

# As seniors age, their tastes in housing shift

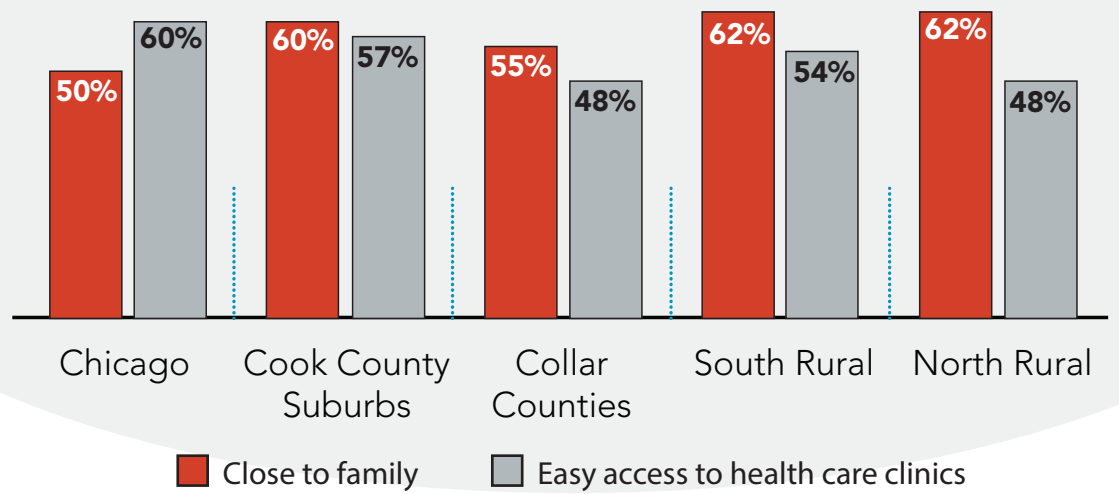
Illinois REALTORS®' Senior Working Group commissioned a survey of state residents 55 and older about how they felt about their current living situations and what they wanted in housing as they aged. The survey was part of an initiative by the association to better understand the housing needs of an aging population, and to help REALTORS® better understand and meet those needs.

## Proximity to family key for rural residents; healthcare for urban dwellers

In rural areas, where medical care can be farther away, family is a huge consideration when determining where to live. In urban areas, access to healthcare is a driving force.



**PRIORITY BY GEOGRAPHY**  
(Percent Rating as a 5 One a 1-5 Scale)

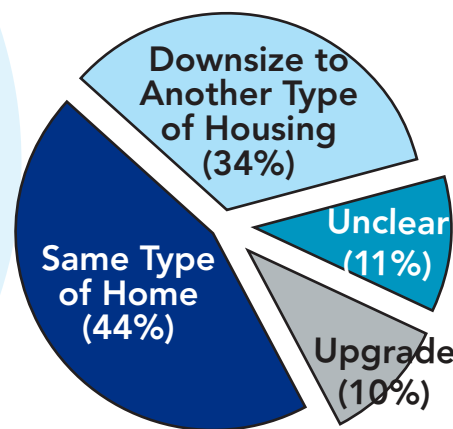


## Many older residents say they anticipate switching to rentals in their next move

Eighty-one percent of seniors surveyed own their homes, but the future could look very different. The percentage of seniors looking to rent versus own could double, the data show.



**CURRENT HOUSING TYPE COMPARED TO FUTURE PLANS**

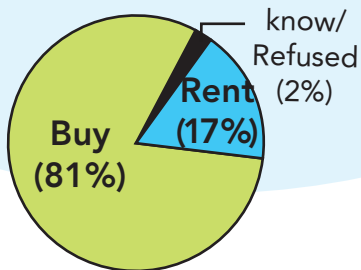


## Less space desirable for many seniors weighing move

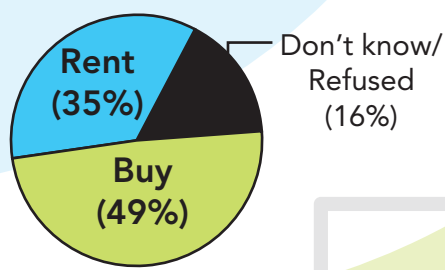
What also is clear from the survey is that a third of those surveyed expect to downsize their living space when they move.



**CURRENT OWNERSHIP**



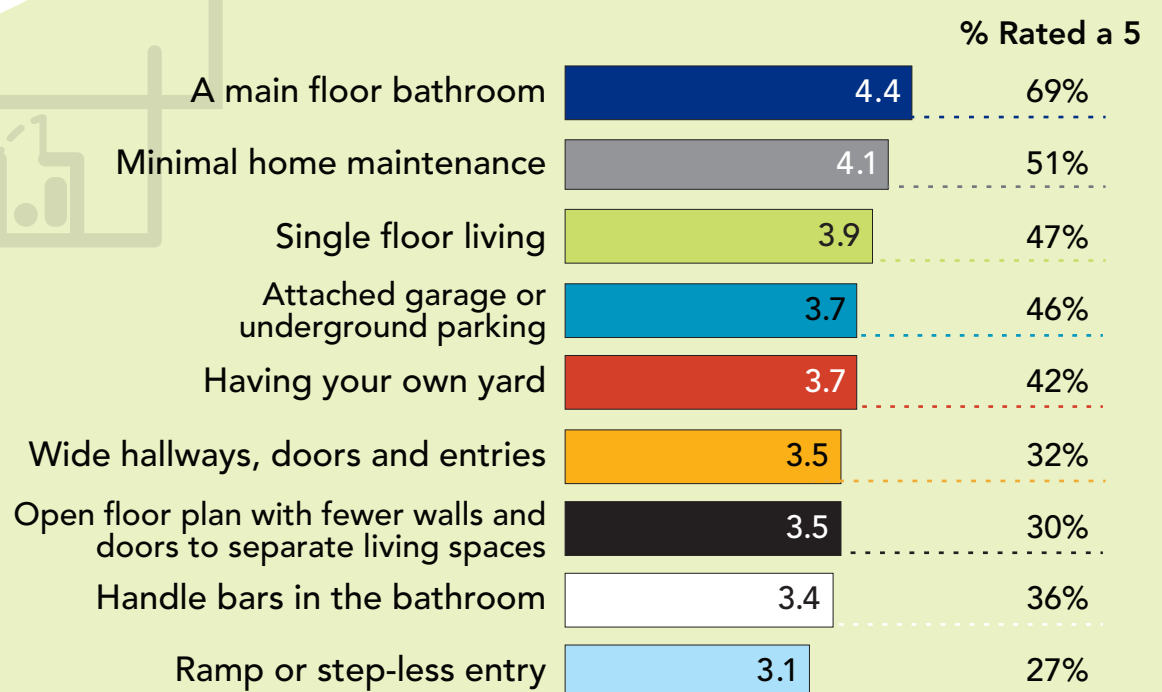
**FUTURE OWNERSHIP PREFERENCES**



## Home layout, ease of maintenance important housing attributes

The seniors surveyed sorted through a list of housing options they would want if they were looking for a new home. The layout of a home for accessibility ranked high on the list of must-haves.

**HOUSING ATTRIBUTES ORDER OF IMPORTANCE**  
(Average rating on a 1-5 scale)



The survey was conducted April 7-12, 2016, by American Strategies for Illinois REALTORS®, and reached 600 adults aged 55 or older. The data was weighted to take into account cellular telephone and landline usage, geography, age, race and gender diversity. The overall margin of error is +/- 4.0 percent. To learn more, see the full results at: [www.illinoisrealtors.org/Senior-Toolkit](http://www.illinoisrealtors.org/Senior-Toolkit).

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