VITAL VOICES

Issues that Impact Louisiana Adults Age 45 and Older
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INTRODUCTION

For the past two decades, AARP has provided state offices with data to support planning and advocacy. As the breadth of our work has expanded, AARP Research and our national partners have responded by creating a tool that will empower state offices and staff to do more for their local constituents.

As part of our transition from National to Nationwide, AARP is launching a new research initiative that will deliver vital, current, and state-specific data to every state office on a rolling three-year schedule. The name of this nationwide initiative is Vital Voices, and we will use it to ensure that each individual state has access to the data they need for local advocacy, outreach, and education efforts. States can use the data in numerous ways:

- Predict the need for a specific program or interest in a specific issue.
- Enhance all communications with current data.
- Track issues and attitudes over time to assess shifts in public opinion.

Bringing Vital Voices to the states has been an enterprise-wide initiative. Never before has AARP launched a research program of this size and with this much promise. We give it to you with the hope that this data will inform better decisions for Louisiana adults age 45 and older.
Survey Results for Louisiana-Core Questions

Issues that Impact Louisiana Adults Age 45 and Older
Louisiana residents age 45+ think many issues are extremely or very important, with ‘having adequate health insurance coverage’ topping the list.

Percentage Rating Health Care Issues Extremely or Very Important

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Having adequate health insurance coverage</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staying physically healthy</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staying mentally sharp</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having Medicare benefits available to you in the future</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paying for health care expenses, including premiums and co-pays</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paying for prescription drugs</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
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11. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Health Care) (n=706)

*not all charts equal one-hundred percent due to removal of small cells, see annotation for all categories
Nine in ten of Louisiana residents age 45+ rate ‘having enough income or savings to retire’ as either extremely or very important.

Percentage Rating Economic Issues Extremely or Very Important

- Having enough income or savings to retire: 94%
- Having adequate Social Security benefits available to you in the future: 90%
- Protecting yourself against unfair financial practices: 86%
- Protecting yourself against consumer fraud: 86%
- Being able to stop working for pay at the age you want: 83%
- Having good employment opportunities in your community: 74%
- Protection from age discrimination: 72%
- Having online security: 70%
- Maintaining relevant job skills and experience: 61%

I1. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Economic/Financial) (n=706)

*not all charts equal one-hundred percent due to removal of small cells, see annotation for all categories
ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

‘Staying in your own home as you get older’ is at extremely or very important to nine in ten of Louisiana residents age 45+.

Percentage Rating Independent Living Issues Extremely or Very Important

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staying in your own home as you get older</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caring for a loved one</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting to the places you need to go independently</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having high quality long-term care in your community</td>
<td>85%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Not all charts equal one-hundred percent due to removal of small cells, see annotation for all categories

11. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Independent Living and Long-Term Care) (n=706)
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=706)

About one-third (34%) of Louisiana residents age 45+ are currently providing unpaid care to an adult relative or friend.
About half (47%) Louisiana residents age 45+ who are not currently providing unpaid care have provided this type of care in the past.

CARE1_A. Have you ever provided this type of unpaid help in the past?

![Chart showing the percentage of Louisiana residents age 45+ who have ever provided unpaid adult care. 47% have provided care in the past.]

- Yes: 47%
- No: 54%
Survey Results for Louisiana-Health Questions

Issues that Impact Louisiana Adults Age 45 and Older
Three-fourths (74%) of Louisiana residents age 45+ are currently taking two or more prescription medications on a regular basis.

Number of Prescription Medications Take Regularly

- None: 16%
- 1: 10%
- 2 to 3: 25%
- 4 to 5: 23%
- 6 or more: 26%
- Don't know: 0%
- Refused: 0%
Monthly out-of-pocket spending on prescription drugs varies among Louisiana residents age 45+, with most (57%) spending less than $50 per month.

**Annual Spend on Prescription Medications**

- **Nothing/ $0**: 19%
- **More than $0 but less than $10/ month**: 12%
- **$10 to less than $50 per month**: 26%
- **$50 to less than $100 per month**: 15%
- **$100 to less than $200 per month**: 10%
- **$200 to less than $500 per month**: 10%
- **$500 to less than $1,000 per month**: 4%
- **More than $1,000 per month**: 1%
- **Don't know**: 3%
- **Refused**: 0%

**PER3.** In the past 12 months, approximately how much have you spent out of your own pocket for prescription drugs? (n=706)
In the last two years, one-third (35%) of Louisiana residents age 45+ reported not filling a prescription that was provided by their doctor.

Ever Not Fill Prescription

- Yes: 63%
- No: 35%
- Don't know: 2%

**PER4.** In the last two years, did you ever decide not to fill a prescription that your doctor had given you? (n=706)
Among Louisiana residents age 45+ who decided not to fill a prescription, over half (62%) say the ‘cost of the drug’ was the reason.

Reasons for Not Filling Prescription

- Cost of the drug: 62%
- Side effects of drug: 15%
- Didn’t need/ no longer needed: 14%
- Thought drug wouldn’t help much: 11%
- I did not think the drug was necessary: 9%
- Drug did not help: 7%
- I am already taking too many (prescription) drugs: 6%
- I don’t like taking (prescription) drugs: 6%
- Read or heard something about the drug that concerned me: 4%
- Already had some/ had some leftover from a previous situation: 4%
- Used or looked into other methods of treatment: 4%
- Condition the drug was prescribed for improved: 2%
- OTC less expensive: 2%
- Was a narcotic: 2%
- Use on a temporary basis/ for a short period of time: 2%
- Confused about the drug: 2%
- No need for drug, due to seasonal allergies only: 1%
- Other (record): 6%

PER4_A. Why did you decide not to fill a prescription that your doctor had given you? (n=249)
Over half (57%) of Louisiana residents age 45+ are at least somewhat concerned about being able to afford needed prescriptions over the next two years.

**Concern About Affording Prescription Drugs Over Next 2 Years**

- **Extremely concerned**: 24%
- **Very concerned**: 20%
- **Somewhat concerned**: 13%
- **Not very concerned**: 10%
- **Not concerned at all**: 33%

**PER5_5pt.** How concerned are you about being able to afford the cost of needed prescription drugs over the next two years? (n=706)
One in ten (9%) Louisiana residents age 45+ report currently purchasing prescription drugs online.

Have Purchased Prescription Drugs Online

- Yes: 91%
- No: 9%
The majority (69%) of Louisiana residents age 45+ believe it should be legal for people in the U.S. to buy drugs from Canada and Europe.

Belief That Buying Drugs in Canada or Europe Should be Legal

- Yes, should be legal: 69%
- No, should not be legal: 19%
- Don’t know: 12%
- Refused: 0%

PER7. Currently, U.S. law largely prohibits people from importing prescription drugs from other countries like Canada or Europe. Some people believe that the laws should be changed to allow Americans to buy less expensive prescription drugs from other countries as long as they are just as safe and effective as those bought in the U.S. Do you believe that it should be legal for people in the U.S. to buy drugs from Canada and Europe, or not?
The vast majority (93%) of Louisiana residents age 45+ strongly or somewhat support allowing Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs.

Level of Support for Medicare Negotiating Lower Prices

- Strongly support: 71%
- Somewhat support: 22%
- Somewhat oppose: 3%
- Strongly oppose: 2%
- Don't know: 2%
- Refused: 0%

**PER8.** Currently Medicare is prohibited by law from negotiating prescription drug prices with pharmaceutical companies. Some policymakers have proposed allowing Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs. Do you support or oppose allowing Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs? (n=706)
LONG-TERM CARE ISSUES GENERAL

Louisiana residents age 45+ are highly concerned with a variety of issues related to aging.

Level of Support with Aging Issues

GLTC1. How concerned are you about the following? (n=706)

- Having long-term care or home health services available: 39% (Extremely concerned), 31% (Very concerned), 19% (Somewhat concerned)
- Paying for long-term care such as nursing home or home health services, etc.: 36% (Extremely concerned), 28% (Very concerned), 18% (Somewhat concerned)
- Providing support, help, or caregiving for a loved one: 34% (Extremely concerned), 31% (Very concerned), 18% (Somewhat concerned)
- Continuing to drive or get around as you get older: 34% (Extremely concerned), 31% (Very concerned), 15% (Somewhat concerned)
- Feeling isolated or lonely: 18% (Extremely concerned), 19% (Very concerned), 19% (Somewhat concerned)

*not all charts equal one-hundred percent due to removal of small cells, see annotation for all categories
In August 2019, AARP engaged Alan Newman Research (ANR) to conduct a quantitative research study among Louisiana residents age 45+. Topics included healthcare, the economy, financial issues, independent living, long-term care issues, caregiving, and prescription drugs.

ANR completed a total of 706 interviews (352 via landline telephone, 177 via cell phone, and 177 online). Respondents were screened to meet the following criteria:

- Age 45+
- Resident of Louisiana

Survey length averaged 18.4 minutes by telephone and 16.1 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 residents age 45+ of Louisiana, purchased from Aristotle, and online sample provided by Fulcrum. A total of 26,935 records were utilized. The list of 2,144,011 residents of Louisiana age 45+ was randomly divided into 2,144 replicates of 1,000 records for telephone dialing. Initially, 20 replicates were released for calling, with additional replicates being opened as necessary. In all, 27 replicates representing a total of 26,200 resident records were dialed to complete the telephone portion of this study.

The total sample of 706 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 August 13, 2019 and closed on August 22, 2019.

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 Louisiana.
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.