

Ohio Survey Results

(Direct all inquiries about this survey to AARP Ohio's Kathy Keller at 614-222-1507)

This Ohio statewide survey of adults at least 18 years old finds that when it comes to Medicare and Social Security, Ohioans believe Washington is trying to make too many decisions behind closed doors and Washington needs to spend more time listening to ordinary citizens like them. Ohioans feel that both Medicare and Social Security are important to people's health and financial security in retirement, however their confidence in the programs being there throughout retirement is not very strong. The survey was conducted by Woelfel Research, Inc., an independent research firm, among 500 Ohio residents age 18+ from February 16 – March 1, 2012. The survey has a margin of sampling error of +/- 4.4%.

Medicare

- **Over nine in ten adults (95%) believe Medicare is *important* to people's health in retirement, including over eight in ten who believe it is *very important* (82%).** This sentiment holds true across political parties (96% of Democrats, 99% of Republicans, and 96% of Independents) and age groups (95% of adults under age 50, 96% of 50-64 year-olds, and 94% of adults age 65+) with nearly all believing the program is *important* to people's health in retirement.
- **Just over half (56%) of adults are *confident* that Medicare will be there for them throughout their retirement. However, less than a fifth (18%) are *very confident* about this.** Younger adults are less confident: 47% of adults age 18-49, 62% of 50-64 year-olds, and 73% adults age 65+ express confidence that Medicare will be there for them.

Social Security

- **Over nine in ten adults (94%) believe Social Security is *important* to people's financial security in retirement, including over eight in ten who believe it is *very important* (85%).** This sentiment holds true across political parties (97% of Democrats, 96% of Republicans, and 95% of Independents) and age groups (91% of adults under age 50, 99% of 50-64 year-olds, and 98% of adults age 65+) with nearly all believing the program is *important* to people's financial security in retirement.
- **Less than half (46%) of adults are *confident* that Social Security will be there for them throughout their retirement. In fact, less than a fifth (16%) are *very confident* about this.** Younger adults are less confident: 30% of adults age 18-49, 60% of 50-64 year-olds, and 75% adults age 65+ express confidence that Social Security will be there for them.

Views about Washington

- **Eight in ten adults (80%) agree Washington is trying to make too many decisions behind closed doors when it comes to Medicare and Social Security.** Agreement is seen across political parties (77% of Democrats, 87% of Republicans, 81% of Independents) and age groups (81% of adults under age 50, 81% of adults age 50-64, and 74% of adults age 65+).
- **Over nine in ten adults (95%) agree Washington needs to spend more time listening to ordinary citizens like them when it comes to decisions about Social Security and Medicare, including eight in ten (81%) who *strongly agree*.** Agreement is seen across political parties (96% of Democrats, 97% of Republicans, 94% of Independents) and age groups (97% of adults under age 50, 97% of adults age 50-64, and 90% of adults age 65+).

METHODOLOGY

The Ohio statewide survey was conducted by Woelfel Research, Inc., an independent research firm, among 500 adults age 18+ from February 16 – March 1, 2012. A combination of landline and cellular random digit dial (RDD) samples were used to represent all adults in Ohio who have access to either a landline or cellular telephone (approximately 98%). A three-stage weighting procedure was used to weight this dual-frame sample. The first stage weight adjusts for the probability of selection within a household and for phone use (overlapping landline and cellular sample frames). The second stage weight combines the cell phone and landline usage to be consistent with Ohio statistics. The third stage weight adjusts the age and gender to be consistent with the distribution in Ohio. The survey has a margin of sampling error of +/- 4.4%.

DATA TABLES

Notes:

Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding

Less than 0.5% shown as “-“

N's shown are unweighted

1. How important would you say Social Security is to people's financial security in retirement? Would you say it is [READ LIST]

	ALL	AGE			PARTY AFFILIATION		
	Total N=500	18-49 N=170	50-64 N=145	65+ N=184	Dem N=172	Rep N=110	Ind N=129
Very important	85%	80%	90%	93%	89%	87%	81%
Somewhat important	9	11	9	5	8	9	14
Not too important	3	4	-	2	2	3	3
Not at all important	2	3	-	1	-	1	2
Don't know [DON'T READ]	1	1	1	-	1	-	-
Refused [DON'T READ]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

2. How confident are you that Social Security will be there for you throughout your retirement? Would you say you are [READ LIST]

	ALL	AGE			PARTY AFFILIATION		
	Total N=500	18-49 N=170	50-64 N=145	65+ N=184	Dem N=172	Rep N=110	Ind N=129
Very confident	16%	7%	16%	44%	20%	18%	13%
Somewhat confident	30	23	44	31	34	28	27
Not too confident	31	40	28	12	31	30	37
Not at all confident	20	27	13	8	13	21	22
Don't know [DON'T READ]	3	4	-	4	2	3	1
Refused [DON'T READ]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

3. How important would you say Medicare is to people's health in retirement? Would you say it is [READ LIST]

	ALL	AGE			PARTY AFFILIATION		
	Total N=500	18-49 N=170	50-64 N=145	65+ N=184	Dem N=172	Rep N=110	Ind N=129
Very important	82%	80%	85%	87%	92%	80%	76%
Somewhat important	13	15	11	7	4	19	20
Not too important	3	3	3	3	2	1	1
Not at all important	1	1	1	1	1	-	1
Don't know [DON'T READ]	1	1	1	2	2	-	1
Refused [DON'T READ]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

4. How confident are you that Medicare will be there for you throughout your retirement? Would you say you are [READ LIST]

	ALL	AGE			PARTY AFFILIATION		
	Total N=500	18-49 N=170	50-64 N=145	65+ N=184	Dem N=172	Rep N=110	Ind N=129
Very confident	18%	12%	18%	35%	20%	20%	16%
Somewhat confident	38	35	44	38	43	43	30
Not too confident	28	33	25	19	30	25	32
Not at all confident	14	17	12	5	6	12	20
Don't know [DON'T READ]	2	3	-	3	1	1	3
Refused [DON'T READ]	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

5. Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement: When it comes to Medicare and Social Security, Washington is trying to make too many decisions behind closed doors.

	ALL	AGE			PARTY AFFILIATION		
	Total N=500	18-49 N=170	50-64 N=145	65+ N=184	Dem N=172	Rep N=110	Ind N=129
Strongly agree	56%	52%	63%	56%	49%	61%	56%
Somewhat agree	24	29	18	18	28	26	25
Somewhat disagree	9	8	9	13	9	5	11
Strongly disagree	5	5	4	6	8	6	1
Don't know [DON'T READ]	6	6	5	7	6	1	8
Refused [DON'T READ]	1	-	1	-	-	1	-

6. Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement: When it comes to decisions about Social Security and Medicare, Washington needs to spend more time listening to ordinary citizens like me.

	ALL	AGE			PARTY AFFILIATION		
	Total N=500	18-49 N=170	50-64 N=145	65+ N=184	Dem N=172	Rep N=110	Ind N=129
Strongly agree	81%	79%	86%	83%	81%	84%	80%
Somewhat agree	14	18	11	7	15	13	14
Somewhat disagree	2	2	2	3	2	-	3
Strongly disagree	1	-	2	3	-	3	-
Don't know [DON'T READ]	1	1	-	3	1	-	2
Refused [DON'T READ]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-