



Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) Roles and Composition Survey Summary

This report has been prepared in support of facilitating a discussion and restructuring of MPAC's Role and Composition.

October 2020

Prepared by: Metro

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INTRODUCTION

Established by the Metro Charter in 1992, the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) advises the Metro Council on the amendment or adoption of the Regional Framework Plan. Policy areas MPAC addresses include regional transportation, management of the urban growth boundary, protection of lands outside the urban growth boundary for natural resources, future urban zoning, or other uses, planning responsibilities required by state law, and other growth management and land use planning matters deemed by Metro Council to be of the region's concern. MPAC comprises 21 voting members representing cities, counties, special districts and the public, and six non-voting members. Three Metro Councilors also participate as non-voting liaisons.

Over the years, MPAC has largely shifted from advising the Metro Council on policy matters to acting as a forum for information and best practices. While these forums have been engaging, the shift in MPAC's role has resulted in less frequent meetings, reduced attendance, and frustration from attendees about how Metro is listening and responding to their advice and input.

To help inform a discussion on MPAC's role and composition, the MPAC coordinating team developed an anonymous online survey to ask MPAC members and alternatives about their thoughts and opinions on MPAC's core responsibilities, composition, and meeting efficiency. The survey was open from September 10, 2020 through September 25, 2020. Participants were asked open ended and closed ended questions.

SUMMARY

The online survey provided a mechanism for MPAC members and alternatives to share their opinions about MPAC's core responsibilities, member composition, meeting logistics, and member demographics. 13 survey responses were collected.

Overall, participants strongly advocated for increased opportunities to engage in discussions and advise the Metro Council on policy. Many reported noticing facilitation, organization, and technical issues within remote meetings. Participants raised concerns when asked about transitioning to shorter and less frequent MPAC meetings. Lastly, when asked about the perspectives represented by MPAC members and alternates were predominantly from government perspectives. Members of MPAC today are over 40 years old, white and have higher than average incomes. Many said that MPAC doesn't represent a racial diversity and could include perspectives from youth, people living with disabilities and other advocates. The information and comments shared by participants will help staff better understand the concerns and interests among committee members and alternatives.

OUTREACH

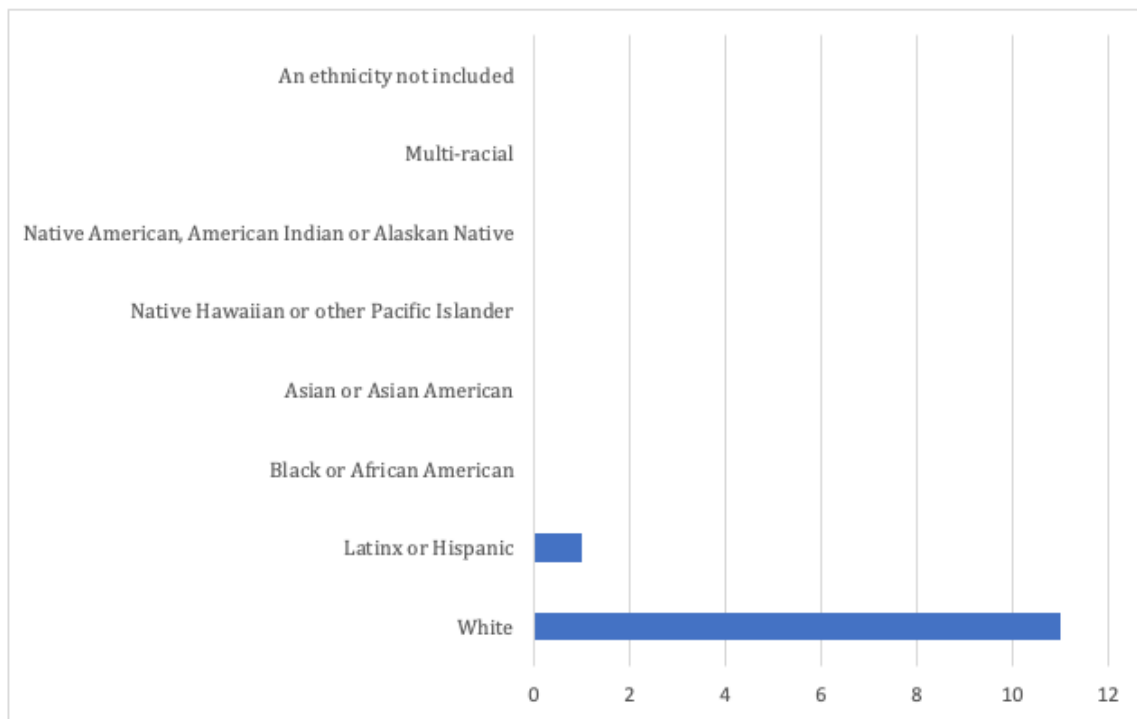
On September 10, 2020 staff sent an email to MPAC committee members and alternates informing them of the survey and its closing date. To encourage participation, two email reminders were sent before the closing date, and a reminder was issued during the September 23, 2020 MPAC meeting.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF PARTICIPANTS

The online survey included an optional multiple-choice demographic section. 12 participants provided responses to the demographic questions. The results, based on information available, indicated that survey participants were largely between the ages of 45 and 74. Participants primarily reported annual incomes over \$75,000 but below \$149,999. All participants identified as homeowners. More men than women participated in the survey, and a strong majority of participants identified as white. A single person identified as Latinx or Hispanic. Two participants reported a disability.

More information and charts to display these results are included in Appendix A.

Chart 1: Ethnicity and Race Demographics



RESULTS AND COMMENTS

The online survey asked participants to share their thoughts and opinions on four components of MPAC: core responsibilities, member composition, meeting logistics, and member demographics. Survey questions were divided into sections according to these components. A brief context about the questions was included at the start of each section. The survey primarily consisted of open-ended questions and provided space for participants to write their responses. A full list of survey questions is provided in Appendix B.

Core Responsibilities

(13 responses were received for this section)

When asked which discussion topics they found most productive, a large majority of participants stated discussions related to the management of the urban growth boundary, regional transportation, and affordable housing. Others mentioned land use history topics, environmental protections, and park expansions. When asked why they found these topics most productive, many indicated that these topics enabled substantive discussions and opportunities to advise the Metro Council on policy.

When asked which discussion topics they found least productive, few participants listed a specific topic. Rather, a large number of participants stated that presentation arrangements in which there were no opportunities to speak and advise on topics were least productive.

When asked for their vision of MPAC's role in the future, a large majority of participants reported an interest for MPAC to function as an advisory body for the Metro Council and serve as an environment for members to discuss and collaborate on region-wide initiatives. Others recommended that MPAC function as a place for relationship building between cities and with Metro.

Member Composition

(13 responses were received for this section)

When asked which perspectives they brought into MPAC, the majority of participants reported knowledge on government service. Others mentioned environmental protection, diversity, equity and inclusion and community engagement. When asked which perspectives they thought were well represented, they stated perspectives from elected officials. Three participants mentioned that white perspectives were disproportionately represented.

When asked which perspectives they thought were missing, many commented on the need to include the perspectives of people from diverse ethnic backgrounds. Others expressed interest in including perspective from younger people, community leaders of faith, and special districts.

Meeting Logistics

(13 responses were received for this section)

When asked how less frequent, shorter meetings could impact MPAC, a large majority of participants stated that shorter and less frequent meetings would hinder the effectiveness of MPAC's core responsibilities. Others shared recommendations to enhance member engagement within MPAC even if meetings were less frequent.

When asked how less frequent, shorter meetings would impact the organization or group they represented, many people mentioned that less frequent and shorter meetings would negatively impact MPAC's relationship and relevance with the communities it serves. Only 2 participants stated that it would make meetings more impactful. When asked if they would still participate in MPAC under these conditions, 9 people responded yes. Others specified that their participation would depend on MPAC's member engagement.

When asked what additional changes staff could consider to address budget constraints, participants provided a variety of responses. Most indicated that they did not consider MPAC a financial burden on Metro. Others recommended a reduction of informational presentations by Metro.

Other recommendations included:

- "Have other organizations sponsor and staff MPAC meetings on a rotating basis."
- "Use MPAC as more of a 'Spotlight' format to create learning opportunities."
- "I am not familiar with MPAC's budget in a way that would allow me to suggest budget cuts."

When asked if they had suggestions for making remote meetings more productive, many participants raised concerns about the facilitation, organization, and technical issues of MPAC's remote meetings. Others raised concerns about the length of presentations and recommended MPAC integrate time limits for speakers.

Examples of comments received included:

- "Clear meeting objectives and adherence to an agenda are very beneficial, as is advance practice on the host's part to ensure that technical glitches are identified and resolved in advance of meetings."
- "Breakout rooms are good for fostering conversation. Begin presentations with framing questions MPAC members should be considering for discussion after the presentation."

- “Send PowerPoints and presentations out ahead of time so we can have them to follow along with.”

NEXT STEPS

During the October MPAC meeting, staff will utilize the survey findings to facilitate a discussion on MPAC’s roles and composition.

APPENDIX A: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARTS

Chart 1: Age Demographics

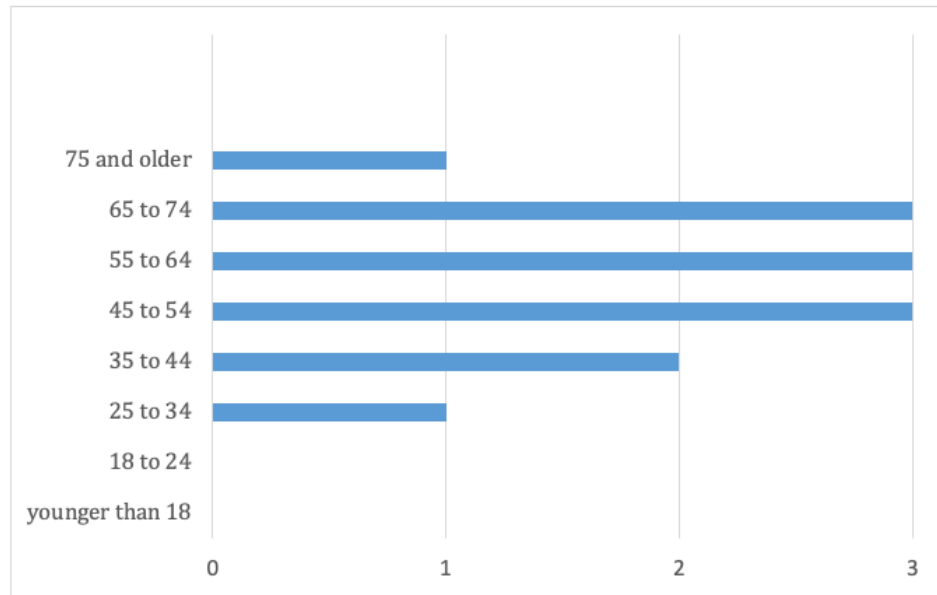


Chart 2: Ethnicity and Race Demographics

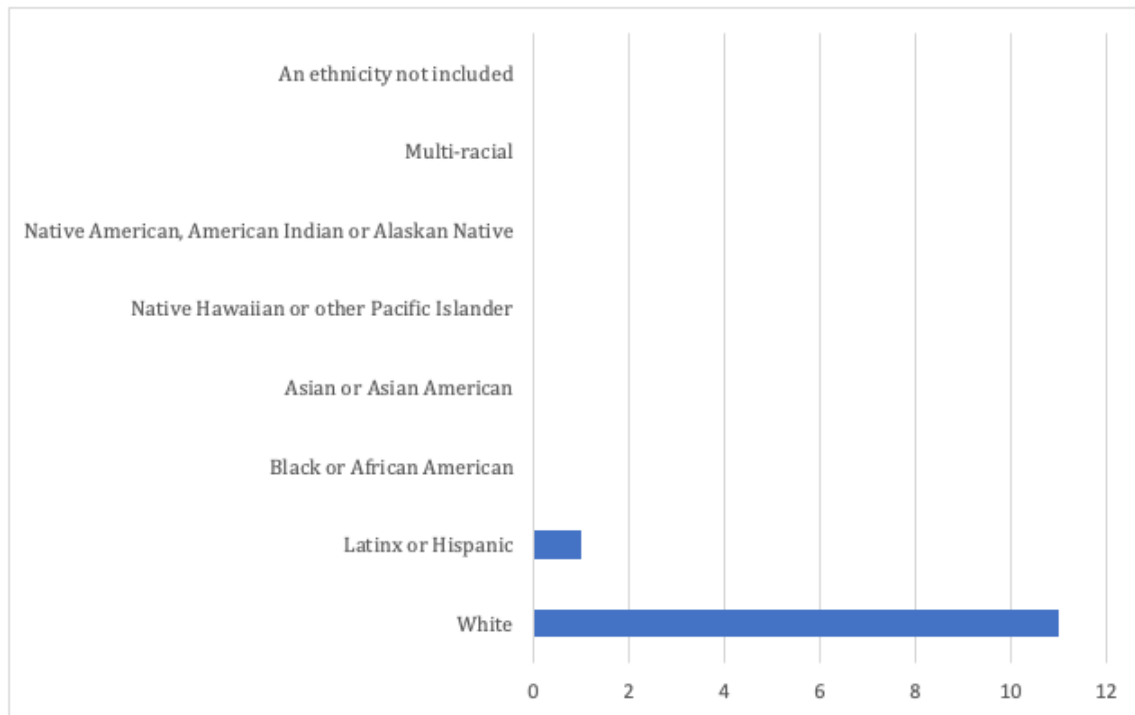


Chart 3: Income Demographics

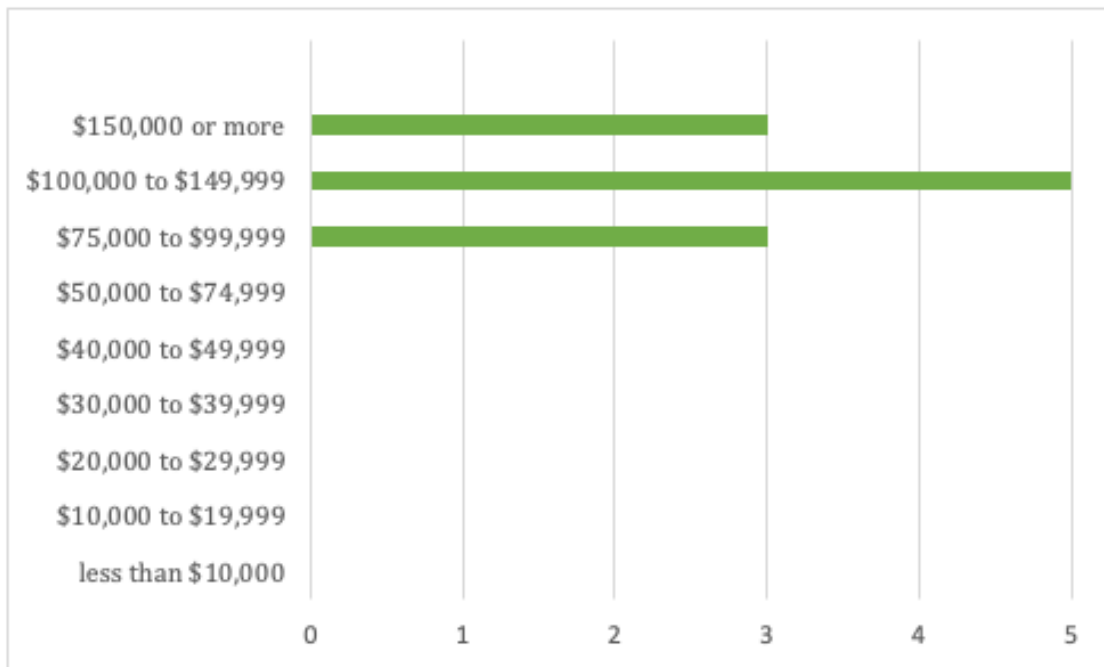


Chart 4: Gender Identity Demographics

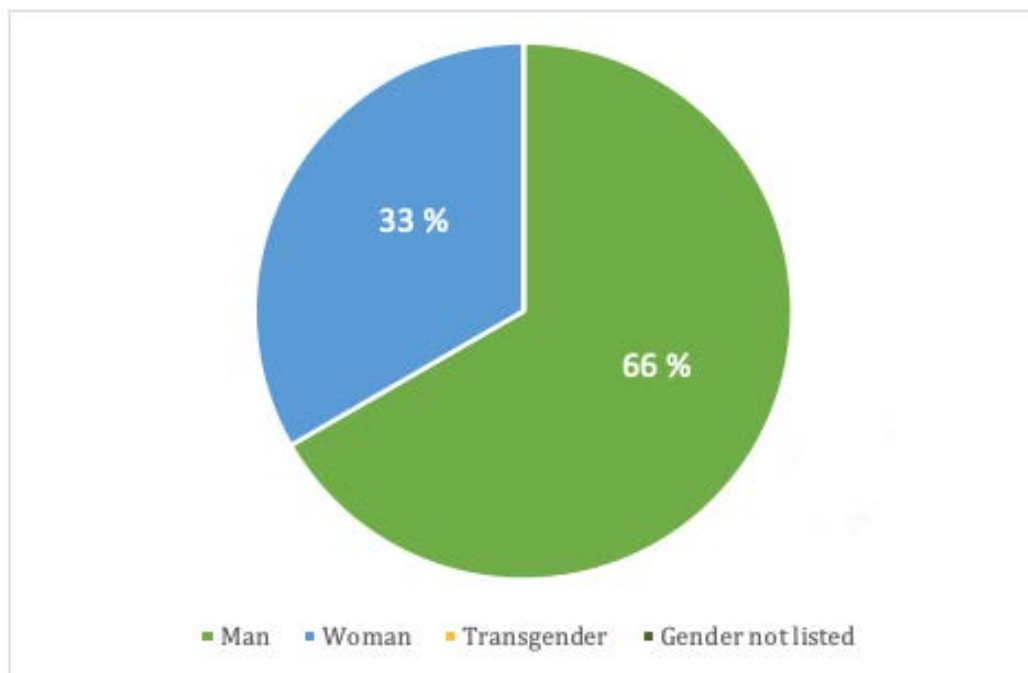


Table 5: Disability Demographics

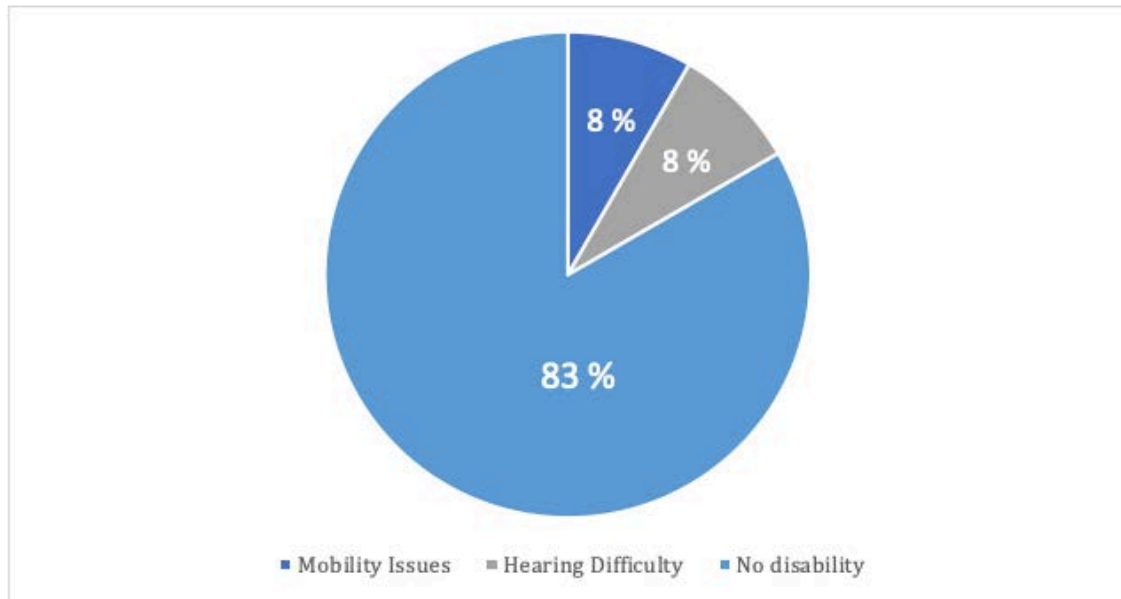
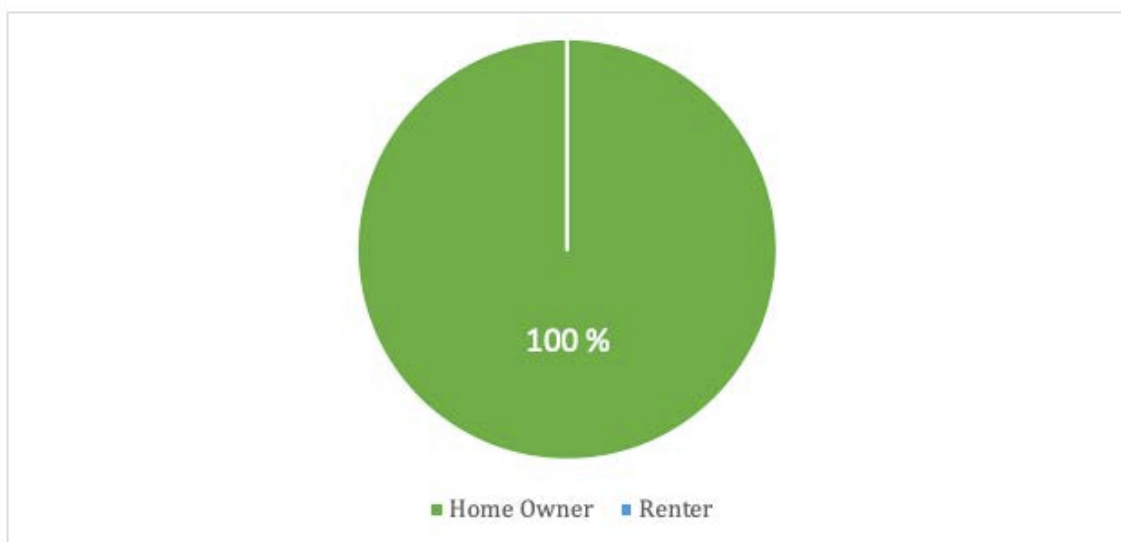


Chart 6: Real Estate Demographics



APPENDIX B: MPAC SURVEY QUESTIONS

Section 1: MPAC Core Responsibilities

1. Thinking back, what topics has MPAC discussed that you felt were most productive?
1a. Why were those discussions productive?
2. Thinking back, describe the general topics that MPAC has discussed that you felt were least productive.
2a. Why were those discussions unproductive?
3. Do you have a vision for what MPAC's role should be in the future?

Section 2: MPAC Composition

1. What perspectives or expertise do you bring to MPAC?
2. What perspectives do you think are well-represented on MPAC?
3. What, if any, perspectives or expertise are currently missing at MPAC?

Section 3: MPAC Meeting Logistics

1. How might less frequent, shorter meetings impact MPAC?
1a. How would that change impact the organization or group you represent?
1b. Would you still participate? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Yes<input type="radio"/> No<input type="radio"/> Other (please specify)
2. What other changes could staff consider to address these budget constraints?
3. Do you have suggestions for how to make remote meetings productive?

Section 4: MPAC Member Demographics

1. Which of the following ranges includes your age? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> younger than 18<input type="radio"/> 18 to 24<input type="radio"/> 25 to 34<input type="radio"/> 35 to 44<input type="radio"/> 45 to 54<input type="radio"/> 55 to 64<input type="radio"/> 65 to 74<input type="radio"/> 75 and older<input type="radio"/> Prefer not to answer

2. Within the broad categories below, where would you place your racial or ethnic identity? (pick all that apply)

- ☐ Native American, American Indian or Alaskan Native
- ☐ Asian or Asian American
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Latinx or Hispanic
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- ☐ White
- ☐ Multi-racial
- ☐ Prefer not to answer
- ☐ An ethnicity not included above (please specify)

3. Which of the following best represents the annual income of your household before taxes?

- ☐ less than \$10,000
- ☐ \$10,000 to \$19,999
- ☐ \$20,000 to \$29,999
- ☐ \$30,000 to \$39,999
- ☐ \$40,000 to \$49,999
- ☐ \$50,000 to \$74,999
- ☐ \$75,000 to \$99,999
- ☐ \$100,000 to \$149,999
- ☐ \$150,000 or more
- ☐ Don't know/prefer not to answer

4. How do you identify your gender? (pick all that apply)

- ☐ Transgender
- ☐ Woman
- ☐ Man
- ☐ Prefer not to answer
- ☐ Gender not listed above (please describe)

5. How do you identify your gender? (pick all that apply)

- ☐ Hearing difficulty (deaf or serious difficulty hearing)
- ☐ Vision difficulty (blind or serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses)
- ☐ Cognitive difficulty (because of a physical, mental or emotional problem, difficulty remembering, concentrating or making decisions)
- ☐ Ambulatory difficulty (unable or having serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs)
- ☐ Self-care difficulty (unable or having difficulty bathing or dressing)
- ☐ Independent living difficulty (because of a physical, mental or emotional problem, difficulty doing errands alone)
- ☐ No disability
- ☐ Prefer not to answer
- ☐ A disability not listed above (please describe)

6. Do you rent or own your primary residence?

- ☐ Rent
- ☐ Own
- ☐ Prefer not to answer