VITAL VOICES

Issues That Impact Georgia’s African American/Black Adults Age 45 and Older, May 2021
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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 Georgia-Health Questions

Issues That Impact Georgia’s African American/Black Adults Age 45 and Older
Georgia’s African American/Black residents age 45+ think many healthcare issues are important, with staying mentally sharp and physically healthy topping the list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Important Healthcare Issues</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staying mentally sharp</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staying physically healthy</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having adequate health insurance coverage</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having health care services in your community</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having Medicare benefits available to you in the future</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paying for health care expenses</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paying for prescription drugs</td>
<td>81%</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=429)
One-third (35%) of Georgia’s African American/Black residents age 45+ are currently providing unpaid help to an adult relative or friend.
CAREGIVING ISSUES

Over one-third (39%) of Georgia’s African American/Black 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: 39%
- No: 61%
The several states that have enacted paid family and medical leave laws pay for the programs through a small payroll deduction from employees, employers, or both—on average for 2 to 3 dollars a week. If Georgia enacted a paid leave law, how likely would you be to contribute through your paycheck $2 to $3 a week for paid time off to care for yourself or your family member, or to have or adopt a child? (n=174)

About half (54%) of Georgia’s African American/Black workers age 45+ would be extremely or very likely to take a payroll deduction for paid leave.
The majority (86%) of Georgia’s African American/Black residents age 45+ would strongly or somewhat support a proposal allowing 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: 23%
- Somewhat support: 63%
- Neither support nor oppose: 2%
- Somewhat oppose: 3%
- Strongly oppose: 3%
- 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 Georgia? (n=429)
As of May 2021, three-quarters of Georgia’s African American/Black residents age 45+ think that vaccines are generally very safe (46%) or somewhat safe (32%).

Safety of Vaccines Generally

- Very safe: 46%
- Somewhat safe: 32%
- Not very safe: 14%
- Not at all safe: 5%
- Don't know/refused: 3%
As of May 2021, three in four (77%) of Georgia’s African American/Black residents age 45+ have already gotten the COVID-19 vaccine (68%) or plan to get it (9%).

Plans To Get The COVID-19 Vaccine (as of May 2021)

- Yes (already got): 68%
- Yes (plan to): 17%
- No: 9%
- Don’t know/ refused: 5%
As of May 2021, Georgia’s African American/Black residents age 45+ who are not getting the COVID-19 vaccine or are unsure if they are getting it are most concerned about side effects (65%) and that the vaccine has not been tested enough (65%).

### Reasons for Not Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worried about side effects</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t think it has been tested enough</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not trust the government</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t trust the drug companies that make the vaccine</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Want to wait and see how it goes for other people who get the vaccine</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The risks of taking a new vaccine outweigh any benefits</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy and don’t need a COVID-19 vaccine</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not think the vaccination will work to protect from infection</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not think you will get that sick if you get COVID-19</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keeping away from health care sites to avoid COVID-19</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Already had COVID-19, so you can’t get it again</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerned about the cost of the vaccine</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CVD-12.** What are some reasons why you [do not plan to/are unsure if you will] get the COVID-19 vaccine? (n=94)
As of May 2021, Georgia’s African American/Black residents age 45+ trust their doctor more than other sources regarding recommendations about getting the COVID-19 vaccine.

CVD-13. The following list of people and organizations could make recommendations about whether people should get the COVID-19 vaccine. Please indicate how much you trust each one when it comes to their recommendation about getting the COVID-19 vaccine. (Percent ‘a lot’) (n=429)
As of May 2021, Georgia’s African American/Black residents age 45+ have been impacted by COVID-19 in a variety of ways, with 8% having been officially diagnosed with coronavirus.

**Ways Impacted by COVID-19**

- Working from home (if not retired): 40%
- Having a difficult time worrying about the coronavirus: 34%
- Met with physical or mental health providers using telehealth: 30%
- Filed for unemployment: 16%
- Officially diagnosed with coronavirus: 8%

*CVD-1. Have you been affected by the coronavirus in any of the following ways? (Percent 'yes') (n=429)*
Survey Results for Georgia-Wealth Questions

Issues That Impact Georgia’s African American/Black Adults Age 45 and Older
Georgia’s African American/Black residents age 45+ find many economic issues important, particularly those related to financial security and retirement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Important Economic Issues</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Having financial security throughout your life</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having adequate Social Security benefits</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having enough income or savings to retire</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protecting yourself against unfair financial practices</td>
<td>92%</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>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protecting yourself against consumer fraud</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection from age discrimination</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being able to stop working for pay at the age you want</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having online security</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having good employment opportunities in your community</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintaining relevant job skills and experience</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent ‘extremely important’ or ‘very important’) (n=429)
Three-quarters (75%) of Georgia’s African American/Black residents age 45+ are extremely concerned or very concerned about having enough money to take care of their health expenses during retirement.

**Retirement Concerns**

- Having enough money to take care of your health expenses during retirement such as co-payments and deductibles: 75%
- Ensuring the solvency and security of your retirement plans: 72%
- Having to postpone retirement (if not retired): 64%

**RET1.** How concerned are you about the following? (Percent ‘extremely concerned’ or ‘very concerned’) (n=429)
Most (92%) of Georgia’s African American/Black workers age 45+ reported that their employer offers a way to save for retirement.
Among Georgia’s African American/Black workers age 45+ whose employer offers a way to save for retirement, an IRA, 401(k), or 403(b) defined contribution plan is most common (79%).

Employer-Provided Retirement Saving Options

- An IRA, 401(k), or 403(b) defined contribution plan: 79%
- A traditional pension plan or a defined benefit plan: 42%

RET10a. Which of the following ways to save for retirement does your current employer provide? (Percent ‘yes’) (n=110)
Georgia’s African American/Black residents age 45+ think that investing in development of high-speed Internet across Georgia is important for a variety of reasons.

**Reasons for Investing in Developing High-Speed Internet Across Georgia**

- To ensure people can access healthcare in a timely manner: 93%
- To ensure older adults, especially those with health challenges, aren’t isolated from family/friends: 93%
- To ensure people can access educational resources to further their education: 93%
- Low-income communities need it to thrive economically: 92%
- Rural communities need it to thrive economically: 90%
- Farmers/ranchers need it to be competitive: 82%

**TECH15.** The following are reasons why some people believe that high-speed Internet should be available to everyone. For each, please tell me whether you personally feel it's an important reason or not an important reason to invest in developing high-speed Internet across Georgia. (Percent ‘important reason’) (n=429)
Survey Results for Georgia-
Self Questions

Issues That Impact Georgia’s African American/Black Adults Age 45 and Older
Caring for a loved one is extremely important or very important to a majority (89%) of Georgia’s African American/Black residents age 45+.

### Important Independent Living Issues

- **Caring for a loved one**: 89%  
- **Improvements to Georgia’s long-term care services so residents who need the care stay in the state**: 87%  
- **Staying in your own home as you get older**: 87%  
- **Getting to the places you need to go independently**: 85%  
- **Having high quality long-term care in your community**: 85%  
- **Having alternatives to nursing home care**: 79%  
- **Staying in your community as you get older**: 74%

11. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent 'extremely important' or 'very important') (n=429)
Safe streets are extremely important or very important to most (90%) of Georgia’s African American/Black residents age 45+.

I1. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent ‘extremely important’ or ‘very important’) (n=429)
In April 2021, AARP engaged ANR Market Research Consultants to conduct a quantitative research study among African American/Black residents of Georgia age 45 and older. Topics included healthcare, the economy, financial issues, independent living, long-term care, caregiving, and retirement issues.

**429 Interviews**

**African American/Black Georgia Adults Age 45+**

**Fielded in April/May 2021**

ANR completed a total of 429 interviews (262 via landline telephone, 71 via cell phone, and 96 online). Respondents were screened to meet the following criteria:

- Age 45+
- African American/Black resident of Georgia

Survey length averaged 21.0 minutes by telephone and 19.4 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 Georgia residents age 45 and older, purchased from Aristotle, and online sample provided by Fulcrum. A total of 44,729 records were utilized. The list of 3,893,000 Georgia residents age 45 and older was randomly divided into 20 replicates of 1,000 records for telephone dialing. Initially, 20 replicates were released for calling, with additional replicates being opened as necessary. In all, 41 replicates representing a total of 40,563 records were dialed to complete the telephone portion of this study.

The sample of 429 African American/Black respondents yields a maximum statistical error of ±4.7% 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 ±4.7 percentage points of the results obtained had everyone in the population been interviewed.)

Interview Methodology

The survey was launched on April 30, 2021 and closed on May 12, 2021.

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 and gender according to 2019 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey (CPS) statistics.
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.