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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 Mississippi-Health Questions

Issues That Impact Mississippi Adults Age 45 and Older
Mississippi residents age 45+ think many healthcare issues are important, with staying physically healthy and mentally sharp topping the list.

**Important Healthcare Issues**

- Staying physically healthy: 94%
- Staying mentally sharp: 94%
- Having adequate health insurance coverage: 93%
- Having Medicare benefits available to you in the future: 91%
- Paying for prescription drugs: 89%
- Paying for healthcare expenses: 88%

11. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent ‘extremely important’ or ‘very important’) (n=729)
One-quarter (27%) of Mississippi residents age 45+ are currently providing unpaid help to an adult relative or friend.
More than one-third (41%) of Mississippi residents age 45+ who are not currently unpaid caregivers have provided this type of care in the past.

Percent Providing Unpaid Adult Care in The Past

- Yes: 41%
- No: 59%

CARE1_A. Have you ever provided this type of unpaid help in the past? (n=536)
PER2. Approximately how many different prescription medications do you take on a regular basis such as daily, weekly, or monthly? (n=729) *Chart does not display small cells; see annotation for all categories

Two-thirds (69%) of Mississippi residents age 45+ are currently taking two or more prescription medications on a regular basis.

Number of Prescription Medications Taken Regularly

- None: 18%
- 1: 11%
- 2 to 3: 29%
- 4 to 5: 21%
- 6 or more: 19%
A majority (86%) of Mississippi residents age 45+ would support a proposal that allows nurse practitioners to serve as a patient’s primary or acute care provider on record.

**Support for Nurse Practitioners to Serve as Primary or Acute Care Provider on Record**

- **Strongly support/ somewhat support**: 86%
- **Neither support nor oppose**: 5%
- **Somewhat oppose/ strongly oppose**: 4%
- **Don’t know/ refused**: 5%

*NURS1. Some states are considering a proposal that would allow registered nurses with advanced training who often visit older people in their homes to serve as the primary or acute care provider on record for a patient. These nurse practitioners have additional training in specific areas, like elder care. Would you support or oppose this proposal for Mississippi? (n=729)*
Two-thirds (68%) of Mississippi residents age 45+ would be interested in telephone or video calls with a doctor, nurse, or specialist to discuss symptoms, progress, or treatment options.

### Interest in Using Telehealth Services

- **A phone conversation or video call with a doctor, nurse, or specialist to discuss symptoms, progress, or treatment options, with the ability to get medication prescribed right away for yourself or a loved one**: 68%
- **A monitoring device that tracks key health information like blood sugar or heart rate and sends that information to a doctor or nurse so they can monitor chronic health conditions**: 61%
- **Meeting with your doctor without being at the same location, but at a time that is convenient for you, using telehealth**: 54%

**TEL-2.** How interested would you be in using each of the following telehealth services for yourself or a loved one if you had a choice? (Percent ‘extremely interested’ or ‘very interested’) (n=729)
Nearly two-thirds (63%) of Mississippi residents age 45+ are extremely or very concerned about paying for long-term care, such as a nursing home or home health services.

**Concern About Aging Issues**

- Paying for long-term care such as nursing home or home health services, etc.: 63%
- Feeling isolated or lonely: 37%

GLTC1. How concerned are you about the following? (Percent ‘extremely concerned’ or ‘very concerned’) (n=729)
Survey Results for Mississippi Wealth Questions

Issues That Impact Mississippi Adults Age 45 and Older
Mississippi residents age 45+ find many economic issues important, particularly those related to retirement income and affording necessities.

Important Economic Issues

- Having adequate Social Security benefits: 94%
- Being able to afford groceries/other household necessities: 92%
- Having enough income or savings to retire: 91%
- Having affordable utilities: 90%
- Protection against unfair financial practices: 88%
- Protection against consumer fraud: 87%
- Being able to stop working for pay at the age you want: 79%
- Having good employment opportunities in your community: 76%
- Protection from age discrimination: 76%
- Having online security: 71%
- Having access to high-speed Internet: 65%
- Maintaining relevant job skills and experience: 64%

1. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent ‘extremely important’ or ‘very important’) (n=729)
Almost two-thirds (65%) of Mississippi residents age 45+ support increasing income taxes on those who make more than $300,000 per year.

Support for Proposals to Cut State Budget Deficits

- Increasing income taxes on those making more than $300,000 per year: 65%
- Raising the state tobacco tax: 62%
- Eliminating tax breaks for large corporations: 57%
- Taxing additional services such as haircare, nail care, pet grooming, and dating services: 37%
- Increasing state income tax: 25%
- Increasing sales taxes: 22%

TAX3. As you may know, virtually all states are currently facing budget deficits. Do you support or oppose the following proposals that have been suggested as ways to address the state budget deficit? (Percent ‘strongly support’ or ‘somewhat support’) (n=729)
Survey Results for Mississippi-Self Questions

Issues That Impact Mississippi Adults Age 45 and Older
Staying in your own home as you get older is extremely important or very important to most (91%) Mississippi residents age 45+.

### Important Independent Living Issues

- Staying in your own home as you get older: 91%
- Caring for a loved one: 88%
- Getting to the places you need to go independently: 88%
- Having high quality long-term care in your community: 86%
- Improvements to Mississippi's long-term care services: 84%
- Having alternatives to nursing home care: 83%
- Having flexibility in your schedule for caregiving: 79%
- Having paid time off for self care or caregiving: 70%

**Note:** For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent ‘extremely important’ or ‘very important’) (n=729)
Safe streets are extremely important or very important to a majority (88%) of Mississippi residents age 45+, as well as having affordable housing (82%).

**Important Livable Community Features**

- Safe streets: 88%
- Affordable housing: 82%
- Sidewalks: 50%
- Public transportation: 46%

\[1\] For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent ’extremely important’ or ‘very important’) (n=729)
FP15. The following statements are used by some people to describe how society views aging and getting older. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Percent ‘strongly agree’ or ‘somewhat agree’) (n=729)

ATTITUDES ON AGING

Two-thirds (69%) of Mississippi residents age 45+ believe that as people age, they are treated with less respect.

Agreement with Statements Regarding Attitudes on Aging

- It is important for the older population to share the benefits of their experiences with younger people. 88%
- As people age, they are treated with less respect. 69%
- Employers prefer younger workers to older ones. 69%
- American society is driven from a perspective of youth. 61%
- Society provides everyone, regardless of age, with the services needed to lead healthier lives with independence and dignity. 51%
- Society provides the financial resources and opportunities needed to match our longer life spans. 49%
- People are less likely to contribute to the economy the older they get. 39%
One-third (35%) of Mississippi residents age 45+ reported seeing or experiencing racism very often or often.
Most (92%) Mississippi residents age 45+ would support a law that would temporarily give grandparents access to medical and school records of grandchildren for whom they provide care.

Support for Caregiving Grandparents to Access Grandchild’s Medical and School Records

- Strongly support/ somewhat support: 92%
- Somewhat oppose/ strongly oppose: 6%
- Don’t know/ refused: 2%

GRP-2. Would you support or oppose a change in Mississippi law so that grandparents who are providing primary care and financial support for their grandchildren could have temporary access to their grandchild’s medical and school records the same way their parents do? (n=729)
In October 2020, AARP engaged ANR Market Research Consultants to conduct a quantitative research study among Mississippi adults age 45+. Topics included healthcare, the economy, financial issues, independent living, long-term care, caregiving, and retirement issues.

ANR completed a total of 729 interviews (365 via landline telephone, 182 via cell phone, and 182 online). Respondents were screened to meet the following criteria:

- Age 45+
- Resident of Mississippi

Survey length averaged 25.5 minutes by telephone and 22.4 minutes online.
**METHODOLOGY**

**Sampling Procedure**

Landline, cell phone, and online sampling were used for this research, with the telephone sample drawn randomly from a list of Mississippi residents age 45 and older, purchased from Aristotle, and online sample provided by Fulcrum. A total of 38,044 records were utilized. The list of 1,195,000 Mississippi residents age 45 and older was randomly divided into 1,195 replicates of 1,000 records for telephone dialing. Initially, 20 replicates were released for calling, with additional replicates being opened as necessary. In all, 39 replicates representing a total of 38,044 records were dialed to complete the telephone portion of this study.

The study’s sample of 729 respondents yields a maximum statistical error of ±3.6 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 ±3.6 percentage points of the results obtained had everyone in the population been interviewed.)

**Interview Methodology**

The survey was launched on October 3, 2020 and closed on October 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. Mississippi, 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.