VITAL VOICES

Issues That Impact LGBTQ Adults Age 45 and Older, October 2021
INTRODUCTION

There are currently about 117 million Americans who are 50 and older; this number will grow to 157 million by 2050. The 50 and older population is and will continue to be an essential contributor to American society. Understanding the needs and opinions of older Americans is critical to ensuring they live longer and healthier lives.

Vital Voices is a new and exciting program of research undertaken by AARP. Through this research program, we are launching a new initiative that will deliver critical, current, and state-specific data to 53 states on a rolling three-year schedule between 2019 and 2021. We are making this data available to the public to assist with the development of programs, products, and policies for older adults. This data will allow those in leadership positions to:

- Predict the need for a specific program or interest in a particular issue.
- Enhance program and product innovation and development.
- Track issues and attitudes over time to assess shifts in public opinion.
- Take action on critical advocacy issues.

Never before has AARP launched a research program of this size and with this much promise. We give it to you, hoping that it will significantly impact the work you do.
National Survey Results - Health Questions

Issues That Impact LGBTQ Adults Age 45 and Older
LGBTQ adults age 45+ think many healthcare issues are important, with staying mentally sharp topping the list.

### Important Healthcare Issues

- **Staying mentally sharp**: 94%
- **Having adequate health insurance coverage**: 92%
- **Having Medicare benefits available to you in the future**: 87%
- **Staying physically healthy**: 84%
- **Paying for health care expenses**: 82%
- **Paying for prescription drugs**: 80%

1. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent ‘extremely important’ or ‘very important’) (n=502)
CAREGIVING

One-quarter (25%) of LGBTQ adults age 45+ are currently providing unpaid help to an adult relative or friend.

Percent Providing Unpaid Adult Care

- Yes: 76%
- No: 25%

CARE1. Are you currently providing unpaid help to a relative or friend 18 years or older to help them take care of themselves? (n=502)
Over one-third (39%) of LGBTQ adults age 45+ who are not currently unpaid caregivers have provided this type of care in the past.

Percent Providing Unpaid Adult Care in The Past

- Yes: 39%
- No: 61%
LONG-TERM CARE

Over two-thirds (71%) of LGBTQ adults age 45+ would prefer long-term care at home with caregiver assistance for themselves or a loved one if needed.

Preferred Long-Term Care Setting

- 71% At home with caregiver assistance
- 14% In an assisted living facility or group home
- 10% In a nursing home
- 10% Something else
- 10% Don't know

CARE37a. If you or a loved one needed long-term care, where would you prefer to receive that help? (n=502)
CARE38a. If you or a loved one needed long-term care, how important would it be to have services that would help you or your loved one stay at home for as long as possible? (n=502)

LONG-TERM CARE

Staying at home for as long as possible is extremely important to two-thirds (69%) of LGBTQ adults age 45+.

Importance of Long-Term Care at Home

- Extremely important: 69%
- Very important: 19%
- Somewhat important: 9%
- Not very important: 9%
- Not important at all: 0%
As of October 2021, LGBTQ adults age 45+ have mixed levels of concern about getting COVID-19 in the next year.

Worry About Getting COVID-19 in the Next Year (as of October 2021)

- 36% Somewhat worried
- 34% Extremely worried/ very worried
- 30% Not very worried/ not at all worried
As of October 2021, the majority (89%) of LGBTQ adults age 45+ have gotten the COVID-19 vaccine (or plan to get it).

COVID-19 Vaccination Status
(as of October 2021)

- 86% Yes (already got)
- 10% Yes (plan to)
- 3% No
- Don't know

CVD-11. Have you gotten or do you plan to get the COVID-19 vaccine? (n=502)
As of October 2021, half (54%) of LGBTQ adults age 45+ who are not planning to get the COVID-19 vaccine don’t think the vaccine has been tested enough.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason for Not Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Don’t think the vaccine has been tested enough</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not trust the government</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worried about side effects</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not think the vaccination will work to protect from infection</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Believe the risks of taking a new vaccine outweigh any benefits</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t trust the drug companies that make the vaccine</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taking adequate precautions to avoid COVID-19</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Want to wait and see how it goes for other people who get the vaccine</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannot get the vaccine for other health reasons</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Already had COVID-19, so you don’t think you can get it again</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerned about the cost of the vaccine</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy and don’t need a COVID-19 vaccine</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not think you would get very sick if you got COVID-19</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CVD-12.** What are some reasons why you [do not plan to/are unsure if you will] get the COVID-19 vaccine? (Percent ‘yes’) (n=57)
National Survey Results - Wealth Questions

Issues That Impact LGBTQ Adults Age 45 and Older
LGBTQ adults age 45+ find many economic issues important, particularly those related to retirement and financial security.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Important Economic Issues</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Having adequate Social Security benefits</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having enough savings for emergencies</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having enough income or savings to retire</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protecting yourself against unfair financial practices</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having online security</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protecting yourself against consumer fraud</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being able to manage your debt</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having access to high-speed internet</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being able to stop working for pay at the age you want</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection from age discrimination</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being able to save money for your retirement years</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having good employment opportunities in your community</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintaining relevant job skills and experience</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent ‘extremely important’ or ‘very important’) (n=502)
As of October 2021, two in ten (22%) LGBTQ adults age 45+ expect that their personal financial situation will get worse in the next 12 months.
Three-quarters (76%) of LGBTQ adults age 45+ are currently relying on (or plan to rely on) Social Security as a source of income as they get older.

Sources of Income Relied On or Planning to Rely On

- Social Security: 76%
- Savings: 38%
- Public assistance such as SSI, SNAP, etc.: 27%
- 401(k) or other defined contribution program: 26%
- Employer paid pension: 24%
- Part-time work: 19%
- Full-time work: 18%
- Freelancing or working in the 'gig' economy: 9%
- Financial support from family or friends: 8%
- Veteran's benefits: 8%
- Starting your own business: 5%

Q728. Which, if any, of the following sources of income do you currently rely on or plan to rely on as you get older? (Percent ‘yes’) (n=502)
Small cells have been removed; see annotation for all categories
Over half (59%) of LGBTQ adults age 45+ are extremely or very interested in finding new ways to make money.

Interest in Work-Related Activities

- Finding new ways to make money: 59%
- Having flexible work arrangements: 47%
- Keeping up with technology to maintain job skills: 43%
- Advancing in your job or career (n=296): 39%
- Learning about other types of jobs where your skills would be applicable: 36%
- Gaining new job-related skills and experiences: 32%
- Starting or running your own business: 24%
- Starting a new job or career: 20%

WORK2. How interested are you in [ITEM]? (Percent ‘extremely interested’ or ‘very interested’) (n=502)
RETIREMENT

LGBTQ adults age 45+ have mixed levels of confidence about having enough money to live comfortably throughout their retirement years.

**Confidence in Retirement Money Lasting**

- Ratings of 1-3: 26%
- Ratings of 4-7: 34%
- Ratings of 8-10: 37%
- Don't know/ refused: 3%

**RET3.** Overall, how confident are you that you will have enough money to live comfortably throughout your retirement years? Please use a 1 to 10 scale, where 1 means you are not confident at all and 10 means you are extremely confident. (n=502)
FRAUD

Om the past 12 months, 16% of LGBTQ adults age 45+ have been the victim of a scam or fraud.

Victim of a Scam or Fraud in the Past Year

- Yes: 79%
- No: 16%
- Don’t know: 5%

FRA19. In the last 12 months, have you been a victim of a scam or fraud? (n=502)
One-third (37%) of LGBTQ adults age 45+ know of a family member or friend who may have been victims of a scam or fraud.
FRAUD

LGBTQ adults age 45+ have mixed levels of concern about personally becoming the victim of a scam or fraud.

Concern About Scams and Fraud

- Externally concerned: 13%
- Very concerned: 21%
- Somewhat concerned: 25%
- Not very concerned: 15%
- Not at all concerned: 27%

FRA4. How concerned are you, personally, about becoming the target or victim of a scam or fraud? (n=502)
Half (56%) of LGBTQ adults age 45+ currently live in a single-family house.

**Current Residence**

- A single-family house: 56%
- An apartment or condominium: 28%
- A mobile home: 7%
- A townhouse or row house: 4%
- A two-family house or a lot that has two separate living units: 4%
- Senior housing or assisted living facility: 3%

**COMM10.** Which of the following types of homes best describes where you currently live? (n=502)
Half (52%) of LGBTQ adults age 45+ own their residence.
National Survey Results - Self Questions

Issues That Impact LGBTQ Adults Age 45 and Older
Getting around independently is extremely or very important to a majority (89%) of LGBTQ adults age 45+.

Important Independent Living Issues

- Getting to the places you need to go independently: 89%
- Staying in your own home as you get older: 85%
- Having high quality long-term care in your community: 78%
- Having alternatives to nursing home care: 76%
- Caring for a loved one: 74%

I1. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent ‘extremely important’ or ‘very important’) (n=502)
Two-thirds (67%) of LGBTQ adults age 45+ are extremely or very concerned about being able to afford to remain in their home as they age.

Independent Living Concerns

- Being able to afford to remain in your home as you age: 67%
- Being able to get around your community to get the things you need and do the things you want to do as you age: 62%
- Being connected with others in your community and having opportunities to socialize as you age: 42%

LIVCOMM1. How concerned are you about the following? (Percent ‘extremely concerned’ or ‘very concerned’) (n=502)
As of October 2021, over half (58%) of LGBTQ adults age 45+ reported that COVID-19 has negatively impacted their wellbeing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues Negatively Affecting Wellbeing</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The coronavirus/ COVID-19</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The toxic political discourse</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change</td>
<td>37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Affording the healthcare you need</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing housing costs</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass shootings</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human rights abuses</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discrimination due to age</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural disasters</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excessive use of police force</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discrimination due to race</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The opioid epidemic</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News about rising suicide rates</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families separated at the border</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Eighteen percent (18%) of LGBTQ adults age 45+ feel they will likely move to a different community as they age.
If you were to consider moving out of your current residence, how much of a factor would the following be in your decision to move? Have any of the following affected your wellbeing in a negative way? (Percent ‘a major factor’) (n=502)

LGBTQ adults age 45+ may consider moving out of their current residence for a variety of reasons.

Factors in Decision to Move:

- Wanting a home that will help you live independently as you age: 60%
- Cost of maintaining your current residence: 56%
- Wanting a home that is easier to maintain: 41%
- Wanting a smaller home: 27%
- Wanting a larger home: 13%
LGBTQ adults age 45+ have mixed levels of concern about facing LGBTQ-specific discrimination when moving to an assisted living or long-term care facility.

DA7. When you think of the potential of moving into an assisted living situation for older Americans, such as an assisted living apartment or a long-term care facility, how concerned are you that you might face LGBTQ-specific discrimination because of your sexual orientation or gender identity? Please use a 1 to 10 scale, where 1 means you are not concerned at all and 10 means you are extremely concerned. (n=502)
Fourteen percent (14%) of LGBTQ adults age 45+ have contact with family, friends, or neighbors once a month or less.

**Frequency of Contact with Others**

- 32% Every day
- 17% Once every 2-3 weeks
- 10% Once a week
- 14% Several times a week
- 27% Once a month or less

*ISO1. How often do you have contact with family, friends, or neighbors who do not live with you? (n=502)*
Feelings of isolation impact LGBTQ adults age 45+ in a variety of ways.

**Frequency of Feeling Isolated**

- Lacking companionship: 24%
- Feeling isolated from others: 21%
- Feeling left out: 21%
Discrimination due to sexual orientation has negatively affected the wellbeing of one-third (35%) of LGBTQ adults age 45+.

Q741a. Have any of the following affected your wellbeing in a negative way? (Percent ‘yes’) (n=502)
As of October 2021, over half (59%) of LGBTQ adults age 45+ believe racism is a big problem in society today.

Racism as a Problem in Society Today (as of October 2021)

- A big problem: 59%
- Somewhat of a problem: 28%
- Somewhat of a problem: 8%
- A small problem: 3%
- Not a problem at all: 3%
- Don't know: 3%

**RACE-1.** How big a problem would you say racism is in our society today? (n=502)
In August 2021, AARP engaged ANR Market Research Consultants to conduct a quantitative research study among LGBTQ adults age 45 and older. Topics included healthcare, the economy, financial issues, independent living, long-term care, caregiving, and retirement issues.

**502 Interviews**
**LGBTQ Adults Age 45+**
**Fielded in August-October 2021**

ANR completed a total of 502 interviews (39 via landline telephone, 14 via cell phone, and 449 online). Respondents were screened to meet the following criteria:

- Age 45+
- U.S. resident
- Identifies as LGBTQ

Survey length averaged 23.1 minutes by telephone and 19.4 minutes online.
METHODOLOGY

Sampling Procedure
Landline, cell phone, and online sampling were used for this research, with the telephone sample drawn randomly from a list of U.S. residents age 45 and older, purchased from Aristotle, and online sample provided by Fulcrum. A total of 56,325 records were utilized. The list of 134,316,800 U.S. residents age 45 and older was randomly divided into 134,317 replicates of 1,000 records for telephone dialing. Initially, 20 replicates were released for calling, with additional replicates being opened as necessary. In all, 45 replicates representing a total of 44,106 records were dialed to complete the telephone portion of this study.

The sample of 502 LGBTQ respondents yields a maximum statistical error of ±4.4% at the 95% level of confidence. (This means that in 95 out of 100 samples of this size, the results obtained in the sample would be within ±4.4 percentage points of the results obtained had everyone in the population been interviewed.)

Interview Methodology
The survey was launched on August 30, 2021 and closed on October 5, 2021.

Telephone interviewing was active between 5:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., with some additional calling done between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. If necessary, up to 8 call attempts per telephone number were made to reach an eligible respondent. All numbers were called at multiple times of the day as well as days of the week to maximize each resident’s opportunity for inclusion in the study.

Percentages of some questions may exceed 100% due to rounding or the use of multiple response question formats.

All data have been weighted by age, gender, and race/ethnicity according to 2019 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey (CPS) statistics.
AARP is the nation’s largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With nearly 38 million members and offices in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, AARP works to strengthen communities and advocate for what matters most to families with a focus on health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. AARP also works for individuals in the marketplace by sparking new solutions and allowing carefully chosen, high-quality products and services to carry the AARP name. As a trusted source for news and information, AARP produces the nation’s largest circulation publications, AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin. To learn more, visit www.aarp.org or follow @AARP and @AARPadvocates on social media.
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This research was designed and executed by AARP Research.