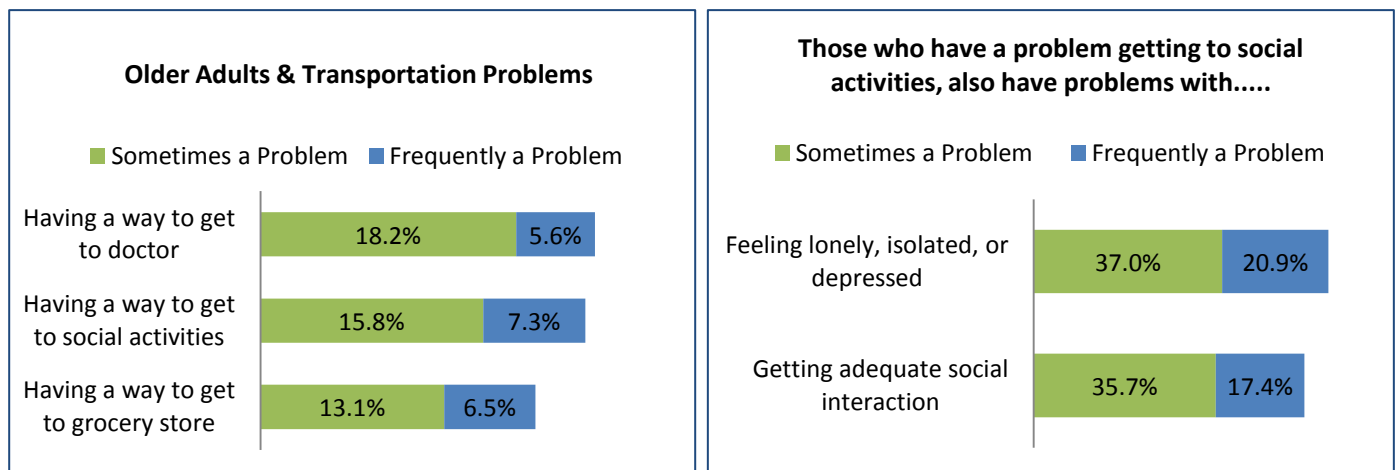


## 2012 Needs Assessment Issue Brief Transportation

Transportation continues to be problematic for Erie County's older adults. Almost 1 in 4 survey respondents report problems getting to medical appointments and social activities. Difficulty getting to the grocery store is not quite as prevalent, but is still reported by 19.6% of those who took our needs assessment survey. Transportation difficulties tend to be related to other problems our seniors face as well. For example, of those who report having a problem getting to social and recreational activities, over half, 53.1%, also have difficulty getting adequate social interaction. Not surprisingly, these same respondents also tend to report having problems feeling lonely, isolated, or depressed. 57.9% of those who have transportation difficulties, report problems with loneliness.

Transportation needs were also cited as a common unmet need in a number of focus groups. Our caregiver and rural focus groups in particular expressed concern over inadequate transportation options. While caregivers expressed a need for reliable transportation for their loved ones when they are not available, the transportation needs of the rural community were much more pronounced. In the more remote areas of Erie County there are often no existing bus routes and limited transportation options for seniors. While our transportation services will cover these areas, the prioritization of medical appointments makes getting to social engagements, including visiting spouses in nursing homes, particularly difficult.



If you or someone you know is having transportation problems, we may be able to help. Erie County Senior Services operates the Going Places van network for older adults in our community. This is a curb-to-curb van service and is available to seniors (60+) who are unable to use conventional means of transportation. Ridership criteria and distance traveled may vary depending on the municipality in which you live. Most of the towns and the cities in Erie County participate in the system and can provide you with rides to:

- Your doctor's office, physical therapist, or dialysis center
- Local senior centers
- Grocery shopping

To schedule a ride, or to find out about transportation options in your neighborhood, dial 858-RIDE (7433) 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.