Charitable Giving Among African Americans/Blacks Ages 50+

In the past year, over six in 10 (62%) mid-life and older African Americans/Blacks donated to charitable and religious organizations.

The average number of organizations receiving their donations is 3.

The median cash value of their donations is $101-$500.

Goods and money were the most common forms of charitable giving among African Americans/Blacks ages 50+

- 75% gave goods (e.g., clothing)
- 71% gave cash donations
- 46% purchased tickets for a fundraising dinner/event
- 43% sponsored someone for a charitable cause
- 29% purchased products/services that gave proceeds to charity
- 25% gave donations via a workplace payroll deduction

Rates of charitable giving were fairly similar across age groups and gender; the median amount donated was the same.

- Age 50-59: 62% giving, Median cash value of donations $101-$500
- Age 60-69: 64% giving, Median cash value of donations $101-$500
- Age 70+: 62% giving, Median cash value of donations $101-$500

The rate of charitable giving was higher among those who perceive that they have a lot or moderate amount of influence on community problems.

- Acting alone:
  - A lot/moderate amount of influence: 73% giving, Median cash value of donations $101-$500
  - Little or no influence: 57% giving, Median cash value of donations $101-$500

- Joined with Others:
  - A lot/moderate amount of influence: 71% giving, Median cash value of donations $101-$500
  - Little or no influence: 49% giving, Median cash value of donations $101-$500

NOTE: These findings were gathered in August 2015 from a telephone survey of 714 African American/Black adults ages 50+.

Source: Connecting, Serving, and Giving: Civic Engagement Among Mid-Life and Older African American/Black Adults, 2016.

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