VITAL VOICES

Issues That Impact Nebraska Adults Age 45 and Older, August 2022

DOI: https://doi.org/10.26419/res.00524.037
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INTRODUCTION

There are currently about 115 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, launched in 2019, is an exciting program of research undertaken by AARP. Through this research program, we have the ability to once again deliver critical, current, and state-specific data to 53 states and territories on a rolling three-year schedule between 2022 and 2024. We are making this data available to the public to assist with the development of programs, products, and policies for older adults. Beginning in Cycle 2 of the program, we look forward to uncovering trends that can guide your areas of focus. Specifically, this data will allow those in leadership positions to:

• Predict the need for a specific program or interest in a specific 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 conducted 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 Nebraska-Health Questions

Issues That Impact Nebraska Adults Age 45 and Older
Nebraska residents age 45+ think many healthcare issues are important, with staying mentally sharp topping the list. Significantly more Nebraska residents age 45+ think being able to pay for prescription drugs is important in 2022 (84%), compared to 2019.

**Important Healthcare Issues**

- **Staying mentally sharp**: 93% (2022) vs. 92% (2019)
- **Having adequate health insurance coverage**: 92% (2022) vs. 91% (2019)
- **Being able to afford health care expenses, including premiums and co-pays**: 88% (2022) vs. 88% (2019)
- **Having Medicare benefits available to you in the future**: 90% (2022) vs. 87% (2019)
- **Being able to pay for prescription drugs**: 78% (2019) vs. 84% (2022)

**Notes:**
- For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent ‘extremely important’ or ‘very important’)
- ↑ ↓ indicates a significantly higher/lower percentage compared to the prior wave at the 95% confidence level.
CAREGIVING ISSUES

Over half (59%) of Nebraska residents age 45+ are either currently providing care or have provided care in the past to an adult relative or friend.

Percent Providing Unpaid Adult Care

- Yes, I am currently providing care: 41%
- Yes, I have provided care in the past: 42%
- No: 17%
C2_Heal5a. Tele-health is another way for people to have one-on-one interactions with their health care providers without having to be in the same location at the same time by using technologies like cell phones, computers, and tablets. How interested are you in using tele-health services for yourself or a loved one if needed? (n=700)

TELE-HEALTH

Three in ten (30%) Nebraska residents age 45+ are extremely or very interested in using tele-health services for themselves or for a loved one.

Interest in Using Tele-health Services

- Extremely interested: 34%
- Very interested: 19%
- Somewhat interested: 20%
- Not very interested: 11%
- Not at all interested: 16%

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C2_HEAL7. If you were interested in using tele-health, what are some of the barriers you might experience in trying to use it? (n=700)

TELE-HEALTH

Concerns about medical errors (42%) and confidentiality (40%) would be a barrier for some Nebraska residents age 45+ who have interest in using tele-health.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barriers to Using Tele-health</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concerned about medical errors</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerned about health information remaining confidential</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure doctor’s office offers tele-health</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know how to use tele-health</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t have a computer</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t have access to high-speed Internet</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/refused/other</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HEAL6. What would you want to use tele-health services for? Asked to respondents with some interest in using tele-health (n=447)

For those Nebraska respondents age 45+ with some interest in using tele-health for themselves or a loved one, two-thirds (66%) said they would use tele-health to renew prescriptions.

Reasons to Use Tele-health

- To renew prescriptions: 66%
- To discuss a new medical issue: 58%
- For a routine visit to the doctor: 57%
- To get help providing care to a loved one: 55%
- For diagnosing an illness: 44%
- Other: 6%
- Don’t know/ refused: 5%
Survey Results for Nebraska Wealth Questions

Issues That Impact Nebraska Adults Age 45 and Older
Nebraska residents age 45+ find many economic issues important, particularly those related to affordability of necessities, like groceries and utilities. New in 2022, 86% think it is important to be able to have enough savings for emergencies.

### Important Economic and Financial Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>2019 (n=701)</th>
<th>2022 (n=700)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Being able to afford groceries/ household necessities</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having financial security throughout your life</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having enough income or savings to retire**</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having affordable utilities</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>87%↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having adequate Social Security benefits</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having enough savings for emergencies</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protecting yourself against consumer fraud</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having online security</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a way to save for retirement via work (n=393)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having good employment opportunities</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having protection from age discrimination</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having access to affordable high-speed Internet</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** 2019 n=428, 2022 n=393

↑ ↓ indicates a significantly higher/lower percentage compared to the prior wave at the 95% confidence level.
CONSUMPTION TAX

Two out of five (40%) Nebraska residents age 45+ strongly or somewhat support Nebraska instituting a consumption tax on all purchases.

Opinions for Instituting a Consumption Tax

- Strongly support (14%)
- Somewhat support (26%)
- Neither support nor oppose (25%)
- Somewhat oppose (14%)
- Strongly oppose (9%)
- Don’t know/refused (13%)

C2_TAX_NE2. A consumption tax is tax paid when you purchase a good or a service, like sales tax on your groceries. Would you support or oppose Nebraska instituting a consumption tax on all purchases if all other forms of state taxes were abolished? (n=700)
Survey Results for Nebraska-Livable Communities
Questions

Issues That Impact Nebraska Adults Age 45 and Older
### Issues of Importance

Aging in place remains extremely or very important to four out of five (84%) Nebraska residents age 45+ in 2022.

#### Important Independent Living Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>2019 (n=701)</th>
<th>2022 (n=700)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staying in your own home as you get older</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting to the places you need to go independently</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caring for a loved one</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having high quality long-term care in your community</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having affordable housing options in your community</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having alternatives to nursing home care</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having flexibility in your schedule to care for a loved one</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having paid time off to care for yourself/family member</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I1. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent 'extremely important' or 'very important')

† † † indicates a significantly higher/lower percentage compared to the prior wave at the 95% confidence level.
While four out of five (82%) Nebraska residents age 45+ feel that they know how to use the Internet, only two-thirds (68%) feel confident using information from the Internet to make decisions.

Percent of Respondents who Agree

- I know how to use the Internet to answer my questions: 82%
- I know how to use the information I find on the Internet to help me: 80%
- I know how to find helpful resources on the Internet: 80%
- I know what resources are available on the Internet: 75%
- I feel confident in using information from the Internet to make decisions: 68%

C2_DL1. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements related to the Internet? (Percent who 'strongly agree' or 'somewhat agree') (n=700)
Do you need education or training on how to use the digital devices (i.e., smartphone, computer, smart TV, etc.) you own? (n=700)

Three-quarters (74%) of Nebraska residents age 45+ do not feel that they need training on digital devices.

Need for Training on Digital Devices

- Yes
- No
- I do not use digital devices/ don’t know
DIGITAL LITERACY

Four out of five (80%) Nebraska residents age 45+ feel that they know where to go for digital device assistance.

Knowledge about Where to get Digital Device Help

- Yes: 80%
- No: 19%
- <1%
- Don't know/ refused: <1%
Two-thirds (65%) of Nebraska residents age 45+ think housing affordability is a problem in their area.

The Issue of Housing Affordability

- Yes: 30%
- No: 65%
- Don't know/ refused: 5%

HOU1. Do you think housing affordability is a problem in the area where you live? (n=700)
The following are some approaches local, state, or federal government could take to address the problems of housing affordability. Do you support or oppose…? (Percent ‘strongly support’ or ‘somewhat support’) (n=700)

Four out of five (80%) Nebraska residents age 45+ would strongly or somewhat favor allowing developers to build more housing units if they are affordable to families.

**Housing Affordability Issues**

- Allowing developers to build more housing units if they are affordable to families: 80%
- Allowing more multi-family housing, like duplexes and triplexes, to be built: 68%
- Allowing property owners to build accessory dwelling units, also known as ADUs: 64%
VOTER IDENTIFICATION

Most (93%) Nebraska residents age 45+ have a Nebraska Driver’s License as a form of identification.

### Forms of Identification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form of Identification</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valid Nebraska Driver’s License</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID created by a governmental agency that contains a photo</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passport</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee ID card created by a gov’t agency with a photo</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Military ID card</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska Non-Driver Identification Card</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student/employee ID card created by a college/university with a photo</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribal ID card containing a photo</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VOTER IDENTIFICATION

Two-thirds (65%) of Nebraska residents age 45+ feel it would be easy (rating of 1-3) to get a new ID card to vote.

Difficulty of Getting a New ID Card to Vote

- Easy (ratings of 1-3)
- Moderate (ratings of 4-7)
- Difficult (ratings of 8-10)
- Not applicable/ don't know/ refused

C2 VID6. On a scale from 1 to 10, with 1 being “very easy” and 10 being “very difficult”, how difficult will it be if you need a new ID card to vote? (n=700)
VOTER IDENTIFICATION

While half (48%) of Nebraska residents age 45+ would be likely to get a new ID card to vote, one-third (33%) would be unlikely to do so.

Likelihood of Getting a New ID Card to Vote

- Likely (ratings 1-3): 48%
- Neither likely nor unlikely (ratings 4-7): 10%
- Unlikely (ratings 8-10): 33%
- Not applicable/ don't know/ refused: 9%

C2_VID7. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being “very likely” and 10 being “not very likely”, how likely are you to get a new ID card to be able to vote? (n=700)
In July 2022, AARP engaged ANR Market Research Consultants to conduct a quantitative research study among Nebraska residents age 45 and older. Topics included healthcare, the economy, financial issues, independent living, long-term care, caregiving, and retirement issues.

700 Interviews
Nebraska Adults Age 45+
Fielded in July/August 2022

ANR completed a total of 700 interviews (307 via landline telephone, 163 via cell phone, 208 online, and 22 utilizing text-to-web (TTW) methodology). (Note that TTW was introduced mid-fielding on July 21, 2022.) Respondents were screened to meet the following criteria:

- Age 45+
- Resident of Nebraska

Survey length averaged 20.2 minutes by telephone and 17 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 Nebraska residents age 45 and older, purchased from Aristotle, and online sample provided by Fulcrum. A total of 30,670 records were utilized. The list of 739,192 Nebraska residents age 45 and older was randomly divided into 740 replicates of 1,000 records for telephone dialing. Initially, 20 replicates were released for calling, with additional replicates being opened as necessary. In all, 31 replicates representing a total of 30,670 records were dialed to complete the telephone portion of this study.

The sample of 700 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 July 6, 2022 and closed on August 19, 2022.

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 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 @AARPadvoicates on social media.
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This research was designed and executed by AARP Research.