

# DECAS COMMUNITY CENTER SURVEY

Analysis of Results  
Decas School Steering Committee  
Completed 8/24/2022



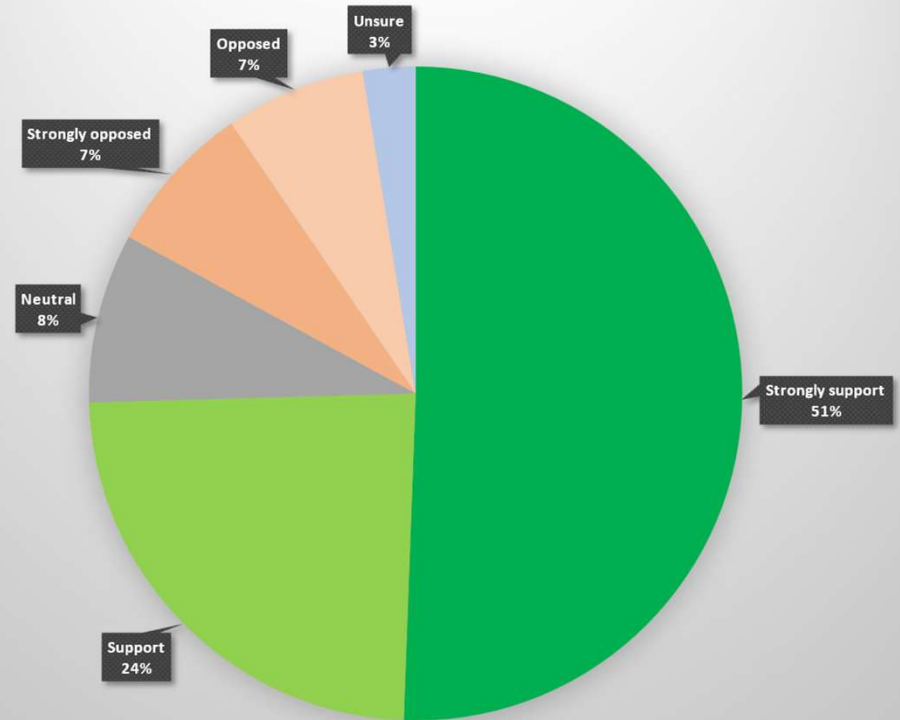
## BACKGROUND

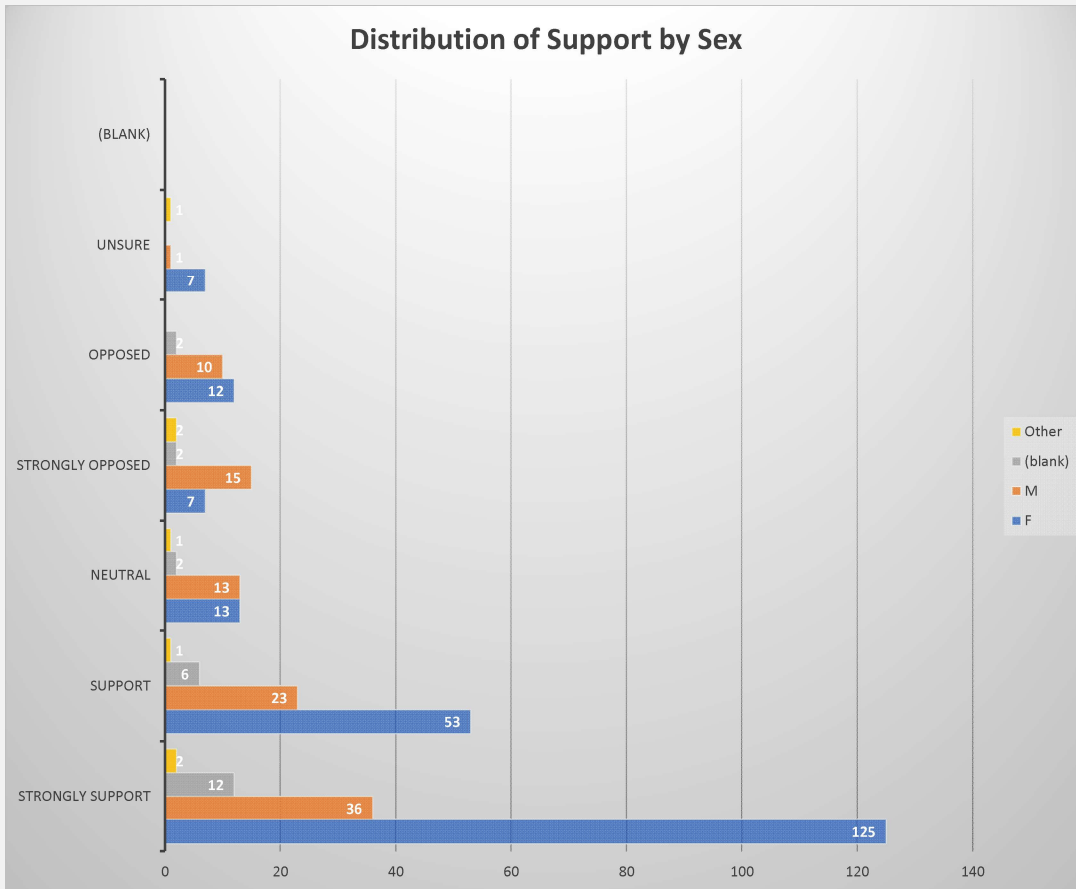
- Survey was designed to answer a few questions:
  - Do you support the community center proposal?
  - Do you understand how it will be funded?
  - What services or activities would you use at the community center?
  - What social needs could be met by having a community center?
- The survey ran June and July and was accessible via the Decas Steering Committee town webpage
- 354 answers were received (2 via paper responses at Decas Foundation events)

## DO YOU SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL

- 75% of respondents support or strongly support the community center proposal
- 14% of respondents oppose or strongly oppose proposal

How do you feel about repurposing the former Decas Elementary School as a community center?



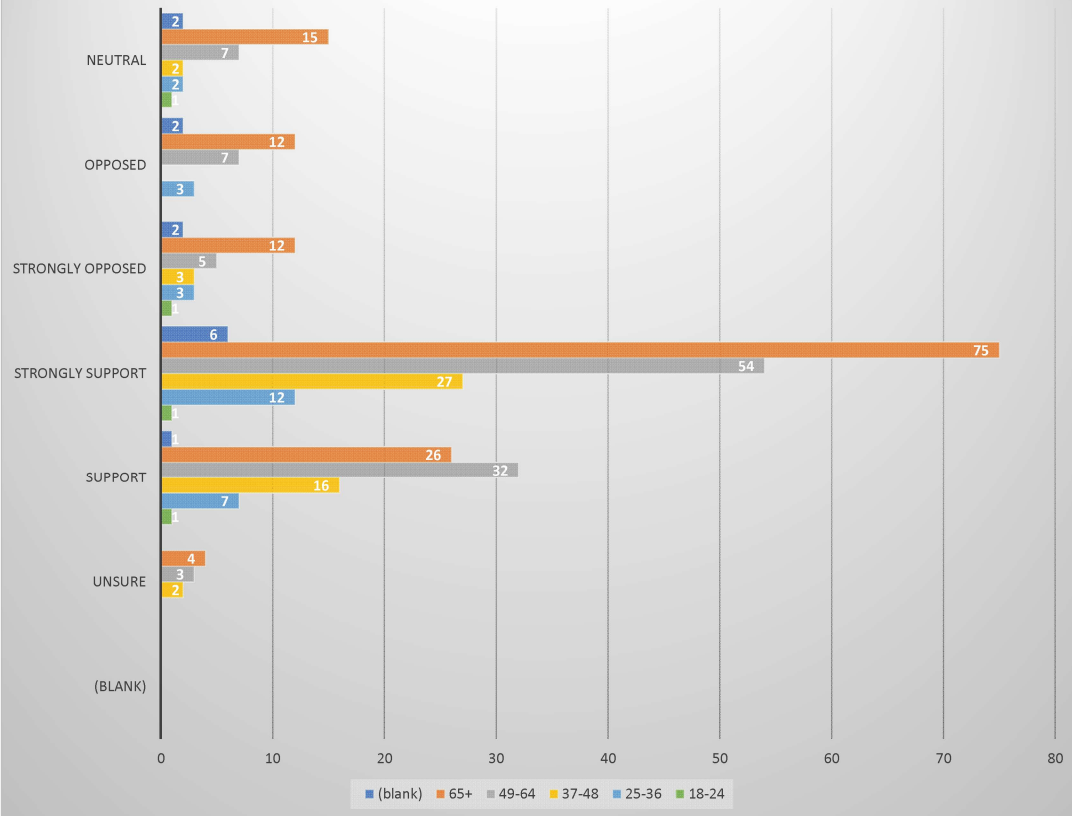


## DISTRIBUTION OF SUPPORT BY SEX

- Women responded the most to the survey
- Women were the most supportive of the Community Center proposal



Distribution of Support by Age Range

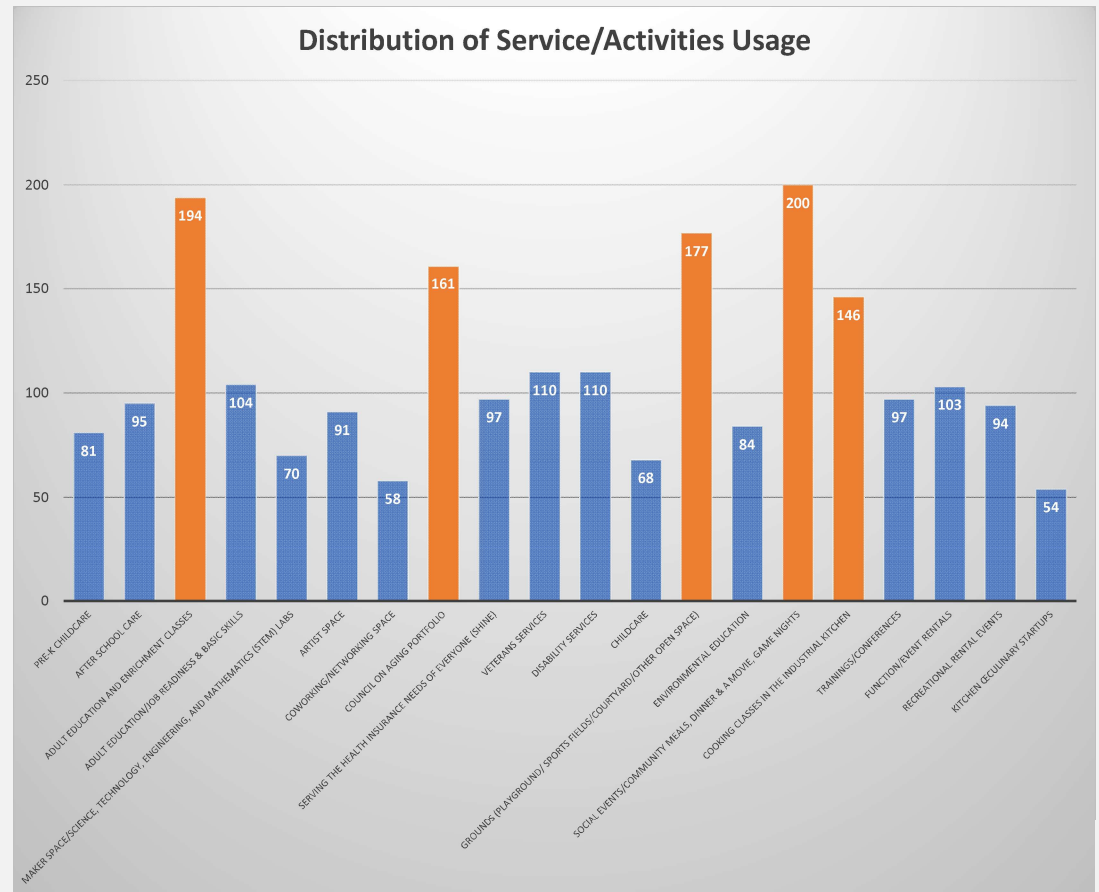


## DISTRIBUTION OF SUPPORT BY AGE RANGES

- People aged 65+ responded the most to the survey
- People aged 65+ were also the most supportive of the Community Center proposal

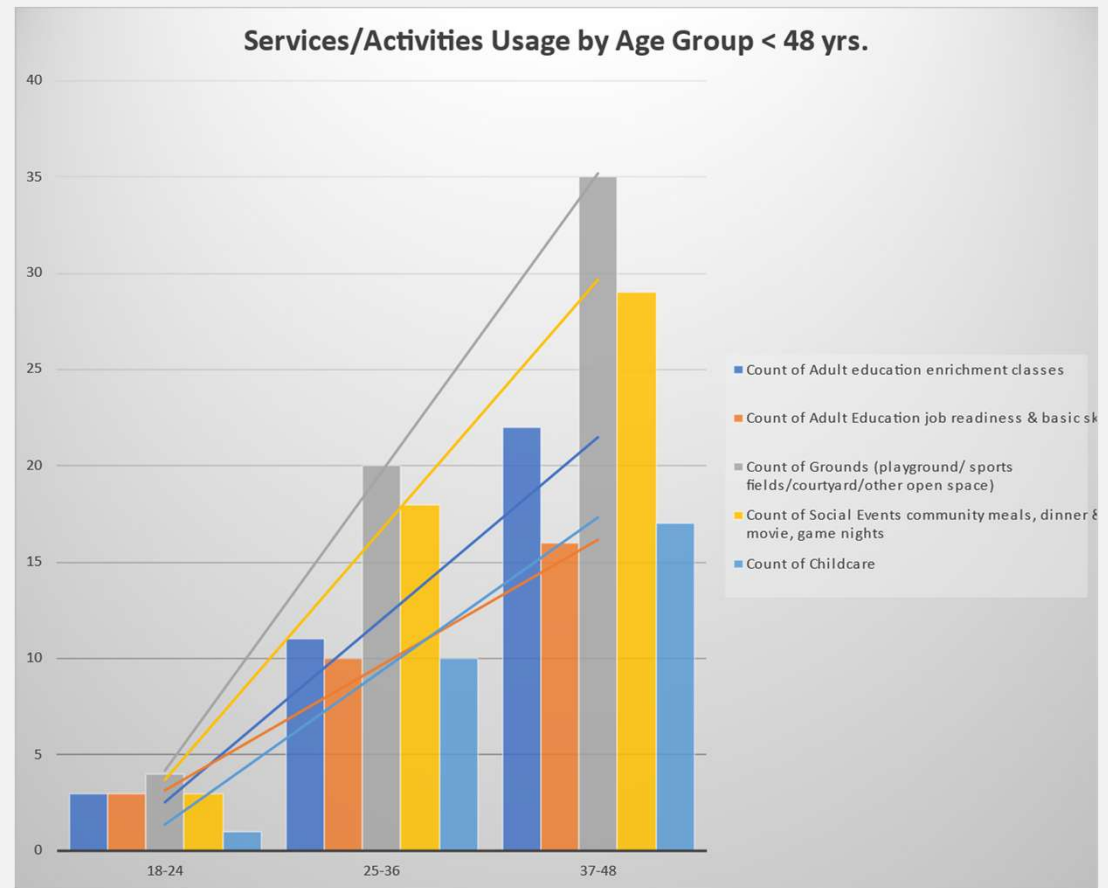
# SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

- Most Popular Overall:
  - Adult education
  - CoA Portfolio
  - Grounds
  - Social Events
  - Cooking Classes



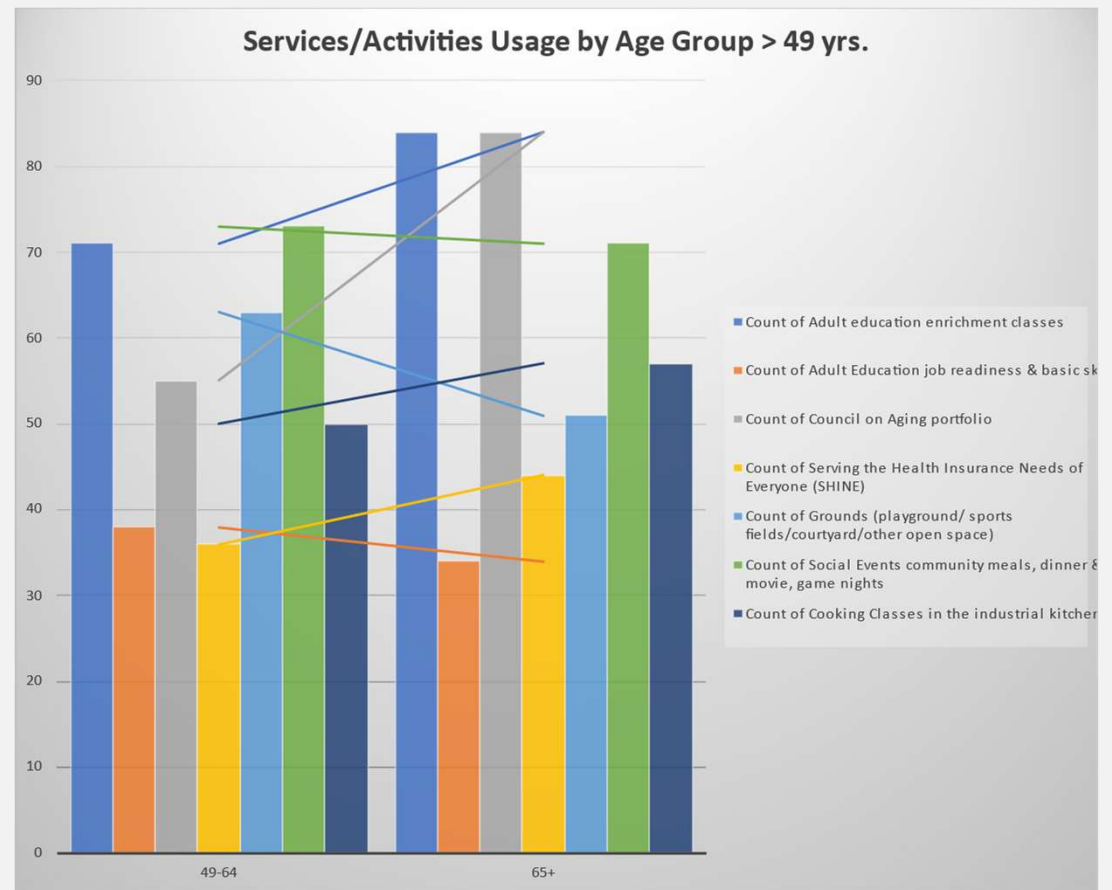
## SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES BY AGE < 48 YEARS OLD

- Several items showed increasing interest as age groups increased:
  - Adult education
  - Child-care related
  - Grounds
  - Social Events
  - Coworking Space
- Younger families want things to do together and to improve their own skills



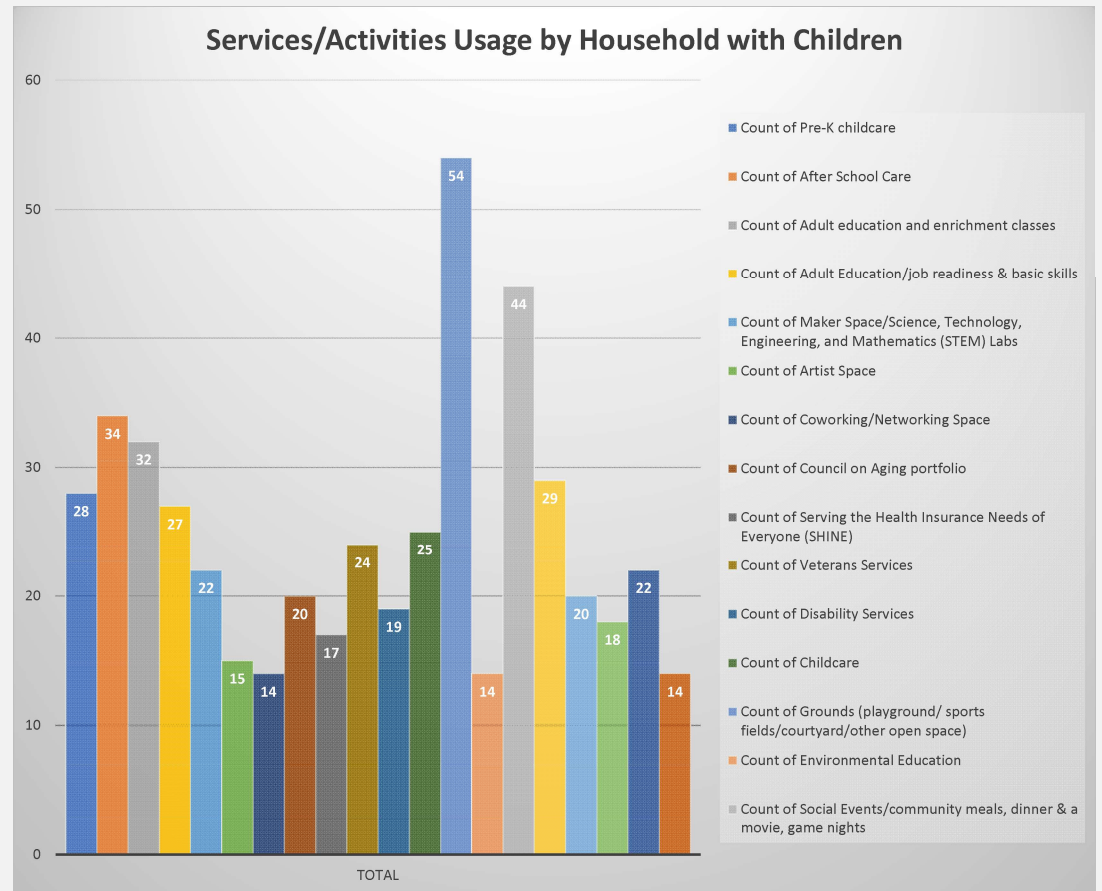
## SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES BY AGE > 49 YEARS OLD

- CoA portfolio interest surged
- Adult Education interest increased
- Interest in Grounds and Social Events decreased
- Wareham Seniors want a robust CoA program with rewarding ways to spend their time



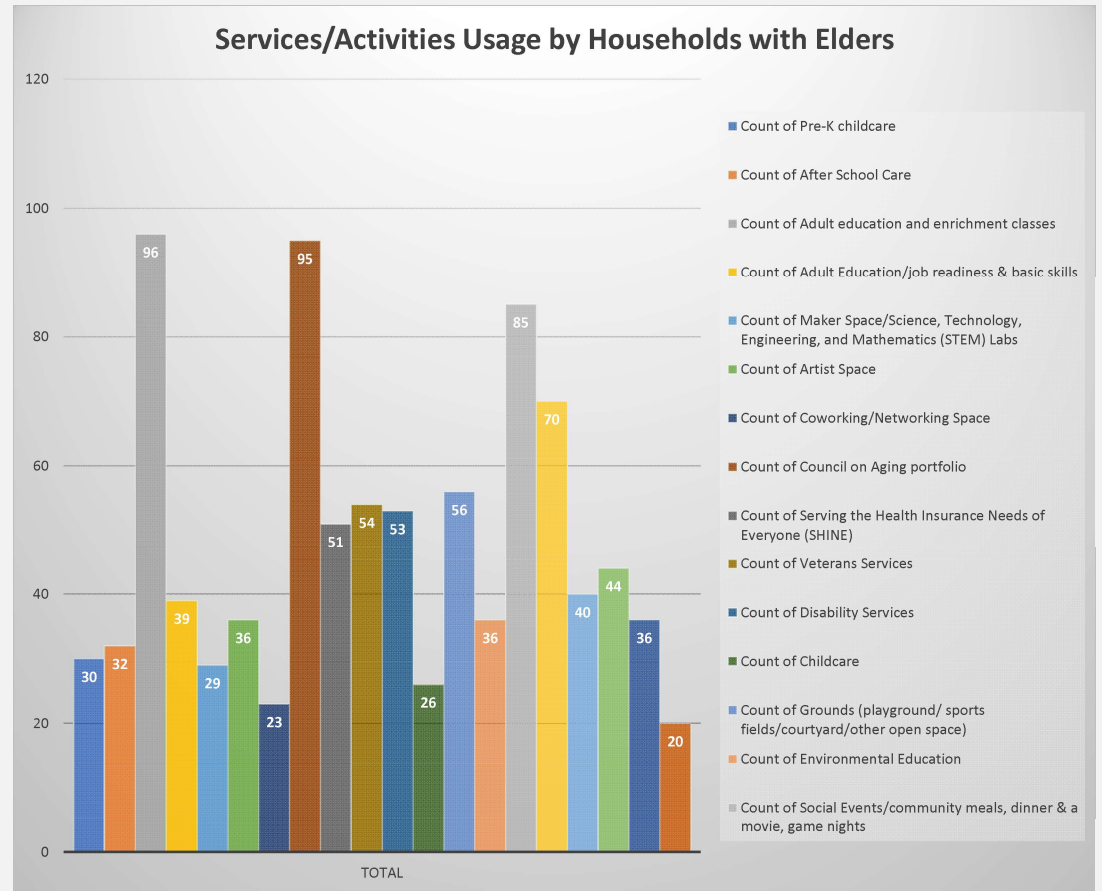
# HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

- Grounds, Social Events, After-School Care, and Adult Ed are the most popular services
- Wareham families want to learn, work, and play at a Decas Community Center



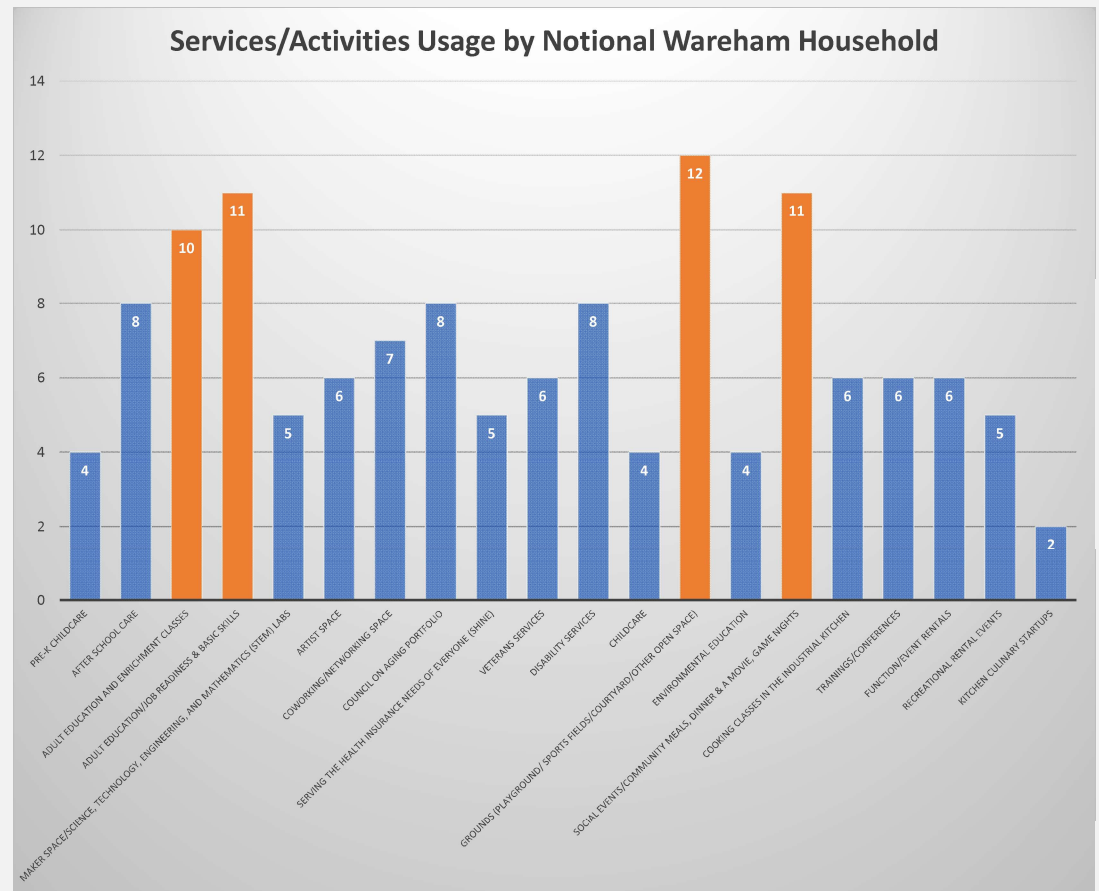
# HOUSEHOLDS WITH ELDERS

- Adult Ed, Council on Aging, SHINE, VA Services are the most popular services
- Wareham Seniors want access to activities that are rewarding and help them thrive



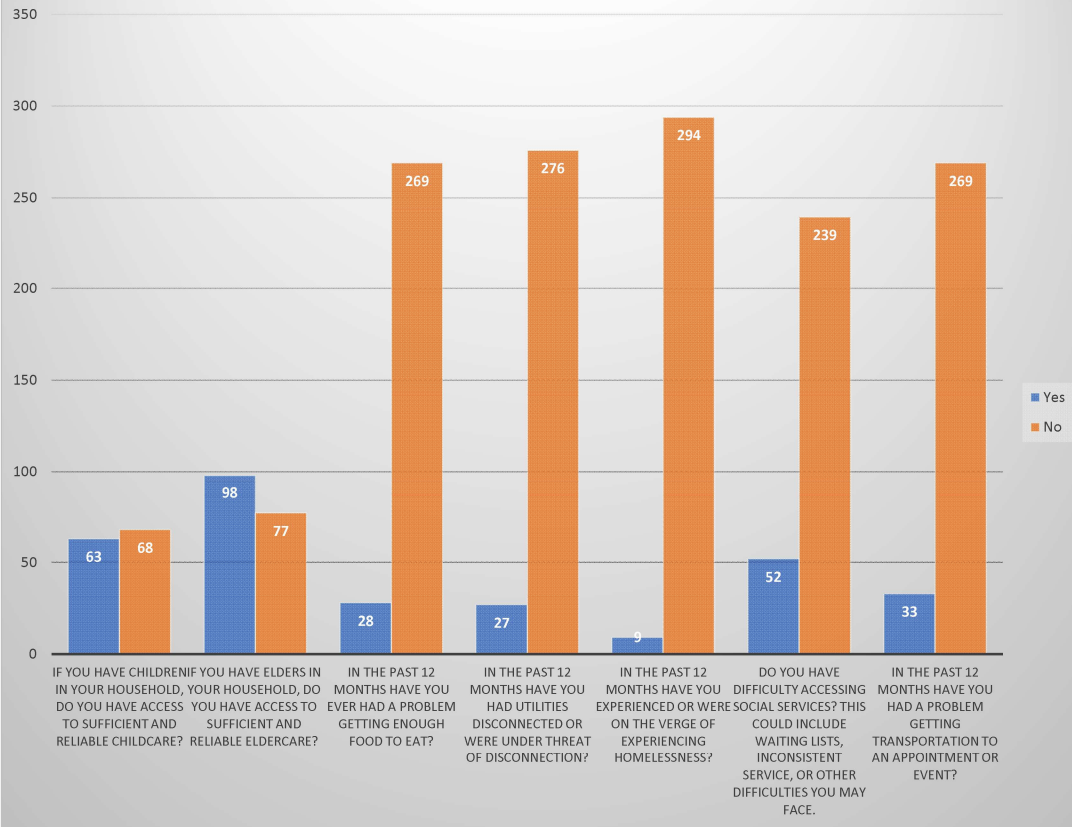
# NOTIONAL HOUSEHOLD

- Using 2020 Census Data, a typical Wareham household is constructed
  - 2.3 household size with children
  - \$55,000 to \$75,000 income
- Filtering the responses to match these characteristics reveal that the interests would closely match the Households with Children responses





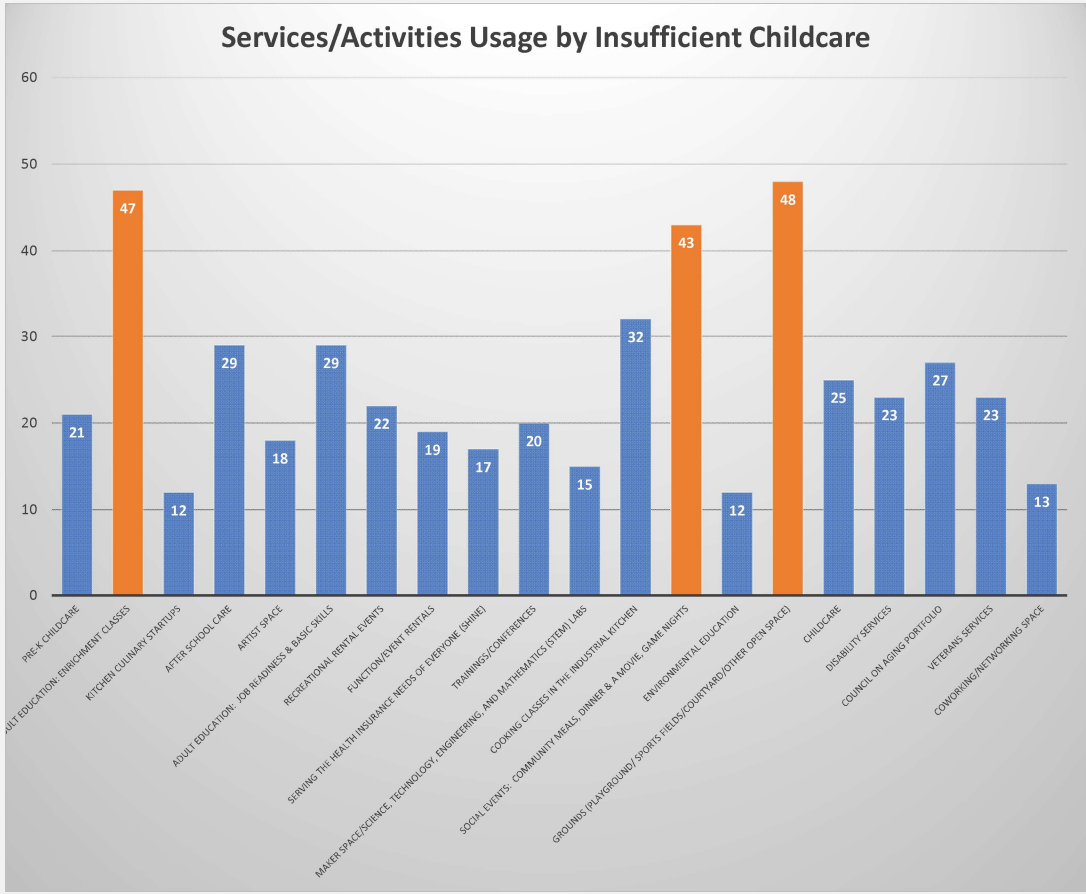
Distribution of Social Needs



## SOCIAL NEEDS OF WAREHAM

- Responses are almost evenly divided on having sufficient childcare available
- Respondents report difficulty accessing social services and getting transportation
- Some families report food, housing, or utility insecurity

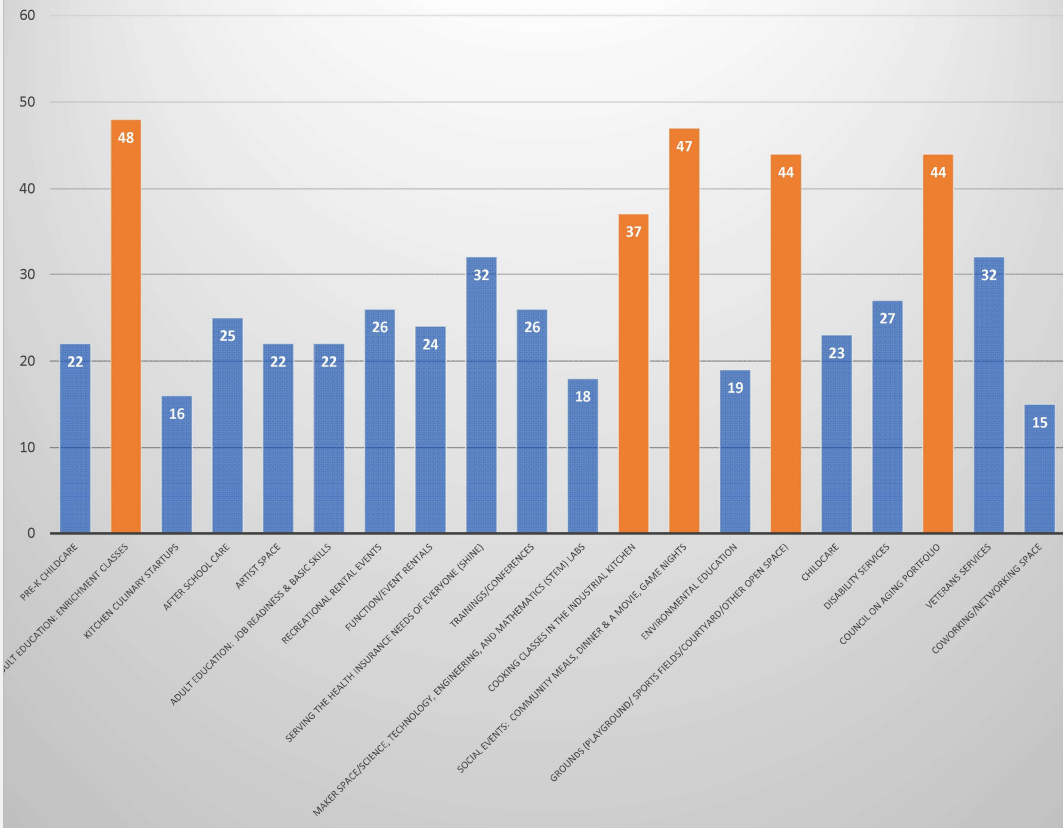




# INSUFFICIENT CHILDCARE

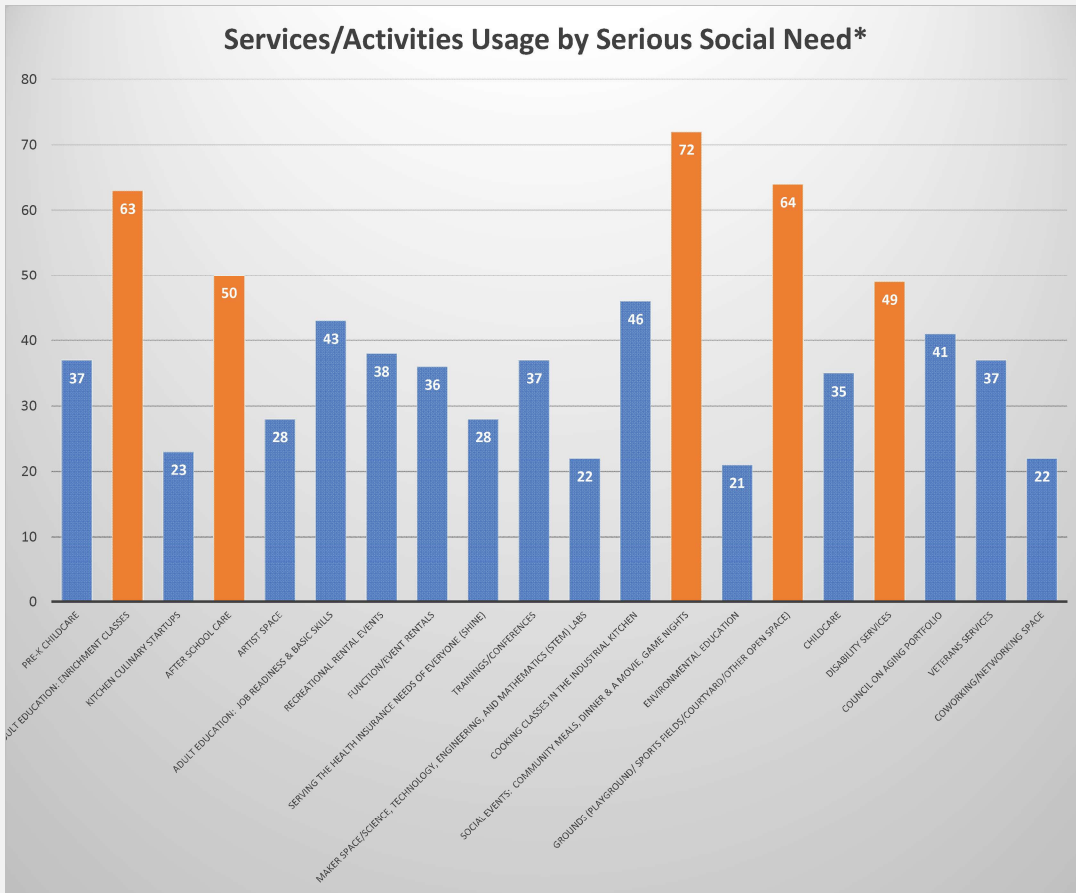
- Adult Ed, Social Events, and Grounds are again the most wanted services
- Wareham families want to learn new things and enjoy greenspaces with their families

Services/Activities Usage by Insufficient Eldercare



## INSUFFICIENT ELDERCARE

- Adult Ed, Cooking Classes, Social Events, Grounds, and CoA Portfolio are the most wanted services
- Wareham Seniors want a robust and accessible CoA and opportunities to learn/try new things



# SERIOUS SOCIAL NEED

- Serious Social Need is defined as having answered “Yes” to one of the insecurity questions
- Adult Ed, After School Care, Social Events, Grounds, and Disability Services are the most wanted services
- Wareham families in need want access to support structures and services



# WORD CLOUD

- “Final Comments”
- Most common words:
  - People
  - Needs
  - Wareham
  - Town
  - Community
  - Center
  - Space





## KEY FINDINGS

Adult Education is a common want for the town regardless of age

CoA Portfolio is by far the most wanted service for senior respondents

As Wareham Families age and grow, services related to leisure with children (grounds, social events) become more important

As Wareham seniors age, strong support services and activities become more important

Wareham residents want a robust and varied multi-generational community center regardless of how it is funded

## LIMITATIONS OF DATA

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Sample Size is around the size of  
Town Meetings (~1.5% of Wareham  
Population of 23,000)

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Responses skew older, female, and  
upper income

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Some respondents did not feel  
comfortable sharing all the requested  
information (and that's ok!)