VITAL VOICES

Issues That Impact Virgin Islands Adults Age 25 and Older

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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 the Virgin Islands- Health Questions

Issues That Impact Virgin Islands Adults Age 25 and Older
Virgin Islands residents age 25+ think many healthcare issues are very important, with staying physically healthy topping the list.

### Important Healthcare Issues

- **Staying physically healthy**: 94%
- **Staying mentally sharp**: 93%
- **Having access to high-quality hospital care**: 92%
- **Having adequate health insurance coverage**: 92%
- **Having Medicare benefits available to you in the future**: 90%
- **Paying for healthcare expenses**: 87%
- **Paying for prescription drugs**: 83%

**Note:** For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent ‘extremely important’ or ‘very important’) (n=735)
More than one-third (37%) of Virgin Islands residents age 25+ are currently providing unpaid help to an adult relative or friend.
Nearly half (43%) of Virgin Islands residents age 25+ who are not currently unpaid caregivers have provided this type of care in the past.

Percent Providing Unpaid Adult Care in The Past

- Yes: 57%
- No: 43%
VIRGIN ISLANDS HEALTHCARE

Eight in ten (82%) Virgin Islands residents age 25+ have health insurance coverage.

Current Health Insurance Coverage for Self

- Yes: 82%
- No: 18%

VIH-1. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan? (n=735)
VIH-2. Which of the following is your primary source of health insurance coverage? (n=599) Chart does not equal one-hundred percent due to removal of small cells; see annotation for all categories

Among Virgin Islands residents age 25+ with health insurance coverage, nearly half (49%) are covered through their employer.

Source of Primary Health Insurance Coverage

- A plan through your employer: 49%
- Medicare: 22%
- Medicaid: 10%
- A plan you purchased yourself: 9%
- A plan through your spouse's employer: 7%
- Something else: 2%
More than half (56%) of Virgin Islands residents age 25+ who have employer-provided health insurance are employed by a government agency.

**Employer Type**

- Government: 56%
- Large private company: 21%
- Small business: 12%
- Non-profit agency: 8%
- Other: 3%

**VIH-2a.** Is your employer a government agency, a large private company, a small business, or a non-profit agency? (n=290)

Chart does not equal one-hundred percent due to removal of small cells; see annotation for all categories.
Almost one-quarter (23%) of Virgin Islands residents age 25+ have been hospitalized in the past 12 months or know someone close to them who has.

VIH-3. Have you or someone close to you, such as a spouse, parent, or child, been hospitalized in the past 12 months? (n=735)
Among Virgin Islands residents age 25+ who have recently been hospitalized (or know someone close who has), more than two out of five (44%) rate the quality of care on the low end on a 10-point scale.

Quality of Care Received During Most Recent Hospitalization

- Rating of 1-6: 29%
- Rating of 7-8: 24%
- Rating of 9-10: 44%
- Don't know: 3%

VIH-4. On a scale from 1 to 10, with 1 being the worst and 10 being the best, how would you rate the quality of care you or your loved one received during the most recent hospitalization? (n=167)
VIRGIN ISLANDS HEALTHCARE

More than two-thirds (68%) of Virgin Islands residents age 25+ would strongly or somewhat support privately-owned health care in the Virgin Islands.

Support for Privately-Owned Health Care in the Virgin Islands

- Strongly support it: 35%
- Somewhat support it: 33%
- Somewhat oppose it: 14%
- Strongly oppose it: 10%
- Don’t know/ refused: 9%

VIH-5. As you may know, the Virgin Island hospitals are owned and operated by the Virgin Islands government. There is currently a proposal to allow a privately-owned health care company to rent and operate the hospitals on the Islands, while the government continues to own the properties. How would you feel about this happening? Would you…? (n=735)
VIH-5a. Would you still oppose it if you thought the quality of care would improve? (n=173)

VIRGIN ISLANDS HEALTHCARE

Half of Virgin Islands residents age 25+ who are opposed to privately-owned health care would not oppose it if it meant that the quality of health care would improve.

Opposition to Private Ownership of Virgin Islands Hospitals, Even if Quality of Health Care May Improve

- Yes: 51%
- No: 43%
- Unsure: 7%
Survey Results for the Virgin Islands- Wealth Questions

Issues That Impact Virgin Islands Adults Age 25 and Older
Virgin Islands residents age 25+ find many economic issues important, particularly those related to financial security and being able to afford necessities.

### Important Economic Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Important Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial security throughout your life</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being able to afford groceries/ other household necessities</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having affordable utilities</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having adequate Social Security benefits</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection against unfair financial practices</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having enough income or savings to retire</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection against consumer fraud</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being able to stop working for pay at the age you want</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having good employment opportunities in your community</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection from age discrimination</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having online security</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintaining relevant job skills and experience</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent ‘extremely important’ or ‘very important’) (n=735)
A majority of Virgin Islands residents age 25+ are extremely or very concerned about the cost of health care and access to high-quality hospital services, followed closely by having a sustainable economy and the cost of living on the Island.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Concerned Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The cost of health care</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not having access to high-quality hospital services</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not having a sustainable economy</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of living</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not having access to affordable healthcare</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being able to have a secure retirement</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to good quality food</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of long-term care facilities</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of long-term care</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not having affordable housing</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not enough housing options for people with physical limitations</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Government Employee Retirement system not having enough money</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not enough recreational activities</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence of horse racing</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VI1. How concerned are you about the following issues on the Virgin Islands? (Percent 'extremely concerned' or 'very concerned') (n=735)
Survey Results for the Virgin Islands- Livable Communities Questions

Issues That Impact Virgin Islands Adults Age 25 and Older
High quality long-term care services are extremely or very important to a majority of Virgin Islands residents age 25+, as are improvements to long-term care services in the Virgin Islands.

### Important Independent Living Issues

- **Having high quality long-term care in your community**: 90%
- **Improvements to Virgin Islands long-term care services**: 88%
- **Caring for a loved one**: 86%
- **Staying in your own home as you get older**: 86%
- **Getting to the places you need to go independently**: 84%
- **Having flexibility in your schedule for caregiving**: 83%
- **Having paid time off for self care or caregiving**: 83%
- **Staying in your community as you get older**: 79%

*11. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent ‘extremely important’ or ‘very important’) (n=735)*
ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

Safe streets and affordable housing are extremely or very important to a large majority of Virgin Islands residents age 25+.

Important Livable Community Features

- Safe streets: 90%
- Affordable housing: 82%
- Sidewalks: 77%
- Outdoor recreation: 75%
- Public transportation: 70%
- Bike lanes: 47%

11. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent ‘extremely important’ or ‘very important’) (n=735)
METHODOLOGY

In September 2020, AARP engaged ANR Market Research Consultants to conduct a quantitative research study among Virgin Islands adults age 25 and older. Topics included healthcare, the economy, financial issues, independent living, long-term care, caregiving, and retirement issues.

735 Interviews
Virgin Islands Residents Age 25+
Fielded in August/September 2020

ANR completed a total of 735 interviews (251 via landline telephone, 139 via cell phone, and 345 online). Respondents were screened to meet the following criteria:

- Age 25+
- Resident of the Virgin Islands

Survey length averaged 19.7 minutes by telephone and 18.3 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 Virgin Islands residents age 25+, purchased from Aristotle, and online sample provided by Fulcrum. A total of 20,539 records were utilized.

The list of 75,038 Virgin Islands residents age 25+ was randomly divided into 76 replicates of 1,000 records for telephone dialing. Initially, 20 replicates were released for calling, with additional replicates being opened as necessary. In all, 21 replicates representing a total of 20,539 records were dialed to complete the telephone portion of this study.

The sample of 735 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 August 27, 2020 and closed on September 27, 2020; it was offered in both English and Spanish.

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 2015 Virgin Islands Community Survey statistics, from the University of the Virgin Islands.
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.
CONTACT

Kate Bridges,
kbrides@aarp.org

For media inquiries, please contact media@aarp.org

This research was designed and executed by AARP Research.