Most New Jersey residents age 40 and older (78%) believe that being cared for at home with caregiver assistance is the ideal situation when the basic tasks of life become more difficult due to aging or illness. In fact, over half of New Jersey residents age 40 and older say they have provided care—either currently (13%) or in the past (40%)—on an unpaid basis for an adult loved one who is ill, frail, elderly or who has a disability. About one-half (48%) think it is at least somewhat likely they will be a caregiver for a relative or friend in the future. The typical current family caregiver in New Jersey is a married woman in her 50’s, who is likely to be employed (48%).

Many New Jersey caregivers (current or former) age 40 and older report that they have at times modified their work schedules by taking time off or going to work early or late to provide care (61%). Fewer have taken a leave of absence from work (25%), gone from working full-time to part-time (18%), or given up working entirely (18%) to provide care to a loved one.
Of those who have gone into work early or late, or have taken time off from their job in order to care for an adult loved one, thirty percent report that they have had to do so at least weekly. About one-third (34%) have had to alter their work schedule several times a month.

This survey shows that more than eighty percent of respondents support a proposal requiring employers to provide a limited amount of paid sick leave to employees who have to take time off for family caregiving purposes. There is support across political party; more than seven in ten Democrats, Republicans and Independents support the proposal for paid time off for caregivers.

AARP New Jersey commissioned a telephone survey of 1,000 New Jersey residents age 40 and older to learn about their experiences with family caregiving. This report highlights results from residents interviewed between April 11 and April 24, 2014. The data in this report has been weighted by age and gender to reflect the New Jersey population age 40 and older. The survey has a margin of error of ±3.2 percent.
AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of nearly 38 million, that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse. We advocate for individuals in the marketplace by selecting products and services of high quality and value to carry the AARP name as well as help our members obtain discounts on a wide range of products, travel, and services. A trusted source for lifestyle tips, news and educational information, AARP produces AARP The Magazine, the world's largest circulation magazine; AARP Bulletin; www.aarp.org; AARP TV & Radio; AARP Books; and AARP en Español, a Spanish-language website addressing the interests and needs of Hispanics. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to political campaigns or candidates. 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.

State Research brings the right knowledge at the right time to our state and national partners in support of their efforts to improve the lives of people age 50+. State Research consultants provide strategic insights and actionable research to attain measurable state and national outcomes. The views expressed herein are for information, debate, and discussion, and do not necessarily represent official policies of AARP.

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AARP Research
For more information about this survey, please contact Kate Bridges at:
202.434.6329 or e-mail kbridges@aarp.org