

Town Meeting Survey: A deeper dive

Sharon Governance Study Committee

May 2022

Estimated Age of Attendees, by Gender

- Based on midpoint of surveyed age categories

Gender	Number	Average (mean)	Median
Female	71	53.6	53.5
Male	68	53.6	53.5
Other	8	53.1	53.5

- No notable differences across gender groups

Noteworthy differences between people who “Almost Always” attends and all others

Almost Always (n =94, or 64% of respondents)

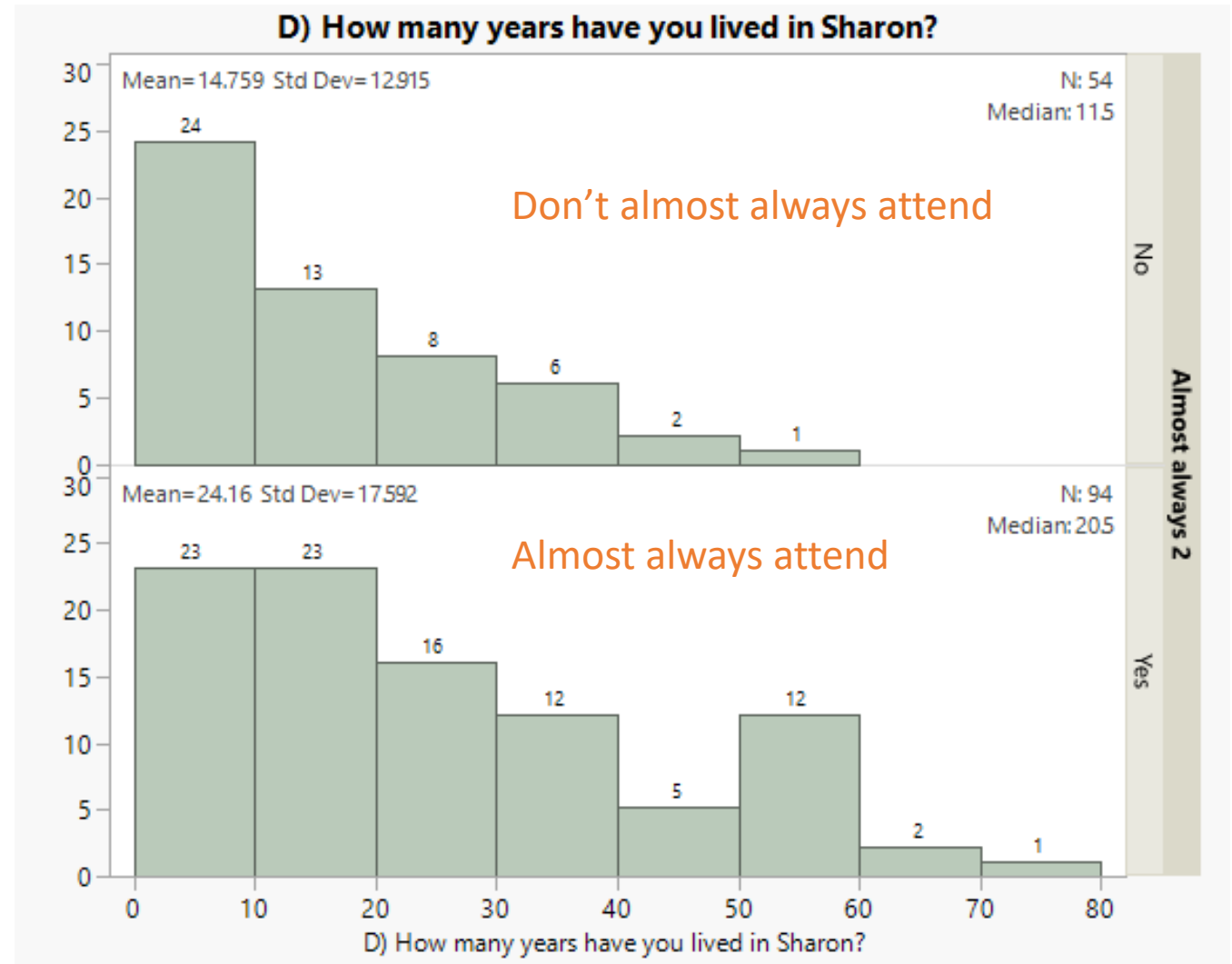
- Avg 56.4 yrs old, median 53.5
- Avg 24.2, median 20.5 years in Sharon
- Is more likely than others to say that OTM is the best way to make decisions
 - 24.5% of all attendees said this
 - 78% of that group always attend
- Is more likely than others to serve on a Board or Committee
 - 32% of attendees serve
 - 79% of that group always attend

Sometimes, Rarely, or 1st meeting (n = 54, or 36%)

- Avg 48.9 yrs old, median 41 old
- Avg 14.8, median 11.5 years in Sharon
- Are more likely to report attending when there are interesting issues on the warrant
 - 15% of attendees said this
 - 83% of those are in this group

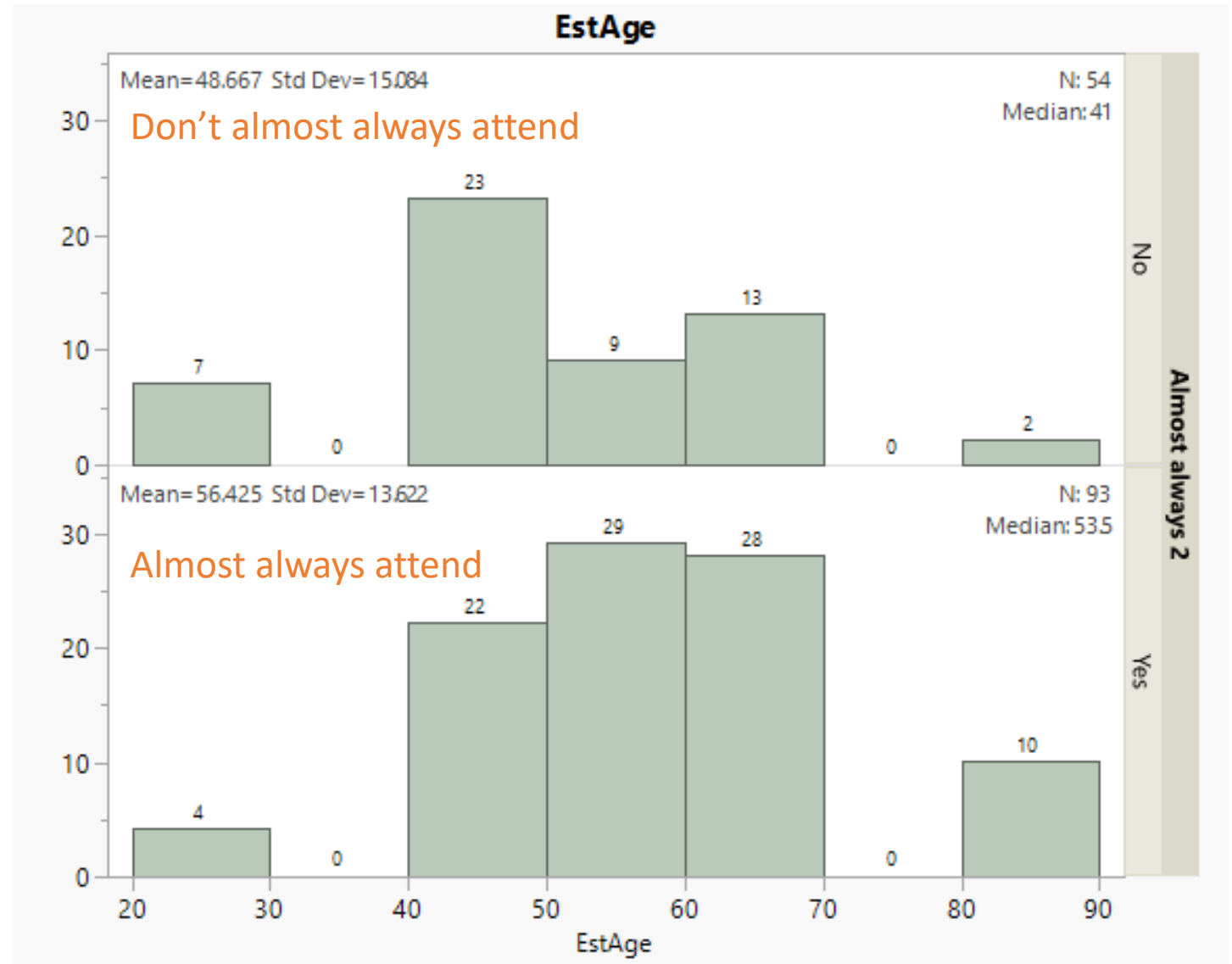
Longevity in Town: “Almost Always Attend” compared to all others

- Regular attendees average ~ 9.5 years longer in town than others.
- Numbers above bars are # of respondents



Estimated ages of “almost always” vs Others

- Regular attendees are, on average, 7.8 years older than others
- NOTE: We asked people to choose an age category. Calculations of mean & median based on midpoints of the age categories.



On which questions do Committee/Board members differ significantly from other respondents?

Committee/Board members...

- Have lived in Sharon ~ 8.7 years longer than others
- Tend to be in the 48 + age groups
- Tend to report they Always attend
- No first-time attendees
- Less likely to report childcare conflicts
- More likely to say TM is the best way
- More likely to be male

No significant difference from others regarding

- Work conflicts might affect attendance
- “There should be a better way”
- Race/ethnicity identity
- Weeknights might affect attendance
- Other conflicts might affect attendance
- Attend when there are interesting issues on warrant

Who says “Town Meeting is the Best Way”?

Top 4 Factors

- **Longevity in Sharon:** longer → more likely to agree
- **Age:** 25-34, 75+ → more likely than others to agree
- **Work conflicts** → those who say ‘no’ more likely to agree
- **Serve on a Board or Committee** → more likely to agree
- **Technical notes:**
 - Years in Sharon is by far the most influential factor
 - Age and years in Sharon are strongly associated, but years in town matters within age categories.
 - Based on a multivariate technique that looks for differences in one factor after accounting for other factors.

Who says “There must be a Better Way”?

Top 4 Factors

- **Longevity in Sharon:** *newer* (< 10 years) → more likely to agree
 - **Age:** impact varies depending on the other factors
 - **Childcare Issues** → people with childcare issues more likely to agree
 - **Gender ID** → Females more likely to agree
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- Technical notes:
 - Used same method as prior slide
 - Similar to prior slide, longevity is by far most influential factor
 - Women are not significantly more likely than men to mention childcare issues; after accounting for that, women are still more likely to say there must be a better way

Who might miss ATM due to...

Reason Cited	Influential factors
Childcare issues	35-47 year old age group
Work Conflicts	Voters ages 35-59, People with childcare issues, males
Conflicts with other activities	Voters ages 48-59, males

Factors most likely to affect attendance (percent citing reason, by frequency of attendance)

Attendance frequency	Childcare issues	Work Conflicts	Other Activities	Meetings held weeknights	Not always interested	None of the above
All attendees (n=151)	36	30	32	19	19	13
Almost always (n=95)	35	32	34	15	11	16
Sometimes (n=28)	43	32	32	29	32	0
Rarely (n=11)	27	18	27	36	55	0
First time attending (n=17)	35	29	29	18	24	24

Highest for factor

Factors most likely to affect attendance

(percent citing reason, by age group for groups > 10 respondents)

Age Group	Childcare issues	Work Conflicts	Other Activities	Meetings held weeknights	Not always interested	None of the above
All attendees (n=151)	36	30	32	19	19	13
35-47 years (n=45)	78	40	31	24	18	7
48-59 years (n=38)	42	42	47	24	18	5
60-74 years (n=41)	5	20	32	10	20	20
75+ (n=12)	0	8	0	0	25	33

Other differences in factors affecting attendance

- Women are more likely to cite childcare issues than men
- People serving on town boards and committees cite similar reasons to other citizens, except that 25% of members cite childcare issues compared to 42% of non-members
 - We noted that Board/Committee members tend to be older, which might account for the difference.