

Why Do A Survey?

The survey provides the visioning steering committee with objective, representative information for the goal-setting phase of community visioning. The quantitative data collected from survey responses complements the qualitative information gathered from the focus groups at the transportation assets and barriers workshop.

The modes of transportation that residents use and the routes they take suggest suitable types of transportation enhancements in these areas. Having a sense for people's willingness to help either financially or with their time is important because many transportation enhancements are funded from multiple sources, including grants, private donations, in-kind contributions, and volunteers. Understanding what types of improvements are important to residents gives the committee insight into how to prioritize projects.

How Is It Done?

With assistance from Iowa State University's Survey Research Services staff in the Center for Survey Statistics and Methodology (CSSM-SRS), ISU visioning program staff conducted a survey to better understand the transportation patterns, behaviors, needs, and desires of Algona residents. Surveys were mailed to 500 randomly selected residents living in Algona and the surrounding area. To increase the response rate, the study was publicized through the local media and follow-up packets were mailed to nonrespondents. With adjustments for ineligible respondents (e.g., incorrect addresses, no longer living in the community), the final sample size was 438. A total of 145 people returned surveys, for a response rate of 33.1%. (A response rate of 20% is considered valid.)

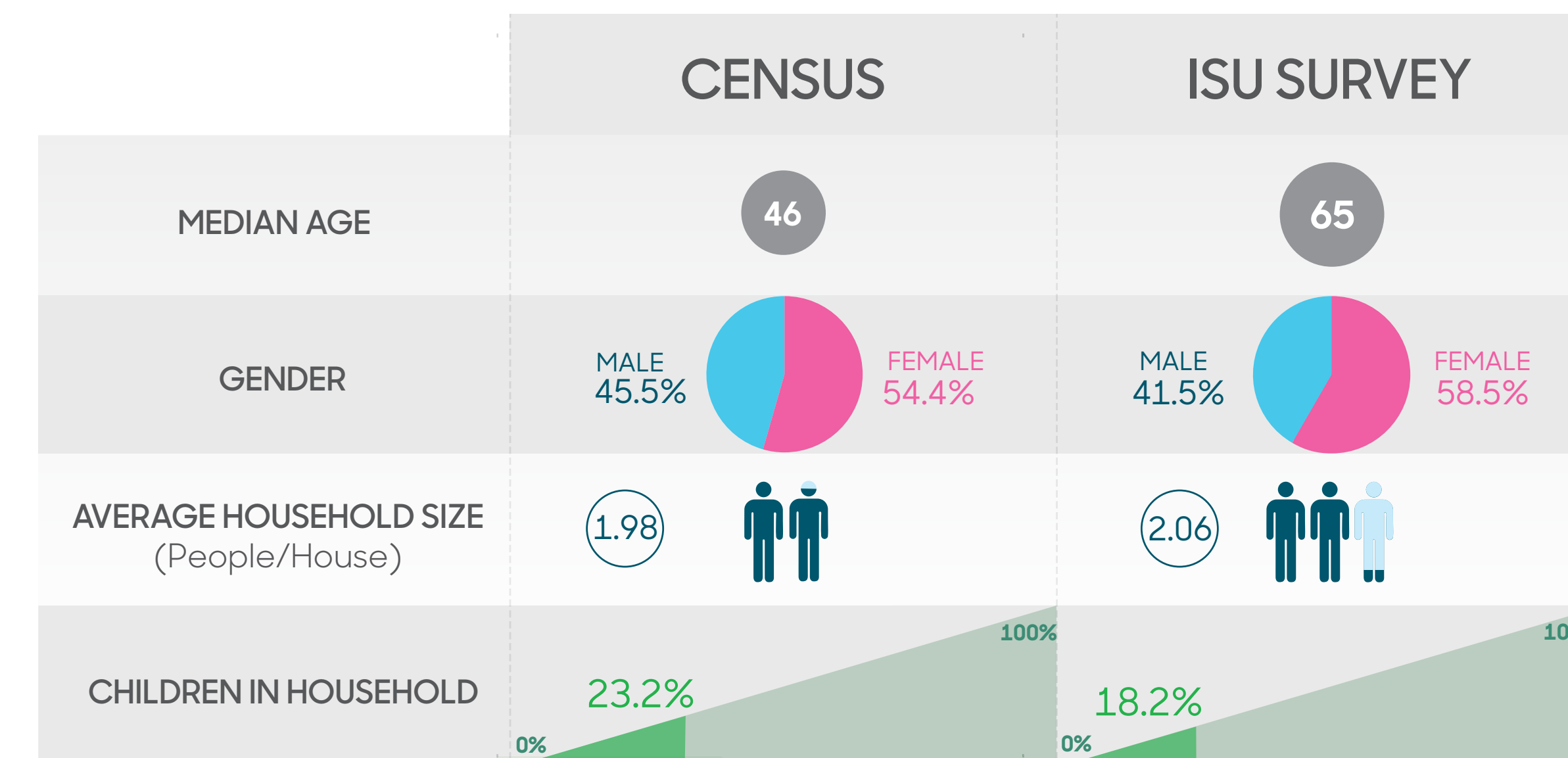
What Did We Find Out?

We asked survey recipients what routes they use most often for going to work and walking. In addition, we asked what qualities and features are important to cyclists and trail users. We also discovered what residents think is most important in terms of transportation enhancements that address issues such as accessibility, mobility, and safety. Finally, we learned whether or not residents are willing to contribute their time or their financial resources to making enhancements to Algona. This series of boards summarizes the results of the survey as follows:

- Willingness to Help
- Enhancement Priorities
- Commuting Routes
- Walking Routes
- Biking Routes
- Desired Trail Features

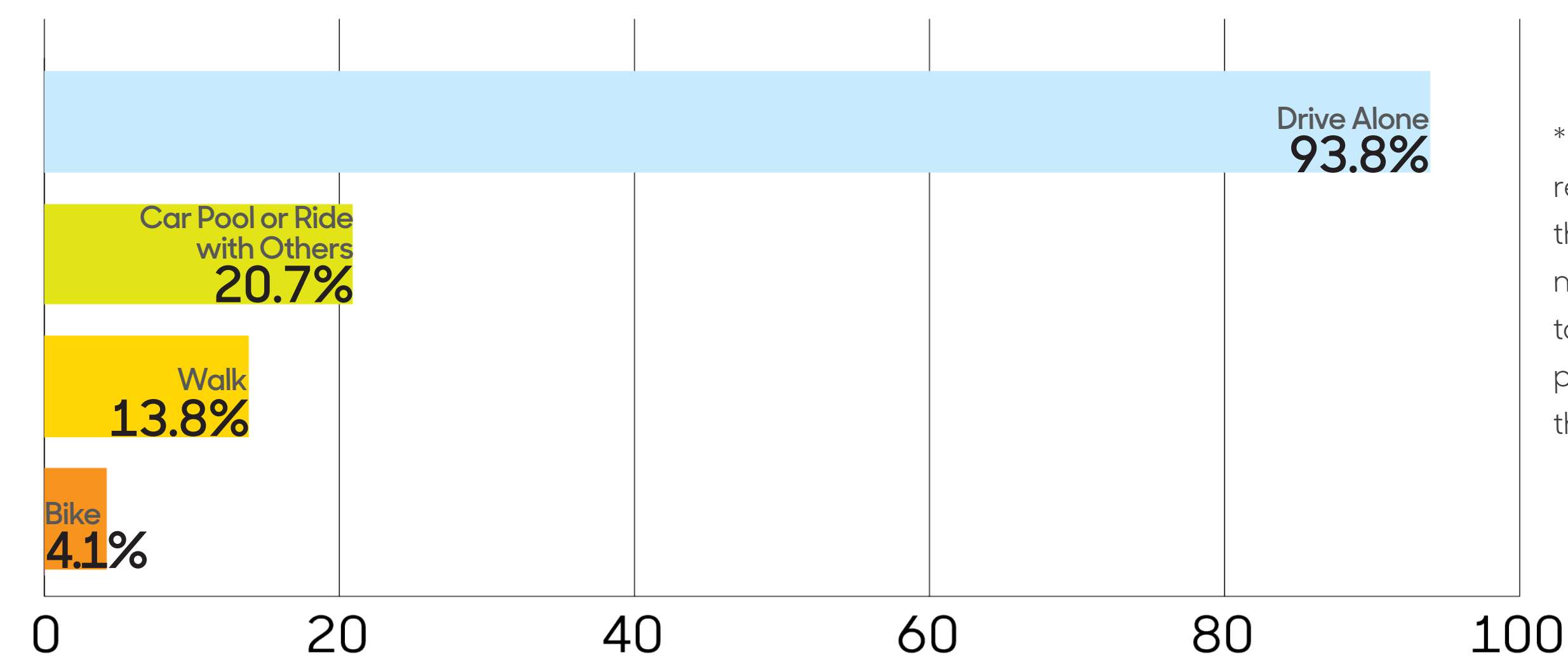
How Did We Do?

The demographics of the respondents are somewhat different from those obtained from the 2020 US Census. For example, the survey respondents median age of 65 is significantly older than the 2020 estimated average age for Algona residents of 46. In terms of gender, the percentages of male and female survey respondents are similar to that of the census. Average household size among survey respondents is somewhat higher than the 2020 census estimates, while the number of children in the households of survey responses is somewhat lower.



How Do Algona Residents Travel?

Most survey respondents drive to important destinations such as the convenience store, the post office, school, and church (93.8%). More than 20% car pool or ride with someone else. Some people indicated that they walk (13.8%) and/or bike (4.1%), but the primary mode of transportation in Algona is by vehicle.



*Please note that some respondents indicated that they use more than one mode of transportation to get to work; therefore, percentages add up to more than 100%.