Independent living is highly important to Tennessee residents age 45+.

Not only is staying in their own home extremely or very important (89%) to Tennesseans age 45+, but so is the ability to get to places they need to go independently (88%). Having affordable housing in their community is significantly more important to African American/Black residents (88%) than white residents (73%).

Tennessee adults age 45+ live in a wide variety of residential areas.

- Rural area: 9%
- Suburban area: 12%
- Small city: 17%
- Town: 27%
- Metropolitan area: 35%

"Please indicate how important each is to you, personally."
(n=703 total respondents)
% “extremely important” or “very important"
Tennessee adults age 45+ are concerned about their ability to age in place.

The majority (92%) of Tennessee renters stated that increasing rent would impact their ability to remain in their home as they age, and almost three-quarters (72%) of homeowners reported that increasing property taxes would impact their ability to age in place. (Note that 75% of Tennesseans age 45+ own their home, and 22% are renters.) In fact, for all Tennessee residents age 45+, almost half (47%) are at least somewhat concerned about their ability to afford property taxes over the next 5 years.

Significantly more African American/Black residents cited that the ability to make the necessary repairs or modifications to their home (41%), safety in their home (49%), and safety in their neighborhood (49%) would impact their ability to age in place 'a lot', compared to white residents (29%, 25%, 29%, respectively).

A variety of factors go into Tennesseans age 45+ decision to move as they age.

When considering moving out of their current residence, four in ten (42%) cited that wanting a home that will help them live independently as they age would be a major factor in their decision. This is significantly higher among African American/Black residents (53%) versus white residents (41%). Additionally, over one-third (35%) said the cost of maintaining their current residence would be a major factor in their decision to move, particularly among those under the age of 65 (42%). While some (12%) said that wanting a larger home would be a major factor, two in ten (21%) stated wanting a smaller home would be a major factor in their decision.
Many Tennessee residents age 45+ feel prepared to get through a natural disaster safely.

While only one-third (33%) of residents have previously been impacted by a natural disaster as an adult, three-quarters (77%) feel very or somewhat prepared to get through one safely. Over half (58%) of residents have emergency plans in place in the event of a natural disaster - 61% of homeowners, compared to just 48% of renters. Caregivers may also need to consider the safety of their loved ones; one in five (22%) are currently providing unpaid care to an adult relative or loved one. Current caregivers are significantly more likely to have emergency plans in place (67%) than those who have never provided care (52%).

33% of Tennessee adults age 45+ have personally been impacted by a natural disaster as an adult.

Those without emergency plans are the most vulnerable financially.

Emergency preparedness may increase confidence in the ability to rebound financially from a natural disaster: Two-thirds (68%) who have emergency plans in place said they are somewhat or very confident they could rebound financially, while just 32% of those without emergency plans answered this way. The same pattern is true among both renters and homeowners.

Interviews were conducted with 703 residents of Tennessee age 45+ by landline (25%), cell phone (25%), and online (50%) between September 2, 2022 and September 13, 2022.

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A full description of the methodology report is available at AARP.org/VitalVoices.