

Interests & Concerns

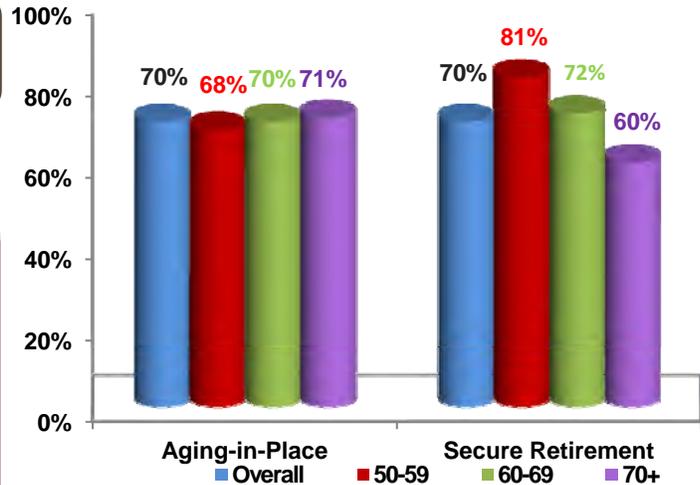
Headline: Finance and Health-related issues top Interests &

Determining the issues of critical importance to AARP members helps guide legislative priorities and development of useful tools and resources for the entire 50+ population. Top concerns vary among Social Security, Medicare, and consumer fraud, while top interests include staying mentally sharp and staying physically fit.

The issues of top interest and concern for AARP members mirror those of the older adult population in general. While Social Security and Medicare top the list, issues related to mental acuity and staying in one's home are also priorities.

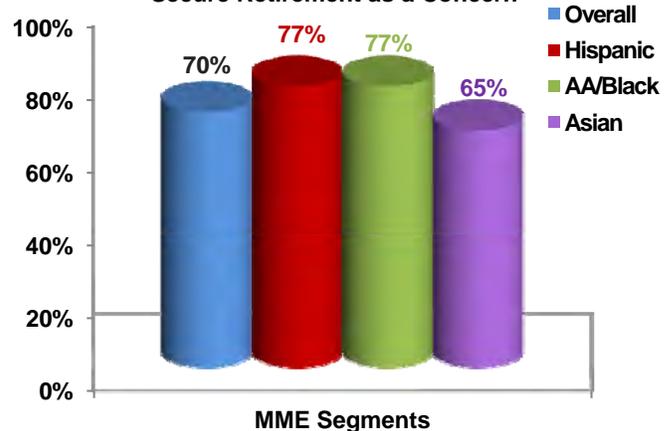
The top five most common concerns include: having access to Medicare (88%), staying mentally sharp (87%), having access to Social Security (86%), having health insurance (83%), and health care expenses (77%). Top interests for members were staying mentally sharp (92%) and physically fit (90%), as well as spending time with family and friends (86%).

Chart C1: Select Concerns with Differences by Age



Issues related to employment are of least concern to members as a whole, including losing a job, having relevant job skills, and age discrimination at work – not surprising since about half of AARP members are retired.

Chart C2: Percent of Members Who Identify Secure Retirement as a Concern



Younger members, Hispanic members and the overall membership are more likely to rank secure retirement higher on their list of concerns.

A graphic of a spotlight beam shining from the top left corner onto the title text.

Issue Spotlight: **Interests & Concerns**

While there were some differences related to concerns for both age groups and multicultural concerns (highlighted in Charts C1 & C2), the top 10 interests for both were quite similar.

Top 10 AARP member concerns tightly clustered around financial and health issues, with the exception of staying in one's home (70%).

A graphic of a spotlight beam shining from the top right corner onto the text.

For additional information on **Interests and Concerns** please visit AARP.ORG.

The following reports and resources provide additional research and information on **Interests & Concerns**:

[2012 Hispanic/Latino Opinion Shapers Survey](#)

[Social Security 75th Anniversary Survey Report](#)

[You've Earned a Say: National Survey Results](#)

[AARP Social Security Benefits Calculator](#)

[AARP's Brain Health resources](#)



Methodology

AARP's Member Opinion Survey is the largest single survey of members conducted by AARP. In 2012, AARP contacted a stratified random sample of 140,000 members, inviting them to participate in this survey. The survey was dual mode, conducted via mail and web, and was available in Spanish. A total of 38,155 members completed and returned their surveys for an overall response rate of 27.3 percent (margin of error $\pm 1\%$). The data has been weighted to approximate the AARP membership. For a full description of the methodology as well as additional findings, please visit: www.aarp.org/memberopinions.

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of more than 37 million, that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial to them and society as a whole. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to either political campaigns or candidates. We produce AARP The Magazine, the definitive voice for Americans 50+ and the world's largest-circulation magazine; AARP Bulletin, the go-to news source for the 50+ audience; AARP VIVA, a bilingual lifestyle multimedia platform addressing the interests and needs of Hispanic Americans; and national television and radio programming including My Generation and Inside E Street. The AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. AARP has staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Learn more at www.aarp.org



Research & Strategic Analysis

For more information, please contact either;

John Fries by e-mail jfries@aarp.org or

Jean Koppen by e-mail jkoppen@aarp.org