VITAL VOICES

Issues That Impact Kansas Adults Age 50 and Older, December 2020
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INTRODUCTION

There are currently about 117 million Americans who are 50 and older; this number will grow to 157 million by 2050. The 50 and older population is and will continue to be an essential contributor to American society. Understanding the needs and opinions of older Americans is critical to ensuring they live longer and healthier lives.

Vital Voices is a new and exciting program of research undertaken by AARP. Through this research program, we are launching a new initiative that will deliver critical, current, and state-specific data to 53 states on a rolling three-year schedule between 2019 and 2021. We are making this data available to the public to assist with the development of programs, products, and policies for older adults. This data will allow those in leadership positions to:

- Predict the need for a specific program or interest in a particular issue.
- Enhance program and product innovation and development.
- Track issues and attitudes over time to assess shifts in public opinion.
- Take action on critical advocacy issues.

Never before has AARP launched a research program of this size and with this much promise. We give it to you, hoping that it will significantly impact the work you do.
Survey Results for Kansas-Health Questions

Issues That Impact Kansas Adults Age 50 and Older
ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

Kansas residents age 50+ think many healthcare issues are important, with staying mentally sharp and physically healthy topping the list.

Important Healthcare Issues

- Staying mentally sharp: 94%
- Staying physically healthy: 93%
- Having adequate health insurance coverage: 92%
- Having Medicare benefits available to you in the future: 89%
- Paying for healthcare expenses: 82%
- Paying for prescription drugs: 76%

11. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent ‘extremely important’ or ‘very important’) (n=709)
CARE1. Are you currently providing unpaid help to a relative or friend 18 years or older to help them take care of themselves? (n=709)

About one-quarter (29%) of Kansas residents age 50+ are currently providing unpaid help to an adult relative or friend.
CAREGIVING ISSUES

More than one-third (40%) of Kansas residents age 50+ who are not currently unpaid caregivers have provided this type of care in the past.

Percent Providing Unpaid Adult Care in The Past

- 40% Yes
- 60% No

CARE1_A. Have you ever provided this type of unpaid help in the past? (n=504)
CARE34. At any time while you have been providing care, did your family member or loved one require admission to a hospital? (n=407)

CAREGIVING ISSUES

Half (52%) of Kansas caregivers (or former caregivers) age 50+ have experienced a loved one in their care being admitted to the hospital.

Caregiver’s Loved One Admitted to Hospital

- Yes: 48%
- No: 52%
- Don’t know: 0%
Upon their discharge from the hospital, were you provided with instruction or live demonstration of any medical tasks that you may need to perform for your family member or loved one at home? (n=209)

Among Kansas caregivers (or former caregivers) age 50+ who had a loved one hospitalized, one-third (33%) were not provided instruction on necessary medical tasks upon discharge from the hospital.
If a family member needed care after hospitalization, instruction on medical tasks would be extremely important or very important for nearly all (91%) Kansas residents age 50+ without caregiving experience.

Importance of Instructions Upon Hospital Discharge

- Extremely important/ very important: 91%
- Somewhat important: 4%
- Not very important/ not important at all: 3%
- Don't know/ refused: 0%
Most Kansas residents age 50+ live within 30 minutes of a primary care doctor or hospital.

**Distance from Healthcare Services**

- **Primary care**
  - 10 min. or less: 45%
  - 11 min. to 30 min.: 48%
  - More than 30 min.: 7%

- **Hospital**
  - 10 min. or less: 45%
  - 11 min. to 30 min.: 48%
  - More than 30 min.: 6%

- **Specialty care**
  - 10 min. or less: 25%
  - 11 min. to 30 min.: 48%
  - More than 30 min.: 25%

**TEL-4.** About how long would it take you, in minutes, to travel to...? (n=709)
Chart does not equal one-hundred percent due to removal of small cells; see annotation for all categories.
One-third (37%) of Kansas residents age 50+ would be extremely interested or very interested in using telehealth services for themselves or a loved one.

“Telehealth is a way for people to have one-on-one interactions with their healthcare providers without having to be in the same location at the same time, by using technologies like cellphones, computers, and tablets.

Examples of how telehealth provides more connected care could include a patient wearing a monitoring device that tracks vital signs or alerts a family caregiver if there is a serious injury, or an online conversation between patients and their doctors to get a diagnosis, get advice, get a prescription filled, or to get a second opinion.”
A majority of Kansas residents age 50+ would support policies related to telehealth.

Support for Various Telehealth Policies

- Policies that would provide greater access to in-home medical monitoring technologies: 87%
- Policies that would allow you or a loved one to remain at home and receive telehealth services: 86%
- Policies that would allow for the coverage of telehealth services, regardless of distance between a person's home and their provider's office: 83%

TEL-7. Would you support or oppose...? (Percent 'strongly support' or 'somewhat support') (n=709)
The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the willingness of nearly half (48%) of Kansas residents age 50+ to try telehealth in the future (19% were already willing to use telehealth).

**Impact of COVID-19 on Willingness to Try Telehealth**

- Yes (more willing to try telehealth) 48%
- No (not willing to try telehealth) 25%
- No (was already willing to try telehealth) 19%

**TEL-12.** Has the COVID-19 pandemic increased your willingness to try telehealth in the future? (n=709)
Chart does not equal one-hundred percent due to removal of small cells; see annotation for all categories
If you were interested in using telehealth, what are some of the barriers you might experience in trying to use it? (n=589)

Lack of access to high-speed Internet would be a barrier for some (16%) Kansas residents age 50+ who have interest in using telehealth. Others (28%) are simply unsure how to use telehealth.

**Barriers to Using Telehealth**

- Don't know how to use telehealth: 28%
- Concerned about medical errors: 26%
- Concerned about health information remaining confidential: 21%
- Not sure doctor's office offers telehealth: 21%
- Don't have access to high-speed Internet: 16%
- Don't have a computer: 10%
- None of the above: 30%
- Don't know/ refused: 7%
CVD-6. How worried are you about getting coronavirus in the next year? (n=709)

Kansas residents age 50+ have mixed levels of concern about getting coronavirus in the next year.

Worry About Getting Coronavirus in the Next Year (as of December 2020)

- 34% Extremely worried/very worried
- 37% Somewhat worried
- 28% Not very worried/not at all worried
- 3% Don't know/refused
Survey Results for Kansas-Wealth Questions

Issues That Impact Kansas Adults Age 50 and Older
Kansas residents age 50+ find many economic issues important, particularly those related to retirement savings and having adequate Social Security benefits.

**Important Economic Issues**

- Having enough income or savings to retire (if not retired): 91%
- Having adequate Social Security benefits: 89%
- Protection against consumer fraud: 82%
- Protection against unfair financial practices: 80%
- Being able to stop working for pay at the age you want (if not retired): 71%
- Having online security: 70%
- Protection from age discrimination: 61%
- Having good employment opportunities in your community: 57%
- Maintaining relevant job skills and experience: 48%

I1. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent ‘extremely important’ or ‘very important’) (n=709)
Kansas residents age 50+ have mixed concern about personally becoming the target or victim of a scam or fraud.

Concern About Becoming the Target/ Victim of a Scam or Fraud

- Extremely concerned/ very concerned: 27%
- Somewhat concerned: 37%
- Not very concerned/ not concerned at all: 36%
- Refused: 19%

FRA4. How concerned are you, personally, about becoming the target or victim of a scam or fraud? (n=709)
Kansas residents age 50+ have mixed opinions regarding how easy it is to recognize scams or fraudulent offers.

FRA17. In your opinion, how (easy/difficult) is it for people to recognize a scam or fraudulent offer that tricks people out of their money or personal information? (n=709)
RET10. Does your employer provide a way for you to save for retirement? (n=239)

Three-quarters (78%) of Kansas workers age 50+ (who are not self-employed) have a way to save for retirement at work.
More than half (63%) of Kansas workers age 50+ whose employers do not offer a way to save for retirement would be extremely or very likely to take advantage if it were offered.

Likelihood of Taking Advantage of a Retirement Savings Option at Work

- Extremely likely/very likely: 63%
- Somewhat likely: 18%
- Not very likely/not likely at all: 17%
- Don't know/refused: 22%

RET11. If your employer offered a way to save for retirement at work, how likely would you be to take advantage of it? (n=52)
An increase in utility bill would be a major problem for almost one-third (30%) of Kansas residents age 50+.
Survey Results for Kansas-Self Questions

Issues That Impact Kansas Adults Age 50 and Older
Being able to get around independently is extremely important or very important to most (85%) Kansas residents age 50+.

### Important Independent Living Issues

- Getting to the places you need to go independently: 85%
- Staying in your own home as you get older: 83%
- Having high quality long-term care in your community: 78%
- Caring for a loved one: 78%
- Having flexibility in your schedule for caregiving: 64%
- Having paid time off for self care or caregiving: 55%

*Note: For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent ‘extremely important’ or ‘very important’) (n=709)
In the 2020 election, in-person voting (57%) was slightly more common among Kansas voters age 50+ than by absentee ballot (43%).

![Voting Methods Chart]

- **In-person on election day**: 37%
- **Mail or dropping off absentee ballot**: 43%
- **In-person before election day**: 20%

**P-E1.** In the 2020 election, did you vote by mail, in-person, or by absentee ballot? (n=624)
Chart does not equal one-hundred percent due to removal of small cells; see annotation for all categories.
POST-ELECTION ISSUES

Three-quarters (75%) of Kansas residents age 50+ who voted in-person in 2020 said they felt very safe doing so.

Feelings of Safety Voting In-Person in 2020

- Very safe: 75%
- Somewhat safe: 15%
- OK: 9%
- Not at all safe: Don't know

**P-E2a.** Considering COVID-19 precautions, how safe did you feel voting in-person? (n=357)
Most (96%) Kansas voters age 50+ who voted by mail or absentee ballot before election day felt very confident or somewhat confident that their vote would be counted.
As of December 2020, half (51%) of Kansas residents age 50+ have contact with family, friends, or neighbors several times a week or more.

**Frequency of Contact with Family, Friends, or Neighbors**

- Every day: 19%
- Several times a week: 32%
- Once a week: 19%
- Once every 2 or 3 weeks: 12%
- Once a month: 7%
- Less than monthly: 7%
- Never: 3%
- Refused: <1%

ISO1_1A. During the last six months, how often did you have contact with family, friends, or neighbors who do not live with you? (n=709)
As of December 2020, nearly half (44%) of Kansas residents age 50+ feel isolated from others at least some of the time.
In December 2020, AARP engaged ANR Market Research Consultants to conduct a quantitative research study among Kansas residents age 50 and older. Topics included healthcare, the economy, financial issues, independent living, long-term care, caregiving, and retirement issues.

ANR completed a total of 709 interviews (355 via landline telephone, 178 via cell phone, and 176 online). Respondents were screened to meet the following criteria:

- Age 50+
- Resident of Kansas

Survey length averaged 21.6 minutes by telephone and 19.4 minutes online.
### Sampling Procedure

Landline, cell phone, and online sampling were used for this research, with the telephone sample drawn randomly from a list of Kansas residents age 50 and older, purchased from Aristotle, and online sample provided by Fulcrum. A total of 35,286 records were utilized. The list of 996,000 Kansas residents age 50 and older was randomly divided into 966 replicates of 1,000 records for telephone dialing. Initially, 20 replicates were released for calling, with additional replicates being opened as necessary. In all, 34 replicates representing a total of 33,882 records were dialed to complete the telephone portion of this study.

The study’s sample of 709 respondents yields a maximum statistical error of ±3.7% at the 95% level of confidence. (This means that in 95 out of 100 samples of this size, the results obtained in the sample would be within ±3.7 percentage points of the results obtained had everyone in the population been interviewed.)

### Interview Methodology

The survey was launched on December 10, 2020 and closed on December 18, 2020.

Telephone interviewing was active between 5:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., with some additional calling done between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. If necessary, up to 8 call attempts per telephone number were made to reach an eligible respondent. All numbers were called at multiple times of the day as well as days of the week to maximize each resident’s opportunity for inclusion in the study.

Percentages of some questions may exceed 100% due to rounding or the use of multiple response question formats.

All data have been weighted by age, gender, and race/ethnicity according to 2018 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey (CPS) statistics.
ABOUT AARP

AARP is the nation’s largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With nearly 38 million members and offices in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, AARP works to strengthen communities and advocate for what matters most to families with a focus on health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. AARP also works for individuals in the marketplace by sparking new solutions and allowing carefully chosen, high-quality products and services to carry the AARP name. As a trusted source for news and information, AARP produces the nation's largest circulation publications, AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin. To learn more, visit www.aarp.org or follow @AARP and @AARPadvocates on social media.
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This research was designed and executed by AARP Research.