2019 Prescription Drug Survey — Florida Registered Voters Age 50+

Background
AARP conducted a survey of 508 registered voters age 50 and older in Florida between April 19 and April 20, 2019 to evaluate their current use and experience with prescription medications and to understand their thoughts regarding a current proposal in the Florida legislature that would allow the state to create an FDA-approved program to import prescription drugs.

This population is keenly interested in the prescription drug price issue with the majority (73%) saying they take at least one prescription medication and six in ten (59%) saying they are concerned about the cost of their medications. Seven in ten (73%) Floridians age 50-plus say they strongly or somewhat support the current proposal in the Florida legislature that would allow the state to create an FDA-approved program to import prescription drugs to help people save money on their medications.

Most Adults 50-Plus in Florida Take Prescriptions on a Daily Basis

81% of registered voters age 50-plus in Florida report they either take prescription drugs on a regular basis or live with someone who does.

97% of those who report taking a prescription drug indicate they take medications on a daily basis.

Three in Five Say They Are Worried About Being Able to Afford Prescription Drugs

When asked to think about their level of concern about being able to afford the cost of prescription medications over the next few years, the majority (59%) say they are concerned; either very concerned (34%) or somewhat concerned (25%).

Widespread Sentiment: Rx Companies Are Focused on Profit, Not on Helping People

Considering statements regarding prescription drug companies’ concerns, most say the statement that companies are more concerned about making profits and not concerned enough about helping people is closest to their view.
Prescription Drug Prices Here . . . and Elsewhere — Most Say U.S. Consumers Pay More

Over four in five (82%) Floridians age 50 or older believe they either definitely pay more (64%) or probably pay more (18%) for prescription drugs compared to consumers in other developed countries. Just 6 percent think they pay the same or less than in other countries. One in ten (10%) are unsure.

Majority Support State-Based FDA-Approved Program to Import Prescription Drugs

Seven in ten (73%) Floridians age 50-plus say they strongly or somewhat support the current proposal in the Florida legislature that would allow the state to create an FDA-approved program to import prescription drugs to help people save money on their medications. While Democrats are more likely to say they support this legislation, seven in ten (70%) Independents and over two-thirds (67%) of Republican Floridians age 50-plus also support this legislation.*

Majority Say U.S. Can Safely Import Prescription Drugs From Other Countries

When considering statements about importing drugs from Canada through an FDA-approved program most agree with the statement suggesting the U.S. can safely import prescription drugs regardless of political affiliation.

*Caution advised when interpreting differences between parties as sample sizes are very small.
The United States is the gold standard when it comes to regulating the safety of our medicine supply. Importing medicines from countries that do not have our same strong standards could taint our medicine supply.

The U.S. can safely import prescription drugs at affordable prices from other countries. Drug manufacturers already import 40 percent of finished prescription drugs and 80 percent of active pharmaceutical ingredients.

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For more information, contact Cheryl L. Lampkin at clamkin@aarp.org. For media inquiries, contact media@aarp.org.