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.

New Jersey caregivers have provided care in a myriad of ways: more than eight in ten have helped with household management activities like shopping (86%), transportation (85%), and chores (84%), and seven in ten are helping to manage finances for their loved ones (79%). As the care needs of their loved ones increase, many caregivers assist with more complex care such as medication management (73%), and other medical tasks (72%). When it comes to changes that have been made to their homes, nearly half (49%) of caregivers say they have made modification to their homes, and one in five (17%) moved into another home to accommodate the needs of their loved one. The majority (68%) have also used their own money to help provide care.
New Jersey residents age 40 and older also show widespread support for measures in The Caregiver Advise, Record and Enable (CARE) Act, which will help unpaid family caregivers when their loved ones go into the hospital and as they transition home. The bill features three important provisions that requires hospitals to engage with caregivers by recording the name of the family caregiver when a loved one is admitted into a hospital; notifying the caregiver if the loved one is to be discharged to another facility or back home; and providing instructions on the medical tasks the family caregiver may need to perform at home. More than 85 percent of New Jerseyans age 40 and older support instituting each of these measures. Republicans and Democrats alike support these measures.

Support for Requiring Hospitals to Engage with Caregivers
(N=1,000 New Jersey Residents age 40 and Older)

When asked about the state offering an income tax credit for unpaid caregivers that incur expenses for the care and support of older family members that live with them, New Jersey residents age 40 and older overwhelmingly support the measures in the New Jersey Caregiver’s Assistance Act, regardless of their political party affiliation.

Support for the New Jersey Caregiver’s Assistance Act By Political Party
(N=1,000 New Jersey Residents Age 40 And Older)

Support for State Income Tax Credit for Caregivers
(N=1,000 New Jersey Residents Age 40 and Older)

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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