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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 Tennessee-Health Questions

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

### Important Healthcare Issues

- Staying mentally sharp: 94%
- Having Medicare benefits available to you in the future: 91%
- Staying physically healthy: 91%
- Having adequate health insurance coverage: 91%
- Paying for healthcare expenses: 87%
- Developing or maintaining healthy behaviors: 85%
- Paying for prescription drugs: 82%

1. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent ‘extremely important’ or ‘very important’) (n=808)

*Vital Voices question asked in all markets*
CARE1. Are you currently providing unpaid help to a relative or friend 18 years or older to help them take care of themselves? This would include doing things for them such as grocery shopping, providing transportation, managing finances, arranging for healthcare or other services, or preparing meals.

(n=808)

Vital Voices question asked in all markets

One-third (31%) of Tennessee residents age 45+ are currently providing unpaid help to an adult relative or friend.

Percent Providing Unpaid Adult Care

- Yes, 31%
- No, 69%
More than one-third (44%) of Tennessee residents age 45+ who are not currently providing unpaid adult care have provided this type of care in the past.

Percent Providing Unpaid Adult Care in the Past

- Yes, 44%
- No, 56%
Obtaining household items such as toilet paper, soap, and hand sanitizer has been described as somewhat hard or very hard by nearly half (43%) of Tennessee residents age 45+.

CVD-3. How easy or difficult would you say it has been for you to get each of the following due to the coronavirus? (Percent ‘somewhat hard’ or ‘very hard’) (n=808)
To help others during the COVID-19 pandemic, Tennessee residents age 45+ have talked more often with friends or family (65%) and supported local businesses more often (63%).

### Actions Taken To Help Others During the COVID-19 Pandemic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Talked more often with friends or family</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supported local businesses more often</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ran errands for family, friends, or neighbors</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financially helping family, friends, or neighbors</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated more to charity</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helped with children's education</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helped family/ friends get connected to healthcare providers</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteered with a local organization</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*CVD-4. What actions have you taken to help family, friends, or your community members cope with the coronavirus pandemic? (Percent ‘yes’) (n=808)*
Survey Results for Tennessee-Wealth Questions

Issues that Impact Tennessee Adults Age 45 and Older
Tennessee residents age 45+ think many economic issues are important, with having financial security and enough income/savings to retire topping the list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Important Economic Issues</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Having enough income or savings to retire</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having financial security throughout your life</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having adequate Social Security benefits</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being able to afford groceries or other household necessities</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having affordable utilities</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protecting yourself against unfair financial practices</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protecting yourself against consumer fraud</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being able to stop working for pay at the age you want</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having online security</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having good employment opportunities in your community</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection from age discrimination</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having access to high-speed internet</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintaining relevant job skills and experience</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent ‘extremely important’ or ‘very important’) (n=808)

Vital Voices question asked in all markets
Nearly half (45%) of Tennessee residents age 45+ think hunger in Tennessee is a major problem.

**FS1.** Thinking about some of the issues facing Tennessee residents, how much of a problem is hunger in Tennessee, that is, the lack of access to fresh produce and meat on a regular basis due to lack of money or other resources? (n=808)
One-third (37%) of Tennessee residents age 45+ have personally faced hunger risk or know someone who has.

**Personal Experience with Hunger Risk**

- Yes, I have: 19%
- Yes, someone I know has: 24%
- No: 63%

**FS2.** Has there ever been a time when you or someone close to you like a neighbor or friend or relative was at risk for hunger – that is, they lacked access to fresh produce and meat on a regular basis due to lack of money or other resources? (n=808)

*Not all charts equal one-hundred percent due to removal of small cells; see annotation for all categories*
One-third (34%) of Tennessee residents age 45+ are a primary care and financial provider for a grandchild and/or know someone who is.

Percent with Primary Care of a Grandchild

GRP-1. Are you or someone you know in Tennessee providing primary care and financial support for a grandchild? (Percent ‘yes’) (n=808)
Three-quarters (77%) of Tennessee residents age 45+ would strongly support a change in law that would permit caregiving grandparents to have temporary access to their grandchild’s medical and school records.

Support for Access to Grandchild’s Medical and School Records

- Strongly support, 77%
- Somewhat support, 18%
- Somewhat oppose, 2%
- Strongly oppose, 2%

GRP-2. Would you support or oppose a change in Tennessee 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=808)
Survey Results for Tennessee-Self Questions

Issues that Impact Tennessee Adults Age 45 and Older
Tennessee residents age 45+ find many independent living issues important, with staying in your own home as you get older topping the list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Important Independent Living Issues</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staying in your own home as you get older</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting to the places you need to go independently</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caring for a loved one</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having high quality long-term care in your community</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improvements to TN’s long-term care services</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staying in your community as you get older</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having affordable housing options in your community</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having flexibility in your schedule for caregiving</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having paid time off for self or caregiving</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent ‘extremely important’ or ‘very important’) (n=808)

*Vital Voices question asked in all markets*
Nine-in-ten (86%) Tennessee residents age 45+ agree that safe streets are an important feature of a livable community.

**Important Livable Community Features**

- **Safe streets**: 86%
- **Outdoor recreation**: 53%
- **Sidewalks**: 47%
- **Public transportation**: 37%
- **Bike lanes**: 22%

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1. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent ‘extremely important’ or ‘very important’) (n=808)
Having community activities for adults with dementia has been described as extremely important or very important to half (56%) of Tennessee residents age 45+.

Importance of Community Having Activities for Adults with Dementia

LIVCOMM4. How important it is to you personally to have activities specifically geared towards adults with dementia in your community right now? (n=808)

*Not all charts equal one-hundred percent due to removal of small cells; see annotation for all categories
Nearly two-thirds (63%) of Tennessee residents age 45+ have a telephone in their home that is not a cell phone.

D15. Is there a telephone in your home that is currently working and is not a cell phone? (n=808)
Nine-in-ten (93%) Tennessee residents age 45+ have a working cell phone.

Have a Working Cell Phone

- Yes, 93%
- No, 7%
The majority (85%) of Tennessee residents age 45+ have high-speed Internet at home.
Three-quarters (74%) of Tennessee residents age 45+ use the Internet several times a day.

**Frequency of Internet Use**

- **74%**: Several times a day
- **8%**: About once a day
- **5%**: A few times a week
- **3%**: A few times a month
- **1%**: Less than a few times a month
- **8%**: Never

**TECH2.** About how often do you go online or use the Internet? This includes access from home, work, a mobile device such as a smartphone, or somewhere else. (n=808)

*Not all charts equal one-hundred percent due to removal of small cells; see annotation for all categories*
Three-quarters (73%) of Tennessee residents age 45+ access the Internet on their smartphone.

Ways the Internet is Accessed

- Mobile phone/ smart phone: 73%
- Laptop computer: 54%
- Desktop computer: 43%
- Tablet: 43%
- TV/ smart TV: 42%
- Other: 2%

TECH5. Which of the following do you currently use to connect to the Internet for things such as surfing the Internet, using email, using apps, etc.? (n=743)

*Not all charts equal one-hundred percent due to removal of small cells; see annotation for all categories
Half (52%) of Tennessee residents age 45+ have a cable modem Internet connection at home.

**Type of Home Internet Connection**

- Cable modem: 52%
- Fiber optic connection: 16%
- DSL connection: 15%
- Satellite internet connection: 7%
- Connection through a mobile data plan: 3%
- Dial-up telephone line: 2%

**TECH7.** What type of Internet connection do you have at home? (n=685)

*Not all charts equal one-hundred percent due to removal of small cells; see annotation for all categories.*
Tennessee residents age 45+ have mixed experiences with Internet connectivity problems at home.
In the past year, quality of access has limited more than one-third (38%) of Tennessee residents age 45+ from using the Internet at home.

Factors Limiting Internet Use at Home in the Past Year

- Cost of Internet access
  - Often/ always: 10%
  - Sometimes: 12%
  - Never/ rarely: 77%

- Quality of Internet access
  - Often/ always: 11%
  - Sometimes: 27%
  - Never/ rarely: 61%

**TECH9_1.** Thinking about your Internet connection at home, in the past 12 months, how often has [ITEM] limited your use of the Internet at home? (n=685)
Nine-in-ten (87%) Tennessee residents age 45+ agree that elected officials should work to ensure high-speed Internet is available to underserved populations.

Percent Agreeing Elected Officials Should Ensure High-Speed Internet Is Available for Underserved Populations

- Somewhat disagree/strongly disagree, 10%
- Somewhat agree/strongly agree, 87%

**TECH17.** Do you agree or disagree that elected officials in Tennessee should work to ensure that high-speed Internet service is available to underserved populations, such as lower income or remote rural communities? (n=808)
In July 2020, AARP engaged ANR Market Research Consultants to conduct a quantitative research study among Tennessee residents age 45 and older. Topics included healthcare, the economy and financial issues, independent living, long-term care, caregiving, technology, and opinions of AARP.

ANR completed a total of 808 interviews (400 via landline telephone, 200 via cell phone, and 208 online). Respondents were screened to meet the following criteria:

- Age 45+
- Resident of Tennessee

Survey length averaged 19.7 minutes by telephone and 18.3 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 Tennessee residents age 45 and older, purchased from Aristotle, and online sample provided by Fulcrum. A total of 34,876 records were utilized to achieve a sample of 808 respondents. The list of 2,841,900 residents of Tennessee age 45 and older was randomly divided into 2,842 replicates of 1,000 records for telephone dialing. Initially, 20 replicates were released for calling, with additional replicates being opened as necessary. In all, 35 replicates representing a total of 34,876 resident records were dialed to complete the telephone portion of this study.

The total sample of 808 respondents yields a maximum statistical error of ±3.5% 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 ±3.5 percentage points of the results obtained had everyone in the population been interviewed.)

**Interview Methodology**

The survey was launched on July 22, 2020 and closed on July 28, 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 for Tennessee.
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.