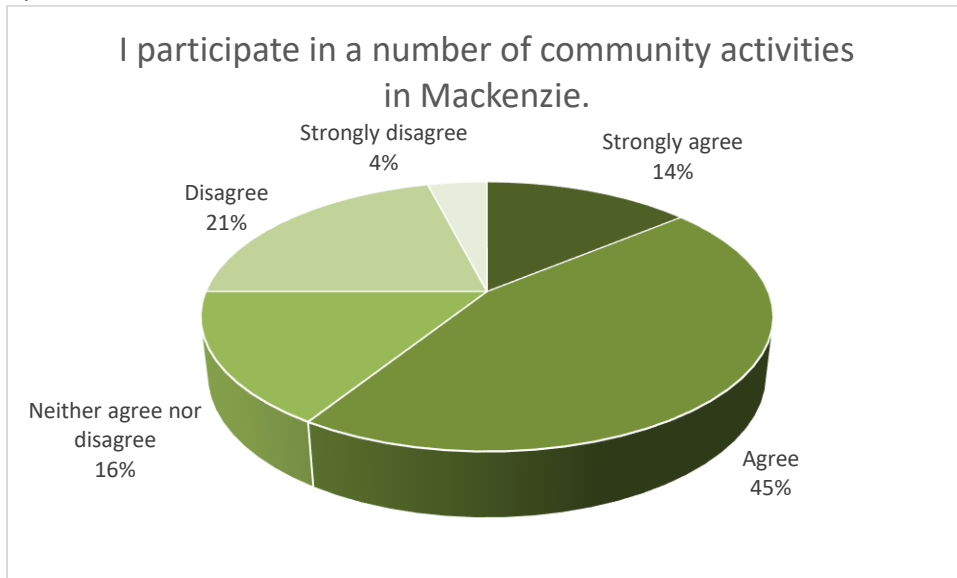
Question 6



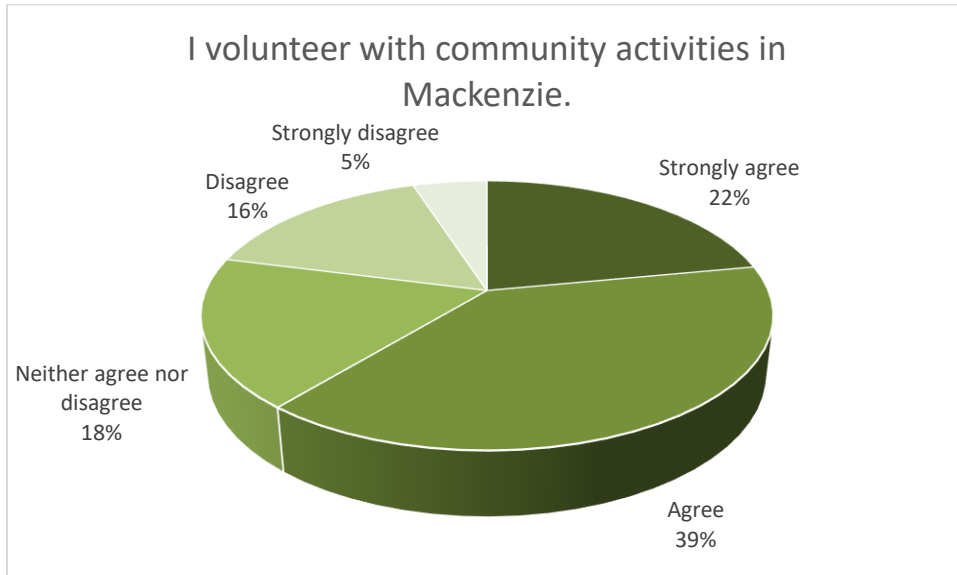
Question 7



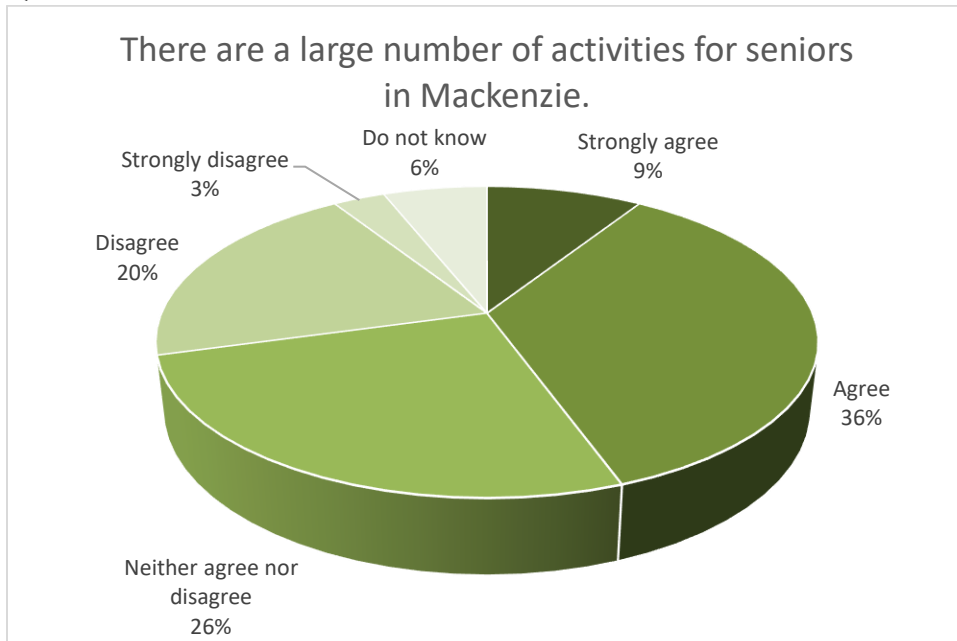
Question 8



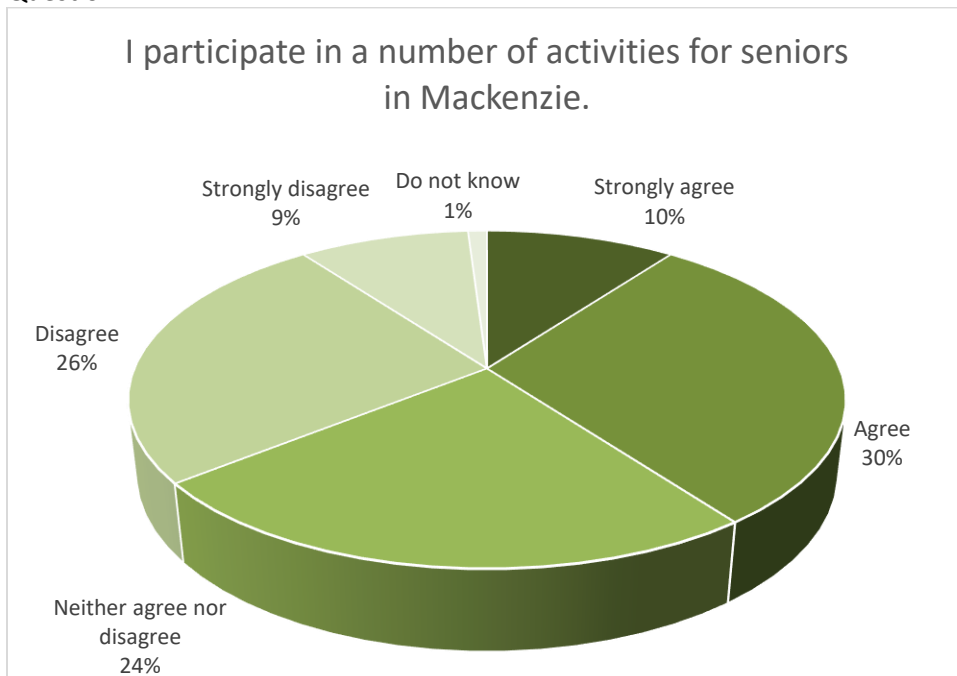
Question 9



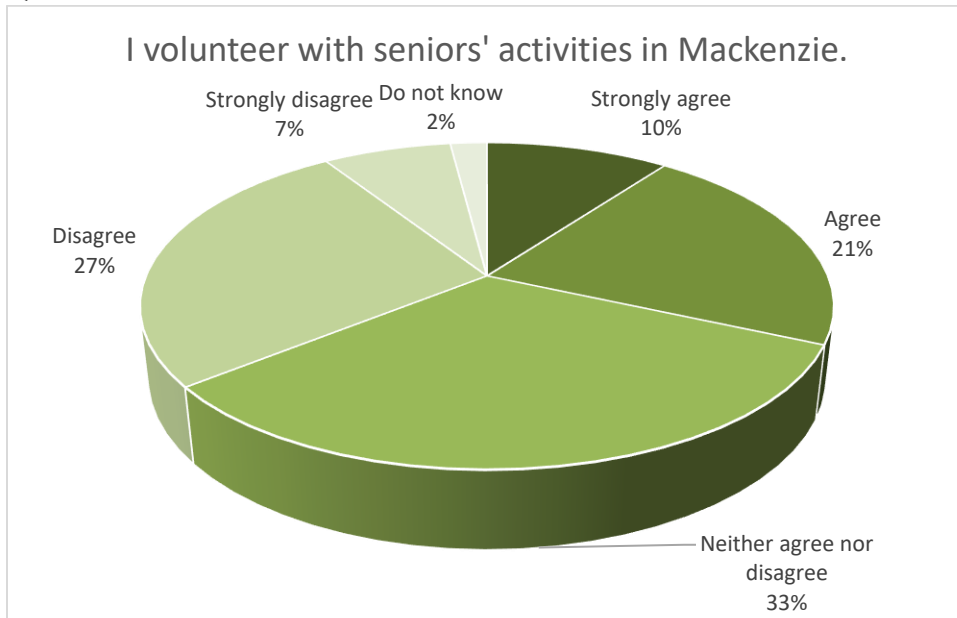
Question 10



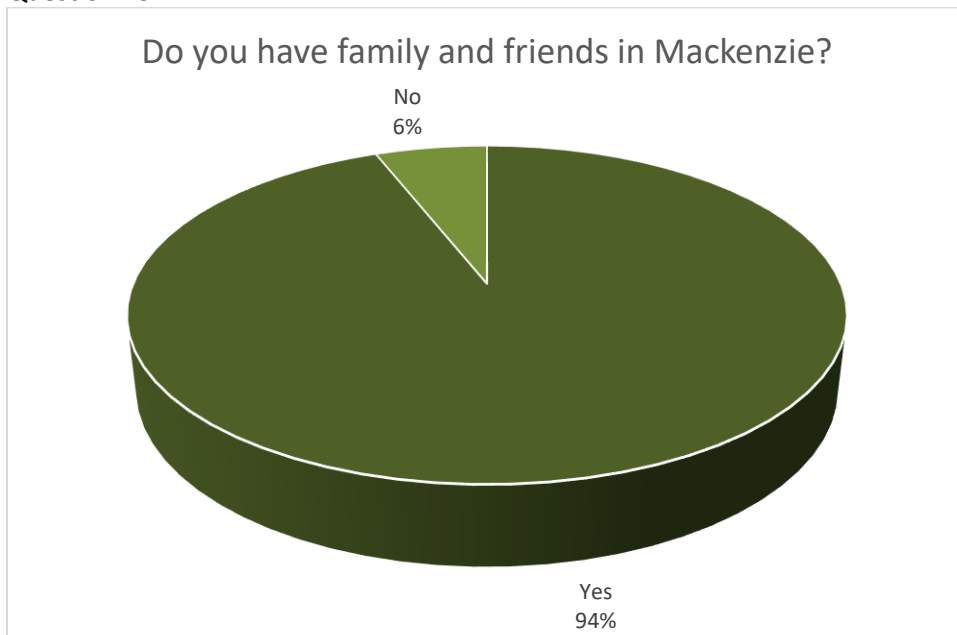
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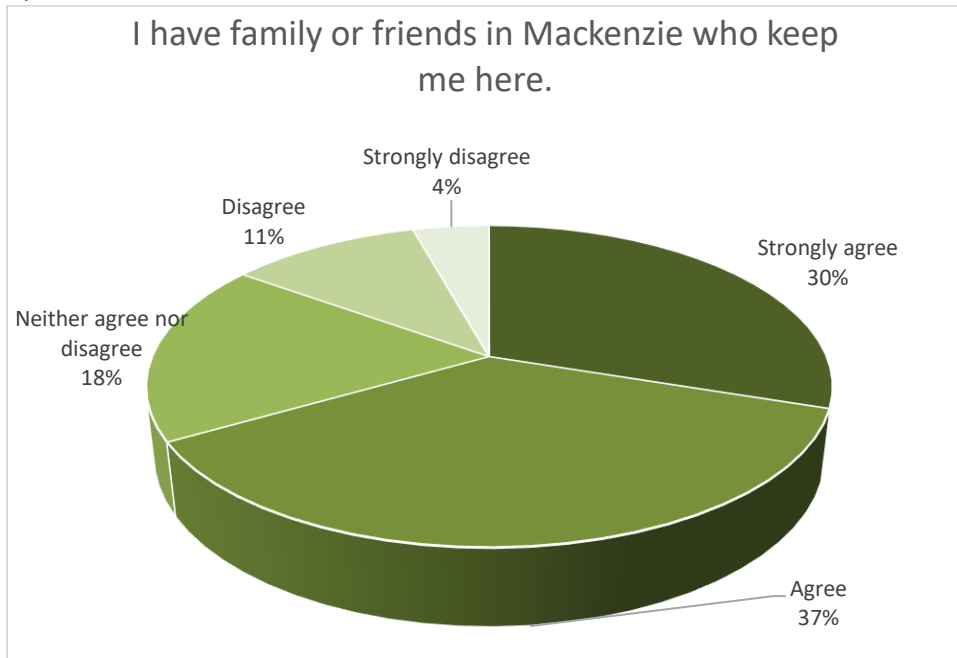
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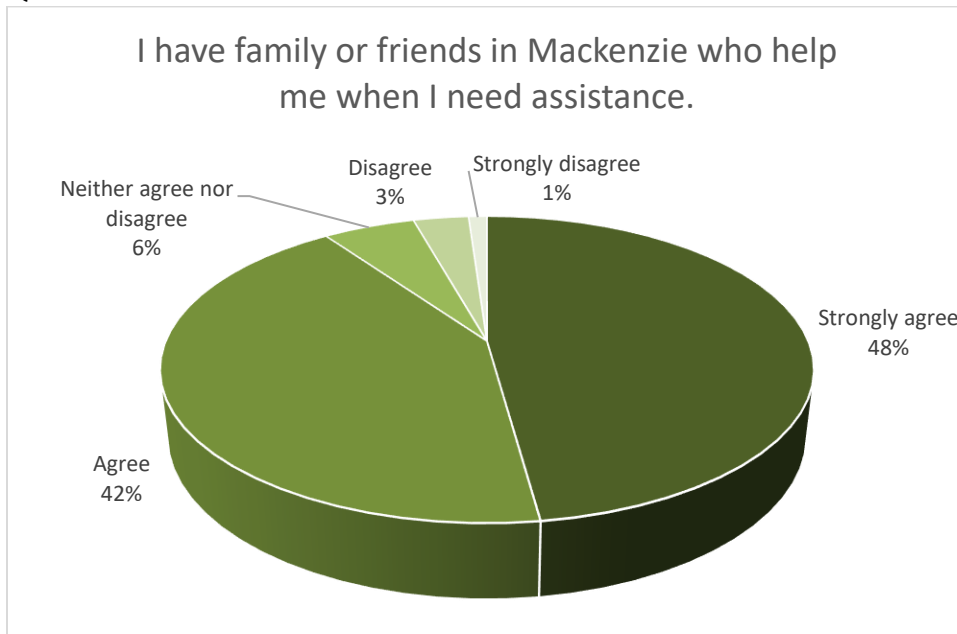
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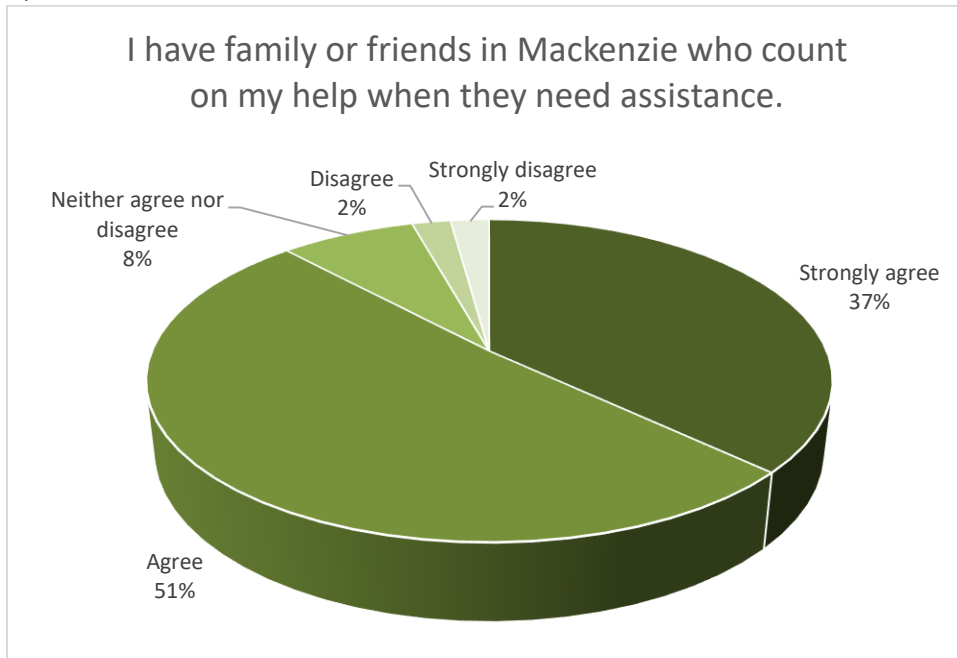
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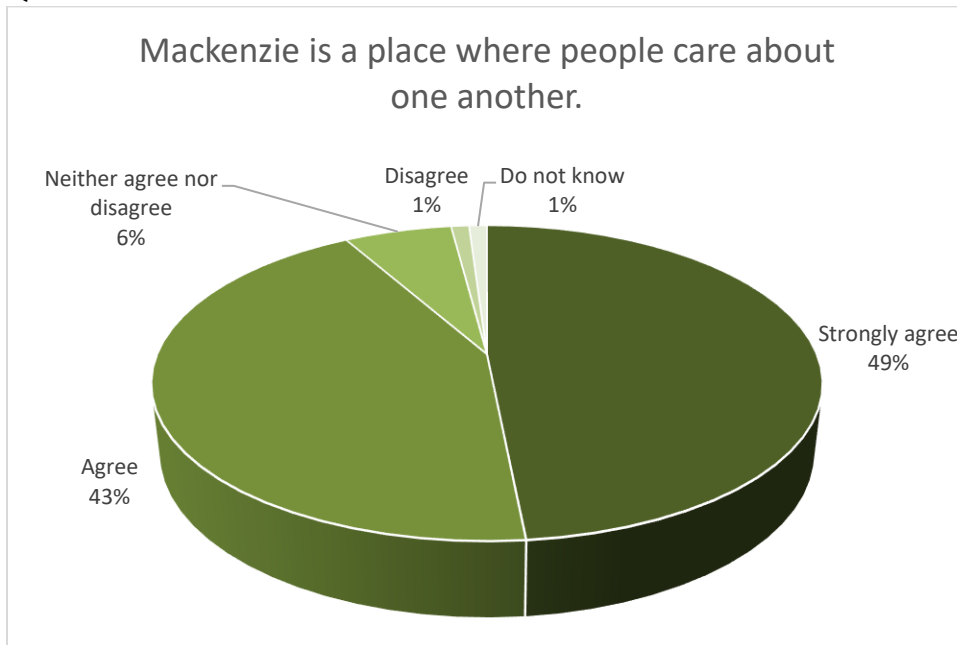
Question 15



Question 16

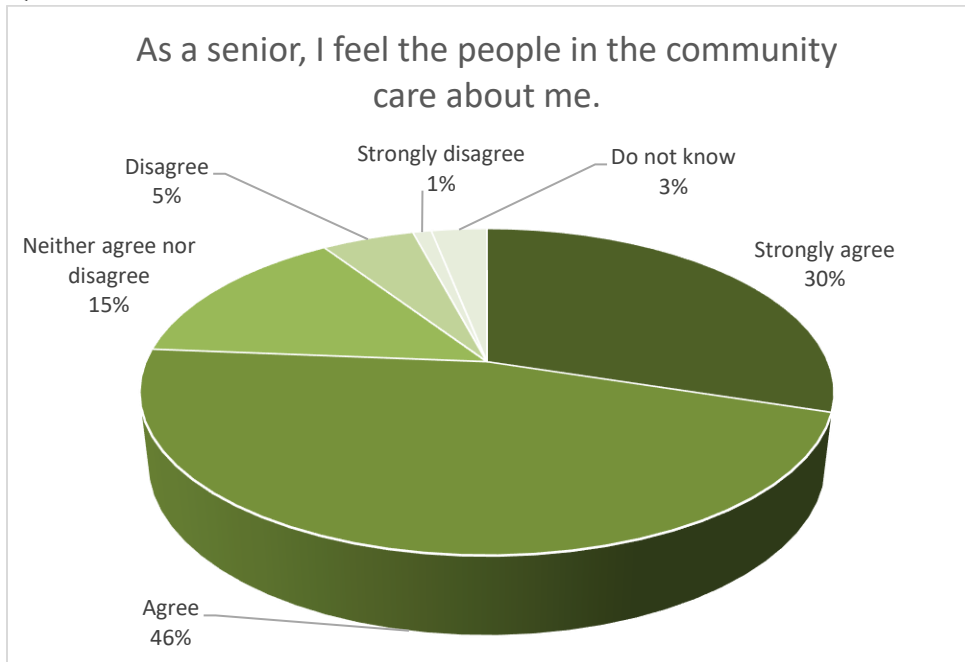


Question 17

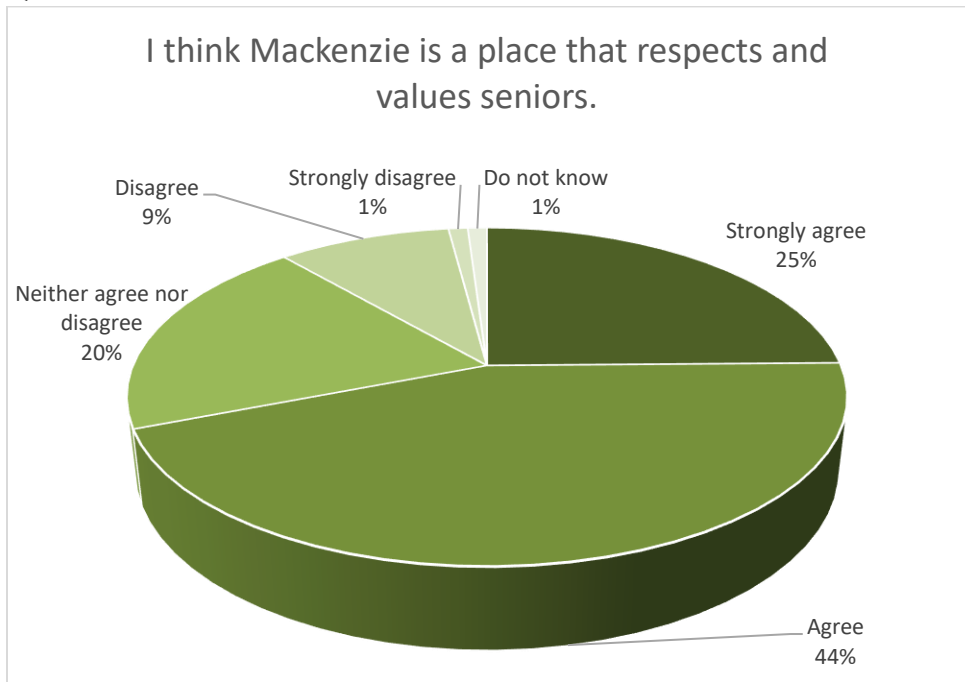




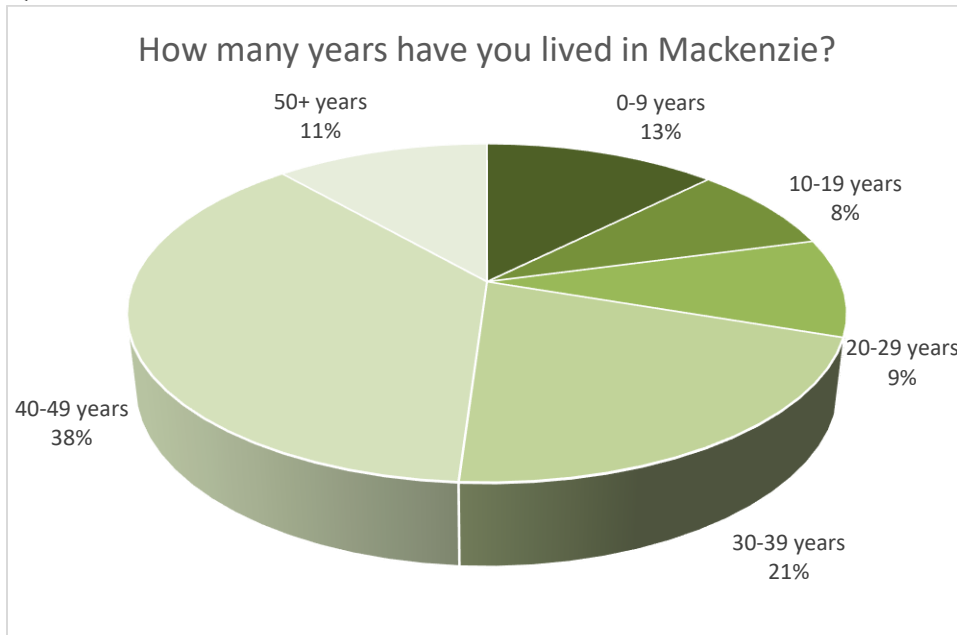
Question 18



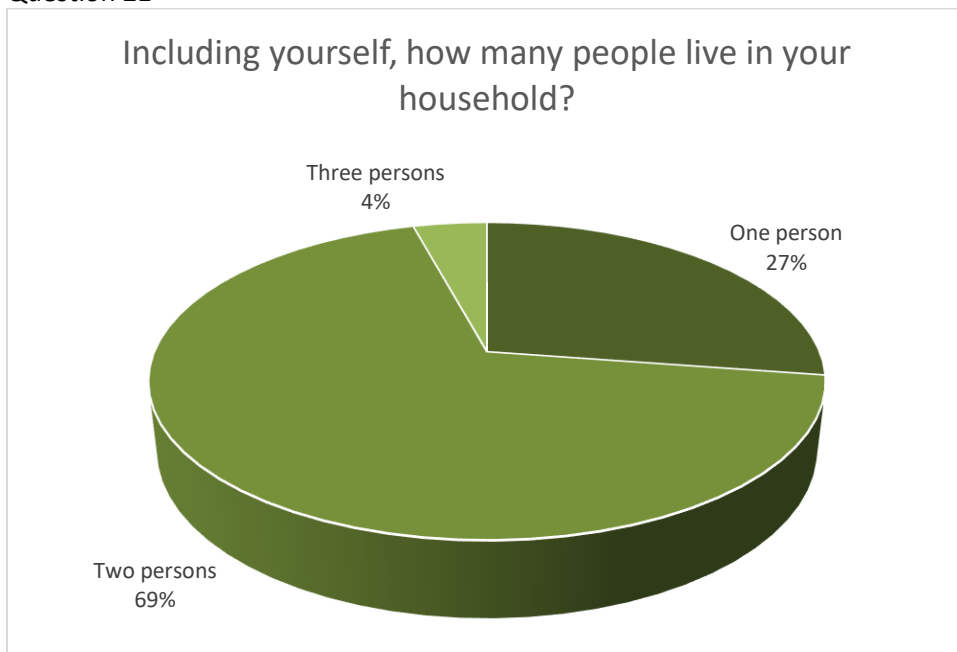
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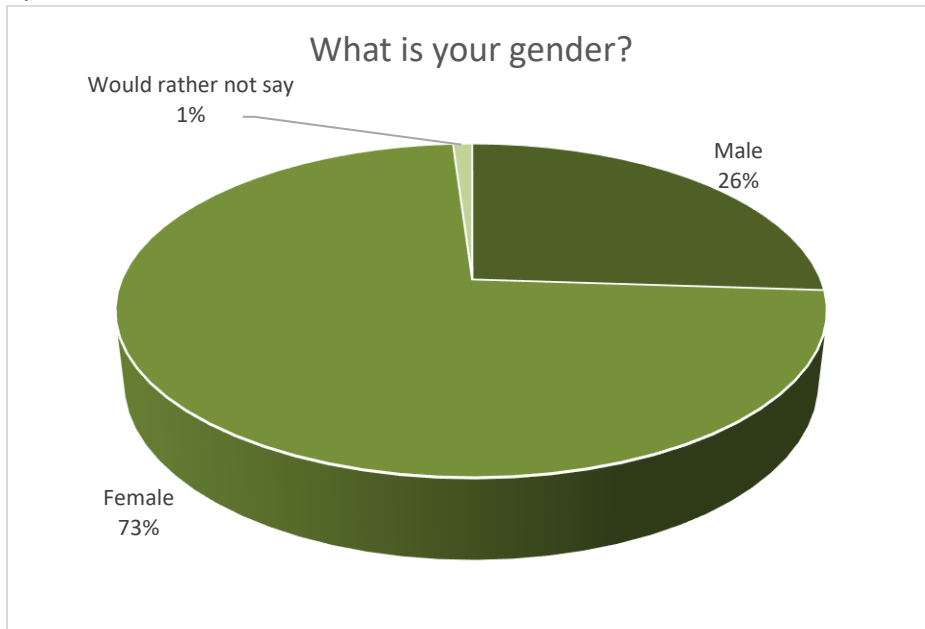
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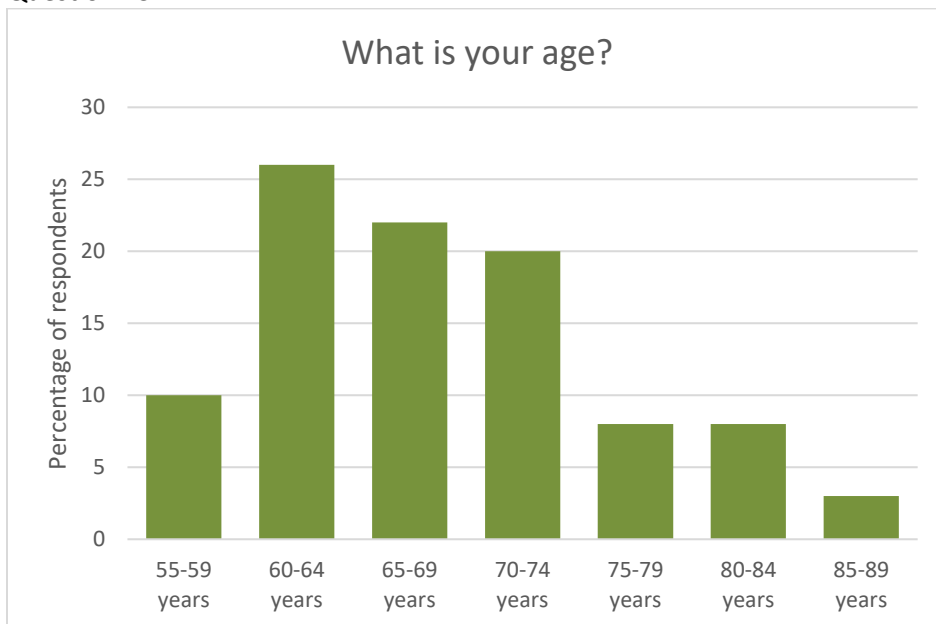
Question 21



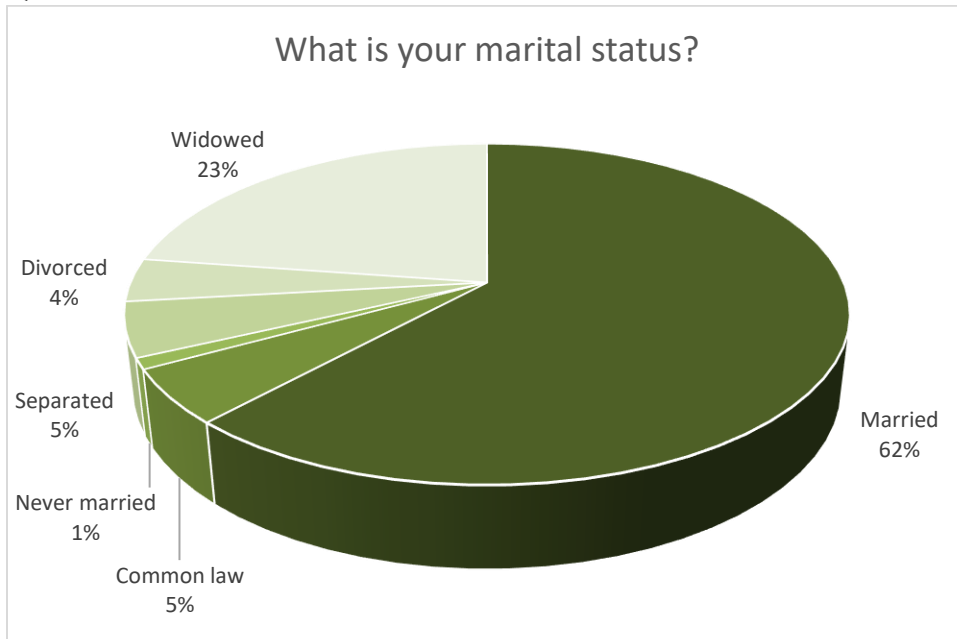
Question 22



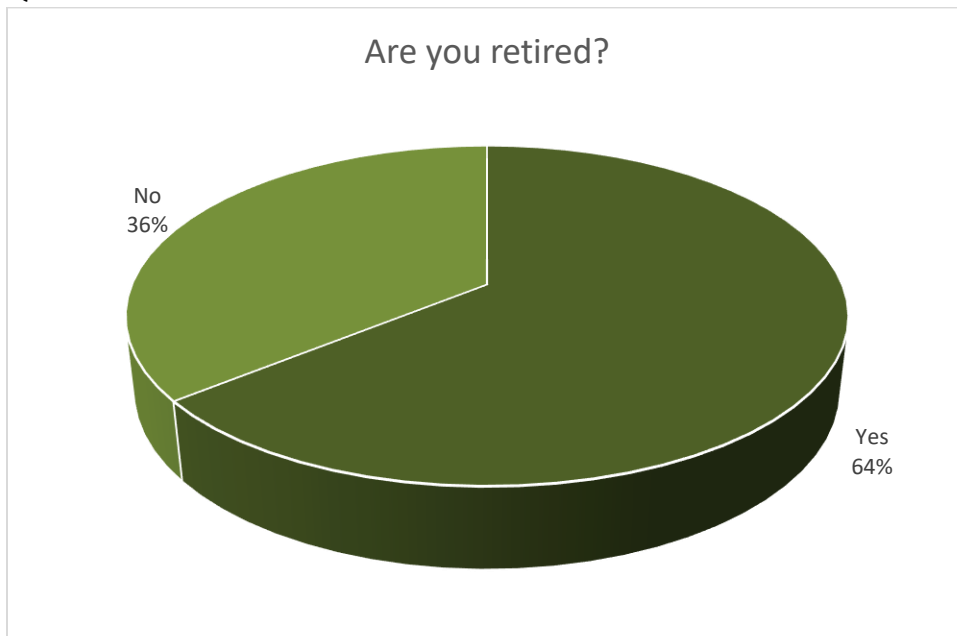
Question 23



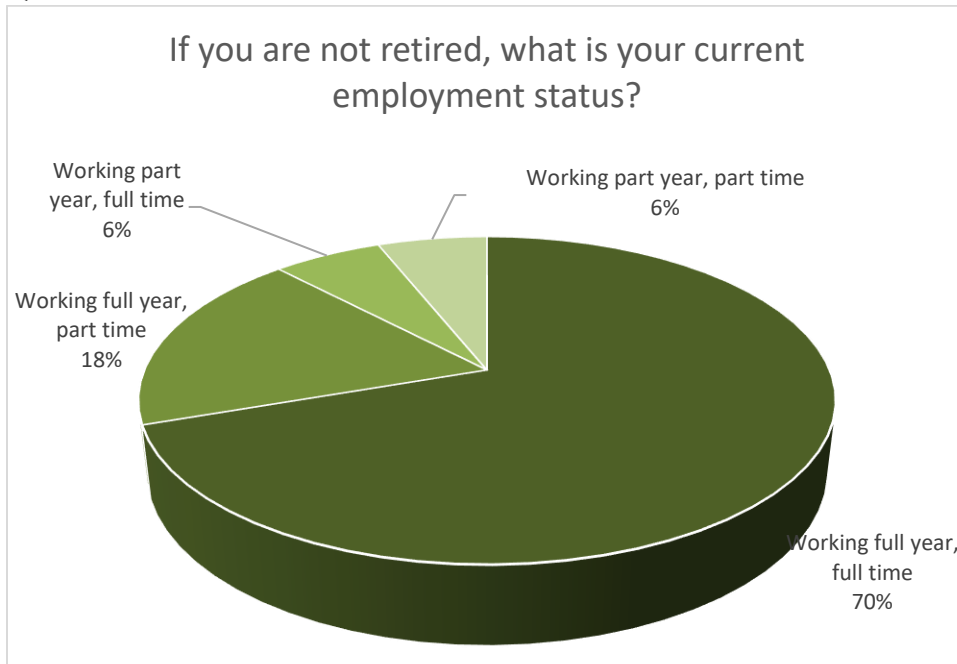
Question 24



Question 25



Question 26



# Appendix 2 Survey Questions

## Survey Questions

This section of the survey asks questions about Mackenzie as a place to retire.

1. I think Mackenzie is a good place to retire.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Do not know

2. I think Mackenzie is a better place to retire today than it was five years ago.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Do not know

3. I would recommend Mackenzie to family and friends as a good place to retire.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Do not know

**This section of the survey asks questions about community activities in Mackenzie, and activities specifically designed for seniors in Mackenzie.**

4. There are a large number of community activities in Mackenzie.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Do not know

5. I participate in a number of community activities in Mackenzie.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Do not know

6. I volunteer with community activities in Mackenzie.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Do not know

7. There are a large number of activities for seniors in Mackenzie.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Do not know



8. I participate in a number of activities for seniors in Mackenzie.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Do not know

9. I volunteer with seniors' activities in Mackenzie.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Do not know

**This section of the survey asks about networks of family and friends.**

10. Do you have family and friends in Mackenzie?

Yes  No

a. If no, go to Question 14.

11. I have family or friends in Mackenzie who keep me here.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Do not know

12. I have family or friends in Mackenzie who help me when I need assistance.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Do not know

13. I have family or friends in Mackenzie who count on my help when they need assistance.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Do not know

**This section of the survey asks about attitudes toward seniors in Mackenzie.**

14. Mackenzie is a place where people care about one another.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Do not know

15. As a senior, I feel the people in the community care about me.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Do not know

16. I think Mackenzie is a place that respects and values seniors.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Do not know

**This section of the survey collects general demographic information.**

17. How many years have you lived in Mackenzie?

- 0-9 years  10-19 years  20-29 years  30-39 years  40-49 years  50+ years

18. Including yourself, how many people live in your household?

- One  Two  Three  Four or more

19. What is your gender?

- Female  Male  Other  Would rather not say

20. What is your age?

- 55-59 years  60-64 years  65-69 years  70-74 years  
 75-79 years  80-84 years  85-89 years  90+ years

21. What is your marital status?

- Married  Common law  Never married  Separated  Divorced  Widowed

22. Are you retired?

- Yes  No

a. If no, what is your current employment status?

- Worked full year, full time  
 Worked part year, full time  
 Worked full year, part time  
 Worked part year, part time