



Experience and Opinion of Older Rural South Dakotans about Transportation: An AARP Survey

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Washington, DC 20049
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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.

Acknowledgements

AARP staff from the state office in South Dakota, Research and Strategic Analysis contributed to the design and implementation of this study. Special thanks are extended to Sarah Jennings, Cathy McLeer, Leni Healy, Erik Gaikowski, and Steph Gavin of AARP in South Dakota; Dennis Eisnach, AARP State President and member of the NPC; Shirley Eisnach, AARP Executive Council Member and SDRTA Executive Director; Denny Carmichael, AARP Executive Council Member. Thanks also go to Rachelle Cummins, Darlene Matthews, Cheryl Barnes and Erin Pinkus of State Research/Research & Strategic Analysis; Michael Schuster and Jamie Wyatt Office of General Counsel; Geralyn Trujillo, State Advocacy and Strategy. Questar scanned the completed surveys and tabulated the results. Jennifer H. Sauer designed the survey and authored the report. For more information, contact her at (202) 434-6207.

BACKGROUND

In 2010, 273,784 residents or one-third (33.6%) of the population in South Dakota was age 50 and older. Of these residents, over half (58.4%) are age 60 and older, and nearly a third (30.9%) are age 70 and older.¹ Additionally, more than half (53.5%) of South Dakota residents age 50 and older live in rural areas.^{2,3} Transportation plays a major role in helping people stay connected to their communities as well as live an independent life. Like other large states with expansive rural territory, South Dakota is continually working to improve transportation systems as well as access to them. Investing in rural transportation infrastructure – maintenance, development, and improvement – will surely improve access to services, jobs, education, help people stay healthy and independent so they can remain in their own homes as long as possible, and enhance all communities and the state's economic progress.

Last month, federal legislation was passed reauthorizing the nation's surface transportation programs in the states. South Dakota received approximately \$570 million for highway funding over two years, and crafters of the bill note that rural and small communities are priority targets for improved transit services.⁴ However, the bill maintains that in 2013, the overall highway formula funding will be about \$287 million and the state will receive just \$12 million specifically for public transit.

In their continued efforts to be a voice for all South Dakotans and especially those ages 50 and older, AARP in South Dakota commissioned a survey to learn more about the communities and experiences of those ages 50 and older residents living in small towns and rural areas. The survey gauges the experience and opinions of these residents about their communities, caregiving, grandparenting, transportation, Internet usage, and certain legislative issues that AARP may be able to address in the year ahead on behalf of older South Dakotans. This report describes responses to all questions related to transportation.

METHODOLOGY

AARP commissioned Survey Sampling, Inc. to draw a sample of residents living in the small towns and rural areas of South Dakota by zip code. For purposes of this survey, towns with populations less than 3,001 residents were sampled. To ensure at least 800 surveys were completed, surveys were sent to 5,500 good addresses of people/households with someone age 50 or older. Also for purposes of this survey, thirty percent of the addresses in the sample order came from zip codes of towns with less than 3,001 residents and seventy percent of the addresses in the sample came from zip codes of towns with less than 1,001 residents.

Survey Sampling, Inc. sent the sample to AARP for printing mailing labels and mailing the survey. All surveys mailed included a postage-paid return envelope. AARP conducted two survey mailings, each preceded by a pre-notification postcard, to ensure the best possible response rate. Paper surveys were sent in bulk to Quester from AARP. Documents were batched and image scanned to collect data. A total of 1,831 usable completed surveys were returned. Data were weighted by age and gender consequently adjusting the number of completed surveys to 1,853. Age was weighted according to three age groups: 50-59, 60-74, and 75+. Statistically significant sub-group differences at the 95% confidence level are reported where considered useful and relevant to the purpose of this report. Please contact the author of this report for more information on other/additional sub-group analysis.

Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging, U.S. Population by Age 2010

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Aging_Statistics/Census_Population/census2010/Index.aspx

² AARP Public Policy Institute, South Dakota Quick Health Facts, 2010 http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/health/d19305_healthfacts_sd.pdf

³ U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimate

http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_10_1YR_DP05&prodType=table

⁴ Press Release, March 14, 2012, Johnson on Passage of Surface Transportation Bill,

http://www.johnson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=PressReleases&ContentRecord_id=fb6e3f23-99ed-4f90-b76f-a74afa791241&ContentType_id=c3d73cfe-

KEY FINDINGS

Most South Dakotans age 50 and older living in small towns or rural areas get around for things like shopping, doctor visits, and running errands by driving, and most have driven a car or motor vehicle in the six months prior to the survey. Still, just under a third says they walk to places they need or want to go to, and a quarter get a ride with family or friends. Further analysis shows that most (82%) respondents employ two of the six means of transportation tested in the question.⁵

How Rural/Small Town South Dakotans Get Around (weighted n=1,853 Small Town/Rural South Dakotans 50+)	
Means	% Yes
Drive	95
Walk	30
Get ride with family/friends	24
Ride a bike	12
Use public transportation	3
Use special transportation service	2
Other	1

Among those who have driven a car or motor vehicle in the last six months (96% or n=1,175 respondents), nearly six in ten (59%) are driving at least once a day but 40 percent say they drive several times a day. Moreover, four in ten (41%) say they drive 100 miles or more a week and one-third (33%) drive 125 miles or more in a typical week.

Frequency Of Driving In Typical Week (weighted n=1,775 Small Town/Rural South Dakotans 50+ who drove car in last 6 months)	
Means	% Yes
Several times a day	40
Once a day	19
4-6 times a week	18
2-3 times a week	13
Once a week	4
Not sure	1

Miles Driven in Typical Week (weighted n=1,775 Small Town/Rural South Dakotans 50+ who drove car in last 6 months)	
Means	% Yes
125 miles or more	33
At least 100 but less than 125 mi	8
At least 75 but less than 100 mi	12
At least 50 but less than 75 mi	14
At least 25 but less than 50 mi	16
Less than 25 miles	10
Not sure	1

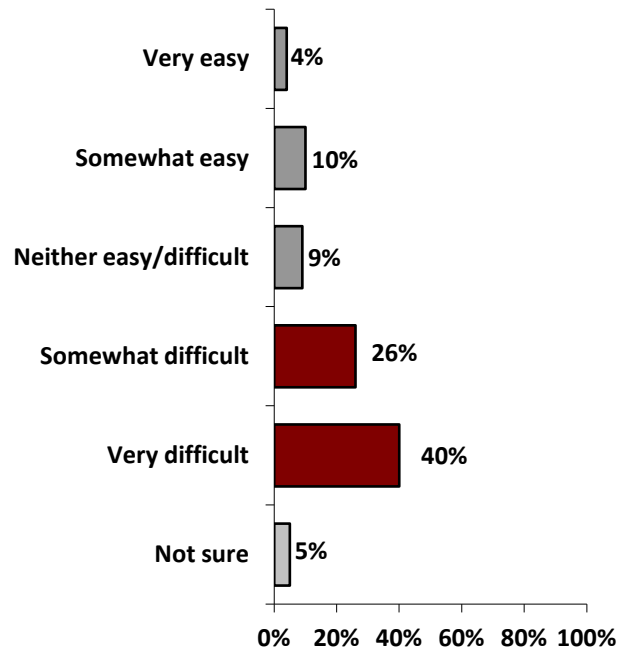
Over half (52%) of those who are full-time workers and nearly one-third (30%) of part-time workers indicate they drive about 125 miles or more in a typical week. And even though most South Dakotans ages 50 and older living in small towns or rural areas have driven a car in the last six months, it should be noted that nine in ten (91%) respondents age 75 and older have driven a car in this time period. Moreover, those age 75 and older are more likely than younger respondents to say they drive at least 50 miles but less than 75 miles in a typical week (50-59: **11%**; 60-74: **14%**; 75+: **18%**), and one-third (34%) of them drive 75 miles or more in a typical week.

⁵ This proportion is based on a statistical count of the six means of transportation included in Question 17. Item g 'other' was not included in this calculation because only 1 percent indicated a means other than what was tested.

Half or more of all respondents age 50 and older living in small towns or rural areas who have driven a car or motor vehicle in the past 6 months indicate they never experience difficulty going to any of the activities or places tested in the survey (see Question 24).⁶ However, two thirds of them say it would be very (40%) or somewhat (26%) difficult for them to get where they want to go *if* they were no longer able to drive.

Respondents between the ages of 50 and 74 and many who are working indicate greater worry about being without a car or motor vehicle to get to where they need to go. Those ages 75 and older are significantly *less* likely than those younger to say that it would be very difficult for them to get where they want to go if they were no longer able to drive (50-59: **43%**; 60-74: **41%**; 75+: **31%**). Additionally, over four in ten (43%) full-time workers and over one-third (37%) of part-time workers say it would be very difficult to get where they need to go if they could not longer drive.

Level Of Difficulty:
Getting [Places] *if* No Longer Able To Drive
 (weighted n=1,775 Small Town/Rural South Dakotans 50+ who drove car in last 6 months)



**If No Longer Able To Drive,
 Who Would Take Where You Need to Go?**

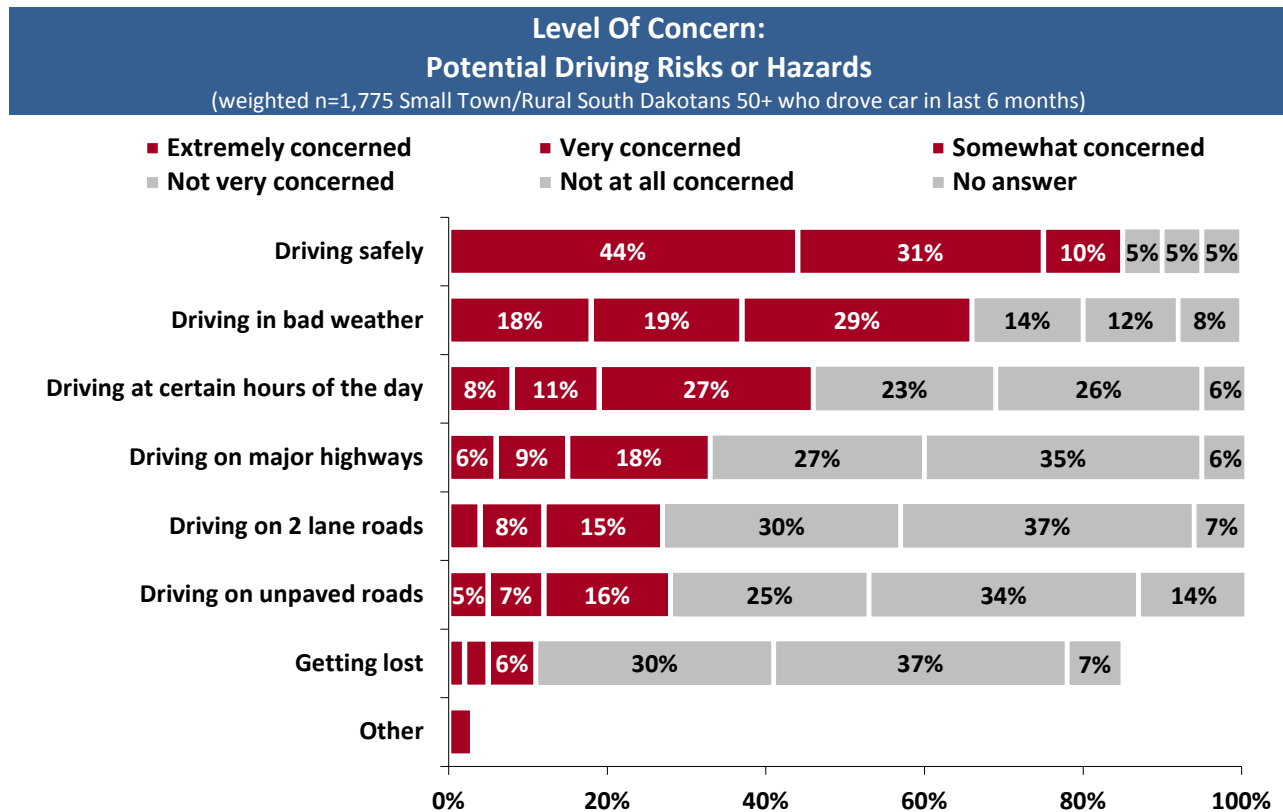
(weighted n=1,775 Small Town/Rural South Dakotans 50+ who drove car in last 6 months)

Means	% No	%Yes
Grandparents	81	<.5
Mother/Father	76	5
Co-worker	66	15
Other relatives/family	48	37
Neighbor	39	47
Someone else	38	44
Child/Children	36	53
Spouse/Partner	26	61

Moreover, if they were no longer able to drive their car, many respondents indicate a lack of family, friends, neighbors or coworkers who would be willing and able to drive them to the places they needed to go. In fact, significant proportions of these respondents cannot depend on family: one-quarter say their spouse or partner would not be able to help them; well over a third cannot rely on a child; and nearly half say other relatives or family would not be able to drive them where they need to go.

⁶ Question 24 was asked of all respondents. This statement reflects the responses of those who say they have driven a car/motor vehicle in last six months. However, the same statement applies to all respondents as well.

Most South Dakotans age 50 and older living in small towns or rural areas are concerned about various hazards or risks associated with driving. Most are extremely or very concerned about driving safely, and well over a third is extremely or very concerned about driving in bad weather. Almost three in ten are highly concerned about driving at certain hours of the day, and at least one in ten are extremely or very concerned about driving on major highways, two lane roads, or unpaved roads. At least one in six are somewhat concerned about all potential driving problems except for getting lost. Respondents ages 75 and older are significantly more likely than those younger to be extremely concerned about each of the potential driving risks or hazards tested in the survey.



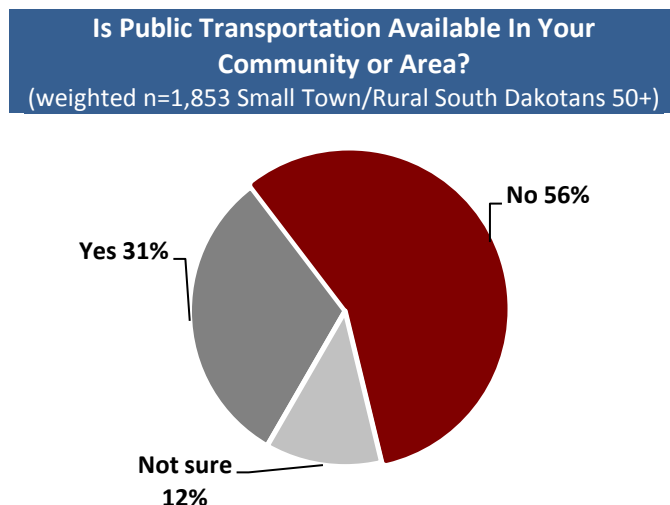
** Blank cells represent less than 5 percent of respondents.

Not South Dakotans ages 75 and older living in small towns or rural areas who have driven in the past six months are more likely than those younger to say they are extremely or very concerned about all but one of the potential driving risks or hazards tested in the survey question.

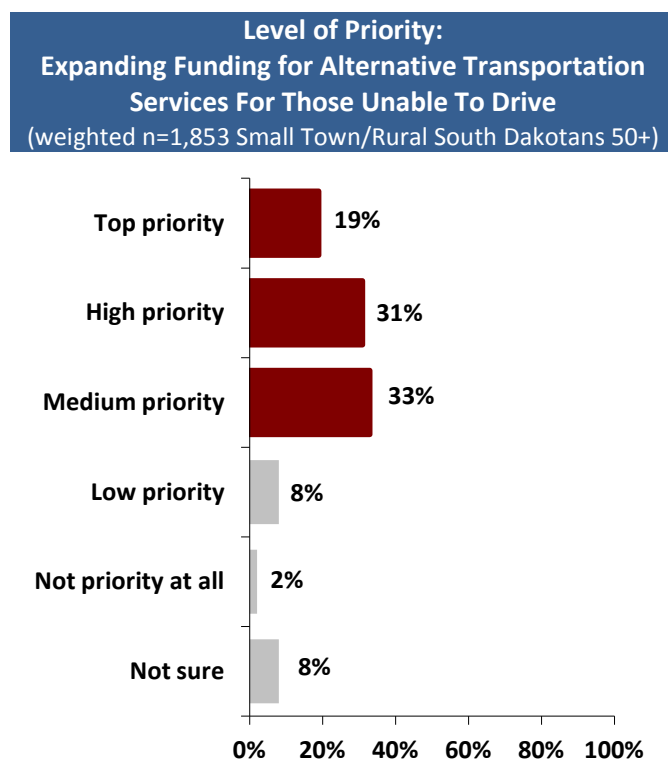
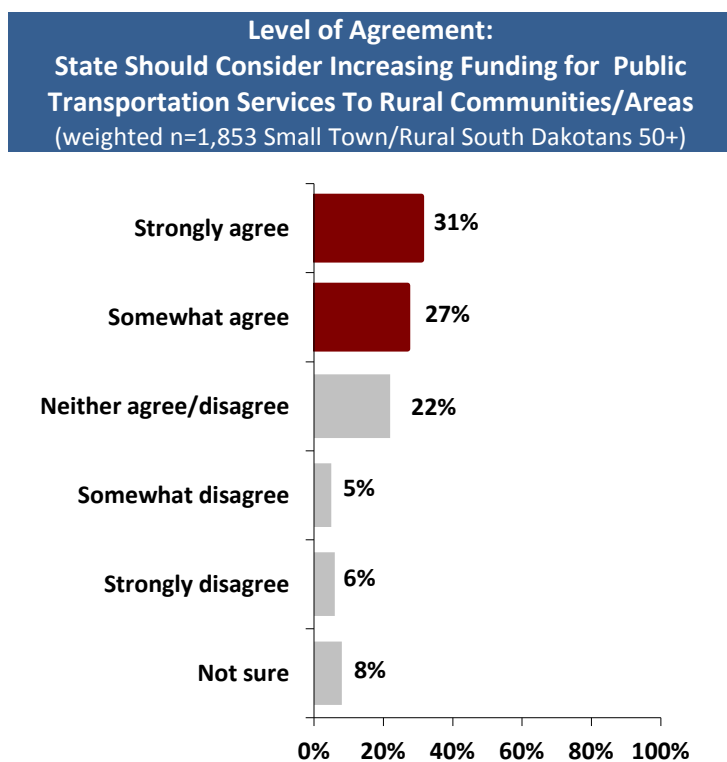
Extremely/Very Concerned By Age: Potential Driving Risks or Hazards** (weighted n=1,775 Small Town/Rural South Dakotans 50+ who drove car in last 6 months)			
	50-59	60-74	75+
	%	%	%
Driving safely	70	75	80
Driving in bad weather	31	33	47
Driving on major highways	9	14	26
Driving at certain hours of the day	13	17	28
Driving on unpaved roads	9	11	17
Driving on 2 lane roads	8	10	19
Getting lost	4	4	6

** Bolded percents indicate statistically significant difference at 95 percent confidence interval.

When asked if, to the best of their knowledge, there is public transportation available in their community or area, over half of all South Dakotans age 50 and older living in small towns or rural areas say no and another one in ten says they are not sure.



Subsequently, nearly six in ten respondents agree that the state should consider increasing funding to expand and improve public transportation services to communities or areas like theirs. While about another one in five is not sure, very few disagree with such a proposal. Moreover, as an issue for AARP to consider working on with the state, half of all South Dakotans age 50 and older view expanding funding for alternative transportations services for those unable to drive as a top or high priority issue.



CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

Undoubtedly, the results from this survey validate the designation of funds from the recent reauthorization of the surface transportation program to improve rural and small town transportation services. However, they also strongly suggest that more funding than recently allocated needs to be placed into public transit across South Dakota.

Survey findings show that South Dakotans age 50 and older living in small towns and rural areas notably indicate support for the state increasing funding for public transportation services to small towns or rural areas as well as for alternative transportation services for those unable to drive. Subsequent survey findings point to solid rationale for respondents' support of funding for rural transportation services.

Combined with their own personal concerns about various transportation risks and hazards, South Dakotans age 50 and older living in small towns and rural areas indicate that losing the ability to drive a car or other motor vehicle would likely increase reliance on family or friends to get to where they need to go. For many, this may not be a dependable or consistent option. Yet, as noted earlier, much of South Dakota lacks adequate public transportation services and over half (56%) of all respondents to this survey indicate there is none available in their community or area.

Transportation is an important link to health services and daily necessities as well as family and work obligations. Half or more of all respondents indicate a lack of needed services in their community like a pharmacy or drug store (53%), a community center like a YMCA (60%), or stores to shop for clothes or household goods (63%), and a third or more say their community lacks a grocery store (32%), a local market or mini-mart (40%), a police department (35%), or a hospital or clinic (40%). It is likely that getting to these places and others account for the extraordinary number of miles many respondents say they drive in a typical week.

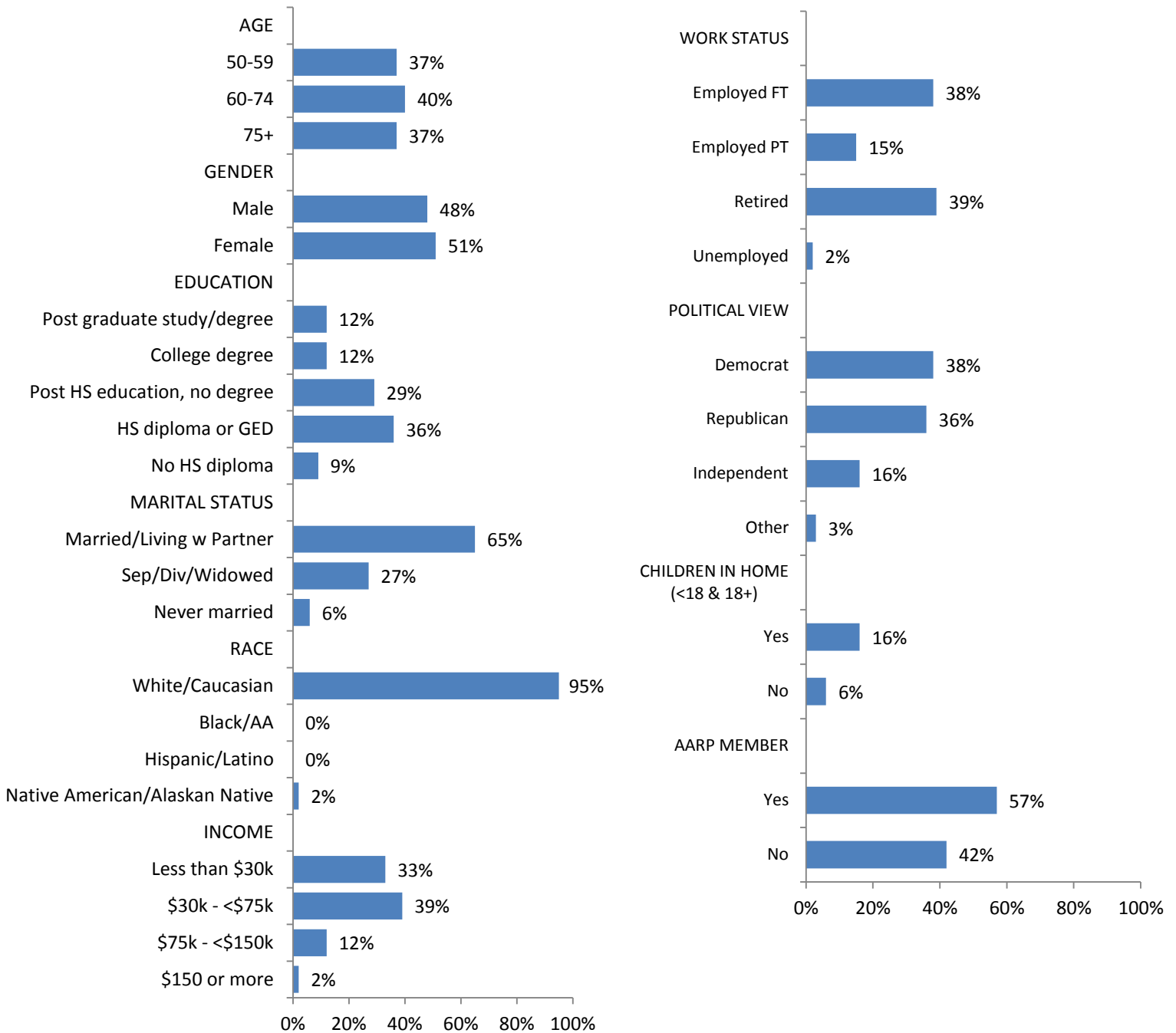
Transportation can also enable people to remain in their homes and communities, close to family and friends, as they age. For many Americans, this is very important.⁷ Data from this survey show that almost three-quarters of South Dakotans age 50 and older living in small towns and rural areas say it is extremely (38%) or very (35%) important to them that they remain in their community or area for as long as possible. And two-thirds of all respondents to this survey indicate that transportation services such as a one way, round trip or multiple stop rides is an extremely (28%) or very (37%) important service to help people remain in their own homes as they age. In fact, respondents rank transportation services fourth as extremely/very important among nine possible services tested (see Question 6 in Annotated Survey).

Transportation allows people to better care for family, friends, and neighbors. Data from this survey further show that one in four (25%) of all respondents are currently providing or have provided caregiving in the past two years – unpaid assistance – to a family member or friend. Additionally, almost one in five (18%) respondents with grandchildren is helping with the day-to-day responsibilities of care for those children. When asked to consider a variety of services that would be helpful to someone who is a caregiver to a family member or friend, over half (58%) say that assistance with providing transportation would be extremely (22%) or very (36%) helpful. Another quarter (23%) says it would be somewhat helpful. Among eight types of support for caregivers tested, South Dakotans age 50 and older living in small towns and rural areas rank assistance with providing transportation third as extremely/very helpful (see Question 11 in Annotated Survey).

⁷ Also see Keenan, T. *Home and Community Preferences of the 45+ Population*, AARP, 2010.

Demographics

(weighted n= 1,853 South Dakotans age 50+ Living in Small Towns/Rural Areas)



ANNOTATED SURVEY

2011 AARP South Dakota Survey of Residents Ages 50+ (Weighted N=1,853)

Your Community

1. What community or area do you live in/near?

(Displaying communities greater than .5%)

Aberdeen	Artesian	Avon	Big Stone City	Bryant	Burke
Chester	Clark	Deadwood	Desmet	Ethan	Faith
Ft. Pierre	Gregory	Hermosa	Huron	Hurley	Kadoka
Iroquois	Lemmon	Miller	Mitchell	Murdo	Onida
Pierre	Pollock	Rosholt	Salem	Sioux Falls	Stickney
Tabor	Timber Lake	Wakonda	Webster	White Lake	Wolsey
Yankton					

2. Which of the following best describes where you live?

%

41 Rural area

53 Small town

<.5 A suburb outside of a large metropolitan area

3 A city/large metropolitan area

<.5 Not sure

3 No answer

3. Do you or any family members live on a reservation?

%

4 Yes, I currently live on a reservation

3 Yes, I have family that currently lives on a reservation but I do not

1 Yes, both family and I live on a reservation

92 No, neither I nor any family members currently live on a reservation

1 No answer

4. How important is it for you to remain in your community or area for as long as possible?

%

38 Extremely important

35 Very important

19 Somewhat important

5 Not very important

2 Not at all important

2 Not sure

<.5 No answer

5. Thinking about your future needs, how would you rate your community as a place for people to live as they age?

<u>%</u>	
17	Excellent
31	Very good
27	Good
16	Fair
7	Poor
1	Not sure
<.5	No answer

6. To help people remain in their own homes as they age in your community or area, how important are the following services?

	Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not at all important	No answer
	%	%	%	%	%	%
a. Senior centers	21	37	28	7	3	4
b. Housekeeping services (cleaning or light maintenance services)	19	36	31	8	2	5
c. Congregate meals such as senior lunch programs	26	38	22	7	3	5
d. Meals-on-wheels or home- delivered meals	29	36	19	8	3	6
e. A service that helps low- income or older persons with home repairs, like with the roof or windows	30	37	22	4	2	5
f. Home health aides or visiting nurses	34	42	15	3	2	5
g. Seasonal work such as lawn work or gutter cleaning	18	35	31	8	3	6
h. Respite care (getting a break from caregiving duties)	20	33	28	9	4	7
i. Transportation services such as one way, round trip, or multi- stop rides	28	37	22	6	3	5

7. Does the community where you live have the following services?

	Yes %	No %	Not sure %	No answer %
a. Coffee shop, diner, bakery	75	21	1	3
b. Grocery store	65	32	<.5	3
c. Local market or mini-mart	55	40	2	4
d. Pharmacy/Drug store	44	53	1	3
e. Church or place of worship	91	5	<.5	4
f. Community center (YMCA, YWCA, similar)	33	60	3	3
g. Nursing home	48	49	1	3
h. Housekeeping services (cleaning or light maintenance services)	44	37	16	3
i. Seasonal lawn care or snow removal	51	36	10	3
j. Assisted living facility	44	50	3	3
k. Retirement community	29	61	7	4
l. Golf course	48	48	2	3
m. Gym or place to work out	55	40	3	3
n. Adult day care services or centers	16	68	13	3
o. Meals-on-wheels or similar home delivered meals	57	30	9	4
p. Home health aide or visiting nurse services	56	26	14	4
q. Hospital or clinic	57	40	1	3
r. Senior center	62	31	3	3
s. Police department or Sheriff's office	61	35	1	3
t. Fire Department	92	5	<.5	4
u. Stores to shop for clothes or household goods	33	63	1	4
v. Schools (elementary or secondary)	75	21	<.5	4

Caregiving

8. How would you rate your overall health today?

%	
14	Excellent
41	Very good
33	Good
9	Fair
1	Poor
2	No answer

9. Do you or your spouse have a medical condition that makes it difficult for you to travel outside of your home?

%	
7	Yes, I do
4	Yes, my spouse or partner does
2	Both myself and my spouse or partner does
85	No
2	No answer

10. Are you currently providing unpaid assistance, or have you provided unpaid assistance in the past two years, to care for a relative, friend, spouse, companion, or partner 18 years or older who is ill, frail, elderly, or has a physical, mental, or emotional disability?

%
25 Yes
73 No
3 No answer

11. As a current or former caregiver or someone who may provide care in the future, how helpful would the following types of support be to you?

	Extremely helpful %	Very helpful %	Somewhat helpful %	Not very helpful %	Not at all helpful %	No answer %
a. Assistance with providing transportation	22	36	23	6	4	10
b. Assistance with finding accurate medical information	24	36	20	6	3	11
c. Connecting with other caregivers in similar situations through a caregiver support group	14	27	32	11	5	12
d. Guidance and help in understanding medical bills	22	33	21	8	4	12
e. Spiritual support and guidance	21	32	24	8	4	12
f. Information about available resources for caregivers in your community	20	34	23	7	3	12
g. Short breaks from your caregiving tasks	20	30	24	8	5	13
h. Assistance in completing government forms and applications	29	33	17	5	4	12

12. Are you currently receiving any care or help like that described in Question 10 from a friend or relative or neighbor?

%
7 Yes, primarily from a family member or companion
1 Yes, primarily from a friend
1 Yes, primarily from a neighbor
88 No
1 Not sure
2 No answer

Grandparenting

13. Do you have any grandchildren, including great grandchildren or step-grandchildren?

%
76 Yes
23 No → GO TO QUESTION 15
1 No answer

14. Do you help with any of the day-to-day responsibilities of caring for any of your grandchildren, great grandchildren, or step-grandchildren? (Grandparents n=1404)

%
18 Yes
76 No
6 No answer

15. Do you provide any care to or baby-sit the children or grandchildren of your friends or neighbors?

%
13 Yes
85 No
2 No answer

16. If you are or were to become a grandparent, how helpful would you find the following services or information?

	Extremely helpful %	Very helpful %	Somewhat helpful %	Not very helpful %	Not at all helpful %	No answer %
a. Fun things to do with grandchildren of all ages	21	33	25	7	6	9
b. How to speak to children about issues in their lives	16	30	28	10	7	10
c. Legal rights of grandparents	17	26	27	12	8	10
d. Grandparenting in a multicultural family	8	16	27	21	17	11
e. Referral services for people raising grandchildren	10	20	26	18	14	12
f. Financial resources for people raising grandchildren	16	24	23	14	12	11
g. Support groups for people raising grandchildren	11	22	25	18	13	11
h. How to connect with grandchildren on social networking sites like Facebook or Twitter	11	20	25	15	17	12

Transportation

17. Do you usually get around for things like shopping, visiting the doctor, running errands, etc. in the following ways?

	Yes %	No %	No answer %
a. Drive	95	3	2
b. Get a ride with family or friends	24	63	13
c. Walk	30	57	13
d. Ride a bike	12	75	14
e. Use public transportation	3	83	14
f. Use special transportation service	2	78	20
g. Other (please specify)	1		
<u>%</u>			
27 Drive			
32 Get a ride			
4 Walk			
3 Bike			
10 Public transport			
11 Special transport			
13 None			

18. Have you driven a car or motor vehicle in the last 6 months?

<u>%</u>
96 Yes
3 No → GO TO QUESTION 24
1 No answer

19. In a typical week, about how many times do you drive someplace? (Drivers n=1775)

<u>%</u>
40 Several times a day
19 Once a day
18 4 to 6 times a week
13 2 to 3 times a week
4 Once a week
1 Not sure
4 No answer

20. In a typical week, about how many miles do you drive? (Drivers n=1775)

<u>%</u>
10 Less than 25 miles
16 At least 25 but less than 50 miles
14 At least 50 but less than 75 miles
12 At least 75 but less than 100 miles
8 At least 100 but less than 125 miles
33 125 miles or more
1 Not sure
6 No answer

21. When you drive, how concerned are you about the following? (Drivers n=1775)

	Extremely concerned	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	No answer
	%	%	%	%	%	%
a. Driving safely	44	31	10	5	5	5
b. Getting lost	2	3	6	30	54	6
c. Driving at certain hours of the day (early morning, afternoons, at night)	8	11	27	23	26	6
d. Driving on major highways	6	9	18	27	35	6
e. Driving in bad weather	18	19	29	14	12	8
f. Driving on 2 lane roads	4	8	15	30	37	7
g. Driving on unpaved roads	5	7	16	25	34	14
h. Other, please specify	3					

22. If you were no longer able to drive, how easy or difficult would it be for you to get where you want to go? (Drivers n=1775)

%	
4	Very easy
10	Somewhat easy
9	Neither easy or difficult
26	Somewhat difficult
40	Very difficult
5	Not sure
7	No answer

23. If, for some reason, you were no longer able to drive your car, would any of the following people be willing and able to drive you to the places you needed to go? (Drivers n=1775)

	Yes	No	No answer
	%	%	%
a. Your spouse/partner	61	26	13
b. Your child/children	53	36	12
c. Your mother/father	5	76	19
d. Your grandparents	<.5	81	19
e. Other relatives/family	37	48	15
f. A coworker	15	66	19
g. A neighbor	47	39	14
h. Someone else	38	44	18

24. How often do you have difficulty going to these activities or places outside your home?

	Always difficult	Often difficult	Sometimes difficult	Never difficult	Not applicable	No answer
	%	%	%	%	%	%
a. Medical or dental appointments	1	2	11	76	8	3
b. Visits with family	1	2	12	74	8	4
c. Visits with friends	1	2	8	78	7	4
d. Church or place of worship	1	1	6	78	10	4
e. The grocery store or market	1	1	9	79	6	4
f. The pharmacy	1	2	10	76	7	4
g. Stores to shop for clothes or household goods	2	4	13	70	7	5
h. Entertainment or leisure activities, including movies, theatre, museums	3	4	11	63	14	5
i. Volunteer activities	2	3	7	63	20	5
j. Community or town meetings	1	2	7	67	18	5
k. A restaurant or place to get ice cream, coffee, or snacks	1	2	8	74	10	5
l. Work	1	1	4	55	33	7
m. School-based or educational activities	1	1	6	58	29	6
n. Community center, YMCA, senior center, etc.	2	2	6	53	32	6
o. Gym	2	1	5	49	36	7

25. To the best of your knowledge, is there public transportation available in your community or area?

%

31 Yes

56 No

12 Not sure

2 No answer

26. How strongly do you agree or disagree that South Dakota should consider increasing funding to expand and improve public transportation services to communities or areas like yours?

%

31 Strongly agree

27 Somewhat agree

22 Neither agree or disagree

5 Somewhat disagree

6 Strongly disagree

8 Not sure

2 No answer

Internet and Media Usage

27. Is there at least one telephone in your home or on your property that is currently working and is NOT a cell phone?

%
90 Yes
9 No
1 No answer

28. Do you or anyone in your family have a working cell phone?

%
90 Yes
8 No
2 No answer

29. In the last 12 months, have you accessed the Internet or sent or received email?

%
65 Yes
33 No → GO TO QUESTION 31
2 No answer

30. Do you do any of the following activities when you use the Internet? n=1208

	Yes %	No %	No answer %
a. Send and receive e-mail or text	92	5	3
b. Perform online banking or other financial services	48	49	3
c. Seek information on community events, news, or schedules	67	30	3
d. Buy reservations online for travel services (airline tickets, hotel room, rental car)	49	48	3
e. Buy a product online, such as books, music, toys, clothing	62	35	3
f. Use Facebook	46	51	3
g. Use Twitter	3	93	4
h. Use Video chat (such as Skype)	15	82	3

31. How do you communicate with the following people? (For each, check all types of communication you use regularly)

	Phone %	Mail %	Email %	Text %	Social Network %	Face-to- face visit %	Not applicable %
a. Grandchildren living outside household	66	26	21	12	10	32	22
b. Children living outside household	84	31	38	23	16	38	10
c. Other relatives living outside household	89	36	38	16	15	36	2
d. Friends/neighbors in your community	86	14	25	13	10	45	2
e. Friends/neighbors outside your community	87	31	36	14	14	33	3

32. How helpful do you find each of the following sources for news and information in your local community?

	Extremely helpful	Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not very helpful	Not at all helpful	No answer
	%	%	%	%	%	%
a. Daily newspaper	31	29	20	7	9	5
b. Local town/county newspaper	26	30	26	6	7	5
c. Weekly Shopper News	14	22	31	12	12	8
d. Local TV affiliates (KELO, KSFY, KDLT, RFDTV)	44	32	14	3	3	4
e. Public television station	23	27	25	11	8	6
f. Local radio stations	31	32	22	6	4	5
g. Other community organization newsletter, such as from a church, civic group, neighborhood association	17	25	31	12	11	5

Legislative Issues

33. Keeping in mind what is most important to you, how much of a priority should it be for AARP to work on the following legislative issues?

	Top priority	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority	Not at a priority at all	No answer
	%	%	%	%	%	%
a. Protecting access to promised pensions and retiree health benefits	55	30	7	2	2	4
b. Expanding access to home and community-based long-term care services	26	39	24	5	2	5
c. Expanding funding for alternative transportation services for those unable to drive	19	31	33	8	2	6
d. Ensuring that Social Security continues to provide a guaranteed base for retirement income	72	18	5	1	1	3
e. Expanding health insurance coverage for the uninsured	33	26	23	8	4	6
f. Ensuring that workers age 50 and older have equal access to jobs, promotions, and employee benefits	40	34	17	3	2	4
g. Maintaining Medicaid, the government program that provides health and long-term care	51	27	12	3	2	5
h. Protecting consumers against fraudulent and deceptive business practices that can reduce their retirement savings and financial assets	51	29	11	3	1	5

(Question 33 Continued)

i.	Expanding funding for housing options/home modifications that allow individuals to remain in their communities/homes as they age	36	34	19	4	1	5
j.	Maintaining the affordability of utility services	42	38	12	3	1	5
k.	Strengthening Medicare as a base for retirement health coverage	57	28	8	2	1	4
l.	Maintaining services for older, low-income state residents	40	36	16	3	1	4
m.	Making prescription drugs more affordable	59	28	8	1	1	4
n.	Enforcing quality regulations for long-term care supports and services	40	36	15	2	1	5

34. Which ONE of the following statements comes closest to your view of how South Dakota should balance the state budget?

%

41	There should be mostly cuts to spending on state services without tax increases to balance the budget
15	There should be mostly tax increases without cuts to spending on state services to balance the budget
36	South Dakota needs to do both—raise taxes and cut state services
8	No answer

35. South Dakota is facing difficult economic choices as the Governor and State Legislators try to balance the state budget. There are three major approaches to balancing the budget: cutting current services, increasing state revenues, or a combination of service cuts and revenue increases. How strongly you support or oppose the following ways to raise money in order to avoid cuts to state services? How strongly do you support or oppose the following ways to raise money in order to avoid cuts to state services?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	No answer
	%	%	%	%	%	%
a. An increase in the state sales tax	15	33	20	12	13	7
b. Closing loopholes for certain businesses	56	24	10	3	3	5
c. Increasing the cigarette tax	44	19	18	5	10	4
d. Increasing the tax on liquor, beer, and wine	40	23	19	6	7	5
e. Increasing licensing and user fees, such as car and boat tags, marriage and birth certificates	8	23	29	18	17	5
f. Using the state's Rainy Day fund	9	23	37	14	12	6

About You

d1. Are you male or female?

<u>%</u>	
48	Male
51	Female
<.5	No answer

d2. What is your age as of your last birthday?

<u>%</u>	
37	50-59
40	60-74
23	75+
1	No answer

d3. What is your 5-digit South Dakota ZIP Code?

<u>%</u>	
18	570xx
3	571xx
19	572xx
19	573xx
13	574xx
11	575xx
6	576xx
10	577xx
<.5	All Others
2	No answer

d4. Are you or your spouse currently a member of AARP?

<u>%</u>	
57	Yes
42	No
1	No answer

d5. What is your current marital status?

<u>%</u>	
65	Married
2	Not married, living with partner
1	Separated
9	Divorced
17	Widowed
6	Never married
1	No answer

d6. Besides you, do you have any of the following people living in your household?

	Yes	No	No answer
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
a. Child/children under 18	5	87	8
b. Child/children 18 or older	11	82	7
c. Child/children away at college	6	84	10

- d7. Do you have any kind of health care coverage, including employer-provided health insurance, private health insurance, or government plans such as Medicare or Medicaid?**
- | | <u>%</u> |
|-----------|----------|
| Yes | 92 |
| No | 7 |
| Not sure | 1 |
| No answer | 1 |
- d8. What is your race and/or ethnicity?**
- | | <u>%</u> |
|---|----------|
| White or Caucasian | 95 |
| Black or African American | <.5 |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | 2 |
| Asian | 0 |
| Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander | 0 |
| Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino | <.5 |
| More than one | 1 |
| No answer | 2 |
| Other, please specify | <.5 |
- | | <u>%</u> |
|------------|----------|
| Portuguese | <.5 |
- d9. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?**
- | | <u>%</u> |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Self-employed, part-time | 5 |
| Self-employed, full-time | 9 |
| Employed, part-time | 10 |
| Employed, full-time | 29 |
| Retired, not working at all | 39 |
| Not in labor force for other reasons | <.5 |
| Unemployed, but looking for work | 2 |
| No answer | 5 |
- d10. What is the highest level of education you have completed?**
- | | <u>%</u> |
|---|----------|
| K-12th grade (no diploma) | 9 |
| High school graduate, GED or equivalent | 36 |
| Post-high school education/training (no degree) | 21 |
| 2-year college degree | 8 |
| 4-year college degree | 12 |
| Post-graduate study (no degree) | 5 |
| Graduate or professional degree(s) | 7 |
| No answer | 2 |
- d11. Thinking about state elections for South Dakota Governor and Legislators in the last ten years, how often would you say you vote?**
- | | <u>%</u> |
|------------------------|----------|
| Always | 76 |
| Most of the time | 15 |
| About half of the time | 3 |
| Seldom | 2 |
| Never | 3 |
| No answer | 1 |

d12. Do you consider yourself to be a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or something else?

%

38 Democrat
36 Republican
16 Independent
3 Other
4 Not sure
4 No answer

d13. What was your annual household income before taxes in 2010?

%

5 Less than \$10,000
13 \$10,000 to \$19,999
15 \$20,000 to \$29,999
22 \$30,000 to \$49,999
17 \$50,000 to \$74,999
8 \$75,000 to \$99,999
4 \$100,000 to \$149,999
2 \$150,000 or more
7 Not sure
7 No answer



AARP

Research and Strategic Analysis

For more information, please contact Jennifer H. Sauer at:

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Locate this survey and other state-level or national research at

www.AARP.org/research